

With dwindling numbers it was decided to dispense with the Monday and Thursday night open tournaments and replace them with one on a Friday night - still over 6 rounds with 10 minutes on the clock at the start of each game. The first such outing was rewarded with a slightly better field of 16 players.

For the first time the county's top player Chris Dorrington from Bourne entered the event and won all 6 of his games, followed by organiser Nigel Birtwistle on 5 points who he beat in round 3.

Chris's best game came in round 5 when Chris was paired as black against Martin Pettinger with the opening following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Be2 Qc7 6. Nb5 Qb8 7. 0-0 Nf6 8. N1c3 a6 9. Nd4 Qc7 10. Bg5 b5 11. a3 Bb7 12. Bh4 Bc5 13. Bg3 Qb6 14. Nb3 Be7 15. e5 Ng8 and Martin forces Chris's knight to its starting position 16. Ne4 Nh6 17. Nd6+ Bxd6 18. exd6 retaking the piece and giving Martin an advanced pawn in a threatening position but also, possibly, difficult to defend (see diagram).

Play continued 18. ...Nf5 19. a4 bxa4 20. Rxa4 f6 21. Bd3 Nxc3 22. hxg3 Ne5 23. Be4 Bxe4 24. Rxe4 0-0 and now only whites queen is defending the pawn 25. Qd4 Rfb8 26. Ra1 Qxd4 27. Rxd4 Rb6 28. f4 Nf7 29. Rad1 Rc8 30. R1d2 Rcc6 and now the pawn on d6 is in peril 31. Kf2 Kf8 32. Kf3 Ke8 33. g4 Rxd6 34. Rxd6 Rxd6 35. Rxd6 Nxd6 and Chris is a pawn up 36. Nc5 a5 37. b3 Kd8 38. Ke3 Kc7 39. Kd4 Kc6 and Martin brings his king into the attack 40. Nd3 Nb5+ 41. Kc4 d5 mate but only succeeds in being trapped.

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

