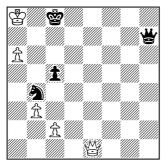
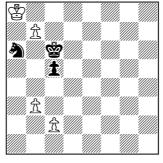
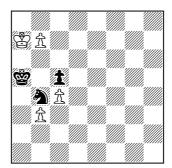
## Jeremy Morse 1928 - 2016

Jeremy Morse will be the subject of extensive obituaries elsewhere, and I shall confine myself to his activities in the field of the chess endgame study. He was of course best known in the chess world for his work in respect of problem tasks and records, but he also wrote at least one article on Progressive Chess for the *BCM* (sadly, I do not have the reference to hand), and Harold van der Heijden's "Endgame study database V" contains five studies by him.





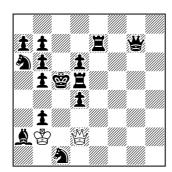


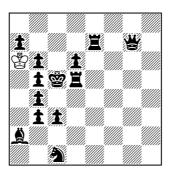
1 - White to play and win

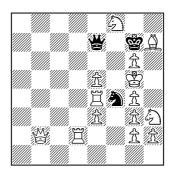
1a - after 4...Na6

1b - after 7...Nb4

1 is a version of a study which appeared in the *Evening News* in 1955. The introduction 1 Qe8+ Kc7 2 Qb8+ Kc6 3 Qb7+ Qxb7+ 4 axb7+ Na6 was perhaps fashionable rather than necessary, but now we have 1a, and the immediate promotion 5 b8Q leads only to a draw (5...Nxb8 6 Kxb8 c4 etc). The way to win is 5 Ka7 Kb5 6 c3! (after 6 c4+ Ka5 White has no pressure) Ka5 7 c4 Nb4 (what else?) and we have 1b. Now promotion to queen still fails, but the elegant 8 b8N! leads to mate next move. Position 1b had already appeared in a study by V. Tacu in *Revista Română de Şah* in 1953, of which I was unaware when writing the June and September 2009 issues of *British Endgame Study News*, but on the evidence of "Endgame study database V" Tacu's lead-in play was badly flawed (instead of the intended line leading to 1b, White could play a natural promotion to queen, forcing off the knight and coming down to a won two-against-one pawn ending) and I think Jeremy can still claim at least some of the credit.







2 - White to play and hold the draw

2a - after 5 Kxa6

3 - White to play and win

The more problemistic 2 (EG 1984) shows how Jeremy's interest in tasks and records extended even into the endgame study field. 1 Qc3+ dxc3+ 2 Ka3 and how can Black release the stalemate into which White has put himself? Only by playing 2...b4+, but there follows 3 Ka4 (second self-stalemate) b5+ 4 Ka5 (third) b6+ 5 Kxa6 (fourth, see 2a), and this time the stalemate cannot be released. This was, and I presume still is, a length record for a self-stalemate with a bare White king. Jeremy subsequently returned to the idea, turning the board around and producing 3 (Correspondence Chess 2006). Now the stalemates appear as a Black defence which White has to outwit. Try the natural 1 Kxf4 (White is in check): no, 1...Qf6+ and draws as before. Correct is 1 Kf5! Qxf8 (what else?) 2 Kg5 Qe7+ and we have 3 without the knight on f8, after which releasing the stalemate will be no problem (3 Kxf4 Qf6+ 4 exf6+ Kh6 5 g7/Bg8).

He was my backer for the Mandler book.