

Steffen Nielsen 45 JT, Final Award

This final award has some minor edits as well as two alterations to the rankings.

The initial 2nd commendation by B. Djurasevic has been downgraded to 4th commendation due to a partial anticipation.

In addition, I found a partial participation to the 4th commendation of the preliminary award by Marcel Dore, leading me to remove it from the award. The anticipation, by Dore himself, won 5th commendation in Variantim 2018 (see appendix).

I received 59 studies from tournament director Bjørn Enemark, who did a great job in anonymizing the entries in pgn, Word, and even a few on paper!

The number of entries was touching, and the level of the tournament was good as well. The quality varied a lot as it is natural when 44 composers from 20 countries compete. In the end, I was able to award 18 studies, including 7 prizes.

Undoubtedly I am becoming softer with age.

Before moving on to the awarded prizes I want to write some words about the studies not in the award.

The majority of these studies had notable ideas (thankfully there were fewer computer studies than has been the case in previous tournaments I've judged). But often the ideas were expressed in a less than ideal setting. Apart from the already

well-established issue from other tourneys of excessive exchanges, I noticed something else. Quite often the introduction felt out of sync with the main play.

My own rule of thumb is the following: *The introduction should not feature pieces stronger than those competing in the main play.* Thus, for instance, a rook taking part in the introduction to a knight endgame I "count" as a flaw. Knights taking part in introductions to rook endgames are much more acceptable to me. In my experience composers of pawn endgames strictly adhere to this rule, not allowing any pieces in the introductory play. Michael Pasman's prizes in the recent Phenix 2019 and FIDE World Cup 2020 tournaments are exceptions, bringing about some discussion. My wish is that composers of other endgame types would apply the same strictness as pawn study aficionados and only break the rule if the introduction adds substantially to the creative content of the study and is in some way tied up to the main play. Introductions whose sole purpose is to make every piece move during the solution – or to obey some other conventions like "White to move" – often make the study worse. Studies don't always need an introduction.

Below follow some more concrete comments about the studies not in the award (king positions are in brackets). These studies are at the disposal of their authors.

#2 (a4f2)

The Black queen is trapped in the middle of the board due to three different discovered checks from a White pawn. But the moment of domination can be presented much more economically, and I

don't think the remaining part of the study merits using the extra material.

#3 (b3a6)

The position is illegal. Black made 6 pawn captures and two captures of bishops on f1 and c1. White has 9 remaining pieces.

#4 (h8h5)

The study features the theme of the 4th YCCC: Instead of promoting, White blocks his own pawn. The study is technically good, but I miss a little extra in terms of surprise.

#8 (f6d3)

This is a weaker version of Pervakov's masterpiece from Shakhmatnoe Obozrenie 2001, 1st prize (HHDBV #13877, see appendix). Also, after the mutual promotions the draw is very complicated and tablebaseish.

#9 (d6g8)

A tactical battle ends with a positional draw. I must admit that I don't find this kind of positional draw (N + advanced pawns vs Q) particularly exciting and the fine introductory play (7. e6!) does not make up for it in my opinion.

#14 (g7e8)

The perpetual check is known and can be done in a far more economical way.

#15 (h1h4)

Play splits up into two interesting lines in a knight vs knight endgame. But the initial position features two rooks and a bishop as well. That is too much, even though the introductory play is in fact quite interesting in itself.

#16 (h1f4)

The final part of this study is amusing and a great find, but the obtrusive bishop on

a6 is detrimental in my view. Surely some introduction can be found without this flaw?!

#17 (e3b4)

The final finesse 10. Rb4!!, to be on the right side of a mutual zugzwang, is interesting. But I found the introduction lacking in surprise and a little too violent.

#18 (c1a7)

This study features a unique series of above-average moves and an excellent economy of play. There is even a quiet queen sac and a knight promotion, but in the end, I was not sure about where to locate the main idea.

#21 (a4a7)

A little study without notable surprises.

#22 (h5h7)

A series of correct moves but I don't think there is an idea.

#24 (c7c1)

The main point of this study is the quiet 7. Kd7 to prepare 8. Kd8! and a mutual zugzwang. Unfortunately, similar positions are known from Tarasiuk, Polish Chess Federation 2015 (HHDBV #506) and Gurgenedze, 1st prize Tbilisi ty 1975 (HHDBV #39860). I am wondering if the endgame QR vs RR has been finally exhausted? See appendix for the predecessors.

#26 (g6c7)

There are some nice things happening around the e5 and d6 squares, but there is not enough surprise involved.

#28 (e6e1)

What is this about? I would really love to read a sentence describing the main idea of this grotesque.

#29 (b8c3)

When Black has 8 pawns waiting to promote the demand for incredible ideas is much larger.

#31 (h5f8)

The middle part of this study has interesting moves, but both the intro and the finale are too violent.

#32 (g1g8)

An eventful tactical study. The strength of a white pawn on f6 and a bishop on the long diagonal pointing at the black king on h8 is well documented. I don't think I see sufficiently new here. Also, I feel such studies should ideally be win studies (White is trying to conduct a mating attack after all) to really attract the attention of the audience.

#33 (f4h8)

The economy is too poor and the starting position too unnatural.

#34 (g5d8)

I think too much has been done to avoid the Black to move-stipulation. Castling in my view adds nothing in itself. The part of the study beginning with 3...Bxe3+ is fascinating, and in fact, this move could be done without capture if the study had "Black to move" and the introduction had been skipped. In any case an interesting study that will succeed.

#37 (e3f5)

A little pleasant miniature that just needs a little extra. The main point 5. Ke1 is good, but perhaps not that surprising.

#38 (f1h5)

This would be an exciting game fragment with both kings in the line of fire. But the idea is not clear to me.

#40 (b1g8)

In my view, the study begins with 7. c4. The final moves deserve a better introduction.

#41 (h8g6)

Three knights promotions to secure the draw. But the unnatural starting position with four pieces against pawns ruins this for me.

#42 (h1f2)

A difficult study to evaluate. The study shows a task. At one point White has a maximum of 53 (!) available queen moves to choose from – of which only one wins. I don't find this task interesting in itself. In complicated positions, complications will arise. I don't see what makes this complicated position stand out. The composer must be credited by ending the complex study with a clear-cut mate.

#44 (e4d8)

A study after Belokon and Hildebrand (HHDBV#44819). I don't think enough was added. See appendix.

#45 (h7d4)

Long forced play ends with a perpetual in a queen endgame. I lack some focus.

#46 (c5f1)

Technically the study is good, but the mutual zugzwang is of little interest to me. This may be a matter of taste.

#47 (h4g7)

Everything after 4. Bb1+ is perfect, but I find the introduction a little too violent to merit a distinction. I realize the difficulty in building a better intro. Perhaps it is possible to move the pawns to the c-file and let White promote on c8? I am

convinced this will triumph in a future tournament.

#48 (f3d8)

8. Rg3 is a surprising move, but I don't think the introduction fits. The three captures on c7 are unfortunate.

#49

A little study. After 7...Kh7 White has several ways to win.

#50 (c4e7)

A good game like starting position, but this feels like one long exchange leading to a drawn pawn endgame.

#51 (h8g4)

This study has some very nice effects with knight moves to e5. But the starting position is very unnatural. I must admit, I have a dislike of studies beginning with a king placed in front his own h-pawn on the 7th rank.

#52 (f2c7)

I appreciate the technical achievement of this game like study where White is forced to enter an apparently lethal pin. But at some point the play becomes too static and difficult.

#54 (b2e7)

Anticipated by Sindler, Svobodne Slove 1956 (HHDBV#55297).

#55 (d6b5)

A rook endgame with a perpetual check in the style of Moravec. But I see nothing new.

#56(b8b5)

White makes a two paradoxical rook moves to keep the Black king out of play. This is surely interesting from the point of

view of the practical game, but a little too little to merit a distinction.

#57(f5h2)

The mates are exceptional, appearing out of nowhere. They deserve a far less violent introduction. I am sure this will be a prize winner in the future.

#58 (h2a5)

Another endgame with the material R+R vs R+Q. We see a long domination battle. It is indeed surprising that the Black queen has no chance to become active, but I still lack some idea instead of just precise moves. Probably some textual explanations may have helped.

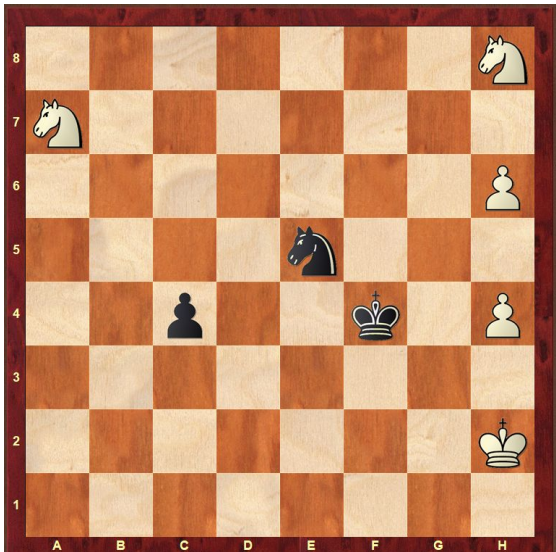
#59 (d5b1)

I like how the same deflection theme is shown by both Black and White, but I need a little extra. A good study for solving.

The award is preliminary. The deadline for challenges is October 1st. After that the award will become final.

Below are the awarded studies. The game commentary is by the composers with only minor edits by the judge.

Please stay tuned for my next jubilee tourney in five years.



Win

Oleg Pervakov and Karen Sumbatyan,
Russia
1st prize

An absolute masterpiece. The introduction is pleasant, subtle, and eventful and with a number of likely tries that just fail. The climax is just amazing. Black plays for either capturing White's last pawn or for stalemate, and at the very last move of the study White has the option between stalemate and a sudden mate! Despite Harold van der Heijdens database showing a fair share of studies with three knights against a lone queen, I have not been able to find anything resembling a significant predecessor to this study. The move 8... Kh5!!? might have been the perfect candidate for Ed van de Gevel's recent "The disadvantage of the advantage"-tourney. Advantage: Stalemate. Disadvantage: Mate!

A cooked study by Argunov, commendation, Selivanov 30 JT, 1997 (HHDBV #16702) shows a somewhat comparable mechanism, the thematic move being 3..Ka2 hoping for 4. Rxf1

stalemate, but allowing 5. Ra8+ Kb1 6. Ra1+ winning the queen (see appendix). But of course, the two studies are very different in every other aspect.

1. h7!

Try: 1. Kh3? c3 2. Nb5 c2 3. Nd4 c1=N!
Black underpromotion. 4. Nc6!?! Ncd3! 5. h7 Kf5 6. Ng6!?! Nf7! = (6... Nxc6? 7. Ne7+! +-)

1. Nc6? Ng4+ 2. Kh3 Nxc6 3. Ng6+ Kf5 =
1...c3

1... Kf5 2. Kg3 c3 3. Nb5 c2 (3... Kf6 4. Nxc3 Kg7 5. Kf4! Nd3+ 6. Ke3 Ne5 7. Ke4 +-)

4. Nd4+ Kf6 5. Nxc2 Kg7 6. Kf4! Nd3+ 7. Ke3 Ne5 8. Ke4 +-
2. Nc6! Sacrifice...

2. Nb5? c2 3. Nd4 Nf3+ =

2... Nf3+!

2... c2 3. Nxe5 +-
3. Kh3 Ng5+! ...but counter-sacrifice!

4. hxg5 c2 5. Nd4!

Thematic try 5. Nb4? c1=Q 6. Nd3+ Kxg5 7. Nf7+ Kg6 8. h8=N+ Kh5! 9. Nxc1 = Stalemate (9. Nf4+?? Qxf4 -+)

5... c1=Q 6. Ne2+ Kxg5 7. Nf7+

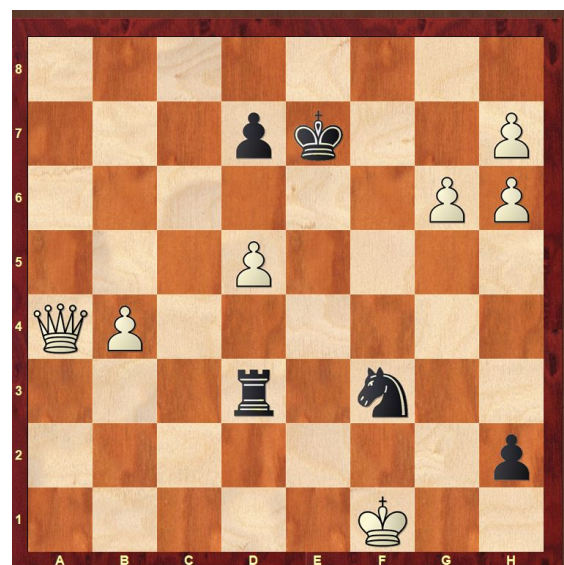
7. Nxc1? Kh6 =

7... Kg6 8. h8=N+!

Now White underpromotion.

8...Kh5!?! 9. Ng3#

Model mate. 9. Nxc1? = stalemate 1-0



Draw

Amatzia Avni, Israel & Martin Minski,
Germany
2nd prize

While I had no doubt about which study to award first prize, I found it very difficult to distinguish among the other prize studies. Judges with different tastes would certainly have put them in another order.

I finally decided to award the second prize for this epic study. To gain a draw, White must sacrifice his queen five times. All five sacrifices are accepted. It sounds like a task study, but in fact, it plays out with a natural flow. This study really grew on me. The first time I played it through I found the queen sacs a bit brutal. But take a look at the initial position. And then try to convince yourself that 5 queen sacs are needed to gain a draw! One must admire the technical skill of achieving this from a (fairly) natural starting position.

1. Kg2!

1. d6+? Rxd6 -+

1. h8=Q? h1=Q+ 2. Ke2 Rd2+ -+

1... h1=Q+! 2. Kxh1 Rd2!

With the lethal threat 3...Rh2#. From now on, white will have to fight heroically to thwart the fall of his King; no less than five white queens will be sacrificed in the process!

3. d6+! Kxd6

3...Ke6? 4. Qb3+ +-

4. Qa6+ Ke7 5. Qf6+! *first queen sacrifice*
Kxf6 6. h8=Q+ Kg5 7. Qe5+! *second queen sacrifice*

7. Qb8? d6 8. Qxd6 Rxd6 9. h7 Rd1+ 10. Kg2 Nh4+ 11. Kf2 Nxc6 -+

7... Nxe5

for a moment black abandons the mating net, which gives white time to promote yet another queen.

8. g7 Nf3

8... Rh2+? 9. Kxh2 simplest Ng4+ 10. Kh3 Nxc6 11. b5 +-

9.g8=Q+ Kh4 10. Qg1! *third queen sacrifice.*

10. Qg2? Rd1+ -+ (10... Rxc2?? 11. Kxc2 +-)

10. Qb8? Kh3! -+ (10... d6? 11. Qd8+ Kg3 12. Qg8+ =

10... Nxc6! Now it is time for the h-pawn to shine.

11. h7 Nf3 12. h8=Q+Kg3

White's troubles are not over yet, as he has to keep an eye on both h2 and d1.

13. Qg7+ Kf2 14. Qa1! 14. Qg2+? Ke3 -+

14... Kg3 15.Qg7+ Kf2 16. Qa1 d5

Throwing his last trump into the battle.

17. b5 d4 18. Qc1!

18. b6? Kg3! -+

18... Re2 19. b6 Kg3 20. Qc7+ Kf2 21.

Qc1 d3 22. b7

22. Qc5+? Re3 23. b7 d2 24. Qxe3+ Kxe3

25. b8=Q White is the first to

promote, but... d1=Q+ leads to a forced

mate 26. Kg2 Qc2+ 27. Kh1 Qh7+ 28.

Kg2 Ne1+ 29. Kg3 Qg6+ -+

22... d2

22... Re5 23. Qb2+ d2 24. Qxd2+! Nxd2

25. b8=Q =

23. Qg1+! *fourth queen sacrifice* **Nxc6 24.**

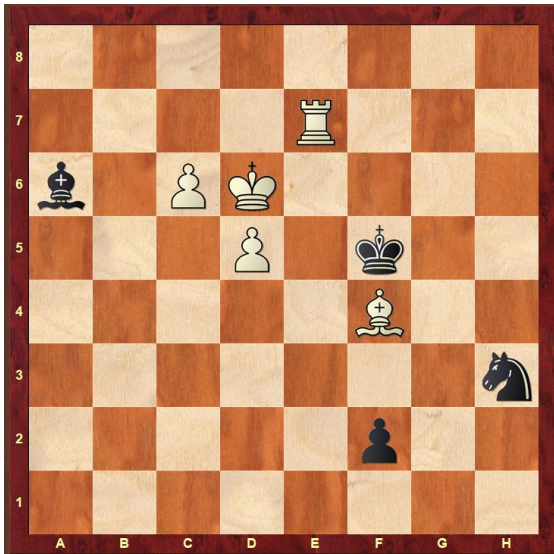
b8=Q d1=Q

24...Nf3 will be met by the same response.

25. Qg3+! *fifth queen sacrifice*

25...Kxc6 Stalemate. All five queen offers were clean without capture.

1/2-1/2



Win

Ivan Malyi, Ukraine

3rd prize

This may be the least spectacular of the prize studies, but leaves a great impression nevertheless. 6. Be3-d4+!! may at first seem like a standard deflection sacrifice, but in fact it is an ingenious device to get on the right side of a future zugzwang, which is brought about by the switchback 11. Bd4-e3. Everything runs smoothly and naturally. An extremely elegant work. It is a small shame that Nh3 is already in its prison from the very start.

1. Be3

Logical try 1. Bg3? f1=Q 2. Rf7+ Ke4 3. Rxf1 Bxf1 4. c7 Ba6 5. Kc6 Kf5 6. d6 Ke6 7. d7 Bb5+ 8. Kxb5 Kxd7 9. Kb6 Kc8 =

1... f1=Q 2. Rf7+ Ke4 3. Rxf1 Bxf1 4. c7

4. Kc5? Kxe3. c7 (5. d6 Ng5! 6. d7 Bh3! 7. d8=Q Ne6+ =) 5... Ba6 6. d6 Bc8 7. Kc6 Nf4 8. d7 Bxd7+ 9. Kxd7 Nd5! 10. c8=Q Nb6+ =

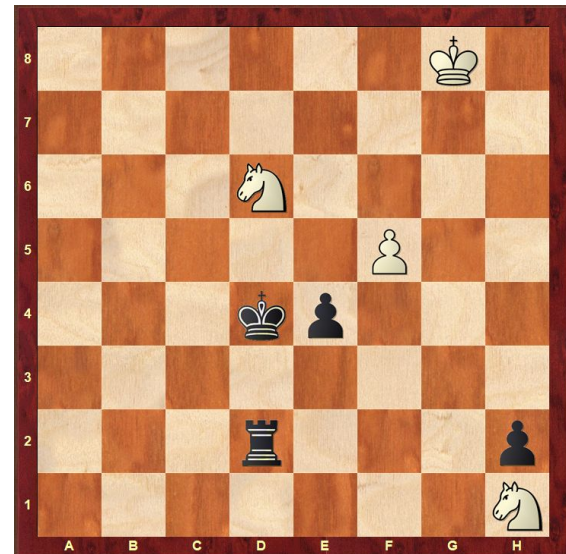
4... Ba6 5. Kc6! Ke5

5...Kf5 6. Kd7 Ke5 7. d6 +-

6. Bd4+!!

Logical try 6. d6? Ke6 7. d7 Bb5+! 8. Kxb5 Kxd7 9. Kb6 Kc8 10. Kc6 Ng5 / f4/g1/f2 11. Bxg5 stalemate

6... Kf5 7. d6 Ke6 8. d7 Bb5+! 9. Kxb5 Kxd7 10. Kb6 Kc8 11. Be3! Ng5 (/f4/g1/f2) 12. Bxg5 1-0



Draw

Petr Kiryakov and Pavel Arestov, Russia
4th prize

There are plenty of studies featuring White piece sacrifices to secure the draw of a single f or h pawn against a Black queen. My own favorite is Timman's tactical study from Brieger MT 2014 Strategems 2014 (HHDBV#840). But here the theme is doubled (and even quadrupled when including sidelines) in a most elegant and condensed fashion. To top it all there is a fine logical try where the White king needs to go to the corner to avoid a future pin along the seventh rank.

1. f6 e3

1... Rd3 2. f7 Rf3 3. f8=Q Rxf8+ 4. Kxf8 e3 5. Nf5+ Kd3 6. Nh4! e2 7. Nf3! Ke3 8. Ne1 Kd2 9. Nf3+ positional draw

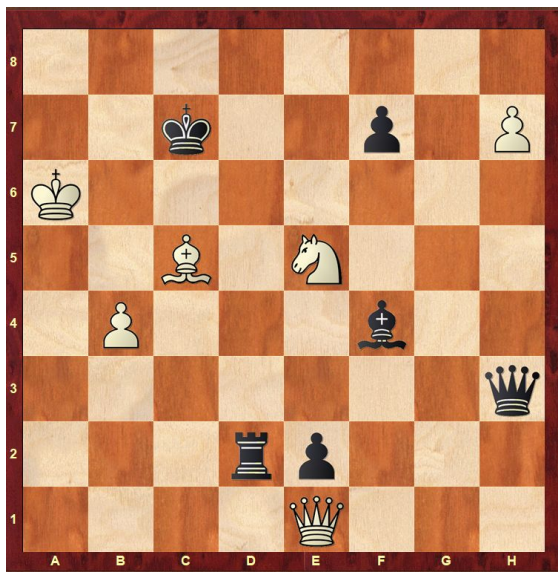
2. f7 Rg2+ 3. Kh8!!

Logical try 3. Kh7? Rf2 4. Nxf2 exf2 5. Nf5+ Ke5 6. Ng3 f1=Q (6... h1=Q+ 7. Nxf1 f1=Q 8. Nf2! see solution) 7. Nxf1

Logical try 9. g6? Bxf7+ 10. gxf7 (position X with bKc8) Qg4+! 11. Kh7 (11. Kf8 Kc7! -+)

11... Qf5+ {/Qh5+} 12. Kg7 Qg5+ 13. Kh7 Qf6 14. Ne5 Kd8! 15. Nc6+ Kc7! (15... Kd7? 16. Kg8! Qg6+ 17. Kh8! Qxf7 18. Ne5+ = fork) 16. Ne5 Kd6-+

9... Kb8 10. Nc6+ Ka8 11. g6 Bxf7+ 12. gxf7 Position X with bKa8; The black king is far enough away. ½-½



Draw

Amaztia Avni, Israel and Vladislav Tarasiuk, Ukraine
6th prize

A tactical study in classical style with both White and Black playing and sacrificing. The study has my favourite material of tactical studies: 3 vs 3 pieces. A small weakness of the study – the exchange on a5 – is nicely camouflaged by a thematic try. The final stalemate sequence appears to be new.

1. Bb6+ Kb8!

1... Kd6? 2. h8=Q Qxh8 3. Nxf7+=

2. Nc6+

2. Nd7+ Rxd7 3. Qxe2 Bc7-+

2... Ka8

2... Kc8 3. Qb1 (or 3. Qf2) with enough counter-play.

3. Qa1! After pushing Black's king to the corner, white creates a double threat: 4. h8=Q+ and 4.Kb5+

3... Qd3+! 4. b5 Qxh7 5. Qa3!

5. Bd8? (intending 6.Kb6+) Rd1 6. Qa3 (6. Qa2 Be3 7. Qxe2 Ra1+ 8. Ba5 f5 9. b6 Qb7+-) 6... Bd6 7. Qa2 Qh3! 8. Kb6+ (8. b6?? Qd3+) 8... Qa3 -+)

5... Qh6!

5... Bd6 6. Qe3! =

6. Qe7!

6. Qf3? e1=N! 7. Qe4 (7. Qg4 Qf8 -+) 7... Qe6 (only move, but sufficient) 8. Qxe6 fxe6 -+

6... Ra2+ 7. Ba5!

Thematic try: 7. Na5? Rxa5+ 8. Kxa5 e1=Q+! 9. Qxe1 Bd2+ 10. Ka6 Qxb6+! (10... Bxe1? =) 11. Kxb6 Bxe1 -+

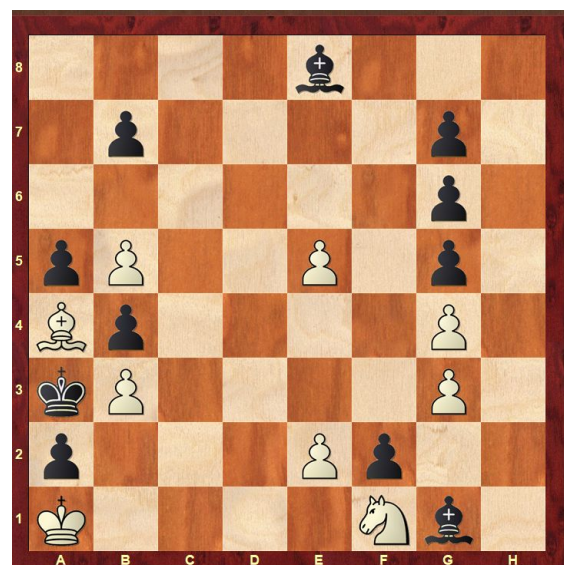
7... Rxa5+ 8. Kxa5 e1=Q+!

8... Bc7+ 9. Ka6=

9. Qxe1 switchback **Bd2+ 10. Ka6! Bxe1**

10... Qxc6?? 11. bxc6 Bxe1 12. c7 +-)

11. b6 Qxc6 1/2-1/2



Win

Gady Costeff, Israel
Special prize

The position is barely legal and everything but elegant. But the idea shown is ambitious and original to studies as far as I know: White, by capturing a Black pawn, makes sure that Black has an extra tempo to avoid stalemate at a later point. I am highly curious how anyone could get the idea for this, let alone actually make it work in two separate promotion lines.

1. e6 b6 2. e3!!

White must control d4- see move 9 in the 1st main variation.

2... Bf7 3. exf7 Bh2 4. f8=N!

4. f8=Q Bxg3 5. Qxg7 Be5+ 6. Qxe5 stalemate

4. f8=R Bxg3 5. Re8 Be5+ 6. Rxe5 stalemate

4. f8=B Bxg3 5. Bxg7 Be5+ 6. Bxe5 stalemate

4... Bxg3 5. Nxg6! Bd6

5... Bc7 6. Nd2 f1=Q+ 7. Nxf1 Bd8 8. e4 Bf6+ 9. e5 Bxe5+ 10. Nxe5! g6 11. Nc4#

5... Be5+ 6. Nxe5! no stalemate

6. Nd2 f1=Q+ 7. Nxf1 Bc5 8. Ne5!

a black tempo has been created

8... Bd4+ 9. exd4

This capture explains why 2.e3!! was necessary.

9...g6 10.Nc4#

2nd main variation::

2... Bd7 3. exd7 Bh2 4. d8=Q!

4. d8=R Bxg3 5. Re8 Be5+ 6. Rxe5 stalemate

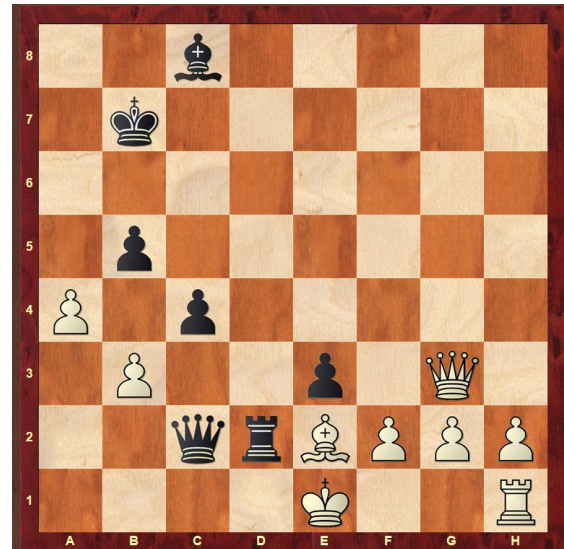
4. d8=B Bxg3 5. Bf6 Be5+ 6. Bxe5 stalemate.

4. d8=N Bxg3 5. Nc6 Be5+ 6. Nxe5 stalemate

4... Bxg3 5. Qxg5! Be5+ 6. Qxe5 A black tempo has been created, so white wins.

In each of two main variations, all four promotions can stop the threatened mate, but only the correct promoted piece can reach e5 while

creating a black tempo for stalemate avoidance. 1-0



Win

Petromir Panaiotov, Bulgaria

1st honorable mention

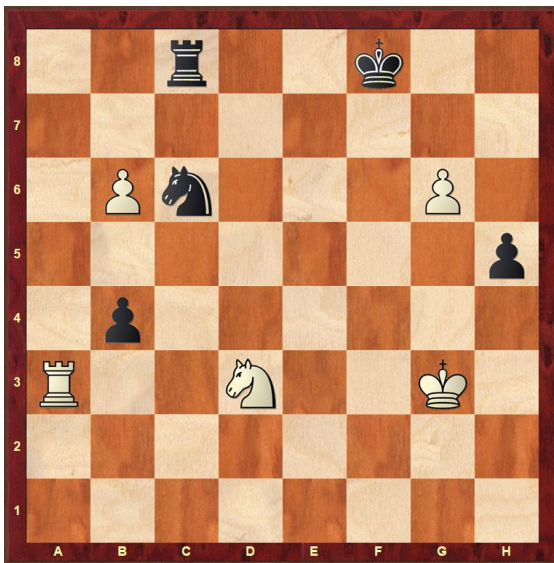
The opening position looks like a regular middlegame position (from the Botvinnik Variation of the Semi Slav Defense, perhaps). The highlight of the study is undoubtedly the move 6. Qh4!!, foreseeing the classical drawing device 8...Bh3! With the Black king on c3 instead of c4, White now has the winning plan 10. Kf2 and 11. Ke3, when Black's king is unable to reach h8 in time. There is a minor dual with 10. Ke2 that the composer failed to mention. The 8...Bh3 idea was first shown by Greco in 1621! (HHDBV #85538). For the next 399 years, no one thought of adding a logical try. But then this study came along.

1. Bf3+

1. Qf3+? Kc7! 2. Qf4+ Rd6! 3. fxg3 cxb3 4. axb5 Qd2+ 5. Kf2 Bg4! 6. Rc1+ Qxc1 7. b6+ Kb7 8. Qxd6 Bxe2 9. Kxe2 b2 10. Qe7+! =

1... Ka6 2. axb5+!

2. O-O? exf2+ 3. Rxf2 Rxf2 4. axb5+ Ka5
 5. Qxf2 cxb3=
2... Kxb5 3. O-O!
 3. Qb8+? Ka5! 4. Qc7+ Kb4 5. Qxc4+
 Qxc4 6. bxc4 Rxf2 =
3... exf2+ 4. Rxf2 4. Kh1? Bf5 =
4... Rxf2 5. bxc4+ Kxc4 6. Qh4+!
 6. Qxf2? Qc1+ 7. Qf1+ Qxf1+ 8. Kxf1 Bh3
 9. Kf2 (9. gxh3 Kd4 10. h4
 Ke5 11. h5 Kf6 =) 9... Bxg2 =
6... Kc3 7. Qxf2! Qc1+ 8. Qf1 Qxf1+ 9.
Kxf1 Bh3 10. Kf2! or 10. Ke2 10... Bxg2
11. Ke3! Bh3
 11... Bxf3 12. Kxf3 Kd4 13. Kf4 +-
12. Kf4! Be6 13. h4 Bf7 14. Kg5 Kd4 15.
Bh5 1-0



Win
 János Mikitovics, Hungary
 2nd honorable mention

A fascinating, but difficult battle. In the perfectly natural opening position, there is material equality. White's only advantage seems to lie in the fact that his pawns are more advanced and that he is on the move. The study is very difficult (the line with 6...Ne5!? is extremely difficult and certainly downgrades the study) and not for human solving. There is a bunch of

interesting stuff going on in the sidelines and solvers would be lured into these blind alleys. Luckily the main point of the study, certainly one of the most stunning moves of recent years, is of such a nature that other lines move to the background.

1. b7!
 1. Ra6? Nb8 /d8= (1... Rb8? 2. Nc5 Kg7 3. Kh4 Kh6 4. b7 Ne5 5. Re6 +-)
1...Rb8 2. Ra6! Nd8!
 2... Rxb7 3. Nc5! Nb8 4. Rd6! (4. Ra8? {pin} Re7!
 5. Rxb8+ Kg7 =) 4... Rb5 5. Ne6+ Ke7 6. g7 +-
 2... b3 3. Nc5 +-
3. Nc5! Threat. 4. Sd7+
 Thematic try with mutual pins
 3. Kh4? Rxb7! = (3...Nxb7? 4. Rb6! Rd8 5. Nf4 Rd4! pin 6. Kg5! Nd8 7. Rb8 pin Ke7 (7...
 Rd6 8. Kh6! h4 9. Kh7 Rd7+ 10. Kh8! Ke7
 11. g7 Nf7+ 12. Kh7 +-)
 8. g7 Kf7 (8... Rxf4 9. g8=N+!!)
 9. Kh6 Rxf4 10. Rxd8 Rg4 11. Rf8+ Ke6 12. Rf4!! Rg1
 13. Rxb4 Kf7 14. Rf4+! +- (14. Rb7+? Kf6 15. Kh7 h4! =)
 3. Ra8? Rxb7 4. Rxd8+ Kg7 5. Nf4 b3! = (5... Kf6? 6. Kh4! b3 7. Kxh5 b2 8. Rf8+ Ke5 (8... Ke7 9. Rf7+ +-)
 9. Nd3+ +-))
3... Kg7! 4. Ra8! Nc6
 4... Nxb7 5. Ne6+! +- (5. Rxb8? Nxc5 =)
5. Kh4!
 5. Ra6? Nd8 6. Ra8 loss of time
 5. Kf4? b3 =
5... Kh6
 5... b3 6. Ra6!! Nd8 (6... b2 7. Rb6 Kh6 8. Na6 +-)
 7. Kg5 b2 8. Rb6 +-
 5... Kxg6 6. Ra6 +-
6. Ra6! Nd8
 6...Ne5 7. Re6! Nc4! 8. g7+ Kxg7 9. Re7+!
 (9. Kg5? b3! 10. Re7+ Kh8!!
 11. Nxb3 Nd6! =) 9... Kg8 10. Kxh5 b3 11. Nxb3 Nd6 (11... Kf8 12. Rc7!
 Nd6 13. Nc5 Ke8 14. Rh7!! Nf7 (14...
 Nxb7 15. Nxb7 Rc8 16. Nd6+ +-)
 15. Kg6

+-) 12. Nc5! Nxb7 13. Nd7! Rc8 14. Kg6!
Rc6+ 15. Nf6+ +-

7. Nb3!!

7. Ne4? Nxb7! (7... Rxb7? 8. Nd6 +- thr.
9. Sf5# 8. Ng3 thr. 9. Sf5# Nd6!! (8... Rf8?
9. Nxb7 Rd8 10. g7+ Kh7 11. Ra7 Rb8 12.
Kg5 b3 13. Ra6! +-) 9. Rxd6 Rb5 10. Rf6
Kg7 11. Rc6 Kh6! 12. Rf6 Kg7 positional
draw

7... Nxb7!

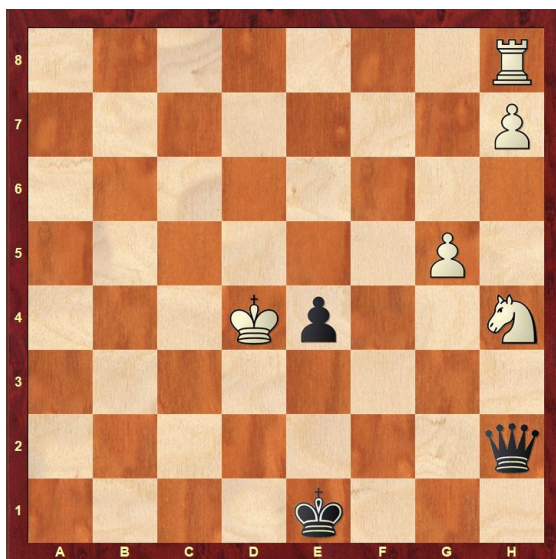
7... Rxb7 8. Nd4 {thr. 9. Sf5#} Rf7 9. gxf7+
+-

8. Nd4! {thr. 9. Sf5#} Rf8 9. g7+! Kxg7

10. Ne6+ Kf7 11. Nxf8 Kxf8 12. Ra8+ Kf7

13. Ra7+ 1-0

Keywords: mutual pins, switchbacks,
sacrifices, forks.



Win

David Gurgidze, Georgia
3rd honorable mention

The main point of this study is 6. Re1+, a
both spectacular and readily
comprehensible blow. Unfortunately the
line 4. Qe5? Qh4+ 5. Ke3 Qh3+ 6. Kd2
Qh4= is incomprehensible to humans, or
at least to this specimen.

1. Nf3+ exf3 2. Re8+ Kf1

2... Kf2 3. h8=Q Qd6+ 4. Ke4 Qc6+ 5. Kf5
+-

3. h8=Q f2

3... Qd2+ 4. Kc4 Qa2+ 5. Kc5 Qc2+ 6.
Kd5 Qd3+ 7. Qd4 Qb5+ 8. Ke4 Qxe8+ 9.
Kxf3 Qe2+ 10. Kf4 +-

4. Qf6!!

4. g6? Qg2 5. g7 Qxg7+ 6. Qxg7

4. Qe5? Qh4+ 5. Qe4 (5. Ke3 Qh3+ Kd2
Qh4=) Qxg5 =

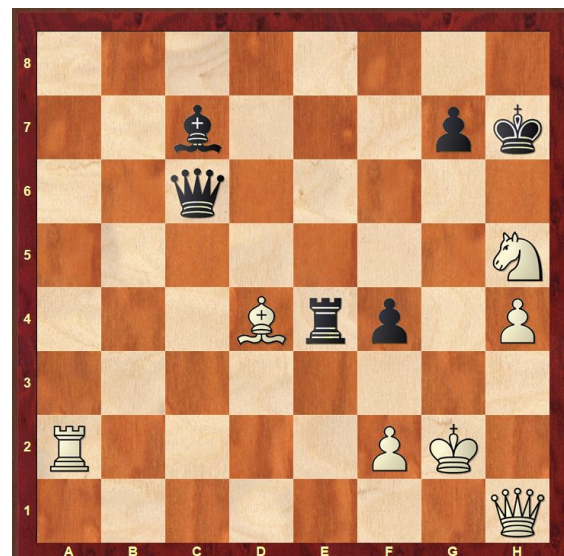
4...Qh4+ 5. Kc3

5. Kd3? Qh7+ 6. Re4 Kg1 =

5... Qxg5! 6. Re1+!!

6. Qxg5? stalemate

6... Kxe1 7. Qxg5 f1=Q 8. Qd2# 1-0



Draw

Sergiy Didukh, Ukraine
4th honorable mention

This game study without weaknesses
shows clear logic with 3. Ra6! instead of 3.
h5?. A study perfectly suitable for solving.

White is a piece up but not for long.

1. Qb1!

1. f3? Qg6+ 2. Kh2 Rxd4 -+ The knight is
trapped.

1. Kh2? f3+ 2. Ng3 Rxh4+

1... Qg6+ 2. Ng3!

2. Kf1? Rxd4 3. Qxg6+ Kxg6 4. Ra7 f3! 5. Rxc7 Rd1#

2... fxg3 3. Ra6!

Logical try 3. h5? Qf5 4. Re2 gxf2 5. Rxe4 f1=Q+ 6. Qxf1 Qxe4+ 7. Qf3 Qxd4 8. Qf5+ Kg8 9. Qe6+ Kf8 -+

3... Qf5 4. Re6!

4. f3? Re2+

4... gxf2

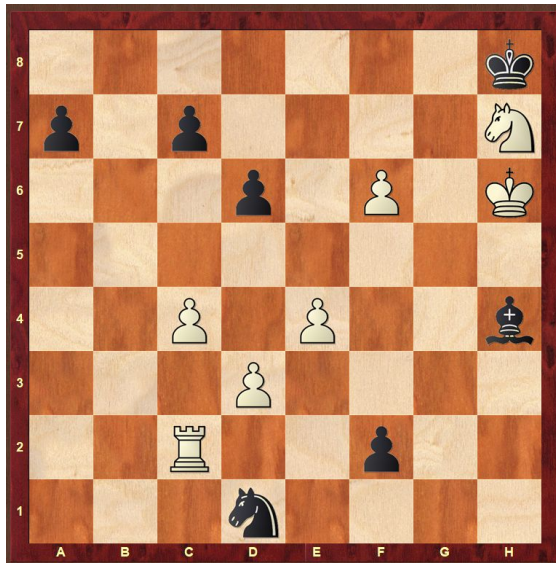
4... Qxe6 5. f3 = pins the rook.

4... Be5 5. Rxe5 Rxe5 6. Qxf5+ Rxf5 7. f3 =

5. Rxe4 f1=Q+ 6. Qxf1 Qxe4+ 7. Qf3 Qxd4 8. Qh5+!

H5 is not blocked by the pawn

8... Kg8 9. Qe8+ Perpetual check. 1/2-1/2



Win

Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe, Norway
5th honorable mention

A study of several interesting moments. Unfortunately the most interesting of these occur already on the second move. I feel this great shot is (slightly) wasted on the follow-up. The rest of the study is fairly interesting with many precise moves, but still, I lack a little something to round it off. Most of

all I feel that 2. Nf8!! is more suited as a decisive move of a study and not as an introductory device.

1. f7 Be7 2. Nf8!!

2. Rxf2? Nxf2 3. f8=Q+ Bxf8+ 4. Nxf8 is better for Black.

2... Bxf8+ 2... f1=Q 3. Ng6#

3. Kg6 Bh6!

3... f1=Q 4. Rh2+

3... f1=N 4. Rg2 (simplest) and there is no defense against Rg5-h5.

4. Rxf2! 4. Kxh6?? f1=Q wins

4... Nxf2 5. Kxh6 Ng4+ 6. Kg6 Ne5+ 7. Kf6 Kh7!

7... Nxf7 8. Kxf7 a5 9. d4 a4 10. e5 dxe5 11. dxe5 a3 12. e6 a2 13. e7 a1=Q 14. e8=Q+ Kh7 15. Qg8+ or 15. Qe4+ 15... Kh6 16. Qg6#

8. d4!

8. f8=Q? Nd7+ 9. Ke7 Nxf8 10. Kxf8 a5 and now Black wins because White does not queen with a check.

8... Ng6 9. c5!

9. e5? dxe5 10. dxe5 Nxe5! 11. Kxe5 (11. f8=Q?? Nd7+) 11... Kg7 draws

9... a5

9... dxc5 10. e5! wins

10. e5 dxe5 11. d5!

11. dxe5? Nxe5! draws

11... Nf8!

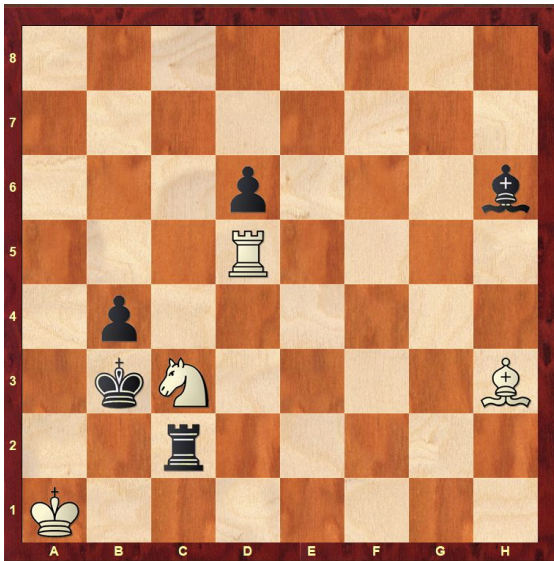
11... a4 12. d6 cxd6 13. c6! wins

12. c6!

12. d6? c6! draws

12... e4 13. d6 e3 14. dxc7 e2 15. c8=Q e1=Q 16. Qh3+ Qh4+ 17.

Qxh4# 1-0



Draw

Michal Hlinka & Ľuboš Kekely, Slovakia
6th honorable mention

A very elegant study leading to a double pin model stalemate. The try 3. Rd4+ adds significantly to the study, although it still appears somewhat mechanical in nature.

1. Be6! Rc1+

1... Kxc3 2. Rxd6 Bg7 3. Kb1 Rb2+ 4. Kc1 =

1... Rxc3 2. Rd2+ Ka4 3. Rxd6 Bg7 4. Kb1 =

2. Nb1 Bg7+ 3. Re5+!

Thematic try 3. Rd4+? Ka4! (3... Kc2? 4. Bb3+! Kxb3 stalemate) (3... d5 4. Bxd5+ Ka4 5. Kb2! Rc8 6. Nc3+! Rxc3 7. Rd2 =) 4. Bb3+ Kb5 -+

3... Kc2 4. Bf5+ 4. Bb3+? Kd3 -+

4... Kd1 5. Bg4+ Kc2 6. Bf5+ switchback

6...Kb3 7. Be6+ switchback 7...d5!

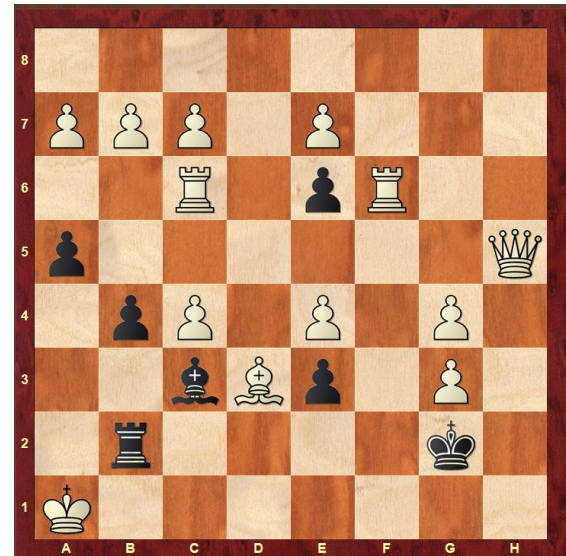
7... Ka4 8. Bbt3+! Kxb3

8. Bxd5+ Kc2 9. Be4+ Kd1 10. Bf3+ Kc2

11. Be4+ switchback 11...Kb3 12. Bd5+ switchback

12... Ka4 13. Bb3+! Kxb3 stalemate.

Meredith. Battery. Switchbacks. Double pin stalemates. 1/2-1/2



Win

Jan Timman, The Netherlands
Special honorable mention

A classic case of White sacrificing the main part of his army to deal with a Black threat of perpetual. Compared to the 2nd prize draw study, the mass sacrifice is done in a far less natural position. The first time I played through the solution it appeared a little mechanical or even childish. But there are plenty of delicacies when delving into the mechanics. I appreciate, for instance, how both long diagonals are cleared by a total of four pieces to make the final mate appear. Black also gets to play, with the defensive resource 3...e5. In the end, the mating move falls on the square occupied initially by the Black king. The scheme with WKa1, Brb2 and Bc3, and queen sacrifices on h8 also features in a study by Gurgenedze (commendation, Chervoni Girnik 1978, HHDBV #36128), but this study is far more ambitious.

1.Bf1+ 1. Rf2+ exf2 2. Bf1+ Kxf1 =

1... Kg1 2. Rf2!! exf2 2... Rxf2+ 3. Kb1 b3 4. Bd3 Ra2 5. Kc1 (5. Qxa5 +/-) 5... e2 6. Qc5+ Kg2 7. Qe3 +/-

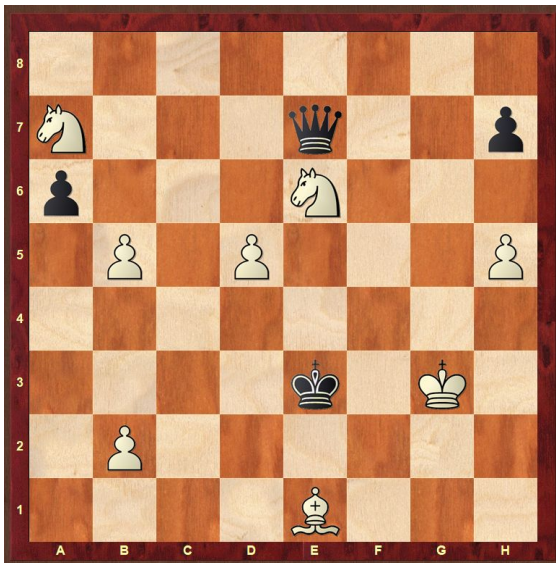
3. Qh8! e5

3... Bxh8 4. c8=Q! Bc3 5. Qh8! Bxh8 6. e5 Bxe5 7. Rxe6 Bc3 8. Re3 Bd4 9. Rd3 Bg7 10. e8=N! Bh8 11. g5 +-

4. Qxe5 Bxe5 5. e8=Q Bc3 6. Qh8! Bxh8 7.

c8=Q Bc3 8. Qh8! Bxh8 9. e5 Bxe5 10. b8=Q Bc3 11. Qh8! Bxh8 12. Rh6 Bc3 13. Rh1+! Kxh1 14. a8=Q+ Kg1 15. Qg2#

A tale of two long diagonals. 1-0



Win

Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov, Russia
1st commendation

This study shows a long domination battle and a sudden mutual zugzwang with the material NNB vs Q plus two pawns aside. The composer deserves praise for an economical effort with only two pawns leaving the battlefield during the introduction.

1. Bf2+

1. Nc8? Qf7 =

1. Nc6? Qd6+ 2. Kg4 Qxd5 3. Ncd4 axb5 =

1... Ke4

1...Ke2 2. Nc6 Qf6 3. Nf4+ +-

2. Nc8! Beginning domination over queen

2. Nc6? Qd6+ 3. Kg4 Kxd5 4. Ncd4 axb5=

2... Qf6!

2... Qb4 3. Nc5+ Kf5 (3... Kxd5 4. Nb6+ Kd6 5. bxa6 Qxb6 6. Ne4+)

4. Nd6+ Kg5 5. Nde4+ Kxh5 6. bxa6 +-

3. Nd6+ Kxd5 4. Nc7+! Ke5

4... Kxd6 5. Ne8+

5. Kg2!

5. bxa6? Qg7+ 6. Kh2 Qxc7 7. a7 Qc6 =

5... axb5 6. Be1!

Thematic try 6. b4? h6! zz Mutual

zugzwang 7. Be1 Qf8! 8. Bg3+ Kf6! 9.

Bh4+ Ke5! 10. Bg3+ Kf6 positional draw=

Positional draw

6. b3? b4! =

6... b4

6... Qf8 7. Bc3+ Kxd6 8. Bb4+ +-

7. Bf2! zz Sudden mutual zugzwang in rare material

7...Qf8!

The best chance.

7... b3 8. Be1! Qg5+ (8... Qg7+ 9. Bg3+)

9. Bg3+ Kd4

(9...Kf6 10. Ne4+)+10. Ne6+ +-

7... h6 8. b3! zz Mutual zugzwang Qf8 9.

Bd4+ Kxd6

10. Bc5+ Kxc5 11. Ne6+

7... Qe7 8. Bg3+ Kd4 9. Nf5+

8. Bd4+!

8. Bg3+? Kf6! 9. Bh4+ Ke5 =

8... Kxd6

8... Kxd4 9. Ne6+

9. Bc5+! Kxc5 10. Ne6+ Kc4 11. Nxf8

Kb3 12. Nxh7 Kxb2 13. Nf6 b3 14. Nd5!

14. Nd7? Ka1! 15. Nc5 b2 16. Nb3+ Kb1 =

14. Ne4? Kc2 15. Nd6 Kc3! 16. Nb5+ Kb4

=

14... Kc2 15. Nb6! 15. Ne3+? Kd3! =

15... b2 16. Nc4 b1=Q 17. Na3+ 1-0



Win

Alexander Stavrietsky, Russia
2nd commendation

The move 5. Qg6+ is excellent and so is Black's counterplay with 2...Rb2. The motionless Qb7 is unfortunate.

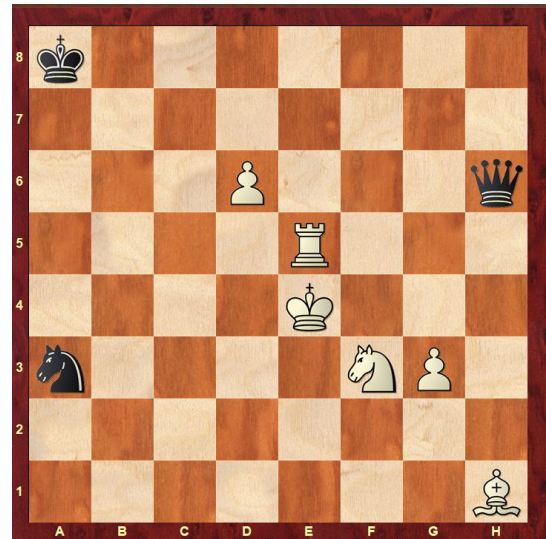
1. Ra1+ Kb6 2. Rb1+ Rb2 3. Rxb2+ Kc6 4. d5+

Thematic try 4. Rxb7? f2+ 5. Qxf2 exf2+ 6. Kxf2 Kxb7 7. fxe6 fxe6

4... exd5 5. Qg6+ fxg6

Main B 5... hxg6 6. Rxb7 Kxb7 7. f6 gxh6 8. h6 +-

6. Rxb7 Kxb7 7. h6 gxh6 8. f6 1-0



Win

Pavel Arestov, Russia & Daniel Keith, France
3rd commendation

A two-phase study with a nice tactical point in the first part (square vacation sacrifice). In the second part, we have a long precise battle of knight + pawns vs knight. This is of a more technical/precise nature. While I think this would be a fine miniature, I don't think the two parts of the study mix well.

1. d7 Qh7+ 2. Kf4!

2. Ke3? Qxd7 3. Ra5+ Kb8 4. Ra8+ Kxa8 5. Ne5+ Qb7! 6. Bxb7+ Kxb7 7. g4 Kc7 8. g5 Nb5=

2... Qxd7

pos.X with wRe5, no 3. Ne5+?? is possible

3. Ra5+!

3. Nd4+? Kb8 =

3... Kb8 4. Ra8+ Kxa8

pos.X1 without wRe5

5. Ne5+ Qb7 6. Bxb7+ Kxb7 7. g4 Kc7

7... Nb5 8. g5 transposes

8. g5 Nb5 9. g6

9. Kf5? Nd4+ 10. Kf6 Kd6 11. g6 Ne6 =

9... Nd4 10. Nc4!

10. Ke4? Ne6 11. Kf5 Kd6 =

10. Ng4? Kd6! = (10... Kd7? 11. Ke5+-)

10... Kd7

10... Ne6+ 11. Ke5 Kd7 12. Nb6+ +-
transposes

11. Ke5 Ne6 12. Nb6+!

12. Nd6? Ng7 13. Kf6 Ne6 {/Nh5+=

12... Ke7 13. Nd5+ Kd7 14. Nf4

14. Kf6? Kd6 =

14... Ng7 15. Kf6 Ne8+ 16. Kf7 Nd6+ 17. Kg7!

17. Kf8? Nf5 18. Kf7 Ne7 /Nh5=

17... Ke7!

17... Nf5+ 18. Kf6 Nd6 19. Nd5 Ne8+ 20.

Kf7 Kd8 21. Nf6 +-

18. Nd5+ Ke6 19. Kh7!

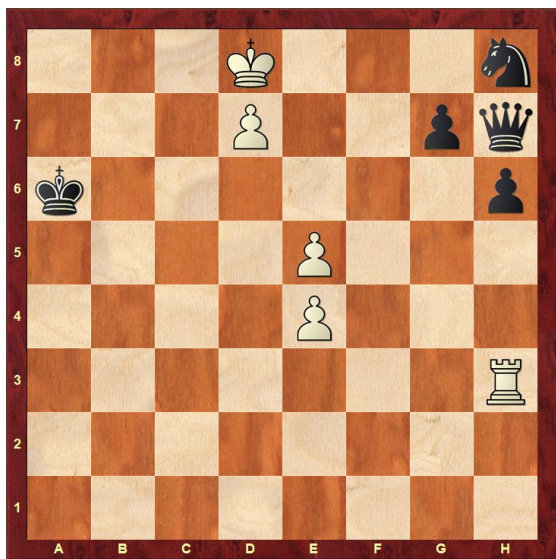
19. Kf8? Nf5 20. Ne3 Kf6 =

19. Kh8? Ne8 =

19... Ne8

19... Nf5 20. Ne3! +-

20. Nc7+! 1-0



Draw

Branislav Djurašević, Serbia

4th commendation

The idea of 7. e5 is pleasant and clear: To vacate the e4 square for the future arrival of the White king. Such a device has been shown in a number of studies. I am not sure this particular study adds much new to this tale. Furthermore, the position

before 10. e7 (shifted one rank) is already known from van Reek 1995 (HHDBV #18918).

1. Kc7!

1. Kc8? Nf7 2. e6 Qg8+ -+

1... g5!

1... Nf7 2. e6 Qg6 3. exf7 Qxf7 4. Rc3!

Kb5 5. Rc6! =

2. e6!

2. Rxh6+? Too early Qxh6 3. d8=Q Qb6+

4. Kd7 Qxd8+ 5. Kxd8 Nf7+ -+

2... Qe7!

2... Ng6 3. Ra3+! Kb5 4. Kc8 Ne7+ 5. Kc7

Nc6 6. Rb3+ Kc4 7. Kxc6 Qxe4+ 8. Kd6

Qd4+ 9. Ke7! =

3. Rxh6! Qc5+

3... g4 4. Rxh8 =

4. Kd8

4. Kb8? Qb6+ 5. Kc8 Ka7 -+

4... Qf8+ 5. Kc7 Qxh6 6. d8=Q Qh2+! 7. e5!!

Thematic try: 7. Qd6+? Qxd6+ 8. Kxd6

Ng6 9. e7 Nxe7 10. Ke5 Kb5 11. Kd4

Nc6+ -+

7. Kd7? Qd2+! 8. Ke8 Qxd8+ 9. Kxd8 Ng6

10. e7 Nxe7 11. Kxe7 g4 12. e5 g3 13. e6

g2 -+ **7... Qxe5+**

7... Qc2+ 8. Kd7 Qd3+ 9. Ke8 Qxd8+ 10.

Kxd8 Ng6 11. e7 Nxe7 12. Kxe7 g4 13. e6

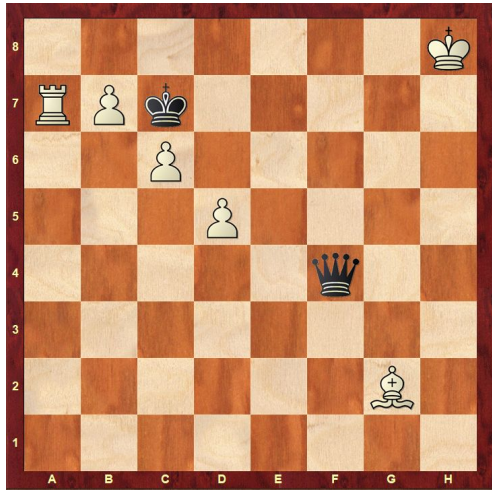
g3 14. Kd8 =

8. Qd6+ Qxd6+ 9. Kxd6 Ng6 10. e7!!

Nxe7 11. Ke5! Kb5 12. Ke4 Now e4 is

empty! **Kc5 13. Kf3 Kd5 14. Kg4 1/2-1/2**

APPENDIX:



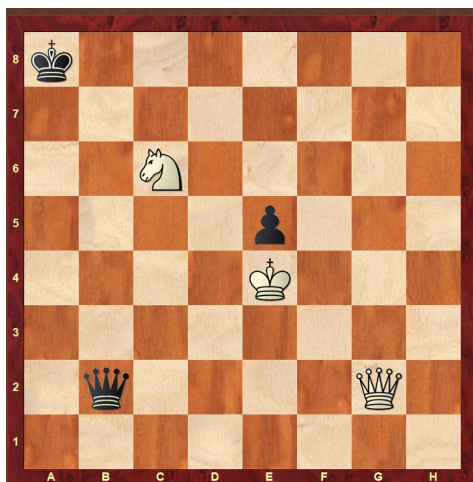
Ivan Sindler

13. prize

Bohemian Ring tournament 1955-1956.

Win

**1. d6+! Qxd6 2. b8=Q+! Kxb8 3. c7+!
Qxc7 3... Kxa7 4. c8=N+ Kb8 5. Nxd6 4.
Ra8# 1-0**

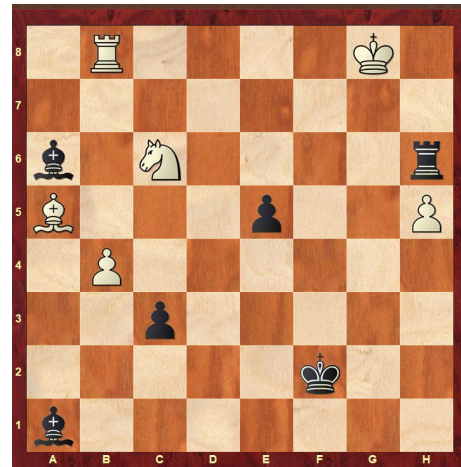


Alexander Hildebrand & Stanislav Belokon

Schach Echo 1970

Win

**1. Qg8+ Kb7 2. Qb8+ Ka6 3. Qa7+ Kb5
4. Qb7+ Ka4 5. Qa6+ Kb3 6. Na5+ Kc3 7.
Qc6+ Kb4 8. Qb6+ Kc3 9. Qc5+ Kd2 10.
Nc4+ 1-0**



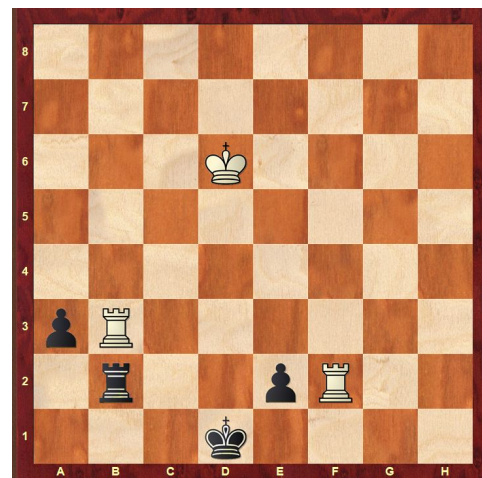
Jan Timman,

3 prize, Brieger MT Strategems

2014

Win

**1. b5 Bxb5 2. Nxe5! Bc4+ 3. Nxc4 Rh8+
4. Kxh8 c2+ 5. Rb2! Bxb2+ 6. Nxb2 Ke2
7. Nd3! Kxd3 8. Bd2 Kxd2 9. h6 c1=Q
10. h7 1/2-1/2**



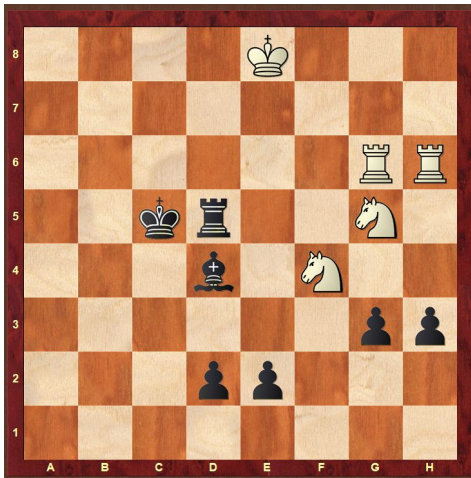
David Gurgenidze

1st prize, Tbilisi tournament

1975

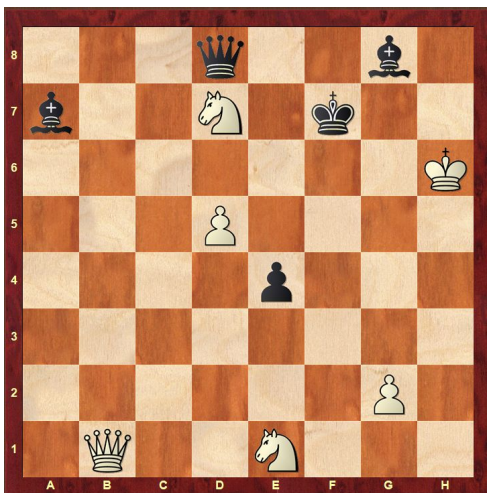
Draw

**1. Rxa3 Rd2+ 2. Kc7! Rc2+ 3. Kd8!
e1=Q 4. Ra1+ Rc1 5. Raa2! Rb1 6.
Kd7! Rb7+ 7. Kc8! Rb1 8. Kd7! Rc1 9.
Kd8! 1/2-1/2**



Vladislav Tarasiuk
 Polish Chess Federation 2015
 Draw

1. Ne4+ Kb5 2. Nxe2 Re5+ 3. Kf7! Rxe4
 4. Nxd4+ Rxd4 5. Rg5+ Kc4 6. Rc6+ Kd3
 7. Rxg3+ Ke2 8. Rc2! h2 9. Rh3 Ke1 10.
 Rxh2 Rf4+ 11. Ke8! d1=Q 12. Rh1+ Rf1
 13. Rhh2 Rg1 14. Ke7 \$! Rg7+ 15. Kf8
 Rg1 16. Ke7 Rf1 17. Ke8 Qa1 18. Rhe2+
 Kd1 19. Red2+ 1/2-1/2



Steffen Nielsen
 2nd/3rd prize, Sinfonie Scacchistiche
 2018
 Draw

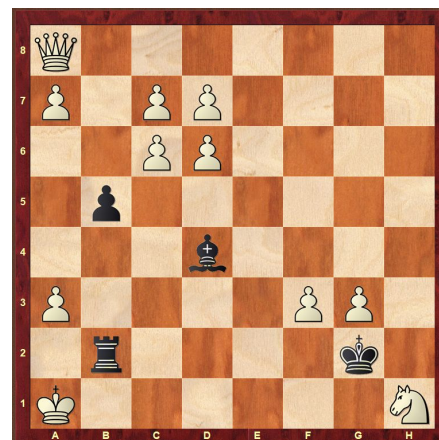
1. Nf3 exf3 2. Qg6+ Ke7 3. gxf3 Be3+ 4.
 f4 Bxf4+ 5. Kg7 Be5+ 6. Nxe5 Qf8+ 7.

Kh8 Be6+ 8. Kh7 Bf5 9. d6+ Kd8 10.
 Nc6+ Kd7 11. Ne5+ Kc8 12. d7+ Kc7 13.
 d8=Q+ Kxd8 14. Nf7+ Qxf7+ 15. Kh8
 Qf8+ 16. Qg8 1/2-1/2



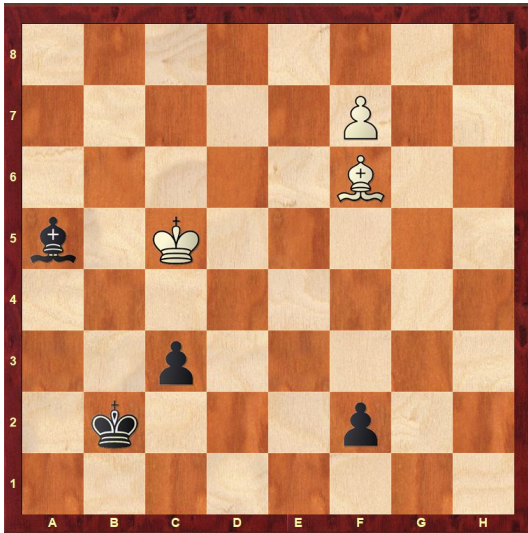
Oleg Pervakov
 Shakhmatnoe Obozrenie, 1st prize
 Draw

1. Kg5 b5 2. d4 b4 3. d5 Kb5 4. d6 Kc6
 5. Kxf5 Kxd6 6. Ke4 Kc5 7. Kd3 Kb5 8.
 Kc2 Ka4 9. Kb2 1/2-1/2



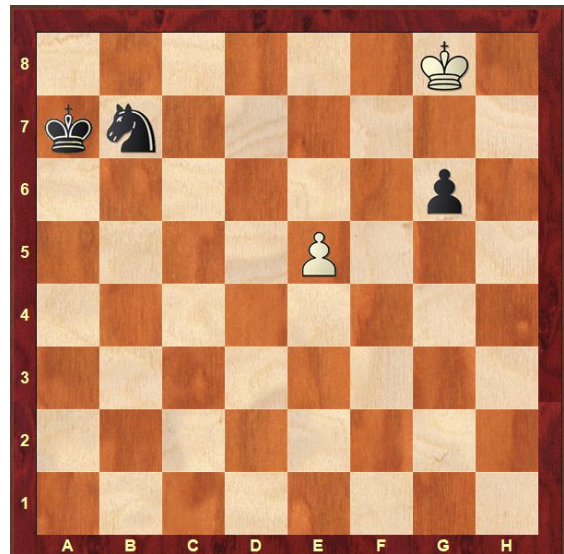
David Gurgendz
 Chervoni Girnik, Commendation
 1978
 Win

1. Qh8 Bxh8 2. d8=Q Bc3 3. Qh8 Bxh8
 4. c8=Q Bc3 5. Qh3+ Kg1 6. Qh8 Bxh8
 7. a8=Q Bd4 8. Qa7 1-0



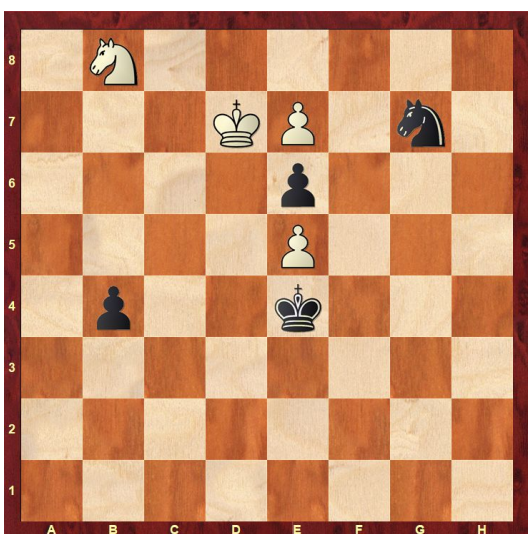
Nikolay Argunov
 1st commendation
 Selivanov 30 JT
 Win

1. Na6 b3 2. Nc5+ Kxe5 3. Nxb3 Kd5 4.
 Nd2 e5 5. Nf3 e4 6. Ng5 e3 7. Ne6 Nh5 8.
 Nf4+ +- 1-0



Jan Van Reek
 Van Reek 50 JT 1995
 Draw

1. f8=R Bb4+ (cook 1...f1Q/1...Ka1)
 2. Kxb4 f1=Q 3. Bxc3+ Ka2 4. Ra8+ Kb1
 5. Ra1+ Kc2 6. Rxf1 1-0



Marcel Dore, Variantim 2018
 5th commendation
 Win

1. Kf7 g5 2. Ke6 g4 3. Kd5 Nc5 4. e6
 Nxe6 5. Ke4 Kb6 6. Ke3 Kc5 7. Kf2 Kd4
 8. Kg3 1/2-1/2