

Lincoln's team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League visited the Appleby Frodingham Steel Works social club at Brumby Hall where Scunthorpe were the hosts. Having won their first match against Louth Lincoln were keen to maintain their 100% record to draw level with leaders and current champions Grimsby who have also won both their opening matches.

On board 1 Lincoln's Claudio Mangione was playing his last game before returning to his native Italy having completed a five year contract at RAF Coningsby and was paired as white against Scunthorpe captain and secretary Denis Georgiou. The Fritz analysis program identified the opening moves as "unusual" 1. g3 g6 2. Bg2 Bg7 3. d4 d6 4. e4 c5 5. c3 Nf6 and then deviated from the book altogether as 6. dxc5 dxc5 7. Qxd8+ Kxd8 meant that black's king was stuck in the middle of the board.

Claudio took advantage with 8. e5 Nfd7 9. f4 f6 10. Nf3 h6 11. exf6 exf6 12. 0-0 and castled having opened up the central files 12. ...Re8 13. Na3 a6 14. Nc4 Kc7 15. Nh4 Nf8 16. Ne3 Nc6 17. Nd5+ Kb8 18. Be3 Be6 19. Nb6 Ra7 and he now has his pieces in threatening positions while black is struggling to break out (see diagram). Claudio won a pawn with 20. Bxc5 Kc7 21. Rael Rd8 22. Nxc6 winning a second pawn as 22. ...Nxc6 23. Rxe6 would follow. Black played 22. ...Bf7 23. Ne7 Rd2 24. Nxc6 and black resigned as 25. Re7+ means further loss of material.

A win also for Qais Karimi and draws for Ian McDonald and James Irwin meant that Lincoln just scraped over the line with a 3-2 win.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

