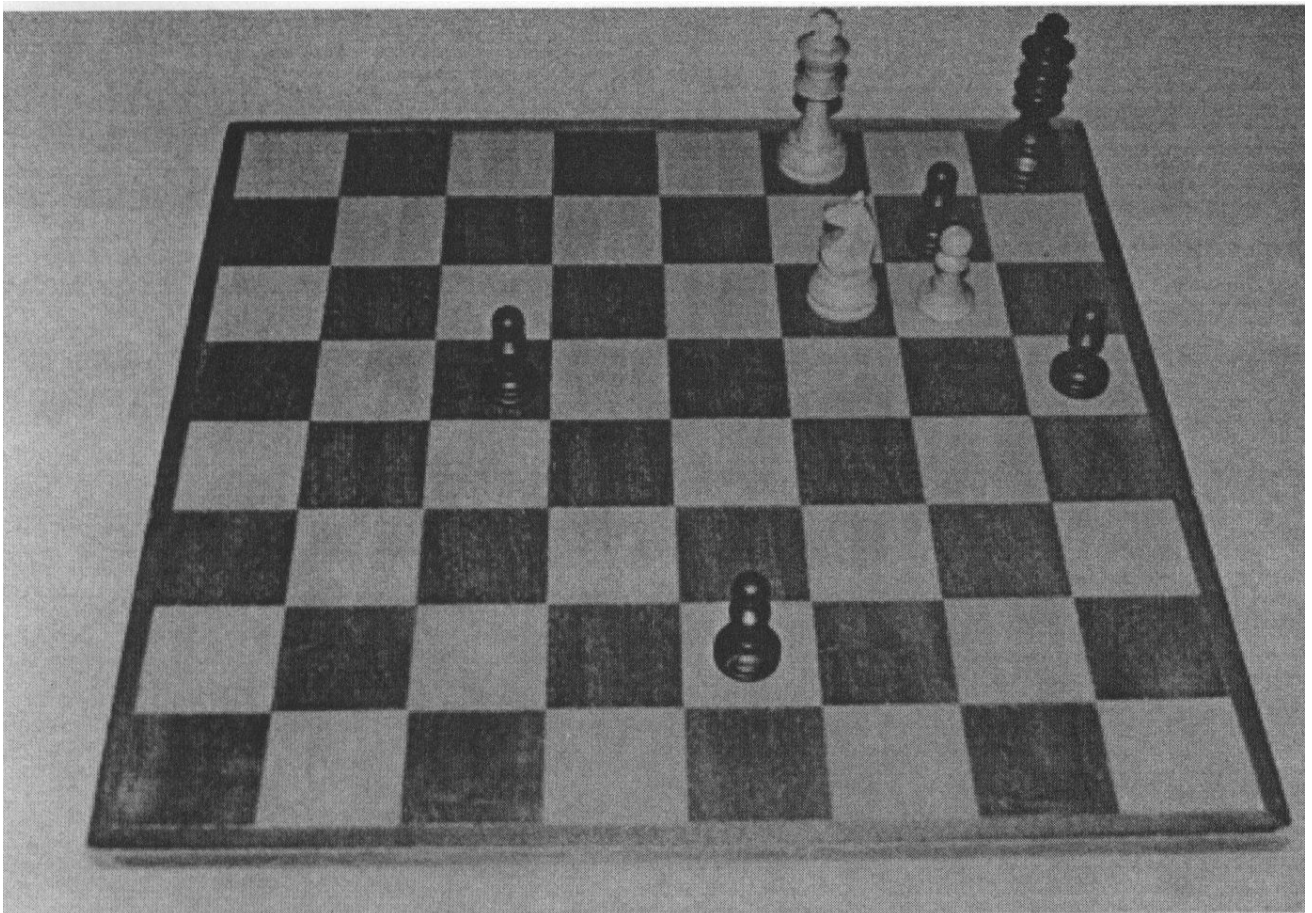


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**No. 172 – Vol. XIV – April 2008**

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*White to play and win*

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# EDITORIAL

## HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

The first official world champions of chess all composed at least a single study. Sometimes their compositions were at a very high level; all of you will know the famous systematic manoeuvre rook study of Emanuel Lasker or the fine study by Wilhelm Steinitz (e7g8 0310.20 h1h4.g6h6 4/2 Win: 1.h7+ Kg7 2.h8Q+! Kxh8 3.Kf7 Rf1+ 4.Bf6+ Rxf6+ 5.Kxf6 Kg8 6.g7). And some also really excelled at endgame studies (Mikhail Botvinnik and Vasily Smyslov). The 1960's champions Petrosian and Spassky, as well as the late Bobby Fischer (9iii1943 – 17i2008), did not compose a single endgame study. And it must be said that not very many grandmasters today seem to be interested. Since endgame studies and o.t.b. endgame play are closely connected, publicity for our noble art directed at o.t.b. players seems to be logical. Therefore it was very good news that one of the most famous chess tournaments with a long tradition, the Corus tournament (formerly known as *Hoog-oventoernooi*), organized an endgame study tourney as one of the events to celebrate its 70th Anniversary. The award became quickly

available, and we give it priority in **EG** in order to quickly inform the endgame study community. The award brochure in PDF-format is downloadable from the ARVES-website ([www.arves.org](http://www.arves.org)). It is aimed at the general public i.e. no or fewer analytical lines in comparison with the version in this **EG**.

Paul Valois kindly supplied an update on his **EG**-index (**EG** 1-171), which is also freely available from the ARVES-website. Some people wondered how to query the index by typing key words, rather than scrolling through the whole document. That is not difficult. Just open the website, left-click on the frame holding the text, and press CTRL-F.

The present issue holds the already almost traditional series of articles by our expert editors and, of course, many beautiful studies. Enjoy!

The deadline for submission of manuscripts for *EG173* is June 1st, 2008. Because of the fact that so many people are involved in the production process of **EG**, manuscripts received after the deadline will be postponed.

# ORIGINALS (20)

Editor :  
ED VAN DE GEVEL

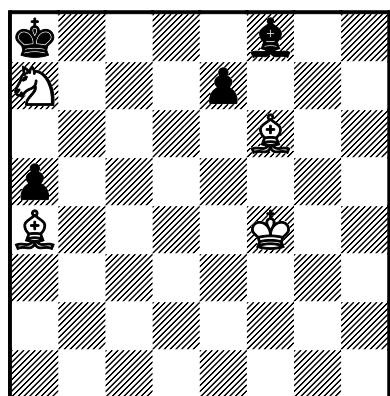
Editor: Ed van de Gevel – “email submissions are preferred.”

Judge 2008-09: Sergey N. Tkachenko

I am pleased to announce that Sergey N. Tkachenko has agreed to act as judge for the 2008-2009 tourney associated with this Originals column.

Our first study is also the first study in EG by Luis Miguel Martín.

**No 16384** L.M. Martín



f4a8 0051.02 Win

**No 16384** Luis Miguel Martín (Spain). 1.Bd4 e5+ 2.Kxe5 Bg7+ 3.Kd6/i Bxd4 4.Sb5/ii Bb6 5.Kc6 Bd8 6. Kd7 B- 7.Kc8 wins as the white bishop gives checkmate in two moves.

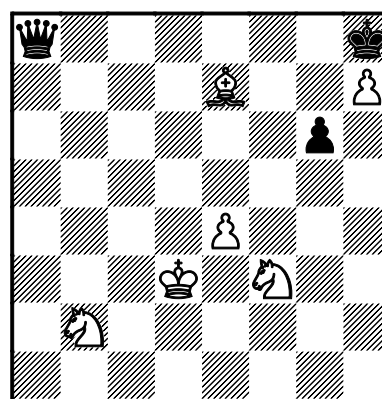
i) The white king wants to go to c7 to contain the black king. This task is possible thanks to the pawn's existence on a5. This pawn restricts the movement of the black bishop. 3.Kd5 Bxd4 is only a draw.

ii) 4.Sc6? Bb6 draws.

In Viktor Syzonenko's study the white light forces have to avoid several stalemates to emerge victorious.

**No 16385** Viktor Syzonenko (Ukraine). 1.Sg5 Qf8/i 2.Sc4 (2.Bxf8? stalemate) Qxe7/ii 3.Se5 Qa3+ 4.Ke2/iii Qb2+ 5.Kf3 Qc3+ 6.Kg4/iv Qc8+ 7.Kh4 Kg7 8.Sef7 Qb8 9.h8Q+ Qxh8+ 10.Sxh8 and wins.

**No 16385** V. Syzonenko



d3h8 3012.11 Win

i) Qa6+ 2.Sc4 Qa1 3.e5/v Qf1+ 4.Kc3 Qe1+ 5.Kb3 Qf1/vi 6.Bf6+! Qxf6 7.Sd6! (refuse!) and wins (7.exf6? stalemate) .

ii) Qf1+ 3.Kc3/vii Qa1+/viii 4.Kb3 Qb1+ 5.Ka4/ix Qa2+ 6.Kb5 Qb1+ 7.Kc6 Qa1 8.Sb6 Qc3+/x 9.Kd7 Qd4+ 10.Sd5 Qa4+ 11.Kc7/xi Qa7+ 12.Kc6 Qa6+ 13.Kc5/xii Qa5+ 14.Kc4 Qa4+ 15.Kc3 Qa1+ (Qc6+; Kd2) 16.Kb4 Qb2+ 17.Kc5 Qc1+/xiii 18.Kb6 Qb2+ 19.Kc7 Qe5+ 20.Kd7 and wins.

iii) 4.Kd2? Qb2+ 5.Ke3 Kg7 6.Sef7 Qc1+ draws.

iv) 6.Kf2? Qd2+ 7.Kf3 Kg7 8.Sef7 Qd1+ draws or 6.Kf4? Qc1+ draws.

v) 3.Sd6 Qd1+ 4.Kc4 Qa4+ 5.Kd5 Qb3+ 6.Ke5 Qg3+ 7.Ke6 Qb3+ 8.Kf6 Qb6 draws or 3.Se5 Qd1+ 4.Kc4 Qf1+ 5.Kd5 Qb5+ 6.Kd6 Qb8+ 7.Ke6 Qb3+ 8.Kf6 Qb6+ 9.Kf7 Qb3+ 10.Kxg6 Qe6+ 11.Kh5 Qxe5 draws.

vi) Qb1+ 6.Ka3 Qd3+ 7.Kb4 Qf1 8.Sd6 Qf4+ 9.Kb3 Qe3+ 10.Kc4 Qf4+ 11.Kd5 Qd2+ 12.Ke6 wins.

vii) 3.Kd2 Qf2+ 4.Kc3 Qe1+ 5.Kb3 Qd1+ 6.Kb4 Qb1+ 7.Kc5 wins, but not 3.Kd4?

Qa1+ 4.Kd5 Qa8+ 5.Ke5 Qf8 6.Bxf8 stalemate.

viii) Qe1+ 4.Kb3 Qb1+ 5.Ka4 draws.

ix) 5.Sb2 Qf1 6.e5 draws.

x) Kg7 9.e5 Qxe5 10.h8Q+ Kxh8 11.Sf7+ wins, or Qc1+ 9.Kd7 Qb2 10.Sd5 Qb5+ 11.Ke6 Qa6+ 12.Kf7 Qb7 13.Kxg6 Qc6+ 14.Kh5 Qh6+ 15.Kg4 wins.

xi) 11.Ke6 Qa6+ 12.Kf7 Qb6/xiv 13.e5 Qd6 14.e6 Qf4+ 15.Sf6 wins.

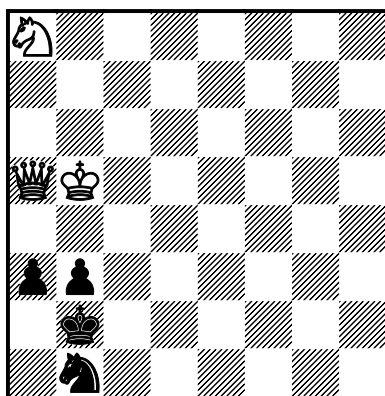
xii) 13.Sb6 Qf1 14.e5 Qf8 15.Kd7 Qf5+ 16.Kd6 wins.

xiii) Qf2+ 18.Kc6 Qc2+ 19.Kd6 Qh2+ 20.Kd7 wins.

xiv) Qd6 13.Se6 Qd7 14.Sf8 Qb7 15.Sb6 Qc7 16.e5 Qb7 17.Sbd7 wins.

Siegfried Hornecker explains his study: *This was not mined from EGTB, even though it may look like it. However, it was tested with EGTB (online at k4it egtb). Originally, I wanted to show the mate after 2...Sa3+ but didn't find a good intro. Surprisingly, when trying to use a choice key (1.Sb6 or 1.Se5) and including the refutation to 1.Sb6, I found White still wins after 1.Sb6. So I decided to use this version instead without a choice but with a (surprisingly found) variation after 2...Sc3+! that is still winning.*

**No 16386 S. Hornecker**



b5b2 1004.02 BTM, Win

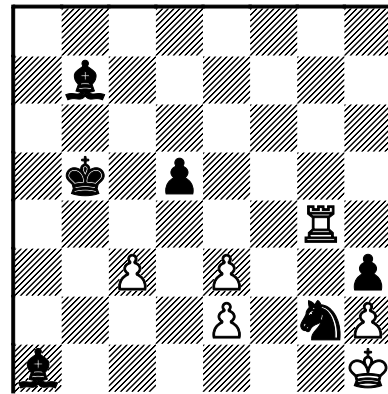
**No 16386** Siegfried Hornecker (Germany). 1...a2 2.Sb6 Sc3+/i 3.Kc4 a1Q 4.Qxc3+ Kb1 5.Qd3+ Kc1 6.Qf1+ Kb2 7.Qe2+ Ka3 8.Kb5

b2 9.Qe3+ Ka2 10.Qe6+ Kb1 11.Sd5 Qa3 12.Sb4 Qg3 13.Qe4+ Ka1 14.Qa8+ Kb1 15.Qh1+ Qg1 16.Qxg1 mate.

i) Sa3+ 3.Qxa3+ Kxa3 4.Sc4 mate

In Alexey Gasparyan's study White has to manoeuvre exactly to make use of the stalemate possibilities.

**No 16387 A. Gasparyan**



h1b5 0163.42 Draw

**No 16387** Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia). 1.Rb4+/i Kc6/ii 2.Rb1/iii Bxc3/iv 3.Rc1 d4/v 4.exd4 Sf4 5.Rxc3+ Kb5+/vi 6.Rf3/vii Sxe2 7.d5 Bxd5/viii draws.

i) 1.Rg7 Kc6 2.Rg6+ Kc5 3.Rg7 Bc6 wins or 1.Rg3 Bc8 2.Rg5 Sxe3 3.Re5 Bb7 4.Kg1 Bxc3 wins

ii) Ka6 2.Ra4+ Kb6 3.Rxa1 draws.

iii) 2.c4 dxc4 3.Rxc4+ Kb5 4.Rc7 Bc6 wins or 2.e4 Kc7 3 exd5/ix Bxd5 wins.

iv) Sxe3 3.Rxa1 Kd6 4.Kg1 draws.

v) Sxe3 4. Rxc3+ Kd6 5.Rb3 Bc6 6.Kg1 draws.

vi) Kd6+ 6.d5 Bxd5+ 7.Rf3 Sxe2 stalemate.

vii) 6.d5 thematic try: Bxd5+ 7.Rf3 Kc4 8.Kg1 Sxe2+ 9.Kf2 Bxf3 10.Kxf3 Kd3 wins.

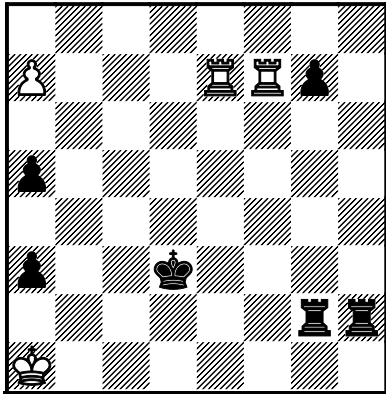
viii) Kc4 8.Rd3 Kxd3/x stalemate.

ix) 3.Rb3 d4 4.cxd4 Bxe4 wins.

x) Bxd5+ 9.Rxd5 Kxd5 stalemate or Kc5 9.Rf3 Kxd5 10.Rb3 Bc6 11.Rb6 draws.

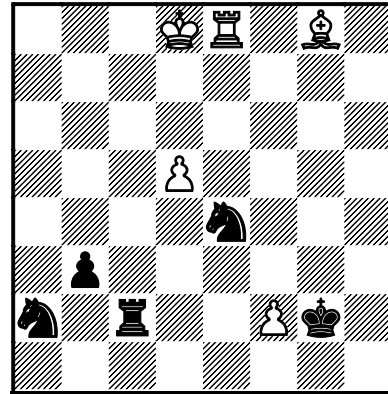
Mario Guido Garcia supplied several studies and I selected one for this issue and will keep the others for coming issues.

No 16388 M.G. Garcia



a1d3 0800.13 Win

No 16389 G. Josten



d8g2 0416.21 Draw

**No 16388** Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina).  
 1.Rf3+ Kd4 2.Re4+ Kc5 3.Rf5+ Kd6 4.Rd5+  
 Kc7 5.Re7+ Kb6 6.Re6+ Kc7 7.a8S+ Kc8  
 8.Rc6+ Kb8 9.Rd8+ Kb7 10.Rc7+ Ka6  
 11.Rd6+ Kb5 12.Rb6+ Ka4 13.Rc4 mate.

And in our final study in this column, Ger-  
 hard Josten responds to the challenge set by  
 Harold van der Heijden in the previous issue.

**No 16389** Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.d6  
 (Rxe4 b2;) Sxd6 (b2; Bxa2) 2.Bd5+/i Kf1/ii  
 3.Bxb3 Rc8+ (Rb2; 4.Bxa2 or Sxe8; Bxc2)  
 4.Kd7 Rxe8 (Sxe8; Kxc8) 5.Bxa2 Ra8 and  
 now as known: 6.Bd5 Ra6 7.Bc6 Sc4 8.Bb5  
 Rd6+ 9.Kc7 Rd4 10.Kc6 Ke2 11.Kc5 Kd3  
 12.Kb4 draws.

i) 2.Bxb3 Rc8+ 3.Kd7 Rxe8 4.Bxa2 Re2  
 5.Bd5+ Se4 wins.

ii) Kxf2 3.Rf8+ Ke2 4.Bxb3 Rc8+ 5.Ke7  
 Rxf8 6.Kxf8 draws.



Gerhard Josten

(Photo from <http://chessclinic.kalandor.hu/tanulverangol.html>)

# SPOTLIGHT (16)

Editor :

JARL ULRICHSEN

Contributors: Günter Amann (Austria), John Beasley (England), Mario García (Argentina), Guy Haworth (England), Alain Pallier (France), Harold van der Heijden (The Netherlands), Timothy G. Whitworth (England).

We continue Pallier's investigation of end-game studies with 6 men or less. Harold van der Heijden (HH) has as usual furnished me with many details.

EG21

**1122, S. da Silva.** Dual 5.Sf3 (instead of 5.Sd3) that actually wins 2 moves quicker.

**1126, W.D. Ellison.** Minor dual 10.Qa8+ (instead of 10.Qa7+); the final phase after 20...Kd6 is dualistic.

**1129, I. Krikheli.** Minor dual 6.Kb5 (instead of 6.Ka5).

**1130, E. Dobrescu.** No solution. Cook 3...Bf2+ ... 5...Bg1+; source unknown, HHdbII no.

33870, 2000).

**1132, Y. Kopelovich (Afek).** Cook 4.Sd3+ (W. Veitch); cf. EG22 p. 170.

**1137, J. Pospisil.** EG22 p. 170 offers a digest of the complicated solution. The line 2...Ra7+ 3.Sxa7 h1Q 4.Bg6 Qg2+ is lost for White. This was demonstrated by J. Polasek, *Ceskoslovensky Sach* xi1995.

EG22

**1153, V. Neidze.** Cook 6.Rh4 (instead of 6.Ke2); source unknown, HHdbII no. 34175, 2000).

**1157, V. Dolgov, A.I.P. Kuznetsov.** The cook 1...Kg7 (W. Veitch) was reported in EG23 p. 195. In the intended solution there is another cook as Black can play 4...Sc5.

**1182, F.S. Bondarenko, A.I.P. Kuznetsov.** No solution. The cook 5...Ke6 6.Kf8 Sc7 was spotted by H. Conrady, HHdbIII no. 33159, 27v2001.

**1196, V. Bulanov.** There are several duals after 5...c5; e.g. 6.Se7; 7.Sc6, Sd5, Sg6 and many more.

**1197, U. Venäläinen.** In the printed solution there is a minor dual 8.Kf4 (instead of 8.Kh4). 6...e1Q 7.Ba5+ Kxa5 stalemate as main line allows a unique solution.

**1202, A. Rautanen.** There are many ways to win after 5.Bxa8.

**1203, E. Kämäräinen.** As usual we meet the well-known dual 7.Sf5 (instead of 7.Se4).

**1204, G. Sonntag.** Minor dual 4.Kd3 (instead of 4.Kd2).

**1209, H. Backe.** After 4...exd6 not only 5.g6 but also 5.Sb2 and 5.Sc3 win for White. To save the opus I propose that we shift wPg5 to g4. Now 5.g5 Sd7 6.g6 Se5 7.g7 Sg6+ 8.Kg8 Se7+ 9.Kf8 is the only way to win.

EG23

**1232, V.S. Kovalenko.** The cook 2.Kg5 (instead of 2.Kg4) reported in EG24 p. 219 (W. Veitch) is confirmed by EGTB.

**1235, P. Joitsa, V. Nestorescu.** Instead of 9.f8Q+ White can also play 9.f8R+ or 9.f8S but this hardly counts as a dual as Black is forced to capture if he tries to win.

**1237, E. Onate.** Minor dual 7.Ke4 Rg4+ 8.Ke3 (instead of 7.Kf4).

**1240, H. Källström.** Incorrect (Ulrichsen). Black wins by playing 1...f3 2.Bxf3 Rg6+ 3.K~ Rxa6 (EGTB). 2.a7 Bxa7 3.Bxf3 is also lost for White (EGTB). This was of course not easy to see 41 years ago!

**1248, C. Jonsson.** Dual 7.Kf3 (instead of 7.Kg3).

**1250, Y. Bazlov.** (This won the 1st pr.) Incorrect. Black wins after 12...Sc8 13.Kxc8 Sc5 14.Sg1 Sb3, and wS will be captured. You can hardly blame a composer for overlooking the incredible move 12...Sc8. By changing colours it should be easy to turn the composition into a win for White.

**1271, Y. Bazlov, V.S. Kovalenko.** Minor dual 8.Ba5 (instead of 8.Be1).

EG24

**1275, T.B. Gorgiev.** No solution. 2...c3 3.Ka6 Kd6 (instead of 3...Kc6) 4.Ka5 Kc5 5.Rf5+ Kc4 wins for Black. This cook was pointed out by H. Conrady, HHdbIII no. 31639, 1iv2005.

**1284, L.A. Mitrofanov.** The cook 2...Kg4 (W. Veitch) was reported in EG25 p. 244. In the other line 1...Ke3 2.Sh3 an analogous cook was spotted (*Szachy* x1971): 2...Ke4 3.Kxa6 Rh8, and R. Busch showed in *Schach-Echo* no. 21, xi1971 that even 1...a5 leads to the same kind of play.

**1288, V.A. Evreinov.** In addition to the intended solution 1.Qc6 White wins by playing 1.Sa6+, 1.Sb5+, 1.Sd5+ and 1.Se6+. The cook 1.Sa6+ Kd8 2.Qh8+ Ke7 3.Sc5 was found by Z. Caputto (*El arte del estudio de ajedrez* no. 3012, 2000). Black loses one of his rooks or is mated after 3...Rb6+ or 3...Rd6+ 4.Kg7. The composer tried to correct his composition by moving wQc3 to c2. This prevented the cook 1.Sa6+, but in addition to 1.Qc6 White can now play 1.Sd5+, 1.Se6+ and 1.Se8+. If we shift wQc3 to h1 however the study is correct (Ulrichsen; EGTB).

**1297, L.F. Topko.** The cook 3...Kf5+ (instead of 3...Kf7+) found by W. Veitch was reported in EG25 p. 244 and is now confirmed by EGTB.

**1298, V.S. Kovalenko.** 2S vs. Q is a material imbalance that often leads to second solutions. In EG25 p. 244 W. Veitch showed that not only 1.Sgf6+ but also 1.Sdf6+ draws. EGTB shows that even 1.Sge3 and 1.Sde3 draw.

EG25

**1355, V. Dolgov.** Incorrect; see EG26 p. 281 (W. Veitch).

**1358, R. Missiaen.** Second solution 5.Ra3 Bb1 6.Ra1 Bc2 7.Rc1 Be4 8.Rc4 Bf5 9.Rh4+ (Ulrichsen, *EBUR* no. 2 vi2000).

**1364, C.J. de Feijter.** White can play 4.Sg6 (instead of 4.Kd5), but this seems to be only a loss of time.

**1368, H.H. Grondijs.** Incorrect; see the comment in EG.

**1369, V. Nestorescu.** After 4...Rd1 5.Sb4 Rf1 6.Rxb2+ Kc1 there is a serious dual 7.Sd3+ Kd1 8.Kc3 (instead of 7.Sa2+ Kd1 8.Sc3+). Looking up HHdbIII I found that 4...Rg1 5.Se3 Ka1 6.Rxb2 Rg3 7.Re2 Rg1 8.Ra2+ Kb1 9.Rb2+ Kc1 10.Sd5 mating in a few moves is given as the main line (note i in **EG**). But here 10.Ka2 wins at once as Black must give up his rook to avoid mate. EGTB informs us that White can also play e.g. 8.Sd5 that leads to a completely different play to the intended solution.

EG26

**P. 276 F3, P. Farago.** 4.Kf6 Rh5 5.f8Q Kg1 6.Qg8+ leads to another solution than 4.Kf4.

**P. 282 D, G.N. Zakhodyakin.** The cook 1.Rg8+ Kb7 2.Be3 was found by R. Missiaen (*Schakend Nederland* iv1969). EGTB shows that 1.Kf1 and 1.Re7 also win. The cook 5.Rg4 was also found by R. Missiaen (*Tijdschrift* x1952).

**P. 283 F, R. Missiaen.** Second solutions 3.Rc6 and 3.Ke3.

**P. 286, G.V. Afanasiev (d5/h5).** The dual 2.Rh8+ Kg4 3.Rg8+ Kh3 3.Kf4 was spotted by S. Hornecker, HHdbIII no. 55692, 1vi2004.

**1391a, M. Bent, W. Veitch.** This should not be regarded as part of the solution but only as a demonstration of the win. Of course EGTB does this much more efficiently.

**1397, A. Hildebrand.** The cook 8.Ke6 (W. Veitch) instead of 6.Ke5 was reported in **EG**.



**1425, A. Sobey.** The serious dual 8.Ke3 (instead of 8.Kf3) pointed out by W. Veitch in EG is confirmed by EGTB.

EG27

**1436, D.A. Gurgenidze.** The cook 2.Ke2 has been known for many years (HHdbII no. 35533, 2000).

**1475, J. Pospisil.** No solution. Black wins after 2...Kg7 3.Ke5 Kg6 (J. Nunn, HHdbIII no. 39474, 31viii2002).

**1485, P. Benkö.** White was supposed to draw after 3.axb4 b2 4.b5 b1Q 5.Rf8 Qg1 6.Kb7 h5 7.gxh5 Qc5 8.Rg8+ Kxf3 but this position is a win for Black (Ulrichsen; EGTB).

**1498, G.M. Kasparyan.** No solution. After 5.Kxh1 all black moves win according to EGTB, the quickest being 5...Rd2. The incorrectness has been proved earlier by H. Conrady, HHdbIII no. 30776, liv2005, who showed that 9.Ba8, Bb7, Bd5 and Be4 all win for Black although Black actually needs between 130 and 154 moves to secure the win.

**1501, D. Petrov.** Dual 15.Rf5 (K. Husák and E. Vlasák, *EBUR* no. 2 vi1997).

EG28

**1535, W. Proskurowski.** The dual 6.Rf4 (instead of 6.Rg3) is serious. It is surprising that it has not been discovered earlier.

**1541, F. Nieszl (not Nissl).** Duals 6.Sh4 (instead of 6.Sf4), 7.Se6, 7.Ke6 and 7.Kg6 (instead of 7.Sg6), 8.Ke6 (instead of 8.Sf4) and finally 9.Sh5 (instead of 9.Se6+).

**1559, V. Bron.** Only the first five moves are unique. In addition to the solution 6.Ra7+ White can play 6.Bg1, 6.Bd4 and 6.Rf6+. The material RB vs. 2Bs is known to be difficult for human beings to handle.

**1578, E. Pogosyants.** In the solution White plays 5.Kf7, but 5.Rg2+, 5.Ke7 and 5.Kd7 also win.

EG29

**1585, J. Vandiest.** This is correct apart from some minor duals 8.Kd3, 12.Ka5, 14.Kc5 (instead of 8.Kc3, 12.Kb5, 14.Kc3).

**1586, J. Vandiest.** This is also in principle correct but wK can reach h5 in different ways.

**1588, J. Vandiest.** 16.Kf6 seems to be a serious dual.

**1589, J. Vandiest.** This was treated in EG165 p. 107, but by a mistake numbered 1588.

**1590, J. Vandiest.** W. Veitch's claim in EG30 p. 394-91 that 1.Qd5+ Kh8 2.Qc6 is another dual win is not confirmed by EGTB, but the composer's analysis of this line needs correcting. Black should not answer 2...f6?, but 2...Qd8 or 2...Qe7. And 9.Kg5 should end the solution as the rest is dualistic. 10.Qd8+ and 10.Qe6+ both win. And after 10.Qd8+ Qf8 the exchange of queens leads to a won pawn endgame.

**1606, Y. Bazlov.** No solution. Black draws after 5...Kd4 (instead of 5...Kxd3) 6.Sb4 Ke5 or 6.f6 Ra7.

**1624, L. Sokolov.** Duals 7.Qc4+ (instead of 7.Qb6+) and 8.Qb7+ or 8.Qa7+ (instead of 8.Qc7+).

**1628, J. Vandiest.** Dual win 7.Qf5+ Ke8 8.Qc8+ Kf7 9.Qxc4+ Ke7 10.Bd6+.

**1629, J. Vandiest.** After 6...a5 many white moves win. The composer's 7.Kf2 is one of them, but other obvious alternatives are 7.Ra8, 7.Rb8+ and 7.Rh2.

**1631, J. Vandiest.** There is a dual win beginning with 19.Bc3+ (instead of 19.Bh4+).

**1633, J. Vandiest.** In the line 6...Ke2 there is a serious dual 9.Qh4+ Kd1 10.Qh1+ Kd2 11.Sb3+. In HHdbIII 6...Kc2 is given as main line, but this line is also dualistic; e.g. 8.Qe4+ instead of 8.Qf5+.

EG30

**P. 401 G., V. Kovalenko, E. Dvizov.** The cook 3.b4 Kc7 5.b5 has been known for many years (*Problem* no. 120-123, x1968). It was corrected by shifting wPc6 to b6 and bKe8 to d8. (same source).

**1635, J. Vandiest.** 6.Bxc1 and 7.Qh1+ can be transposed. Duals 10.Qg1+ and 10.Qh1+.

**1642, J. Vandiest.** The cook 1.Bg6+ (instead of the composer's 1.Bd1+) was found by

J. Nunn (HHdbIII no. 40992, 31viii2006); 1.Qc5+ and 1.Qc7+ also win (A. Pallier, EG165 p. 107).

**1645, J. Vandiest.** No solution. The cook 4...Kd6 (instead of 4...Bc6) 5.Kc2 Bf5+ 6.Kc3 Be6 7.Kc2 Ba2 was spotted by J. Nunn (HHdbIII no. 32090, 31viii2006).

**1659, N. Polin.** Second solution 3.Bd2 Rf7+ 4.Sf2+ Kh2 5.Bc3 Re8 6.Be5+ Rxe5 stalemate.

**1660 R. Naranja.** As White can play 8.Rf2 (instead of 8.Rf1) 7.Rf3 should perhaps end the solution or 7...Rg5 8.Rf5 could be the main line.

John Beasley corrects two of my claims in EG171.

**31.1672, A. Mandler;** cf. EG171 p. 8. The dual 4.Kd4 is found in Beasley's *Depth and Beauty. The chess endgame studies of Artur Mandler (ARVES Book of the Year 2003)* p. 9 and so is the related dual 5.Kd4 (instead of 5.Kc4).

**31.1672, A. Mandler;** cf. EG171 p. 9. Beasley regards my comment that the solution should be stopped after 8.Kd7 as a mistake. In Beasley's opinion the study is meant to be a pre-computer demonstration that a particular ending could be won. For this purpose the quickest and simplest win is preferable to complicated alternatives. Beasley actually gives a move by move critique of Mandler's analyses in appendix B of *Depth and Beauty*.

**31.1676, A. Mandler.** Beasley informs us that Mandler himself noted an inversion dual in the line 1...d6. 4.Ka8 and 5.Ka7 also works; cf. *Depth and Beauty* p. 21.

**31.1680, A. Mandler.** After 1...c4 2.Ke6 Kh7 3.Rxc4 (EG note iv) the final echo line 8.Rh4+ is unnecessary since 8.Kg6 wins more quickly. Mandler thought that 8...Rd4 refutes this line, but it is not met by 9.Rxd4? stalemate, but by 9.Rg5; cf. *Depth and Beauty* p. 108-109.

**35.2094, J. Roche.** The comment in EG171 p. 11 is a mistake. The study is correct, and 3.Qc6 is the only move to win (van der Heijden). The moves 3.Qf3, 3.Qc8 or 3.Qa1+ be-

longs with the side line 2...Kg7. The composer here gives 3.Qa5? which throws away the win.

**169 p. 89 P.2, V. Chekhover.** Whitworth tells us that this did not win the first prize (or any other prize or even an honourable mention). The award appeared in 64 5 April 1938 [p. 4] and 15 April 1938 [p. 4] with a postscript 5 June 1938 [p. 4], and V.A. Korolkov and G.N. Zakhodyakin shared 1st and 2nd prize. Whitworth adds that the study appears in Chekhover's 1959 collection *Shakhmatnye etyudy i okonchaniya* as no. 18, and the composer gives it the simple heading "64 1937" without claiming any kind of distinction.

**170.16319, D. Gurgenidze, I. Akobia.** This study already appeared as an original in *diagrammes* no. 152 i-iii/2005 (van der Heijden).

**170.16324, G. Amann.** In EG171 p. 8 doubt was cast on the correctness by Spotlight's editor. Joint analyses by the composer, van der Heijden and myself led to the conclusion that the study is correct. In one line wK is chased to a8. The crucial position is wKa8, wQb8 and bQd7, bSb5. Without wPd2 Black could now continue Qd5+, Qa2+ and Qh2+, but wPd2 prevents this well-known winning manoeuvre.

**171.16349, J. Vandiest.** Dual. García points out that 6.Qb1+ Kf2 (Ke2?; Kg1) 7.Qb2+ Kf1 8.Qg2+ Ke1 9.Kg1 Qe2 10.Qg3+ Kd1 11.Qb3+ Qc2 12.Qe3 leads to the same play as in the solution. He proposes to add a black pawn on b4.

**171.16353, D. Kostadinov, L. Stanchev.** García claims that 8.Sf5 Bf6 9.Kg2 Be5 10.Kf1 Bf4 11.Kg2 is an alternative way of drawing.

**171.16354, E. Iriarte.** No solution. Black wins after 1...Re7 2.Kg2 Ke3 (García; EGTB).

**171.16361.** There are two composers named Tkachenko. This study is by S.I. Tkachenko.

**171.16374, H. Aloni, D. Rosenfelder.** Probably incorrect. 3...Kxg2 4.Ra5 Bg8 5.Sxd4 g4, and Black seems to draw (García).

**171 p. 28 P.1, O. Pervakov.** García is not convinced that White really wins in the line 3...hxg3 4.fxg3+ Kxg3 5.Bxb6 Bxc4+ 6.Kxb2 Sxb7 7.a8Q Bd5 8.Qa4 f6 9.Qb4 Bf3 and asks for a clear cut win. Although White has a material advantage it is indeed not easy to show the win without extensive analyses.

**171 p. 30 P.6, V. Korolkov.** This was not awarded a commendation but a “special prize”. This is confirmed by the copy of *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1987 no. 2 (February) p. 30-32 that Whitworth has sent me.

**171 p. 32 P.11, V. Korolkov.** “The diagram has an impossible heading: ‘*Shakhmaty v SSSR*’ and ‘1921’ are incompatible” (Whitworth). Whitworth is curious to know what the heading should be as we know that Korolkov started publishing studies in 1928.

**171 p. 31 P.9, M. Liburkin.** Second solutions on three different moves. White wins by playing 2.d4 cxd3 3.Rxd3 instead of 2.h3 (García; EGTB) and 2.Kb5 c3 3.dxc3 Bxc3 3.Rd5 (Rd6 or Rd7) instead of 3.d4? Ba3 (Ulrichsen; EGTB). After 2...Kh5 White can play 3.Rc1 Bxd2 4.Rxc4 instead of 3.h4 (García; EGTB), and finally 5.Kb5 c3 6.dxc3 Bxc3 7.Rd6 (Rc1 or Kc4) wins instead of 5.h6 (García; EGTB).

**171 p. 32 P. 10, E. Kolesnikov, N. Kralin. An. Kuznetsov.** Second solution. 1.Bxe5 fxe5 2.gxh3 Rh2 3.Ra6+ Kg5 4.Kd1 Rd2+ 5.Kc1 Rxd3 6.h4+ Kxh4 7.Kc2 Rd5 8.Rg6 draws (García; EGTB); if 6...Kf4 then 7.Rf6+ Ke4 8.Kc2 Rh3 9.Rc6 draws (García). I assume that this line in which Black is two pawns up was regarded as an easy win by the composers.

**171 p. 33 P.13, O. Pervakov.** No solution. Black draws after 4...Rc1+ (instead of 4...Rc6+) 5.Ke5 Bc5 6.d6 Rd1 7.e7 Bd6+ 8.Ke6 Ba2+ 9.Kf5 Bb1+; if 6.Bb5 then 6...Re1+ draws.

**171 p. 44 V.4, E. Vlasák, K. Husák.** Second solution. In the line 3.Rf1 the composers give 3...e5 4.Bxa3 Rh2 as winning for Black, but 4.Bd6 draws after 4...Rh5 5.Bb4 Rh3 6.Bd6 (García).

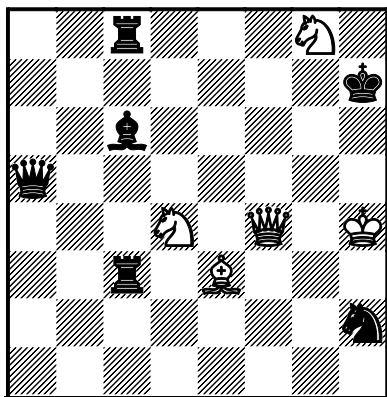
**171 (Supplement) p. 59 B.11, L. Centurini.** Haworth would like to add the line 2...Bc7 3.Bd7+ Kb8 4.Bxc7+. It does not prevent the inevitable defeat, but it does postpone the mate beyond move 4.

**171 p. 67 B.36, A.P. Kuznetsov.** In the solution 5.Rb5 Ka3 6.Sa6 Ka4 7.Rc5 Ka3 8.Ra5 mate is a serious dual. 1.Sd6 also mates in 8 moves (García).

# Corus 70 JT 2008

An endgame study tourney was organized on the occasion of the 70th edition of the Corus o.t.b. tournament (formerly known as Hoogovens tournament). Elsewhere in this issue, judge Yochanan Afek supplies details about the endgame study tourney and discusses the first two prize winners. The provisional award was published in a brochure that was issued during the o.t.b. tournament with a three month confirmation time.

**No 16390** Y. Bazlov  
3rd prize



h4h7 4645.00 5/6 Win

**No 16390** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). Not 1.Se7? Sf3+ 2.Sxf3 Rc4 3.Qxc4 Qh5+ 4.Kxh5 Bxf3+, see 5th move, but 1.Qf7+/i Kh8 2.Se7 Sf3+ 3.Sxf3 Rc4+ 4.Qxc4/ii Qh5+ 5.Kxh5, and:

– Be8+ 6.Qf7/iii Bxf7+ 7.Kh6 Rd8 8.Bf4 Rd5 9.Sg5 wins/iv, or:

– Bxf3+ 6.Qg4 Bxg4+ 7.Kg6, and:

- Rg8+ 8.Kh6 Rd8 9.Bf4 Rd5 10.Sxd5 wins/v, or

- Rc4/vi 8.Bg5 Bf5+/vii 9.Kh6 Rc6+ 10.Sxc6 Kg8 11.Se7+ wins.

i) After 1.Sf6+? Black escapes from the mating net: 1...Kg6/viii 2.Qh6+ Kf7 3.Qh7+ Kxf6 4.Qh6+ Ke7/ix 5.Qe6+ Kd8 6.Qd6+ Ke8/x.

ii) 4.Kg3? Qc7+, or 4.Bf4? Rxf4+ 5.Qxf4 Kg7 6.Sf5+ Kf7 7.Sg5+ Ke8 8.Qe3+ Be4 9.Qxe4+ Kd7 and the black king escapes.

iii) 6.Kh6? Rxc4 7.Bg5 Rc6+ 8.Sxc6 Bxc6 draws.

iv) Black loses his rook because of the mate threats.

v) e.g. Kg8 11.Sf6+.

vi) Rd8 8.Bf4 Rg8+ 9.Kh6 and Be5+.

vii) Rc6+ 9.Sxc6 Kg8 10.Bh6.

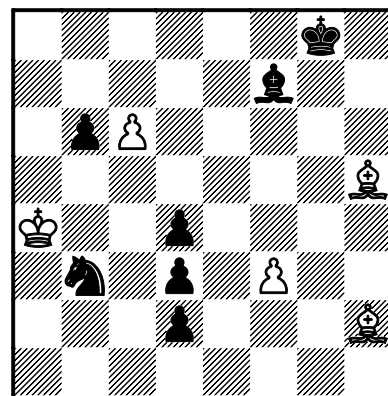
viii) But not Kg7? 2.Sh5+ Qxh5+ 3.Kxh5 Rh8+ 4.Kg5 Rc5+ 5.Sf5+ Rxf5+ 6.Qxf5 Sf3+ 7.Kg4 Re8 8.Bc5 Re4+ 9.Kg3 Re8 10.Bb4 Rg8 11.Kf2 wins.

ix) Ke5? 5.Qe6 mate. Also not Kf7? 5.Qe6+ Kg7 6.Sf5+ Qxf5 7.Bd4+ wins.

x) Bd7? 7.Se6+ Ke8 8.Qf8 mate.

“Philidor has already said that the pawn is the soul of the chess battle but even he would have admitted that this pawnless diamond possesses a huge soul. A series of tactical blows lead to a pair of neat echoing queen sacrifices both ending up in original settings of domination.”

**No 16391** E. Eilazyan  
4th prize



a4g8 0053.24 5/7 Draw

**No 16391** Eduard Eilazyan (Ukraine). 1.c7 Be6 2.Bg4/i Bc8 3.Bxc8 Sc5+/ii 4.Kb5 d1Q 5.Be6+ Sxe6 6.c8Q+ Kf7 7.Bd6/iii Qb3+ 8.Ka6/iv, and:

– Qd5 9.Qd7+ Kf6 10.Qe7+/v Kg6 11.Kxb6/vi d2/vii 12.Qe8+ Kh6 13.Qh8+ Kg5 14.Be7+/viii Kf4 15.Qh6+ Sg5/ix 16.Qh4+ Kxf3 17.Qh1+ Ke2 18.Qxd5 drawing, or:

– Qa4+/x 9.Kxb6 (Kb7 d2;) Qb3+ 10.Ka6/xi Qa2+ 11.Kb6/xii d2/xiii 12.Qd7+ Kf6

13.Qe7+ Kg6 14.Qe8+ Kh6 15.Qh8+ Kg5  
16.Bb4/xiv d1Q 17.Be7+ Kf4/xv 18.Qh6+,  
and:

- Kxf3 19.Qh5+ Ke3 20.Qxd1 draws, or:
- Kg3/xvi 19.Bd6+ Kf2 20.Qh2+ Ke3  
21.Qxa2 draws.

i) 2.f4? Sc1 3.Bd1 Sa2 4.f5 Sc3+ 5.Kb4 Bxf5  
6.Bb3+ Kf8 7.Kc4 Ke7 8.Kxd4 d1Q 9.Bxd1  
Sxd1 10.c8Q Bxc8 11.Kxd3 Bg4 wins.

ii) d1Q 4.Be6+ Kh7 5.c8Q wins.

iii) A mistake is 7.Qd7+? Kf6 8.Bd6 Qb3+  
9.Ka6 Sc5+ 10.Bxc5 bxc5 11.Qd8+ Kf5  
12.Qh4 Qd5 13.Qh7+ Kg5 14.Qxd3 c4 and  
wins.

iv) Thematic try: 8.Bb4? d2 9.Qd7+ Kf6  
10.Qe7+, hoping for Kg6? 11.Qe8+ Kg5  
12.Qg8+ Kf4 13.Qg4+ Ke3 14.Qe4+ Kf2  
15.Qh4+ Kxf3 16.Qh3+ Ke2 17.Qxb3 draw-  
ing, but Ke5 11.Qd6+ Kf5 and Black wins.

v) Avoids a trap involving a queen sacrifice  
10.Kxb6? Qxd6+ 11.Qxd6 d2 winning.

vi) Thematic try: 11.Qe8+? Kh6 12.Qh8+  
Kg5, and now 13.Be7+ Kf4 14.Qh4+ Kxf3  
15.Qh1+ Ke2 16.Qxd5 Sc7+ 17.Kb7 Sxd5, or  
13.Qg8+ Kf6 14.Qh8+ Kf7 15.Qh7+ Sg7  
16.Bf4 and Black sacrifices the advanced d-  
pawn for an easy win: d2 17.Qc2 d1Q  
18.Qxd1 Se6 19.Bd2 Qc6 20.Qb3 Ke7 21.Ka7  
Qc7+ 22.Ka8 Sc5 23.Qd5 Qd8+ 24.Qxd8+  
Kxd8.

vii) Sg5 12.Qe8+ Kf6 13.Qe7+ Kf5 14.Bb4  
Qxf3 15.Bd2 Qg2 16.Qd7+ Se6 17.Qb5+ Kf6  
18.Qxd3 draws.

viii) 14.Qg8+? Kf6 15.Qh8+ Kf7 16.Qh7+  
Sg7 17.Qc2 Qxd6+ wins.

ix) The idea is Kg3 16.Qxd2.

x) Sc5+ 9.Bxc5 bxc5 10.Qf5+ Ke7 11.Qg5+  
Kf8 12.Ka5 Qa2+ 13.Kb5 Qe6 14.Qxc5+ Ke8  
15.Qh5+ Kd8 16.Qh4+ Qe7 17.Qh6 Qe3  
18.Qd6+ Ke8 19.Qg6+ Ke7 20.Qg7+ Kd6  
21.Qg6+ Qe6 22.Qxd3; d2 9.Qd7+ Kg6  
10.Qe8+ Kh6 11.Qh8+ Kg5 12.Qg8+ Kf6  
13.Qh8+ and Kf7 14.Qh5+ Kg7 15.Be5+ Kf8  
16.Bd6+ Kg7 17.Be5+, or Sg7 14.Qh6+ Kf7  
15.Qxd2 Se6 16.Bb4 Qxf3 17.Kxb6.

xi) 10.Ka7? Qb5 11.f4 d2.

xii) 11.Kb5(Kb7)? Qd5+.

xiii) Qb2+ 12.Ka6 Qe2 13.Qd7+ Kg6  
14.Qe8+ Kh6 15.Kb6 d2 16.Bf4+ Sxf4  
17.Qf8+ Kg6 18.Qg8+ Kf6 19.Qf8+ Ke5  
20.Qh8+ Kd5 21.Qa8+ Kc4 22.Qa2+ draws.

xiv) A paradoxical logical manoeuvre forcing  
Black to carry out his plan to promote the  
pawn! 16.Qg8+? Kf6 17.Qh8+ Sg7 18.Qh6+  
Kf7 19.Qf4+ Kg8 20.Qxd4 Qb3+ 21.Kc6  
d1Q, or 16.Be7+? Kf4 17.Qh6+ Kg3 18.Bd6+  
Kf2 19.Qh2+ Ke3 20.Qe5+ Kd3 21.Bb4 Qb3  
win.

xv) Kg6 18.Qg8+ Sg7/xvii 19.Qxa2.

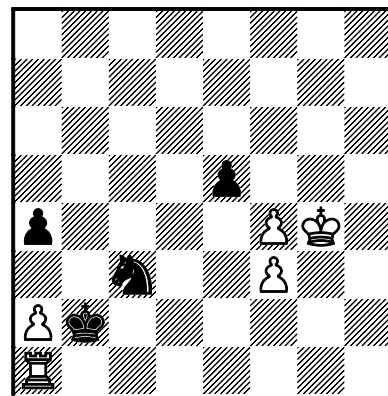
xvi) Ke5 19.Qf6+ Kd5 20.Qf5+ Kc4  
21.Qxe6+ Kd3 22.Qxa2 draws.

xvii) Kh5 19.Qh7 mate, or Kf5 19.Qg4+ Ke5  
20.Qe4 mate.

“Probably the deepest and most difficult  
entry in the entire field displaying a unique  
concept: A direct attempt to create a skewer  
against the reigning queen fails owing to a  
counter fork. Instead White deliberately forces  
Black to carry out his promoting plan in order  
to operate another skewer, this time against  
the newborn queen. Highly original!”

### No 16392 A. Pallier

5th prize



g4b2 0103.32 5/4 Win

**No 16392** Alain Pallier (France). The thematic  
try is: 1.Rg1?; we will see the difference on  
move eleven! 1.Rh1/i exf4/ii 2.Rh2+/iii Ka3  
3.Kxf4 Sxa2 4.Ke4 Kb3 5.f4 a3 6.f5 Sc3+  
7.Ke5/iv Sa4 8.f6/v Sc5 9.f7 Sd7+ 10.Kd6/vi  
Sf8 11.Rh8/vii wins/viii.

i) 1.Rf1? exf4 2.Rf2+ Ka3, or 1.Re1? exf4, or  
1.Rd1? Sxd1 2.fxe5 (f5 Se3+;) Kxa2, or

1.fxe5? Kxa1 and 2.f4 Kxa2; 2.e6 Sd5 3.Kf5 Kxa2; 2.a3 Kb2 3.f4 Kxa3.

ii) Kxa2(Sxa2) 2.fxe5.

iii) 2.Kxf4? Sxa2 3.Rh2+ Kb3, or 2.Rh8? Sxa2 3.Rb8+ Kc2.

iv) 7.Kd4? Sa4 8.Kd5 (f6? Sb6;) Sc3+ 9.Ke5 is loss of time.

v) 8.Rh3+? Sc3 9.Rh2 Sa4, or 8.Kd5(Kd6)? Sc3+ 9.Ke5 Sa4.

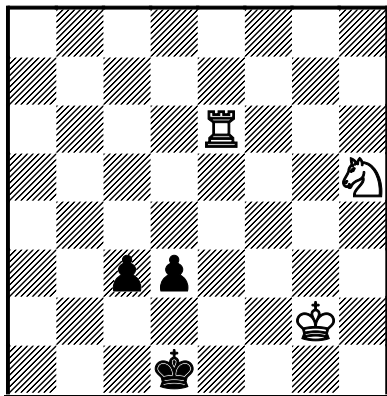
vi) 10.Ke6? Sf8+, or 10.Kd5? a2.

vii) In the thematic line 1.Rg1? the white rook is at g8 now. Then Black has 11...Sh7 drawing, e.g. 12.Rh8 a2.

viii) e.g. a2 12.Rxf8 or Sg6 12.Ke6.

“An excellent logical study featuring a subtle difference between try and solution in a natural setting and attractive play. Its only misfortunate shortcoming is that the key move looks more natural than the thematic attempt thus a solver might miss it.”

**No 16393** A. Sochnev  
1st/2nd special prize



g2d1 0101.02 3/3 Win

I) diagram

II) remove wSh5; add wSf6

III) remove wSf6; add wSg1

IV) remove wSg1; add wSf7

V) remove wKg2; add wKa3

**No 16393** Alexey Sochnev (Russia). I: 1.Sf4 d2 2.Rh6 Kc2/i 3.Sd5 Kb3 4.Rb6+ Kc4 5.Se3+ Kd4 6.Re6/ii d1Q 7.Sxd1 c2 8.Rc6 cxd1Q 9.Rd6+ wins. II: 1.Kf2 d2/iii 2.Sd5 c2 3.Rb6 Kc1/iv 4.Sb4/v d1Q 5.Sa2+ Kd2 6.Rd6 mate. III: 1.Kf2/i d2 2.Se2 c2 3.Rg6 c1Q 4.Sd4 Qc5 5.Rg1 mate. IV: 1.Se5 d2/viii

2.Kf2 c2 3.Sc4 Kc1/ix 4.Ra6 d1Q 5.Ra1 mate. V: 1.Se5 d2 2.Sd3 c2 3.Kb3 c1Q/x 4.Sf2+/xi mate.

i) Kc1 3.Sd3+ Kc2 4.Sf2 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 6.Kf2? d1S+ 7.Sxd1 c2 8.Rc6 cxd1S+ drawing.

iii) c2 2.Re1+ Kd2 3.Se4 mate.

iv) c1Q 4.Se3 echo-mate.

v) Thematic try: 4.Sf4? d1Q 5.Se2+ Qxe2+ 6.Kxe2 stalemate.

vi) Thematic tries: 1.Se2? dxe2/vii 2.Kf2 e1Q(e1B)+ 3.Rxe1+ Kd2 4.Re2+ Kd3 5.Re3+ Kd2 draws, or 1.Sf3? d2 2.Kf2 (Sd4 Kc1;) c2 3.Sd4 Kc1 (c1Q; Rg6) 4.Rb6 d1Q 5.Se2+ Qxe2+ 6.Kxe2 stalemate.

vii) But not c2? 2.Kf2 d2 3.Rg6 c1Q 4.Sd4 and mate.

viii) Kc2 2.Kf2 d2 3.Sc4 wins.

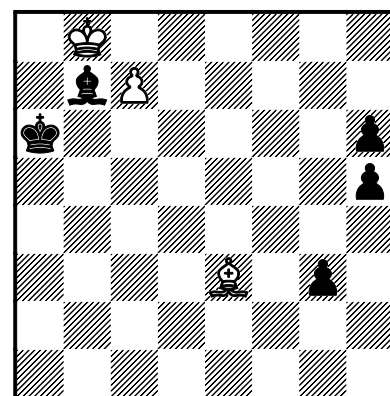
ix) c1Q 4.Se3 mate.

x) c1S+ 4.Kc3 Sxd3 5.Kxd3 Kc1 6.Rc6+ wins.

xi) 4.Sb2+? Qxb2+ 5.Kxb2 stalemate.

“Five at the prize of one in a precise super miniature and a variety of mate pictures partly shown before in separate studies. The quintet is remarkably achieved by a single change in each phase and yet in a peaceful and bloodless manner namely with minimal captures and checks along the entire task. Remarkable technique!”

**No 16394** N. Kralin & O. Pervakov  
1st/2nd special prize



b8a6 0040.13 3/5 Draw

**No 16394** Nikolay Kralin & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Bf4/i g2/ii 2.Be3/iii h4 3.Bg1/iv

h3/v 4.c8Q Bxc8 5.Kc7/vi Kb5 6.Kd6 Kc4 7.Ke5 Kd3 8.Kf4 h2/vii 9.Bxh2 Ke2 10.Kg3 Kf1 11.Kh4 draws.

i) First thematic try: 1.c8Q? Bxc8 2.Kxc8 Kb5 3.Kd7 Kc4 4.Ke6 Kd3 5.Bf4 g2 6.Bh2 Ke4 7.Kf6 Kf3 8.Kf5 h4 9.Kg6 Kg4/viii 10.Kxh6 Kh3 11.Bg1 Kg3, or 1.Bxh6? h4 2.Bf4 Kb6 3.c8Q Bxc8 4.Kxc8 Kc6 5.Bb8 Kd5 6.Kd7 Ke4 7.Ke6 Kf3 win.

ii) h4 2.c8Q Bxc8 3.Kxc8 Kb5 4.Kd7 Kc4 5.Ke6 Kd3 6.Kf5 draws.

iii) White sacrifices two tempi: 2.Bh2? Kb6 3.c8Q (Bg1+ Kc6;) Bxc8 4.Kxc8 Kc6 5.Kd8 Kd5 6.Ke7 Ke4 7.Kf6 Kf3 wins.

iv) Not 3.Bf2? h3 4.Bg1 h5 5.c8Q Bxc8 6.Kc7 Kb5 7.Kd6 Kc4 8.Ke5 Kd3 9.Kf4 h2 10.Bxh2 Ke2 11.Kg3 Kf1 12.Kh4 Bg4 and wins since the black pawn is at h5. See the final position.

v) h5 4.Bf2 h3 5.Bg1 h4 6.c8Q Bxc8 7.Kxc8 Kb5 8.Kd7 Kc4 9.Ke6 Kd3 10.Kf5 Ke2 11.Kg4 Kf1 12.Bh2 g1Q+ 13.Bxg1 Kg2 14.Kxh4 draws.

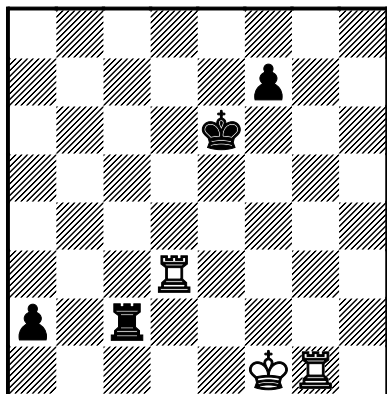
vi) Second thematic try: 5.Kxc8? Kb5 6.Kd7 Kc4 7.Ke6 Kd3 8.Kf5 Ke2 9.Kg4 Kf1 10.Bh2 g1Q+ 11.Bxg1 Kg2 12.Kh4 h5 ZZ and wins.

vii) Ke2 9.Kg3 Kf1 10.Kh2.

viii) But not: h3? 10.Kh5 g1Q 11.Bxg1 Kg2 12.Kg4 h5+ 13.Kh4 ZZ.

“Heroic struggle between opposite coloured bishops. The deliberate loss of two tempi and the sacrifice of the only white pawn to gain time are highly instructive.”

**No 16395** R. Becker & Iu. Akobia  
3rd special prize



f1e6 0500.02 3/4 Win

**No 16395** Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Ra3/i, and:

– Kf5 2.Ra4/ii Rb2 3.Ke1 Ke5/iii 4.Rf1 f5 5.Kd1 f4 6.Re1+ Kf5 7.Kc1 Rb1+ 8.Kd2 Rb2+ 9.Kd3 Rb1 10.Ke2 Rb2+ 11.Kf3 draws/iv, or:

– Rb2/v 2.Rh1 f6 3.Kg1/vi Kd6 4.Ra6+ Ke5 5.Rh5+ f5 6.Ra5+ Ke4 7.Rh4+ f4 8.Ra4+, and:

- Ke3 9.Rh3+ f3 10.Ra3+ Ke4 11.Rh4+ wins, or:

- Kd3 9.Rh3+ Kc2 10.Rha3 Kb1/vii 11.Rxf4 a1Q 12.Rf1 wins.

i) 1.Rd1? Rh2 2.Rg8 Rh1+ 3.Rg1 Rh2.

ii) Or the transposition 2.Ke1 Rb2 3.Ra4.

iii) f6 4.Rf1+ Ke5 5.Kd1 f5 6.Re1+ Kd5 7.Kc1 Rb1+ 8.Kd2.

iv) e.g. Rb3+ 12.Kf2 Rb2+ 13.Re2 wins.

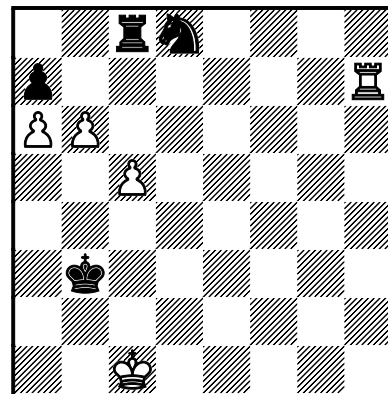
v) Kd6 2.Ra6+ Kc7 (Ke5; Rh1) 3.Ke1 Rb2 4.Rf1 f5 5.Rg1 Kb7 6.Ra3(Ra4) Kb6 7.Rg6+ wins.

vi) Thematic try: 3.Ra6+? Ke5 4.Rh5+ f5 5.Ra5+ Ke4 6.Rh4+ f4 7.Ra4+ Kd3 8.Rh3+ Kc2 9.Rha3 Kb1 10.Rxf4 a1Q.

vii) Ka1 11.Ra4 Kb1 12.Rf1+ Kc2 13.Ra3 Kd2 14.Rf2+ Kc1 15.Rxa2 wins.

“Similar rook systematic duels have been already displayed several times; however the synthesis with yet another systematic manoeuvre employing the black pawn looks fresh and very elegant.”

**No 16396** T. Beuman  
4th special prize



c1b3 0403.31 5/4 Win

**No 16396** Thomas Beuman (Netherlands).  
 1.Rc7/i Rb8/ii 2.Rb7/iii Sxb7/iv 3.bxa7 Rh8  
 4.a8Q/v Rxa8 5.axb7 Rh8/vi 6.Kd2/vii Kc4  
 7.c6 Kd5 8.c7 wins.

i) 1.Rxa7? Rxc5+ 2.Kd2 Rb5 3.b7 Rb6 4.Ra8  
 Sxb7.

ii) Ra8 2.Rxa7 Rb8 3.b7 Kc4 4.Ra8, or here  
 Rc8 3.Rc7 Rb8 (Ra8; b7) 4.b7 Kc4 5.a7 wins.

iii) 2.b7? Ka4 3.Rc8 Sxb7 4.Rxb8 Sxc5  
 draws, or here 4.c6 Rxc8 5.axb7 Rxc6+.  
 2.Rxa7? Kc4 3.Rc7/viii Kb5 4.a7 Ra8 5.Kd2  
 Sc6 6.Ke3/ix Rd8/x 7.Ke4 Kxc5 8.b7 Kb6  
 9.a8Q Kxc7 or here 9.Rc8 Kxa7.

iv) Rc8 3.bxa7+ Ka4 4.Rb8, or Ra8 3.Rxa7.

v) 4.axb7? Kc3 and 5.Kd1 Kd3 6.Ke1 Ke3  
 7.Kf1 Kf3 8.Kg1 Rg8+ 9.Kh2 Rh8+ 10.Kg1  
 Rg8+ 11.Kf1 Rh8, or 5.Kb1 Rh1+ 6.Ka2  
 Rh2+ 7.Ka3 Rh1 8.Ka4 Kc4 9.Ka5 Kxc5  
 10.Ka4 Kc4.

vi) Rb8 6.c6 Kc3 7.c7 Rh8 8.c8Q+ wins.

vii) 6.c6? Kc3, or 6.Kd1? Kc4 7.c6 Kd3.

viii) 3.Rd7 Sc6 4.a7 Ra8, or 3.Rb7 Sxb7 4.c6  
 Sc5 5.c7 Sxa6 or here 5.a7 Re8 6.b7 Kc3.

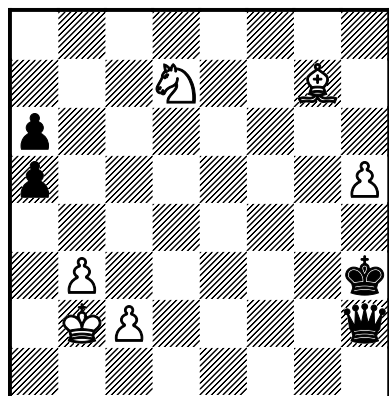
ix) 6.b7 Rxa7 7.b8Q+ Sxb8 8.Rxa7 Kxc5.

x) But not Kxc5? 7.b7 Rxa7 8.b8Q.

“White is forced to give away his trumps in  
 order to secure a surprisingly narrow win.  
 High tension all the way through!”

HH: Thomas Beuman’s first published  
 study!

**No 16397** V. Bartosh  
 5th special prize



b2h3 3011.32 6/4 Win

**No 16397** Vladimir Bartosh (Belarus). 1.h6  
 Kg2/i 2.Sf8 Qc7 3.Bh8/ii a4 4.h7 a3+ 5.Kb1/

iii Qd6 6.Bb2 Qd1+/iv 7.Bc1 Qh1 8.Ka2 Qxc1  
 9.h8Q Qxc2+ 10.Kxa3 Qc5+/v 11.b4/vi Qe3+  
 12.Ka2 Qg5 13.Qb2+ wins/x.

i) Qg1 2.Sf8 a4 3.Se6 axb3/vii 4.Bd4/viii Qg8  
 5.h7 Qxe6 6.h8Q+ wins, or Qg3 2.Sf8 Kg2  
 3.Bh8/ix a4 4.h7, or Kg4 2.h7 since Qxh7  
 3.Sf6+, or Qg2 2.Sf8 a4 3.Se6 a3+ 4.Kxa3  
 Qxc2 5.h7 win.

ii) Only this paradoxical move wins. 3.Bc3?  
 a4 4.h7 a3+ 5.Kxa3 Qxc3.

iii) 5.Kxa3? Qxc2 6.Bb2 Qd2.

iv) axb2 7.h8Q Qa3 8.Qg7+ wins, by playing  
 the wQ to a4: Kf1 9.Qf6+ Ke2 10.Qe6+ Kf2  
 11.Qf5+ Kg3 12.Qe5+ Kh3 13.Qe3+ Kg2  
 14.Qe4+ Kg3 15.Qa4 win.

v) Qf5 11.Qb2+ Kf1 12.Qc1+ wins.

vi) 11.Ka2? Qa5+ 12.Kb2 Qd2+ 13.Kb1 Qe1+  
 14.Kc2 Qe2+ 15.Kc3 Qe3+ 16.Kc4 Qe2+  
 draws.

vii) Kg4 4.h7 axb3 5.Bd4.

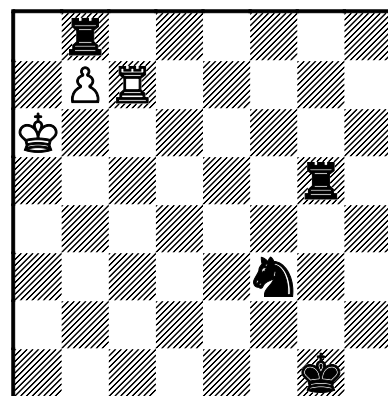
viii) But not 4.h7? bxc2 5.h8Q+ Kg4 6.Kxc2  
 Qf2+ 7.Kd1 Qf1+ 8.Kd2 Qf2+ 9.Kd3 Qf5+  
 draws.

ix) But not 3.Bc3? a4 4.h7 a3+.

x) Because the bK moved to g1 at the first  
 move.

“A lively encounter of two minor pieces vs.  
 a queen to secure promotion after which preci-  
 sion is still required. The repeating long diag-  
 onal moves by different pieces all the way  
 from h8 to b2 leave an aesthetic impression.”

**No 16398** V. Vlasenko  
 1st honourable mention



a6g1 0703.10 3/4 Draw



**No 16398** Valery Vlasenko (Ukraine). If 1.Rc8? Se5 2.Rxb8 Sc4 3.Rg8 Rxb8 4.Ka7 Sa5 5.b8Q Sc6+ wins, so 1.Rc1+ (Ka7 Rgg8;) Kg2 2.Rc2+ Kg3/i 3.Rc8 Se5/ii 4.Rxb8/iii Sc4 5.Rg8 Rxb8 6.Ka7 Sa5 7.b8Q+, check!, draw.

i) Sd2 3.Rxd2+ Kf3 4.Ka7 Rgg8 5.Rb2 and Black cannot make progress.

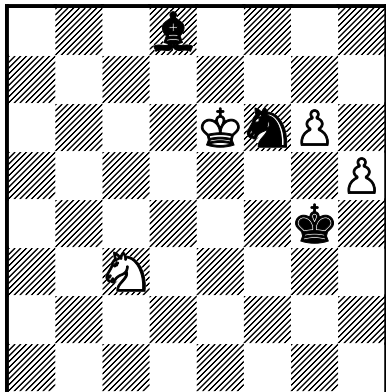
ii) Rg8 4.Rxb8+ Rxb8 5.Ka7, or Sd4 4.Ka7 Sc6+ 5.Rxc6 Rgg8 6.Rb6.

iii) 4.Kb6? Sd7+ 5.Kc7 Rc5+ 6.Kxd7 Rxb7+ wins, or here 5.Ka7 Ra5 mate.

“An exceptionally economical and natural fashion to demonstrate a logical element which requires a preliminary plan.”

**No 16399** M. Matous

2nd honourable mention



e6g4 0034.20 4/3 Win

**No 16399** Mario Matous (Czech Republic). 1.h6/i Kg5 2.h7/ii Sxh7 3.g7/iii Sf6 4.Kf7 (Se4+? Kg6;) Sg8/iv 5.Se4+/v Kf5 6.Kxb8 Kg6 7.Kh8 Kh6 8.Sf2 Bf6(Bb6) 9.Sg4+ wins.

i) 1.g7? Kxh5 2.Kf7 Sg4(Sg8).

ii) 2.g7? Kxh6 3.Kf7 Kh7 4.Sd5(Se4) Sg8 draw.

iii) 3.gxh7? Bf6 4.Se4+ Kg6 5.Sxf6 Kg7 with a well-known draw position.

iv) Kf4 5.Sd5+; Kf5 5.Sd5 Sg4 6.Se3+; Kh5 5.Se4 Sg4 6.Sg3+ Kh4 7.Sf5+; Kh4 5.Se4 Sg4 6.Kg6 Se5+ 7.Kh7.

v) 5.Kxb8? Kg6 and now 6.Sd5 Bg5 7.Kh8 Kh6 8.g8Q Bf6+ 9.Sxf6 stalemate, or here

8.Kg8 Kg6 9.Kf8 Bh6 pinning, or 6.Se4 Bh4/vi 7.Kh8 Kh6 8.Kg8 Kg6 9.Kf8 Be7+ 10.Kg8 Bh4, or

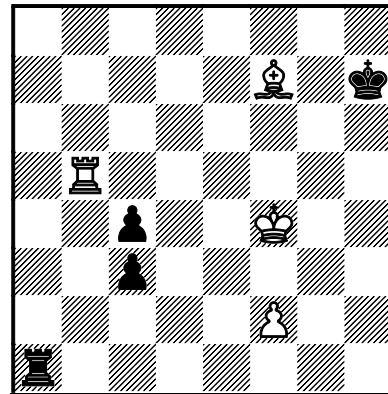
Ba3 11.Sf6 Bb2 12.Kf8 Ba3+.

vi) But not Bc7(Bb6)? 7.Kf8.

“A lovely miniature demonstrating a subtle struggle of minor pieces to secure promotion.”

**No 16400** A. Popov & I. Galeev

3rd honourable mention



f4h7 0410.12 4/4 Win

**No 16400** Andrey Popov & Insaly Galeev (Russia). 1.Rg5/i c2 2.Bg6+ Kh6/ii 3.Bxc2 Ra2 4.Rg6+ Kh5/iii 5.Rg2 Rxc2 6.Kf5 Kh6 7.Kf6, and:

– Kh5 8.Rh2+ Kg4 9.f3+ wins, or:

– Kh7 8.Kf7 Kh6 9.Rh2+ Kg5 10.f4+ wins.

i) Black has dangerous c-pawns. But if 1.Bxc4? Ra4 2.Rc5 c2 3.Ke5 (Kg3 Ra3+;) Ra5/iv.

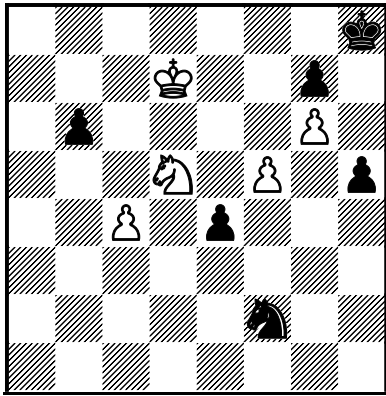
ii) Kh8 3.Bxc2 Ra2 4.Bf5 Rxf2+ 5.Ke5 c3 6.Kf6 c2 7.Rg1 Rf3 8.Re1 Rg3 9.Rh1+ Kg8 10.Be6+ and mate.

iii) Kh7 5.Bf5 Rxf2+ 6.Ke5 Kh8 7.Kf6.

iv) But not c1S? 4.Kf6 Kh6 5.Rc8 Kh5 6.Be6 Rf4+ 7.Bf5.

“This battery of rook and pawn motivated by a royal systematic movement was previously shown by GM Kricheli (d8b8) but here it is doubled using both pawn first move options with a pleasant introductory play.”

**No 16401 G. Amann**  
4th honourable mention



d7h8 0004.34 5/6 Win

**No 16401** Guenter Amann (Austria). Thematic try: 1.Ke8? Sg4 2.c5 e3 3.Sxe3 Sf6+ 4.Kf7 bxc5. If here 2.f6 Sxf6+ 3.Sxf6 see move 7.

1.c5 bxc5 2.Ke8 (Ke7 Kg8;) Sg4 3.f6 (Kf8? Se5;) Sxf6+/i 4.Sxf6 e3 5.Kf8 e2 6.Sg8/ii e1Q 7.Sh6/iii Qf1+/iv 8.Sf7+ Qxf7+ 9.gxf7 wins.

i) Se5 4.f7 Sxg6 5.Sf4(Se7).

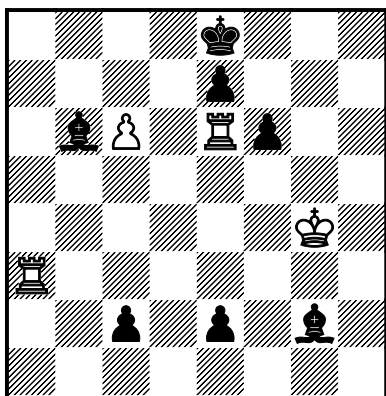
ii) 6.Se4? e1Q 7.Sd6(Sg5) Qe7+(Qe8+) 8.Kxe7(Kxe8) Kg8 draws.

iii) In the thematic try, Black would now have 7...Qb4+.

iv) gxh6 8.g7+ Kh7 9.g8Q mate.

“Following a strong thematic key an eventful struggle is highlighted by the stunning 6.Sg8!! however the final position is rather familiar.”

**No 16402 O. Pervakov, B. Sidorov & K. Sumbatyan**  
5th honourable mention



g4e8 0260.14 4/7 Draw

**No 16402** Oleg Pervakov & Boris Sidorov & Karen Sumbatyan (Russia). 1.Rc3/i f5+

2.Kg5/ii Be4 3.c7 Bxc7/iii 4.Rxc7 Kd8 5.Rexe7 Bc6 6.Kh5/iv f4 7.Kh4/v f3 8.Kg3 c1Q 9.Red7+ Ke8 10.Re7+ Kf8 11.Rf7+ Kg8 12.Rg7+ Kh8 13.Rh7+ Kg8 14.Rhg7+ Kf8 15.Rgf7+ Ke8 16.Rfe7+ Kd8 17.Red7+ perpetual check.

i) 1.Ra1? f5+ 2.Kf4 Be4 3.c7 Bxc7+ 4.Ke3 Bg3 5.Kxe2 Bf4 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Kh5? Be4 (Bf3+?; Kg6) 3.c7 Bxc7/vi 4.Rxc7 Kd8 5.Rexe7 Bc6 6.Kh4 f4 ZZ with WTM. If 2.Kf4? Be4 3.c7 Be3+(Bxc7+) 4.Ke5 Bb7, or 2.Kxf5? Bh3+ 3.Rxh3 c1Q 4.Rh8+ Kf7 5.Rh7+ Kf8 draw.

iii) e1Q 4.c8Q+ Bd8 5.Rxe4 Qxe4 6.Qc6+ Qxc6 7.Rxc6 draws.

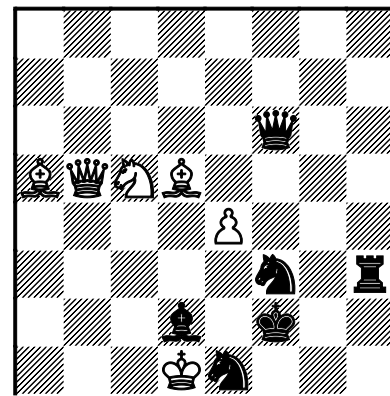
iv) ZZ with BTM. Not 6.Kxf5? c1Q 7.Red7+ Bxd7+, or 6.Kf6? c1Q 7.Red7+ Bxd7 8.Rxc1 f4, or 6.Kh4? f4.

v) ZZ with BTM that corresponds to the ZZ with WTM of the thematic try.

vi) Not e1Q? 4.c8Q+ Kf7 5.Rxe4 Qxe4 6.Qc4+ Qxc4 7.Rxc4 draws.

“A logical study with a thematic try based on reciprocal ZZ. The play achieving it is however not equally appealing.”

**No 16403 L. Gonzalez**  
special honourable mention



d1f2 4357.10 6/6 Draw

**No 16403** Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.e5/i Qxe5/ii 2.Se4+ Kg1/iii 3.Sxd2/iv Sxd2/v 4.Bb6+/vi Kh2/vii 5.Qe2+/viii Qxe2+ 6.Kxe2 Sef3/ix 7.Bc7+/x Kg2/xi 8.Bf4 Rh5/xii 9.Bc6/xiii Rc5 10.Bb7 Rb5 11.Ba8/xiv Ra5 12.Bc6 Ra6 13.Bd5 Ra5 14.Bc6 Rc5 15.Bb7 Rb5 16.Ba8 Rb2 17.Bxd2 Rxd2+ 18.Ke3 Rf2 19.Kf4 with a perpetual pin.

i) 1.Qe2+? Kg1 2.Bxd2/xv Qa1+ 3.Bc1 Rh2 4.Qe3+ Rf2 5.Sb3 Qb1 6.Qc3/xvi Sg2 7.Sa1/xvii Rf1+ 8.Ke2 Rxc1 9.Qxf3 Qb2+ 10.Kd3 Qc3+ 11.Ke2 Re1 mate, or 1.Bxd2? Qa1+ 2.Bc1 Qd4+.

ii) Sd4 2.exf6 Sxb5 3.Bxd2.

iii) Kg2 3.Qe2+ Kh1 4.Sf2+ Kh2 5.Sg4++.

iv) 3.Bb6+? Sd4 4.Qe2 Rf3 5.Bc4 Sg2 6.Qxf3 Se3+ 7.Kxd2 Sxf3+ 8.Kxe3 Kg2, or 3.Bxd2? Qa1+ 4.Bc1 Qd4+ 5.Bd2 Rh5.

v) Qa1+ 4.Qb1 Qxa5 5.Sxf3+ Sxf3 6.Ke2+ Kh2 7.Bxf3.

vi) 4.Bxd2? Qa1+ 5.Ke2 Rh2+ 6.Ke3 Qe5+, or 4.Qc5+? Re3 5.Kxd2/xviii Sf3+ 6.Kc2 Sd4+ 7.Kb1 Sb3 8.Qc4 Qa1+ 9.Kc2 Qc1 mate, or 4.Kxd2? Rh2+ 5.Kc1 Qa1+ 6.Qb1 Sd3+.

vii) Re3 5.Bxe3+ Qxe3 6.Qe2.

viii) 5.Qc5? Rd3 6.Bc7 Sb3 mate, or 5.Bc7? Qxc7 6.Qe2+ Kg1 7.Qxe1+ Sf1.

ix) Sdf3 7.Bf2 Rh5 8.Bxf3 Re5+ 9.Kf1 Sxf3 10.Bg3+ Kxg3.

x) 7.Be3? Kg3 8.Bxd2 Rh2+, or 7.Kf2? Rh5 8.Bc7+ Kh3 9.Be6+ Kh4 10.Bd8+ Sg5.

xi) Kg1 8.Bf4 Sb3 9.Be3+ Kg2 10.Bxb3.

xii) Sb3 9.Be3 Sa1 (Sa5; Bb6) 10.Bc5 Sc2 11.Be4 Se1 12.Bf2, or Sb1 9.Be5 Sa3 10.Bc3 Sb5 11.Be5 Sa7 12.Bd4 Sc8 13.Bc5.

xiii) 9.Ba8? Rh8 10.Bc6 Rc8 11.Bb7 Re8+.

xiv) 11.Bc6? Rb6 12.Bd5 Rb2 13.Bxd2 Rxd2+.

xv) 2.e5 Qf5 3.Be4 Qxe5 4.Bxd2 Sxd2, and 5.Qxe1+ Sf1 6.Sd3 Qh5+ 7.Kc1 Rh2 8.Sf4 Qc5+ 9.Kd1 Qd4+ 10.Kc1 Qb2+ 11.Kd1 Rd2+, or 5.Kxd2 Rh2, or 5.Kxe1 Sxe4 6.Sxe4 Qa1+ 7.Qd1 Re3+, or 5.Qxd2 Qa1+ 6.Qc1 Qxc1+ 7.Kxc1 Rc3+.

xvi) 6.Sd4 Sxd4 7.Qxd4 Qc2+.

xvii) 7.Bc4 Se3+ 8.Qxe3 Qc2 mate.

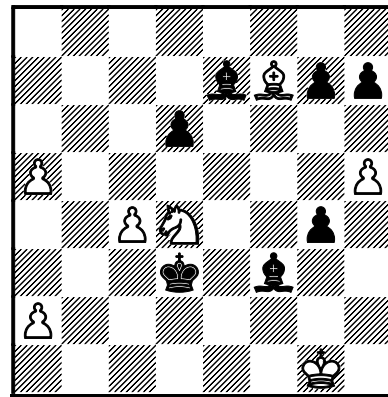
xviii) 5.Bxd2 Qh5+ 6.Kc1 Sd3+.

“This study would have possibly been ranked higher had the bombastic foreplay significantly shrunk. I see little point in overloading the board with massive exchanges of

extras which have not too much to do with the very core of the study. Nevertheless, the contents starting from move 7 are sufficiently rich and original.”

**No 16404 J. Timman**

1st commendation



g1d3 0071.44 7/7 Win

**No 16404 Jan Timman (Netherlands).** 1.h6/i gxh6/ii 2.Sxf3 gxf3 3.c5 dxc5/iii 4.Bc4+ Kxc4 5.a6 Kd3 6.Kf1 c4 7.a7 c3 8.a8Q c2 9.Qxf3+/iv Kd4 10.Qf2+ Kd3 11.Qe2+ Kc3 12.Qe3+ Kb2 13.Qb3+ wins.

i) 1.Bd5? Bg5, or 1.Sxf3? gxf3 2.Kf2 (h6 Ke2;) Bd8/v 3.a6 Bb6+ 4.Kxf3 Kd4 5.Kf4 Kc5 6.Bd5 Ba7 7.Kf5 g6+ 8.Ke6 gxh5 9.Kd7 Kb6 blocking off wK.

ii) Bf6 2.Sxf3 (Kf1? Bxd4;) gxf3 3.Kf1 g5 (gxh6; c5) 4.c5 g4 5.Bh5 Bd4 6.c6. Or g5 2.Bd5/vi Bd8 3.Sc6, or here Bf6!? 3.Se6 Bb2 4.Bxf3 gxf3 5.Kf1! Bc1 6.a6 g4 7.a7 g3 8.a8Q g2+ 9.Kf2 Be3+ 10.Kxf3 g1Q 11.Qa3+ Kc2 12.Qb3+ Kd2 13.Qb2+ Kd3 14.Qe2+ Kc3 15.Qxe3+ wins.

iii) d5 4.c6 Ke2 5.Bh5.

iv) 9.Qd5+ Kc3 10.Qxf3+, or 10.Qe5+ Kd3 11.Qf5+ Kc3 wastes time.

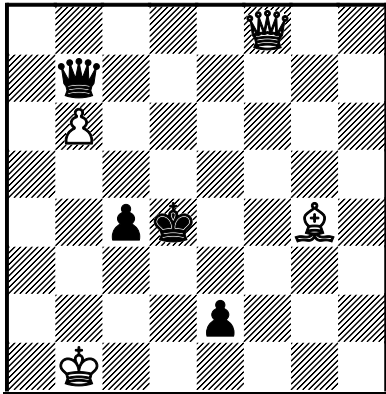
v) But not Ke4? 3.Bd5+ Kf5 4.a6 Bf6 5.Ke3 f2 6.Bg2.

vi) But not 2.Sxf3? gxf3 3.Kf1 g4.

“A seemingly new beautiful element (3.c5! dxc5 4.Bc4+!!) highlights the struggle to secure promotion. It is nevertheless a pity that both black bishops fail to make even one single move along the main line.”

No 16405 S. Nosek

2nd commendation



b1d4 4010.12 4/4 Win

**No 16405** Stanislav Nosek (Czech Republic).  
1.Qf2+/i Kc3/ii 2.Bxe2/iii Qe4+/iv 3.Bd3/v,  
and now:

– Qxd3+ 4.Kc1/vi Kb3/vii 5.Qb2+/viii Ka4  
6.Qc2+/ix wins/x, or:

– cxd3/xi 4.Qb2+/xii Kc4 5.b7 (Qc1+ Kb5;) d2+/xiii 6.Qc2+ wins/xiv.

i) 1.Qb4? Qh1+; 1.Qd6+? Kc3 2.Bxe2/xv Qe4+ 3.Bd3/xvi Qh1+ 4.Ka2 Qa8+ 5.Qa3+ Qxa3+ 6.Kxa3 cxd3; 1.Qf4+? Kc5 2.Qe3+/xvii Kb5, or 1.Qf6+? Kc5 2.Qf2+ Kb5 3.Bxe2 Qxb6; 1.Qd8+? Kc5.

ii) Kd3 2.Bxe2+ Kc3 3.Qf3+, or Ke5 2.Qxe2+, and Kd6 3.Qh2+ Kc5 (Ke7; Qc7+) 4.Qc7+ Qc6 5.Bf3, or Kf6 3.Qf3+, or Kd4 3.Qf2+ Ke5 (Kc3; Qf3+) 4.Qe3+ Kd6 5.Qd4+ Ke7 6.Qg7+.

iii) 2.Qe1+? Kb3/xviii 3.Qxe2/xix Kb4 4.Qb2+/xx Kc5 5.Qf2+ Kb5, or 2.Qe3+? Kb4 3.Bxe2/xxi Kb5 4.Qb3+ Kc5 5.Qxc4+ Kxb6, or 2.Bf3? Qxb6+ 3.Qxb6 e1Q+.

iv) Qh7+ 3.Ka1/xxii Qh1+/xxiii 4.Bf1 Qa8+/xxiv 5.Qa2 Qb7 6.Qb2 mate, or Qa6 3.Qc5, or Qh1+ 3.Bf1 Qe4+ 4.Ka1 Qa8+ 5.Qa2.

v) 3.Ka2? Qc2+; 3.Ka1? Qa8+ 4.Kb1 Qe4+; 3.Kc1? Qc2 mate.

vi) 4.Ka2?(Ka1? Qd1+;) Qd5 5.Qb2+/xxv Kd3 6.Qb1+/xxvi Kd2 7.Qb4+ (Ka1 c3;) c3+ 8.Ka3 Qa8+.

vii) Qd5 5.Qb2+ Kd3 6.Qd2+; Qe4 5.Qb2+ Kd3 6.Qc2+; Qh3 5.Qd2+ Kb3 6.b7, and Qh1(Qf1+)+ 7.Qd1+, Qg3(Qh8) 7.b8Q+.

viii) 5.b7? Qc3+ 6.Kd1 Qd3+ 7.Ke1 Qe4+ or here 7.Qd2 Qf1+.

ix) 6.b7? Qf1+ 7.Kd2/xxvii Qf2+ 8.Kc3 Qf6+ 9.Kc2 Qf5+ 10.Kc1(Kd1, Kd2) Qf1+(Qf2+).

x) e.g. Kb5 7.Qxd3 cxd3 8.b7.

xi) Kxd3 4.Qc2+; Qh1+ 4.Bf1.

xii) 4.Qc5+? Kb3 5.Qb5+ Ka3 6.Qb2+/xxviii Ka4 7.Qa2+/xxix Kb5, or 4.Ka1? (Kc1? Qh1+;) Qa4+ 5.Kb1 Qb3+ 6.Kc1 Qa3+ 7.Kb1 Qb3+.

xiii) Kd5 6.Qb3+ (b8Q? d2+;) Kd4 7.Qb4+, or Qe1+ 6.Qc1+.

xiv) e.g. Kd4 7.Qxe4+.

xv) 2.Qe6 Qh1+, or 2.Qe5+ Kb4 3.Qe3 Kb5, or 2.Qa3+ Kd4 3.Qb2+ Kc5, or 2.Qf6+ Kb4 3.Bxe2 Ka5.

xvi) 3.Ka2 Qc2+, or 3.Ka1 Qa8+ 4.Kb1 Qe4+.

xxvii) 2.Qc7+ Qxc7 3.bxc7 e1Q+.

xxviii) But not Kd4? 3.Qd2+ Kc5 4.Qa5+.

xix) 3.Bxe2 Qxb6 4.Bd1+ Ka3+.

xx) 4.Qe6 Kc5, or 4.Qe3 Kb5.

xxi) 3.Qd2+ Kb5 4.Qb2+ Kc5.

xxii) 3.Bd3? cxd3 4.Qb2+ Kc4 5.b7 d2+ 6.Qc2+ Kd5 7.Qxh7 d1Q+ 8.Kb2 Qd4+.

xxiii) Qc2 4.Qe1+ Kd4 5.Qd1+, or Kb4 4.Qd4 Qh1+ 5.Kb2 Kb5 6.Bxc4+, or Qh8 4.Ka2 Qa8+ 5.Kb1.

xxiv) Kb4 5.b7, or Kb3 5.Qa2+.

xxv) 5.Qe1+ Kc2 6.Qb1+ Kd2 7.b7 c3+.

xxvi) 6.b7 c3+ 7.Qb3 Qxb3+ 8.Kxb3 c2.

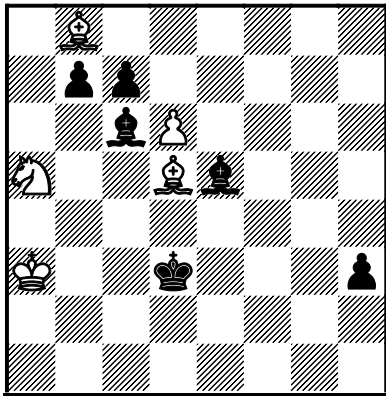
xxvii) 7.Kc2 Qd3+ 8.Kc1 Qf1+.

xxviii) 6.Qa5+ Kb3 7.Qa2+ Kb4 8.Qd2+ Kb5, or 7.Qd2 Qh1+ 8.Qc1 Qe4.

xxix) 7.b7 d2+ 8.Qc2+ Ka3 9.Qxe4 d1Q mate.

“A unique example of an unprotected Bishop interfering with a check threat on a square that is hit by three different enemy pieces.”

No 16406 A. Jasik  
3rd commendation



a3d3 0081.13 5/6 Win

No 16406 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.dxc7 Bd6+ 2.Kb2 Be5+ 3.Kc1/i Bf4+ 4.Kd1 Bxc7 5.Bc4+ Kc3 6.Bxc7 h2 7.Bxh2 Ba4+ 8.Ke2 b6 9.Be5+ Kb4 10.Kd3, and:

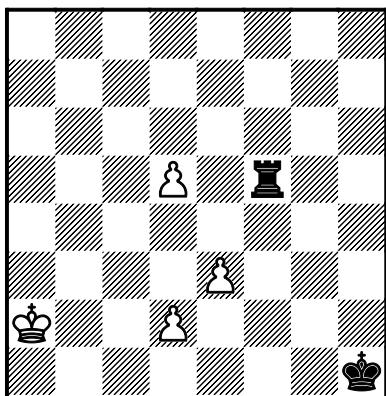
– Kxa5 11.Bc3+ mate, or:

– bxa5 11.Bd6 mate.

i) 3.Kb1? Bxc7 4.Bc4+ Kc3 5.Bxc7 h2 6.Bxh2 Be4+.

“A pair of ideal mates following a pair of active self blocks.”

No 16407 J. Csengeri  
4th commendation



a2h1 0300.30 4/2 Draw

No 16407 József Csengeri (Serbia). 1.Kb3/i Rxd5 2.d4 Kg2 3.Kc4 Rh5/ii 4.d5 (e4 Kf3;) Kf3 5.Kd4 (d6? Ke4;) Kg4 (Rh4+; Ke5) 6.d6/iii Kf5 7.d7 Rh1/iv 8.e4+ Ke6 9.d8S+ draws.

i) 1.d4? Kg2 2.Kb3 Kf3, or 1.e4? Rf3 2.e5 Rd3.

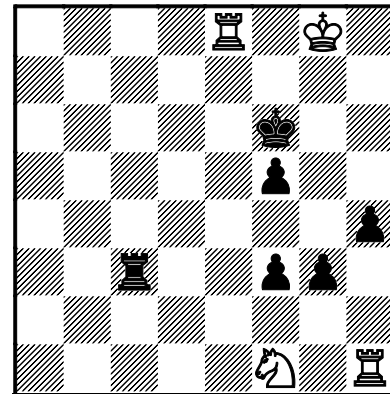
ii) Rd8 4.d5 Kf3 5.Kd4 Kg4 6.Ke5 Re8+ 7.Kf6.

iii) 6.e4? Kg5 7.Ke5 Kg6+ 8.Ke6 Kg7 9.d6 Kf8.

iv) Rh8 8.Kd5 Kf6 9.Kd6 Kf7 10.e4 Ra8 11.e5.

“A subtle duel of practical added value between pawns and a rook ends up in an under-promotion.”

No 16408 J. Nunn  
5th commendation



g8f6 0501.04 4/6 Draw

No 16408 John Nunn (England). 1.Rf8+/i Kg6/ii 2.Rxh4/iii g2 3.Sg3/iv f2/v 4.Rh7 (Sxf5 f1Q;) Rxg3 5.Rg7+ Kh5/vi 6.Rxg3 g1Q/vii 7.Rxf5+ Kh4 8.Rg7 f1Q (Qe1; Rgf7) 9.Rxf1 Qxf1 10.Rh7+ draws.

i) 1.Sh2? g2 2.Ra1 f2 3.Sg4+ fxg4 4.Rf8+ Ke5 5.Rxf2 Rg3 6.Re1+/viii Kd4 wins, e.g. 7.Rd2+ Kc3 8.Rdd1 h3 9.Kg7 h2 10.Rc1+ Kd4 11.Rcd1+ Rd3 12.Ra1 g1Q 13.Rxg1 hxg1Q 14.Rxg1 g3 15.Kg6 Ke4 16.Kg5 Kf3, or 1.Sxg3? hxg3 2.Rf8+ Kg5 3.Kf7 f2 4.Rg8+/ix Kf4 5.Ke6 Kf3, or 1.Ra8? g2 2.Ra6+ Kg5 3.Rg1 h3 4.Ra2 Rc1 5.Rf2/x Kf4 6.Kf7 Rxf1 7.Rxf1 gxf1Q 8.Rxf1 h2.

ii) Ke5 2.Sxg3 hxg3 3.Rh5; Ke6 2.Sxg3 hxg3 3.Rh6+ Ke5 4.Rhf6; Kg5 2.Kf7 Rc7+ 3.Ke6 Rc6+ 4.Ke5 g2 (Rc5+; Ke6) 5.Rg1 Rc5+ 6.Kd4 Ra5 7.Rxg2+ fxg2 8.Rg8+, or here g2 3.Rg8+ Kf4 4.Rxh4+ Ke5 5.Sd2.

iii) 2.Sxg3? hxg3 3.Kh8 g2 4.Rg8+ Kf6 5.Ra1 Rc4 6.Ra6+ Ke5 7.Ra5+ Kf4 8.Ra1 Ke3, or 2.Rg1? f2 3.Rg2 Kg5 4.Kh7 Kg4 5.Kg6 Kf3 6.Rh2 gxh2 7.Sxh2+ Kg2, or 2.Sh2? g2 3.Rg1/xi h3 4.Kh8/xii f2 5.Ra1 g1Q 6.Rg8+ Kh6 7.Ra7 Qg6 8.Rxg6+ Kxg6 9.Rg7+ Kf6.

iv) 3.Se3? g1Q 4.Sxf5 f2.

v) g1Q 4.Rh7 Qb6/xiii 5.Rg7+ Kh6 6.Rh7+ Kg6/xiv 7.Rg7+, or Rc7 4.Ra4 Rg7+/xv 5.Kh8 g1Q 6.Ra6+ Kg5 7.Kxg7.

vi) Kh6 6.Rf6+ Kh5 7.Rxg3 g1Q 8.Rxf5+.

vii) f1Q 7.Rf7 Kh4 8.Rfg7.

viii) 6.Rg1 h3 7.Re1+ Kd4 8.Rd2+ Kc3 9.Rdd1 h2.

ix) 4.Rf1 Re3 5.Rg8+ Kf4 6.Ra1 Re1.

x) 5.Sh2 Rxg1 6.Sxf3+ Kh6 7.Sxg1 h2.

xi) 3.Ra1 f2 4.Kh8 Rg3.

xii) 4.Ra1 f2 5.Kh8 Rc6 6.Rg8+ Kh5 7.Rg3 Rh6+ 8.Kg7 Kh4 9.Rxg2 hxg2 10.Kxh6 Kh3.

xiii) Qd4 5.Rh6+ Kg5 6.Rh5+ Kg4 7.Rh4+.

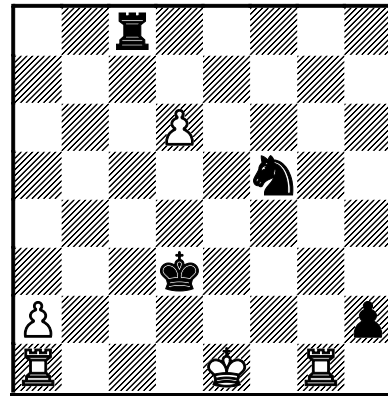
xiv) Kg5 7.Rxf5+ Kg4 8.Rg7+ Kh3 9.Rh5+ Kg2 10.Se4+ Kf1 11.Rh1+ Ke2 12.Sxc3+.

xv) g1Q 5.Ra6+ Kg5 6.Rxf5+ Kh4 7.Rh5+ Kg4 8.Ra4+ Kxg3 9.Rg5+.

“A desperate struggle against a dangerous pair of advanced pawns fails to prevent the eventual promotion but still rewarded by a perpetual check.”

**No 16409** David Gurgenzidze & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rh1/i Rc2 2.Rxh2 Rxh2 3.O-O/O/ii Kc3 4.d7 Rc2+/iii 5.Kb1 Rb2+ 6.Ka1 Sd4 7.Rxd4/iv Rb8 8.d8S/v Kxd4 9.Sc6+ wins.

**No 16409** D. Gurgenzidze & Iu. Akobia  
special commendation



e1d3 0503.21 5/4 Win

i) 1.Rd1+? Ke3 2.Rh1 Rc2.

ii) 3.d7? Re2+ 4.Kf1 Se3+ 5.Kg1 Rg2+ 6.Kh1 Rg8.

iii) Se3 5.Rd3+/vi Kxd3 6.d8Q+ Ke4 7.Qe7+, or Rxa2 5.Kb1 Rb2+ 6.Ka1 Rb8 7.Rc1+ Kd2 8.Rc8 wins.

iv) 7.Rd3+? Kxd3 8.d8Q Rc2.

v) 8.d8Q? Rb1+ 9.Kxb1.

vi) 5.d8Q? Rc2+ 6.Kb1 Rb2+ 7.Kc1 Rc2+.

“Two thirds of the Valladolid task economically displayed. Castling and underpromotion are shown in one line of play while the complementary en-passant awaits a more complex scheme.”



*Ton Beuman*

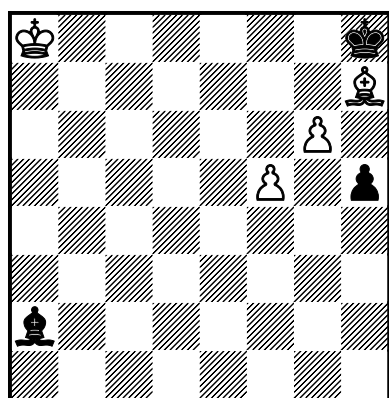
*(Photo from <http://www.hztoernooi.nl>)*

## Probleemblad 2003-2004

Judge Gady Costeff considered a significant input of 69 studies by 36 composers. 20 studies were cooked and 10 were anticipated, leaving 37 studies to be ranked. Since the quality was modest only 5 studies made it into the award. “Refreshingly, the leading studies were miniatures with interesting content and pleasing form. (...) I find it gratifying that so many participants enjoy composing and I am confident that the results will improve with practice.”

The award was published in *Probleemblad* no. 5 (ix-x/2005) with the usual three month confirmation time.

**No 16410** Y. Afek  
prize



a8h8 0040.21 4/3 Draw

**No 16410** Yochanan Afek (Israel/Netherlands). 1.f6/i h4/ii 2.f7 Kg7 3.Bg8 Bb1/iii 4.Bh7 Ba2 5.Bg8 Bd5+ 6.Kb8 Be4 7.Bh7 draws.

i) 1.Kb7? h4 2.f6 h3 3.f7 Kg7 4.Kc6 h2 5.f8Q+ Kxf8 6.g7+ Kxg7 7.Be4 Bb1 8.Bh1 Kf6 9.Kd5 Kf5.

ii) Bd5+ 2.Kb8 h4 3.Kc7 h3 4.Kd6 h2 5.f7 Kg7 6.Ke7 Bxf7 7.gxf7 h1Q 8.f8Q+.

iii) h3 4.f8Q+ Kxf8 5.Bxa2 h2 6.Bd5.

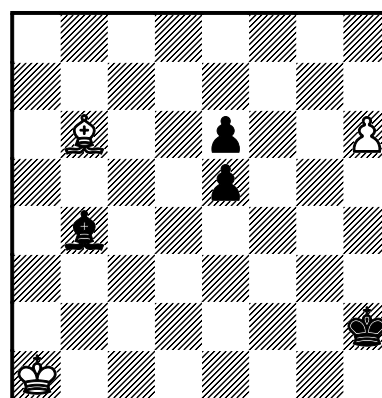
iv) e.g. Bg2 8.Kc7 for if h3? 9.Kd6 Kf8 10.g7+ and White wins.

“A delicate and original positional draw based on a Bishop ambush. The form is excellent and every piece participates in a battle that reaches the four corners.”

**No 16411** Ignace Vandecasteele (Belgium). 1.Bc7/i Bc3+ 2.Ka2/ii Kg2 3.Ba5 Bd4 4.Bb6 Bc3 5.Kb3 Ba1 6.Kc4/iii e4 7.Bd4 Bxd4/iv 8.Kxd4 Kf3 9.h7 e3 10.h8Q wins.

i) 1.h7? Bc3+ 2.Ka2 e4 3.Kb3 Bh8 4.Kc4 Kg3 5.Bd4 e5, or here: 2.Kb1 e4 3.Kc2 Bh8 4.Kd2

**No 16411** I. Vandecasteele  
honourable mention



a1h2 0040.12 3/4 Win

Kg3 5.Ke3 Kg4 6.Kxe4 Kg5 7.Bd4 Kh6 8.Bxh8 Kxh7 draw.

ii) 2.Kb1? Kg2 3.Ba5 Bd4 4.Bb6 Bc3 5.Kc2 Ba1 6.Kd3/v Kf3 7.Kc4/vi e4 8.Bd4 Bxd4 9.Kxd4 e3 10.h7 e2 11.h8Q e1Q.

iii) 6.h7? e4 7.Kc4 Bh8 8.Bd4 e5, or 6.Ba5? e4 7.Bc3 Bxc3 8.Kxc3 e3 9.h7 e2 10.h8Q e1Q+.

iv) e3 8.Bxa1 e2 9.Bc3 wins.

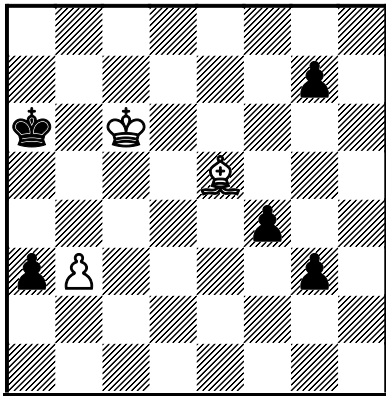
v) 6.Bd4 Bxd4 (exd4? Kd3) 7.Kd3 Kf3 8.h7 Ba1 9.h8Q e4+ and Black wins.

vi) 7.h7 e4+ 8.Kc4 Bh8 9.Bd4 e5.

“An interesting study that borrows the Bishop manoeuvres from the classic Heuäcker. However, the author also adds two clever black defences, one based on promotion threats of the e-pawn, the other showing a pretty manoeuvre (Bh8 and e5!).”

P. Heuäcker, *Neue Freie Presse* 1930: c1h4 0040.11 b8d4.h6e5 3/3 Win: 1.Ba7 Ba1 2.Kb1 Bc3 3.Kc2 Ba1 4.Bd4 Bxd4 (exd4; Kd3) 5.Kd3 Ba1 6.Ke4 wins.

No 16412 Z. Mihajlovski  
1st commendation



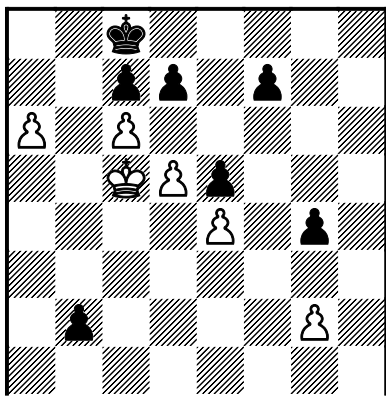
c6a6 0010.14 3/5 Win

No 16412 Zlatko Mihajlovski (Makedonia).  
1.b4/i a2 (f3; Bc3) 2.Bd4 a1Q 3.Bxa1 f3  
4.Bc3 f2 5.b5+ Ka7 6.Bd4+ Kb8 7.b6 f1Q  
8.Be5+ Kc8 9.b7+ Kd8 10.b8Q+ Ke7  
11.Bd6+ Ke6 12.Qe8+ Kf6 13.Qf8+ wins.

i) 1.Bd4? f3 2.b4 f2 3.Bb6 f1Q, or 1.Bc3? g2  
2.Bd4 a2 3.b4 g1Q 4.Bxg1 a1Q and Black wins.

“Another pleasing and light study in which White handles black’s advanced pawns. The study would greatly benefit from a strategic element such as a preparatory opening of the f-file to enable the ultimate winning check.”

No 16413 V. Kovalenko  
2nd commendation



c5c8 0000.56 6/7 Win

No 16413 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.a7  
d6+/i 2.Kc4 b1Q 3.a8Q+ Qb8 4.Qa6+ Kd8  
5.Qb7 Qc8 6.g3/ii f5 7.Kd3 f4 (fxe4; Kxe4)  
8.Ke2 fxc3 (f3+; Kf2) 9.Kf1 g2+ 10.Kxg2 g3  
11.Kxg3 Qxb7 12.cxb7 wins.

i) b1Q 2.a8Q+ Qb8 3.Qxb8+ Kxb8 4.cxd7 wins.

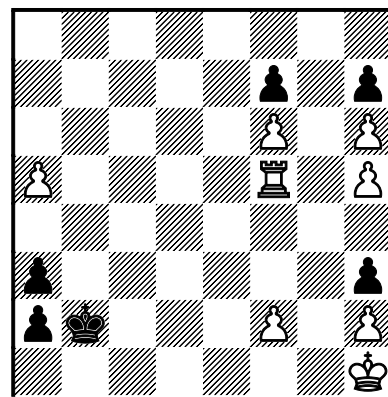
ii) 6.Kd3? g3 7.Ke3 Qg4 8.Qb8+ Qc8 9.Qxc8+  
Kxc8 10.Kf3 Kd8 11.Kxg3 Ke7 12.Kg4 Kf6

13.Kh5 Kg7 14.Kg5 Kg8 15.Kf6 Kf8 16.g3  
Ke8 17.g4 Kf8 18.g5 Ke8 19.g6 fxc6 20.Kxc6  
Ke7 21.Kg7 Ke8 22.Kf6 Kf8 draws.

“The author introduces a king’s walk to a known study. As in the 1st commendation, some preparatory play would add gravitas.”

K.A.L. Kubbel, *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1931,  
c3a1 4000.24 e4a6.c2c6a5c7e6f7 4/6 Win:  
1.Qa4+ Kb3 2.Qb3+ Qe1 3.Qb2+ (Qb7? Qf1;)  
Kd1 4.Qb1+ (Qb7? Qf1;) Ke2 5.Qb7 wins.

No 16414 J. van Reek  
3rd commendation



h1b2 0100.65 8/6 Draw

No 16414 Jan van Reek (Netherlands).  
1.Rb5+ Kc2 2.Rc5+ Kd2 3.Rd5+ Ke2 4.Re5+  
Kxf2 5.Rf5+ Ke2 6.Re5+ Kd2 7.Rd5+ Kc2  
8.Rc5+ Kb3/i 9.Rc1 Kb2 10.Rd1 a1Q 11.Rxa1  
Kxa1 12.a6 a2 13.a7 Kb2 14.a8Q a1Q+  
15.Qxa1+ Kxa1 16.Kg1 Kb2 17.Kf2 Kc3  
18.Kg3 Kd4 19.Kxh3 Ke5 20.Kg4 Kxf6  
21.Kf4 Ke6 22.Ke4, and:

– f6 23.Kf4 f5 24.h3 Kf6 25.h4 Ke6 26.Kg5  
Ke5 stalemate, or:

– f5+ 23.Kf4 Kf6 24.h4 Ke6 25.Kg5 Ke5  
stalemate.

i) Kb2 9.Rb5+ Kc3 10.Rc5+ Kb4 11.Rc1  
Kxa5 12.Ra1 Kb4 13.Rxa2 Kb3 14.Ra1 Kb2  
15.Re1 a2 16.Kg1 a1Q 17.Rxa1 Kxa1 18.Kf2.

“This is a new introduction to a classic Pawn stalemate.”

N.D. Grigoriev, 2nd prize *Shakhmatny Listok*  
1929, h1b8 0000.32 .b3b4b5b7d6 4/3  
Draw: 1.Kg2 Kc7 2.Kf3 Kd7 3.Kf4 Ke6 4.Ke4,  
and – b6 5.Kd4 b5 6.Ke(c)3 Ke5 7.Kd4 d4  
8.Kc4 Ke4 stalemate, or – d5+ 5.Kd4 Kd6 6.b6  
Ke6 7.b5 Kd6 8.b4 Ke6 9.Kc5 Ke5 stalemate.

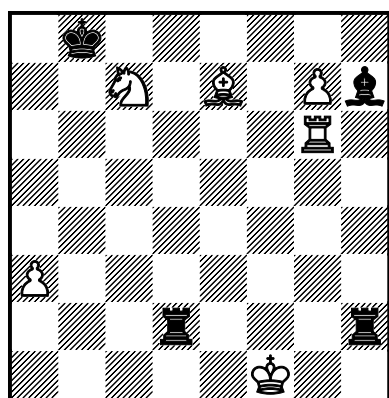


# All-Russian Society for Problem- and Study-Friends 80 AT 2007

Provisional/definitive published: unclear. Judge: Yu. Roslov, St Petersburg. Type: formal international. Theme: none. Confirmation: no mention. Report: 35 entries from 30 composers

We hope to have corrected most of the misprinting errors in the undated award – for instance, two diagrams were without white kings – taken from the Internet in ii2007. We have not seen an official final award.

**No 16415** E. Eilazyan  
1st-2nd prize



f1b8 0741.20 6/4 Draw

**No 16415** Eduard Eilazyan (Russia). 1.Sa6+? Ka7 2.Bc5+ Kb7 3.Rb6+ Kc8 4.Rc6+ Kd7 5.Sb8+ Ke8 6.Rc8+ Kf7 7.Rf8+ Kxg7 8.Rf2 Rh1+ 9.Kg2 Be4+ 10.Kg3 Rd3+ 11.Kf4 Ba8 12.Bb4 Kg6 wins. 1.Kg1 hRe2 2.g8Q+/i Bxg8 3.Sa6+ Kb7 4.Sc5+ Kc7 5.Bd6+ Rxd6 6.Sa6+ Kc6 7.Sb4+ Kd7 8.Rg7+ Ke6 9.Rg6+ Ke5 10.Sc6+ Kd5 11.Sb4+ Kc5 12.Sa6+ Kc6 13.Sb4+ Kc7 14.Sa6+ Kd7 15.Sb8+ Ke7 16.Sc6+ positional draw.

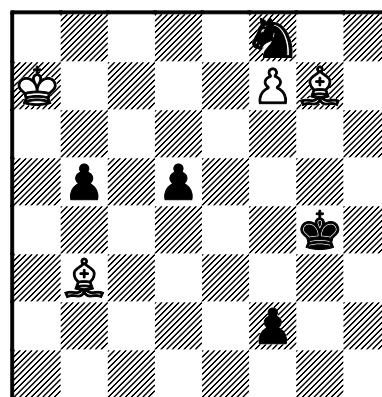
i) 2.Sa6+? Kb7 3.Sc5+ Kc7 4.Bd6+ Rxd6 5.Sa6+ Kc6 6.Sb8+ Kd5 7.g8Q+ Bxg8 8.Rxg8, may look OK, but: Rb2 9.a4 Kc5 10.Rg5+ Kb6 11.Rg2 Rxg2+ 12.Kxg2 Kb7 and 13...Kxb8.

“A pair of thematic tries with distinct refutations showing the depth of Black’s resources. It is all the more satisfying to find the one solution leading to the drawing haven against such a formidable antagonist. Only an adjusted move order can bring this about.”

**No 16416** Aleksei Sochnev (St Petersburg). 1.Bd1+ Kg3 2.Be2 Se6 3.Bf1/i Kh2 4.Kb8 Kg1

5.Bh3 f1Q 6.Bxf1 Kxf1 7.Kc8 d4 8.Kd7 d3 9.Kxe6 d2 10.f8Q+ Ke2 11.Bd4 d1Q 12.Qf2+ Kd3 13.Qe(g)3+ Kc4 14.Qc3 mate, making it clear why bPb5 was left high and dry.

**No 16416** A. Sochnev  
1st-2nd prize



a7g4 0023.13 4/5 Win

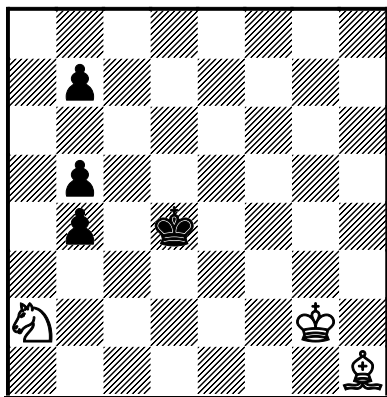
i) 3.Bxb5? Kg2 4.Kb8 f1Q 5.Bxf1+ Kxf1 6.Kc8 d4 7.Kd7 d3 8.Kxe6 d2 9.f8Q+ Ke2 10.Bd4 d1Q 11.Qf2+ Kd3 12.Qe3+ Kc4 13.Qc3+ Kb5 14.Qc5+ Ka4, and no more than a draw.

“Black has a great survival plan: following the idea of a Korolkov masterpiece, after ten moves he reaches a position in which wQ and wB are unable to prevent a black promotion. But the plan conceals a flaw of its own, by which White retains the means to hold the upper hand.”

**No 16417** Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1...b3 2.Sc3/i Kxc3 3.Kg3 (Kf2; Kd4) b2 4.Be4 Kd2 5.Kf4 b4 6.Ke5 Kc1 7.Kd4(Kd5) b5 8.Kc5 b3 9.Kb4 drawn.

i) 2.Sb4? b2 3.Sc2+ Kc3 4.Sa3 b4 5.Sb1+ Kc2 6.Kf2 Kxb1 7.Ke2 Kc1 8.Be4 b1Q 9.Bxb1 Kxb1 10.Kd2 b3, when Black wins.

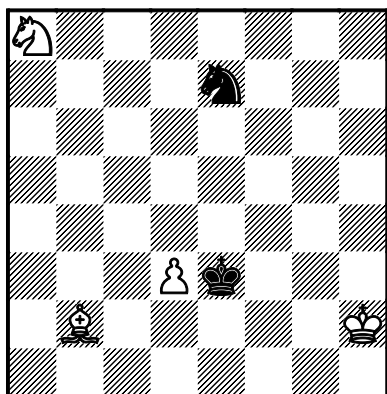
No 16417 P. Rossi  
prize



g2d4 0011.03 3/4 BTM, Draw

“A masterpiece due to just two moves – 2.Sc3!! and 3.Kg3!! A study to seize the mind from the very start.”

No 16418 S. Didukh  
prize



h2e3 0014.10 4/2 Win

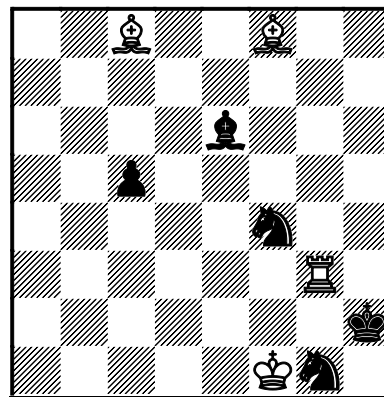
No 16418 Sergei Didukh (Ukraine). 1.d4 Sd5 2.Ba1/i Ke4 3.Kh1 Ke3 4.Kg2 Kf4 5.Kh3 (Kf2? Ke4zz) Ke4 6.Kh2 Kf3 7.Kg1 Ke3 8.Kf1 Kd3 9.Kg2 Kc4 (Ke4; Kf2zz) 10.Kf3 Kb5 11.Ke4 Kc6 12.Bb2 Sf6+ 13.Ke5 Sg4+ 14.Ke6 Se3 15.Bc1 Sc4 16.Bf4, setting the prisoner free.

i) 2.Kg3? Ke4 3.Kh2 Kd3 4.Kg3 Ke4 drawn.

“A miniature with surprisingly rich logical play for such material.”

No 16419 Yuri Bazlov (Russian Far East). 1.Rg2+ Sxg2 2.Bd6+ Kh1 3.Bb7 Bh3/i 4.Kf2 c4 5.Be5 c3 6.Bxc3 Kh2/ii 7.Be5+ Kh1 8.Kg3 Se2+ 9.Kxh3 Sg1+ 10.Kg4/iii Se2 11.Bf3 Sg1 12.Be4 Se2 13.Kh3 Sg1+ 14.Kg3 Se2+ 15.Kf2 Sf4 16.Kf1 Kh2 17.Bxg2, with winning material.

No 16419 Yu. Bazlov  
prize



f1h2 0156.01 4/5 Win

i) Bc4+ 4.Kf2 Sh3+ 5.Kg3 Bf1 6.Kxh3 Kg1 7.Bxc5+ Se3+ 8.Kg3 Bh5 9.Bg2.

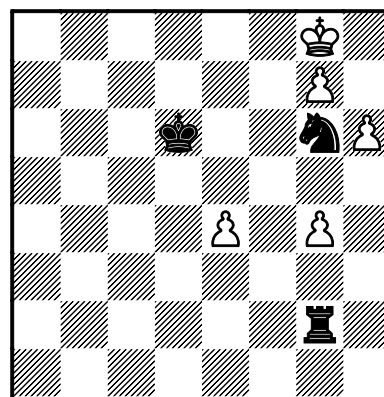
ii) Se2 7.Kxe2 Kg1 8.Bd4+ Kh2 9.Kf2 Sf4 10.Be5, with a finale echoing (i).

iii) 10.Kg3? Se2+ 11.Kf2 Sf4 12.Kf1/iv Sd5 13.Bxd5 stalemate with S-pin.

iv) 12.Bxf4 stalemate with bSg2-pin, or 12.Bd5 Kh2 13.Bxg2 stalemate with bSf4 pin.

“White kicks off with a sacrifice, resulting in a small material plus, after which he has to steer clear of cunning stalemate traps before winning.”

No 16420 A. Sochnev  
prize



g8d6 0303.40 5/3 Draw

No 16420 Aleksei Sochnev (St Petersburg). 1.h7? Rf2 2.h8Q Se7+ 3.Kh7 Rh2 mate. 1.Kf7 Se5+ 2.Kf8/i Rf2+ 3.Kg8 Sxg4 4.h7 Ke7 5.Kh8 Se5 6.Kg8/ii Sg4 7.Kh8 Sh6 8.g8S+ Kf7 9.Sxh6+ Kg6 10.Kg8 Rh2 11.h8S+ drawn.

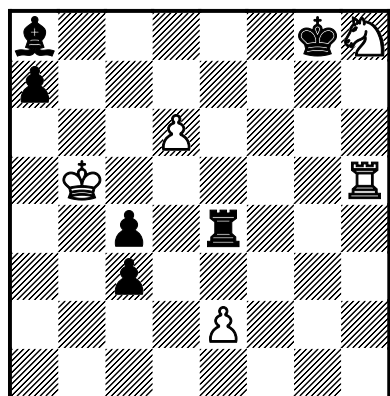
i) 2.Kg8? Sxg4 3.h7 Ke7 4.Kh8 Se5 5.Kg8 Sf7 6.e5 Rb2 7.h8Q Sg5 8.Qh4 Rb8 mate.

ii) 6.g8Q? Sf7+ 7.Kg7 Rg2 mate.

“Beyond the question the tourney’s multi-disciplinary champion! There are checkmates, stalemates, underpromotions, and tries.”

“The honourable mentions were honestly within millimetres of the prize list.”

**No 16421** Iu. Akobia & R. Becker  
honourable mention



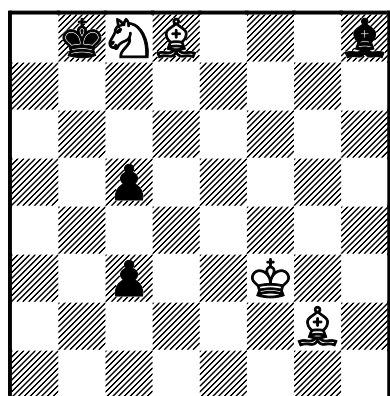
b5g8 0431.23 5/6 Draw

**No 16421** Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Richard Becker (USA). 1.Rh3 c2 2.Rc3 Rxe2 3.d7 Rd2 4.Rxc2 Rxd7 5.Rxc4 Bf3 6.Rf4 Bh5 7.Re4 Kxh8 8.Rh4 Rh7 9.Ka6, with:

- Be2+ 10.Ka5 Rxh4, a pure stalemate, or
- Kg8 10.Rh2 Kf8 11.Rf2+ Ke8 12.Rh2zz Kd8 13.Rd2+ Kc8 14.Rh2zz Kb8 15.Rxh5 Rxh5, another pure stalemate.

“The authors have found a position of great interest with a dynamic equality of force arising after White’s ninth move that one could say finds expression in two stalemate positions.”

**No 16422** V. Vlasenko  
honourable mention



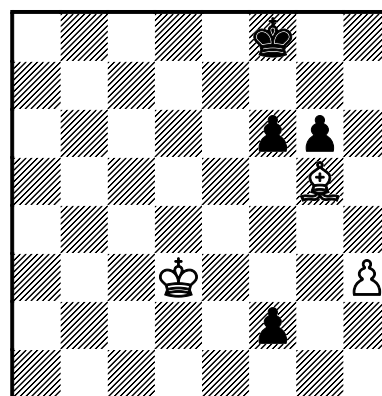
f3b8 0051.02 4/4 Win

**No 16422** V. Vlasenko (Ukraine). 1.Se7 c2 2.Sc6+ Ka8 3.Bg5 Bb2 4.Bh3/i c1Q 5.Bxc1 Bxc1 6.Bc8 c4 7.Ke4 c3 8.Kd4 Bd2 9.Kc5 c2 10.Kb6 c1Q 11.Bb7 mate.

i) 4.Bf1? c1Q 5.Bxc1 Bxc1 6.Ba6 c4 7.Ke4 c3 8.Kd4 Bd2 9.Kc5 c2 10.Kb6 Ba5, “This is why White chooses the ‘symmetrical’ alternative after which wBa6 is out of place.”

“A thing of beauty uniting solution and symmetrical try.”

**No 16423** L. Katsnelson & V. Katsnelson  
honourable mention



d3f8 0010.13 3/4 Win

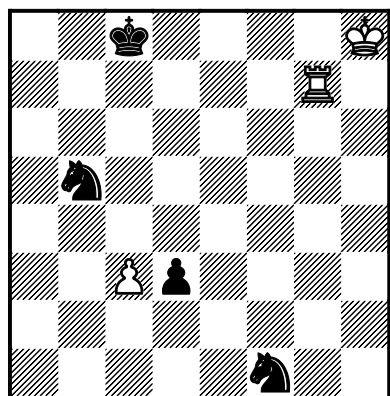
**No 16423** Leonard Katsnelson & Vladimir Katsnelson (St Petersburg). 1.Bh6+ Kf7 2.Ke2 g5 3.Kxf2 Kg6 4.Bf8 Kh5 5.Kg3 f5/i 6.Be7(Bd6) Kg6 7.Bb4 Kh5 8.Be1 Kg6 9.Kf2 Kh6 10.Ke2 Kg6 11.Kd3 Kh5 12.Ke3 Kg6 13.Kd4 Kh5 14.Ke5 g4 15.h4 wins.

i) “After this White must place wB on e1 and work wK round to the left of bPP, making use of the corresponding squares relationship bKh5/wKe3.” Kg6 6.Bb4 f5 7.Kg2 Kh5 8.Be1 Kg6 9.Kf2 Kh6 10.Ke2, and we are in the main line. Here, White’s moves 7 and 8 can be inverted.

“One more sparkling riddle in miniature form.”

**No 16424** Sergei Osintsev (Russia). 1.Rg2? d2 2.Rxd2 Sxd2 3.c4 Sd4 4.c5 Sc6. 1.Rg5? Sc7 2.Rf5 Se3 3.Rf2 Sc4, and Troitzky will tell us how to win from here. 1.Rg8+ Kd7 2.Rg7+ Kd6 3.Rg8 Kd7 4.Rg7+ Kc6 5.Rg2 d2 6.Rxd2 Sxd2 7.c4 Sc7 8.c5 Kd7 9.Kh7/i Sf3 10.c6+ Kd6 11.Kh6 Ke5 12.Kg7 Kd5 13.Kg6zz – where White wants it.

**No 16424** S. Osintsev  
honourable mention

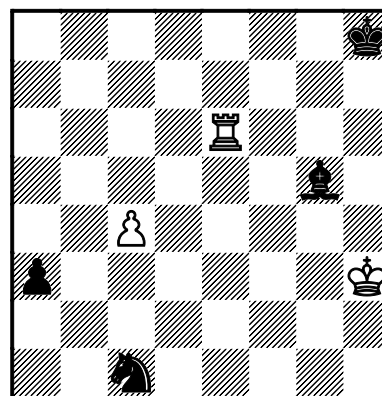


h8c8 0106.11 3/4 Draw

i) 9.c6+? Ke7 10.Kh7 Kf6 11.Kh6 Sf3zz  
12.Kh5 Kf5zz – where Black wants it.

“Complexity constructed on GBR class  
0006.10 . This would have been something 80  
years ago.”

**No 16426** V. Vlasenko  
commendation

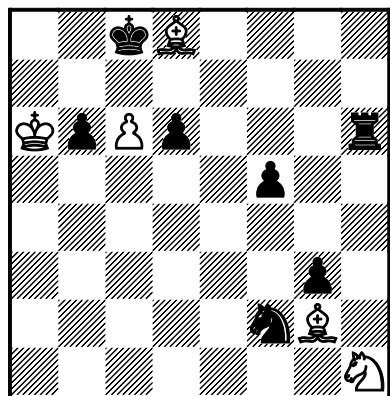


h3h8 0133.11 3/4 Win

i) Thematic try: 6.Kf2? Sd3+ 7.Ke2 Sb4 8.Ra8  
Bf4 9.Kf3 Be5 10.Ke4 Ke6, with a win for  
Black.

“Good enough from this experienced com-  
poser.”

**No 16425** S. Borodavkin  
commendation



a6c8 0324.14 5/7 Win

**No 16425** Sergei Borodavkin (Ukraine). 1.c7  
Se4 2.Sxg3 Sc5+ 3.Kxb6 Rh8 4.Sxf5, with:

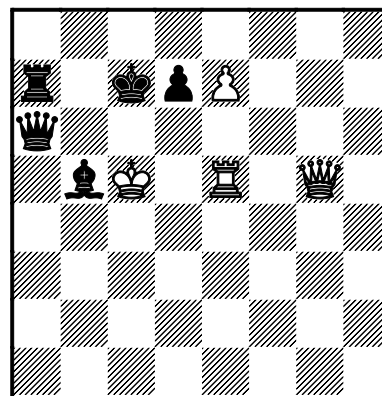
– Sd7+ 5.Ka7 Rxd8 6.Sxd6+ Kxc7 7.Sb5+  
Kc8 8.Bb7 mate, or

– Rxd8 5.Kc6 Rd7 6.Sxd6+ Rxd6+ 7.Kxd6  
Se4+ 8.Kc6 wins, spurning 8.Bxe4 stale-  
mate?? – one of the ideal sort.

“A rare synthesis indeed of ideal mate and  
stalemate in one and the same study.”

**No 16426** V.Vlasenko (Ukraine). 1.c5 a2  
2.Ra6 Kg7 3.c6 Bf4 4.Kg2 Kf7 5.Kf3 Bc7  
6.Ra8/i Ke6 7.Kf2 Be5 8.c7 Bxc7 9.Ke1 Sd3+  
10.Kd2 Sb4 11.Kc3 draw.

**No 16427** G. Golubev  
commendation



c5c7 4430.11 4/5 Win

**No 16427** G. Golubev (...). 1.e8Q? Qd6+  
2.Kxb5 Qc6+ 3.Kb4 Ra4+ mates. 1.e8S+ Kb8  
2.Qd8+ Qc8+ 3.Qxc8+ Kxc8 4.Sd6+ Kc7/i  
5.Re8 Ba6 6.Rf8 (Rg8/Rh8)zz, with:

– Bb7 7.Sb5 mate, or

– Rb7 7.Rc8 mate.

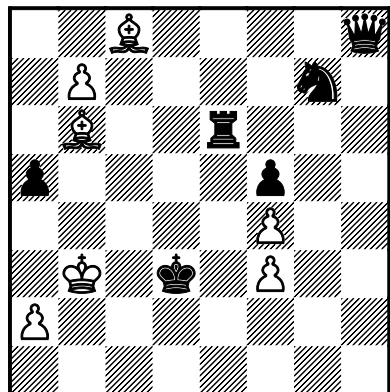
i) Kb8 5.Re8+ Kc7 6.Rc8 mate. Black is hop-  
ing for 5.Sxb5+? Kd8 6.Sxa7 d6+ 7.Kxd6  
stalemate.

“Not so complex, but it leaves behind an  
aesthetic impression.”

**No 16428** A. Kuryatnikov & E. Markov (...).  
1.b8Q Rxb6+ 2.Qxb6 Qg8+ 3.Kb2 Qxc8  
4.Qb5+ Qc4 5.Ka3zz Kd4 6.Qe5+ Kd3 7.Qb5

a4 8.Qd7+ Qd4 9.Qxf5+ Sxf5 stalemate. If 3.Ka3? then White would have been the victim of the reci-zug.

**No 16428** A. Kuryatnikov & E. Markov  
commendation

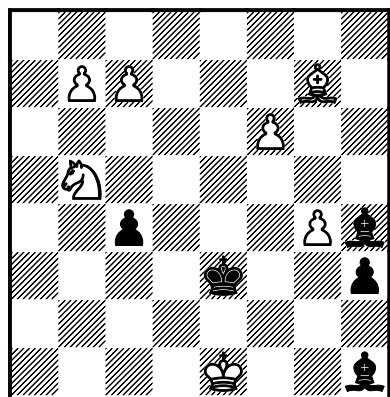


b3d3 3323.42 7/6 Draw

“Stripped of the first three plies this would have been placed higher.”

HH observes that 5...a4 6.Qd7+ Ke3 7.Qxg7 Qxf4 seems to win for Black.

**No 16429** S. Didukh  
special prize

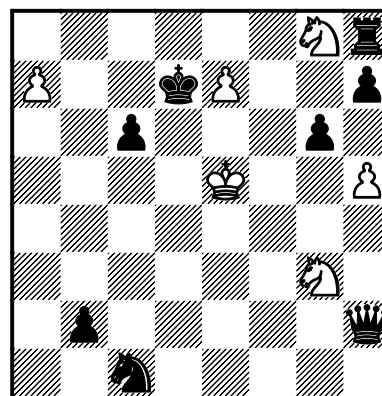


e1e3 0071.42 7/5 Draw

**No 16429** Sergei Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Kd1? Bxb7 2.c8Q Bxc8 3.f7 Be7 4.Be5 Bxg4+ wins. 1.Kf1 Bg2+ 2.Kg1 Bf2+ 3.Kh2 Kf3 4.Sd4+ Bxd4 5.f7 Bxg7 6.f8Q+ Bxf8 7.c8S Bh6 8.g5 Bxg5 9.b8Q Bf4+ 10.Qxf4+ Kxf4 11.Sd6 c3 12.Sb5 c2 13.Sd4 c1S 14.Se2+ Sxe2 stalemate.

“No fewer than five white piece sacrifices, mutual S-promotions, a thematic try, and stalemate. What a furore this would have caused in 1926! But within three years Korkov started his run of composing...”

**No 16430** V. Kondratev  
special honourable mention



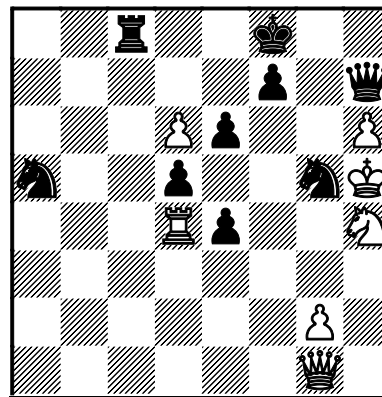
e5d7 3305.34 6/8 Win

**No 16430** V. Kondratev (). 1.e8Q+ Kxe8 2.a8Q+ Kf7 3.Sh6+ Kg7 4.Sf5+ gxf5 5.Qa7+ Kh6 6.Qe3+ f4 7.Qxf4+ Kg7 8.h6+ Kg8 9.Kf6 Qf2 10.Qxf2 b1Q 11.Sf5 Qa1+ 12.Sd4 Qb1 13.Se6, with:

- Se2 14.Qxe2 Qg6+ 15.Ke7 Qf7+ 16.Kd6 Qf6 17.Qh5 Qg6 18.Qf3 Qf7 19.Qg4+ Qg6 20.Qf4 Qf7 21.Qg5+ wins, or
- c5 14.Sf8 Qb6+ 15.Ke7 Qb7+ 16.Sd7 Qe4+ 17.Kd8 Qa8+ 18.Kc7 Qa7+ 19.Kd6 Qa6+ 20.Ke7 Qe2+ 21.Qxe2 Sxe2 22.Sf6 mate.

“A complex idea built in part of complementary ‘Phoenix’ pieces rising from the ashes of queens.”

**No 16431** A. Karin  
special commendation



h5f8 4407.34 7/9 Win

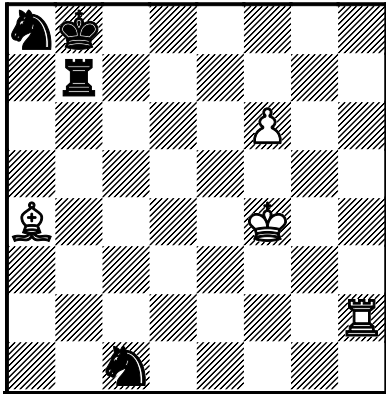
**No 16431** A. Karin (Russia). 1.Rc4 Rd8 2.Rc8 Rxc8 3.d7 Rd8 4.Qc5+ Kg8 5.Qe7 Sc6 6.Qe8+ Rxe8 7.dxe8Q mate.

“It’s all in the first two moves. Simple, but pretty.”

# I. Borisenko 75 JT 2005

Judge: Vitaly Shevchenko (Ukraine, the magazine's editor). Type: unclear. Theme: none. Confirmation: no information. Report: mentions one with multiple dual on first move.

**No 16432** A. Kovrizhenko & Yu. Chervoniuk  
prize

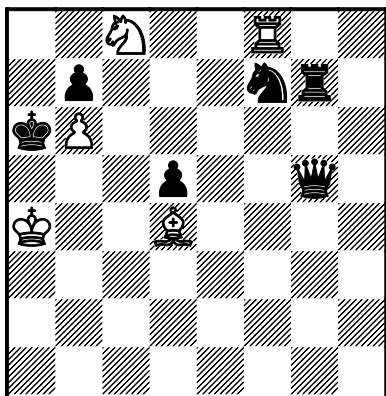


f4b8 0416.10 4/4 Win

**No 16432** A. Kovrizhenko & Yu. Chervoniuk (Brusilov, Ukraine). 1.Rh8+ Ka7 2.Rxa8+ Kxa8 3.Bc6 Sd3+ 4.Kf5 Sc5 5.f7 Sd7 6.Bxd7 Rb8 7.Be8 Rb1. Reader-solver! Can you see White's win? 8.Bc6+ Ka7 9.Kg4 Rf1 10.Bf3 wins.

“Neat play by White neutralises Black's material advantage and then finagles a win.”

**No 16433** R. Buchinsky  
honourable mention



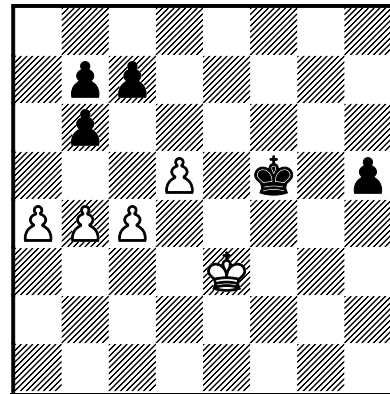
a4a6 3414.12 5/6 Draw

“WTM, but Black draws!”

**No 16433** R. Buchinsky (Mikhailovka, Ukraine). 1.Se7 Sd8 2.Rxd8 Rg8 3.Sxd5 Qxd5 4.Rxd5 Rg5 5.Be5 Rg4+ 6.Bd4 Rg5 7.Be5 positional draw.

“Despite bK's vulnerability his side extricates itself with a positional draw!”

**No 16434** O. Zhuk  
Commendation



e3f5 0000.44 5/5 Win

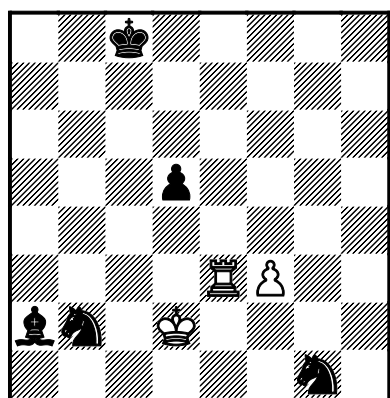
**No 16434** Oleksandr Zhuk (Khristinovka, Ukraine). 1.a5? bxa5 2.bxa5 Ke5 3.Kd3 h4 4.Ke3 h3 5.Kf3 Kd4 6.Kg3 Kxc4 7.Kxh3 Kxd5, and Black wins. 1.c5 bxc5 2.bxc5 Ke5 3.d6 cxd6 4.c6 bxc6 5.a5 wins.

# Kaspi 2006

Provisional/definitive published: *Sahmat Besteciliyi* no.6 iii2007 (Azerbaijan) edited by Ilham Aliev. Judge: Araz Almammadov (Azerbaijan). Type: informal international. Theme: none. Confirmation: no mention. Report: 12 studies by 9 from 5 countries. There were three other sections.

The chess column in *Kaspi* was abruptly suspended in mid-2006. Composers who had submitted compositions (not necessarily studies) were offered their works back, or could confirm their participation.

**No 16435** Iu Akobia & R. Becker  
prize



d2c8 0136.11 3/5 Draw

**No 16435** Iuri Akobia & Richard Becker (USA). 1.Kc2 Sc4/i 2.Re1 Sxf3/ii 3.Ra1 Se3+ 4.Kd3 Sc2 5.Kxc2 Bc4 6.Ra7 Kd8 7.Rb7/iii Be2 8.Rf7zz Ke8 9.Rh7zz Kd8 10.Rf7 Ke8 11.Rb7 d4 12.Rb3 Se5 13.Rb4 Sc4 14.Kb3 Sd2+ 15.Kc2 Sf3 16.Rb3 positional draw.

i) d4 2.Ra3 Bd5 3.Kxb2, and Sxf3 4.Kc2, or Bxf3 4.Rd3.

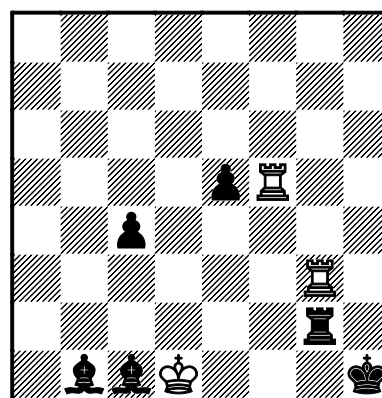
ii) Sh3 3.Ra1 draw. Sa3+ 3.Kb2 Sxf3 4.Rf1.

iii) Thematic try: 7.Rf7? Be2zz 8.Rb7 Ke8zz 9.Ra7 d4 10.Ra3 Se5 11.Rh3 Kd7 wins.

“Mutual zugzwang, positional draw and S-roundabout f3-e5-c4-d2-f3.” [We prefer not to say knight’s ‘wheel’ as this is a specialist problemist’s term for the task of eight distinct variations following each move of a centralised knight. AJR]

**No 16436** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Rh3+? Kg1 2.Rxe5 Bd2 3.eRh5 Bg5 4.Ke1 Rg4 wins. 1.Rh5+ Rh2/i 2.Rxe5/ii Bd2 3.Re4/iii c3/iv 4.Re1+/v Bxe1 5.Kxe1 Rc2 (c2; Rg1+) 6.Kd1 (Kf1? Kh2;) Kh2 7.Rf3zz/vi Kg2

**No 16436** R. Becker  
1st honourable mention



d1h1 0560.02 3/6 Draw

8.Re3zz Kf2 9.Rh3 Rd2+ 10.Kc1 Bd3 11.Rf3+/vii Kg2 12.Rg3+ Kh2 13.Rh3+ Kxh3 stalemate.

i) Kg1 2.Rxg2+ Kxg2 3.Kxc1 drawn.

ii) 2.Kxc1? Rxh5 3.Kxb1 e4 4.Kc2 Rd5 5.Re3 Rd4 6.Re2 Kg1 7.Kc3 Kf1 wins.

iii) 3.Re2? Bb4. 3.Rf3? Bh6 4.Ke1 Bd3. 3.Rd5? Bc2+ 4.Kxc2 Be1 wins.

iv) Bxe4 4.Rg1+ stalemate. Ba2 4.eRg4 Bb3+ 5.Rxb3 cxb3 6.Rg1+ Kxg1 stalemate. Bd3 4.Rxd3 (also Rd4) cxd3 5.Rd4.

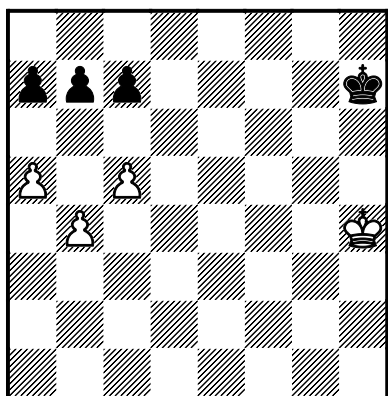
v) 4.Rc4 c2+ 5.Rxc2 Bxc2+ 6.Kxc2 Bf4+ (or Be1+) winning.

vi) 7.Re3? Kg2zz 8.Rd3 Rc1+ 9.Kxc1 Bxd3 wins.

vii) 11.Rh2+? Ke3 12.Rh3+ Kd4 13.Rh4+ Be4 wins.

“A working of a 1st prize 1968 study by W. Proskurowski in the Polish *Szachy*. The reci-zug is the addition. The intro and finale are now better.”

**No 16437** S. Karimov  
2nd honourable mention



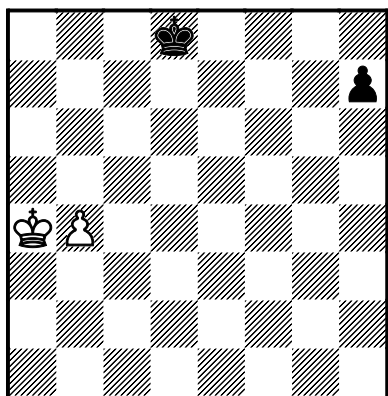
h4h7 0000.33 4/4 Win

**No 16437** S. Karimov (Azerbaijan). 1.b5, with:

- b6 2.axb6 (or cxb6) axb6 3.cxb6 cxb6 4.Kh5 Kg7 5.Kg5 Kf7 6.Kf5 Ke7 7.Ke5 Kd7 8.Kd5 Kc7, and (the familiar) 9.Ke6 Kc8 10.Kd6 Kb7 11.Kd7 Kb8 12.Kc6 Ka7 13.Kc7 Ka8 14.Kxb6 Kb8 15.Ka6 Ka8 16.b6 Kb8 17.b7 winning, or
- Kg6 2.b6 axb6 (cxb6; a6) 3.c6 bxc6 4.a6 wins.

“Combining two classic ideas – done by a 14-year-old.”

**No 16438** I. Aliev  
1st commendation



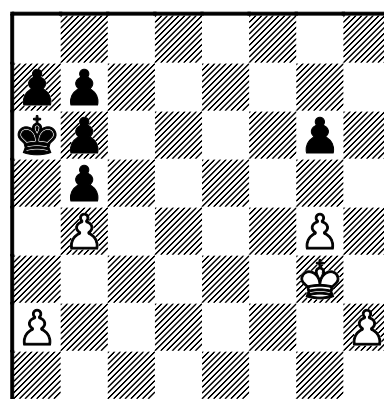
a4d8 0000.11 2/2 Draw

**No 16438** Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Kb5/i h5/ii 2.Ka6 (Kc6? h4;) Kc7 (h4; b5) 3.Ka7 Kc6 4.Ka6 Kc7 (h4; b5) 5.Ka7 Kc6 6.Ka6 draw.

- i) 1.Ka5 Kc7/iii 2.Ka6 Kb8 wins.
- ii) Kc7 2.Kc5 h5 3.Kd5 draws.
- iii) h5? 2.Ka6 draw, Kc8? 2.Kb6 h5 3.Ka7 h4 4.b5 h3 5.b6 h2 6.b7 draw. Réti.

“This tiny P-study shows both Réti manoeuvre and positional draw.”

**No 16439** V. Kovalenko  
2nd commendation



g3a6 0000.45 5/6 Win

**No 16439** V. Kovalenko (Russia). 1.a3? g5 2.h4 gxh4+ 3.Kh2 h3 drawn. 1.h4 g5 2.Kh2/i gxh4 3.g5 h3 4.a4 bxa4 5.g6 a3 6.g7 a2 7.g8Q a1Q 8.Qc4+ b5 9.Qe6+ b6 10.Qc8 mate.

- i) 2.Kg2? gxh4 3.g5 h3+ 4.Kh1 h2 5.a4 bxa4 6.g6 a3 7.g7 a2 8.g8Q a1Q+ draw.

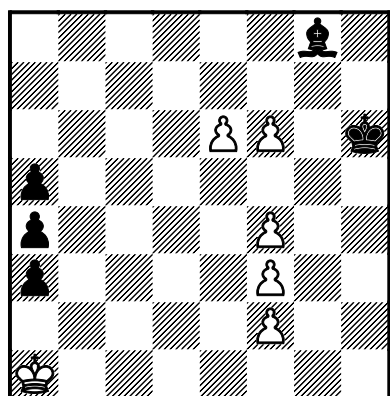
“Stalemated bK is released so as to be checkmated.”



# Open Championship of Moscow 2006

Announced in *Shakhmatnaya kompozitsia* 69 of 28ii2006. Provisional/definitive published: internet (Selivanov site). Judge: Oleg Pervakov (Moscow). Type: mix of thematic and published (ie the traditional formula for this annual event). Theme: Movement of white/black trebled pawns, with any stipulation. The thematic play may occur in the solution and/or try-play. The judge used the 15-point scale.

**No 16440** V. Pankov  
1st place, thematic part



a1h6 0030.53 6/5 Win

**No 16440** Vladimir Pankov (Moscow). 1.f5 a2 2.Kb2/i a1Q+ 3.Kxa1 a3 4.f4 a4 5.f3 a2 6.Kb2/ii a1Q+ 7.Kxa1 a3 8.Ka2 Bh7 9.e7 Bg8+ 10.Kxa3 Bf7 11.Kb4 Be8 12.Kc5 Kh7 13.Kd6 Kh8 (Kg8; Ke6) 14.f7 Bxf7 15.f6 Kh7 16.f5 Be8 17.Ke6 Kg8 18.f4zz wins. (14 points.)

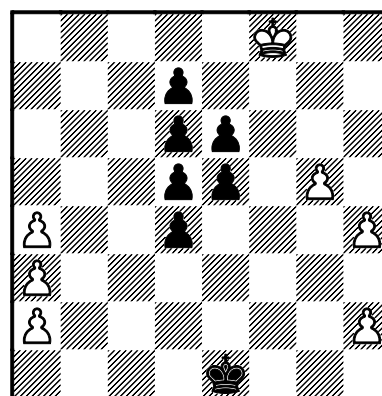
i) 2.f4? a3 3.f3 a4zz draw.

ii) 6.Kxa2? Bh7 7.e7 Bg8+ 8.Ka3 Bf7 9.Kxa4 Be8+ 10.Kb4 Kh7 draw.

“The theme is realised seven times with tempo-play by both sides.”

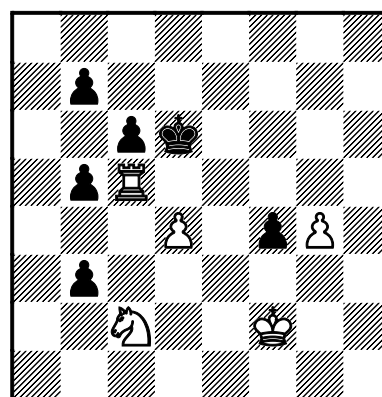
**No 16441** Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.g6 d3 2.g7 d2 3.g8Q d1Q 4.Qg1+ Kd2 5.Qxd1+ Kxd1 6.h5 e4 7.h6 e3 8.h7 e2 9.h8Q e1Q 10.Qa1+ Ke2 11.Qxe1+ Kxe1 12.a5 d4 13.a6 d3 14.a7 d2 15.a8Q d1Q 16.Qh1+ Kd2 17.Qxd1+ Kxd1 18.h4 e5 19.h5 e4 20.h6 e3 21.h7 e2 22.h8Q e1Q 23.Qa1+ Ke2 24.Qxe1+ Kxe1 25.a4 d5 26.a5 d4 27.a6 d3 28.a7 d2 29.a8Q d1Q 30.Qh1+ Kd2 31.Qxd1+ Kxd1 32.a4 d5 33.a5 d4 34.a6 d3 35.a7 d2 36.a8Q wins. (11 points.)

**No 16441** V. Kovalenko  
2nd place, thematic part



f8e1 0000.66 7/7 Win

**No 16442** E. Kudelich  
3rd place, thematic part



f2d6 0101.25 5/6 Draw

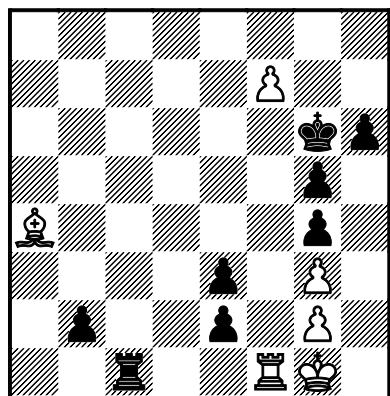
**No 16442** Eduard Kudelich (Russia). 1...b4 2.Rc4 Kd5 3.Rc5+ Kd6 4.Rc4 b5 5.Rxc6+ Kd7 6.Rc7+ Kd8 7.Sxb4 b2 8.Re7 b1Q 9.Sc6+ Kc8 10.Sa7+ Kd8 11.Sc6+ perpetual check (9 points).

The ancient perpetual check that ends the play takes place attractively far from the promotion action.

# Shakhmatnaya Poezia 2003

Provisional/definitive published: *Shakhmatnaya Poezia* 38 21xii2006. Judge: S.N. Tkachenko (Odessa). Type: informal international. Theme: none. Confirmation: no mention. Report: 22 by 18 entered, but 16 eliminated for flaws or poor quality. One corrected entry is included in the award.

**No 16443** D. Gurgenidze & V. Kalandadze  
honourable mention



g1g6 0410.36 6/8 Draw

**No 16443** David Gurgenidze & Velimir Kalandadze (Georgia). 1.Bc2+ Kh5/i 2.f8Q exf1Q+ 3.Qxf1 e2 4.Qe1/ii Rxe1+ 5.Kh2 Rh1+/iii 6.Kxh1 e1Q+ 7.Kh2/iv Qe6 8.Bd3/v Qc6 9.Bf5 (Bh7? Qg6;) Qg6 10.Bb1zz Qxb1 stalemate – or else positional draw.

i) Rxc2 2.f8Q exf1Q+ 3.Qxf1 Rc1 4.Kh2 Rxf1 stalemate.

ii) 4.Kh2? doesn't work now because of the underpromotion 4...exf1S+ or 4...exf1B.

iii) Otherwise stalemate will be forced by 6.Bg6+.

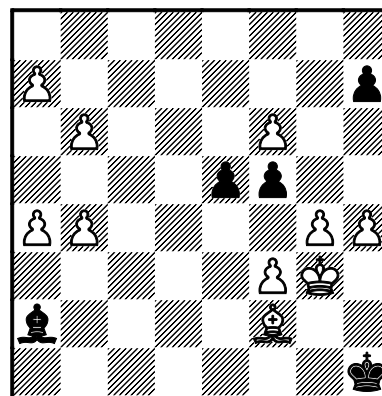
iv) "A funny situation! bP cannot achieve his heart's desire because of the stalemate. Nor can bQ lure wB off the b1-h7 diagonal. It's too soon to loosen one's grip, though."

v) 8.Bb1? Qg6zz 9.Ba2 Qf5 10.Bb1 Kg6, with release.

"The set stalemate escape hatches are not exactly abstruse. But, no question, both the play and the subject are succulent!"

**No 16444** Eduard Kudelich & Boris Sidorov (Russia). "There's no holding wPP. But Black has interesting counterplay, obfuscating White's unclouded march to victory!" 1...f4+ 2.Kh3 h5 3.a8Q Bc4 4.Qa6 Bxa6 5.b5 Bc8

**No 16444** E. Kudelich & B. Sidorov  
commendation



g3h1 0040.83 10/5 Win

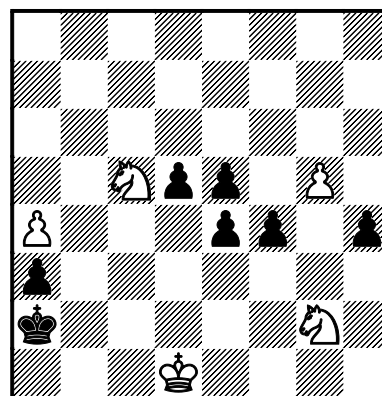
6.Bd4/i e4 7.b7/ii Bxb7 8.f7, and now it's all plain sailing.

i) 6.f7? Be6 7.f8S Bc4 8.gxh5, and the return to e6 isn't checkmate. But Black plays 7...Bf5, threatening 8...Bd3 9.gxh5 Bf5 mate, so 8.gxf5 e4 9.Bg1 exf3 10.b7 f2 11.Bxf2 f3 12.Ba7 f2 13.b8R – will there be stalemate now? – f1Q+ 14.Kg3 Qxf5 15.Re8 Qe5+ 16.Rxe5. So the answer is 'Yes!'.

ii) 7.f7?? exf3 8.f8Q hxg4 mate.

"It's a case of the try holding more interest than the solution!"

**No 16445** P. Rossi  
commendation



d1a2 0002.26 5/7 Win

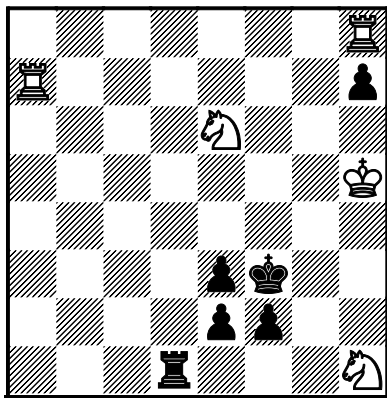
**No 16445** Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1.Kc2 h3/i 2.Sxf4 exf4 3.Sxe4 dxe4/ii 4.g6 h2 5.g7 h1Q 6.g8Q+ Ka1 7.-16.Qg7-f7-f6-e6-e5-d5-d4-c4-c3-b3+ and 17.Qxa3 mate.

i) f3 2.Se3 (for Sxd5) d4 3.g6 d3+ 4.Kc1 d2+ 5.Kc2 d1Q+ 6.Sxd1, 7.Sc3+, 8.Sb3 mate.

ii) d4 4.g6 h2 5.Sf2 d3+ 6.Kxd3 Kb1 7.g7 a2 8.g8Q a1Q 9.Qb3+ Qb2 10.Qxb2+ Kxb2 11.a5.

“A pawn’s progress to promotion is preceded by S-sacs.”

**No 16446** Iu. Akobia  
commendation



h5f3 0502.04 5/6 Draw

**No 16446** Iuri Akobia (Georgia). “White’s huge superiority in manpower is offset by bPP on the brink of promotion.” 1.Rf8+? Kg2 2.Sf4+ Kxh1 3.Sxe2 Kh2 4.aRf7 Rh1 5.Rf3 Kg2+ 6.Kg5 f1Q, with equalising exchange. 1.Rf7+ Kg2 2.Sf4+ Kxh1 3.Kg4 f1Q 4.fRxh7+ Kg1 5.Rh1+ Kf2 6.R8h2+ Ke1 7.Rxe2 mate, with bQ pinned.

“Sadly, Black is without counterplay.”

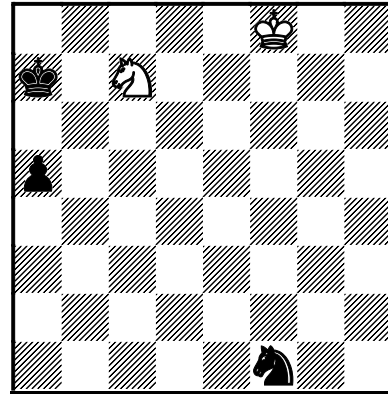
**No 16447** Sergei Osintsev (Ekaterinburg). 1.Ke7 Kb6 2.Kd6, with:

– Se3 3.Se6 a4 4.Sd4/i a3 5.Ke5 Sc4+/ii 6.Ke4 a2 7.Sc2 Sa3 8.Sa1 Kb5 9.Kd3/iii Kb4 10.Kd4/iv Sb5+ 11.Kd3 Ka3 12.Kc2 Sd4+ 13.Kc3 Se2+ 14.Kc2 Sd4+ 15.Kc3 Sb5+ 16.Kc2, by which time it is clear that Black is unable to strengthen his position, so it’s a draw, or

– a4 3.Sd5+ Ka5 4.Kc5 a3 5.Sb4/v Ka4 6.Kc4/vi Sd2+/vii 7.Kc3 Se4+ 8.Kc4 Sd6+

9.Kc3 Sb5+ 10.Kc4, with the same outcome.

**No 16447** S. Osintsev  
special commendation  
(for a miniature)



f8a7 0004.01 2/3 Draw

i) 4.Ke5? Sc2 5.Sd4 Sb4 6.Ke4 Kc5 7.Ke3 Kc4 8.Sf3 Kc3 9.Sd2 Sc6. Up to this point every move was unique, but now we follow the fast path: 10.Sb1+ Kb2 11.Sd2 Sa5 12.Kd3 a3.

ii) a2 6.Sb3 Kb5 7.Kd4 Kb4 8.Sa1 Sf1 9.Kd3 Ka3 10.Kc2zz draw, avoiding 10.Kc3? Se3 11.Sb3 Sd5+, when the quickest is: 12.Kc2 Sf4 13.Sa1 Se2, winning.

iii) 9.Kd4? Kb4. The roundabout route is not an improvement: 9.Ke3? Kc4 10.Kd2 Kb4 11.Kd3 Sc4 12.Kc2 Ka3 13.Kc3 Se3, when we have the by now familiar reci-zug WTM.

iv) “Turning the zugzwang tables on the opponent!”

v) 5.Sc3? Sd2zz, and it’s a pity there’s no try, 6.Sa2 Ka4 7.Kd4 Kb3.

vi) 6.Sc2? a2 7.Kc4 Se3+, forking the forker.

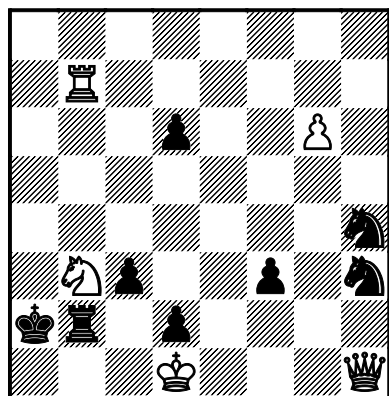
vii) The other check makes no difference: Se3+ 7.Kc3 Sd1+ 8.Kc4 Sb2+ 9.Kc3.

“Yes, indeed, at the back of the miniature lie computer reci-zugs, but one cannot overlook the author’s technique in arranging the solution: not a single dual – confirmed by the Nalimov tables. Had this malyutka been composed in the pre-electronic age its competitive fate would have been happier!” [AJR: That’s one way of putting it!]

# Shakhmatnaya Poezia 2004

Provisional/definitive published: *Shakhmatnaya Poezia* 38 21xii2006. Judge: Oleg Pervakov (Moscow). Type: informal international. Theme: none. Confirmation: no information. Report: 17 entries. The overall quality was not high. There were eight eliminations.

No 16448 S. Didukh  
prize



d1a2 1407.14 5/8 Win

No 16448 Sergei Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Sxd2? Sf2+ 2.Ke1 Sd3+ 3.Kf1 Rxd2 wins. 1.Qf1/i Sf2+/ii 2.Qxf2 c2+/iii 3.Kxd2 c1Q+ 4.Kd3/iv Qd1+/v 5.Kc3 Qxb3+/vi 6.Rxb3 Rxf2 7.g7 Rg2 8.Rb2+ Rxb2 9.g8Q+ Ka1 10.Qg5 Kb1 11.Qxh4 wins.

i) 1.Sc1+? dxc1Q+ 2.Kxc1 Rxb7 and 3.g7 Rxc7 4.Qxh3 Rg2 5.Qxh4 Kb3, or 3.Qxh3 Rb1+ 4.Kc2 Rb2+ 5.Kxc3 Rb3+ 6.Kc4 Sxg6. Drawn.

ii) Rb1+ 2.Kc2 Rxf1 3.Ra7 mate.

iii) Rb1+ 3.Kc2 Rb2+, and now, not 4.Kxc3? d1S+ 5.Kc4 Rxf2, but 4.Kd3 d1Q+ 5.Kxc3, leading into the main line.

iv) “Non-capture of bQ for a paradoxical reason: it eliminates the white pieces getting in each others’ way! Let’s demonstrate: 4.Kxc1? Rxf2 5.Sc5/vii dxc5/viii 6.g7 Rf1+ 7.Kc2 Rf2+ 8.Kc3 Rg2 9.Rb2+ Rxb2 10.g8Q+ Kb1 11.Qh7+ Kc1 12.Qh6+ Kb1 13.Qxh4 Rc2+ 14.Kd3 c4+ 15.Ke4 f2, with a draw.

v) Rxf2 5.Sxc1+ Ka3 6.Kc3 Ka4 7.Sb3 Re2/ix 8.g7 Re3+ (Re8; Rb4+) 9.Kc4 d5+ 10.Kxd5 Re8 11.Sc5+ Ka3 12.Rf7 Rg8 13.Se6 wins.

vi) Rxf2 6.Ra7+ Kb1 7.Ra1 mate.

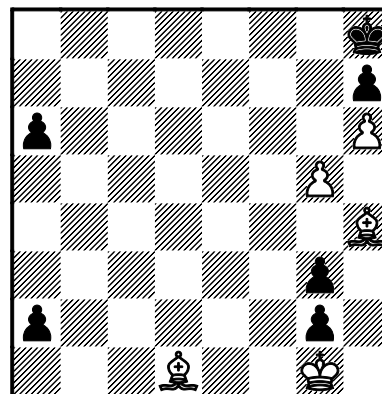
vii) 5.Sd4 Ka3 6.g7 Rg2 7.Sc2+ Ka4 draw.

viii) Ka3? 6.Ra7+ Kb4 7.Sd3+.

ix) Sxg6 8.Rb4+ Ka3 9.Rb5.

“A prickly study with an interesting thematic try. White rejects taking bQ so that he can avoid obstructing wS. In case of White attempting to carry out elimination of the ‘traitor’ to his own side bP shifts to the c-file giving rise to theory’s drawn endgame of R+PP vs Q. Highly original! Just one remark: the solution should halt with 9.g8Q+, to preserve uniqueness of choice.”

No 16449 S. Didukh  
1st honourable mention



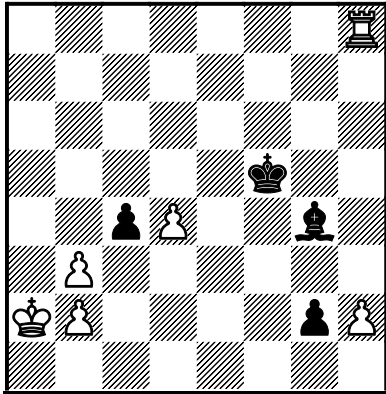
g1h8 0020.25 5/6 Draw

No 16449 Sergei Didukh (Ukraine). 1.g6 a1Q 2.Bf6+ Qxf6 3.g7+ Kg8 4.Bb3+ Qf7 5.Bd5/i a5 6.Ba2 a4 7.Bd5 a3 8.Ba2 Qxa2 stalemate.

i) 5.Bxf7+? Kxf7 6.Kxg2 a5 wins. 5.Ba2? a5 6.Bd5 a4 7.Ba2 Qb3. We see constructional technical skill here.

“Pleasingly built on reci-zug with stalemate as the motivation. The judge failed to trace a clear anticipation.”

**No 16450** V. Kalashnikov  
2nd honourable mention



a2f5 0130.42 6/4 Draw

**No 16450** V. Kalashnikov (Ekaterinburg).  
1.Rf8+ Kg6/i 2.Rg8+ Kh5 3.Rh8+ Kg5  
4.Rg8+ Kh4 5.Rh8+ Bh5 6.Rg8 cxb3+ 7.Ka3  
Bg4 8.Rh8+ Bh5 9.Rg8 Bg4 10.Rh8+ Kg5/ii  
11.Rg8+ Kf5/iii 12.Rf8+ Ke4 13.Re8+ Kf3  
14.Re1 Kf2 15.Rc1 Be2 16.Kxb3 Bf1  
17.Rc2+ Be2 18.Rc1 Bf1 19.Rc2+, the second  
positional draw.

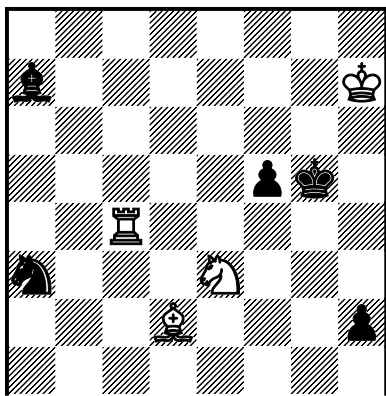
i) Ke4 2.Re8+ Kf3 3.Re1 cxb3+ 4.Kxb3 Kf2  
5.Rc1 draw.

ii) Bh5 11.Rg8 sets up the first positional  
draw.

iii) Kf4 12.h3 Bxh3 13.Rxg2 Bxg2 14.Kxb3  
drawn.

“Two lines set out the composer’s liking for  
the positional draw. Here we have one case on  
the rank and one on the file. A pity about the  
paucity of tactical points.”

**No 16451** Iu. Akobia  
special honourable mention



h7g5 0144.02 4/5 Win

**No 16451** Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Sd5+? f4  
2.Bxf4+ Kf5 3.Rc1 Bg1 4.Bxh2 Bxh2.  
1.Sg2+? f4 and 2.Bxf4+ Kf5 3.Rc1 Bg1  
4.Bxh2 Bxh2, or 2.Rxf4 Sb1 3.Rh4+ Sxd2  
4.Rxh2 Sf3 draw. 1.Sf1+ f4 (Kf6; Rh4)  
2.Bxf4+ Kh4 (Kg4; Sxh2+) 3.Bg3+/i Kh3  
4.Rh4+ Kg2 5.Rxh2+ Kxf1 6.Ra2 Bc5 7.Bh4/  
ii Bb4/iii 8.Kg6/iv Sc4/v 9.Rf2+ Kg1 10.Rc2/  
vi, with:

– Sa3 11.Ra2/vii Sc4 (Kf1; Kh5) 12.Kf5 wins,  
or

– Se5+ 11.Kf5 Sf3 12.Bf2+ wins, for example  
Kg2 13.Be3+ Kh3 14.Ke4 Se1 15.Rc4 Ba5  
16.Ra4.

i) 3.Rc6? h1Q 4.Rh6+ Kg4 5.Rxh1 Kxf4  
drawn

ii) Thematic try: 7.Bf4? Be7 8.Kg6 Sb5/viii  
9.Kf5 Sd4+ 10.Ke4 Se2 11.Kf3 (Bd2 Bc5);  
Sg1+ 12.Ke3 Sh3.

iii) Bd6 8.Kg6 Sc4 9.Kf5 Se3+ 10.Ke4 Sg4  
11.Bg5 Bc7 12.Be7 Bb6 13.Bb4 Bc7 14.Bc5  
Bb8 15.Kf3 wins.

iv) 8.Rf2+? Kg1 9.Rf4 Bd2 10.Rd4 Bc3  
drawn. 8.Kh6? Sc4 9.Ra4 Bd2+. 8.Kg8? Bc5  
9.Kf7 Sb5.

v) Bc5 9.Kh5 Bb4 10.Kg4 Sc4 11.Rf2+ Kg1  
12.Rf4 wins.

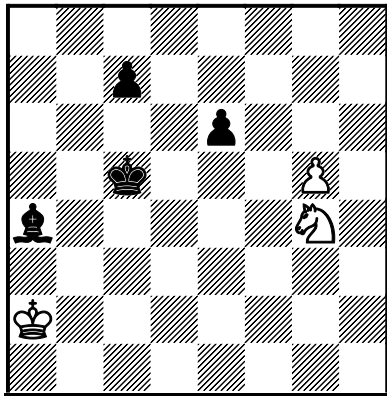
vi) 10.Re2? Sd2 11.Kf5 Sf3 drawn

vii) 11.Rb2? Bf8. 11.Re2? Kf1 12.Rf2+ Kg1  
13.Ra2, lengthening of the solution.

viii) Bf8? 9.Kf5 Sb5 10.Be5. Bb4? 9.Kf5 Sb5  
10.Rb2 Sd4+ 11.Ke4. Ke1? 9.Kf5 Sb5 10.Rb2  
Sa3 11.Ke4 wins.

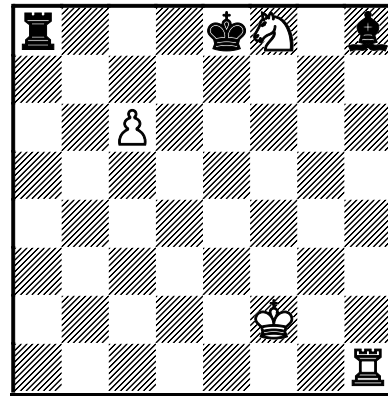
“And here we have yet one more grandiose  
sample of cooperation between the composer  
and a 6-man database.”

**No 16452** A. Kovrizhenko & Yu. Chervoniuk  
1st commendation



a2c5 0031.12 3/4 Win

**No 16453** I. Aliev  
2nd commendation



f2e8 0431.10 4/3 Win

**No 16452** A. Kovrizhenko & Yu. Chervoniuk (Ukraine). 1.g6, with:

- Bc6/i 2.Sf6 Bb5 3.Sd7+ Kd6 4.Se5 Ke7 5.g7 winning, or
- Kb4 2.Kb2/ii e5 3.Sxe5 Bb3 4.Sd3+ Ka4 5.Sc5+ Kb4 6.Sxb3 wins.

i) Bc2 2.g7 Bh7 3.Sf6 wins. Be8 2.g7 Bf7 3.Sh6 wins.

ii) 2.g7? Bb3+ 3.Kb2 e5 drawn. 2.Se5? Bc2 3.g7 Bh7 4.Sg4 Bg8 5.Sh6 Bh7 6.Sg4 Bg8 7.Sf6 Bf7 drawn.

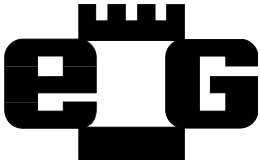
“Curious struggle of an ‘electrified’ wS against bB.”

**No 16453** Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Se6? Ke7. 1.c7? Bd4+ and 2...Kxf8. 1.Rxh8 0-0-0/i 2.Ke3/ii Re8+ 3.Kd4 Kc7 4.Kd5 (Kc5? Re5+;) Rd8+ 5.Kc5 Rxf8 (Rd6; Rh7+) 6.Rh7+ Kb8 7.Kb6, with duals in: Rg8 8.Rb7+ (Ra7? Rg6;) Kc8 9.Ra7 Kb8 10.c7+ Kc8 11.Ra8+ and 12.Rxg8, winning.

i) Ke7 2.Sg6+. Ra2+ 2.Ke3 Rc2 3.c7 Rxc7 4.Se6+.

ii) 2.c7? Re8. 2.Sg6? Rxh8 3.Sxh8 Kc7 draws.

“A nice inversion of a Prokeš study.”



## IDEAL FINAL PICTURES

### Prizewinners explained

YOCHANAN AFEK

To celebrate the 70th staging of the Corus tournament, the world's most prestigious chess festival, the organizing committee sought a series of special accompanying events to decorate the rich competitive program in an original and stimulating manner. Since players of all levels occasionally enjoy the fine art of chess composition and often even find it instrumental for active training, it seemed natural to organize an international tourney for composing endgame studies with a decent prize-fund. It was a unique opportunity to introduce the best of our art to its most natural 'market' – the general chess public. Harold van der Heijden acted as the tournament director, checking all entries for soundness and originality with his customary efficiency and competence, while yours truly acted as the judge but was also in charge of coordinating and promoting the entire project.

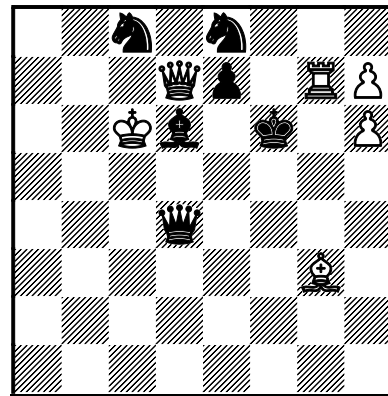
The response was tremendous. The postmen in Deventer, Harold's home town, are very busy all year long since he is regularly the man behind a big number of similar projects; however this one was massive. No fewer than 151 entries by 90 composers from 29 countries were submitted before the closing date. There have been just a handful of precedents of an event that exceeded a turnout of 100 entries, which makes this tourney one of the biggest ever.

Fortunately quantity remarkably yielded high quality and those studies that survived the correctness check displayed plenty of surprisingly original ideas, masterfully presented. This persuaded us to establish a whole new category of special prizes courtesy of the Corus board. The judging process thus proved especially tough and was accompanied by a

considerable inner struggle. It was hard to decide the fate of the top honours which were eventually shared by the following superb accomplishments:

#### A.1 Yuri Bazlov

1st/2nd prize Corus ty 2008



c6f6 4146.21 6/6 Win

This is a highly charged position where both kings are exposed to immediate sharp threats. Consequently there is no time for greed: 1.Qxc8? Qa4+ 2.Kd5 Sc7+ 3.Qxc7 Qd1+ 4.Kc6 Qc2+ 5.Kb5 Qb3+ 6.Ka6 Bxc7 etc. Vigorous and forceful sacrificial play is therefore called for. Nevertheless precision is required in selecting the right order of actions as black has sufficient defensive resources following: 1.Rf7+? Kxf7 2.Qf5+ Sf6 3.h8S+ Kf8 4.Qxc8+ Se8 5.Sg6+ Kf7 6.Qf5+ Qf6 which leads nowhere.

**1.Bh4+! Qxh4 2.Rf7+! Kxf7 3.Qf5+ Qf6**  
3...Sf6 4.h8S+ Kf8 5.Sg6+.

**4.Qxf6+ exf6**

Creating the first active self-block.

The alternative 4...Sxf6 5.h8Q Bf4 6.Qg7+ Ke6 7.h7 Sxh7 8.Qxh7 Sd6 9.Qg6+ Ke5 10.Kd7 wins rather prosaically.

**5.h8Q Bf8!**

Clever counter-play, yet at the same time a second active self-block.

5...Bf4 6.h7 Se7+ 7.Kd7 Sg7 8.Qd8 is winning all the same.

**6.h7**

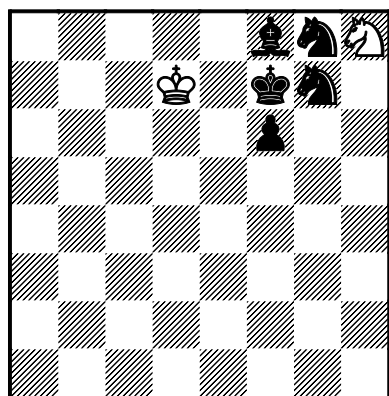
Not 6.Qh7+? Bg7 7.hxg7 Sxg7 8.Qe4 Se7+ and White emerges empty handed.

6...Se7+ 7.Kd7 Sg7 the third active self-block and finally...

8.Qg8+!! Sxg8 A fourth active self-block that enables the astounding...

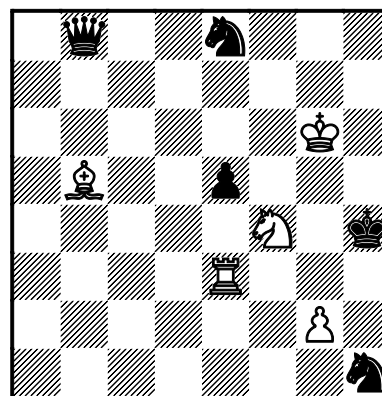
**9.h8S mate!**

**A.2 Bazlov**  
Final position



We are witnessing an ideal mate where all units take part and every square around the mated king is covered just once. The mate is enabled by no less than four active self blocks and is inflicted by the last white pawn promoted to ... a knight! The successful Yuri Bazlov improves here on his recent Study of the Year task adding the underpromotion to the four-fold smothered mate. Yuri also won third prize with another superb study and owing to his remarkable recent achievements he will be invited next January as a guest of honour to the 71st staging of the Corus tournament. It will be a rare opportunity to meet this fine composer in person (HH: who lives in Vladivostok!).

**A.3 Sergey Rumyantsev**  
1st/2nd prize Corus ty 2008



g6h4 3117.11 5/5 Draw

Quite amazingly the presence of an unleashed queen in the open cannot prevent White from committing a whole sequence of quiet moves which are difficult to spot and even more difficult to meet. The final ideal pin stalemate comes as a complete surprise. Highly original!

Here again both kings are in danger. White's main concern is the opponent's unleashed queen. His main efforts will therefore be directed at restraining the monster.

**1.Kh6!!** creating the mate threat 2.Sg6+ Kg4 3.Bd7 mate.

**1...Kg4!**

The king can defend himself, while a little friendly help would prove a bear hug: 1...Qxb5 2.Sg6+ Kg4 3.Rxe5! or 1...exf4 2.Rh3+ Kg4 3.Bd7 mate are a pair of lovely side-lines.

**2.Sg6 Sg3!**

The only effective defence against the double mate threat by the Bishop since 2...Qxb5 is again well met by 3.Rxe5!

**3.Bd7+ Sf5+ 4.Bxf5+ Kxf5 5.Rxe5+ Kf6**

This vigorous king-hunt is the only way to keep the queen away. Beware: 5...Kg4 6.Rg5 mate.



**6.g4! Kf7!**

6...Qa8 7.Re1! leads to the main line in a different order of moves.

**7.g5! Kg8! 8.Se7+ Kf8 9.Sg6+ Kf7!** The triangulation king manoeuvre passes the move to White who in his turn should look for the only waiting move that also covers a deadly check on h2. The careless 10.Re7+? Kg8 11.Re2 would enable the desired liberating move 11...Sg7. Therefore...

**10.Re2! Qa8!**

The queen is tamed in the open! 10...Qd8 allows 11.Re5 Kg8 12.Rf5! while 10...Kg8 is replied by 11.Rf2! in either case the mate threat costs black his queen.

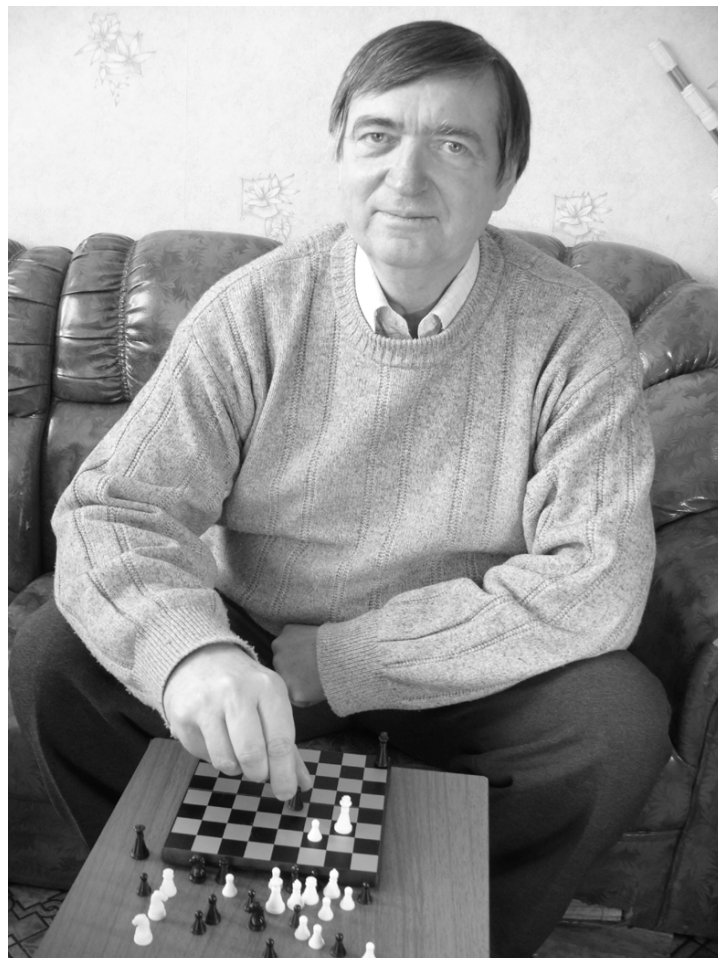
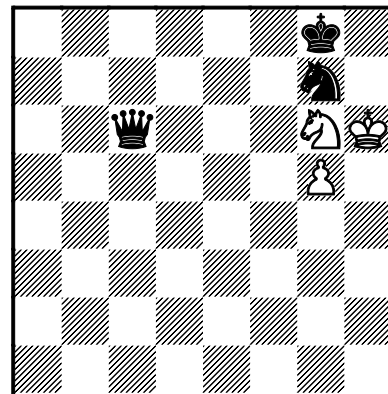
**11. Re1! Qc6!**

What else? 11...Qb8 12.Re2 (but also 12.Re5), or 11...Qc8 12.Re7+ (but also 12.Re3) 12...Kg8 13.Rg7+ Sxg7 14.Se7+. Leaving the eighth rank without watching the

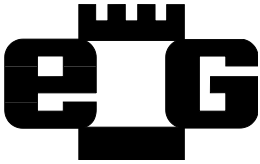
knight allows 12.Re7+ Kg8 13.Rxe8+ however Black's last move pins the knight which enables the final surprising finale!

**12.Re7+ Kg8 13.Rg7+! Sxg7** An ideal stalemate! All units take part in the final model picture.

**A.4 Rummyantsev**  
Final position



*Yuri Bazlov*



## What is a chess engine?

First let us repeat several facts from EG 169. All top computer chess programs today have a modular concept. A chess program consists of two different files: a chess Graphics User Interface (GUI), and the chess engine which is a software module with the chess intelligence.

Two main types of chess engines are used: ChessBase native (CBn) and Universal Chess Interface (UCI).

## Performance of a chess engine

How to get a super strong chess engine for analysis and tournaments? Of course a well-tuned search algorithm with built-in chess knowledge is necessary. But in addition to the chess software you need quick hardware. Today there are two ways to speed-up calculation by chess engines: a *parallel algorithm* and *64 bit computing*.

## Parallel engines

The idea of parallel engines is simple – two or more processors work at the same time.

But it is not quite so easy. Imagine, two grandmasters A and B would together analyze a certain position. At the start some time is wasted to divide moves or ideas between them. More time is needed to compare results and come to a conclusion. But this is only a rare optimal case. Another scenario is more likely: after some time grandmaster A has still a lot to do while grandmaster B has already finished. The tasks were wrongly divided at the start. Yes, to do it well you need good knowledge about a position, but that is exactly what is unknown when the analysis is started.

Parallel working engines have to solve the same problem. That is why their efficiency is not very high – usually only about 20 percent speed-up of the 2-processors-system compared to a single processor with the same clock frequency (GHz).

## Names of parallel engines

Multiprocessor versions of classical engines often have the prefix “Deep-“ in their name. That was derived from the legendary IBM computer DeepBlue. So we have the Deep Shredder, Deep Fritz or Deep Junior.

Recently a more appropriate way of indicating parallel engines was introduced: the addendum “MP” (Multiprocessor). We have Hiarcs MP, Rybka MP, Loop MP, and Zappa MP.

## Parallel hardware and prices

Some years ago parallel engines could be used only on multiprocessor servers. These were too expensive for chess. Usually such a machine was on loan from manufactures or big companies only for an important tournament or an exhibition with a strong human player.

After the introduction of multi-core processors the situation changed rapidly; everyone can have on his desk a dual- or even quad-core PC for a reasonable price. Therefore Deep and MP engines are increasingly becoming popular.

For high performance two-processors server mainboards with two quads could be used (see the link section). This way an 8-core computing could be reached for an acceptable price. In the traditional Paderborn computer

chess tournament xii.2007 such hardware was often used.

The price of parallel software is also higher – usually twice the price of a standard engine. This politics is generally accepted today as the standard.

Deep- or MP versions could be created for both CBn and UCI engines.

### ***Testing parallel engines***

Testing the speed of parallel engines is not an easy matter. For example you can choose an interesting position and compare solution times. But you will probably observe unstable results with low differences between the parallel and single versions; the single processor could sometimes even be better.

To understand it you have to check not only the solution times but also the examined kilo-Nodes. A parallel engine usually needs more kN to find a solution (remember grandmasters A and B) and this complicates things. So the real efficiency could be estimated only by statistically testing a lot of positions or preferably playing a lot of games.

### **64bit computing**

64bit computing is another but quite different way to get most from your hardware. In recent years even the cheapest Intel Celerons have a built-in 64bit extension “EMT64” and almost the same means “AMD64” in AMD processors. When using it, a CPU can immediately work-out a 64bit portion of information instead of 32bit ones. This way several well-programmed math calculations could theoretically be speed-up almost twice.

And what about chess? There is no general answer. It depends on programming methods, especially how the move generator is done.

Several engines, recompiled for 64bit, do not speed up at all. For example an experimental version of Hiarcs10 64bit brought only an extra two percent and its author offers it no more. The 64bit version was originally announced also for the expensive DeepFritz10

pack (xi.2006), but suddenly it silently disappeared from the feature list.

On the other side engines with a move-generator based on the BitBoard concept run in 64bit environment very well. Rybka, Shredder or Zappa 64bit are 20-30 percent quicker than their 32bit versions. Unfortunately it is not an easy task to rewrite older chess engines into the BitBoard concept. See the link section for details about BitBoards.

### ***How to run a 64bit engine***

Of course firstly you need the mentioned CPU with a 64bit extension. The 64bit Windows (XP Professional 64 or Vista 64) is the second necessary condition. As Windows64 is able to run both 32bit and 64bit applications, there theoretically is no problem.

However, there are a lot of problems. Not all hardware drivers are available for 64bit Windows and the same goes with low level utilities and antivirus software. So the 64bit system has still a rather experimental nature. The fans install usually Windows64 as a dual system and boot it only for chess.

### ***What GUI for 64bit?***

Remember: CBn engine is a well-tuned DLL library while UCI is a standalone EXE application communicating analyses via a standard I/O pipe. Some years ago there was a clear advantage for CBn, but times are changing.

CBn engines (as all DLLs) are closer linked to GUI (parent EXE file). So ***to run a 64bit CBn engine you have to use a 64bit GUI***. As the CBn interface is secret, you are restricted to ChessBase company and it has no good 64bit GUI. The only possibility is to buy the Zap!Chess DVD from iv.2006(!).

In contrast the ***64bit UCI engine***, as a standalone EXE, ***can easily be run from any 32bit GUI***; for example from the Fritz or Arena GUI's.

As a result authors of top engines are switching from a Fritz-GUI-based DVD to the

UCI concept, and sell it usually themselves on their web pages. See links for details.

### **Combine both ways**

Yes, both speed-up methods can be combined. Rybka and Zappa “MP 64bit” or DeepShredder UCI 64bit run very well.

### **Engines 2007**

**Rybka.** Rybka is the best playing engine, at least for the middle game. Of course it’s also good for many studies, but as a “new” software it lacks a lot of endgame knowledge. In the computer column *EG170* I have described several examples of Rybka’s bad behaviour in endgames.

After a quickly introduced series of versions 1 and 2 with tens of subversions the author Vass Rajlich slowed down. The last update dates from iii.2007. Rybka 2.3.2 as a UCI engine is now available in MP and 64bit versions for 59 Euro, while a single CPU version costs 34 Euro.

The new version 3.x is awaited with great expectation.

**Zappa.** Zappa is another new super strong engine, usable more for games than for studies. Its author Anthony Cozzie is known better as an engineer being able to squeeze the maximum out of the hardware. Now that the author switched to the UCI standard, the newest version “Mexico“ from v.2007 is MP 64bit for 60 Euro.

**Shredder.** This long time developed strong engine with excellent endgame knowledge has a new version 11 since x.2007. You can choose between a CBn or UCI version. The most powerful DeepShredder 11 64bit is only UCI for 100 Euro. The single version CBn or UCI costs 50 Euro.

**Hiarcs.** This intelligent engine is excellent in many endgames. The latest version 11.2 from vii.2007 is a UCI engine. As mentioned above, Hiarcs has a MP version, but not a 64bit one. The prices are 75/37 Euro.

Hiarcs and Shredder create my favorite analysis team for endgame studies.

**Fritz.** The flagship of ChessBase company has new version 11 from xii.2007. Fritz 11 made a big jump in strength. It is an excellent tactical engine, in endgame studies capable for example for the dueling pieces theme. Of course the CBn standard is used. DeepFritz 11 is still not available, the price for a single engine with the excellent Fritz-GUI is 50 Euro.

There is a group of another young commercial UCI engines with MP and 64bit ability. They demonstrate a good strength in tournaments and ELO tests, but unfortunately I have insufficient experience with them in endgame studies. **Naum** (Alexander Naumov, Canada), version 2.2 from vi.2007 is available for 28 Euro, but version 3.0 is coming soon. **Loop** (Fritz Reul, Germany), version M1-P for 50 Euro. **DeepSjeng** (Gian-Carlo Pascutto, Belgium), version 2.7 from ix.2007 for 25 Euro with the new Mayura GUI.

**The King.** The classical engine “The King” in a new version 3.50 is available in the “Chessmaster XI Grandmaster Edition” pack from xi.2007. The King has MP and 64bit ability for an excellent price of about 40 USD. It is in principle a UCI engine, but a protection prevents it to be run from other GUIs. There are ways to bypass it, but these are not often used. That is to say “The King” is no longer in the top group – the main version number 3.x is the same as in ChessMaster 8000 pack from the year 2000(!).

**Junior.** The multiple World Champ did not release any new version in 2007, so it has a fallen a little behind. Some experts predicted that the coming year 2008 will be the year of Junior. Junior is a master in unbalanced positions with material compensation, but its endgames are weaker, so for endgame studies it would not be so good.

And finally I list several freeware engines. **Spike** (Ralf Schäfer, Volker Böhm, Germany). A very strong free UCI engine. The latest version is Turin 1.2. **Fruit** (Fabien Letouzey), version 2.3 from vii.2007 is freeware again. **Toga** (Thomas Gaksch) based on Fruit 2.1 from F. Letouzey and **Glarung** (Tord Romstad) xi.2007.

The free GUI **Arena** beta 0.99 from x.2007 supports now sublines in PGN, so it's fully usable for studies.

### Rating lists, tournaments, matches

To have a better impression of the real strength of engines I give a compact excerpt of the most important o.t.b. results of the year 2007. For details: see the link section. Engines without further specifications are in the latest versions.

The top group is very balanced. Although Rybka was the clear 2007 leader, it was knocked-out in Mexico by Zappa and also Hiarcs outran it tightly in Paderborn.

### Rating lists

**CEGT** (Chess Engines Grand Tournament): Rybka 3049, Zappa 2936, Shredder 2934, Naum 2906, Fritz 2882, Hiarcs 2866, Loop 2841, Fruit 2838, Spike 2831, Junior 2830, DeepSjeng 2802, ChessTiger 2712.

**CCRL** (Computer Chess Rating Lists): Rybka 3123, Zappa 3069, Shredder 3031, Naum 3014, Fritz 3001, Hiarcs 2991, Loop 2966, Junior 2920, DeepSjeng 2883, Spike 2852, ChessTiger 2779, ChessMaster 2773.

The other well-known lists were less interesting in the year 2007. **SSDF** (Svenska schackdatorföreningen) still uses slow 1.2 GHz hardware and **CSS** (Computer Schach und Spiele) was not active from iii.2007.

### Tournaments and matches

**Elista**, The President's Cup Ultimate Computer Chess Challenge, 27v-3vi2007: Junior vs Fritz 4-2

**Amsterdam WCCC** (World Champ), 11vi-18vi2007: 1. Rybka 10, 2. Zappa 9, 3. Loop 7½, 4. Shredder 7, 5. GridChess 7,

6. Deep Sjeng 6, 7. Jonny 5, 8. Diep 4½, 9. The Baron 4½, 10. IsiChess 3½, 11. The King 2½, 12. micro-Max 0.

**Mexico** WorldChamp match, 20ix-27ix2007: Rybka vs Zappa 4½-5½

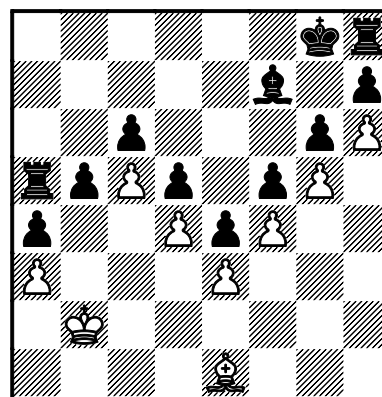
**Leiden**, 18v-20v2007: 1. Rybka 7½, 2-3. Zappa Zanzibar 7, 4. Hiarcs-X 6, 5. Deep Sjeng 6, ...

**Thüringen**, 20xi-24xi2007: 1. Rybka 7, 2. Zappa Mexico 6, 3. Naum 5½, 4. Shredder 5½, 5. Deep Junior 5½, 6. Deep Sjeng 5, 7. Spike 5, 8. Fritz 4½, 9. Hiarcs 3, 10. King 3 11. Bright 2½, 12. Toga 1½.

**Paderborn IPCCC**, 27xii-31xii2007: 1. Hiarcs 5½ (BH 25.5), 2. Rybka 5½ (BH 24.5), 3. Cluster Toga 5, 4. Jonny 4, 5. Shredder 4, 6. Spike 4, ...

We have only a single diagram this time:

V.1 W. Hartston and D. Norwood  
*New Scientist* #1889 1993



Draw

Even a beginner would play **1.Bb4!** with an easy draw.

Not a single one of the described top engines, that would be able to beat Kramnik in a tournament game, understands it. These all play **1.Bxa5? b4!** and simply lose.

## **Links**

### ***Technical***

<http://www.xbitlabs.com/articles/cpu/display/intel-v8.html> Intel V8 Platform for 8-core computing.  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bitboard> BitBoard based move generators for chess, checkers and othello. Basics plus more detailed links.

### ***Commercial Engines***

<http://www.rybkachess.com/> Rybka home page.  
<http://www.shredderchess.de/> Shredder and Zappa home page.  
<http://www.hiarcs.com/> Hiarcs home page.  
<http://www.chessbase.com/> ChessBase, Fritz, Shredder CBn  
<http://chessmaster.us.ubi.com/xi/> ChessMaster 11 home page.  
[http://www.geocities.com/naum\\_chess/](http://www.geocities.com/naum_chess/) Naum home page.  
<http://www.sjeng.org/deepsjeng2.html> DeepSjeng home page.  
<http://www.loopchess.de/> Loop home page.  
<http://shop.lokasoft.nl/> Lokasoft home page with engines ChessTiger 2007, Ktulu 8.0, SmarThink 1.0

### ***Free Engines***

<http://www.fruitchess.com/> Fruit, home page.  
<http://www.superchessengine.com/> Toga II 1.3x4 download.  
<http://spike.lazypics.de/> Spike home page.  
<http://www.glaurungchess.com/> Glarung home page.

### ***Rating lists***

[http://www.husvankempen.de/nunn/40\\_120\\_ratinglist/ratinglist/rangliste.html](http://www.husvankempen.de/nunn/40_120_ratinglist/ratinglist/rangliste.html) CEGT rating list.  
<http://www.computerchess.org.uk/ccrl/4040/> CCLR rating list.  
<http://ssdf.bosjo.net/> SSDF rating list.  
[http://www.computerschach.de/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&Itemid=238](http://www.computerschach.de/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=238) CSS rating list.

### ***Tournaments***

<http://www.wcs.uni-paderborn.de/~IPCCC/> Paderborn.  
[http://www.csvn.nl/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_details&gid=148&Itemid=26](http://www.csvn.nl/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_details&gid=148&Itemid=26) Leiden.  
<http://www.grappa.univ-lille3.fr/icga/> ICGA, WCCC Amsterdam.  
<http://globalchess.eu/main.php?id=53> The President's Cup Ultimate Computer Chess Challenge.

# OBITUARY

Editor :  
JOHN ROYCROFT

## † Aleksei Ivanovich Kotov 30iii1928–18xi2007

Perhaps we shall learn more later – unless glasnost' in Putin's Russia is well and truly deceased – but the four pages by Razumenko in *Zadachy i Etyudy* 43 ('25xii2007') are uninformative, consisting principally of examples of Kotov's studies.

AJR met him just once, on a private excursion – an exhilarating experience – on Lake Ladoga on the occasion of Leopold Mitrofanov's 60th birthday celebrated in St Peters-

burg in 1992. Knowing Kotov's position of authority in the local (Priozersk) Communist Party in the past AJR asked him, in a relaxed moment on the tiny island where we, a group of seven (crew included) had landed, if he would care to recall a joke or two that was current in those not-so-long gone days. 'Do you mean joke?' 'Yes, joke.' He neither smiled nor vouchsafed further answer.



# REVIEW

Editor:  
JOHN ROYCROFT

*Selección de sus Finales Artísticos (1984/2007)*, by Alberto FOGUELMAN (Argentina). 2007. 42 pages, 42 diagrams. In Spanish. Ring binder. Figurine notation with EG-style solution layout. No ISBN.

The veteran Argentinian player-composer presents us with his studies output to date in a modest but timely collection. Each page has a large, clear diagram, with solution and source – tourney honours included – set out underneath. We think it will appeal to players and study enthusiasts alike, for the common objection to studies that the position ‘could not occur in a game’ can hardly be raised with any of Foguelman’s studies. A few corrections and a number of originals (where composing year is given, but no source), are incorporated. Foguelman, like Smyslov, applied his chess talent to studies when, in 1984, he abandoned serious play. Would that more players would follow their example!

(AJR)

Hannu HARKOLA, *Handbook of Chess Composition*, 4th edition, Helsinki, October 2007, 64 pages.

Hannu Harkola (Finland) has just issued the 4th edition of his *Handbook of Chess Composition*. Hannu is the 1st Vice President of the PCCC and moderator of the official PCCC website ([www.saunalahti.fi/~stniekat/pccc/index.htm](http://www.saunalahti.fi/~stniekat/pccc/index.htm)). The handbook is a compilation of statistical information regarding chess composition with the chapters “Commission” (meetings), “Rules” (e.g. solving, criteria for gaining titles, codex), “Titles”, “Competitions” (e.g. WCSC, WCCT) and “FIDE Albums”. The handbook is freely downloadable from the PCCC website (at the time of writing version 4.1 is available with some corrections).

An interesting part of the handbook deals with *FIDE Albums*. Composers can gain titles by getting a sufficient number of compositions (two-mover, three-mover, moremover, study, helpmate, selfmate, fairy, or retro) into an Album. For each qualified composition one point is awarded, except for a study that counts as 1.67 composition. Points for joint compositions are split among the composers.

For the study section, twelve to fourteen percent of the submitted entries make it into the album, corresponding with approximately 100 studies for a three year period. For a FM title 12 points are needed, for a IM title 25 points and for a GM title 70 points.

The handbook lists the total scores for each composer with at least one *FIDE Album* composition. I thought that it might be interesting to know the scores for endgame studies only, so I asked Hannu whether he could provide such a list. He supplied the following information: “There are 2457 studies in the Albums (until 2000). The total number of points is  $1.67 * 2457 = 4095$ . There are 422 composers who have succeeded in getting their (or joint) studies in the Albums”.

Then he also sent me a list with the composers’ scores for studies only. “Rank 1” is the rank based on endgame study points only, “Rank 2” is the official ranking (i.e. in all composition sections), “Study” the number of points gained for studies only and “Total” the total number of *FIDE Album* points gained.

It is interesting to see that David Gurgendize is approaching the score of the best endgame study composer of all time. But also that there have been only a few top level endgame study composers (Bron, Nestorescu, Mandler, both Kuznetsovs ) that were also successful in other sections.



By the way, the top 5 composers are: Petko Petkov (333.5 points!!), Hans Peter Rehm

(202.7), Michel Caillaud (200.9), Valentin Rudenko (196.4) and Jakov Vladimirov (185.5).

(HvdH)

Rank 1	Rank 2	Name	Study	Total
1	6	Kasparjan, Genrikh	175.8	175.8
2	10	Gurgenidze, David	145.6	145.6
3	16	Dobrescu, Emilian	112.5	116.0
4	9	Bron, Vladimir	110.8	146.8
5	21	Koroljkov, Vladimir	89.7	105.9
6	38	Nadareishvili, Gia	85.0	85.0
7	31	Fritz, Jindrich	83.3	90.3
8	46	Kralin, Nikolaj	75.3	75.3
9	34	Rusinek, Jan	74.2	87.7
10	48	Pervakov, Oleg	73.1	74.1
11	51	Pogosjanc, Ernest	70.0	70.5
12	56	Gorgiev, Tigran	64.2	66.7
13	47	Nestorescu, Virgil	56.7	74.7
14	25	Mandler, Artur	54.2	97.2
15	72	Kuznetsov, Alexandr	49.2	56.2
16	89	Rjabinin, Nikolaj	47.2	47.2
17	82	Lommer, Harold	46.7	50.7
18	93	Gurvich, Abram	45.0	45.0
19	97	Kalandadze, Velimir	44.2	44.2
20	87	Kuznetsov, Anatolij	43.9	48.9
21	104	Chekhover, Vitalij	41.7	41.7
22	105	Wotawa, Alois	41.7	41.7
23	106	Korányi, Attila	39.2	41.7
24	116	Neidze, Vazha	39.2	39.2
25	120	Mitrofanov, Leopold	38.9	38.9
26	125	Prokeš, Ladislav	38.3	38.3
27	111	Benkö, Pál	37.5	40.0
28	123	Perkonoja, Pauli	37.5	38.5
29	129	Gerbstman, Alexandr	36.7	36.7
30	138	Liburkin, Mark	34.2	34.7
31	135	Katsnelson, Leonard	33.3	35.8
32	152	Hoch, Yehuda	31.7	31.7
33	153	Tkachenko, Sergej Nikolajevich	31.7	31.7
34	155	Jakimchik, Vitold	31.4	31.4
35	161	Kopnin, Alexej	31.1	61.6
36	162	Kazantsev, Alexandr	30.8	30.8
37	161	Sarychev, Alexandr	30.8	30.8
38	143	Hildebrand, Alexander	30.6	33.9
39	170	Rinck, Henri	30.0	30.0
40	113	Afek (Kopelovich), Yochanan	28.3	39.3
41	167	Halberstadt, Vitalij	28.3	30.3
42	182	Sochniev, Alexej	28.3	28.3
43	194	Troitskij, Alexej	25.6	26.1
44	195	Farago, Paul	25.0	26.0

# SNIPPETS

Editor :

JOHN ROYCROFT

1. – The astounding discovery of the *De Ludo Schacorum* MS reported lost by H.J.A. Murray (see footnote on p.417 of *A History of Chess*) will be of great interest to problemists, but the apparent absence of studies-related puzzles will disappoint **EG** readers. The 48-page Italian incunabulum by Luca Pacioli, a friend of Leonardo da Vinci, has been dated about 1500. Pages from the annotated facsimile reproduction, which has now been published, are accessible via the web-site [www.abocamuseum.it/scacchi](http://www.abocamuseum.it/scacchi). Some experts claim that the chess diagrams, some of which are of the old ('del viejo') and some of the new ('ala rabiosa') chess, are the work of da Vinci himself.

2. – † Bobby Fischer (1943-2008). Sadly, AJR's solitary recollection of Fischer away from the chessboard – at the 1958 Portoroz Interzonal – is of a gawky adolescent on the Adriatic sea-front whinily shouting and gesticulating at his long-suffering mentor Father William Lombardy.

In Fischer's oh-so-readable masterpiece *My 60 Memorable Games* (1969) one finds just three hints, unsatisfactory hints, of awareness of chess as a composing medium: on p.67, the Swiss endgame composer, Fontana, pointed out...; on p.154, Problem: White to Play and Win (under the diagram of the position close to the end of his game against Darga); and on p.140, "Anyone interested in sui-mate (help-mate) problems?" (LOMBARDY) – *sic!* The words 'cooks' (p.92) and 'study' (p.225) are Larry Evans', not Fischer's. Writing effectively in the pre-computer age Fischer writes presciently on p.135: "...horrible as White's Pawn structure may be, Black can't exploit it because he'll be unable to develop his K-side normally. It's the little quirks like this that could make life difficult for a chess machine."

3. – From *The Guardian* G2 Thur 2i2008 p19 'The Internet' by Oliver Burkeman: "...the massive increase in the number of people connected to the Internet via broadband, which finally surpassed the number of people connecting via dial-up, in the UK, in May 2005. (More than 304 million people now have broadband access world-wide, out of a total of 1.24 billion internet users, though it's worth remembering that this also shows that any kind of access is still a relative privilege: as of 2007, 81% of the world's population has no home connection.) Broadband finally enabled ordinary people to treat the internet as a ubiquitous, 'always-on' dimension of their lives, instead of a special place they visited occasionally."

AJR comment. If at most one in a million people across the world (with an estimated population of six thousand million) have the endgame study as a potential hobby, and 200 today subscribe to **EG**, consider, in the light of the above, how can ARVES reach the remaining 2,700?

4. – David Joseph. In his methodical delving into newspaper column archives Paul Valois has unearthed a position that is very similar to diagram 14 in GM Averbakh's *Minor pieces* endgame volume (1981).

"An End Game from actual play"

'END GAME No.58: won by D. Joseph'

*Evening Chronicle (Manchester)* 22xi1935  
h6f6 0013.10 d7g7.g6 4/2+.

We haven't got the game continuation (if it was a game), but the white win is achieved by passing the move to the opponent, which is not exactly straightforward. One line: 1.Kh7 Sh5 2.Bg4 Sg7 3.Bh3(Bc8) Se8 4.Bd7! (Bg4? Kg5;) Sg7 5.Kh6, and the task is accomplished.

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