

The last Wednesday before Christmas is when the traditional handicap Blitz tournament takes place when the Tony Turp Memorial Shield is played for named after the past chairman who sadly passed away in 2000. The shield was first played for in 2001 when Tony's son Michael-John was the winner with many of the clubs players adding their names to the shield.

This season there were 12 participants with only Dave Bull and myself amongst the past winners but we were not to feature this time. The tournament is played over 4 rounds with players having between 5 and 12 minutes on the clock depending on their grade so top seed Ian McDonald with a grade of 161 had 5 minutes at the start of each game while Peter Metcalfe who is ungraded was given the maximum 12 minutes.

Coming into the last round David O'Neill who was making a brief return from his studies at Warwick University and Qais Karimi each had a maximum 3 points and went head to head and we pick up the game after Qais, as black, has just played 12. ...Na5 (see diagram) followed by 13. bxc4 Nxc4 14. 0-0 Bb5 15. Nxc4 Bxc4 16. Bd3 g5 17. Bxc4 Qxc4 18. Qxc4 dxc4 19. hxg5 hxg5 20. Nxg5 Bxg5 21. Bxg5 and this latest exchange has left David a pawn up.

In this game David with a grade of 146 had 6 minutes while Qais' grade of 129 gave him 8 minutes which proved decisive as despite winning another pawn and being 2 pawns up into the end-game David ran out of time meaning the Qais was crowned champion.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk

