

Lincoln's team in the Lincolnshire League Division 1 began this season's campaign when Grimsby were the visitors to South Park. Lincoln, champions for the last 5 seasons, were hoping for a good start but were up against a strong Grimsby team. Indeed, Grimsby had thrown down the gauntlet by beating Louth 5-0 in their opening fixture.

On board 2 was Jiri Lhotka making his debut for Lincoln. Originally from Prague in the Czech Republic he is an exchange student at the Priory Academy. He was paired as white against Andrew Dyce one of Grimsby's and the county's top players with the opening following the Karo-Kann 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Nf6 5. Ng3 Bg4 6. f3 Bh5 7. Nxe5 Qa5+ 8. Bd2 Qxe5 9. Ne2 Qd4 and in an unusual continuation black's queen controls the centre 10. c3 Nbd7 11. Nf4 Qd6 12. Qb3 e5 and black makes a probing attack with his e-pawn (see diagram).

Jiri played 13. Bc4 putting pressure on black's pawn on f7 but allowing Andrew to play 13. ...exf4 winning a piece but opening up the e-file and after 14. Bxf7+ Kd8 black's king is unable to castle. Jiri took advantage with 15. 0-0-0 Kc7 16. Rhe1 g5 17. c4 Bg7 18. Bb4 c5 19. dxc5 Qf8 20. c6 Qxf7 21. Bd6+ Kd8 22. Qxb7 and black resigned as mate follows after 22. ...Qxc4+ 23. Kb1 Rc8 24. Be7+ Ke8 25. Bxf6+ Kf8 26. Qxc8+ Kf7 27. Qxd7+ Kxf6 28. Rd6+ Qe6 29. Qxe6 mate.

Wins also for Herman Kok and Geoff Collyer together with draws for Claudio Mangione and David Coates gave Lincoln a 4-1 win.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

