

The Lincolnshire Online tournaments continued after Christmas with the Thursday evening event drawing 20 of the county's finest to the 6 round swiss format with 10 minutes on the clock at the start of each game.

Coming into round 4 the joint leaders were Steve Prior and Michael Pettinger who had won each of their opening games and they went head to head and we join the game after Michael, as black, had just played 10. ...Rc8 (see diagram).

Steve played 11. h4 h5 12. gxh5 Nxh5 looking to open up black's defense in front of his king 13. Rg1 Ne5 14. Bh6 Nc4 15. Bxc4 Rxc4 but Michael is looking to build an attack of his own against Steve's king which has castled queen side 16. Bxg7 Nxg7 17. Qh6 Rxc3 18. bxc3 Qa5 19. Rd3 Qxa2 and both queens are deep into their opposing defenses.

And so a race to the line 20. Kd2 Ba4 21. h5 Nxh5 22. Qxh5 and a mistake by black as he cannot retake but instead played 22. ...e5 23. f4 exd4 taking the knight which was protecting the pawn on c2 but Steve played 24. Rxg6+ and black resigned as 24. ...fxg6 25. Qxg6+ Kh8 26. Rh3 mate follows.

Steve went on to win his remaining 2 games to win the tournament with a maximum 6 points while Michael was one of 5 players trailing in his wake on 4 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.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

