



Bishop vs Pawns

Part 1

COLUMNISTS

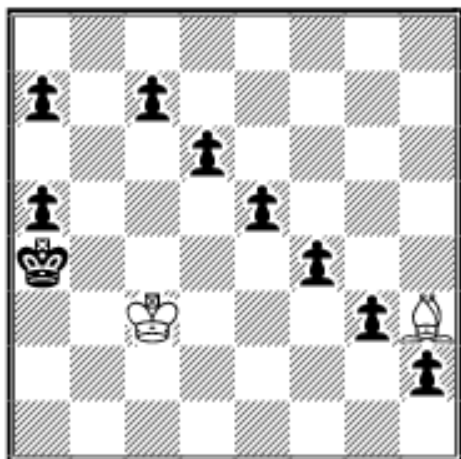
Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller

The value of the bishop as long range piece is quite high in a pure ending - especially zugzwang is a very sharp weapon. Of course sometimes it is not easy to win (or even to draw) against dangerous passed pawns in a blocked position or because of problems caused by having a wrong rook's pawn. I start with a very important theme:

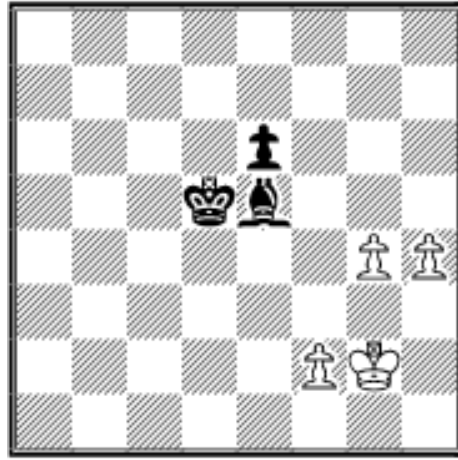
A) *The Principle of One Diagonal*

If the bishop has all its duties on one diagonal, it will never fall into zugzwang and can't be diverted. It can become a real ruler of the board and tame a hord of 8 pawns:



13.01 Loyd, 1868

**1.Bd7+ Ka3 2.Bc6 a4 3.Bh1 c5
4.Bd5 a5 5.Bh1 Ka2 6.Kc2
Ka3 7.Kc3=** Black can't make
any meaningful progress.

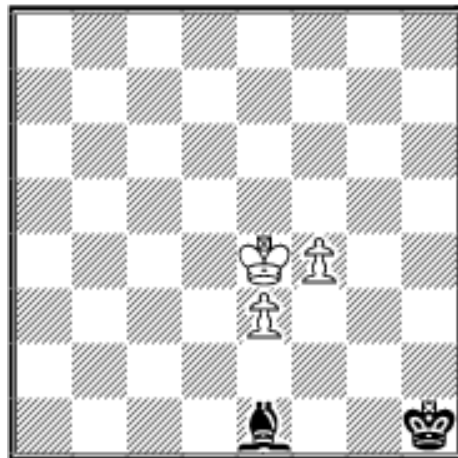


B) Pawns on One Wing/Few Pawns

13.02 Y.Pelletier (2474) - A.Galkin (2587) MTO Open Biel 2000

Black has to penetrate with his king first so as not to risk the exchange of his last pawn:

43...Ke4! 44.f3+ Ke3 45.g5 Kf4 46.Kf2 Bh8 47.Ke2
 (47.Kg2 Bd4 48.g6 Kf5 49.Kh3 Kxg6 50.Kg4 Bf6 51.h5+ Kh6 52.f4 Be7 53.f5 e5—) **47...Kg3** and Pelletier resigned due to **48.Ke3 Kxh4 49.f4 Kg4 50.Ke4 Bg7 51.Ke3 Kf5 52.Kf3 Bf8 53.Ke3 Bd6—+**



13.03 Xu Jun (2668) - A.Onichuk (2627) Tan Chin Nam Cup 6th Beijing 2000

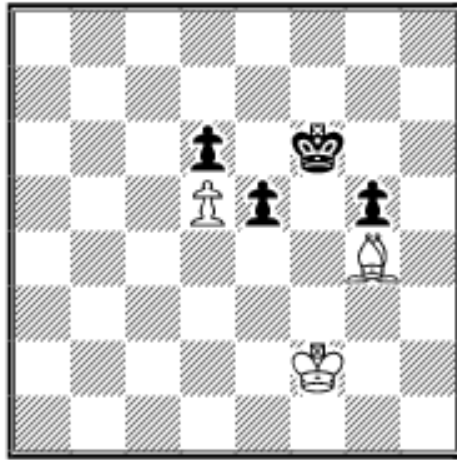
When fighting enemy pawns, the bishop is also very strong (with a knight on e1 Black would be lost): **81.Kf3 81.f5 Kg2 82.f6 Bh4**

A) 83.Kf5 Kf3 (even 83...Bxf6 is possible.) **84.f7** (84.e4 Bxf6=) **84...Be7 85.e4 Ke3!=**

B) 83.f7 Be7 84.Kf4 Kf2 85.e4 Ke2 86.e5 Kd3 87.Kf5 Kd4 88.Ke6 Bf8 89.Kf6 Kd5 90.e6 Kd6= 81...Kh2! Onichuk improves the slower king first, which is of crucial importance. After 81...Bd2? 82.e4 Kh2 White can shoulder Black's king away: **83.Kg4! Kg2 84.e5 Bc3 85.e6 Bf6 86.f5 Kf2 87.Kh5+- 82.f5** (82.e4 Kh3 83.e5 Kh4 84.e6 Bb4=; 82.Kg4!? was worth trying as Black's king now has to take the long route through the centre: **82...Kg2 83.e4 Kf2 84.e5**

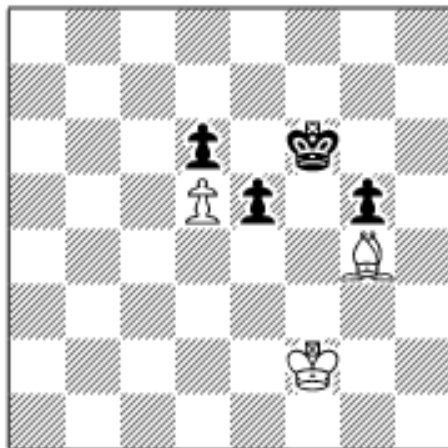
Ke3 85.f5 Bc3 (85...Ke4? 86.e6 Bb4 87.f6+-) 86.e6 Bf6
 87.Kh5 Kf4 88.Kg6 Ke5=) **82...Kh3 83.f6 Kh4 84.Kf4
 Kh5 85.Kf5 Kh6 86.e4 Kh7 87.Ke6** (87.e5 Kg8 88.e6 Bb4
 89.Kg6 Kf8=) **87...Kg6 88.e5 Bb4** 1/2–1/2

The next example is taken from Pal Benko's excellent book
Chess Endgame Lessons:



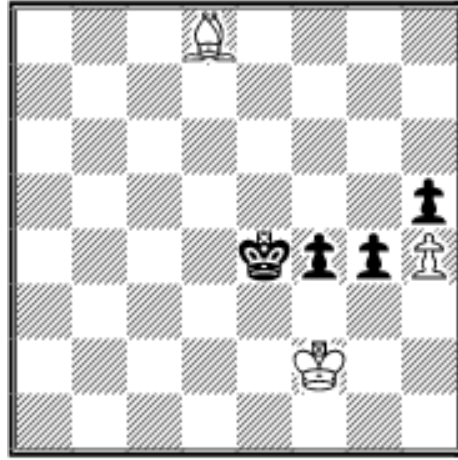
**13.04 A.Strojevs -
 M.Deschamps New York
 Open 1990**

1...e4! Otherwise Black is dead lost, e.g., 1...Kg6? 2.Kf3 Kf6 3.Ke4 Kg6 4.Be2 Kf6 5.Bh5 Kg7 6.Kf5 Kh6 7.Bf3+- **2.Be6 Ke5 3.Ke3 g4 4.Bg8 g3 5.Be6 Kf6** 5...g2 6.Kf2 Kd4 draws as well. **6.Bd7 Ke5 7.Bc6 Kf6 8.Ba4 Ke5 9.Bb3 Kf5?** A fatal error allowing White's bishop to win the e-pawn with check. 9...g2 10.Kf2 Kd4 11.Kxg2 Ke3 12.Kf1 Kd4 13.Ke2 e3 14.Kd1 Ke4 15.Ke2 Kd4= and 9...Kf6 draw. **10.Bc2! Ke5** (10...g2 11.Bxe4+-) **11.Bxe4 Kf6 12.Kf4 Ke7 13.Kxg3 1–0** In the next position the defender misses the draw again:



**13.05 K.Stefanov (2378) -
 I.Manolov (2331) TCh-BUL
 Pamporovo 2001**

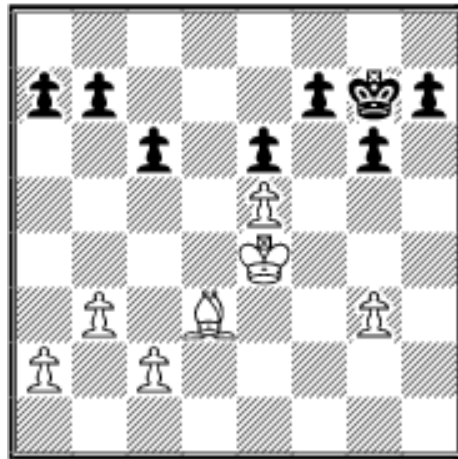
53.Kf2 sidestepping g5-g4+ **53...Ke4 54.Bd8 g4 55.h4** White has to keep his h-pawn in order to preserve his winning chances.



Black can now draw by adopting a sit-and-wait policy, but instead he rushes forward: **55...g3+? 55...Kd3 56.Bc7 Ke4** and White can't make progress as **57.Ke2 Kf5 58.Kd3** allows **58...g3=**; **55...f3** is playable as well. **56.Kg2 Ke3 57.Bb6+ Ke4 58.Ba7** By using zugzwang White forces Black to give ground: **58...Kf5 59.Kf3 g2 60.Bf2 Ke5** and Black resigned, as all his pawn's will fall prey to White's king, e.g., **61.Kxg2 Ke4 62.Bg1 f3+ 63.Kg3 Ke5 64.Kxf3 Kf5 65.Bd4 Kg6 66.Kf4 Kh6 67.Kf5 Kh7 68.Kg5+-**

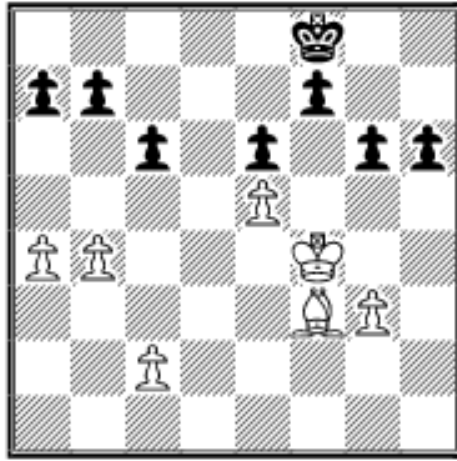
C) Blocked Positions

In positions with many pawns, the bishop sometimes has a problem finding targets:



13.06 E.Schiller (2200) - S.Nath (1742) US Open 1996

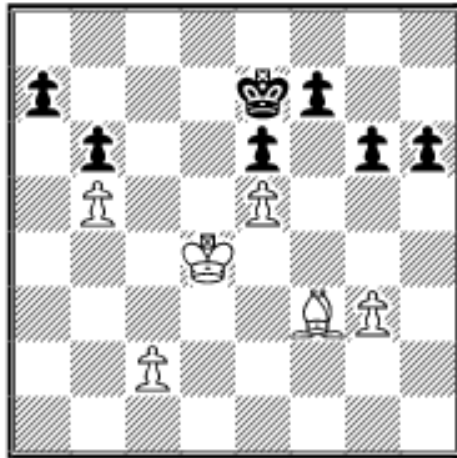
White has to be careful to prevent Black from constructing a fortress: **1...Kh6 2.Kf4 Kh5 3.Be2+ Kh6 4.b4 Kg7 5.a4 h6 6.Bf3 Kf8**



7.b5? 7.a5! a6 (7...Ke7 8.a6 bxa6 9.Bxc6+-) 8.b5 axb5 9.Bxc6+- was the right way to proceed as Pal Benko showed in *Chess Endgame Lessons*.

7...cxb5 8.axb5? Again 8.a5! was correct, e.g., 8...b6 9.axb6 axb6 10.Ke3 Ke7 11.Kd4 f6 12.exf6+ Kxf6 13.Kc3 Kf5 14.Kb4 e5 (14...Ke5 15.c3 Kd6

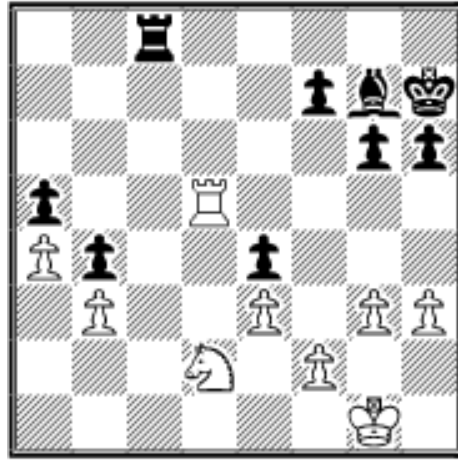
16.Kxb5 Kc7 17.c4+-) 15.Kxb5 e4 16.Be2 g5 17.Kxb6 h5 18.Bxh5 g4 19.Be8 e3 20.Bd7+ Kg5 21.Bb5 Kf5 22.Be2+- **8...b6!** Now Black's castle is watertight. **9.Ke4 Ke7 10.Kd4**



10...f5?? Opening the position proves fatal. Black has to sit inside the walls of his fortress as Pal Benko has demonstrated, e.g., 10...Kd7 11.Ke3 Ke7 12.Kf4 Kd7 13.g4 Ke7 14.g5 h5 15.Kg3 Kd7 16.Kh4 Ke7 17.Bxh5 Kd7 (17...gxh5? 18.Kxh5 Kf8 19.Kh6 Kg8 20.g6 fxg6 21.Kxg6+-) 18.Bf3

Ke7 19.Kg3 Kd7 20.Kf4 Ke7 21.Ke3 Kd7 22.Kd4 Ke7 23.c4 Kd7 24.c5 Ke7 25.Bc6 Kd8 26.Kc4 Ke7 27.Be4 Kd7 28.c6+ Kc7= **11.exf6+ Kxf6 12.c4 e5+** (12...Kf5 13.Be4+ Kf6 14.Bd3 h5 15.Bc2 g5 16.Bd1 h4 (16...g4 17.Bc2 e5+ 18.Kd5+-; 16...e5+ 17.Kd5 h4 18.g4 h3 19.Bf3+-) 17.gxh4 gxh4 18.Bg4 Kg5 19.Bxe6 Kf4 20.Kd5+-) **13.Kd5 Kf5 14.Be4+ Kf6 15.Kc6 Kg5 16.Kb7 Kg4 17.Bxg6 Kxg3 18.Kxa7 Kf4 19.Bh5 e4 20.c5 1-0**

Eingorn managed to save his skin using a similar defensive technique in the following example:

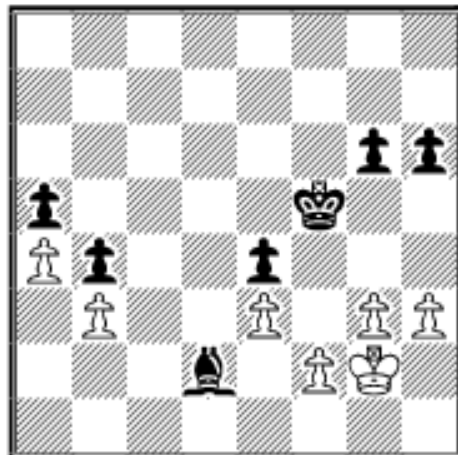


**13.07 V.Eingorn (2597) -
M.Bobrowska (2417) Bank
Pocztowy Open Bydgoszcz
2000**

Black's position is clearly superior due to the activity of his rook: **33...Rc1+! 34.Kg2!?**

After 34.Nf1?! Rb1 35.Rxa5 Rxb3 White's position is very

awkward, e.g., 36.Kg2 (36.Rb5 Bc3 37.a5 Ra3 38.Rc5 Ra2 39.g4 Be1—+) 36...Rd3 37.Rc5 b3 38.Rc1 b2 39.Rb1 Ra3 40.Nd2 Rxa4—+ **34...Rd1** The pin seems to be deadly, but Eingorn has prepared a nice trick **35.Rd7! Bc3?!** It was easier to preserve the f-pawn with 35...h5!?, e.g., 36.Rd6 (36.g4 hxg4 37.hxg4 Kh6 38.g5+ Kh7 39.Kg3 Be5+ 40.f4 Bc3 41.Rxf7+ Kg8 42.Rd7 Rxd2 43.Rxd2 Bxd2 44.Kf2 Kf7—+) 36...Be5 37.Rd7 Kg7 38.Rd5 Bc3 39.Rd7 Rxd2 40.Rxd2 Bxd2 41.Kf1 f5 42.Ke2 Bc3 43.Kf1 (43.h4 g5 44.hxg5 Kg6—+) 43...h4 44.Kg2 Kh6 45.Kf1 Kh5 46.Kg2 Be1—+ **36.Rxf7+ Kg8 37.Rd7! Rxd2!** After 37...Bxd2? White should be able to save himself. One sample line runs: 38.f3 Rb1 39.Rxd2 Rxb3 40.fxe4 Ra3 41.Rd7 Rxa4 42.Rb7 Ra3 43.Kf3 b3 44.e5 a4 45.e6 Kf8 46.Kf4= **38.Rxd2 Bxd2 39.Kf1 Kf7 40.Kg2 Ke6 41.Kf1 Kf5 42.Kg2**



42...h5? Now the position is indeed drawn. Black can smoke out White's fortress as follows: 42...Kg5 43.Kf1 Kh5 44.Kg2 g5 45.Kh2 (45.f3 exf3+ 46.Kxf3 g4+ 47.hxg4+ Kg5 48.Ke2 Bc3 49.Kf3 Be5—+) 45...g4 46.h4 Bc3 47.Kg2 Bf6 48.Kh2 Bxh4 49.gxh4 (49.Kg2

Bf6 50.Kf1 Bc3 51.Ke2 Kg5 52.Kf1 h5 53.Kg2 h4 54.Kf1 h3 55.Kg1 Be1 56.Kf1 h2 57.Kg2 Bxf2 58.Kxh2 Bxe3—+)
49...Kxh4 50.Kg2 h5 51.Kh2 Kg5 52.Kg2 h4 53.Kh2 h3 54.Kg3 Kh5 55.Kh2 Kh4 56.Kg1 g3—+ **43.Kh2 Bc3**
44.Kg2 Be5 45.Kg1 1/2–1/2

Sources:

ChessBase Magazine 73

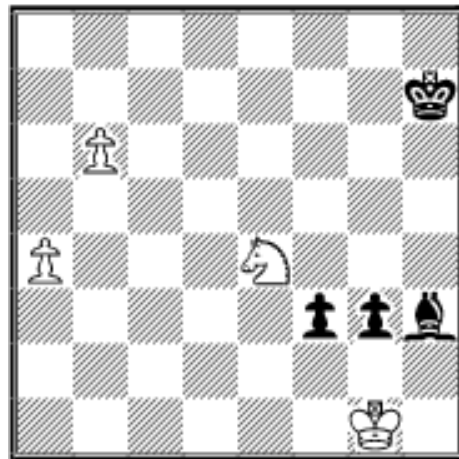
Chess Endgame Lessons Volume 2, Pal Benko 1999.

ChessBase MEGABASE 2001

The Week in Chess

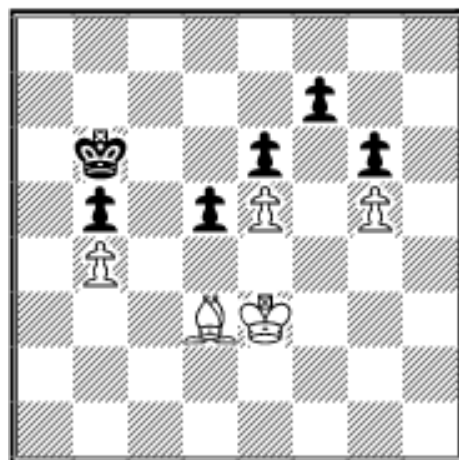
The Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book, John Emms, GAMBIT 2001

Exercises (Solutions next month)



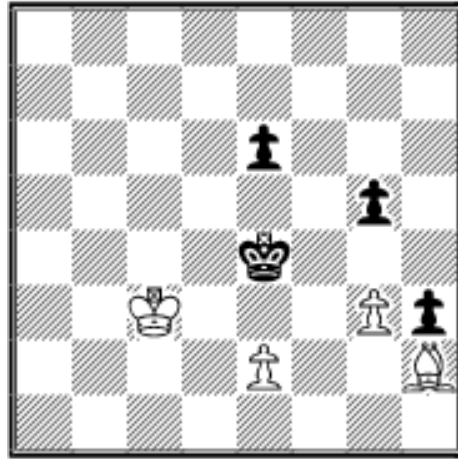
**E13.01 *L.Helm - S.Germann*
BL9900 (Women) Germany
2000**

Can Black to move save himself?



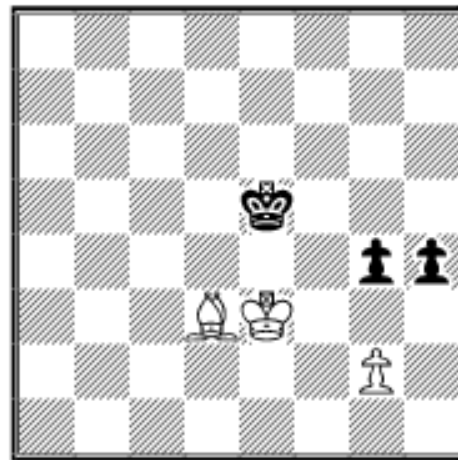
**E13.02 *D.Lam - L.Chipkin*
(2156) ch-New York State
Rochester 2001**

Can White to move convert his advantage?



E13.03 A.Potapov (2490) - E.Pigusov (2584) RUS-ch 54th Elista 2001

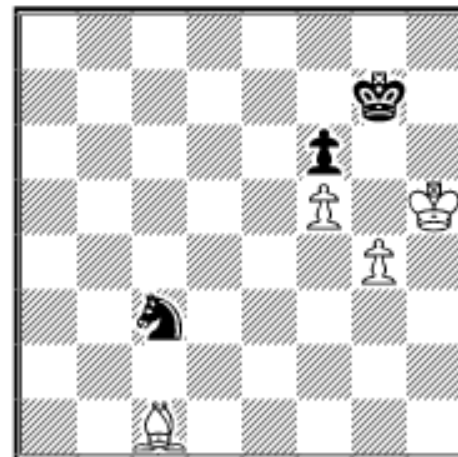
How to assess the position with Black to move?



E13.04 H.Shehab - T.Moudallal ch-LIB Beirut 2001

How to assess the position with White to move? What about Black to move?

Solutions to last month exercises



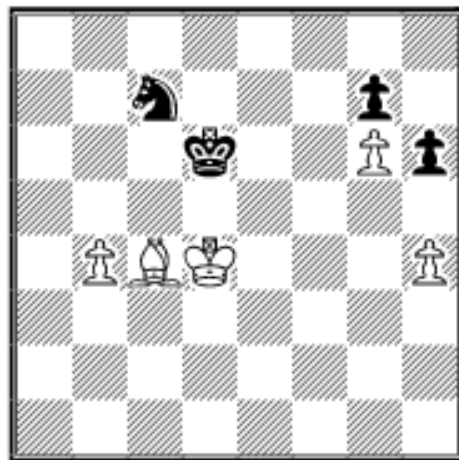
E12.01 Ki.Georgiev (2676) - R.Rabiega (2517) 2nd IECC Ohrid 2001

Georgiev seized his chance as follows: **81.g5!** (81.Bb2? Ne4!=) **81...Ne4** (81...fxg5? 82.Bb2 Kf6 83.Kg4+-; 81...Nd5 82.g6 (82.Bb2 Ne3=) 82...Ne7 83.Bh6+ Kg8 84.Kg4 Nc8

85.Be3 Nd6 86.Bc5 Nc4 87.Kh5 Kg7=) **82.g6 Ng3+?** This is the decisive mistake. After 82...Nd6 83.Bh6+ Kg8 84.Kg4 Nc8 White can't make progress, e.g. 85.Be3 Nd6 86.Bc5 (86.Kf4 Kg7 87.Ba7 Kg8 88.Bb8 Nc8 89.Bc7 Kg7 90.Bd8 Nd6 91.Ba5 Kg8 92.Bb4 Nc4 93.Ke4 Kg7 94.Bc3

Nd6+=) 86...Nc4 87.Kf4 Kg7 88.Bd4 Nd6 89.Bb6 Kg8 (89...Nc4? 90.Bc7+-) 90.Bc5 Nc4 91.Ke4 Kg7 92.Bd4 Nd6+= **83.Kg4+- Ne4** 83...Ne2 84.Bb2 Ng1 85.Kg3 Ne2+ 86.Kf3 Ng1+ 87.Ke3 Nh3 88.Bd4 Ng1 (88...Ng5 89.Kf4 Nh3+ 90.Kg4 Ng5 91.Be3 Ne4 92.Bf4+-) 89.Kf2 Nh3+ 90.Kg3 Ng5 91.Kf4 Nh3+ 92.Kg4 Ng5 93.Be3 Ne4 94.Bf4+- **84.Bf4 Nc3 85.Kf3 Nd5 86.Bd6!** (86.Ke4? Ne7=) **86...Nc3** After 86...Nb6 one sample line runs: 87.Ke4 Nc4 88.Bc7 Nd2+ 89.Ke3 Nc4+ 90.Kd3 Na3 91.Bd6 Nb5 92.Be7 Na7 93.Ke4 Nb5 94.Kd5 Nc3+ 95.Ke6 Ne4 96.Ba3 Ng3 97.Bb2 Nh5 98.Ke7+- **87.Ke3 Nd1+** 87...Nb5 88.Bb4 Kh8 (88...Nc7 89.Kd4 Ne8 90.Be7 Kg8 91.Ke4 Kh8 92.Kd5+-) 89.Ke4 Kg8 90.Be7 Nc3+ 91.Kd3 Nd5 92.Bd6 Nb6 93.Kd4 Kg7 94.Kc5 Na4+ 95.Kc4 Nb6+ 96.Kd4 Na4 97.Bc5 Nb2 98.Ba7 Na4 99.Kc4 Nb2+ 100.Kc3 Na4+ 101.Kb3+- finally the brave knight can't escape any more! **88.Kd4 Nf2 89.Bf4 Kg8 90.Be3 Ng4 91.Bf4 Nf2 92.Kd5 Kg7 93.Ke6 Ne4 93...Ng4 94.Bd6 Nf2 95.Be5 Ne4 (95...fxe5 96.f6+ Kxg6 97.f7 Kg7 98.Ke7+-) 96.Bb2+- 94.Be3 Ng3 (94...Kg8 95.Bh6+-) 95.Bd4** and Rabiega resigned due to **95...Nh5 96.Ke7 Nf4 97.Bxf6+ Kg8 (97...Kh6 98.g7 Kh7 99.Kf7+-) 98.Bh8 Nd5+ 99.Kd7 Nf4 100.Be5 Nd3 101.Ke6+-**

The following game features a similar fight of a brave knight:



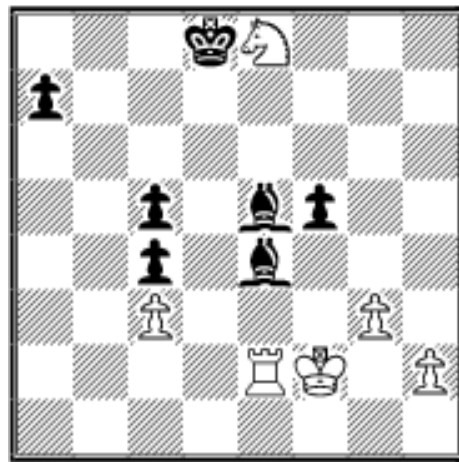
E12.01A T.Radjabov (2558) - H.Mecking (2552) Miguel Najdorf Memorial Buenos Aires 2001

Is this ending won for White?
42...Na8 43.Bb3 Nb6 44.Bf7 Nd7 45.Bd5 Nb6 46.Be4 Nd7 47.Kc4 Nf6 48.Bf3 Nd7 49.Kb5 Ne5 50.Be4 Nd7

51.Bb1 Nf6 52.Ba2 Nd7 53.Bf7 Ne5 54.Kb6 Nf3 55.h5 Nd4 56.Kb7 Kd7 57.Bd5 Kd6 58.Be4 Kd7 59.Bd3 Kd8 60.Kb6 Kd7 61.Bb5+ Kd6 62.Ba4 Ne6 63.Kb7 Nd4 64.Kc8 Ke7 65.Kc7 Ne6+ 66.Kc6 Nd4+ 67.Kd5 Ne6 68.Ke5 Nc7 69.Bc6 Ne6 70.b5 Nd8 71.Bd5 Kd7 72.b6 Ke7 73.Be4 Kd7 74.Bg2 Ke7 75.Bh3 Nb7 76.Kd5 Nd8 I can prove, that White wins after 76...Nd6: 77.Be6 Nb7 78.Bc8

A) 78...Na5 79.Kc5 Kd8 (79...Nb3+ 80.Kc4 Nd2+ 81.Kd5 Kd8 82.Be6 Nb3 83.Kd6 Na5 84.Bd5+-) 80.Be6 Nb7+ 81.Kc6 Na5+ 82.Kb5 Nb7 83.Bd5 Nd6+ 84.Kc6 Ke7 85.Ba2+-

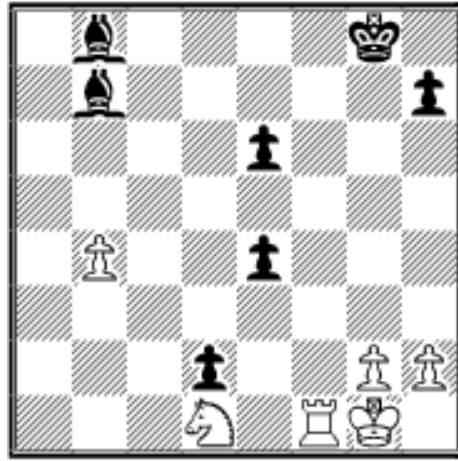
B) 78...Nd6 79.Kc5 Ne4+ 80.Kc6 Nd6 81.Ba6 Ke6 82.Bf1 Ke7 83.Bd3 Ke6 84.Be4 Ke7 85.Bd5+- 77.Bc8 1-0



E12.02 S. Volkov (2558) - R. Ponomarev (2673) 2nd IECC Ohrid 2001

Ponomarev uncorked the amazing **35...Kd7!!** After 35...Kxe8? 36.g4! wins a bishop. **36.g4 Bxc3 37.gxf5 Bxf5 38.h4 Bd3 39.Ra2 Kxe8 40.Ke3 Bd4+ 41.Kd2 Bb1**

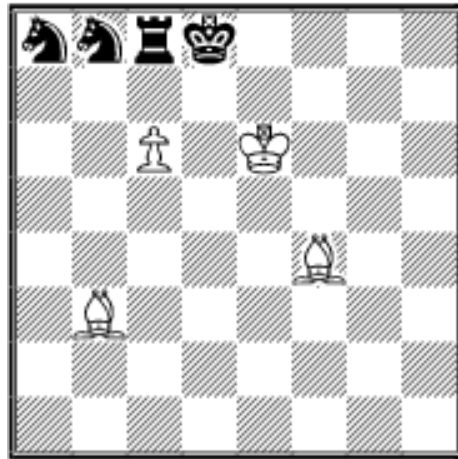
42.Rxa7 c3+ 43.Kc1 Be4 0-1



White is much better.

**E12.03 C.Lutz (2600) -
A.Morozevich (2625) Elista
(ol) 1998**

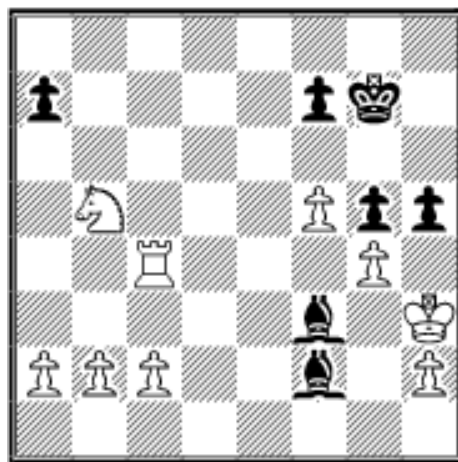
Morozevich's bishops wrecked havoc: **29...Ba7+ 30.Rf2 30.Nf2 e3—+ 30...Ba6 0–1** With White to move it is completely different as his knight finds a very good square: **29.Ne3!** and



(2...Kc8 3.Be6+ Nd7 4.Ke7 Rc7 5.Be3=) **3.Bf4+ Kc8 4.Be6+ Nd7 5.Ke7 Nab6 6.Be3 Kc7 7.Bf4+ Kc8 8.Be3=**

**E12.04 G.Kasparyan, Revista
Romana de Sah 1978, 1st hon.
mention**

Kasparyan composed several studies with the theme 2B vs R+2N underlining the power of the bishop pair on an open board: **1.Kf7 Rxc6 2.Bg5+ (2.Bxb8? Rb6—+) 2...Kc7**

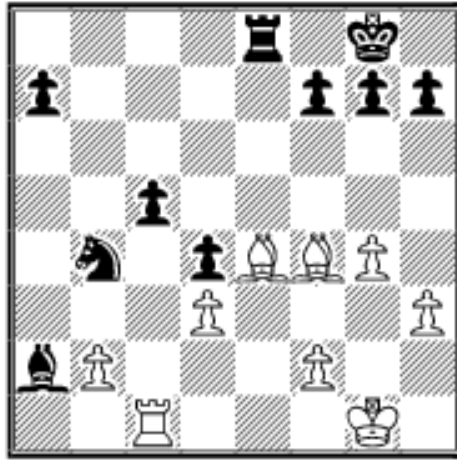


pressure: **33.Nd6 hxg4+ 34.Rxg4 Kh5 35.Rxg5+ Kxg5 36.Nxf7+ Kxf5—+) 33.gxh5 Be2 33...Kg7 34.Nd6 Kh6**

**E12.05 M.Bier - E.Flechsig
Leipzig 1879**

Black is better. Hübner analysed the position extensively in CBM 41 and I have used his notes as source: **32...Kf6?** (32...Be2? 33.Kg2 Bxc4 34.Na3+—; 32...Kh6! is the right way to increase the

(34...f6 35.Rg4 Kh6 36.Ne4+-) 35.Nxf7+ Kxh5 36.Ne5 Be2 37.Kg2+- **34.Kg2 Bxc4 35.Na3 Ba6 36.Kxf2 Kxf5 37.h3 Bc8 38.Nc4 Kf6 39.Kg3 Bf5 40.Ne3 Be4 41.h4 gxh4+ 42.Kxh4 Ke5 43.c3 Bb1 44.Nc4+ Kf4 45.Nd6 f6 46.h6 Bg6 47.c4 Ke5 48.c5 a5 49.Nc4+ Kd5 50.Nxa5 Kxc5 51.Nb3+ Kc4 52.Kg4 1-0**





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