

The latest Tuesday Night Torture as it is called by organiser Nigel Birtwistle had an exciting climax with 12 players taking part in the 5 round tournament with each player starting with 10 minutes on the clock with a 5 second increment. After round 4 Allan Marshall from Boston was leading the tournament having won all his games. Lincoln's Herman Kok was in second place on 3 points and the pair went head to head in the final round with Herman having the white pieces.

As is Herman's want he sometimes begins with a left field opening and this game was no exception 1. d4 g6 2. h4 b6 and Allan's response was to begin with the Modern Defence opening up both diagonals for his bishops 3. h5 Bb7 4. hxg6 fxg6 but now Herman continued with his h-pawn advance and has opened up the h file for his rook 5. Qd3 Nf6 6. Bg5 Bg7 7. Nd2 d6 8. e4 Nbd7 9. f4 0-0 and Herman has advanced his central pawns. Black elected to castle, normally a move to aid in the defense of the king, but was it a wise move this time? (see diagram).

Herman took advantage with 10. Qh3 h5 11. e5 dxe5 12. dxe5 Ng4 and black is forced to move the knight on f6 13. Bc4+ Kh7 14. Qxg4 winning the piece as black cannot retake so instead responded with 14. ...Nxe5 but Herman completed the victory with a neat finish 15. Rxh4+ gxh4 16. Qxh4+ Bh6 17. Qxh6 mate meaning that Allan and Herman shared first place on 4 points.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Now open after lockdown. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

