

The now regular online swiss tournaments rounded off the year with a bumper eight round event. After round 4 organizer Nigel Birtwistle and Steve Prior were joint leaders on 3.5 having drawn with each other in this round followed closely by Martin Pettinger on 3 points.

Martin and Nigel met in round 5 in our featured game and the opening moves, with Martin as white, followed the Sicilian Defence Dragon variation 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bc4 Bg7 4. 0-0 Nc6 5. Re1 e6 6. c3 Nge7 7. d4 cxd4 8. cxd4 d5 9. exd5 exd5 10. Bb3 0-0 and after Nigel has castled both players have an isolated d-pawn.

Play continued 11. Bg5 f6 12. Bf4 Kh8 13. Nc3 g5 14. Be3 a6 15. Rc1 Qd6 16. Qd2 b5 17. a3 Be6 18. Bc2 Bf7 19. h4 h6 20. Ne2 Kg8 21. Ng3 Be6 22. Qd3 and Martin is threatening to play 23. Qh7+ (see diagram) Nigel so has to play 22. ...f5 23. hxg5 hxg5 24. Bxg5 winning the pawn Bd7.

Martin now follows up with 25. Nh5 Rae8 26. Nxc7 Kxc7 27. g3 Rh8 28. Kg2 Ng6 29. Rh1 Nce7 30. Rce1 Be6 31. Qe3 Bf7 32. Bh6+ Kg8 33. Qg5 Rh7 34. Ne5 Kh8 35. Nxf7+ Rxf7 36. Bf8+ and Martin's discovered check allows him to put the bishop in a powerful position Kg8 37. Bxe7 Rfxe7 38. Rxe7 Rxe7 39. Bxf5 Rg7 40. Qe3 and having lost a second pawn Nigel resigned.

Martin also had wins against Joe Kilshaw in round 6, Allan Marshall in round 7 and Andy Hebert to take first place on 7 points followed by Nigel on 6.5 with Steve Prior and Steven Lewis joint third on 5.5 points.

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.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

