

In the latest Wednesday night tournament there were 16 players entered the now familiar format of 5 rounds with 10 minutes on the clock at the start of play and 5 seconds being added for each move made.

After round 3 Martin Pettinger from Derby and Scunthorpe secretary Denis Georgiou were joint leaders on a maximum 3 points and they went head-to-head in round 4 and the opening moves, with Martin as white, followed the Sicilian Defence Tartakower variation 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. c3 dxc3 where, instead of the normal 4. Nxd4, Martin played 4. c3 sacrificing a pawn in order to gain an advantage later 5. Nxc3 Nc6 6. Bc4 Nf6 7. 0-0 a6 8. Qe2 Bg4 9. Rd1 e6 10. Bf4 Qc7 11. Ra1 Rc8 and Martin has castled and deployed all his troops whereas Denis has yet to castle and is slower in his development.

Play continued 12. h3 Bxf3 13. Qxf3 Ne5 14. Bxe5 dxe5 and now black's king is exposed and the e-pawns are doubled with Martin's rook on d1 controlling the d-file 15. Bb3 Qb8 16. Ba4+ b5 and black blocks off the bishop (see diagram). Perhaps Martin thought about retreating his bishop to b3 but then found a better move - can you see it?

Martin played 17. Nxb5 Rxc1 18. Nc7+ Ke7 19. Qa3+ and black resigned as 19. ...Qb4 20. Qxb4+ Rc5 21. Qxc5 mate follows.

Martin also won his last game to win the tournament on a maximum 5 points followed by Herman Kok on 4 points. Denis, meanwhile, lost his last game and was one of 5 players to finish on 3 points.

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

