

The Tuesday Night Tournament continued with only 8 players this time so the organisers decided that only 3 rounds were possible.

Going into the final round Andrew Watson, secretary of Skegness Chess Club, and Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby led the field with a maximum 2 points and went head to head in the final round. Andrew, as white, opened with 1. d4 with Stuart replying with 1. ...f5 - the Dutch defence - 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 c6 4. Bg5 d6 5. Bxf6 exf6 but Andrew elects to capture the knight on f6 thus doubling up black's f-pawns and opening up the e-file ahead of black's king.

Play continued 6. f4 g6 7. Nf3 Bg7 8. e3 0-0 with black castling but now Andrew is looking to unlock black's defense as he played 9. h4 Na6 10. a3 Nc7 11. h5 Qe7 12. Kf2 a6 13. hxg6 hxg6 and now the h-file is open for white to exploit 14. Nh4 Re8 15. Qe2 Kf7 and white is protecting the pawn on e3 whilst black's king is protecting the pawn on g6 - however this has opened up an opportunity for white (see diagram) - can you see it?

Andrew played 16. Nxg6 and black cannot play 16. ...Kxg6 as 17. Qh5 mate follows so instead he played 16. ...Qxe3+ 17. Qxe3 Rxe3 18. Kxe3 Kxg6 effectively winning the exchange for Andrew and he went on to win the game, and thus the tournament, a few moves later.

A reminder that the Cleethorpes Rapidplay is on Sunday July 3 - see [www.lincschess.org](http://www.lincschess.org) for details.

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](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

