



The Rook Belongs Behind the Passed Pawn

The German chess trainer and analyst Claus Dieter Meyer has analyzed the following struggle in detail. It sheds light on the case of rook plus three pawns vs. rook plus three pawns on one wing, when the attacker has an additional passed a-pawn that is protected from the side. He has kindly allowed me to use his insights.

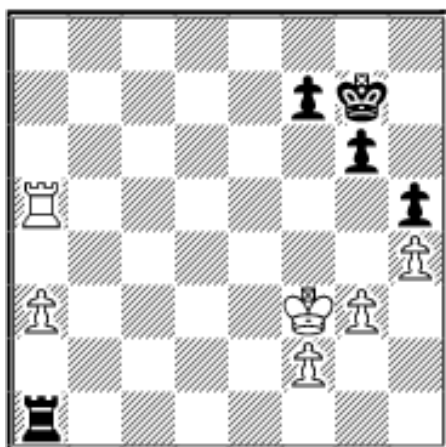
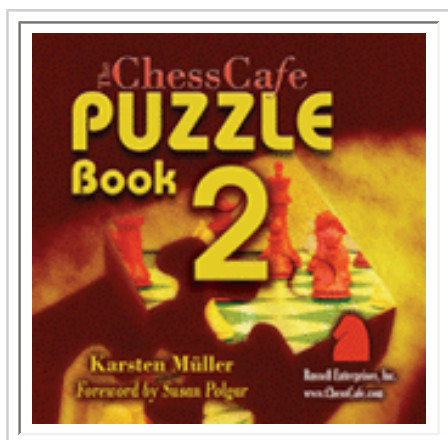
77.01 G.Fish (2529) – V.Dinstuhl (2426)

German Bundesliga 2007, Wattenscheid – Werder Bremen

COLUMNISTS

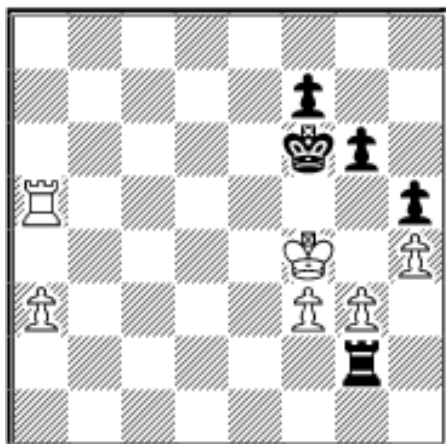
Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller



This position is drawn, as Black's rook is well placed.

40...Ra2!? 41.Ke3 Kf6 42.f3 Rg2 43.Kf4



43...Re2?

A mistake, as White can now improve his rook to protect his passed pawn from the side. 43...Ra2 44. Ra6+ Kg7 draws. One source for this endgame is the excellent [Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual](#) (2nd edition, p.188-210) or [Endgame Corner 30](#).

44.Ra6+ Kg7

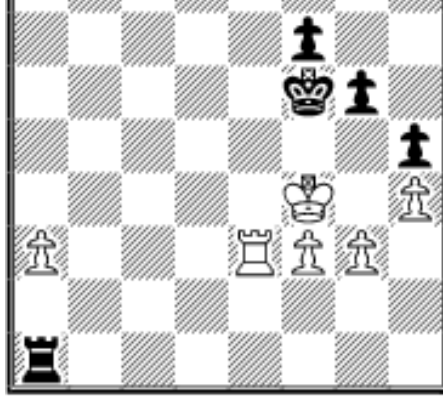
44...Ke7 45.Rb6 Ra2 46.Rb3 Kf6 47.Re3 transposes to the game.

45.Rd6 Ra2 46.Rd3 Kf6 47.Re3 Ra1



48.Ke4?

This violates the endgame principle do not hurry.



The preparatory 48.Rc3!? was called for, e.g. 48... Re1!. White is not allowed to transfer his king to the queenside so easily. Black wishes to block White's safe setup a3, Rc3, f4, g3, h4, which would give the white king a free hand.

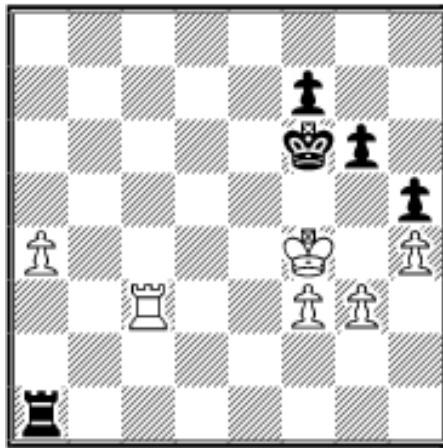
A) 48...Ke6? 49.Ke4 (49.Kg5 Ke7 50.f4 Rb1 51. Kh6 Kf6 52.Rc6+ Kf5 53.Kg7 Rb7 (53...Rb3 54. Rc5+ Ke4 55.Re5+ Kd4 56.Kxf7 Rxd3 57.Rg5+—) 54.Rc5+ Ke4 55.a4 Rd7 56.a5 Kf3 (56...Ra7 57.

a6) 57.Rc3+ Kg4 58.Kf6 Ra7 59.Ra3+—) 49...f5+ (49...Ra2 50.f4+—) 50.Kf4 Kf6 51.Rc6+ Kg7 52.Ra6 Kh6 53.a4 Rb1 54.a5 Rb4+ 55.Ke5 Rb3 56.f4 Rxd3 57.Rc6 Ra3 58.a6+—.

B) 48...Ra2? is too slow, as White can now meet 49.Ke4 g5 with a check (for 49...Ke6 50. f4 Ra1 51.Kd4+— see the game.) 50.Rc6+ Kg7 51.hxg5 Rxa3 52.Rh6 Ra4+ 53.Ke3 Ra3+ (53...Ra5 54.f4 Ra3+ 55.Kf2 Ra2+ 56.Kg1 Rb2 57.Rxd5 Kg6 58.Rh6+ Kg7 (58...Kf5 59. Rf6+ Kg4 60.Rxf7 Kxd3 61.Kf1 Kf3 62.Ke1 Ke3 63.Kd1+—) 59.Rh2 Rb3 60.Kg2 Ra3 61. Kh3+—) 54.Kf2 Ra2+ 55.Kg1 f5 (55...Ra1+ 56.Kh2 Ra2+ 57.Kh3 Ra1 58.Rxd5 Kg6 59. Kg4) 56.f4+—.

Now back to 48...Re1!:

49.a4 Ra1



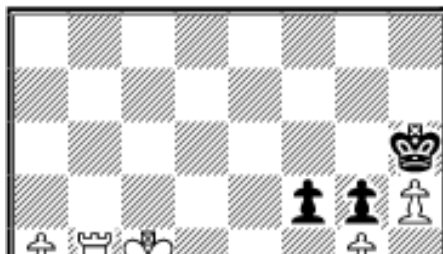
50.Rc6+ (50.Rc4 Ra3 51.g4 (51.Ke4 g5! 52.hxg5 + (52.Rc6+ Kg7 53.hxg5 Rxa4+ 54.Ke3 h4=) 52... Kxd5 53.Rc5+ Kg6 54.a5 f5+!? 55.Kf4 (55.Kd4 f4 56.gxf4 Rxf3 and Black should be able to hold on.; 55.Kd5 f4 56.gxf4 Rxf3 57.Kc6 h4 58.a6 h3 59.Rg5+ Kf6 60.Rh5 Kg6 61.Rh4 Ra3 62.Kb7 Rb3+ 63.Kc7 Kf5=) 55...Ra4+ 56.Ke5 Ra3 57.Rc6 + Kf7 58.a6 Rxf3 59.Rc7+ Kg6 60.a7 Ra3 61.Rb7 Kg5 62.Rg7+ Kh6 63.Rb7 Kg5 64.Kd6 f4=) 51... Ra1 (51...hxg4 may also be sufficient: 52.fxg4 Ra1

The alternatives are insufficient:

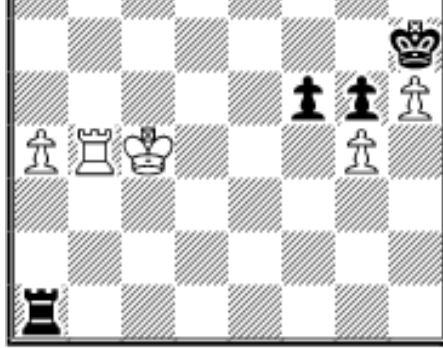
A) 52...Ke6? 53.Kg5 Ke7 54.h5+—.

B) 52...Rh3? 53.a5 Rxd4 54.Ra4 Rh8 55.a6 Ra8 56.a7 Ke6 (56...g5+ 57.Ke4 Kg6 58.Ra6+ f6 59.Kd5+—) 57.Ra6+ Kd5 58.g5+—.

53.Re4 (53.Rb4 Ra2 54.Re4 Rf2+ 55.Ke3 Ra2 56.Kd3 g5 57.h5 Kg7 58.Rb4 Kh6=) 53... Rf1+ (53...g5+? 54.hxg5+ Kg6 55.Rb4 Rf1+ 56.Ke4 Kxd5 57.Kd5+—) 54.Ke3 Ra1 (54... Rd1? 55.Rb4 Ke7 56.h5 gxd5 57.gxd5 Rh1 58.Rb5 Rh3+ 59.Ke2 Rh2+ 60.Kf3 f6 61.a5 Ke6 62.a6 Ra2 63.Rb6+ Kf5 64.Ke3 Kg5 65.Kd4+—) 55.Kd3 g5 56.h5 Kg7 57.Rb4 Kh6 58. Kc4 f5!



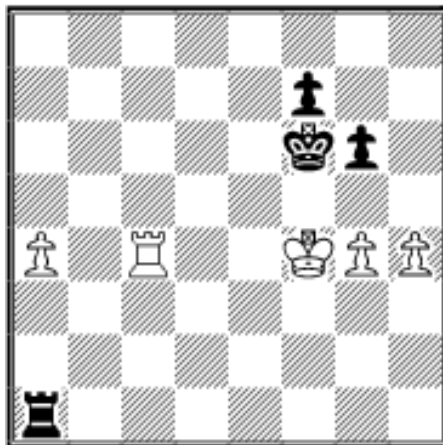
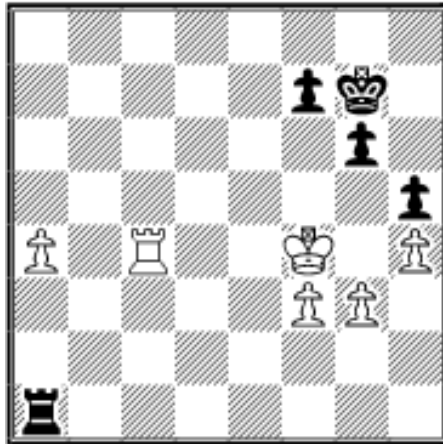
Counterplay is the order of the day, which is very typical for rook endgames! 59.Rb6+ (59.gxf5 g4 60.f6 (60.Kb5 Kxd5 61.a5 Kg5 62.f6 Kxf6 63. Rxd4 Ke6=) 60...Kxd5 61.Kb5 Kg5 62.a5 (62.f7 Rf1=) 62...Kxf6 63.Rxd4 Ke6=) 59...Kh7 (59...



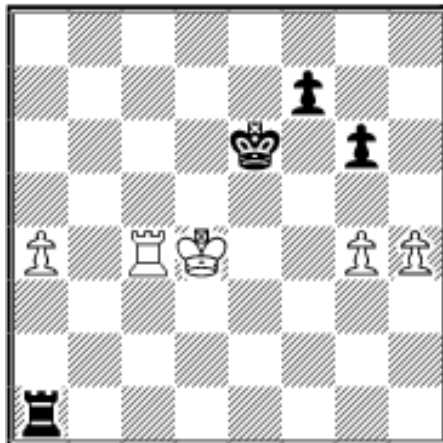
Kg7? 60.Rg6+ (60.gxf5? Rxa4+ 61.Kd5 Kf7=; 60.h6+? Kh7 61.gxf5 Rxa4+ 62.Kd5 g4=) 60...Kf7 61.Kb5 Rb1+ 62.Ka5 fxg4 63.Rxg5 Rh1 64.Rxg4 Rxh5+ 65.Kb6+-- 60.gxf5 Rxa4+ 61.Kd5 Ra5+ 62.Ke6 g4 63.f6 Ra8 64.Rb7+ Kh6 65.Ke7 Kxh5 66.f7 g3 67.f8Q Rxf8 68.Kxf8 Kh4=) 52.g5+ (52.gxh5 gxh5 53.Rc6+ Kg7 54.Ra6 Ra3 55.Kg5 Rxf3 56.Ra5 Ra3 57.Kxh5 Kh7= must be drawn, as White's winning potential is too reduced.) 52...

Ke6 53.Ke4 (53.Rc6+ Kd5 54.Ra6 Rh1 55.Kg3 Rg1+ 56.Kh2 Ra1 57.a5 Ra2+ 58.Kg3 Ra1 59.Rf6 Rxa5 60.Rxf7 Ra6=) 53...Kd6 54.Kd4 Ra3 55.f4 Rh3 56.Ke4 Rxh4 57.a5 Rh1 58.Rd4+ Ke6 59.Ra4 Re1+ 60.Kf3 Rf1+ 61.Kg2 Rc1 62.a6 Rc8 63.Kg3 Ra8 64.a7 Kd5 65.f5 gxf5 66.Kf4 h4 67.Kxf5 h3 68.Kf6 h2 69.Rh4 Rxa7 70.Rxh2 Ke4!=) 50...Kg7 51.Rc4

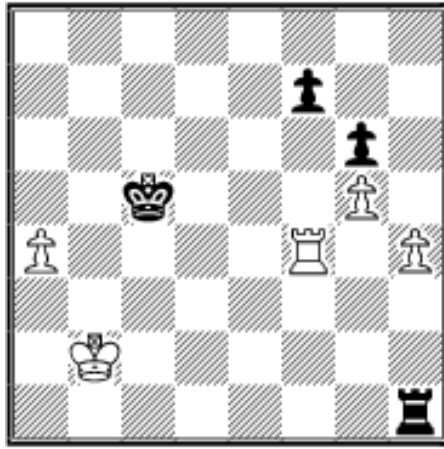
51...f6 (51...Kf6 52.g4 hxg4 53.fxg4



53...Rf1+ (53...Rh1? 54.a5 Rxh4 55.a6 g5+ 56.Kg3 Rh8 57.Ra4 Ra8 58.a7+-- 54.Ke3 Ra1 55.Kd4 (55.Re4 Kg7 56.g5 (56.Kd3 f5=) 56...f5 57.Rb4 (57.gxf6+ Kxf6 58.Kd3 g5 59.hxg5+ Kxg5 60.Kc3 Kf5=) 57...Kg8 58.Kf4 Kf7 59.Ke5 Re1+ 60.Kd5 Ra1 61.Kc5 Ke6 62.Kb6 Ke5 63.a5 f4 64.a6 f3 65.Rb2 Kf4=) 55...Ke6



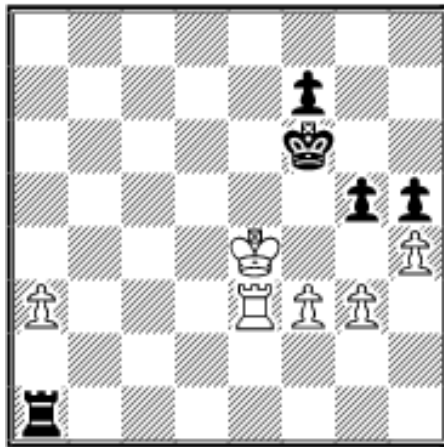
56.g5 now White has a safe setup on the fourth rank, but Black surprisingly seems to have enough resources to hold the balance: 56...Kd6 (56...f5? 57.gxf6 Kxf6 58.Kc5+-- 57.Kc3 Kd5 58.Rf4 Kc5 59.Kb3 Rb1+ 60.Ka3 Ra1+ 61.Kb2 Rh1



Black is so active that we cannot see how White will make progress.) 52.g4 hxg4 53.fxg4 Kf7 54.g5 Rh1 55.Ke3 Rh3+ 56.Kd2 fxg5 57.hxg5 Ke6 58.a5 Ra3 59.Rc5 Kd6 60.Rb5 Ra4 (60...Kc6? 61.Rb6+ Kc5 62.Rxg6+-) 61.Kc3 Kc6 62.Re5 (62.Rb6+ Kc5 63.Rxg6 Rxa5=) 62...Kd6 63.Kb3 Ra1 64.Rb5 Kc6 65.Rb6+ Kc5 66.Ra6 Rb1+ (66...Kb5? 67.Re6+-) 67.Kc3 Ra1=.

48...Rg1?

As White wants to play f4 anyway, this wastes precious time. Black had to begin active counterplay immediately: 48...g5!

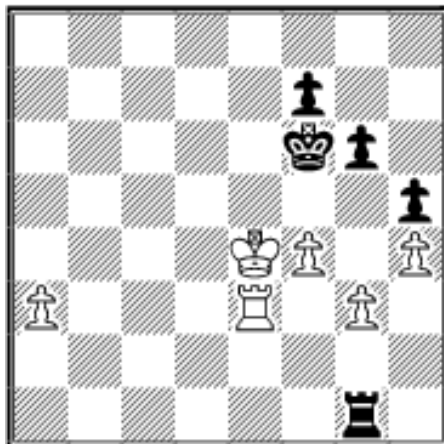


49.hxg5+

A) 49.Rb3 gxf4 50.gxf4 Rh1 51.Rb6+ (a) 51.f4 Rxh4 52.Rb6+ Kg7 53.Rb1 Rh3 54.Ra1 h4 55.a4 Rg3 56.a5 h3 57.a6 h2 58.Rh1 Ra3=) 51...Kg7 52.Rb4 Rxh4+ 53.Kf5 Rh3 54.Rf4 Rg3 55.a4 f6 56.Ke6 Rg1 57.Rxf6 h4=.

B) 49.Kd4 gxf4 50.gxf4 Rh1 51.Re4 (51.Kc4?! Rxh4+ 52.Kb5 Rh2) 51...Ra1 52.Re3 Rh1=; 49...Kxg5 50.Kd4 f5 51.Rb3 (51.f4+ Kg4=) 51...f4 52.Rb5+ Kf6 53.gxf4 Rxa3=.

49.f4



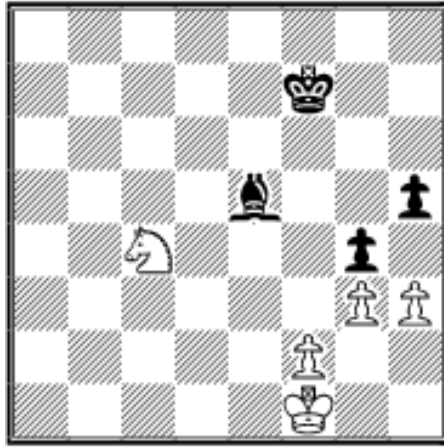
White has reached his ideal setup and wins easily.

49...Ra1

49...Ke6 was more tenacious, but White should prevail in any case: 50.Kd4+ Kd6 51.Kc4 Kc6 52.Kb4+-.

50.Kd4 Kf5 51.Kc4 Kg4 52.Kb4 1-0

Exercises (Solutions next month)



E76.01 A. Gasthofer (2453) – A. Berelovich (2556)
8th ch-Euro, Dresden 2007

Black can draw by activating his king.

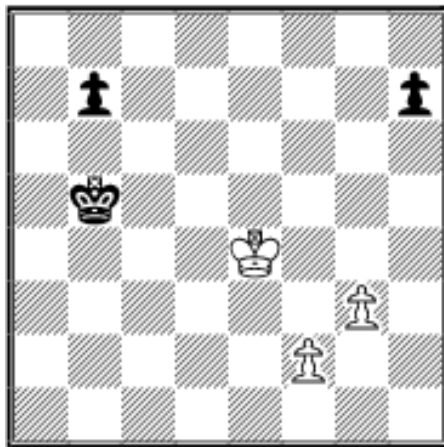
45...Kf6!

45...Bc7? 46.hxg4 hxg4 47.Ne3+–; 45...Ke6? 46.hxg4 hxg4 47.Ne3+–.

46.Nxe5

46.hxg4 hxg4 47.Ne3 Kg5=.

46...Kxe5 47.Kg2 Ke4 48.f4 gxf3+ 49.Kf2 h4 50.g4 Kf4 51.Ke1 Ke4 52.Kd2 Kf4 53.Ke1 Kg3 54.Kf1 Kf4 55.Kf2 Ke4 56.g5 Kf5 57.Kxf3 Kxg5 58.Ke4 Kg6 59.Kf4 Kg7 60.Kg5 Kh8 61.Kh6 ½–½



E76.02 S. Kartsev (2213) – A. Schaffarczyk (2133)
Sander Schloss Open, Werther 2007

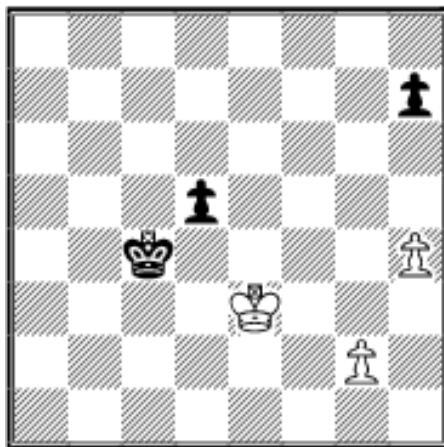
White wins by shouldering Black off.

50.Kd5!

50.f4? Kc6= spoils it.

50...Ka4 51.f4 b5 52.f5 b4 53.Kc4 b3 54.Kc3 1-0

Black resigned, as White queens with check: 54...Ka3 55.f6 b2 56.f7 b1Q 57.f8Q+ Ka4 (57...Ka2 58.Qa8#) 58.Qa8+ Kb5 59.Qb7+–.



E76.03 R. Akesson (2475) – M. Oleksienko (2541)
23rd Open, Cappelle la Grande 2007

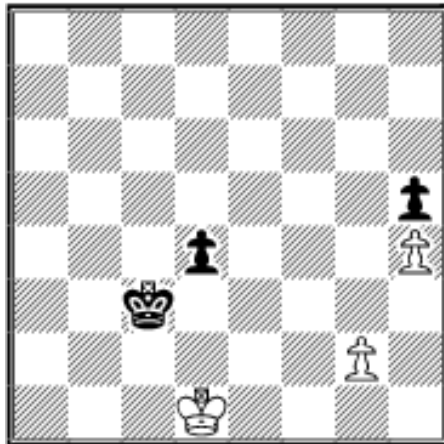
Black must play ...h7-h5 at the proper moment.

47...Kc3!

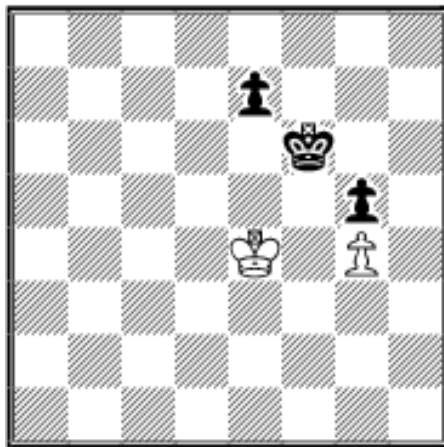
47...h5? runs into 48.g4, which leads to a drawn queen endgame: 48...d4+ 49.Kd2 hxg4 50.h5 g3 51.h6 g2 52.h7 g1Q 53.h8Q Qf2+ 54.Kd1 Kc3 55.Qh3+ d3 56.Qc8+=.

48.Ke2 d4 0-1

White threw in the towel, because of 49.Kd1 h5



This finally seals White's fate, as he must throw himself onto his own sword after 50.Kc1 d3 51. Kd1 d2 52.g3 Kd3 53.g4 hxg4 54.h5 g3 55.h6 g2 56.h7 g1Q#. Remember this technique to exploit a backward pawn.

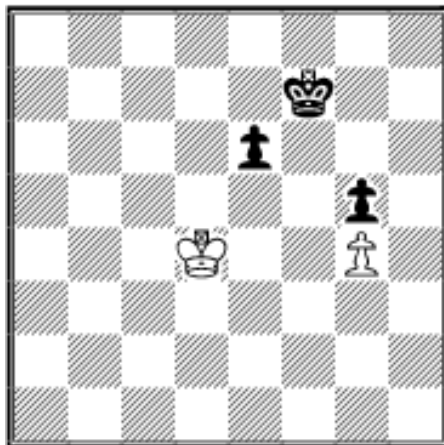


E76.04 G.Flear (2480) – Ni Hua (2632)
4th Balagne Open, Calvi 2007

In the game Ni Hua chose the easy route to victory.

50...Ke6!?

But 50...e6 does the job as well: 51.Kd4 Ke7 52. Ke5 Kf7 53.Kd4



Now 53...Ke8 54.Ke4 Kd7 tiptoeing around the mined e7-square (54...Ke7?! 55.Ke5 forces Black to repeat the position with 55...Kf7) 55.Ke5 Ke7 56.Kd4 Kd6 57.Ke4 e5 58.Kf5 Kd5 59.Kxg5 e4 60.Kf4 Kd4 61.g5 e3 62.g6 e2 63.g7 e1Q 64.g8Q Qf2+ 65.Kg4 Qg2+-+.

51.Kd4 Kd6 52.Ke4 e6 0-1

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