

Turning back the clock to the winter of 2021, the cold winds are biting but optimism is in the air as the vaccination roll out is just starting. Meanwhile, the county's chess players are sitting down in front of their computers for another online tournament. This time 15 players have entered the Monday Night Dogfight and amongst them were Steve Lewis from Scunthorpe and Chris Cumbers from Grantham. Neither of them finished in the top 3, Steve finished 9th on 3 points and Chris 11th on 2 and they played each other in round 5 of 6 with 10 minutes on the clock plus a 5 second increment.

We pick up the game after Chris, as black, has just played 28. ...a5 (see diagram). Can you see Steve's next move?

Steve played 29. Nd7+ Ke8 30. Nxc5 winning the pawn Qd8 31. Qxd8+ Kxd8 32. Nb7+ Kc7 33. Nxa5 winning a second pawn Nd5 34. Kf1 Nc3 35. Ke1 Nb1 36. Nc4 Kc6 37. Kd1 Nc3+ 38. Kc2 Nb5 39. Kd3 Kd5 40. f3 e5 41. a4 Nc7 and Chris has it all to do to stop the two passed pawns.

Play continued 42. e4+ Ke6 43. g3 f6 and Steve needs to guard against a counter attack on the king side 44. b4 Na6 45. Kc3 f5 46. exf5+ gxf5 47. b5 Nc5 48. a5 e4 49. f4 but now black has a passed pawn on e4 49. ...Na4+ 50. Kb4 but now black's knight is trapped 50. ...Nb2 51. Nxb2 e3 52. Nd3 and black resigned as the knight is stopping the pawn from gaining promotion.

All the very best for Christmas to all our readers.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk Facebook Lincoln Chess Club
Instagram @chesslincoln

