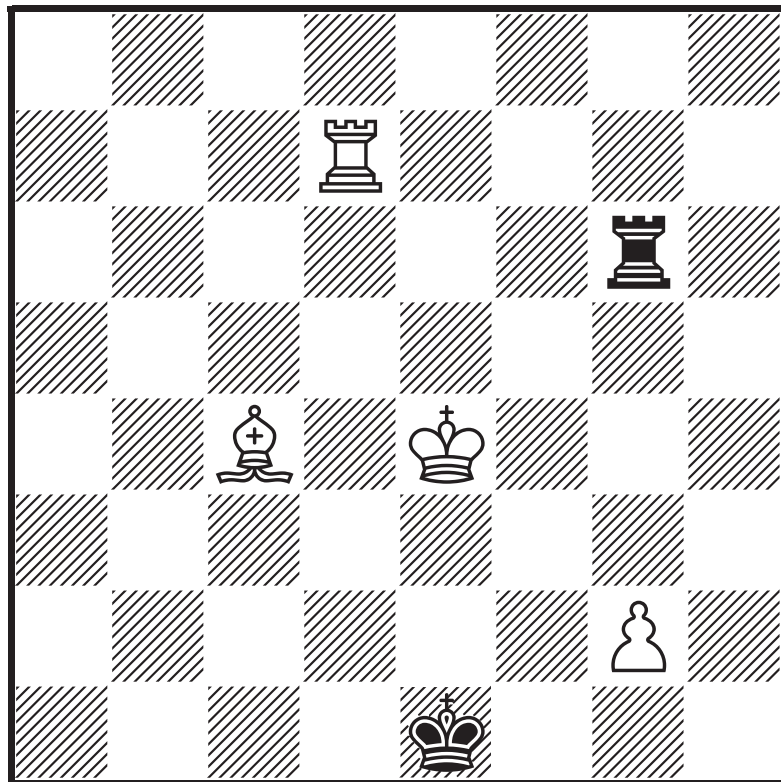


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No. 208 — VOL. XXIII — APRIL 2017

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**WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN**

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*diagram on the cover: see p. 167*

# Editorial

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

The ‘stop press’ message of **EG**207 was the announcement that Lewis Stiller and Gady Costeff had issued a new version of Chess Query Language (CQL) which is much more powerful than the previous version. To accomplish this, the authors completely revised the structure, and much of the syntax, of the script language. For frequent users of CQL, such as me, the consequence is that one had better forget the old syntax and start learning the CQL 5 syntax from scratch. But, as said, CQL is now very powerful. For example, it is now possible to query my database for studies with a difference between the solution and a line (thematic try). Of course, Emil Vlasák’s computer column in this issue of **EG** is fully dedicated to

CQL 5 and he discusses many more features. The endgame study world should be very grateful to Stiller & Costeff!

Speaking about thematic tries, which are very important in the current WCCT<sub>10</sub> ty, I was rather surprised to see that some of the studies for that tourney had black duals in the thematic try. Let’s say that an imaginary study has the solution: 1.a4! h5 2.a5 h4 3.a6 h3 4.a7 h2 5.a8Q (covers h1) and wins, while the thematic try: 1.b4? should fail to 1...h5 2.b5 h4 3.b6 h3 4.b7 h2 5.b8Q h1Q draws. But if Black, after 1.b4?, is also able to draw by 1...g5, the thematic try has a black dual. That means that the thematic try is cooked, and, as a consequence, the study is cooked!

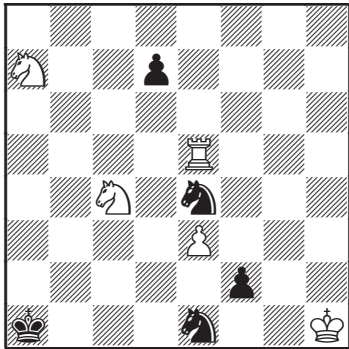
# Originals (53)

EDITOR: ED VAN DE GEVEL

*“email submissions are preferred.”*  
*Judge 2016-2017: Martin Minski*

In our first study White ends up in a position where he needs to give up his knight for Black’s last pawn. Whether he succeeds in this task or not depends on a number of zugzwangs.

**No 21230** M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
 correction of EG#20303 vii2015



h1a1 0108.12 5/5 Draw

**No 21230** Michal Hlinka & Luboš Keke-ly (Slovakia). 1.Sd2/i Sxd2 2.Rf5 f1Q+/ii 3.Rxf1 Sxf1 4.Sc8/iii Sxe3/iv 5.Sb6 d6 6.Kg1 Kb2 7.Kf2 S1c2 8.Kf3 zz Kc3 9.Kf4/v zz Kb2 10.Kf3 zz Kb3 11.Ke4 Kc3/vi 12.Kf4 Kd2 13.Sc8 d5 14.Se7 d4 15.Sc6 d3 16.Se5 Ke2 17.Sxd3 draws.

i) This refusal to capture the knight also avoids the try 1.Ra5+? Kb1 2.Sd2+ Sxd2 3.Rf5 f1Q+ 4.Rxf1 Sxf1 5.Sc8 Sxe3 6.Sb6 d6 7.Kg1 compare with main line after 6th move 7...Sg4 8.Kf1 Sc2 9.Ke2 Sb4 10.Kd2 Sf6 11.Sc4 d5 12.Sa3+ Kb2 13.Sb5 Se4+ draws, and also 1.Rf5? Sg3+ wins.

ii) Se4 3.Kh2 Sc2 4.Rxf2 Sxf2 5.Kg3 draws, or Sd3 3.Kg2 draws.

iii) 4.Kg1? Sxe3 5.Kf2 S1c2 wins.

iv) Sg3+ 5.Kh2 Se4 6.Kh3 Sd3 7.Kg4 draws.

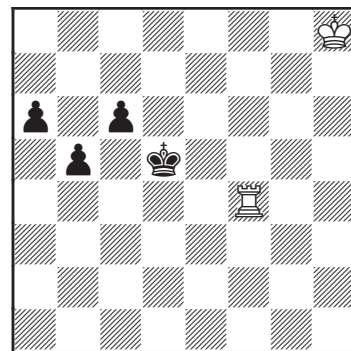
v) 9.Ke4? Kb3 zz 10.Kf4 Sc4 11.Sd5 S4a3 12.Sb6 Sb5 13.Kf5 Kc3 14.Ke4 Sb4 15.Kf5 Kd3 16.Kf6 Ke4 wins according to the EGTB.

vi) Kb4 12.Kd3 Kc5 13.Sa4+ Kb5 14.Sc3+ draws.

vii) Kb4 13.Sc8 d5 14.Se7 d4 15.Sc6+ draws.

In our next study the wR must stop three pawns and this requires a number of careful moves.

**No 21231** I. Aliev



h8d5 0100.03 2/4 Draw

**No 21231** Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Rf5+ Kd4 2.Rf6 c5/i 3.Rd6+/ii Kc3 4.Rxa6 b4 5.Kg7 (Rc6? c4;) c4 6.Kf6 b3 7.Rc6/iii Kd4 8.Rb6 c3 9.Rb4+/iv Kc5 10.Rxb3 draws.

i) Kd5 3.Rf5+ Kd4 4.Rf6 positional draw.

ii) Try: 3.Rxa6? c4, and 4.Kg7 c3, or 4.Rd6+ Kc5 win.

iii) 7.Ke5? Kb2 8.Kd4 c3 wins.

iv) 9.Rxb3? c2 10.Rb4+ Kd5 11.Rb5+ Kd6 12.Rb6+ Kc7 wins.

To win in the following study the white king has to take an unexpected route. Whether or not the fact that White can choose between Kf2-f3-g4 and Kf2-g3-g4 is a major flaw and this is up to the judge to decide.



iii) 2.Rxf2? Bc5+ 3.Ka8 Be4 mate, or 2.Rf4? Bc5+ 3.Ka8 f1Q 4.Rxf1 Be4 mate.

iv) 3.Rxf2? Be3+ wins, or 3.Kc5? Bd3 4.Kd4 f1Q wins.

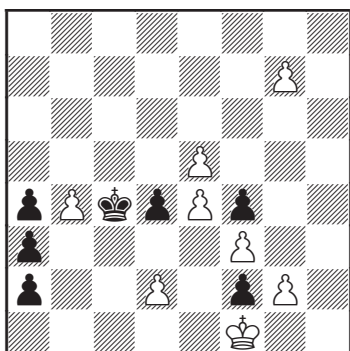
v) 4.Rf8+? Kd7 5.a8Q Be3+ wins.

vi) Kc7 3.Rf7+ Kc8 4.Rf8+ draws.

vii) 4.a7? f1Q 5.Rxf1 Bg3+ wins.

Stalemate avoidance by a double promotion to Bishop is the key to success in the following study:

No 21236 G. Tallaksen Østmoe



f1c4 0000.76 8/7 Win

No 21236 Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway). 1.g8B+/i Kd3 2.Bxa2 Kxd2 3.e6/ii Ke3 4.e7 d3 5.e8B/iii d2 6.Bxa4 wins.

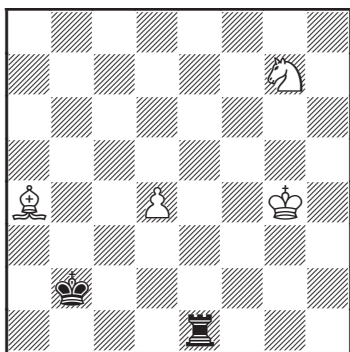
i) 1.g8Q+? Kd3 2.Qxa2 stalemate.

ii) 3.Kxf2? d3 4.e6 Kc1 5.e7 d2 6.e8=Q d1Q draws.

iii) 5.e8Q? d2 6.Qd7 d1Q+ 7.Qxd1 stalemate.

It takes some precise moves to win the 0311.10 position as is shown as early as move 1:

No 21237 D. Keith & P. Arestov



g4b2 0311.10 4/2 Win

No 21237 Daniel Keith (France) & Pavel Arestov (Russia) 1.Kf4/i Kc3 2.d5/ii Kb4/iii 3.Bc2/iv Kc5 4.Be4 Rg1 5.Sf5 Rg8/v 6.d6/vi and now:

— Re8 7.Bc2/vii Kd5 8. Bb3+ Kc5 (Kc6; Ba4+) 9.Be6 Rxe6 (Kc6; Ke5) 10.d7 wins, or:

— Rd8 7.Ke5 Re8+ 8.Kf6/viii Rxe4 9.d7 wins.

i) Try: 1.Kf5? Kc3 2.d5 Kb4 3.Bc2 Kc5 4.Be4 Kd6 and White has no 5.Sf5+ available, or 1.Sf5? Kc3 2.Bc6 Rd1 3.d5 Kb4 (Kc4?; Se3+) 4.Kf4 Kc5 5.Ke5 Re1+ draws.

ii) 2.Sf5? Rf1+ 3.Ke4 Rxf5 4.Kxf5 Kxd4 draws.

iii) Kd4 3.d6 Rf1+ 4.Kg5 Ke5 5.d7 Rf8 6.Se8 wins.

iv) 3.Bc6? Kc5 4.Se6+ Kd6 draws.

v) Rf1+ 5.Ke5 wins, or Kd6 5.Sf5+ wins because square f5 is free!

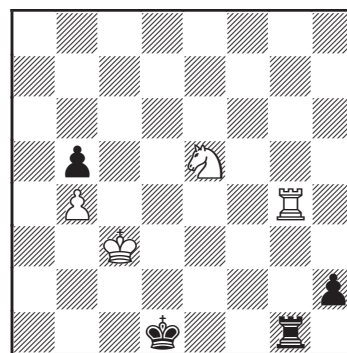
vi) 6.Ke5? Re8+ 7.Kf4 Rd8 draws.

vii) 7.Bb1? Kd5 8.Ba2+ Kc6 draws.

viii) 8.Se7 Rd8 9.Sf5 Re8+ repeats.

EG readers that participated in the Open Dutch (OTB) championship might have tried to solve the next study, which shows three ways to draw: material (line i)), perpetual (line iii)) and stalemate (main line)

No 21238 Y. Afek



c3d1 0401.12 4/4 Draw

No 21238 Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Rd4+ Kc1 2.Sd3+ Kb1/i 3.Sf2/ii Rf1 4.Sh1 Rxh1 5.Rd2 Rc1+ (Ka1; Kd4) 6.Kb3 Rc2/iii 7.Rd1+ Rc1 8.Rd2 Rc3+ 9.Kxc3 h1Q 10.Rd1+ Qxd1 stalemate.

i) Kd1 3.Rh4 h1Q 4.Rxh1 Rxh1 5.Sf2+ draws.

ii) 3.Rh4? h1Q 4.Rxh1 Rxh1 wins.

iii) h1Q 7.Rb2+ Ka1 8.Ra2+ Kb1 9.Rb2+ draws.

Finally there is one more study for our tournament in Siegfried Hornecker's column.



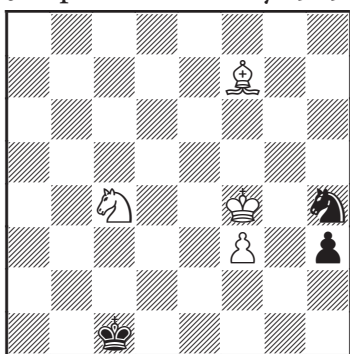
# For the Sake of Immortality – Victor Aberman (Kiev 3x1953 – Los Angeles, 8xi2016)

BY YOCHANAN AFEK

Last November Victor Aberman passed away at the age of 63 in Los Angeles, California.

Despite being active in various other composing genres, notably direct mates with sympathy for miniatures, his priority still seemed to be the art of the endgame study. He was born in Kiev and graduated from the Faculty of Mathematics of the Novosibirsk University. His first study was published in 1977, yet prior to 1985 he composed no more than a dozen of them. Here is one of his earlier efforts:

A.1 V. Aberman  
3rd prize Ukrain Ty 1985



f4c1 0014.11 4/3 Win

White is a piece up but he should be careful not to lose his last pawn. **1.Se5!** Obviously not **1.Kg3?** **h2!** **1...h2** **2.Sd3+ Kd2** **3.Sf2 Ke2** **4.Sh1** (4.Kg3? **Sf5+** 5.Kg2 **Se3+** 6.Kg3 **Sf5+** is naturally just draw **4...Kf1** **5.Kg3 Sxf3** **6.Kxf3 Kg1** **7.Bd5!** **Kxh1** **8.Kf2** The classical battery mate (EG#06691).

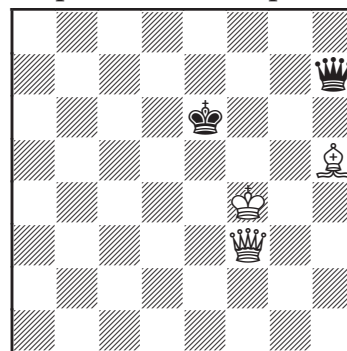
In 1991, following the lifting of the Iron Curtain and the consequent huge wave of Jewish immigration to the West, he moved with his wife and two children to the United States and was away from his beloved hobby for almost a quarter of a century!

He worked as a programmer and even published two poetry books in Los Angeles, in 2003 and in 2008. Here is how he put it in his own words to me:

*“I’m a resident of Los Angeles, who is doing programming for living, short poems for fun and chess composition for immortality. My biggest achievement is a return to chess composition after a 25-year gap and 12th place in the current individual World Championship. My photo is attached, but there is not too much to look at”.*

Aberman’s composing career had a long break but, however, in his comeback towards the end of the first decade of the new millennium, he seemed to catch up big time with the new trends in our genre:

A.2 V. Aberman  
5th prize World Cup 2010



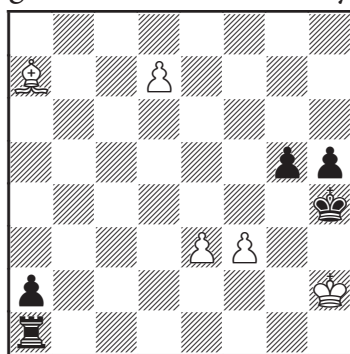
f4e6 4010.00 3/2 Win

Not many malyutkas with the same material have demonstrated such elegance as this one: **1.Bg4+!** The first attempt that comes to mind: **1.Qc6+?** fails to **1...Ke7** **2.Qc7+ Kf8!** **3.Qxh7** stalemate! **1...Ke7!** The alternative **1...Kd6** **2.Qa3+ Kc6** **3.Qa6+ Kc5** **4.Qa5+ Kd6** **5.Qb6+ Kd5** ends up in the beautiful midboard model mate **6.Be6!** mate. **2.Qa3+!** Following **2.Qb7+?** **Kf6!** **3.Qb2+ Kf7** **4.Qb7+ Kf6!** **5.Qxh7** it’s a

stalemate again, while after 5.Qb6+ Kg7! 6.Kg5 the surprising 6...Kh8! is the only defence and a sufficient one! 2...Ke8 3.Qa8+ Kf7 4.Qa7+! The long distance checks make an aesthetic impression. 4...Kf6! (Kg8; Be6+) 5.Qd4+ 5.Qa1+? Kf7 6.Qa7+ Kf6 makes no progress. 5...Kf7 6.Qd7+ Kf6 7.Qd6+! Kg7 8.Kg5! Kh8 9.Bf5! Qg8+ 10.Bg6 The royal couple is dominated at the corner and mate is to be inflicted soon (EG#17750).

In the last five years Aberman became a regular guest in many leading events. His total output grew to some 50 studies in total. More and more often his studies were awarded high distinctions. The next two bear the trademarks of the classics:

A.3 V. Aberman  
honourable mention  
Georgian Internet thematic ty 2011

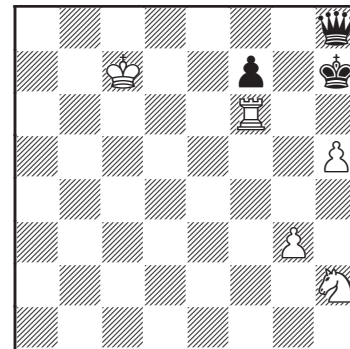


h2h4 0310.33 5/5 Win

1.e4! Threatening an immediate mate whereas 1.d8Q? Rh1+ 2.Kxh1 a1Q+ 3.Kg2 Qa2+ 4.Kf1 Qxa7 is no more than a draw.; while 1.Bd4? even loses to 1...Rd1 2.d8Q Rd2+ 3.Kg1 a1Q+ 4.Bxa1 Rxd8 etc. 1...Rf1! Obviously 1...Rh1+ 2.Kg2 Rg1+ 3.Bxg1 wins. 2.Bd4 a1Q 3.Bxa1 Rf2+ 4.Kg1! Rd2 5.Bc3! Rxd7 6.Kh2! Precision all the way through. Thematic try: 6.Kg2? Rd1! White to move is in zugzwang 7.Bb4 (7.e5 allows 7...g4 as the bishop mate is impossible 8.e6 gxf3+ and the same goes for 7.Ba5 g4) 7...Rc1! 8.e5 Rc2+ and Black wins. 6...Rd1 7.Kg2! Now it is Black to move and it is his turn to get into zugzwang. 7...Rc1 8.Bd4 Rc2+ 9.Bf2+ Rxf2+ 10.Kxf2 Liquidation to a won pawn ending for White. 10...g4 11.f4! g3+ 12.Kg2 Kg4 13.f5! After 13.e5? h4 14.e6 h3+ Black wins the race 13...h4 14.f6 h3+ 15.Kh1 Or 15.Kg1 and

wins, while 15.Kf1? is met by 15...Kf3 16.f7 g2+ 17.Kg1 Kg3 18.f8Q h2 mate (EG#18848).

A.4 V. Aberman  
special commendation Zinchuk-75 MT 2012

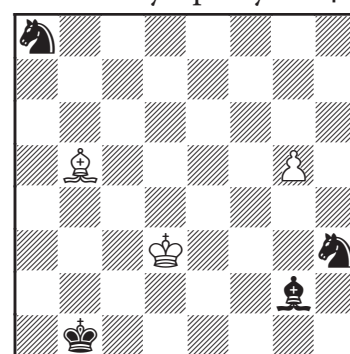


c7h7 3101.21 5/3 Draw

1.Sg4! White loses a piece and the game after 1.Rxf7+? Kg8 2.Rf4 Qc3+ 3.Kd7 Qd2+ 4.Ke6 Qxh2 5.Rg4+ Kh7! 1...Qg7 2.Rh6+! (Rf4? f5+;) 2...Kg8 3.Sf6+ Kf8 Both pieces are still hanging and yet... 4.g4!! Again a quiet move to the same square is preferred on a losing check: 4.Sd7+? Ke7 5.Rc6 Qxg3+ 6.Kc8 Qg8+ 7.Kc7 Qd8+ game over. 4...Qxh6 5.g5! Qh8 6.Kd7! Once again the royal couple is dominated at the corner! 6...Kg7 7.Se8+ Kh7 8.Sf6+ Kg7 9.Se8+ Kg8 10.Sf6+ Kf8 11.h6! The siege has been completed and it is Black to seek a draw by... 11...Qxh6 12.gxh6 stalemate! (EG#19225).

He also made a fine contribution to the treasury of miniatures:

A.5 V. Aberman  
Sochi Olympic ty 2014



d3b1 0046.10 3/4 Draw

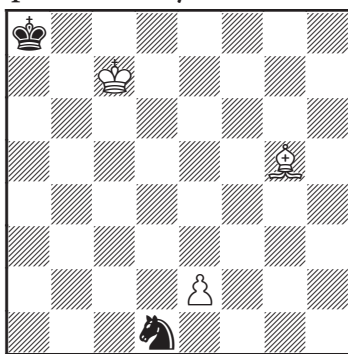
No. 5 displays a pleasant synthesis of familiar motives: 1.g6 Sb6! (1...Sf4+ 2.Ke3! Sc7 3.g7! Bd5 4.Bc6! 2.Kd4! Sf4 3.g7! Not 3.Kc5? Sc8! 4.Bc4 Bh3! 5.g7 Se6+ 6.Bxe6 Bxe6 7.Kc6



Bb3 8.Kd7 Sb6+ and wins. **3...Se6+ 4.Ke5 Sxg7 5.Kf6 Sh5+ 6.Kg5 Sg3 7.Kf4 Sfi** Obstructing his own bishop to allow **8.Bd3+ Kb2 9.Be4! Bh3** The three pieces would win quite easily against a single bishop but not after bishop exchanges. **10.Bf5 Bg2 11.Be4** positional draw (EG#19964b).

As an IT specialist Aberman made optimal use of the silicon utilities for a couple of remarkable discoveries. His baby studies (with 5 pieces), or Malyutki as they are named in Russian, are especially rich in content.

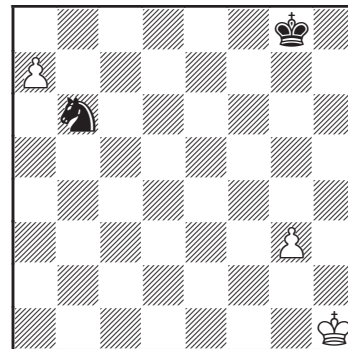
A.6 V. Aberman  
special prize Zachoyakin-100 MT 2014



c7a8 0013.10 3/2 Win

Aberman discovered a couple of remarkable excelsiors. The following malyutka is likely to become a classic: **1.e4 Se3!** After 1...Sc3 2.e5 Sb5+ 3.Kc6 Sd4+ 4.Kd5 Sf5 5.e6 Kb7 6.Ke5 Sg7 7.e7 Kc8 8.Kf6 Black will soon be in zugzwang. **2.e5** (2.Bxe3? is not particularly recommended **2...Sf5 3.e6 Ka7 4.Bf6! Ka8!** (4...Ka6 is met by 5.Kc6) **5.Be5! Ka7 6.Kc6!** 6.Kd7? allows 6...Kb7 7.Ke8 Kc6 8.Kf7 Sh6+ 9.Kf8 Sf5 10.Bf4 Kd5. **6...Ka8** The alternatives are: 6...Se7+ 7.Kd7 Sf5 8.Ke8 Kb7 9.Kf7 Sh6+ 10.Kf8! Sf5 11.Bf4! Kc6 12.Kf7 Kd5 13.Kf6 Sg7 14.e7 Se8+ 15.Kf7, or 6...Ka6 7.Bf6! Ka7 8.Kd5 Kb7 9.Ke5 Sh6 10.e7. **7.Kb6! Sd6 8.Kc7** (8.Bxd6? another stalemate pitfall is skipped; 8.Ka5? Sc8 9.Ka6 Se7 10.Kb6 Sf5 11.Bh2 Se7 12.Bd6 Sf5 13.Kc7. **8...Sf5 9.Bd6 Ka7 10.Bc5+ Ka6 11.Kc6 Ka5 12.Kd5 Sh6! 13.e7 Sg8! 14.e8S!** wins, e.g. 14...Sh6 15.Ke6 Sg4 16.Bg1 Kb4 17.Sd6 Kc3 18.Kf5 Sh6+ 19.Kg5 Sg8 20.Sc8 (EG#20100).

A.7 V. Aberman  
special prize Afek-64 JT 2016



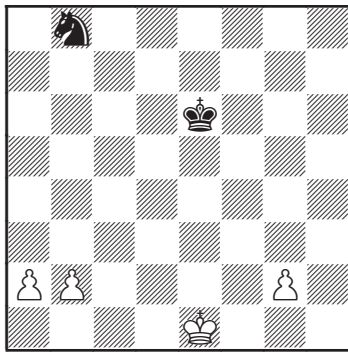
h1g3 0003.20 3/2 Win

For my own chess birthday tourney last year I was privileged to receive quite a few entries of very high standard. One of them was from Victor. I found it definitely deserving of a special prize and here is how I commented on it in my award: “An amazingly accurate and original corner-to-corner journey in baby format. Even though the final destination is not difficult to guess, two obstacles along the route still turn it to a surprising adventure, decided as expected by a thin hair. The last part of the solution starting from move 10 has already been shown by Gillberg (HHdbV#03986)”.

**1.Kg2 1.Kh2? Kf7! 2.Kh3 Ke6 3.g4.** It is necessary to stop the bK advance to the queenside. **3...Kf6 4.Kh4 Kg6** draws. **1...Kf7 2.Kf3 Ke6 3.g4 (!)** 3.Ke4? Kd6 4.g4 Kc7 5.g5 Kb7 6.g6 Sc8! 7.Ke5 Se7 draw. **3...Ke5** (3...Kd5 4.g5 Ke5 5.Kg4 wins) **4.Kg3** An unexpected move of the wK! The immediate advance to the queenside would have been a mistake. It is necessary to move in the opposite direction! 4.Ke3? Sa8 zz WTM 5.Kf3 (5.g5 Kf5 draw; 5.Kd3 Kf4 draw) 5...Sc7 6.Kg3 Kf6 7.Kf4 Kg6 draws. **4...Sa8!** (4...Kf6 5.Kf4! Kg6 6.Ke5 Kg5 7.Kd4 Kxg4 8.Kc5 Sa8 9.Kc6 wins. **5.Kh4 Kf6 6.Kh5 Kg7 7.Kg5 Sc7 8.Kf5 Kf7 9.Ke4** The straight route to the square a8 is blocked. Nevertheless, the wK has a workaround to the goal again! (9.Ke5? Kg6 10.Kd4 (Kd6) Sb5+ draws). **9...Kf6 10.Kd3(!) Kg5 11.Kc4(!) Kxg4 12.Kc5 Sa8 13.Kc6 Kf5 14.Kb7 Ke6 15.Kxa8** wins. The wK moves from corner to corner of the chessboard using a sinusoidal route in a 5-men setting!

I would like to conclude this selection with what I consider to be a peak in Victor Aberman's artistry.

A.8 V. Aberman  
special hon. mention FIDE cup 2015



e1e6 0003.30 4/2 Win

A year earlier he shared second prize with his countryman Richard Becker in the strong Isenegger memorial (7th ARVES tourney) with precisely the same material but, however, with less ambitious content.

Initially Victor provided a rather heavy and somewhat messy analysis of this gem. Being aware of its high merits I asked him, before publishing my award, to present the solution in a more comprehensive manner, emphasizing the thematic aspects in it, and he indeed came up, in just a day, with the following much more human (and spiritual) version which I quote as received:

All pieces except bK are standing on the same squares as at the beginning of a chess game. I looks like we are invited to play chess with God!

**1.Kd2 Sd7! 2.Kc3!** The solution splits into two variations:

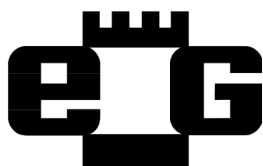
- **Se5 3.Kd4 Kd6 4.Ke4!** (4.b3? Sd7! 5.Ke4 Sc5+! 6.Kf5 Sd3! 7.a3 Se1! 8.g4 Sc2! 9.a4 Sd4+ draws) **4...Sg4** (4...Ke6 5.b3! Kd6 6.g3! Ke6 7.b4! wins, but not 7.a3? Kd6! zz WTM 8.Kf4 Sc6! 9.b4 Sd4! 10.a4 Se2! 11. Kf3 Sc3 12.a5 Kc6) **5.b3! Sf2+ 6.Ke3! Sd1+ 7.Kd4! Sf2 8.a3!**

(8.Kc4? Se4! **zz WTM** 9.a3 Sd2+ 10.Kc3 Sb1+ 11.Kb4 Sd2 12.g4 Se4 draws) **8...Sg4 9.Ke4 Se5 10.g3! zz BTM**. All three Pawns made a short move from the second row! **10...Ke6 11.Kf4** (11...Kf6 12.a4! Sd3+ 13.Ke3! Sc5 14.a5! Sxb3 15.a6 Sa5 16.a7 Sc6 17.a8Q (a8R) wins. A slow excelsior of Pawn "a"! **11...Sd3+ 12.Kg5 (Kg4)** (light dual) **Sc5 13.b4 Se4+ 14.Kh4 Sc3 15.g4! Kf6 16.Kh5 Kg7 17.Kg5 Sd5 18.b5 Sb6 19.Kf5 Sa4 20. Ke5** (20.Ke6? Sc3! 21.b6 Sa4! 22. b7 Sc5+ draws) **20...Sc3! 21.b6 Sa4! 22. b7 Sc5! 23. b8S!** wins.

- **Kd6 3.Kb4!** (3.Kc4? Kc6! positional draw) **3...Se5 4.Kb5 Kc7 5.b3!** (5.b4? Kb7! 6.a3 Sg4! 7.Kc5 Se3 8.g3 Kc7 9.a4 Sg4 10.Kd4 Sf2! 11.b5 Sh1! 12.g4 Sf2! 13.g5 Sh3! 14.g6 Sf4! 15.g7 Se6+ echo of the finals!) **5...Sg4 6.Ka6 Se3 7.g3 Sc2! 8.a4 Sb4+ 9.Kb5! Sc6 10.g4!** (10.Kc5? Se5! 11. Kd5 Sd7! **zz WTM** 12.a5 Kb7 13.b4 Sf6! 14.Ke5 Sg4+ 15.Kf4 Sf6! draws) **10...Sd4+ 11.Kc4 Sf3! 12.Kd5 Sh2! 13.g5 Sf3! 14.g6 Sh4! 15.g7 Sf5! 16.g8S!** wins (EG#20514).

The study shows a minefield theme in modern interpretation. White filigree manoeuvring allows White to bypass many ingenious attacks of the bS, two slow excelsiors with underpromotion in a form of an echo, together with mutual zugzwangs and slow excelsior of the third pawn, are remarkable achievements of this endgame. We can only kneel before the Lord with whom we were lucky enough to play a study on a chessboard!

And then when it seemed that the composing career of Victor Aberman was taking off to new heights, all of a sudden his chess poetry fell silent far too early. I was privileged to act as the judge in all last three major events in which he took part and excelled. As far as I am concerned I trust his beautiful studies to gain indeed the eventual desired immortality as deserved.



*Tasks  
and themes*

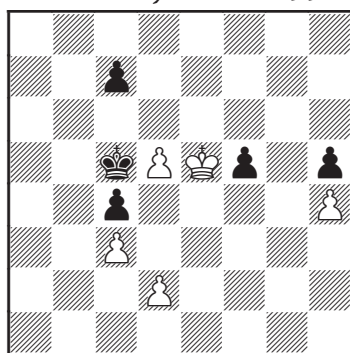
# Game Studies

BY SIEGFRIED HORNECKER

There are many ways to compose studies but sometimes they can even compose themselves in actual games. This time we will look at a few examples of how such studies might come into existence: two of them are classic examples taken from a book by Hans-Hilmar Staudte and Milu Milescu, *Das 1×1 des Endspiels*, while the other two examples are from the past few months.

Paul (Pál) Farago was known for creating difficult studies. He was not only an International Judge for studies but also worked as an arbiter for practical play. Taking the information from those two sentences together, it is no wonder that even at the glimpse of an eye he would be able to see deeper than the players in the game Breazu – Orban in Cluj 1958. He took the opportunity to publish it as a study.

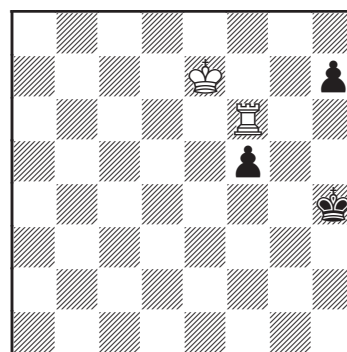
H.1 P. Farago  
*Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1958



e5c5 0000.44 5/5 Win

The game ended with **1.Kxf5? Kxd5 2.Kg5 Ke5 3.Kxh5 Kf5 4.Kh6 Kf6 5.h5 c6! 6.Kh7 Kf7 7.h6 c5!** in a draw, creating the try for the study. Farago, watching the game, immediately saw how to win: **1.d6!! cxd6+ 2.Kxf5 Ke5 3.Kg5 Ke5 4.Kxh5 Kf5 5.Kh6 Kf6 6.h6 d5 7.Kh7 Kf7 8.h6** wins, because Black now is a tempo short.

H.2 Hariel – S. Smiltiner  
Tel Aviv 1963



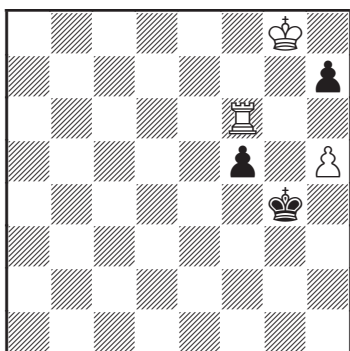
Black to move

It is unclear if the white rook is on f7, as in the German and what I think to be the Spanish version of the book (on Google Books) the rook moves are indicated to the seventh rank but the diagram has the rook on f6. The play concluded:

**1...Kg4 2.Ke6 h5 3.Kd5! h4 4.Kd4 h3 5.Ke3 h2 6.Rg6+ Kh3 7.Kf2! h1S+ 8.Kf3 Kh2 9.Rg2+ Kh3 10.Rg5 Kh2 11.Rxf5 Kg1 12.Rg5+ Kf1 13.Rg2**, and Black gave up. Shlomo Smiltiner was three times a Chess Olympiad participant, so his opponent must have been of great strength, but I was unable to find anything about him or about the opponents of the previous example. Hillel Aloni created a study after this game.

(H.3) After **1...Kxh5** White can't capture any of the both pawns if he wants to win. **2.Kxh7? Kg4 3.Kg6 f4** is trivial, and **2.Rxf5+? Kg4 3.Ra5 h5 4.Kg7 h4 5.Kg6 h3 6.Ra4+ Kg3 7.Kg5 h2 8.Ra3+ Kg2** comes too late. Correct is **2.Kf7! Kg4 3.Ke6!** winning like in the game. Further moves are, of course, dualistic.

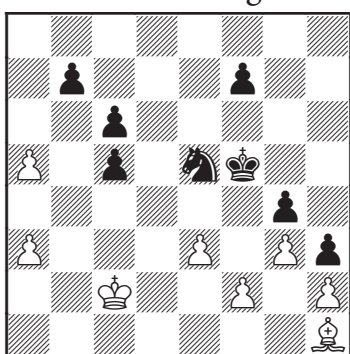
H.3 H. Aloni  
Shahmat 1963



g8g4 0100.12 3/3 BTM, Win

I want to apologize to readers that the next example is very technical and less artistic but it fits perfectly into this article: Michael Prusikin is no stranger to chess studies and is also a strong player, regularly showing up in Switzerland as a top league player. The battle against Florin Gheorghiu was fought hard and in his comment, while not directly publishing the analysis as a study, Prusikin wrote that after the stronger move 45.Kc3-c2! instead 45.a3-a4!? he would have had “a kind of study to solve”. Okay, Michael, you named it, so let’s present it this way!

H.4 M. Prusikhin  
after Gheorghiu – Prusikin,  
Swiss National League 2016



c2f5 0013.66 8/8 Black to move and win

Black will want to bring his king to the a-file, while White tries to defend the holes in his

position with the bishop. So the natural line is 1...Ke6? 2.Be4 Kd6 3.Bf5 Kc7 4.Kd1! Kb8/i 5.f4 gxf3 6.Bxh3 Kc7 (Ka7; Bc8) 7.Bf5 c4 8.Ke1 Kd6 9.h4 Ke7 10.Kf2 c3 11.a4! Kf6 12.Bb1 Sc4 13.Bd3 Sa3 14.Ke1! with a draw.

i) f6 5.Kc2 Kb8 6.Kb3 Ka7 7.Ka4 Ka6 8.Bc8 zz with a draw.

Seeing this mutual zugzwang might not be much help in finding a solution on how to win, unless one manages to find that indeed the pieces of both sides are placed perfectly after 2.Be4, making that position also one of mutual zugzwang. So the solution is:

**1...Kf6!! 2.Be4 Ke6! zz** with six variations and some sub-variations, As the position was not originally published as a study, it is unclear what would be the main variation, but I assume it would be the most thematic one, i.e. **3.Bh1 Kd6 4.Be4 Kc7 5.Bf5 Kb8 6.Kb3/ii Ka7 7.Ka4 Ka6 8.Bc8 f6! zz and Black wins.**

The other variations go like this:

3.Kd1 f5 4.Bh1 Sc4 5.a6 bxa6 6.Bxc6 Sxa3 wins.

3.Kb3 f5 4.Bh1 c4+ 5.Kc3 Kd6 6.e4 Sd3 wins.

3.Kc3 Kd6 4.Bf5 Kc7 and again the manoeuvre up to Ka6 wins.

3.Kd2 c4 4.Kc3 f5 5.Bh1 Kd6 6.e4 Sd3 wins.

3.a4 Kd6 4.Bf5 Kc7 5.Kd1 f6 6.f4/iii gxf3 7.Bxh3 c4 8.Bf5 c3 wins.

ii) 6.Kd1 Ka7 7.f4 g:f3 8.B:h3 Ka6 9.Bf5 K:a5 10.h4 f6 11.h5 Sf7 12.Bc2 Sh6 13.Ke1 Sg4 wins.

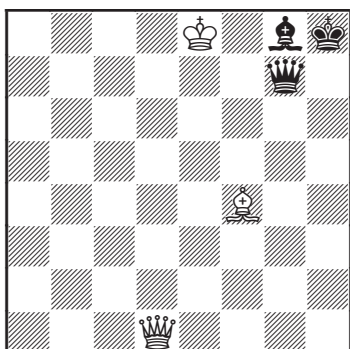
iii) 6.Kc2 Kb8 7.Kb3 Kb8 wins.

Since, and I admit as much, this endgame is too complicated for me or for my computer, cook hunters are welcome to have a look.

The final example this time has actually given birth to several studies. On 7 February 2017 the Jamaican/U.S. chess master Maurice Ashley posted a *petite combinaison* on the internet, more exactly on Facebook.



H.5 M. Ashley  
Facebook 7ii2017

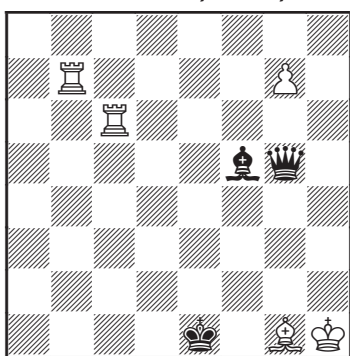


e8h8 4040.00 3/3

White to move doesn't win. Why?

This was seen by several chess composers, including Yochanan Afek who, since it was unclear if he would write a separate piece for *The Problemist*, kindly gave me permission to write this article, as did the two authors of the following revision which incorporates mirrored the solution to the above problem.

H.6 Martin Minski  
& Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen  
Facebook 7ii2017



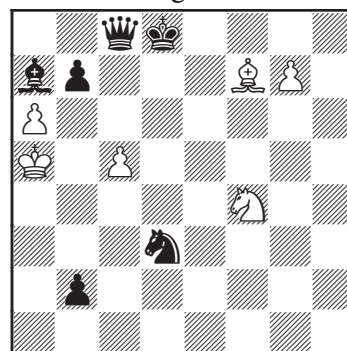
h1e1 3240.10 5/3 Draw

**1.Rc1! Qxc1 2.Rb1! Qxb1 3.g8Q Qe4+ 4.Qg2 Qh4+** and we have reached Maurice Ashley's idea: **5.Bh2 Be4 6.Kg1! Bxg2 7.Bg3+ Qxg3** stalemate.

Maurice Ashley (in his words) loved it, but now other authors such as Yours Truly tried to create something with the idea. Eventually, at

his third attempt, my Serbian friend Branko, who is one of the main forces behind organizing chess composition in Serbia, managed to find a neat setting but unfortunately it turned out to have been anticipated by Pogosyants so his second version is shown instead.

H.7 Branislav Djurašević  
Original



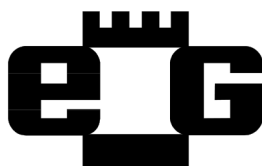
a5d8 3044.32 6/6 Win

After the introduction **1.g8Q+ Kc7 2.Sd5+ Kb8 3.Qg3+**, there are two main variations:

- **Ka8 4.Sc7+ Qxc7+ 5.Qxc7 b1Q 6.axb7+/i Qxb7 7.Qd8+ Bb8 8.Bd5 Sxc5 9.Qg8!/ii Sb3+ 10.Ka4 Sc5+ 11.Ka3** wins, or:
- **Sf4!? 4.Qxf4+ Ka8 5.Sc7+/iii Qxc7+ 6.Qxc7 b1Q 7.axb7+/iv Qxb7 8.Qd8+ Bb8 9.Bd5 Ka7!/? 10.Qb6+!/v Qb6+ 11.ab6** ideal mate.
  - i) **6.Qd8+ Bb8 7.axb7+ Ka7!** draws.
  - ii) Rundlauf. But not **9.Qg5?? Bc7** mate!
  - iii) **5.axb7+ Kxb7! 6.Qxb4+ Ka8 7.Sb6+ Bxb6+ 8.Qxb6 Qxc5+ 9.Qxc5 b1Q** draws.
  - iv) **7.Qd8+ Bb8 8.axb7+ Ka7** draws.
  - v) **10.Bxb7? Bc7+ 11.Qxc7** with Maurice Ashley's stalemate

In conclusion, it might be well worth looking through actual games for interesting opportunities for a study, and sometimes even an idea might come from the least expected people – such as here a famous tourney organizer. Well done, Mr. Ashley!





Computer News

# A light introduction to CQL5

BY EMIL VLASÁK

## CQL5 is out!

*The good news: it has more features; it is more precise and is more powerful.*

*Less good news: The structure and logic of the language has changed dramatically. The scripts are not backwards compatible. Although it is free, you will need to invest a lot of time!*

*The documentation is detailed but in places it is difficult to read even for IT professionals. So I will not copy parts of it but will try to introduce CQL5 in my own way instead.*

*This text covers version 5.1, which was issued two weeks after version 5.0 had been published. Several changes were based on e-mail discussions between the authors, me and Harold van der Heijden. Harold, as a proof-reader, also co-operated in the gradual improvement of the documentation.*

## What is CQL?

Although most readers know older CQL versions, I consider it necessary to include a short presentation for newcomers.

CQL is both a special programming language used to search databases of studies or games for different motifs and a software engine interpreting CQL.

Thirdly, the name is a little joke – SQL is the most widely used database language worldwide.

Harold's HHdbV.pgn with over 85 thousands of studies serves almost exclusively as the main input. The second input is CQL script – a text file with CQL commands. The result is a PGN database with matched studies. CQL could add comments to the output database, too.

CQL was developed by Gady Costeff and Lewis Stiller. It is copyright (c) 2003-2017 and

is free. It uses SCID code by Shane Hudson to parse PGN files.

The download and documentation link can be found here: <http://www.gadycosteff.com/cql/>.

## Hello, world!

Let us start with a working CQL5 script.

```
cql (input heijden.pgn)
wtm stalemate
sort "number of pins" ray 3 6 attack (a
A K)
```

Quite a new design, isn't it? No more "position" filters with a lot of brackets! The only "unnecessary" service line is now `cql (input heijden.pgn)` determining the input file name. The rest are searching filters. It leaves a great impression.

How does it work?

- CQL engine internally "replays" all heijden.pgn games.
- In every game CQL "replays" the whole solution.
- In every position (called by authors **current position**) all search filters are applied.
- If all filters match, the position matches.
- If a certain position matches, the whole game usually matches and it is exported to the output database.

*You can also define the output database name (cql(input heijden.pgn output result.pgn)), but it is not necessary. If the script file name is for example **stalepins.cql**, the default output database name is automatically assigned as **stalepins-out.pgn**.*

Let me try to explain used filters (see example above): it is easy to see that we are searching

for *stalemates* with White to move (*wtm*) – in other words: White is in stalemate.

The last line is difficult enough and I intentionally include it to illustrate already here both the power and the complexity of CQL5.

(1) The kernel is ray attack, a special filter modification for searching and counting pins.

(2) The three pieces – any Black (a), any White (A) and white king (K) are in a *ray* – either horizontal, vertical or diagonal. Only empty squares are allowed between the pieces.

(3) The ray itself would not be enough, so we need to add the *attack* extension. The first piece (a = any Black) is attacking a white piece (A = any white) directly and the white king (K = wK) indirectly.

(4) Only now is it clear: white piece A is pinned by a black piece a.

But this is not all. The ray attack filter is *countable* and CQL allows to add a *range* – 3 6. With this range only positions containing 3 to 6 pins match.

*The placing of the range seems to be a little strange, but it has its logic. The range belongs just behind the filter name and filter name is ray.*

But we are not done yet! CQL is able to *sort* the output games so that the games with the most pins are on the top which is very pleasant for users.

And finally – *comments*. CQL inserts useful information in an output game, which can be controlled by users a little. We need to add the string “number of pins” before the number of pins. Here is a snippet from the header of the top game in output pgn database:

```
{EG#20271.; Game number 640; number of pins: 4}
```

Very nice!

### Time machine

I spent my first day with CQL5 browsing documents and examples in a vain attempt at making sense of it :-). The next day I woke up with a feeling that something was wrong. Now I have it! I need to find, let's say, studies with

several underpromotions. No problem with older CQL3:

```
(match :pgn heijden.pgn :output result.
pgn
(position :promote R)
(position :promote B)
(position :promote N))
```

Each position filter was checked independently and so it was easily possible to collect information from different parts of the study. Of course, this old concept brought various hidden logic problems to light but in CQL5 all filters are tested *always in the same position* called the *current position*. What about this?

Of course a solution exists and it is used in examples. You have to use a time machine called *next*, *next2* or *next\** *that allows you to see the future*.

Here is a working CQL5 script.

```
cql(input heijden.pgn)
initial
next* move promote R
next* move promote N
next* move promote B
```

*Next\** works with only one filter without brackets. It matches if the included filter always matches in the future of the current position. If variations is set in the *cql()* header then also variations are searched, otherwise only the mainline is searched.

*I hope the reader understands the importance of initial filter. The whole test only makes sense in the starting (initial) position of the study and omitting this operator would greatly increase computer time.*

*Next* is another important time machine filter. It requires a sequence of filters in parentheses, each filter covers the next position. Remember: (1) gaps are not allowed in the sequence, (2) the first tested position is the current one.

```
next (check check check check)
```

So the example above matches if the study contains 4 *consecutive* checks (by White and Black).

Then there is the third version *next2* which takes into account only consecutive positions of one side. In other words, every second position is tested.

Another new CQL5 feature are *wildcards* allowing to repeat arguments in next/next2 filters.

\* means repeat 0 or more times

+ means repeat 1 or more times

? means repeat 0 or 1 time

In the field of computer science the result is called a *regular expression* and it is always the longest possible sequence. Are you able to guess what makes the following script?

```
sort next2 50 150 (check+)
```

Of course, it searches for studies with *consecutive checks by one colour* sorting out record-breakers on the top. The winner is van Breukelen 1981 with 100 consecutive checks by a (almost) funny black rook.

### Negative searches

The most frequent question about older versions of CQL I dealt with, was concerning negative searches. *I need to find games without a queen move. How to find studies without stalemate or without a promotion?* It was not an easy problem and I covered it in EG198.

This is now a thing of the past. Firstly, the construction:

```
cql(input h.pgn matchcount 0) stalemate
```

*does work correctly* in CQL5. Secondly, you can use an easy filter with the time machine, for example:

```
cql (input h.pgn) initial not next*
stalemate
```

### Virtual main lines

The PGN format was developed for chess games. It has one PGN-main line for moves played and an unlimited subline structure for analyses. Unfortunately, it is not optimal for chess problems and chess studies with two or more equivalent thematic main lines. That's why several thematic lines have to be saved as PGN-subline and *irreversibly* blended with technical lines. Harold resolved this problem for HHdbV by including text note <main> to

the first Black move which starts a thematic line in PGN subline. But the old CQL was not able to work with comments.

*When the CQL authors asked for requirements for the new version, both Harold and I independently included this issue at the forefront of our wish lists.*

I proposed to introduce a new filter for the thematic line, but the authors chose a more general solution. There is a quick overview of the new variations processing.

(1) If you need to check PGN-sublines, you have to define it in the cql header.

```
cql (input heijden.pgn variations)
```

(2) Now you can use filters mainline and variation.

For example the following filter

```
Qh1 variation
```

matches in positions with Qh1, but *only* in PGN-subline.

(3) And the most important novelty is the construction

```
cql(input heijden.pgn variations)
{mainline or {silent previous (not
beginvariation* hascomment "<main>")}}
```

The hascomment filter matches if the position has a relevant comment, here: <main>.

The core structure is previous, another *time machine*. Unlike next, previous *looks into the history*.

The virtual main line (commented as "<main>") can have sublines, too. To avoid matches from such sublines the filter *beginvariation* (repeated 0 or more-times) is used, of course negated.

Overall, the complex filter above *matches in thematic lines of the study*.

The silent filter is a rather a cosmetic matter. CQL5 writes a lot of diagnostic information into the output PGN database. You can avoid this

(1) globally in the cql header

```
cql(input heijden.pgn silent)
```

(2) or suppress individual comments for each filter as it is done in our example.

## Squares, Directions, Ranges, Transforms

Now the most difficult part comes: we'll have to master at least the basic theory of square sets, ranges, transforms and filters.

I hope that every reader understands the *square set* – it is a set of squares.

*Square designators* are the simplest way how to describe square sets. In comparison with CQL3 there have been no fundamental changes.

There are examples for *simple designators*

d4, d4-5, a-c2-4

The last one means squares a2, a3, a4, b2, b3, b4, c2, c3, c4.

And several *compound designators* follow.

[a1,h1,a8,h8]

[a1-8,a-h1,a-h8,h1-8]

*Directions* are a completely new way for easier definition of square sets.

**Basic directions:** up, down, right, left, north-east, northwest, southwest, southeast. **Compound directions:** diagonal, orthogonal, vertical, horizontal, anydirection.

How to use directions? It seems to be easy enough, some examples are:

up 1 d4 := d5

up -2 d4 := d2

up 1 3 d4 := d5-7

down 1 d4 := d3

left 1 [d4,e5] := [c4,d5]

right a1-8 := b-h1-8

right 1 a-h2 := b-h2

vertical 3 d4 := [d7,d1]

Yes, you can also use a *negative number*, even though this direction has a different keyword.

By the way, like in CQL3, everything after a *semicolon* on a line is *ignored as a comment*.

The *range* means one or two integer numbers. In the example above: up 1 d4, the range is 1 and in up 1 3 d4 the range is 1 to 3, i.e. 1, 2, 3. Nothing new about it compared to CQL3.

*Transforms* are partly known from older versions, too.

*Dihedral transforms* are flip, flipvertical, fliphorizontal, and the new ones – rotate90 and rotate45.

Examples:

flip g6 := [g6, g3, b6, b3, c7, f2, f7, c2]

flipvertical g6 := [g6, b6]

fliphorizontal g6 := [g6, g3]

rotate90 g6 := [g6, c7, b3, f2]

Directions are transformed, too.

Rotate90 up [g6,a1] := up [g6,a1] or left [c7,h1] or down [b3,h8] or right [f2,a8]

*Shift transforms* we also know from CQL3: shift, shifthorizontal, shiftvertical.

shiftvertical [b1 g6] := [b1, g6, b2, g7, b3, g8]

However, the way that that shift handles *wraparound* is more complicated now and it eliminates unpleasant surprises to which the old convention was prone. When a square is shifted off the board the entire transform ends for this direction.

There is a special rule – the transform does not change full ranks in the direction of its shift.

shiftvertical [d2-8, a2] := [d1-7, a1-a2]

But

shiftvertical [d1-8, a2] := [d1-8, a1-a8]

Now some practice. Let's start good old CQL3 and run two scripts:

```
(position :shift Pc4 Pd5 Pe4 pc5 pd6 pe5)
```

```
(position :shift Pa4 Pb5 Pc4 pa5 pb6 pc5)
```

The first one works well and results in 127 studies. But the second one is able to find 293 studies. It is a well-known issue; shift did not work correctly with patterns at the edges.

The CQL5 script

```
cql(input heijden.pgn silent)
comment "Benoni" shift {Pa4 Pb5 Pc4 pa5
pb6 pc5}
```

does now work correctly.

The comment is new for us. It inserts the string Benoni into the output database in the proper place(s). This filter *overrides* even the silent parameter in cql() header.

Simple *pieces designators* are almost same as in CQL3.

```
K Q R B N P ;White pieces
```



k q r b n p ;Black pieces

A a ; Any White piece, any Black piece

. ; (dot) – empty square

Compared to CQL3 we no longer have M, m, I, i designators for major or minor pieces. There is no problem replacing them with **compound piece designator**.

[QR] ; white major pieces

[bn]; black minor pieces

Let us finish this tedious chapter with the **flipcolor transform**. The flipcolor transform changes all the colours of any piece designators, changes wtm to btm, changes player white to player black; reverses any result; it also flips the board horizontally:

flipcolor Ba1 := Ba1 or ba8

### Filters and Filters again

Almost all keywords you write in CQL5 script are considered **filters** so it is therefore very important to understand them. Every filter returns **logical value** – true or false. Even silent, comment or sort may be considered as degenerated filters, always returning true.

But the usual filters' outcome will depend on the **current position** in which they are evaluated. There are several simple examples: wtm, btm, check, mate, stalemate, darksquares, lightsquares, mailine, variation, beginvariation.

The most powerful filters are **set filters**. They return **also** a square set. It does not come in conflict with their logical nature. If the resulting square set is **empty**, the filter value is false, otherwise it is true.

Even piece designators are set filters. For example, if the current position is the start position of a chess game, then

[Rr] ;denotes [a1, h1, a8, h8]

Filters can be combined using **logical operations**.

**Logical and** is a default operator and it is **no more used in explicit form**. So we are writing simply wtm stalemate and it means wtm **and** stalemate.

But you can use operators: or and: not, too. I was a little surprised by their precedence.

not Ra3 or check

What does it mean? According to the CQL5 definition, it is:

not {Ra3 or check}

It is compatible with principles that:

(1) *not* is a filter,

(2) CQL always tries to make arguments as long as possible as soon as possible.

But it is not compatible with normal mathematics and programming languages where the negation is usually evaluated first.

Fortunately, there are special **curly braces** {} which could be used in any quantity to clarify complex structures. I highly recommend using them. Although the filter in brackets {} is formally changed from a **simple** to a **compound** one, it does not change its meaning.

An important feature of compound filters is **short circuit evaluation**.

{stalemate comment “Stalemate here”}

The filter is evaluated from the left and if the first filter is false, the rest components are not evaluated. So if stalemate is false, the comment filter is not evaluated and although it is always true, it is not performed and that's exactly what we need.

### Counting and Sorting Filters

Many filters are **countable**. What is counted exactly depends on the nature of the particular filter.

*There are filters with an indication of what is counted: attack – attacks or attacking squares, square – squares, next and previous – the length of the shortest sequence of positions matching its arguments, next\* and previous\* – the number of occurrences of its argument, power – the total material power of its argument, powerdifference – the difference in material power between its first and second arguments, movenumber – the move number of the current position, year – the year of the current game, elo – the elo of the specified player, ray – the number of rays*



described by its arguments, matchcount – the number of positions that are matched in a game.

All set filters are countable resulting in the number of squares.

Each countable filter may be *supplemented by a range*. There are several simple examples how to use this important feature.

[qQ] 2 4 ; True if in total 2-4 queens are on the board in the current position.

To increase the readability of CQL scripts the authors introduced the filter countsquares. The last example could be written as:

```
countsquares 2 4 [Qq]
```

Attention – a set filter with a range is no longer a set filter and only its logical value remains. It changes into a *count filter*.

```
attack 2 (A k)
```

In this version the *attacking pieces* are counted, so this filter searches for double checks by White. But the attack filter has also another syntax, which enables counting *attacked squares*. For example:

```
attack (A p) 3 8
```

matches in positions with at least 3 attacked black pawns.

The count filters *could be sorted*.

```
sort attack 14 20 (A a)
```

This script finds positions with the highest number of white attacks on black pieces. The maximum in main lines of HHdbV is 16 attacks. Were you expecting a higher number? I was!

You can try *multiple sorts*, too.

```
sort "Number of pins" ray 3 10 attack (A a k)
sort "Year" year 1 2020
```

This is not just a joke, it may be helpful to view matches with the latest studies on the top.

## Record Breakers

Before discussion of other difficult aspects of CQL, we take a break for a while and have a look at a few entertaining examples.

```
flipcolor shifthorizontal sort
countsquares 4 6 P[b2-7]
```

There are several studies with 6 white or black pawns on the same file; Vlasák 1982 is one of record-holders :-).

```
cql(input heijden.pgn sort matchcount 10
300)
check
```

Blathy 1889 is the top study with 187 checks in the main line.

```
stalemate
sort "Number of Pieces" [Aa] 1 32
```

Dawson 1919 and Kazantsev 1929 have stalemates with total 23 pieces.

*Don't change the sort and stalemate order in the last script. For some technical reasons the sort filter going first sorts the number of pieces in the starting position so using the **short circuit trick** is necessary here.*

```
result 1-0
wtm
not check
power 1 A
sort "Difference in power:"
powerdifference 20 100 (a A)
```

White wins with a single pawn against a big material advantage. The old record-holder is Krejčík 1931 with a powerdifference of 38!

## Variables

Here is a classic problem for using *piece variables* – find a study where one white knight sequentially finds itself in two corners a8 and h8 of the chessboard. The easy script:

```
initial
next* Na8
next* Nh8
```

is usable in practise, but you have to exclude a lot of matches with *two different white knights*. The only way to differentiate between two knights is to use variables.

```
initial
piece $myknight in N
next* $myknight on a8
next* $myknight on h8
```

The piece...in line defines the variable \$myknight. The name of the variable must begin with \$.

How does it work? Imagine a kind of *inner loop*. The variable is gradually assigned to all individual pieces given after the keyword in, and

the following filters are carried with *every value of this variable*. In other words, the script is checked gradually against all the knights. *Any single match matches a game then*.

*The initial filter saves computer time, but you could miss matches with underpromoted knights. The version without initial takes almost four times longer but it found one extra study Kosek 1905.*

The piece variable is assigned a square-set, and this *assignment changes in each current position*. But sometimes you need to know the original assigned square and for this reason there is the origin keyword. The following script finds studies where two White knights changes places.

```
piece $myknight1 in N
  piece $myknight2 in N
  not $myknight1 on $myknight2
  next* {{$myknight1 on origin
$myknight2} {$myknight2 on origin
$myknight1}}
```

The not line excludes cases where \$myknight1=\$myknight2. And the *short circuit* concept ensures that the slow next\* filter will not be evaluated in such cases.

Besides piece variables also *square variables* are available. Both syntax and usage are very similar. But the square set assigned to several square variables *is never changing*.

Do you need to see the most visited square in the HHdbV database? Try the following script:

```
initial
square $visited in any
  sort "Number of visits"
  next* 15 1000 move to $visited
```

For every board square (the keyword *any* is the simplest way to assign it) all moves to this square are counted and the result is sorted. The record breaker is Petrovic 1989 where several squares are visited 122 times. My guess was Blathy, but he has “only” 109 visits :-).

As we saw in examples with knights, usually just one variable’s value is enough to match the whole game. But sometimes *we need all the variable values to match* and therefore the keyword all is available in variables. A very elegant script for testing pure mates follows.

```
mate btm
square all $emptysquare in attack (k .)
  attack 1 (A $emptysquare)
```

How does it work? Attack (k .) defines a square set of *empty squares around the black king*. Each such square is gradually substituting the \$emptysquare variable. And *all such squares* have to be attacked *just by one white piece*.

## The CQL Academy – Relation Filter

The relation filter is another *time machine*, but a more complicated one. It is able to find two similar positions in a study with only small differences. Although it is known from CQL3, it has been *completely redesigned*. I will give some illustrative scripts.

```
cql(input heijden.pgn variations)
wtm
relation
  variation
  btm
  (mismatch 0)
```

White is to move in the current position. We are searching for the same position (0 mismatches) with Black to move. Yes, the result is a good start point for searching studies with *mutual zugzwangs with a thematic try*.

```
K on lightsquares
relation
  K on darksquares
  (tomove match)
  echoshift (mismatch 0)
```

This is the *chameleon echo* script. The same side is to move (tomove match). No mismatches are allowed, so the echo is perfect. Besides echoshift there are also echoflip, echoflipvertical, echofliphorizontal and echorotate parameters.

The *WCCT7 theme* requested White to get rid of one or more pieces.

```
cql(input heijden.pgn result 1-0)
relation
  (tomove match)
  (sourcesquares [a.] mismatch 0)
  (sourcesquares A targetsquares A
mismatch 0)
  (sourcesquares A targetsquares .
mismatch 1 64)
```

This example is more complicated and I will try to explain it in more detail. It uses several *square parameters*. Each square parameter principally consists of sourcesquares and targetsquares – they are square sets, of course. If some of them are missing, CQL uses any instead, i.e. all 64 squares. Then the CQL engine determines *the intersection* of those two sets and counts matches or mismatches on the intersection squares in the source and target positions.

(1) In line 4 the targetsquares are any, the intersection are all squares with Black pieces plus empty squares in the source position. And this can never change in the target position. The other two square parameters concern the white pieces.

(2) All white pieces which remain on the board (sourcesquares A targetsquares A) are unchanged. And finally:

(3) (sourcesquares A targetsquares .) there is at least one new empty square instead of a white piece.

### Measuring the depth of ideas

We stick to the relation filter. The authors have here introduced another novelty – the *LCA* or *Latest Common Ancestor*. It is the nearest common position which could be reached from both source and target positions in the sense of the filter previous\*. In other words, LCA is the *youngest father* of both positions. There are several relation parameters allowing to *count the LCA distance* in halfmoves: lca-max, lcasum, lcasource, lcatarget.

If you use such a parameter, the LCA position is commented in the output pgn database as “LCA”.

An interesting example illustrates this innovative technology.

```
relation
  variation
    (tomove match)
    (sourcesquares [RNBQ]
targetsquares [RNBQ] mismatch 1)
    (mismatch 1)
    (lcasum 20 1000)
```

There is only one change in the white RNBQ pieces and it is also the only change between source and destination positions. Yes, (mismatch 1) can be in fact read as (any any mismatch 1). It looks like a study with two different promotions and the point of underpromotion *only becomes clear long after the promotion*.

In addition there is an interesting lcasubstring parameter. It measures the longest possible sequence of identical moves, leading from the LCA to the source position and to the target position. Of course both positions *have no common path after LCA* but identical move series may still occur in *different branches from LCA*. To understand it run the following script.

```
mainline btm
relation
  wtm variation
    (mismatch 0)
    (lcasubstring 15 1000)
```

This is the already-known zugwang again, but with a very deep point. The recommended study to replay is Vlasenko 2013. LCA is here just a start position and there are two branches after 1.c3! and 1.c4? with a long series of identical moves. The output database is well commented using SOURCEPATH and TARGETPATH keywords.

### Running CQL5 on Windows

CQL runs now on 64bit Windows only. The EXE file is perfectly compiled with a very small size. If you are a Linux guru you will surely love controlling CQL from the command line. But in Windows it is an annoying procedure so many years ago I had written *VisualCQL*, a user-friendly Windows IDE.

Now I have adapted it for CQL5 as VisualCQL5. I have added several new features, too.

(1) A unique script name is generated automatically allowing rapid testing without wasting time.

(2) *CQL5 Header Composer* is running at the program start and after the New command. It generates parameters in cql () header eliminating the need to write them manually.

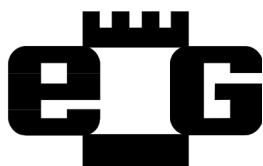


(3) **Code completion.** It is enough to write only two starting characters of CQL5 keywords. You will see the possible keywords on the status bar below and using Ctrl+Space you can bring them into the editor. Using the shortcut Ctrl+Space you can also generate a pair characters `", { }, [ ]`, which posed some difficulties on some national keyboards.

(4) **The Palette** is quite new. It is now based on the Microsoft HTML Help system allowing storing examples and notes, searching etc. Every text could be transferred into the editor through copy and paste. In addition after you click the Palette icon, the word under the cursor is analyzed and the corresponding help page is displayed.



*Martin Minski and David Gurgenidze in Belgrade 2016 (Photo: LP)*



*History*

*Alexander Herbstman, in his article The Chess Study in 1936, deliberately forgot another tourney, the so-called 'Olympic tourney' organized in Nazi Germany. No Soviet author could include that tourney in any article, even if, in 1936, it was still possible for some composers from the USSR to send their work for publication in Germany.*

The (unofficial) chess Olympiad took place in Munich during Summer 1936 (17vi-ii1936-1ix1936) at which time the German Chess Federation (in German, Deutscher Schachbund) was no longer a member of the FIDE. More precisely, the 'old' Federation (founded in 1880) had been replaced in 1933 by a Pan-Germanic League of Chess (the Grossdeutscher Schachbund (GSB)). The regime passed a new law ('for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service') that reserved membership of any German organization or corporation for 'members of the Aryan race'. Players of Jewish origin were no longer admitted in German chess clubs ('unless they had received the Iron Cross or had been combatants in the War', precised the *British Chess Magazine* in September 1933). That 'Aryan paragraph' was contrary to the FIDE Statutes. But, despite the fact that it was no longer affiliated to FIDE, the new GSB sent a representative to attend the FIDE meeting in Warsaw in 1935. The GSB had proposed a Chess Olympiad to coincide with the Summer Olympic Games and an official position was expected. Let us quote again the *British Chess Magazine* (October 1935): 'Some opposition was offered on account of Germany's non-affiliation, but eventually, on a vote, it was left to each country to take its own line on the matter'. As an apparent gesture of goodwill, Germany temporarily dropped its ban on Jews and the Chess Olympiad was organized in Germany under more or less 'normal' conditions.

## 1936 (part 3)

BY ALAIN PALLIER

The Summer Olympic Games had been awarded to Germany in 1931, at the Barcelona Session of the International Olympic Committee. At the time, Germany still was a democracy and, in 1932, there were federal elections, first in July and later in November, that saw, first, the the Nazi party's victory and, subsequently, the decision of Marshall Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as Chancellor was made in January 1933. There were some discussions in 1933 and 1934 among members of the IOC about a possible revision of the choice of Germany for the 1936 Summer Olympics but the USA eventually accepted the invitation and the debate was closed. The Games took place in Berlin (1viii1936-15viii1936).

The Chess Olympiad immediately followed, not in Berlin but in Munich. Most of the top players, even German grandmaster Efim Bogoljubov, preferred to play in England, where the Nottingham tourney was held, more or less at the same time (10viii1936-28viii1936). 21 countries competed in Munich and the event was won by Hungary, with a team in which, ironically, most of the players were Jews (the Steiner brothers, Lajos and Endre, Szabo, Erno Gereben), ahead of Poland (another country that also had, to a lesser extent, a 'Jewish' team with P. Frydman, M. Najdorf, H. Friedman) and... Germany. The only source of satisfaction for Germany was the high level of participation – with a new format (8 boards, 10 players in each squad), it was not very difficult to break records...

It was the first time that a composing tourney for problems and studies was combined with the Olympic tourney for players. The late announcement (15iii1936, in the *Deutsche Schachblätter*, the organ of the GSB) shows that the decision had probably not been taken before early 1936.



There were four sections: two-movers, three-movers and more-movers, all judged by problemists Eduard Birgfeld (1887-1939), the editor-in-chief of *Die Schwalbe*, and Ado Kraemer (1898-1972), and a section for studies. No judge for the study section was announced in March 1936. Later, player Willi Schlage (1888-1940), who was at the time the chess trainer of the German Chess Federation, and... Ado Kraemer were appointed.

Kraemer was a noted problemist, a follower of the Logical-New German problem school, who also occasionally composed studies (about 40). He was also a loyal supporter of the Nazi regime, a member of the NSDAP (the Nazi party), and became SS-Obersturmführer in 1937 and SS-Hauptsturmführer in 1938. During WWII, he took part in the Western campaign (he was wounded several times) and was later assigned to a position in Poznan. After the German defeat in 1945, Kraemer ended up in an internment camp from which he was released in 1948. Until retirement, he worked in viticulture in Franconia as a renowned wine expert (he had studied agriculture) and was honoured with several awards in this field.

Entries had to be sent before July 1st. The money prizes were the same in each section and were quite attractive: for 1st prize, 250 rmk, for second prize, 150 rmk, 100 rmk for third prize, etc.

The awards were quickly published, in issue 19 of *Deutsche Schachblätter*, 1x1936. Judging from the official participation, the contest was a success. There were no less than 1227 compositions (1291 were received, 64 rejected) that took part in the four sections:

- 424 two-mover
- 418 three-movers
- 251 four-movers
- 134 studies

Even in the study section, these figures are amazing and even suspect: for instance, in 1948, the London Olympic tourney, that only had three sections (one for two-movers and two for three-movers, no studies), again without

Soviet composers, gathered 450 problems from 184 composers (who belonged to 26 different countries). In 1952, the Helsinki Olympiad had a parallel Olympic tourney for studies (only) with 83 studies (42 participants from 15 countries, without Soviet composers).

A more detailed examination of participants by countries shows that for instance, among the 'big' nations, there were four from England (Scotland was counted separately, with Comins Mansfield and another composer) and three from France. Clearly, many composers from prominent countries were reluctant to participate. By comparison, the 13 participants from Mexico look rather strange. No surprise, Germany, with 733 compositions, was the first country by the number of works, ahead of Austria (104) and Hungary (86).

Another apparent oddity was the presence of one composer from 'Rusland'! Obviously a Russian emigre, probably Vitaly Halberstadt who acquired French citizenship only in 1957.

Why is that figure of 134 entries rather incredible? Each composer could only send 2 original compositions: this means that at least 67 composers took part, and more likely 80 or 90! At the time, only the USSR could have ensured such massive participation with more than 30 active composers. Without them, it is difficult to understand how so many composers could take part. But participation of beginners is mentioned in the report and is the only explanation for these figures.

In the study section, the town of residence, and not the country of origin, as in problem section, was given. The explanation was that for problems, and for problems only, medals were awarded, not individually, but per country (and thanks to that ranking, Germany at least was able to win a gold medal, with 48 points, ahead of Austria and Hungary who had to share the silver and bronze medals). There was an exception with Erich Zepler (1898-1980) in the three-movers and more-movers sections: as for study composers, only his town of residence (London) was given, but here, it was for political reasons. In 1935, Zepler, a Jew, had left

Germany for London with his family. He was not English at the time and he was no longer a German, at least for Nazi authorities. Despite Kraemer's Nazi beliefs, Zepler and Kraemer were - and remained after WWII - very close friends. They published two books together in 1951 and in 1957.

In each section, in the provisional award, twenty works were systematically rewarded (ten prizes, ten honourable mentions). From the provisional award of the study section, the names of 19 participants are known (only one of them had his two entries rewarded):

#### Prizes

1 **Paul Farago** (Budapest - this was obviously a mistake, Farago lived in Bucharest: it was corrected in issue no.22 of *Deutsche Schachblätter*, p 412).

2. **G.A. Riester** (München)

3. **Th. Gerbec** (Wien)

4. **Dr D.Elekes** (Budapest)

5. **Dr J. Krejcik** (Wien)

6. **V. Halberstadt** (Paris)

7. **L. Prokeš** (Prague)

8. **S. Boros** (Budapest)

9. **J. Hoogeveen** (Haarlem)

10. **S. Mühlthaller** (München)

#### Honourable mentions

11. **J. Hašek** (Prague)

12. **A. Wotawa** (Wien)

13. **Th.C.L. Kok** (den Haag)

14. **W. Kluxen** (Hamburg)

15. **J. Ganttner** (Mährisch-Ostrau, today Ostrava)

16. **J. Hoogeveen** (Haarlem)

17. **K. Richter** (Berlin)

18. **E. Brunner** (München)

19. **J. Mandil** (Barcelona)

20. **Y. Bladh** (Nybro)

Among these 19 composers, 10 were not 'true' study composers: I mean that these 9 composed only a few studies, and did not take part in other study tourneys. Nothing more is known about **G.A. Riester** (only one other study by him is

in HHdbV). **Deszö Elekes** (1889-1965) was a helpmate specialist. He was also a good correspondence player (a member of the Hungarian team that won the World Championship in 1949-1952) He was by profession a demograph and statistician who held high-level posts during the inter-war years and after WWII. Only four studies by Elekes are known.

HHdbV has 11 studies by **Theodor Gerbec** (1887-1946), from Vienna: he was a modest chess player and a composer of problems and was one of the co-editors of the *Deutsche Schachzeitung* in 1943-1945, famous for his anti-Semitic writings. Nothing can be found about the Dutchman **J. Hoogeveen**: who was he? His name does not appear in the book *Endgame Study composing in the Netherlands and Flanders* written by Jan van Reek and Henk van Donk (Arves, 1992). HHdbV has 6 studies by him. **Wilhelm Kluxen** (1874-1952) composed problems as did **Sebastian Mühlthaller** (born in 1895) but only a few studies (respectively, 3 and 2 studies). 28 studies by **Jaroslav Ganttner** (1885-1953) are known, but he left a larger number of problems. **Kurt Richter** (1900-1969) was a strong player: he played on first board for Germany during the Munich Olympiad and, for many years, was the editor of the *Deutsche Schachblätter*. He left only 3 studies. **Erich Brunner** (1885-1938) was the well-known composer of strategic more-movers. From Switzerland, he spent 8 years in Munich (1929-1937). The number of studies he composed (or published) is quite low: only 6 in HHdbV. At least, **Yngve Bladh** (1897-1972) composed problems (selfmates) but only 2 studies composed by him are known.

Two other composers stand apart: **Josef Krejcik** (1885-1937) was a well-known Austrian master, an important personality of the Vienna chess scene. But it is not as a chess composer that he is mostly remembered, despite having composed around 60 studies.

Little is known about Hungarian **Sandor Boros**. He was born in 1907 and he composed around 700 problems, mainly two-movers. He was very active in composing (he was also a strong player) and he had two books published

before WWII, in 1937 a collection of his own compositions (*100 válogatott feladványa*) and in 1939 he compiled with László Lindner an anthology of Hungarian problems (*Magyar sakkfeladvány Anthologia*, 1939). A third book was published in 1943: *Válogatott játszmái és feladványai*. He died in 1944, apparently a victim of the Holocaust. Studies were not his main interest in composing (less than 20 can be found in HHdbV).

This leaves us with only seven ‘true’ study composers: **Farago, Halberstadt, Prokeš, Hašek, Wotawa, Kok** and **Mandil**. Among these seven, only five ‘survived’ in the final award: Mandil’s work was found to be anticipated and Halberstadt’s study was unsound. The composer tried to make it correct for his 1954 collection, but, unfortunately, the correction also proved unsound (and twice, with a first flaw on first move and a second one on move 4). In his book, Halberstadt did not give the actual reference but only the chess magazine in which the study had been reproduced, the *Deutsche Schachzeitung*. By the way, Ladislav Prokeš (1886-1967), who got fourth prize, did not include his study in his 1951 collection. Prokeš, a strong player who took part in several international tournaments and who competed three times in the national team of Czechoslovakia for the Olympiads (1927, 1928 and 1930), was also the only composer with a study rewarded in all the Olympic tournaments organized during his life – Helsinki (1952), Leipzig (1960) and Tel Aviv (1964).

Several other flaws were detected before the end of the year. The 2nd prize, 3rd prize and the 6th prize were removed from the final award. Among the honourable mentions, three other studies were removed. Here is the final award, again with ten prizes, as published in early 1937 (some other studies have been found defective since then).

### Prizes

1. P. Farago
2. D. Elekes

3. J. Krejčík
4. L. Prokeš
5. S. Boros
6. J. Hoogeveen
7. S. Mühlthaller
8. J. Hašek
9. A. Wotawa
10. Th. Kok

### Honourable mentions

1. J. Ganttner
2. J. Hoogeveen
3. K. Richter
4. E. Brunner

**Paul Farago** (1886-1970) was born in Hungary. His birthplace is not so easy to locate. Several sources (like the obituary written by G. Teodoru for *EG* no. 26, in October 1971) give Pereg. But the *Wikipedia* page about him in Hungarian (curiously, at the time of writing this article, there was no page about Pal Farago in Romanian language!) gives another place: Felsőszentivan, near the borders with Croatia and Serbia. I consulted the obituary in the *Revista Română de Şah* (February 1971) but it does not mention Farago’s birthplace. When you search for Pereg in Google, you find several places in Hungary or in Romania. It seems that Pereg, in the Pest county, about 20 kilometres south of Budapest, is the name of a neighbourhood of the present village of Kiskunlacháza, a small town that was created around 1950 when two smaller villages, Pereg (catholic) and Lacháza (protestant), were joined together. Farago studied at the Kecskemét high school and graduated from the Technical University of Budapest (Faculty of Civil Engineering). He worked on the site of the Lake Balaton railway, then on the Cserna water regulation project. He later came to Arad, and finally, in 1910, to Kolozsvár, the second largest town of the Kingdom of Hungary, where he was appointed senior engineer (his specialty was geodetic works). Kolozsvár



became a Romanian town after the union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania (this was officialised by the Treaty of Trianon, Versailles 1920). Later, he settled in Bucharest and in his later years came back to Cluj (in 1974, Cluj became Cluj-Napoca).

Farago was an 'old newcomer' in the study field: even if some of his studies had been composed when he was young, the first one at 13, and he began a serious career as a study composer only in 1935, on the eve of his 50th birthday. The same year, after Herman Gunninger's death, he took over the study section of the *Revista Română de Şah* and remained in function during many years. He also ran the study column of *Magyar Sakkvilág* from 1943 to 1950. In 1952, he was again among the three first prize winners in the Helsinki Olympic tourney, with a Bronze medal.

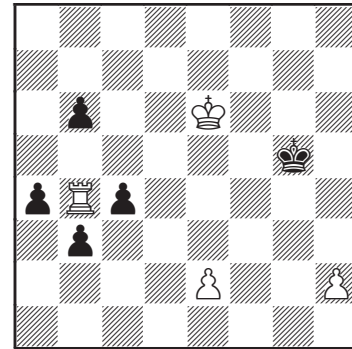
With more than 200 studies, Farago is considered as the father of Romanian study composers. He wrote a book, a collection of his own studies (*Idei noi în şahul artistic*) that was published in Romanian in 1956 and in Hungarian in 1958. In 2016, he was awarded the title of International Master, upon the request of Hungarian and Romanian Chess Federations.

Farago wrote a long article about the tourney, that was published in the May 1937 issue of the *Revista Română de Şah*. At the time, it seems that Romania intended to organize the 1938 Chess Olympiad. Farago praised the 'superhuman' work by the German judges. He expressed the personal regret that he did not get a gold medal (he clearly would have preferred the symbolic reward rather than the money prize).

He also criticized the point system that had been chosen by the organizers of the Olympic tourney: instead of 10 points for first prize, 9 for second, 8 for third etc., he proposed 25, 15 and 10 points, a 'better way for reflecting the difference of quality between the prize winners'.

Here is his prize winner, followed by second and fourth prizes.

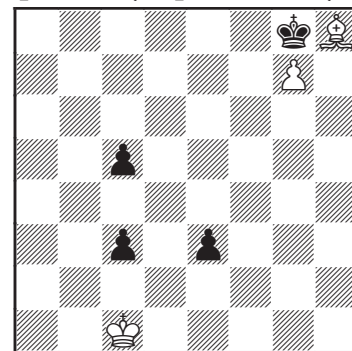
P.1 P. Farago  
1st prize Olympic Tourney 1936



e6g5 0100.24 4/5 Draw

- 1.h4+! Kh5!** (1...Kg6 2.h5+ Kg7 3.h6+ Kg6 4.h7 Kxh7 5.Kf6 3.Kf6 draws) **2.Kf5** with:
- **c3 3.e3!** (3.e4? c2 4.Rc4 b2 5.Rc8 c1Q and Black wins) **3...c2 4.Rc4 b2** (4... c1Q 5.Rxc1 b2 6.Rd1 a3 7.e4 a2 8.Rd8 Kh6 9.Kf6 draws) **5.Rc8 Kh6 6.Kf6 Kh7 7.Rc7+** and White draws, or:
  - **a3 3.e4!** (3.e3? a2 4.Ra4 b2 5.Ra8 b1Q+ and Black wins) **3...c3 4.Rc4!** 4.Rxb6? c2 5.Rc6 b2 wins, or 5.Rb8 c1Q 6.Rh8+ Qh6 wins; 4.Rxb3 c2 5.Rc3 a2 wins. **4... c2 5.Rc8 c1Q** (5...Kxh4 6.Kf4 c1Q+ 7.Rxc1 Kh3 8.Kf3 Kh2 9. e5 wins) **6.Rxc1 a2 7.Rd1 b5** (b2; Rd8) **8.Rc1 b4** (8...Kh6 9.Kf6 Kh7 10.Kf7) **9.Rd1 b2 10.Rd8** and White draws.

P.2 D. Elekes  
2nd prize Olympic Tourney 1936

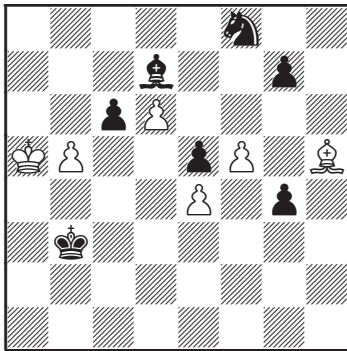


c1g8 0010.13 4/3 Draw

- 1.Kd1 c4 2.Kc1 e2 3.Kc2 e1=R! 4.Kxc3 Re4 5.Kb4 Rg4 6.Kc3 Kf7 7.Kb4 Ke7 8.Kc5! Ke6 9.g8Q+ (g8R, g8B+, g8S)** and White draws, e.g. 9...Rxc8 10.Bc3 Rc8 11.Kd4 Rc6 12.Bb4 Kd7 13.Ba5 Rc8 14.Be1 Kc7 15.Kc3 (this is author's

solution but it is dualistic from move 10: 10.Bb2 and Ba1 also draw, as 12.Ba5 and 12.Be1).

P.3 L. Prokeš  
4th prize Olympic Tourney 1936



a5b3 0043.44 6/6 Draw

**1.b6! Bc8 2.Bxg4 Bb7** (Kc4; f6) **3.f6! gxf6 4.Bc8! Bxc8 5.d7!** (5.b7? Bxb7 6.d7 Se6! and Black wins – not 6... Sxd7 stalemate) **5... Sxd7 6.b7 Bxb7** stalemate.

For completeness, I should add some last words before closing this chapter about the 1936 year:

1. Of course, the rankings that were amended in my article in EG206 would be different if I had taken into account sound studies only.

2. Two 1936 tourneys about which, unfortunately, I do not possess complete information, were not considered for this article. We find in HHdbV two studies sharing first/second prize of the Finnish Chess Society thematic tourney (by O. Kaila and E. Luukkonen) and one study by Vladimir Bron that won first prize in the Communist Party Congress tourney.

**Special thanks** to **Eric Huber** for translating Paul Farago's article.

### References

-About the Munich Olympiad, see Edward Winter's website :

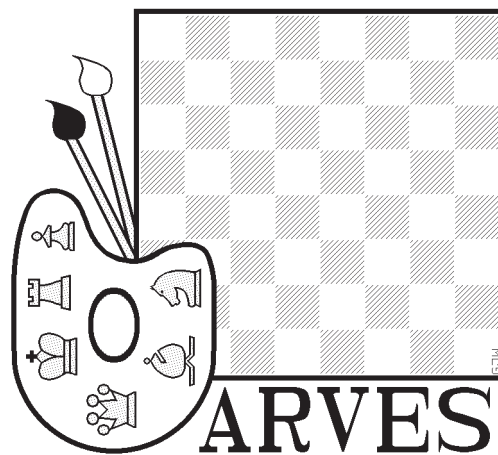
<http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/municholympiad.html>

-About the history of the German chess league

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Großdeutscher\\_Schachbund](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Großdeutscher_Schachbund)

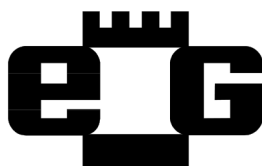
- The issues of the *Deutsche Schachblätter* (1936 year) can be found through V. Kotesovec's website, at the following address:

[http://problem64.beda.cz/silo/dsb\\_1936.pdf](http://problem64.beda.cz/silo/dsb_1936.pdf)



please visit [www.arves.org](http://www.arves.org)!





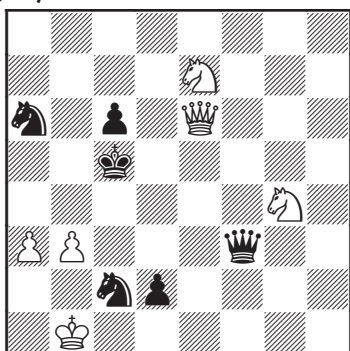
Quality Control

# Correction and reconstruction of old endgame studies

BY JAROSLAV POLÁŠEK

Emil Vlasák published several corrections of a great idea by Pogosyants (Polášek, Vlasák and 2 × Minski) in his column (see EG205, pp. 205-206). Oleg Pervakov sent his own version in August last year:

P.1 Oleg Pervakov  
after Pogosyants 1973 (EG#14987), original



b1c5 4008.22 6/6 Draw

**1.Sf2! d1Q+!** (1...Sxa3+ 2.Kb2! Qxf2 3.Qxc6+ Kd4 4.Kxa3 draws) **2.Sxd1 Qxd1+ 3.Kb2 Sd4! 4.b4+!** (Qc4+? Kb6;) **4...Kb5** (4...Kb6 5.Sd5+! Kb7 6.Qd7+ Ka8 7.Qd8+ draws) **5.a4+! Qxa4** (Kxa4; Qa2+!) **6.Qxc6+! Sxc6 7.Sd5!** The Pogosyants draw: the lone knight draws against the queen and two knights, although the stronger side has the move.

The first move is good, but forced. White has no other option than to stop the black pawn from promoting. The play after the exchange on d1 is excellent. Nice!

While preparing articles about “batteries” for *Československý šach* I have found several interesting but incorrect studies. Here are some corrections:

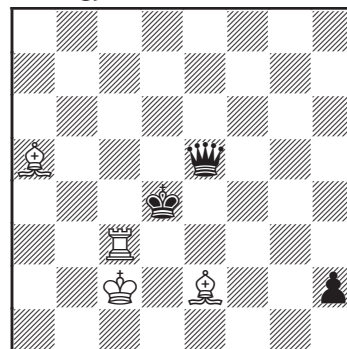
(P.2) **1.Bb6+ Ke4** (1...Kd5 2.Bf3+ Ke6 3.Re3 or 2...Kd6 3.Bc7+ win) **2.Re3+** (2.Bf3+? Kf4 3.Bc7 Qxc7 4.Rxc7 Kxf3 draws) **2...Kf4 3.Rxe5 h1Q 4.Bc7 Qh7+** Now it looks like Black is ok.

But... **5.Re4+!!** Surprise! The main idea of the study.

Black can't take the rook (losing the queen) and after 5...Kf5 6.Bd3 a discovered check by the battery decides: e.g. 6...Qxc7+ 7.Rc4+. **5...Kg5 6.Bd8+** with next 7.Bd3 and wins, e.g. **6...Kh6 7.Bd3 Qg8 8.Rh4+ Kg7 9.Rg4+** etc.

However Black can save himself after **4...Qb7!** 5.Re7+ Kf5! 6.Bc4 Qg2+ 7.Kc3 Qh3+ 8.Bd3+ Kf6 9.Re4 Qc8 10.Rc4 Qh3 11.Bf4 Qf3! Or also **4...Qg1!**, because the ending RBBxQ is generally draw (see EGTB).

P.2 F. Moreno Ramos  
*Magyar Sakkélet* 1985



c2d4 3120.01 4/3 Win?

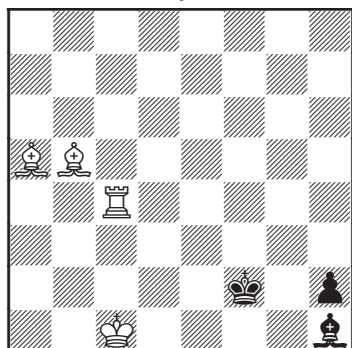
Mario Garcia published a correction in 2012 (*Estudios Artísticos de Ajedrez*). First he added a wSh7 to force the black move 4...Qh7+. Moreover he added a bPb7 to suppress the possibility 4.Rh5 (instead 4.Bc7) 4...Qe4+ 5.Bd3 Qa4+ 6.Kc3 Qa3+ 7.Kc4 Qa4+ 8.Kc5 (without the pawn b7 Black can't play 8...Qc6+ draw).

The good impression of the original study is spoiled by the extra material, especially the inactive wS.

In such a case there is no simple solution for correction. Therefore I worked on a reconstruction and I shifted the positions a rank

downwards and added a thrilling introduction and another line.

P.3 Jaroslav Polášek, after Moreno Ramos  
*Československý šach* xi2016



c1f2 0150.01 4/3 BTM, Win

**1...Be4!** Covers square c2. After another move 2.Rc2+ follows with easy win, e.g. 1...Bg2 2.Rc2+ Ke3 3.Bb6+ Kf4 4.Bc7+. **2.Be1+!** After 2.Bb6+? the bK escapes 2...Kf3 3.Rc3+ Kg4 4.Bd7+ Kg5 5.Bd8+ Kg6 6.Rg3+ Kf7 draws. **2...Kf3** 2...Kg2 3.Rxe4 h1Q 4.Rg4+ winning the bQ. **3.Rxe4! h1Q** 4.**Bc6** First battery.

— **Qg1** **5.Ba8!** Only on this square the wB is safe for side attacks by the bQ (5.Kd2 makes no progress: 5...Qg5+ 6.Kd1! Qg1 repeats) **5...Qf1** (Qg5+; Bd2) **6.Kd2!** (Other moves lead to repetition) and wins: the threat Ra4 mate can't be reasonably defended.

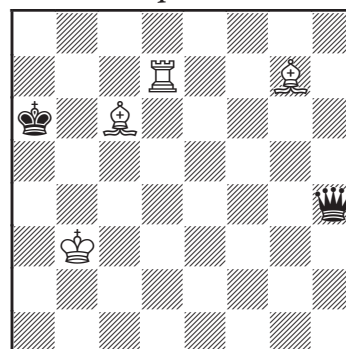
— **Qh6+** **5.Re3+!!** The core of the study. Now:

– **Kf4** **7.Bd2** The second battery is deadly - colour echo, or:

– **Kg4** **6.Bd7+** **Kh5** **7.Bd2** (7.Be8+? Kg4 8.Bd7+ Kh5 repeats) **7...Qf8** The 6th rank cannot be used to retreat, for example 7...Qf6 8.Rh3+ Kg6 9.Rh6+. **8.Re5+** **Kh4** **9.Be1+** with mate or **8...Kg6** **9.Rg5+** **Kh7** **10.Bf5+** winning.

Henri Rinck composed many studies with this material (RBBxQ). The next small study is interesting:

P.4 Henri Rinck  
*L'Échiquier* 1929



b3a6 3120.00 4/2 Win

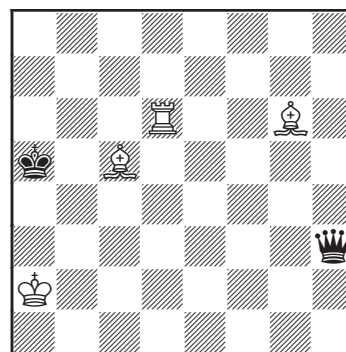
**1.Bd4 Qg3+!** **2.Ka4 Qb8** This is the only defence against the mate threats Ra7, Bb5 and Bb7. After 2...Qc7 3.Bb5+!, but not 3.Rxc7? stalemate. **3.Bb7+!** Nice sacrifice. After 3.Rd5? Qb4+ or 3.Bc5? Qf4 + 4.Rd4? (4.Bd4! Qb8 with repetition) 4 ... Qxd4 + Black is saved by stalemate. **3...Qxb7** **4.Rd6+** wins.

Unfortunately here is another way to win: **2.Ka2 (Kb2)!** Qh2+ 3.Kb1! Qb8+ (Ka5; Bc5) 4.Ka1! zugzwang, e.g.. 4...Ka5 4.Ra7+ Kb4 5.Rb7+.

Mario Garcia added a black pawn a4 (*Estudios Artísticos de Ajedrez* 2012) and moved the wK to a3.

It was unnecessary to add material. A more subtle repair consists in shifting positions one rank downwards.

P.5 Henri Rinck  
*L'Échiquier* 1929  
Correction Jaroslav Polášek *Československý šach* xi2016



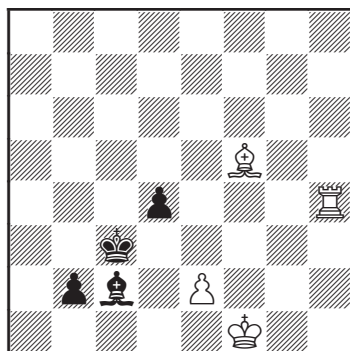
a2a5 3120.00 4/2 Win

**1.Bd3 Qg2+ 2.Ka3 Qb7 3.Bb6+!** 3.Bc4? Qf3+ 4.Kb2 Qg2+ 5.Ka3! Qf3+ 6.Bd3 Qb7 and White has made no progress. **3...Qxb6 4.Rd5+** wins.

The study is enriched by another line: **1...Qc8 2.Bb6+ Kb4 3.Rd4+ Kc3 4.Rd5! Kb4** After 4...Kd2 the bK falls victim to a white battery (5.Bf5/Ba6+) **5.Ba5+!** Other alternatives lead to a repetition of moves. **5...Ka4 6.Bb5+ Kxa5** and again the battery **7.Bd7+** decides.

There is an interesting story about the Prokeš study that follows. In 1938 he published a short study with the nice motif of a hidden battery with the laconic solution: **1.Rh3+ Kd2 2.Rd3+ Kc1 3.Ke1! b1Q 4.Rd1+ Bxd1 5.Bxb1 draw.**

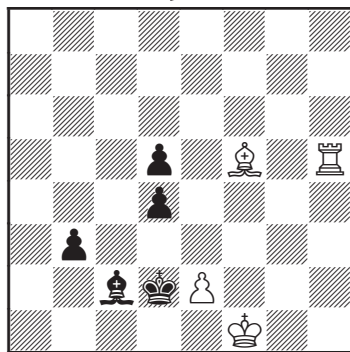
P.6 Ladislav Prokeš  
*České Slovo* 1938



fic3 0140.12 4/4 Draw

In his book of 1951 (*Kniha šachových studií*) he published a slightly different position by adding bPd5 with the heading “Correction 1938”, but without giving the cook of the original study.

P.7 Ladislav Prokeš  
*Kniha šachových studií* 1951



fid2 0140.13 4/5 Draw

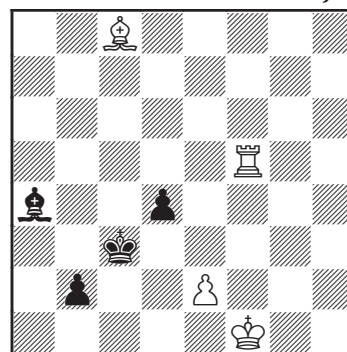
The author’s solution runs: **1.Rh3 b2! 2.Rd3+ Kc1 3.Ke1! b1Q 4.Rd1+ Bxd1 5.Bxb1 Bc2 6.Ba2** draws.

But the “correction” is not correct. An easy draw is: 1.Rh4 b2 (Bxf5; Rxd4+) 2.Rxd4+ Kc1 3.Bxc2 Kxc2 4.Rb4.

It is remarkable that the original work was correct. Probably Prokeš believed that White will draw after 3.Rxd4? b1Q 4.Bxc2 Kxc2+ 5.Kf2, or immediately 1.Bxc2? Kxc2 2.Rxd4 b1Q+ 3.Kf2 followed by 4.Rd3 with a well-known theoretical draw of rook plus pawn against queen. But this does not happen as Black in both lines plays ...Qb6! and destroys the white fortress.

P.8 Ladislav Prokeš  
*České Slovo* 1938

Version J. Polášek, *Československý šach* i2017



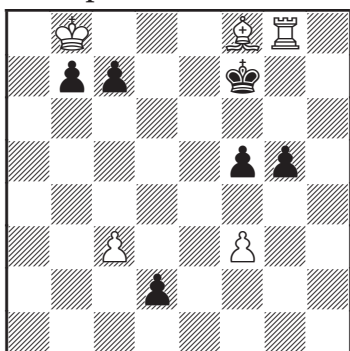
fic3 0140.12 4/4 Draw

The original of Prokeš’ study deserves a better introduction. I found **1.Rf3+!** (1.Rc5+? Kb4 2.Bf5 Kxc5) with another line in Prokeš’ style: **1...d3!? 2.Rxd3+ Kc2 3.Bf5!** A direct battery! **3...b1Q+ 4.Rd1+** Cross-check! Draw.

Then Prokeš’ line: **1...Kd2** with the new try 2.Rd3+?! Kc1! 3.Rxd4 b1Q 4.Rxa4 Kd2+! and White loses, e.g. 5.Kf2 Qe1+ 6.Kf3 Qxe2+ 7.Kf4 Qe3+ 8.Kg4 Qe8 9.Ra2+ Kc3 10.Ra3+ Kb4 or 5.Kg2 Qc2 6.Bd7 Kxe2. Therefore **2.Bf5! Bc2** and only now **3.Rd3+ Kc1 4.Ke1!** (4.Rxd4? b1Q 5.Bxc2 Kxc2+! 6.Kf2 Qb6!) **4...b1Q 5.Rd1+** draws.

The Argentinean composer José Mugnos (1904-1982) had nice ideas, but he also couldn’t avoid mistakes while implementing them.

P. 9 José Mugnos  
1st prize SEPA 1948



b8f7 o110.25 5/6 Win

White has a big material dominance, but cannot prevent promotion of the black pawn. **1.Rg7+! Ke8!** Otherwise the wR gets on d7 and stops pawn d2 (Ke6; Re7+). **2.Re7+ Kd8 3.Bh6! d1Q** (3...Kxe7 4.Bxg5+ Ke6 5.Bxd2) **4.Bxg5 Qb3** the queen wants to hide behind a white pawn. After 4...Qg1 5.Bf6! Qg6 6.Bh4! the bQ can hide nowhere. **5.c4!** (f4? b5!;) **5...Qb4 6.c5! Qb5** (6...Qa5 7.Re5+ Kd7 8.c6+) **7.f4** wins.

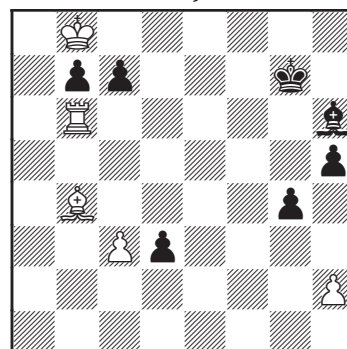
This excellent idea is devaluated by an ambiguous conclusion. After 7...b6 both 8.c6 Qxc6 9.Rxc7+ and 8.Rxc7+ Ke8 9.c6 win. Further, after 7...Qa5 both 8.c6 bxc6 9.Re5+ and 8.Re5+ Kd7 9.c6+ win.

An even bigger problem is the cook on the 7th move **7.Bf6!** (or 7.Bh4 f4 8.Bf6) 7...b6 8.Rxc7+! Ke8 9.c6 Kf8 10.Rc8+ Kg7 11.c7 and also the cook on the 6th move **6.f4** e.g. 6...b6 7.Kb7 c6 8.Bf6 c5 (Qa4; c5) 9.Bh4! Qa4 10.Kb8! Qb4 11.Bg5 zz b5 12.cxb5 and wins.

This also needed reconstructing: a small change in the constellation of the pawns on

the king's side allowed a pure realization of the motif as well as a dynamic introduction.

P.10 Jaroslav Polášek  
After José Mugnos  
Československý šach i2017



b8g7 o140.25 5/7 Win

**1.Bf8+!** After 1.Rxb7? Kf6 Black draws with the help of the two kingside pawns. **1...Kg8! 1...Kf7 2.Rxh6** shortens the solution. **2.Rg6+!** An important move, after 2.Rxh6? d2 3.Rg6+ Kh8! Black survives. **2...Kf7!** (2...Kxf8 3.Rxh6 d2 4.Rf6+ Ke7 5.Rf1) **3.Rxh6 3.Rxg4?** d2 4.Rd4 Kxf8 5.Kxc7 Ke7 6.Kxb7 Ke6 7.Kc6 Ke5 8.Kb5 Be3 9.Rd3 Ke4 10.Kc4 h4 and White can't improve his position, **3...d2** similar to Mugnos' position. **4.Rh7+ Ke8! 5.Re7+ Kd8 6.Bh6! d1Q 7.Bg5 Qb3** Now the systematic movement is pure - without cooks. **8.c4! Qb4! 9.c5 Qb5!** After 9...Qa5 10.Re5+! Kd7 11.c6+: pawn and rook battery. **10.Bh4!** Zugzwang! After 10.Bf6? g3! 11.hxg3 Qf1 12.Bg5 Qh3 Black is o.k. **10... b6 11.c6** threatening mate. **11...Qxc6 12.Rxc7+** and wins.



# Review

BY JOHN ROYCROFT

*Emanuel Lasker, 'From the Collection Of David DeLucia'*, produced by the American collector's son John DeLucia, who wrote the Foreword. Undated, but 2016. Profuse illustrations and photos in high quality, including some in colour. 712 A4 pages. The presentation sequence: attempted chronological. No ISBN. Limited hard cover slipcase edition of 75 (un-numbered) copies. Source descriptions, where not obvious, include: 'from the Lasker estate', 'from his scrapbook' and 'archive'. There is neither list of contents nor division into sections, and there is no index.

Based on the collection of Lasker memorabilia made over his lifetime by Jeff Kramer, but expanded, what we have is a set of faithful reproductions (including translations into English along with the German) of Lasker-related documents both published and unpublished. Much of it is the Lasker end of correspondence. Full-length articles include (we cite the Foreword): a typescript on creative logic; a typescript where a group of individuals, some noteworthy like Aristotle and (Julius) Caesar, is having a make-believe discussion in a library; a work on unemployment and society that got rejected by the publisher; excerpts from Lasker's work, *The Psychology of the Game* (i.e. not just chess); and excerpts from his wife Martha's *A Biographical Mosaic*.

There is no material of direct interest to enthusiasts of the composed endgame study. The cover of issue no.1 of Lasker's *The Chess Player's Scrap Book* (January 1907, New York, one of Lasker's many magazine ventures) reproduced on p.58 features a famous Troitzky knight-mate study (key: 1.Bc6) but one must presume that for solution, composer and source the curious reader must have the magazine.

However, the single sheet shown on p.141 makes some amends. It is entirely in Lasker's

hand and in German. Three squiggly unchequered diagrams with lettered chessmen – minor piece endgames are depicted – are under the single word heading 'Lavieren', presumably to remind Lasker to do more work with them. Players' names or other sources are absent.

We translate the whole page, which, although neither signed nor dated, is, to judge by its placement in the arrangement, around the year 1936. Only one thought occurs to us, namely that the combined play might provide the theme for a future composing tourney for studies, where prizes would go to something that Emanuel Lasker might have come up with.

c4c6 0040.33 c3c7.a4e4h3a5e5h4 5/5+.

1.Bd2 Bb6 2.Bg5 Bf2 3.Be7. Black is in zugzwang. 3...Kd7 4.Bf6. 3...Bg3 4.Bf6. 3...Be1 4.Bd8.

d4c6 0040.22 c4c8.a5e5a6e6 4/4+.

1.Be2(f1,d3) B- 2.Kc4 B- 3.Bf3+ Kc7 4.Kc5 B- . wB manoeuvres to c4, bB on c8.

Then, wBa2 (or b3 or d5 or e2 or f1), loses a move and comes back to c4.

f4f6 0031.33 c6c5.a5b3d4a6b7d5 5/5+. With wP already on b4, WTM only draws.

\* \* \*

1. My answer to the puzzle where, when and how the Russian chess public first became aware of 'Saavedra' is included as a minor item in recently self-published 400-page EGEG, available only directly from myself: details from roycroft@btinternet.com. There is something for composers, solvers, aficionados – and, a matter of direct relevance to the current state of our art, study tourney judges: namely, a major 60-page article by composition GM Yuri Bazlov (translated by AJR).



# Twan Burg wins ARVES Solving

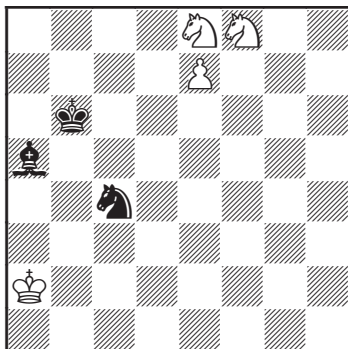
BY YOCHANAN AFEK

The traditional solving weekend was held for the 8th time in Wijk aan Zee (Netherlands) in the last weekend of January and the last 2 rounds of the top Tata Steel tournament. ARVES' 8th Study Solving Contest hosted 20 solvers from 7 countries including four times former world solving champion Russian GM Georgy Evseev in a debut visit.

The participants had to cope with 9 original studies to be cracked in 3 hours. The challenges were selected by arbiter Luc Palmans from a record of 29 candidates sent in by prominent composers. Last year's winner, Dutch OTB GM **Twan Burg** won the title for the third time with 6 points ahead of IM Migchiel de Jong with 24. Evseev was third on 23 but, however, the surprising performance of the entire weekend was provided by WGM **Nargiz Umudova** from Azerbaijan, Twan's wife, who won fourth place with 21 points in her first ever official solving attempt!

Here are two of the challenges the solvers were facing:

A.1 J. Timman  
*The Problemist* iii2017  
After V. Halberstadt

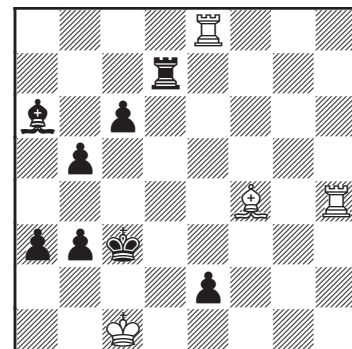


a2b6 0035.10 4/3 Win

Here, Jan adds fine introductory play to a famous study by the French composer. It is a struggle to secure promotion both using and avoiding sacrificial deflections. **1.Kb3 Bb4!**

After 1...Kc5 several moves win e.g. 2.Sd7+ Kd4 3.Sg7 Nd6 4.Sf5. **2.Kxb4 Se5 3.Sd7+! Sxd7** Here is where Halberstadt's original study begins: **4.Ka3!!** The only efficient retreat: 4.Kc3? Kc5 5.Sd6 Sf6 6.Se4+? Sxe4+!; 4.Sc7? Sf6 5.Sd5+? Sxd5+!. **4...Kc6** (4...Ka5 5.Sc7 Sf6 6.Kb3 Kb6 7.Sd5+!) **5.Ka2!** Not 5.Kb2? Se5 6.Sf6 Sc4+ 7.Kc3 Sd6 draws. **5...Kc5** (Or 5...Kb6 6.Sc7 Sf6 7.Sd5+) **6.Sd6! Sf6 7.Se4+!** wins.

A.2 V. Tarasiuk  
*The Problemist* iii2017



c1c3 0540.05 4/8 Win

This is a sharp struggle against promotion: **1.Re3+ Kb4** (1...Kc4 loses to 2.Bd6+ Kd5 3.Bxa3 b4 4.Bxb4 c5 5.Rh5+ Kc4 6.Bc3. Certainly not 1...Rd3 2.Be5 mate) **2.Bd6+!** (Not 2.Bc7+? Kc5 3.Rc3+ Kd5 4.Rd3+ Kc5! 5.Rc3+ Kd5 is good enough just for a perpetual check) **2...Ka5 3.Bxa3 Rd1+** (3...b4 4.Bxb4+ Kb6 5.Kb2 wins) **4.Kb2 Rd2+ 5.Kxb3** (After 5.Kc3? b2! 6.Bxb2 Rd1 White draws comfortably e.g. 7.Kb3 b4! 8.Rh5+ Kb6) **5...Rd3+! 6.Rxd3 e1Q 7.Bb4+ Qxb4+ 8.Rxb4 c5!** (This costs White a whole rook however...) **9.Rd8!!** (Rh4? c4+;) **9...cxb4 10.Rb8! zz Bb7 11.Rxb7** wins. Twan Burg was the only participant to solve this one.

Final result:

1. Twan Burg 30; 2. Migchiel de Jong 24; 3. Gyorgy Evseev (RUS) 23; 4. Nargic Umudova (AZE) 22; 5-6. Oleg Pervakov (RUS) and Jorma Paavilainen (FIN) 21; 7-8. Ryszard Królikowski

(POL) and Piet Peelen 18; 9. Eddy Van Beers (BEL) 17; 10. Harold van der Heijden 14; 11-13. Marcel Van Herck (BEL), Dolf Wissmann and Marcin Kolodziejski (POL) 10; 14. Hans Uitenbroek 9; 15-16. Willem van Riemen and Evgeny Kopilov (RUS) 8; 17. Gert Reichardt 6; 18. Wouter van Rijn 4; 19-20. Robin Reichardt and Gilbert Grimberg (FRA) 2.

On Sunday the Dutch branch of the ISC was held in the village with Evseev dominating the field ahead of Eddy van Beers, Jorma Paavilainen and Dolf Wissmann.

Out of the 29 originals provided for this event by well-known composers, GM Jan Timman provided no fewer than 12 (!). The majority of his contributions improved on older studies by others. Jan, who celebrated his 65th birthday last December, is currently arguably the world's most prolific composer with more than 160 originals and improved versions of classics in 2016 alone!! His anniversary is being celebrated by a big composing jubilee tourney with a prize fund of 2000 Euros sponsored by Jan's friend IM Hans Böhm, the Dutch Mr. Chess and himself an endgame studies enthusiast. (See announcement in the January issue of EG).

Earlier in December the traditional study solving simul was held in Chess Café Atlantis in Groningen as part of the "after chess" evening program in the annual festival. The sociable contest was dominated this time by **Dirk Borst** who managed to solve in 2 hours the highest number of studies in the field.

Last month the 9th Batavia GM tournament took place in the famous café in Amsterdam. Here again yours truly challenged the participants with a selection of attractive miniatures in the café and on the official website:

<http://batavia1920.nl/chess/round-reports/endgame-studies-by-afek-solutions/>

And finally, on the last day of the traditional meeting of the Dutch chess problemists in Nunspeet, ARVES organized a study solving tourney (6 studies in 2 hours).

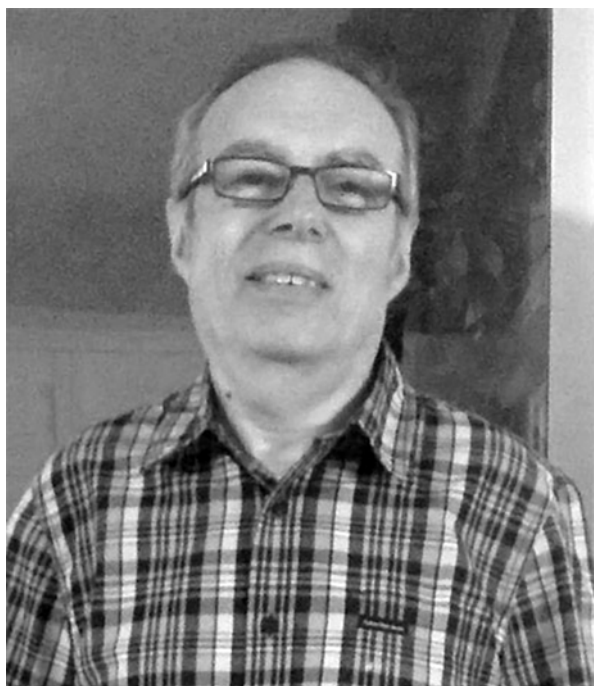
1-2. Harm Benak and Peter van den Heuvel 30; 3. Axel Steinbrink 27,5; 4. Wouter van Rijn 25; 5. Alexei Popov (RUS) 25; 6-7. Marcel Van Herck (BEL) and Dolf Wissmann 25; 8. Andy Ooms (BEL) 23; 9-11. Michael Pfannkuche (GER), Michel Caillaud (FRA) and Ed van de Gevel 21; 12. Harold van der Heijden 18; 13. Jorma Paavilainen (FIN) 17; 14. Hans Uitenbroek 16; 15. Koen Versmissen 13,5; 16. Johan de Boer 8; 17. Ed Hoes 4.

*This is a slightly amended version of an article that appeared in The Problemist iii2017.*





*Twan Burg and Nargiz Umudova  
(picture: René Olthof)*



*Victor Aberman  
(see pages 95-98)*

## **Jurgen Stigter-64 Jubilee Tourney**

To celebrate the special 64<sup>th</sup> chess birthday of **Jurgen Stigter**, the famous chess book collector and former president of ARVES, a composing tourney for endgame studies is announced.

Theme: free

Maximum 2 entries per composer are allowed.

Closing date: August 13, 2017

The provisional award will be published in **EG** early 2018.

Three money prizes in powers of 2, by courtesy of the jubilant, will be awarded:

First prize: 512 Euros; second prize: 256 Euros; third prize: 128 Euros and special prizes of 64 Euros. Honourable mentions and commendations will be awarded as well.

Judge: **Yochanan Afek**

Tourney director: **Luc Palmans**

Send your original entries only in a PGN format by e-mail to:

palmans.luc@skynet.be  
not later than August 13<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Please reprint!

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Subscription to **EG** is not tied to membership of ARVES.

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# Table of contents

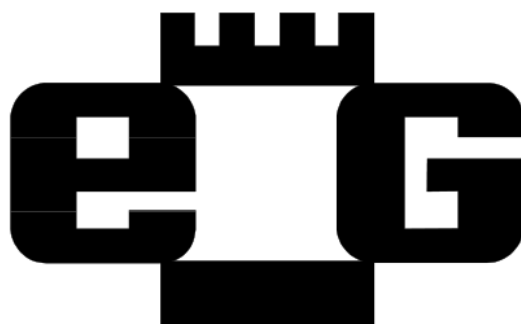
<i>Editorial</i> , by HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN . . . . .	91
<i>Originals</i> (53), by ED VAN DE GEVEL . . . . .	92
<i>For the Sake of Immortality – Victor Aberman (Kiev 3x1953 – Los Angeles, 8xi2016)</i> , by YOCHANAN AFEK . . . . .	95
<i>Game Studies</i> , by SIEGFRIED HORNECKER . . . . .	99
<i>A light introduction to CQL5</i> , by EMIL VLASÁK . . . . .	102
<i>1936 (part 3)</i> , by ALAIN PALLIER . . . . .	111
<i>Correction and reconstruction of old endgame studies</i> , by JAROSLAV POLÁŠEK . . .	117
<i>Review</i> , by JOHN ROYCROFT . . . . .	121
<i>Erratum</i> , by HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN . . . . .	122
<i>Twan Burg wins ARVES Solving</i> , by YOCHANAN AFEK . . . . .	123

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**No. 208 — Vol. XXIII — APRIL 2017**  
**SUPPLEMENT**

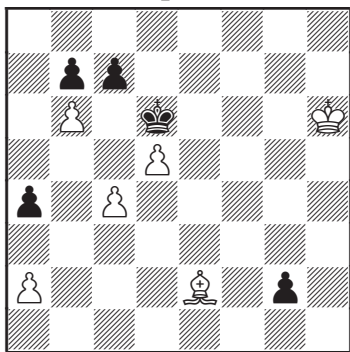
*Awards*

Afek-64 JT 2016 . . . . .	130
3rd UAPA Internet ty 2016. . . . .	138
Chess Informant-50 AT 2016 . . . . .	150
e4e5 2015. . . . .	155
Nau Era-10 AT 2016 . . . . .	160
The Problemist 2014-2015 . . . . .	161
Rezvov-95 MT 2017. . . . .	166
Problem Paradise 2010-2015. . . . .	171

# Afek-64 JT 2016

The Israel Chess Composition Society organized an endgame study tourney to celebrate the 64th birthday of GM Yochanan Afek. Amatzia Avni was tourney director and was assisted by Gady Costeff, Mario Garcia (soundness) and HH (anticipations).

**No 21240** A. Visokosov  
1st prize



h6d6 0010.44 6/5 Draw

**No 21240** Andrey Visokosov (Russia). 1.c5+ Ke7/i 2.bxc7/ii Kd7 3.d6 g1Q 4.c6+/iii bxc6 5.Ba6 Qg8 6.Kh5/iv Qa8 7.c8Q+ Qxc8 8.Bxc8+ Kxc8 9.Kg4 Kd7 10.Kf3 Kxd6 11.Ke2 Kc5 12.Kd1 Kb5 13.Kc1 c5 14.Kb1 Kb4 15.Kb2 zz, draws.

i) Kd7 2.c6+ bxc6/v 3.b7 g1Q 4.b8Q Qe3+ 5.Kg6 Qe4+ 6.Kg5 Qe5+ 7.Kg6 Qxe2 8.dxc6+ Kxc6 9.Qa8+ Kb5 10.Qb7+ draws.

ii) 2.c6? g1Q 3.bxc7 Kf6 wins.

iii) 4.Bh5? Qe3+ 5.Kg6 Qf4 6.Kh7 Qf5+ 7.Bg6 Qxc5 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 6.c8Q+? Qxc8 7.Bxc8+ Kxc8 8.Kg5 Kd7 9.Kf4 Kxd6 10.Ke3 Kc5 11.Kd3 Kb5 12.Kc3 c5 13.Kb2 Kb4 zz, wins. 6.Bb7? Qe6+ 7.Kg7 Qe5+ 8.Kf7 Qd5+ 9.Kg7 Qg2+ 10.Kh7 Qh2+ 11.Kg7 Qb2+ 12.Kf7 Qxb7 wins.

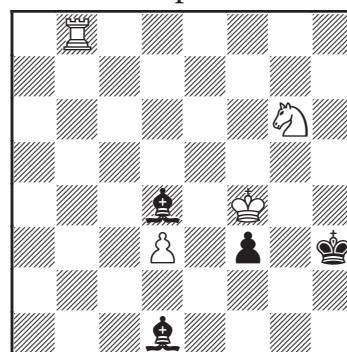
v) Kc8 3.Bg4+ Kb8 4.d6.

“Following a natural introduction an outstanding logical pawn ending is presented in a most clear-cut fashion. The cool-blooded and far-sighted 6.Kh5!! is the star move in the struggle over the reciprocal zugzwang. A genuine masterpiece of classical and modern standards”.

**No 21241** Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Rb1 Be2/i 2.Sh4/ii Be5+ (Bxd3; Rh1 mate) 3.Kxe5

Bxd3/iii 4.Rd1/iv Be2/v 5.Rh1+ Kg4 6.Sf5 f2 7.Se3+ Kf3/vi 8.Rh3/vii, ideal mate.

**No 21241** O. Pervakov  
2nd prize



f4h3 0161.11 4/4 Win

i) Bc2 2.Rf1, and either f2 3.Kf3 Kh2 4.Se5, or Kh2 3.Rxf3 Bd1 4.Sh4 wins.

ii) 2.Ke4? Kg3 3.Sf4 Bc3 4.Rg1+ Kh2 and: 5.Rg4 Bd1 6.d4 Be1 7.Ke3 f2 8.Rg2+ Kh1 9.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 10.Kxf2 Bb3, or 5.Rg6 Bd2 6.Rg4 Bxf4 7.Rxf4 Kg3 8.Ke3 Bxd3 draws.

iii) f2 4.Rh1+ Kg4 5.Sf5 Bxd3 6.Se3+ Kf3 7.Kd4 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 4.Rh1+? Kg3 5.Kd4 Bc2 6.Ke3 f2 7.Sf3 Be4/viii 8.Kxe4 Kg2 9.Rh2+ Kg3 10.Rh1 Kg2 positional draw 11.Kf4 Kxh1 (f1Q?; Rh2 mate) draws. 4.Rb3? Bc2 5.Rc3 Kxh4 6.Rxc2 Kg3 draws.

v) Bc2 5.Rc1 Kxh4 6.Kf4, or Kxh4 5.Rxd3 f2 6.Rf3 wins.

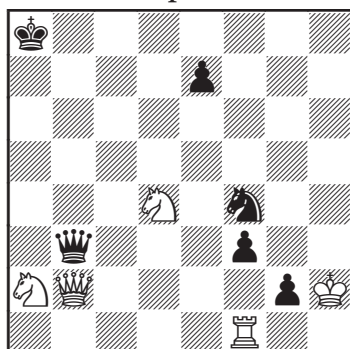
vi) Kg3 8.Ra1 Kf3 9.Kd4 Bb5 10.Rb1 Ba6 11.Rb6 Be2 12.Rf6+ wins.

vii) 8.Kd4? f1Q 9.Sxf1 Kg2 draws.

viii) Bd3? 8.Sd2 Kg2 9.Rh5 wins.

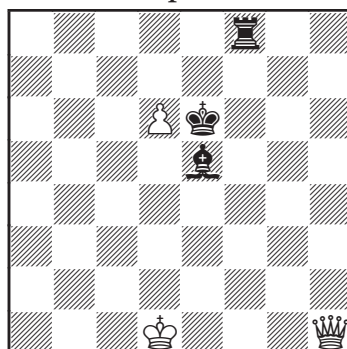
“We see mutual tactical blows ending in an ideal mate following two active self-blocks. The stunning quiet sacrifice 2.Sh4!!, creating an echo threat to the final mate, and the subtle 3.Rd1!, as well as the pair of bishop sacrifices,

No 21242 A. Zhukov  
3rd prize



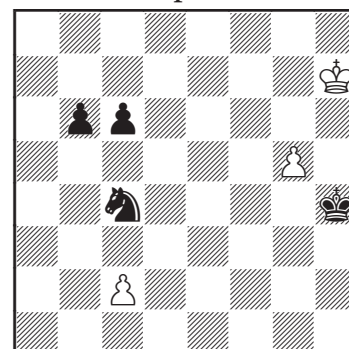
h2a8 4105.03 5/6 Win

No 21243 V. Tarasiuk  
4th prize



d1e6 1330.10 3/3 Win

No 21244 P. Arestov  
5th prize



h7h4 0003.22 3/4 Draw

turn this study into a genuine gem in the best of my own favourite romantic style!”

**No 21242** Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).  
1.Rf2/i Se2/ii 2.Rxe2/iii fxe2 3.Qxe2/iv Qh3+/v  
4.Kxh3 g1S+ 5.Kg2/vi Sxe2 6.Se6 (Sxe2? e5;)  
Kb7 7.Kf2/vii Sf4 8.Sxf4 e5 9.Sd5 e4 10.Se3 wins.

i) 1.Rb1? g1Q+ 2.Kxg1 f2+ 3.Kxf2 Qxb2+  
4.Rxb2 Sd3+ draws.

ii) Qxb2 2.Rxb2 f2 3.Rxf2 g1Q+ 4.Kxg1 Sh3+  
5.Kg2 Sxf2 6.Kxf2 e5 7.Sf5 e4 draws (8.Se3 is not  
a Troitzky win), or g1Q+ 2.Kxg1 Se2+ 3.Rxe2  
fxe2 4.Qxe2 Qg3+ 5.Qg2+ Qxg2+ 6.Kxg2 e5  
7.Sf5 e4 again draw.

iii) 2.Qxb3? g1Q+ 3.Kh3 Qg3 mate.

iv) 3.Qxb3? g1Q+ 4.Kxg1 e1Q+ 5.Kg2 Qd2+,  
or 3.Sxb3? g1Q+ 4.Kxg1 e1Q+ 5.Kg2 Qe4+  
6.Kf2 Qf4+ 7.Ke1 Qe4+ 8.Kd1 Qh1+ 9.Kc2 Qe4+  
10.Kc3 Qe3+ draw.

v) Qg3+ 4.Kxg3 g1Q+ 5.Qg2+ Qxg2+ 6.Kxg2  
e5 7.Sf5 e4 draw.

vi) 5.Kg3? Sxe2+ 6.Sxe2 e5 draws. 5.Kg4?  
Sxe2 6.Se6 Kb7 7.Kf3 Sd4+/ix 8.Sxd4 e5 9.Sf5  
e4+ draws.

vii) 7.Kf3? Sd4+ 8.Sxd4 e5 9.Sf5 e4+, but not:  
Sg1+? 8.Kf2 Sh3+ 9.Kg2 Kc6 10.Kxh3 wins.

“This inserts new life into the well-trodden Troitzky curve and in what a glorious manner! A highly tense and tactical introduction reaches a high point where the wS avoids capturing its newly-born counterpart in favour of blocking a pawn to gain the single tempo, securing a Troitzky win. The spared enemy knight apparently goes nowhere but, however, the test of

the battle still requires high precision until the happy end; an exceptionally original concept!”

**No 21243** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).  
1.Qh3+ (Qh6+? Rf6;) Kd5 (Kxd6; Qa3+)  
2.Qb3+/i Kc5 3.Qa3+ Kb5 (Kc6; Qa6+) 4.Ke2/  
ii Rh8/iii 5.d7/iv Rd8 6.Qe7 (Qe3) Bc7 7.Qe6/v  
Kc5 8.Kd3/vi Bd6 9.Qc4+ Kb6 10.Qc8 Bc7  
11.Ke4 (Kd4? Kc6;) Kc6 12.Kf5 Kd6/vii 13.Qa6+  
Kxd7 14.Qe6 mate.

i) 2.d7? Rd8 3.Qf5 Kd6 draws.

ii) 4.d7? Rd8 5.Qe7 Bc7 6.Qe6 Kc5 7.Ke2 Bd6  
8.Ke3 Kc6 draws.

iii) Rd8 5.Qe3 Bxd6 6.Qg5+ wins.

iv) 5.Qe3? Rh2+ 6.Kd3 Bxd6 draws.

v) 7.Kd3? Kc6 8.Qe6+ Bd6 draws.

vi) 8.Ke3? Bd6 9.Qe8 Bc7 10.Qe6 Bd6 draws.

vii) Rxd7 13.Qe8 Kd6 (Bd6; Ke6) 14.Qe6+  
wins.

“I should admit that Q vs 2 piece endings don’t usually excite my imagination but this one seems like a true artistic miracle with lengthy and precise play all the way to an ideal mate following a pair of active self-blocks”.

**No 21244** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.g6 Sd6  
2.g7 Se8 3.g8S (g8Q? Sf6+;) Kg5 4.Se7 c5 5.Kg8  
(Sd5? Sf6+;) Sd6 6.Sd5 (Kf8) b5 7.Kf8 (Sd5)  
Kf5 8.Ke7 Ke5 9.Sc7 (Sb6? Sc4;) c4/i 10.Kd7  
c3 11.Kd8/ii Kd4 12.Kd7/iii Ke5/iv 13.Kd8 b4/v  
14.Sa6 Sb7+ (b3; cxb3) 15.Ke7/vi b3 16.cxb3 c2  
17.Sb4 c1Q 18.Sd3+ draws.

i) b4 10.Kd7 c4 11.Sa6 b3 12.cxb3 cxb3 13.Sc5  
b2 14.Sd3+ draws.

ii) 11.Kc6? b4 12.Sd5 b3 13.cxb3 c2 14.Sb4 c1Q+ with check.

iii) 12.Ke7? Sc8+ (Kc5) wins.

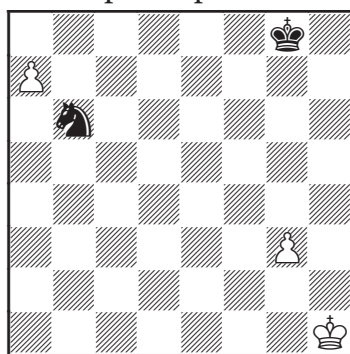
iv) b4 13.Kxd6 b3 14.Sb5+ draws.

v) Ke4 14.Kd7 Ke5 15.Kd8 positional draw. Sb7+ 14.Ke7 b4 15.Sa6 main line.

vi) 15.Kc7? b3 16.cxb3 c2 17.Sb4 c1Q+ check. 15.Kd7? b3 16.cxb3 c2 17.Sb4 Sc5+ 18.Ke7 c1Q check, wins.

“The early underpromotion heralds a subtle knight ending, highlighted by 11.Kd8!!, and symbolized by the final forking. Were it not for the slight move order blemish this would be a perfect miniature to remember!”

No 21245 V. Aberman †  
special prize



h1g8 0003.20 3/2 Win

**No 21245** Victor Aberman (USA). 1.Kg2/i Kf7 2.Kf3 Ke6 3.g4/ii Ke5/iii 4.Kg3/iv Sa8/v 5.Kh4 Kf6 6.Kh5 Kg7 7.Kg5 Sc7 8.Kf5 Kf7 9.Ke4/vi Kf6 10.Kd3 Kg5 11.Kc4 Kxg4 12.Kc5 Sa8 13.Kc6 Kf5 14.Kb7 Ke6 15.Kxa8 wins.

i) 1.Kh2? Kf7 2.Kh3 Ke6, and: 3.Kh4 Kd6 4.g4 Kc7 5.g5 Kb7, or 3.g4 Kf6 4.Kh4 Kg6 draw.

ii) 3.Ke4? Kd6 4.g4 Kc7 5.g5 Kb7 6.g6 Sc8 7.Ke5 Se7 draws.

iii) Kd5 4.g5 Ke5 5.Kg4 wins.

iv) 4.Ke3? Sa8 zz 5.Kf3/vii Sc7 6.Kg3 Kf6 7.Kf4 Kg6 draws.

v) Kf6 5.Kf4 Kg6/viii 6.Ke5 Kg5 7.Kd4 (Kd6? Sc8+;) Kxg4 8.Kc5 Sa8 9.Kc6 wins.

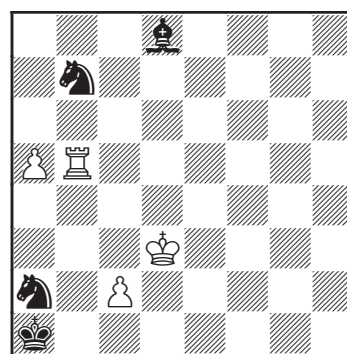
vi) 9.Ke5? Kg6 10.Kd4 (Kd6) Sb5+ draws.

vii) 5.g5 Kf5, or 5.Kd3 Kf4.

viii) Sa8 6.Ke4 Kg5 7.Kd5 Kxg4 8.Kc6 wins, or Sd5+ 6.Ke4 Sc7 7.Kd3 see main line.

“We see an amazingly accurate and original corner-to-corner journey in baby format. Even though the final destination is not difficult to guess, two obstacles along the route still turn it into a surprising adventure decided as expected by a hairsbreadth. The last part of the solution, starting from move 10 onwards has already been shown by Gillberg (HHdbV#03986)”.

No 21246 V. Tarasiuk  
1st honourable mention



d3a1 0136.29 4/4 Win

**No 21246** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.a6 (Rxb7? Rxa5;) Sc5+/i 2.Rxc5 Sb4+ 3.Kc3/ii Sxa6 4.Rc6/iii Sc7/iv 5.Kb3 Kb1 6.c3/v Sb5/vi 7.Rc5/vii Sc7 (Sxc3; Rxc3) 8.c4 zz Se6/viii 9.Rd5/ix Bg5/x 10.Re5/xi Sd4+ 11.Kc3 Sf3 12.Rf5 Sd2 13.Kd3/xii Sxc4 14.Rxg5 Sa3 15.Kc3 wins.

i) Sb4+ 2.Rxb4 Sc5+ 3.Kc3 Bf6+ 4.Kc4 Sxa6 5.Ra4+ Kb2 6.Rxa6 wins.

ii) 3.Kc4? Sxa6, and 4.Rc6 Kb2, or 4.Rd5 (Rc8) Be7 draw.

iii) 4.Rc8? Ba5+ 5.Kb3 Kb1, or 4.Rd5? Bb6 5.Rd6 Sc5 6.Kc4 Ba7 draw.

iv) Sb8 5.Rc8, and Ba5+ 6.Kb3 Sd7 7.Ra8, or Bf6+ 6.Kb3 Sd7 7.Rc7 Sf8 8.Rf7.

v) 6.c4? Kc1 7.c5 Sb5 draws.

vi) Kc1 7.c4 Se8 8.Rc8.

vii) 7.Rh6? Kc1 8.c4 Sd4+ 9.Kc3 Se2+ draws.

viii) Kc1 9.Rc6 Se8 10.Rc8.

ix) 9.Re5? Sd4+ 10.Kc3 Sc6.

x) Bf6 10.Rd1 mate, or Kc1 10.Rd6 Sc5+ 11.Kb4 Ba5+ 12.Kxc5.

xi) 10.c5? Bd2 11.c6 Kc1 draws.

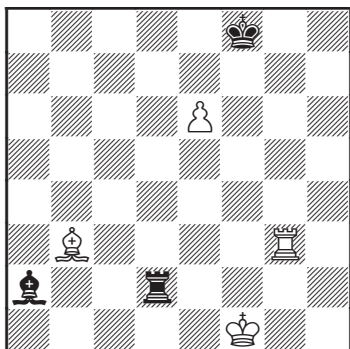
xii) 13.c5? (Rxg5?) Se4+.

“This excellently demonstrates R+P dominating B+S. The highlight of this encounter



in a well-timed *festina lente* to pass the move to Black in the critical reciprocal zugzwang position”.

**No 21247** J. Polášek & E. Vlasák  
2nd honourable mention



f1f8 o440.10 4/3 Win

**No 21247** Jaroslav Polášek & Emil Vlasák (Czech Republic). 1.Rg8+/i Ke7/ii 2.Rg7+ Kd8/iii 3.e7+ Ke8 4.Ba4+ Rd7 5.Rg6/iv Bb3 (Kxe7; Rg7+) 6.Bc6/v Bd5 (Bf7; Rd6) 7.Bxd7+ Kxd7 8.Rd6+ wins.

i) 1.Rf3+? Ke8 2.Ba4+ Ke7.

ii) Kxg8 2.e7+ Bxb3 3.e8Q+.

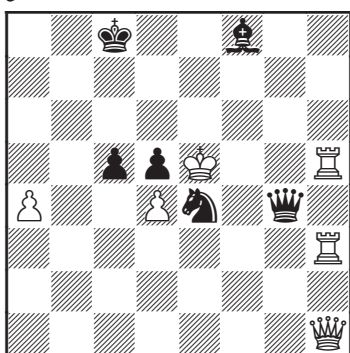
iii) Kf6 3.e7 Bxb3 4.e8Q Bc4+ 5.Kg1 Rd1+ 6.Kh2 Kxg7 7.Qe5+ wins. Ke8 (Kf8; Rf7+) 3.Ba4+ Kd8 4.e7+.

iv) 5.Rg4? Be6 6.Rd4 (Rg7 Bb3;) Kxe7, or 5.Kf2? Bb3, and: 6.Bxd7+ Kxd7 7.Ke3 Ke8 8.Kf4 Bf7, or 6.Bc6 Ba4 7.Bxd7+ (Bxa4 stalemate) Bxd7 8.Ke3 Be6 9.Ke4 Bf7 draw.

v) 6.Bxd7+? Kxd7 7.Rg7 Ke8 8.Rg3 Be6 draws.

“We see a fierce and tense struggle over a diagonal to secure promotion of the last shaky pawn; a charming miniature!”

**No 21248** Á. Rusz  
3rd honourable mention



e5c8 4233.22 6/6 Win

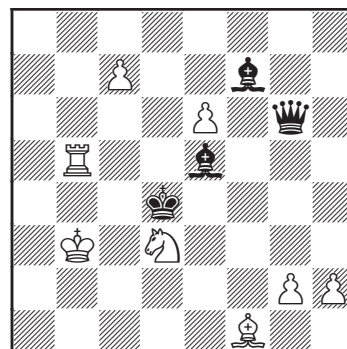
**No 21248** Árpád Rusz (Rumania). 1.Qf3 Bg7+ 2.Kxd5 Sc3+ 3.Qxc3 Qd7+ 4.Kc4/i Qxa4+ 5.Kd5/ii Qd7+ 6.Kxc5 Bxd4+ 7.Kb4+ Bxc3+ 8.Rxc3+ Kb7 9.Rb5+ Ka6 10.Ra3 mate.

i) Thematic try: 4.Kxc5? Bxd4+ 5.Qxd4 Qa7+ 6.Kc4 Qxa4+ 7.Kc3 Qa1+ 8.Kd3 Qd1+ 9.Ke3 Qg1+ 10.Ke4 Qg4+ 11.Ke5 Qg7+ 12.Kd5 Qd7+ 13.Kc5 Qa7+ perpetual check. 4.Ke4? Qg4+ 5.Kd3 Qd1+ 6.Kc4 Qxa4+ 7.Kd5 waste of time.

ii) 5.Kxc5? Bxd4+ 6.Kd6+ Bxc3 7.Rxc3+ Kb7 draws, but not Kb8? (Kd8? Rh8+) 8.Rh8+ Kb7 9.Rc7+ Kb6 10.Rb8+ Ka6 11.Ra8+.

“This has a spectacular yet logical manoeuvre of a fearless wK to open the a-file for the final mate”.

**No 21249** M. Minski  
4th honourable mention



b3d4 3171.40 8/4 Win

**No 21249** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rd5+/i Kxd5 2.c8Q (exf7? Qf5;) Qxe6/ii 3.Qc4+/iii Kd6 4.Sxe5 Kxe5 (Qxe5; Qxf7) 5.Kc3/iv Qh3+/v 6.g3/vi Bxc4/vii 7.Bxh3 wins.

i) 1.c8Q? Bxe6+ 2.Rd5+ Bxd5+ 3.Kc2 Qc6+ 4.Qxc6 Bxc6 5.Sxe5 Bxg2 (Kxe5; g3) 6.Bxg2 Kxe5 draws. 1.Rb4+? (Rxe5? Bxe6+;) Ke3 2.exf7 (c8Q Bxe6+;) Qxf7+ 3.Rc4 Bxc7 draws.

ii) Bxe6 3.Qc5+ Ke4+ 4.Kb4 (Ka3) Bxh2 5.Sf2+ Kf4 6.Qd4+ Kg5 7.Se4+ Kh6 8.Qh8+ Qh7 9.Qxh7+ Kxh7 10.Sg5+ wins.

iii) 3.Qxe6+? Bxe6 4.Sxe5 Kxe5+ 5.Kc3 Bh3, or 3.Sf4+? Kd6+ (Bxf4?; Bc4) 4.Sxe6 Bxe6+ 5.Qxe6+ Kxe6 draws.

iv) 5.Qxe6+? Bxe6+ 6.Kc3 Bh3, or 5.Kb4? Qb6+ 6.Qb5+ Qxb5+ 7.Bxb5 Kd4 draw.

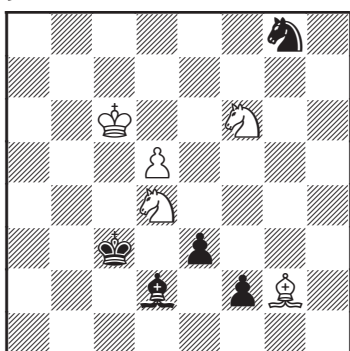
v) Qxc4+ 6.Bxc4, or Qd5 6.Qxd5+ Bxd5 7.g3, or Qf6 6.Qd4+.

vi) 6.gxh3? Bxc4, or 6.Qd3? Qxh2 7.Qd4+ Kf5 8.Bd3+ Kg5 9.Qg7+ Kh4 10.Qf6+ Kg3 11.Qf3+ Kh4 12.Qxf7 Qxg2 draws.

vii) Qxh2 7.Qf4+ (Qd4+) Ke6 8.Bc4+ wins.

“Without queens it would have been the good old 5...Bh3!! draws but, with the queens on the board, the astonishing 5...Qh3+!! 6.g3!! wins. Truly amusing!”

**No 21250 R. Becker**  
5th honourable mention



c6c3 0045.12 5/5 Win

**No 21250** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Se2+ (Sxg8? Kxd4;) Kc2/i 2.Sg4/ii Kd1/iii 3.Bf1/iv Ke1/v 4.Sh2 Bb4/vi 5.d6/vii Bxd6 6.Kxd6, and:

— Sf6 7.Sg3 Se4+ 8.Sxe4 e2 9.Sc3 exf1Q 10.Sf3 model mate, or:

— Sh6 7.Sg3 Sf5+ 8.Sxf5 e2 9.Sf3+ Kxf1 10.Se3 model mate.

i) Kd3 2.Sf4+ Kc2 3.Sxg8 Kd1 4.d6 e2 5.Sxe2 Kxe2 6.d7 (Kc5) wins.

ii) Try: 2.Sxg8? Kd1 3.Bf1 Ke1 4.Sg3 e2 5.Bxe2 Bf4. Try: 2.Se4? Kd1 3.Sd4 Sf6 4.Sg3 Bc3 5.Sdf5 e2 6.Bf3 f1Q 7.Sxf1 Ke1 8.S1g3 Kf2 9.Bxe2 Be5 draws.

iii) Se7+ 3.Kc5 Sf5 4.d6 Kd1 5.Bf1 Ke1 6.Sh2 wins.

iv) 3.Sd4? Se7+ 4.Kc5 Sxd5 5.Kxd5 Ke1, or 3.Sg3? Se7+ 4.Kc5 Sg6 5.d6 Ke1 6.Sh2 Sf4 7.Kb5 e2 8.d7 Se6.

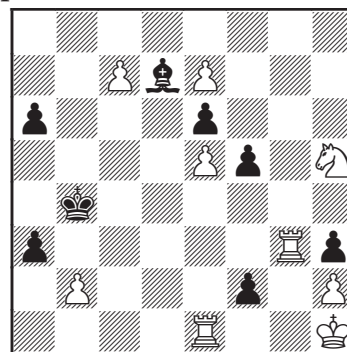
v) Sf6 4.Sxf6 Ke1 5.Sg3 wins.

vi) Se7+ 5.Kc5 Sg6 6.d6 Ba5 7.Sg3 Sf4 8.Sf3+ Kd1 9.Sd4 wins.

vii) 5.Sg3? Se7+ 6.Kd7 Sxd5, or 5.Sf4? Se7+ 6.Kd7 Sf5 7.Ba6 Sh4 8.Ke6 e2 9.Bxe2 Bd2.

“We see a lovely pair of model mates with the white knights exchanging roles. Although both mate pictures are known they seem to have been combined here for the first time”

**No 21251 J. Timman**  
special honourable mention



h1b4 0231.56 9/8 Win

**No 21251** Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.Re4+ fxe4 2.bxa3+ Ka5 3.Rf3/i exf3 4.Sg3 f1Q+ 5.Sxf1 f2 6.e8B/ii, and:

— Bxe8 7.c8R/iii Ba4 8.Se3 Kb6 9.Sd5+ Ka5 10.Rf8 Bc6 11.Rxf2 Bxd5+ 12.Kg1 wins, or:

— Bc8 7.Bc6 Kb6 8.Bg2 Bb7 9.c8S+ Bxc8 10.Bxh3 wins.

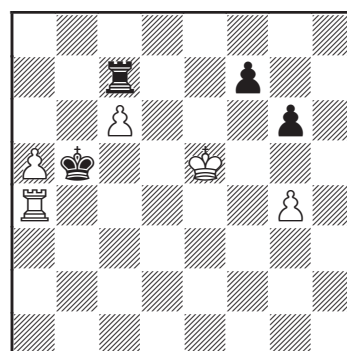
i) 3.Rg1? e3 4.c8Q Bxc8 draws.

ii) 6.e8Q? Bc6+ 7.Qxc6 stalemate.

iii) 7.c8Q? Bc6+ 8.Qxc6 stalemate.

“Three different underpromotions, even in one line of play, are by no means a novelty. However, here we witness the Phoenix theme in action following the double rook sacrifice, as well as a ‘normal’ game-like follow up with the rook still requiring precision”

**No 21252 J. Polášek**  
1st commendation



e5b5 0400.42 5/4 Win

**No 21252** Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic). 1.Ra2/i Rxc6 2.a6/ii f6+ 3.Kd5 Rxa6 4.Rb2+ Ka4 5.Rb1 f5/iii 6.g5 wins/iv.

i) Thematic try: 1.Ra1? Rxc6 2.a6 f6+ 3.Kd5 Rxa6 4.Rb1+ Ka4 zz, or 1.Ra3? Rxc6 2.a6 f6+ 3.Kd5 Rxa6 4.Rb3+ Ka5 5.Kc5 (Rb1 Rb6;) Ka4 6.Rb1 Re6 draws.

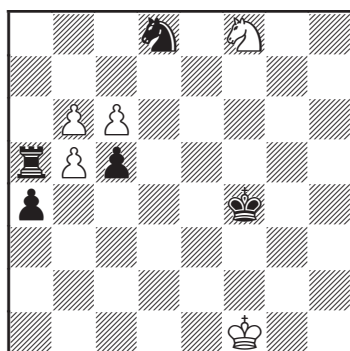
ii) 2.g5? Re6+ 3.Kd5 Ka6 4.Rf2 Re7 5.Kd6 Re6+ 6.Kd7 Re5 draws.

iii) g5 6.Ra1+ Kb5 7.Rxa6 Kxa6 8.Ke6, or Ra5+ 6.Kc4 win.

iv) f4 7.Ra1+ Kb5 8.Rxa6 Kxa6 9.Ke4.

“This has a fine logical rook ending inspired by an old Mandler study (HHdbV#56524), but in fact significantly improving on that source of inspiration”.

**No 21253** V. Bulanov  
2nd commendation



f1f4 0304.32 5/5 Win

**No 21253** Vladimir Bulanov (Russia). 1.c7/i Ra8 2.Se6+/ii Sxe6/iii 3.b7 Sxc7 4.b6 Rh8/iv 5.bxc7 Kf3 6.Ke1 Ke3 7.Kd1 Kd3 8.Kc1 Kc3 9.Kb1 Rh1+ 10.Ka2 Rh2+ 11.Ka3 Rh1 12.Kxa4 Kc4 13.Ka5 Ra1+ 14.Kb6 wins.

i) 1.Se6+? Sxe6 2.c7 a3 3.c8Q a2 4.Qb8+ Kf5 and Black wins.

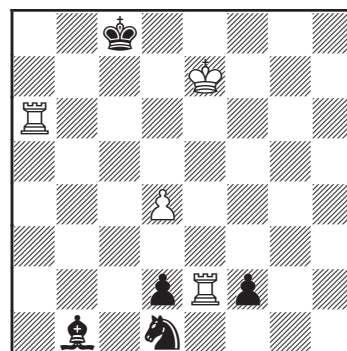
ii) 2.cxd8Q? Rxd8 3.Se6+ Kf3 4.Sxd8 a3 5.b7 a2.

iii) Kf3 3.Sxd8 a3 4.b7.

iv) Rb8 5.bxc7 Rxb7 6.c8Q wins.

“This has a pleasant synthesis of two ancient motifs: pawns dominating pieces in the spirit of the evergreen Ortueta – Sanz, Madrid 1933, and the wK’s grand tour to the upper queenside”.

**No 21254** P. Arestov  
3rd commendation



e7c8 0233.12 4/5 Win

**No 21254** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rf6/i Se3/ii 2.Rf8+/iii Kc7/iv 3.Rxd2 f1Q 4.Rxf1 Sxf1 5.d5/v Bf5/vi 6.Rd3/vii, and:

— Bg4 7.Rf3/viii Sd2 (Bxd3; d6) 8.Rf2/ix Sb3/x 9.Rf4/xi Bc8 (Bh3; Rc4+) 10.Rc4+ wins, or:

— Sh2 (Bxd3; d6) 7.Rc3+ Kb6 8.d6 Sg4 9.Rf3 Sh6/xii 10.d7 Bxd7 11.Kxd7 Kc5 (Sg4; Kd6) 12.Ke6 Sg4 13.Kf5/xiii Bc8 7.Rc3+ Kb8 8.Rxc8+ Kxc8 9.d6 wins.

i) 1.Rc6+? (Ra8+) Kb7 2.Rf6 (Rf8) Bf5 3.Rxf5 Se3 4.Rxe3 d1Q 5.Rxf2 Qxd4 draws.

ii) Bf5? 2.Rxf5 Se3 3.Rf8+ Kb7 4.Rxd2 wins.

iii) 2.Rxd2? f1Q 3.Rxf1 Sxf1 4.Rd1 Se3 5.Rxb1 Sf5+ 6.Kf6 Sxd4 7.Ke5 Sc6+ draws.

iv) Kb7 3.Rxd2 f1Q 4.Rxf1 Sxf1 5.Rb2+ Kc6 6.Rxb1 Se3 7.Ke6 wins.

v) 5.Rd1? Se3 6.Rxb1 Sf5+ draws.

vi) Sxd2 6.d6+ with check; this explains 2.Rf8+.

vii) 6.d6+? Kc6 (Kb6) 7.Rf2 Se3 8.Rf3 Sd5+ draws.

viii) 7.Rb3? Sd2 8.Rd3 Sf1 repeats.

ix) 8.Rd3? Sf1 9.Rf3 Sd2, or 8.Rf4? Bh3 9.Rd4 Sf1 10.Rd3 Bg4 repeat.

x) Sc4 9.Rc2, or Se4 9.Rf4, or Sf3 9.Rxf3 Bxf3 10.d6+ win.

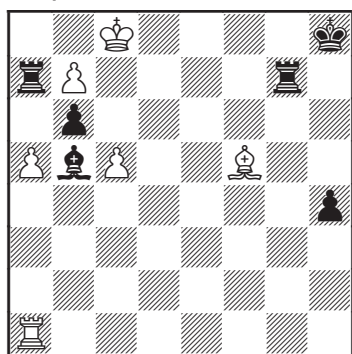
xi) 9.Rc2+? (d6+? Kc6;) Kb6 10.Rb2 Kc5 11.Rxb3 Kxd5 draws.

xii) Bc8 10.Rf8 Kb7 11.Rxc8 Kxc8 12.d7+ wins.

xiii) 13.Rf5+? Kc6 14.Rf3 Kc5 repeats.

“The wR is thrice given away on an attacked square; although in all three the rook is clearly ‘taboo’, these only moves are still pretty impressive”.

**No 21255** M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
4th commendation



c8h8 0740.32 6/6 Draw

**No 21255** Michal Hlinka & Ľubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Rh1/i Ba6/ii 2.Rxh4+ Kg8 3.Be6+ Kf8 4.Rf4+ Ke8/iii 5.Bd7+ Rxd7/iv 6.Re4+ Re7/v 7.Rxe7+ Kxe7 8.axb6/vi, and:

— Bxb7+ 9.Kc7/vii Ra5 10.c6 Bxc6 11.Kxc6 Ra1 12.b7 Rb1 13.Kc7 Rc1+ 14.Kb6 draws, or:

— Rxb7/viii 9.c6 Rd7+/ix 10.b7/x Rd1 11.Kc7/xi Bxb7 12.cxb7 Rc1+ 13.Kb6 wins.

i) 1.b8Q? Rg8 mate. 1.Rd1? Ba6 2.Rd8+ Rg8 3.Rxg8+ Kxg8 4.c6 bxa5 wins.

ii) Threatening Ra8 mate. Re7 2.Rxh4+ Kg8 3.axb6 Raxb7 4.Be4 Rbd7 5.c6 Rd6 6.b7 Bxc6 7.b8Q Re8+ 8.Kc7 Rxb8 9.Kxd6, or Raxb7 2.Rxh4+ Kg8 3.Be6+ Kf8 4.Rh8+ Ke7 5.Kxb7 draws.

iii) Ke7 5.Bc4 Bxb7+ 6.Kb8 Rxa5 7.Kxb7 bxc5 8.Kb6 Ra8 9.Kxc5 draws.

iv) Ke7 6.c6 bxa5 7.Rd4 Rg6 8.Kc7 draws.

v) Kf7 7.Kxd7 Rxb7+ 8.Kd6 bxa5 9.c6 Ra7 10.Kc5 Bc8 11.Kb6 Ra8 12.Ra4 draws.

vi) 8.cxb6? Bxb7+ 9.Kc7 Rxa5 10.Kxb7 Kd7 wins.

vii) 9.Kb8? Ra5 10.Kxb7 Rxc5 wins.

viii) Ra8+ 9.Kc7 Bxb7 10.Kxb7 draws.

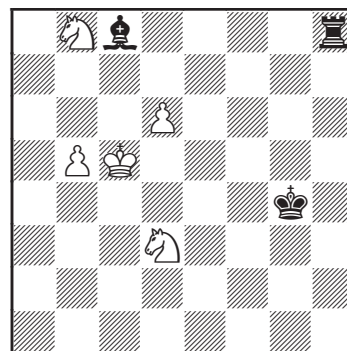
ix) Rxb6+ 10.Kc7 Rb1 stalemate.

x) 10.Kb8? Rd6 11.Kc7 Bb5 wins.

xi) 11.Kb8? Bxb7 12.cxb7 Kd7 wins.

“This is another fine demonstration of pawns taming pieces”.

**No 21256** L. Gonzales  
5th commendation



c5g4 0332.20 5/3 Win

**No 21256** Luis Miguel Gonzales (Spain). 1.b6/i Kf5 2.Kc6/ii Ke4 3.Sc5+ Kd4 4.Sbd7/iii Rh6/iv 5.Kc7/v Kd5 6.Se4/vi Rh8/vii 7.Sef6+/viii Ke6 8.Sh5 Bxd7/ix 9.Sf4+ Kf5 10.Kxd7 Kxf4 11.Kc7 Ke5 12.d7/x Kd5 13.b7

i) 1.Kc6? Bf5 2.Sd7 Bxd3 3.Se5+ Kf5 4.Sxd3 Rc8+ 5.Kd5 Rb8 draws.

ii) 2.Sc6? Kf6 3.Se7 Bb7 4.Sf4 Kf7, or 2.d7? Bxd7 3.Sxd7 Ke6 4.S3e5 Rc8+ 5.Kd4 Kd6 draw.

iii) 4.Scd7? Rh1 5.Kc7 Kd5 6.Sf6+ Ke6 7.Kxc8 Kxd6 draws.

iv) Rh7 5.Se6+ Kc3 6.Sf6 Rh2 7.b7 Bxb7+ 8.Kxb7 Kc4 9.Sc7 Rh8 10.Kc6 Rf8 11.Sfe8, or Bxd7+ 5.Sxd7 Rc8+ 6.Kb7 wins.

v) 5.Sb3+? Kc4 6.Sd2+ Kd3 7.Sb3 Kc4 draws.

vi) 6.Sd3? Bxd7 7.b7 Rh8 8.Sf4+ Kc5 9.Kxd7 Kb6 draws.

vii) Kxe4? 7.Kxc8 Rxd6 8.b7 Rh6 9.Kd8 Rh8+ 10.Ke7 Kd5 11.Sf8 wins.

viii) 7.Sc3+? Kc4, or 7.Sdf6+? Ke5 draw.

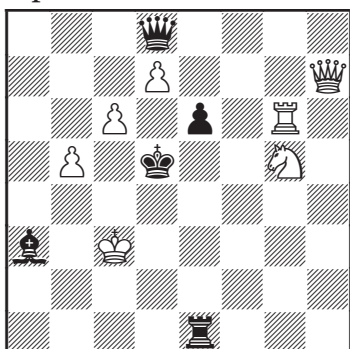
ix) Rxh5 9.Sf8+ Kf7 10.Kxc8 Rh8 11.d7 wins.

x) 12.b7? Ke6 13.d7 Ke7 draws.

“A couple of surprising knight moves highlight this game-like battle”.



**No 21257 D. Keith**  
special commendation



c3d5 4431.31 7/5 Win

**No 21257 Daniel Keith (France).** 1.Kd3/i Qb6/ii 2.d8Q+ Qxd8 3.Sxe6/iii Rxe6/iv 4.c7/v Qe8 (Re3+; Kc2) 5.Rxe6/vi Qxb5+/vii 6.Ke3/viii Bc5+ (Bc1+; Kf2) 7.Kf4 (Kf3? Qf1+;) Bd6+/ix 8.Rxd6+/x Kxd6 9.c8S+/xi Kc5 10.Qe7+ Kd4 11.Qe3+ Kd5 12.Qe5+ Kc6 (Kc4; Sd6+) 13.Sa7+ wins.

i) 1.Kb3? Re3+ 2.Kc2 Re2+ 3.Kd1 Re1+/xii 4.Kxe1 Qa5+ 5.Kf2 Qd2+ 6.Kf3 Qd1+, or 1.Kc2? Re2+ 2.Kd3 Rd2+ 3.Kxd2 Qa5+ 4.Ke2 Qxb5+ 5.Kf3 Qf1+ draw.

ii) Rd1+ 2.Ke2/xiii Re1+ 3.Kf3 Rf1+ 4.Kg2 Rg1+ 5.Kxg1 wins.

iii) 3.Qd7+? Qxd7 4.cxd7 Be7, or 3.Sf3? Kc5+ 4.Qd7 Rd1+, or 3.Sf7? Rd1+ 4.Ke2 Rd2+ 5.Kf1/

xiv Rd1+ 6.Kg2 Rd2+ 7.Kh3 Rd3+ 8.Kg4/xv Rd4+ 9.Kh3 Rd3+ draws.

iv) Rd1+ 4.Ke2/xvi Re1+ 5.Kxe1 Qa5+ 6.Kf1 Qxb5+ 7.Kf2 Bc5+ 8.Sxc5 wins.

v) 4.Qh5+? Kd6 5.Rg7 Re7 draws.

vi) 5.Qh1+? Kc5 6.Rxe6 Qxb5+ 7.Ke4 Qb7+, and: 8.Kf4 Qxc7+ e.g. 9.Re5+ Kb6 10.Qb1+ Ka7, or: 8.Kf5 Qxh1 9.c8Q+ Kd4 draw.

vii) Qxe6 6.Qh1+ Kc5 7.Qc6+ wins.

viii) 6.Kd2? Qb4+ 7.Ke2 Qg4+ draws.

ix) Qc4+ 8.Kg5 Qc1+ 9.Kg6 wins.

x) 8.Kg4? Qa4+ 9.Kh5 Qd1+ draws.

xi) Phoenix. 9.c8R? (Phoenix) Qe5+ 10.Kf3 Qf6+ 11.Kg2 Qg5+ 12.Kh1 Qd5+ draws. 9.c8Q? Qc4+ 10.Qxc4 stalemate, or Qe5+ 10.Kg4 Qe4+ 11.Qxe4 stalemate.

xii) Rd2+? 4.Ke1 Qa5 5.d8Q+ wins.

xiii) 2.Kc2? Rc1+ 3.Kb3 Rc3+ draws.

xiv) 5.Kxd2 Qa5+ 6.Kd1 Qa4+ draws.

xv) 8.Rg3 Rxg3+ 9.Kxg3 Qc7+ 10.Kf3 Kc5 draws.

xvi) 4.Kc2? Rc1+ 5.Kb3 Rc3+ 6.Kxc3 Qa5+ 7.Kd3 Qxb5+ wins.

“The underpromotion and the following play are unfortunately anticipated but the introduction is superb and deserves a special distinction”.

## 3rd UAPA Internet ty 2016

57 studies by 29 composers from 15 countries participated in this informal tourney of the Argentine Chess Problemists Association (UAPA). This tourney also celebrated two centuries of independence of Argentina.

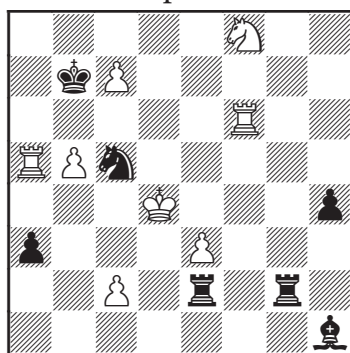
There were three sections: a thematic section, a win section (no theme) and a draw section (no theme). The judge was Pavel Arestov (Russia).

The proportion of the studies in the award is again excessive.

### Thematic section

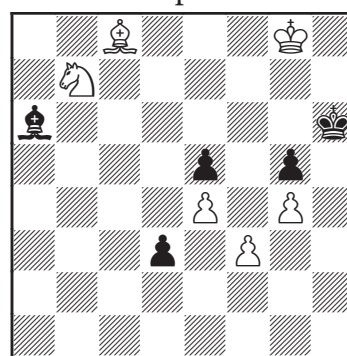
The theme was: the study ends with a pawn move mating the bK.

**No 21258** J. Timman & M. Garcia  
1st prize



d4b7 o834.42 8/7 Win

**No 21259** M. Minski  
2nd prize



g8h6 oo41.33 6/5 Win

**No 21258** Jan Timman (the Netherlands) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Ra7+ (Kxc5? Rxc2+;) Kxa7 2.c8Q Rd2+ 3.Ke5, and:

— Rd5+ 4.Kxd5 Rxc2+ 5.e4 Bxe4+ 6.Kd6 Sb7+ 7.Ke7/i Rxc8 8.Ra6+ Kb8 9.Sd7+ Kc7 10.Rc6+ Bxc6 11.b6 mate, or:

— Rg5+ 4.Kf4 Bb7 5.Qc7 Rdg2 (Rxx2; Qb6+) 6.Qa5+ (Qb6+)/ii Kb8 7.Qd8+ Ka7/iii 8.Ra6+ Sxa6/iv 9.b6 mate.

i) Try: 7.Kd7? Rxc8 8.Kxc8 Sc5 9.b6+ Ka8 10.Se6 Bb7+ 11.Kc7 Sa6+ draws.

ii) 6.e4? R2g4+ 7.Kf3 Rg3+ 8.Ke2 a2 draws.

iii) Bc8 8.Rb6+ Ka7 9.Qc7+ Bb7 (Sb7; Ra6 mate) 10.Rxb7+ Sxb7 11.Sd7 R2g4+ 12.Kf3 Rg3+ 13.Ke2 Rg2+ 14.Kd3 Rd5+ 15.Kc3 Rxd7 16.Qxd7

iv) Bxa6 9.b6+ Kb7 10.Qc7+ Ka8 11.Qa7 mate.

“This has two beautiful lines with a mate by a white pawn. A minor dual in one of the lines has not prevented this study from winning this section”.

**No 21259** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sd6/i d2/ii 2.Sf7+/iii Kg6 3.Bf5+ (Kf8? Bxc8;) Kf6 4.Kf8 Bc4/iv 5.Sd6 (f4? Bxf7;) Bb5 6.f4 (Sxb5? d1Q;) d1Q 7.Sf7, and: Qa1 8.fxg5 mate, or: Qc1 8.fxe5 mate, or: 7...exf4 8.e5 mate, or 7... gxf4 8.g5 mate.

i) 1.Sd8? Bc4+ 2.Kf8 d2 and Black wins.

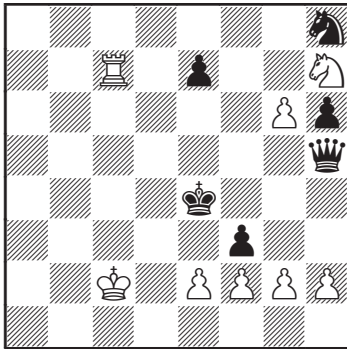
ii) Bxc8 2.Sf7+ Kg6 3.Sxe5+ Kf6 4.Sxd3 Ba6 5.Se1 wins.

iii) 2.Bf5? Bc4+ 3.Sxc4 d1Q, or 2.Sf5+? Kg6 3.Se7+ Kh6 4.Sf5+ Kg6 draw.

iv) Bb5 (d1Q) 5.f4.

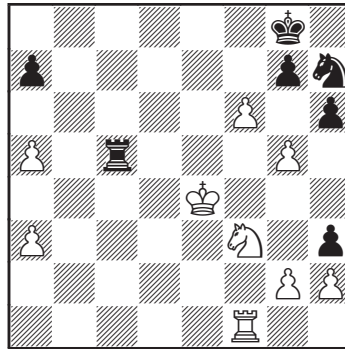
“This is an easy ‘airy’ study with a sharp struggle by both sides. In the finale White is able to beat the superior black forces”.

**No 21260** A. Zhukov  
1st honourable mention



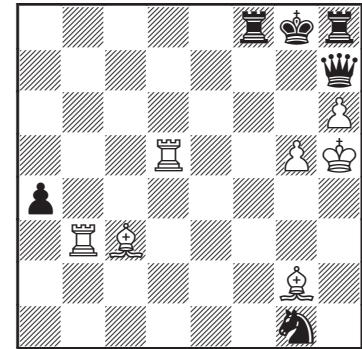
c2e4 3104.53 8/6 Win

**No 21261** P. Krug  
2nd honourable mention



e4g8 0404.64 9/7 Win

**No 21262** A. Jasik  
3rd honourable mention



h5g8 3823.21 7/6 Win

**No 21260** Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia). 1.g7/i Qe8 2.Rxe7+/ii Qxe7 3.exf3+/iii Kf4/iv 4.gx-h8Q Qe2+ (Qc5+; Qc3) 5.Kc3 (Kb3 Qb5+;) Qe1+ 6.Kc4/v Qe6+ (Qe2+; Kd5) 7.Kc5/vi Qe7+ (Qf5+; Kd6) 8.Kc6/vii Qe6+ 9.Kc7 (Kb7? Qd7+;) Qe7+ (Qc4+; Kd6) 10.Kc8/viii Qe6+ (Qc5+; Kd7) 11.Kd8 (Kb8? Qb6+;) Qd6+ (Qd5+; Ke7) 12.Ke8 Qb8+ 13.Kf7 Qxh8 14.Sf8 Qa1/ix 15.Sg6+, and:

— Kf5 16.g4+ Kg5 17.h4 mate, or:

— Kg5 16.h4+ Kf5 (Kh5) 17.g4 mate.

i) 1.Rxe7+? Kd4 2.Re4+ Kc5 3.g7 Qg6 4.gx-h8Q Qxe4+, or 1.gxf3+? Kf5, and: 2.g7 Qe8 3.Rxe7 Qa4+, or here: 2.Rc5+ e5 3.g7 Qe8 4.Sf8 Qa4+ draw.

ii) 2.Rc4+? (exf3+? Kf5;) Kd5 3.Sf8 Kxc4 4.g8Q+ Sf7 5.Qg4+ Kc5 draws.

iii) 3.gxh8Q? Qc5+, or 3.gxf3+? Kf4 4.e3+ Kxf3 5.gxh8Q Kxf2 draw.

iv) Kd5 4.g8Q+ Sf7 5.Qa8+, or Kf5 4.g4+ Kf4 5.gxh8Q Qe2+ 6.Kb3 Qe6+ 7.Kc3 Qe1+ 8.Kc4 Qe6+ 9.Kd4 Qd6+ 10.Kc3 Qa3+ 11.Kc4 wins.

v) 6.Kb3? Qe6+, or 6.Kd3? Qf1+ 7.Kd2 Qxf2+ draw.

vi) 7.Kb5? Qd5+, or 7.Kd4? Qd6+.

vii) 8.Kb6? Qd6+, or 8.Kd5? Qd7+.

viii) 10.Kb8? Qd6+ 11.Kc8 Qc6+.

ix) Kf5 15.g4+ Kg5 16.h4+ Kf4 17.Sg6+ Kxf3 18.Sxh8, or Kg5 15.h4+ wins.

“This is an interesting study in which, in order to win, the wK makes a ‘trip’ across the board”.

**No 21261** Peter Krug (Austria). 1.f7+ (gxh3? Rxa5;) Kxf7/i 2.g6+ Kxg6 3.Se5+ Kh5/ii 4.g4+ Kh4/iii 5.Kf4 Rxe5/iv 6.Kxe5 Sf6 7.Rxf6/v gxf6+ 8.Kf4/vi a6 (h5; g5) 9.Kf5 zz h5 10.g5 fxg5 11.a4 g4 12.Kf4 g3 13.hxg3 mate.

i) Kf8 2.g6 Sf6+ (Sg5+; Kf4) 3.Kd4 hxg2 4.Rb1 wins.

ii) Rxe5+ 4.Kxe5 hxg2 5.Rg1 wins.

iii) Kg5 5.Rf5+ Kh4 6.Rh5 mate.

iv) g5+ 6.Ke4 Rxa5 7.Rf7 Ra4+ 8.Kd5 wins.

v) 7.Kf5? Sxg4 8.Rf4 h5 9.Kg6 a6 10.Kf5 g5 11.Rd4 stalemate.

vi) Thematic try: 8.Kf5? a6 zz 9.Kf4 h5, and: 10.g5 f5 11.Kxf5 stalemate, or 10.gxh5 Kxh5 11.Kf5 Kh4 12.a4 Kh5 draws.

“This study has good play and an unexpected sacrifice of the wR resulting in a mutual zugzwang”.

**No 21262** Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Rd6 Sf3 2.Bxf3/i Rxf3 3.Rb8+ Rf8 4.Rb7 Qxb7/ii 5.Rg6+ Kh7/iii 6.Rg7+ Qxg7 7.hxg7 Rfg8/iv 8.g6 mate.

i) Try: 2.Rbb6? Qf7+ 3.Rg6+ Kh7 4.Rb7 Qxb7 5.Rg7+ Qxg7 6.hxg7 Sxg5 7.Kxg5 Rf5+ 8.Kxf5 Rg8 draws.

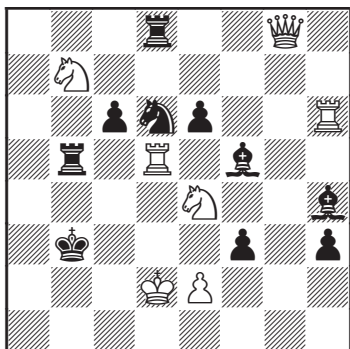
ii) Rf7 5.Rd8+ Rf8 6.Rxh7 Rxh7 7.Rxf8+ Kxf8 8.g6 wins.

iii) Kf7 6.Rg7+ Ke6 7.Rxb7 wins.

iv) Rc8 8.g6+ Kg8+ 9.gxh8Q mate.

“This is a pleasant study with the final pawn mate”.

**No 21263** D. Hlebec  
4th honourable mention



d2b3 1865.14 7/10 Win

**No 21263** Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.Sbc5+/i Kc4/ii 2.Rd4+ Kxd4 3.Qg7+ e5/iii 4.Rxd6+/iv Rxd6 5.e3+ Kd5 6.Qf7+ Be6 7.Qa7 Rxc5 8.Kd3/v Rc4 9.Qc5+/vi Rxc5 10.Sf6+ Bxf6 11.e4 mate.

i) 1.Rxb5+? cxb5 2.Sxd8 Sxe4+ 3.Ke3 f2 4.Sxe6 Kb2 5.Sd4 Bg5+ 6.Qxg5 Sxg5 7.Kxf2 Bd7 8.Rh5 Se4+ 9.Kf3.

ii) Kb4 2.Sd3+ Ka5 3.Qxd8+ Bxd8 4.Rxd6 Rd5 5.Rh5 (Rh8) wins.

iii) Kc4 4.Qc3+ Kd5 e.g 5.exf3 Sxe4+ 6.fxe4+ Kd6 7.Rxh4 Rxc5 8.Qf6 wins.

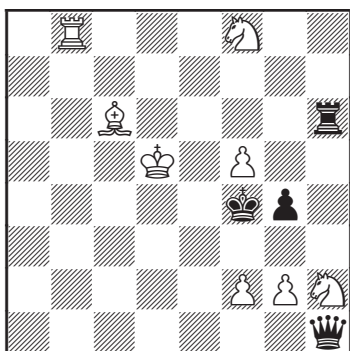
iv) 4.Qg1+? Kc4 5.Qc1+ Kd5 6.Kd3 Bxe4+ 7.Sxe4 Rb3+ 8.Sc3+ Kc5 9.Kc2 Rxc3+ 10.Kxc3 Bg5 11.Qa3+ Kb6 12.Rxd6 fxe2 13.Qb2+ Kc7 draws.

v) 8.Qxc5+? Kxe4+ 9.Qxd6 f2 and Black wins.

vi) 9.Qa2? c5 10.Qa8+ Rc6 11.Qa2 Rd6 draws.

“This is an interesting study with an unexpected queen sacrifice”.

**No 21264** L. Kekely & M. Hlinka  
commendation



d5f4 3412.31 8/4 Win

**No 21264** Ľubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.Se6+ Kxf5/i 2.Sd4+/ii Kg5/iii

3.Sxg4/iv Qxg2+/v 4.Ke5/vi Qxg4/vii 5.Sf3+ Kh5 6.Be8+ Rg6 7.Bxg6+ Qxg6/viii 8.Rh8+ Kg4 9.Sh2+ Kg5 10.f4 mate.

i) Rxe6 2.Kxe6 Qe1+ 3.Kf7 Qxf2 4.Rb4+ Kxf5 5.Sxg4 wins.

ii) 2.Rf8+? Kg6 3.Sxg4 Qxg2+ 4.Kc5 Qxg4 5.Rg8+ Kf5 6.Rxg4 Kxg4 draws.

iii) Kf4 3.Rf8+ Kg5 4.f4+ gxf3ep 5.Shxf3+ Kg4 6.Rg8+ Kf4 7.Se5 Rh5 8.Rf8+ Ke3 9.Rf3+ Kd2 10.g4, or Kg6 3.Sxg4 Kg5 4.Se5 win.

iv) 3.Rg8+? Rg6 4.f4+ Kxf4 5.Rxg6 Qxg2+ 6.Shf3 Qa2+ 7.Kd6 gxf3 8.Rf6+ Ke3 9.Sxf3 Qa3+ draws.

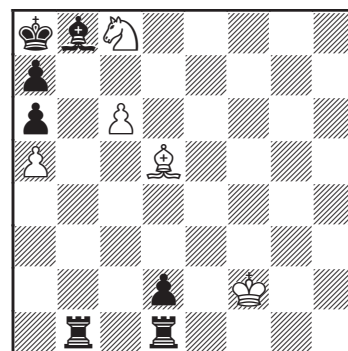
v) Rxc6 4.Se5 Qxg2+ 4.Sdf3+ Kf5 6.Kxc6 wins.

vi) 4.f3? Rh5 5.Ke6 Kf4 6.Ra4 Kg3 7.Sf6 Qh3+ 8.Kf7 Rh8 draws.

vii) Rxc6 5.f4+ Kh4 6.Sf5+ Kxg4 7.Se3+ Kf3 8.Sxg2 wins.

viii) Kxg6 8.Rg8+, or Kh6 8.Rb6 wins.

**No 21265** V. Kalashnikov  
commendation



f2a8 0641.23 5/7 Win

**No 21265** Valery Kalashnikov (Russia). 1.Sb6+/i Rxb6/ii 2.axb6 Rf1+ 3.Kg2, and:

— d1Q 4.b7 mate, or:

— Rg1+ 4.Kh3 Rg3+ 5.Kh4 Rg4+ 6.Kh5 Bc7/iii 7.bxc7 Rg8(d1Q; c8Q mate;) 8.c8Q+ Rxc8 9.c7 mate.

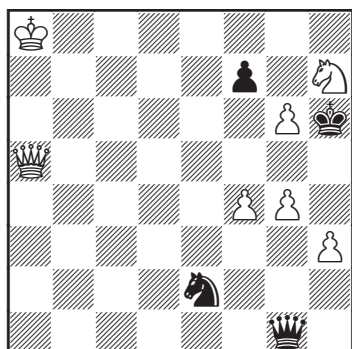
i) 1.c7+? Rb7 2.Sb6+ axb6 3.c8Q Rf1+ 4.Ke3 Rf7 5.Kxd2 bxa5 6.Bxf7 Rxf7 draws.

ii) axb6 2.c7+ Ka7 3.c8S mate.

iii) Rg5+ 7.Kxg5 Bf4+ 8.Kxf4 d1Q 9.c7+ Qxd5 10.c8Q mate.

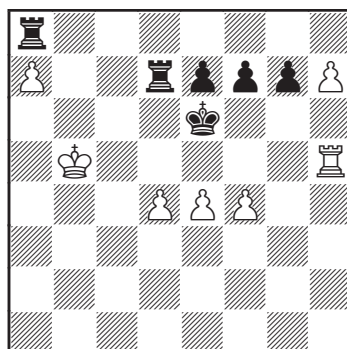


No 21266 A. Skripnik  
commendation



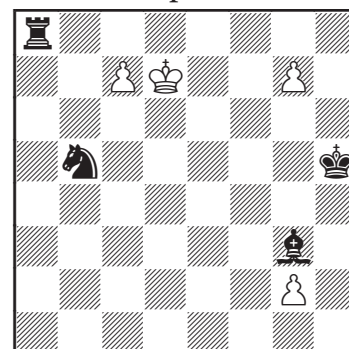
a8h6 4004.41 7/4 BTM, Win

No 21267 R. Becker  
commendation



b5e6 0700.53 7/6 Win

No 21268 P. Krug  
1st prize



d7h5 0333.30 4/4 Win

**No 21266** Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1... fxf6 2.Sf6/i Qh1+/ii 3.Ka7/iii Qg1+ 4.Ka6 Sxf4 5.g5+ Qxg5 6.Qd8 (Sg4+ Kh5;) Qf5/iv 7.Qh8+ Kg5 8.h4 mate.

i) 2.Qg5+? Kxh7 3.Qe7+ Kg8 4.Qxe2 Qh1+ 5.Ka7 Qxh3 draws.

ii) Qg2+ 3.Kb8 Sxf4 4.Qe5 Sxh3 5.Se4 Qxg4 6.Qh8 mate.

iii) 3.Kb8? Qb1+ 4.Ka7 (Kc7 Qc1+;) Qg1+ 5.Ka6 waste of time.

v) Se6 7.Qh8 mate, or Qe5 7.Sg4+, or Qc5 7.Qh8+ Kg5 8.Se4+ Kf5 9.Sxc5, or Qg2 7.Sg4+ Kh5 8.Qh8+ Kg5 9.Qh6+ Kf5 10.Se3+ Ke4 11.Sxg2 wins.

**No 21267** Richard Becker (USA). 1.h8Q/i Rxh8 2.f5+ Kd6/ii 3.Rxh8 Rxa7 4.Kb6 Rd7 5.Re8/iii zz e6/iv 6.fxe6 fxe6 7.d5 exd5 8.e5+

i) 1.f5+? Kd6 2.h8Q Rb7+ draws.

ii) Kf6 3.e5 model mate.

iii) 5.Rc8? e6 (e5) draws.

iv) g5 6.Rc8 e5 7.d5 f6 (g4; f6) 8.Rc6+ Ke7 9.Re6+ Kf7 10.Kc6 wins.

### Win section

**No 21268** Peter Krug (Austria). 1.c8S/i Rxc8/ii 2.Kxc8 Sd6+ 3.Kd7 Se4 4.Ke6/iii Sg5+ 5.Ke7/iv Bd6+ 6.Kd7 (Kxd6 Sf7+;) Se4 7.Ke6 Sg5+ 8.Kf5/v Sf7 9.g4+ (g8Q? Sh6+;) Kh4 10.g5 wins.

i) Try: 1.c8Q? Ra7+ 2.Kc6 Rxc7 3.Qh3+ (Qh8+ Kg6;) Bh4 draws.

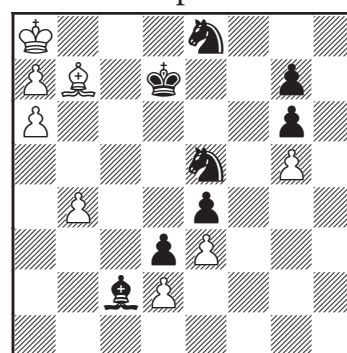
ii) Ra2 2.g8Q Rd2+ 3.Ke6 Sc7+ 4.Kf7 Rf2+ 5.Kg7 Rxc2 6.Kh7, or Ra1 2.g8Q Rd1+ 3.Ke8 win.

iii) 4.Ke7? Bh4+ 5.Kf8 Sf6 draws.

iv) 5.Kf6? Be5+ 6.Kxe5 Sf7+ 7.Kf6 Sh6 draws.  
v) 8.Kd5? Sh7, and 9.Ke6 Sg5+ 10.Kf5 waste of time, or 9.Kxd6 Sf6 draws.

“This is a very good study in which White must show a maximum of ingenuity in order to win”.

No 21269 Á. Ruz  
2nd prize



a8d7 0046.64 8/8 Win

**No 21269** Árpád Ruz (Hungary). 1.Kb8 Sc7/i 2.a8Q Kd8/ii 3.Bc6 (Qa7? Sd7 mate;) Sxa8 4.Bxa8 Sd7+ 5.Kb7 (Ka7? Kc7;) Ba4 6.b5/iii Bxb5 7.a7 zz Bc4/iv 8.Kc6 Bd5+ 9.Kxd5 Sb6+ 10.Ke6 (Kxe4? Sxa8;) Sxa8 11.Kf7 wins.

i) Kd6 2.a8Q Sd7+ 3.Kc8 Sb6+ 4.Kd8 Sxa8 5.Kxe8 wins.

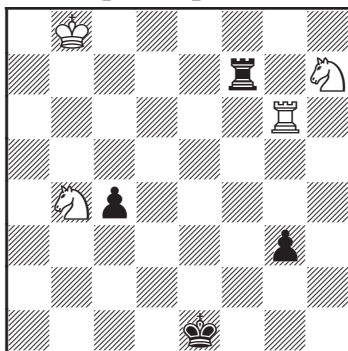
ii) Kd6 3.Qa7 Sd7+ 4.Kc8 Sb5 5.Qb8+ Sxb8 6.Kxb8, or Sxa8 3.Bxa8 Ba4 4.a7 Sc6+ 5.Bxc6+ Bxc6 6.b5 wins.

iii) 6.a7? Bb5 stalemate.

iv) Ba4 8.Ka6 Kc7 9.Bxe4 Sb6 10.a8Q Sxa8 11.Bxa8 Bc6 (Kd6; Be4) 12.Bxc6 Kxc6 13.Ka5 Kc5 14.Ka4 Kc4 15.Ka3 Kc5 16.Kb3 wins.

“This is an interesting study with an unexpected mutual zugzwang”.

**No 21270** V. Tarasiuk  
special prize



b8e1 0402.02 4/4 Win

**No 21270** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Sf6/i Rf8+/ii 2.Kb7/iii Rxf6 3.Rxf6 g2 4.Sc2+ Ke2 5.Sd4+ Ke3 6.Sf5+ Ke4 7.Sd6+/iv Ke3 8.Rg6/v Kf2 9.Se4+ Kf1 10.Rf6+/vi Ke2 11.Sg3+ Ke3 12.Re6+ Kf2 13.Se2 Kf1/vii 14.Re8/viii c3 15.Sg3+ Kf2 16.Se4+ Kf3/ix 17.Sg5+ Kg4 18.Se6 c2 19.Rc8 Kf5 20.Sd4+ Ke4 21.Se2 Ke3 22.Rxc2 (Sg1? Kd2;) wins.

i) 1.Sg5? Rf8+ 2.Kc7 g2 3.Sc2+ Kd2 draws.

ii) Rxf6 2.Rxf6 g2 3.Sc2+ Ke2 4.Sd4+ Ke3 5.Sf5+ Ke4 6.Sd6+ Ke3 7.Rg6 Kf2 8.Se4+ Kf1 9.Rf6+ Ke2 10.Sg3+ Ke3 11.Re6+ Kf2 12.Se2 Kf1 13.Re7 c3 14.Sg3+ Kf2 15.Se4+ Kf1 16.Rf7+ Ke1 17.Ra7 c2 18.Ra1+ wins.

iii) Logical try: 2.Kc7? Rxf6 3.Rxf6 g2 4.Sc2+ Ke2 5.Sd4+ Ke3 6.Sf5+ Ke2 7.Sg3+ Ke3 8.Re6+ Kf2 9.Se4+ Kf1, and: 10.Rf6+ Ke2 11.Rf2+ Ke3 12.Rxg2 Kxe4, or here: 10.Sd2+ Kf2 11.Rf6+ Ke3 12.Sf3 c3 13.Sg1 c2 draw.

iv) 7.Sg3+? Ke5 8.Rf5+ Ke6.

v) 8.Re6+? Kf3 9.Rg6 c3 10.Sb5 Kf2 draws.

vi) 10.Sd2+? Kf2 11.Rf6+ Ke3 12.Sf3 c3 13.Sg1 c2 14.Re6+ Kf2 15.Sh3+ Kg3 draws.

vii) c3 14.Sf4 g1Q 15.Sh3+ wins.

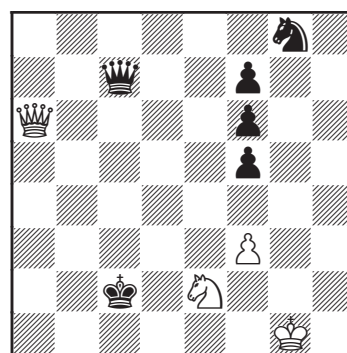
viii) 14.Re7? c3 15.Sg3+ Kf2 16.Se4+ Kf1 17.Rf7+ Ke1 18.Rg7 Kf1 positional draw, or

14.Re5? c3 15.Sg3+ Kf2 16.Se4+ Kf3 17.Sg5+ Kg4 18.Se6 Kf3 19.Sd4+ Kf2 20.Rf5+ Ke3 21.Sc2+ Ke2 22.Rg5 Kf2 draws.

ix) Kf1 17.Rf8+ Ke1 18.Ra8 c2 19.Ra1+ wins.

“We see an excellent re-working of a reciprocal zugzwang, shown for the first time by V. Vlasenko, 2nd commendation Dobrescu-80 JT 2015 (EG#20351)”.

**No 21271** R. Becker  
1st honourable mention



g1c2 4004.13 4/6 Win

**No 21271** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Sd4+ Kc1 2.Qf1+ Kb2 3.Qe2+ Ka1 4.Qd1+ Kb2 5.Qb3+ Kc1 6.Qb4 Se7/i 7.Kf1/ii, and:

— Sg6 8.Qe1+ Kb2 9.Qd2+ (Qe2+) Kb1 10.Qd3+ Kc1 11.Qe3+ Kb2 12.Qb3+ Kc1 13.Se2+ Kd2 14.Qb2+ Ke3/iii 15.Qd4+ Kxf3 16.Sg1+ Kg3 17.Qe3+ Kg4 18.Qh3+ Kg5 19.Sf3+/iv Kf4 20.Qh2+ wins, or:

— Sg8/v 8.Qe1+ Kb2 9.Qd2+ (Qe2+) Kb1 10.Qd3+ Kb2 11.Qb3+ Kc1 12.Qb4/vi Se7 13.Qe1+ (Ke2? Sg6;) Kb2 14.Qd2+ (Qe2+) Kb1 15.Qd3+ Kc1 16.Qe3+ Kb2 17.Qb3+ Kc1 18.Qa2 (Qb4? Sg8;) Kd1 19.Qb1+ Kd2 20.Qe1+ Kd3 21.Qd1+ Ke3 22.Sc2+ Kf4 23.Qd2+ Ke5/vii 24.f4+ Ke6/viii 25.Sd4+/ix Kd7 26.Sb5+ wins.

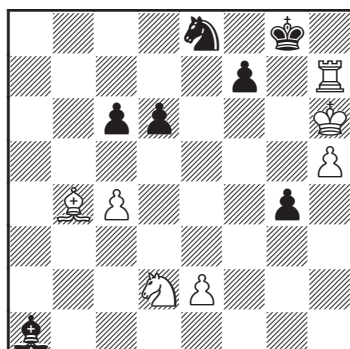
i) Sh6 7.Qe1+ Kb2 8.Qd2+, or Qg3+ 7.Kf1 Qh3+ 8.Ke2 Qg2+ 9.Kd3, or Qa7 7.Kf1 Qa6+ 8.Kf2 Qa7 9.f4 Sh6 10.Ke1 win, and Kd1 7.Kf1 transposes to the main line.

ii) 7.Kf2? Qh2+, or 7.Kg2? Sg6 draw.

iii) Kd3 15.Sc1+ Ke3 16.Qf2+ Kf4 17.Qh2+, or Qc2 15.Qb4+ Ke3 16.Qb6+ Kd2 17.Kf2 Qc4 18.Qb2+ win.

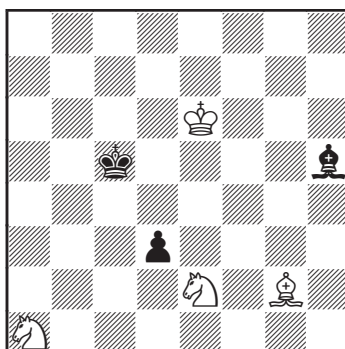
iv) first distant self-block (Sg6).

No 21272 A. Jasik  
2nd honourable mention



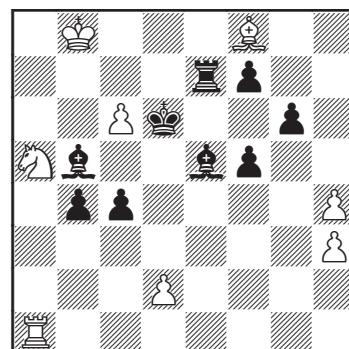
h6g8 o144.34 7/7 Win

No 21273 V. Tarasiuk  
3rd honourable mention



e6c5 o042.02 4/3 Win

No 21274 Á. Ruz  
4th honourable mention



b8d6 o471.45 8/9 Win

v) f4 (Sc8; Ke1) 8.Kf2 f5 9.Qe1+ Kb2 10.Qd2+ Kb1 11.Qd1+ Kb2 12.Qb3+ Kc1 13.Se2+ Kd2 14.Qb2+ Kd3 15.Sc1+ Kc4 16.Qc2+ wins.

vi) 12.Se2+? Kd2 13.Qb2+ Ke3 14.Qd4+ Kxf3 15.Sg1+ Kg3 16.Qe3+ Kg4 17.Qh3+ Kg5 18.Sf3+ Kg6, or 12.Qa2? Kd1 13.Qb1+ Kd2 14.Qe1+ Kd3 15.Qd1+ Ke3 16.Sc2+ Kf4 17.Qd2+ Ke5 (Kg3) draws.

vii) Kg3 24.Sd4 Kh4 25.Qh6+ Kg3 26.Kg1 wins.

viii) Ke4 25.Qg2+ Kd3 26.Sb4+ wins.

ix) second distant self-block (Se7).

“This is a sympathetic two-line study, in which in both cases White forces the bS to make a distant block for the bK. The forced play and the duals in the wQ moves reduce the impression”.

No 21272 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Se4/i g3 (Bd4; Bd2) 2.Sxg3/ii Be5 3.e3/iii Bxg3 4.Bc3 Be5 5.Bd4/iv Bxd4 6.exd4 c5 7.d5 zz Sf6 8.Rg7+ wins.

i) 1.Sf1? Bf6 2.Se3 g3 3.Be1 Be7 4.Bxg3 Bf8+ 5.Kg5 Kxh7 draws.

ii) 2.Be1? g2 3.Bf2 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Sg5 Sd6 draws.

iii) 3.Se4? Bf4+ 4.Sg5 Bxg5+ 5.Kxg5 Kxh7, or 3.Rxf7? Kxf7 4.Se4 Bf4+ 5.Kh7 d5 draw.

iv) Thematic try: 5.Bxe5? dxe5 6.c5 e4 zz, and Black wins.

“This is a study with pleasant play and an unexpected zugzwang at the end of the study”.

No 21273 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Sf4/i Bg4+/ii 2.Ke5 Kc4/iii 3.Bf1 Kc3 4.Sxd3/

iv Bh5 5.Kf6/v Bd1 6.Kg5/vi Ba4 7.Kf4 Bb5/vii 8.Ke3 Bc4 9.Be2 zz Bb5 10.Sc2 Kxc2 11.Se1+ (Sb4+? Kb3;) Kb3 12.Bxb5 wins.

i) Try: 1.Sc3? Kd4 2.Sb1 Ke3 3.Sb3 Bf3 4.Bf1 Be2 5.Bh3 Kf4 6.Kf6 Bg4 7.Bg2 Bf3 8.Bf1 Be2 positional draw. Try: 1.Sg3? Bd1 2.Ke5 Kb4, and: 3.Se4 Ka3 4.Sf2 Ba4 5.Sxd3 Ka2 6.Sc5 Bd1, or here: 3.Kd4 Ka3 4.Kxd3 Kb2 5.Kd2 Ba4.

ii) Be2 2.Sb3+ Kc4 3.Sd2+ Kc3 4.Se4+ Kc2 5.Sf2 wins.

iii) d2 3.Sb3+ Kb4 4.Sxd2 wins.

iv) 4.Bxd3? Bd1 5.Be4 Kb2 draws.

v) Thematic try: 5.Kf5? (Kf4? Bf7;) Be8 6.Kf4 Bf7 7.Ke3 Ba2 (Bg8) 8.Be2 Bc4 zz 9.Sc2 Kxc2 10.Se1+ Kc3 draws.

vi) Thematic try: 6.Kf5? Bh5 7.Kg5 Be8 8.Kf4 Bf7 draws.

vii) Be8 8.Sc5 Bf7 9.Sa4+ Kb4 10.Sb2 Kc3 11.Sd1+ Kd2 12.Se3 wins.

“This is a good miniature with a 6 man mutual zugzwang”.

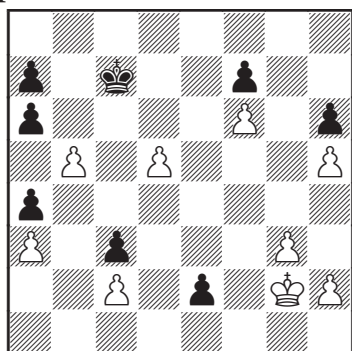
No 21274 Árpád Ruz (Rumania). 1.c7/i Kd7 2.Bxe7 Bxc7+ 3.Kb7 Be5/ii 4.Re1 Bg3 5.Rg1 (Re3? f4;) Bh2/iii 6.Rh1/v Bc7 7.h5/v gxh5 (Bxa6; h6) 8.Ra1 Be5/vi 9.Re1 Bg3 10.Re3 f4 11.Re5 f3 12.Rxb5 f2 13.Rf5 wins.

i) 1.Bxe7+? Kxe7+ 2.c7 Kd7 (Bxa1?; c8Q) 3.Kb7 Bxc7 and Black wins.

ii) Kxe7 4.Kxc7, or Bxa5 4.Rxa5 Bc6+ 5.Kb6 Kxe7 6.Kxc6 wins.

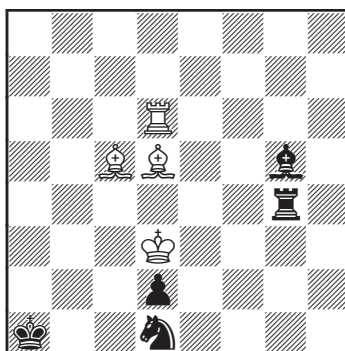
iii) Bf2 6.Rg2 wins, but not 6.Rf1? c3 7.Rxf2 c2 8.Sb3 Kxe7 draws.

**No 21275** M. Zinar  
& L. Katsnelson  
special honourable mention



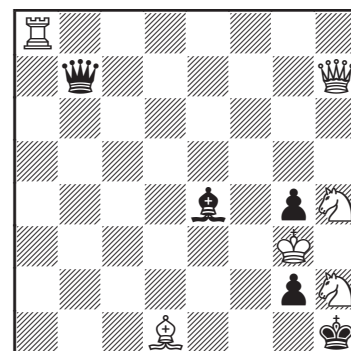
g2c7 0000.87 9/8 Win

**No 21276** M. Hlinka  
& L. Kekely  
commendation



d3a1 0453.01 4/5 Win

**No 21277**  
M. Minski  
commendation



g3h1 4142.02 6/5 Win

iv) 6.Rg2? Bc7 7.Bxb4 Bxa5 8.Bxa5 Bc6+ draws.

v) 7.Bxb4? Bxa5 8.Bxa5 Bc6+, or 7.Ra1? Be5 positional draw.

vi) b3 9.Bb4 f4 10.d3 wins.

“This is an interesting study with a systematic manoeuvre to distract bPg6 in order to clear f5 for the wR”.

**No 21275** Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine) & Leonard Katsnelson (Russia). 1.b6+/i axb6 2.Kf2 b5 3.Kxe2 b4 4.Kd3/ii bxa3 5.Kxc3 Kd6 6.g4 Kxd5 7.g5 Ke5 8.gxh6 Kxf6 9.h3 a5 10.h4 zz, wins.

i) 1.Kf2? axb5/iii 2.Kxe2 b4/iv 3.Kd3 bxa3 4.Kxc3 Kd6 5.g4 Kxd5 6.g5 Ke5 7.gxh6 Kxf6 8.h3 a6 9.h4 a5 zz wins. Black and white symmetry on the h1a8 diagonal.

ii) 4.g4? bxa3 5.g5 a2 6.g6 a1Q 7.d6+ Kc6 8.gxf7 Qc1 9.f8Q Qxc2+

iii) But not Kd6? 2.g4 axb5 3.g5 wins.

iv) But not Kd6? 3.g4, and: Kxd5 4.g5 Ke5 5.gxh6 Kxf6 6.Kd3 b4 7.axb4, or b4 4.g5 bxa3 5.g6 a2 6.gxf7 a1Q 7.f8Q+ wins.

“This is a good reworking of a study by L. Katsnelson, 1st prize Grigoriev-100 MT (EG#20782)”.

**No 21276** Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Kc2 Se3+/i 2.Bxe3 d1Q+/ii 3.Kxd1 Bxe3 4.Kc2 Bb6 (Ra4; Bb3) 5.Rh6/iii Rg1/iv

6.Rh4/v Bd4 7.Rxd4 Rc1+ 8.Kb3/vi Rb1+ 9.Ka3/vii Re1 10.Rd3 wins/viii.

i) Sb2 2.Ra6+ Sa4 3.Bb3 Re4 4.Bf8 d1Q+ 5.Kxd1 Kb2 6.Bxa4, or Sc3 2.Bf3 d1Q+ 3.Bxd1 Rg2+ 4.Kxc3 win.

ii) Bxe3 3.Ra6+ Ra4 4.Rxa4 mate.

iii) 5.Rxb6? Rc4+ 6.Kb3 (Bxc4 stalemate) Rc3+ 7.Kxc3 stalemate, or 5.Rf6? Rg1 6.Rf4 Rc1+ 7.Kxc1 Be3+ draws.

iv) Rg7 6.Rxb6 Rc7+ 7.Bc6 wins.

v) 6.Rh3? Bc5 7.Rh8 Ba3 draws.

vi) 8.Kxc1? stalemate.

vii) 9.Kc3? Rc1+ 10.Kb3 Rb1+ repeats.

viii) e.g. Kb1 1.Rc3 Ka1 12.Be4 Re3 13.Bd3 (Rxe3? stalemate) Re1 14.Rc2 wins.

**No 21277** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bf3/i gxf3 2.Ra1+ Qb1/ii 3.Rxb1+/iii Bxb1 4.Qa7/v g1Q+ 5.Qxg1+ Kxg1 6.S4xf3+ Kh1 7.Sg4/v Be4 8.Sf2 mate.

i) 1.Qxb7? g1Q+ 2.Kf4 Bxb7 draws.

ii) g1Q+ 3.Rxg1+ Kxg1 4.S4xf3+ (S2xf3? Kf1;) Bxf3 5.Sxf3+, or Bb1 3.Qxb7 win.

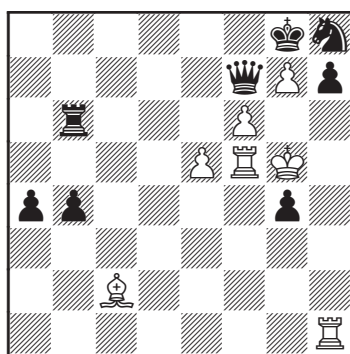
iii) 3.Sxg2? Bxh7 4.Rxb1+ Bxb1 draws.

iv) Thematic try: 4.Qxb1+? g1Q+ 5.Qxg1+ Kxg1 6.S4xf3+ Kh1 7.Sg4 position without bBb1 – stalemate.

v) Position with bBb1 – no stalemate.

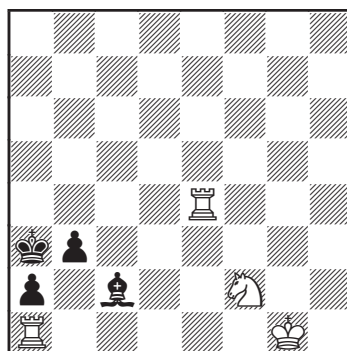


**No 21278**  
P. Krug  
commendation



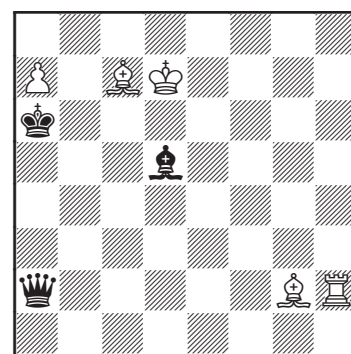
g5g8 3513.34 7/8 Win

**No 21279**  
P. Krug  
commendation



g1a3 0231.02 4/4 Win

**No 21280** D. Gurgenzidze  
& M. Minski  
commendation



d7a6 3150.10 5/3 Win

**No 21278** Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Rff1/i Sg6 2.Rxh7 Kxh7 3.Rh1+ Kg8 4.Bxg6 Rxf6/ii 5.exf6 Qd5+ 6.Bf5 Kf7 7.Rd1/iii Qxd1 8.Be6+ Kxe6 9.g8Q+ wins.

i) Try: 1.Rf2? Sg6 2.Rxh7 Kxh7 3.Rh2+ Kg8 4.Bxg6 Qxg7 5.fxg7 g3 6.Rd2 Kxg7 7.Rd7+ Kf8 draws.

ii) Qxg7 5.fxg7 Kxg7 6.Rh7+ wins.

iii) 7.Rh8? Qd2+ 8.Kh5 Qh2+ 9.Kg5 Qd2+ positional draw.

**No 21279** Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Re3 Kb2 2.Ree1, and:|

— Bb1 3.Rf1 Kxa1 4.Sd3 b2 5.Se1 Be4 6.Sc2 main, or:

— Ka3 3.Sd1 Bxd1 4.Raxd1 b2 5.Rf1/i Kb3 6.Rde1 Kc2 7.Re2+ (Rf2+? Kc3;) Kc3 8.Re3+ Kd2/ii 9.Ra3 b1Q 10.Rxa2+ Qxa2 11.Rf2+ Ke3 12.Rxa2 wins.

i) 5.Kf2? Kb3 6.Ke3 Kc2 7.Rd2+ Kb3 positional draw.

ii) Kd4 9.Ree1 Kc3 10.Kg2 Kc2 11.Re2+ Kc3 12.Re3+ Kc4 13.Ree1 wins, or Kc2 9.Rf2+ Kb1 10.Re1 mate.

**No 21280** David Gurgenzidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.a8Q+/i Bxa8 2.Bf1+/ii Kb7 3.Ba6+/iii Qxa6 (Kxa6; Rxa2+) 4.Rb2+ Ka7 5.Bb8 model mate.

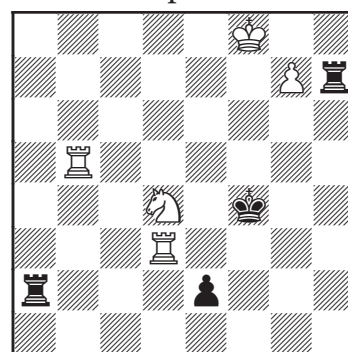
i) 1.Bf1+? Kxa7, or 1.Bxd5? Qxd5+ draw.

ii) 2.Bb7+? Kxb7 3.Rxa2 stalemate.

iii) 3.Rxa2? stalemate.

### Draw section

**No 21281** A. Zhukov  
1st prize



f8f4 0801.11 5/4 BTM, Draw

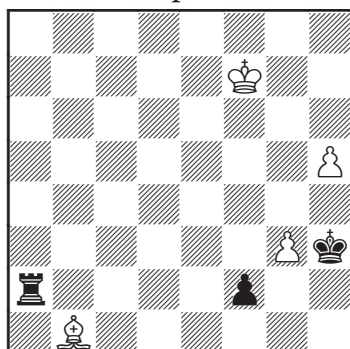
**No 21281** Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia). 1... Ra8+/i 2.Kf7 Ra7+ (e1Q; Se6+) 3.Kf8 e1Q 4.Se6+ (Rf5+? Ke4;) Qxe6 5.Rb4+ Kf5 (Kg5; g8Q+) 6.Rf3+ (Rb5+? Ke4;) Kg6 7.Rg3+ Kh5 (Kh6; Rh4 mate) 8.Rh3+ (Rb5+? Kh4;) Qxh3 9.Rb5+ Qf5+ 10.Rxf5+ Kh4 11.Rf4+/ii Kh5/iii 12.Rf5+ Kh6 13.g8S+/iv Kg6 14.Rf6+/v Kg5 15.Re6 Rh8 16.Re8 draws.

i) e1Q 2.Se6+ Qxe6 3.Rb4+ Kf5 4.Rf3+ Kg6 5.Rg3+ Kh5 6.Rh3+ Qxh3 7.Rb5+ Qf5+ 8.Rxf5+ Kh6 9.Rf6+ Kg5 10.g8Q+ Kxf6 11.Qxa2 wins – this explains 1...Ra8+.

ii) 11.Rf7? Ra8+ 12.Ke7 Rg8 13.Kf6 Rh6+ 14.Kf5 Kh5 wins.

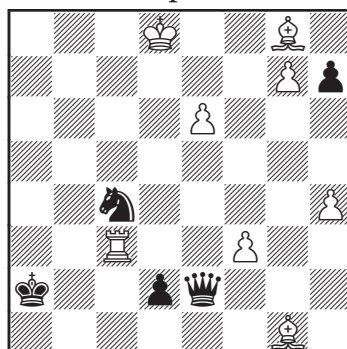
iii) Kh3 12.Rf7 Ra8+ 13.Ke7 Rg8 14.Kf6 Rh6+ 15.Kg5 draws.

No 21282 R. Becker  
2nd prize



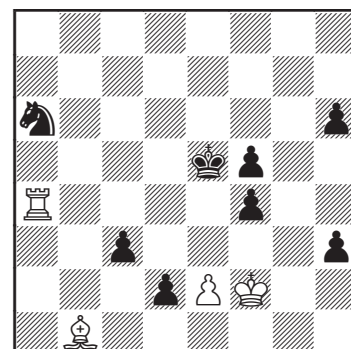
f7h3 o310.21 4/3 Draw

No 21283 A. Jasik  
3rd prize



d8a2 3123.42 8/5 Draw

No 21284 A. Pallier  
1st honourable mention



f2e5 o113.16 4/8 Draw

iv) 13.Rf6+? Kg5, and 14.g8Q+ Kxf6 or 14.Rf1 Rhxg7 wins.

v) 14.Re5? Rhf7+ 15.Ke8 Ra8+ mate.

“This study has vivid play saturated with various tactical moments including sacrifices and under-promotion with a preliminary logical manoeuvre of the bR”.

**No 21282** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bf5+/i Kxg3 2.Bd3 Rd2 3.Bc4 Rd4 4.Be2 Rd2/ii 5.Bc4 Rd6 6.Kg7 Rd7+ 7.Kg6 Rd6+ 8.Kg7 Kg4 9.h6 Kg5 10.h7 Rd7+ 11.Kg8 Kg6 12.Bf7+ Kg5 13.Bc4 Kg6 14.Bf7+ Rxf7 15.h8Q Re7/iii 16.Kf8 Rf7+ 17.Kg8 f1Q 18.Qh7+ Rxh7 stalemate.

i) Logical try: 1.Bd3? Rd2 2.Bc4/iv Kg4 3.h6 Kg5 4.h7 Rd7+ 5.Kg8 Kg6 6.Bf7+ Rxf7 7.h8Q f1Q wins.

ii) Kh4 5.h6 Kg5 6.h7 Rd7+ 7.Kg8 Kg6 8.Bh5+ Kg5 9.Be2 Kg6 10.Bh5+ Kxh5 11.h8Q+ Kg6 12.Qh4 draws.

iii) Rd7 16.Qh4 Rg7+ 17.Kh8 draws.

iv) 2.Bb5 Rd5 3.Bf1+ Kg4 4.h6 Kg5 5.h7 Rd7+ 6.Kg8 Kg6 wins.

“This is a very good study with a logical manoeuvre of the wB forcing Black to take the wP”.

**No 21283** Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Rc2+ Kb3/i 2.Rxd2 Qxd2+ 3.Ke8 (Ke7? Qd6+;) Sd6+/ii 4.Kf8/iii Kb4 5.Bf7 Sf5 6.e7, and:

— Qd6 7.g8S (g8Q? Qxe7 mate;) Qe5 8.e8S/iv draws, or:

— Qh6 7.e8S (e8Q? Qxg7 mate;) Qxh4 8.g8S/v draws.

i) Ka3 2.Bc5+, or Kb1 2.Bxh7 draw.

ii) Kb4 4.Bf7 Sd6+ 5.Kf8 see main line.

iii) 4.Ke7? Sc8+ 5.Ke8 Qd6 wins.

iv) 8.e8Q? Qg7 mate. 8.Ke8? Qc3 9.Bh5/vi Qe1 10.Bh2 Qe6 11.Kf8 Sxe7 12.Bf7 Sg6+ 13.Kg7 Qf5 wins.

v) 8.g8Q? Qe7 mate. 8.f4? Qe7+ 9.Kg8 Sh6+ 10.Kxh7 Qxf7 11.Kxh6 Qxe8 12.Bd4 Kc4 13.Bb2 Kd5, or 8.Kg8? Sh6+ 9.Kf8 Qf4 10.g8Q Sxg8 11.Kxg8 Qxf3 12.Kf8 h5 win.

vi) 9.Be6 Qc6+ 10.Kf7 (Kd8 Sg7;) Sd6+ 11.Kg7 Qxf3.

“This is a good two-line study with under-promotions”.

**No 21284** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Ra5+/i Sc5 2.Rxc5+ Kd6 3.Rxc3 (Rc8? h2;) d1S+ 4.Kf3 (Kf1? Sxc3;) Sxc3 5.Bxf5 h2 (Ke5; Bxh3) 6.Kg2 Ke5/ii 7.Bg4 Ke4 8.Kxh2 Ke3 9.Kh3 Sxe2 10.Kh4 Sg3 11.Bh3/iii Kf3 12.Bc8/iv Ke4/v 13.Kg4 (Bh3? Sf5+;) Ke3 14.Ba6 (Bb7? Se4;) Se4 15.Kh5 draws.

i) 1.Bc2? Sc5 2.Rc4 Se4+ 3.Kg1 Kd5 4.Rc8 Kd4 5.Rf8 Ke3 6.Rxf5 h2+ 7.Kxh2 Sg3 8.Rc5 Kxe2 9.Re5+ Kf2 wins.

ii) Sxe2 7.Kxh2 Ke5 8.Bg4 Sd4 9.Kg2 Ke4 10.Kf2 f3 11.Bc8 Kf4 12.Bb7 h5 13.Bd5 h4 14.Bb7 h3 15.Bd5 h2 16.Bxf3 Sxf3 17.Kg2 positional draw.

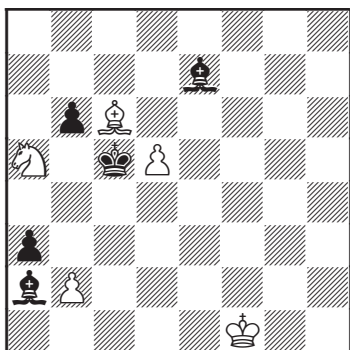
iii) Try: 11.Bc8? Se4 12.Kh5 f3 13.Kxh6 f2 14.Bh3 Kf4 15.Kh5 Sd2 16.Kh4 Sf3+ 17.Kh5 Sh2 18.Kh4 Kf3 19.Kg5 Kg3 wins.

iv) 12.Be6? Ke4 13.Bc8 Sf5+ 14.Kg4 Sg7 15.Bb7+ Ke3, or 12.Bg4+? Ke4 13.Bc8 Sf5+ win.

v) Ke3 13.Bh3 Kf3 14.Bc8 draws.

“This beautiful entry with a black under-promotion ends in a positional draw with precise moves by the wB”.

**No 21285** V. Samilo  
2nd honourable mention



f1c5 0171.22 5/5 Draw

**No 21285** Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Sb7+ (bxa3? Bxa5;) Kd4 2.bxa3 Bc4+/i 3.Kg2/ ii Bxd5+ 4.Bxd5 Kxd5 5.a4 (Kf3? Kc6;) Kc6 6.a5 b5/iii 7.a6 Kb6 8.Sa5 draws.

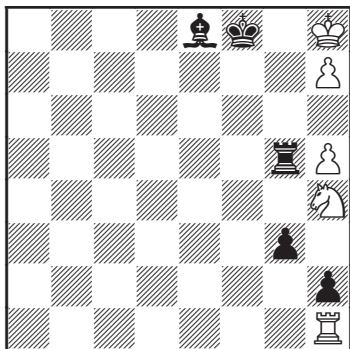
i) Bxd5 3.Bxd5 Kxd5 4.a4 see main line.

ii) Thematic try: 3.Ke1? Bxd5 4.Bxd5 Kxd5 5.a4 Kc6 6.a5 b5 7.a6 Kb6 8.Sa5 Bb4+ wins. 3.Kf2? Bxd5 4.Bxd5 Kxd5 5.a4 Kc6 6.a5 b5 7.a6 Kb6 8.Sa5 Kxa5 9.a7 Bc5+ wins.

iii) bxa5 7.Sxa5+, or Kxb7 7.axb6 draws.

“This is a good study with a precise wK move on the 3rd move”.

**No 21286** P. Krug  
3rd honourable mention



h8f8 0431.22 5/5 Draw

**No 21286** Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Sg6+/i, and:

— Kf7 2.Rf1+ Ke6 3.Kg7 Bxg6 4.Rf6+ Kd7/ ii 5.h8Q h1Q/iii 6.Rd6+ Kxd6 7.Qd8+ Ke6

8.Qf6+ Kd7 9.Qxg5 Qxh5 10.Qxg3 Be4 11.Qf4 Qh7+ 12.Kf8 draws, or:

— Bxg6 2.hxg6 g2 3.Rxh2 g1Q 4.g7+ Kf7/iv 5.Rf2+ Ke7 6.Re2+/v Kd6 7.Re5/vi Rxe5/vii 8.g8Q Qa1 9.Qg3/viii Kd7 10.Qg7+ Ke6 11.Qg6+/ix Kd5 12.Qg2+ Kc4 13.Kg8 positional draw.

i) 1.Rf1+? Ke7 2.Re1+ Kd7 3.Sf3 g2 4.Sxh2 g1Q 5.Rxg1 Rxe1 wins.

ii) Ke7 5.h8Q Be4+ 6.Rg6 Rxe6+ 7.hxg6 h1Q 8.Qf8+ Kd7 9.Qf7+ draws.

iii) Be8+ 6.Kf8 h1Q 7.Qh7+ draws.

iv) Rxg7 5.Rf2+ Qxf2 stalemate.

v) 6.Rf5? Rxf5 7.g8Q Qc5 8.Qg7+ Ke8 9.Qg6+ Kd7 10.Qg7+ Kc8 11.Qg8+ Rf8 wins.

vi) 7.Re6+? Kc5 8.Re5+ Rxe5 9.g8Q Qd4 10.Qc8+ (Qf8+ Kc4;) Kb4, or 7.Rd2+? Kc5 8.Rc2+ Kb4 9.Rb2+ Kc3 10.Rb3+ Kc2 win.

vii) Rxg7 8.Re6+ (Rd5+) perpetual check.

viii) 9.Qd8+? Ke6 10.Qg8+/x Kf5 11.Qf8+/xi Ke4 wins.

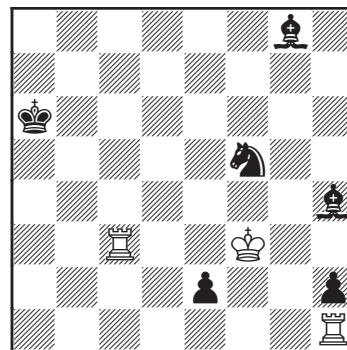
ix) 11.Qf7+? Kd6 12.Qf6+ Kd5 wins.

x) 10.Kg8 Qg1+ 11.Kh8 Qe3 12.Qf8 Qc3 13.Qf7+ Kd6 14.Qf6+ Kd5 15.Qd8+ Ke4.

xi) 11.Qf7+ Ke4 12.Kg8 Rg5+.

“We see an interesting battle of the wR against overwhelming black material”.

**No 21287** M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
commendation



f3a6 0263.02 3/6 Draw

**No 21287** Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Ra1+/i Kb5 2.Rb1+/ii Ka4 3.Kxe2/ iii Sg3+ (Sd4+; Ke3) 4.Kf3/iv h1Q+ (Bd5+; Kg4) 5.Rxh1 Sxh1 6.Rd3 Ka5/v 7.Rd1/vi Sf2 8.Rd7, and:

— Kb5 9.Rd2 Sh3 10.Kg4 Be1 11.Rb2+ Kc4 12.Kxh3 draws, or:

— Sh3 9.Ra7+/vii Kb5 10.Rb7+/viii Kc6 (Kc5; Kg4) 11.Rg7 Be6 12.Rg6 Sg5+/ix 13.Kf4 draws.

i) 1.Ra3+? Kb5 2.Rb1+ Kc4 3.Kg2 e1Q 4.Rxe1 Bxe1 5.Kxh2 Kd4 wins.

ii) Try: 2.Kxe2? Sg3+ 3.Kf3 h1Q+ 4.Rxh1 Sxh1 compare with the main line after 5.Sh1. If 2.Kg2? e1Q 3.Rxe1 Bxe1 4.Rc8 Be6 5.Re8 Sd4 6.Kxh2 Kc4 wins.

iii) 3.Kg2? e1Q 4.Rxe1 Bxe1 5.Rc5 Be6 6.Kxh2 Kb4 wins.

iv) 4.Ke3? h1Q 5.Rxh1 Sxh1 wins.

v) Kb5 7.Rd1 Sf2 8.Rd2 see main line.

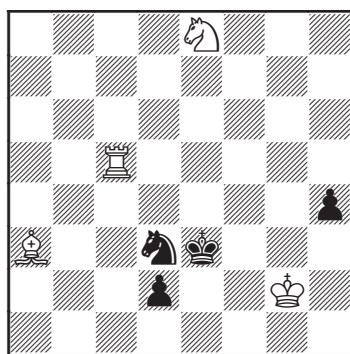
vi) 7.Rd4? Bf6 8.Rd7 Be5, or 7.Rd2? Bf7 8.Kg2 Sg3 9.Kh3 Sf5 10.Kg4 Be1 11.Re2 Bh5+ 12.Kxh5 Sg3+ 13.Kg4 Sxe2, or 7.Rd7? Sf2 8.Rd2 Sh3 9.Kg4 Be1 10.Re2 Sf2+ 11.Kg3 Sd3+, or 7.Kg2? Sf2 8.Rd4 Be7 9.Kxf2 Bc5 10.Ke3 Bh7 win.

vii) 9.Kg4? Bf2 10.Rg7 Be6+ wins.

viii) 10.Kg4? Bf2 11.Rg7 Be6+ wins.

ix) Kd5 13.Rxe6 Kxe6 14.Kg4 draws.

**No 21288** D. Keith & M. Minski  
commendation



g2e3 0114.02 4/4 Draw

**No 21288** Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bc1 Sxc1 2.Sd6/i h3+/ii 3.Kh2/iii d1Q 4.Sc4+, and:

— Ke4 5.Re5+ and Kf4 6.Rf5+ Kxf5 7.Se3+, or Kd4 6.Rd5+ Kxd5 (Kxc4; Rxd1) 7.Se3+ draw, or:

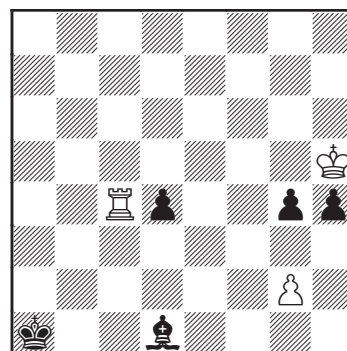
— Kf2 5.Rf5+ Ke1 6.Rf1+ (Re5+? Se2;) Kxf1 7.Se3+ draws.

i) 2.Re5+? Kd4 3.Re6 Sd3 wins.

ii) d1Q 3.Sc4+, and: Kf4 4.Rf5+ Kxf5 5.Se3+, or Kd4 4.Rd5+ 5.Se3+ draws.

iii) 3.Kxh3? (Kg3? Se2+;) d1Q 4.Sc4+ Kf2 5.Rf5+ Kg1 6.Rg5+ (Se3 Qd7;) Kh1 wins.

**No 21289** V. Tarasiuk  
commendation



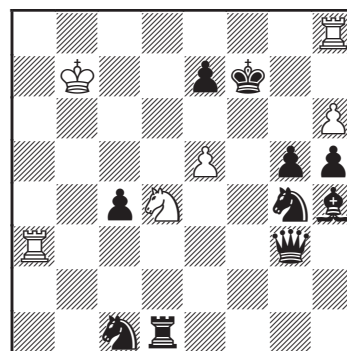
h5a1 0130.13 3/5 BTM, Draw

**No 21289** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1... Be2 (h3; Rc1+) 2.Ra4+/i Kb1 3.Rxd4 h3 4.gxh3 g3+ 5.Kh4 (Kh6? g2;) g2 6.Rd2 g1Q/ii 7.Rb2+ Ka1 8.Ra2+ Kxa2 stalemate

i) Thematic try: 2.Rxd4? h3 3.gxh3 g3+ 4.Kh4 g2 5.Rd2 Kb1 zz 6.Rxe2 g1Q wins.

ii) Kc1 7.Ra2 Kb1 8.Rd2 Ka1 9.Rc2 positional draw.

**No 21290** E. Dobrescu  
commendation



b7f7 3537.24 6/10 Draw

**No 21290** Emilian Dobrescu (Rumania). 1.Rh7+/i Ke8/ii 2.e6/iii Qg2+ 3.Kb6/iv Rf1 4.Sf3/v Qf2+ 5.Kb5 Qb2+ 6.Kc6 (Kxc4? Se5+;) Rd1 (Se5+; Kc7) 7.Sd4/vi positional draw.

i) 1.e6+? Kf6 2.Rf8+ Ke5 3.Rxg3 Sxh6 4.Sf3+ Ke4 wins.

ii) Kg6 2.Rg7+ Kxh6 3.Sf5 mate.



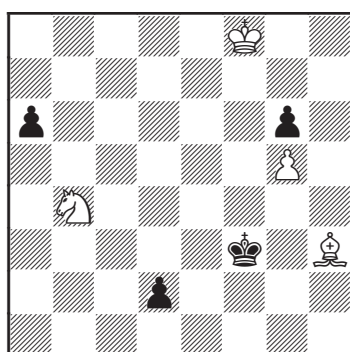
iii) 2.Rh8+? Kd7 3.e6+ Kd6 4.Sf5+ Kxe6 5.Sxg3 Bxg3 wins.

iv) 3.Kc7? Bg3+ 4.Kb6 Qb2+, or 3.Kc8? Rf1 4.Sb5 Bg3 5.Rxg3 Qxg3 win.

v) Thematic tries: 4.Rh8+? Rf8, or 4.Ra8+? Qxa8 win.

vi) Thematic tries: 7.Ra8+? Rd8, or 7.Rh8+? Qxh8 win.

**No 21291** V. Tarasiuk  
commendation



f8f3 0011.13 4/4 Draw

**No 21291** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).  
1.Sd5/i d1Q (a5; Sc3) 2.Bg4+ Kxg4 3.Se3+ Kxg5  
4.Sxd1 Kf6 (a5; Ke7) 5.Ke8 Ke6 6.Kd8 Kd6 (a5;  
Kc7) 7.Ke8/ii g5 8.Kf7 Ke5 9.Kg6 Kf4/iii 10.Sf2  
a5/iv 11.Sh3+ Ke3 12.Kxg5 (Sxg5? a4;) Kd2  
13.Sf4/v a4 14.Sd5 a3 15.Sb4 draws.

i) Tries: 1.Sc2? a5 2.Bd7 d1Q 3.Bg4+ Kxg4  
4.Se3+ Kxg5 5.Sxd1 a4, or 1.Sd3? Kg3 2.Sf2 Kxf2  
3.Bg4 a5 4.Bd1 Ke1 5.Ba4 d1Q 6.Bxd1 Kxd1 7.Kg7  
a4 win.

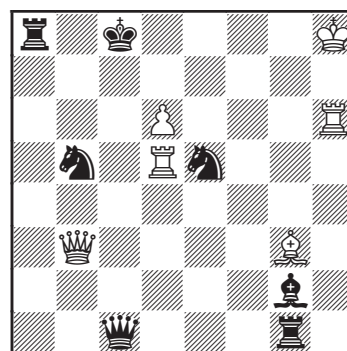
ii) Thematic try: 7.Kc8? a5 8.Kb7 Kc5 9.Ka6  
a4 wins.

iii) g4 10.Kg5 g3 11.Se3 Ke4 12.Sg2 Kf3 13.Sh4+  
Ke2 14.Kf4 a5 15.Ke4 Kd2 16.Kd4 draws.

iv) g4 11.Sxg4 Kxg4 12.Kf6 draws.

v) 13.Sf2? a4 14.Se4+ Kc2 wins.

**No 21292** D. Gurgenzidze & M. Minski  
commendation



h8c8 4846.10 6/7 Draw

**No 21292** David Gurgenzidze (Georgia) &  
Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rh7 Sf7+/i 2.Rxf7  
Qh6+/ii 3.Kg8 Bxd5/iii 4.Qc2+/iv Kb8 5.Qc7+/v  
Sxc7 6.dxc7+, and: Kb7+ 7.c8B++ Kb6 (Kc6)  
model stalemate, or Ka7+ 7.c8S++ Ka6 model  
stalemate.

i) Bxd? 2.Qxd5 Sg6+ 3.Kg8 Se7+ 4.dxe7  
Rxc7+ 5.Rg7 Rxc7+ 6.Kxc7 draws.

ii) Bxd5 3.d7+ Kd8 4.Bh4+ draws.

iii) Qg6+ 4.Kf8 Bxd5 5.Qxd5 Qh6+ 6.Ke7  
draws.

iv) Thematic try: 4.Qc3+? Sxc3 5.d7+ Kb7+  
6.d8S++ Kc8/vi wins. Thematic try: 4.Qc4+?  
Bxc4 5.d7+ Kb7+ 6.d8S++ Kc8/vii wins.  
4.Qxd5? Rxc7+ wins.

v) Thematic try: 5.Qc8+? Kxc8 6.d7+ Kb7+  
7.d8S++ Kc8/viii wins.

vi) Avoiding Kb6? (Ka6?) stalemate.

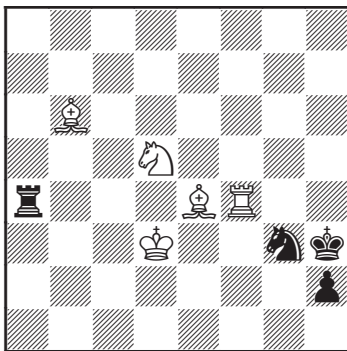
vii) Avoiding Kb6? (Ka6?) stalemate.

viii) Avoiding Kb6? (Ka6?) stalemate.

# Chess Informant-50 AT 2016

The world-famous chess periodical *Sahovski Informator*, founded in 1966, celebrated its 50th anniversary by organizing an international composing tourney for endgame studies. Yochanan Afek, who edits an endgame study section in the *Informator* since a couple of years, was the judge. The tourney director, who also took care of soundness and anticipation checking, Gady Costeff, received 36 entries. The judge considered the overall level to be very good. In the final award, one study was eliminated because it had been sent to two tourneys (and should have been disqualified in both tourneys), and the solution of one study was extended by a (natural) move.

No 21293 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
1st prize



d3h3 0424.01 5/4 Win

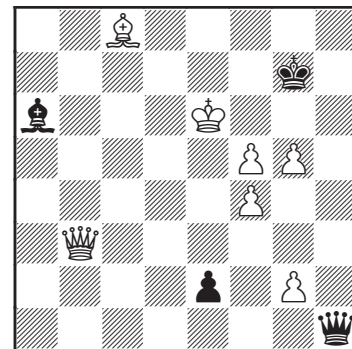
**No 21293** Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Bf3 Ra3+/i 2.Sc3 Rxc3+ 3.Kxc3 Se2+ 4.Bxe2/ii h1Q 5.Bf1+ Kg3 6.Bc7 zz Qh8+/iii 7.Kb3 (Kc2? Qh7+;) Qh1 8.Ka3 Qb7 9.Rf7+ Kg4 10.Rg7+ Kh5/iv 11.Rh7+ Kg4 (Kg6; Bd3+) 12.Bh3+ Kf3 13.Rf7+ Ke2 14.Bf1+ Kd1 15.Rd7+ Kc2 16.Bd3+, and: Kc1 17.Bf4+ wins, or: Kd1 17.Be4+ (Ba6+) wins.

- i) h1Q 2.Bxh1 Ra3+ 3.Kc4 Sxh1 4.Rf8 wins.
- ii) 4.Kd2? Sxf4 5.Bh1 Sh5 6.Bc7 Sg3 draws.
- iii) Qb7 7.Rf7+ Kg4 8.Rg7+ Kh5 9.Rh7+ Kg4 10.Bh3+ Kf3 11.Rf7+ Ke2 12.Bg4+ wins.
- iv) Kf5 11.Bh3+ Kf6 12.Be5+ wins.
- vii) 17.Ba6+ Kc2 18.Bxb7

“Following the zugzwang after the quiet 8.Ka3! White’s rook and bishop create a second battery. By exchanging roles as the front and the rear pieces of the newly formed battery the thematic pieces change also the targeted half of the royal couple! Surprisingly, on the final move even two batteries are activated with the rook as the rear piece and this time both

bishops are the front ones! All this occurs with no need for extra material! A genuine chess miracle!”

No 21294 M. Minski  
2nd prize



e6g7 4040.41 7/4 Win

**No 21294** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.f6+/i Kh8 2.g6 e1Q+/ii 3.Kf7 Bc4+ (Qh5; Qb8) 4.Qxc4 Qe8+ (Qh5; Be6) 5.Kxe8 Qe1+ 6.Qe2/iii Qxe2+ 7.Kf8 Qxg2 8.g7+ Kh7 9.Bb7/iv Qg1/v 10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc5+ 12.Ke8/v Qc8+ 13.Ke7/vi Qxg8/vii 14.f7 Qg7 15.Ke8 wins.

i) 1.Qc3+? Kg8 2.Kd6 e1Q 3.Be6+ Qxe6+ 4.Kxe6 (fxe6 Qxg2;) Qxg2 5.Qc7 Qa8 6.Qf7+ Kh8 draws.

ii) Bc4+? 3.Qxc4 e1Q+ 4.Kf7 see main line.

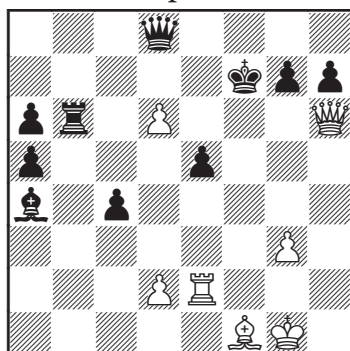
iii) 6.Qe6? Qxe6+ 7.Bxe6 stalemate. 6.Be6? Qxe6+ 7.Qxe6 stalemate. 6.Kf7? Qe8+ 7.Kxe8 stalemate.

iv) 9.Bf5+? Kh6 10.g8Q Qa8+ 11.Ke7 Qa3+ (Qxg8?; f7) wins.

v) Qg6 10.Be4 Qxe4 11.g8Q+ wins. Qg4 10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc8+ 12.Ke7 see main line.

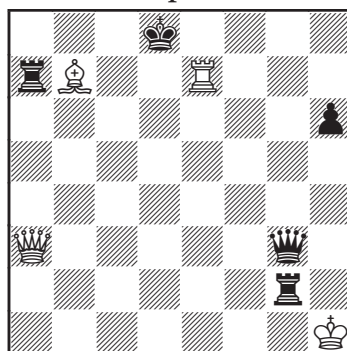
v) 12.Kf7 Qc4+ 13.Ke7 Qxe4+ (Qxg8?; f7) wins.

**No 21295** M. Minski  
& O. Pervakov  
3rd prize



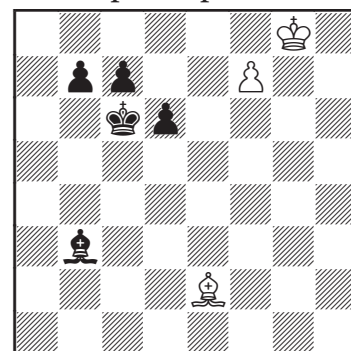
g1f7 4440.36 7/10 Win

**No 21296** S. Hornecker  
& M. Minski  
4th prize



h1d8 4710.01 4/5 Draw

**No 21297** P. Arestov  
& V. Tarasiuk  
special prize



g8c6 0010.13 3/5 Draw

vi) 13.Kf7? Qd7+ (Qc4+).

vii) Qc7+ 14.Ke6 Qc4+ 15.Bd5 wins.

“In the heat of the battle each side promotes to a second queen; however the side that sacrifices both his queens is the one to emerge the eventual winner against the remaining enemy queen. A breath-taking battle with plenty of quiet moves and subtle finesse”.

**No 21295** Martin Minski (Germany) & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Rf2+ Kg8 2.Qg6/i Rb8/ii 3.Bxc4+ Kh8 4.Bd3 (Rh2? Qb6+;) Qh4/iii 5.Qf5 (gxh4? hxg6;) Qxg3+ 6.Kf1 Qxd3+ 7.Qxd3 Bb5 8.Qxb5 axb5 9.d4 exd4 10.Rc2 (d7 d3;) Rf8+/iv 11.Ke1 Kg8/v 12.d7 Rd8 13.Rc8 wins.

i) Threatens 3.Qf7+. 2.Bxc4+? Kh8 3.Qg6 Rxd6 wins.

ii) hxg6 3.Bxc4+ Kh7 4.Rh2+ Qh4 5.Rxh4 model mate. Kh8 3.Rh2 h6 4.Rxh6+ gxh6 5.Qxh6+ Kg8 6.Bxc4 model mate. Rb7 3.Qe4 Rb4 4.Qd5+ Kh8 5.Qxa5 Rb8 6.Qxa4 wins.

iii) hxg6 5.Rh2+ Kg8 6.Bc4+ Kf8 7.Rh8 mate.

iv) d3 11.Rc7 Rf8+ 12.Ke1 Rd8 13.d7 Kg8 14.Rc8 wins.

v) Rd8 12.d7 Rxd7 13.Rc8+ Rd8 14.Rxd8 model mate.

“Materially, Black seems to do well, yet White’s bishop and advanced pawn eventually make the difference. A game-like heroic sacrificial battle is decided by a subtle pawn move. The mutual quiet queen sacrifices are eye catching”.

**No 21296** Siegfried Hornecker & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Re8+/i Kxe8 2.Bc6+ Rd7/ii 3.Bxd7+ Kf7 4.Be6+/iii Kg6/iv 5.Bf5+ (Bf7+? Kh7;) Kh5 6.Bg4+/v Qxg4 (Kh4; Qe7+) 7.Qe3/vi Rg3 8.Qxg3 Qxg3 stalemate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rd7+? Kxd7, and either 2.Bc6+ Ke6 3.Bd7+ (Bd5+ Ke5;) Kf7 4.Be6+ Kg6 – position X with bRa7, or 2.Bc8+ Ke8 3.Bd7+ Kf7 4.Be6+ Kg6 – position X with bRa7. 1.Qxg3? Rxg3 wins.

ii) Kd8 3.Qf8+ Kc7 4.Qe7+ Kb6 5.Qb4+ Kc7 6.Qe7+ Kb6 7.Qb4+ draws.

iii) 4.Be8+? Kg8 5.Bf7+ Kh7 6.Bg6+ Qxg6 7.Qe7+ Qg7 8.Qe4+ Rg6 wins.

iv) Position X without bRa7.

v) 6.Bg6+? Kh4 7.Qe7+ Qg5 8.Qe4+ Rg4 9.Qe1+ Rg3 10.Qe4+ Qg4 11.Qe7+ Kh3 wins.

vi) 7.Qc5+? Qg5 8.Qf2 Rg4 wins.

“The aim of White’s sacrificial play is obviously to turn his remaining queen to a crazy one. Following a mutual rook sacrifice, an original systematic manoeuvre of the wB and bK prepares the ground by the quiet and powerful 7.Qe3!!”.

**No 21297** Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Bf3+/i Kb6 2.Bd1/ii Be6 (Bxf7+; Kxf7) 3.Kg7/iii Bxf7 4.Kxf7 d5 5.Ke6 Kc5 6.Kd7 c6 7.Kc8/iv b6 8.Kc7 zz b5 9.Kb7/v, and:

— d4 10.Be2 b4 11.Ka6/vi b3 12.Ka5 b2 13.Bd3 draws, or:

— b4 10.Bb3 Kb5 11.Kc7 c5 12.Bxd5/vii c4 13.Kd6 b3 14.Ke5 b2 15.Be4 draws.

i) 1.Kg7? Bxf7 2.Kxf7 Kc5, or 1.Bd1? Bxf7+ 2.Kxf7 Kd5 3.Bf3+ Ke5 4.Bxb7 c5 5.Ba6 d5 win.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Kg7? Bxf7 3.Kxf7 c6 4.Ke6 Kc5 5.Kd7 d5 6.Kc7 b5 zz 7.Kb7 b4 wins.

iii) 3.Bg4? Bxf7+ 4.Kxf7 d5 wins, e.g. 5.Ke6 Kc5 6.Ke5 b5 7.Bh5 c6 8.Be2 b4 9.Bf1 b3 10.Bd3 b2 11.Bb1 Kb4 (Kc4).

iv) Thematic try: 7.Kc7? b6 zz 8.Kc8/viii d4 9.Be2 Kb4 10.Kc7 c5 11.Kxb6 c4 12.Kc6 d3 wins.

v) Thematic try: 9.Kd7? d4 10.Be2 b4 11.Ke6 d3 12.Bxd3 Kd4 13.Bc2 c5 14.Kd6 c4 wins.

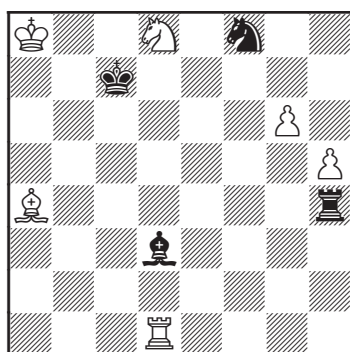
vi) 11.Bd3? b3 12.Ka6 Kb4 wins.

vii) 12.Kd6? c4 13.Bd1 d4 14.Kd5 b3 15.Kxd4 Kb4 wins.

viii) 8.Kb7 b5 9.Be2 b4 wins.

“A surprising discovery is behind this logical study based on a crystal clear reciprocal zugzwang. The special prize is also for the best theoretical contribution”.

**No 21298** S. Slumstrup Nielsen  
1st honourable mention



a8c7 0444.20 6/4 Win

**No 21298** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Be8/i Be4+/ii 2.Ka7 Rxh5 3.Sb7/iii Bxb7 4.Rc1+ Bc6 5.Rxc6+ Kd8 6.g7/iv Rh7 7.Rc8+ Kxc8 8.Bd7+ Sxd7 9.g8Q+ Sf8+ 10.Ka8/v wins.

i) 1.g7? Rxa4 mate. 1.Bb3? Be4+ (Rxh5) 2.Ka7 Rxh5 3.Rc1+ Kxd8 4.g7 Rh7 5.Rc7 Rxc7, or 1.Rc1+? Kxd8 2.g7 Rxa4+ 3.Kb7 Rb4+ 4.Kc6 Be4+ 5.Kd6 Rb6+ 6.Ke5 Re6+ 7.Kd4 Re8 draw.

ii) Rh3 2.Rc1+ Kxd8 3.g7 Sd7 4.Rc8+ Kxc8 5.Bxd7+ wins.

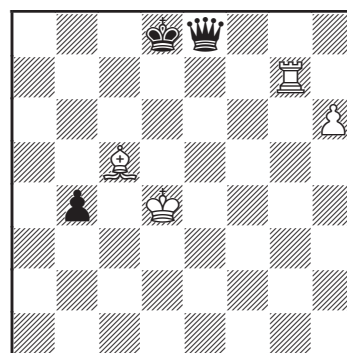
iii) Try: 3.Rc1+? Kxd8 4.g7 Rh7 with no Bb7 this secures Black a draw.

iv) Try: 6.Rc8+? Kxc8 7.g7 Sd7 8.Bxd7+ (Bxh5 Sf6;) Kc7 draws.

v) 10.Kb6? Rh6+ 11.Kc5 Rf6 draws.

“All three white pieces are sacrificed in the course of a fierce struggle to keep the seventh rank closed in order to secure promotion”.

**No 21299** M. Miljanić  
2nd honourable mention



d4d8 3110.11 4/3 Win

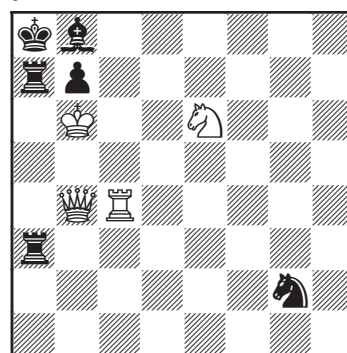
**No 21299** Mirko Miljanić (Serbia). 1.h7 Qh8 2.Bf8 Ke8 3.Ke4/i Kxf8 4.Rc7/ii b3 5.Kd3 zz b2 6.Kc2 b1Q+ 7.Kxb1 Qe5 8.Rc8+ wins.

i) 3.Kd3? Kxf8 3.Rc7 b3 zz.

ii) Thematic try: 4.Rb7? b3 5.Kd3 b2 6.Kc2 b1Q+ 7.Kxb1 Qe5 draws. 4.Ra7? b3.

“This very attractive logical miniature displays an original reciprocal zugzwang”.

**No 21300** Á. Ruzs  
3rd honourable mention



b6a8 1734.01 4/6 Win

**No 21300** Árpád Ruzs (Rumania). 1.Sc7+/i Bxc7+ 2.Kxc7 b5+ 3.Kc6/ii R7a6+/iii 4.Kxb5 R3a5+ 5.Qxa5 Rxa5+ 6.Kb6/iv Kb8 7.Re4 Ra6+ 8.Kxa6 Kc7 9.Kb5 Kd6 10.Kc4 wins.

i) 1.Rc8? R3a6+ 2.Kb5 Rxe6 3.Qf8 Re5+ 4.Kb4 Re4+ 5.Kc3 Re3+ 6.Kc2 Re2+ (Ra2+?;



Kb1) 7.Kd1 Re1+ 8.Kc2 Re2+ 9.Kd3 Re3+ 10.Kc2 Re2+ draws.

ii) 3.Kc8? Rh3 4.Qb2 Se3 5.Rc7 Sd5 6.Rxa7+ Kxa7 7.Qa2+ Kb6 8.Qxd5 Rh8+ draws.

iii) bxc4 4.Qf8 mate. R3a6+ 4.Kxb5 Rb7+ 5.Kxa6 Rxb4 6.Rxb4 wins.

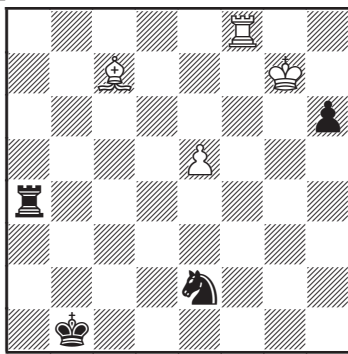
iv) 6.Kxa5? Kb7 7.Kb5/vi Se3 8.Rf4/vii Sd5 9.Rf7+ Sc7+ 10.Kc5 Kc8 11.Kc6 Se8 12.Ra7 Kd8 13.Rf7 Kc8 draws.

vi) 7.Re4 Kc6 8.Kb4 Kd5.

vii) 8.Rd4 Kc7 9.Kc5 Sf5.

“The surprising capture refusal 6.Kb6!! allows the single tempo required for dominating the bS. A pleasant discovery!”

**No 21301** J. Polášek  
Special honourable mention



g7b1 0413.11 4/4 Win

**No 21301** Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic). 1.e6/i Ra7/ii 2.Rf1+/iii Kc2 3.Rf7 Sd4 4.e7 Se6+ 5.Kg6 Sxc7 6.Rf8 Ra6+ 7.Kf7 Ra7/iv 8.Rc8, and:

— Kd3 9.Kg6 Ra6+ 10.Kg7 Ra7 (Rc6; Kh8) 11.Kxh6/v Ra6+ 12.Kg7/vi Ra7/viii 13.Kh8 wins, or:

— Kb3 9.Kg6 Ra6+ 10.Kg7 Ra7 11.Kh8/viii h5 12.Rxc7 Rxc7 13.e8Q wins.

i) 1.Rf1+? Kc2 2.e6 Sd4 3.e7 Se6+ 4.Kg6 Sxc7, or 1.Bd6? Rg4+ 2.Kf6 (Kxh6) Sd4 3.Bc5 Rf4+ 4.Kg6 Rg4+ 5.Kxh6 Se6 draw.

ii) Sd4 2.e7 Se6+ 3.Kh8 Sxc7 4.Rc8 Rc4 5.Rxc7 Rxc7 6.e8Q wins.

iii) Logical try: 2.Rf7? Sd4 3.e7 Se6+ 4.Kxh6 Sxc7 5.e8Q Ra6+ draws. 2.Rc8? Sd4 3.e7 Rxc7 4.Rxc7 Se6+.

iv) Sb5 8.Rc8+ (e8Q Sd6+;) Kb3 (Kd3; Rd8+) 9.Rb8 wins.

v) Logical try: 11.Kh8? Se8 12.Rxe8 Ke4 13.Kg7 h5.

vi) 12.Kh7? Sd5 13.Rd8 Ra7 14.Rxd5+ Ke4 draws.

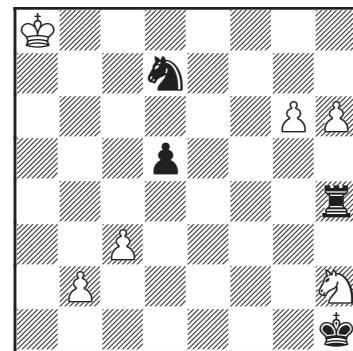
vii) Rc6 13.Kg8 Sd5 14.Rd8, or Rg6+ 14.Kf7 Rc6 15.e8Q Sxe8 16.Rxc6 wins.

viii) 11.Kxh6? Ra6+ 12.Kg7 Rc6 13.Kh8 Rh6+ 14.Kg8 Sd5 15.e8Q Sf6+ draws.

“This is a fine improvement on H. van der Heijden, 4th Prize Olympic tourney Dresden 2008 (EG#17345) in which I acted as the judge. Here we witness two additional logical tries, upgrading the original version that should naturally still be regarded as a partial anticipation”.

HH: Polášek was unaware of the forerunner!

**No 21302** V. Tarasiuk  
special honourable mention



a8h1 0304.41 6/4 Draw

**No 21302** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Sg4/i Rxc4 2.h7 Ra4+ 3.Kb7 Rh4 4.g7 Rxh7 5.g8Q Sf6+ 6.Qxh7+ Sxh7 7.Kc7/ii Sf6 8.Kc6 zz Kg2/iii 9.b4 Se4 10.b5 Sxc3 11.b6 d4 12.b7 d3 13.b8Q d2 14.Qb2 wins.

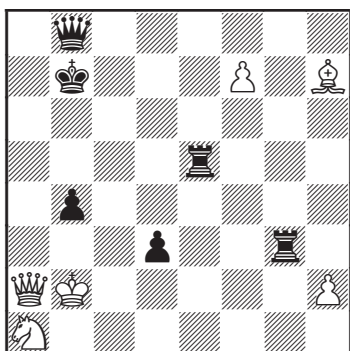
i) Try: 1.h7? Sf6 2.Sf3 Rh6 3.Sg5 Sxh7 4.gxh7 Kg2 5.b4 Kg3 6.b5 Kg4 7.b6 Kxg5 8.b7 Ra6+ 9.Kb8 Rh6 10.Ka8 Ra6+ draws.

ii) Thematic try: 7.Kc6? Sf6 zz 8.b4 Se4 9.b5 Sxc3 10.b6 d4 11.b7 d3 12.b8Q d2 13.Qh8+ Kg2 draws.

iii) Kg1 9.b4 Se4 10.b5 Sxc3 11.b6 d4 12.b7 d3 13.b8Q d2 14.Qg3+ wins.

“This is another significant improvement on an earlier study by V. Tarasiuk, 4th prize FIDE Cup 2015 (EG#20508), in which I acted as the judge”.

No 21303 P. Arestov  
1st commendation



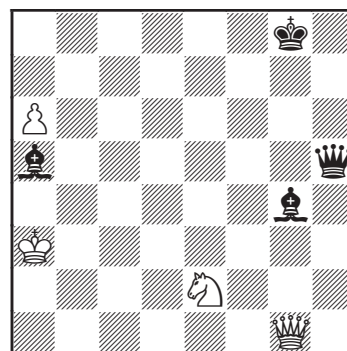
b2b7 4611.22 6/6 Draw

**No 21303** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Be4+ Rxe4/i 2.Qd5+ Kb6 3.Qxe4 Qh8+ 4.Ka2 Qxh2+ 5.Kb3 d2+ 6.Kxb4 Rb3+/ii 7.Sxb3 Qd6+ 8.Ka4 d1Q (Qd7+; Ka3) 9.f8Q/iii Qxf8 10.Qe3+ Kb7 11.Qb6+ Kc8 12.Qc5+ Qxc5 stalemate.

- i) Kb6 2.Qc4 Rxe4 3.Qxe4 see main line.
- ii) d1Q 7.Qe6+ Kc7 8.Qe5+ draws.
- iii) 9.Qe3+? Kb7 10.f8Q Qg4+ wins.

“The final pin stalemate is not new – Kasparyan, 1st hon. mention *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1938 (HHdbV#65769) – but the tactical play leading to it is well constructed”.

No 21304 S. Slumstrup Nielsen  
2nd commendation



a3g8 4061.10 4/4 Draw

**No 21304** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.a7 Qh3+ 2.Sg3 Bf3 3.Se4+ Bg2+ (Bg4+; Ka4) 4.Kb2 Bc3+ 5.Kc1/i Qc8 (Qh6+; Kb1) 6.Qxg2+ Bg7+ 7.Qc2 Bh6+ 8.Sd2/ii Bxd2+ 9.Kb2 Qb7+/iii 10.Qb3+ wins.

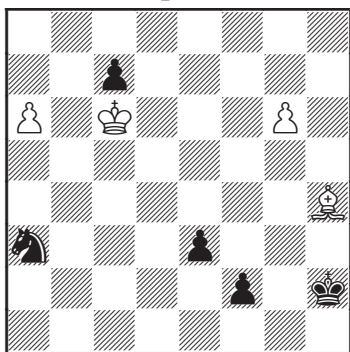
- i) 5.Kc2? Qc8 6.Qxg2+ Bg7+.
- ii) 8.Kb2? Bg7+ 9.Sc3 Qc6 (Qa6) 10.Qb3+ Kh7 draws.
- iii) Qa6 10.Qb3+ Kg7 11.Qg3+, e.g. Kh7 12.Qh4+ Bh6 13.Qe4+, or Qa8 10.Qb3+ Kg7 11.Qb8, or Bc3+ 10.Qxc3 Qb7+ 11.Qb3+.

“Two black Q+B batteries, unleashed against the white monarch, are unable to tame the advanced pawn owing to White’s accurate play”.

## e4e5 2015

The informal tourney of the Romanian on-line chess magazine was judged by Richard Becker (USA) taking over from his friend Iuri Akobia who had passed away. The provisional award was dated 15iii2016 and became final on 16iii2017 (with one additional HM without explanation).

**No 21305** V. Tarasiuk  
1st prize



c6h2 0013.23 4/5 Draw

**No 21305** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).  
1.Bg3+/i Kh3/ii 2.Bxf2/iii exf2 3.g7 f1Q 4.g8Q  
Qxa6+ 5.Kxc7 Sb5+ 6.Kd7 Qd6+ 7.Ke8 Qb8+  
8.Kf7 Sd6+ 9.Kg7 Sf5+ 10.Kh8/iv Qe5+ 11.Kh7  
Qc7+ 12.Kh8 Qc3+ 13.Kh7 Qc7+ 14.Kh8  
draws.

i) Thematic try: 1.Bxf2? exf2 2.g7 f1Q 3.g8Q  
Qxa6+ 4.Kxc7 Sb5+ 5.Kd7 Qd6+ 6.Ke8 Qb8+  
7.Kf7 Sd6+ 8.Kg7 Sf5+ 9.Kh8 Qe5+ 10.Kh7  
Qc7+ 11.Kh8 Qc3+ 12.Kh7 Qh3+ wins. 1.g7? f1Q  
2.Bg3+ Kh3 3.g8Q Qxa6+ 4.Kd7 Qd3+ 5.Kxc7  
Sb5+ wins.

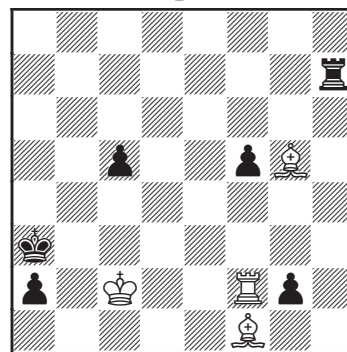
ii) Kxg3 2.g7 f1Q 3.g8Q+, or Kh1 2.g7 f1Q  
3.g8Q Qxa6+ 4.Kd7 c5 5.Qd5+ Kg1 6.Qd1+ Kg2  
7.Qg4 draws.

iii) 2.g7? f1Q 3.g8Q Qxa6+ wins.

iv) 10.Kh7? Qa7+ 11.Kh8 Qd4+ 12.Kh7 Qh4+  
13.Kg6 Se7+

“This is an elegant logical study with an exceptional key (1.Bg3+!) necessary to move the bK one square. The effect of this displacement is realized 12 moves later, when Black’s new queen runs out of checks”.

**No 21306** P. Arestov & A. Skripnik  
2nd prize



c2a3 0420.04 4/6 Draw

**No 21306** Pavel Arestov & Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.Rf3+ Ka4 2.Rf4+ c4 3.Rxc4+ Kb5  
4.Rf4+ Kc5/i 5.Rxf5+ Kd6 6.Rd5+ Kxd5 (Ke6;  
Bc4) 7.Bxg2+, with:

— Kc4 8.Bf1+ Kb4 9.Kb2/ii Rh2+ 10.Ka1 Ka3  
(Kb3; Be3) 11.Bc1+/iii Kb3 12.Be3/iv zz Rh1  
13.Bg1 zz Ka3 14.Bc5+ Kb3 15.Bg1 Rxc1 stale-  
mate, or:

— Ke6 8.Bf6/v Kxf6 9.Kb2 Rh2 10.Ka1 Rxc2  
stalemate.

i) Kb6 5.Bd8+ Rc7+ 6.Bxc7+ Kxc7 7.Bxg2  
draws.

ii) 9.Bd2+? Ka4 10.Kb2 Rh2, and now: 11.Bc4  
Rxd2+ 12.Ka1 Ka3 wins, or here 11.Kxa2 Rxd2+  
12.Kb1 Rd1+ wins.

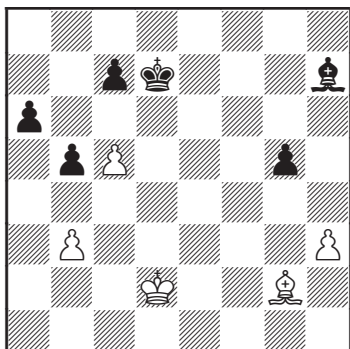
iii) 11.Be7+? Kb3 12.Bg5 Rh1 13.Bc1 Rg1 wins,  
or 11.Be3? Kb3 zz 12.Bc1 Rh1 wins.

iv) 12.Bd3? Rh1 13.Bb1 axb1Q+ wins.

v) 8.Kb2? Rh2 9.Kxa2 Rxc2+ wins.

“The two nice variations end in ‘pseudo-echo’ stalemates. The longer line has an interesting stalemate with zugwang and bishop sacrifice. Another excellent bishop sacrifice (8.Bf6!) adorns the shorter line”.

**No 21307** D. Keith & M. Minski  
1st honourable mention



d2d7 0040.34 5/6 Draw

**No 21307** Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.b4 (Kc3? a5;) Ke6 2.Bb7/i Kd7 3.Bg2/ii Ke6 4.Bb7 Ke5 5.Bxa6 (Ke3? Bf5;) c6 6.Bc8 Kd4 7.Bd7/iii Be4 8.Be6 zz Bg6 9.Bd7 Be4 10.Be6 Bg2 11.Kc2 Bf3 12.Kb2/iv draws.

i) 2.Ke3? Ke5 3.Bb7 Bf5 4.Bg2 Bc8 wins.

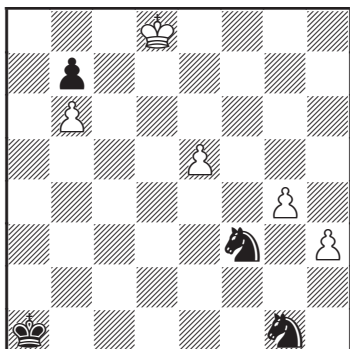
ii) 3.Bxa6? c6 4.Ke3 Bf5 5.Bb7 Kc7 6.Ba8 Bxh3 7.Kf3 Bd7 8.Kg3 Kd8 9.Bxc6 Bxc6, or 3.Ke3? c6 4.Bxa6 Bf5 wins.

iii) 7.Be6? Be4 zz, and 8.Bf7 Bf5, or 8.Ke2 Kc3 win.

iv) 12.Kd2? Be4 zz.

“The starting position is a positional draw powered by a long bishop oscillation. Black can try for zugzwang, but White can force one onto Black (7.Bd7!)”.

**No 21308** V. Tarasiuk  
2nd honourable mention



d8a1 0006.41 5/4 Win

**No 21308** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.e6 Sd4 2.Kd7/i Sxe6 3.Kxe6 Sxh3 4.Ke7/ii Ka2 5.Kd7/iii Sf2 6.g5 Sh3 7.g6 Sf4 8.g7 Sh5 9.g8Q+ wins.

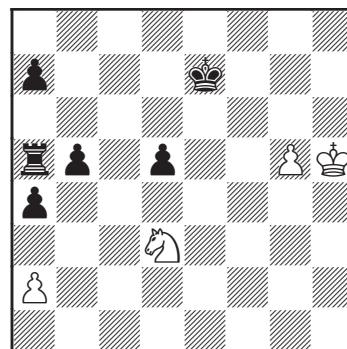
i) Try: 2.e7? Sc6+ 3.Kd7 Sxe7 4.Kxe7 Sxh3 5.Kd7 Sf2 6.g5 Sh3 7.g6 Sf4 8.g7 Sh5 9.g8S Sf4 10.Kc8 Sd5 draws.

ii) Try: 4.Kd7? Sf2 5.g5 Sh3 6.g6 Sf4 7.g7 Sh5 8.g8S Sf4 9.Kc8 Sd5 draws.

iii) 5.Kd8? Sf2 6.g5 Sh3 7.g6 Sf4 8.g7 Se6+ 9.Kc8 Sxg7 10.Kxb7 Se6 11.Kc8 Sc5, or 5.Kd6? Sf2 6.g5 Se4+ draw.

“White is able to arrange a surprising zugzwang in his favour. Moves of the bK allow one or the other of White’s pawns to defeat a different knight fork by promoting with check”.

**No 21309** L. Kekely & M. Hlinka  
3rd honourable mention



h5e7 0301.24 4/6 Draw

**No 21309** L'ubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.Sb4 d4 2.Kg4 d3 3.Kf3 Ke6 4.a3/i Kf5 5.Ke3 Kxg5 6.Kxd3, and:

— Kf4 7.Kd4/ii Kf5 8.Kd5 Kf4 9.Kd4/iii zz Kf3 10.Kd3 zz Kf2 11.Kd2/iv zz Kf1 12.Kd1/v zz draws, or:

— Kf5 7.Kd4, and:

– Ke6 8.Kc5 Kd7 9.Sc6 b4+ (Ra6; Sb8+) 10.Kxb4 (Sxa5? bxa3;) Rh5 11.Sxa7 draws, or:

– Kf4 8.Sd3+ Kf3 9.Sc5 b4 (Kf4; Sd3+) 10.axb4 Rb5 11.Kc4 Rb8 12.Sxa4 draws.

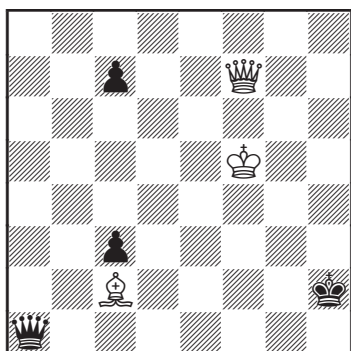
i) 4.Ke3? a3 5.Kxd3 Ra4 wins.

ii) 7.Kc3? Ke4 zz 8.Kc2 Kd4, and: 9.Sc6+ Kc5 10.Sxa5 Kb6 11.Sb3 axb3+ 12.Kxb3 Kc5 wins, or here: 9.Kd2 Kc5 10.Kc3 Kb6 11.Sd5+ Kb7 12.Kb4 Ra6 13.Kxb5 Re6 14.Kxa4 Kc6 wins.

iii) 9.Kc5? Ke4 10.Kd6 Kd4 11.Sc6+ Kc3 12.Sxa5 b4 13.axb4 a3 wins.

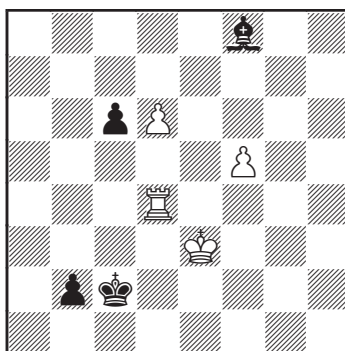


**No 21310** B. Akhaladze  
4th honourable mention



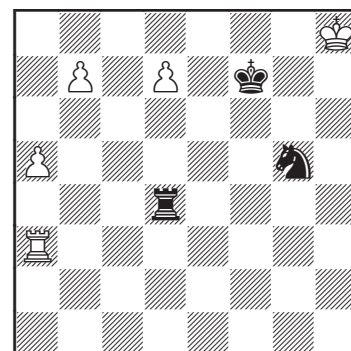
f5h2 4010.02 3/4 Win

**No 21311** V. Tarasiuk  
5th honourable mention



e3c2 0130.22 4/4 Win

**No 21312** A. Pallier  
1st commendation



h8f7 0403.30 5/3 Win

iv) 11.Kc3? Ke3 12.Sd5+ Ke4 13.Sc7 b4+ 14.Kxb4 Rh5 15.Kxa4 Rh7, or 11.Kd4? Ke2, or 11.Ke4? Ke2

v) 12.Ke3? Ke1 13.Kd3 Kd1 14.Kc3 Ke2 15.Kc2 Ke3, or 12.Kd3? Ke1 13.Kc2 Ke2, or 12.Kc3? Ke2 13.Kc2 Ke3 wins.

“The bR is trapped immediately, but his king can win the opposition. With 8.Sd3+! and 9.Sc5!, White shows that he is not in zugzwang”.

**No 21310** Beka Akhaladze (Georgia). 1.Qx-c7+/i Kh3 2.Qh7+ Kg3 3.Qg7+ Kf3/ii 4.Bd1+ Kf2 5.Qd4+ Ke1 6.Bg4 Qb1+ 7.Kf6/iii Qc1 8.Kf7 Kf1/iv 9.Qd3+ Kf2 10.Qf3+ Kg1 11.Qg3+ Kf1 12.Bf5 wins.

i) 1.Qh5+? Kg3 (Kg1) 2.Qg4+ Kf2 3.Qd4+ Ke2 4.Kg4 Qa6 5.Kg3 Qd6+ draws.

ii) Kf2 4.Qd4+ Ke2 5.Kg4 Qa6 6.Kg3 wins.

iii) 7.Kg5? Qc1+ 8.Kh4 Kf1 9.Bf5 Qe1+ 10.Kh3 Qf2 11.Bd3+ Ke1 draws.

iv) Qh6 9.Qg1+ Kd2 10.Qd1+ Ke3 11.Qc1+ Ke4 12.Qxh6 wins.

“The capture of the pawn eliminates Black’s set defence, but grants him a new one. It is amusing to see the wK retreating to win (7.Kf6! and 8.Kf7!)”.

**No 21311** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine ). 1.Rc4+/i Kd1 2.Rb4 Kc1 3.Rb6/ii b1Q (Bxd6; Rxc6+) 4.Rxb1+ Kxb1 5.d7 Be7 6.Kd4 (Ke4? Bf6;) c5+ 7.Ke5/iii Kc1 8.Kd5/iv Kb2 9.Ke6 Bd8 10.f6 Bxf6 11.Kxf6 c4 12.d8Q wins.

i) Try: 1.Rd2+? Kc1 2.Rxb2 Kxb2 3.d7 Be7 4.Kd4 c5+ 5.Kd5 (Ke5 c4;) Kc1 6.Ke6 Bd8 7.f6

Bxf6 8.Kxf6 c4 9.d8Q c3 10.Ke5 c2, or here: 2.Ke2 b1Q 3.Rd1+ Kc2 4.Rxb1 Kxb1 5.d7 Be7 draw.

ii) Try: 3.Rxb2? Kxb2 4.d7 Be7 5.Kd4 c5+ 6.Kd5 Kc1 7.Ke6 Bd8 8.f6 Bxf6 9.Kxf6 c4 10.d8Q c3 11.Ke5 c2 draws.

iii) Try: 7.Kd5? Kc1 8.Ke6 Bd8 9.f6 Bxf6 10.Kxf6 c4 11.d8Q c3 12.Ke5 c2 draws.

iv) Try: 8.Ke6? Bd8 9.f6 Bxf6 10.Kxf6 c4 11.d8Q c3 12.Ke5 c2 draws.

“White plays cleverly to capture the black pawn on its promotion square. He can then win the interesting tempo battle that follows.”

**No 21312** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Ra4 Rxa4 2.d8S+ Kf8 3.Se6+ Sxe6 4.b8Q+ Kf7 5.Qb7+/i Kf6 6.Qf3+/ii Rf4 7.Qc3+/iii Ke7 (Kf7; Qh3) 8.Qa3+/iv Kf6 9.Qa1+ Kg6 10.Qg1+ Kf7 11.Qh1 Rd4 12.Kh7/v Rd6/vi 13.Qb7+ Kf8 14.Kh8 Rd4 (Sd8; Qg7+) 15.Qh7/vii Ra4 16.Qh5/viii Ke7 17.Kg8 Rf4 18.Qh7+ (a6 Rf8+;) wins/ix.

i) Thematic try: 5.Qa7+? Kf6 6.Qf2+ Rf4 7.Qb2+ Kf7 8.Qb7+ Kf6 9.Qb2+ Kf7 positional draw, or: 8.Qh2 Rc4 9.Qh7+ Kf6 10.Qh6+ Kf7 11.Qh7+ Kf6 positional draw.

ii) 6.Qb2+? Kf7 7.Qb7+ Kf6 repeats.

iii) 7.Qh3? Rd4 8.Qh6+ Kf7 9.Qh7+ Kf6 and White cannot win.

iv) 8.a6? Rh4+ 9.Kg8 Rg4+ 10.Kh7 Sf8+ 11.Kh6 Rg6+ 12.Kh5 Rxa6 draws.

v) 12.Qh7+? Kf6 13.Qh6+ Kf7 repeats, or 12.Qf1+? Kg6 13.Qb1+ Kf6.

vi) Ra4 13.Qh5+ Ke7 14.Kg8 Rc4 15.Qh7+ wins.

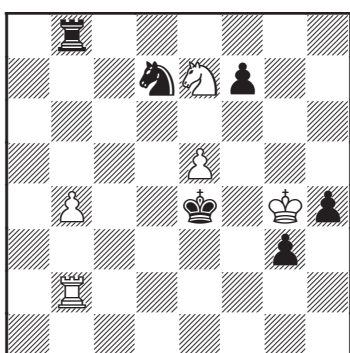
vii) 15.Qh1? Kf7 16.Kh7 Rd6 17.Qb7+ Kf8 18.Kh8 repeats.

viii) 16.Qh6+? Ke7 17.Qh5 Rc4 18.Qh7+ Kf6 19.Qh6+ Kf7, or 16.Qf5+? Ke7 17.Qh7+ Kf6 draw.

ix) EGTB. HH: an unsound illustrative line was given in the award.

“A lively introduction precedes some very analytical play”.

**No 21313** M. Garcia & P. Krug  
2nd commendation



g4e4 0404.23 5/6 Draw

**No 21313** Mario Garcia (Argentina) & Peter Krug (Austria). 1.b5/i Re8/ii 2.Rb4+/iii Kxe5 3.Sc6+ Kd5 4.Rd4+ Kc5 5.Kh3 Kxb5/iv 6.Sa7+/v Ka6 7.Rxd7 Rg8 8.Rd1/vi Kxa7 9.Kxh4 g2 10.Rg1 Kb6 11.Kh3 Kc5 12.Kh2/vii, and:

— Rg5 13.Rc1+ Kd4 14.Kg1/viii draws, or:

— Kd4 13.Rd1+ Ke4 14.Kg1 f5 15.Ra1 (Rb1)/ix f4 16.Ra4+ Ke3 17.Ra3+ Ke2 18.Ra2+ Kd3 19.Ra3+ Ke4 20.Ra4+ position draw.

i) Thematic try: 1.Re2+? Kd3 2.Rb2/x Kc3 3.Rb1 Kc2 4.Rf1 Rxb4+ 5.Kh3 Sxe5 6.Sf5 Sg6 7.Se3+ Kd3 8.Sg2 Rb7 9.Sxh4 Sxh4 10.Kxh4 g2. HH cooks: 2...Rh8 and Black also wins. This degrades the thematic try to an analytical line.

ii) Rh8 2.e6 fxe6 3.Kh3 Sc5 4.Sg6 Rg8 5.Rb4+ Ke3 6.Sxh4 draws.

iii) 2.Sc6? Sc5 3.Kxh4 Sd3 4.Rb1 Kf4 wins.

iv) Rg8 6.Rd1 Sf8 7.Se7 Rg7 8.Sf5 Rh7 9.Rh1 Sg6 10.Rb1 Kb6 11.Rf1 Kxb5 12.Sd6+ Kc5 13.Sxf7 draws.

v) 6.Rxd7? Kxc6 7.Rxf7 Re1 wins.

vi) Thematic try: 8.Sc8? Rxc8 9.Kxh4 g2 (Rg8) 10.Rd1 Rg8 (g2) 11.Rg1 Kb5 12.Kh3 Kc4 13.Rxg2 Rxg2 14.Kxg2 Kd4 15.Kf3 Ke5 wins.

vii) 12.Rxg2? Rxg2 13.Kxg2 Kd4 14.Kf3 Ke5 wins.

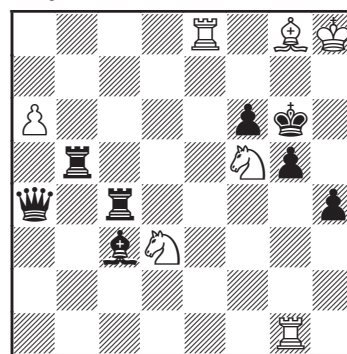
viii) 14.Rd1+? Ke4 15.Kg1 Rd5 16.Ra1 Rd2 wins.

ix) 15.Rd2? f4 16.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 17.Kxg2 Ke3 18.Kf1 Kf3 wins.

x) Or 2.Kf3 Re8 3.Re3+ Kd2 4.Sf5 Sxe5+ 5.Kg2 Rh8 6.Rxe5 h3+ 7.Kf3 g2 8.Re2+ Kc3 9.Re1 Rg8 wins.

“An unexpected draw occurs at the end of the study. The tempting knight sacrifice (8.Sc8?) leaves the bK within range of preventing the draw”.

**No 21314** P. Krug & M. Garcia  
3rd commendation



h8g6 3842.13 7/8 Win

**No 21314** Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Bh7+ Kh5 (Kf7; Sd6 mate) 2.Sf4+ Rxf4 3.Rg8 Rxf5/i 4.Bg6+ Kh6 5.Be8 Qe4/ii 6.Rg6+ Kh5 7.Bf7/iii Rf2/iv 8.R6xg5++ Kh6 9.Rg6+ Qxg6 (Kh5; Kg7) 10.Rxg6+ Kh5 11.Rg1+/v Kh6 12.a7 Ra5/vi 13.Rg6+ Kh5 14.Rg7+ Kh6 15.Rh7+ Kg5 16.Rh5+ wins.

i) Rbxf5 4.Bg6+ Kh6 5.Bf7 Qd7 6.Rg6+ Kh5 7.R6xg5++ Kh6 8.Rh5+ Rxh5 9.Rg6 mate, or g4 4.Sg3+ hxg3 5.Rh1 mate.

ii) Rb8 6.Rg6+ Kh5 7.R6xg5++ Kh6 8.Rh5+ Rxh5 9.Rg6 mate.

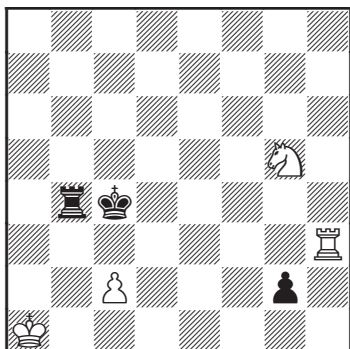
iii) Try: 7.R6xg5++? Kh6 8.Rg6+ Kh5 9.Bf7 h3 10.R6g4+ Kh6 11.Rxe4 Rb8+ 12.Be8 Rxe8+ 13.Rxe8 Rg5 draws.

iv) Rf1 8.Rxf6+ Qg6 9.Bxg6+ Kh6 10.Rxf1, or h3 8.Rg7+ Kh4 9.Rh7 mate.

v) 11.Rg7+? Kh6 12.a7 f5, or 11.a7? Rb7 12.a8Q Rxf7 13.Rg1 f5+ draw.

vi) f5+ 13.Kg8 Ra5 14.Rg6+ Kh5 15.Ra6+ wins.  
“Such studies remind me of very old chess problems”.

**No 21315** D. Keith & M. Minski  
4th commendation



a1c4 0401.11 4/3 Draw

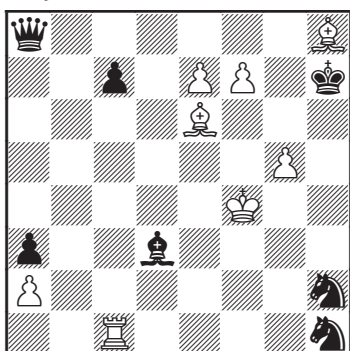
**No 21315** Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rg3 g1Q+ 2.Rxg1 Kc3 3.Rg2 Ra4+/i 4.Kb1 Rb4+ 5.Kc1 Rg4 6.Rg3+/ii Rxg3 7.Se4+ wins.

i) Rg4 4.Rxg4 no stalemate.

ii) 6.Rxg4? stalemate, or 6.Se4+? Rxe4 draws.

“This is a clear and pleasant study”.

**No 21316** I. Akobia †, P. Arestov  
& M. Garcia  
5th commendation



f4h7 3156.42 8/7 Draw

**No 21316** Iuri Akobia (Georgia), Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.g6+/i Bxg6 2.f8S+/ii Kxh8/iii 3.Sxg6+ Kg7 4.Rxc7/iv, and:

— Kxg6 5.Bd7/v Qf3+ 6.Ke5 Sg4+ 7.Bxg4 Qe3+ 8.Kd5 Sg3 9.Bd7/vi Qe4+ 10.Kd6 Sf5+ 11.Bxf5+ Kxf5 12.Kd7 Qd3+ 13.Kc8/vii Qb5 14.Kd8 Qd5+ 15.Kc8 (Rd7? Qa8+;) Qg8+ 16.Kd7 Qe6+ 17.Kd8 Qd6+ 18.Kc8 positional draw, or:

— Kf6 5.Bd5/viii Qxd5 6.e8S+ Kxg6 7.Rg7+ Kh6 8.Rh7+ Kg6 (Kxh7; Sf6+) 9.Rg7+ Kh6 10.Rh7+ positional draw.

i) 1.Ke3? Qe4+ 2.Kd2 Sf2 3.g6+ Kxg6 4.f8Q Qe2+ 5.Kc3 Qb2 mate, or 1.Rc4? Qf3+ 2.Ke5 Bxc4 3.Bf5+ Qxf5+ 4.Kxf5 Sg3+ wins.

ii) 2.f8Q? Qf3+ 3.Ke5 Qe4+ 4.Kf6 Qf4+ 5.Bf5 Qxf5 mate.

iii) Kh6 3.Sxg6 Qf3+ 4.Ke5 Qg3+ 5.Kd4 Sf3+ 6.Kc4 Qxg6 7.Rxh1+ Kg5 8.Bd5 draws.

iv) 4.Se5? Qa4+ 5.Rc4 Qd1 6.e8S+ Kf8 7.Sf6 Qf1+ 8.Kg5 Sf3+ 9.Sxf3 Qxf3 10.Bg4 Qe3+ 11.Rf4 Qc1 wins.

v) Try: 5.e8Q+? Qxe8 6.Bf7+ Qxf7+ 7.Rxf7 Kxf7 wins.

vi) 9.Be6? Qf3+ 10.Kc5 Se4+ wins.

vii) 13.Ke8? Kg6 14.Rc6+ Kg7 wins.

viii) Try: 5.e8S+? Qxe8 6.Sf8 Qxf8 7.Rf7+ Qxf7 8.Bxf7 Kxf7 wins.

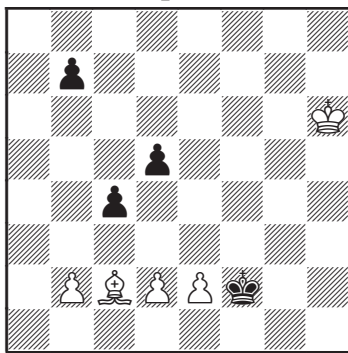
## Nau Era-10 AT 2016

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of a public University (National Academic University Evolution of Reason) in Odessa, a chess festival was organized, including a multi-genre composition theme tourney.

The study section was judged by S.N. Tkachenko, and attracted 10 studies by 6 composers from Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. The theme was: "On the first and the last move of the solution, White plays a pawn two squares up".

The award was published in *Problemist Ukraini* no. 50 (2016).

**No 21317** V. Tarasiuk  
1st prize

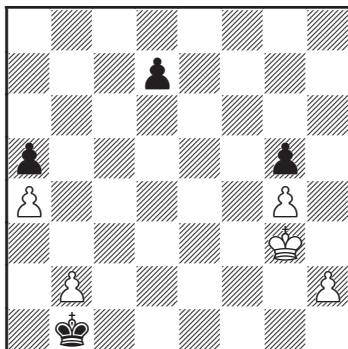


h6f2 0010.33 5/4 Win

**No 21317** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Russia). 1.e4 dxe4 2.Bxe4 Ke2 3.d4/i cxd3ep 4.Bxb7 d2 5.Bc8 Kd1/ii 6.Bg4+/iii Kc2 7.b4 wins.

- i) 3.d3? Ke3, or 3.Bd5? b5.
- ii) Kf3 6.Kg5 d1Q 7.Bg4+ wins.
- iii) 6.b4? Ke2 7.b5 Ke3 8.Bg4 Kf4 9.Bd1 Ke5 Sarychev!

**No 21318** O. Pervakov,  
2nd/3rd prize



g3b1 0000.43 5/4 Win

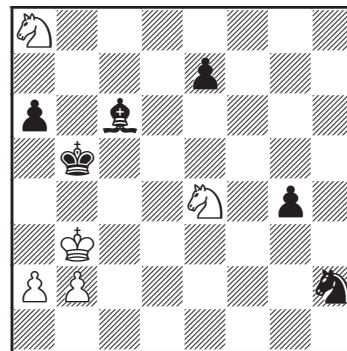
**No 21318** Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.b4/i axb4 2.a5 b3 3.a6 b2 4.a7 Kc1 5.a8Q b1Q 6.Qh1+ Kb2 7.Qxb1+ Kxb1 8.Kf2/ii Kc2 9.h4 wins/iii.

i) 1.h4? gxh4+ (check!) 2.Kxh4 d5. Or 1.Kf2? d5 draws.

ii) 8.Kf3? Kc2 9.h4 d5, or 8.h4? gxh4+ 9.Kxh4 d5 draw.

iii) e.g. d5 10.hxg5 d4 11.g6 d3 12.g7 d2 13.g8Q d1Q 14.Qc4+.

**No 21319** S. Borodavkin  
2nd/3rd prize



b3b5 0035.23 5/6 Win

**No 21319** Sergey Borodavkin (Ukraine). 1.a4+/i Ka5 2.Sd2, and:

— Bxa4+ 3.Kc4 Bd1 4.Kc5 Sf3 5.Sb6 Sxd2 6.b4 mate, or:

— Bb5 3.Sc4+ Bxc4+ 4.Ka3 Bb3 5.Kxb3 Sf3 6.Ka3 Sd4 7.b4 mate.

i) 1.Sc3+? Kc5 2.Sc7 Kb6 3.S7d5+ Bxd5+ 4.Sxd5+ Kc5 5.Sf4 Kd4 and Black wins.

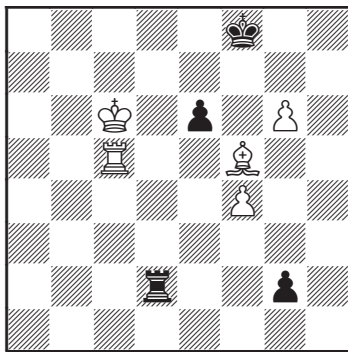


# The Problemist 2014-2015

HH was honoured to be invited to judge what is probably the most prestigious contemporary informal tourney: *The Problemist*. In total 50 studies by 39 composers from 19 countries participated. “Among the participants there were two composition GM’s (Afek & Pervakov), but also 4 OTB GM’s: Nunn, Timman, Durarbayli, and Van Foreest – well Jordan van Foreest became a GM in 2015 when his study was published in March 2014. Sub-editor Yochanan Afek is quite successful in his attempts to close the gap between OTB play and endgame studies. Then almost all of the best endgame study composers around the world took part!”

The provisional award was published in *The Problemist*, Vol. 25 No. 12, xi2016 and became final three months later. One of the studies winning a special prize was disqualified because it proved to be unsound after all.

**No 21320 P. Arestov**  
1st prize



c6f8 o410.22 5/4 Draw

**No 21320** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.g7+ Kxg7 2.Bxe6 Kf6 3.Rf5+/i Ke7/ii 4.Re5/iii Rd6+/iv 5.Kc7 Rxe6/v 6.Rg5 Re2 7.Rg6/viii Kf7/vii 8.f5 Re7+ 9.Kd6 (Kc6)/viii Re6+ 10.fxe6+ Kxg6 11.e7 Kf7 12.Kd7 g1Q 13.e8Q+ draws.

i) Thematic try: 3.Rg5? Kxe6 zz 4.Re5+/ix Kf6 5.Rg5 Re2 6.Kd6 Re6+, and: 7.Kd5 Re5+ 8.fxe5+ Kxg5, or: 7.Kd7 Re7+ 8.Kd6 Rg7 wins.

ii) Kxe6 4.Rg5 Rd6+ 5.Kb7 Rd7+ 6.Kb6 draws.

iii) 4.Rg5? Kxe6 5.Re5+ Kf6 wins.

iv) g1Q 5.Bd7+ Kf6 6.Rf5+ Ke7 7.Re5+ Kf6 8.Rf5+ positional draw.

v) g1Q 6.Bd5+ Kf6 7.Kxd6 draws.

vi) Thematic try: 7.Kc6? Kf6 8.Kd6 Re6+ 9.Kd5 Re5+ 10.fxe5+ Kxg5 wins.

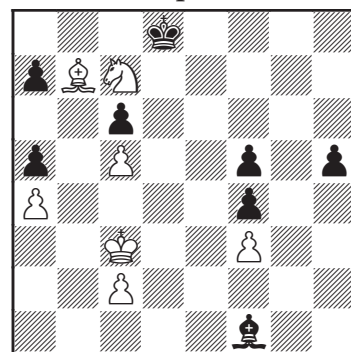
vii) Rd2 8.f5 Rd7+ 9.Kb8 Rd8+ 10.Kb7 Rd7+ 11.Kb8, or Rc2+ 8.Kb6 Rd2 9.Kc5 draw.

viii) 9.Kd8? Re8+ 10.Kd7 Rg8 wins.

ix) 4.Kb6 Kd6 5.Ka6 Kc6 6.Ka5 (Ka7 Rb2;) Rd5+ wins.

“Although the attractive black combination was used by the author in some other studies published only a couple of months before the present study (HHdbV#00852, HHdbV#01650), the chameleon echo (thematic try: 7.Kc6? Kf6 8.Kd6 Re6+ 9.Kd5 Re5+! 10.fxe5+ Kxg5, and the main line 9.Kd6 (Kc6) Re6+ 10.fxe6+ Kxg6 11.e7) deserves the first prize”.

**No 21321 B. Djurasević**  
2nd prize



c3d8 oo41.46 7/8 Win

**No 21321** Branislav Djurasević (Serbia). 1.Se6+ Kd7/i 2.Sg5/ii Kc7/iii 3.Ba8 h4 4.Kd2/iv h3/v 5.Sxh3 Bxh3 6.Ke1/vi Bg2 7.Ke2/vii Bh1/viii 8.Kf2/ix a6 9.c3/x wins.

i) Ke7 2.Sxf4 h4 3.Sg6+ Kf6 4.Sxh4 Kg5 5.Sxf5 Kxf5 6.Kd4 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Sxf4? h4 3.Kd2/xi h3 4.Sxh3 Bxh3 5.Ke2 f4 draws as the bB has been released. 2.Sd4? h4 3.Bxc6+ Kc7 4.Bb5 Bxb5

5.Sxb5+ Kd7, and: 6.Sd6 h3 7.Se4 fxe4, or 6.c6+ Kxc6 7.Sd4+ Kb6.

iii) h4 3.Kd2, and: h3 4.Sxh3 Bxh3 5.Ke2, or: Bc4 4.Ke1 Kc7 5.Kf2 Bd5 6.c4 wins.

iv) 4.Kd4? h3 5.Sxh3 Bxh3 6.Ke5 Bf1 7.Kxf5 Be2 8.Kxf4 Bd1 draws.

v) Bc4 5.Ke1 Bd5 6.Kf2 Kb8 7.c4 Bxc4 8.Bxc6 Kc7 9.Be8 Bd5 10.Kg2 Bc6 11.Se6+, or Ba6 5.Ke1 Bc8 6.Sf7 Bd7 7.Se5 Be8 8.Kf2 h3 9.Kg1 wins.

vi) 6.Ke2? Bg2 7.Kf2 Bh1 8.c3 (Ke2 Bg2;) a6 9.Ke2 Bg2 draws.

vii) 7.Kf2? Bh1 draws.

viii) Bh3 8.Kf2, and: Bg4 9.fxg4 fxg4 10.c3 Kd7 11.Bb7 Kc7 12.Ba6 Kd7 13.Be2 Ke6 14.Bxg4+ Kd5 15.Be2, or: Kd7 9.Bb7 Ke6/xii 10.Bxc6 Ke5 11.c3 wins.

ix) 8.c3? Bg2 9.Kf2 Bh1.

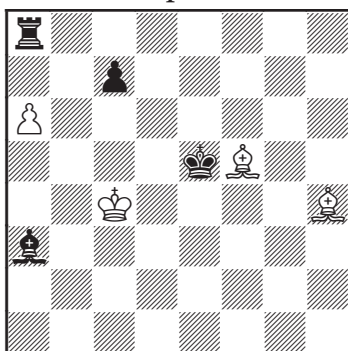
x) 9.c4? Kd7 10.Bb7 Kc7 11.Bxa6 Kd7.

xi) 3.Kd4 Kc7 4.Ba8 h3 5.Sxh3 Bxh3 6.Ke5 Bf1 7.Kxf5 Be2 8.f4 Bd1 draws.

xii) Kc7 10.Ba6 Kd7 11.Kg1 Ke6 12.Kh2 Bg4 13.fxg4 fxg4 14.Bc8+ Ke5 15.Bxg4 wins.

“We see a very original idea with wB and bB dominated by the bK and wK in an almost symmetrical position. The study has an excellent introduction. The move 9.c3 is truly brilliant. At first sight it looks like it is just a tempo move but then one finds out that 9.c4 would mean that the wB cannot escape from the corner. This would have been a masterpiece if the composer had succeeded in forcing Black to play f6-f5 in the introduction”.

No 21322 J. Timman  
3rd prize



c4e5 0350.11 4/4 Draw

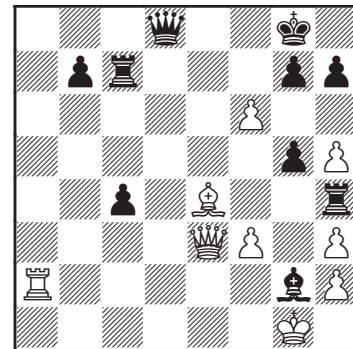
No 21322 Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.Bd7 Kd6/i 2.Bb5 c6 3.Be7+ Kxe7 4.Bxc6 Rxa6/ii 5.Kb5 Ra7 6.Kb6 trapping the rook. Draws.

i) Rxa6 2.Bg3+, and: Ke4 3.Bxc7 Ra7 4.Bc6+, or: Kf6 3.Bxc7 Ra7 4.Bd8+ draws.

ii) Ra7 5.Bb7 positional draw.

“This has a nice quiet introduction to a solution which climaxes in the position after 2...c6. White is about to lose the important wPa6 and will then lose the technical ending. The highly original sacrifice 3.Be7+ secures the draw because the wK/wB dominate the bR. No anticipation has been found”.

No 21323 G. Costeff  
special prize



g1g8 4740.55 9/10 Win

No 21323 Gady Costeff (USA/Israel). 1.Bd5+ Kh8/i 2.f7 Rxf7 (Qf8; Ra8) 3.Bxf7 Rf4/ii 4.Qe7/iii Qd1+ 5.Qe1 Qd8 (Qxe1+; Kxg2) 6.Re2 Rxf7 7.Re8+ wins.

i) Kf8 2.Qa3+ Ke8 3.Re2+ Kd7 4.Re7+ Kc8 5.Qa8 mate.

ii) Bxh3 4.Rd2 Qa8 (Bd7; Be6) 5.Qa3 Qb8 6.Re2 Be6 7.Bxe6 wins.

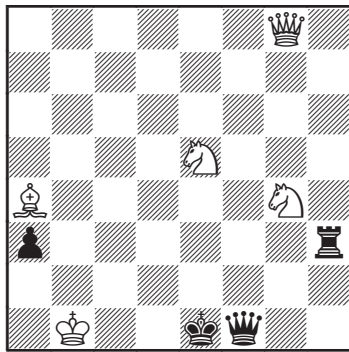
iii) 4.Re2? Rxf7 5.Qe8+ Rf8 draws.

“A Loyd-Turton doubling in an endgame study is very rare. In addition, the *anti-meta-critical* move (5.Qe1!) is an unguarded guard queen sacrifice”.

No 21324 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Qg5/i a2+/ii 2.Ka1/iii Ke2+ 3.Kxa2 Ra3+ 4.Kxa3 Qc1+ 5.Ka2/iv Qxg5 6.Bb5+ Kd1 7.Sf2+ Kc2/v 8.Ba4+ Kc3 9.Se4+ Kb4 10.Sc6+ (Sxg5? Kxa4;) Kxa4 11.Sc3+

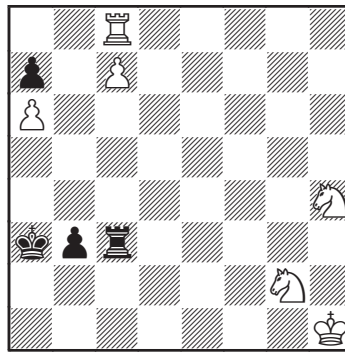
i) 1.Qc8? Qf4 2.Qc2 Qb4+ 3.Ka2 Qb2+ 4.Qxb2 axb2 draws.

**No 21324** M. Gromov  
& O. Pervakov  
1st honourable mention



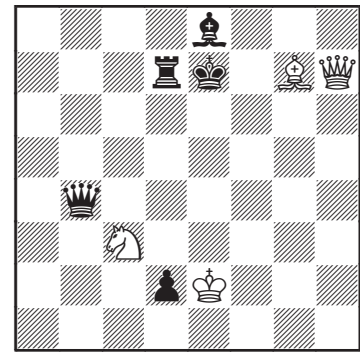
b1e1 4312.01 5/4 Win

**No 21325** G. Tallaksen  
Østmoe  
2nd honourable mention



h1a3 0402.22 6/4 Win

**No 21326** S. Slumstrup  
Nielsen  
3rd honourable mention



e2e7 4341.01 4/5 Draw

ii) Rc3 (Ke2+; Ka2) 2.Sh2 Qh1 3.Shf3+ Kf2+ 4.Ka2 Qg2 5.Qf4 Kf1+/v 6.Sd2++ Ke1 7.Sc4 Rxc4 8.Qe3+ Qe2 9.Qxe2+ Kxe2 10.Sxc4.

iii) 2.Kb2? Qe2+ 3.Ka1 Qd2.

iv) 5.Qxc1? stalemate.

v) Kc1 8.Sed3+ Kc2 9.Ba4+ Kc3 10.Se4+ Kxd3 11.Sxg5 wins.

v) Rxf3 6.Qd2+ Kg3 7.Qxg2+ Kxg2 8.Bc6 wins.

“Despite the tactical material, the study starts with a quiet key move (1.Qg5). Then we have a black pawn sacrifice, a refusal of capture (2.Ka1), a bR sacrifice (3...Ra3+), a bQ sacrifice forking wK and wQ (4...Qc1+) followed by an amazing refusal of capture avoiding a mirror stalemate (5.Qxc1?) which costs White his queen. But White still wins, in the meantime also refusing to capture the bQ (10.Sxg5?). A rumble in the jungle (which is a compliment), but not sufficiently elegant to win a prize”

**No 21325** Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway). 1.Sf3/i Rxf3 2.Se3/ii Rxe3 3.Rb8 Rc3 4.c8Q Rxc8 5.Rxc8 b2 6.Rb8 Ka2 7.Kg2 b1Q 8.Rxb1 Kxb1 9.Kf3 Kc2 10.Ke4 Kc3 11.Kd5 Kb4 12.Kc6 Ka5 13.Kb7 wins.

i) 1.Rb8? Rxc7 2.Sf3 b2 3.Sd2 Rc1+ (Rc2?; Se3) 4.Kh2 Rc2 draws.

ii) 2.Rb8? Rc3 3.c8Q Rxc8 4.Rxc8 b2 5.Rb8 Ka2 6.Se3 b1Q+ 7.Rxb1 Kxb1 8.Sc4 Ka2 9.Sa5 Ka3 10.Sc6 Ka4 11.Sxa7 Ka5 draws.

“White must sacrifice both of his knights only to clear the long diagonal for the wK. One can hardly imagine that this is the only way to win but both tries (1.Rb8?, 2.Rb8?) are convincingly clear”.

**No 21326** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Bf6++ Ke6/i 2.Qh3+ Kd6 3.Qd3+ Ke6/ii 4.Qh3+ Kxf6 5.Qxd7 d1Q+/iii 6.Qxd1 Bh5+ 7.Kd3/iv Qd6+ (Bxd1; Sd5+) 8.Ke3 Qg3+ 9.Kd2 Qg5+ (Bxd1; Se4+) 10.Kd3 (Ke1? Qg1+;) Qg3+ (Bxd1; Se4+) 11.Kd2 Qf4+ 12.Kd3 Qd6+ (Bxd1; Sd5+) 13.Ke3 positional draw.

i) Kf8 2.Qh8+, or Kxf6 2.Qxd7.

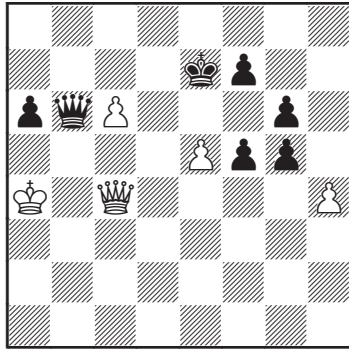
ii) Kc6 4.Qa6+, or Kc7 4.Sd5+ Rxd5 5.Qxd5 Bb5+ 6.Ke3.

iii) Qc4+ (Bxd7; Sd5+) 6.Qd3 d1Q+ 7.Sxd1 Bh5+ 8.Kd2.

iv) 7.Ke3? Qxc3+ 8.Qd3 Qe1+ 9.Kd4 (Kf4 Qe5 mate;) Qe5+ 10.Kc4 Be2, or 7.Kf1? Qf4+ 8.Kg2 Qg5+ 9.Kf1 (Kh1 Qh4+;) Qf5+ win.

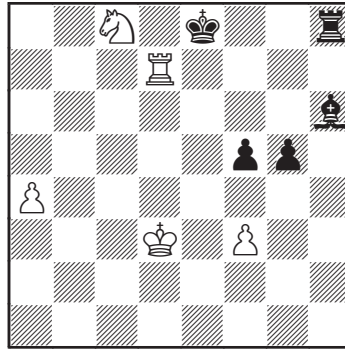
“After an excellent introduction with a bishop sacrifice, we end up in a knight forking festival. First, White sacrifices his queen (5.Qxd7), but Black counters with 5...d1Q+ and White loses his queen (6...Bh5+) but, before capturing it, Black must save his own queen from a knight fork. Despite several checks from various squares, the bQ cannot escape from the knight forks. The (part) anticipation by Halberstadt prevented me from awarding this a prize”.

**No 21327** L. Salai  
4th honourable mention



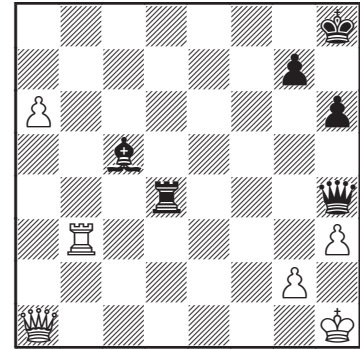
a4e7 4000.35 5/7 Draw

**No 21328** V. Samilo  
& Y. Afek  
1st special hon. ment.



d3e8 0431.22 5/5 Win

**No 21329** V. Durarbeyli  
& I. Aliev  
2nd special hon. ment.



h1h8 4430.32 6/6 Draw

**No 21327** Ladislav Salai (Slovakia). 1.h5/i gxf5 2.Qc3/ii Qb5+/iii 3.Ka3 a5 4.Qc2 (c7 Qb4+;) Qb4+ 5.Ka2 a4 6.Qc1 (c7? Qb3+;) Qb3+ 7.Ka1 a3 8.Qxg5+ (c7? Qb2+;) Ke8 9.Qg8+ Ke7 10.Qg5+ draws.

i) Try: or 1.c7? Qb5+ 2.Qxb5 axb5+ 3.Kxb5 Kd7 wins. 1.Qc3? Qb5+ 2.Ka3 a5 3.Qc2 Qb4+ 4.Ka2 a4 5.Qc1 Qb3+ 6.Ka1 a3 7.Qxg5+ Ke8 wins. 1.hxg5? Qb5+ 2.Qxb5 axb5+ 3.Kxb5 Kd8 4.Kb6 Kc8 5.Kc5 Kc7 6.Kd5 f4 7.Ke4 Kxc6 8.Kxf4 Kd5, or 1.Qc1? a5 2.Ka3 Qb4+ 3.Ka2 Qa4+ 4.Kb2 Qb5+ 5.Ka2 (Ka3 a4;) Qd5+ 6.Ka3 Kd8 7.h5 gxf5 8.Qxg5+ Kc7 9.Qxf5 h4.

ii) 2.Qc1? Qb5+ 3.Ka3 Qd3+ 4.Kb4 Kd8 5.Qxg5+ Kc7 wins.

iii) Qc7 3.Qb4+ Ke8 (Ke6; Qb7) 4.Qd6 Qxd6 5.exd6 g4 6.Ka5 g3 7.Kb6 g2 8.Kc7, or Qb8 3.Qc5+ Ke8 4.Ka5 f4 5.c7.

“With an original systematic manoeuvre Black pushes the white pieces back but, thanks to the excellent key move (1.h5), White escapes by a perpetual check. This is slightly disappointing and perhaps the composer could make a win study with this scheme, which could be quite a success in another tourney”.

**No 21328** Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine) & Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Ra7/i O-O/ii 2.Se7+ Kf7 3.Sxf5+ Kg6 (Ke6; Ke4) 4.Ke4/iii Rxf5/iv 5.Ra6+ Rf6 6.Rxf6+ Kxf6 7.a5 Bf8 8.Kd5 g4 9.fxg4/v Bh6 10.g5+ Bxg5 11.Ke4 Bh4 12.Kf3 wins.

i) 1.Rb7? Bf8 2.a5/vi Rh6 3.Sb6 Bc5 4.Kc4 Bf2 5.Kb5 Rh1 6.a6 Rb1+ 7.Kc6 Rc1+ 8.Kd6 Bxb6 9.Rxb6 Kf7 10.Ke5 Rc5+ 11.Kd4 Ra5 draws.

ii) Bf8 2.Sd6+ Bxd6 3.Ra8+ wins.

iii) 4.Sxh6? Kxh6 5.Ke4 Kh5 6.a5 Re8+ 7.Kd3 Rf8 8.Ke3 Re8+ 9.Kf2 g4 10.Kg3 gxf3 11.Kxf3 Kg5, or 4.Sd4? Rd8 5.Kc4 Rc8+ 6.Kd5 g4 7.fxg4 Be3 8.Ra6+ Kg5 9.Sf5 Bd2 draws.

iv) Rf6 5.a5 Bf8 6.Rb7 Re6+ 7.Kd5 Re1 8.Sg3, and: Rd1+ 9.Kc6 Ra1 10.Rb5, or here: g4 9.Rb6+ Kg5 10.Se4+ Kh4 11.fxg4 Kxg4 12.a6 Ra1 13.Sc3 win.

v) 9.a6? Bc5/vii 10.Kxc5 g3 11.a7 g2 12.a8Q g1Q+ with check.

vi) If here: 2.Sd6+ Bxd6 and b8 is covered. Compare with line ii).

vii) But not: gxf3? 10.a7 f2 11.a8Q f1Q 12.Qxf8+ wins. Also not: g3? 10.a7 g2 11.a8Q g1Q 12.Qxf8+ Kg5 13.Qg7+ wins.

“This is a great improvement of the famous classical study by Otten”.

**No 21329** Vasif Durarbeyli & Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.a7 Bxa7 2.Qxa7 Qe1+ 3.Kh2 Qe5+ 4.Rg3/i h5/ii 5.Kg1 (Kh1? h4;) Rd1+ (h4; Rf3) 6.Kh2/iii Rd3/iv 7.Qxg7+/v Qxg7 8.Rxd3 fortress, draws.

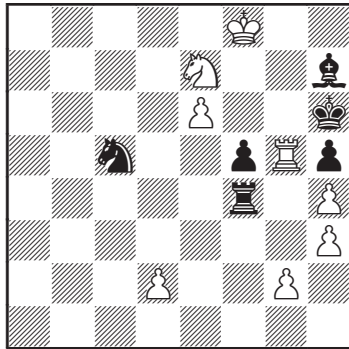
i) 4.Kg1? Rd1+ 5.Kf2 Qf4+ 6.Rf3 Qh4+, and: 7.g3 Qe4 8.Qe3 Qc2+, or: 7.Rg3 Qf6+ 8.Rf3 Qb2+ 9.Kg3 Qe5+ 10.Rf4 Rd3+ win.

ii) Rd3 5.Qf2 h5 6.h4 draws.

iii) 6.Kf2? Qe1+ 7.Kf3 Rd3+ wins.

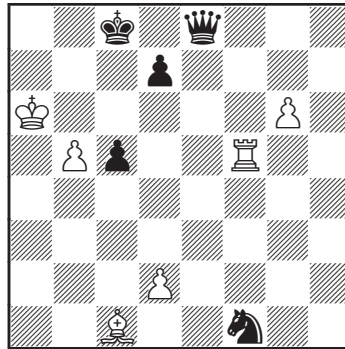


No 21330 J. Nunn  
1st commendation



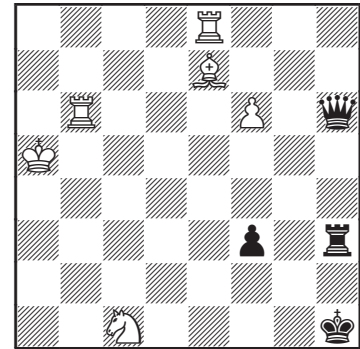
f8h6 0434.52 8/6 Win

No 21331 A. Jasik  
2nd commendation



a6c8 3113.32 6/5 Win

No 21332 Y. Afek  
3rd commendation



a5h1 3511.11 6/4 Draw

iv) h4 7.Qb8+ Qxb8 stalemate.

v) 7.Qf2? Kg8/x 8.h4 Ra3 9.Kh3 g5 10.hxg5 Ra1 11.Kh4 Qe4+ 12.Kxh5 Qh7+ 13.Kg4 Ra4+

“From an apparently hopeless position White sacrifices his queen to escape into a fortress draw. One must only know!”

**No 21330** John Nunn (Great Britain). 1.Sg8+/i Bxg8 2.e7 Re4/ii 3.e8Q/iii Rxe8+ 4.Kxe8 Bh7/iv 5.d4/v Se4 6.d5 Sf6+/vi 7.Kf7 Sxd5 8.g4 fxg4/vii 9.hxg4/viii Sf4/ix 10.Rxh5+ Sxh5 11.g5 mate.

i) 1.Kf7? Rxh4 2.Rxf5 Se4.

ii) Sd7+ 3.Kxg8 Re4 4.Kf7 Se5+ 5.Kf8 Sd7+ 6.Ke8 Se5 7.d3 Re2 8.Rxf5 Sg6 9.Rf7 Ra2/x 10.g4 Se5 11.g5+ Kg6 12.Rf6+ Kg7 13.Kd8 Ra8+ 14.Kc7 Sxd3 15.Ra6 Rh8 16.Ra5 wins.

iii) 3.Rxg8? Sd7+ 4.Kf7 Se5+ 5.Ke6 Sc6+ 6.Kxf5 Sxe7+ 7.Kxe4 Sxg8 8.Kf5 Kg7 9.Ke6 Sf6 10.d4 Se4 11.d5 Kf8.

iv) Bb3 5.Rxf5 Sd3 6.Ke7 wins.

v) 5.Rg3? f4 6.Rc3 Sd3 draws.

vi) Sxg5 7.hxg5+ Kxg5 8.d6 wins.

vii) hxg4 9.hxg4 Sf4 10.Rh5+ Sxh5 11.g5 mate.

viii) 9.Rxd5? Bg6+ 10.Kf6 gxh3 11.Ke5 Kg7 12.Rd2 Be8 draws.

ix) hxg4 10.Rxd5 Be4 11.Rg5 Bf3 12.Kf6 wins.

x) Sxe7 10.Rxe7 Rxg2 11.d4 Rd2 12.Re4 Kg6 13.Rf4 wins.

“This has a nice mate by a pawn with two active selfblocks (no anticipations!)”

**No 21331** Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.g7 Qg6+/i 2.b6 Qxg7 3.Bb2 Qe7 4.b7+ Kb8/ii 5.Be5+ d6 6.Rf7 Qd8/iii 7.Bg7/iv Sxd2 8.Rf8 Qxf8 9.Bxf8 Sc4/v 10.Be7 Kc7 11.Ka7 wins.

i) Qe6+ 2.Ka7 Qa2+ 3.Ba3 Qxa3+ 4.Kb6 wins.

ii) Kc7 5.Ka7 Qd8 6.Rxc5+ Kd6 7.d4 wins.

iii) Qxf7 7.Bxd6+ Qc7 8.Bxc7+ Kxc7 9.Ka7 wins.

iv) 7.Bf4? Sxd2 8.Bh6 Se4 9.Rf8 Qxf8 10.Bxf8 c4 draws.

v) Se4 10.Kb6 c4 11.Be7 c3 12.Bd8 c2 13.Bc7 mate.

“This is a good study with a narrow win (7.Bg7) by White”.

**No 21332** Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.f7 Qh5+/i 2.Bg5 Qxf7/ii 3.Re1+ Kg2/iii 4.Rb2+ f2 5.Rxf2+ Kxf2 (Qxf2; Re2) 6.Bh4+ Rxh4/iv 7.Sd3+ Kg2 8.Re2+ Kg3 9.Re3+ Kh2 (Kg4; Se5+) 10.Re2+ Kg1 11.Re1+ positional draw.

i) Qxc1 (Rh5+; Ka6) 2.f8Q f2 3.Rf6.

ii) Qxg5+ 3.Ka6 Qxc1 4.f8Q f2 5.Qxf2 Qc4+ 6.Rb5 Rh6+ 7.Qb6 Rxb6+ 8.Kxb6 draws.

iii) Kh2 4.Rb2+ f2 5.Rxf2+ Qxf2 6.Re2 draws.

iv) Rg3 7.Bxg3+ Kxg3 8.Re3+ Kf2 9.Rc3 draws.

“The bRh4 avoids the bK to escape from a perpetual check”.

## Rezvov-95 MT 2017

The MT for N. Rezvov (1921-2013) attracted 74 studies by 41 composers from 16 countries. The judge was Sergey. N. Tkachenko (Ukraine). The award dated 2i2017 was published on the ChessPro website.

**No 21333** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Kd8 e3/i 2.Rxe3 Re1/ii 3.Re5 Rxe5 (d1Q; Rb6 mate) 4.Rb7/iii Kxd5/iv 5.Rd7+ Ke4 6.dxe5 wins/v.

i) Kxd5 2.Rb3 Kxd4 3.Ra3 e5 4.Kd7/vi Kc4 5.Ke6 Kd4 6.Kd6, or here e3 5.Rexe3 e4 6.Re2 e3 7.Rexe3 Re1 8.Red3+ wins.

ii) Rh1 3.Rxe6+ Kxd5 4.Re5+ Kc6 5.Rc5+ Kd6 6.Rb6 mate.

iii) Thematic try: 4.dxe5+? Kxd5 5.Rb1 Kxe5 6.Rd1 Kf4 7.Rxd2 e5 draws.

iv) Rxd5 5.Rb6 mate, or exd5 5.Rb6 mate, or d1Q 5.Rd7 mate.

v) e.g. Kxe5 7.Rxd2 (Ke7).

vi) But not 4.Ke7? e3 5.Rexe3 e4 6.Re2 e3 7.Rexe3 Re1 draws.

“This is a nice rook spectacle in a logical form”.

**No 21334** Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.d7/i Sb6+ 2.cxb6 f1Q (Kxb6; Bg2) 3.b7/ii Qc4/iii 4.d8S/iv Qc5 5.b8S+/v, and:

— Kb6 6.Sd7+ wins, or:

— Ka5 6.Sb7+ wins.

i) 1.Bb7+? Kb5 2.d7 f1Q 3.dxc8Q Kxc5 draws.

ii) 3.bxc7? Kb6 4.d8Q Qa6+ 5.Kb8 Qa7+ 6.Kc8 Qa6+ 7.Kd7 Qd3+ perpetual check.

iii) Qf6 4.Bb5+ Kxb5 5.b8Q+ and 6.d8Q wins.

iv) 4.d8Q? Qxc6 5.Qd3+ Kb6 6.Qb3+ Ka5 (Ka6?; Qb4) draws.

v) 5.b8Q? Qxc6+ 6.Sxc6 stalemate. 5.Kb8? Qf5 6.Ka8 Qf6 7.b8Q Qxc6+ 8.Sxc6 stalemate.

“No-one today will be much surprised by a couple of pawn promotions to a knight with subsequent forks, not even in a little study. It would be surprising when elegant play and piece struggles are organically interspersed with the promotions. The composer of this study has accomplished this!”.

**No 21335** Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.g4/i fx-g3ep/ii 2.Rg6+ Kxh5 3.Rg8/iii g2+ (Qxg8; Sf6+) 4.Kg1 Qh6 5.Sg3+ Kh4 6.Sf5+ wins.

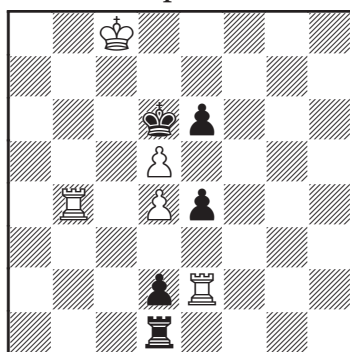
i) Logical try: 1.Rg6+? Kxh5 2.Rg8 Qh6 3.Rg5+/iv Kh4 draws.

ii) Kh7 2.Rg6 Qc8 3.Sf6+ Kh8 4.Rg8+ Qxg8 5.Sxg8 wins.

iii) domination.

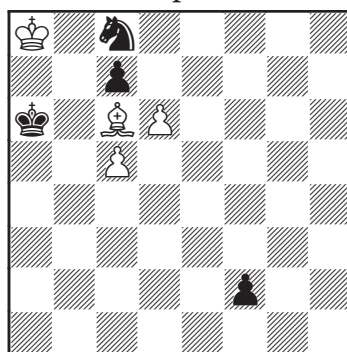
iv) Black even wins after: 3.Sg3+ fxg3, or 3.g4+ Kh4.

**No 21333** S. Slumstrup Nielsen  
1st prize



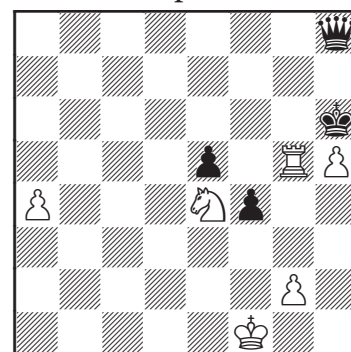
c8d6 0500.23 5/5 Win

**No 21334** S. Didukh  
2nd prize



a8a6 0013.22 4/4 Win

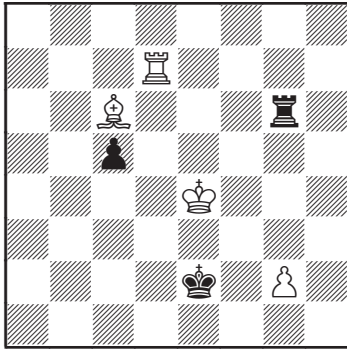
**No 21335** O. Pervakov  
3rd prize



f1h6 3101.32 6/4 Win

“With this worn-out material the author has managed to create a logical plot with domination and en-passant capture!”

**No 21336** S. Hornecker & M. Minski  
4th prize



e4e2 o410.11 4/3 Win

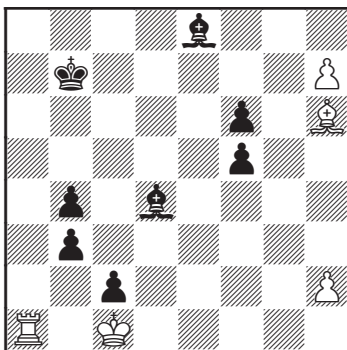
**No 21336** Siegfried Hornecker & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bb5+ c4/i 2.Bxc4+ Ke1 3.Bf1/ii Kxf1 4.g4 Rxc4+ 5.Kf3 Ra4 6.Rd1 mate.

i) Kf2 2.Rd2+ Kg1 3.Kf4 Rxc4 4.Rd1+ Kf2 5.Rf1 mate, or here: Kh2 5.Bc6 Rg6 6.Rh1 mate.

ii) 3.Re7? Kf2 4.Bf1 Kxf1 5.g4 Rxc4+ 6.Kf3 Ra4 draws, 3.Kf3? Rg3+ 4.Kxc3 stalemate.

“We see original play with a pawn sacrifice leading to a well-known ending with model stalemate and mates. I note that Nikolai Rezvov also liked to paint well-known ideas with new colours”.

**No 21337** A. Stavrietsky  
1st honourable mention



c1b7 o170.25 5/8 Win

**No 21337** Aleksandr Stavrietsky (Russia). 1.Ra8/i Bg6 2.Bf4/ii Bxc7 3.Rd8 Ba1/iii 4.Rd7+ Ka8 5.Rg7/iv wins.

i) 1.h8Q? b2+ 2.Kxc2 b3+ 3.Kd2 bxa1Q and Black wins.

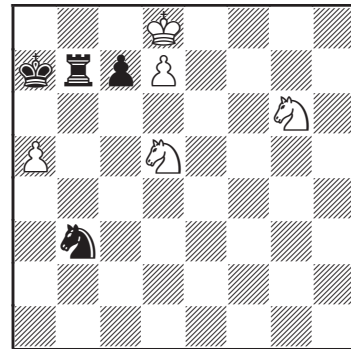
ii) 2.h8Q? b2+ 3.Kxc2 f4+ 4.Kd2 Be3+ 5.Ke2 Bh5+ 6.Kd3 b1Q+ and Black wins. 2.Rb8+? Kc6 3.Rxb4 b2+ 4.Rxb2 Bxb2+ 5.Kxb2 Bxc7 draws.

iii) Bc3? 4.Rd7+ Kc6 5.Rxc7 Kd5 6.Re7 Kc4 7.h4 Bd4 8.Rd7 wins.

iv) 5.Rxc7? b2+ 6.Kxc2 b3+ 7.Kb1 stalemate.

“Here we have sacrifices, battery construction, counterplay for stalemate, refusal to capture, and domination. With these bricks a short but vivid spectacle has been built in a mere five moves!”

**No 21338** V. Kalashnikov  
2nd honourable mention



d8a7 o305.21 5/4 Win

**No 21338** Valery Kalashnikov (Russia). 1.Sge7 (Sde7? c5;) Sxa5/i 2.Ke8/ii Rb8+ 3.Sc8+ Kb7 4.d8S+/iii, with:

— Kxc8 5.Se7 mate, or:

— Ka6 (Ka8) 5.Sxc7 mate.

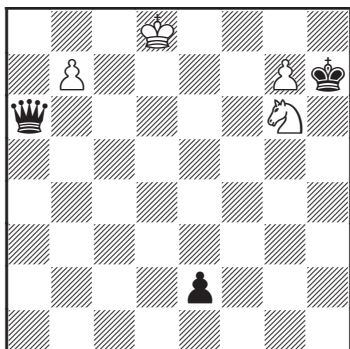
i) c5 2.Sc6+ Ka6 3.Sc7+ Rxc7 4.Kxc7, or Rb8+ 2.Sc8+ Kb7 3.a6+ Kxa6 4.Ke8, or Sc5 2.Sc6+ Ka6 3.Sxc7+ Rxc7 4.Kxc7 Sxd7 5.Kxd7 win.

ii) 2.Sc8+? Ka8 3.Sxc7+ Kb8 4.Sa6+ Ka8 5.Sc7+ Kb8 positional draw.

iii) 4.d8Q? Rxc8, or 4.Se7? Sc6 5.Sxc6 Rxc8+ 6.Sd8+ Kb8 7.Ke7 c5 draw.

“Nikolai Rezvov especially liked such mate finishes, repeated several times. Who doesn’t know that my old friend also belonged to the class of problem composers! It is nice that all the pieces in the mate mise-en-scène have taken their places during play”.

**No 21339** P. Arestov  
3rd honourable mention



d8h7 3001.21 4/3 Draw

**No 21339** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.g8Q+ Kxg8 2.b8Q, and:

— e1Q/i 3.Kc7+ Kf7 4.Qf8+ Kxg6 (Ke6; Qe8+) 5.Qe8+ Qxe8 stalemate.

— Qd3+ 3.Ke8/ii e1Q+/iii 4.Se7+ Kh7 5.Qh2+ Kg7 6.Qe5+ Qxe5 stalemate, or:

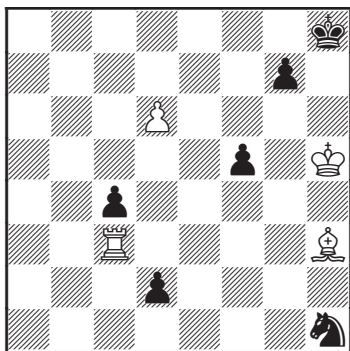
i) Kg7 3.Qc7+ Kxg6 4.Qg3+ Kf7 5.Qc7+ and the bK cannot escape from the checks of the wQ without losing the pawn.

ii) 3.Ke7+? Kg7 4.Qh8+ Kxg6 5.Qf6+ Kh5 wins.

iii) Qxg6+ 4.Ke7+ Kh7 5.Qh2+ wins the pawn.

“A parallel synthesis of two different stalemate finishes fits accurately into the low number of moves but, for this achievement, the author has paid with forced play”.

**No 21340** A. Oganessian  
4th honourable mention



h5h8 0113.14 4/6 Win

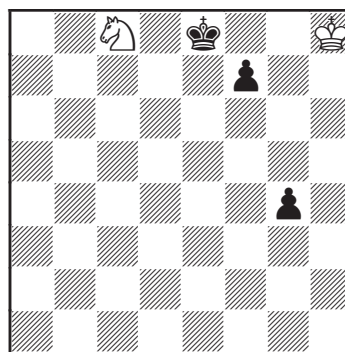
**No 21340** Aleksey Oganessian (Russia). 1.Bg4/i fxg4 2.Rd3 cxd3 (Sg3+; Kg6) 3.Kg6 (d7?

Kh7;) d1Q 4.d7 Qb3 5.d8Q+ Qg8 6.Qh4+ and mate.

i) 1.Rd3? cxd3 2.Bg4 Kh7 3.Bf3 Sg3+ 4.Kh4 Se2 wins, or here: 3.Bd1 Sf2 4.d7 Sxd1 5.d8Q Sf2.

“Rezov’s oeuvre has examples where a single pawn is stronger than a black armada. I am certain that this sympathetic study with an exact order of sacrifices would have been liked by my friend”.

**No 21341** V. Tarasiuk  
1st commendation



h8e8 0001.02 2/3 Draw

**No 21341** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Kg7/i Kd7/ii 2.Sb6+ Ke6 3.Sa4/iii Ke5/iv 4.Sc3 (Kxf7? Kd4;) Kd4 5.Se2+ Ke3 6.Sg3 draws.

i) 1.Sd6+? Ke7, and: 2.Sf5+ Kf6 3.Sd4 Kg6 4.Kg8 f5, or 2.Se4 f5 3.Sf2 Kf6 4.Kh7 Kg5 win.

ii) g3 2.Sd6+ Kd7 3.Sxf7 g2 4.Se5+ Ke6 5.Sf3 draws.

iii) The point. Playing towards the centre loses: 3.Sc4? g3, and: 4.Sd2 Ke5 5.Sf3+ (Kxf7 Kf4;) Ke4 6.Se1 f5, or hereL 4.Se3 f5 5.Sg2 Ke5 6.Kg6 f4 7.Kg5 f3.

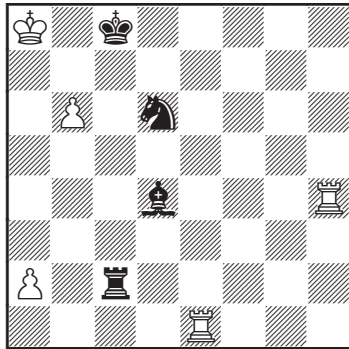
iv) g3 4.Sc3 g2 5.Se2 draws.

“In the annual contests of the former magazine *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, the malyutka’s of Nikolai Rezvov always got commendations (or special distinctions) with the phrase ‘useful for practical play’. I hope that this malyutka by the master of the Kharkov region will also serve as a training example for our glorious practitioners”.

**No 21342** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Re8+/i Sxe8/ii 2.b7+ Kd7 3.Rxd4+ Kc6 4.a4 (b8Q? Rxa2+;) Sc7+/iii 5.Ka7 Rc5 6.b8S mate/iv.

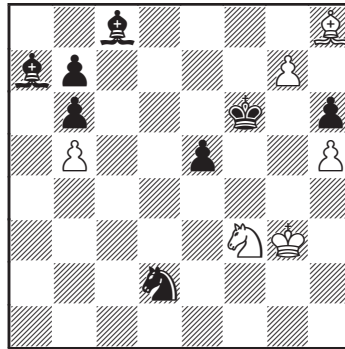


No 21342 P. Arestov  
2nd commendation



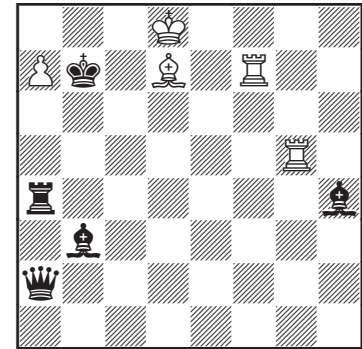
a8c8 0533.20 5/4 Win

No 21343 V. Neishtadt  
3rd commendation



g3f6 0074.34 6/8 BTM, Draw

No 21344 M. Hlinka  
4th commendation



d8b7 3570.10 5/5 Draw

i) 1.Rxd4? Rxa2+ and Black mates, or 1.b7+? (a4? Bxb6;) Sxb7 2.Re8+ Sd8 3.Rxd8+ Kxd8 4.Rxd4+ Kc7 5.Ra4 Kb6 draws.

ii) Kd7 2.Rxd4 Kxe8 3.Rxd6 wins.

iii) Rc5 5.b8S+ Kb6 (Kc7; Sa6+) 6.Sd7+ wins.

iv) 6.b8Q? Ra5 mate. 6.Rd6+? Kxd6 7.b8Q Kc6 draws.

“This study features full dynamics of all actors of the final mise-en-scène (oh, sorry, no model mate) but the sad fate of the bB assigned this study to the ‘commendation row’”.

**No 21343** Vladimir Neishtadt (Russia). 1... Se4+/i 2.Kh4 Kf7 3.Sxe5+ Kg8 4.Sd7, and:

— Kh7 5.Sf8+ Kg8 6.Sd7 Bxd7 stalemate, or:

— Bb8 5.Sf6+ Sxf6 stalemate.

i) Kf7 2.Sxd2 Bf5 3.Kf3 Bb8 4.Se4 Bxe4+ 5.Kxe4 Kg8 6.Kf5 draws, as the bB cannot win this by itself.

“A commendation is awarded for this romantic study. My friend also adored this genre”.

**No 21344** Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.a8Q+ (Bc8+? Ka8;) Rxa8+/i 2.Bc8++ Kb6/ii 3.Rf6+, and:

— Ka7 4.Rg7+ Bf7 5.Rxf7+ Qxf7 stalemate, or:

— Be6 4.Rxe6+ Ka7 5.Re7+ Kb6 6.Re6+/iii Qxe6 stalemate.

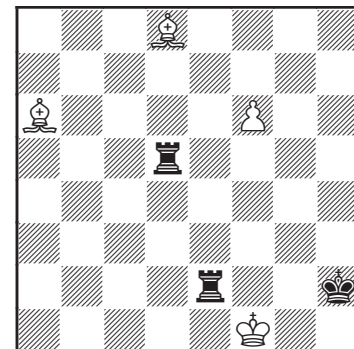
i) Kxa8 2.Bc6+ Kb8 3.Rb7+ Ka8 4.Re7+ Kb8 5.Rb5 mate.

ii) Kb8 3.Rb7 mate. Kc6 3.Rf6+ Be6 4.Rxe6+ Qxe6 stalemate.

iii) 6.Rb7+? Kc6 7.Rc7+ Kd6 8.Rd7+ Ke6 9.Rd6++ (Ra7+ Rxc8+;) Kxd6 no stalemate.

“Exotic pin stalemates are the business card of this Slovakian endgame study composer but there is practically no struggle in such studies so, therefore, they do not deserve more than a modest commendation. Nikolai Rezvov also had a similar ‘guilty pleasure’ of inventing record endings to the detriment of content”.

No 21345 M. Gromov & O. Pervakov  
special prize



f1h2 0620.10 4/3 Win

**No 21345** Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Bc7+ Ree5 2.f7 Kh1/i 3.Bxe5/ii Rd7 4.f8R/iii Rf7+ 5.Bf4/iv Rxf8/v 6.Bb7 mate.

i) Rd1+ 3.Kf2 Rd2+ 4.Kf3 Kh1 (Kg1; Bb6+) 5.Bb7 Rf5+ 6.Kg4+ wins.

ii) 3.Bb7? Re4/vi 4.f8R/vii wins? No: Rd1+ 5.Kf2 Rf1+ 6.Kxf1 stalemate.

iii) 4.f8Q? Rf7+ 5.Bf4 Rxf4+ 6.Qxf4 stalemate.

iv) 5.Rxf7? stalemate.

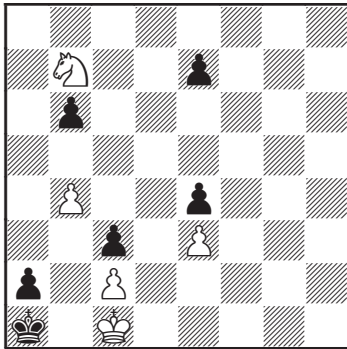
v) Rxf4+ 6.Rxf4 and no stalemate.

vi) But not Rf5+? 4.Ke2 Rxf7 5.Bxd5+ Kg1 6.Bxf7 wins.

vii) 4.Bxd5 stalemate.

“This study could well have claimed a prize without the prefix ‘special’, if not for the anticipation by one of the authors (EG#6475)”.

**No 21346** M. Zinar  
special honourable mention



c1a1 0001.35 5/6 Win

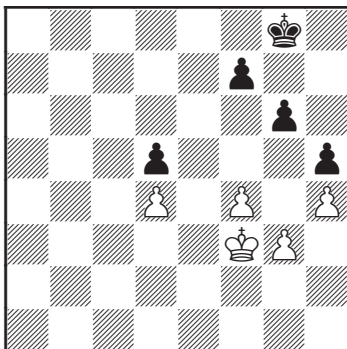
**No 21346** Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.b5/i, and:

— e5 2.Sa5 bxa5 3.b6 a4 4.b7 a3 5.Kd1 zz, wins, or:

— e6 2.Sc5 bxc5 3.b6 e5 4.b7 c4 5.Kd1 zz, wins.

i) 1.Sc5? bxc5 2.b5 e5 3.b6 c4 4.b7, or 1.Sa5? bxa5 2.b5 e6 3.b6 e5 4.b7 a4 5.Kd1 a3 zz 6.b8Q stalemate.

**No 21347** A. Chernous  
special honourable mention



f3g8 0000.44 5/5 Win

**No 21347** Andrey Chernous (USA). 1.f5/i Kg7 2.g4/ii hxg4+/iii 3.Kxg4 Kf6 4.Kf4 gxf5 5.h5 zz Ke6 6.Kg5 wins.

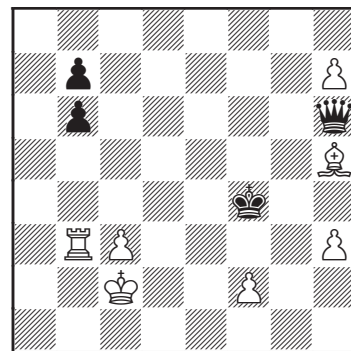
i) 1.g4? f5 2.gxf5 Kg7 (Kf7) 3.Ke3 Kf6 4.fxg6 Kxg6 draws.

ii) 2.Kf4? Kf6 3.g4 hxg4 4.Kxg4 gxf5+ 5.Kf4 Kg6 6.Ke5 Kh5, or 5.Kh5 f4 6.Kg4 f3 7.Kxf3 Kf5 draws.

iii) gxf5 3.gxf5 Kh6 4.Kf4 f6 5.Ke3, or Kf6 3.gxh5 gxh5 4.Kf4 zz, wins.

“This corrected version is prettier than the miniature form. We now have an interesting thematic try, which previously was the solution. I think that such progress deserves a distinction”.

**No 21348** V. Samilo  
special commendation



c2f4 3110.42 7/4 Win

**No 21348** Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Rb4+ Kg5/i 2.Rb5+ Kf4/ii 3.Bg4 Qxh7+ 4.Rf5+/iii Ke4 5.Be2 Qxh3/iv 6.Bb5 Kxf5 (Qxf5; Bd3+) 7.Bd7+ wins.

i) Ke5 2.f4+ Kd5 3.Rb5+ Ke4 4.Be2 Kxf4 5.Rh5 wins.

ii) Kh4 3.h8Q Qxh8 4.Bg6 wins.

iii) 4.Kd2? Qd3+ 5.Kxd3 stalemate.

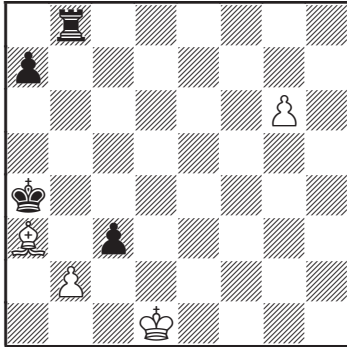
iv) Qxf5 6.Bd3+, or Qd7 6.Bf3+ Kxf5 7.Bg4+ wins.

“This could have been the study at the head of the award, if not for a powerful ‘patent’, of almost 100 years ago (Sehwers 1922, HHdbV#76423)”.

## Problem Paradise 2010-2015

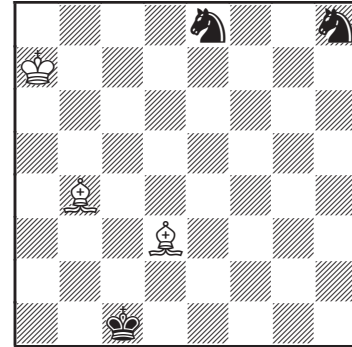
HH judged the informal tourney of the Japanese composition magazine. Despite the long period of time, only 16 studies by 16 composers from 11 countries participated and the quality level was not very high.

**No 21349** M. Minski  
honourable mention



d1a4 o310.22 4/4 Draw

**No 21350** Poisson  
commendation



a7c1 0026.00 3/3 Win

**No 21349** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.g7 Rg8 2.Bf8 cxb2 3.Kc2 b1Q+ 4.Kxb1 Kb3 5.Kc1/i a6 6.Kd1/ii a5/iii 7.Kd2 a4 8.Kc1 a3 9.Kb1 a2+ 10.Ka1 Kc2 11.Kxa2 draws.

i) Thematic try: 5.Ka1? a6 6.Kb1 a5 7.Kc1 a4 8.Kb1 a3 9.Ka1 a2 zz, wins.

ii) 6.Kd2? a5 7.Kd1 Kb2 8.Kd2 a4 9.Be7 a3 10.Bf6+ Kb1 11.Ke3 a2 12.Kf4 a1Q 13.Bxa1 Kxa1 and the wK is too far off.

iii) Kb2 7.Be7 a5 8.Bf6+ Kb1 9.Kd2 a4 10.Ke3 a3 11.Kf4 a2 12.Kg5 a1Q 13.Bxa1 Kxa1 14.Kg6 draws.

“We see a zugzwang study in which White has to triangulate in order not to lose. One might expect that, seeing the black a-pawn, the wK should play to the a-file but it plays to the d-file instead. One of the points is whether the wK is able to support wPg7 or not. Unfortunately, these lines have (black) duals”.

**No 21350** C. Christian Poisson (France). 1.Bb5 Sc7/i 2.Bc4, and:

— Sg6 3.Bd6 Se8 4.Ba3+ Kc2 5.Bf7/i wins, or:

— Se8 3.Kb6 Kc2 4.Bc5 Kc3 5.Bb5 Sf6 6.Bf8/ii, and:

– Kb3 7.Bg7/iii Sd5+ 8.Kc5 Sc7 9.Bc4+ wins, or:

– Sd5+ 7.Kc5 Sc7 8.Bg7+ Kd2 9.Bc4 Sg6 10.Kb6 Se8 11.Bh6+ Kc3 12.Bf7/iv wins.

i) Double attack with wB between the two bS.

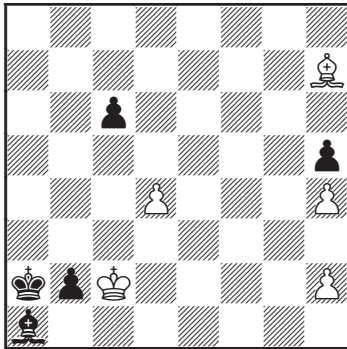
ii) Threatens 7.Bg7 with echo double attack.

iii) echo double-attack.

iv) echo double-attack.

“There are not many studies with this material (2B vs 2S) that are aesthetically interesting. This one is because of the double attack chameleon echoes. Very original!”

No 21351 E. Zimmer  
commendation



c2a2 0040.33 5/5 Win

No 21351 Eligiusz Zimmer (Poland). 1.Bg8+  
Ka3 2.Kb1 Kb4 3.Bf7 Kc3 4.Bxh5 Kxd4 5.Be8  
Ke5 6.h5, and:

— Kf6 7.h6 c5 8.h4 c4 9.h5 c3 10.Bg6 c2+ 11.Bxc2  
Kf7 12.Bb3+ wins, or:

— Ke6 7.h6 Kf6 8.h3/i c5 9.h4 c4 10.h5 c3 11.Bg6  
wins.

i) 8.h4? c5 9.h5 c4 10.Bg6 c3 11.Be4 Kf7  
12.Bd5+ Kf8 13.Ba2 c2+ draws.

“This is very similar to V. Kovalenko, 1st special prize World Cup 2011 (EG#18504). As our present study was published in the iv-vi2010 issue, one might conclude that the Kovalenko study was anticipated by Zimmer’s study but I am not so sure. *Problem Paradise* suffered from a serious publication delay for several years (but caught up very recently). It might well be that the iv-vi2010 was published after the World Cup 2011 ty... My conclusion is that this is a remarkable coincidence”.

## Jan Hendrik Timman – 65 Jubilee Tourney

To celebrate the 65th birthday of the famous Dutch over-the-board GM and endgame study composer Jan Timman, two composing tourneys for endgame studies are announced:

### 1. Only for over the board title-holders (FIDE GM, IM, FM, WGM, WIM, WFM)

Theme: free

Judges: Yochanan Afek & Hans Böhm; Tourney director: Harold van der Heijden  
Prize fund: 1000 EUR

### 2. Open section

Theme: mate by the bishop (or struggle against mate by the bishop)

Judges: Jan Timman & Hans Böhm; Tourney director: Harold van der Heijden,  
Prize fund: 1000 EUR

Send your originals before **July 1st 2017** to the tourney director:  
heijdenharold@gmail.com

preferably in PGN-format. In both sections there is a maximum of three studies per composer. Co-authored studies are allowed (in the first section all authors must be title holders).

The final award will be ready on **December 14th 2017**, the 66th birthday of Jan Timman.

The prize money is made available by Böhm Communications BV  
www.hansbohm.com

In this way, Hans Böhm celebrates 50 years of close friendship with Jan Timman.