

This season has seen a change to the Division 2 North format. With Scunthorpe and Louth both field a second quartet the league has 8 teams so, to avoid too many fixtures, they play each other once.

Lincoln's last fixture in the current campaign was to the salubrious surroundings of the recently built Tennis Club on the outskirts of Boston. My opponent on board 1 was the Boston chairman Allan Marshall, a familiar name to those who followed the Commonwealth Games earlier this year where Allan's daughter Melanie fulfilled her undoubted potential by gaining 6 swimming medals.

We pick up this game after I as black have just played 26. ...Bxe5 (see diagram) swapping off the queens. Allan played 27. f4 Bf6 forcing a retreat but releasing control of e4 28. Kg1 Rc7 29. Kf2 Rfc8 30. Kg1 Be4 31. Rfd1 (preventing 31. ...Bd3 and 32. ...Bxe2) Be7 32. Kf1 and Allan did not spot that 32. ...Ba3 trapped the rook on c1 33. Kf2 Bxc1 34. Rxc1 Bd3 35. Kf3 Bxe2 36. Nxe2 f5 37. Rd1 Kf7 38. Rd6 Rc6 39. Rd7+ Kf6 40. Ke3 Rxc3+ 41. Nxc3 Rxc3+ giving back the exchange but remaining a pawn up 42. Kf2 Rc2+ 43. Kf3 Rxa2 and Allan resigned a few moves later.

A draw for Richard Kerrigan was not enough to prevent Boston winning 2½-1½ leaving Lincoln on a disappointing 6 points in 6<sup>th</sup> place. New boys Scunthorpe A took the title with 11 points followed by Louth B on 10. This win together with a late rally by Boston allowed them to finish in third place on 9 followed by last years champions Grimsby D on 8.

