

During the lockdown online chess has become the staple diet for most chess players in the county and we have now settled into a routine of playing twice a week, on Monday and Thursday evenings. About 16 players now regularly enter the 6 round swiss tournaments on the chess.com platform with 10 minutes on the clock for each game, so the event takes about 2 hours to complete, just nice time to make a cup of cocoa before watching the 10pm news.

In the latest of these events Andy Hebert from Grantham took the plaudits winning all his games with his best game coming in round 5 when he was paired as white against Allan Marshall from Boston with play starting with Andy's favourite English opening 1. c4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nxd4 5. Qxd4 Nf6 and in an explosive opening Andy's queen has control of the centre.

Play continued 6. Nc3 e6 7. Bg5 Be7 8. e4 0-0 9. Bd3 Ng4 10. Bxe7 Qxe7 11. e5 Nh6 and black's knight retreats to the side lines 12. 0-0 f6 13. Qe4 f5 14. Qd4 b6 15. Nb5 Bb7 16. Nd6 Rb8 and Andy's knight has taken up a strong position on d6.

Andy brought his rook into play with 17. Rac1 Nf7 18. c5 Nxd6 19. cxd6 Qg5 20. f3 Rfc8 and black counters Andy's rook on c1 having previously taken the knight on d6 but this has been replaced by the pawn (see diagram) - can you see Andy's next move?

Andy played 21. Rc7 Rxc7 22. dxc7 Rc8 23. Qxd7 winning a pawn. Black countered with 23. ...Qe3+ 24. Kh1 Qc5 25. Qxe6+ Kh8 26. Qxf5 and Andy wins a third pawn 26. ...g6 27. Qf6+ Kg8 28. b3 Qxc7 29. Bc4+ and black resigned.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Although we are yet to meet due to the lockdown www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

