

Another of the unsung heroes who turn up every week to support the Tuesday Night Torture competition is Tim Smith from Grimsby who goes under the pseudonym of Thatchapthere. In the latest of the tournaments Tim's best game came in the first round when he was paired as black against Robert Arthurton from Skegness with Tim playing the Dutch defense 1. d4 f5 2. c4 e6 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nc3 c6 6. Bg5 0-0 and Tim has castled having developed his king side pieces.

Play continued 7. e3 d5 8. Bxf6 Bxf6 9. cxd5 cxd5 10. Nge2 Nd7 11. 0-0 Be7 and white has also castled after a couple of exchanges 12. Rc1 Nf6 13. Qb3 a6 14. h3 Rb8 15. Na4 b6 16. Rc6 (see diagram) and it looks like Tim's pawn on b6 is in danger 16. ...Bd7 17. Rxb6 Rxb6 18. Qxb6 and white is hoping for 18. ...Qxb6 19. Nxb6 gaining a pawn but instead Tim played 18. ...Bxa4 19. Qxe6+ Kh1 20. Qxa6 Bd7 and Tim has an extra piece but Robert has three extra pawns so materially they are still equal.

White now played 21. Nf4 Bc8 22. Qb5 Qc7 23. Nxd5 Nxd5 22. Qxd5 Qc2 23. b3 Qxa2 regaining the pawn lost on d5 24. Qc4 Ba6 and now Tim turns the tables 25. Qe6 Bxf1 26. Bxf1 Bf6 by winning the exchange 27. Bc4 Qb1+ and now Tim closes in 28. Kh2 Qc2 29. Kg1 Qd1+ 30. Kg2 Qc2 31. Qd6 Qe4+ 32. Kg1 Rd8 33. Qc5 Ra8 34. Bd5 Ra1+ 35. Kh2 Rh1 is mate.

Both Tim and Robert finished in equal 4th place on 2 points.

Meanwhile, the Cleethorpes Rapidplay - one of the first over-the-board tournaments since Covid - will take place on July 3. Details on the Lincolnshire Chess Association website.

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

