

Pandora's Box Grantham completed their second week-end at the palatial De Vere's Staverton Park in Daventry when their opponents were Oxford I. The 16 teams in Division 2, with 8 players in each team, were split into two groups with Pandora playing in group 2A and having won their first 3 matches were keen to continue their winning streak.

On board 6 Pandora's Marcos Capuzzo who also plays for the Hendon club was paired as white against Oxford's Tim Dickinson with the opening initially following the Caro-Kann opening 1. e4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. e5 Bg4 4. h3 Bxf3 5. Qxf3 e6 6. g3 c5 7. Bg2 Nc6 8. Qe2 Qg5 but in an effort to develop his pieces Marcos overlooked that his pawn on e5 cannot now be defended (see diagram).

Play continued 9. 0-0 Qxe5 10. Qxe5 Nxe5 11. Re1 Nc6 but Marcos was able to regain the pawn with 12. Bxd5 0-0-0 13. Bxc6 bxc6 and now black's pawn structure is upset with the c-pawns being doubled and after a protracted game Marcos eventually won through.

Unfortunately, Marcos was Pandora's only winner and draws for Nigel Birtwistle, Martin Burrows and Claudio Mangione could not prevent a win for Oxford by 5½ to 2½ but are still equal top with 3 matches to go.

Meanwhile, the annual Louth Rapidplay will take place on Saturday June 1 at St. James Church Hall with players competing for the Alf Newman Memorial Trophy named after the late chairman of Louth Chess Club. Details can be obtained from John Grasham on 07707 624975 or jcgrasham@hotmail.co.uk

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

