

Having gained promotion in their first year Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, Pandora's Box, played their inaugural week-end in Division 3 recently. In their first match Pandora had an easy time winning 6½ to 1½ against Slough Sharks 3 with three of their opponents defaulting.

On the Sunday they had much stiffer opposition against Mind Sports and new recruit to both Pandora's Box and Lincoln Chess Club, Paul Cumbers, was in action on board 5, as white, against Ray Edwards with the opening following the Caro-Kann 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. a3 c5 6. c4 dxc4 7. Bxc4 Nc6 8. Be3 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Nge7 10. Bb5 a6 11. Bxc6 Nxc6 12. Nxc6 Qxd1+ 13. Kxd1 bxc6 and in an explosive opening Paul had forfeited the right to castle in exchange for a weak black pawn on c6.

Play continued 14. Nd2 0-0-0 15. Rc1 Kb7 16. Ke2 Be7 17. Rc3 Rd5 18. Rhc1 Rc8 and Paul started to apply the pressure 19. Nc4 Rcd8 20. Rb3+ Rb5 21. Rxb5+ cxb5 strengthening black's pawn structure but Paul's pieces are now in a better position and he capitalized with a neat finish (see diagram) 22. Na5+ Ka8 23. Rc7 and black resigned as 24. Ra7+ Kb8 25. Nc6+ wins for white.

Wins for Alan Walton and draws for Robert Taylor and Nigel Birtwistle, who also won his match against Slough, together with a defaulted board 8 meant that the match finished 4-4 leaving Pandora in 3rd place on 3 points.

Full details of the 4NCL can be found on www.4ncl.co.uk and Pandora's Box can be opened on www.PandorasBoxChessClub.org.uk.

