

The online tournaments continue on their new time of 7.30 on Tuesday evenings. This time there were 14 entrants, a welcome increase from previous weeks, so the full 5 rounds were possible with 10 minutes on the clock at the start of each game plus a 5 second increment per move.

First place was shared by Murray Smith from Lincoln and Steve Prior from Grantham on 4.5 points having both won all their games apart from the draw with each other in round 4.

Murray's best game came in the last round when he was paired as white against Allan Marshall from Boston and we pick up the game after black has just played 32. ... Rd8 (see diagram) with the position equal, each player having 6 pawns and a lone rook.

Murray played 33. d5+ giving himself a passed pawn Ke5 34. h5 Rg8 35. hxg6 Rxg6 36. Rf5+ Kd6 37. c4 Ke7 38. Kf4 Rg5 39. d6+ Kf7 40. d7 Rxf5+ 41. Kxf5 Ke7 42. d8(Q)+ Kxd8 43. Kxf6 b5 44. Kf7 bxc4 45. bxc4 a4 and now it is a race to the line for the passed pawns on e4 and a4 46. e5 a3 47. e6 a2 48. e7+ Kc7 49. e8(Q) a1(Q) and both players have promoted their pawns.

So, still materially equal, play continued 50. Qe7+ Kc6 51. Qf6+ Qxf6+ 52. Kxf6 forcing an exchange of queens so there is to be another race to the line 52. ... Kd6 53. Kg6 Ke5 54. Kxh6 Kd4 55. g5 Kxc4 56. g6 Kd3 57. g7 c4 58. g8(Q) c3 and this time Murray won the race and went on to win a few moves later.

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

