

~ En Passant ~

Newsletter of the North Penn Chess Club, Lansdale, PA – Winter 2017, Part 1

E. Olin Mastin, Editor

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This issue will feature more games played in the 2016 NPCC December Octagonal and the 2017 (38th) Winter Robin Tournaments.

The purpose of these newsletters is to include as many games as possible by NPCC players irregardless of the strength of the participants.

Thanks to all for submitting games!

Games from the NPCC 2016 December Octagonal Tournament:

Round: 3

Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments [shown thusly].

White: Joseph Mucerino (2095)

Black: Stephen Conner (1793)

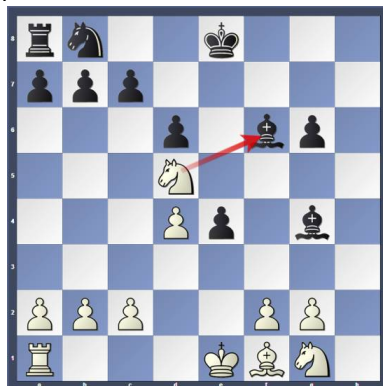
Date: 12/16/2016

[A83: Dutch Defense: Staunton Gambit with 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5] 1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 g6 5.h4 Bg7 6.h5 d5 7.hxg6 [D]



(Joe - The computer's first choice is 7.h6, which I knew from looking at this variation before, but I prefer to open things up.) 7...hxg6 8.Rxh8+ Bxh8 9.Qd2 Bg4 [Black inhibits 0-0-0] 10.Qf4 Qd6 11.Qxd6 exd6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nxd5 [D] (Next col.) (Joe - White got his pawn back, but black is still fine.) 13...Bd8 (Joe - Of course not 13...Bxd4?? 14.c3! and if 14...Bb6, 15.Nf6+ wins a bishop.) 14.Nc3 Nc6 15.Bb5 a6 [D] (Next col.) (Joe - This loses a pawn, although it's difficult to see how black can keep it. (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 13.Nxd5 (From prev. col.)

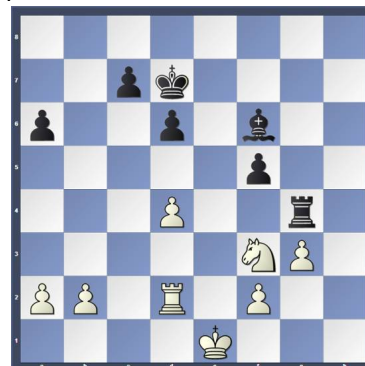


Position after 15...a6 (From prev. col.)

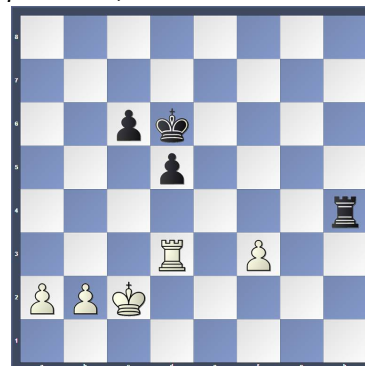


(Cont. from prev.col.) (Of course the computer found 15...Kf7 16.Bxc6 bxc6 17.Nxe4 Bf5 18.f3 Bxe4 19.fxe4 Bf6 20.c3 Re8.) 16.Bxc6+ bxc6 17.Nxe4 Bf5 18.Ng3 Bxc2 19.Rc1 Bf5? (Joe - It's better to keep the bishop pair with 19...Bd3.) [Better is 19...Bd3!?!= must be considered.] 20.Nxf5 gxf5 21.Rxc6 Kd7 22.Rc2 Bf6 23.Nf3 Rg8 24.g3 Rg4 [The isolani on d4 becomes a target] 25.Rd2?! [D] (Next col.) (Joe - The computer really liked 25.Rc4, but I did not to pin my own rook.) [25.Rc4!?!] 25...f4 26.gxf4 Rxf4 27.Ke2 d5 28.Rd3 Kd6 29.Ra3 Re4+ 30.Kd3 Rf4 31.Rxa6+ c6 32.Ke3 [32.Ne5!? Bxe5 33.dxe5+ Kxe5 34.Rxc6 Rxf2 35.Rb6±] 32...Re4+ 33.Kd2 Rf4 34.Ra3 Bxd4 35.Nxd4 Rxd4+ 36.Rd3 Rf4 37.f3 Rh4 38.Kc2 [D] (Next col.) (Joe - Even though white is a pawn up, it is too difficult to make any headway. (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 25.Rd2?! (From prev. col.)



Position after 38.Kc2 (From prev. col.)



(Cont. from prev.col.) Stockfish 7 also says the position is a dead draw 1/2-1/2

Round: 3

Submitted by Olin with my comments and selected Fritz comments [shown thusly].

White: Olin Mastin (1503)

Black: Bob Pisciotta (1480)

Date: 12/16/2016

[D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4] 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nbd7 6.h3 [D]



(Text cont. p.2)

(Cont. from p. 1) (Olin - I have been attempting to play the London System lately.)
6...Qb6 7.Qb3 Qxb3 8.axb3 (Olin - Ignoring the doubled pawns to have the semi-open a-file.) **8...b6** [8...a6 9.Nbd2=] **9.Nbd2** [D]



[9.Na3!? a5 10.Nb5±] **9...Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 a5 12.c4** [12.dxc5!? should not be overlooked 12...Nxc5 13.b4] **12...Bb7 13.Bh2** [D]

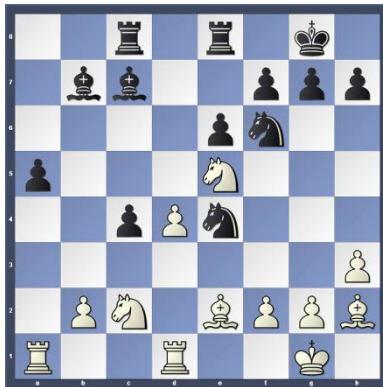


(Olin - The point of 6.h3 to create a safe haven for the "London Bishop.") **13...cxd4 14.exd4 Rfe8 15.Rfe1 Bb4** [An ideal square for the black bishop.] **16.Red1** (Olin - Exposes the fallacy of 15.Rfe1 as a wasted move!) **16...Rac8 17.Nb1 Ne4 18.Na3 Ndf6 19.Nc2** [D]

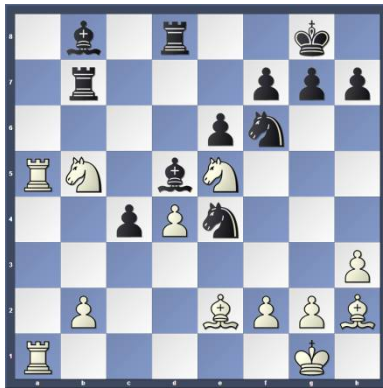


(Olin - Trying to chase that pesky Bishop!) **19...Bd6 20.Ne5** [White has an active position] **20...Bc7** [20...Be7 21.Rac1=] **21.b4** (Olin - I did consider playing 21.f3 as Fritz suggests, but I was leery of opening up the diagonal to my King. In hindsight, I should have played it!) [Better is 21.f3!?] (Text cont. next col.)

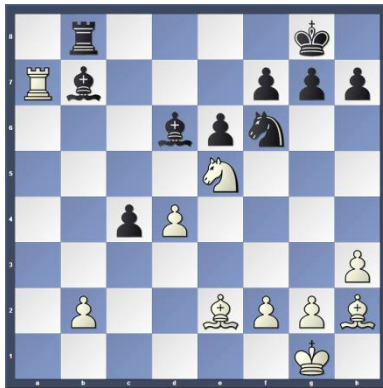
(Cont. from prev. col.) would keep White alive 21...Nd6 22.c5] **21...dxc4 22.bxa5 bxa5** [D]



23.Na3 [23.Nxc4 Nxf2 Deflection: h2 24.Rdc1] **23...Bd5** [Better is 23...c3 24.Nb5 Nd5 25.bxc3 Ndx3] **24.Nb5 Bb8 25.Rxa5 Red8 26.Na7??** [White loses the upper hand] (Olin - See my comment for move 21.b4. Same faulty reasoning!) [26.f3 Nd6=] **26...Rc7** [Better is 26...Bxa7 would have given Black a clear advantage 27.Rxa7 c3] **27.Nb5 Rb7 28.Rda1** [D]

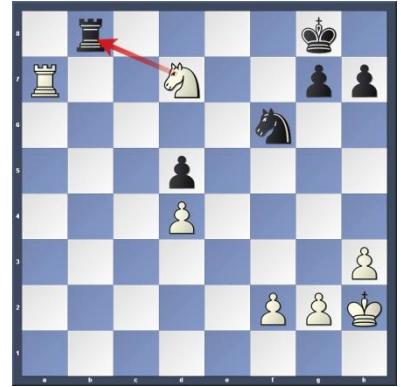


28...Nd6 [28...Nd2!? 29.Bd1 Ne8] **29.Nxd6 Bxd6 30.Ra8 Rbb8 31.R8a7** [Better is 31.Rxb8 Rxb8 32.Bxc4 Rxb2 33.Bxd5 Nxd5 34.Nc4 Bxh2+ 35.Kxh2=] **31...Rb7??** [Forfeits the advantage.] [Better is 31...Rxb2 would keep Black in the game 32.Bxc4 Bxe5 33.dxe5 Bxc4] **32.Rxb7 Bxb7 33.Ra7 Rb8** [D]



[33...Bd5!? 34.Nxf7 Bxh2+ 35.Kxh2 Rb8±] (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) **34.Bxc4 Bd5 35.Bxd5 exd5?** [35...Nxd5 36.Nc6 Bxh2+ 37.Kxh2] **36.Nxf7** [Better is 36.Nc6 finishes off the opponent 36...Bxh2+ 37.Kxh2] (Olin - Fritz has the right idea!) **36...Bxh2+ 37.Kxh2 Rxb2 38.Ne5 Rb8** [38...g6 39.Ra8+ Kg7 40.f3±] **39.Nd7** [D]



39...Rb4 [Better is 39...Rb2!?±] **40.Ra8+ Kf7 41.Ne5+ Ke6 42.Ra6+ Kf5** [D]

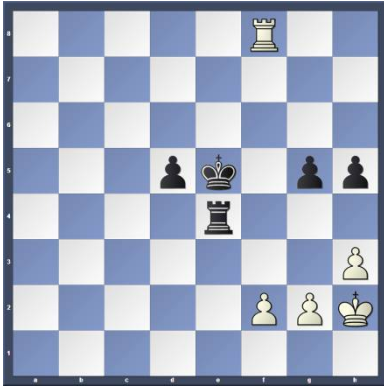


43.Nf3 [Better is 43.g4+ White had this great chance 43...Ke4 44.f3+ Ke3 45.Ra3+ Kd2 46.Ra7] **43...Ne4 44.Nh4+** [44.Ra7!? looks like a viable alternative 44...Kf6 45.Ra2] **44...Kg5 45.Nf3+ Kf4??** [Black has let it slip away] [45...Kf5!?= is worthy of consideration] **46.Ra2** [46.Ra7!? Nxf2 47.Rxg7 Rb1 48.Rf7+ Ke3 49.Re7+ Kf4] **46...h5 47.Ne5** [Better is 47.Ra5!?±] **47...Rxd4 48.Nf3** [D]

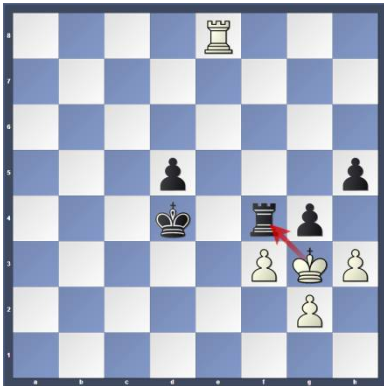


48...Rc4 49.Nd2? [49.Ra5 Nf6=] **49...Rd4** [Better is 49...Nxd2 Black would have gained the upper (Text cont. p.3)]

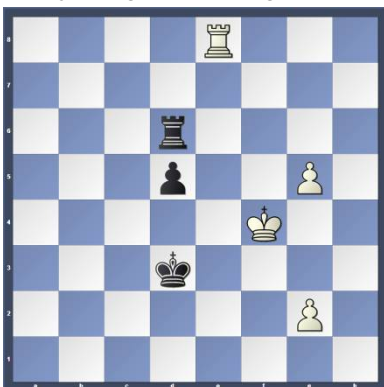
(Cont. from p.2) hand 50.Rxd2 d4] **50.Nxe4 Rxe4** [A rook endgame occurred.] **51.Ra3 g5 52.Rf3+ Ke5 53.Rf8 [D]**



(Olin - Paraphrasing GM Edmar Mednis: "Rooks belong behind passed pawns whether your own or your opponent's"). **53...Rf4 54.Re8+ Kd4 55.f3 g4 [55...Kc3!?] 56.Kg3 [D]**

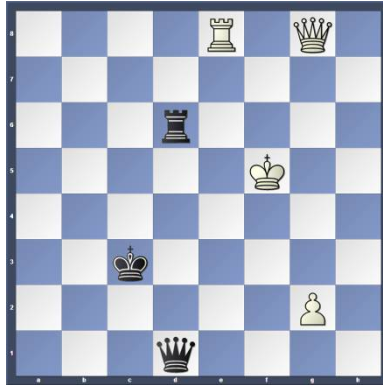


[Better is 56.fxg4 hxg4 57.h4=] **56...Rf6??** [Black is ruining his position] [Better is 56...gxf3 was much better 57.gxf3 Rf7=] **57.hxg4 hxg4 58.fxg4** [White has a new passed pawn: g4.] [58.f4 Kc4 59.Rc8+ Kd4 60.Kxg4 Rg6+ 61.Kf3 Ra6] **58...Rd6?** [58...Rc6 59.Kf4 Rf6+ 60.Kg5=] **59.Kf4** [Better is 59.g5 Rd7 60.Kf4±] **59...Kd3??** [Better is 59...Rf6+!? should be investigated more closely 60.Kg5 Rf2=] **60.g5?? [D]**

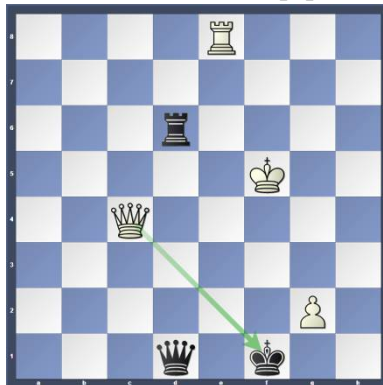


[Gives the opponent counter play.] [Better is 60.Ke5 and White can already relax 60...Rg6 61.Kf5] **60...d4 61.Kf5 Kc3??** (Text cont. next col.)

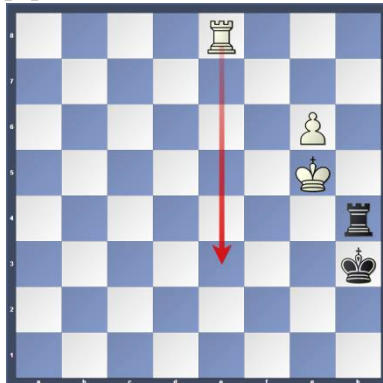
(Cont. from prev. col.) [The position was bad, and this mistake simply hastens the end.] [Better is 61...Rd5+ 62.Kf6 Kc2] **62.g6 d3 63.g7 d2 64.g8Q d1Q [D]**



65.Rc8+ Kd2 66.Qa2+ Ke1 67.Re8+ Kf1 68.Qc4+ [D]

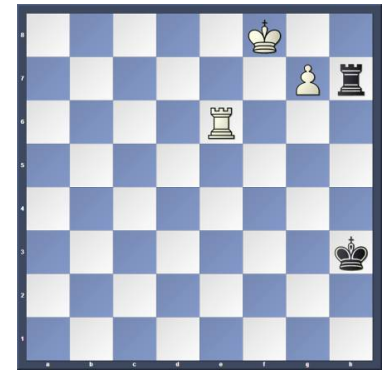


68...Qd3+?? [Better is 68...Kg1 was necessary 69.Qc5+ Kxg2 70.Rg8+ Kf3=] **69.Qxd3+ Rxd3 70.g4** (Olin - Winning is in hand now!) **70...Rf3+ 71.Kg5** [Better is 71.Kg6 ends the debate 71...Kg2 72.g5 Rg3] **71...Kg2 72.Kg6 Rg3 73.g5 Kh3 74.Kh6 Rg4 75.g6 Rh4+ 76.Kg5 [D]**



76...Rg4+ 77.Kh6 [Twofold repetition] **77...Rh4+ 78.Kg7 Rg4 79.Re6 Rh4 80.Kf7 Rh6 81.g7 Rh7 82.Kf8 [D]** (Next col.) (Olin - If you need to brush up on Rook and King vs. King, play over Fritz's technique): [82.Kf8 Rxc7 83.Kxc7 Kg4 (Text cont. next col.)]

Position after 82.Kf8 (From prev. col.)



(Cont. from prev. col.) **84.Rf6 Kh3 85.Rg6 Kh4 86.Kh6 Kh3 87.Kh5 Kh2 88.Kh4 Kh1 89.Kg3 Kg1 90.Rf6 Kh1 91.Rf1#; 82.Kg6 Rh4 83.g8Q Rg4+ 84.Kf7 Rxc7 85.Kxc7 Kh2 86.Rg6 Kh1 87.Kg7 Kh2 88.Kf7 Kh3 89.Kf6 Kh4 90.Kf5 Kh3 91.Kf4 Kh2 92.Kf3 Kh1 93.Kf2 Kh2 94.Rh6#] **1-0****

Round: 3

Submitted by Jonathan with selected Fritz comments [shown thusly].

White: Michael O` Gara (1679)
Black: Jonathan Xu (1634) (Age 10)

Date: 12/18/2016

[D35: Queen's Gambit Declined: Exchange Variation] **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Bb4 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 [D]**



7...Qd6 8.Nge2 h6 9.Bf4 Qd8 10.0-0 b6 11.Qc2 Bb7 [11...c6 12.a3 Be7 13.h3] 12.Rad1 [12.Nb5 Na6 13.Nxc7 Nxc7 14.Qxc7 Qxc7 15.Bxc7 Rfc8±] 12...Qe7 13.a3 [D]



(Text cont. p.4)

(Cont. from p.3) 13...Bxc3 14.Nxc3
c6 15.Be2 Nbd7 16.Nb1 c5 17.dxc5
bxc5 [D]



[Black has new hanging pawns: c5+d5]
18.Bf3 Nb6 19.b3 Rfd8 20.Qb2 Rac8
21.Be5 Nbd7 [D]

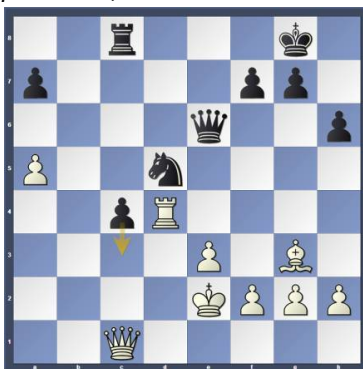


22.Bg3 Ne4 23.Bxe4 Qxe4 [Opposite
colored bishops appeared] 24.Nc3 Qf5
25.Nb5 Ba6 26.Nd6 Qe6 27.Nxc8
Bxf1 28.Kxf1 [28.Nd6!? deserves con-
sideration 28...Ba6 29.b4] 28...Rxc8
29.a4 [White has a new backward pawn:
b3] 29...Qe4 [29...c4 30.bxc4 dxc4
31.Qc2] 30.Qc1 c4 31.Rd4 Qe6
32.Ke2?? [D]



[32.b4 c3] 32...Nb6 [Better is 32...Nc5 it
becomes clear that Black will call all the
shots 33.bxc4 Nb3] 33.bxc4 dxc4
34.a5 [34.Qd1!? is an interesting idea
34...Qc6 35.a5] 34...Nd5 [D] (Next
col.) [Black prepares c3] 35.f3 c3 36.e4
Nf6 37.Bf2 [Better is 37.Qc2!? Qa6+
38.Kf2 Qxa5 39.Bf4] 37...Qa2+ [Black
prepares the advance c2] (Text cont.
next col.)

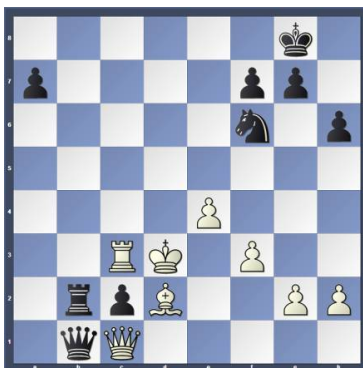
Position after 34...Nd5 (From
prev. col.)



(From prev. col.) 38.Kd3?? [An
oversight. But White was lost any-
way.][Better is 38.Kf1] 38...Qxa5
39.Be1 Qb5+ 40.Ke3 Qc5
41.Kd3 [41.Qc2 is still a small
chance 41...Nd7 42.Bxc3 Qxc3+
43.Qxc3 Rxc3+ 44.Kd2] 41...c2
42.Bd2 Qb5+ [Better is 42...Nd7!
and the rest is a matter of technique
43.f4 Qb6 44.Rb4 Nc5+ 45.Ke3 Qxb4
46.Bxb4] 43.Ke3 Qb3+ [Better is
43...Qb6 seems even better 44.Qa3
Rc4 45.Qd6 Qb3+ 46.Kf2]
44.Rd3?? [D]

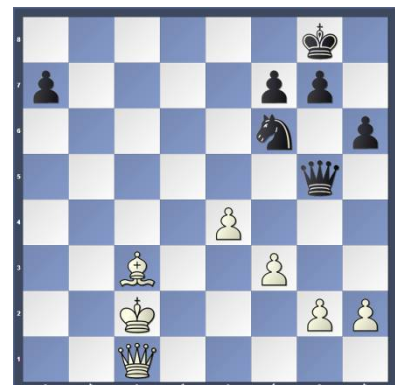


[Terrible, but what else could White
do to save the game?] [44.Ke2 Qb8
45.Bf4 Qb5+ 46.Ke1 a5]
44...Qb1 [44...Nd5+ makes it even
easier for Black 45.Ke2 Nc3+ 46.Ke1]
45.Ra3?? [The final mistake.][45.Kf2
a5! Deflection: c1] 45...Rb8 [Better
is 45...Nd7 secures the win 46.Ke2
Qb5+ 47.Kf2 Ne5] 46.Rc3 Rb2
47.Kd3 [D]

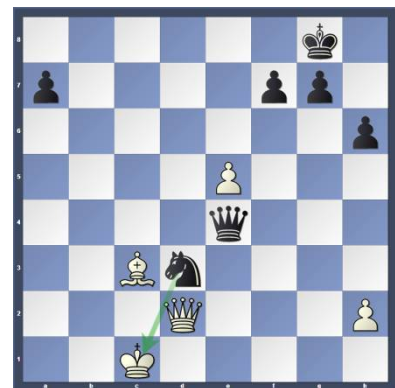


(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 47...Rb3??
[Black lets it slip away] [Better is
47...Nd7 and the scales tip in favor of
Black 48.Ke2 Ra2] 48.Rxb3
[48.Qxc2!? should be considered
48...Qf1+ 49.Ke3 Qg1+ 50.Kd3=]
48...Qxb3+ 49.Bc3 Qb5+ [Better
is 49...Nd7 50.Qxc2 Ne5+ 51.Kd2
Nc4+ 52.Kc1 Qxc2+ 53.Kxc2 Ne3+
54.Kd3 Nxc2] 50.Kd2?? [Better is
50.Kxc2 this is the best way to fight
back 50...Nd7 51.Qd2=] 50...Qg5+
51.Kxc2 [D]



51...Qxg2+ 52.Kb1 Qxf3 53.e5
[53.Bxf6 Qxf6 54.Qc2 a5] 53...Nd5
54.Bb2 Qg4 [54...Nb4 and Black can
already relax 55.Bc3 Qd3+ 56.Kb2]
55.Qd2 Nb4 56.Bc3 Qe4+
57.Kc1 Nd3+ [D]

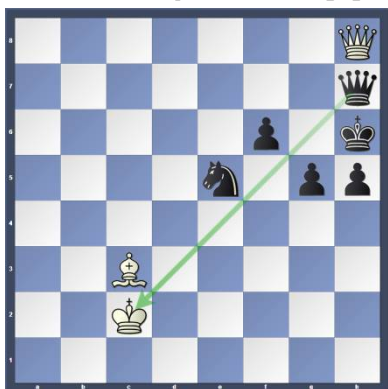


58.Kd1 Nxe5 59.Qd4 Qh1+
60.Kc2 Qxh2+ 61.Kb3 f6
62.Qxa7 h5 63.Qa8+ Kh7
64.Qe4+ Kh6 65.Qe3+ g5
66.Qb6 Qf4 [D]

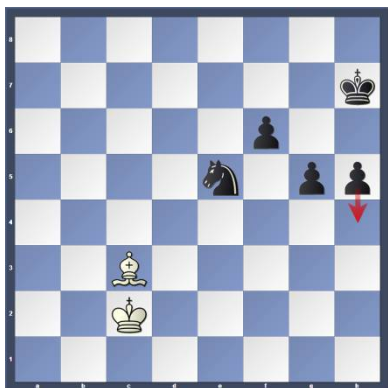


(Text cont. p.5)

(Cont. from p.4) 67.Qd8 Qc4+
68.Kc2 Qf7 [Better is 68...Qe6+ keeps
an even firmer grip] 69.Qh8+ [69.Bxe5
there is nothing better in the position
69...fxe5 70.Kd1] 69...Qh7+ [D]



70.Qxh7+ Kxh7 [D]



0-1

AS of December 22, 2016:
Jonathan is a 5th grader in Walton Farm
Elementary School, Lansdale, PA. He is 10
years old and has been playing chess for
about two years. He takes chess lessons
with Christopher Yang (2272) usually once
a week.

Round: 3

Submitted by Ira with selected Fritz
comments [shown thusly].

White: Alexis Perez (1137)

Black: Ira Siegel (1212)

Date: 12/18/2016

[C55: Two Knights: 4 d3, 4 d4 exd4 5 e5
and Max Lange Attack] 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3
Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bc4 h6

5.0-0 Bc5 [D]



(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 6.a3 a5
7.d3 d6 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Be3 Bxe3
10.Qxe3 Ng4 [D]

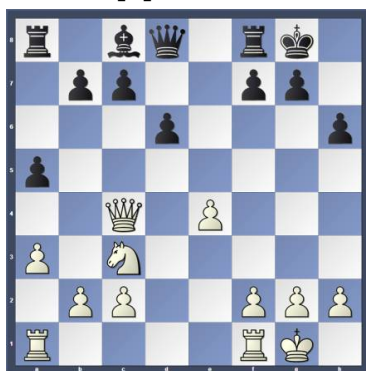


11.Qd2 Ne7 12.d4 exd4

13.Qxd4 [Black has a cramped posi-
tion] 13...Nc6 14.Qd3 Nge5

15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Qe2 Nxc4

17.Qxc4 [D]



17...Be6 18.Qd3 Qg5 19.f4 Qc5+

20.Kh1? [Better is 20.Rf2= and

White could well hope to play on]

20...Bc4 21.Qh3 Bxf1 22.Rxf1

c6 23.Rf3? [D]



[Better is 23.Qd3] 23...b5 24.Rg3

[24.Qg4 there is nothing else anyway

24...h5 25.Qg5 Qxg5 26.fxg5]

24...Qf2 [D]



0-1

Games from the NPCC 2017 38th Winter Robin Tourna- ment:

Round: 1

Submitted by Joe with his comments
and selected Fritz comments [shown
thusly].

White: Bob Kampia (1800)

Black: Joe Mucerino (2105)

Date: 1/6/2017

[B01: Scandinavian Defense] 1.e4 d5
2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxd5 [D]



4.Bxd5 [(?!)] (Joe - White gives up
the bishop pair for no good reason.)

4...Qxd5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Nc3 [White

threatens to win material: Nc3xd5]

6...Qe6+ (Joe - Also good are

6...Qh5 and 6...Qf5.) 7.Qe2 Qxe2+

8.Kxe2 [D]



(?!) (Joe - It's better to recapture
with the knight to avoid pins.)

[8.Nxe2!? might be a viable alterna-
tive 8...Nc6 9.d3] 8...Nc6 9.Nb5

(Joe - A waste of time. This knight

will just get kicked away.) 9...0-0-0

10.c3 a6 11.Na3 Ne5 (Joe - Black

loses some of his advantage here.

Better is 11...e5, which I saw but re-
jected because I thought it would be

too slow because of 12.d3. However,
Stockfish 7 found the obvious 12...f5!
this renews the threat of ...e4.)

[11...e5!? 12.h3 Bh5] 12.d4 Nxf3

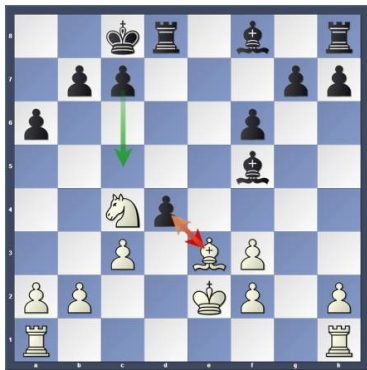
13.gxf3 Bf5 14.Nc4 f6 15.Bf4 e5

16.Be3 [(?!)] (Joe - A bit better is

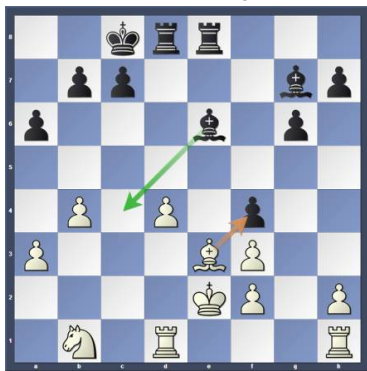
16...exd4 [D] (p.6)

(Text cont. p.6)

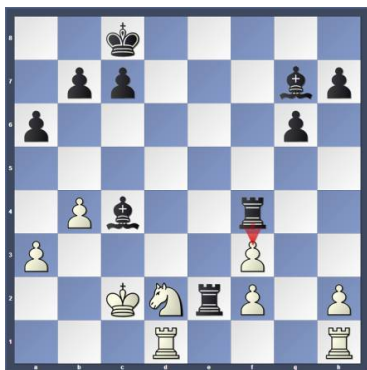
Position after 16...exd4 (From p.5)



(Cont. from p.5) 17.cxd4 (Joe - Not 17.Bxd4 c5 18.Be3 Bd3+ winning the knight.) 17...g6 18.a3 Bg7 19.Rad1 Rhe8 20.b4 (!) (Joe - The problem with this move is now the knight on c4 can never be supported by a pawn.) 20...Be6 21.Nd2 (Joe - Now black is going to have tactics. Better is 21.Rc1.) [Better is 21.Kd3!?] 21...f5 22.Nb1? (??) [22.f4 Bxd4 23.Rhg1] 22...f4! [D]

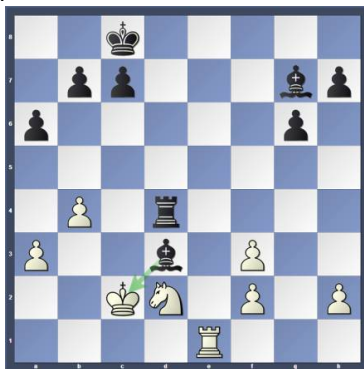


[Deflection: d4] 23.Bxf4 [23.Rhe1 is still a small chance.] 23...Bc4+ 24.Kd2 Rxd4+ 25.Kc2 [25.Kc1 does not help much 25...Rxf4 26.Rde1 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Rxf3] 25...Rxf4 26.Nd2 Re2 [D]



27.Rhe1 [27.Rde1 a fruitless try to alter the course of the game 27...Rxf2 28.Re7 Rd4] 27...Rd4 (Joe - This is more than sufficient, but more precise is 27...Rxf3.) [Better is 27...Rxf3! finishes off the opponent 28.Rxe2 Rc3+ 29.Kb2 Bxe2 30.Re1] 28.Rxe2 Bxe2 29.Re1 Bd3+ [D] (Next col.) [29...Bd3+ 30.Kc1 Bh6 31.Re8+ Kd7] 0-1

Position after 29...Bd3+ (From prev. col.)



Round: 3

Submitted by Ira with selected Fritz comments [shown thusly].

White: Robert Hepp (1169)

Black: Ira Siegel (1209)

Date: 1/20/2017

[C62: Ruy Lopez: Steinitz Defense]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6

4.h3 Bd7 5.c3 a6 [D]



6.Be2 Nf6 7.d3 h6 8.Nbd2 d5 9.0-0 dxe4 10.dxe4 Bd6 11.Qb3 Na5 12.Qc2 0-0 [D]



13.b4 Nc6 14.Nc4 b5 15.Nxd6 cxd6 16.Be3 Rc8 17.Rad1 Nxb4 18.Qb3 Nxe4 19.Qxb4 Nxc3 20.Qb2 [D] (Next col.) [20.Rfe1!? is interesting 20...Nxd1 21.Rxd1=] 20...Nxd1 21.Rxd1 Qf6 22.Qb4 Rc6 23.Qe4 [Better is 23.Ne1] 23...Qg6? 24.Qh4? [Better is 24.Qxg6 fxg6 25.Nxe5 dxe5 26.Rxd7±] 24...f6 25.Bd3 Qf7 [D] (Next col.) 26.Bb1 Rc4 27.Qg3 g5 28.h4 (Text cont. next col.)

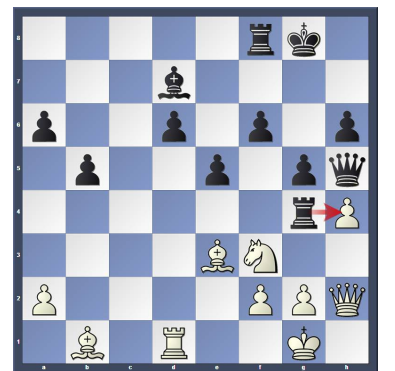
Position after 20.Qb2 (From prev. col.)



Position after 25...Qf7 (From prev. col.)



(Cont. from prev. col.) [Better is 28.Rxd6!? Rc6 29.Rd1] 28...Rg4 29.Qh2 Qh5? [D]



[Better is 29...d5 30.hxg5 hxg5] 30.g3 e4 31.Ne1 Rxh4 32.gxh4 Qxd1 33.Kg2 Qxb1 34.Qxd6 Bg4 35.Qd5+ Kg7 36.Qxe4 Qxe4+ [D]



This concludes this issue. More games in next issue.