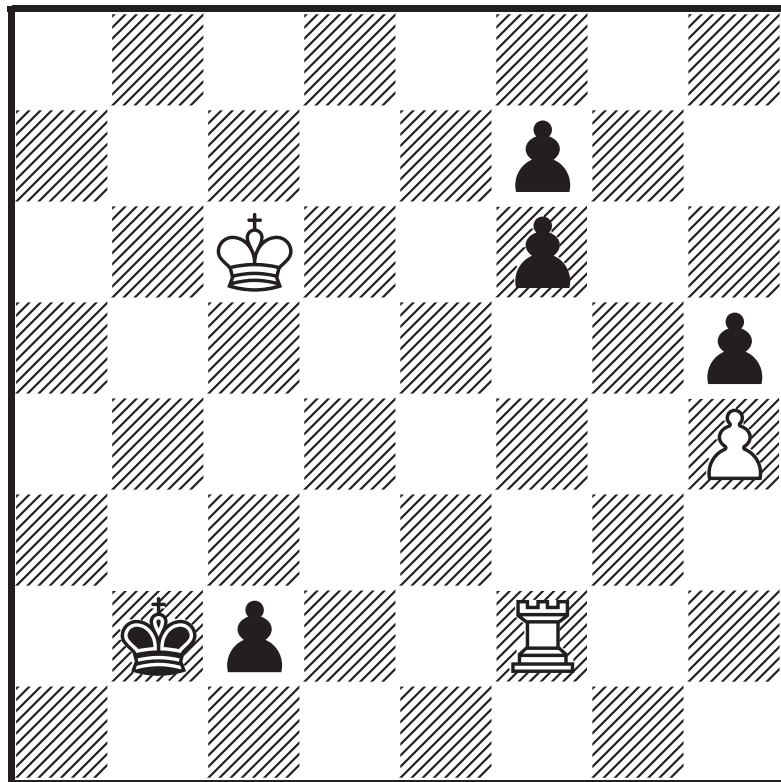


No. 209 — VOL. XXIII — JULY 2017



WHITE TO PLAY AND DRAW

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diagram on the cover: see p. 185

Editorial

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

Just before this issue of **EG** went to the printer, the results for the FIDE Album 2013-2015 were published on the WFCC website. Some people were disappointed by the results, and asked me to comment on it in **EG**. As a former Album Director, however, I refrain from commenting on my successors. The only thing I can say is that there are strict rules for the proportion of submitted studies that make it into the Album. If someone does not agree with the rules: contact your country's delegate and ask him to propose a change at the next WFCC conference.

The 60th WFCC conference will be held in Dresden, Germany, next August. At the time of writing no less than 239 participants are registered, so I really look forward to meeting old and new friends!

From time to time I get very positive remarks about the columns of our editors, but it also happens that someone is less satisfied: great/boring History, less/more Computer News, no/only awards – I've seen it all. For the time being we will not change our policy: a combination of awards (in old **EG** tradition) and articles (the old *EBUR* tradition). Of course your views or suggestions are always welcome.

Several years ago, Gady Costeff sacrificed his **EG** magazine collection to scan the first 156 issues and to put them on-line. Recently it was decided that we will put many more issues on-line. The difference is that we have most of those issues already digitally available, but a

problem is that these are often without pictures (which were sent to our printer separately). I would appreciate if someone possessing tools to add scanned pictures to PDFs volunteers to help us out. Anyway, keep an eye at www.arves.org!

As a director of the Timman-65 JT, which has been promoted among the general chess public, I received some submissions for the theme section (mate by a bishop) from beginners. When I pointed out that an endgame study should have a single solution, one of the participants complained that he was unable to find an adequate definition of an endgame study on-line. Of course I googled around and had to conclude that he was absolutely right. This is what is written on Wikipedia: “An **endgame study**, or just **study**, is a composed position – that is, one that has been made up rather than one from an actual game – presented as a sort of puzzle, in which the aim of the solver is to find a way for one side (usually White) to win or draw, as stipulated, against any moves the other side plays”.

Of course it is quite difficult to comprehensibly define an endgame study (including topics like unique solution, legal position, esthetics *et cetera*), but I hope that our readers will take this challenge and improve the Wikipedia definition. I offer a free copy of my database (www.hhdbv.nl) to the person who successfully (to my taste) improves the definition on Wikipedia. Of course I will publish the definition in **EG**!

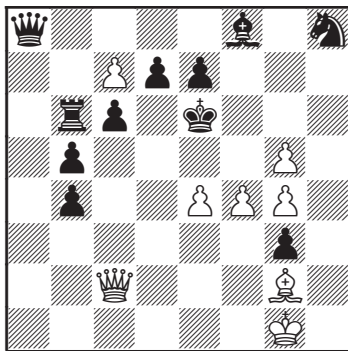
Originals (54)

EDITOR: ED VAN DE GEVEL

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

We start this time in the USA where Gady shows a study where White first has to get his Q and B in the correct order.

No 21352 G. Costeff



g1e6 4343.56 8/11 Win

No 21352 Gady Costeff (USA). 1.e5 Kf7 2.Qf5+ Ke8 3.e6 d6/i 4.Qh7/ii Qa1+ 5.Qb1 Qa8 (Qxb1+; Bf1) 6.Be4/iii Bg7 7.Bg6+ Kf8 8.Qf5+ Bf6 9.gxf6 Rb8 10.Qh5/iv Qa7+ 11.Kh1 Qa1+ 12.Kg2 Qb2+ 13.Kxg3 Qc3+ 14.Bd3 Qxd3+ 15.Kh4/v Sg6+ 16.Qxg6/vi Qxg6 17.cxb8Q+ Qe8 18.Qxe8+ Kxe8 19.g5 b3 20.g6 b2 21.g7/vii and wins.

i) d5 4.Qh7 Qa1+ 5.Bf1 Qd4+ 6.Kh1 wins, or dxe6 4.Qxe6 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 4.Be4? Bg7 draws as the QB battery is in the wrong order.

iii) Now the battery is in the correct order.

iv) Thematic try: 10.Qg5? Qa7+ 11.Kh1 Qa1+ 12.Kg2 Qb2+ 13.Kxg3 Qc3+ 14.Bd3 Qxd3+ 15.Kh4 Qh7+ draws.

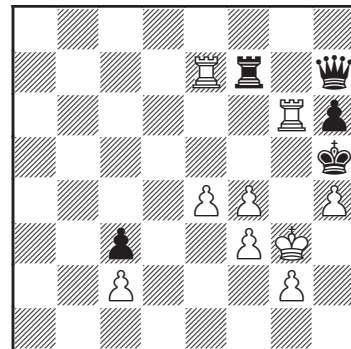
v) Now there is no Qh7+.

vi) 16.Kg5? exf6+ 17.Kxf6 Qd4+ 18.Kxg6 Qg7+ 19.Kf5 Rc8 draws.

vii) Loyd-Turton.

For the second study it is over to Israel. Amatzia shows a study where White will have to use his massive pawn block to neutralize the black queen but he still needs to keep enough to win the remaining ending.

No 21353 A. Avni



g3h5 3500.62 9/5 Win

No 21353 Amatzia Avni (Israel). 1.Ree6/i Qxg6+ (Rg7; Kh3) 2.Kh3 Qxe6+ (Rxf4; Re5+) 3.f5 Rxf5 4.g4+ Kg6 5.gxf5+ Qxf5+ 6.exf5+ Kxf5 7.Kg3 h5 8.Kg2/ii and wins.

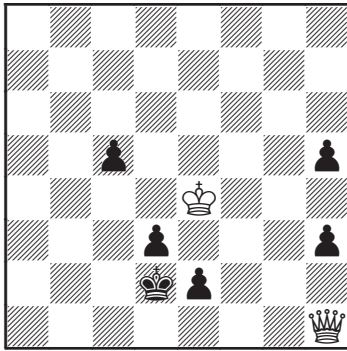
i) Try: 1.Rge6? Rg7+ 2. Rxg7/iii Qxg7+ 3.Kh3 Qg3+ draws, or 1.Rxf7? Qxg6+ 2.Kh3 Qa6 3.Rg7 Qf1 draws.

ii) 8.Kf2? Kf4 or 8.f4? Ke4.

iii) 2.Kh3 Rg3+ 3.Kxg3 (Kh2 Qg8;) Qg7+ 4. Rxg7 (Kf2 Qd4+;) draws, or 2.Kh2 Rxg2+ 3.Kxg2 Qg8+ 4.Kf1 Qd8 5.Kg2 Qg8+ 6.Kf1 Qd8 draws.

We return to the USA for an opposite study: Richard shows how a lone white queen deals with a number of black pawns to secure the draw.

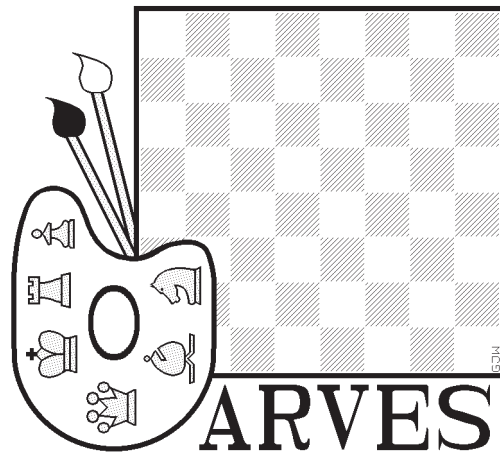
No 21354 R. Becker



e4d2 1000.05 2/6 Draw

No 21354 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Qh2 c4
2.Kf3/i c3 (...Kd1 3.Qe5 or Qb8 draws) 3.Qf4+/ii
Kd1 4.Qa4+ c2 5.Qb3 d2 6.Qa4 e1S+ 7.Kg3 Sd3
8.Qb3 Ke1 9.Qe6+ Kd1 10.Qb3 and now:

- h2 11.Kxh2 Sb2 12.Qf3+/iii Kc1 13.Qe3 Sc4
14.Qf4 zz h4 15.Kg2 zz h3+ 16.Kh2 zz Kb1
17.Qxc4 c1Q 18.Qb3+ Qb2 19.Qd1+ Ka2
20.Qa4+ Qa3 21.Qc2+ draws, or:
- Sb2 11.Kh2/vi Kc1 12.Qe3 Sc4 13.Qf4 zz h4
14.Qxc4 d1Q 15.Qf1 zz Kd2 16.Qf4+ Kc3
17.Qc7+ Kb2 18.Qe5+ Kb1 19.Qb5+ Kc1
20.Qf1 Qxf1 stalemate.
 - i) 2.Kd4? Kd1 3.Kxc4 d2 4.Qxh3 e1Q 5.Kb3
Qf2 6.Qxh5+ Kc1 wins.
 - ii) 3.Ke4? c2 4.Qf4+ Kd1 draws.
 - iii) 12.Kg2? Kc1 13.Qe3 Sc4 14.Qf4 h4 zz
15.Kh2 h3 zz 16.Kxh3 Kb1 17.Qxc4 c1Q 18.Qb3+
Qb2 19.Qd1+ Ka2 20.Qa4+ Qa3+ check, wins.
 - iv) 11.Qf3+? Kc1 12.Qf4 h2 13.Kxh2 Sc4
14.Kg2 h4 etc.



please visit www.arves.org!

With and without an opponent – Yuri Ivanovich Zemlyansky (1i1938 – 7iii2017)

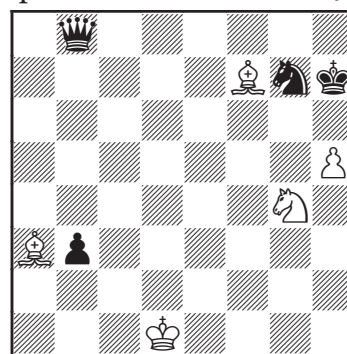
BY YOCHANAN AFEK

The study composer **Yuri Zemlyansky** passed away in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk last March at the age of 79 after a long illness. Not much is told about him in the chess composition literature. I found a few details in an obituary by Edward Zarubi, published on the *Uralski Problemist* website and in some other sources. He was born in Saratov and lived in Krasnoyarsk where he chaired the local composition committee. By profession he was a technician. He was a good and pretty active OTB player of master candidate strength (rated by FIDE around 2300), twice champion of Krasnoyarsk Region and a long time member of the regional team. His games in two recent tournaments are recorded in the Mega base: 9 games in the Russian senior's championship

of 2004 in which he scored 5/9 and 11 games in Zheleznogorsk championship 2007 in which he scored 8.5/11 points. He was also the first in his region to be awarded the title of Master of Sports in Chess Composition and, more specifically, for composing endgame studies. Zemlyansky twice finished fourth in the studies section of the USSR individual composition championship. His total output is some 60 published studies in 50 years of activity and most of them were awarded prizes and other distinctions including 7 first prizes. 10 were cooked over the years and still await correction. In his last years he lost his eyesight due to a serious illness but, nevertheless, he still continued his composing efforts using his imagination. Here is a fine selection of his output:



A.1 Y. Zemlyansky
1st prize *Leninske Smena* 1964

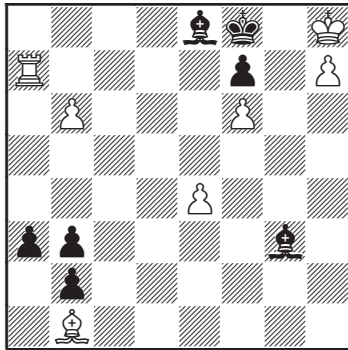


d1h7 3024.11 5/4 Draw

White is materially lost but he can still take advantage of the cramped enemy king. **1.Bg6+ Kh8 2.Sh6!** Threatening perpetual check **2... Qf4** Following **2...Qd8+** **3.Ke2** Black cannot stop the threat any longer. **3.Sf7+ Kg8 4.Sh6+!!** That still works! **4...Qxh6 5.Bc1!** The queen is pushed back to the corner. **5...Qh8 6.Bb2! Kf8 7.Ba3+ Kg8 8.Bb2 Qh6 9.Bc1 Qh8 10.Bb2**

Positional draw! The bishop pair dominates the royal pair (as well as their knight) along three different diagonals (EG#00284).

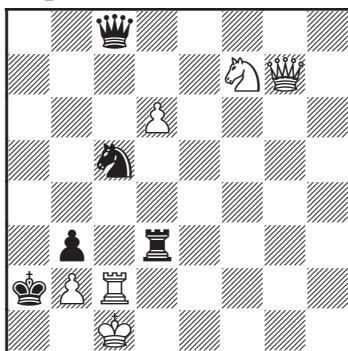
A.2 Y. Zemlyansky
1st/2nd prize VIII USSR team championship
1972



h8f8 0170.44 7/7 Win

White faces problems on both fronts but still seeks victory. **1.Ra5** Stops the mate threats and creates one of his own (1.Rg5) **1...Bh4 2.e5 a2 3.Rxa2!** Caution! After 3.b7? axb1Q 4.b8Q Bxf6+ 5.exf6 Qxh7+! 6.Kxh7 b1Q+ Black is first to mate. A double edged trap is 3.Bxa2? bxa2 and now just 4.Rxa2 Bg3! (4...b1Q? fails to 5.Rg2!) 5.Rxb2 Bxe5 6.Rf2 Bc6 draws. **3...bxa2 4.b7 a1B!!** A surprising stalemate defence! After 4...a1Q 5.b8Q Qa3 White can win in various ways e.g. 6.Qd8 Qc5 7.e6! fxe6 8.Bg6 mating. **5.b8B!!** White repeats the trick! Obviously 5.b8Q? Bxf6+ 6.exf6 is a pin stalemate. White wins, e.g. 5...Ba4 6.Bd6+. The next unavoidable promotion will not be to a bishop...

A.3 Y. Zemlyansky
4th prize Rudenko JT 1998



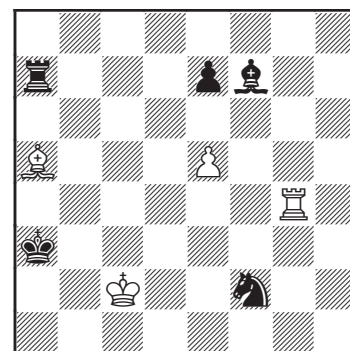
c1a1 4404.12 6/5 Draw

The following sharp and eventful battle was dedicated to a big jubilee for a Ukrainian giant.

White is a pawn up but his king seems in trouble so vigorous action is called for. **1.Se5!** Opening the seventh rank creates a deadly counter-threat. Any attempt to rescue the attacked rook would fail to a devastating invasion: 1.Rc3? Qf5; 1.Rc4? Qf5. **1...Rd1+!** The careless 1...bxc2?? is punished severely by 2.Qa7+ Sa6 3.Sxd3 and White is the winning side. **2.Kxd1 bxc2+ 3.Kxc2** Forced to enter the firing line. 3.Kc1? Sb3 mate. The wK is exposed to a discovered check which costs him his queen. Time to call it a day? **3...Se6+ 4.Qc7!!** Not quite! **4...Sxc7 5.d7! Qb8 6.d8Q! Qxd8** The bQ has been deflected, now allowing the hidden defensive resource: **7.Sd3! Sb5** Black is a queen ahead but is helpless against a perpetual check **8.Sc1+ Ka1 9.Sb3+ Ka2 10.Sc1+** draws (EG#14564).

HH observes that after 5...Qb8 the immediate 6.Sd3 also works. There is no need to deflect the queen first. However, when Black plays 5...Qa8 then the solution works as intended; 6.d8Q! Qxd8 7.Sd3, but not 6.Sd3? Qc6+ (Qa4+, Qg2+). Study saved! This was not a misprint in EG, as the award, reprinted in a Ukraine anthology also has 5...Qb8.

A.4 Y. Zemlyansky
hon. mention Mitrofanov MT 2002

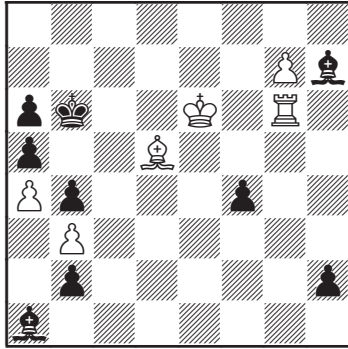


c1a2 0443.11 4/5 Draw

The introduction in the following example is largely forced. **1.Rg3+ Ka2! 2.Bb6 Rb7** (2...Se4 maintains the equality after: 3.Rg7! Bb3+ 4.Kd3 draws) **3.Bxf2 Rb2+ 4.Kc3 Rxf2 5.e6!** (Rg7? e6;) **5...Bxe6 6.Re3 Rf6** And now we have reached the subtle phase of the battle which requires high precision. **7.Re5!** Not 7.Re1? Ka3! 8.Re4 Rg6 9.Re1 Ka4 10.Re5 Rh6 and white is in zugzwang and unable to control both the fifth rank and the e-file any longer. **7...Rh6 8.Ra5+!**

Kb1 9.Re5 Rh3+ 10.Kd2! 10.Kd4? is met by 10... Rh4+ 11.Kc3 Rc4+ 12.Kd3 Rc6 and the bK is out of the cage. **10...Rh2+ 11.Kd3!** (11.Kc3? allows 11...Rc2+ 12.Kd4 Rc6 etc.) **11...Rh6 12.Kc3!** With a positional draw (EG#13491).

A.5 Y. Zemlyansky
special prize *Shakhmatnaya Nedelya* 2003



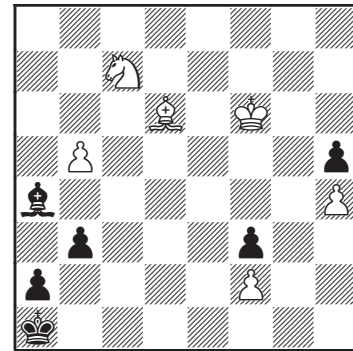
e6b6 0170.36 6/9 Draw

Next is an unusual and breath-taking race against promotion. It was awarded a special prize in a tourney organized by the highly gifted Moscow composer Andrey Visokosov for the chess weekly *Shakhmatnaya Nedelya* at the beginning of the millennium. An extraordinary epic struggle to the last pawn: **1.g8Q! Bxg8+ 2.Ke5+! Be6! 3.Rxe6+ Kc7 4.Rc6+** The bK is now taken to a long journey across the board. **4...Kd7 5.Rd6+ Ke7 6.Re6+ Kf8 7.Rf6+ Kg7 8.Rf7+ Kh8 9.Rf8+ Kh7 10.Rf7+ Kg6 11.Rf6+ Kg5 12.Rf5+ Kg4 13.Rxf4+ Kg3 14.Rf3+ Kg2 15.Rf4+!** Precision all the way. Checks should be given on the fourth rank. **15.Rd3+? Kf2! 16.Rd2+ Ke3. 15...Kg1 16.Rg4+ Kf2 17.Rf4+ Ke2 18.Re4+ Kd2 19.Rd4+ Kc2 20.Rc4+** The rook should carry on checking and not **20.Be4+? Kc1 21.Rc4+ Kd1 22.Rd4+ Ke2** with Black promoting next. **20...Kxb3** (20...Kb1 leads to a dead draw following 21.Rh4 Ka2 22.Rxh2 Ka3 23.Rxb2! etc.) **21.Rc1+! Kxa4 22.Rb1!** Or else the pawn is promoted with a discovered check. **22...b3!** The last phase of this epic starts now. **23.Ke4 Kb4** (23...Ka3 24.Bc4 Ka2 25.Bd3 a4 26.Rh1) **24.Bb7!** (24.Kf3? still loses to 24...a4! 25.Kg2 a3 26.Be4 a2 27.Rd1 b1Q 28.Bxb1 axb1Q 29.Rxb1 Be5 etc.) **24...a4 25.Bxa6 a3 26.Bd3 a2 27.Rh1!** (The only move in view of 27.Rd1? b1Q 28.Bxb1 Bd4! 29.Bxa2 Bg1!) **27...b1Q 28.Bxb1 Bc3 29.Bxa2 bxa2 30.Kf3! a1Q 31.Rxa1 Bxa1**

32.Kg2 Be5 33.Kh1 Right in time! Is all that possible on a single chessboard? (EG#13733).

HH: 23.Bb7 Kb4 24.Ke4 is a minor dual.

A.6 Y. Zemlyansky
1st prize Victory-80 AT 2006



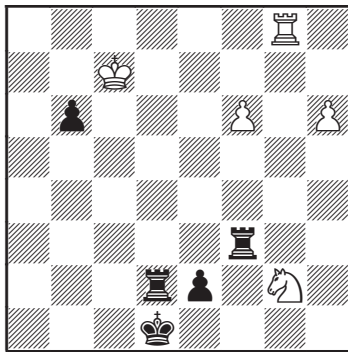
f6a1 0041.34 6/6 Draw

White loses the battle to secure promotion but not the game **1.b6!** To vacate a square for the knight. Not: 1.Sd5? b2 2.b6 Bc6 3.Sb4 Kb1! 4.Sxc6 a1Q 5.b7 Kc1 (5...Qa6 6.b8Q Qxc6 wins too.) 6.Be5 b1Q 7.Bxa1 Qxb7 and Black wins. **1... Bc6** After 1...Kb1 2.b7 a1Q+ 3.Be5 White comfortably promotes too. **2.Sb5! b2** Since 2...Kb1 3.Sc3+ Kc2 4.Sxa2 b2 5.Sc3! stops all hostilities. But now what? White finds a stunning defence: **3.Bf4!** (3.Be5? Kb1 4.Sa3+ Kc1) **3...Bb7!**



A waiting move. Postponing the promotion provokes a white error. **4.Kg7!** The only waiting move against the future new-born queen's actions. **4...Ba6 5.Kh8!!** The corner is the ideal shelter: **5.Bg5?** **b1Q 6.Bf6+ Qb2 7.Sc3 Qxb6 8.Sa4+ Qxf6+ 9.Kxf6 Bc8 10.Kg5 Bg4; 5.Kf6 b1Q 6.Be5+ Qb2 7.Sc3 Qxb6+!** **5...b1Q** (5...Bxb5 6.b7 Kb1 7.b8Q a1Q 8.Qxb5 Qa3 9.Be5 doesn't promise much either) **6.Be5+ Qb2 7.Sc3!** The queen is dominated! **7...Qb3 8.Se4+! Qb2** (Kb1; Sd2+) **9.Sc3! Qc2 10.Sb5+! Qb2** (Kb1; Sa3+) **11.Sc3!** A positional draw by repetition to celebrate the victory day.

A.7 Y. Zemlyansky
64 *Shakhmatnoye Obozrenye* 2007

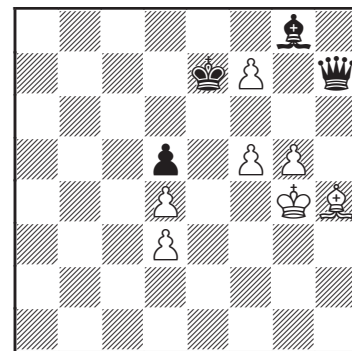


c7d1 o7o1.22 5/5 Win

The following study is light and fluent even if not highly original: **1.h7 Rc3+!** **2.Kb8!** (2.Kb7? Rd7+ 3.Kxb6 Rxh7 4.Rd8+ Kc1 is hopeless for

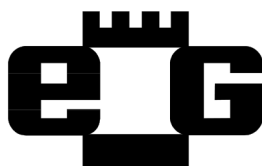
White) **2...Rh3 3.f7 e1Q 4.Sxe1 Rf2** Both promotions are under control but... **5.Sf3!** Deflecting the other rook to the third rank **5...Rxf3** which allows the good old **6.Rg3! Rfxg3** Or **6...Rhxg3 7.h8Q Rxf7** where the quickest fork is inflicted by **8.Qa1+ Kc2 9.Qa2+ 7.f8Q** wins, e.g. **Rxh7 8.Qf1+ Kd2 9.Qf2+.**

A.8 Y. Zemlyansky
Commendation *Shakhmatnaya Kompzitsia*
2013



g4e7 3o4o.51 7/4 Win

This is perhaps Yuri's last published study, a simple looking one and yet showing a pair of chameleon echo positions. **1.g6+ Kf8 2.Be7+! Kxe7 3.f6+! Kf8 4.fxg8Q+ Qxg8 5.Kf5!** (The royal couple is dominated with two echoing forks: **5...Qh8 6.g7+ Qxg7 7.fxg7+**, or **5...Ke8 6.f7+ Qxf7+ 7.gxf7+ Kxf7 8.Ke5** wins (EG#20091).



Tasks
and themes

Aloni's knights

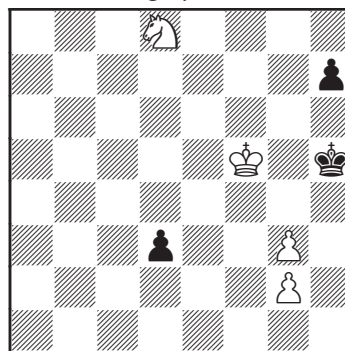
BY SIEGFRIED HORNECKER

While I had planned to write about queen sacrifices, showing the Informant 50 AT's first three prizes among others, at the last moment we received the message that a man has passed away who, like no other, stood for endgame studies in Israel and where we had already featured one of his studies in the previous issue: the great master Hillel Aloni has died at the age of 79.

While looking through Aloni's studies, interesting play with knights was a recurring theme. A selection of those studies will be shown here; naturally, some of them have already been shown in EG many years ago. In later years this preference for knight motifs also seems to have lessened.

S.1 H. Aloni

Al Hamishmar 1955
4th/7th commendation
Israel ring ty 1945-1962

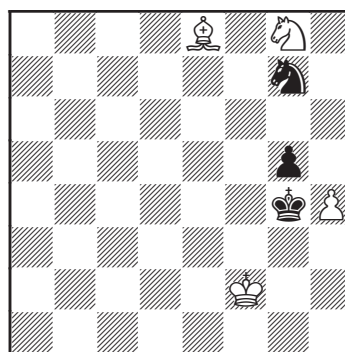


f5h5 0001.22 4/3 Draw

The young Aloni here set up a neat perpetual: 1.Se6 d2 2.Sg7+ Kh6 3.Kf6 d1Q 4.Sf5+ Kh5 5.g4+! Qxg4 6.Sg7+ with perpetual check on g7 and f5 (EG#07008).

S.2 H. Aloni

2nd hon. mention
Shahmati Sahs 1960



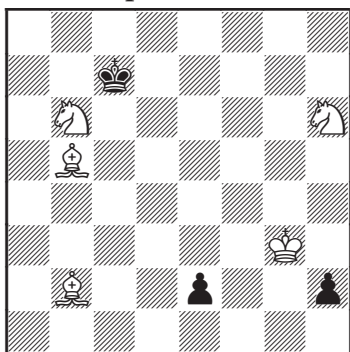
f2g4 0014.11 4/3 Win

A very basic combination ending in a Liburkin checkmate is improved by a second variation. Surprisingly I found no direct predecessor. After 1.h5 Black can take on e8 or h5: 1...Sxe8 2.h6 Sd6 3.h7 Sf7 4.Sh6+ wins, so it looks better to take the pawn, then however Aloni's knight



prepares the checkmate. **1...Sxh5 2.Sh6+ Kh4 3.Sf5+ Kg4 4.Se3+ Kh4 5.Sg2+ Kg4 6.Bd7** mate.

S.3 H. Aloni
2nd hon. mention Galitzky MT 1964
Version: N. Kopaev & N. Kralin 1982

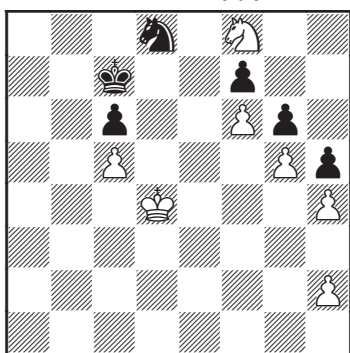


g3c7 0022.02 6/2 Win

For the original publication, please refer to the award of the 2nd Israel Retrospective Championship 1960-69, EG#16378 in issue 171. The version adds two moves and mirrors the study, but Aloni's masterful use of the knights remains the same if it is not even improved by the key.

1.Sd5+ Kb7 2.B:e2 h1Q 3.Sf7 Qe1+ 4.Kf3 Qd2 5.Bd4!! Q:d4 6.Sd8+ Kc8 7.Se7+ Kd7 8.Bb5+ and White wins the queen.

S.4 H. Aloni
Shahmat 1979



d4c7 0004.54 7/6 Win

This elaborate study looks much like it could come from an actual endgame, if we ignore the

doubled h-pawn. The direct approach fails: 1.Ke5? Sb7 2.Sxg6 fxc6 3.f7 Sxc5 with a draw. The solution is interesting.

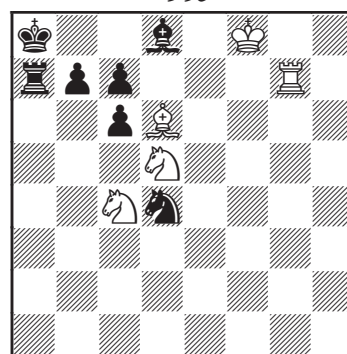
1.h3! Kc8/i 2.Ke5 Kc7 3.Sxg6! fxc6 4.f7! Sxf7+ 5.Kf6 Sd8! 6.Kxg6 Kg7 7.Kh7/ii Se6! 8.g6 Sf4 9.g7 Sd5! 10.Kg6! Se7+ 11.Kf7 Sf5 12.g8S! Sxh4 13.Sf6+ and 14.Sxh5 wins.

i) Black is in zugzwang and must weaken his position. His text move disables the defence Sb7, as the pawn would easily promote with check. Not better is 1...Sb7 2.Sxg6 fxc6 3.f7 Sd8 4.f8S winning.

ii) Taking on h5 loses too much time and allows several defences, for example 7.Kxh5? Ke7 8.Kh6 Kf8! 9.Kh7 Sf6!, or here 8.Kg6 Se6 9.h5 Sf4+ 10.Kh6 Kf7 with a draw.

Unfortunately, there are not many such deeply artistic studies with knights to be found, since usually they were used to construct a picture. The last three examples will demonstrate the evolution of Aloni's building those pictures. It will be left for the reader to evaluate the level of aesthetic pleasure he gains here, but the constructions themselves run like clockwork, and at least the final one has a great idea.

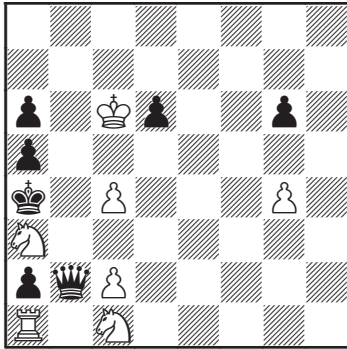
S.5 H. Aloni
Haboker 1953, version



f8a8 0445.03 5/7 Win

1.Rxc7 Se6+ 2.Ke7 Bxc7 3.Sc6+ Kb8 4.Bxc7+ Sxc7 5.Sd7+ Kc8 6.S5b6+ Kd8 7.Sc5 with a deadly zugzwang.

S.6 H. Aloni
3rd/4th prize
L'Italia Scacchistica 1962



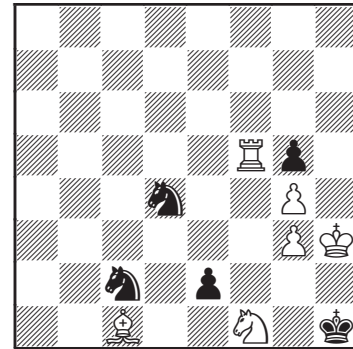
c6a4 3102.35 7/7 Draw

1.Sb1! Qxa1 2.Sxa2! Qg7 3.Sac3+ Kb4 4.Sd5+ Kxc4 5.Sd2+ Kd4 6.Sf3+ Ke4 7.Sd2+ (Sg5+) Ke5 8.Sf3+ Ke6 9.Sg5+ Ke5 10.Sf3+ with perpetual check.

HH: This seems to be unsound: 1.Rxa2 Qxc1 and now 2.Sb5+ Kb4 3.Sc7 a4 4.Sd5+ Ka5 5.Sb6 a3 6.c5 d5 7.Sxd5 Ka4 8.Kd6 Kb5 9.c6.

The final idea is astonishing and the study rightfully won 2nd prize in the Israel ring tourney 1988.

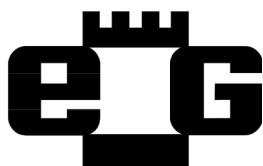
S.7 H. Aloni
Shahmat 1988



h3h1 0117.22 6/5

1.Se3! Sxe3 2.Rf2 Sf3! 3.Rxf3 Sf1 4.Bd2! Sxd2 5.Rf2! e1Q 6.Rg2! Sf3 7.Rh2+ Kg1 8.Rg2+ Kf1 9.Rf2+ Kg1 10.Rg2+ Kf1 11.Rf2+ Kxf2 stalemate.

Of course, Aloni also skilfully used other pieces, not only knights, but this would go beyond the scope of this article. Far more important for Israel, however, his studies proved his never-ending enthusiasm, his ability to draw other people into chess composition, and this is his true legacy that lives on...



Computer News

The Self Learning Mystery

BY EMIL VLASÁK

Windows 10 forever

Let us start with some useful information about the Windows operating system. Windows used to be a goldmine for Microsoft because users paid again and again for versions 95, NT, 98, 2000, Millennium, XP, Vista, 7, 8, 9 and 10 but such a practice is no longer acceptable today, because Android is free.

In 2015, Microsoft introduced a revolutionary novelty – **Windows will continue forever in version 10**. Yes, the user will pay for Windows only once but, technically, such a concept is not very good. Even today, when I am helping somebody with some problem, I have to ask first: What kind of Windows 10 do you have? It is not very easy for a user to answer this. They must type the strange-looking “winver” in the command prompt, read a mysterious number and decode it:

- 1507 original Windows 10 of August 2015
- 1511 “November” update of November 2015
- 1607 “Anniversary” update of August 2016
- 1703 “Creators” update of April 2017.

The updates are free, but their availability varies greatly by country, language, and hardware. It is possible to speed up the updating process but that is not without risk. In September 2016 I forced the Anniversary update prematurely and got an endless restart loop. Several weeks later Microsoft offered this update itself and it went without any problems.

The new “Creators” version brings a very interesting novelty – the so-called **Game Mode**. You can mark certain software as a game and Windows will prevent system tasks from stealing resources from it, something like the good old MS-DOS. Performance should increase. The idea was therefore clear – could Game Mode

speed up chess engines? This idea sparked off a whole series of tests and experiments.

Hardware, software

All the following tests were run on my computer i7 6700K, 16GB RAM. The HDD/SSD configuration and cores/threads using changes as needed. The GUI was ChessBase 14 Service Pack 5 or 6 running under Windows 10, of course with the Creators update :-).

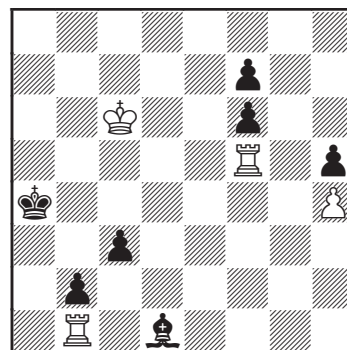
The Stockfish 8 64bit POPCNT engine was used for testing. It is both a world top engine and freeware. See Computer Column in EG207.

Studies

I tested several interesting studies from the very recent Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT. www.vlasak.biz/pv60.htm.

V.1 J. Timman
special prize

Polášek and Vlasák-60 JT 2017



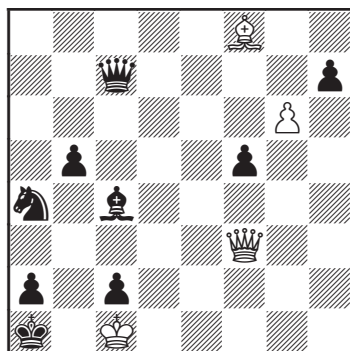
c6a4 o230.15 4/7 Draw

1.Rf2 Bc2! 2.Rxc2 Kb3 3.Rf2! c2 4.Rxb2+ Kxb2 White will be facing a doubtful pawn ending. For example 5.Kd5 Kb1 6.Rf1+ c1Q 7.Rxc1+ Kxc1 8.Ke4 Kd2 9.Kf5 Ke3 10.Kxf6 Kf4 11.Kxf7 Kg4 and White would need one extra

tempo to hold. **5.Kb7!!** A bomb, comparable with the famous Sarychev study. After 5... Kb1 White draws using a well-known perpetual check mechanism 6.Rxf6 c1Q 7.Rb6+ Ka2 8.Ra6+. This is not all and the game continues in the same spirit. **5...f5 6.Kb6! f4** (Kb1; Rxf5!) **7.Kb5! f3** (Kb1; Rxf4!) **8.Kc4!** Here the analogous move 8.Kb4? does not help because of 8...Kb1 9.Rxf3 c1Q 10.Rb3+ Ka2 and the queen guards a3. But White meanwhile has quietly gained a tempo because he will take the pawn on f3 or f1. **8...Kb1 9.Rf1+ c1Q+ 10.Rxc1+ Kxc1 11.Kd3 f2 11...Kd1 12.Ke3 Ke1 13.Kxf3 f6 14.Ke3 Kf1 15.Kf3 Kg1 16.Kg3 Kh1 17.Kh3. 12.Ke2 f1Q+ 13.Kxf1 Kd2 14.Kf2 Kd3 15.Kf3 Kd4 16.Kf4 f6 17.Kf5 Ke3 18.Kxf6 Kf4 19.Ke6! Kg4 20.Ke5 Kxh4 21.Kf4 draw.**

The Timman study is an excellent benchmark position. If the engine indicates the move 5.Kb7!!, you can “stop the stopwatch”.

V.2 G. Costeff
special prize
Polášek and Vlasák-60 JT 2017



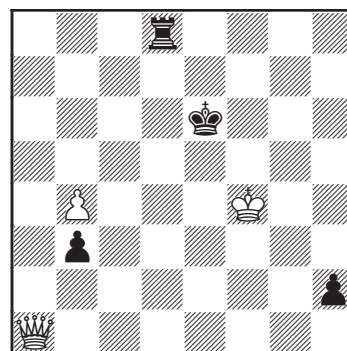
c1a1 4043.15 4/9 Win

If you solve this short study yourself without a computer, there is nothing to explain. **1.Qe3 Bg8!** (Bd5; gxh7) **2.Qd4+ Qc3 3.Qh8!!** with **3...Qxh8 4.g7** self-block or **3...b4 4.Bg7** Loyd-Turton. **4...hxg6 5.Bxc3+ Sxc3 6.Kxc2** wins, for example 6...Bd5 7.Qd4 Be4+ 8.Kb3 Bd5+ 9.Kxb4 Kb1 10.Qd3+ Kb2 11.Qxc3+ Kb1 12.Qd3+ Kb2 13.Qxd5 a1Q 14.Qd2+ Kb1 15.Kb3.

Also the Costeff study is well-suited for testing, the key moment is indication of 3.Qh8!!.

Bad is 1.Qa6+? Kd7! 2.Qd3+ Kc8 3.Qh3+ Rd7 4.Qxh2 Rd4+ 5.Ke5 Rxb4; White has to prepare the pawn capture by the king. **1.Qe1+! Kf7!**

V.3 P. Arestov
1st special hon. mention
Polášek and Vlasák-60 JT 2017



f4e6 3300.12 3/4 Win

2.Qf1! 2.Kg3? Rd2! 3.b5 b2 4.b6 Rd3+ 5.Kxh2 Rb3. 2...b2 3.Kg3+ Ke6 4.Kxh2 Rd2+ 5.Kh3!! After 5.Kg3 Kd5 6.b5 Kc5 there is mutual zugzwang: the f-file has to stay free for the queen. In addition, White has no time to play his king to the right and, finally, 7.Qf5+ Kc4 8.Qb1 Rd3+ is only a draw. **5...Kd5 6.b5 Kc5 7.Kg3** Now Black's move! **7...Kb6 8.Qf5 Ka5 9.b6+ Kxb6 10.Kf3 Rd4 11.Qf8!!** Preventing Rb4, Black has no defence. **11...Kb7** Or 11...Rd3+ 12.Ke4 Rb3 13.Qb8+. **12.Qf7+! Kc6 13.Qb3!** wins.

Activate an engine in ChessBase 14

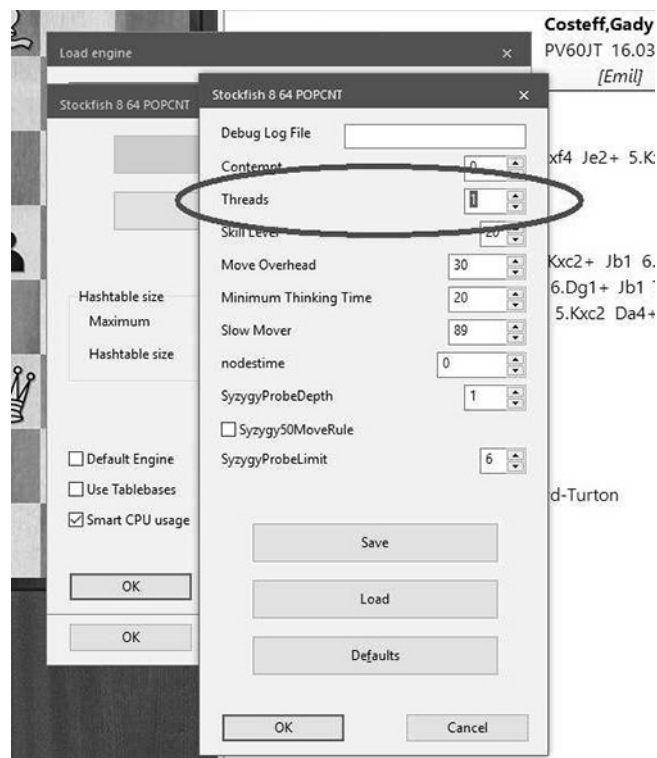
1. Start Ribbon Home – Engines – Add Kibitzer
2. Set one variation mode (magnifying glass minus on the engine pane or key the minus on the numerical keyboard).
3. Right-click the engine pane and select „Scroll main line“.

In this mode you do not need to watch the screen in a blitz second. After you have noticed the result is reached, you stop the engine (click on the Stop button in the engine pane), right-click on the engine pane and select „Clip analysis“ and paste the text in a Word processor.

Reproducibility of the tests

Let's start from the beginning and recall the issue of reproducibility of chess engine tests. In the good old 486-days, when computers had a

single core, all tests were perfectly reproducible. This can be demonstrated even today by setting the number of threads in chess engine properties to 1.



Setting Stockfish threads

If you clear the hash tables, or better still restart ChessBase before each test, the results are perfectly identical. This concerns evaluation, brute force depth/selective depth, times and calculated kiloNodes.

Here is a shortened listing of three runs:

V2 (Costeff), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run1: White is clearly better: +- (1.95) Depth: 25/46 00:00:01 2031kN

run2: White is clearly better: +- (1.95) Depth: 25/46 00:00:01 2031kN

run3: White is clearly better: +- (1.95) Depth: 25/46 00:00:01 2031kN

But with 4 cores – for several reasons that are difficult to explain – every run is different:

V2 (Costeff), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run 1: White is clearly better: +- (1.89) Depth: 25/48 00:00:01 5780kN

run 2: White is clearly better: +- (2.09) Depth: 25/58 00:00:01 4414kN

Therefore it is absolutely necessary to repeat each test several times and e.g. report the average values.

A Mystery

Let us switch the EGTB (Syzygy) on to get the best results and start serious testing. I have all 6-piece endings available on my hard drive.

V1 (Timman), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run 1: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 24/49 00:01:02 52577kN, tb=154359

run 2: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 26/52 00:00:26 85276kN, tb=279589

run 3: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 23/47 00:00:24 53159kN, tb=154493

run 4: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 22/44 00:00:10 36984kN, tb=104726

run 5: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 23/49 00:00:08 42438kN, tb=111949

“tb” indicates the number of EGTB accesses the software made.

Houston, we have a problem! Can you see that, too? The times are still decreasing, and when I continue testing, it will never get over 10 seconds.

It looks like a typical self-learning effect. But Stockfish has no documented self-learning feature. When it comes to commercial programs such as Houdini or Komodo, such a feature could be kept secret. But Stockfish is an open-source program which means that such a component would have already been discovered a long time ago. I looked at the Stockfish engine directory, but no extra files have been created there.

I contacted Jiri Dufek, a well-known authority in computer chess.

JD: Maybe permanent hash tables?

EV: Of course not, ChessBase is restarted between runs.

JD: Perhaps some information still remains in RAM memory?

EV: That is almost impossible. A strange case!

I examined Costeff's study and got the following results:

V2 (Costeff), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run 1: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 26/24 00:00:53 3404kN, tb=32841

run 2: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 27/21 00:00:41 6235kN, tb=47329

run 3: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 27/25 00:00:19 4285kN, tb=34758

run 4: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 25/32 00:00:09 2523kN, tb=18932

run 5: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 25/36 00:00:06 3157kN, tb=19705

Self-learning again! It looks like he's scared here. Dear reader, are you able to solve this mystery?

That's it!

Such a problem needs to be solved quickly.

First, I discovered that restarting Windows results in longer first runs. So, in popular terms, it is not the chess engines that are self-learning, it is the Windows system.

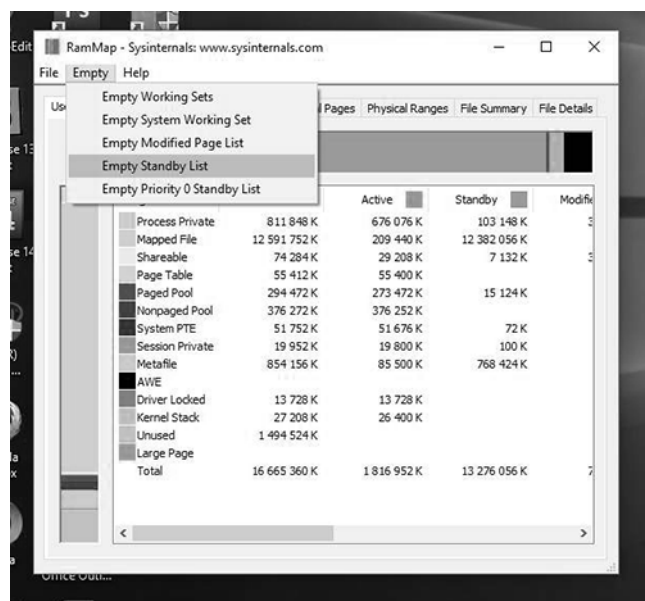
Second, I have finally registered an important thing: the calculation times are dropping, but the Depths and kiloNodes remain approximately the same. So the engine does not improve, but is slowed-down by something during the first runs.

And we have it: EGTB! Yes, we know that EGTB hits slowdown the engine and in repeated runs Windows is able to speedup EGTB disc access using RAM caches. But the dimension of this phenomenon greatly surprised me!

RamMap

By the way, restarting the whole of Windows between tests is a cumbersome and time-consuming action. A much better way, which is relatively unknown even among professionals, is to use RamMap. This utility was written by Mark Russinovich (Sysinternals) and is downloadable free of charge.

After Empty>>Empty Standby List (picture) all Windows file caches are cleared.



Clear Windows disc cache using RamMap utility

Let us try several runs with RamMap action between:

V1 (Timman), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run1: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 23/50 00:00:50 40871kN, tb=108203

run2: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 25/48 00:01:23 88167kN, tb=259625

run3: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 25/56 00:01:37 91470kN, tb=310820

V2 (Costeff), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run 1: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 26/24 00:00:53 3404kN, tb=32841

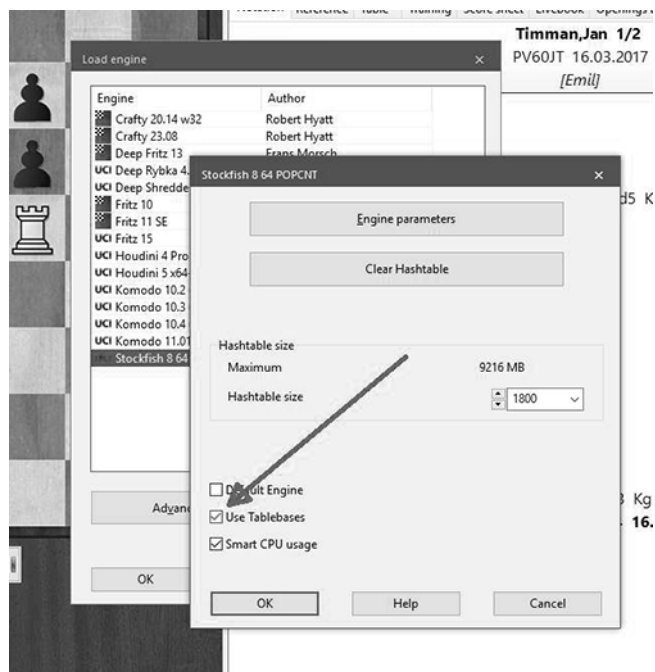
run 2: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 25/28 00:00:50 3327kN, tb=19854

run 3: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.17 ++)
Depth: 26/20 00:00:57 3770kN, tb=32637

The good message for future testing is that RamMap works well.

Use Syzygy?

Let us switch the EGTBs off. It is best to clear paths in the ChessBase Options because the checkbox “Use Tablebases” in Advanced Engine Properties does not work correctly, at least not with Syzygy and Stockfish.



This does not work

Without EGTB we have:

V1 (Timman), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run1: The position is equal: = (-0.08) Depth: 31/72 00:00:28 292MN

run2: The position is equal: = (-0.08) Depth: 29/65 00:00:32 342MN

run3: The position is equal: = (-0.22) Depth: 31/73 00:00:29 310MN

In the Timman study the average time with Syzygy is 76 seconds and without Syzygy is 30 seconds. So Syzygy slows down finding the solution about 2.5 times.

V2 (Costeff), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.11) Depth: 26/50 00:00:01 5782kN

White has a decisive advantage: +- (2.60) Depth: 26/52 00:00:01 7876kN

White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.16) Depth: 27/74 00:00:01 8404kN

The Costeff study is a more dramatic example. The average time with Syzygy is 53 seconds and the average time without Syzygy is 1 second! The solution time reduces by a factor of fifty! However, in practise you cannot switch EGTB off. I think that that is clear, but let's show the Arestov study as a drastic example. Although the position has 7 pieces, when using EGTB the solution is found almost immediately.

V3 (Arestov), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

1.Qe1+ Kf7 2.Qf1...

White is clearly winning: +- (128.37) Depth: 12/26 00:00:00 260kN, tb=3622

Without the EGTB, a wrong solution is found despite a long processing time and a super depth of over 100 half moves.

V3 (Arestov), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

1.Qa6+ Kd7 2.Qd3+ Kc7 3.Qh7+ Kc6 4.Qxh2 Rd4+ 5.Ke3 Rxb4...

White is clearly winning: +- (5.47) Depth: 64/102 00:34:22 32964MN

SSD is a must!

What to do then? Fortunately today computer technology offers a perfect solution called Solid State Drive – SSD. For Syzygy you need to invest about 100 EUR for a 240 Gigabytes SSD.

The result of this purchase is more than pleasing.

V2 (Costeff), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run1: White is clearly winning: +- (128.36) Depth: 25/44 00:00:01 7315kN, tb=52188

run2: White is clearly winning: +- (128.37) Depth: 27/46 00:00:01 8811kN, tb=73030

run3: White is clearly winning: +- (128.37) Depth: 26/36 00:00:01 7826kN, tb=70270

EGTB cannot help the software in the Costeff study because it is rather more a middle-game position but the calculation will hardly be slowed down by the EGTB access.

V1 (Timman), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run1: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 26/53 00:00:08 73775kN, tb=230553

run2: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 24/51 00:00:05 48450kN, tb=129287

run3: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 24/44 00:00:06 62525kN, tb=178904

Timman's study is a pure endgame. Although Stockfish is able to solve it independently, EGTB considerably speeds up the calculation and the combination of SSD plus EGTB gives you by far the fastest solving times.

Back to Windows

Finally, we can return to Windows and the Game Mode. I start ChessBase and press the key combination Win+G. Voilà, a brand new Game Mode panel appears.



Game Mode Panel

A mouse click on the Setting icon and the Setting panel appears. I check the box "This is a game" and restart everything. Just to make sure, I repeat the whole procedure and check if the settings hold. OK, Windows remembers that ChessBase is a game.

And after this, with Syzygy on SSD, I get the following surprising lines:

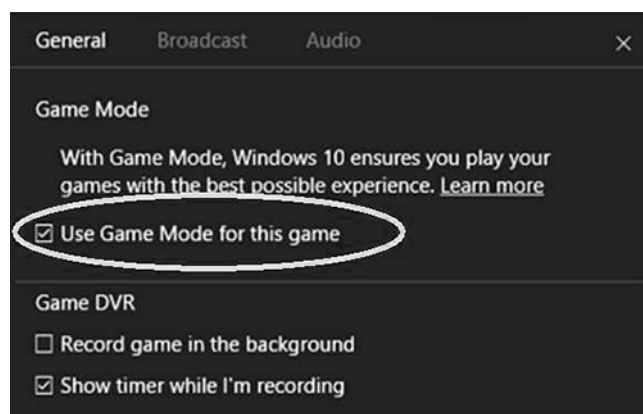
V1 (Timman), analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

run1: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 24/47 00:00:11 59326kN, tb=191704

run2: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 24/51 00:00:15 81996kN, tb=254593

run3: The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 23/51 00:00:12 62815kN, tb=181633

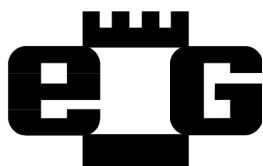
For the Timman study we have an average time in normal mode of about 9 seconds and for Game Mode about 13 seconds.



Setting ChessBase as a game.

Of course, I was shocked at first that the Game mode significantly slows down the analysis but, on second thoughts, I realized that I had made a serious logical mistake. The UCI engine is a standalone application in the first place. Hence, the resources are taken to engines in favour of ChessBase and we need the opposite effect so I cleared the ChessBase Game Mode status. Then I ran the Stockfish engine as a standalone application from the command prompt. Next I called up the Game Mode panel using Win+G. and then set up Stockfish as a game. I then checked if Windows remembered these settings and, finally, I re-ran the test for Timman's study.

Unfortunately, the whole process ended in disappointment. It probably does work, but the acceleration of the analysis is not measurable.



History

Erich Zepler (27i1898- 13v1980)

BY ALAIN PALLIER

In my previous article, I briefly mentioned Erich Zepler who had taken part in the 1936 Olympic tourney with two problems that got high rewards in the provisional awards. Zepler was a fantastic problemist but he also composed some fine studies.

Zepler was an outstanding composer, a prominent member of the new German school, specializing in three-movers and more-movers and it was no surprise to find his problems among the prize-winners of the 1936 Olympic tourney. However, in the more-movers section, he had the misfortune to have his problem fully anticipated by the Swiss-based Frenchman André Chéron (1895-1980), who informed the judges (E. Birgfeld and A. Kraemer) of his discovery during the confirmation period, resulting in disqualification of Zepler's problem.

Chéron, I believe, took great delight in pointing out the anticipation. First, it was one of his own works, published some months earlier in a French weekly newspaper; secondly, in the 1936 context, Chéron, who was known for his strong assertions, wanted to demonstrate French superiority over other countries in the field of *miniatures stratégiques* (he had just published a collection entitled *Miniatures stratégiques françaises*). In his column of *le Journal de Genève* (13xii1936), Chéron wrote: 'The national consciousness must wake up in this field as in other fields. French strategic miniatures claim to demonstrate French supremacy'. Nothing less!

It was not the first time that André Chéron lay in Zepler's path but, before showing their first 'encounter', some words about Erich Zepler.

Erich Ernest Zepler was born in Herford, a small town in Westphalia, in January 1898. His

father, Martin, was a doctor. When Erich was a child, the family moved to Evingsen, a Westphalian village (now it is a part of Altena).

At 14, he composed his first problems, published some time later in the *Deutsches Wochensach* (and not in the *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, where Johann Berger, the defender of the old German school, ruled) and quickly won his first prizes. He was a brilliant student, starting at the University of Bonn in 1916 and graduating from Berlin University. He began research work in the Würzburg Institute of Physics. In 1923, he decided to found a small factory (*Audion Krafft*) with three other young physicists and engineers, in order to manufacture radio receivers. They settled in the Black Forest, in a former monastery. However, the venture was not a success, at least from an economic point of view, and Zepler applied for a post in a large company. In 1925, he was recruited by Wilhelm Runge, a chief-engineer in Telefunken, and settled in Berlin.

Together with another engineer, he developed the T9W receiver, the first "all mains" broadcast receiver marketed by Telefunken, a major step forward in this field. In 1932, he was promoted to become the Head of Design for receivers and direction finders. He had to deal with military affairs (Telefunken was a major player in both the radio and electronics fields, both in the civil and military sectors). At that time the Nazis came to power and, as we know, Zepler was Jewish. Despite his parents' conversion to Christianity in 1902 (the young boy was baptised at the same time), Zepler had to leave Germany. It was without doubt a great loss for the company since Zepler, when he left, had no less than 59 patents among which 37 were individual patents.

In December 1935, he fled his country, quickly followed by his wife and their children. They settled in Great Britain. Zepler had obtained assurances that another large company, the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, would recruit him. He became responsible for the design of the Marconi CR100 'superhet receiver', which would become the standard MF/HF receiver on Royal Navy ships during WWII. Other Marconi superhet transmitter-receivers 1154 and 1155, which were widely used in Royal Air Force aircrafts during the war, were also based on Eric Zepler's designs.

In fact, equipment designed by him was used by both the Royal Air Force and the Luftwaffe since, before leaving Germany, he had been involved with designing radio gear that was used, years later, by the German forces in WWII.

In 1940, as a German citizen, he had to be interned in the Isle of Man for several months with his wife, Eleonore and their children, Carole and Matthew; they became British subjects in 1947 and Erich became Eric. In 1941, Zepler joined the Department of Physics at Southampton University. He wrote a book, the *Technique of Radio Design*, that was published in 1943, the first book of its kind. Then, Zepler gave lectures at Cambridge University. Many of his students were RAF officers and he taught them the 'radio part' of a degree course in 'physics with radio'.

He returned to Southampton in 1947 where he founded the department of Electronics. In 1949 the Chair of Electronics (the first one in Great Britain) was created for him. He finished his career as the President of the British Institution of Radio Engineers (1959-1960). He retired in 1963, but did not cease his professional activity: innovative as ever, he even began a second career in Southampton University's Institute of Sound and Vibration Research which was founded the same year.

In September 2013 Southampton University founded the Zepler Institute, the UK's largest photonics and electronics institute, a multi-disciplinary research centre that combines expertise in photonics (where light meets

electronics), advanced materials, quantum technologies and nanoscience.

As a chess composer, he won dozens of prizes in major tourneys. He was mainly a problemist. In the past, Germany has produced many problem composers, more rarely study composers. The explanation seems quite simple: in the wake of the pioneers of the new German school (the duo Kohtz and Kockelkorn and Holzhausen), in the 1920s most of the young German composers found in three-movers and more-movers the ideal playground in which to exercise their talents. Among the composers who belong to the 'second generation' of the German (logical) school, let us cite Friedrich Palitzsch, Frantz Palatz, Erich Zepler, Ado Kraemer; and more recently, the 'third generation', Herbert Grasemann, Hans-Peter Rehm, Alois Johandl (from Austria) and Manfred Zucker has perpetuated the spirit of this school.

Zepler won the title of International Master of Chess Composition in 1973. He rarely made incursions in the field of endgames studies (around 20 works) but when he did, he was successful. His greatest success was his first prize in the 1928 *Morgenzeitung* tourney. The *Ostrauer Morgenzeitung* tourney was one of the numerous formal tourneys organized in Czechoslovakia during the 1923-1928 years (*Časopis československých šachistů*, 1923, *České slovo* 1924, 28 *Ríjen* 1926, *Slovenský národ* 1926, *ÚJČŠ* 1926, *Moravsko-Slezsky Deník* 1927). The *Ostrauer Morgenzeitung* was a newspaper for the German-speaking minority in the region of Mährisch-Ostrau (in German), the capital of Moravian-Silesian Region (or, more precisely, of Czech Silesia). The announcement was published in early 1928 and provided 3 money prizes for three prize-winners (300, 200 and 100 Kč – Czech crowns). Grandmaster Richard Réti acted as the judge.

The provisional award, with diagrams and the names of the authors, but without solutions, appeared in the newspaper (19viii1928). I have not been able to trace it but this precise date is given in the Lamare collection for all the rewarded studies in provisional award.

It was also reproduced in the August issue of *Československý šach*. A tourney for solvers followed and solutions were given later. In September (issue 17/18), the *Wiener Schachzeitung* also published the provisional award, but with extensive excerpts of Réti's text.

Here is the ranking (provisional award):

1st Prize: E. Zepler (motto: *Zweimal*)

2nd Prize: L. Kubbel (*Olga*)

3rd-4th Prize: J. Gunst (*Boréas*) and A. Chéron (*Les Blancs*)

HM: H. Cohn (*Übermensch*), E. Richter (*Alfa II*), R. Bania (*Nibelungen I*) and F. Lazard (*Bobino*).

The full story of Zepler's study can be found in EG169 (July 2007) or, for German-speakers, in *Die Schwalbe* in August 2007: Wieland Bruch explained how he had saved Zepler's study. I just sum up: after the end of the confirmation period two busts were found (in *L'Echiquier* February 1929 we read that the judge received information about 1st prize's unsoundness too late and could not take it into account). Zepler, when he was informed, found an economical correction (the bK moved from b8 to a8) and believed that that was enough to make his study correct.

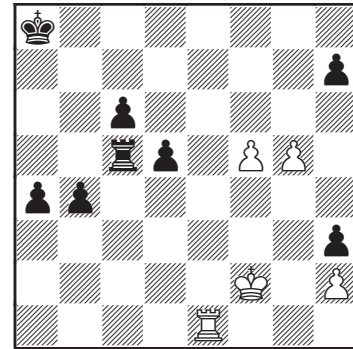
In *Shakhmatny Listok* 1929 no. 4 (dated 25ii1929) two refutations were mentioned (in the 1...gxf6 line, 3...Rh5!, and 1...d4!) found by 'German and Swiss chessplayers'. In *Československý šach* (April 1929) only 3...Rh5 was mentioned: it was attributed to the trio Chéron, Renaud and Karacsonyi. Georges Renaud, a French player and problemist, had already pointed out (but this time during the confirmation period) that Kubbel's second prize was anticipated by a Troitzky study. In *Die Schwalbe*, the unsoundness (again 3...Rh5) was mentioned but only the names of Chéron and Renaud were given, 'among others'.

Two other studies (by Richter and Bania) were removed from the final award, both being replaced by reserve studies (by P. Kemp and L. Prokes) but Zepler retained his first prize.

The *Wiener Schachzeitung* (March 1929) gave the final award with Zepler's correction.

P.1 E. Zepler

1st prize *Morgenzeitung* 1928 (correction)



f2a8 o400.26 5/8 Draw

1.g6!

A) 1...hxg6 2.f6 d4 3.Rh1 Rf5+ 4.Kg1 Rxf6 stalemate (Kling combination).

B) 1... d4 2.Re5!! (Wieland Bruch's move) 2... Rxe5 2...Rc2+ 3.Ke1 hxg6 4.f6 d3 5.f7 d2+ 6.Kd1 Rc1+ 7.Kxd2 Rf1 8.Re8+ 3.g7 Rxf5+ 4.Kg1 Rg5+ 5.Kh1 Rxc7 stalemate. There is no win for Black after 5...Kb7 6.g8Q Rc5 7.Kg1!

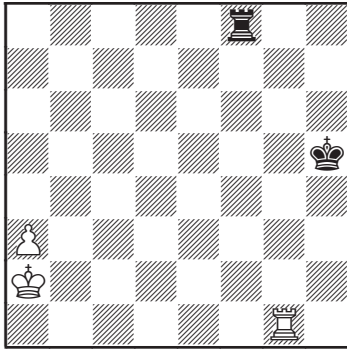
In Zepler's original setting, in A) Black wins after 3... Rh5 4. f7 Rh8 5. Re1 Kc7 6. Re8 Rh5 7.f8Q Rf5+. Moving bK to a8 instead of b8 saves the day: in the crucial line 3...Rh5, Black plays 5...Rb7 (and not 5...Kc7) 6.Re8 Rh5 and now White has 7.Rb8+! Kc7 8.f8Q Rf5+ 9.Qxf5 gxf5 10.Rxb4. But Zepler's analysis after 1... d4 (2.g7?) was wrong as shown by... Chéron (years later) and by T. Krabbé. Only the 'computer move' 2.Re5!!, found in 2007 by W. Bruch, saves the day.

However, Chéron was also one of the participants in the tourney. A rarity: Chéron, apparently, was not interested in tourneys and only a few of his many works (studies and problems) competed in composing tourneys. Did he choose this one because he thought that someone like Richard Réti could be sensitive to a theoretical study?

Curiously, Chéron's work was not original: he had published more or less the same position, with one half-move less, some months earlier in the *Chess Amateur* (February 1928).

Probably, he disliked the fact that the wK was in check in the initial position and he decided to begin with a black rook's move (1...Rf2+).

P.2 A. Chéron
2nd-3rd prize *Morgenzeitung* 1928



a2h5 0400.10 3/2

Black to play, White wins (1928) ;
Black to play, Black draws (1944)

Here is the solution (main line only), first as intended:

1...Rf2+ 2.Kb3 Rf3+ 3.Kb4 Rf4+ 4.Kb5 Rf5+ 5.Kc6 Rf6+ 6.Kd5 Rf5+ 7.Ke6 Ra5 8.Ra1 Ra4 9.Kd5 Kg6 10.Kc5 Kf6 11.Kb5 Ra8 12.a4 Ke7 13.a5 Kd7 14.a6 Kc7 15.Rc1+ Kd7 and White wins (Chéron's solution was 16.Rh1 Rb8+ 17.Ka5 Rb2 18.a7 Ra2+ 19.Kb6 Rb2+ 20.Kc5 Rc2+ 21.Kb4 Rc8 22.Ra1 etc, but other moves win)

In 1944, Chéron worked extensively on the R+P vs R material and discovered the drawing move **11...Re4!!** After 12.a4 Re5+ 13.Kc4 Re4+ 14.Kd5 Re5+ 15.Kc6 Re6+ 16.Kd7 Re7+ White cannot make any progress (*Le Journal de Genève*, 31x1944).

However, Chéron did not see that 7...Rf4 also draws and, more importantly, that 8...Kg5 was a real black dual, with a nice king march: 9.a4 (9.Kd6 Ra4) 9...Kf4! 10.Kd6 Ke3! 11.Kc6 Kd2! 12.Kb6 Rh5! 13.a5 Rh6+ 14.Kb5 Rh5+ 15.Kb4 Rh4+ 16.Kb3 (with the bK on d3 instead of d2, 16.Kb3 wins) 16...Rh3+ 17.Kb2 and draws.

Some years earlier, Zepler had composed another fascinating rook ending and he sent it to the *Schweizerische Schachzeitung* 1923-1924 tourney which turned out to be a very interesting tourney with a famous 1st prize by Villeneuve-Esclapon. Its announcement, in the

January 1923 issue of the Swiss chess magazine, specified that the tourney was for artistic studies only (theoretical studies or studies with heavy positions looking like positions of actual games were unwelcome). The closure date was 30ix1923 and each composer could enter a maximum of four studies (7 composers did so); the judging panel was composed of solvers (who were invited to take part in the solving tourney: diagrams of the entries were published between March 1923 and February 1924 and the solutions between February and April 1924) and the editorial board (according to the front page of SSZ, in the beginning of 1923 comprised only two, E. Voellmy and A. Lalive, who were joined later by K. de Watteville for the problem section). 14 composers took part in the tourney, with a total of 44 studies.

In the award, the names of several names solvers appeared: Koloman Levay (Budapest, who won the contest and 40 Swiss francs), Th. Frey (a strong player who took part in several Swiss championships won 2nd Prize – 25 Swiss francs) and Dr H. Grossen (3rd Prize, 10 Swiss francs). Three names of other solvers followed.

For each awarded study, the average of the scores was indicated in parentheses:

1st Prize J. de Villeneuve-Esclapon (8,8 pts) - 20 Swiss francs;

2nd Prize H. Mattison (8,2 pts) - 15 Swiss francs;

3rd Prize E. Zepler (8,1pts) - 10 Swiss francs;

4th Prize H. Rinck (7,9 pts) - 5 Swiss Francs.

1st HM J. Berger (7,8 pts);

2nd HM H. Rinck (7,3 pts);

3rd HM H. Fahrni (7,2 pts);

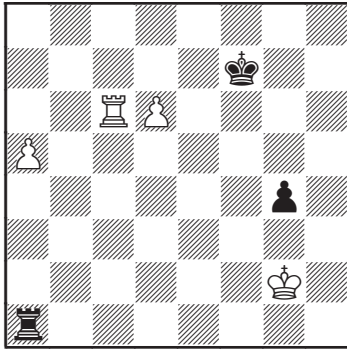
4th HM J. de Villeneuve-Esclapon (6,8 pts).

Four other studies followed (by Lazard, Rinck, Troizky and Simkhovich) but it was not specified whether they were commended (the announcement had only provided 4 prizes and 4 honourable mentions). In the end, four composers (in the order: Rinck, Berger, Lazard, Villeneuve-Esclapon) received a *Sendungspreis* for a full set of 4 studies (respectively 40, 30, 20 and 10 Swiss francs).

Zepler's entry was a deep and impressive study:

P.3 E. Zepler
3rd prize

Schweizerische Schachzeitung 1923-1924

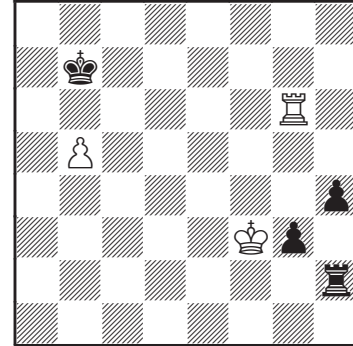


g2f7 0400.21 4/3 Win

1.d7 1.a6? Ke6 2.Kg3 Rb1 3.Kxg4 Kd7 draw.
1... **Ke7** 1...Rd1 2.Rc7 Ke7 3.a6 Ra1 4.a7 Ra3
5.Rc8 and White wins. 2.**Rd6 Kd8** 3.a6 3.Rd5?
Ra3 4.Kf2 Rf3+ 5.Ke2 Rf6 draw. 3...**Ra3!** With
Black to move, this position is won for White.
3...Ra2+ 4.Kg3 Ra4 5.Kh4 Rb4 6.a7 Ra4 7.Rh6
Rxa7 8.Rh8+ Kxd7 9.Rh7+ and White wins.
4.**Kf2!** Not 4.Kf1? Ra2 5.Kg1 g3 6.Kf1 Rf2+ 7.Ke1
Ra2 8.Kf1 Rf2+ and Black draws; 4.Kg1?! Rg3+
is a loss of time as is 4.Kh2?! Rh3+ 5. Kg1 Rg3+.
4...**Rf3+ 5.Ke2!** 5.Ke1? g3 6.a7 Ra3 7.Rg6 Kxd7
8.Rg8 Ra1+! 9.Ke2 g2 10.Kf2 and, e.g. 10...Kc7
11.a8Q g1Q+, or 6.Ke2 Rf2+ 7.Ke3 Ra2 8.Kg3 g2
draw) 5... **Ra3 6.Ke1!** the wK triangulates. 6...
Re3+ 6...g3 7.Kf1 Ra2 8.Kg1!; 6...Ra2 7.Kf1; 6...
Ra1+ 7.Kf2 Ra3 8.Kg2 and White wins. 7.**Kd2**
7.Kf2 Rf3+ is a loss of time. 7...**Ra3 8.Ke2 Ra2+**
8...g3 9.Kf1 Ra2 10.Kg1 and White wins. 9.**Kf1**
9.Ke3? g3 and Black draws. 9... **Ra1+** 10. **Kf2**
10.Kg2?! Ra3 is a loss time: 11.Kf2 Rf3+ 12.Ke2
etc.. 10...**Ra3 11.Kg2!** Mission accomplished.
11...Ra2+ 12.Kg3 Ra4 13.Kh4 Rc4 14.a7 Ra4
15.Rh6 Kxd7 16.Rh8 Rxa7 17.Rh7+ Kc6
18.Rxa7 and White wins.

Chéron did not find any cook or bust but he wrote, in his *Lehr- und Handbuch*, that Zepler had probably been inspired by the following actual game:

P.4 G. Thomas – A. Alekhine
Hastings 1922



WTM, Black wins; BTM, White draws.

Chéron observed that, with Black to move, it is a draw. The attempt to restore the diagram's position with WTM fails with correct defensive play:

1...Kc7 2.Rc6+ Kd8!? 3.Rc1! but not 3.Rg6? Kd7! and Black wins, e.g. 4.Rg2+ Kc8! 5.b6 Kb8! 6.Rg8+ Kb7 7.Rg6 Ka6! and White is in zugzwang and cannot keep the position. In the actual game, it was WTM and Thomas quickly lost the endgame.

It happened that, among the unsuccessful participants, a certain Ado Kraemer entered 3 studies. As we have seen, Kraemer was one of the judges of the Olympic Tourney. He was also Zepler's chess friend despite his very different profile: he was born in March 1898, in Büdingen (Hesse) and, after WWI (he was a volunteer), he completed his studies in jurisprudence and agriculture. He became an expert in horses and, in 1932, took over the management of the Reich Federation of German Graduate Farmers. He was a loyal supporter of the Nazi regime, a member of the NSDAP (the Nazi party), an SS-Obersturmführer in 1937 and SS-Hauptsturmführer in 1938. During WWII, he took part in the Western campaign and was wounded several times. He was a Councillor in the Government of Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) and later acted as a senior civil servant in Posen (Poznan, Poland). As an *Oberlandwirtschaftsschulrat*, he had agricultural colleges and horticultural institutes within his authority.

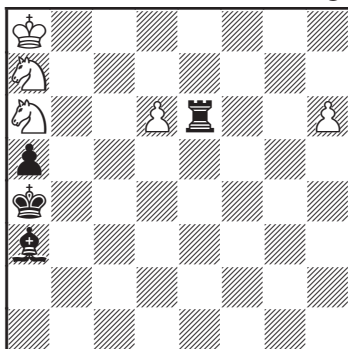
After the defeat, Kraemer was not hanged like his friend Hans Frank (the Governor-General of Poland during WWII) but he ended

up in several internment camps (apparently no less than 11, the last one in Regensburg) from which he was released in 1948, thanks to... Erich Zepler's aid. Until his retirement in 1964, he worked as a renowned expert in viticulture in Franconia. He wrote several books about wine and was honoured with several awards and honours in this field. He died in Berlin in 1972.

With Zepler, he formed a famous duo: their collaboration began in the early 1930s and allowed them to produce some masterpieces before 1935 and... after 1950, once they had again teamed up. They wrote two books: *Im Banne des Schachproblems - Ausgewählte Schachkompositionen* (Under the Spell of Chess Problems – Selected Chess Compositions), a collection of their problems first published in 1951 (de Gruyter & Co, Berlin) and reissued twice, in 1971 and 1982. A second book, *Problemkunst im 20 Jahrhundert (The art of the chess problem in the 20th century)* was published in 1957 (same publisher).

How could E. Zepler renew his ties with a man who had such a past? Strength of friendship cannot be explained... In his *Open chess diary* (20 i 2001), Tim Krabbé wrote: 'If it is true that chess unites all men, the story of Eric(h) Zepler and Ado Kraemer is an extraordinary example.'

P.5 A. Kraemer
Schweizerische Schachzeitung 1923



a8a4 o332.21 5/4 Win

Ado Kraemer composed around 35 studies. Here is one of his entries in the *Schweizerische Schachzeitung* tourney, a typical problemist's study.

1.d7 Rd6 1...Rf6 2.d8Q Rf8 3.Rf8 4.Qxf8 Bxf8 5.h7 and White wins. **2.h7 Bb2 3.Sc5+ Kb4 4.Sd3+! Rxd3 5.Sc6+ Kc4 6.Sd4!!** and White wins after:

— **Rxd4 7.h8Q** wins, e.g. Rxd7 8.Qc8+.

— **Bxd4 7.d8Q Bc3 8.h8Q Bxh8 9.Qxh8** wins

References

About Erich Zepler, a lot of biographic information can be found here:

www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/about/zepler (website of the Southampton University) and here:

www.isvr.50.soton.ac.uk (with many pictures).

About A.Kraemer:

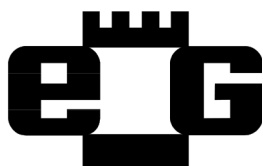
Ralf Binnewirtz: *Eine biographische Skizze mit zahlreichen Zugaben*, no. 45 in Kuhn/Murkisch series, 2012.

See also its presentation: www.binnewirtz.com/Ado_Kraemer.htm

And AJR's review in *EG*192, April 2013, p. 126-127.

And about the Zepler-Kraemer duo:

Erik Zierke: *Ausgewählte Schachaufgaben von Ado Kraemer und Erich Zepler* 2015 (2nd version: 01xii2016). It is downloadable from Ralf Krätschmer's website: www.berlinthema.de/AKEZ.pdf



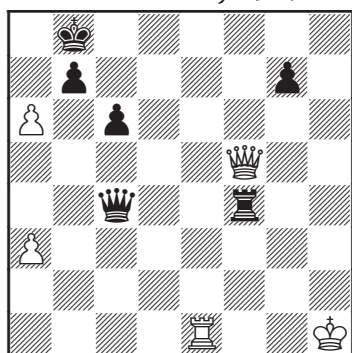
Quality Control

Correction and reconstruction of old endgame studies

BY JAROSLAV POLÁŠEK

We start today with an ancient study from Jan Kotrč (1862-1943). This strong OTB player, among others, wrote the first chess columns in the Czech daily press and as a composer he promoted the Bohemian School. He composed only a few studies and I like the following “play snapshot” with an impressive queen sacrifice:

P.1 Jan Kotrč
Národní Listy 1907

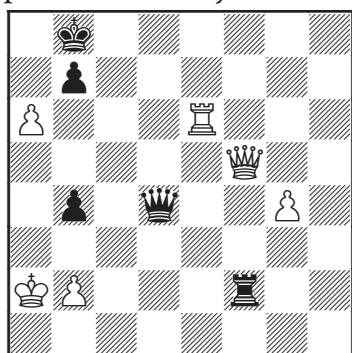


h1b8 4400.23 5/6 Win

1.Re8+ Ka7 (1...Kc7 2.Qa5+ Kd6 3.Qe5+ Kd7 4.Qe7 mate) **2.Ra8+ Kb6!** (2...Kxa8 3.Qc8+ Ka7 4.Qxb7 mate) **3.Qa5+! Kxa5 4.axb7+ Kb6 5.b8Q+ Kc5 6.Ra5+ Kd4 7.Qxf4+ wins.**

This is quite good for the beginning of the 20th century. K. Kuvatov added a spectacular conclusion more than 30 years later:

P.2 K. Kuvatov
3rd prize *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1940



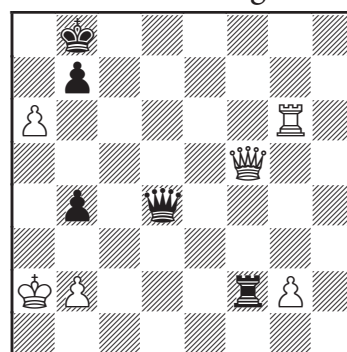
a2b8 4400.32 6/5 Win?

After the known introduction **1.Re8+ Ka7 2.Ra8+! Kb6 3.Qa5+! Kxa5 4.axb7+ Kb5 5.b8Q+ Kc4** the study does not end yet. The active black pieces compensate for a minimal material superiority. **6.Qc7+** (Qg8+? Qd5;) **Qc5 7.Qg3!** (7.Qxc5+? Kxc5 8.Kb3 Rg2 9.Rg8 Kb5 draws) **Qd5!** Exclamation mark by the author, actually losing the game. **8.Qb3+ Kd4** That Black would be saved? No! **9.Rd8! Qxd8 10.Qd1+** winning the queen.

This study is unfortunately incorrect, Black having the hidden rescue **7...Kb5!** 8.Qb3 Rxb2+! and White will either not escape from perpetual check or lose the rook a8.

However, there is one more defect: instead of the impressive 9.Rd8 there is a simple win **9.Ra4 Qxb3+ 10.Kxb3.**

P.3 K. Kuvatov
3rd prize *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1940
Correction, original



a2b8 4400.32 6/5 Win

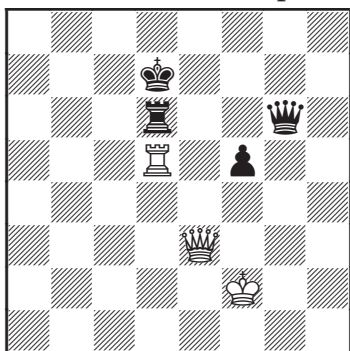
I spent many hours attempting to fix this study and produced several versions but none contained an expressible finale. I was about to give up but, just before the deadline for this issue, I found the solution. Paradoxically, it was enough to “weaken” the white position by shifting wPg4 to g2, then the necessary relocation of the wR to the g-file was obvious. Now

everything comes out as it should and you can enjoy it in all its beauty:

1.Rg8+ Ka7 (1...Kc7 2.Qc8+ Kb6 3.Qxb7+ Ka5 4.Rg5+) **2.Ra8+!** and then as in P.2 except two important details: the side solution 9.Ra4 is suppressed (9...Qxb3+ 10.Kxb3 Rxb2 draws) and the perpetual check try 7...Kb5 8.Qb3 Rxb2+ does not come out because the pawn g2 blocks the second row: 9.Kxb2 Qd4+ 10.Ka2! Qd2+ 11.Kb1 Qe1+ 12.Kb2 Qe5+ 13.Kc2 Qc5+ (13...Qe2+ 14.Kc1 Qe1+ 15.Qd1) 14.Kd3 Qd6+ 15.Ke2 wins because 15...Qh2 (drawing in the P.2) is here without check.

We stay with this material and with a Czech composer: **Miroslav Havel** (1881-1958) is considered to be the most prominent representative of the Bohemian School. His favourite theme was an echo:

P.4 Miroslav Havel
5th prize J. Kotrč & J. Cumpe MT 1944



f2d7 4400.01 3/4 Win

- 1.Qa7+**, and:
- **Kd8 2.Qb8+ Kd7 3.Qb7+ Kd8!** (3...Ke6 4.Rxd6+ Kxd6 5.Qb6+; 3...Ke8 4.Qc8+ Kf7 5.Qc7+) **4.Qc6! Ke7 5.Qc7+** wins, or:
 - **Kc8 2.Rc5+**, with:
 - **Rc6 3.Qb6! Kd7 4.Qb7+**, or:
 - **Kd8 3.Qc7+ Ke8 4.Re5+ Re6! (4...Kf8 5.Qb8+ Kf7 6.Qe8+ Kg7 7.Re7+ Kh6 (Kf6) 8.Qh8+ (Qf8+) Kg5 9.Rg7) 5.Qd6! Kf7 6.Qd7+** wins.

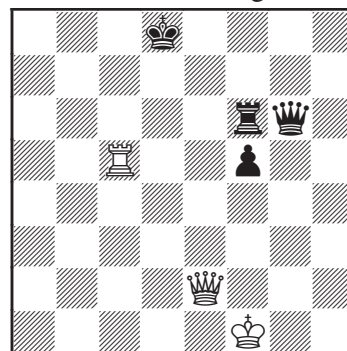
This is a triple cross-pin echo 4.Qc6, 3.Qb6 and 5.Qd6.

The white pieces are so active, that White can win even with a rook move to a5, e.g. immediately 1.Ra5 Qe6 (1...Rc6 2.Qd4+ Kc7 3.Qe5+)

2.Ra7+ Ke8 3.Qg5, or at the end of the first line: 4.Ra5!

The correction was unexpectedly simple, it was enough to move wK to f1 and to add a short thematic introduction.

P.5 Miroslav Havel
5th prize J. Kotrč & J. Cumpe MT 1944
Correction, original



fid8 4400.01 3/4 Win

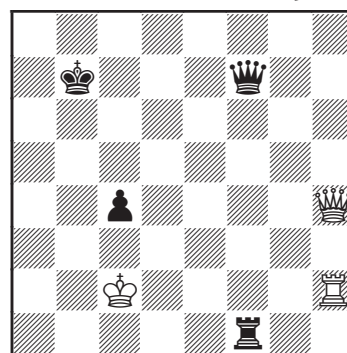
1.Rd5+! Rd6 (1...Kc8 (Kc7) 2.Qe7) bR is getting into the first echo cross-pin position.

2.Qa6 Cross pin! **Kc7! 3.Qa7+!** with the well-known lines:

- **Kd8 4.Qb8+ (4.Qb6+) Kd7 5.Qb7+ Kd8 6.Qc6** echo (6.Ra5? would now even lose after 6...Rd1+ 7.Ke2 Qg4+), or:
- **Kc8 4.Rc5+** Other moves only lead to a repetition, and:
 - **Rc6 5.Qb6!** Echo! Other moves only lead to a repetition, or:
 - **Kd8 5.Qc7+ Ke8 6.Re5+ Re6 7.Qd6** Echo!

Jindřich Fritz wrote in his manuscript *Česká studie* (1983) that this theme had been published in a simple form by Henri Rinck:

P.6 Henri Rinck
Basler Nachrichten 1926



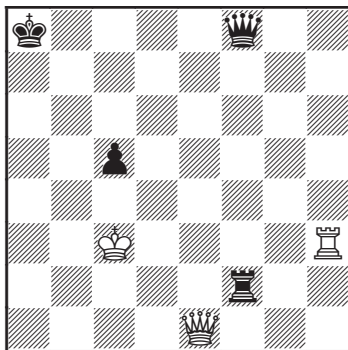
c2b7 4400.01 3/4 Win

1.Qe4+ Ka6! (1...Kb8 2.Rh8+ Kc7 3.Rh7; 1...Kb6 2.Rh6+ Kc5 3.Qe5+ Qd5 4.Qc7+) **2.Rh6+ Rf6!** **3.Qf5!** But not 3.Qf3? (Qf4?) for 3...Qh7+!

The great French analyst **André Chéron** considered the final position after **3...Rxb6 4.Qxf7 Rc6** as a draw and corrected it moving the position by a row up, so that Black pawn wouldn't be so dangerous. Nowadays with the help of EGTB we know for certain that Chéron was wrong and that the study is correct. Black moves his pawn forward and can even promote but he will get mated, e.g. 5.Kc3 Kb6 6.Qd5 Rc8 7.Kb4 c3 8.Qb5+ Ka7 9.Ka5 c2 10.Qd7+ and 11.Kb6.

Nonetheless Chéron's version deserves to exist and it represents a small improvement. He added a move, simplified the analysis of the final position and, first of all, hid the idea better.

P.7 Henri Rinck
Basler Nachrichten 1926
Version André Chéron,
Journal de Genève 1957



c3a8 4400.01 3/4 Win

A human would play here: **1.Qh1+?! Ka7!** 2.Rh7+ Rf7! 3.Qf1 (Qf3) with the cross-pin, but this is a blind alley: after 3...Qh8+! Black unpins. Therefore **1.Qe4+! Kb8!** (1...Ka7 2.Rh7+ Rf7 3.Qa4+ Kb6 4.Qb3+) **2.Qe5+! Ka7!** **3.Rh7+ Rf7** (3...Ka6 (Kb6) 4.Qe6+) **4.Qf6! Rxb7 5.Qxf8** and wins.

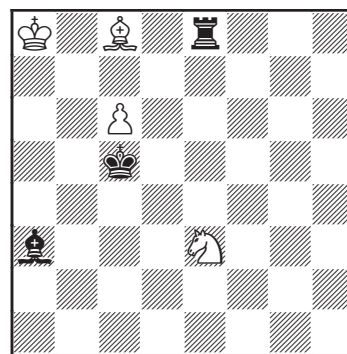
Let us turn to two incorrect studies by Jindřich Fritz.

(P.8) **1.Kb7 Rxe3 2.Be6! Rxe6 3.c7 Re7 4.Kb8 Kb6 5.c8S+!** (5.c8Q? Bd6+ 6.Ka8 Ra7 mate) draw.

In 1940 Fritz could not have known that the constellation RBxBN with opposite-coloured

bishops is always a win, otherwise he probably would have found the nice cook **2...Rg3!** 3.c7 Rg7 4.Kb8 Kb6 5.c8Q Bd6+ 6.Ka8 Ra7 mate.

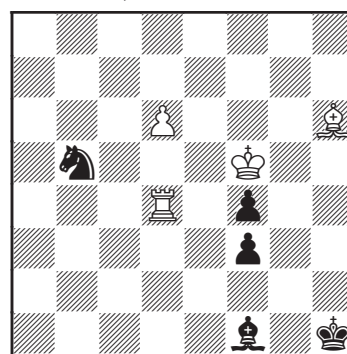
P.8 Jindřich Fritz
Šach 1940



a8c5 0341.10 4/3 Draw?

Mario Garcia suggested a correction by adding a wPh2 (*Estudios Artísticos de Ajedrez* 2012). Even though this prevents the cook 2...Rg3!, I doubt whether Fritz would have liked that non-playing pawn. Also, the study is devalued by the capture of the non-playing wS at the first move. I would prefer to reverse the colours, change the challenge and add an introduction which is what Garcia finally did:

P.9 Mario Guido Garcia
Estudios Artísticos de Ajedrez 2015
after Jindřich Fritz



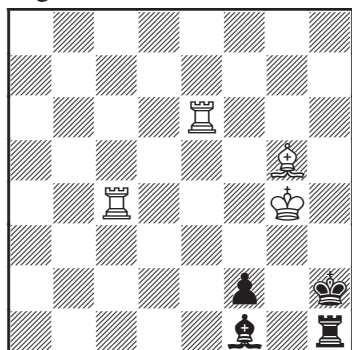
f5h1 0143.12 4/5 Win

1.Rd1 Sxd6+ 2.Kxf4 This is P.8 with opposite colours. We know the rest: **2...Kg2 3.Rxd6 Bd3 4.Rb6!** (4.Rxd3? f2 5.Rd2 Kg1 6.Kg3 f1S+! =) **4..f2 5.Rb2 Kg1 6.Kg3 f1Q 7.Be3+ Kh1 8.Rh2** mate.

Since I considered Garcia's introduction too mechanical and not related to the other content,

I tried to create something extra. Hopefully you will enjoy the following version:

P.10 Jaroslav Polášek
Original after Jindřich Fritz



g4h2 0540.01 4/4 Win

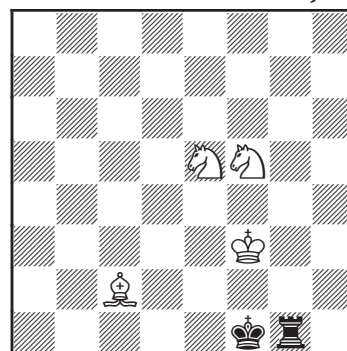
Since 1.Rc2? is not suitable because of 1... Bh3+, let's try 1.Bf4+?! Kg2 2.Rc2 Bd3 3.Rd2. White would win after 3...Rh3? 4.Be5! Re3 5.Rxf2+! Kxf2 6.Bd4, but Black plays 3...Rd1! and after 4.Rxd1 Be2+ 6.Rxe2 it is stalemate, and 4.Rb2 (Ra2 Bc4;) 4...Rb1! 5.Rd2 Rd1! leads to a positional draw. A study within a study!

Therefore **1.Rh6+! Kg1!** (Kg2; Rc2) **2.Rc1!** The direct exchange 2.Rxh1+?! is a mistake as 2...Kxh1 3.Rc1 Kg2 4.Rc2 Bd3 5.Rb2 Bf5+! 6.Kf4 Bc2! 7.Rxc2 and now 7...Kh3! 8.Rxf2 stalemate. Therefore, it is necessary to force Black to change rooks, so that wB does not attack square h4. **2...Rxb6 3.Bxb6 Kg2 4.Rc2 Bd3 5.Rb2!** After 5.Rd2?! Bf5+ 6.Kf4 Kg1 7.Kg3 follows Fritz's 7...f1S+! (5.Ra2 Bb1 6.Re2 Bd3 7.Rb2 Bf5+ wastes time). **5...Bf5+! 6.Kf4! Kg1 7.Kg3 f1Q 8.Be3+ Kh1 9.Rh2** mate.

Two stalemates and a positional draw have been added to Fritz's idea.

Jindřich Fritz published the next study in his collection *Vybrané šachové problémy* (Selected Chess Problems, Olympia 1979) as an original. Probably he didn't have enough time to improve it, because there is no introduction. However, subsequently, a very interesting motif of triple progressive mate arises:

P.11 Jindřich Fritz
Vybrané Šachové Problémy 1979



f3f1 0312.00 5/2 Win

1.Sg3+ Ke1 2.Ba4! Kd2 3.Kf2, and:

- **Rc1 4.Se4** mate, or:
- **Rb1 4.Se4+ Kc1 5.Sd3** mate, or:
- **Ra1 4.Se4+ Kc1 5.Sd3+ Kb1 6.Sc3** mate.

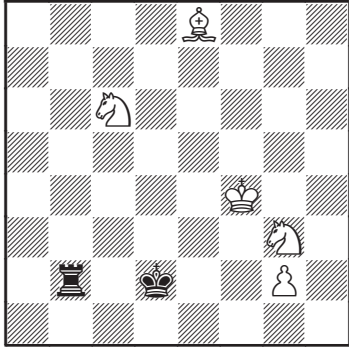
At the second move 2.Be4 (Bf5, Bg6) also wins, because after 2...Kd2 3.Sc4+! the bK has to come back to the first rank 3...Ke1 and Black loses his rook, e.g. 4.Bh7 (tempo) 4...Kd1 5.Kf2 Re1 6.Se3+ Kd2 7.Sgf1+. Also on the first move there are several winning options (1.Sd3, 1.Se3+ or 1.Bb3).

The next play is correct, even though HHdbV states that in the c) line 6.Sd2+ is a cook, but that is not correct. If one can mate immediately, all other options are loss of time since the sense of the game is to give a mate (see Codex for Chess Compositions).

HH: It can only be loss of time if Black is able to force White back to the intended solution. In my opinion 6.Sd2+ is a cook.

The simple correction consists in moving both knights, wSf5 to h5 (preventing the extra solutions at the first move) and wSe5 to b4 (eliminating the cooks on the second move). In Fritz's initial position, however, Black is too restricted and without counterplay which is why I add a short introduction in which the black pieces themselves get trapped. The motif of the rook capture is more expressive:

P.12 Jaroslav Polášek
Original, after Jindřich Fritz



f4d2 o312.10 5/2 BTM, Win

1...Ke1! Only way to win the pawn – **2.Kf3?** Rf2+ draws. **2.Sb4!** Surprise! This spectacular

move takes control of the square a2 (2.Se5? Rxf2 3.Kf3 Ra2 draws). **2...Rxf2** (Rxb4+; Se4) **3.Kf3 Rg1!** The only move, otherwise Black loses his rook: 3...Rh2 4.Sd3+ Kd1 5.Ba4+ Kd2 6.SNf1+ or 3...Rf2+ 4.Ke3 e.g. 4...Rf8 5.Sd3+ Kd1 6.Ba4 mate). **4.Ba4** Fritz's position with the small difference bSe5->b4. **4...Kd2** **5.Kf2** with the known branching:

- **Rc1** **6.Se4** mate, or:
- **Rb1** **6.Se4+ Kc1** **7.Sd3** mate, or:
- **Ra1** **6.Se4+ Kc1** **7.Sd3+ Kb1** **8.Sc3** mate.

Finally, let's repeat once more: a good correction or reconstruction often requires as much time as composing a new study.



Yochanan Afek

Obituary – The Father of Israeli Study Composition Hillel Aloni (Tel-Aviv 30ix1937-Netanya 26v2017)

BY YOCHANAN AFEK

Messages of sympathy have arrived on our desktop from all over the world on the passing of our mentor and close friend, the Israeli composer and tutor Hillel Aloni, last May at the age of 79.

Hillel was, in his younger years, just like his twin brother Yoel one of the best players in the chess club of the city of Holon. Over the years, along with his work as a teacher of mathematics and physics in high school and the bringing up a successful family, he composed problems and endgame studies (and then devoted himself exclusively to our genre), taught chess in various educational institutions and continued to perform as a player together with Yoel, in the league of working places. Along with all these activities he will forever be remembered mainly as the pioneer of study composition in Israel and for raising it to its current respectable position.

He began this activity in the 1950s, being the first Israeli composer to compete in the international arena (East Europe included) and he regularly won prizes and other distinctions. For decades he edited the endgame studies section in the Israeli magazine *Shahmat*, through which he discovered and guided a long list of young talents. Corresponding for years with each and every one of them he accompanied his faithful pupils with infinite patience and care from their first immature and hesitant steps all the way to world class! Among the most prominent of these are such composers as Yehuda Hoch, Gadi Costeff, Noam Elkies, Amatzia Avni, Ofer Comay, Mordechai Shaham, Noam Menela and... yours truly. At the same time, he

used to check our works all by himself (long before the appearance of the computer programs), offered corrections and improvements and created contacts for us worldwide. He made sure to promote and praise our achievements both in the pages of the national chess magazine *Shahmat* as well as in the periodical *Haproblemai*, that later on became *Variantim*. He also took on himself the entire trouble involved in the Israeli ring tourneys and the participation in official events such as the WCCT and International team matches.

It seems that the words of the Israeli composer Shaul Shamir (now mainly a helpmate composer) reflect the general feeling of us all: “He taught me a lot at the beginning of my way, did it with love, with kindness and patience and his letters to me are kept in my memory. His contribution to our art and his contribution to me personally are invaluable. I’m sad, very sad”

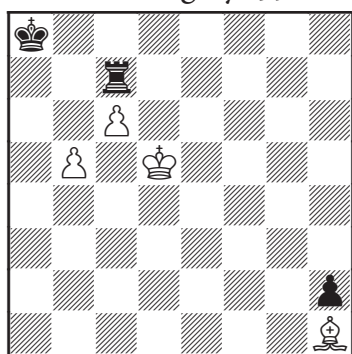
Amatzia Avni writes: Hillel, as a mentor, not only encouraged and supported the young talents he nurtured, but also invested in imparting educational value messages. In 1976 I sent him a new study to examine. He made suggestions, I repaired it and in the end there was a proper study ready to be published. Hillel, however, continued to make suggestions until I lost my temper and reacted somewhat impatiently using an impolite slang expression. Hillel was not offended but rather replied: “...Such words have no place in the terminology of a decent study composer! Stubbornness, infinite patience, discontentment with unfinished creation, endless search of all sort of improvements

and nuances – are the signs of a worthwhile composer...”

The jubilee tourney, announced to celebrate Hillel’s 80th birthday next September, will sadly become a memorial one. Our sincere condolences go to his brother Yoel (himself a well known problemist), his wife Sara and the entire family as well as to the entire community of chess composition.

Elsewhere in this issue Siegfried Hornecker presents a fine selection of Hillel’s output of knight endings. His lifelong cooperation with occasional and prominent Israeli and foreign composers gave birth to numerous co-productions. Hillel created 3 studies with his twin brother Yoel:

O.1 H. Aloni & Y. Aloni
2nd hon. mention
Israel Ring Ty 1978

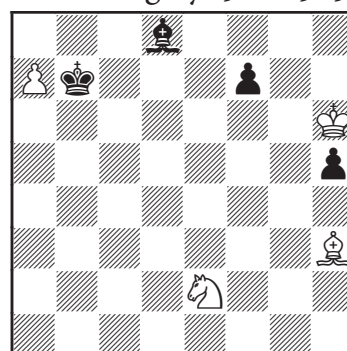


d5a8 o310.21d5a8 4/3 Win

1.b6 (1.Kd6? is just a draw after 1...Kb8 2.b6 Rb7! 3.c7+ Kc8 4.Bxb7+ (Kc6? Rxc7+;) Kxb7 5.Kd7 h1Q 6.c8Q+ Kxb6 draws) **1...Rh7 2.c7** (2.Kd6? allows 2...Rh6+ 3.Kd7 Rh7+ 4.Kc8 Rh8+ with a perpetual check) **2...Rxc7** (To avoid being mated following 2...Kb7 3.Kd6+ Kc8 4.b7 mate) **3.bxc7 Kb7 4.Kd6+ Kc8 5.Bc6!** (5.Bd5? h1Q 6.Be6+ Kb7 7.c8Q+ Ka7 8.Qc5+ Kb8 9.Qc7+ Ka8 10.Bd5+ Qxd5+ 11.Kxd5) **5...h1Q 6.Bd7+ Kb7 7.c8Q+ Ka7** (7...Kb6 8.Qc5+ Kb7 9.Bc6+ is even slightly quicker) **8.Qc5+ Kb8 9.Qc7+** wins, e.g. Ka8 10.Bc6+ Qxc6+ 11.Qxc6+. (EG#04718).

His collaboration with his favourite student Yehuda Hoch was especially productive; here is a small selection of their finest joint efforts.

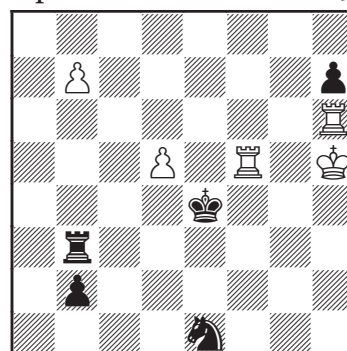
O.2 H. Aloni & Y. Hoch
2nd prize *Springaren* 1965
10th/16th place
Israel Ring Ty 1960-1969



h6b7 o041.12 4/4 Win

Can White save his last pawn? **1.Sd4! Bb6** (He cannot but he can knit a mating net instead! **2.Bc8+! Ka8!** (It is a lot simpler after 2... Kxa7 3.Sc6+ Ka8 4.Kxh5 when the wK is heading to a6. **3.Sc6 h4! 4.Kg5!** (And not 4.Kh5? Bf2! 5.Kg4 f5+! 6.Bxf5 Bxa7! 7.Bc8 Bf2 And the wK won't make it in time to a6. **4...Bf2** (4...f5 5.Kxh4! f4 6.Kg4 Be3 7.Ba6 with the wB controlling the promoting square while its king is on his way to c8) **5.Kf6!** (Neither 5.Kf5? interferes with the bishop to allow 5...h3! nor 5.Kf4? Bxa7! 6.Ke5 h3 7.Kd6 Bb6!) **5...Bxa7** (5...h3 6.Bxh3 Kb7 7.Bc8+! keeps the bK in the cage) **6.Ke7! h3 7.Kd7!** (Precision till the very end. 7.Kd8? Bb6+) **7...Bb6** (7...h2 8.Kc7 Bb8+ 9.Kb6 Ba7+ 10.Ka6) **8.Ba6! h2 9.Kc8 h1Q 10.Bb7** mate Right in time! (EG#16380).

O.3 H. Aloni & Y. Hoch
2nd prize *Suomen Shakki* 1975

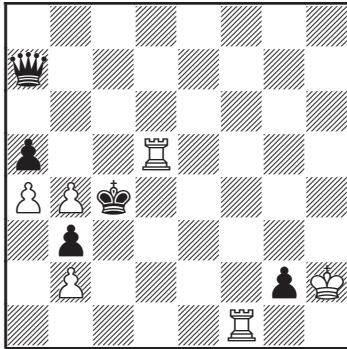


h5e4 o503.22 5/5 Draw

How should White welcome the newborn bQ? **1.b8Q!** (Not the immediate 1.Rf1? b1Q 2.Rxe1+ Qxe1 3.Re6+ Kf5 4.Rxe1 Rh3 mate) **1...**

Rxb8 2.Rf1! b1Q 3.Rxe1+ Kf5 (3...Qxe1 is met by the skewer 4.Re6+) **4.Rxh7!** (After 4.Rxb1? Rxb1 White is helpless) **4...Rb7! 5.Rh8! Rb8 6.Rh7 Qxe1** (Willing to avoid a draw by repetition ...) **7.Rf7+ Ke5 8.Re7+ Kf5 9.Rf7+** Black is trapped in a perpetual check! (EG#03184).

O.4 H. Aloni & Y. Hoch
3rd hon. mention
Israel Ring Ty 1977

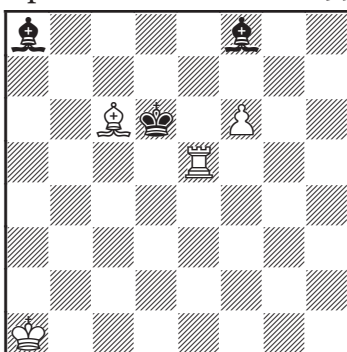


h2c4 3200.33 6/5 Draw

Both rooks are en prise. How to sort it out? **1.Rc5+!** (1.Rfd1? loses to 1...g1Q+) **1...Kxb4** To keep the rook hanging: **2.Rb5+!** (Rfc1? Qxc5;) **2...Kxa4 3.Rxa5+!! Kb4!** (3...Kxa5 or 3...Qxa5 allow the skewer 4.Ra1+) **4.Ra4+! Kb5 5.Ra5+! Kb6 6.Ra6+!** (Following 6.Rfa1? Qg7 7.Kg1 Qxb2 Black wins) **6...Kb5 7.Ra5+!** Draw by an amazing perpetual check!

HH: unfortunately the finish is unsound: also 6.Rff5 draws (in a study-like way!), e.g. 6... Qg7 7.Rab5+! Kc6 8.Rfc5+! Kd6 9.Rd5+ Ke6 10.Rg5! g1Q+ 11.Kxg1 Qxb2 e.g. 12.Rg6+ Kf7 13.Rgb6 (EG#03939).

O.5 H. Aloni & Y. Hoch
3rd prize *The Problemist* 1978

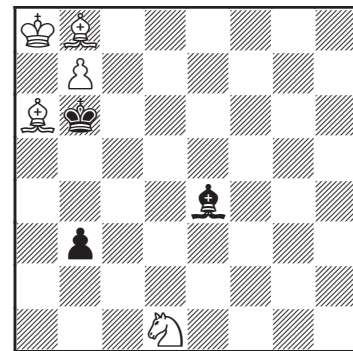


a1d6 0170.10 4/3 Win

How should White handle the royal fork? **1.Rd5+!** (The natural 1.Re8? allows 1...Bxc6 2.Rxf8 Ke6 Or 3.Kb2 (3.f7 Bf3 4.Kb2 Ke7 is an immediate draw) 3...Bf3 4.Re8+ (4.Rh8 Kf7 5.Kc3 Bg4 6.Rh6 Ke6 7.Kd4 Bd1 is a positional draw) 4...Kf7 5.Re1 Bh5 6.Rf1 Ke6 and white can make no progress. **1...Kxc6 2.Rd8 Bb4!** (The most challenging defence while the alternatives are hardly better: 2...Bh6 3.Rxa8 Kd7 4.Rh8 Bg5 5.f7; Or 2...Bc5 3.Rxa8 Bd4+ 4.Ka2 Bxf6 5.Ra6+) **3.Rxa8 Kb7** is the white pawn lost? **4.Ra2!! Bc3+ 5.Rb2+! Kc7 6.f7** and wins e.g. 6...Bg7 7.Ka2 Kd7 8.Re2 Bh6 9.Re8 (EG#04806).

Your author collaborated with Hillel twice. Here is the better of the two:

O.6 H. Aloni & Y. Afek
3rd prize Israel Ring Ty 1980



a8b6 0051.11 5/3 Win

White's huge material advantage is in danger so vigorous action is called for. **1.Sc3 Bc6** (Since 1...Bf3 is met by 2.Sa4+ Kxa6 3.Sc5+ Kb6 4.Ba7+ Kc7 5.Sa6+ Kc6 6.Bd4 wins) **2.Sa4+!!** Even so! **2...Bxa4** (Or 2...Kxa6 3.Sc5+ Kb6 4.Ba7+ Kc7 5.Sa6+ Kd6 6.Bd4 and wins) **3.Bb5!!** (Not 3.Bc7+? Kxa6 4.b8Q?? after which Black even wins by 4...Bc6+) **3...Bxb5** (This is a mutual obstruction between the bB and the bK: 3...Kxb5 4.Ka7! when the king interfered with its bishop) **4.Bc7+! Ka6 5.b8S** mate. The bishop has blocked the king flight (EG#04744).

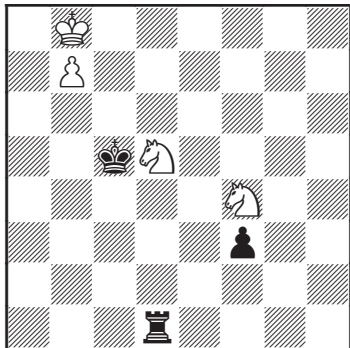
Yochanan Afek 65 years

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

EG's editor, Grandmaster and my very good friend Yochanan Afek turned 65 on 16iv2017. To celebrate this event, a number of composers each dedicated a study to Yochanan but first we let the GM speak for himself:

“50 years ago in June 1967 two events were especially dramatic for me: the Six Days War and... the publication of my first endgame study in the monthly *Shahmat*. It's White to play and win. Don't be too harsh with this un-ripe attempt of a 15 years old kid... My mentor, Hillel Aloni, the father of the Israeli endgame study, who had been kind enough to publish it in his column, passed away last month.”

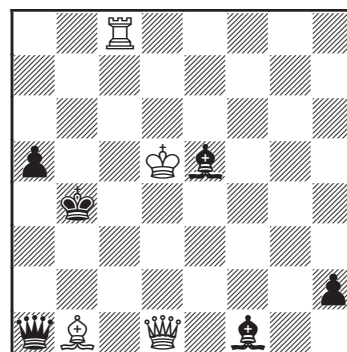
H.1 Yochanan Afek
Shahmat 1967



b8c5 0302.11 4/3 Win

1.Kc8! (1.Kc7? Rb1 2.Sb4 f2 3.b8Q f1Q is just a draw) **1...Rb1** (1...Rh1 2.Se6+ Kxd5 3.b8Q wins) **2.Sb4!** Decoying the bR. **2...Rxb4** to allow a fork **3.Sd3+ Kd4** (3...Kc4 4.Sxb4 f2 5.Sc2 Kc3 6.Se3 wins) **4.Sxb4 f2 5.Sc2+! Ke4** (5...Kd3 6.b8Q f1Q 7.Qb5+ is a diagonal skewer) **6.b8Q f1Q 7.Qb7+! Ke5 8.Qe7+ Kd5** (Kf4; Qf6+) **9.Se3+** wins.

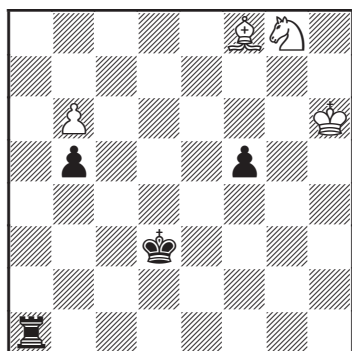
H.2 Martin Minski
5th UAPA internet Ty 2017
Dedicated to Yochanan Afek.
Published on 17iv2017!



d5b4 4170.02 4/6 Win

A highly tactical battle: **1.Qd2+!** (1.Qe1+? Ka4! 2.Bc2+ Kb5! draws) **1...Kb5** (Since both alternatives are promptly refuted: 1...Qc3 2.Rxc3 h1Q+ 3.Rf3+, or 1...Bc3 2.Qf4+ wins) **2.Bd3+ Kb6** (2...Bxd3 3.Qxd3+ Kb4 4.Rc4+ Kb5 5.Rc3+ Kb6 6.Rc6+ Ka7 7.Qa6+ mating) **3.Be4!** (Against promotion but also creating an anticipatory royal battery) **3...h1Q!** (3...Bb5 loses to 4.Qe3+ Kb7 5.Rc1! Qb2 6.Ke6+ Ka6 7.Qc5 wins) **4.Bxh1 Bc7** (4...Bb5 5.Qe3+ Kb7 6.Rc1 wins) **5.Qe3+ Kb7 6.Ra8!!** (Too early to activate the battery: 6.Kc5+? Kxc8 7.Qe8+ Bd8 8.Qe6+ Kb8 9.Qd6+ Kc8 10.Qc6+ Bc7 11.Qe8+ Bd8 draws) **6...Bg2+!** (Decoying the bishop for the next move. If 6...Bc4+ 7.Kxc4+ Qxh1 8.Qa7+ Kc6 9.Qc5+ Kd7 10.Qf5+ Ke7 11.Qf8+ Ke6 12.Re8+ Kd7 13.Re7+ Kc6 14.Qe8+ Kb7 15.Qb5+ wins) **7.Bxg2 Qa2+ 8.Qb3+!!** A sacrificial deflection! **8...Qxb3+ 9.Kc5+ Qd5+ 10.Bxd5** mate.

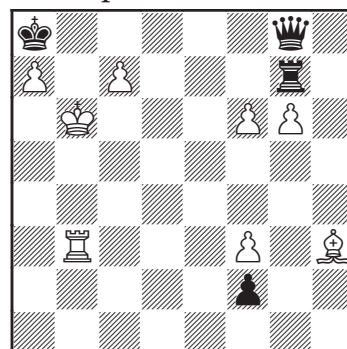
H.3 Aleksandr Zhukov
The Problemist 2017
 Dedicated to Yochanan Afek



h6d3 0311.12 4/4 Win

1.Sf6! (All other attempts fail: (1.b7? Ra6+; 1.Bc5? Ra6 2.Sf6 Rxb6!; 1.Kg5? Ra8 2.Bd6 Rxc8+) **1...Ra6** (Following 1...Ra8 2.Bd6 Ra6 3.Sd7! Rxb6 4.Sxb6 it is even easier to stop the pawns) **2.Sd7!** (The alternatives would prove futile: 2.Bc5? Rxb6 3.Bxb6 b4; 2.Kg5? b4 3.Sd7 Ra5! 4.b7 Rb5 5.b8Q Rxb8 6.Sxb8 b3 draw) **2...Rxb6+ 3.Kg5!!** (A shocking move! 3.Sxb6? f4 4.Sd5 f3 again leads nowhere however now the rook is dominated while the wK takes part in the chase) **3...Rg6+! 4.Kxcg6 f4 5.Sc5+!** That was not possible with the knight on b6! **5...Ke2 6.Se4! f3 7.Bc5! b4 8.Sg3+! Ke1 9.Bxb4+ Kf2 10.Se4+ Ke3 11.Kf5! f2 12.Bc5+** The pawns have been finally successfully tamed.

H.4 Harold van der Heijden
 3rd Prize 5th UAPA internet Ty 2016
 Dedicated to Yochanan Afek,
 version published 16iv2017!



b6a8 3410.51 8/4 Win

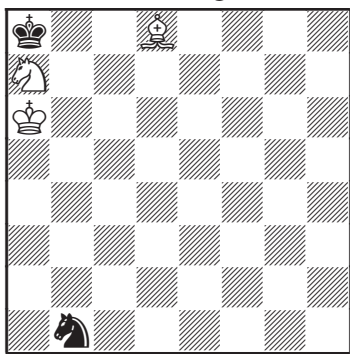
1.f7! (fxg7? Qxb3+;) **1...Rxcg6+** (1...Qf8 2.c8Q+ Qxc8 3.Bxc8 wins, e.g. 3...f1Q 4.Bb7 mate) **2.Ka5!** (Kc5? Qf8+;) **2...Ra6+!** (2...Rg5+ 3.Ka4 Ra5+! 4.Kxa5 Qg5+ 5.Ka4! Qf4+ 6.Rb4! wins) **3.Kxa6 Qc8+!** (3...f1Q+ 4.Bxf1 Qc8+ 5.Kb5! Qb7+ 6.Ka4! (Kc4? Qxc7+;) 6...Qxa7+ 7.Kb4 Qd4+ 8.Bc4! wins. This is an echo to the 2...Rg5+ line) **4.Bxc8 f1Q+ 5.Kb6!** (5.Rb5? Qa1+ 6.Kb6 Qf6+! 7.Kc5 Qe5+! draws) **5...Qxf3 6.Kc5!!** (f8Q? Qxb3+;), and:
 — **Qxb3 7.Bb7+!!** (7.f8Q? e.g. 7...Qb6+ 8.Kxb6 stalemate) **7...Qxb7** (7...Kxb7 e.g. 8.a8Q+ Kxa8 9.f8Q+ wins, or 7...Kxa7 8.c8Q wins) **8.f8R+!** (8.f8Q+? Kxa7 9.c8Q Qxc8+ 10.Qxc8 stalemate) **8...Kxa7 9.c8Q Qxc8+** (9...Qb5+ 10.Kd4 (Kd6) wins, avoiding 10.Kxb5? stalemate) **10.Rxc8** no stalemate wins, or:
 — **6...Qxf7** (6...Qf2+ 7.Kd6! Qf4+ 8.Ke6 Qe4+ 9.Kf6 Qh4+ 10.Kg6 and no perpetual check) **7.Bb7+** (7.Rb8+? Kxa7 8.Rb7+ Ka8! draws) **7...Kxa7 8.c8S+!** (8.c8Q? e.g. 8...Qc4+ 9.Kxc4 stalemate) **8...Kb8 9.Bd5+** wins. Three promotions.

Even a cook may not be a big deal

BY JOHN BEASLEY

In an article “A minor dual is not a big deal” in EG170, Harold van der Heijden examined duals of various kinds, and considered the extent to which they might be regarded as serious. What follows, which I am well aware will be controversial, takes matters a little further.

D.1 A. W. Daniel
British Chess Magazine 1931



a6a8 0014.00 3/2 Win

D.1 (HHdbV#70191) is a pleasant little trifle which was published by A. W. Daniel in 1931. The composer’s solution starts **1.Sc8**, and he gives precedence to **1...Kb8**. This is met by **2.Sb6** bottling up the Black king and forcing his knight to move to a dark square, say **2...Sa3**, allowing White to play **3.Be7** attacking it and simultaneously threatening mate, and the knight has no good move to prevent this mate. If **2...Sc3** or **2...Sd2** then **3.Bf6** or **3.Bg5** similarly, and if Black moves his knight at move 1, **1...Sa3/Sc3/Sd2**, **2.Sb6+ Kb8 3.Be7/Bf6/Bg5** transposes. There is also a try **1.Bc7**, threatening **2.Sc8** and **3.Sb6** mate, to which the given answer is **1...Sc3 2.Sc8 Sd5 3.Bd6 Sc7+** since **4.Bxc7** will be stalemate.

This is all very neat, but Black’s king is miserably placed and his king and knight are separated; might not White have a win anyway? Yes, he has, both by playing **4.Kb6** in the try and by playing one of several other alternatives at move 1, but the computer says that it may

take him until move 38 to capture the knight (**1.Ba5** and **1.Sc6** are quickest), and I doubt if many readers, even of *EG*, could force the win against accurate defence. Even fewer, I suspect, could explain the winning procedure. Technically, the study is cooked, since White can win without going through the composer’s intended mainplay but, in practical terms, the cooks are irrelevant. To demonstrate a win in front of even a mildly questioning audience, anyone presenting this study must follow the composer’s line.

In 1999, when I was making a selection of studies by Daniel for a special number of *British Endgame Study News*, I regarded these cooks as invalidating the study, and did not consider this further. I now wonder if this was the correct decision. In OTB play, a crisp concluding combination may be admired even when a player is already on the way to a win. Studies are supposed to be a distillation of the game; should not the same sometimes be true of them? In the example above, the reader can admire the way in which the knight is quickly and neatly picked up, and he is not greatly concerned by the fact that White has alternatives which, if he makes no mistake working his way through a forest of variations, will also lead to its eventual capture but more than thirty moves into the future. According to conventional aesthetics, the cooks make the study worthless, but in practice its appeal is unaffected by them.

As to where the line is drawn as to whether a cook is ignorable, this is surely a matter for the judgement of the presenter. If I were presenting this study today, I would start by saying that White had several ways of forcing an eventual win, but that most of them were messy and it might take 37 moves or more to capture the knight, so let us try to find something crisper. If, having seen the composer’s solution, my

audience felt that the cooks invalidated the study, so be it but, in a case like the above, I suspect that many might take the more generous view.

Editorial comment by HH

John invited me to comment on his article. This is my view:

For some reason, when EGTB's are involved, people want to invent new rules. A unique (white) move sequence extracted from an EGTB without an interesting study-like point is not a (good) endgame study but it is not a good idea to "forbid" all (good) endgame studies with EGTB material for this reason. Furthermore a unique move sequence without an interesting study-like point with e.g. 15 pieces on the board is not a (good) endgame study.

Well, John's proposal seems to be based on the number of moves of a cook, on the difficulty for chess players to understand it and, probably, that it is an EGTB position. If a study position has 15 pieces and someone finds an alternative win for White that would take 39 moves, would he consider this to be a "theoretical dual"? Probably not.

The number of moves is a difficult criterion. Is it: distance to conversion (into a sub-EGTB) or distance to mate? How many moves would be acceptable? (this is very subjective). The

optimal DTC/DTM move is not always the best defence for humans.

The difficulty of a cook is hardly a good criterion in my view. Imagine a study where White has an alternative move that leads to a KQ vs KR ending: not a big deal? (this is "old theory"). Or a study with an alternative move leading to a KBB vs KS ending: not a big deal? (this is "old EGTB theory"). Or a study with an alternative move leading to a generally won γ EGTB ending: not a big deal? (this is "latest EGTB theory"). In all of these cases, i.e. also the "old theory", few chess players can understand the winning process or would be able to win the position. Again, this seems to be related to the fact that when we are able to prove that a study has a cook it is because we have an EGTB.

In John's example, as he wrote, the bK is very poorly placed, and in addition the bS is far off the bK. Even if I did not have an EGTB, it seems to me that White might have an alternative win by 1.Ba5. There is no way that the bS is able to approach the bK and White can improve the position of either the wB or the wS before letting the bK escape from the corner and can then hunt the free ranging bS. However, without the EGTB it would be very difficult to prove this. The general rule was that in such cases we give the composer the benefit of the doubt. Now that we can use EGTBs to prove the cook, there is no doubt so why should the benefit remain?

Reviews

BY JOHN ROYCROFT

1. *Alexey Seleznev: 100 chess Studies*, Moscow 2017. 100 pages. Monochrome algebraic notation. In English – no Cyrillic Russian. Edited by Oleg Pervakov. ISBN 978-5-94693-544-9.

The decision to re-issue this long out of print classic, previously available only in Russian or German, is most welcome. The large diagrams, two to a page, are attractive, if we excuse all the ghost-like black rooks, when on a dark square. The translation is workmanlike, though accents and diacritics are absent.

Pervakov assures us that the classic grandmaster's realistic studies stand up well against today's computer-testing, and it is reader-friendly that the added comment to the solutions is so helpful.

There is biographical information – 1888 to 1967 are the player-composer's dates, 'Seleznev' and Selesniev being one and the same – but not overdone.

This modest re-issue is the ideal birthday or Christmas present for a schoolchild showing natural chess talent. In contrast to the twentieth century editions, the 'present' instance is sufficiently robust to withstand juvenile maltreatment! Enjoyment and instruction go hand in hand.

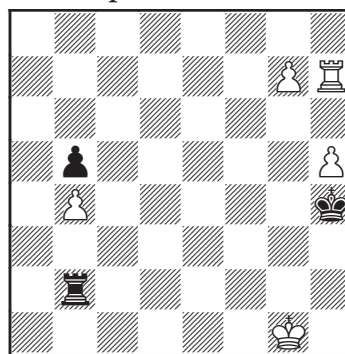
2. *The Mongolian Chess Sets reflecting the nomadic culture of the Steppes*, 2002. In Italian and English. There is no ISBN.

The hundred dinky coloured illustrations in Rodolfo Pozzi's monograph devoted to Mongolian chess sets are a delight to the eye, while the accompanying text well satiates the appetite. Signor Pozzi's fellow-expert and anthropologist was David Bellatalla. The 46 pages retell a presentation to Chess Collectors International at their tenth convention held on May 21-26, 2002, in Philadelphia. The deeply clan-orientated makers never exported their

products, explaining why so little is known about the Mongolian game. We learn that the reason the camel was chosen to represent the bishop is the close analogy with the zigzag path the animal chooses to climb steep sand dunes in the Gobi desert.

3. *Quarterly for Chess History, Volume V / No.17* 2016. 636 pages, Hard cover. ISSN 1214-1372. We reproduce the two positions from this heady tome (p. 441 and 539) that caught our endgame eye.

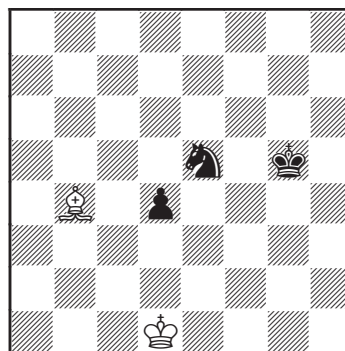
William J. Ferris vs. Albert White
American Correspondence tournament 1894



g1h4 0400.31 5/3 WTM

48.g8R was played, winning. 48.g8Q? Rg2+.

Frank Marshall, simultaneous exhibition
The Hague, 16v1911
vs. three consultants



d1g5 0014.01 2/3 WTM

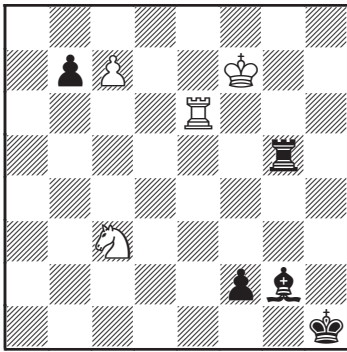
42.Bc3 – draw.

Gravura 2016

The endgame study section of this multi-genre tourney was judged by I. Agapov. The award seems to indicate that the name of the tourney refers to the number of pieces allowed in the initial position: 8-10, but HH fails to understand this. The tourney has been organized since 2011 but this was the first year that there was a study section. The (final?) award was dated 30viii2016.

24 studies by 24 composers from 10 countries participated.

No 21355 M. Gromov & O. Pervakov
1st prize



f7h1 0431.12 4/5 Win

No 21355 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Rh6+/i Bh3 (Kg1; Se2+) 2.c8Q/ii f1Q+ 3.Rf6 Rg7+/iii 4.Kxg7 Qg1+ (Qg2+; Rg6) 5.Kh7/iv Bxc8 6.Rh6+ Bh3 7.Rxh3+ Kg2 8.Rg3+ Kxg3 9.Se2+ Kf2 10.Sxg1 b5/v 11.Sh3+ Ke3 12.Sg5 b4/vi 13.Sf7 b3 14.Sd6 (Se5? Kd4;) Kd3 (b2; Sc4+) 15.Sb5 b2 16.Sa3 draws.

i) 1.c8Q? (Rf6? Rc5;) f1Q+ 2.Rf6 Qd3 3.Rh6+ Kg1 4.Kf6 Bh3, and: 5.Se2+ Kf2 6.Qxh3 Qd8+ 7.Kf7 Qg8+ 8.Ke7 Rg7+ 9.Kd6 Qd8+ 10.Kc5 Qa5+ 11.Kc4 Qa2+ 12.Kd4 Qd2+, or here: 5.Qxh3 Qd8+ 6.Kf7 Qc7+ 7.Kf8 Qg7+ 8.Ke8 Qe5+ 9.Qe6 Rg8+ 10.Ke7 Qc7+ 11.Kf6 Qf4+ wins.

ii) White should not accept the sacrifice: 2.Rxh3+? Kg2 3.Rf3 Kxf3 4.c8Q f1Q 5.Qxb7+ Ke3+ wins.

iii) Qd3 4.Qxb7+, or Qg2 4.Qc4 Rg7+ 5.Kf8, or Qxf6+ 4.Kxf6 Bxc8 5.Kxg5 draw.

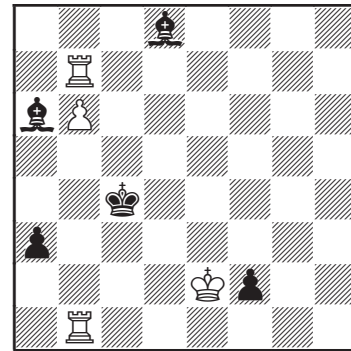
iv) Thematic try: 5.Kf7? Bxc8 6.Rh6+ Bh3 7.Rxh3+ Kg2 8.Rg3+ Kxg3 9.Se2+ Kf2 10.Sxg1 b5 11.Sh3+ Ke3 12.Sg5 b4 (position B1) 13.Se6 b3 14.Sc5 b2 wins. Thematic try: 5.Kf8? Bxc8 6.Rh6+ Bh3 7.Rxh3+ Kg2 8.Rg3+ Kxg3 9.Se2+ Kf2 10.Sxg1 Kxg1 (position B2) 11.Ke7 b5 wins.

v) Kxg1 (position A2) 11.Kg6 b4 12.Kf5 draws.

vi) position A1: square f7 is available!

“The WCCT₁₀ theme is presented twice here. This is the undisputed winner of the study section. The action of the wS against a bP on the b-file is well-known, but that is here only an action on the background. Both sides play brilliantly, with impressive sacrifices of the bB (1...Bh3! and 6...Bh3!) and a logical try for the wK (5.Kh7!). A study belonging to the highest class! Congratulations to the composers”.

No 21356 A. Skripnik & P. Arestov
2nd prize



e2c4 0260.12 4/5 Win

No 21356 Anatoly Skripnik & Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Ra7/i a2 2.Ra1 Bb5 (Bxb6; Rxa6) 3.R7xa2 (R1xa2? Bxb6;) Kb3+ (Bxb6; Rb2) 4.Kxf2 Bxb6+ 5.Kg2/ii Bd4 6.Ra3+ Kb4 7.R1a2 Bc4 8.Ra4+ Kb5 9.Ra5+/iii Kb6 10.R2a4 Bb3/iv 11.Ra3 Bc5 12.Rxc5/v Kxc5 13.Rxb3 wins.

i) 1.Rb8? Kc5+ 2.Kxf2 Bf6 3.Rc1+ Kb5 4.Rc2 Bb2 5.Ke3 Ka5 6.b7 Kb6 7.Rg8 Bxb7 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 5.Kf3? Bd4 6.Ra3+ Kb4 7.R1a2 Bc4 8.Ra4+ Kb5 9.Ra5+ Kb6 10.R2a4 Bb3, and: 11.Ra3 Bc5 12.Ra1 Bd4 13.R1a3 Bc5 14.Rxc5 Bd1+ draws, or here: 11.Ra6+ Kb7 12.R4a5 Bb6 13.Ra1 Bd4 14.R1a3 Bc5 positional draw.

iii) 9.R2a3? Bb2 10.Ra5+ Kv6 11.R3a4 Bb5 12.Ra2 Bc4 draws.

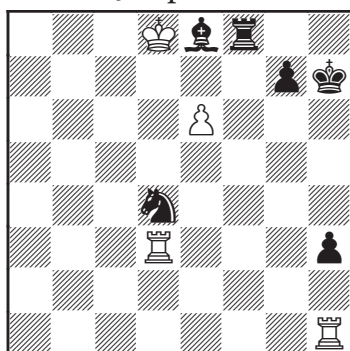
iv) Bb5 11.Rxb5+ Kxb5 12.Rxd4 wins.

v) 12.Ra1? Bd4 13.R1a3 Bc5 repeats.

“We see the foresight effect! The central idea is an unexpected wK move: 5.Kg2! instead of the obvious, but wrong 5.Kf3? This makes a strong impression as the saving check by a bB occurs no less than 9 moves later (14...Bd1+). We also have a small systematic manoeuvre of the white rook pair and the bK. The combination of these ideas turns out to be a respectable product.

A study by N. Ryabinin (EG#08678), which has become a classic, was admired because of the difference between the introductory move 1.f3! and the consequences of the similar 1.d3? which became apparent only after 5 moves. Since then the foresight effect never ceased to excite the hearts of composers but that is no surprise because the idea itself is very impressive and at the same time is logical in its deepest essence, and therefore attractive in a purely chess sense”.

No 21357 P. Arestov
3rd prize



d8h7 0533.12 4/6 Win

No 21357 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rhxh3+/i Bh5+/ii 2.Ke7 Re8+ 3.Kd7 Rd8+/iii 4.Kxd8 Sxe6+ 5.Kc8/iv Sf4 6.Rd5 Sxh3/v 7.Rxh5+ Kg6 8.Rxh3 Kf5 9.Rf3+/vi Ke5 (Kg4; Rf7) 10.Rg3 wins.

i) 1.Rxd4? Bc6+ 2.Ke7 Re8+ 3.Kf7 Rxe6 4.Rxh3+ Rh6, or 1.Rdxh3+? Kg6 2.Rg3+ Kf6 3.Rf1+ Sf5 draw.

ii) Kg6 2.Rxd4, or Kg8 2.Rxd4 wins.

iii) Rxe6 4.Rxh5+ Kg6 5.Rxd4 wins.

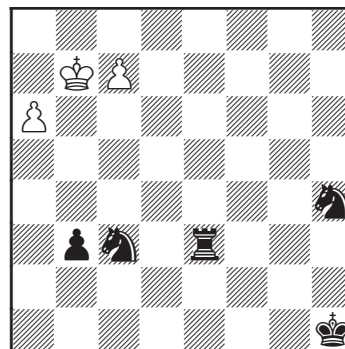
iv) 5.Ke7? Sf4, or 5.Kd7? Sc5+ draw.

v) Sxd5 7.Rxh5+ Kg6 8.Rxd5, or g6 (g5) 7.Rd7+ draw.

vi) 9.Rg3? g5 (g6), or 9.Kd7? g5 (Kf4) draw.

“Here we have a sharp vivid battle with mutual sacrifices, counter sacrifices and a double blow. The centre of the study is 6.Rd5!! which is a gorgeous point. At the end of the play there is a subtle confrontation in the ending KR vs kp. Attacking the pawn immediately is wrong. The combination of the ideas makes this a prize-winning composition”.

No 21358 A. Stavrietsky
special prize



b7h1 0306.21 3/5 Draw

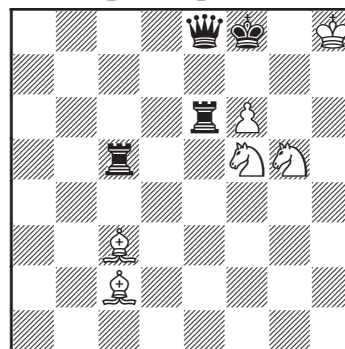
No 21358 Aleksandr Stavrietsky (Russia). 1.c8Q b2 2.Qc6+ Se4 3.Qc2/i Rb3+ 4.Ka8 (Qxb3 Sc5+;) b1Q 5.Qh2+/ii Kxh2 6.a7 Rb8+ 7.axb8Q+ Qxb8+ 8.Kxb8 draws.

i) 3.Qb6? Rb3 4.Qxb3 Sc5+ wins.

ii) Thematic try: 5.a7? Rb8+ 6.axb8Q Qxc2 wins.

“An old idea of Amelung (HHdbV#81504) with self-stalemate is splendidly developed. This has all the features of a popular style: inventive play by both sides (with interesting counterplay by Black) and the clear point 5.Qh2+!!, although the solution is rather short. Bravo!”.

No 21359 V. Aberman (†),
A. Zhukov & V. Kirillov
special prize



h8f8 3622.10 6/4 Draw

No 21359 Victor Aberman (USA), Aleksandr Zhukov & Valery Kirillov (Russia). 1.f7 Qxf7/i 2.Bg7+/ii Qxg7+ 3.Sxg7 Rh6+ 4.Sh7+ Kf7 5.Bb3+/iii Kg6 6.Bg8 Rc8 (Rh1; Se6) 7.Se8, and 7...Rxe8 stalemate, or 7...Rc1 8.Sg7 Rc8 9.Se8 Ra8 10.Bf7+ (Sf6? Rf8;) Kxf7 ideal stalemate.

- i) Rxc3 2.fxe8Q+ Rxe8 3.Be4 draws.
- ii) 2.Sxf7? Rxc3 3.Sg5 Rg6 4.Sd4 Rh6+ 5.Bh7 Rc8 6.Sde6+ Rxe6 7.Bf5 Re5 8.Bxc8 Rxc8 9.Kh7 Kf7 10.Kh6 Re5 wins.
- iii) 5.Bf5? Rh1 (Rh2) 6.Be6+ Kg6 7.Bg8 Rc8 8.Se8 Rg1 (Rg2) wins.

“The attempts by Black to besiege the white fortress are crowned with two stalemates with two different pinned pieces. The special contrast makes a beautiful ending”.

No 21360 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Ra8+ Sc8 2.Sa7/i c1Q 3.Rxc8+ Qxc8 4.Sxc8 Kxc8 5.Kg6 Sb5 6.Sb6+ Kd8 7.Kf7 Sc7 8.e7 mate.

- i) Logical try: 2.Sxd6? c1Q 3.Rxc8+ Qxc8 4.Sxc8 Kxc8 5.Kg6 Sb5 6.Sb6+ Kd8 7.Kf7 Sd6+ 8.Kf8 Kc7 9.Sd5+ Kc6 10.Sf6 Sf5 (Sc8) draws.

“This is a logical study with refusal of capture bPd6 leading to a model pawn mate”.

No 21361 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.d4, and:

- Rd1 2.Sc5 Rxd4 3.Se6+ Ke5 4.Sxd4 Kxd6 5.Sb5+/i Kc5 6.Sxa7 g5 7.Kc7 (Kd7)/ii g4 8.Sc6 g3 9.Se5 g2 10.Sf3 draws, or:

- Ke4 2.Sc5+ Kxd4 3.Sb3+ Kd5 4.Sxc1 Kxd6 5.Kc8/iii a5 6.Kb7 Kc5 7.Sb3+/iv Kb4 8.Sxa5 Kxa5 9.Kc6 draws.

- i) 5.Sf5+? Ke5 6.Sxg7 a5 7.Ke7 a4 8.Se6 a3 9.Sc5 a2 10.Sb3 Kd5 11.Kd7 Kc4 wins.

- ii) 7.Sc8? g4 8.Kc7 g3 9.Sd6 g2 10.Se4+ Kb4 wins.

- iii) 5.Ke8? g5 6.Kf7 Ke5 7.Kg6 Kf4 8.Kh5 g4 9.Kh4 a5 wins.

- iv) 7.Ka6? Kb4 8.Sa2+ Ka4 9.Kb6 g5 10.Kc5 Kb3 11.Sc1+ Kb2 12.Sd3+ Kc3 13.Sc1 a4 wins.

“We see two lines with interesting selection of play. Especially good is the first line with complete symmetry on the board. There is even a special name for this theme: asymmetric solution! The dual 7.Kc7/Kd7 is acceptable, but still unpleasant and that affected the overall assessment”.

No 21362 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.d7 Rc7/i 2.Kd8/ii Rxd7+/iii 3.Kxd7 Sf6+/iv 4.Sxf6 h2 5.Ke8/v Bd5/vi 6.Sxd5 h1Q 7.Sf6 Qb7 8.Bh6 Qh1 9.Bf8 Qb7 10.Bh6 positional draw.

- i) Re4+ 2.Kxf7, or Rxc7 2.d8Q, or Bc6 2.d8Q Re4+ 3.Kxf7 draw.

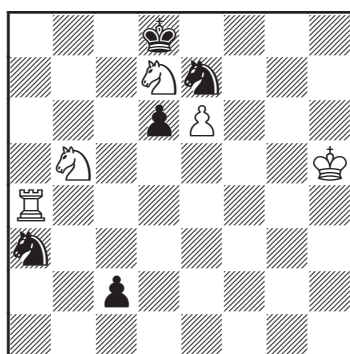
- ii) 2.Kxe8? Bc6 3.Kxf7 Rxd7+ wins, avoiding Bxd7 4.Bg7+ Kh7 5.Sf6 mate.

- iii) Bc6 3.dxe8Q Bxe8 4.Kxc7 draws.

- iv) Sg7 4.Ke7 Bd5 5.Kf6 draws.

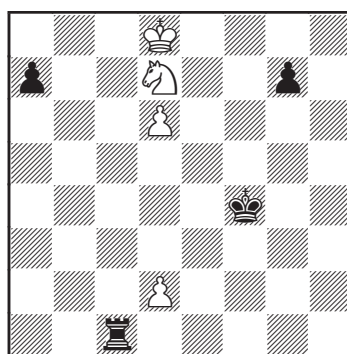
- v) Thematic try: 5.Ke7? Bd5 6.Sxd5 h1Q 7.Sf6 Qb7+ wins.

No 21360 P. Arestov
1st honourable mention



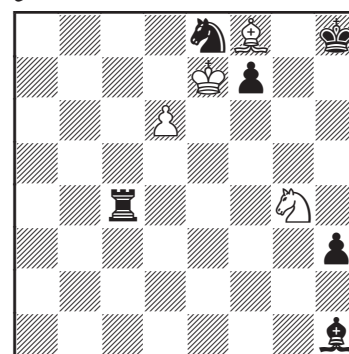
h5d8 0108.12 5/5 Win

No 21361 V. Tarasiuk
2nd honourable mention



d8f4 0301.22 4/4 Draw

No 21362 M. Minski
3rd honourable mention

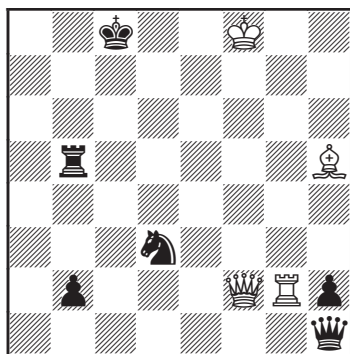


e7h8 0344.12 4/6 Draw

vi) Bc6+ 6.Kxf7 Be8+ 7.Sxe8 h1Q 8.Bg7+ Kh7 9.Sf6 mate.

“This is an interesting study whose main content is the difference between the location of the wK on e7 or e8”.

No 21363 P. Arestov
1st commendation



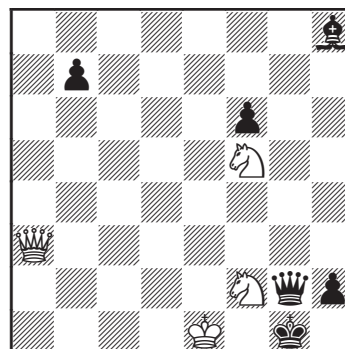
f8c8 4413.02 4/6 Draw

No 21363 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bg4+ Kb8/i 2.Qg3+ Se5/ii 3.Rxb2 Rxb2/iii 4.Qxe5+ Ka8 5.Qxb2 (Qa5+ Kb7;) Qf1+ 6.Ke8/iv Qe1+/v 7.Be2/vi h1Q 8.Qa3+ Kb7/vii 9.Qe7+/viii Kb6 (Kc6; Bf3+) 10.Qe3+ (Qe6+? Qc6+;) Kc6 11.Qe5/ix zz Qeh4/x 12.Bf3+ Qxf3 13.Qf6+ Qxf6 (Qhxf6) stalemate.

- i) Kb7 (Kc7) 2.Qf7+ wins.
- ii) Re5 3.Rxb2+ Sxb2 4.Qxe5+ draws.
- iii) Qf1+ 4.Bf3 Rxb2 5.Qxe5+ draws.
- iv) 6.Ke7? Qe1+ 7.Be2 Qh4+ wins.
- v) h1Q 7.Qa3+ Kb8 8.Qg3+ Kb7 9.Qb3+ Kc6 10.Bd7+ Kc5 11.Qc3+ (Qa3+).
- vi) 7.Kd7? h1Q 8.Qa3+ Kb8 9.Qb3+ Qb7+, or 7.Kd8? Qa5+ 8.Kc8 Qc5+ 9.Kd8 h1Q win.
- vii) Kb8 9.Qd6+ Kb7 10.Qd7+ Kb6 11.Qd4+ (Qb5+).
- viii) 9.Qb3+? Kc7 10.Qc4+ Qc6+ wins.
- ix) 11.Qe6+? Kc5 12.Qc4+ Kd6 13.Qf4+ Kd5 14.Qc4+ Ke5 wins.
- x) Qc1 12.Bf3+, or Qd2 12.Bf3+, or Qd5 12.Bb5+ Qxb5 13.Qxe1, or Qhh4 12.Qe6+ Kc5 13.Qe5+ Kb4 14.Qb2+ Ka4 15.Qa2+ Kb4 16.Qb2+ draw.

“We see attractive play with sacrifices leading to a subtle position with the point 11.Qe5!! (when one wants to check!). Black has a lot of moves with the queens, but the play ends in stalemate. The computer mutual zz is fashionable, but this one is interesting!”

No 21364 P. Krug & M. Garcia
2nd commendation



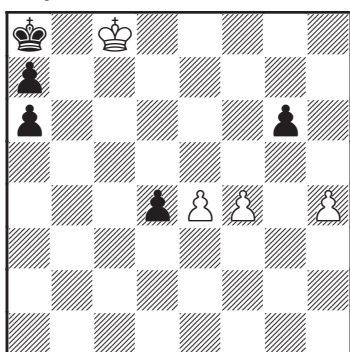
e1g1 4032.03 4/6 Win

No 21364 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Sh3+ Qxh3 2.Qa7+/i Kh1 3.Qxb7+ (Qf2? Qc3+;) Kg1 4.Qb6+ Kh1 5.Qc6+/ii Kg1/iii 6.Qc5+ Kh1 7.Se3 Kg1/iv 8.Sg4+/v Kh1 9.Qd5+ Qg2/vi 10.Qf5 Kg1 (Qh3+; Ke2) 11.Qc5+ Kh1 12.Sf2+ Kg1 13.Sh3++ Kh1 14.Qf5 Qg3+ (Qg1+; Qf1) 15.Ke2 Qe5+ 16.Qxe5 fxe5 17.Kf1 e4 18.Sf2 mate.

- i) 2.Qc5+? Kh1 3.Se3 f5 (Kg1?; Sg4+) 4.Kf2 Qh4+ 5.Ke2 Qh5+ 6.Kd3 Qg6 draws.
- ii) 5.Se3? Qf3 6.Kd2 Qf2+ 7.Kd3 Qa2 8.Qb4 Qa6+ 9.Ke4 f5+ 10.Kf4 Be5+ 11.Kxe5 Qa1+ 12.Kxf5 Kg1 13.Qg4+ Kf2 14.Sd1+ Ke1 15.Qe4+ Kd2 draws.
- iii) Qg2 6.Sg3+ Kg1 7.Qc5+ Qf2+ 8.Qxf2 mate.
- iv) Qf3 8.Qc1 Kg1 9.Kd2+ Kf2 10.Qe1 mate. Qg3+ 8.Ke2.
- v) 8.Sc2+? Kg2 9.Qf2+ Kh1 10.Se3 Bg7 11.Qf1+ Qxf1+ 12.Kxf1 f5 13.Sxf5 (Sd1 Bd4;) Be5 draws.
- vi) Kg1 10.Qd4+ Kh1 11.Ke2 f5 12.Sf2+ Kg2 13.Qd5+ wins.

“This shows subtle white manoeuvring for a win but the study lacks compositionality”.

No 21365 A. Oganesyanyan
3rd commendation



c8a8 oooo.34 4/5 Win

No 21365 Aleksei Oganesyanyan (Russia). 1.f5/i gxf5 2.e5/ii d3 3.e6 d2 4.e7 d1Q 5.e8S Qc1+ 6.Sc7+ Qxc7+ 7.Kxc7 f4 8.h5 f3 9.h6 f2 10.h7 f1Q 11.h8Q+ (h8R+) wins.

i) 1.e5? d3 2.e6 d2 3.e7 d1Q, and: 4.e8S Qg4+ wins, or here: 4.e8Q Qc2+/iii 5.Kd7+ Kb7 6.Qe5 Qc6+ wins.

ii) 2.exf5? d3 3.f6 d2 4.f7 d1Q 5.f8Q Qc2+/iv 6.Kd7+ Kb7 draws.

iii) But not: Qc1+? 5.Kd7+ Kb7 6.Qe4+ Kb8 7.Qc6 wins.

iv) But not: Qc1+? 6.Kd7+ Kb7 7.Qb4+ Ka8 8.Qe4+ Kb8 9.Qc6 wins.

“It is interesting that, in both rounds of pawn rallies, the bP promotes first but always White prevails: first by promoting to knight and then promoting with check. This is common in studies by M. Zinar. Of interest is the subtle move 1.f5! preliminarily closing the diagonal h3-c8. This allows us to honour this small study”.



Oleg Pervakov and Evgeny Kopilov at Wijk aan Zee 2016.

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