

The Tuesday night tournaments continued with a field of 14 gracing the airwaves, or indeed the optical fibre cables, to pit their wits in the 5 round rapidplay tournament with each player starting with 10 minutes on the clock with a 5 second increment for each move made.

Lincoln's Herman Kok took the plaudits this week despite missing the first round as he won his remaining 4 games. The best of his games came in the last round when he was paired as black against Nasir Chaudhry from Grantham with the opening following the Queen's gambit 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 with Herman playing the Albin counter gambit named after the Romanian chess player Adolf Albin 3. dxe5 d4 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. e3 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 dxe3 7. fxe3 Bg4 and white is a pawn up but his defense has been opened up 8. Be2 Bxf3 9. Bxf3 Qh4+ 10. g3 Qxc4 and Herman regains the pawn (see diagram).

Play continued 11. Bxc6+ Qxc6 12. 0-0 Bc5 13. Qb3 0-0-0 14. Bc3 Bxe3+ 15. Rf2 and white is forced to block the bishop with his rook 15. ...Nh6 16. e6 fxe6 17. Bxg7 and white has some counterplay taking the pawn and forking rook and knight but it mattered not as Herman completed the win with a neat finish 17. ...Bxf2+ 18. Kxf2 Ng4+ 19. Kg1 Rhg8 20. Bc3 Ne3 21. Kf2 Nd1+ 22. Kg1 Qc5+ 23. Kg2 Ne3+ 24. Kh1 Qc6+ 25. Kg1 Qg2 mate.

I managed to win 4 of my games as well so finished equal first with Herman losing to Allan Marshall in round 3 but beating top seed Stuart Macdonald in round 5.

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

