

The Tuesday night tournaments continued to the highlight of the week with 12 players competing on this occasion in the 5 round event with each game starting with 10 minutes on the clock plus a 5 second increment.

After round 3 Martin Pettinger led the field with a maximum 3 points followed by Graham Ladds, who is secretary of Newark Chess Club, on 2.5 points and the pair met in round 4 and we pick up the game after Graham, as black, has just played 38. ...Qf6 (see diagram) materially equal but with Graham having a passed pawn on d4 although its path is blocked by Martin's rook.

Play continued with Martin playing 39. c5 bxc5 40. Rxc5 Rc8 opening up the c-file 41. Rc6 Rxc6 42. bxc6 Rc8 and now Martin also has an advanced passed pawn on c6 43. Rb3 Rc7 43. Rb7 Qd6 44. Rb8+ Kh7 45. Qxh5+ winning the pawn as Graham cannot play gxh5 so instead he is forced to play 45. ... Bh6 46. Qf3.

Graham had some counterplay with 46. ...Rxc6 47. Bxc6 Qxb8 winning the pawn but this allowed Martin to close in to black's king with 48. Qf7+ Bg7 49. Be4 Qb6 50. Qb7 Qc5 51. h5 d3 52. hxg6+ Kh6 53. Qd7 Qb6 54. Qh3+ Kg5 55. Qh4 mate

Martin also won his last game to finish with a maximum 5 points whereas Graham beat yours truly in the last round to come second on 3.5 and myself equal third on 3.

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

