

# British Endgame Study News

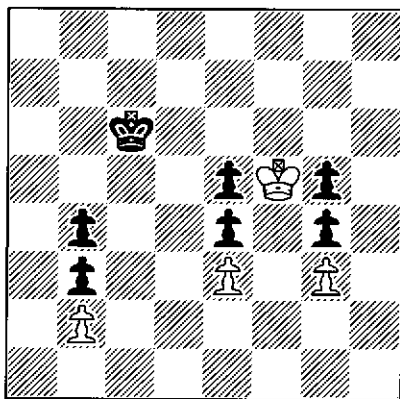
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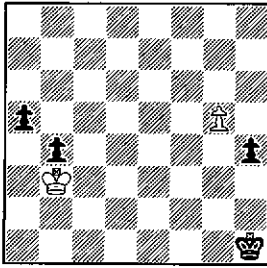
## Refusal to capture in pawn studies

*by Alain Pallier*

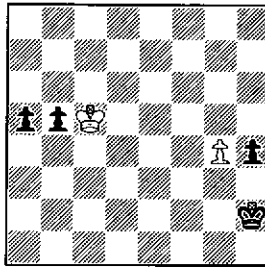


Kxe5 only draws, Kxe4 only draws, Kxg5 only draws, Kxg4 only draws.  
To win, White must play Ke6!

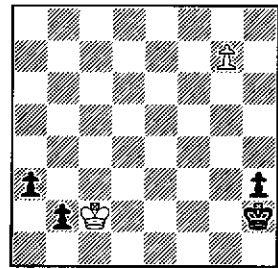




3 - win



4 - win



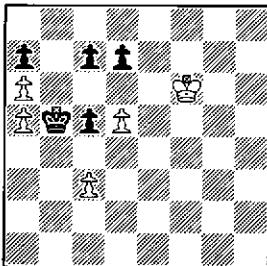
4a - after 6 Kc2

P. Farago showed that some more finesses could be added. **1 Ka4!** (1 g6? a4+ 2 Kxa4 b3+ 3 Kxb3 h3 4 g7 h2 5 g8Q stalemate) **b3 2 Kxb3 a4+ 3 Ka3!** and White wins: 3...h3 4 g6 h2 5 g7 Kg1(2) 6 g8Q+ K-- 7 Qd5 Kg1 8 Qg5+ K-- 9 Qh4 Kg2 10 Qg4+ K-- 11 Qh3 Kg1 12 Qg3+ Kh1 13 Kb4! a3 14 Qf2 and 15 Qf1 mate.

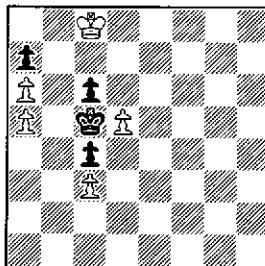
Katnelson's **4** (commended, *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1969) is clearly related to Farago's: the difference is in the location of BK (h2 instead of h1). **1 g5 b4** (1...a4 2 Kb4 a3 3 Kb3! b4 4 g6 h3 5 g7 and wins) **2 Kc4 b3 3 Kc3!** (3 Kxb3? a4+ 4 Ka3 h3 5 g6 Kh1 6 g7 h2 7 g8Q stalemate) **a4 4 g6 a3 5 g7 b2 6 Kc2** (see 4a) and White wins.

### III A pawn capture would free a square for Black's later use

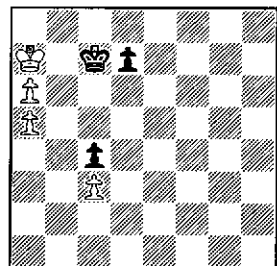
In 1924, J. Hašek showed the danger of capturing a pawn when the Black king can make good use of the square thus made available (see the front-page study in *BESN* special number 14, March 1999). Liburkin's **5** (2nd prize, Erevan Chess Club 1950) is a masterpiece that develops Hašek's idea with two refusals to capture in a row.



5 - win

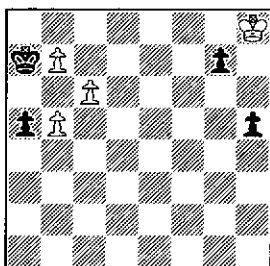


5a - 2 Kxd7, after 4...c6

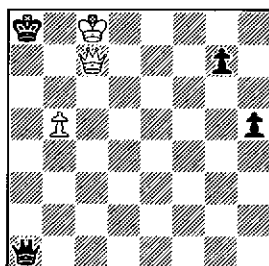


5b - 3 Kxc7, after 5...Kc7

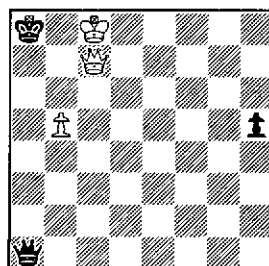
**1 Ke7 c4** (1...Kc4 2 Kxd7 Kxd5 3 Kc8! Kc6 4 Kb8 Kd7 5 Kxa7 Kc8 6 c4 or 1...d6 2 Kd7 Kc4 3 Kxc7 Kxc3 4 Kb7 c4 5 Kxa7 K-- 6 Kb8 c3 7 a7 e2 8 a8Q c1Q 9 a6 Qg5 10 Qc6 Qd8+ 11 Kb7 and wins) **2 Kd8!!** (2 Kxd7? Kc5 3 Kc8 [3 Kxc7 Kxd5 4 Kb7 Kd6] c6! [see 5a] 4 Kb7 cxd5 5 Kxa7 d4 6 cxd4+ Kxd4 7 Kb6 c3 draw) **Kc5 3 Kc8!!** (3 Kxc7? Kxd5 4 Kb7 Kd6 5 Kxa7 Kc7 draw, see 5b) **c6! 4 d6! Kxd6 5 Kb8!** (5 Kb7? c5! draw) **c5 6 Kb7!** and White wins. The Black king cannot make use of the square d7, thanks to the refusal to capture at move 2.



6 - win

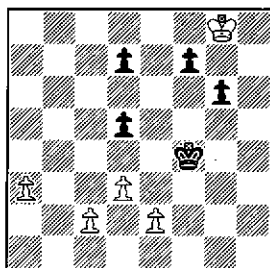


6a - after 8 Kc8

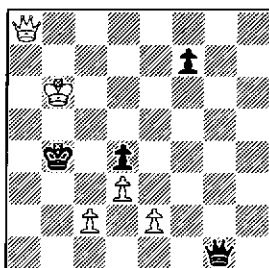


6b - 1 Kxg7, after 8 Kc8

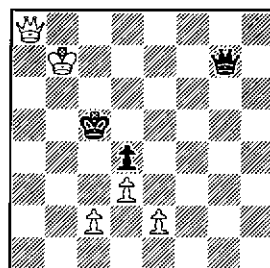
In the next two studies, a promoted Queen threatens to defend, but keeping a black pawn allows White to succeed. 6 (T.R.Dawson, *L'Italia Scacchistica* 1923): **1 Kg8! a4 2 Kf7 a3 3 Ke7 a2 4 c7 Kxb7 5 Kd7 a1Q 6 c8Q+ Ka7 7 Qc7+ Ka8 8 Kc8!** (see 6a). Had White played 1 Kxg7?, Black could save the game by 8... Qh8+ (see 6b).



7 - draw



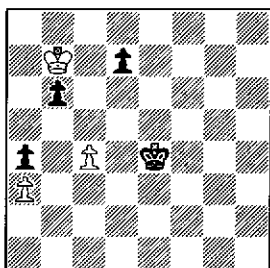
7a - main line, after 11 a8Q



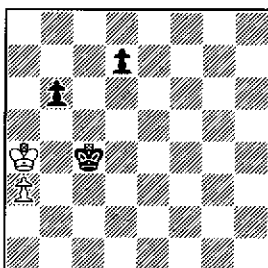
7b - 1 Kxf7, after 10...Qg7+

7 (E.Pallasz, 1st commendation *Szachista* 1993-94): **1 Kf8! g5 2 a4 Ke5 3 Ke7 d4 4 Kxd7 Kd5 5 Kc7 Kc5 6 Kb7 Kb4 7 Kb6!** g4 (7...Kxa4 8 Kc5) **8 a5 g3 9 a6 g2 10 a7 g1Q 11 a8Q** and draws (see 7a), but not 1 Kxf7? g5 2 a4 Ke5 3 Ke7 d4 4 Kxd7 Kd5 5 Kc7 Kc5 6 Kb7 g4 7 a5 g3 8 a6 g2 9 a7 g1Q 10 a8Q Qg7+! (see 7b) and Black mates in a few moves as known since Polerio.

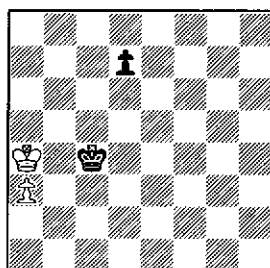
#### IV A pawn capture would destroy a stalemate



8 - draw



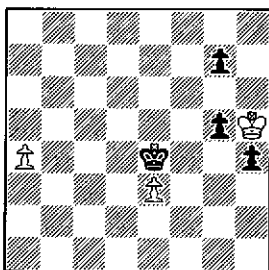
8a - 3...Kxc4 stalemate



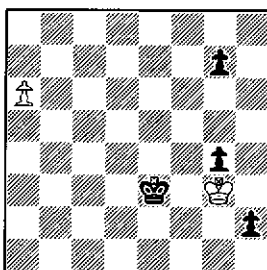
8b - 1 Kxb6, after 3...Kxc4

8 is by L. Prokeš (*Československý šach* 1946). As in most Prokeš studies, the solution is short: **1 Ka6!! Kd4 2 Kb5! Kc3 3 Kxa4 Kxc4 stalemate** (see 8a). If White captures, a5 is no longer under black control: **1 Kxb6? Kd4 2 Kb5** (2 c5 Kc4!) **Kc3 3 Kxa4 Kxc4** (see 8b) and after **4 Ka5 d5** wins. In the main line, note also **1...d5 2 exd5 Kxd5 3 Kb5!** since the capture again loses: **3 Kxb6? Kc4**.

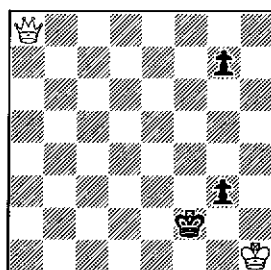
#### V Capturing would lose ground to the benefit of the opposing King



9 - win

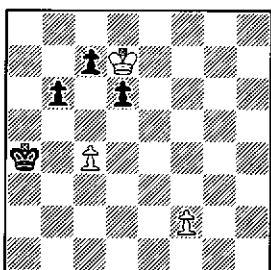


9a - after 4...h2

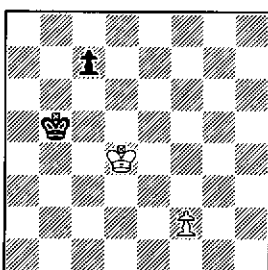


9b - after 8 a8Q

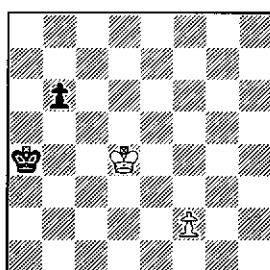
The struggle between the kings, even when there is no opposition to be won, leads to the refusal of captures in 9 and 10. 9 is by D. Makhatadze (1st Prize, *Chervony Gimnik* 1986, version). **1 Kg4 h3 2 Kg3!** (2 Kxh3? Kf3!) **g4 3 a5 Kxe3 4 a6 h2** (see 9a) **5 Kg2!** (5 Kxh2? Kf2 repeating) **h1Q+ 6 Kxh1 Kf2 7 a7 g3 8 a8Q** and wins (see 9b). On h1, WK is safe because the promoted Queen controls g2 from a8. (The original had no bPg7, when 2 Kxh3 Kf3 3 a5 leads to a computer-discovered win with Q + Pe3 v Q. Fortunately the cure appears easy, and spoils nothing.)



10 - win



10a - 4 Kxd4, after 4...Kxb5

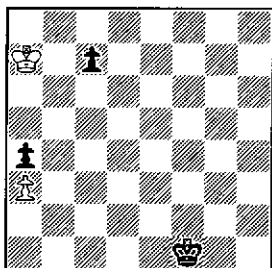


10b - main line, 4 Kxd4

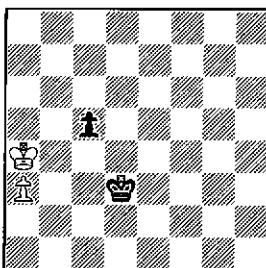
10 (A. Mandler, *Narodni Osvobozeni* 1938). **1 Kc6!** 1 Kxc7? Kb4 and draws; **1 f4? b5!** **2 cxb5 d5**. **1...b5 1...d5 2 cxd5 b5 3 Kxc7 b4 4 d6 b3 5 d7 b2 6 d8Q b1Q 7 Qa8+ Kb3 8 Qb8+ Kc2 9 Qxb1+ Kxb1 10 f4** and wins. **2 cxb5 d5 3 Kc5!** keeping BK on the a-file; **3 Kxd5? Kxb5 4 f5 c4 6 Kd4 Kc6!**. **3...d4 4 b6!** And not **4 Kxd4? Kxb5**, see 10a. **14...cxb6 5 Kxd4** (see 10b). The capture has been delayed: now Black has a b-pawn, **5...Kb4** is not good. **5...b5 6 f4 b4 7 f5 b3 8 Kc3! Ka3 9 f6 b2 10 f7 b1Q 11 f8Q+ Ka4 10 Qa8+ Kb5 11 Qb8+ Kc6 12 Qxb1** and wins.

## VI Refusing to capture forces Black to play a king move that weakens his position

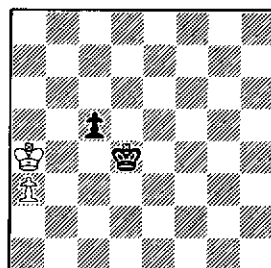
In this case, the capture is merely delayed.



11 - draw

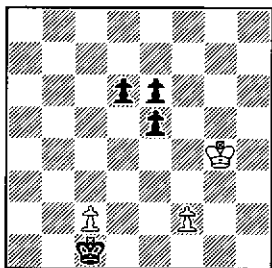


11a - 3 Kxa4, after 3...c5

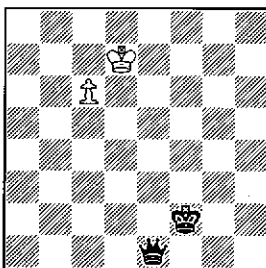


11b - main line, after 5...c5

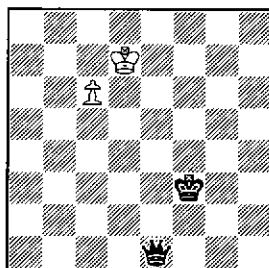
11 (V. Kondratyev, special commendation, *Shakhmaty v SSSR* theme tourney 1985). 1 Ka6 Ke2 2 Ka5 Kd3 3 Kb5! 3 Kxa4? c5! (see 11a) 4 Kb5 (4 Kb3 c4+) c4 and wins. 3...c6+ 4 Kb4! Of course, not 4 Kxc6? Kc4 and wins. 4...Kd4. This is the result of the refusal to capture on a4. The position Ka4, Pa3 v Kd3, Pc5, WTM, is lost for White, but with BK on d4 it is drawn. 5 Kxa4! c5 (see 11b) 6 Kb3 Kd3 (6...c4+ 7 Kc2 draw) 7 Kb2! Kd2 (7...c4 8 Kc1) 8 Kb3 with a positional draw.



12 - draw



12a - 4 Kxd6, after 8 Kd7

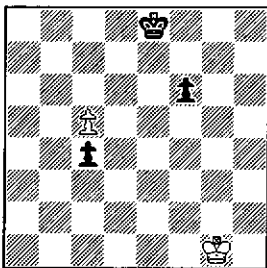


12b - main line, after 9 Kd7

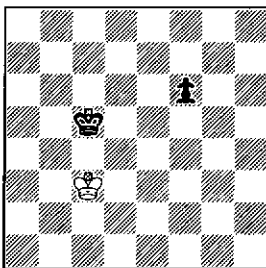
12 (E. Iriarte, *Finales y Temas* 1997). 1 Kg5 Kd2 (1...Kxc2 2 Kf6 d5 3 Kxe5 Kc3 4 Kxe6 d4 5 f4 d3 6 f5 d2 7 f6 d1Q 8 Ke7! Qe2+ 9 Kf8 draw) 2 Kf6 Ke2 3 Kxe6 Kxf2 4 Kd5! (4 Kxd6? e4 5 c4 e3 6 c5 e2 7 c6 e1Q 8 Kd7 [see 12a] Qd1+ 9 Ke7 Qc2 10 Kc7 Qf5+ 11 Kd8 Qd5+ 12 Kc7 Ke3 and wins, or 9 Kc8 Qg4+ 10 Kd8 Qg8+ 11 Kc7 [11 Kd7 Qd5+] Ke3 12 Kd7 [12 Kb7 Qd5 13 Kb6 Kd4] Qd5+ 13 Kc7 Kd4 14 Kb6 Qf3 and wins) Kf3. Now that BK obstructs the diagonal d1-h5, the capture is possible. 5 Kxd6 e4 6 c4 e3 7 c5 e2 8 c6 e1Q 9 Kd7 (see 12b) Qd2+ 10 Kc8 draw.

After move 3, we have in fact a Moravec study, *Svobodné Slovo* 1950 (with WK on c6 instead of e6), and after 9 Kd7 we have the Meyer position, known since 1884!

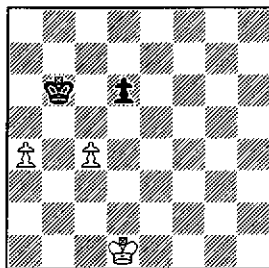
## VII Refusing to capture gets the best of a reciprocal zugzwang position



13 - draw



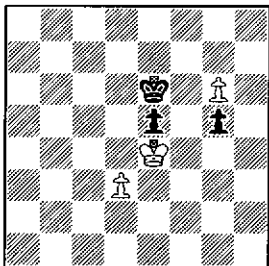
13a - reciprocal zugzwang



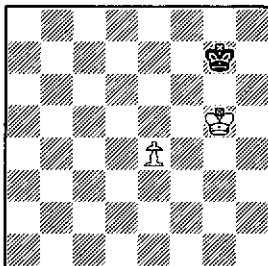
14 - draw

13 (R.Guy, *British Chess Magazine* 1942) is quite simple. **1 Kf2 Kd7 2 Ke3 Kc6 3 Kd4 c3 4 Kd3!** (4 Kxc3? Kxc5 zz and wins, see 13a) **Kd5!** (4...Kxc5 5 Kxc3 zz draw) **5 Kc2 Kc6 6 Kd3** with a positional draw (6...f5 7 Kxc3 Kxc5).

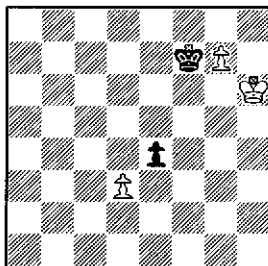
Much more complex are 14 and 15, by the great maestro of this material, Nikolai Grigoriev. 14 (*Shakhmaty* 1923) is based on a position similar to 13a: WKa2 v BKa4, Pc5. WTM, Black wins; BTM, White draws. **1 Kc2 Ka5 2 Kb3!** 2 c5? is premature: 2...dxc5 3 Kb3 a2 4 Kb2 Kb4! 5 Ka1 (5 Kxa2 Kxa4 zz, WTM) Kb3! and wins. **2...a2 3.Kb2!** The first refusal: 3 Kxa2? Kxa4 4 c5 dxc5 zz WTM (see 14a) or 4 Kb2 Kb4 5 c5 dxc5! **3...Kb4!** Black also refuses! 3...Kxa4? 4 c5! (4 Kxa2? BTM) dxc5 5 Kxa2 zz BTM. **4 Ka1!!** The third refusal! 4 Kxa2? Kxa4 5 c5 dxc5 zz WTM. **4...Kxa4** Black has to capture now. 4...Kxc4 5 Kxa2. 5 c5! But not 5 Kxa2? (White's third refusal in a row) Kb4 6 c5 Kxc5! **5...dxc5 6.Kxa2** draw zz BTM.



15 - win



15a - reciprocal zugzwang



15b - after 5 Kh6

The position of zz in 15 (*Shakhmaty* 1923) is: WKg5, Pe4 v BKg7. WTM draw, BTM win. **1 g7 Kf7 2 Kf5!** 2 Kxe5? Kxg7 3 Kf5 Kf7 4 Kxg5 Ke6 draw. **2...Kg8!** 2...Kxg7? 3 Kxg5 e4 4 dxe4 zz, BTM, see 15a; 2...e4 3 dxe4 Kg8 4 Kf6! (4 e5? Kxg7) g4 5 e5 wins. **3 Kg4!!** 3 Kxg5? e4!! (3...Kxg7? 4 Kf5 e4 5 Kxe4 and wins) 4 fxe4 Kxg7 zz WTM. **3...Kf7!** The fourth refusal in a row. 3...Kg7 4 Kxg5 e4 5 dxe4 zz BTM or 4...Kf7 5 Kf5 e4 6 dxe4! **4.Kxg5!** And not (unfortunately?) a fifth refusal by 4 g8=Q+? Kxg8 5 Kxg5 e4 6 dxe4 Kg7! zz WTM. **4...e4 5 Kh6!** and wins (see 15b). 5 dxe4? Kxg7 zz WTM. Note the echo 3...Kh7 4 Kxg5 e4 5 Kf6!

