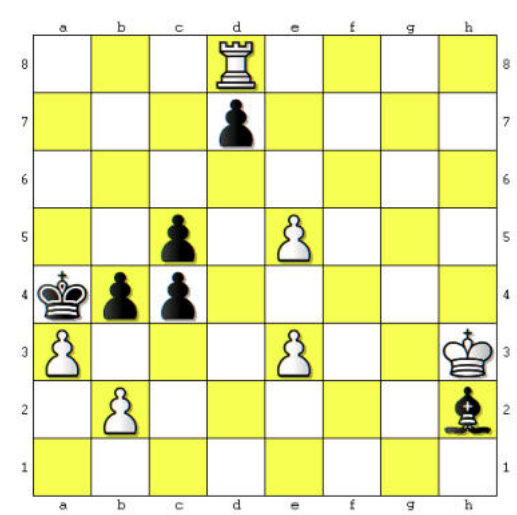




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White to move and win

**1<sup>st</sup> Commendation**

The study gradually transforms from what appears to be a rather classical Rook versus Bishop ending into a remarkably elegant geometrical struggle. White's passed c-pawn is only the starting point; the real battle concerns the control of the long diagonal, where the Bishop initially seems perfectly placed. The

artistic highlight comes in the subtle zugzwang sequence beginning with 10.Kf4!, followed by the symmetrical manoeuvre 11.Ke4!, in which Black slowly discovers that the supposedly dominant diagonal is, paradoxically, too short to fulfil its defensive task. The repeated rook manoeuvres enrich the play and fit naturally into the strategic concept, while the ending offers a refined treatment of a well-known defensive setup. Although the study develops through a relatively technical middle phase, its geometrical clarity and the elegant exploitation of reciprocal zugzwangs leave a lasting artistic impression.

Solution with comments by the Author:

**1. e6** {! Make a future c-pawn a passed pawn.}

(1. Kxh2 ? c3 2. bxc3 bxc3 3. e6 dxe6 4. Rd3 Kb3 5. a4 c4 6. Rxc3+ Kxc3 )

(1. axb4 ? Bxe5 2. bxc5 Bxb2 3. Rxd7 c3 )

**1. .. dxe6 2. axb4 Bg1**

(2. .. Be5 3. bxc5 Kb5 4. Rc8 c3 5. bxc3 Bxc3 +-)

**3. bxc5 Kb5 4. Re8 !**

(4. Rc8 ? Bxe3 5. c6 Kc5 6. Kg4 Bd2 7. Kf3 Ba5 ! 8. Ke4 c3 9. bxc3 Bxc3 { See (X) below.})

**4. .. Bxe3 5. c6 ! Kb6 6. Kg4 Bd4**

(6. .. Bc1 7. Rc8 Bd2 8. Kf3 c3 9. bxc3 Bxc3 10. Kf4 {see main.})

**7. Rc8! Be5** (7. .. c3 8. bxc3 Bxc3 9. Kf4 {see main.})

(7. .. Kc5 8. c7 Be5 (8. .. Kc6 9. Rd8) 9. Kf3 Kc6 10. Ke4 Bxc7 11. Kd4 +-)

**8. Kf3 c3**

(8. .. Kc5 9. c7 Kc6 (9. .. Bd6 10. Ke3 (10. Ke4 ? e5 )10. .. e5 11. Kd2 Kc6 12. Kc3 +-)

e.g.) Kc5 13. Rd8 Bxc7 14. Rc8 Kd6 15. Kxc4) 10. Ke4 Bxc7 11. Kd4 +-)

**9. bxc3 Bxc3**

*{With a passive Rook and a cut-off king, White still has something to prove. Surprisingly, the long diagonal turns out to be too short for the Bishop.}*

**10. Kf4 {! zugzwang}**

(10. Ke4 ? Kc5 { zugzwang (X)} 11. Rd8 Ba5 12. Rc8 Bc3 13. Rg8 Kd6 14. Rd8+ Kc7 15. Re8 Be1 16. Rxe6 Bg3 {Del Rio's draw setup.})

**10. .. Ba1**

(10. .. Kc5 11. Ke4 {zugzwang} Kd6 12. Kd3 {and Kc4-b5 etc})

**11. Ke4 Bg7**

(11. .. Bc3 12. Re8 Kc7 13. Rxe6 Be1 14. Rg6 +-)

**12. Rg8 Ba1**

(12. .. Bc3 13. Re8 {see main.})

(12. .. Bf6 13. Re8 Kc7 14. Rxe6 Bh4 15. Rg6 +-)

**13. Ra8 {! At least the pawn falls.}**

**13. ... Bc3** {Best, because Black can still play for Del Rio's draw configuration.} (13. .. Bg7 14. c7 Kxc7 15. Ra7+ +-)

**14. Re8 Be1 15. Rxe6 Bg3**

(15. .. Kc7 16. Rg6 +-)

**16. Rg6 Bh2 17. Rg2 !**

(17. Rh6 Bg3 18. Rh3 Bd6 19. Kd5 {Waste of time.})

**17. .. Bd6 {Another diagonal is too short.}**

**18. Kd5 ! 1-0**