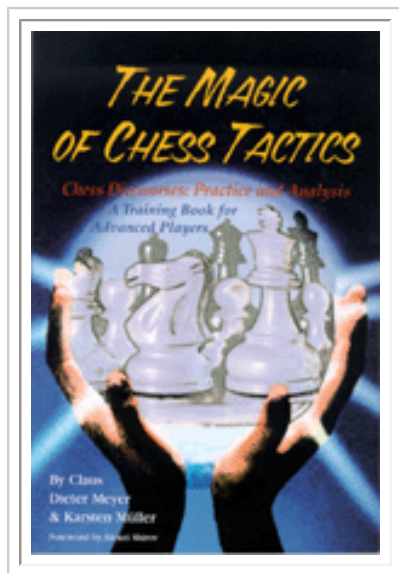




COLUMNISTS

Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller

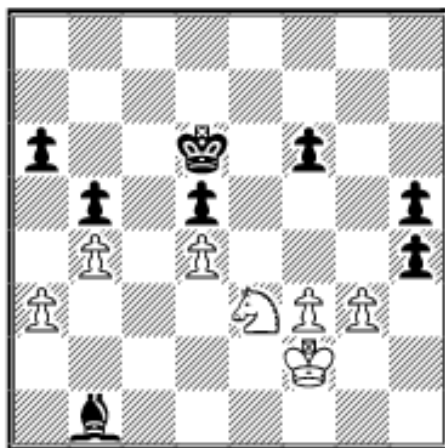


Marin Solves an Old Riddle

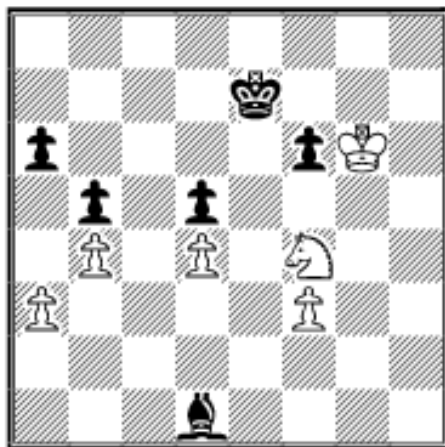
While proofreading the new edition of Mark Dvoretsky's excellent *Endgame Manual* I hit on an old riddle in the Karpov-Kasparov endgame, which was also discussed in Endgame Corner 43 under the title [Counterplay Counts](#). As it turns out Romanian GM Mihail Marin has proven me and many other analysts wrong because Black's counterplay in the following game does compensate even two pawns. I begin with Karpov's amazing 47th move.

55.01 A.Karpov (2705) - G.Kasparov (2715)

World Championship 31st-KK1 Moscow, 9th game, 05.10.1984

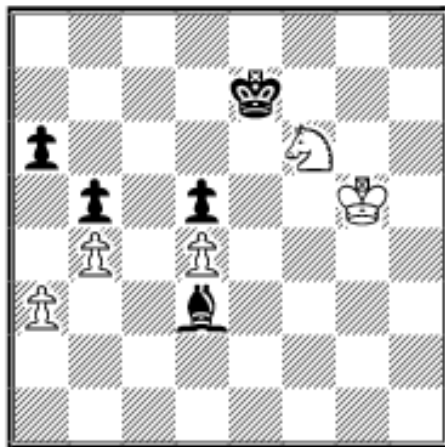


47.Ng2!! The only move to open the way into Black's position. **47...hxf3+ 48.Kxg3 Ke6 49.Nf4+ Kf5 50.Nxh5 Ke6 51.Nf4+ Kd6 52.Kg4 Bc2 53.Kh5 Bd1 54.Kg6 Ke7!** A very good defensive move as the d5-pawn is not important; it even hinders Black.

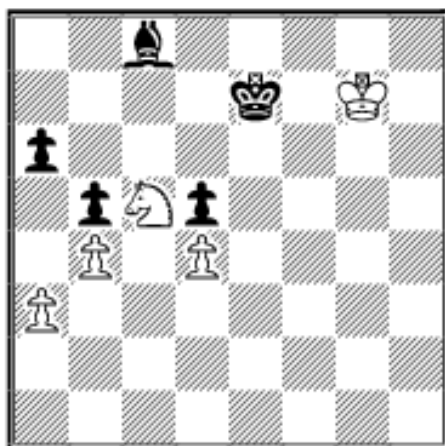


Now Karpov couldn't resist the temptation to win the d-pawn. But this is wrong in principle as it opens a path for Black's king, which must be constantly guarded. **55.Nxd5+?**

55.Nh5 wins, but it is more difficult than it looks at first sight: **55...Bxf3 56.Nxf6 Be4+ 57.Kg5 Bd3**



Here Marin showed the key maneuver to make progress: 58.Ng4! Bf1 59.Ne5 Bh3 60.Kg6 (60.Nd3? is met by 60...Kf7! (Dvoretsky)) 60...Ke6 61.Nc6 Kd6 62.Na5 Ke7 63.Nb3 Bd7 64.Nc5 Bc8 65.Kg7



Black is in zugzwang and loses the a6-pawn (Marin). Dvoretsky showed that Black can still offer resistance, but White will prevail: 65...Bf5 66.Nxa6 Bd3 67.Nb8 Bc2 68.Nc6+ Ke6 69.Kf8+-

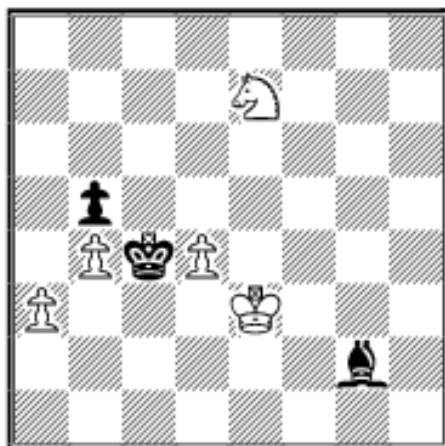
55...Ke6?!

55...Kd6 was more precise and draws relatively easy.

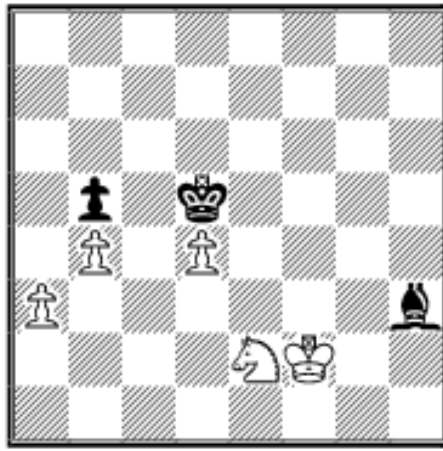
56.Nc7+ Kd7?!

56...Kd6 was again necessary. But the text move does surprisingly draw despite losing another pawn.

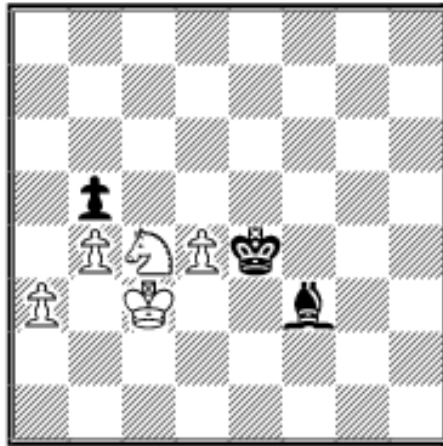
57.Nxa6 Bxf3 58.Kxf6 Kd6 59.Kf5 Kd5 60.Kf4 Bh1 61.Ke3 Kc4 62.Nc5 Bc6 63.Nd3 Bg2 64.Ne5+ Kc3 65.Ng6 Kc4 66.Ne7



Now Kasparov made the final mistake: **66...Bb7?** Black has to play 66...Kd5 in many lines and so the bishop will look odd on b7. Black had to find the study like move: 66...Bh1!! 67.Nf5 (67.Nc8 Kd5=) 67...Kd5 (67...Bc6?+- leads to exercise E55.02.) 68.Ng3 (68.Kf4 Be4! 69.Nd6 Bd3 70.Ke3 Bf1 71.Ne4 Bg2 72.Nd2 Bh3= (Marin)) 68...Bg2 69.Kd3 (69.Kf2 Bh3 70.Ne2

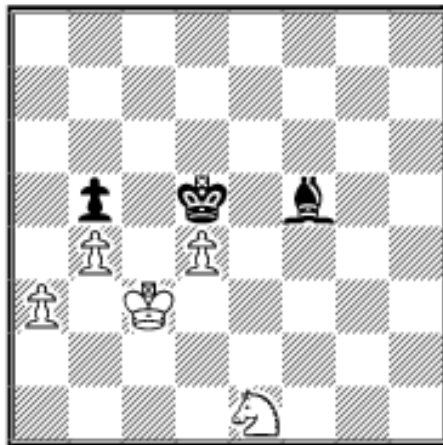


This is Timman's plan to smash the walls of Black's fortress, but Marin found 70...Bg4 71.Ke3 Bxe2 72.Kxe2 Kxd4=; 69.Nh5 Kc4 70.Nf4 Bc6=) 69...Bh3? (69...Bf3! the bishop always comes one step closer 70.Nf1 Be4+ 71.Kc3 Bf3 72.Ne3+ Ke4! 73.Nc4



And now comes Dvoretsky's defense, which shattered my belief that White can win the position: 73...Kd5! 74.Nb2 White will achieve a3-a4, but there are many cases when this doesn't win according to the Nalimov six-man database. This discovery convinced me that the position is drawn. 74...Bh5 75.a4 bxa4 76.Nxa4 Kc6=)

70.Nh5! (70.Kc3? Bd7 71.Nh5 Bf5 72.Nf4+ Ke4 73.Nd3 Kd5 74.Nc5 (74.Ne1!?



A tricky try, but Black can still defend: 74...Bg4 (74...Ke4? and we have reached exercise E55.03.) 75.Nc2 Bd7 76.Ne3+ Ke4 77.Nc4 and this is exercise E55.04.) 74...Bg4 75.a4 bxa4 76.Nxa4 Kc6=) 70...Bf5+ 71.Ke3 Bc8 (71...Kc4?! 72.Nf6 Kb3 73.Kd2 Kxa3 74.Kc3+-; 71...Bc2 72.Nf4+ Kc4?! 73.d5+-) 72.Nf4+ Kd6 and we have reached a position akin to exercise E55.05.

67.Nf5 Bg2?!

67...Kd5 was more tenacious, but Marin showed the road to victory: 68.Kd3 Ke6 69.Ne3 Bf3 70.Kd2 and White's monarch will march all the way to f8 and win.

68.Nd6+ Kb3 69.Nxb5 Ka4 70.Nd6 1-0

I want to thank Mark Dvoretsky for allowing me to use his ideas and analysis.

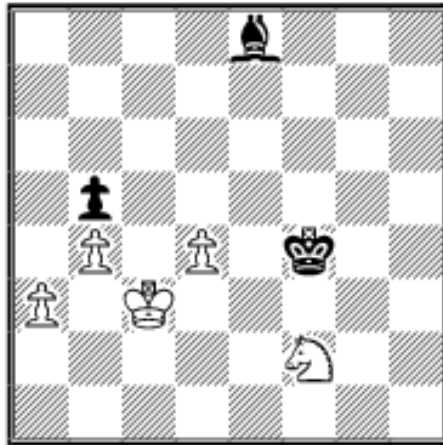
Sources:

Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual by Mark Dvoretsky, Russell Enterprises 2003.
Fundamental Chess Endings by Karsten Müller and Frank Lamprecht, Gambit 2001.

Power Chess with Pieces by Jan Timman, New in Chess 2004.

Learn from the Legends by Mihail Marin, Quality Chess 2004.

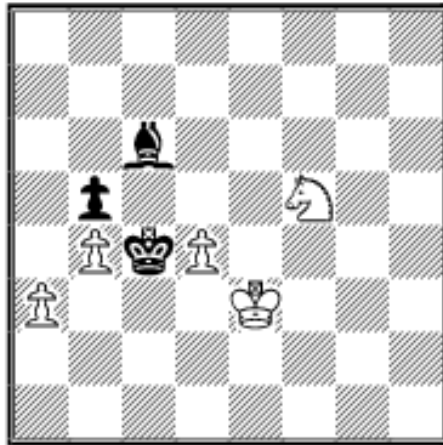
Exercises (solutions next month)



E55.01 Analysis of A.Karpov (2705) - G.Kasparov (2715)

World Championship 31st-KK1 Moscow 1984

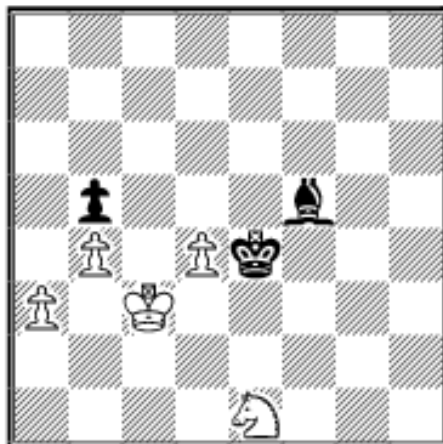
White has a surprising tactic that wins in this position. Can you spot it?



E55.02 Analysis of A.Karpov (2705) - G.Kasparov (2715)

World Championship 31st-KK1 Moscow 1984

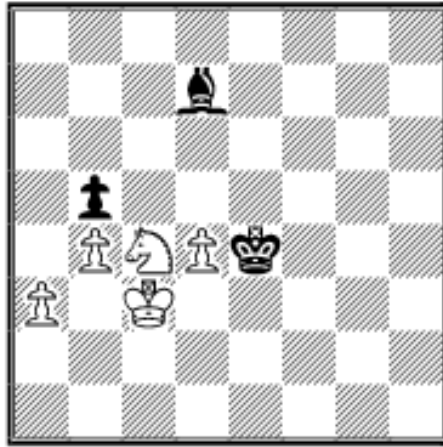
Speelman and Tisdall showed how White can win in their book on the match. So I only reinvented the wheel. Can you do the same?



E55.03 Analysis of A.Karpov (2705) - G.Kasparov (2715)

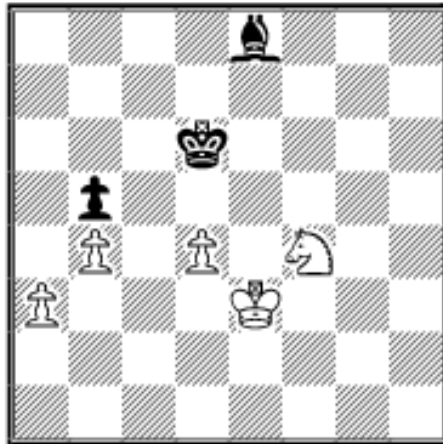
World Championship 31st-KK1 Moscow 1984

Can White shatter Black's walls or not?



E55.04 Analysis of A.Karpov (2705) - G.Kasparov (2715)
World Championship 31st-KK1 Moscow 1984

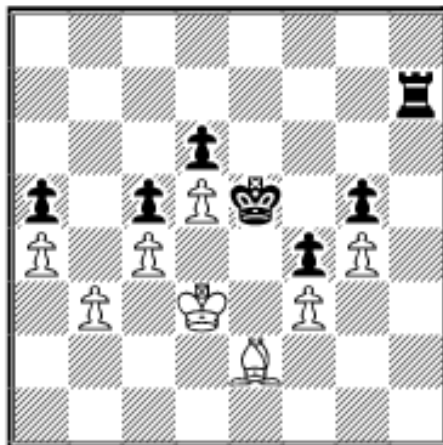
Black to move and draw.



E55.05 Analysis of A.Karpov (2705) - G.Kasparov (2715)
World Championship 31st-KK1 Moscow 1984

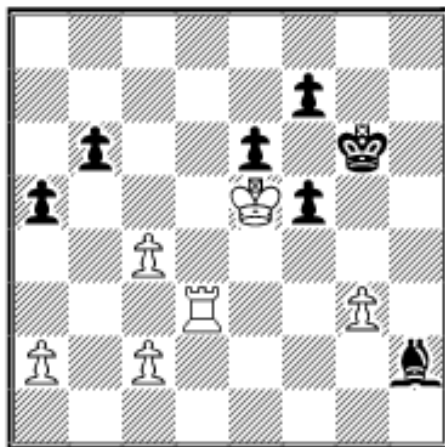
Can White break through?

Solutions to Last Month's Exercises



E54.01 H.Nordahl (2423) - L.Johannessen (2543)
ch-NOR Sandnes 2005

Black's rook has to infiltrate via the e-file:
50...Kf6 51.Kd2 Re7 52.Bd1 Re3 0-1 and
White is powerless against the march of
Black's monarch, e.g. **53.Kc2 Ke5 54.Kd2 Kd4 55.Kc2 Rc3+ 56.Kd2 Rd3+ 57.Kc2 Rxd1 58.Kxd1 Kc3—+**



E54.02 P.Czarnota (2478) - S.Sulskis (2545)

6th EICC Warsaw 2005

White used the absence of the bishop to create a winning passed pawn on the queenside: **49.c5! bxc5 50.Kf4 Bg1 51.Ra3 Bd4 52.Rxa5 e5+ 53.Kf3 e4+ 54.Kg2 f4 55.gxf4 Kf5 56.Ra7 f6 57.a4 Kxf4 58.a5 Ke3 59.a6 c4 60.Rd7 Bb6 61.Kf1 f5 62.Ke1 f4 63.a7 Bxa7 64.Rxa7 Kd4 65.Kd2 e3+ 66.Ke2 Kc3 67.Rc7 Kd4 68.Rf7 1-0**

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