

Problem Page 12 April 2013

The Endgame!

ENDGAMES You have battled through a long hard struggle and reached a position with just the King and a few pawns. How can you promote your extra pawn or how can you draw when a pawn down. Look at the position (a) where White has K + P against Black's lone K. If it is White to play then the game is drawn e.g.

1. e7+ Ke8

2. Ke6 (only move to save the pawn but it is now STALEMATE; see position (b))

If White tried instead from position (a)

1. Ke5 Ke7

2. Kd5 Ke8

3. Kd6 Kd8 now the position is a mirror of the starting position. Black has manoeuvred the Kings opposite each other separated from each other by 1 blank square and with WHITE TO MOVE. He holds the 'opposition' and with his opponent to move. If he continues to do this then the game is drawn.

Now what happens in position (a) if it is Black's turn to move. Please note that the Kings are in opposition but to win as White you need it to be Black's move. So

1. Ke8

2. e7 Kd7 (only move)

3. Kf7 Kany (see position (c))

4. e8(=Q) and White wins

From position (a) if Black tried

1. Kg8

2. Ke7 Kg7

3. Kd7 Kf8

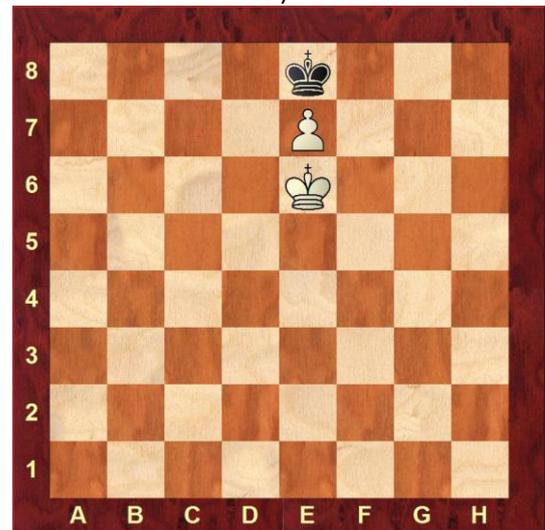
4. e7+ Kany

5. e8(=Q) and White wins

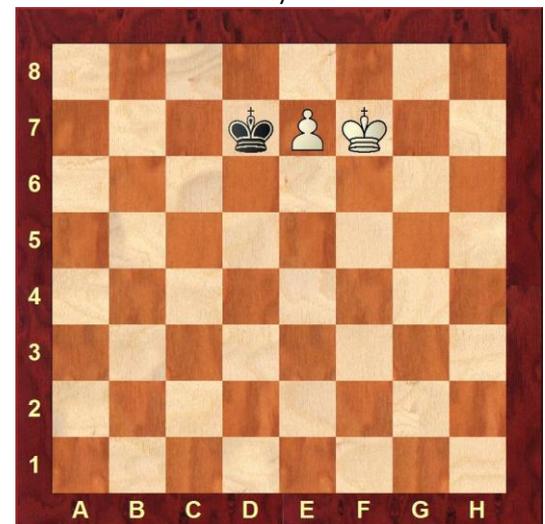
a)



b)

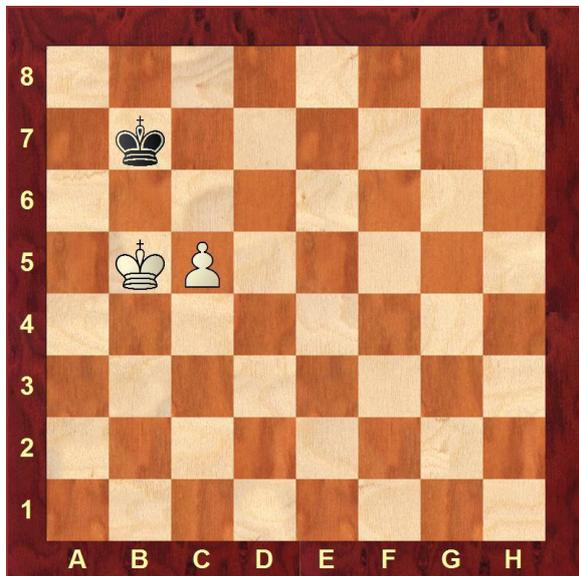


c)



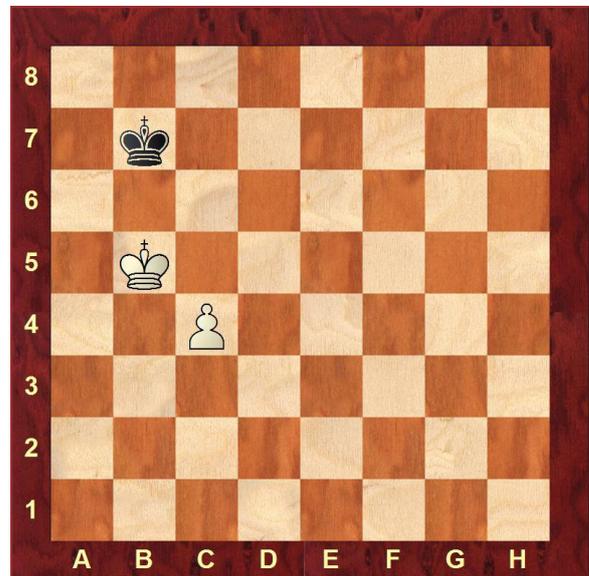
Endgame' Problems (answers are [HERE](#))

Problem E1



- E1 a) White to play first - what is the result?
b) Black to play first - what is the result?

Problem E2



- E2 a) White to play first - what is the result?
b) Black to play first - what is the result?

This month's problems - Novice

Problem N23



Problem N24



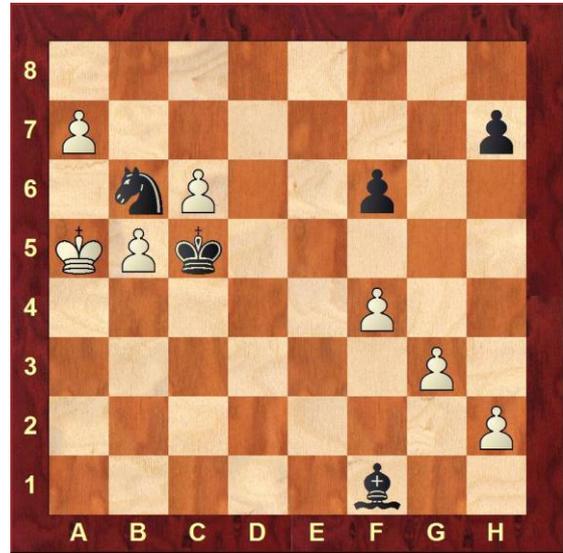
N23 a) White to play and win
 b) If Black's move what would you do?

N24 a) Black to play and win
 b) If White's move what would you do?

This month's problems - Intermediate

Problem I23

Problem I24



I23 a) White to play and win

I24 a) You are Black - what would you play?
 b) If White's move what would you do?

Solutions to last month's problems - Novice

Problem N21

Problem N22



N21 a) White to play and win

N22 a) White to play and force a

b) Black to play and force checkmate

Answers

- a) 1. Qh8 Kxh8
 b) 1. Qb1+
 2. Rxb1 Nc2#

draw

b) Black to play and win

Answers

- a) 1. d8=N+ Kb6
 2. Nxb7 Kxb7
 3. Kb3 Kb6
 4. Kxc3 and a draw as you cannot mate with just a B or N

- b) 1. Qb2#

Solutions to last month's problems - Intermediate

Problem I21



I21 a) Black to play - what is the best move?

Answers

- a) 1. ... Qxh3+
 2. Kxh3 Rh1#

Problem I22



I22 a) White to play - can you find the winning move?

b) If it were Black's move he or she has an easy win - how?

Answers

- a) 1. Qd7+ Rxd7
 2. exd7#

- b) 1. Rxd5 wins

Answers to Endgame Questions (return to Problems

[HERE](#))

Problem E1

a) With best play the position is a draw. For example

Problem E2

In order to win White needs his King in front of the pawn and to

1. c6+ Kc7
2. Kc5 (forced) Kc8 (now the Black King occupies the queening square and will be able to hold the opposition)
3. Kb6 (or Kd6) Kb8 (or Kd8) and Black holds the opposition

b) When it is Black to play first it is still a draw! For example,

1. Kc7
2. c6 Kc8
3. Kb6 Kb8 and Black again holds the opposition (if White tried instead
2. Kb4 Kb7
3. Kc5 Kc6 and Black can still hold the opposition on either side of the pawn

Can you see that Black can lose by playing the wrong first move?

1. Kc8?
2. Kc6 Kb8 (or Kd8)
3. Kd7 (or Kb7) and the pawn will march home to c8 and become a Queen.

have his King opposite Black's but with Black to move.

a) So from the starting position with White to play first the position is a draw. For example,

1. Kc5 Kc7 and Black has the Kings opposite each but with White to move.

The same thing happens with

1. c5 and the position is the same as in problem E1 that Black was able to draw.

b) But if Black has to move first then White wins. For example

1. Kc7
2. Kc5 and now White has the opposition with Black to move, if
2. Kd7
3. Kb6 Kc8
4. Kc6 (opposition again
4. Kb7
5. Kd7 and the pawn can march to c8 and queen

If Black tried

1. Kc8
2. Kc6 again creates the opposition in White's favour (try it for yourself!)

If you answered these question correctly then you are on the way to becoming an ENDGAME EXPERT!