

A new venture for Wednesday evenings was the introduction of a new online tournament limited to those players whose grade was under 1500 FIDE - roughly equivalent to 110 ECF - as in the Monday and Thursday events, which are open to all, they stood little chance of winning.

In this opening event 17 players entered the 6 round swiss format with 10 minutes on the clock and after the first 3 rounds Bogdan Pata, originally from Romania but now living in Grimsby and Tim Smith, also from Grimsby, led the table having won all their games.

In round 4 they went head to head and we pick up the game after Tim, as black, has just played 19. ...f6 (see diagram) materially equal but Bogdan saw an opportunity to win a pawn - can you see it?

Bogdan played 20. Rd7 Ba6 21. Rd6 attacking both the Knight on c6 and the pawn on e6 21. ...Ne7 22. Rxe6 winning the pawn 22. ...Nf5 23. Re1 Bb7 24. Nd6 Nxd6 25. Bxd6 Rd8 26. Bb4 Bd5 27. Re7 a5 28. Bc3 Rac8 29. R1e3 Kf8 30. Kh2 Re8 31. Rxe8+ Rxe8 32. Rxe8+ Kxe8 and after the exchange of rooks Bogdan remained a pawn up with just a bishop each on the board.

Play continued 33. Kg3 Ke7 34. Kg4 g6 perhaps overlooking Bxg2 35. f3 Ke6 36. Kg3 f5 37. Kf2 Bc4 38. Ke3 Bf1 39. Kf2 Bb5 40. g4 f4 41. Bd4 Kd5 42. c3 Kc4 43. Bf6 Kb3 44. Ke1 and Bogdan had seen a tittle trap - can you see it?

Black fell into it with 44. ...Kxb2 45. c4+ Kxa3 46. cxb5 winning the piece and he went on to win a few moves later. Bogdan won all his games to finish on 6 points whilst Tim was one of 4 players on 4 points.

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

