

Lincoln's team in Division 1 continued their quest for a sixth successive title when Louth were the visitors to South Park. Having won their opening three matches Lincoln were top of the league whilst Louth on 2 points were in danger of taking the wooden spoon although in this league nothing can be taken for granted as Lincoln's top players were unavailable.

On board 4 Lincoln's Ian McDonald was paired as white against Louth's Amy Milson and we take up the game after Amy has just played 22. ...exd4 (see diagram). Ian replied with 23. Nc4 attacking black's queen but Amy saw a neat combination with 23. ...Rxc4 24. Qxc4 Nxb2 25. Qxd4 Nxd1 26. Rxd1 Qxa2 27. Qxd6 Re8 which left black a pawn to the good with passed pawns on the queen's side.

Ian counterattacked with 28. e5 Ne4 29. Qd4 Qc2 30. e6+ Nf6 31. exf7 Re7 and now Ian saw a winning move with 32. Qxf6+ and Amy resigned as 32. ...Kxf6 33. f8(Q)+ follows with 33. ...Rf7 34. Rd6+ forcing further loss of material.

A win also for Dave Bull and a draw for captain David Coates meant that the match was drawn 2½ to 2½ moving Lincoln a step closer to retaining the title.

Meanwhile the Lincolnshire County Championships are to take place at the Lindum Group HQ in North Hykeham on July 20 & 21. Entry forms are available from me on peter.sherlock4@ntlworld.com

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

