

Lincoln's Division 1 team visited Louth in St.James church hall and after a poor start to the season they had only one point to show from their 4 games and lying at the foot of the table one point behind Scunthorpe and Grimsby with Louth in second place on 4 points behind leaders Boston on 9.

So, in the quest to avoid the wooden spoon Lincoln's Ayman Hammam was paired on board 1 as white against Louth captain Nick Louth with the opening following the Pirc Defense 1. e4 d6 2. d4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. Be3 Nf6 5. f3 0-0 6. Qd2 c6 7. 0-0-0 b5 8. h4 Qa5 and after Ayman has castled queen's side both players mount attacks on their opponents king 9. Kb1 b4 10. Nce2 Be6 11. Nc1 Nbd7 12. h5 Nxh5 13. Nge2 Rfc8 14. g4 Nhf6 and Ayman has sacrificed a pawn to open up the h-file.

Some sharp play followed 15. Bh6 Bh8 16. Ng3 Nb6 17. Nf5 Rc7 (not 17. ...gxf5 18. gxf5 Bd7 19. Qg2+) 18. Qh2 Na4 19. Nb3 Bxb3 20. cxb3 Nb6 21. e5 dxe5 22. dxe5 Nxg4 23. gxe4 Qxe5 and Nick sacrificed a piece leaving the game materially equal but looking to make use of his extra pawns. However Ayman played a game winning move (see diagram) can you spot it?

Ayman played 24. Bf4 (threatening 25. Qxh7+) Qxb2+ 25. Qxb2 Bxb2 26. Nh6+ Kg7 27. Bxc7 leaving white a piece and a rook to the good and black resigned a few moves later. A win for Ian McDonald and draws for David Coates, Dave Bull and yours truly gave Lincoln a 3½-1½ win lifting them off the foot of the table.

