

The now regular summer fixture of the Louth Rapidplay took place under the gaze of St. James' church when a record entry of 35 competed for the Alf Newman Memorial Shield in the six round event. Several of the county's top players were in action together with a good number of juniors. 52 Several players were in contention and after round 4 last year's champion Harry Russell from Louth and Joe Kilshaw from Grimsby, also a previous champion, had won all their matches and went head to head in round 5. The diagram shows the position after Harry, as white, had played 25. f4 followed by 25. ...exf4 26. Bxg7 Kxg7 27. Nxf4 and a draw was agreed .

This left Joe and Harry on 4½ going into the final round followed by Ayman Hammam, Samuel Milson, Stuart MacDonald and Nick Louth on 4 points. There were draws in the games between Harry and Stuart and between Joe and Ayman but in the other game Samuel beat Nick in a nail biting finish meaning that Joe, Harry and Samuel tied for first place on 5 points so shared the £180 prize money with Joe and Harry sharing the trophy.

The bumper entry meant that organizer Keith Palmer was able to offer good grading prizes. Mike Kelly from Grimsby, Boston's Allan Marshall and Eric Lindberg from Melbourne, Australia shared the U155 grading prize on 4 points. Ian Scott from Boston, William Bazley from Scunthorpe together with John Grasham and Neil Milson from Louth shared the U115 grading prize and the best junior was Max Vasey from Grimsby.

Finally Charles Ayton won the Nottingham Building Society Shield for the best Louth player who has not won it before.

Louth Chess Club play at St.James church hall every Tuesday from 7.30pm.

