

The Tuesday Night tournaments continued with their interest slightly on the wane as only 10 players logged on to the chess.com platform. This meant that only 4 rounds were possible, but never the less, a good quality field locked horns in an exciting evenings encounters.

The top two seeds were Steve Prior from Grantham and Martin Pettinger who plays for the Rolls Royce Club in Derby and the key game came in round 3 when the pair went head to head.

Steve was white and his initial moves followed the English Opening 1. c4 Nf6 with Martin replying with the Anglo-Indian defence variation 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7 4. e3 0-0 5. Ne2 d5 and Martin counters white's initial move 6. cxd5 Nxd5 7. 0-0 Nc6 and now his two knights and bishop control the centre 8. d4 Bg4 9. Nc3 Nb6 10. h3 Bxe2 11. Qxe2 e5 12. d5 Ne7 13. e4 Nec8 and the tables are turned with Steve's central pawns ruling the roost 14. Be3 Nd6 15. Bc5 Nd7 16. Ba3 a6 17. b3 Rb8 18. Rac1 b5 19. Bb2 f5 20. exf5 Nxf5 21. Ne4 Nd4 22. Qd3 Nf6 23. f4 Nxd5 24. fxe5 Ne6 and after each player has taken a central pawn black retreated his knight to e6 (see diagram) but this has created an opportunity for Steve to gain an advantage - can you see it?

Steve played 25. Qxd5 seemingly giving his queen away as 25. ...Rxf1+ 26. Rxf1 Qxd5 followed. However Steve played 27. Nf6+ Bxf6 28. Bxd5 Bg5 29. Bxe6+ Kg7 leaving Steve a piece up and he went on to win a few moves later.

Steve won his final game to win with 4 points whilst Martin came equal second on 2.5 points with John Pocock and yours truly with the early finish allowing me to watch the last half hour of England's win over the Ivory Coast.

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

