

## MAGYAR SAKKVILAG 2021 Studies award

I received 26 entries from the studies editor **Peter Gyarmati**. One was unsound (N. 26 – 1...Ke8!). Two others were disqualified for ethical issues: they were based on positions from tournament games, without mentioning the origin of the works. The composers did add value to the games' positions, but hiding the source is not correct behavior.

Anticipation cheque was done by **Gady Costeff**; To my request, **Ofer Comay** checked two entries for anticipation in the problem DB. Studies that are not included lack interest or demonstrated themes which were performed many times before.

12 studies are included in the provisional award. I am not convinced about the originality of some of them but I have to act upon proof, not a gut feeling.

**Prize** – Kg6/h4 Sprenger; stunning play, taking advantage of enemy pieces which are overloaded with too many missions. The study leaves a strong impression, while remaining clear and easy to understand.

**1<sup>st</sup> HM** – Kh1/a8 Tarasiuk; after delayed promotion, a fine and precise maneuver of the white king decides the issue.

**2<sup>nd</sup> HM** – Kg3/e8 Gurgidze & Minski; the end positions are known, but two variations are combined efficiently, when the moves Kf3 and Kh3 are correct in one line and wrong in the other. Nh1 comes into play by underpromotion.

**3<sup>rd</sup> HM** – Kc6/g3 Nielsen; light setting, powerful point 4.h4!!; the final moves are of course trivial.

**4<sup>th</sup> HM** – Ka8/b4 Kuzmichev; in order to stop the h-pawn, the white knight, surprisingly, has to spring from behind.

**Sp. HM** Ka2/a4 Didukh; As the composer notes, Liburkin ((Kg5/Ka5, 1935, unsound) made the original matrix with knight and rook promotions. The present study adds value: the undefended rook moves 2.Re6! and 5.Rc6! are noteworthy and the theme of stalemate black defences is doubled, on different squares.

**1<sup>st</sup> comm.** – Kf8/d3 Krug; very simple but aesthetic and pleasant. Recurring knight sacrifices in an economical setting.

**2<sup>nd</sup> comm.** – Kc3/e6 Arestov & Hlinka; an immediate promotion fails, so white delays it for many moves, without black being able to exploit it, even after the quiet 8.Ra3!.

**3<sup>rd</sup> comm.** – Kf7/h7 Krug & Garcia; resembles a problem; beautiful geometric motive at the end.

**4<sup>th</sup> comm.** Kd4/b4 Pasman; A king forking two rooks has been known long ago (e.g. Amelung Ke6/Ka2 1902, and others), but the in-between 5.e6! deserves merit.

**5<sup>th</sup> comm.** – Ke1/c4 Richardson; the final combination, culminating in 7.Qc4+!!, is very beautiful, but the construction is heavy, with pieces 'hanging' in the initial position.

**6<sup>th</sup> comm.** – Kg5/g8 Hlinka & Kekely; the first two move are redundant; white ignores black's advanced pawn and keeps equality by creating constant threats against the BK.

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