

~ En Passant ~

Newsletter of the North Penn Chess Club of Lansdale, Winter 2012

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Olin Mastin, Editor

The North Penn Chess Club begins its 33rd Annual Winter Robin on Friday, January 6th

All Hail The Mighty Winter Robin!

By Eric Funk

The Winter Robin has long been a favorite yearly event for NPCC members and guests. No other Greater Philadelphia area tournament is quite like it.

First, there's the time control. Most area tournaments don't have time controls longer than Game in 100; the Winter Robin is 40/100 with Sudden Death in 45. One can not only reach the most demanding endgames at the Robin but also (hopefully) play them well without running short on time.

Then there's the scheduling. Many other seven-round tournaments are crammed into three-day weekends. It's virtually impossible to play one's best chess under such hectic and exhausting conditions. The Winter Robin, on the other hand, runs one game a week over the course of two months – plenty of time to rest and prepare between rounds.

Finally, there's the round robin format itself. Unlike Swiss events where participants usually find out who they are playing only minutes before the next round, the Robin's format allows players to know their opponents and colors weeks in advance. If you thrive on opening preparation, this is the tournament for you!

If you are planning on playing in the

Liberty Bell Open (January 13th weekend) or if seven games seem like a long commitment, don't be discouraged. There are built-in make-up weeks at the end of the tournament to allow for flexible scheduling. Arrive no later than 7:45PM on January 6th to guarantee you will not be shut out of this classic event.

Memories of Winter Robins Past

By Eric Funk

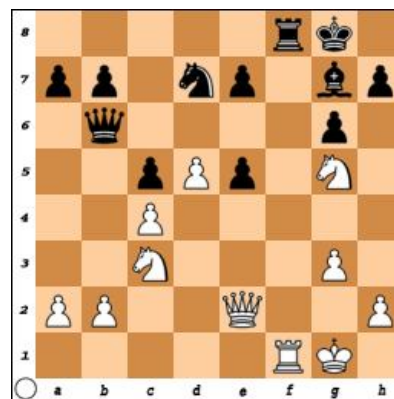
Some players prefer G45 or G60 tournaments but I prefer the longer time formats. I especially enjoy games where I can take 10 or 20 minutes on one critical move which decides the outcome. The Winter Robin always seems to bring out the best in me and my opponents. Here are some of my most satisfying games:

White: Eric Funk 2003

Black: Joe Weber 2200

NPCC Winter Robin 2001

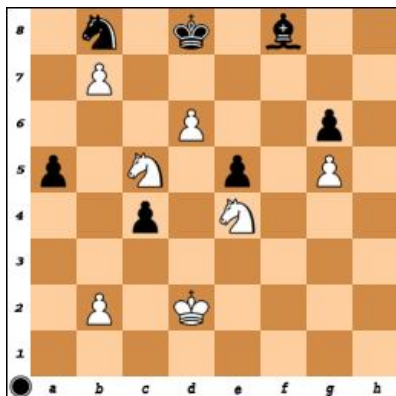
Position after 18...R(a8)f8



19.Rxf8+ Nxf8 20.Qf2 Qf6 21.Nge4 Qxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Nd7 23.g4! The key to the entire endgame: Black's bishop will never escape its half of the board. **23.... a6 24.g5 Kf7 25.a4 Bf8 26.a5 b6 27.Na4 e6 28.ab ed 29.cd Ke8 30.b7 Kd8 31.d6 c4 32.Nac5 Nb8 33.Ke3 h6 34.h4 hg 35.hg a5 36.Kd2** [D] Black is paralyzed and unable to prevent the invasion of white's king.

1 – 0

Final Position

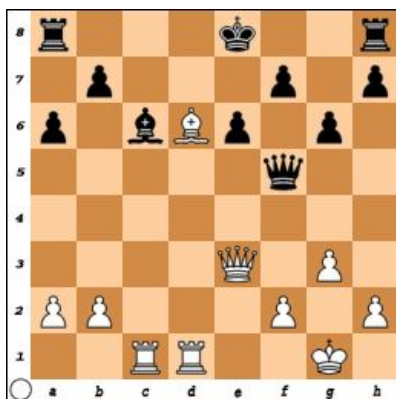


White: Eric Funk 2013
 Black: Preston Ladson 1955
 NPCC Winter Robin 2002

Position after 18.... Q(d8)a5



19.Ne4!? There's nothing wrong with the solid 19.Re1 but I'm in the mood to speculate a little. **19.... Bxe5 20.Nd6+ Bxd6 21.Bxd6 Nd4 22.Qe3 Nf5 23.Bxf5 Qxf5 24.Rac1 Bc6** [D] Black is attempting to set up mating threats in order to force a queen trade. White doesn't give him the chance.



25.Rxc6! bxc6 26.Qc3 f6 (26.... Kd7 doesn't help, either. For example: 27.Be5+ Ke7 28.Qc5+ Ke8 29.Qxc6+ Ke7 30.Rd7+ Ke8 31.Rc7+ Kf8 32.Qxa8#) **27.Qxc6+ Kf7 28.Qb7+ Kg8 29.Qxa8+ Kg7 30.Qxa6** and white consolidated his extra material into a win in 41. **1 - 0**

White: Nigel Mitchell 1925
 Black: Eric Funk 2009
 NPCC Winter Robin 2005

Position after 39.... K(g7)g8



White doesn't feel he can hold an endgame (he is down too many pawns) and so he throws his all into a mating attack. **40.e6 Rc6 41.Bc2** (A nice try. The bishop is angling for the b3-f7 diagonal.) **Rxe6 42.Rxe6 Qxg3+!** This rook sac wins. **43.Kf1 Bh3+ 44.Ke2 fxe6 45.Qxe6+ Kg7 46.Qxc8** (What else? White cannot draw using perpetual check.) **46.... Bg4+ 47.Kf1 Qf3+ 48.Kg1 Qe3+ 49.Kg2 Bf3+** and mate is unavoidable **0 - 1**

White: Terry Thomasco 1858
 Black: Eric Funk 2046
 NPCC Winter Robin 2007

Position after 22.... R(e6)e5



White has isolated queen's side pawns and a "hole" at c4, but so what? After a simple waiting move like 23.R5b1 how does black proceed? Fortunately for me, my opponent makes an innocent-looking move which turns out to be a grave mistake. **23.Rd5? Rxd5 24.exd5 Rxe1+ 25.Kxe1 Ne5** (Black threatens 26.... Nc4 and 27.... Nb2.)

26.Kd1 Nc4 27.Kc1 c6! Ironically, the surest and easiest way to win this endgame is to allow white to trade off his weak a-pawn. **28.dc+ Kxc6 29.Kb1 b5 30.ab+ Kb5 31.Ka2 a4** The point: black has an unapproachable outside passed pawn which keeps white's king on a short leash. **32.Bd4 Kc6 33.g4 Kd5 34.f4** (White cannot stop black's king from penetrating over the long run, so he tries force trades in order to eliminate all of the king's side pawns.) **34.... Ke4 35.g5 Kf5 36.h4 d5 37.gf gf 38.h5 h6 39.Kb1 Kxf4 40.Bxf6 Kg4 0 - 1**

White: John Frisk 1729
 Black: Eric Funk 2045
 NPCC Winter Robin 2008

Position after 10. B(f1)d3



10.... Nxd4!?

Fritz and Rybka don't seem to like this move but to me it makes perfect sense. Why give white time to build his center with moves like 11.Ne2 and 12.e4? Why not put white under duress while he is underdeveloped and his king is in the center of the board? **11.exd4 Qxd4 12.Bc2 Re8+ 13.Ne2 Ng4 14.Rf1** (Of course not 14.fxg4 Bxg4 etc...) [D] A crucial moment of decision.



14.... Nxh2, threatening 15.... Qh4+ and 15.... Nxf1 was an obvious candidate. For example, 14.... Nxh2 15.g3?! (White should consider 15.Bg5!?) Nxf3+ 16.Rxf3 Qg1+ 17.Rf1 Qxg3+ 18.Rf2 Bh3 strongly favors black. Instead I played my originally intended move. **14.... Rxe2+!?** I now anticipated 15.Kxe2 Bd7 (Setting up follow up checks on e8 and b5.) 16. fxg4 Re8+ 17.Kf3 Bxg4+, winning the queen. However, after 18.Kg3 Bxd1 19.Raxd1 the position remains unclear, at least to me (the chess machines might say differently). **15.Qxe2?! Qxa1+ 16.Bd1 Nf6 17.Bg5 Bd7 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Qd3 Re8+ 20.Kf2 Qb6+ 21.Kg3 Bb5 22.Re1** (Never say die! One last swindle attempt: 22.... Bxd3?? 23.Rxe8#) **22.... Rxe1** and **0 - 1**

If you have played in the Winter Robin before, please submit your own favorite games. If you haven't played before, I hope you will join us and create some favorite chess memories of your own.

In Memoriam: Tony Koppany (1918 - 2011) R.I.P.

By Eric Funk

Tony Koppany was one of the true gentlemen of the game. Tony was almost 70 when he played his first NPCC event (a rated quick tournament!) in 1997. Between 1997 and 2008 Tony played almost 300 rated games at the NPCC. To the very end, Tony was a strong opponent to be reckoned with.

White: Tony Koppany 1810
 Black: Eric Funk 2017
 Date: December 14, 2001
 Event: NPCC December Quads 2001

1.d4 b5 I'm being my usual unorthodox self, showing little "respect" for opening theory. **2.Bf4 Bb7 3.e3 e6 4.Nf3 a6 5.Bd3 f5 6.Nbd2 Nf6 7.h3 c5 8.c3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 c4** Black's plan is to give up the bishop pair and then close the center. **11.Bc2 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 d5 13.a4 Nbd7 14.axb5 axb5 15.Qd1 Qb6 16.Nf3 b4**

17.cxb4 Bxb4 18.Ba4 Nb8 19.Ra2 Na6
 20.Qa1 Ba5 21.Ne5 Nb4 22.Ra3 Ra6
 23.Qd1 Rfa8 24.Qe2 Ne4 25.g4 Qa7
 26.Rfa1 Bd8 Losing a pawn and the game.
 Tony alertly finds the right continuation
 and then never gives me a moment to
 recover. 27.Bd7 Qb6 28.gxf4 exf5 29.Rxa6
 Rxa6 30. Rxa6 Qxa6 31.Bxf5 Qa1+
 32.Kg2 Nf6 33.Be6+ Kf8 34.Bg5 Qa6
 35.Bxf6 Bxf6 36.Nd7+ Ke7 37.Nc5 Tony's
 picking me apart on the light squares. His
 bishop, queen, and knight will soon form a
 mating net. 37.... Qd6 The wrong square
 for the queen. 38.Qh5 Qxe6 Panic, but
 38.... h6 39.Qf7+ Kd8 40.Nb7+ etc. was
 worse. 39.Nxe6 Kxe6 40.Qe8+ Be7. After
 time control I reassessed the position to see
 if any drawing chances were remotely
 realistic. 1 - 0. Thank you for the
 memories, Tony. You will be missed.

Fischer, Robert James - Koppany,
 Anthony [B09]
Fischer tour simul Cheltenham,
 03.05.1964

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3
 0-0 6.Bd3 c5 7.dxc5 Bd7 8.cxd6 exd6 9.0-
 0 Bc6 10.f5 gxf5 11.exf5 Nbd7 12.Kh1 d5
 13.Ne2 Kh8 14.Ng3 Qb6 15.Ng5 Rae8
 16.Nh5 Bb5 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.Nh3 Rg8
 19.Nf4 Kh8 20.b3 Bc6 21.Bb2 d4 22.Bc4
 Re4 23.Bxf7 Rg4 24.Qd2 Rxf4 25.Rxf4
 Rxg2 26.Qxg2 Bxg2+ 27.Kxg2 Qc6+
 28.Kg1 Kg7 29.Bc4 b5 30.Bd3 Ne5
 31.Raf1 Kf7 32.Bxd4 Nxd3 33.cxd3 Qc2
 34.R4f3 Ng4 35.Rh3 h6 36.Rh4 Qe2
 37.Bxa7 Ne5 38.Rh3 Ng4 39.a4 bxa4
 40.bxa4 Qa2 41.Rh4 Qxa4 42.Be3 Qe8
 43.Rxg4 Qxe3+ 44.Kh1 Qxd3 ½ - ½

For more on Tony's remarkable life please
 see: http://articles.philly.com/2011-10-20/news/30301905_1_bobby-fischer-chess-player-brewery

Will Moyer Wins End Game Tourney!

By Olin Mastin

Friday, December 16, 2011

There were five end game positions taken
 from real Grandmaster games as

researched by Eric funk. Each position
 involved knight versus bishop and pawns
 with varying complexity. Each position
 was played in succession in a round robin
 format with each player taking white in
 one game and black in the second game for
 each position. Games were played with a
 Game/10 time control (unrated).

A post mortem analysis was conducted by
 Eric funk.

Will Moyer = 6 ½

Bob Kampia = 6

Don Funk = 5 ½

Olin Mastin = 5

Greg Sulat = 4

George Murphy = 3

Game played at the Chaturanga Chess Club

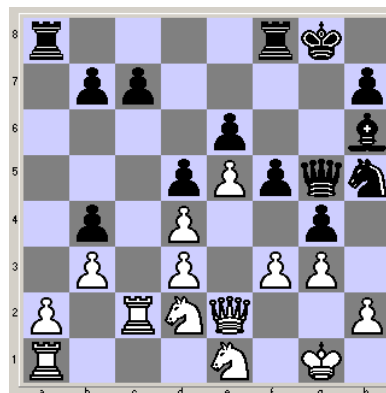
Submitted by Greg Sulat (with comments by Olin
 Mastin)

December 1, 2011

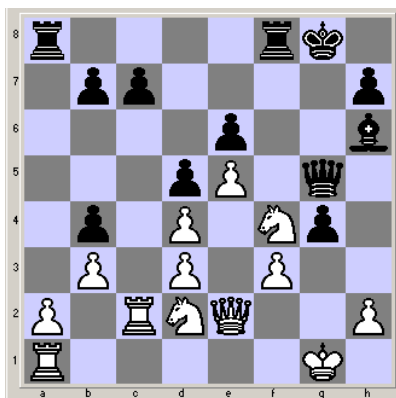
White: George Murphy 1518

Black: Greg Sulat 1204

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 d6 5.e3
 O-O 6.Nbd2 Bf5 7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.cxd3 d5
 9.O-O Nc6 10.e4 Nb4 11.Qe2 e6 12.Rfc1 Nh5
 13.g3 f5 14.e5 Bh6 15.Ba3 a5 16.Bxb4 axb4
 17.Rc2 g5 18.Ne1 g4 19.f3 Qg5 [D]

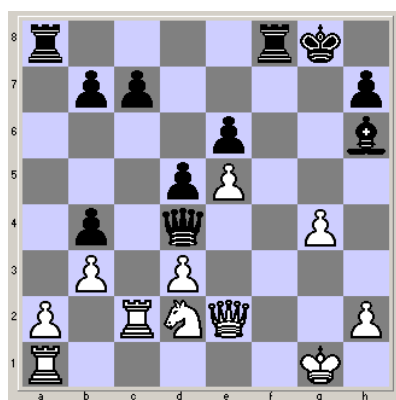


(Computer
 here gives 20.f4 Qe7 21.Rc5 Ra7 22.Rac1
 c6 23.Nb1 [Nf1 also possible]Rfa8 24.R1c2
 Bg7 [Bxf4! gxf4 25. Nxf4 Qd2 Nh3+ looks
 good for Black] 25.Ng2 Ra5 26.Ne3 Rxc5
 27.dxc5 with equality)
 20. Ng2? f4! 21. gxf4 Nxf4 22.Nxf4 [D]
 ...Qxf4 (This move, of course wins back the
 knight, but ...gxf3+!! wins heavy material
 and the game is essentially over).



23. fxc4? (Loses

immediately. Kh1 might be a try, but probably only prolongs the inevitable. On the other hand, White couldn't afford to allow Black to keep the powerful pawn on g4) Qxd4+! [D]



24. Kg2 Qxa1

25. Nf3 Rf4 26. h3 Raf8 27. Rxc7 Rxf3. White resigned.
Nice win by Greg.

A short King's Gambit game I played as white on the Internet Chess Club (ICC) (Black is about 300 points higher in rating.)

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. Bc4 Qh4+ 4. Kf1 Nf6 5. Nf3 Qh5 6. d3 g5 7. e5 Ng4 8. Qe2 Nc6 9. Nc3 Bc5 10. Qe4 Ne3+ 11. Bxe3 Bxe3 12. Qf5 d5 13. Qf6 Rg8 14. Nxd5 Bb6 15. Re1 Rg6 16. Qh8+ Kd7 17. Nf6+ Rxf6 18. Qxf6 Qg6 19. e6+ fxe6 20. Bxe6+ Kd6 21. Qf8+ Ne7 22. Qd8+ Kc6 23. Ne5+ Kb5 24. Nxc6 {Black resigns} 1-0

Another short game on ICC. I was black playing the Albin Counter Gambit (White is about 300 points higher in rating).

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 d4 4. e3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 dxe3 6. Bxb4 exf2+ 7. Ke2 fxc1=N+ 8. Rxc1 Bg4+ {White resigns} 0-1

By Olin Mastin (Had to fill up the blank space!)

33rd Annual Winter Robin Schedule

(8-player sections; 40/100, SD/45; EF \$25 members/\$35 non-members); USCF rated.

6-Jan	1 of 7	Considered by many NPCC members to be the best tournament of the year.
13-Jan	2 of 7	.
20-Jan	3 of 7	.
27-Jan	4 of 7	.
3-Feb	5 of 7	.
10-Feb	6 of 7	.
17-Feb	7 of 7	.
24-Feb	Open	Open night for make up games.
2-Mar	Open	Open night for make up games.
9-Mar	TBD	Event to be determined.

If you cannot make a round because of inclement weather or other reasonable circumstance, you may contact your opponent to arrange a make-up game. Make-up games do not necessarily have to be played at the NPCC normal site. Any feasible location arranged by agreement of both players is permissible, but only if absolutely necessary. Phone numbers and email addresses will be available for all participants.

Hope to see a great turnout for the Winter Open!