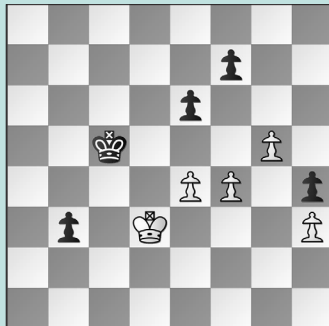


# 1000GM LAS VEGAS ENDGAMES

## WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JUNE 19, 2024

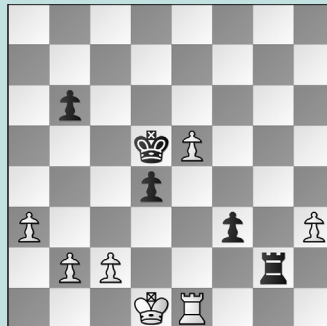
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



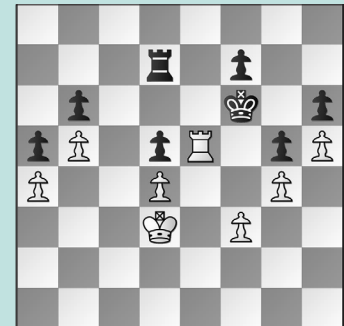
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



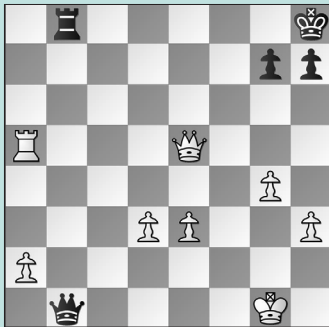
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



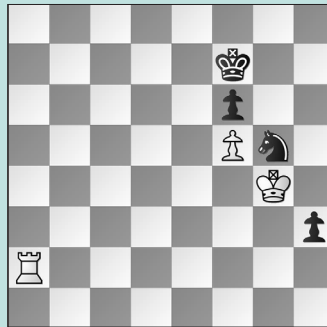
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



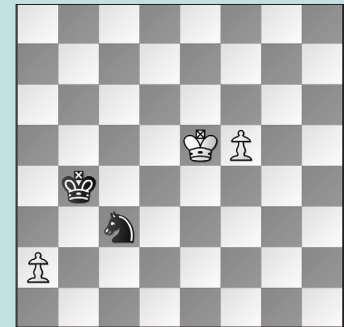
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

### SOLUTIONS

**PUZZLE 1.** 39. ... Kb4! Black erects a forcefield around the b-pawn. 40. f5 Ka3! Instructively, not 40. ... b2??, when 41. Kc2 Ka3 42. Kb1 wins. 41. g6 fxg6 42. fxe6 b2 and **White resigned** five moves later. (Perez Gormaz – Singhania, Las Vegas, 2024) **PUZZLE 2.** 46. ... d3! After 46. ... f2?? 47. Rf1 Kxe5 48. Ke2, Black is struggling to draw. 47. cxd3 Or 47. Rf1 dxc2+ 48. Kc1 Ke4 is decisive. 47. ... Rxb2 when White cannot even play Re1-f1 and go after the f3-pawn, due to the skewer. (Deng – Wu, Las Vegas, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 3.** 52. Ke3! Black's position is frozen, while White has a clear break. 52. ... Rd8 53. f4 gxf4+ 54. Kxf4 Rc8 If 54. ... Rd7 55. g5+ creates a

passed h-pawn. 55. Rxd5 and Black has no counterplay. (Cruz – Sathish, Las Vegas, 2024) **PUZZLE 4.** 46. Kh2! After 46. Kg2??, Black won with 46. ... Rf8!. Although 47. Qf4 is a last-ditch trick, Black won with 47. ... Qb7+!, covering the a8-square. To save the queen, White had to relinquish the f-file: 48. Qe4 Qb2+ 49. Kg1 Qf2+ 50. Kh1 Qe1+ and **White resigned**. 46. ... Rf8 is no longer threatening a win, and a number of moves hold. For instance: 47. Qc3 Qf1 Not 47. ... Rf2+?? 48. Kg3 Qg1+ 49. Kh4, as there's no mating attack. 48. Rf5! and Black must settle for a draw. (Vemparala – Deng, Las Vegas, 2024, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 71. Kh5! White's king steps away from Black's pawn, trusting the unopposed rook to corral the pawn. 71. ... Ne4 If

71. ... Kg7 72. Ra7+ Nf7 73. Kg4 and the pawn drops after 73. ... h2 74. Ra1 winning. 72. Ra7+ Ke8 73. Kg6 Kf8 74. Rh7 Ng5 75. Rh8+ Ke7 76. Rh5 Black is in *zugzwang*! (Kevlishvili – Levine, Las Vegas, 2024) **PUZZLE 6.** Black's knight must reach the proper "circuit" to cover the f-pawn. 54. ... Na4 Instead, 54. ... Kc4?? leaves Black's king in "no man's land," and the knight is too slow: 55. f6 Nd5 56. f7 Ne7 was Black's hope, playing for a fork. But 57. Kf6! Nd5+ 58. Kg6 Nf4+ 59. Kf5 and the tricks run out. 55. f6 Nc5 56. f7 Alternatives: 56. Kd6 Ne4+ draws; or 56. Kf4 Nd7 also reaches f8 in time. 56. ... Nd7+ Black reaches the circuit! 57. Kd6 Nf8 58. Ke7 Ng6+ Black holds the draw. (Wang – Levine, Las Vegas, 2024, analysis)