

The Tuesday night online chess series continued with another disappointing turnout of only 8 players but, nevertheless a highly competitive event took place over the 4 rounds that were possible. It was nip and tuck all the way between Martin Pettinger from Grantham and Newark secretary Graham Ladds. In fact both players finished on 3.5 points having drawn the game between them in round 3 and so shared the spoils.

Graham's best game came in round 4 when he was paired as white against Robert Arthurton from Skegness and we pick up the game after black has just played 16. ...Qb6+ (see diagram) followed by 17. Qf2 Qxb2 putting black a pawn up so Graham has it all to do.

Play continued 18. Bb1 Nc5 19. e5 Nfd7 20. Ne4 dxe5 21. Nd6 and Graham forked black's rooks 21. ...e4 22. Nxe8 Rxe8 winning the exchange but black now has 2 passed pawns 23. Be3 Nd3 24. Bxd3 Qxf2+ 25. Bxf2 cxd3 and now black's 2 passed pawns are linked. However, Graham has a passed pawn of his own on d5 and play continued 26. Rb1 Rb8 27. Ba7 Rc8 28. Rxb7 Nf8 29. Be3 Rc4 30. f5 f6 31. fxg6 hxg6 32. d6 f5 33. d7 Nxd7 34. Rxd7 Rxa4 and black needed to sacrifice his knight to stop the pawn advance.

Graham took advantage of the extra piece with 35. Rb1 Ra2 36. Rb8+ Bf8 37. Bh6 and black resigned.

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

