

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were in action when they visited Brumby Hall on Ashby Road, the Scunthorpe Steel Works recreational facility where the new Pods Lagoon swimming pool looks very impressive, when Scunthorpe B were the hosts. Having won our first match we wanted a good result to maintain the pressure on stable mates Scunthorpe A who had won both of their opening fixtures although with each team having 6 fixtures it is early days.

On board 3 it was my pleasure to be paired against Bob Stokes, who I had been in contact with a few days earlier - Bob in his capacity as secretary of the Scunthorpe Chess League and mine as Grading Officer for Lincolnshire Chess Association - to forward the league results for grading.

We pick up our game with Bob as white after I had just played 38. ...Qc7 (see diagram) hoping for an exchange of queens. Bob obliged with 39. Kd3 and needing no second invitation I played 39. ...Qxc4 40. Kxc4 and now I have the advantage with 40. ...Kd6 41. Kd4 a5 42. bxa5 bxa5 43. Kc4 h5 44. Kb5 Kxd5 and whilst white has his sights on my a-pawn I turned my attention to his pawns with 45. Kxa5 Ke4 46. Kb5 Kf3 47. Kc5 Kxg3 48. Kd5 Kxf4 and white resigned.

Had Bob played 39. Qd3 and 40. Qe5 followed by an exchange of queens Qxe5 41. fxe5 linking white's central pawns I am sure the result would have been different.

In a good night for Lincoln wins for Geoff Collyer, Ian McDonald and Dave Bull produced a 4-0 final score-line.

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

