

After the Christmas and New Year break the, now regular, online tournaments resumed on Monday and Thursday evenings. On the Monday 16 players locked horns in the six round tournament with only 10 minutes on the clock at the start of play.

After 4 rounds Samuel Milson led the field on 3.5 points followed by 3 players on 3 points each including Nigel Birtwistle from Boston and the two went head to head in round 5 and we pick up the game after Nigel, as black, has just played 20. ...Nf2+ (see diagram) forcing Samuel to reply with 21. Rxf2 Bxf2 losing the exchange and has it all to do.

Play continued 22. Nxe4 Be3 23. Rd3 f5 24. 24. Rxe3 Rde8 25. N2c3 Kd8 26. Ng5 Rxe3 27. Nf7+ Ke7 28. Nxh8 Kf6 and Samuel now has two knights against a rook although the knight on h8 has no escape route 29. Nb5 c6 30. dxc6 bxc6 31. Nxa7 c5 32. Nb5 Re8 33. Nxc6 Kxc6 and it is now a rook against a knight although Samuel now has 3 extra pawns.

So, who will prevail? 34. Nc3 f4 35. Kg1 Kf5 36. Kf2 g5 37. Na5 Rb8 38. b3 Rd8 39. Nxc5 Rd2+ 40. Kf3 Rxa2 41. Nd3 Ra3 42. Nc5 Ra1 43. Ne4 Rf1+ 44. Ke2 Rb1 45. Nd2 Rb2 46. Kd3 g4 47. hxg4 Kxg4 48. c5 Ra2 49. c6 Ra7 50. b4 and it looked like Samuels b and c pawns would be difficult to stop and as it happened Nigel's clock ran out leaving Samuel the victor.

Samuel won his final game to win the tournament on 5.5 points followed by Michael Pettinger on 5 points with Nigel and Allan Marshall equal third on 4.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Although we are yet to meet due to the lockdown [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

