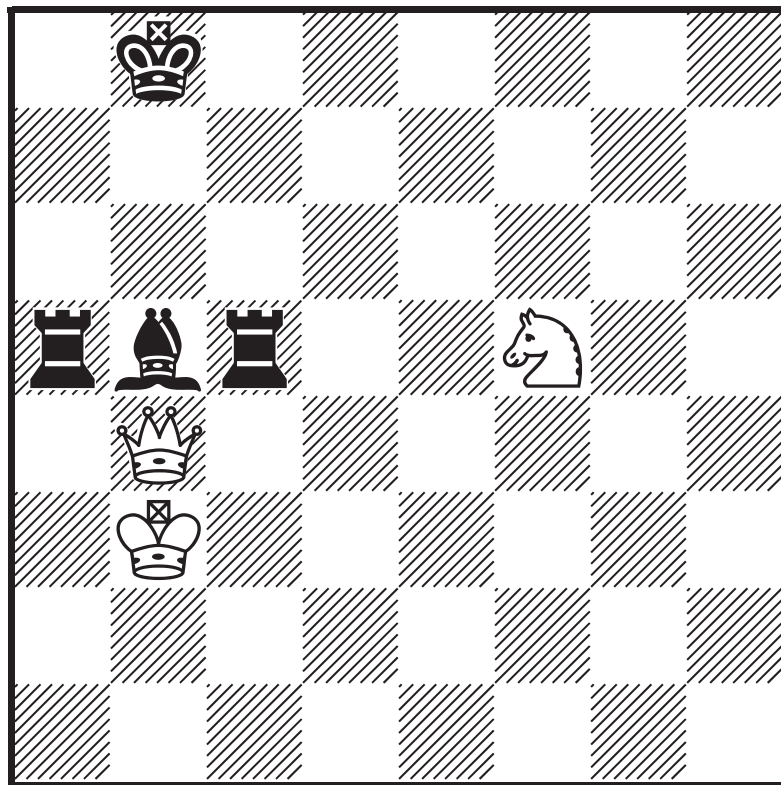


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No. 200 — VOL. XXI — APRIL 2015

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**WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN**

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# Editorial

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

This is the 200th issue of **EG** but we will not really be celebrating this, since the next issue (no. 201) will mark a much more important anniversary: 50 years of **EG**!

AJR, still going strong, wrote in his first editorial in July 1965: “This is the first issue of the quarterly chess magazine devoted exclusively to the endgame study. Every issue will contain at least thirty-six studies in diagram form and accompanied by the solutions. In addition there will be articles, editorial comments, tourney announcements and any other material of interest to study enthusiasts”.

Of course **ARVES** will organize an **EG-50 AT**. At the time of writing not all details are finalized. We will print an announcement in issue 201.

As mentioned in my editorial in the previous **EG**, **ARVES** took over the organization of the Study of the Year 2013 (**SOY 2013**). In the meantime, a marvellous study by Pavel Arestov was elected as **SOY 2013**. Of course, this study is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. On the **ARVES** website: [www.arves.org](http://www.arves.org) much information is available, including all the scores and all the issues. We have explained a zillion times that this is not the selection of the best study of the year (read explanation on the website), but many have ignored that. There were also some complaints: this year composers were allowed to submit two studies instead of one (**SOY 2012**), and some wanted to send three.

Also, some composers complained about the scores of their own studies, and demanded a right to do so. Well, they’re dead wrong. Perhaps that could be the reason that in every competition with judges, nobody is allowed to judge himself?

Mario Garcia sent me an e-mail from Ushuaia - “The End of the World” – the southernmost city of the world: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ushuaia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ushuaia) were Mario’s grandson lives. We reproduce the picture he sent me in **EG**, because it seems to give a clue about the powerful hardware Mario is using to cook all our precious studies!

In this issue we also publish the provisional award of the Valois **MT**; see the award for further details.

## Stop press!

The results of the endgame study section of the 2010-2012 **FIDE Album** have just become available on the **WFCC** website: <http://www.wfcc.ch/>

Our good friend, and **EG** editor Yochanan Afek has now acquired sufficient **Album** points for the **GM** composition title, which will be officially awarded to him on the **WFCC** meeting in Poland later this year (also the announcement of the meeting has just been published on the same website). Congratulations, Yochanan!

# Originals (46)

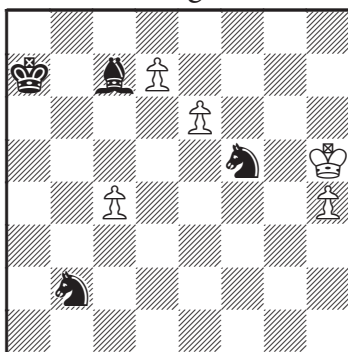
EDITOR: ED VAN DE GEVEL

*“email submissions are preferred.”*  
*Judge 2014-2015: Luis Miguel Gonzalez*

It is strange how things sometimes go. One week after I decided to inform Harold that I did not have sufficient original studies to put in the column of **EG199** I received four studies and at the end of this column I decided to keep the last three studies received for the next column, a first for this column as far as I can recall.

We start this column with a study that is an Austrian-Argentinian co-production which shows two S-promotions in different variations:

**No 20155** P. Krug & M. García



h5a7 0036.40 5/4 Draw

**No 20155** Peter Krug (Austria) and Mario García (Argentina) 1.Kg6/i Bd8 2.h5/ii Se7+ 3.Kf7 Sxc4 4.h6 Sd6+ 5.Kf8 and now:

— Sd5 6.h7 Be7+ 7.Kg7 Bf6+ 8.Kg6/iii Bh8 9.d8S/iv Kb6 10.Kg5/v Sf6 11.e7 Kc7 12.Kg6 (e8Q? Sfxe8;) Sg4 13.e8Q Sxe8 14.Sf7 Se5+ 15.Sxe5 Bxe5 16.Kf7 Kd8/vi 17.Kf8 Kd7 18.Kf7/vii Bg7 19.Kg8 draws, or:

— Se4 (Sg6+; Kg7) 6.h7 Sf6 7.h8S/viii Sc6 8.Sg6/ix Sd5 9.Ke8 Kb7 10.e7 Sdx7 11.Se5 Kc7 (Bb6; Sf7) 12.Sf7 Sf5 13.Sxd8 draws.

i) 1.Kg5? Se7 2.h5 Bd8 3.h6 Sg8+ 4.Kg6 Sxh6 5.Kxh6 Sxc4 wins.

ii) 2.Kxf5? Bxh4 3.Ke5 Bd8 4.c5 Kb7 5.Kd6 Sc4+ wins.

iii) 8.Kg8? Se7+ 9.Kf8 Sg6+ 10.Kg8 Kb7 wins, or 8.Kf8? Sf4 9.d8Q Sg6+ 10.Kg8 Bxd8 wins.

iv) Try: 9.d8Q Sf4+ 10.Kh6 Sf5+ 11.Kg5 Sxe6+ 12.Kxf5 Sxd8 wins.

v) 10.Kh6? Sf6 11.e7 Sg4+ 12.Kg5 Se5 wins.

vi) Kd7 17.Kf8 Kd8 18.Kf7 draws.

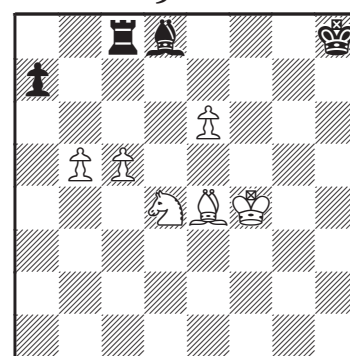
vii) 18.Kg8? Sf6+ 19.Kg7 Sd5+ 20.Kg8 Se7+ wins.

viii) 7.h8Q? Sg6+ 8.Kg7 Sxh8 wins.

ix) 8.Sf7? Be7+ 9.Kg7 Sd5 wins.

Concerning the next study the composer remarks: “It is well known that bishop + b & e pawn against bishop usually do not win if the bishops are of opposite colours. Paradoxically, White plays 1.Sc6 and after 1... Rxc6 Black gets these drawish conditions”.

**No 20156** D. Keith



f4h8 0341.34 6/4 Win

**No 20156** Daniel Keith (France) 1.Sc6/i Rxc6 2.Bxc6 Kg7 3.Ke5 Kf8 4.Bf3/ii and now:

— Ke8 5.Bh5+/iii Ke7 6.Kd5 Ba5 7.Kc6 (Bg4? Bd2;) Kxe6 8.Bg4+/iv Ke5 9.Kd7 (Kb7? Kd5;) Kd5 10.c6 wins, or:

— Ke7 5.Kd5 Ba5 6.Kc6 Bb4/v 7.Bd5 (Bg4) wins.

i) 1.Bc6? Kg7 draws, e.g. 2.Ke5 Bf6+ 3.Kd5 Be7 4.b6 axb6 5.cxb6 Kf6 6.b7 Rb8 7.Sf3 Bb4

8.Se5 Ke7 9.Sd7 Bd6 10.Sxb8 Bxb8 draws, or 1.c6? Kg7 draws.

ii) Try: 4.Bd7? Ke7 (Bc7+?; Kd5) 5.Kd5 Ba5 6.Kc6 Bb4 7.b6 axb6 8.cxb6 Kd8 9.b7 (Kb7 Bc5;) Bd6 10.Kxd6 stalemate. Or here 4.Bg2? Ke8/vi 5.Kd6 Be7+ (Bh4?; Kc7) 6.Kc6 Kd8 7.Bd5 Bf8 draws.

iii) 5.c6? Ke7 draws, or 5.Kd6? Be7+ 6.Kc6 Kd8 7.Be2 Bf8 draws.

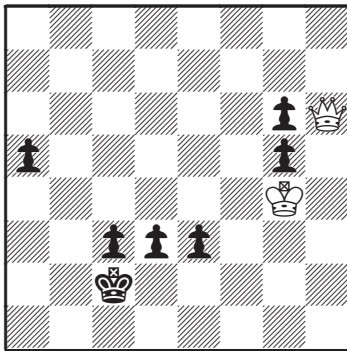
iv) 8.Kb7? Kd5, or 8.Be8? Bb4 draw.

v) Compare with the try 4.Bd7? after 6... Bb4.

vi) Ke7? 5.Kd5 Ba5 6.Kc6 Bb4 7.Bd5 (Bh3) wins.

In the next study White must leave the Black g-pawns alive to be able to setup a stalemate in case Black tries to escape the perpetual checks. The two thematic tries show what happens if one of the pawns disappears.

**No 20157 R. Becker**



g4c2 1000.06 2/7 Draw

**No 20157** Richard Becker (USA) 1. Qh1/i Kd2/ii 2.Qa1/iii a4/iv 3.Qxa4 e2 4.Qa2+ c2 5.Qa5+ Kd1 6.Qa3 e1Q/v 7.Qxd3+ Qd2 8.Qf1+ Qe1 9.Qd3+ Kc1 10.Qa3+ Kb1 11.Qb3+ Kc1 12.Qa3+ Kd2 13.Qb4+ Kd1/vi 14.Qd4+ Qd2 15.Qg1+ Qe1 16.Qd4+ Qd2/vii 17.Qg1+ Ke2 18.Qh2+/viii Kd3 19.Qd6+ Kc3/ix 20.Qc6+/x Kb3 21.Qe6+ Kb4 22.Qb6+ Ka4 23.Qc6+ Ka3 24.Qa6+ Kb2 25.Qb6+ Kc1 26.Qe3 zz Qxe3 (Kd1; Qg1+) stalemate.

i) The 1st thematic try is 1.Qxg6? e2! (Kd2?; Qxg5) 2.Qe6 Kd2/xi 3.Qa2+ c2/xii 4.Qxa5+ Kd1 5.Qa3 e1Q (d2?; Kxg5, c1Q?; Qxd3+) 6.Qxd3+ Kc1 7.Qa3+ Kd2 8.Qb4+ Kd1 9.Qd4+ Qd2 10.Qg1+ Ke2 11.Qh2+ Kd3 12.Qd6+ Kc3 13.Qc6+ Kb2 14.Qb6+ Kc1 wins, or 1.Qxg5? d2 2.Qxg6+ Kc1 wins.

ii) d2 2.Qe4+ Kb2 (Kc1; Qxe3) 3.Qd3 (Qa4) c2 4.Qd4+ Kb1 5.Qb6+ Kc1 6.Qxe3 draws.

iii) The 2nd thematic try is: 2.Qd5? a4/xiii 3.Qxg5 c2 4.Qa5+/xiv Kd1 5.Qxa4 e2 6.Qb3 e1Q 7.Qxd3+ Kc1 8.Qa3+ Kd2 9.Qb4+ Kd1 10.Qd4+ Qd2 11.Qg1+ Ke2 12.Qh2+ Kd3 13.Qd6+ Kc3 14.Qc6+ Kb2 15.Qb6+ Kc1 wins.

iv) e2 3.Qa2+ c2 4.Qxa5+ etc. draws, or c2 3.Qxa5+ Kd1 4.Qc3 (Qd5) c1Q 5.Qxd3+ Ke1 6.Qxe3+ Qxe3 stalemate.

v) d2 7.Kxg5 e1Q/xv 8.Qf3+ Qe2 9.Qh1+ Qe1 10.Qf3+ Kc1 11.Qa3+ Kd1 12.Qf3+ perpetual check, or c1Q 7.Qxd3+ Qd2 8.Qb1+ Qc1 9.Qd3+ Ke1 10.Qg3+ Kd2 11.Qd6+ draws.

vi) Ke2 14.Qc4+ (Qe4+) Kf2 15.Qxc2+ draws.

vii) Kc1 17.Qa1+ Kd2 18.Qd4+ draws.

viii) 18.Qg2+? Ke3 19.Qg3+ Ke4 20.Qf3+ Kd4 21.Qf6+ Kc5 wins.

ix) Ke3 20.Qe5+ Kf2 21 Qh2+ draws.

x) 20.Qa3+? Kc4 21.Qa6+/xvi Kd5 22.Qb7+ (Qb5+ Ke4;) Ke6 23.Qc8+ Ke7 24.Qc5+ Qd6 25.Qxc2 Qf4+ 26.Kh3 Qf5 wins.

xi) a4? 3.Kf3 (Kg3) g4+ 4.Kf2 g3+ 5.Kxg3 Kd1 6.Kf2 d2 7.Qxe2+ Kc1 8.Qe3 draws.

xii) Ke1? 4.Qb1+ Kf2 5.Qb6+ Kf1 6.Qf6+ draws.

xiii) c2? 3.Qxa5+ draws, or e2? 3.Qa2+ c2 4.Qxa5+ draws.

xiv) 4.Kf3 c1Q 5.Qxe3+ Kc2 6.Qc5+ Kb1 7.Qb5+ Qb2 8.Qxd3+ Qc2 wins.

xv) c1Q 8.Qa4+ Qc2 9.Qa1+ Qc1 10. Qa4+ Ke1 11.Qh4+ Kd1 12.Qa4+ perpetual check.

xvi) 21.Qa4+ Kd3 22.Qb5+ Ke4, and: 23.Qe8+ Kd4 24.Qd8+ Ke3 25.Qxg5+ Ke2 wins, or here: 23.Qc6+ Ke3 24.Qf3+ Kd4 wins.

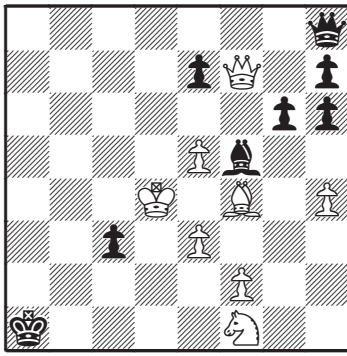
In our next study White carefully avoids capturing so that, in the end, he can draw with a Bishop and some pawns against the Queen.

**No 20158** Sven-Hendrik Loßin (Germany) 1... Qd8+ 2.Qd5/i Qxd5+ 3.Kxd5 Be4+ 4.Ke6/ii c2 5. Sd2 Bd5+ (Kb2; Sxe4) 6.Kxd5 Ka2 7.Sb3/iii Kxb3 8.e4 g5 9.hxg5 hxg5 10.Be3/iv h5 11.Ke6 h4 12.Kxe7 and White can hold/v.

i) Not 2.Kxc3? Qa5+ 3.Kd4 Qb6+ and Black wins.



No 20158 S. Lofsin



d4a1 4041.45 8/8 BTM, Draw

ii) Not 4.Kxe4? c2 5.Sd2 Kb2 and Black wins.

iii) Neither 7.Se4? c1Q 8.Ke6 Qc4+, nor 7.Sf3? c1Q 8.Sd4 Qf1 prevents a Black win.

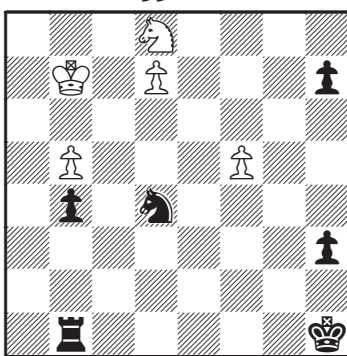
iv) And for the third time White won't capture as 10.Bxg5? h5 11.Ke6/vi h4 12.Kxe7 h3 13.e6 h2 14.Kd8 h1Q 15.e7 Qd1+ 16.Kc7 Qg4 results in a Black win. Also not good enough is 10.Bc1? h5 11.Kd4 Ka2 wins.

v) e.g. h3 13.e6 h2 14.Kd8 h1Q 15.e7 Qd1+ 16.Kc7 c1Q+ 17.Bxc1 Qc2+ (Qxc1+; Kb7) 18.Kd8 Qd3+ 19.Ke8 g4 20.Bf4 draws.

vi) 11.e6 h4 12.Bxe7 c1Q wins.

In the next study everything revolves around reaching the correct set-up to win the Queen ending.

No 20159 A. Pallier



b7h1 0304.33 5/6 Win

**No 20159** Alain Pallier (France) 1.Sf7/i Sc6/ ii 2.bxc6/iii Rd1 3.Se5/iv b3/v 4.Sc4 Kg1 5.Kb8/vi h2 6.c7 b2 7.Sxb2 Rxd7 8.c8Q h1Q 9.Qxd7 Qh2+ 10.Kc8/vii Qc2+ 11.Kd8 Qxb2 12.Qd1+ Kf2 13.Qd6 Qh8+ 14.Kd7 h5 15.f6 wins.

i) Not 1.Se6? Sxe6 2.fxe6 Rd1 3.Kc8 b3 draws, nor 1.Sc6? Sxc6 2.bxc6 Rd1 3.f6 b3 draws.

ii) Se6 2.fxe6 Rd1 3.Sd6 Rxd6 4.Kc7 wins.

iii) Not 2.Kxc6? Rc1+ 3.Kb6 Rd1 4.d8Q Rxd8 5.Sxd8 b3 6.f6 b2 7.f7 b1Q 8.f8Q Qg6+ 9.Kc5 Kg2 draws.

iv) Not 3.d8Q? Rxd8 4.Sxd8 b3 5.c7 b2 6.c8Q b1Q+ draws, nor 3.Kc8? b3 4.d8Q Rxd8+ 5.Kxd8 b2 6.c7 b1Q 7.c8Q Qd3+ 8.Ke7 Kg2 draws, nor 3.Ka8? b3 4.d8Q Rxd8+ 5.Sxd8 b2 6.c7 b1Q 7.c8Q Qa1+ draws.

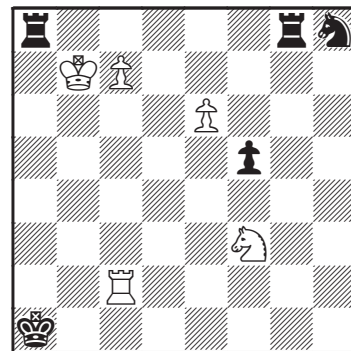
v) h2 4.c7 Rxd7 5.Sxd7 Kg1 6.c8Q wins.

vi) Not 5.Kb6? h2 6.c7 b2 7.Sxb2 Rd6+ 8.Kc5 h1Q 9.Kxd6 Qh2+ 10.Kc6 Qg2+ 11.Kc5 Qf2+ draws.

vii) Not 10.Ka7? Qf2+ 11.Ka6 Qxb2 12.Qxh7 Qa2+ draws, nor 10.Ka8? Qg2+ 11.Qb7 Qg8+ 12.Ka7 Qa2+ 13.Kb8 Qg8+ 14.Qc8 Qb3+ 15.Kc7 Qxb2 16.Qg8+ Kf2 17.Qg5 Qe5+ draws.

In our last study in this column White needs an precise first move to end up on the correct side of a mutual zugzwang.

No 20160 P. Arestov



b7a1 0704.21 5/5 Win

**No 20160** Pavel Arestov (Russia) 1.Rc1+/i Ka2/ii 2.c8Q Raxc8 3.Rxc8 Rxc8 4.Kxc8 Sg6 5.Kd8/iii zz Ka3/iv 6.Sh4/v f4 (Sxh4; e7) 7.Sxg6 f3 8.Se5 f2 9.Sc4+ wins.

i) 1.c8Q? is the thematic try: Rgxc8 2.Rxc8 Rxc8 3.Kxc8 Sg6 4.Kd8 Ka2 zz 5.Sh4 f4 6.Sxg6 f3 7.e7 f2 8.e8Q f1Q draws.

ii) Kb2 2.c8Q Rgxc8 3.Rxc8 Rxc8 4.Kxc8 Sg6 5.Sh4 f4 6.Sxg6 f3 7.Se5 f2 8.Sd3+ wins.

iii) Not 5.Sh4? f4 6.Sxg6 f3 7.e7 f2 8.e8Q f1Q draws.

iv) Kb3 6.Sh4 f4 7.Sxg6 f3 8.Se5 f2 9.Sf3 f1Q 10.Sd2+ wins, or f4 6.Ke8 Kb3 7.Kf7 wins.

v) Not 6.Se5? Sxe5 7 e7 Sc6+ draws.

vi) 5.Ke8 Sf4 6.e7 Sd5 draws.

# Obituary

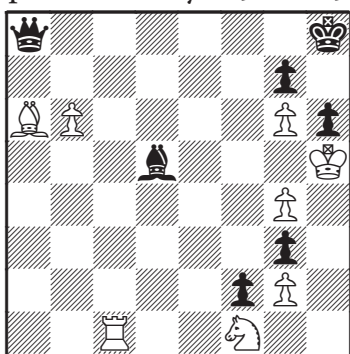
## Yuri Roslov (9i1963 – 28ii2015)

We received the sad news that Yuri Viktorovich Roslov (Leningrad) passed away. Three years ago one of his kidneys was removed but, very recently, it turned out that he had metastasis in his lungs.

Yuri was a very kind person. As a composer he co-operated with Leopold Mitrofanov and he composed around 40 studies. After the JT to celebrate his 40th birthday he seems to have lost interest in composition.

His greatest success probably is the following study:

R.1. Y. Roslov  
1st prize Troitzky-125 MT 1990



h5h8 3141.44 8/7 Draw

**1.Rc8+ Bg8! 2.b7** (2.Rxa8? stalemate) **2... Qxc8** (Qxa6 3.Rxg8+ Kxg8 4.b8Q+ wins) **3.bxc8B!** (3.bxc8Q? stalemate, 3.bxc8S? Bc4 4.Bxc4 stalemate, or 4.Sxg3 Bxa6 draws) **3...Bc4** (Bd5 4.Sxg3 Bxg2 5.Bf1 Bf3 6.Bf5 Kg8 7.Be4 Bd1 8.Sh1 wins) **4.Sd2 (Se3)** (4.Sxg3? f1Q 5.Sxf1 Bxf1 6.Bxf1 Kg8 and White cannot win) **4...f1Q 5.Sxf1 Bxf1 6.Bxf1 Kg8 7.g5!** (7.Bd3? Kf8 8.g5 hxg5 9.Bh3 Ke7 10.Kg4 Kf6 11.Be4 Ke5 12.Kf3 g4+ 13.Ke3 Kf6 14.Kf4 gxh3 15.gxh3 (Kxg3 hxg2;) 15...g2 16.Bxg2 Kxg6 draws) **7...hxg5 8.Bh3! Kf8 9.Kg4 Ke7 10.Kf5! g4 11.Ke5 Kf8 12.Kd6 Kg8 13.Bc4+ Kf8 14.Bd5 Ke8 15.Ke6 Kf8 16.Kd7 gxh3 17.gxh3 g2 18.Bxg2** wins (EG#08648).

## Errata

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

EG198.19875: Ilham Aliev and Araz Almammadov are from Azerbaijan, not Georgia, of course.

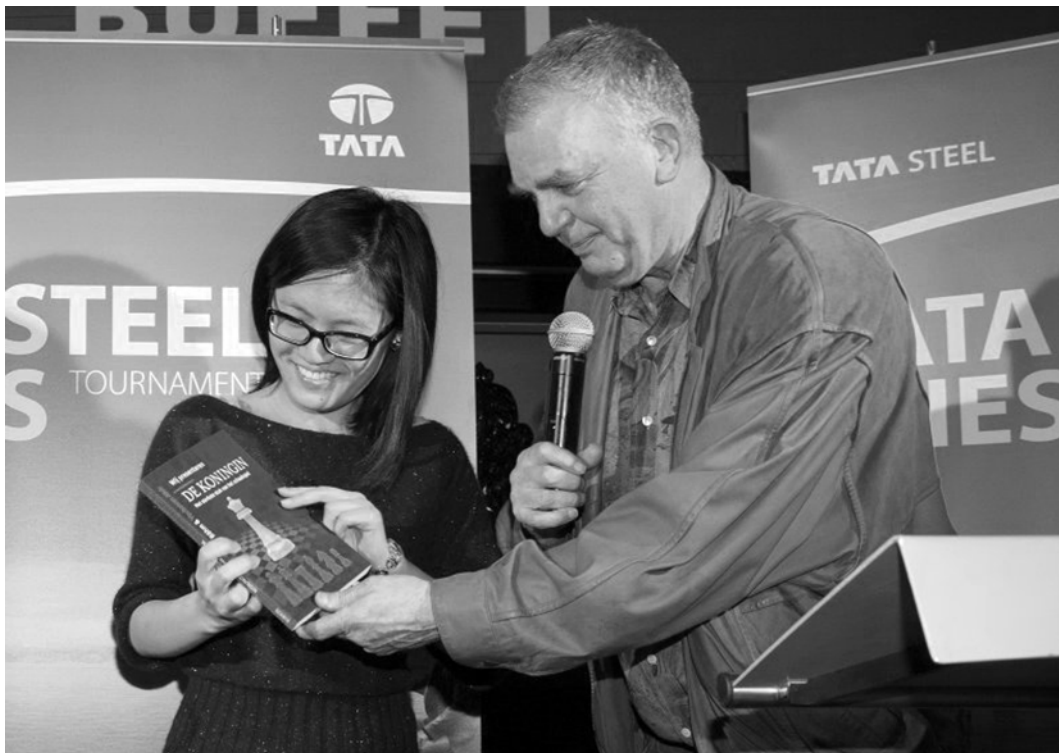
EG198.19879: In order to prevent the cook 1.Be2, Martin Minski relocates the wR from b1 to e1. He wrote several times to the Polish Chess Federation but nobody undertook to correct this on their site.

## The Queen with the Queen

The world chess champion **Hou Yifan** was pleasantly surprised by Dutch chess ambassador **Hans Böhm** during the prize-giving at the Tata Steel tournament in Wijk aan Zee. The Chinese first lady of chess was delighted to be presented with the new book by Hans Böhm & Yochanan Afek *Wij Presenteren De Koningin*, a compilation of the most stunning queen moves ever played or composed and their stories. She showed a special interest in

the unique history of the game's strongest piece which had been very much new to her.

The book was very well received by the large public visiting the village throughout the super tournament. It is the fifth volume about pieces published by de Fontein Tirion and it is a young brother to *De Pion* (2010) *De Toren* (2011), *Het Paard* (2012) and *De Loper* (2013). The last volume *De Koning* is expected at the end of this year.

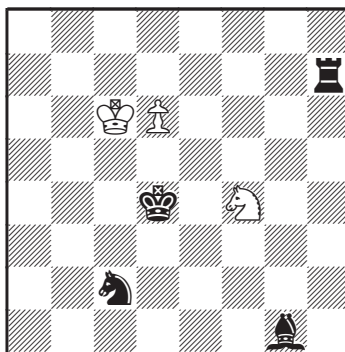


Picture Jurriaan Hoefsmit.



# The Study of the Year 2013

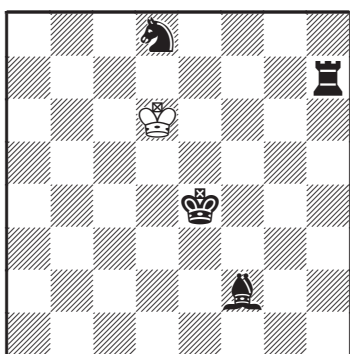
Pavel Arestov  
prize 6th Jenever thematic tourney 2013



c6d4 0334.10 3/4 Draw

White's only chance for a draw is his d-pawn: **1.d7 Ke5!** Surprisingly, Black allows the pawn to promote, but **2.d8Q?** fails to **2...Sd4+ 3.Kb6(c5) Se6+**. After **2.Sg6+? Ke4! 3.d8Q Sd4+ 4.Kd6 Bh2+** and another S-fork decides). **2.Sd3+! Ke4!** (2...Ke6 3.d8Q and no fork on e6) White now seems to be completely lost, as promotion still fails to the knight forks. But White has the marvellous defence **3.Sf2+! Bxf2 4.d8Q Sd4+ 5.Kc5!** (5.Kd6? Bg3+ 6.Kc5 Se6+, or 5.Kb6? Se6+)

The point of the sacrifice **3.Sf2+!** is that now the S-fork **5...Se6+** does not win: **6.Kd6! Sxe8** stalemate.

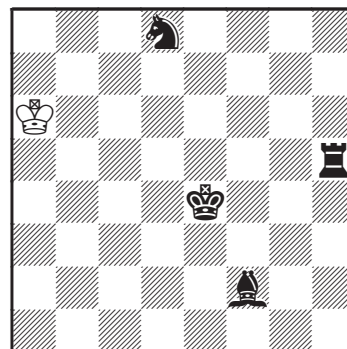


None of the squares around the stalemated white king are occupied by any piece, a so-called mirror stalemate (which was the theme of the tourney). In addition, all squares around the white king are guarded only by a single

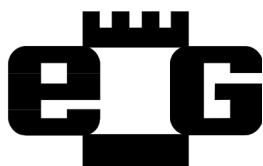
black piece. Moreover, every black piece on the board plays a role in the stalemate picture. Composers call this an ideal stalemate.

It is interesting to note that the similar, and more natural, **3.Sc5+? Bxc5 4.d8Q Sd4+! 5.Kxc5 Se6+ 6.Kd6 Sxd8** is not a stalemate as Black has got rid of his bishop. As a consequence, (only) square b6 is accessible.

But that is not all! Black has a *Zwischenschach*: **5...Rh5+!** Now the natural **6.Kc4?** fails to **5...Rc5+! 7.Kxc5 Se6+ 8.Kd6 Sxd8** and now the stalemate of the previous diagram is lifted, because the black rook at h7 has gone. That is another thematic try. The other option **6.Kb4?** fails to another S-fork at c6. The remaining option **6.Kb6!** allows Black to fire a nasty battery: **6...Se6+ 7.Ka6 Sxd8** stalemate



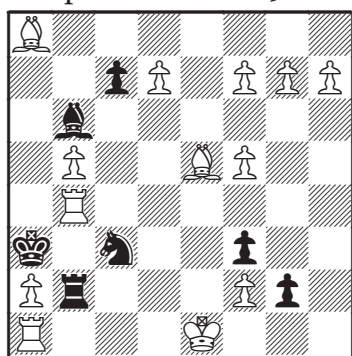
Another mirror stalemate!



Tasks  
and themes

When I developed into an avid composer, there were certain themes that grasped my eye, to some of which there have been recent developments, making some life dreams of me come true. In my first article in this series I showed some Valladolid studies. The following one has completed a task I was asking for.

H.1. Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe  
1st prize ARVES 25 AT



e1a3 0553.83 13/7 Win

1.Rb3+ Ka4 2.Ra3+ Kxa3 3.f8Q+ c5  
4.bxc6e.p.+ Ka4 5.Qb4+! Kxb4 6.Bxc3+ Kxc3  
7.o-o-o! g1Q! 8.Rxg1 Rc2+ 9.Kb1 Rb2+ 10.Ka1  
Kc2! 11.d8R! Bxd8 12.g8S! Bb6 13.h8B! wins

Judge Yochanan Afek wrote 'spot on': *A surprising première of a super task combining both an Allumwandlung (all four promotions) and the Valladolid task (all 3 unusual chess moves - castling, en passant capture and pawn promotion) in one line of play illustrated by fluent sacrificial play. A remarkable achievement!*<sup>(1)</sup>

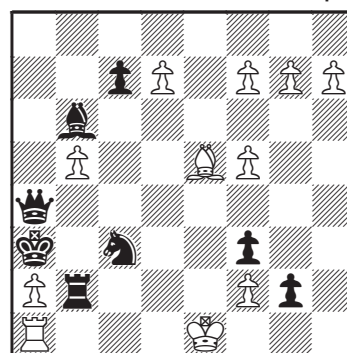
The study was criticized by Sergiy Didukh<sup>(2)</sup>, and in response Geir Sune showed a previous

# Life dreams

BY SIEGFRIED HORNECKER

iteration of the study after which Didukh agreed that the inclusion of the wBa8 improved the study<sup>(3)</sup>, while I disagreed and would have preferred the more complicated version. Of course, tastes differ.

H.2. Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe  
MatPlus.net 28xii2014



e1a3 3443.83 11/8 Win

1.f8Q+ c5 2.bxc6e.p.+ Qb4 3.Qxb4+ Kxb4  
4.Bxc3+ Kxc3 5.o-o-o g1Q! 6.Rxg1 Rc2+ 7.Kb1  
Rb2+ 8.Ka1 Kc2! 9.d8R! Bxd8 10.g8S! Bb6  
11.h8B! wins

The issue pointed out by Geir Sune is the difficult sideline after 5..Rc2+ 6.Kb1 Rb2+ 7.Ka1 Kc2 8.Rd2+ Kc1 9.Rxb2 Bd4 10.a3 Bxb2+ 11.Ka2 g1Q 12.g8Q Qxf2 13.Qg5+ Kd1 14.Qg3!! Qxg3 15.d8Q+ Kc2 16.Qb6! wins.

However, according to my analysis, 10.a4 also wins here. The win is more complicated then, but still there, as in the final position of the sideline (with pawn a4 instead a3) a table-base win is executed: 16...Bc3 17.Qb3+ Kd3 18.Qxc3+ Kxc3 19.h8Q+ Kb4 (the difference!)

(1) Yochanan Afek: ARVES-25 AT, provisional award. Sent by e-mail by Luc Palmans on 27xii2014..

(2) Sergiy Didukh: На поле танки грохотали (итоги ЮК Arves-25). Published on <http://didok.moyblog.net/> on 28 December 2014.

(3) See the thread: Siegfried Hornecker: A belated Christmas present (ARVES 25 AT, 1st prize) on [matplus.net](http://matplus.net), 28 December 2014.

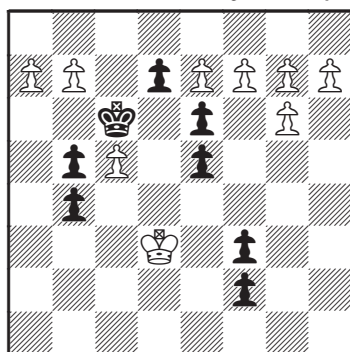
20.Qd4+ Ka5 21.f6 f2 22.Qc5+ Kxa4 23.Qc4+ Ka5 24.c7 f1Q 25.Qxf1 Qh2+ 26.Kb1! Qh7+ 27.Ka1! Qxc7 28.Qf5+ Kb4 29.Kb1! Qg3 30.Kc2 Qe3 31.Kd1 and White eventually wins.

Geir Sune eventually told us he did not check this variation. So the awarded study might be better, after all.

The author thought about an old joke I did when he was composing this: I referred to a study as an “instant prize, just add AUW”. He figured that it was easier the other way around: You start with an AUW and just add the desired theme, i.e. the Valladão.

Another life dream I had was of five consecutive knight promotions in a pawn endgame study. When I asked 28x2014 on MatPlus.net for this task to be solved, I surely did not expect what would happen: On 3 November first an author by the pseudonym “Darius Knight” – clearly an homage to the table tennis player of the same name – was telling me by e-mail he had completed the task. Later that day, Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen informed me that he also had created such a study.

H.3. “Darius Knight”  
Chessstar.com 3xi2014

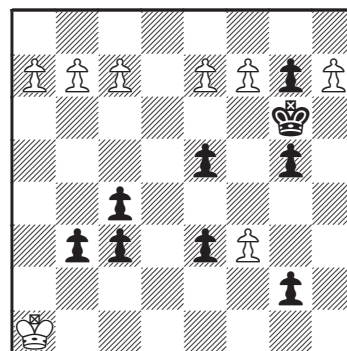


d3c6 0000.87 9/8 Win

The computer will find the “winning” 1.Ke4 here, which after a few moves of analysis turns out to be a draw. The correct solution, also easily found by a machine, is:

1.b8S+ Kxc5 2.Sxd7+ Kd6 3.e8S+ Kxd7 4.f8S+ Ke7 5.g8S+ Kxf8 6.g7+ Kf7 7.h8S+ Kxg8 8.Sf6+ Kxg7 9.Sh5+ Kh7 10.Sg3 wins.

H.4. Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen  
ChessStar.com 3xi2014

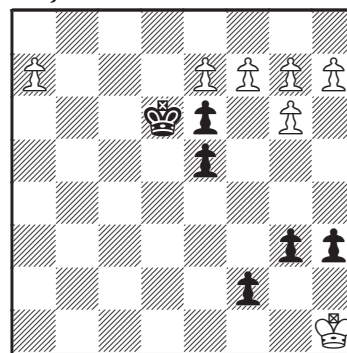


a1g6 0000.78 8/9 Win

1.f8S+ Kf6 2.e8S+ Kf7 3.Sd6+ Ke7 4.c8S+ Kd8 5.Sf7+ Ke8 6.Scd6+ Ke7 7.Sg6+ Kd7 8.b8S+ Kc7 9.a8S+ wins

The idea of multiple knight promotions in pawn endgames was, of course, not new and as far back as 1985 a composer that shares my birthday had created one with four such promotions.

H.5. Vasily Dolgov  
special honourable mention  
Shakhmaty v SSSR 1985 theme tourney



h1d6 0000.65 7/6 Win

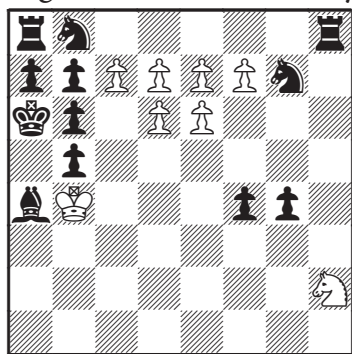
1.e8S+ Kd7 2.f8S+ Ke7 3.g8S+ Kxf8 4.g7+ Kf7 5.h8S+ Kxg8 6.Sf6+ Kxg7 7.Sh5+ Kxh8 8.Sxg3 wins (EG#6562).

As Vitaly Medintsev has written online<sup>(4)</sup>, Dolgov passed away in the late 1990s. Viktor Koltakov, who was a friend of Dolgov, passed away on 2iii2001 from a heart attack making me, so far, unable to unearth more details about Dolgov than are already known.

A final nightmare is reproduced below.

(4) Vitaly Medintsev: (3), in the thread: Vasily Nikitovich Dolgov. matplus.net, 16 November 2014.

H.6. Vasily Dolgov  
special honourable mention Shakhmaty  
(Riga) 1985 theme tourney



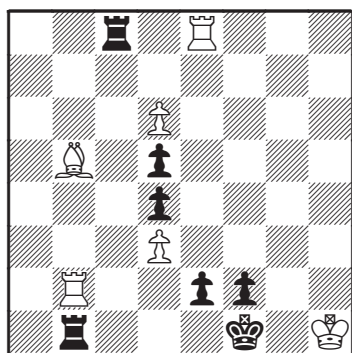
b4a6 o637.66 8/12 Win

1.cxb8S+ Raxb8 2.e8S Sxe8 3.fxe8S Rbxe8  
4.dxe8S Rxe8 5.e7 Rh8 6.Sf3 gxf3 7.d7 f2 8.e8S  
Rxe8 9.dxe8S f1Q 10.Sc7 mate

So much is wrong with this study that one wonders if there is a misprint in the diagram. It is not the joke of 9.-f1S left out, but a more basic issue: 2...Sxe6 3.Sc7+ Sxc7 4.dxc7 Bd1 wins for Black, as do several other variations. Then one wonders why not 5.d7 happens but 5.e7. Finally in either case, 7...Rh1 or 7...Rh7 could turn the tables again. Sure, after 7...Rh7 Dolgov might have overestimated the power of two white queens, but in both cases Black gets a queen on f1 as well. Finally, 5...g3 wins for Black.

Let me close this article with a challenge: Can you fulfil another one of my life dreams, the Babson study? EG#04847, reproduced here, can show you how it almost was done.

H.7. Gady Costeff  
2nd special honourable mention Magyar  
*Sakkélet* 1981



h1f1 o810.24 6/7 Win

1.d7! Rxe8 2.Rxb1+, and:

- d1Q 3.dxe8Q Qxb1 4.Bd7 Qxd3 5.Bb5 wins, or:
  - d1B 3.dxe8B! wins, or:
  - d1S 3.dxe8S! Ke2 4.Rb2+ Ke3 5.Rxf2 Kxf2 6.Sf6 (Sc7) Ke3 7.Sxd5+ Kd2 8.Sf4 Ke3 9.Sg2+ wins
- Go defy facts!

## Errata

The study of Jürgen Fleck in our previous issue was refuted by the Lomonosov 7 piece EGTB that say KRBS-KRB is a general win, so for example 1...Sd8+ or 1...Sa5+ wins (claimed by Martin Minski, confirmed by Klaus Rubin). I apologize for this mistake. My fear now is that this is only the tip of the iceberg – how many great seven piece studies might be incorrect in a similar way...

The author kindly provided us with a correction for the publication in EG, a wish we gladly fulfil. After 2...Bg2+ a position from the original main line is reached.

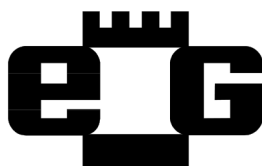
H.8. Jürgen Fleck, 1st prize *Schach* 1995-1996, correction (original) c6a4 o440.02 3/5 Draw

1.Bd7!/i Bf1! 2.Bxg4 Bg2+ 3.Kc5 Re5+ 4.Kc4 (Kd4) Re4+ 5.Kc5! Rxc4 6.Rh4! Re4! 7.Rg4! Bf3 8.Rf4 Bh1 9.Rh4 Bg2 10.Rg4 with a positional draw

i) 1.Rxh3? gxh3 2.Bxh3 Kb4 wins for Black since the bK will march to d8 via f6. The only active counterplay 3.Bd7? is met by 3...Rxd7 4.Kxd7 c5.

The Runquist study in the same article was cooked by Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen. White can play the immediate 5.Rc3, and even 6.Kf2 works as a transposition of moves.





History

## Study tourneys from the past: *La Stratégie* 1922

BY ALAIN PALLIER

After WW1, international study tourneys had become rare and the momentum of the years 1912-1915 was lost. The first tourney in these post war years (it was also the first ever organized by *L'Italia Scacchistica*) was not announced until 1920 and its award, marked by Rinck's domination, was published in 1922.

In 1921, in a short period of time, three other magazines initiated study tourneys. First, *The Chess Amateur*, with Esteban Puig y Puig and Henri Weenink acting as judges. It was succeeded by the *Kagan's Schachnachrichten*, a new chess magazine published in Berlin from 1921 until 1932 by Bernhard Kagan, who also set several tourneys for problems (two-movers, three-movers and four-movers). Siegbert Tarrasch was the judge of the study tourney. The third chess magazine was *La Stratégie*.

In fact the French tourney had been announced in... February 1914! WW1 stopped the process and it was not resumed until July 1921. The prize fund, initially of 200 French francs (i.e. the amount of the first prize in the 1912-1914 tourney that had not been attributed – for the explanation, see part 3 of my article about *La Stratégie* 1912-1914 in EG193), was doubled. Entries had to be sent before the closing date of 31 December 1921, the same date as for the German tourney. No theme was imposed but, in the announcement, a preference for light studies with reduced material and 'simple and precise ideas' was expressed. At the same time a tourney for solvers was established.

All the entries were published in *La Stratégie* from January till July with the exception of five, as mentioned in the February and June issues: one by František Prokop (because the beginner composer had forgotten to send the solution of his work!) and one by a certain J. Sunger, because it was a direct mate. Two other entries

were refused because they had been submitted to another tourney and had been published (see below). In June, the exclusion of a fifth study was announced: its author, E. Verschueren, an amateur from Belgium, had published a version of his entry in a Belgian newspaper and the judges considered that his entry could not be considered as an original study.

So, a total of 34 studies were published, 17 by French composers. It is remarkable that four of them submitted a batch of four (the maximum allowed): J. de Villeneuve-Esclapon, A. Mouterde, A. Gaigneron de Marolles and O. Millot. A fifth French composer, C. Carrio, sent one. Three other composers also submitted four studies: F. Simkhovich, S. Gruber and W. Queckenstädt i.e. 28 entries (out of 39) were composed by only seven composers. The problem with Queckenstädt was that two of his entries had been sent to another tourney (*L'Italia Scacchistica* 1920-22), published (in January 1921) and... even honoured in 1922. These two were excluded in February 1922 but the other two were allowed to compete. Lamare expressed his discontent since, he said that it could not be a mistake: the entries had been received in the last days of September 1921, nine months after their first publication in Italy. Another similar case had happened the same year with another German composer: Frantz Sackmann won first prize in the provisional award of the *Neuestes Schachnachrichten* 1922 tourney but his study, as well as his second entry, had already been published in... *L'Italia Scacchistica* in July 1920. It was removed from the final award.

The other participants were: E. Holm (1 study), V. Košek (2 studies), A.W. Daniel (2 studies) and a certain José P. Seoane, from Madrid, with 2 studies.



There is no need to introduce Ernest Holm (see my articles about *La Stratégie* 1912-14 tourney in EG192-194) but, again, he was not successful, his entry being unsound. Arthur William Daniel (1878-1955) was a pharmacist by profession and remains 'best known as a problemist' (John Beasley). Some amateurs completed the picture: A. de Gaigneron de Marolles was a chess player from Rennes who took part in two French championships (1924 and 1932). O. Millot and C. Carrio are unknown to me, as is José P. Seoane, from Madrid. Seoane won the solver's contest, ahead of Anatole Mouterde. At least, Sandor Gruber was a chess player from Hungary who composed some other studies.

Marcel Lamare and Alphonse Goetz acted as judges. One of them was ill and the award could not be published until August 1923.

It seems that no composer took part in all three tourneys. Composers from Central Europe found it natural to take part in the Kagan tourney. Among the participants, we find, besides German or Austrian composers (F. Sackmann, W. Queckenstädt, J. Berger, K. Erlin), composers from Central Europe (F. Dedrle, V. Košek, A. Havasi, R. Réti), or from Scandinavia (J. Gunst, J. Lilja, S. Krenzisky, to whom I add the Latvian K. Behting). The British event attracted a majority of English composers (A.W. Daniel, T.R. Dawson and several amateurs), some participants from different horizons (e.g. K.O. Becker from Australia) and only a handful from Central Europe (A. Havasi, D. Elekes).

The French tourney did not attract a large number of composers since only 15 took part (and only 12 had their entries published – see above for the explanation). Among these 12, 4 were pure amateurs who never composed any other study – at least they never took part in any other formal or informal tourney. Rinck, the most 'German' of French composers (a chemical engineer by profession, he was a student in Germany, at the Technische Hochschule of Munich and his first collection of studies was published in Leipzig) was not among the participants. Since he took part in the other two tourneys, it is difficult to imagine that he was short of original studies... He had probably

not forgotten the affront, 8 years before, when he was deprived of first prize after the disqualification of Holm's study (see EG194). Another absentee was Frédéric Lazard who did not take part in the other two tourneys.

The war had left its mark: in a letter to Marcel Lamare (dated 14viii1921), Anatole Mouterde wrote that he intended to take part in the 'German tourney' (i.e. the Kagan tourney). He felt it necessary to justify himself. "I think I will take part: it is a kind of French 'propaganda' abroad and this shows that, on occasions, we can get prizes. Don't you agree? I don't believe that there is anything shocking in that?" But, in another letter written two weeks later, he had already changed his mind: "I reserve myself for the national tourney" (that is strange: the tourney was not limited to French composers!) adding: "I was a little bit ashamed and disgusted to compete in Bochie". This word deserves an explanation: during WW1, French soldiers often called their German opponents 'boches'. In the same logics, Germany was renamed as 'Bochie'.

Of course, German composers could reason the same way but there was one exception, the mysterious Wilhelm Quesckenstädt (*Queckenstedt* in *La Stratégie*), the runner-up in several important tourneys at the time (*British Chess Magazine* 1900-01, *Sydsvenska Dagbladet Snällposten* 1915, and *L'Italia Scacchistica* 1920-22). His output is modest but intriguing and approximately 15 of his studies are known, published between 1900 and 1922, including a high percentage of bishop endings. He won no fewer than 9 awards, including three second prizes and a fourth prize. Who was Wilhelm Queckenstädt? Nothing is known about him, it seems. The 'Queckenstädt maneuver' is well-known, but this is not chess... – it is a clinical test that was used for the diagnosis of the abnormal narrowing of the spinal canal, named after the German neurologist who discovered it. But that is not our man: the full name of the doctor was Hans-Heinrich Georg Queckenstädt (1876-1918). From the list of the entries in the *BCM* 1900-1 tourney, we know the town where Queckenstädt lived at the time:

Leipzig-Reudnitz, i.e. a district of Leipzig. As it is the place where Hans-Heinrich Georg was born, it could well be that the composer belonged to the same family.

The first prize in our tourney was shared by the two oldest participants. Zoïlo Caputto, in volume 3 of *el Arte del Estudio de ajedrez*, remarks on another peculiarity of this award: one, Vojtěch Košek (8ix1861 – 1x1936), was a poor farmer and the other, Jean de Villeneuve-Esclapon (18i1860 – 24xi1943), was a Count.

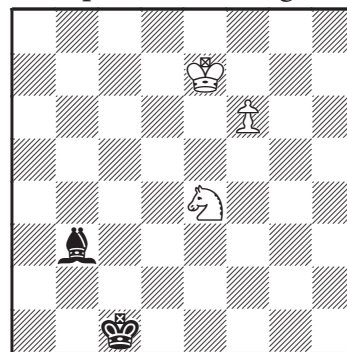
Vojtěch Košek was an interesting composer. He was a native of Bohumileč, a hamlet (today 35 inhabitants) that is a part of Český Dub, a village of Northern Bohemia, more precisely in the Liberec Region, near the boundaries with Poland. He was born on a farm and never left his land except when he had to do his three-year military service. Most sources indicate that he was from Bohumilice, but this is a mistake: Bohumilice is a village in South Bohemia. Miroslav Havel wrote an obituary (reproduced in *Československý šach* x-xi 1936), in which he evoked the picture of a playful man with a good sense of humour, both in his letters and in ‘real life’. He emphasized that Košek had not enough time for chess because he had to work hard on his farm. Nevertheless Košek explored with perseverance the territory of the Sp(s) vs. B ending. His first study with this material seems to be an honourable mention in the 1906-1907 *Bohemia* (famous) tourney and his last one was published in 1934 (see P.5 in the Appendix). In all, he composed around thirty studies of this kind, but, of course, many are unsound. Halberstadt admired him highly: one of his own studies in the +0031.10 class is dedicated to Košek and he wrote in his 1954 collection of studies (*Curiosités tactiques*) that, in this field, Košek was the ‘undisputed master’. Halberstadt’s masterpiece, with the same material, that was awarded first prize in the Lamare JT 1936 tourney, certainly owes him a lot.

Košek was also a renowned problemist, mainly producing two and three-movers (the *Meson* database has 104 problems by him, the *yacpdb* database has a little more, around 170).

As a study composer, his name first appears in a tourney in 1900 when he submitted an entry to the *British Chess Magazine* tourney. His work was published with the motto ‘Fertig’ (a German adjective meaning ‘ready’ or ‘completed’). In the award (*BCM*, January 1901) the judge wrote: ‘Volja Kosek [sic], of some undecipherable place in Bohemia. We do not know the Slav languages, and we are sorry we cannot read the address, which might have been important, had he been a prize winner’. However, the study was unsound.

His first success in a tourney was the *Bohemia* 1906-1907 one mentioned above. We also saw him in the 1912-1914 tourney of *La Stratégie* (with two prizes). After the 1922 *La Stratégie* tourney, his best result was a first prize in 1926 (*Slovensky Narod*, judged by M. Havel and F. Dedrle – it just so happened that Košek received high praise from F. Dedrle in the first part of his book, *Studie*, published in 1925).

P.1. Vojtěch Košek  
1st/2nd prize *La Stratégie* 1922



e7c1 0031.10 3/2 Win

**1.Sg5!** 1.Sc5? Bg8! **1...Bg8** 2.Sf7 2.Kf8(?) Bd5 3.Ke7 Bg8 4.Sf7 is a loss of time. **2...Bh7** **3.Sh6!** Other S moves are losses of time – e.g. 3.Sh8(?) Bg8 4.Sf7 as is 3.Kf8(?) Be4 4.Sg5 (or Sd8) Bd5 5.Ke7 Bg8 6.Sf7. **3...Bg6** **4.Sf5!** **Kd2** Here I follow solution as given in the Lamare collection: after 4...Bh5 (as in Dedrle or Caputto) 5.Sg3 wins but also 5.Sg7, 5.Se3 and 5.Sh4. **5.Sh4 Bh5** **6.Sg2!** 6.Sf5? Kd3 7.Sg3 Bg6 **6...Kc3** **7.Sf4** wins.

Jean de Villeneuve-Esclapon was born in Aix-en-Provence, near Marseille, into an important family of the nobility (Jean Mennerat wrote in his obituary written for *Le Monde des Échecs* that his family ‘once owned half of





československých šachistů tourney was the first one in which all three competed). Remember that, at the time, there was no other active Russian composer of studies (except the beginners Filaretov and Kliatzkin).

In 1922, through the vicissitudes of history, Simkhovich, who was born in Kishinev, a Russian town from 1812 until 1918, was no longer a Russian but was a Romanian citizen. Bessarabia had just proclaimed union with Romania and was now a part of ‘Greater Romania’. Simkhovich wrote an ‘autobiography’ (probably at the request of the authorities, as usual in the Soviet habits) that was unearthed in 1992. Translated by John Roycroft, this text was included in the second edition of Harrie Grondijs’ *Works of Simkhovich*. We learn that, after serving in the Russian army in 1916 (he was wounded at the Austrian front), Simkhovich was back in Kishinev where he worked ‘in the pharmacy until 1922’. He was arrested, for a short time, ‘under suspicion of being a communist sympathiser’. In 1921, he enrolled in the Iași University of Pharmacy but quickly left it (after the first course!) ‘on account of anti-semitic persecution’. In 1925, Simkhovich moved to Leningrad and became a Soviet citizen.

If we ignore his unfortunate participation in the Memorial Rice in 1916 (see EG195: “A tourney from the past: the 1916 Rice Memorial Tourney”), this was his first participation in a study tourney. Previously, in the period 1913-1916, he had had some successes as a problem composer. In 1923, we also see his name among the participants in the *Schweizerische Schachzeitung* and the *Italia Scacchistica* tourneys; in 1924, he took part in the thematic tourney of *Basler Nachrichten*. During the same years (1922-1925), his name was also often quoted in the problem columns of western chess magazines.

Since he was a Romanian citizen, in *La Stratégie* his name was spelled Simhovici, ‘à la roumaine’. More mysterious are the initials F.-L. instead of F.M. as generally given. Bondarenko, Caputto and other authors give as first name and patronymic Froim Markovich as does Harrie Grondijs in his authoritative book

about Simkhovich. But in the first issue of the Romanian chess magazine *Revista romana de Sah* (it was edited by Anatol Ianovic, from Soroca, also in Bessarabia), that appeared in May 1925, his name is spelled F.L. Simhovici. The explanation is given in an article written in *Zadachy y Etyudy* by Yaakov Rossomakho for the Simkhovich’s centennial (1996). His first name and patronymic were, in their complete form, Froim-Leiva Meerovich, explaining the origin of the ‘L’. Between 1917 and 1925, as a Romanian citizen, Simkhovich used no patronymic: that is why we have only F.L. in western sources. Later, he apparently decided to russify his name by replacing Meerovich by Markovich. Meerovich is not a mistake since it is confirmed in Simkhovich’s autobiography (see below) and Rossomakho mentions the death of his brother, Meer Meerovich, during the Leningrad blockade).

But this not all: in an article written by Vladimir Neishtadt for the Russian website [www.chesspro.ru](http://www.chesspro.ru), I hit upon another strange thing: below a picture of Simkhovich, Neishtadt quotes a 1929 dictionary in which the composer is presented as... Lev Markovich Simkhovich!

Puzzled, I searched for the original source and found it (see below References). Here is the entry:

‘СИМХОВИЧ, Лев Марк. (Ф. Л. СИМХОВИЧ) (род. 1896) — выдающийся русский проблемист и этюдист. Жил в Бессарабии (Кишинев), в 1925 г переселился в СССР’

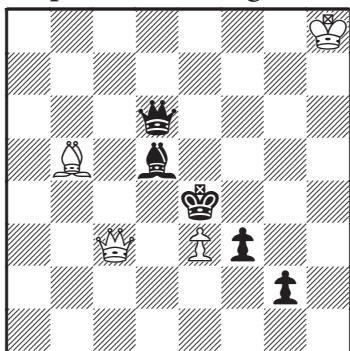
Here is the translation from Russian: ‘Simkhovich, Lev Mark. (F.L.Simkhovich) (born 1896) – eminent Russian problemist and study composer. He lived in Bessarabia (Kishinev), in 1925 he moved to the USSR.’

Did Simkhovich find that his Jewish first name (Froim is a Yiddish form of Ephraim) should be replaced by Lev, the Russian word for Lion? (but Lev is also a popular first name in Jewish families: it also means ‘heart’ in Hebrew) We don’t know and, probably, will never know.

Of course, at the time, nobody could guess that Simkhovich would quickly become a major composer in the development of chess study. In 1922, he had not theorized his concept

of positional draw but two of his four entries were his first achievements in this field. It is no surprise that they did not gain the attention of the judges but the most classical of his studies was rightfully honoured by a prize:

P.3. F.L. Simkhovich  
3rd prize *La Stratégie* 1922

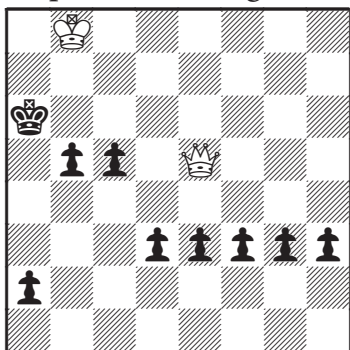


h8e4 4040.12 4/5 Draw

1.**Bd3+** Kxe3 2.**Bh7+!!** Kf4 3.**Qd4+** Kg3  
3...Kg5 4.**Qg7+** Kh5 5.**Bg6+** Kg5 6.**Bh7+** Kf4  
7.**Qd4+**, or 5...Kh4 6.**Qh6+** Kg4 7.**Bf5+** Kxf5  
8.**Qxd6** g1Q 9.**Qxg6+** Q(K)xg6 stalemate.  
4.**Qg7+** Kh2 5.**Qh6+!** Qxh6 stalemate with a  
pinned Bishop. The line-clearance (2.**Bh7+!**)  
is combined with stalemate. Harrie Grondijs  
writes that it is typically a problemist's study.

The fourth prize went to Frenchman Anatole Mouterde for a study in which the wQ struggles against the whole army of black pawns.

P.4. Anatole Mouterde  
4th prize *La Stratégie* 1922



b8a6 1000.08 2/9 Win

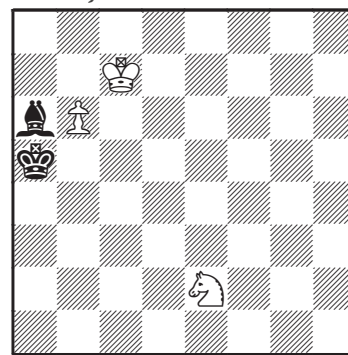
1.**Qc7** b3 2.**Qc6+** Ka5 3.**Kb7** b3 4.**Qxc5+**  
Ka4 5.**Kb6!** 5...Ka6? b2 6.**Qc4+** Ka3 7.**Qc3+** Ka4  
draws. 5...b2 6.**Qc4+** Ka3 7.**Qc3+** Ka4 8.**Qxb2**  
With the wK on b6, this move wins: now 8...h2  
9.**Kc5** wins. 8...a1Q 9.**Qxa1** and White wins.

Three honourable mentions completed the award, by Mouterde, de Gaigneron de Marolles and Daniel. At least, the judges decided to give Kosek's study a 'special prize for originality'.

Then thirteen years passed before the two last study tourneys organized by *La Stratégie* in 1936, among which the famous one for pawn studies (to be continued).

## Appendix

P.5. V. Košek  
2nd commendation  
*Spolek českých šachistů* (Brno) 1934



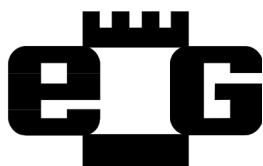
c7a5 0031.10 3/2 Win

1.**Sd4** Ka4 1...Kb4 2.Kb8 Kc5 3.Ka7 Bc8  
4.Sf5, or 2...Ka4 3.Sc6! win. 2.**Kb8** 2.Sc6? Kb5  
2...Kb4 2...Bf1 3.Sc6 Ba6 4.Ka8 wins. 3.**Ka8!!**  
3.Ka7? Ka5 4.Sc6+ Kb5 5.Se7 Ka5 6.Sd5 (6.Sf5  
Bc8 or 6...Kb5) 6...Bc8 7.Se7 Ba6 draws. 3...  
**Ka4** 3...Kc5 (Bc8) 4.Ka7 wins. 4.**Sc6!** 4.Ka7?  
Ka5! 4...Bc8 5.Ka7 Kb5 6.Se7 6.Sd4+(?) Ka4  
7.Sc6 Kb5 8.Se7 is a loss of time. 6...Ba6 7.Sf5  
wins. Košek's solution has 7...Ka5 8.Sd6 but  
solution should stop with 7.Sf5 since other 8th  
moves also win.

1.**Bg6!** 1.h7? Rc8! 2.Kf8 Bh5 3.h8Q Rxe8+  
wins, but not 1...Rg5+? 2.Kf7(Kf8). 1...Bb3  
1...Rg3 2.Kf7 Bb3+ 3.Kf6 Bg8 4.Bxb1, or 1...  
Rc8+ 2.Kg7 Rc7+ 3.Kf6 Sc3 4.h7 Sd5+ 5.Ke5  
(Kg5) 2.**Kg7** Rc7+ 3.**Kf6** 3.Kf8? Rc8+ 4.Kg7  
Rg8+ 5.Kf6 Sc3 6.h7 Sd5+ 7.Kg5 Rd8 8.Kh6  
Sf6 wins. 3...Sc3 4.h7 Sd5+ 5.**Kg5** Rc8 6.**Bf7!**  
**Rh8** 7.**Kh6** 7.Bg8? Bc2+ 7...Sf6 7...Bc2 8.Bxd5+  
Ka7 9.Bg8 7...Sf6 8.**Bxb3** Rxh7+ 9.**Kg6** Rh3  
9...Rb7 10.Be6! 10.**Be6** Rf3 11.**Bf5** Sd5 12.**Be4**  
**Rf6+** 13.**Kg5** 13.Kg7? Rd6 13...Rd6 14.**Kf5** Kb7  
15.**Ke5** Kc6 16.**Kd4** draws.







Computer News

# HT – to use or not to use?

BY EMIL VLASÁK

Intel's Hyper-Threading Technology (HT) was introduced in 2002 but many computer chess analysts still have no idea whether to use it or not.

## What is HT?

HT was the first time two processors were put into one single chip. The idea is clear – it should permit the construction of a two-processor-PC using normal cheap mainboards.

Before HT, top-end chess PCs had to use very expensive special mainboards able to carry and handle two processor chips. Such server machines were exceptional and used for famous matches as Kramnik – Deep Fritz (Bahrain 2002, 2-3), Kasparov – Deep Junior (New York 2003, 3-3), Kasparov – Fritz 3D (New York 2003, 2-2) or Kramnik – Deep Fritz 10 (Bonn 2006, 2-4).

Unfortunately, HT processors in a single chip are not full-featured because they share several common parts so that sometimes they must therefore wait for each other. This reduces the speed of HT processors. In pure math algorithms the overall performance usually rises, but in other cases the result could be questionable.

## Wikipedia about HT

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyper-threading>

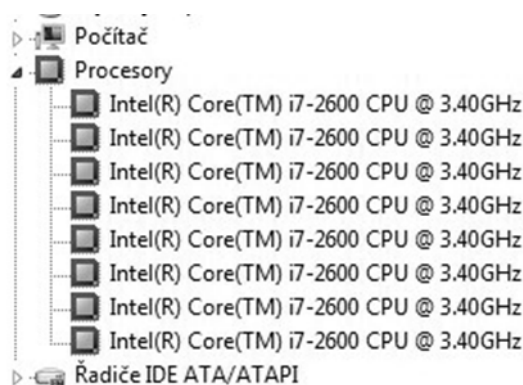
“HT can improve the performance of some applications but not all. Depending on the nature of the application, performance gains can vary or even be negative”.

## Intel Core Technology

In 2006 Intel introduced new Core Technology. It finally offered several full-featured internal processors – called Cores – in one single chip. DualCore or QuadCore chips with 2 or 4 internal processors are usually used.

## HT and Core combined

To achieve maximal performance of top processor models, Intel combines both old HT and new Core technologies. For example the Inter i7 desktop processor has 4 full-featured Cores and every Core can be “doubled” using HT. This gives 8 threads in total. The Windows Device Manager designates such a chip as an 8 processor one.



*Intel i7 in the Windows Device Manager*

## The Recurring Question

So, how do we achieve maximal chess performance in such a combined case?

Chess Programming Grandmaster: Robert Houdart (*Houdini*) says this about HT (<http://www.cruaxis.com/chess/manual/index.html>):

“The architecture of Houdini (and of chess engines in general) is not very well-suited for HT; using more threads than physical cores will usually degrade the performance of the engine. Although the hyper-threads often produce a slightly higher node speed, the increased inefficiency of the parallel alpha-beta search more than offsets the speed gain obtained with the additional hyper-threads.

To give a practical example, it is more efficient to use 4 threads running at 2,000 kN/s each than 8 threads running at 1,100 kN/s each, although the latter situation produces a higher total node speed. For this reason it’s best to set the number of threads not higher than the number of physical cores of your hardware”.

Is Robert right or not?

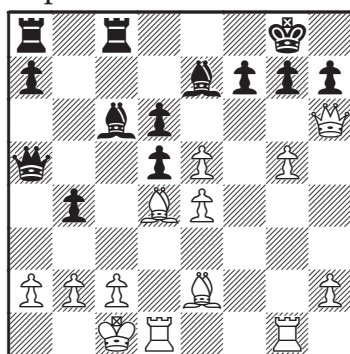
### Measuring chess performance

I have seen several tests using “physical” values like kN/s or MN (kilo nodes per second, mega nodes). Such numbers indicate the physical performance of a parallel system. But again: the chess performance of multiprocessor engines is significantly lower than would correspond to the sum of the individual processes.

We need to organize a real chess test. The best method would be surely to play a lot of games, but I do not have two identical high performance PCs so I opted to solve difficult chess combinations.

After a lot of searching and testing I have chosen one “true” o.t.b. combination and one “artificial” combination from an endgame study.

V.1. Ostapenko – Kurkin, USSR 1970

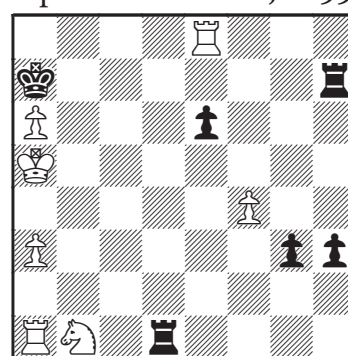


White to move

White wins here playing **1.e6!! gxh6 2.gxh6+ Kf8 3.Rdf1!**, for example 3...Bg5+ 4.Rxg5 Rc7 5.Bh5! Qa6 6.Bg7+ Ke8 7.exf7+ Kd7 8.Bg4+ Ke7 9.Rf2.

Top chess engines on fast hardware need tens of seconds to indicate the winning move 1.e6!! and a larger white advantage at the same time. That is long enough to eliminate errors reading the times from the display and it is fast enough to get a reasonable test time and could possibly be verified by readers.

V.2. D. Gurgenzidze & V. Kalandadze  
1st prize Akobia 60 JT 1997



a5a7 o8o1.33 7/5 Draw

**1.Sc3 Rh5+ 2.f5! Rxf5+ 3.Sb5+ Rxb5+ 4.Kxb5 Rxa1 5.Re7+ Kb8 6.a7+ Ka8 7.Ka6!** To clear-up the a-file for the wR: 7.Kb6? Rb1+ 8.Ka6 Rb8 9.axb8Q+ Kxb8 10.Kb6 Kc8 11.Kc6 Kd8 12.Kd6 g2 13.Ra7 Kc8 14.Kc6 Kb8. **7...Rxa3+ 8.Kb6 Rb3+ 9.Ka6 Rb8! 10.axb8Q+ Kxb8 11.Kb6 Kc8 12.Kc6 Kd8 13.Kd6! g2! 14.Ra7 Kc8 15.Kc6 Kb8 16.Ra1** The point of 7.Ka6! **16...h2 17.Rb1+ Kc8 18.Ra1 Kd8 19.Kd6 Ke8 20.Kxe6 Kf8 21.Kf6 Kg8 22.Ra8+ Kh7 23.Ra7+ Kh6 24.Ra8 Kh5 25.Kf5 Kh4 26.Kf4 Kh5 27.Kf5.**

This is a very good benchmark position for comparing hardware and engines. I started the test runs from 1...Rh5+ to speed matters up. After the move 2.f5! was steadily indicated with a drawish evaluation I “pressed the stopwatch”.

### Reproducibility

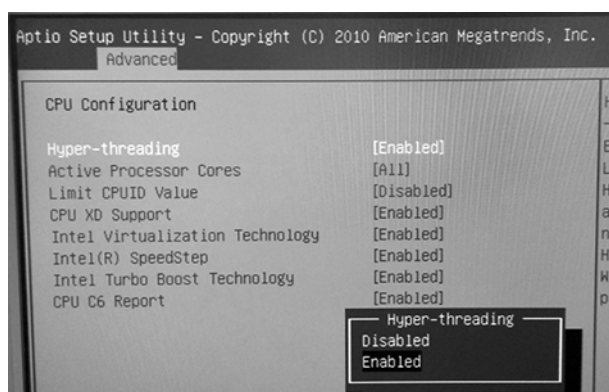
It is also well-known that every run of a multiprocessor engine is unique and hard to reproduce. We have often seen the explanation that

Windows is the main reason as it often needs to “borrow” threads for its rich internal life :-).

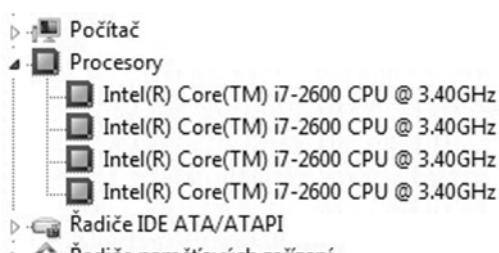
To reduce this effect I have used 3 or 6 cores (from 4 or 8 available), but fluctuations in the measured times were still incredibly high. There is only one way to overcome it – to repeat every test many times and finally take the average value. Of course, *hash tables have to be cleared between runs*.

### How to turn off HT?

HT is a hardware feature so I don't believe that software tools are able to control it. The only clear and conclusive method is to switch HT on and off in BIOS setup with the following check in Windows Device Manager.



Switching HT in the BIOS Setup



Intel i7 after HT turned off in Windows Device manager

This leads to some important information: there are some cores where HT cannot be disabled. For example in the i7 processor you can either use 8 HT slower threads or 4 full-speed straight cores.

### Results

I was used the Dell Vostro PC with i7 2600 3.4 GHz and 4608 M hash.

Solving times are in seconds as average value from 10 testing runs.

Engine – HT – threads	V.1	V.2
Rybka 4.1 x64 SSE - HT on - 3 threads	61.3	41.8
Rybka 4.1 x64 SSE - HT on - 6 threads	48.2	19.2
Rybka 4.1 x64 SSE - HT off - 3 cores	42	24.4
Houdini 4 x64A - HT on - 3 threads	18.4	900
Houdini 4 x64A - HT on - 6 threads	15.3	254.4
Houdini 4 x64A - HT off - 3 cores	14.4	227.7
Komodo 8 /64 - HT on - 3 threads	48.4	154.2
Komodo 8 /64 - HT on - 6 threads	48.2	26.8
Komodo 8 /64 - HT off - 3 cores	33	26

### Summary

In terms of statistics I do not have much data and it would be better to add positions, engines and runs but my time is limited and I am almost sure the results are illustrative enough.

Here is my recommendation

(1) If you have a special PC for chess, you should turn HT off in BIOS Setup. This way you get the highest chess performance in most cases but it could easily degrade the computer for other applications. You may also be disappointed about your investment because you could have bought an i5 instead of i7 for chess. For example the i5-4670K instead of the i7-4770K.

(2) If you cannot manipulate with the BIOS – for example in a company machine – you should use as many threads as possible and the results are only slightly worse.

Therefore, I conclude that Robert is principally right about HT but his interpretation is wrong with HT turned on. Reducing the number of threads will not give you full-featured cores but only HT threads with lower performance so, with HT turned on, you should use as many threads as possible.



# Mattison

BY TIMOTHY WHITWORTH

One of Mattison's early studies has been found to have two solutions. Alex King from the USA reported his discovery to Harold van der Heijden in December 2014, and Harold passed on this news to me.

(S.1) 1.Sc7+ Kf8 2.Sxd8 f2 3.Kh7 f1Q 4.Sde6+ Kf7 5.Sg5+ Kf6 6.Se4+ draws. But Alex points out that instead of 3.Kh7 White can play 3.Sde6+ and then 3...Kg8 4.Sd5 f1Q 5.Sxe7+Kh8 6.Sg5 draws. Harold adds the observation that if play were to continue from here with 6...Qb1+ 7.Kf7! Qf1+ 8.Kg6! we would see an interesting positional draw with the symmetrical threats of Sg6+/Sf7+.

In 1923 Mattison published a revised version of the study. Here, the position in a modified form is shifted one file to the west, making it possible for the composer to enrich the solution.

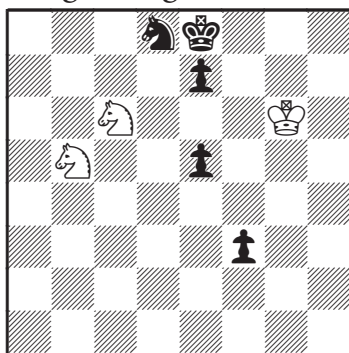
(S.2) After 1.Sb7+ there are two main lines: 1...Ke8 2.Kg7 e1Q 3.S5xd6+ Ke7 4.Sf5+ Ke6 5.Sd4+ draws, or 1...Kc8 2.S7xd6+ Kb8 3.Ke5 e1Q+ 4.Kxd5 draws. In the second line, with his king imprisoned and his pawn blockaded, Black can achieve nothing with his free-ranging queen.

Hitherto, I have taken it for granted that Mattison's purpose in shifting the position to the west was to produce a second main line of play. But maybe his initial concern was to eliminate the flaw in the 1913 setting, and the second main line was a happy bonus. Who knows? Anyway, as soon as I saw Alex's note I realised that the 1913 setting could be put right simply by a westward shift of the entire position.

(S.3) 1.Sb7+ Ke8 2.Sxc8 e2 3.Kg7 e1Q 4.Sc6+ Ke7 5.Sf5+ Ke6 6.Sd4+ draws.

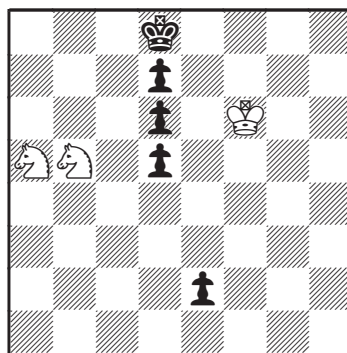
I should add a word about the original source of S.1. It is given as *Rigaer Tageblatt* 1913 in V. Kirilovs' book *Pāri savam laikmetam* (Riga, 1994). When S.2 appeared in *Ilustrēts Žurnāls* in 1923, in the chess column conducted by Mattison himself, the study carried the heading "(*Rigaer Tageblatt* 21 iv (4 v) 1913 Nr. 582)". This might be taken to mean that the 1913 position was being reprinted, but I am sure this could not have been what the editor meant. I think the word "reworking" or "version" must have been accidentally omitted. Mattison was adept at reworking his earlier pieces to improve them.

S.1. H. Mattison  
*Rigaer Tageblatt* 1913



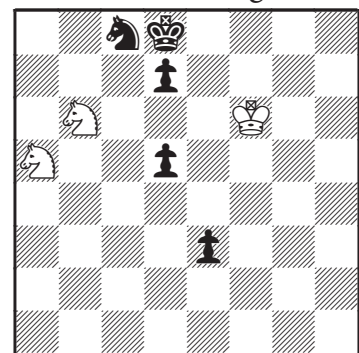
g6e8 0005.03 3/5 Draw

S.2. H. Mattison  
*Ilustrēts Žurnāls* 1923



f6d8 0002.04 3/5 Draw

S.3. H. Mattison  
*Rigaer Tageblatt* 1913  
correction, original



f6d8 0005.03 3/5 Draw



# Solving

## Wouter van Rijn wins the study solving in Wijk aan Zee (by Yochanan Afek)

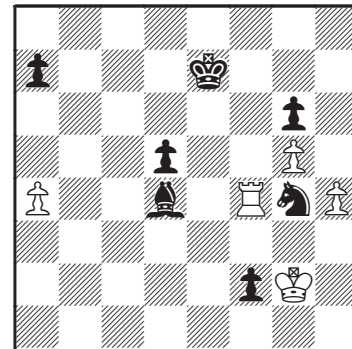
The 6th ARVES study solving contest was held in De Moriaan, Wijk aan Zee, the venue of the Tata Steel tournament in the last weekend of the famous event. ARVES is the international association that promotes the art of the endgame study and publishes the quarterly **EG** – the only publication which is dedicated entirely to endgame studies. 17 solvers took part in the competition this year of which two were former solving world champions: Frenchman double GM (for solving as well as for composing) Michel Caillaud and GM Jorma Paavilainen from Finland. The third grandmaster was the leading Dutch solver Dolf Wissmann. Another guest, the famous Russian composer GM Oleg Pervakov failed to make it from Amsterdam in time due to the bad weather but, however, still managed eventually to take part in the International Solving Competition the next day.

The participants were confronted for three hours with nine unpublished studies of various degrees of difficulty, created by famous composers who had provided them especially for this event. Composers whose originals were selected by chief arbiter Luc Palmans were: Daniel Keith (France), Martin Minski (Germany), Geir Sune Tallaksen Ostmoe (Norway), Andrzej Jasik (Poland), Siegfried Hornecker (Germany), Jan Timman (the Netherlands) and Gady Costeff (Israel/USA).

One of those original studies was exceptionally interesting having been stimulated by a game that had been played in the top tournament next door just a few days before: The game between Dutch champion Loek van Wely and world champion Magnus Carlsen from the fourth round of this year's edition of the main

Tata Steel tournament reached the following position:

A.1. Van Wely – Carlsen  
Wijk aan Zee 2015

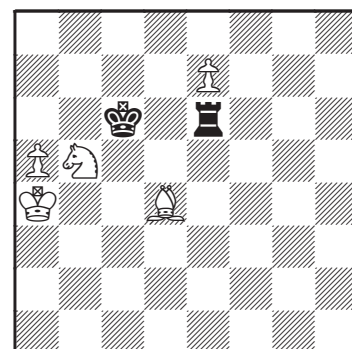


Black to move

Carlsen decided here the battle by the elegant **44...Sh2!** forcing White to throw in the towel with no further delay in view of **45.Kxh2 Be5**.

The Berlin-based German composer Martin Minski followed the games with great interest, just like the entire chess community, and was inspired by the finesse described above to compose a whole study where tense introductory play is gradually built up to the very same highlighting motive. All extra “superfluous” pieces in the game position were removed with just the thematic figures left, to create a subtle drama in a much more economical setting:

A.2. Martin Minski  
*The Problemist* 2015



a4c6 0311.20 5/2 Win

White's chance to emerge as victor depends on him holding the pawn e7 or winning the Black Rook in return. For example: 1.a6? Rxe7 2.Sa7+ (a7 Kb7;) Kc7 3.Kb5 Re1! 4.Sc6 Rb1+ is just a draw. **1.Bf6! Kd7** (Re4+; Sd4+) **2.Bg5 Re4+!** **3. Kb3!** Not 3.Ka3? Re5 4.Sd6 (4.a6 Rxb5; 4.Kb4 Rxc5) 4...Rxa5+. **3...Re5 4.Sd6!!** The Magnus point! The alternative attempt to achieve the same goal would fail: 4.Sc7?! Rxe7! (Kxc7?; Bf4) 5.Bxe7 (5.a6 Kxc7) 5...Kxc7; 4.a6? Rxb5+ (4...Rxc5? 5.e8Q+! Kxe8 6.a7 Rxb5+ 7.Ka4) 5.Ka4 Rb8. **4...Kxd6 5.Bf4 Kxe7 6.Bxe5 Kd7 7.a6** (7.Bd4? Kc7 /Kc8 8.a6 Kb8) **7...Kc6 8.Bd4** (8.Bb8? Kb6 9.a7 Kb7 with the well known drawing fortress) **8...Kc7 9.Ba7!** and the route of the bK to the corner has been finally totally blocked.

The tradition of having a new winner almost every year was maintained this time as well. The field was actually dominated by the hosting solvers. Wouter van Rijn from Arnhem, a regular participant who has consistently improved over the years, won the top honours. The runner-up was the winner of the first edition in 2009, the rising up young chess IM Twan Burg while in the third place another



*Wouter van Rijn*

regular participant who made it for the first time to the medals – Willem van Briemen.

The three winners left behind all the much more experienced grandmasters while the only female competitor, our home photographer and globetrotter, the Rumanian WGM (and IM) Alina Lami had to settle for a lesser score than previously since duty called her a whole hour before the official end of the competition to the podium of the super Tata Steel tournament before the start of the penultimate round.

The final score: 1. Wouter van Rijn (NED) 26, 2. Twan Burg (NED) 22, 3. Willem van Briemen (NED) 21, 4-5. Piet Peelen (NED) and Marcel Van Herck (BEL) 18, 6. Michel Caillaud (FRA) 18, 7. Jorma Paavilainen (FIN) 17, 8. Richard Vedder (NED) 16, 9. Alina L'Ami (NED) 14, 10-11. Dolf Wissmann (NED) and Harm Benak (NED) 14, 12. Hans Uitenbroek (NED) 12, 13. Harold van der Heijden (NED) 11, 14. Antti Parkkinen (FIN) 10, 15. Gert Reichardt (NED) 9, 16. Eric Fraikin (NED) 9, 17. René Olthof (NED) 7.

### **Tata Steel Solving statistics** *(by Antti Parkinen)*

As an incurable chess and sport statistics fan, I could not help but compile some interesting facts about the study solving contest.

All in all, there have been 51 participants representing 11 countries: 32 from the Netherlands (I suppose those not labelled with a nationality tag are all Dutch), 5 from Belgium, 3 from Poland, 2 each from Finland, Great Britain and Russia, 1 each from Australia, France, Latvia, Romania and Spain.

5 solvers have participated all 6 times: Hans Uitenbroek, Willem van Briemen, Harold van der Heijden, Marcel Van Herck and Dolf Wissmann.

Furthermore, there are 6 solvers who have missed one competition, i.e. with 5 participations: Harm Benak, Twan Burg, René Olthof, Antti Parkkinen, Piet Peelen and Wouter van Rijn.

*List of prize-winners:*

2009: 1. Twan Burg (the Netherlands) 2. John Nunn (Great Britain) 3. Eddy Van Beers (Belgium).

2011: 1. John Nunn (Great Britain) 2. Eddy Van Beers (Belgium) 3. Alina l'Ami (Romania).

2012: 1. David Klein (the Netherlands) 2. Joost Michielsen (the Netherlands) 3. John Nunn (Great Britain).

2013: 1. John Nunn (Great Britain) 2. Piet Peelen (the Netherlands) 3. Guus Rol (the Netherlands).

2014: 1. Joost Michielsen (the Netherlands) 2-3. David Klein (the Netherlands) and Piet Peelen (the Netherlands).

2015: 1. Wouter van Rijn (the Netherlands) 2. Twan Burg (the Netherlands) 3. Willem van Briemen (the Netherlands).

*All time medal table:*

Nunn	$2 + 1 + 1 = 4$ (4 part.)
Klein	$1 + 1 + 0 = 2$ (2)
Michielsen	$1 + 1 + 0 = 2$ (3)
Burg	$1 + 1 + 0 = 2$ (5)
van Rijn	$1 + 0 + 0 = 1$ (5)
Peelen	$0 + 2 + 0 = 2$ (5)
Van Beers	$0 + 1 + 1 = 2$ (2)
l'Ami	$0 + 0 + 1 = 1$ (4)
Rol	$0 + 0 + 1 = 1$ (3)
van Briemen	$0 + 0 + 1 = 1$ (6)

**Solving***(by Harold van der Heijden)*

Although I am not a very good solver, I always enjoy taking part in solving events. I started with endgame study solving events but in recent years I have also competed in various standard solving competitions (with two-movers, three-movers, more-movers, endgame studies, helpmates, and selfmates). There, the usual goal for me was not to finish last (which was sometimes challenging enough!), scoring points in the two-movers, helpmates and, of course, the endgame studies. I always make

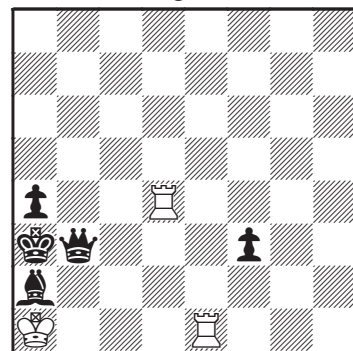
plans to practice seriously before the next event, but in the end the only thing I do is to look at the examples in the great book *Solving in Style* by John Nunn the evening before. Recently, I also scored some points on other problems (three-movers, which I usually skipped) so I am optimistic about making some progress in future events. In the last ISC event I finished with a shared 150th-154th place, which looks (is?) terrible, but there were no less than 239 participants. [www.wfcc.ch/competitions/solving/isc2015-cat1/](http://www.wfcc.ch/competitions/solving/isc2015-cat1/)

Recently, René Olthof sent me a report of the 9th (!) edition of the Australian Chess Problem Championship, this year in Canberra. See <http://OzProblems.com> under links. There were no less than 75 participants in various categories (U18, U16, U14, U12, U10, U8). Under 8! The organizer, Nigel Nettheim, did a really excellent job, also providing an article “A quick introduction to chess problems and end-game studies” and a well-considered set of rules aimed at youngsters, e.g. not all individual scores are published in order not to discourage young children.

Now back to the 6th Tata Steel solving event which ARVES organized. During solving I thought that it went quite well for me, since I thought I had solved several studies but when I saw the solutions, I found out that I had gone wrong in several instances.

This is a good example. Martin Minski kindly supplied this original for publication in EG, where it participated in our informal tourney.

No 20161 A.3. M. Minski  
Original



a1a3 3203.02 3/5 Draw



**No 20161** Martin Minski (Germany). This looks like a very simple position to solve. Black threatens mate in one, and it is rather obvious that this will end in stalemate. White has to get rid of his rooks, and of course only 1.Re3 or 1.Rd3 are the candidate moves. It is not difficult to see that 1.Re3? Qxe3? 2.Rd3+ Qxd3 leads to the stalemate, but also that 1...f2! 2.Rxb3+ axb3! (threatening 3...b2 mate) refutes that move. So: **1.Rd3**. OK. Now where is the problem? If Black takes: 1...Qxe3 2.Re3 Qxe3 is stalemate, and Black has no serious alternative, e.g. 2...Qb3 3.Rxf3 Qxf3 stalemate. I also spotted 2...Bb1 3.Rxd3+ Bxd3 stalemate. Thinking of 1.Re3? f2!, one quickly concentrates on 1.Rd3 f2. The only drawing move now is 2.Red1! If 2...Qxd3 3.Rxd3+ Bb3 4.Rf3 is an easy draw. So 2...f1Q 3.Rxf1 Qxd3 4.Rf3! Qxf3 stalemate, or 4...Bb1 (Bc4) 5.Rxd3+ Bxd3 stalemate. It even crossed my endgame study judge mind here that this is a redundant stalemate, as Black would not be able to win if this was not a stalemate. "OK, simple study, the threats and the black material plus in initial position requires forced play: solved".

This is the composer's solution: **1.Rd3! Qxd3** (1...f2 2.Red1 f1Q (2...Qxd3 3.Rxd3+ Bb3 4.Rf3 draws) 3.Rxf1 Qxd3 4.Rf3! Bb1 (4...Qxf3 stalemate) 5.Rxd3+ Bxd3 model stalemate) **2.Re3! Qb3!** (2...Qxe3 stalemate; 2...f2 3.Rxd3+ Bb3 4.Rf3 draws; 2...Bb1 3.Rxd3+ Bxd3 model stalemate) **3.Rxf3** (3.Rxb3+? Bxb3! But not 3...Kxb3? model stalemate, or 3...axb3? stalemate), and now the move that I missed: **3...Bb1!** (3...Kb4 4.Rxb3+ axb3 (4...Kxb3 model stalemate) 5.Kb2 Bb1 (5...Kc4 6.Ka1 Kc3 ideal stalemate) 6.Kxb1 Ka3 7.Ka1 b2+ 8.Kb1 zz 8...Kb3 ideal stalemate) **4.Rd3!!** zz. Well, in fact this is the move that I overlooked. This is the only drawing move, while there is also a thematic try: 4.Rxb3+? axb3 5.Kxb1 b2 zz 6.Kc2 Ka2 winning. **4...Kb4** (4...Bc2 5.Rxb3+ Bxb3 (5...Kxb3 model stalemate; 5...axb3 stalemate) 6.Kb1 draws; 4...Bxd3 stalemate; 4...Qxd3 stalemate) **5.Rxb3+ axb3**

**6.Kxb1 Ka3 7.Ka1 b2+ 8.Kb1 zz Kb3** ideal stalemate.

A great study for a solving event. Well done, Martin!

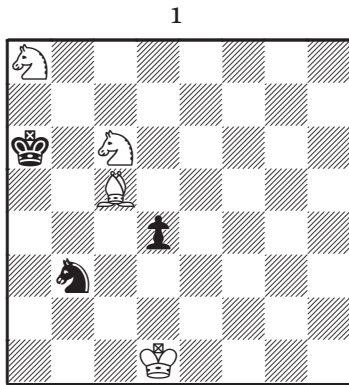
### Team work in Groningen (by Yochanan Afek)

The International Chess Festival in the northern Dutch city of Groningen is one of the major and popular Dutch events held around Christmas time. In addition to the strong open tournament that keeps the participants busy throughout day time, a special evening chess program is regularly held afterwards in the city centre chess cafe "Atlantis". Thanks to the initiative of Bert van der Marel, the owner of this famous establishment and himself an endgame study enthusiast (and at the time an active composer too), a study solving simultaneous contest, traditionally organized by yours truly, has, over the years, become a popular tradition. Unusually the participants compete in spontaneous teams of two or three solvers who try together to crack as many endgame studies as possible within 2 hours. Once a study is solved (or given up) a new diagram appears on the team's table and so on.

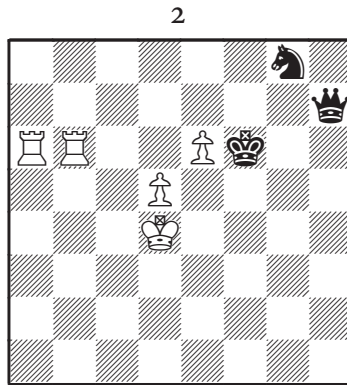
The most recent event, last December, was the most crowded and the most international one so far with no fewer than eight teams from various countries and Dutch provinces taking part. The Balkans, composed of Turkish and Romanian players, managed to overcome no fewer than 15 challenges presented to them and scored 75 points so that a bottle of quality red wine was awarded to the happy winners. Two northern teams, one with Migchiel de Jong and Erik Sparenberg (Friesland) and the other with Dolf Wissmann & Jan Balije (a mix of the northern Dutch provinces) scored 50 points each, ahead of the team from Kuwait (!) 40. The Groningen team with Bert (the host) and Rudolf Potze was fifth with 35.



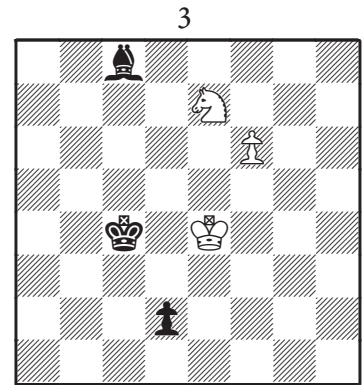
Here are three examples of the studies the competitors had to solve.  
For the solutions, see page 114.



d1a6 0015.01 4/3 Win



d4f6 3203.20 5/3 Win



e4c4 0031.11 3/3 Draw



Martin Minski

# Reviews

JOHN ROYCROFT

Joel BENJAMIN, *Liquidation on the Chess Board – Mastering the Transition into the Pawn Endgame*, 2015.

256 pages. ISBN 978-90-5691-553-7.

This book is intended for the club player who may be deterred from studying pawn endings directly from the endgame textbooks because he is inured to the familiar *piece figurines* on the board. So what we have here is a series of chapters headed just like any endgame theory book – that is, queens, rooks, bishops, knights, followed by two-piece endings, eleven chapters in all. With diagrams to match, from practical games, interspersed with photos of selected players, Réti and Rubinstein among them. There the similarity ends, because in every case the position sooner or later morphs into a king and pawns ending. So the shy reader is led into a ‘real’ game environment in which he can’t help but ‘think pawns’. Tablebases are mentioned, but not over-invoked.

The text is chatty, the commentary is helpful, and the analysis never overwhelms. Plentiful exercises conclude each chapter, always with a hint or a germane query, and ample space devoted to discussing how the game went, or how it should have gone.

In short, Benjamin’s book is appetisingly digestible, even for blinkered studies dedicatees.

David GURGENIDZE, *Prince Dadian*, n.d.

318 large format (29 cm × 21 cm) pages, organised into 37 chapters. 338 games or game snippets. Lavishly illustrated, frequently in

colour. In Georgian, including hard cover, title – and an index. Edition size: unknown. Weight: 1.1 kg. ISBN 978-9941-16-357-9.

The Georgian language, unrelated to the Indo-European or Slav families, is idiosyncratic in several respects: the grammar has no definite article and the verb can signify relationships among three persons; the alphabet has no upper case; the orthography is unique, beautifully cursive; and, reflecting an overly male culture, surely unique among the world’s tongues, the first word universally uttered by an infant – ‘mama’ – is adopted as the Georgian dictionary entry for ‘father’. Sadly, that is the limit of my acquaintance with the language, despite good intentions over the years. Yes, after my first, and wholly memorable, visit in 1975 I did purchase a grammar from a Tbilisi bookshop. It was in Russian.

Adria Dadiani, usually known as Prince Dadian of Mingrelia (a province of western Georgia), was born in 1850 of Svan descent. He died in 1910.

Gurgenidze’s book is a formidable assembly of data, on the face of it a first-time biography, researched across a wide range of international sources, of this well-known, if controversial, player-organiser and well-heeled sponsor. It seems it must remain a secret hidden from western readers for a while longer. But we confess to being excited. We never expected to see, let alone handle, a volume such as this, purchased on impulse off Gurgenidze at Bern in August 2014.

# ARVES 25 Anniversary Tourney 2014 Final Award

The tourney was announced at the beginning of 2014. I received 55 entries (not more than 3 per composer) before June 30th, 2014, and mailed them in anonymous form to the judge Yochanan Afek. I am most grateful to Yochanan for his careful and prompt award. I also wish to thank Harold van der Heijden for his work in the background.

The participants received the preliminary award at the end of 2014. There were no complaints. Peter Gyarmati provided us with a new version of his special honourable mention, which is included in this final award.

Many thanks to all the participants for their much appreciated contributions. And finally a warm “thank you” to ARVES for yet again organizing a tourney and providing the prize-fund.

*Luc Palmans*

## Final award by Yochanan Afek

To celebrate a quarter of a century of activity to promote the art of the endgame study ARVES announced a formal tourney which I was honoured to be appointed as its judge.

I received 55 entries on anonymous diagrams from the tournament director Luc Palmans to whom I am grateful for smoothly running the event and efficiently editing the material for the judging process. Many thanks are due to Harold Van der Heijden for his dedicated and professional hard work to check the award candidates for soundness and originality.

The general standard of the entries was more than satisfactory and I was delighted to receive and award an unusual number of game-like daring and combative ideas and almost no computer products of the kind that only the silicon monster can comprehend and appreciate. Is it indeed a refreshing return to the genuine roots of our art? Let's hope so!

As usual I have tried to put originality and the general impression at the top of my criteria. Not less than four entries displayed the difficult multi-pinning stalemate, probably inspired by the recent Michal Hlinka 60 JT. I was hesitating a bit but eventually decided that they all have a place in the award. It is also not common to have almost half of the award prize-winners yet I believe all six deserve it.

Here is then my selection:

**No 20162** Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway) (nr 12). 1.Rb3+ Ka4 2.Ra3+ Kxa3/i 3.f8Q+ c5 4.bxc6+ Ka4 5.Qb4+ Kxb4/ii 6.Bxc3+ Kxc3 7.o-o-o g1Q/iii 8.Rxg1 Rc2+/iv 9.Kb1 Rb2+ 10.Ka1 Kc2 11.d8R/v Bxd8 12.g8S Bb6 13.h8B/vi wins.

i) Kxb5 3.Bc6+ Kxc6 4.Rxc3+ wins.

ii) Rxb4 6.g8Q wins.

iii) Rc2+ 8.Kb1 Rb2+ 9.Ka1 Kc2 10.Rd2+ wins.

iv) Bxf2 9.Re1 Bxe1 10.d8Q, or Bc7 9.Rg4 Rxf2 10.Rc4+ win.

v) 11.d8Q? Rb1+ 12.Rxb1 Bd4+ 13.Qxd4 stalemate.

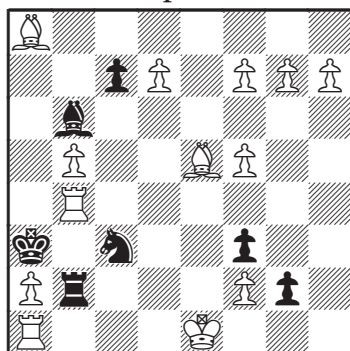
vi) 13.h8Q? Bd4 14.Qxd4 Rb1+ 15.Rxb1 stalemate.

“A surprising *première* of a super task combining both Allumwandlung (all four promotions) and the Valladão task (All 3 unusual chess moves — castling, en passant and pawn promotion) in one line of play illustrated by a fluent sacrificial play. A remarkable achievement!”

**No 20163** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) (nr 20). 1.d3 (Rf8? Qd5;) Bxd3 2.Rf8 Bf5+/i 3.Rxf5 Qc2+ (Qc4+; Sc5) 4.Rc5 Bxc5 5.Qa5+ Ba7+ 6.Sc5/ii Qxh7/iii 7.Qd8 Bxc5/iv 8.Qa5+ Qa7 9.Qb5 Qb6 10.Qa4+ wins.

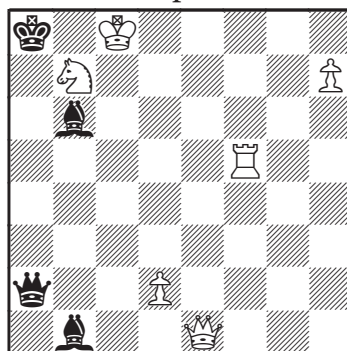
i) Qc2+ 3.Kd7+ Kxb7 4.Rb8+ Kxb8 5.h8Q+.

No 20162 G. S. T. Østmoe  
1st prize



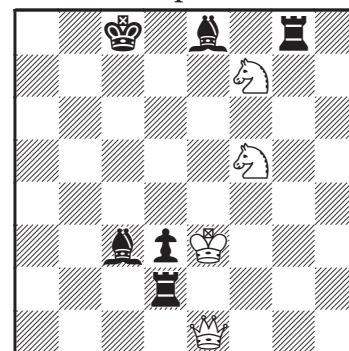
e1a3 0553.83 13/7 Win

No 20163 S. S. Nielsen  
2nd prize



c8a8 4161.20 6/4 Win

No 20164 Y. Bazlov  
3rd prize



e3c8 1662.01 4/6 Win

ii) 6.Qc7? Qf5+ 7.Qd7 Qc2+ 8.Kd8 Bb6+ 9.Ke8 e.g. 9...Qg6+ draws.

iii) Qf5+ 7.Sd7 Qxa5 8.h8Q Qa1 9.Sb6+ wins.

iv) Bb8 8.Qd5+ Ka7 9.Qa2+ Kb6 10.Sd7+ wins; Qf7 8.Qh8 (Qh1) Bxc5 9.Qa1+ Ba7 10.Qh1+.

“A brilliant tactical battle on an open board with a surprising mutual sacrificial play to open up and shut off lines, highlighted by a royal switch-back. All four corners of the chessboard are involved in this genuine gem!”

**No 20164** Yuri Bazlov (Russia) (nr 48). 1.S7d6+ Kb8/i 2.Qh4 Ba5 (Bd7; Qc4) 3.Sc4 Re2+/ii 4.Kxd3 Ra2 5.Sxa5 Bb5+ 6.Kc3/iii Rc8+/iv 7.Kb3 (Kb4? Ra4+;) Rxa5 8.Qb4 Rc5 9.Sd4 Kb7 10.Kb2 Kb6 11.Sb3 wins.

i) Kc7 2.Qh4 Bc6 3.Qh7+.

ii) Ra2 4.Sxa5 Rxa5 5.Qd8+.

iii) 6.Sc4? Bxc4+ 7.Qxc4 Ra3+ 8.Ke2 Rg2+ 9.Kf1 Raa2 draws.

iv) Rxa5 7.Qb4 Rc8+ 8.Kb2 wins.

“An exceptionally inventive black defensive play leads to an unusual symmetrical final picture. Highly original and economical”

**No 20165** Darko Hlebec (Serbia) (nr 39). 1.Re8+ Kxe8 2.Sbd6+ Kd8 3.Qxf4 Qc3+ 4.Kf7 Bxc4+/i 5.Rxc4 Se5+ 6.Ke6 Qh3+ 7.Kxe5 Bb2+ 8.Rd4 Qxh5+ 9.Bf5 Rxe2+ 10.Se4+ Ke7 11.Qg5+/ii Qxg5 stalemate.

i) Rf2 5.Sb7+ Kxc8 6.Sbd6+ Kd7 7.Rb7+ Kd8 8.Rb8+ Kd7 9.Sb6+ Kc7 10.Se8 mate.

ii) 11.Qg3? Qh2 wins.

“A bloody scene of ‘free-style wrestling’ ends up all of a sudden in an astounding picture of triple self-pinning. People of refined taste might find it a bit too militant but personally I think it’s pretty good entertainment and at the same time a piece of art”.

**No 20166** Richard Becker (USA) (nr 41). 1.Be2+/i Kg3 2.Rf3+ Kg2 3.Rf2+ Kg1 4.Rxf1+ Kh2 5.Rf2+ Kg1 6.Rf1+ Kh2 7.Rf2+ Rg2 8.Rxg2+ Kxg2 9.Sd2 Rh1+/ii 10.Sf1 c1Q 11.Bf3+ Kxf3/iii stalemate.

i) 1.Bxh3+? Kxh3 2.Sbc3 c1Q 3.Rxf1 Re5+ 4.Se2 Qa3 wins; 1.Bf5+? Kg3 2.Bxc2 Kxf4 3.Kxf1 Rh2 (Rh1+) wins.

ii) c1Q 10.Bf1+ Kg3 11.Bxh3 Kxh3 12.Ke2 draws.

iii) Kg1 12.Bxh1 Kxh1 13.Sfe3 draws.

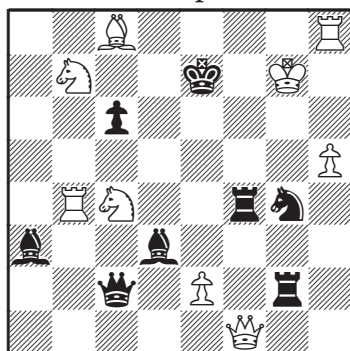
“A beautiful ideal stalemate with double pinning following an elegant fore-play. The construction may be considered aristocratic since the only pawn in the initial position is promoted too towards the final picture”.

**No 20167** Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain) (nr 55). 1... Sf2+ 2.Kxg2 e1S+ 3.Kxf2 d1S+/i 4.Kxe1/ii Qb4+ 5.Kf1/iii Se3+ 6.Qxe3+ Kxe3 7.Sf5+ Kf4/iv 8.Rf8 Qxb5+ 9.Kf2 Rb8 10.Rxb8 Qxb8 11.Bc3 e5 12.h8Q Qxh8 13.Sh6 Qd8 14.Bxe5+ Kxe5 15.Sf7+ wins.

i) Qd4+ 4.Kf1 Qd3+ 5.Qe2 d1Q 6.Se6+ Kf5 7.Rf8+ Kg6 8.Sf4+ Kxh7 9.Sxd3 Qxd3 10.Kxe1 wins.

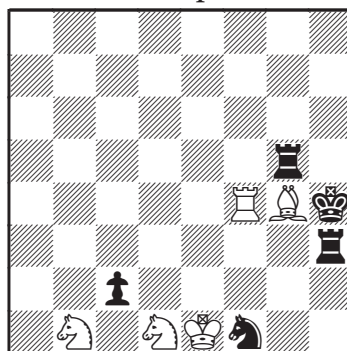


No 20165  
D. Hlebec  
4th-5th prize



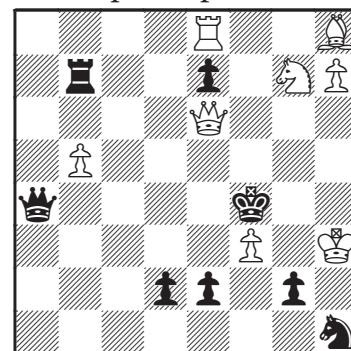
g7e7 4875.21 9/8 Draw

No 20166  
R. Becker  
4th-5th prize



ei14 0715.01 5/5 Draw

No 20167  
L. M. Gonzalez  
special prize



h3f4 4414.34 8/8 BTM, Win

ii) 4.Kg1? Qd4+ 5.Kh1 Sf2+ 6.Kh2 Sxf3+ 7.Kg2 Sh4+ 8.Kf1 Qd1+ 9.Kxf2 Qf3+ 10.Ke1 Qc3+ 11.Kf1 Qd3+ positional draw.

iii) 5.Kxd1? Qb1+ 6.Kd2 Qb2+ 7.Kd3 Qb1+ 8.Kc3 Qa1+ 9.Kb4 Qb1+ 10.Qb3 Qe1+ 11.Kc5 Qf2+ 12.Kb4 Qe1+ positional draw.

iv) Kxf3 8.Sd4+ Kg4 9.Rg8+ Kh5 10.Be5 Qb1+ 11.Kf2 Qxh7 12.Rh8 Qxh8 13.Bxh8 Kg6 14.Be5 wins.

“A widened scope epic created around an idea from arguably Platov brothers’ most infamous study (1st prize *Rigaer Tageblatt*, 1909) which was said to be Lenin’s favourite. A daring and impressive attempt which deserves a special recognition”.

**No 20168** Mirko Miljanić (Serbia) (nr 38). 1.Kf5/i c6/ii 2.Re7/iii Rf1+ 3.Ke6 Rxf6+ 4.Kxf6/iv Bc3+/v 5.Kg6 (Qxc3? a1Q;) Kf8/vi 6.Qxc3/vii a1Q 7.Rf7+ Kg8 8.Qh8+ Qxh8 9.Rxa7 wins.

i) 1.Rxe1? Rxe1+ 2.Qxe1 Kf7 draws.

ii) c5 2.Re8+ Kf7 3.Re7+ Rxe7 4.Qxa2+ Ke8 5.Qa8+ Kf7 6.Qxh1, or Kf8 2.Qd4+- Rf1+ 3.Ke6 wins.

iii) 2.Re8+? Kf7 3.Re7+ Rxe7 4.Qxa2+ Ke8 5.Qa8+ Kf7 6.fxe7 Rf1+ 7.Kg4 Kxe7 draws; 2.Qd4? Rf1+ 3.Ke6 Rf7 4.Rg3+ Bxg3 5.Qg4+ Kf8 6.Qg8+ draws.

iv) 4.Qxf6? Rxe7+ 5.Kxe7 Bh4 draws.

v) Bh4+ 5.Kg6 Rxe7 6.Qxa2+ Kf8 7.Qa8+ Re8 8.Qxc6 wins.

vi) Rxe7 6.Qxa2+ wins, see 4....Bh4?

vii) 6.Rf7+? Rxf7 7.Qxc3 Rf2 draws, but not Rd7? 8.Qa3+ c5 9.Qxa2 wins.

“Another highly tactical battle of the heavy guns against naked kings highlighted by the final blow 8.Qh8+!”.

**No 20169** Michal Hlinka & L’ubosh Keke-ly (Slovakia) (nr 6). 1... Bh6+/i 2.Re3+/ii g2/iii 3.Bxg2+ hxg2 4.Sxc2 g1Q+/iv 5.Sd1 bxc2 6.Rxc2+ Kxd7 7.Rd2+ Kc6 8.Rc3+ Kb5 9.Rb3+ Ka4/v 10.Ra3+ Kxa3 stalemate.

i) g2 2.d8S+ Kd7 3.Rd4+ Kc8 4.Bxg2 hxg2 5.Se2 Bxa3 6.Se6 Bg6 7.S6f4, or Kxd7 2.Rxb3 g2 3.Bxg2 hxg2 4.Rd4+ Ke8 5.Se2 win.

ii) 2.Rf4+? g2 3.Bxg2+ hxg2 4.Rxc2 g1Q+ 5.Kb2 bxc2 6.d8Q c1Q+ 7.Kb3 Qb6+ 8.Qxb6+ Kxb6 9.Sd5+ Kc5 10.Rc4+ Kxd5 11.Rxc1 Bxc1 wins.

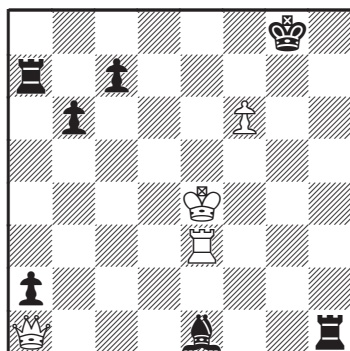
iii) Kxd7 3.Sxc2 Bxc2 4.Kd2 g2 5.Bxg2 hxg2 6.Se2 Kd6 7.Sg1 Kd5 8.Ke2 Bxe3 9.Kxe3 Kc4 10.Kd2 draws.

iv) Bxe3+ 5.Sxe3 g1Q+ 6.Kd2 Kxd7 7.Rxb3 draws. Bxc2 5.Rxc2 g1Q+ 6.Sd1+ bxc2 7.d8Q cx-d1Q+ 8.Qxd1 draws, EGTB; bxc2 5.Rxc2 g1Q+ 6.Kb2 Kxd7 7.Rd2+ Kc8 8.Re8+ Kc7 9.Re7 wins.

v) Kc4 10.Rc3+ Kb4 11.Rb3+ Kxb3 stalemate.

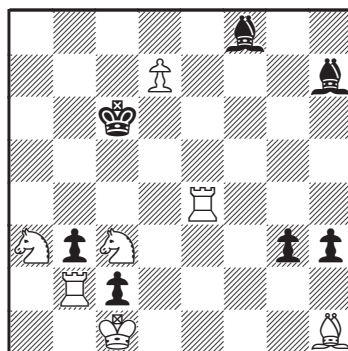
“Another attractive ideal two-fold pin stalemate”.

**No 20168**  
M. Miljanić  
1st honourable mention



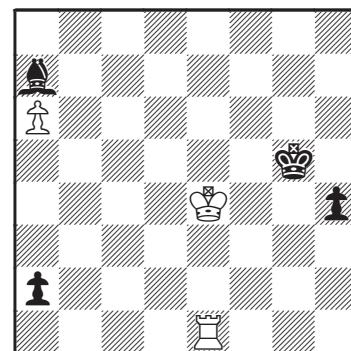
e4g8 1730.13 4/7 Win

**No 20169** M. Hlinka  
& L. Kekely  
2nd honourable mention



c1c6 0272.14 7/7 BTM, Draw

**No 20170** P. Gyarmati  
special honourable mention  
(correction)



e4g5 0130.12 3/4 Win

**No 20170** Peter Gyarmati (Hungary) (nr 30, correction). 1.Kf3 Bd4 2.Kg2 Kf5/i 3.Kh2 Kg4/ii 4.Rf1/iii Be5+ 5.Kh1/iv Bd4 6.Kg2 h3+ 7.Kh1 Kg5/v 8.Kh2 Kg4 9.Rd1 Kf3 10.Rd3+ Ke2 11.Ra3 wins.

i) Kf4 3.Kh3 Kf5 4.Rd1 Ke5 5.Kg4/vi Ke4 6.Ra1 Bxa1 7.a7 Bd4 8.a8Q+ wins.

ii) Kg5 4.Rf1 Kg6 5.Kh3 Kg5 6.Rc1 Kf4 7.Re1 Kf5 8.Rd1, and: Kg5 9.Rf1 Kh5 10.Rf5+ Kg6 11.Ra5 wins, or here: Ke5 9.Kg4 Ke4 10.Ra1 wins

iii) 4.Kg2? h3+ 5.Kh1 (Kh2 Kf3;) Kf4 6.Kh2 Kf3 7.Kxh3/vii Kf2 draws.

iv) 5.Kg2? h3 6.Kh1 Bd4 7.Rd1 Kf5 8.Kh2 Ke4 9.Kxh3 Ke3 draws.

v) Kg3 8.Rd1 Kf2 10.Rd2+ wins.

vi) 5.Kxh4 Ke4 6.Ra1 Bxa1 7.a6 Bf6 wins.

vii) But not 7.Ra1? Bxa1 8.a7 Be5 wins.

“An interesting contribution to category of R vs B encounters. Due to the overloaded bishop controlling 2 diagonals simultaneously, Black runs out of useful moves which allows White to transfer his rook to the “a” file. Nevertheless the composer is wrong to present 2.Kg2 as merely a loss of time, whilst it is in fact an unpleasant dual of move order. I would therefore strongly recommend either to change those first moves or alternatively to skip the first two moves”.

(Yochanan comments on the first version with a wRd1, which lead to the move order duals 2.Re1 Kf5 3.Kg2 and 2.Kg2 Kf6 3.Re1).

**No 20171** Martin Minski (Germany) (nr 2). 1.Ke2/i and:

— c2 2.Kd2 h4 3.Sg6 Kxg6 4.Bh5+ Kxh5 5.g4+ Kg5 6.Kxc2 Kf4 7.Kc3 Ke4 8.Kxc4 wins, or:

— hxg4 2.h4 Kg7 3.Kd1 Kxh8 4.Kc2 Kg7 5.Kxc3 Kf6 6.Kxc4 Ke5 7.Kc5 zz, wins, or:

— h4 2.Bf5/ii Kxf5/iii 3.g4+ wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Ke3? hxg4 2.h4 Kg7 3.Ke2 Kxh8 4.Kd1 Kg7/Kh7 5.Kc2 Kf6/Kg6 6.Kxc3 Ke5/Kf5 7.Kxc4 Ke4 8.Kc5 Ke5 draws zz (see second main line); 1.Bf5? Kxf5 2.Ke2 c2 (Ke4) draws.

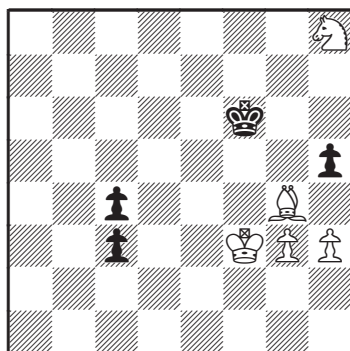
ii) Thematic try: 2.Sg6? Kxg6 3.Bh5+ Kxh5 4.g4+ Kg5/Kg6 5.Kd1 Kf4/Kf6 6.Kc2 Ke4/ Ke5 7.Kxc3 Kd5 draws (see first main line).

iii) hxg3 3.Be4/Bb1/Bc2 Kg7 4.Sg6 g2 5.Kf2 wins.

“Neat sacrifices of the only pieces on board secure the vital tempo to obtain a won pawn ending. A players-friendly gem”.

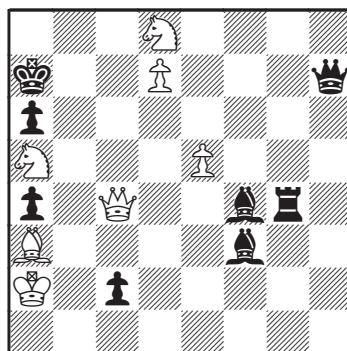
**No 20172** Michal Hlinka & Ľubosh Kekely (Slovakia) (nr 16). 1... c1S+ 2.Bxc1 Rg2+/i 3.Bb2/ii Rxb2+ 4.Kxb2 Bxe5+ 5.Ka3 Bd6+ 6.Kxa4 Bd1+/iii 7.Sb3 Qxd7+ (Bxb3+; Kxb3) 8.Sc6+ Kb7 (Kb6) 9.Qxa6+ Kc7/iv 10.Qb6+ Kxb6 (Kc8; Qa6) stalemate.

**No 20171**  
M. Minski  
1st commendation



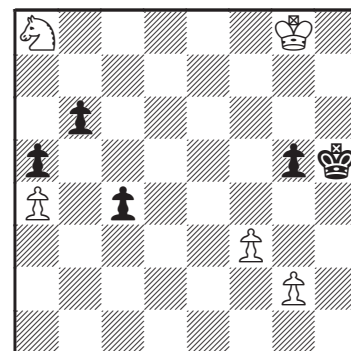
f3f6 0011.23 5/4 Win

**No 20172** M. Hlinka  
& L. Kekely  
2nd commendation



a2a7 4372.23 7/8 Win

**No 20173**  
S. Nosek  
3rd commendation



g8h5 0001.34 5/5 Win

i) Qxd7 3.Sdc6+ Bxc6 4.Sxc6+ Kb7 5.Sa5+ Kb6 6.Bxf4 draws.

ii) 3.Ka3? Qe7+ 4.Kxa4 Bd1+ 5.Sb3 Ra2+ 6.Ba3 Rxa3 mate.

iii) Qxd7+ 7.Sdc6+ Bxc6+ 8.Qxc6 Qxc6+ 9.Sxc6 draws.

iv) Kxa6 stalemate.

“An ideal twofold self-pin stalemate following a natural introductory play though not particularly exciting.”

**No 20173** Stanislav Nosek (Czech Republic) (nr 14). 1.Kg7/i c3/ii 2.g3 c2 3.Sc7/iii c1Q 4.Sd5/iv g4/v 5.f4 Qb2+ 6.Sf6+ Qxf6+ 7.Kxf6 b5 8.axb5 wins.

i) 1.g3? Kh6 2.Sxb6 c3 wins; 1.Sxb6? c3 2.Kg7 c2 draws.

ii) Kh4 2.Sxb6 c3 3.Sc4 c2 4.Se3 c1Q 5.Sf5+ Kh5 6.g4 mate, or g4 2.Sxb6 c3 3.Sd5 c2 4.Sf4+ Kh4 5.Se2 wins.

iii) 3.Sxb6!? c1Q 4.Sd5 g4 5.f4 Qc7+ 6.Sxc7 draws.

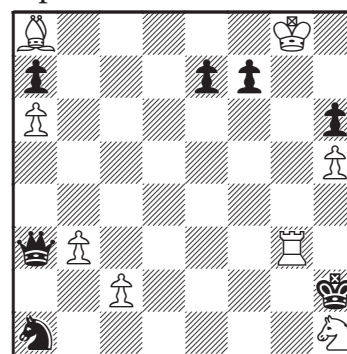
iv) 4.Se8? g4 5.f4 Qxf4 6.Sf6+ Kg5 7.gxf4+ Kxf4 8.Kf7 draws.

v) Qb2+ 5.Sf6+ Qxf6+ 6.Kxf6 b5 7.axb5 a4 8.b6 a3 9.b7 a2 10.b8Q a1Q+ 11.Kf7, and g4

12.Qb5+ Kh6 13.Qc6+ wins, or Qa2+ 12.Kg7 Qa1+ 13.Kh7 Qe1 14.g4+ Kh4 15.Qh2 mate.

The point of this solvers' friendly little study is the thematic try on the third move.

**No 20174** M. Minski  
special commendation



g8h2 3114.44 8/7 Win

**No 20174** Martin Minski (Germany) (nr 5). 1.Rg2+ Kxh1 2.b4 (c3? Sc2;) Qa4 3.b5 Qa5 4.b6 Qxa6 5.b7 Kxg2 6.b8S+ (b8Q?+ Kh3;) Kg3 7.Sxa6 Sxc2 8.Kxf7 Kf4 9.Kg6 wins.

“The systematic movement is known from Jackubczak & Rusinek, *Szachy*, 1974 but the knight underpromotion is a refreshing addition that turns it to an almost a complete Excelsior”.





and now, as the wB is at f1 instead of e2, Black can play the winning move 11...Kg4.

ii) 4.Kc2? Kd4 5.h5 Bb4 (Ba5) wins.

iii) 6.Bf1? Kd4 7.Be2 c3 8.Bf1 Be5 9.h6 Ke3 (Ke4), or 6.Kd1? c3 7.Kc2 Kd4 wins.

iv) Kd4 8.Bxc4 Kxc4 9.Ke2 Bd4 10.h6 draws.

v) Bg7 10.Bf1 Kc5, and e.g. 11.h6 Bh8 12.Kd3 Kd5 13.Ke3 Bd4+ 14.Kd3 draw.

vi) 11.Ke3? Bd4+ 12.Kd3 Ke5 13.h6 Kf6 (Kf5), or 11.Bf1? Ke6 12.Bh3+ Kf6 win.

vii) 12.Bf1? Kf6 13.Ke2 Bd4 14.Bg2 Kg6 15.Be4+ Kxh6, or 12.Ke3? Bd4+ 13.Kd3 Kf6 (Kf7), or 12.Kc2? Kf5 13.Bd3+ Kf4 14.h7 Kg3 wins.

vii) Compare with the thematic try. Now the wB is at e2 and prevents 13...Kg4.

viii) But not Bg5? 6.Kc3 Bf6+ 7.Kd2 c3+ 8.Kd3 Kd6 9.h6 Ke6 10.Ke2 – now Black's problem is that square f7 is not available - Kf7 11.Bg2 Kg6 12.Be4+ draws.

xix) 10.Ke2 Kf6 11.Bg2 Kf5, or 10.Be2 Kf6 11.Ke3 Bd4+ 12.Kd3 Kg6, or 10.Bh3+ Kf6 win.

“This shows the far foresight theme. The main line and the thematic try are 100% unique and have no captures at all. The tiny difference is that, in the thematic try, after 11.Ke3 the wB is at f1, so Black has the winning move 11...Kg4. In the solution, after 13.Ke3 the wB is at e2, preventing 13...Kg4. A tiny difference, and occurring 10-12 moves later. The author has attempted to hide the artistic in an avalanche of multilevel nested lines”.

**No 20176** Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Bh6+/i Kxh6/ii 2.d7+ Sg6+ 3.Rxg6+/iii Kxg6 4.Qb1+ Rc2/iv 5.Qxc2+ Kf7 6.Qh7+ Ke6 7.d8R/v Qe5+ 8.Qg7 (Kg8? Qg5+;) Qh5+ 9.Kg8 wins.

i) 1.Qb5+? Kg4 2.d7 Rh2+, and: 3.Rh6 Rxh6+ 4.Bxh6 Qe7 5.Qg5+ Qxg5 6.Bxg5 Se6 7.Be7 Kf5, or here: 3.Kg8 Qe4 4.Bh6/vi Rh5 5.Qxh5+/vii Sxh5 6.d8Q Qxc6 draws.

ii) Kg4 2.Qxf4+ Qxf4 3.Bxf4 Kxf4 4.Kg7 Ke5 5.Kf7 Kd5 6.d7 wins.

iii) 3.Kg8? Ra8+ 4.Rc8 Qe6+ 5.Qf7 Rxc8+ 6.dxc8Q Qxc8+ 7.Qe8 Qxe8 mate.

iv) Kf7 5.Qh7+ Ke6 6.d8Q Qe5+ 7.Qg7/viii Rh2+ 8.Kg8 wins.

v) 7.d8Q? Qd4+ 8.Qxd4 stalemate.

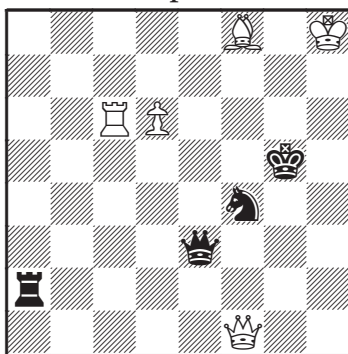
vi) 4.Bg7 Rh5 5.Qb3 Qd5+ 6.Qxd5 Rxd5 draws.

vii) 5.Qc4 Qd5+ 6.Qxd5 Rxd5 7.Rc4 Rxd7 draws.

viii) But not: 7.Kg8? Rg2+ 8.Kf8 Rf2+ 9.Ke8 Qh5+ 10.Qxh5 Rf8+ 11.Kxf8 stalemate.

“This has a good introduction with a surprising white sacrifice (1.Bh6+) followed by strong Black counterplay (4...Rc2!). The position featuring the rook promotion is known (Conrady HHdbIV#70317) but that position with a one-move solution is a scheme rather than a study. This study is great fun and we almost forget to notice that it features the phoenix theme as well! It is a good study for solvers but a drawback is the large number of checks”.

**No 20176** Y. Afek  
2nd prize



h8g5 4413.10 5/4 Win

**No 20177** A. Pallier  
3rd prize

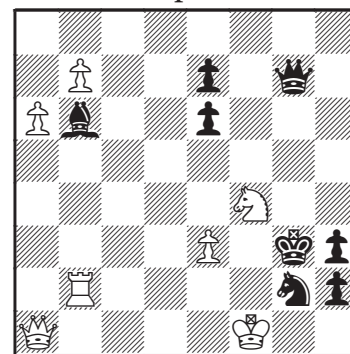


fig3 4134.34 7/8 Win

**No 20177** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Se2+ Kf3 2.Sg1+ hxg1Q+ 3.Kxg1 Sxe3+ 4.Kh1 Qg2+ 5.Rxg2 hxg2+ 6.Kh2 Ba7/i 7.b8Q/ii Bxb8+/iii 8.Kg1 Ba7 9.Qa3 Kg3 10.Qxe7/iv Bd4 11.Qa3/v wins/vi.

i) Sf1+ 7.Kh3 g1Q 8.Qd1+ Ke3 9.b8Q Qh1+ 10.Kg4 Sh2+ 11.Kg3 Sf1+ (Qxd1; Qxv6+) 12.Qxf1 Qxf1 13.Qxb6+ Ke4 14.Qxe6+ and 15.a7 wins.

ii) 7.Qa3? Kf2 8.Qb2+ Kf1 9.Qa1+ Kf2 10.Qg1+ Kf3 11.Kh3 e5 draws. 7.Qg1? Sg4+ 8.Kh3 Bxg1 9.b8Q Sf2+ 10.Kh4 Se4 11.Qf8+ Sf6 12.Kh3 Be3 13.a7 and e.g. g1Q 14.a8Q+ Kf2 15.Qa2+ Kf3 draws.

iii) Sg4+ 8.Kh3 Sf2+ (Bxb8; Qd1+) 9.Kh4 Bxb8 10.Qc3+ Ke2 11.Qb2+ Kf3 12.Qb7+ Se4 13.Qb3+ Ke2 14.Qc4+ Kf3 15.Qd3+ Kf2 16.Qd4+ Kf1 17.Qa1+ and 18.a7 wins.

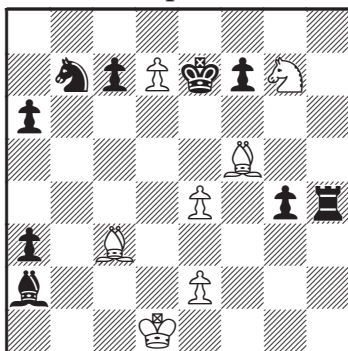
iv) 10.Qc3 Kf3 11.Qa3, or 11.Qd3 Kg3 12.Qc3 Kf3 13.Qa3 waste of time.

v) 11.Qd6+? e5 12.Qa3 Ba7 13.Qc3 Bd4 14.Qxd4 exd4 15.a7 d3 16.a8Q d2 draws.

vi) e.g. Ba7 12.Qd6+ Kf3 13.Qd3 Bc5 14.Qb3 Bd4 15.a7 Bxa7 16.Qb7+.

“This has a good introduction with a brave wK moving into a battery and with a black Q-sacrifice. The move 7.b8Q! is excellent (and has a good try). It is still difficult to see how White can make progress in the position after 8...Ba7. The point of 9.Qa3! is to remove bPe7 and gain access to d6”.

**No 20178** L. Gonzalez  
4th prize



f2e5 0354.25 7/9 Win

**No 20178** Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.d8Q+ (d8B+) Sxd8/i 2.Bb4+ Kf6/ii 3.Se8+ Ke5/iii 4.e3, and:

— Rh1+ 5.Kd2/iv Rh2+ 6.Ke1 Rh1+ 7.Kf2 g3+ 8.Kxg3/v Rc1 9.Bxa3/vi Rc2 10.Be7 Rc6 11.Bxd8/vii Bb3/viii 12.Bg5/ix Rg6 13.Bxg6 fxg6 14.Sxc7 a5 15.Sa6 Bc2 (Kxe4; Sc5+) 16.Sc5 Kd6 17.Sb7 wins, or:

— Bb3+ 5.Ke1/x Rh1+ 6.Kf2/xi g3+ 7.Kg2/xii Rh2+ 8.Kg1 Rc2 9.Be7 Rc1+ 10.Kg2 Rc2+ 11.Kh3 Rc6/xiii 12.Bxa3 Rc2 13.Be7 Rc6 14.Bg5/xiv Se6/xv 15.Bf6 mate.

i) Kxd8 2.Bf6 mate.

ii) c5 3.Bxc5+ Kf6 4.Se8+ Ke5 5.e3 Bb3+ 6.Ke1 Rh1+ 7.Kf2 Rh2+ 8.Kg1 Rd2 9.Be7 mates.

iii) Kg5 4.Bd2+ Kh5 5.Sg7 (Sf6) mate.

iv) 5.Ke2? Bc4+ 6.Kd2 Rh2+ 7.Kc1 Rh1+ draws.

v) Try: 8.Kg2? Rc1 9.Be7 Rc2+ 10.Kh3 Rc6 11.Bg5 Rh6+ 12.Bxh6 Se6 draws.

vi) 9.Be7? Rc6 10.Bxa3 Rb6 draws.

vii) Try: 11.Bg5? Rg6 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.Bxd8 Kxe4 14.Kf2 a5 15.Sxc7 a4 16.Sb5 Bb3 17.Be7 Kd3 18.Kf3 Bd5+ 19.Kf4 Bb7 20.Sa3 Bc6 positional draw.

viii) f6 12.Kf3 Bb3 13.Bxc7+ Rxc7 14.Sxc7 a5 15.Sb5 Bd1+ 16.Kf2 Bc2 17.Sd6, or Be6 12.Bf6 mate.

ix) 12.Bxc7+? Rxc7 13.Sxc7 Bc4 14.Sa8 a5 15.Sb6 Bb3 16.Bd7 Kxe4 17.Kf2 Kd3 18.Kf3 Kc3 19.Ke4 Bc2+ 20.Kd5 Kb4 21.Kd4 a4 22.Be8 Bb3 23.Bc6 a3 24.Sd5+ Ka5 25.Kc3 Bc4 26.Bb7 a2 27.Kb2 Kb5 positional draw.

x) 5.Kd2? Rh2+ 6.Ke1 waste of time.

xi) 6.Ke2? Bc4+ 7.Kd2 Rh2+ 8.Kc1 Rh1+ draws.

xii) Try: 7.Kxg3? Rc1 8.Bxa3 Rc2 9.Be7 Rc6 10.Bxd8 a5 11.Bg5 Rg6 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.Sxc7 a4 14.Sb5 Kxe4 15.Kf2 Kd3 16.Kf3 Bd5+ 17.Kf4 Bb7 18.Sa3 Bc6 19.Ke5 Bb7 positional draw.

xiii) Rh2+ 12.Kxg3 Rh6 13.Bxa3 mates.

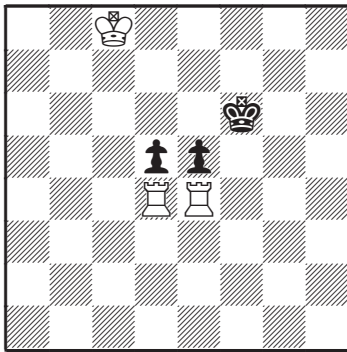
xiv) Try: 14.Bxd8? Bc2 15.Bxc7+ Rxc7 16.Sxc7 Bxe4 draws.

xv) Rh6+ 15.Bxh6 Se6 16.Sxc7 Sxc7 17.Bf4+ wins.

“The second main line (4...Rh1+) somehow distracted me from the play in the very neat 4...Bb3+ main line, despite the double exchange

of solution and tries (Kxg3/Kg2 and Bxd8/Bg5). White sets up a centre-board mate, which involves a single wB moving around the board and forcing Black to do everything to cover a certain square to deal with a mate threat. The wK must be very careful to select the right flight squares to escape from the black checks. Finally, White has to remove bPa3 (12.Bg5? Rh6+ 13.Bxh6 Se6 and the bPa3 will promote). Eventually the only defence against a mate of f4 is the interference 14...Se6 allowing a mate on f6. This is a post-modern study featuring more-mover ideas”

No 20179 G. Costeff  
special prize



c8f6 0200.02 3/3 BTM, Win

No 20179 Gady Costeff (USA/Israel). Two main lines:

— exd4 2.Rxd4 Ke5 3.Rd1 d4 4.Kc7/i Kd5 5.Kd7 wins, or:

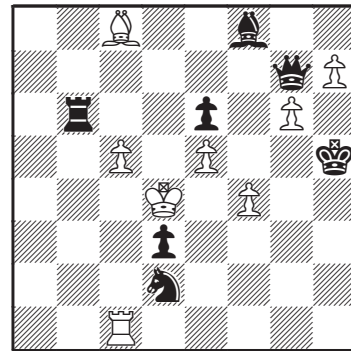
— dxe4 2.Rxe4 Kf5 3.Re1 e4 4.Kd7/ii Ke5 5.Ke7 wins.

i) Thematic try: 4.Kd7? Kd5. Thematic try: 4.Kb7? Kd5 5.Kc7 Kc5 6.Kd7 Kd5 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 4.Kc7? Ke5 5.Kd7 Kd5 6.Ke7 Ke5 draws.

“This is an amusing and interesting position! The composer calls this a chameleon echo of the famous Réti-study (e7e5), getting rid of the dual at move 1. However, the real point of Réti’s study is the tempo losing move 1.Rd2 (Rd3) d4 2.Rd1! but that is missing from this study. One of the accurate K-moves is anticipated by... Réti! (HHdbIV#08344) The extra prize is awarded for the composer’s imagination”

No 20180 S. Didukh  
1st honourable mention



d4h5 3443.52 8/7 Win

No 20180 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine).  
1.h8Q+/i Qxh8 2.Rh1+ Kxg6 3.Rxh8, and:

— Sb3+ 4.Kxd3 Bxc5/ii 5.Re8/iii Ba3/iv 6.Rxe6+ Rxe6 7.f5+ (Bxe6? Sc5+;) Kxf5 8.Kc4 Sc5 9.Kd5 Bb4 10.Kc4 Ba3 11.Kd5 draws, or:

— Sf3+ 4.Kxd3 Bxc5 5.Bxe6/v Rxe6 6.Ke4 Sd4 7.f5+ Sxf5 8.Rg8+/vi Sg7 (Kf7; Kxf5) 9.Kd5 Bb4 10.Rxg7 draws.

i) 1.Rh1+? Kg4 2.cxb6 Qe7 3.Bxe6+ Qxe6 4.h8Q Qc4+, or 1.cxb6? Sb3+.

ii) Sxc5+ 5.Kc4 Be7 6.Re8, and here: Rc6 7.Kb5 Rc7 8.Kb6 draw, or here: Rb8 7.f5+ Kf7 8.Rh8 exf5 9.Rh7+ Kg6 10.Bxf5+.

iii) 5.Bxe6? Rxe6 6.Kc4 Rb6, or 5.Kc4? Rb4+ 6.Kc3 Sd4 wins.

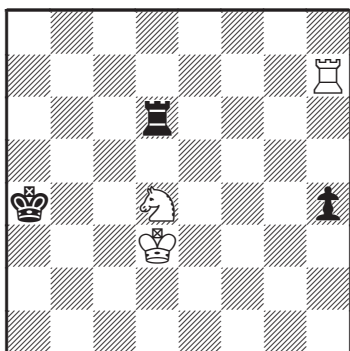
iv) Sd4 6.Kc4 Rc6 7.Bd7 Rc7 8.Bxe6, or Bg1 6.Rg8+, or Kf7 6.Rxe6 Rxe6 7.Bxe6+ Kxe6 8.Kc4 draw.

v) 5.Ke4? Sd4 6.Bxe6 Sxe6 7.f5+ Kg7 8.Rc8 Sg5+ 9.Kf4 Sh3+ 10.Kg4 Sf2+, or 5.Re8? Kf7 6.Rh8 Bg1 7.f5 Sxe5+ 8.Ke2 exf5 9.Bxf5 win.

vi) Not 8.Kd5? Rxe5+ 9.Kxe5 Bd4+.

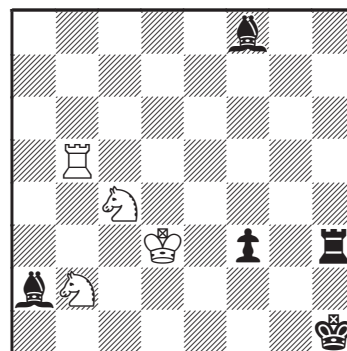
“Murky lines, e.g. (3...Sf3+) 5.Ke4 Sd4 6.Rg8+ Kf7 7.Rh8 Rb1 8.Rh7+ Ke6 9.Rh6 Ke7 10.Rg6 and it is unclear how White can make progress. Instead of 5...Sd4, probably 5...Kg7 is better: 6.Rh5 Sd4 7.Rh1 Sf5 8.Rc1 Rb4+ 9.Kd3 Rb3+ 10.Kc4 Be3 11.Ra1 Rb6! 12.Kd3 Kf7 13.Ra7+ Kg6 14.Ra4 Kh5 wins.... But, assuming that the study is sound, the idea is great: two lines with Rxe6/Sxe6 and f5+. This is original!”

**No 20181** R. Becker  
2nd honourable mention



d3a4 0401.01 3/3 Win

**No 20182** Y. Bazlov  
3rd honourable mention



d3h1 0462.01 4/5 Draw

**No 20181** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Kc4 Ka5 2.Kc5 Ra6 3.Rb7/i Ra8 4.Sc6+ Ka4 5.Kc4 Ka3 6.Rb3+/ii Ka2 7.Kc3 Ka1/iii 8.Kc2 Ra2+ 9.Kc1 Rh2 10.Ra3+ Ra2 11.Rd3 Rh2 12.Sb4 Rh3 13.Rd1/iv Rh2 14.Re1 Rg2 15.Rf1 Rh2 16.Rf5/vi Rh1+ 17.Kc2 Rh2+ 18.Kc3 Rh3+ 19.Sd3 Ka2 20.Kc2/vii Rh2+ 21.Sf2 Ka3 22.Kc3 Ka4 23.Sd1 Rh3+ 24.Kc4 Rg3 25.Sc3+ Ka3 26.Ra5+ Kb2 27.Ra2+ Kc1 28.Kb3 Rg2 29.Rxg2 is not a stalemate, White wins.

i) Thematic try: 3.Rxh4? Rg6 4.Sc6+ Ka6 5.Ra4+ Kb7 6.Ra7+ Kc8 7.Kb6 Rg7 8.Ra8+ Kd7 9.Ra7+ Kc8 10.Se7+ Kd8 11.Sc6+ Kc8 12.Rxg7 stalemate.

ii) 6.Kc3? Ra6, and 7.Sb4 Ra8 8.Rb6 Ka4 9.Sc6 Rg8 (Re8), or 7.Sd4 h3 8.Sc2+ Ka4 draws.

iii) Rc8 8.Rb6 Rg8, and: 9.Sb4+ Kb1 10.Sd3+, or here: h3 9.Kc2 Ra8 10.Rb2+ wins.

iv) 13.Rxh3? stalemate, or 13.Sc2+? Ka2 14.Rxh3 stalemate.

v) 14.Rg1? Rf2 15.Rh1 Rg2 16.Rf1, or 14.Rf1? Rg2 15.Re1 Rh2 16.Re5 Rh1+ 17.Kc2 Rh2+ 18.Kc3 Rh3+ 19.Sd3 Ka2 20.Ra5+ Kb1 21.Rf5 Ka2 22.Kc2 Rh2+ 23.Sf2 are losses of time.

vi) 16.Rf3? Rh3 17.Sc2+ Ka2 18.Sb4+ Ka1 19.Rf5 Rh1+ loses time.

vii) 20.Ra5+? Kb1 21.Rb5+ Ka2 22.Kc2 Rh2+ 23.Kc3 Rh3 24.Ra5+ Kb1 25.Rf5 Ka2 loss of time.

“This is a good achievement with a nice thematic try 3.Rxh4? ending with stalemate but with a vertically mirrored final position in the solution without stalemate. It looks familiar but no real anticipations have been found. See Missiaen #66471”.

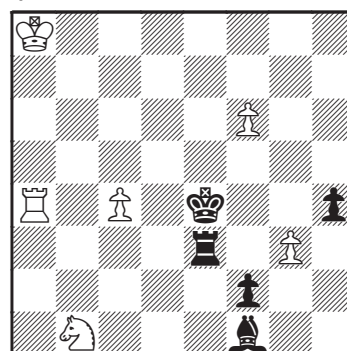
**No 20182** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Sd2/i Bh6 2.Sd1 f2+/ii 3.Ke2 f1Q+ 4.Kxf1 Bxd2 5.Sf2+ Kh2 6.Re5 Bc4+ 7.Re2 Rf3 stalemate.

i) 1.Ke3? Kg2 2.Rg5+ Rg3 3.Rxg3+ Kxg3 4.Kd3 Bxc4+ wins.

ii) Kg2 3.Rf5 Be6 4.Rf6 f2+ 5.Ke4 Rh4+ 6.Ke5 Bg4 7.Rxf2+ Kh3 8.Sf3 Rh5+ 9.Ke4 (Kg3; Se3) 10.Kd4 draws.

“A curious draw position arises after 6.Re5! following a good introduction with quiet moves and without many simple exchanges and checks. Kasparian #54569 has the same stalemate, but there the bK made the last move”.

**No 20183** P. Arestov  
4th honourable mention



a8e4 0431.32 6/5 Win

**No 20183** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.f7/i Bg2 2.f8Q f1Q 3.Qxf1 Bxf1 4.Sd2+ Kd4 5.Sxf1 Re8+/ii 6.Ka7/iii hxg3 7.Sxg3 Kc5 8.Sf5 Re1/iv 9.Kb8/v Re4/vi 10.Sd6 Kxd6 11.c5+ Kxc5 12.Rxe4 wins.

i) 1.Sd2+? Ke5 2.f7 Bg2+ 3.Kb8 Rb3+ 4.Kc8 Bh3+ 5.Kc7 f1Q 6.Sxf1 Rf3 draws.

ii) Re1 (hxg3; Sxe3) 6.gxh4 Rxf1 7.Kb7 win.



iii) Thematic try: 6.Kb7? hxc3 7.Sxc3 Kc5 8.Sf5 Re4 9.Sd6 Re7+ 10.Ka6 Kxd6 draws.

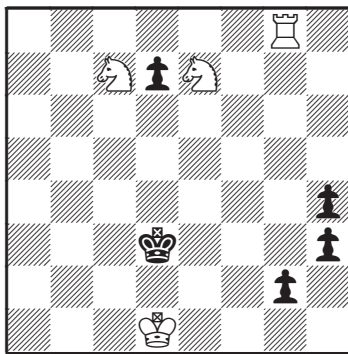
iv) Now Re4 9.Sd6 Re7+ 10.Sb7+ wins.

v) 9.Kb7? Re4 10.Sd6 Re7+, or 9.Ka8? Kb6 10.Rb4+ Kc5 11.Ra4 Kb6 positional draw.

vi) Re8+ 10.Kc7 Re4 11.Sd6 Re7+ 12.Kd8 Kxd6 13.Ra6+, or Rc1 10.Se3 Rc3 11.Ra5+ Kd4 12.Kc7 win.

“This shows an excellent thematic try (6.Kb7?) and solution move (6.Ka7!) along with other precise K-moves (9.Kb8!) and a nice final combination. This is solver-friendly, despite the fact that this is EGTB territory”.

**No 20184** D. Keith  
5th honourable mention



d1d3 0102.04 4/5 Draw

**No 20184** Daniel Keith (France). 1.Scd5/i h2 2.Sf4+ Ke4 3.Sxc2 h1Q+ 4.Se1/ii Qh3/iii 5.Rg2 Qxc2 6.Sxc2 h3 7.Sf5 (Sd5? h2;) h2 8.Sg3+ Kf3 9.Se3 draws.

i) Thematic try: 1.Sed5? h2 2.Sf4+ Ke4 3.Sxc2 h1Q+ 4.Se1/iv Kf5 5.Rf8+ Kg5 6.Rf3 Kg4 7.Rd3 h3 8.Sd5 h2 9.Se3+ Kh5 10.Ke2 Qe4 wins.

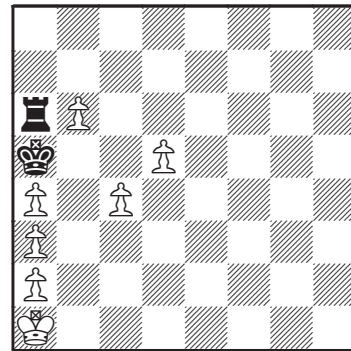
ii) 4.Ke2? Qh3 5.Kf2 Qf3+ 6.Kg1 Qd1+ 7.Kh2 Qd6+ wins.

iii) h3 5.Rh8 Kf4 6.Sg6+ Kg3 7.Se5 Qd5+ 8.Kc1 Qxe5 9.Rg8+ draws.

iv) 4.Ke2 h3 5.Rg4+ Ke5 6.Sh4 h2 wins.

“1.Sed5? is a genuine thematic try (although the author didn’t make this specific) with the nice point 4...Kf5. The finale has some good points including quiet moves (5...Qh3, 5.Rg2), sacrifices (5...Qxc2) and a great point in 7.Sf5!”

**No 20185** V. Tarasiuk  
special honourable mention



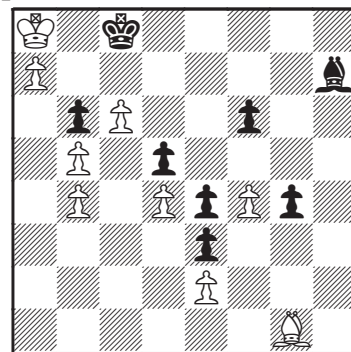
a1a5 0300.60 7/2 Win

**No 20185** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.c5 Rxb6 2.cxb6 Kxb6 3.a5+ (Kb2? Kc5;) Kxa5 4.a4/i Kb6 5.a5+ (Kb2? Kc5;) Kxa5 6.Kb2 Kb5 7.Ka3 (Kb3) Kc5 8.Ka4 Kxd5 9.Kb5 Kd6 10.Kb6 Kd7 11.Kb7 Kd6 12.a4 Kc5 13.a5 Kb5 14.a6 wins.

i) 4.Kb2? Kb6 5.Kb3 Kb5 zz 6.Kc3 Kc5 draws.

“This is an unnatural initial position. After move 3, with 4 pawns against no pawns, the white win is non-trivial with three surprise moves 3.a5+, 4.a4, 5.a5+ which are original. The minor dual 7.Kb3 is not a big deal here (despite the fact that in pawn studies we tend to be stricter). The move 4.a4 is known only from unsound studies (Lilja #32842, Dukic #58562), with the unsoundness related to that move”.

**No 20186** W. Neef  
special honourable mention

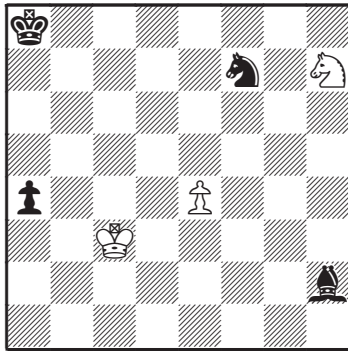


a8c8 0040.76 9/8 Draw

**No 20186** Wilfried Neef (Germany). 1.f5 g3 2.Bh2 Bxf5 3.Bxc3 Bg4 4.Bb8 f5 5.c7 Bf3 6.exf3 f4 7.fxe4 f3 8.e5 f2 9.e6 f1Q 10.e7 Qxb5 11.e8Q+ Qxe8 12.b5 Kd7 13.Kb7 e2 14.a8Q draws, e.g. e1Q 15.Qa3.

“The fortress is original and is a nice discovery but it is a pity that it is not shown in the solution; however, I could live with the presentation 14.a8Q e1Q 15.Qa2(3) draw”.

**No 20187** S. Slumstrup Nielsen  
1st commendation



c3a8 0034.11 3/4 Draw

**No 20187** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.e5/i Bxe5+ (Sxe5; Kb4) 2.Kb4 a3/ii 3.Kxa3 Kb7 4.Ka4/iii Bg7 (Kc6; Sf8) 5.Kb5 Kc7 6.Kc5 Kd7 7.Kd5 Ke7 8.Ke4 Ke6 9.Kf4 Bh6+ 10.Kg4 Ke5/iv 11.Kh5 Kf5 12.Sg5 Bxg5 stalemate.

i) Try: 1.Kb4? This move fails because the e4-pawn is in the way of the wK: Bd6+ 2.Kxa4 Be7 3.Kb3 (Kb5 Se5;) Kb7 4.Kc4 Kc6 5.Kd4 Kd6 6.Ke3/v Ke5 7.Kf3 Sd6/vi 8.Kg4 Sxe4 9.Kh5 Kf5 10.Kh6 Sc5 11.Kg7 Se6+ 12.Kf7 Ba3 (Bb4, Bc5) 13.Sf6 Sg5+ 14.Kg7 Bb2 wins.

ii) Bd6+ 3.Kxa4 Be7 4.Kb3 Kb7 5.Kc4 Kc6 6.Kd4 Kd6, and now square e4 is available - 7.Ke4 Ke6 8.Kf4 Kd5 9.Kf5 draws, or Kb7 3.Kxa4 Bg7 4.Kb5 transposes to the main line.

iii) 4.Kb4? Kc6 5.Kc4 (Sf8 Bd6+;) Bg7 6.Kd3 Kd5 7.Ke3 Ke5 wins, or 4.Kb3? Bg7 5.Kc4 Kc6 6.Kd3 Kd5 7.Ke3 Ke5 wins.

iv) Se5+ 11.Kh5 Bd2 12.Sg5+ (Sf8+? Kf6;) Kf5 13.Sf3 Sxf3 stalemate.

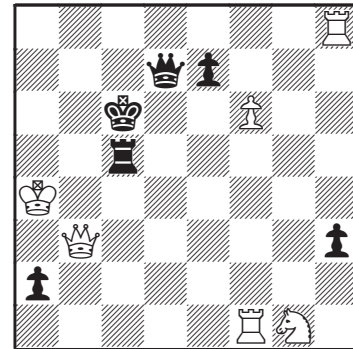
v) 6.e5+ Sxe5 7.Ke4 Ke6 8.Kf4 Sf7 9.Kg4 Ke5 10.Kh5 Kf5 wins.

vi) Sh6? 8.Ke3 Sg4+ 9.Kf3 Sh6 10.Ke3 Sf7 11.Kf3 Sd6 12.Kg4 waste of time for Black.

“This has a very nice key, and a surprising move: 4.Ka4!, but the finish is partly anticipated; however, would you expect this to end in stalemate? The bonus is an extra stalemate line; see note (iv). The composer did not present

this line as a main line, probably focussing on the thematic try and solution difference. See Akobia #74638.”

**No 20188** A. Stavrietsky  
2nd commendation



a4c6 4501.13 6/6 Win

**No 20188** Aleksandr Stavrietsky (Russia). 1.Ka3 a1Q+ 2.Rxa1 Ra5+ 3.Kb2, and:

— Qd2+ 4.Qc2+ Qxc2+ 5.Kxc2 Rxa1 6.f7/i Rf1 7.Sf3 Rxf3 8.f8Q Rxf8 9.Rxf8 wins, or:

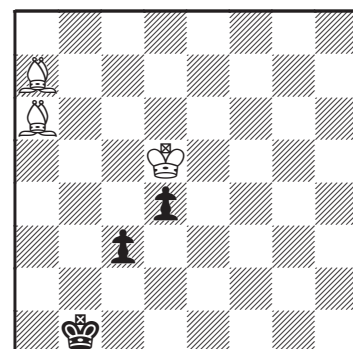
— Qd4+ 4.Qc3+ Qxc3+ 5.Kxc3 Rxa1 6.fxe7/ii Re1 7.Se2 Rxe2 8.e8Q+ Rxe8 9.Rxe8 wins.

i) Thematic try: 6.fxe7? Re1 7.e8Q+ (Se2 Rxe2+;) Rxe8 8.Rxe8 h2 draws.

ii) Thematic try 6.f7? Rf1 7.f8Q (Sf3 Rxf3+) Rxf8 8.Rxf8 h2 draws.

“In the line 3...Qd2+, White can lose time by 8.Rc8+ but we can deal with that. We see a very nice and original echo with accompanying exchange of tries and solutions. One feels that more could be made from it (seeing the material in the initial position, one would be surprised if White wouldn't win)”.

**No 20189** Y. Bazlov  
3rd commendation



d5b1 0010.12 3/3 Win

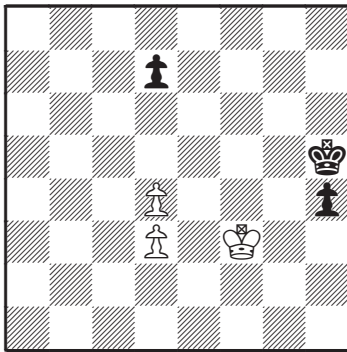
**No 20189** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Kc4 c2 2.Kb3 Kc1/i 3.Bd3/ii Kd2 4.Bxc2 d3 5.Bb1 Ke2 6.Kc3 d2 7.Bd3+ Ke1 8.Bb8 d1Q 9.Bg3 mate.

i) c1Q 3.Bd3+ Ka1 4.Bxd4+ with mate.

ii) 3.Bxd4? Kd1, but not Kd2? 4.Bc3+ Kd1 5.Bc8 c1Q 6.Bg4 mate.

“Well done! The final mate is known, of course. Kasparyan #32379, Perkonaja #32067, Gazonyi #14925”.

**No 20190** D. Blundell special commendation



f3h5 0000.22 3/3 Draw

**No 20190** David Blundell (Great Britain). 1.d5/i Kg5 (d6; Kf4) 2.d6/ii Kf5 3.Kg2, and:

— Kg4 4.Kh2/iii h3 5.Kg1/iv Kg3 (Kf3; Kh2) 6.Kh1 h2 7.d4 Kh3/v 8.d5 Kg4 9.Kxh2 Kf3/vi 10.Kg1 Ke4 11.Kf2 Kxd5 12.Ke3 Kxd6 13.Kd4 draws, or:

— Kf4 4.Kh3 Ke3 5.Kxh4 Kxd3 6.Kg3/vii Ke3 7.Kg2 Ke4 8.Kf2 Kd5 9.Ke3 Kxd6 10.Kd4 draws, or:

— Ke5 4.Kh3 Kxd6 5.Kxh4 Ke5 6.Kg4 (Kf4? d5;) Kd4 7.Kf5/xi Kxd3 8.Ke5 Kc4 9.Kd6 draws.

i) 1.Kf4? d5 zz.

ii) 2.Kg2? d6 3.Kh3 Kh5 4.Kg2 Kg4 5.Kh2 Kf4 6.Kh3 Ke3 wins.

iii) 4.Kf2? Kf4 5.Kg2 Ke3 6.Kh3 Kxd3 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 5.Kh1? Kg3 6.Kg1 h2+ 7.Kh1 Kh3 8.d4 Kg3 9.d5 Kf3 (Kf4) 10.Kxh2 Ke4 11.Kg3 Kxd5 12.Kf4 Kxd6. The composer explains that the wP must arrive at d5 when the bK is at h3 and not g3.

v) Kf3 8.Kxh2 Ke4 9.Kg3 Kxd4 10.Kf4 Kd5 11.Ke3 Kxd6 12.Kd4 draws.

vi) Kf4 10.Kg2 Ke5 11.Kf3.

vii) 6.Kg5? Ke4 (Kd4?; Kf4) 7.Kf6 Kd5 8.Ke7 Kc6 wins.

viii) 6.Kg5? d5 (Kd4?; Kf5) 7.K- Kd4, or 6.Kg3? Kd4 (d5?; Kf3) 7.Kf4 d5 win.

“This is an interesting pawn ending with the highlight on move 5 (it would have been more interesting if the relatively illogical 5.Kh1 was the right move and 5.Kg1 the solution). As a bonus there are two extra main lines each with good K-moves at move 6. The composer adds the comments that the study was tested for soundness using the Nalimov tablebases but that these were not used during composition. Perhaps he also prepared the text for his e-mail using pen and paper”.

### Solutions p. 100

6...Ke6 7.d7+ Ke7 8.d8Q+! Kxd8 9.Ra8+ Ke7 10.Ra7+ wins.  
 3) A. Selezniev, 3rd/4th honourable mention *Shakmatnoye Obozreniye* 1910  
 1.Sd5! (1.f7? d1Q 2.f8Q Qd3+ 3.Kf4 Qf1+; 1.Sf5? Bxf5+) 1...Bb7 (1...Bf5+ 2.Kxf5 Kxd5 3.f7 d1Q 4.Kg6; 1...Be6 2.Se3+ Kc3 3.Sd1+ Kc2 4.Sf2) 2.f7! Bxd5+ 3.Ke3! d1Q 4.f8Q Qe1+ 5.Kf4 Qf1+ 6.Ke5! Qxf8 stalemate.

1) L. Pachman, *Sach* 1941  
 1.Bd6! (1.Bb6? Kb7 2.Sd8+ Kx8 3.Kc2 Sa1+ 4.Kb2 d3) 1...Kb7 2.Se5 Kx8 3.Kc2! (3.Bb4? d3!) 3...Sa5 4.Bb4 d3+ 5.Kxd3 Sb7 (5...Sb3 6.Sf3 Sc1+ 7.Kd2) 6.Sc6! wins.  
 2) V. Kovalenko & S. Makhno, 3rd commentation *Vecherny Novosibirsk* 1978  
 1.e7+ Kf7 2.e8Q+! Kxe8 3.Rb8+ Kf7 4.Rb7+ Se7 5.Rxe7+ Kxe7 6.d6+! (6.Ra7+? Kd6 7.Rxh7)

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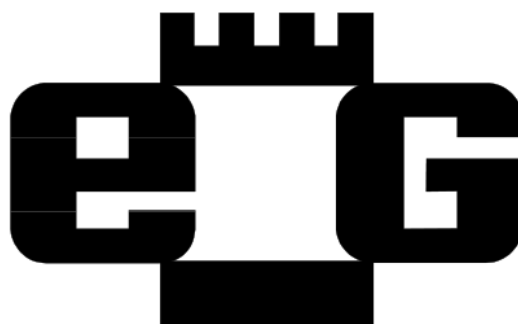
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**SUPPLEMENT**

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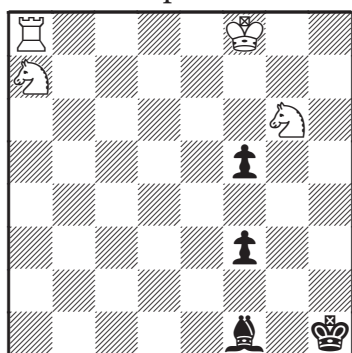
## Brieger MT 2014

The US composition magazine *StrateGems* organized a formal tourney to commemorate Robert Sinclair Brieger (18x1925 – 26iv2012). Tourney director was Richard Becker who received 45 studies. The judge was Bill Jones, who elaborated on his criteria as follows: “Prior to receiving the studies, I considered the evaluation criteria to be used by reviewing past articles in EG and the tenets of good endgame studies that were drilled into me by Robert Brieger a half-century ago. My appreciation of the instructional value that can be found in endgame studies was increased while teaching chess. I believe the most important qualities of good endgame studies in priority order are: originality of concept, aesthetic appeal and instructional value. Studies should be judged solely upon these qualities, and a study’s length or the difficulty of its solution should not be factors. Since this is a memorial, I have given special consideration to studies that Robert Brieger would have favoured”.

“The studies exhibited a wide range of compositional craft and understanding of what should comprise an endgame study. I was surprised by the number of entries with cluttered, problem-like positions and long lines of forced play without any thematic cohesion or artistic elements. Invariably, the unnecessary complications obscured any aesthetic or instructional value that might exist in their solutions. Some interesting studies had technically difficult solutions that might have provided instructional value if they had contained adequate supporting explanations. Lacking appropriate explanations or sufficient artistic elements, they were not given awards. The designation ‘thematic try’ was occasionally misused, which was distracting. Some known themes were inappropriately identified”.

The provisional award was published in *StrateGems* no.67 (vii-ix2014).

No 20191 M. Minski  
1st prize



f8h1 o132.o2 4/4 Win

- No 20191** Martin Minski (Germany).  
1.Kg7/i f2 2.Rh8+, and:  
— Kg2 3.Sh4+ Kg3 4.Sxf5+ Kf4 5.Rf8/ii Bg2 6.Sd4+ Ke3 7.Sc2+ Ke2 8.Re8+ Be4 9.Rxe4+ Kf3 10.Re3+ Kf4 11.Re8 (Re7, Re6) f1Q 12.Rf8+ wins, or:  
— Bh3 3.Rxh3+ Kg1 4.Rg3+ (Rf3? f4;) Kh2 5.Rf3 Kg2 6.Rf4 f1Q 7.Rxf1 Kxf1 8.Sf4 with a Troitzky win.

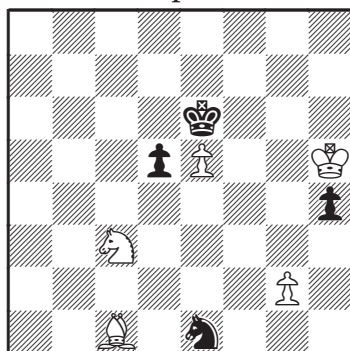
i) Thematic try: 1.Ke7? f2 2.Rh8+ Kg2 3.Sh4+ Kg3 4.Sxf5+ Kf4 5.Rf8 Bg2 6.Sd4+ (Sd6+ Kg3;) Ke3 7.Sc2+ Ke2 draws.

ii) 5.Sh4? (Sd4?) Bh3 6.Rf8+ Ke3 (Kg3) draw.

iii) 6.Rxf2+? Kxf2, or 6.Sh4+? Kg1 draw.

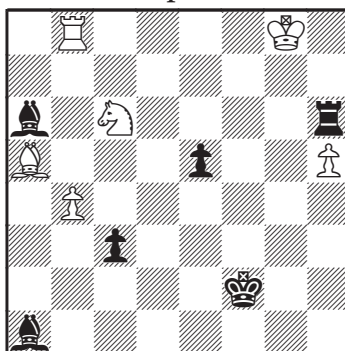
“This is a well-crafted study that is rich in aesthetic appeal and instructional value. Initially, White has a logical choice between two king moves to clear both the 8th rank and the c-file for his rook. The difference between the try and the first main line is shown on White’s 8th move, when it becomes obvious that the d-file also must remain open in order to chase the bK away from the queening square. Black’s bishop sacrifice in answer to White’s 8.Rd8+ provides interesting counterplay requiring the wR retreat on the 11th move. The minor duals, Re8/e7/e6, are left in the solution to emphasize that the rook must retreat in both main lines. In the second main line, which is initiated by Black’s unexpected bishop sacrifice on his second move, another rook retreat with White’s subtle 6.Rf4! is required in order to achieve the

**No 20192**  
P. Arestov  
2nd prize



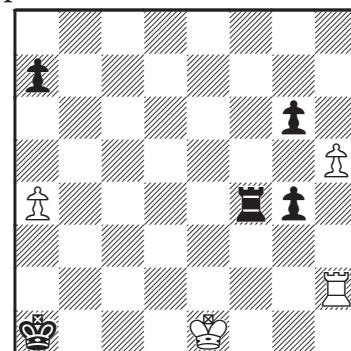
h5e6 0014.22 5/4 Win

**No 20193**  
J. Timman  
3rd prize



g8d2 0471.22 6/6 Draw

**No 20194** A. Skripnik  
& M. Hlinka  
special honourable mention



e1a1 0400.23 4/5 BTM, Draw

win. The minor flaw of the ‘spectator’ knight on a7 does not lessen the study’s overall artistic impression. The study is the clear winner”.

**No 20192** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Se2 Sxg2/i 2.Sf4+ Kxe5/ii 3.Sxg2 h3 4.Se3/iii Ke4 5.Kg4/iv h2 6.Sf1/v h1S 7.Be3 d4 (Kd3; Kf3) 8.Bg1 Kd3 9.Kf3 wins.

i) Kxe5 2.Sf4 Sxg2 3.Sxg2 h3 4.Se3 wins.

ii) Sxf4+ 3.Bxf4 d4 4.Kg4 d3 5.Kf3 Kf5 6.Bh2 wins.

iii) 4.Sh4? Ke4 5.Kg4 h2 6.Sf5 Kd3 7.Sg3 d4 draws.

iv) 5.Sf1? Kf3 6.Kh4 Kf2 7.Sh2 Kg2, or 5.Sg4? Kf3 6.Kh4 d4 7.Kxh3 d3 draw.

v) 6.Sf5? Kd3 7.Sg3 d4.

“This is a flawless jewel! Although White is a piece ahead, his two pawns are about to fall. A quiet knight move followed by an unexpected knight fork seems to win a piece or save a pawn, but Black creates counterplay by giving up his knight to promote his rook pawn. White forces Black to promote to a knight and then traps it to win. Though found in EGTB6 after White’s third move, the interesting play in an economical setting is breath-taking and deserves a top prize”.

**No 20193** Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.b5 Bxb5 (c2; Bd2) 2.Sxe5 (Rxb5? Rxc6;) Bc4+/i 3.Sxc4 Rh8+ 4.Kxh8 c2+ 5.Rb2/ii Bxb2+ 6.Sxb2 Ke2 7.Sd3/iii Kxd3 8.Bd2 Kxd2 9.h6 c1Q 10.h7 draws.

i) Be2 3.Rc8 c2 4.Rxc2 Bxe5 5.Bc3 draws.

ii) 5.Kh7? c1Q 6.Sd6 Qc2+ wins.

iii) Thematic try: 7.Bd2? Kxd2 8.Sd3 Kxd3 9.h6 c1Q 10.h7 Ke4 wins.

“The beauty of this study is in its spectacular play. Black’s 2...Bc4 + obstructs the c-file and since White must take the bishop it also clears the a1-h8 diagonal. Now Black has the nice combination 3...Rh8+ followed by the discovered check 4...c2+ that allows him to queen his c-pawn. White’s game soon falls apart if he tries to draw with his rook, knight, bishop and pawn against bQ and bB. But White’s surprising 5.Rb2! allows him to sacrifice all of his pieces and arrive at a known queen versus rook pawn draw. The thematic try 7.Bd2 fails as it leaves the bK too close to g6 and the queen wins against the rook pawn. A few of the variations are not immediately clear – i.e., understanding that 2.Sb4? loses, 2...Be2 only draws, and 5.Kh7? loses, which detracts from the study’s overall aesthetic impact”.

**No 20194** Anatoly Skripnik (Russia) & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia).

— g3 2.Rg2 gxh5 3.Rxg3 Rxa4 4.Rg5/i h4 5.Kd2/ii h3 6.Rh5 Ra3 7.Kc2 (Kc1? Rc3+;) a6 8.Rh6 (Rh4? a5; zz) a5 9.Rh4 zz h2 10.Rh5 zz a4/iii 11.Rh4 zz Ra2+ 12.Kc1 zz a3 13.Rh3 zz Rg2 14.Rxa3+ Ra2 15.Rh3 draws, or:

— gxh5 2.Rxh5 Rxa4 3.Kd2 (Rb5? a6;) g3 4.Rg5 g2 5.Kc2 (Kc1? Rc4+;) a6 6.Rg6/iv Ra3 7.Rg4 (Rg5? a4; zz) a5 8.Rg5 zz a4 9.Rg4 zz Ra2+ 10.Kc1 zz a3 11.Rg3 zz Rf2 12.Rxa3+ Ra2 13.Rg3 draws.



i) 4.Rg7? a5 5.Rg5 h4 6.Kd2 h3 7.Rh5 h2 8.Kc2 Ra3 zz 9.Kc1 Rc3+ 10.Kd2 Kb2 11.Rb5+ Rb3 wins.

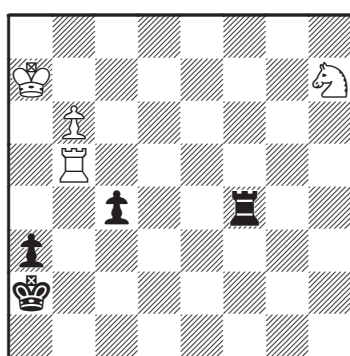
ii) 5.Kd1? Kb2 6.Rb5+ Kc3 wins.

iii) Ra4 11.Rh3 zz, and Ra2+ 12.Kc1 or Rc4+ 12.Kd3 draws.

iv) 6.Rg3? a5 zz 7.Rg5 Ra3 zz 8.Kc1 Rc3+ 9.Kd2 Kb2 10.Rb5+ Rb3 wins.

“This is an excellent instructional rook and pawn endgame requiring subtle play. In order to draw, White must keep the bK in the corner and force the bR to remain on the a-file to protect his queen rook pawn. Robert Brieger would have loved this study since it is instructive and has many zugzwangs. White must play precisely so that Black, not White, is on move in each zz position. Black’s first move divides the study into two main lines in which White’s drawing manoeuver is echoed a file apart and its echo in such an economical setting has tremendous aesthetic appeal. Unfortunately, it is also echoed in a study by V. Kovalenko (EG#1021) which fully anticipates both lines. Although fully anticipated, this study deserves a place in the endgame study canon for its aesthetic excellence”.

**No 20195 S. Didukh**  
1st honourable mention



a7a2 0401.12 4/4 Win

**No 20195** Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.b7/i Rf7 2.Sg5/ii Rxb7+ 3.Rxb7/iii c3 4.Se4 c2 5.Sc3+ Ka1 6.Se2 a2 7.Kb6 Kb2 8.Ka5+ Ka3 9.Sc1 (Sd4? a1S) a1Q 10.Rb3 mate.

i) 1.Sg5? c3 2.b7 c2 3.b8Q c1Q draws.

ii) 2.Sf6? c3 3.Sd5 c2 4.Sb4+ Kb3, and: 5.Sd3+ Kc4 6.Se5+ Kxb5, or 5.Ka6 Rxb7 6.Rxb7 a2 draws.

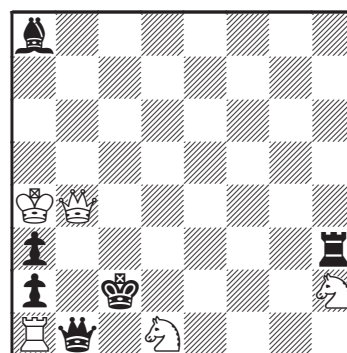
iii) try: 3.Kxb7? c3 4.Sf3/iv c2 5.Rc5 Kb2 6.Se1/v c1S draws.

iv) 4.Se4 c2 5.Sc3+ Ka1 6.Se2 a2 7.Kb6 c1Q 8.Sxc1 stalemate.

v) 6.Se5 a2 7.Sd3+ Kb3 8.Sc1+ Kb4 9.Sd3+ Kb3 draws.

“This delightful study begins with a short but thematic introduction that leads to a pleasing EGTB6 mating net. Black has little counterplay other than a promotion to a knight to refute White’s 3.Kxb7? try. In the main line, Black delays the mate only one move by promoting to a knight on his 9th move. Although the basic idea is not new, White’s 7.Kb6!, releasing the stalemate while advancing the king, and the resulting final mate are aesthetically pleasing”.

**No 20196 V. Kovalenko †**  
2nd honourable mention



a4c2 4432.02 5/6 Win

**No 20196** Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Qc4+ Kxd1 2.Qxa2 Rh4+/i 3.Ka5/ii Rh5+ 4.Ka6 Rh6+ 5.Ka7 Rh7+ 6.Kxa8 Rh8+ 7.Ka7 Rh7+ 8.Ka6 Rh6+ 9.Ka5 Rh5+ 10.Ka4 Rh4+ 11.Sg4/iii Rxc4+ 12.Ka5 Rg5+ 13.Ka6 Rg6+ 14.Ka7 Rg7+ 15.Ka8 Rg8+ 16.Qxc8 Qxa1 17.Qg1+ wins.

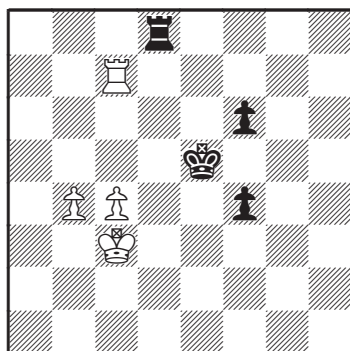
i) Bc6+ 3.Ka5 Rh5+ 4.Ka6 Bb7+ 5.Ka7 Ra5+ 6.Kb8 Ra8+ 7.Kc7 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 3.Sg4? Rxc4+ 4.Ka5 Qxa1 draws.

iii) 11.Kxa3? Rh3+ 12.Sf3 Rxf3+ 13.Ka4 Rf4+ 14.Ka5 Rf5+ 15.Ka6 Rf6+ 16.Ka7 Rf7+ 17.Qxf7 Qxa1+ draws.

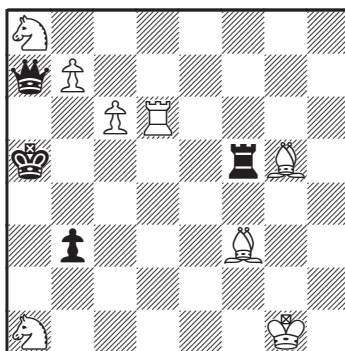
“After the short, forced introduction, White’s winning plan is simple - get out of check! White wins by taking his king on a 12-step king

**No 20197**  
M. Garcia  
3rd honourable mention



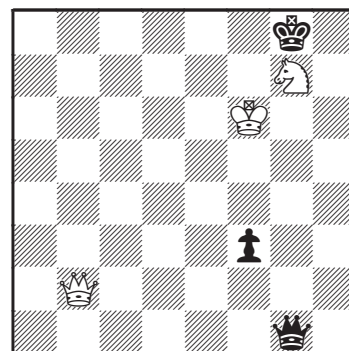
c3e5 0400.22 4/4 Win

**No 20198 I. Akobia †**  
& E. Minerva  
1st commendation



g1a5 3422.21 8/4 Draw

**No 20199**  
O. Pervakov  
2nd commendation



f6g8 4001.01 3/3 Win

walk on the a-file. The knight sacrifice to force the bR to a disadvantageous file after eliminating the bB is both instructive and surprising! White's thematic try 3.Sg4? fails to Black's one chance for counterplay, 4...Qxa1!. The unnatural setting and Black's paucity of counterplay are more than compensated by the study's aesthetic appeal and the humour provided by the wK trudging up and down the a-file to escape harassment".

**No 20197** Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Re7+ Kf5 2.Re1 f3 3.c5/i Re8 4.Rf1/ii Re3+/iii 5.Kd2/iv Rb3 6.c6 Rxb4 7.c7 Rc4 8.Rc1 wins.

i) Thematic try: 3.b5? Re8 4.Rf1 Re3+ 5.Kb4 Ke4 6.b6 Re2 7.c5 Rb2+ 8.Ka3 Rb5 9.Ka4 Rb2 draws.

ii) 4.Kd2? Rb8 5.Rb1 Ke4 6.c6 f2 7.Ke2 Kd5 8.b5 Kc5 9.c7 Re8+ draws.

iii) Ke4 5.Kc4 Ke3 6.c6 Ke2 7.Rb1 f2 8.b5 Kf3 9.Rf1 draws.

iv) 5.Kd4? Re4+ 6.Kd5 Rxb4 7.c6 Rb8 8.Rxf3+ Kg5, or 5.Kc4? Ke6 6.Kb5 Kd5 7.c6/xii Rc3 8.Rd1+ Ke4 win.

"This is a cleverly constructed and instructive Rook ending which will benefit over-the-board players as well as endgame study enthusiasts. The white and black forces wrestle with subtle moves to save critical tempi. 2.Re1 denies the bR the 1st rank, which would provide Black sufficient time to harass the wK and pawns from the rear to draw. The difference between the 3.c5! and White's thematic try 3.b5? is that the former allows 5.Kd2, which wins the bR for

White's c-pawn and the wK is close enough to stop Black from queening his pawn. Black has counterplay with 3...Re8! followed by 4...Re3+ or 4.. Ke4, each giving White further chances to make a misstep. The evaluation of the last two honourable mentions was close, but in this case aesthetic appeal was favoured over instructional value".

**No 20198** Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Enzo Minerva (Italy). 1.Kh2/i, and:

— Rxf3 2.Sxb3+ Rxb3 3.Sb6 Kxb6 4.b8Q+ Qxb8 5.c7+ Kxc7 6.Bf4 Rb2+ 7.Kg3 Rb3+ 8.Kh2 Rb2+ 9.Kg3 draws, or:

— Qf2+ 2.Bg2 Rxg5 3.Rd5+ Rxd5 4.Sxb3+ Kb4 5.b8Q+ Ka3 6.Kh3 Rd3+/ii 7.Kh2 Rd5 8.Kh3 Qe3+ 9.Kh4 Qf2+ 10.Kh3 Rg5 11.Qd6+ draws.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kh1? Rxf3 2.Sxb3+ Rxb3 3.Sb6 Kxb6 4.b8Q+ Qxb8 5.c7+ Kxc7 6.Bf4 Qb7+ (Qa8+) wins.

ii) Rh5+ 7.Kg4 Qf5+ 8.Kg3 Rg5+ 9.Kh2 Qh7+ 10.Kg1 draws.

"This logical study gains its aesthetic appeal from the final position, made possible by correctly choosing 1.Kh2! over the thematic try, and the surprising interference move 3.Sb6 in one main line. The main line beginning with 1...Qf2+ contributes a little instructional value".

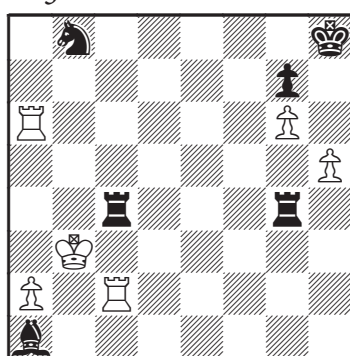
**No 20199** Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Qa2+/i Kh8/ii 2.Qa8+ Kh7 3.Qe4+ Kg8 4.Qc4+ Kh7 5.Qd3+ Kh8/iii 6.Se6 f2 7.Qd8+, and:

— Kh7 8.Qc7+/iv Kh8/v 9.Qc8+ Qg8 10.Qc1/vi Qh7/vii 11.Qc3/viii Qb7/ix 12.Qd4/x Qh7/xi

- 13.Kg5+/xii Kg8 14.Qd8+ Kf7 15.Qd7+ Kg8 16.Qe8 mate, or:
- Qg8 8.Qd4 f1Q+ 9.Ke7+ Kh7 10.Qh4+ Kg6 11.Qg5+ Kh7 12.Qh5 mate.
- i) Thematic try: 1.Sf5? Qa7 2.Qb3+ Kf8 3.Qb4+ Ke8 4.Sg7+ Kd8 5.Se6+ Kc8 6.Qc4+ Kb8 draws.
- ii) Kh7 2.Qc2+ Kh6 3.Qd2+ Kh7 4.Qd3+ transposes.
- iii) Kg8 6.Se6 Qa1+ 7.Kg6 Qa8 8.Qf5 Qe8+ 9.Kh6 Qe7 10.Qg6+ Kh8 11.Sg5 Qf8+ 12.Kh5 Qg7 13.Qe8+ Qg8 14.Qe5+ (Qe7) Qg7 15.Sf7+ Kh7 16.Qe4+ Kg8 17.Qe8+ Qf8 18.Sh6+ wins.
- iv) 8.Qd7+? Kh6 9.Qd2+ Kh5 draws.
- v) Kh6 9.Qf4+ Kh5 10.Sg7+ wins.
- vi) 10.Qc3? f1Q+ 11.Ke7+ Kh7 draws.
- vii) f1Q+ 11.Qxf1 Qh7 12.Qa1, or Qg1 11.Qh6+ Kg8 12.Qf8+ Kh7 13.Sg5+ win.
- viii) 11.Qb2? f1Q+ 12.Kg5+ Kg8 13.Qb8+ Kf7 draws.
- ix) f1Q+ 12.Kg5+ Kg8 13.Qc8+ Kf7 14.Qd7+ Kg8 15.Qe8+ Qf8 16.Qxf8 mate.
- x) 12.Qh3+? Qh7 13.Qc3 Qb7 loss of time.
- xi) f1Q+ 13.Kg6+ Kg8 14.Qd8+ Qf8 15.Qxf8 mate.
- xii) 13.Qd8+? Qg8 14.Qd4 Qh7 loss of time.

“An interesting find in the EGTB6 since the multiple queen/king batteries, thematic tries and echo mates provide aesthetic appeal in two lines. Although not easily grasped without explanatory notes, the study has instructional value. The compositional craft was not in finding the position, but in recognizing its artistic value”.

**No 20200** Y. Afek  
3rd commendation



b3h8 o833.31 6/6 Win

**No 20200** Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Ra8 Rb4+ 2.Ka3 Bb2+ 3.Rxb2 Rxb2 4.Kxb2 Rb4+ 5.Ka1/i Kg8 6.a3/ii Rb3 7.Ka2/iii Rb7/iv 8.a4 Kf8 9.a5 Ke7 10.h6/v gxf6 11.g7 Kf7 12.a6 Rb5 13.a7 wins.

i) 5.Kc3? Rb7 (Rb6) 6.a4 Rc7+ 7.Kb3 Rc8 8.a5 Rg8 draws.

ii) 6.a4? Kf8 7.a5 Ke7 8.a6 Sxa6 draws.

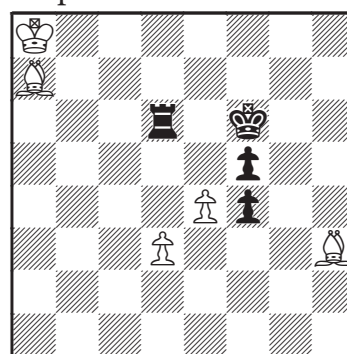
iii) 7.a4? Kf8 8.Ka2 Rb4 9.Ka3 Rb1 draws.

iv) Rb6 8.a4 Kf8 9.a5 Rb5 10.a6, or Rb5 8.a4 Rb4 9.a5 Kf8 10.a6 Ra4+ 11.Kb3 Rxa6 12.Rxb8+ Ke7 13.h6 win.

v) 10.a6? Sxa6 11.h6 gxf6 12.g7 Sb4+ 13.Ka1 Sc2+ 14.Ka2 Sb4+ 15.Ka3 Sc2+ 16.Ka4 Rb4+ 17.Ka5 Rg4 draws.

“After an inconsequential four move introduction, White’s winning plan is to attack the bS a second time while it is still immobilized. 5.Ka1! is necessary to escape checks by the bR that allow breaking the pin of the knight earlier than in the main line. Then with 6.a3! White effectively trades one pawn move for two black rook retreats to gain a critical tempo. Finally, as Black breaks the absolute pin of his knight, White’s 10.h6!! immobilizes the bS once again by pinning it to the g8 queening square. The concepts are simple, but instructive”.

**No 20201** L. Gonzalez  
1st special commendation



a8f6 o320.22 5/4 Win

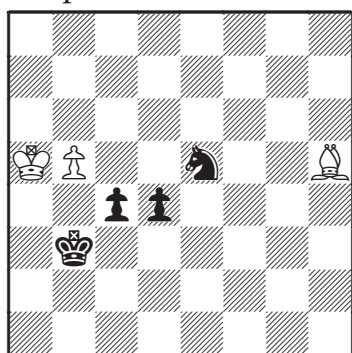
**No 20201** Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.e5+ Kxe5 2.Bb8 f3 3.Bf1/i Kd5/ii 4.Bxd6 Kxd6 5.Kb8 zz (Kb7? Kd7; zz) Kd7 6.Kb7/iii Kd6 7.Kb6 zz f4/iv 8.Kb7/v Kd7 9.Kb8 Kd6 10.Kc8 Kc6 11.Kd8 Kd6 12.Ke8 Ke6 13.Kf8 Kf6 14.Kg8/vi f2/vii 15.Kh7/viii Kg5 16.Kg7 f3 17.Kf7 Kf5

18.Ke7 Ke5 19.Kd7 Kd5 20.Kc7 Kc5 21.Kb7 Kd5  
22.Kb6 Kd4 23.Kc6 Ke3 24.Kd5 Kd2 25.Ke4 Ke1  
26.Bh3 f1Q 27.Bxf1 Kxf1 28.Kxf3 wins.

- i) 3.Kb7? Ke6 4.Bxd6 Kxd6 5.Bf1 Kd7 zz.
- ii) f4 4.Kb7 Kd5 5.Bxd6 Kxd6 6.Kb6 Kd5  
7.Kb5 Kd4 8.Kc6 transposes.
- iii) 6.Bh3? Kc6 7.Bxf5 Kd5 8.Bh3 Kd4 9.Bf1  
Ke3 10.Kc7 Kf2 draws.
- iv) Kd5 8.Kc7 Kc5 9.Kd7 Kd5 10.Ke7 Ke5  
11.Kf7 f4 12.Kg6 wins.
- v) 8.Kb5? Kd5 9.Kb4 Kd4 10.Kb3 Ke3 11.Kc2  
Kf2, or 8.Bh3? Kd5 9.Kb5 Kd4 10.Bf1 Ke3 11.Kc4  
Kf2 draw.
- vi) 14.Bh3? Ke5 15.Kg7 Kd4 16.Bf1 Ke3 17.Kf6  
Kf2 draws.
- vii) Kg6 15.Bh3 f2 16.Kf8 Kf6 17.Ke8 f3 18.Kd7  
Ke5 19.Kc6 Kd4 20.Bf1 transposes.
- viii) 15.Bh3? f3 16.Kh7 Kg5 17.Kg7 Kf4 18.Kg6  
Kg3 19.Bf1 Kh2 20.d4 Kg1 draws,

“Robert Brieger would have loved this study with its multiple zugzwangs and White’s careful use of the opposition to get to e4 in time. The simple introduction provides a try in which White finds himself in zugzwang. The many ‘loss of time’ duals, which are often found in opposition studies, are not important. The study is partly anticipated by J. Tazberik (EG#10880)”.

**No 20202** G. Ostmoie Tallaksen  
2nd special commendation



a5b3 0013.12 3/4 Drww

**No 20202** Geir Sune Ostmoie Tallaksen (Norway). 1.b6 Sd7/i 2.b7 d3 3.Bf7/ii d2 4.Be8 Sb8/iii 5.Ba4+ Ka3 6.Bd1 c3 7.Kb6 Kb2 8.Kc7/iv Sa6+ 9.Kb6 Sb8 10.Kc7 c2 11.Bxc2 Kxc2 12.Kxb8 d1Q 13.Kc7 draws.

i) c3 2.Bd1+, and here: Kc4 3.b7 Sd7 4.Ba4 Sb8 5.Bb5+ Kb3 (Kc5; Bd3) 6.Bd3 c2 7.Bxc2+ Kxc2 8.Kb6 d3 9.Kc7 d2 10.Kxb8 d1Q 11.Kc7, or: c2 3.Bxc2+ Kxc2 4.b7 Sd7 5.Kb5 d3 6.Kc6 d2 7.Kxd7 d1Q+ 8.Kc7 draw.

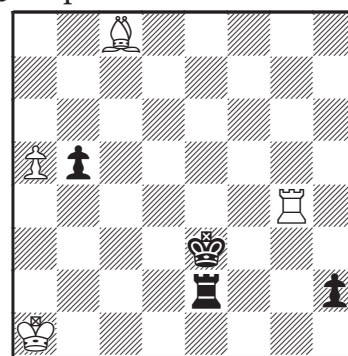
ii) 3.Be8? Sb8 4.Bb5 Kc3 5.Kb6 Kb4 6.Kc7 d2 7.Kxb8 d1Q 8.Kc7 Kc5 9.b8Q Qd6+ 10.Kc8 Qxb8+ 11.Kxb8 Kxb5 wins.

iii) d1Q 5.b8Q+ Sxb8 6.Ba4+, or Ka3 5.Bxd7 d1Q 6.b8Q Qd2+ 7.Kb6 Qxd7 8.Kc5 draw.

iv) 8.Ka7? Sd7 9.Ba4 Kc1 10.Bxd7 d1Q 11.b8Q Qxd7+ wins.

“This pleasant miniature’s artistic appeal is due to the clever manoeuvring by the wB. White’s 3.Bf7! forces Black’s pawns to disconnect momentarily by freezing the c-pawn. White’s 4.Be8! makes Black choose between positional draws with both sides queening. The final position has been anticipated, i.e. by H. Holin (HHdbIV#29230) and D. Gurgenidze (HHdbIV#66656)”.

**No 20203** P. Arestov  
3rd special commendation



a1e3 0410.12 4/4 Win

**No 20203** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bb7 Re1+ 2.Ka2/i h1Q 3.Bxh1 Rxh1 4.Kb2 zz Rf1 (Rd1) 5.Rh4 Rg1 6.a6 Rg2+/ii 7.Kb3 Rg6 8.a7 Ra6 9.Rh7 Ra4 10.Rh3+ Kf2 11.Rh2+ Kg3 12.Ra2 wins.

i) 2.Kb2? h1Q 3.Bxh1 Rxh1 4.a6 Rh2+ (Rh7, Rh8) 5.Kb3 Rh6 6.a7 Ra6 7.Rg7 Ra4 8.Rc7 Kd4 9.Rc4+ Rxc4 10.a8Q Kc5 11.Qa7+ Kc6 12.Qa6+ Kc5 13.Qc8+ Kb6 draws.

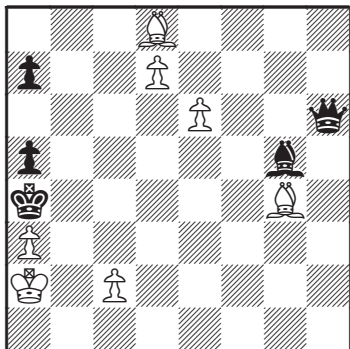
ii) Rg6 7.a7 Ra6 8.Rh3+ Kd4 9.Ra3 wins.

“In spite of its mundane introduction, Robert Brieger would have liked this ending because it



is not only instructive, but has the look ahead 2.Ka2!, which guarantees that White will be on the right side of the zz”.

**No 20204 R. Pye**  
4th special commendation



a2a4 3050.42 7/5 Win

**No 20204** Robert Pye (Ireland). 1.Be7 Bxe7/i 2.d8Q Bxd8 3.e7 Qc6 4.e8Q Qxe8 5.c4 and mate on d1 or d7.

i) Qh2 2.Bf5 Qe2 3.d8Q Qc4+ 4.Kb2 Qb5+ 5.Kc3 Qe5+ 6.Qd4+ Qxd4+ 7.Kxd4 Bxe7 8.c4 wins.

“After a straightforward introduction to clear the path which allows the threat of Bd7 checkmate, White crushes Black’s 3...Qc6 defence with e8Q followed by c4 and mate in 2. The seemingly useless black pawn on a7 prevents Black from a having a stalemate defence in one variation. Some devaluation is due to the inactive pieces on the a-file and the fact that the study is partly anticipated by N. Cortlever (HHdbIV#18681)”.



Mario Garcia

# Hungarian Chess Federation 2013

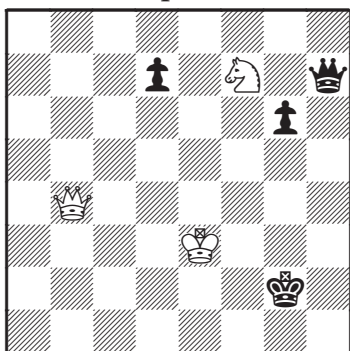
Eduard Eilazyan (Ukraine) judged this annual informal tourney of the Hungarian Chess Federation (MSV) which is essentially the same as the annual tourney of *Magyar Sakkvilag*.

In total, 23 studies by 17 composers from 14 countries participated and the judge considered the level as rather high.

The preliminary award, dated 1vii2014 was published on the internet and had a three month confirmation time period.

After the confirmation time, but before publication of the final award, MG and HH forwarded some possible cooks: the 3rd prize is suspect, and a commendation by Jasik is unsound (see below). The judge and tourney director rightfully decided to retain the award. The judge commended that errors like Jasik's will continue to occur as the 7EGTB are not freely available.

No 20205 R. Becker  
1st prize



e3g2 4001.02 3/4 Win

No 20205 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Sg5 Qh6 2.Qf4/i zz d5/ii 3.Qf3+/iii Kg1 4.Qxd5/iv zz Kh2/v 5.Qd6+/vi Kh1 6.Qe5 zz Kg2/vii 7.Qf4 zz Kh1 8.Qg4 zz Qh8 (Qh5; Qe4+) 9.Qf3+ (Qd1+) Kg1 (Kg2) 10.Qf2+ (Qe2+) Kh1 11.Qf1+ Kh2 12.Sf3+ Kg3 13.Qg1+ wins.

i) First thematic try: 2.Qg4+? Kh1 zz 3.Qf3+ Kh2 4.Qf4+ Kg2 zz 5.Qg4+ Kh1 6.Kf2 Qf8+ (Qh2+?; Kf1) 7.Sf3 Qc5+ 8.Kg3 Qd6+ 9.Kh3 Qe6 draws.

ii) Kh1 3.Qg4 zz d5 (Qh5; Qe4+) 4.Kf2 Qf8+ 5.Sf3 Qc5+ 6.Kg3 Qc7+ 7.Kh3 Qh7+ 8.Sh4 wins.

iii) 3.Qg4+? Kf1 4.Qg3 d4+ draws.

iv) 4.Qg3+? Kh1 5.Qg4 Qh5 draws (no 6.Qe4+).

v) Kf1 5.Qf3+ Kg1 6.Qg3+ Kh1 7.Qg4 transposes.

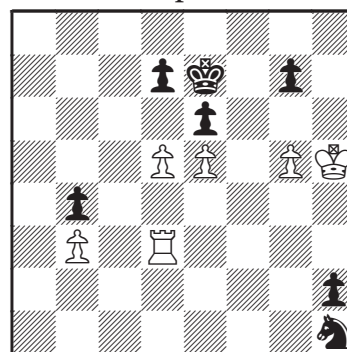
vi) Second thematic try: 5.Qe5+? Kh1 6.Qf6 Kg1 7.Qf2+ Kh1 8.Qf3+ Kh2 9.Qf4+ Kg2 10.Qg4+ Kh1 11.Kf2 Qh2+/viii 12.Kf1 Qf4+ 13.Qxf4 stalemate.

vii) Qh2 7.Qd5+ (Qe4+) Qg2 8.Sf3 Qg3 9.Qd2 wins.

viii) But not Qf8+? 12.Sf3 Qc5+ 13.Kg3 Qc7+ 14.Kh3 Qh7+ 15.Sh4 wins.

“Already at first glance this endgame attracts the solver’s attention. Ground-stones of this study are the interesting mutual zugzwangs. The difficult theme ‘Change of Refutation’ is realized in miniature form with two thematic tries! This is another remarkable discovery by the author in the material QS vs Q and is definitely the best study of the contest”!

No 20206 M. Minski  
2nd prize



h5e7 0103.45 6/7 Draw

**No 20206** Martin Minski (Germany).  
1.Rh3/i Sg3+ 2.Kg6 h1Q 3.d6+/ii Kf8/iii 4.Rh8+  
Qxh8 stalemate.

i) First thematic try: 1.d6+? Kf7 2.Rf3+ Kg8  
3.Kg6/iv Sg3, and: 4.Rf4 h1B/v 5.Rf3 Se2, e.g.  
(Bxf3? stalemate) 6.Rf2 Sc1 7.Kh5 Sd3 8.Rc2  
Bf3+ 9.Kh4 Sxe5 wins, or here: 4.Rf2 Sh5/vi  
5.Rf1 h1Q 6.Rxh1 Sf4 mate. Second thematic  
try: 1.Kg6? Sg3 2.d6+ Kf8 3.Rf3+ Kg8 wins.

ii) 3.Rxh1? Sxh1, and: 4.d6+ Kf8 or: 4.Kxg7  
exd5 wins.

iii) Kd8 4.Rxh1 Sxh1 5.Kxg7 and White wins.

iv) 3.Rh3 Sg3+ 4.Kg6 h1Q 5.Rh8+ Kxh8  
(Qxh8? stalemate) and no stalemate.

v) But not h1Q? 5.Rf8+ Kxf8 stalemate. Also  
not Sh5? 5.Rc4 Sf4+ 6.Rxf4 h1Q 7.Rf8+ Kxf8  
stalemate.

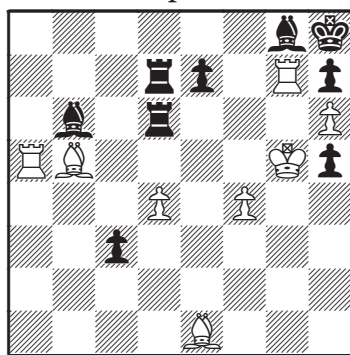
vi) But not h1B? 5.Rg2 Bxg2/vii stalemate.  
Also not Se2? 5.Rf7 Sf4+ 6.Rxf4 h1Q 7.Rf8+  
Kxf8 stalemate.

vii) Se4 6.Rh2 Sg3 7.Rg2, or Sfi 6.Rf2 Be4+  
7.Kh5 Bd3 8.g6 Sg3+ 9.Kh4 Se2 10.Rf7 Bb5  
11.Re7 Kf8 12.Rf7+ Kg8 13.Re7 draws.

“This is an interesting study with rich con-  
tent: in the thematic try, Black has to play accu-  
rately to avoid many stalemate traps. The main  
content of this study is the ‘Change’ theme in  
the thematic try”

HH: 4.Rf4 h1B! (Sh5?), 4.Rf2 Sh5! (h1B?).

**No 20207** M. Hlinka  
& L. Kekely  
3rd prize



g5h8 o880.34 8/9 Draw

**No 20207** Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Keke-  
ly (Slovakia). 1.Ra8/i Rd8/ii 2.Rxd8 Bxd8/iii

3.Bxc3/iv Rd5+ 4.f5/v Rxb5/vi 5.d5 Bxd5/vii  
6.Kxh5/viii Bf3+/ix 7.Rg4+ e5 8.Bxe5+ Rxe5  
model stalemate with double pin.

i) 1.Bxd7? Bxa5 2.Ba4 Rd5+ 3.f5 c2 4.Bxc2  
Bxe1 5.Rxe7 Bd2+ 6.Kxh5 Rd6 wins.

ii) Rd5+ 2.f5 Rd8 3.Rxd8 Rxd8 4.Bxc3

iii) Rxd8 3.Bxc3 Rd5+ 4.Kh4 Rxb5 5.d5 Rxd5  
6.Rg5+ Bd4 7.Rxd5 Bxc3 8.Rd8 draws.

iv) 3.Bd3? Rc6 4.Bc2 e5+ 5.Kxh5 exd4 6.Rd7  
Bf6 7.Bh4 Rc5+ 8.Kg4 Bxh4 9.Kxh4 Rd5 10.Rc7  
d3 11.Bb3 Rd8 12.Bd1 c2 13.Bxc2 dxc2 14.Rxc2  
Rd6 wins.

v) 4.Kh4? Rxb5 5.d5 e5+ 6.Kxh5 Bxd5, threat-  
ening 7...Bf3+, wins.

vi) e6+ 5.Kxh5 Rxf5+ 6.Kg4 Rxb5 7.d5 Rc5  
8.Rc7+ Rxc3 9.Rxc3 exd5 10.Kf5 draws.

vii) Rc5 6.Ba1 Rc1 7.Be5 Re1 8.Kf4 h4 9.d6  
exd6 10.Bb2 Re2 11.Rg2+ Rxb2 12.Rxb2 d5  
13.Kg4 d4 14.Rb8, or Rb3 6.Be5 Re3 7.Kf4 Rxe5  
8.Kxe5 Bc7+ 9.Kd4 Bd6 10.Rg1 draw.

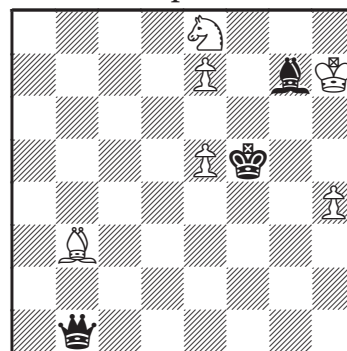
viii) 6.Kf4? Bc7+ 7.Ke3 Rb3 8.Rxe7+ Rxc3+  
9.Kd4 Ba5 10.Kxd5 Rc8 wins.

ix) Ba5 7.Bxa5 Rxa5 8.Rxe7 Ra8 9.Rc7 draws.

“The authors pursue their favourite theme  
and spectacular play with a double-edged  
struggle ends with a model stalemate with a  
double pin. However, a lot of technical materi-  
al is being used in its realization”

MG thinks this study is suspect: 3...Bd5  
4.Kh4 Rxh6, and 5.Rg5 e6 6.Be2 Rf6 7.Rxh5  
Rxf4+, or 5...e5+ 6.Kh3 exf4 7.Re1 Be6.

**No 20208** G. Costeff  
4th prize



h7f5 3041.30 6/3 Win

**No 20208** Gady Costeff (Israel/USA).  
 1.Ba2/i Qc2 2.Bb1 Qxb1 3.Sxg7+ Kxe5+ 4.Kg8  
 (Kh8? Kf6;) Kf6 (Qb3+; Kh8) 5.e8R Qb3+  
 6.Re6+ Qxe6+ 7.Sxe6 wins.

i) First thematic try: 1.Sxg7+? Kxe5+ 2.Kg8  
 Kf6 3.e8R/ii Qh7+ 4.Kxh7 stalemate. Second  
 thematic try: 1.Bc2+? Qxc2 2.Sxg7+ Kxe5+  
 3.Kg8/iii Qc4+/iv and Black wins.

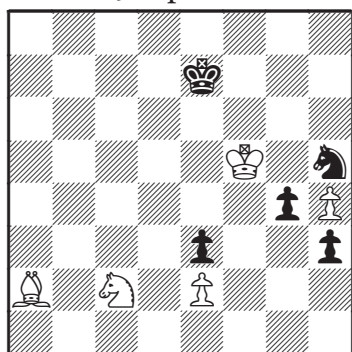
ii) 3.Kf8 Qh7 4.e8S+ Ke5 draws.

iii) 3.Kh8 Kf6 4.e8Q Qh7+ 5.Kxh7 stalemate.

iv) Not Kf6? 4.e8R Qc4+ 5.Re6+ Qxe6+  
 6.Sxe6 wins.

“This shows several ideas – interesting tries,  
 minor promotions, battery play, stalemate, ex-  
 act choice of the square for a logical sacrifice  
 of the wB and is a pleasant study with logical  
 content”.

**No 20209** P. Arestov  
 5th prize



f5e7 0014.23 5/5 Win

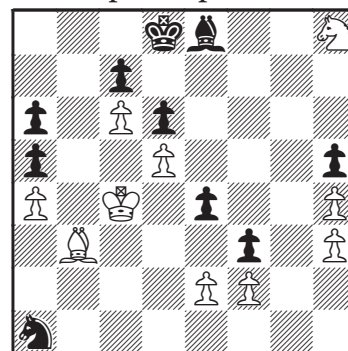
**No 20209** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bd5/i  
 g3 2.Se1 g2 3.Bxg2/ii Sg3+ 4.Kg6 hxg2 5.Sxg2  
 Sxe2 6.h5 Kf8 7.h6 Kg8 8.h7+ Kh8 9.Kh6 Sd4  
 10.Sh4 e2 11.Sg6 mate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Sxe3? g3 2.Bd5 g2 3.Bxg2  
 hxg2 4.Sxg2 Sg3+ 5.Kg6 Sxe2 6.h5 Kf8 7.h6 Kg8  
 8.h7+ Kh8 9.Kh6 Sg3 (Sd4) 10.Sh4 Sf5+ 11.Sxf5,  
 or 1.Kxg4? h2 2.Bd5 Sf6+ 3.Kg3 Sxd5 4.Kxh2  
 Sc3 5.Sd4 Kf6 6.Kg3 Ke5 draws.

ii) 3.Sxg2? hxg2 4.Bxg2 Sg3+ draws.

“A pawn capture refusal allows White to pre-  
 vent stalemate and instead deliver mate. The  
 fashionable ‘foresight’ theme is carried out  
 clearly”.

**No 20210** A. Ruzs  
 special prize



c4d8 0044.77 10/10 Draw

**No 20210** Arpad Ruzs (Rumania). 1.e3/i  
 Ke7/ii 2.Bd1 Kf6 3.Kd4/iii Kf5 4.Kc3/iv Ke5/v  
 5.Kc4 Kf6/vi 6.Kd4 Kf5 7.Kc3 Ke5 8.Kc4 Kf6  
 9.Kd4 positional draw.

i) 1.exf3? (Bd1?; e3) 2.Kxb3 exf3 3.Kc3 Ke7  
 4.Kd3 Kf6 5.Ke4 Kg7 6.Kxf3 Kxh8 wins.

ii) Sxb3 2.Kxb3 Ke7 3.Kc3 Kf6 4.Kd4 Kg7  
 5.Kxe4 Kxh8 6.Kxf3 Bg6 7.e4 Kg7 8.Ke3 Kf6  
 9.f4 draws.

iii) 3.Kc3? Kg7 4.Kd4/vii Kxh8 5.Kxe4 Bg6+  
 6.Kxf3 Now we have a study-in-a-study: BMT  
 wins: Bc2 7.Bxc2 Sxc2 8.e4 Sa3 9.e5 Sc4 10.exd6  
 Sxd6 11.Kf4 Kg8/viii zz 12.Kg5 Kg7 zz 13.f3 Sc4  
 14.Kxh5 Kf6 15.Kg4 Se3+ wins.

iv) 4.Kc4? Ke5 zz 5.Kc3 Kxd5 wins.

v) Kf6 5.Kb2, and: Ke5 6.Kxa1 Kxd5 7.Bb3+  
 Kxc6 8.Bf7, or here: Kg7 6.Kxa1 Kxh8 7.Kb2 Kg7  
 8.Kc3 Kf6 9.Kd4 Bg6 10.Bc2 wins.

vi) Kf5 6.Kd4 zz Kf6 7.Kxe4 wins.

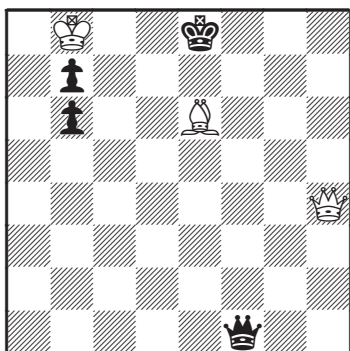
vii) 4.Kb2 Kxh8 5.Kxa1 Kg7 6.Kb2 Kf6 7.Kc3  
 Ke5 8.Bb3 Bf7 draws.

viii) Kg7? 12.Kg5 zz Se4+ 13.Kf5 Sc3 14.d6  
 cxd6 15.c7 Sd5 16.c8S (c8Q? Se7+) draws.

“Interestingly, both sides carry out the strug-  
 gle for a draw and a winning attempt leads to  
 defeat. The study is based on the completely  
 original idea of using the properties of a cen-  
 tral symmetrical position so that the study-  
 in-a-study appears twice. This is a wonderful  
 find!”.



**No 20211** R. Becker  
1st honourable mention



b8e8 4010.02 3/4 Win

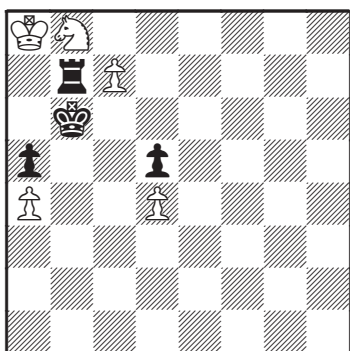
**No 20211** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Kc8/i Qd1 2.Kc7 zz b5 (Qc2+; Bc4) 3.Qf6 Qc2+ 4.Kxb7 Qh7+ 5.Kb6 Qe7 6.Qg6+ Kd8 7.Qg8+ Qe8 8.Qg5+ Qe7 9.Qd5+/ii Ke8 10.Qh5+ Kd8 11.Qh8+ Qe8 12.Qe5 Qg6 13.Qd6+ Ke8 14.Bd7+ Kf7 15.Be8+ wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kc7? Qd1 zz 2.Qf6 Qc2+ 3.Kxb7 Qh7+ 4.Kc8 Qc2+ 5.Kb8 Qh2+ draws.

ii) Or 9.Qe5 Qh7 10.Qf6+ Qe7 11.Qh8+ Qe8 12.Qe5 wins.

“This is another miniature by the winner of the tourney. White loses a tempo to force the advance of the bP where it serves as a ‘fifth column’, a very witty idea!”

**No 20212** Y. Afek  
2nd honourable mention



a8b6 0301.32 5/4 Win

**No 20212** Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Sa6/i Ra7+ 2.Kb8, and:

— Rb7+ 3.Kc8 Ra7/ii 4.Kd7/iii Kxa6 5.Kd8 Ra8+/iv 6.c8R/v Ra7 7.Rc6+ wins, or:

— Rxa6 3.c8R/vi Ra7 4.Rc6+ Kxc6 5.Kxa7 Kc7 6.Ka6 Kc6 7.Kxa5 wins.

i) 1.c8S+? (c8Q? Ra7; mate) Kc7 2.Se7 Rxb8+ 3.Ka7 Rb4 and Black wins.

ii) Kxa6 4.Kd8 Ka7 5.c8Q wins.

iii) Thematic try: 4.Kd8? Rxa6 5.c8R Ra7 draws, e.g. 6.Rc5 Rh7 7.Rxd5 Kc6 8.Rc5+ Kd6 9.Ke8 Rh4.

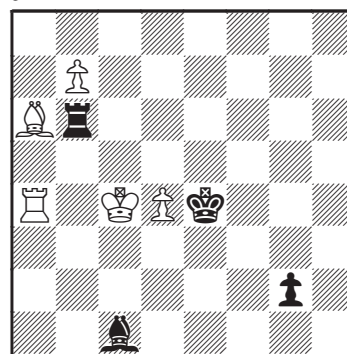
iv) Kb6 6.c8S+ wins, but not 6.c8Q? Ra8 7.Qxa8 stalemate.

v) 6.c8Q+? Kb6 7.Kd7 (Qxa8 stalemate) Rxc8 8.Kxc8 Kc6 draws.

vi) 3.c8Q? Ra8+ 4.Kxa8 stalemate.

“This has two interesting main lines with stalemate traps and minor promotions”.

**No 20213** J. Polašek & M. Hlinka  
3rd honourable mention



c4e4 0440.21 5/4 Draw

**No 20213** Jaroslav Polašek (Czech Republic) & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.Kc5 Rb1 2.Rb4 Rxb4/i 3.Kxb4 g1Q 4.Bd3+/ii Kd5 5.Be4+/iii Kxe4 6.b8Q Bd2+ 7.Kc5 Qxd4+ 8.Kb5/iv Qb4+ 9.Ka6 Qxb8 stalemate.

i) Ba3 3.b8Q Bxb4+ 4.Kc4 g1Q 5.Qe5+ Kf3 6.Bb7+ Kf2 7.Qf5+ Ke2 8.Qd3+ draws.

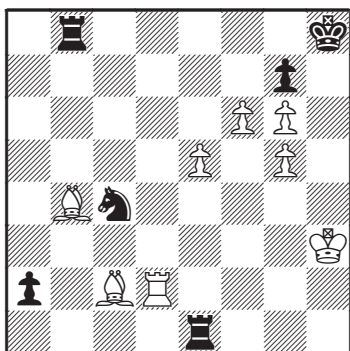
ii) 4.b8Q? Bd2+ 5.Kc5 Qxd4+ 6.Kc6 Qd5+ 7.Kb6 Be3+ 8.Kc7 Bf4+ wins.

iii) 5.b8Q? Qxd4+ 6.Ka5 Bd2+ 7.Ka6 Qa4+ 8.Kb7 Qc6+ 9.Ka7 Be3+, or 5.Bc4+? Kc6 6.b8Q Bd2+ 7.Ka3 Qa1+ 8.Ba2 Bc1+ 9.Kb4 Qb2+ 10.Bb3 Bd2+ 11.Ka4 Qa1+ wins.

iv) 8.Kc6? Qd5+ 9.Kb6 Be3+ 10.Ka6 Qc6+ 11.Ka5 Bd2+ wins.

“The difficult introduction leads to the key position after which sacrifices of the wB follow. This is another agreeable study with logical content”.

**No 20214 A. Jasik**  
4th honourable mention



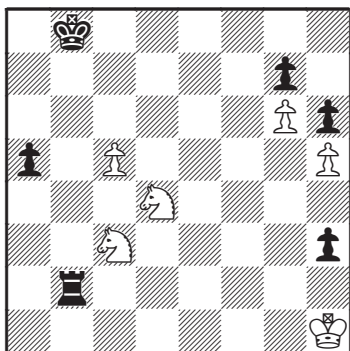
h3h8 0723.42 8/6 Draw

**No 20214** Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Rh2 Rg1/i 2.Bc3 Sb2 3.Bxb2 Rxb2 4.f7 Rb8 5.Be4 a1Q 6.Bg2 Qxe5 7.Kg4+ Qxh2 8.f8Q+ Rxf8 stalemate.

i) Re2 2.Rh1 gxf6 3.Kg3+ Kg8 4.gxf6 Rxc2 5.Rh7 Sxe5 6.Rg7+ Kh8 7.Rh7+ draws.

“White’s position looks hopeless but an attack helps out! By creating mating threats, White escapes by a stalemate. This has bright dynamic play with opportunities for both sides”.

**No 20215 M. Garcia**  
commendation



h1b8 0302.34 6/6 Win

**No 20215** Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina). 1.Sf5 Rc2 2.Sa4/i Ra2 3.Sb6/ii a4 4.Sxa4 Rxa4 5.Sxg7, and:

— Re4 6.Sf5 h2 7.Kxh2 Rg4 8.Sg3/iii Rg5 9.Kg2 Kc8 10.c6/iv Kc7 11.Kf3 Kxc6 12.Se4 Rf5+ 13.Kg2 Rf4 14.Sf6 Rxf6 15.g7 wins, or:

— Rh4 6.Kh2 Ka7 7.c6 Kb6 8.c7 Kxc7/v 9.Se8+ Kd8 10.Sf6 Ke7 11.g7 wins.

i) 2.Sxg7? Rc1+ 3.Kh2 Rc2+ 4.Kh1 Rc1+ draws.

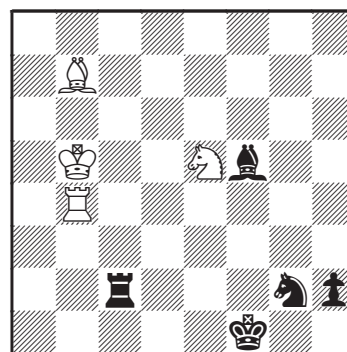
ii) 3.Sxg7? Ra1+ 4.Kh2 Ra2+ 5.Kxh3 Ra3+ 6.Kg4 Rxa4+ draws.

iii) 8.Sg7? Kb7 9.Se6 Kc6 10.Kh3 Rg1 11.Sd4+ Kxc5 12.Sf3 Ra1 13.g7 Ra8 14.Sh4 Kd6 15.Sf5+ Ke6 16.Sxh6 Kf6 draws.

iv) 10.Kf3? Rxc5 11.Se4 Rc7 12.Sd6+ Kd8 13.Sf5 Ke8 14.Sxh6 Kf8 draws.

v) Kb7 9.Se6 Rg4 10.Kxh3 Rg1 11.Kh2 Rg4 12.Sf8 Kc8 13.Kh3 Rg1 14.Se6, and now: Kd7 15.Sf4 Rg5 16.Kh2 Kc8 17.Se6 Rg4 18.Kh3 Rg1 19.Sf8 Kb7 20.Sh7 Rc1 21.Sf6 Rxc7 22.Sg4 Kc6 23.Sxh6, or here: Kb7 15.Kh4 Kc8 16.Sf4 Kd7 17.Kh3 Rg5 18.Kh2 Kc8 19.Se6 Rg4 20.Kh3 Rg1 21.Sf8 Rg5 22.Sh7 wins.

**No 20216 A. Jasik**  
commendation



b5f1 0444.01 4/5 Draw

**No 20216** Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Sf3/i Rc5+ (h1Q; Rb1+) 2.Kxc5 h1Q 3.Rh4 Bh3 (Sxh4; Sd2+) 4.Rf4 (Rc4? Ke2;), and:

— Ke2 5.Sd4+ Kd1 6.Rf2 Qg1/ii 7.Bf3+ Ke1 8.Ra2 wins, or:

— Kf2 5.Sg5+ Ke1/iii 6.Ra4/iv Qg1+ 7.Kc6 Qe3 8.Re4 wins.

i) 1.Rb1+? Kf2, and 2.Rh1 Kg3 3.Sf3 Rb2+ 4.Ka6 Rxb7 5.Sxh2 Rb2 6.Sf1+ Kf2 7.Rh5 Bd3+, or here: 2.Sf3 Rc7 3.Rb2+ Kg3 wins.

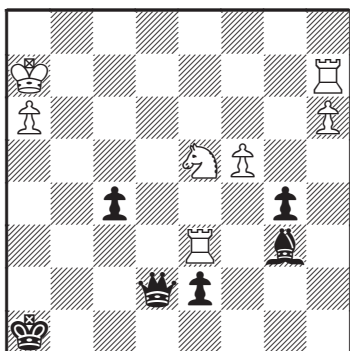
ii) Qh2 7.Rf1+ Se1 8.Rxe1+ Kxe1 9.Sf3+ draws.

iii) Kg3 6.Rf3+ Kg4 7.Sxh3 draws.

iv) 6.Sf3+? Kd1 7.Rb4 Bf5, or 6.Rc4? Kd2 wins.

MG: This study is unsound: 4...Kf2 5.Sg5+ Kg3 6.Rf3+ Kg4 7.Sxh3 and now 7...Qc1+ (7EGTB confirmed).

**No 20217** A. Pallier  
commendation



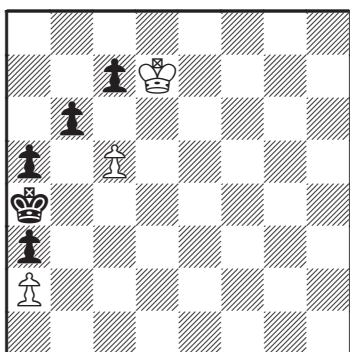
a7a1 3231.33 7/6 Draw

**No 20217** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Ra3+ Qa2 2.Rxa2+ Kxa2 3.Sd3/i cxd3 4.Re7 Bh4 5.Re6 e1Q 6.Rxe1 Bxe1 7.Kb8/ii Bf2 8.h7 draws.

i) Thematic try: 3.Sf3? gxf3 4.Re7 e1Q 5.Rxe1 Bxe1 6.Kb8 f2 7.a7 f1Q 8.a8Q+ Kb3 9.Qb7+ Bb4 10.h7 Qf4+ 11.Ka7 Qe5 12.Qf7 Bc3 13.Qb7+ Ka4 14.Qd7+ Qb5 wins. HH: the black dual, given in the award, seems to spoil the thematic try.

ii) 7.h7? d2 8.h8Q Bf2+ 9.Kb8 d1Q 10.Qg8+ Ka1 11.Qe6 Qb1+ 12.Kc7 Qc2+ 13.Kd8 Qc3 14.f6 g3 15.Qd6 Qa5+ 16.Kc8 Qf5+ 17.Kc7 Qh7+ 18.Qd7 Bb6+ 19.Kc8 Qe4 wins.

**No 20218** V. Kovalenko †  
commendation



d7a4 0000.24 3/5 Win

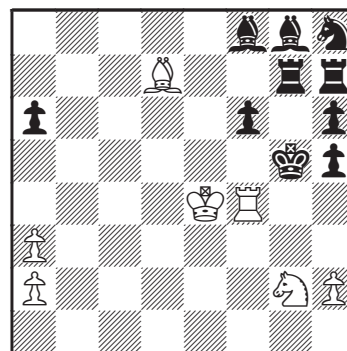
**No 20218** Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.c6/i b5 2.Kxc7 b4 3.Kd7/ii b3 4.c7 b2/iii 5.c8Q b1Q 6.Qc4+ Qb4 7.Qc2+ Kb5 8.Qc6 mate.

i) 1.cxb6? cxb6 2.Kc6 Kb4 wins, avoiding b5? 3.Kc5 b4 4.Kc4 b3 5.axb3 mate.

ii) 3.Kd6? b3 4.c7 b2 5.c8Q b1Q 6.Qc6+ (Qc4+ Qb4); Kb4 7.Qb6+ Ka4 8.Qxb1 stalemate, avoiding Qb5? 7.Qc2+ Kb4 8.Qb3 mate.

iii) bxa2 5.c8Q a1Q 6.Qc4 mate.

**No 20219** V. Kovalenko †  
commendation



e4g5 0774.34 7/10 Win

**No 20219** Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Rf5+/i Kg4/ii 2.Rg5++ Kxg5 3.h4+ Kg6 4.Be8+ Rf7 (Sf7; Sf4 mate) 5.Sf4+ Kg7 6.Se6+ Kg6 7.Sxf8+ Kg7 8.Se6+ Kg6 9.Kf4 f5 10.Ke5 f4/iii 11.Sxf4+ Kg7 12.Se6+ Kg6 13.a4 a5 14.a3 Rg7 15.Sf8 mate.

i) 1.h4+? Kg6 2.Be8+ Rf7 draws.

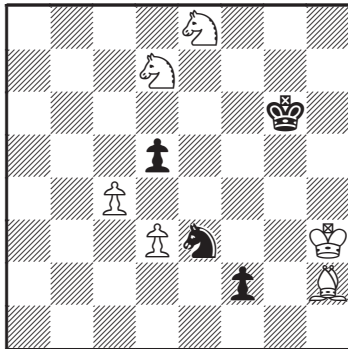
ii) Kg6 2.Be8+ Rf7 3.Sf4+ Kg7 4.Se6+ Kg6 5.Sxf8+ Kg7 6.Se6+ Kg6 7.h4 a5 8.a4 Rg7 9.Sf8 mate.

iii) a5 11.a4 f4 12.Sxf4+ Kg7 13.Se6+ Kg6 14.a3 Rg7 15.Sf8 mate.

# Sochnev 50 JT 2014

59 studies by 37 composers from 14 countries participated; the judge was Aleksey Sochnev (St. Petersburg).

No 20220 S. Didukh  
1st prize



h3g6 0015.22 6/4 Win

**No 20220** Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Se5+ Kh7 2.Sf6+ Kh8 3.Sf7+/i Kg7 4.Sh5+ Kxf7 5.Sg3 d4 6.c5 zz Ke8/ii 7.c6/iii Kd8 8.Sf1/iv Sxf1 9.Kg2 Sxh2 10.Kxf2 Kc7 11.Kg2 (Kg3? Sf1+); Sg4 12.Kf3 Se5+/v 13.Ke4 Sxc6 14.Kd5 Kd7/vi 15.Kc5 draws.

i) Thematic try: 3.Sg6+? Kg7 4.Sh5+ Kxg6 5.Sg3 d4 zz 6.c5 Kf7 zz 7.c6 Ke6 zz 8.c7 Kd7 9.Kh4 Sf5+ 10.Sxf5 f1Q 11.Kg5 Qxd3 12.Bd6 (Se7 Qe3+); Qc2 13.Se7 d3 wins.

ii) Ke6 7.c6 zz Ke7 8.Sf5+ Sxf5 9.Kg2 draws.

iii) Thematic try: 7.Sf1? Sxf1 8.Kg2 Sxh2 9.Kxf2 Sg4+ 10.Kf3 Se5+ 11.Ke4 Sc6 12.Kd5 Kd7 zz, because of wPc5. But not 9...Kd7? 10.Kg2 Sg4 11.Kf3 Se5+ 12.Ke4 Sc6 13.Kd5 zz draws.

iv) The only way to untie the position. 8.c7+? Kd7 9.Kh4? Sf5+ wins.

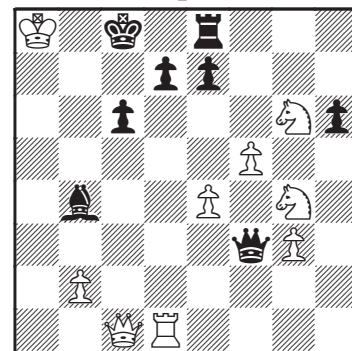
v) Sf6 13.Kf4 Kd6 14.c7 Kxc7 15.Ke5 draws.

vi) No zz, because square c5 is vacant. Compare with line iii).

“This is a terrific logical study! It is remarkable how, in the first phase, White gets around the logical try (with three reciprocal zugzwangs) and, in the second phase, he has to avoid another logical try – with a totally different mutual zugzwang. But the most interesting feature is that the absence of a pawn in the

solution means that it is not zz – simply wonderful logic! I bow in homage”.

No 20221 O. Pervakov  
2nd prize



a8c8 4432.44 9/8 Win

**No 20221** Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Rxd7/i Kxd7+/ii 2.Kb7 Rb8+/iii 3.Kxb8 Bd6+ 4.Ka8/iv Qxe4/v 5.Qc4/vi Qxf5/vii 6.S4e5+/viii Bxe5 7.Qg4 Ke6 8.Sf8+ Kf6 9.Sd7+ Ke6 10.Sc5+ Kf6 11.Se4+ Ke6 12.Qg8+ Kd7/ix 13.Sc5+ Kd6/x 14.b4 Bd4/xi 15.g4 Qd5/xii 16.Qb8 mate.

i) 1.S6e5? (Ka7? Qb3;) Kc7+ 2.Ka7 Qxd1 3.Qxd1 Bc5+ 4.Ka6 Ra8 mate.

ii) Qxe4 2.S4e5 Bd6 3.Qa1 Bxe5 4.Sxe5 Qxe5 5.Rb7 wins.

iii) Black also sacrifices a rook. Qxe4 3.S4e5+ Kd6 4.Sc4+ Kd5 5.Sf4+ Kd4 6.Se6+ Kd5 (Kd3; Qb1+) 7.Sd2 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 4.Ka7? Qxe4 5.Qc4 Qxf5 6.S4e5+ Bxe5 7.Qg4 e6 8.Qxf5 Bd4+ draws.

v) Qxg4 5.Qc4 Kc7 6.Qb3 Qxe4 7.Qb8+ Kd7 8.Sf8 mate.

vi) 5.S4e5+? Bxe5 6.Qc4 Bd4 draws.

vii) Qxc4 6.S6e5+ Kc7 7.Sxc4 Bxg3 8.Sxh6 wins.

viii) 6.S6e5+? Bxe5 7.Qd3+ Ke6, or 6.Qd4? c5 7.S4e5+ Kc7 8.Qg4 Qxg4 9.Sxg4 Bxg3 draw.

ix) Qf7 13.Sc5+ Kf6 14.Sd7+ Ke6 15.Qxf7+ Kxf7 16.Sxe5+ wins.



x) Kc7 14.Qb8 mate.

xi) Bxg3 15.Qxg3+ Kd5 16.Kb7 h5 17.Qb3+ Kd4 18.Se6+ Ke5 19.Qe3+ Kd6 20.Sc7 e6 21.Qd4+ Ke7 22.Kxc6 wins.

xii) Qb1 (Qf6; Se4+) 16.Qe6+ Kc7 17.Qd7+ Kb6 18.Qb7 mate.

“Concluding with a model mate, this large scale study features mutual heavy piece sacrifices, long knight manoeuvres and unexpected subtleties.

MG observes that the thematic try is flawed: Black also draws by 7...Ke6!

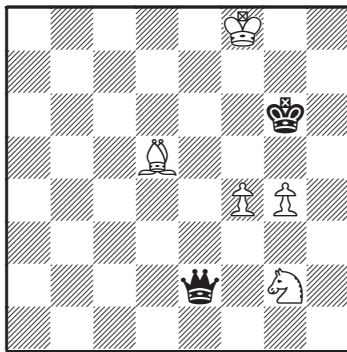
v) Thematic try: 8.f5? Qa2/vii 9.Se7 Qa8+ 10.Be8 Qa1 wins.

vi) 9.Sg6+? Kh7 10.Se5 (Se7) Kh8 waste of time.

vii) But not: Qe6? 9.Se7 Qb6 10.g6+ Kh6 11.g7 Qb8+ 12.Be8 Qe5 and now not: 13.g8Q? Qxe7+ 14.Kxe7 stalemate, or 13.g8R? Qg7+ 14.Rxg7 stalemate, but 13.g8S+ wins.

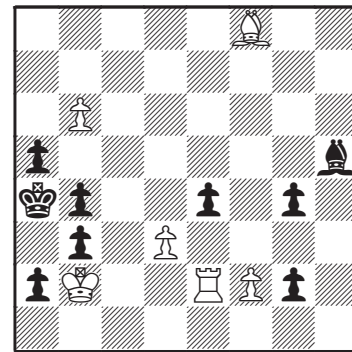
“This shows two logical tries with the unifying factor of an underpromotion by the g-pawn which crowns this study! An excellent miniature!”

No 20222 A. Zhukov  
3rd prize



f8g6 3011.20 5/2 Win

No 20223 V. Tarasiuk  
& S.N. Tkachenko  
4th prize



b2a4 0140.37 6/9 Win

No 20222 Aleksandr Zhukov (Ukraine). 1.Sh4+ Kh7/i 2.Bg8+ Kh6 (Kh8; Sg6 mate) 3.Sf5+ Kg6 4.Se7+ Kh6 (Kf6; g5 mate) 5.Bf7/ii Kh7/iii 6.g5 Kh8/iv 7.Sg6+ Kh7 8.Se5/v Kh8 9.Bh5/vi Qxh5 10.f5 zz Kh7 11.g6+ Kh6 12.Sf7 mate.

i) Kf6 2.g5 mate, or Kh6 2.g5+ Kh5 3.Bf3+ wins.

ii) Thematic try: 5.g5+? Kh5 6.Bf7+ Kg4 7.g6 Qb2 8.f5 Qh8+ 9.Sg8 Qd4 10.g7 Qd8+ 11.Be8 Kxf5 12.Se7+ Kf6 13.g8S+ Ke6, draws, but not 6...Kh4? 7.g6 Qb2 8.f5 Qh8+ 9.Sg8 Qd4 10.g7 Qd8+ 11.Be8 Kg5 12.Se7 Kf6 13.g8S+ and wins by material because White now has wPf5.

iii) Qd3 6.g5+ Kh7 7.g6+ Kh6 8.Sg8+ Kh5 9.g7+ Kh4 10.Se7 Qd8+ 11.Be8, or Qa6 6.g5+ Kh7 7.g6+ Kh6 8.g7 win.

iv) Qd3? 7.g6+ Kh6 8.Sg8+ Kh5 9.g7+ Kh4 10.Se7 wins, avoiding 7.Bg6+? Kh8 8.Bxd3 stalemate.

No 20223 Vladislav Tarasiuk & Sergey N. Tkachenko (Ukraine). 1.Re1 g3 2.fxg3/i exd3 3.g4/ii d2 4.Rg1/iii Bxg4 5.b7 (Bc5? Bf3;) d1Q 6.Rxd1 Bxd1 7.Bc5 a1Q+ 8.Kxa1 Ka3 9.b8Q b2+ 10.Kb1 g1Q 11.Bxg1 Bb3 12.Qg3 a4 13.Qc3 bxc3 14.Bc5 mate.

i) 2.Bc5? exd3 3.b7 d2 see note ii).

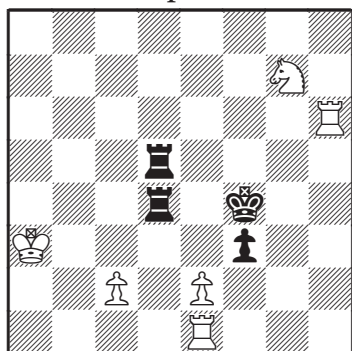
ii) Thematic try: 3.b7? d2 4.Rg1 d1Q 5.Rxd1 Bxd1 6.Bc5 a1Q+ 7.Kxa1 Ka3 8.b8Q g1Q 9.Bxg1 b2+ 10.Kb1 Bb3 draws.

iii) 4.Ra1? Bg6 5.Rg1 (b7 Bb1;) Be4 6.Bh6 Bd5 7.Bxd2 Kb5 8.b7 Bxb7 9.Kxb3 Bd5+ 10.Kb2 a4 11.g5 a3+ 12.Ka1 b3 draws.

“The final mate, which is known from a study by Manvelyan (EG#11690), occurs after a logical combination on move 2. There is excellent foresight effect and the thematic try and the known mate are in harmony”

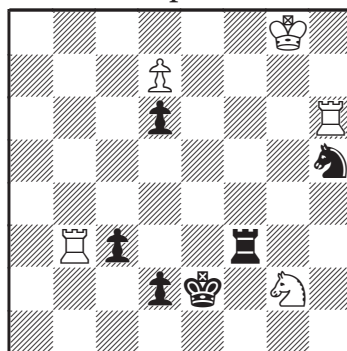
No 20224 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1...Ke3/i 2.Se6/ii f2 3.Rf1 Re4/iii 4.Rf6 Kd2 5.c4 Rxc4

No 20224 Y. Bazlov  
5th prize



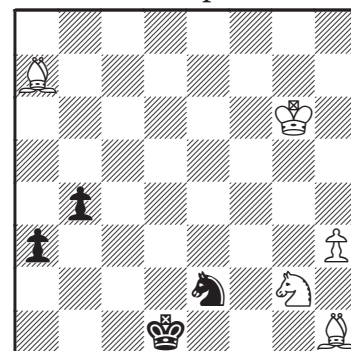
a3f4 o8o1.21 6/4 BTM, Win

No 20225 S.N. Tkachenko  
6th prize



g8e2 o5o4.13 5/6 Win

No 20226 S. Zakharov  
7th/8th prize



g6d1 o024.12 5/4 Draw

6.R1xf2/iv Re4 7.Sd4/v Ra5+ 8.Kb4 Rd5 9.Kb3 Rxd4/vi 10.e3+ Kxe3 11.Rf6# mate.

i) f2 2.Rf1 Ke3 3.Re6+ Kd2 4.c4 Rd7 5.Rxf2 Rxc7 6.Kb4, or Ra5+ 2.Kb3 Ke3 3.Se6 f2 4.Rf1 Rda4 5.Sc5 Ra3+ 6.Kb4 Kxe2 7.Rfh1 Ra8 8.Rf6 Rf3 9.Rxf3 Kxf3 10.Sd3 Kg2 11.Sxf2 win.

ii) 2.exf3+? Kd2 3.Reh1 (Rhe6) Ra5+ 4.Kb3 Rb5+ draws.

iii) Kxe2 4.Rxf2+ Kxf2 5.Sxd4 Rxd4 6.c3 wins.

iv) 6.R6xf2? Re4, and: 7.e3+ Kxe3 8.Rf3+ Kd2 9.R1f2+ Re2, or here: 7.Sc7 Rdd4 8.e3+ Kxe3 9.Rf3+ Kd2 10.R1f2+ Re2 draws.

v) 7.Sc7? Rc5 8.Rd6+ Ke1 9.Rf7 Rc3+ 10.Kb2 Rh3 draws.

vi) Rxd4 10.e4+ wins.

“This has a piquant and peculiar final position: if we replace bKe3 by the wK it would be the same mate. A paradoxical and bright study!”

**No 20225** Sergey N. Tkachenko (Ukraine). 1.Re6+/i Kf2 2.Se3 Rxe3/ii 3.Rxd6/iii d1Q 4.Rxd1 Sf6+ 5.Kf8/iv Sxd7+ 6.Rxd7 c2 7.Rb2/v Re2 8.Rf7+ (Rc7? c1S;) Kg2/vi 9.Rc7 c1S 10.Rbc2/vii wins.

i) 1.Rxd6? Sf6+ 2.Kg7 Sxd7 draws.

ii) After Rg3+ 3.Kf8 Rxe3 not 4.Rxd6? Rf3+ 5.Ke7 Re3+ 6.Kf7 (Kd8 Re1;) Rf3+ 7.Ke7 Re3+ draws, but 4.Rxe3 d1Q 5.Rbxc3 and wins.

iii) 3.Rxe3? d1Q 4.Rbxc3 Qg4+

iv) Thematic try: 5.Kf7? Sxd7 6.Rxd7 c2 7.Rb2 Re2 8.Rc7 c1S 9.Rxe2+ Sxe2 draws, or

5.Kg7? Sxd7 6.Rxd7 c2 7.Rb2 Re2 8.Rf7+ Kg1 (Ke1) 9.Rc7 Re7+ draws.

v) 7.Rf7+? Ke2 8.Rb2 Rc3 draws.

vi) Ke1 9.Rc7 Kd1 (c1S; Rxc1+) 10.Ra2 Rd2 11.Ra1+ Ke2 12.Rc3 wins.

vii) 10.Rcc2? Kf2 (Kf3) draws.

“This is a logical study, underlined by a thematic try and easily connected with an original motivated underpromotion and its avoidance”.

HH: both studies in the award were composed by Sergey N. Tkachenko (the award omits the second initial) as the IM from Odessa confirmed to me.

**No 20226** Sergey Zakharov (Russia). 1.Se3+ Kc1/i 2.Bd5/ii Sf4+ 3.Kh6 Sxd5 4.Sxd5 b3 5.Bc5 a2 6.Be3+ Kb1 7.Sc3+ Kc2 8.Sxa2 b2 9.Sb4+ Kb3 10.Sd5 b1Q 11.Bg5 Kc4/iii 12.Sf6/iv Kd4 13.Sh5/v Ke5/vi 14.Sg7 Qe4 15.h4 Qd3 16.Be7 Qa6+ 17.Kh7 draws.

i) Kd2 2.Sc4+ Kc3 3.Sa5 a2 4.Sb3 Kb2 5.Bc6 Sc3 6.Bd7 Kxb3 7.Be6+ Kc2 8.Bxa2 Sxa2 9.Bc5 b3 10.Ba3 draws.

ii) 2.Bf3? a2, and 3.Sf5 Sc3 4.Sd4 Kb2, or 3.Sd5 a1Q 4.Be3+ Kb2 5.Bxe2 Qb1+ 6.Kf6 Qe4 wins.

iii) Qf5 12.Sf4 Kc4 13.h4 Kd4 14.Sh5 fortress.

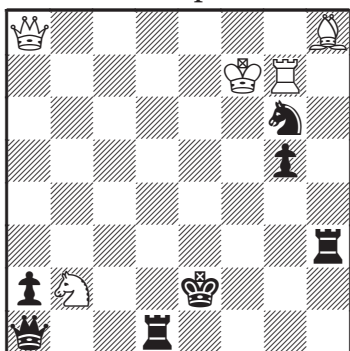
iv) 12.Sf4? Qb6+, or 12.Se7? Kc5 13.h4 Kd6 14.Sg6 Ke6 win.

v) 13.h4? Ke5 14.Sh5 Ke6 wins.

vi) Qb6+ 14.Kh7 Ke5 15.Sg7 draws.

“This shows very good combination of creative ideas by the composer and the EGTB”.

**No 20227** V. Razumenko  
7th/8th prize



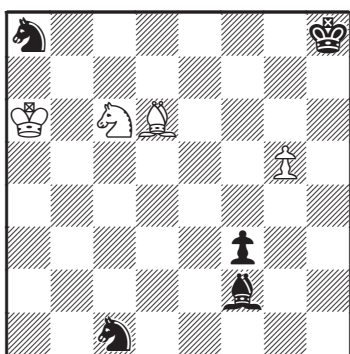
f7e2 4714.02 5/7 Win

**No 20227** Viktor Razumenko (Russia).  
1.Qg2+/i Ke1 2.Rxg6 Rh7+ 3.Kg8/ii Rxh8+  
4.Kxh8 Qxb2+/iii 5.Qxb2 a1Q 6.Re6+ Kf1  
7.Rf6+ Kg1 8.Qf2+ Kh1 9.Qf3+ Kg1 10.Qg4+  
Kh2 11.Qh5+ Kg3 12.Qxg5+ Kh3 13.Qh6+ Kg4  
14.Qg7+/iv Kh5 15.Rh6 mate.

- i) 1.Rxg6? Rd7+ 2.Ke6 Qf1 3.Kxd7 Qf7+ wins.  
ii) Thematic try: 3.Bg7? Rxg7+ 4.Kxg7 see  
move 14.  
iii) Rd8+ 5.Kg7 Rd7+ 6.Kf8 Rd8+ 7.Ke7 wins.  
iv) In the thematic try the wK blocks this  
square.

“The double-edged play of both sides leads  
to a problem-like mate. A combination known  
from Mouterde (and a version of L. Katsnel-  
son) is revived in this beautifully logical study  
based on a thematic try”.

**No 20228** V. Vlasenko  
1st honourable mention



a6h8 0047.11 4/5 Draw

**No 20228** Valery Vlasenko (Ukraine).  
1.Se5/i Bg3 2.Sg6+/ii Kg7 3.Bxg3 Kxg6 4.Kb7  
Sd3 5.Bh4 (Kxa8? Kxg5); and now:

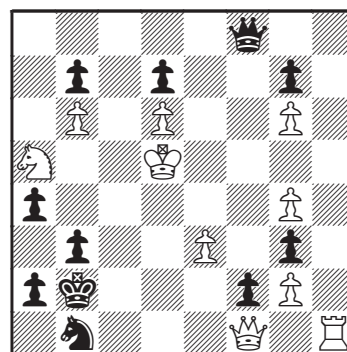
- Kh5 6.Kxa8 zz Kxh4 7.g6 draws, or:  
— Sb6 6.Kxb6 Kh5 7.Kb5 Kxh4 8.g6 draws, or:  
— Sc7 6.Kxc7 Kh5 7.Kd6 Kxh4 8.g6 draws.

i) 1.Be5+? Kg8 2.Se7+ Kf7 3.Sf5 Kg6 4.Se7+  
Kxg5 5.Sd5 Sb6 6.Sc3 Kf5, or 1.g6? Bd4 2.Sxd4 f2  
3.Be5+ Kg8 4.Sc6 f1Q+ 5.Ka7 Qf8, or 1.Kb7? Sd3  
2.Be5+ Kh7 3.Kxa8 Be3 4.Bg3 Kg6 5.Bh4 Kh5  
6.g6 Kxg6 7.Sa5 Kh5 8.Sc4 Bf4 win.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Sf7+? (Sxf3? Bxd6) Kg7  
3.Bxg3 Kxf7 4.Kb7 Sd3 5.Kxa8 Kg6 6.Bh4 Kh5  
zz 7.Ka7 (Kb7, Kb8) Kxh4 and after 9.g6 the bS  
wins a tempo by delivering a check to the wK  
when it is on a7, b7 or b8 instead of a8, b6 or c7  
(solution).

“This is a short but very clear study which is  
absolutely crowned by the thematic try and its  
echoes in all micro variations”.

**No 20229** M. Zinar & E. Eilazyan  
2nd honourable mention



d5b2 4104.68 10/11 Win

**No 20229** Mikhail Zinar & Eduard Eilazyan  
(Ukraine). 1.Qc1+ Ka1 2.Qc3+/i b2 3.Sc4 Qg8+/  
ii 4.Kd4 Qxc4+ 5.Kxc4/iii a3 6.Qf6 gxf6 7.g7 f5  
8.g8Q/iv fxg4/v 9.Qe6 dxe6 10.d7 e5 11.d8S/vi  
e4 12.Sc6 bxc6 13.b7 c5 14.Kd5 c4 15.b8S/vii c3  
16.Sc6 c2 17.Sd4 c1S/viii 18.Sc2 mate

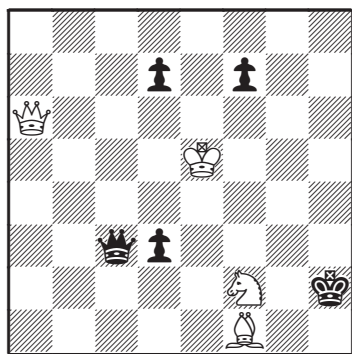
- i) 2.Sc4? Qf6 3.Kc5 a3 4.Qxa3 b2 draws.  
ii) a3 4.Sxa3 Qg8+ 5.Kd4 Qb3 6.Qxb3 f1Q  
7.Sc2 mate.

iii) 5.Qxc4? a3, and now: 6.Qe6 dxe6 7.d7 e5+  
8.Kc5 e4 9.d8S f1Q 10.Rxf1 stalemate, or here:  
6.Qc6 bxc6/ix 7.b7 c5+ 8.Ke4 c4 9.b8S c3 10.Sc6  
dxc6 11.Kd3 c5 12.d7 c4+ 13.Kc2 f1Q 14.Rxf1  
stalemate, or 6.Qa6 bxa6 7.e4/x a5 8.e5 a4 9.e6  
dxe6 10.b7/xi e5+ 11.Kc5 e4 12.b8S e3 13.Sc6 e2  
14.Sd4 e1S 15.Rxe1 fxe1S wins.

- iv) Phoenix. 8.g8B? f4 draws.
- v) f4 9.Qa8 f3 10.Qxa3 f1Q+ 11.Rxf1 fxg2 (f2; Qa6) 12.Kb3 gxf1Q (excelsior of g-pawn) 13.Qxa2 mate.
- vi) Phoenix.
- vii) Phoenix.
- viii) Excelsior of b-pawn. c1Q 18.Sb3 mate.
- ix) But not: dxc6? 7.d7 c5+ 8.Ke4 c4 9.d8S c3 10.Se6 c2 11.Sd4 c1Q (excelsior of d-pawn) 12.Sb3 mate.
- x) 7.b7 a5 8.b8S a4 9.Sc6 dxc6 10.d7 c5+ 11.Ke4 c4 12.d8S c3 13.Se6 c2 14.Sd4 c1Q (c1R) excelsior of d-pawn, wins.
- xi) 10.d7 e5+ 11.Kc5 e4 12.d8S e3 13.Se6 e2 14.Sd4 e1S (excelsior of e-pawn) 15.Rxe1 fxe1S (phoenix) wins.

“This is a complex study with many pieces in which Black creates a stalemate shelter. The study features mutual sacrifices, careful under-promotions, thematic tries and finally the shelter is turned in to a mate cage”.

**No 20230 R. Becker**  
3rd honourable mention



e5h2 4011.03 4/5 Win

**No 20230 Richard Becker (USA).** 1.Ke4/i Kg1 2.Sxd3/ii d5+ (Kxf1; Sf4+) 3.Ke3/iii Kxf1 4.Kf3 zz f6/iv 5.Qb5 Qc2 6.Sf2+/v Kg1 7.Sh3+ Kh2 8.Qb8+ Kh1 9.Sf2+ Kg1 10.Qg3+ Kf1 11.Qh3+ Ke1 12.Qe6+/vi Kf1 13.Qa6+ Kg1 14.Qa1+ wins.

i) 1.Kf5? Qc5+, or 1.Kf4? Kg1 2.Sxd3 Kxf1 and 3.Sf4 is not possible.

ii) 2.Kf3? Kxf1 3.Se4 Qb2 4.Qxd3+ Kg1 5.Qe3+ Kh2 6.Qf4+ Kg1 7.Qg4+ Kf1 8.Qh3+ Kg1 9.Qg4+ Kf1 10.Sg3+ Ke1, or 2.Sd1? d5+ 3.Kf3 Qe5 (Qh8) 4.Qb6+ d4 5.Bxd3 Qh5+ 6.Kf4 Qh4+ 7.Ke5 Qh5+ 8.Kxd4 Qxd1 draw.

iii) Thematic try: 3.Kf3? Kxf1 zz 4.Qb5 Qc2 5.Sf2+ Kg1 6.Sh3+ Kh2 7.Qb8+ Kh1 8.Sf2+ Kg1 9.Qg3+ Kf1 10.Qh3+ Ke1 and no check at e6.

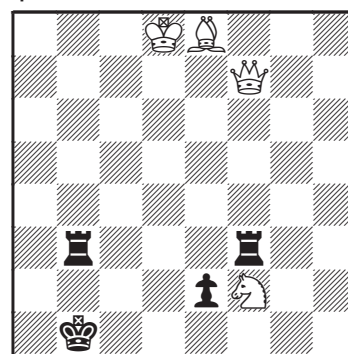
iv) Qd4 5.Sf4+, or Kg1 5.Qb6+ d4 6.Qb1+, or d4 5.Qb5 Qc2 6.Sb4+ win.

v) 6.Sb4+? Qc4, or 6.Sf4+? Ke1 7.Qa5+ Kd1 8.Qa1+ Qc1 draw.

vi) Compare with thematic try. Now this check on e6 is possible.

“Despite the wK being in check in the initial position, the impressive play with a thematic try and mutual zugzwang pays off”.

**No 20231 A. Zhukov**  
4th honourable mention



d8b1 1611.01 4/4 Win

**No 20231 Aleksandr Zhukov (Ukraine).** 1.Qh7+/i Kb2 2.Qh2 Rfe3/ii 3.Sd1+/iii Kb1 4.Sxe3 Rd3+/iv 5.Bd7/v Rxd7+/vi 6.Kc8 e1Q 7.Qc2+ Ka1 8.Qa4+ Kb2 9.Sc4+ Kb1 10.Qb3+ Kc1 11.Qb2+ Kd1 12.Kxd7 zz Qe2 13.Qb1 mate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Qg6+? Kb2 2.Qg2 Rf8 3.Sd1+ Kc1 4.Qxe2 Rb8+ 5.Kd7 Rfxe8 6.Se3 Rbd8+ and perpetual check.

ii) Kc2 3.Bg6+ Kd2 4.Se4+ Kd1 5.Qd6+ Ke1 6.Sd2, or Ka2 3.Sg4 Rb2 4.Qe5 win.

iii) 3.Bh5? Ka1 4.Bxe2 Rxe2 draws.

iv) e1Q 5.Bg6+ Ka1 6.Sc2+ wins.

v) 5.Kc8? Rc3+ 6.Kb8 e1Q draws.

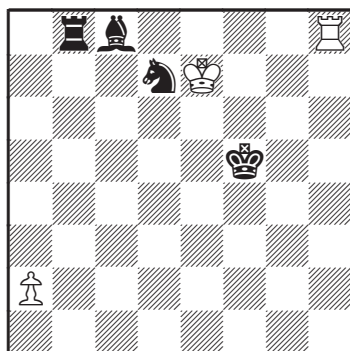
vi) e1Q 6.Qc2+ Ka1 7.Qxd3 wins.

“This is an organic combination of introduction, pointes and final”.

MG cooked the 5th honourable mention: J. Mikitovics & A. Skripnik f4g2 3127.00 a5e-4c2f2d3f5g7. 5/4 Draw: 1.Re2 Kh3 2.Se5 Sg3 3.Bxg3 Se6+ 4.Kf3 Sd4+ 5.Kf2 Qa7 6.Bf4 Sxc2+

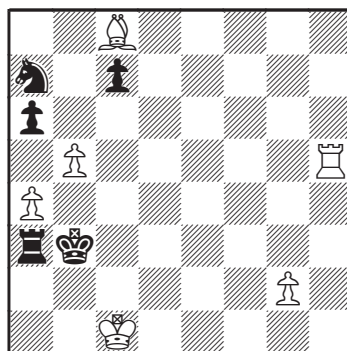


No 20232 Y. Bazlov  
6th honourable mention



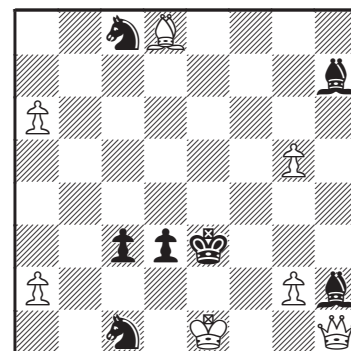
e7f5 0433.10 3/4 Draw

No 20233 J. Timman  
7th honourable mention



c1b3 0413.32 6/5 Win

No 20234 P. Arestov  
8th honourable mention



e1e3 1076.42 7/7 Draw

7.Be3 Qc7 8.Kf1 Qxe5 9.Rxc2, and: Qxe3 10.Rh2+ Kg4 11.Rg2+ Kf5 12.Rf2+ Kg4 13.Rg2+ Kf3 14.Rg3+ Kxg3 stalemate, or: Qf5+ 10.Rf2 Qd3+ 11.Re2 Kg3 12.Ke1 Kf3 13.Rf2+ Kxe3 14.Rf3+ Kxf4 stalemate.

However: 2...Qb4+ 3.Be4 Sg3 4.Bxg3 Se6+ 5.Ke3 Qb6+ 6.Kd2 Kxg3 wins (7EGTB). In the main line, also 7...Qg7 and 8...Qc3 win (7EGTB).

**No 20232** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Kd6 Ra8/i 2.Kc7 Ra7+ 3.Kd6 Ra8 4.Kc7 Ra7+ 5.Kd6 Ba6 6.Rh7 Bc8/ii 7.Rh8 Ra8 8.Kc7 Ra7+ 9.Kd6 Ba6 10.Rh7 Bc8 11.Rh8 Ra6+/iii 12.Kc7 Sb6 13.Rh3 Be6 14.Kb7 Bc8+ 15.Kc7 Be6 16.Kb7 Bc4 17.Rc3/iv Be2 18.Re3 Bc4 19.Rc3 positional draw.

i) Ba6 2.Rxb8 Sxb8 3.Kc7 draws, or Rb6+ 2.Kc7 Rb7+ 3.Kd6 Sb6 4.Kc6 Rb8 5.Kc7 Rb7+ 6.Kc6 positional draw.

ii) Bb5 7.Rh5+, or Sb6 7.Rxa7 Sc8+ 8.Kc7 Sxa7 9.Kb6 draw.

iii) Sb6 12.Kc6 Ra6 13.Kb5 Bb7 14.Rb8 draws.

iv) 17.Rh4? Bd3 18.Rd4 Sa4 19.Rxd3 Sc5+ wins.

“This is a good miniature without captures but with a number of different positional draws”.

**No 20233** Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.Rh3+ Kxa4/i 2.b6 (Bd7? Sxb5;) cxb6 3.Bd7+ Sb5/ii 4.Bxb5+/iii axb5 5.Kb1 (Kb2? h4;) Rb3+ 6.Ka2, and

— Rb4 7.Ra3 mate, or:

— Rxh3 7.gxh3 Kb4 8.h4 Kc3 9.h5 Kc2 10.Ka3 Kc3 11.h6 b4+ 12.Ka4 b3 13.h7 b2 14.h8Q+ wins.

i) Kb4 2.Rxa3 Kxa3 3.Bxa6 wins.

ii) b5 4.Kb2 wins, but not 4.Rxa3+? Kxa3 5.g4 Ka2.

iii) 4.Kb2? Rxh3 5.gxh3 Kb4 6.Bxb5 Kc5 draws.

“This shows an interesting and original domination by the wR with, in the rook phase, the study branching out into a mate or a won pawn ending”.

**No 20234** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.g6/i d2+/ii 2.Kd1 c2+ (Bxg6; Bg5+) 3.Kxc2 Bxg6+ 4.Kd1 Bh5+ 5.g4/iii Bxg4+ 6.Kc2 Bf3 7.Qf1/iv d1Q+ (Be4+; Kd1) 8.Qxd1 Bxd1+ 9.Kxd1 Sxa2 10.a7 Sxa7 11.Bb6+ Kd3 12.Bxa7 Bg3 13.Bf2/v Bxf2 (Sc3+; Ke1) stalemate.

i) 1.Qxh2? d2+ 2.Kd1 c2 mate

ii) Bg3+ 2.Kf1 d2 3.Qh5 draws.

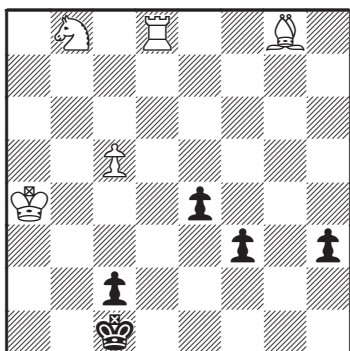
iii) Thematic try: 5.Kc2? d1Q+ 6.Qxd1 Bxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Sxa2 8.a7 Sxa7 9.Bb6+ Kd3 10.Bxa7 Bg3 zz 11.Bc5 (Bf2 Bxf2;) Sc3+ 12.Kc1 Bf4+ 13.Kb2 Sa4+ wins.

iv) 7.Bg5+? Ke4 8.Qf1 d1Q+ wins.

v) 13.Bc5? Sc3+ 14.Kc1 Bf4+ 15.Kb2 Sa4+ 16.Ka3 Sxc5, or 13.Bg1? Sc3+ 14.Kc1 Se2+ 15.Kb2 Sxg1 win.

“This shows planned black domination in the thematic try preventing the removal of the pawn for the final mirror stalemate”.

**No 20235** V. Kalashnikov  
9th honourable mention



a4c1 0111.14 5/5 Win

**No 20235** Valery Kalashnikov (Russia).  
1.c6/i Kb1 2.c7/ii c1Q 3.c8Q Qxc8 4.Rxc8 h2  
5.Ba2+ Kxa2 6.Rc2+ Kb1 7.Rxh2 e3 8.Kb3 Kc1  
9.Kc3 Kd1 10.Rh1+ (Kd3? e2;) Ke2 11.Sc6 f2  
12.Sd4 mate.

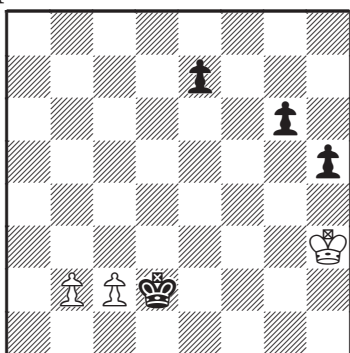
i) 1.Bb3? f2 2.Rf8 e3 3.c6 Kb2 4.Bxc2 e2 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Ba2+? Ka1 3.c7 c1Q 4.c8Q  
Qxc8 5.Rxc8 Kxa2 6.Rc2+/iii Kb1 7.Kb3 e3  
8.Rh2 Kc1 9.Kc3 Kd1 10.Rh1+ Ke2 11.Sc6 and  
now Black has 11...Kf2 and draws.

iii) 6.Sa6 Kb1 7.Sc5 h2 8.Rh8 e3 9.Rxh2 f2  
10.Rh1+ Kc2 11.Se4 Kd3 12.Sg3 e2 draws.

“This is an effective mate study with a timely  
sacrifice of the wB which cannot be sacrificed  
earlier because the h-pawn goes”.

**No 20236** M. Zinar  
special honourable mention



h3d2 0000.23 3/4 Win

**No 20236** Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.c4/i  
e5 2.c5 e4 3.c6 e3 4.c7 e2 5.c8Q e1Q 6.Qc3+ Ke2  
7.Qxe1+ Kxe1 8.Kh4/ii Kf2 9.b4 g5+ 10.Kxg5/iii  
Kg3 11.b5 h4 12.b6 h3 13.b7 h2 14.b8Q+ wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.b4? e5 2.b5 e4 3.b6 e3 4.b7  
e2 5.b8Q e1Q 6.Qb4+ Ke2 7.Qxe1+ Kxe1 8.Kh4

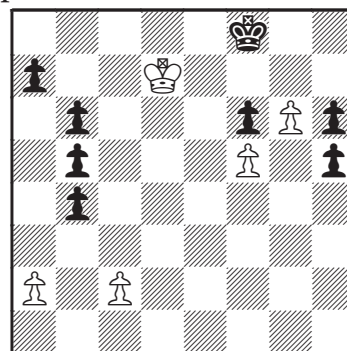
Kf2 (g5+) 9.c4 g5+, and 10.Kxg5 Kg3 1st Réti, or  
10.Kxh5 Kf3 2nd Réti.

ii) 8.b4? g5 9.b5 Kf2 10.b6 g4+, or 8.Kg2? g5  
9.b4 h4 10.b5 g4 11.b6 h3+ draw.

iii) 10.Kxh5? Kf3 3rd Réti.

“After three Réti manoeuvres we find an  
anti-Réti! This is a deep pawn miniature  
with a bouquet of Réti manoeuvres and their  
prevention”.

**No 20237** M. Zinar  
special honourable mention



d7f8 0000.47 5/8 Win

**No 20237** Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.Ke6/i  
Kg7/ii 2.Kd5 Kg8 3.Ke4 Kf8 4.Kf4 (Kf3) Kg8  
5.Kg3 Kf8 6.Kh4 Kg8 7.Kxh5 Kg7 8.Kg4 Kg8  
9.Kf4 (Kf3) Kf8 10.Ke4 Ke8 11.Kd5 Ke7 12.Kc6  
Ke8 13.Kd6 Kf8 14.Kd7 Kg8/iv 15.Ke7 Kg7  
16.Ke6 a6 17.Kd6 Kf8 18.Kd7 Kg8/v 19.Ke7 Kg7  
20.Ke6 a5 21.Kd6 Kf8 22.Kd7 Kg8/vi 23.Ke7  
Kg7 24.Ke6 a4 25.Kd6 Kf8 26.Kd7 Kg8/vii  
27.Ke7 Kg7 28.Ke6 a3 29.Kd6 Kf8 30.Kd7 Kg8/  
viii 31.Ke7 Kg7 32.Ke6 b3 33.cxb3 b4 34.Kd6 Kf8  
35.Kd7 Kg8/ix 36.Ke7 Kg7 37.Ke6 h5 38.Kd5  
Kg8 39.Ke4 Kg7 40.Kf4 (Kf3) Kg8 41.Kg3 Kg7  
42.Kh3 Kh6 43.Kh4 b5 44.Kg3 Kg7 45.Kh3 Kh6  
46.Kh4 Kg7 47.Kxh5 Kg8 48.Kg4 Kf8 49.Kf4  
(Kf3) Kg7 50.Ke4 (Ke3) wins.

i) 1st Réti.

ii) h4 2.Kxf6 h3 3.g7+ Kg8 4.Kg6 h2 5.f6 h1Q  
6.f7 mate.

iv) h5 15.Ke6 2nd Réti.

v) h5 19.Ke6 3rd Réti.

vi) h5 23.Ke6 4th Réti.

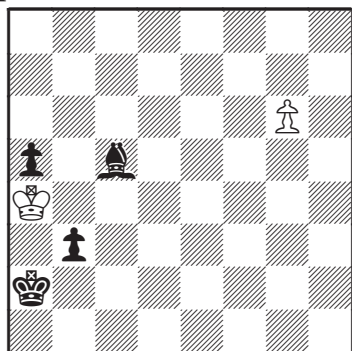
vii) h5 27.Ke6 5th Réti.

viii) h5 31.Ke6 6th Réti.

ix) h5 36.Ke6 7th Réti.

“This study features a systematic manoeuvre with a seven-fold repetition of two Réti moves which is a sort of task. There are minor duals, but the author wanted to play 50 moves to honour the jubilee, which I appreciate very much”.

No 20238 G. Amiryan †  
special honourable mention



a4a2 0030.12 2/4 Win

No 20238 Gamlet Amiryan (Armenia). 1.g7 b2 2.g8Q+ Ka1 3.Qg7/i Ka2 4.Qf7+/ii Ka1 5.Qf6 Ka2 6.Qe6+ Ka1 7.Qe5 Bd6/iii 8.Qf6/iv Be7 9.Qg7 Bf8 10.Qh8 Ka2 11.Qxf8 b1Q 12.Qa3 mate.

i) 3.Qh8? Ka2 4.Qh2 Bb4 5.Qg2 Bc3 6.Qc2 Bb4 7.Kb5 Ka1 8.Qa4+ Kb1 9.Kb6 Kc1 10.Qc6+ Kb1 draws.

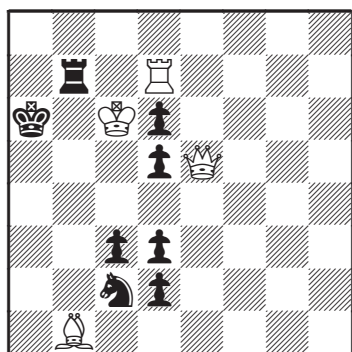
ii) 4.Qg2? Bb4 5.Qd5+ Ka1 6.Qe5 Ka2 draws.

iii) Ka2 8.Qxc5 b1Q 9.Qa3 mate.

iv) 8.Qc3? Bb4 9.Qd4 Ka2 draws.

“This is a beautiful performance with two systematic manoeuvres in a 6 piece ending (correction)”.

No 20239 P. Arestov  
commendation



c6a6 1413.05 4/8 Win

No 20239 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Qf4/i Sb4+/ii 2.Qxb4/iii Rxb4 3.Bxd3+ Rc4+ (Ka5; Ra7 mate) 4.Bxc4+ dxc4 5.Rxd6, and:

— Ka7 6.Kc7 c2 7.Rxd2 c1Q 8.Ra2+ Qa3 9.Rxa3 mate, or:

— Ka5 6.Kc5 Ka4 7.Kxc4 c2 8.Ra6 mate.

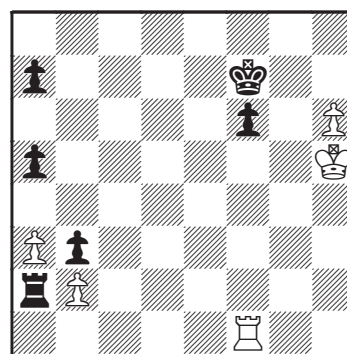
i) Thematic try: 1.Qxc3? Sb4+ 2.Qxb4 Rxb4 3.Bxd3+ Rc4+ 4.Bxc4+ dxc4 5.Rxd6 c3 zz 6.Rd8 Ka7 (Ka5) with a draw.

ii) Rb6+ 2.Kc7 Rb7+ 3.Kc8 wins.

iii) 2.Kxd6? Rb6+ 3.Kc7 d1Q and Black wins.

“Of course, this has a reciprocal zugzwang and a thematic try but the play is a bit short with many captures”.

No 20240 D. Gurgenzidze  
commendation



h5f7 0400.34 5/6 Win

No 20240 David Gurgenzidze (Georgia). 1.Rb1 a4 2.h7/i Kg7 3.h8Q+ Kxh8 4.Kg6/ii Kg8 5.Kxf6 Kh7/iii 6.Rh1+/iv Kg8 7.Rg1+ Kh7/v 8.Rb1 zz a6 9.Rh1+ Kg8 10.Rg1+ Kh7 11.Rb1 zz a5 12.Rh1+ Kg8 13.Rg1+ Kh7 14.Rb1 zz, wins.

i) 2.Kg4? Kg6 3.Kf4 Kxh6 4.Ke4 Kg5 draws.

ii) 4.Kh6? f5 5.Kg6 Kg8 6.Kxf5 Kf7 7.Ke5 Kg6 draws.

iii) Kf8 6.Ke6 Ke8 7.Kd6 Kd8 8.Kc6 wins.

iv) 6.Ke5? Kg6 7.Kd5 Kf5 8.Kc4 Ke4 9.Kb5 Kd3 10.Kxa4 Kc2 draws.

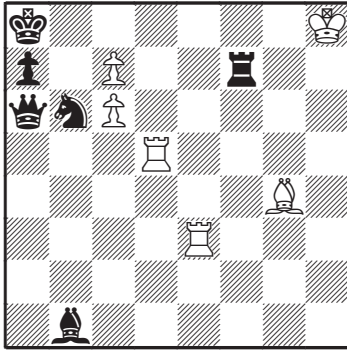
v) Kh8 8.Kf7, or Kf8 8.Rb1 win.

“This is a lovely rook ending in which White creates a mechanism for transferring the move resulting in a number of zz with BTM; however, it is unfortunate that the bR is static”.

No 20241 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Re8+/i Sc8 2.Rxc8+ Qxc8+ 3.Bxc8, and:

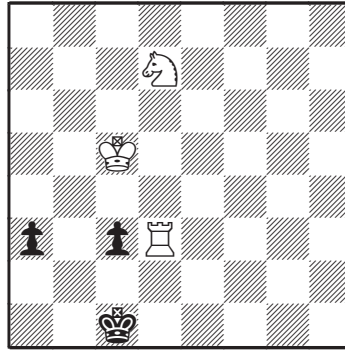
— Rh7+ 4.Kg8 Rxc7 5.Bb7+ (Ba6? Ba2;) Rxb7 6.Rd8+ (cxb7? Kb8;) Rb8 7.c7 Ba2+/ii 8.Kf8/

No 20241  
V. Kovalenko †  
commendation



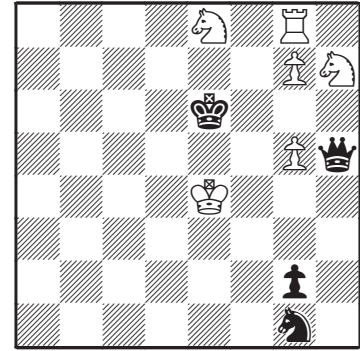
h8a8 3543.21 6/6 Win

No 20242  
Y. Bazlov  
commendation



c5c1 0101.02 3/3 Win

No 20243 J. Mikitovics  
& A. Skripnik  
commendation



e4e6 3105.21 6/4 Win

- iii Rc8 9.Rxc8+ Kb7 10.Ra8 Be6 (Kxc7; Rxa7+) 11.Ke7 Bc8/iv 12.Kd8 wins, or:  
— Rf8+ 4.Kg7 Rxc8 5.Rd8 Bf5 6.Kf6/v Bh3 7.Rxc8+ (Ke7) Bxc8 8.Ke7 a5 9.Kd8 Bh3 10.c8Q+ Bxc8 11.Kxc8 wins.  
i) 1.Rd8+? Sc8 2.Rxc8+ Qxc8+ 3.Bxc8 Rf8+ 4.Kg7 Rxc8 draws.  
ii) Rc8 8.Rxc8+ Kb7 9.Rb8+ Kxc7 10.Rxb1 wins.  
iii) 8.Kg7? Rc8 9.Rxc8+ Kb7 10.Ra8 Be6 11.Kf6 Bc8 draws.  
iv) Bh3 12.Rh8, or Bg4 12.Rg8, or Bf5 12.Rf8 wins.  
v) 6.Kf7? a5 7.Rxc8+ Bxc8 8.Ke8 a4 9.Kd8 Bh3 10.c8Q+ Bxc8 11.Kxc8 a3 draws.  
“This is a lively two line study in which the wK wins a tempo à la Réti”.

**No 20242** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Kc4/i a2 2.Sc5 c2 3.Ra3/ii Kb2 4.Rb3+ Ka1/iii 5.Rc3 Kb2 6.Sd3+ Kb1 7.Rb3+ Ka1 8.Ra3 Kb1 9.Rc3 a1Q 10.Rb3+ Ka2 11.Sb4 mate.

- i) 1.Kd4? a2 2.Sc5 c2 3.Ra3 Kb2 (Kb1) 4.Rb3+ Ka1 5.Rc3 Kb1, or 1.Rxc3+? Kb2 2.Kc4 a2 draw.  
ii) 3.Sb3+? Kb2 (Kb1) draws.  
iii) Kc1 5.Sd3+ Kd2 6.Ra3 wins.

“This is a masterly study: of course, the material balance of R and N vs P is very difficult to develop (I have made more than 10 myself, so I know what I am writing about). While there is an ideal mate with an active self-block but... practically all the play is in one corner of the board”.

**No 20243** János Mikitovics (Hungary) & Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.Sc7+ (Sf8+? Ke7;) Kf7/i 2.Rf8+ Kxg7 3.Se8+ (Se6+? Kxh7;) Qxe8+ 4.Rxe8 Sh3 5.Re7+ Kh8 (Kg6; Sf8+) 6.Sf6 Sxg5+ 7.Kf5 g1Q 8.Rb7 zz Qg2/ii 9.Rd7 zz Qg1 10.Rb7 zz Qh2 11.Kg6/iii Qg3 12.Kh6 Qe5/iv 13.Kg6 Qg3 14.Kh6 Qh2+ 15.Kg6 Qc2+ 16.Kh6 Qh2+ 17.Kg6 positional draw.

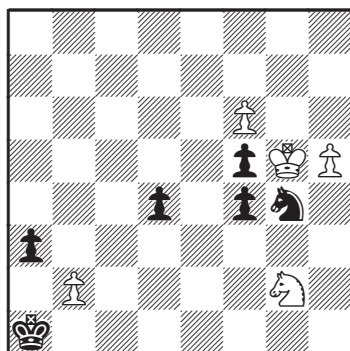
- i) Kd6 2.Rd8+ Kc6 3.g8Q wins.  
ii) Qg3 9.Re7 (Rd7? Qg2;) Qa3/v 10.Rd7 Qc5+ (Qe3; Kg6) 11.Kg6/vi draws.  
iii) 11.Rd7? Qg2 zz 12.Re7 Qc2+ 13.Kxg5 Qc5+ wins.  
iv) Qd6 13.Kg6 Qd3+ 14.Kh6 Qh3+ 15.Kg6 Qd3+ 16.Kh6 draws.  
v) Qg2 10.Rd7 zz, positional draw, or Qg1 10.Rb7 zz, positional draw.  
vi) 11.Rd5? Qg1 12.Rd7 Qg2 zz 13.Re7 Qc2+ 14.Kxg5 Qc5+ wins.

“This is an interesting EGTB zugzwang with easily developed play”.

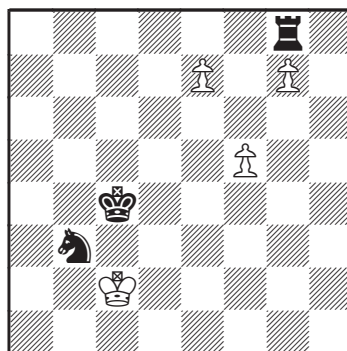
**No 20244** Alain Pallier (France). 1.f7/i axb2 2.f8Q b1Q 3.Qa3+/ii Qa2 4.Qc1+ Qb1 5.Qxb1+ Kxb1 6.Sxf4 Kc2 7.Kxf5 Sh6+ 8.Ke4/iii Kc3 9.Se2+ Kc4 10.Sxd4 Sg8 11.Ke5 wins.

- i) 1.bxa3? f3 2.Sf4 f2 3.f7 Sf6 4.Kxf6 f1Q 5.f8Q Qxf4 6.h6 d3 draws.  
ii) Thematic try: 3.Qa8+? Qa2 4.Qxa2+ Kxa2 5.Sxf4 Kb3 6.Kxf5 Sh6+ 7.Ke4 Kc4 draws, or 3.Sxf4? Qb5 4.Qxf5 Se5 5.h6 Sf7+ 6.Kf6 Qxf5+ 7.Kxf5 Sxh6+ draw.



No 20244 A. Pallier  
commendation

g5a1 0004.34 5/6 Win

No 20245 V. Kalashnikov  
commendation

c2c4 0303.30 4/3 Win

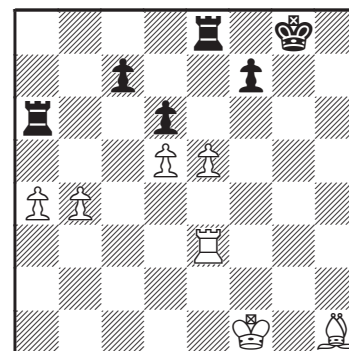
No 20246 V. Katsnelson  
commendation

fig8 0710.43 7/6 Draw

iii) 8.Kg6? Sg8 9.Kg7 Se7 10.Kf7 Sf5 11.Kf6 Sh6 draws.

“This shows the successful synthesis of knight endings in the main line and thematic try”.

**No 20245** Valery Kalashnikov (Russia). 1.f6 Sd4+ 2.Kd1/i Kd3 3.e8Q/ii Rxe8 4.f7 Re2 5.f8Q/iii Rd2+ 6.Ke1/iv Sc2+ 7.Kf1 Se3+ 8.Kg1 Rg2+ 9.Kh1 wins.

i) 2.Kd2? Sf3+ 3.Ke3 Sg5 4.Kf4 Sf7 5.Kf5 Kd5 6.Kg6 Ke6 7.Kh7 Sh6 8.Kxh6 Kxf6, or 2.Kc1? Kc3 3.Kd1 Ra8 4.Ke1 Sf3+ 5.Kf2 Se5 win.

ii) 3.f7? Rxc7 4.e8Q Rg1+ 5.Qe1 Rxe1+ 6.Kxe1 Se6 draws.

iii) Thematic try: 5.g8Q? Rd2+ 6.Ke1 Sf3+ 7.Kf1 Sh2+ 8.Kg1 Sf3+ 9.Kf1 Sh2+ draws.

iv) Thematic try: 6.Kc1? Se2+ 7.Kb1 Sc3+ 8.Ka1 Ra2 mate.

“This has a pleasant combination of the main line with two small thematic tries”.

**No 20246** Vladimir Katsnelson (Russia). 1.b5/i Rxa4/ii 2.exd6 Ra1+ 3.Kf2/iii Ra2+ (Rxe3; d7) 4.Kf1 Rxe3 5.d7 Ra8 6.d6 Rd3/iv 7.dxc7/v Rxd7 8.Bxa8 Rxc7 9.Bc6/vi draws.

i) Not at once: 1.exd6? Rxe3 2.dxc7 Rf6+ 3.Kg1 Rc3 wins. 1.Kf2? Rxa4 2.exd6 Ra2+ 3.Kf1 Rxe3 4.d7 Ra8 5.d6 c6, or 1.Rg3+? Kf8 2.exd6 cxd6 3.a5 Rb8 4.Rg4 Ra7 5.Rh4 Kg7 6.Rg4+ Kf6 7.Ke2 Rab7, or 1.a5? Rxe5 2.Ra3 Rf5+ 3.Ke2 Rf4 4.b5 Ra7 5.a6 Rb4 6.Ra5 f5 7.Kd3 Kf7 8.Kc3 Rb1 9.Bg2 Kf6 win.

ii) Raa8 2.exd6 cxd6 3.Rxe8+ Rxe8 4.a5, or Rb6 2.e6 Kf8 3.Rf3 draw.

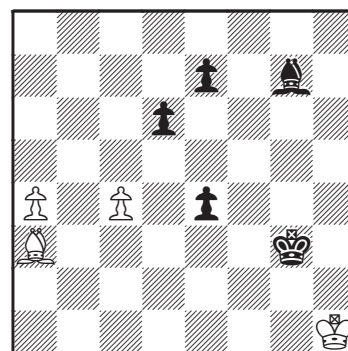
iii) 3.Ke2? Rxe3+ 4.Kxe3 cxd6 wins.

iv) c6 7.bxc6 Rb3 8.Kg1 draws.

v) 7.Bxa8? Rxd6 8.Bc6 Kf8 wins.

vi) 9.Ke2? Rc5 10.Bc6 Kf8 11.Kd3 Ke7 12.Kd4 Kd6 wins.

“A spectacular fight suddenly ends in a draw according to the EGTB”.

No 20247 V. Samilo & V. Tarasiuk  
commendation

h1g3 0040.23 4/5 Draw

**No 20247** Vladimir Samilo & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.c5/i dxc5 2.Bxc5 Bc3 3.a5 Bxa5 4.Bxe7 e3 5.Bd6+, and:

— Kf3 6.Kh2/ii e2 7.Bg3 Bc7 8.Kh3 Bb6/iii 9.Be1 draws, or:

— Kh3 6.Bc5 e2 7.Bf2 Bb4/iv 8.Kg1 Bc5 9.Kh1 Bb4/v 10.Kg1 draws, or:

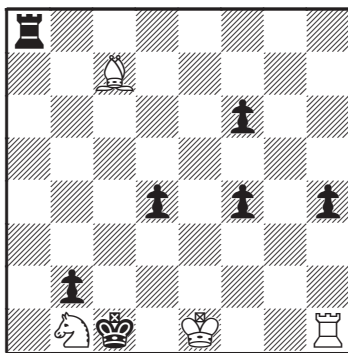
— Kg4 6.Kg2 e2 7.Bg3 draws.

i) 1.a5? Bc3 2.a6 e3 wins.

- ii) 6.Be7? e2 7.Bh4 Bc7 wins.
- iii) Bxg3 stalemate.
- iv) Bc3 8.Kg1 Bd4 9.Kh1 Bc3 10.Kg1, or Bd2 8.Kg1 Be3 9.Kh1 Bd2 10.Kg1 draw.
- v) Bxf2 stalemate.

“This has a not very difficult, but still elegant, solution with two stalemates and a positional draw”.

**No 20248** L. González  
commendation



e1c1 0411.05 4/7 Draw

**No 20248** Luis Miguel González (Spain). 1.O-O/i Kc2 2.Bb6 Ra4/ii 3.Bc5/iii Ra1/iv 4.Rf2+/v Kb3 5.Rxb2+/vi Kxb2 6.Bxd4+ Kxb1 7.Bxf6 zz Ka2+ 8.Kh2/vii Kb1/viii 9.Kg1/ix Ra3 10.Bxh4 Kc2 11.Kf2/x Rh3 12.Bg5 Kd3 13.Bxf4 draws.

i) 1.Kf2+? Kc2 2.Bd6 Ra1 3.Sa3+ Rxa3 4.Bxa3 b1Q 5.Rxb1 Kxb1 6.Bd6 d3, or 1.Bb6? Kxb1 2.Bxd4 Ra1 3.Kf2+ Ka2 4.Bxb2 Rxh1 win.

ii) Ra1 3.Rf2+ Kb3 4.Rxb2+ draws as in the main line.

iii) 3.Kg2? d3 4.Bc5 Ra1 5.Sa3+ Rxa3 6.Bxa3 b1Q, or 3.Bxd4? Rxd4 4.Sa3+ Kb3 5.Sb1 Rd3 6.Kg2 Kc2 7.Kh2 h3 8.Re1 Rd1 9.Sa3+ Kc1 10.Re4 Rd2+ 11.Kh1 f3 12.Rc4+ Kd1 win.

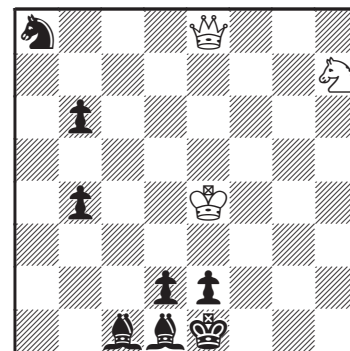
iv) d3 4.Ba3 Re4 5.Kh2 Re3 6.Bb4 f3 7.Bc3 f5 8.Kh3 Re4 9.Bxb2 Kxb2 10.Sd2 draws.

v) 4.Bxd4? Rxb1 5.Rxb1 Kxb1 6.Bxf6 Kc2, or 4.Sa3+? Rxa3 5.Bxa3 b1Q 6.Rxb1 Kxb1 7.Bd6 d3 wins.

- vi) 5.Rf1? Ka2 6.Sd2 d3 wins.
- vii) 8.Kg2? f3+ 9.Kf2 h3 10.Be5 Kb3 11.Kxf3 Ra2 wins.
- viii) f3 9.Bxh4 Kb3 10.Bf2 Ra5 11.Kg3 draws.
- ix) 9.Bxh4? Kc2 10.Bg5 f3 11.Kg3 Rg1+ wins.
- x) 11.Kg2? Re3 12.Kf2 Kd3 13.Bg5 Ke4 wins.

“This has a bit of everything: castling, rook and knight sacrifices, interesting EGTB zugzwang and a positional draw”.

**No 20249** M. Campioli  
commendation



e4e1 1064.04 3/8 Win

**No 20249** Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Kf3 Kf1 2.Qb5 Sc7 3.Qd3/i Sd5 4.Sf6 Sxf6 5.Kf4 Sh5+ 6.Kg4 Sf6+ 7.Kf4 Sd5+ 8.Qxd5 e1S/ii 9.Kg3/iii Bf3 10.Qb5+/iv Be2 11.Qf5+ Sf3 12.Qh3+ Ke1 13.Qh1+ Bf1 14.Qxf3 d1S 15.Qe4+ draws.

i) 3.Qc4? Sd5 4.Sg5 Bb2 5.Se4 Kg1 wins.

ii) e1Q 9.Qh1+ Kf2 10.Qh2+ perpetual check.

iii) 9.Qh1+? Ke2 10.Qe4+ Kf2 11.Qe3+ Kg2 12.Qg3+ Kf1 13.Qh3+ Sg2+ wins.

iv) 10.Qc4+? Be2 11.Qh4 Ba6 12.Qh2 d1S wins.

“The precise struggle of both sides with two underpromotions ends in a safe haven”.

We omit a further commendation by Kovalenko & Skipnik, since it had already figured in another award (EG#19134).

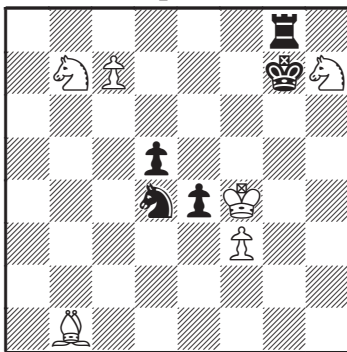
# 8th Belarus Team Championship 2013-2014

The 8th Belarus Team championship had 5 sections (two-movers, three-movers, more-movers, studies, helpmates and selfmates). The team captains had to rank the compositions of the opponents. 6 teams participated. Grondo won (78 points).

The award appeared in *Albino* no. 110 x-xii2914.

The requested theme was: “mate by a promoted piece”, a nice idea.

**No 20250** M. Khrantsevich  
1st place



f4g7 0315.22 6/5 Win

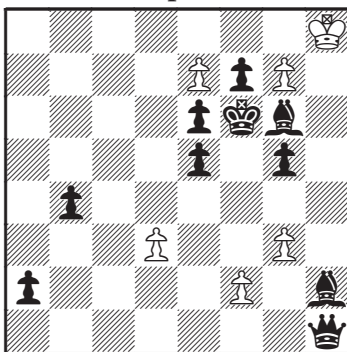
**No 20250** M. Khrantsevich (Mogilyov).  
1.Sd8/i Rxd8 2.cxd8S Kxh7 3.fxe4 dxe4/ii 4.Kxe4  
Sb5/iii 5.Bd3 Sc7 (Sa7; Ba6) 6.Ke5+ Kh6 7.Kd6  
Se8+ 8.Ke7 Sg7 9.Kf8 Sh5 10.Sf7 mate.

i) 1.Ke5? Sxf3+ 2.Kxd5 Rc8 3.Sd6 Rxc7 4.Se8+  
Kxh7 5.Bxe4+ Kh6 6.Sxc7 Sg5 draws.

ii) Se2+ 4.Ke3 Sc3 5.e5+ Sxb1 6.e6 Kg7 7.e7  
wins.

iii) Sb3 5.Ke3+ Kg7 6.Sb7 Kf6 7.Ba2 Sc1 8.Bc4  
wins.

**No 20251** V. Volchek & A. Symanovich  
2nd place

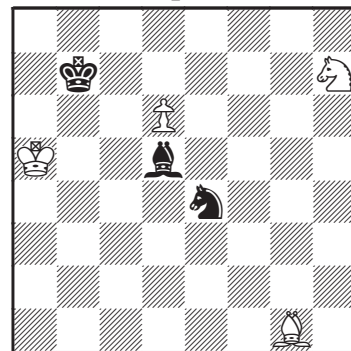


h8f6 3060.56 6/10 Win

**No 20251** V. Volchek & A. Symanovich  
(Grodno). 1.g8S+/i Kf5 2.Sh6+ Kf6 3.e8Q Bh5  
4.Qd8+ Kg6 5.Qf8 Kf6 6.g4 e4 7.d4 Be5 8.Qd8+  
Kg6+ 9.dxe5 Bxg4 10.Qf6+ Kh5 11.Sxf7 Kh4  
12.Qh6+ Bh5 13.Qxg5+ Kh3 14.Qg3 mate.

i) 1.e8Q? Bxg3+ 2.Kg8 Qh7+ 3.Kf8 Qxg7  
mate.

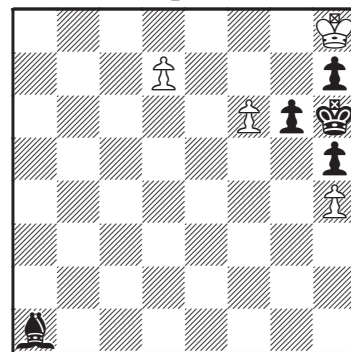
**No 20252** N. Belchikov & M. Koshel  
3rd place



a5b7 0044.10 4/3 Win

**No 20252** N. Belchikov & M. Koshel  
(Minsk). 1.d7 Kc7 2.Sf8 Sd6 3.Bb6+ Kc6 4.d8S  
mate.

**No 20253** I. Bondar  
4th place



h8h6 0030.33 4/5 Win

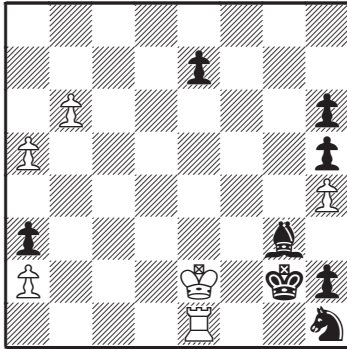
**No 20253** Ivan Bondar (Minsk). 1.d8B/i g5  
2.Kg8 Bxf6 3.Bxf6 gxh4 4.Kf7 h3 5.Bh4 h2 6.Kf6  
h1Q 7.Bg5 mate.

i) 1.d8Q? Bxf6+ 2.Qxf6 stalemate.

**No 20254** V. Zaitsev (Gomel). 1.Rxh1 Kxh1  
2.Kf1 Bb8 3.a6 e5 4.a7 Bxa7 5.bxa7 e4 6.a8R/i e3  
7.Re8 e2+ 8.Kf2 e1Q+ 9.Rxe1 mate.

i) 6.a8Q? stalemate. 6.Kf2? e3+ 7.Kf1 e2+  
8.Kxe2 Kg1 9.a8Q h1Q 10.Qa7+ Kh2 draws.

**No 20254** V. Zaitsev  
5th place



e2g2 0133.45 6/8 Win



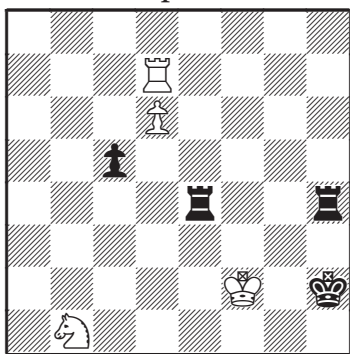
*Franco Bertoli. Picture (2004) supplied by Marco Campioli.  
See the EG on the table!*



# Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia 2014

Valery Kalashnikov judged this informal annual tourney of the Russian magazine.

**No 20255** P. Arestov  
1st prize



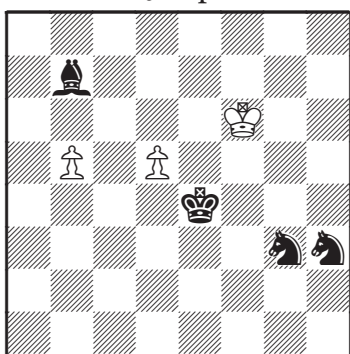
f2h2 0701.11 4/4 Win

**No 20255** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sd2 Ref4+ 2.Sf3+ Kh1 3.Rb7/i Rxf3+ 4.Kxf3 Rd4 5.d7 Kh2/ii 6.Ra7 c4 7.Ke3 Rd3+ 8.Kf2 Rd2+ (Kh3; Ra3) 9.Ke1 c3 10.Ra2 Rxa2 11.d8Q wins

i) Thematic try: 3.Ra7? Rxf3+ 4.Kxf3 Rd4 5.d7 Kh2 zz 6.Ra2+ Kh3 7.Ra7 Kh2 positional draw, or 8.Rb7 c4 9.Ke3 Rd3+ 10.Kf2 Rd2+ 11.Ke1 c3 draws.

ii) c4 6.Kf2 Rd2+ 7.Kf1 Kh2 10.Rd1 wins.

**No 20256** S. Slumstrup Nielsen  
2nd/3rd prize

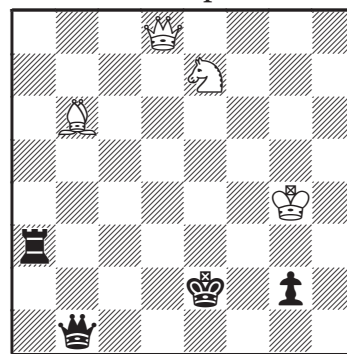


f6e4 0036.20 3/4 Draw

**No 20256** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.d6 Sh5+ 2.Ke7 S5f4 3.d7 Sd5+ 4.Kd6 Sg5 5.d8S Ba8/i 6.b6 Sxb6 7.Kc7 Sc4 8.Sb7 Kd5 9.Kb8 Sb6 10.Kc7 Sa4 11.Kb8 Sb6 12.Kc7 Sd7 13.Sd8 Sc5 14.Kb8 draws.

i) Bc8 6.b6 Sxb6 7.Kc7 draws.

**No 20257** F. Bertoli  
2nd/3rd prize

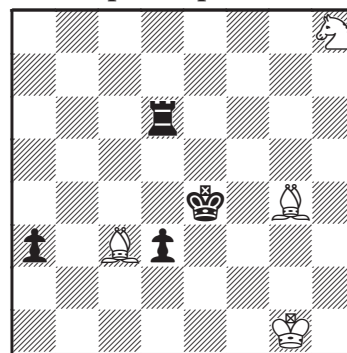


g4e2 4311.01 4/4 Draw

**No 20257** Franco Bertoli (Italy). 1.Sf5 Ra4+ 2.Kg5 g1Q+ 3.Bxg1 Qxg1+ 4.Kf6 Ra6+ 5.Ke5 Qh2+ 6.Kd5 Qh5 7.Ke5 Qh2+ 8.Kd5 Qf4/i 9.Qe7+ Kd2 10.Qd7 Ra5+ 11.Ke6+ Ke1 12.Kf6 Ra6+ 13.Kf7 Qc4+ 14.Kf8 Rf6+ 15.Kg7 draws.

i) Qh1+ 9.Ke5 Qh2+ 10.Kd5 positional draw.

**No 20258** P. Arestov  
special prize



g1e4 0321.02 4/4 Draw

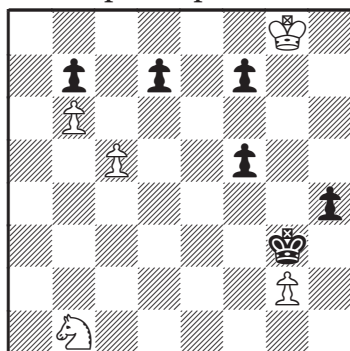
**No 20258** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Kf2 d2 2.Sf7 Rd5 3.Bh8 d1Q 4.Bxd1 Rxd1 5.Ke2 Rd5 6.Ba1, and:

— a2 7.Sh6 Rg5 8.Kd2 Rg1 9.Bb2 Rb1 10.Bc3 Rb3 11.Ba1 Rb1 12.Bc3 draws, or:

— Kf5 7.Sh6+ Kg5 8.Sf7+ Kf4 9.Sh6 Rd6 10.Sf7 Rd5 11.Sh6 Rd8 12.Sf7 draws.

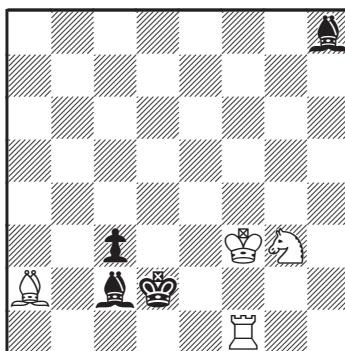
**No 20259** Sergey Zakharov (Russia). 1.Sc3 Kxg2 2.Se2 Kf3 3.Sg1+ Kg2 4.Se2, and:

**No 20259**  
S. Zakharov  
special prize



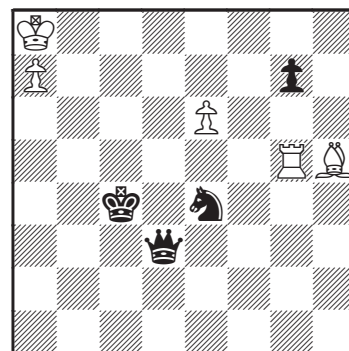
g8g3 0001.35 5/6 Draw

**No 20260 D. Keith  
& M. Minski**  
honourable mention



f3d2 0171.01 4/4 Win

**No 20261**  
M. Minski  
honourable mention



a8c4 3113.21 5/4 Draw

- h3 5.Sf4+ Kg3 6.Sxh3 Kxh3 7.Kf8 f4 8.Ke7 f3 9.Kxd7 f2 10.Kc7 f1Q 11.Kxb7 Qb5 12.c6 Qd5 13.Kc7 Qa5 14.Kb7 Qc5 15.Kc7 draws, or:
- Kf2 (Kf3; Sg1) 5.Sf4 Kg3 6.Sh5+ Kf2 7.Sf4 Kf3 8.Sh3 Kg3 9.Kxf7 Kxh3 10.Ke7 Kg4 11.Kxd7 h3 12.c6 bxc6 13.b7 h2 14.b8Q h1Q 15.Qg8+ Kf4 16.Qb8+ Ke4 17.Qb4+ Kf3 18.Qb3+ Kg4 19.Qg8+ draws.

**No 20260** Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rf2+ Kd3 2.Kf4 Bd1 3.Se4, and:

- c2 4.Rd2 mate, or:
- Be5+ 4.Kxe5 c2 5.Rd2+ Ke3 6.Bc4 c1Q 7.Rd3+/i Ke2 8.Kd5 Ke1 9.Rg3 Qh6 10.Rg1 mate.

i) 8.Rc3+? Ke1 9.Rxc1 stalemate.

**No 20261** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.e7 Sf6 2.Re5 Qd7 3.e8Q Sxe8 4.Rxe8 g6 5.Bxg6

Kb5 6.Kb8 Qd6+ 7.Kc8/i Qc6+ 8.Kd8 Qd6+ 9.Kc8 Qxg6 10.Re5+ Kb6 11.a8S+ Kc6 12.Sc7 Qg8+ 13.Re8 Qg4+ 14.Re6+ draws.

i) Thematic try: 7.Kb7? Qc6+ 8.Kb8 Qxg6 9.Re5+ Kb6 10.a8S+ Kc6 11.Sc7 Qg8+ (Qg3+) wins.

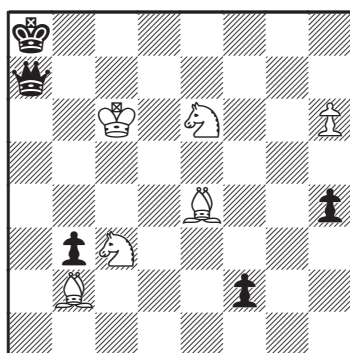
**No 20262** Aleksandr Shpakovsky (Russia). 1.h7 Qxh7 2.Bxh7 f1Q 3.Be4 Qa6+ 4.Kc7+ Ka7 5.Sb5+ Qxb5 6.Bd4+ Ka6 7.Sc5+ Ka7/i 8.Sxb3+ Ka6 9.Sc5+/ii Ka7 10.Sd7+ Ka6 11.Sb8+ Ka5 12.Bc3+ Ka4 13.Bc6 (Bc2+? Ka3;) wins.

i) Ka5 8.Bc3+ Qb4 9.Sxb3+ Ka4 10.Bxb4 wins.

ii) 9.Bd3? Qxd3 10.Sc5+ Kb5 11.Sxd3 Kc4 draws.

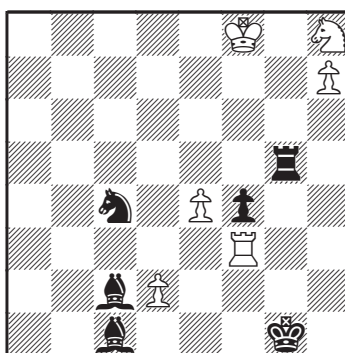
**No 20263** Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sf7 Rh5 2.h8Q Rxh8+ 3.Sxh8 Bb2 4.d4/i Bxd4 5.Rxf4 Bxh8 6.e5 Sxe5 7.Kg8, and:

**No 20262**  
A. Shpakovsky  
honourable mention



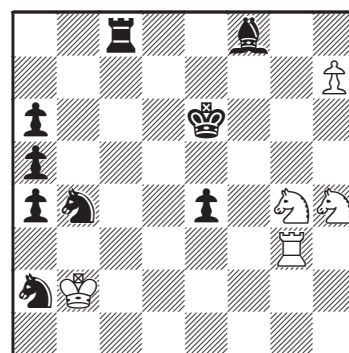
c6a8 3022.13 6/5 Win

**No 20263 I. Akobia †  
& P. Arestov**  
honourable mention



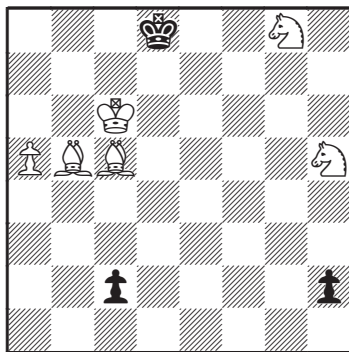
f8g1 0464.31 6/6 Draw

**No 20264 V. Kirillov  
& E. Kudelich**  
honourable mention



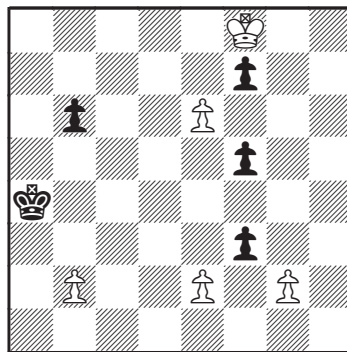
b2e6 0438.14 5/9 Draw

**No 20265** I. Akobia †  
& V. Tarasiuk  
commendation



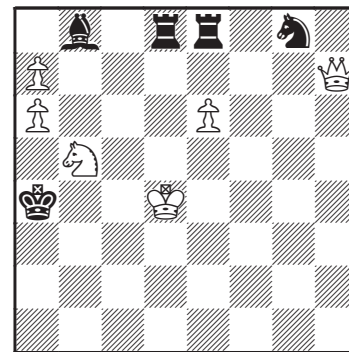
c6d8 0022.12 6/3 Win

**No 20266**  
M. Campioli  
commendation



f8a4 0000.44 5/5 BTM, Draw

**No 20267**  
V. Tarasiuk  
commendation



d4a4 1634.30 6/5 Win

- Kg2 8.Rd4 Bf6 9.Rd2+ draw, or:
- Bb3+ 8.Kh7 Bc2+ 9.Kg8 Kg2/ii 10.Rd4 Bf6 11.Rd2+ draws.

i) Thematic try: 4.Rxf4? Bxh8 5.e5 Sxe5 6.Kg8 Kg2 7.Rd4 Bf6 wins.

ii) Bb3+ 10.Kh7 positional draw.

**No 20264** Valery Kirillov & Eduard Kudelich (Russia). 1.h8Q Sd3+ 2.Rxd3 Ba3+ 3.Rxa3 Rxh8 4.Sg6 Rg8 5.Sf4+ Kd6 6.Sf6 Rf8 7.Sxe4+ Kc6 8.Se6 Re8 9.Sd4+ Kb6 10.Sd6 Rd8 11.Sc4+ Kc5 12.Se6+ wins.

**No 20265** Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Sg3 c1Q 2.a6 h1Q+ 3.Sxh1 Qxh1+ 4.Kb6 Qb7+ 5.Ka5 Qf7 6.Se7/i Kc7 7.Bb6+ Kb8 8.a7+ Kb7 9.Bc6 mate.

i) 6.a7? Qa2+ 7.Kb6 Qe6+ 8.Kb7 Qc8+ 9.Kb6 Qe6+ 10.Bc6 Qb3+ 11.Bb5 Qe6+ draws.

This is suspect. MG proposes 1.Bb6+ Kc8 2.Se7+ Kb8 3.Bc7+ Ka8 4.Sg3 c1Q+ 5.Kd7 Qd1+ 6.Bd6 Kb7 7.Bc6+ Ka6 8.Sef5 Kxa5 9.Ke7 Qb3 10.Bh1 Qg8 11.Kf6 Kb5 12.Bf4 and this ending is won on material without the bph2, and it is quite likely that White can win the pawn in due course.

**No 20266** Marco Campioli (Italy). 1...fxe2 2.e7 e1Q 3.e8Q+ Qxe8+ 4.Kxe8, and:

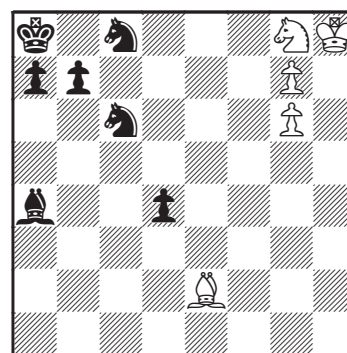
- b5 5.Kd7 Kb4 6.Kc6 f4 7.Kd5 f6 8.Kd4 Kb3 9.Kc5 b4 10.Kb5 f5 11.Kc5 Kxb2 12.Kxb4 Kc2 13.Kc4 Kd2 14.Kd4 f3 15.gxf3 Ke2 16.Ke5 draws, or:

- Kb3 5.Kd7 b5 6.Kc6 Kc4 7.b3+ Kb4 8.g3 f6 9.Kb6 Kxb3 10.Kxb5 Kc3 11.Kc5 Kd3 12.Kd5 f4 13.gxf4 Ke3 14.Ke6 draws.

**No 20267** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Kc5 Rc8+ 2.Kb6 Rxe6+ 3.Kb7 Bxa7 4.Sxa7/i Re7+ 5.Qxe7 Rb8+ 6.Kc7 Sxe7 7.Kxb8 Ka5 8.Kb7 zz, wins.

i) Thematic try: 4.Kxc8? Re8+ 5.Kb7 Re7+ 6.Qxe7 Sxe7 7.Sxa7 Ka5 zz, draws.

**No 20268** M. Minski  
commendation



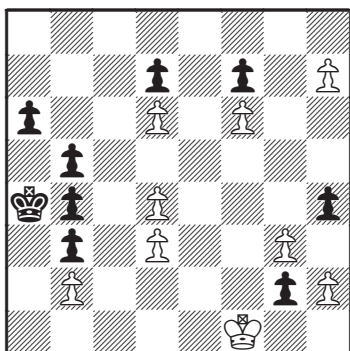
h8a8 0047.23 5/7 Draw

**No 20268** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sf6/i S8e7 2.g8Q+ Sxg8 3.Kxg8 Se7+ 4.Kf7 Sxg6 5.Kxg6 Bc2+ 6.Kg5 d3 7.Bg4/ii d2 8.Sd5 d1Q 9.Sc7+ Kb8 10.Sa6+ Ka8 11.Sc7+ Kb8 12.Sa6+ bxa6 13.Bxd1 Bxd1 14.Kf4 a5 15.Ke3 a4 16.Kd2 a3 17.Kc1 Bb3 18.Kb1 a5 19.Ka1 draws.

i) 1.Sh6? S8e7 2.g8Q+ Sxg8 3.Kxg8 Se7+ 4.Kf7 Sxg6 5.Kxg6 Bc2+ wins.

ii) 7.Bf3? d2 8.Sd5 d1Q 9.Sc7+ Kb8 10.Sa6+ Kc8 wins.

**No 20269** M. Zinar  
commendation



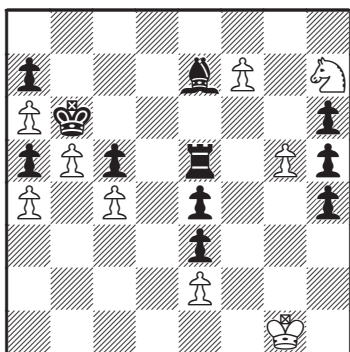
f1a4 0000.88 9/9 Win

**No 20269** Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.Kg1/i h3 2.h8S a5 3.Sg6 fxg6 4.f7 g5 5.f8S g4 6.Se6 dxe6 7.d7 e5 8.d5 e4 9.d8S e3/ii 10.Se6 (Sb7) e2 11.Sc5 mate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kf2? h3 2.h8S a5 3.Sg6 fxg6 4.f7 g5 5.f8S g4 6.Se6 dxe6 7.d7 e5 8.d5 e4 9.d8S e3+ check!

ii) No check!

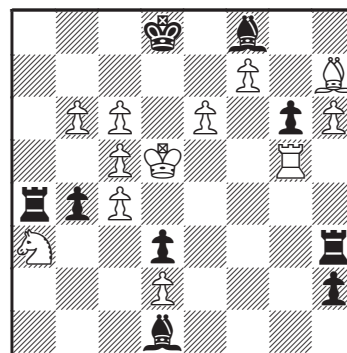
**No 20270** M. Garcia  
commendation



g1b6 0331.78 9/11 Win

**No 20270** Mario Garcia (Argentino). 1.g6 Re6 2.f8S Bxf8 3.Sxf8 Re7 4.Kh2 h3 5.Kxh3 Rg7 6.Kh4 Rg8 7.Sd7+ Kc7 8.Se5 Kd6 9.Sf7+ Ke6 10.Kxh5 Kf6 11.Sd6 Rf8 12.b6 axb6 13.Sb5 Re8 14.Sc3 Kg7 15.Sd5 Ra8 16.Sc7 Ra7 17.Se8+ Kg8 18.Kxh6 Rxa6 19.Sf6+ Kh8 20.g7 mate.

**No 20271** E. Melnichenko  
commendation



d5d8 0771.84 12/9 Draw

**No 20271** Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.c7+ Kc8 2.Kc6 h1Q+ 3.Rd5 Ra6 4.Sb5 Ba4 5.e7 Bxe7 6.f8Q+ Bxf8 7.Bxg6 Rxh6 stale-mate.



# Amiryan 80 MT 2014

Sergey Kasparyan and Aleksey Gasparyan judged the MT honouring their famous countryman Gamlet Amiryan. They received 22 studies from 7 countries. The award was dated 10xi2014, less than a week after Akobia's decease...

**No 20272** Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.d7/i Sxg6+ 2.Kf7 f2 3.Bxf2 Sxe5+ 4.Kg8/ii Sxd7 5.Bd4+/iii Kb1 6.Bxc5 Sxc5 7.Sc6 zz, and:

— Kc1 8.Kf7 Sd3 9.Sd4 Se5+ 10.Ke6 Sg6 11.Sf5 Sh8 12.Kd7 Kd2 13.Ke8 Kd3 14.Kf8 Ke4 15.Sxg7 draws, or:

— Sd7 8.Kf7 g5 9.Kg6 g4 10.Kxh6 g3 11.Sd4 g2 12.Sf3 Se5 13.Sg1 draws.

i) 1.e6? Rc8+ 2.Ke7 Bg5+ 3.Kd7 Rd8+ 4.Kc6 Sxg6 wins.

ii) 4.Ke6? Sxd7 5.Bxc5 Sxc5+ wins.

iii) Thematic try: 5.Bxc5? Sxc5 6.Sc6 Kb1 zz, wins.

"A lively piece struggle leads to an original reciprocal zugzwang position".

**No 20273** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Kb8 Rxc5 2.Bg4+ Kf4 3.Rxc5 Kxg4 4.Kc8 d6 5.Rc4 Sf7 6.e5+ Kf5 7.Rf4+ Kxf4 8.e6 Se5 9.e7 wins.

**No 20274** Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.g7+ Kg8 2.Qe1/i Bf8 3.Qe8 Qb4 4.f6 Sf7+/ii 5.Kg6 Sh8+ 6.gxh8Q+ Kxh8 7.cxd3 Qd6 8.d4 Qd5 9.Qxf8+ Qg8+ 10.Qxg8+ Kxg8 11.f7+ Kf8 12.Kf6 c2 13.g6 c1Q 14.g7 mate.

i) 2.Qa4? Sf7+ 3.Kg6 Se5+ draws.

ii) Qd6 5.Kg6 dxc2 6.Qxd8 Qxd8 7.f7 mate.

**No 20275** Franco Bertoli (Italy). 1.Ra8+/i Kb7 2.Rxf8 f2 3.Rxg2/ii f1Q 4.Rb2+ Kc6 5.Rc2+ Kb6 6.Rb2+ Kc5 7.Rc2+ Kb4 8.Rb8+ Ka3 9.f8Q+ Qxf8+ 10.Rxf8 Qg4+ 11.Kh8 Qd4+/iii 12.Kg8 Qg4+ 13.Kh8 Qh5+ 14.Kg7 Qg5+ 15.Kh7 draws.

i) 1.Rxf8? Qd5 2.Re8 f2 wins.

ii) 3.Rb8+? Kxb8 4.f8Q+ Qc8 5.Qxc8+ Kxc8 wins.

iii) Qh5+ 12.Kg7 Qg5+ 13.Kh7 draws.

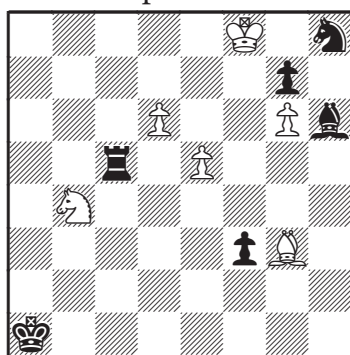
**No 20276** Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.Sg3 Qd1 2.Sf1+ Qxf1 3.Bg3+ Kxg3 4.Rg4+/i Kh2 5.Rh4+ Kg2 6.Rg4+ Kf2 7.Rf4+ Ke2 8.Rxf1 e3 9.Rh1 Kd2 10.Rxh7 e2 11.Rh2 Kd1 12.Bc2+ Kxc2 13.Rxe2+ Kb3 14.Kxg6 a2 15.Re1 Kb2 16.Re2+/ii Kb3 17.Re1 Kb2 18.Re2+ draws.

i) 4.Rxf1? e3 5.Rf7 e2 6.Re7 Kf2 7.Rf7+ Ke3 8.Rxg7 e1Q wins.

ii) 16.Kxg7? a1Q 17.Rxa1 Kxa1 18.Kf7 a5 19.Ke7 a4 20.Kxd6 a3 21.Kxd7 a2 22.d6 Kb2 23.Ke8 a1Q wins.

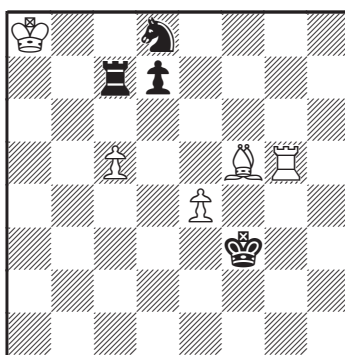
MG observes that there are several duals on move 14: also e.g. 14.Rh2 or 14.Re7 draw. He

**No 20272** I. Akobia †  
& P. Arestov  
prize



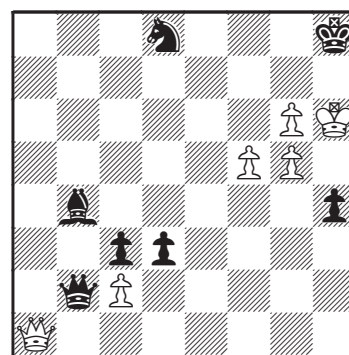
f8a1 0344.32 6/6 Draw

**No 20273**  
P. Arestov  
honourable mention



a8f3 0413.21 5/4 Win

**No 20274**  
M. Campioli  
honourable mention



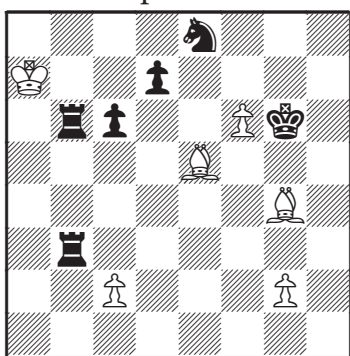
h6h8 4033.43 6/7 Win



# Maroc Echecs 2014

Alain Pallier judged this formal tourney of the Maroc chess website run by Abdelaziz Onkoud. He received 25 studies. HH was consulted for soundness checking and anticipation vetting. Some prize-winning candidates proved unsound.

No 20278 D. Keith  
& M. Minski  
prize



a7g6 0623.32 6/6 Wi

No 20278 Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bh5+/i Kxh5 2.f7 Rb7+/ii 3.Ka8 Sc7+ 4.Bxc7 Rxc7 (R7b5; f8Q) 5.f8Q Rbb7 6.Qf5+/iii Kh6 7.Qf4+ Kh5/iv 8.Qxc7/v Rxc7 9.Kb8 Ra7/vi 10.Kxa7 c5/vii 11.Kb6 c4 12.c3 (Kc5? c3;) Kg4 13.Kc5 Kf4 (Kg3; Kd6) 14.Kd5/viii Kg3 15.Kd6 Kf4 (Kxg2; Kd7) 16.g4/ix Kxg4/x 17.Kxd7 Kf5 18.Kd6 (Kc6? Ke6;) Ke4 19.Kc5 Kd3 20.Kb4 wins.

i) 1.cxb3? Sxf6 2.Kxb6 Sxg4 draws.

ii) Sd6 3.Bxd6 Rb1 4.f8Q wins.

iii) Thematic try: 6.Qb8? c5/xvi 7.Qxb7 Rxb7 8.Kxb7 c4 draws, avoiding 6...Rxb8+? 7.Kxb8 see main line.

iv) Kg6 8.Qxc7 Rxc7 9.Kb8, and here: Ra7 10.Kxa7 c5 11.Kb6 c4 12.c3 Kf5 13.Kc5 Kf4 14.Kd5 transposes to the main line, while Kf6 10.Kxc7 Ke6 11.Kb6 Kd5 12.c3 c5 13.Kb5 wins.

v) 8.Qh2+? Kg4 9.Qxc7 Rxc7 10.Kb8 Ra7 draws.

vi) c5 10.Kxc7 c4 – compare with the thematic try after 8...c4! - and e.g. 11.Kxd7 wins.

vii) Kg4 11.Kb6 (Kb7, Kb8) Kg3 12.Kc7 Kxg2 13.Kxd7 wins.

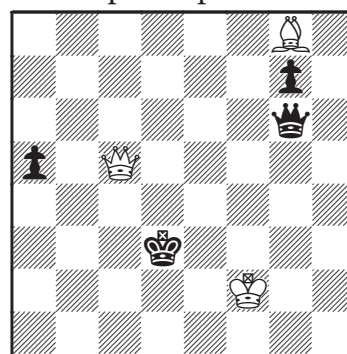
viii) 14.Kxc4? Kg3 15.Kd5 Kxg2, or 14.Kd4? Kg3 15.Kxc4 Kxg2, or 14.Kd6? Ke4 (Ke3) 15.g4 Kd3 16.g5 Kxc3 17.g6 Kb2 18.g7 c3 19.g8Q c2 draw.

ix) 16.Kxd7? Ke4 (Ke3) 17.g4 Kd3 18.g5 Kxc3, or 16.g3+? Ke4 (Ke3) draws.

x) Ke4 17.g5 Kf5 18.Kxd7 wins.

“This is a well-constructed two-part study with a good thematic try and an original domination of a bR. The play is interesting until the end of the study”.

No 20279 R. Becker  
special prize



f2d3 4010.02 3/4 Win

No 20279 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bc4+/i Kd2 2.Qe3+/ii Kc2 3.Qb3+/iii Kc1 4.Qa3+ Kd2/iv 5.Qb2+ Qc2 6.Qd4+ Kc1+ 7.Ke1 a4/v 8.Qa1+/vi Qb1 9.Qc3+ Qc2 10.Qd4 g5/vii 11.Bd5 Qh7/viii 12.Qe3+/ix Kb2 13.Qe5+ Kc1 14.Qxg5+ Kb1/x 15.Qf4 Kb2 16.Qb4+ Kc1 17.Qa3+ Kb1/xi 18.Qxa4 Qe7+/xii 19.Kd1 (Be4+? Kb2;) Qa3 20.Be4+/xiii Ka2 21.Qc2+ Qb2 22.Bd5+ Ka3 23.Qc5+ Qb4/xiv 24.Qe3+ Ka4 25.Bc6+ Ka5 26.Qa7 mate.

i) 1.Qa3+? Kd2 2.Qe3+ Kc2 draws.

ii) 2.Qxa5+? Kc2 3.Qa2+ Kc3 draws.

iii) 3.Ke1? Qd6 4.Qb3+ Kc1 5.Qc3+ Kb1 6.Bd3+ Ka2 draws.

iv) Kc2 5.Bb3+ Kb1 6.Qa2+ Kc1 7.Qa1+ wins.  
 v) g5 8.Bd5 Qh7 9.Qd2+ Kb1 10.Qa2+ Kc1 11.Qa3+ Kc2 12.Bb3+, or Qa4 8.Qd2+ Kb1 9.Bd3+ Ka1 10.Qc1+ win.

vi) Thematic try: 8.Bd5? Qg6 9.Qd2+ Kb1 10.Qa2+ Kc1 11.Qa3+ Kb1 12.Qb4+ Kc1 13.Qa3+ Kb1 14.Ba2+ Kc2 draws.

vii) a3 11.Bb5 g5 12.Ba4 Qa2 13.Bc6 Qb3 14.Qd2+ Kb1 15.Be4+ Ka1 16.Qd4+ Qb2 17.Qd1+ Ka2 18.Bd5+ wins.

viii) Qg6 (Qf5) 12.Qd2+ Kb1 13.Qb4+ Kc1 14.Be4 wins.

ix) Thematic try: 12.Qd2+? Kb1 13.Qb4+ Kc1 14.Qa3+ (Be4 Qh4+;) Kb1 15.Qxa4 Qh4+ draws.

x) Kb2 15.Qe5+ Kc1 16.Qf4+.

xi) Kc2 18.Qxa4+ Kd3 19.Qd1+ Kc3 20.Qd2 mate.

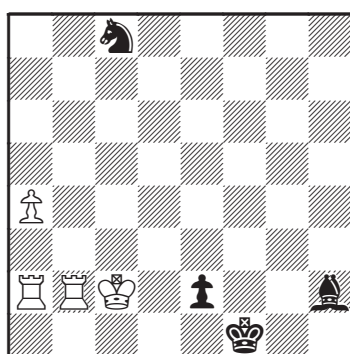
xii) Qh3 19.Qa2+ Kc1 20.Qd2+ Kb1 21.Be4+ Ka1 22.Qc1+ Ka2 23.Bd5+, or Qh2 19.Be4+ Kb2 20.Qb4+ Ka2 21.Bd5+ Ka1 22.Qa3+ Kb1 23.Be4+ win.

xiii) 20.Qxa3? stalemate.

xiv) Ka4 24.Qa7+ Kb4 25.Qb6+ Ka3 26.Qa5 mate.

“This is one of the numerous studies with QB vs Q and pawns by the American composer with the qualities (and also the drawbacks) of this specific kind of material”.

**No 20280** P. Arestov  
1st honourable mention



c2f1 0233.11 4/4 Win

**No 20280** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Ra1+/i e1Q 2.Rxe1+/ii Kxe1 3.Kd3 Bg1 4.Rb8/iii Sa7/iv 5.Rb1+ Kf2 6.Rc1 zz Kg2 7.Ke2/v Bb6 8.Rc3

(8.Rc4? Kg3;) Ba5/vi 9.Rc5 (Rb3? Sc6;) Bd8 (Bb6; Rg5) 10.Rd5/vii Sc6 11.Rd6 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rb1+? e1Q 2.Rxe1+ Kxe1 3.Kd3 Bg1 4.Ra1+ Kf2 5.Rc1 Sa7 zz 6.Ke4 Kg2 7.Rc2+ Kg3 8.Rc7 Kg2 9.Rc2+ Kg3 positional draw, or 9.Rg7+ Kf1 10.Kf3 Sc6 11.Rc7 Sd4+ draws.

ii) 2.Rbb1? Qxb1+ 3.Rxb1+ Ke2 draws.

iii) 4.Rb1+? Kf2 5.Rc1 Sa7 zz.

iv) Sb6 5.a5 Sd7 6.Rb1+ Kf2 7.Kc4 Kg2 8.Kd5 Bf2 9.Rb5 Kg3 10.Kc6 Sf6 11.Rf5 Bd4 12.a6 Kg4 13.Rxf6 Bxf6 14.a7 wins.

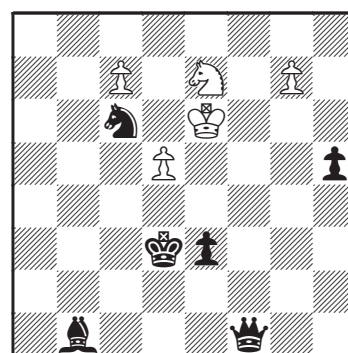
v) 7.Ke4? Bf2 (Bf6), or 7.Rc7? Bb6 (Kf1) draw.

vi) Bd4 9.Rc4, or Bd8 9.Rd3 Sc6 10.Rd6 win.

vii) 10.Rc3? Ba5 11.Rc5 Bd8 loss of time.

“This starts with a neat thematic try on the first move (repeated on move 4) with soon a 6-man reciprocal zugzwang position in which a rook and pawn dominate a bishop and knight”.

**No 20281** D. Hlebec  
2nd honourable mention



e6d3 3034.32 5/6 Draw

**No 20281** Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.c8Q Sd4+/i 2.Kd7 Qh3+ 3.Kd8 Qxc8+ 4.Sxc8/ii e2 5.g8Q e1Q 6.Qg6+ (Qh7+) Kc4 7.Qxh5 Qa5+ 8.Ke8/iii Qa8 9.Kd7 Bf5+ 10.Qxf5 Qb7+/iv 11.Kd8 Sxf5 12.Sd6+ Sxd6 stalemate.

i) e2 2.Qxc6 e1Q+ 3.Kd7 Qf7 4.Qb5+ Kd2 5.Qa5+ Kd1 6.Qxe1+ Kxe1 7.g8Q Bf5+ 8.Kd8 Qxg8+ 9.Sxg8 h4 10.Sh6 h3 11.Sxf5 Kf2 12.d6 draws.

ii) 4.Kxc8? e2 5.g8Q e1Q 6.Sc6 Qe4 wins.

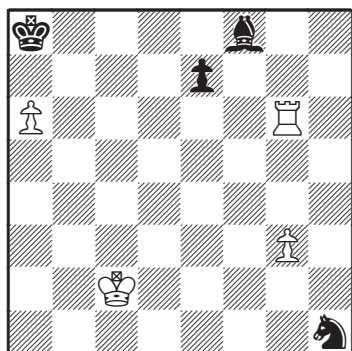
iii) 8.Kd7? Bf5+ 9.Qxf5 Sxf5 wins.

iv) Qa4+ (Sxf5; Sb6+) 11.Kc7 Qa5+ (Sx5+; Sb6+) 12.Sb6+ draws.



No 20282 R. Becker  
& I. Akobia †

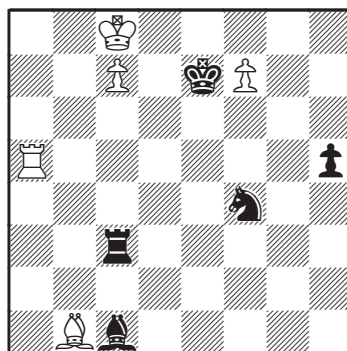
3rd/4th honourable mention



c2a8 0133.21 4/4 Win

No 20283  
P. Arestov

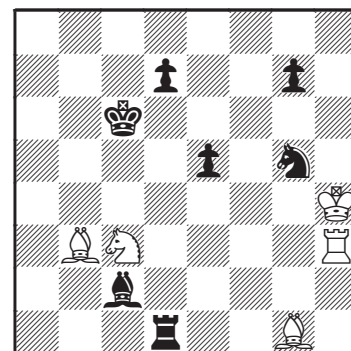
3rd/4th honourable mention



c8e7 0443.21 5/5 Win

No 20284  
M. Minski

1st commendation



h4c6 0454.03 5/7 Win

“This is a good classical study with natural and fluid play culminating in a nice stalemate”.

**No 20282** Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.g4/i Sf2 2.Kc3 Sxg4/ii 3.Rxg4 Bh6 4.Re4 Bg7+ 5.Kd3 Bf6/iii 6.Kc4 zz Kb8 7.Kc5 Ka7 8.Kb5 zz Bg5 9.Re2/iv zz Bf6 10.Rd2 Bh4 11.Rd7+ Ka8 12.a7 Bf2 13.Ka6 wins.

i) 1.Kd3? Sxg3 2.Rxg3 Bh6 3.Kc4 Bf4 4.Rh3 Bd2 5.Kb5 Be1 6.Rf3 Ka7 7.Rf7 Bh4 8.Rf3 Be1 positional draw, or 1.Kb3? Sxg3 2.Rxg3 Bh6 3.Ka4 Bf4 4.Rd3 Bh2 5.Rd1 Bg3 6.Rd2 Bf4 7.Rd3 Bh2 8.Rd1 Bg3 9.Rd2 Bf4 – positional draw - or 10.Re2 Bg5 11.Re4 Bf6 12.Kb5 Ka7 zz 13.Rc4 Be5 draw.

ii) Ka7 3.Kb4 Sxg4 4.Rxg4 Bh6 5.Re4 Bg5 6.Ka5 Bf6 7.Kb5 zz, as in the main line.

iii) Bb2 6.Rxe7 Ba3 7.Re8+ Ka7 8.Kc4 Bb2 9.Re6 Ba1 10.Kc5 Bc3 11.Kd5 Bb2 12.Rc6 Bh8 13.Rd6 Bc3 14.Kc6 wins.

iv) 9.Re1? (Re5?) Bh4 10.Re2 Bg5 zz 11.Re4 Bf6 zz, positional draw.

“This is a difficult study, featuring subtleties in a RP vs BP ending”.

**No 20283** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Ba2 Se6 2.Bxe6 Bf4 3.f8Q+/i Kxf8 4.Rf5+ Ke7 5.Rf7+/ii Kxe6/iii 6.Rxf4 zz Ke5/iv 7.Rf7/v h4 8.Kd8/vi Rd3+ 9.Rd7/vii Rc3 10.Rh7/viii Rd3+ 11.Ke8/ix Rc3 12.Rh5+ Ke6/x 13.Kd8 Rd3+ 14.Kc8/xi h3 15.Rc5 h2 (Ke7; Kb8) 16.Kb8 Rb3+ 17.Ka7 Ra3+ 18.Kb6 Rb3+ (h1Q; c8Q+) 19.Ka5 (Ka6) Ra3+ 20.Kb5 (Kb4 Ra8; h1Q/xii 21.c8Q+ wins.

i) 3.Rf5? Rxc7+ 4.Kb8 Rc4+ 5.Kb7 Rb4+ draws.

ii) Thematic try: 5.Rxf4? Kxe6 zz, and: 6.Kd8 Rd3+ 7.Ke8 Rc3 8.Kd8 Rd3+ 9.Kc8 Rc3 10.Kb7 Rb3+ 11.Kc6 Rc3+ 12.Kb6 Rb3+ positional draw, or: 6.Rf8 h4 7.Rh8 h3 8.Kd8 Rd3+ 9.Ke8 Rc3 10.Rh6+ Kf5 11.Rxh3 Rxc7 draws.

iii) Kd6 6.Bh3 h4 7.Kb7 Rb3+ 8.Ka6 Rc3 9.c8Q wins.

iv) Kd6 7.Rf6+ Rf7), or Ke7 7.Rb4 Kf6 8.Rb5 h4 9.Kb8 Kg6 10.c8Q Rxc8+ 11.Kxc8 h3 12.Kd7 wins.

v) 7.Rh4? Kd6 8.Rd4+ Ke5 9.Rh4 Kd6 positional draw, or 7.Rf1? h4 8.Kd8 Rd3+ 9.Ke7 Rc3 10.Kd7 Rd3+ positional draw.

vi) 8.Kd7? Rd3+ 9.Ke8 (Ke7) Rc3 loss of time, or 8.Kb7? Rb3+ 9.Kc6 Rc3+ 10.Kd7 Rd3+ loss of time.

vii) 9.Ke8? (Ke7?) Rc3 10.Kd8 Rd3+ loss of time.

viii) 10.Rf7? Rd3+ 11.Rd7 Rc3 loss of time.

ix) 11.Ke7? Rc3 12.Rh5+ Kf4 13.Rxh4+ Kg3, or 11.Rd7? Rc3 12.Rh7 Rd3+ loss of time.

x) Kd6 13.Kd8 Rxc7 14.Rh6+ wins.

xi) 14.Ke8? Rc3 15.Kd8 Rd3+ loss of time.

xii) Ra8 21.Rh5 Kd7 22.Kb6, or Rb3+ 21.Kc4 (Ka4) wins.

“A subtle introduction leads to a 6-man position which has practical value”.

**No 20284** Martin Minski (Germany).  
 1.Rg3/i Sf3+/ii 2.Rxf3 g5+ 3.Kg3/iii Rxc1+ 4.Kh2/  
 iv Rc1 5.Sa2/v Rh1+ 6.Kxh1 Be4 7.Bd5+ (Kg2?  
 g4;) Bxd5/vi 8.Sb4+ Kc5 9.Sxd5 wins.

i) 1.Bd5+? Rxd5 2.Kxg5 Rd3, or 1.Sxd1? Sxh3  
 2.Bxc2 Sxg1, 1.Bxc2? Rxc1 draws.

ii) Rxc1 2.Bd5+ Kc5 3.Rxc1 wins.

iii) 3.Kh5? Bxb3 4.Sxd1 Bxd1 draws.

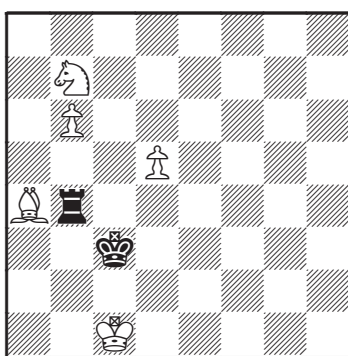
iv) Thematic try: 4.Kf2? Rh1 5.Kg2 Rc1 6.Sa2  
 Be4 7.Sxc1 g4 draws, but not Bxb3? 7.Rf6+ Be6  
 8.Sxc1 draws.

v) Thematic try: 5.Se2? Rh1+ 6.Kxh1 Be4  
 7.Kg2 (Bd5+? Bxd5) g4 draws.

vi) Kxd5 8.Sc3+ Kd4 9.Sxe4 wins.

“This has a lot of tactics but it makes one  
 dizzy”.

**No 20285** P. Arestov  
 2nd commendation



c1c3 0311.20 5/2 Win

**No 20285** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bd7/i  
 Rxb6 2.Bc6 zz Kd4/ii 3.Kc2/iii Ke5/iv 4.Sa5/v  
 Ra6/vi 5.Sc4+/vii Kd4 6.d6 Kxc4/viii 7.d7 Ra2+  
 8.Kd1/ix Ra1+ 9.Kd2 (Ke2) Ra2+ 10.Ke3 Ra3+  
 11.Ke4 Rd3 12.Bb5+ Kxb5 13.Kxd3 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Bc6? (Be8? Re4;) Rxb6 zz  
 2.Kd1 Kd3 3.Ke1 Ke3 4.Kd1 Kd3 5.Kc1 Kc3 posi-  
 tional draw, or 6.Sc5 Kd4 7.Sd7 Ra6 draws.

ii) Kd3 3.Sa5 Ra6 4.Bb5+ wins.

iii) 3.Kd2? Rb2+ 4.Kc1 Rb6 5.Kc2 loss of time.

iv) Ra6 4.Kd2 Ke5 5.Kc3 Rb6 6.Sa5 Rb1 7.Sc4+  
 wins.

v) 4.Kc3? Rb1 5.Sa5 Kd6 6.Sc4+ Kc5, or  
 4.Kd3? Rb4 (Rb1) 5.Sa5 Rd4+ draws.

vi) Rb4 (Kd6; Sc4+) 5.Kc3 Rd4 6.Sc4+ wins.

vii) 5.Sb7? Rb6 6.Sa5 Ra6 loss of time.

viii) Rxc6 7.d7 Rxc4+ 8.Kb3 Rc3+ 9.Kb2 wins.

ix) 8.Kb1? Rd2, or 8.Kc1? Kc3 draws.

“This features, again, a zz position that ap-  
 pears very early; classical play follows in the  
 rest of the solution”.



Beat Züger.  
 (Source photograph: Wikipedia)

# Chess Club March-Höfe 75 AT 2012

The Swiss chess club March-Höfe organized a formal endgame study tourney as part of the festivities marking its 75th anniversary. Tourney director Wolfgang Berg received 10 entries. Hans Gruber (Germany) judged the tourney and consulted Martin Minski for anticipation vetting and IM Züger for soundness checking.

HH is grateful to Roland Ott (Switzerland) for providing this award to EG.

**No 20286** Beat Züger (Switzerland). 1.Kd3/i Rd8+ 2.Kc3/ii Rh8 3.Kd3 Kf5 4.Ke2 Rh2+ 5.Kf3 Rxd2 stalemate.

i) 1.Re2+? Kf5 2.Kd2 Kg4 3.Ke1 Rh8 4.Kf1 Rh1+ 5.Kg2 f3+ wins.

ii) 2.Ke2? f3+ 3.Ke3 Rxd2 4.Kxd2 Ke4, or 2.Kc2? Rd4 3.Kc3 Re4 4.Rd8 Kf5 wins.

“This features a nice king pendulum at the start and a good finale. The initial position is natural, while the solution is pointed until the end”.

**No 20287** Beat Züger (Switzerland) 1.Kd3 Kd7 (d5;c5) 2.Kc2 Kc6/i 3.Kb3 Kc5 (d5; Kxb4) 4.f5/ii gxf5 (d5; fxg6) 5.g5/iii f4 6.g6 f3 7.g7 f2 8.g8Q f1Q 9.Qd5 mate.

i) d5 3.Kb3 dxc4+ 4.Kxb4 wins.

ii) 4.g5? d5 5.cxd5 Kxd5 6.Kxb4 Ke4 draws.

iii) 5.gxf5? d5 6.cxd5 Kxd5 7.Kxb4 Ke5 8.Kc5 Kxf5 9.Kc6 Ke6 draw.

“This is a pleasant study with fine strategic play following from a natural-looking initial

position. First the bK is forced to c5 and, in addition to this being a deviation from the f-file, it also appears at the very end of the study that this square is also the scaffold for the bK with the pawn breakthrough being crowned by a mate finish in the board’s centre”.

**No 20288** Beat Züger (Switzerland). 1.Rd7+/i Kb6 2.Rd6+ Kc5/ii 3.Rd5+ Kb6 (Kc4; Rd4+) 4.Bd4+ Ka6 5.Rd6+ Ka5 6.Bc3+ wins.

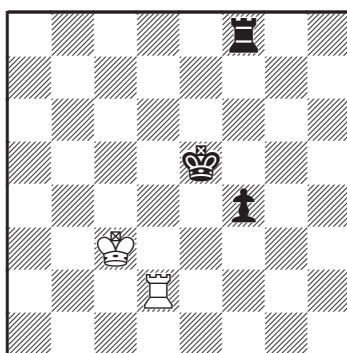
i) 1.Bd4+? Ka6 2.Be2+ Ka5 3.Bc3+ Kb6 draws.

ii) Ka7 3.Bd4+ Kb8 4.Rb6+ Ka7 5.Rb4+, or Ka5 3.Bc3+ Kb5 4.Bc6+.

“This features an amazingly precise order of checks (besides loss of time duals) with the (funny) highlight that the wR subsequently plays to d7, d6, d5, and d4. The solution is quite forced, the bQ having no chance at all”.

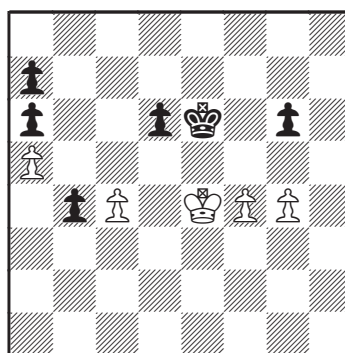
MG cooks this study: also 6.Bb6+ wins: 6... Ka6, and now of course White can return to the main line by 7.Bd4+ Ka5 and it would be waste of time. But instead 7.Bf2+ Ka5, e.g. 8.Be2 is another win.

**No 20286** B. Züger  
honourable mention



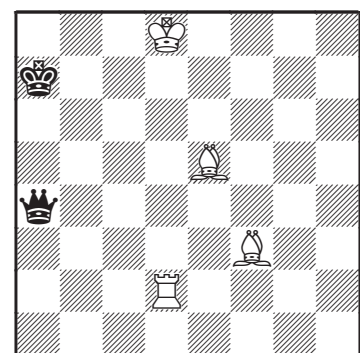
c3e5 0400.01 2/3 Draw

**No 20287** B. Züger  
1st commendation



e4e6 0000.45 5/6 Win

**No 20288** B. Züger  
2nd commendation



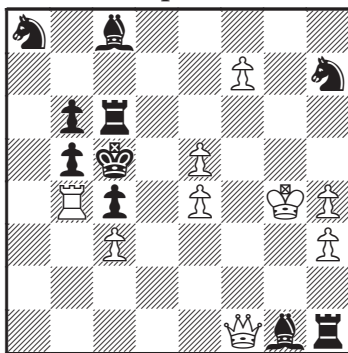
d8a7 3120.00 4/2 Win

## Problem-Forum 2011-2012

The last informal tourney of this German composition magazine was judged by Stephen Rothwell (Germany), as the magazine unfortunately ceased its endgame studies originals column.

In total 31 studies by 23 composers from 11 countries participated. The (very extensive) award was published in Problem-Forum no. 59, ix2014. One study was found unsound and eliminated from the final award (Problem-Forum no. 60).

### No 20289 W. Bruch & M. Minski 1st prize



g4c5 1766.63 9/10 Draw

**No 20289** Wieland Bruch & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Kh5, and:

- Sf8 2.Qc1/i, and now:
  - Re6 3.Qxg1+/ii Rxc4 4.Rxc4+/iii Kxc4 stalemate, or:
  - Be6 3.Qe3+/iv Bxe3 4.Rxb5+/v Kxb5 stalemate.
- Rh6+ 2.Kxh6 Be3+ 3.Qf4 Bxf4+ 4.Kxh7 Bh6 5.Kxh6 Rf1 6.Kg7 Sc7 7.f8Q+ Rxf8 8.Kxf8 Bxh3 9.h5 Bg2 10.h6 draws.

i) Threatens 3.Qa3 Re6 4.Rb1+ Kc6 5.Qxf8 and also 3.Qd2 or 3.Qg5.

ii) Thematic try: 3.Qe3+? Bxe3 4.Rxc4+ Kxc4 and no stalemate.

iii) Thematic try: 4.Rxb5+? Kc6 5.Rc5+ Kd7 6.Rc7+ Kd8 7.Rxc8+ Ke7 and no perpetual check.

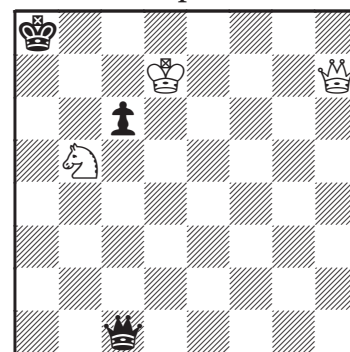
iv) Thematic try: 3.Qxg1+? Rxc4 4.Rxb5+ Kxb5 and no stalemate.

v) Thematic try: 4.Rxc4+? Bxc4 and no stalemate.

This study was dedicated to PF's main editor Wolfgang A. Bruder for his 70th birthday.

“After the pawns on the h-file are blocked, the fine move 2.Qc1 forces the black theme defences 2...Re6/Be6 with the uniform black defence motifs of the counter threats 3...Rxe5+/Bxf7+ and the damaging effect of blocking the last mobile wPe5. The Grimshaw at e6 has the useful (!) consequence for Black that the stalemate is lifted if White chooses the ‘wrong’ queen sacrifice at move 3. That then leads to a white dual avoidance in a very original way that cannot be in this way in an orthodox mate problem. The black thematic pieces cause the evacuation of c6, the double cover of c4 and also the white dual avoidance at move 4. A harmonious stalemate combination of refreshing originality and conciseness stands in peculiar contrast to the second main line, with its attractive black-white sacrifices in the struggle for promotion of wPb7. With such a bold and unusual idea, I do not see the fact that the wK is in check in the initial position as a considerable flaw”.

### No 20290 R. Becker 2nd prize



d7a8 4001.01 3/3 Win

**No 20290** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Sc7+/i Ka7/ii 2.Qd3 Qa1 3.Qe3+ Kb7 4.Qb3+ Ka7 5.Se8 Qa6 6.Sd6 Ka8 7.Qg8+ Ka7 8.Qg7 Ka8/



iii 9.Qh8+ (Qg2) Ka7 10.Qb2 Ka8 11.Kc7 Qa5+ 12.Kc8 Qa7 13.Qg2/iv Qb8+ 14.Kd7 Qb3 15.Kc7 Qd5 16.Qe2/v Qa5+ 17.Kc8 Qb6 18.Qa2+ Qa7 19.Qb2 Qa6+ 20.Sb7 Qa7/vi 21.Sc5 Qb6 22.Qa3+ (Qa2+)/vii Qa7 23.Qb3 Qb6 24.Qa4+ Qa7 25.Qxc6+ wins.

i) 1.Qg8+? Kb7 2.Sd6+ Kb6 3.Qb3+ Kc5 4.Qa4 Qh1, or 1.Sd6? Qb2 2.Kc7 Ka7 3.Kxc6+ Ka6 4.Qd3+ Ka7 5.Sb5+ Ka6, or 1.Qe4? Kb8 2.Sd6 Qb2 draw.

ii) Thematic try: 7.Kc7? Qa7+ 8.Kc8 Qa6+ 9.Sb7 Qa1 10.Sd8 Qa6+ 11.Sb7 Qa1 12.Sc5 Qh8+ draws.

iii) Qa4 9.Kc7 Ka6 10.Qb2 Qa5+ 11.Kc8 Qg5 12.Qa2+ Kb6 13.Sc4+ wins.

iv) 13.Qb4? (Qb3?) Qa6+ 14.Kc7 (Sb7 Qa1;) Qa7+ 15.Kxc6 Qa6+ 16.Kd7 Qa7+, or 13.Qb3? Qa6+, or 13.Qb1? Qa6+ 14.Sb7 c5 15.Kc7 Qa7 16.Qh1 Qb8+ 17.Kb6 Qa7+ draw.

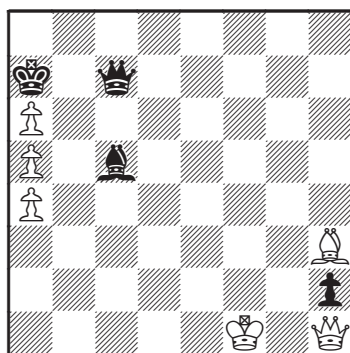
v) 16.Qc2? Qa5+ 17.Kc8 Qa6+, or 16.Qf1? Qa5+ 17.Kc8 Qa2 draw.

vi) c5 21.Kc7 Qa7 22.Qh8+ and mate.

vii) or the minor dual 22.Qa6 Qa7 23.Qf4 Qb6 24.Qa4+.

“This is a monumental, dynamic and analytically very complex battle of three white pieces against the desperately defending black royal couple”. “With such rich content with only six pieces, one should not blame the composer too much for the minor duals”.

No 20291 R. Becker  
1st honourable mention



f1a7 4040.31 6/4 Draw

No 20291 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bf5/i Qf4+ 2.Kg2 Bg1/ii 3.Bg6/iii Qg4+/iv 4.Kf1 Qd1+ 5.Kg2 Qd5+ 6.Kf1 Qxh1 7.Be4 Qxe4 stalemate.

i) White has to cover e4, as Black threatens 1...Qf4+. E.g. 1.Bd7? Qf4+ 2.Kg2 Bd6 3.Qe1 Qg5+ 4.Kf3 h1Q+ 5.Qxh1 Qd5+ 6.Kf2 Qxh1, or 1.Bg2? Qf4+ 2.Bf3 Qd2 3.Qg2 h1Q+ 4.Qxh1 Qf2 mate, or 1.Qf3? h1Q+ 2.Qxh1 Qf4+ 3.Ke2 Qe3+ 4.Kd1 Qd3+ 5.Ke1 Qb1+ 6.Ke2 Qxh1, or 1.Kg2? Qc6+ 2.Kxh2 Qd6+ 3.Kg2 Qd5+ 4.Kh2 Qe5+ 5.Kg2 Qe4+ 6.Kh2 Qf4+ 7.Kg2 Qf2 mate.

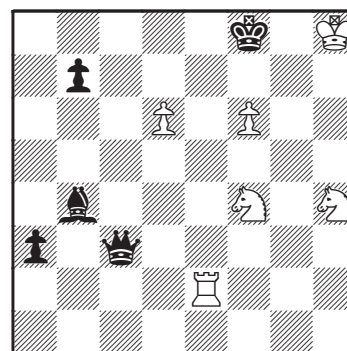
ii) Bd6 3.Qd1 Qg3+ 4.Kh1 draws.

iii) 3.Bc2? Qg4+ 4.Kf1 Qh3+ 5.Ke2 Qe3+ 6.Kd1 Qd4+ 7.Ke2 Qf2+ 8.Kd3 Qf1+ 9.Ke4 Qxa6 10.Ke5 Qxa5+ 11.Ke6 Qb6+, or 3.Bd3? Qd2+, or 3.Bb1? Qf2+ 4.Kh3 Qf1+ 5.Kg4 Qd1+ 6.Kg3 Qxb1 win.

iv) Kxa6 4.Bh5 Qg5+ 5.Kf1 Qxh5 6.Qa8+ Ba7 7.Qc6+ Kxa5 8.Qc3+ draws.

“This shows a well-known stalemate idea (HHdbIV#03780, HHdbIV#12714, HHdbIV#74695) which is here enriched by the finely motivated moves 1.Bf5!/3.Bg6! and the incarceration manoeuvre 2...Bg1! The wB’s moves are also surprising because they (seem to) allow forking moves by the bQ. The triple pawns required for the study’s soundness slightly diminish the aesthetic impression of this otherwise open and economical construction”.

No 20292 P. Krug  
2nd honourable mention



h8f8 3132.22 6/5 Win

No 20292 Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Kh7/i Qb3 2.Se6+/ii Kf7 3.Sg5+ Kxf6 4.Kh6/iii Bc3/iv 5.d7 Ba5 6.Se4+/v Kf7 7.Rf2+ Kg8 8.Rg2+ Kh8 9.Sg6+ Kg8 10.Se5+ Kh8 11.Sg5 Qe3 12.Kg6 Kg8 13.Kf5/vi Kh8 14.Sef7+ Kg8 15.Se6+ Kxf7 16.Rg7 mate.

i) Threatens 2.Re7, 3.Sg6 mate.

ii) 2.Shg6+? Kf7 3.d7 Qd1 4.Se5+ Kxf6, and:  
5.Sg4+ Kg5 6.d8Q+ Qxd8 7.Se6+ Kxg4 8.Sxd8  
Kf3 9.Rc2 b6 10.Sc6 Bc5 11.Rc4 Ke3 12.Kg6 Bd6  
13.Kf6 Kd3, or here: 5.d8Q+ Qxd8 6.Sh5+ e.g,  
Ke6 7.Sc6+ Kd7 8.Sxd8 Kxd8 draws.

iii) Threatens 5.Sh7+ Kf7 6.Re7+ Kg8 7.Rg7+  
Kh8 8.Sg6 mate.

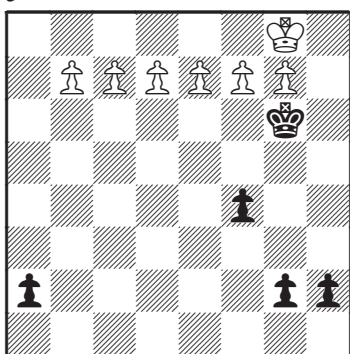
iv) Bxd6 5.Se4+ Kf7 6.Sxd6+ Kf6 7.Se4+  
Kf7 8.Sg5+ Kf6 9.Sg6 Qb6 10.Re5 Qd8 11.Re1  
Qd3 12.Sh7+ Kf5 13.Re5+ Kg4 14.Rg5+, or Qg8  
5.Sh7+ Qxh7+ 6.Kxh7 Bxd6 7.Sf3

v) 6.Sg6? Qb5 7.d8Q+ Bxd8 8.Rf2+ Qf5  
9.Sh7+ Ke6 10.Shf8+ Kf6 11.Sd7+ Ke6 12.Sgf8+  
Qxf8+ 13.Sxf8+ Kd5 14.Ra2 Be7 15.Sg6 Kc4  
16.Sxe7 Kb3 draws.

vi) Threatens 14.Se6.

“This is a study of enormous analytical complexity and solver difficulty but it convinces by the vivid play of the pieces (including the kings), the clever manoeuvre of the white knight pair, and the pretty finale mate picture. 2.Shg6+? and 6.Sg6? are both tempting tries in which study-like attraction manoeuvres make it possible to win the bQ but require White to invest too much to win”.

**No 20293** S. Hornecker  
3rd honourable mention



g8g6 0000.64 7/5 BTM, Draw

**No 20293** Siegfried Hornecker (Germany). 1...a1Q 2.e8S/i Qa2 3.d8S h1Q 4.c8S/ii Qa3  
5.f8S+ draws.

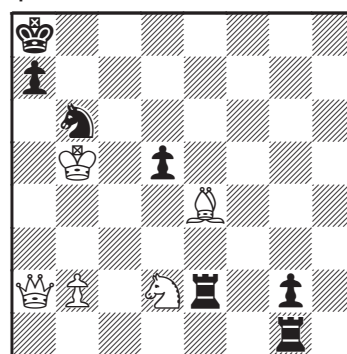
i) 2.f8S+? Kh6 3.e8S g1Q wins.

ii) 4.c8Q? Qh7+ 5.Kf8 Qa3+ 6.Sd6 Qxg7+  
7.Ke8 Qe5+ wins.

“Four consecutive white knight promotions in a pawn study is an impressive task; in

particular I like the consistent motivation of the first three white knight promotions which, in the battle against the bQ on the a-file, subsequently cover the squares g7, f7, and e7 in order to protect the wK against the terrible promoted queens. The position arising after e.g. 5...Kf5 6.b8Q g1Q is 3 bQ vs. 1 wQ and 4 wS (draw!) has something of the surreal romantic”.

**No 20294** P. Arestov  
4th honourable mention



b5a8 1614.13 5/7 Win

**No 20294** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sc4/i Sxc4 2.Bxd5+ Kb8 3.Qxc4 Rxb2+ 4.Kc5/ii Rc1  
5.Qxc1 Rc2+ 6.Qxc2 g1Q+ 7.Kc6 zz, and:

— Qg7 8.Qh2+ Kc8 9.Be6+ Kd8 10.Qd6+ Ke8  
11.Bd7+ Kf7 12.Qe6+ Kf8 13.Qe8 mate, or:

— Qb6+ 8.Kd7 a5 (Qb5+; Bc6) 9.Qc8+ Ka7  
10.Qa8 mate.

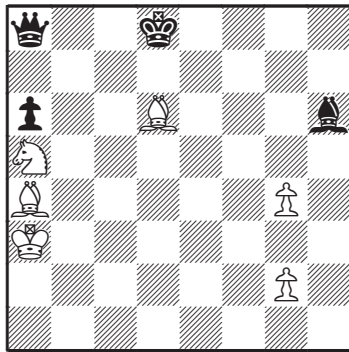
i) 1.Bxd5+? Kb8 2.Bf3 Rxd2 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 4.Kc6? Rc1 5.Qxc1 Rc2+  
6.Qxc2 g1Q zz, draws, e.g. 7.Be4 Qb6+ 8.Kd7  
Qd4+.

“After 7.Kc6! a surprising reciprocal zugzwang arises in which the bQ is bound to the focal points b6/h2 while the wQ is bound to the focal points c1/g6. Two pretty main lines follow with echo-like mate with self-blocks of the bQ. It is appropriate that there is also a good thematic try with the reciprocal zugzwang with WTM. The preparatory double sacrifice of the black rooks in order to clear the promotion square for the g-pawn is also attractive. However, in the introduction 2.Bxd5+ and 3.Sxc4 are somewhat crude captures”.

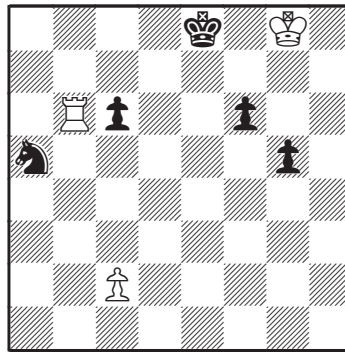
**No 20295** Martin Minski (Germany) &  
Nikolai Mironenko (Ukraine). 1.Bc6 Qa7

**No 20295** M. Minski  
& N. Mironenko  
special honourable mention



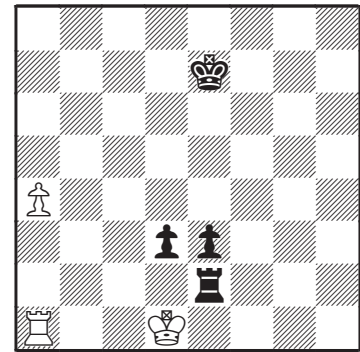
a3d8 3051.21 6/4 Draw

**No 20296**  
I. Akobia †  
commendation



g8e8 0103.13 3/5 Win

**No 20297**  
K. Bachmann †  
commendation



d1e7 0400.12 3/4 Draw

2.Sb7+ Kc8 3.Bc5 Qb8 4.Bd6 Qa8 5.g5/i Bxg5  
6.Be4/ii Qa7/iii 7.Bc5 Qb8 8.Bd6 Qa7 9.Bc5 Be7  
10.Bxe7 Qe3+ 11.Ka2 (Kb2) draws.

i) Tries: 5.Be4? Qa7 (Be3?; Bf5+) 6.Bc5 Bf8  
7.Bxf8 Qe3+ 8.Kb2 Qf2+ 9.Ka3 Qxf8+, 5.Bf3?  
and now not 5...Qa7? 6.Bc5 Bf8 7.Bxf8 Qe3+  
8.Ka2 (Kb2) draws, but 5...Be3.

ii) Try: 6.Bf3? Qa7 (Be3?; Bg4+) 7.Bc5 and  
now: Be7 8.Bxe7 Qe3+ 9.Ka4 Qxe7 wins.

iii) Be3 7.Bf5+ Kxb7 8.Be4+ Ka7/viii 9.Bxa8

“The focus is a logically sharp pointed Roman decoy of the bB. The try 5.Be4? (threatens 6.Bf5+ Kxb7 7.Be4+) fails to the black decoy 5...Qa7. The alternative try 5.Bf3? fails because Black has 5...Be3! and the wPg4 (HH: White needs Bg4+) cannot be removed. After 5.g5! Bxg5 the Roman decoy of the bB proves, in view of the *Hauptplan* 6.Be4, to be useful to White whereas in the try 6.Bf3? it is a harmful decoy which compensates for the useful effect of the removal of wPg4. The study convinces by its economical construction, a natural introduction without captures and the nice mutual shielding of the three white pieces during play. Regarding originality, the similarities with a study by Kondratev (HHdbIV#53421) have to be taken into account and, without this partial forerunner, I would have awarded the present study higher”.

**No 20296** Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Ra6 Sb7  
2.Rxc6 Sd8 3.Rxf6, and:

— Ke7 4.Rg6/i Se6 5.c3/ii Sc5 6.Rxg5 Se4/iii  
7.Re5+ wins.

— Kd7 4.Rf5/iv Se6 5.Kf7 Sd4 6.Rd5+ wins, or:

i) 4.Rf5? Se6 5.c4 g4 draws.

ii) Try: 5.c4? Sc5 6.Rxg5 Sd7 7.c5 Kd8 8.Rd5  
Kc7 9.Kf7 Kc6 10.Rd6+ Kc7 11.Rd5 Kc6 draws.

iii) Sa4 7.Rg3 Kd6 8.Kf7 wins.

iv) 4.Rg6? Se6 5.Kf7 Sd4 draws.

“After an unfortunately crude introduction removing two black pawns, the play splits in two lines with nicely founded alternative attacks of the wB at bPg5. The highlight is the *festina lente* move 5.c3!, that puts Black into zugzwang. The hasty 5.c4? proves to be a good try which Black can refute by precise play leading to a positional draw. Another nice feature is the doubling of the (attempted) black knight forks which themselves end with a forking of the bS”.

**No 20297** Karlheinz Bachmann (Germany). 1.Ra3 Rd2+ 2.Ke1 Kd6 3.a5 Kc5 4.a6 Kc4  
5.Ra4+/i Kb3 6.Ra3+/ii Kxa3 7.a7 Kb2 8.a8Q  
Rc2 9.Kf1/iii Rc1+ 10.Kg2 e2 11.Qb7+/iv Kc2  
12.Qc6+ Kd2 13.Qh6+ Kd1 14.Qh5 Rc5 15.Qf3  
(Qg4? Rg5;) wins.

i) 5.a7? Rg2 6.Ra4+ Kc5 7.Ra5+ Kb6 8.Ra6+  
Kc7 9.Rc6+ Kd7 wins.

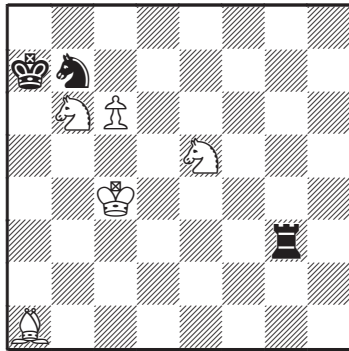
ii) 6.a7? Rg2 7.Ra3+ Kc4 8.Ra4+ Kc5 wins.

iii) 9.Qb7+? (Qb8+?) Kc1, 9.Qh8+? Kb1 wins.

iv) 11.Qb8+? Kc2 12.Qc8+ (Qc7+ Kd1;) Kd2  
wins.

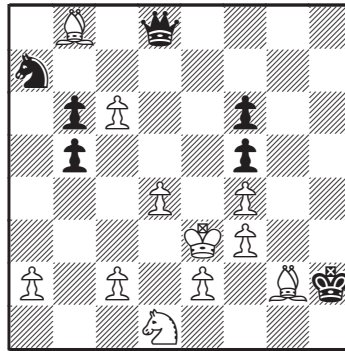
“In this study, developed from an o.t.b. game, Black temporarily stops the advance of the wP by 4...Kc4! which has the hidden threat 5...

**No 20298** A. Skripnik  
& J. Mikitovics  
commendation



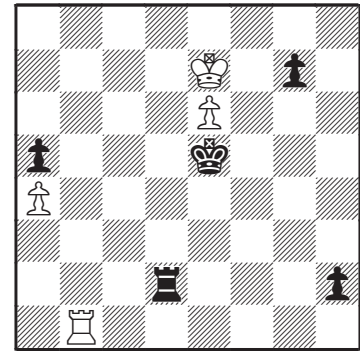
c4a7 0315.10 5/3 Win

**No 20299**  
A. Pallier  
commendation



e3h2 3024.74 11/7 Win

**No 20300** G. Ostmo  
Tallaksen  
commendation



e7e5 0400.23 4/5 Draw

Rg2. White neutralizes this black resource with the intermediate checks 5.Ra4+/6.Ra3+ with surprising offering up of his rook and then forces queen promotion. The final phase is nice because of the escape manoeuvre 9.Kf1 and the wQ's precise play. This is a witty draw in a completely natural-looking rook ending".

**No 20298** Anatoly Skripnik (Russia) & János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Bd4 Sa5+ 2.Kb5 Sxc6 3.Sxc6+ Kb7 4.Sa5+/i Kb8 5.Ka6/ii Rg5 6.Bf6 Rh5 7.Bd8, and:

— Rc5 8.Bh4/iii Rc7 9.Sc6+ Rxc6 10.Bg3+ Rc7 11.Sd5 Ka8 12.Sxc7+ wins, or:

— Rh6 8.Bg5 Rh7 9.Bf4+ Rc7 10.Sc6/iv mate.

i) Thematic try: 4.Sd8+? Kb8 5.Be5+ (Ka6 Ra3+;) Ka7 6.Bxg3 stalemate. 5.Sc6+ Kc7 6.Be5+ Kb7 7.Bxg3 stalemate.

ii) Thematic try: 5.Be5+? Ka7 6.Bxg3 stalemate.

iii) 8.Be7? (Bf6? Kc7;) Rc7 9.Bd6 stalemate.

iv) But 10.Sd5 is a dual.

"After the short battle with the slaughter of the white passed pawn and with play full of finesse, White wins the ending BNN vs R, a material balance which is normally a draw. The manoeuvres of the wSc6 and the wB in the two main lines, avoiding stalemate traps, and the sacrifice 9.Sc6 are very nice. The dual 10.Sd5 is a small blemish".

**No 20299** Alain Pallier (France). 1.c7/i Qd7 (Qg8; Bxa7) 2.Kf2 Qxd4+/ii 3.Se3 Sc8 4.c3/iii

Qc5 5.a3 Sd6 6.c8Q Sxc8 7.Bc7 Se7 8.Bd6 Qxd6 9.Sf1 mate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kf2? Qg8 2.c7 Qxg2+.

ii) Qg7 3.Bxa7 Qxg2+ 4.Ke3 Qg1+ 5.Sf2 Qc1+ 6.Kd3 Qa3+ 7.Kd2 Qb4+ 8.Kc1 Qa3+ 9.Kd1 wins.

iii) Thematic try: 4.a3? b4 5.axb4 b5 6.c3 Qb6 draws.

"The mate idea Kf2-Se3-Sf1 is spotted quickly but its realization is worthwhile. After the fine pinpricks 4.c3 and 5.a3, which have to be played in the right order, a curious zugzwang position for Black arises after which White is able to remove the obstructing wPc7 by a tempo move and a decoy sacrifice of the wBb8, thereby chasing the bQ away from the pin diagonal c5-f2. All this is enriched by the thematic try 1.Kf2?, and the anti-goal element of the temporary obstruction of the wBb8 by 1.c7. For construction purposes, unfortunately, quite a few pawns were necessary (eleven in total, four of which are white) of which the five pawns on the a-, b- and c-file participate thematically".

**No 20300** Geir Sune Ostmo Tallaksen (Norway). 1.Re1+ Kf4/i 2.Kf8/ii Re2 3.Rxe2 h1Q 4.e7 Qh8+ 5.Kf7 Qh5+ 6.Kxg7 Qxe2 7.Kf8 Kf5 8.e8Q Qxe8+ 9.Kxe8 Ke6 10.Kf8/iii Kd6 11.Kf7 Kc5 12.Ke6 Kb4 13.Kd5 Kxa4 14.Kc4 draws.

i) to cover the wPh2. See note ii).

ii) 2.Kf7? g5 3.e7 Rd7 4.Rh1 Kg3 wins.

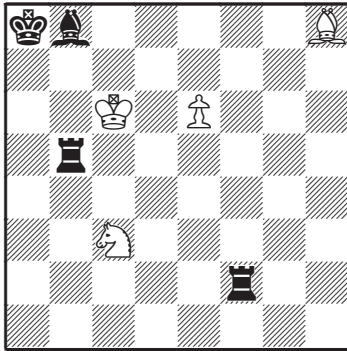
iii) 10.Kd8? Kd6 11.Ke8 Kc5 wins.

"This is an instructive, very natural-looking rook ending in which White is a pawn down



and it has straightforward play, full of finesse, leading to a pawn ending with a well-known bypass manoeuvre; this will also be attractive to practical players”.

No 20301 G. Sonntag  
special commendation



c6a8 o641.10 4/4 Win

No 20301 Gunter Sonntag (Germany). 1.e7 Rb6+ 2.Kxb6 Rf8 3.exf8S/i Be5 4.Sd5/ii Bxh8 5.Sd7, and:

- Be5 6.Ka6 Bc7 (Bd4) 7.S(x)c7+ mate, or:
- Bd4+ 6.Ka6 Bb6 (Be5) 7.S5(x)b6 mate.
  - i) 3.exf8Q? (exf8R?) stalemate, or 3.exf8B? Be5 4.Bxe5 stalemate.
  - ii) 4.Bxe5? stalemate, or 4.Sd7? Bxc3, or 4.Sb5? Bxh8 5.Sd7 Be5 (Bd4+) draws.

“We already know (mirrored) from Kotov (HHdbIV#61305) this study’s central idea of a knight promotion to avoid stalemate, rather than the bishop promotion, as well as the moves 1.e7 and 2...Rf8. Despite that, some fine nuances of the present study give it a right to exist: the three consecutive sacrifices by Black in the introduction aiming for stalemate, the refutation of 3.exf8B? by the stalemate defence 3...Be5!, the more active role of wSc3 (in contrast with the passive wSb1 of Kotov), and the final basic Pseudo-Le-Grand scheme (exchange of threat and try line for different black moves) are excellent”.

## Afek 64 JT

In order to celebrate the 64th birthday of our prominent composer and an excellent promoter of the art of endgame studies - **Yochanan Afek** - the Israel Chess Composition Society announces a formal endgame study tourney.

Theme: free

Maximum 2 entries per composer; joint compositions are allowed

Closing date: 31i2016

The award will be published in *Variantim* in mid-2016

Total prize fund: 1400 US\$

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Judge: Yochanan Afek

Tourney director: Amatzia Avni

Please submit your original studies (diagram, detailed solutions and postal address) by e-mail (avniam@zahav.net.il) or by standard post (Amatzia Avni, 9 Oranim, Givaat-Shmuel 54052, Israel). Studies sent by e-mail should be in MS Word or PDF, a pgn file would be appreciated.