

The Alf Newman Memorial Rapidplay named after the past chairman of Louth Chess Club attracted an international field, including Dean Clow from Denver Colorado on holiday in the UK, in the 6 round tournament taking place in Church House under the gaze of St.James Church.

A good turn out of 26 players including some of the county's top players competed for the Alf Newman Shield and a top prize of £100.

At the half way stage Nigel Birtwistle from Grantham and Joe Kilshaw from Grimsby led the field on 3 points with each having won all their games and went head to head on round 4 and we pick up the game after Nigel as white seemed to have gained the advantage after playing 23. Nxg6 winning a pawn (see diagram).

Joe replied with 23. ...Rd3+ 24. Kg4 Bb2 25. h5 and Nigel's h-pawn is homing in on promotion. However, Joe played 25. ...Rxb3 26. h6 (not 26. axb3 a2) Rc3 27. h7 Rxc4 28. h8(Q) Bxh8 29. Nxh8 and Joe has had to give up his bishop 29. ...Rd4 30. Kg5 c5 31. Rc2 c4 32. g4 Kd7 33. f5 b3 34. axb3 cxb3 and turned the tables to win the game.

Joe drew his 5th game to lead the field on 4½ points followed by Nigel on 4. However, the final twist in an exciting competition saw Nigel beat last year's winner Nick Stead to finish on 5 points while Joe lost to Harry Russell which meant that Joe and Harry shared second place on 4½.

Meanwhile, the Under 155 grading prize was shared by Lincoln's Jules Brown and James Irwin, making a fleeting return from Norfolk, with Peter Damms and Neil Milson, both from Louth, sharing the Under 130 grading prize.

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

