

Pandora's Box Gratham began this season campaign in the 4NCL (4 Nations Chess League) in Division 2. Having just missed out on promotion to Division 1 last season they were hoping for a good start in the first match. The 16 teams in the division are split into 2 groups with Pandora in group 2A and their first match was against Sprit of Atticus who are based in Chester.

Matches are between teams of 8 players and this season Pandora have put together a strong group of players with Harry Russell who plays for Louth and has an ECF grade of 179 (FIDE grade 2038) on the bottom board and it is Harry's game that is featured this week where he is paired as black against David Robertson and we pick up the game after white has just played 38. Ra5 (see diagram).

Harry played 38. ...f4 hoping to support the passed pawn on e4 39. Bxf6 Qxf6+ 40. Kc1 e3 41. Qe1 f3 and now Harry has a pair of linked passed pawns in a dangerous position 42. Nxe3 fxe2 43. Qxe2 and white had to sacrifice a piece to stop the attack 43. ...Be6 44. Qb5 Bxh3 45. Qxb4 Be6 46. Qc5 g4 47. Qh5 Rf7 48. Nxc4 Bxc4 49. Qxc4 and white has now retrieved the position with three pawns for a knight 49. ...Kg7 50. Ra4 Re7 51. Qd4 Ne5 52. Ra7 and just as white appears to have turned the tables he gave Harry an opportunity with 52. ...Nd3+ and white resigned.

Wins also for Martin Burrows, Claudio Mangione and Nigel Birtwistle together with draws for Colin Crouch and Chris Ross gave Pandora a 5-3 win.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk)

