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Tel-Aviv 100 AT 2009

Centenary Highlights

BY YOCHANAN AFEK

The first Hebrew city of modern time celebrated its first centenary last year with some 400 different cultural events. Though over the last decades national titles have wandered to more peripheral chess centres such as Beer-Sheva and Ashdod, Tel-Aviv has still remained the main scene for the royal game where some of the country's leading clubs have been situated and a great deal of the most important national and international tournaments took place. Nevertheless not a single chess event was included in the rich program of the official centenary celebrations. As someone who was born in Tel-Aviv and spent almost half a century there myself, I cherish endless fine chess memories especially connected with my lifelong career in the municipal chess club which I served over four decades as a player as well as an organizer and trainer. From 1967 until his death in 1984, **IM Moshe Czerniak** led the club, bringing up several generations of chess lovers. Among his numerous chess interests, Czerniak was a great enthusiast of endgame studies (he even produced one himself), especially miniature ones which he regularly included in his training sessions as well as in his leading weekly column in the daily Haaretz which he ran for 30 years up to his last days. No wonder that several of his pupils became incurably infected by his passion and consequently went on to composing career under the inspiring guidance of the national mentor **Hillel Aloni**.

Following Czerniak's death (in fact he would have celebrated his own centenary this year) until 1990 I took over as the club director and from then on national composition events were an integral part of club life. The monthly meeting (first Sunday) of the Israeli problemists is still taking place there even af-

ter the club moved to its present luxurious chess house in the north of the city some 13 years ago.

That is why I thought the least I could do from my present "chess residence" in Amsterdam to commemorate that special year of my old home town, was to organize an international composing tourney of a decent standard. Sharing those thoughts with two of my good friends (who happened to spend pleasant younger years in the above mentioned club too) I gladly found enthusiastic partners who agreed to take an active part in making it real: **Amatzia Avni** as the tourney director and **Gady Costeff** as the judge carried out a flawless job, while our old municipal club offered a modest prize fund.

The event has proved indeed highly successful. Regrettably I was the only Israeli composer to take part. Although Israel has become a leading chess country (constantly rated by FIDE among the best five judged by the average rating of the country's best ten players) and even a prominent composition power, fresh talents to carry on the endgame study torch can hardly be found in there these days.

The definite award is here for your enjoyment, dear reader. Knowing Gady's preferences it was not entirely unexpected that complex and original ideas, where massive forces are actively involved, received special attention and when multiple underpromotions play a role or some classical themes, usually connected with chess problems are displayed, it's even better!

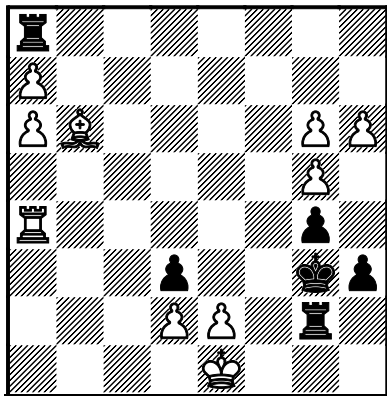
Top honours have been awarded to two highly original co-productions. The first prize winner uses an incredibly fortunate anti-stalemate scheme displaying, probably for the first

time, two pairs of identical white under-promotions. The construction is heavy as expected but the play seems surprisingly natural and elegant in its simplicity. The runner-up uses the old and good Indian theme for a double interference of a stalemate pinning line by two different minor promotions, this time created by Black in his anti-stalemating efforts. The

outcome is also typical of direct mate problems as the separation of the wS sacrifices can be regarded as dual avoidance. This last effort might not be spontaneously welcomed by oth players but still suggests new horizons for those who seek originality by going back to the roots.

Judge Gady Costeff received 64 endgame studies from director Amatzia Avni and considered the level excellent. "It was a pleasure to see how composers keep pushing forward the boundaries of our art in all of its styles, the classical, romantic, logical and binary". The award was dated 25xi2009.

No 17238 S. Didukh & M. Croitor
1st prize



e1g3 0710.73 10/6 Win

No 17238 Sergyi Didukh (Ukraine) & Mihail Croitor (Moldova). 1.Bc7+ Kh4 2.g7/i Re8/ii 3.e3 h2 4.Bxh2 Rc8 5.Ra1 Rxx2/iii 6.h7 Kg3 7.h8R/iv Rcxh8 8.gxh8R/v Rxxh8 9.a8B/vi Rxa8 10.a7 Rh8/vii 11.a8B/viii wins.

i) 2.exd3? Kxg5 3.g7 Kxh6 4.Be5 h2 5.Bxh2 g3, or 2.h7? Rxe2+ 3.Kf1 Rae8 4.Ra1 Rf8+ draw.

ii) Keeps the pawn alive. The capture leaves no chances: Rxe2+? 3.Kf1 Rae8/ix 4.Ra1 h2 (g3; Ra4+) 5.Bxh2 g3 6.a8Q Rxa8 7.h7 wins, or Rxa7 3.Bf4 Rxe2+ 4.Kd1 Re8 5.Kc1 wins.

iii) Re2+ 6.Kf1 Rxx2 7.h7 Kg3 8.h8R Rf8+ 9.gxf8B (gxf8N) wins.

iv) 7.h8Q? Rc1+ 8.Rxc1 Rh1+ 9.Qxx1 stalemate.

v) 8.gxh8Q? Rh1+ 9.Qxx1 stalemate.

vi) 9.a8Q? Rh1+ 10.Qxx1 stalemate.

vii) Kh2 11.g6 g3 12.g7 g2 13.Kf2.

viii) 11.a8Q? Rh1+ 12.Qxx1 stalemate.

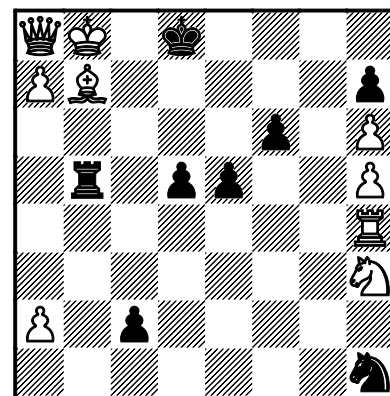
ix) h2 4.Bxh2 Rc8 5.Ra1 Rxx2 6.h7 Kg3 7.h8Q Rcxh8 8.gxh8Q Rxx8 9.Kg1.

"White promotes two rooks and two bishops in an almost classic setting. Clear and interesting play by both sides. Lommer (*Le Temps* 1934) achieved the same task, but the current study is a great artistic step forward."

H. Lommer, *Le Temps* 12vii1934: h1g3 0811.74

a1e2b8g6h8.c7d7e7f7f3g2h7d2e3f2f4 12/7 Win: 1.f8B Rg5 2.e8B Rd5 3.d8R Rbxd8 4.cxd8R Rxd8 5.Bad7 Ra8 6.Rd1.

No 17239 W. Bruch, G. Sonntag
& M. Minski
2nd prize



b8d8 1414.45 9/8 Draw

No 17239 Wieland Bruch, Gunter Sonntag & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sf4? c1Q (exf4?; Rxx1) 2.Se6+ Kd7 3.Sf8+ Kd6 wins. 1.Sg5? c1Q (fxg5? Rxx1) 2.Se6+ Kd7 3.Sf8+ Kd6 wins. or 1.a4? c1Q wins. 1.Rg4? c1Q

2.Rg8+ Kd7 3.Rg7+ Kd6 wins. 1.Rc4 dxc4 2.a4/ii, and now:

– Rb2 3.Sf4/iii exf4 4.a5 c1S/iv 5.a6 Sb3 6.Be4/v Sc5+ 7.Qb7 Sxa6+ 8.Ka8 Sc7+ 9.Kb8 Rxb7+ 10.Kxb7 Sf2 11.Bxh7 Sg4 12.Bg8 (Bd3) Sxh6 13.Bxc4 draws, or:

– Rb1 3.Sg5/vi fxc5 4.a5 c1B/vii 5.a6 Bf4/viii stalemate.

i) Not Rb1? (Rb2?) 2.Rc4 dxc4 3.Sf4 (Sg5) see solution.

ii) First thematic try: 2.Sf4? exf4/ix 3.a4 Rb1/x 4.a5 c1B 5.a6 Bb2 6.Be4 Be5 mate. Second thematic try: 2.Sg5? fxc5/xi 3.a4 Rb2/xii 4.a5 c1S 5.a6 Sb3 6.Be4/xiii Sc5+ 7.Qb7 Sxa6+ 8.Ka8 Sc7+ 9.Kb8 Rxb7+ 10.Kxb7 Sf2 11.Bxh7 Sg4 12.Bg8 Sxh6 13.Bxc4 e4 wins.

iii) 3.Sg5? fxc5 4.a5 c1S 5.a6 Sb3 wins.

iv) Rb1 5.a6 c1B stalemate; c1B 5.a6 and 5...Bb2 is not possible.

v) 6.Bxh1? Sc5+ 7.Qb7 Sxa6+ 8.Ka8 Sc7+ 9.Kb8 Rxb7+ 10.Kxb7 f5 wins.

vi) 3.Sf4? exf4 4.a5 c1B 5.a6 Bb2 6.Be4 Be5 mate.

vii) Rb2 5.a6 c1S stalemate, or c1S 5.a6 Sb3 6.Be4.

viii) Bb2 6.Be4 and 6...Be5 is not possible.

ix) c1Q? 3.Se6+ Kd7 4.Sc5+/xiv Kd8 5.Se6+ Kd7 6.Sc5+ Ke7 7.Kc7 Qd2 8.Kc6 draws.

x) Rb2? 4.a5 c1S 5.a6 Sb3 6.Be4 see main line.

xi) c1Q? 3.Se6+ Kd7 4.Sc5+ Ke7 5.Kc7 Qd2 6.Kc6 draws.

xii) Not Rb1? 4.a5 c1B 5.a6 draws, because Bb2? 6.Be4 and 6...Be5 is not possible.

xiii) 6.Bxh1 Sc5+ 7.Qb7 Sxa6+ 8.Ka8 Sc7+ 9.Kb8 Rxb7+ 10.Kxb7 g4 wins.

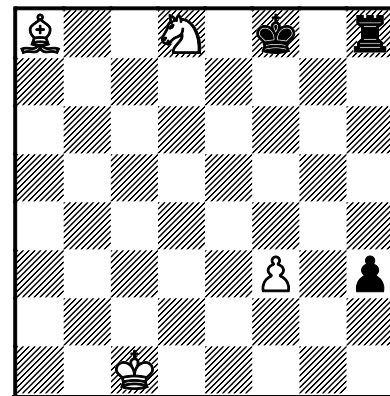
xiv) But not 4.Sf8+? Ke7 5.Kc7 Qd2 6.Qe8+ Kxe8 7.a8Q+ Ke7 8.Qa3+ Kf7 wins.

“The Banny theme is uncommon in studies but far more important than the thematic framework is the artistic content. Here we have two perfectly harmonious black variations, each showcasing an Indian maneuver made up of a rook critical move, an underpromotion (B/S) and a move by the newly pro-

moted piece to block the thematic rook and lift a stalemate.

The white moves Sf4/Sg5 and their reciprocal relationship to Black’s two variations are what make the Banny theme. It took me an hour to unravel how the composers got this to work. A work of great imagination and technical mastery”.

No 17240 J. Mikitovics & I. Akobia
3rd prize



c1f8 0311.11 4/3 Draw

No 17240 János Mikitovics (Hungary) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Be4/i Ke7 2.Sc6+ Kd6 3.Kd2/ii Re8 (h2; f4) 4.Sd4 h2/iii 5.Sf5+ Ke5/iv 6.Sg3 (Kd3? Kf4;) Rg8 7.Sh1 Kf4/v 8.Ke2 Rg5/vi 9.Kf2/vii Rg1 10.Bh7/viii Kg5 11.Be4/ix Kf4 (Kh4; f4) 12.Bh7 positional draw.

i) 1.f4? Ke7 2.Sc6+ Kd6, or 1.Se6+? Ke7, or 1.Bb7? Ke7 win.

ii) 3.f4? Rc8/x , or 3.Sd4? Ke5 4.Sc6+ (Se2 h2;) Kf4 win.

iii) Rxe4 5.fxe4 h2 6.Sf5+ Ke5 7.Sg3 draws.

iv) Kc5 6.Sg3 Rg8 7.Sh1 Kd4 8.Ke2 draws.

v) Rg1 8.Ke3/xi Re1+ 9.Kf2 draws.

vi) Rg2+ (Rg1) 9.Kf1 (Kf2).

vii) Thematic try: 9.Bh7? Rg2+/xii 10.Kf1 Rg7 11.Be4 Ke3 and mates.

viii) 10.Bd5? (Bd3?, Bc6?, Bb7?, Ba8?) Rxh1 11.Kg2 Rd1 (Re1, Rc1, Rb1, Ra1) wins.

ix) 11.Bg8? Kh4 12.Bh7 Rxh1 13.Kg2 Rd1 14.Kxh2 Rd2+ 15.Kg1 Kg3 16.Kf1 Kxf3.

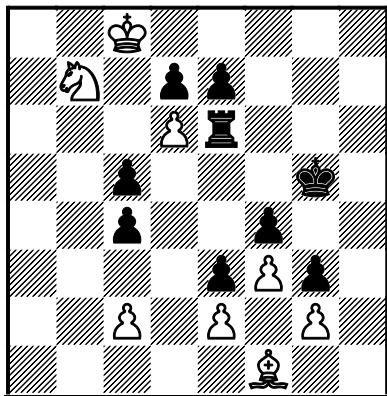
x) But not Rf8? 4.Kd2 Rxf4 5.Bh1 Rf1 6.Be4 Rf4 7.Bh1 positional draw.

xi) But not 8.Sf2? Kf4 9.Sd3+ Kg3 10.f4 Rg2+ wins.

xii) Not Rg7? 10.Be4 Rg8 11.Kf2 Rg1 12.Bh7 is main line, or Rg1? 10.Kf2 Ke5 11.Be4 Kf4 12.Bh7 main line.

“A modest idea is polished to a shining pearl through an “airy” starting position, natural and capture-free play and peerless economy. The finale too provides some piquancy with a white bishop “hideaway” underpinning a positional draw”.

No 17241 O. Pervakov
4th prize



c8g5 0311.57 8/9 Draw

No 17241 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Sd8/i Rxd6/ii 2.Sf7+ Kf5 3.Sxd6+ exd6 4.Kxd7/iii Ke5 5.c3 d5/iv 6.Kc6 d4 7.Kxc5 dxc3 8.Kxc4 c2 9.Kd3 c1S+ 10.Kc3/v Sa2+ 11.Kc4 zz Sc1 12.Kc3 Kd5/vi 13.Kb2 Kc4 14.Kxc1 Kc3 15.Kd1 Kb2 16.Ke1 Kc1 stalemate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Sxc5? (Kxd7? Kf6;) Rxd6/vii 2.Se4+ Kf5 3.Sxd6+ exd6 4.Kxd7/viii Ke5 5.c3 Kd5 6.Ke7/ix Kc6 7.Kf6 Kb5/x 8.Kf5 d5/xi 9.Kxf4/xii d4 10.cxd4 c3 11.Kxe3 Kb4 12.d5 Kb3 13.d6 c2 14.d7 c1Q+ wins.

ii) Kf5 2.Sxe6 Kxe6 3.dxe7 Kxe7 4.Kc7.

iii) 4.Kc7? Ke5 5.c3 d5 6.Kb6 d4 7.Kxc5 dxc3 8.Kxc4 c2 9.Kd3 c1S+ 10.Kc2 Sa2 11.Kb3 Kd4 12.Kxa2 Kc3 13.Kb1 Kd2 wins.

iv) Kd5 6.Kc7 draws as the c5 square is occupied by a black pawn now.

v) Not 10.Kc4? Sa2 zz. 10.Kc2? Sa2 11.Kb3 Kd4 12.Kxa2 Kc3 13.Kb1 Kd2 wins.

vi) Sa2+ 13.Kc4 positional draw.

vii) But not Re5? 2.Sxd7 Re6 3.Sc5 Rxd6 4.Se4+ Kf5 5.Sxd6+ exd6 6.Kc7 draws.

viii) 4.Kc7 Ke5 5.c3 d5 6.Kb6 d4 7.Kc5 dxc3 8.Kxc4 c2 9.Kd3 c1S+ 10.Kc2 Sa2 11.Kb3 Kd4 12.Kxa2 Kc3 13.Kb1 Kd2 wins.

ix) 6.Kc7 Kc5 wins as the c5 square is not occupied by a black pawn.

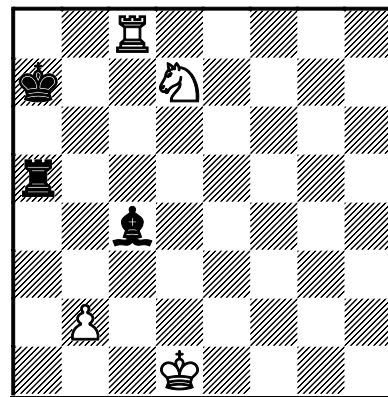
x) d5? 8.Ke6 zz Kc5 9.Ke5 draws.

xi) But not Ka4? 9.Kxf4 Kb3 10.Kxe3 Kxc3 11.Ke4 Kd2 12.e3 c3 13.Bd3 d5+ 14.Kd4 wins.

xii) 9.Ke5 Kc5 zz.

“A logical study with a capture-avoidance key, excellent thematic try, underpromotion, mutual zugzwang and an uncommon stalemate”.

No 17242 Y. Bazlov
5th prize



d1a7 0431.10 4/3 Win

No 17242 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Rc7+ Ka6 (Ka8; Sb6+) 2.Sb8+ Kb5 3.Rb7+ Ka4 (Kc5; b4+) 4.Sc6 Rd5+/i 5.Kc1 Bb5 6.Ra7+ Kb3 7.Ra3+ Kc4 8.Rc3 mate.

i) Rc5 5.Rb4 mate, or Rb5 5.Ra7+ Kb3 6.Sd4+ Kxb2 7.Sxb5 Bxb5 8.Rb7 wins.

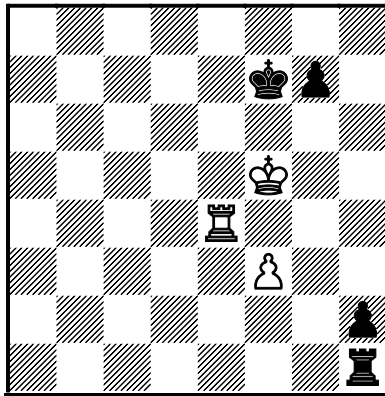
“An elegant miniature, capture-free play and mate with two active self-blocks. I was sure there would be many predecessors to this matrix, but I found only two, with the new entry the best by far”.

No 17243 Michael Prusikhin (Germany). 1.Re2/i g5 2.Rf2/ii Ke8 3.Kf6 Kd7 4.Rd2+ Kc6 5.Kg6 Kc5 6.Kh5 Kc4 7.f4 gxf4 8.Kh4 Kc3 9.Ra2 draws.

i) 1.Rh4? g6+ 2.Kf4 g5+ wins.

ii) 2.Rd2? Ke7, or 2.Rg2? Ke8 3.Kf6 (Rd2 Ke7;) g4 wins.

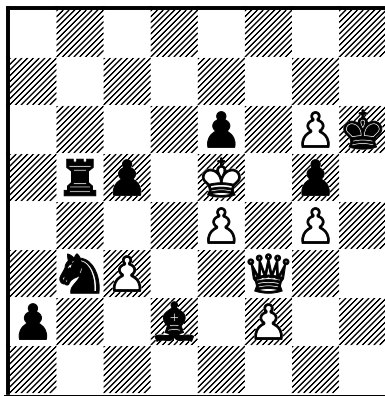
No 17243 M. Prusikhin
6th prize



f5f7 0400.12 3/4 Draw

“The white king heads on a subtle ambush-defying manoeuvre. A pretty and difficult miniature with the sort of game-like position I would lose every time”.

No 17244 A. Sochnev
7th prize



e5h6 1333.54 7/8 Win

No 17244 Aleksey Sochnev (Russia). 1.Kf6 Bxc3+ 2.e5 (Kf7; Rb7+;) Bxe5+ 3.Kf7 Rb7+/i 4.Qxb7 a1Q 5.g7/ii Bxg7 6.Kg8 Sd2 7.Qb8 Qh1/iii 8.Qa7 Qa1 9.Qb7 zz c4 10.Qb8 Qh1 11.Qa7 Qa1 12.Qb7 zz Sf3/iv 13.Qe4 wins.

i) Bg3 4.Qh1+ Bh4 5.Qa8 Rb7+ 6.Qxb7 a1Q 7.Kg8 wins.

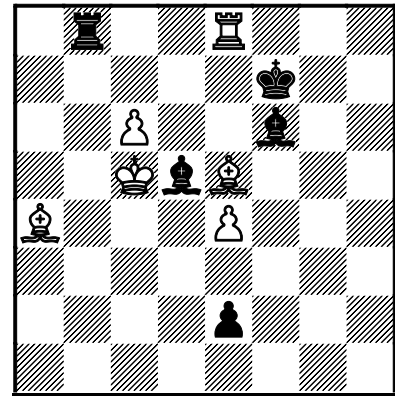
ii) 5.Kg8? Bg7 6.Qf3 Qa7 wins.

iii) Qg1 8.Qc7 Qa1 9.Qh2+ Kg6 10.Qh7+ Kf6 11.Qxg7 mate, or Sf1 8.Qe8 Sg3 9.fxg3, or Kg6 8.Qe8+ Kf6 9.Qf7+ Ke5 10.Qxg7+ win.

iv) Kg6 13.Qf7+ Kh6 14.Qh5 mate. Qb2 13.Qh1+ Kg6 14.Qh7+ Kf6 15.Qxg7 mate. c3 13.Qxg7 mate. Bd4 13.Qh7 mate.

“Black is unable to cover all the critical

No 17245 A. Jasik
8th prize



c5f7 0480.21 6/5 Win

No 17245 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.c7 Rc8/i 2.Rxc8 Bb7/ii 3.Bb3+/iii Ke7/iv 4.Bd6+ Kd7 5.e5 e1Q/v 6.Rd8+ Bxd8 7.c8Q+ Bxc8 (Kxc8; Be6 mate) 8.e6+ Qxe6/vi 9.Ba4 mate.

i) Bxe5 2.cxb8Q Bxb8 3.exd5 wins.

ii) e1Q 3.Rf8+ Kxf8 4.c8Q+, or Be6 3.Be8+ Kg7 4.Bg3 Bxc8 5.Bb5 win.

iii) 3.Rb8? Bxe5 4.Rxb7 Bxc7 5.Rxc7+ Ke6 6.Bb3+ Ke5, or 3.Bg3? Bxc8 4.Be1 Ke6 5.Bb5 Ke5 draw.

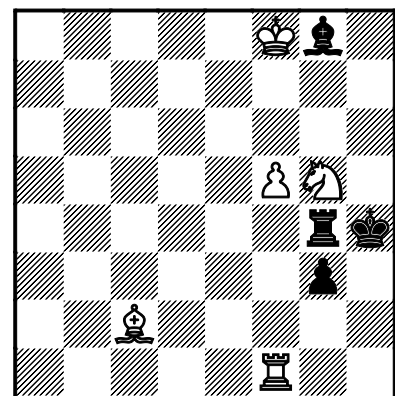
iv) Kg6 4.Rg8+ Kh7 5.Bg3 wins.

v) Kxc8 6.Be6 mate. Bxc8 6.e6+ Ke8 7.Ba4+ Bd7 8.Bxd7 mate.

vi) Ke8 9.Ba4+ Bd7 10.Bxd7 mate.

“The composer arranged a spectacular mating picture with three active self blocks. However, the play is extremely forcing and all three blocks require captures”.

No 17246 J. Mikitovics
honourable mention



f8h4 0441.11 5/4 Win

No 17246 János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Sf3+/i Kh3 2.Rh1+/ii Kg2 3.Rh4/iii Rxh4

(Kxf3; Bd1+) 4.Sxh4+ Kh3 5.Sg6/iv Kg4/v 6.Be4/vi Ba2 7.f6 Bb1 8.Kg7/vii Bxe4 9.Sf4/viii wins.

i) 1.Se4? (Se6? g2;) g2 2.Rg1 Ba2 3.f6 Rg8+ 4.Ke7 Kh3 draws, ore here 3.Ke7 Rg7+ 4.Kf6 Rg8.

ii) 2.f6? g2 3.Ra1/ix Kg3 4.Sg1 (Se5 Rf4;) Bc4 5.Ra3+ (Ke7 Rf4;) Kh2 6.Sf3+ Kg3 7.Se1+ Kf4 8.Rf3+ Ke5 9.Ke7 Bd5 10.Rf5+ Kd4 11.Sxg2 Rxg2, or 2.Bd1? g2 3.Re1 Kg3 4.Sg1 Rg5 draw.

iii) 3.Se5? Kxh1 4.Sxg4 Bd5 5.Se3 g2 6.Sxg2 Kxg2, or 3.Ra1? Bc4 4.Se5 Rf4 5.Sg6 Rd4 6.Rd1 Rxd1 7.Bxd1 Kf1 8.Sf4 g2 draw.

iv) 5.Sg2? Bh7/x , or 5.Kxg8? Kxh4 6.Be4 (f6 g2;) Kg5, or 5.Be4? Kxh4 (Bh7?; Sg6) 6.Kxg8 Kg5 draws.

v) Bd5 6.Sf4+ (f6? Kg4;) wins.

vi) 6.Kxg8? g2, or 6.Se5+? Kf4 draw.

vii) Thematic try: 8.Se5+? Kf4 9.Ke7 Ba2 draws, but not Kxe4? 10.f7 g2 11.Sf3 (thematic move).

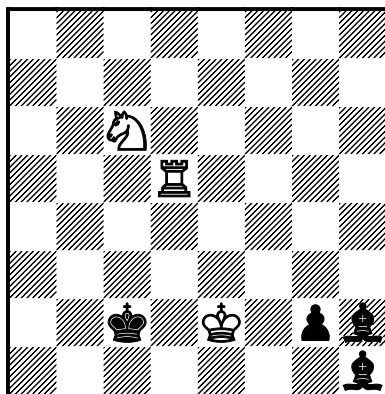
viii) Thematic move! Not 9.f7? g2 10.f8Q g1Q 11.Qf4+ Kh3 draws.

ix) 3.Sg1+ Kh2 4.Re1 Bc4.

x) But not Kxg2? 6.Be4+, or Bd5? 6.Sf4+ win.

“A fine final point 9.Sf4!!”

No 17247 Y. Bazlov
honourable mention



e2c2 0161.01 3/4 Draw

No 17247 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Sd4+/i Kc3 2.Sf3 g1S+/ii 3.Kf2 Bxf3/iii 4.Ra5/iv Kb2 5.Rc5 zz, and:

– Ba8 6.Rb5+ Kc2 7.Rc5+ Kd2/v 8.Rh5 Sf3 9.Rh3 Bg1+ 10.Kf1 Bh2/vi 11.Kf2 Bg1+ 12.Kf1 draws, or:

– Kb1 6.Ke3 Bd1 7.Rd5 Kc1 8.Rc5+ Kb2 9.Rd5 Bc2 10.Rb5+ Kc1/vii 11.Kf2 Be4 12.Ke3 Bc2 13.Kf2 Be4 14.Ke3 draws.

i) 1.Rd2+? Kc3 2.Rd3+ Kc4, or 1.Rc5+? Kb3 2.Sd4+ Kb4 draws.

ii) g1Q 3.Rd3+ K- 4.Sxg1 draws.

iii) Sxf3 4.Rh5, and 5.Rxh2 Sxh2 6.Kg1, or Sh3+ 4.Ke3.

iv) 4.Rg5? Sh3+. 4.Rf5? Bg4 5.Rf7 Sh3+. 4.Rd7? Be4. 4.Rd8? Bb7 5.Rh8 Be5 win.

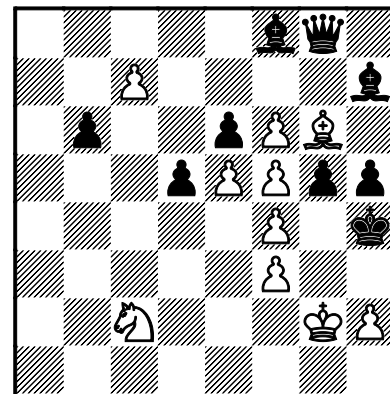
v) Kd3 8.Rh5 Sf3 9.Ra5 B- 10.Ra3+.

vi) Bc5 11.Rxf3 Bxf3 stalemate.

vii) Ka3 11.Ra5+ Kb3 12.Rb5+ Kc4 13.Rb2 Kc3 14.Rxc2+ Kxc2 15.Kf2 and 16.Kg2.

“The R-BBN class has been explored before (Pogosiants, 3rd/5th prize *Szachy* 1979, **EG67.4523**) with the identical stalemate being a typical example. With the computer's aid, a knight promotion is added. There is also, apparently, a mutual zugzwang, though without a thematic try. As it were, it is beyond the judge's comprehension”.

No 17248 S. Didukh
honourable mention



g2h4 3071.75 10/9 Win

No 17248 Sergyi Didukh (Ukraine). 1.c8Q/i Bxg6 2.fxg6 Qxg6 3.f5 Qxf5 4.Sd4 Qh3+/ii 5.Kg1 Bc5 6.Qxc5 bxc5 7.f7 zz cxd4 8.f8Q d3 9.Qb4+ g4 10.Qe7 mate.

i) Thematic try: 1.f7? Qg7 2.c8Q/iii Bxg6 3.fxg6 Qxg6 4.f5 Qxf5 5.Sd4/iv Qh3+ 6.Kg1 Bc5 7.Qxc5 bxc5 zz 8.f8Q - too early - cxd4 and Black wins because it's WTM. 1.Bxh7?

Qxh7 2.c8Q Qxf5/v 3.Sd4 Qh3+ 4.Kg1 Bc5 5.Qxc5 bxc5 6.f7 cxd4 7.f8Q Qxf3 and White doesn't win thanks to the presence of wPf2.

ii) Qb1 5.Qc2 Qxc2+ 6.Sxc2 Bc5 7.f7 b5 8.Sd4, or Qd3 5.Qc1 g4 6.Qe1+ Kg5 7.Sxe6+ Kf5 8.Sxf8 gxf3+ 9.Kf2 Qd4+ 10.Qe3 win.

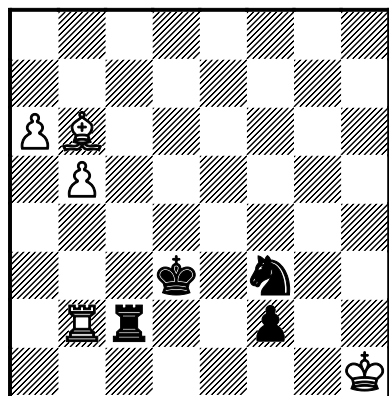
iii) 2.Bxh7 gxf4+ 3.Kf1 Qxh7 4.Sd4 Qxf7 5.c8Q Bc5 6.Qxe6 Qa7 7.Se2 Kh3 8.Sxf4+ Kxh2 draws.

iv) 5.Qc3 Qh3+ 6.Kg1 g4 7.Sd4 gxf3 8.Qxf3 Qxf3 9.Sxf3+ Kg4 draws.

v) But not Bc5? 3.Qxe6 gxf4 4.Se1 Qh6 5.Qg8 Qg5+ 6.Qxg5+ wins.

“A logical study with an attractive critical zugzwang position. However, to achieve a thematic try, the author traded elegance for an oppressive starting position and many captures. Even the try itself, a pawn move, is less “natural” than the promotion key”.

No 17249 Y. Afek & J. Aagaard
honourable mention



h1d3 0413.21 5/4 Win

No 17249 Yochanan Afek (Netherlands/Israel) & Jacob Aagaard (Scotland). 1.Rb3+ Ke4 (Ke2; Re3+) 2.Rb4+/i Kd3/ii 3.Kg2 f1Q++ 4.Kxf1 Sh2+ 5.Ke1 Sf3+ 6.Kd1 Ra2/iii 7.Kc1/iv Kc3 8.Kb1 Re2/v 9.Ba5/vi Sd2+ 10.Ka1 Sb3+ 11.Rxb3++ Kxb3 12.Kb1 Ra2 13.Bc7/vii Rf2 14.Kc1 Rc2+ 15.Kd1 Rxc7 16.b6 wins.

i) 2.Kg2? f1Q++ 3.Kxf1 Sd2+, or 2.Re3+? Kf4 3.Kg2 Sh4+ 4.Kf1 Sf5 win.

ii) Ke5 3.Kg2 Se1+ 4.Kf1 Sd3 5.Rb1 wins.

iii) Rd2+ 7.Kc1 Rc2+ 8.Kb1 Sd2+ 9.Ka1 Kc3 10.a7 Sb3+ 11.Rxb3+ Kxb3 12.Kb1 wins.

iv) 7.Rb3+? Kc4 8.Rxf3 Kxb5.

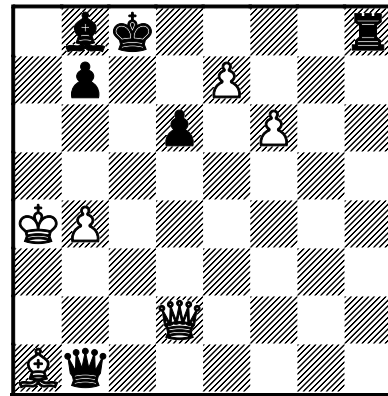
v) The only square! Rh2 9.a7 Sd2+ 10.Ka1 Sb3+ 11.Rxb3+ Kxb3 12.a8Q wins.

vi) 9.a7? Sd2+ 10.Ka2 Sc4+ 11.Ka1 Sxb6 draws.

vii) 13.b6? Rxa5 14.b7 Rb5 15.a7 Kc3+ 16.Ka2 Ra5+ 17.Kb1 Rb5+ 18.Kc1 Rh5 19.Kd1 Kd3 20.Ke1 Ke3 21.Kf1 Kf3 22.Kg1 Rg5+ 23.Kh1 Rh5+ 24.Kg1 Rg5+ 25.Kf1 Rh5 draws.

“Black sets the tempo in this smooth flowing study. No single move is spectacular but the overall flowing effect is pleasing”.

No 17250 A. Jasik
Commendation



a4c8 4340.32 6/6 Draw

No 17250 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Bc3/i Qf5/ii 2.f7/iii Qxf7 3.Bxh8 Qe8+ 4.b5 Qxh8 5.Qc3+ Qxc3 6.e8Q+ Kc7 7.Qe7+ Kb6 8.Qxd6+ Ka7/iv 9.Qa6+/v bxa6 10.b6+ Ka8/vi 11.b7+ Kxb7 (Ka7) stalemate.

i) 1.Qc3+? Kd7 2.f7 Qa2+ 3.Qa3 Qxa3+ 4.Kxa3 Rh3+ 5.Ka4 Kxe7, or 1.Bd4? b5+ 2.Kxb5 Qe4 3.Ka4 Rh3 win.

ii) b5+ 2.Ka3 Qe4 3.f7 Qxe7 4.Bxh8 draws.

iii) 2.Ka3? Re8 3.Qg2 Kd7 4.Qxb7+ Ke6, or 2.Qg2? Re8 3.Kb3 Kd7 wins.

iv) Bxd6 stalemate.

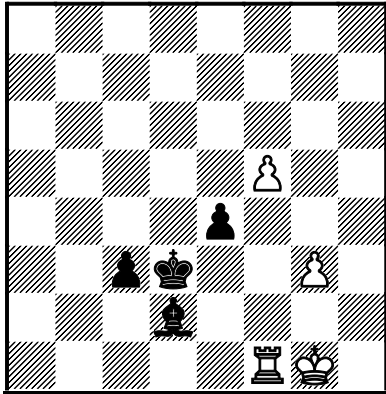
v) 9.Qb6+? Ka8 wins, but not 9...Kxb6 stalemate.

vi) Kxb6 stalemate.

“Three queen sacrifices”.

No 17251 Michael Prusikhin (Germany). 1.f6 c2 2.f7 Bb4 (Bh6; Kg2) 3.Kg2/i Kd2 (e3; Re1) 4.Rf2+ Kc3 5.Rf1/ii e3/iii 6.Re1 Kd2/iv

No 17251 M. Prusikhin
Commendation



g1d3 0130.22 4/4 Draw

7.Kf1 Kd3 8.Kg2/v Bxe1 (e2; Kf3) 9.f8Q c1Q
10.Qf5+ Kd2 11.Qd5+/vi Kc2 12.Kf3 Bd2
(Bf2; Qc4+) 13.Qc4+ Kb2 14.Qb5+ Ka1
15.Qa6+ Kb1 16.Qd3+ Qc2 17.Ke2 Qxd3+
18.Kxd3 Kc1 19.Ke2 Kc2 20.g4 Kc3 21.g5
draws.

i) 3.Re1? Bxe1 4.f8Q c1Q wins.

ii) 5.f8Q? Bxf8 6.Rxf8 c1Q 7.Rc8+ Kd2
8.Rxc1 Kxc1 9.g4 e3 wins.

iii) Kd3 6.g4 e3 7.Re1 Bxe1 8.f8Q c1Q
9.Qf5+ draws.

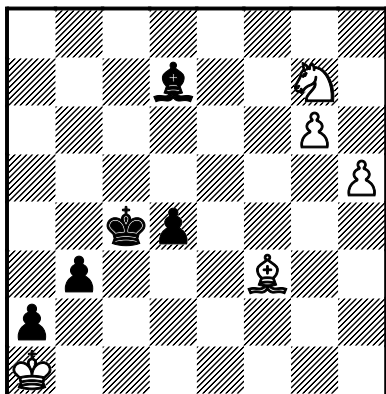
iv) Kd3 7.Kf3 Bxe1 8.f8Q c1Q 9.Qf5+, or
Kb2 7.Kf3 Bxe1 8.f8Q c1Q 9.Qg7+ draw.

v) 8.g4? e2+ 9.Kg2 Kd2, or 8.Ra1? e2+ win.

vi) 11.Qd7+? Kc2 12.Qa4+ Kb1 13.Kf3 Bd2
14.Qb3+ Qb2 15.Qd1+ Be1 16.Qd3+ Qc2
17.Qb5+ Ka2 18.Qd5+ Qb3 wins.

“A study for the analyst”.

No 17252 M. Prusikhin
Commendation



a1c4 0041.23 5/5 Win

No 17252 Michael Prusikhin (Germany).
1.Kb2/i d3 2.Se6/ii Bxe6 3.h6 a1Q+ 4.Kxa1

Kc3 5.h7 b2+ 6.Kb1 Ba2+ 7.Kxa2 Kc2
8.Bd1+ Kc1 9.h8Q/iii b1Q+ 10.Ka3 d2/iv
11.Be2/v d1Q (d1S; Qd4) 12.Qc3+ Qdc2
(Qbc2; Qa1+) 13.Qe1+ wins.

i) 1.Bd1? Kc3 2.Bxb3 Kxb3 3.h6 d3 4.Sf5
Bxf5 5.g7 Bh7 6.g8Q+ Bxg8 7.h7 Bxh7
draws. 1.Se6? Bxe6 2.Kb2 Bf5 and Black
wins. 1.h6? Kc3 2.Bd5 b2+ 3.Kxa2 Ba4.

ii) 2.h6? a1Q+ 3.Kxa1 Kc3 4.Bd1 b2+ 5.Ka2
Bg4 6.h7 Bxd1 7.h8Q Bb3+ 8.Ka3 b1S mate.
2.Bd1? a1Q+ 3.Kxa1 Kc3 4.h6 b2+ 5.Ka2
Bg4 wins.

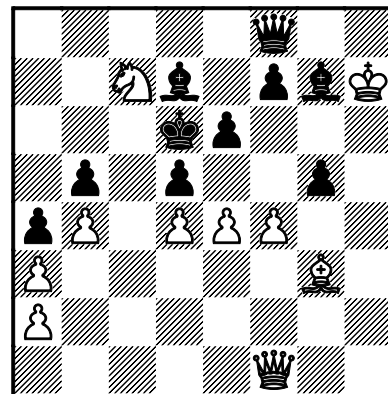
iii) or 9.Ka3 b1Q 10.h8Q.

iv) Kxd1 11.Qh1+ Kc2 12.Qxb1+ Kxb1
13.g7 d2 14.g8Q d1Q 15.Qa2+ Kc1 16.Qb2
mate.

v) 11.Bb3? Qxb3+, or 11.Ba4? Qd3+, or
11.Bh5? Qd3+, or 11.Qh5? Qd3+ draw.

“The black king charges down the board to
promote his pawn, only to find himself mated.
Lively play”.

No 17253 G. Amann
Commendation



h7d6 4071.66 10/10 Draw

No 17253 Günter Amann (Austria). 1.Se8+
Bxe8 2.fxg5+/i Ke7 3.Qf6+ Bxf6 4.gxf6+
Kd8 5.e5 Bd7 6.Bf4 Kc7 7.Bh6 Qc8 8.Bf8
Kb7/ii 9.Bc5 Ka6 10.Kg7 positional draw.

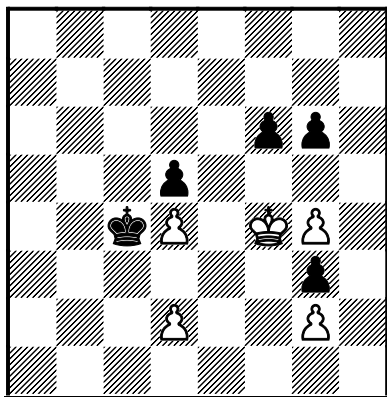
i) 2.f5+? Ke7 3.f6+ Bxf6 4.Qxf6+ Kxf6
5.Be5+ Ke7 6.Bd6+ Kd7.

ii) Qxf8 stalemate.

“The fortress is not new here but the queen
sacrifice is nice and the spirit of Simkhovich
is always welcome”.

No 17254 Alain Pallier (France). 1.g5/i
fxg5+/ii 2.Ke5 g4/iii 3.d3+ Kxd3 4.Kxd5 Ke3

No 17254 A. Pallier
Commendation



f4c4 0000.44 5/5 Draw

5.Kc4/iv Kf2 6.d5 Kxg2 7.d6 Kh3 8.d7 g2 9.d8Q g1Q 10.Qh8+/v Kg2/vi 11.Qa8+/vii Kf1 12.Qa1+ Kg2 13.Qa8+ Kh2 (Kh3) 14.Qh8+ positional draw.

i) 1.Ke3? g5 2.d3+ Kc3 3.Ke2 Kc2 4.Ke3 Kd1, or 1.Kxg3? Kxd4 2.Kf2/viii Kd3 3.Ke1 Kc2 4.Ke2 d4 5.g5 fxg5 6.g4 Kc1 7.Kd3 Kd1 8.Kxd4 Kxd2 win.

ii) f5 2.Kxg3 Kxd4 3.Kf4 Kd3 4.Ke5 d4 5.Kd5 Kxd2 6.Kxd4 draws.

iii) Kd3 3.Kxd5 Ke2 4.Kc4 Kf2 5.d5 Kxg2 6.d6 Kh3 7.d7 g2 8.d8Q g1Q 9.Qh8+ Kg3 10.Qe5+ draws.

iv) Thematic try: 5.Ke5? Kf2 6.d5 Kxg2 7.d6 Kh3 8.d7 g2 9.d8Q g1Q 10.Qh8+ Kg3 and wK occupies the square needed by the wQ.

v) 10.Qd3+? Qg3 11.Qxg6 Qe5 because the wK cannot head for the a6 square. But not Qf4+? 12.Kb5 g3 13.Qh5+ Kg2 14.Ka6.

vi) Kg3 11.Qe5+ (Qb8+). Compare with line iv.

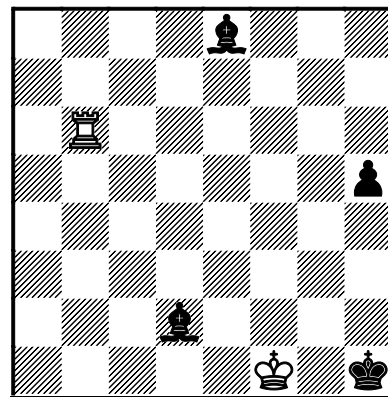
vii) 11.Qb2+? Qf2 12.Qb7+ Kh2 13.Qb8+ g3 wins.

viii) 2.g5 fxg5 3.Kg4 Kd3.

“A modest pawn study with an accurate move (5.Kc4!) and a concluding perpetual administered from three corners”.

No 17255 Jean Marc Loustau (France). 1.Rb3/i Bd7 (Kh2; Rb2) 2.Kf2 (Rd3 Bb5;) Ba5 (Kh2; Rd3) 3.Rb7/ii Bg4 4.Kg3 Be1+ 5.Kf4 Bd2+ 6.Kg3 Be1+ 7.Kf4 Bh4/iii 8.Rb2/iv Kg1 9.Rc2/v Bf2/vi 10.Kg5/viii Kg2

No 17255 J.M. Loustau
Commendation



f1h1 0160.01 2/4 Draw

11.Rc6/ix Kg3 12.Rc3+ Kg2 13.Rc6 Kh3 14.Rc3+ Kg2 15.Rc6, and:

– Be3+ 16.Kh4 Bf2+ 17.Kg5 Be3+ 18.Kh4 Bd4 19.Rh6/xii Bf2+ 20.Kg5 Be3+ 21.Kh4 Bxh6 stalemate, or:

– Kh3 16.Rc3+ Bg3 17.Rc1 Bf3 18.Rc3 Be2 19.Rc2 Bd1 20.Rc1 Bf3 21.Rc3 Bg4 22.Rc1 positional draw.

i) 1.Kf2? Kh2 2.Re6 Bf7 3.Rf6 Bc4 4.Rc6 Bg8 5.Rg6 Bh7 6.Rg7 Bf5 7.Rg2+ Kh3 8.Rg3+ Kh4 9.Ra3 Bh6 10.Ra5 Bg4 11.Ra6 Bf4 12.Ra4 Kg5 13.Ra5+ Kg6 14.Ra6+ Kf5 15.Ra5+ Be5.

ii) 3.Kg3? Be1+ 4.Kf4 Kg2 (Kh2) 5.Rb2+ Kh3 6.Kg5 h4 7.Rb3+ Bg3.

iii) Kg2 8.Kg5 Bd2+ 9.Kh4 Be1+ 10.Kg5 Kh3 11.Rb3+ Bg3 12.Rb1 Bf3 13.Rb3 Bd1 14.Rb1 Bf3 15.Rb3 Bg4 16.Rb1 positional draw.

iv) Try 8.Rg7? Be2 9.Ke3 (Rg6 Kh2;) Bd1 10.Kf4 Kh2 11.Rd7 Bg4 12.Rd2+ Kh3 13.Rd3+ Kg2 14.Rd2+ Bf2 15.Kg5 Bf3 16.Kf4 h4 17.Rd8 Be1 18.Rg8+ Bg3+ 19.Ke3 h3 etc.

v) 9.Ra2? Bf2 10.Kg5 Kg2 11.Ra6 Be3+ 12.Kh4 Bc5 13.Ra2+ Kf3 14.Kg5 h4 and if 15.Kxh4 Be7 mate, or 9.Rd2? Bf2 10.Rd8 Kg2 11.Rg8 Kh3.

vii) Kf1 10.Rh2 Bf2 11.Kg5.

viii) Try: 10.Rc6? Be2, or 10.Rc7? Kg2 11.Kg5 Be3+.

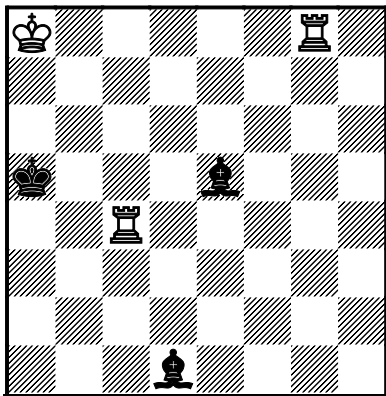
ix) 11.Rc7? Be3+ 12.Kh4 Bb6 13.Rc2+ Bf2+ 14.Kg5 Bf3 15.Kf4 h4.

xii) 19.Rd6? Bc5 20.Rd2+ Bf2+ 21.Kg5 Bf3 22.Kf4 h4.

“This study is a good illustration of the strengths and weaknesses of "database" studies. On the one hand, there is accuracy and subtlety galore, much like looking through a microscope for the first time and discovering that the world operates at a finer granularity than one normally experiences. On the other hand, the reasoning of the moves is mostly opaque. A different move loses, but only the computer can explain why”.

HH has removed nesting variations.

No 17256 C. Poisson
Commendation



a8a5 0260.00 3/3 BTM, Win

No 17256 Christian Poisson (France).
1...Bb3 2.Rc5+ Kb4 3.Rgc8 Be6 4.R8c6 Bd7 5.Rc4+ Kb3 6.R6c5 Bd6 7.Rc3+ Kb4 8.R5c4+ Kb5 9.Rh4 Bc6+/i 10.Ka7 Bc5+ 11.Kb8 Bd6+ 12.Kc8 wins.

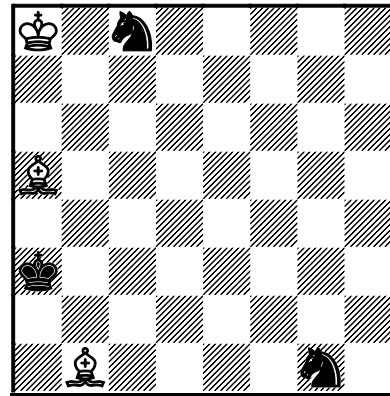
i) Kb6 10.Rb3+ Ka6 11.Rc4 wins.

“White plays a dozen forced moves to extricate his rooks. The positional draw in the 9.Rc1/Rc2 variation is a benefit. Unusual and pleasing clarity for a "database" study”.

No 17257 Christian Poisson (France). 1.Bc7 Se7/i 2.Bd6+ Kb2 3.Be4 Sg8 4.Be5+ (Bd5 Sh6;) Ka3 5.Bg7 (Bd4 Se2;) Ka4 6.Kb7/ii Se2 7.Ka6 (Kb6? Se7;) Sf4 8.Be5/iii Se6 9.Bd6 (Bd5 Sc5+;) Sd4 10.Bc5 Sf6 11.Bg6 Sb3 12.Be7 Sd7 13.Be8 wins.

i) Kb2 2.Bf5 Se7 3.Bg4.

No 17257 C. Poisson
Commendation



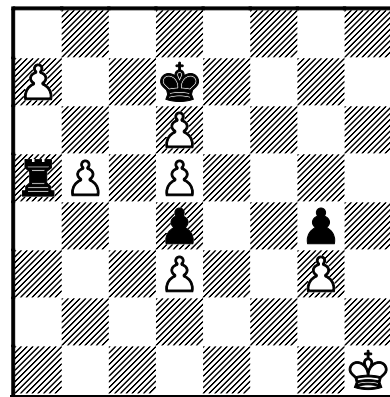
a8a3 0026.00 3/3 Win

ii) 6.Bc6+? Ka5 7.Kb7 Se2 8.Bd5 Se7 draws.

iii) 8.Bf8? Kb3 9.Bd6 Sf6 draws.

“Presumably this is the longest BB-SS “database” study. It takes 13 moves to capture one knight. It is another matter that a further 70 moves will be required after that”.

No 17258 V. Kalandadze
Commendation



h1d7 0300.62 7/4 Win

No 17258 Velimir Kalandadze (Georgia).
1.b6 Ra1+ 2.Kg2 Ra2+ 3.Kf1 Ra1+ 4.Ke2 Ra2+ 5.Kd1 Ra1+ 6.Kc2 Ra6 7.b7 Ra2+ 8.Kb3 Rxa7 9.b8R/i Kxd6 10.Kc4 Ra4+ 11.Rb4 wins.

i) 9.b8Q? Ra3+ 10.Kc4 Rc3+ 11.Kxd4 Rxd3+ 12.Kxd3 stalemate.

“The composer adds a king march to a well know underpromotion mechanism. Nadarashvili, (EG98.7612) is a more compelling treatment”.

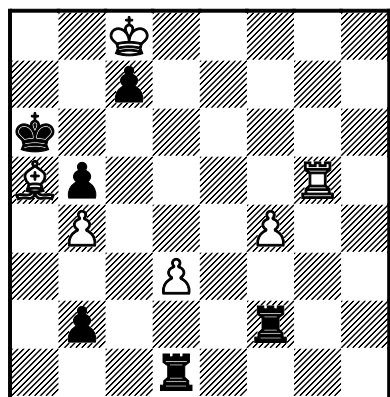
Mario Matouš 60 JT 2008

Tourney director Emil Vlasák listed every submission (name and K-positions) on a website to allow composers to check whether their study had arrived safely. “Several authors misused it a little by bombarding me with a lot of weak studies – the next time I will surely limit the number of entries per author”. Also the tourney director immediately checked the studies for soundness and listed his findings on the website.

The tourney was sponsored by Czech problemists and *Československý Šach*. There were 67 entries, but 51 studies by 32 composers from 16 countries survived the soundness check and were sent to the judge Mario Matouš. “The relatively high quality of the entries was a very pleasant surprise to me, almost one third qualified for the award. I am afraid that several composers are not satisfied with the ranking. But remember the adage of Mr. Mlyná ‘One man’s meat is another man’s poison’”.

The provisional award was dated 20ii2008 and the final award was published on 3x2008. One study, by Pietro Rossi (Italy), originally awarded 1st honourable mention, was eliminated because it had been sent to two tourneys [HH: not the first time for this composer!].

No 17259 G. Amann
1st prize



c8a6 0710.33 6/6 Win

No 17259 Günter Amann (Austria). 1.Kb8/i Rxd3/ii 2.Bxc7 Rd6/iii 3.Rg3/iv Rb6+/v 4.Bxb6/vi Rf3/vii 5.Rg7/viii Rg3 6.Rd7/ix Rg7/x 7.Rxg7 b1Q 8.Bd8 (Bc5 Qh7;) Qh7 9.Re7/xii Qf7 10.f5 Qxf5 11.Ra7 mate.

- i) Threatening 2.Bg6+. But not 1.Bxc7? Rc2.
- ii) Weak is Rc1 2.Rg6+ c6 3.Rg7.
- iii) Rfd2 3.Rg6+ Rd6 4.Bxd6 b1Q 5.Rf6/xiii Qf5 6.Rxf5 Rxd6 7.Rf8 Kb6 8.f5 Kc6 9.Rc8+ Kb6 (Kd7; Rc5) 10.Re8 Kc6 11.Re6 wins.
- iv) 3.Bxd6? b1Q 4.Rg7 Rh2 leads to nothing.
- v) b1S 4.Bxd6 Kb6 5.Bc5+ or Rh2 5.Bf8.
- vi) 4.Ka8? b1S 5.Bxb6 Kxb6 6.Kb8 Kc6. 4.Kc8? Ka7 5.Ra3+ Ra6 6.Bb8+ Kb6 7.Bc7+ Kc6 8.Rxa6+ Kd5.

vii) b1Q 5.Bc5 (Bd8), or Rg2 5.Rxg2 b1Q 6.Bd8/xiv Qc2 7.Rg1 Qb1 8.Rg7 Qh7 9.Re7 Qf7 10.f5.

viii) 5.Rxf3? b1Q 6.Bc5 Qb2 7.Rh3 Qe5+ 8.fxe5 stalemate, or 5.Rg6? b1Q 6.Rd6 Qxb4.

ix) 6.Rxg3? b1Q 7.Bd8 Qd3.

x) Rg8+ 7.Bd8 Rxd8+ 8.Rxd8 b1Q 9.Rd6 mate.

xii) 9.Rxh7? stalemate, or 9.Rc7? Qd7 10.Be7 Qe8+.

xiii) 5.Rh6? Rg2 6.f5 Qg1 7.Bc5+ Rg6 8.Rxg6+ Qxg6 9.fxg6 stalemate, avoiding Qxf5? 7.Bg3+ Qg6 8.Rxg6 mate.

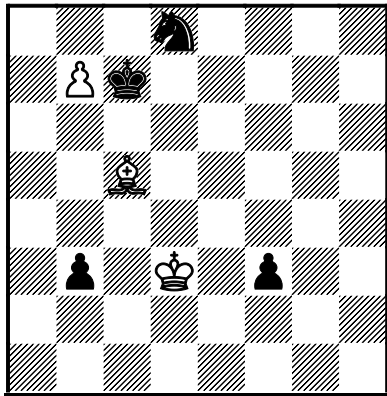
xiv) Not 6.Bc5? Qc2 7.Rg1 Qb1 8.Rg7 Qh7.

“Spectacular sacrifices of both black rooks preparing stalemate defence play involving the new bQ. But White plays precisely and Black ends up in zugzwang. Nicely worked-out focus theme”.

No 17260 Daniel Keith (France). 1.b8Q+/i Kxb8 2.Kc3 Sb7 3.Bd4 (Bf2 Sa5;) Sa5 4.Kd2/iii Sc6/iv 5.Bh8/v Sd8/vi 6.Ke3 Sf7 7.Bd4 Sg5 8.Kd2 Se6/vii 9.Be3/viii draws/ix.

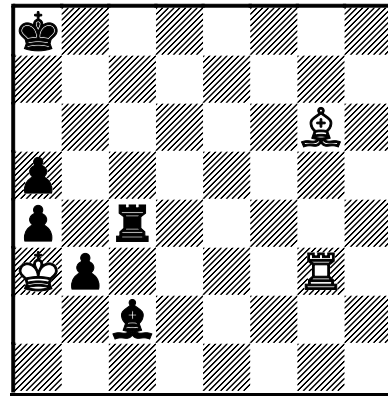
i) Winning an important tempo. After 1.Kc3? Sxb7 bK is too near. 1.Bd4? Kxb7 2.Ke3 Se6 3.Bf6 Sg5 or here 2.Kc3 Sc6 3.Bf2 Sa5 and Black wins easily.

No 17260 D. Keith
2nd prize



d3c7 0013.12 3/4 Draw

No 17261 J. Polášek
3rd prize



a3a8 0440.03 3/6 Draw

iii) A very nice move, keeping an eye on e1. 4.Kd3? Sc4 and the game is over.

iv) Now Sc4+ is met by 5.Ke1 because after Se3 6.Kf2 Sf5 7.Be5+ is a tempo-winning check.

v) Other bishop moves allow bS to prevent Ke3: 5.Bg7? Se7 6.Bh8 Sf5, or 5.Bb2? Sb4 6.Ke3 f2 7.Kxf2 Sd3+. Also 5.Ba1? (Bf6?) Sb4.

vi) Another tempo-winning move is Se7 6.Ke3 Sg6, but after 7.Bd4 Sh4 8.Kd2 the c-pawn is lost.

vii) Se4+ 9.Kc1 Kb7 10.Kb2 Sd2 11.Kc3.

viii) But not 9.Bf2? Sf4 10.Kc3 b2 11.Kxb2 Sd3+.

ix) Now Sf4 fails to 10.Bxf4 with check. After Sc7 10.Kc1 Sd5 11.Bg1 draws.

“This discovery is a rare exception to the general rule that the bishop is advantageous in an open position. In this case it seems powerless as it watches the manoeuvres of the bS, but finally saves his life in the far corner (5.Bh8!!). Symmetrical positions in the main line and tries create an aesthetic feeling”.

No 17261 Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic). I: 1.Be8 Rb4/i 2.Rg8/ii Ka7/iii 3.Bxa4/iv Rxa4+/v 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Kxa5/vi b1Q 6.Rg7+ Ka8 7.Ra7+ Kb8 8.Rb7+ Qxb7 (Kxb7) stalemate.

II: 1.Be8/vii Rb4 (Bc2; Rd5) 2.Rd2/viii Bc2 3.Rd8+/ix Ka7/x 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3/xi b1R 7.Rd7+ Ka8 8.Rd8+ Ka7 9.Rd7+ Ka6 10.Rd6+ Kb5 11.Rd2 Rb3+ 12.Ka2 Rc3 13.Kb2 draw.

I: diagram

II: remove wRg3, bBc2; add wRd1, bBe4.

i) Kb7 2.Rg1/xii Be4 3.Bxa4 b2 4.Bb3 Rb4 5.Kxb2 Bd5 6.Rg3 a4 7.Rg7+ Kc6 8.Ka3 Rxb3+ 9.Kxa4 draws.

ii) 2.Bxa4? Rxa4+ 3.Kxa4 b2+ 4.Ka3 b1R/xiii 5.Rg8+ Kb7 6.Rg7+ Ka6 wins, because there's no check on g6. 2.Bc6+?, with the idea Ka7? 3.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Kxa5 is met by Kb8 3.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Rb3+ Bxb3+ 6.Ka3 b1S+ (b1Q? stalemate).

iii) The first important defensive idea is illustrated by: Kb7 3.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Ka3 b1R and now White can exchange rooks: 6.Rg2 Be4 7.Rb2+ Rxb2 8.Kxb2. Therefore Black always keeps his king on the a-file.

iv) 3.Rg7+? Ka6 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3 b1R wins.

v) After 3...Bd1 White has more than one way to draw, but it is not so easy. 4.Rg7+/xiv Kb6 (Ka6; Rg6+) 5.Rg2, and now for instance Rxa4+ 6.Kxa4 b2+ 7.Ka3 b1Q 8.Rb2+, or Kc5 6.Be8 Bc2 7.Rg5+ Kc4 (Kb6; Bg6) 8.Bf7+ Kc3 9.Rg3+.

vi) 5.Ka3? b1R 6.Rg7+ Ka6.

vii) 1.Bxe4+? Rxe4 2.Rd5 Kb7 3.Rxa5 Kc6.

viii) Premature is 2.Rd8+? Kb7 3.Rd7+ Kb6 4.Rd2 Bc6.

ix) Away from the mined square 3.Bxa4? Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Ka3 b1S+ forking, or 3.Bc6+? Kb8 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3 b1S+ with another forking, but not

Ka7? 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Kxa5 as we already have seen.

x) Kb7 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3 b1R 7.Rd2.

xi) This is the reason of the twin. The natural move 6.Kxa5? is refuted by 6...Ba4 (Bb3).

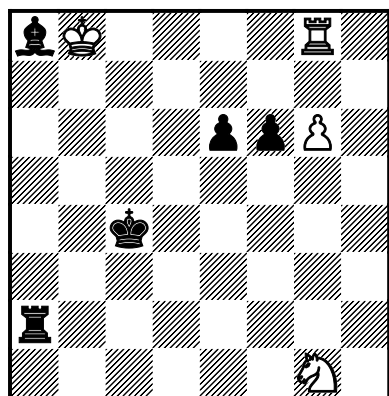
xii) Not 2.Bxa4? Rxa4+ 3.Kxa4 b2+ 4.Rb3+ Bxb3+ 5.Ka3 b1S+ wins.

xiii) Avoiding b1Q? 5.Rg8+ Kb7 6.Rb8+ Kxb8 stalemate.

xi) 4.Rg2? b2 5.Rxb2 Rxa4 mate.

“This twin is an example of foxy play by both sides. The black hero surely is the unstoppable b-pawn. To avoid stalemate it is ready for an underpromotion, or even to wait (II: 6.Kxa5? Ba4/b3!). Clever intermediate rook moves (I: 2.Rg8! and II: 3.Rd8+!) finally save White. A perfect logical synthesis”.

No 17262 S. Didukh
4th prize



b8c4 0431.12 4/5 Win

No 17262 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Rc8+/i Bc6/ii 2.Rxc6+ Kd5 3.Rc7/iii Rg2 4.Sh3 e5 5.g7 f5 (Ke6; Kc8) 6.Kc8 Ke6 7.Kd8 Kf6 8.Ke8 Rxc7 9.Rc6 mate.

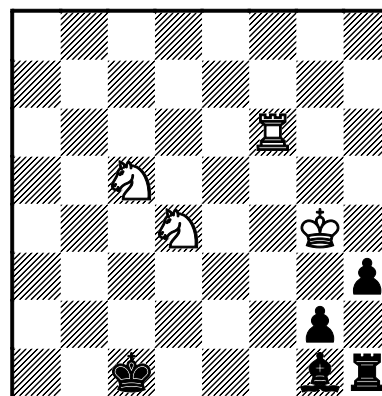
i) 1.g7? Bc6 2.Rc8 (Rh8) Ra8+ 3.Kc7 Ra7+ 4.Kxc6 Rxc7.

ii) Kd4 2.g7 Rg2 3.g8Q Rxc8 4.Rxc8 wins.

iii) 3.Rc1? Rg2 4.Sh3 e5 5.Rg1 Rxc1 6.Sxc1 Ke6.

“After the bright defence 1...Bc6! we see a king battle for the dangerous g7-pawn. Black wins, but a model mate with three active self-blocks finally crowns matters. I like the light setting and the easy-to-understand solution”.

No 17263 M. Hlinka & E. Vlasák
1st honourable mention



g4c1 0432.02 4/5 Draw

No 17263 Michal Hlinka (Slovakia) & Emil Vlasák (Czech Republic). 1.Sd3+ Kd2/i 2.Sf3+ (Se2 Be3;) Kxd3 3.Se1+, and:

– Ke2/ii 4.Sxc2 hxc2/iii 5.Kg3 Rh2 6.Rg6 (Rf8? Be3;) Kf1 7.Rg4 (Rg8? Rh8;) draws/iv, or:

– Kd2 4.Sxc2/v Bd4/vi 5.Ra6 h2 6.Kh3/vii Ra1/viii 7.Rxa1 Bg1 8.Rd1+/ix Kc3 9.Rd3+ Kb4 10.Rd4+ Kc5/x 11.Rh4/xi h1Q+ 12.Kg3 Bf2+ 13.Kxf2 draws.

i) Kd1 2.Rf2 Bxf2 (Bh2; Sf3) 3.Sxf2+ Ke1 (Kc1). After 1...Kb1 White even has a mating attack: 2.Rb6+ Ka2 3.Rb2+ Ka3 4.Rb3+ Ka4 5.Sc5+ Ka5 6.Rb5+.

ii) Kc4 4.Sxc2 Bd4 5.Se3+ Bxe3 6.Rf3 h2 7.Kg3. Kc3 4.Sxc2 Bd4 5.Rf3+.

iii) Bd4 5.Sf4+ Kf1 6.Rc6 h2 7.Rc1+.

iv) This mutual zugzwang is known from an incorrect study by Hlinka, 1985.

v) The try 4.Sf3+? constitutes a study-within-a-study: Black to play and win: Kd1/xii 5.Rd6+/xiii Ke2 6.Sxc1+/xiv Ke3/xv 7.Kg3/xvi h2 wins.

vi) hxc2 5.Kf3 Rh2 6.Rg6.

vii) 6.Ra2+? Kc3 7.Kh3 Be5 8.Se3 Re1 9.Sd5+ Kd4 10.Rd2+ Kc5 11.Rxc2 Bxc2 12.Kxc2 Kxd5.

viii) Be5 7.Sh4 Rf1 8.Ra2+ Ke3 9.Rxc2.

ix) 8.Ra2+? Kc3 9.Rc2+ Kb3.

x) Kb5 11.Rh4 (Kg3) h1Q+ 12.Kg3 (Rh4).

xi) 11.Rc4+? Kb5 12.Rh4 (Kg3) is only waste of time.

xii) a logical move. Kc1? 5.Rh6 makes use of the remote position of bK. The difference becomes clear with the line: Bf2/xvii 6.Rxh3 Kd1 7.Rh5 (compare with 4...Kd1) Rxh5/xviii 8.Kxh5 Ke2 9.Kg4 Be1 10.Sg1+ draws (EGTB). Ke2? 5.Sxg1+, wins a tempo, Rxc1/xix 6.Re6+ (Kxh3? Rf1;) Kf2 7.Rf6+ Ke2 8.Re6+ Kd3 9.Kxh3. Kd3? 5.Se1+ Ke2 (Kd2) 6.Sxg2 see main lines. Ke3? 5.Re6+ Kf2/xx 6.Ra6 h2/xxi 7.Re6 Kf1 8.Re1+ Kf2 9.Re6.

xiii) The best try to save the game. 5.Rh6 Bf2 6.Rxh3 Ke2 and bK is too close. 5.Sxg1 h2 6.Rd6+ Kc2. 5.Kg3 Bf2+ 6.Kxf2 Rf1+ 7.Kg3 Rxf3+. 5.Ra6 Bf2 6.Ra1+ Ke2 7.Ra2+ Ke3 8.Ra3+ Ke4.

xiv) 6.Re6+ Be3 7.Kg3 Rf1 8.Kxh3 Kxf3 9.Rf6+ Bf4.

xv) The point of the logical manoeuvre. Compared to 4...Ke2, White cannot play 5.Rf3+ here, which is a decisive difference.

xvi) 7.Sxh3 Rxh3 8.Re6+ Kd4 9.Re1 Rh1.

xvii) Be3 6.Rxh3. h2 6.Kg3.

xviii) Ke2 8.Re5+ Kd3 9.Rd5+ Kc3 (Kc4; Rd2) 10.Rg5.

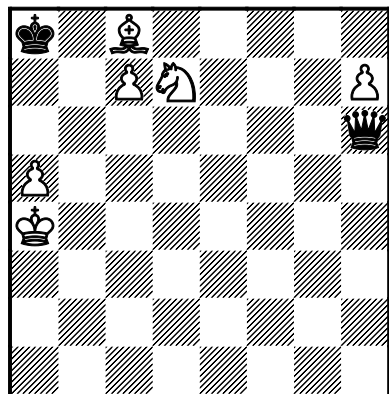
xix) Ke3 6.Rf3+ Ke4 7.Rxh3, or Ke1 6.Kg3 h2 7.Sf3+.

xx) Kd3 6.Se1+ Kc4 7.Sxg2 hxc2 8.Kf3 Rh2 9.Rg6.

xxi) Bh2 7.Ra2+ Kf1 8.Ra1+ Ke2 9.Ra2+. Ke2 7.Sxg1+ Ke3 8.Ra3+ Kd4 9.Rxh3.

“A rich and elegant study. Black promotes, but with an impressive finish the newborn queen is captured”.

No 17264 H. van der Heijden & Y. Afek
2nd honourable mention



a4a8 3011.30 6/2 Win

No 17264 Harold van der Heijden & Yochanan Afek (Netherlands). 1.Sb6+/i Qxb6/ii 2.Bb7+/iii Qxb7 3.h8R+/iv Ka7 4.c8S+/v Ka6 (Ka8; Sd6+) 5.Rh6+ wins.

i) 1.Ba6? Qf4+ 2.Kb5 Qf1+ 3.Kc5 Qg1+ 4.Kd5 Qg2+ with perpetual check.

ii) Ka7 2.Be6 Qf4+ 3.Bc4 Qd4 4.Qc8+ Kb7 5.Sd6+ Qxd6 6.c8Q+ Kxc8 7.h8Q+.

iii) A logical supplement to the key. 2.axb6? stalemate. 2.h8Q? Qd4+/vi 3.Qxd4 stalemate.

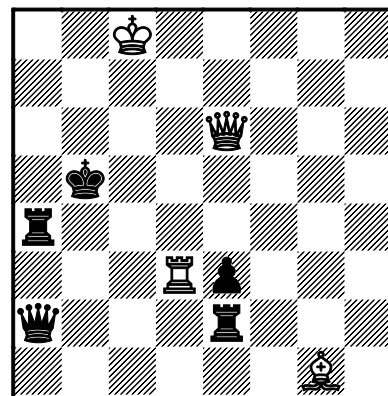
iv) 3.h8Q+? Ka7 4.c8S+ Qxc8 5.Qxc8 stalemate, or 4.Qd4+ Ka8 5.Qd8+ Ka7 6.Qd4+ Ka8.

v) 4.c8Q? Qb4+ 5.Kxb4 stalemate. 4.c8R? Qe4+ 5.Ka3 Qd3+ 6.Kb2 Qd2+ 7.Kb1 Qd1+ draws.

vi) But not Qc6+? 3.Kb4 Qb6+ 4.Kc4 Qc6+ 5.Kd4 Qd6+ 6.Ke4, or here Qxc7+ 5.Kb5 Ka7 6.Qd4+ Ka8 7.Be6.

“Two underpromotions in a brilliant setting surely satisfies solvers”.

No 17265 R. Becker & I. Akobia
3rd honourable mention



c8b5 4710.01 4/5 Win

No 17265 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rb3+/i Rb4/ii 2.Qd7+ (Qd5+ Ka4;) Kc5/iii 3.Qe7+/iv Kc6 4.Qe8+ Kc5/v 5.Bxe3+ Rxe3 6.Qxe3+ Kb5 7.Qe8+/vi Ka5 8.Qd8+ Ka4 9.Qd3 zz Qxb3 10.Qa6 mate.

i) 1.Qe5+? Kb4 2.Qc3+ Kb5 3.Qe5+ Kb4 4.Rd4+ Ka3 5.Rd3+ Kb4 6.Rd4+ Ka3 7.Qc5+ Kb2 8.Qb5+ Qb3 9.Qxe2+ Ka3 10.Rd3 Rc4+ 11.Kd7 Rc3.

ii) Otherwise White wins easily: Kc5 2.Bxe3+ Rxe3 3.Qxe3+, or Qxb3 2.Qxb3+ Rb4 3.Qd5+.

iii) Ka5 3.Qa7+ Kb5 4.Qb7+, or Ka6 3.Qd3+ Ka5 4.Ra3+.

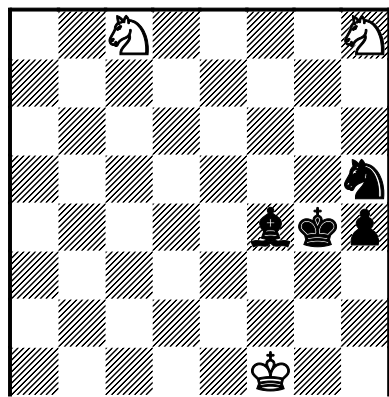
iv) 3.Qf5+? is a waste of time dual: Kc6 4.Qf3+ Kd6 5.Qf6+ Kc5 6.Qe5+ Kc6 7.Qe8+ transposing to the main line.

v) Kd5 5.Rd3+ Kc4 6.Qe4+ Kb5 7.Qb7+ Kc5 8.Qc7+ Kb5 9.Qd7+ Kc5 10.Qd6+ Kb5 11.Rd5+ Ka4 12.Qa6+ Kb3 13.Rd3+, and Kc2 14.Qxa2+ Kxd3 15.Qa3+, or Kb2 14.Qf6+ Kb1 15.Qf1+ Kb2 16.Qxe2+.

vi) Thematic try: 7.Qd3+? Ka4 zz, e.g. 8.Kd7 Rd4+.

“A nice mutual zugzwang position occurs both in a try and in the solution”.

No 17266 Y. Afek
4th honourable mention



f1g4 0035.01 3/4 Draw

No 17266 Yochanan Afek (Israel/Netherlands). 1.Sg6/i Sg3+ (h3; Sxf4) 2.Kg1/ii Be3+ 3.Kh2/iii Sf1+ 4.Kg2 (Kh1? Kh3;) h3+ 5.Kxf1 Kg3 6.Sd6 h2 7.Se4+ Kh3 8.Sf4+/iv Bxf4 9.Sf2+ Kg3 10.Se4+ Kf3 11.Sd2+/v Bxd2 stalemate.

i) 1.Se7? Sg3+ 2.Kg1/vi Se2+ 3.Kf2/vii h3 4.Sd5 Bg3+ 5.Kf1 Kf3 6.Sf7 Bh4 7.Se5+ Kg3. 1.Kg1? Kg3 2.Se7 Be3+ 3.Kf1/viii h3 4.Sf7 h2 5.Sf5+ Kh3.

ii) The battle is about h4-h3 with a tempo check. So bad is 2.Kg2? h3+ 3.Kh2 Bc7 4.Sce7 Se4+ 5.Kg1 h2+ 6.Kg2 Sf2, or here 3.Kg1 Bb8 4.Sce7 Se4.

iii) Still the same song: 3.Kg2? h3+ 4.Kh2 Sf1+ 5.Kh1 h2 6.Kg2 Bg1 7.Se5+/ix Kf4, and 8.Sg6+ Kg5 9.Se5 Se3+ 10.Kh1 Kf4 11.Sd3+ Kf3 12.Sd6 Sf1 13.Sf5 Ke4 14.Sc1 Kxf5, or

8.Sd3+ Ke4 9.Sb4 Sg3 10.Sd6+ Ke5 11.Sd3+ Kxd6 12.Sf2 Bxf2 13.Kxh2 Sf5.

iv) 8.Sf2+? Bxf2 9.Sf4+ Kg3 10.Se2+ Kf3.

v) 11.Sf2? Bg3 12.Sh1 Bh4 13.Sf2 Kg3 14.Sh1+ Kh3 15.Ke2 Kg2.

vi) 2.Kg2 h3+ 3.Kg1 h2+ 4.Kxh2 Sf5+ 5.Kg2 Sxe7 6.Sf7 Bc7.

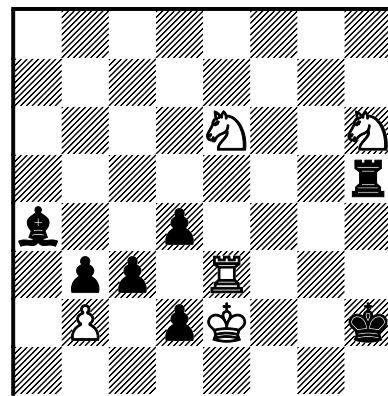
vii) 3.Kh1 Kh3 4.Sf5 Sg3+.

viii) 3.Kh1 Kh3 4.Sf5 Sg3+.

ix) 7.Sd6 Sg3 8.Se5+ Kh5.

“White conjures up a model stalemate with minimal forces”.

No 17267 M. Hlinka
5th honourable mention



e2h2 0432.14 5/7 Draw

No 17267 Michael Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.Sg4+ Kg1/i 2.Sxd4/ii cxb2/iii 3.Sf3+ Kg2/iv 4.Sxd2 Bb5+ 5.Kd1/v Rd5 (Rh1+; Re1) 6.Rxb3 Ba4 7.Se3+ Kf2/vi 8.Sc2/vii Bxb3 stalemate.

i) Kg2 2.Sf4+ Kh1 3.Sf2+ Kh2 4.Sg4+. Kh1 2.Sf2+ Kg1 3.Sxd4 cxb2 4.Sf3+ Kg2 5.Sxd2 Rd5 6.Sb1.

ii) 2.Rg3+? Kh1 3.Rf3 Bb5+ 4.Kd1 Kg2 wins easily.

iii) Bb5+ 3.Kd1 cxb2 4.Rg3+ Kh1 5.Sf2+ Kh2 6.Rxb3 Ba4 7.Kc2.

iv) Kh1 4.Sf2+ Kg2 5.Sxd2.

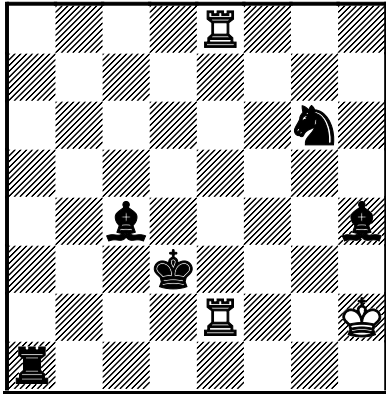
v) 5.Ke1? Rh1+ 6.Sf1 Rxf1+ 7.Kd2 b1S mate.

vi) Kg1 8.Sxd5 Bxb3+ 9.Ke2 Bxd5 10.Kd3.

vii) 8.Sxd5? Bxb3+ 9.Sxb3 b1Q+.

“Another model stalemate, even with two pins, but the play feels a bit static”.

No 17268 I. Aliev
1st commendation



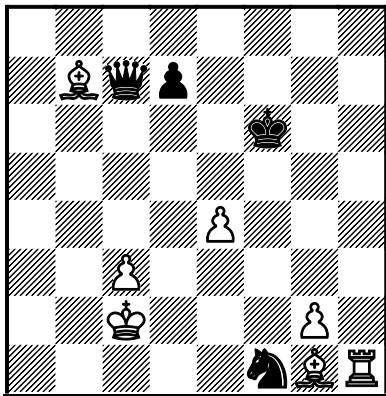
h2d3 0563.00 3/5 Draw

No 17268 Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan).
1.R8e3+ (R2e3+? Kd2;) Kd4 2.Re4+ Kd3
3.R4e3+/i Kd4 4.Re4+ Kd5 5.Rxc4 Kxc4
6.Re6 Ra2+ (S-; Re4+) 7.Kh1/ii Ra1+ 8.Kh2
(Kg2? Sf4+;) Ra2+ 9.Kh1 Rg2 10.Re4+
(Kxg2? Sf4+;) Kd3 11.Rxh4 Sxh4 stalemate.

i) Thematic try: 3.Rxc4? Kxc4? and White draws as in the main line, but 3...Kxe2.

ii) 7.Kg1? Rg2+ 8.Kxg2 Sf4+, or 7.Kh3? Sf4+.

No 17269 L. Gruber & M. Minski
2nd commendation

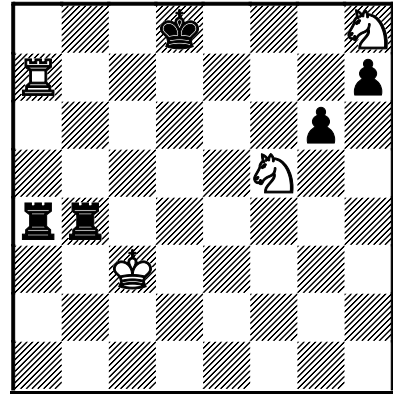


c2f6 3123.31 7/4 Win

No 17269 Lutz-Dieter Gruber & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Ba6 Sg3 2.Bb6 Qf4/i
3.Rh4 Qb8 (Qxh4; Bd8+) 4.Rh8 Qf4 (Qxh8;
Bd4+) 5.Rf8+ wins.

i) Qxb6 (Qc6) 3.Rh6+. Qb8 3.Rh8. Qe5
3.Bd4 Sxh1 4.Bc8 and White wins this end-
game, e.g. d6 5.Kd3 Sg3 6.Bxe5+ Kxe5 7.Bb7
Sf1 8.Ke2 Sg3+ 9.Kf3 Sf1 10.g4 Sd2+ 11.Kg3
Kf6 12.Kf4 Sb1 13.c4 Sd2 14.g5+ Kg6
15.Bd5 Sb3 16.Bc6 Sd2 17.Bb5 Kg7 18.e5
dxe5+ 19.Kxe5 Sf3+ 20.Kf4.

No 17270 V. Kalandadze
3rd commendation



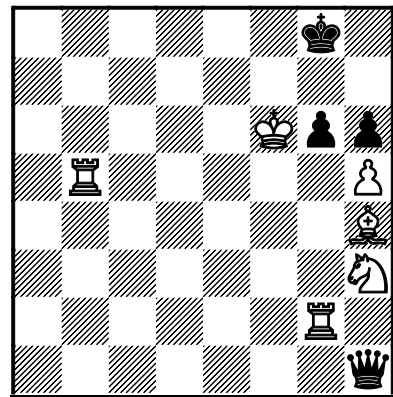
c3d8 0702.02 4/5 Win

No 17270 Velimir Kalandadze (Georgia).
1.Sf7+ Ke8/i 2.Sg7+ Kf8 3.Se6+ Kg8 (Ke8;
Sd6 mate) 4.Sh6+ Kh8 5.Rg7 Rc4+ 6.Kd3
(Kd2) Rd4+ 7.Ke3 (Ke2) Re4+ 8.Kf3 (Kf2)
Rf4+ 9.Kg3 (Kg2? Ra8;) Rf8/ii 10.Rg8+
Rxg8 11.Sf7 mate.

i) Kc8 2.Se7+ Kb8 3.Sc6+ Kc8 4.Sd6 mate.

ii) Rg4+ 10.Sxg4 Ra3+ 11.Kf2 Ra2+ 12.Ke3
Ra6 13.Re7

No 17271 M. Kwiatkowski
4th commendation



f6g8 3211.12 6/4 BTM, Win

No 17271 Marek Kwiatkowski (Poland).
1...Qf1+/i 2.Sf4 Qxf4+/ii 3.Kxg6 Qe4+/iii
4.Kxh6+ Qxg2 5.Rg5+ Kh8 6.Rg6/iv Qd2+
7.Bg5 Qf4 8.Rg8+/v Kxg8 9.Bxf4 wins.

i) Qxg2 2.Rb8+ Kh7 3.Sg5+ hxg5 4.hxg6+
Kh6 5.Rh8 mate.

ii) Qxb5 3.Rxg6+ Kh8 4.Kf7, or here Kf8
4.Se6+ Ke8 5.Sc7+.

iii) Qd6+ 4.Bf6 Qd3+ 5.Rf5.

iv) 6.Rxg2? stalemate.

v) 8.Bxf4? stalemate.

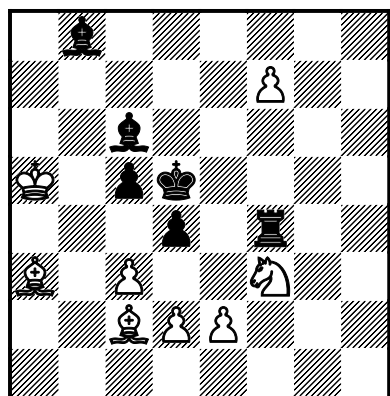
Ward Stoffelen 70 JT 2008

The Dutch *Probleemblad* organized an endgame study tourney to celebrate the 70th birthday of its endgame study editor Ward Stoffelen (Belgium). The tourney was announced x2004 (deadline 1vii2005) and it was almost 3 years until the provisional award was published in *Probleemblad* no. 1 i-iii2008. One of the reasons was the withdrawal of a co-judge. AJR stepped in to replace him. HH assisted by testing for soundness and anticipation.

Tourney director, the late Ruud Beugelsdijk received 78 studies.

No 17272 M. van Essen

1st prize



a5d5 0381.42 8/6 Win

No 17272 Martin van Essen (Netherlands).

1.Sxd4/i Rxf7/ii 2.e4+ Kd6 3.e5+/iii Kd5/iv 4.c4+/v Kxd4 (Kxc4; Sxc6) 5.Bb2+ Kxc4 6.d3+ Kd5 7.Bb3+ c4 8.Bxc4+ Kc5 9.Bxf7 Bc7+ 10.Ka6 and now:

– Bb5+ 11.Kb7 Bxe5 12.d4+ Bxd4 13.Ba3 mate, or:

– Bxe5 11.d4+ (Bxe5? Bb5+;) Bxd4 12.Ba3+ mate.

i) 1.Sg5? dxc3 2.e4+ Ke5 3.Bxc5 cxd2 4.f8Q Rxf8 5.Bxf8 Bxe4 6.Sxe4 d1Q 7.Bg7+ Kf4 (Kf5) 8.Bxd1 Kxe4 draws.

ii) Bc7+ 2.Ka6 Rxf7 3.e4+ Kd6 4.Sxc6 Kxc6 5.Ba4+ Kd6 6.d4 lead to a won ending. cxd4 2.Bb3+ Ke4 3.d3+ Ke5 4.cxd4+ Kxd4 5.e3+ Kxe3 6.Bc1+ Kxd3 7.Bxf4 and White promotes.

iii) White tries to separate the bK from his bishop. 3.Sxc6? Kxc6 4.Ba4+ Kd6 5.d4 Rc7 6.Kb5/vi Ba7 7.Bd1 Rb7+ 8.Kc4 Rg7 9.e5+ Ke6 10.Bxc5 Rc7 11.Bg4+ Kf7 12.Kd5 Bxc5 13.dxc5 Ke7 14.c6 Kd8 15.Bd7 Ra7 16.Kd6 Rxd7+ 17.cxd7 stalemate.

iv) Kc7 4.Bxc5 Be8 5.Bg6.

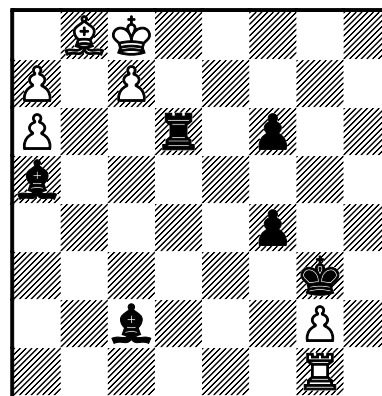
v) 4.Bb3+? c4 5.Bxc4+ Kxc4 6.Sxc6 Bc7+ 7.Ka6 Kd5 8.Kb5 Bxe5 9.c4+ Ke4 10.d3+ Kf5 11.d4 Bg3 with a drawish ending.

vi) 6.Bxc5+ Rxc5+, or 6.dxc5+ Ke5 7.Bc2 Rb7.

“The climax of dynamic play shows two mating pictures with four Bishops”. “Apart from the position of the wK, the diagram seems pretty game-like”. “A unique achievement”.

No 17273 A. Sochnev

2nd prize



c8g3 0470.42 7/6 Draw

No 17273 Alexei Sochnev (Russia). 1.a8S/i Bf5+ 2.Kb7 Be4+ 3.Ka7 Bd2 4.c8S/ii Be3+/iii 5.Sc6/iv Rd7+ 6.Sc7 Rd6/v 7.Sa8 Rd7+ 8.Sc7 Bxg1 stalemate.

i) 1.a8Q? Bf5+ 2.Kb7 Be4+ 3.Kc8 Bxa8 , and: 4.a7 Be4 5.a8Q Bxa8 6.Ra1 Ra6 7.Kd7 Be4 8.Rc1 Kxg2 9.c8Q Bf5+ 10.Ke7 Bxc8 11.Rxc8 f3 12.Rg8+ Kf1 wins, or 4.Rb1 Rxa6 5.Kd7 Be4 6.Rb5/vi Bc6+ 7.Ke7 Bxc7 8.Rb3+ f3 9.Bxc7+ Kxg2 wins.

ii) 4.Sb6? Be3 5.Rb1 Bxb1 6.c8Q Bxb6+ 7.Ka8 Be4+ 8.Qb7 Bxb7+ 9.axb7 Bc5 wins.

iii) Rd7+ 5.Sc7 Be3+ 6.Sb6.

iv) 5.Sab6? Rd7+ 6.Bc7 Rxc7+ 7.Kb8 Rxc8+ 8.Sxc8 Bxg1 9.Sd6 f5 10.a7 Kxg2 wins.

v) Rxc7+ 7.Bxc7 Bxg1 8.Kb8 Kxg2/vii 9.Bxf4 Bxb6 10.a7 Kf3 11.Bd6 Bd4 12.a8Q Bxa8 13.Kxa8 Be5 14.Bb4 Be7)/viii draws.

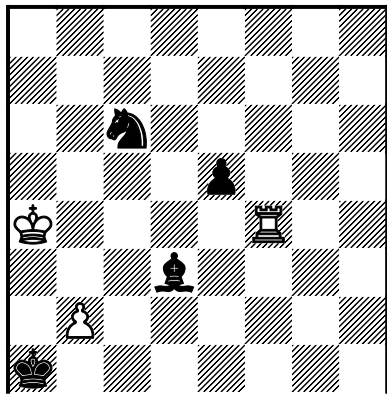
vi) 6.Rb3+ Kxg2 7.Rb5 Bf3 8.Rb2+ Kf1 9.Rb1+ Be1 10.c8Q Bg4+ 11.Kc7 Bxc8 12.Kxc8 f3 wins.

vii) Bxb6 9.Bxb6 Kxg2 10.a7 f3 11.Kc7 f2 12.Bxf2 Kxf2 13.Kd6 f5 14.Ke5 Ke3 15.a8Q Bxa8 16.Kxf5 draws.

viii) But not 14.Ba3? f5 15.Kb7 Ke4 16.Be1 Bd4 17.Kc6 Be3 18.Ba3 f4 19.Bd6 f3 20.Bg3.

“Two knight promotions, both pinned in the final stalemate”. “Impressive!”.

No 17274 R. Becker
3rd prize



a4a1 0133.11 3/4 Draw

No 17274 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Rf2/i e4/ii 2.Kb3/iii e3/iv 3.Rf3/v e2/vi 4.Re3 Kb1 5.Kc3 Bb5 6.Kd2 Sd4 7.b3/vii Kb2/viii 8.b4 zz Bc4/ix 9.Rg3/x Sb3+ 10.Ke1 Sa1/xi 11.Kd2 Sc2 12.Rg1 Bb5/xii 13.Rc1/xiii Sd4 14.Rc2+ Ka3/xiv 15.Rc3+ Sb3+ 16.Ke1 Kb2 17.Re3 Sd4 18.Kd2 draw by repetition of moves.

i) 1.Rh4? Kxb2. 1.Rf3? e4. 1.Rf6? Sd4 2.Kb4 Kxb2 3.Kc5 Kc3 4.Kd5 e4 wins.

ii) Sd4 2.Kb4 e4 3.Rd2 Sf3 4.Rf2 Ka2 5.b3+ Kb1 6.Kc3.

iii) 2.Rd2? Kb1 3.Kb3 Sd4+ 4.Kc3 Sb5+ 5.Kb4 Kc1 wins.

iv) Sd4+ 3.Kc3 Sb5+ 4.Kd2 draws.

v) 3.Rh2? Bf1 4.Kc3 Kb1, or 3.Rg2? Bf1 4.Rg3 Sd4+ wins.

vi) Sd4+ 4.Kc3 Sxf3 5.Kxd3.

vii) 7.b4? Kb2 zz 8.Rg3 Sb3+ 9.Ke1 Kc2 10.Rg5 Bd3 11.Re5 Sd4 wins. 7.Rg3? Sc2 8.Rg1+ Kxb2 zz 9.Rc1 Sd4 10.Rc2+ Ka3 11.Rc3+ Sb3+ 12.Ke1 Kb2 13.Re3 Sd4 14.Kd2 Bc4 15.Rg3 Sb3+ 16.Ke1 Kc2 17.Rg4 Bd3 wins. 7.Rh3? Kxb2 8.Re3 Bc4 9.Rg3 Sb3+ 10.Ke1 Kc2 wins.

viii) Ka2 8.Rg3 Kb2 9.Rg2 Kxb3 10.Rg3+ Kb2 11.Rg2 Bc4 12.Rf2 Bb5 13.Rg2 draws.

ix) Ba6 9.Rg3 Bc4 10.Rg2 Bb5 11.Rf2 Kb3 12.Rf4 draws.

x) 9.Rh3? Sb3+ 10.Ke1 Kc2 11.Rh4 Bd3 12.b5 Kc3 13.b6 Sa1 14.Kf2 Sc2 15.Rh1 Be4 wins.

xi) Kc2 11.Rg4 Bd3 12.b5 Kc3 13.b6 Sa1 14.Kf2 Sc2 15.Rg1 draws.

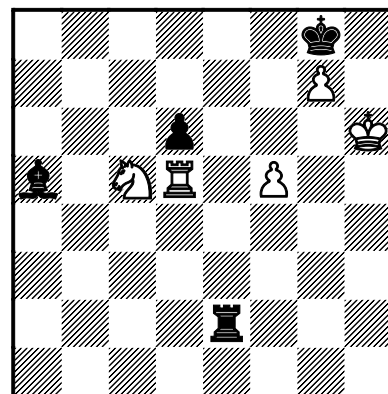
xii) Ba6 13.Rh1 Sd4 14.Rh3 Sb3+ 15.Ke1 Kc2 16.Rh6 Bb5 17.Rb6 Bd3 18.Rd6 Kc3 19.Rc6+ Kb2 20.Rd6 draws.

xiii) 13.Rh1? Sd4 14.Rh3 Sb3+ 15.Ke1 Kc2 16.Rh5 Bd3 (Bc4) wins.

xiv) Sxc2 stalemate.

“In this capture-free miniature White succeeds in seducing Black into a zugzwang position that forces adraw”.

No 17275 V. Neidze,
D. Gurgenidze & I. Akobia
4th prize



h6g8 0431.21 5/4 Win

No 17275 Vazha Neidze, David Gurgenidze & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Se4/i Rh2+/ii 2.Kg6/iii Rg2+ 3.Kh5/iv Bd8/v 4.Rxd6 Be7/vi

5.Re6/vii Rxc7 6.f6 Bxf6/viii 7.Re8+ Kf7 (Kh7) 8.Sd6 (Sxf6) mate.

i) 1.f6? Bc3 2.Sd7 Bd2+ 3.Kg6 Rg2+ 4.Kf5 Bc3 5.Rb5 Bxf6 6.Sxf6+ Kxc7, or 1.Se6? Rh2+ 2.Kg6 Rg2+ 3.Kf6 Bc3+ 4.Ke7 Bxc7 5.Rd1 d5 6.f6 Bxf6+ draw.

ii) Bd8 2.Rxd6 Rh2+ 3.Kg6 Rg2+ 4.Kh6 Be7 5.Re6 main line.

iii) 2.Kg5? Bd8+ 3.f6 Bxf6+ 4.Kxf6 Rh6+ 5.Ke7 Kxc7.

iv) 3.Sg5? Bd8 4.f6 Bxf6 5.Kxf6 Rf2+ 6.Ke7 Kxc7.

v) Rh2+ 4.Kg4 Rg2+ 5.Kh3 Ra2 6.Rb5 Kxc7 7.f6+ Kg8 8.Rb8+ Kh7 9.Rb7+ Kg6 10.f7 Kg7 11.Sg5 wins.

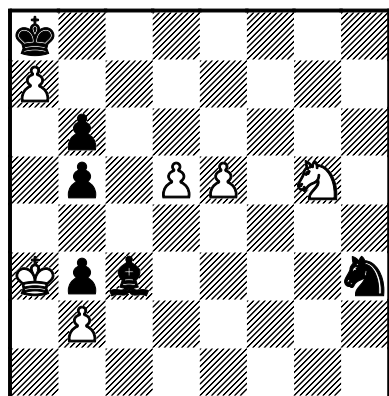
vi) Rh2+ 5.Kg4 Rh4+ 6.Kf3 Bc7 7.Sf6+ Kxc7 8.Se8+ wins.

vii) 5.Rg6? Rh2+ 6.Kg4 Rg2+ 7.Sg3 Rh2 8.Re6 Rh4+ 9.Kf3 Bg5 10.Ra6 Rh6 11.Ra7 Bf6 12.Se4 Bxc7 13.Sg5 Bc3 14.Se6 Bf6 draws.

viii) Rh7+ 7.Kg6 Bf8 8.Sg5.

“From a game-like position with multiple possibilities, the starting move is quite difficult to find. The finishing stroke is nevertheless already concealed in it. In reacting to the white threats, the bK is finally imprisoned to reveal two mates with self-blocks”.

No 17276 O. Pervakov
5th prize



a3a8 0034.43 6/6 Win

No 17276 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Sf3/i Sf4/ii 2.d6/iii Ba5/iv 3.d7/v Se6 4.Sd4 b4+ (Sd8; e6) 5.Ka4 Sc5+ 6.Kb5 Sxd7 7.e6 (Ka6 Sc5+;) Sf6 8.Ka6 Se4/vi 9.e7/vii Sd6

10.e8Q+/viii Sxe8 11.Sb5/ix zz Sc7+ 12.Sxc7 mate.

i) 1.Sxh3? Bxe5 2.Sg5 Kxa7 3.Sf7 Bf6 4.Kxb3 Kb7 5.Sd6+ Ka6 6.Se8 Be7 7.d6 Bh4 8.Sc7+ Kb7 9.Sxb5 Kc6 10.Kc4 Bf6 11.b3 Be5 draws. 1.bxc3? Sxg5 2.e6 Se4 3.Kxb3 Kxa7 and Black wins, or 1.e6? Sf4 2.e7 Bb4+ 3.Kxb4 Sxd5+ draws.

ii) Bxe5 2.Sxe5 Kxa7 3.d6 Kb7 4.Kb4 Sg5 5.Kxb5 Se6 6.Kc4 Sc5 7.Kd5 Kc8 8.Kc6 wins, or Ba5 2.d6 Sf4 3.d7.

iii) 2.bxc3? Sxd5 3.Sd4 Kxa7 4.Sxb5+ Ka6 5.c4 Sf4 6.Sd4 b2 7.Ka2 Kb7 8.e6 Kc7 9.Kxb2 Kd6 draws.

iv) Bxe5 3.Sxe5 Kxa7 4.d7 Se6 5.Sc6+, or b4+ 3.Kxb3 Kxa7 4.bxc3 bxc3 5.d7 Se6 6.Kxc3 Kb7 7.Sg5 Sd8 8.Sf7 Kc7 9.Sxd8 Kxd7 10.Sb7 Kc6 11.e6 win.

v) 3.Sd4? Sd3 4.d7 Bb4+ 5.Kxb3 Be7 6.e6 Bf6 7.Kc2 Sf4 draws.

vi) b5 9.Sxb5 Bd8 10.e7 Bxe7 11.Sc7 mate.

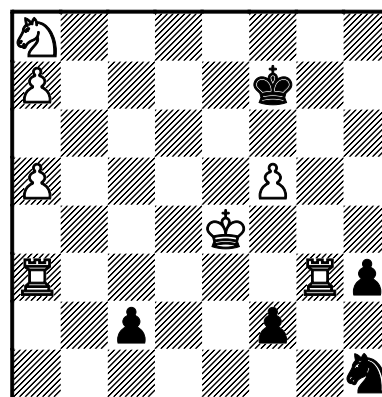
vii) 9.Sb5? Sc5 mate. 9.Sxb3? Sd6 10.Sd4 Se8 11.Sb5 b3 draws.

viii) 10.Sb5? Se8 zz 11.Sc7+ Sxc7 mate.

ix) 11.Se6? b5 12.Kxa5 Kxa7 draws.

“Finally Black succeeds in neutralizing both white centre pawns, but very unexpectedly ends up in a lost zz position”. “Contrary to conventions the author also published the study in *Shakhmatnoye Obozreni* no.6 2005. Despite this, I still decided to include it in the award, as the author was still unknown to me”.

No 17277 G. Costeff
1st honourable mention



e4f7 0204.33 7/5 Win

No 17277 Gady Costeff (Israel/USA).
1.Rg7+/i Kxg7 2.Ra1 f1Q/ii 3.Rxf1 Sg3+
4.Kd3 Sxf1 5.Kxc2 Se3+/iii 6.Kd3/iv Sd5
7.Sb6 Sc7 8.Sd5 Sa8 9.Sf4 h2 10.Sh5+/v Kh6
11.Sg3 Kg5 12.Ke4/vi Kg4 13.Sh1 wins.

i) thematic try: 1.Ra1? Sxg3+ leads to the same position, but with bK on f7. The difference becomes clear on move 10. 1.Rgc3? f1Q 2.Rxc2 Sf2+ 3.Rxf2 Qxf2 4.Rxh3 Qe2+ 5.Kf4 Qd2+, or 1.Rgf3? c1Q 2.Sb6 Sg3+ 3.Kd4 Se2+ 4.Ke4 Sg3+ draw.

ii) HH tried to cook the study by Sg3 3.Kd3 h2 4.Sb6 h1Q 5.Rxh1 Sxh1 6.Kxc2 f1Q 7.a8Q Qxf5+ but the author managed to refute the cook. A sample line: 8.Kb3 Qb5+ 9.Ka3 Sf2 10.Qd5 Qa6 11.Ka4 Qe2+ 12.Sc4 Sd3 13.Kb5 Qe8+ 14.Kb6 Qg6+ 15.Kb7.

iii) h2 6.Sb6 h1Q 7.a8Q Qh2+/vii 8.Kb3 Qg3+ 9.Ka4 Qf4+ 10.Kb5 Qxf5+ 11.Qd5 Qb1+ 12.Kc6 Qa1 13.Kb7 Se3 14.Qd7+ Kg8 15.a6 Qh1+ 16.Kb8 Qh2+ 17.Qc7 with a technical win.

iv) 6.Kb3? leads to the main line but White will not have better than 12.Kc4.

v) This explains 1.Rg7+.

vi) 12.Kc4 Kf4 13.Sh1 Kxf5 14.Kd5 Kf4 15.Kc6 Ke5 16.Kb7 Kd6 17.Kxa8 Kc7 18.Sg3 Kc8 draws.

vii) Qxa8 8.Sxa8 Se3+ 9.Kd3 Sxf5 10.Sb6 Se7 11.a6 Sc6 12.Kc4 Kf6 13.Kc5 Sa7 14.Sd5+ Ke6 15.Kb6 Sc8+ 16.Kc7 Sa7 17.Kb7 wins. Another attempt by HH to cook the study: or Se3+ 8.Kd3 Qh3 but again the author saved the study: 9.Qb7+ Kf6 10.Qc6+ Kg5 11.Qg6+ Kf4 12.Qd6+ Kf3 13.Qc6+ Kf2 14.Qc5 Qf1+ 15.Ke4 Qh1+ 16.Ke5 Qh7 17.Sc4 Qxf5+ 18.Kd6 Qf6+ 19.Kd7 Qb7+ 20.Kc6 Qe8+ 21.Kb7 Qb8+ 22.Ka6 Qa8+ 23.Kb5 Qb7+ 24.Ka4 Qd7+ 25.Kb4 Qb7+ 26.Ka3.

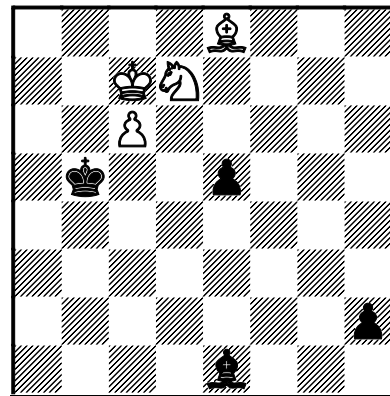
“The thematic try on the first move fails only on the tenth. The aesthetic effect of the exchange of squares between wSa8 and bSh1 is an object of wonderment for the connoisseur”.

The 2nd Hon. mention was cooked by MG: Mátyás Berta & József Csengeri, h5c4 0041.23 a8d6e2.a6h4c6e4f3 5/5 Win: 1.Sd4

Kxd4 2.Bxc6 Bc5 3.Kg5 Ke3 4.Kg4 f2 5.Bb5 Kd2 6.h5 e3 7.Kf3 Ke1 8.h6 f1Q+ 9.Bxf1 Kxf1 10.h7 e2 11.h8Q wins. However: 1...f2 2.Bxc6 and now not 2...Kxd4 3.Bb5 Bc5 4.Kg5 wins, but 2...Bc5! 3.Bb4+ Kb4! 4.Bf1 Bxd4 5.Kg4 Kc3 6.h5 Kd2 7.h6 e3 drawing.

No 17278 S. Nosek

3rd honourable mention



c7b5 0041.12 4/4 Draw

No 17278 Stanislav Nosek (Czech Republic). 1.Kb8/i Ba5/ii 2.Sxe5/iii Ka6/iv 3.Bh5/v h1Q/vi 4.Be2+ Kb6 5.Sd7+/vii Kxc6 6.Bf3+ Qxf3 7.Se5+ draws.

i) 1.Kb7? h1Q, or 1.Kd8? Bh4+, or 1.Kd6? h1Q 2.Sf6 Bb4+ 3.Ke6 Kc5 4.c7 Qh3+ 5.Ke7 Kb6+ 6.Kd8 Qh4 7.c8Q Qxf6+ 8.Kd7 Qe7+, or 1.Sxe5? h1Q 2.Kb8 Bg3 3.c7+ Kb6 4.c8Q Bxe5+ and mate.

ii) h1Q 2.c7 Bb4 3.Sxe5+ Kb6 4.Sc4+ and Black fights for a draw. Bg3 2.c7 h1Q 3.c8Q e4+ 4.Se5+ Kb4 5.Qc4+ Ka3 6.Qc3+ wins. Bb4 2.c7 Bd6 3.Sxe5+ Kc5 4.Bc6, or e4 2.c7 Bg3 3.Se5+ Kb4 4.c8Q draw.

iii) 2.Sb6? Kxb6 3.c7 Bb4 4.c8Q Bd6+ 5.Ka8 h1Q+ wins.

iv) Bc7+ 3.Kxc7 h1Q 4.Kd6 with a positional draw, e.g. Qh8 5.Bd7 Qf6+ 6.Be6 Qf8+ 7.Kd7 Kb6 8.c7 Qg7+ 9.Bf7.

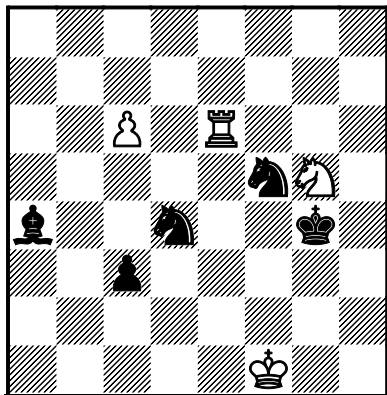
v) The point of the defence. It is about square f3. 3.Sd7? Bb6 4.Sxb6 Kxb6 5.c7 h1Q 6.c8Q Qh2+ 7.Ka8 Qa2+ 8.Kb8 Qa7 mate.

vi) Bc7+ 4.Kxc7 h1Q 5.Bf3 Qh2 6.Kd7 Qd2+ 7.Kc7 Qd4 8.Sd7 Qf4+ 9.Kd8 Qxf3 10.c7 draws.

vii) 5.Sc4+? Kc5 6.Sxa5 Qh8+ 7.Kb7 Qb2+ 8.Ka8 Qb6 9.Sb3+ Kxc6 wins.

“We enjoy an attractive tactical battle involving every piece”.

No 17279 R. Becker
4th honourable mention



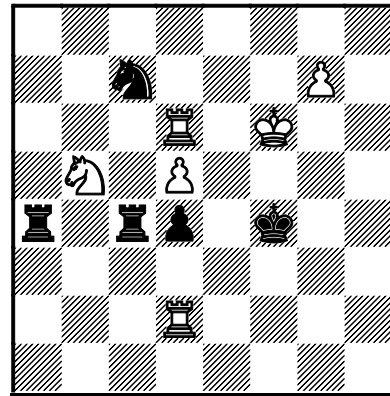
f1g4 0137.11 4/5 Draw

No 17279 Richard Becker (USA). 1.c7 Bd7 (Bb5+; Ke1) 2.Re5/i Sb3/ii 3.Se4/iii c2 4.Sf2+ Kf3 5.Sd3 Sg3+/iv 6.Kg1/v c1Q+ (Se4; Se1+) 7.Sxc1 Sxc1 8.Kh2/vi Sf1+ 9.Kg1 (Kh1) Sg3(+) 10.Kh2 Sce2/vii 11.Re6 Sf1+/viii 12.Kh1 Seg3+/ix 13.Kg1 Se2+/xiii 14.Kh1 Sfg3+ 15.Kh2 Bxe6 16.c8Q Bxc8 stalemate.

- i) 2.Re8? Sd6 3.Re5 c2 4.Rc5 Bc8 wins.
- ii) c2 3.Rc5 Bc8 4.Se4 (Sf7) draws.
- iii) 3.Sh3? Kxh3 4.Re8 Se7 5.Rxe7 c2 wins.
- iv) Se3+ 6.Ke1 Bc8 7.Re8 Sg2+ 8.Kf1 draws.
- v) 6.Ke1? Se4 7.Rb5 Sec5 8.Sc1 Sxc1 9.Kd2 S1b3+ (S5b3+) 10.Kxc2 Sd4+ wins.
- vi) 8.Rg5? Sce2+ 9.Kh2 Sf1+ 10.Kh1 Kf2 11.Rg2+ Ke3 12.Rg6 Bf5 13.Rg2 Bc8 14.Rg8 Bb7+ 15.Rg2 Sf4 16.c8Q Bxc8 17.Rc2 Bf5 18.Ra2 Kf3 19.Ra8 Se3 wins.
- vii) Kf2 11.c8Q Bxc8 12.Re7 Sf1+ 13.Kh1 Sd2 14.Rc7 Bh3 15.Rc2 Bg2+ 16.Kh2 draws.
- viii) Bxe6 12.c8Q Bxc8 stalemate.
- ix) Bxe6 13.c8Q Bxc8 stalemate. Kf2 13.Rf6+ Ke1 14.c8Q Bxc8 15.Kg2 draw.
- x) Bxe6 14.c8Q Bxc8 stalemate.

“White must manoeuvre carefully to stave off the black promotion threat. The stalemate net in the g1-h1-h2 corner is compelling, mainly because of the combination with the non-capture 14.Kh1!”.

No 17280 H van der Heijden
5th honourable mention



f6f4 0804.21 6/5 BTM, Win

No 17280 Harold van der Heijden (Netherlands). 1...Se8+ 2.Kg6/i Sxg7/ii 3.Kxg7/iii Rc5/iv 4.Sxd4/v Rxd4/vi 5.Rxd4+ Ke5/vii 6.Ra6/viii Rc7+/ix 7.Kf8/x Kxd4 8.d6 Rh7 (Rd7; Ke8) 9.Ke8 Kc5 10.d7 (Kd8? Kb5;) wins.

i) thematic try: 2.Kf7? Sxd6+ 3.Sxd6 Rc7+ 4.Kf6 Rxd4 5.Kxg7 Ra5 6.Rxd4+ Ke5 first thematic position: g7e5 0401.10 d4a5d6.10, Black draws, e.g. 7.Sc4+ Kxd4 8.Sxa5 Kxd5.

ii) Rc1 3.Rg2 Sxg7 4.Rf6+ Ke5 5.d6 wins, e.g. Rc5 6.d7 Rd5 7.Sd6 Ra8 8.Sc4+ Ke4 9.Sb6.

iii) 3.Rd8? Rab4 4.Sd6 Rc5 5.Rf2+ Ke3 6.Rdf8 d3 7.R8f3+ Kd4 8.Rf4+ Kc3 9.Rxb4 Kxb4 and pawn d5 will be lost, or 3.Rf2+? Ke3 4.Rf7 Rc5 5.Kxg7 Rxb5 6.Re6+ Kd2 draws.

iv) Rab4 4.Sa3 Rc3 5.Sc2 Rb7+ 6.Kf6 d3 7.Se1 Rcc7 8.Rxd3 Rf7+ 9.Kg6 Rg7+ 10.Kh5 Rh7+ 11.Rh6, or Rcb4 4.Rf6+ Ke4 5.Sc7 Ke3 6.Rdf2 d3 7.d6 d2 8.Sd5+ Ke4 9.Rxd2, or Ra5 4.Rb6 Ke3 5.Rd1 d3 6.d6 d2 7.d7 Ra8 8.Re6+ Kd3 9.Rd6+ win.

v) 4.Rxd4+? Rxd4 5.Sxd4 Ke5 (Ke4) second thematic position: g7e5 0401.10 d6c5d4.d5: draw.

vi) What else? White threatened Se6+ and when Rc8 5.Rf6+ Ke3 6.Rd1 wins easily.

vii) Third thematic position: g7e5 0500.10 d4d6a5.d5.

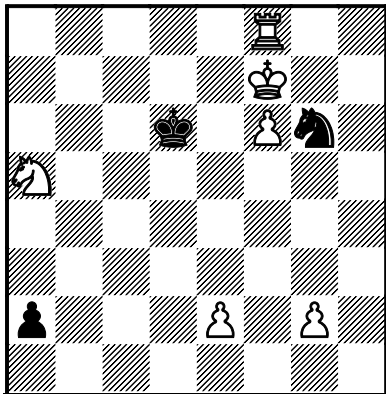
viii) thematic try: 6.Rb6? Rc7+ 7.Kf8 Kxd4 8.d6 Rh7 9.Ke8 Kc5 and wins an important tempo.

ix) Kxd4 7.d6 Ke5 8.Kf7 Rd5 9.Ke7 wins.

x) 7.Kg6? Kxd4 8.d6 Rd7 9.Kf6 Kd5 draws.

“It is clear that the EGTB seems to have some involvement in the three thematic positions. But the thematic tries are so charming that the study deserves its honourable mention”.

No 17281 I. Akobia
6th honourable mention



f7d6 0104.31 6/3 BTM, Draw

No 17281 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1...Se5+/i 2.Kg8/ii a1Q (a1R; f7) 3.Sc4+/iii Kd5/iv 4.Sxe5/v Qxe5/vi 5.e4+/vii Kxe4/viii 6.g4/ix Qg5+/x 7.Kf7/xi Qxg4/xii 8.Rb8/xiii Qh5+/xiv 9.Kg7/xv Qg5+ 10.Kf7 Qd5+ 11.Kg6/xvi Qf5+ 12.Kg7/xvii Qg4+ 13.Kf7 Qh5+ 14.Kg7 draws.

i) Sxf8 2.Sb3, or a1Q 2.Sc4+ Kd7 3.Kxg6 draw.

ii) 2.Kg7? a1Q 3.Sb7+ Kc7 4.Sc5 Qg1 5.Se6+ Kd7 6.Sf4 Qf2 7.e3 Qxe3, or 2.Ke8? a1Q 3.Sb7+ Kd5 4.Rg8 Qa4+ 5.Kf8 Qb4+ win.

iii) 3.f7? Sg6 4.Rd8+ Ke6 5.Re8+ Kd7 6.Kh7 Qf6 7.Rg8 Sf8+ 8.Rxf8 Ke7 9.Rb8 Qxf7+ 10.Kh8 Qh5+ 11.Kg8 Qxa5 12.Rb7+ Kd6 13.Rg7 Qa2+, or 3.Sb7+? Kc6 4.Sd8+ Kd7 5.Sf7 Sg4 6.Rd8+ Kc7 7.Kf8 Sxf6 8.Ke7 Se4 9.Rd7+ Kc6 10.Rd3 Qf6+ 11.Kf8 Qf2 12.Rf3 Qxe2 13.Se5+ Kc5 14.Rf5 Qxg2 win.

iv) Kc7 4.Sxe5 Qxe5 5.Rf7+ Kd8 6.Rf8+ Kd7 7.Rf7+ Kc6 8.e4 Kc5 9.Kg7 Qg5+ 10.Kh7 Qh5+ 11.Kg7 Qg4+ 12.Kh6 Qxg2 13.Rg7, or Kd7 4.Sxe5+ Qxe5 5.Rf7+ Kd8 6.Rf8+, or Sxc4 4.Rd8+ Kc7 5.f7 draw.

v) 4.f7? Sxf7 5.Se3+ Ke4 6.Re8+ Se5 7.Sc4 Qa2 8.Rxe5+ Kd4 9.Re6 Qxc4 wins.

vi) Kxe5 5.f7 Qa2 6.Kg7.

vii) 5.g4? Qe6+ 6.Kg7 Qxg4+ 7.Kf7 Qh5+ 8.Kg7 Ke6, or 5.Rd8+? Ke4 6.Kg7 Qg3+ 7.Kf8 Kf5 8.Rd3 Qe5 9.f7 Ke6 10.Rh3 Qc5+ 11.Kg7 Qg5+ 12.Kh7 (Kh8) Kxf7 or here 12.Kf8 Qe7+ and Qxf7.

viii) Kd4 6.g4 Qg5+ 7.Kf7 Qxg4 8.Rd8+ Ke5 9.Re8+ Kf4 10.e5 draws.

ix) 6.f7? Qg5+ 7.Kh8 Qh6+ 8.Kg8 Qg6+ 9.Kh8 Kf5 10.g4+ Kf6 11.g5+ Qxg5 wins.

x) Qe6+ 7.Kh7 Kf4 8.f7 Qe7 9.Kg7 Qg5+ 10.Kh7, or Kf4 7.f7 Qg5+ 8.Kh7 Qd5 9.Kg8 draw.

xi) 7.Kh7? Qh4+ 8.Kg6 Qxg4+ 9.Kf7 Qd7+ 10.Kg6 Ke5 wins.

xii) Kf4 8.Rc8 Qd5+ 9.Kg7 Qe5 10.Kg8 Qe6+ 11.f7 draws.

xiii) thematic try: 8.Ra8? Qh5+ 9.Kg7 Qg5+ 10.Kf7 Qd5+ 11.Kg7 and now Qxa8? 12.f7 and a draw, but Kf5 12.f7 Qg2+ 13.Kh7 Qg6+. 8.Rd8? Ke5 9.Re8+ Kf5 10.Re7 Qd4, or 8.Re8+? Kf5 9.Re7 Qd4, or 8.Ke7? Ke5 9.Re8 Qc4 10.f7 Qc7+ 11.Kf8+ Kf6, or 8.Rg8? Qh5+ 9.Ke7 Qe5+ 10.Kf7 Kf5 wins.

xiv) Qd7+ 9.Kg8 Qd5+ 10.f7 draws. Kf5 9.Rb5+ wins.

xv) 9.Kg8? Qg6+, or 9.Ke7? Qe5+ 10.Kf8 Qxb8+ 11.Kg7 Qe5 12.Kg6 Kf4 13.f7 Qh8 win.

xvi) 11.Kg7? Kf5 12.f7 Qe5+ 13.Kh7 Qh2+ 14.Kg7 Qg3+ 15.Kh7 Qg6+ wins.

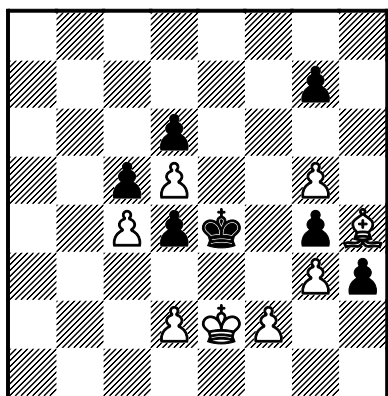
xvii) 12.Kf7? Qh7+ 13.Ke6 Qh3+ 14.Kf7 Qd3 15.Ke7 Kf5 16.f7 Qe3+ 17.Kd8 Qd4+ 18.Kc7 Qc4+ wins.

“A study calling for much supporting analysis to recognise its depth. The last real difficulty is 5.e4+!!, because after this we are in database territory – which is, however, not really accessible either”.

No 17282 Wouter Mees (Netherlands). 1.d3+ Ke5 2.Kf1 g6/i 3.Kg1 Kf5 4.Kh1/ii Ke5 5.Kh2/iii Kf5 6.f4 gxf3ep 7.Kxh3 wins, e.g. f2 8.g4+ Kf4 9.Bf2.

i) otherwise 3.g6 and the wB makes a raid.

No 17282 W. Mees
1st commendation



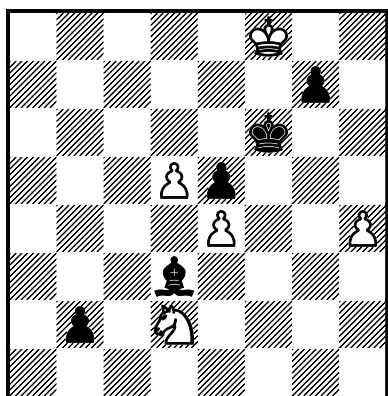
e2e4 0010.66 8/7 Win

ii) 4.f4? h2+ 5.Kxh2, or 4.Kh2? Ke5 5.f4+ (f3) Kf5 and gxf3 can no longer be forced.

iii) 6.f3? Ke5 6.fxg4+ stalemate.

“The introduction is obvious. The point of the study is the obligatory e.p.-capture following 6.f4, while 6.f3 fails to stalemate”.

No 17283 V. Sizonenko
2nd commendation



f8f6 0031.33 5/5 Draw

No 17283 Viktor Sizonenko (Russia). 1.d6/i Bb5/ii 2.h5 Bd7 3.Kg8/iii Be8/iv 4.Kf8 Bc6 5.Kg8 Bxe4 6.Sxe4+ Ke6 7.Sc3 e4 8.Kxg7 e3 9.h6/v e2 10.Sxe2 b1Q 11.Sf4+ Kd7/vi 12.h7/vii draws.

i) 1.h5? b1Q 2.Sxb1 Bxb1 3.d6 Ke6 4.Kxg7 Kxd6 5.h6 Bxe4 wins.

ii) Ke6 2.Kxg7 Kxd6 3.Kf6 b1Q 4.Sxb1 Bxb1 5.Kf5 Ba2 6.h5 Bg8 7.Kg6 draws.

iii) 3.Sb1? Bc8 4.Sd2 Bg4 5.Ke8 Bxh5+ 6.Kd8 Bg4 7.Kc7 g5 wins.

iv) Be6+ 4.Kf8 Bg4 5.Kg8 Bxh5 6.d7 Ke7 7.Kxg7 Bf3 8.d8Q+ Kxd8 9.Kf6 Bxe4

10.Kxe5, or Bc6 4.Kf8 Bb5 5.Kg8 Bc6 6.Kf8 Bxe4.

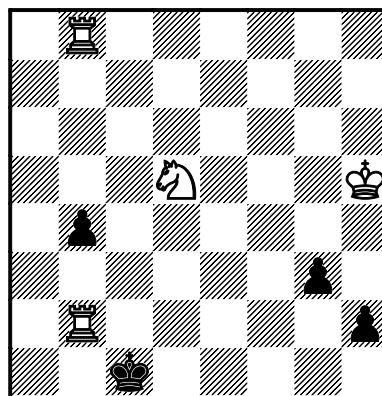
v) 9.d7? Kxd7 10.h6 e2 11.Sxe2 b1Q 12.h7 Qb2+ 13.Kg6 Ke7 14.Sg3 Qf6+ 15.Kh5 Kf7 wins.

vi) Kxd6 12.h7 Qb7+ 13.Kh6 Qh1+ 14.Kg7 Qa1+ 15.Kh6 Qd4 16.Sg6 draws.

vii) 12.Sg6? Qb2+ 13.Kf7 Qf2+ 14.Kg7 Ke6 15.Sf8+ Kxd6 16.h7 Qd4+ 17.Kg8 Qg4+ 18.Kf7 Qh4 19.Kg7 Qe7+ 20.Kg8 Qg5+ 21.Kf7 Qh6 22.Kg8 Ke7 23.h8Q Qxf8+ 24.Kh7 Qf5+ 25.Kh6 Qh3+ 26.Kg7 Qg3+ 27.Kh6 Qh4+ 28.Kg7 Qg5+ 29.Kh7 Kf7 wins.

“At first glance the play seems simple, but it is not. We reach the tenth move before Black can promote, but by then the victory has evaporated”.

No 17284 A. Sochnev
3rd commendation



h5c1 0201.03 4/4 Win

No 17284 Aleksey Sochnev (Russia). 1.Rb1+ Kxb1 2.Rxb4+, and:

– Kc1 3.Rc4+ Kd1 4.Rh4 Ke1 5.Sf4 Kf1 6.Rh3 g2 7.Rf3+ Kg1 8.Se2+ Kh1 9.Sg3+ Kg1 10.Kg4 h1Q 11.Se2+ Kh2 12.Rh3 mate, or:

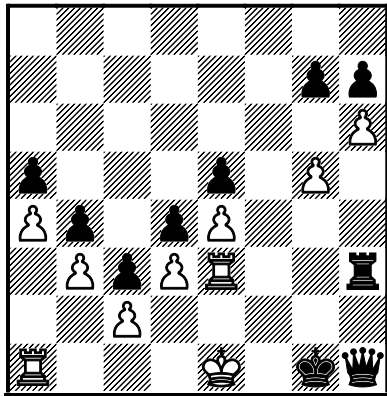
– Ka1 3.Ra4+ Kb1 4.Rh4 g2/i 5.Rxh2 g1Q 6.Sc3+, and Ka1 7.Ra2 mate, or Kg1 7.Rxg3+ Kf1 8.Rf3+ Kg1 9.Sh3+ Kg2 10.Kg4 h1Q 11.Rf2 mate.

i) or first 5.Sc3+.

“Three attractive mating pictures, but after 2.Rxb4+ we are already in the database”.

No 17285 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Re2/i Rf3/ii 2.O-O-O Rf1 3.Ree1 Rxe1 4.Rxe1+ Kf2 5.Rxh1 g6 6.Kd1 Kg2

No 17285 E. Melnichenko
4th commendation



e1g1 3500.77 10/10 Win

7.Rh5/iii Kf1 8.Rh4 Kf2 9.Rh3 Kg2 10.Re3 dxe3/iv 11.Ke2 Kg3 12.Kxe3 Kg4 13.d4 Kxg5 14.d5 Kf6 15.Kd3 Ke7 16.Kc4 Kd6 17.Kb5 Kc7/v 18.Kxa5 g5 {eg} 19.Kb5 g4 20.a5 g3 21.a6 g2 22.d6+ Kxd6 23.a7 g1Q 24.a8Q Qc5+ 25.Ka4 Qd4 26.Qd8+ Kc5 27.Qc7+

i) 1.Ke2+? Kg2 2.Rxh1 Rxe3+ 3.Kd1 g6 4.Rh4 Kg1 5.Rg4+ Kf2, or 1.O-O-O? Kf2 2.Ree1 Qxe1 3.Rxe1 gxh6 4.Kd1 hxg5.

ii) Qf3 2.O-O-O Qf1 3.hxg7 Re3 4.Rxf1+ Kxf1 5.Rd2 cxd2+ 6.Kxd2 Re2+ 7.Kc1 Re1+ 8.Kb2 Ke2 (Re2) 9.g8Q Kd2 (Rg1) 10.Qxh7, or Rxd3 2.cxd3 Qh4+ 3.Kd1 Kf1 4.hxg7 Qg3 5.Raa2 Qxd3+ 6.Kc1 Qxe2 7.Rxe2 Kxe2 8.g8Q d3 9.Qd5.

iii) 7.Re1? Kf2 8.Re2+ Kf1 9.Rh2 Kg1 10.Re2 (Rh4) Kf1 11.Re1+ (Rd2) Kf2 12.Rh1 (Re2+) Kg2, or 7.Rh4? Kf1 8.Rh5 Kf2 9.Rh3 (Kc1) Kg2 10.Re3 (Rh4) dxe3 11.Ke2.

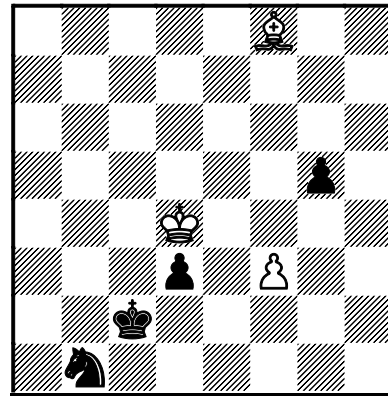
iv) Kf2 11.Re1 Kf3 12.Rf1+ Ke3 13.Kc1 Ke2 14.Rf7.

v) Kd7 18.Kc5 Kc7 19.d6+ Kd7 20.Kd5 g5 21.Kxe5 g4 22.Kf4 Kxd6 23.Kxg4 Ke5 24.Kf3.

“Tempo-play between wR and bK was demonstrated before in 1934 by Rossolimo, but the development of this idea is shown in a very beautiful new dress”.

N. Rossolimo, d1b3 0100.67 8/8 win: 1.Ra5 Kb2 2.Ra4 Kb3 3.Ra1 Kb2 4.Ra5 Kb2 5.Kc1 bxa5 6.b6.

No 17286 J. Csengeri
5th commendation



d4c2 0013.12 3/4 Draw

No 17286 József Csengeri (Hungary). 1.Bb4 Sd2/i 2.Ke3/ii Sc4+ (Sf1+; Kf2) 3.Ke4/iii Sd6+ 4.Ke5/v Sb5 5.Be1 (Kf5? Sc3;) zz d2/v 6.Bxd2 draws.

i) d2 2.Bxd2 Sxd2 3.Ke3, or Sa3 2.Ke5 Sb5 3.Be1 Kd1 4.Bb4 Ke2 5.Kf5 draw.

ii) 2.Ke5? Sxf3+ 3.Kf5 d2 wins

iii) 3.Kd4? d2 4.Bxd2 Kxd2 5.Ke4 Sd6+, or 3.Kf2? Sb6 4.Kg3 Sd5 5.Be1 Sf6 win.

iv) 4.Ke3? Sf5+ 5.Ke4 Se7 wins.

v) Kd1 6.Bb4 Ke2 7.Kf5, or Sd6 6.Kf6 (or also Kxd6, Ba5). Mutual zugzwang.

“White makes clever use of the threatening attack on the pawn g5 to ensure the draw. Anticipations by Mugnos detract from the charm”.

J. Mugnos 1946: 0013.02e6c2 2/4 draw: 1.Be1 Se4 2.Kf5 Sd2 3.Bg3 Sc4 4.Bf4 Sb6 5.Ke6 Kc3 6.Bc1 Sc4 7.Bf4 Kd4 8.Bc1 draws.

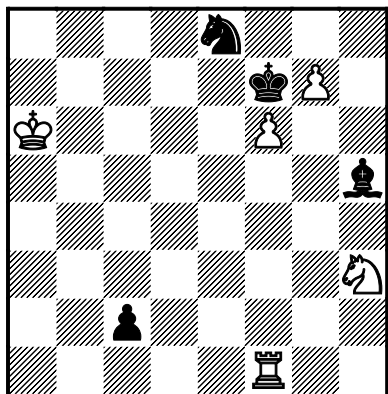
J. Mugnos 1947: 0013.02g5f2 2/4 draw: 1.Bb3 Sd4 2.Bd1 Ke1 3.Bg4 Sc6 4.Kf6 Kd2 5.Bf3 Sd4 6.Bg4 Sc6 7.Bf3 draws.

No 17287 Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.Sf4/i Bd1/ii 2.Sd3 Be2/iii 3.g8Q+ Kxg8 4.f7+ Kf8 5.fxe8Q++ Kxe8 6.Re1 c1S 7.Kb6/iv Sxd3 8.Rxe2+ Kf7 9.Re3 wins.

i) 1.Sg5+? Kg8 2.Kb6 Sxf6 3.Se6 Bf7 draws.

ii) c1Q 2.Rxc1 Sxf6 3.Rc7+ Kg8 4.Se6 Se8 5.Rd7 Kh7 6.Rd2 Sf6 7.Rh2 Kg8 8.Rf2. Sxf6 2.Sxh5 c1Q 3.g8Q+ Kxg8 4.Sxf6. Bg4 2.Sd3 Be6 3.Kb5 Sd6+ 4.Kb4 Sf5 5.Rg1 Sh6 6.Kc3 Kxf6 7.Kxc2 Bg8 8.Sf4 Sf5 9.Sh5+ wins.

No 17287 L. Gonzalez
6th commendation



a6f7 0134.21 5/4 Win

iii) Sxf6 3.Rxf6+ Kxg7 4.Rf2 wins.

iv) 7.Ka5? Sxd3 8.Rxe2+ Kf7 9.Re3 Sc5 draws.

v) White catches the Knight e.g. Sb4 10.Kc5 Sa6+ 11.Kd6 Sb4 12.Re2 Sd3 13.Rd2 Sb4 14.Kc5 Sa6+ 15.Kb6 Sb8 16.Rd8.

“A beautiful study, but Missiaen and Van Breukelen preceded with analogous play”.

R. Missiaen 1969: e6h4 0134.00 e6f8b3f3 3/3 Win: 1.Kf7 Bb4 2.Ra4 Sc5+ 3.Kf6 Sd3 4.Sc5 Sxc5 5.Rxb4+ Kg3 6.Rc4 Sd7+ 7.Ke6 Sf8+ 8.Kf5 Sd7 9.Rb4 Sc5 10.Rb4 Sa4 11.Ke5 Kg2 12.Kd4 wins. Van Breukelen: EG#257.

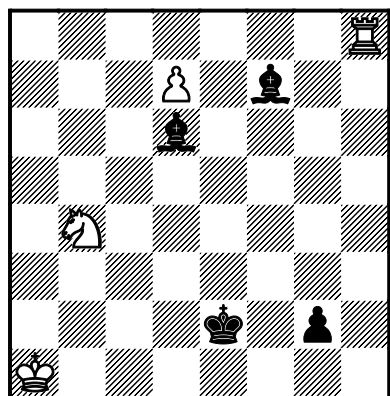


*The judges: John Roycroft and Ward Stoffelen.
Vught, November 20th, 2004.*

Pat a Mat 2006-2007

Judge Ladislav Salai jr (Martin) considered 16 studies by 14 composers from 9 countries. The provisional award was published in Pat a Mat no. 63 ix2008.

No 17288 A. Sochnev
1/2nd prize



ale2 0161.11 4/4 Draw

No 17288 Alexey Sochnev (Russia).
1.Re8+/i Kd2 2.Re1 Kxe1 3.d8Q Be5+ (g1Q;
Qxd6) 4.Kb1 g1Q 5.Sd3+ Kd2+/ii 6.Sc1+/iii
Ke3/iv 7.Qb6+ Bd4 8.Qb3+ Bxb3 stalemate.

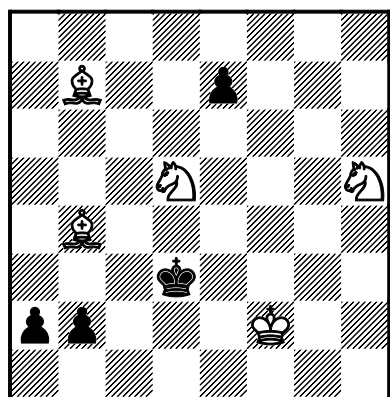
i) 1.d8Q? g1Q+ 2.Kb2 Qd4+ 3.Kc1 Qd2+
4.Kb1 Bg6+ wins.

ii) Ke2+ 6.Sc1+ Kf3 7.Qd1+ Qxd1 stale-
mate.

iii) 6.Se1+? Kxe1 7.Qd1+ Kf2 avoiding
7...Kxd1? stalemate.

iv) Bd4 7.Qxd4+ Qxd4 8.Sb3+ Bxb3 stale-
mate, but not 7.Qa5+? Ke3 8.Qd2+ Ke4.

No 17289 A. Sochnev
1/2nd prize



f2d3 0022.03 5/4 Win

No 17289 Alexey Sochnev (Russia).
1.Shf4+/i, and:

– Ke4/ii 2.Sxe7+ Kxf4 3.Bd2+ Kg4 (Ke5;
Bc3+) 4.Bc8+/iii Kh4/iv 5.Sf5+/v Kh5
6.Sg7+ Kh4/vi 7.Bc3 b1Q 8.Bf6 mate, or:

– Kc4 2.Ba6+ Kb3 3.Se6 (Se2 e5;) b1Q
4.Sd4+/vii Ka4/viii 5.Bb5 mate.

i) 1.Sdf4+? Kd4. 1.Ba6+? Ke4/ix 2.Sc3+
Kd4/x 3.Se2+ Kd5/xi 4.Bd3 a1Q 5.Sc3+ Kc6
6.Be4+ Kd7 7.Bf5+ Kd8 8.Sf4 b1Q 9.Bxb1
Qb2+ draws.

ii) Kc2 2.Se3+ Kb1 3.Be4+ Ka1 4.Bc3 wins.

iii) 4.Bf3+? Kh3 5.Bg2+ Kg4 draws.

iv) Kh5 5.Kg3 b1Q 6.Bg4 mate.

v) 5.Sg6+? Kh5 6.Sf4+ Kg5 7.Sg2+ Kg6
8.Sf4+ Kg5 9.Sg2+ Kg6 draws.

vi) Kg6 7.Bf5+ Kf7 8.Be6+ wins.

vii) 4.Sc5+? Kc2 5.Bd3+ Kc1 6.Bc3 a1Q
7.Bxa1 Qa2+ draws.

viii) Kb2 5.Bc3+ Ka3 6.Se3 a1S 7.Bxa1 Kb4
8.Bc4, or here Kc1 6.Se2+ Kc2 7.Bc4 a1Q
8.Se3 mate.

ix) But not Kc2? 2.Se3+ Kc1 3.Sg3 b1Q
4.Se2+ Kb2 5.Bc3+ Ka3 6.Sd4 wins.

x) Ke5? 3.Bd3 a1Q 4.Sb1 Qa7+ 5.Ke2 Qg1
6.Bc3+ Kd6 7.Sg7 wins.

xi) Ke4? 4.Bb7+ Kf5 5.Sg7+ Kg5 6.Bd2+
Kh4 7.Sg1 b1Q 8.Sf3+ Kg4 9.Bc8 wins.

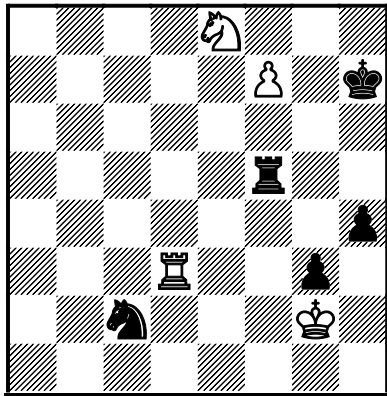
No 17290 Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Richard
Becker (USA). 1.Kh3/i Rxf7 2.Rd6, and:

– Se3 3.Sf6+ Kg7 4.Sh5+ Kf8 5.Rf6/iii g2/iv
6.Rxf7+ Kxf7 7.Kh2 h3 8.Sf4 draws, or:

– Rf3 3.Sf6+ Kg7/v 4.Sh5+ Kf7 5.Sxg3 hxg3
6.Rd7+ Kf6 7.Rd8 Kg7 8.Rd7+/vi Kg6
9.Rd8 Kh7 10.Rd7+ Kh6 11.Rd5 zz Se1/vii
12.Rh5+ Kg6 13.Rg5+ Kxg5 stalemate.

i) 1.Rd7? Se3+ 2.Kh3 Kg6 3.Re7 g2 4.Kh2
Rf1, or 1.Sd6? Rf2+ 2.Kg1 Se1 3.f8Q Rxf8
4.Re3 Sc2 5.Re2 Sd4 6.Re4 Sf3+ win.

No 17290 I. Akobia & R. Becker
3rd prize

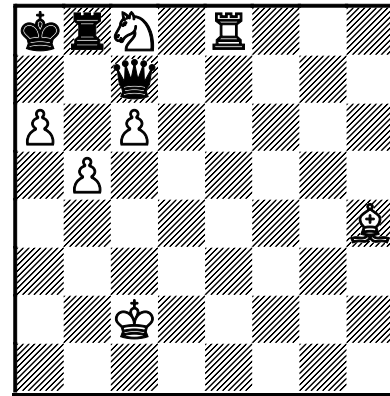


g2h7 0404.12 4/5 Draw

- ii) Se1 3.Sf6+ Kg6 4.Se4+ draws. Rf5 3.Sf6+ (Rf6? Rg5;) Kg7 4.Se4 draws.
- iii) 5.Sxg3? hxg3 6.Rd8+ Ke7 wins.
- iv) Rxf6 6.Sxf6 g2 7.Kh2 Kf7 8.Sh5 draws.
- v) Kg6 4.Sg4+ Kg5 5.Rg6+ Kxg6 6.Se5+ draws.
- vi) 8.Rd5? Kh6 zz 9.Re5 Sd4 10.Re4 Sf5 wins.
- vii) Ra3 12.Kh4 Se3 13.Rd6+ Kg7 14.Rd7+ Kf6 15.Kxg3 draws.

No 17291 Martin Minski & Wieland Bruch (Germany). 1.Bg3/i Qxg3 2.b6/ii Qg2+/iii 3.Kb3 Qxc6/iv 4.b7+ Rxb7+ 5.axb7+, and:
– Qxb7+ 6.Sb6++ Ka7 7.Re7 Qxe7 8.Sc8+ draws.
– Kxb7 6.Re4 Qxe4/v 7.Sd6+ draws.

No 17291 M. Minski & W. Bruch
honourable mention



c2a8 3411.30 7/3 Draw

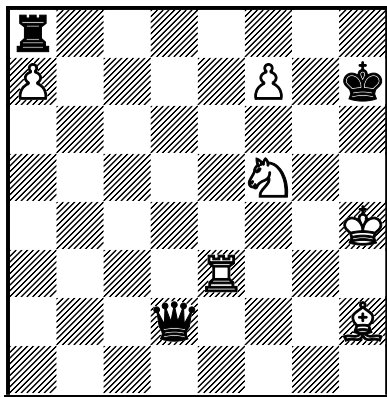
- i) 1.b6? Qxc6+ 2.Kb3 Qb5+ 3.Kc3 Qxa6, or 1.Kd1? Rxc8, or 1.Sb6+? Qxb6 win.
- ii) 2.Sb6+? Ka7 3.Sc8+ Rxc8 4.Rxc8 Qe5 wins.
- iii) Qg6+ 3.Kb3 Qxe8 4.b7+ Rxb7+ 5.cxb7+ Kb8 6.a7+ Kxb7 7.Sd6+ draws.
- iv) Qd5+ 4.Kb4 Qxc6 5.b7+ Rxb7+ 6.axb7+ Kxb7 7.Re5 draws.
- v) Qxc8 7.Rb4+ Ka6 8.Ra4+ Kb6 9.Rb4+ Kc7 10.Rc4+ draws.

A study by G. Popov won a commendation: c2a1 0050.25 d1e3c5.e3e2f5a2a3c3f6f7 5/7 Win: 1.Bh6 Bf8 2.Bc1 Bh6 3.e3 Bxe3 4.Bh5 Bc5 5.Bg6 Bd6 6.Be3 Be5 7.Bc5 Bf4 8.Bxa3 Be3 9.Bb4 Bd4 10.Bxf7 Be5 11.Bxc3+ Bxc3 12.Kxc3 Kb1 13.Bxa2+ wins. But HH cooks: 8.Bd4, and Be5 9.Bxe5 fxe5 10.Bxf7, or Bd2 9.Bxf6 Be1 10.Bxf7 wins.

Schach 2006-2007

48 studies by 28 composers participated. Judge Siegfried Hornecker wrote a (very) extensive report (3 full pages of text were published in *Schach* xii2008), discussing several criteria for evaluation of studies, e.g. the GPDF-theory (Geometry, Paradox, Flow, Depth) of Levitt and Friedgood. The full report (in German) can be consulted on the internet (www.schach-udo.de). We also reproduce below truncated comments (translation HH).

No 17292 M. Minski & G. Sonntag
Prize



h4h7 3411.20 6/3 Win

No 17292 Martin Minski & Gunter Sonntag (Germany). 1.Bb8, and:

– Kg6 2.f8S+, or:

– Qd8+ 2.Kh5 Rxb8 (Qd1+; Kh5) 3.axb8B/i Qxb8 4.Re8, and:

• Qxe8 5.fxe8R/ii wins, or:

• Qc8 5.f8S+/iii wins, or:

• Qh2+ 5.Sh4 Qd6 6.f8R/iv Qc5+ 7.Kg4 wins, or:

i) 3.axb8Q? Qg5+ 4.Kxg5 stalemate, or 3.axb8S? Qf6.

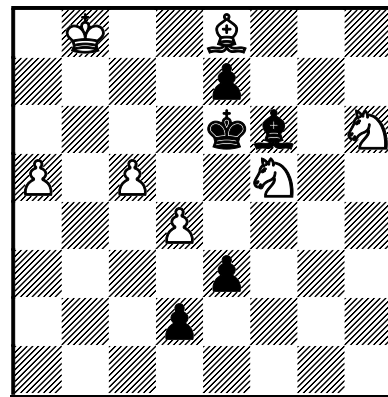
ii) 5.fxe8Q? stalemate.

iii) 5.f8Q Qxe8+ 6.Qxe8 stalemate.

iv) 6.f8Q? Qg6+ 7.Sxg6 stalemate, or 6.f8S+? Kg8.

“The value of an AUW has, in comparison with older times, decreased. Therefore, in my opinion, not every AUW qualifies for an award. But the this piece has amazing economy (9 pieces)”.

No 17293 D. Eschbach
1st honourable mention



b8e6 0042.33 7/5 BTM, Win

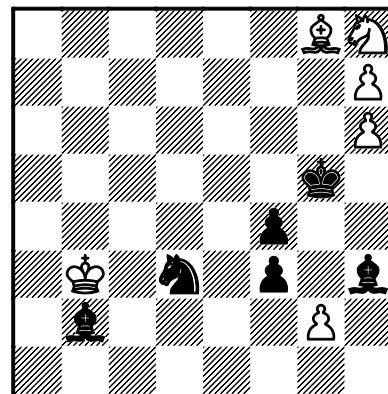
No 17293 Dennis Eschbach (Germany). 1...Be5+/i 2.dxe5 d1Q 3.Sxe3 Qd8+ 4.Kb7 Qxa5/ii 5.Bf7+ Kd7 6.Sd5 Qxc5 7.Be8+ Kxe8 8.Sc7+ Kd7 9.e6+ Kd6 10.Sf7 mate.

i) d1Q 2.Bf7+ Kd7 3.c6+ Kxc6 4.Be8+ Kd5 5.Sxe3+ Kxd4 6.Sxd1 wins.

ii) Qxe8 5.c6 Kxe5 6.Sc4+ Kd4 7.Sb6 Kc5 8.c7 wins.

“This composer’s name is new to me. He managed to construct a pretty midboard stalemate by using a bishop switch-back”.

No 17294 J. Mikitovics
2nd honourable mention



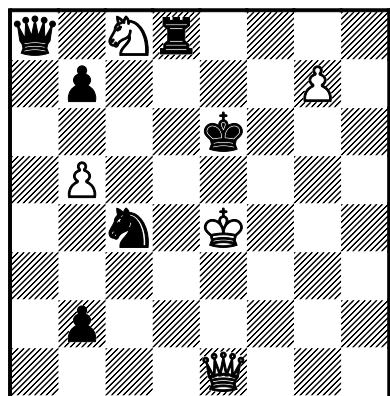
b3g5 0074.32 6/6 Draw

No 17294 János Mikitovics (Hungary).
1.Sf7+ Kg6 2.h8S+ Bxh8 3.Sxh8+ Kxh6
4.gxf3 Kg7 5.Kc3 Se1 6.Bc4 Kxh8 7.Be2 Kg7
8.Kd2 Sg2 9.Bf1 Kf6 10.Ke2 Ke5 11.Kf2 Kd4
12.Kg1 Ke3 13.Kh2 Kf2 14.Bxg2 Bxg2 stale-
mate.

“Following a knight promotion both kings march across the board to reach a stalemate position”.

This is a correction of E. Jánosi (EG#2863), which was cooked by Mikitovics: Se5 2.Kc3 Sxf3 3.Bd5 and now 3...Sg5. The judge considered the Jánosi study not to be a forerunner because it was found to be incorrect. HH doubts whether this is a right decision. Perhaps unsound studies that were cooked during a confirmation time should not count as forerunners (although in such a case the composer should be allowed to compose the correction himself instead of a colleague composer getting all the credits with his correction). But in this case the Jánosi study figured in the award, EG and a few anthologies and the unsoundness was not spotted until recently. Just imagine that someone now manages to refute Mikitovic’s bust in the Jánosi study... I’m not saying that corrections do not deserve recognition and should not be awarded, but the original study should be considered a serious anticipation.

No 17295 A. Sochnev
3rd honourable mention



e4e6 4304.22 5/6 Draw

No 17295 A. Sochnev (Russia). 1.g8Q+/i
Rxc8 2.Kd4+ Kd7 3.Qe7+ Kxc8 4.Qe6+ Kb8/
ii 5.Qxc8+ Ka7 6.b6+ Kxb6/iii 7.Qxa8 Sa5/iv

8.Qd8+ Ka6 9.Qd6+/v Sc6+ 10.Kc5 b1Q
11.Qd3+ Qxd3 stalemate.

i) 1.Kf4+? Kd5 2.Qe4+ Kc5 3.Qe7+ Kxb5
4.Qxd8 b1Q 5.g8Q Qb8+ 6.Sd6+ Qxd6+
7.Qxd6 Sxd6 8.Qd5+ Ka4 9.Qxd6 Qb4+ wins,
or here 2.Qd1+ Kc5 3.Qxd8 Qb8+ 4.Sd6
Qxd6+ 5.Qxd6+ Sxd6 6.g8Q b1Q.

ii) Kc7 5.Qxc4+ Kb6 6.Qc5+ Ka5 7.Qa3+
Kxb5 8.Qb3+.

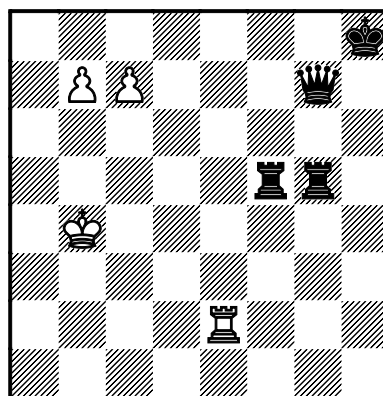
iii) Sxb6 7.Qa2+ Kb8 8.Qg8+ Sc8 (Ka7;
Qa2+) 9.Qg3+ Ka7 10.Qa3+ Kb8 11.Qg3+.

iv) b1Q 8.Kxc4 Qe4+ 9.Kc3.

v) 9.Kc5? Sb3+ 10.Kb4 b1Q 11.Qa8+ Kb6
12.Qd8+ Ka7 wins.

“Inactive pieces at a8 and c8”. “The nice black idea 7...Sa5!! leaves a permanent impression, although without success since a white defence leads to a surprising midboard stalemate”. “I do not like the introduction”.

No 17296 R. Becker & I. Akobia
4th honourable mention



b4h8 3700.20 4/4 Draw

No 17296 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rh2+/i Kg8 2.c8Q+
Qf8+/ii 3.Kb3 Rg3+/iii 4.Ka2/iv Ra3+/v
5.Kb1 Rb3+ 6.Rb2 Rxb2+ 7.Kxb2 Rb5+
8.Ka1/vi Rb3/vii 9.Qe6+/viii Qf7 10.Qc4/ix
zz Qxc4/x 11.b8Q+ Rxb8 stalemate.

i) Thematic try: 1.c8Q+? Qf8+ 2.Kb3 Rb5+
3.Ka2 Qg8+ wins.

ii) Rf8 3.Qe6+ Qf7 4.Qxf7+ Kxf7 5.Rf2+
wins.

iii) Rf3+ 4.Ka2 Ra5+ 5.Kb1 Rb5+ 6.Rb2
Rf1+ 7.Ka2 Ra5+ 8.Kb3 Rb5+ 9.Ka2 Ra5+
10.Kb3 Rf3+ 11.Kc4 Rf4+ 12.Kd3 Ra3+
13.Kc2 Rf2+ 14.Kb1 Rf1+ 15.Kc2 Rf2+

16.Kb1, or Rb5+ 4.Ka2 Ra5+ 5.Kb1 Rg5+ 6.Rb2 Rxb2+ 7.Kxb2 Rb5+ 8.Ka1 transposes.

iv) 4.Kb2? Rb5+ 5.Ka1/xi Ra3+ 6.Ra2 Rxa2+ 7.Kxa2 Rb4 zz 8.Ka1 Kg7 (Kf7) 9.Qc7+ Kg6 10.Qc2+/xii Kg5 11.Qg2+ Kf6 12.Qf2+ Kg7 13.Qg2+ Kf7 14.Qd5+ Kf6 15.Qc6+ Ke5 wins.

v) Ra5+ 5.Kb1 Rb5+ 6.Rb2 Rg1+ 7.Ka2 Ra5+ 8.Kb3 Rb5+ 9.Ka2 Ra5+ 10.Kb3 Rg3+ 11.Kc4 draws, or here Rg1+ 6.Kb2 Rb5+ 7.Ka2 Ra5+ 8.Kb2.

vi) 8.Ka2? Rb4 zz, transposes.

vii) Thematic line: Rb4 9.Ka2 zz Kg7 10.Qc3+ Kf7 11.Qc7+ Kg6 (Ke6; Qc8+) 12.Qg3+ Kh5 13.Qh2+ draws.

viii) 9.Ka2? Rb4 zz, transposes. 9.Qc4+? Qf7 zz 10.Qe6 Rb4 11.Qc8+ Kg7 wins.

ix) 10.Qc8+? Kh7 11.Qc2+ Kg7 12.Qg2+ Qg6 wins.

x) Kg7 11.Qg4+ Qg6/xiii 12.Qd7+ Kh8/xiv 13.Qd8+ Kh7 14.Qh4+ Qh6/xv 15.Qe4+ Qg6 16.Qh4+ Qh6 17.Qe4+, or Ra3+ 11.Kb2 Qxc4 12.b8Q+ draw.

xi) 5.Kc1 Rg1+ 6.Kd2 Rb2+ wins.

xii) 10.Qg3+ Kh7 11.Qd3+ Kg8 12.Qd5+ Qf7 wins.

xiii) Kh8 12.Qh4+ Qh7 13.Qd8+ Qg8 14.Qh4+.

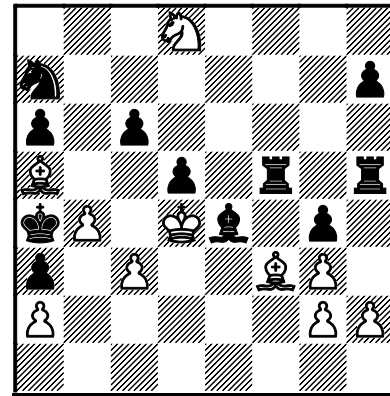
xiv) Kh6 13.Qd2+ Kg7 14.Qd7+ Kh6 15.Qd2+ Kh7 16.Qh2+ Kg7 17.Qc7+.

xv) Kg7 15.Qe7+ Qf7 16.Qg5+ Kh7 17.Qh4+.

“This piece is not according to my taste. The economically constructed multiple reciprocal zugzwangs in connection with the stalemate and the introduction that I appreciate would allow a high place in the award, but the play is too difficult for ordinary solvers. For me this piece is on the border of a commendation and an honourable mention”.

No 17297 Jörg Gerhold (Germany). 1.Bd1+ Kb5 2.Be2+/i Ka4 3.Sb7/ii Sb5+ 4.Bxb5+ Kxb5 5.c4+ dxc4 6.Sd6+ Ka4 7.Sxe4 Rxa5/iii 8.Kxc4 Rhc5+ 9.Sxc5+ Rxc5+ 10.Kxc5 a5/iv 11.b5/v cxb5 12.h3 h5/vi 13.h4 b4 14.Kc4 b3 15.axb3 mate.

No 17297 J. Gerhold
special honourable mention



d4a4 0654.66 10/11 Win

i) 2.Sb7? (Se6?) c5+ wins.

ii) 3.Se6? Sb5+ 4.Ke3 d4+, or 4.Bxb5+ Kxb5 5.c4+ dxc4 wins.

iii) c5+ 8.Kxc4 cxb4 9.Bxb4 Rxh2 10.Sc3 mate. Rd5+ 8.Kxc4. Kb5 8.Sc3 mate.

iv) h5 11.h3 (Kc4). h6 11.h3 h5 12.Kc4 a5 13.b5 cxb5+ 14.Kc5 b4 15.Kc4 b3 16.axb3 mate.

v) 11.bxa5? Kxa5 12.Kc4 Ka4 13.h3 h5 14.Kc3 Kb5 15.Kb3 Kc5 16.Kxa3 Kc4 17.Kb2 Kd3 18.a4 Kc4 19.Ka3 c5 20.h4 Kd3 21.a5 c4 22.a6 c3 23.a7 c2 24.a8Q c1Q+ draws.

vi) b4 13.Kc4 gxh3 (h5; h4) 14.gxh3 h6 15.g4 h5 16.gxh5.

“This surely is a controversial piece that another judge could well have awarded with a prize or nothing at all. It feels like a moremover with a sacrificial firework in a tense position and a tiny pawn finishing off. Unfortunately, although there is excellent flow, the clockwork play lacks highlights”.

No 17298 Gerhard Josten & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Kb7 Bf5 2.g4/i Bxg4 3.Kxa6 Bc8+ 4.Sb7, and:

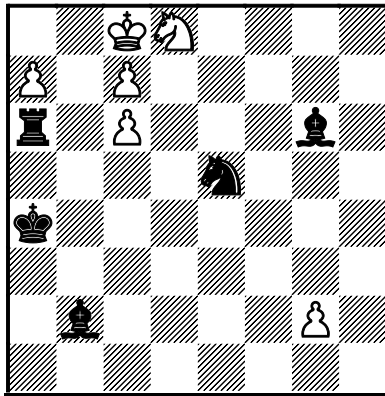
– Bd4 5.a8B draws/ii, or:

– Sd3 5.a8S Bd4 6.Sb6+ Bxb6 7.Kxb6 draws.

i) 2.Kxa6? Bc8+ 3.Sb7 Bd4 4.a8S (a8B Sd3;) Sc4 5.g4 Bxg4 6.c8Q Bxc8 7.Sc7 Se3 8.Sb5 Bc5 9.Sc3+ Kb4 10.Se4 Bd4 wins.

ii) and 5...S- stalemate, or Ka3 6.Ka5 Sf7 7.Sd8 Sd6 8.Bb7 Bf5 9.c8Q Sxc8 10.Bxc8 Bxc8 11.c7.

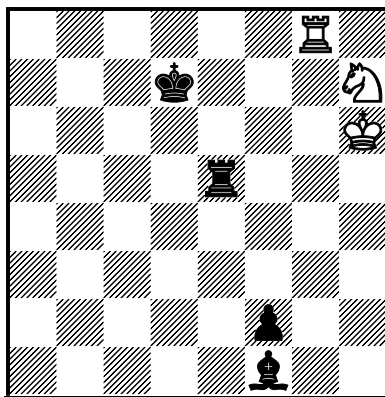
No 17298 G. Josten & M. Minski
1st commendation



c8a4 0364.40 6/5 Draw

“Apart from the symbiotic underpromotions, the piece especially shines because of the sacrifice 2.g4!”.

No 17299 H. Waelzel
2nd commendation



h6d7 0431.01 3/4 Draw

No 17299 Helmut Waelzel (Germany).
1.Sf6+/i Ke7 2.Sg4 Rh5+/ii 3.Kxh5 Be2
4.Rg7+, and:

– Kf8 5.Rg6 f1Q/iii 6.Rf6+ Qxf6 stalemate,
or:

– Ke8 5.Rg8+ Kf7 6.Rg6 Bxg4+ 7.Rxg4 f1Q
8.Rf4+ Qxf4 stalemate.

i) 1.Rf8? Re2 2.Sf6+ Ke7 3.Kg7 Bg2 wins.

ii) Re6+ 3.Kg5/iv Kf7 4.Rd8/v Rg6+ 5.Kf4
Rxg4+ 6.Ke3 Rg2 7.Rd4 Bd3 8.Rf4+ draws.

iii) Bxg4+ 6.Kg5 f1Q 7.Rf6+.

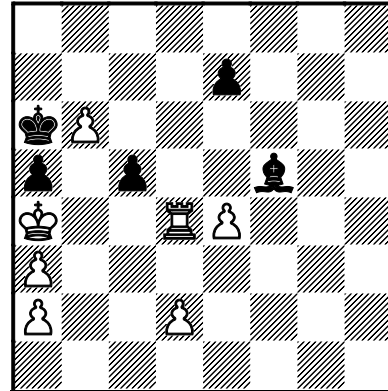
iv) 3.Kg7? Rg6+ 4.Kxg6 Bd3+ wins.

v) But not 4.Rb8? Rg6+ 5.Kf4 Rxg4+ 6.Ke3
Rg2 7.Rb4 Bc4. 4.Rh8? Rg6+ 5.Kf4 Rxg4+
6.Ke3 Rf4 7.Rh2 Bg2.

“In a very game-like position the author has succeeded in connecting two (known) echo-

stalemates. The black sacrifice is positive, but its impression is less than in the previous study”.

No 17300 G. Sonntag
3rd commendation



a4a6 0130.53 7/5 BTM, Draw

No 17300 Gunter Sonntag (Germany).
1...Bg4/i 2.Rd3, and:

– c4 3.b7 cxd3 4.b8R Bd1+ 5.Rb3 Bc2 6.e5
e6 stalemate, or:

– Bd1+ 3.Rb3 c4/ii 4.b7 cxb3 5.b8S+/iii Kb7
6.axb3 Kxb8 7.Kxa5 Bxb3 8.Kb6 draws/iv.

i) cxd4 2.exf5 Kxb6 3.d3 Ka6 4.Kb3 Kb5
5.Kc2 Kc5 6.Kb3 Kd5 7.Ka4 Ke5 8.Kxa5
Kxf5 9.Kb4 e5 10.a4 e4 11.dxe4+ Kxe4 12.a5
d3 13.a6 d2 14.a7 d1Q 15.a8Q+ draws.

ii) Bh5 4.Rh3 Bd1+ 5.Rb3 c4 6.b7 cxb3
7.b8S+ Kb7 8.axb3 Kxb8 9.Kxa5 Bxb3
10.Kb6 Bc2 11.Kc6 Kc8 12.Kd5 Kd7 13.d4.

iii) 5.axb3? Kxb7 6.Kxa5 Bxb3 7.Kb5 Bc2
8.e5 Bd3+ 9.Kc5 e6 10.Kd6 Bc4 wins.

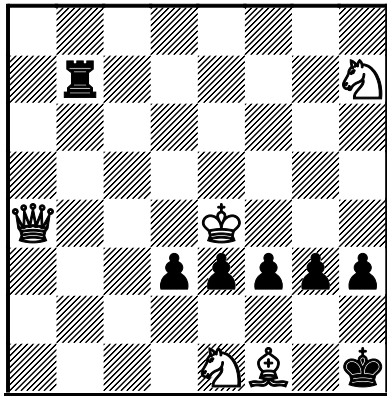
iv) Bc2 9.Kc6 Kc8 10.Kd5 Kd7 11.d4 Ba4
12.Ke5 Ke8 13.d5 Kd7 14.Kd4 Bb3 15.Kc3
Bd1 16.e5, or here Bb3+ 11.Kd4 Kd8 12.Ke5
Kc7 13.Kd4 Ba4 14.Kc5 Bc2 15.e5 Kb7
16.Kb4 Be4 17.Kc5 Bg6 18.a4.

“The black play differentiates between rook and knight promotion”.

No 17301 David Gurgenidze & Iuri Akobia
(Georgia). 1...f2/i 2.Sxd3 g2 3.Qd1/ii Re7+/iii
4.Kf4/iv Rf7+/v 5.Kg3 Rg7+/vi 6.Sg5/vii
Rxg5+ 7.Kxh3 gxf1Q+/viii 8.Qxf1+ Rg1
9.Qxf2/ix exf2 10.Sxf2 mate.

i) g2 2.Bxg2+ fxg2/x 3.Kxd3 Rxh7 4.Sf3 h2
5.Se1 Rg7 6.Qc6 Kg1 7.Ke2 h1Q 8.Sf3+. e2
2.Bxe2 fxe2 3.Kxd3 g2 4.Sg5 g1Q 5.Qe4+, or

No 17301 D. Gurgenedze & I. Akobia
4th commendation



e4h1 1312.05 5/7 BTM, Win

d2 2.Sxf3 Rb4+ 3.Qxb4 d1Q 4.Bxh3 g2 5.Qb5 g1Q 6.Sxg1 Qxg1 7.Qe2.

ii) 3.Sxf2+? exf2 4.Qd1 Rg7 5.Bxg2++ Kxg2 6.Qf3+ Kg1 7.Sg5 Rxg5.

iii) g1Q 4.Qf3+ Qg2 5.Bxg2+ hxg2 6.Sg5 Re7+ 7.Kd4 Rd7+ 8.Kc4 Rc7+ 9.Kb4 Rh7 10.Sxh7 f1Q 11.Qh3+ Kg1 12.Qxe3+ Kh2 13.Qe5+ Kh3 14.Sf4+ Kg3 15.Sd5+ Kh3 16.Qh5+ Kg3 17.Qg5+.

iv) 4.Kd4? Rxh7 5.Bxg2++ Kxg2 6.Qg4+ (Sf4+ Kg3;) Kh2 7.Qe2 Rd7+ 8.Ke4 Rg7 9.Kf3 Rg3+ 10.Kf4 Rg8 11.Se5 (Se1 Rf8+;) Kg1 12.Sf3+ Kg2 13.Sd4 Rf8+.

v) Kh2 5.Bxg2 hxg2 6.Qh5+ Kg1 7.Sg5, or g1Q 5.Qf3+ Qg2 6.Bxg2+ hxg2 7.Qh5+ Kg1 8.Sg5 f1Q+ 9.Sf3+ Qxf3+ 10.Kxf3 win.

vi) g1Q+ 6.Bg2+ hxg2 7.Qh5+ Qh2+ 8.Qxh2 mate.

vii) 6.Kxh3? Rxh7+ 7.Kg3 Rg7+ 8.Kf4 g1Q.

viii) Rh5+ 8.Qxh5 gxflQ+ 9.Kg3+ Kg1 10.Qh2 mate.

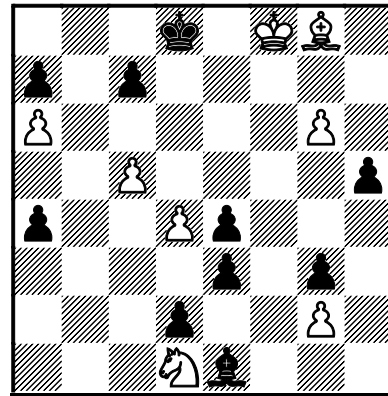
ix) 9.Sxf2+? exf2 10.Qxf2 Rg3+ 11.Kxg3 (Qxf3) stalemate.

x) hxg2 3.Sxf3 g1Q 4.Sxg1.

“After easy but pointed play a highly economical smothered mate results”.

No 17302 Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1...e2 2.Bb3 axb3 3.g7 exd1Q 4.g8Q Qg4 5.Qd5+ Qd7 6.Qa8+ Qc8 7.Qxe4 Qd7/i 8.c6, and:

No 17302 P. Rossi
5/6th commendation



f8d8 0041.58 8/10 BTM, Win

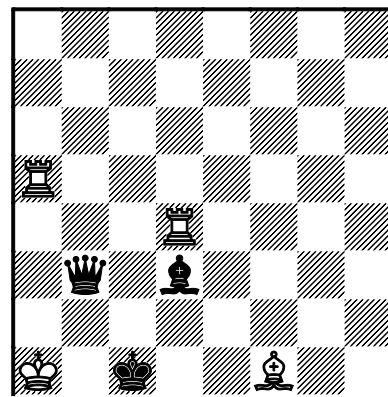
– Qd6+ 9.Kf7 Kc8 10.Qe8+ Qd8 11.Qe6+ Kb8 12.Qxb3+ Ka8 13.Qb7 mate, or:

– d1Q 9.Qh4+ Kc8 10.cxd7+ Kxd7 11.Qe7+ Kc6 12.Qc5+ Kd7 13.Qd5+ Kc8 14.Qe6+ Kb8 15.Qe8 mate.

i) Kd7+ 8.Kf7 Qg8+ 9.Kxg8 d1Q 10.Kf8.

“A mate study without any black point. Only the flow made this an award candidate”.

No 17303 P. Rossi
5/6th commendation



a1c1 3240.00 4/3 Draw

No 17303 Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1.Rc5+ Bc2 2.Rxc2+ Kxc2 3.Bd3+ Kc3 4.Rc4+ Kd2/i 5.Rc2+ Ke3/ii 6.Bf5 Qa3+ 7.Ra2 Qc3+ 8.Kb1 Qe1+ 9.Kb2 Qb4+ 10.Ka1 draws.

i) Kxd3 5.Rd4+ Kc3 6.Rd3+ Kxd3 stalemate.

ii) Kd1 6.Be2+ Kxc2 7.Bd1+ Kxd1 stalemate.

“The piece offers a previously unknown fortress in the Q vs. R and B ending”.

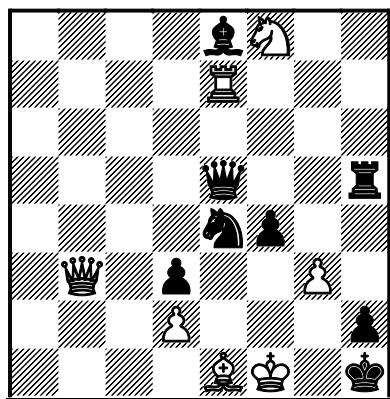
Die Schwalbe 2005-2006

35 studies by 28 composers from 12 countries competed. The judge was Péter Gyarmati (Hungary). The provisional award appeared in *Die Schwalbe* no. 229 ii2008.

Translation from German by HH.

“My scoring system: the classical view is that the study is the bridge between the chess problem and the practical game, and is characterized by tactical motives. My scoring system is based on this view. I believe that active play by both sides is a basic condition for a study to become an award candidate. A good study must have at least one line connecting it to practical play. For other cases “special” prizes and honourable mentions are available. It is not sufficient to present artistic ideas: the author must also master the technical problems in connection with the material used. An excellent study could always contain tactical motives, otherwise I will not normally award it higher than honourable mention. The value of a study increases with the number, difficulty and beauty of the tactical motives and strategic elements presented, analogous with top achievements in sports. Ideally a study should have all chess elements (tactics, strategy, technique). Direct play (especially checks and exchanges) diminishes the value of a study, while complex structures (several main lines, thematic tries, multiple phases) may increase its value. I also consider other traditional aspects (e.g. natural, game-like position) although not with high priority. The use of known ideas in partly anticipated studies proportionally lowers their value.

No 17304 P. Krug
1st prize



f1h1 4444.23 7/8 Win

No 17304 Peter Krug (Germany). 1.Qd1/i Sxg3+ 2.Bxg3 Qe2+ 3.Rxe2 fxg3 4.Rf2 Rf5 5.Rxf5 g2+ 6.Ke1 Bh5 7.Rf1+/ii gxf1Q+/iii 8.Kxf1 Bxd1 9.Kf2/iv Bg4 10.Sh7 Bh5 11.Sg5 Bg6 12.Se6 Bh5 13.Sc5 (Sf4? Be2;) Bg6 14.Sd7 Be4 15.Se5 Bf5 16.Sc4 Bc8 17.Sd6 Bf5 18.Se8 Be4 19.Sg7 Bg6 20.Kf1 and 21.Sg3 mate.

i) thematic try: 1.Rxe5? fxg3 2.Bxg3 Rxe5 3.Qb7 Bc6 4.Qxc6 Rf5+ 5.Ke1 Rf1+ 6.Kxf1 stalemate.

ii) 7.Qxh5? g1Q+ 8.Rf1 Qxf1+ 9.Kxf1 stalemate.

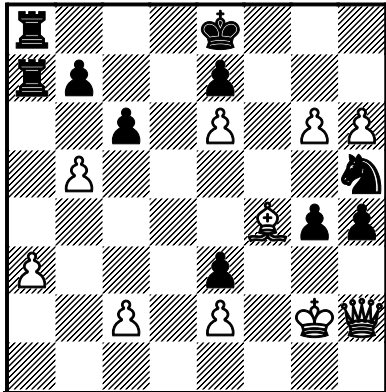
iii) g1Q 8.Qa1 Bf3 9.Qh8 Kg2 10.Qg7+ Kh1 11.Qh7 Kg2 12.Qxd3 Bg4 13.Sg6 h1Q 14.Sf4+ Kh2 15.Qh7+ Kg3 16.Qxh1 wins.

iv) 9.Sh7? Be2+ 10.Kf2 Bg4.

“This is a two-phase study. The character of the first part is surely tactical, the second part strategic. A quiet key with an attractive thematic try that ends in a beautiful stalemate with two pinned knights. In the rest of the study there is one tactical motive after the other and Black introduces new surprises again and again. After a series of sacrifices by both sides the play quietens from move 7 on. In the evolving S vs B duel, White has the dangerous threat of Sg3 mate. A knight cannot win a tempo, but the wK has a decisive tempo move Kf1-f2 available. White avoids the black stalemate traps and wins with a well-defined manoeuvre of the knight”.

No 17305 Siegfried Hornecker & Michael Roxlau (Germany). 1...h3+/i 2.Kh1 (Kg1? Rxa3;) Rxa3/ii 3.Bxe3/iii Rxe3 (Ra1+; Bg1)

No 17305 S. Hornecker
& M. Roxlau
2nd prize



g2e8 1613.76 10/10 BTM, Win

4.Qb8+ Rxb8 5.g7/iv Sg3+ 6.Kh2 Sf1+ 7.Kg1 Kd8/v 8.b6 Rxe6 9.g8Q+ Kd7 10.Qxb8 g3 11.Qc7+/vi wins/vii.

i) Rxa3 2.Qxh4 Sxf4+ 3.Kh2 Sxg6 4.Qh5 O-O 5.Qxg6, or O-O-O 2.Bxe3 h3+ 3.Kh1 Rd1+ 4.Bg1.

ii) O-O-O 3.Bxe3 Rxa3 4.Qe5 Rxe3 5.Qxe3 g3 6.Qg1 g2+ 7.Kh2.

iii) 3.Be5? Ra1+ 4.Qg1 Rxg1+ 5.Kxg1 cxb5 6.h7 O-O-O 7.g7 Sxg7 8.Bxg7 Kc7 9.h8Q Rxh8 10.Bxh8 Kd6 11.Kh2 Kxe6.

iv) thematic try: 5.h7? Sg3+ 6.Kh2 Sf1+ and White should settle for a draw: 7.Kh1 Sg3+ draws as 7.Kg1 h2+ 8.Kh1 Rh3 loses.

v) h2+ 8.Kh1 Kd8 9.b6 Rxe6 10.g8Q+ Kd7 11.Qxb8 g3 12.Qxb7+ wins.

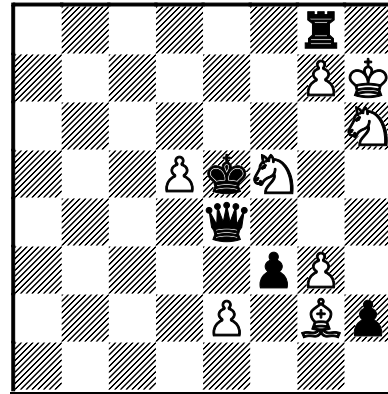
vi) Not 11.Qxb7+? Kd6, and 12.Qb8+ Kc5 13.Qg8 Rxe2 14.Kxf1 Rf2+ 15.Ke1 h2 16.Qxg3 h1Q+ 17.Kxf2 Kxb6, or 12.Qc7+ Kc5 13.b7 h2+ 14.Kh1 g2+ 15.Kxg2 Rg6+ 16.Kf2 Rf6+ 17.Kg2 Rg6+ 18.Kf2 Rf6+ 19.Ke1 h1Q.

vii) e.g. Ke8 12.Qc8+ Kf7 13.Qxe6+ Kxe6 14.h7 h2+ 15.Kh1 Sd2 16.h8Q Se4 17.Qh3+ Kd6 18.Kg2 e5 19.Qh6+ Kd5 20.c4+ Kd4 21.Qh4.

“In the initial position both sides have dangerous threats. White distracts the bR with the beautiful Q sac 4.Qb8+!!, only to prevent Black from castling! After this sacrifice White has a large material disadvantage, but his

chances lie in advancing his connected passed pawns and the difficulties the bK is in. The difference between 5.g7 and 5.h7 is not easy to spot, and at move 8 immediate queen promotion is wrong. The study has some more precise lines that provoke thought. A monumental, exciting composition!”

No 17306 S.I. Tkachenko
3rd prize



h7e5 3312.42 8/5 Win

No 17306 Sergei Tkachenko (Ukraine). 1.exf3/i h1Q/ii 2.Bxh1/iii Rxg7+ 3.Kxg7 Qxf3 4.Sf7+/iv Kxf5 5.Sd6+/v Kg5 6.Se4+/vi Qxe4 7.Bxe4 wins.

i) 1.Kxg8? Qxd5+ 2.Kh8 fxg2. 1.Bxf3? Rxg7+ 2.Kxg7 Qxf3 3.exf3 h1Q.

ii) Rxg7+ 2.Kxg7 Qxd5 3.f4+ Ke6 4.Bxd5+ Kxd5 5.Se7+ Kd6 6.f5 h1Q 7.f6 wins. Qb1 2.f4+ Kf6 3.Sxg8+ Kxf5 4.Sh6+ Kf6+ 5.Kh8. Qxd5 2.f4+ Ke6 3.Bxd5+ Kxd5 4.Kxg8.

iii) 2.fxe4? Rxg7+ 3.Sxg7 Qxg2. 2.f4+? Kf6 3.Bxe4 Rxg7+ 4.Sxg7 Qxe4+.

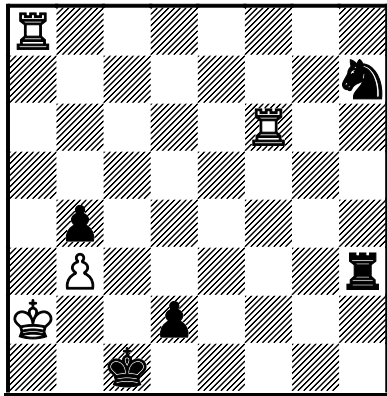
iv) 4.Bxf3? stalemate.

v) 5.Bxf3? stalemate.

vi) 6.Bxf3? stalemate.

“The black sacrifices make sense: stalemate avoidance with three mid-board stalemates. The first is an ideal stalemate, while the second and third are mirrored chameleon echo stalemates. The line 1...Rxg7+ has its value because of being close to the practical game and ensures that this is not only a pure task study”.

No 17307 R. Becker & I. Akobia
1st honourable mention



a2c1 0503.12 4/5 Draw

No 17307 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rf1+/i Kc2/ii 2.Rb1/iii Sf6/iv 3.Rc8+/v Kd3 (Rc3; Rb2+) 4.Rd8+/vi Ke2 5.Rg1 Se4 6.Rd4 Sc3+/vii 7.Kb2 (Ka1? Rh2;) d1Q 8.Rgxd1 Sxd1+ 9.Kc2 (Kc1? Rh2;) Rc3+/viii 10.Kb1 Rxb3+ 11.Ka2 Rb2+ 12.Ka1 Rb3/ix 13.Ka2 Ra3+ 14.Kb1, and:

– b3 15.Rd2+ Ke1 16.Rd3 Ke2 17.Rd2+ Kxd2 stalemate, or:

– Ra4 15.Rd2+ Ke1 16.Rd4 Ke2 17.Rd2+ Kxd2 stalemate.

i) 1.Rc8+? Rc3 2.Rf1+ Kc2. 1.Rc6+? Rc3 2.Rd6 Rc2+ 3.Ka1 Sg5. 1.Rd6? Sf6 2.Rd4 Se4.

ii) d1Q 2.Rxd1+ Kxd1 3.Rd8+ Kc2 4.Rd4 Rxb3 5.Rd2+ Kxd2 6.Kxb3 and wins the last pawn, drawing.

iii) 2.Rd8? Rd3. 2.Ra4? Rh4 3.Ra7 d1S 4.Ka1 Sg5. 2.Rf2? Sf6.

iv) Sg5 3.Rc8+ Kd3 4.Rd8+.

v) thematic try: 3.Rb2+? Kd1 4.Rd8 Se4 5.Rbxd2+/x Sxd2 6.Rd4 Rc3 7.Rxb4 Rc2+ 8.Ka3 (Ka1; Kc1) Sb1+ 9.Ka4 Sc3+ and 10.Ka3 Ra2 mate, or 10.Ka5 Ra2+ 11.Kb6 Sd5+ winning.

vi) 4.Kb2? Ke2. 4.Rg1? Se4 5.Kb2 (Rd8+ Kc2;) Ke2, and 6.Kc2 (Rd8 Rd3;) Sf2 7.Rc4 Rg3 8.Ra1 Rg4 9.Rc8 d1Q+ 10.Rxd1 Sxd1 or 6.Re8 Re3 7.Rd8 Sf2.

vii) Sf2 7.Rxb4 Rg3 8.Rb1.

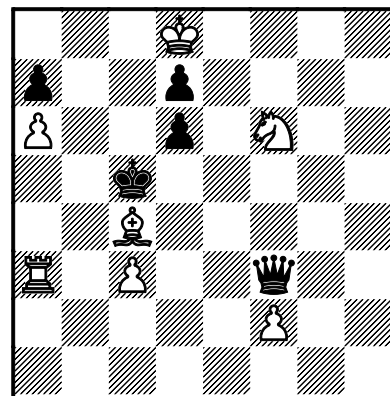
viii) Rd3 10.Rxb4 Se3+ 11.Kc1. Se3+ 10.Kc1 Rh1+ 11.Kb2 Rh2 12.Kc1 Rh1+ 13.Kb2 Sd1+ 14.Kc2 Se3+ 15.Kb2 repeats.

ix) b3 13.Rxd1 Ra2+ 14.Kb1 Kxd1 stalemate.

x) 5.Rd4 Sc3+ 6.Ka1 Rh2.

“This is a pure strategic study with a good thematic try. When White wins the b4-pawn (after 3.Rb2?) he loses. When he chooses the right way the play ends with a positional draw or stalemate. From the 14th move on the composers give two lines that hardly seem to be different to me”.

No 17308 S. Didukh
2nd honourable mention



d8c5 3111.33 7/5 Win

No 17308 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Se4+ Qxe4/i 2.Ra5+ Kb6 3.Rb5+ Kxa6 4.Bf1 Qh1 5.Be2/ii Qe1/iii 6.Bd3 Qd1 7.Bc4 Qg4 8.Bf1 Qg1 9.Rb1+ Ka5 10.Kc7 Ka4 11.Bb5+ wins.

i) Kc6 2.Bd5+ Kxd5 3.c4+, or Kxc4 2.Sd2+ winning the queen in both cases.

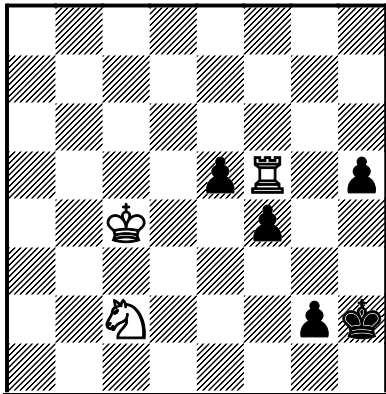
ii) 5.Rb1+? Ka5 6.Kc7 Qc6+, or 5.Bd3? Qh8+ 6.Kc7 Qxc3+.

iii) Qh8+ (Qc6; Rc5+) 6.Kc7 Qxc3+ 7.Rc5+ wins.

“After a very good introduction, White opens the queen hunt with his rook-bishop battery. The queen is unable to hide but the defence is active. The beautiful bishop manoeuvre is crowned with the repetition of the position after move 4 at move 8, albeit with a very important difference: the queen is now at g1 and is from there unable to deliver nasty checks so that the wK can set up a mate threat. Without doubt this study had been awarded a prize if not for Troitzky 1934 which shows the same basic motive with identical material”.

A. Troitzky: 3110.23 b8h4c3.a4c2d7f7h7 5/5 Win: 1.Rc4+ Kd8 2.Bf6+ Ke8 3.Re4+ Kf8 4.Be7+ Kh7 5.Rg4+ Kh6 6.Bg5+ Kh5 7.Bf4 Qb4 8.Rg5+ Kh6 9.Bc1 Qb1 10.Rg1+ Kh5 11.Be3 Qa2 12.Rg5+ Kh6 13.Kh3 Qa3 14.Rg3+.

No 17309 A. Sochnev
3/4th honourable mention



c4h2 0101.04 3/5 Win

No 17309 Aleksey Sochnev (Russia). 1.Se1/i h4 2.Kd3/ii h3 3.Sf3+ Kg3/iii 4.Ke2 g1S+/iv 5.Sxg1 Kg4 6.Rxe5/v h2 7.Sf3/vi h1Q 8.Rg5+ Kh3 9.Rh5+ Kg2 10.Se1+ Kg1 11.Rg5+ Kh2 12.Kf2 wins.

i) 1.Rxh5+? Kg3 2.Rg5+ Kf2.

ii) 2.Rg5? h3 3.Sf3+ Kh1 4.Rh5 g1S 5.Sxg1 Kxg1 6.Rxh3 e4/vii 7.Kd4 f3 8.Ke3 f2 9.Rg3+ Kf1 10.Rg8 Ke1 11.Ra8 f1S+ drawing.

iii) Kh1 4.Rh5 g1S 5.Sxg1 Kxg1 6.Rxh3 wins.

iv) h2 5.Rg5+ Kh3 6.Kf2 wins.

v) 6.Rf8? h2 7.Sf3 h1Q 8.Rg8+ Kf5.

vi) 7.Sh3? Kxh3 8.Kf2 h1S+ 9.Kf3 Sg3 draws.

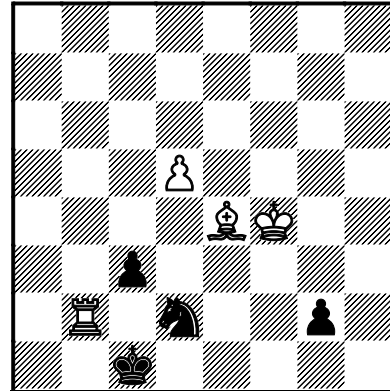
vii) But not Kg2? 7.Rh5 f3 8.Kd3/viii f2 9.Rg5+ Kf1 10.Kd2 e4 11.Rf5 wins.

viii) Avoiding 8.Rg5+? Kf2 9.Rxe5 Kg2 10.Kd3 f2 11.Rg5+ Kf1 12.Ke3 Ke1 13.Ra5 f1S+ drawing.

“White has a large material advantage, but despite this his position is difficult. When White only plays stereotypically, Black can defend through knight promotions. In the main line White even has to allow a queen promotion, but it turns out that the new queen is poorly placed in the corner, and is lost be-

cause of a mate threat. This work is probably of high value to solvers. The author succeeded in composing a study in classical style”.

No 17310 S. Osintsev
3/4th honourable mention



f4c1 0113.12 4/4 Win

No 17310 Sergei Osintsev (Russia). 1.Rc2+/i Kd1 2.Ra2 c2/ii 3.Bxc2+/iii Ke2 4.Bd1+/iv Kxd1/v 5.Ra6/vi Ke2 6.Rg6 Kf2 7.d6 Sb3 8.d7 Sc5 9.d8Q Se6+ 10.Rxe6 wins.

i) 1.Ra2? Sxe4 2.Rxg2 Sf6 3.Ke5 Sxd5 draws.

ii) Sxe4 3.Ra1+ Kd2 4.Kxe4 c2 5.Kf3 wins.

iii) 3.Ra1+? c1Q 4.Rxc1+ Kxc1 5.Bxg2 Sc4 draws.

iv) 4.Ra1? Sf1 5.Bd1+ Kd3 6.Be2+ Kxe2 7.Ra2+ Sd2 8.Ra1 Sf1. 4.Ba4? g1Q 5.Bb5+ Kf2 6.Rxd2+ Ke1.

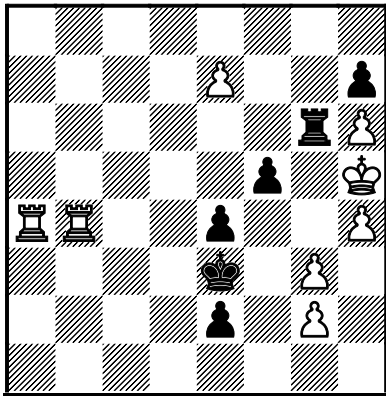
v) Kd3 5.Ra3+ Kd4 6.Rg3 wins.

vi) 5.Ra1+? Ke2 6.d6 Sf1. 5.Ra3? Sf1 6.Ra1+ Ke2 7.Ra2+ Sd2. 5.Ra8? Ke2 6.Rg8 Kf2 7.d6 Sb3 8.d7 Sc5 9.d8Q Se6+.

“The key is a checking move, but still makes a nice intro. The motivation for 1.Ra2+ is shown in lines ii) and iii). The bishop sacrifice on move 4 is well hidden and prepares the finishing rook manoeuvre. On g6 the rook prevents the promotion of the g-pawn and at the same time the knight fork on e6. This study was also composed in classical style”.

No 17311 Sergei I. Tkachenko (Ukraine). 1...e1Q 2.Rxe4+ fxe4 3.Rxe4+ Kxe4 4.e8R+/i Kf5 5.g4+/ii Rxg4 6.Rxe1 wins, e.g. Rxg2 7.Re7 Kf6 8.Rxh7 Ra2 9.Rg7 Ra5+ 10.Rg5 Ra7 11.Rg6+.

No 17311 S.I. Tkachenko
1st commendation



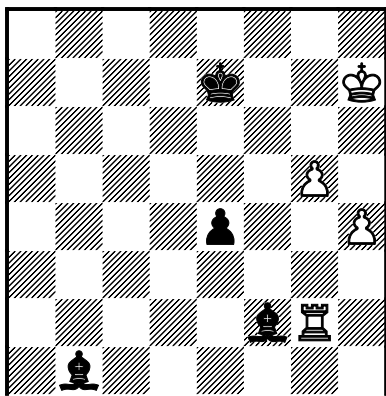
h5e3 0500.54 8/6 BTM, Win

i) 4.e8Q+? Kf5 5.g4+ Kf4 6.Qxe1 Rg5+ 7.hxg5 stalemate.

ii) 5.Rxe1? Rg5+ 6.hxg5 stalemate.

“This study shows a black stalemate defence, but that is rather obvious seeing the position. I think that the main line is rather technical after move 5, but this part especially makes it a real study. The introduction is quite aggressive”.

No 17312 E. Gamsjäger
2nd commendation



h7e7 0160.21 4/4 Draw

No 17312 Elisabeth Gamsjäger (Austria). 1.g6 e3 2.Rg5 Kf6/i 3.Rg2 Bf5 4.h5 e2 5.Rxf2 e1Q 6.Rxf5+ Kxf5 7.g7 Qe7 8.Kh8 Qf6 9.Kh7 Qf7 10.Kh6 Qe8/ii 11.g8Q Qxg8 stalemate.

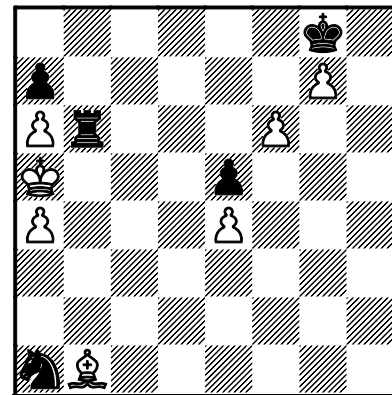
i) Ke6 (Kd6) 3.Rb5.

ii) Qg8 stalemate.

“A study with elementary motives, but the play is balanced. White first prevents queen promotion in various ways, but last and not least Black succeeds. It may be that the second part of the study is rather technical, and the

stalemate is not original, but this part of the study is also interesting to solvers”.

No 17313 A. Rusz
3rd commendation



a5g8 0313.52 7/5 Draw

No 17313 Arpad Rusz (Rumania). 1.Ba2+ Rb3/i 2.Bxb3+ Sxb3+ 3.Kb5 Sd2 4.Kc6/ii Sxe4 5.Kc7/iii Sc3/iv 6.Kb7 (Kb8) Sxa4 7.Kxa7 Sc5 8.Kb6 Sxa6 9.Kb5/v e4 10.Kc4 Sc5 11.Kd4 Kf7 12.Ke3 draws.

i) Sb3+ 2.Bxb3+ Rxb3 3.f7+ Kxf7 4.g8Q+ Kxg8 stalemate.

ii) 4.Kc5? Sxe4+ 5.Kd5 Sxf6+ 6.Kxe5 Kxg7 7.Kd6 Kf7 wins.

iii) 5.Kb7? Sc5+ 6.Kxa7 e4 7.Kb6 Sxa6 8.Kb5 e3 wins.

iv) Kf7 6.Kc6 Kg8 7.Kc7, or Sc5 6.Kd6 draws.

v) 9.Kc6? e4 10.Kd7 Sc7 11.Ke7 Sd5+ wins.

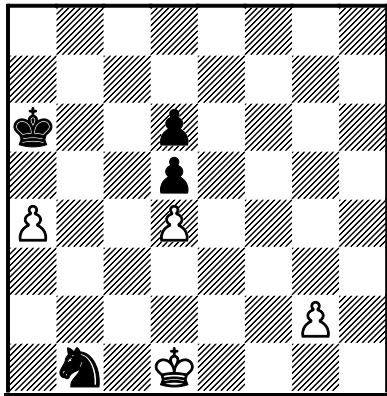
“The wK’s manoeuvre is precise, and the main line and thematic tries give food for thought. In some lines the black pawn on a7 is poisoned because the king is cornered and mated in well-known fashion. The introduction is not in harmony with the study’s idea”.

No 17314 Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.Kc2/i Sa3+ 2.Kd3 Sc4 3.g4 Sa5 (Sb6; g5) 4.g5 Sc6 5.g6 Se7 6.g7 Ka5 7.Ke2 Sg8/ii 8.Kf3 Sf6 (Kxa4; Kg4) 9.Kg2 Kxa4 10.Kh3 Kb5 11.Kh4 Kc6/iii 12.Kg5 Sg8 13.Kg6, and:

– Kd7 14.Kf7 Se7 15.Kf6 Ke8 16.Ke6 Sg8 17.Kxd6 draws, or:

– Se7+ 14.Kf6/iv Kd7 15.Kf7 Sf5 16.g8S Sxd4 17.Se7 and 18.Sxd5 draws.

No 17314 G. Josten
4th commendation



d1a6 0003.32 4/4 Draw

i) 1.g4? Sc3+ 2.Kc2 Se4 3.Kb2 Sg5 4.Kc2 Ka5 5.Kb3 Se6 6.Kc3 (Ka3 Sxd4;) Kxa4 wins.

ii) Kxa4 8.Kf3 Kb5 9.Kg4 Kc6 10.Kg5 Kd7 11.Kf6 Ke8 12.Ke6 Sg8 13.Kxd6 draws.

iii) Kc4 12.Kg5 Sg8 13.Kg6 Kxd4 14.Kf7 Sh6+ 15.Kg6 draws.

iv) 14.Kg5? Kc7 15.Kf6 Kd7 wins.

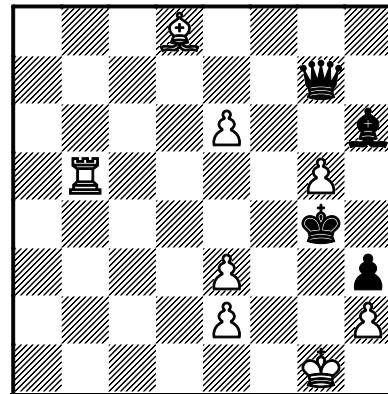
“The study nicely shows the excelsior theme with a pawn promotion. The author gives two main lines after move 13, but in my view only the one with Se7 seriously qualifies for that. Both sides play obvious moves only”.

No 17315 Siegfried Hornecker (Germany) & Vazha Neidze (Georgia). 1.e7/i Bxg5 2.e8R/ii Be7/iii 3.Rxe7/iv Qa1+/v 4.Kf2 Qf6+ 5.Ke1 Qxe7 6.Rg5+/vi Kxg5/vii 7.Bxe7+ wins.

i) 1.gxh6? Qa1+ 2.Kf2 and e.g. Qg1+ 3.Kxg1 stalemate.

ii) 2.e8Q? Qa1+ 3.Kf2 Bxe3+ 4.Kxe3/viii and e.g. Qe5+ 5.Qxe5 stalemate. 2.Rxg5+? Kxg5 3.e8Q+/ix Kh6+ 4.Kf1 Qf7+ 5.Qxf7 stalemate. 2.Rb4+? Kf5 3.Rb5+ Ke4 4.e8Q+ Be7+ 5.Kf2 Qg2+ 6.Ke1 Qxe2+ 7.Kxe2 stalemate.

No 17315 S. Hornecker
& V. Neidze
special prize



g1g4 3140.51 8/4 Win

iii) Qa1+ 3.Kf2 Bh4+/x 4.Bxh4 Qf6+ 5.Ke1/xi Qc3+ 6.Kd1 Qa1+ 7.Kd2 wins. Bxe3+

3.Rxe3 Qa1+ 4.Kf2. Bf4 3.Bf6/xii Qg6 4.Re7 Qxf6 5.Re4 Qa1+ 6.Kf2 wins.

iv) 3.Bxe7? Qa1+ 4.Kf2 and e.g. Qf1+ 5.Kxf1 stalemate.

v) Qxe7 4.Rg5+ avoiding 4.Bxe7 stalemate.

vi) 6.Bxe7? stalemate, or 6.Rb4+? Qxb4+.

vii) Kh4 7.Rh5+ Qxg5 7.Bxg5, avoiding 7.Bxe7? stalemate.

viii) 4.Qxe3 and e.g. Qf1+ 5.Kxf1 stalemate.

ix) 3.e8S+ Kg4 4.Sxg7 stalemate.

x) Bxe3+ 4.Rxe3 wins, but not 4.Kxe3? Qe5+ 5.Rbxe5 (Rexe5) stalemate.

xi) 5.Bxf6? stalemate.

xii) 3.Re4? Qa1+ 4.Kf2 and e.g. Qg1+ 5.Kxg1 stalemate.

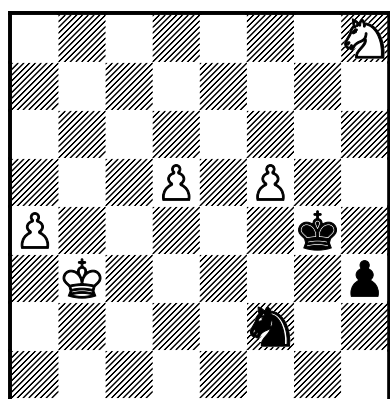
“White prevents no less than seven stalemates, especially at move 2 with a nice rook promotion. Also the black try 2...Be7! is spectacular. It is a pity that this study does not have a single line connecting it with practical play, so this is a pure task study”.

StrateGems 2006-2007

The award was published in *StrateGems* no. 44 x-xii2008 with a three month confirmation time. The judge, Axel Orstein, commented: “Thirty-eight studies competed in the 2006-2007 tourney. The quality was satisfactory, especially in 2006. Various styles were represented among the competitors although analytical studies were quite common, and mate studies were threatened by distinction. A number of studies were based on older studies”. “A recommendation from the PCCC meeting may have influenced the award; computer-based studies are now [HH: this was not a change!] considered original”.

Iuri Akobia and HH assisted in checking correctness and anticipations, and tourney director Franjo Vrabec edited the solutions.

No 17316 A. Sochnev
1st prize



b3g4 0004.31 5/3 Draw

No 17316 Alexey Sochnev (Russia). 1.f6/i Se4 2.f7/ii Sc5+ 3.Ka2/iii Sd7 4.Sg6 Kf5 (h2; Se5+) 5.Sh4+ Ke4 6.Sf3/iv Kxf3 7.a5 h2 8.a6/vi h1Q 9.f8Q+ Sxf8 10.a7 Qg2+ 11.Kb3 draws.

i) 1.d6? Se4 2.d7 Sc5+.

ii) 2.a5? Sxf6 3.a6 Sxd5 4.a7 Sc7 wins.

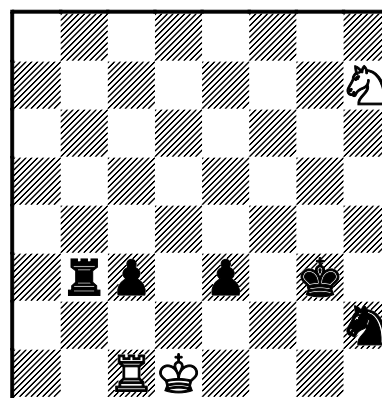
iii) 3.Kb2? Sd7 4.Sg6 Kf5 5.Sh4+ Ke4 6.Sf3 Kxf3 7.a5 h2 8.a6 h1Q 9.f8Q+ Sxf8 10.a7 Qh8+ wins.

iv) 6.a5? h2 7.a6 h1Q 8.f8Q Sxf8 9.a7 Qh2+ 10.Kb3 Qh3+ 11.Kb4 Qc8 wins.

vi) 8.f8Q+? Sxf8 9.a6 Sd7 10.a7 Sb6 wins.

“The format is small but the idea is great, including play over the whole board. There are some similarities with classics (pawn versus queen), but no close anticipations”.

No 17317 R. Becker & I. Akobia
2nd prize



d1g3 0404.02 3/5 Draw

No 17317 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Sf6/i Kf3/ii 2.Sd5, and:

– e2+ 3.Ke1/iii c2 4.Sc3 Ke3 5.Sd5+ Kf3 6.Sc3 Rxc3/iv 7.Rxc2 Ra3/v 8.Ra2 Rb3 9.Rb2 Re3 10.Rd2 Re8 11.Rd8 Re7/vi 12.Rd7 Re6 13.Rd6 Re5 14.Rd5 Re4 15.Rd4 Re3 16.Rd2 (Rd3? Sg4;) Sg4 17.Rd3 Se5/vii 18.Rxe3+ Kxe3 stalemate, or:

– Rb2 3.Rxc3 Rd2+ 4.Ke1 Re2+ 5.Kd1 Rd2+ 6.Ke1 Rxd5 7.Rxe3+ Kxe3 stalemate.

i) 1.Kc2? Rb5. 1.Ke2? Kf4. 1.Sg5? Kf4 2.Se6+ Ke5 3.Sc5/viii Ra3 4.Ke2 Sg4 5.Kf3/ix Kd5 6.Se4 e2 7.Sg3 e1Q 8.Rxe1 Se5+ 9.Ke2 Sc6 10.Sf1 Sd4+ 11.Kf2 Ra2+ 12.Kg3 Sf5+ 13.Kf3 Kc4 wins, or here 7.Sg5 e1Q 8.Rxe1 Se5+ 9.Ke2 Kc4 10.Se4 c2 11.Rh1 Kb3.

ii) Rb2 2.Rxc3 Rd2+ 3.Kc1 Kf3 4.Rc5 Rd4 5.Rf5+ Kg2 6.Re5 Kf2 7.Se4+, or here Ra2 5.Rf5+ Kg3 6.Se4+.

iii) 3.Kc2? Rb2+ 4.Kxc3 Rb8 5.Kd2 Kf2 wins.

iv) Rb2 7.Kd2 Sf1+ 8.Kd3 Sg3 9.Sxe2 Sxe2 10.Rxc2 Rxc2 11.Kxc2 draws.

v) Rxc2 stalemate.

vi) Rxd8 stalemate.

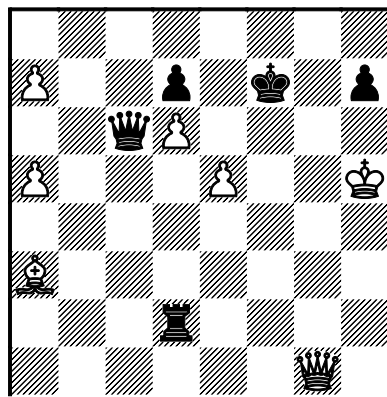
vii) Rxd3 stalemate.

viii) 3.Kc2 Ra3 4.Re1 Sg4 5.Sc7 Ra5 6.Rg1 e2 7.Kd3 Ra2 8.Re1 Sf2+ 9.Kxc3 Ke4. 3.Ke2 Sg4 4.Sg5 Kd4 5.Sf3+ Kc4 6.Se1 Rb2+ 7.Kf3 Sh6 8.Kxe3 Sf5+ 9.Ke4 Sd4 10.Ke3 Re2+ 11.Kf4 Kb3 12.Rb1+ Ka2 13.Rc1 Re8 14.Kg4 Kb2 15.Sd3+ Kb3 16.Re1 Rg8+ 17.Kf4 c2.

x) 5.Kd3 Kd5 6.Sd7 c2+ 7.Kxc2 Sf2.

“Positional draw and mutual zugzwang no longer belong to my favourite themes, but this study appeals to the practical player. The introduction is nice and the drawing mechanism is dynamic. The line 1.Sg5? slightly reduces clarity”.

No 17318 P. Benko & P. Gyarmati
3rd prize



h5f7 4310.42 7/5 Win

No 17318 Pal Benko & Peter Gyarmati (Hungary). 1.e6+/i dxe6/ii 2.Kh6 Rg2 3.Qf1+ Kg8 4.Qf8+ Kxf8 5.d7+ Kf7 6.d8S+ Kf6 7.Be7+ Kxe7 8.Sxc6+ Kf6 9.Kxh7/iii Rg7+ 10.Kh8 Rxa7 11.Sxa7 Ke5/iv 12.Kg7 Kd5/v 13.Kf6 e5 14.Kf5 e4 15.Kf4 e3 16.Kxe3 Kc5 17.Ke4 Kb4 18.Sc6+ Kb5 19.Kd5 wins.

i) 1.Kh6? Rg2 2.Qf1+ Ke8 3.Qc4/vi Rg6+ 4.Kxh7 Qxc4 5.a8Q+ Kf7 6.Qf3+ Ke6 7.Kxg6 Qe4+ 8.Qxe4, or 1.Qf1+? Ke8 2.Kh6 Rh2+ 3.Kg7 Rg2+ 4.Kh8 Qd5 5.a8Q+ Qxa8 6.Qf6 Qd8.

ii) Kxe6 2.Qe3+ Kf5 3.Qg5+ wins.

iii) 9.Kh5? Rg8 10.Sb8 Rg5+ and Rxa5.

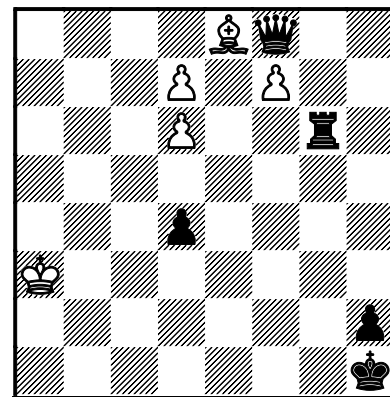
iv) Ke7 12.Kg7 Kd6 13.Kf6 wins.

v) Kd6 13.Kf6 e5 14.Kf5 Kc7 15.Sb5+ Kc6 16.Sa3 wins.

vi) 3.Qc1 Qa8 4.Bb2 Qxa7 5.Qc8+ Kf7 6.Qc4+ Kf8 7.Qf4+ Kg8 8.Qc4+ Kf8.

“A touch of romance for once, where the quiet move 2.Kh6 makes all the difference. The final part is a bit long”.

No 17319 R. Becker
1st honourable mention



a3h1 3310.32 5/5 Draw

No 17319 Richard Becker (USA). 1.d8Q Kg1/i 2.Qb6/ii h1Q/iii 3.Qxd4+ Kg2 (Kh2; Qh4+) 4.Bc6+ (Qg4+ Kf2;) Kh3 5.Bxh1 Rxd6 6.Qe3+ Kh2 7.Ka4/iv Kxh1 8.Qh3+ Kg1 9.Qg3+ Kf1 10.Qf3+ Ke1 11.Qe3+ Kd1 12.Qf3+ Kc2 13.Qf5+ (Qe4+? Kd2;) Kd2 14.Qe4 Kc3/v 15.Qd5 Kc2 16.Qf5+ Kd2 17.Qe4 Kc3 18.Qd5 Rxd5 stalemate.

i) Rg3+ 2.Ka4. Qh6 2.f8Q.

ii) 2.Qe7? Qxe7 3.dxe7 h1Q 4.f8Q Rg3+.

iii) Rxd6 3.Qb1+ Kg2 4.Qe4+ draws.

iv) 7.Kb2? Kxh1 8.Qh3+ Kg1 9.Qg3+ Kf1 10.Qf3+ Ke1 11.Qe3+ Kd1 12.Qf3+ Kd2 13.Qc3+ Ke2 14.Qe5+ Kd3 15.Qb5+ Kd4.

v) Qh6 15.Qb4+ Ke3 16.Qe1+ Kd4 17.Qf2+ Ke5 18.f8Q, or Rd8 15.Qg2+ Ke3 16.Qg3+ Ke4 17.Qg4+ Ke5 18.Qg5+ Ke6 19.Qg6+ Ke7 20.Qg5+ Kxf7 21.Qh5+.

“The final spell is introduced with good economy, but you need to look at the solution, especially line 2...Rxd6, through the eyes of a computer”.

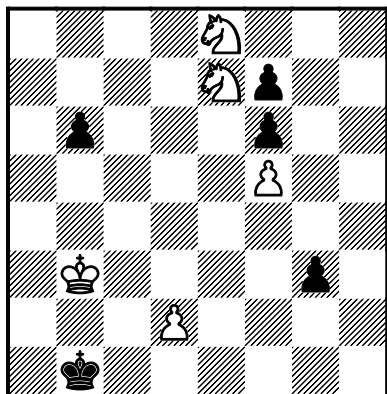
The 2nd Hon. Mention by G. Josten (Germany) was cooked by MG: h6h8 0641.32 b7c8g8f1e3.b6e6f7a5c5 6/6 Win:

1.Sd5 Rxc8 2.e7 Rbb8 3.b7 Rge8 4.Sf4 Bd3 5.fxe8Q+ Rxe8 6.Sxd3 c4 7.Kg6 cxd3 8.Kf7 d2 9.Kxe8 d1Q 10.b8Q wins.

“Black’s stubborn 3...Rge8! is countered by the mysterious 7.Kg6!!; the idea being to avoid a check on c1!? The a5-pawn has two functions. It stops 7.Sb4, but then becomes a traitor in the problematic final position. White cannot win without it!”.

MG: Instead of the “mysterious” 7.Kg6, White has the more prosaic 7.Se1 a4 (Rg8; Sc2) 8.Rg6 Kg8 9.Sc2 and now the pawns are safely blocked, it is an easy win.

No 17320 C. Jones
3rd honourable mention



b3b1 0002.24 5/5 Win

No 17320 C. Bill Jones (USA). 1.Sc7/i g2/ii 2.Scd5/iii g1Q 3.Sc3+ Ka1 4.Sc6 (Sed5? Qc1;) Qc1 (Qc5; Sb4) 5.Sd4 Qb2+ 6.Kc4 b5+ 7.Kd3 wins.

i) Tries: 1.Sd6? g2 2.Sd5/iv g1Q 3.Sc3+ Ka1 4.Sdb5 Qc5 5.d4 Qc6 6.d5 Qc5 7.d6 Qf2 8.d7 Qb2+ 9.Kc4 Qb3+ 10.Kd3 Qc2+ 11.Kxc2 stalemate. 1.Sxf6? g2/v 2.Sfd5 g1Q 3.Sc3+ Ka1 4.Sc6 f6/vi 5.Sb4 Qg8+ 6.Ka3 Qa8+ 7.Kb3 Qg8+, or 1.Sd5? g2 (Kc1?; Se3) 2.Sec7/vii g1Q (Kc1? Sf4) 3.Sc3+ Ka1 4.S7b5 Qc5 (Qc1?; Sd4) 5.Sa3/viii Qb5+ 6.Saxb5 (Scxb5) stalemate.

ii) Kc1 2.Scd5 Kxd2 3.Sf4 Ke3 4.Seg6 Ke4 5.Sg2 Kxf5 6.S6f4, or similarly Kf3 5.Kc4 Kg4 6.Sg2 Kxf5 7.S6f4.

iii) 2.Sed5? g1Q 3.Sc3+ Ka1 4.S7b5 Qc5 5.Sa3 Qb5+ 6.Saxb5 (Scxb5) stalemate.

iv) 2.Se4 (Sb5) Kc1.

v) Not Kc1? 2.Sh5 g2 3.Sf4.

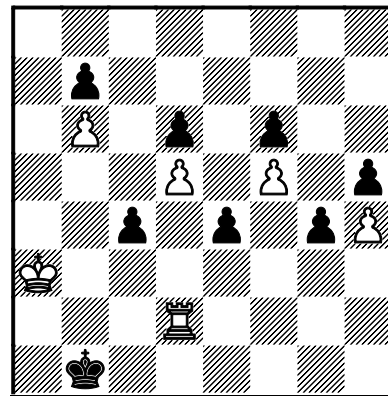
vi) Qc1? (Qc5?) 5.Sd4 (Sb4).

vii) 2.Sc3+ Kc1 3.Se2+ Kxd2 4.Sg1 Ke3.

viii) 5.d4 Qc6 6.d5 Qc5 7.d6 Qf2 8.d7 Qb2+ 9.Kc4 Qb3+ 10.Kd3 Qc2+ 11.Kxc2 stalemate.

“A problem composition where the first move and the tries are the main content. The composer appropriately mentions Birnov, but I still consider the study original”.

No 17321 R. Khatyamov
Commendation



a3b1 0100.47 6/8 BTM, Draw

No 17321 Rashid Khatyamov (Russia). 1...c3/i 2.Ra2 c2 3.Rb2+ Kc1 4.Kb3 Kd1/ii 5.Rxc2 e3 6.Kc3 e2 7.Rd2+ Ke1 8.Kd3 Kf1 9.Rxe2 g3 10.Ke3 g2 11.Rf2+ Kg1 12.Kf3/iii Kh1 13.Rxc2 stalemate.

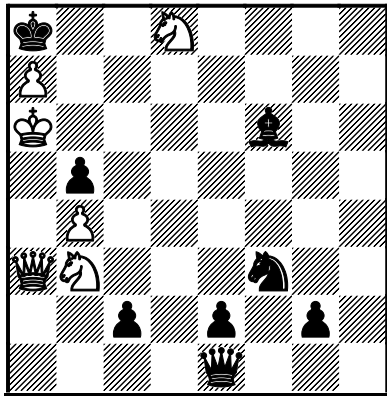
i) Kc1 2.Ra2 Kd1 3.Kb4 Ke1 4.Kxc4 Kf1 5.Kd4 g3 6.Ke3 Kg1 7.Ra7 g2 8.Rxb7 Kf1 9.Rg7.

ii) Kd2 5.Rxc2+ Kd3 6.Rc7 e3 7.Rxb7 e2 8.Re7 g3 9.b7 g2 10.b8Q.

iii) 12.Ra2? Kh1 13.Ra1+ g1Q+ 14.Rxc2+ Kxc2 15.Kf3 Kh2 16.Kf2 Kh3 17.Kf3 Kxh4 wins.

“The composer has turned a Gurgenedze (1998) study upside down, and now White has to make a draw by stalemating! The moves are almost the same. Definitely the winner in a humour section”.

No 17322 J. Mikitovics & E. Janosi
Commendation



a6a8 4035.24 6/8 Draw

No 17322 János Mikitovics & Ervin Jánosi (Hungary). 1.Sd4 Sxd4 2.Se6 Bd8/i 3.Sxd4/ii Qf2 4.Qa2 Qxd4 5.Qd5+ Qxd5 stalemate.

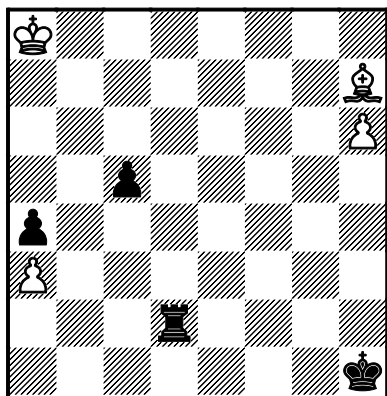
i) c1Q 3.Qxc1 Qxc1 4.Sc7+ Qxc7 stalemate.

ii) 3.Qa5? Sxe6/iii. 3.Qc3? c1Q 4.Qxc1 Sc2. 3.Qg3? Qa1+.

iii) But not Bxa5? 4.Sc7+ Bxc7 stalemate , or Qa1? 4.Qxa1 Sxe6 5.Qg1 Sc7+ 6.Kb6.

“No economy here, but maybe a problem theme?”.

No 17323 R. Becker
Commendation



a8h1 0310.22 4/4 Draw

No 17323 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bg6/i Rh2 2.h7 c4 3.Kb7 c3/ii 4.Kc6/iii c2/iv 5.Bxc2 Rxc2+ 6.Kb5 Rh2 7.Kxa4 Kg2 8.Kb4/v Kf3 9.a4 Ke4 10.a5 Kd5 11.Kb5 Rb2+ 12.Ka6 Rh2 13.Kb5 Rb2+ 14.Ka6 Rb8 15.Ka7 Rh8 16.Kb6 Kd6 17.a6 Rb8+ 18.Ka7 Kc7 19.h8Q Rxh8 stalemate.

i) 1.Be4+? Kg1 2.h7 Rh2 3.Kb7 Rh6, or here 2.Kb7 Rd6 3.h7 Rh6.

ii) Rh6 4.Kc7 Kg2 5.Kd7 Kf2 6.Ke7 Ke3 7.Kf6 Kd2 8.Kg5 Rxh7 9.Bxh7 Kc1 10.Kf4 Kb2 11.Ke3 Kxa3 12.Bc2 Kb4 13.Kd2 draws, or here c3 7.Kf7 Ke3 8.Kg7 Rxh7+ (Rh2; Bc2) 9.Bxh7 Kd2 10.Kf6 c2 11.Bxc2 Kxc2 12.Ke5 Kb3 13.Kd4 Kxa3 14.Kc3 or Kc1 11.Ke5 Kb2 12.Kd4.

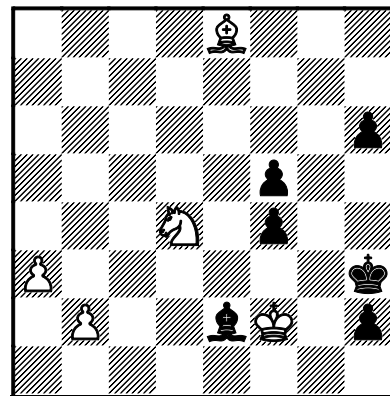
iii) 4.Kb6? Kg1 5.Kc5 (Kb5; Rh4) c2 6.Bxc2 Rxc2+ wins.

iv) Kg1 5.Kd5 Rh4 6.Be4.

v) 8.Kb5? Kf3 9.a4 Ke4 10.a5 Kd5 zz 11.a6 Rb2+ 12.Ka5 Kc5, or 11.Kb6 Kc4 12.a6 Rh6+ 13.Ka5 (Kb7) Rxh7(+).

“I recommend a close look at all the side-lines of the Réti-inspired introduction. The zugzwang position was initially published by Benko, but with colours reversed”.

No 17324 S. Dowd & M. Ylijoki
Commendation



f2h3 0041.24 5/6 Draw

No 17324 Steven B. Dowd (USA) & Marko Ylijoki (Finland). 1.Bc6 f3 2.Sxe2/i h1Q 3.Sg1+ Kh4 4.Sxf3+ Kh5 5.Kg3 f4+ 6.Kf2 Qd1 7.Be8+ Kg4 8.Bd7+ draws.

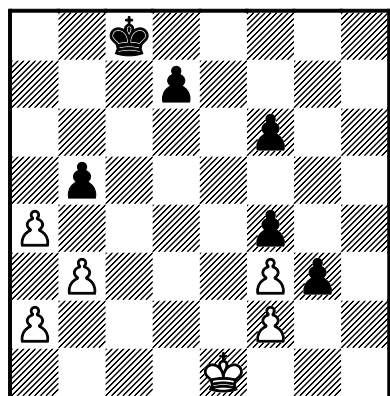
i) 2.Sxf3? h1Q 3.Sg5+/ii hxg5 4.Bxh1 Kh2 5.Kxe2/iii Kxh1 6.a4 g4 7.a5 f4 8.a6 Kg1 9.a7 f3+ 10.Kd2 f2 11.a8Q f1Q 12.Qe4 Qf2+ 13.Kc1 g3 wins.

ii) 3.Sg1+ Qxg1+ 4.Kxg1 Kg3 wins.

iii) 5.Bc6 Bd3 6.Ke3 Be4 7.Bxe4 fxe4 8.Kxe4 g4, or here 6.a4 g4 7.a5 g3+ 8.Ke3 Be4 win.

“White peacefully threatens mate, preparing the drawing mechanism. The queenside pawns play only in the try”.

No 17325 C. Jones
Commendation



e1c8 0000.55 6/6 Win

No 17325 C. Bill Jones (USA). 1.Kf1/i bxa4/ii 2.bxa4 g2+/iii 3.Kxg2 Kb7 4.Kh3/iv, and:

– f5 5.Kh4/v d5 6.Kh3/vi Kb6 7.Kg2 Ka5 8.Kf1 wins, or:

– d5 5.Kg2 (Kg4? d4;) Kb6 6.Kf1 wins.

i) 1.fxg3? fxg3 2.Kf1 (axb5 d5;) f5 3.f4 (Kg2 f4;) bxa4.

ii) f5 2.Kg2 bxa4 3.bxa4 gxf2 4.Kxf2.

iii) f5 3.Kg2 gxf2 4.Kxf2.

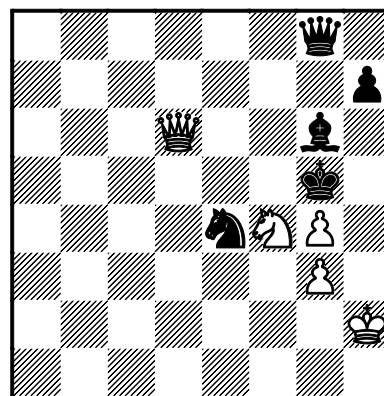
iv) 4.Kf1? Kb6 5.Ke2 Ka5 6.Kd3 Kxa4 7.Kc2 Ka3 8.Kb1 f5 9.Ka1 d6 draws.

v) 5.Kg2? Kb6 6.Kf1 Ka5 7.Ke2 Kxa4 8.Kd3 Ka3 9.Kd4 Kxa2 10.Ke5 Kb3 11.Kd6 Kc3 wins.

vi) 6.Kg5? d4 7.Kxf4 Ka6 zz.

“A long journey to make the d-pawn move.

No 17326 M. Markovic
Commendation



h2g5 4034.21 5/5 Win

No 17326 Mirko Markovic (Serbia). 1.Se6+ Kf6/i 2.g5+ Sxg5/ii 3.Sxg5+ Kg7/iii 4.Qe7+ Kh8/iv 5.Se6 h5/v 6.Kg1/vi Qf7 7.Qd8+ Qg8 8.Qf6+ Kh7 9.g4 wins.

i) Kh6 2.Qf4+ Sg5 3.Qxg5 mate.

ii) Kf5 3.Sd4+ Kg4 4.Qf4+ Kh5 5.Qh4 mate.

iii) Kxg5 4.Qf4+ Kh5 5.Qh4 mate. Kf5 4.Qf4 mate.

iv) Bf7 5.Se6+, and Kh8 6.Qf6+ Qg7 7.Qxg7 mate, or Kg6 6.Qg5 mate, or Kh6 6.Qf6+ Qg6 7.Qf4+ Kh5 8.Qh4 mate.

v) h6 6.Qf6+ Kh7 7.Sf8+ wins.

vi) 6.Qf6+? Kh7 7.Kg1 Kh6 8.g4 Qf7 9.Qh8+ Bh7 10.g5+ Kg6 11.Qe5 Qe7.

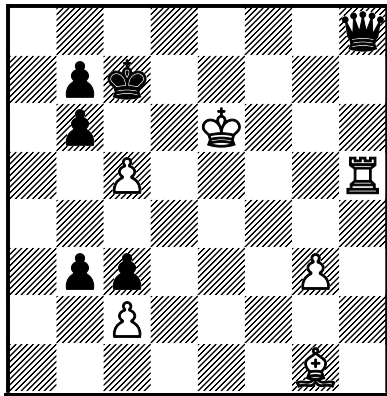
“A brisk attack can be concluded only by two quiet moves”.

Problem Online 2004-2006

The Croatian internet chess problem magazine *Problem Online* (editors Ivan Bender and Dejan Glisic) is freely accessible at www.problemonline.com.

Endgame study editor Iuri Akobia (Georgia) judged the first endgame study tourney that attracted only 15 entries by 10 composers from 8 countries. The judge comments: "The studies did not appear to be of high quality. Practically all studies suffered from a lack of originality. Many works have partial or close anticipations, although they are not listed here. I hope that the participants of this tourney will know which ones I had in mind". HH cannot understand this. In a printed sources space is valuable and therefore awards cannot always be extensive. But for a webpage-based magazine this argument does not hold. Why not supply all the details?

No 17327 D. Gurgenidze & V. Neidze
Prize



e6c7 3110.34 6/6 Win

No 17327 David Gurgenidze & Vazha Neidze (Georgia). 1.cxb6+/i Kc6 2.Rc5+ Kxb6 3.Rh5+/ii, and:

– Ka6 4.Rxh8 b2 5.Ra8+ Kb5 6.Ra3 b1Q (Kc4; Rb3) 7.Rb3+ wins, or:

– Kc7 4.Rxh8 b2 5.Rh7+/iv Kc6 6.Rd7 b1Q 7.Rd6+ Kb5 8.Rb6+ Kc4 9.Rxb1 stalemate.

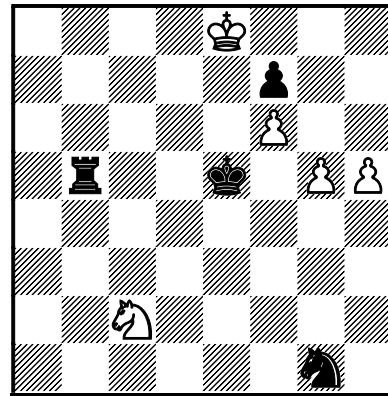
i) Thematic try: 1.Rxh8? b2 2.cxb6+ Kc6 3.Rc8+ Kb5 4.Rxc3 b1Q 5.Rb3+ Kc6 6.Rxb1 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 3.Rc8+? Ka5 4.Rxh8 b2, and 5.Bb6+ Ka6 6.Rh1 b1Q 7.Rxb1 stalemate, or 5.Ra8+ Kb4 6.Ra7 b1Q 7.Rxb7+ Kc4 8.Rxb1 stalemate.

iii) Thematic try: 5.Bb6+? Kc6 6.Rh1 b1Q 7.Rxb1 stalemate.

"Interesting play with several thematic tries ending in stalemate. The introductory move reduces quality".

No 17328 A. Sochnev
Prize



e8e5 0304.31 5/4 Draw

No 17328 Alexey Sochnev (Russia). 1.Sd4/i Kxd4/ii 2.Kxf7, and:

– Ke5 3.Kg7 Sf3 4.g6/iii Sd4 5.f7 Rb8 6.Kh7/iv Kf6 7.g7 Kxf7 8.h6 Se6 9.g8Q+ Rxg8 stalemate, or:

– Sf3/v 3.g6 Sg5+ 4.Kg7 Se6+ 5.Kf7vi Sg5+ 6.Kg7 Ke5 7.f7, and a further branch:

• Se6+ 8.Kh6 Kf6 9.f8Q+ Sxf8 10.g7 Kf7 11.g8Q+ Kxg8 stalemate, or:

• Rb8 8.f8S Rb7+ 9.Kg8/vii Kf6 10.h6 Ra7 11.g7 Rb7 12.Kh8 Sf7+ 13.Kh7 Sxh6 14.Kxh6 Rxg7 15.Sh7+ Kf7 16.Sg5 draws.

i) 1.Kxf7? Sf3 2.h6 Kf5 3.Kg7 Rb7+ 4.f7 Sxg5 5.Sd4+ Kg4 wins.

ii) Rb7 2.Sc6+ Kf5 3.h6 Kg6 4.Se5+ Kh7 5.Sxf7 Rb8+ 6.Sd8.

iii) 4.f7? Sxg5 5.f8Q Se6+ wins.

iv) 6.f8S? Sf5+ 7.Kf7 Ra8 8.Sd7+ Kf4 9.Sf8 Kg5 10.Se6+ Kh6 wins.

v) Rxc3 3.Ke6 Re5+ 4.Kd6 draws.

vi) 5.Kh6? Rf5 6.f7 Ke5 7.g7 Rf6+ 8.Kh7 Sg5+ wins.

vii) 9.Kh8? Kf6 10.Kg8 Se4 11.Sh7+ Ke5 12.g7 Sd6 13.Kh8 Sf7+ 14.Kg8 Kf5 15.Sf8 Kf6 16.Sh7+ Ke7 17.Sf8 Rb5 18.Sg6+ Kf6 19.Sf4 Rb8+ 20.Kh7 Sg5+ 21.Kh6 Rd8.

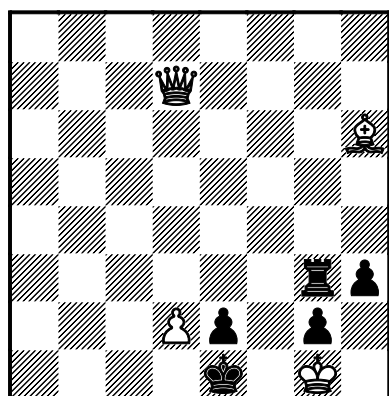
“Some moments remind me of my own study in the Nona 2006 ty. The study contains many interesting nuances, but it is a pity that the stalemates are not so nice”.

Another prize by Richard Becker (USA) was cooked by MG: h2f3 0137.02 g8c8d1b6.b4g2 3/6 Draw: 1.Rg3+ Ke2 2.Sc3+ Kf1 3.Rf3+ Ke1 4.Kg1 Bb7 5.Rd3 bxc3 6.Rxc3, and now Sf5 7.Rc1+ Kd2 8.Rb1 Sd4 9.Kf2 Se2 10.Rb2+ Kd3 11.Rd2+ Kxd2 stalemate, or Sd5 7.Rf3 Bc6 8.Kxg2 Se3+ 9.Kg3 Sdf5+ 10.Kf4 Sg2+ 11.Kg4 Sfe3+ 12.Kg3 Sf1+ 13.Kh3 Bd7+ 14.Kxg2 Bc6 15.Kg1 Bxf3 stalemate

“The author significantly improved on his own study from 2004. The synthesis of beautiful stalemates in good technical style is realized”.

But MG cooks: 4.Sa2 Bb7 and now 5.Rf8 Sd7 6.Rf4 b3 7.Sc1 Sc5 8.Sxb3 Sxb3 9.Rg4 Kf1 10.Rf4+ Ke2 11.Rg4 drawing.

No 17329 A. Ruzs
sp.prize



g1e1 1310.13 4/5 Win

No 17329 Arpad Ruzs (Rumania). 1.Be3 h2+/i 2.Kxh2 Rxe3 3.Kxg2/ii Rc3/iii 4.Qd5/iv Ra3/v 5.Qb5 Ra8/vi 6.Kf3 Ra3+ (Rf8+; Ke3) 7.d3/vii Kf1 8.Qf5 e1Q 9.Qh3+ Kg1 10.Qg2+ mate.

i) Rxe3 (Kd1; Qa4+) 2.dxe3 h2+ 3.Kxg2 h1Q+ 4.Kxh1 wins.

ii) 3.dxe3? g1Q+ 4.Kxg1 stalemate.

iii) Ra3 4.Qb5 Kd1 5.Qb1+ Kxd2 6.Qb2+ Kd1 7.Qd4+ Ke1 8.Qb4+ Kd1 9.Qd6+ Kc2 10.Kf2 wins, or Re4 4.Qd3 (Kf3? Kd1;) Rf4 5.Qg3+ Kd1 6.Qxf4 e1Q 7.d4 wins.

iv) 4.dxc3? stalemate, or 4.Qd4? Rc8/viii 5.Kf3 Rf8+ 6.Ke3 Kf1 7.Qc4 Re8+ 8.Kf3 Rf8+ 9.Ke3 Re8+ positional draw.

v) Rc8 5.Kf3 Rf8+ 6.Ke3 Kf1 7.Qh1 mate, or here Re8+ 7.Kd3 wins.

vi) Kd1 6.Qb1+ Kxd2 7.Qb2+/ix Kd1 8.Qd4+ Ke1 9.Qb4+ Kd1 10.Qd6+ Kc2 (Ke1; Qxa3) 11.Kf2 wins.

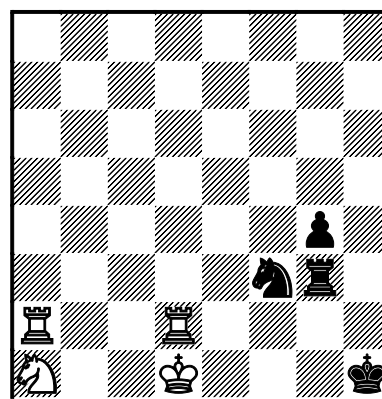
vii) Albino.

viii) But not Ra3? 5.Qb2 Kd1 6.Qb1+ Kxd2 7.Qb2+ Kd1 8.Qd4+ wins.

ix) But not 7.Kf2? Rf3+ 8.Kxf3 e1Q.

“The main content of this work is ‘Albino’ which is a very rare theme is studies”.

No 17330 R. Becker
honourable mention



d1h1 0504.01 4/4 Win

No 17330 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Rdb2/i Rg1+ 2.Ke2 g3/ii 3.Kxf3 g2 4.Ra8/iii Rf1+ 5.Ke4 Re1+ 6.Kd5/iv Rd1+ 7.Kc6 Rc1+ 8.Kb7 Rf1 9.Rh8+ (Rg8? Rxa1;) wins.

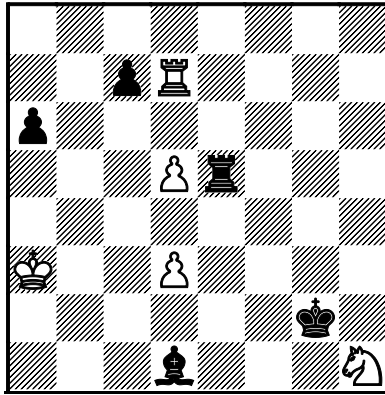
i) 1.Rf2? Rg1+ 2.Kc2 (Ke2) g3 draws.

ii) Sh2 3.Sc2 g3 4.Se3 g2 5.Kd3 (Ra8) Rd1+ 6.Sxd1 g1Q 7.Sf2+ Kg2 8.Sg4+ Kg3 9.Sxh2 wins, or Rg2+ 3.Ke3 Rxb2 4.Rxb2 g3 5.Rb1+/v Kh2 6.Kxf3 wins.

iii) 4.Rxg2? Rxg2 5.Rxg2 stalemate, or 4.Rb8? Rf1+ 5.Ke4 Re1+ 6.Kd5 Rd1+ 7.Kc6 Rc1+ 8.Kb7 Rb1+.

- iv) 6.Kd3? Re3+ 7.Kc4 Rh3.
 v) Not 5.Kxf3? g2 6.Rxg2 stalemate.

No 17331 R. Becker
 honourable mention



a3g2 0431.22 5/5 Draw

No 17331 Richard Becker (USA). 1.d4/i Re4/ii 2.Kb4/iii Rxd4+/iv 3.Kc5/v Rd3/vi 4.d6/vii cxd6+ 5.Rxd6 Rc3+ 6.Kb4/viii Rb3+ 7.Kc4/ix Rb1 8.Kc3 a5/x 9.Rd2+ Kxh1 10.Ra2 a4/xi 11.Ra1 Rxa1 12.Kb2 draw.

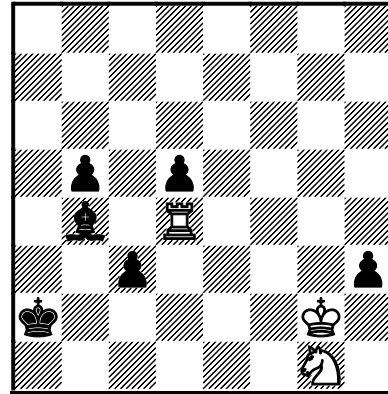
- i) 1.Rf7? Bf3; 1.Rxc7? Rxd5 2.Rc6 a5.
 ii) Rh5 2.Rxc7 Rxd5 3.Rc6, and a5 4.Rc5; Be2 4.Rc2; Ra5+ 4.Kb2 Bf3 5.Rf6, or here Rxh1 3.d6 Rh5 4.Rc5 Rh7 5.Rc7 Rh4 6.Rc4.
 iii) 2.d6? (Rxc7? Rxd4;) cxd6 3.Rxd6 Be2 4.Kb4 Kxh1 or 4.d5 Rd4.
 iv) Kxh1 (Be2; Kc5) 3.Rxc7 Rxd4+ 4.Kc5 Rd2 5.d6 Ba4 6.Rh7+ Kg2 7.Rh4 Bd7 8.Rd4 Rb2 9.Rb4.
 v) 3.Kc3? Rh4 4.Rg7+ Kxh1 5.Rxc7 Be2 6.d6 Rh6, and 7.Rd7 Bb5 8.Rd8 Rh4 9.d7 Rh7, or here 7.Rc6 (d7; Rd6) Bb5 8.Rb6 Rh4, or 4.Rxc7 Rxh1 5.d6 Ba4 6.Kb4 Bb5.
 vi) Rd2 (Rh4; Rxc7) 4.d6 Rc2+ 5.Kd4/xii cxd6 6.Rxd6 a5 7.Ke3 Re2+ 8.Kf4 Bc2 9.Sg3 Rf2+ 10.Kg4 a4 11.Sh5, or here: c5+ 6.Ke3 Kxh1 7.Rh7+ Kg2 8.d7 Re2+ 9.Kd3 c4+ 10.Kxc4 Rd2 11.Kc3 Rd5 (Rd6; Rh6) 12.Kc4 Rd6 13.Kc5 draws.
 vii) 4.Rxc7? Rc3+ 5.Kb6 Rxc7 wins.
 viii) 6.Kd4? Ra3 7.Rf6 Bf3 8.Kc4 a5 wins.
 ix) 7.Ka5? Be2 8.Rh6 Rb5+ 9.Ka4 Bd1+ 10.Ka3 a5 11.Rh4 Rb3+ 12.Ka2 Rd3 wins.

x) Be2 9.Rd2 Re1 10.Rc2 Kf3 11.Sg3 Kxg3 12.Kd2 Kf2 13.Rc1 and Black cannot prevent exchange of the rooks.

xi) Rb5 11.Ra1 Rd5 12.Kc4 draws.

xii) But not 5.Kb4? cxd6 6.Rxd6 Be2 wins.

No 17332 G. Josten
 honourable mention

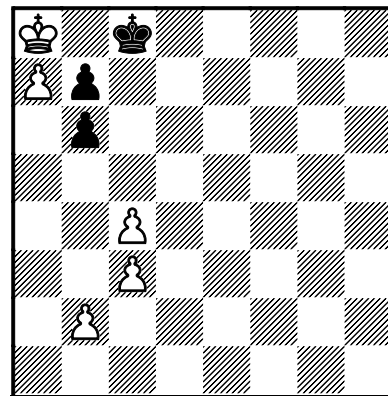


g2a2 0131.04 3/6 Draw

No 17332 Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.Kh1/i Bc5 (c2; Se2) 2.Rxd5 Bxg1 3.Rxb5 c2 4.Rb4 c1Q 5.Ra4+ Kb2 6.Rb4+ Kc3 7.Rc4+ Kxc4 stalemate.

i) 1.Kxh3? Bc5 2.Rd3 b4 3.Se2 d4 4.Kg2 Kb3 5.Kf3 Kc4 6.Ke4 b3 7.Rd1 c2 wins.

No 17333 I. Bender
 commendation

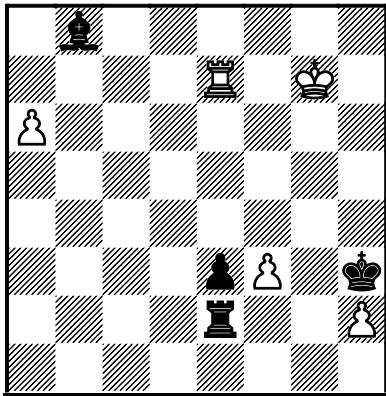


a8c8 0000.42 5/3 Win

No 17333 Ivan Bender (Croatia). 1.b3/i Kc7 2.b4 Kc8 3.b5 Kc7 4.c5 bxc5 5.b6+ Kc8 6.c4zz wins.

i) Thematic 1.b4? Kc7 2.b5 Kc8 3.c5 bxc5 4.b6 (c4 b6;) c4zz stalemate.

No 17334 G. Josten
commendation



g7h3 0430.31 5/4 Draw

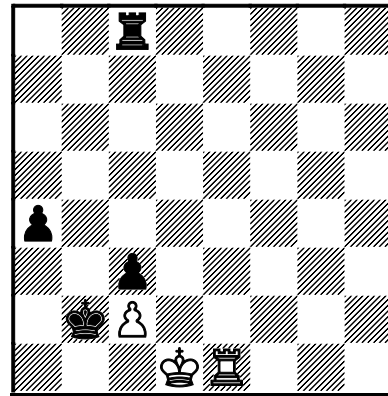
No 17334 Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.a7 Bxa7 2.Rxa7 Rf2/i 3.Rf7 Rxh2/ii 4.Re7 Re2/iii 5.Kf6 Kg3 6.Ke5 Rd2 (Rf2; Kd4) 7.f4 Rd1/iv 8.f5 e2 9.Kf6 e1Q 10.Rxe1 draws.

i) Rxh2 3.Re7 e2 4.Re4 Kg3 5.f4 Kg4 6.Kg6 Kf3 7.Rxe2, or here Re2 4.Kf6 Kg3 5.Ke5 Kxf3 6.Rf7+ draw.

ii) Kxh2 4.f4 Kg3 5.f5 e2 6.Re7 draws.

iii) e2 5.Re4 Kg3 6.f4 Kg4 7.Kg6 Rf2 8.Rxe2 draws.

No 17335 V. Kalandadze
commendation



d1b2 0400.12 3/4 Draw

No 17335 Velimir Kalandadze (Georgia). 1.Re8 Rc7/i 2.Re7 Rc6 3.Re6 Rc5 4.Re5 Rc4 5.Re4 a3 6.Rxc4 a2 7.Rb4+ Ka3 8.Rb3+ Ka4 9.Rxc3 a1Q+ 10.Kd2 Qf1 11.Rd3 (Rb3) Qf4+ 12.Kd1 (Ke1? Qc1+;) Qf1+ 13.Kd2 with a draw position.

i) Rxe8 stalemate.