

The Tuesday night tournaments continued and are now proving to be a popular fixture with 14 players taking part. Starting at 7.30 players are paired automatically by the host platform, chess.com, with each player starting on 10 minutes with a five second increment for each move made. There are 5 rounds with the next round starting once all the games from the preceding round have been completed. The whole tournament is normally completed within 2 hours giving me just enough time to play my games whilst listening to the Lincoln City match on the radio.

In this week's tournament Martin Pettinger won all his games with Jason Gillatt from Lincoln University coming second on 4 points. The key game came in round 3 when the pair went head to head with the opening, with Jason as white, following the Sicilian Defense 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 and Martin elects to follow the Dragon variation 6. Bc4 Bg7 7. f3 0-0 8. Be3 Nc6 9. Qd2 Bd7 10. 0-0-0 Rc8 11. Nxc6 bxc6 and Jason took the knight on c6 with Martin retaking with the pawn on b7 followed by 12. Bh6 (see diagram).

Martin now played 12. ...d5 13. exd5 cxd5 14. Bxd5 Nxd5 15. Qxd5 and now threatened 16. Qxd7 but, unfortunately, he overlooked 15. ...Bxh6+ 16. Kb1 Be6 leaving Martin a piece up and he went on to win a few moves later. Perhaps 15. Bxg7 Kxg7 16. Qxd5 was a better option.

For my part I finished in third place on 3.5 points. Lincoln City, not so good, as they lost 3-0 to Danny Cowley's Portsmouth.

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

