

The second round of matches in the Open section of the Online County Championships saw Lincolnshire paired against near neighbours Leicestershire, although no travelling was involved as all players were happily sat in front of their computer screens. Having beaten Cheshire and North Wales in their opening match they were keen to maintain their winning run.

On board 2 Lincoln's Murray Smith was paired as white against Andrew Morley from Wigston and we pick up the game after black has just played 29. ...g5 (see diagram) attacking Murray's queen but setting up an opportunity - can you see how?

Murray played 30. Qh6 Qg7 31. Rxf6 Rxf6 32. Qxf6 Qxf6 33. Bxf6 winning a pawn. Work needed to be done to close out the game as play continued 33. ...h6 34. Be5 Nd5 35. Bd4 Re8 36. Bc5 Bg4 37. e3 Nf6 38. Bg2 Nd5 39. e4 Nc7 and Murray is starting to advance his passed pawn, 40. d4 Be2 41. d5 Bd3 42. dxc6 bxc6 43. Bb6 Nb5 44. a4 Nd6 45. Rd1 Nc4 46. Bc5 Bxe4 47. Re1 Bg6 48. Rc1 Ne5 49. Bd4 Nd3 50. Rxc6 Re1+ and Murray has regained the pawn lost on move 46 but is now in check.

Murray countered with 51. Bf1 Be8 52. Rc8 Kf7 53. Rc7+ Kg6 54. Bc3 Rc1 55. Kg2 Ne1+ 56. Kf2 Nc2 57. Bd3+ Kh5 58. Bd2 Ra1 59. Bxc2 winning the piece Bxa4 60. Be4 Bb5 61. h3 Rf1+ 62. Kg2 Rf6 63. g4+ Kh4 69. Be1 mate.

Wins also for Paul Cumbers, Samuel Milson, Daniel Wells, Andrew Hebert and Nick Stead plus draws for Nigel Birtwistle, Joe Kilshaw and David Coates gave Lincolnshire a comfortable 8-4 win putting them equal top of the table with Middlesex A who they play next.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Although we are yet to meet due to the lockdown www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk

