

The latest Thursday night tournament saw the return of Lincoln's Murray Smith to online chess having flown back from his family visit to Melbourne in Australia. The normal six round swiss format with 10 minutes on the clock was in place.

After round 4 Murray, playing under the handle Housing Crisis, had won all his matches as had Andy Hebert from Grantham and the two went head to head in round 5 and we pick up the game after Andy, as white, had just played 42. Qc3 (see diagram) with Murray a pawn up although this is off set by his c-pawns being doubled.

Murray played 42. ...Qd2 threatening mate so Andy had to exchange queens 43. Qxd2 Rxd2 44. Rg2 Rd1+ 45. Kf2 Ra1 46. Kg3 Rxa3 and Murray goes another pawn up 47. Rc2 Kf6 48. h4 g5 49. hxg5+ Kxg5 49. Rh2 Ra5 50. Rb2 c4 51. Rc2 Rc5 52. Rc3 h4+ 53. Kh3 and Andy is so far blocking Murray's advance.

Murray pushed on with 53. ...c6 54. Kh2 cxd5 55. exd5 Kf4 56. Kg2 Rxd5 57. Rxc4+ Rd4 58. Rc3 Rd2+ 59. Kh3 d5 60. Ra3 d4 61. Rb3 Rf2 62. Rd3 Rxf3+ 63. Rxf3+ Kxf3 64. Kxh4 and now Murray has two passed pawns and closes in for the kill 64. ...d3 65. Kg5 d2 66. Kf6 d1(Q) 67. Ke6 Qd4 68. Ke7 Kf4 69. Ke6 Qb6+ 70. Ke7 Kf5 71. Kd7 and all seemed lost for white but Murray ran out of time so the game was declared a draw as white does not have enough material to force a mate.

Both players won their final games so the shared the spoils overall.

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

