

Lincoln's team in Division 1 continued their quest for a 6th successive title when they were the visitors to Brumby Hall in Scunthorpe. The hosts have been wooden spoonists for the last 4 years but are still no pushover so Lincoln still needed to be on their mettle to avoid a banana skin.

On board 3 Lincoln captain David Coates was paired as white against Scunthorpe's Joanne Hutchinson with the opening following the Benko Gambit 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. bxa6 Bxa6 and black is a pawn down but with an awkward bishop on a6 6. Nc3 d6 7. g3 g6 8. Bg2 Bg7 9. Nf3 0-0 10. Rb1 Nbd7 11. 0-0 Ng4 12. h3 Nge5 13. Qc2 Nxf3+ 14. Bxf3 Ne5 15. Bg2 Qb6 16. b3 Rfb8 17. Kh2 Qd8 18. Re1 Ra7 19. f4 Nd7 20. e4 e5 21. dxe6 fxe6 and David completes another exchange of pawns with the en passant move to maintain the pawn advantage.

Play continued 22. Bb2 c4 23. Na4 cxb3 24. axb3 Rc7 25. Qd2 Rxb3 26. Bxg7 Rxb1 27. Rxb1 Kxg7 28. Qxd6 and another exchange retains the pawn with David's queen attacking both bishop on a6 and pawn on e6 (see diagram) 28. ...Bc8 29. Rd1 Rb7 30. Nc5 Qb6 and now black's king is exposed and David took advantage with 31. Qe7+ Kg8 32. Nxe6 Qb2 33. Qe8+ and black resigned as 33. ...Nf8 34. Qxf8 is mate.

Wins also for Claudio Mangione, Jiri Lhotka and Geoff Collyer and with yours truly letting the side down with a draw Lincoln ran out winners by 4½ to ½ putting us top on points difference ahead of Grimsby.

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

