

Scunthorpe were the visitors to South Park for the Division 1 match. Lincoln occupied third place with 3 points from 5 games above Scunthorpe with 2 points from 6 games and Grimsby although they have several games in hand.

On board 4 it was my pleasure to be matched as white against Ricky Davey who has an unusual style of play involving fianchetto bishops as illustrated by the opening moves 1. e4 b6 2. d4 Bb7 3. d5 c6 4. Bc4 cxd5 5. Bxd5 Bxd5 6. exd5 and I have nullified one bishop 6. ...Na6 7. Nf3 g6 8. Be3 Bg7 9. Bd4 Nf6 10. c4 countering the threat from the other.

Development continued with 10. ...0-0 11. 0-0 Qc7 12. b3 d6 13. Nc3 Rac8 14. Nb5 Qb7 15. Rc1 Nc5 16. Re1 a6 and I must retreat 17. Nc3 Rfe8 18. Rc2 b5 19. Qe2 b4 slightly relieved as 19. ...bxc4 could have proved more difficult.

I played 20. Bxc5 dxc5 21. Ne4 Nxe4 22. Qxe4 knowing and Rick's bishop can move to d4 or c3 but provided I stick to the white squares I should be OK. 22. ...Qc7 23. Qd3 Qf4 24. Re4 Qf6 25. g3 (anticipating 25. ...Qa1+) Qd6 26. Rce2 (putting pressure on e7) Bf6 27. Kg2 Kg7 28. Nd2 Kf8 29. f4 e5 (see diagram).

I could not play 30. dxe6 (en passant) Qxd3 but instead played 30. fxe5 Bxe5 31. Nf3 f6 32. Qe3 Kg7 33. Nxe5 Rxe5 34. Rxe5 fxe5 35. Qxe5+ Qxe5 36. Rxe5 winning the pawn followed shortly by another and I went on to win.

David Coates also won but this was not enough as Scunthorpe won 3-2 and Lincoln need to get points from their two remaining matches against Grimsby to avoid the wooden spoon.

