

Lincoln's Division 1 team played their last match of the season at home to Grimsby where the result would affect both the top and bottom of the table. Grimsby are in with a chance of the title lying two points behind leaders Boston but with two games in hand. Lincoln on the other hand were bottom of the table two points behind Scunthorpe who had completed all their matches.

On board 4 it was my pleasure to be paired against Peter Holman and we pick up the game after Peter, as black, has just played 23. ...Bb3 attacking the rook on d1. Also the bishop on e3 and the knight on g5 are in precarious positions after 24. Re1 f4. Fortunately I found a better move, can you see it?

I played 24. Bxf5 thinking that 25. Rxd7 attacking black's queen would allow me to maintain my pawn advantage. While Peter was thinking about his move the lights started to flicker and then went out which did nothing for his concentration. After moving to the bar and after considerable thought play continued 24. ...Bxg5 25. Rxd7 Bxe3 26. Qxe3 Rc7 27. Rxc7 Qxc7 28. Rd7 Qc6 29. Qxe5 winning a second pawn and threatening mate 29. ...Qb6+ 30. Kh1 Qf6 31. Qxf6 Rxf6 and once the queens were exchanged I was able to win a few moves later.

A win for Ayman Hammam and draws for David Coates and Dave Bull gave Lincoln the spoils 3-2. Grimsby now have to win both their remaining games against Louth and Boston to take the title whereas Lincoln shared the wooden spoon with Scunthorpe having identical points difference.

