

~ En Passant ~

Newsletter of the North Penn Chess Club, Lansdale, PA – Winter 2020, Part 3
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This issue features NPCC games played in the 2020 41st Winter Robin by Eric and Don Funk. 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!

Game from the NPCC 2020 41st Winter Robin Tournament

Round: 2

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

White: Doug Kern (1933)

Black: Eric Funk (2079)

Date: 1/17/2020

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[C45: Scotch Game] 1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3 e5 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Be3 Qf6 6.c3 Nge7 (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 7.Be2 d5 8.Nd2 [D]



(Eric - 8... Bxd4 9.cxd4 Nxd4 10.Qa4+ Ndc6 was possible here.) [8.0-0!=] 8...0-0? [8...Bxd4+ 9.cxd4 Nxd4 (9...dxe4 10.Nxe4 Qg6 11.Bf3 Nf5 12.Ng3 Nh4, etc... Larmuseau,M (2169)-Winants,L (2526) Belgium 2010 ½-½ (56)) 10.Qa4+ Ndc6 11.0-0 0-0 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bc5 Re8, etc... Stamatovic,V (1884)-Tosic,D Podgorica 2014 0-1 (35)] 9.exd5 [9.Nxc6!= Qxc6 10.Bxc5 Qxc5 11.Nb3] 9...Bxd4N [But not 9...Nxd4?! 10.cxd4 Bb6 11.Bf3= Nf5 12.Nb3 Re8 13.0-0 Bd7 14.a4 Rxe3, etc... (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) Lochte,T (2265)-Beikert,G (2415) Bad Wildbad 1993 ½-½; Black should play 9...Nxd5+ 10.0-0 (10.Ne4 Qh4=) 10...Bxd4 11.cxd4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Qxd4] 10.cxd4 [10.Bxd4= keeps the balance. 10...Nxd4 11.Ne4] 10...Nxd5+ (Eric - 10.Bxd4 Nxd4 11.Ne4 Qb6 12.Qxd4 Qxb2 was an interesting road not taken.) 11.0-0 [D]



(Eric - I was expecting either 11.Nf3 or 11.Bf3 but as Doug pointed out after the game, possibilities like 11.Nf3 Re8 12.Bg5 Qe6 are awkward for White.) [11.Bf3+= Nxe3 12.fxe3] 11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 Qxd4 13.Qc1 [Better is 13.Nf3 Qxd1 14.Rfxd1] 13...c6 (Text cont. p.2)

***Tournament has been postponed!**

NPCC 2020 March Game/100; Inc +10
March 13th, 20th, 27th & April 3rd.
A 4 Round Swiss in 16 player sections or portions thereof

Registration: 7:00 to 7:45 PM. Please arrive no later than 7:45 PM to register.

Entry fee: North Penn members = \$20 Non-members = \$25.

One 1/2 point bye permitted for rounds 1,2 or 3. Must notify TD 1 day before round. Must play round 4 to be eligible for prize.

Prizes (Based on minimum of 16 Entrants): 1st Place = \$100.
2nd Place = \$80. Under 1600 = \$50. Under 1400 = \$40.
Under 1200 = \$30.

Increment Time Control is also known as "Fischer Time".



NPCC Schedule March 2020

DATE	ROUND	EVENT	ROUND TIMES	TYPE
13 Mar	1 of 4	March 2020 G100 Swiss Tournament	<u>Registration: 7:00 to 7:45 PM</u> <u>- Games start at 8:00 PM -</u> <u>Please arrive no later than</u> <u>7:45PM to register.</u>	4-Round Swiss in 16 player Sections or <u>portions</u> thereof.
20 Mar	2 of 4	Continued	8:00 PM	
27 Mar	3 of 4	Continued	8:00 PM	
3 Apr	4 of 4	Continued	8:00 PM	

TIME CONTROL	ENTRY FEE	PRIZES	COMMENTS
G/100;+10 (i.e. Incremental Time Control)(Also known as Fischer Time)	\$20 NPCC Members / \$25 Non-Members;	<u>PRIZES: (Based on minimum of 16 Entrants):</u> <u>First Place = \$100</u> <u>2nd Place = \$80</u> <u>Under 1600 = \$50</u> <u>Under 1400 = \$40</u> <u>Under 1200 = \$30</u>	One 1/2-point BYE permitted in Round 1, 2, or 3. Must notify TD at <u>least one day</u> prior to round. Must play Round 4 to be eligible for prizes.

Note: Tournament has been postponed!

(Text cont. next col.) 14.Rd1 Nf4
15.Bf1 Nd3 16.Bxd3 Qxd3 17.Nf3
Qg6 18.Qe3 Be6 19.Ne5 Qh5
[19...Qf5--+ 20.Re1 Rfe8]
20.Rd2 Rfe8+
[D]



[Strongly threatening ...Bd5.] 21.Qg3
(Eric - Black can steal a pawn with 21...
Bxa2. Or can he? After 21... Bxa2 22.Ng4
Qg6 23.b3 things get messy.) 21...Rad8
22.Rxd8 Rxd8 [With Attack] 23.Nf3
Qd5 [Aiming for ...Qd1+!] 24.h3 h6
25.b3 Qd6 26.Qh4 Bd5 27.Rd1 Re8
28.Qd4 Qg6 29.Nh4 [D] (Next col.)
(Text cont. next col.)

Position after 29.Nh4 (From
prev. col.)



(Cont. from p. 1) (Eric - This doesn't
help White at all. More prudent was
either 29.Qd3 Qxd3 30.Rxd3 Re2
31.Nd2 or 29.Re1 Rxe1+ 30.Nxe1 Qe4
31.Qd2 with better chances to hold.)
[29.Re1+ is a better defense.
29...Rxe1+ 30.Nxe1] 29...Qg5 30.f3?
[30.Qg4] 30...g6 (Eric - An important
quiet move. The idea is to prevent the
knight from later returning to the
(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) game via f5.)
31.Kf2 [Better is 31.Qf2] 31...Qe7
32.Kg1 Qe3+ 33.Qxe3 Rxe3 34.Kf2
[D]



34...Rc3! 35.Rd2 Kg7 36.f4 Kf6
37.g3? [D] (p.3) (Eric - This only has-
tens the end. White needs to wait
things out with something like 37.Re2 or
take his chances with the inferior R+P
ending resulting from 37.Nf3 Bxf3
38.gxf3 a5.) 37...g5 38.fxg5+ hxg5
[D] (p.3) (Text cont. p.3)

Position after 37.g3? (From p.2)



Position after 38...hxg5 (From p.2)



0-1

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://share.chessbase.com/SharedGames/game/?p=e+wD6//I/UsS7n3QP0XVL44UYqcUVe7NSG5//ITJXZbogvGrSjymJ49Cjk0cYbbT>

Game from the NPCC 2020 41st Winter Robin Tournament

Round: 3

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

White: Eric Funk (2079)

Black: Gary Marshall (1804)

Date: 1/24/2020

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[A42: Modern Defense: Averbakh Variation]

1.c4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.e4 c6 4.Nc3 d6 5.Be3 Nd7 6.Qd2 [D]



(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) (Eric - I kept waiting for Gary to make a timely pawn shove to e5 or c5 or even d5. He never did.) [6.Nf3+]=] 6...Nb6 [6...Ngf6±; 6...a6 7.f4 b5 8.Nf3 Bb7 9.Rc1 bxc4 10.Bxc4 Ngf6, etc... ½-½ (16) Martz,W (2438)-Soltis,A (2532) St Paul 1982] 7.f4N [7.b3+- is more deadly.; 7.h3 Be6 8.b3 Qc7 9.Nf3 h6 10.Be2 Nf6 11.Bf4 g5, etc... Zemanek,J (1846)-Kosina,V (1905) Brno 2009 ½-½ (55)] 7...h5 [D]



(Eric - Black's last two moves don't seem to contribute to any consistent plan. Now White has time to prevent Bg4 before completing his development.) 8.h3 Bd7 9.Nf3 Qc7 10.a4 a5 11.c5 Nc8 12.Bc4 e6 13.f5 [D]



(Eric - Fritz ((or Stockfish or whatever)) might not like this move, but this seems to me to be the right time and the right way to open the position.) 13...exf5 14.Bf4 Nge7 (Eric - The immediate 14...Be6 was required.) 15.e5 Qd8? [D]



(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) (Eric - Definitely not good but what is the alternative? e.g. 15...d5 and 15...dxc5 both fail to 16.e6 and 15...dxe5 16.Nxe5 Be6 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Nxg6 looks miserable.) 16.exd6+- Nd5 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Bxd5 [D]



(Eric - The win is straightforward from here.) 18...Bc6 19.Bxc6+ bxc6 20.0-0 0-0 21.Ne5 Bxe5 22.Bxe5 [D]



[Intending Qh6 and mate.] 22...Kh7 23.d5 Na7 24.Bc3 cxd5 25.Bxa5 Qd7 [D]



26.Qxd5 Nc6 27.Bc3 Rfe8 28.b4 Ne7 29.Qd4 [(Eric - I saw that the text move wins a piece and forces Black to resign. Had I looked a half a second longer I would have spotted 29.Qxf7+ which mates in three.) [Better is 29.Qxf7+ Kh6 30.Og7+ Kg5 31.Bf6#] 29...f6 30.dxe7 [D] (p.4) (Text cont. p.4)

Position after 30.dxe7 (From p.3)



(Cont. from p.3)

1-0

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://share.chessbase.com/SharedGames/game/?p=c2toeo8NEKNrIR8jGiTCspy8UBPYk4jz5U0gtlpnllyCEbmluQLVmvY5KbaX4/e0n>

Game from the NPCC 2020 41st Winter Robin Tournament

Round: 4

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

White: Emmit Fitzgerald (1801)

Black: Eric Funk (2079)

Date: 1/31/2020

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[D07: Queen's Gambit: Chigorin Defense]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 [D]



3.cxd5 (Eric - 3.Nf3, 3.Nc3, and 3.e3 are common alternatives. The text move is not to be underestimated.) **3...Qxd5**

4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Nc3 Qd6 [D] (Next col.)

Qh5.) [5...Qa5± keeps fighting.; 5...Qd7 6.d5 Bxf3 7.gxf3 (7.exf3 Ne5 8.Bb5 c6 9.dxc6 Qxd1+, etc... Govindaraj,N (1076)-Turton,T (1562) Cardiff 2014 ½-½ (53)) 7...Ne5 8.e4 ½-½ (8) Dietze,F (2245) -Kurz,A (2290) Germany 1987] (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 5...Qd6 (From prev. col.)



(Cont. from prev. col.) **6.e3?** [Only move: 6.d5+–] **6...0-0-0N** [6...e6±; 6...e5 7.Ne4 (7.d5 Nce7 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qb3 b6, etc... 1–0 (17) Kolic,I (1791)-Leakovic,M (1637) Vukovar 2013) 7...Qb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxf3 9.Bxb4 Bxb4+ 10.Nd2 Bxd1, etc... Knopf,F-Hapke,N playchess.com INT 2008 0–1 (62)] **7.Be2± Nf6 8.Qa4?** [8.Ng5!+– Be6 9.0–0] **8...Nd5** [8...Qb4!±] **9.Bd2 [D]**



(Eric - 9.Ne5 looks like a good alternative.) [9.0–0+– is more deadly.] **9...Nb6** **10.Qb3** [White should try 10.Qc2!±] **10...e6?** [10...e5!– and Black is okay.] **11.Rc1** [11.0–0+– has better winning chances.] **11...Be7?** [11...Kb8± is more resistant.] **12.0-0?** [12.Nb5+– is the precise move to win. 12...Qd5 13.Nxa7+! Nxa7 14.Qxb6] **12...h5? [D]**



(Eric - Probably a mistake. Over the next two moves I should have played either a6 ((to prevent Nb5)) or Kb8 ((intending follow up with Rc8)).) [12...Kb8±] **13.a4?** (Eric - (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) Missing a golden opportunity. 13.Nb5 followed by 14.Nxa7+ would have stolen a pawn.) [13.Nb5+– Qd5 14.Nxa7+ Nxa7 15.Qxb6] **13...Qb4?** [13...a6!±] **14.Qc2+– Qd6** [14...Bxf3 might work better. 15.gxf3 (15.Bxf3 Nc4+–) 15...Bf8] **15.Nb5 Qd7 16.a5 Nd5 [D]**



(Eric - I am seriously not liking my position. There has to be something here for White.) **17.e4 Bxf3 18.gxf3** [Much less strong is 18.Bxf3 a6+–] **18...Ndb4 19.Bxb4! Bxb4 [D]**



20.Rfd1? [White must play 20.a6!+–] **20...Bxa5?** [20...a6±] **21.d5! exd5 22.exd5** [Less strong is 22.Rxd5 Qe7±] **22...Ne5? [D]**



[22...Bb6 23.dxc6 Qxc6 24.Qf5+ Qe6 25.Qxe6+ fxe6 26.Nd6+ Kb8] **23.Nxa7+ Kb8 24.Ra1 Bb6 [D]** (p.5) (Eric - Somehow I seem to have survived, at least for the moment.) [24...Qh3 was worth a try.] (Text cont. p.5)

Position after 24...Bb6 (From p.4)



(Cont. from p.4) **25.Nb5?** [25.f4+-] **25...Qh3?** (Eric - 25... Nxf3+ 26.Bxf3 Qxb5 deserved consideration. I never looked at it.) [25...c6= 26.dxc6 Qxc6] **26.Qa4 Kc8 27.Na7+?** (Eric - 27.d6 looks stronger. I don't think I can hold.) [White has to play 27.d6+- Rxd6 28.Qa8+ Kd7 29.Rxd6+ (29.Qxh8 Nxf3+ 30.Bxf3 Qxf3=) 29...Ke7 30.Qxb7] **27...Bxa7! = 28.Qxa7 Rh6** [With initiative (-> ...Rg6+). Black has good play.] **29.Kh1!** [And now Qe3 would win.] **29...Nxf3?** [D]



(Eric - Another mistake. Black should be able to draw after 29.... Rg6 30.Rg1 Nxf3 31.Qa8+ Kd7 32.Qa4+ Kc8 33.Qa8+. If Black wants to play for the win he can try 29.... Nd7 30.Qa8+ Nb8.) [29...Rg6= 30.Rg1 Nxf3 31.Qa8+ Kd7 32.Qa4+ Kc8 33.Qa8+ Kd7 34.Qa4+ Kc8 35.Qa8+] **30.Qa8+- Kd7 31.Bb5+??** [D]



(Eric - Instead 31.Qa4+ Kc8 32.Qf4, threatening both (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) the knight and Ra8+, looks convincing.) [31.Qa4+- Kc8 32.Qf4 Qxh2+ 33.Qxh2 Nxh2 34.Kxh2] **31...Ke7+-** (Eric - Now Black's on top. White's best appears to be 32.Qa3+ Rgd6 33.Qe3+ Kf8 34.Qf4 but Black should win in the end: 34... Rg6 35.Rg1 Nxf3 36.Rxf3 Rxf3+ 37.Kxf3 Qg4+.) **32.Re1+ Re6** [Black mates.] **33.Qxd8+ Kxd8 34.Ra8+ Ke7** [D]



(Eric - A tough, tough game and one I was lucky to come through with my skin intact.) **0-1**
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://share.chessbase.com/SharedGames/game/?p=Rj18aARVJry1Q7tbTDDqxDSxEnZAxRIIOfPC2aGlaZ+cTmwvm114MivmWafQPrjY>

Game from the NPCC 2020 41st Winter Robin Tournament Round: 5

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

White: Joe Mucerino (2107)
Black: Eric Funk (2079)
Date: 2/7/2020

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[D04: Colle System] **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nbd7 5.Nbd2 g6 6.Bd3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0** [D]



(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) (Eric - Nothing wrong with Black's game so far. I was leading my section at this point ((every-one else had at least one loss)) and I would have gladly accepted a draw if Joe had offered one.) **8.Qe2 Re8 9.Ne5! = [D]**



(Eric - This is a strong move and I practically forced him to play it. In previous games with Joe I played 8.... Qc7.) **9...Nxe5** [9...e6=; 9...a6 10.f4 Qc7 11.Ndf3 h6 12.Nxd7 Bxd7 13.Ne5 Ne4, etc... Ram,S (2248)-Ghaem Maghami,E (2554) Khanty-Mansiysk 2013 1-0] **10.dxe5± Ng4** [10...Ne4=; 10...Nd7 11.f4 c4 12.Bc2 b5 13.e4 Bb7 14.exd5 Bxd5, etc... Heinzel,O (2378)-Edouard,R (2531) Palma de Mallorca 2008 0-1 (33)] **11.Bb5N** [11.f4± f6 12.h3 (12.e4 fxe5 13.exd5 exf4 14.Ne4 Ne5 15.Bb5 Bg4 16.Qc2 Rf8, etc... 0-1 (24) Fruestueck,C-Bode,W (2390) Bad Lauterberg 1994) 12...Nh6 13.e4 fxe5 14.exd5 e6 15.dxe6 Bxe6, etc... Rust,S (2081)-Markgraf,A (2256) Bockenem 1999 0-1 (32)] **11...Bd7** [D]



(Eric - Objectively 11... Rf8 is probably better. 11... Nxe5 also deserves consideration.) [Much weaker is 11...Bxe5?! 12.Bxe8 Qxe8 13.Nf3±; 11...Nxe5± 12.Bxe8 Qxe8] **12.e6** [12.Bxd7± Qxd7 13.f4] **12...Bxb5 13.exf7+ Kxf7 14.Qxb5 Qd6** [D] (p.6) **15.Nf3 Ne5** [15...a6± 16.Qe2 Kg8] **16.Nxe5+ Bxe5 17.f4 Bf6 18.e4** [D] (p.6) (Text cont. p.6)

Position after 14...Qd6 (From p.5)



Position after 18.e4 (From p.5)



(Cont. from p.5) (Eric - This move is simple and strong and I didn't pay close enough attention to it. Well played, Joe.)
18...Qc6 [18...dxe4= 19.Qxb7 Qd3]
19.Qxc6 bxc6 20.e5! [With initiative! White has good play.] **20...Bg7 21.Be3 c4 22.b3 cxb3** [D]



(Eric - This could be the losing move. I saw I was losing the a-Pawn over the long run but thought I could still save the game. I had to try 22.... a5 23.bxc4 dxc4 24.Rab1 Rfb8 25.Rfd1 Rb5 and if this doesn't hold nothing will.) **23.axb3 Reb8** [23...a5!±]
24.b4+- Rb7 25.Ra6 Rc7 26.Rfa1 g5 27.g3 gxf4 [27...Ke6 was worth a try. 28.Kg2 (28.Bxa7 gxf4 29.Bb6 Rxa6=) 28...Rg8] **28.gxf4 e6 29.Kf2 Kg6 30.Kf3 Kf5?** [D] (Next col.) **31.Bxa7 Bh6 32.Be3 Rxa6 33.Rxa6 Bf8 34.Ra8 Be7 35.Rh8 Kg6** [If only Black now had time for ...c5....] **36.Rb8 Kf5** [D] (Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 30...Kf5? (From prev. col.)



Position after 36...Kf5 (From prev. col.)



(Cont. from prev. col.) (Eric - 36... c5 37.b5 Rd7 was better but still losing in the end.) [Better is 36...d4 37.Bxd4 c5] **37.Bb6 Rd7 38.Rc8 Bh4 39.Rxc6 Be1 40.Bd4 Bd2** [D]



41.Rc8 Rf7 42.Be3 Bxe3 43.Kxe3 Kg4 44.Re8 Rc7 45.Rxe6 Rxc3+ 46.Kd4 Rc4+ 47.Kxd5 Rxf4 48.Rf6 [D]



48...Rxb4 49.e6 Rb2 50.Rh6 [D] (Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 50.Rh6 (From prev. col.)



(Cont. from prev. col.) [Better is 50.e7 Rd2+ 51.Ke6 Re2+ 52.Kf7] **50...Rd2+ 51.Ke5 Re2+ 52.Kf6** [White mates.] **52...Rf2+ 53.Kg7 Kg5 54.h4+ Kg4 55.Rxh7 Re2 56.Kf7 Rf2+ 57.Ke8 Rf6 58.e7 Kf5 59.Rf7** [D]



1-0
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**Game from the NPCC 2020
41st Winter Robin
Tournament**

Round: 6
Submitted by Eric with his comments and selected Fritz comments [shown thusly].

**White: Eric Funk (2079)
Black: Michael O'Gara (1721)
Date: 2/14/2020**

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[B21: Sicilian: 2 f4 and Morra Gambit]
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 [D] (p.7)
3...d3 4.c4 Nc6 5.Bxd3 Nf6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 (Text cont.p.7)

Position after 3.c3 (From p.6)



(Cont. from p.6) [7.Nge2±; 7.Nf3 d6 8.h3 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 Nd7 11.Rc1 Nde5, etc... Remecki,S (2225)-Jandric,D (2010) Novi Sad 2012 ½-½ (32)]
7...Bg7N [7...d6 8.f3 (8.Be2 Bg7 9.f4 Qa5 10.Bf3 Be6 11.Qb3 0-0 12.Nge2 Qb4 13.Qxb4 Nxb4, etc... Krawczyk,W (2125)-Kasiak,R (1800) Chotowa 2003 ½-½ (32)) 8...Bg7 9.Qd2 Ne5 10.Nge2 0-0 11.0-0 b6 12.Rfd1 Re8, etc... ½-½ (20) Lanzani,M (2420)-Kovacevic,S Milan 1985]
8.Qd2 [D]



8...Ne5 9.f4 Nc6 [9...Nxd3± 10.Qxd3 d6] **10.Nf3 d6 11.h3 Nb4 12.Be2** [With initiative; White is in control.] **12...0-0** [12...Nh5± was called for.] **13.Rd1** [White should play 13.a3+- Nc6 14.0-0] **13...Bd7** [13...Nxa2± was necessary. 14.e5 (14.Nxa2 Nxe4 15.Qc2 Ng3±) 14...Nxc3 15.exf6 Ne4 16.fxg7 Nxd2 17.gxf8Q+ (17.gxf8R+ Qxf8 18.Rxd2 Bf5±) 17...Qxf8] **14.e5** [White should try 14.0-0+-] **14...Ne8± 15.exd6 [D]**



(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) [Better is 15.0-0+-] **15...exd6** [15...Nxd6± 16.g4 Be6] **16.a3 Na6 17.b4 Bc6? 18.0-0+- Nac7 19.b5 Bd7 20.a4 Ne6** [20...a6± is a better defense. 21.c5 Rc8] **21.Ne4 Qc7? [D]**



22.Nxd6 [Better is 22.c5] **22...Bh6?** [22...Rd8 keeps fighting. 23.c5 Nxc5] **23.Ne5** [Hoping for Ndx7.] **23...Nxd6 24.Qxd6 Qxd6 25.Rxd6 Bc8 [D]**



(Eric - I'm up a pawn which is good but I expected to gain more out of the middle game. I must have missed an opportunity or two earlier.) **26.g4** (Eric - This move loses the thread a bit. 26.Nd7 ((encouraging simplification)) seems to be the right way to make progress.) [Better is 26.Ng4 Bg7 27.f5 gxf5 28.Nh6+ (28.Rxf5 Nd4±) 28...Bxh6 29.Bxh6] **26...Bg7? 27.g5? f6?** [27...Nvg5!= and Black has nothing to worry. 28.fxg5 Bxe5] **28.gxf6 Rxf6 29.Bf3 Nxf4? 30.Rxf6?? [D]**



(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) (Eric - A horrible mistake, throwing away the win. Instead, 30.Rd8+ wins material: e.g. 30.Rd8+ Bf8 31.Bxf4 Rxf4 32.Bd5+. The worst part about this is that I calculated all of this when I played 29.Bf3 and I still didn't follow through correctly.) **30...Nhx3+ 31.Kg2** [Strongly threatening Bd5+.] **31...Bxf6 32.Bd5+** [Better is 32.Bh6 White threatens Bd5+ and mate. 32...Nf4+ 33.Bxf4] **32...Kg7 33.Bh6+ Kxh6** (Eric - At around this point both of us stopped recording. I'm pretty sure though that the next handful of moves is accurate.) **34.Rxf6 Bf5? [D]**



[34...Ng5±] **35.Rxf5! gxf5 36.Kxh3 Re8 [D]**



37.Nf7+! Kg6 38.Nd6 Re3+ 39.Kg2 b6 [D]



[Better is 39...Ra3 40.c5 (40.Bxb7 Kf6±; 40.Nxb7 Rxa4 41.c5 Rd4±) 40...Rc3 41.Nxb7 Kf6] **40.Nc8!** [White is clearly winning.] (Text cont. p.8)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 40...Ra3
41.Nxa7 Rxa4 42.Nc8 [D]



(Eric - I went on to win the b6-pawn and we had a race to promote on opposite wings. I think Michael should have at least been able to force me to give up a piece for one of his pawns but it never came to that. A nerve-racking scramble. He made me work for the full point.) 1-0
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://share.chessbase.com/SharedGames/game/?p=9z5liJLEq4rtSOCswwiFFIOUGrCspTP/SOM00Tt47YJ/EBYrY4dOVCoMD8dXhWi1>

Game from the NPCC 2020 41st Winter Robin Tournament

Round: 7

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

White: Don Funk (1538)

Black: Chase Vitulich (1404)

Date: 2/21/2020

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)

[D04: Colle System] 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Bg4 4.Be2 e6 5.0-0 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.c4 [D]



[7.h3 Bh5 8.b3 Qe7 9.Bb2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe5, etc... Mayor Gonzalez,J (1934)-Martin Perez,F (2036) Las Palmas 2013 1-0 (40)]
(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 7...c6 8.c5N
[The position is equal.] [8.b3 Qe7
(8...Ne4 9.Bb2 Ndf6 10.Ne5 Bf5 11.f3 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 h5, etc...Knopp,I (2145)-Heyer,T Giessen 1995 1-0) 9.Bb2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Bxe5, etc... 1/2-1/2 (14) Popitz,A (2185)-Klein,J (2236) Germany 2009; 8.Qc2 0-0 9.c5 Bc7 10.b4 e5 11.dxe5 Nxe5 12.Bb2 Re8, etc... Szaraz,V (1750)-Pagac,K (1920) Slovakia 1994 1-0 (45)] 8...Bc7 9.h3 Bh5 10.a3 0-0 11.b4 a5 12.Bb2 [D]



12...axb4 13.axb4 Rxa1 14.Qxa1 Ne4! [D]



[Strongly threatening ...Nxd2.] 15.Qd1 f6 16.Nxe4± dxe4 17.Nd2 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 f5 19.f4 [19.b5±] 19...exf3 20.Nxf3 b6? [20...Nf6!± keeps the upper hand.] 21.cxb6 [21.e4!±] 21...Nxb6= 22.Ne5 [22.Rc1±] 22...Qd6 [Better is 22...Nd5±] 23.Rc1 Qxb4 24.Rxc6 [D]



(Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 24...Na4??
(Don - Black needed to take the strong Knight on e5.) [24...Bxe5= 25.dxe5 Re8] 25.Rxc7+- Qxb2? [D]



(Don - Hoping to trade Queens?) [25...Nxb2 is tougher. 26.Qa6 Re8] 26.Qc4 [D]



26...Qa1+? (Don - Better may have been Qb6.) [26...Qb1+ 27.Kh2 Qb6] 27.Kh2 [White is clearly winning.] 27...Re8 28.Rc8 [Better is 28.Qc6 Qa3 29.Qxe8+ Qf8 30.Rc8 h6 31.Qxf8+ Kh7 32.Qh8#] 28...Kf8 29.Rxe8+ Kxe8 30.Qxe6+ [D]



1-0

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://share.chessbase.com/SharedGames/game/?p=zL4bITs/mM0PT7JrDbM9eLQTOsISV8TBa+wEFCliXUhoVzH+LMzNzZ7q0JT3ljaw>

**This concludes this issue.
More games in next issue.**