

The Tony Turp Memorial Shield is a prestigious trophy played for just before Christmas named after the Club Chairman and Echo columnist who passed away 5 years ago.

Six of Lincoln's finest competed with each player given a time limit for each game based on their grade so the weakest player, Charles Moss, had 11 minutes and the strongest David Coates had only 5. Hannah and Robert Dale (each 8 minutes), Dave Bull and myself (both 9 minutes) made up the sextet. So it was to be a fast and furious all-play-all competition interspersed with the customary mince pies.

David Coates won in 2004 and 2005 and was trying to make it three in a row and all was going according to plan when he won his first three games. Robert Dale was also doing well with 2 wins and a draw to lie in second place on 2½ points as they went head-to-head in round 4.

We pick up their game after David, playing black, has just played 29. ...Nxd4 (see diagram) where the game is materially equal. Robert pursued his attack on black's king with 30. Nf6+ Kg7 31. h6+ Kh8 32. Rxb7 winning a pawn and control of the seventh rank 32. ...Ne2+ 33. Kf1 Nf4 34. Rf3 Nd5 and with both players short on time Robert was able to win with a neat finish 35. Nxd5 exd5 36. Rxf7 Kg8 37. Rg7+ Kh8 38. Rxh8+ Kg8 39. Rbg7 mate.

In the last round Robert drew with Charles Moss to deservedly take the title with 4 points and Hannah Dale also beat David to take second place on 3½.

