

The first Saturday in June has traditionally been the date in the calendar reserved for the Alf Newman Memorial Rapidplay hosted by Louth Chess Club to remember the past chairman of the club. The lockdown meant that this could not take place, at least over the board, but instead Nigel Birtwistle and Kevin McCarthy have set up a group on chess.com and have invited the county's players to sign on.

So, the Online Louth Rapidplay took place on the same date with the similar format of 6 rounds with 20 minutes on the clock. In all 26 signed on to play over the internet and at the end of round 4 Matthew Turner, using call sign Immatt64, had won all his matches followed on 3.5 points by Daniel Wells from Newark (Nightshadel346), who had drawn with Lincoln's Murray Smith (call sign HousingCrisis) in the previous round, and the two went head to head in round 5 and we pick up the game after Daniel, with the white pieces, had just played 19. Bg5 (see diagram) threatening Matthew's queen.

Unfortunately, Matthew overlooked this and played 19. ...exf3 20. Bxd1 Raxd1. Matthew soldiered on as play continued 21. Be4 Nxe5 22. Qc2 Bxe4 23. Rxe4 fxe2 24. Kxg2 f5 25. Re2 Nf7 26. Rae1 Rxe2 27. Rxe2 Bxb4 28. Qxc7 Rf8 29. a5 f4 30. Qxf4 Bxa5 31. Qa4 Bd8 32. Qxa6 Nh6 33. Qb5 Nf5 34. Re8 Bf6 35. Rxf8+ Kxf8 and with black's rooks off the board Daniel went on to win.

In a final round twist Daniel could only draw with Louth's Samuel Milson (Milson Machine) whereas Matthew beat Murray so the title was shared. Grimsby's Nick Stead (C0nanthebarbarian), Samuel and Nigel Birtwistle (BostonStrangler) shared third place on 4.5.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.  
[www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

