

British Endgame Study News

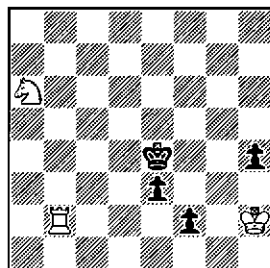
Volume 10 Number 2

June 2005

Edited and published by John Beasley, 7 St James Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4NX
ISSN 1363-0318 E-mail: johnbeasley@mail.com

Contents of this issue

Editorial	297
Improvements and extensions	298
Progress on the computer	299
A view from South America	300
From the world at large	302
News and notices	304



by Troitzky
(composer's definitive
setting, see below)

This issue. We have the computer report postponed from last time and the promised review of José Mugnos's book *200 finales*, and the special number contains more foreign studies from Tattersall. The loss of Mike Bent means that British originals are now fewer and our usual selection is missing this time, but there is a contribution by Paul Michelet in the section "Improvements and extensions".

Artur Mandler. I have now sold out of *Depth and Beauty*, my translation into English of Artur Mandler's 1970 book *Studie*, but I understand that a few copies are still available from ARVES (Ton van Oosterhout, Max Havelaarlaan 341, 1183 LW Amstelveen, NL - Nederland). Copies may also be available from the various dealers to whom I sold in bulk (the BCM, Chess and Bridge, and Chess Direct in the UK, and Variantes and Le Damier de l'Opéra in Paris).

Spotlight (see also back page). Rather a lot this time: sorry. Let's get the typos out of the way first. **15** in special number 42 was by Troitzky; René Olthof's birthday was his 45th; the Black rook in diagram **1b** on page 294 should have been on h6, where it stops the threatened mate. My thanks to all who took the trouble to write in.

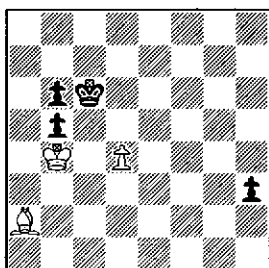
Now to the analytical points. As regards the apparently unnecessary pawn on h5 in the Troitzky, Timothy Whitworth points out that the study is given in Troitzky's 1924 collection *500 Endspielstudien* without it (and with the rook on b2, see above). "We do not know what was originally printed in *Novoye vremya* because the study is not amongst those that Ken Whyld found on the (incomplete) microfilm of the *Novoye vremya* chess columns which he obtained from the Cleveland Public Library. In his 1924 collection, Troitzky printed "Nowoje Wremja 1898" above the diagram, but this does not settle the matter. It was Troitzky's policy to give for each study the source and date of the original setting even when he was presenting a revised version. So Tattersall may well have reproduced accurately what he found, but we can be sure that Troitzky's preferred setting was the one shown in *500 Endspielstudien*."

Continued on the back page.

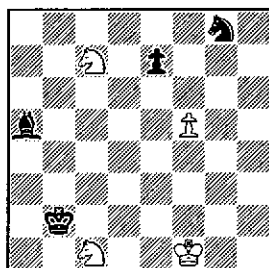
Improvements and extensions

Readers have pointed out that two of last time's studies can be extended without using extra material, and that an extended version of a third appeared some years ago.

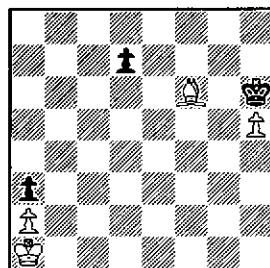
Paul Michelet makes a significant improvement to the attractive little Larsen study (5 in special number 42) by putting the White pawn back to d4 and the Black king on c6 (see 1 below, which also has a purely cosmetic shift of the bishop from g8 to a2). Now the pawn moves to its place of sacrifice during play, and there is an unsuccessful line 1 Bb1 Kd5 2 Bf5 h2 3 Bc8 which underlines the point: Black plays 3...Kc6, and White can resign. But 1 d5+ forces 1...Kd6 (else 2 Bb1 and 3 Be4 win for White), and now the moves 2 Bb1 Kxd5 remove the pawn and set the scene for Larsen's stalemate defence: 3 Bf5 h2 4 Bc8 Kc6 5 Bg4! h1Q 6 Bf3+ Qxf3.



1 - draw



2 - draw



3 - win

Noam Elkies points out that Mike Bent's 3 on page 291 can be given an extra move by starting with the knight on c1 and the Black king on b2 (see 2 above), when 1 Nd3+ Kc2 gives Mike's position (2 Ne1+ Kd1 3 Nd5 Bxe1 4 f6 exf6 5 Ne3+ Kd2 6 Nf5! Kd1 7 Ne3+ and a delightful draw by repetition) and 1...Kc3 can be met by 2 Nf4. To judge from Mike's reactions to my occasional computer-prompted suggestions when I was publishing his originals in *diagrammes*, he would definitely have approved of this, and I imagine that he considered the possibility himself but overlooked the line 1...Kc3 2 Nf4 (he was already well into his seventies).

And Alain Villeneuve draws my attention to D. Makhatadze's extension of Oldřich Duras's 8 in special number 42 (see 3 above, Special Prize, Drosha Ty 1966, version): 1 Bb2! Kxh5 2 Bxa3 Kg- and we have a position equivalent to Duras's (3 Bb4! Kf- 4 a4 Ke- 5 a5 and either 5...Kd5 6 a6 Kc6 7 Ba5 or 5...Kd6 6 Bd6 Kc8 7 a6). This will never displace the Duras from popular affection because of the extra pawns, but as with the Larsen the extension adds an unsuccessful line which underlines the play (if 1 Be7 instead of 1 Bb2 then 1...d6, and after 2 Bxd6 Black will draw because the obstructive pawn on d7 is no longer there). According to Harold van der Heijden's "Endgame study database 2000", this originally appeared with the White king on d1, when 1 Be7 cooks (the line 1...d6 2 Bxd6 Kxh5 3-5 Kxa3 would indeed fail, but White can win by using his king to keep Black's at bay and his bishop to capture the pawn, say 3-6 Kc5 Kd7 7 Kd5 Kd8 8 Kc6 Kc8 9 Kb6 Kd7 10 Bxa3 etc).

Progress on the computer

Herewith the report displaced from March by the need to accommodate Mike Bent's obituary. I believe this report to be correct at the time of writing, but readers visiting the sites may well find that the picture has changed by the time it reaches them. My usual thanks to Guy Haworth for much of the information.

6-man endings: position-by-position look-up. There are now two sites which offer a 6-man result look-up service based on "Nalimov" tables computed either by Eugene himself or by others using his programs. As at May 4, John Tamplin's site

<http://chess.jaet.org>

offers all 3-3 and 4-2 pawnless endings apart apparently from K+R+N v K+R+N. The result is given with depth to mate ignoring the 50-move rule ("DTM"), depth to change of material ("DTC"), depth to change of material or pawn advance ("DTZ"), and the same assuming that the 50-move rule is in force ("DTZ50").

Eiko Bleicher's site

<http://www.k4it.de>

offers only DTM but has a wider range: as at May 4, all 4-2 with or without pawns, all 3-3 pawnless, and 17 out of the 65 3-3 with pawns (there is a list on the site). The home page comes up in German, but a switch to English is provided.

6-man "Nalimov EGT" download. Rob Hyatt's file download site

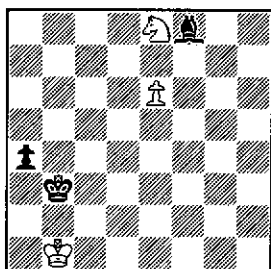
<ftp://ftp.cis.uab.edu/pub/hyatt/TB/>

is recovering from a disc crash, but it used to offer all 3-3 and 4-2 pawnless and all 4-2 with pawns, and in due course it will no doubt do so again (the current offering is partial). The supply of 3-3 with pawns is increasing as they become created.

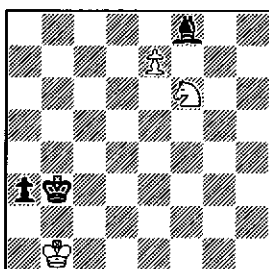
The first 7-man ending. Independently, Marc Bourzutschky has been working on the endgame of queen against four knights, and he has given us our first complete analysis of a 7-man ending. This is a computing rather than a chess milestone, since the results do little more than dot the i's and cross the t's of Troitzky's conclusion that once the stronger side has gathered its forces it can force a win; Marc reports in *EG* that even the configuration wKa1, wNa2/b2/b1/c1 wins for White to move unless the Black king is on c2 and the queen on one of the eight squares a8-a6/c5/e3-h3, and he has since told me that the same configuration one file right (wKb1, wNb2/c2/c1/d1) wins for White to move wherever the Black men may be. However, the analysis disclosed 27,412 positions of reciprocal zugzwang, six being "full-point" zugzwangs (the side to move loses), and this increases the number of known 7-man pawnless full-point zugzwangs to seven. Marc describes the work in an article in *EG* 156.

In itself, this is unlikely to herald a new flood of computer discoveries, since the interchangeability of the knights reduces the number of positions that need be considered to $496 \times 62 \times 61 \times 60 \times 59 \times 58 / 24$ and this is conveniently less than 2^{34} (beyond which the job becomes more complicated and takes correspondingly longer). But the calculation only took six days on Marc's machine (a 3.6GHz Pentium IV with 4GB of memory) and such a machine can be now bought for less than £2,000 in the UK, so the era of 7-man endgame analysis is beginning to appear above the horizon. Distributing the tables that are produced will be another matter!

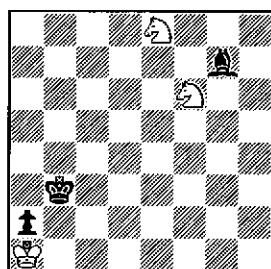
A view from South America



1 - draw



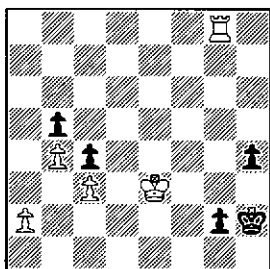
1a - after 2 e7



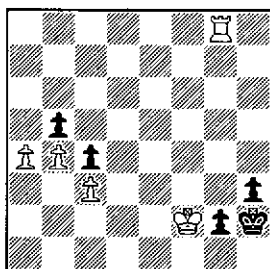
1b - 2...a2+, after 4 e8N

José Mugnos's book *200 estudios*, his selection from the period 1968-77, arrived too late for last time, but it has since given much pleasure. 1 (1HM *Priokskaya Pravda* 1968) is by Pogosyants, and is rich in stalemates. 1 Nf6 is natural and correct (the refutation of other moves is left to the reader), but after 1...a3 natural moves no longer suffice and White must play 2 e7 (see 1a).

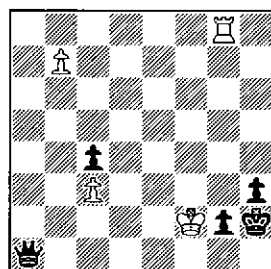
If now 2...Bxe7 then 3 Ne4 (threat 4 Nd2+ etc) a2+ (3...Bb4 4 Ka1 a2 5 Nd2+ and 5...Bxd2 will be stalemate) 4 Ka1 Ka3 (now the knight must relinquish control of f6, but...) 5 Nc3 threatening 6 Nxa2, and 5...Bf6 is stalemate. Alternatively, try 2...a2+ 3 Ka1 Bg7 pinning and threatening mate; no, 4 e8N (see 1b) Bh8 (else a knight gets back to help the defence) 5 Ng7! and 5...Bxg7 gives the nicest stalemate of all.



2 - win

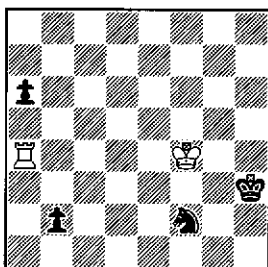


2a - after 2 a4

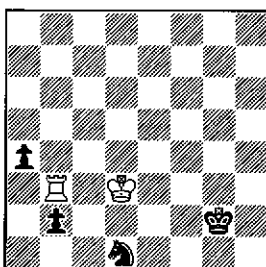


2b - after 5...a1Q

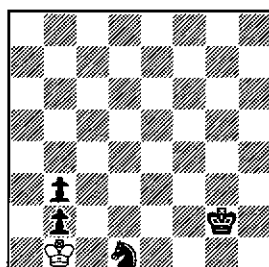
To my surprise, 2 (K. Regan, *Sp Pr Chess Life and Review* 1972) appears not to have been done before. 1 Kf2 h3 is obvious, but if 2 Rg3 then 2...g1Q+ and the capture will give stalemate. Hence 2 a4 (see 2a) and after 2...bxa4 (we shall look at 2...Kh1 later) there will be no stalemate. But Black promotes first, 3-5 b7 a1Q (see 2b), and will 6 b8Q+ truly win for White? No, it won't, but he has 6 Rxb2+, and after 6...Kh1 (6...hxg2 7 b8Q+ and mate next move) 7 Rh2+ Kxh2 the long diagonal is open and he can staircase in: 8 b8Q+ Kh1 9 Qb7+ Kh2 10 Qc7+ and so on down to 17 Qf3+ Kh2 18 Qg3+ Kh1 19 Qxh3 mate. If Black tries 2...Kh1, White temporizes by say 3 Rg7, and after 3...Kh2/bxa4 4 Rg3 bxa4/Kh2 5 b5 we reach the same finish.



3 - draw

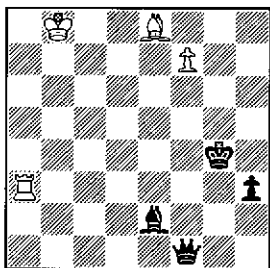


3a - after 4...a4

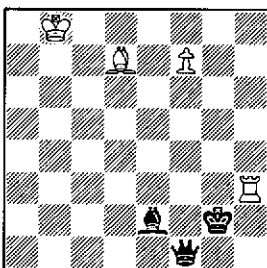


3b - after 6 Kb1

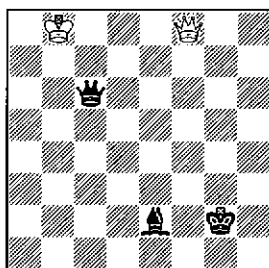
Bohuslav Sivák's 3 (3 Pr *Pravda (Bratislava)* 1974) has a finish more usually seen with a bishop. 1 Rb4 allows a fork, hence 1 Ra3+ Kg2 (nothing else is better) 2 Rb3. There follows 2...Nd1 (2...Nd3 3 Kc3) 3 Ke4 (going for the knight) a5 (if 3...Nc3+ 4 Kd4 b1Q 5 Rxb1 Nxb1 then 6 Kc5, so Black runs his second pawn) 4 Kd3 a4 and it looks as if Black has won (see 3a), because 5 Rb8 allows 5...a3 etc and 5 Rxb2+ leads to 5...Nxb2+ 6 Kc3 a3 7 Kb3 Nc4. But wait a moment: White can play 5 Kc2! leaving the rook to its fate, because after 5...axb3 6 Kb1 Black can release the stalemate only by giving up both his pawns (see 3b).



4 - draw



4a - after 4...Kg2



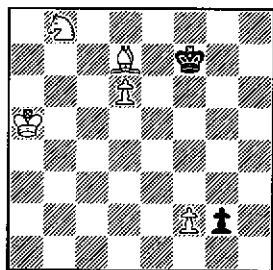
4b - after 7 f8Q

I owe my copy of this book to the kindness of Oscar Carlsson, so perhaps it is appropriate to finish with one of his compositions. 4 (2nd Pr *L'Italia Scacchistica* 1976) starts 1 Bd7+ and both f-file and fifth rank are poisoned (1...Kf4 2 f8Q+, 1...Kg5 2 Ra5+ and 3 Rf5). Hence 1...Kh4, after which comes 2 Ra4+ (White's checks after 2 Rxb3+ are short-lived and Black can then force a win in all lines) Kg3 3 Ra3+ Kh2 (3...Bd3 4 Rxd3+ Qxd3 5 f8Q with a Q v Q+B draw) 4 Rxb3+ Kg2 (4...Kg1 allows 5 Rg3+ etc repeating, the f-file still being poisoned) and we have 4a.

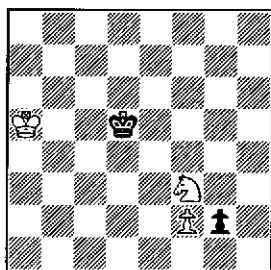
Now comes the key move: 5 Rf3!! Black's queen must take this (if instead 5...Qb1+ then 6 Kc7 Qc1+ 7 Bc6 Bxf3 8 f8Q with a comfortable draw), and after 5...Qxf3 the pin 6 Bc6 pulls the queen off the f-file. But after 6...Qxc6 7 f8Q it is Black's move and White's king is badly placed (see 4b); will not 7...Qb6+ lead to mate? No, 8 Ka1 blunts the attack, because 8...Bf3+ 9 Qxf3+ Kxf3 is stalemate.

All in all, a very attractive compilation, whose South American provenance gives it a slightly different coverage from that of the general run of endgame study books.

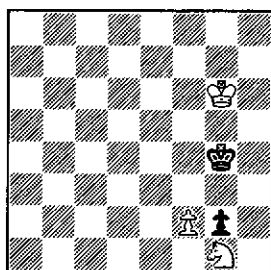
From the world at large



1 - win



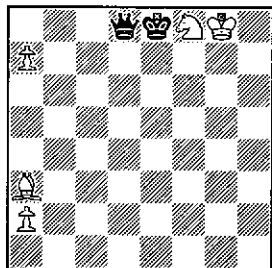
1a - after 5...Kd5



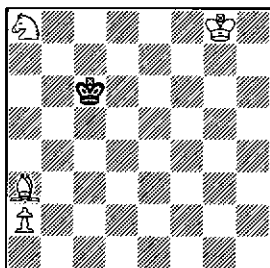
1b - after 12 Kg6 Kg4

As might have been expected, David Gurgenidze's 50th birthday tourney attracted some fine entries. The award was divided into three sections, "main section", "the study and the endgame", and "systematic manoeuvres", and Yochanan Afek's 1 gained 2nd-3rd Prize in the section "the study and the endgame". Play starts **1 Be8+ Kxe8 2 d7+** and **2...Kf7 3 d8Q g1Q** gives White **Q+N+P v Q**, hence **2...Ke7/Kd8 3 Nc6+ Kxd7 4 Ne5+ Kd6 5 Nf3** and the g-pawn is stopped. Black's most interesting defence is **5...Kd5** trying to stop the White king from coming across, and we have **1a**.

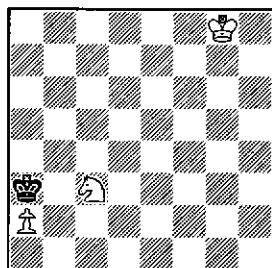
If now **6 Kb5** then **6...Ke4 7 Ng1 Kd5** taking the opposition, and White will make no progress. Hence **6 Kb6!** There follows **6...Ke4 7 Ng1**, and if **7...Kd5** then **8 Kb5** and Black will soon have to give way (**8...Kd4 9 Kb4** and either **9...Kd3 10 Kc5** or **9...Kd5 10 Kc3**). Better is **7...Kd4** taking the diagonal opposition, and **8 Kc6 Kc4 9 Kd6 Kd4 10 Ke6 Ke4 11 Kf6 Kf4 12 Kg6** (**Kg7** also works) **Kg4** brings us to **1b**. Now comes **13 Kh7!** and what is Black to do? **13...Kh4** allows **14 Kh6** claiming the opposition; **13...Kh5** allows **14 f3 Kh4 15 Ne2**, and White has disentangled himself.



2 - win

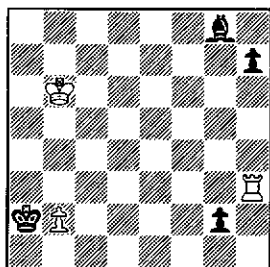


2a - after 4...Kc6

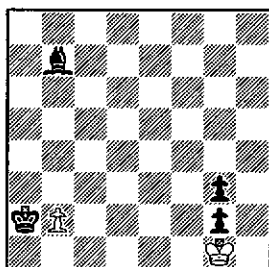


2b - after 8 Nc3

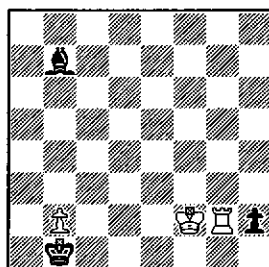
Vladimir Savilo's much lighter **2** took an HM in the same section. **1 Ne6 Qd5** (say) **2 a8Q+ Qxa8 3 Nc7+ Kd7 4 Nxa8 Kc6** gives **2a**, and does White play **Bd6** or **Bc5**? Try **5 Bd6**: no, **5...Kxd6 6 Nb6 Kc5 7 Na4+ Kb4 8 Nb2 Ka3** and the pawn falls. But **5 Bc5** leads to **5...Kxc5 6 Nc7 Kb4 7 Nd5+ Ka3 8 Nc3** (see **2b**) with **9 a4** to follow, and the pawn is safe.



3 - draw

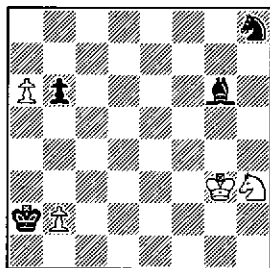


3a - 1 Rg3, after 6 Kg1

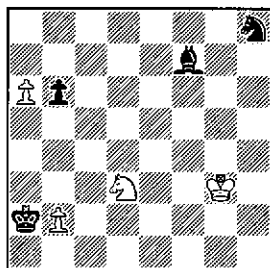


3b - 1 Ra3+ Kb1, 8 Rg2

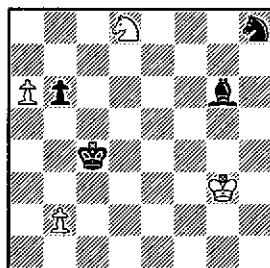
Another HM went to Aleksandr Golubev's 3, which makes an interesting counterpart to the Sivák study quoted on page 301. Try 1 Rg3: no, 1...Bd5 2 Kc5 Bb7! 3 Kd4 h5 4 Ke3 h4 5 Kf2 hxg3+ 6 Kg1 (see 3a) Kb1 7 b4 Kc2 8 b5 Kd3 9 b6 Ke4! 10 Kxg2 Kf4+ and Black has lifted the stalemate and preserved his last pawn. So White must start with 1 Ra3+, and if 1...Kxb2 then 2 Rg3 etc and everything will work. And what if 1...Kb1? Now White can hold the draw another way: 2 Rg3 Bd5 3 Kc5 Bb7 4 Kd4 h5 5 Ke3 h4 6 Rg8 h3 7 Kf2 h2 8 Rxg2! (see 3b) and 8...h1Q will be met by 9 Rg1+.



4 - win



4a - after 2 Nd3



4b - after 5...Bg6

Eduardo Iriarte's 4 shared 1st-2nd Prize in the section "systematic manoeuvres", though I feel that it too might have been classed under "the study and the game". 1 a7 Be4, 1 Ng5 Be8 with 2...Bc6 to follow; how can White do better? 1 Nf2 Bf7 (we shall see that 1...Be8 makes things somewhat easier for White) 2 Nd3 (see 4a) Kb3 (2...Bd5 3 Nb4+, 2...Kb1 3 Nb4 Bg6 4 Kf4) 3 Nf4 (had Black played 1...Be8 White would now play 3 Ne5 with a quick win, Black having nothing better than 3...Bg6 4 Kf4 etc) Be8 4 Ne6 (White must meet ...Bc6 with a fork, and 4 Ne2 generates no pressure) Kc4 (if say 4...Kxb2 then 5 Nd8 Bg6 6 Kf4 etc, so Black plays his king towards d3 in the hope of gaining e4 for the bishop, and 4...Kc2 won't do because of 5 a7 Bc6 6 Nd4+) 5 Nd8 Bg6 and we have 4b.

Now 6 Kf4 will be met by 6...Kd3 and 7...Be4, but White has 6 Nb7! masking the diagonal. The threat of 7 a7 etc forces 6...Be4, and we have yet another fork in 7 Nd6+; Black can try 7...Kd5 8 Nxe4 Kc6, but 9 Nd6 clinches matters. Even Black's enabling of ...Be4 has failed to keep White at bay.

News and notices

Mike Bent Memorial Tourney. John Rice, editor of *The Problemist*, tells me that the May issue (in press at the time of writing) will contain an announcement of a study tourney that the British Chess Problem Society will be holding to commemorate the life and compositions of Mike Bent. Entries, printed or drawn on diagrams and with full solutions, to Adam Sobey, c/o 12 Allee Drive, Liphook, Hants GU30 7YD, GB - England, by **30 June 2006**. No set theme; judgement by a team of three (David Friedgood, John Roycroft, Timothy Whitworth); generous book prizes.

As in the case of Walter Veitch, John Roycroft's obituary in *EG* provides an interesting complement to my own, and in addition he quotes a splendid example of Mike's writing in verse. We are both of the opinion that Mike's light verse deserves a wider audience, and if any reader knows an editor who is working on or planning a new anthology (I have in mind things like the Penguin *Comic and Curious Verse* series which delighted my student days) I shall be more than happy to pass the contact forward.

Meetings. The next *EG* readers' meeting will be at 17 New Way Road, London NW9 6PL, on **Friday July 1** at 6.00 pm. Non-subscribers welcome, but please bring £5 towards the buffet (except on a first visit). Bring the latest *EG* with you.

Friedrich Chlubna (obituary, page 296). Marco Campioli points out that Friedrich did compose endgame studies as well as problems, even if only occasionally. There are two by him in Harold van der Heijden's "Endgame study database 2000" (numbers 32834 and 33626).

Spotlight continued. In the Behting/Lasker study, **1** in special number 42, Alain Villeneuve points out that my answer to 1 e7, namely 1...c5 and if 2 Kf4 then 2...c4, fails because White can play 3 Ke5 (3...c3 4 Ke6). Black's correct move is 2...d3.

Noam Elkies points out that in the Berger study, **16** in special number 42, the move 4 Nf4 in the sideline 2...Qa5 is not unique; White also has 4 Re7 and 4 Nb2, and while the first merely wastes time the latter appears to be a genuine dual. Needless to say, the fault lay with myself. Tattersall just gave the main line up to 3 Ne3+, and the promotion of the sideline to bold type was my own (I could find no answer to 2...Qa5, and when the computer gave me one I naïvely assumed it to be unique). I continue to be amazed at the industry and accuracy of 19th-century analysts.

Noam also makes an amusing point regarding my exposition of the van Essen study (3 on page 295): while White's 3 Kd7 does indeed threaten mate by 4 g6, this threat is essentially illusory since each of Black's legal moves defeats it.

Anybody wishing to give notice in BESN of any event, product, or service should contact the Editor. There is no charge and no account is taken of whether the activity is being pursued for commercial profit, but notices are printed only if they seem likely to be of particular interest to study enthusiasts. Readers are asked to note that the Editor relies wholly on the representations of the notice giver (except where he makes a personal endorsement) and that no personal liability is accepted either by him or by any other person involved in the production and distribution of this magazine.