

The Tuesday Night tournament series continued even though the numbers are starting to tail off. With only 9 entries the event was reduced to 4 rounds but still had its fair quota of drama.

In the first round Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby was paired as white against Jason Gillatt from Lincoln University with the opening seeing all four knights taking their customary positions 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 followed by the bishops 4. d3 Bc5 5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 d6 7. Nd5 g5 8. Nxf6+ Qxf6 9. Bg3 Bg4 10. Be2 0-0-0 and Jason castles queenside perhaps as a springboard for a king side attack.

Play continued 11. Qd2 d5 12. exd5 Rxd5 13. Qc3 (see diagram) not the best move Stuart could have made as Jason replied with 13. ...Bb4 pinning the queen 14. 0-0 Bxc3 15. bxc3 Bxf3 16. Bxf3 Rd6 and Stuart has it all to do having lost his queen 17. Rfe1 Re8 18. Bxc6 Rxc6 19. d4 Rxc3 20. Bxe5 Qe6 21. d5 Qxd5 22. Bxc3 Rxe1+ 23. Rxe1 Qxa2 and now Stuart has rook and bishop against Jason's queen.

So, who would come out on top? 24. Bg7 Qxc2 25. Bxh6 Qd2 26. Kf1 a5 27. h4 Qd3+ 28. Kg1 gxh4 29. Bg5 h3 and Jason advanced the h-pawn but this gives Stuart a chance - can you see it? - as he played 30. Re8+ Kd7 31. Rd8+ Kc6 32. Rxd3 winning the queen and he went on to win a few moves later.

Stuart came equal first on 3.5 points with Kevin McCarthy with Jason winning the rest of his games to finish on 3 points.

I came equal fourth on 2 points and with an early finish I was able to watch the second half of Lincoln City's draw at Fleetwood.

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)

