

It is with sadness that I have to report the passing of Alf Newman. Alf was for many years the chairman of Louth Chess Club and over the years we have had many close games and interesting discussions.

Alf was instrumental in setting up the Louth junior section and his labours are now bearing fruit with several young players coming through with the most notable being Samuel Milson.

In fact it was Samuel who won the recently held Lincoln Junior Rapidplay held at Lincoln Chess Club winning the title in a thrilling play off with David O'Neill from the Priory in Lincoln with Hannah Dale, daughter of tournament organiser Robert, in third place.

Jessica O'Neill, sister of David, also from the Priory took the Year 9 medal with Tom Smith from the Minster School the best in Year 8. Daniel Stevens from St.Bede's in Scunthorpe took the Year 7 prize and Emma Bentley from Chesterfield was the best under 11 performer.

It was again my pleasure to judge the best game award which went to Ben Smith and Joseph Hamson. The diagram shows the position after 21. e5 Ne4 22. Qd3 Qd5 with Ben, as white attaching the knight on e4 which seemingly has no means of escape.

Ben played 23. Bb3 and it looks like the knight is doomed but Joseph found an escape - can you see it?

Joseph played 23. ...Qa5+ 24. c3 Qxc3+ 25. Qxc3 Nxc3 winning the pawn. Skilful play on both sides followed with Joseph winning through in the end in a game that was a credit to both players. Watch out for the next event in June.

