

The Cleethorpes Rapidplay took place recently at the Leisure Centre overlooking sea front in the town. Gavin Johnstone, a member of Grimsby Chess Club, had the original idea and asked Nigel Birtwistle and Kevin McCarthy to help in organizing the event. Apparently, this was a fixture in the county calendar until 1983 and it seemed an opportune occasion to restart over-the-board chess in Lincolnshire.

Some generous sponsorship from local companies plus an entry of 86 players enabled some generous prize money to be on offer. There were three categories, Open, Major (Under 1900 rating) and Minor (Under 1600 rating). In the Open GM Matthew Turner, who was brought up in Scunthorpe, won the first prize of £200 with 5 points. Amongst the local players Samuel Milson from Louth shared second place winning £100 and Paul Hutchinson, also originally from Scunthorpe, won the U2200 grading prize.

There were quite a few locals who featured in the prize list of the Minor category. Andrew Watson from Skegness and Neil Milson from Louth each received £80 for sharing second place on 5 points. Jason Golding and 9 year old Zack McDonnell, both from Lincoln, each took home £13.33, for their share in the Under 1300 grading prize.

In the Major Alex Royle from Louth shared first place on 5.5 points taking home £125 and yours truly won £20 for a share in the Under 1700 grading prize on 3.5 points. My best game came in the last round against Robert Dean from Leeds and we pick up the game after Robert, as black, has played 35. ...Re4 (see diagram). I played 36. Rc8+ Kh7 37. Bd3 and black resigned.

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

