

Pandora's Box Grantham played their third match in this season's 4NCL Division 2A when they took on the Surrey based e2e4.co.uk at the De Veres Hotel at Staverton Park in Daventry. Having won their first two matches Pandora wanted to consolidate their position at the top of the table aiming for a top 4 position which would put them into the promotion play-off against the top 4 teams from Division 2B.

On board 7 captain Nigel Birtwistle, who also captains Lincolnshire's county team as well as Grantham in the Nottinghamshire League, was paired as white against Dale Taylor from Guildford and we pick up the game after black has just played 19. ...Be4 (see diagram). Nigel replied 20. Ng5 h6 21. Nxe4. Black could not reply 21. ...dxe4 22. Rxd7 losing the queen so instead played 21. ...Rxe4 22. Qxd5 Qxd5 23. Rxd5 winning the pawn for white.

Nigel still had work to do to press home the advantage 23. ...Rae8 24. Kf1 Ne7 25. Re5 Rxe5 26. Bxe5 Nf5 27. Bf4 g5 28. Bc1 Nd6 29. Bf3 Rxe1+ 30. Kxe1 f5 and after the latest exchanges Nigel is feeling more comfortable 31. h4 f4 32. hxg5 hxg5 33. g3 fxg3 34. fxg3 b5 35. Bxg5 and now he is a second pawn to the good 35. ...Nc4 36. Bd5+ Kg7 37. Bxc4 bxc4 and with black's pawns now isolated Nigel went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Jerzy Slaby, Chris Ross, Peter Batchelor, Martin Burrows and Claudio Mangione together win draws for Colin Crouch and Daniel Wells gave Pandora a comprehensive 7-1 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)

