

The annual Louth Quickplay took place during the summer when a record field of 36 players competed for the Alf Newman Memorial Shield, name after the chairman of Louth Chess Club who passed away a few years ago.

The event has out grown the previous venues but this year the White Horse on Kenwick Road managed to squeeze everybody in and also provided an excellent buffet at half time.

The tournament comprised 6 rounds of 25 minutes for each player allowing Keith Palmer, the event organiser, time to calculate the pairings between each round.

Several of the county's top players were occupying the top boards and after round 4 Murray Smith from Lincoln and Samuel Milson from Louth led the field on a maximum 4 points and went head to head in round 5 and we pick up the game after Samuel, as white, has just played 31. f5 (see diagram) materially equal but with white advancing his king side pawns. Murray played 31. ...Nc5 32. Bd1 Kc7 33. Nc4 and Samuel advanced his knight but this turned out to be a mistake - can you see it?

Murray played 33. ...Bd3+ 34. Ke3 Bxc4 winning the piece and won a few moves later.

Murray drew his last game to finish on 5½ points to take the trophy and £100 prize, Nigel Birtwistle from Grantham was second on 5 with Joe Kilshaw, Raven Morrello and Arya Parnian sharing 3rd place on 4½. Ian McDonald, James Irwin and John Grasham shared the Under 150 grading prize on 3½ points with Neil Milson, Keith Noons and Cameron Marnoch sharing the Under 120 grading prize on 3 points. Cameron was also awarded the Nottingham Building Society Shield for the best Louth player who has not previously won it.

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

