

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South embarked on the new season with a match against Spalding at South Park. In recent seasons Lincoln and Spalding have occupied the top to places in this division apart from last season when Louth were the champions.

However, this season Spalding have announced their return by beating reigning champions Louth in their first match so it was important that we put out a full strength team.

On board 4 it was my pleasure to play as black against Spalding captain Frank Robinson with the opening eventually following the Queen's gambit 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 d5 3. e3 e6 4. c4 b6 5. Bd3 Bd6 6. 0-0 0-0 7. b3 Bb7 8. Bb2 Nbd7 9. Nbd2 c5 and a symmetrical pattern had immerged. Play continued 10. Qc2 Rc8 setting up the possibility of a pin 11. Ng5 h6 12. Nf3 bringing us to the position in the diagram.

I opened up the position with 12. ...cxd4 13. Bxd4 dxc4 14. Bxc4 b5 and the possibility became a really with the bishop being pinned 15. Qd1 bxc4 and I went on to win a few moves later. In the post game analysis 14. bxc4 still gave me the advantage in that I was able to win the isolated pawn on c4.

In the match Ian McDonald, Hannah Dale and father Robert all scored draws which meant that Lincoln narrowly won by 2½ to 1½.

Meanwhile, at the recent county AGM, Robert Dale has been given responsibility for junior chess in the age ranges 11 to 18. If you are, or know of, a young player then give Robert a ring on 01522 822454.

