

Some new faces were seen in the latest Under 1600 grade Wednesday night tournament. Andrew Watson, secretary of Skegness Chess Club and Martin Plaskitt from Grimsby had entered the event for the first time. A field of 16 players was enough to allow 6 rounds with 10 minutes on the clock at the start of each game.

After round 5 it was Andrew, Martin and Tim Smith, also from Grimsby, who jointly held the lead on 4 points and Andrew and Martin went head to head in the final round with the opening, with Martin as white, following the French Defense exchange variation 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 with Andrew retaking with the queen 4. Nf3 h6 5. Bd3 b6 6. O-O Ba6 7. Nc3 Qh5 8. Bf4 Bd6 9. Bg3 Bxg3 10. fxc3 doubling up whites g-pawns but opening up the f-file 10. ...Bb7 11. Qd2 Bxf3 12. Rxf3 Nf6 13. Ne4 Nbd7 14. Raf1 Rd8 and white increases the pressure on the f-file.

Play continued 15. Qc3 Nd5 16. Qa3 f5 17. Nd2 Rf8 18. Qxa7 g5 and Martin wins a pawn whilst Andrew advances his king side pawns 19. c4 Nb4 20. Bxf5 exf5 and Martin sacrifices his bishop to open up black's defence (see diagram) 21. Re1+ Kf7 22. Qxc7 Qg6 23. Ne4 Kg8 24. Nd6 Nc2 25. Nxf5 taking another pawn 25. ...Kh8 26. Ne7 Qh7 27. Rxf8+ Rxf8 28. Re2 Nxd4 and unfortunately Martin's flag fell when the position looked interesting.

Tim lost his final game to Edward Knox meaning that Andrew was outright winner with Martin and Tim joint second.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Now open after lockdown. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

