

The Tuesday night tournaments continued into the new year and, as last week, a good turn out of 19 players graced the ether under the control of chess.com over 5 rounds with each player starting with 10 minutes on the clock plus a 5 second increment for each move played.

Coming into the final round Steve Prior and Anthony Tansor were joint leaders on 3.5 followed by Robert Arthurton from Skegness on 3 points and Daniel Wells from Newark on 2.5. In round 5 Daniel beat Anthony so both players finished on 3.5 whilst Steve and Robert were paired against each other and we pick up the game after Steve, as white, has just played 25. Rxd5 (see diagram) after a series of exchanges putting Steve a pawn up making him favourite particularly as Steve was top seed on 2186 compared with Roberts's 1476. Indeed, up to this point Robert had had 3 good wins against higher rated opponents.

Robert played on with 25. ...Qe7 26. Qd3 Kg7 27. f4 Rc1+ 28. Kh2 Qb4 and Robert goes on the counter attack 29. Qe3 Re1 30. Qf2 Re4 31. f5 Rf4 32. f6+ Kh6 33. Qg3 Qe4 34. Rd7 g5 35. Rxf7 Qxe5 maintaining the pawn advantage 36. Rf8 Qd6 and it looked like white was about to lose his pawn advantage so he played 36. f7 unfortunately overlooking 36. ...Qxf8 losing the rook.

Steve persevered with 37. h4 Rxh4+ 38. Kg1 Qxf7 39. Qd6+ Kg7 40. Qe5+ Kg6 41. Qd6+ Kh5 42. Qd1+ Rg4 43. Qd3 Qg6 44. Qh3+ Rh4 45. Qf3+ Rg4 46. Qh3+ Rh4 47. Qf3+ Kh6, avoiding a draw by repetition, 48. Qd1 Qe6 49. Qd2 Re4 50. Qf2 Re1+ 51. Kh2 Qe5+ 52. Kh3 Rh1+ 53. Kg4 Qf4+ 54. Qxf4 gxf4 and after a valiant effort Steve is forced the exchange queens and Robert went on to win a couple of moves later meaning that he won the tournament on 4 points.

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

