

M. Gonda '99

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Subscription to EG is not tied to membership of ARVES.

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Space in **EG** is at a premium. Computer-related news and contributions show no sign of drying up. There is a serious backlog of awards - over 30. This poses a dilemma. Some awards are of poor quality, whether of the studies themselves or the judging thereof, and frankly do not deserve propagation in our pages. And, aside from their poor quality they take up further space (and Jürgen Fleck's valuable time) in *Spotlight*. But to report selectively goes against the foundation policy of **EG** which has always been to reproduce awards with no omissions.

In good time some of these problems will find electronic solutions but what can be done *now*?

One option is drastically to curtail book reviews. In the past we tried to cover as much as possible that was newly published - on studies and on endgame material generally - in most major languages. We can no longer do this. For one thing, electronic media are too many and, let's face it, often too ephemeral, to be covered at all.

So, book reviews will be severely curtailed. However, we do not intend to abandon them altogether. We shall be selective, with the selection being highly subjective with any lengthy review, and being otherwise curt.

Finally - for the moment, anyway - we hope to resume before long the irregular series of English translations of Russian articles published in the Soviet era and recommended in a list prepared for us by Genrikh Kasparian shortly before his death. AJR welcomes suggestions (with accurate references, please) from any quarter for other articles to be translated.

One space problem **EG** does *not* have is a plethora of correspondence!

AJR

In another attempt to save space, **EGs** editors decided to "publish" the zugzwang lists in electronic format. We apologize to those of our readers who don't have a computer and can not read the diskette accompanying diskette. Printing the lists would take about as much paper as one year of **EG**, it simply wasn't an option. On the diskette the files starting with K are sorted on (white) King position, the files starting with S are on Solution depth. The files contain lines of the six pieces followed by the results with WTM/BTM and a reference number to identify equal positions in the two sort orders.

EG wishes to thank Ken Thompson for supplying these zugzwang lists.

EvdG

Obituary

† **Anatoly Grigorevich Kuznetsov** (1932-2000) died in Moscow on his 68th birthday, July 23rd. There was never anyone quite like Tolya. Colourful and outspoken in his award judgements, in his annotations, and in his criticisms, he could be provocative and didactic, not to say insistent to the point of confrontation, in any situation that challenged him, and there were many such. But his motivation was the love of studies, to which he brought great knowledge, indefatigable dedication and formidable talent. His proselytising columns over many decades in *Shakhmaty v SSSR* (where he first attracted readers' attention in 1954 - distinguished from his namesake A.I.P.Kuznetsov by his town name being in brackets), in *Bulletin of the Central Chess Club of the USSR* and in *Shakhmatny Bulletin* (and probably elsewhere) is the stuff of legend in his own country, though his minimal acquaintance with foreign languages and his reluctance to travel abroad or contribute to non-Soviet journals tended to stifle the legend's propagation. Just as he himself was influenced and nurtured by Science Academy's Boris Sakharov - they composed many studies together in the 1950s - so he in turn fathered and furthered the talent of pupils such as Kralin and Sumbatyan, from whom he received both admiration and loyalty. He was the natural *captain* of the victorious Soviet team (the Soviet *organiser* was Viktor Chepizhny) in the match against the Rest-of-the-World (to which EG134 was devoted), but could not resist intervening, if not actually interfering, as *éminence grise* to Yuri Averbakh's award (the IGM was one of the four judges), which was ludicrously delayed in being forwarded to Sweden, where the match was hosted. Such unilateral initiative may have been in the interests of good quality - at least in Kuznetsov's opinion - but it could also have influenced his non-selection as Soviet delegate to the FIDE PCCC. He lacked the desirable qualities of diplomacy present in those actually selected (prior to the present incumbent Ya.Vladimirov), namely Boris Sakharov, Igor Lyapunov, Viktor Chepizhny and Gia Nadareishvili. It is possible also that his work (nature unspecified) and residence location in Reutov, adjacent to Moscow on the eastern side and a restricted military zone, had some relevance. In any case his presence at the FIDE gathering at Tbilisi in 1975 was as unofficial as it was rare.

Tolya suffered increasing ill health in his last years. A large part of his stomach was removed in an operation from which he was not expected to recover. He did recover, but worse was to follow. He was fully aware of the deadly prognosis, but was witty to the last, remarking that if the grand design study he had been working on with Sumbatyan for five years (it is still unpublished) proved unsound despite all efforts by humans and computers, then at least he would be spared the disappointment of witnessing the demolition.



An all-male group of composers and solvers at the VIII Odessa Festival of Chess Composition held in 1990. Front row: Sergei N. Tkachenko, Valery Khortov, Leonid Topko, Anatoly Kuznetsov, Konstantin Sukharev, Nikolai Rezvov, Viktor Razumenko. Standing: R.Ibulaev, Arkady Khait, Nikolai Mansarliisky, A.Davranyan, Nikolai Ryabinin, Vladislav Tarasiuk, Vladimir Vinichenko (and son). [Photographs of or including Tolya Kuznetsov are scarce. We thank S.N.Tkachenko for this one.]

The 43rd FIDE PCCC met at Pula (Croatia) 2-9ix2000

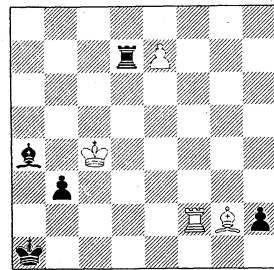
informal minutes of Studies subcommittee

The sub-committee met twice during the week 2-9ix2000, in the lobby of the Palma Hotel, Pula. Present: Yochanan Afek, Alexander Hildebrand, Nikolai Kralin, and John Roycroft (speaker). David Gurgenidze joined for the second meeting.

Agreement was reached on a 'study of the year' (selected for its potential for gaining new adherents) for 1995, 1996 and 1997, based on the 586 submissions for the current FIDE Album. Each judge had provided AJR with three candidates (Dobrescu and Hlinka beforehand, Kralin at Pula), and it was these that were evaluated by the subcommittee. Here are the selections, which it is hoped all chess journalists will give maximum publicity to in their outlets.

Study of the year - 1995

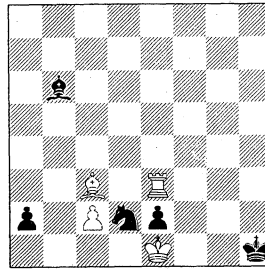
G.Slepian (Belarus)
Szachista



c4a1 0440.12 4/5 Win

Study of the year - 1996

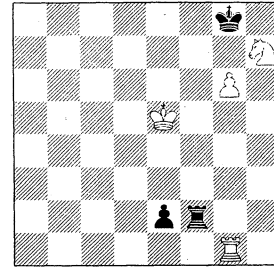
O.Pervakov (Russia)
1st prize, Boris Gusev jubilee



e1h1 0143.12 4/5 Win

Study of the year - 1997

M.Matouš (Czech republic)
Československý šach



e5g8 0401.11 4/3 Win

Study of the year 1995, G. Slepian 1.e8Q Rc7+ 2.Bc6! Rxc6+ 3.Kb4 Rb6+ 4.Ka3! h1Q 5.Qh8+ b2 6.Qxh1+ Bd1 7.Rxb2!/i Rb3+ 8.Ka4! Rd3+ 9.Rb3 and White wins!

i) 7.Qxd1+? b1S+! 8.Ka4 Rb4+ 9.Ka5 Rb5+ 10.Kxb5 stalemate.

Study of the year 1996, O.Pervakov 1.Re7! Ba5/i 2.Bh8! a1Q+ 3.Bxa1 Sb3+ 4.Kxe2 Sxa1 5.Ra7 Bc3 6.Kf1 Kh2 7.Ra2!/ii and now:

- Be5 8.c3+ Kg3 9.Rxa1 Bxc3 10.Ra3 wins, or
- Kh1 8.Ra3 Ba5 9.Rxa5 wins, or
- Sxc2 8.Rxc2+ and 9.RxB wins.

i) This move is the drawing reply to two alternative moves of the white rook on move 1, such as 1.Rg3? or 1.Rd3?

ii) This is claimed by the composer to be a position of 'reciprocal zugzwang', ie whoever has the move wishes he hadn't!

Study of the year 1997, M.Matouš 1.Sf6+ Kg7 2.Se8+ Kh6 3.g7 Rf1 4.Rg6+ Kh5 5.Sf6+ Rxf6 6.Kxf6 e1Q 7.Rg5+ Kh6 8.g8S+ Kh7 9.Kf7 wins.

The studies should appear on several web sites - the more the merrier.

Several members of the sub-committee also agreed to respond as individuals to a request from another subcommittee for suggestions for suitable theme for the 7th WCCT, to be announced early in 2001. Any suggestions will be provided by 30xi2000.

stiPULAtions

or: Croatian *SNIPPETS*

1. 25 countries were represented in the FIDE PCCC by delegates. There were no real controversies, though discussion did slow down towards the end.

2. The week - longer than a week for several participants - ran with practised smoothness. An impression printed (*with a few excusable errors!*) in the bulletin distributed at the final banquet should have read:

Ten days in Pula is not enough. It is not enough for many reasons. A stroll up the coast (from the Histria Hotel) takes you in and out and up and down past a pleasantly confusing, but never tiring, assortment of coves, alcoves and sea vistas. And then there is Brijuni, with its trees oozing golden droplets of sap from between solidly reassuring ripples of bark. Brijuni is a place to sigh for. But I came to take an active part in an international gathering of the odd and esoteric clan of enthusiasts for chess composition. Such people delight in working hard. How does Pula suit them? The answer depends on the preparation and the welcome. The former was unostentatiously considerate, and the latter warm on every side. I shall be sorry and sad to leave.

3. Pula has an imposing Roman amphitheatre. While we were being shown round it I could have sworn I heard our informative guide refer to 'the pointed end of Roman Emperors'. It was only by paying more attention that I discovered she had said 'amphoras'.

4. An item to look forward to in Wageningen (Netherlands) in 2001 will be a discussion of whether, in applications for the title of FIDE judge, any of the six international judgements required in support of an application may be a 'quick composing' tourney award. The rules which the 'Qualifications' subcommittee are bound by do not at present define 'international'.

5. The Open Solving and World Team Solving Championship events were both run by Brian Stephenson (Sheffield) - and helpers - without a serious hitch. Germany won the team event and Michel Caillaud, who admits to being weak on studies, took the individual title.

6. No specific titles relating to studies were awarded.
7. There was one quick tourney for studies - a thematic tourney for fights of pawns against pieces - but the award (by Selivanov) did not get into the banquet document. It seems that the five honoured entries will be in a forthcoming issue of *Uralsky problemist*.
8. The venue in 2002 will be Portoroz (Slovenia), and in 2003 it will be Truskavets, a health resort in the Carpathian foothills of Western Ukraine. The PCCC, which has a reputation for conservatism, is certainly taking a plunge this time.
9. † Milenko Đukic 1923-1997. A composer of some hundred studies, and a violinist. He lived alone and died of natural causes in war-torn Osijek (Croatia) on the very last day of the year.
10. † Aleksandr Vasilevich Frolovsky 1947-1999. His modest output of around 20 studies was due to the care and attention he devoted to his hobby, and not to any paucity of creativity, attested by his high placings in both themes of the USSR vs Rest-of-the-World match,

11. FIDE Album 1995-1997 (studies) - see EG135 p123

The following batches were delivered to the section director (AJR) on the undernoted dates. The closing date was 30xi1999.

1ii2000 (postmark 22jan2000, Kharkov) Batch No.98 Samilo [3]

10ii2000 (postmark 28nov1999, Erevan) Batch No.99 Manvelian [7]

11ii2000 (postmark 22nov99, Erevan) Batch No.100 Amiryan [26]

23ii2000 (postmark 22nov99, St Petersburg) L and V Katsnelson etc. Batch No.101 [16]

6ix2000 (by hand at Pula) Batch No.102 Neidze [2]

Batches 99, 100 and 101 appear to have come by surface mail. Batch 102 had been mailed earlier but never arrived. The above five batches raise the total from **586** to **640**. One of the three judges was present at Pula and agreed to accept them all for the triennial selection tourney, and on that basis AJR accepted them also on behalf of the other two judges. Thanks to the presence at Pula of reliable *ad hoc* couriers from Slovakia and Romania, all 640 entries should have been safely with the judges by the end of September. Let this *not* be a precedent!

AJR
19ix2000



Many thanks to Spotlight's contributors Marco Campioli (Italy), Noam Elkies (USA/Israel), Luis Miguel González (Spain), Guy Haworth (Great Britain), Harold van der Heijden (Netherlands), Christopher Lutz (Germany), Axel Ornstein (Sweden), Alain Pallier (France), Jose Miguel Quesada (Spain), Michael Roxlau (Germany), W.G.Sanderse (Netherlands) and Peter Schmidt (Germany).

EG 127

No 10821, O.Pervakov. A dual: 6.Kd3 (PS) wins, too. The black bishop runs out of safe squares on the long diagonal after both 6.... Bf6 7.Rf7 Be5 8.Rf5 and 6.... Be5 7.Ra5 Bf6 8.Rf5. Now Black must play 8.... Bb2, but this allows 9.Rb5 Bf6 10.Rb1+ Kg2 11.c3 and wins. So Black should take on c2 at some point (it's best to play 6.... Sxc2 straight away), but the database assures us that the arising ending rook vs knight is won for White.

EG 135

No 11474, I.Yarmonov. No solution: according to AO Black draws by 4.... Kc6 5.Kd3 (5.a4 Kd6) a4 6.Kd4 Kd6 7.c5+ Ke6 8.c4 (8.Kc4 Ke5 shows the difference to the actual solution) a5 9.c6 Kd6 10.c7 Kxc7 11.Kd5 Kd7 12.c5 Kc7 13.c6 Kd8 14.Kd6 Kc8. Now 15.Ke7 Kc7 etc eventually leads to a dead drawn queen ending.

EG 136

M3, p.97, I.Alyoshin, B.Sevitov. Unfortunately Noam Elkies's attempt at saving this study by moving wK to g8 and adding a bS on g7 (see Spotlight EG 137) fails, as after 1.Be3 d1S 2.Bd2, Black draws by 2.... Kg6.

No 11499, B.Gusev. Spotlight's editor's analysis 2.... Kg7 3.Rh4 Kg6 (draw?) was quite off the mark: 4.Sd3 Kg5 5.Rh8 is a simple win for White.

No 11506, S.Radchenko. Unsound, there is a dual win by 1.h7 Kg6 2.Rg8+ Kh6 3.Rd8 (MQ), e.g. 3.... Rxh7+ (3.... f5 4.Kg8 Rxh7 5.Rd7 wins; 3.... Kg6 4.Kg8 Rg7+ 5.Kf8 Rxh7 6.Ke8 wins) 4.Kg8 Re7 (4.... Kg6 5.Rd7 Rxh2 6.Rg7+ Kf5 7.e7 wins) 5.Rd6 Kg6 6.Kf8 Rh7 7.Ke8 Rh8+ (7.... Rxh2 8.e7 Rh8+ 9.Kd7 Kf7 10.Re6 wins) 8.Kd7 Ra8 9.Rd5 and Black is left without counterplay, while White promotes his e-pawn (9.... Ra7+ 10.Ke8 Ra8+ 11.Rd8).

EG 137

R4 p154, D.Gurgenidze. A dual: 3.f6 Sxf6 4.Kb7 Qb1+ 5.Ka7 Qc2 (5.... Sc6+ 6.Ka8; 5.... Qg1+ 6.Ka6) 6.Bxe7+ Kxe7 (this is similar to the actual solution) 7.Sf5+ Qxf5 8.c8S+ Kxe6 9.f8S mate.

No 11576, V.Dolgov. A dual: 6.Kh5 Ra2 7.Kh6 Rh2+ 8.Kg7 Nf5+ 9.Kg8 picks up the h-pawn and draws. It doesn't help to make 4.... Rh2 the main line, as after 5.Re8 Rh3+ 6.Kg4 Re3 7.Rh8 Re4+ White has 8.Kh5, too (please note the tricky line 8.... Kg2 9.Rxh7 Kg3 10.g6? Sg8!, and all of a sudden Black wins). Moreover, there is no win for Black after 7.Ra8, when surprisingly Black has no constructive moves: 7.... Sf5 8.Ra5; 7.... Rh5 8.Ra1+ Kh2 9.Kg4; 7.... Rb4 8.Ra7; 7.... Kh2 8.Ra2+ Kh3 9.Ra1 and finally 7.... Rh3+ 8.Kg4 Re3 9.Rh8, which leads back to the intended solution.

No 11581, V.Razumenko. There is the dual 2.Kc8 g3+ 3.Kc7 Kf8 4.Bc4 Qh7+ 5.Kc8 Qh3+ 6.Kd8 and wins. However, AP draws attention to 82.5761 by the same author (wQa7 and bKe8, 1.Qb8+ Ke7 2.Qe5 etc), which looks like a correction.

No 11584, J.Rusinek. A misprint: the solution should read 5.... Ka1.

No 11587, N.Kralin. No solution, 1.... Qxf4 draws (2.e8Q Qg5+ 3.Kc8 Qc1+ etc.). It was the composer's intention to play 2.Se5, but after the strong reply 2.... Qd4 I can't see anything better than 3.Sd7, when Black has at least a draw by repetition.

No 11588, N.Kralin. A dual: 5.Rb8+ Ka5 6.b4+ Ka6 7.Bc8+ Ka7 8.Rb7+ Ka8 9.Rh7 wins, too.

No 11589, E.Dvizov. This is anticipated by A.Sadikov, «64» 1967 (22.1187) and «64» 1970 (29.1614). Unfortunately both studies were found unsound. Some years ago Spotlight's editor tried to find an attractive and sound setting for the Sadikov, a task that turned out to be more difficult than expected, and after considerable analytical effort I came up with this: a4e3 0406.10 f5g3c6h7.a6 3/4 = (Schach 1997), 1.a7 (There are the tries 1.Rf7 and 1.Rc5, whose difficult analysis I spare to the readers) Rg1 (1.... Sxa7 2.Rf7 draw; 1.... Rg8 2.Rf7 Sg5 3.Rg7 draw) 2.a8Q Ra1+ 3.Kb5 Sd4+ 4.Kc4 Rxa8 5.Re5+ Kf4 6.Re7 Ra4+ 7.Kd3 Sf6 8.Re4+ Sxe4 stalemate.

No 11594, B.Jamnicki. Virtually identical with 116.9873 by the same author.

No 11607, V.Neidze. The notes suggest that something is wrong with this study, but I can't see what. Some readers suspect that 3.... a1Q wins for Black, but White draws by 4.a8Q+ Rxa8 5.Rh7+ Kc6 6.Rh6+ Kd7 7.Rd5+ Ke7 8.Re5+ Kf7 9.Rf5+ Kg7 10.Rg5+ Kxh6 11.Rh5+ Kg6 12.Rg5+ Kf6 13.Rf5+ Ke6 14.Re5+ Kd6 15.Rd5+ Kc6 16.Rc5+ Kb6 17.Rb5+ Ka6 18.Rb6+ Ka5 19.Rb5+ Ka4 20.Ra5+ and stalemate. Finally, did everybody note the line 5.... a1R 6.Kb2 Rd1 7.Kc2 Rd2+ 8.Kc1 draw?

No 11608, J.Fleck/C.Lutz. A dual: 11.Rg8 (instead of the flashy 11.Rc7) wins, too. The study can be saved by promoting the line 10.... c2 to the main line. After all, it is this line that makes the difference between 10.Kh6 and 10.Kh4.

No 11626, D.Gurgenidze. No solution: 2.... Kb8 draw.

No 11631, V.Kalyagin. No solution: Black draws by 3.... Qb8+ 4.Ke7 (4.Kd7 Qb5+ 5.Kd6 Qb6+ 6.Kd5 Bg8+ 7.Se6+ Bxe6+ 8.Qxe6 Qb3+ and Black picks up the bishop) Qf8+ 5.Kd7 Qxc5 6.Bb2+ Kh6 and Black is safe.

No 11632, V.Maksaev. A reader wondered what happens after 6.... Kf1. White wins by 7.Kf3 Kg1 8.Rg2+ Kh1 (8.... Kf1 9.Rag8 Ke1 10.Re2+ Kf1 11.Rh2 and mate) 9.Ra4 (but not 9.Rh8 Rf1+ 10.Kg3 Rf7) c4 10.Ra5 Rf1+ 11.Kg3 and mate, a line that I prefer to the main line.

No 11638, V.Kondratev. Many duals at the end: 6.Sg6; 7.Sg6 and 7.Sc6 all win.

No 11640, I.Yarmonov. It seems that there is no win after 5.... Kb6 6.Sd3 Ka5 (LMG). After 7.Ka3 Kb6 8.Kb4 Kc6 neither 9.Kc3 Kb6 10.Kd2 Ka5 11.Sb2 Kb4 nor 9.a5 Kb7 10.Kc5 Ka7 11.Kc6 Kb8 12.Kb6 Ka8 13.Kxa6 Kb8 14.Kb6 Ka8 lead somewhere.

No 11643, M.Hlinka. There is the dual 9.Kh2, but this does not look like a serious flaw to me.

V1-V6 p188ff. Vlasenko's article was met with some amazement, as all the answers to his questions can simply be looked up on the Internet. Noam Elkies's column in EG 136 mentions the two relevant Web sites by Ken Thompson, which form an inexhaustible source of interesting and curious information.

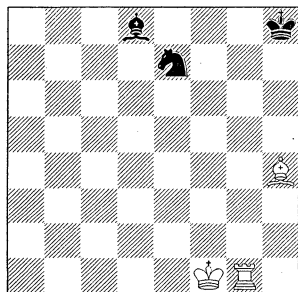
V3 p190 Y.Bazlov (#46.2804). The only study from this article that fell a prey to the 6-man-database. There are dual wins by 5.Se1 (27 half-moves) and 5.Sh4 (143 half-moves) and, well, the final mate in one is not unique, too.

U4 p194, Gh.Umnov. Completely anticipated by G.Amiryan, Sachove Umenie 1982, 2nd prize (81.5730), which arrives at Umnov's initial position after 4 introductory moves.



As recently reported in this column and elsewhere, a growing list of 6-man endgame oracles can now be consulted on the Web, courtesy of Ken Thompson. This will surely produce a stream of cook reports affecting classic as well as recent studies. But the oracles can also help rebuild what they destroy, by confirming the soundness of corrected versions.

Consider Gorgiev's classic study:
N1 T. Gorgiev, 1929



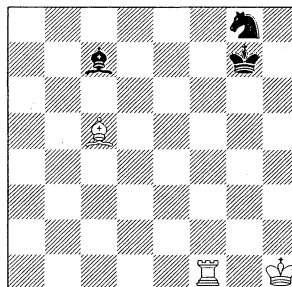
White to play and win

One of the less well-publicized results of Lewis Stiller's 1992 work on six-man studies is that GBR class 0143 is a general win (and in at most 98 moves) with the Bishops on opposite colors. Many studies that depended on the assumption that this is a draw are thus cooked. With the 0143 oracle now available

on the Internet, it turns out that the same-colored case, though generally drawn, can still be more dangerous for the weaker side than was realized. For instance, in N1, the intended solution 1.Bf6+ Kh7 2.Rg7+ Kh6 3.Rf7 Kg6 4.Rf8 Sc6 5.Bxd8 Kg7 6.Re8 Kf7 7.Rh8 Kg7 8.Bf6+ is the shortest win but not, it transpires, the unique one. 1.Ke2 also wins, though it takes White 18 more moves to reach a favorable conversion against best play (which starts 1...Sc6 2.Bf2! Kh7 3.Kf3 etc.). White can also play Ke2 at move 2, lengthening by 13 moves instead of 14.

There does not seem to be an easy correction of N1: the wK is needed on f1 to stop 1.Rd1(e1) with an easy win. Many years after Gorgiev composed N1, the following improvement appeared:

N2 E. Pogosyants, 1985



White to play and win

Quite aside of the cooks of N1 (which were not known in 1985), the Pogosyants study improves on

Gorgiev's setting, using the same material to construct introductory play as clear as Gorgiev's but longer and more varied: 1.Bd4+ Kh6 2.Rf8 Se7 3.Rf7 Bd8 4.Bf6, and now Sc6 5.Bxd8 Nxd8 6.Rd7 and the Knight falls, so Kg6 and we reach Gorgiev. Black's alternatives at move 1 are easily dealt with, but lend further interest: 1...Kh7 2.Rf7+, or 1...Kg6 2.Rg1+ and 3.Rg7+. Alas the oracle finds a new cook: 2.Rf7. Black holds on for a while with 2...Bd6 (Bg3/a5 3.Rg7 Bf2/b6 4.Ba1 is easy), but then 3.Kg2 (unique move) wins, albeit 14 moves later than the intended solution with best play (which begins 3...Kh5 4.Rg7 Se7 5.Be3 Sg6 6.Kf3 Se5+ 7.Ke4 Sg4 8.Bd2(c1) Bf8 9.Rg5+ Kh4 10.Ra5(b5)).

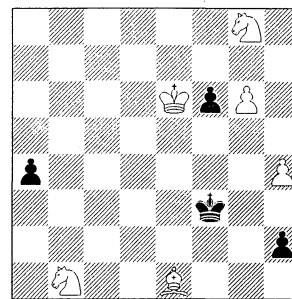
Fortunately, this time the cook is easy to remove. wK needs to be on a light square far from the scene of action; h1 is just barely not far enough, but b1 is safe. There is one difficulty: like Gorgiev, Pogosyants used wK to block wR, and shifting the wK allows a new, easy cook: 2.Rh1+ Kg6 3.Rg1+ Kf7(h7) 4.Rg7+, as in the side-variation 1...Kg6. But here this is easily fixed: put wR on f2, so the h-file check is prevented by Bc7, and then move the wK to b1. According to the oracle, the resulting study is sound. Net-connected readers may check this for themselves, starting from the URL

<http://plan9.bell-labs.com/magic/eg/wkb1wrf2wbc5bkg7bbc7bng8>
At each step of the main line, all White's alternatives get a 9999, the code for a drawn position.

Now that the position is correct, it remains only to describe its authorship -- is it "Pogosyants 1985, after Gorgiev, version by NDE/*C* 1999"?...

Prygunov sends a study culminating with a model mate administered by K+3S:

No 11645 V.I. Prygunov, Original (1998)



e6f3 0012.23

6/4 Win

No 11645 V.I. Prygunov 1.Sd2+ Kf4/i 2.Bg3+ Kxg3 3.Sf1+ Kxh4 4.Sxh2 a3 5.Sf3+ Kh5/ii 6.Kf7! a2 7.Sxf6+/iii Kh6 8.g7 a1Q 9.g8S#!/iv

The composer gave no variations; the following analysis, and the soundness of the entire study, are confirmed as usual by Harold van der Heijden:

i) Acquiescing in the elimination of the h2-pawn in order to get play with the a-pawn. If 1...Ke3/g4

2.Sf1+/e4 is easy. 1...Ke2 2.Se4 Kxe1 3.Sg3 Kf2 4.Sh1+ Kg2 5.Sxf wins, or here 3...a3 4.Sxf6 a2 5.g7 a1Q 6.g8Q and if Qa2+ 7.Kf5 Qxg8 8.Sxg8 then 9.Kg4 holds the Sg3.

Finally 1...Kg2 2.Sxf6 h1Q 3.g7 Qxe1+ (Qh3+ 4.Kf7 and Black is already out of checks) 4.Sfe4 and Black is helpless against 5.g8Q+.
ii) For 6.Sd4? Kxg6, drawn since W cannot both block f-pawn and capture a-pawn for a Troitzky win. Moves other than 5...Kh5 lose quickly to 6.Sd4.

iii) Not yet 7.g7 Kg4! and White cannot hold on to both Knights: 8.Sd4 a1Q 9.Sxf6+ Kh3 10.g8Q Qxd4, or 8.Sd2 a1Q 9.Sxf6+ when simplest is Kf5 (HvdH) 10.g8Q Qxf6+ drawing.

iv) 9.g8Q? Qa2+ draws, while 9.Sg4+ Kh5 10.Sf6+ Kh6 makes no progress.

As with Pogosyants's N2, the conclusion is known -- also with g5 self-blocked rather than held by a third Knight -- but the introductory play, and final position with minimal Black force, give Prygunov's study an independent existence. Compare with the following two examples, extracted by HvdH from his database of studies. One, over a century old, is a miniature by P.Farago ("Pesti Naplo 1899(?)"): Kf7,Se4,Se7,g7/Kh6,Qh3,Bc8; Win by

1.g8S+ Kh5 2.Sgf6+ Kh6 (Kh4 3.Sg6#) 3.Seg8#, curiously with Sg8 not the promoted Knight.

Unfortunately, 1...Kh7 gives White several ways to force mate on move 3, and the bBc8 looks superfluous (even without it 1.g8Q? Qb3+ is a draw). The other example is G.Zakhodiakin's study ("Shakhmaty Listok 1930 (2500#0274)"): Kb8,Se2,b6,b7/Ka6,Bd1,f3,f4; Win by 1.Sc3 f2 2.Kc7 f1Q 3.b8S+ Ka5 4.Sc6+ Ka6 5.b7, and to compensate for the extra Black men, Black here has a free move, but still has no good way to stop 6 b8S#.

DIAGRAMS AND SOLUTIONS

editors: John Roycroft
Harold v.d. Heijden



Hero-Towns Match No.4, 1999-2000

The studies section of this tourney was judged by John Roycroft. Theme set by judge: A win or draw miniature (7 men in total) in which, apart from the kings, only one man of a type is present. The composer is free to choose the colour in each case.

Judge's provisional award in Hero-Towns match 1999-2000 report: 17 distinct entries were transmitted to the judge in London by 8x1999. To the judge's way of thinking the match was excellent in several respects. The set theme placed no restrictions on composers' imaginations, but solely on the material they had to work with

- if they had a 'favourite' piece, it was there on the board, and if they preferred draws to wins they could choose a draw. For his part the judge imagined that he could see, compare and contrast, from the studies submitted, the minds of composers at work on a challenging task. The judge hopes that composers themselves, both those who competed and those who did not, will also be able to imagine themselves transported into the working minds of others. A final thought: this event, which the judge was most pleased to be invited to play a part in, provides good evidence that the miniature study is far from exhausted.

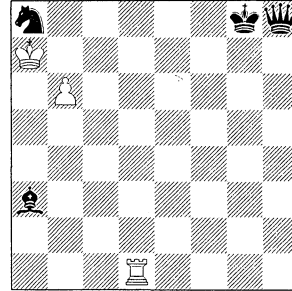
It is in vi2000 not clear how much of the judge's award has already been published. The question of 'ownership' and 'publication rights' of studies entered for formal competitions arises acutely in this case. It is therefore possible that some of the studies below should have been, and may have been, returned to their composers - but AJR considers this unlikely. EG's aim in publishing this complete award is to highlight this question for discussion and even, resolution (!). Simplest would be for an award to be published (*somewhere*) in full and distributed to all participants. This was the 1993 recommendation by the FIDE PCCC Studies Subcommittee (see EG111 supplement, 1994). In the absence of a clear statement to the

contrary, unpublished submissions revert (for preference, sent *physically*) to their composers.

The judge's placings of all 17 distinct and undemolished entries were as follows, with his comments.

First:

No 11646 Yuri Roslov



a7g8 3133.10

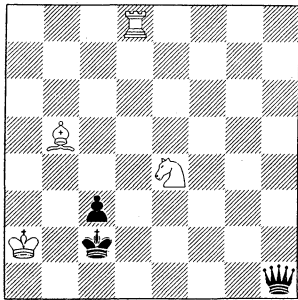
3/4 Draw

No 11646 Yuri Roslov (St Petersburg) 1.b7 Qh7/i 2.Rg1+/ii Kf8 3.Rf1+ Ke8 4.Re1+ Kf8/iii 5.Rf1+ (Kxa8? Bd6;) Kg8 6.Rg1+ Kh8 7.Rh1 Bc5+ 8.Kb8 Bd6+ 9.Ka7 Bc5+ 10.Kb8 draw, for if Sb6 11.Rxh7+ Kxh7 12.Kc7. i) Qg7 2.Kxa8 (Rg1?? Qxg1+;) Qg2 3.Rg1. AJR afterthought (vii2000): 3.Rd3 must draw too. ii) 2.Kxa8? Qe4 3.Rd4 Qc6 wins. iii) Kd8 5.Rd1+ Ke8 6.Kxa8 (dual: Re1+) Qe4 7.Re1.

"All men participate (thereby interpreting the theme as the theme-setting judge hoped it would be) and the whole board is used - throughout the eventful play. Everything is fresh. As the composer points out, at the end neither side can afford to accept the proffered sacrifices."

Second:

No 11647 Oleg Pervakov



a2c2 3111.01

4/3 Win

No 11647 Oleg Pervakov

(Moscow) 1.Ba4+ Kc1 2.Ka1/i

Qf3/ii 3.Sd2 (Sc5? Qf1;), with:

- Qg4 4.Sb3+ (Rd4? Qg1;) Kc2

5.Sc5+ Kc1 6.Sd3+ Kd2

7.Sf2(Se5)+ and 8.Sxg4, or

- c2 4.Ka2 Qf7+ 5.Sb3+ Qxb3+

6.Kxb3 Kb1 7.Bb5() c1Q 8.Bd3+

Ka1 9.Ra8+, or

- Qh1 4.Sb1 Qf3 (c2;Sc3) 5.Rc8

c2 6.Rxc2+ Kd1 7.Rc3+ wins, not

7.Rf2+? Kc1 8.Rxf3 stalemate.

i) 2.Sxc3? Qg2+ 3.Kb3 Qc2+

4.Kc4 Qf5, 'positional draw'/iii.

ii) Qe1 3.Sf2 c2 4.Sd3+. Or Qg1

3.Rc8, not 3.Sxc3? Qd4 drawing.

"Again the whole board is used and there are touches of originality. We hope that the composer's claim of a positional draw (see second diagram) will hold water under the computer's microscope."

iii) Unfortunately, the web-site for this 6-man pawnless endgame tells us in vii2000 that after 4...Qf5 White wins in 18 (to conversion).

One can controversially argue that the composer was entitled to base his study on his *presumption* of the

'true' outcome, in the absence of a clear 'statement' by either endgame theory or analysis. AJR.

note (i) c4c1 3111.00 f5d8a4c3 4/2+.

C The 18 *C* moves:

1.Rd5 Qg6 2.Kb3* Qd3 3.Kb4

Qh7 4.Ka3 Qe7+ 5.Kb3* Qf7

6.Be8 Qg8 7.Bd7 Qb8+ 8.Bb5*

Qg8 9.Sa2+ Kb1 10.Bc4 Qb8+

11.Sb4 Qg3+ 12.Rd3 Qg1 13.Sd5

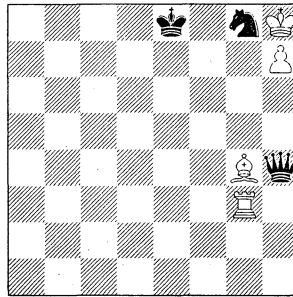
Kc1 14.Rc3+ Kd1 15.Rc2 Qa7

16.Sc3+* Ke1 17.Re2+* Kf1

18.Re7+.

Third:

No 11648 Sergei Tkachenko



h8e8 3113.10

4/3 Draw

No 11648 Sergei Tkachenko

(Odessa) 1.Bd7+/i Kxd7/ii 2.Rg4

Qh5 3.Rg5 Qh6 4.Rg6 Qh5

5.Rg5/iii Qh4 6.Rg4 Qh3 7.Rg3

Qh2 8.Rg2 Qh1 9.Rg1 Qh2 10.Rg2

Qe5+ 11.Rg7+/iv Se7 stalemate.

i) Black threatens to play Qf6+;

1.Kxg8(Kg7)? Qg5+ 2.Kh8 Qf6+.

1.Bh5+? Qxh5, and 2.Rxg8+ Kf7

3.Rg7+ Kf6 4.Rf7+ Kg6 5.Kg8

Qd5 6.h8S+ Kh6 wins, or 2.Rg5

Qh4 3.Rg4 Qh3 4.Rg3 Qh2 5.Rg2

Qe5+ 6.Kxg8 (Rg7,Sf6;) Qe7 7.h8S

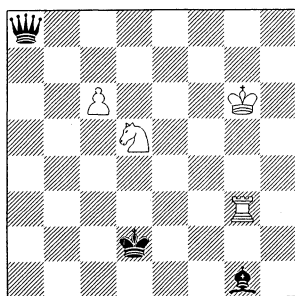
Qe6+ 8.Kg7 Qe5+ 9.Kh7 Qe4+

10.Rg6 Kf8 wins.

ii) Kd8 2.Rg4 draw. Or Kf7 2.Rg7+, and Kf8 3.Rxg8+ Kf7 4.Rg7+, or Kf6 3.Kxg8 Qc4+ 4.Kh8 draw.
 iii) 5.Kg7? Se7 6.Rd6+ Kxd6 7.h8Q Sf5+ wins.
 iv) 11.Kxg8? Qd5+ 12.Kf8 Qf3+ wins, or 12.Kh8 Qa8+ 13.Rg8 Qa1+ 14.Rg7+ Ke8 15.Kg8 Qa2+, with a 'staircase' checkmating win. "The vivid interaction of the pieces cannot fail to impress. The only drawbacks when comparing with the two studies placed ahead of it are (a) that the whole board is not used, and (b) a piece is sacrificed on the first move. A tempting try compensates for the capture, but some supporting variations are not as straightforward as one could wish."

Fourth:

No 11649 N.Mansarliisky and S.Tkachenko



g6d2 3131.10 4/3 Draw

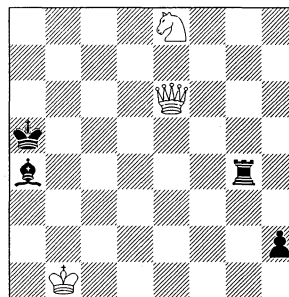
No 11649 N.Mansarliisky and S.Tkachenko (Odessa) 1.Rg2+/i Kd3 2.Rxg1 Qg8+ (Qxc6+;Sf6) 3.Kf6 Qxg1 (Qxd5? Rd1+) 4.c7 Qc5/ii 5.Ke5/iii Kc2/iv 6.Ke6 Kb3 7.Kd7 Qxd5+ 8.Kc8 Kb4 9.Kb8 draw.

i) 1.Rxg1? Qg8+ 2.Kf6 Qxg1? 3.c7 Qc5 4.Ke6 Kc2 5.Kd7 Qxd5+ 6.Kc8 is indeed a draw, but 2...Qxd5 wins!
 ii) Qg4 5.Ke7 Kd4 6.Sb6 draw, not 6.Kd8? Qg8+ 7.Kd7 Qxd5+ 8.Kc8 Kc5 winning.
 iii) As David Sedgwick was quick to point out at the CESC meeting in October 1999, this is a position of mutual zugzwang. 5.Ke6? Kd4 6.Kd7 Qxd5+ 7.Kc8 Kc5 8.Kb8 Kb6 wins.
 iv) Qc6?? 6.Sb4+. Or Kc4 6.c8Q Qxc8 7.Sb6+.

"A very good study, and with an excellent try, but the early capture disappoints from the thematic standpoint."

Fifth:

No 11650 Leonard Katsnelson



b1a5 1331.01

3/4 Win

No 11650 Leonard Katsnelson (St Petersburg) 1.Qe5+/i Bb5/ii 2.Qc7+/iii Ka6/iv 3.Qxh2 Rb4+ 4.Ka2 Bxe8/v 5.Qe2+ (Qd6+? Rb6;) Bb5 6.Qe6+ Ka5 (Ka7;Qe7+) 7.Qe1 Ka4 (Bc4+;Ka3) 8.Qd1+ Ka5 9.Qd2 Ka4 10.Qc2+ Ka5 11.Qc3 Ka4 12.Qa3 mate.
 i) 1.Qd5+? Kb6 2.Qd6+ Kb7 3.Qxh2 (Qc7+,Ka8;) Rb4+ 4.Kc1

Bxe8. "b7 and a8 are drawing squares for bK."

ii) Ka6 2.Sc7+ and 3.Qxh2.

iii) 2.Qxh2? Rb4+ 3.Kc1 Rc4+ 4.Kd2 Bxe8 draws, the c7 square being covered.

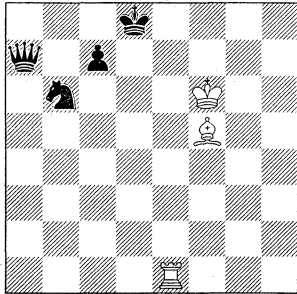
iv) Ka4 3.Qxh2 Bxe8 4.Qa2+ picks up a piece.

v) Ra4+ 5.Kb3 Bxe8 6.Qd6+ wins.

"Two captures militate (in this thematic tourney) again against the all-board play."

Sixth:

No 11651 Nikolai Veliky and Evgeny Samotugov



f6d8 3113.01 3/4 Draw

No 11651 Nikolai Veliky and Evgeny Samotugov (Kiev) 1.Rd1+ Sd7+ 2.Rxd7+ Kc8/i 3.Rd6+ Kb8/ii 4.Rd8+ Kb7 5.Be4+ Kb6 6.Ra8 draw.

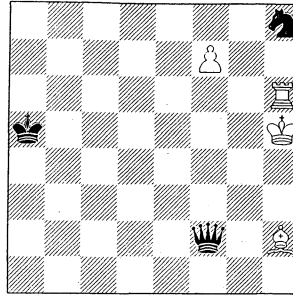
i) Ke8 3.Re7+ Kf8 4.Rf7+ Kg8 5.Rg7+ Kh8 6.Rh7+ draw.

ii) Kb7 4.Be4+ Kc8 5.Bf5+, and Kb7 6.Be4+, or Kb8 6.Rd8+.

"An unexpected domination finale (6.Ra8!) has to compete against captures and forced checking play."

Seventh:

No 11652 Ivan Bondar



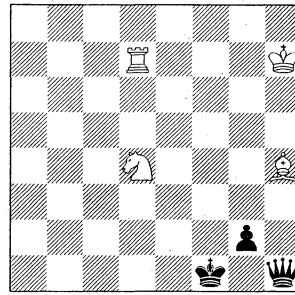
h5a5 3113.10 4/3 Draw

No 11652 Ivan Bondar (Brest region) 1.Bc7+ Ka4 2.Ra6+ Kb5 3.Rb6+ Kc4 4.Rc6+ Kd3 5.Rd6+ Ke2 6.Re6+ Kf1 7.Re1+ Kg2 (Kxe1;Bg3) 8.Rg1+ Kxg1 9.Bb6 Qxb6 10.f8Q draw.

"Very neat - wB supplies an echo with 8.Bg3! and 9.Bb6! - in fact the best of the entries that invoked serial R-checking. bSh8 spectates."

Eighth:

No 11653 V.Sichev



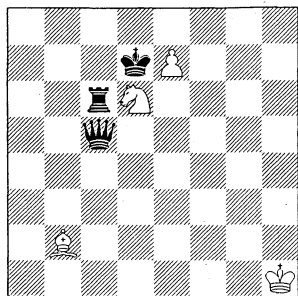
h7f1 3111.01 4/3 Win

No 11653 V.Sichev (Minsk) 1.Rf7+ Kg1 2.Se2+ Kh2 3.Bg3+ Kh3 4.Rg7 Qb1+ 5.Kh8 wins.

"All men participate in a coordinated manner. The Sf4 checkmate is satisfying."

Ninth:

No 11654 N.Rezvov and S.N.Tkachenko



h1d7 3311.10

4/3 Win

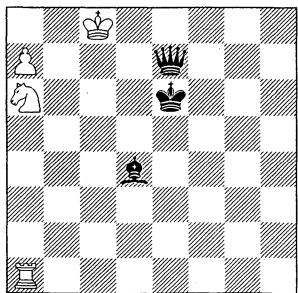
No 11654 N.Rezvov and S.N.Tkachenko (Odessa) 1.e8Q+ Kc7 (Kxd6;Ba3) 2.Qf7+/i Kb6 3.Bd4 Qxd4 4.Qb3+ Kc5 5.Sb7 mate.

i) 2.Qe7+? Kb6 3.Qb7+ Ka5 4.Qa8+ Kb6/ii 5.Qb7+ Ka5 6.Qa8+ is a draw, as is 6.Bc3+ Ka4.
ii) 4...Kb4? 5.Ba3+. Or 4...Ra6 5.Sb7+.

"The very pleasing checkmate picture does not quite make amends for the succession of checks and the queen promotion spoiling the thematic impression."

Tenth:

No 11655 V.Bartosh



c8e6 3131.10

4/3 Win

No 11655 V.Bartosh (Minsk)

1.Sc7+, with:

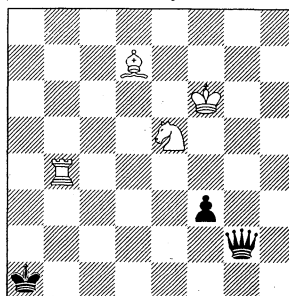
- Kd6 2.Ra6+ Ke5 3.a8Q Qf8+ 4.Kd7 Qg7+ 5.Kd8 Qg5+ 6.Kc8 Qg8+ 7.Kb7 Qb3+ 8.Kc6 Qc2+ 9.Kd7 Qh7+ 10.Kd8 Qh4+ 11.Kc8 Qh8+ 12.Kb7 Qh1+ 13.Rc6 Qb1+ 14.Kc8 wins, or

- Kf7 2.Rf1+ Bf6 3.Rf4 Qd6 4.Rf5 Kg6 5.Rd5(Ra5) Qf8+ 6.Kb7 Qb4+ 7.Rb5 Qe4+ 8.Kc8 Qg4+ 9.Kb8 wins.

"The *minus* is the early promotion in the first line, disrupting the set theme; the *plus* is the gymnastic black queen and the protracted manoeuvre for escaping the checks."

Eleventh:

No 11656 Aleksandr Frolovsky and Andrei Zhuravlyov



f6a1 3111.01

4/3 Win

No 11656 Aleksandr Frolovsky and Andrei Zhuravlyov (Tula) 1.Sc4 (for Ra4+) Ka2 2.Be6, with:

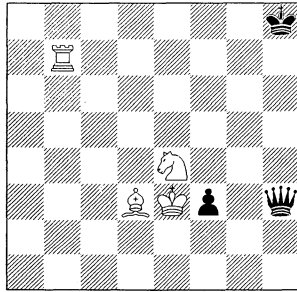
- Qe2 3.Rb5/i Qe1/ii 4.Se3+ Ka3 5.Sc2+ Ka4 6.Sxe1 f2 7.Bd7 (Rb4+? Ka5;) f1Q+ 8.Rf5+ wins, or

- Qh2(Qf2) 3.Sd2+ Ka3 4.Rb3+ Ka4 (Ka2;Rb5+) 5.Bd7+ Ka5 6.Sc4+ Ka6 7.Bc8+ Ka7 8.Rb7+

Ka8 9.Sb6 mate, or
 - f2 3.Se3+ and mates, not
 3.Sd2+? Ka3 4.Rb3+ Ka4 5.Bd7+
 Ka5 6.Sc4+ Ka6 7.Bc8+ Ka7
 8.Rb7+? Qxb7.
 i) 3.Sd2+? Ka3 4.Rb3+ Ka4
 5.Bd7+ Ka5 6.Sc4+? Qxc4.
 ii) f2 4.Sd2+, 5.Sb1+ and 6.Sc3+.
 "The checkmating potential of
 unaided rook, bishop and knight
 against a restrained king is well
 illustrated. Unfortunately, however
 accurate such play is, it is usually
 short on artistic flavour. The study
 placed eighth is therefore preferred.
 We envy the echoed bat-
 tery-creation with 2.Be6 and
 7.Be7."

Twelfth:

No 11657 Aleksandr Frolovsky



e3h8 3111.01 4/3 Win

No 11657 Aleksandr Frolovsky
 (Tula) 1.Sg5, with:

- Qc8 (Qg4;Sf7+) 2.Sf7+/i Kg8
 3.Sh6+ Kf8/ii 4.Rf7+ Ke8 5.Bb5+
 Kd8 6.Rf8+ wins, or

- Qg3 2.Rh7+/iii Kg8 3.Bc4+
 Kf8 4.Rf7+ Ke8 5.Bb5+ Kd8
 6.Se6+ Kc8 7.Ba6+ Kb8 8.Rb7+
 and Ka8 9.Sc7+, or Kc8 9.Rg7+
 wins, or

- Qg2 2.Rh7+ Kg8 3.Bc4+ Kf8

4.Rf7+ Ke8/iv 5.Bb5+ Kd8 6.Se6+
 Kc8 7.Ba6+ Kb8 8.Rb7+ Ka8/v
 9.Sc7 mate.

i) 2.Rh7+? Kg8 3.Bc4+?? Qxc4.
 ii) Kh8 4.Rh7 mate is the first of
 several pure checkmates.

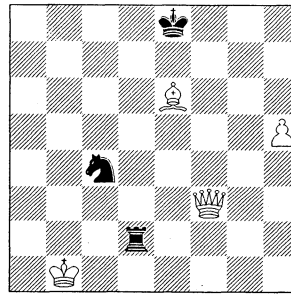
iii) 2.Sf7+? Kg7?? 3.Sd6+ Kf8
 4.Rb8+ and 5.Sf5+, but also
 2...Kg8 3.Sh6+ Kf8 4.Rb8+??
 Qxb8.

iv) Kg8 5.Rd7+ and Kh8 6.Rh7
 mate, or Kf8 6.Sh7+ Ke8 7.Sf6+
 Kf8 8.Rf7 mate.

"See remarks on the ninth
 placement. No judge likes to be
 asked to choose between versions
 of the same idea from the same
 composer or composers."

Thirteenth:

No 11658 S.Abramenko



b1e8 1313.10 4/3 BTM, Win

No 11658 S.Abramenko

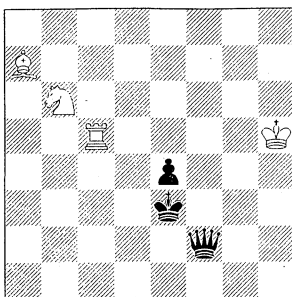
(Volgograd) 1...Rb2+ 2.Kc1
 (Ka1,Rb1+;) Rb1+ 3.Kc2 Rb2+
 4.Kd1 Rb1+ 5.Ke2 Rb2+ 6.Ke1
 Rb1+ 7.Kf2 Rf1+ 8.Kxf1 Sd2+
 9.Kf2 Sxf3 10.Kxf3 Ke7 11.h6 Kf6
 12.Bf5 Kf7 13.Bh7 wins.

"One cannot point to much
 originality here, but the overall
 effect is of a nice study in three

neat phases. Thematically, the exchanges work negatively."

Fourteenth:

No 11659 V.Maksaev



h5e3 3111.01 4/3 Win

No 11659 V.Maksaev (Volgograd)

1.Sd5+ Kf3 2.Rc3+ e3 3.Rxe3+ Kg2 4.Kg4, with:

- Qa2 5.Rg3+/i Kh2 6.Rh3+ Kg2 7.Sf4+ Kf1 8.Rh1 mate, or
- Qf7 5.Sf4+/ii Kf1 6.Rf3+ Ke1 7.Sd3(Sg2)+ wins.

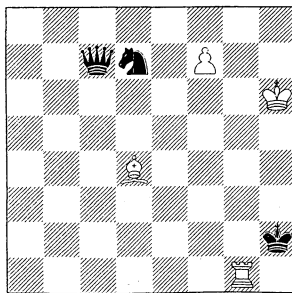
i) 5.Sf4+? Kf1 6.Rf3+ Ke1 7.Sd3+ Kd1 8.Rf1+ Kd2 9.Rf2+ Kd1 10.Rxa2 stalemate.

ii) 5.Rg3+? Kh2 6.Rh3+ Kg2 7.Sf4+ Qxf4+ 8.Kxf4 Kxh3 draw.

"Too many checks for a higher placing. But not a bad study!"

Fifteenth:

No 11660 S.Latish



h6h2 3113.10 4/3 Draw

No 11660 S.Latish (Murmansk)

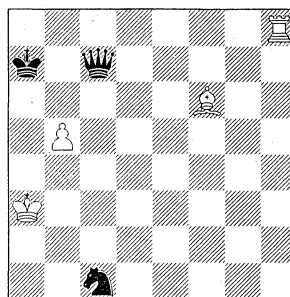
1.f8Q/i Sxf8 (Qc6+;Rg6) 2.Be5+ Qxe5 3.Rh1+ (Rg2+? Kh3;) Kg2 4.Rg1+ Kf2 5.Rf1+ Ke2 6.Re1+ Kxe1 stalemate.

i) 1.Kg7? Qf4 2.Ba7 Qf6+ 3.Kg8 Qa6 wins. 1.Rg4? Kh3 2.Kg5 Sf8 3.Rf4 Sh7+ wins.

"Old-style sacrifices revise a desperado rook finish."

Sixteenth:

No 11661 S.Latish



a3a7 3113.10 4/3 Draw

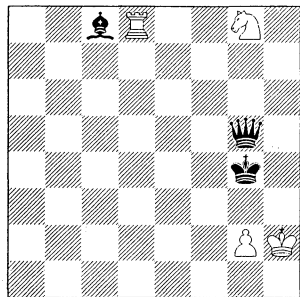
No 11661 S.Latish (Murmansk)

1.b6+/i Qxb6 2.Bd4 Qxd4 3.Ra8+ Kb7 (Kb6;Rb8+) 4.Rb8+ Kc7 5.Rc8+ Kd7 6.Rd8+ Kxd8 stalemate.

i) 1.Bd4+? Kb7 2.Kb4 (Kb2,Se2;) Qd6+ 3.Kc4 Qe6+ 4.Kc3 Se2+.

"See the remarks to the study placed twelfth."

Seventeenth:
No 11662 Nikolai Veliky and
 Evgeny Samotugov



h2g4 3131.10 4/3 Draw

No 11662 Nikolai Veliky and
 Evgeny Samotugov (Kiev) 1.Rd4+
 (Rxc8? Qe5+;) Kh5 2.Rd5 Bf5
 3.Rxf5 Qxf5 4.g4+, with Qxg4
 5.Sf6+ or Kxg4 5.Sh6+.

"In the style of the early 19th cen-
 tury English composer Bone. But
 one cannot help liking it - the
 whole supporting cast vanishes in
 the course of the action on stage!"

John Roycroft
 London, 8x99 and 23vii2000

Bron-90MT, 1999

This formal international was
 judged by Viktor Kalyagin
 (Ekaterinburg).

The award is published in *Uralsky
 problemist* 3(23)/2000 vii2000.

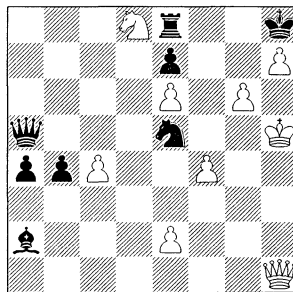
36 studies by 27 composers
 entered. Judge's report: "In my
 view those who maintain that there
 never were composers in the past,
 just as there never were diplomats,
 are right. Bron was not only a

human being with a capital H, but
 a personality all in capitals. He was
 the sort whose excellence is patent
 and benevolent. Study composers
 like Bron are as basic to us as air.
 His studies had a grounding in
 Russia in which can be heard
 remote and eternal resonances - in
 the contemporary study one has to
 whirl like a propeller to come up
 with anything the least bit piquant.
 The sensational is largely history,
 it's so rare now. As regards the
 award, it was so hard to separate
 by standard that the decision was
 taken to split into two sections -
 wins and draws." AJR: A coward's
 way out - and artificial, failing to
 address the core judging dilemma
 when facing the evaluation of
 non-overlapping qualities.

AJR apologises for blemishes in his
 translations of the judge's
 hyper-idiomatic Russian.

I: section for *wins*

No 11663 M.Roxlau (Germany)
 1st prize Bron-90MT



h5h8 4334.63 9/8 Win

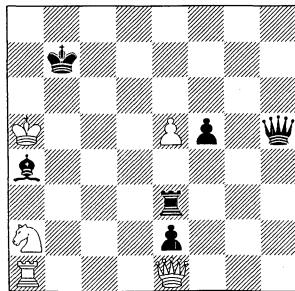
No 11663 Michael Roxlau
 (Germany) "Looks like a typically
 tiresome middle-game. But we are

going to see something rather different." 1.Sc6 Sxc6 2.Kh6 Rg8 3.hxg8Q+ Kxg8 4.Qxc6 Qd8 5.g7 Bb1/i 6.Qd7 Qb8 7.e3 Qa8 8.e4 Qb8/ii 9.Kg5/iii Kh7 10.Qxe7 Qg8 11.Kf6 Bxe4 12.Qf7/iv Qd8+ 13.Ke5 Qg8 14.Qxg8+ Kxg8 15.Kxe4 Kxg7 16.Kd3, victoriously exiting to the wing.

- i) Qb8 6.e3 Bb1 7.Qd5 wins.
- ii) Bxe4 9.Qxe7 Bg6 10.Kxg6 Qe4+ 11.f5 Qg4+ 12.Qg5 Qd4 13.Kh6 Qd3 14.Qg2 wins.
- iii) "One gets away with bare-faced impudence only if tempered with a dose of caution."
- iv) 12.f5? Bf3 13.Qf7 Qd8+ 14.Ke5 Qb8+ is a draw.

"The volte-face has been so sudden that Black must have felt like having a tooth pulled. The monster middle-game has been transformed sweetly into nothing more intimidating than a pawns endgame. It only remains to congratulate the German composer on his first rate achievement, both in the competitive and creative contexts."

No 11664 N.Kralin
2nd prize Bron-90MT



a5b7 4431.12

5/6 Win

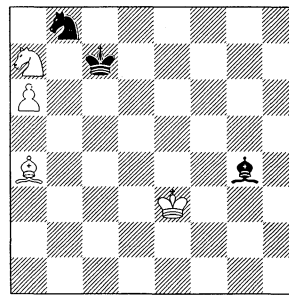
No 11664 Nikolai Kralin (Moscow)

1.Rb1+? Ka8 2.Kxa4 Rxe5 is a draw. 1.Qb4+ Ka8 2.Qxa4 Qf7/i 3.Kb6+ Kb8 4.Qa8+ Kxa8 5.Sb4+/ii, with:

- Kb8/iii 6.Sc6+ Kc8 7.Ra8+ Kd7 8.Rd8+ Ke6 9.Rd6 mate, or
- Qa2+/iv 6.Rxa2+ Kb8 7.Sc6+ Kc8 8.Ra8+ Kd7 9.e6+ Rxe6 10.Rd8 mate.

- i) Qg6 3.Kb4+ Kb7 4.Qd7+ Kb8 5.Qb5+ Kc8 6.Rc1+ Kd8 7.Qd5+ Ke8 8.Rc8+ wins. But Black has something slicker up his sleeve.
- ii) "The softening-up artillery barrage has left behind a couple of neat craters..."
- iii) Qa7+ 6.Rxa7+ Kb8 7.Sc6+ Kc8 8.Rc7+.
- iv) The judge comments: "We don't envy the solver having to find this move!"

No 11665 V.Vlasenko
3rd prize Bron-90MT



e3c7 0044.10

4/3 Win

No 11665 Valery Vlasenko (Ukraine). 1.Sb5+ Kb6 2.a7 Kb7 3.Bb3/i Bd7 4.Bd5+ Sc6 (Bc6;axb8Q+) 5.Kd3 Ka8 6.Kc4 Bc8/ii 7.Kc5 Bb7 8.Kb6 Sxa7 9.Bxb7+ Kb8 10.Sd6, avoiding

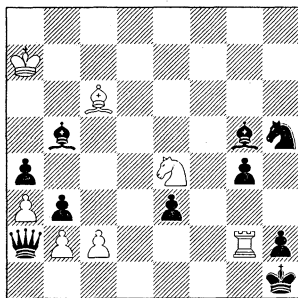
both 10.Sxa7 stalemate? and 10.Sd4? Sc8+, while 11.KxS wins against 10...Sc6 and 10...Sb5.

i) 3.Bc2? Bd7 4.Be4+ Sc6 5.Kd3 Bf5 6.Bxf5 Sxa7 draw.

ii) Be6 7.Bxe6 Sxa7 8.Sd6 wins.

i) "A bishop gets the better of the opposition with great economy of effort."

No 11666 A.Bezgogkov
1st honourable mention Bron-90MT

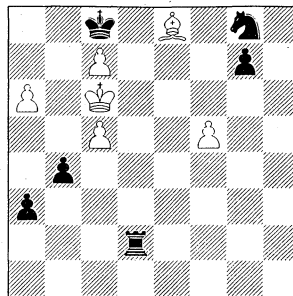


a7h1 3174.35 7/10 Win

No 11666 Anatoly Bezgogkov (Ukraine). Not 1.Sg3+? Sxg3 2.Ba8 Be2, but 1.Sf2+ exf2 2.Ba8 Be3+ 3.Kb8 Bf4+ 4.Kc8 Ba6+/i 5.Kd8 Bg5+ 6.Kc7 Bf4+ 7.Kb6 Be3+ 8.Ka5 Bd2+ 9.c3 Bxc3+ 10.Kb6 Bd4+ 11.Kc7 Be5+ 12.Kd8 Bf6+ 13.Kd7 Bb5+ 14.Kd6 Be5+ 15.Kc5 Bd4+ 16.Kb4 Bc3+ 17.Kxc3 f1Q 18.Rxg4+ Qg2 19.Rxg2 Sf4 20.Rg4+ Sg2 21.Rxg2 Bc6 22.Bxc6 Qxb2+ 23.Rxb2+ wins, but naturally not 23.Kxb2 stalemate. "Now we know what wPc2 is there for!"

i) Bd7+ 5.Kd8 Bg5+ 6.Kc7 Bf4+ 7.Kb6 Be3+ 8.Ka5 Bd2+ 9.c3 Bxc3+ 10.Kb6 Bd4+ 11.Kc7 Be5+ 12.Kd8 Bf6+ 13.Kxd7 wins.

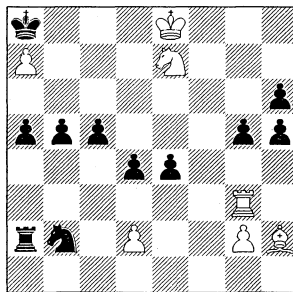
No 11667 V.Kalashnikov
2nd hon. mention Bron-90MT



c6c8 0313.43 6/6 Win

No 11667 Valery Kalashnikov (Ekaterinburg). 1.a7 Se7+ 2.Kb5 Kb7 3.f6/i gxf6 4.a8Q+ Kxa8 5.Ka6 a2 6.Bc6+ Sxc6 7.c8Q+ Sb8+ 8.Kb6 Rd7 9.c6 a1Q 10.Qb7+ Rxb7+ 11.cxb7 mate.
i) 3.a8Q+? Kxa8 4.Ka6 Rh2 5.Bc6+ Sxc6 6.c8Q+ Sb8+ 7.Kb6 Rh6+ wins.

No 11668 M.Roxlau
3rd hon. mention Bron-90MT



e8a8 0414.38 7/11 Win

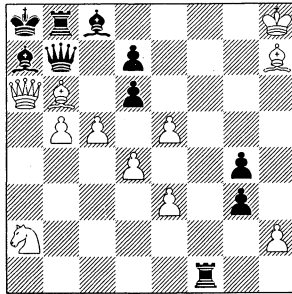
No 11668 Michael Roxlau "It's no easy task to ram through the Great Wall of China, as we can see from: 1.Rxg5? hxg5 2.Bb8 Sc4 3.Sd5 Kb7 4.Kd8 Rc2 5.a8Q+ Kxa8 6.Kc8 Sd6+ 7.Bxd6 Ka7, or 1.Rh3?"

Kxa7 2.Rxh5 Kb7, or 1.Rb3? Kxa7 2.Rxb5 Ka6, or 1.Rf3? exf3 2.Bb8 Sc4 3.Sd5 Kb7 4.Kd8 a4, Black drawing every time." So to the solution: 1.Ra3 Rxa3 2.Bb8 Sc4 3.Sd5 Kb7 4.Kd8 a4/i 5.a8Q+ Kxa8 6.Kc8 Sd6+ 7.Bxd6 Ka7 8.Bxc5+ Ka6 9.Sb4+ Ka5 10.Kb7 and 11.Sc6 mate, finally clearing up the matter of the choice of first move.

i) b4 5.a8Q+ Kxa8 6.Kc8 Sd6+ 7.Bxd6 Ka7 8.Bxc5+ Ka6 9.Sc7 mate.

"Every bit as good as the firing squad at dawn, eh?"

No 11669 E.Iriarte
special hon. mention Bron-90MT



h8a8 4681.64 11/10 Win

No 11669 Eduardo Iriarte (Argentina) 1.Be4 Rf8+/i 2.Kg7 Rg8+ 3.Kh6/ii Rh8+/iii 4.Kg5 Rg8+ 5.Kh4 Rh8+ 6.Kxg3 Rh3+ 7.Kf2 Rxh2+ 8.Ke1 Rh1+ 9.Kd2 Rh2+ 10.Kc1 Rh1+ 11.Kb2 Rh2+ 12.Ka1 Rh1+ 13.Sc1 Rxc1 14.Kb2 Rb1+ 15.Kc3 Rb3+ 16.Kd2 Rb2+ 17.Ke1 Rb1+ 18.Kf2 Rb2+ 19.Kg3/iv Rg2+ 20.Kh4 Rh2+ 21.Kg5 wins.
i) d5 2.Bxd5 Rf8+ 3.Kh7 d6+

4.Kh6 Rh8+ 5.Kg5 Rg8+ 6.Kf4 Rf8+ 7.Kxg3 Rf3+ 8.Kh4 Rh3+ 9.Kg5 wins.

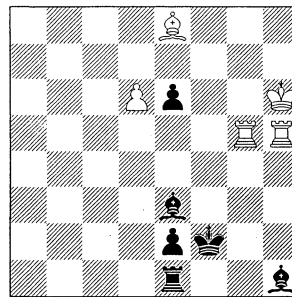
ii) A tough choice. Consider:
3.Kf6? Rg6+ 4.Ke7 d5 5.Bxd5 d6+ 6.Bxb7+ Rxb7+ 7.Kf8 gxh2, or 3.Kxg8? d5 4.Qxa7+ Qxa7 5.Bxa7 dxe5 6.hxg3 Rxb5 7.Bb6 Rb3.

iii) Rg6+ 4.Kh5 d5 5.Bxd5 Rc6 6.Qa3 gxh2 7.Kg5 h1Q 8.Bxh1.

iv) 19.Kg1? Rb1+ 20.Kh2? Rh1+ 21.Kg3 Rh3+ draw.

"The Argentine composer took this honour for the best analytical study submitted."

No 11670 A.Bezgodkov and V.Samilo
commendation Bron-90MT



h6f2 0570.12 5/6 Win

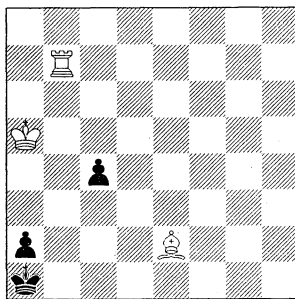
No 11670 Anatoly Bezgodkov and Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Rh2+ Bg2 2.Rxg2+ Kf1 3.Bh5/i Bxg5+ 4.Rxg5 Rd1 5.Bxe2+ Kxe2 6.Re5+ Kd3 7.Rd5+/ii exd5 8.d7 Rh1+ 9.Kg7 Rg1+ 10.Kf7 Rf1+ 11.Ke7 Re1+ 12.Kd6, and victory at long last.

i) 3.Bb5? Bxg5+ 4.Rxg5 Kf2 5.Re5 Rh1+ draw.

ii) 7.Rxe6? Kc4 8.Kg6 Kc5 draw.
"This corrects the composers' 1996 piece in III S.Belokon MT by shif-

ting the final position one file to the right."

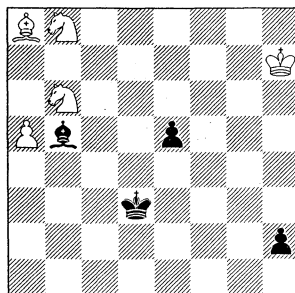
No 11671 A.Manyakhin
commendation Bron-90MT



a5a1 0110.02 3/3 Win

No 11671 Aleksandr Manyakhin (Lipetsk). To hurdle stalemate obstacles White fabricates a zugzwang. Not 1.Kb4? Kb2 2.Kxc4+ Kc1, but: 1.Ka4 c3 2.Kb3 c2/i 3.Rc7/ii Kb1 4.Bd3 (Rxc2? a1S+;) a1Q 5.Rxc2 Qd4 6.Rc3+ Ka1 7.Rc1 mate, "and bK has failed to give White the slip despite two underpromotions in tries."
i) Kb1 3.Bd3+ c2 4.Bxc2+ Ka1 5.Bd1 Kb1 6.Ra7 a1Q 7.Bc2+.
ii) 3.Ra7? c1S+, but not c1Q?
4.Rxa2+ Kb1 5.Bd3+.

No 11672 M.Pastalaka
commendation Bron-90MT

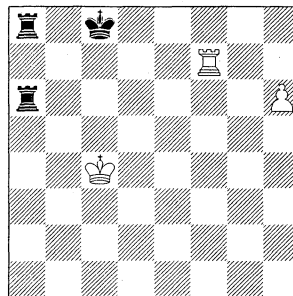


h7d3 0042.12 5/4 Win

No 11672 M.Pastalaka. 1.Bh1 e4 2.a6 Bxa6 3.Sxa6 e3, after which the rest is straightforward - and familiar: 4.Sc5+ Ke2 5.Se4 Kf1 6.Sd5 Kg1 7.Sg3 e2/i 8.Sf4 e1Q 9.Sh3 mate.
i) Kf2 8.Sxe3 Kxg3 9.Sd1.

II: section for *draws*

No 11673 B.Olympiev
1st prize Bron-90MT



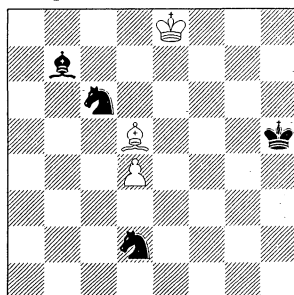
c4c8 0700.10 3/3 Draw

No 11673 Bronislav Olympiev (Russia). 1.h7 Rh6 2.Kb5/i Rh5+ 3.Kb6 Rh6+ 4.Kb5 Rb8+ 5.Kc5 Rh5+ 6.Kc6 Rh6+ 7.Kc5 Kd8 8.Rf8+ Kc7 9.Rf7+ Kc8 10.Rg7 Kd8 11.Rg8+ Kc7 12.Rg7+ Kc8 13.Rf7/ii Ra8 14.Kb5/iii Rh5+ 15.Kb6 Rh6+ 16.Kb5 Rb8+ 17.Kc5 Rh5+ 18.Kc6 Rh6+ 19.Kc5 Kd8/iv 20.Rf8+ Kc7 21.Rf7+ Kc8 22.Rg7 Kd8 23.Rg8+, "and it turns out that the kernel of this positional draw is rock solid while the web of its articulation is irreproachable. All in the composer's best style!"
i) 2.Kb4? Rh5 3.Rg7 Rb8+ 4.Kc4 Kd8 5.Rg8+ Kc7 6.Rg7+ Kb6 7.Rg8 Kb7 8.Rg7+ Ka8 9.Kc3 Rh4 10.Kc2 Rh3 11.Kc1 Rh1 12.Rf7 Rh8 wins.

ii) 13.Re7? Ra8 14.Kb5 Kd8
 15.Rg7 Rc8 16.Rg8+ Kc7. And
 13.Ra7? is no better: Kd8 14.Rg7
 (Kd5,Rb5+;) Rc8+ 15.Kd5 Ke8
 16.Rg8+ Kd7 17.Rg7+ Kd8 18.Rf7
 Ke8 19.Rg7 Rd8+ 20.Ke5 Kf8
 21.Rg8+ Ke7 22.Rg7+ Ke8 23.Ra7
 Kf8, "when this fascinating sys-
 tematic movement of four pieces
 has worked out with Black on top -
 an out-of-this-world example of
 Urals tracery ornamentation
 splintered only by White's main
 line move 13".

iii) 14.Rf8+? Kb7 15.Rf7+ Ka6.
 iv) Rh1 20.Rg7 Rc1+ 21.Kd6 Rb6+
 22.Ke5 Re1+ 23.Kf5 Rh6 24.Rg8+
 is a draw.

No 11674 V.Vlasenko
 2nd prize Bron-90MT



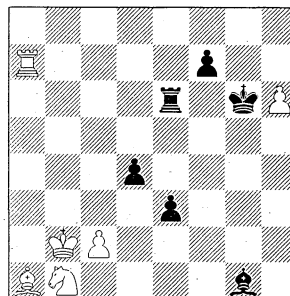
e8h5 0046.10 3/4 Draw

No 11674 Valery Vlasenko
 (Ukraine). 1.Kd7 Sb8+/i 2.Kd6/ii
 Se4+ 3.Ke5 Sd7+ 4.Ke6 Sg5+
 5.Kd6 Bc8 6.Kc7 Sf6 7.Bf3+
 (Kxc8? Sxd5;) Sxf3 8.Kxc8 and
 draws because wP attains d6.
 i) Se5+ 2.Ke6 Bxd5+ 3.Kxd5, and
 when wP gets to d6 Troitzky
 comes to his aid.
 ii) 2.Ke6? Ba6 3.Kd6 Bd3 4.Kc7

Sa6+ 5.Kb6 Sc4+, with one of
 those technical wins.

"As so often with V.Vlasenko there
 is a good idea with fine construc-
 tion and elegant play, all in superb
 disguise."

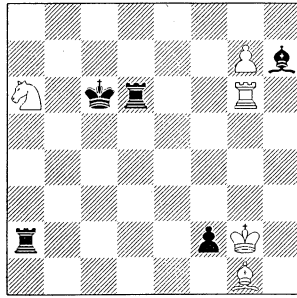
No 11675 V. and L.Katsnelson
 3rd prize Bron-90MT



b2g6 0441.23 6/6 Draw

No 11675 Vladimir and Leonard
 Katsnelson (St Petersburg). 1.h7
 Kxh7 2.Rxf7+ Kg6 3.Rf3/i Bf2
 4.Sc3 dxc3+ 5.Kc1/ii Rc6 6.Kd1
 Rd6+ 7.Kc1 Be1 8.Rf1 Ra6
 9.Kd1/iii Rxa1+ 10.Ke2, and it
 transpires that Black has been taken
 for a ride. bB is lost and the up-
 coming R-swap will yield a draw.
 i) 3.Rf1 Bf2 4.Sd2 exd2 5.Rd1 Be1
 6.Kb3 Rd6 7.Kc4 d3 8.Kc3 Kf5
 9.cxd3 Rc6+ 10.Kb2 Kf4, with a
 black win.
 ii) 5.Kb3? Rc6 6.Bxc3 Rxc3+
 7.Kxc3 e2 wins.
 iii) 9.Kb1? Rxa1+ 10.Kxa1 Bf2
 wins.
 "Fanned by the distinctive creative
 spirit of the fraternal duo, the con-
 cept takes us aback with the
 audacity of the treatment."

No 11676 E.Eilazyan
4th prize Bron-90MT



g2c6 0741.11 5/5 Draw

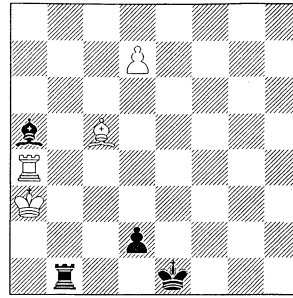
No 11676 Eduard Eilazyan
(Ukraine). 1.Sb8+? Kd5 2.Rg5+
Ke6 3.Bxf2 Kf7 4.g8Q+ Bxg8
5.Rf5+ Kg6 6.Rf8 Kg7 7.Rf4 Rb2
wraps up wS. 1.Sb4+ Kc7 2.Bh2
f1Q+ 3.Kxf1 Rxh2 4.Sa6+ Kd7
5.Sb8+ Kc7 6.Sa6+ Kc6 7.g8Q
Bxg8 8.Sb4+/i Kd7 9.Rg7+ Ke6
10.Rg6+ Ke5 11.Sc6+ Kd5
12.Sb4+ Kc5 13.Sa6+ Kc6/ii
14.Sb4+ Kc7 15.Sa6+ Kd7 16.Sb8+
Ke7 17.Sc6+ positional draw

i) 8.Sb8+? is wrong here too: Kd5
9.Rxg8 Rb6 10.Kg1 Rc2.

ii) Rxa6 14.Rxa6 Bc4+ 15.Kg1,
just in time.

"Despite White's 'electric knight'
doing his own, not-so-simple,
positional draw thing - even
threatening checkmate after three
moves - after move 7 Black is
intriguingly left with an extra
rook."

No 11677 A.Manyakhin
1st honourable mention Bron-90MT



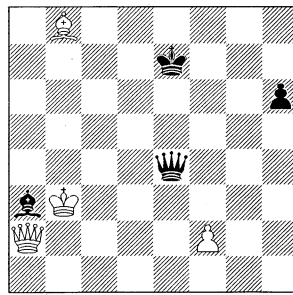
a3e1 0440.11 4/4 Draw

No 11677 Aleksandr Manyakhin.
1.Re4+ Kf1 2.Rf4+ Ke2 3.Rf2+
Ke1 4.Rxd2 Kxd2 5.Bb4+ Bxb4
6.Ka2 Kc1 7.d8Q/i Rb2+ 8.Ka1
Bc3 9.Qd1+ Kxd1 stalemate.

i) 7.d8R? Rb2+ 8.Ka1 Rc2 wins.

The judge's allusion: "In the spirit
of Fantomas!" eludes us - is this a
cartoon character?

No 11678 P.Rossi
2nd hon. mention Bron-90MT



b3e7 4040.11 4/4 BTM, Draw

No 11678 Pietro Rossi (Italy).

1...Qf3+ 2.Kc2 Qe2+/i 3.Kb3
Qxa2+ 4.Kxa2 Bd6 5.Ba7 h5 6.f3/ii
h4 7.Kb3 h3 8.Bg1 Kf6 9.Kc3 Kg5
10.Kd3 Kh4 11.Bf2+/iii Bg3
12.Bg1, with a positional draw "no

doubt of interest to specialists in such things"!

i) Qxf2+ 3.Kb3 Qxa2+ 4.Kxa2 Bd6 5.Ba7 holds.

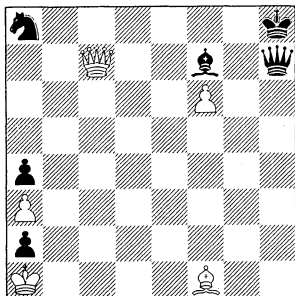
ii) 6.f4? h4 7.Bf2 h3 8.Bg3 Kf6 9.Kb3 Kf5 10.Kc3 Kg4 wins.

iii) 11.Ke2? Kg3 12.Kf1 Kxf3.

"We like wB's surprise démarche. The forlorn wP, scornfully left standing by Black in the overture, gloriously makes his mark later on."

No 11679 B.Sidorov

3rd hon mention Bron-90MT



a1h8 4043.22 5/6 Draw

No 11679 Boris Sidorov

(Apsheronok). 1.Qb8+ Qg8 2.Qh2+ Qh7 3.Qb8+ Bg8 4.Qb2 Qf7/i 5.Qh2+ Bh7 6.Qb8+ Qg8 7.Qe5/ii Qf7 8.Qb8+ Bg8 9.Qh2+ Qh7 10.Qb2, positional draw.

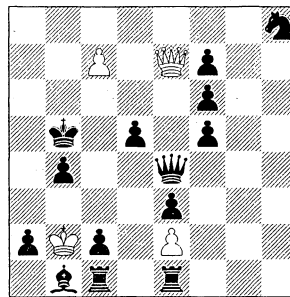
i) Qb1+ 5.Qxb1 axb1Q+ 6.Kxb1 Bb3 7.Kb2 Sb6 8.Kc3 Kg8 9.Kb4 Kf7 10.Ka5 Sd5 11.Bb5 Sc3

12.Kb4 Sd5+ 13.Ka5 is another positional draw, 'repaying with interest' [the judge's phrase] the artistic cost of otherwise passive pieces.

ii) 7.Qb2? Qb3 8.f7+ Qxb2+ 9.Kxb2 Kg7 10.Kxa2 Kxf7 11.Kb2 Ke6 wins.

No 11680 M.Kalashnikov and M.Kormiltsev

special hon mention Bron-90MT



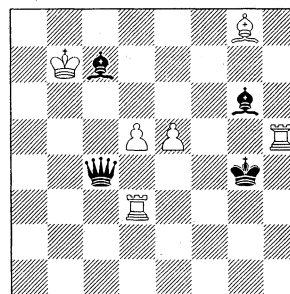
b2b5 4633.28 4/14 Draw

No 11680 M.Kalashnikov and

M.Kormiltsev (Russia). 1.Qc5+ Kxc5 2.c8Q+ Kd4 3.Qc3+ dxc3+ 4.Ka1 Qf3 5.exf3 Rg1 6.f4 Rg5 7.fxg5 Rg1 8.gxf6 Rg7 9.fxg7 c1Q 10.gxh8Q+ Kd3 11.Qd4+ Kxd4 stalemate.

No 11681 A.Sadykov

commendation Bron-90MT



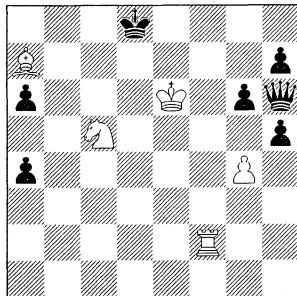
b7g4 3270.20 6/4 Draw

No 11681 Azat Sadykov (Russia).

1.dRh3 Bxh5 2.Be6+ Kg5 3.Rxh5+ Kxh5 4.Bf7+ Kg5 5.d6 Qxf7 6.e6/i Qe8 (Qxe6;dxc7) 7.dxc7 Qb5+ 8.Ka8 Qc6+ 9.Kb8 Qb6+ 10.Kc8 Kf6 11.e7 Kxe7 with a criss-cross stalemate.

i) "A smart position that is Nadareishvili's trademark, but shifted one rank down, revealing new possibilities."
 "Celebrating his 65th anniversary the composer pursues with astonishing zeal his favourite finales, inching and winching up the lock-gates of black defensive bastions."
 [Don't blame AJR for this, he's only the translator!]

No 11682 B.Sidorov
 commendation Bron-90MT

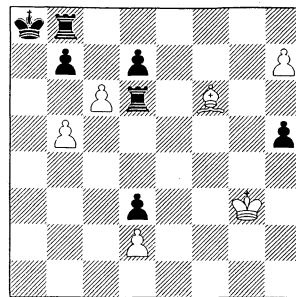


e6d8 3111.15 5/7 Draw

No 11682 B.Sidorov. 1.Sb7+ Kc7
 2.Rf7+ Kc6 3.Sa5+/i Kb5 4.g5
 Qxg5 5.Rb7+ Kxa5 6.Bb6+ Kb5
 7.Bd8+ Kc6 8.Rc7+ Kb6 9.Re7+
 Kb5 10.Rb7+ Kc6 11.Rc7+ Kb6
 12.Re7+, positional draw. The two
 white batteries set up during the
 play - indeed, they are reversed -
 are worth a second look.

i) 3.g5? Qxg5 4.Sa5+ Qxa5.

No 11683 S.Tkachenko
 commendation Bron-90MT



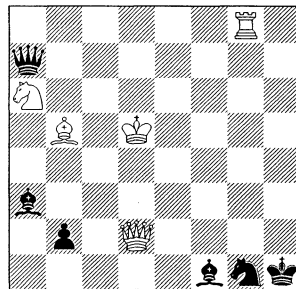
g3a8 0610.44 6/7 Draw

No 11683 S.N.Tkachenko (Odessa),
 not S.I.Tkachenko, we presume.

1.c7 Rc8 2.h8Q Rxh8 3.Bxh8 Rg6+
 4.Kh3/i Rg8 5.b6 Rxh8 6.Kh4 d6
 7.Kg3 h4+ 8.Kh3 d5 9.Kg2 h3+
 10.Kh2 d4 11.Kg1 h2+ 12.Kh1, a
 reciprocal zugzwang, we read.

i) 4.Kh4? Rg8 5.b6 Rxh8, puts the
 zugzwang where Black wants it.

No 11684 A.Jasik
 special commendation Bron-90MT



d5h1 4174.01 5/6 Draw

No 11684 Andrzej Jasik (Poland).

EG corrects the initial 'F' in the
 source. White, pushed for
 something better than: 1.Rh8+? Sh3
 2.Qd1 Qf7+ 3.Ke5 Qg7+ 4.Kf5
 Qg5+ 5.Ke6 Qg6+ 6.K- d1Q wins,

finds: 1.Sb4 b1Q/i 2.Bc6, with:
 - Qb6 3.Kd6+ Qe4 4.Rh8+ Sh3
 5.Rxh3+ Bxh3 6.Qh2+ Kxh2
 stalemate, or

- Qc7 3.Kc5+ Qe4 4.Rxg1+ Kxg1
 5.Qf2+ Kxf2 stalemate.

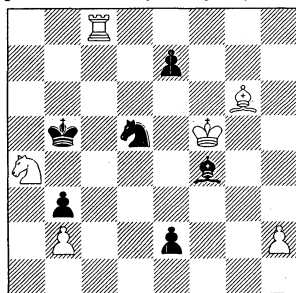
i) Qf7+ 2.Kd6 Qxg8 3.Bc6+ Bg2
 4.Qh6+ Sh3 5.Qxh3+ Kg1 6.Qe3+
 Kh2 7.Qh6+ Kg3 8.Qe3+ Kg4
 9.Bd7+ and White is OK!

"A pair of sculpted stalemates. Of course this is not so novel and there are blemishes obvious to the naked eye. The 'special' honour is for audacity in tackling something so complex."

Zadachy i etyudy, 1996

This tourney was judged by A.Hildebrand (Sweden). 18 studies entered, of which 8 were found defective

No 11685 P.Arestov
 prize Zadachy i etyudy 1996



f5b5 0144.23

6/6 Win

No 11685 P.Arestov (Moscow region) 1.Be8+ Ka5 (Kb4;Sc5)
 2.Rc5+ Kb4 3.Rb5+ Kc4/i 4.Rxd5
 e6+ (e1Q;Sb6+) 5.Kxf4 exd5 6.Bb5
 Kd4/ii 7.Sc5 e1Q 8.Sxb3, a pure

mid-board mate.

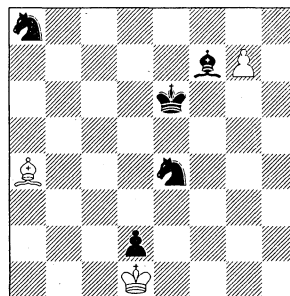
i) Kxa4 4.Rxd5+ Kb4 5.Rd4+ wins.

ii) Kxb5 7.Sc3+ Kc4 8.Sxe2 Kd3
 9.Sc1+ Kc2 10.Sxb3 wins.

"To my mind this was the only contender with content satisfying today's requirements. True, a pure mate is no longer a requirement, but just an embellishment. What counts here is the tactical construction: black counterplay, forks, a battery, stalemate avoidance, sacrifice and counter-sacrifice, and so on. To add to this the play is lively, despite some passivity on the part of the black force."

No 11686 B.Sidorov

1st HM Zadachy i etyudy 1996



d1e6 0046.11

3/5 Draw

No 11686 B.Sidorov (Krasnodarsky krai) 1.Bb3+/i Kf6 2.g8S+ (g8Q? Bh5+;) with:

- Kg7 3.Bf7 Kxf7 4.Sh6+ Ke6
 5.Sg4 Sb6 6.Sf2 draw, or

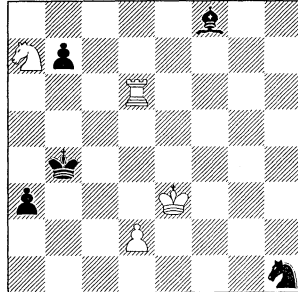
- Ke5 3.Bf7 Sb6 4.Bb3 (else Sa4;) Sd5 5.Bxd5 Kxd5 6.Sf6 draw.

i) 1.g8Q? Bxg8 2.Bb3+ Ke5
 3.Bxg8 Sb6 draw.

"Not complex, but the construction with its two thematic variations is

pleasing. The minor promotion and the try trim it out. A successful piece by the composer from Krasnodar."

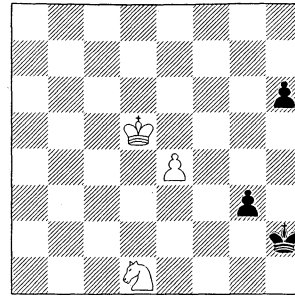
No 11687 B.Sidorov and V.Shanshin
2nd HM Zadachy i etyudy 1996



e3b4 0134.12 4/5 Draw

No 11687 B.Sidorov and V.Shanshin (Kirgizia) 1.Rb6+ Ka4 2.Rb1/i Sg3/ii 3.Rxb7 a2 4.Sb5 Bc5+ 5.Kd3 a1Q 6.Sc3+ Ka5 7.Rb1 Qa3 8.Rb3 Qc1 9.Rb1 Qa3 10.Rb3 Qxb3 stalemate, the pinning of the knight being the result of the far-seeing 2.Rb1!
i) 2.Rxb7? would fail because without bS on g3 there is nothing for White to take advantage of.
ii) Bc5+ 3.d4 Bxa7 4.Rxb7 draw.
"A study with a familiar logical effect - the bSg3 lure and the stalemate finale with pinned knight. Not at all bad. And there are white moments (2.Rb1!). Sad that there is no black counterplay."

No 11688 S.Berlov
1st comm Zadachy i etyudy 1996



d5h2 0001.12 3/3 Win

No 11688 S.Berlov (St Petersburg)

1.Sc3/i h5/ii 2.Ke5, with:

- g2 3.Se2 g1Q 4.Sxg1 Kxg1 5.Kf4 Kg2 6.e5 h4 7.e6 h4 8.e7 h2 9.e8Q h1Q 10.Qe2 wins, or
- Kg2 3.Kf4 h4 4.Kg4 Kf2 5.Kh3 g2 6.Se2 wins..

i) 1.Se3? g2 2.Sxg2 Kxg2 3.e5 h5 4.e6 h4 5.e7 h3 6.e8Q h2 draw.

ii) g2 2.Se2 g1Q 3.Sxg1 Kxg1 4.Ke5 h5 5.Kf4 wins. Or Kg2 2.Kd4 Kf3 3.Kd3 g2 4.Se2 wins.

"Neatly constructed, with try and straightforward solution. I could not trace a serious anticipation, but I cannot rule out the existence of one. Partial anticipations, though, there are. As they say, 'where there's no fish a crab will serve'."

No 11689 L.Katsnelson (St Petersburg) 1.Rb6+ Ka4

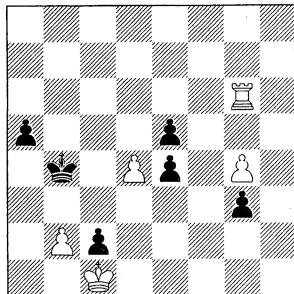
(Kc4;Rc6+) 2.Kxc2 g2 3.Kb1 g1Q+ 4.Ka2 Qf2 5.g5/i e3 6.g6 exd4 7.g7 (Rb7? Qc2;) Qg2 8.Rb8 d3 9.Rb6/ii d2(e2) 10.b3 mate.

i) 5.Rb7? Qc2 6.g5 e3.

ii) Note the zugzwang. 9.g8Q? Qxg8 10.Rxg8 Kb4.

"A focus theme. The solution has a forcing character with little black counterplay or other subtleties, so that the impression left is mechanical. A modest product from the respected composer."

No 11689 L.Katsnelson
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1996



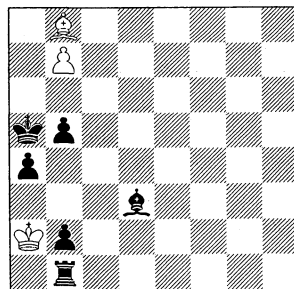
c1b4 0100.35

5/6 Win

Zadachy i etyudy, 1997

This informal international tourney was judged by L.Katsnelson (St Petersburg). 35 studies by 21 composers entered.

No 11690 A.Manvelyan
1st prize Zadachy i etyudy 1997



a2a5 0340.13

3/6 Win

No 11690 A.Manvelyan (Armenia)
1.Bc7+ Kb4 2.b8Q/i Bc4+/ii

3.Kxb1 Ka3 4.Qf8+/iii b4 5.Qf3+ Bb3 6.Qc3/iv bxc3 7.Bd6 mate.

i) 2.Bd6+? Kc3 3.Be5+ Kc2.

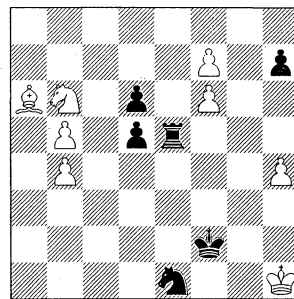
ii) a3 3.Qf8+ Kc3 4.Ba5+ Kc2 5.Qf2+.

iii) 4.Bd6+? Kb3. 4.Qd8? Ba2+.

iv) 6.B-? stalemate, or 6.Qe4? Ba2+.

"A study with the quality of Armenian songs: maximum expression with minimum means. Black's counterplay is of interest and both sides prominently sacrifice. The building of the stalemate is unconstrained, and then White conjures it into checkmate."

No 11691 V.Prigunov
2nd prize Zadachy i etyudy 1997



h1f2 0314.53

8/6 Win

No 11691 V.Prigunov (Kazan)
1.f8Q Sf3/i 2.Qe7 Rh5 3.f7 Sxh4 4.Qe3+ Kxe3 5.Sxd5+ Rxd5 6.f8Q Rd1+/ii 7.Kh2 Sf3+ 8.Kh3 Rh1+ 9.Kg4 Rg1+ 10.Kf5 Sd4+ 11.Kf6 Rf1+ 12.Ke7 Rxf8 13.Kxf8 d5/iii 14.Ke7 h5 15.b6 Sc6+ 16.Kd6 Sb8 17.Bb5 d4 18.Kc7 d3 19.Kxb8 d2 20.Ba4 wins.

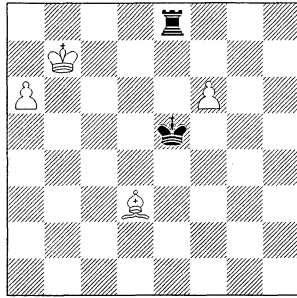
i) Re4 2.Qxd6 Sf3 3.Qc5+ Kg3 4.Qc7 wins.

ii) Sf3 7.Qxf3+ Kxf3 8.Bb7 wins.

iii) Sxb5 14.Bxb5 Kd4 15.Bf1 h5
16.Ke7 wins.

"A two-phase study on the grand scale. In the first White just manages to sweep the feet from under Black's attack, at the cost of two promoted queens and a knight. The second phase is at a steadier pace - in it the bishop gets the better of the knight."

No 11692 G.Nekhaev
3rd prize Zadachy i etyudy 1997



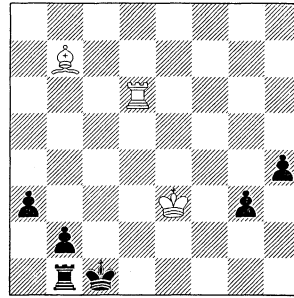
b7e5 0310.20 4/2 Win

No 11692 G.Nekhaev (Kursk)
1.Bg6 Rd8 2.f7/i Ke6 3.Bh5/ii
Ke7/iii 4.Bg4 Rd4/iv 5.Be6 Rd8/v
6.Bc4 Rd7+ 7.Kb6 Rd6+ 8.Ka5
Rd7 9.Bb5 Rd8 10.Be8 Rd5+
11.Kb6 Rd6+ 12.Kb7/vi Rd1 13.a7
Rb1+ 14.Bb5 Rxb5+ 15.Ka6 Rb1
16.f8Q+ Kxf8 17.a8Q+ wins.
i) 2.Kc7? Rh8 3.f7 Kf6 4.Bh5 Ke7
5.a7 Rd8 6.Kb7 Rd7+ 7.Kb6 Rd6+
draw.
ii) 3.a7? Rd7+ 4.Kb6 Rd6+ 5.K-5
Rd5 draw.
iii) Rd7+ 4.Kc8 Ra7 5.Kb8.
iv) Kxf7 5.a7 Re8 6.Bh5.
v) Ra4 6.a7 Rb4+ 7.Kc6 Ra4
8.Kb6 Ra1 9.Bc4 wins.
vi) 12.Bc6? Kxf7 13.a7 Rd8

14.Kc7 Rh8 15.Bb7 Kf6 draw.

"Subtle play on the wide-open board, with the principal role taken by wB, which lands on the crucial c4 square after a stage or two, only to sacrifice itself right at the finish. Despite some partial anticipations noted in the composer's article, the study stands impressively on its own feet."

No 11693 A.Manvelyan
1st HM Zadachy i etyudy 1997

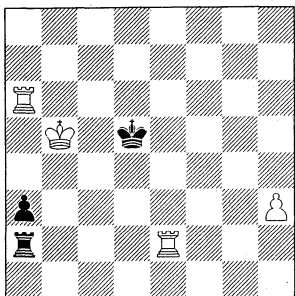


e3c1 0410.04 3/6 Win

No 11693 A.Manvelyan 1.Bf3/i
Ra1/ii 2.Rc6+ Kb1 3.Be4+/iii Ka2
4.Bd5+ Kb1 5.Bb3 Ra2 6.Rb6z h3
7.Kf3 g2 8.Kf2 Ka1 9.Bc2 h2
10.Kxg2 h1Q+ 11.Kxh1 b1Q+
12.Rxb1 mate - and a pure one.
i) Try: 1.Ke2? Ra1 2.Rc6+ Kb1
3.Rc8 Ra2 4.Be4+ Ka1 5.Rb8 b1Q.
ii) Kc2 2.Be4+ Kb3 3.Bxb1 g2
4.Kf2 wins.
iii) 3.Bd5? Ra2 4.Rb6 Ka1 5.Be4
g2 6.Kf2 b1Q+.
"The mechanism bringing about the black zugzwang is of interest, then there are the pure mate, beautiful try, the sole minus (compared with the first prize winner) being the minimal contribution made by

black counterplay."
 [The faulty original 226: e3d1
 0410.30 c6b1b7.a3b2g3 3/5+.]

No 11694 Ivan Bondar
 2/3 HM Zadachy i etyudy 1997



b5d5 0500.11 4/3 BTM, Draw.

No 11694 Ivan Bondar (Belarus)
 1...Rb2+ 2.Ka4 a2 3.Rd2+ Kc5
 (Rxd2;Kb3) 4.Rc2+ Kd5/i 5.Rd2+
 Ke5 6.Re2+ Kf5 7.Rf2+ Kg5
 8.Rg2+ Kh5 9.Ra5+ Kh6/ii
 10.Ra6+, with perpetual check
 using both rooks.

i) Kd4 5.Rd6+ Ke5 6.Rd1 draw.

ii) Kh4? 10.Rg4+ Kxh3 11.Rg1
 Rb1 12.Rh5 mate.

"A peculiar battle of the wR-pair
 against rook and passed pawn,
 putting together perpetual rook
 checks whose first series incor-
 porates perpetual sacrifices."

No 11695 V.Kalyagin and
 B.Olympiev (Ekaterinburg) Yes,
 wK is in check. 1.Kg1 Bg3 2.Rg4
 Be6 3.Rg6/i Bc4 (Bh3;Rxc3) 4.Rg4
 (Rc6? Bd3;) with:

- Be6 5.Rg6 Bc4 6.Rg4 Bh2+
 7.Kh1 Bd5+ 8.Rg2+ K- stalemate
 with pin of wR, or

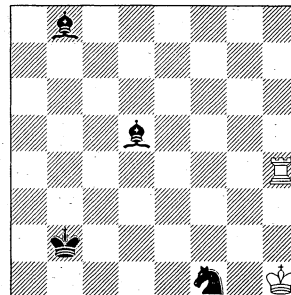
- Ba6 5.Ra4 (Rg6? Bd3;) Bd3

6.Rd4 Be2 7.Re4 Bf3 8.Re3 Sxe3,
 a mirror stalemate.

i) Try: 3.Re4? Bh3 4.Re2+ Kc3
 5.Rg2 Bb8 6.Kxf1 Ba7 wins.

"Fresh nuances in the conflict of
 rook against three minors. The
 variations slot together nicely. The
 first move is perfunctory (wK is in
 check and has only one move). It
 would have been better to begin
 with Black to play."

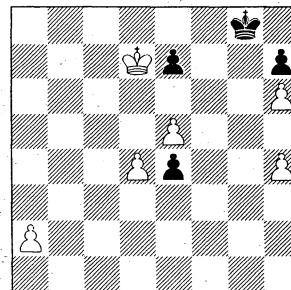
No 11695 V.Kalyagin and
 B.Olympiev
 2/3 HM Zadachy i etyudy 1997



h1b2 0163.00

2/4 Draw

No 11696 V.Kovalenko
 4th HM Zadachy i etyudy 1997



d7g8 0000.53

6/4 Win

No 11696 V.Kovalenko (Maritim
 province) 1.d5 e3 2.d6 exd6/i 3.e6
 e2 4.e7 e1Q 5.e8Q+ Qxe8+ 6.Kxe8

d5 7.a4 d4 8.a5 d3 9.a6 d2 10.a7
d1Q 11.a8Q Qa1/ii 12.Qd5+/iii
Kh8 13.Qd8 Qa7 14.Qf6+ Kg8
15.Qf8 mate.

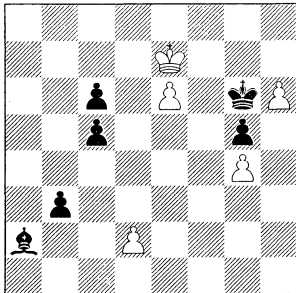
i) e6 3.Ke7 e2 4.d7 e1Q 5.d8Q
mate.

ii) Qd6 12.Qa2+ wins. Qe2+
12.Kd7+ Kf7 13.Qd5+ wins.

iii) 12.Qa1 stalemate? 12.Qd8?
Qf6 draw.

"The P-ending converts into a
Q-ending with wQ making a neat
and noteworthy geometrical pat-
tern."

No 11697 A.Sadykov
5th HM Zadachy i etyudy 1997

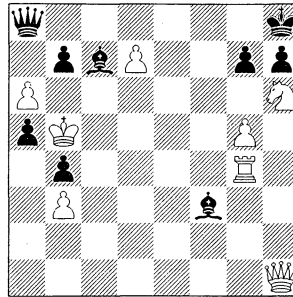


e7g6 0030.44 5/6 Draw

No 11697 A.Sadykov (Sverdlovsk
region) 1.Kf8 b2 2.e7 Bf7 3.h7
b1Q/i 4.h8S+/ii Kf6 5.Sxf7, with:
- Qh7 6.e8S+ Kg6 7.Se5+ Kh6
8.Sf7+ Kg6 9.Se5+ with perpetual
check administered by the first
knight that promoted, or
- Qg6 6.e8S+ Ke6 7.Sc7+ Kf6
8.Se8+ Ke6 9.Sc7+, the perpetual
check administered this time by the
second knight that promoted.
i) Kxh7 4.Kxf7 b1Q 5.e8Q Qg6+
6.Ke7 Qe4+ 7.Kf8 Qf4+ 8.Qf7+
Kh8 9.Ke7 draw.

ii) 4.e8Q? Bxe8 5.h8Q Qf1+
6.Kxe8 Qf7+ 7.Kd8 Qf6 8.Qxf6+
Kxf6 9.Kc7 Ke5 10.Kc6 Kd4 wins.
"Perpetual checks from each of two
promoted knights seem interesting,
but the barricade of immobile
pawns stopped this entry from
being placed any higher."

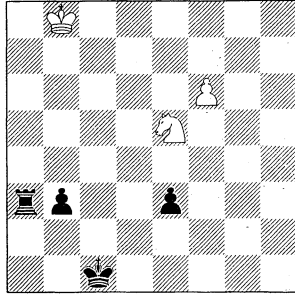
No 11698 D.Godes and
V.Neishtadt
special HM Zadachy i etyudy 1997



b5h8 4161.45 8/9 Draw

No 11698 D.Godes and
V.Neishtadt (Israel and Barnaul)
1.Sf7+ Kg8 2.Sh6+ gxh6 3.Qxf3
bxa6+/i 4.Ka4 Qxf3 5.d8Q+ Bxd8
6.gxh6+ Bg5/ii 7.Rxg5+ Kh8 8.Rd5
Kg8 (Qf6Rd8+) 9.Rg5+ Kh8
(Kf7;Rf5+) 10.Rd5 positional draw.
i) Qxa6+ 4.Kc5 Qb6+ 5.Kc4 draw.
ii) "De-stalemating wK."
"An enticing contest over the whole
board is tied up with a positional
draw and stalemate avoidance. So,
a special h.m. for a witty theme."

No 11699 G.Amiryan
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1997

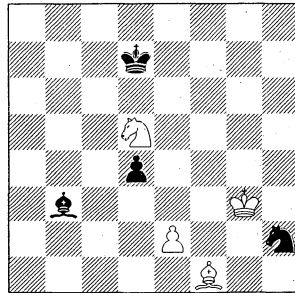


b8c1 0301.12 3/4 Draw

No 11699 G.Amiryan 1.Sd3+ Kc2
2.f7 b2 3.Sxb2 Rb3+ 4.Ka8 e2
5.f8Q e1Q 6.Qf5+ Kxb2 7.Qf2+
Qxf2 stalemate.

"Likable stalemate play with a Q-sac."

No 11700 † Yu.Dorogov and
D.Pikhurov
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1997



g3d7 0044.11 4/4 Win

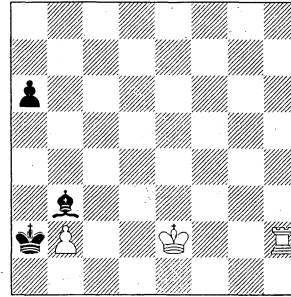
No 11700 † Yu.Dorogov and
D.Pikhurov (Stavropol) "Both white
pieces are en prise, so something
must be pulled out of the bag."

1.Bh3+ Kd6 2.Sf4 Ke5 3.Sd3+ Ke4
4.Sc5+ Ke3 5.Sxb3 (Kxh2? Bc4;)
Sf1/i 6.Bxf1 d3 7.Sd4, and after d2
8.Sc2+ Ke4 9.Bg2+ Ke5 10.Se3

White wins.

i) Black is setting up a stalemate.
"Taut twin-bladed play and an
unexpected stalemate."

No 11701 V.Katsnelson
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1997



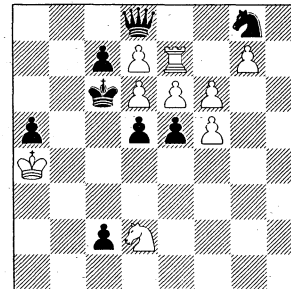
e2a2 0130.11 3/3 Draw

No 11701 V.Katsnelson (St
Petersburg) 1.Kd3 a5 2.Kc3 a4
3.Kb4 Kb1/i 4.Ka3 Kc1 5.Rh1+
Kd2 6.Rh3 Bc2 (Bd1;Rh4) 7.Kb4
Bd1 8.Rh2+ Kd3 9.Rh1 Bb3
10.Rh3+ Kc2 and 11.Rxb3 axb3
12.Ka3 draws.

i) Ka1 4.Ka3 Kb1 5.Rh1+ Kc2
6.Rh3 B- 7.Rh2 draw.

"Quite subtle, with its intricate wK
manoeuvre."

No 11702 E.Kudelich
spec comm Zadachy i etyudy 1997



a4c6 3104.65

9/8 Win

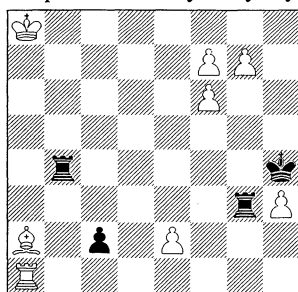
No 11702 E.Kudelich (Tyumen region) 1.Sb3/i Sxf6 (Qb8;d8S+) 2.Re8 Sxe8 3.g8Q Qh4 4.Qg4/ii Qxg4+ 5.Kxa5 Sd6/ii 6.d8S mate.
 i) 1.Re8? c1Q 2.Rxd8 Qxd2.
 ii) 4.Kxa5? Sxd6. Or 4.Ka3? c1Q+ 5.Sxc1 Qb4 draw.

"A synthesis of familiar complex ideas, but the outward form leaves something to be desired."

Zadachy i etyudy, 1998

This informal international tourney was judged by A.Sochnev (St Petersburg). 22 studies by 25 composers from 7 countries entered. Judge's report: After 7 were eliminated for assorted defects, 15 remained to be judged. This is rather few for such a respectable tourney, but the level of the residue is high enough for the tourney to be counted a success.

No 11703 N.Ryabinin
 1st prize Zadachy i etyudy 1998

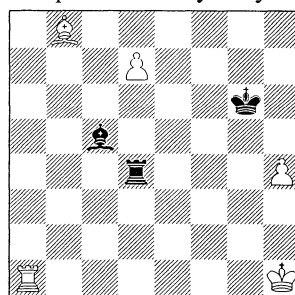


a8h4 0710.51 8/4 Win

No 11703 Nikolai Ryabinin (Zherdevka). We start with what must be one of chess history's most incomprehensible moves: 1.e3 Rxe3

2.Bb3 c1Q 3.Rxc1 eRxb3 4.Rc7 Rb8+ 5.Ka7 R8b4 6.Rc6 Rb7+ 7.Ka6 R7b4 8.Rc5 Rb6+ 9.Ka5 Rb7 10.Rc4+ Kh5 11.Ka4 Rb1 12.Rc5+ Kh4 13.Rb5 R1xb5 14.f8Q Rb1 15.Qh8+ Kg3 16.g8Q+ Kh2 17.Qa2+ wins. The check clears up the mystery of 1.e3: with wPe2 White's Q-pair would be helpless against Black's R-pair. "A study of high technical quality, with a first move of beautiful subtlety and a try (1.Bb3? leaving wPe2 undisturbed, thereby obstructing any check on move 17!) in which queens lose out against rooks." We can append the admiring comment that 2.Bb3 offers wB to both bRR, and with 13.Rb5 wR delivers a sacrificial echo with his remaining piece.

No 11704 L. and V.Katsnelson
 2nd prize Zadachy i etyudy 1998



h1g6 0440.20 5/3 Win

No 11704 Leonard and Vladimir Katsnelson (St Petersburg). "White's hopes are in his d7 pawn, but this is in peril." 1.Bd6/i Bb6 (Rxd6;Ra6) 2.Ra6 Rxh4+/ii 3.Kg2 Rh7 4.Be7 Kf7 (Rxe7;d8Q) 5.Rxb6 Rg7+ 6.Kh3/iii Kxe7 7.Rb8 Rh7+

8.Kg4 Rg7+ 9.Kh5 Kxd7 10.Rb7+ wins.

i) 1.Ra6+? Kf7 2.Rd6 Rxh4+ 3.Kg2 Bb6 4.Rxb6 Ke7 5.Rd6 Rh8 6.Bc7 Rd8 and White has no win.

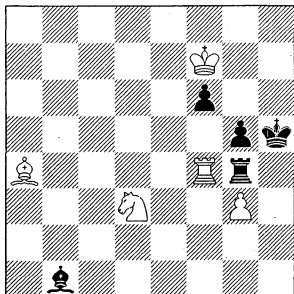
ii) Bd8 3.Be5. Or Rd1+ 3.Kg2 Bd8 4.Be7.

iii) 6.Kf3? Kxe7 7.Rb8 Rf7+.

"A sharp combinative study with a solution that is far from obvious.

There are sacrifices by both sides, traps, and a thematic try, while the bouquet of ideas is presentable and the starting position natural."

No 11705 E.Eilazyan
3rd prize Zadachy i etyudy 1998

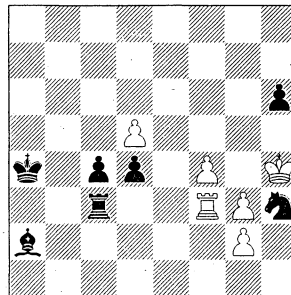


f7h5 0441.12 5/5 Win

No 11705 Eduard Eilazyan (Ukraine). "With pieces hanging White's winning chances look problematical." 1.Rb4, with:
- Rxb4 2.Bd1+ (Sxb4? Kg4;) Rg4 3.Sf2 f5 4.Kg7 Bd3 5.Bf3 Bc2 6.Be2 Bd3 7.Bd1 Bc2 8.Bf3/i, and:
- Ba4 9.Bxg4+ fxg4 10.Se4 for 11.Sf6 mate, or
- Bb1 9.Sxg4 fxg4 10.Bc6 with 11.Be8 mate.
i) This is a zugzwang.

"The first move is excellent. The interesting duel of bishops and the three checkmates (by each of the three white pieces) make a good synthesis."

No 11706 A.Kuryatnikov and E.Markov
1st HM Zadachy i etyudy 1998



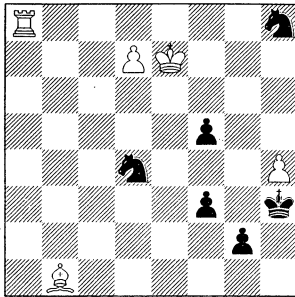
h4a4 0433.43 6/7 Draw

No 11706 Anatoly Kuryatnikov (Latvia) and Evgeny Markov (Saratov). "... White's dP is his only hope." 1.d6 Sg5 2.fxg5 hxg5+ 3.Kg4/i Rxf3 4.Kxf3 g4+/ii 5.Ke2 d3+/iii 6.Ke3 d2 7.Kxd2 c3+ 8.Kxc3 Be6 9.Kd4 Bd7 10.Ke5 Kb5 11.Kf6 Kc6 12.Ke7 Bc8 13.Kd8 Ba6 14.Ke7 Bc8 15.Kd8 Be6 16.Ke7 Bf5 17.Kf6 Bc8 18.Ke7 Bd7 19.Kd8 Kxd6 stalemate, otherwise a positional draw.
i) 3.Kxg5? Rxf3 4.gxf3 c3 5.d7 c2 6.d8Q c1Q+ wins.
ii) c3 5.d7 Bd5+ 6.Kf2/iv c2 7.d8Q c1Q 8.Qxd5 draws, for example Qc2+ 9.Kg1 d3 10.Qxg5 d2 11.Qf4+ Kb3 12.Qe3+ Kb2 13.Qb6+ Kc1 14.Qe3+.
iii) c3 6.d7 Bc4+ 7.Kf2, with c2 8.d8Q c1Q 9.Qa5+, a desperado, or

d3 8.d8Q d2 9.Qd4 Kb3 10.Kg1 Kc2 11.Kh2 d1Q 12.Qxc3+, another of the same.
iv) 6.Ke2? Bc4+ 7.Kd1 Bb3+ and d3;

"The analysis is complex. In the first phase Black counters White's subtle play... the thread is unique, leading to a familiar finish."

No 11707 V.Prigunov
2nd HM Zadachy i etyudy 1998



e7h3 0116.23 5/6 Draw

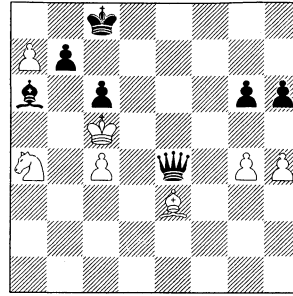
No 11707 Vyacheslav Prigunov (Kazan). 1.Rg8 f2 2.d8Q Sc6+ 3.Kf6 Sxd8 4.Bxf5+ Kxh4/i 5.Rxg2/ii f1Q 6.Rg4+ Kh5 7.Rg5+ Kh6 8.Rg6+, and Sxg6 stalemate (the 'ideal' variety), or Kh5 9.Rg5+.

i) Kh2 5.Rxg2+ Kxg2 6.Bd3, when wPh4 is safe,

ii) 5.Rg4+? Kh3, and wR must take on g2 and play wB to d3. Black can then win at his leisure by using bK to liberate both knights, or more speedily by abandoning one to manoeuvre the other to f4.

"A pleasing study with a beautiful curtain. It is curious how all pieces move into their final positions."

No 11708 V.Kondratev
3rd HM Zadachy i etyudy 1998



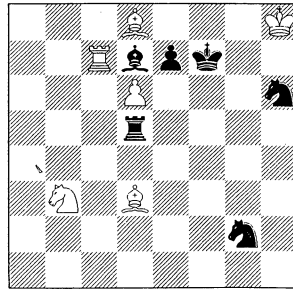
c5c8 3041.44 7/7 Draw

No 11708 Viktor Kondratev (Urals). 1.Kb6/i Qxe3+ 2.Sc5 Qxc5+ 3.Kxc5 b6+ 4.Kxb6 Bb7 5.a8Q+ Bxa8 6.Ka7 Kc7 7.c5 (Kxa8? Kb6;) Bb7 8.g5 hxg5 9.h5 gxh5 stalemate.

i) 1.a8Q+? Kc7 2.Qg8 Qxe3+ 3.Kb4 Qd2+ 4.Kb3 Qd1+ 5.Kb4 Qb1+ 6.Ka3 Qd3+ 7.Kb4 Qxc4+ 8.Qxc4 Bxc4 9.Kxc4 b5+ wins.

"Nice. An effective first move is succeeded by the sacrifice of both black pieces and concluding balancing denudation of two pawns, yielding stalemate."

No 11709 G.Amiryan
4th HM Zadachy i etyudy 1998



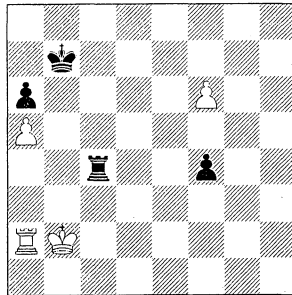
h8f7 0457.11 6/6 Win

No 11709 Gamlet Amiryan
(Erevan). 1.Bc4 Se3 2.Bxd5+
Sxd5/i 3.Rxd7 Ke8 4.Sc5 Sf7
5.Kg7 Sxd8 6.Rxe7+ Sxe7 7.d7
mate.

i) Ke8 3.Sc5 exd6 4.Rxd7 Sxd5
5.Bh4 Sf5 6.Rd8+ Kf7 7.Bg5 Kg6
8.Bd2 wins.

"An ideal mate with a pair of ac-
tive self-blocks. The final position
is away from the edge. The play is
sharp, but somewhat clumsy."

No 11710 S.Zakharov
sp. HM Zadachy i etyudy 1998



b2b7 0400.22 4/4 Win

No 11710 Sergei Zakharov (St
Petersburg). The special award was
for the best piece of analysis sub-
mitted. 1.Ra4/i Rxa4/ii 2.f7, with:
- Rxa5 3.f8Q Rb5+ 4.Ka2(Ka3)
Ra5+ 5.Kb3(Kb4) Rb5+ 6.Ka4/iii
and bPf4 will disappear, or
- Rb4+ 3.Ka3 Rb5 4.f8Q/iv
Rxa5+ 5.Kb4 Rb5+ 6.Ka4, and we
are in the first line!

i) 1.f7? Rc8 2.Ra4 Rf8 3.Rxf4 Kc6
draw.

ii) Rc8 2.Rb4+ Ka7 3.Rxf4 Rf8
4.f7 Kb7 5.Rf6 Kc8 6.Rxa6 wins.

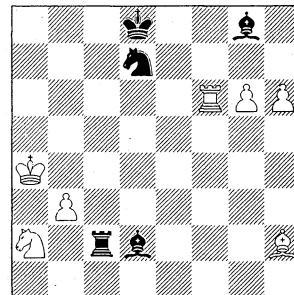
iii) "Without wPa5 wK must stay
on the a-file."

iv) "With wPa5 wK must stay on
the c-file."

"A synthesis of two known
positions done quite simply and
without artificiality. The first move
is a good one too."

AJR: Reference to Chéron Vol.III
(No.1449 by Guretzky-Cornitz
1864 - lots of analysis) sorts out
notes(iii) and (iv), once bPf4 is
removed. With wKa4 the wPa5
rules out wK attacking bPa6, but
wKc4 instead can march up the
board, bR being deprived of b6.
Without wPa5 wKa4 can threaten
bPa6, but wKc4 instead can be held
at bay by bR which now has access
to b6.

No 11711 S.Osintsev
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1998



a4d8 0474.30 7/5 Draw

No 11711 Sergei Osintsev
(Chelyabinsk). 1.Sb4 Bxb4 2.h7
Bxh7 3.Bc7+/i Kxc7 4.gxh7 Rh2
5.Rf2 Sc5+ 6.Kb5 Rxh7 7.Rf3/ii
Rh4/iii 8.Rf4 Rxf4 stalemate.

i) 3.gxh7? Rxh2 4.Rf2 Sc5+ 5.Kb5
Rxh7 6.Rf8+ Ke7 wins.

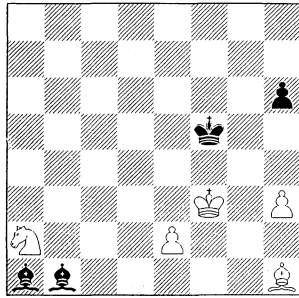
ii) 7.Rc2? Rh4 8.Rc4 Rxc4 wins.

iii) Ba3 8.b4. Or Sa6 8.Kxa6 Rh5
9.Rf7+ Kc6 10.Rf6+ Bd6 11.b4

draw.

"A pleasing stalemate study with double-edged play and an interesting conclusion."

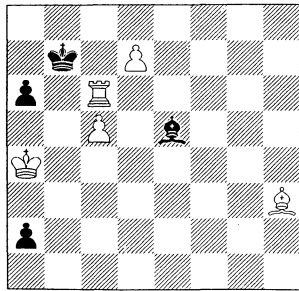
No 11712 V.S.Kovalenko
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1998



f3f5 0071.21 5/4 Draw

No 11712 Vitaly Kovalenko
(Russia, Maritime Province). 1.Sb4
Be4+ 2.Kf2 Bxh1 3.Sc2 Be5
4.Se3+ Kg5 5.Sg2 Bh2 6.Kf1 Kf5
7.Kf2 Ke4 8.Kf1, positional draw.
"Sparklingly simple - and a
positional draw."

No 11713 N.Kralin and Yo.Afek
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1998



a4b7 0140.22 5/4 Draw

No 11713 Nikolai Kralin
(Moscow), Yochanan Afek (Israel).
1.d8S+ Ka7/i 2.Rxa6+ Kxa6

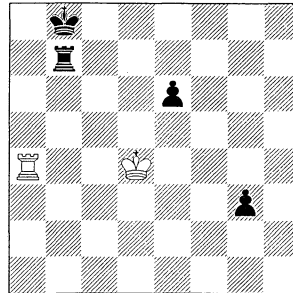
3.Bc8+ Ka7 4.Sc6+ Ka8 5.Bb7+
Kxb7 6.Sa5+ K- 7.Sb3 draw.

i) Kb8 2.Rc8+ Ka7 3.Sc6+ Kb7
4.Sa5+.

"Nice - nothing complicated.

Underpromotion with two white
sacrifices. The solution is rather too
forcing."

No 11714 V.Kalyagin
comm Zadachy i etyudy 1998



d4b8 0400.02 2/4 Draw

No 11714 V.Kalyagin 1.Ke5 (Ra1?
Rb5;) Rg7 2.Ra1 Rg6 3.Kd6 (Rg1?
Kc7;) g2 4.Rg1 Kb7 5.Ke7 e5/i
6.Kf7 Rg3 7.Kf6(Ke6) e4
8.Kf5(Ke5) e3 9.Kf4 draw.
i) Kc6 6.Kf7 Rh6 7.Rxg2 e5 8.Kg7
Rd6/ii 9.Kf7 e4 10.Ke7 Rh6
11.Rg5 draw.
ii) Rh4 9.Kf6 Kd5 10.Kg5 Rf4
11.Re2 Rf8 12.Re1 draw.

"wK's manoeuvre is the topic of
this study - not bad at all."

QUALIFIED STATISTICS

Guy Haworth

In his review of the chess material in *Games Of No Chance* (EG #136, pp. 114-118), John Beasley makes some excellent points about endgame statistics that are worth further illustration and emphasis. The ideal is that *illegal* positions should not be included in an endgame table (EGT) and each *e-equivalence class* of legal positions, *equivalent* in the sense that they can be transformed into each other by rotation and reflection of the board, should be represented by exactly one position.

However, illegal positions are included and legal positions sometimes have two representations.

Consider the following:

$P1 \equiv \{wKc3 wQc2 / bKa1 WTM\}$

$P2 \equiv \{wKc3 wQb3 / bKa1 WTM\}$

$P1$ and $P2$ are equivalent but both are typically included in EGTs.

Nalimov's '2' maximal Distance to Mate (DTM) btm **8000** wins for White are actually both equivalent to $\{wKa1 wQf1g1 / bKg7 bQb5d5 BTM\}$ with DTM = 100 plies.

$P1$ and $P2$ are also in fact *unreachable* as Black has no preceding move but both will be scored 1-0.

Other *unreachable* positions have featured impossible single or double-checks, e.g., from a single Pawn on its home square, from the side to move (Stiller, 1992) or from combinations of QQ, RR, NN or

xP. Karrer (2000) highlights the **4000.11** illegal position $\{wKe6 wQc3 wPg5 / bKa4 bQe2 bPd7 WTM\}$, a maxDTM position for $wP(g5)$ and $bP(d7)$ assuming "P=Q promotions only".

Readers will know of other types of *unreachable* position.

These errors inflate absolute counts of positions and change %-densities of results slightly.

Wirth removes from consideration one of two representations when both Kings are on a long diagonal in a pawnless endgame: Nalimov does not. Stiller is unique in not marking as *illegal* positions with the side to move giving check.

The *reachability* of positions has not been completely confirmed by EGT authors to date.

Thus, for **8000**, Stiller cited a density of 83% wtm wins for White while Nalimov gives 61.10% and Wirth the correct 61.07%.

Karrer now exhibits best practice by filtering extracted sets of positions, removing double-representations and some illegal positions.

References

- Karrer (2000). KQKQP and KQPKQP \approx . *ICGA J.*, Vol. 23.2.
Nalimov, E.V., Wirth, C., and Haworth, G.McC. (1999). KQKQQ and the Kasparov-World Game. *ICCA J.*, Vol. 22.4.
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