BCPS AWARD: STUDIES 2016-2017, by Oleg Pervakov

49 studies took part in this tourney. Overall, the tourney became rather interesting and I honoured 18, a little more than one third of the studies that were published. There was one more candidate study for the award (E1182, by Vladislav Tarasiuk), but a complete anticipation was found (N.Ryabinin, Team championship of Russia, 2002, 5-6 places).

The following is my award: *(Lack of space precludes all but the main line(s) without annotations. Readers are urged to look up the original source issues, which are freely available on our website archive – Ed.)*

1st Prize E1177 by Martin Minski – **1.Ra2! Qb8 2.Ba7! Sxa7 3.Sa6 Qa8 4.Sc7 Qb8 5.Sa6 Rg1+ 6.Rg2!! Rxg2+ 7.Kh3 Rh2+! 8.Kg3! Rh3+! 9.Kxh3 Bg2+! 10.Kxg2 Qa8+ 11.Kg1! Sxd7 12.Rb8+! Sxb8 13.Se6+ Kg8 14.f7+! Kxf7 15.Sac7 Qb7 16.Sd8+** and draws.

An excellent combination study is crowned by a rather new position of domination. Bravo, Martin!

2nd Prize E1206 by Ladislav Salai – **1.g7! Rxg7 2.Kxf3!! Re7 3.Qg6+ Kf8 4.Ke2 Re8 5.Qf6+ Kg8 6.Kd1! e2+ 7.Ke1** wins.

Filigree work in this miniature realises a very complicated theme – the final position is a chameleon echo of the try (2. Kxe3?). The attempt (1.Kxf3?) by White which is refuted by promotion to knight is also nice. The author essentially added much substance to the following raw versions by F.Dedrle (1937), D.Gurgenidze (2002) and R.Staudte (2016).

3rd prize E1176 by Jan Timman – **1.b7! Sxb7 2.Sf6+! gxf6 3.h7 h2+! 4.Kh1! Rd8 5.g6 Kh3 6.Bd4! Re8 7.Be5! Rd8 8.Sc3!! Bxc3 9.Bd4! Re8 10.Bxc3 Rd8 11.Bd2! Ra8 12.Ba5! Rc8 13.Bc7! Re8 14.Bxh2** and wins.

In the well-known scheme of successive Nowotnys, the Dutch grandmaster has found a new, thrilling manoeuvre with the transfer of a white bishop to another diagonal.

4th prize E1190 by Alain Villeneuve 1.Kd7! Rc4! 2.Re1! Rd4+ 3.Ke8!! Rf4 4.Ke7!! b4 5.Ra1!! Re4+ 6.Kd6 [6.Kd7] **Rd4+ 7.Ke6! Rd8 8.g7!! Rc8 9.Rh1 Re8+ 10.Kf5! Kf7 11.Ra1!! Rc8 12.Ra7+! Kg8 13.Kg6 c1Q 14.f7#**.

A non-standard rook endgame with an unexpected mutual zugzwang and very wide play of the white rook.

5th prize E1178 by Vladislav Tarasiuk – **1.d4 Rc8 2.d5 Kf2 3.Kd2! Kf3 4.Kd3 Kf4 5.Kd4 Kg5! 6.Kc5! Kf6 7.Kb6! Rb8+ 8.Ka7! Re8 9.c7 Ke5 10.Kb7** wins. An interesting find from the 6-unit tablebase.

Special prize E1195 by Jan Timman – **1.Sd5+! cxd5 2.exd5 Be8 3.Bg6!! Bxa4 4.Bc2! Be8 5.Ba4!! Bf7 6.d6 Be6 7.Bd7!! Bxd7 8.g5** and wins.
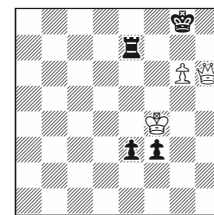
This is a beautiful treatment of the idea of Axel Ornstein's study *(See November 2016 p.493- Ed.)* Move 1.Sd5 and especially move 7.Bd7 are very impressive.

Martin Minski
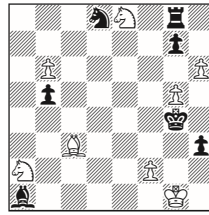1 Pr *The Problemist*
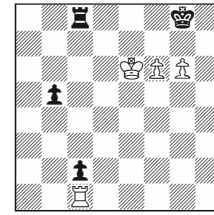2016-17
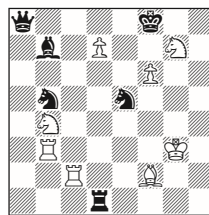
Draw

Ladislav Salai jr.
2 Pr *The Problemist*
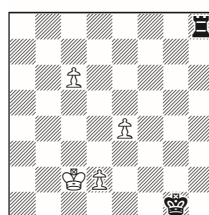2016-17

Win

Jan Timman
3 Pr *The Problemist*
2016-17
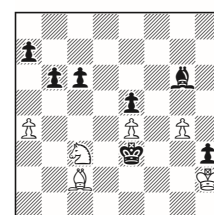

Win

Alain Villeneuve
4 Pr *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

Vladislav Tarasiuk
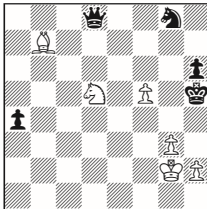5 Pr *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

Jan Timman
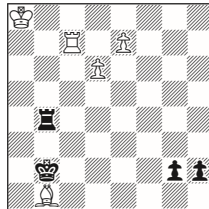Sp Pr *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

Amatzia Avni
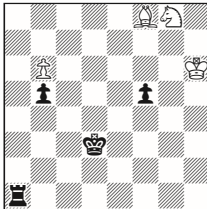1 HM *The Problemist*
2016-17

Draw

Harold van der Heijden
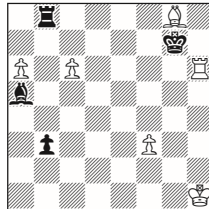2 HM *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

Alexander Zhukov
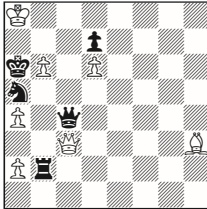3 HM *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

*Dedicated to Yochanan
Afek's 65th birthday*
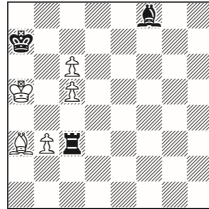
Andrzej Jasik
4 HM *The Problemist*
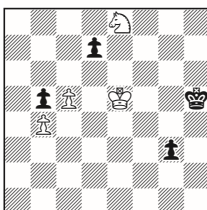2016-17

Win

Yochanan Afek
5 HM *The Problemist*
2016-17

Draw

*Dedicated to the Dutch
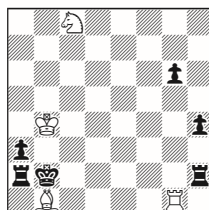Open, 2017*

David Gurgenidze
Sp HM *The Problemist*
2016-17

Draw

Dusan Mijatović
C *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

Peter Krug
C *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

1st Honourable Mention E1212 by Amatzia Avni – 1.h4 Qd7 2.Bc6! Qxc6 3.Kh3 Qc4 4.Se3 Qe4 5.g4+ Qxg4+ 6.Sxg4 a3 7.Se5 Sf6 8.Sd3! Sd5 9.Sc1 Sc3 10.Sd3! Se2 11.Sb4 Sf4+ 12.Kg3 Se2+ 13.Kh3 Sc3 14.Sd3 Sd5 15.Sc1 Draw by repetition. The curious final confrontation of the knights is combined with a light initial position and an active game.

2nd Honourable Mention E1187 by Harold van der Heijden – 1.e8Q g1Q 2.Rc2+! Ka1 3.Ra2+!! Kxb1 4.Rxh2! Qd1! 5.Qg6+ Ka1 6.Qg7+ Rd4 7.Rh7!! Qf3+ 8.Kb8 Qb3+ 9.Kc7 Qc3+ 10.Kd7! and wins. An elegant transition to the heavy-pieces ending is completed by the move 7.Rh7! which seems paradoxical.

3rd Honourable Mention E1211 by Alexander Zhukov – 1.Sf6! Ra6 2.Sd7! Rxb6+ 3.Kg5!! Rg6+! 4.Kxg6 f4 5.Sc5+! Ke2 6.Se4! f3 7.Bc5! b4 8.Sg3+! Ke1 9.Bxb4+ Kf2 10.Se4+ Ke3 11.Kf5! f2 12.Bc5+ and wins. A study of one move, 3.Kg5, but it is a great MOVE. Unfortunately, the subsequent play is less interesting.

4th Honourable Mention E1183 by Andrzej Jasik – 1.Rh5! b2 2.Ba2 b1Q+ 3.Bxb1 Rxb1+ 4.Kg2! and now **A:** 4...Bb6 5.Ra5!! Ba7 6.Rd5! Rb2+ 7.Kh3 with a winning position, e.g. 7...Kf6 8.Rd7 Be3 9.a7 Bxa7 10.Rxa7. **B:** 4...Rb2+ 5.Kf1! Bb6 6.Rc5!! Rb1+ 7.Ke2! Bc7 8.Rd5! Kf6 9.Rd7 and wins. Two echoes – including a white rook sacrifice and false tries.

5th Honourable Mention E1217 by Yochanan Afek – 1.Bf1! Qxf1 2.Qc8+ Sb7! 3.Qxb7+ Ka5 4.Qa7+! Qa6 5.Qxa6+ Kxa6 6.a5! Rb5! 7.b7!! Rxb7 8.a4! Ra7+ 9.Kb8 Rb7+ 10.Ka8! with a fortress draw. With some subtleties and spectacular moves, the struggle leads to a finale, which is known from the author's early study (Afek, 1996).

Special Honourable Mention E1215 by David Gurgenidze – 1.c7 Bxc5 2.c8S+! Kb8 3.Sd6 Bxa3 4.Sb5 With 2 thematic lines: **4...Rxb3 5.Ka4 Rb4+ 6.Ka5 Rb3 7.Ka4** Positional draw No.1; **4...Rc5 5.Kb6 Bb4 6.Sa7 Ka8 7.Sb5 Kb8 8.Sa7!** Positional draw No.2. Synthesis of two known positional draws (for example, Y.Bazlov, 1979) is supplemented by promotion to a knight.

Commendations ex aequo in numerical order:

E1174 by Dusan Mijatović – 1.Sg7+! Kg5! 2.Sf5 g2 3.Sd4 Kg4 4.Se2 Kf3 5.Sg1+ Kf2 6.Sh3+ Kf3! 7.Kf5! Ke3 10.Kd6! Kf3 11.Kxd7 Kg3 12.Sg1 Kf2 13.c6! Kxg1 14.c7 Kf2 15.c8Q g1Q 16.Qc5+ Kg2 17.Qxg1+ winning the pawn ending. The successful debut of a young Serbian composer.

E1188 by Peter Krug – 1.Sb6 Rg2 2.Re1! Rg4+ 3.Sc4+ Rxc4+ 4.Kxc4 Ra1 5.Re2+ Kxb1 6.Kc3 g5 7.Rh2 Zugzwang 7...g4 8.Rxh4 g3 9.Re4 g2 10.Re1+ Ka2 11.Re2+ Kb1 12.Rxg2 Ra2 13.Rg1#

Not bad mutual zugzwang with a thematic false try. There was something similar in an incorrect study by C.M.Bent, 2007.

E1189 by Michal Hlinka, Ľuboš Kekely & Pavel Arestov – **1.d7 Rh5+! 2.Kxh5 Bf7+! 3.Kh6 a1Q 4.Rf8! Re6+! 5.Rxe6 Qc1+! 6.f4! Qxf4+ 7.Kh7! Kxe6 8.d8S+! Kd6! 9.Kg7!** Black is in zugzwang **9...Qf5!? 10.Sxf7+ Ke7 11.Re8+! Kxe8 12.Sd6+** Draw.

A simple enough idea but complemented by the knight promotion; the 6-figure mutual zugzwang is spoiled by the muddy variation 4...Rd3.

E1213 by Martin Minski – **1.Qh2! Rxf3+ 2.Kg1 Ke3 3.g7 Rb1 4.g8Q Rg3+! 5.Qhxg3+ Bf3+ 6.Qe1+! Rxe1+ 7.Kh2 Rh1+ 8.Kg3 Rg1+ 9.Kh4 Rxg8** Stalemate.

A short tactical squabble with sacrifices and counter-sacrifices ends with a predictable stalemate.

E1219 by Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen – 1.Bb3! Bxb3 2.Be5+! Kxe5 3.d7 Rd6 4.a7 Bc2+ 5.Kg5 Be4 6.f4#!

This spicy study looks like a short film.

Special Commendation E1194 by David Gurgenidze 1.b6 Ra5! 2.c7 Rg5+! 3.Kf7! Rg7+ 4.Ke8 Re7+ 5.Kd8 Re8+ 6.Kd7 Rxc8! 7.Kc6! Rh8 8.b7+ Ka7 9.c8Q Rxc8+ 10.bxc8R! and wins.

The known finale (A.Grin, 1991) precedes a duel of the white king with a desperado rook.

Michal Hlinka, Ľuboš Kekely, & Pavel Arestov
C *The Problemist*
2016-17

Draw

Martin Minski
C *The Problemist*
2016-17
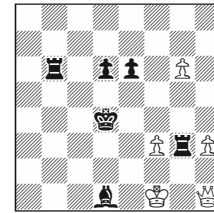
Draw

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
C *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

David Gurgenidze
Sp C *The Problemist*
2016-17

Win

(Many thanks to GM Oleg Pervakov for his knowledgeable and critical award. We also thank Igor Vereshagin, who kindly translated from the Russian during the recent WCCC at Ohrid. The award is provisional and remains open for 3 months; any claims should be addressed to Yochanan Afek in the first instance – Ed.)
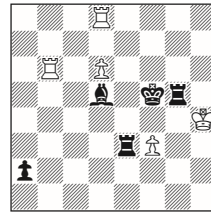
FAIRIES AWARD 2014 PART 1, by Julia Vysotska

Change of functions of two pairs of pieces: two bishops and two rooks play against each other in two nicely matching solutions. Madrasi paralysing and un-paralysing of the mating piece is done by both sides using AntiCirce Couscous. An elegant problem without technical pieces.

Appendix: Anticipations mentioned in the Award. **A** (a) 1.Sc5 nNxd4-g2+ 2.nZd4 nCAxd4-a6#; (b) 1.c5 nZxd4-g2+ 2.nCAd4 nNxd4-c7#; (c) 1.Bc5 nCAxd4-b1+ 2.nNd4 nZxd4-f8#. **B** 1.f1RH a7 2.RHff5 a8BH#; 1.a1BH g7 2.BHad4 g8NH#; 1.e1NH e7 2.NH1a3 e8RH#. **C** 1.c1Q a4 2.Qc8 Kh2 3.Qh3+ Kxh3 4.e1S Kg4 5.Sf3 Kxf3 6.d1R Ke4 7.Rxd5 Kxd5 8.f1B Kc6 9.Bb5+ Kxb5=

B Václav Kotěšovec
C R.J.Millour-70 JT
feenschach 2014-15

H#2 3 solutions
♖=RH ♕=BH ♞=NH

C Petko Petkov
2 Pr *Die Schwalbe*
139 TT 1965-66

H=9
Double Maximummer

(Hearty thanks to Julia Vysotska for Part 1 of her most interesting and appreciative award; also to Thomas Brand for his kind assistance.

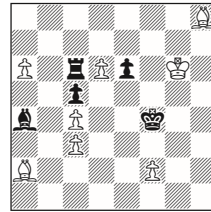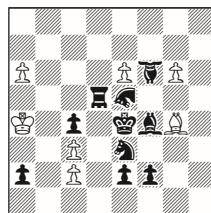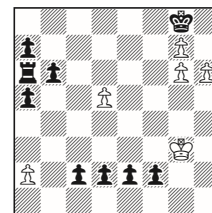*Part 1 of the award remains open for three months; any claims should be sent to Stephen Emmerson <se.tpfairies@fastmail.fm> in the first instance.)*