~ En Passant ~

Newsletter of the North Penn Chess Club, Lansdale, PA – Fall 2022, Part 1

E. Olin Mastin, Editor

This issue features games from Joe Mucerino's trip to St. Louis, MO, and NPCC Membership Drive games.
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 YMCA in Chesterfield, MO, Tournament
Round: 1

Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus].*
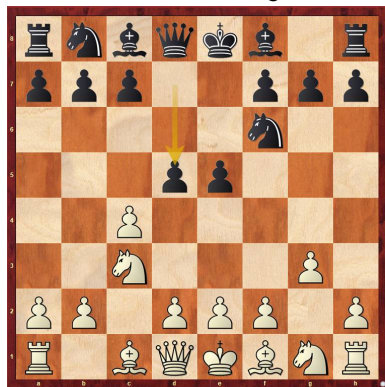**White: Adithya Ganesh (1041)**
Black: Joe Mucerino (2058)
Date: 10/20/2022
(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)
[A22: English Opening: 1...e5 2 Nc3 Nf6]
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 [D]

4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Nc6 7.e3N *[7.Rb1 Bc5 8.Qa4 Qf6 9.d4 (9.Nf3 0–0 10.0–0 Bb6 11.d3 h6 12.Nd2 Bd7, etc... Donguines,F (2445)-Toledo,R (2270) Greenhills 1996 1–0 (66)) 9...exd4 10.Rb5 Bb6 11.Bg5 Qe6 12.Nf3 Bd7, etc... Welz,T (2315)-Nonnenmacher,E (2315) Germany 1994 0–1; 7.d3 Bc5 8.e3 (8.Nf3 0–0 9.0–0 Rb8 (9...Bg4 10.h3 Bh5 11.a4 Kh8 12.a5 Rb8, etc... Saric,A (2513)-Plenca,J (2326) Sibenik 2012 1–0 (38))*
(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 10.Qc2 Bf5 11.Ng5 Be7 12.Ne4 Qd7 13.Be3 Bh3, etc... Shetty,A (2401)-Xiong,J (2672) Burlingame 2019 0–1 (35)) 8...0–0 9.Ne2 Qf6 10.0–0 Re8 11.d4 Bb6 12.h3 Bd7, etc... Lalith,B (2542)-Dubov,D (2694) Caleta 2018 0–1]
7…Bd6 *[7...Qd3 seems wilder. 8.Qe2 Bf5 9.e4 Qxe2+ 10.Nxe2 Bg4]* **8.Ne2 0-0** *[The position is equal.]* **9.0-0 [D]**

9…Bg4 10.Bb2 Qe7 11.Re1 *[Better is 11.d4]* **11…e4 12.Qc2 f5 13.Nf4** *[13.d4= is more appropriate.]* **13…Ne5!=+ 14.Nd5 [D]**

[14.c4=+ Nf3+ 15.Bxf3 Bxf3 16.c5 Bxf4 17.exf4] **14…Qe8?** (Joe - Black missed a good move with 14...Qf7! I was afraid of 15.Qb3 with the idea of trying to force a trade of Queens. But after 15...Nd3! Black is winning material after 16.Reb1 Nc5 17.Qc4 c6.) *[Better is 14...Qf7 15.c4 Nd3]* **15.Qb3** *[Better is 15.c4 Nd3 16.Reb1]* **15…Kh8-+ 16.c4** *[Hoping for c5!]* **16…Nf3+?** (Joe - Black loses most of his advantage with this move. He should still play 16...Nd3.) *[16...Nd3-+ And now ...Rd8 would win. 17.Reb1 b6]* **17.Bxf3+– Bxf3 18.c5 Be5** (Joe - Of course not 18...Bxc5?? 19.Qc3.) **19.Bxe5 Qxe5 20.Rac1** *[20.Nf4=]* **20…Rad8=+ 21.Nf4 [D]** *(Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 21.Nf4 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **21…Rf6?!** *[Inhibits Ne6.]* (Joe - The computer does not see a mate coming for Black, so it says simply grab a Pawn with 21...Rxd2.) *[21...Rxd2=+ 22.Ne6 Rb8]* **22.Qxb7= Rh6 [D]**

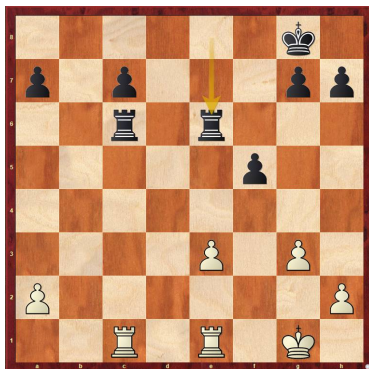*[22...g5= 23.d4 exd3 24.Nxd3 Qxg3+! 25.hxg3 Bxb7]* **23.d4?! [D]**

(Joe - More solid is 23.Rb1.) *[23.Qxa7?! g5 24.Ng2 Rxd2=; 23.Rb1!+-]* **23…exd3! 24.Nxd3 Qxg3+ [D]** *(p.2)*
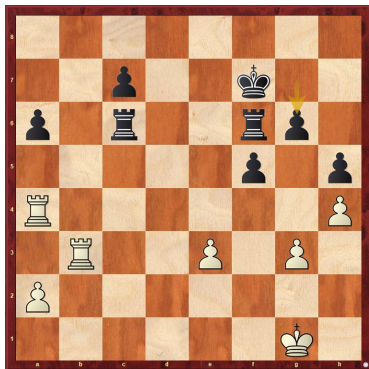*(Text cont. p.2)*

Position after 24...Qxg3+ (*From p.1)*

(Cont. from p.1) (Joe - Black grabs a Pawn before capturing the Queen.) **25.fxg3** (Joe - Of course not 25.hxg3?? Rh1 mate.) **25…Bxb7 26.Ne5 Kg8** *[Against Nf7]* **27.Rcd1?** (Joe - The wrong Rook, as we will see on the next move.) *[27.c6= keeps the balance. 27...Bc8 28.Red1]* **27…Re8-+ 28.c6 Bxc6** *[28...Ba8 with more complications. 29.Rf1 Rxe5 30.Rd8+ Kf7]* **29.Nxc6 Rxc6** *[Endgame KRR-KRR]* **30.Rc1** *[Inhibits Rc2.]* *[Better is 30.Kf2]* **30…Ree6 [D]**
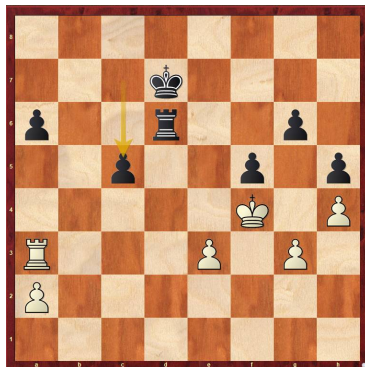
(Joe - Stockfish's first choice is 30...Rxc1 31.Rxc1 Rxe3 32.Rxc7 Ra3 33.Rc2. I did not see why I should be trading off my passed c-Pawn.) *[Better is 30...Rxc1 31.Rxc1 Rxe3 32.Rxc7 Ra3]* **31.Rb1** *[Better is 31.Rxc6 Rxc6 32.e4]* **31…Kf7** *[Better is 31...Rc2 32.Rf1 g6]* **32.Rf1 Kg6** *[Not 32...Rxe3 33.Rxf5+ Kg6 34.Rf2-+]* **33.Rb5 Rf6 34.h4 h5 35.Rb3 Rc5 36.Rf4 Kf7** *[Better is 36...Ra6 37.Rf2 Ra4]* **37.Ra4 37…a6** *[Better is 37...Rc2 White must now prevent ...Rd6. 38.Rf4 Rxa2]* **38.Rba3 Rcc6 39.Rb3** *[Better is 39.Kf2]* **39…g6?! [D]**
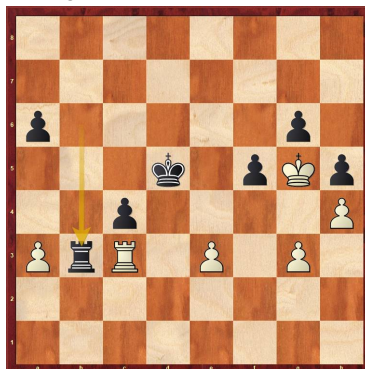
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(Cont. from prev. col.) (Joe - Black should restrict White's King with 39...Rc2 and then threaten mate with the other Rook.) *[Better is 39...Rc2 40.Rba3 Rb6]* **40.Kf2 Rfd6 41.Rba3 Rc2+ 42.Kf3 Rcc6** *[42...Rdd2=+ 43.Kf4 Rf2+ 44.Ke5 Rf3]* **43.Rf4** *[White should try 43.Kf2!=]* **43…Ke6 44.Rfa4 Kd7 45.Kf4 Kc8 46.Kg5 Kb7** *[Better is 46...Re6-+]* **47.Rb4+ Rb6 48.Rxb6+** *[48.Rc4=+]* **48…Kxb6=+** *[KR-KR]* **49.Rb3+ Kc6 50.Ra3** *[Better is 50.Rc3+ Kb6 51.Rb3+ Ka5 52.Rc3]* **50…Kd7 51.Kf4 c5 [D]**

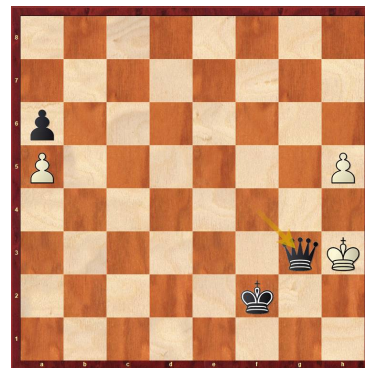*[Better is 51...Re6 52.Ra5 Kc8]* **52.Rb3?** *[52.Ke5-+ might work better.]* **52…Kc6 53.Rb8?** [53.Ra3 Kb5 54.Rb3+ Kc4 55.Ra3] **53…Kd5-+ 54.Rb2 Re6 55.Rd2+ Kc6 56.Rb2 c4 57.Rc2** *[Better is 57.Kf3]* **57…Kc5 58.a3 Re4+ 59.Kf3 Kd5 60.Rc3 Re6 61.Kf4** [Better is 61.Ke2] **61…Rb6** *[Threatens to win with ...Rb3.]* **62.Kg5** *[Better is 62.Rc1]* **62…Rb3 [D]**

63.Rxb3? (Joe - White, with only twenty odd seconds left on his clock, snapped the Rook off instantly. Of course, he's lost by now no matter what, but he can still resist if he keeps the Rook on the board.) **63…cxb3 64.Kxg6** [KP-KP] **64…b2 65.Kxh5 b1Q 66.Kh6 Qb8 67.h5 Qh8+ 68.Kg5 Qh7 69.g4 fxg4 70.Kxg4 Ke4 71.a4 Qh6 72.Kh4 Kxe3** *[Better is 72...Kf3 73.a5 Qg7 74.Kh3 Qg3#]* **73.Kg3 Qf4+** *[Better is 73...Qg5+ 74.Kh3 Kf3 75.Kh2 Qg2#]* **74.Kh3 Kf2 75.a5 Qg3# [D]** (Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 75...Qg3# *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col) (Joe - A great game by someone rated 1000!) *[Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/Black=0.32]* **0-1** Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

Game from the Secret Action Quads, St. Louis, MO, Tournament
Round: 1
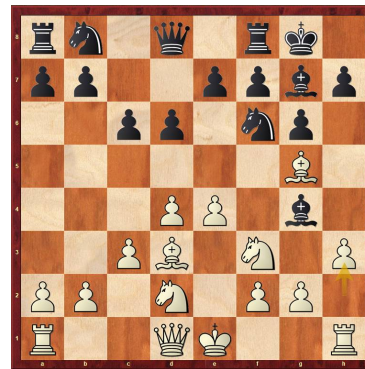Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments *[shown thus].*
White: Joseph Mucerino (2058)
Black: Daniel Ahmadi (1796)
Date: 10/21/2022

*(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.)

[A48: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6: Torre, London and Colle Systems] (Joe - Ahmadi is from California. If I remember correctly, his blitz rating of 1993 was used, because it was higher than his standard and quick over-the-board ratings.) **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 c6 5.e4 0-0 6.c3 d6 7.Bd3 Bg4** *[7...Qc7 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Re1 e5 10.Bf1 Re8 11.a4 b6 12.Qc2 Bb7, etc... Kolev,A (2601)-Martinez Romero,M (2368) San Cristobal 2012 1-0 (39)]* **8.h3N [D]**

(Text cont. p.3)

(Cont. from p.2) [8.0–0 Nbd7 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 e5 11.Qe2 Qc7 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.b4 h6, etc... Popchev,M (2413)-Popovic,M (2408) Sofia 2006 1–0 (41)] **8...Bxf3 9.Nxf3 Re8** [White is slightly better.] **10.0–0 Nbd7 11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Nd5 13.Qe2** [13.e6+- fxe6 14.Qe2] **13...h6 [D]**

[13...f6= remains equal. 14.Bd2 Nxe5] **14.Bd2?** (Joe - White misses 14.e6, which is the move I was trying to get in anyway! If 14...Nc5, 15.exf7+ is strong, but if 14...hxg5??, don't capture the Knight, instead 15.exf7+ Kh8 (15...Kxf7 16.Ng5+ is a forced mate) 16.Nxg5 e5 17.Bxg6 Qxg5 18.fxe8=Q+ Rxe8 19.Bxe8.) [Better is 14.e6!] **14...e6 15.Rfe1 Qc7 16.h4 Rad8 17.Rad1 Nc5 18.Bc2 Nd7 19.h5 19...g5 [D]**

[Better is 19...gxh5 20.Qe4 f5] **20.Qe4** [Better is 20.c4! Ne7 21.Qe4] **20...Ne7??** (Joe - This gives White his chance. Black should have played 20...f5 or 20...Nf8.) [20...f5+- is more resistant. 21.exf6 N7xf6] **21.Qh7++- Kf8 [D]**
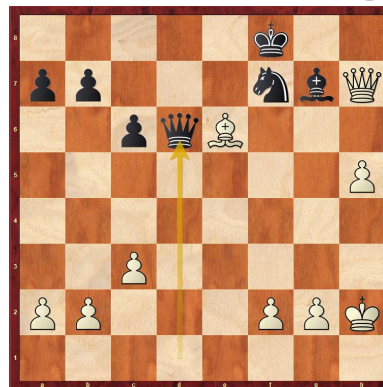

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(Cont. from prev. col.) **22.Bb3??** (Joe - For some reason, I hesitated, and played Bxg5 one move too late. On move 22 it wins ((because of 22...hxg5 23.h6)), but on move 23 it loses.) [22.Bxg5!+- is the precise move to win. Rxd7! would kill now. 22...Ng8 23.Bxd8 Rxd8 24.Rd4 Nxe5 25.Nxe5] **22...Ng8+- 23.Bxg5? hxg5-+ 24.Nxg5** (Joe - Here, White does not have anything to justify his sacrifice.) **24...Nxe5 25.Rxd8 Qxd8??[D]**

(Joe - The wrong recapture. Black should have played 25...Rxd8 26.Bxe6 Qe7 27.Bxf7 Qxg5 28.Qxg8 Ke7 29.Be8.) [25...Rxd8-+ 26.Qe4 (26.Bxe6? Qe7-+) 26...Qe7] **26.Rxe5!= Nh6!** (Joe - I was not expecting this move. I was expecting 26...Nf6, which is equally as good as the text move. I thought for about two minutes here, running my clock down to about one minute, and then I simply had to make a move.) **27.Nxf7?!** (Joe - The best way to go was 27.Ne4, with equality.) **27...Nxf7 28.Rxe6??** (Joe - Losing material. 28.Re3 is still equal.) [28.Re3=] **28...Rxe6-+** [Black is clearly winning.] **29.Bxe6 Qd1+ 30.Kh2 Qd6+ [D]**

[Weighted Error Value: White=0.86/Black=0.51] **0–1**
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:
https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=PMEukbdSGVvaKC8ESmNKd2ICfT8x2BaGhLJahQ7DCTLP7dYf59kHDoXIVSfgUiXQ

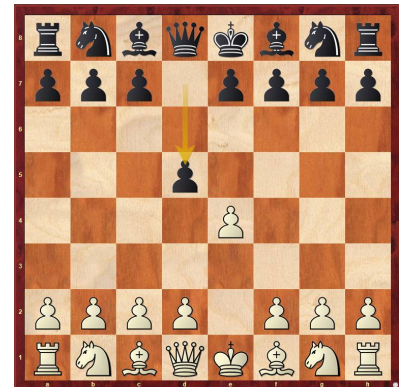Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments [shown thus].
White: Robert Kampia, (1700)
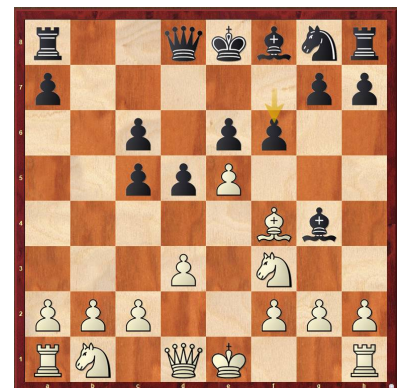**Black: Joseph Mucerino, (2024)**
Date: 9/16/2022
*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary and to be able to play thru the moves.)
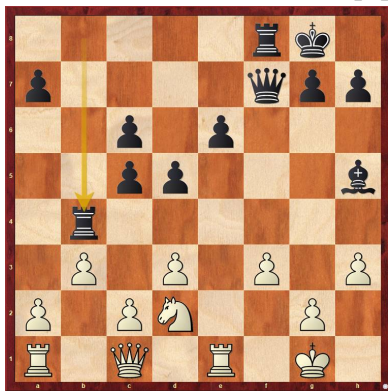[B01: Scandinavian Defence] **1.e4 d5 [D]**

2.e5 (Joe - Capturing is considered best.) **2...c5 3.Bb5+ Nc6N** [3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.0–0 g6 7.d3 Bg7 8.Re1 Nh6 9.Bxh6 Bxh6, etc... Kuderinov,K (2451)-Laylo,D (2511) Bangkok 2014 ½–½ (46)] **4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Bxc6+ bxc6 6.d3 e6 7.Bf4** [White should try 7.Nbd2=] **7...f6? [D]**
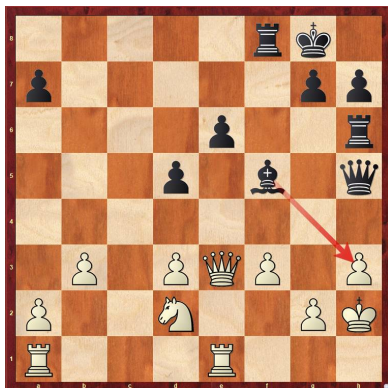

(Joe - Apparently, a mistake. In my experience, White's Pawn on e5 has always been a thorn, so I want to remove it. My move frees White's position more than it frees Black's.) [7...g5=+ 8.Be3 h6] **8.Nbd2** [The position is equal.] **8...fxe5** [8...g5= 9.Bg3 f5] **9.Bxe5+= Nf6 10.0–0 Bd6** [Strongly threatening ...Bxe5.] **11.Qc1** [11.Qe2+-] **11...0–0 12.Re1 Rb8 13.Bxd6 Qxd6** (Text cont. p.4)

(Cont. from prev. col.) **14.Ne5 Bh5 15.h3** *[Against Ng4]* **15…Nd7 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.b3 Qf7 18.f3 Rb4? [D]**

(Joe - Although I saw White's next move, I did not see that he could win a Pawn.) *[18...Qf6=]* **19.c4** *[19.Qb2+-]* **19…Bg6** *[19...Qf6+=]* **20.cxd5+- cxd5 21.Qxc5 Rh4 22.Qf2 Rh6** *[Black should play 22...Rb4]* **23.Qe3 Bf5 24.Kh2** *[24.d4+-]* **24…Qh5 [D]**
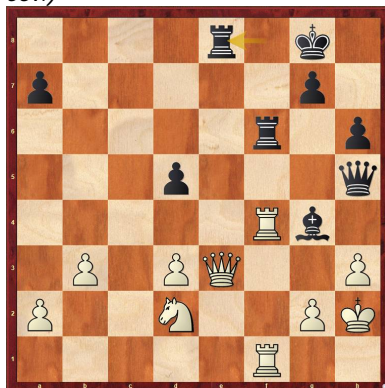

[And now ...Bxh3! would win.] **25.f4! Rhf6??** (Joe - This should be the losing move. The computer says 25...d4 but I was afraid of a Ne4 at some point.) *[25...d4+- keeps fighting. 26.Qg3 (26.Qxd4? Bxh3 27.Nf1 Qg4–+) 26...Rg6]* **26.Rf1?!** (Joe - Even stronger was 26.Nf3 and 27.Ne5.) **26…h6 [D]**

27.Rf3?! (Joe - White loses some advantage. Again, 27.Nf3 was the move.) *[27.Nf3!+–]* **27…Bg4 28.Rf2 e5 29.Raf1 exf4 30.Rxf4 Re8 [D]** *(Next col.)* (Joe - A bit more accurate is 30...Qg5, and White should give up the Queen with 31.Rxf6 Qxe3

(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) 32.Rxf8+. White could play 31.g3 but that is "drawish" after mass exchanges on f4.) **31.Qg3** *[Resist 31.Qxa7?! Bxh3 32.gxh3 Re2+ 33.R1f2 (33.R4f2? Qe5+ 34.Kh1 Rxd2–+) 33...Qe5 34.Rxe2 (34.Qa8+? Kh7–+) 34...Qxe2+ 35.Kg3 Qe1+ 36.Kf3 (36.Qf2 Qe5=) 36...Qh1+ 37.Kg3 Qe1+ 38.Qf2 Qe5=]* **31…Rxf4 32.Rxf4** *[Don't take 32.Qxf4 Be2 33.Qf5 Re5 34.Qc8+ Re8+=]* **32…Bd7 33.Rf2 [D]**

(Joe - Here, White offered a draw, and Black had no reason to decline.) *Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise) [Better is 33.Nf3]* **½-½**

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=cCPg+GNAZkC8YtRwSVDCW-fizRMV8n1XWZRkQdXMUJ35vsuGh-PtL9r3yif9jo8N2Y

Game from the NPCC 2022 Membership Drive Tournament
Round: 3

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

(Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.)
White: Joseph Mucerino (2024)
Black: Amogh Kollipara (1663)
Date: 9/23/2022

*(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary, Stockfish comments, and to be able to play thru the moves.)
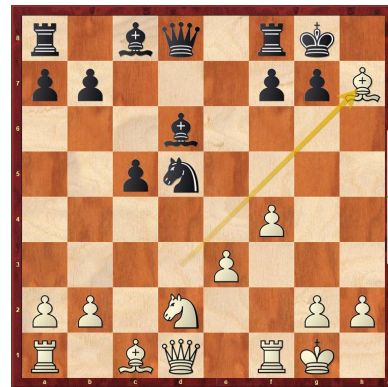
[D05: Colle System with ...e6] **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Nbd2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 e5 [D]**

8.dxe5 *[8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 f6 13.b4 Bb6, etc... Godart,F (2393)-Hautot,S (2402) Buetgenbach 2016 ½–½ (40)]* **8…Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.f4N** *[Better is 10.e4; 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Nf3 Bc7 13.c4 dxc4 14.Qc2 b5 15.a4 Qd3, etc... Ushenina,A (2494)-Kosteniuk,A (2541) Beijing 2014 1–0 (90)]* **10…Bd6** *[10...Bc7 should be considered.]* **11.c4= 0-0 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxh7+?! [D]**
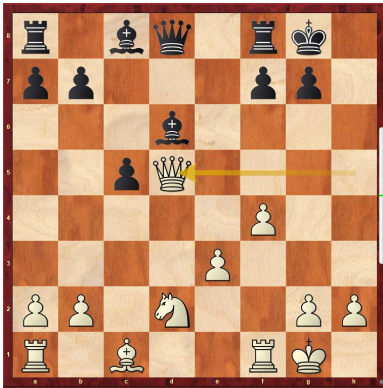

(Joe - As usual, the computer does not like my ideas. It prefers 13.Ne4.) **13…Kxh7=+ 14.Qh5+ Kg8 15.Qxd5 [D]** *(p.5)* **15...Bxf4! 16.Qxc5 Bd6?!** (Joe – Better is 16...b6 17.Qc3 Bg5 18.Nf3 Bf6 19.Qc2 Ba6 20.Rd1, and Black is even a bit better even though he is a Pawn down.) *[16...b6!=+ 17.Qc3 Bg5]* **17.Qh5=** (Joe – To prevent Black from playing *(Text cont. p.5)*
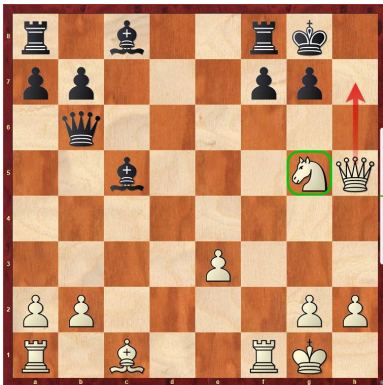
Position after 15.Qxd5 *(From p.4)*

(Cont. from p.4) 17...Qh4 with an attack.)
17...Qb6 *[17...g6= feels stronger. 18.Qh6 Re8]* **18.Nf3 [D]**

[Black must now prevent Ng5.] **18...Bc5?**
(Joe - Black needed to play 18...Qc5 to try to trade Queens, or, if White doesn't trade, then play 19...Bf5.) *[18...Qc5= was preferrable. 19.Qxc5 (19.Ng5 Bf5=) 19...Bxc5]* **19.Ng5** *[With attack]* **[D]**
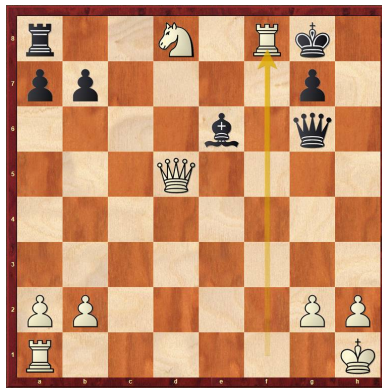

[White goes for the King.] **19...Bxe3+??**
(Joe - It's game over after this. Black had to play either 19...Qg6 or 19...Qh6.) *[19...Qg6+- 20.Qxg6 fxg6]* **20.Bxe3+- Qxe3+ 21.Kh1 Qd3** *[Inhibits Qh7+.]* **22.Nxf7! [D]** *(Next col.)* (Joe - This is much stronger than 22.Rxf7. Note that mate is threatened on h8.) [Weaker is 22.Rxf7 Bf5+-] **22...Qh7** *[Inhibits Qh8+. (Joe - Better, although still losing, were 22...Bf5 or 22...Qf5.)* **23.Qd5** *(Text cont. next col.)*

Position after 22.Nxf7! *(From prev. col.)*

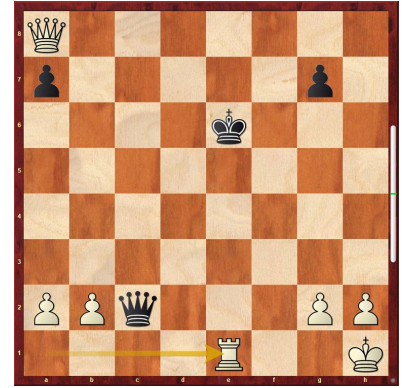*(Cont. from prev. col.)* [White threatens Nh6+ and mate.] **23...Qg6**
24.Nd8+ (Joe - For once the computer says I made a good move. The point is that after...) **24...Be6 25.Rxf8+ [D]**

(Joe - ...Black must recapture with his King and not with the Rook on a8.)
25...Kxf8 26.Nxe6+ (Joe - 26.Rf1+ is just as good.) **26...Ke7 27.Qxb7+**
(Joe - Stockfish says that 27.Re1 or 27.Ng5 are mate in 8.) *[Stockfish 10 64 BMI2: 1) 27.Re1 Kf6 28.Rf1+ Ke7 29.Nc5 Qe8 30.Qxb7+ Kd6 31.Rd1+ Ke5 32.Qxg7+ Kf4 33.Qg3+ Kf5 34.Rf1##8/61; Stockfish 10 64 BMI2: 2) 27.Ng5 Qxg5 28.Qxg5+ Kf8 29.Rf1+ Kg8 30.Qd5+ Kh7 31.Qh5+ Kg8 32.Qf7+ Kh7 33.Rf5 Kh6 34.Rh5##8/61]* **27...Kxe6**
28.Qxa8 *[Better is 28.Re1+ Kd6 29.Qa6+ Kc7 30.Rc1+ Kd7 31.Qxg6 Re8 32.Qc6+ Ke7 33.Re1+ Kf7 34.Rxe8 g6 35.Qe6+ Kg7 36.Rg8+ Kh7 37.Qxg6#]*
28...Qc2 29.Re1+ [D] *(Next col.)*
1-0 *[Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=1.64]*
Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=EqCI
0KI-
YdPfcyB+nyJcAx6DkA/4IFN28sr/NgVCse
+PZUE/1seno9JqQQyIFefsV

Position after 29.Re1+ *(From prev. col.)*

Game from the NPCC 2022 Membership Drive Tournament
Round: 4
Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz/*Stockfish comments *[shown thus].*

White: Joseph Mucerino (2024)
Black: Advaith Kollipara (1955)
Date: 9/30/2022
(Please copy and paste the HTML link at the end of this article into your browser to read the complete commentary, Stockfish comments, and to be able to play thru the moves.)
[D05: Colle System with ...e6] **1.d4 e6
2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Bd3 Nf6
6.Nbd2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 [D]**

**8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Be7
11.Qe2** *[11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Qc2 h6 ½-½ (12) Kosic,D (2515)-Rajkovic,D (2485) Niksic 1996]* **11...Re8N** *[11...Qc7 12.Nfg5 (12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Bg5 Qe7 14.Bxf6 Qxf6 15.Rad1 Qe7, etc... Zatokovenko,I (2273)-Darmin,D (2364) Ufa 2010 ½-½ (44)) 12...Nxe4 13.Qxe4 f5 14.Qe2 Bxg5 15.Bxg5 e5 16.Bc4+ Kh8 17.Rad1 f4 18.f3 Bf5, etc... Adly,A (2586)-Juarez Flores,C (2358) Dresden 2008 1-0 (40)]* **12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Nfg5 h6** *[White is slightly better.]* **14.Nxf6+
Bxf6 15.Ne4 Be7** *(Text cont. p.6)*

(Cont. from p.5) **16.Qh5 Qe5 [D]**

17.Qf3 f5 18.Ng3 Qf6 19.Bb5
[19.Bc2+= should be considered.]
19…e5!= [D]

**20.Bc4+ Kh8 21.b3 e4 22.Qe2 Ne5
23.Bb5** *[Better is 23.Nh5 Qh4 24.Nf4]*
23…Rd8 *[23...Rf8 looks sharper. 24.Nh5
Qf7 25.Nf4 Be6 26.Qe1 g5]* **24.Rxd8+
Bxd8 25.Qc2** *[25.Bf4=+]* **25…Bb6
26.Be2 [D]**

(Joe: I was afraid of 26...Ng4, hitting f2.)
26…Be6 27.Bb2 Rd8 28.Rd1?? [D]

*(Joe: This should lose, but the reason why
is very difficult to spot.)* *(Text cont. next
col.)*

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*(Cont. prev. col.) [28.c4-+ was called for.
28...Bd4 29.Bxd4 Rxd4 30.Rd1]*
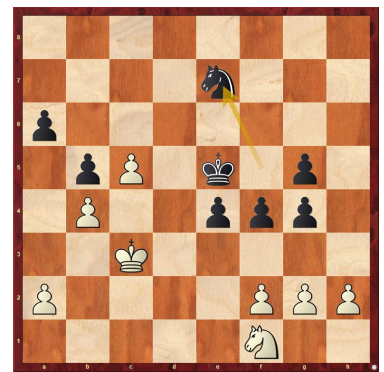**28…Rxd1+!-+ 29.Qxd1 Qd8?? [D]**

*(Joe: This let's White off the hook, but you
need to be a computer to find 29...f4!
30.Nxe4 Qg6 31.Nd2 Bd5 32.Qf1 f3, win-
ning a piece.)* *[29...f4!-+ 30.Nxe4 Qg6;
Stockfish 29...f4 30.Nxe4 Qg6 31.Nd2 Bd5
32.Qf1 f3 33.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 34.Nxf3 Bxf3,
etc...]* **30.Qxd8+=+ Bxd8 31.c4 Bc7
32.Kf1** *[32.f3=]* **32…Kg8 33.Bc3 g6
34.Ke1 Kf7 35.Kd2 h5 36.Nf1 f4** *[Pre-
vents Ne3.]* **37.Bd4 a6 38.Bd1** *[Better is
38.a3]* **38…Ba5+** *[38...Bf5-+ White must
now prevent ...Ba5+. 39.g3 Bh3 40.Bxe5
(40.gxf4? Nc6-+) 40...Bxe5 41.gxf4 Bxf4+
42.Ke1 Kf6]* **39.Kc2** *[39.Bc3!=+ Bc7
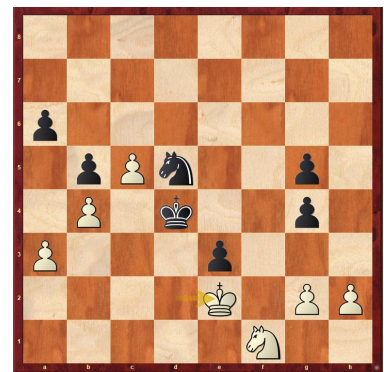40.Bc2]* **39…Nc6 40.Bc3 Bb6! [D]**

41.Bd2 Bc7 *[But not 41...Bxf2?! 42.Bxf4
b5 43.Be3 Bxe3 44.Nxe3=]* **42.Bc3 Bf5!
43.Kd2** *[Against e3+]* **43…Ke6 44.Bc2
Be5 45.Bxe5** *[45.h4-+]* **45…Kxe5-+**
[Endgame KBN-KBN] **46.Kc3 Nd4**
[46...a5-+ 47.Nd2 Nd4] **47.Bd1 Bg4
48.Bxg4 hxg4-+** *[KN-KN]* **49.Kd2** *[49.b4
was necessary.]* **49…g5 50.Kc3 Nf5
51.b4 b5?** *(Joe: Black, who was doing a
good job squeezing White, allows White to
have a protected passed Pawn. It will be
difficult ((but not impossible)) for the King
and Knight to both defend against this
Pawn from queening and pressing their
advantage.)* *[51...Nh4-+ 52.b5 axb5
53.cxb5 Nxg2]* **52.c5-+ Ne7! [D]** *(Next
col.) [...Nd5+ is the strong threat.]* **53.a3
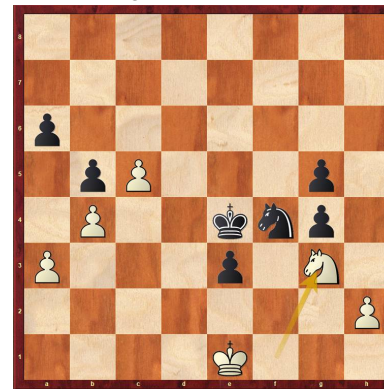Nd5+** *[53...Nc6-+ 54.Nd2 Nd4]* *(Text
cont. next col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **54.Kc2!=+ Kd4
55.Kd2** *[55.c6!=+]* **55…e3+??** (Joe: Now
the position is even again, because Black's
Pawn will be isolated, and again, it will be
difficult for Black to press and defend with
"slow moving" pieces.) *[55...Ne7-+ 56.Ke1
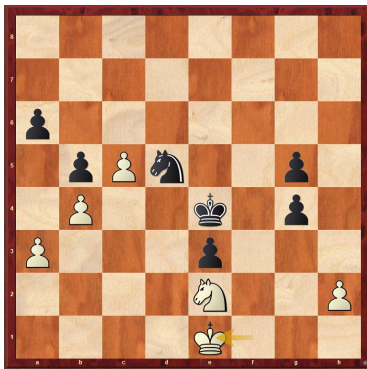Kd3]* **56.fxe3+= fxe3+ 57.Ke2 [D]**

[57.Ke1=] **57…Nf4+=+ 58.Ke1 Nxg2+**
[58...Kd3!? 59.Ng3 Nxg2+ 60.Kf1 Nf4=]
59.Ke2? (Joe: The computer prefers
57.Ke1, but I did not want to allow
57...Kd3.) *[59.Kd1=]* **59…Nf4+ 60.Ke1
Ke4 61.Ng3+ [D]**

61…Kf3? (Joe: The computer liked going
the other way with 61...Kd3.) *[61...Kd3!-+]*
62.Ne2?? (Joe: This should lose.)
62…Nd5? (Joe: The winning line is
62...Nxe2 63.c6 Nf4 64.c7 Ng2+ 65.Kd1
e2+ 66.Kc2 e1=Q 67.c8=Q Ne3+ 68.Kb3
Qb1+ 69. Kc3 Qc1+.) *[62...Nxe2 mates
63.c6 Nf4 64.c7 Nd3+ 65.Kd1 e2+ 66.Kd2
e1Q+ 67.Kxd3 Qe4+ 68.Kd2 (Text cont.
p.7)*

68...Qf4+ 69.Kd3 Qxc7 70.Kd4 Qd6+ 71.Kc3 Ke3 72.h4 gxh3 73.Kc2 h2 74.Kc3 Qd3+ 75.Kb2 h1Q 76.Ka2 Qc2#] **63.Kf1-+ Nc7?** [63...Ne7–+ Strongly threatening ...Nc6. 64.Nc3 Nc6] **64.Ng3!= Nd5?** [64...Ne6=] **65.Ne2-+ Ke4** [65...Ne7–+ And now ...Nc6 would win. 66.Nc3 Nc6] **66.Ke1 [D]**

[66.Nc1-+ is a better defense.] **66...Kd3** [66...Ne7!–+ is more deadly. Hoping for ...Nc6. 67.Nc1 Kf3] **67.Kd1** [Better is 67.c6] **67...Kc4** [Better is 67...Ne7 Threatens to win with ...Nc6. 68.Nc1+ Kc3] **68.Kc2 Nc7 69.Ng3 a5?** (Joe: Black had about a half a Pawn advantage before this move, and now that advantage is gone, although it is difficult to see how Black can make progress. He would need to shuffle his pieces around and hope that White makes a mistake.) [69...Kd4-+] **70.bxa5=** [The position is equal.] **70...Kxc5 71.Kd3 Nd5 72.Ne4+ Kc6 73.Nxg5 Kb7 74.Nf7 Ka6 75.Ne5 Kxa5 76.Nxg4 Ka4 77.Ne5 [D]**

(Joe: It is safe to capture the Pawn: 77.Nxe3 Nxe3 78.Kxe3 Kxa3 79.h4 b4 80.h5 b3 81.h6 b2 82.h7 b1=Q 83.h8=Q. At some point I stopped taking score and I reconstructed it at home, so it may not be perfect, but it should be close.) [Stockfish 10: 77.Nxe3 Nxe3 78.Kxe3 Kxa3 79.h4 b4 80.h5 b3 81.h6 b2 82.h7 b1Q 83.h8Q, etc...] **77...Kxa3 78.h4 b4 79.Nc4+ Ka2** [Aiming for ...b3.] **80.h5 Nf4+ 81.Kxe3 Nxh5 82.Kd3 Nf4+ 83.Kd4 Ne2+ 84.Kd3 Nc3 85.Nd2 Ka3 86.Kc4 Na2 87.Nb1+ Kb2 88.Nd2 Kc2 89.Nb3 Kb2 90.Na5 Nc3 91.Nc6 [D]** (Next col.) (Text cont. next col.)

Position after 91.Nc6 (From prev. col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) [Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)] ½–½

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=3WNq7yuORy7+KRd5zTMh-KeDqxwQngv1TkVhm-bxrWDdHHmVMkx0m81OJCO0QZr1Me

Game from the NPCC 2022 Membership Drive Tournament
Round: 5

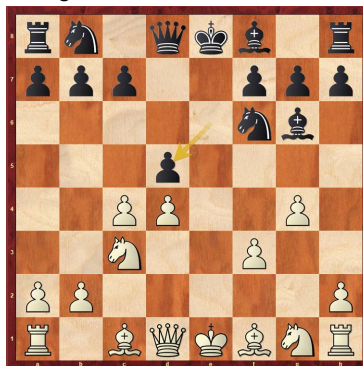Submitted by Joe with his comments and selected Fritz comments [shown thus].

White: Kevin Li (2089)
Black: Joseph Mucerino (2058)
Date: 10/7/2022

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

[B01: Scandinavian Defence] **1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.f3 Bf5 5.g4 5...Bg6 6.c4 e6 7.Nc3 exd5 [D]**

[7...Be7 8.h4 h6 9.h5 Bh7 10.dxe6 Nc6 11.Be3 0–0 12.Bd3 fxe6 13.Nge2 Nb4, etc...Dabo Peranic,R (2322)-Krstic,U (2354) Mali Losinj 2019 1–0] (Text cont. next col.)

(Cont. from prev. col.) **8.g5** [White is slightly better.] **8...Nfd7!** [8...Qe7+? 9.Kf2+–; 8...Nh5 9.f4 Nc6 10.Be2 dxc4 11.Bxh5 Bxh5 12.Qxh5 Nxd4 13.Kf2 g6 14.Qd1 Bg7, etc... Popov,I (2622)-Laylo,D (2500) Quezon City 2014 1–0 (32)] **9.Nxd5** [Qe2+ is the strong threat.] **9...Bd6N** (Joe: Varying from previous games Li and I played.) [9...Nc6!+= 10.Ne2 Nb4 (10...Nb6 11.Nef4 Be7 12.h4 0–0 13.Kf2 Re8, etc... Enchanter (2559)-WindPower (2465) playchess.com INT 2008 1–0 (33)) 11.Nxb4 Bxb4+ 12.Kf2 0–0 13.h4 Bf5 14.Ng3 Be6 15.Bd3 Re8, etc... Handoko,E (2465)-Eid,F (2290) Genting Highlands 1998 1–0] **10.Qe2+ Kf8 11.c5 c6 12.Nc3 Be7 13.h4 Na6 14.Qc4** [14.h5+- Bf5 15.Bh3 Bxh3 16.Nxh3] **14...h6+=** [14...Bxc5? 15.dxc5 Qe7+ 16.Kf2+–] **15.f4?** [15.h5+= stays ahead. 15...Bf5 16.Bh3 Bxh3 17.Nxh3 hxg5 18.Be3] **15...hxg5-+** [15...Bxc5 16.dxc5 hxg5 17.f5 Qe7+ 18.Qe2 Bxf5 19.Qxe7+ (19.Bxg5 Qxe2+ 20.Bxe2 Ndxc5+-) 19...Kxe7 20.Nf3+- (20.Bxg5+ f6+-)] **16.fxg5 Qc7? [D]**

[Inhibits Bf4.] (Joe: I should play 16...b5 immediately.) [16...Bxc5 17.dxc5 Qe7+ 18.Kf2+-; Black should play 16...b5!–+ 17.Qe2 (17.cxb6? Nb4–+) 17...Nb4] **17.Nge2=** [Hoping for Nf4.] **17...b5** [17...Bxc5!= 18.dxc5 Ne5] **18.cxb6+-axb6 19.Nf4** [19.Bg2+-] **19...Re8?? [D]**

(Joe: I should play 19...Bf5.) **20.Be2?** (Text cont. p.8)

(Cont. from p. 7) (Joe: It's safe for White to capture the offered material with 20.Nxg6+ fxg6 21.Qxa6 because Black does not have a good discovery with the Bishop.) *[20.Qxa6? Bxg5+ 21.Kd1 Bxf4−+; 20.Nxg6++− has better winning chances. 20...fxg6 21.Qxa6; Stockfish 10: 20.Nxg6+ fxg6 21.Qxa6 Qg3+ 22.Kd2 Rxh4 23.Rxh4 Bxg5+ 24.Kc2 Qf2+ 25.Be2 Bxh4 26.Bd2 Qxd4, etc...]* **20…b5** *[20...Bf5+−]* **21.Qb3??** (Joe: White was still winning after 21.Nxg6+. Now, Black has a slight advantage.) *[21.Nxg6++− fxg6 22.Qd3]* **21…Bf5−+** *[Aiming for ...Bxg5!]* **22.Rf1?** **[D]**

[22.0–0−+ Nac5 23.Qd1 Rxh4 24.Qe1 Bxg5 25.Qg3] **22…Ndc5!−+ 23.dxc5 Nxc5 24.Qd1** (Joe: White needed to return some material with 24.Ncd5.) *[24.Nxb5 was called for. 24...cxb5 25.Qd5]* **24…Rd8** (Joe: Now Black is winning.) **25.Ncd5 [D]**

[25.Bd2 Rxh4 26.Qc1 Bxg5; Better is 25.Qxd8+ Qxd8 26.Be3] **25…Rxd5! 26.Nxd5 Qg3+ 27.Rf2 Ne4??** (Joe: Letting Black into the game. 27...Rxh4 was crushing.) *[27...Rxh4−+ and Black stays clearly on top. (-> ...Rh1+) 28.Bf4 Rh1+ 29.Bf1 Nd3+ 30.Qxd3 Qxd3]* **28.Be3−+ 28...Bxg5** *[With attack]* **[D]** *(Next col.)* Black is up to no good.] *[28...Rxh4 29.Nxe7 Rh1+ 30.Bf1 Qxe3+ 31.Qe2 Qxe2+ 32.Rxe2+−]* **29.hxg5??** (Joe: Now Black is winning again. 29.Qd3 was best for White. The rest of the game is cleanup for Black.)
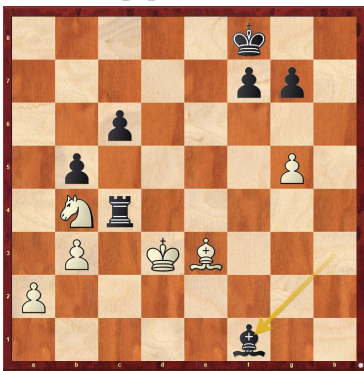
(Text cont. next col.)

Position after 28...Bxg5 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) *[29.Qd3!=+ Kg8 30.hxg5 cxd5 31.Bf1]* **29…Rh1+!−+ 30.Bf1 Bh3 31.Qd4 Rxf1+ 32.Ke2 32...Qg4+ [D]**
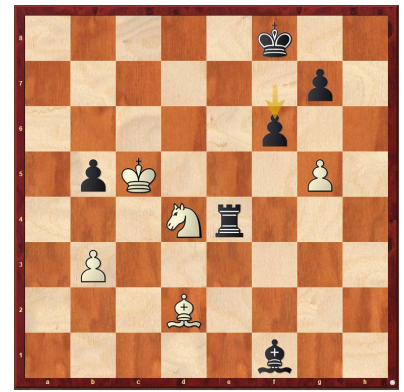

[32...Rxa1 33.Qxe4 Qg4+ 34.Qxg4 Bxg4+ 35.Kd3 cxd5 36.a3=] **33.Kd3 Nxf2+ 34.Bxf2** *[And now Qxg4 would win.]* **34…Qxd4+** *[34...Qxg5? 35.Qc5+ Kg8 36.Ne7+ Qxe7 37.Qxe7+−; 34...Qf3+ 35.Ne3 Kg8 36.Be1+− (36.g6 fxg6 37.Qd8+ Kf7=)]* **35.Bxd4 Rxa1** *[Endgame KRB-KBN]* **36.Nb4 Rc1 37.Be3 Rc4 38.b3 38...Bf1+ [D]**

[Inferior is 38...Rxb4 39.Bc5+ Ke8 40.Bxb4=] **39.Kd2 Rg4** *[Weaker is 39...Rxb4 40.Bc5+ Kg8 41.Bxb4=]* **40.Nxc6 Rg2+ 41.Kc3 Rxa2 42.Nd4 Rg2 43.Kb4 Rg4 44.Kc5 Re4 45.Bd2 f6 [D]** *(Next col.)* **46.gxf6 gxf6 47.Bc3 Rh4 48.Kc6 Kf7 49.Nxb5?** *[49.Bb2]* **49…Bxb5+ 50.Kxb5** *[KR-KB]* **50…Ke6 51.b4 f5 52.Kc5 f4** *[White must now prevent ...f3.]* *(Text cont. next col.)*
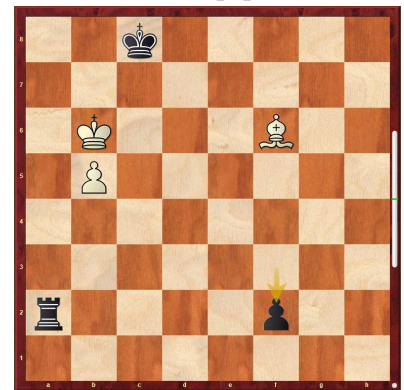

Position after 45...f6 *(From prev. col.)*

(Cont. from prev. col.) **53.b5 f3 54.Be1 Rh1** *[Better is 54...Rh2 55.Kd4 f2, etc...]* **55.Bg3 Rg1** *[Better is 55...Rh2!!]* **56.Bh4 [D]**

56…Kd7 *[Better is 56...Rg5+!! 57.Kb6] (57.Kc6 Rg2) 57...Kd5! 58.Kc7 Rg2, etc...]* **57.Kb6 Rg2** *[Better is 57...Kd6 58.Ka6 Rg2 59.Ka5 Rh2]* **58.Ka7 Kc8 59.Bf6 Ra2+ 60.Kb6 f2 [D]**

[Weighted Error Value: White=1.05/Black=0.75] **0–1**

Copy and paste the link below into your browser:

https://share.chess-base.com/SharedGames/game/?p=6mPQjB1QSYLTTo4bKeze8iYO/GyrgQ0mYQvzZGnC67KxvE4I6lmMBHVJ6r6eOLmf

This issue is concluded.