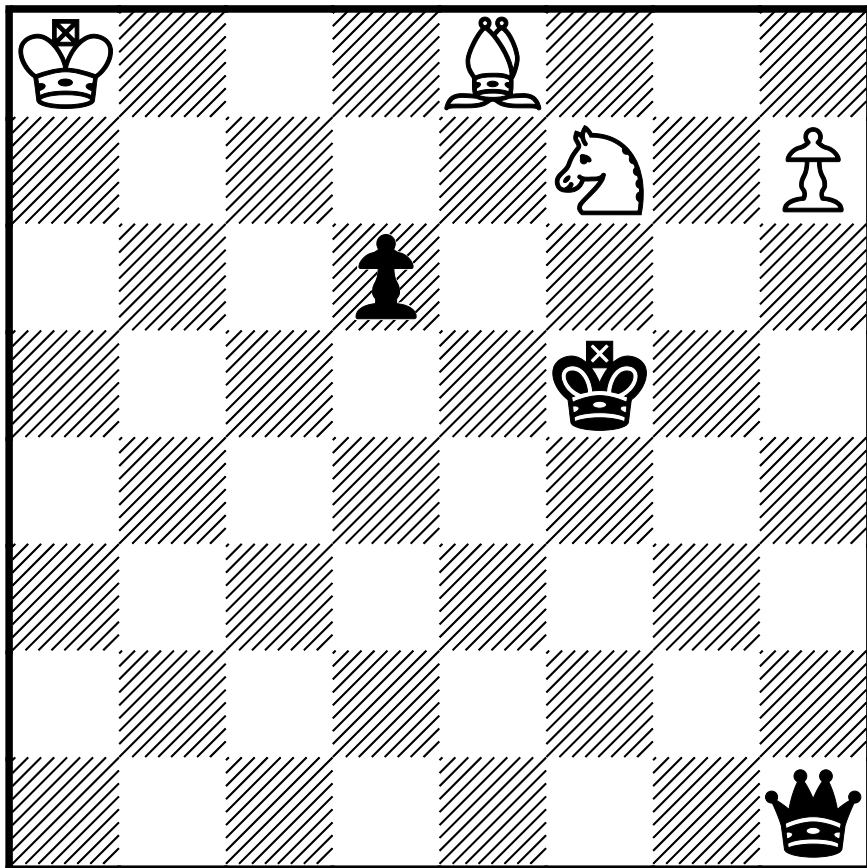


No. 187 – Vol. XVIII – January 2012



White to play and draw

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Editorial

HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

First of all, I wish all readers of **EG** a Happy New Year. On 2012's calendar there are many exciting endgame study related events to look forward to. In January, for instance, the Tata Steel Chess and Studies day will take place on Saturday 28th (see announcement in this issue) in Wijk aan Zee as part of the famous o.t.b. GM tourney. Very recently it has been decided that the organization of the Tata Steel GMN tourney will also host the 2012 ISC on Sunday 29th (see announcement in this issue). In March we will have the annual ARVES meeting together with the Dutch problem society (Probleemvrienden) in Nunspeet (Sunday 25th). And perhaps even more exciting is the venue of the annual WFCC meeting in Kobe, Japan (22nd – 29th September).

In my report about the 2011 Jesi WFCC conference I forgot to mention that my chess friend Alessandro Cuppini attended, bringing along his impressive “bible” (*Antologia di Studi Schaccistici*) with no less than 541 A4 pages with endgame study stories. In Italian, unfortunately, but (endgame study) chess is an international language

Another interesting book, in Dutch, was written by IM Hans Böhm and IM Yochanan Afek. It is the second part of a series dealing with all chess pieces. This book is about the rook (in Dutch: De Toren) and gives many games, endgames studies and problems in which that piece plays an important role. The reason to mention this book in this editorial is the fact that the Dutch “Mister Chess” Hans Böhm together with the publisher Tirion Sport organized a remarkable publicity stunt: “De Toren bij het Torentje” – IMs Hans Böhm and Yochanan Afek present the first copies of their new book to three Dutch politicians who are also chess enthusiasts and were all chairmen of the Max Euwe Centre in Amsterdam (*see p. 9*).

Finally, I draw attention to the fact that Gady Costeff with his first prize winner of *The Problemist* 2008-2009 (**EG#17820**) also was awarded with the Norman Macleod award for 2008-2009 for the most striking and original problem of any genre to appear in *The Problemist* together with a selfmate by Mikhail Marandiyuk and Ivan Soroka, scoring 13 points out of a possible 16.

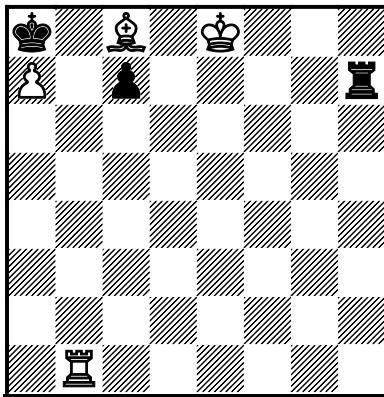
Originals (35)

EDITOR : ED VAN DE GEVEL

“email submissions are preferred.”
Judge 2010-2011: Jarl Ulrichsen

This time we have three composers who each show two studies. The first is Yochanan Afek with two studies that have figured as prize puzzles at o.t.b. tournaments.

No 17986 Y. Afek

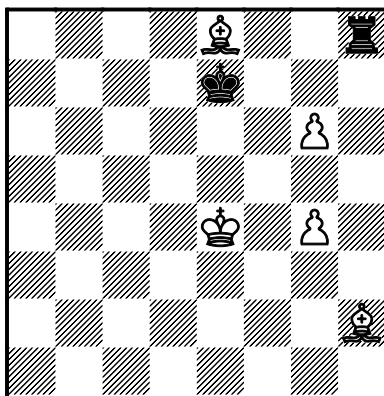


e8a8 0410.11 4/3 Win

No 17986 Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Ra1 Rh8+ 2.Kd7 Rg8 3.Bb7+/i Kxb7 4.a8Q+ Rxa8 5.Rb1+ Ka6 6.Kc6 Ka7 7.Kxc7 Ka6 8.Ra1+ wins.

i) 3.Kxc7? Rxc8+ 4.Kxc8 stalemate, or 3.Ba6 Rg7+ 4.Kc6 Rg6+ 5.Kc5 (Kxc7 Rxa6;) Rg5+ draws.

No 17987 Y. Afek



e4e7 0320.20 5/2 Win

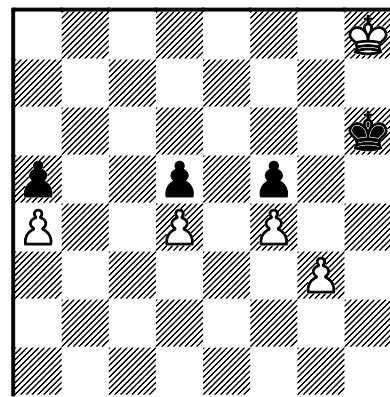
No 17987 Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Bd6+ Kxe8/i 2.g7 Rg8 3.Bf8 Rxf8/ii 4.Ke5 Rg8 5.Kf6 Kh7 6.Kf7 wins.

i) Kxd6 2.Bf7 Rh4 3.Kf5 Ke7 4.Be6 Kf8 5.Kf6 wins.

ii) Kf7 4.Kf5 Rxc7 5.Bxc7 Kxc7 6.Kg5 wins.

Next is Siegfried Hornecker. The end of the first study will no doubt lead to some discussion as to whether 13.Qd6+ is just a waste of time or a real dual.

No 17988 S. Hornecker



h8h6 0000.43 5/4 Win

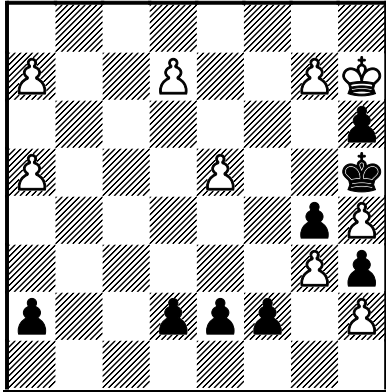
No 17988 Siegfried Hornecker (Germany). 1.Kg8 Kg6 2.Kf8 Kf6 3.Ke8 Ke6 4.Kd8 Kd6 5.Kc8 Kc6 6.Kb8 Kb6 7.Ka8 Ka6 8.g4 fxg4 9.f5 g3 10.f6 g2 11.f7 g1Q 12.f8Q Qxd4 13.Qb8/i Qb6 14.Qc8+ Qb7+ 15.Qxb7 mate.

i) 13.Qd6+ leads to the same mate one move later: Qb6 14.Qd7 d4 15.Qc8+ Qb7+ 16.Qxb7 mate

No 17989 Siegfried Hornecker (Germany). 1...d1Q 2.a8Q Qxd7 3.Qe4 Qf7 4.e6 f1Q 5.exf7 Qb1 6.f8Q Qxe4+ 7.Kh8 a1Q 8.Qf7+ Qg6 9.Qd5+ Qg5 10.hxg5 e1Q 11.Kh7 Qxg7+ 12.Kxg7 Qc3+ 13.Kf8 hxg5 14.Qf7+ Kh6

15.Qe6+ Kh5 16.Qe8+ Kh6 17.Kf7 Qf3+
18.Kg8 Qf6 19.Qf8+ Kh5 20.Qf7+ wins.

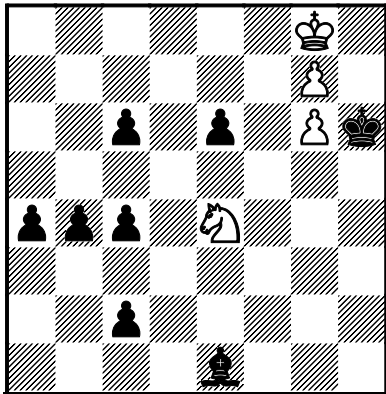
No 17989 S. Hornecker



h7h5 0000.87 9/8 BTM, Win

The third composer is Mario Guido Garcia.

No 17990 M. Garcia



g8h6 0031.26 4/8 Win

No 17990 Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina).
1.Kf7 c1Q 2.g8S+/i Kh5 3.Sgf6+ Kh4 4.g7
Kh3/ii 5.g8Q Kh2 6.Qg4 Qe3 7.Sg5 Bg3/iii
8.Sh5/iv Kg2 9.Qh3+/v Kf2 10.Sxg3 Qf4+
11.Kxe6 Qxg5 12.Se4+ wins.

i) 2.g8Q? Qf4+ 3.Sf6 Qc7+4. Kxe6 Qg7
5.Sg4+ Kxg6 6.Se5+ Kh6 draws.

ii) Qf4 5.g8Q Kh3 6.Qg1 Bg3 7.Qh1+ Bh2
8.Kg6 Kh4/vi 9.Qg2 a3 10.Sg5 Qg3 11.Qe4+

Qf4 12.Sf3+ Kh3 13.Qxe6+ Kg2 (Kg3; Sh5+)
14.Qe2+ Kh1 15.Qf1+ Bg1 16.Qxg1 mate.

iii) Qg3 8.Qe2+ Bf2 9.Sge4 wins.

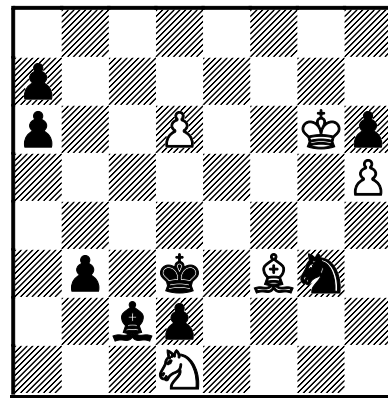
iv) 8.Qh3+? Kg1 9.Sfe4 Qf4+ 10.Kxe6
Qe5+ 11.Kf7 Qd5+ 12.Kg6 Qg8+ draws.

v) 9.Ke8? Qe5 10.Se4/vii Qh8+ 11.Kf7
Qh7+ 12.Kxe6 Qh6+ 13.Kd7 Qh7+ 14.Ke8
Qh8+ draws.

vi) Qf5+ 9.Kh6 c3 10.Sg5+ Kg3 11.Sfe4+
wins.

vii) 10.Qh3+ Kf2 11.Sxg3 Qb8+ 12.Kd7
Qb7+ 13.Kd6 Qb8+ 14.Kxc6 Qe8+ draws.

No 17991 M. Garcia



g6d3 0044.25 5/8 Win

No 17991 Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina).
1.d7 Kc4+ 2.Kxh6 Bxd1/i 3.d8Q/ii Bxf3
4.Qxd2 Se4/iii 5.Qf4 b2 6.Qf7+ Kb4 7.Qa2
Kc3 8.Qa3+ Kc2 9.Qxf3 Sc3/iv 10.Qf5+ Kb3
11.Kg5 b1Q 12.Qxb1+ Sxb1 13. h6 wins.

i) Sf5+ 3. Kg5 Sd6/v 4.Se3+ Kc3 5.Kf6
Sb7 6.Bxb7 wins.

ii) 3.Bd5+? Kxd5 4.d8Q+ Kc4 5.Qxd2 Bc2
6.Qc1 Se2 draws.

iii) Be4 5.Kg5 Bc2 6.Qh2 Se4+ 7.Kf4, or
Se2 5.Kg6 Sc3 6.h6 Be4+ 7.Kf6 win.

iv) b1Q 10.Qxe4+ Kc1 11.Qxb1+ Kxb1
12.Kg5 a5 13.h6 a4 14.h7 a3 15.h8Q wins.

v) Sd4 4.Bd5+ Kxd5 5.d8Q+ wins.

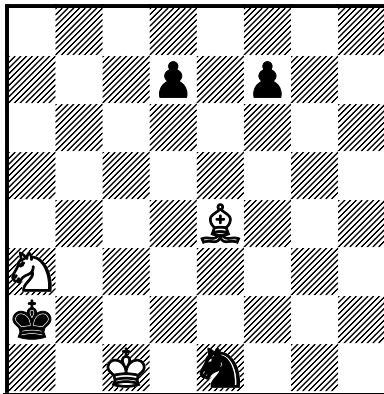
Spotlight (31)

EDITOR : JARL ULRICHSEN

Contributors: John Beasley (England), Pal Benko (USA), Marc Bourzutschky (USA), Daniel Keith (France), Roger Missiaen (Belgium) and John Roycroft (England).

Ignace Vandecasteele and Roger Missiaen were rewarded with 2nd prize in the Marwitz MT 1992. Many years later Ignace spotted two cooks, but succeeded in finding a sound setting by turning the board and rearranging the men. The correction was published in *EG184* p. 110. In September I received a letter from Roger Missiaen showing an alternative and in my opinion better correction, as it retains the original position.

U.1. I. Vandecasteele & R. Missiaen
2nd prize Marwitz MT 1992,
correction by Roger Missiaen



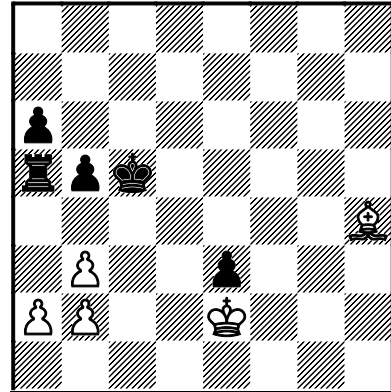
c1a2 0014.02 3/4 Win

1.Sb5 Kb3 2.Kd2 Kc4 3.Sc3 Kd4 4.Bb7 Sd3 5.Se2+ Kc4 6.Ba6+, and Black loses his knight.

Roger has added a black pawn on f7. In the original setting without this extra pawn there were two cooks, viz. 1.Sb1 and 3.Sa3+. 1.Sb1? is now met by f5 2.Bd5+ Ka1, and 3.Sa3+? is refuted by Kb3 4.Sb1 f5 5.Bd5+ Kb2 6.Sc3 Sc2 7.Sd1+ Kb1.

Daniel Keith is an active composer but he also likes to correct cooked endgame studies. Some time ago he made me aware of the following work.

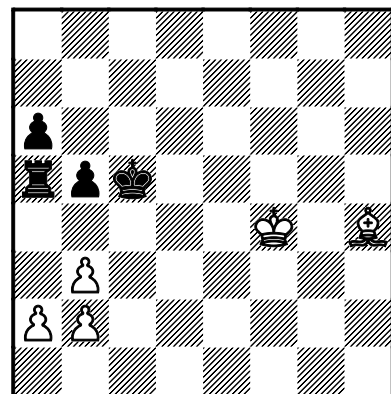
U.2. A. Selezniev
Shakhmaty Listok 1930



e2c5 0310.33 Win

1.b4+ Kxb4 2.Be1+ Ka4 3.b4 Ka3 4.bxa5 b4 5.Kxe3 Ka4 6.Kd4 Kb5 7.Kd5 Kxa5 8.Kc5 Ka4 9.Bxb4 a5 10.a3 wins. The problem is that the continuation 7...b3 axb3 leads to stalemate. After some attempts we jointly found a sound setting. It is actually an improvement as it saves one piece and makes the play more interesting.

U.3. A. Selezniev
Shakhmaty Listok 1930,
correction D. Keith & J.H. Ulrichsen



f4c5 0310.32 5/4 Win

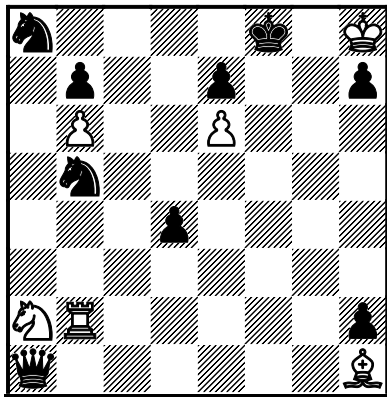
1.b4+ Kxb4 2.Be1+ Ka4 3.b4 Ka3 4.bxa5 b4 5.Ke5! After 5.Ke4? Ka4 6.Kd5 Kb5 Black draws. If White tries 7.Kd6 then 7...b3 leads to stalemate, whereas 7.Kd4/Ke6 allows Black to escape to a safe harbour on a8. **Ka4 6.Kd6! Kxa5 7.Kc5 Ka4 8.Bxb4 a5 9.a3**, and

wins as in Selezniev's solution; if 6...Kb5 then 7.Kc7! Kxa5 8.a3 wins, but not 7.Kd7? Kxa5 or 7.Kd5? b3.

In the next example Daniel corrects an endgame study by his fellow countryman Frederic Lazard. There are comparatively few mistakes in Lazard's output. He was a strong player who shared 1st place with the famous André Chéron at the French Championship in 1926.

U.4. F. Lazard

L'Échiquier de Paris 1946



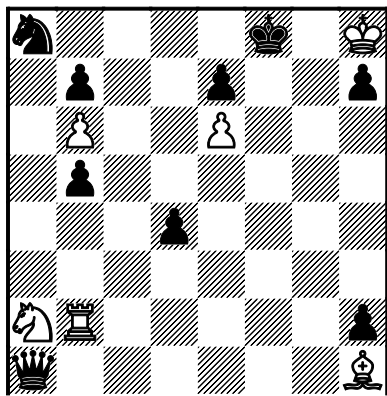
h8f8 3117.25 6/9 Win

The intended solution runs **1.Rf2+ Ke8 2.Bc6+ bxc6 3.b7 d3+ 4.Rb2 Qxb2+ 5.Sc3 Qxc3+ 6.Kg8 Qa5 7.b8Q+ Qd8 8.Qf4 Qd5 9.Qf8 mate**. The rather obvious cook 5...Sbc7 remained unnoticed for many years, but was found by John Nunn in 2002.

Daniel corrects the work by substituting the black knight on b5 with a black pawn. The solution remains the same.

U.5. F. Lazard

L'Échiquier de Paris 1946,
correction D. Keith

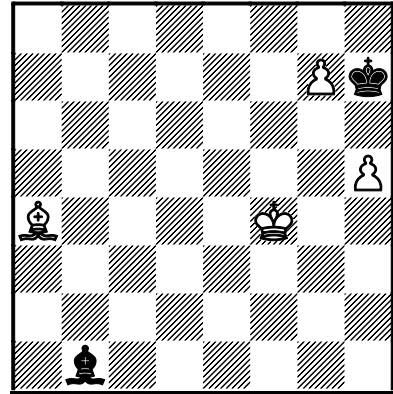


h8f8 3114.26 6/9 Win

I would also like to present a correction of one of Lazard's miniatures. It is a classical composition and I suspect that many of our readers only know the flawed original, and not the simple, but yet elegant correction.

U.6. F. Lazard

Le Soleil de Marseille 1925

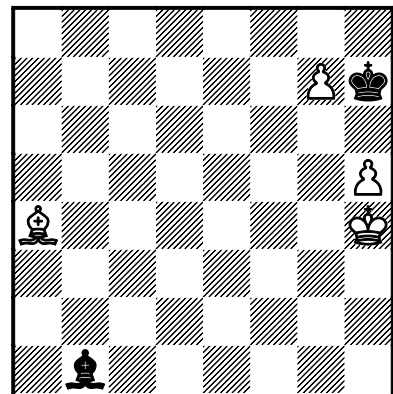


f4h7 0040.20 4/2 Win

1.h6 Ba2 2.Kg5 Bb3 3.Bd7! Be6 4.Kf6! Bxd7 5.Kf7. André Chéron found that 2.Kf5 and 2.Ke5 also win. If we move the white king from f4 to h4 White wins as in Lazard's solution. This was found by Jenö Ban in 1954; cf. the following diagram.

U.7. F. Lazard

Le Soleil de Marseille 1925,
correction Jenö Ban



h4h7 0040.20 4/2 Win

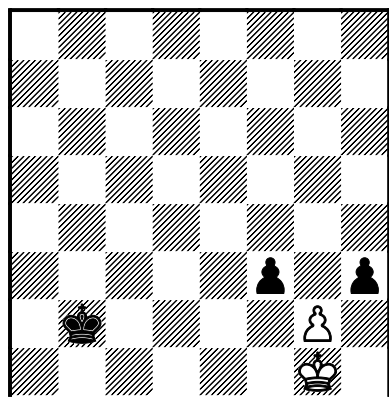
In 1956 Chéron published a version with the white king on h4 and the black bishop on e4.

John Beasley has sent me an email concerning **K.4** in *EG/86* p. 334. This position attributed to John did not first appear in *EG*, and John points out that it is hopelessly anticipated as an orthodox endgame study. It actually ap-

peared at the international problemists' meeting in Bournemouth in 1989 and took part in a lighthearted tourney for twin studies (orthodox chess implied) organized and judged by John Roycroft. White to play wins both in ordinary chess and in "losing chess" or "giveaway chess". The solution in ordinary chess is **1.f8R**. In "losing chess" the solution is again a rook promotion: **1.Kh6 Kxh6 2.f8R**. John adds that more attention was paid to the nature of the twinning mechanism than to the subsequent play. He tells us that the contribution was meant as a joke, and Roycroft gave it the prize for "sheer cheek".

I also permit myself to publish a joke:

U.8. Jarl H. Ulrichsen
Original



g1b2 0000.12 2/3 Win

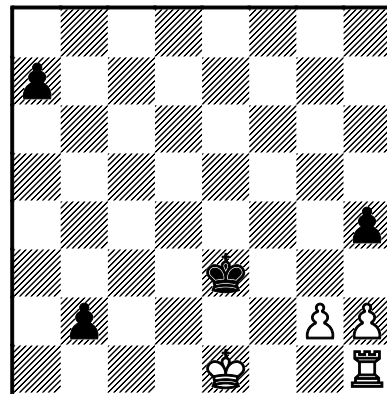
1.g3? loses, 1.gxh3? only draws after 1...Kc3 and 1.g4? only draws after 1...Kc3 2.g5 Kd2. White wins after **1.gxf3 Kc3 2.Kh2 Kd4 3.Kxh3 Ke5 4.Kg4 Kf6 5.Kf4**. So what is the point? Well, it is simply an albino with only five men on the board, obviously an unbeatable record.

In his most active years grandmaster Pal Benko (Pál Benkő) belonged to the world's top players. He played in the Candidates tournament in 1959 and 1962. He finished first in eight U.S. Open Chess Championships, played several times for the USA with brilliant results, e.g. in the Chess Olympiads, and won numerous strong tournaments.

Fortunately Benko has not devoted himself solely to playing chess. For more than forty years he has taken part in endgame study tourneys with remarkable success.

Some months ago he sent me an email. Inspired by my remarks on the Valladão task (EG/84 p.111), he informed me about the following charming composition.

U.9. P. Benko
Chess Life December 2011



e1e3 0100.23 4/4 Win

1.0-0 Kd2 2.g4 hxg3. After a5 3.g5 a4 4.g6 a3 5.g7 a2 6.g8Q b1Q 7.Qxa2+! Qxa2 8.Rf2+ is the quickest win. **3.h4 a5 4.Rb1!** Here comes the surprise. 4.h5? a4 5.h6 a3 6.h7 a2 7.h8Q b1Q is only a draw although it looks dangerous for Black. 8.Qa1 is a promising attempt, but after 8...Kc2 Black holds. Black threatens to exchange queens and play Kb2, and if e.g. 9.Qd4 then simply 9...Qxf1+ 10.Kxf1 Kb1 (not 10...g2+?) with a database draw. **4...Kc2 5.Rxb2+ Kxb2 6.h5 a4 7.h6 a3 8.h7 a2 9.h8Q+ Kb1**. Now White wins as he can drive the black king into the corner and mate him; e.g. **10.Qb8+ Kc2 11.Qe5 Kb1 12.Qe1+ Kb2 13.Qb4+ Kc2 14.Qa3 Kb1 15.Qb3+ Ka1 16.Qc2 g2 17.Qc1** mate.

This nice and aesthetic version of the Valladão task confirms my view that most of the endgame studies showing this theme are just awful.

In EG/86 p. 336 we reproduced an endgame study by the great G.M. Kasparyan. It is not included in any of Kasparyan's collections, and consequently it is not found in HHdbIV. Doubt on the correctness was cast by HH, and this doubt is now confirmed. In an email from Marc Bourzutschky to John Roycroft and John Beasley (forwarded to me by Roycroft for inclusion in EG) we are informed that Bourzutschky had only checked

whether 1.b6 is the only winning move in the starting position. After **1.b6 Rg2 2.b7 Rb2** the intended solution **3.Kd3+**, HH's 3.Bc8, as well as 3.Rc7 and 3.Kd5+ all win. Bourzutschky writes: "After 3.Bc8 Kd1 4.Ra6 is the simplest win because of the threat Rxa1+, for example 4.Ra6 Rc2+ 5.Kd5 Rd2+ 6.Ke4 Re2+ 7.Kf3 Be5 and now either 8.b8Q followed by 9.Ra1+ or immediately 8.Ra1+ win easily."

Finally I add a critical remark on the "Study of the Year 2010"; cf. *EG186* p. 341. The "Study of the Year" is not meant to be the best endgame study of this or that year, but the best one for promoting endgame studies to a general chess public. I really doubt that the members of the endgame study subcommittee have made a good choice. I wonder if anyone con-

sidered the length of the solution. You need eighteen moves to show that **1.g6** is the correct move and that **1.bxa3?** is a mistake. The solution may be of interest to lovers of endgame studies, but it will hardly arouse any great enthusiasm among ordinary chess players. If you want to win them over on your side you must show them something that they recognize as really beautiful and surprising with a relatively short solution and comparatively few pieces on the board. If you have seen the Saavedra-position or the Réti-manoeuvre you will never forget them. Endgame studies with these qualities are still being composed, but you do not notice them if you look at compositions with the eyes of an expert.

A Happy New Study Year to all of you!



From left to right: Fred Teeven (Secretary of State for Security and Justice), Jan Nagel (member of the first chamber 50 plus party) and Eric Smaling (member of the first chamber Socialist party). In the background Hans Böhm and Yochanan Afek. The photo was taken by Serge Ligtenberg (De Telegraaf) in front of the prime-minister's office (het Torentje – "small rook") in The Hague.

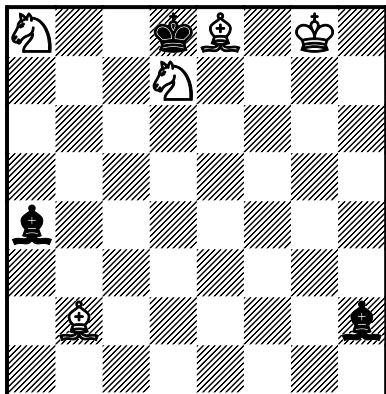
Obituary

Jan Voormans **(18vi1944 - 26xi2011)**



ARVES board members René Olthof and HH have been member of the local Dutch chess club HMC Den Bosch for more than 35 years. It may well be that the endgame study activities of their fellow club member Jan Voormans encouraged them towards this chess genre. Together with his father, Jan Voormans sr., Jan's name frequently occurred as solver/cooker in the endgame study section of *Tijdschrift van de KNSB* and *Schakend Nederland* from the late 1950s on. In the 1970s Jan published a couple of studies in *Schakend Nederland*. He was particularly proud about this one:

O.1. J. Voormans
Schakend Nederland 1975



g8d8 0082.00 5/3 Win

1.Sdb6! Bb3+ 2.Bf7 Bxf7+ 3.Kxf7/i Be5
4.Bc1/ii Bf4 5.Sc7, with:

– Bxc1 6.Sxe6 mate, or:

– Bxc7 6.Bg5 mate, or:

– Kxc7 6.Sd5+ wins.

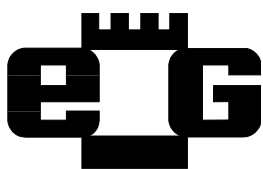
i) 3.Kf8 Bd6+ 4.Kxf7 is only a waste of time.

ii) Another waste of time is: 4.Ba3 Bd6 5.Bc1.

He was a very good club player at both chess and draughts and played in the highest Dutch leagues in both disciplines.

Although his major passion was (playing!) chess, he was an IM in correspondence chess but his most memorable achievement was clearly his world famous draughts problem showing the Canalejas-theme (three queens are captured with the last move 35x2). It was ranked among the best ten draughts problems of all times. For an excellent story and the draughts problem, see: Tim Krabbé's website: http://timkr.home.xs4all.nl/chess2/diary_13.htm, item 252.

(Photo from the website of HMC Den Bosch)



History

In the footsteps of Troitzky and of the Kubbel brothers (part 1)

ALAIN PALLIER

Edward Winter's website⁽¹⁾ is an invaluable source of information for every chess passionate or searcher. Some time ago, Winter had the idea to compile information about the places where chess personalities, mainly players from the past had lived⁽²⁾.

The idea of this article comes from Winter's idea. Fortunately, in August, I had the opportunity to visit Saint-Petersburg⁽³⁾ for my work. Before my trip I consulted this list. Among the collected addresses, I found two as especially interesting for the endgame study amateur, concerning Alexey Alexeyevich Troitzky and Leonid Ivanovich (or, in German style, Karl Artur Leonid) Kubbel. At the time, I had not consulted another great website which would have delighted me: www.e3e5.com. I recommend it to any chess fan who wishes to visit Petersburg. The second part of this article will exploit it.

When you visit Petersburg, you may have the impression that, very often, you are accompanied by Troitzky himself (in Russian Cyrillic: Троицкий): you cross the *Troitzky most* (Troitzky bridge), you see the *Troitzky sobor* (Troitzky cathedral), you follow the *Troitzky prospekt* (Troitzky avenue), or you do some shopping at the *Troitzky rynek* (Troitzky market). Even a *Troitzky dom* does exist: it is an estate agency! The explanation is quite simple: Troitzky is a common name in Russian, meaning Trinity. Of course, this is not specific to Petersburg, but this creates a

strange impression for the non Russian-speaking chess amateur visitor.

Many Russian people, also, are called Troitzky (and not only in Petersburg, of course). Even outside Russia: the Serbian tennis player, Victor Troicki, has paternal grandparents who emigrated from Russia: it is the same name, spelled differently with Latin letters (in Serbian Cyrillic: Троицки).

Alexey Alexeyevich Troitzky was born in Petersburg (1866) and he died there, after the city had been renamed Leningrad (1942), but he spent most of his professional life outside the former capital of the Russian Empire, even if he came back home more or less regularly. The second part of this article will deal with Troitzky's last years, when he settled in Sankt-Petersburg after retiring and with the Kubbel brothers who on the contrary never left the city, with the exception of a short stay in Riga during their childhood. I don't know if someone has already reconstructed Troitzky's full route from 1897 till 1933: it has not been an easy task but from endgame studies columns and from awards one can trace a large part of his travels to the remote Russian provinces.

A.A. Troitzky, during his years of formation, spent some time in Riga since he says himself that he attended the *Riga Realschule*, i.e. secondary school. I don't know exactly when Troitzky was in Riga, as he doesn't give any precise fact in the preface to his 1934 col-

(1) www.chesshistory.com.

(2) The list, with a lot of precise addresses, can be found here: <http://www.chesshistory.com/winter/extra/addresses.html>.

(3) Sankt-Peterburg in Russian or Peterburg, or even, in common parlance, Peter, pronounced as Piter.

lection of studies⁽¹⁾. The *Realschule* (today the Riga 1st State Grammar School) was the school where the Latvian writer Rainis, who was born under the name of Jānis Pliekšāns in 1865 one year before Troitzky, graduated in 1884.

A.A. Troitzky settled in Petersburg in autumn 1890, and he was near 30 when he completed his formation: the Wikipedia Russian article gives 1894 as the year he got his leaving certificate from the technico-forest state academy in Saint-Petersburg, with the status of ‘лесовод 2-го разряда’⁽²⁾. But in “Not an autobiography”, Troitzky curiously writes (I underline): ‘during 1895 and 1896, *the two years that I was in Petersburg*, I composed up to 50 studies’. He also adds: ‘My enthusiasm for chess began when I went to Petersburg as a student at the Forest Institute and started going to the café Dominique⁽³⁾’. From this, we understand that Troitzky had not been in Petersburg before 1895 ...

At least, one thing is certain: 1895 is indeed the year Troitzky published his first studies. It was in *Novoye Vremya*, a daily Peterburgian newspaper with a weekly illustrated supplement. It seems that his first study [+ 3005.10 d7c5] was published on 23rd January 1895, with the solution given on 13rd March, as shown by Ken Whyld, who was able to refer to the *Novoye Vremya* microfilms. Troitzky indicates in “Not an autobiography” that another study [+0005.10 h8h4] was the very first but he says that both were composed ‘more or less at the same time’. This supposes that Troitzky was in Petersburg *before* 1895, because, as he explains, he was encouraged to compose by some friends of note⁽⁴⁾. Troitzky had indeed made the acquaintance of the two best players in the city: Mikhail Chigorin (1850-1908), the ‘father of Russian chess’ and Emanuel

Schiffers (1850-1904), the second best player in Russia after Chigorin. They ‘became my good friends’ (preface to the English edition of ‘360’, Troitzky’s last collection of studies). They met in the Café Dominique, one of the first cafés in Russia. Chigorin was in charge of a column in *Novoye Vremya* (New Time) from 1890 till 1907 and he asked Troitzky to contribute some original compositions. Schiffers was the editor of *Shakhmatny Zhurnal* from 1894 to 1898, the other main publication that hosted Troitzky’s first compositions.

Then a twenty-year long period began during which Troitzky lived in the large region called in Russian *Severo Zapadny Kraï*, the Northwestern Territory, that was composed of six *guberniyas* or governorates, themselves subdivided in *yyezds* or districts (today *rayon’s*). He writes:

‘In 1897 I moved from Petersburg into the backwoods of Smolensk province in the capacity of assistant of the Chief Forester’ (“Not an Autobiography”, *EG119*, p. 745). Smolensk, a large town 360 km west-southwest of Moscow, is located near the boundary with present Belarus. From Petersburg, as the crow flies, the distance is approximately 600 km. Troitzky is not very accurate, probably because none of the remote places where he was in office was known by his readers. For the 1898-99 years, two places can be identified from the endings columns of the *Deutsche Schachzeitung* and the *Wiener Schachzeitung*: Gorodok and Dorsky. A quick search on Google shows that there are no less than 13 villages named Gorodok in the current *Smolensk Oblast*, that is more or less similar, in surface, with the former Smolensk Governorate (i.e. around 50,000 km²). One of these is located near Gagarin City, then called Gzhatsk, in the Gagarinski rayon, a place clos-

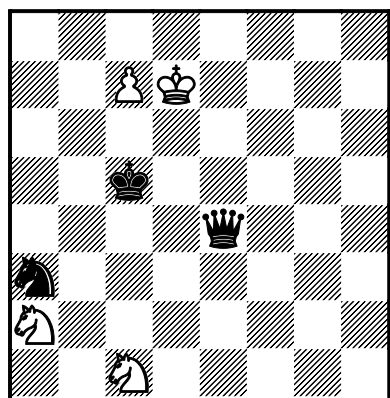
(1) This text “Not an autobiography”, has been translated in *EG119*.

(2) *Lesovod* is translated in English by nurseryman, arboriculturist or forester.

(3) A famous place for chess players in Petersburg, located on the principal street in the city, the prestigious Nevsky Prospekt, at number 24.

(4) It has to be mentioned that Troitzky had already published a three-mover in 1893 in the Peterburgian *Shakhmatny Zhurnal*.

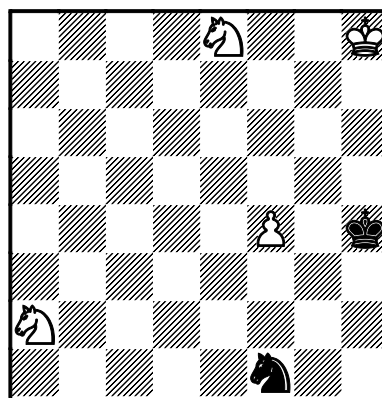
P.1. A.A Troitzky
Novoie Vremya 23i1895



d7c5 3005.10 4/3 win

1.Sb3+ Kb6 2.c8S+! Kb5 3.Sd6+ wins.

P.2. A.A. Troitzky
Shakhmatny Zhurnal 1895



h8h4 0005.10 4/2 win

1.f5 Kg5 2.f6 Kg6 3.Kg8 Ne3 4.f7 Sg4
5.f8S+ wins.

er to Moscow than to Smolensk. The same search for Dorsky doesn't give any result but a village called Dor does exist, in the same *ray-on*. Today Gorodok has ... 3 inhabitants, and Dor has ... 7!

Troitzky has reported that, in his forest, he lost his interest in chess, until one day in 1905 when the son of a ranger paid him a visit and brought him fresh works published by new composers (Rinck and the Platov brothers) and Johann Sehwers. 'My earlier interest in composing was reawakened and I felt the urge to return to it', writes Troitzky.

It is not known exactly when the composer was posted to the Kovno Governorate (Kovenskaya guberniya). Kovno (today Kaunas, Lithuania), west of Vilnius, was the capital of independent Lithuania from 1920 to 1940, as Vilnius was then a part of Poland, but we know that in 1907 Troitzky was living in Kedainiai (Kiejdany in Polish, Kedahnen in German), a village located in central Lithuania (51 km north of Kaunas). Several studies published in *Bohemia*, *Deutsches Wochenschach*, *Deutsche Schachzeitung* mention this place. Is it in this place that the unfortunate composer lost, for the first time, his chess material after a fire? In his preface to '500', his collection published in Germany and in German, Troitzky only mentions for this disaster the year it occurred: 1908. In 1909, after a short stay in

Wilna (today Vilnius, Lithuania), Troitzky went north, to a new place: Jewe (today Jõhvi in Estonia), in the Governorate of Estonia, 40 km kilometres west of Narva, in the far east of present Republic of Estonia (Ida-Viru county), close to the Russian frontier. Next year, he was in Oleshnitsa as indicated in *Niva*, September 1910. Oleshnitsa (until 1923 the Russian name of a village now called Alajoe, in Estonia) is on the shores of Lake Peipus. Alajoe today has around 150 inhabitants. As Jõhvi is the capital of the Ida-Viru county in which Alajoe is located, maybe it was only one place and not two. For Troitzky, the advantage of this location was its relative closeness to Petersburg (less than 200 km).

One can also assume that Troitzky had kept a pied-à-terre in the capital of the Russian Empire. From time to time, the original studies published in chess magazines mention Petersburg: for instance, in November 1909 (*Deutsche Schachzeitung*), in January 1910 (*Niva*), or in 1912, (*Bohemia* and *Deutsche Schachzeitung*). Petersburg, at the beginning of 1st World War, had to be renamed in Petrograd, because of the German origin of its name that was now inappropriate in a country fighting against German Empire. But it is in a German source, the *Ranneforth's Chess-Kalender*, that we find the first precise address of Alexei Troitzky in his native town.

Heinrich Ranneforth (1864-1945) was a German chesswriter, one of the editors, with M. Karstedt, of the *Deutsches Wochenschach*. Later, Ranneforth became one of the editors of the *Deutsche Schachzeitung* during the dark times of Nazism. Ranneforth published, from 1907 till 1938, his well informed yearly *Schach-Kalender*. In the 1915 issue, p.78, he gives the following full address :

‘Troitzky, A.: Roschdestwenskaja 44, Qu 22, St Petersburg/Petrograd 8, Russia’. This address, with its German spelling is also in Lamare’s papers with a small alteration (Roschdestwensaya). It corresponds to the current *8th Sovietskaya ulitsa, apartment 22* (German Qu is for Russian Kv, apartment), in the *Smolny* area. The name of the Rojdestwenskaja street was changed, as many other streets, during the Soviet era.

In the following years, things are far from clear: it seems that in 1916 he was still posted in Jewe (source: *Tidskrift för Schack*), even if the *Chess Amateur* award, the same year, places him in Petrograd. In 1917, he was probably in Hmara, a small village in the Smolensk oblast, south-east of the regional capital (source, again: *Tidskrift för Schack*). Later the same year, the same source gives Minsk (Byelorussia). 1917 is also the year Troitzky lost for the second time his chess material.

Troitzky’s second period of professional activity took place in another part of Russia, this time east of Moscow, in the Penza region, near the Volga. He was no longer an assistant forester, he was an instructor in the Provincial Executive Committee (*Gubispolkom* in Russian), working for the new regime. Penza is located 625 km south-east of Moscow (i.e. 1,200 km south-east of Petersburg). Life in Penza and around was particularly troubled during the Bolshevik revolution: there was insurrection in the ‘kulak districts’ and it is from Penza that the Czechoslovak Legions

launched an anti-Bolshevik uprising in April and May 1918, severely quelled by the Red Army.

These difficult years⁽¹⁾ coincides with Troitzky’s ‘second break in [his] composing activity’ (1917-1923), that was the cause of strong anxiety about his fate. In his column devoted to endgames, on page 168 of the July 1945 *BCM*, T.R. Dawson reported that more than 25 years before, he had announced Troitzky’s death: ‘In 1919, he was reported dead, but in 1920 in a letter from his own hand I had the joy of turning “dead” into “missing and found again”.’ Marcel Lamare, in his review for *La Stratégie* of the Troitzky 1934 collection also mentions the rumour (‘There was a rumour going that he had been slaughtered; in point of fact, he had been the victim of several plunderings or fires that had destroyed his documentation’ – *La Stratégie*, August 1935). Even in Russia, nobody could certify that he was still alive. Later, in 1922, the chess journal *Shakhmaty* published a kind of missing person notice, asking Troitzky to give his address⁽²⁾.

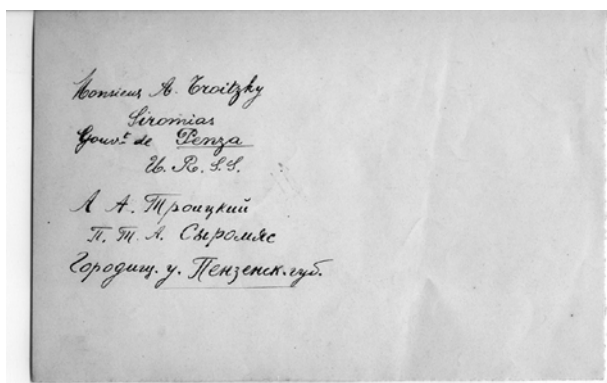
Next year, Troitzky came back to composition and to competition. ‘My reappearance came as a surprise there where an unconfirmed rumour had spread that I had perished in the Revolution.’ (‘Not an Autobiography’, *EG119*, p.746)’. Sources⁽³⁾ indicate that Troitzky worked in the forest areas of Dolgorukovo, Golovinscino and Černoserje. The latter is confirmed by several chess sources: Černoserje is in the Mokshansky raion, south-west of Penza. Troitzky’s foreword for his 1924 collection of studied was signed off: ‘Tschernoserje, 1 January 1924’. The award of the *Česke Slovo* 1924 tourney gives the same place (see *Casopis ceskoslovenskych sachistu* vii-viii1924, p. 99 and *Shakhmaty*, August 1924).

(1) Civil war, with intense fighting in 1918-1920, disorganized the whole country.

(2) This is quoted on p. 26 of the introduction written by V.A. Korolkov [*A.A. Troitzky, Life and Work*] for the 1959 collection of Troitzky studies.

(3) E.g. the Russian academic dictionary: <http://dic.academic.ru/dic.nsf/ruwiki/418098>.

Next year, a new name appeared: Siromias (Сыромяс), a village in the Sosnovorobovskiy raion, east of Penza (e.g. in *L'Echiquier*, August 1925 or in *Shakhmatny Listok*, September 1925). Marcel Lamare received from Troitzky himself a precious paper, handwritten both in Latin and Cyrillic letters, with his name (see document). It seems that Troitzky was stable during the next few years: *L'Echiquier*, in 1928, again mentions Siromias even if in this magazine both Penza or Siromias often alternate.



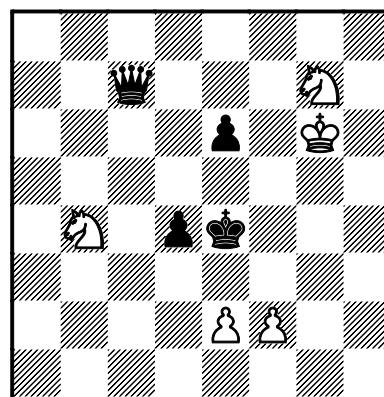
The *Penzenskaya Elektronnaya Encyclopaedia* underlines that Troitzky played a very active part in chess life in Penza: he organized chess tournaments, he kept himself busy with the local chess section and with the Penza newspaper, the *Trudovaya Pravda*, that hosted some studies of his own.

In December 1933, the *Shakhmaty v SSSR* study column still quotes Penza. Next year, the year he was awarded the title of Master of Sports of USSR for Chess composition (with three other composers: Mikhaïl Barulin, Alexandr Gulyaev and Leonid Kubbel), the great composer retired and came back to live as a pensioner in his native city, called Leningrad since 1924.

Special thanks to Wolf Rubinchik (Minsk), who helped me in locating some of the remote places where Troitzky was posted (he found Dor and Hmara), to Harold van der Heijden for browsing old chess columns, to Oleg Pervakov who read this article and sent me the 1995 article in *64* and to Timothy Whitworth,

who, in 1996, helped me in locating Kedainiai.

P.3. A.A.Troitzky
Trudovaya Pravda 1927



g6e4 3002.22 5/4 win

1. Se8! Qh2 2. Sf6+ Ke5 (Kf4; Sd3 mate)
3. Sg4+ wins, or Qa5 (Qa7) 2. Sf6+ Ke5
3. Sc6+ wins, or Qb6 2. Sf6+ Ke5 3. Sd7+ wins,
or Qc3 2. Sf6+ Ke5 3. Sd3+ Kd6 4. Se4+ wins.

Sources

Troitzky's collections :

- *Endspielstudien*, Schachverlag Bernhard Kagan, Berlin, 1924
- “Not an Autobiography”, *EG119*, January 1996 (translated by John Roycroft)
- *Collection of Chess Studies*, Leeds, 1937, reprinted in 1985 by Olms Edition, Zürich.
- V.A. KOROLKOV and V. CHEKHOVER, *Izbrannye etyudy A.A. Troitskogo* (Selected studies of A.A. Troitzky), Fizkultura i sport, Moscow, 1959.
- O. PERVAKOV, “Novy shakhmatny adres – Naverezhnaya Moiki, 91...”, in *64*, n° 5, 1995, p. 76.

The (on-line) *Penzenskaya Elektronnaya Encyclopaedia*.

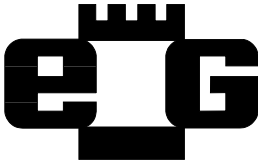
Edward WINTER's *Chessnotes* (www.chesshistory.com).

(to be continued)

Errata

In my article about Gurvich (*EG184*), Wolf Rubinchik found the following mistakes :

- p.127, read Lubyanka instead and not Lyubanka.
- p.127, the article in *Pravda* was published on January 28 and not 29.
- p.128, P1: after 1...Ke7 2.Re2+ read 3.Sc3 instead of 3.Sc2.



What is “Let’s Check”?

EMIL VLASÁK

In June 2011 ChessBase celebrated 25 years of existence. The congratulations from Garry Kasparov – one of the godfathers of the company and the first enthusiastic user – could not be missed on the ChessBase website. But the former champion did not only praise; at the end of his salutation he reproached ChessBase for a certain stagnation, and indicated that one cannot live forever on one success. As an answer ChessBase promised that within three months they would introduce a new product that would be another revolution in chess.

Although the entire episode was clearly prearranged, it attracted considerable attention. Experts and amateurs have tried to predict the nature of the novelty. The vast majority guessed something like a remote engine (as specific chess reaction to the modern cloud computing concept), perhaps based on the Houdini engine, at a cost significantly lower than the expensive remote Rybka. But all those “shots” were off the mark.

By the way, nothing has been heard about remote Rybka last year, but according to backstage sources several grandmasters actually pay for using it.

Let’s Check in a Nutshell

That new “thing” is called Let’s check and was introduced early October 2011 as part of the new Fritz 13 software. In short, it is (or rather it will be) a gigantic online database of chess analyses.

Each position included in Let’s Check contains (1) up to three short computer lines with the name of generating engine, depth of its

analysis and evaluation, (2) the discoverer’s name, (3) a mini discussion forum and (4) several other statistical values.

How does it work?

Suppose you need to analyze some position. In the engine window of Fritz 13 you switch on the special Let’s Check enhancement panel and it indicates immediately if the position has already been included in the Let’s Check database.

If so, you can study all the associated information. Maybe your problem is solved and you have saved an hour of work. If you disagree with the lines and/or the evaluation, you can leave your engine running until it “beats” the weakest of the Let’s Check lines. This will be replaced by your analysis under your name.

If you find a new position, you can “book” it in the Let’s Check system under your name. A “discoverer” of the position remains in the Let’s Check system forever, although his analysis can be eventually replaced by deeper calculations and better engines.

The name of the discoverer or innovator is actually a nick from “Playchess”, the well-known online chess club of ChessBase.

To be included in the Let’s Check lines, the analysis must be sufficiently deep. Fritz 13 measures the performance of your hardware and accordingly the minimum time calculation is estimated. A small progress bar runs down the lines, and after reaching a turning point, it becomes green.

Finding new positions can be a sport for some peculiar types of chess player, so something like the discoverers’ rating list is ready

for them. The ranking derives not only from the number of discoveries and depth of lines, but also from the number of later “visits”.

LiveBook

At a first look I had a feeling that the whole system is too machine-oriented. There are still positions not comprehensible to computers. A user can recognize them but he is unable to make any manual correction in shipped analysis.

The answer seems to be LiveBook – the second essential component of the Let’s Check system. LiveBook looks like a usual opening book, but its features are much richer.

Firstly, LiveBook tries to organize all positions – not only in the opening – in trees and derive from it the right evaluations. So if the engine lines are clearly wrong, it is possible to enter several other related positions into the system and this way to guide LiveBook in the right direction.

Second, LiveBook controls (through its comments panel) a small discussion forum associated with the current position. Here you can enter your doubts textually. You are entitled to one short note up to 140 characters. Each commentary can give a “Like”/“Dislike” tag from other users (like in Facebook), and these statistics are then displayed, too.

The system maintains another incentive and attraction – a publicly accessible commentator’s list with the number of likes/dislikes. This can also affect the display order of comments.

And thirdly, LiveBook is of course what you would expect – an excellent living opening book.

What does this “Live” mean? Suppose some important game is played in a super-tournament and it is available online. Some users analyze it continuously using a quick computer and having Let’s Check enabled. The game is still being played, but its opening phase is already a part of LiveBook.

Renting engines

ChessBase is evidently interested in the rapid growth of the whole system and it should be supported by another novelty – borrowing engines.

It often happens that on a powerful computer a user runs only some undemanding activity, such as typing or surfing the Internet. During such periods, you can rent your engine and computer performance for analysis required at another end of the world. Lending is never automatic; you must always explicitly offer it.

And when you need a deep analysis yourself in return you can use remote engines. The result could be surprisingly fast. Analysis of the whole game could ideally take only the time needed for one position.

There is a credit system to keep a fair balance between borrowing and using. For loan for one position to get 1 credit and the analysis of one position costs 1.3 credits. The “profit” is used by Let’s Check for automatic analysis of classic games. For example, at the time of writing this text a full analysis of the 1953 Candidate Tournament had been completed.

How much does it cost?

Let’s Check requires activated Fritz 13 software (about 50 EUR), whose functionality is guaranteed until at least December 31, 2014.

Let’s Check can be partially used even without an account on Playchess. To take full advantage you need any usual Playchess account (30 EUR yearly). With Fritz 13 you get a free Premium account for a half-year.

Problems

The first debates saw the main problem in the reluctance of professionals to share their work. However Let’s check accepts mainly machine lines and those could be generated even by well equipped beginners. Building the system will be obviously based on enthusiastic amateurs and it seems the built-in motiva-

tions (booking positions, rating lists) are enough for them.

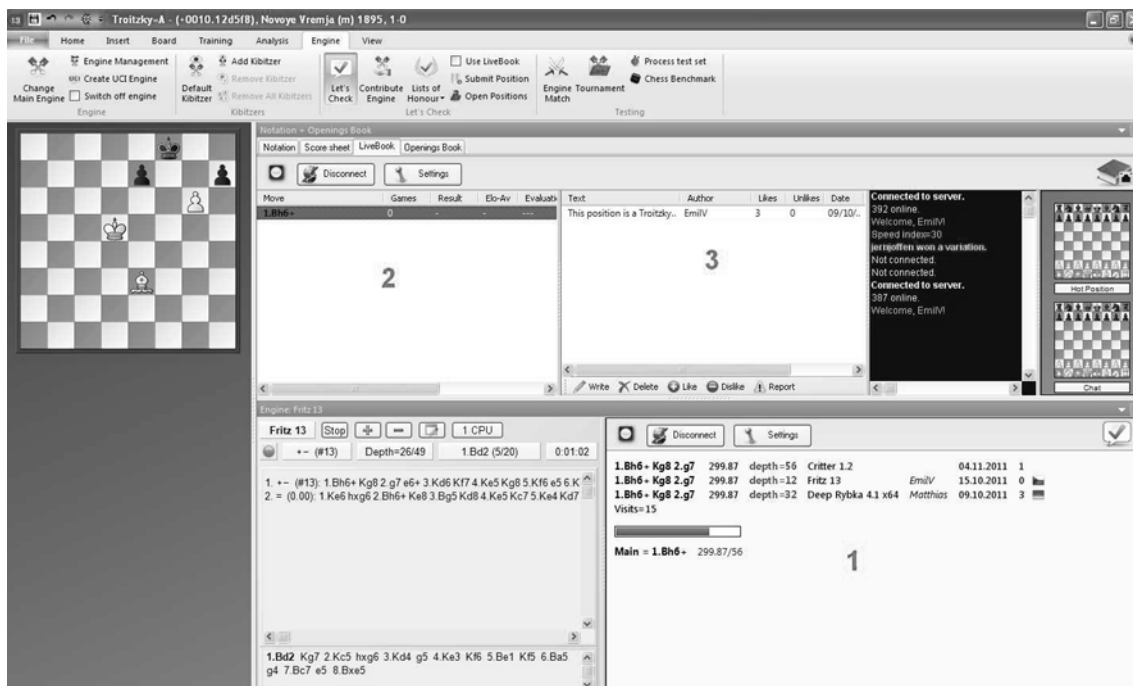
And what about saboteurs trying to abuse and devalue the system? It is not a problem to write wrong comments and not big problem to put engine out of tune to generate weak lines. In addition to “like”/“dislike” buttons the system provides another more extreme one allowing denouncing a user. Such cases must be undoubtedly solved by a human administrator with good chess skills.

Let’s Check could change correspondence chess. Orthodox players apparently will not use Let’s Check being afraid of “showing their cards”. However a most creative player can use Let’s Check as the second unofficial communication channel to start playing some sort of poker with his opponents.

And finally, as a composer I dislike the possibility, that anyone can “book” already composed problems. As a try I have booked a well-known Troitzky study without any problems. I have quoted the actual author in the discuss forum and have got several “likes”. Putting the real author in the note is still the only reasonable option, but I would like to see some better final solution.

What does all this mean?

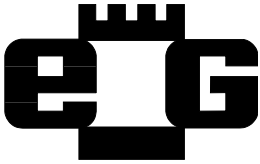
If Let’s Check will start as intended, Chess-Base will build a gigantic database with chess knowledge. It could cover not only openings, but also the middle game and endings and will become an essential reference. If such an ambitious plan to succeed remains an open question.



On the picture is a full Fritz 13 screen with Let’s Check.

1 – Let’s Check engine add-in pane; 2 – LiveBook. 3 – Discus forum.

In the discussion forum you can see my note about the actual author; it got 3x “likes”.



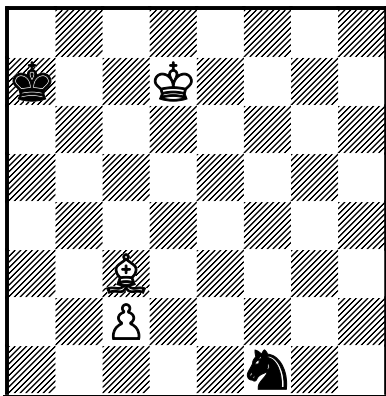
Ever higher: Excelsior Plus

Prizewinners explained

YOCHANAN AFEK

Back in the late sixties and early seventies, when I made my first steps in the minefield of chess composition, one of my favourite books was *FIDE Album 1945-55* where I first got acquainted, among many classics, with the following 'malyutka':

A.1. Hugh Blandford
1st prize *Springaren* 1949



d7a7 0013.10 3/2 Win

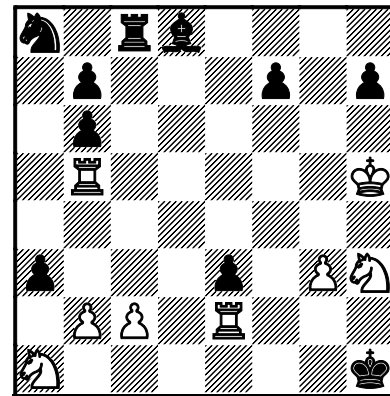
1.Bd4+ Ka8! 2.c4 Sd2 3.c5 Sb3 4.c6 Sa5 5.c7 Sc6! 6.c8R+! (6.Kxc6? stalemate, or 6.c8Q+? Sb8+ and stalemate).

This series of obvious (in fact forced) moves shows in the purest form the old theme known also from other genres as the Excelsior: A pawn moves all the way from its initial square to promotion.

The first excelsior belongs to the one and only Sam Loyd (1841-1911), the American wizard who was just 20 when he published this moreover:

According to the Wikipedia, Loyd had a friend who was willing to wager that he could always find the piece which delivered the principal mate of a chess problem. Loyd composed this problem as a joke and bet his friend that he could not pick a piece that *doesn't* give

A.2. Samuel Loyd
London Era 1861



Mate in five moves

mate in the main line (his friend immediately identified the pawn on b2 as being the least likely to deliver mate), and when the problem was published it was with the stipulation that White mates with "the least likely piece or pawn".

The solution: **1.b4!** (Threatening 2.Rf5 and 3.Rf1 mate, or 2.Rd5 and 3.Rd1 mate) **1...Rc5+ 2.bxc5!** (Threatening 3.Rb1 mate) **2...a2 3.c6!** (Resuming the threats as on move one) **3...Bc7 4.cxb7** and **5.bxa8Q** (bxa8B) mate. The mate is delivered with the pawn which starts on b2.

The theme was named after the poem "Excelsior" by the famous American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The word means in Latin and in archaic English "ever higher".

The Excelsior alone is not too exciting any more. After all as over the board players we happened to demonstrate it more than once running a single pawn or more all the way to the eighth rank.

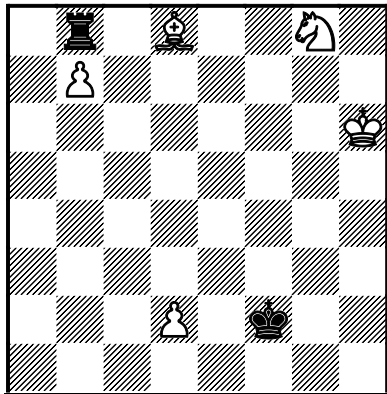
However, combined with other motifs it might intensify the impression and contribute

to the study's thematic unity. This is best displayed in two recent prize winners.

The prolific Hungarian composer won the studies section in the big and successful tourney that celebrated (a couple of years too late but who cares?) the first jubilee of the Permanent Commission for Chess Composition.

A.3. János Mikitovics

1st prize PCCC 50 AT 2010



h6f2 0311.20 5/2 Win

1.Ba5! Rxb7 2.Sf6 Ke2 3.d4 Ra7 (Kd3 4.d5 Kc4 5.d6 Kb5 6.Bd8 Kc6 7.Be7 Rb1 8.d7 Rd1 9.d8Q wins, Excelsior) **4.Bd8!** (Thematic try 4.Bb6!? Ra6 5.Sd5 (5.Sd7 Kd2 6.Kg5 Kc3 7.Bc5 Ra4 8.d5 Kc4) Kf3 6.Kg6 Ke4 7.Sf6+ Kd3 8.Bc5 Kc4 9.Kf5 Ra5 10.Sd7 Kd5 11.Sf6+ Kc4 12.Sd7 Kd5 positional draw) **Ke3 5.d5 Ra6! Pin 6.Be7! Kf4 7.d6 Ke5 8.d7!** (8.Se8? Rb6 (Rc6)! 9.Kg6 Ke6!) **Ke6 9.d8Q** wins.

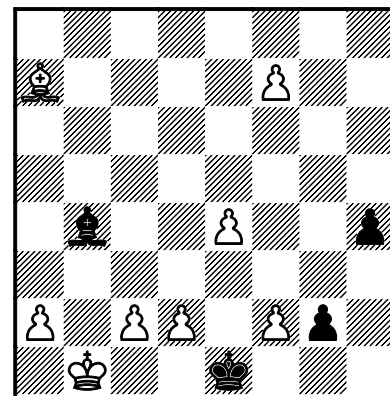
The formal theme in all sections of the event required pins and here indeed we witness a festival of pinning, unpinning, halfpinning and selfpinning. Quite a lot of them indeed are indicated in the course of the solution either in the main line or in thematic tries. Nevertheless, my personal view is that most of it is in fact just a matter of formality since, in particular, the unpinning and half-pinning are barely exploited to create real effect on the

events. On the other hand, I was more impressed by the surprisingly natural and precise Excelsior as well as by the beautiful switchback, despite the absence of any tactics:

A special tourney commemorated the centenary of the late Russian grandmaster Alexander Tolush. The St. Petersburg duo realized the Excelsior in a bishop ending. The advanced black pawns look pretty dangerous while their white counterpart is under control. Which of the other white pawns is going to give it a try?

**A.4. Leonard Katsnelson
& Alexei Sochnev**

1st prize Tolush 100 MT 2011



b1e1 0040.62 7/4 Draw

1.f3! (Thematic try 1.f4? Ke2 2.Bg1 Kf1 3.Bh2 h3 4.a4 g1Q 5.Bxg1 Kxg1 6.c3 Bc5 7.a5 h2 8.a6 h1Q 9.f8Q Qxe4+) **Ke2 2.Bg1! Kf1 3.Bh2 h3 4.a4! g1Q 5.Bxg1 Kxg1 6.c3!** (Thematic try 6.a5? h2 7.a6 h1Q 8.f8Q Bxf8 9.a7 Kf2+ 10.Ka2 Qc1 11.a8Q Qxc2+ 12.Ka1 Bg7+) **Bc5 7.a5!** (7.d4? Be7 8.a5 h2 9.a6 h1Q 10.f8Q Bxf8 11.a7 Kf2+ 12.Ka2 Qc1 13.a8Q Qc2+ 14.Ka1 Qxc3+ 15.Ka2 Qc2+ 16.Ka1 Bb4) **h2 8.a6 h1Q 9.f8Q Bxf8 10.a7 Kf2+ 11.Ka2! Qc1 12.a8Q** Draw!

Similar to Loyd's problem here also the "unlikely pawn" did it at last.

Jan Timman 60 Jubilee Tourney

New In Chess announces a composition tourney to commemorate the 60th birthday of Jan Timman, grandmaster and author of *The Art of the Endgame* and several other fine books on endgame studies

No set theme. Twins and/or joint studies allowed.

The judge of this event will be Jan Timman himself.

First prize: 300 €; Second prize: 200 €; Third prize: 100 €

Also book prizes

Honourable mentions and commendations will be awarded

Entries should include the name of the composer(s), postal address, diagram with full solution (preferably with a PGN-file attached).

Please send **before June 30th, 2012** to the tourney director:

René Olthof

c/o New In Chess

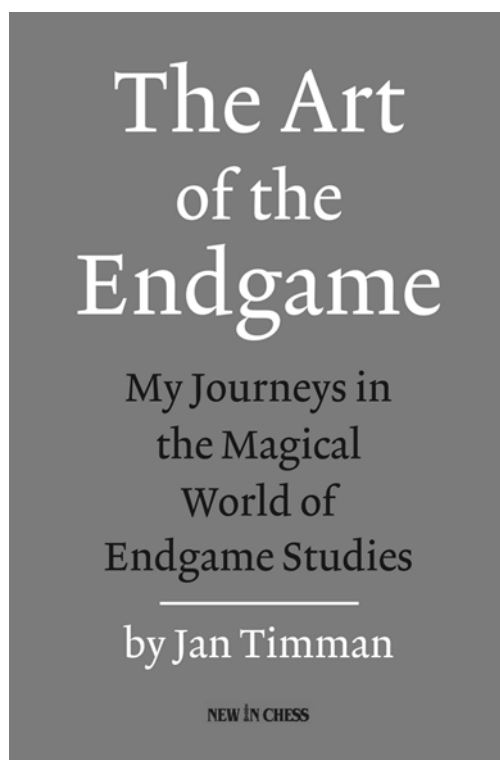
P.O. Box 1093

NL 1810 KB Alkmaar

The Netherlands

E-mail: raja@newinchess.com

The winners will be announced in *New In Chess Magazine*



Tata Steel Chess and Studies Day

The third international Tata Steel Chess and Studies Day will be held on Saturday, January 28th, 2012 in *De Moriaan* in Wijk aan Zee (Netherlands) as part of Tata Steel chess tournament and in collaboration with ARVES. Chief Arbiter: Luc Palmans

Here is the time-table:

10:00 – 10.30: Registration

10.45: Official opening

11.00 – 14.00: International Open Solving Competition of studies with a prize fund of 750 euros and book prizes. Special prizes will be awarded to the best newcomers and youth solvers.

14.00 – 17.00: Watching live the penultimate round of the world's most famous chess tournaments with GM commentary.

17.30: Prize giving and presentation of the solutions.

Entry fee: 15 euros; juniors (u-20) 10 euros; GMs and IMs – free.

Winners of 2009 edition: 1.IM Twan Burg
2.GM John Nunn 3.GM Eddy van Beers

Winners of 2011 edition: 1.GM John Nunn
2. GM Eddy van Beers 3. WGM Alina L'ami

For further details and registration (in advance as the number of participants is limited!) Please write to the organizer Yochanan Afek (afek26@gmail.com) before January 25th, 2012. Join an enjoyable chess and chess composition weekend with the special atmosphere of the great Wijk aan Zee festival and help us to create a successful event again!

International Solving Contest

The International Solving Contest (ISC) will take place on January 29th, 2012 – the last day of Tata Steel Chess tournament. The solving championship will be held simultaneously in various countries at the very same time. In 2011 more than 200 solvers from 28 countries took part and the winner was the English GM John Nunn (triple former winner of the Hoogovens, now Tata Steel grandmaster tournament). He will try to defend his title in *De Moriaan* against tough opponents such as GM Piotr Murdzia (Poland), currently the world's highest rated solver, GM Dolf Wissmann, Netherland's highest rated solver and GM Oleg Pervakov, currently the world's study composing champion. They will all also take part in the study solving day on Saturday, January 28th.

The ISC is organized in two categories. The first category is aimed at experienced solvers and comprises two rounds of six problems each: twomover, threemover, moremover, selfmate, helpmate, study. The second category

is designed for novice solvers, who have to solve four problems per round, two of which are twomovers.

Participation is free.

Location: The VIP room in *De Moriaan* at Wijk aan Zee

Time table:

10:30 – 10:45: Registration

11:00 – 13:00: Round 1

13:30 – 15:30: Round 2

Around 17:00: Results

After solving you may still enjoy the last round of the Tata-tournament and the live-commentary.

Registration and information:

No later than 25th January 2012 to: jc.uitenbroek@kpnplanet.nl through citing ISC2012.

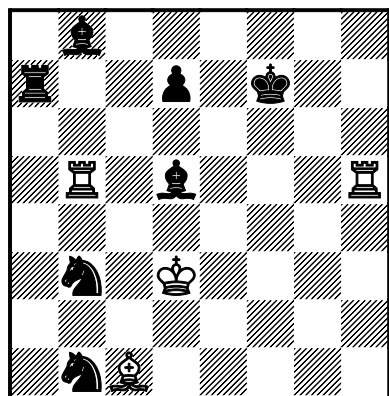
More information about chess problems can be found at www.probleemblad.nl.

(Hans Uitenbroek)

16th Meeting of Solidarity 2007-2009

The judge, Iuri Akobia (Georgia), received 14 entries. Three studies proved unsound, and four anticipated. The remaining studies all made it into the award.

No 17992 R. Becker
Prize



d3f7 0576.01 4/7 Draw

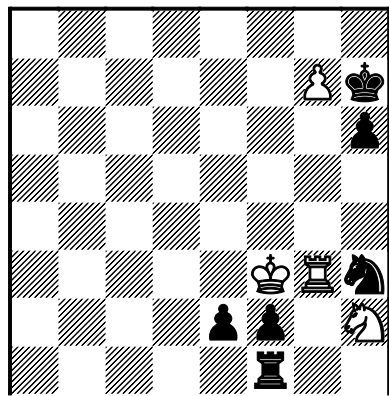
No 17992 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bb2 Ra2 2.Rh7+ Ke6 3.Rh6+ Kf7 4.Rh7+ Kg6 5.Rxd7 Be6 6.Rg7+ Kh6 7.Rg2 Bd6 8.Bg7+ Kh7 9.Rh5+/i Kg8 10.Rxa2 Sc1+ 11.Kc2 Sxa2 12.Ba1/ii Sa3+ 13.Kb2 Bf8 14.Rh8+ Kxh8 stalemate.

i) 9.Rxa2? Sc1+ 10.Kc2 Sxa2 11.Bb2 Sa3+ wins.

ii) 12.Rh6? Sa3+ 13.Kb2 Bd5 14.Rxd6 Sc4+ wins.

“The uncontested winner of the tourney. The stalemate with lock-out of the bishop is familiar, but here this idea is realised in a crystal clear manner in a new position!”

No 17993 M. Pagani & M. Campioli
1st honourable mention

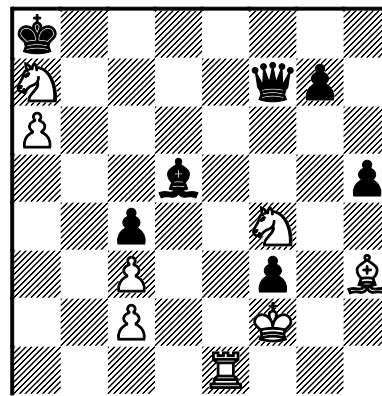


f3h7 0404.13 4/6 BTM, Draw

No 17993 Maddalena Pagani & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1...Sg1+ 2.Kg2 Kg8 3.Sg4 Kxg7 4.Sxf2+ Kf8 5.Sd3 Rd1 6.Kf2 Rf1+ 7.Kg2 h5 8.Re3 Rd1 9.Kf2 Rf1+ 10.Kg2 Rd1 11.Kf2, positional draw, or h4 12.Se1 draw.

“A pleasant positional draw is realised here”.

No 17994 Z. Mihajloski
2nd honourable mention



f2a8 3142.34 8/7 Win

No 17994 Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia). 1.Sb5 Bc6 2.Re8+/i Bxe8 3.Be6 Qf6 4.Bd5+ Bc6 5.Bxc6+ Qxc6 6.Se6/ii Qb6+ 7.Kxf3 Kb8 8.a7+ Kb7 9.Sec7 Qf6+ 10.Ke2/iii Qe7+ 11.Kd1 Qd8+ 12.Kc1 h4 13.a8Q+ Qxa8 14.Sxa8 h3 15.Sd6+ wins.

i) 2.Sd5? Bxb5 3.Be6 Qa7+ 4.Kxf3 Bc6 draws.

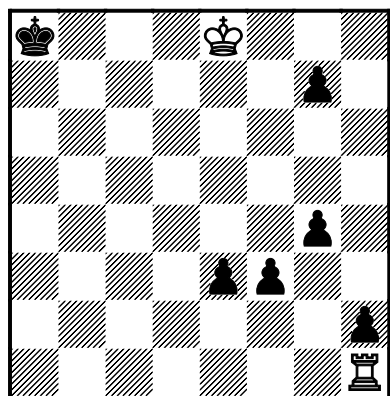
ii) 6.Sd5? Qc5+ 7.Kf1 g5 8.Sdc7+ Kb8 9.a7+ Qxa7 10.Sxa7 Kxc7 draws.

iii) 10.Ke4? Qc6+ 11.Ke3 Qc5+ 12.Ke2 Qe7+ 13.Kd1 waste of time.

“The play is sharp enough. It is necessary to note the accurate moves of the wK”.

No 17995 Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia). 1.Kd7 Kb8 2.Rb1+/i Ka7 3.Kc7 Ka6 4.Kc6 Ka5 5.Kc5 Ka4 6.Kc4 Ka3 7.Kc3 Ka2 8.Rb2+ Ka1 9.Rxh2 g3/iii 10.Rh1+/ii Ka2 11.Kd3 f2 12.Kxe3 g2 13.Ra1+ Kxa1 14.Kxf2 draws.

No 17995 Z. Mihajloski
special honourable mention



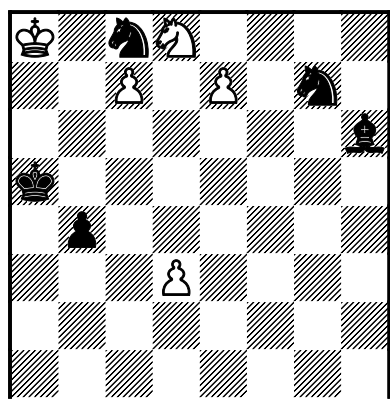
e8a8 0100.05 2/6 Draw

i) 2.Kc6? e2 3.Rb1+ Kc8 4.Ra1 Kd8 5.Kd6 Ke8 6.Ke6 e1Q+ 7.Rxe1 Kf8 8.Ra1 Kg8 9.Kf5 g3 10.Kg6 Kf8 wins.

ii) 10.Rh8? e2 11.Kc2 e1S+ wins.

“Well-known manoeuvres, but the author has refreshed the play by adding the moves 11...e1S! in the try and 13.Ra1+! in the main line”.

No 17996 M. Pagani & M. Campioli
1st commendation



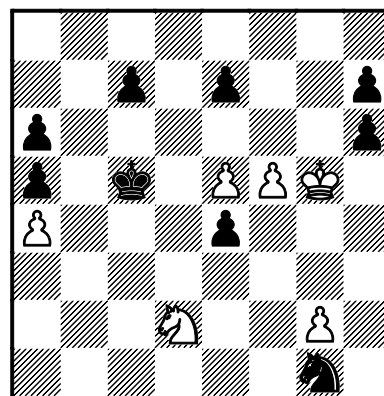
a8a5 0037.31 5/5 Draw

No 17996 Maddalena Pagani & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Kb7 Sd6+ 2.Kc6 Sc8 3.Kb7 Sxe7 4.Sc6+ Kb5 5.Sxe7 Se8 6.c8Q Sd6+ 7.Kc7 Sxc8 8.Sxc8, and:

– Bf4+ 9.Kb7 Be3 10.Sd6+ Kc5 11.Sc4 draws, or:

– Bf8 9.Sb6 Bd6+ 10.Kb7 b3 11.Sc4 draws.

No 17997 M. Pagani & M. Campioli
2nd commendation

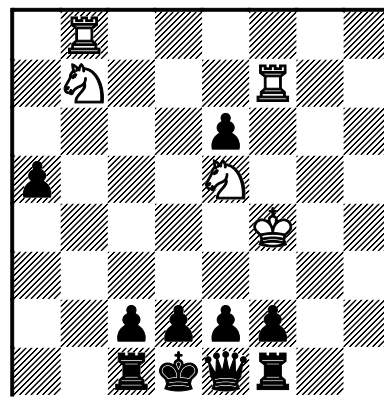


g5c5 0004.57 6/9 Draw

No 17997 Maddalena Pagani & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Kf4 Se2+ 2.Ke3/i Sc3 3.Sxe4+ Sxe4 4.Kxe4 h5 5.f6 exf6 6.exf6 Kd6 7.f7 Ke7 8.Kd5 Kxf7 9.Kc6 Ke6 10.Kxc7 Kd5 11.Kb6 Kc4 12.Kxa5 Kb3 13.g3 draws.

i) 2.Kxe4? Sc3+ 3.Kf4 Kd5 4.Sf1 Sd1 5.e6 c5 wins.

No 17998 M. Campioli
3rd commendation



f4d1 3802.06 5/10 Win

No 17998 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Sc4 e5+ 2.Ke4 Rb1 3.Sc5 Rxb8 4.Sd3 Rb4 5.Sxb4, and:

– Rh1 6.Se3+ Kc1 7.Sd3+ Kb1 8.Rb7+ Ka1 9.Sxc2+ Ka2 10.Rb2 mate, or:

– Kc1 6.Sa2+ Kb1 7.Sc3+, and:

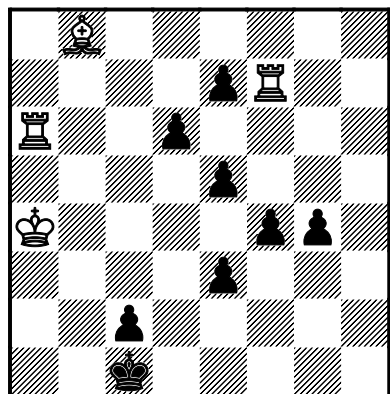
• Kc1 8.Rb7 d1Q 9.Sa2 mate, or here:

• Ka1/i 8.Ra7 d1Q 9.Rxa5 mate.

2nd ARVES Jenever ty 2009

The requested theme of the 2nd ARVES endgame study tourney during the PCCC meeting in Rio de Janeiro was: “studies with double check and mate in the final position”. The study used as an example was AJR’s EG1.00001! Judge Marcel Van Herck selected three studies for the award.

No 17999 R. Staudte
honourable mention



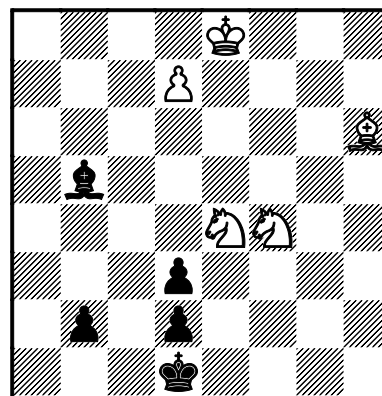
a4c1 0210.07 4/8 Win

No 17999 Rainer Staudte (Germany).
1.Rxe7 e2 2.Kb3 e1Q/i 3.Ra1+ Kd2 4.Rxe1
Kxe1 5.Kxc2 f3 6.Bxd6 f2 7.Bxe5 f1Q 8.Bg3
mate.

i) Kb1 3.Ra1+ Kxa1 4.Kxc2 e1Q 5.Ra7+
Qa5 6.Rxa5 mate.

No 18000 Iuri Akobia & David Gurgendidze
(Georgia). 1.Sc3+ Kc1 2.Sxb5 b1Q 3.Sa3/iii
Qb8+ 4.d8Q Qxd8+ 5.Kxd8 d1Q 6.Sxd3
mate.

No 18000 I. Akobia & D. Gurgendidze
1st commendation



e8d1 0042.13 5/5 Win

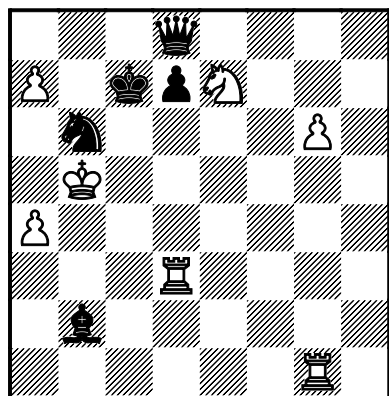
The 2nd commendation is cooked: L. Širán
(Slovakia) b4d6 0571.11 a6d4h3g5c7d7b6.
d5c6 6/5 BTM, Win: 1...c5+ 2.Kc4 cxd4
3.Bf4+ Ke7 4.Bxc7 Rc3+ 5.Kxd4 Rxc7 6.d6+
Kxd6 7.Sc8 mate. However, (MG) 6.Ke5 also
wins, e.g. Rb7 7.d6+ Ke8 8.Kd5 Rb8 9.Sxd7
Kxd7 10.Ra7+ Kc8 11.Kc6 Kd8 12.d7 Ke7
13.Ra5, or Bb5 7.Ra5 Rc5 8.Ra7+ Ke8 9.Ke6
Kf8 10.Sd7+ Bxd7+ 11.Rxd7.

3rd ARVES Jenever Ty 2010

During the 2010 meeting in Crete of the World Federation for Chess Composition (WFCC, formerly PCCC) ARVES held its third Jenever tourney for endgame studies. The set theme was: mate by a pinned piece or pawn, no double check allowed.

Judge Marcel van Herck received 16 entries and considered the level satisfactory.

No 18001 O. Pervakov
prize

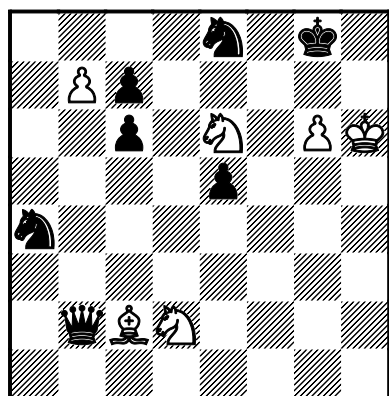


b5c7 3234.31 7/5 Win

No 18001 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.g7 Bxg7 2.Rxg7 Kb7 3.a5 Qc7 4.a8Q+ Sxa8 5.a6+ Ka7 6.Rxd7 Qxd7+ 7.Sc6 mate.

“Nice mating position and rich black counterplay”.

No 18002 M. Erenburg
1st honourable mention

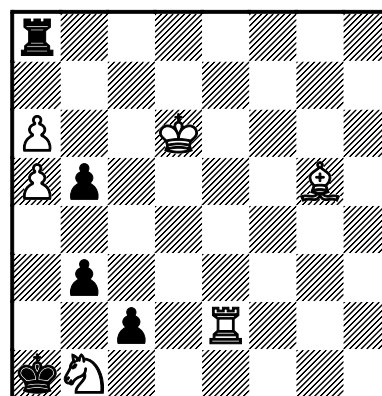


h6g8 3018.23 6/7 Win

No 18002 Mark Erenburg (Israel). 1.Bb3 Qxd2+ 2.Sf4+ Kf8 3.g7+ Sxg7 4.b8Q+ Se8/i 5.Qb4+ Qd6+ 6.Sg6 mate.

i) Ke7 5.Qxc7+ Ke8 6.Kxg7 Qd7+ 7.Bf7+ Ke7 8.Sg6 mate.

No 18003 J. Nunn
2nd honourable mention

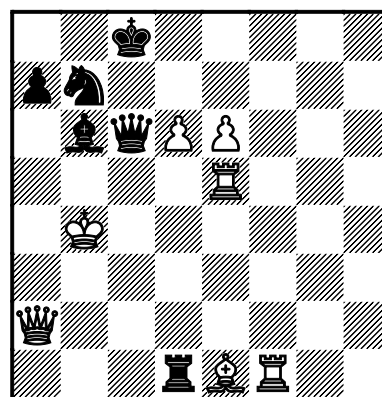


d6a1 0411.23 6/5 Win

No 18003 John Nunn (Great Britain). 1.Sa3 Rxa6+ 2.Kc5 Rxa5 3.Kb4 Rxa3/i 4.Kxa3 b2 5.Re1+ c1Q 6.Bxc1 b4+ 7.Kb3 b1Q+ 8.Bb2 mate.

i) b2 4.Sxc2+ Ka2 5.Kxa5/vi b1Q 6.Sd4+ Ka3 (Ka1; Bf6) 7.Sxb5+ Kb3 8.Re3+ Kb2 9.Bf6+ Kc2 10.Sa3+ wins.

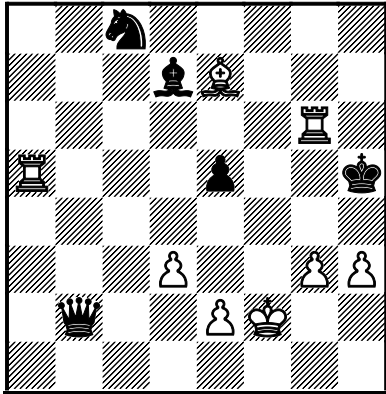
No 18004 E. Kopylov, O. Pervakov
& A. Selivanov
3rd honourable mention



b4c8 4543.21 7/6 Win

No 18004 Evgeny Kopyov, Oleg Pervakov & Andrey Selivanov (Russia). 1.Rf8+ Bd8 2.Rxd8+ Sxd8 3.d7+ Kc7 4.Qxa7+ Sb7 5.d8Q+ Rxd8 6.Bg3 Qd6+ 7.Rc5 mate.

No 18005 S. Borodavkin
1st commendation



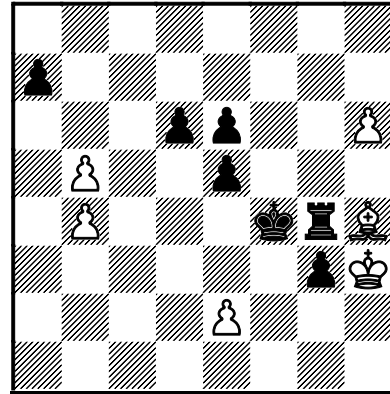
f2h5 3243.41 8/5 Win

No 18005 Sergey Borodavkin (Ukraine).
1.Raa6 Sxe7 2.g4+ Bxg4 3.Rh6+ Kg5 4.h4+
Kf4 5.Rhf6+ Sf5 6.Ra4+ Qd4+ 7.e3 mate.

No 18006 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.h7
Rxh4+ 2.Kxh4 g2 3.h8Q g1Q 4.Qh6+ Ke4
5.Qh7+ Kd5 6.Qd3+ Qd4+ 7.e4 mate.

The 3rd commendation by A. Ooms, E. Van
Beers (Belgium) & D. Wissmann (Nether-
lands) has a second solution: f7d7 4354.25
h6b8c7a6e3d8g4c8.c5e5b6c6e6e7f6 7/10

No 18006 V. Kovalenko
2nd commendation



h3f4 0310.45 6/7 Win

Win. Intended: 1.Qh3 f5 2.Qh6 Rb7 3.Qxe6+
Kc7 4.Qd7+ Kxd7 5.Sf6+ exf6 6.e6+ Kc7
7.Bf4+ Sd6+ 8.cxd6+ Kc8+ 9.d7 mate. But
(MG) found another (interesting!) solution: In
1.exf6 Ra7 2.Bf4 Sd6+ 3.Bxd6 exd6 4.Se5+
Kc7 5.Kxe6 bxc5 6.Qh7+ Kb6 7.Qb1+ Kc7
8.Qxb8+ Kxb8 9.Sxc6+ Kc7 10.f7 Kxc6
11.f8Q wins.

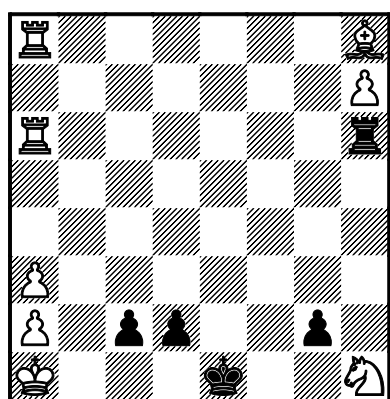
4th ARVES Jenever ty 2011

During the WFCC-conference in Jesi, one of the numerous quick composing tourneys (in various chess composition genres) was organized by ARVES. It was an informal tourney as the names of the composers were known to the judges Marcel Van Herck (Belgium) and Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands). The theme was “White and black underpromotion to bishop”.

In total 9 studies were submitted. By far the best study of the tourney was returned to the composer because it was not thematic since the bishop promotion occurred as a try.

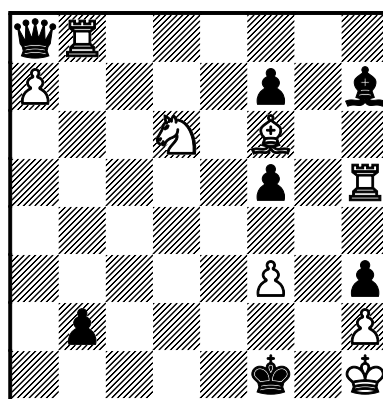
A new matrix for a bishop promotion was found independently by three composer groups.

No 18007 D. Gurgenidze & I. Akobia
1st prize



a1e1 0511.33 8/5 Win

No 18008 Y. Afek
2nd prize



h1f1 3241.34 8/7 Win

No 18007 David Gurgenidze & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Re8+ Kf1 2.Sg3+ Kf2 3.Se4+ Ke2 4.Sxd2+ Kxd2 5.Bc3+ Kxc3 6.Rc6+ Kd2 7.Rd8+ Kc1 8.Rxh6 g1B/i 9.h8B/ii Bd4+ 10.Bxd4 wins.

i) g1Q 9.Rh1 Qxh1 10.h8Q wins, but not 9.h8B? Qg7+ 10.Rf6 Qxf6+ 11.Bxf6 stalemate.

ii) 9.Rh1? stalemate, or 9.h8Q? Bd4+ 10.Rxd4 (Qxd4) stalemate.

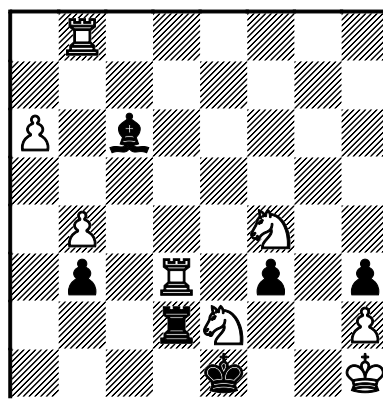
No 18008 Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Se4 fxe4 2.Ra5 exf3 3.Rxa8 Be4 4.Re8 f2+ 5.Rxe4 b1B (b1Q; Ra1) 6.a8B/i Bxe4+ 7.Bxe4 wins.

i) 6.Ra1? stalemate, or 6.a8Q? Bxe4+ 7.Qxe4 stalemate.

No 18009 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Sd4 f2+ 2.Sf3+ Bxf3+ 3.Rxf3 b2 4.Sd3+ Rxd3 5.Re8+ Kf1 6.a7 Ra3 7.Rxa3/i b1B/ii 8.a8B/iii Be4+ 9.Bxe4 wins.

i) 7.Ref8? Rxf3 8.a8Q Rxf8 9.Qa2 Re8 10.Qxb2 Ke1 draws.

No 18009 A. Jasik
3rd prize



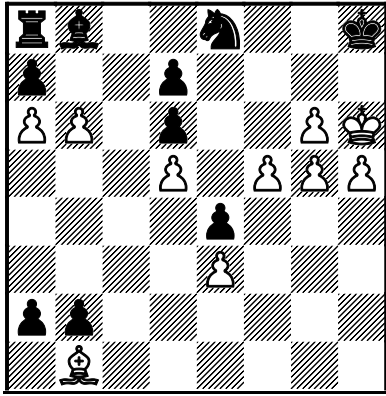
h1e1 0532.34 8/6 Win

ii) b1Q 8.Ra1 Qxa1 9.a8Q wins.

iii) 8.Ra1 stalemate?, or 8.a8Q? Be4+ 9.Qxe4 (Rxe4) stalemate.

No 18010 Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.f6 Sg7 2.fxg7+ Kg8 3.b7 a1B 4.bxa8B/i Bc7 5.Bc6/ii dxc6 6.dxc6 d5 7.Ba2 b1Q 8.Bxd5+ wins.

No 18010 J. Timman
1st honourable mention



h6h8 0343.86 10/10 Win

i) 4.bxa8Q (R)? stalemate, 4.bxa8S? Bc7 5.Sxc7 stalemate,

ii) 5.Bb7? Ba5 and Black mates, e.g. 6.Bc8 Bc3 7.Bxd7 Bxg7 mate.

No 18011 David Gurgendidze (Georgia). 1.g7 Qe6+ 2.b6 f1B+ 3.c4 Qxc4+ 4.Sxc4 Bxc4+ 5.b5 Bg8 6.gxh8B/i wins.

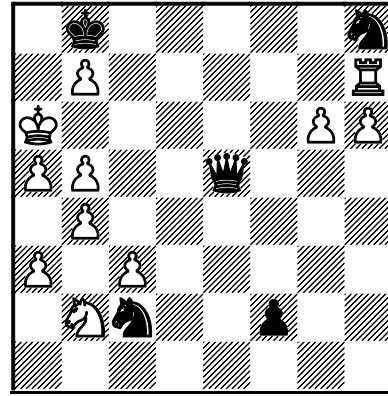
i) 6.gxh8Q? (Rax8?) Sb4+ 7.axb4 stalemate.

No 18012 Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.g8Q+ Kxg8 2.Kg6 Bxb5 3.h7+ Kh8 4.b7 Be8+ 5.Kh6 a1B/i 6.b8B/ii Bd7 7.Bd6 Bxf5 8.Bf8/iii Bxh7 9.Bg7+ Kg8 10.Bb3 mate.

i) a1Q 6.b8Q Qa4 7.Qg3 wins.

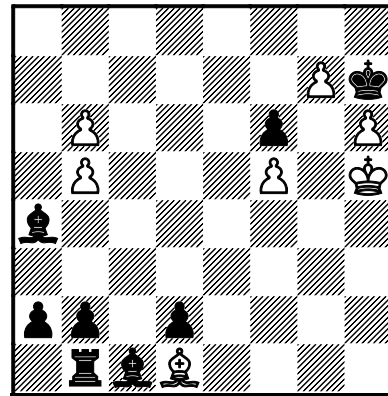
ii) 6.b8Q? stalemate.

No 18011 D. Gurgendidze
2nd honourable mention



a6b8 3107.81 11/5 Win

No 18012 Y. Afek
commendation



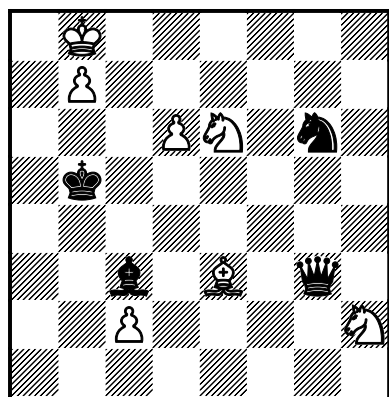
h5h7 0370.54 7/8 Win

iii) 8.Be7? Bxh7 9.Bxf6+ Kg8 10.Bb3+ Kf8 11.Kxh7 d1Q and Black wins.

Nestorescu 80 JT 2010

The Romanian GM received 44 studies from 30 authors of 18 countries for his 80th JT. The results were published in *Gambit*. During the confirmation time the first prize winner (by Gasparyan and Manvelyan) was eliminated due to a second solution.

No 18013 M. Doré & A. Pallier
1st prize



b8b5 3045.30 7/4 Win

No 18013 Marcel Doré & Alain Pallier (France). 1.Kc7 Kc4 2.b8Q Qxd6+ 3.Kxd6 Be5+ 4.Kc6/i Bxb8 5.Sf3 Se5+ 6.Sxe5+ Bxe5 7.Bb6 Bh8 8.Ba5 Bc3 9.Kb6/ii Bxa5+ 10.Kxa5 Kc3 11.Sd4 Kxd4 12.Kb4 wins.

i) Thematic try: 4.Kd7? Bxb8 5.Sf3 Se5+ 6.Sxe5+ Bxe5 7.Kc6 Bh8 8.Bd2 Bc3 9.Be3 Bh8 draws.

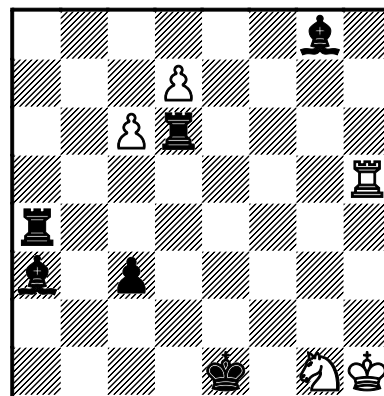
ii) 9.Bd8? Ba5 10.Be7 Bd2 11.Bf6 Bc3 12.Bd8 Ba5 13.Bxa5 stalemate.

“After a short and pleasant introduction there is an unexpected zugzwang position. White should avoid a positional draw after 4.Kd7? and a stalemate after 9.Bd8? It is surprising that the win is achieved by the last soldier on the board (wPc2) after all the pieces have disappeared”.

No 18014 Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.c7 Rh4+ 2.Rxh4 Bd5+ 3.Kh2 Rxd7 4.Sf3+ Kf1 5.c8Q Bd6+ 6.Kh3 Be6+ 7.Rg4 Rh7+ 8.Sh4 Bxc8 stalemate.

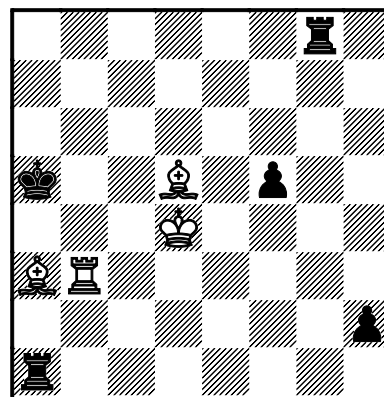
“A beautiful and unexpected stalemate with two white pieces pinned follows dynamic play by both sides”.

No 18014 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
2nd prize



h1e1 0761.21 5/6 Draw

No 18015 J. Mikitovics
3rd prize



d4a5 0720.02 4/5 Draw

No 18015 János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Ke5 f4 2.Kf5 Rd8 3.Bc6 f3 4.Bb4+/i Ka6 5.Bc5, and:

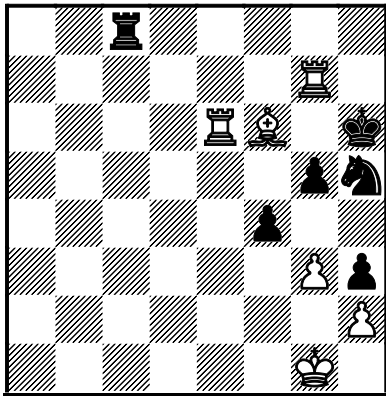
- Rf8+ 6.Ke6/v Rf6+ 7.Kxf6 h1Q 8.Rb6+ Ka5 9.Rb5+ Ka6 10.Rb6+ draws, or:

- Rd5+ 6.Bxd5 h1Q 7.Bc4+ Ka5 8.Rb5+ Ka4 9.Rb4+ Ka5 10.Rb5 draws.

i) Thematic try: 4.Bc5? Rd5+ 5.Bxd5 h1Q 6.Bb6+ Ka4.

“Difficult play, including avoidance of a thematic try, results in two echo lines of a positional draw”.

No 18016 L. Gonzalez
4th prize



g1h6 0513.23 6/6 BTM, Draw

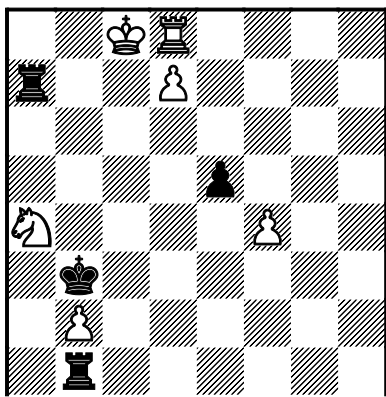
No 18016 Luis Gonzalez (Spain). 1...Rc1+ 2.Kf2 fxg3+ 3.Kf3 Rf1+ 4.Kg4 Sxf6+ 5.Rxf6+ Rxf6 6.Re7/i g2 7.Re1 Rf1 8.Re6+ Kh7 9.Kxh3/ii g1Q 10.Re7+ Kg6 11.Re6+ Kf7 12.Re7+ Kf6 13.Re6+ Kf5 14.Re5+ Kf4 15.Re4+ Kf3 16.Re3+ Kf2 17.Re2+ Kf3 18.Re3+ Qxe3 stalemate.

i) Try: 6.Rd7? g2 7.Rd1 Rf1 8.Rd6+ Kh7 9.Kxh3 g1Q 10.Rd7+ Kg6 11.Rd6+ Kf5 12.Rd5+ Kf4 and 13.Rd4+ Qxd4.

ii) Thematic try: 9.Re7+? Kg6 10.Kxh3 g1S+ wins.

“The stalemate position is not fully original but the accuracy of the white moves against clever black counterplay makes a good impression”.

No 18017 J. Mikitovics & I. Akobia
1st honourable mention



c8b3 0701.31 6/4 BTM, Draw

No 18017 János Mikitovics & Iuri Akobia (Georgia).

– Kxa4 2.Kb8 Ra5 3.Rc8 Rxb2+ 4.Kc7 Rc2+ 5.Kd8 Rd2 6.fxe5 Rxe5 7.Rc2 Rd3 (Rxc2

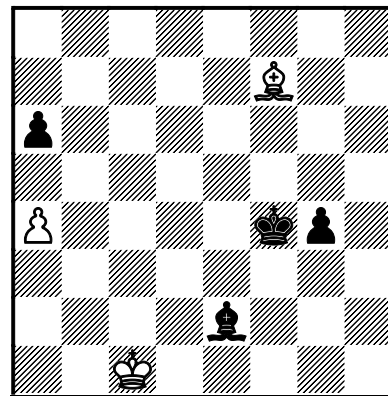
stalemate) 8.Rc3 Rd6 9.Rc6 Rdd5 10.Kc8 draws, and:

– Rc1+ 2.Sc3 Kxb2 3.Kb8 Ra3 4.Kc7 Kxc3 5.fxe5 Kd4+ 6.Kd6 Ra6+ 7.Ke7 Rh1 8.Rf8 Kxe5 9.d8S Ra7+/i 10.Ke8 Re1 11.Rf1 Rxf1 12.Sc6+ Kd6 13.Sxa7 draws.

i) Rh7+ 10.Rf7 Ra7+ 11.Ke8 Rh8+ 12.Rf8 Rxf8+ 13.Kxf8 Kf6 14.Ke8 Rc7 15.Kf8 Rd7 16.Ke8 Rc7 17.Kf8 positional draw.

“Two lines based on positional draws after a small change: one with a permanent opposition of the rooks or stalemate, the other with a pleasant underpromotion”.

No 18018 J. Timman
2nd honourable mention



c1f4 0040.12 3/4 Draw

No 18018 Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.Kd2 Bf3 2.a5 g3 3.Ke1 Ke3 4.Bc4 Be2 5.Bd5 Bc4 6.Bg2/i Bd3 7.Bh3 Kf3 8.Bf1 Be4 9.Bh3 Bf5 10.Bxf5 g2 11.Be4+ Kxe4 12.Kf2 draws.

i) 6.Bb7? Kd4 7.Bg2 Kc3 wins.

“An excellent miniature with a position of mutual zugzwang and a sacrifice of the wB to win the advanced pawn”.

No 18019 Leonard Katsnelson & Vladimir Katsnelson (Russia). 1.Kb1 axb4 2.h6 Sf4 3.h7 Sg6 4.h8Q Sxh8 5.Bxh8 b3 6.Bc3/i Kd3/ii 7.Bb4 a3 8.bxa3 b2 9.a4/iii Rxa4 10.Bc3 Kxc3/iv stalemate.

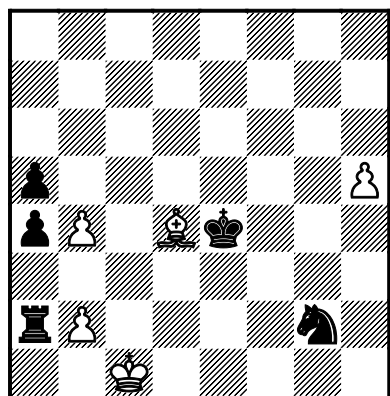
i) 6.Bg7? a3 7.bxa3 Rxa3 8.Kb2 Ra7 wins.

ii) a3 7.bxa3 Rxa3 8.Kb2 Kd3 9.Bb4 draws.

iii) 9.Be1? Ra1+ 10.Kxb2 Rxe1 wins.

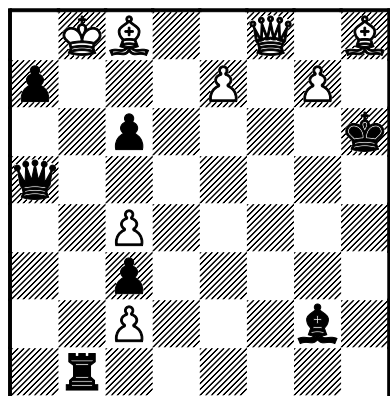
“The stalemate conclusion can be achieved only after the difficult finding of fine and precise play”.

No 18019 L. Katsnelson & V. Katsnelson
3rd honourable mention



c1e4 0313.32 5/5 Draw

No 18020 V. Kalandadze
4th honourable mention



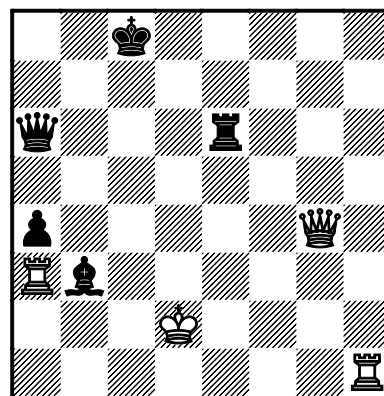
b8h6 4350.43 8/7 Draw

No 18020 Velimir Kalandadze (Georgia).
1.Bb7 Rxb7+ 2.Ka8 Rb8+ 3.Qxb8 c5+ 4.Qb7
Bxb7+ 5.Kxb7 Qb6+ 6.Kc8 Qc6+ 7.Kd8 Kh7
8.e8Q Qxe8+ 9.Kxe8 Kg8 10.Kd7 a5 11.Kc6
a4 12.Kb5 a3 13.Ka4 a2 14.Kb3 a1Q stale-
mate.

“After refusing to capture a rook, White sac-
rifices his queen. Since the bQ has to prevent
the wP from promoting, the wK is just in time
to get to g8. The wK march to b3 is spectac-
ular, although predictable. The black pawn pro-
motion ending in stalemate is well-motivated
as a rook could not win the ending without the
help of the bK”.

No 18021 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri
Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rh8+ Kc7 2.Rh7+ Kb8
3.Qb4+ Rb6 4.Qf8+ Qc8 5.Qf4+ Ka8 6.Rxa4+
Bxa4 7.Qxa4+ Ra6/i 8.Qe4+ Qc6 9.Rh8+ Kb7

No 18021 R. Becker & I. Akobia
special honourable mention



d2c8 4530.01 4/5 Win

10.Qb4+ Rb6 11.Rh7+ Kb8 12.Qf8+ Qc8
13.Qf4+ Ka8 14.Qf3+ Kb8 15.Qg3+ Ka8
16.Qa3+ Qa6 17.Qf8+ Rb8 18.Qf3+ Rb7
19.Rh8+ Ka7 20.Qe3+ Rb6/ii 21.Rh7+ Ka8
22.Qe8+ Rb8 23.Qe4+ Rb7 24.Rh8+ Ka7
25.Qd4+ Rb6 26.Rh7+ Ka8 27.Qd5+ Rb7
28.Rh8+ Ka7 29.Qc5+ Rb6 30.Ke3 zz Qb7
31.Re8 Qa6 32.Kf2 Qa2+/iii 33.Kg3 Qa6/iv
34.Kh2 Qa2+ 35.Kh3 Qa6 36.Re7+ Ka8
37.Qd5+ Rb7 38.Re8+ Ka7 39.Qd4+ Rb6
40.Rg8 Qa3+ 41.Rg3 Qa6 42.Rg7+ Ka8
43.Qe4+ Rb7 44.Rg8+ Ka7 45.Qd4+ wins/v.

i) Qa6 8.Qe8+ Rb8 9.Qe4+ Rb7 10.Rh8+
Ka7 11.Qd4+ Rb6 12.Rh7+ Ka8 13.Qd5+ Rb7
14.Rh8+ Ka7 15.Qc5+ Rb6 16.Ke3 wins.

ii) Qb5 31.Rh7+ Ka6 32.Qa3+ Qa5 33.Ra7+
wins.

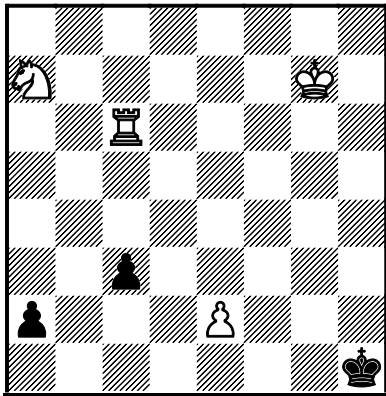
iii) Qd3 33.Re7+ Ka6 34.Qc8+ Ka5
35.Qa8+ Kb4 36.Re4+ Kb3 37.Qa4+ wins.

iv) Qb3+ 34.Kh2 Qb2+ 35.Kh3 wins.

v) Rb6 46.Kh4 Qb5 47.Qg7+ Rb7 48.Qa1+
Qa6 49.Ra8+ wins.

“After the introductory phase of this difficult
study an ending of queen and rook against
queen and rook results. The length of the solu-
tion and the analysis of white and black alter-
natives make this study too difficult to solve
but I could not remain indifferent to the depth
of the study and the very original zugzwang
position after 30.Ke3 which is the only way to
achieve the victorious march of the wK from
the d-file to the h-file”.

No 18022 G. Amann & M. Minski
1st commendation

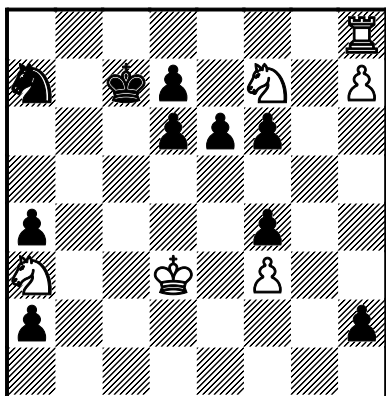


g7h1 0101.12 4/3 Draw

No 18022 Günter Amann (Austria) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sb5 c2 2.Rxc2 a1Q+ 3.Sc3 Qa6 4.Rc1+ Kg2 5.Rc2 Qa7+ 6.Kf6 Qc5 7.Sd5 Qd6+ 8.Kg7 draws.

“The draw in this difficult miniature is only achieved when the bK reaches the second rank so that the pawn/rook battery is able to fire following a sacrifice of wS”.

No 18023 A. Pallier
2nd commendation



d3c7 0105.28 6/10 Draw

No 18023 Alain Pallier (France). 1.Sb5+/i Sxb5 2.Rc8+ Kxc8 3.h8Q+/ii Kb7 4.Sxd6+/iii Sxd6 5.Qxh2 a1Q 6.Qb2+ Qxb2 stalemate.

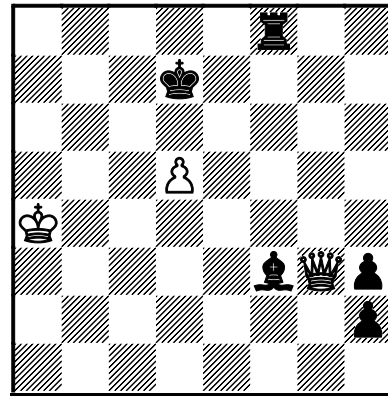
i) 1.Rc8+? Sxc8 2.h8Q a1Q 3.Qd8+ Kb7 4.Qxd7+ Kb6 wins.

ii) 3.Sxd6+? Sxd6 4.h8Q+ Kc7 wins.

iii) 4.Qxh2? a1Q 5.Sxd6+ Kc6 wins.

“An unexpected model stalemate arises after sacrificing all the white pieces with check but in a precise order”.

No 18024 J. Mikitovics & I. Akobia
3rd commendation

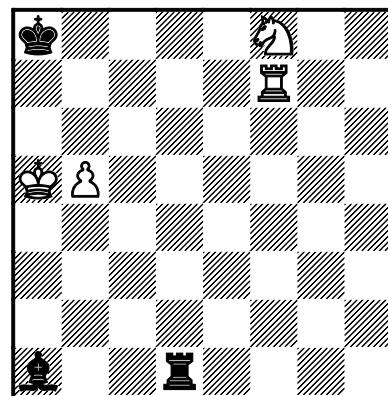


a4d7 1330.12 3/5 Win

No 18024 János Mikitovics (Hungary) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Qg7+ Ke8 2.d6 Rf4+ 3.Ka5 Re4 4.Qc7 Re5+ 5.Kb4 Re4+ 6.Kc3 Re3+ 7.Kd2 Re2+ 8.Kd3 Bg4 9.Qc6+ Kd8 10.Qb7 h1Q 11.Qxh1 Rg2 12.Qe1 Kd7 13.Qe7+ Kc6 14.Qc7+ Kd5 15.d7 Bf5+ 16.Ke3 wins.

“The not so common ending of queen and pawn against rook, bishop and pawn includes some interesting moments”.

No 18025 Y. Afek
4th commendation



a5a8 0431.10 4/3 Win

No 18025 Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.b6 Be5 2.Ra7+ Kb8 3.Sd7+ Kc8 4.b7+/i Kd8 5.Sxe5 Kc7/ii 6.Sc6/iii Kxc6 7.b8S+ Kc5 8.Rc7+ Kd4 9.Rd7+ Kc3 10.Rxd1 wins.

i) 4.Sxe5? Ra1+ 5.Kb5 Rxa7 6.bxa7 Kb7 7.Sc6 Ka8 draws.

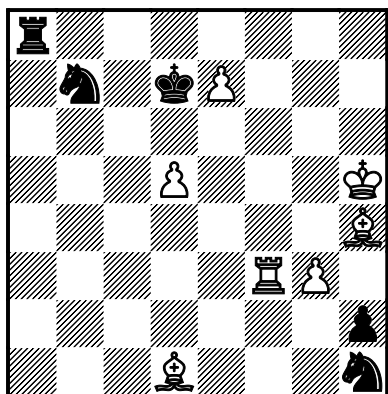
ii) Ra1+ 6.Kb6 Rb1+ 7.Kc6 Rc1+ 8.Sc4 Rxc4+ 9.Kb5 wins.

iii) 6.Sd7? Ra1+ 7.Kb5 Rb1+ 8.Ka6 Ra1+ draws.

“A phoenix theme in a stylish miniature”.

MG proposes 4.Sc5 Bd6 5.Ra8+ Bb8 6.Kb5 Rd5 7.Ra6 Rh5 8.b7+ Kd8 9.Re6 Rh7 10.Kb6 Rh1 11.Rg6 and although at first sight it is difficult to make progress, all lines analysed eventually led to a win. The relevant 7 men EGTB will give the final answer in the future.

No 18026 Melnichenko
1st laudation

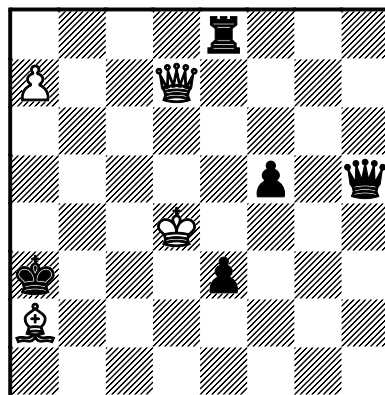


h5d7 0426.31 7/5 Win

No 18026 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Rf1 Sxg3+ 2.Bxg3 Rh8+ 3.Kg6 h1Q 4.Rxh1 Rxh1 5.Bf3 Rh8 6.Kg7 Re8 7.Bg4+ Kxe7 8.d6+ Sxd6 9.Bh4 mate.

“A mate study with a clear solution without special virtues”.

No 18027 A. Avni
2nd laudation



d4a3 4310.12 4/5 Draw

No 18027 Amatzia Avni (Israel). 1.Be6 Qd1+/i 2.Kxe3 Qxd7 3.a8Q+ Kb4 4.Qe4+ fxe4 5.Bxd7 draws.

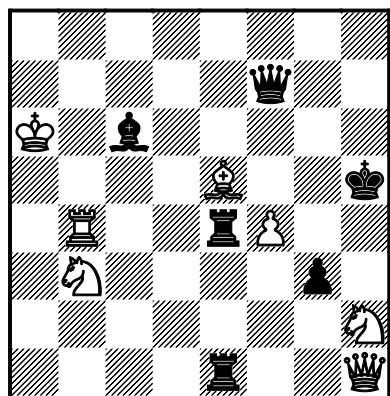
i) f4 2.Qb7 Qd1+ 3.Ke5 Qa4 4.Qb1 Qa5+ 5.Kf6 draws.

“A wQ sacrifice on d7 and reappearance of the wQ are followed by another sacrifice of the wQ (a spiritual expansion of the Phoenix theme) in order to capture the bQ. A brief but sparkling solution”.

Beginners tourney 2008

In *Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia* no. 84 the results of a tourney for beginners, in several composition sections, was published. A beginner was defined as a composer without having a composition in the *FIDE Album* (!). The endgame section was judged by David Gurgenzidze (Georgia).

No 18028 L. Gonzalez
1st prize

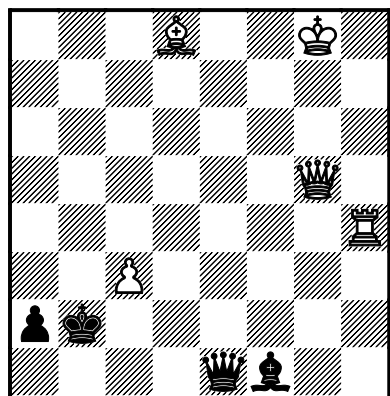


a6h5 4742.11 7/6 Win

No 18028 Luis Gonzalez (Spain). 1.Qf3+ Kh6 2.Sg4+ Kg6 3.Qxg3 Bb5+ 4.Rxb5 Ra4+ 5.Sa5 Rxa5+ 6.Kxa5 Qa7+ 7.Kb4 Re4+ 8.Kc3 Qa3+ 9.Kd2 Qxg3 10.f5+ Kxf5 11.Sh6+ Kg5 12.Bf4++ Kxf4 13.Rf5 mate.

“Clear final combination and beautiful stalemate with two active self-blocks”.

No 18029 S. Didukh
2nd prize

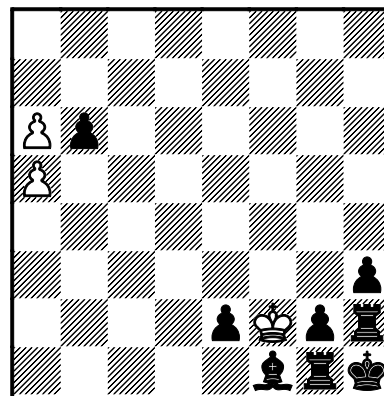


g8b2 4140.11 5/4 Win

No 18029 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Bf6 Bc4+ 2.Rxc4 Qe6+ 3.Kh7 Qxc4 4.Qb5+ Qxb5 5.c4+ Qe5 6.Bxe5+ Kb3 7.c5 Kc4 8.c6 Kd5 9.c7 Kxe5 10.c8Q a1Q 11.Qh8+ wins.

“Nice work, synthesis of several study ideas”.

No 18030 M. Pagani & M. Campioli
1st honourable mention



f2h1 0630.24 3/8 Win

No 18030 Maddalena Pagani & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Ke1, and:

– bxa5 2.a7 a4 3.a8Q a3 4.Qa5 a2 5.Kf2, and:

• a1Q 6.Qxa1 e1Q+ 7.Qxe1 and mate, or:

• e1Q+ 6.Qxe1 a1Q 7.Qxa1 and mate, or:

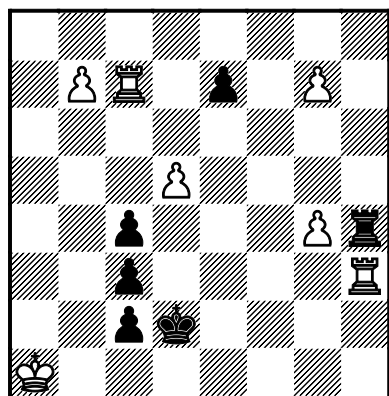
– b5 2.a7 b4 3.a8Q b3 4.Qe4 b2 5.Kf2 e1Q+ / iv 6.Qxe1 b1Q 7.Qxb1 and mate.

The 2nd HM by A. Pallier (France) was cooked by MG: f5f7 0703.52 d3b4e4f6. a6b3c6c7h5h6h7 7/6 Draw: 1.Rd7+ Sxd7 2.cxd7 Rh4 3.d8S+ Ke7 4.Sc6+ Kd7 5.a7 Rxh5+ 6.Kf6 Ra5 7.Sxa5 Rb6+ 8.Kg7 Ra6 9.Sb7 Rxa7 10.Sc5+ Kxc7 11.Kxh6 Kd6 12.Se4+ Ke5 13.Sg5 and 13.Sxh7 draws. However: Kd6 5.Sxb4 Rxh5+ 6.Ke4 Kxc7 7.Sd5+ Kc6 8.Sf6 Rb5.

No 18031 Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1.Rxc3 Kxc3 2.Rxc4+ Kxc4 3.Kb2 c1Q+ 4.Kxc1 Kc3 5.Kd1 Kd3 6.Ke1 Ke3 7.Kf1 Kf3 8.Kg1 Rxg4+ 9.Kf1 Ra4 10.Ke1 Ke3 11.Kd1 Kd3 12.Kc1 Kc3 13.b8Q wins.

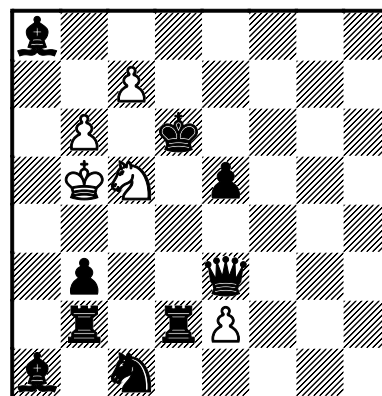
No 18032 Maddalena Pagani & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1...Ke3+ 2.Kh3 h1Q+ 3.Sxh1 Rxh1+ 4.Kg4 Qg2+ 5.Bg3 Qh3+ 6.Kg5 Qxg3+ 7.Kf6 Rh6+ 8.Kf7 Rxh7+ 9.Qxh7

No 18031 P. Rossi
commendation



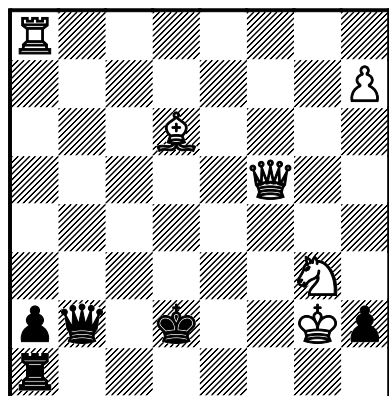
a1d2 0500.44 7/6 Win

No 18033 V. Zenkov
commendation



b5d6 3664.32 5/9 Win

No 18032 M. Pagani & M. Campioli
commendation



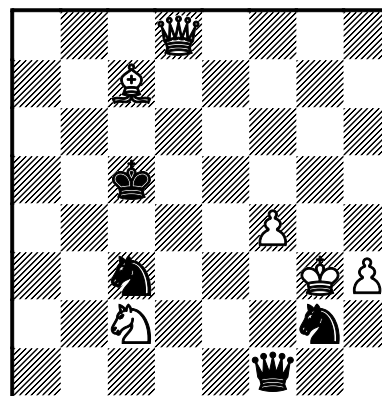
g2d2 4411.12 6/5 BTM, Draw

Qf3+ 10.Kg7 Qb7+ 11.Kh6 Qh1+ 12.Kg7 Qb7+ 13.Kh6 Qxa8 14.Qe7+ draws.

No 18033 V. Zenkov (Russia). 1.c8S+ Kd5 2.Se7+ Kd6 3.Sf5+ Kd5 4.Sxe3+ Kd4/i 5.Sf5+ Kc3 6.Sa4+ Kc2 7.Se3+ Kb1 8.Sc3 mate.

i) Kd6 5.Sf5+ and 5.e4 mate.

No 18034 F. Bertoli
commendation



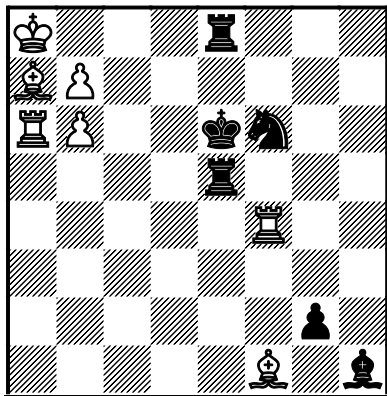
g3c5 4017.20 6/4 BTM, Win

No 18034 Franco Bertoli (Italy). 1...Se4+ 2.Kh2 Sxf4 3.Qe7+ Kb5 4.Qe5+ Ka6 5.Qa5+ Kb7 6.Qb6+ Kc8 7.Qb8+ Kd7 8.Qd8+ Kc6 9.Sb4+ Kc5 10.Qe7+ Kd4 11.Qe5+ Ke3 12.Sc2+ Kd2 13.Qxf4+ Qxf4+ 14.Bxf4+ Kxc2 15.h4 Kd3 16.Kh3 Sf6 17.Be5 Sd5 18.Kg4 Se3+ 19.Kg5 wins.

Israel Ring Tourney 2007-2008

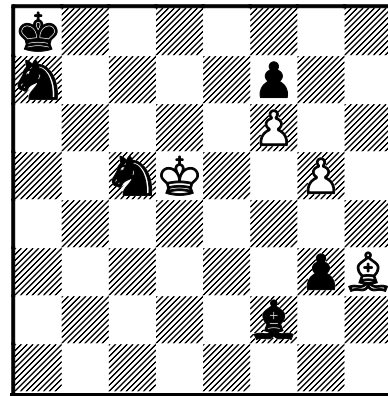
GM Jan Rusinek (Poland) judged the 2007-2008 Israel Ring Tourney. The award was published in *Variantim* no. 51, x2009.

No 18035 G. Slepian
1st prize



a8e6 0853.21 7/6 Draw

No 18036 J. Fleck
2nd/3rd prize



d5a8 0046.22 4/6 Draw

No 18035 Gregory Slepian (Belarus).
1.b8B/i gxf1B+/ii 2.b7+ Bxa6 3.Rxf6+ Kxf6
4.Bd4 Baxb7+ 5.Ka7 Ke6 6.Bdxe5 Kd7
7.Kb6 Rg8 8.Bg3 Rg4 9.Bbf4 Rg6+ 10.Bd6
Re6 11.Be5 positional draw.

i) 1.b8Q? gxf1Q+ 2.b7+ Qxa6 wins, or
1.b8S? gxf1B 2.b7+ Bxa6 wins.

ii) gxf1Q+ 2.b7+ Qxa6 3.Rxf6+ Kxf6, or
g1Q+ 2.b7+, or Rxb8+ 2.Kxb8 Sd7+ 3.Kc7
Rc5+ 4.Kd8 g1Q 5.Bc4+ win.

“The wK is in check in the diagram position but there is compensation for this flaw in the fantastic sequel: reciprocal bishop promotions lead to an extravagant position with bishops of the same colour on either side: two black-squared ones versus rook plus two-white squared ones! The two white bishops successfully block the bR, while the two free white-squared black bishops are powerless against the wK, as he can always occupy a black square!”

MG wonders whether 6.Bbx5 is a dual and proposes a different move order: Re6 5.Bdxe5 Baxb7+ 6.Ka7 Kd7 7.Kb6 is main line.

No 18036 Jürgen Fleck (Germany). 1.g6
Sd7 2.Bxd7 g2 3.gxf7 Bc5 4.Kxc5 g1Q+
5.Kd6/i Sc8+ 6.Bxc8 Qa7 7.Be6/ii Qa3+

8.Kd7/iii Qf8 9.Kc7 Qh8/iv 10.Kd7/v Qf8
11.Kc7 Ka7 12.Bc4 Qc5+ 13.Kd7 (Kd8) Kb8
14.Ke8 Qc8+ 15.Ke7 Kc7 16.f8S Qd8+
17.Kf7 draws.

i) 5.Kd5? Qg5+ 6.Ke6 Qc5 wins.

ii) 7.Bb7+? Kxb7 8.Kd7 Kb6+ 9.Ke8 Kc6
wins.

iii) Thematic try: 8.Kc7? Ka7 9.Bc4 Qf8 zz.

iv) Ka7 10.Bc4 zz.

v) 10.Bc4? Qb8+ 11.Kd7 Qf8 12.Kc7 Ka7
zz.

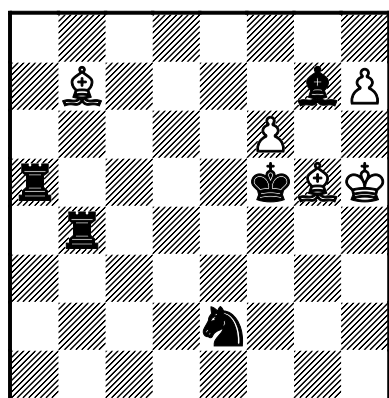
“Interesting lengthy and sharp play (on both sides) with some attractive motifs: sacrifices, reciprocal zugzwang and minor promotions. All the captures (except pawn captures) are of sacrificed pieces. A not very serious dual (but a dual anyway) on move 13 slightly spoils the impression. Probably the Nalimov Tablebase is a co-author of this study, but only in a small percentage”.

No 18037 Yochanan Afek (Israel/Netherlands). 1.Bc8+ Ke5 2.fxg7/i Sf4+ 3.Bxf4+/ii
Kf6+/iii 4.Kh6 Rxf4 5.g8S+ Kf7 6.h8S+
Kxg8 7.Sg6 Rf6 8.Be6+ Rxe6 stalemate.

i) 2.Kg6? Bh8 3.f7 Sf4+ wins.

ii) 3.Kg4? Se6+ 4.Kh5 Sxg7+ 5.Kg6 Rb6+
6.Kxg7 Ra7+ 7.Kg8 Rg6+ wins.

No 18037 Y. Afek
2nd/3rd prize



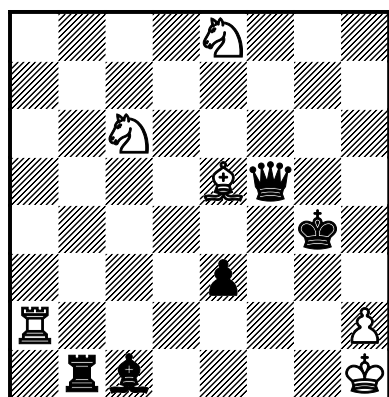
h5f5 0653.20 5/5 Draw

iii) Kxf4+ 4.Kg6 Rb6+ 5.Kf7 Ra7+ 6.Kg8 draws.

“Not an original final stalemate combination (for example Filaretov 1926 and many others), but the introductory play with two knight promotions seems to be original and is attractive”.

The 1st HM is dualistic: R. Becker (USA) & I. Akobia (Georgia) g1b4 0014.24 b7a7h5. a2e2c3c7f3f7 5/6 Draw: 1.Sc6+ Ka3 2.Sd4 c5 3.Sb3 Kxa2 4.Sxc5 c2 5.Bd5+ Kb1 6.Be4 fxe2 7.Kf2 Sg3 8.Bh7 f5 9.Sd3 c1Q 10.Sxc1 Kxc1 11.Ke1 f4 12.Bg6 f3 13.Bd3 zz Kb2 14.Be4 Sxe4 model stalemate. However, MG cooks: 6.Bd3 Sf4 and now 7.Be4 Ka1 8.Sc1 Kb2 9.Sa2 Kxa2 10.Sxc2 fxe2 11.Kf2 Kb2 12.Bf5 draws.

No 18038 V. Kalashnikov & A. Pankratiev
2nd honourable mention



h1g4 3442.11 6/5 Draw

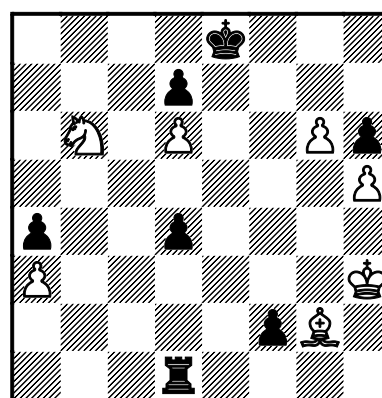
No 18038 Valery Kalashnikov & Aleksandr Pankratiev (Russia). 1.Rg2+/i Kh4 2.Bf6+ Qxf6 3.Sxf6 Bd2+ 4.Rg1 Rxc1+ 5.Kxc1 e2

6.Kg2 (Sd4? Be3+;) e1Q 7.Sd4 Kg5 8.Sf3+ wins.

i) h3+? Kg5 2.Rg2+ Kh6 3.Bg7+ Kh5 4.Sf6+ Kh4 5.Rg4+ Kxh3 wins.

“A fantastic final position after 7.Sd4, with Black to move, his king not in check and the bQ and bB unable to win against two white knights. If not for the very brutal initial play this study would have been placed higher”.

No 18039 H. Aloni
3rd honourable mention



h3e8 0311.45 7/7 Win

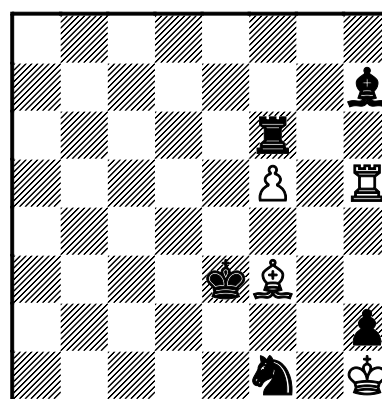
No 18039 Hillel Aloni (Israel). 1.Sxd7 Rh1+/i 2.Kg3 f1Q 3.Bxf1 Rxf1 4.Kg2 Rf5 5.Sf6+ Rxf6 6.d7+ Kxd7 7.g7 Rf5/ii 8.g8Q Rg5+ 9.Qxg5 hxg5 10.h6 d3 11.Kf1 g4 12.h7 wins.

i) Kxd7 2.g7 Rh1+ 3.Kg3 f1Q 4.Bxf1 Rxf1 5.Kg2 wins.

ii) d3 8.g8Q d2 9.Qg4+, or Rd6 8.g8Q d3 9.Qg4+ win.

“Sharp and interesting play”.

No 18040 R. Becker & I. Akobia
4th honourable mention



h1e3 0443.11 4/5 Draw

No 18040 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rh3 Bxf5 2.Bg4+ Ke4/i 3.Rh4 Kf4/ii 4.Bxf5+ Kxf5 5.Rd4 zz Ke5/iii 6.Rh4 Rf7/iv 7.Rh6 zz Rf8/v 8.Rh7/vi zz Rg8/vii 9.Re7+ Kd4 10.Rd7+ Ke5 11.Re7+ Kd4 12.Rd7+ Ke5 13.Re7+ Kd4 14.Rd7+ Ke3 15.Re7+ Kd2 16.Rd7+ Ke1 17.Re7+ Kd2 18.Rd7+ Ke2 19.Re7+ Kf3 20.Rf7+ positional draw.

i) Kd2 3.Bxf5 Rxf5 4.Ra3 (Rb3) Rg5 5.Ra2+ Ke3 6.Ra3+ Kf2 7.Ra2+ draws.

ii) Bxg4 4.Rxg4+ Kf3 5.Rg6 Rf4 6.Rg8 zz Rf7 7.Rg7 Rf6 8.Rg6 Rf5 9.Rg5 Rf4 10.Rg8 Sg3+ 11.Rxg3+ Kxg3 stalemate.

iii) Rh6 6.Rd3 Ke4 7.Rf3 Kxf3 stalemate, or Rf8 6.Rd7 Ke4 7.Re7+ Kf3 8.Rf7+ Rxf7 stalemate.

iv) Rg6 7.Re4+ Kd5 8.Rd4+ Kc6 (Kxd4; stalemate) 9.Rc4+ Kb6 10.Rb4+ Ka7 11.Ra4+ positional draw.

v) Ke4 8.Re6+ Kf3 9.Rf6+ Rxf6 stalemate.

vi) Thematic try: 8.Rh4? Rf6 9.Ra4 Rh6 10.Ra5+ Ke4 11.Ra4+ Kf3 12.Ra3+ Se3 13.Rb3 Kf4 14.Rb4+ Kg5 15.Rb5+ Sf5 16.Rb3 Rh4 17.Ra3 Sh6 18.Ra5+ Kf6 19.Ra6+ Ke5 20.Ra5+ Kd6 21.Ra6+ Kc5 wins.

vii) Ke4 9.Re7+ Kf3 10.Rf7+ Rxf7 stalemate.

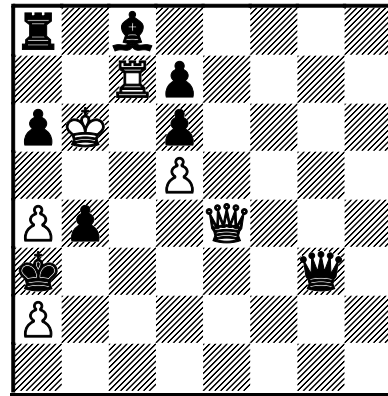
“After the initial play we have a position with rook against rook, knight and pawn. In some variations White draws by precise play based on reciprocal zugzwang positions and stalemate. It is a pity that the wK, bK and bS already stand on their final squares in the starting position. The concluding play seems to be a large extent ‘composed’ by the Nalimov Tablebase, hence the not very high plac- ing”.

No 18041 Wieland Bruch & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Ka5/i Rb8 2.Rb7/ii, and:

– Rxb7 3.Qd3+/iii Qxd3 stalemate, or:

– Bxb7 3.Qxb4+/iv Kxa2 4.Qd2+ Kb1 5.Qd1+ Kb2 6.Qd2+ Kb3 7.Qe3+ Qxe3 stalemate, or:

No 18041 W. Bruch & M. Minski commendation



b6a3 4430.34 6/8 Draw

– Qc3 3.Qxb4+ Qxb4+ 4.Rxb4 Rxb4 stalemate.

i) 1.Qc2? Rb8+ 2.Ka7 Rb7+ 3.Rxb7 Bxb7 4.Kxb7 Qc3 5.Qe2 a5 6.Ka6 Qc5 wins.

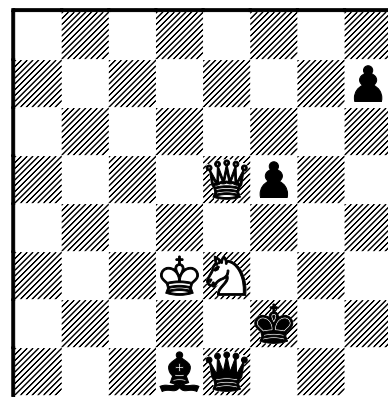
ii) 2.Qc2? b3 3.Rc3 Qe1 4.axb3 Rb4 5.Qc1+ Qxc1 6.Rxc1 Bb7, or 2.Qd4? Qe1 3.Rc1 Rb5+ 4.axb5 Qxc1 5.Qxb4+ Kxa2 6.bxa6 Bxa6 7.Qxd6 Bd3 8.Kb6 Qc8 win.

iii) 3.Qxb4+? Kxa2 4.Qd2+ Rb2 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 3.Qe3+? b3 4.Qxg3 Kxa2 wins.

“Three stalemate variations (after a very attractive 2nd white move). In the third main line the authors should end the solution by the immediate stalemate 4.Rxb4, because of the dual 6.Rd7”.

No 18042 J. Vandiest † commendation



d3f2 4031.02 3/5 Win

No 18042 Julien Vandiest (Belgium). 1.Qh2+ Kf3 2.Qh3+ Qg3 3.Qxf5+ Qf4 4.Qh3+ Qg3 5.Qf1+ Qf2 6.Qxd1+ Kg3

7.Qg4+ Kh2 8.Qh5+ Kg3 9.Qg5+ Kh3
10.Qh6+ Kg3 11.Qg7+, and:

– Kf4 12.Qg4+ Ke5 13.Qd4+ Ke6 14.Qd5+ Ke7 15.Sf5+ Kf6 16.Qd8+ Kg6 17.Qg8+ Kh5 18.Qxh7+ Kg4 19.Se3+ Kg5 20.Qg7+ Kf4 21.Qf6+ Kg3 22.Qg5+ Kh3 23.Qg4+ Kh2 24.Ke4 Qb2 25.Qh4+ Kg1 26.Qg3+ Kh1 27.Qh3+ Kg1 28.Qf1+ Kh2 29.Sg4+ Kg3 30.Qf4+ Kh3 31.Sf2+ Kg2 32.Qf3+ and wins, or:

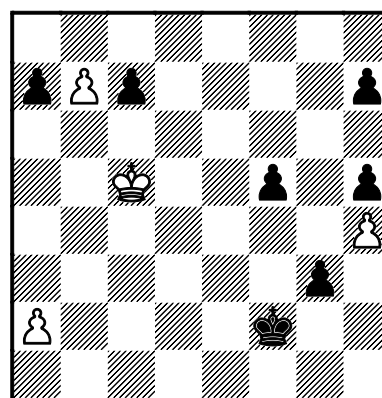
– Kh3 12.Qxh7+ Qh4 13.Qf5+ Kh2 14.Qf3 Qh7+ 15.Kd2 Qd7+ 16.Ke1 Qh3 17.Sf1+ Kg1 18.Sg3 Qg2 19.Se2+ Kh2 20.Qh5+ Qh3 21.Qe5+ Kh1 22.Qe4+ Qg2 23.Qh7+ Qh2 24.Qf5 Qh4+ 25.Kf1 Kh2 26.Qe5+ Kh3 27.Qe3+ Kg4 28.Qf4+ Kh5 29.Sg3+ wins.

“Long but not very interesting play with no artistic elements. Similarly to the 4th HM, it seems that the Nalimov Tablebase is a significant co-worker in this study”.

HH doubts the judge’s remark. The late Belgium composer never worked with a computer.

Two other commendations are dualistic: N. Mironenko (Ukraine), h1b1 0134.02 c2b6b5d8.f5g4 3/5 Win: 1.Sa3+ Ka1 2.Rd2 Sf7 3.Sc4 Bc5 4.Rd5 Bf8 5.Ra5+ Kb1 6.Rxf5 Sd6 7.Sd2+ Kc2 8.Rxf8 Kxd2 9.Rd8 wins. But also 1.Rc8 wins, e.g. Ka2 2.Sd6 Se6

No 18043 A. Pallier
commendation



c5f2 0000.36 4/7 Win

No 18043 Alain Pallier (France). 1.b8Q g2 2.Qxa7/i g1Q 3.Kd5+/ii Kg2 4.Qxg1+ Kxg1 5.Ke5 Kf2 6.Kxf5 Ke3 7.Ke5 Kd3 8.Kd5 Kc3 9.Kc5 c6 10.a4/iv wins.

i) 2.Qb2+? Kg3 3.Qe5+ Kh3 4.Qxf5+ Kh2 5.Qf2 Kh1 draws.

ii) 3.Kc4+? Kg2 4.Qxg1+ Kxg1 5.Kd3 c5 and Black wins.

iii) Try: 6.a4? Ke3 7.Kxf5 Kd4 draws.

iv) 10.Kxc6? Kb4 11.Kd6 Ka3 12.Ke6 Kxa2 13.Kf6 Kb3 draws.

“A pawn ending, with a Réti manoeuvre in the try”.

But MG observes that also 2.b8Q g1Q 2.Qxa7+ and 1.Kd5 g2 2.b8Q work. Perhaps minor duals, but as a key move?

Gulyaev & Kofman MT 2009

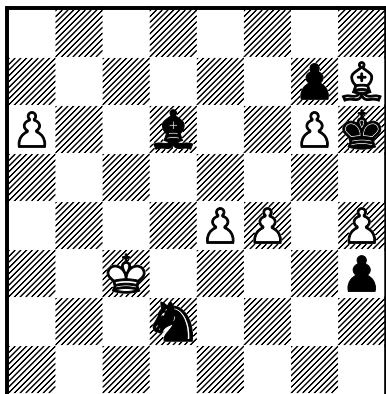
An endgame study tourney was organized to commemorate the 100th birthday of Aleksandr Gulyaev/Grin (18xi1908-18ii1998) and Rafael Kofman (26iii1909-20xii1988). The judge was Andrey Selivanov (Russia), and the award was published in *Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia* no. 92, 9xii2009.

Thanks to the index that Paul Valois (Great Britain) compiled – see <http://www.arves.org/egindex.txt> – we can quickly retrieve what has been written in **EG** about Gulyayev (Grin): **EG86** (p. 160) about the change of name, photographs in **EG127** (221) and **EG129** (366), a recent article by A. Pallier in **EG182** (270) and a long obituary by AJR in **EG129** (364) that finishes with the remarkable fact that Gulyayev was not only born on the same day as his wife, but also died on the same day that she died. In **EG121** (866) Gulyayev write about semi-pawn studies. In 1991, ARVES published a book (7th ARVES-book) about him, written by Timothy Whitworth.

A short obituary of Kofman can be found in **EG95** (528).

The tourney attracted only 14 studies by 14 composers from Russia, Ukraine and Armenia. Apparently the tourney had not been widely announced...

No 18044 E. Eilazyan
1st prize



c3h6 0043.52 7/5 Draw

No 18044 E. Eilazyan (Ukraine). 1.a7, and:

– Sb1+ 2.Kb2 h2 3.a8Q h1Q 4.Qa1 Ba3+ 5.Ka2 Qg2+ 6.Kxb1 Qxe4+ 7.Ka2 Qa4 8.f5/i Bc1+/ii 9.Kb1 Qd1 10.f6 gxf6/iii 11.Bg8 Kxg6 12.h5+ Kg7 13.Bb3 Qxb3+ 14.Kxc1 Qe3+ 15.Kc2 Qe2+ 16.Kb3 Qxh5 17.Qd4 draws/iv, or:

– Sxe4+ 2.Kd3 Sf2+ 3.Ke2 h2 4.a8Q h1Q 5.Qxh1 Sxh1 6.Kf3 Bc5 7.f5 Sf2 8.Bg8 Kh5 9.Bc4 (Bd5) Sg4 10.Kg3 Bf2+ 11.Kh3 Sf6 12.Be2+ positional draw/v.

i) Thematic try: 8.h5? Bc5+ 9.Kb1 Qd1+ 10.Ka2 Qc2+ 11.Qb2 Qa4+ 12.Kb1 Bd4 13.Qe2 Qb3+ 14.Kc1 Be3+ wins.

ii) In comparison with i) now after Bc5+ 9.Kb1 Qd1+ 10.Ka2 Qc2+ 11.Qb2 Qa4+ 12.Kb1 Bd4 White has 13.Qd2+ with check.

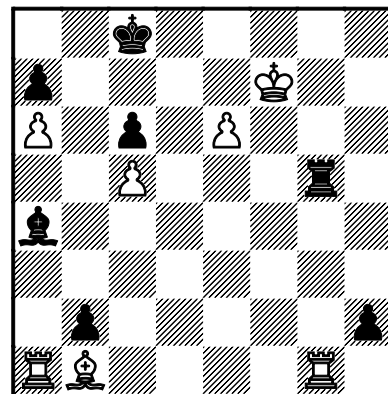
iii) Be3+ 11.Ka2 Qa4+ 12.Kb1 Qb3+ 13.Qb2 Qd1+ 14.Ka2 Bd4 15.f7 Bxb2 16.f8Q draws.

iv) e.g. Kg6 18.Kc3 Qe2 19.Qf4 Qd1 20.Qg3+ Kf5 21.Qh3+ Kg5 22.Qe3+ Kg4 23.Qe4+.

v) After 12...Kh6 the bK is caught in prison and cannot escape.

“A double main line study with mutual logical manoeuvres and fine imaginative play by both parties”.

No 18045 L. Katsnelson & V. Razumenko
2nd prize



f7c8 0540.34 7/7 Win

No 18045 Leonard Katsnelson & Viktor Razumenko (Russia). 1.e7 Bb3+ 2.Kf8 Re5 3.e8Q+ Rxe8+ 4.Kxe8, and:

– hxg1Q 5.Bf5+ Be6 6.Bxe6+ Kc7 7.Rxg1 b1Q 8.Rg7+/i Kb8 9.Ke7/ii Kc7 10.Kf6+/iii Kd8 11.Rg8+ Kc7 12.Rc8 mate, or:

– bxa1Q 5.Bf5+ Kc7 6.Rxa1 Bd5 7.Rb1 h1Q 8.Rb7 mate.

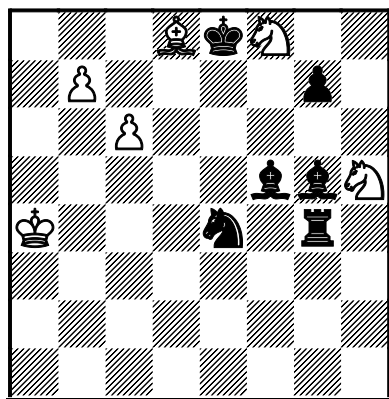
i) 8.Rxb1? stalemate.

ii) 9.Rb7+? Ka8 10.Rxb1 stalemate.

iii) 10.Kf8+? Kb8 11.Rb7+ Ka8 12.Rd7 Qf1+ 13.Ke7 Qxa6 14.Rd8+ Kb7 15.Bc8+ Kc7 16.Bxa6 stalemate.

“Two mate finishes, the first of which has three tries each ending in stalemate”.

No 18046 A. Gasparyan
3rd prize



a4e8 0375.21 6/6 Win

No 18046 Aleksey Gasparyan (Armenia). 1.b8Q Sc5++ 2.Kb5 Rb4+ 3.Kxb4 Sa6+ 4.Kb5 Sxb8 5.c7 Sa6 6.Kxa6 Bc8+ 7.Ka7 Bxd8 8.Sxg7+ Ke7 9.Sg6+ Kd7 10.Se5+ Kxc7 11.Se8 mate.

“An ideal mate with two knights”.

No 18047 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1...a2+ 2.Ka1, and:

– dxe5 3.gxh6 Kg8 4.g5, and:

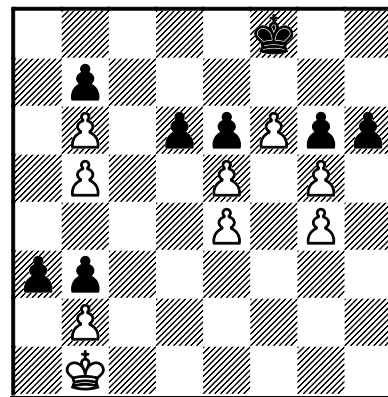
- Kh8 5.f7 Kh7 6.f8S+ wins, or here:
- Kf8 5.h7 Kf7 6.h8S+ wins, or:

– hxg5 3.exd6 Ke8 4.e5, and:

- Kf8 5.d7 Kf7 6.d8S+ wins, or here:
- Kd8 5.f7 Kd7 6.f8S+ wins.

“Two pairs of echo-stalemate and two pairs of knight promotions”.

No 18047 M. Zinar
special prize



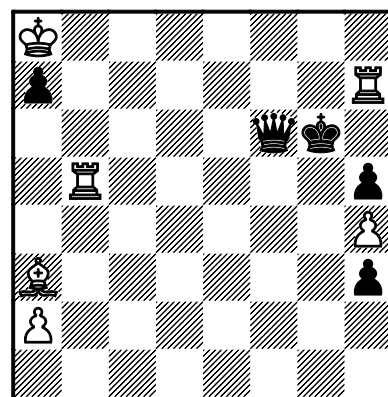
b1f8 0000.78 9/8 BTM, Win

Two studies that won special prizes are incorrect:

V. Vlasenko (Russia): b3b1 0002.03 b2g1. a3c5e5 3/4 Win: 1.Sc4 a2 2.Se2 a1S+ 3.Kc3 e4 4.Sd2+ Ka2 5.Sc1+ Ka3 6.Sb1+ Ka4 7.Kb2 Kb4 8.Sa2+ Kc4 9.Kxa1 Kd3 10.Kb2 c4 11.Sc1+ Ke3 12.Sc3 Kf3 13.Kc2 e3 14.Kd1 Kf2 15.S1e2 zz wins. However (HH): 8.Sc3! e3 9.S3a2+ Kc4 10.Kxa1 Kd4 11.Kb2 c4 12.Sc3 wins (EGTB).

G. Amiryan (Armenia) has multiple duals (I. Akobia): e1e4 0200.28 a1h1.b4e3a3b3 b5b6b7g3h3h6 5/9 BTM, draw: h2 2.O-O-O/i Kxe3 3.Rxh2 gxh2 4.Rh1 Kf4 5.Rxh2 Kg5 6.Rh3/ii a2 7.Kb2 h5 8.Rxb3 draws, or a2 2.O-O/O/iii Kxe3 3.Rfb1/iv axb1Q+ 4.Rxb1 Kd4 5.Rxb3 Kc4 6.Rxg3 h2+ 7.Kxh2 Kxb4 8.Kg2 (Kg1) and White wins (!). However, in the first main line also 6.Rd2 (Re2) draw, while in the second main line 3.Rab1 (Rad1, Rfe1+) also draw.

No 18048 Y. Rupchev
1st honourable mention



a8g6 3210.23 6/5 Win

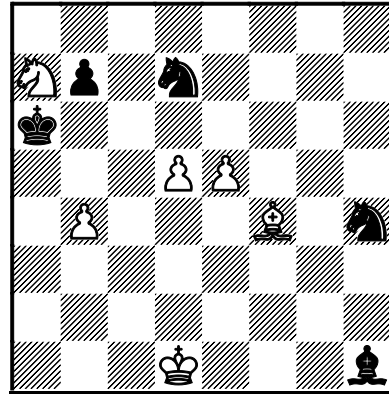
No 18048 Yuri Rupchev. 1.Rg7+ Qxg7 2.Rg5+ Kh6 3.Rxg7 h2 4.Bf8 h1Q+ 5.Kb8/i Qh2+ 6.Kc8 Qh3+ 7.Kd8 Qxh4+ 8.Kc8 Qh3+ 9.Kb8 Qh2+ 10.Ka8 (Kxa7? Qf2+;) Qh1+ 11.Kxa7 wins.

i) 5.Kxa7? Qa8+ 6.Kxa8 stalemate.

The second HM was cooked by MG: A. Stavrietsky (Russia) d1f1 0444.12 e3c8d2g7 b2c2.b4a6d5 5/6 Draw. Intended: 1.Rb3 Sa1 2.Rd3 Bxb2 3.b5 axb5 4.Rxd5 Rb8 5.Rd8 Rb7 (Rxd8 stalemate) 6.Rd7 Rb6 7.Rd6 Rb8 8.Rd8 Be5 9.Rxb8 Bxb8 10.Bf4 Ba7 11.Be3 Bb8 12.Bf4 positional draw. Also 2.Rg3 Be5 3.Rg5 draws. And even 1.Rf3+ Kg2 2.Rb3 Sa1 3.Rd3 Bxb2 4.b5 axb5 5.Rxd5 Rb8. Now the stalemate trick doesn't work anymore, but thanks to the position of the bK, White has another draw: 6.Bf4 Rb7 7.Rd2+ Kf3 8.Rxb2 Kxf4 9.Rb1 draws.

No 18049 Valery Vlasenko (Russia). 1.e6 Sb6 2.d6 Bf3+ 3.Kc1/i Bg4 4.d7 Sxd7 5.exd7

No 18049 V. Vlasenko
3rd honourable mention



d1a6 0047.31 6/5 Draw

Bxd7 6.Bb8 b6 7.b5+ Kb7 8.Sc6 Bxc6 9.Bg3 draws.

i) Thematic try: 3.Kc2? Bg4 4.d7 Sxd7 5.exd7 Bxd7 6.Bb8 b6 7.b5+ Kb7 8.Sc6 Bxc6 9.Bg3 and Black can save both pieces by playing 8...Be4+ with check.

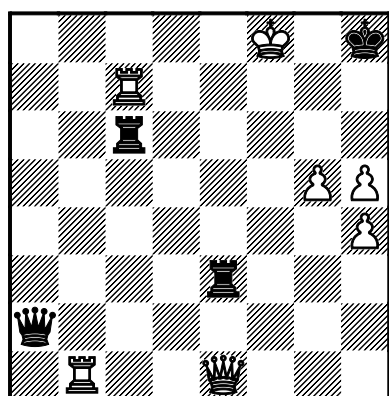
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT 2009

Ali-As-Shatranji Aladdin at-Tebrizi, a chaturanga master of the 14th-15th century, came from the city of Tebriz, the historical capital of Azerbaijan. He was the strongest player in the Timurid Empire (1336-1405) and he could play blindfold games as well. Ali Tebrizi is an author of a treatise on chaturanga that carries also 60 mansubas, 19 of which are his own. It is in this treatise that, for the first time, the names of the authors started appearing above the diagrams.

Tebriz is the biggest city in the north-western part of Iran, and, it is the capital of the Eastern Azerbaijan Province. The population is over 2 million. Being historically an Azerbaijani city, Tebriz boasts a rich ancient history having been a capital of several ancient empires.

21 studies from 17 Azerbaijan composers participated. The judge, Bakhtiyar Rustamov (Baku, Azerbaijan), was assisted by Iuri Akobia (Georgia) who checked the studies for soundness and anticipation, and Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA) who took care of the English translation. The award was published in *Shahmat bestechiliyi* no. 10 iv2009. The MT was sponsored by the 'Maccabi-Azerbaijan' Culture and Sports Society and had a total prize fund of 200\$.

No 18050 I. Aliev
1st prize



f8h8 4800.30 7/4 Draw

No 18050 Ilham Aliev (Sumgayit). 1.Rh7+/i Kxh7 2.Rb7+/ii Kh8 3.Rh7+ Kxh7 4.g6+ Kh8 5.g7+ Kh7 6.Qb1+ Kh6/iii 7.Qxa2/iv Rf6+ 8.Qf7 Rxf7+ 9.Kxf7 Rf3+ 10.Kg8 Rg3 11.Kh8 Rxc7 stalemate.

i) 1.Qxe3? Qg8+ 2.Ke7 Rxc7+ 3.Kd6 Qd8+ 4.Ke5 Re7+ wins.

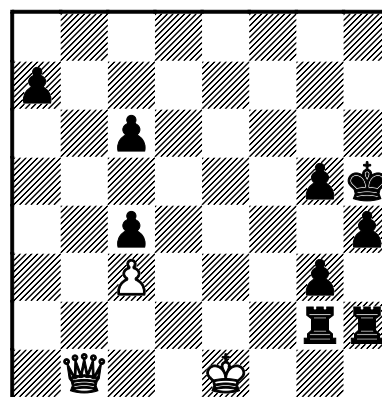
ii) 2.g6+? Kh8 3.Qxe3 Qg8+ 4.Ke7 Qg7+ 5.Kd8 Qf8+ 6.Qe8 Rc8+ wins.

iii) Rxc7 5.hxg6+ Kxc7 6.Qg1+ Kf5 7.Qxe3 draws.

iv) 7.g8S+? Qxc7+ 8.Kxc7 Rg3+ 9.Kf8 Rg7 10.Qf5 Rcc7 11.Qe6+ Kh7 12.Qf5+ Kh8 13.Qe6 Rc8+ 14.Qxc8 Rg8+ 15.Ke7 Rxc8 wins.

“A picturesque study with consecutive sacrifices of white pieces: two rooks (one sacrifice showing the WCCT-7 theme) and queen, plus interesting play with a S-promotion and stalemate. In spite of the fact that this stalemate position is not new, the whole play is just amazing”.

No 18051 M. Muradov
2nd prize



e1h5 1600.16 3/9 Draw

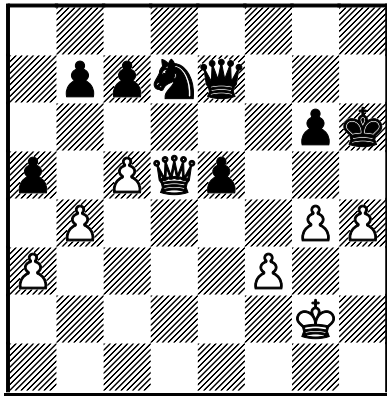
No 18051 Muradkhan Muradov (Gobustan). 1.Qh7+ Kg4 2.Qe4+ Kh3 3.Qf5+ g4 4.Qf1 a6 5.Kd1 a5 6.Kc1 a4 7.Kb1 a3 8.Ka1 a2 9.Qd1/ii Rb2 10.Qxc4+ Kxc4 stalemate.

i) 2.Qd7+? Kf3 3.Qxc6+ Ke3 4.Qc5+ Kd3 5.Qf5+ Kxc3 6.Qa5+ Kb2 7.Qb4+ Kc1 8.Kf1 Rb2 9.Qe1+ Kc2 10.Qe4+ Kb3 11.Qb7+ Ka2 12.Qa6+ Kb1 13.Kg1 h3 wins.

ii) 9.Qe1? Rf2 10.Qg1 Rf1+ 11.Qxf1+ g2 12.Qf2 Rh1+ 13.Kxa2 g1Q wins.

“A fight between the wQ and many black pieces ends in a march by the wK to a stalemate retreat. A correction of the author’s earlier published position in Shahmat (Baku) 1985“.

No 18052 S. Badalov †
3rd prize



g2h6 4003.65 8/8 Win

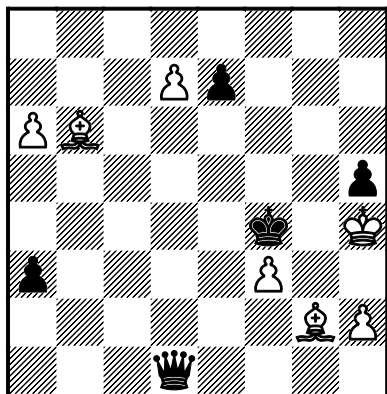
No 18052 Samir Badalov (Baku). 1.c6/i bxc6 2.Qg8, and:

- Qxh4 3.Qh8+ Kg5 4.Qd8+ Sf6 5.Qd2 mate, or:
- Sf8 3.Qh8+ Sh7 4.g5+ Kh5 5.Qc8 Sxg5 6.Qg4+ Kh6 7.Qxg5+ Qxg5+ 8.hxg5+ Kxg5 9.bxa5 wins.

i) 1.Qg8? Sf8 2.Qh8+ Sh7 3.g5+ Kh5 4.Qc8 Sxg5 5.Qg4+ (hxg5 Qxg5+;) Kh6 6.Qxg5+ Qxg5+ 7.hxg5+ Kxg5 8.bxa5 (c6 b6;) c6 draws.

“A nice key move with foresight effect. Motives from a Botvinnik & Kaminer study (HHdbIV#10514)”.

No 18053 G. Gelman
1st honourable mention



h4f4 3020.43 7/5 Win

No 18053 Gennadiy Gelman (Baku). 1.d8Q Qxd8 2.Bxd8 a2 3.Bc7+/i e5 4.Bxe5+/ii Kxe5 5.a7/iii a1Q 6.a8Q/iv Qxa8 7.f4+ Kxf4 8.Bxa8 Kf5 9.Kxh5 Kf6 10.Kh6 wins.

i) 3.a7? a1Q 4.Bc7+ e5 5.Bxe5+ Qxe5 6.a8Q Qf6+ draws.

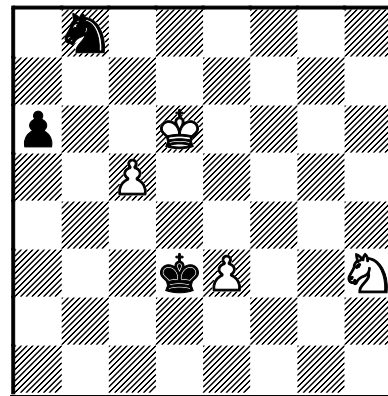
ii) 4.a7? a1Q 5.Bxe5+ Qxe5 6.a8Q Qf6+ draws.

iii) 5.f4+? Kxf4 6.a7 a1Q 7.a8Q Qf6+ 8.Kh3 Qf5+ 9.Kh4 Qg4 mate.

iv) 6.f4+? Kxf4 7.a8Q Qf6+ draws.

“A series of tactical moves allows the seizing of the new-born bQ”.

No 18054 S. Badalov †
2nd honourable mention



d6d3 0004.21 4/3 Win

No 18054 Samir Badalov (Baku). 1.Sf4+/i Kxe3 2.Kc7 Kd4 3.Se6+/ii Kd5 4.Kxb8 Kc6 5.Ka7 a5 6.Ka6 a4 7.Ka5 a3 8.Kb4 a2 9.Sd4+ Kd5 10.Sb3 (Sc2) wins.

i) 1.Sf2+? Kxe3 2.Kc7 Kd4 3.Sd3 Kd5 4.Kxb8 Kc6 5.Ka7 a5 6.Ka6 a4 7.Ka5 a3 draws.

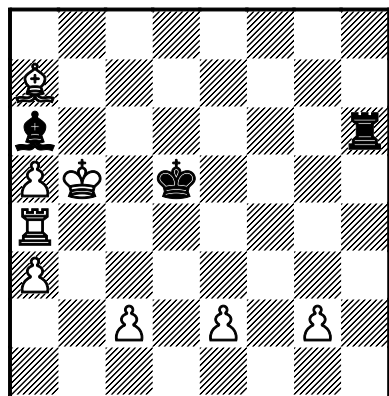
ii) 3.Sd3? Kd5 4.Kxb8 Kc6 5.Ka7 a5 6.Ka6 a4 7.Ka5 a3 8.Ka4 (Kb4) a2 9.Sb4+ Kxc5

“An interesting trajectory of white moves. The king revives around the Pc5, while the knight moves in a symmetric wave-like pattern”.

The 3rd HM is cooked by MG: R. Allayov & R. Hasanov, h2e8 0400.22 f7c5.f5g6a5b4 4/4 Win. Intended: 1.Kh3 b3 2.f6 Rg5 3.Re7+ Kf8 4.g7+ Kg8 5.Re8+ Kf7 6.Rf8+ Ke6 7.g8Q+ Rxg8 8.Rxg8 wins. However also 2.Rf6 wins: Rc8 3.Rb6 Rc3+ 4.Kh4 Rc4+ 5.Kh5 b2 6.Rxb2 Ke7 7.Rb7+, or Ke7 3.Re6+ Kd7 4.g7

Rc8 5.Re1 a4 6.f6 b2 7.f7 Rc3+ 8.Kg4 Rc4+ 9.Kg5 Rc5+ 10.Kh6 Rc6+ 11.Kh7 Rc1 12.g8Q b1Q+ 13.Qg6 Qxg6+ 14.Kxg6 Rxe1 15.f8Q win. Or here: b2 6.f6 b1Q 7.Rxb1 Ke6 8.Rg1 Kf7 9.Kh4 wins.

No 18055 E. Abdullayev
1st commendation



b5d5 0440.50 8/3 Draw

No 18055 Elmar Abdullayev (Shirvan).
1.Kb4 Rh4+ 2.g4/i Rxg4+ 3.e4+ Rxe4+ 4.Bd4 Rxd4+ 5.c4+ Rxc4+ 6.Kb3 Rxa4 7.Kxa4 Kc4 stalemate.

i) 2.Kb3? Rxa4 3.Kxa4 Kc4 4.g4 Bb5 mate.

“Getting rid of all the pieces leads to a stalemate. Nice but rather forceful”.

No 18056 Alakbar Tahmazov (Lachin).
1.b4+, and:

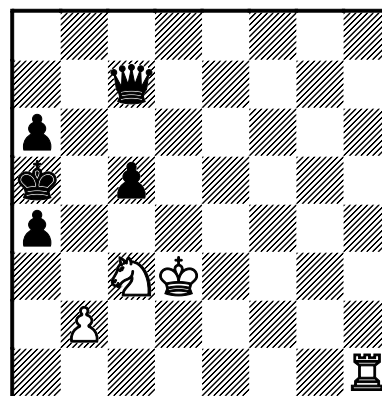
– axb3ep 2.Ra1+ Kb6 3.Sd5+ Kb7 4.Sxc7 wins, or:

– cxb4 2.Rh5+ Kb6 3.Sd5+ Kc6 4.Sxc7 wins, or:

– Kb6 (Kb4) 2.Sd5+ and 3.Sxc7 wins.

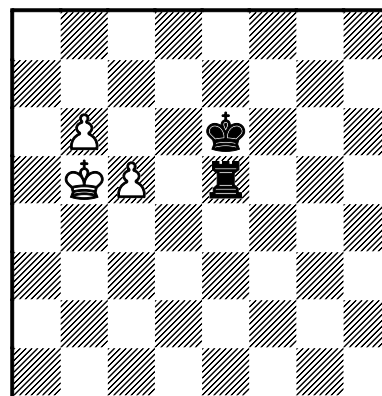
“‘Shorty’ with forks involved”.

No 18056 A. Tahmazov
2nd commendation



d3a5 3101.13 4/5 Win

No 18057 M. Isgandarov
3rd commendation



b5e6 0300.20 3/2 Win

No 18057 Misraddin Isgandarov (Sumgayit). 1.b7 Re1 2.c6 Rb1+ 3.Kc5 Rc1+ 4.Kd4 Rb1 5.c7 Rxb7 6.c8Q+ wins.

“Rook malyutka. The wK moves are clear-cut”.

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