

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played their last match of the season when Grimsby were the visitors. Grimsby have won the title for the last 6 seasons and so far they have won all three of their matches so far this season, including the 3-2 win at home to Lincoln earlier in the season. That loss was Lincoln's only set back and so led the table at the start of play by 2 points but having played 2 games more, so a win for Lincoln would put them 4 points ahead.

On board 1 Lincoln's Murray Smith, who comes from Melbourne Australia but now works at Lincoln University, was paired as white against Grimsby captain Nick Stead and we pick up the game after black has just played 24. ...Re8 (see diagram) defending the pawn on e6 - can you see Murray's next move?

Murray played 25. Nh4 Rg5 26. f4 Rg4 27. Nf5 Qxf4 28. Nh6+ Kg7 29. Nxc4 Qxc4 winning the exchange for a pawn. Murray took advantage with 30. Rxd5 exd5 31. Qxe8 Qxd4+ 32. Kh1 Ne5 but now Murray's queen and rook are disconnected 33. h3 Qc3 34. Rf1 Nf7 35. Rf3 Qe5 36. Qd7 Qe1+ 37. Kh2 Qe5+ 38. Rg3+ and Murray avoids the possibility of a draw by repeated position whilst putting black's king in check 38. ...Kf8 39. Qc8+ and in fact black resigned as 39. ...Ke7 40. Qxb7+ and 41. Qxa7 follows.

A win also for Neil Roberts plus draws for David Coates and Herman Kok gave Lincoln a 3-2 win. Due to the lockdown Grimsby are yet to play their remaining 2 matches. When will these take place? Good question.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

