

This week's game, taken from the online archives of chess.com, involves two players, Mark Radley and Jagadeesan Murugesh, who were very active before Covid playing for Grimsby Chess Club and the county Under 125 graded section. During the early days of lockdown they joined in online tournaments in the early days of lockdown and this game saw the pair go head to head in one of the mid-week tournaments back in July 2020.

We pick up the game, with Mark as black, after Jagadeesan has just moved his rook from f6 to f4 (see diagram). Mark played 40. ...Rb7 threatening 41. ...Rb5+ so white has to play 41. Kc3 Kxc5 winning the pawn 42. Rc4+ Kd5 43. Rc8 Kxe5 44. Rc5+ Kf4 45. Rxa5 Kg4 46. Ra8 Kxh4 47. a5 Kxg5 and now white's only hope is the passed pawn on a5 48. a6 Rc7+ 49. Kd4 h5 and Mark's h-pawn now has a clear path to promotion.

Play continued 50. a7 h4 51. Ke5 h3 52. Kd6 h2 53. Rh8 Rxa7 54. Rxh2 stopping the immediate threat of pawn promotion on both sides 54. ...Ra4 55. Rf2 Rf4 56. Rg2+ Kf5 57. Ke7 f6 58. Re2 e5 59. Rg2 g5 60. Kf7 g4 61. Rg1 e4 62. Kg7 e3 63. Rg2 Rf2 64. Rg3 e2 65. Re3 Kf4 66. Re7 f5 67. Kg6 g3 68. Kh5 g2 and white resigned unable to prevent one of the pawns from being promoted.

Mark disappeared from the chess scene soon after this game but Jagadeesan was a regular player online until the middle of last year. Hopefully, now that we have come out of lockdown Grimsby will see both of them at Grimsby's new home of the Cleethorpes Leisure Centre.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

