

The latest Wednesday Night Warriors competition saw an intriguing situation coming into the last round where top seed and tournament favourite Martin Pettinger had won all his games to lead the field on 4 points. Just behind on 3.5 points was Robert Arthurton from Skegness who had surpassed his rating of 1516 and the two went head to head giving Robert a chance of a notable scalp.

We pick up the game after Martin, as black, has just played 18. ...Nb6 (see diagram) with Robert's central pawns looking very threatening 19. c5 Nxd5 20. exd5 Qxd5 and Martin had to sacrifice his knight for two pawns to break up the attack 21. Qc4 Be6 22. Qxd5 Bxd5 23. Nxd4 regaining a pawn for white Rfc8 24. Rfc1 a5 25. f5 a4 26. fxg6 hxg6 27. Ne2 a3 28. bxa3 bxa3 29. Nf4 Bc6 30. Rc3 e5 31. Ne2 a2 32. Bc4 Rd8 33. Rc2 Ra5 34. Raxa2 Rxa2 35. Bxa2 and Robert is able to take the dangerous a-pawn but Martin still has 3 more pawns but is still a piece down.

Play continued 35. ...Kg7 36. Kf2 f5 37. g3 Kf6 38. Ke1 g5 39. Rd2 Rc8 40. Rd6+ Kg7 41. Nc1 Be4 42. Nb3 Ra8 43. Nc1 Rc8 44. Nb3 Ra8 45. Rd2, almost a draw by repetition, f4 46. gxf4 gxf4 but now Martin has two dangerous linked passed pawns 47. Rd7+ Kf6 48. Nc1 Bf5 49. Rd6+ Ke7 50. Rb6 e4 51. c6 e3 52. c7 f3 and a race to the line 53. Rb3 f2+ 54. Kf1 Bh3+ which was won by Martin and Robert resigned but still gained the plaudits as the best player rated under 1600.

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

