

The second of the U1600 grade competitions took place recently with 14 players taking part in the 6 round swiss tournament with 10 minutes on the clock. Coming into the final round Chris Cumbers from Grantham led the field on 4.5 points followed by David Mangion, originally from Malta but now living in Stickford, on 4 points and the two met in round 6.

The opening moves, with Chris as white, followed the Sicilian Defense Alapin's variation 1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. d4 cxd4 5. cxd4 leaving Chris with an isolated pawn on d4. David played on with 5. ...Nc6 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. Nc3 Qd8 8. Be3 Nf6 9. Be2 e6 10. 0-0 Ne7 11. Ne5 and Chris advances his knight (see diagram).

David took advantage with 11. ...Bxe2 12. Qxe2 Nxd4 13. Bxd4 Qxd4 winning the pawn 14. Rfd1 Qb6 15. b3 0-0 16. Rac1 Rac8 17. Na4 Qb4 18. Rc4 Qa5 19. Rdc1 Rxc4 20. Qxc4 b5 and Chris's knight and queen are forked by the pawn 21. Qc7 Qxc7 22. Rxc7 Bd6 and now Chris's other knight is in danger 23. Rxa7 bxa4 24. Rxa4 Bxe5 and David is now two pieces up but a pawn down with Chris's only compensation being the two passed pawns on a2 and b3.

So, it looks like David has the game all but won as play continued 25. g3 Rb8 26. b4 Bc3 27. a3 Nd5 28. b5 Rxb5 and David overlooked the mate threat as Chris played 29. Ra8+ Rb8 30. Rxb8 mate making Chris champion on 5.5 points followed by Tim Smith from Grimsby 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 yet to meet due to the lockdown www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

