

KARPOV AMENDS TIMMAN'S ANALYSIS

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We have had the privilege of benefiting by Anatoli Karpov's expertise in further sharpening the results for the KRP(a2)KbBP(a3) database (Van den Herik *et al.*, 1988). The ex-World-Champion was particularly interested in the Timman Exceptions (p. 171). Let us recall that Timman (1987b) concluded that positions with

WK on f8
and BK on c3
and BB on *any* of d2, e1, f2
and WR on *any* of a4, a5, a6, a7, a8

constitute exceptions in their subclass. While the subclass as a whole (trivial exceptions apart) is a *win* for White, under the conditions stated above a draw can be enforced. The example given (p. 171), is reproduced in Diagram 1. Karpov's amendment consists in noting that 1. ... Kb2 2. Ra4 Bf2 3. Rc4 Be1 4. a4 Kb3 5. R~ Bb4+ is *not* the best line.

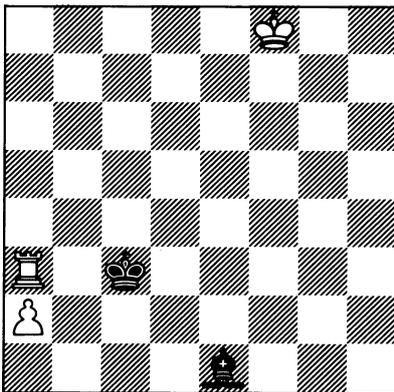


DIAGRAM 1
Black to move

According to Karpov 3. ... Be1 allows White to win, tending to invalidate Timman's conclusion. He proposed 4. Re4 instead of Timman's 4. a4. The main variations then are:

- 4. ... Ba5 5. Ke8
- 4. ... Bc3 5. a4 Kb3 6. Re3
- 4. ... Bd2(f2) 5. Re2(+)
- 4. ... Bg3 5. Re2+

So far, Karpov seems to have given a destructive critique. However, it was suggested by Timman (1987a) that 3. ... Bg3 instead of 3. ... Be1 was an equivalent continuation; at the time, this seemed a distinction without a difference. Yet Karpov showed that 3. ... Bg3 preserves the draw; his variation reads: 1. ... Kb2 2. Ra4 Bf2 3. Rc4 Bg3 4. a4 Kb3 5. Rd4 Bf2 and it is impossible to see how Black can save the a-Pawn (after 6. Rf4 Bc5+ 7. Ke8 Bb4, Black attains his goal).

It follows that Timman's analysis, though being flawed, still led to the correct conclusions as to the *value* of the game.

The methodologically-minded will here object that Diagram 1 represents no more than five instances of the 15 exceptions noted. It having been shown to reach the right conclusions for the wrong reasons, the question is wide open as to the correctness of the remaining 10 cases, with the BB on d2 or f2. Readers of this Journal are cordially invited to help us decide whether the remaining 10 instances are indeed exceptions in the pure Timman sense, *viz. draws*, or whether they contain hidden traps, eventually leading to a *win*. Provisionally, our database considers them to be draws. Should they, somewhat against our expectation,

turn out to be *wins* after all, readers can be assured that the database can and will be adapted accordingly and that our readership will be notified.

So far, five men have been involved (Van den Herik, Herschberg, Nakad, Timman and Karpov) in the analysis of this Six-Men Endgame. We are anxiously awaiting the sixth person's contribution finding to decide the matter.

REFERENCES

- Timman, J.H. (1987a). Personal Communication to the senior author (August 30, September 10 and 13).
- Timman, J.H. (1987b). Uit Talloos Veel Miljoenen. *Elsevier Magazine*, Vol. 43, Nos. 51/52, pp. 255-256.
- Herik, H.J. van den, Herschberg, I.S. and Nakad, N. (1987). A Six-Men-Endgame Database: KRP(a2)KbBP(a3). *ICCA Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp. 163-180.

ERRATUM

Readers of the article "Two-Ply KRKN: Safely Overtaking Quinlan" by T.F. Verhoef and J.H. Wesselius (*ICCA Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp. 181-190) will have noted that references in the page range 168-201 refer to Quinlan (1979), not to Quinlan (1984).

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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Readers will note that, as of this issue, Dap Hartmann M.Sc. now is a permanent reviewer with a special assignment for contributions in European languages other than English (see back page of the inside cover).