

British Endgame Study News

Special number 58

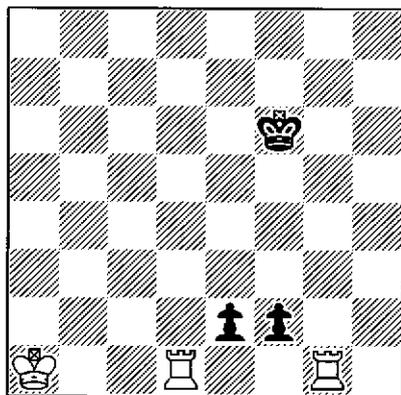
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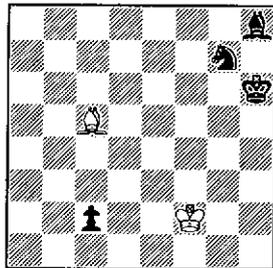
Some foreign studies in *EG* (2)



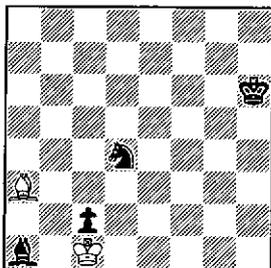
How to stop two advanced pawns

Some foreign studies in EG (2)

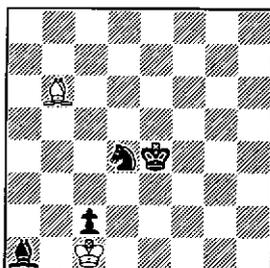
Last time, we looked at some of the foreign originals which appeared in *EG* when it was still the property of John Roycroft. Here are some more.



1 - draw

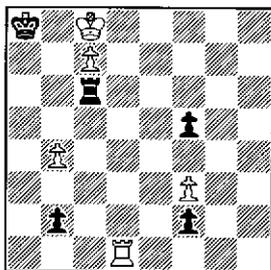


1a - after 4 Kc1

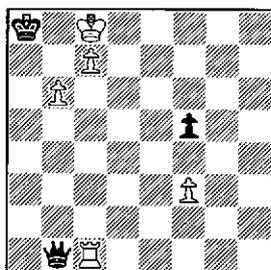


1b - after 7 Bb6

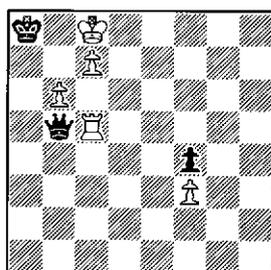
Attila Korányi's **1** took 1st HM in the tourney to celebrate the 80th birthday of J. E. Peckover. The natural move to cover c1 is **1 Bc3+**, but Black replies **1...Kg6 2 Ke2 Nf5 3 Bc1 Ba1 4 Kd2 Nd4** and "wins" (White can try **5 Ba3** and **6 Kc1**, but Black's king is decisively closer than in the main line). Instead, **1 Ba3 Nf5 2 Ke2 (2 Ke1 Bc3+ 3 Ke2 Nd4+ 4 Kd3 Ba1 and as before) Ba1 3 Kd2 Nd4 4 Kc1**, and the king has reached c1 two moves sooner (see **1a**). Now Black has only **4...Kg5**, and White can continue **5 Bd6!** (**5 Bc5 Nb3+**, **5 Bb4 Kf4 6 Bc3 Ne2+**, **5 Be7+ Kf4 6 Bd8 Ke3 7 Bb6 Bb2+ 8 Kxb2 Kd2**) **Kf5 6 Bc7!** (**6 Bb8 Ke4 7 Ba7 Nb5**) **Ke4 (6...Nb5 7 Ba5 Na3 8 Bc3 Bxc3 stalemate) 7 Bb6 (see 1b) Kd3 8 Bxd4 Bxd4 stalemate**. Korányi was a formidable analyst.



2 - win



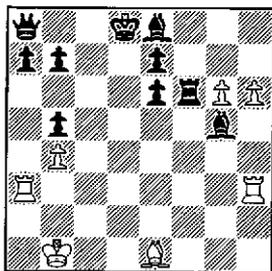
2a - after 4 Rxc1



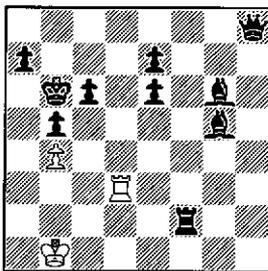
2b - after 8...Qb5

2, by L. A. Mitrofanov and A. Kotov, took 2nd HM. **1 b5**, and if **1...Rc1** then **2 Rd6 Ra1 3 Kd8** and soon mates. Hence **1...f1Q** to divert the rook, and after **2 Rxf1 Rc1 3 b6 b1Q 4 Rxc1** we have **2a**. **4...Qb2** allows **5 Ra1+ Qxa1 6 b7+**, hence **4...f4**, and we have a deadly tango: **5 Rc2! Qb2! 6 Rc3 Qb3 7 Rc4 Qb4 8 Rc5 Qb5 (see 2b)**. Now the rook guards d5, allowing **9 b7+ Qxb7+ 10 Kd8**, and after **10...Qb6 11 Kd7 Qxc5 12 c8Q+ Qxc8+ 13 Kxc8** White will win the pawn ending.

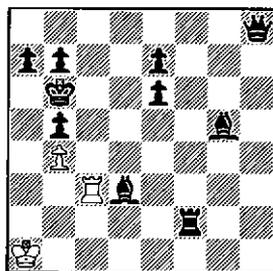
The next tourney run by *EG* celebrated John's own 50th birthday, and attracted no fewer than 274 entries. I even submitted something myself, as I did to the subsequent tourneys in honour of Richard Harman and Mike Bent, though in each case more to put my name on the list than with any expectation of getting into the award. But if the entry was great, so was the carnage. 14 of the 36 studies in the provisional award, including the first five prizes, were knocked out during the confirmation period through unsoundness or anticipation, and the computer has done further damage since.



3 - draw

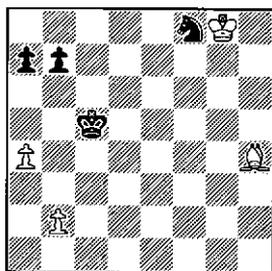


3a - 4...Qxh8, 6...bxc6

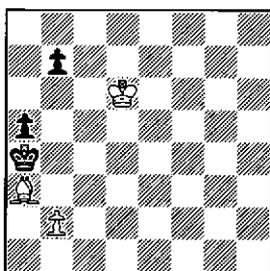


3b - 4...Bxd3+, 6...Rxf2

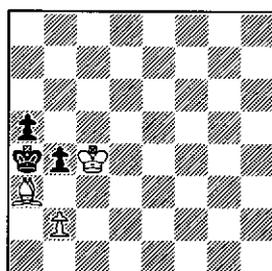
V. Kapusta's 3, which eventually took 5th Prize, is a remarkable stalemate study. **1 Rhd3+** (I am skipping the supporting analysis) **Kc7 2 h7 Bxg6 3 Rc3+ Kb6 4 h8Q**, with two lines: **4...Qxh8 5 Bf2+ Rxf2 6 Rc6+ bxc6/Kxc6** stalemate with a rook pinned on a light diagonal (see 3a), or **4...Bxd3+ 5 Ka1 Qxh8 6 Bf2+ Rxf2** stalemate with the other rook pinned on a dark diagonal (see 3b). Notice how in each case the White king is standing in splendid isolation. There are very few stalemate studies in the literature which feature such a king with a rook pinned against it, and here the theme is doubled on diagonals of different colour.



4 - win

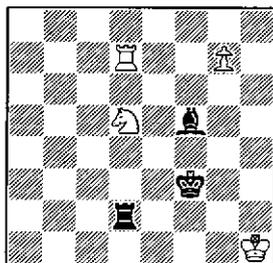


4a - after 5 Ka6

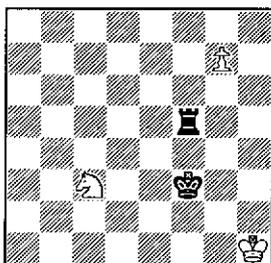


4b - after 7 Kc4

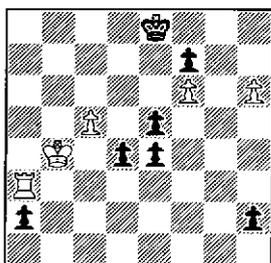
Yehuda Hoch's very different 4 took 6th Prize. **1 Kxf8** allows **1...Kb5** drawing without difficulty (among the lines given is **2 a5 Kxa5 3 Bf2 a6 4 Kc7 Kb4 5 Kd6 Kb3 6 Bd4 a5**), and **1 Be7+** is necessary. Black has nothing better than **1...Kc4**, but after **2 Kxf8 a5** the a-pawn will go; can White save the b-pawn? Yes, just. **3 Ba3! Kb3 4 Ke7 Kxa4 5 Kd6** (see 4a) **b5** (**5...Kb5 6 Kc7** etc) **6 Kc5 b4 7 Kc4!** gives 4b, and if **7...bxa3** then **8 b3** with an ancient but always attractive mate.



5 - win



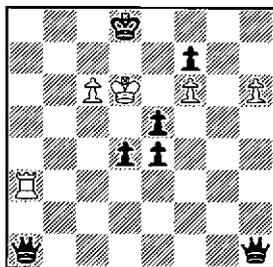
5a - after 3...Rxf5



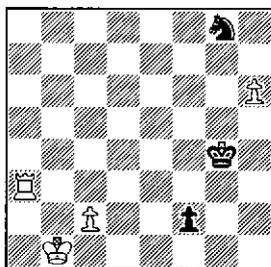
6 - draw

Jaroslav Polášek's 5 received 3rd Commendation. Black threatens perpetual check on d1 and d2, hence **1 Nc3** to cover d1, and only **1...Rg2** simultaneously saves the rook and prevents promotion. **2 Rf7** adds to the pressure, forcing **2...Rg5**, and **3 Rxf5+ Rxf5** gives **5a**. **4 g8Q**, promoting? No, **4...Rh5+ 5 Kg1 Rg5+**, and **6 Qxg5** will be stalemate. Hence **4 Ne4** to cover g5, but **4...Rf4** threatens **5...Rh4+** and **6...Rg4+** instead. Try **5 Nd2+** to shift the Black king? No, **5...Kf2** threatens mate, and it is Black who will win. But **5 Ng5+** forces Black to threaten mate by **5...Kg3** instead (if again **5...Kf2** then **6 Nh3+**), and after **6 Kg1 Ra4** (say) **7 Ne4+ Rxe4** White can at last promote because it is with check: **8 g8Q+**. "No special move is particularly novel, but all are strung together neatly."

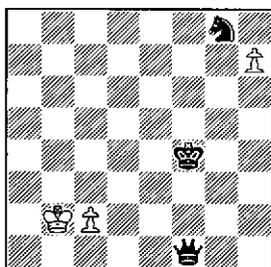
In addition to the normal honours, John selected over thirty further studies and presented them as "Judge's Choice". There has been computer carnage here as well, but E. I. Dvizov's exotic draw 6 is one that has stood up. The play is short and simple, **1 c6 Kd8 2 Kc5 h1Q** (if **2...Kc7** then **3 Ra7+ Kb8 4 Kb6** and White will win) **3 Kd6 a1Q** (see 6a) **4 Rg3 Qag1** (**4...Qhg1 5 h7** and wins) **5 Ra1 Qa1 6 Rg3** etc, but the long-range rook-against-queen pendulum is amusing.



6a - after 3...a1Q

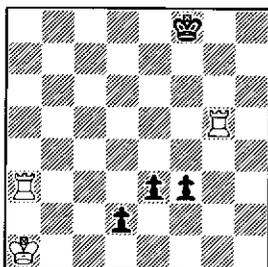


7 - draw

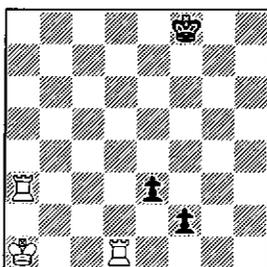


7a - after 4 Kb2

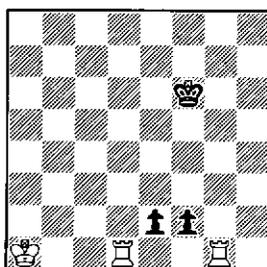
Gleb Zakhodyakin's more traditional 7 also ends in an exotic repetition. Try **1 h7**: no, **1...f1Q+ 2 Kb2 Qf6+** with **3...Ne7** and the pawn is stopped, or **2 Ka2 Qf7+** and it is lost at once. White must first sacrifice his rook to block the file, **1 Ra4+ Kg3** (say) **2 Rf4 Kxf4**, and now **3 h7** is indeed playable. Black has only **3...f1Q+**, and what is he to do after **4 Kb2** (see 7a)? He cannot guard both g8 and h8, his only check is **4...Qb5+**, and after **5 Kc1** his only check is back on f1.



8 - win



8a - after 3 Rxd1

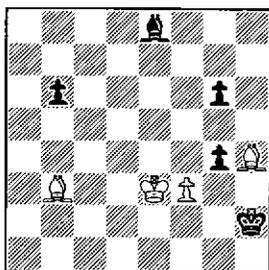


8b - after 6 Rgg1

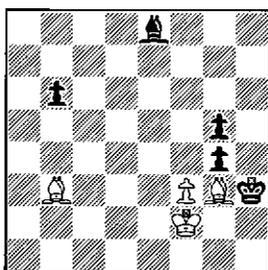
I have left my favourite study from the tourney until last. David Gurgenzidze's second prizewinner **8** was unsound as published in the provisional award (the g5 rook was on g6, allowing a cook by 1 Rf6+ (1...Kc7 2 Rxe3+, 1...Kg7 2 Rd6 Kf7 Rxe3, 1...Kg8 2 Ra8+ Kg7 3 Rd6 Kf7 4 Ra7+ Ke8 5 Ka2 etc), but starting the rook on g5 fixed it without altering the solution and the study was allowed to keep its place.

Play starts **1 Rg1 f2** (1...e2 2 Rxf3+ Ke~ 3 Re3+) **2 Rf1 d1Q+** (2...e2 3 Rxf2+ with 3...Ke~ 4 Rxe2+ winning material or 3...Kg~ 4 Rg3+ and mating) **3 Rxd1** and one pawn has gone (see **8a**), but **3...e2** moves a second pawn to the threshold of promotion. Never mind: **4 Rf3+ Kg7** (4...Ke~ 5 Re3+ and 6 Rxe2) **5 Rg3+ Kf6** **6 Rgg1!** (see **8b**). This striking move stops all promotions for the moment, but what happens if the Black king comes down to support his pawns? If say **6...Ke5** for **7 Kb2 exd1Q** **8 Rxd1 Ke4 9 Kc2 Ke3**, we have another striking move, **7 Rge1** pinning and winning the e-pawn, and if **6...Kf5** then **7 Rdf1** similarly.

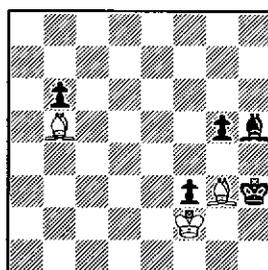
At its best, Gurgenzidze's work seems to have a sparkle which no other current composer can equal.



9 - win



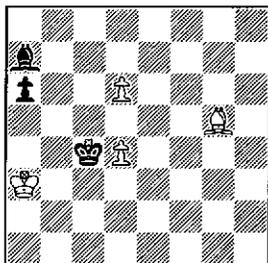
9a - after 2...Kh2



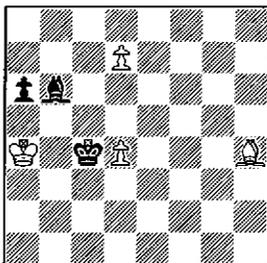
9b - after 5 Bb5

Mario Matouš's **9** appeared as an ordinary original in 1981. **1 Kf2**, and **1...gxf3** will allow a quick mate. **1...g5 2 Bg3+ Kh3** (or **1...Kh3 2 Bg3 g5**), therefore, giving **9a**, and we have a trap: an immediate **3 Bc4**, aiming for mate on f1, allows **3...gxf3 4 Be6+ g4 5 Bc4 Bb5!** and **6 Bxb5** will be stalemate. Correct is **3 Be6** diverting the bishop, **3...Bh5**, and only now **4 Bc4**. There follows **4...gxf3** (else mate in one), and now comes **5 Bb5!** (see **9b**) making Black give up his bishop or suffer a quick mate (the prettiest line being **6 Kg4 Bd7** mate exploiting the bishop's move to h5).

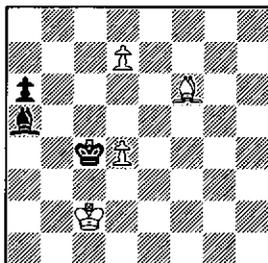
EG's sixth tourney celebrated "50 years of activity as a composer" by C. J. de Feijter. It featured some commendations which were "very fine", but "their placement is affected by prior art".



10 - win



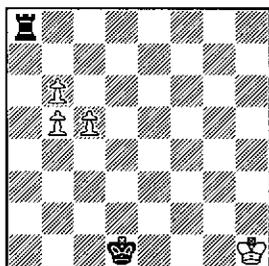
10a - White wins



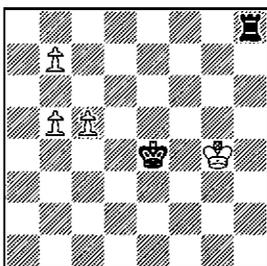
10b - reciprocal zugzwang

Ignace Vandecasteele's **10** extended a matrix previously explored by T. Balemans. Black's king must keep attacking the pawn on d4, White's would like to defend it, and two key positions are **10a**, where White always wins (1 Be1 etc with the move, 1...Bc7 2 Be1 or 1...Kd5 2 Kb4 etc without it), and **10b**. Balemans had **10b** without the a-pawn, when White could win even with the move by coming round to g6 and e8; add the pawn on a6, and Black can counter this by a timely run.

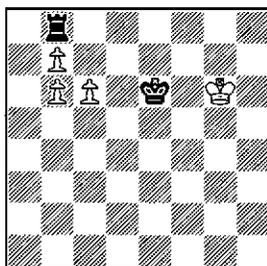
The logic now becomes clear. **1 Bf6** (1 d7 Bb6 and Black, with care, can hold out) **Bb8** (1...Bb6 2 Ka4 Kd5 3 d7 Kc4 4 Bh4, **10a**) **2 d7 Bd6+** (2...Bc7 3 Ka4 Bb6 4 Bh4, again **10a**) **3 Kb2 Bc7 4 Kc1** (4 Kc2 Ba5 gives **10b** WTM) **Ba5** (else Kd2 and Ke3) **5 Kd2** (**10b** BTM) **Bb6 6 Kd2 a5** (else 7 Ke3) **7-10 Ka4 Bb6** (nothing better) **11 Bh4** (**10a** with the pawn on a5, which makes no difference) and wins as before.



11 - win



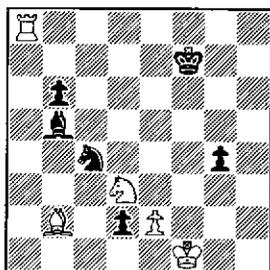
11a - after 4...Ke4



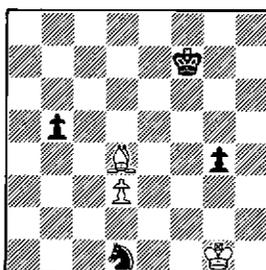
11b - after 10 Kg6

Yehuda Hoch's **11** "shows a slight improvement" on a Neuwirt study in Averbakh. Try 1 c6: no, 1...Ke2 2 b7 Rh8+ 3 Kg2 Rg8+ 4 Kh3 Kf3 5 Kh4 Kf4 6 Kh5 Rg5+ 7 Kh6 Rxb5 8 c7 Rb6+. **1 b7 Rh8+** (1...Rg8 2 c6 Ke2 3 c7 Kf2 4 c8Q) **2 Kg2 Ke2 3 Kg3** (3 c6 Rg8+ 4 Kh3 Kf3 as before) **Ke3 4 Kg4 Ke4** and we have **11a**. Now it is time for the pawn: **5 c6 Rg8+ 6 Kh5 Kf5** (...Rg5+ is no longer available) **7 Kh6 Kf6 8 Kh7 Rb8** (8...Re8 9 c7 etc) **9 b6 Ke6 10 Kg6** (nearly there, see **11b**) **Rg8+ 11 Kh6 Kf6 12 Kh7 Re8** (12...Rb8 13 c7 Rxb7 14 Kh6) **13 c7 Re7+ 14 Kh6 Re1 15 Kh5**.

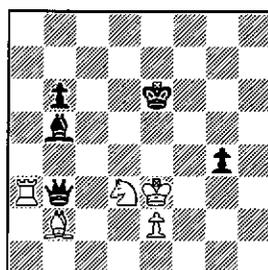
EG's seventh tourney was originally Brian Stephenson's idea. Richard Harman, "a warm, serene and gentle man" in Brian's perceptive words, was a patent officer who spent his retirement creating a card index of studies based on the techniques by the Patent Office to classify inventions (this was still in pre-computer days). This was by far our best search tool before the advent of Harold van der Heijden's databases and the Stiller/Costeff interrogation program CQL. He gave it to Brian when he could no longer maintain it, and Brian conceived a celebratory tourney. Sadly, Richard died before this could be organized, so EG took it over and it became a memorial tourney.



12 - draw

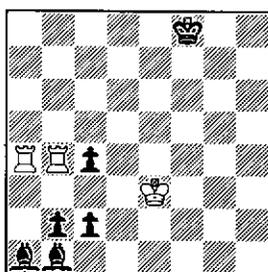


12a - 1 Ra1, after 5...b5

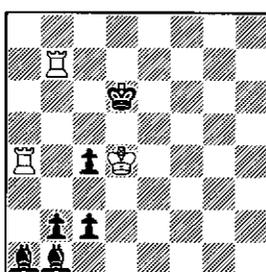


12b - main line, after 5 Ra3

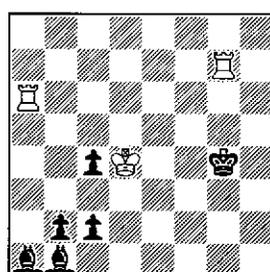
12, by Noam Elkies, took 3rd Prize. Try 1 Ra1: no, 1...Ne3+ 2 Kg1 (or 2 Kf2 d1Q 3 Rxd1 Nxd1+ and 4...Nxb2) Bxd3 3 exd3 d1Q+ 4 Rxd1 Nxd1 5 Bd4 b5 (see 12a), and Black is near enough to defend g5. 1 Ra7+, and if Black moves to the eighth rank 2 Ra1 etc will draw. Not does 1...Kg6 offer much hope: 2 Rg7+ Kf5 (say) 3 Nf2 Nxb2 4 Rxd1 d1Q+ 5 Nxd1 Nxf1 6 Rb4, and something soon goes. This leaves 1...Ke6, which proves to have a quite different disadvantage: 2 Ra1 Ne3+ 3 Kf2 (correct now) d1Q 4 Kxe3 Qb3 5 Ra3 (see 12b), and the king blocks the queen's escape (given is 5...Qc4 6 Rc3 Qa4 7 Ra3 Qc2 8 Rc3 Qb1 9 Rc1 Qa2 10 Ra1).



13 - win



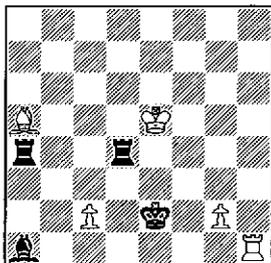
13a - after 3 Kd4



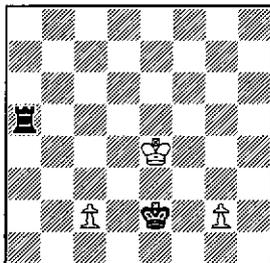
13b - 3...Ke6, after 6 Rg7+

Yehuda Hoch's 13 received 5th HM. 1 Rb8+ (we shall see why this rook is the rook to move) Ke7 (1...Kf7 2 Ra7+ etc) 2 Rb7+ Kd6 3 Kd6 (see 13a), and we need the second rook on a4 to meet 3...Kc6 by 4 Rab4 and mate. All right, 3...Ke6 4 Ra6+ Kf5 5 Rf7+ Kg4 6 Rg7+ (see 13b), with 6...Kf5 7 Rgg6 (the same pattern a second time) or 6...Kf3 7 Rf6+ Ke2 8 Rg2+ Ke1 9 Rg1+ Ke2 10 Rgf1 (and a third).

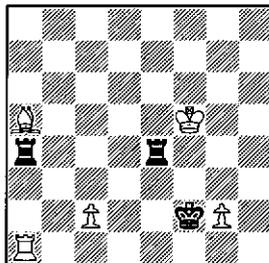
The final tourney during John Roycroft's ownership of *EG* celebrated the 70th birthday of Mike Bent. Once again there has been computer carnage, the demolition of the brilliant Vlasák-Hlinka idea which we saw in June 1996 being particularly unfortunate, and even the study below has had to be shortened to bypass a bust.



14 - draw



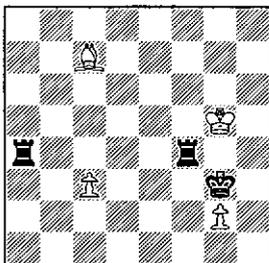
14a - White loses



14b - after 3 Kf5

14 shows Vitaly Kovalenko's first prizewinner with the White king and Black rook moved from d5/c4 to e5/d4. Try 1 Rxa1, hoping for 1...Rxa1 2 Kxd4 Rxa5 3 c4 with a draw: no, 1...Re4+! 2 Kd5/Kf5 Rxa1 3 Kxe4 Rxa5 and Black just wins (see 14a), a typical line being 4 c4 Kd2 5 Kd4 Kc2 6 c5 Kb3 7 c6 Kb4 8 g4 Rc5 (or 8...Kb5, the first point Black where has had a choice) 9 c7 Rxc7 10 Ke5 Rg7 and the rest is book.

So White pushes the king to a dark square, 1 Re1+ Kf2, and 2 Rxa1 becomes playable because 2...Rxa1 can be met by 3 Bb6 pinning. So Black must try 2...Re4+, and if 3 Kd5 then 3...Rxa1 4 Bb6+ Re3 and he wins. All right, 3 Kf5 (see 14b), and if 3...Rxa1 then 4 Bb6+ Re3 5 g4 and White draws (the judge draws attention to an underpromotion, 5...Ke2 6 Bxe3 Kxe3 7 g5 Ra5+ 8 Kf6 Kf4 9 g6 Ra6+ 10 Kf7 Kf5 11 g7 Ra7+ 12 Kf8 Kf6 13 g8N+, but this is surely book). 3...Rf4+ forces 4 Kg5 similarly (4 Ke5 Rxa1 5 Bb6+ Kg3), and now 4...Rxa1 can be met by 5 Bb6+ Kg3 6 Bc7 Ra4 7 c3 giving a position which we shall meet again at the end of the main line (see 14c).



14c - White's objective

4...Rg4+ forces 5 Kh5 (5 Kf5 Rxa1 6 Bb6+ Kg3 7 Bc7+ Kh4 8 Bd8+ Kh5), but now the further check 5...Rh4+ leads to 6 Kg5 Rhg4+ 7 Kh5 repeating and only 5...Rxa1 offers hope of progress. There follows 6 Bb6+ Kg3 7 Bc7+ Rf4 8 Kg5 Ra4 9 c3 again giving 14c, and White can hold out: Ra4 is met by Bc7 as we see, Rc4 by Bd6 guarding c5, and Re4 by Bb8! ready to meet ...Ra4 with Bc7 and ...Rc4 with Bd6.

It is a walk along a tightrope by both sides, with an elegant conclusion. The original setting with wK/bR on d5/c4 sought to extend the walk by a further move, the intention being 1 Re1+ Kf2 2 Rxa1 Rd4+ 3 Ke5 etc, but 3 Kc5 Rxa1 4 Kxd4 Rxa5 5 c4 also worked. However, what remains is still well worth having.

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