

The latest Monday Night showdown took place with 14 of the county's top players taking part. A withdrawal after round 1 meant that there were an odd number so organiser Nigel Birtwistle, who initially did not enter, came in in round 2. Both he and Andy Hebert from Boston won all their games apart from round 4 when they drew with each other. Thus Andy won the tournament on 5.5 points with Nigel in second place on 4.5.

Andy's best game came in round 5 when he was paired as black against Martin Pettinger with the opening following the Scandinavian Defense 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. Nc3 Nxd5 4. Nxd5 Qxd5 and in a rapid fire opening black's queen controls the centre 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. Be2 Nc6 7. d3 0-0-0 and Andy castles queen side 8. Bf4 e5 9. Be3 e4 10. dxe4 Qxe4 11. Bd3 Qb4+ 12. Qd2 Qxb2 and Andy gains a pawn 13. 0-0 Bxf3 14. Bf5+ Kb8 15. Bxa7+ (see diagram) and Martin is hoping that Andy will reply with 15. ...Nxa7 16. Qxe8 but instead played 15. ...Kxa7 16. Qe3+ Qd4 17. Qxf3 and Martin retakes the bishop but Andy is now a piece up.

Andy needed to bring his pieces into play to take advantage as play continued 17. ...Bc5 18. Rab1 Bb6 19. Be4 Qc5 20. a4 Na5 21. Rb5 Qc4 22. Rfb1 Rhe8 and Martin is looking to find some counterplay on the b-file while Andy brings his remaining pieces into play 23. h3 Qxe4 winning the bishop 24. Qc3 Qd4 25. Rxa5+ Bxa5 26. Qxa5+ Kb8 winning back the piece 27. Qa6 Qa7 28. Qc4 Rd2 29. Qf4 Ree2 30. Qb4 Qxf2+ and white 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

