

The latest Wednesday Night tournament was full of drama with twists and turns galore in the final stages. After the third round Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby led the field having won all his games followed in second place by Lincoln's Herman Kok on 2.5 having drawn with Allan Marshall in round 3 so they went head to head in round 4.

We pick up the game when Herman, as black, has just played 23. ...Nf5 (see diagram) with Herman a pawn up including the dangerous passed pawn on e3. Stuart replied with 24. Bxf5 Qxf5 25. g4 Bxg4 26. hxg4 Qxg4 and Herman lost his bishop for 2 pawns 27. Ne5 Qg3+ 28. Kd1 Rf8 29. Re1 Rf2 30. Qxe3 Qxe3 31. Rxe3 Rf1+ 32. Re1 Rxe1+ 33. Kxe1 and Herman has lost his passed pawn on e3 and is a piece down but has got 2 passed pawns on g7 & h7.

Play continued 33. ...Ke7 34. Ke2 Rf8 35. Rf1 Rxf1 36. Kxf1 g5 and Herman starts the advance of his pawns 37. Kg2 h5 38. Kg3 Kf6 39. Kf3 Kf5 40. Nd7 h5 41. Nc5 g4+ 42. Kg2 Kf4 43. Nxb7 h3+ 44. Kh2 Kf3 45. Nc5 Kf2 46. Nd3+ Ke3 47. Kg3 Kxd3 a blunder on Stuart's part as Ne5 was a better option and he resigned.

This put Herman in pole position going into the final round on 3.5 points to Stuart's 3. Stuart beat Robert Arthurton to finish on 4 points whilst Herman lost to yours truly which meant that Herman and I tied for second place 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)

