

Even though lockdown and ended and clubs are reopening for over-the-board chess, online chess continues with the now regular Friday night blitz tournament. In this event players start with 5 minutes on the clock with a 2 second increment added for each move. Twelve players entered ensuring that the full 5 rounds could be included.

Organizer Nigel Birtwistle from Grantham was the winner with a clean sweep of victories with Samuel Milson from Louth coming second on 4 points. The key game came in round 3 when they went head to head with the opening, with Nigel as white, following the French defense 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 following the closed Tarrasch variation 4. Bd3 c5 5. c3 Nc6 6. Nf3 Be7 7. e5 Nd7 8. a3 g5 9. dxc5 Nxc5 and Nigel breaks the impasse by exchanging pawns on c5.

Play continued 10. Bb5 Qb6 11. Qe2 Bd7 12. b4 Na6 13. Nb3 h6 14. 0-0 Rc8 15. Bd3 Qc7 (see diagram). I am sure Nigel must have seen the possibility of his next move after move 12 but probably wanted to prevent any counterplay. Anyway Nigel now felt it the right time to play 16. b5 forking black's knights 16. ...Nab8 17. bxc6 Nxc6 winning the piece for a pawn 18. Re1 a6 19. Bb2 g4 20. Nfd4 h5 21. Rac1 Bf6 22. exf6 and black sacrifices his bishop in an attempt to open up white's king with black's advancing pawns but to no avail as now being 2 pieces down he decided to resign.

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)

