

The latest in the now regular quarterly Lincolnshire Under 18 tournaments, held at the RAOB Club in Lincoln, was intriguing in that it threw up a situation involving the two minute rule - this being that in rapidplay tournaments, or rapidplay finishes, a player who has less than two minutes left on the clock can claim a draw if he feels that his opponent cannot win by ordinary means or if, indeed, he is not trying to win when he does have mating material.

This involved the game between Ben Smith and David O'Neill where Ben, as white, had just played 1. Kf4 (see diagram) but had only 90 seconds left on his clock. Ben, aware of the two minute rule, had stopped the clocks and called the arbiter and tournament organiser Robert Dale.

With the other players gathered round to watch Robert decided to allow each player one more move. 1. ...Kf6 by black would result in a draw but David, with more time left, played 1. ...Kg6 throwing down the gauntlet as 2. Ke5 wins for white - but has he got enough time? Ben, perhaps wisely, played 2. Kg4 and the game was declared a draw.

Can you do it? Try it on the board - but remember, if the flag falls, you lose.

After all the excitement the tournament was won by Hannah Dale with John Box runner-up and the rapidly improving Sean Guggiari from Barton-on-Humber coming third. Other prize winners were Ben Smith (Year 9), Tom Smith (Y8), Liam Jacklin (Y7), Amy Milson (Y6). Joseph Hamson, Jessica O'Neill and Venson Pang received merit prizes.

Watch out for the next U18 tournament in October.

