

The regular Wednesday night tournaments continued with the now regular format of 5 rounds with a start time of 10 minutes plus a 5 second increment. A new player had joined this time Alex Adams from Lincoln going under the pseudonym Alexwoop with a relatively modest rating of 1422 won his first three games to lead the tournament followed on 2.5 points by Atomicbacon, otherwise known as Steve Prior from Grantham, and the two met in round 4 with Alex, as white, beginning with the Ponziani Opening 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. c3 developed by the Italian Domenico Ponziani in the 18<sup>th</sup> century 3. ...d6 4. d4 Bd7 5. Be2 Nf6 6. Bg5 h6 7. Bxf6 Qxf6 8. 0-0 g5 and Alex castled and his central pawns are currently poised to attack.

Play continued 9. dxe5 dxe5 10. Re1 Bg7 11. Qb3 Rb8 12. Qa3 Qe7 13. Qb3 0-0 14. Nbd2 and Alex develops his knight but has presented an opportunity for Steve (see diagram) - can you see it?

Steve played 14. ...g4 and white's knight on f3 is trapped so he has to sacrifice the knight for a pawn with 15. Nxe5 Nxe5 16. Rad1 Be6 17. Bc4 Nxc4 18. Nxc4 b5 and now white's other knight is lost, or so it seemed, but he played 19. Ne5 Bxb3 losing the queen 20. Nc6 Qe6 21. Nxb8 Bxd1 22. Rxd1 Rxb8 and white resigned.

Having started so well Alex also lost his last game to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place on 3 points whereas Steve won his final game to take the tournament with 4.5 points followed by Denis Georgiou on 4 and Allan Marshall on 3.5.

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)

