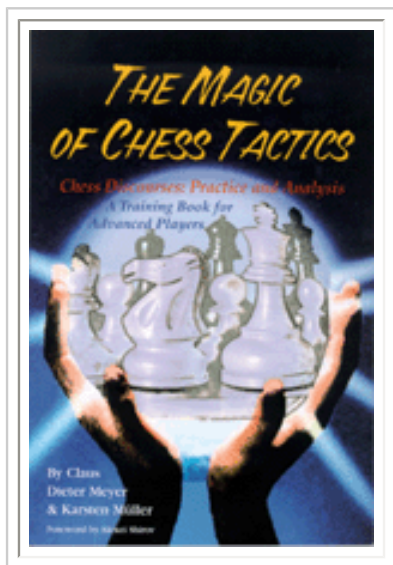




## COLUMNISTS

## Endgame Corner

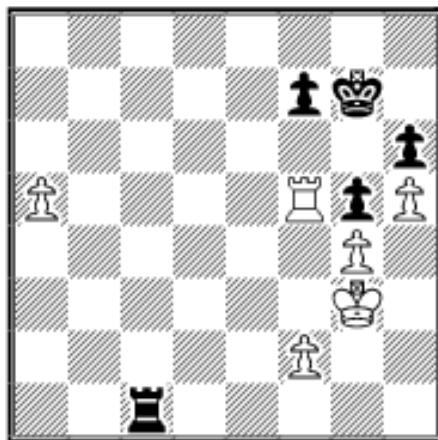
Karsten Müller



## Readers Write

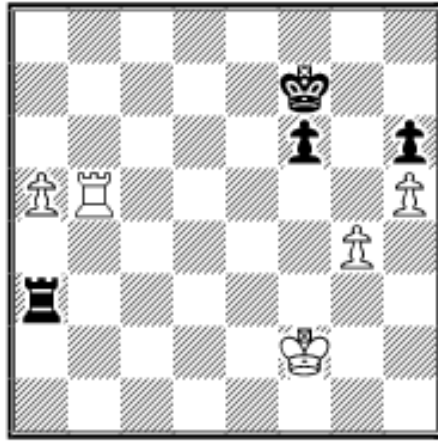
The two fascinating articles by Mark Dvoretsky in his November and December *Instructor* column have provoked many responses. Mark has already included several in his last column and will include all interesting finds in new edition of his *Endgame Manual*. But he discusses a completely different subject this month, so he had no space for IM Julen Luis Arizmendi Martinez's fascinating discoveries. So he generously allowed me to publish them here (I have edited them slightly). Many thanks also to IM Julen Luis Arizmendi Martinez for his kind permission to use his analysis here:

### 37.01 Analysis of *Leko - Anand Linares 2003*



Arizmendi believes that White wins this position in any case due to his very good structure on the kingside, which makes it extremely difficult to generate counterplay for Black. I now hand over the microphone to Arizmendi, my remarks start with KM: "7...Rc4 8.f3! I believe

White is winning here, for there is, in my opinion, a flaw in Leko's analysis. 8...Rc2 9.f4 Rc3+! 10.Kf2 gxf4 (10...f6!? is a try. I analyze it separately in game 2.) 11.Rxf4 Ra3 12.Rf5 f6 13.Rb5 Kf7



And here I think the winning move is **14.Ke2!** which wins a whole tempo over the Hungarian's line, for I see nothing better than

KM: Leko had given 14.Rb7+? Ke6 15.Rb6+ Ke5 16.a6 Kf4 = at [www.chessgate.de](http://www.chessgate.de). For the game continuation and further analysis you can either consult *Endgame*

*Corner* 30.04 or Mark Dvoretsky's analysis in his December 2003 *Instructor* column.

### 14...Ke6

14...Ra4 15.Kf3 (also 15.Kd3 is interesting 15...Rxc4 16.a6 Ra4 17.Rb6 Rh4 18.Kc3 Ke7 19.Rb4 and white has good winning chances.) 15...Ke7 16.Rb7+

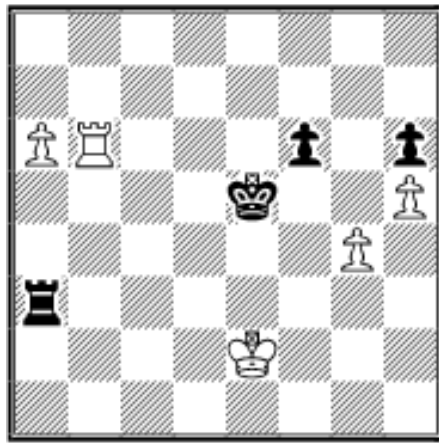
A) 16...Kf8 17.Ra7 Ke8 18.a6 Kf8 (18...Kd8 19.Ra8+ Kc7 20.a7 Kb7 21.Rh8 Kxa7 22.Rxc6+-) 19.Ke3 Ke8 20.Ra8+ Kf7 (20...Kd7 21.a7 Kc7 22.Rh8+-) 21.Kd3 Kg7 22.Kc3 Kf7 (22...Rxc4 23.Ra7+ Kg8 24.Rb7+-) 23.Kb3 and White wins.

B) 16...Kd8 17.Rf7+-

C) 16...Ke6 17.Rb6+ brings us back to the main line.

14...Ke7 15.Rb7+ Kd6 16.Rb6+ transposes as well.

### 15.Rb6+ Ke5 16.a6



and now the pawn race is lost.

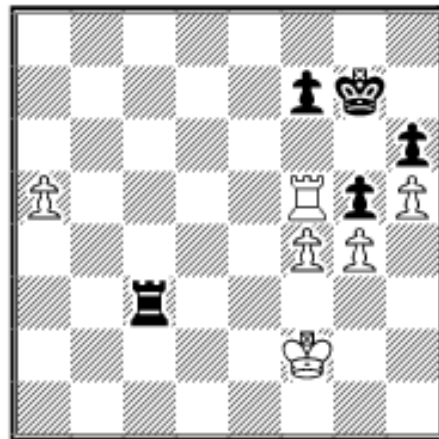
**16...Kf4**

16...Ra4 does not work either.

17.Kd3 Rd4+ (17...Rxg4 18.Rb5+ Kd6 19.Ra5) 18.Kc3 Rxg4 19.Rb5+ Ke6 20.Ra5 Rg8 21.a7 Ra8 22.Kd4 with a winning position for White.

KM: Let me add 22...Kd7 (22...f5 23.Ra6+ Kd7 24.Rxh6 Kc7 25.Rf6 Kb7 26.Rxf5+-) 23.Ke4 Kc6 24.Kf5 Kb6 25.Ra1+-

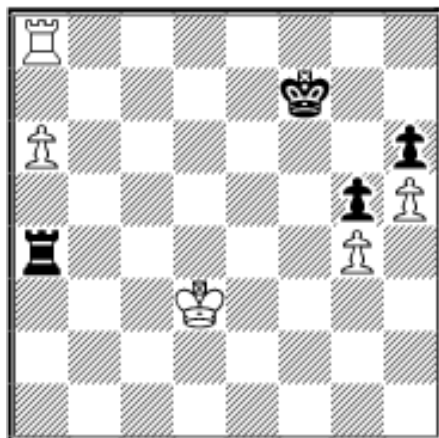
**17.Rxf6+ Kxg4 18.Rxh6 Kg5 19.Rb6 Kxh5 20.Kd2 Kg5 21.Kc2 Kf5 22.Kb2 Ra5 23.Kb3 Ke5 24.Kb4 Ra1 25.Kc5+-**  
+-



### 37.02 Analysis of *Leko - Anand* Linares 2003

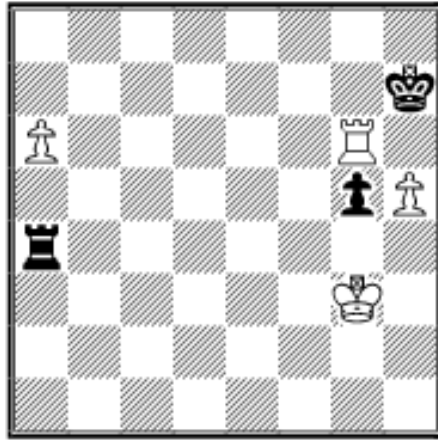
Arizmendi has also refuted **48...f6!** An annoying defence, but it loses as well. **49.Rb5 Ra3** (49...gxf4 50.Rb7+ Kg8 51.a6+-) **50.f5!** This keeps Black's king caged in.

50.Rb7+? I do not see a win after this. 50...Kg8 51.fxg5 fxg5 52.Ra7 Ra4 53.a6 Kf8 54.Ke3 Ke8 55.Ra8+ (55.Kd3 Kd8 56.Kc3 Kc8 57.Kb3 Rxg4 58.Rh7 Kb8 59.Rxh6 Ka7 60.Rg6 Rg1=) 55...Kf7 56.Kd3

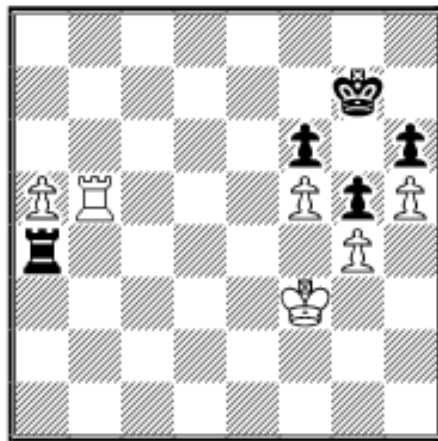


56...Kg7! (KM: 56...Rxg4? runs into the following old trick: 57.a7 Ra4 58.Rh8+-) 57.Ra7+ Kf6 KM: Activity is usually crucial in rook endings. (57...Kf8? 58.Kc3 Ke8 59.Kb3+-) 58.Rh7 Rxg4 59.Rxh6+ Kg7 60.Rg6+ Kh7 61.Ke3 (61.Kc3 Ra4 62.Kb3 Ra1 63.Kb4 g4 64.Kb5 Rb1+ 65.Kc6

Rc1+ 66.Kb7 Rb1+ 67.Ka8 Rg1=) 61...Ra4 62.Kf3 Kh8  
63.Kg3 Kh7=



and there is no progress. **50...Ra4**  
**51.Kf3**



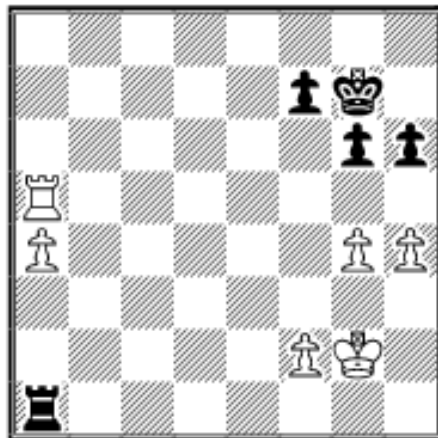
The pawn must remain protected until the a pawn reaches a6.

**51...Kf7** (51...Ra3+ 52.Ke4 Ra4+ 53.Kd5 Rxd4 54.Rb7+ Kg8 55.a6 Ra4 56.a7+-) **52.Rb7+ Ke8**

**53.Ra7 Kd8** (53...Kf8 54.a6 Ke8 55.Ra8+ Kf7 56.Ke3 Kg7 (56...Rxd4 57.Ra7+! Kf8 58.Rb7 Ra4 59.a7 wins.) 57.Kd3+-) **54.a6 Kc8 55.Ra8+ Kc7 56.a7 Kb7**

**57.Rh8 Kxa7 58.Rxb6 +-** and the game is over.

And now comes a really deep insight, which is quite incredible, but I (KM) couldn't refute it:



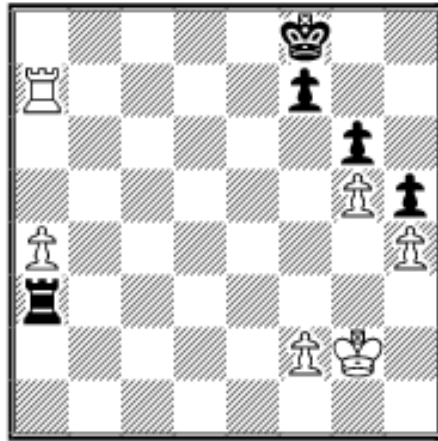
**37.03 Analysis of Leko - Anand Linares 2003**

**40...h5!?** A very interesting idea, which tries to make h4 more accesible. It looks quite bad at first, but Black might just be holding. **41.g5**

41.gxh5 is less critical because it leaves h4 as an easy target. 41...gxh5 42.Rg5+ Kh6 43.a5 Ra4 44.Kg3 f6 45.Rb5 Rg4+ (45...Kg6 is not bad either. 46.f4 Kh6 47.Kf3 Kg6 48.Ke3 Kh6 and I cannot see how to make any

progress.) 46.Kh3 Rf4 47.a6 Ra4 48.Rb6 Kg6 And White cannot bring his king to the queenside without losing one of his pawns, which would mean a draw in any case.

**41...Ra3 42.Ra7 Kf8**



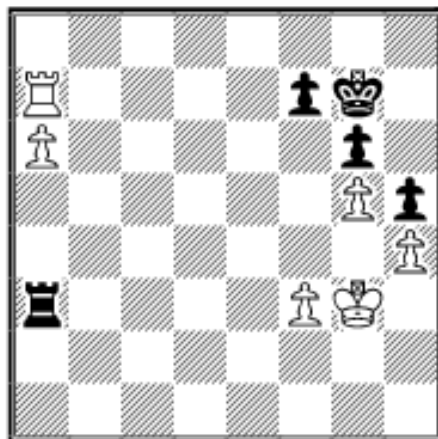
**43.f4?!** Actually, this is part of the most dangerous plan, but the move order is wrong for it allows an easy draw by checking with the rook and going for the h-pawn. White must first get his pawn to a6 by playing f3, followed by a5-a6, and only then go for f4. I gave this move on purpose to show a typical drawing procedure to the readers.

The problem is that I cannot change the analysis to give the right move order because I would have to rewrite the whole analysis again.

**43.f3! The right move. 43...Ra2+ 44.Kg3**

**A)** 44...Kg8 might be a little more accurate, but White nonetheless reaches his goal. 45.a5 Ra3 46.a6 Kg7 and now give black the move through triangulation. 47.Kg2 f4 is the idea, reaching the main line. 47...Ra2+ 48.Kh3! Ra3 (48...Ra4? does not prevent the pawn push. 49.f4 Rxf4 50.Rb7 Ra4 51.a7+-) 49.Kg3! transposing into the line below.

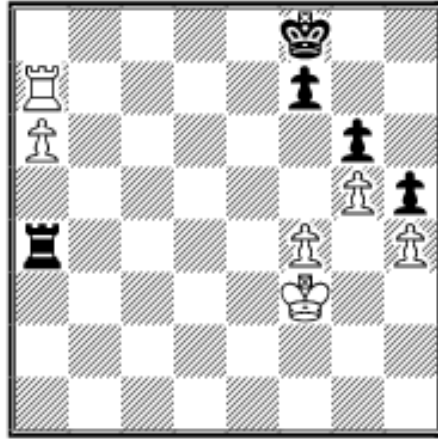
**B)** 44...Kg7 45.a5 Ra3 46.a6



**Zugzwang. 46...Kg8?** Black should just move the rook, which would draw according to my analysis. Now White wins. 47.Kf4! Ra4+ 48.Ke5 Rxe4 49.Rb7 Ra4 50.a7 It is easy to see why black's king had to be standing on the eighth rank: Rb8 is a threat. This tempo is decisive.

50...Kg7 51.Kd6 h4 52.Kc7 h3 53.Kb8 h2 54.Rb1 just in time.  
 54...h1Q (54...Rb4+ 55.Rxb4 h1Q 56.a8Q+-) 55.Rxh1 Rb4+  
 56.Kc7 Ra4 57.Kb6+-

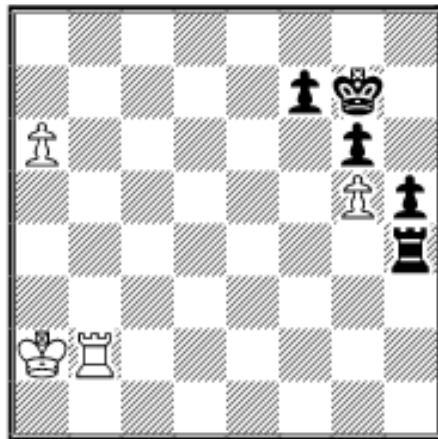
**43...Kg7** (43...Ra2+= is the draw I mentioned before.) **44.a5**  
**Ra4 45.Kf3 Kf8 46.a6**



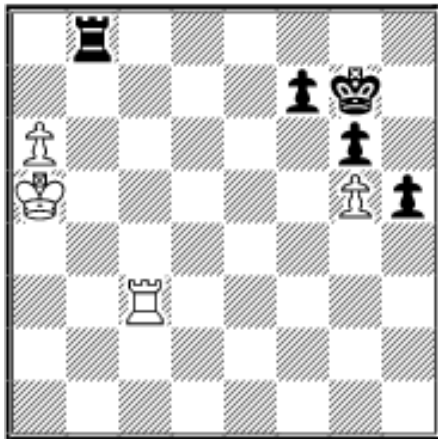
We have reached a critical position. **46...Kg7** (46...Kg8 47.Ke2! Kg7 (47...Rxf4? 48.Rb7+-) 48.Ke3 amounts to the same.) **47.Ke3 Kf8 48.Kd3 Kg7! 49.Kc3** Now the idea of f4 is seen: Black will need two tempi to take on h4 and create a passer. **49...Rxf4 50.Rb7 Rxh4** The h-pawn must be taken. **51.Rb4 Rh3+ 52.Kb2**

**Rh2+ 53.Ka3 Rh1 54.Ra4!**

54.Ka2 also quite a dangerous try. 54...Rh2+ 55.Rb2 Rh4



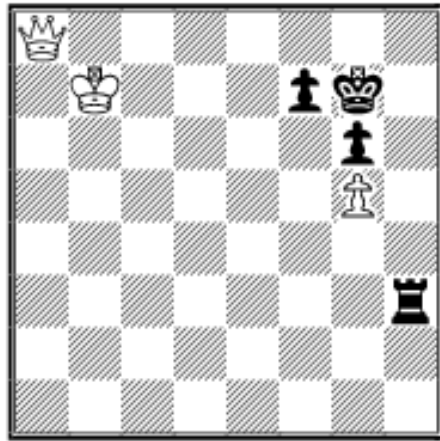
56.Rb3! Spanish IM Luis Javier Bernal brought my attention to this strong idea. Very accurate play is required from Black now. (56.Ka3 is analyzed in 37.04.) 56...Rh2+ 57.Ka3 Rh1 58.Kb4 Ra1 59.Ra3 Rb1+ 60.Ka5 Rb8 61.Rc3!



Another critical position. At first I thought 61...h4 would draw here also, but it is not so. Still, I found quite an amazing defensive resource.

**A) 61...h4? 62.a7 Re8 63.Rb3! Ra8** (63...h3?! 64.Rb8+-) 64.Ka6 black has no useful move. 64...h3 (64...f6?! 65.Rb7+-) 65.Kb7

(65.Rb2!? transposes to a position from the main line with 54.Ra4 (position after 62.Rb2), which is more difficult.)  
 65...h2 (65...Re8 66.Rxh3 f6 67.Rc3!+- is the key idea.;  
 65...Rh8!? Maybe this is not so clear. 66.Rxh3 Rxh3 67.a8Q



67...Rf3 is similar to the line after 54.Ra4. I do not think white can win here. KM: This is probably lost as White's king can't be firmly cut off on the c-file as 67...Rc3 is not playable (see below for more details on this endgame).) 66.Rh3 Re8 67.Rxh2 the easiest.

67...Re7+ 68.Kb6 Re6+ 69.Ka5 Re5+ 70.Ka4 Re4+ 71.Ka3 Re3+ 72.Ka2 Re8 73.Rb2 Ra8 74.Rb7+- as given by Bernal.

**B)** 61...Ra8! Since black cannot carry on with his active play right away, he spends a tempo on stopping White's ideas. After

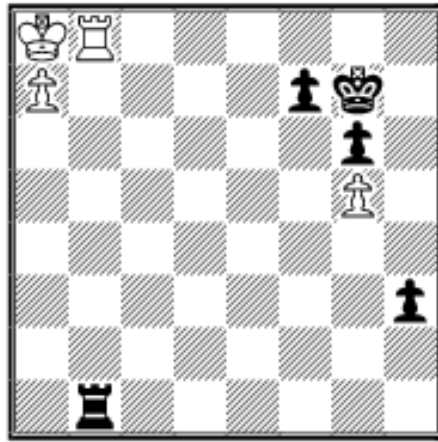
**B1)** 62.Rc4 now that the pawn cannot go to a7 the usual counterplay will work. 62...h4!

**B1a)** 63.Kb6 Rb8+ (63...h3!?) 64.Kc7 Rh8 65.Kb7 h3 66.a7 h2 67.Rc1 Re8 68.a8Q (68.Rh1 Re7+) 68...Rxa8 69.Kxa8 f6 70.Kb7 fxg5 71.Rh1 g4 72.Rxh2 Kf6=

**B1b)** 63.Rxh4 f6 is equal.

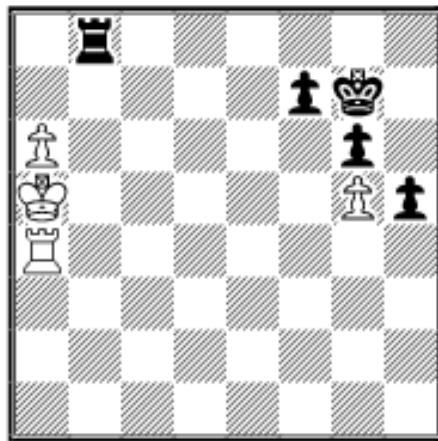
**B2)** 62.Kb6 62...Rb8+ 63.Kc7 Rb1 the rook has been given a more active position to fight against the a pawn. 64.a7 (64.Ra3 Rc1+ 65.Kd6 Rd1+ does not lead anywhere; 64.Rc5 h4; 64.Rc4 f6 there is no check on c7, so this works. 65.gxf6+ Kxf6) 64...Ra1 65.Kb7 (65.Kb6 In contrast with some other lines, now White's rook cannot shelter the king on the fourth rank. 65...Rb1+ 66.Ka5 Ra1+) 65...Rb1+ 66.Kc8 (66.Ka8!? almost works. 66...h4 67.Rc8 h3 68.Rb8





68...Rg1! the only defense, preparing a neat reply. 69.Rb2 Rg2! 70.Rb1 h2. 71...Rg1 is threatened. 71.Rh1 Rb2 and the game is drawn.) 66...Ra1 67.Rc7 h4 68.Kb8 h3 69.a8Q Rxa8+ 70.Kxa8 h2 71.Rc1 f6 and again black escapes. 72.Rh1 fxg5 73.Rxh2 Kf6 74.Kb7 g4 75.Kc6 Ke5 76.Kc5 g3=

**54...Ra1+ 55.Kb4 Rb1+ 56.Ka5 Rb8**



**57.Rc4!** looks like a winning idea, but there is perhaps a saving move for the second player. **57...Rh8!**

57...h4? 58.Rxh4 f6 59.Rb4!+-

57...Ra8? This was the only move in the line given after 54.Ka2, but it would lose here. 58.Kb6 (58.Rd4 h4)

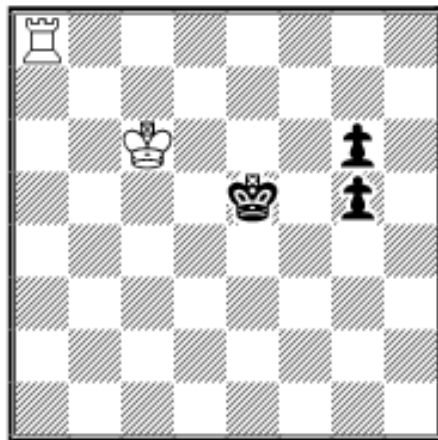
**A)** 58...Rb8+ 59.Kc7 Rb1 60.a7 Ra1 61.Kb6! h4 (61...Rb1+ 62.Ka5 Ra1+ 63.Ra4 is one of the advantages of having the rook on the fourth rank.) 62.Rxh4 f6 63.gxf6+ Kxf6 64.Rh8! g5 65.a8Q Rxa8 66.Rxa8 g4 67.Kc5+- the white king is too close.

**B)** 58...h4 59.Kb7

**B1)** 59...Rh8 60.Rc8! Rxc8 61.Kxc8 h3 62.a7 h2 63.a8Q+-

**B2)** 59...Re8 60.Rxh4! (60.a7? h3 61.a8Q Rxa8 62.Kxa8 h2 63.Rh4 f6= has been seen already.) 60...f6 61.Rc4! the winning motif. 61...fxg5 62.Rc8 Re1 63.a7 Ra1 64.a8Q Rxa8 65.Rxa8 White is saving a tempo for the king now. 65...Kf6 66.Kc6 Ke5

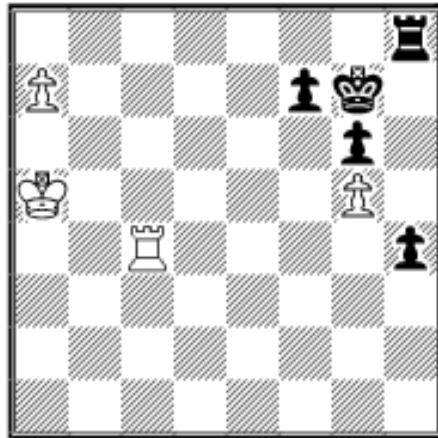




67.Ra4!! an important move.  
 67...Kf5 68.Kd5 g4 69.Kd4 Kf4  
 70.Kd3+ Kf3 71.Ra8+- the king  
 manages to get to the kingside.

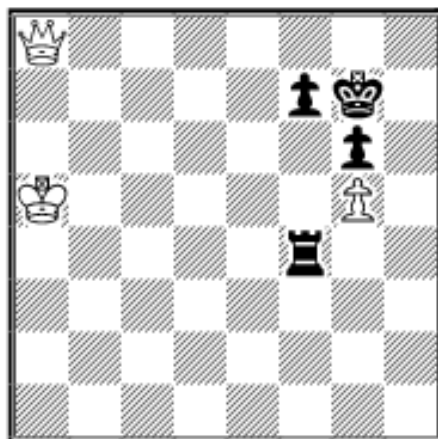
**B3)** 59...Rf8 60.Rxh4 f6 61.Rf4+-

**58.a7 h4**



**59.Rb4!**

59.Rxh4!? Rxh4 60.a8Q Rf4



This is a position I wonder about.  
 Can White breach the fortress? It  
 does not look like it.

KM: Here I can lend a helping  
 hand to Arizmendi with a tailor-  
 made solution for this case.

Usually White can take Black's  
 fortress as Khenkin has shown  
 (see, e.g., *Dvoretsky's Endgame*

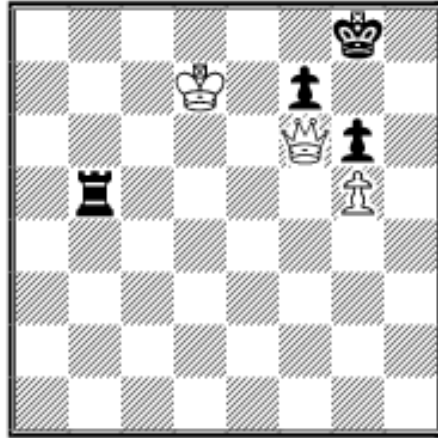
*Manual*, 13-32, p.257), but here the unfortunate position of  
 White's king saves Black as he can cut it off on the c-file  
 forever or win the pawn g5: (60...Rc4! KM) 61.Kb6

**A)** 61...Rf5? 62.Qa1+ Kg8 (62...Kf8 63.Qd4 Ke7 64.Kc7+-)  
 63.Qd4 Rf1 64.Kc6 Rf5 65.Qd8+ Kg7 66.Qe7

**A1)** 66...Rf1 67.Kd7 Rb1 (67...Rf5 68.Ke8 Rf1 69.Qf8+ Kh7  
 70.Qxf7+-) 68.Qf6+ Kg8 69.Qd6 Rb2 70.Qa6 Rb3 71.Qa8+

Kg7 72.Qd5 Rb1 73.Qd3 Rb7+ (73...Rc1 74.Qe4 Kf8  
75.Qb4+ Kg8 76.Qb8+ Kh7 77.Qf4+-) 74.Kc8 Re7 75.Qd4+  
Kh7 76.Qc5 Re8+ 77.Kd7 Ra8 78.Ke7 Kg8 79.Qc6 Ra7+  
80.Kf6 Kh7 81.Qe8 Ra6+ 82.Kxf7+-

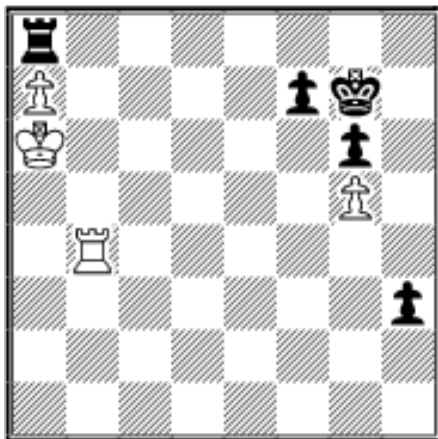
**A2)** 66...Kg8 67.Kd7 Rb5 68.Qd8+ Kg7 69.Qf6+ Kg8



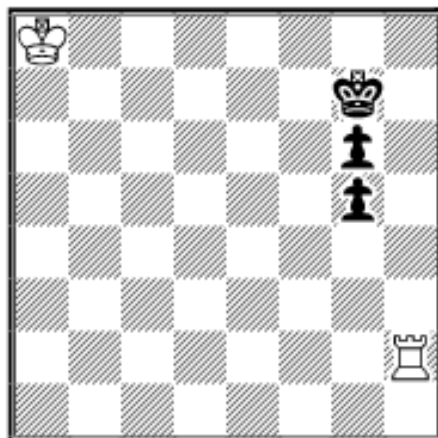
70.Qf4 Rb2 71.Qe5 Rb7+ 72.Ke8  
Rb1 73.Qa5 Kg7 74.Qc3+ Kg8  
75.Qe5 Rb6 76.Qc5 Rb8+ 77.Ke7  
Rb7+ 78.Kf6+-

**B)** 61...Rc4! 62.Kb5 Rc2 63.Qe4  
(63.Qa1+ Kg8 64.Qd1 Rc8=)  
63...Rc1 64.Qe5+ Kg8 65.Qd4  
Rc8= and Black's rook can't be  
forced to leave the c-file.

**59...Ra8 60.Ka6 h3**



**61.Rb2!** Again black's problem is  
his lack of useful moves. 61.Kb7  
Rh8 62.a8Q Rxa8 63.Kxa8 h2  
64.Rh4 f6 65.Rxh2 fxg5



66.Rf2 The idea Dvoretsky  
mentions in his December column,  
but here the g6-pawn does make a  
difference. 66...Kh6 67.Kb7 g4  
68.Kc6 Kg5 69.Kd5 g3= And the  
g6 pawn prevents nasty checks  
from behind. **61...Rf8!!**

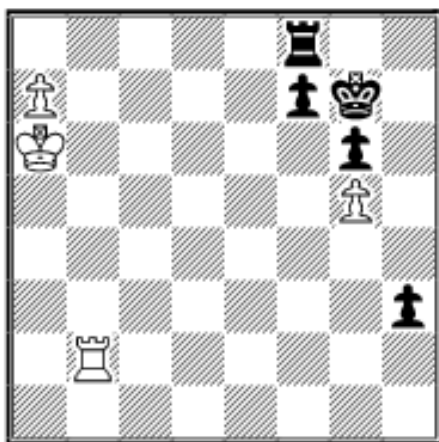
61...h2? 62.Rxh2 f6 63.Kb7  
Rxa7+ (63...Re8 64.Rc2+-)

64.Kxa7 The king is a little closer, enough to tilt the balance

to his side. 64...fxg5 65.Kb6 Kf6 66.Kc5 Ke5 67.Re2+ Kf4  
68.Kd4 Kf3 69.Re3+-

61...Re8? 62.Rb8 h2 (62...Re6+ 63.Kb5 Re5+ 64.Kc4)  
63.Rxe8 h1Q 64.a8Q Now White only needs to take his king  
to e2 in order to prevent diagonal checks. 64...Qf1+ 65.Kb6  
Qg1+ 66.Kc7 Qg3+ 67.Kd7 Qg4+ 68.Kd6 Qb4+ 69.Ke5  
Qb2+ 70.Kf4 Qh2+ 71.Ke3 Qg1+ 72.Ke2+-

61...Rh8? 62.Rb8 Rh4 63.Kb5+-

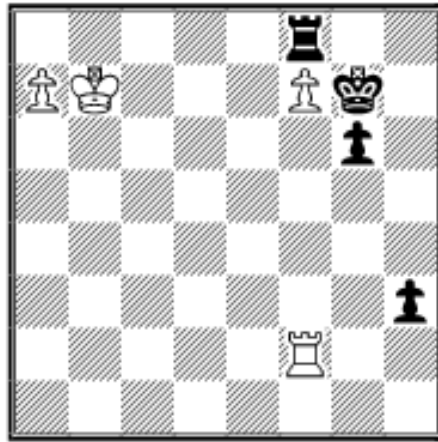


This leaves the white rook hanging  
on f8 against 62.Rb8. **62.Kb7**  
(62.Rb8 h2 63.Rxf8 h1Q 64.a8Q  
Qa1+ 65.Kb5 Qb2+= White's  
queen cannot cover against the  
checks due to the hanging rook.)  
**62...f6 63.gxf6+** (63.Rf2 is not  
good. 63...Rf7+ 64.Kb6 Rxa7  
65.gxf6+ Kf7 66.Kxa7 g5=)  
**63...Kf7**

63...Kh7? loses in a instructive way.

**A)** 64.a8Q? will not do. 64...Rxa8 65.Kxa8 Kg8 (65...g5?  
66.Rf2 Kg8 67.Rf5+-) 66.Kb7 Kf7 67.Kc6 Kxf6 68.Kd5  
(68.Rh2 Ke5 shoulders away the white king. 69.Rxh3 g5=)  
68...Kf5 draws.

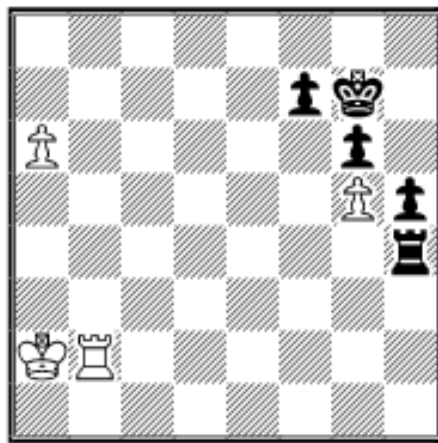
**B)** 64.Rf2 Kg8 (64...g5 65.a8Q Rxa8 66.Kxa8 Kg8 67.Rf5+-)  
65.f7+ Kg7



66.Kb6!! White is not interested in exchanging his pawn for "only" a rook. 66...g5 67.Re2! the threat 68.Re8 forces Black's hand. 67...h2 68.Rxh2+-

**64.Rh2** (64.Rc2 Re8 moving away the rook from check after 65.Rc8 h2=; 64.Ka6 Ra8=) **64...Rg8** (64...g5? 65.Rxh3+-) **65.Rxh3**

**Kxf6 66.Ra3 Ke5 67.a8Q Rxa8 68.Rxa8 g5 69.Kc6 g4 70.Rg8 Kf4 71.Kd5 g3 72.Kd4 Kf3=**



### 37.04 Analysis of *Leko - Anand* Linares 2003

**18.Ka3** Another attempt.

**18...Rh3+ 19.Ka4** (19.Kb4 Rh1! (19...Re3? loses. 20.a7 Re8 21.Ka5 Ra8 22.Ka6 not 22...f6 due to 23.Rb7+) 20.Ra2 Rb1+ 21.Ka5 Rb8 transposes to the main line.)

**19...Rh1 20.Ra2 Re1 21.a7 Re8**

White has two possibilities, but neither one seems to bring white anything. **22.Kb5**

22.Rb2 Ra8 23.Rb7 This stops the f6 counterplay, but the h pawn comes into play. 23...h4 24.Ka5 h3 25.Ka6 h2 26.Rb1 Rh8 (27...h1Q is a threat)

**A) 27.Kb7 f6 28.Rh1** (28.gxf6+ Kxf6 29.Rh1 g5 30.Rxh2 Rg8 31.Ra2 g4 32.a8Q Rxa8 33.Rxa8 Kf5 34.Kc6 g3 35.Kd5 Kf4=) 28...fxg5 29.Rxh2 Rg8 30.Ra2 (30.Rc2 Kf6=) 30...Kf6 31.a8Q Rxa8 32.Rxa8 Ke5 33.Kc6 g4 34.Ra4 Kf5 35.Kd5 g3=

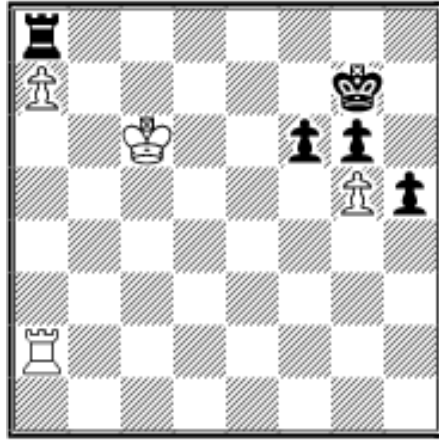
**B) 27.Rh1 f6 28.gxf6+ Kxf6 29.Kb7**

**B1) 29...Rh7+!? 30.Kb6 Rh8 31.Kc6** (31.Rxh2 Rxh2 32.a8Q

Kg7=) 31...Kg7 32.Kb7 Kf6 33.a8Q Rxa8 34.Kxa8 Kf5  
35.Rxh2 g5 36.Kb7 g4 37.Kc6 g3=

**B2) 29...g5 30.Rxh2 Rg8=**

**22...Ra8 23.Kc6 f6**

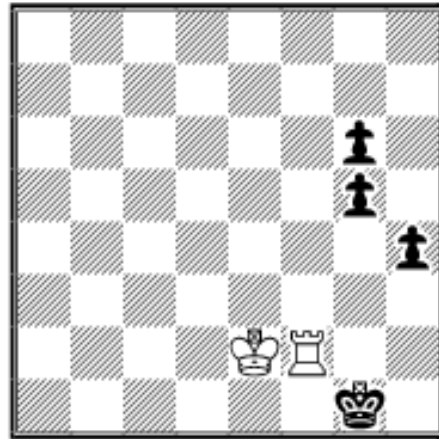


**24.Kb7** Not helping the black king come into play too quickly, but the extra pawn will play an important role. (24.gxf6+ Kxf6 25.Kb7 Rxa7+ 26.Kxa7 (26.Rxa7 h4 27.Kc6 g5 28.Kd5 Kf5 29.Kd4 Kf4 30.Kd3 Kf3=) 26...h4 27.Kb6 g5 28.Kc5 Kf5= is drawn as well.)

**24...Rxa7+ 25.Rxa7 fxe5**

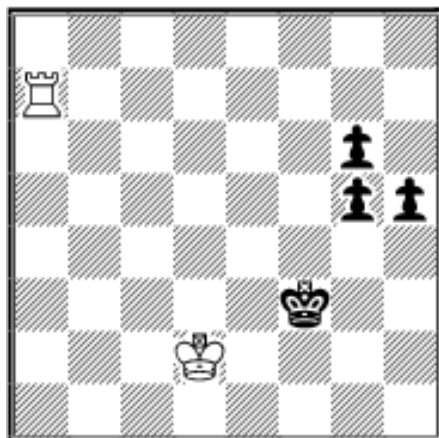
**26.Kc6+ Kf6 27.Kd5 Kf5 28.Kd4**

(28.Rf7+ Kg4 29.Ke4 h4 30.Ke3 Kg3 31.Ke2 Kg2 32.Rf2+ Kg1



In this line the importance of the g6 pawn can once more be seen: if it were not there, 33.Rf5 would win easily. 33.Ke3 g4 34.Rf4 h3 35.Rxg4+ Kf1 36.Rf4+ Kg2 37.Rf2+ Kg3 38.Rf6 g5=)

**28...Kf4 29.Kd3 Kf3** White's king must not be allowed to reach the kingside. **30.Kd2**



**30...Kf2!** the key defensive move.

(30...h4? 31.Ke1 Kg2 (31...h3 32.Kf1) 32.Ra2+ Kg1 (32...Kg3 33.Kf1) 33.Ra4! Kg2 34.Ke2 Kg3 35.Ra6 g4 36.Rxg6+-) **31.Rf7+ Kg2 32.Ke2** (32.Rg7 h4 33.Rxg6 h3 34.Rxg5+ Kh1 35.Ke2 h2=)

**32...h4 33.Rf2+ Kg1=** The difference is that white cannot bring his rook to the fourth rank to

check on g4. A draw is inevitable.

My congratulations to IM Julen Luis Arizmendi Martinez for this fascinating piece of analysis!

Johannes Steckner and Mark Dvoretsky are still analysing Arizmendi's fascinating lines. So far they have discovered the following:

Dear Mark,  
Thank you for your and J. Arizmendi Martinez's analysis on Leko-Anand.

You and Arizmendi have made extremely interesting suggestions! But let us follow the ending step by step.

1) Black still had a safe draw by 39....h5, as we agree. At the moment, I do not know yet which move was Black's fatal error in the game.  
2) Arizmendi proposes the very interesting 40....h5!? and presents many beautiful and hidden resources to show that it draws. A really profound analysis! But after studying it many hours, I have a suggestion:

41.g5 Ra3 42.Ra7 Kf8 43.f3! (most precise, according to Arizmendi) Ra2+ 44.Kg3 Kg8!? (forcing white to use triangulation, Arizmendi)  
45.a5 Ra3 46.a6 Kg7 47.Kg2 Ra2+ 48.Kh3! Ra3 49.Kg3 Ra4 50.f4 Kf8 (50...Ra3+ 51.Kf2 Ra4 52.Ke3 Kf8 53.Kf3 is the same ) 51.Kf3 (A critical position, Arizmendi) 51...Kg8!? (again, forcing white to use triangulation. 51...Kg7 52.Ke3 is the same, Arizmendi) 52.Ke2! Kg7 (52...Kf8 53.Kd3 is the same) 53.Ke3 Kf8 54.Kd3 Kg7 55.Kc3 Rxf4 56.Rb7 Rxh4 57.Rb4 Rh3+ 58.Kb2 Rh2+ 59.Ka3 Rh1 60.Ra4! Ra1+ 61.Kb4 Rb1+ 62.Ka5 Rb8 63.Rc4! Another critical position. Arizmendi claims a fantastic draw after 63...Rh8! 64.a7 h4

65.Rb4! Ra8 66.Ka6 h3 67.Rb2! Rf8! But here, my suggestion is 68.Rh2! with big problems for black:

A) 68...f6 69.Rxh3 fxg5 (69...f6 70.gxf6+ Kxf6 71.Rb3+-, 69...Ra8 70.Rb3+-) 70.Rb3 Rf1 (70...Kh6 71.Rb8+-, 70...g4 71.Rb8+-) 71.Ra3+-  
 B) 68...Re8 69.Rxh3 Re6+ (69...f6 -A) 70.Ka5 Re5+ (70...Re8 71.Rb3+-) 71.Ka4 Re4+ (71...Re8 72.Rb3+-) 72.Ka3 Re1 (72...Re8 73.Rb3+-) 73.Rh2+-

C) 68...Rh8 69.Kb7 Re8 (69...f6 70.Rc2 fxg5 71.Rc8+-) 70.Rxh3 Re7+ 71.Ka6 Re6+ -B)

D) 68...Ra8 69.Rxh3 f6 -A)

B) 68...f5 69.Rxh3 f4 70.Rb3+-

3) M. Marins suggestion 41.g5 is not winning. I completely agree with your fine analysis which shows that black achieves the draw.

4) The move 41...Rc1 (the game) looks illogical, but it is hard to suggest something better.

Maybe 41...Ra2 42.Kf3 (your suggestion) g5!?

43.Rf5+ Kg7 44.a5 (44.hxg5 Ra3+! 45.Kg2 Rxa4 46.gxh6 Kxh6=) gxh4 45.Kg2 Ra3 46.f3 Ra1. But at the moment, I cannot say whether Black will then draw or not.

5) After 42...g5 (the game) Black is lost. Black may try 42...Rc4!? 43.a5 Ra4. But again, I am not sure if White wins or Black draws.

6) 45...Rc4!? has been widely recommended. But I think that White has then even more than one winning continuation.

A) 46.f4 (or 46.f3 Rc2 47.f4 - I see no essential difference, as after 47...Rc3+ it is the same) Rc3+ 47.Kf2 gxf4 (47...f6 loses as well as Arizmendi has shown) 48.Rxf4 Ra3 49.Rf5 f6 50.Tb5 Kf7

51.Ke2! Arizmendis improvement. I agree with his analysis, i.e. that White is winning.

B) 46.Kf3 Ra4

B1) 47.Ke3 Rxg4 48.Kd3 f6 (48...Kf8!?) 49.Kc3 Kf7 50.Kb3 Ke6 (50...Rg1!? may be an



improvement, preventing line B12 below) 51.Rc5!  
(after 51.a6 Kxf5 52.a7 Rf4! 53.a8Q Kg4, Karsten Müller claims a draw for black - incredible but appears to be true) 51...Rg1

B11) After 52.Kb4 Ra1 53.Kb5, Jan Timman claims a win for White. I agree with this estimation, but maybe Black can improve on move 52: 52...Kd6!?, 52...Rb1+!? The win is then not yet fully clear to me.

B12) 52.a6 Ra1 53.Rc6+ Kf5 54.Kb4 Kg4 55.Rc4+! (after 55.Rxf6 Kxh5, Karsten Müller has shown a draw for Black) 55...Kxh5 (55...Kf3 56.Kb5 Kxf2 57.Ra4 Rb1+ 58.Kc6 Rb8 59.a7 Ra8 60.Kb7 Rxa7+ 61.Rxa7+-) 56.Kb5 Kg6 57.Ra4 Rb1+ 58.Ka5 Rb8 59.a7 Ra8 60.Kb6 h5 61.Kb7 Rxa7+ 62.Rxa7 h4 63.Kc6 Kf5 64.Kd5+-

B2) 47.Rd5 (M. Marin's suggestion) Kf6 48.Ke3 Ke6 49.Rb5 Rxg4 50.Rb6+

B21) 50...Ke5 51.Rxh6 Ra4 52.Ra6 +- Marin. I do not see the win so clearly after 52...Ra3+, but I have not spent much time on it. B21) 50...Kf5 (M. Dvoretsky's defence) 51.Rxh6 f6 52.Rh7! Re4+! 53.Kd3 Ra4 54.Ra7 Rh4 55.a6 Rxh5 56.Rc7 Rh3+ 57.Kc4 Ra3 58.a7 Ra1 59.Kb5 Rb1+ 60.Kc6 Ra1 61.Kb7 Rb1+ 62.Kc8 Ra1 63.Kb8 Kf4 64.Rc5! (64.a8Q Rxa8 65.Kxa8 Kf3= as you have shown) 64....g4 65.a8Q Rxa8 66.Kxa8 f5 67.Kb7 Ke4 68.Rc3 f4 69.Kc6+-.

This is certainly not the last word in the discussion of this

ending but may give rise to further insights.

Best regards,

Johannes Steckner

Then Mark Dvoretsky answered:

Dear Johannes,

I checked again a line 45...Rc4!? 46.Kf3?! Ra4

47.Rd5 Kf6 48.Ke3 Ke6 49.Kb5 R:g4 50.Rb6+ Kf5 (instead of Marin's 50...Ke5) 51.R:h6 f6 52.Rh7! Re4+! 53.Kd3 Ra4 54.Ra7 Rh4 55.a6 R:h5 56.Rc7 Rh3+ 57.Kc4 Ra3 58.a7 Ra1 59.Kb5 Rb1+ 60.Kc6 Ra1 61.Kb7 Rb1+ 62.Kc8 Ra1 63.Kb8. You are right - after 63...Kf4 your move 64.Rc5! wins.

I tried 63...Kg4!?, but it is also lost: 64.Rc5! f5 65.a8Q R:a8+ 66.K:a8 f4 67.Rc3! Kh4 68.Kb7 g4 69.Kc6 g3 70.Kd5!+-.

Then I tried 58...Kf4! (instead of 58...Ra1), with the following short lines:

59.Kb4 Ra1 60.Rc4+ Ke5! 61.Rc5+ Kd4!=;  
 59.Kb5 Kf3 60.Rc3+ R:c3 61.a8Q+ K:f2 - White hardly can stop Rf3, and the position looks drawish after that.

I am not sure also about White's win after 47.Ke3 R:g4 48.Kd3 f6 49.Kc3 Kf7 50.Kb3 Ke6 51.Rc5 Rg1 52.a6 Ra1 53.Rc6+ Kf5 54.Kb4 Kg4 55.Rc4+! K:h5 56.Kb5.

You considered 56...Kg6, but Black can also try 56...f5!? 57.Ra4 Rb1+ 58.Kc6 Rb8 59.a7 Ra8 60.Kb7 R:a7+

a) 61.R:a7 Kg4 62.Ra3 h5 63.Kc6 h4 64.Kd5 h3 65.Ke5 (65.Rg3+ Kh4 66.Rg1 h2=) 65...h2 66.Ra1 Kf3 67.K:f5 g4! (67...K:f2? 68.Kg4!+-) 68.Kg5 g3 69.fg K:g3=

b) 61.K:a7 g4 (61...f4 perhaps is losing) 62.Kb6 Kg5 63.Kc5 h5 64.Kd5 h4 or 64.Kd4 Kf4 also looks drawish.

If it is true, it means that the pawn sacrifice after 45...Rc4!? leads to a draw; 46.f3 or 46.f4 is the only way to win (with Arizmendi's improvement 51.Ke2!).

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mark

And Johannes admitted:

Dear Mark,  
thank you for this analysis. I have to admit that in both cases, you are right! This makes Arizmendi's improvement 52.Ke2! even more valuable.  
Thank you also for the analysis on Spassky-Zhu Chen 1997. I am afraid I have no time for further endgame studies in this year, but again in January. Best wishes for your journey. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year also to you!  
Johannes

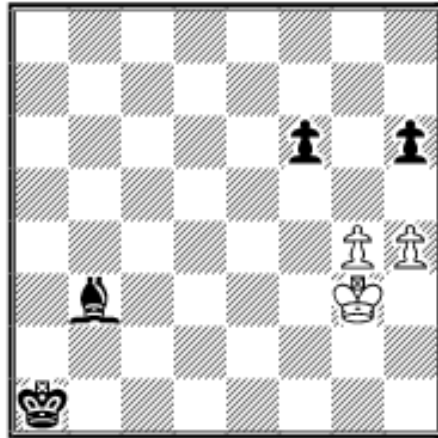
Finally Christian Sánchez found a work, which definitely should have made it into the list of sources on the endgame 2N vs P, which was my topic in the last two month:

Dear Mr Müller,

I would like to draw your attention to the book *Dos caballos en combate* (Two Knights in Battle) by the Spanish author Carlos Lafora. Perhaps it is the only book that deals entirely with the endgame 2N v P.

Regards,  
Christian Sánchez  
Rosario, Argentina

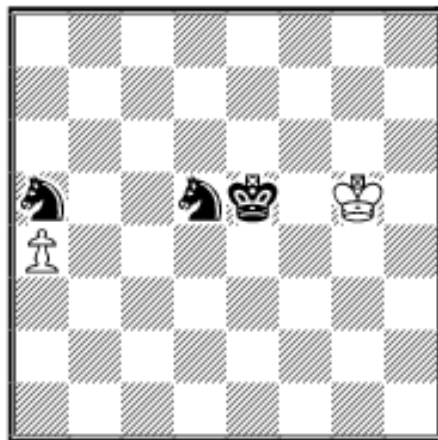
## Exercise (Solution next month)



**E37.01 *M.Stejskal* (1671) - *S.Abel* (1761) Championship of the Hamburger SK 2003**

Sascha Abel has sent me this interesting position. Can White to move reach a draw?

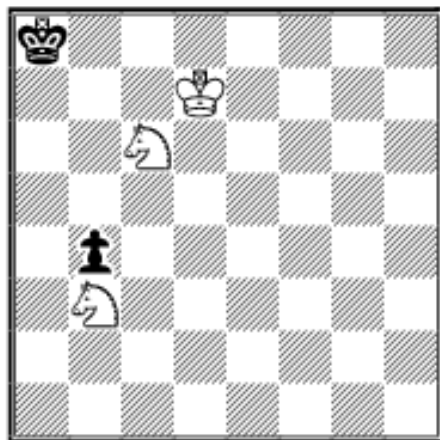
## Solutions to last month exercises



**E36.01 *V.Karasev* (2353) - *V.Turikov* (2286) White Nights op St Petersburg 1999**

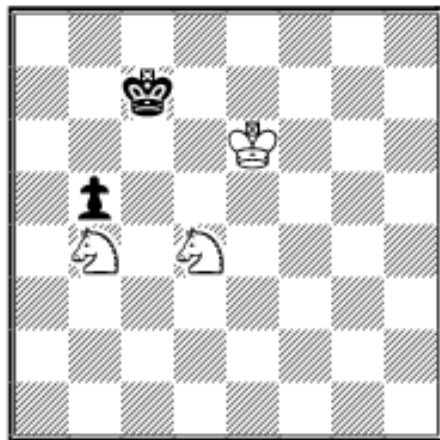
Black wins as follows: **59...Nf6 60.Kg6 Ne4 61.Kf7 Kd6 62.Kg7 Ke7 63.Kg6 Ke6 64.Kg7 64.Kh5 Kf5 65.Kh4 Kf4 66.Kh5 Nf6+ 67.Kg6 Nd5 68.Kh5 Ne7 69.Kh6 Kf5 70.Kg7 Nd5 71.Kf7 and**

Black wins as in the game. **64...Ng5 65.Kg6 Nf3 66.Kg7 Ne5 67.Kh6 Kf5 68.Kh5 Ng6 69.Kh6 Nf4 70.Kg7 Ke6 71.Kf8 Nh5 72.Ke8?! 72.Kg8** was much more tenacious, e.g. **72...Ke7 73.Kh7 Kf6 74.Kg8 Ng7 75.Kf8 Nc6 76.a5 Ne6+ 77.Ke8 Nc5 78.a6 Na7 79.Kf8 Ne4—+ see 36.04. 72...Ng7+ 73.Kf8 Kf6 74.Kg8 Ne6 75.Kh7 Kg5 76.Kh8 Kh6 77.Kg8 Kg6 78.Kh8 0–1**



**E36.02 N.Ristic (2464) - J.Nikolac (2428) BIH-chT Neum 2002**

White mates as follows: **116.Nc5! b3 117.Kc8 1-0 117...b2 118.Na6 b1Q 119.Nc7#**

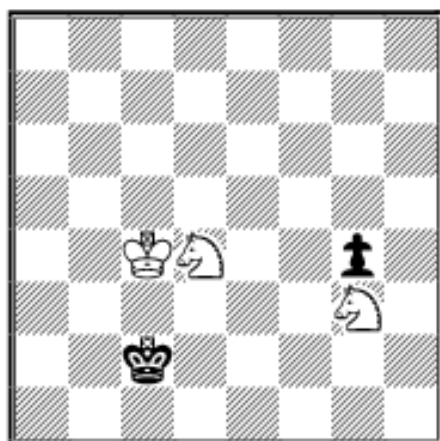


**E36.03 P.Simacek (2402) - R.Lobejko (2344) Trinec op 2002**

Black perishes in any case:

**66...Kb6** (66...Kd8 67.Ndc6+ Ke8 68.Ne7 Kf8 69.Nf5 Ke8 (69...Kg8 70.Ke7 Kh7 71.Kf7 Kh8 72.Nd5+-) 70.Ng7+ a sidecheck 70...Kd8 (70...Kf8 71.Kf6 Kg8 72.Ne6+-) 71.Kd6 Kc8 72.Ne6 Kb7 73.Kc5

Kb8 74.Kb6 Kc8 75.Kc6 Kb8 76.Nc5 Kc8 77.Nb7 Kb8 78.Nd6 Ka7 79.Kc7 Ka8 80.Nc6 b4 81.Nc4 b3 82.Nb6#) **67.Nb3! Kc7 68.Ke7 Kc8 69.Nc5 Kc7 70.Nd7 Kc8 71.Nf6 Kc7 72.Nfd5+ Kc8 73.Kd6 Kd8 74.Nc7 Kc8 75.Ne6 Kb7 76.Kc5 Kc8 77.Kc6 Kb8 78.Nc5 Kc8 79.Nb7 Kb8 80.Nd6 Ka8 81.Kc7 Ka7 82.Nc8+ 1-0**



**E36.04 V.Topalov (2702) - A.Karpov (2696) Amber-rapid 9th Monte Carlo 2000**

Black can draw by approaching the drawing zone near the south east corner: **65...Kb2?** (65...Kd2 66.Nde2 Ke3 67.Kc3 Kf3 68.Kd3 Kf2 69.Ke4 Kg2 70.Ke3 Kh2 and

White can't win as the advancing g-pawn will disturb him, when he releases the blockading knight.) **66.Kb4 Ka2 67.Ndf5? Kb2?** returns the favor. **67...Kb1! 68.Kc3 Ka2! draws. 68.Ne3 Ka2 69.Nc4 Kb1**

**70.Kc3 Kc1 71.Nb2 Kb1 72.Nd3 Ka1 73.Kb3 Kb1 74.Ne2  
1-0**

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