

The traditional Christmas Blitz playing for the Tony Turp Memorial Shield took place at Lincoln Chess Club on the last Wednesday before Christmas. Named after the past chairman of the club who sadly passed away in 2000 the tournament was first played for in 2001 when Tony's son Michael-John was the first winner.

Now in its 17th year the tournament is a popular event on the club calendar, including the traditional mice pies, with 14 members taking part including last year's winner Murray Smith.

This is a handicap blitz with the highest graded players, including Murray who has just 5 minutes on the clock, having the least time. The lower graded players get more time down to the ungraded players who have 12 minutes.

Murray was again on top form winning his first 3 games and only Herman Kok stood in his way when they met in the 4th and final round and we pick up the game after Herman, as white and had 6 minutes on his clock, has just played 16. Ng5+ (see diagram).

Murray played 16. ...Nxg5 17. Bxg5 Bxd4 winning the pawn 18. Re1 f6 19. Be3 Bxe3 20. Qxe3 e5 21. Rad1 d4 and Herman's queen and knight are forked by the pawn but he escaped with 22. Qg3 Qa5 (not 22. ...dxc3 23. Rxe8) 23. Ne4 Bxe4 24. Rxe4 Qxc5 but Murray won another pawn.

Play continued 25. Kh2 Rac8 26. f4 Qc2 27. Rde1 d3 28. fxe5 d2 29. exf6 and Herman was hoping for some counterplay but Murray now played 29. ...dxe1(Q) and now had 2 queens on the board 30. Re7+ Kh8 31. Qxg6 Qxh4+ 32. Kg1 Qd1+ and Herman resigned.

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

