

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North continued their quest to retain the title gained last season when Louth were the visitors to South Park. Lincoln were top of the table on 4 points from 3 matches having beaten Scunthorpe A and Barton-on-Humber but lost to Grimsby 1875 although all the other six teams had played only one or two matches so a win was needed to extend the gap before the rest played their outstanding matches. Louth on the other hand had 1 point from 2 matches so a win would be handy for them as well.

On board 2 Lincoln's Afghan import Qais Karimi was paired as black against David Scott and we pick up the game after David has just played 32. Ra1 and it looks like Qais' pawn advantage is about to evaporate (see diagram).

Play continued 32. ...Nb4+ 33. Nxb4 axb4 34. Kc4 Rc8+ 35. Kxb4 regaining the pawn for white but Qais now played 35. ...Bxd4 36. exd4 Rc2 attacking the king side pawns which white defends with 37. Rf1 but white's king cannot pass the c-file so Qais plays 37. ...Kc6 38. g3 Kd5 39. h4 Kxd4 40. Rd1+ Ke5 41. f4+ Ke6 42. Rd3 and white has freed his rook but not before losing the pawn 42. ...Rc5 43. Ka4 d5 44. b4 Rc4 45. Kb3 b5 46. Ka3 d4 47. Kb3 Kd5 48. Ka3 Ke4 and white resigned.

Wins also for James Irwin, Jules Brown and yours truly gave Lincoln a 4-0 win adding to the points difference tally which may prove useful at the end of the campaign.

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)

