

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South continued their campaign when they visited the Bull Hotel in the picturesque market of Horncastle. With wins from their opening two matches Lincoln led the table followed by their hosts on 3 points after 2 matches so a closely fought encounter was envisaged. Last season the corresponding match was drawn with Lincoln eventually coming runners to Grantham.

On board 2 Lincoln's Jules Brown was paired as white against William Orr from Hornastle with the opening initially following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. d3 Nf6 but with Jules playing 4. d3 rather than the main line of d4, 5. Bg5 e6 6. Be2 Be7 7. 0-0 a6 8. h3 0-0 and both players have castled king side.

Play continued 9. Re1 Qc7 10. d4 cxd4 11. Nxd4 Qb6 12. Nxc6 Qxc6 returning to the main line and Jules is now eyeing up the pawn on d6 13. Bf3 Qc7 14. Qe2 e5 15. Bxf6 Bxf6 16. Nd5 Qd8 17. Rad1 b5 18. Qd3 Bg5 19. Nb4 Be7 20. Nc6 Qc7 21. Nxe7+ Qxe7 22. Qxd6 Qxd6 23. Rxd6 and the pawn on d6 falls but work was needed to consolidate the advantage.

Play continued 23. ...Be6 24. b3 Rfc8 25. Red1 Kf8 (not 25. ...Rxc2 26. Rd1+) 26. R1d2 Ke7 27. Kf2 Rxc2 and black looks like he has won back the pawn (see diagram) looking for 28. Rxc2 Kxd6 but Jules found a better move - can you see it?

Jules played 29. Rxe6+ Kxe6 30. Rxc2 and is now a piece up and went on to win a few moves later.

Draws for Paul Fischer and yours truly meant that the match finished as a draw with neither team gaining a clear lead with last season's champions Grantham looking on with interest.

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)

