

The latest Tuesday night online tournament took place recently with 10 players entering this time, but still enough for the full five rounds with 10 minutes on the clock plus a 5 second increment.

This time the top rated players finished well down the leader board but it was nip and tuck all the way for the top spot between two of the lesser lights, Robert Athurton from Skegness and Jason Gillatt from Lincoln University. Robert was out of the blocks the quickest winning his first 3 games but then lost in round 4 to Jason. Jason himself had lost in round 2 but with both players winning their final games they tied for first place on 4 points.

Roberts best game came in round 1 against top seed Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby and we pick up the game after Stuart, as white, has just played 25. Ng6+ (see diagram) followed by 25. ...Kh7 26. Nxf8+ Bxf8 27. Bxf6 and Stuart now has an extra bishop but Robert has an extra pawn.

Robert now played 27. ...Qe8 28. Qxe8 Rxe8 29. Rxf5 and the extra pawn has gone 29. ...Re1+ 30. Kf2 Rc1 31. Bb3 Bg7 32. Be7 Kg6 33. Rf3 Bd4+ 34. Kg3 Be5+ 35. Kh3 Re1 36. Bh4 Rh1 37. Bf7+ Kg7 38. Bg3 Bxg3 39. Kxg3 Rc1 40. Bb3 Re1 41. Bd5 Re7 42. c4 b4 43. axb4 cxb4 and now Robert has two passed pawns on the queen's side.

Play continued 44. Kf2 a5 45. Be4 b3 46. Ke3 b2 47. Rf1 a4 48. Kd2 a3 49. Kc2 d5 50. cxd5 Rc7+ 51. Kb3 Rc1 52. Kxa3 b1(Q) and Robert went on to win a few moves later.

Best wishes for the New Year to all.

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

