



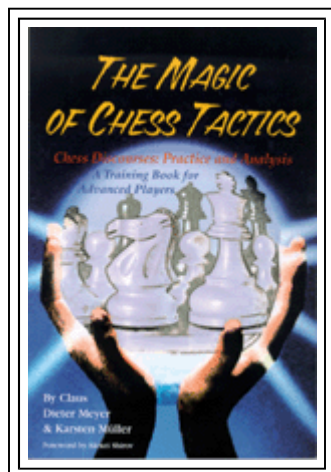
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COLUMNISTS

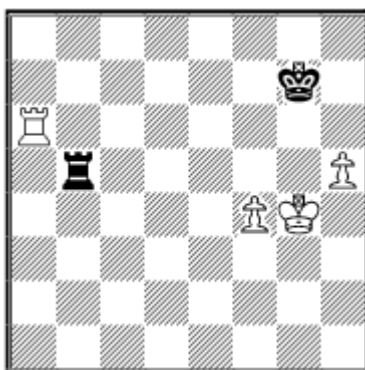
Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller



The Silicon Oracle Speaks

It is now time to return to the theme of Endgame Corner #1 (see the [ChessCafe Archives](#)) as Eugene Nalimov has published his database with R+2P vs. R and the Silicon Oracle corrected a few important points:



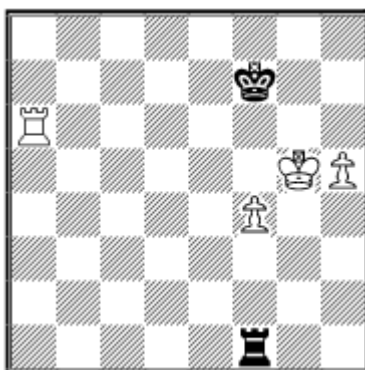
This is a well known standard drawing position. After **1.Rg6+** both ...Kf7 and ...Kh7 draw, but which is easier for humans to comprehend? Traditionally ...Kf7 was favoured after Smyslov managed to demonstrate that he could draw easily with it. But Jonathan Speelman advocated ...Kh7 in *Batsford Chess Endings*, so let us take a closer look:

1...Kh7

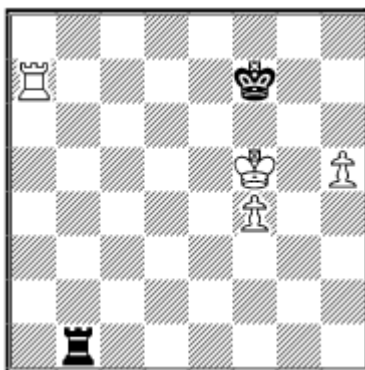
1...Kf7

A) 2.Rg5 Rb1 3.Ra5 Kf6 4.Ra6+

A1) 4...Kf7? 5.Kg5 Rf1



(5...Rg1+ 6.Kf5 Rb1 7.Ra7+ (see next diagram))



and Black's king is cut off on the back rank, which is almost always won for White.) 6.Rf6+! (6.Ra7+?! Ke6 and White must return 7.Ra6+ Kf7 8.Rf6+-) 6...Kg7 7.h6+ Kg8 (see next diagram)

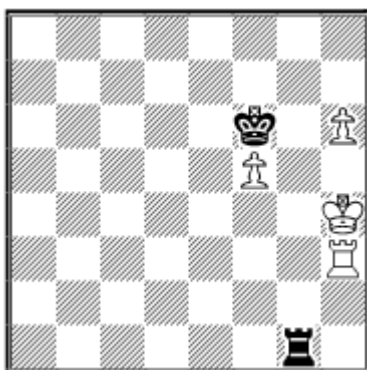
8.Rf5!! Rg1+ 9.Kh5 Rh1+ 10.Kg6 Rh4
11.Kg5 Rh1 12.Rd5 Rg1+ 13.Kh5 Ra1 14.Rd8+ Kh7 15.Rd7+ and Black's king is cut off. White mates in 40 moves with optimal play according to the tablebase.

A2) 4...Kg7!=

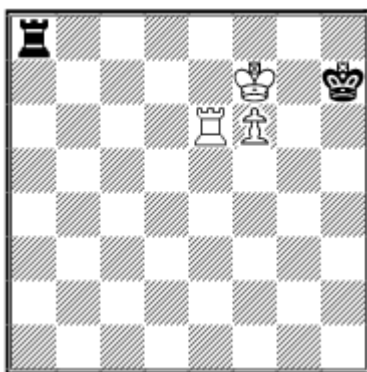
B) 2.Kh4 Kopaev's plan 2...Rb1

Another rule of this endgame suggests that the defending rook is usually well placed on a1 or b1 to be able to deliver checks on g1, h1 or a6, a7 etc., whenever White's king leaves its shelter.

3.Rg3 Rh1+ 4.Kg5 (4.Rh3 Rg1 5.f5 Kf6 6.h6



6...Kxf5 7.h7 and Black delivers perpetual check: 7...Rg4+ 8.Kh5 Rg5+ 9.Kh6 Rg6+=)
4...Kg7! 5.f5 Ra1 (5...Rh2? just waiting is not sufficient: 6.f6+ Kf7 7.h6 Rh1 8.Rg4 Rh2 9.Rg1! Rh3 10.Ra1 Rg3+ 11.Kh4 Rg2 12.h7 Rh2+ 13.Kg5 Rg2+ 14.Kf4 Rh2 15.Ra8 Rxh7 16.Ra7+ Kg6 17.Rxh7 Kxh7 18.Kf5 Kg8 19.Ke6 Kf8 20.f7+-) 6.h6+ Kh7 7.Re3 Rg1+ 8.Kf6 Ra1 9.Re6 Kxh6 10.Kf7+ Kh7 11.f6 Ra8! (see next diagram)

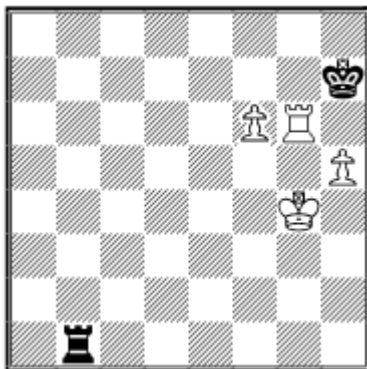


and Chéron's draw is reached, which is based on the back rank defense: 12.Re8 Ra7+ 13.Re7 Ra8 14.Ke6+ Kg6 15.f7 Kg7=

1...Kh8? 2.f5! Kh7 3.Kg5 Rb1 4.Re6 Kg7 5.h6+ Kh7 6.Re7+-

2.f5 Rb1 3.Kg5

3.f6 (see next diagram)



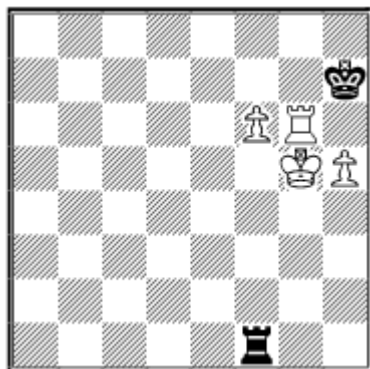
A) Speelman gives 3...Rb6? but it loses: 4.f7 Rb4+ 5.Kf5 Rb5+ 6.Ke6 Rb6+ 7.Ke5 Rb5+ 8.Kd6 Rb8 9.Rg5 Rb6+ 10.Ke5 Rb5+ 11.Kd4 Rxg5 (11...Rb4+ 12.Kd5 Rb5+ 13.Kc6 Rb8 14.Rf5 Kg7 15.h6+ Kf8 16.h7 Kg7 17.f8Q+ Rxg8 18.Rxg8+-) 12.f8Q (see next diagram)



12...Rd5+ the desperado rook does not help: 13.Kc4 Rd4+ 14.Kb5 Rd5+ 15.Kc6+- and the checks have run out.

Rf1 7.Kg5 (see next diagram)

B) 3...Rb4+ 4.Kg3 Rb3+ 5.Kh4 Rf3! 6.Kg4



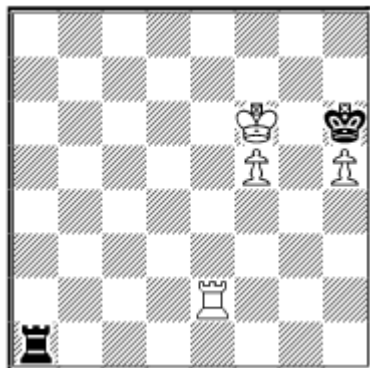
and now only the amazing 7...Kh8!! draws:
8.h6 (8.Kh6?! Rf5=) 8...Rf2 9.Rg7 Rxf6=

3...Rg1+ 4.Kf6 Ra1 5.Rg2

5.Ke6 Ra6+ 6.Ke5 Ra5+ 7.Kf4 Ra1 8.Re6 Kg7!=

5.Rg7+ Kh6 6.Re7 Ra6+ 7.Re6 Ra7= (Speelman)

5...Kh6 6.Re2 (see next diagram)



6...Ra5

Speelman's 6...Ra6+? is insufficient: 7.Kf7

A) 7...Kg5 8.h6 Kxf5 (8...Rxf6 9.Kg7 Ra6 10.f6+-) 9.Rf2+! Kg5 10.h7 Rh6 11.Rg2+ Kf5 12.Kg7+-

B) 7...Kxh5 8.f6 Ra7+ 9.Kg8 Kg6 10.f7 Rxf7 11.Rg2+ Kf6 12.Rf2+-

C) 7...Ra7+ 8.Re7 Ra8 9.f6 Kh7 10.Rd7 Kh6 11.Ke7 Ra1 12.f7 Re1+ 13.Kf8 Re2 14.Re7

Ra2 15.Re6+ Kh7 16.Ke7+-

6...Ra7 draws as well.

7.Re6 Kxh5 8.Re5 Ra7 9.Ke6 Kg5 10.f6+ Kg6 11.Re1 Ra6+ 12.Ke7 Ra7+=

The next example will remind you of Endgame Corner #1:

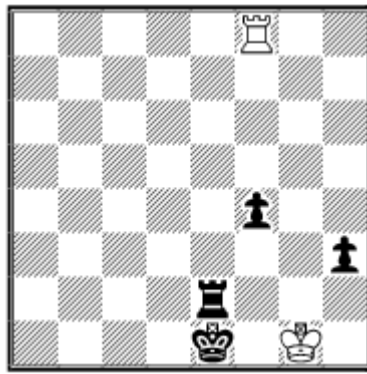
42.02 R.Pogorelov (2517) - E.Fernandez Romero (2396)

Dos Hermanas-B 2003

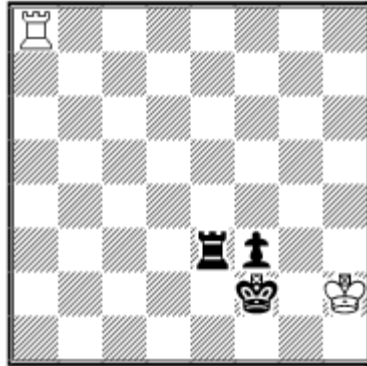


60.Rc8 Kg4 61.Rg8+ Kf3 62.Ra8 Rg2+ 63.Kh1 Rd2?!

The road to victory is as follows: 63...Re2 64.Kg1 Ke4 65.Re8+ Kd3 66.Rd8+ Ke3 67.Re8+ Kd2 68.Rd8+ Ke1 69.Rf8 (see next diagram)



69...Re4 70.Kh2 Kf2 71.Kxh3 (71.Ra8 Re3
72.Ra4 f3 73.Ra1 Re8 74.Ra3 Ke2—+)
71...Re3+ 72.Kh2 f3 73.Ra8 (see next
diagram)



Chéron's position with Black to move 73...Kf1
74.Ra1+ Re1 75.Ra3 f2 76.Ra2 Rd1 77.Kg3
Rd3+ 78.Kh2 Rf3 79.Rb2 Ke1—+

64.Kg1 Rd3 (see next diagram)



65.Rf8?

65.Kh2!= was called for, as the king must
leave the first rank according to the rule.

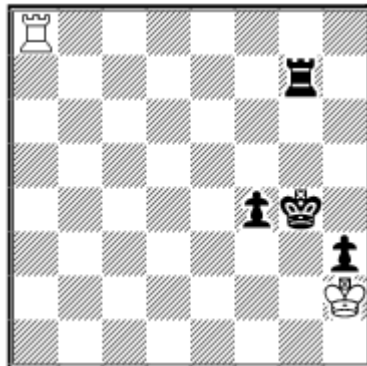
65...Re3? 66.Kh2 Re7 67.Ra8

67.Rf6? Ke3 68.Kxh3 f3 69.Kg3 Rg7+
70.Kh2 f2—+

67...Rh7 68.Ra3+

68.Rb8 Ke3 69.Rb3+ Ke4 70.Rb4+ Kf5
71.Rb3 Kg4 72.Rb8 f3 73.Rb4+ Kf5 74.Rb5+ Ke4 75.Rb4+ Ke3 76.Rb3+=

68...Kg4 69.Ra8 Rg7



70.Ra4?

Now the other rule is applicable and the rook
must move to b8: 70.Rb8

70...Rd7 71.Ra8

71.Ra2 is much too passive, of course:
71...Rd4 72.Re2 f3 73.Rf2 Re4—+

71...Rd2+ 72.Kg1 Kg3 73.Rg8+ Kf3 74.Ra8
White could have now claimed threefold
repetition. **74...Rd3? 75.Kh2 Ke2** (see next

diagram)



76.Re8+? (76.Ra2+ Rd2 77.Ra1 Rd1 78.Ra2+
Kf3 79.Ra8=) **76...Kf1 77.Rf8** (77.Ra8 Re3

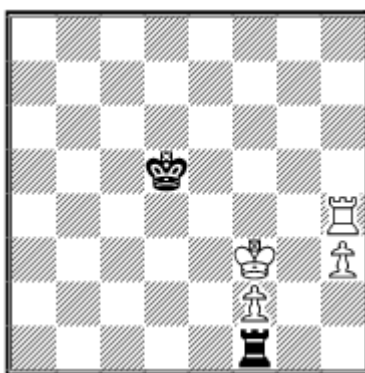
78.Ra1+ Re1 79.Ra3 Re2+ 80.Kh1 Re3
81.Ra1+ Re1 82.Ra3 f3-+) **77...f3 0-1**

When the defending king is cut off on the e-file the attacker usually wins, but when the pawns are very far back it is amazingly difficult:

42.03 J.Timman - N.Short

El Estoril Candidates match 1993

1.Rf4 Rh1



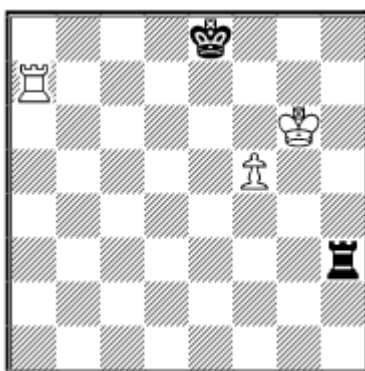
The game continued with 1...Ke5 and was analysed in detail in John Nunn's excellent article *The Silicon Detective* in *New in Chess Magazine* 1/2004, pp.48-53.

2.Kg4 Rg1+ 3.Kh5 Rg8 4.Rf7 Ke6 5.Rf3

5.Rf4? Rh8+ 6.Kg4 Rg8+ 7.Kh4 Rh8+ 8.Kg3 Rg8+ 9.Kf3 Ke5 10.h4 Rh8= and White can't make progress.

5...Ke5

5...Rh8+ 6.Kg6 Rg8+ 7.Kh7 Rg2 8.Kh6 Rg8 9.Rg3 Ra8 10.Kg6 Rg8+ 11.Kh7 Ra8 12.Rf3 Ra4 13.Kg6 Ke7 14.Rf7+ Ke8 15.f4 Ra3 16.f5 Rxh3 17.Ra7



Black's king is caught on the long side of the pawn 17...Rg3+ 18.Kf6 Rf3 19.Ra8+ Kd7 20.Rf8! you should remember this little move, which makes full use of the rooks power. 20...Rf1 21.Kg7 Rg1+ 22.Kf7 Rh1 23.f6+-

6.Kh6

6.h4? is still too early: 6...Rh8+ 7.Kg4 Rg8+ 8.Kh3 Rh8=

6...Ke4 7.Rf7 Ke5

7...Rh8+ 8.Rh7 Rg8 9.Rg7 Rh8+ 10.Kg5 Rf8 (10...Rxh3 11.Re7+ Kf3 12.Re3+ Kg2 13.Rxh3 Kxh3 14.f4+-; 10...Ra8 11.h4 Ra5+ 12.Kg4 Ra2 13.Re7+-) 11.Re7+ Kf3 12.Re6 Kxf2 13.h4+-

8.Kh7 Rg1 9.Rf3 Rg2 10.Rf8 Ke6 11.Kh6 Rh2 12.Rf3 Ke7 13.Kh5 Rg2 14.Rf4 Rg8



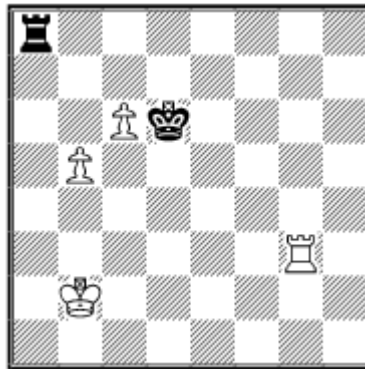
and finally White can prepare the advance of his h-pawn: **15.Kh6 Rh8+ 16.Kg7! Rxh3 17.Re4+ Kd6 18.f4 Kd5 19.Re5+ Kd6 20.Kf6 Rh6+ 21.Kg5 Rh8 22.Re4 Rg8+**

(22...Kd5 23.Ra4 Rg8+ (23...Ke6 24.f5+ Kf7 25.Ra7+ Kg8 26.Kg6+-) 24.Kf6 Rg4 25.Ra5+ Kd6 26.f5+-) **23.Kf6 Kd5 24.Ra4 Rf8+ 25.Kg7 Rf5 26.Kg6 Rf8 27.f5+-** and the pawn has crossed the middle of the board. White is winning because he will reach Lucena's position.

Two connected passed pawns usually win, but when the defending king occupies a hole between them it can be quite difficult and even several fortresses exist:

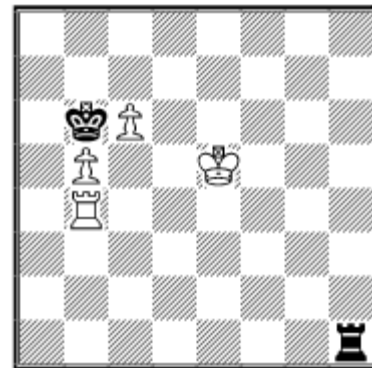
42.04 F.Vallejo Pons (2662) - K.Landa (2614)

EUCup 19th Rethymnon 2003

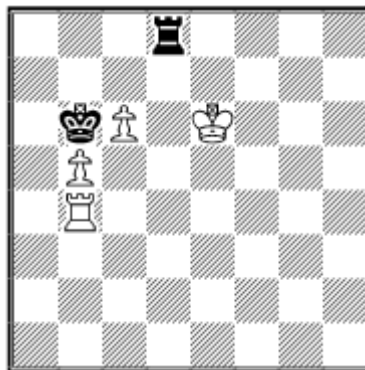


52...Kc5 53.Rg5+

53.Rb3? is too passive: 53...Kb6 54.Kc3 Ra4 55.Rb4 Ra1 56.Kd4 Ra8 (56...Rd1+? 57.Ke5 Rh1 (see next diagram)

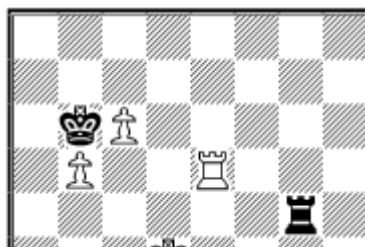


58.Rd4!! R 61.Kd6 Rh 64.Rd6+- (see next diagram)



58...Rh8 and White's king has no shelter 59.Rb1 Rh6+-

53...Kb6 54.Rd5 Ra4 55.Kc3 Rh4 56.Kd3 Rb4 57.Ke3?! (57.Re5 Rf4 58.Re8 wins quicker) 57...Rc4 58.Re5 Rh4 59.Kd3 Rg4 (see next diagram)



60.Re8 Rg7

60...Rh4 61.Rb8+ Ka7 62.Rb7+ (Of course not 62.c7?? Rd4+ 63.Kc3 Rc4+=) 62...Ka8 63.Re7 Rb4 64.Re8+ Ka7 65.c7+-

61.Kc4 Rh7

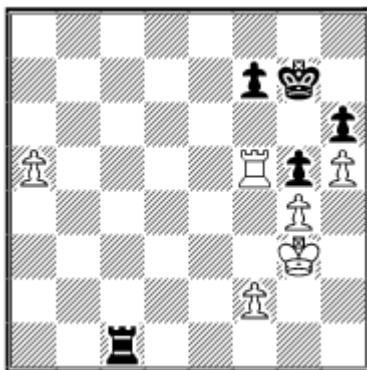
61...Rg4+ 62.Kd5 Rg5+ 63.Kd6 Rg6+ 64.Kd7 Rg7+ 65.Re7 Rg8 66.c7 Kb7 67.b6 Rh8 68.Re8+-

62.Rd8 Rh4+ 63.Kd3?! Rh7 64.Rb8+ Ka7 65.Re8 Kb6 66.Kc4 Rg7 67.Rh8 Rf7 68.Ra8 Rf4+ 69.Kd5 Rf5+ and Black resigned due to 70.Ke6 Rxb5 71.Kd6 Rh5 72.Rb8+ Ka7 73.c7+-

Finally I return to Endgame Corner #30, example 30.04:

42.05 P.Leko (2736) - V.Anand (2753)

XX SuperGM Linares 2003



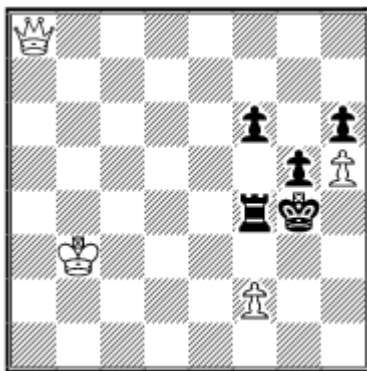
Anand had to try **45...Rc4!** to make the transfer of White's king to the queenside more difficult. This seems to hold the position, while in the game Anand played 45...Ra1? and lost (see 30.04): **46.Kf3**

46.f3 Rc2 47.f4 Rc3+ 48.Kf2 gxf4 49.Rxf4 Ra3 50.Rf5 f6 51.Rb5 Kf7 52.Rb7+ Ke6 53.Rb6+ Ke5 54.a6 Kf4= (Leko at www.chessgate.de)

46...Ra4 47.Ke3 Rxd4 48.Kd3 f6 49.Kc3 Kf7 50.Kb3 Ke6 51.a6

51.Rc5 Rg1 52.a6 Ra1 53.Rc6+ Kf5 54.Kb4 Kg4 55.Rxf6 Kxh5 56.f3 Ra2 57.Kb5 Ra3 58.Kb6 Rb3+ 59.Kc7 Ra3 60.Kb7 Rb3+ 61.Rb6 Rxf3=

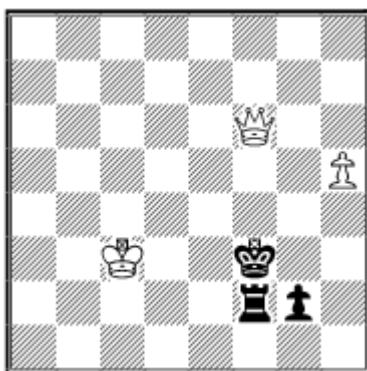
51...Kxf5 52.a7 Rf4 53.a8Q Kg4



So far my analysis. Now Jan Timman has found a very dangerous plan to shatter Black's fortress (see *New in Chess Magazine* 1/2004, p.97): **54.Qh1!?**

My line went 54.Qe8 Rxf2 55.Qg6 f5 56.Qxh6 Rh2 57.Qe6 Kxh5 58.Qxf5 (58.Kc4 Rh4+ 59.Kd5 Re4 60.Qxf5 Rf4=) 58...Rh4=

54...Rxf2 55.Qg1+ Kf3 56.Kc3 g4 57.Qc1 g3 58.Qxh6 g2 59.Qxf6+ (see next diagram)

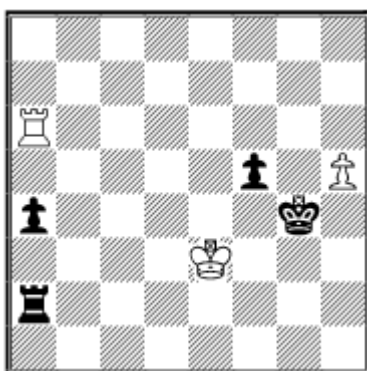


Assuming that White wins, but Black still has a resource: **59...Kg3! 60.Qg5+** (60.Qg7+ Kf3 61.h6 Rf1=) **60...Kf3 61.h6 Rf1 62.h7 Rh1=**

Sources

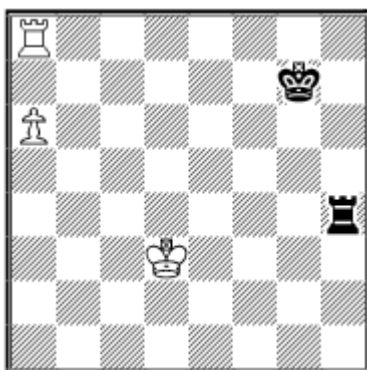
Batsford Chess Endings, Speelman, Tisdall and Wade, Batsford 1993
New in Chess Magazine 1/2004
 Nalimov 6-man Tablebases
 The Week in Chess
 ChessBase MEGABASE 2004

Exercises (Solutions next month)

E42.01 *L.Lenic* (2386) - *Sermek* (2577)

Vidmar mem 15th Terme Zrece 2003

Can White to move save himself?

E42.02 *V.Anand* (2766) - *A.Shirov* (2736)

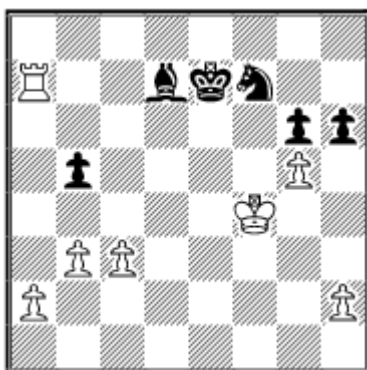
GMA Wijk aan Zee 2004

White to move and win

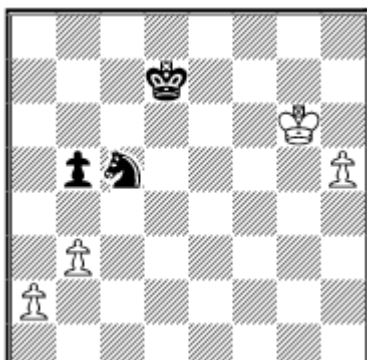
Solutions to last month exercises

E41.01 *K.Müller* (2521) - *P.Acs* (2606)

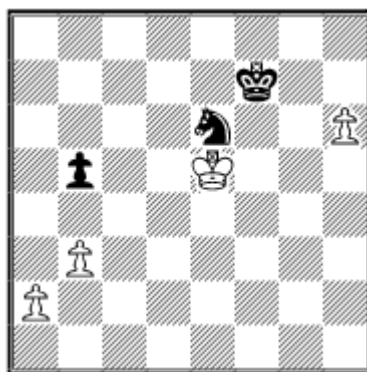
ECC Rethymnon 2003



White wins by force: **41.Rxd7+!!** (41.gxh6? g5+ plays into Black's hand.) **41...Kxd7** **42.gxh6 Nxh6** (42...Ke6 43.a4 bxa4 44.bxa4 Kf6 45.a5 Nd8 46.a6 Nc6 47.Ke4+-) **43.Kg5 Nf5** **44.Kxg6 Ne7+!?** forces White to act very precisely **45.Kf7 Nd5** **46.h4 Nxc3** **47.h5 Ne4** **48.Kg6!** (48.h6? Ng5+ 49.Kg6 Ne6 spoils the win as the knight is able to stop the h-pawn alone.) **48...Nc5** (48...Ke7 49.h6 Nf6 50.a4+-) (see next diagram)

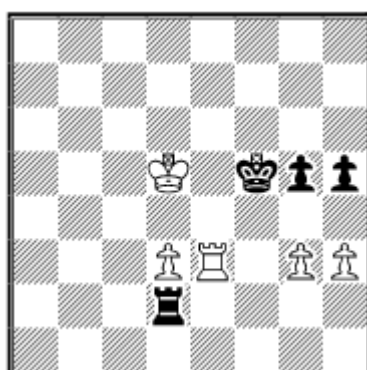


49.Kf6!! the only way to win as it follows two aims: the transfer of White's king to the queenside via e5 and a helping hand for the advance of the h-pawn. **49...Ne6** (49...Ke8 50.h6 Nd7+ 51.Ke6 b4 52.Kd6+-) **50.Ke5 Ke7** **51.h6 Kf7** (see next diagram)



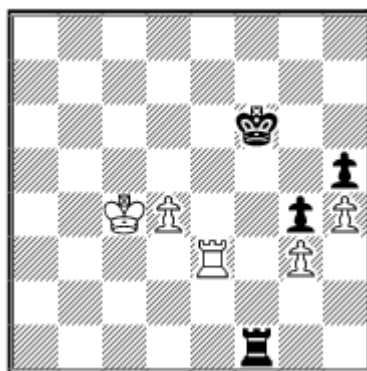
52.b4!? the easiest way to win. 52.h7 Nf8 53.h8N+ should win as well, but 53.h8Q? Ng6+ is only drawn. **52...Nd8 53.Kd6 Kg6 54.Kc5 Kxh6 55.Kxb5 Kg6 56.a4 Kf6 57.a5 Ke6 58.a6 Kd7 59.a7 Ne6 60.Kb6** and Acs resigned due to **60...Nc7 61.Kb7 Kd6 62.b5 Kd7 63.b6+-**

E41.02 M.Adams (2719) - S.Zhigalko (2399)
ECC Rethymnon 2003

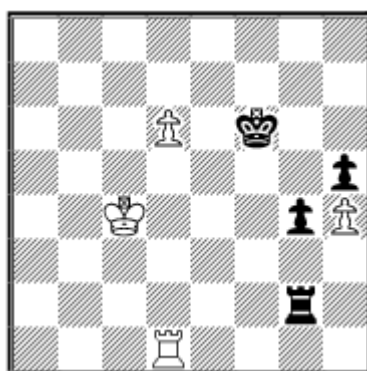


Adams could have won with 47.Rf3+, but instead played: **47.h4?**

47.Rf3+ Kg6 48.h4 Rg2 (48...Ra2 49.d4 Ra8 50.Kc6 Ra4 51.Kc5 Ra5+ 52.Kb4 Rd5 53.Kc4 Ra5 54.hxg5 Kxg5 55.d5+-; 48...Rh2 49.hxg5 Kxg5 50.d4 Kg4 51.Ke4 Re2+ 52.Re3 Rxe3+ 53.Kxe3 Kxg3 54.d5+-) 49.Ke4 g4 (49...gxh4 50.gxh4 Rg4+ 51.Rf4+-) 50.Re3 Kf6 51.Kd5 Rf2 52.d4 Rf3 53.Ke4 Rf1 54.Kd3 Rf5 55.Kc4 Rf1 (see next diagram)



56.d5 (56.Re5 Rf3 57.Rxh5 Rxg3 58.Rg5 comes into consideration as well.) 56...Rf3 57.Re1 (57.Kd4? Rxe3 58.Kxe3 Ke5 59.d6 Kxd6 60.Kf4 Kd5 61.Kg5 Ke4 62.Kxh5 Kf3=) 57...Rxg3 58.d6 Rg2 59.Rd1! (see next diagram)

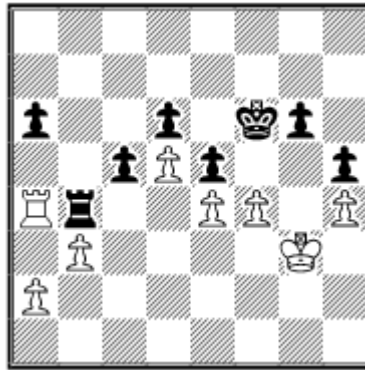


Rooks belong behind passed pawns. Black's rook is on the wrong side of the g-pawn: 59...Rc2+ 60.Kb5 Rb2+ (60...Rc8 61.d7 Rd8 62.Kc6 g3 63.Kc7 Rxd7+ 64.Kxd7 Kf5 65.Ke7 Kg4 66.Kf6 Kxh4 67.Kf5 Kh3 68.Kf4 h4 69.Kf3 g2 70.Rg1+-) 61.Kc6 Rc2+ 62.Kb7 Rb2+ 63.Kc7 Rc2+ 64.Kd8 g3 65.d7 Kf7 66.Rf1+ Kg6 67.Rg1 g2 68.Ke7 Re2+ 69.Kf8 Rd2 70.Rxg2+-

47...gxh4 48.gxh4 Kg4 49.Re4+ Kf3 50.Kd4 Ra2 51.Kc3 Rh2 52.Kd4 Ra2 53.Ke5 Ra5+ 54.Ke6 Ra3 55.Rd4 Ke3 56.Rd5 Rxd3 57.Rxh5 Kd4 ½-½

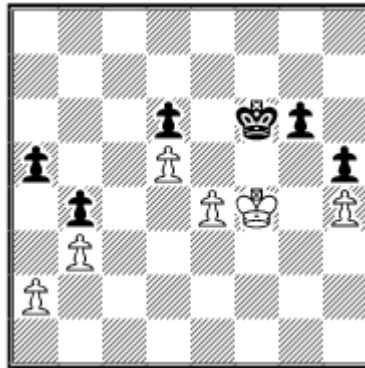
E41.03 G.Schebler - K.Müller

German Championship Höckendorf 2004



White can win by simplifying into a won pawn ending with 1.fxe5+, but instead played:
1.Rxa6?

1.fxe5+! Kxe5 (1...dxe5 2.Rxa6+-) 2.Rxb4 cxb4 3.Kf3 Kf6 4.Kf4 a5 (see next diagram)



5.e5+!! the point 5...dxe5+ 6.Ke4 g5 7.hxg5+ Kxg5 8.Kxe5

A) 8...Kg6 9.Ke6 h4 (9...Kg7 10.d6 Kf8 11.d7+-) 10.d6 h3 11.d7 h2 12.d8Q h1Q 13.Qg8+ Kh5 14.Qh7+-

B) 8...h4 9.d6 h3 10.d7 h2 11.d8Q+-

1.Rxb4? is the wrong move order as Black can take back with the d-pawn on e5: 1...cxb4 2.fxe5+ dxe5=

1...Rxe4 2.Rxd6+ Kf5 3.fxe5 Rg4+ 4.Kh3 Kxe5 and the game was soon drawn.

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