

British Endgame Study News

Special number 55

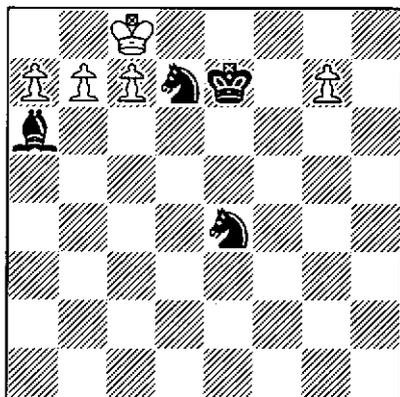
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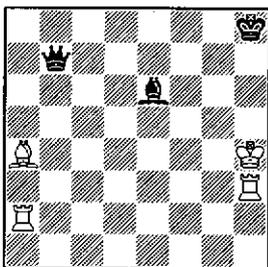
Some foreign studies in the *New Statesman* (2)



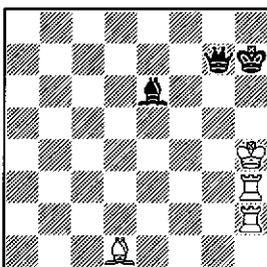
To save the game, White will promote to N, then B, then R

Some foreign studies in the *New Statesman* (2)

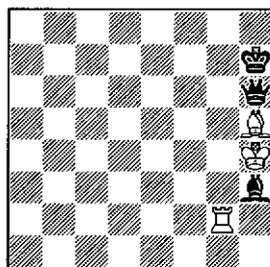
Last time, we saw a selection of the foreign studies which appeared in the column of the *New Statesman* or were honoured in its tourneys. Here is a second selection.



1 - draw



1a - after 2...Kh7

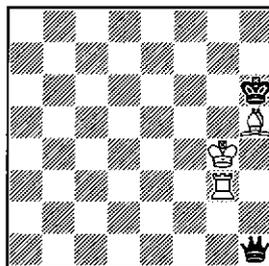


1b - after 5...Bxh3

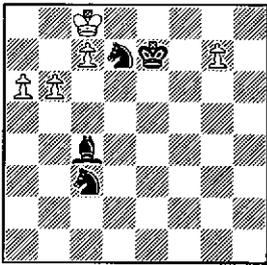
Attila Korányi's 1, which gained 2nd Prize in 1968, is already drawn on material and will remain so even if Black can win rook for bishop, but Black threatens both 1...Bxa2 and 1...Qh7+ each winning a clear rook, and if 1 Kg3+ Bxh3 2 Rh2 then 2...Kg7 3 Rxh3 (3 Kxh3 Qf3+, 3 Bc2 Qd7 4 Rxh3 Qc7+) Qb8+ and the bishop will soon go. But playing 1 **Rah2** means that 1...Bxh3 can be met by 2 Rxh3, and the discovered check will give White time to rescue his bishop (*EG* 16 gives 2...Qe4+ 3 Kg3+ Kg7 4 "Bb3 or Rh4 ="), and the computer confirms the first though not the second).

1...Kg7 is soon seen to lead nowhere (simplest is probably 2 Rg3+ and if 2...Kh6 then 3 Re3), and the only move to apply pressure is 1...Qg7. This threatens mate on g4, and 2 Kh5 only postpones matters for a few moves (2...Qg4+ 3 Kh6 Bf7 etc); hence 2 **Bd1**, and 2...Kh7 adds to the pressure (see 1a); Black threatens mate by ...Kh6 and ...Qg5, and if 3 Rg3 then 3...Qf6+ 4 Rg5 Qf4+ and again mate in a few. White therefore plays 3 **Bf3** ready to meet 3...Kh6 by 4 Rg2, but Black can continue his attack with a waiting move such as 3...Bd7. The point is that every move apart from an immediate 4 Rg2 loses quickly, and with the king still on h7 4...Qh6+ is available as a reply. White can try 5 Bh5, but after 5...Bxh3 Black seems to have gained his rook (see 1b).

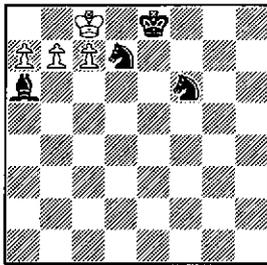
It is therefore White's turn to harass his opponent, and 6 Rg6 forces 6...Qe3 if the bishop is to be defended. 7 Rg3 now wins it, but after 7...Qe1 8 Kxh3 Qh1+ 9 Kg4 Kh6 the initiative has passed back to Black (see 1c). If 10 Rh3 then 10...Qg2+ 11 Rg3 (11 Kh4 Qg5 mate) Qe4+ and the bishop falls; if 10 Be8 then 10...Qe4+; if 10 Bf7 then 10...Qe4+ 11 Kh3 Qf5+ and again the bishop falls, but after 12 Kg2 Qxf7 13 Rh3+ White can give perpetual check or exchange off the queen.



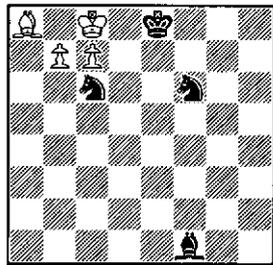
1c - after 9...Kh6



2 - draw

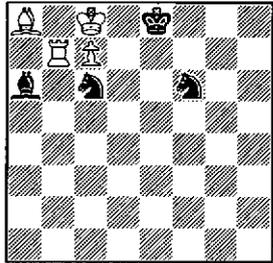


2a - after 4...Nexf6

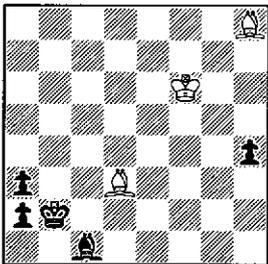


2b - after 7...Bf1

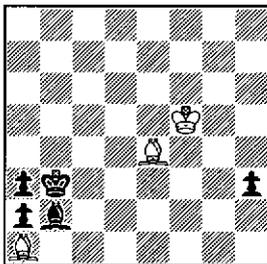
Jan Rusinek's famous "N-B-R promotions to draw" study 2 took 1st Prize in the 1971 tourney, and although we quoted it as recently as December 2005 I do not think we can omit it. 1 a7 Ba6+ (Black must stop White from escaping via b7) 2 b7 Ne4 (threatening mate on d6 and forcing the knight promotion) 3 g8N+ Ke8 4 Nf6+ Nexf6 (see 2a) 5 a8B (anything else allows mate in two by ...Nd5 and ...Ne7, but now Black must spend time releasing the stalemate) Ne5 6 Kb8 Nc6+ 7 Kc8 Bf1 (see 2b) 8 b8R (if 8 b8Q then 8...Ba6+ 9 B/Qb7 Ne4 and mate on d6, and if 8 b8N then 8...Ne7+ 9 Kb7 Bg2+ and Black will soon reach a win with three pieces against one) Ba6+ 9 Rb7 restoring the stalemate (see 2c), and again Black has no time to reach the mate on d6.



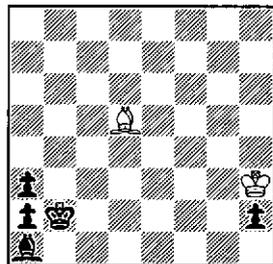
2c - after 7 Kf7



3 - draw

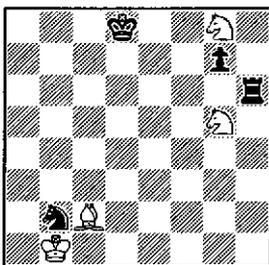


3a - after 3...h3

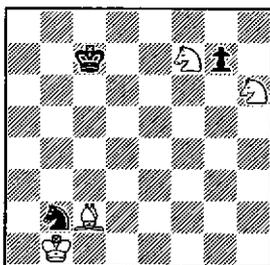


3b - after 6...Kb2

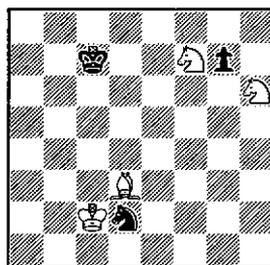
3, by R. Tavariani and D. Makhatadze, appeared in 1975. 1 Kf5+ (the king needs to stop the h-pawn) Kb3 2 Ba1 (else 2...Bb2 shuts him off) Bb2 3 Be4 h3 (an immediate ...Bxa1 eventually comes down to the same thing, but this is sharper) gives 3a, and why 4 Kg4 rather than 4 Kf4? Because after 4 Kf4 h2 5 Kg3 Black can play 5...h1Q 6 Bxh1 Kc4, and meet 7 Be4 Bxa1 8 Bh7 by 8...Be5+. So 4 Kg4 h2 5 Kh3, and if 5...h1Q+ 6 Bxh1 Kc4 7 Be4 Bxa1 then 8 Bh7 and Black has no check. Black therefore keeps his h-pawn in reserve, and after 5...Bxa1 6 Bd5+ Kb2 we have 3b. Now comes 7 Kg2! (the dark squares are still poisoned), and after 7...Kb1 8 Be4+ Kc1 9 Bd5 Kb1 10 Be4+ Black is clearly going nowhere.



4 - win



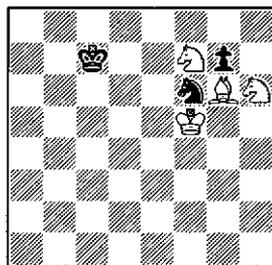
4a - after 2 Ngxh6



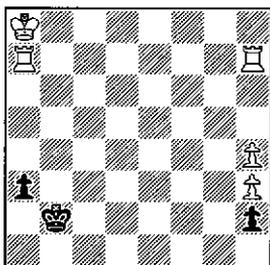
4b - after 4 Kc2

"Systematic movement" was a favourite theme of the period, and several studies featuring it appear in the tourney awards. L. Katsnelson's 4 took 3rd Prize in 1971. Immediate captures fail (1 Nxh6 gxh6 2 Ne6+ Ke7, 1 Kxb2 Rh2 and Black will reach one of the drawing cases of P v 2N), and a preliminary 1 Nf7+ is needed. Black stays on a dark square to keep away from the bishop, 1...Kc7, and White takes by 2 Ngxh6, (if 2 Nfxh6 then 2...Nc4 3 Bd3 Ne5). Now we have 4a, and things get interesting.

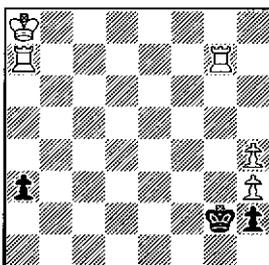
2N + B v N was known to be won even in 1971, so Black must either gain some material or exchange N for B and come down to a drawing case of P v 2N. 2...Nc4 threatens both (if 3 Ng4 then 3...Na3+ 4 Kb2 Nxc2 5 Kxc2 g5 with a P v 2N draw), and only 3 Bd3 maintains any pressure. Black persists with 3...Nd2+, and if 4 Kc1 then 4...Nb3+ and 5...Nc5. Hence 4 Kc2 giving 4b, and the pattern is becoming clear: 4...Nf3 (for ...Nc1+) 5 Be4 Nd4+ 6 Kd3 (6 Kc3 Ne2+ 7 Kd2 Ng3 8 Bg6 gxh6 9 Kf1 h5 10 Kf2 h4 and the knight is held) Ne6 7 Bf5 Nf4+ 8 Ke4 Nh5 9 Bg6 Nf6+ 10 Kf5 and we have reached 4c. To continue the dance by 10...Ng8 is impractical, and Black has the choice only of 10...Nd5 11 Ng8 guarding e7 or 10...Nd7 11 Ng8/Ng4 Nf8 12 Ne5 (not 12 Bh5, when 12...g6+ draws) Nxg6 with a 2N v P win.



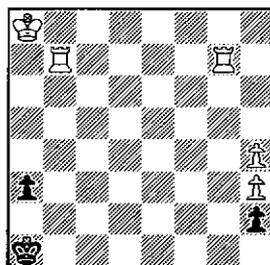
4c - after 10 Kf5



5 - win



5a - after 4...Kg2 5 Rg7+

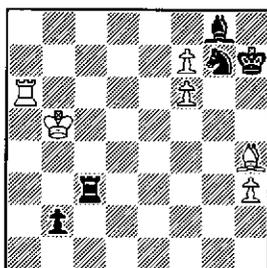


5b - after 11...Ka1

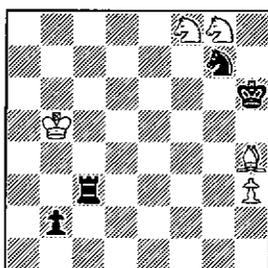
5, by V. Kalandadze and R. Tavariani, gained 3rd HM in the same year. 1 Rab7+ can be met by 1...Ka2/Ka1 and White will get no further, hence 1 Rhb7+, and now

1...Ka2 can be met by 2 Rxa3+ Kxa3 3 Rb1. 1...Kc2, therefore (if instead 1...Kc1 then 2 Rxa3 h1Q 3 Ra1+), and 2 Rc7+ duly follows. Does Black go back? No, 2...Kb2 3 Rab7+ Ka1 4 Rc1+ Ka2, and while 5 Rh1 will be stalemate 5 Rc2+ Ka1 6 Rxh2 certainly won't be. Hence 2...Kd2/Kd1 (both moves now come into consideration since the promotion on h1 will give check), and 3 Rd7+ Ke2/Ke1 4 Re7+ Kf2/Kf1 5 Rf7+ Kg2/Kg1 6 Rg7+ gives 5a.

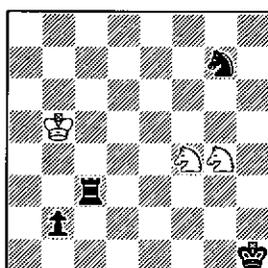
Black now has to go back, 6...Kf2/Kf1, since 5...Kxh3 6 Rxa3+ leads to a quick mate and 5...Kh1 6 Rc7 to an even quicker one, but the previous simple win is no longer available because the pawn on h2 is guarding the bottom rank. So White must find something else, and the answer is 7 Raf7+ Ke1 (7...Ke2 8 Rg2+) 8 Re7+ Kd1 (8...Kf2/Kf1 9 Rgf7+ and 10 Re1) 9 Rd7+ (the clever line 9 Rb7, intending 9...h1Q 10 Rg1+ Qxg1 11 Rb1+, fails against 9...a2) Kc1 10 Rc7+ Kb1 11 Rb7+. When we tried 1 Rab7+ at the start, Black had 1...Ka2/Ka1, and White could get nowhere. Now, after 11...Ka1, the rook from h7 is at g7 (see 5b), and White has 12 Rg2. True, this allows Black to promote, 12...h1Q, but 13 Rbg7 keeps the new queen pinned in, and after 13...a2 (13...Kb1 is no better) 14 Ka7 Qxh3 15 Rg1+ Kb2 16 R7g2+ she will soon fall.



6 - draw



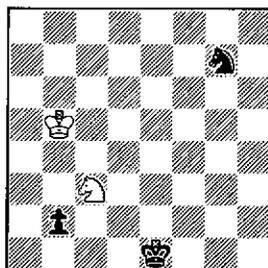
6a - after 4 fxc8N+



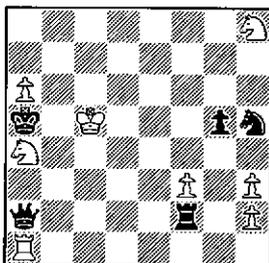
6b - after 8...Kh1

D. Makhatadze's 6 took the second prize. 1 f8N+, obviously, and if 1...Kh8 then 2 Ng6+ Kh7 3 Nf8+ repeating. Hence 1...Kh6, and how is White going to pursue Black beyond h5? By giving up the rook, and making a second knight: 2 f7+ Kh5 3 Rh6+! Kxh6 4 fxc8N+ (see 6a).

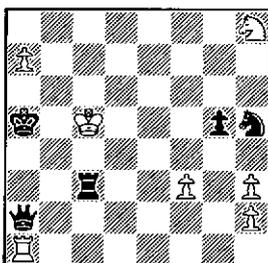
Now Black can be hunted by the cavalry, and we have 4...Kh5 5 Nf6+ Kxh4 (5...Kh6 6 Ng8+ repeating) 6 Ng6+ Kxh3 (6...Kg5/Kg3 7 Nc4+) 7 Nf4+ Kh2 8 Ng4+ Kh1 (see 6b) 9 Nf2+. 9...Kh2 will allow 10 Ng4+ repeating, hence 9...Kg1, and White duly wins the rook by 10 Ne2+. However, this is not the immediate draw that it was earlier, because after 10...Kxf2 11 Nxc3 Ke1 Black's king is near enough to support his pawn (see 6c), and the composer spelt it out: 12 Kc4 Kd2 13 Kb3 Kc1 14 Na2+ Kb1 15 Nb4 Ne6 16 Nd3 Nc5+ (a last try) 17 Nxc5 Ka1 18 Ka3 b1Q 19 Nb3+. Only at move 12 is there a dual (Ka4 and Kb4 are as good).



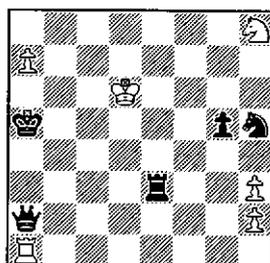
6c - after 11...Ke1



7 - win

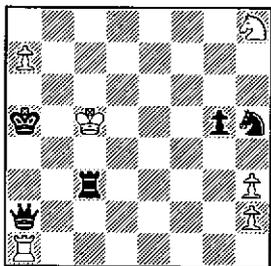


7a - after 2...Rxc3+

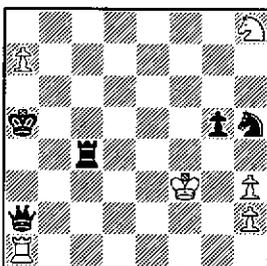


7b - 6...Re3+, after 7 Kd6

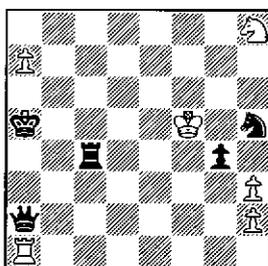
H. Osadnik's remarkable king-walk study 7 took 3rd Prize in 1975. **1 a7 Rc2+ 2 Nc3 Rxc3+** gives 7a, and **3 Kd4** leads to perpetual check or worse: **3...Rc4+ 4 Ke3 Rc3+ 5 Kc4 Rc4+ 6 Kf5 Rc5+ 7 Kg4** (if instead **7 Kg6** then **7...Nf4+**, with **8 Kh6 Rc6+ 9 Kxg5 Ne6+ 10 K- Qxa1** and Black will be able to meet a8Q+ by interposing on a6, or **8 Kh7 Rc7+ 9 Kh6 Rc6+** and the same) **Nf6+ 8 Kg3 Nh5+**. The way out is **3 Kd6**, but Black continues **3...Rd3+**, and how is White to escape? There is no shelter on the left (hiding on a8 will allow **...Qxa1**), and after **4 Ke7 (4...Ke5 5 Qxa1+) Re3+ 5 Kf8 Rxf3+** he will have to come back. Hence **6 Ke7 Re3+**, and if he tries **7 Kd6** (see 7b) Black will play **7...Re6+** (given is **8 Kc5 Re5+ 9 Kd6 Re6+ 10 Kd7 Qxa1**). But White has **7 Kd8**, and after **7...Rd3+ 8 Kc7 Rc3+ 9 Kd6** we have 7b with the rook on c3 instead of e3. Black now has nothing better than **9...Rd3+**, and after **10 Kc5 Rc3+** we are back at 7a but without the pawn on f3 (see 7c below).



7c - main line, 10...Rc3+



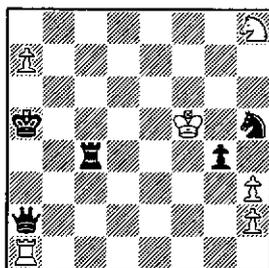
7d - after 14 Kf3



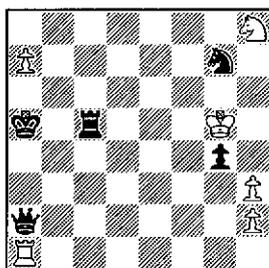
7e - after 17 Kf5

With f3 open, White can come down the board: **11 Kd4**. Black plays **11...Rc4+** as before, and **Kd3** and **Kd5** both fail (given are **12 Kd3 Nf4+ 13 Ke3 Ng2+ 14 Kf3 Nh4+ 15 Kg3 Nh5+** and **12 Kd5 Nf6+ 13 Kd4 Rd4+ 14 Ke5 Nd7+**). Hence **12 Ke3 Rc3+ 13 Ke4**, and the most demanding check is **13...Rc4+** (if instead **13...Nf6+** then **14 Kf5 Rc5+ 15 Kg6**). Now White plays **14 Kf3**, giving 7d, and **14...Rc3+** allows him to escape by **15 Kg4 Nf6+ 16 Kf5 Rc5+ 17 Kg6**.

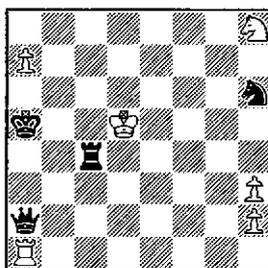
Black therefore plays **14...g4+**, and **15 hxg4** fails (given is **15...Rc3+ 16 Ke4 Rc4+ 17 Kf5 Rc5+ 18 Kg6 Nf4+ 19 Kh7 Rc7+ 20 Kh6 Rc6+ 21 Kg5 Qxa1**). Hence **15 Ke3**, and White meets **15...Rc3+** by **16 Ke4 Rc4+ 17 Kf5** giving 7e (if instead **17 Kd5** then **Rd4+ 18 Ke5 Rd5+**, with **19 Ke6 Ng7+ 20 Ke7 Nf5+** or **19 Ke4 Re5+**).



7e repeated

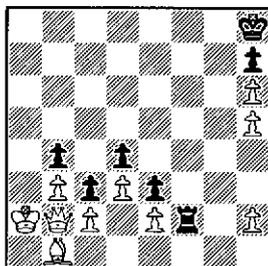


7f - after 18...Rc5+

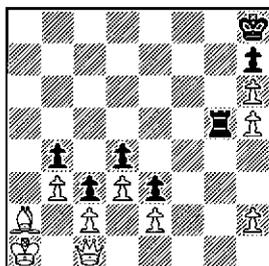


7g - after 23 Kd5

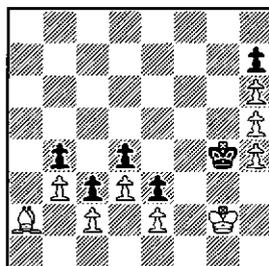
When White tried Kf5 before, in the line 3 Kd4 from 7a, f3 was still blocked. Now, 17...Rc5+ can be met by 18 Kxg4 Nf6+ (18...Rc4+ 19 Kxh5 Rc5+ 20 Kg4 Rc4+ 21 Kf5 Rc5+ 22 Ke4 Rc4+ 23 Kd5 Rd4+ 24 Ke5 Rd5+ 25 Ke4 with 25...Rd4+ 26 Ke3 or 25...Re5+ 26 Kf4) 19 Kf3 Rc3+ 20 Kf4 Rc4+ 21 Kf5 Rc5+ 22 Kg6, and Black's only hope is 17...Ng7+. 18 Kg5 Rc5+ gives 7f and 19 Kxg4 fails (19...Rc4+ 20 Kf3 Rc3+ 21 Ke4 Rc4+ 22 Kd5 Rd4+ 23 Ke5 Rd5+ 24 Ke4 Rd4+ 25 Kc3 Nf5+ 26 Kf3 Nh4+ 27 Kg3 Nf5+), but 19 Kh4 Nf5+ 20 Kxg4 works: 20...Nh6+ 21 Kf3 Rc3+ 22 Ke4 Rc4+ 23 Kd5 (see 7g) Rd4+ 24 Ke5 Rd5+ 25 Ke6 Re5+ 26 Kd7 Rd5+ 27 Kc6 and Black has finally run out of checks.



8 - win



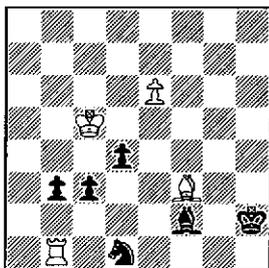
8a - after 3...Rg5



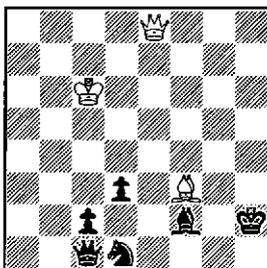
8b - 5 h4, after 10...Kg4

After this marathon, something lighter may be in order. S. Belokon's 8 was commended in 1973. 1 Qc1 is obvious, and almost as obvious is 1...Rf5 (threatening mate) 2 Ka1 Ra5+ 3 Ba2. Now 3...Rg5 gives 8a, and the logic of the study begins to emerge. Try say 4 Qf1: no, 4...Rg1 forces 5 Qb1, and at the very least Black can withdraw again by 5...Rg5. So it must be 4 Kb1, and after 4...Rg1 White can tempo by 5 h3. Why not 5 h4? Because Black will exchange, and after 5...Rxc1+ 6 Kxc1 Kg8 7-10 Kg2 Kg4 White won't win (see 8b); if he tries 11 Bb1 Kxh4 12 Kf3, Black will play 12...Kh3 and come round the bottom, and White will even lose. But on h3 the pawn guards g4 and prevents this, and now 5...Rxc1+ leads to a simple win for White. So Black retreats by say 5...Rg8, and White shuffles along the first rank: 6 Qd1 Rg1 7 Kc1 Rg8 8 Qe1 Rg1 9 Kd1 Rg8 10 Qf1 Rg1 11 Ke1. If Black tries to lose a move once White's king has moved beyond b1, say by playing 6...Rg5 7 Kc1 Rg1, White can tempo with the bishop.

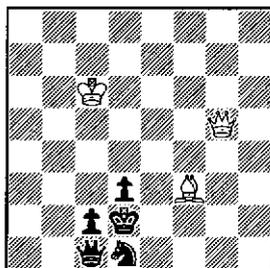
As was reported in *EG* 47, the management of the *New Statesman* decided on financial grounds to discontinue its endgame study tourneys after 1975, and as a result Heinz Fraenkel ("Assiac") refused to continue writing its chess column. The column did however continue in other hands, and when an Assiac Memorial Tourney was held in 1987 the *New Statesman* must have seemed the natural place to hold it. But the momentum had been lost, and when the standard is compared to that of the best years it is seen to have fallen some way short; there were some excellent British studies, as we saw in special number 12, but the foreign participation was well down. It takes several years for a column or a series of tourneys to start attracting really first-class work, and when continuity is lost its composers inevitably start placing their work elsewhere.



9 - win



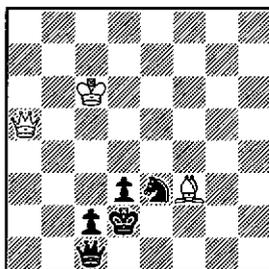
9a - after 4...bxc1Q



9b - after 10 Qg5+

Nevertheless, the tourney did attract some good foreign contributions, notably the "knight back to the corner" study by Noam Elkies which took 5th Prize and which we quoted in June 2002. Aleksandr Sochniev's 9 took 6th Prize. 1 e7 is natural and correct, but after 1...c2 (1...d3+ at once merely transposes) 2 Rc1 d3+ where will the king go? It turns out that e3 would be a good square for Black's knight and f2 is a bad one for his bishop, so playing to d5 (allowing ...Ne3+) or d6 (allowing ...Bg3+) will help him, and the move to make is 3 Kc6. Play continues 3...b2 4 e8Q, and it is no surprise that 4...bxc1Q is the better promotion (see 9a).

White continues 5 Qh5+, and we see the importance of his third move: 5...Kg3 allows mate in two (a knight on e3 would stop this) and 5...Kg1 allows mate in one because of the block on f2. This leaves only 5...Bh4, after which 6 Qxh4+ Kg1 7 Qg3+ Kf1 8 Qg2+ Ke1 9 Qg1+ (9 Qg3+ allows 9...Kf1 repeating) Kd2 10 Qg5+ gives 9b. Can we really expect Black to play the instinctive move 10...Ne3 and allow the pretty mate 11 Qa5? Perhaps we can. The alternatives lose the queen at once, and the wins after 10...Kc3 11 Qxc1 d2 12 Qa3+ and 10...Ke1 11 Qxc1 d2 12 Qxc2 do not take long to wrap up.



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