

VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

The bimonthly publication of the
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2013 - #2

Tegshsuren
Enkhbat
wins 2013
Virginia
Open



VIRGINIA CHESS

Newsletter

2013 - Issue #2

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The tournament introduced a new venue for VCF events, the Dulles Airport Marriott Hotel. This will also be the site of the Cherry Blossom Classic, April 19-21. A good turnout of 127 players was ably directed by former VCF President Mike Hoffpauir, assisted by Anand Dommalapati.

*Notes by Tegshsuren Enkhbat**

* {I don't actually know for certain who did the analysis; the notes came to me with Enkhbat's scoresheet so I presume they are his—ed}



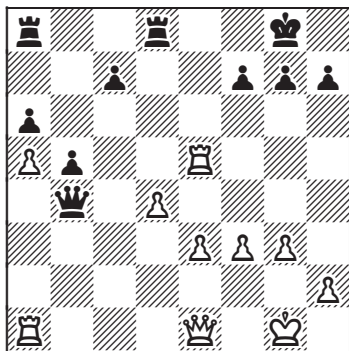
36 Bxe4 fxe4 37 f4±] **36 Bxe4 fxe4 37 Rxh7** [Now if 37 f4!? exf3 38 e4 Ke5 39 Re7+ Kd4 40 Kf2±] **37...Ke5 38 h4 Kxd5 39 g4 Kc4 40 Rh6 b5 41 Kg2** [41 h5?! Rd1+ 42 Kg2 gxh5 43 Rxh5 b4] **41...Kb3 42 h5 Kxb2 43 Rxg6 Rd7** [or 43...Rd8! 44 h6 wins; or 43...Rxg6 44 hxg6 c4 45 g7 c3 46 g8Q c2 47 Qh8+ Kb1 48 Qh1+ c1Q 49 g5 b4 50 g6 b3 51 g7 Qxh1+ 52 Kxh1 Kc2 53 g8Q b2 54 Qc4+ wins] **44 h6 b4** [44...c4 45 Rb6 wins] **45 Rc6** [45 Rg7 Rd8 46 h7 Rh8 47 g5 c4 48 Rb7 c3 49 g6 b3 50 Rxb3+ wins] **45...b3 46 Rxc5 Ka3 47 Rb5 b2 48 Kg3** [48 g5?! allows 48...Rd5! White might still win but only after more work, eg 49 Rxd5 b1Q 50 h7 (50 Ra5+ Kb4 51 h7 Qb2 draws) 50...Qb8 51 g6 Qh8 52 Rg5 Qg7 53 Rg4 +-] **48...Rd6 49 Rxb2! Kxb2 50 g5 Rd5 51 Kf4 1-0**

Tegshuren Enkhbat - Justin Burgess

Catalan

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 Nf3 Be7 5 Bg2 O-O 6 O-O dxc4 7 Qc2 a6 8 Qxc4 b5 9 Qc2 Bb7 10 Bd2 Ra7 11 a3 Be4 12 Qc1 Nc6 13 e3 Qa8 14 Qd1 Nb8 15 b4 Nbd7 16 Bc3 Nb6 17 Nbd2 Bd5 18 Qe2 Ne4 19 Nxe4 Bxe4 20 Rfc1 Qb7 21 Ne1 Bxg2 22 Nxg2 Rd8 23 Ne1 Qd5 24 Nd3 Nc4 25 Nb2 Nb6 26 a4 Raa8 27 a5 Nd7 28 Nd3 Nf6 29 Ne5 Bd6 30 Nd3 Ne4 31 f3 Nxc3 32 Rxc3 e5 33 Nxe5 Bxe5 34 Rc5 Qb3 35 Rxe5 Qxb4 36 Qe1

Justin Burgess: "In my opinion this was the key moment of the game. Black's only real problem is the c7 pawn, which White will attempt to pile up on. Unfortunately here I missed the amazing move 36...c5! and now: 37 Rxc5 Rxd4!; or 37 dxc5 Qb2 hitting the e5 rook and also threatening 38...Rd2; or 37 Qxb4 cxb4 38 Rb1 f6 39 Rc5 Rac8 and Black has full equality. Probably it was better to at least trade queens here, otherwise Black will simply die a slow death."



36...Qd6 37 Rc1 Ra7 38 Qc3 Rb8 39 Rc5 Rbb7 40 Rc6 Qd7 41 Qb4 h6 42 Kg2 Rb8 43 e4 Rbb7 44 d5 Kh7 45 h4 Qe8 46 R1c2 Qe5 47 f4 Qa1 48 Kh2 g6 49 e5 Qd1 50 Qe7 Qxd5 51 e6 1-0

Macon Shibut - Peter Giannatos

French

Notes by Macon Shibut

My last round game brought about a rematch from the final round of last year's Virginia Open: same opponent, same score, same board number (I think). The colors were switched as this time I got to play White. **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 Qg4 Ne7 6 Nf3** [One of my early chess heroes, Boris Spassky, used this secondary variation to defeat French Defense specialist Wolfgang Uhlmann



at the 1976 Interzonal. At the time the game was acclaimed (Gligoric's "Game of the Month" column constituted the 'A-list' in those days) and my memory of it has been 'preparation' enough for me to try out the line myself now and then.]

6...Nbc6 [Uhlmann played 6...cxd4, as have most of my opponents. However,

I believe the text move is better. At any rate it complicates White's strategic planning to have the tension in the center unresolved.] **7 Bb5**

O-O 8 O-O cxd4 9 Ne2 f6 10 exf6 Rxf6 11

Bg5 e5 12 Qg3 [intending to attack e5] **12...**

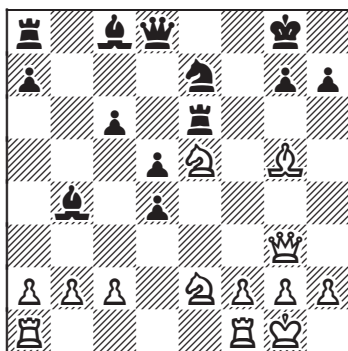
Re6 [12...Nf5! would put the question to the plan instituted by my moves 7 thru 9. Black

gets to maintain his pawn center after 13 Bxf6

Qxf6 (or 13...Nxg3 14 Bxd8 Nxf1 15 Bxc6 bxc6

16 Kxf1) 14 Qg5 Qxg5 15 Nxg5 Bd7] **13 Bxc6**

bxc6 14 Nxe5 (diagram)



Cherry Blossom Classic

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6-SS in 3 Sections: Open (FIDE rated), Reserve (under 2000) and Amateur (U1600). \$\$6700 - Open 100% guaranteed, other sections 80% b/ 130 total paid entries in 3 sections combined. EF \$79 received by 4/14, \$89 later or at site. Open: \$1000-500-300-175, U2350 250-125, U2150 225-100. Reserve: \$900-450-300-150, U1800 225-125. Amateur: \$750-375-250-100, U1400 200-100, Top U1100 100. Unrated players must enter Reserve. Schedule options for all three sections: *3-day* (time control for rds 1-3 game/100, rds 4-6 30/100, g/60) register Friday 6-7:30, rd1 7:45, rds 2-4 Saturday 10-2:30-7, rds 5-6 Sunday 10-4:30. Or *2-day* (rds 1-3 game/70, rds 4-6 30/100 g/60) register Saturday 8:15-9:30, rds 1-4 9:45-12:45-3:30-7, rds 5-6 Sunday 10:00-4:30. NS, NC. Boards & sets provided for Open, boards for Reserve and Amateur. ½pt bye info, etc on www.cherryblossomchess.com. Hotel www.marriott.com, rooms \$84 per night, reserve by 3/22, 703-471-9500. *Enter:* PayPal via www.cherryblossomchess.com, or mail to Cherry Blossom Classic, Attn. Jonathan Kenny, 7405 Lanham Dr, Falls Church Va 22043. NOTE- Free entries to past US (Closed) champions, see list on www.cherryblossomchess.com for eligibility. Contacts Andrew Rea, andreea2@yahoo.com, Jonathan Kenny, benonijump@hotmail.com, or Chief TD Brennan Price, brennanprice@verizon.net.

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During the game I expected 14...Bd6 and in the post mortem my opponent agreed this is how he ought to have played this deliciously complicated position. However, looking again at home, I was unable to reconstruct the convincing variations we found. I'm even wondering if maybe we messed up resetting the position sometime during the analysis and wound up examining the wrong position! Anyway, the main response to 14...Bd6 is 15 Nxd4 (15 f4, giving his knight the dream maneuver N-f4-e3, can be considered only as a last resort) 15...Rxe5 16 Nxc6 (I remember checking out 16 Bf6?! at the board, when Black does indeed come out well after 16...Nf5!) 16...Rgx5 17 Qxg5 Bxh2+ 18 Kxh2 Nxc6 19 Qxd8+ Nxd8 20 Rfe1 is tough to evaluate. 16...Qc7 is another, perhaps superior, try for Black. I underestimated it during the game but then Giannatos advocated it afterwards. The two bishops do look impressive after, for instance, 17 Bxe7 Rxe7 18 Nxe7+ Qxe7 19 Qc3 Bb7 20 Rfe1. But rooks are good endgame pieces and White has a couple extra pawns.

14...Qc7 [At the board I also regarded this as quite possible, if not more likely. 14...Qd6 too—in both cases getting out of the pin. Now the resource ...Nf5 has to be taken seriously in every variation.] **15 Nf3** [Earlier I'd envisioned 15 Nd3, but when the situation arrived on the board I realized that 'winning a tempo' attacking Bb4 doesn't matter as he's going to play ...Bd6 in any case. Attacking d4 is more important.] **15...Bd6 16 Bf4 Bxf4?** [Things go downhill surprising quickly after this. Black ought to have played 16...Nf5 17 Bxd6 Nxc3 18 Bxc7 Nxe2+ 19 Kh1 and both sides would have everything to play for.] **17 Nxf4 Re4 18 Nh5 Qxg3 19 Nxc3 Rf4 20 Rfe1!** [Much stronger than going after the d-pawn by 20 Ne2 Re4 21 Nexd4, which is perhaps what my opponent counted on (21...Rb8 etc)] **20...Ng6 21 Re8+ Kf7?** [21...Rf8 is more stubborn. White's still on top after 22 Rxf8+ Kxf8 23 Nxd4.] **22 Rae1 h6 23 Ne5+! Kxe8** [or 23...Nxe5 24 R1xe5 with a serious bind] **24 Nxc6+ Re4 25 Nxe4 dxe4 26 Rxe4+ Kf7 27 Ne5+ Kf6 28 Nd3** [28 Nxc6 was possible because 28...Bb7 could be handled tactically by 29 Rxd4 Re8 30 Rd6+ etc. However, Black's rook then gets some activity at least (30...Kg5 31 h3 Re1+ 32 Kh2 Re2). I preferred to play for domination.] **28...c5 29 Nxc5 Bf5 30 Rxd4 Rc8 31 b4 Bxc2** [Now 32 Rc4, threatening his bishop as well as a knight check with discovery attack on his rook, does not win outright because Black could get out by 31...Rd8 with a back rank threat.] **32 f4!** This, however, threatens 33 Rc4 for real and moreover solidifies White's control across the whole board, with two extra pawns and pawn majorities on both flanks. My opponent thought that was convincing enough. **1-0**





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Justin Burgess - Adithya Balasubramanian Sicilian

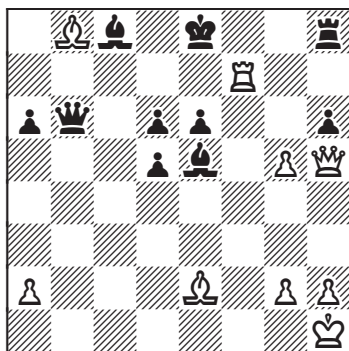
Notes by Justin Burgess

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6 5 c4 Bg7 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nc3 d6 8 Be2 O-O 9 O-O Bd7 10 Rc1 [10 Qd2 is more usual as the ideal destination of White's rooks is not yet clear.] **10...Rc8 11 b3 Qa5 12 f3 Rfd8 13 Qd2 Nxd4 14 Bxd4 Bc6 15 Rfd1 e6 16 Kh1** [I had considered playing 16 Bxf6 Bxf6 17 Nd5 Qxd2 18 Nxf6+ Kg7 19 Nh5+ gxh5 20 Rxd2 with a pleasant position for White, but then I noticed Black could just reply with 17...Qc5+. The text aimed to set up Nd5 next move, but gives Black the chance to counterattack with 16...Nh5 Δ17...Be5, etc.] **16...Qh5?** [overlooking the a7 pawn] **17 Bxa7 g5 18 Bb6** [Combined with White's next move, this is a very strong idea that wins a second pawn by force.] **18...Rd7** [otherwise d6 hangs] **19 b4! d5 20 cxd5 exd5 21 e5 d4** [With 22 b5 threatened, Black is forced to surrender a pawn.] **22 exf6 dxc3 23 Qxc3 Bf8** [I spent a huge chunk of my remaining time trying to make 24 Rxd7 Bxd7 25 Qxc8?! Bxc8 26 Rxc8 Δ Bc5 work, but White has some back rank issues after 26...Qg6 or 26...Qh4] **24 b5 Rxd1+ 25 Rxd1 Bd7 26 Qe5 Re8 27 Qg3** [27 Qb2 was better, to keep an eye on the f6 pawn.] **27...Rxe2 28 Rxd7** [Black's last chance to complicate the game was 28...Qg6 to unwind his position by removing the f6 pawn. White is certainly better after 29 Rxb7 Qxf6 but Black will not fall into zugzwang as in the game.] **28...Rxa2 29 Rd8** [threatening 30 Rxf8+ Kxf8 31 Qb8mate] **29...Ra1+ 30 Bg1 Qh6 31 Qd6** [Continuing to pile up on the pin while also protecting f6. White's plan is simple: h3, Kh2, and Bc5] **31...Rb1 32 b6 Re1 33 h3 Re6 34 Qe7!** [Black is in complete zugzwang; if 34...Rc6 35 Bc5] **34...Rxf6 35 Rxf8+ Qxf8 36 Qxf6 h6 37 Bd4 Kh7 38 Kg1 1-0**

Justin Burgess - Andrew Samuelson Sicilian

Notes by Justin Burgess

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Nc6 8 Nxc6 bxc6 9 e5 h6 10 Bh4 g5 11 fxg5 Nd5 12 Nxd5 cxd5 13 Qh5 Qb6 14 Be2 Bg7 15 Rf1 Ra7 16 Bf2 Qb4+ 17 c3 Qxb2 18 Bxa7 Qxa1+ 19 Kf2 Qxc3 20 Kg1 [This is an amazingly complex opening with many sharp possibilities for each side, none of which I even pretend to know. Luckily though, White has managed to achieved some safety now for his king and the position is relatively equal after 20...0-0 21 exd6 hxg5; or 21 gxh6 Bxe5] **20...Qc7 21 Bb8!** [Deflecting the queen from protecting f7 while threatening the d6 pawn.] **21...Qb6+ 22 Kh1 Bxe5** [Anything else allows 23 Bxd6 with a much better position for White.] **23 Rxf7** [The point; this is much stronger than 23 Qxf7+ Kd8 when after 24 Ba7 Qb7, or 24 g6 Qxb8 25 g7 Bxg7 26 Qxg7 Re8, Black is still hanging on.]



23...Bd7 [Black has no good moves, as White threatens moves like **Rb7+** winning the queen. If **23...Qb1+ 24 Rf1+** wins the queen, as does **23...Kd8 24 Bc7+**. If the queen seeks to hide with **23...Qa5** then **24 Ra7+ Kd8 25 Qf7** White is mating as **25...Qe1+** fails to **26 Bf1**. All in all, I think the move actually played offers the best practical chance, as White is forced to find the only winning continuation.] **24 Ba7!** [With no good discoveries available and the bishop on b8 seemingly trapped, I was originally worried that White was losing a piece. Luckily though, the

bishop can't be captured on a7: **24...Qxa7 25 Rxd7+ Kxd7 26 Qf7+**] **24...Qa5 25 g6 Kd8 26 Qh4+ Kc8 27 g7** [27 **Qe7 Rd8 28 g7 Bxg7 29 Qxd6** is winning much faster. The rest of the game isn't perfect but is fairly straightforward. White's g pawn and active pieces around Black's king are too much to overcome.] **27...Re8 28 Qg4 h5 29 Qf3 Qe1+ 30 Bg1 Bd4 31 Qf1 Qxf1 32 Bxf1 Be5 33 Bxa6+ Kc7 34 Bb5 Rg8 35 Bxd7 Bxg7 36 Bxe6+ Kc6 37 Rc7+ Kxc7 38 Bxg8 d4 39 Bf2 Bf6 40 Kg1 Kc6 41 Kf1 d3 42 Bh7 d2 43 Ke2 Bg5 44 Bc2 Kd5 45 Be3 1-0**

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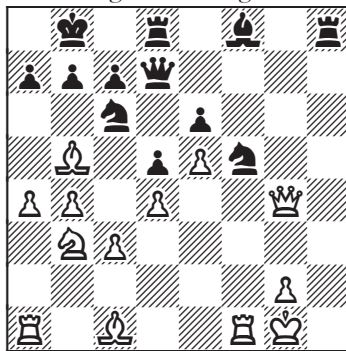


David Hulvey - Macon Shibut
Nimzowitsch

Notes by Macon Shibut

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 f6 4 f4 Nh6 5 Nf3 Bg4 6 Bb5 Nf5 7 c3 e6 8 O-O Qd7 9 h3 Bxf3 10 Qxf3 h5 11 Nd2 O-O-O [I thought it was important to play this immediately because if instead 11...h4 12 Nb3 etc; whereas now if 12 Nb3 I have time to go 12...Kb8 preventing 13 Na5? Ncxd4!—he doesn't take my queen with check, so I get his as well.] 12 b4 Kb8 [again threatening ...Nxd4. His next move protects his bishop and thus eliminates this danger.] 13 a4 fxe5 14 fxe5 g5! 15 Nb3 g4 16 hxg4 [A file is opening in any case, so he figured he might as well take the pawn. If 16 Qd3 gxh3 17 Na5 I can get out of the pin with tempo, 17...Qg7] 16...hxg4 17 Qxg4 (diagram) 17...Be7

The main difficulty in choosing this 'obvious' move was psychological. I'm going to have to take the knight if he moves it to c5, so it's a shame to waste the tempo by moving the bishop already. Moreover, it's a shame to block the resource Qd7-h7. However, the queen shift contains no threat immediately (17...Qh7 18 Bxc6 etc), and I couldn't find any other useful move. 17...Rh4 18 Qg6, for instance, didn't seem to improve things. Meanwhile, I really need ...Rdg8 to make my attack work. Thus, the text move. I basically



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calculated only one variation, but the result was encouraging. The most forceful move for White appeared to be 18 Na5, forcibly rupturing my king's pawn shelter. Then 18...Rdg8 19 Bxc6 bxc6 20 Qe2 is poised to deal a mortal blow by Qa6. However, I get there first: 20...Rh1+! 21 Kf2 (21 Kxh1 Ng3+) 21...Bh4+ 22 Kf3 (22 g3 Rh2+) 22...Rg3+ 23 Kf4 Bg5 *mate*. I figured that anything else he came up with would be slower, so I ought to have time to deal with it.

18 Nc5 Bxc5 19 bxc5 Rdg8 20 Qe2 [If 20 Qd1 Rxd2+! 21 Kxg2 Qg7+ mates shortly] 20...Ng3 After examining the situation for a few minutes, David resigned. Indeed, if 21 Qb2 everything follows with check: 21...Rh1+ 22 Kf2 Rxf1+ 23 Bxf1 Qf7+ winning. 21 Qd1 adds a defender to f1, but in that case 21...Rh1+ 22 Kf2 I take with the knight, 22...Nxf1 and after 23 Bxf1 Rf8+ and Rxf1 Black will have queen versus rook at the very least. 0-1

Andrew Rea - Adithya Balasubramanian
Grünfeld

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 O-O 5 c4 d5 6 cxd5 Nxd5 7 O-O Nb6 8 Nc3 Nc6 9 e3 Re8 10 Na4 Nxa4 11 Qxa4 e5 12 dxe5 Nxe5 13 Nxe5 Bxe5 14 Rd1 Qe7 15 Bd2 c6 16 Bc3 Bxc3 17 bxc3 Bf5 18 Rd2 Red8 19 Rxd8+ Rxd8 20 Qxa7 Rd2 21 e4 Be6 22 Qb8+ Kg7 23 Qe5+ Qf6 24 Qxf6+ Kxf6 25 a4 Rc2 26 f4 Rxc3 27 a5 Bc4 28 Bf1 Be6 29 a6 bxa6 30 Bxa6 h5 31 Rf1 Ke7 32 Rd1 Rc2 33 Bd3 Rb2 34 Rc1 Rd2 35 Ba6 Kd6 36 e5+ Kc7 37 Bc4 Kb6 38 Rb1+ Ka5 39 Bxe6 fxe6 40 Rb7 c5 41 Rc7 Kb4 42 Rb7+ Ka5 43 Rc7 Kb5 44 Rb7+ Kc6 45 Re7 c4 46 Rxe6+ Kd7 47 Rxd6 c3 48 Rg7+ Kc6 49 Rg6+ Kc7 50 Rg7+ Rd7 51 Rxd7+ Kxd7 52 Kg2 c2 53 Kh3 c1Q 54 Kh4 Qd1 55 h3 Ke6 56 g4 hxg4 57 hxg4 Qh1+ 58 Kg5 Qh7 0-1



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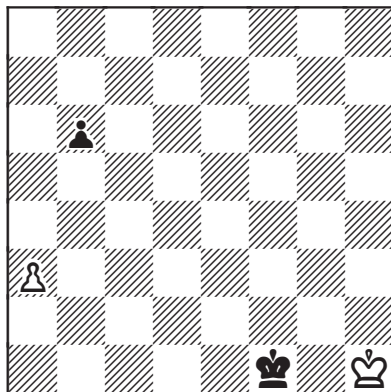
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Economy and Precision

by Macon Shibut



Gorgiev 1936 — *Draw*

For economy, it would be tough to find a composition to beat this one. Amazing depth and beauty are concealed in the simplest of elements. I suggest you set it up on a board and put aside VIRGINIA CHESS to work out the analysis in your head before reading on. It's a great exercise in schematic thinking.

Obviously White's problem in achieving the prescribed draw is that his king is further away from the pawns. The question boils down to: can Black capture the White pawn and also save his own? His king is two files ahead of White's—but Black's pawn sits one file closer to the kings. White is to move—but with the kings in vertical opposition he cannot use his turn to play onto the g-file.

Taking that all together, Black will be in position to capture the a-pawn and have one move to spare before White can take the b-pawn. Unfortunately for him, the pawns are separated from one another by *two* files, which means that Black's one free move will not suffice to defend his pawn.

1 Kh2

1 a4? is suicidal. Bringing the pawns closer together allows Black to exploit his extra move in straightforward fashion: 1...Ke2 2 Kg2 Kd3 3 Kf3 Kc4 4 Ke4 (frontal defense is equally futile: 4 Ke3 Kb4 5 Kd3 Ka4 6 Kc2 Kb4 7 Kb2 b5 wins) 4...Kb4 5 Kd5 Ka4 6 Kc6 b5 and Black wins. After the text, however, if Black goes to the queenside White follows and will ultimately answer ...Kxa3 with Kc6 and draw.

1 Kh2 also breaks the opposition and threatens to move onto the g-file. For this reason, Black in reply cannot simply narrow the gap between the pawns himself,



1...b5 White would answer 2 Kg3 and now stand only one file behind Black in the race to the queenside. Since Black's pawn is one file closer, White would in fact stand as close to his objective as Black is to a3. Thus 1...b5 2 Kg3 Ke2 3 Kf4 Kd3 4 Ke5 Kc4 5 Kd6 Kb3 6. Kc5 draw. It is clear that the only winning try is...

1...Kf2

and it is equally clear that White must answer,

2 Kh3

2 a4? Ke3 loses just as before; and 2 Kh1? b5 would likewise fail as White cannot progress onto the g-file even though the kings are not in opposition.

2...Kf3 3 Kh4

3 Kh2 b5! would win for Black, as can be easily verified. True, White can continue onto the g-file, but 4 Kg1 does not contribute towards counterattacking Black's pawn, which is the real requirement: 4...Ke3 5 Kf1 Kd3 6 Ke1 Kc3 etc.

By now, the motives driving each side's play are clear. Like characters in a Greek drama, the kings march towards their destiny. What will happen when they run out of board room?

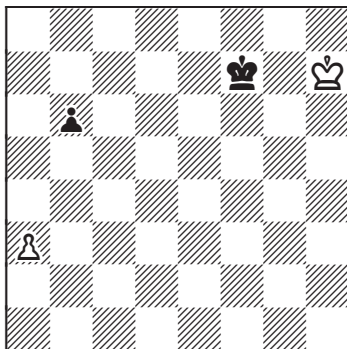
3...Kf4 4 Kh5 Kf5 5 Kh6 Kf6 6 Kh7

There is still no choice. 6 Kh5? b5 7 Kg4 Ke5 8 Kf3 Kd4 etc.

6...Kf7

Black also plays according to necessity. 6...b5 (or 6...Ke5 7 Kg6) 7 Kg8 Ke5 8 Kf7 Kd4 9 Ke6 Kc3 10 Kd5 Kb3 11 Kc5 is only a draw.

Now it looks like White has reached the end of the line however, because 7 Kh8 b5! he can't go to the g-file and 8 Kh7 Ke6 wins.





7 Kh6!

There's not much else to try as 7 a4? Ke6 still loses in the familiar way. But it's not immediately clear why the text should be any better.

7...b5

Finally Black plays his trump. Of course 7...Kf6 8 Kh7! would not make any progress.

8 Kg5 Ke6 9 Kf4 Kd5 10 Ke3 Kc4 11 a4!

Only thus!

11...ba4

Certainly not 11...b4? 12 Kd2 Kb3 13 a5

12 Kd2 Kb3 13 Kc1 draw!

As I said at the beginning, the economy and precision exhibited here are awesome. The kings' *pas de deux* on the f- and h- files is mutually forced everywhere except at h7/f7. Then—and only then—is Kh6!! necessary and sufficient. It “just happens” that h6 is on the same diagonal—ie, the shortest path to—as the c1 square, which is key for drawing the rook's pawn ending. Once the kings begin racing back along the diagonals c1-h6 (White) and a2-g8 (Black), the sacrifice a4 can only occur with the kings at e3 and c4. Any earlier and White would be outside the square of Black's a-pawn; one move later and Black could answer ...Ka4. Remarkable!



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