

The Kazakhstan capital Astana played host to the 2019 World Team Championships when ten of the top chess playing countries met to play in the 9 round all-play-all tournament with 4 players in each team.

This week's game came in the opening round India went head to head with Sweden and the top board saw India's Adhiban Baskaran as white against Nils Grandelius with the opening following the Giuoco Piano 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d3 Bc5 5. 0-0 d6 6. c3 h6 7. Re1 0-0 and after a quiet opening, as the name suggests, both players have castled.

Play continued 8. Nbd2 a5 9. Nf1 Be6 10. Bb5 (declining the exchange) Ne7 11. d5 exd5 12. cxd5 Bb6 13. Ng3 d5 14. e5 Ne4 15. Nxe4 dxe4 16. Rxe4 and black prefers to lose the pawn rather than retreat his knight, 16. ...c5 17. Bd3 Bf5 18. Rf4 Bxd3 19. Qxd3 cxd4 and black regains the pawn giving him a dangerous passed pawn.

However, white is poised to unleash an attack on black's king and played on with 20. Rg4 Qd7 21. h3 Qe6 22. Bd2 Rad8 23. Re1 Nf5 (see diagram) - can you see white's next move? Adhiban played 24. Bg5 hxg5 sacrificing the bishop 25. Nxe5 Qc8 and black's queen has to retreat whilst protecting the knight on f5 26. Rf4 g6 27. g4 Ne7 28. Qg3 and now white can take advantage of the open h-file 28. ...Kg7 29. Qh4 Rh8 30. Rxf7+ Kg8 31. Rh7 and black resigned.

India won the tie 3.5 to 1.5 and eventually finished 5<sup>th</sup> on 11 points behind Russia on 16 points and England on 13.

Wishing everybody a happy and, at some point, a Covid free New Year.

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](http://www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk)

