

The last Wednesday before Christmas is the date when members of Lincoln Chess Club play for the Tony Turp Memorial Trophy named after our chairman who sadly passed away in 2000.

The event takes the format of a 4 round handicap swiss tournament, interspersed with the traditional mince pies, with each player having an allotted time for each game depending on their grade. So for the 8 players taking part top seed Herman Kok (graded 157) had 5 minutes, Geoff Collyer (149) and Ian McDonald(146) 6 minutes, Russell Ludlow(134), Dave Bull(127) and yours truly(130) 7 minutes, John Box(120) 8 minutes and Charles Moss(105) 9 minutes.

Coming into round 3 Geoff Collyer and Russell Ludlow led the field having won both their opening games and went head to head and I was able to take note of the final position (see diagram) after Geoff, as black, had played 1. ...Rd1 mate.

Geoff also won his last match to become a worthy champion and took the trophy with a maximum 4 points with Dave Bull and John Box sharing second place on 3 points followed by Russell and Ian McDonald on 2 points.

The shield has a long list of past winners with a veritable who's who of Lincoln chess players past and present. In 2001 Michael-John Turp, Tony's son fittingly took the title, Ayman Hammam won in 2002, Dan Robinson in 2003, David Coates our Division 1 captain won in 2004 & 2005. In 2006 Robert Dale won and also shared the title with yours truly in 2010. Robert's daughter Hannah Ball won in 2007 and John Ball (no relation) won in 2008 followed by Paul Cumbers in 2009 and finally Kevin McCarthy took the title last year.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk

