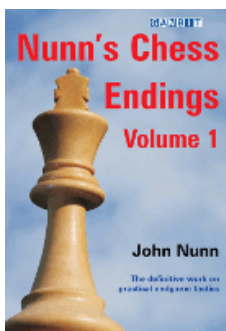




COLUMNISTS

Endgame Corner

Karsten Müller



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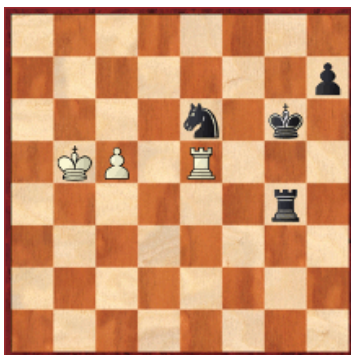


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Pawn Endgame Exercises

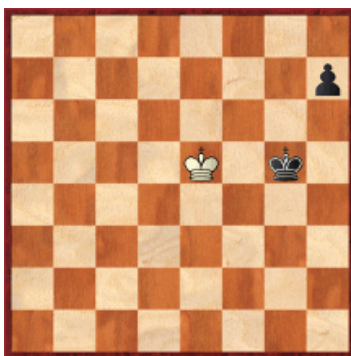
It is very important to train the calculation of variations on a regular basis. Pawn endings are very suitable for this, as there are only few candidate moves and it is often possible to see very far ahead:

112.01 Laylo, D (2556) - Lopez Martinez, Josep (2593)
9th Aeroflot Open A Moscow RUS (5), 13.02.2010



[FEN "8/7p/4n1k1/1KP1R3/6r1/8/8/b--0 58"]

Black demonstrated good technique with **58...Nxc5 59.Kxc5 Rg5 60.Kd4 Rxe5 61.Kxe5 Kg5**



[FEN "8/7p/8/4K1k1/8/8/8/w--0 62"]

Opposition. Black will be able to reach the key square g2 and win.

62.Ke4 Kg4 63.Ke3 Kg3 64.Ke2 Kg2 65.Ke3 h5 0-1

In the next example, Black should have avoided the pawn endgame:

112.02 Kamsky, G (2702) - Langer, M (2282)
Philadelphia Open (2), 01.04.2010

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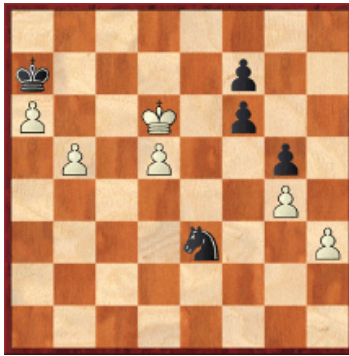
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[FEN "2r5/3k1p2/P2p1p2/1K1P2p1/1Pn3P1/2R4P/8/8 b - - 0 48"]

48...Nb6?

48...Ne5! 49.a7 (After 49.Rxc8 Kxc8 50.Kb6 Kb8 51.b5 Nc4+ 52.Kc6 Ka7 53.Kd7 Ne3 54.Kxd6



[FEN "8/k4p2/P2K1p2/1P1P2p1/6P1/4n2P/8/8 b - - 0 54"]

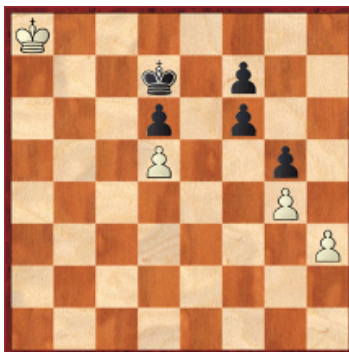
The bodycheck 54...Kb6!= saves the day.) 49...Rxc3 50.a8Q Rxh3



[FEN"Q7/3k1p2/3p1p2/1K1Pn1p1/1P4P1/7r/8/8 w - - 0 51"]

Black should be able to hold due to his centralized forces.

49.Kxb6 Rxc3 50.a7 Ra3 51.Kb7 Rb3 52.a8Q Rxb4+ 53.Ka7 Ra4+ 54.Kb8 Rxa8+ 55.Kxa8

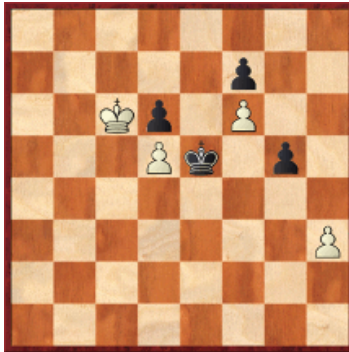


[FEN"K7/3k1p2/3p1p2/3P2p1/6P1/7P/8/8 b - - 0 55"]

55...f5!?

A desperate attempt to create counterplay that fails by one tempo. But 55... Kc7 loses due to the typical procedure 56.Ka7 Kc8 57.Kb6 Kd7 58.Kb7 Kd8 59.Kc6 Ke7 60.Kc7+..

56.gxf5 Ke7 57.Kb7 Kf6 58.Kc6 Ke5 59.f6! 1-0

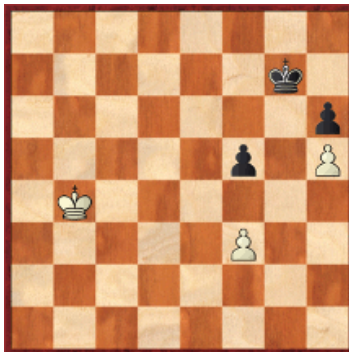


[FEN"8/5p2/2Kp1P2/3Pk1p1/8/7P/8/8 b - - 0 59"]

Black is in decisive *zugzwang* and so resigned.

Exercises (solutions next month)

E112.01 Mohammed Abdul, M (2259) – Enkhtuul, A (2133)
Six Seasons WIM Narayananj BAN (2), 24.05.2010



[FEN"8/6k1/7p/5p1P/1K6/5P2/8/8 w - - 0 67"]

How to assess the position with White to move?

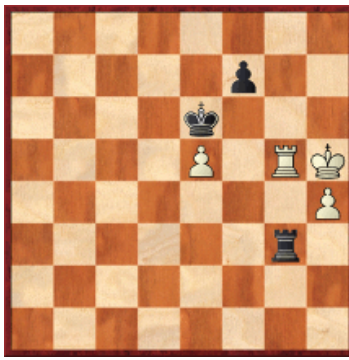
E112.02 Smeets, Jan (2651) – Karjakin, Sergey (2725)
Amber-blindfold 19th Nice (2), 14.03.2010



[FEN"8/5p1p/5kp1/8/5PP1/1K5P/8/8 b - - 0 46"]

Karjakin missed the win. Can you do better?

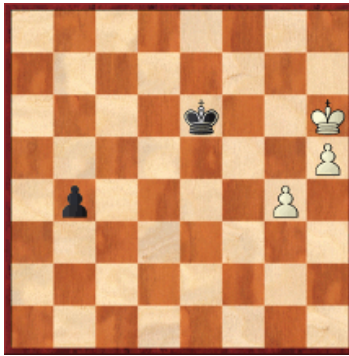
E112.03 Cramling, P (2523) – Munguntuul, B (2428)
FIDE GP w Nalchik RUS (5), 30.04.2010



[FEN"8/5p2/4k3/4P1RK/7P/6r1/8/8 b - - 0 109"]

Black did not play 109...Rxc5+. Why?

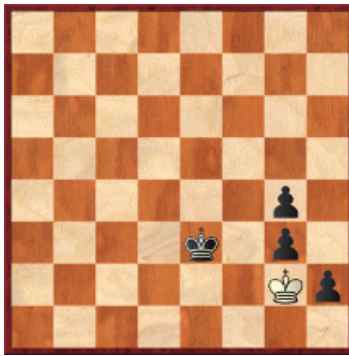
E112.04 Reisch, S (2192) – Migheli, G (1863)
7th Balagne Open Calvi FRA (6), 28.04.2010



[FEN"8/8/4k2K/7P/1p4P1/8/8/8 w - - 0 51"]

White to move and draw.

E112.05 Hallerod, R (2121) – Sorensen, B (2240)
TCh-Eur Seniors Dresden GER (4), 13.02.2010



[FEN"8/8/8/8/6p1/4k1p1/6Kp/8 b - - 0 82"]

Can White's defense be overrun?

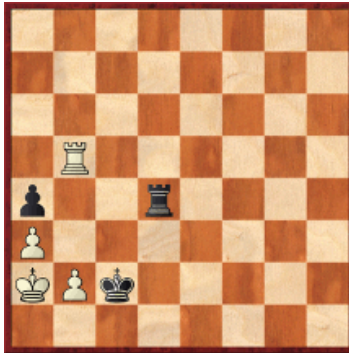
E112.06 Alfelo Alsad, G Ahmed – Alnami, Salaheddin (1716)
Africa-ch U16 Cairo (6), 05.01.2010



[FEN "8/8/2k5/1p3K1p/7P/4P3/8/8 b - - 0 41"]

Black to move and win.

E112.07 Kadziolka, Beata (2328) – Worek, Joanna (2226)
POL-ch (Women) Warsaw (1.3), 10.01.2010



[FEN "8/8/8/1R6/p2r4/P7/KPk5/8 b - - 0 42"]

Why was 42...Kc1 a mistake?

[Solution to last month's exercise](#)

E111.01 Livner, A (2304) – Doci, S (2071)
Uxbridge Open ENG (5), 21.03.2010



[FEN "8/2R5/3n1kp1/7p/5P2/5NPK/4r2P/8 w - - 0 59"]

White to move and win.

59.Ng5!

Black resigned as he can not avoid a lost pawn ending. 59.Rc6 Ke7 60.Ra6 Re6 61.Ra7+ Ke8 62.Kh4 wins as well, but is not as convincing as the game continuation.

59...Kf5 60.Rd7 Ne4 61.Rf7+ Nf6 62.Nh7 Re6 63.Kh4 Ra6 64.Rxf6+ Rxf6 65.Nxf6 Kxf6 66.g4 hxg4 67.Kxg4 Kf7 68.Kg5 Kg7 69.h3 Kf7 70.Kh6 Kf6



[FEN"8/2R5/3n1kp1/7p/5P2/5NPK/
4r2P/8 w - - 0 59"]

71.h4!

White wins by outflanking. The hasty 71.Kh7?? g5 spoils it.

71...Kf7 72.Kh7 Kf6 73.Kg8+- 1-0

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