

Grantham Sharks have had two teams in this season's 4NCL chess league formed from the amalgamation of Slough Sharks and Pandora's Box Grantham who both gained promotion to the 4NCL Division 1. Grantham Sharks II, as reported last week, did not fair so well in this season's competition failing to gain a point and have been relegated to Division 2.

Grantham Sharks I, which initially fielded players from Slough Sharks, faired better and have retained their position in Division 1. Playing in Group 1A they won 4 and lost 3 finishing in 3rd place so went forward to the Championship pool along with the top 4 teams from Group 1B.

In the Championship pool they drafted in the services of Claudio Mangione who also plays for Lincoln and Grantham and in the first match against e2e4.org.uk I Claudio was paired on board 6 as black against Chris Ross and we pick up the game after white has just played 13. Bh3 (see diagram) attacking Claudio's rook on c8.

Claudio ignored this threat and played 13. ...b4 14. Ncd5 b3 15. Kbl Ncxe4 16. fxe4 bxc2+ 17. Kal cxd1(Q)+ 18. Qxd1 Bxd5 19. exd5 0-0 20. Qd3 Qc7 21. Bxc8 Rxc8 and even after losing the exchange Claudio is now a pawn up.

Play continued 22. Kbl Qb7 23. Rcl Rxc1+ 24. Bxc1 Bh6 25. a4 Bxf4 26. gxf4 Nxd5 and Claudio gained another pawn and went on to win. Grantham Sharks I won the match 6-2 and finished in 6th place on 5 points.

Winners were Guildford I with a maximum 14 points followed by Wood Green HK I on 12 points with both teams fielding 8 grandmasters.

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

