

Lincoln's team in Division 1 were on the road when they visited the Appleby-Frodingham Steel Works sports complex where Scunthorpe were the hosts. Lincoln are joint top of the table with reigning champions Grimsby having 5 points from 4 matches. Grimsby have 5 points from 3 matches, a game in hand but Lincoln have a slightly better points difference.

On board 2 Lincoln's David Coates was paired as white against Scunthorpe's Bernard Pratten and we pick up the game after black has just played 25. ...Qxb6 (see diagram) having just completed an exchange of knights and pawns on b6.

David now concentrated on the hanging pawn on c6 with 26. Rc3 Bd7 27. Rfc1 Rg8 countered by black's bishop on d7 28. R1c2 Rae8 29. Be5 Nh7 and black retreats his knight but now David has a very strong bishop on e5 30. Qg3 Qd8 and black is looking to mount a counterattack on David's king but allows David to play 31. Bxa6 winning the pawn ...h5 32. Bb7 hxg4 33. hxg4 Ng5 34. Bxc6 Bxc6 35. Rxc6 Qa5 and David wins another pawn.

David now closes in 36. Rc7+ Re7 37. Rxe7+ Kxe7 38. Qh4 and now black's knight on g5 is lost as he cannot play Kf6 so instead plays 38. ...Kd7 39. Qxg5 Qe1+ 40. Kg2 fxg3 41. Rc7+ Ke8 42. Qe7 mate.

A win also for Murray Smith plus draws for Herman Kok and yours truly gave Lincoln a narrow 3-2 win to take a 2 point lead.

If you have a favourite game you would like me to include in this column then contact me on [peter.sherlock4@ntlworld.com](mailto:peter.sherlock4@ntlworld.com)

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.  
[www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

