



## Polzin's Pawns and More

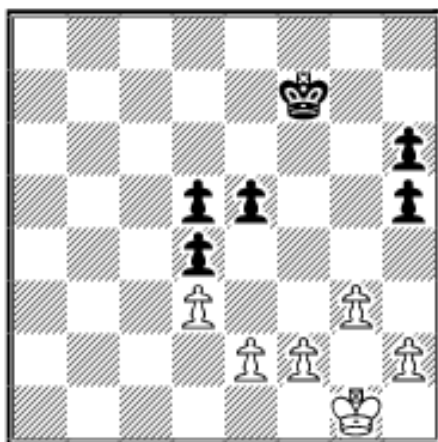
Some time has passed since I have dealt with pawn endgames in Endgame Corner 10, so I was grateful when my friend and team mate in the Austrian League Rainer Polzin send me analysis of some of his recent endgames which are incorporated in the following examples:

### COLUMNISTS

## Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller

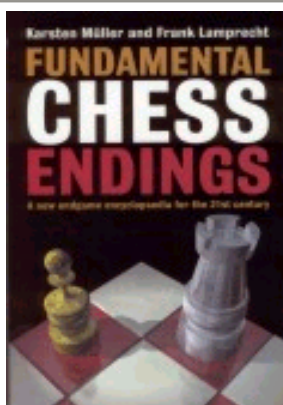
**31.01 J.Horvath (2551) - R.Polzin (2469) Austrian Staatsliga season 2001/2002**



Black's ugly pawn structure was nicely exploited by GM Jozsef Horvath: **39.Kg2 Kf6 40.Kh3 Kg5 41.Kg2 Kg4**

41...h4 does not help: 42.Kh3 hxg3 (42...h5 43.f3 hxg3 44.hxg3 Kf5 45.Kh4 Kg6 46.g4 hxg4 47.fxg4 e4 48.g5 Kf5 49.Kh5 Kf4 50.g6 Ke3 51.g7 Kxe2 52.g8Q+-) 43.hxg3 Kh5

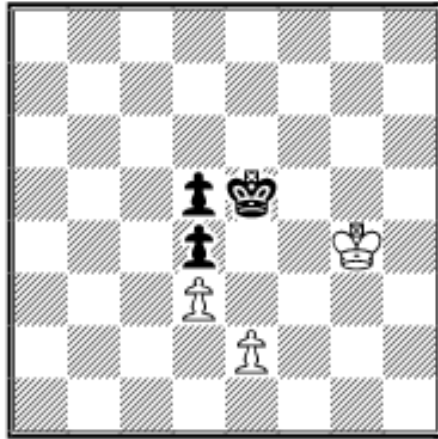
44.g4+ Kg5 45.Kg3 h5 (45...Kf6 46.Kh4 Kg6 47.f3 Kf6 48.Kh5 Kg7 49.g5 hxg5 50.Kxg5+-) 46.gxh5 Kxh5 47.f4 Kg6 48.fxe5 Kf5 49.Kh4 Ke6 50.Kg4 Kxe5



Order

[Fundament Chess  
Endings](#)

by Karsten Müller &  
Frank Lamprecht  
The BCF Book of the  
Year!

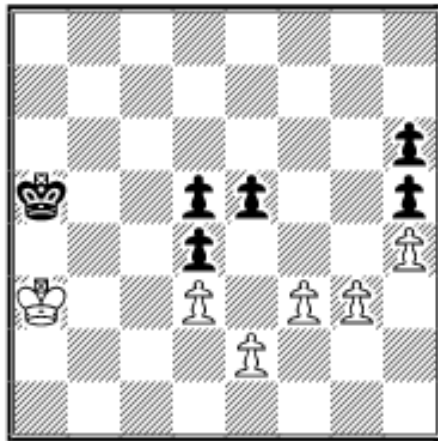


51.Kg5 Ke6 52.Kg6 Ke5 53.Kf7 Kf4  
(53...Kd6 54.Kf6 Kc6 55.Ke6 Kc5  
56.Ke5+-) 54.Ke6 Ke3 55.Kxd5  
Kxe2 56.Kxd4+-

**42.h4 Kf5 43.f3 Ke6** (43...e4  
44.Kf1+- as White's king marches to  
the queenside to infiltrate Black's  
camp) **44.Kf2 Kd6 45.Ke1 Kc5**

**46.Kd2 Kb5** (46...Kb4 47.f4 exf4

48.gxf4 Kc5 49.Kc2 Kd6 50.Kb3 Ke6 51.Kb4 Kf5 52.Kc5 Kxf4  
(52...Kg4 53.f5+-) 53.Kxd4 Kg4 54.e4 Kxh4 55.exd5 Kg5 56.d6  
Kf6 57.Kd5 h4 58.Kc6 h3 59.d7+-) **47.Kc2 Kc5 48.Kb3 Kb5**  
**49.Ka3 Ka5**



and now the time to deflect Black's  
king has come: **50.f4 exf4 51.gxf4**

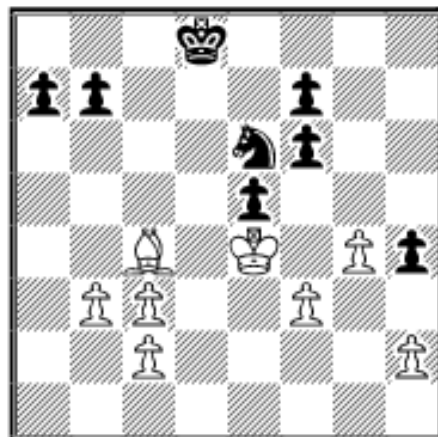
**Kb5 52.Kb3 Kb6 53.Kb4 Kc6 54.f5**  
**Kd6 55.f6 Ke6 56.Kc5 Kxf6**

**57.Kxd5 Kf5 58.Kxd4 Kg4 59.Ke4**  
**Kxh4 60.Kf4 1-0** and Black resigned

due to **60...Kh3 61.d4 Kg2 62.d5 h4**  
**63.d6 h3 64.d7 h2 65.d8Q h1Q**  
**66.Qd5+ Kh2 67.Qxh1+ Kxh1 68.e4**  
**Kg2 69.Kg4+-**

In the next example Rainer managed to save his skin:

### 31.02 *S.Kasparov* (2440) - *R.Polzin* (2465) 9. Werther Schloss Open

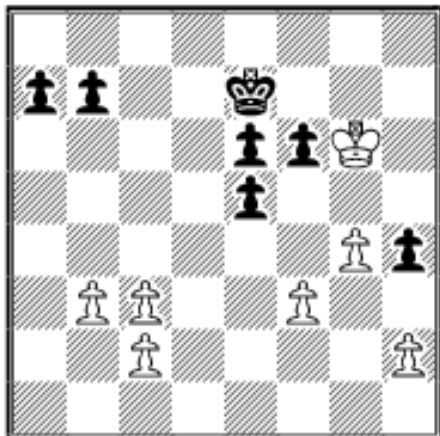


It looks bad for Black, but not  
hopeless: **24.Kf5**

24.Bxe6 is also interesting: 24...fxe6  
25.g5 (25.f4?? exf4 26.Kxf4 Ke7 and  
Black is clearly better as 27.g5? runs  
into 27...f5+-) 25...fxg5 26.Kxe5 Ke7  
27.c4 b6 28.h3 (28.b4?? a5 29.c5 a4  
30.cxb6 Kd7 31.Kd4 e5+ 32.Kc3

Kc6--+) 28...a6 29.c3 a5 30.Kd4 Kd6 31.Ke4 Kd7 32.Ke5 Ke7=

**24...Ke7 25.Bxe6 fxe6+ 26.Kg6**

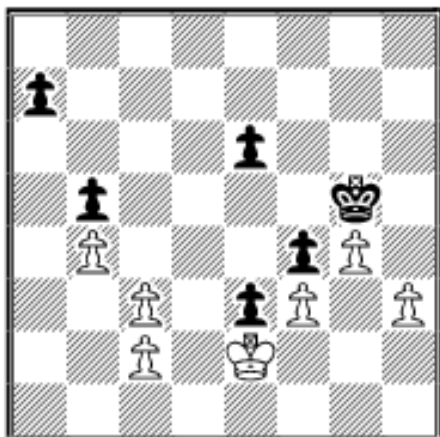


**26...b5!!** Black has to fight for spare tempi with this move as it also threatens to advance the a-pawn.

**27.c4**

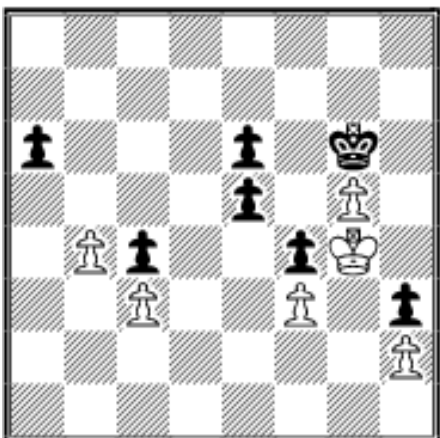
27.b4 h3! 28.Kh5 f5

**A)** 29.Kh4?! Kf6 30.Kxh3 Kg5  
31.Kg3 f4+ 32.Kf2 e4 33.h3 e3+  
34.Kg1 (34.Ke2??



is punished by 34...Kh4 35.Ke1 e5  
36.Ke2 e4 37.fxe4 Kg3--+) 34...e5  
35.Kf1 Kh4 36.Kg2 a6 37.c4 bxc4  
38.c3 Kg5 39.Kf1 e4 40.fxe4 f3 41.e5  
Kh4 42.e6 Kg3 43.e7 e2+ 44.Ke1 f2+  
45.Kxe2 Kg2 46.e8Q f1Q+ 47.Kd2  
Qd3+ 48.Ke1 Qxc3+ 49.Kd1 Qd3+  
50.Ke1 Kxh3 and Black is slightly  
better.

**B)** 29.Kg5 f4 30.Kh4 Kf6 31.g5+ Kg6 32.Kg4 a6 33.c4 bxc4  
34.c3



and now Black holds on by 34...e4!  
35.fxe4 e5 36.Kh4

**B1)** Of course not 36...f3? 37.Kxh3  
Kxg5 38.Kg3 f2 39.Kxf2 Kg4  
(39...Kf4 40.h3 Kxe4 41.Ke2 Kf4  
42.h4 Kg4 43.Ke3 Kxh4 44.Ke4+-)  
40.Ke3 Kh3 41.Kf3 Kh4 42.Kg2 Kg4  
43.h3+ Kf4 44.Kf2+-

**B2)** 36...Kg7 37.Kxh3 Kg6 38.Kg4 Kg7 39.h4 Kh7 40.h5 Kg7=  
as White's king can't leave the square of the protected passed  
pawn

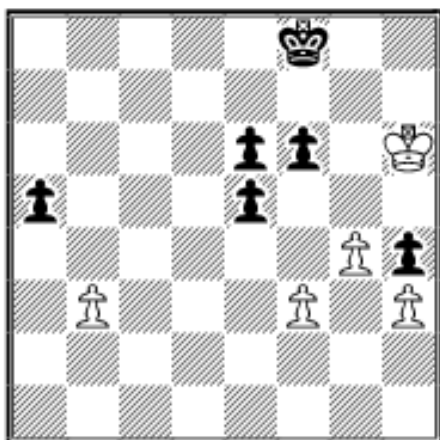
**27...bxc4 28.h3**

28.b4 h3! 29.c3 (29.Kh5 Kd6 30.Kh4 e4 31.Kxh3 Ke5 32.Kg3 f5 33.h4 f4+ 34.Kf2 e3+ 35.Ke2 Kf6=) 29...a6 30.Kh5 f5=

**28...cxb3 29.cxb3 a5 30.Kh5 Kf7**

30...Kd6 31.Kxh4 Kc5 32.Kh5 Kb4 33.h4 Kxb3 (33...f5?! 34.gxf5 exf5 35.Kg5 Kxb3 36.h5 a4 37.h6 a3 38.h7 a2 39.h8Q a1Q 40.Kxf5 is awkward for Black.) 34.g5 fxg5 35.hxg5 a4 36.g6 a3 37.g7 a2 38.g8Q a1Q 39.Qxe6+ Kc2 40.Kg5 Qd4=

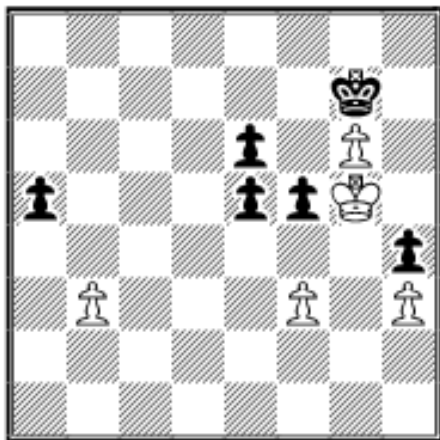
30...f5 31.Kxh4 Kf6 32.Kh5 e4 33.fxe4 f4 34.g5+ Kg7 35.Kg4 e5 36.h4 Kg6 37.h5+ Kg7 38.g6 Kh6 39.Kh4 Kg7= as 40.Kg5?? f3 41.h6+ Kg8 42.Kf6 f2 43.h7+ Kh8 44.Kf7 f1Q+--+ even loses.

**31.Kh6 Kf8!?**

sets a trap **32.Kg6**

32.g5?? overpresses: 32...Kf7 33.Kh5 f5

**A)** 34.g6+ Kg7 35.Kg5



**A1)** 35...e4? is the wrong way to do it: 36.fxe4 fxe4

**A1a)** 37.Kf4? Kxg6 38.Kxe4 Kf6 39.Kf4 e5+ 40.Kg4 e4 41.Kf4 (41.Kxh4 Ke5 42.Kg3 Kd4 43.Kf2 Kc3 44.h4 Kd2--+ ) 41...e3 42.Kxe3 Ke5--+

**A1b)** 37.Kxh4 Kxg6 38.Kg4 e5 39.Kg3 Kh5 40.Kf2 Kh4 41.Ke3 Kxh3 42.Kxe4 Kg3 43.Kxe5

Kf3=

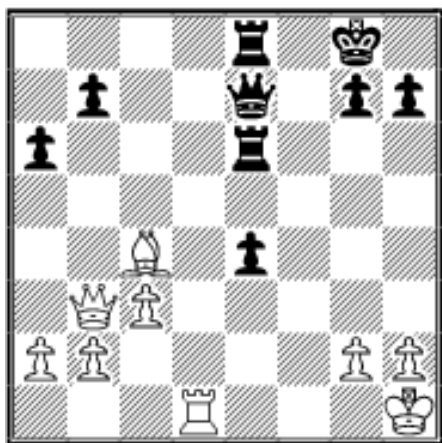
A2) 35...f4 36.Kxh4 Kxg6 37.Kg4 Kf6--+

B) 34.Kh6 Kg8 35.Kh5 Kh7 36.g6+ Kg7 37.Kg5 f4 38.Kxh4 Kxg6 39.Kg4 Kf6 40.h4 Kg6 41.h5+ Kf6 42.Kh4 Kf5--+

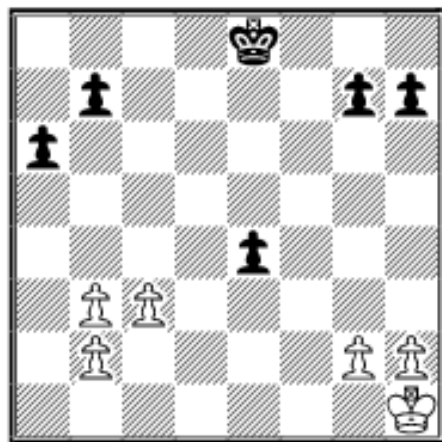
32...Ke7 33.Kh5 Kf7 34.Kxh4 Kg6 35.Kg3 f5 36.h4 f4+ 37.Kf2 e4 38.fxe4 e5 39.Kf3 Kh6 40.Kg2 Kg6 41.g5 Kh5 42.Kf3 Kg6 43.Kg4 Kh7 44.h5 Kg7 45.g6  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

I want to end this column with two misguided simplifications into pawn endings and several exercises:

### 31.03 M.Müller (2153) - W.Hajenius (2018) 19th Open Bad Wörishofen



White did not analyse the resulting pawn endgame carefully: **26.Bxe6+?** 26.Qb6 Kf8 27.Bxe6 Qxe6 28.Qxe6 Rxe6 29.Kg1= was called for. **26...Qxe6 27.Rd8? Qxb3 28.Rxe8+ Kf7 29.axb3 Kxe8**



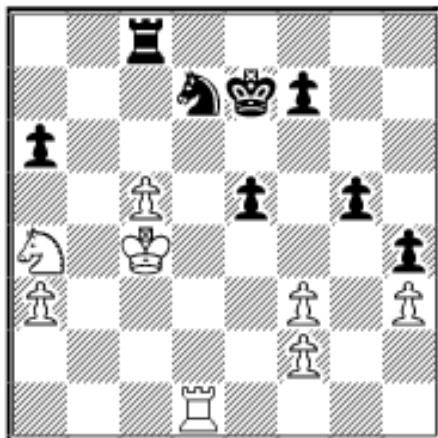
Black is winning as White's queenside majority can't produce a passed pawn on its own: **30.Kg1 Ke7 31.Kf2 Ke6 32.Ke3 Ke5 33.c4**

33.b4 Kf5 34.g3 (34.c4 h5 35.g3 h4--+) 34...h5 35.h3 (35.b3 h4 36.gxh4 g6 37.c4 Ke5--+; 35.Kd4 h4 36.Ke3 hxg3 37.hxg3 g5 38.Kf2 Kg4--+) 35...Ke5 36.Kf2 (36.h4 Kf5

37.c4 Kg4--+) 36...h4--+

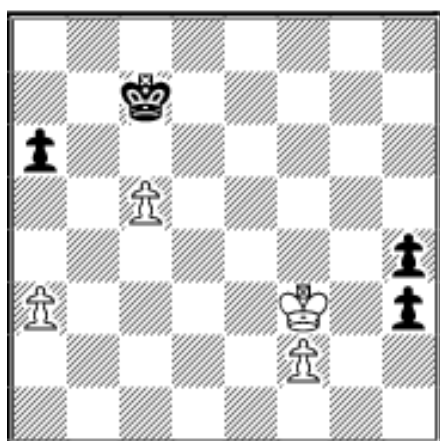
33...a5 34.g3 g6 35.h3 h6 36.g4 g5 0-1

### 31.04 S.Brynell (2534) - T.Hellborg (2240) Tch-SWE 2002/2003



Brynell simplified with **49.Rxd7+?** 49.Rd2 was called for. **49...Kxd7 50.Nb6+ Kc7 51.Nxc8 Kxc8 52.Kd5** and was probably waiting for his opponent to resign. But a horrible shock awaited him: **52...f5! 53.f4**

**53.Kxe5 g4! 54.fxg4 fxg4 55.Kf4 gxh3 56.Kf3 Kc7**

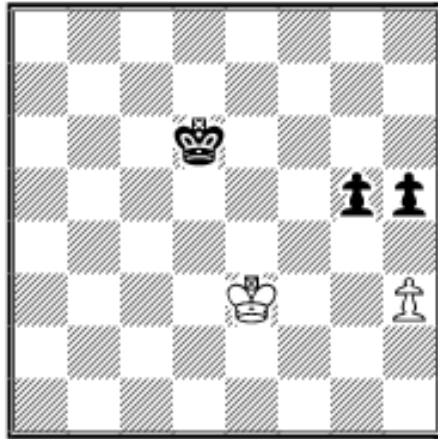


and White will fall into zugzwang sooner or later. **53...exf4 54.Ke5 g4 55.hxg4 h3 0-1**

#### Sources:

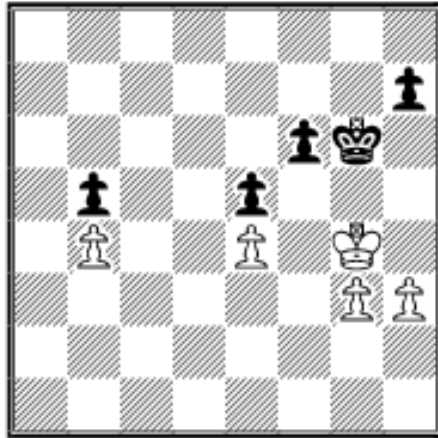
- *Fundamental Chess Endings*, Karsten Müller and Frank Lamprecht, GAMBIT 2001
- ChessBase MEGABASE 2003
- *The Week in Chess*, weekly internet chess magazine edited by Marc Crowther
- *Chess Today* #692, daily internet newspaper by A.Baburin et al.
- *Die Endspiel Universität*, Mark Dvoretsky, Chess Gate 2002 (in German). Mark's excellent and extremely instructive work will soon appear in English.

**Exercises (Solutions next month)**



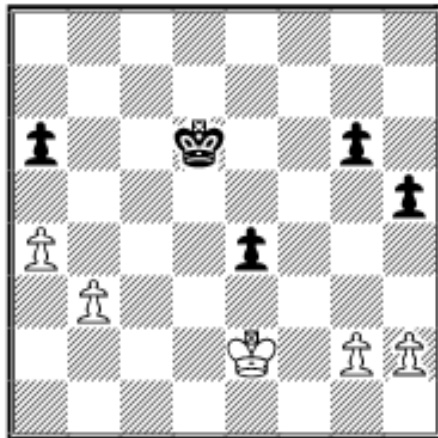
**E 31.01 *S.Collins* (2313) - *A.Goloshchapov* (2544) Monarch Assurance International Port Erin 2002**

White to move and draw



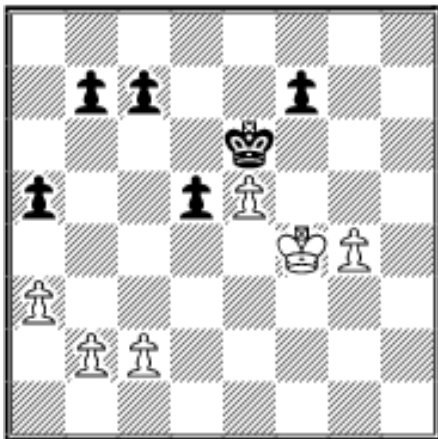
**E 31.02 *A.Donchenko* (2463) - *A.Rotstein* (2544) 19th Open Bad Wörishofen 2003**

Black to move and draw



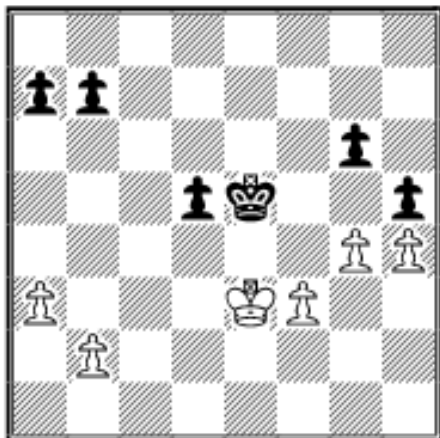
**E 31.03 *V.Golod* (2532) - *S.Cicak* (2526) IV Dos Hermanas Internet Final ICC 2003**

How to asses the position with White to move and how with Black to move?



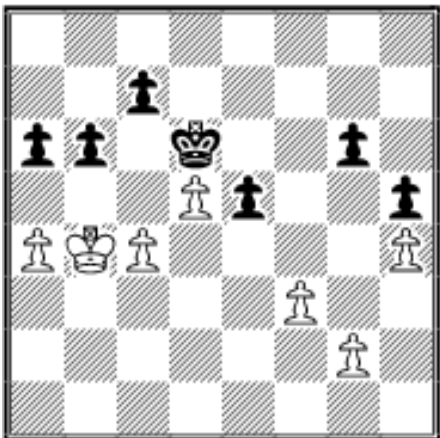
**E 31.04 *O.Korneev* (2551) - *I.Argandona Rivero* (2284) Elgoibar 2002**

Black to move and win



**E 31.05 W.Paschall (2444) - B.Finegold (2551) USA-ch Seattle 2003**

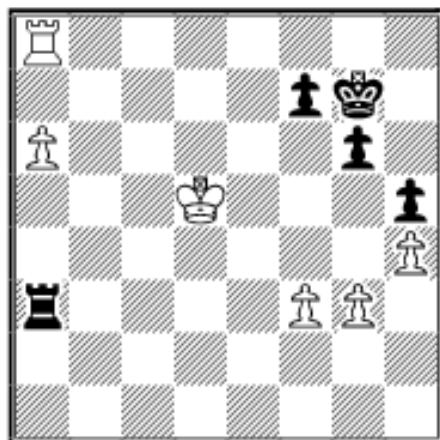
How to assess the position with White to move?



**E 31.06 J.van der Wiel (2509) - J.Hector (2570) Corus-B Wijk aan Zee 2003**

White played a4-a5. Did he manage to draw?

### Solution to last month exercise



**E30.01 K.Lerner (2495) - J.Dorfman (2540) URS-FL Tashkent 1980**

**60...Rxf3?** too greedy. **60...Kf6!** was called for, e.g. **61.Kc6 Rxf3 62.Rb8 Ra3 63.Rb6 Kf5 64.Kb7 Kg4 65.a7 Rxa7+ 66.Kxa7 Kxg3 67.Rb4 f6=** (Dvoretzky in *Die Endspiel-Universität*) **61.Rb8 Ra3 62.Rb6 Rxf3**

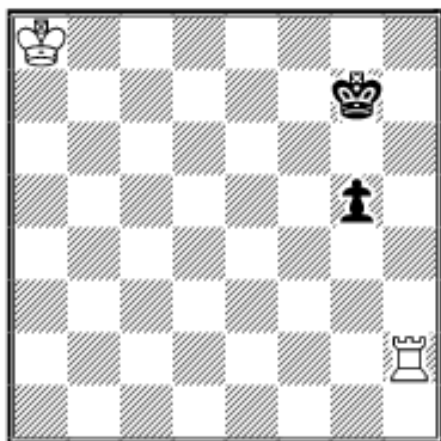
**62...f6 63.Kc6 g5 64.Kb7 Kg6 65.a7 Rxa7+ 66.Kxa7 Kf5 67.Rb4+-; 62...Re3 63.Kc6 Re7 64.Rb3 Re6+ 65.Kb7 Re7+ 66.Ka8 g5 67.hxg5 Kg6 68.a7 Kxg5 69.Kb8 Kg4 (69...f5 70.Rb4+-) 70.Rc3 (70.a8Q? Re8+ 71.Kb7 Rxa8 72.Kxa8 f5=) 70...Rxa7 71.Kxa7 f5 72.Kb6 f4 73.gxf4 Kxf4 74.Kc5 h4 75.Kd4 Kg4 76.Ke3 Kg3 77.Rc8 h3 78.Rg8+ Kh2 79.Kf2 Kh1 80.Kg3**

h2 81.Ra8+-

**63.Kc6 Ra3**

63...g5 64.hxg5 Rxg5 65.a7 Ra5 66.Kb7 Rxa7+ 67.Kxa7 f6  
 68.Rb4 Kg6 69.Kb6 Kg5 70.Kc5 h4 71.Kd4 Kg4 72.Ke3+ Kg3  
 73.Rb8+-

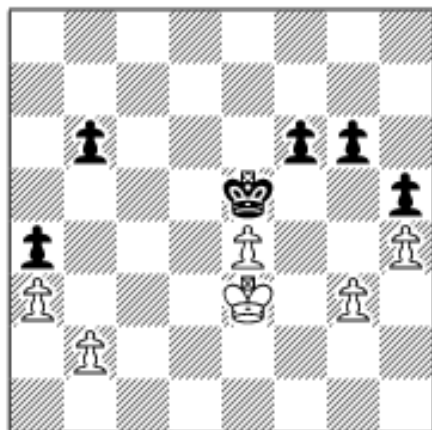
**64.Kb7 g5** (64...f6 65.a7 Rxa7+ 66.Kxa7 g5 67.Rb4 Kg6 68.Kb6  
 Kf5 69.Kc5 g4 70.Kd4 Kf4 71.Rb6 f5 72.Rh6+-) **65.hxg5 h4**  
**66.a7 h3 67.a8Q Rxa8 68.Kxa8 h2 69.Rh6 f6 70.Rxh2 fxg5**



and now Lerner uncorked the amazing **71.Rf2!!** to avoid nasty bodychecks. The automatic 71.Kb7? is met by 71...Kf6! 72.Kc6 Ke5!= **71...Kh6 72.Kb7** (72.Rf5? Kh5 (72...g4? 73.Rc5+- as Black's king is cut off on the fifth rank) 73.Kb7 Kh4!)=) **72...g4 73.Kc6 Kg5 74.Kd5 g3 75.Rf8 Kg4 76.Ke4 1-0**

**Addendum**

I have already dealt with the famous pawn ending Hans Ree vs Lubomir Ftacnik, Kiev 1978 in Endgame Corner 10 and 25 (see the [ChessCafe Archives](#)). I quote EC 25 first to remind you of the fascinating breakthrough:



Dr. Lubomir Ftacnik chose **1...g5??** and lost after the brilliant refutation **2.g4!+-**. In Endgame Corner 10 I proved together with Mark Dvoretsky that Black can win after 1...Kd6 using the technique of corresponding squares. Mark has kindly informed me about the following easier win: "Later

on in Averbakh's endgame book I found another, simpler solution (discovered by K. Vinokurov from Kiev - perhaps he is an amateur): **1...f5! 2.exf5 Kxf5 3.Kf3 g5! 4.hxg5 Kxg5 5.Kg2 Kg4! 6.Kf2 Kh3 7.Kf3 b5! 8.Kf2 Kh2 9.Kf3 Kg1-+ or 5.Kf2 Kf5! 6.Kf3 (6.Ke3 Kg4) 6...Ke5 7.Ke3 b5! 8.Kd3 (8.Kf3 Kd4) 8...Kd5 9.Kc3 Ke4-+."**

I asked Hans Ree what he thought about all this and he has kindly given permission to publish his response, indicating that Rob Nio Bertholée had discovered the win based on the triangulation process much earlier:

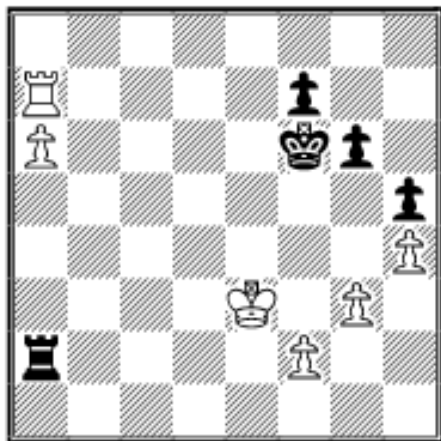
Hello Karsten Müller:

I have not checked all your lines yet, but I think your analysis is correct and White was lost. The reason I think so is that some years ago I received a letter from the Dutch player Rob Nio Bertholée who pointed out the same triangulation process as you did and analysed the position to a Black win. I would have liked to refute his analysis but I couldn't.

So I won this game thanks to my bad analysis. It was adjourned with the heavy pieces still on the board. I analysed the pawn ending, did not see this triangulation and so happily exchanged the heavy pieces, thinking I had a draw. If I had analysed correctly I would have hung on with rooks and queen and probably have lost.

I included the ending in my book *The Human Comedy of Chess*. I should have corrected this, but I didn't think of it, probably having filed this unwelcome letter by Bertholée deep down in my subconscious. One can run from the truth, but finally not escape. Best Wishes, Hans Ree

Johannes Steckner (Switzerland) has made a great discovery in the Kantorovich position (30.02), which changes the whole picture. Like Dautov's winning line in 30.01 (see Endgame Corner 30 in the [ChessCafe Archives](#)) it shows, that the winning chances of the superior side are larger than previously thought:



The position in Kantorovich's study (30.02) from 1989 occurred in the game Tal-Gipslis 1983. Tal played 1.Ra8 and agreed a draw after 2 more moves. I would like to show now that the position has been wrongly estimated until now, as it is won for White: 1.Kd4! Rxf2 2.Rc7 Ra2 3.a7 Kf5 4.Kc4!! (Kantorovich gives only 4.Rxf7+ and ends with =) 4...Kg4 5.Kb3! Ra5, and we have reached the game Gurevich,M-Glek,I, Vlissingen 2002, which was won by White instructively: 6.Rc4+! Kxg3 7.Ra4 Rxa7 8.Rxa7 Kxh4 9.Kc3! Kg3 10.Kd2! g5 11.Rxf7,

etc.

If this is correct then Black should avoid the Kantorovich position as it is probably also lost with Black to move, e.g., 1...g5 2.Kd4! gxh4 3.gxh4 Ra5 (3...Rxf2 4.Rc7 Ra2 5.a7+-) 4.Kc4 Ke6 (4...Ke5 5.Kb4 Ra2 6.f4+!) 5.Kb4 Ra2 6.Kc5+-. But this requires further investigation.

For a safe draw, Black should play 1...g5 in time instead, when White has the set up Pa5, Ra7: 2.hxg5 (2.Kd4 gxh4 3.gxh4 Rxf2=) 2...Kxg5 3.a6 Kg4=. So Black's defence is even more difficult than originally thought."

Mark Dvoretzky found further defensive resources, but Steckner managed to deal with them:

"1.Kd4 Rxf2 2.Rc7 Ra2 3.a7 Kf5 4.Kc4!

A) 4...Kg4 5.Kb3+- as we have already seen.

B) 4...Ra1 (Dvoretzky,M) 5.Kb5! Rb1+ 6.Kc6 Ra1 7.Kb7 Rb1+ 8.Kc8 Ra1 9.Rxf7+! (9.Kb8? Kg4 10.Rxf7 Kxg3 11.Rf6 Kxh4 12.Rxg6 Kh3 13.Kb7 Txa7+ 14.Kxa7 h4=) Kg4 10.Rg7 Kxg3 (10...Kh3 11.Kb8+-) 11.Rxg6+ Kxh4 12.Kb7! The difference, saving an important tempo (12.Kb8? Kh3= would transpose to the line 9.Kb8 ...) 12...Rxa7+ 13.Kxa7 Kh3 14.Kb6+-

C) 4...f6!? (Dvoretzky,M) The most interesting try. 5.Kb5! Rb2+ 6.Kc6 Ra2 7.Kb7 Rb2+ 8.Kc8 Ra2 9.Rg7! (9.Kb8? Kg4 10.Rc6 Kxg3 11.Rxf6 Kxh4 12.Rxg6 Kh3=) and I do not see how Black can save himself:

C1) 9...Kg4 10.Rxg6+ Kh3 11.Rg7 Ra3 (11...f5 12.Kb8 Rb3+ 13.Rb7 Ra2/Re2 both rook moves can be answered by 14.a8Q or 14.Rb3, winning in both cases) 12.Kb8 Rb3+ 13.Rb7 Rxg3 14.Kc7! Ra3 15.Rb3+.

C2) 9...g5!? 10.Kb8 gxh4 (10...Rb2+ 11.Rb7 Ra2 12.a8Q Rxa8 13.Kxa8 Kg4 14.Rg7!+-; 10...Kg4 11.a8Q Rxa8 12.Kxa8+-) 11.gxh4 Ke4 12.a8Q Rxa8 13.Kxa8 f5 14.Rg5+-

C3) 9...Ra1 10.Kb8+-"

Amazing!

After studying the Postscript to Endgame Corner 30 GM Yannick Pelletier (Switzerland) managed to confirm independently that Steckner is right. His analysis varies only very slightly from Steckner's lines above.

Mark Dvoretzky now even agrees that the Black to move case of the Kantorovich position (30.02) is lost as well as claimed by Steckner (!!):

"...1...Ke5 - White replies 2.Kd3! Rxf2 3.Re7+! Kf6 4.a7 Ra2 (after 4...Kxe7 5.a8Q Rf5 Black would make a draw with his king at g7, but with king at e7 it should be lost - I considered it in the book - see Dorfman - Beliavsky) 5.Rc7 Kf5 6.Kc4! - again with Steckner's position."

Steckner's latest analysis on the Black to move case of the Kantorovich position (30.02) runs:

"The Kantorovich position appears to be winning for White even with Black to move. I am not yet completely sure about everything, because the variations are complex and some important lines are decided by highly clever subtleties.

A)1...Ke5!? seems to be the best try. 2.Kd3! and now:

A1) 2....Kd5 3.Kc3 Rxf2 (3....Kc5 4.Kb3) 4.Rc7 Ra2 5.a7 f6 (5....Kd6 6.Rxf7 Kc5 7.Kd3 Kd5 see line A2c after 5....Kd5) 6.Kb4 Kd6 (6....Ke6 7.Kb5+-) 7.Rg7! (7.Rf7? Ke6 9.Rg7 Kf5=) Kc6 (7....Ke6 8.Kb5+-) 8.Rf7! (8.Rxg6? Rxa7 9.Rxf6+ Kd5=) f5 9.Rg7 Kb6 10.Kc4+-

A2) 2....Rxf2 3.Re7+!

A2a) 3....Kf6 After this White is winning as Mark Dvoretzky points out: 4.a7 Ra2 (4...Kxe7 5.a8Q+-, would be draw with Kg7 instead of Ke7) 5.Rc7 Kf5 6.Kc4! leading to the key line 4.Kc4! in the Kantorovich position with White to move.

A2b) 3....Kd5!? 4.a7 Ra2 5.Kc3 (5.Rxf7?! Ra3+ and I don't see a clear win but I'm not sure) f6 (5....Kc5 6.Kb3 Ra1 7.Rxf7+-) 6.Kb4 Kd6 (6....Kc6 7.Rf7!+-) 7.Rg7!+- see line A1.

A2c) 3....Kd6!? 4.a7 Ra2 5.Rxf7 Kd5 (5....Ra4 6.Rg7+-) This position can arise in various lines, but it is lost for Black: 6.Rd7+ Kc6 7.Rg7 Kd5 8.Rxg6 Ra3+ (8....Rxa7 9.Ke3 see below) 9.Ke2 Rxa7 (9....Ke4 10.Re6+ and 11.Re7+-) 10.Ke3 Rh7 11.Kf4 Rh8 and now both 12.Rf6! and 12.Kf5! are winning.

A3) 2....f6 3.Ra8 Kf5 (3....Ra4 4.f3! (4.Kc3 Ke4!?) Ke6 (4....Kf5 5.a7!+-)5.Kc3+-) 4.a7 (not 4.f3? Ra3+ 5.Kc4 Rxf3 6.Kb4 Rf1 and Black's counterplay is just in time) Kg4 5.Rg8 Rxa7 6.Rxg6+ Kf5 7.Rh6+-

A4) 2....f5 3.Ra8 Kd5 4.Ke3+-

B) 1...Ke6 2.Kd4!

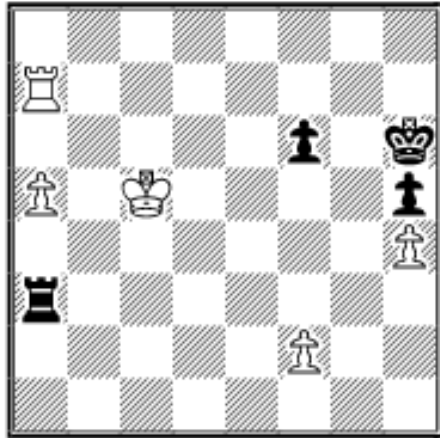
B1) 2....Rxf2 3.Rc7 Ra2 4.a7 and now both 4....Kf5 5.Kc4!+- and 4....f6 5.Kc5 Kf5 5.Kb5+- are known from the Kantorovich position with White to move.

B2) 2....f6!? 3.Kc5 Kf5 4.f3! (4.Ra8 Kg4; 4.Kb6 Rb2+) Ra3 5.Kb4 Rxf3 (5....Ra1 6.Ra8) 6.Rb7+- B3) 2....f5 3.Ra8! (threat 4.a7) Kf7 4.f4! and the white King heads to a7, +-.

C) 1....g5!? 2.Kd4! gxh4 3.gxh4 Ra5 (3....Ke6 4.Kc5) 4.Kc4 Ke5!? 5.Kb4 Ra2 6.f4+!! Finally winning an important tempo, as we will see (6.Kb5? Rb2+ 7.Kc6 Rc2+ 8.Kb6 Rb2+ 9.Kc7 Ra2 10.Ra8 Kf4 11.Kb7 Rb2+ 12.Ka7 f5 and Black's

counterplay is in time) Ke6 (6...Kd5 and 6....Kf6 is virtually the same; 6...Ke4 7.Re7+ and 6...Kxf4 7.Rxf7+ lose faster)  
 7.Kb5 Rb2+ 8.Kc6 Rc2+ 9.Kb6 Rb2+ 10.Kc7 Ra2 11.Ra8 Kf5 11.Kb7 Rb2+  
 12.Ka7 Kxf4 Compared to the line 6.Kb5, Black is a tempo down but a pawn up.  
 But here the pawn is not important, the tempo decides the day for White: 13.Rb8  
 Ra2 14.Rb5 f5 15.Kb6+-"

Steckner also refuted my analysis in 30.03:



"In your notes on rook endgame, position 30.03 Akopian-Georgiev 1999, it is claimed that 12...Kg6 (in the game 43...Kg6) would have drawn. To support this claim, only 13.Kb4 is investigated. I would like to show now that the obvious 13.a6 wins: 13...Ra2 (13...Kf5 14.Kb5!, with the idea Rc7 +-) Black is a tempo up compared to the game, but this does not save him: 14.Ra8 Kf5 15.Kb6 Rb2+ (15...Rxf2 16.Rb8 Rb2+ 17.Ka7! Re2 see below) 16.Ka7 Rxf2 17.Rb8 Re2 (17...Rf4 18.Rb5+ Kg4 19.Kb6+-; 17...Kg4 18.Rb4+ Kg3 19.Kb6 Ra2 20.Kb5+-; 17...Ra2 18.Rb4+-) 18.Rb4! Re7+ 19.Kb6 Re6+ 20.Ka5 Re7 21.Rb7 Re8 22.a7 Ra8 23.Ka6+-. If this wins, then 7...Ra3+ (38...Ra3+ in the game) was the decisive mistake, which should have been replaced by 7....f6!=""

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