



C O L U M N I S T S

Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller

Shirov's Surprises

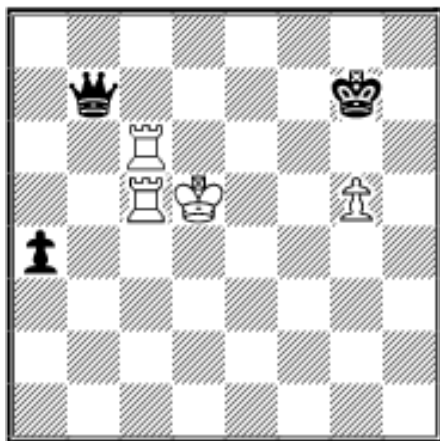
Part 2

Alexei Shirov is a very creative player who often gets highly unbalanced positions and is capable of finding the most amazing solutions. As his outstanding autobiography *Fire on Board* covers his career until 1997 I decided to concentrate on his recent games (for the first part see the **ChessCafe Archives**):

A mighty Queen

33.01 A.Morozevich (2678) - A.Shirov (2723) Amber Rapid Monte Carlo 2003

The rooks have great problems dealing with Black's dangerous a-pawn: **95...a3 96.Kc4?**

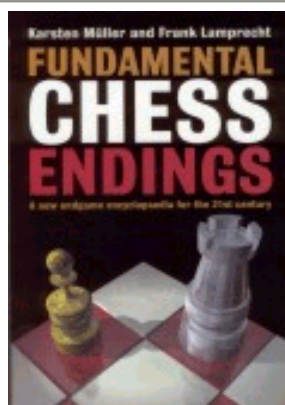


96.Kd6 was White's last chance to save the game, e.g. 96...Qb8+ 97.Rc7+ Kg6 98.Kd7 Qb4 99.Rd5 Qg4+ 100.Kd8 Qa4 101.Rd6+ Kxg5 102.Rc1 a2 103.Rdd1=

96...Qf7+ 97.Kc3 Qf3+ 98.Kb4

98.Kc2 Qe2+ 99.Kc3 Qb2+ 100.Kc4 a2 101.Rc7+ Kg6
102.R7c6+ Kh5 103.g6+ Kg4+

98...a2 99.Rc7+ Kf8 100.Ra7 (100.Rc8+ Ke7 101.R8c7+ Kd6+) **100...Qe4+ 101.Kc3 Qe3+ 102.Kc4 Qc1+ 103.Kd5**



Order

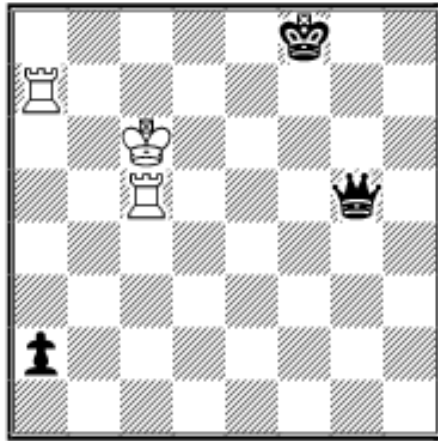
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[Endings](#)

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

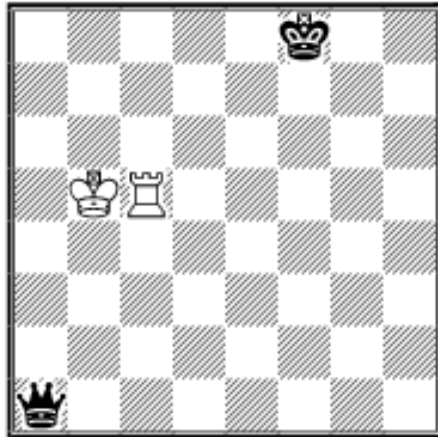


Qxg5+ 104.Kc6



104...a1Q!? I guess that this caught Morozevich by surprise **105.Rxg5**

105.Rxa1!? Qf6+ 106.Kb5 Qxa1



and White has established a third rank defence on the c-file, which is not so easy to break down; Nunn devoted no less than 8 examples to it (see *Secrets of Pawnless Endings* 78-85 on p.57-62).

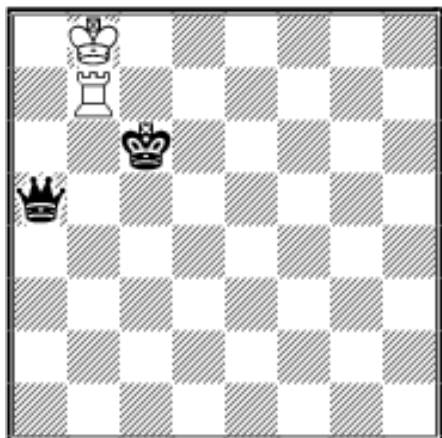
105...Qf6+ 106.Kd7 Qxg5 107.Rc7?!?

107.Kc6 was more tenacious, e.g.

107...Qg2+ 108.Kb5 Qd5+ 109.Kb6 Qd4+ 110.Ka6 Ke8 111.Rb7
 (111.Rc7 Kd8 112.Rc6 Kd7-+) 111...Kd8 112.Ka5 Qa1+
 113.Kb5 Qa8 114.Kb6 Qc8 115.Ka6 Qc6+ 116.Ka7 Qc4
 117.Rb8+ Kc7 118.Rb7+ Kc6 119.Rb6+ Kc5-+

107...Qd5+ 108.Kc8 Ke8 109.Kb8 Kd8 110.Rc8+ Kd7

111.Rc7+ Kd6 112.Rg7 the rook won't be able to get back to its king. But 112.Rb7 does not help as well as Black will reach Philidor's position: 112...Kc6 113.Ka8 Qg5 114.Kb8 (114.Ka7 Qd8) 114...Qa5

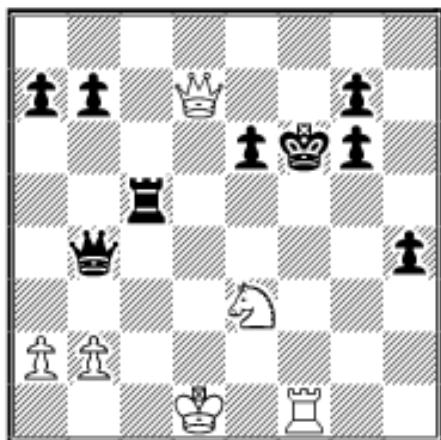


and the rook will very soon perish.

112...Kc6 113.Rg6+ Kb5 114.Kc7 Qf7+ 0-1

Rolling Pawns

33.02 A.Grischuk (2702) - A.Shirov (2697) Russia vs. Rest of the World, Moscow 2002



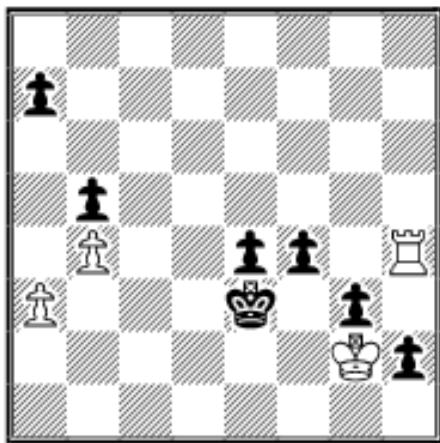
42...Rf5! 43.Nxf5 gxf5 44.Qd2?

44.Rg1 g6 45.Qd8+ was much better. White is at least not worse.

44...Qxd2+ 45.Kxd2 g5 White is on the verge of an abyss now. **46.Ke2?** Now the wave of pawns is unstoppable

46.Rh1 was called for. I can't say if this saves White, but I did not manage to find a way to win, e.g. 46...f4 47.Ke2 e5 48.b4 b5 (48...Kf5 49.b5 e4 50.Kf2 e3+ 51.Ke2 Ke4 52.Rh3) 49.Kd3 (49.a4? bxa4 50.Ra1 h3 51.Rxa4 g4 52.Rxa7 h2 53.Rh7 g3 54.Kf3 e4+-) 49...Kf5 50.Rh2 e4+ 51.Kd4 e3 52.Kd3 and I don't see a way for Black to make progress in either case. But I am not completely sure. There may be surprises lurking...

46...g4 47.Rc1 (47.Kf2 f4 48.Kg2 h3+ 49.Kh2 e5+-) **47...h3 48.Kf2** (48.Rc7 h2 49.Rh7 g3 50.Kf3 f4 51.Kg2 e5 52.Rxb7 f3+-) **48...f4 49.Rc7 g3+ 50.Kf3 h2 51.Rh7** (51.Rc1 e5 52.Kg2 e4 53.Re1 Ke5 54.Rd1 e3 55.Kf3 e2 56.Re1 Kd4+-) **51...e5 52.Rh6+** (52.Kg2 e4 53.b4 e3 54.Kf3 e2 55.Kxe2 g2+-) **52...Kg5 53.Rh8 e4+ 54.Kg2** (54.Kxe4 g2+-) **54...Kf5 55.Rf8+ Ke5 56.Rh8** (56.Rf7 f3+ 57.Kh1 f2 58.Kg2 e3+-) **56...Kd4 57.Rh4**

Ke3 58.b4 b5 59.a3

59...a6! Zugzwang is a surprisingly sharp weapon!

Neither 59...f3+? 60.Kxg3 f2 61.Kg2 Ke2 62.Rxe4+ Kd1 63.Rf4 Ke1=

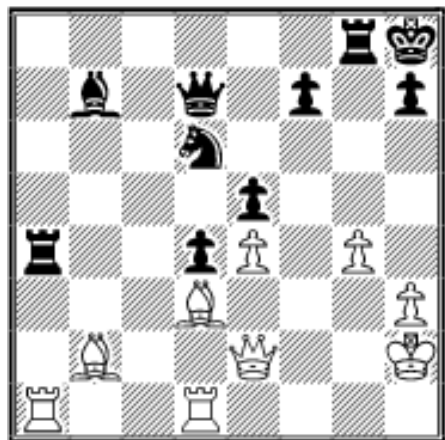
nor 59...Kd2? 60.Rxf4 e3 61.Rd4+ Kc2 62.Re4 Kd3 63.Re7 e2 64.Re8=

60.Rh8 f3+ 61.Kxg3 f2 62.Kg2 Ke2

0-1

33.03 A.Shirov (2695) - M.Kazhgaleyev (2600) 6th Corsica Masters, Bastia 2002

I immediately saved this game in my Endgame Corner database after reading *Chess Today* 735: "This game attracted my attention after it was mentioned in N.Vlassov's Corcisa report at the Worldchessrating.ru site and I decided that it deserved even wider coverage and detailed explanations" (M.Golubev in *Chess Today* 735). I could not agree more:



32.Bb5!! the start of a brilliant combination. Shirov had to calculate to the 3P vs B+P endgame and make sure that he could hold it. Amazing!
32...Nxb5 33.Rxa4 Nc3 34.Bxc3 Qxa4 35.Qf2! Qc6

I 35...Re8 36.Qf6+ Kg8 37.Rxd4

A) 37...Qc2+ 38.Kg1 Qc1+ (38...Qxc3 39.Qg5+ Kf8 40.Qh6+=) 39.Kf2=

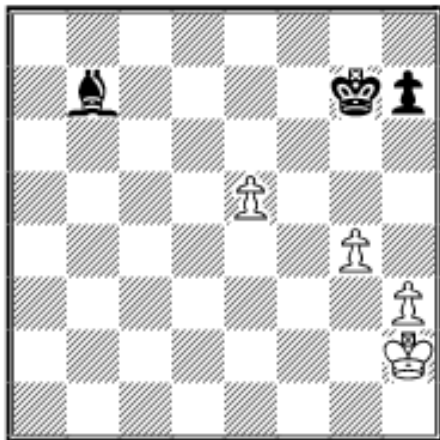
B) 37...exd4 38.Bxd4 Qc2+ 39.Kg1 Qc1+ 40.Kf2 Qd2+ 41.Kg3 Qe1+ 42.Kh2=

II 35...Qxd1 36.Qf6+ Rg7 37.Qd8+ with perpetual check.

36.Rxd4!

"36.Qxf7? is the wrong way: 36...dxc3 37.Rd7 Qh6! 38.Qf5 (38.Rxb7 Rf8–+) 38...Qf4+! 39.Qxf4 exf4 40.Rxb7 Rc8 41.Rb1 c2 42.Rc1 Kg7–+ , followed by Kf6, Ke5 and Black wins."
(Golubev)

36...exd4 37.Qxd4+ f6 38.Qxf6+ Qxf6 39.Bxf6+ Rg7 40.e5 Kg8 41.Bxg7 Kxg7



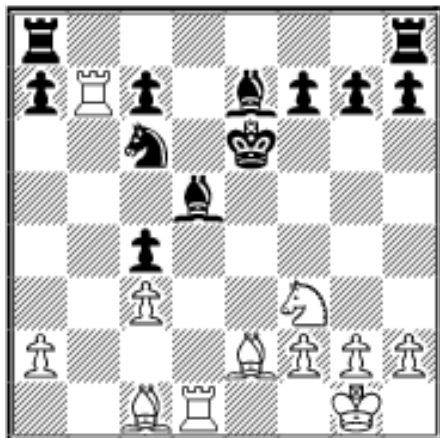
Black's remaining winning potential is too small to win: **42.Kg3 Bc8 43.Kf4 Kg6 44.h4 Be6 45.Kg3 Bb3 46.Kf4 Bc2 47.Kg3 Kf7 48.Kf4 Ke6 49.Kg5 Kxe5 50.h5 Ke6 51.Kh6 Kf6 52.g5+ 1/2–1/2**

33.04 A.Shirov (2723) - E.Bacrot (2671) [C42] Hrokurinn Reykjavic 2003

The next game features another combination to reach a winning endgame: **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0–0 Be7 8.c4 Nb4 9.Be2 Be6 10.Qa4+ An interesting novelty 10...Qd7 11.Qxd7+ Kxd7 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Nc6 14.Rb1 dxc4!**



It seems Bacrot has solved his opening problems. But Alexei always fights for the initiative at almost any price: **15.d5!?** (15.Rxb7 Rhb8= ist not dangerous for Black and quite easy to play.) **15...Bxd5 16.Rd1 Ke6 17.Rxb7**



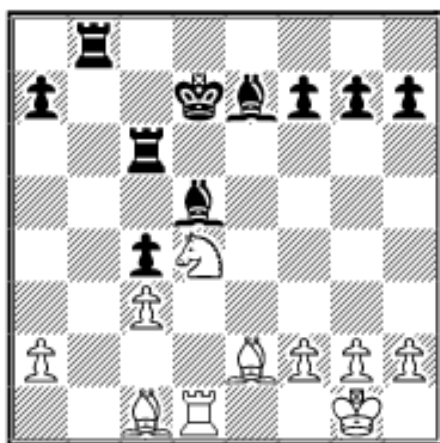
17...Rab8?

17...Rhd8 18.Rxc7 Rac8= (Macieja in *Schach* 4/2003) was called for.

18.Rxc7 Rhc8 19.Rxc6+! Rxc6

19...Bxc6 20.Bxc4+ Kf5 21.Bd3+ Ke6 22.Re1+ Kd7 23.Bf5+ Kd8 24.Ne5±

20.Nd4+ Kd7



and now comes the real brilliant point of Shirov's combination: **21.Nf5!!**

Rb1?! (21...Rb5 22.Ne3 Rd6 23.Ba3 Bf3 24.Bxf3 Rxd1+ 25.Bxd1 Bxa3 26.Ba4 a6 27.Nxc4± (Macieja))

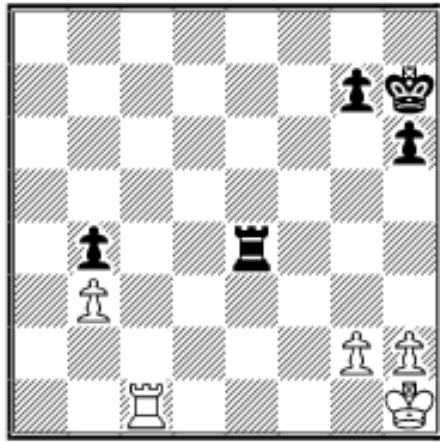
22.Nxe7 Rxc1 23.Nxd5 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 with a winning endgame, which Shirov converted easily:

24...Rd6 25.Ne3 Rd3 26.Ba4+ Kd6 27.Nxc4+ Kc5 28.Ne3 Rxc3 29.Kf1

g6 30.Ke2 Kd4 31.Nc2+ Ke4 32.Bb3 f5 33.h4 f4 34.Ne1 Kf5 35.Nf3 Rc7 36.Kd3 h6 37.Kd4 g5 38.Bc4 Rd7+ 39.Bd5 Rc7 40.hxg5 hxg5 41.Be4+ Kf6 42.Ne5 Rc1 43.Nd3 Rc2 44.a4 Ra2 45.Bc6 Rc2 46.Kd5 g4 47.Nxf4 Rxf2 48.g3 Kf5 49.Bd7+ Kg5 50.Ne6+ Kh5 51.Nc5 Rf3 52.Ne4 Rd3+ 53.Ke5 Ra3 54.Be8+ 1-0

One rook ending concludes this column:

33.05 T.Radjabov (2644) - A.Shirov (2735) Bosnia GM Sarajevo 2003

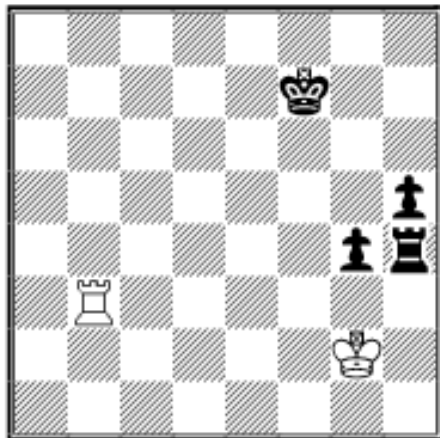


37.h3?! weakens g3, which may give Black's rook a superb outpost.

37.Kg1 Re3 38.Rc6 Rxb3 39.Rb6 Rb2 (39...h5 40.h4=) 40.h4 Kg8 41.Rb7 h5 42.Kh2 g6 43.Kg3=
(Kasimdshanow in *Schach* 7/2003)

37...Re3 38.Rc6 Rxb3 39.Rb6 g5 40.Rb7+?

40.Kh2 was called for, giving White some drawing chances, e.g. 40...h5 (40...Kg7 41.g4= (Kasimdshanow)) 41.g3 Rb2+ (41...Kg7 42.Kg2 g4 43.hxg4 hxg4 44.Kf2 Rf3+ 45.Kg2 b3 46.Rb4) 42.Kg1 Kg7 (42...b3 43.Kf1 Kg7 44.Ke1 Kf7 45.Kd1 Rh2 46.Rxb3 Rxh3 47.Ke2) 43.Kf1 Kf7 44.Ke1 Ke7 (44...Rg2 45.Rxb4 Rxg3 46.h4 g4 47.Kf2 Rh3 48.Kg2 Rxh4 49.Rb3



is a well known fortress.) 45.Rb5 g4 (45...b3 46.Rxg5 Rg2 47.Rb5 Rxg3 48.h4) 46.Rxh5 b3 47.hxg4 Rg2 48.Rb5 b2 49.Kd1 Kf6 50.Rf5+ Kg6 51.Rb5

40...Kg6 41.Rb6+ Kg7 42.Rb7+?! Kf6 43.Rb6+ Ke5 44.Rxh6 Rd3 45.Rb6 (45.Rg6 b3 46.Rxg5+ Kd4 47.Rb5 Kc3 48.Kh2 b2 49.h4 Rd4+)

45...b3 46.Rb4 (46.Rb5+ Kd4 47.Rxg5 b2 48.Rb5 Rd1+)
46...Kd5 47.Kg1 Kc5 48.Rb8 Kc4 49.Kf2 Kc3 50.Ke2 Rd2+
51.Kf3 Rd4 0-1

A deserved reward for Alexei's great fighting spirit!

Sources:

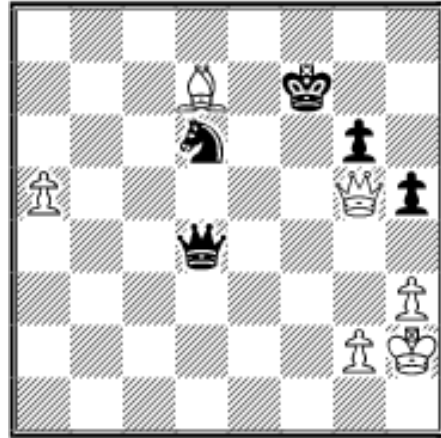
ChessBase Magazine

ChessBase MEGABASE 2003

The Week in Chess, weekly internet chess magazine edited by Mark Crowther

Chess Today, daily internet newspaper by A.Baburin et al. *Schach* 4/2003 and 7/2003, German monthly magazine
Secrets of Pawnless Endings, John Nunn, Batsford 1994
Fire on Board, Alexei Shirov, Cadogan 1997

Exercise (Solution next month)

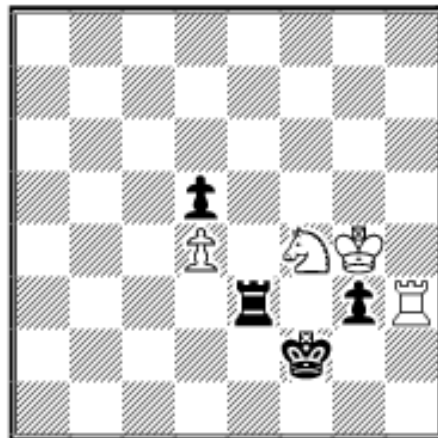


E33.01 A. Shirov (2699) - M. Kazhgaleyev (2604) 6th Corsica Masters Bastia 2002

Is there a way for Black to move to save himself?

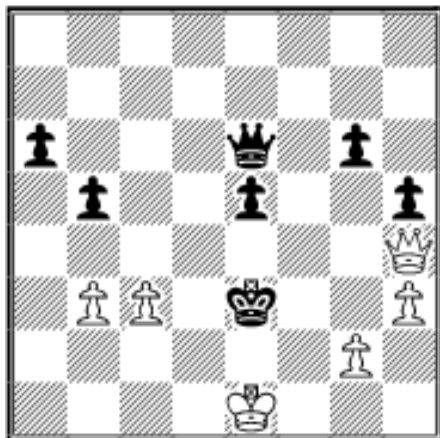
Solutions to last month exercises

E32.01 B. Gelfand (2700) - A. Shirov (2723) Amber Rapid Monte Carlo 2003



Shirov forced the draw as follows:
74...g2!? (74...Re4?! 75.Rxg3 Rxd4 76.Rg2+ Kf1 (76...Ke3?? 77.Re2#) 77.Ra2 Rc4 should draw as well, but is unnecessary risky.) **75.Nxg2** (75.Rh2 Re4 76.Rxg2+ Ke3 77.Rg3+ Kxd4=) **75...Rxh3 76.Kxh3 Kf3 77.Ne1+ Ke4 78.Nc2 Kd3** and a draw was agreed as **79.Kg4??** even loses: **79...Kxc2 80.Kf4 Kd3 81.Ke5**

Kc4—+



**E32.02 A. Shirov (2699) -
V. Mikhailevski (2524) 6th Corsica
Masters Bastia 2002**

Black resigned due to **47.Qg3+ Ke4**
48.Qf3#

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