

The Friday evening tournaments continued but, as with the U1600 competition, the time control was changed to 10 minutes plus a 5 second increment for each move played. The match was played on a bank holiday which may part excuse the low turnout but with only 8 players entering the number of rounds was reduced from 5 to 4.

Even so, some good games ensued and after the first two rounds Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby and Steve Lewis from Scunthorpe led the field on a maximum 2 points and went head to head in round 3 and we pick up the game after Steve, as white, has just played 18. Nd2 (see diagram) trying to dislodge Stuart's knight on e4. However, this opened up an opportunity for Stuart - can you see it?

Stuart played 18. ...Nxf2 sacrificing the knight for a pawn 19. Kxf2 Qh4+ 20. g3 Qxd4+ winning a pawn 21. Kf3 Be6 22. Ndc4 Nb4 23. Qd2 Bd5+ 2. Ke2 Bxc4+ 25. Bxc4 Qxe5+ winning a piece so Stuart is now 2 pawns up 26. Kf1 Qc5 27. Rad1 Qxc4+ 28. Re2 Kg7 29. Qd7+ and now Steve tries to gain a draw by perpetual check 29. ...Kh6 30. Qd2+ g5 31. Qd6+ Kh5 32. Rd4 Qc1+ but runs out of options.

Play continued 33. Re1 Qxb2 34. Rxb4 regaining a piece for a pawn 34. ...Qxa2 35. Qd1+ g4 36. h3 Qa6+ 37. Kg1 Rhg8 38. hxg4+ Rxg4 39. Rxg4 fxg4 40. Re5+ Kh6 41. Qxg4 and just when Stuart's king is cornered he played 41. ...Qa1+ 42. Kg2 Qxe5 winning the rook and he went on to win a few moves later.

Both Stuart won their last games so Stuart won the tournament with a maximum 4 points followed by Steve on 3.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Now open after lockdown. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

