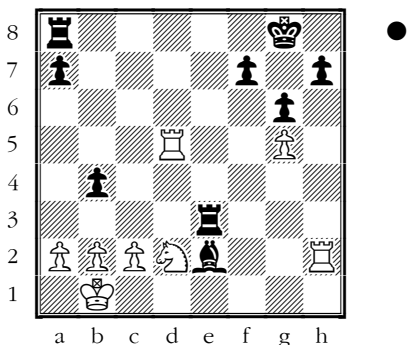
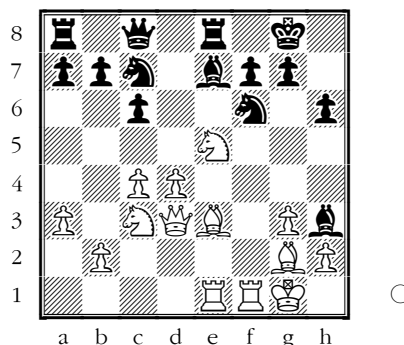


Test Yourself!

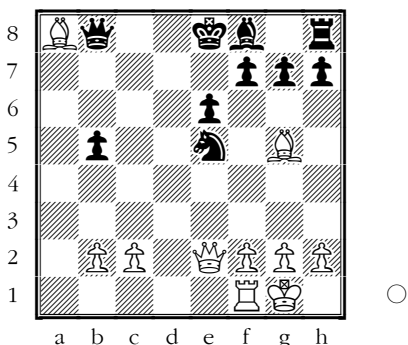
Warszawski (2292) – Zubov (2567)
9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



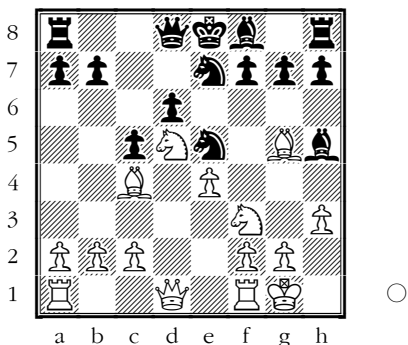
Bartel (2609) – Rozentalis (2603)
9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



A. Vovk (2512) – Kowara (1839)
9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



Mikrut (2404) – Gosciniak (2181)
9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



World Chess News

European Rapid Chess Ch

This 13-round tournament took place in Warsaw last weekend. You can find selected games from that competition in our database today.

Final Standings:

- 1. Malakhov (RUS, 2706) – 11½,
- 2. Ivanchuk (UKR, 2739) – 11,
- 3–6. Dreev (RUS, 2655), Movsesian (SVK, 2718), Fridman (GER, 2649) and Wojtaszek (POL, 2637) – 10½, etc (685 players)

[Official website](#)

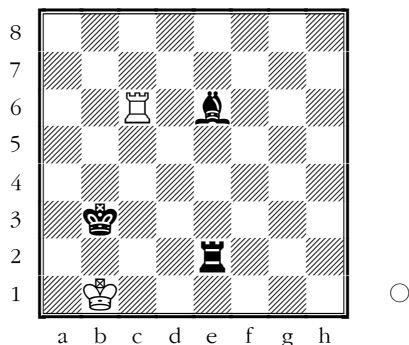


Endgame Kaleidoscope

by GM Alex Baburin

In the past 24 hours I have played through over 640 games from the European Rapid Chess Championship in Warsaw, selecting the most interesting fragments for this column. Let us start with a few theoretical endgames, which appear in practice quite regularly.

Deszczynski (2352) – Malakhov (2715), 9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



We showed such endings in *Chess Today* many times. Theoretically it's a draw, but it's not easy to hold this endgame, particularly when short of time. **83. ♖b6+**

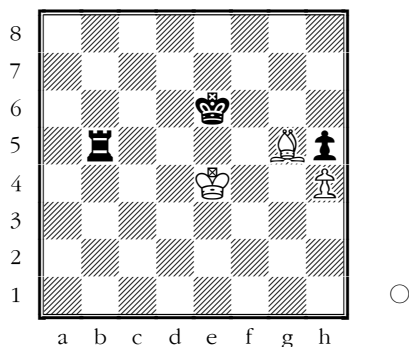
White had to play 83. ♖c1! ♕c4 84. ♖d1 ♖h2 85. ♖c7 ♖c3 86. ♖e7!.

83... ♖c3 84. ♖a1 ♕b3 0-1

It's all over: 85. ♖c6+ ♕c4 86. ♖b6 ♖e5.

Even very strong Grandmasters do not know every theoretical endgame which exists, as the following example shows:

Deszczynski (2352) – Bologan(2688) 9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009

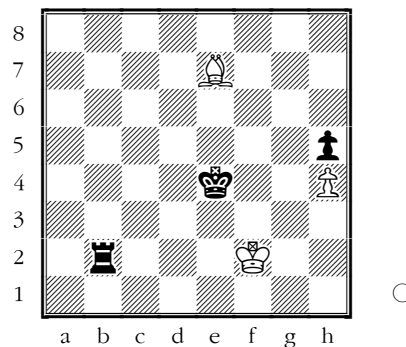


This is a rare endgame, but we already mentioned it in CT a few times. This is a draw, but White must know how to defend. The key idea is to avoid the area close to the h-pawn.

79. ♖d4 ♖b4+ 80. ♖d3 ♖d5 81. ♕f6 ♖f4 82. ♕g5 ♖f3+ 83. ♖e2 ♖e4 84. ♕e7 ♖b3 85. ♖f2

This move does not lose, but it would be easier to defend after 85. ♖d2!

85... ♖b2+ (D)

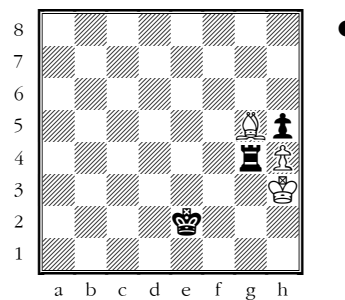


86. ♖g3?? Now the white king gets locked up near the h-pawn. Black will create mating threats, forcing the enemy bishop to abandon the pawn. Correct was 86. ♖e1!=.

86... ♖b7! 87. ♕g5 ♖f7 88. ♖g2 ♖b7?? Clearly Viktor Bologan isn't familiar with this endgame...

Black wins in the following fashion:

88... ♖d3! 89. ♖g3 ♖e2 90. ♖g2 ♖d7 91. ♕f4 ♖d4 92. ♖g3 ♖c4 93. ♕g5 ♖g4+ 94. ♖h3 (D)



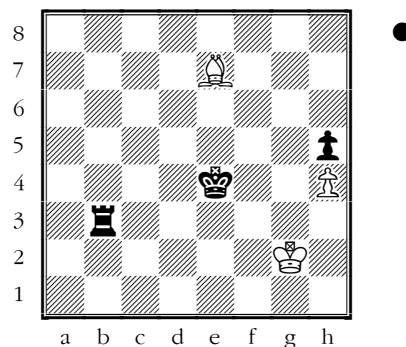
94... ♖f3 95. ♕e7 ♖g3+ 96. ♖h2 ♖g4 97. ♕g5 ♖f3 98. ♖g2 ♖f8 99. ♕e7 ♖e8 100. ♕g5 ♖e2+ 101. ♖f1 ♖f3 102. ♕f6 ♖e8 103. ♕c3 (103. ♕g5 ♖g3+ 104. ♕f6) 103... ♖g3 104. ♕e1+ ♖g4 105. ♕f2 ♖f3+.

89. ♖g3 89. ♖f2!=.

89... ♖b2? 89... ♖f7

90. ♕e7? 90. ♕h6

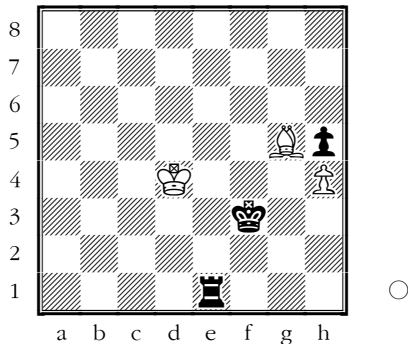
90... ♖b3+? 91. ♖g2? (D)



91... ♖f4? 91... ♖f3!

92. ♕g5+ ♖g4 93. ♖f2 ♖f3+ 94. ♖e2

♖g3 95.♙e7 ♜f5 96.♙g5 ♜e5+
97.♗d3 ♗f3 98.♗d4 ♜e1 (D)



99.♗d5?? Usually White should not go above the 4th rank in such positions. Correct was 99.♗c4.

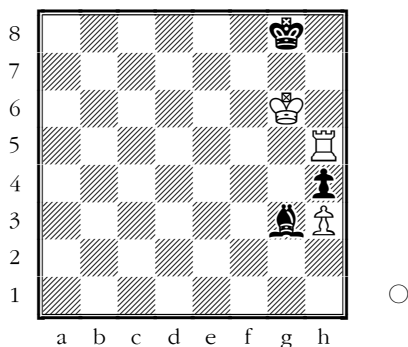
99...♞e4! 100.♗d6?

Black's task would be much more difficult after 100.♙d8! ♗f4 101.♙g5+ ♗f5 102.♙d8 ♞g4.

100...♗g3 101.♗d5 ♞xh4 0-1

Here is a remarkably similar ending:

Kuzmicz (2415) – Musialkiewicz (2147), 9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 19.12.2009



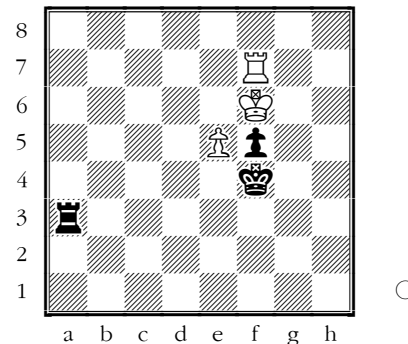
The same ideas apply here – White must keep the enemy king in the right corner. That could be done after 77.♞f5! ♙h2 78.♞d5 ♗f8 79.♞d4 ♙g3 80.♞e4○.

Instead he let the black king out and missed his chances:

77.♞b5? ♗f8! 78.♗f6 ♗e8 79.♗e6 ♗d8 80.♞g5 ♗c7 81.♞c5+ ♗b6 82.♗d5 ♗b7 83.♞c6 ♙f2 84.♞h6 ♙g3 85.♞h7+ ♗b6 86.♞h6+ ♗b7 87.♞g6 ♙f2 88.♗e4 ♙g3 89.♗f3 ♗c7 90.♗e4 ♗b7 91.♗d5 ♙f2 92.♞g7+ ♗b6 1/2-1/2

Finally, a few practical rook endgames:

Heberla (2536) – Cajbel (2242)
9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



This position is drawn, but Black has to over-come some practical problems still.

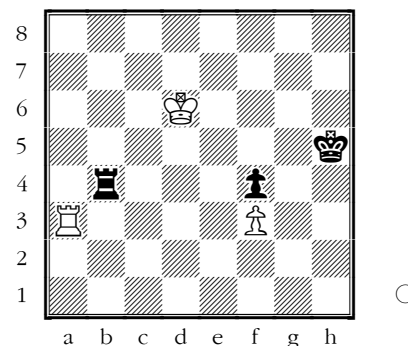
59.♞b7 ♗g4 Perhaps it was easy to defend after 59...♞a6+ 60.e6 ♗g4 61.♗f7 f4 62.e7 ♞a8.

60.♞g7+! ♗f4 61.♞g1! ♗e4?

After 61...♞a6+ 62.e6 Black would have to find the only move – 62...♞a8!!. However, in case of 61...♞h3! 62.♞f1+ ♗g4! or 62.e6 ♞h6+ 63.♗f7 ♗e3 64.e7 ♞h8 his defence isn't too difficult.

62.♞e1+! ♗d5 63.e6 1-0

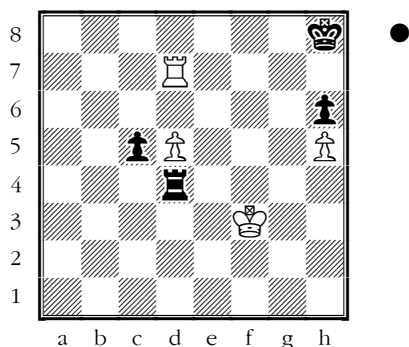
Strzemiecki(2326) – Czarnota (2537)
9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



64.♗e5?? What could be more natural than centralising the king? And yet this is a losing move. Correct was 64.♞a1 keeping the enemy king at bay – 64...♗h4 65.♞g1.

64...♗h4 65.♞d3 ♗g3 66.♞c3 ♞b5+ 67.♗e4 ♞b4+ 68.♗e5 ♞b1 69.♞c4 ♞e1+ 70.♞e4 (Or 70.♗f5 ♞e8 71.♞c3 ♞e3+) 70...♞e3 71.♗f5 ♞xf3 72.♞a4 ♞f1 73.♗g5 f3 74.♞a3 ♞b1 75.♗f5 ♗g2 0-1

Aleksandrov (2639) – Najbar (2225)
9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



Sometimes all you have to do is do nothing! Here Black would be fine after 45...♖g8, but he decided to push his pawn:

45...c4 46.♗e3 ♜d1 47.♗e4 c3 48.♜c7 ♞e1+?

48...♜c1 would be still OK for Black.

49.♗f5 ♞g1

Now it's too late for 49...♜c1 – Black is lost after 50.♗g6!

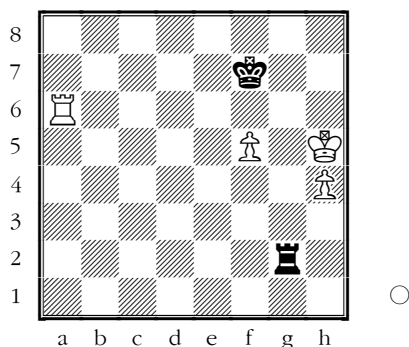
50.d6 ♞g5+

Or 50...♜d1 51.♗e6 ♞e1+ 52.♗d7 ♞e3 53.♜c4+-.

51.♗e6 1-0

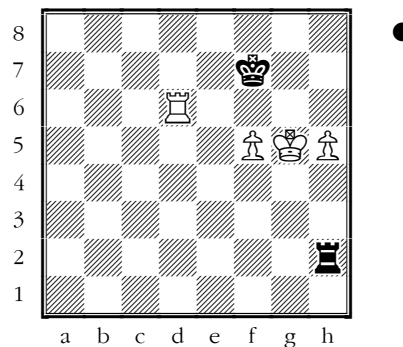
The endgame rook + 'f' and 'h' pawns vs. rook is rather common and very important. In our database you can find the game Aleksandrov–Gashimov, where it occurred. Here is another example:

Wojtaszek (2640) – Musialkiewicz (2147), 9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



The white king is placed badly, so with correct play Black can hold this position.

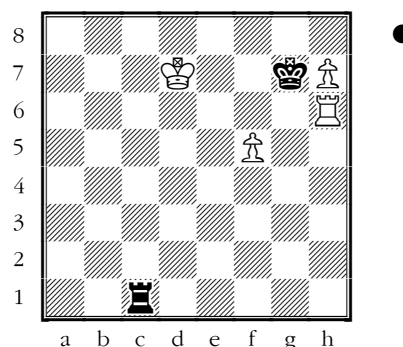
48.♞g6 ♜f2 49.♗g5 ♞g2+ 50.♗h6 ♜f2 51.♞g5 ♜f4 52.h5 ♞h4 53.♞g6 ♞h1 54.♜d6 ♞h2 55.♗g5 (D)



55...♞g2+!

Not 55...♜h1? 56.♜d7+ ♖g8 57.♗f6+-.

56.♗f4 ♜f2+ 57.♗e4 ♜f1 58.h6 ♞e1+ 59.♗d5 ♜f1 60.♗e5 ♞e1+ 61.♗d4 ♜d1+ 62.♗e5 ♞e1+ 63.♗d5 ♜d1+ 64.♗c6 ♜f1 65.h7 ♗g7 66.♞h6 ♜c1+ 67.♗d7 (D)



67...♜d1+? Black slipped when salvation was close. Correct was 67...♗h8!, for example: 68.f6 ♜f1 (68...♜c7+)= 69.♗e7 ♞a1=.

68.♗e7 ♞e1+

Now it's too late to block the h-pawn – after 68...♗h8 White can simply abandon it: 69.♞e6! ♗xh7 70.f6 ♜f1 71.♞e2 ♖g6 72.♞g2+ ♗h7 73.f7+-.

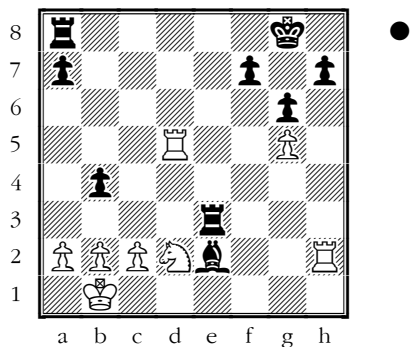
69.♞e6 ♜f1 70.f6+ ♗xh7 71.♞e2 ♞a1 72.f7 ♞a7+ 73.♗f6 ♞a6+ 74.♞e6 1-0



Solutions to our Quiz:

Warszawski (2292) – Zubov (2567)

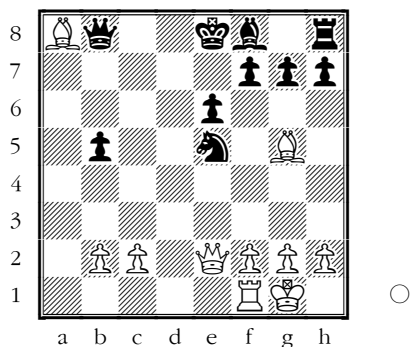
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29...♙c4! 0-1

A. Vovk (2512) – Kowara (1839)

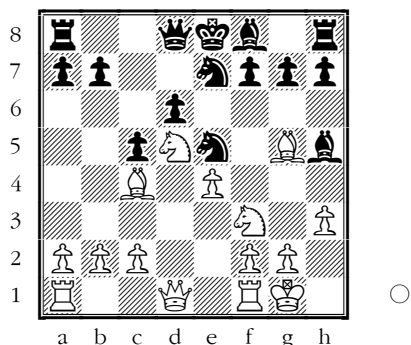
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19.♙xe5! 1-0

Mikrut (2404) – Gosciniak (2181)

9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009

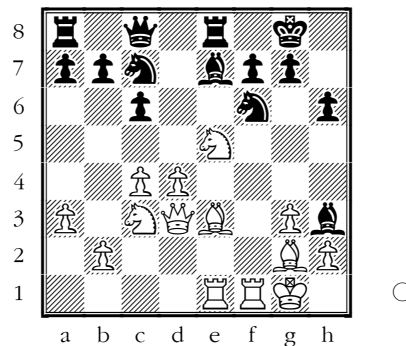


11.♗xe5! ♕xd1 12.♗f6+! 1-0



Bartel (2609) – Rozentalis (2603)

9th Amplico Life Rapid Warsaw, 2009



20.♕xh6! ♕xg2 21.♗xg2 gxh6
22.♗xf7!!+- ♖xf7 23.♗h7+ ♖f8
24.♗e4 ♖d8 25.♗xh6+ ♖g8
26.♗g6+ 1-0

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