

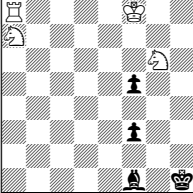
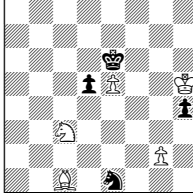
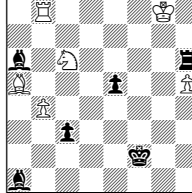
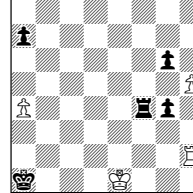
Robert Brieger Memorial Tourney

Judge: Bill Jones

Tourney director Richard Becker accepted 45 studies and passed them to me in January. As I identified potential award winners, Richard provided further support by helping check them for correctness and anticipations. Two studies were identified as incorrect and several had anticipations. Richard's support was invaluable in helping a neophyte judge complete his task in a timely manner.

Prior to receiving the studies, I considered the evaluation criteria to be used by reviewing past articles in *EG* magazine and the tenets of good endgame studies that were drilled into me by Robert Brieger a half-century ago. My appreciation of the instructional value that can be found in endgame studies was increased while teaching chess. I believe the most important qualities of good endgame studies in priority order are: originality of concept, aesthetic appeal and instructional value. Studies should be judged solely upon these qualities, and a study's length or the difficulty of its solution should not be factors. Since this is a memorial, I have given special consideration to studies that Robert Brieger would have favored.

The studies exhibited a wide range of compositional craft and understanding of what should comprise an endgame study. I was surprised by the number of entries with cluttered, problem-like positions and long lines of forced play without any thematic cohesion or artistic elements. Invariably, the unnecessary complications obscured any aesthetic or instructional value that might exist in their solutions. Some interesting studies had technically difficult solutions that might have provided instructional value if they had contained adequate supporting explanations. Lacking appropriate explanations or sufficient artistic elements, they were not given awards. The designation "thematic try" was occasionally misused, which was distracting. Some known themes were inappropriately identified. Fortunately, I had recently read Harold van der Heijden's views on the current art of the endgame study, expressed in *EG* No.194's editorial, supporting many of my impressions

1st Prize Martin Minski	2nd Prize Pavel Arestov	3rd Prize Jan Timman	Sp. Honorable Mention Anatoly Skripnik & Michal Hlinka
			
Win	(4+4) Win	(5+4) Draw	(6+6) Draw BTM (4+5)

1st Prize - (Martin Minski) This is a well-crafted study that is rich in aesthetic appeal and instructive value. Initially, White has a logical choice between two King moves to clear both the 8th rank and the c-file for his rook. The difference between the try and mainline **A** is shown on White's 8th move, when it becomes obvious that the d-file also must remain open in order to chase Black's king away from the queening square. Black's bishop sacrifice to answer to White's 8.Rd8+ provides interesting counterplay requiring White's rook retreat on the 11th move. The minor duals, Re8/e7/e6, are left in the solution to emphasize that the rook must retreat in both mainlines. In mainline **B**, which is initiated by Black's unexpected bishop sacrifice on his second move, another rook retreat with White's subtle 6.Rf4! is required in order to garner the win. The minor flaw of the 'spectator' knight on a7 does not lessen the study's overall artistic impression. The study is the clear winner. Solution: **1.Kg7!** [Thematic try 1.Ke7? f2 2.Rh8+ Kg2! 3.Sh4+ Kg3 4.Sxf5+ Kf4 5.Rf8 Bg2! 6.Sd4+ (6.Sd6+ Kg3!) 6...Ke3 7.Sc2+ Ke2=; 1.Sh4? f2 2.Sxf5 Bg2 3.Sg3+ Kh2=; 1.Sc6? Bg2! 2.Ra2 Kg1 3.Sd4 f2 4.Se2+ Kh2=] **1...f2**

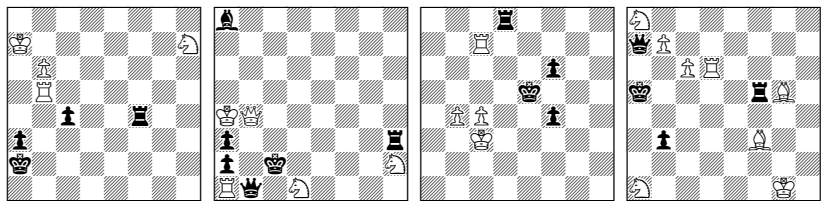
Main A) 2.Rh8+ Kg2! 3.Sh4+ Kg3 4.Sxf5+ Kf4 5.Rf8! (5.Sh4? Bh3! 6.Rf8+ Ke3!=; 5.Sd4? Bd3! 6.Rf8+ Kg3!=) **5...Bg2** (5...Be2 6.Sd4+ Ke3 7.Sc2++; 5...Bd3 6.Sh4+ Ke3 7.Sg2+ Ke2 8.Sf4++) **6.Sd4+ Ke3 7.Sc2+ Ke2 8.Re8+! Be4 9.Rxe4+ Kf3 10.Re3+!** (10.Re8? f1Q 11.Rf8+ Ke2=) **10...Kf4 11.Re8(Re7, Re6) f1Q 12.Rf8++.** **Main B) 2...Bh3** (2...Kg1 3.Sf4 Bg2 4.Se2+ Kf1 5.Sg3+ Kg1 6.Kf6 f4 7.Se2+ Kf1 8.Sxf4+) **3.Rxh3+ Kg1 4.Rg3+!** (4.Rf3? f4!)= **4...Kh2 5.Rf3 Kg2 6.Rf4!** (6.Rxf2? Kxf2=; 6.Sh4+? Kg1=) **6...f1Q 7.Rxf1 Kxf1 8.Sf4!** with a Troitzky win.

2nd Prize - (Pavel Arestov) A flawless jewel! Though White is a piece ahead, his two pawns are about to fall. A quiet knight move followed by an unexpected knight fork seems to win a piece or save a pawn, but Black creates counterplay by giving up his knight to promote his rook pawn. White forces Black to promote to a knight and then traps it to win. Though found in EGTB6 after White's third move, the interesting play in an economical setting is breathtaking and deserves a top prize. Solution: **1.Se2!** (1.Kxh4? Sxg2+ 2.Kg3 Se1=) **1...Sxg2** (1...Kxe5 2.Sf4 Sxg2 3.Sxg2 h3 3.Se3 transposes) **2.Sf4+! Kxe5** (2...Sxf4+ 3.Bxf4 d4 4.Kg4 d3 5.Kf3 Kf5 6.Bh2+) **3.Sxg2 h3 4.Se3!** (4.Sh4? Ke4 5.Kg4 h2 6.Sf5 Kd3 7.Sg3 d4=) **4...Ke4 5.Kg4!** (5.Sf1? Kf3 6.Kh4 Kf2! 7.Sh2 Kg2=; 5.Sg4? Kf3 6.Kh4 d4 7.Kxh3 d3=) **5...h2 6.Sf1!** (6.Sf5? Kd3 7.Sg3 d4 etc.) **6...h1S! 7.Be3 d4** (7...Kd3 8.Kf3+) **8.Bg1 Kd3** [8...d3 9.Sd2+ (fastest) 9...Kd5 10.Kh3+] **9.Kf3 wins.**

3rd Prize - (Jan Timman) The beauty of this study is its spectacular play. Black's 2...Bc4+ obstructs the c-file and since White must take the bishop it also clears the a1-h8 diagonal. Now Black has the nice combination 3...Rh8+ followed by the discovered check 4...c2+ that allows him to queen his c-pawn. White's game soon falls apart if he tries to draw with his rook, knight, bishop and pawn against Black's queen and bishop. But White's surprising 5.Rb2! allows him to sacrifice all of his pieces and arrive at a known queen versus rook pawn draw. The thematic try 7.Bd2 fails as it leaves the Black king too close to g6 and the queen wins against the rook pawn. A few of the variations are not immediately clear—i.e., understanding that 2.Sb4 loses, 2...Be2 only draws, and 5.Kh7 loses, which detracts from the study's overall aesthetic impact. Solution: **1.b5 Bxb5** [1...c2 2.Bd2=] **2.Sxe5!** [2.Rxb5? Rxc6+] **2...Bc4+** [2...Be2 3.Rc8 c2 4.Rxc2 Bxe5 5.Bc3=] **3.Sxc4 Rh8+ 4.Kxh8 c2+ 5.Rb2!** [5.Kh7? c1Q 6.Sd6 Qc2+] **5...Bxb2+ 6.Sxb2 Ke2 7.Sd3!** [Thematic try 7.Bd2? Kxd2 8.Sd3 Kxd3 9.h6 c1Q 10.h7 Ke4!+] **7...Kxd3 8.Bd2 Kxd2 9.h6 c1Q 10.h7 draw.**

Special Honorable Mention - (Anatoly Skripnik & Michal Hlinka) This is an excellent instructional rook and pawn endgame requiring subtle play. In order to draw, White must keep Black's king in the corner and force Black's rook to remain on the a-file to protect his queen rook pawn. Robert Brieger would have loved this study since it is instructive and has many zugzwangs. White must play precisely so that Black is on move in each zz position and not White. Black's first move divides the study into two mainlines in which White's drawing maneuver is echoed a file apart. The drawing maneuver echo in such an economical setting has tremendous aesthetic appeal. Unfortunately, the drawing maneuver is also echoed in a study by V. Kovalenko (2.hm jo01 tc13), which fully anticipates both lines. Although fully anticipated, this study deserves a place in the endgame study canon for its aesthetic excellence. Solution: **1...g3** [Main 1...gxh5 2.Rxh5 Rxa4 3.Kd2! (3.Rb5? a6!/-+) 3...g3 4.Rg5 g2 5.Kc2! (5.Kc1? Rc4++) 5...a6 6.Rg6! (6.Rg3? a5! zz 7.Rg5 Ra3 zz 8.Kc1 Rc3+ 9.Kd2 Kb2! 10.Rb5+ Rb3+) 6...Ra3 7.Rg4! (7.Rg5? a5 zz 7...a5 8.Rg5 zz a4 9.Rg4 zz Ra2+ 10.Kc1 zz a3 11.Rg3 zz Rf2 12.Rxa3+ Ra2 13.Rg3 draw) **2.Rg2 gxh5 3.Rxg3 Rxa4 4.Rg5!** (4.Rg7? a5! 5.Rg5 h4 6.Kd2 h3 7.Rh5 h2 8.Kc2 Ra3! zz 9.Kc1 Rc3+ 10.Kd2 Kb2 11.Rb5+ Rb3+; 4.Kd2? Ra2+ 5.Kc1 Ra5! 6.Kc2 Ka2!+) **4...h4 5.Kd2!** (5.Kd1? Kb2! 6.Rb5+ Kc3+) **5...h3 6.Rh5 Ra3 7.Kc2** (7.Kc1? Rc3++) **7...a6 8.Rh6!** (8.Rh4? a5! zz) **8...a5 9.Rh4 zz h2 10.Rh5 zz a4** [10...Ra4 11.Rh3! zz Ra2+ (11...Rc4+ 12.Kd3!) 12.Kc1=] **11.Rh4 zz Ra2+** [11...Ka2 12.Rxh2=] **12.Kc1 zz a3 13.Rh3 zz Rg2 14.Rxa3+ Ra2 15.Rh3 draw.**

1st Honorable Mention Sergiy Didukh 2nd Honorable Mention Vitaly Kovalenko†
 3rd Honorable Mention Mario Garcia 1st Commendation Iuri Akobia & Enzo Minerva



Win (4+4) Win (5+6) Win (4+4) Draw (8+4)

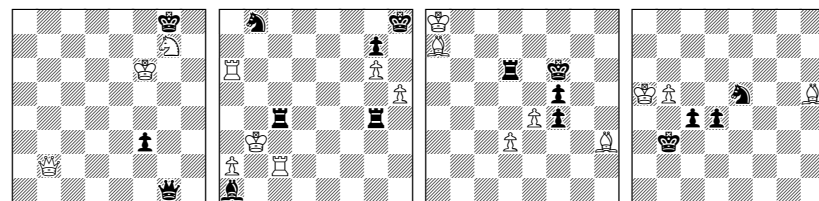
1st Honorable Mention - (Sergiy Didukh) This delightful study begins with a short but thematic introduction that leads to a pleasing EGDB6 mating net. Black has little counterplay other than a promotion to a knight to refute White's 3.Kxb7? try. In the main line, Black only delays the mate one move by promoting to a knight on his 9th move. Though the basic idea is not new, White's 7.Kb6!, releasing the stalemate while advancing the king, and the resulting final mate, are aesthetically pleasing. Solution: **1.b7** (1.Sg5? c3 2.b7 c2 3.b8Q c1Q=) **1...Rf7 2.Sg5** [2.Sf6? c3 3.Sd5 c2 4.Sb4+ Kb3! 5.Sd3+ (5.Ka6 Rxb7 6.Rxb7 a2=) 5...Kc4 6.Se5+ Kxb5=] **2...Rxb7+ 3.Rxb7!** [3.Kxb7? c3 4.Sf3 (4.Se4 c2 5.Sc3+ Ka1 6.Se2 a2 7.Kb6 c1Q 8.Sxc1 stalemate) 4...c2 5.Re5 Kb2! (5...Kb1? 6.Sd2+ Kc1 7.Sc4 a2 8.Ra5+) 6.Se1 (6.Se5 a2 7.Sd3+ Kb3 8.Sc1+ Kb4 9.Sd3+ Kb3=) 6...c1S!]=] **3...c3 4.Se4 c2 5.Sc3+ Ka1 6.Se2 a2 7.Kb6! Kb2 8.Ka5+ Ka3 9.Sc1!** [9.Sd4? a1S!]=] **9...a1Q 10.Rb3 mate.**

2nd Honorable Mention - (Vitaly Kovalenko†) After the short, forced introduction, White's winning plan is simple—get out of check! White wins by taking his king on a 12-step king walk on the a-file. The knight sacrifice to force Black's rook to a disadvantageous file after eliminating Black's bishop is both instructive and surprising! White's thematic try 3.Sg4? fails to Black's one chance for counterplay, 4...Qxa1!. The unnatural setting and Black's paucity of counterplay are more than compensated by the study's aesthetic appeal and the humor provided by White's king trudging up and down the a-file to escape harassment. Solution: **1.Qc4+ Kxd1 2.Qxa2 Rh4+** (2...Bc6+ 3.Ka5 Rh5+ 4.Ka6 Bb7+ 5.Ka7 Ra5+ 6.Kb6 Ra8+ 7.Kc7+-) **3.Ka5!** (3.Sg4? Rxg4+ 4.Ka5 Qxa1!)=) **3...Rh5+ 4.Ka6 Rh6+ 5.Ka7 Rh7+ 6.Kxa8 Rh8+ 7.Ka7 Rh7+ 8.Ka6 Rh6+ 9.Ka5 Rh5+ 10.Ka4 Rh4+ 11.Sg4!** (11.Kxa3? Rh3+ 12.Sf3 Rxf3+ 13.Ka4 Rf4+ 14.Ka5 Rf5+ 15.Ka6 Rf6+ 16.Ka7 Rf7+ 17.Qxf7 Qxa1+=) **11...Rxg4+ 12.Ka5 Rg5+ 13.Ka6 Rg6+ 14.Ka7 Rg7+ 15.Ka8 Rg8+ 16.Qxg8 Qxa1 17.Qg1+ wins.**

3rd Honorable Mention - (Mario Garcia) This is a cleverly constructed and instructive Rook ending which will benefit over-the-board players as well as endgame study enthusiasts. The White and Black forces wrestle with subtle moves to save critical tempi. 2.Re1! denies Black's rook the 1st rank, which would provide Black sufficient time to harass White's king and pawns from the rear to draw. The difference between the 3.c5! and White's thematic try 3.b5? is that the former allows 5.Kd2, which wins Black's rook for White's c-pawn and the White king is close enough to stop Black from queening his pawn. Black has counterplay with 3...Re8! followed by 4...Re3+ or 4...Ke4, each giving White further chances to make a misstep. The evaluation of the last two honorable mentions was close, but in this case aesthetic appeal was favored over instructional value. Solution: **1.Re7+! Kf5 Re1!** [2.c5? Rd1! 3.Re2 (3.Kc2 Rd4=) 3...f3=] **2...f3 3.c5!** [Thematic try 3.b5? Re8! (Not 3...Kf4 4.c5 f2 5.Rf1 Kf3 6.Kc4 Ke2 7.Rxf2+ Kxf2 8.b6 or c6+-) 4.Rf1 Re3+! 5.Kb4 Ke4! (5...Ke6? 6.Kc5!+-) 6.b6 (6.c5 Re2 7.c6 Rc2 8.Kb3 Rc5 9.Kb4 Rc2=) 6...Re2 7.c5 (7.Kc5 Rb2!)=) 7...Rb2+ 8.Ka3 Rb5 9.Ka4 Rb2=] **3...Re8!** (3...Kf4 4.b5 or c6+-) **4.Rf1!** (4.Kd2 Rb8 5.Rb1 Ke4 6.c6 f2 7.Ke2 Kd5 8.b5 Kc5 9.c7 Re8+=) **4...Re3+** (4...Ke4 5.Kc4 Ke3 6.c6! Ke2 7.Rb1 f2 8.b5 Kf3 9.Rf1+-) **5.Kd2!** [5.Kd4? Re4+ 6.Kd5 Rxb4 7.c6 Rb8 8.Rxf3+ Kg5=; 5.Kc4? Ke6! 6.Kb5 Kd5! 7.c6 (7.Kb6 Re6+ 8.Kb5 Re3=) 7...Rc3 8.Rd1+ Ke4=] **5...Rb3 6.c6 Rxb4 7.c7 Rc4 8.Rc1 wins.**

1st Commendation - (Iuri Akobia & Enzo Minerva) This logical study gains its aesthetic appeal from the final position, made possible by correctly choosing 1...Kh2! over the thematic try, and the surprising interference move 3.Sb6 in one main line. The main line beginning with 1...Qf2+ contributes a little instructional value. Solution: **1.Kh2!** [Thematic try 1.Kh1? (1...Kg2? 2.Rxg5+ 2.Kh3 Qe3 3.Sxb3+ Qxb3+-) 1...Rxf3 2.Sxb3+ Rxb3 3.Sb6 Kxb6 4.b8Q+ Qxb8 5.c7+ Kxc7 6.Bf4 Qb7+(Qa8+)=] **1...Rxf3** [Main 1...Qf2+ 2.Bg2 Rxg5 3.Rd5+ Rxd5 4.Sb3+ Kb4 5.b8Q+ Ka3 6.Kh3! Rd3+ (6...Rh5+ 7.Kg4 Qf5+ 8.Kg3 Rg5+ 9.Kh2 Qh7+ 10.Kg1=) 7.Kh2 Rd5 8.Kh3 Qe3+ 9.Kh4 Qf2+ 10.Kh3 Rg5 11.Qd6+=] **2.Sxb3+ Rxb3 3.Sb6! Kxb6 4.b8Q+ Qxb8 5.c7+ Kxc7 6.Bf4 Rb2+ 7.Kg3 Rb3+ 8.Kh2 Rb2+ 9.Kg3 draw.**

2nd Commendation Oleg Pervakov 3rd Commendation Yochanan Afek 1st Sp. Commendation Luis Miguel González 2nd Sp. Commendation Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe



Win (3+3) Win (6+6) Win (5+4) Draw (3+4)

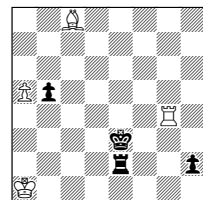
2nd Commendation - (Oleg Pervakov) An interesting find in the EGTB6 since the multiple queen/king batteries, thematic tries and echo mates provide aesthetic appeal in two lines. Though not easily grasped without explanatory notes, the study has instructional value. The compositional craft was not in finding the position, but in recognizing its artistic value. Solution: **1.Qa2+!** (1.Qb3+? Kh8! 2.Qb8+ Kh7=; Thematic try 1.Sf5? Qa7! 2.Qb3+ Kf8! 3.Qb4+ Ke8! 4.Sg7+ Kd8! 5.Se6+ Kc8! 6.Qc4+ Kb8!)=) **1...Kh8** (1...Kh7 2.Qc2+ Kh6 3.Qd2+ Kh7 4.Qd3+ transposes) **2.Qa8+ Kh7 3.Qe4+ Kg8 4.Qc4+ Kh7 5.Qd3+ Kh8** (5...Kg8 6.Se6 Qe1+ 7.Kg6 Qa8 8.Qf5 Qe8+ 9.Kh6 Qe7 10.Qg6+ Kh8 11.Sg5 Qf8+ 12.Kh5 Qg7 13.Qe8+ Qg8 14.Qe5+(Qe7) Qg7 15.Sf7+ Kh7 16.Qe4+ Kg8 17.Qe8+ Qf8 18.Sh6+-) **6.Se6! f2 7.Qd8+ Kh7** (Main 7...Qg8 8.Qd4! f1Q+ 9.Ke7+ Kh7 10.Qh4+ Kg6 11.Qg5+ Kh7 12.Qh5#) **8.Qc7+!** (8.Qd7+? Kh6! 9.Qd2+ Kh5!)=) **8...Kh8** (8...Kh6 9.Qf4+ Kh5 10.Sg7+-) **9.Qc8+! Qg8 10.Qc1!** (10.Qc3? f1Q+! 11.Ke7+ Kh7=) **10...Qh7** (10...f1Q+ 11.Qxf1 Qh7 12.Qa1+; 10...Qg1 11.Qh6+ Kg8 12.Qf8+ Kh7 13.Sg5+-) **11.Qc3!** (11.Qb2? f1Q+! 12.Kg5+ Kg8 13.Qb8+ Kf7=) **11...Qb7** (11...f1Q+ 12.Kg5+ Kg8 13.Qc8+ Kf7 14.Qd7+ Kg8 15.Qe8+ Qf8 16.Qxf8#; 11...Qd7 12.Qc4 Qh7 13.Qd4 Qd7 14.Qxf2 etc.) **12.Qd4!** (12.Qh3+? Qh7 13.Qc3 Qb7 Loss of time) **12...Qh7** (12...f1Q+ 13.Kg6+ Kg8 14.Qd8+ Qf8 15.Qxf8#) **13.Kg5+!** (13.Qd8+? Qg8 14.Qd4 Qh7 Loss of time) **13...Kg8 14.Qd8+ Kf7 15.Qd7+ Kg8 16.Qe8 mate.**

3rd Commendation - (Yochanan Afek) After an inconsequential four-move introduction, White's winning plan is to attack the Black knight a second time while it is still immobilized. 5. Ka1! is necessary to escape checks by Black's rook that allow breaking the pin of the knight earlier than in the main line. Then with 6.a3! White effectively trades one pawn-move for two Black rook-retreats to gain a critical tempo. Finally, as Black breaks the absolute pin of his knight, White's 10.h6!! immobilizes the black knight once again by pinning it to the g8 queening-square. The concepts are simple, but instructive. Solution: **1.Ra8 Rb4+ 2.Ka3 Bb2+ 3.Rxb2 Rxb2 4.Kxb2 Rb4+ 5.Ka1!** [5.Kc3? Rb7(Rb6) 6.a4 Rc7+ 7.Kb3 Rc8 8.a5 Rg8=] **5...Kg8 6.a3!** (6.a4? Kf8 7.a5 Ke7 8.a6 Sxa6!)=) **6...Rb3! 7.Ka2!** (7.a4? Kf8 8.Ka2 Rb4! 9.Ka3 Rb1!)=) **7...Rb7** (7...Rb6 8.a4 Kf8 9.a5 Rb5 10.a6+-; 7...Rb5 8.a4 Rb4 9.a5 Kf8 10.a6 Ra4+ 11.Kb3 Rxa6 12.Rxb8+ Ke7 13.h6+-) **8.a4 Kf8 9.a5 Ke7 10.h6!** (10.a6? Sxa6! 11.h6 gxh6 12.g7 Sb4+! 13.Ka1 Sc2+ 14.Ka2 Sb4+ 15.Ka3 Sc2+ 16.Ka4 Rb4+ 7.Ka5 Rg4=) **10...gxh6 11.g7 Kf7 12.a6 Rb5 13.a7 wins.**

1st Special Commendation - (Luis Miguel González) Robert Brieger would have liked this study with its multiple zugzwangs and White's careful use of the opposition to get to e4 in time. The simple introduction provides a try in which White finds himself in zugzwang. The many 'loss of time' duals, which are often found in opposition studies, are not important. The study is partly anticipated by J. Tazberik, c tn34#2895. Solution: **1.e5+! Kxe5 2.Bb8 f3 3.Bf1!** (3.Kb7? Ke6 4.Bxd6 Kxd6 5.Bf1 Kd7! zz) **3...Kd5** (3...f4 4.Kb7 Kd5 5.Bxd6 Kxd6 6.Kb6 Kd5 7.Kb5 Kd4 8.Kc6 transposes) **4.Bxd6 Kxd6 5.Kb8! zz** (5.Kb7? Kd7! zz) **5...Kd7 6.Kb7!** (6.Bh3? Kc6! 7.Bxf5 Kd5 8.Bh3 Kd4 9.Bf1 Ke3 10.Kc7 Kf2=) **6...Kd6 7.Kb6 zz f4** (7...Kd5 8.Kc7 Kc5 9.Kd7 Kd5 10.Kc7 Ke5 11.Kf7 f4 12.Kg6+) **8.Kb7!** [8.Kb5? Kd5 9.Kb4 (9.Kb6 Kd6 *Loss of time*) 9...Kd4 10.Kb3 Kf3 11.Kc2 Kf2=; 8.Bh3? Kd5 9.Kb5 (9.Bf1 Kd6 *Loss of time*) 9...Kd4 10.Bf1 Ke3 11.Kc4 Kf2=] **8...Kd7 9.Kb8! Kd6 10.Kc8! Kc6 11.Kd8 Kd6 12.Ke8 Ke6 13.Kf8 Kf6 14.Kg8!** (14.Bh3? Ke5 15.Kg7 Kd4 16.Bf1 Ke3 17.Kf6 Kf2=) **14...f2** (14...Kg6 15.Bh3 f2 16.Kf8 Kf6 17.Ke8 f3 18.Kd7 Ke5 19.Kc6 Kd4 20.Bf1 transposes) **15.Kh7!** [15.Bh3? f3 16.Kh7 Kg6 17.Kg7 (17.Bf1 Kh5 18.Kg7 Kg5 *Loss of time*) 17...Kf4 18.Kg6 Kg3 19.Bf1 Kh2 20.d4 Kg1=] **15...Kg5 16.Kg7! f3 17.Kf7 Kf5 18.Ke7 Ke5 19.Kd7 Kd5 20.Kc7 Kc5 21.Kb7 Kd5 22.Kb6 Kd4 23.Kc6! Ke3 24.Kd5 Kd2 25.Ke4 Ke1 26.Bh3 f1Q 27.Bxf1 Kxf1 28.Kxf3 wins.**

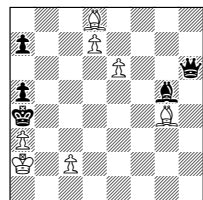
2nd Special Commendation - (Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmo) This pleasant miniature's artistic appeal is due to the clever maneuvering by the White's bishop. White's 3.Bf7! forces Black's pawns to disconnect momentarily by freezing the c-pawn. White's 4.Be8! makes Black choose between positional draws with both sides queening. The final position has been anticipated, i.e. by H. Holin (3.hm wb23 ts23) and D. Gurgendize (bt35#05). Solution: **1.b6!** (1.Be8? c3 2.b6 Sc4++) **Sd7!** [1...c3 2.Bd1+ Kc4 (2...e2 3.Bxc2+ Kxc2 4.b7 Sd7 5.Kb5 d3 6.Kc6 d2 7.Kxd7 d1Q+ 8.Kc7=) 3.b7 Sd7 4.Ba4 Sb8 5.Bb5+ Kb3 (5...Kc5 6.Bd3=) 6.Bd3 c2 7.Bxc2+ Kxc2 8.Kb6 d3 9.Kc7 d2 10.Kxb8 d1Q 11.Kc7=; 1...Sc6+ 2.Kb5 Sd8 3.Kc5 d3 Bf7=] **2.b7 d3!** (2...c3 3.Bd1+ etc.) **3.Bf7!** [3.Be8? Sb8 4.Bb5 Kc3! 5.Kb6 (5.Ba4 Kb2 6.Kb6 c3+) 5...Kb4! 6.Kc7 (6.Bxc4 Kxc4 7.Kc7 Sa6+ 8.Kb6 Scd5!+) 6...d2 7.Kxb8 d1Q 8.Kc7 Kc5 9.b8Q Qd6+ 10.Kc8 Qxb8+ 11.Kxb8 Kxb5+; 3.Kb5? c3 4.Kc6 Sb8+ 5.Kc7 c2 8.Kxb8 c1Q+] **3...d2 4.Be8! Sb8** (4...d1Q 5.b8Q+! Sxb8 6.Ba4++; 4...Ka3 5.Bxd7 d1Q 6.b8Q Qd2+ 7.Kb6 Qxd7 8.Kc5!+) **5.Ba4+ Ka3 6.Bd1! c3 7.Kb6 Kb2 8.Kc7!** (8.Ka7? Sd7 9.Ba4 Kc1! 10.Bxd7 d1Q 11.b8Q Qxd7+) **8...Sa6+ 9.Kb6 Sb8 10.Kc7 c2 11.Bxc2 Kxc2 12.Kxb8 d1Q 13.Kc7! draw.**

3rd Sp. Commendation
Pavel Arestov



Win (4+4)

4th Sp. Commendation
Robert Pye



Win (7+5)

3rd Special Commendation - (Pavel Arestov) In spite of its mundane introduction, Robert Brieger would have liked this ending because it is not only instructive, but has the look ahead 2.Ka2!, which guarantees that White will be on right side of the zz. Solution: **1.Bb7 Re1+ 2.Ka2!** [2.Kb2? h1Q 3.Bxh1 Rxh1 4.a6 Rh2+(Rh7, Rh8) 5.Kb3 Rh6 6.a7 Ra6 7.Rg7 Ra4 8.Rc7 Kd4 9.Rc4+ Rxc4 10.a8Q Kc5 11.Qa7+ Kc6 12.Qa6+ Kc5 13.Qc8+ Kb6=] **2...h1Q 3.Bxh1 Rxh1 4.Kb2! zz Rf1(Rd1) 5.Rh4 Rg1 6.a6 Rg2+** (6...Rg6 7.a7 Ra6 8.Rh3+ Kd4 9.Ra3++) **7.Kb3 Rg6 8.a7 Ra6 9.Rh7 Ra4 10.Rh3+ Kf2 11.Rh2+ Kg3 12.Ra2 wins.**

4th Special Commendation - (Robert Pye) After a straight forward introduction to clear the path which allows the threat of Bd7 checkmate, White crushes Black's 3...Qc6 defense with e8Q followed by c4 and mate in 2. The seemingly useless Black pawn on a7 prevents Black from a having a stalemate defense in one variation. Some devaluation is due to the inactive pieces on the a-file and the fact that the study is partly anticipated by N. Cortlever, tt23#180 {c}. Solution: **1.Be7! Bxe7** (1...Qh2 2.Bf5 Qe2 3.d8Q Qc4+ 4.Kb2 Qb5+ 5.Kc3 Qe5+ 6.Qd4+ Qxd4+ 7.Kxd4 Bxe7 8.c4+-) **2.d8Q Bxd8 3.e7 Qc6 4.e8Q Qxe8 5.c4 wins.**

Many thanks to Bill for judging such an important event, as well as to Richard for directing it. Please send any claims or comments to Richard Becker by 1/1/2015 when the award becomes final (and the prize money is distributed).



Robert Sinclair Brieger died at the age of 86 in Houston, Texas. He was born on October 18, 1925 to Raymond and Mabel Brieger and moved with them, in 1926, to 220 West 18th, where he remained his entire life, except for brief jobs away from Houston. He attended Cooley Elementary, Hamilton Junior High and Reagan Senior High (1942). Graduated with B.S. in Mathematics from University of Houston in 1946. He received his teaching certificate in 1951. A chess player from the age of 17, Robert achieved the rating of "Master". He wrote many books on chess, composed countless "end games" and played by correspondence with opponents worldwide. Robert was Houston City Chess Champion and the recipient of many trophies from State and Southwest Open tournaments. He taught math for brief periods in the Houston ISD and other Texas districts and he worked, for two years, for Convair

Aeronautics in San Diego, CA. A lover of classical music, Robert played clarinet in high school and university orchestras, attended concerts and opera, and later in life, enjoyed all types of ballroom dancing. He loved classical movies and collected them, especially winners of awards in Cannes, Venice and Hollywood.

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