

The Wednesday night tournament limited to those with a grade of Under 1600 continued when 13 players threw their hats into the ring in the 6 round contest with 10 minutes on the clock for each game.

After the first 3 rounds Herman Kok and Paul Fischer, both from Lincoln, led the field with a maximum score and they faced each other, metaphorically of course as the game was played online, in round 4 and we pick up the game after Paul, as black, has just played 9. ...Nd4 (see diagram) making life difficult for Herman's knight on f3.

Herman played 10. c3 Nxf3+ 11. gxf3 Bh3 doubling up Herman's f-pawns and opening up his defense 12. Re1 Nh7 13. d4 exd4 14. cxd4 Bb6 15. Bf1 Qd7 16. f4 Bxf1 17. Rxf1 Qh3 18. Be3 Nf6 19. Qf3 Ng4 20. Qg2 Qxg2+ 21. Kxg2 Nxe3+ 22. fxe3 Rae8 and after the queens have been exchanged Herman's e-pawns are doubled in an otherwise even contest.

Play continued 23. Kf3 g6 24. Rg1 Kh7 25. f5 gxf5 26. exf5 Rg8 27. Nh5 Kh8 28. Nf6 and Herman has forked Paul rooks but he escaped with 28. ...Rxc3 29. Rxc3 Rd8 but Herman now has control of the g-file 30. Rg4 c5 31. d5 Rc8 32. Nh5 c4 33. Rg7 Rc7 34. Rg4 c3 35. bxc3 Rxc3 but Paul now has made inroads into Herman's pawns via the c-file 36. Re4 Rxa3 winning the pawn for black 37. Re7 Bc5 38. Rxf7 Rxe3+ 39. Kf4 Rh3 40. Nf6 and Paul has picked up three of Herman's pawns and looks like taking the fourth on h2. However, he realized too late that Herman has a mate threat as the end came with 40. ...Rh4+ 41. Kg3 Rb4 42. Rh7 mate.

Herman won his next 2 games to finish on 5 points losing to Robert Arthurton from Skegness in the last round but this was enough to secure the tournament win with Robert and Paul 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.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

