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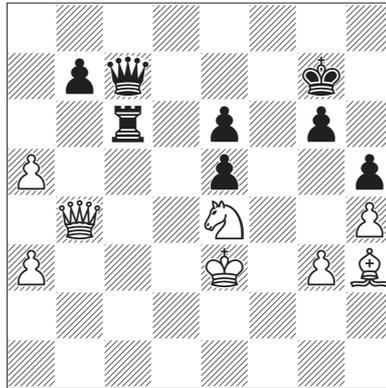
## Test 9

## Efstratios Grivas – Petar Velikov

Plovdiv 1988

1 e4 c5 2 c3 ♟f6 3 e5 ♟d5 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♟f3 d6 6 cxd4 e6 7 a3 ♟d7 8 ♟d3 ♟c6 9 0-0 ♟d7 10 ♟e1 ♟e7 11 ♟bd2 dxe5 12 dxe5 ♟c5 13 ♟f1 ♟f4 14 ♟e3 0-0 15 ♟c2 ♟c8 16 b4 ♟a4 17 ♟b1 ♟d7 18 ♟e4 ♟d5 19 ♟e1 ♟c2 20 ♟g4 ♟f5 21 ♟g3 a5 22 bxa5 ♟c5 23 ♟d4 ♟g6 24 ♟c4 ♟e4 25 ♟b3 ♟c5 26 ♟b2 ♟dc3 27 ♟xc3 ♟xc3 28 ♟c2 ♟e4 29 ♟2e3 ♟h4 30 g3 ♟e7 31 ♟g2 ♟c7 32 ♟ad1 h5 33 ♟d6 ♟xf2 34 ♟xf2 ♟c2 35 ♟c3 ♟xd1 36 ♟xd1 f6 37 ♟e2 fxe5 38 ♟e4 ♟d4 39 ♟b4 ♟d7 40 ♟b3 ♟e7 41 h4 g6 42 ♟h3 ♟c6 43 ♟f1 ♟xe3 44 ♟xf8+ ♟xf8 45 ♟xe3 ♟g7 46 ♟b4 ♟c7 (D)

White to play



**Judgement:** White has the advantage, as he has two (good) minor pieces against a (quite passive) rook. Unfortunately for Black, his extra pawn is of no importance, as it is isolated, weak and blockaded. Moreover, Black's e-pawns are more like weaknesses, as are his b- and g-pawns. Some attention must be paid to the white king's position, as its central presence offers Black some chances for counterplay.

**Planning:** Choose one of the following three plans:

**A:** I should attack the e-pawns, starting with the one on e5. This can be done by manoeuvring my minor pieces (by ♟f1 and ♟d2-c4) towards that target and also involving my queen via b5 or c3. Black will not be able to defend this weakness, which will eventually drop. Then I would go after the e6-pawn.

**B:** I should exchange my a5-pawn for Black's on b7. Then my a3-pawn will become passed, giving me an easy win. I can do that by playing ♟f1-b5 and then a6. After the pawn exchange I shall play ♟d3 and advance my a-pawn.

**C:** I am sure that I would like to exchange queens at a favourable moment and then proceed with all my forces against the opponent's b-pawn. But Black would never accept this trade, so I must force it by attacking the black king. By manoeuvring my pieces against the black g6-pawn (♟g5, ♟f1-d3 and ♟c4) I would be able either to exchange queens and easily win the endgame or deliver checkmate.

A blunder in time-trouble. 29 g4 f3 30 g5 ♖ff8 31 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 32 ♜xe6 ♜xg5 33 ♜g1 ♜f4 34 ♜h3 was essential.

**29...♜h6! 30 ♜e3**

30 ♜g2 ♜xd4 31 ♜g1 ♜xf4 --.

**30...♜f6! 0-1**

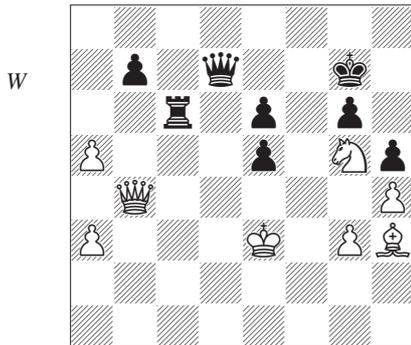
### Test 9

Exchanging queens will allow White to include his king in the proceedings. However, Black will not readily agree to that, so White has to force him. Plan **A** (3 points) doesn't do much, as Black can defend with ...♜c5 and/or sometimes obtain counterplay with ...e4. Plan **B** (8 points) also looks excellent, but Black might get some counterplay after 47 ♜f1 ♜c1 48 ♜b5 ♜g1. The correct plan is **C** (20 points).

The game continued:

**47 ♜g5! ♜d7 (D)**

Or 47...♜c3+ 48 ♜d2 ♜c2+ 49 ♜d3 e4+ 50 ♜xe4.



**48 ♜f1!?**

48 ♜xe6+ ♜xe6 49 ♜xe6 ♜xe6 50 ♜xb7+ ♜h6 51 a6 was also winning, but during the game White was wrongly afraid of the possibility of perpetual check after 51...♜g4.

**48...♜c7**

This looks like the only try, as 48...♜c1 49 ♜b5 ♜c8 50 ♜e7+ leads to mate.

**49 ♜d3 ♜c6 50 a4**

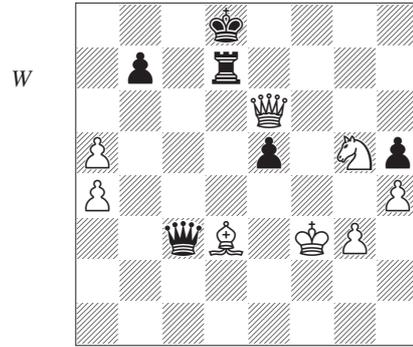
The immediate 50 ♜e4 was possible, but White retains winning chances even in the endgame, in case something goes wrong with his attack.

**50...♜d7 51 ♜e4 ♜c1+**

The endgame after 51...♜xe4+ 52 ♜xe4 ♜f7 53 a6 bxa6 54 ♜xa6 ♜a7 55 ♜b5 and ♜d2-c4 would be a slow death.

**52 ♜e2 ♜b2+ 53 ♜f3 ♜c3 54 ♜xg6+ ♜f8 55 ♜f6+! ♜e8 56 ♜xe6+ ♜d8 (D)**

Or 56...♜e7 57 ♜g8+ ♜d7 58 ♜d5+ ♜e8 59 ♜e4.



**57 ♜g8+ ♜c7**

Or the beautiful 57...♜e7 58 ♜f7+ ♜d8 (if 58...♜d6, then 59 ♜e4+) 59 ♜e6+ ♜c8 60 ♜e8+ ♜d8 61 ♜xd8#.

**58 ♜c4+ 1-0**

### Test 10

In such difficult positions there cannot be more than one satisfactory plan. Plan **B** (0 points) is the worst of all, as after 38 ♜bd1 ♜ad8 39 ♜e3 ♜e6! Black would get at the white f6-pawn. Plan **A** (5 points) is also not optimal, as after 38 ♜xf4 gxf4 39 h4 Black can assume the initiative with 39...d5! 40 exd5 (40 ♜be1 dxe4 41 ♜xe4 ♜xe4+ 42 ♜xe4 ♜c6!) 40...e4. Although things are far from clear, I still prefer Black. Plan **C** (20 points) is correct.

The game continued:

**38 h4! d5!**

As the lines 38...♜xg2 39 ♜xg2 gxf4 40 ♜h6 ♜g8 41 ♜f5 ♜g6 42 ♜xh4 and 38...h6? 39 hxf4 hxf4 40 ♜xf4 gxf4 41 ♜h2+ seem pleasant for White, Black tries to mix things up.

**39 exd5 e4 40 hxf4?**

White should try 40 ♜d1 e3! 41 ♜xe3 ♜xe3 42 ♜xe3 ♜xd5 43 ♜f2 ♜xc3+ 44 ♜f3 ♜xb1 45 ♜xb1 gxf4 46 ♜e1, when he ought to hold the position.

**40...♜g6?**

40...exf3? 41 ♜xf4 and 40...♜xg2? 41 ♜xg2 are out of the question, but Black can grab the advantage with 40...♜xd5! 41 ♜e2 e3 42 ♜d4 (42 ♜e1 ♜f4 43 ♜f3 e2 ♣) 42...♜ad8.

**41 ♜e2 e3 42 ♜d4! ♜ad8 43 ♜f5!**