

The now regular Louth Rapidplay took place in the church under the gaze of towering spire of St. James church. It was nip and tuck between the top players and coming into the final round Ayman Hammam from Lincoln and Nigel Birtwistle from Grantham were level on 4½ points and went head to head in the last round. However, they decided to agree a draw after only a few moves.

On the next table John Naylor from Rugby and Nick Louth from the host club were both on 4 points and it is their game which features this week and we pick it up after Nick as black has just played 20. ...Qa3 (see diagram).

Play continued 21. Qb3 Qxb3 22. axb3 b6 23. g3 Na5 24. b4 Nb7. John exploited the open a file and now played 25. Ra6 Nd7 26. Rfa1 and Nick is now unable to defend the pawn on a7 26. ...c5 27. Rxa7 Rxa7 28. Rxa7 Rb8 29. Nb3 Kf8 30. dxc5 bxc5 31. bxc5 winning another and now passed pawn 31. ...Nf6 32. c6 Nd6 33. Bc5 Rxb3 34. Bxd6+ and black resigned unable to stop the pawn on c6.

Thus the £180 prize money was shared by Ayman, Nigel and John with Nigel winning the Alf Newman Memorial Trophy on count back.

Allan Marshall from Boston won the U150 grading prize with 4 points and Mike Dew from Barton-on-Humber the U120 grading prize on 3½. The best junior was Kishore Muruges from Horncastle with 3 points and Adam Robinson on 3½ points won the Nottinghamshire Building Society shield for the best Louth player who has not previously won the trophy.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

