

The Christmas Blitz took place in the run up to the festive break when we get together to play for the Tony Turp Memorial Trophy. Tony was a loyal servant of the club and was chairman until his untimely death in 2000. The format is a handicap event where the stronger players start with less time, 5 minutes for the top players, while the ungraded players are given 12 minutes on the clock with the rest of us having something in between.

The event is normally well attended but especially so as players from the Lincoln University were invited and 10 of their number came along which, when added to the 9 players from Lincoln Chess Club, gave a record field for this event of 19.

The tournament is decided over 4 rounds with time for a break after the second round to refill our glasses and partake in the mince pies on offer.

After the third round Dave Bull and yours truly were joint leaders having won all our games and we went head to head in the final round and we pick up the game after I, as white, have just castled (see diagram) materially equal but with my king exposed having played f4 earlier in the game.

Dave played 25. ...b5 seemingly giving away a pawn as I played 26. cxb5 axb5 27. Bxb5 but this was a trap as Dave played 27. ...Qb6+ winning the bishop and he went on to win.

With the trophy now getting full of winners Dave has very kindly offered to buy another, still in memory of Tony Turp, with his name added to the list.

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

