

Lincoln's Division 1 team played their last match before the Christmas break against Scunthorpe in the Steel Works Sports centre at Brumby Hall. Both teams have had a disappointing start to the season with neither team yet to get off the mark.

On board 4 Lincoln secretary Dave Bull was matched against David Turner and we pick up the game after David Turner, as white, has just played 27. exd5 and seems to have the advantage with an extra pawn and an advanced position (see diagram).

However, Dave Bull had other ideas and replied with 27. ...Ra2 attacking the bishop on e2 and taking control of the second rank. Play continued 28. Re1 e6 29. Bd1 exd5 30. Rxe8+ Nxe8 31. fxg6 hxg6 32. Qe3 Nf6 33. Ng5 Qd8 stopping any chance of a counter attack by white 34. Kf1 dxc4 35. dxc4 and now the diagonal has opened up for black's bishop on b7.

Dave Bull is an expert with the fiachetto bishops and put this to good effect with an excellent finish 35. ...Bg2+ 36. Ke1 Nxc4 simultaneously attacking white's queen and threatening 37. ...Bc3+. White played 37. Bxc4 Bc3+ winning white's queen as 38. Qxc3 bxc3 was forced and white resigned.

A win for captain David Coates and a draw for Ayman Hammam making a welcome return to first team action meant that the match finished 2½ - 2½.

Meanwhile, following the successful training sessions and rapidplay tournaments for juniors in November and January the next event has been scheduled for Saturday 31 March at Lincoln Chess Club. For further details contact Robert Dale on 01522 822454.

