

Having toyed with holding online tournaments on Friday and Sunday evenings, organizer Nigel Birtwistle decided to move to a regular Tuesday night spot. In the first of these there were 8 entrants with, hopefully, more to come in the coming weeks.

The format was the same as previously with 10 minutes on the clock with a five second increment for each move played. With only 8 competitors the event was reduced to 4 rounds and Nigel, himself won all his games with the best coming in the final round against Samuel Milson with the opening moves with Samuel as white following a particularly aggressive version of the Sicilian Defence - 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. d4 Bg7 4. c4 Qa5+ 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Qd2 and all the play has been concentrating on white's pawn on d4. So far no pieces have been exchanged (see diagram) but all this is about to change.

Play continued 7. ...cxd4 8. Nxd4 Nxe4 9. Nxc6 and both queens are now under attack 9. ...Qxc3 10. bxc3 Nxd2 11. Kxd2 dxc6 and after both queens have been captured in the ensuing carnage Nigel is a pawn to the good with white's c-pawns being doubled 12. Rb2 b6 13. Be2 Be6 14. Bf3 0-0-0+ and Nigel castled queen side putting white into check 15. Kc1 c5 16. Kb2 Bxc4 and another pawn falls.

So Nigel took advantage after 17. Rbc1 Rd6 18. Rhe1 e5 19. g4 Rhd8 20. g5 Bd3 21. Kb3 c4+ 22. Kb2 e4 23. Bg4+ Kb7 24. a4 Rd5 25. f3 Ra5 26. Ra1 b5 27. fxe4 Be5 28. Bf3 b4 29. Bd4 Rxd4 and Nigel sacrifices the exchange to maintain the position 30. cxd4 Bxd4+ 31. Ka2 Rxa4 mate

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)

