

The Tuesday Night online chess tournaments resumed after the festive break when 19 players took part - a good turn out enabling the full 5 rounds to be played using chess.com as the preferred platform with 10 minutes on the clock plus a five second increment for each move.

Top seed Steve Prior from Grantham, playing under the handle Atomicbacon, won all his games followed by Martin Pettinger on 4 points and Allan Marshall on 3.5.

Steve's best game came in round 3 when he was paired as black against Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby with the opening following the Vienna game 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. d3 d6 all very symmetrical, 6. 0-0 Bg4 but that all changed with Steve moving his bishop to pin the knight on f3. Stuart played 7. h3 Bh5 8. g4 Nxc4 9. hxc4 Bxc4 attempting to push away the bishop but Steve sacrificed his knight for 2 pawns to maintain the pin whilst opening up white's king (see diagram).

Play continued 10. Be3 Qf6 11. Nd5 Qg6 12. Kh2 Qh5+ 13. Kg1 Bxf3 14. Qxf3 Qxf3 winning the queen. Stuart had some counterplay with 15. Nxc7+ Kd7 16. Nxa8 winning the rook but Steve replied with 16. ...h5 17. Bxc5 dxc5 18. Rael Rh6 19. Re3 Rg6+ and white resigned as 20. Kh2 Qg2 mate follows.

For my part I sat at my computer to play my games whilst listening to the football. I came equal 4<sup>th</sup> on 3 points with the tournament finishing in time for me to watch Lincoln's third goal on ifollow in their excellent win at Sunderland.

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)

