

INTRO

I have decided to revive my old column 'Bits and Pieces' exclusively for readers of the English Chess Forum. It was always a pot-pourri of what I hoped was interesting chess and will continue in that vein.

An additional bonus is that feedback can be given by you, the readers and you can ask questions if you like, as long as I reserve the right not to answer!

We'll try to get the column out weekly and I'll thank Carl in advance for all his help.

As I write these words the first round of the London Chess Classic is in progress. We'll catch up in time. Meanwhile, a King's Gambit.

□ Carlsen, Magnus

■ Wang, Yue

Kings' Tournament (4) 17.06.2010

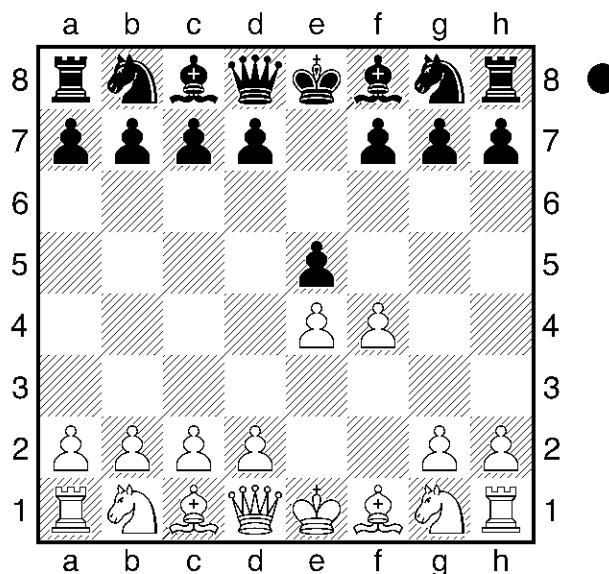
1.e4 e5 2.f4

(Diagram)

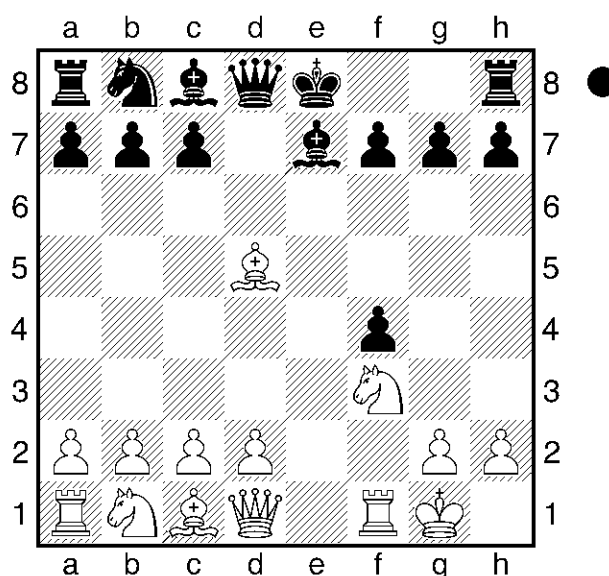
. "Things weren't going so well in the tournament I thought I just try it and see how it goes" said Magnus after the game.

The opening choice is certainly interesting and came as a complete surprise to Wang Yue. **d5**

[2...exf4 Mention to weaker groups that accepting this particular gambit is the only way to try to refute it.]



3.exd5 exf4!? A transpositional device which changes the game if White intended to play the Bishop's Gambit: 1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 d5, when White can take with the Bishop. **4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7 7.Bxd5**



. In order to maintain momentum White must cede the Bishop pair. The need to make committal decisions such as this makes the King's Gambit unpopular at the highest level. Yet 7 Bxd5 is necessary, with the Black pieces ready to stream out. **Qxd5 8.Nc3**

[8.d4 has also been tried and may provoke 8..g5?! g5 (8...0-0 9.Bxf4 Bg4 10.Nc3 Qd7 11.Qd2 Bxf3

12.Rxf3 c5 13.d5 Bd6 14.Bxd6
Qxd6 15.Ne4 Qb6 16.Rb3 Qc7
17.Nf6+ Kh8 18.Rh3 h6 19.Rxh6+
gxh6 20.Qxh6# 1-0 Jensen,M
(2044)-Rasmussen,J/Helsingor
2009) 9.Nc3 Qd8 10.Qe1 0-0
11.Qe4 f5 12.Qd3 b6 13.Qc4+
Kg7 14.Re1 Bb7 15.d5 Bc5+
16.Kh1 Qf6 17.b4 Ba6 18.Qb3
Bd6 19.Bb2 Kg6 20.Re6
1-0 Hague,B (2233)-Dilleigh,S (2158)/
West Bromwich 2003

Here are two examples which
confirm beyond doubt that the King's
Gambit is alive and kicking just below
master level.]

8...Qd8 9.d4 0-0 10.Bxf4 Bf5

[10...c6 delays a decision about the
best place for the queenside pieces.
It is reasonable: 11.d5 (11.Qd3
Na6 12.Rae1 Be6 13.a3 Re8
14.Ne4 h6 15.Ne5 f5 16.Ng3 Bh4
17.Nxf5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 ; 11.Qe1 Bg4
12.Rd1 Nd7 13.Ne4 Nf6 14.Nxf6+
Bxf6 15.c3 Qd5 16.Qg3 Bh5 17.b3
Qa5 18.Be5 ; 11.Qd2 Bf5)

A) 11...Qb6+ 12.Kh1 Qxb2
13.Qd3 (13.Be5 Nd7) 13...Bb4
14.Ng5 g6 15.Nge4 f5 16.dxc6
Nxc6 17.Qc4+ Kg7 18.Rab1 ;

B) 11...Bf6

B1) 12.Qd3 Bxc3 (12...Qb6+
13.Kh1 Qxb2 14.Ne5) 13.Qxc3
(13.bxc3 Qxd5 ; 13.Ng5 f5
14.Qxc3 cxd5 15.Rad1 h6
16.Nf3 Nc6) 13...cxd5
(13...Qxd5 14.Rad1) 14.Be5 f6
15.Bc7 Qd7 (15...Qe7
16.Rae1) 16.Bf4 Nc6 ;

B2) 12.Be5 Bxe5 13.Nxe5

B2a) 13...Nd7 14.Nc4
(14.Nxd7 Bxd7 15.Qd4)
14...Nb6 ;

B2b) 13...Qb6+ 14.Kh1 Qxb2

15.Qf3 f6 16.dxc6 bxc6
(16...Nxc6 17.Qd5+ Kh8
18.Nf7+ Rxf7 19.Qxf7)
17.Rab1 Qxc2 18.Nd5 Qc5
(18...cxd5 19.Qxd5+ ; 18...Na6
19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.Rbc1)
19.Nc7 Qxe5 20.Nxa8 ;
B2c) 13...f6 14.dxc6 (14.Nc4
b5 15.Ne3 b4) 14...fxe5

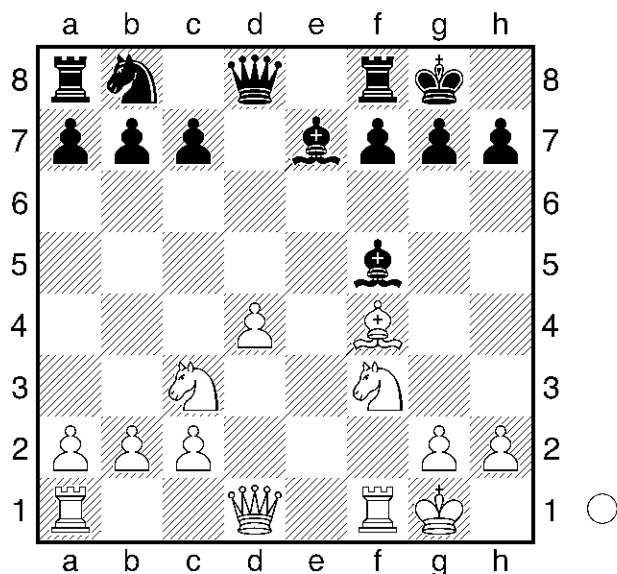
B2c1) 15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.c7
Re8 (16...Rd2 17.cxb8Q
Rxb8 18.Rae1) 17.cxb8Q
Rxb8 ;

B2c2) 15.Rxf8+ Qxf8
16.Qd5+ Qf7 17.Qd8+ Qf8
18.Qd5+ ½-½ Conquest,S
(2529)-Beliavsky,A (2654)/
Saint Vincent 2000]

[Meanwhile 10...Bg4 leads to a
position where Black does not quite
make equality: 11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3
Nc6 (12...Qxd4+ 13.Kh1 Nc6
14.Bxc7±) 13.Rad1 Bd6 14.Bxd6
Qxd6 15.Ne4± Qg6 16.c3 Rad8
17.Ng3 Rde8 18.Rde1 Nd8 19.Kh1
Kh8 20.Nf5 Re6 21.d5 Rf6 22.Qe4
h6 23.Qe7 Rg8 24.Qe5 Qh5
25.Re4± Penndorf,D (1875)-Borchert,
O (1840)/Ellwangen 2000]

(Diagram)

A very natural square for the Bishop,
but it is unprotected and you do
wonder about tactical strikes on the f
file. 10..Bf5 is a rare move compared
to the alternatives: **11.Qe2**
The opening is over and the
middlegame is about to begin. The
impression is that White can hope for
an edge thanks to his lead in
development and somewhat better
control in the center, but Black



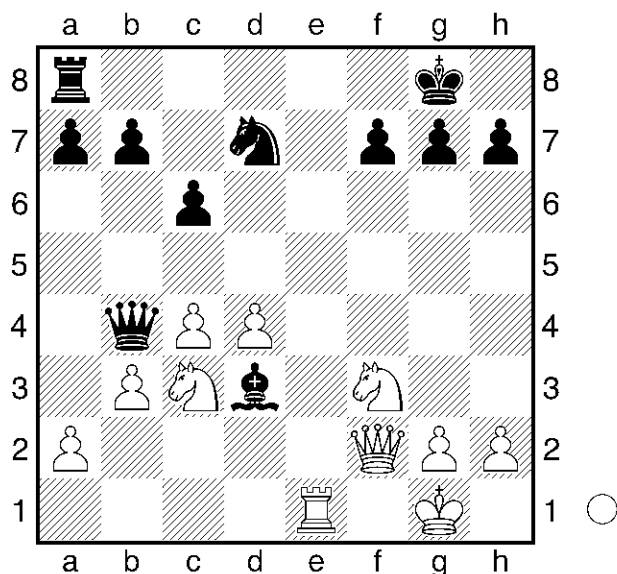
counterbalances this with the bishop pair. **Bd6!?** Vacating the e file.

[Maybe he did not like 11...Nc6
12.Rf2! Re8 13.Qc4 Bf6 14.Rd1
When White is solidly better.]

[Another move to consider is 11...c6]

**12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.Nb5 Qd8 14.c4
a6**

[Also possible was 14...c6 15.Nc3
Nd7 16.Rae1 Re8 17.Qf2 Bd3
18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Re1 Qf8 20.b3
Qb4



but Black is still not equal. It is worth detailing why:

- 1) White holds the only open file
- 2) Black's Bishop has nothing to

attack

3) e7 and f7 are points which must be permanently guarded

4) White can create a central passed pawn with d4-d5 Thus with 21.Qd2 Bg6 22.d5 White is starting to increase his edge.]

15.Nc3 Nd7 16.Rad1 Bg6 17.Qf2 Re8 18.h3! Black has to sit and wait, not very pleasant. He is without counterplay, which is the essence of successful defence.

So with 18 h3 , White takes squares, improves his position slightly and awaits events. Black has no similar move. **Rc8** The move of a man who does not like his position

[It is true that after 18...h6 19.Nh4! is strong]

[but maybe 18...Qf6 19.Nd5 Qd6 20.Nh4 c6 21.Nxg6 fxg6 22.Qf7+ Kh8 23.Qf4 Qxf4 24.Nxf4

held chances for a draw in the endgame. However, this position is not nice for Black at all]

19.Rfe1 Carlsen exchanges off one of Black's only active pieces. **Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 c6 21.d5?! A bit early perhaps**

[After 21.Qe3 h6 22.a3
White continues the squeeze.]

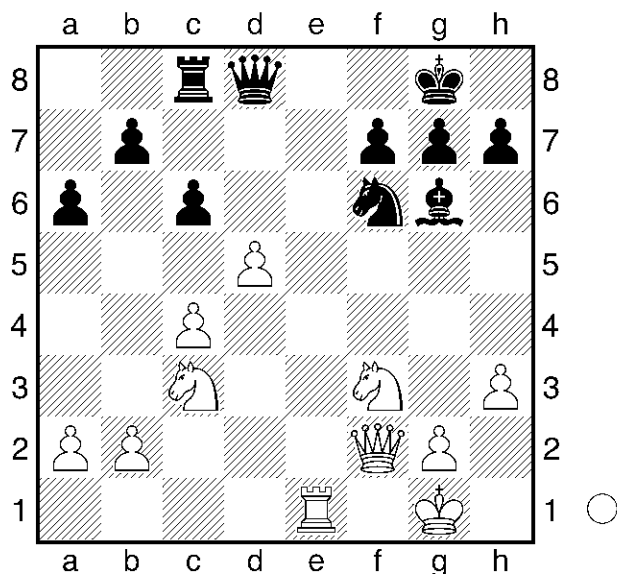
21...Nf6

[It is very odd that he does not take the chance to activate his Rook, but I suppose he feels he can take on d5 at any time. Nevertheless 21...cxd5 was well worth consideration:

22.Nxd5! (22.cxd5 Qf8 23.Qd4 Qd6) 22...Rxc4 23.Ne7+

A) 23...Kh8 24.Ng5 Qf8 25.b3! Rc5 (25...Rc7 26.Qf4 Rc5 27.Qd6) 26.Qd4 ;

B) 23...Kf8 24.b3 Rc3=]



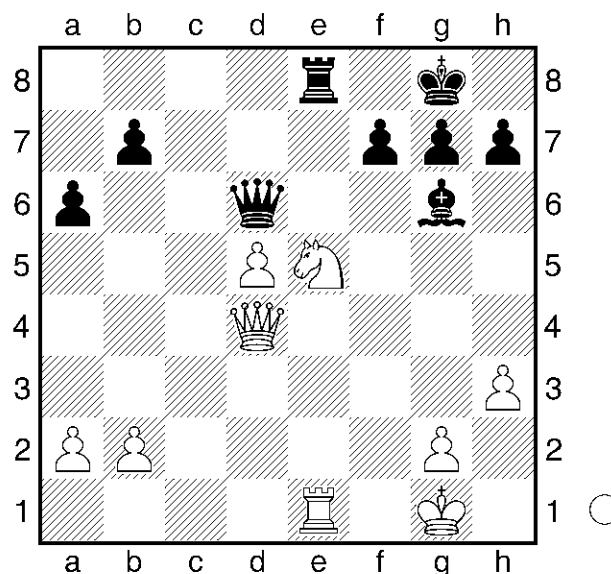
22.Qd4 cxd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5

24.cxd5 Qd6 25.Ne5 # White's plan is to play at some moment Nc4 and then advance the d-pawn. If Black prevents it by playing b7-b5, then the weakness of square c6 is unpleasant. Therefore a good defensive plan is needed and Wang Yue fails to find it.

Re8

[25...f6! when Rogozenko's analysis, then tends to suggest that the game will be drawn: 26.Nxg6 (26.Nc4? is a blunder in view of Qb4 27.Rc1 b5 and Black wins. ; 26.Nf3 is also bad: Bf7 27.Rd1 Rd8 and White loses the d5-pawn) 26...hxc6 27.Re6 Qc5 (Perhaps 27...Rc1+ 28.Kf2 Rc2+ 29.Kf3 Qd7 is also acceptable.) 28.Qxc5 Rxc5 29.d6 Rd5 and the endgame should be a draw. For instance: 30.Kf2 (or 30.h4 b5 31.Kf2 Kf7 32.Re7+ Kf8 33.Rd7 Rd2+ 34.Ke3 Rxc2 35.Ra7 Ke8) 30...g5 31.Ke3 (31.g4 b5 32.Ke3 Kf7 33.Re7+ Kf8 34.Rd7 g6 35.Ke4 Rd2) 31...f5 32.Re7 Rxd6 33.Rxb7 Kh7 34.a4 Kg6 35.a5 f4+ 36.Ke4 Re6+ 37.Kf3 (37.Kd3 Re3+ 38.Kd4 Re2 39.Rb6+ Kf5) 37...Kf5]

[25...Bf5!? recentralizing the Bishop was also a candidate move, but not]
[25...Qc5? due to 26.Qxc5 Rxc5 27.d6 Rd5 28.d7 winning.]



Black could force matters immediately with **26.Re3 Rd8**

[26...b5 27.Nc4! Qd8 28.Rxe8+ Qxe8 29.Ne5 is the kind of position White is aiming for. The Black Bishop is helpless to prevent the advance of the pawn. It would certainly be worth discussing the overall power of Queen and Knight vs Queen and Bishop in the endgame at this time.]

27.Nc4 Qf6 28.Re5! A move which makes it very difficult for Wang to find a decent reply. White has all the options thanks to his passed pawn and superior minor piece. **h6**

[28...b5! 29.Na5 (29.Qe3 h6) 29...h6 was a better defensive try.]

29.d6! Bf5

[29...b5 30.d7! Kh7 31.Nb6 isn't a stone-cold win, but Black is getting increasingly short of good moves: Bf5 32.b3 Be6 33.Qd3+ Qg6 34.Qd6 Qc2 35.Re1±]

30.Nb6! Be6

[30...Rxd6 31.Nd5 forces Black to

give up the exchange]

[30...Qxd6? loses right away due to 31.Rd5]

31.d7 Kh8 32.a4 The Knight is the kingpin, completely restricting Black's movements. Carlsen continues to bear-hug Wang until he runs out of air. **g6**

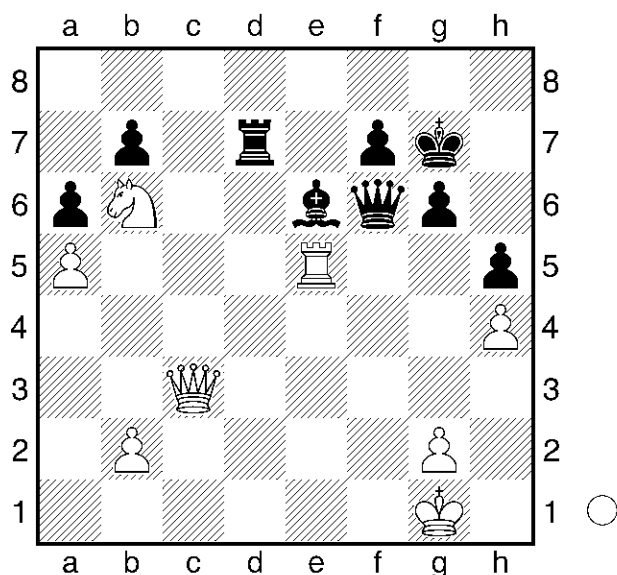
33.Qc3 Kg7 34.a5 h5 35.h4

Here the Chinese player decided to give up the exchange and go for a position where he said "I think I have chances to draw". **Rxd7**

[35...Bxd7? 36.Rd5 loses the bishop]

[35...Qxh4? 36.Rxe6+]

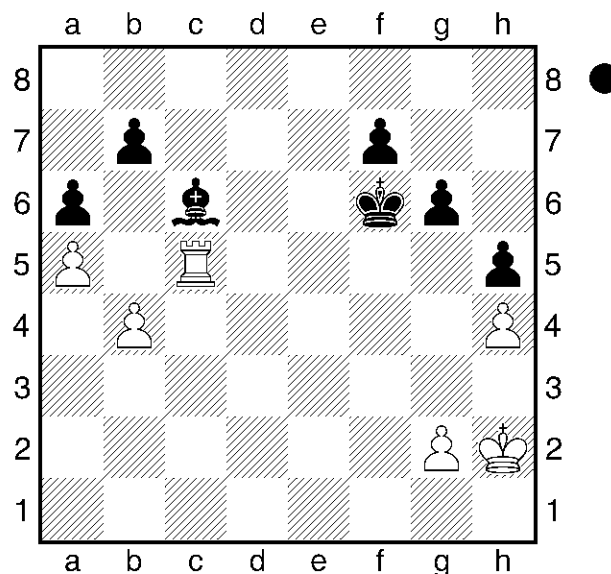
[35...Kg8 but then 36.Rc5 (or first 36.g3) 36...Qxc3 (36...Qxh4 37.Rc8) 37.Rxc3 Kf8 38.Rc7 Ke7 39.Rxb7 Bxd7 40.Ra7 Ke8 41.Nxd7 Rxd7 42.Rxa6 Rb7 43.Rb6+-]



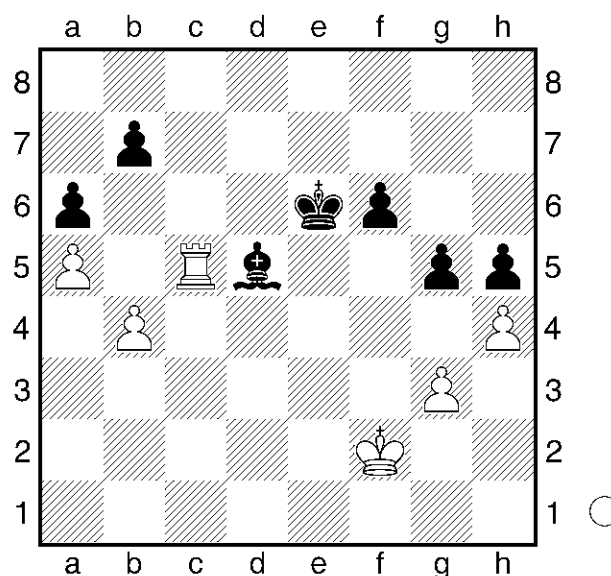
He is out of patience. A survey of the alternatives will reveal just how poor the Black position has become:

36.Nxd7 Bxd7 37.Qd4 Bc6 38.b4 Bb5 39.Kh2 Ba4 40.Rd5 Bc6 41.Qxf6+ Kxf6 42.Rc5

White has all the time in the world to do as he pleases. **Ke6 43.Kg3 f6**



44.Kf2 Bd5 45.g3 g5?



This loses by force, but on the other hand the position must be lost anyway. White eventually trains his King and Rook on the b7 pawn and takes it!

46.g4! Creates a passed pawn by force, winning. How often does this happen in the endgame? **hxc4 47.h5 Be4 48.Rc7 f5 49.h6 f4 50.h7 g3+ 51.Ke1 f3 52.h8Q f2+ 53.Ke2 Bd3+ 54.Ke3** A positional treatment of the King's Gambit, which is of course, the modern way.

A summary of the game is now in order.

1) Carlsen surprised Wang with his

choice of opening

2) Wang reacted rather passively and was unwilling to challenge White in the sharper variations.

3) Black had very little fun in this game and was defending throughout.

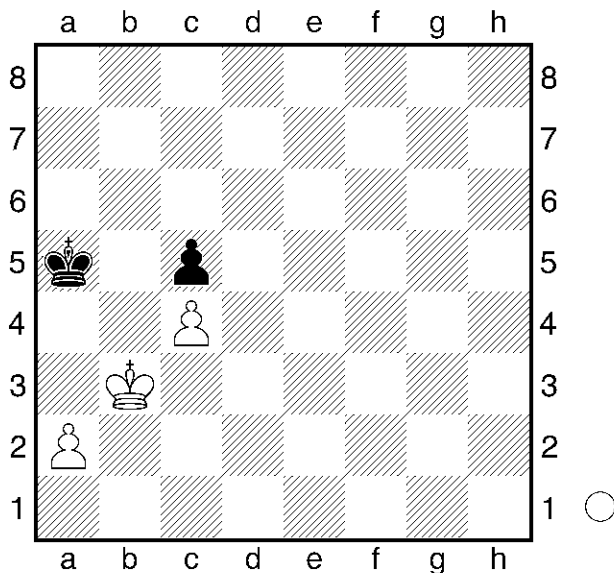
4) Precisely because he was not enjoying playing the position, Wang missed defensive chances on moves 10, 21 and 28

5) Carlsen showed his ability to create and sustain pressure, which is the key to victory in virtually all competitive games.

Will we therefore see a revival of the King's Gambit at the highest level of play? Don't stake your house on it.

1-0

STUDY POSITION

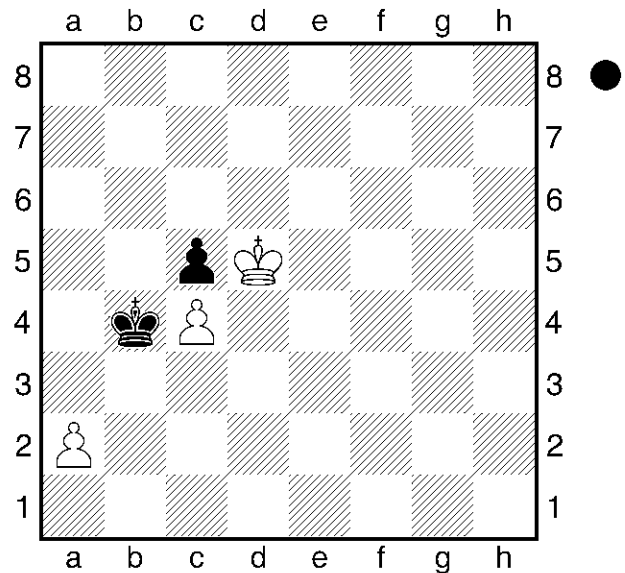


White to play and win.

Here's a nice study composed by an unknown from Nebraska, USA. Try to make an effort to solve it without looking at the answer. You will be rewarded!

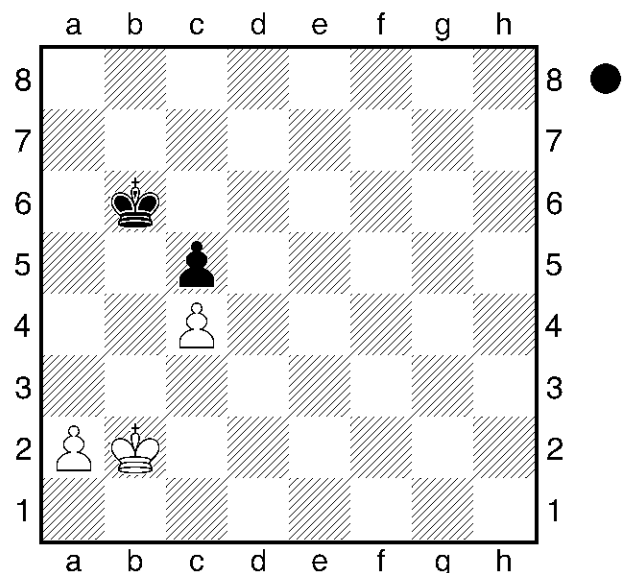
STUDY POSITION

ANSWER



White to play and win.

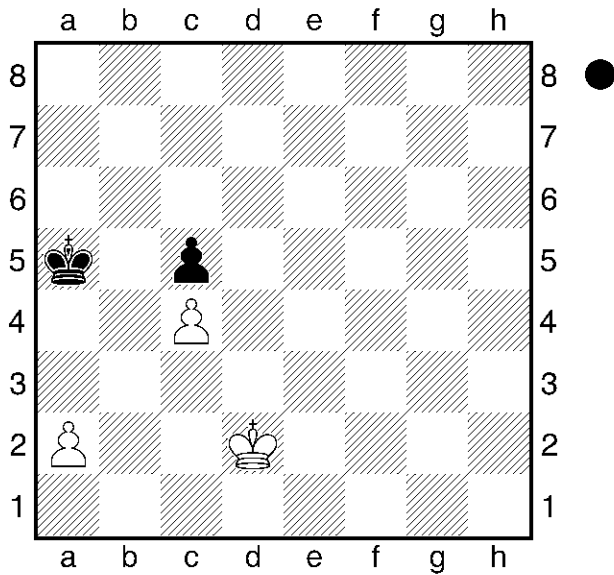
Here's a nice study composed by an unknown from Nebraska, USA. Try to make an effort to solve it without looking at the answer. You will be rewarded! **1.Ka3 Kb6 2.Kb2!**



The first subtlety. White must triangulate and put Black on move.

Ka5 3.Kb3 Job half-done. **Kb6 4.Kc3 Ka5 5.Kd2!**

Subtlety number two. White is aiming for the position Kd3 vs Kb4 with Black



to move. He must triangulate a second time to get what he wants. **Ka4**

[5...Kb4 6.Kd3 Ka3 7.Ke4+-]

6.Ke3! Ka5 7.Ke4 Kb4 8.Kd5

I rate this as difficult to solve, despite the apparent simplicity of the starting position. It's also very nice.

1-0