

The annual Louth Quickplay event took place at the new venue of the Woolpack Inn near Louth's riverside area when 28 of the county's top players pitted their wits in the 6 round tournament competing for the Alf Newman Memorial trophy.

After round 4 top seed and reigning champion Nigel Birtwistle from Louth led the field on 4 points followed by 5 players on 3 including Ayman Hammam from Lincoln who he played in round 5 and we pick up the game after Nigel, as white, has just played 38. a4 (see diagram) linking together the two menacing queen side pawns.

Play continued 38. ...Kd7 39. Bf4 Bb6 40. Kf3 Nc5 41. Nb4 Nxa4 and Ayman has won a pawn 42. Nd5 Bd8 43. Ke3 Ke6 44. Bc7 Kxd5 45. Bxd8 Kc5 46. Ke4 Nc3+ 47. Ke5 Nxb4 48. Kf6 and Ayman captures the other queen-side pawn but his king-side pawns are now at the mercy of Nigel's king 48. ...Kd5 49. Kxf7 Ke5 50. Kg7 Nd4 51. Kxh7 Kf5 52. h4 Ne6 and with parity restored and little prospect of a- further pawn advance a draw was agreed.

However, an unexpected turn of events in the final round saw Samuel Milson from Louth beat Nigel and Joe Kilshaw from Grimsby beat his club mate Nick Stead to both finish on 5 points and share the prize money with Joe taking the title on count back. Nigel and Ayman shared 3rd place on 4½ points.

Andreas Sivachenko from Lincoln took the U150 grading prize and Matthew England from Grimsby with 3 points won the U120 grading prize and Adam Cook from Louth finished on 2½ points to take the Nottinghamshire Building Society shield.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

