

The latest Wednesday night tournament took place with 11 players making up the field, enough for 5 rounds with 10 minutes on the clock plus a 5 second increment for each move. After round 4 Graham Ladds from Newark topped the leader board having won all his games with yours truly in second place on 3 points having lost to Graham in round 2.

This game, with Graham as white, followed the Nimzo-Indian defense 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Qc2 0-0 5. e3 b6 6. Bd3 Bb7 7. Ne2 Bxg2 and I won the pawn on g2 but this opened up the g-file for white 8. Rg1 Bb7 9. e4 g6 10. Bg5 Be7 11. 0-0-0 and Graham castles queen side to bring all his pieces into play whilst I am struggling to mobilize mine 11. ...Kg7 12. Qd2 Ng8 13. Be3 Nc6 14. f4 Nb4 15. Bb1 d5 16. cxd5 exd5 17. e5 c5 18. f5 cxd4 19. Nxd4 Bc5 20. f6+ Kh8 and my king is forced into the corner (see diagram).

Graham continued with the offensive 21. Bxh6 Nxh6 22. Qxh6 Rg8 23. Rg3 Qf8 24. Qh4 h5 25. Qg5 Bxd4 26. Rxd4 Nc6 27. Rh4 Nxe5 hoping for 28. Qxe5 Qh6+ but to no avail as Graham played 28. Rxh5+ gxh5 29. Qxh5+ and I resigned.

In the last round Graham, needing only a draw, lost to Steven Lewis from Scunthorpe whilst I won my last game against Tim Smith from Grimsby meaning that Graham and I shared first place on 4 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

