



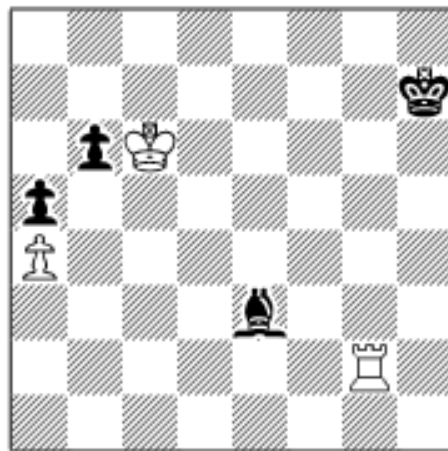
Rook vs Bishop

Richard Forster analysed a very interesting ending in his April 2001 Late Knight column, which was reached in a game between Staunton and Horwitz and asked me about my opinion. I answered his question (it was on the ChessCafe.com Bulletin Board item no. 320-1) and promised to deal with the subject in more detail. Now I want to keep my promise:

COLUMNISTS

Endgame Corner

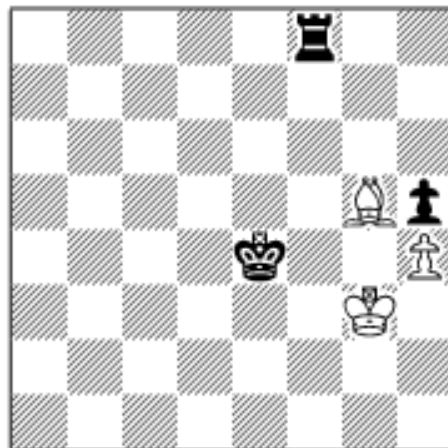
Karsten Müller



7.01 Staunton - Horwitz London match 1846 17th game +/-

"Since Staunton just says 'and wins', we do not know whether Horwitz resigned at this point or whether further moves were played" (Forster). The position is winning for White in any case: **1...Kh6 2.Kb5!?** The easiest way to win is to transfer the king to a6 first. But 2.Rb2 immediately wins as well: 2...Kg6 3.Rxb6 Bd2 (3...Kf6 4.Rb2 Ke5 5.Rb5+-) 4.Rb2 Be1 5.Re2 Bb4 6.Rf2

Kg5 7.Kb6 Be1 8.Rf8 Bb4 9.Ra8 Kf6 10.Rxa5+- **2...Bc5 3.Ka6 Kh7 4.Rb2 Kg6** (4...Bb4 5.Kxb6 Kg6 6.Rf2+-) **5.Rxb6+ Kf7 6.Kxa5+-**



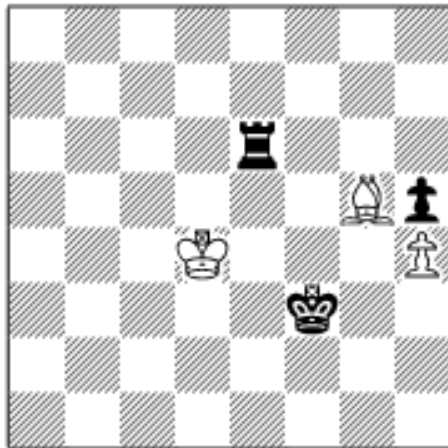
The following classic shows, how complicated this ending can be. My discussion follows Averbakh.

7.02 Salwe - Rubinstein Prague 1909

1...Rf7 Maizelis showed the right path, which is surprisingly not driving the king into the open field, but attacking him near the edge: 1...Kd3 2.Bf4 Ke2 3.Bg5 Rf3+ 4.Kg2 Ra3 5.Be7 Ra4 6.Bd8 Rg4+ 7.Kh3 Kf3 8.Bc7 Rg1 9.Bh2 Rf1 10.Bg3 Rh1+ 11.Bh2 Ke4 12.Kg2 Rd1 13.Bg3 (13.Bg1 Kf4 14.Bc5 Kg4 15.Be7 Rd2+

16.Kf1 Kf3 17.Kg1 Kg3 18.Kf1 Rd4 19.Bg5 Re4 20.Bd8 Re6 21.Bg5 Re8+-) 13...Rd2+ 14.Kh3 (14.Bf2 Kf4 15.Kh3 Rd3+ 16.Kg2 Kg4+-) 14...Kf5 15.Bh2 (15.Be1 Rd3+ 16.Kg2 Kg4 17.Kf2 Rd7 18.Ke2 Re7+ 19.Kd2 Kf3 20.Kd1 Re4 21.Kd2 Re2+ 22.Kd1 Rh2 23.Kc1 Ke2 24.Bg3 Rh3+-) 15...Rd3+ 16.Bg3 Ra3 17.Kg2 Kg4 18.Bf2 Ra2 19.Kg1 Kf3 20.Bd4 Kg3 21.Bf6 Rg2+ 22.Kh1 Re2+- **2.Bh6 Rf3+ 3.Kg2 Rd3?** this let's White's king

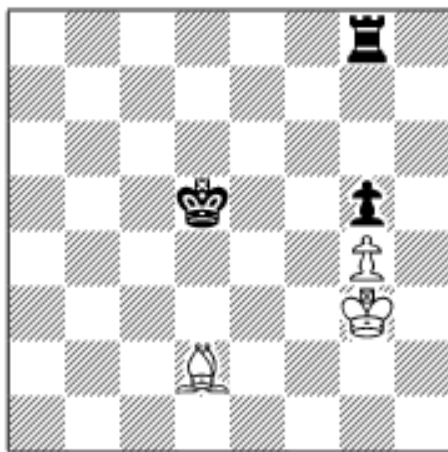
out of the corner. But it must be stressed, that this plan was not known at Rubinstein's time. **4.Bg5?** 4.Kf2 was called for. **4...Kf5? 5.Kf2!** I think, that there are two ways of looking at this: 1) the modern view: now Salwe escapes from the corner into the open field, which is the right plan. 2) the way valid at the time of the game: now Rubinstein has forced Salwe away from his pawn **5...Kg4 6.Ke2 Rf3 7.Bh6 Kg3 8.Bg5 Rf8 9.Ke3 Re8+ 10.Kd3 Kf3 11.Kd4 Re6**



12.Kd5? the decisive mistake. Baranow proved, that Black can't break through after 12.Kd3 Rd6+ 13.Kc3! Rd7 14.Kc4 Ke4 15.Kc3 Rd3+ 16.Kc2! and Black can't make meaningful progress.

16.Kc4? is wrong: Rg3 17.Bd8 Rg8 18.Be7 Rc8+— **12...Re4 13.Bf6 Kf4 14.Bd8 Kf5 15.Bg5 Rg4 16.Be7 Rg7 17.Bf8** (17.Bg5 Rxc5 18.hxc5 Kxc5 19.Ke4 Kg4—) **17...Rd7+ 18.Kc6 Rd4 19.Be7 Ke6 20.Kc5 Rd5+ 21.Kc4 Rf5 22.Bd8 Kd7 23.Bb6** (23.Bg5 Rxc5 24.hxc5 h4 25.g6 Ke7—) **23...Rf4+** and

Rubinstein won the game after a few more moves.

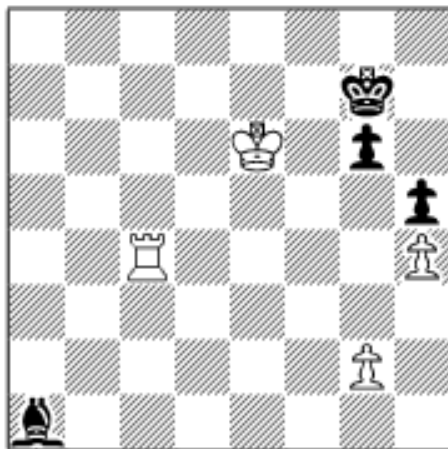


In the next game Rubinstein reaches his aim again . This time he manages to draw with the bishop.

7.03 A. Rubinstein - S. Tartakower Vienna 1922

Black has to protect the g5 pawn, so one of his pieces is tied down and he can't break through: **68.Kf3 Kd4 69.Be3+ Kd3 70.Bc1 Rg7 71.Kf2** The brutal 71.Bxc5? fails: 71...Rxc5 72.Kf4 Rg8 73.g5 Kd4 74.Kf5 Kd5 75.Kf6 Kd6— **71...Kc2 72.Be3 Rg8 73.Kf3 Kd3**

74.Bc1 1/2–1/2



The following fortress is very important as it occurs quite often in practical play:

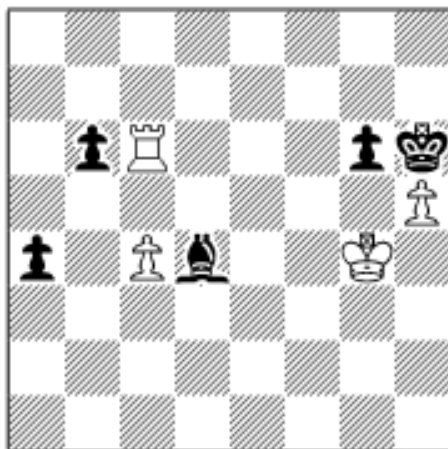
**7.04 P.Leko (2743) - A.Beliavsky (2654)
Istanbul Ol (Men) 2000**

72.g4!? (72.Rc7+ Kg8=) **72...hxg4**
73.Rxg4 Kh6! this counterattack against the weak h4-pawn secures the draw.
74.Rg5 Bc3 75.Kf7 Be1 76.Rxg6+ Kh5
77.Rg1 Bf2 (77...Bxh4 is playable as well.) **78.Rg2 Be1 79.Kf6 Kxh4**
 79...Bc3+ draws as well, but all other moves lose. 79...Bb4 loses for example

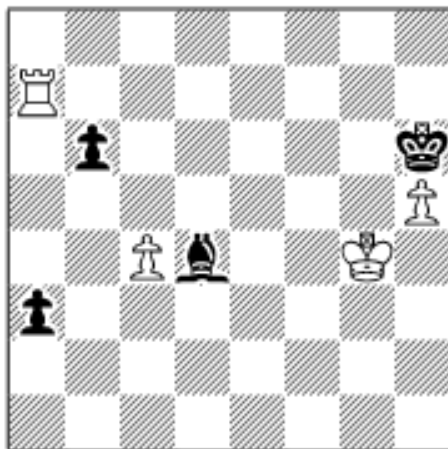
in 44 moves according to the Nalimov endgame tablebase. **80.Kf5 Bg3**
81.Rc2 Kh3 82.Rc3 Kh4 83.Rc8 Bd6 84.Rc3 Bb8 85.Rc8 Bd6 86.Rg8
Kh3 87.Ke4 Kh4 and after some further moves a draw was agreed.

I want to end this article with a very complicated example, that was analysed in detail by German chess trainer and columnist Claus Dieter Meyer, who was a trainer in Hamburg for a long time:

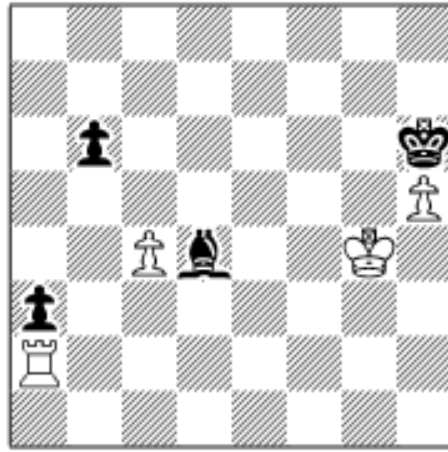
7.05 Claus Dieter Meyer Hamburg 1997, ChessBase Magazine 77



1.c5!? was my proposal at a training session in 1997 to break through Black's defence. Other tries include **1.Rxg6+ Kh7 2.Re6 (2.Rd6 Bc5 3.Re6 a3 4.Rc6 Bd4 5.Rc7+ Kh6 6.Ra7**

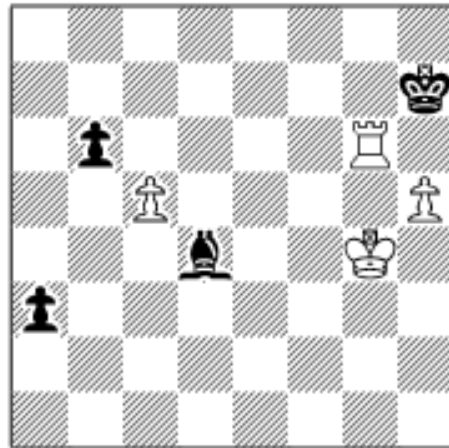


6...Bc5=) 2...a3 3.Re2 Kh6 4.Ra2

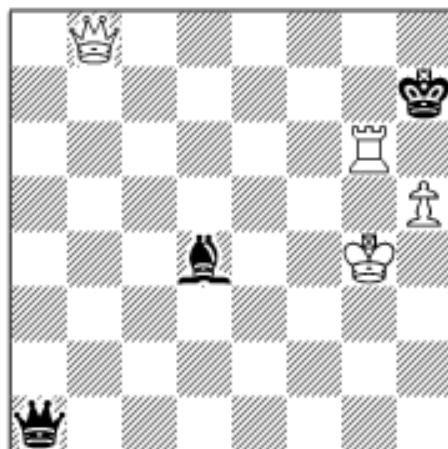


4...Bc5 (4...Bb2? 5.Kf5 Kxh5 6.Ke6 Kg5 7.Kd5 Kf5 8.Kc6 Ke5 9.Kxb6 Kd4 10.c5 Kc4 11.c6 Kb3 12.Rxa3+-) 5.Kf5 Bb4 6.Rg2 Bc3 7.Rg6+ Kh7 (7...Kxh5? 8.Rg3 Be1 9.Rh3+ Bh4 10.Rxa3+-) 8.Rxb6 a2= and 1.hxg6 a3= **1...a3** (1...bxc5? gives White's rook free access to the a-file: 2.Rxg6+ Kh7 3.Ra6 a3 (3...Kg7 4.h6+ Kh7 5.Kh5 c4 6.Rxa4 Be3 7.Rxc4 Bxh6 8.Rc7+ Bg7 9.Kg5+- as Black's king is in the wrong corner.) 4.Rxa3 Kg7 5.Ra6 Be3 6.Rc6 Kh7 7.Kf3 Bd4 8.h6 c4 9.Kg4+-, but not 9.Rxc4? Bf6 10.Kg4

Kxh6=. After 1...Bxc5? 2.hxg6 wins e.g. 2...a3 3.Kf5 Kg7 4.Rc7+ Kg8 5.Ra7 b5 (5...Bb4 6.g7 Kh7 7.Kf6 Bc3+ 8.Kf7 Bxg7 9.Rxa3+-) 6.Ra8+ Kg7 7.Ra5 Bb4 8.Ra7+ Kg8 9.g7+-) **2.Rxg6+ Kh7**



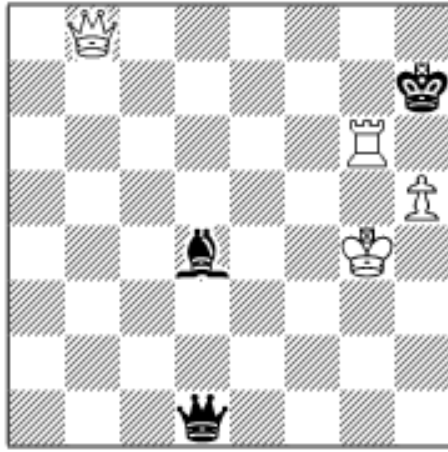
3.c6! 3.cxb6?! allows stalemate motives: 3...a2 4.b7 a1Q 5.b8Q



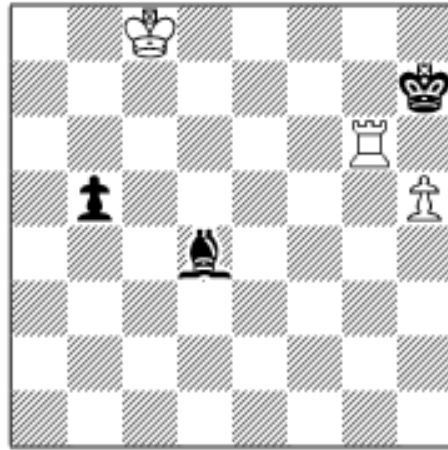
and now neither **A) 5...Qg1+? 6.Qg3 A1) 6...Qc1 7.Rd6 Qd1+ (7...Qc4 8.Qf4+-) 8.Qf3 Qg1+ 9.Kh3+-; A2) 6...Qd1+ 7.Qf3 Qg1+ 8.Kh3+- nor**

B) 5...Bg7? 6.Qf4 Qg1+ (6...Qd1+ 7.Qf3 Qd7+ 8.Kh4+-) 7.Qg3 Qc1 8.Qf3+-, but

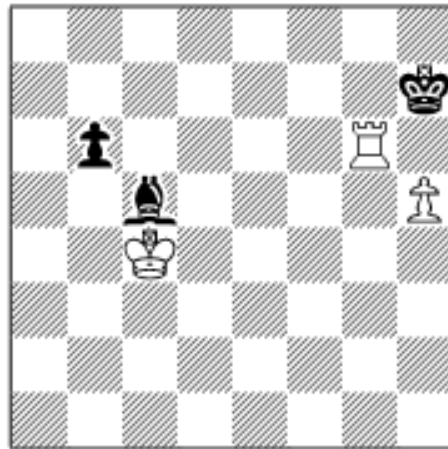
C) 5...Qd1+!



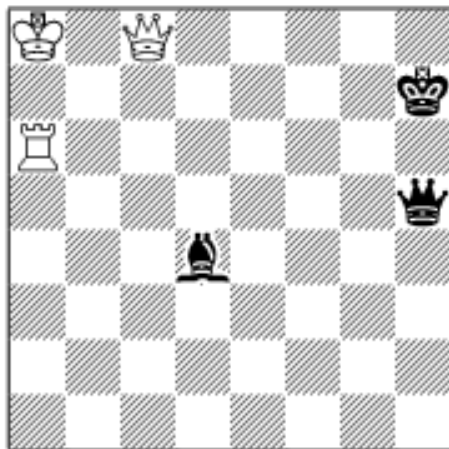
6.Kg5 (6.Kg3 Be5+! 7.Qxe5 Qf3+ 8.Kh4 Qh3+ 9.Kg5 Qxh5+ 10.Kxh5 stalemate; 6.Kf5 Qxh5+ 7.Rg5 Qh3+=; 6.Kf4 Be5+!=) 6...Be3+ 7.Kf6 Qf3+ 8.Ke7 Bc5+ 9.Ke6 Qh3+! 10.Kf6 Qf3+ 11.Ke6 Qh3+= **3...a2 4.c7 a1Q 5.c8Q** and now C.D.Meyer's main line runs as follows: **5...Qd1+ 6.Kf4! Qd2+ 7.Ke4 Qe3+ 8.Kd5 Qe5+ 9.Kc4!** After 9.Kc6? Black can exchange the queens as White's king is too far away from his h-pawn, e.g. 9...Qc5+ 10.Kb7 Qxc8+ 11.Kxc8 b5



12.Rg5 (12.Kd7 b4 13.Ke6 b3 14.Rg3 Kh6 15.Kf5 b2=) 12...b4 (12...Kh6? 13.Rxb5+-) 13.Rb5 Bc3 (13...Kh6? 14.Rxb4+-) 14.Rb6 (14.Kd7 Kh6=) 14...Be1 and now both **A**) 15.Kd7 Bd2 16.Ke8 (16.Ke6 Kh6=) 16...Bg5 17.Kf7 Bd2 18.Rg6 Bc3 (18...b3? 19.Rb6+-) 19.Ke6 b3= and **B**) 15.Kb7 Bf2! 16.Rxb4 Kh6= are not sufficient to win. **9...b5+** (9...Qc5+? 10.Qxc5 Bxc5 (See Diagram)

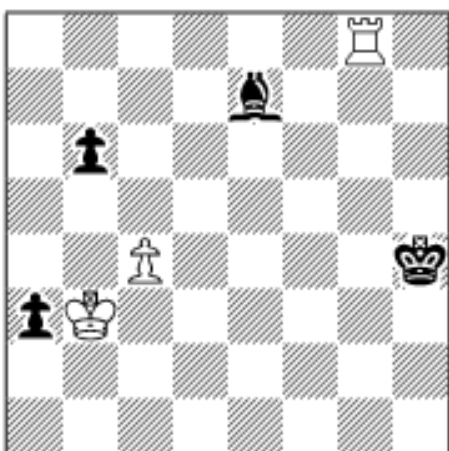


11.Kd5 Bf2 12.Ke4 b5 13.Kf3 Be1 14.Rb6 b4 15.Kg4 Bd2 16.Rb7+ Kh6 17.Rc7!+-) **10.Kb4 Qe7+ 11.Ka5 Qa3+ 12.Kxb5 Qb3+ 13.Kc6 Qc4+ 14.Kb7 Qb5+ 15.Ka8 Qa5+ 16.Ra6 Qxh5**



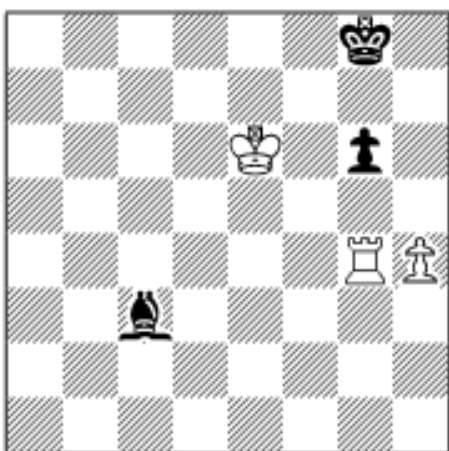
Meyer's main line ends here with the statement, that "we have to wait for 6 man databases to evaluate this position." Ken Thompson's 6-man database states that it is drawn. Amazing stuff!

Exercises (Solutions next month)



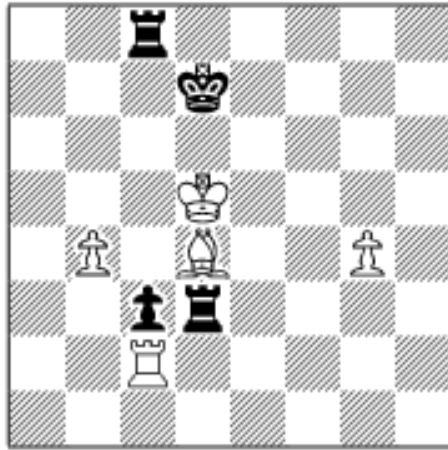
E7.01 Claus Dieter Meyer

White to move and win.



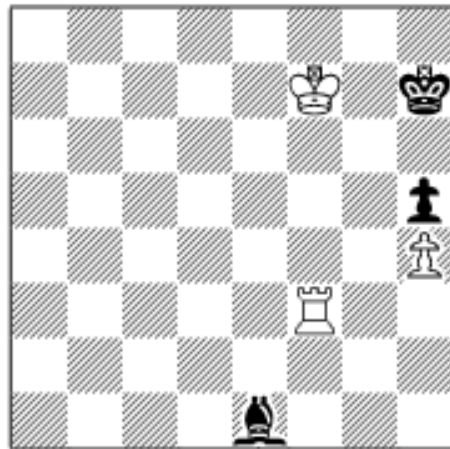
E7.02 R.Vera (2584) - A.Baburin (2590) Istanbul Ol (Men) 2000

Is Black lost or did Alexander Baburin find a way to survive?



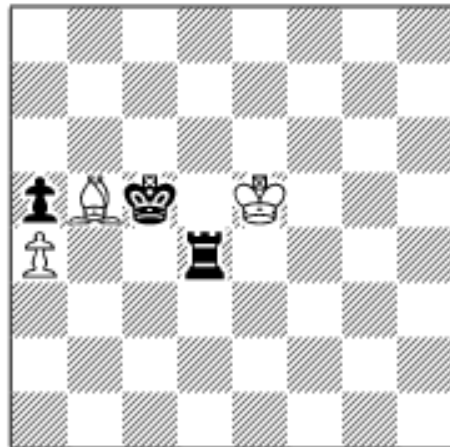
E7.03 R.Knaak - K.Müller German Bundesliga 2001, Hamburger SK-Werder Bremen, 5th board

Can White to move defend the position?



E7.04 W.Pajeken (2337) - M.Kopylov (2444) International Hamburg City Championship 2001

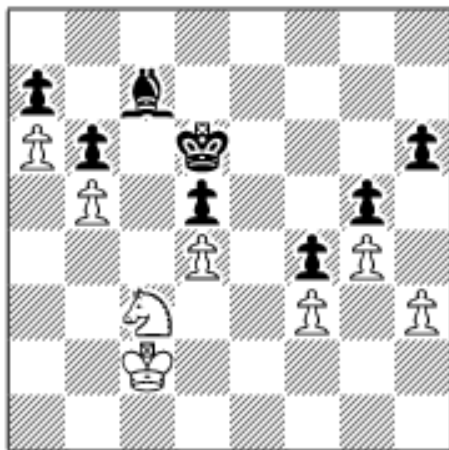
The position is more complicated than it seems at first sight. In the game it was White to move and he can indeed win. How? Black to move on the other hand could reach a draw by force.



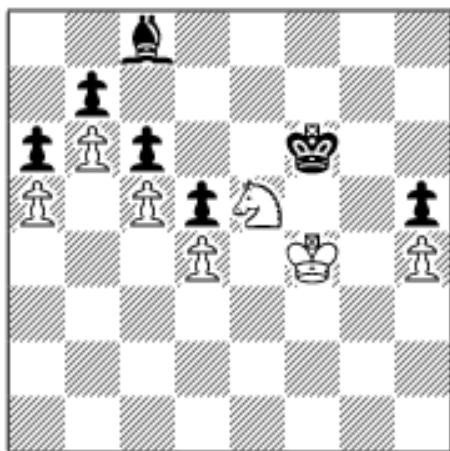
E7.05 A.Greenfeld (2570) - A.Graf (2649) European Championship Ohrid 2001

Can Black to move convert his advantage?

Solutions to last month exercises

E6.01 J.H.Blackburne - J.Mason Paris 1878

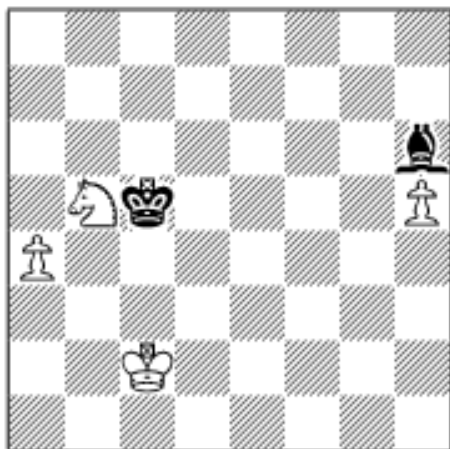
Blackburne sent his Knight to c6 and won: **79.Na2 Bd8 80.Nb4 Kd7 81.Nc6 Be7 82.Nxa7 Kc7 83.Nc6 Bd6 84.Ne5 Kc8 85.Nd7** and Mason resigned. After **85...Bc7 86.Nf6** the d5-pawn falls and it is over.

E6.02 C.Schlechter - K.Walbrodt Wien 1898

Black to move is in zugzwang and loses immediately. But transferring the move to Black is quite tricky: **60.Nf3?!**

60.Ke3!? Ke6 (60...Kf5?! 61.Nf7+-; 60...Ke7 61.Kf3 Ke6 62.Nd3 Kf6 63.Ke3 Kf5 64.Nf4 Kg4 65.Nxh5 Kxh5 66.Kf4+-) 61.Ke2 Kf6 62.Kf2 Ke6 63.Ke3 Ke7 64.Kf3 Ke6 65.Nd3 Kf6 66.Ke3 Kf7 67.Kf4 Kf6 68.Ne5 and the position E6.02 is reached with Black to

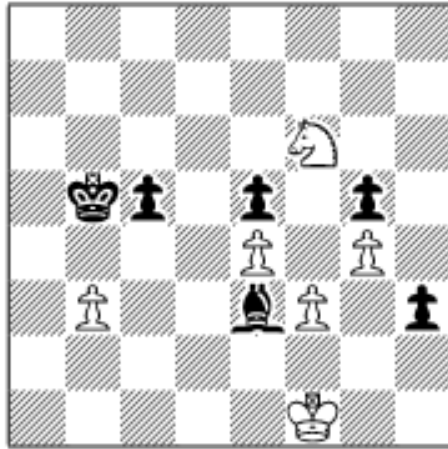
move and he is lost e.g. 68...Be6 (68...Ke6 69.Kg5 Ke7 70.Kxh5+-) 69.Nxc6 bxc6 70.b7+- **60...Bf5 61.Ke3 Bc8 62.Ne5 Ke6 63.Kf3 Ke7 64.Nd3 Bf5 65.Nf4 Bg4+ 66.Ke3 Kf7 67.Nd3 Ke7 68.Ne5 Bc8 69.Kf3! Ke6 70.Nd3 Kf6 71.Ke3 1-0**

S6.03 After Z.Varga - P.Acs Budapest 1999

This exercises was not so easy due to the many reciprocal zugzwangs lurking around: **1...Kc4!!** reciprocal zugzwang no.1. All other moves lose e.g. 1...Kb4? 2.Nc3 Bf8 3.Kd2 Bh6+ 4.Ke2 A) 4...Bf8 5.Kf3 Bg7 6.Ne4 Kxa4 7.Kg4 Kb5 8.Kf5 Kc6 9.Kg6 Be5 (9...Bf8 10.Nf6 Kd6 11.Ne8+ Ke7 12.Ng7+-) 10.h6 Kd7 11.Kf7 Bh8 12.h7 Kc6 13.Kg8 Bb2 14.Ng3 Kd7 15.Nf5+-; B) 4...Bg7 5.Kd3

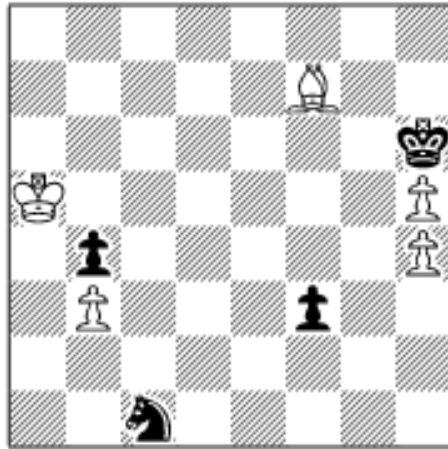
Bf8 6.Ke4 Kxc3 7.a5 Kb4 8.a6 Bc5 9.h6 Kb5 10.h7+- or 1...Kd5? 2.a5 Kc6 3.a6 Kb6 4.a7 Kb7 5.Kd3 Bg5 6.Ke4 Ka8 7.Kf5 Bd2 8.Kg6 Kb7 9.Nd6+- **2.Nc3 Kb4** reciprocal zugzwang no.2 **3.Kd3** and we have reached the game, which ended in a draw: **3...Bg7** reciprocal zugzwang no.3 **4.Ne2** (4.Kc2 Bh6

5.Kd3 Bg7 6.Nd5+ Kxa4 7.Ke4 Kb5 8.Kf5 Kc5 9.Kg6 Bd4 10.Nf4 Kd6
11.h6 Ke7 12.h7 Bb2 13.Nh5 Bh8!=) **4...Kxa4 5.Ke4 Bh6 6.Nd4 Kb4
7.Ne6 Kb5 8.Kf5 Kc6 9.Kg6 Bc1 10.Ng5 Kd7 11.h6 Ke8 12.h7 Bb2** and
the game was drawn after some further moves.



S6.04 G.Vescovi (2526) - K.Sakaev (2627) Istanbul ol 2000

This exercise was probably not so difficult: **49...Ka5!** and Vescovi resigned. A possible finish is **50.Nd5 Bd4 51.Nf6 Kb4 52.Nh7 Kxb3 53.Nxg5 c4 54.Nxh3 c3--+**



S6.05 H.Camilleri (2156) - Nirosch de Silva (2162) Istanbul ol 2000

White lost the game, but the position is drawn: **51.Bc4?** (51.Bd5! f2 52.Bc4 Na2 (52...Nxb3+ 53.Kxb4 Nd2 54.Be2=) 53.Be2=; 51.Kxb4 Nd3+ 52.Kc3 f2--+) **51...Na2 52.Kb6 Kxh5 53.Kc5 Kxh4 54.Kd4 Kg3 55.Ke3 f2 56.Bf1 Nc1 57.Ba6 Nxb3 58.Bf1 Nc5 59.Kd4 b3 60.Kc3 Kh2 61.Kd2 Kg1 62.Bc4 f1Q 63.Bxf1 Kxf1 64.Kc3 Ke2 65.Kb2 Kd2 66.Kb1 Kc3 67.Ka1 Ne4 0-1**

Sources:

Juri Averbach, *Endspiele Springer gegen Läufer und Turm gegen Leichtfigur*, Sportverlag Berlin 1988

Claus Dieter Meyer's endgame analysis in *ChessBase Magazine 77*

Richard Forster's Late Knight column April 2001 and his contribution on Staunton vs Horwitz to the [ChessCafe.com](http://www.chesscafe.com) Bulletin Board (item no. 320–1).

ChessBase MEGABASE 2001

Nalimov 5-man tablebase

Ken Thompson's 6-man database

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