

The Tuesday Night Torture series continued to apply the thumb screws to the hardy souls who ventured as far as their computers for this grueling encounter. Again, a disappointing turnout saw only 9 players enter so only 4 rounds were possible with 10 minutes on the clock plus a five minute increment. Still even with a small field there was no lack of excitement.

After 3 rounds Allan Marshall from Boston and Robert Arthurton from Skegness were joint leaders having won all their games and they went head to head in the final round and we pick up the game after Allan as black has just played 16. ...Bxd6 after an exchange of pawns (see diagram).

Robert thought he had gained an advantage when he played 17. Nb5 as white could not play 17. ...cxb5 18. Rxc7. However Allan played 17. ...Qb6+ 18. Nbd4 cxd5 and now Robert cannot play 19. exd5 as white loses the bishop on d3 leaving Allan a pawn up.

Instead Robert played 19. Be3 Ng4 20. Bf2 Bxh2+ and a second pawn falls 21. Kh1 Nxf2+ 22. Rxf2 Be5 23. Bb5 Nf6 24. exd5 Nxd5 25. Rc5 Be4 26. Qc1 Qg6 27. Nf3 Qh5+ 28. Kg1 Bxf3 29. Rxf3 Qh2+ 30. Kf1 Qh1+ 31. Kf2 Qxc1 32. Nxc1 perhaps Rxc1 was better as Allan played 32. ...Bd4+ 33. Kg3 Bxc5 winning the exchange and Allan went on to win a few moves later.

Robert had to settle with joint second place on 3 points with Craig Smith from Sleaford.

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

