

Lincoln's team in Division 1 visited the picturesque town of Louth for the encounter against the hosts in the church hall under the gaze of towering St.James church spire in the town centre. Having won their opening two matches a further success for Lincoln would consolidate their position at the top of the table whereas Louth, two points behind, needed a win to draw level.

On board 3 Lincoln's captain David Coates was paired as white against Louth's David Bale with the opening following the Schmid Benoni 1. d4 c5 2. d5 d6 3. c4 g6 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. e4 b5 6. cxb5 Bg7 7. Nf3 0-0 8. Be2 a6 9. 0-0 axb5 10. Bxb5 Qa5 in which black sacrifices the b-pawn hoping for compensation later in the game 11. Qe2 Ba6 12. Bxa6 Qxa6 13. Re1 Qb7 and both players avoided an exchange of queens.

Play continued 14. Rb1 Nbd7 15. b3 Rfb8 16. Bb2 Ne8 17. Qc2 Nc7 18. Re2 Na6 19. Qd2 Nb6 20. a4 Nc7 21. Qd3 Nd7 22. Ba1 Qb4 23. Na2 Qa3 24. Bxg7 Kxg7 25. Qc2 Na6 26. e5 Nb4 27. Nxb4 Qxb4 and after the latest series of exchanges white is still a pawn up (see diagram).

David Coates played 28. exd6 exd6 29. Re4 Qb6 30. Qc3+ Kg8 opening up the e-file and also taking control of the a1-h8 diagonal 31. Rbe1 Qa5 32. Re8+ Rxe8 33. Rxe8+ Nf8 (not 33. ...Rxe8 34. Qxa5) 34. Qxa5 Rxa5 retaining the pawn advantage and went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Jiri Lhotka and Geoff Collyer plus a draw for yours truly gave Lincoln the spoils by 3½ to 1½.

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

