

This season has seen an upturn in fortunes for Scunthorpe in that they are able to field a second team in Division 2 North. They join Louth in fielding an extra team and as a result teams only play each other once. Thus it was Scunthorpe 'B' who were visitors to South Park earlier this year where they came up against a fairly strong Lincoln quartet who, with 3 points from their opening 2 matches, were looking to maintain their goods start.

On board 2 Herman Kok was black against Scunthorpe captain Tony Dixon with the opening following Herman's favourite Scandinavian Defence 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nxd5 4. d4 Nc6 5. Be2 Bf5 6. a3 e6 7. 0-0 Bd6 8. c4 Nf4 and Herman's quicker development compensates white's pawn control of the centre. 9. Nc3 Nxe2+ 10. Qxe2 Bg4 11. Qd3 (perhaps 11. Rd1 was better, see diagram) as 11. ...Bxf3 12. Qxf3 Qh4 13. h3 Qxd4 wins the pawn.

Play continued 14. Qe2 Qe5 15. Qxe5 Bxe5 16. Bd2 0-0-0 and Herman castles queen's side to put pressure on the d file 17. Rad1 Rd7 18. Be3 Bxc3 19. Rxd7 Kxd7 20. bxc3 doubling up whites pawns 20. ...Rd8 21. Rd1+ Kc8 22. Rxd8+ Kxd8 leaving Herman's knight to take advantage and win the game.

Draws for Ian McDonald, Robert Dale and yours truly gave Lincoln a narrow victory by 2½ -1½. However it was early days as the top sides had yet to be played.

Meanwhile, the annual Louth Rapidplay takes place at St. James church hall next Saturday (17<sup>th</sup>) this time avoiding a clash with England's World Cup exploits, contact Alf Newman on 01507 480620 if you would like to play.

