

This week's game is taken from the 2019 FIDE Women's Candidates event held at Kazan in Russia between Mariya Muzychuk and Aleksandra Goryachkina. Aleksandra who won the competition but, in this game, she lost to Mariya in the last round and in doing so Mariya won the tournament brilliancy prize.

So, we pick up the game after Aleksandra, as black, has just played 15. ...Be4 (see diagram). She is a pawn up but has yet to castle with Mariya's pawn on e5 making life difficult.

Play continued 16. Bb5+ Kf8 and black cannot now castle 17. f3 Bg6 18. Re3 Ne7 19. Rc3 h5 20. Rc7 a6 21. Bd7 b5 and white has control of the 7th rank 22. a4 bxa4 23. Bxa4 Nf5 24. Ra7 Rd8 (not 24. ...Rxa7 25. Rb8+ Ke7 26. Nc6+ Kd7 27. Nxa7+ Kc7 28. Rxh8 wins for white).

White's pieces are now active as play continued 25. Nc6 Re8 26. Ne7 Rd8 (not 26. ...Rxe7 27. Rb8+ Re8 28. Rxe8 mate) 27. Nxc6+ fxg6 28. Bd7 Kg8 29. Bxe6+ Kh7 and white now has a passed pawn on e5 30. Rbb7 Nd4 31. Bd7 Rb8 32. e6 Nf5 33. Ba4 Rbc8 34. e7 Nd6 and the noose tightens but black still has some counterplay 35. Rb6 Ne8 36. Rbxa6 Kg8 37. Ra8 Rxa8 38. Rxa8 Kf7.

Black has managed to defend the position so far and looks like taking the pawn on e7 to maintain parity but Mariya continued with 39. Kf2 Kxe7 40. Ke3 Rf8 41. Rxe8+ Rxe8 42. Bxe8 Kxe8 43. Kd4 and she was able to win the pawn on d5 and went on to win a few moves later.

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.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

