~ En Passant ~

Newsletter of the North Penn Chess Club, Lansdale, PA – Winter 2019, Part 5

E. Olin Mastin, Editor

This issue features additional games from the 40th NPCC 2019 Winter Robin Tournament.
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 2019 Winter Robin Tournament:
Round: 5

Submitted by Terance with his comments (as edited) and selected Fritz/*Stockfish comments [shown thusly].

White: Terance Hall (1870)
Black: Dennis Baluk (1917)
Date: 2/1/2019

[B23: Closed Sicilian: Lines without g3]
1.e4 (Terance: Yes, I played e4 again and only against Dennis. I only played this again as I enjoyed our last game where I sac a pawn and got a nice winning position.) **1…c5** (Terance: Sticking to his Sicilian.) **2.Nc3** (Terance: A closed Sicilian!) **2…Nc6 3.f4 [D]**

(Terance: A Grand Prix attack that I had prepared for Dennis. Not quite my style, but I wanted to see how he would handle it as he misplayed it against Jacob Lee recently and lost.) **3…e6 4.Bc4?! [D]** *(Next col.)* (Terance: The correct move here is Nf3 which I knew, but I wanted to prevent d5. I figured that Bc4 is played after *(Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 4.Bc4?! *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) Nf3 anyway, but Nf3 discourages d5 as White can play Bb5 with good play.) *[Stockfish BMI2: 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb5 Nge7 (5...d4 6.Ne2 Nge7 7.a4 a6 8.Bc4 Na5 9.Ba2 d3, etc...]* **4…a6 5.a4**
(Terance: Stopping any Queenside expansion by Black. Yes, I give up the b4 square, but even if a Knight is there, I can play around it, as it does not hinder my play, which I learned from experience.) **5…Bd6**
(Terance: Dennis thought a long time on this move and decides to play for a trick tactic in my opinion. When I see moves like this, I look for the tactic and how to punish it. The move does not look right. The two tactics that I saw was with e5? Then Bxe5 fxe5 and Qh4+ picks up the Bishop on c4, if I play g3 Bxf4 gxf4 then Qh4+ with compensation.) **6.d3** (Terance: Best move that protects the c4 Bishop and f4 pawn, and it is a developing move. Now Black has to waste a move to put his Bishop on a better square.) **6…Qh4+?! [D]** *(Next col.)*
(Terance: Not such a good move as it wastes time for Black as the Queen has to retreat and White gains a tempo with the forcing move g3. Black can't take advantage of the g3 weakness for the loss tempo.) **7.g3 Qd8 8.Nf3** (Terance: Best and most solid move. I thought about playing Qg4 hitting the hanging g7 pawn, and after Nf6 playing Qh3 leaving *(Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 6…Qh4+?! *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev.col) the threat of e5 forking two pieces. I would not take the g7 pawn, as Rg8 would give Black too much play.) **8…h5?!** (Terance: Somewhat surprising, as Black needs to develop. Black is planning to crack open White's position with h4.) *[Stockfish BMI2: 8...Nge7 9.Be3 0–0 10.Qe2 b6 11.e5 Bc7 12.d4 cxd4, etc...]* **9.0-0 [D]**

(Terance: Best as White is ready to mobilize my pawns and pieces. White is also not afraid of the h5 pawn as this can be parried.) **9…Be7** (Terance: Black has to waste a move to put his Bishop on a better square and unblock his d pawn. He is also eyeing the h4 square.) **10.Be3** *[Stockfish BMI2: 10.f5 d6 11.fxe6 Bxe6 12.Nd5 Nf6 13.Bg5 Nxd5, etc...]* **10…Nh6** *[Black is behind in development.]* *[Stockfish BMI2: 10...Nf6 11.e5 Ng4 12.Bd2 b6 13.Ne4 Nh6, etc...]* **11.h3** *[Stockfish BMI2: 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Ba2 Nc6* (Text cont. p.2)

(Cont. from p.1) 13.f5 Ng4 14.Bd2 h4 15.h3 Nge5, etc...] **11…Rb8?** (Terance: This seems like a waiting move to me as the b5 break is not possible now. d5 seems like a better way to respond to White initiative.) **12.Ng5** (Terance: I played this to put a little pressure on Black knowing I gave up the d4 square temporally. So I threaten the h5 pawn and Black does not want to exchange his Bishop for my Knight, as it will open up the f-file to my advantage.) **12…g6** **13.Qd2** (Terance: Now I threaten to push f5 with a hidden threat on the Knight on h6.) **13…Qc7** (Terance: Eyeing the g3 pawn with check if I push f5.) **14.Kg2+- f5** (Terance: A necessary move to stop my threats on the Kingside.)**15.Qf2** (Terance: I played this to pose a threat to the c5 pawn, to control d4, and clear the way for the Rooks to push the d and e pawns. According to Stockfish, a5 keeps a nice advantage.) *[Stockfish BMI2: Better is 15.a5 Nf7 16.Ba2 b5 17.axb6 Qxb6 18.Na4 Qa5, etc...]* **15…b6= 16.Nf3 [D]**

(Terance: I played this to aid in pushing the d-pawn to open the center with Black's King in the center, so this is my plan.) **16…Na5** *[White has an active position]***17.Ba2** (Terance: Keeping the pressure on the a2 - g8 diagonal.) **17…Bf6** (Terance: The Bishop is now on a better square but also inviting White to play e5 To close up the position to protect his King which is the lesser evil then opening up the position.) **18.Rfe1** (Terance: Playing offensive and defensive as I see Bb7 coming so planning to protect the e4 pawn and lining up against the King on e8.) **18…Bb7** (Terance: A good move to threaten White's King on g2.) **19.Bd2** (Terance: Nd5 is playable but I calculated that it leads to no advantage that I could gain. I played Bd2 to threaten to open the e-file while protecting the Knight on c3.) *[Stockfish 080219 64 BMI2: 19.Nd5= exd5 20.exd5 Kf8 21.b4 Ng4 22.hxg4 hxg4 23.Nh4 cxb4, etc...]* **19…Kd8** *[Black loses the right to castle]* (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) (Terance: Better is Nc6 or 0–0. Dennis stated that with this move he was planning to mate White on the Kingside, but I had other plans.) *[19...Nc6 20.Be3=]* **20.Kf1** (Terance: Right idea but a better square was Kh2. Strongest was Rad1.) *[Stockfish 080219 64 BMI2: 20.Rad1 Kc8 21.Kg1 Nc6 22.Be3, etc...]* **20…Nc6** (Terance: The Knight is needed back to help defend.) **21.Be3=** (Terance: Now I feel my position is good. I am ready to move the Rook on a1 over. I was not worried about Bxc3 as that helps me having a pawn on c3 to help d4 and keeps Black from b4 and d4.) *[Stockfish 080219 64 BMI2: 21.Ng5 Nd4 22.Be3 Ke7 23.Nd5+ exd5 24.exd5 Kf8, etc...]* **21…Bc8? [D]**

(Terance: Stockfish considers this a bad move ((blunder)) I did not like this move for Black, but I understood it. Black is threatening to push his d, e, and f pawns and play Bxh3 with check. The problem is that Black's King is semi-trapped, and White is about to open up the position.) *[21...Nf7 22.Rad1 Kc8 23.Kg2=]* **22.Kg2** (Terance: Stronger is Rad1.) *[22.Rad1 Ke8+-]* **22…Rg8?** (Terance: Here I see no breakthrough in Black's favor as Black fails to see the danger in the center.) *[22...Bb7 23.Rad1 Kc8 24.Rd2+=]* **23.Rad1** (Terance: Now my position is complete and ready to push the d-pawn and open up the position.) **23…Ke8+=** (Terance: Now Black realizes the danger and takes action which is a little late.) **24.d4** (Terance: Now I am ready to open things up! Stronger were Nd4, and a5 as the best) *[Stockfish BMI2: 24.Nd5 exd5 25.exd5 Ne7 26.a5 bxa5 27.Bxc5 d6, etc...]* (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) **24…Nb4** *[24...cxd4 25.Nxd4 h4 26.gxh4 Nxd4 27.Bxd4 Bxd4 28.Rxd4 fxe4 29.Nxe4+=)* **25.Bb1** (Terance: The best way to hold the advantage. The Bishop is not needed now and can come to life later when the c3 Knight moves and I can play c3.) *[Stockfish BMI2: 25.Bc4 Bb7 26.d5 Bxc3 27.bxc3 fxe4 28.cxb4 exf3+, etc...]* **25…d6** *[25...Bb7 26.dxc5 fxe4 27.Ne5 Bxe5 28.cxb6 Qxb6 29.fxe5+=]* **26.d5 [D]**

(Terance: White is winning now!) *[26.dxc5 dxc5 27.a5 Bxc3 28.axb6 Rxb6 29.bxc3 fxe4+-; Stockfish 64 BMI2: 26.e5 dxe5 27.fxe5 Bg7 28.dxc5 bxc5 29.Bxc5 Nf7, etc...]* **26…Kf8?!** **27.e5** (Terance: What a position! The White Rooks are about to come to life while the Black Rooks just sit there idle.) **27…Be7** **28.exd6 Bxd6?** (Terance: At this point Dennis was very low on time and had to make eleven moves to make the time control with just minutes left.) *[Better is 28...Qxd6!? 29.dxe6 Qc6+-]* **29.dxe6+-** *[Stockfish BMI2: 29.a5 b5 30.dxe6 Be7 31.Na2 Nxa2 32.Bxa2 b4, etc...]* **29…Bxe6** *[29...Bb7 30.Kh2+–]* **30.Ng5 [D]**

(Terance: This is the position that I had in my mind when I played e5 to put pressure on the e6 square with tempo and see where Black will put the Bishop. a5 was strongest but both are winning.) *[30.a5!? and White can already (Text cont. p.3)*

(Cont. from p.2) relax 30...Be7 31.axb6 Qc6+–] **30...Bc8** (Terance: Now the Bishop blocks the Rook from coming over to help defend on the d and e files.) [Better is 30...Bf7 31.a5 Be7 32.axb6 Qxb6+–] **31.Qd2?!+- [D]**

[Weakening the position.] (Terance: I played this knowing that Black only had about a minute left to make the time control and has to respond to threats on the board. According to Stockfish, just by moving my king to a safer square or a5 is winning by six to seven pawns on the point scale.) [Better is 31.a5 Be7 32.axb6 Qxb6 33.Na4 Qc6+ 34.Kh2+–; Stockfish 290119 64 BMI2: 31.Kh2 Be7 32.Ba2 Kg7 33.Bxg8 Kxg8 34.a5 Qc6, etc...]
31...Bb7+?? (Terance: With about a minute on his clock, Black further blunders by giving me the e6 fork square and the d6 exchange with check. Be7 would put up a little fight, but I was planning Ba2 and then Nd5 letting Black have my a2 Bishop for the huge winning attack.) [Better is 31...Be7+-; Stockfish 290119 64 BMI2: 32.Ba2 Nxa2 33.Nd5 Qc6 34.Kh2 Bxg5, etc...] **32.Kg1+- Qc8** (Terance: Played with about 10 seconds left.) [32...Bc8 a last effort to resist the inevitable 33.Qxd6+ Qxd6 34.Rxd6 Kg7+–] **33.Qxd6+ Kg7 34.Qe7+ Kh8 35.Qh7# [D]**

1-0

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http://view.chessbase.com/cbreader/201 9/2/25/Game910691578.html

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Round: 5
Submitted by Olin with selected Fritz comments [shown thusly].
White: Will Moyer (1467)
Black: Olin Mastin (1517)
Date: 2/1/2019
[E90: King's Indian: Classical: Early deviations and 6 h3] **1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bg5 Nbd7 7.e5 [D]**

7...dxe5 8.dxe5 Ng4 9.Nd5
[9.e6!= Nde5 10.exf7+ Nxf7 11.Bh4]
9...f6 10.exf6! exf6 11.Bh4
[11.Bf4!=+ Nge5 12.Nxe5 Nxe5 13.Ne3] **11...c6-+ 12.h3 [D]**

12...cxd5 13.Qxd5+ Kh8 14.hxg4 Re8+ 15.Kd1 Qb6! [Black has the initiative.] **16.Qb5! Rd8** [16...Qxb5=+ 17.cxb5 Nb6] **17.Kc2 [D]**

17...Qxb5 18.cxb5 Nb6 19.Bd3 Bxg4 [Aiming for ...Rac8+.] **20.Ne5? [D]** (Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)


Position after 20.Ne5? (From prev. col.)

(Cont. from prev.col.) [20.Rad1=]
20...Rac8+ [Not 20...fxe5 21.Bxd8 Rc8+ 22.Kb1–+; Better is 20...Rdc8+ 21.Kb1 fxe5] **21.Kb1-+** [Next Nf7+ is good for White.] **21...Rd5** [21...Nc4–+ (-> ...Nd2#) 22.Nxc4 (22.Nf7+? Kg8–+) 22...Rxd3] **22.Nxg4-+ Rxd3 23.Bxf6 [D]**

[Threatening Ne5.] **23...Bxf6** [23...Rd2-+ 24.a4 h5] **24.Nxf6= Kg7 25.Ne4! Nd5** [25...Nc4=+ 26.a4 Nd2+ 27.Nxd2 Rxd2] **26.a4** [26.a3 keeps more tension. 26...Rc4 27.Re1 Nc7 28.Nc3 Rd2 29.Ra2] **26...Nb4** [26...Rc4= 27.f3 Nf4] **27.Ra3+- [D]**
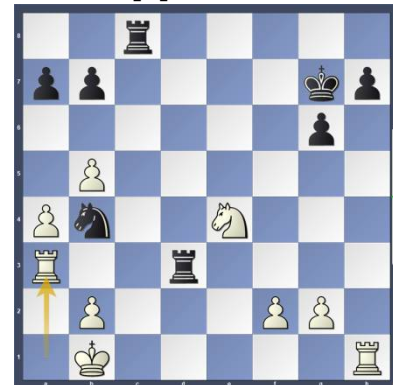
27...Rxa3 [27...Rc4+- 28.Rxd3 Nxd3] **28.bxa3** [Endgame: And now Rd1 would win.] **28...Nc2** [Better is 28...Nd5 29.Rd1 Rd8] **29.Kb2** [Rc1 is the strong threat.] **29...Nd4 30.Nc3** (Text cont. p.4)

(Cont. from p.3) [30.Rc1!+- Rxc1 31.Kxc1] **30…Re8** [30...b6+=] **31.Rd1 Nf5** [31...Rd8+- 32.Ne4 Kf7] **32.Rd7+ Re7 [D]**

33.Rxe7+ Nxe7+- 34.Kb3 [*Better is 34.Ne4!+–*] **34…Kf6+- 35.Kc4 Ke6** [*35...Ke5+- is a better defense.*] **36.Kc5 Ke5** [*36...h5+-*] **37.a5** [*37.f4+!+– Ke6 38.a5*] **37…h6** [*37...g5+- keeps fighting. 38.f3 h6*] **38.g3 g5 [D]**

39.f3? [*39.g4!+–*] **39…h5= 40.Ne4 g4? [D]**

[*40...h4=+*] **41.Nd2?** [*41.fxg4!+– Black must now prevent b6. 41...Kxe4 42.gxh5*] **41…gxf3?** [*41...h4!=+ stays ahead. 42.Nc4+ Ke6 43.gxh4 gxf3*] **42.Nxf3++- Ke4 43.Nh4?** [*43.Ng5++– and White stays clearly on top. 43...Ke5 44.b6*] **43…Nf5? [D]** *(Next col.)* [43...Nd5+- 44.Kd6 Kd4] **44.Nxf5 Kxf5 45.b6 a6 46.Kd6 Kg4 47.Kc7 Kxg3 48.Kxb7 [D]** *(Next col.)* [*White mates.*] **48…h4 49.Ka7 h3 50.b7 h2 51.b8Q+ Kf3 52.Qxh2 [D]** *(Next col.)* *(Text cont. next col.)*
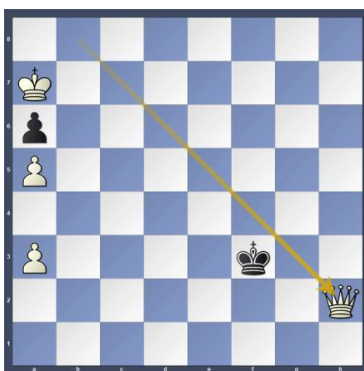
(Position after 43…Nf5? *(From prev. col.)*
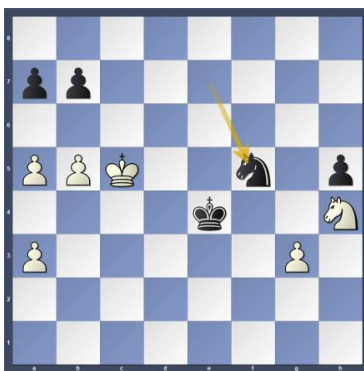
(Position after 48.Kxb7 *(From prev. col.)*
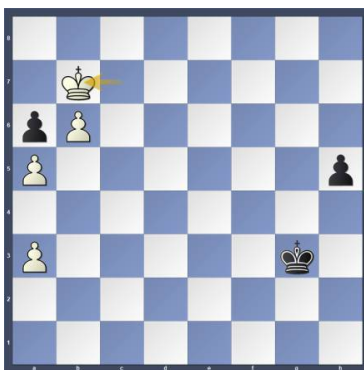
(Position after 52.Qxh2 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **1–0**
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Round: 6

Submitted by Olin with commentary by Terance Hall (as edited), some of my own comments, and selected Fritz/Stockfish comments *[shown thusly].*

White: Olin Mastin (1517)
Black: Stan Ward (1480)
Date: 2/8/2019

[A08: King's Indian Attack] **1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 Nc6 5.d3 e5 6.Nbd2 [D]** *(Next col.)* *(Text cont. next col.)*

(Position after 6.Nbd2 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **6…Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nf1?! [D]**

(Terance: Best was c4 to loosen up the d5 square for the g2 Bishop.) (Olin – Here I have to disagree with Fritz and Terance. This move is not a novelty. It is recommended by GM Roman Dzindzichashvili in his DVD on the KIA. The purpose of this move is to open the c1-h6 diagonal for the Queen Bishop.) **8…b5** (Terance: I like Bf5, or Qc7.) *[8...h6=+; Stockfish BMI2: 8...Qc7 9.c4 d4 10.h3 Rb8 11.e3 Be6 12.Qe2 Rfe8, etc...]* **9.Bg5** *[9.c4!= might be stronger.]* **9…Bb7** *[Black should play 9...Rb8=+]* **10.e4** (Terance: By instinct I would of played a5 to get some activity on the Queenside. e4 allows Black to blockade the center to his advantage as the g2 Bishop will not be active now.) (Olin - Again I have to disagree. GM Roman Dzindzichashvili in his DVD on the KIA says e4 is the move.) **10…d4 11.h4** *[Stockfish I2: 11.a3 h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.c3 Bc8 14.cxd4 cxd4, etc...]* **11…c4?!=** (Terance: In this kind of position Black has a clear plan just by looking at both structures. For example the h1 to a8 Diagonal is blocked in Black's favor; therefore, Black needs to reposition his white squared Bishop to c8, then to e6 to be active and help in Black's Queenside attack as the structure suggests. The candidate moves *(Text cont. p.5)*

(Cont. from p.4) should be a5, Bc8, Qc7, Rb8, and h6 to trade off White's good Bishop.) *[Stockfish I2: 11...a5 12.a4 bxa4 13.Bxf6 Bxf6 14.N1d2 Ba6 15.Rxa4 Bb5, etc...]* **12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.N3h2?** (Terance: White needs to break up Black pawns with dxc4. N3h2 is too slow.) *[Stockfish I2: 13.dxc4 bxc4 14.c3 Rb8 15.Qa4 Qa5 16.Qxc4 Rfc8 17.Rac1 Ba6 18.Qd5 Rb5, etc...]* **13...cxd3 14.cxd3 Rc8 [D]**

15.Qh5 *[15.Rc1=+; Stockfish 080219 64 BMI2: 15.Bh3 Rb8 16.Re2 a5 17.Rc2 Be7, etc...]* **15...g6** (Terance: Good, but Nb4.was better.] *[Stockfish I2: 15...Nb4 16.Red1 Rc2 17.a3 g6 18.Qf3 Na6 19.Rdb1 Qb6, etc...]* **16.Qg4 h5 17.Qe2 Nb4** *[...Nc2 is the strong threat.]* **18.Rec1 Rc7** *[18...Rxc1+- 19.Rxc1 Nxa2 Stockfish 080219 64 BMI2: 20.Ra1 Nb4 21.Rxa7 Ba6]* (Terance: Now the Rook is trapped!) *[22.Qd2 Qb6 23.Rxf7 Rxf7 24.Qxb4 Bc8 25.Nf3 Kg7, etc...]* **19.a3=+** *[Hoping for Rxc7.]* **19...Na6 20.Rc2 [D]**


20...Rxc2 21.Qxc2 Qc8 (Terance: I would have preferred Qd7 and swing the Rook over to c8 to get it into play with tempo.) **22.Rc1 Qe6** (Terance: This loses a tempo. Why move the Queen ((last move)) to c8 in the first place. Black should have followed through and exchanged Queens with a nice advantage. Black still has a slight advantage.) **23.Qd2 Rc8 24.Nf3 Rxc1** *[24...Nc5 feels hotter. 25.Rc2 Rc6 26.Qd1 a5 27.Qb1 b4]* **25.Qxc1 Qc8 [D]** *(Text cont. next col.)*
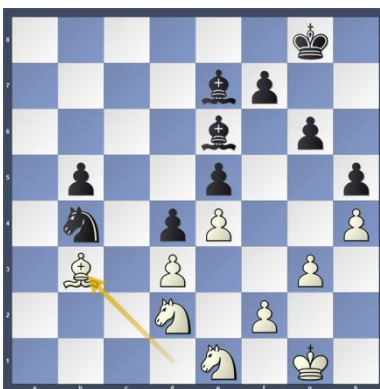
(Position after 25...Qc8 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **26.Qxc8+ Bxc8 27.N1d2 Nc5 28.Bf1 a5-+** (Terance: Both are playing good moves but black has a big advantage, if not winning now.] **29.b4 [D]**
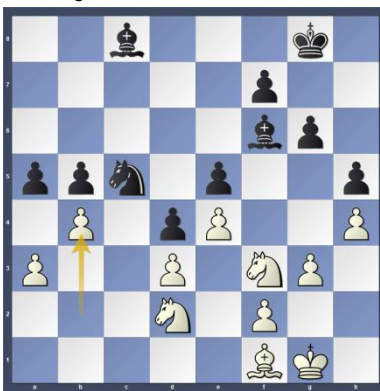

[29.Kg2+-] **29...axb4-+ 30.axb4 Na6 31.Be2 Nxb4 32.Ne1 Be6** (Terance: Black is clearly winning here. Best was Be7.) *[Stockfish I2: 32...Be7 33.Bd1 Na2 34.Nb3 Bb4 35.Kf1 Bh3+ 36.Ng2 Kf8, etc...]* **33.Bd1 Be7 34.Bb3 [D]**


34...Bxb3 35.Nxb3 Nc6 36.f4 *[36.Kf1 was necessary.]* **36...f6** *[Black should try 36...exf4-+ 37.Kg2 fxg3 38.Kxg3 b4]* **37.fxe5+- Nxe5 38.Kf2 Kf7 39.Ke2 Nc6 40.Nf3 b4 [D]** *Next col.)* *[40...Bd6-+ 41.Nfxd4 Nxd4+ 42.Nxd4 Bxg3 43.Nxb5 Bxh4]* **41.Nfxd4 Nxd4+ 42.Nxd4 Bc5 43.Nb3 Bd6 44.Kf3 g5?!** *(Next col.)* *(Text cont. next col.)*

**(Position after 40...b4** *(From prev. col.)*
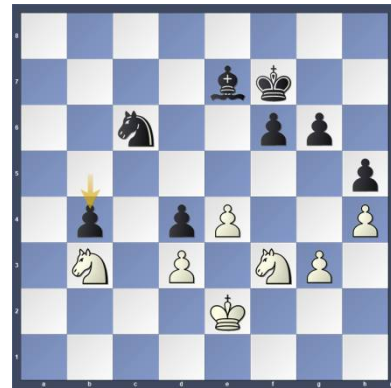
(Cont. from prev. col.) (Terance: This move gives up most of Black's advantage by giving White two central past pawns.) *[Stockfish I2: 44...f5 45.Nd4 Bc7 46.Kg2 Ke8 47.Kf3 Be5 48.Nb3 Kd7, etc...]* **45.hxg5 fxg5 46.d4 [D]**
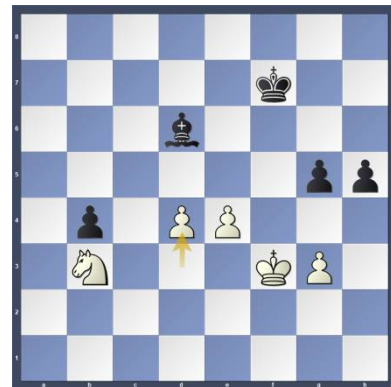

46...g4+ 47.Kf2 Ke6 48.e5?? (Terance: Nc1 should draw.) *[Stockfish I2: 48.Nc1 Kf7 49.e5 Be7 50.Ke2 Bg5 51.Na2 b3 52.Nc3 h4 53.gxh4, etc...]* **48...Be7-+** (Terance: Black is winning!) **49.Kg2?** *[49.Ke2+- is more resistant.]* **49...Kd5 50.Kf2 Kc4 51.Na5+ Kd5?!** (Terance: Kxd4 was best but Kd5 is still winning.) *[51...Kxd4-+ 52.Nc6+ Kd3]* **52.Ke3** (Terance: Best move in the position but does not change anything.) *[52.Nb3??]* (Terance: This also loses according to Stockfish.) **52...Bg5+!- + 53.Kd3 h4 54.gxh4 Bxh4** *[And now ...g3 would win.]* **55.Nc4** *[Better is 55.Ke3]* **55...Bf2** *[Aiming for ...g3.]* **56.Nb6+?** *[56.e6 Kxe6 57.Ke4]* **56...Ke6 57.Ke4 [D]** *(p.6)* **57...b3?** (Terance: Yes, g3 is the only move that wins and b3 is a draw!) *[Better is 57...g3!-+ 58.Nd5 b3 59.Nf4+ Ke7; 57...Bxd4 Stockfish 9:1) 58.Kxd4 (Stockfish 9:2) 58.Nd5 Bc5 59.Nxb4 Bxb4 60.Kf4 Bc5 61.Kxg4 Kxe5, etc...]* (Text cont. p.6)

(Position after 57.Ke4 *(From p.5)*
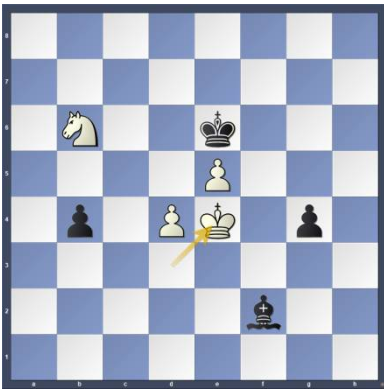
(Cont. from p.5) **58.d5+** *[The position is equal.]* **58…Kf7 59.Nc4 g3 60.Kf3 Be1 61.Nd6+ Kf8** *[Threatens to win with …b2.]* *[61…Ke7!? 62.Nc4 (Only move) g2 63.Kxg2 Bc3=]* **62.Nc4 Ke7 63.Kg2 Bf2 64.Kf3 Be1 65.Kg2=** *[D]*

½–½
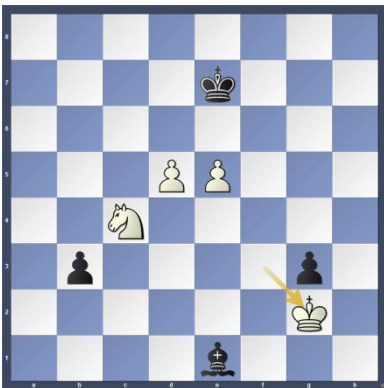
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Round: 7

Submitted by Terance with his and Alex's comments (as edited) and selected Fritz/*Stockfish comments *[shown thusly]*.

White: Terance Hall (1870)
Black: Alexander Macfarlane (1770)
Date: 2/15/2019

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete *Stockfish and other comments.)

[D41: Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-Tarrasch with 5 cxd5] **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 [D]** *(Next col.)*

(Terance: A QGD, Here I was debating to go into the mainline Bf4 variation, but I wanted to see if Black will play Nf3 and transpose to the normal Bg5 variation.) **4…Nf6 5.cxd5** (Terance: Transposing into the exchange variation.) **5…Nxd5 [D]** *(Next col.)* (Terance: exd5 was slightly better *(Text cont. next col.)*
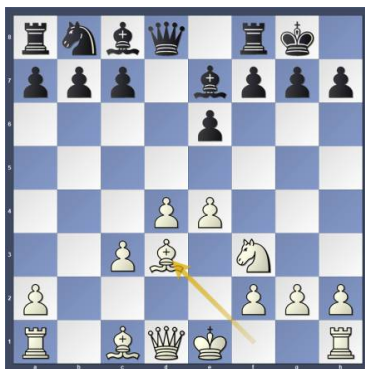
(Position after 4.Nf3 *(From prev. col.)*

(Position after 5…Nxd5 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) and a different game.) **6.e4** (Terance: Now White grabs the center and the advantage.) **6…Nxc3 7.bxc3 0-0 8.Bd3 [D]**

(Terance: Which is better Bc4 or Bd3? If Black had a pawn on g6, Bc4 would be good; however, since there is no pawn on g6, Bd3 seems to be appropriate.) **8…c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nd7?** *[Black has a cramped position. Black's piece cannot move: c8]* (Terance: I didn't understand this move as it cramps Blacks position.) (Alex: 10...Nd7. The pawn structure is that of a semi-Tarrasch, and I thought Terrance's bishop might be slightly misplaced on d3 instead of c4, where it would support the advance of the d-pawn. Nd7 is heading to f6 to control *(Text cont. next col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) d5 and try to provoke an early e5.)* **11.Qc2N 11…b6?!** *[*Stockfish: 11...e5 12.dxe5 Nc5 13.Bc4 Qc7, etc...]* **12.Qc6** (Alex: 12. Qc6 This move came as a complete surprise and is a perfect example of the blind spots I am trying to eliminate from my game.) *[12.e5 h6 13.Qc6 Rb8+-; *Stockfish: 12.e5 h5 (12...g6 13.Bh6 Re8 14.d5 exd5 15.e6 fxe6, etc...) 13.Qc6 Rb8 14.Qe4 g6 15.Qf4 Bb7 16.Qh6 Bxf3, etc...]* **12…Rb8+=** *[Black has a cramped position]* **13.Bf4** *[White prepares the advance e5]* **13…Bb7 14.Qb5** *[White intends e5.]* *[14.Qa4 Ra8+= (If 14...Nc5? 15.dxc5 Rc8 16.Qxa7 Qxd3 17.Qxb7 Bxc5, etc...]* **14…a6 [D]**

15.Qb1 (Alex: 15. Qb1. I was glad he didn't play Qh4 because it wasn't entirely clear to me that I could stop the attack.) *[*Stockfish: 15.Qb2 Rc8 16.Qe2 a5 17.Rab1 Bb4 18.Rb3 Qe7. etc...]* *Stockfish: 15.Qb3 Rc8 16.Rac1 Rc6 17.Rcd1 Rc8 18.Qb1 Ba3 19.e5 h6, etc...]* **15…Rc8 16.e5** *[This push gains space]* (Alex: 16. e5. This looked like a positional error because it gives Black an outpost on d5, and weakens the attacking potential of the e4 pawn.) **16…h6 17.Nd2** *[17.a4 Rc3=; *Stockfish: 17.a4 Nb8 18.Rd1 a5 19.Bh7+ Kh8, etc...]* **17…Nb8** (Terance: Good move as the Knight needs to go to a better square. Best was b5.) **18.Be3 Bd5** *[The bishop likes it on d5]* (Terance: It would be nicer if the Knight could be on d5.) **19.Ne4** *[*Stockfish: 19.Qd1 b5 20.Qg4 Kh8 21.Rad1 Nc6 22.a3 Rg8, etc...]* **19…Rc6?! [D]** *(p.7)* *[19...b5 20.Qd1=]* **20.Qb2** *[*Stockfish: 20.a4 Bc4 21.Rc1 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 Qd5 23.Nf6+ Bxf6, etc...]* **20…b5= 21.Rfd1** *[*Stockfish: 21.Rac1 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Qd7 23.Bb1 Rc8 24.Rxc8+ Qxc8, etc...]* **21…Qb6? [D]** *(p.7)* *(Text cont.p.7)*

(Position after 19…Rc6?! *(From p.6)*

(Position after 21…Qb6? *(From p.6)*

(Cont. from p.6) (<u>Alex</u>: 21...Qb6. Threatens to double rooks on the c-file and supports the advance of my queenside majority.) (<u>Alex</u>: *I am happy with even my second and third best moves in this game because they supported a coherent plan. *Alex, "I guess the move that best exemplifies it --- is 21...Qb6, which Terrance (or maybe Stockfish) gives a question mark. This move served three different purposes in my plan, which was supporting the advance of the b-pawn, opening the way to double my Rooks on the c-file, and enabling the Queen to get to b7, where it not only supports the b-pawn, but also created tactical threats on the kingside.) (<u>Alex</u>: I recognized the pawn structure as a form of semi-Tarrasch, and followed Black's thematic plan of stopping White's central breakthrough then advancing the queenside majority.) (<u>Alex</u>: I don't care what the top-end computers say anymore, because their analysis is based on a possible position far in the future that will never actually occur in a human versus human game. Caruana missing mate in 36[1] is a perfect example; the computer said that game was won, but it was not won, it was a draw.) (<u>Alex</u>: A position where your opponent has one good move and a lot of reasonable looking bad

(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) moves is perfect for human versus human games, and you will never find those positions by asking a computer.")
[1](Carlsen-Caruana WCC Game 6)
[21...Nd7!?=] **22.Qd2 f5** *[22...Nd7 23.Nc3+=]* **23.exf6+- Bxf6 24.Nxf6+** *[*Stockfish: 24.Nc3 Be7 25.Nxd5 exd5 26.Rac1 Nd7 27.g3 Rxc1, etc...]* **24…Rxf6 25.Rac1** *[25.Rdb1 Qb7 26.a4 Rb6+-]* **25…Qb7 26.Bf4** *[26.f3 Rf8+= *Stockfish: 27.Bc2 Qf7 28.Bb1 Qf6 29.a4 Rxc1 30.Rxc1 Nc6, etc...]* **26…Rxc1** *[26...Bxg2!? 27.Bxb8 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Bh3=]* **27.Rxc1** *[Black has a cramped position]* **27…Nc6 28.Be5** *[28.f3!?= *Stockfish: 28...Qd7 29.a3 Rf8 30.Rc5 Qd8 31.Be3 Na, etc...]* **28…Nxe5 29.dxe5 Rf8 30.Bf1 [D]**


30…Qb6 31.Rc2 *[*Stockfish: 31.a3 a5 32.Rb1 b4 33.axb4 axb4 34.Rxb4 Rxf2, etc...]* **31…Rd8 32.Qc3? [D]**


[Better is 32.Qb4= and White can hope to survive] **32…b4-+ 33.Qb2 a5 34.Rd2?!** *[34.g3 a4 35.Bg2 Bxa2 36.Qxa2 b3 37.Qxa4 b2 38.Rxb2 Qxb2-+; *Stockfish: 34.h3 a4 35.Bc4 Be4 36.Rd2 Rxd2 37.Qxd2 b3, etc...]* **34…a4** *[Black plans b3]* **35.h3** *[35.Rd4 Rb8 36.Rd3 a3-+]* **35…b3** *[35...a3!? 36.Qa1-+]* **36.axb3-+ Qxb3** *[Black has a new passed pawn: a4]* *[Better is 36...Rb8 37.Qc3 Qxb3-+]* **37.Be2??** *[Causes even greater problems.]* *[Better is 37.Qxb3 axb3 38.f3-+]* *(Text cont. next col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **37…Qxb2-+ 38.Rxb2 a3 39.Rb1 a2 40.Rc1 Be4 [D]**
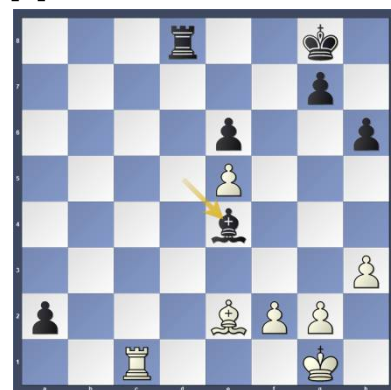
[Better is 40...Kf7 secures the win 41.Ra1 Rb8-+] **41.Bc4-+ Bd5 42.Bxa2??** *[Allows the opponent back into the game.]* *[42.Be2 Kf7 43.Ra1-+]* **42…Bxa2-+ 43.Rc2 Bd5 44.Rd2** *[44.Kh2 does not improve anything 44...Kh7-+]* **44…Rf8 45.Rd4 g5 46.Rd2 Rf4 47.f3** *[47.Rc2 does not help much 47...Kf7-+]* **47…Kf7** *[47...Ra4 seems even better 48.Rb2-+]* **48.Re2** *[48.Rb2 does not save the day 48...Ra4 49.Rb8 h5-+]* **48…Ra4 49.Kf2 Ra2 [D]**
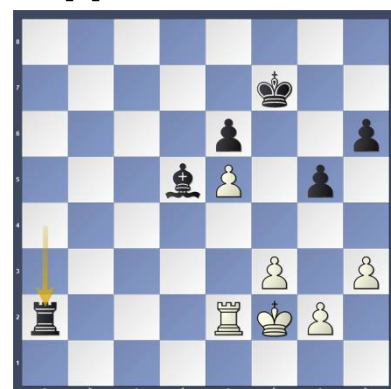
50.Rxa2 Bxa2 51.Kg3 Kg6 52.h4 Kf5 53.hxg5 hxg5 54.Kf2 Kxe5 55.Ke3 Kf5 56.g3 e5 57.Kd3 Bd5 58.Ke3 g4 59.f4 *[59.fxg4+ hardly improves anything 59...Kg5 60.Kd3 Kxg4 61.Ke3 Kxg3 62.Kd3 e4+ 63.Ke3 Bc6 64.Kd4 Kf2 65.Kc5 e3 66.Kd4 e2 67.Kc5 e1Q 68.Kxc6 Qe6+ 69.Kc5 Ke3 70.Kb4 Kd4 71.Kb5 Qd6 72.Ka4 Kc4 73.Ka5 Qe6 74.Ka4 Qa6#]* **59…exf4+ 60.gxf4 Bf3 61.Kf2 Kxf4 62.Kg1 Kg3 63.Kf1 Kh2 [D]** *(p.8)*

(Text cont. p.8)

(Position after 63...Kh2 *(From prev. col.)*

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(Cont. from p.7) Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

Round: 7

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

White: Justin Xu (1606)
Black: Olin Mastin (1517)
Date: 2/15/2019
[B22: Sicilian: 2 c3] **1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nc6 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 d6 7.h3 [D]**

7…Nf6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bb5 *[9.Bd3+= is superior.]* **9…Bd7N 10.0-0 a6 11.Ba4** *[White is slightly better.]* **11…b5 12.Bc2 Rc8 13.Qd2 e6 14.Bh6 Re8 [D]**

15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Rfd1 b4 17.Ne2 a5 *[17...e5=]* **18.Nf4** *[18.e5+= Nd5 19.Ng3 (19.exd6 f6+=)]* **18…Ne7** *[Better is (Text cont. next col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) 18...e5 19.dxe5 Nxe5] **19.e5** (with initiative) *[White has good play.]* **19…dxe5 20.dxe5 Nfd5! [D]**
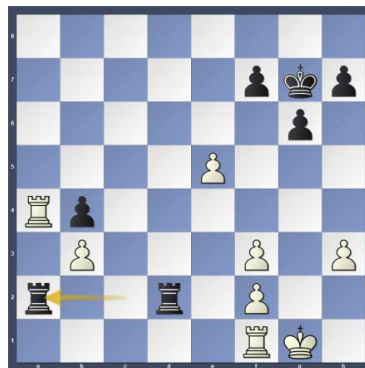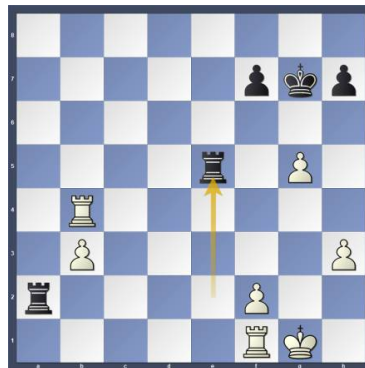

21.Bb3 *[21.Nxd5 with more complications. 21...Nxd5 22.Rac1 Qb6 23.h4 Red8 24.h5]* **21…Bb5** *[21...Bc6=]* **22.Bxd5 Nxd5 23.Nxd5 Qxd5 24.Qxd5 exd5 25.Rxd5 Bc6! [D]**

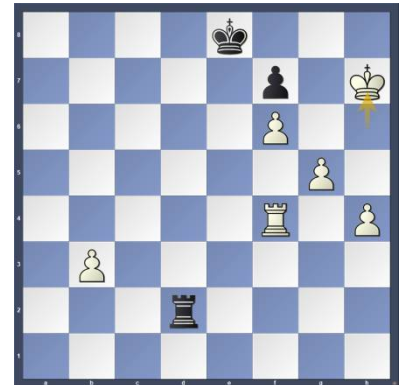**26.Rxa5 Bxf3! 27.gxf3+= Rc2 28.b3 Rd8! 29.Rf1 Rdd2 30.Ra4 Rxa2 31.Rxb4 Re2 32.f4 [D]**

**32…g5** *[Better is 32...h6]* **33.fxg5+- Rxe5 [D]**

(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) **34.h4! Ree2 35.Kg2 Rab2 36.Kg3 Rec2 37.f4 Rc3+** *[Better is 37...Rg2+ 38.Kf3 h5 39.gxh6+ Kxh6]* **38.Rf3+- Rcc2 39.Kg4 Rg2+ 40.Kh5 Rh2 41.f5 Rhe2** *[Better is 41...Rbe2 42.f6+ Kf8]* **42.f6+ Kf8 43.Rb8+ Re8 44.Rxe8+ Kxe8 45.Kh6 Rh2 46.Rf4 Rd2 47.Kxh7 [D]**

[Black must now prevent g6.] **47…Kf8 48.Rc4** *[Rc8+ would kill now.]* **48…Rd8 49.g6** *[White mates.]* **49…fxg6 50.Kxg6 Kg8 51.h5 Kh8 52.Rc7 Rg8+ 53.Rg7 Rxg7+ 54.fxg7+ Kg8 55.Kh6 Kf7 56.Kh7 [D]**
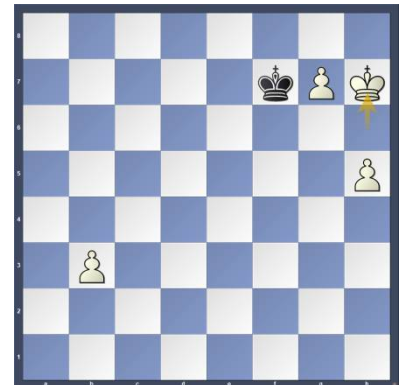
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This concludes this issue. More games in next issue.