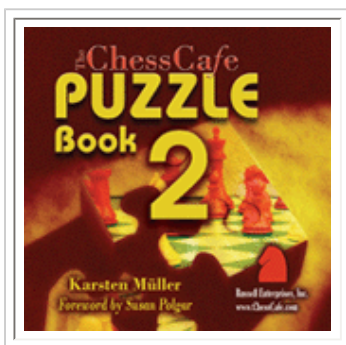




## COLUMNISTS

## Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller



## CHESS THEATRE

Play through and download the games  
from [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com) in the [DGT](#)  
[Game Viewer](#).

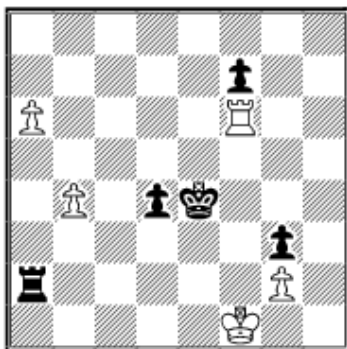
[The Complete](#)  
[DGT Product Line](#)

## Not all Rook Endgames are Drawn

Dr. Tarrasch's old aphorism that all rook endgames are drawn is certainly true in many respects, but sometimes even a small advantage in activity is decisive:

**80.01 A.Stickler (2265) – W.Uhlmann (2500)**

German Bundesliga 1991



This position just must be drawn, if White keeps his passed pawns on the queenside:

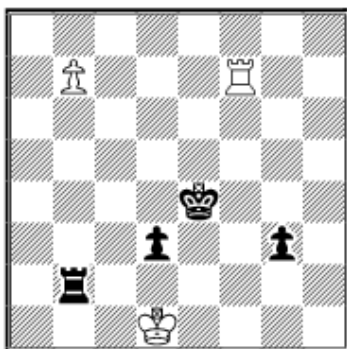
**48.Rxf7?**

48.b5 Kd3 (48...d3 49.Ke1=, as 49...Rxc2? even loses: 50.a7 Ra2 51.Ra6+-) 49.Rf3+ Kc4 50.Rxc3.

**48...Rxa6 49.Re7+?!**

This check just wastes time as it activates Black's king even more. But White was lost anyway: 49.b5 Ra1+ 50.Ke2 d3+ 51.Kd2 Ra2+ 52.Kd1 (52.

Kc3 Rc2+ 53.Kb3 Rxc2 54.Re7+ Kf5 55.Kc3 d2 56.Kc2 Rf2 57.b6 g2 58.Rg7 d1Q+ 59.Kxd1 Rf1+-) 52...Rxc2 53.b6 Rb2 54.b7

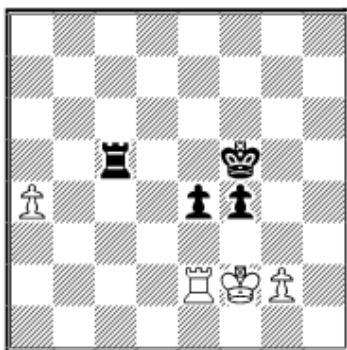


Now Black uses an old trick to win the rook: 54...g2 55.Rg7 Rxb7 56.Rxc2 Rb1+ 57.Kd2 Rb2+-.

**49...Kd3 50.Re1 Kc2 51.Re2+ Kc3 52.b5 Ra1+** and White resigned because of 53.Re1 Rxe1+ 54.Kxe1 Kc2 55.b6 d3 56.b7 d2+ 57.Ke2 d1Q+-.

**80.02 P.Haba – D.Baramidze**

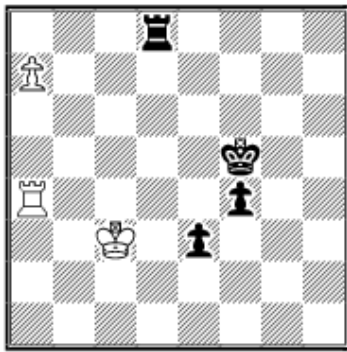
Nürnberg 2007



Black's small army is so active that he is winning:

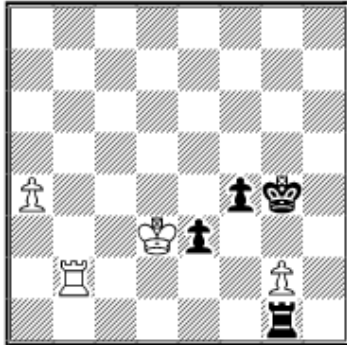
**1...Re1! 2.Re1**

2.Ra2 e3+ 3.Ke2 Ke4 4.a5 Rg1 5.Ra4+ Kf5 6.a6 Rxc2+ 7.Kd3 Rd2+ 8.Kc3 Rd8 9.a7



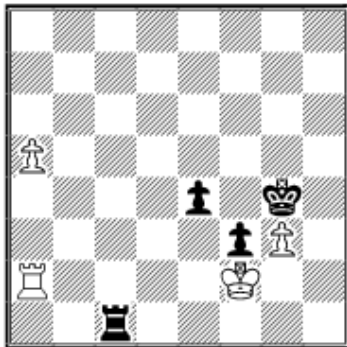
Black wins the race with 9...e2 10.a8Q e1Q+--.

2.Rb2 e3+ 3.Ke2 Rg1 4.Kd3 Kg4



Again Black prevails in the ensuing races, e.g. 5. a5 (5.Ra2 Kg3 6.a5 Rxc2 7.Rxc2+ Kxc2 8.a6 Kf2 9.a7 e2 10.a8Q e1Q+--+) 5...Ra1 6.Rb5 Kg3 7.Rf5 Ra2 8.Rg5+ Kf2 9.Rf5 Ra4 10.a6 e2--;

2.g3 f3 3.Ra2 (3.Re1 Rc2+ 4.Ke3 Ra2 5.g4+ Kxc4 6.Kxe4 Re2+--+) 3...Kg4 4.a5



Now 4...Rc3 seals White's fate: 5.a6 e3+ 6.Kg1 Kxc3 7.Ra1 e2 8.a7 Rd3 9.a8Q Rd1+ 10.Rxd1 exd1Q#.

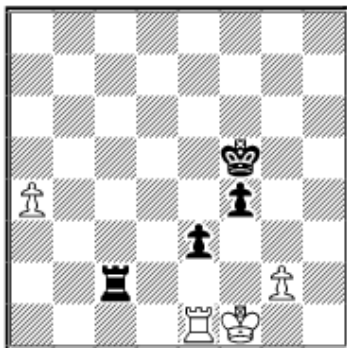
2.g4+ Ke5 3.Re1 (3.g5 f3 4.Re1 Rc2+ 5.Ke3 Rc3 + 6.Kd2 Ra3 7.g6 Rxa4 8.g7 Ra2+ 9.Ke3 Rg2 10. g8Q Rxc3 11.Rh1 Rf8 12.Rh5+ Ke6 13.Rh6+ Kf5 14.Rh1 Kg4--+) 3...e3+ 4.Kf1 Rc2 5.Re2 Rxe2 6. Kxe2 Ke4 7.g5 f3+ 8.Ke1 Kd3 9.g6 e2 10.g7 Ke3 11.g8Q f2#.

2.a5?! allows Black to execute his threat: 2...e3+ 3.

Kf3 Rf1+ 4.Rf2 Rxf2#.

**2...Rc2+?!**

2...e3+ 3.Kf1 Rc2

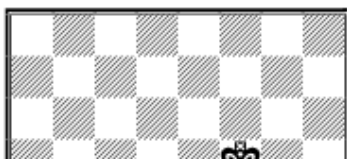


White's king is too passive: 4.Re2 (4.Ra1 f3 5. gxf3 Kf4 6.a5 Kxf3 7.a6 Rh2 8.Kg1 Rg2+ 9.Kh1 e2 10.a7 Rg8--; 4.a5 Ke4 5.Re2 Rc5 6.Ra2 Rc1+ 7.Ke2 Rg1 8.Ra4+ Kf5 9.Kf3 Rf1+ 10.Ke2 Rf2+ 11.Kd3 Rxc2 12.a6 Rd2+--; 4.Rb1 Rf2+ 5.Kg1 f3 6.gxf3 Kf4 7.Rb8 Kxf3 8.Rf8+ Ke2 9.Rb8 Rf5 10.Rg8 Ra5 11.Rg2+ Kf3 12.Ra2 Rg5+ 13.Kf1 Rc5--+) 4...Rc4 5.Rb2 (5.a5 Ke4 6.Ra2 Rc1+ 7. Ke2 Rg1 8.Ra4+ Kf5--; 5.Ra2 Rc1+ 6.Ke2 Ke4 7. a5 Rg1--+) 5...Rc1+ 6.Ke2 Rg1 7.Kd3 Kg4 8.a5 Kg3 9.a6 Ra1--.

**3.Re2 e3+?**

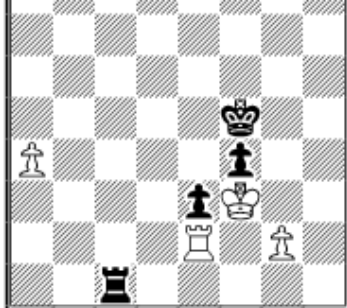
Now White can escape. 3...Rc1 was called for.

**4.Kf3 Rc1**



**5.g3!**

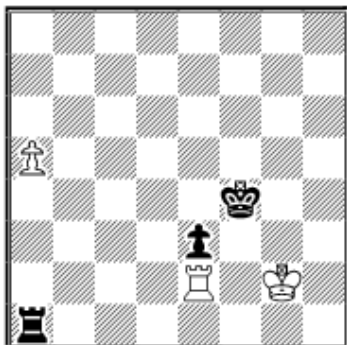
This destroys the mating net. Not 5.g4+? Ke5 6.



Rb2 Rg1 7.Rb5+ Kd4 8.Rb2 Rf1+ 9.Kg2 Rd1 10. Kf3 Kc3 11.Rh2 (11.Kxf4 Kxb2 12.Kxe3 Rg1 13. Kf4 Kc3 14.g5 Kd4 15.Kf5 Kd5 16.Kf6 Kd6 17. g6 Rf1+–+) 11...Rd2 12.Rh3 Rf2+ 13.Ke4 Kd2 14. Rh1 e2 15.Ra1 f3–+.

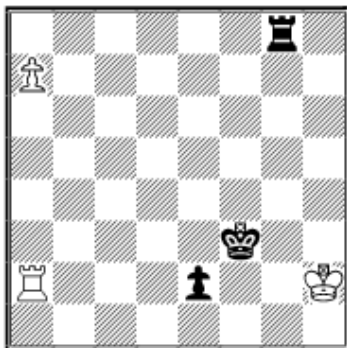
**5...Rf1+ 6.Kg2 Ra1 7.Kf3**

7.gxf4? Kxf4 8.a5



Black has a study like win: 8...Ke4!! (8...Rxa5? 9. Rb2 Ke4 10.Kf1 Kd3 11.Rb3+ Kd2 12.Rb2+ Kc3 13.Rb8=) 9.Rb2 Kd3 10.Rb3+ Kd2 11.Kf3 Rf1+ 12.Ke4 e2 13.Rb2+ Kd1 14.Kd4 Rf5 15.Rb1+ Kc2 16.Ra1 Rxa5 17.Rxa5 e1Q–+.

**7...Rh1 8.gxf4 Rh3+ 9.Kg2 Kg4 10.a5 Rg3+ 11. Kh2 Kxf4 12.a6 Rg8 13.a7 Kf3 14.Ra2 e2**



**15.Ra3+!**

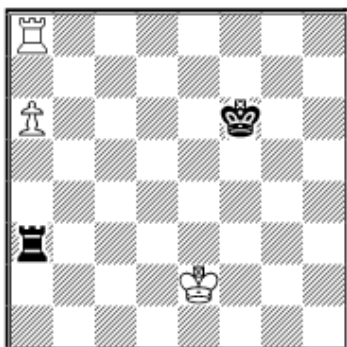
Precision to the end.

**15...Kf4**

15...Kf2 16.a8Q Rxa8 17.Rxa8 e1Q 18.Rf8+ Ke2 19.Re8+=.

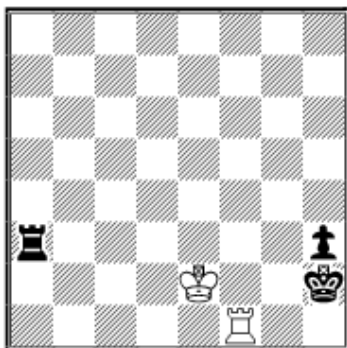
**16.Ra4+ ½–½**

### Exercises (Solutions next month)



**E80.01 B.Itkis (2429) – G.Szabo (2512)**  
XXII Felix Cup Felix Spa 2007

How did Szabo save himself?



**E80.02 M.Bijaoui (2388) – A.Payen (2378)**  
TCh-FRA Top 16 Gonfreville l'Orcher 2007

White to move and draw.

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