

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South were on their travels with the longest trip of the campaign when they visited Spalding. Our hosts are usually one of the top sides and were champions in the season before last but this season are propping up the table but even so could be difficult opponents. At the top end of the table Lincoln started the evening on 5 points level with Grantham so a win was needed to maintain the pressure.

On board 4 Lincoln's Paul Fischer was paired as white against Spalding captain Frank Robinson with the opening following the Giuoco Piano (Italian for Quiet Game) 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 characterised by white's bishop on c4 threatening the pawn on f7 3. ...h6 4. d4 exd4 5. Nxd4 Nxd4 6. Qxd4 and Paul now has control of the centre 6. ...d6 7. Nc3 Nf6 8. e5 c5 9. Qd1 Ng4 10. Bf4 dxe5 and black has won a pawn but this gives Paul a chance to win it back and disrupt black's defence with 11. Bxf7+ Ke7 (not 11. ...Bxe7 12. Qxd8) 12. Qxd8+ Kxd8 13. Bg3 Bd6 14. 0-0-0 Ke7 15. Bg6 Be6 16. Rhe1 h5 17. Bh4+ Kd7 (see diagram) and now Paul's next move wins a piece - can you see it?

Paul played 18. Ne4 Kc7 19. Nxd6 a6 20. Kb1 Rh6 21. Be4 Rb8 22. Nf5 Bxf5 23. Bxf5 Rd6 24. Rxd6 Kxd6 25. Bxg4 hxg4 and Paul swapped off a few more pieces to consolidate his advantage. The final coup de grace 26. Rxe5 Kxe5 27. Bg3+ Ke4 28. Bxb8 left Paul a piece and a pawn up and black resigned.

Wins also for Qais Karimi, captain James Irwin and a draw for yours truly gave Lincoln the spoils by 3½ to ½.

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)

