



Ponomariov's Technique

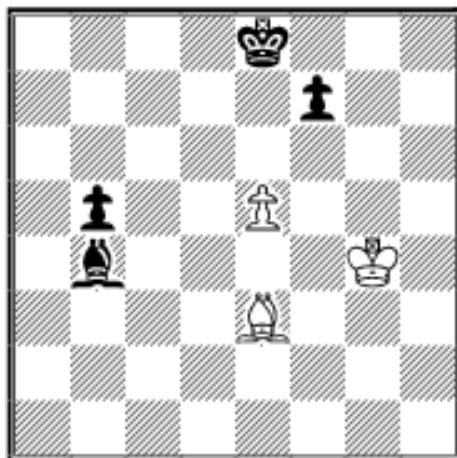
Part 1

The new FIDE world champion Ruslan Ponomariov has a very strong fighting spirit. He plays long games and fights hard and manages to squeeze a lot of points out of his endgames, which is really remarkable for his young age. I would like to show some of his recent achievements. I start with a difficult bishop ending, which he drew easily:

COLUMNISTS

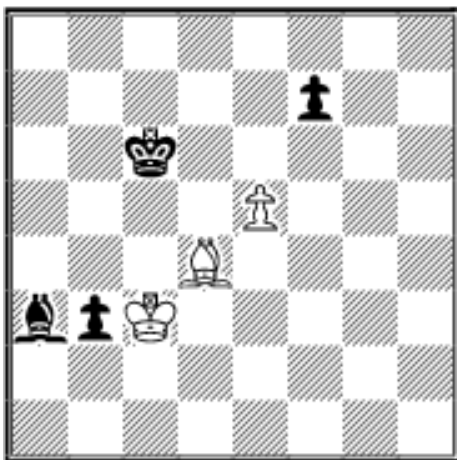
Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller



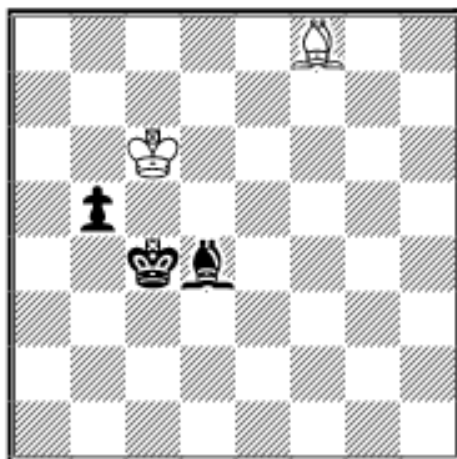
15.01 R.Ponomariov (2673) - L.Aronian (2528) Lausanne Young Masters 2001

63.Kf5! (63.Bd4? Kd7 64.Kf5 Be7 65.Bb2 (65.Ke4 Ke6 66.Be3 Bb4 67.Kd4 Be1 68.Bf4 b4 69.Kc4 Bc3—+) 65...b4 66.Bd4 Kc6 67.Ke4 b3 68.Bb2 (after 68.Kd3 Ba3 69.Kc3



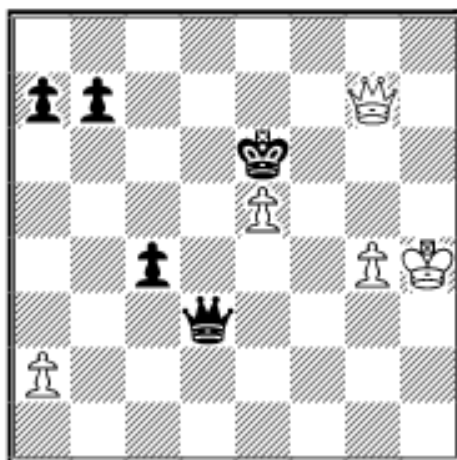
Black has the shot 69...Bc5!—+) 68...Kb5 69.Kd3 Ka4 70.Bc1 Ba3 71.Bf4 Bb2 followed by Ka3 —+.) **63...Kd7** (63...Ke7 64.Bd4 Ba3 65.Be3 Bb2 66.Bc5+ Kd7 67.Bb4 Bd4 68.Kf6 Ke8 69.Kf5=) **64.Kf6 Bc3** (64...Ke8 65.e6 Be7+ 66.Kf5 f6 67.Bd2 Kf8 68.Kg6

Ke8 69.Kf5 Kd8 70.Ba5+ Kc8 71.Bc3 b4 72.Bxb4=)
65.Kxf7 Bxe5 66.Bd2 or 66.Kg6 Ke6 67.Bd2 Kd5 68.Kf5
Bg7 69.Kg4 Kc4 70.Kf3 Bc3 71.Bf4 (71.Bc1? b4 72.Ke2
Kb3 73.Kd3 Ka2 74.Kc4 Be1 75.Bf4 b3 76.Be5 Bd2 77.Kb5
Bc1 78.Bd4 Bb2 79.Be3 Bf6 80.Bc1 Be7 81.Ka4 Bg5
82.Ba3 Bd2—+ zugzwang) 71...b4 (71...Kd3 72.Bd6=)
72.Ke2 b3 (72...Kb3 73.Bd6=) 73.Kd1 Kd3 74.Kc1=
(74.Bg5 draws as well due to the stalemate trick 74...b2
75.Bc1!) **66...Kd6 67.Ke8 Bf6 68.Bb4+ Kd5 69.Kd7!**
(69.Kf7? Kc4 70.Ba3 Bd4 71.Ke6 Bc5 72.Bc1 b4 73.Ke5
b3 74.Ke4 Kc3 75.Bf4 Kc2 76.Be5 Bb4—+) **69...Kc4**
70.Bf8 1/2–1/2 and a draw was agreed as Ponomariov reaches
a standard drawing formation after **70...Bd4 71.Kc6=**



White's king helps his bishop and reaches a well known drawing formation according to **Centurini's rule** (see Averbakh No.167 or *Fundamental Chess Endings* No.4.26). **The strategy used by Ponomariov is well worth remembering!**

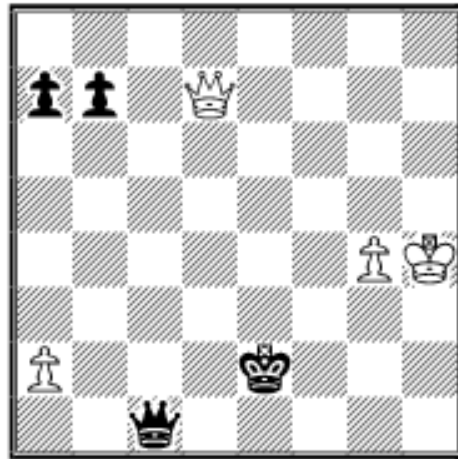
In the next example he demonstrates, that the **most important factor in queen endings is usually a far advanced passed pawn**:



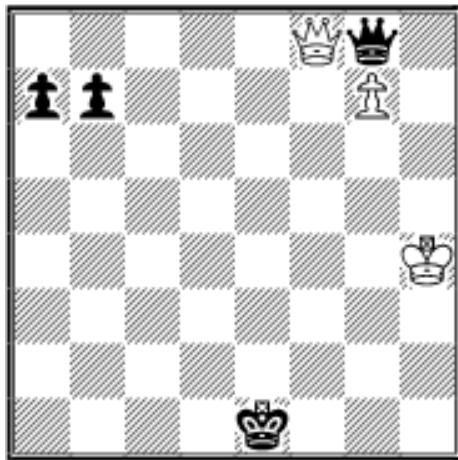
15.02 R.Ponomariov (2673) - M.Turov (2553) 3rd Rector Cup Kharkov 2001

First he exchanges queens to win with his g-pawn in the new queen ending: **40.Qf6+ Kd5** (40...Kd7? 41.e6+ Kc8 42.Qf8+ Kc7 (42...Qd8+ 43.e7+-) 43.Qf7+ Kd6 44.e7+-)

41.Qd6+ Ke4 42.Qxd3+ Kxd3 42...cxd3 43.e6 results in a similar queen ending. **43.e6 c3 44.e7 c2 45.e8Q c1Q 46.Qd7+ Ke2**

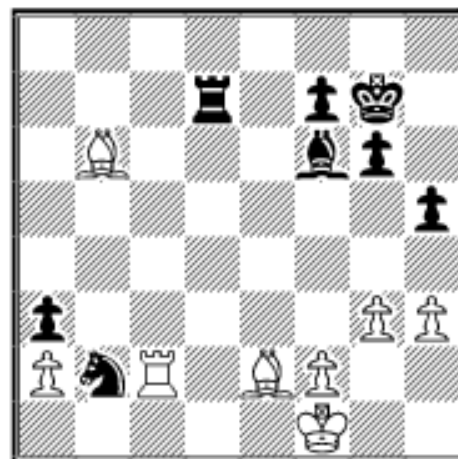


White's g-pawn is too strong:
47.g5 Qh1+ 48.Qh3 Qd5 49.Qg4+ Kf2 50.Qf4+ Ke1 51.g6 Qxa2 52.g7 Qg8 53.Qf8!



Ponomariov plans to hide his king on a8! **53...Qc4+ 54.Kg5 Qd5+ 55.Kf6 Qc6+ 56.Ke7 Qc7+ 57.Ke6 Qc6+ 58.Qd6 Qc4+ 59.Kd7 Qa4+ 60.Kd8 Qb3 61.Qf8 1-0** and Turov resigned, not waiting for **61...Qd3+ 62.Kc8 Qh3+ 63.Kb8 Qg3+ 64.Ka8+-**

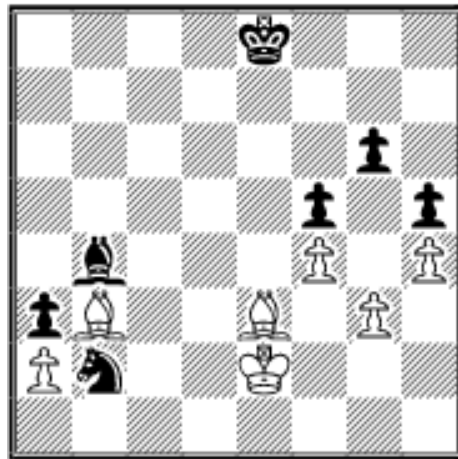
He also knows how to use **the bishop pair**:



15.03 R.Ponomariov (2684) - C.Lutz (2643) World Teams Yerevan ARM 2001

44.Rc7!? exchanging rooks gives White more attacking possibilities **44...Rxc7 45.Bxc7 Be7 46.f4 f6 47.Kf2 Bc5+ 48.Kf3 Kf7 49.Bb5 Nd1 50.Ba5 f5 51.Be1 Ke7 52.Ke2 Nb2! (52...Ne3? 53.Bf2+-) 53.Bc3 Bd6 54.h4 Bc5 55.Be5**

**Bb4 56.Bd4 Kf7 57.Bc6 Ke7 58.Bd5 Ke8 59.Bf6 Kf8
60.Bb3 Ke8 61.Bd4 Ke7 62.Be3 Ke8**



Black's knight is dominated, but how to make progress? **63.Bd2!**

White tries to trade one advantage for another: the bishop pair for the play against Black's cornered knight.

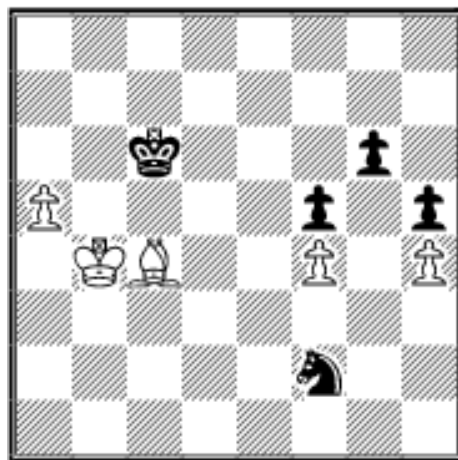
63...Bc5! 64.Bc3 Ke7 65.Kd2

Ke8 66.Kc2 Ke7 (66...Bf2?

67.Bb4 Bxg3 68.Bxa3+-)

67.Be1 (67.Bxb2?? is no

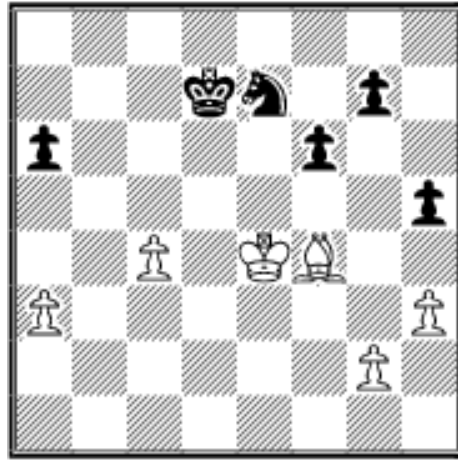
**winning plan due to the opposite coloured bishops and their notorious drawing tendency.) 67...Ke8 68.Kc3 Ke7
69.Bd2 Bf2 70.Kc2 Bc5 71.Bd5 Na4 72.Be1 Nb6? Why
not 72...Nb2 ? 73.Bg8 Nd7 74.Kb3 Nf6 75.Bc4 Ne4
76.Ka4 Ke8 77.Kb5 Bd4 78.Kc6 Bc3? 78...Nc3 is more
tenacious, e.g. 79.Kd6 Kf8 80.Ke6 Kg7 79.Bxc3 Nxc3
80.Kc5 Ne4+ 81.Kb4 Nxc3 82.Kxa3 Kd7 83.Kb4 Kc6
84.a4 Ne4 85.a5 Nf2**



**86.Bf1! preserving the pawn f4
86...Kb7 87.Kc5 Ng4 88.Kd4
Nh2 89.Be2 Ka7 90.Ke5 Ng4+
91.Ke6 Ne3 92.Kf6 Nd5+
93.Kg5 1-0**

In the following bishop vs knight ending White is better due to his more active king and better minor piece under these

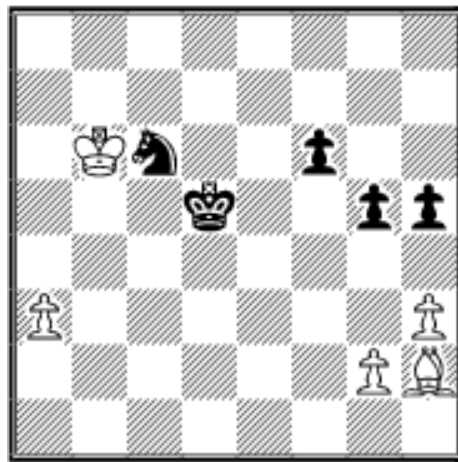
circumstances:



15.04 R.Ponomarev (2684) - V.Borovik (2593)
Governor's Cup Kramatorsk
UKR 2001

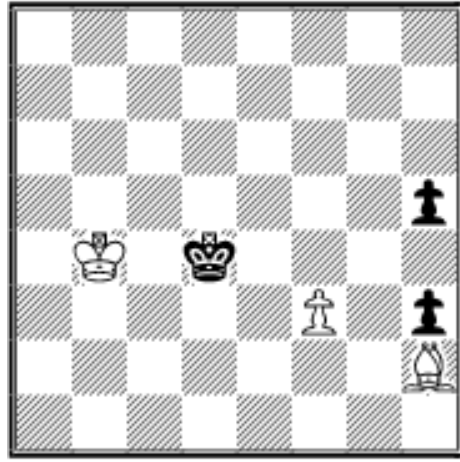
40.Bd2 Ke6?! 40...Kc6!? may be easier for Black, e.g. 41.Bb4 Ng6 42.a4 Ne5 43.Bf8 g6 44.Kd4 Nd7 45.Be7 a5 46.h4 Nb6 47.Bd8 Nxa4 48.Bxa5

Nc5= **41.Kd4 Nf5+** After 41...Kd6? White simplifies into an easily won pawn ending (**you should watch out carefully for such possibilities**): 42.Bb4+ Kd7 43.Bxe7 Kxe7 44.Kc5+- **42.Kc5 Nd6 43.Bf4 Ne4+ 44.Kb6 g5 45.Bh2?! (45.Bc1!?) 45...Nd2 46.c5 Nc4+ 47.Kb7 Kd5 48.c6 Na5+ 49.Kxa6 Nxc6 50.Kb6**



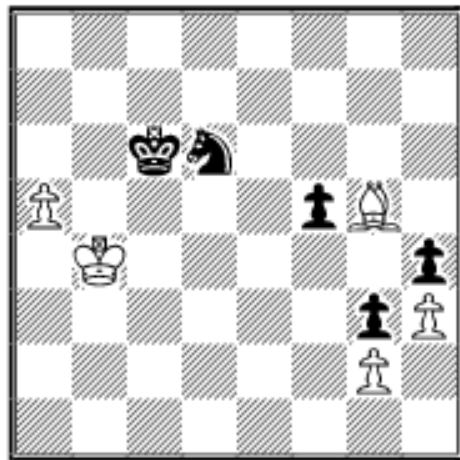
50...f5 50...Ne5!? deserved consideration as well, e.g. 51.Bxe5 (51.a4 Nc4+ 52.Kb5 Na3+ 53.Ka6 Kc6=) 51...fxe5 52.a4 e4 53.a5 e3 54.a6 e2 55.a7 e1Q 56.a8Q+ Kc4 57.Qg8+ Kd3 58.Qxg5 Qe3+ 59.Qxe3+ Kxe3 60.g4 hxg4 61.hxg4 Kf4= **51.a4 h4 51...f4? 52.h4!** and White wins, e.g.

52...f3 53.gxf3 gxh4 54.a5 Nxa5 55.Kxa5 Kd4 56.Kb4 h3



Now follows a well known finish: 57.f4 Ke4 58.Kc4 Kf3 59.Kd3 Kg2 60.Ke2 Kxh2 61.Kf2 h4 62.f5 Kh1 63.f6 h2 64.f7 h3 65.Kg3+- **52.Bg1 g4 53.Be3 Ne5 54.Bg5 g3** 54...gxh3 55.gxh3 to reduce White's winning potential is interesting as well. **55.Kb5 Nc4** (55...Ng6? 56.a5 f4 57.a6 f3

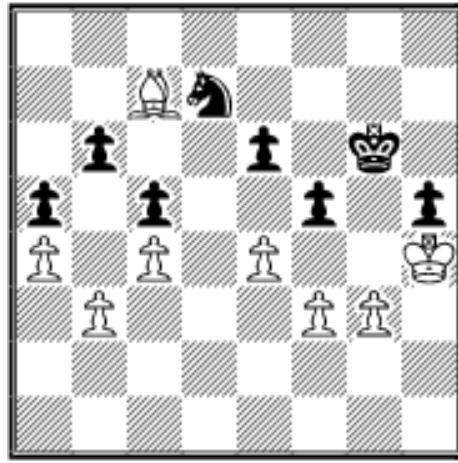
58.gxf3 g2 59.Be3+-) **56.Kb4** (56.a5?! Nxa5 57.Kxa5 Ke4 58.Bxh4 f4 59.Kb4 f3 60.Bxg3 fxg2 61.Bh2 Kf3 62.Kc3 g1Q 63.Bxg1 Kg3=) **56...Nd6 57.a5 Kc6**



58.Bxh4? Too greedy. 58.Be3! was called for. Black has very serious problems now, e.g. 58...Nf7 59.Kc4 Ne5+ 60.Kd4 Ng6 61.Bd2 Kb5 62.Kd5 Ka6 63.Ke6 f4 64.Kf5 f3 65.gxf3 Ne7+ 66.Kg4 Nd5 67.Be1 g2 68.Bf2 Nc3 69.f4+- **58...f4 59.Bg5 f3 60.gxf3 g2?**

60...Nf5! equalizes: 61.Bd8 (61.Bf4 g2 62.Bh2 Nh4=) 61...Nd4 62.Bh4 g2 63.Bf2 Nxf3= **61.Be3 Nf5 62.Bf2 Nh4 63.f4 Nf3** 63...Ng6!? is more tenacious, but White should be winning as well after 64.f5 Ne7 65.h4 Nxf5 66.h5 **64.f5 g1Q 65.Bxg1 Nxg1 66.f6 Kd7 67.f7 Ke7 68.a6 1-0**

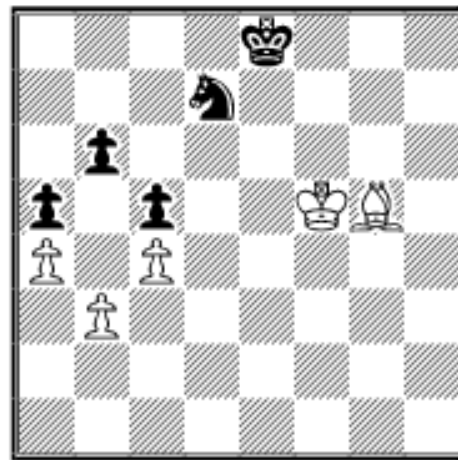
This reminds me of an interesting endgame by Miles, which Mark Dvoretsky analysed in his December 2001 column:



**15.05 A.Miles -
R.Dzindzichashvili Tilburg
1978**

I asked myself how to win, if Black makes the plan expanding the bridgehead by g3-g4 more difficult to realise. I sent Mark my ideas and here is the result of our joint analysis:

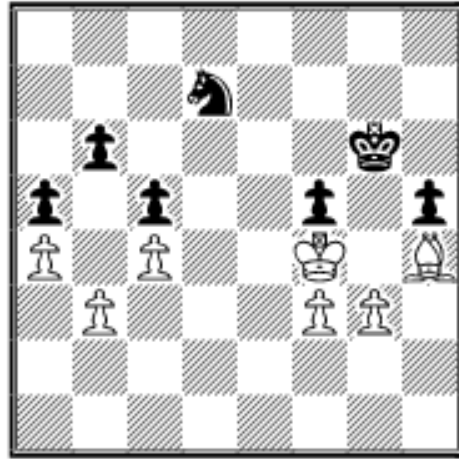
1...f5!? (instead of the game continuation 1...Kh6) **2.exf5+ exf5 3.Kh3!** the white king goes the long way to f4 to force a decisive zugzwang position. After 3.Bd8 Kh6 4.g4? **too many pawns are exchanged** and Black can save himself:
4...hxg4 5.fxg4 fxg4 6.Kxg4 Kg6 7.Kf4 Kf7 8.Kf5 Ke8 9.Bg5



A) 9...Kf7? loses in an instructive way: 10.Bf4 Ke7 11.Bc7 Kf7 12.Bd6 Ke8 (12...Nf6 13.Ke5 Ne8 14.Kd5+-) 13.Ke6 Kd8 14.Kd5+- (Dvoretsky)

B) 9...Nb8! 10.Ke6 Nc6 11.Kd6 Nd4 12.Bf6 Kf7 13.Bd8 (13.Be5 Nxb3 14.Bf4 Kg6 15.Kc6 Kf5 16.Bc7 Ke6 17.Kb5 Kd7=) 13...Nxb3 14.Bxb6 Nd2 15.Kxc5 Ke8 16.Kb5 Nxc4= due to the wrong rook's pawn.

3...Kf7 4.Kg2 Ke6 5.Kf2 Ke7 6.Ke3 Ke6 7.Kf4 Kf6 8.Bd8+ Kg6 9.Bh4



White has finally reached his aim and Black has to make a concession. **9...Nb8 10.Ke5 Nc6+ 11.Kd5 Nd4 12.f4 Kf7** (12...Nxb3 13.Bd8 Nd2 14.Bxb6 Ne4 15.Bxa5+-) **13.Bd8 Ne2 14.Bxb6 Nxb3 15.Bxa5 Ne2 16.Be1 Nxf4+ 17.Kd6 Ke8 18.a5 Kd8 19.a6 Kc8 20.Kc6+-**

Sources:

ChessBase MEGABASE 2001

The Week in Chess

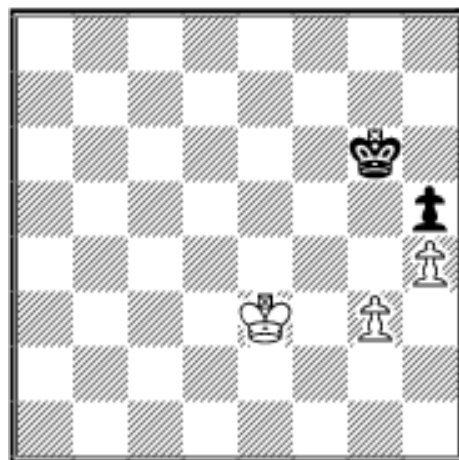
Schach Magazin 64 No.1/2002

Mark Dvoretsky's December 2001 *Instructor* column

Fundamental Chess Endings, Karsten Müller and Frank Lamprecht, GAMBIT 2001

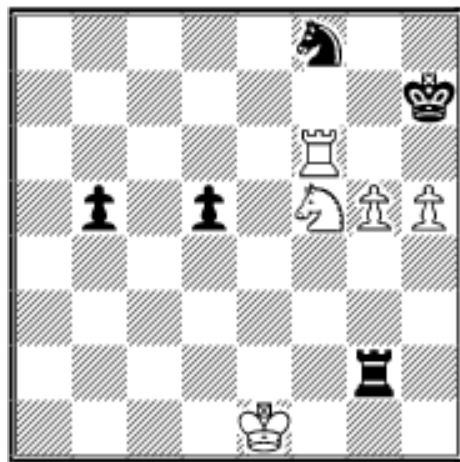
Läufer und Springerendspiele, Yury Averbakh , Sportverlag Berrlin 1988.

Exercises (Solutions next month)



E15.01 R.Ponomariov (2673) - A.Moiseenko (2561) 3rd Rector Cup Kharkov 2001 DIAGRAM

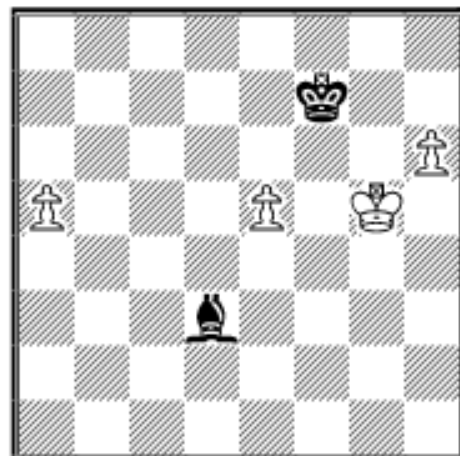
Black has two moves to draw. Find both!



E15.02 R.Ponomarev (2684) - R.Vaganian (2650) World Teams Yerevan ARM 2001
DIAGRAM

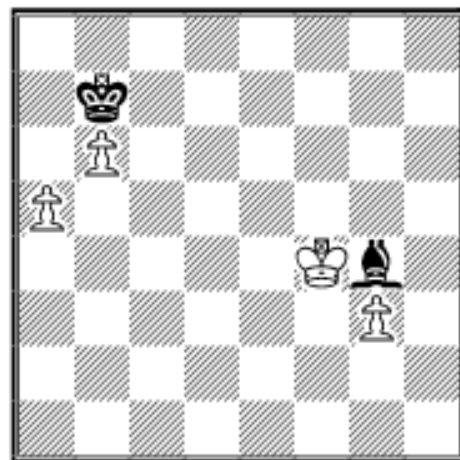
How did Ponomarev continue his attack?

Solutions to last month's exercises



E14.01 J.Sunye Neto (2375) - D.Velimirovic (2515) Rio de Janeiro izt 1979
DIAGRAM

White won as follows: **72.Kf4 Bc4** (72...Kg6 73.e6 Kxh6 74.e7 Bb5 75.a6+-) **73.Ke4 1-0** and Black resigned due to **73...Kg6 74.Kd4+-** and his bishop is overloaded.



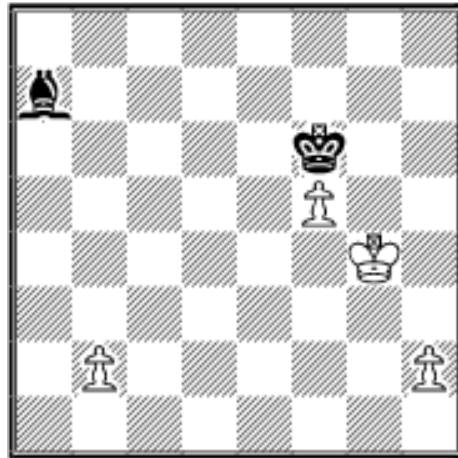
E14.02 J.Whitehead (2325) - J.Tarjan (2535) USA-ch 1983

Tarjan managed to save his skin: **68...Bc8!** (68...Be2? 69.g4 and Black is lost, e.g. 69...Ba6 70.g5 Kc6 71.Ke5 Kd7 72.g6 Ke7 73.g7 Kf7 74.Kd6 Kxg7 75.Kc7+-) **69.Ke5** (69.g4 Ka6! 70.g5 Kxa5 71.g6 Kxb6 72.Ke5 Ba6 73.Kd4 Bc8 74.g7 Be6=) **69...Bg4 70.Kd6 Bf3 71.Kc5** (71.a6+ Kxb6!=) **71...Be2** the careless 71...Bg4 loses due to **72.a6+! Kxa6 73.Kc6 Bf3+ 74.Kc7 Kb5 75.g4 Kc5 76.g5+-**

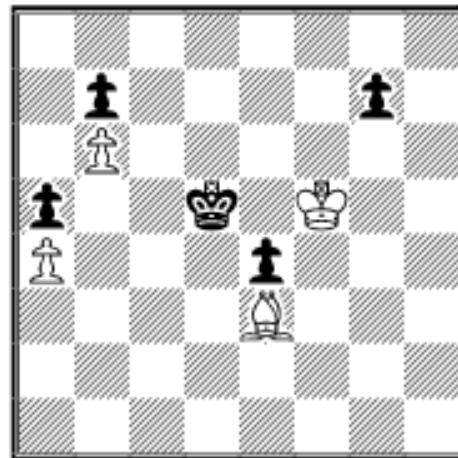
72.Kd4 Bg4 73.Kd5 Bf3+ 74.Ke5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

E14.02A *J.Whitehead* (2325) - *B.Kogan* (2475) USA-ch 1983

Whitehead had a similar ending in the same tournament two rounds before and couldn't win as well:



**53...Bb8 54.h3 Bd6 55.h4 Bf8
56.Kf4 Bb4 57.h5 Bf8 58.b3
Bh6+ 59.Ke4 Bf8 60.Kf4
Bh6+ $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$**

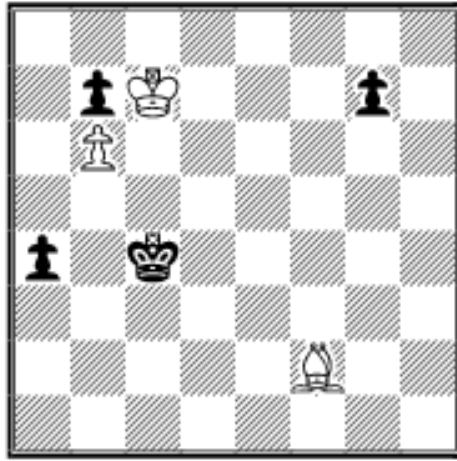


**E14.03 *B.Spassky* (2660) -
R.J.Fischer (2785) Wch28-
Reykjavik 1972**

Spassky solved the technical problems as follows: **51.Bf2!** putting Black in zugzwang. 51.Bd2? is wrong as the valuable b-pawn has to be preserved: 51...Kc5 52.Bxa5 e3

53.Kg6 e2 54.Kxg7 e1Q 55.Bxe1 Kxb6= as White's rook's pawn is wrong. **51...g5** (51...Kc4 52.Kxe4 Kb3 53.Kd5 Kxa4 54.Kc5 Kb3 (54...g5 55.Be1 g4 56.Kc4+-)

A) 55.Kd6 Kc4 56.Kc7 a4



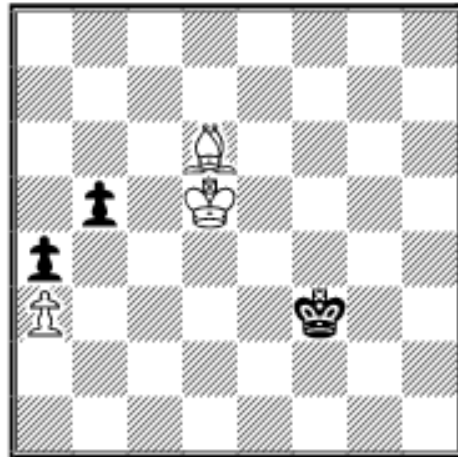
57.Bg3 (57.Kxb7? a3 58.Bg3 Kd5=) 57...Kd4 58.Kxb7 a3 59.Kc6 a2 60.Kd6+-

B) 55.Bd4 55...g5 56.Kd6 Kc4 57.Kc7 Kxd4 58.Kxb7+-)

**52.Kxg5 Kc4 53.Kf5 Kb4
54.Kxe4 Kxa4 55.Kd5
55.Kd3?? Kb5 56.Kc3 Kc6**

57.Kc4 Kd7= and Black has an impregnable fortress.

55...Kb5 56.Kd6 1-0 and Fischer resigned due to **56...a4 57.Kc7 Ka6 58.Bc5 Kb5 59.Bf8 Ka6 60.Ba3+-**



**E14.04 V.Kortschnoj (2665) -
A.Karpov (2725) Wch29-
Baguio City 1978**

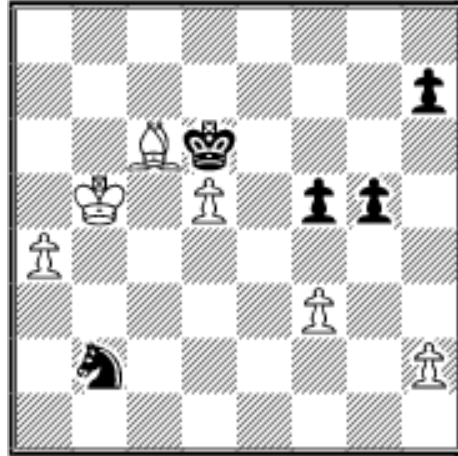
In the game Karpov (with Black) was to move and managed to draw the game as his king gets back to the drawing zone in time:

105...Kg4! 106.Kc5 (106.Ke4 Kg5 107.Be7+ Kg6 108.Ke5 Kf7 109.Bf6 Ke8 110.Ke6 Kf8 111.Bg5 Kg7 (111...Ke8?? 112.Be7+-) 112.Kf5 Kf7=) **106...Kf5! 107.Kxb5 Ke6** reaching Rauzer's drawing zone **108.Kc6 Kf6 109.Kd7 Kg7 110.Be7 Kg8 111.Ke6 Kg7 112.Bc5 Kg8 113.Kf6 Kh7 114.Kf7 Kh8 115.Bd4+ Kh7 116.Bb2 Kh6 117.Kg8 Kg6 118.Bg7 Kf5 119.Kf7 Kg5 120.Bb2 Kh6 121.Bc1+ Kh7! (121...Kh5? 122.Kf6 Kg4 123.Kg6 Kh4 124.Bf4 Kg4 125.Bg5+-) 122.Bd2 Kh8 123.Bc3+ Kh7 124.Bg7 ½-½ stalemate.**

More details on this position can be obtained from *Fundamental Chess Endings* (4.11 and 4.11A) or

Averbakh (No.93).

White to move in E14.04 wins as he is just fast enough:
105.Kc5 Ke4 106.Kxb5 Kd5 107.Bg3 Ke6 108.Kxa4 Kd7
109.Kb5 Kc8 110.Kc6+-



E14.05 M.Euwe - M.Sultan Khan Hastings 1931

Sultan Khan made a Houdini like escape: **43...Nxa4!!**

43...f4?! might also be sufficient. But it looks very suspicious, e.g. 44.h3 h5 (now 44...Nxa4? comes too late:

45.Kxa4 h5 46.Kb4 g4 47.fxg4

hxg4 48.hxg4 f3 49.Kc3 f2 50.Bb5 Kxd5 51.Kd2 Ke4

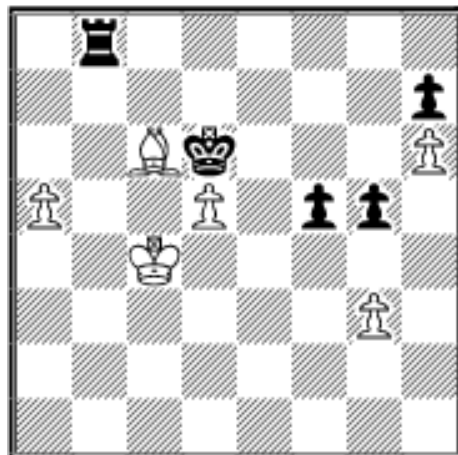
52.Ke2 Kf4 53.Bd7 Kg3 54.Kf1+-) 45.Kb4 g4 (45...Nd3+?! looks very risky, but it is still not easy to break through e.g.

46.Kc3 Ne5 47.a5 Kc5! and Black may be able to hold the position.) 46.fxg4 hxg4 47.hxg4 f3 48.Bb5 Nxa4!

(48...Nd1? 49.a5 Ne3 50.a6 Nxd5+ 51.Ka5 Nc7 52.a7 f2

53.Bf1+-) 49.Kxa4 Kxd5= **44.Kxa4 g4 45.fxg4** (45.f4 h5 46.Bb5 Kxd5 47.Bd3 h4 48.Bxf5 g3 49.hxg3 hxg3 50.Bh3 Ke4=)

45...fxg4 46.Kb4 h5 47.Be8 47.Kc4? runs into 47...h4 48.Kd4 g3 49.hxg3 h3!—+ **47...Kxd5 48.Bxh5 Ke5 49.Bxg4** 1/2–1/2



E14.05A K.Müller (2533) - A.Khalifman (2628) German Bundesliga 2000, SG Porz - Hamburger SK, 3rd board

Khalifman used a similar motif against me: **59...g4! 60.a6 f4**

61.a7 Rf8 62.a8Q Rxa8

63.Bxa8 fxg3 0–1

