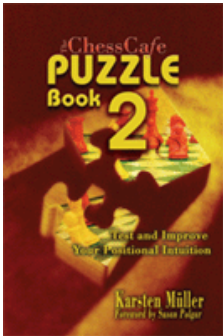




COLUMNISTS

Endgame
Corner

Karsten Müller



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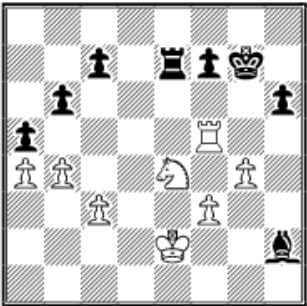
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Good Knight, Bad Bishop

After discussing bishop endings in the last two columns, I decided to highlight the duel of knight vs. bishop in order to show the differences and similarities between these types of endgames. The side with the knight always wants to have complete control, so that the slow-moving knight can maneuver at its leisure.

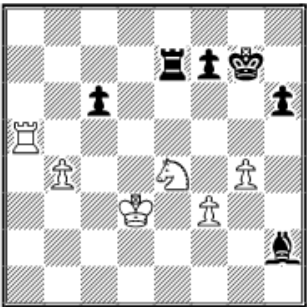
99.01 Short,N (2663) - Kasimdzhanov,R (2687)
Corus B Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 24.01.2009



Strong grandmaster and endgame expert Rustam Kasimdzhanov faces a choice between evils: to exchange the rooks or to allow a passed a-pawn. Both are bad for Black as rook and bishop usually cooperate better than rook and knight, and of course allowing a dangerous passed pawn is also usually to be avoided.

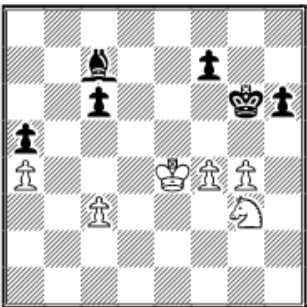
37...Re5?

As White has complete control, this exchange of a counterattacking unit is wrong from a practical point of view. Even former FIDE world champion Kasimdzhanov could not manage to save Black, if it is at all possible. I will not exclude this possibility, perhaps one of the readers will find a way. 37...axb4! is called for; e.g., 38.cxb4 c6 39.Kd3 (39.a5 Bd6 40.b5 bxa5 41.bxc6 Bb4 42.Rb5 Rc7 43.Rb6 Kg6 44.Ke3 (44.Kd3 f5 45.Nc3 Bxc3 46.Kxc3 fxg4 47.fxc4 Kg5=) 44...f5 45.gxf5+ Kxf5 46.Kd4 Rc8 47.c7 Be7 48.Rc6 h5 49.Kd5 Kf4=) 39...Ra7 40.a5 bxa5 41.Rxa5 Re7



White can still press of course, but Black's practical drawing chances are higher than in the game.

38.Rxe5 Bxe5 39.bxa5 bxa5 40.Ke3 c6 41.f4 Bc7 42.Ng3 Kg6 43.Ke4



43...Bd6

43...f6!? with the idea 44.Nf5 h5 is very tenacious, but I think that I have found a win: 45.gxh5+ (After 45.Nh4+?, Black always seems to find counterplay: 45...Kh6 46.Kf5 hxg4 47.Kxg4 Kg7 48.Kf5 Kf7 49.Nf3 Ke7 50.Nd4 Kd6 51.Ne6

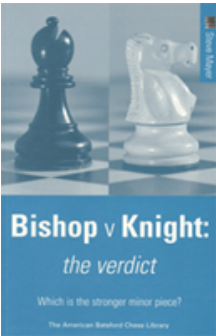
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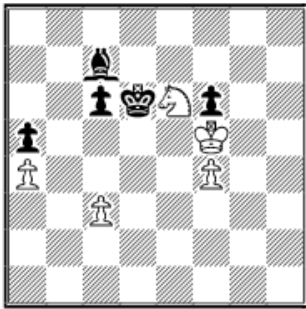
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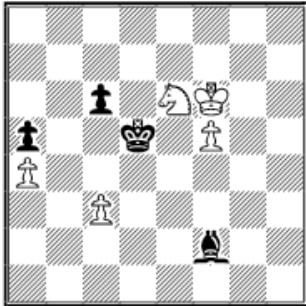
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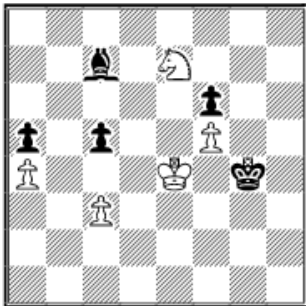
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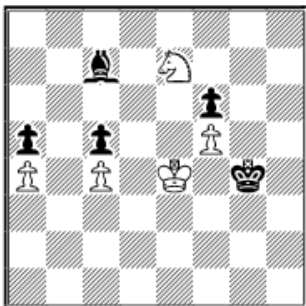
51...Bb6! (51...Bb8? 52.c4 gives White control and he wins; e.g., 52...Ke7 (52...Ba7 53.Kxf6 Bf2 54.f5 Be1 55.Kf7 Ke5 56.Kg6 Bb4 57.Nd8+-) 53. Nd4 Kd7 54.c5 Ba7 55.Nb3 Ke7 56.Ke4 Kd7 57.f5 Bb8 58.Kf3 Bc7 (58... Be5 59.Nxa5 Bc3 60.Nb3 Bb4 61.Kg4 Kc7 62.Kh5 Kb7 63.Kg6 Bc3 64. Kf7+-) 59.Kg4 Ke7 60.Kh5 Kf7 61.Nd4 Bf4 62.Nxc6 Bd2 63.Na7 Ke7 64.Kg6 Bc3 65.c6 Be5 66.Nb5 Ke8 67.Kh5+-) 52.Kxf6 Kd5 53.f5 Bf2



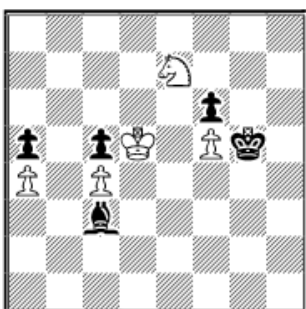
Black's activity is enough for the draw. But not(53...Be3? 54.Ke7+-) 45... Kxh5 46.Ne7 Kg4 47.f5 c5



48.c4

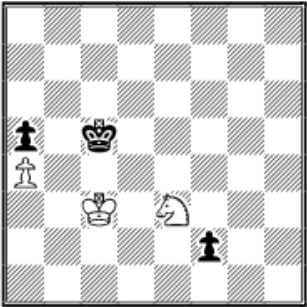


(48.Kd5? is met by 48...c4 and White loses his complete control.) 48... Bd6 (48...Bd8 49.Nd5 Kg5 50.Nf4 Be7 51.Ne2 Bd8 52.Nc1 Bb6 53.Nb3 Kg4 54.Kd5 Kxf5 55.Kc6 Bd8 56.Nxc5 Ke5 57.Nb7 Be7 58.Nxa5 f5 59. Nb3 Bb4 60.a5 f4 61.a6 f3 62.a7 f2 63.a8Q f1Q 64.Qb8+-; 48...Be5 49. Kd5 Bd4 50.Nc6 Bc3 51.Kxc5 Kxf5 52.Kd5 Kg6 53.Ke6 Bb4 54.Nd4+-) 49.Ng8 Kg5 (49...Be5 50.Nh6+ Kg3 51.Nf7 Bc3 52.Nd6 Bb4 53.Ne8 Bc3 54.Kd5 Kf4 55.Kxc5 Kxf5 56.Kd5+-) 50.Kd5 Bf4 a) 50...Bg3 51.Ne7 Be1 52.Ke6 Bc3 53.Nc6 Kf4 (53...Bd2 54.Nd8+-) 54.Nxa5 Bxa5 55.Kxf6 +-; b) 50...Be5 51.Ne7 Bc3

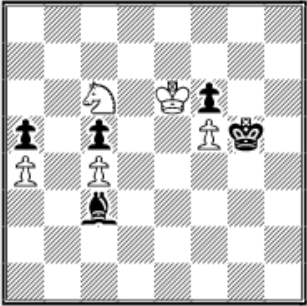


52.Kd6! the start of a triangulation, which keeps an eye on the c5-pawn 52...Bb2 (52...Bb4 53.Ke6 Bc3 54.Nc6 Kf4 55.Nxa5 Bxa5 56.Kxf6+-) 53. Nc6 Kxf5 54.Nxa5 Ke4 55.Nb3 Kd3 56.Kd5+-; 51.Ne7 (51.Kxc5 seems to win as well, but is more risky. One sample line runs 51...Kxf5 52.Kd5 Bb8 53.Ne7+ Kg5 (53...Kf4 54.Nc6 Bc7 55.Nd4+-; 53...Kg4 54.Nc6 Bc7 55.Ke6 Kf4 56.Kd7 Be5 57.c5 Bc3 58.Nd8 Be5 59.c6 f5 60.Nf7 Bb8 61.

Kc8+-) 54.Nc6 Bc7 55.Nd4 Kg4 56.Ke4 Bd6 57.Ne6 f5+ 58.Kd3 f4 59.
c5 Bb8 60.c6 Kf5 61.c7 Bxc7 62.Nxc7 Ke5 63.Nb5 f3 64.Nd4 f2 65.Nf3+
Kd5 66.Nh2 Kc5 67.Kc3 Kd5 68.Nf1 Kc5 69.Ne3+-



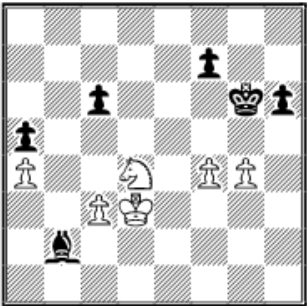
The knight is just long legged enough to stop the pawn and help its king.)
51...Bd2 52.Ke6 Bc3 53.Nc6



Black is in fatal zugzwang because of 53...Kf4 (53...Bd2 54.Nd8+-) 54.
Nxa5 Bxa5 55.Kxf6+-.

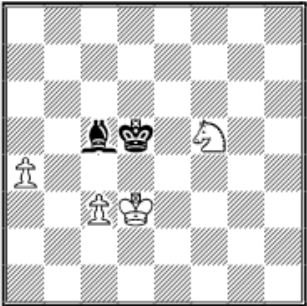
44.Nf5 Bc5

44...Ba3 45.Nd4 Bb2 46.Kd3



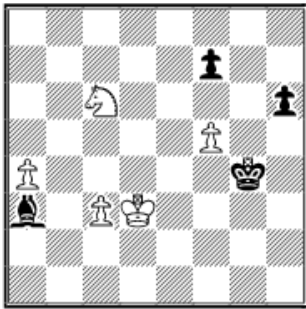
Black has various tries, but nothing saves him: 46...Bc1

a) 46...Ba3 47.c4! keeping control is the most important issue for White
(47.Nxc6? is surprisingly insufficient: 47...f5 48.g5 hxg5 49.fxg5 Kxg5
50.Nxa5 Kf6 51.Nc6 Ke6 52.Nd4+ Kd5 53.Nxf5 Bc5=



Black draws according to the Nalimov endgame tablebase, despite his two
pawn deficit.) 47...c5 48.Nf3 Kf6 (48...f5 49.Nh4+ Kf6 50.Nxf5 h5 51.
Ne3 hxg4 52.Ke4 g3 53.Nd5+ Ke6 54.Kf3+-) 49.Nh4 Bc1 50.Ke4 Bb2 51.
Nf5 Kg6 52.Nd6 Bc1 53.Nb7+-.

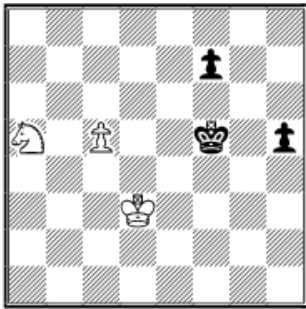
b) 46...c5 47.Nc6+-; 47.f5+ Kg5 48.Nb3 Ba3 (48...Kxg4 49.Nxc1 Kf3 50.
Nb3 h5 51.Nd2+ Kg2 52.Ke4 h4 53.Nf3 h3 54.Ke3 Kg3 55.f6 c5 56.c4
Kg4 57.Kf2 Kf5 58.Kg3 Kxf6 59.Kxh3 Kf5 60.Nd2 Ke5 61.Nb3 Ke4 62.
Nxa5 Kd4 63.Kg4 Kc3 64.Kf5 Kb4 65.Nc6+-) 49.Nxa5 Kxg4 50.Nxc6



White wins the race: 50...h5 (50...Kxf5 51.a5 Ke6 52.a6 Bc5 53.a7 Bxa7 54.Nxa7 h5 55.Nb5 h4 56.Nd4+ Kd5 57.Nf3 h3 58.c4+ Kc5 59.Kc3+-) 51.a5 h4 52.a6 Bc5 53.Kc4 Ba7 54.Nxa7 h3 55.Nc6 h2 56.a7 h1Q 57.a8Q Qe4+ 58.Kb5 Qxf5+ 59.Kb6 Qf2+ 60.Nd4 Qb2+ 61.Nb5 Qf2+ 62.Kc7 Qg3+ 63.Kc8+-; 44...Bf8 45.c4 Bb4 46.Nd4 c5 47.Nf5 h5 48.gxh5+ Kxh5 49.Nd6 Kg6 50.f5+ Kf6 51.Kd5 Ba3 (51...Kg5 52.Nxf7+ Kxf5 53.Ne5 Kf4 54.Nd3+ Ke3 55.Nxc5+-) 52.Nb7 Kxf5 53.Nxa5+-.

45.Nh4+ Kg7?!

After 45...Kf6, White can implement the same plan, but Black gets more counterplay: 46.Nf3 Ba3 47.Ne5 Bb2 48.Kd3 Bc1 49.Nxc6 Bxf4 50.Nxa5 Bc7 51.Nc4 Kg5 52.a5 Bxa5 53.Nxa5 Kxg4 54.c4 h5 55.c5 Kf5



White’s knight is just in time on the kingside: 56.Nb3 Ke6 57.Kc4 h4 58. Nd4+ Kd7 59.Kd5 h3 60.Nf3+-.

46.Nf3 f6

Defending with the bishop with 46...Be7 47.Ne5 Bf6 does not help as the pawn ending after 48.c4 Bxe5 49.Kxe5 is won for White: 49...Kg6 50.c5 f5 51.gxf5+ Kf7 52.f6 Kg8 (52...h5 53.Kf5 h4 54.Kg4 Kxf6 55.Kxh4 Kf5 56.Kg3+-) 53.Kd6 Kf7 54.Kxc6 h5 55.Kd5 h4 56.Ke4+-.

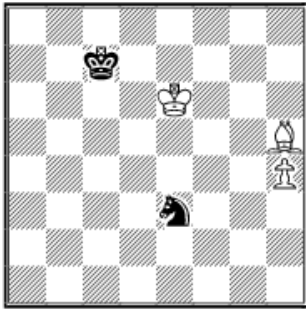
47.Nd2 Bb6 48.Kf5 Kf7 49.Nb3 Kg7 50.c4 1–0

Black resigned because of 50...Kf7 51.c5 Bd8 52.Nd4 Be7 53.Nxc6 Bxc5 54.Nxa5+-.

Exercises (Solutions next month)

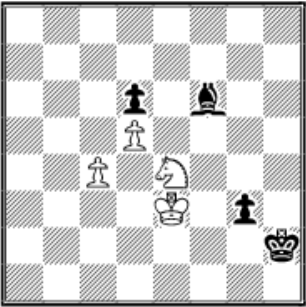
In some of the exercises the bishop will have its revenge.

E99.01 Cmilyte, V (2497) - Csonka, A (2289)
7th Gibtelecom Masters Caleta ENG (3), 29.01.2009



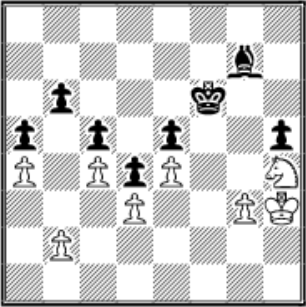
How to demonstrate the bishop’s superiority despite the wrong rook’s pawn?

E99.02 Choudhary, J (2187) - Nitin, S (2365)
7th Parsvnath Open New Delhi IND (5), 14.01.2009



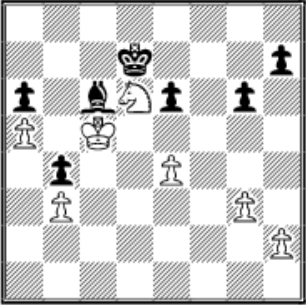
How did White manage to draw?

E99.03 Orso,M (2349) - Kiss,K (2129)
Bela Perenyi Mem Budapest HUN (2), 09.01.2009



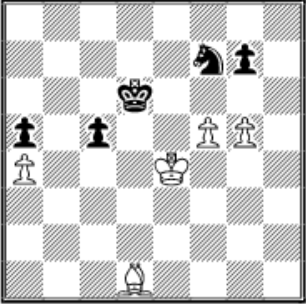
How to assess the position with White to move?

E99.04 Urbina Perez,J (2215) - Knight,S (2148)
7th Gibtelecom Masters Caleta ENG (1), 27.01.2009



How did White's knight defeat the knight's bishop?

E99.05 Shen,D (2098) - Lyell,M (2287)
Queenstown Classic NZL (7), 21.01.2009



White to move and win.