

The latest Thursday Night tournament took place but with only 12 players entering the event was decided over 5 rounds rather than the usual 6. Top seed and tournament favourite Peter Cusick took the plaudits with 4.5 out of 5, a draw with Kevin McCarthy in the last round was his only blemish. Kevin only entered the competition in round 3 to replace a withdrawal.

Herman Kok came a creditable second with 4 points and his only loss was in round 3 against Peter with the opening following the Trompovsky attack named after the Brazilian champion from the 1930s and 40s Octavio Trompovsky 1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 Ne4 one of many unusual openings employed by Herman 3. Bf4 c5 4. f3 Qa5+ 5. c3 Nf6 6. d5 d6 7. e4 Nbd7 8. Na3 g6 9. Nc4 Qc7 10. Ne3 Bg7 11. Bd3 a6 12. g4 b5 13. h4 c4 and both players are making pawn advances 14. Bc2 Nc5 15. h5 Nfd7 16. hxg6 hxg6 17. Rxh8+ Bxh8 preventing white from castling 18. Nh3 Ne5 19. Bxe5 Bxe5 and now black's bishop on e5 controls the h8 to a1 diagonal 20. f4 Bg7 21. Ng5 Qb6 22. Qe2 (see diagram) and position is materially equal but with black's queen and bishop poised to strike whilst Herman's pawn and knights still pose a threat.

Peter played 22. ...Nd3+ 23. Bxd3 cxd3 24. Qxd3 and Herman is a pawn up but Peter has two bishops against Herman's two knights in the minor ranks.

Play continued 24. ...b4 25. 0-0-0 bxc3 26. b3 and Herman loses the pawn 26. ...c2 27. Rd2 Bxg4 28. Rxc2 retaining parity 28. ...Bd7 29. f5 Bb5 30. Nc4 Qg1+ a key move as 31. Qd1 Qxg5+ wins the knight 32. Kb1 Qf6 33. e5 Qxf5 34. exd6 Bxc4 35. bxc4 Rb8+ 36. Kc1 Bh6+ and Herman 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

