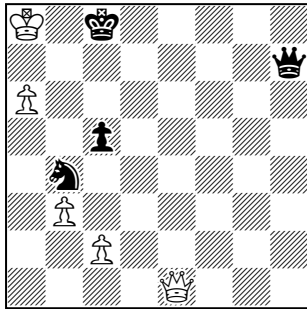
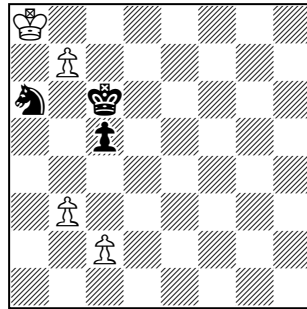


## Jeremy Morse 1928 - 2016

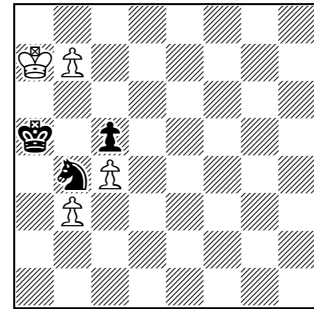
Jeremy Morse will be the subject of extensive obituaries elsewhere, and I shall confine myself to his activities in the field of the chess endgame study. He was of course best known in the chess world for his work in respect of problem tasks and records, but he also wrote at least one article on Progressive Chess for the *BCM* (sadly, I do not have the reference to hand), and Harold van der Heijden's "Endgame study database V" contains five studies by him.



**1** - White to play and win

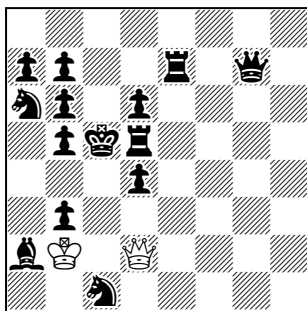


**1a** - after 4...Na6

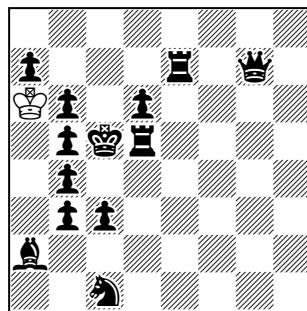


**1b** - after 7...Nb4

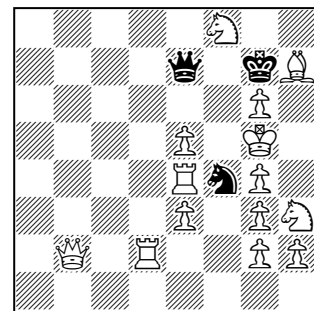
**1** is a version of a study which appeared in the *Evening News* in 1955. The introduction **1 Qe8+ Kc7 2 Qb8+ Kc6 3 Qb7+ Qxb7+ 4 axb7+ Na6** was perhaps fashionable rather than necessary, but now we have **1a**, and the immediate promotion **5 b8Q** leads only to a draw (**5...Nxb8 6 Kxb8 c4** etc). The way to win is **5 Ka7 Kb5 6 c3!** (after **6 c4+ Ka5** White has no pressure) **Ka5 7 c4 Nb4** (what else?) and we have **1b**. Now promotion to queen still fails, but the elegant **8 b8N!** leads to mate next move. Position **1b** had already appeared in a study by V. Tacu in *Revista Română de Șah* in 1953, of which I was unaware when writing the June and September 2009 issues of *British Endgame Study News*, but on the evidence of "Endgame study database V" Tacu's lead-in play was badly flawed (instead of the intended line leading to **1b**, White could play a natural promotion to queen, forcing off the knight and coming down to a won two-against-one pawn ending) and I think Jeremy can still claim at least some of the credit.



**2** - White to play and hold the draw



**2a** - after 5 Kxa6



**3** - White to play and win

The more problematic **2** (*EG* 1984) shows how Jeremy's interest in tasks and records extended even into the endgame study field. **1 Qc3+ dxc3+ 2 Ka3** and how can Black release the stalemate into which White has put himself? Only by playing **2...b4+**, but there follows **3 Ka4** (second self-stalemate) **b5+ 4 Ka5** (third) **b6+ 5 Kxa6** (fourth, see **2a**), and this time the stalemate cannot be released. This was, and I presume still is, a length record for a self-stalemate with a bare White king. Jeremy subsequently returned to the idea, turning the board around and producing **3** (*Correspondence Chess* 2006). Now the stalemates appear as a Black defence which White has to outwit. Try the natural **1 Kxf4** (White is in check): no, **1...Qf6+** and draws as before. Correct is **1 Kf5! Qxf8** (what else?) **2 Kg5 Qe7+** and we have **3** without the knight on f8, after which releasing the stalemate will be no problem (**3 Kxf4 Qf6+ 4 exf6+ Kh6 5 g7/Bg8**).

He was my backer for the Mandler book.