

Lincoln's venture in the Division 2 South competition was to visit the very well appointed Shirley Croft Hotel just to the east of Grantham Town Centre. This has been Grantham's home every Wednesday for many years and is usually a hive of activity as Grantham also have several teams in the Nottingham League. In fact, this caused a headache when arranging the fixtures as the only two dates fell within 2 weeks of each other and this fixture was the return with Grantham taking first blood winning 3-1.

Ian McDonald, as black, was playing Gratham's Rick Wilson on board one who opened 1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Nxc3 Bc5 5. Bc4 d6 6. Nf3 Nf6 7. 0-0 0-0 with Rick playing the Danish Gambit giving up a pawn for marginally better development.

Play continued 8. a3 c6 9. b4 Bb6 10. Bb2 Qe7 11. Re1 Nbd7 12. Kh1 Ng4 13. Re2 Nxf2+ 14. Rxf2 Bxf2 and Rick's mistake now means that Ian is two pawns and an exchange to the good. However, the game still has to be won and Rick is no mug. 15. Qe2 Bb6 16. Rd1 Ne5 17. Nxe5 dxe5 18. b5 Bd4 19. bxc6 bxc6 20. Rf1 Be6 21. Bd3 Rab8 22. Nd1 Bxb2 23. Nxb2 Qxa3 and Rick clawed a pawn back.

Ian still has the advantage 24. Nc4 Qc3 25. h3 Rb3 26. Rf3 Qd4 27. Nd2 Rb2 28. Qd1 c5 29. Nf1 Rd8 30. Ng3 c4 and white resigned (see diagram). A win for David Coates and draws for Richard Kerrigan and yours truly meant that Lincoln won 3-1 reversing the earlier loss.

