

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played hosts to Scunthorpe recently. Last season Scunthorpe pipped Lincoln into second place on points difference with Grimsby well clear. Grimsby are again looking the strongest team so this match will probably go some way to deciding the minor places.

On board 2 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as white against Scunthorpe's Rod Wardlaw with the opening following Herman's special variant of the Sicilian defence 1. e4 c5 2. b4 cxb4 3. a3 bxa3 4. Bxa3 sacrificing a pawn for an awkwardly placed bishop 4. ...d6 5. Bc4 Nf6 6. Nc3 e6 7. e5 dxe5.

At this point Herman had intended playing 8. Bxf8 preventing black from castling but he got ahead of himself and picked up his knight on g1. As per the rules of chess once you touch a piece you have to move it so he played 8. Nf3 Bxa3 9. Rxa3 0-0 and black's king is safely tucked away 10. Nxe5 Qd6 11. Ra5 b6 another aberration as he must lose rook or knight 12. Ng4 Nxg4 13. Qxg4 bxa5 so Herman now needs a bit of luck.

Play continued 14. Ne4 Qd4 15. Bd3 f5 and another piece could be lost 16. Qh4 Nc6 17. 0-0 Ne5 perhaps black was thinking that 17. ...fxe4 18. Bxe4 and Qxh7+ or Bxa8 may be awkward he has given Herman the luck he needed (see diagram) can you see it?

Herman played 18. Nf6+ gxf6 19. Qxd5 winning the queen and went on to win a few moves later.

Only a draw for Dave Bull was Lincoln's other contribution as Scunthorpe ran out winners by 3½ to 1½ - a night to remember for Herman and a night to forget for the rest of the team.

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

