

With the introduction of the Wednesday Night tournament for players under 1500 FIDE there has been, understandably, a fall in the numbers playing in the open events on Mondays and Thursdays. In the latest Thursday night tournament there were 18 players, still a reasonable number, for the 6 round swiss format with 10 minutes on the clock.

The key game came in round 3 when Samuel Milson from Louth was paired as white against Martin Pettinger from Derby with Samuel beginning with the English Opening 1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. d4 Bg7 and Martin responding with the King's Indian defense 4. e4 d6 5. f3 c5 6. Be3 cxd4 7. Bxd4 Nc6 and with the pawn on d4 being taken a more open variation ensued.

Play continued 8. Be3 0-0 9. Bd3 Be6 10. Nge2 Ne5 11. Nd5 Bxd5 12. exd5 and this latest exchange has left the diagonal open for black's bishop on g7 (see diagram) - can you see how Martin took advantage?

Martin played 12. ...Qa5+ 13. Nc3 Rfc8 14. Qe2 b5 15. cxb5 Nxd5 16. Bd2 Nxd3+ 17. Qxd3 Nxc3 18. bxc3 Bxc3 19. Bxc3 Rxc3 and after an explosive series of exchanges Martin is now a pawn up but after 20. Qe2 Re3+ white resigned as his queen is lost.

Martin lost to Nigel Birtwistle in round 4 but won his remaining games to finish on 5 points. Nigel, himself lost to Samuel in round 6 meaning that they plus 2 others finished in joint second place 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)

