

# CHess INFORMANT – 50 JUBILEE TOURNEY

## Final award by Yochanan Afek

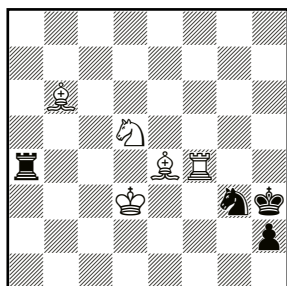
Chess Informant, founded in 1966, has celebrated its 50th anniversary by organizing an International composing tourney for endgame studies. Privileged to act as its judge I received 36 anonymous entries from the tourney director Gady Costeff, to whom I am grateful for his invaluable assistance in checking the candidate entries for soundness and originality.

The general standard of the field was very good. I gave some priority to players' friendly entries i.e. those with digestible settings as well as comprehensive ideas and solutions. Most of the entries luckily did match these unwritten requests. Personally I am not particularly fond of artificial efforts to stretch a sufficiently lengthy solution by either multiple piece exchanges (in this case on the very same square) or unnecessary BTM stipulation. Two of the more serious candidates suffering from these flaws I decided to allow a second chance in another tourney instead of ranking them low. Two other entries improved on prize-winners from previous major events which I had judged. I hesitated before deciding to award each of them a deserved special honourable mention. Here is my ranking:

### 1. M. HLINKA & L. KEKELY,

Slovakia

*1st Pr. Informant-50 JT  
2016*



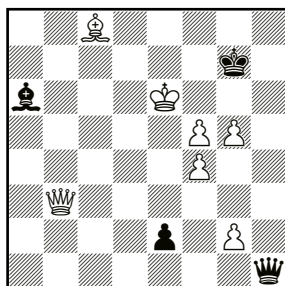
1. ?

+–

### 2. M. MINSKI,

Germany

*2nd Pr. Informant-50 JT  
2016*



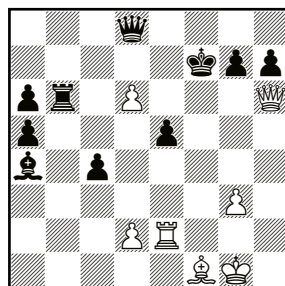
1. ?

+–

### 3. M. MINSKI, Germany & O. PERVAKOV,

Russia

*3rd Pr. Informant-50 JT  
2016*

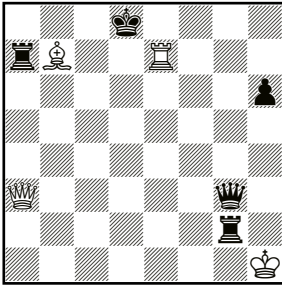


1. ?

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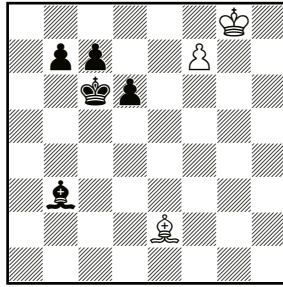
# STUDIES

**4. S. HORNECKER & M. MINSKI**, Germany  
4th Pr. Informant-50 JT 2016



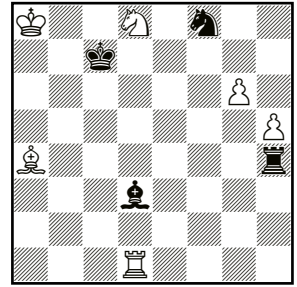
1. ? =

**5. P. ARESTOV**, Russia & **V. TARASIUK**, Ukraine  
Sp. Pr. Informant-50 JT 2016



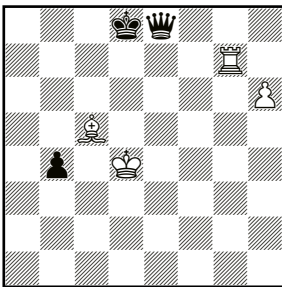
1. ? =

**6. S. SLUMSTRUP NIELSEN**, Denmark  
1st HM Informant-50 JT 2016



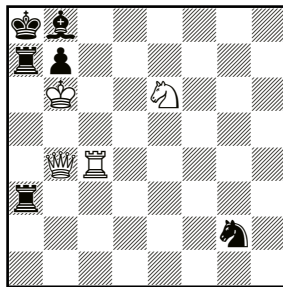
1. ? +-

**7. M. MILJANIĆ**, Serbia  
2nd HM Informant-50 JT 2016



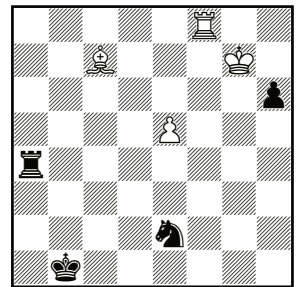
1. ? +-

**8. Á. RUSZ**, Hungary  
3rd HM Informant-50 JT 2016



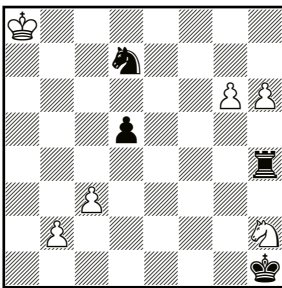
1. ? +-

**9. J. POLÁŠEK**, Czech Republic  
Sp. Hon. Mention Informant-50 JT 2016



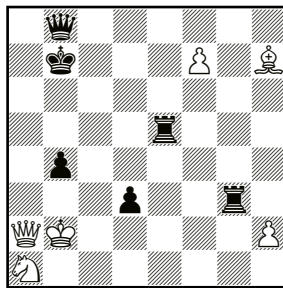
1. ? +-

**10. V. TARASIUK**, Ukraine  
Sp. Hon. Mention Informant-50 JT 2016



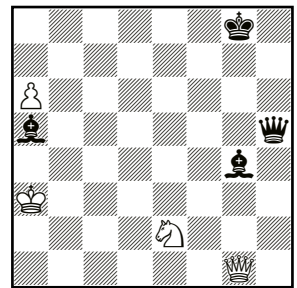
1. ? +-

**11. P. ARESTOV**, Russia  
1st Comm. Informant-50 JT 2016



1. ? =

**12. S. SLUMSTRUP NIELSEN**, Denmark  
2nd Comm. Informant-50 JT 2016



1. ? +-

**1. M. HLINKA & L. KEKELY**

Following the Zugzwang after the quiet 8. ♖a3! White's rook and bishop create a second battery. By exchanging roles as the front and the rear pieces of the newly formed battery the thematic pieces change also the targeted half of the royal couple! Surprisingly In the final move even two batteries are activated with the rook as the rear piece and this time both bishops are the front ones! All this occurs with no need for extra material! A genuine chess miracle!

1. ♔f3 ♖a3 [1... h1♖ 2. ♔h1 ♖a3 3. ♖c4 ♗h1 4. ♖f8+—] 2. ♗c3 ♖c3! preparing the following fork 3. ♖c3 ♗e2! 4. ♔e2 [4. ♖d2? ♗f4 5. ♔h1 ♗h5! 6. ♔c7 ♗g3=] h1♖ black has a new queen, but... 5. ♔f1 ♖g3 6. ♔c7! ♖ Battery against the king. 6... ♖h8 [6... ♖b7 7. ♖f7 ♖g4 8. ♖g7 ♖h5 9. ♖h7 ♖g4 10. ♔h3 ♖f3 11. ♖f7 ♖e2 12. ♔g4+—] 7. ♖b3! [7. ♖c2? ♖h7=] ♖h1 8. ♖a3! ♖b7 9. ♖f7 battery towards the queen 9... ♖g4 10. ♖g7 ♖h5 [10... ♖f5 11. ♔h3 ♖f6 12. ♔e5+—] 11. ♖h7 ♖g4 [11... ♖g6 12. ♔d3+—] 12. ♔h3 ♖f3 13. ♖f7 ♖e2 14. ♔f1 ♖d1 15. ♖d7 ♖c2 16. ♔d3 with two batteries unleashed after: 16... ♖c1 [or 16... ♖d1 17. ♔e4/♔a6] 17. ♔f4+—

**2. M. MINSKI**

In the heat of the battle each side promotes a second queen; however the side that sacrifices both his queens is the one to emerge the eventual winner against the remaining enemy queen. A breathtaking battle with plenty of quiet moves and subtle finesses.

1. f6 [1. ♖c3? ♖g8 2. ♖d6 e1♖ 3. ♔e6 ♖e6 4. ♖e6 (4. fe6 ♖g2=) ♖g2 5. ♖c7 ♖a8 6. ♖f7 ♖h8=] ♖h8 2. g6! e1♖ [2... ♔c4! 3. ♖c4 e1♖ 4. ♖f7+— see main line] 3. ♖f7 ♔c4! [3... ♖h5 4. ♖b8+—] 4. ♖c4 ♖e8! [4... ♖h5 5. ♔e6!+—] 5. ♖e8 ♖e1 6. ♖e2!! [6. ♖e6? ♖e6! 7. ♔e6 stalemate; 6. ♔e6? ♖e6! 7. ♖e6 stalemate; 6. ♖f7? ♖e8/♖e7! 7. ♖e8 stalemate] ♖e2 7. ♖f8 ♖g2 8. g7 ♖h7 9. ♔b7! [9. ♔f5? ♖h6 10. g8♖ ♖a8 11. ♖e7! ♖g8? 12. f7+—; 11... ♖a3! =] ♖g1 [9... ♖g6 10. ♔e4! ♖e4 11. g8♖+—; 9... ♖g4

10. ♔e4 ♖h6 11. g8♖ ♖c8 12. ♖e7!+— see main line] 10. ♔e4 ♖h6 11. g8♖ ♖c5 12. ♖e8 [12. ♖f7? ♖c4! 13. ♖e7 ♖g8? 14. f7+—; 13... ♖e4=] ♖c8 13. ♖e7!! [13. ♖f7? ♖d7/♖c4=] ♖g8 [13... ♖c7 14. ♖e6 ♖c4 15. ♔d5+—] 14. f7 ♖g7 15. ♖e8+—

**3. M. MINSKI & O. PERVAKOV**

Materially black seems to do fine, yet white's bishop and advanced pawn eventually make the difference. A game-like heroic sacrificial battle decided by a subtle pawn move. The mutual quiet queen sacrifices are eye catching.

1. ♖f2 ♖g8 2. ♖g6!! [△ ♖f7; 2. ♔c4? ♖h8 3. ♖g6?! ♖d6!+—] ♖b8! [2... hg6 3. ♔c4 ♖h7 4. ♖h2 ♖h4 5. ♖h4♯ model mate; 2... ♖h8 3. ♖h2 h6 4. ♖h6! gh6 5. ♖h6 ♖g8 6. ♔c4♯ model mate; 2... ♖b7 3. ♖e4! ♖b4 4. ♖d5 ♖h8 5. ♖a5! ♖b8 6. ♖a4+—] 3. ♔c4 ♖h8 4. ♔d3! [4. ♖h2? ♖b6!+—] ♖h4!! [4... hg6 5. ♖h2 ♖g8 6. ♔c4 ♖f8 7. ♖h8♯] 5. ♖f5! [5. gh4? hg6=] ♖g3 6. ♖f1 ♖d3! 7. ♖d3 ♔b5 8. ♖b5! ab5 9. d4!! ed4 10. ♖c2 [10. d7? d3!+—] ♖f8 [10... d3 11. ♖c7 ♖f8 12. ♖e1 ♖d8 13. d7 ♖g8 14. ♖c8+—] 11. ♖e1! ♖g8 [11... ♖d8 12. d7 ♖d7 13. ♖c8 ♖d8 14. ♖d8♯ model mate] 12. d7 ♖d8 13. ♖c8+—

**4. S. HORNECKER & M. MINSKI**

The aim of white's sacrificial play is obviously to turn his remaining queen to a crazy one. Following a mutual rook sacrifice, an original systematic manoeuvre of the WB & BK prepares the ground by the quiet and powerful 7. ♖e3!!

1. ♖e8! [Thematic try: 1. ♖d7?! ♖d7 2. ♔c6! (2. ♔c8! ♖e8! 3. ♔d7! ♖f7! 4. ♔e6! ♖g6!+— position X with b♖a7) ♖e6! 3. ♔d7! (3. ♔d5! ♖e5!+—) ♖f7! 4. ♔e6! ♖g6!+— position X with b♖a7; 1. ♖g3? ♖g3+—] ♖e8 2. ♔c6 ♖d7 [2... ♖d8 3. ♖f8 ♖c7 4. ♖e7 ♖b6 5. ♖b4 ♖c7 6. ♖e7 ♖b6 7. ♖b4=] 3. ♔d7 ♖f7! 4. ♔e6! [4. ♔e8? ♖g8! 5. ♔f7 ♖h7! 6. ♔g6 ♖g6 7. ♖e7 ♖g7 8. ♖e4 ♖g6+—] ♖g6! [position X without b♖a7] 5. ♔f5! [5. ♔f7? ♖h7!+—] ♖h5! 6. ♔g4! [6. ♔g6?! ♖h4! 7. ♖e7 ♖g5 8. ♖e4

♖g4 9. ♜e1 ♖g3 10. ♜e4 ♜g4 11. ♜e7 ♗h3—+ ♜g4 [6... ♗h4 7. ♜e7=] 7. ♜e3!! [△ ♜h6/♜g5 with stalemate; 7. ♜c5? ♜g5 8. ♜f2! ♖g4!—+] ♖g3 8. ♜g3! ♜g3 stalemate

**5. P. ARESTOV & V. TARASIUK**

A surprising discovery is behind this logical study based on a crystal clear reciprocal zugzwang. The special prize is also for the best theoretical contribution.

1. ♙f3! [1. ♗g7? ♙f7 2. ♗f7 ♗c5—+; 1. ♙d1? ♙f7 2. ♗f7 ♗d5! 3. ♙f3 ♗e5 4. ♙b7 c5 5. ♙a6 d5—+] ♗b6! 2. ♙d1!! [Thematic try: 2. ♗g7? ♙f7 3. ♗f7 c6! 4. ♗e6 ♗c5 5. ♗d7 d5! 6. ♗c7 b5!○ 7. ♗b7 b4—+] ♙e6 [2... ♙f7 3. ♗f7 see main line] 3. ♗g7! [3. ♙g4? ♙f7 4. ♗f7 d5—+ e.g. 5. ♗e6 ♗c5 6. ♗e5 b5 7. ♙h5 c6 8. ♙e2 b4 9. ♙f1 b3 10. ♙d3 b2 11. ♙b1 ♗b4/♗c4] ♙f7 4. ♗f7 d5! 5. ♗e6 ♗c5 6. ♗d7! c6 7. ♗c8!! [Thematic try: 7. ♗c7? b6!○ 8. ♗c8 (8. ♗b7 b5 9. ♙e2 b4—+) d4 9. ♙e2 ♗b4! 10. ♗c7 c5 11. ♗b6 c4 12. ♗c6 d3—+] b6! 8. ♗c7!○ b5 9. ♗b7! [Thematic try: 9. ♗d7? d4! 10. ♙e2 b4 11. ♗e6 d3! 12. ♙d3 ♗d4 13. ♙c2 c5 14. ♗d6 c4—+] A) 9... b4 10. ♙b3! ♗b5 11. ♗c7 c5! 12. ♙d5 [12. ♗d6? c4 13. ♙d1 d4 14. ♗d5 b3 15. ♗d4 ♗b4—+] c4 13. ♗d6 b3 14. ♗e5! b2 15. ♙e4=; B) 9... d4 10. ♙e2! b4 11. ♗a6! [11. ♙d3? b3! 12. ♗a6 ♗b4—+] b3 12. ♗a5 b2 13. ♙d3=

**6. S. SLUMSTRUP NIELSEN**

All three white pieces are sacrificed in the course of a fierce struggle to keep the seventh rank closed in order to secure promotion.

1. ♙e8! [1. g7?? ♖a4#; 1. ♙b3? ♙e4 (1... ♖h5 transposes) 2. ♗a7 ♖h5 3. ♖c1 ♗d8 4. g7 ♖h7 5. ♖c7 ♖g7=; 1. ♖c1? ♗d8 2. g7 ♖a4 3. ♗b7 ♖b4 4. ♗c6 ♙e4 5. ♗d6 ♖b6 6. ♗e5 ♖e6 7. ♗d4 ♖e8! =] ♙e4 [1... ♖h3 2. ♖c1 ♗d8 3. g7 ♗d7 4. ♖c8 ♗c8 5. ♙d7] 2. ♗a7 ♖h5 3. ♗b7! [Try: 3. ♖c1? ♗d8 4. g7 ♖h7 with no bishop on b7 this move secures Black a draw] ♙b7 4. ♖c1 ♙c6! Clears the 7th rank 5. ♖c6 ♗d8 6. g7 [Try: 6. ♖c8? ♗c8 7. g7 ♗d7! 8. ♙d7 (8. ♙h5 ♗f6=) ♗c7=]

♖h7 7. ♖c8! ♗c8 8. ♙d7! ♗d7 9. g8 ♜ ♗f8 10. ♗a8!—+ [10. ♗b6? ♖h6 11. ♗c5 ♖f6=]

**7. M. MILJANIĆ**

A very attractive logical miniature displaying an original reciprocal zugzwang.

1. h7 ♜h8 2. ♙f8 ♗e8 3. ♗e4! [3. ♗d3? b3! =○] ♗f8 4. ♖c7!! [Thematic try: 4. ♖b7? b3! 5. ♗d3 b2! 6. ♗c2 b1 ♜ 7. ♗b1 ♜e5! =; 4. ♖a7? ♜c3 =; 4... b3 = EGTB] b3 5. ♗d3!○ b2 6. ♗c2 b1 ♜ 7. ♗b1 ♜e5 8. ♖c8—+

**8. Á. RUSZ**

The surprising capture refusal 6. ♗b6!! allows the single tempo required for dominating the black knight. A pleasant discovery!

1. ♗c7 [1. ♖c8? ♖3a6! 2. ♗b5 ♖e6 3. ♜f8 ♖e5 4. ♗b4 ♖e4 5. ♗c3 ♖e3 6. ♗c2! ♖e2 (6... ♖a2? 7. ♗b1—) 7. ♗d1 ♖e1 8. ♗c2 ♖e2 9. ♗d3 ♖e3 10. ♗c2 ♖e2 =] ♙c7 2. ♗c7 b5 3. ♗c6! [3. ♗c8? ♖h3! 4. ♜b2 ♗e3! 5. ♖c7 ♗d5 6. ♖a7 ♗a7 7. ♜a2 ♗b6 8. ♜d5 ♖h8 = TB] ♖7a6 [3... bc4 4. ♜f8#; 3... ♖3a6 4. ♗b5 ♖b7 5. ♗a6 ♖b4 6. ♖b4—+] 4. ♗b5 ♖3a5 5. ♜a5 ♖a5 6. ♗b6!! [6. ♗a5? ♗b7 7. ♗b5 (7. ♖e4 ♗c6 8. ♗b4 ♗d5 =) ♗e3 8. ♖f4 (8. ♖d4 ♗c7 9. ♗c5 ♗f5 =) ♗d5 9. ♖f7 ♗c7 10. ♗c5 ♗c8 11. ♗c6 ♗e8 12. ♖a7 ♗d8 13. ♖f7 ♗c8 =] ♗b8 7. ♖e4! ♖a6 8. ♗a6 ♗c7 9. ♗b5 ♗d6 10. ♗c4—+

**9. J. POLÁŠEK**

A fine improvement on H. van der Heijden, 4th Prize Olympic tourney Dresden 2008 in which I acted as the judge. Here we witness two additional logical tries, upgrading the original version that should naturally still be regarded as a partial anticipation.

1. e6! [1. ♖f1? ♗c2 2. e6 ♗d4 3. e7 ♗e6 4. ♗g6 ♗c7 =; 1. ♙d6? ♖g4 2. ♗f6 (2. ♗h6 = TB7) ♗d4 3. ♙c5 ♖f4 4. ♗g6 ♖g4 5. ♗h6 ♗e6 = TB7] ♖a7! [1... ♗d4 2. e7 ♗e6 3. ♗h8 quickest 3... ♗c7 4. ♖c8 ♖c4 5. ♖c7 ♖c7 6. e8 ♜—+] 2. ♖f1!! Foresight. The black king must be moved to the 'c' file. [Logical try: 2. ♖f7? ♗d4 3. e7 ♗e6 4. ♗h6 ♗c7 5. e8 ♜ ♖a6 =; 2. ♖c8? ♗d4 3. e7 ♖c7

4. ♖c7 ♗e6] ♜c2 3. ♜f7 ♗d4 4. e7 ♗e6 5. ♜g6! ♗c7 6. ♜f8 ♜a6 7. ♜f7 ♜a7 [7... ♗b5 8. ♜c8! (8. e8♟? ♗d6) ♜b3 (8... ♜d3 9. ♜d8) 9. ♜b8+—] 8. ♜c8 ♜d3 [Main 8... ♜b3 9. ♜g6 ♜a6 10. ♜g7 ♜a7 a) 11. ♜h6? (compare with the main line 8... ♜d3) ♜a6 12. ♜g7 ♜c6 13. ♜h8 ♜h6 14. ♜g8 ♗d5 15. e8♟ ♗f6=; b) 11. ♜h8! h5 12. ♜c7 ♜c7 13. e8♟+—] 9. ♜g6 ♜a6 10. ♜g7 ♜a7 [10... ♜c6 11. ♜h8!+—] 11. ♜h6! [Logical try: 11. ♜h8? compare with the main line 8... ♜b3; 11... ♗e8= 12. ♜e8 ♜e4 13. ♜g7 h5] ♜a6 12. ♜g7 [12. ♜h7? ♗d5 13. ♜d8 ♜a7 14. ♜d5 ♜e4=] ♜a7 [12... ♜c6 13. ♜g8 ♗d5 (13... ♜g6 14. ♜f7 ♜c6 15. e8♟ ♗e8 16. ♜c6+—) 14. ♜d8!+—] 13. ♜h8!+—

## 10. V. TARASIUK

Another significant improvement on an earlier study by L. Tarasiuk, 4th prize, FIDE Cup 2015, in which I acted as the judge.

1. ♗g4! [Try: 1. h7? ♗f6 2. ♗f3 ♜h6! 3. ♗g5 ♗h7! 4. gh7 ♜g2 5. b4 ♜g3 6. b5 ♜g4! 7. b6 ♜g5 8. b7 ♜a6 9. ♜b8 ♜h6 10. ♜a8 ♜a6=] ♜g4 2. h7 ♜a4! 3. ♜b7 ♜h4 4. g7 ♜h7 5. g8♟ ♗f6! 6. ♟h7 ♗h7 7. ♜c7!! [Thematic try: 7. ♜c6? ♗f6○ 8. b4 ♗e4 9. b5 ♗c3 10. b6 d4 11. b7 d3 12. b8♟ d2 13. ♟h8 ♜g2! =] ♗f6! 8. ♜c6!○ ♜g2 [8... ♜g1 9. b4 ♗e4 10. b5 ♗c3 11. b6 d4 12. b7 d3 13. b8♟ d2 14. ♟g3!+—] 9. b4 ♗e4 10. b5 ♗c3 11. b6 d4 12. b7 d3 13. b8♟ d2 14. ♟b2!+—

## 11. P. ARESTOV

The final pin stalemate is not new (Kasparyan, 1st Pr. Revista Română de Șah 1938) however the tactical play leading to it is well constructed.

1. ♙e4! ♜e4 [1... ♜b6 2. ♟c4! ♜e4 3. ♟e4 see main line] 2. ♟d5 ♜b6! 3. ♟e4 ♟h8 4. ♜a2! ♟h2 5. ♜b3 d2 6. ♜b4 ♜b3!! [6... d1♟ 7. ♟e6 ♜c7 8. ♟e5=] 7. ♗b3 ♟d6 8. ♜a4! d1♟ [8... ♟d7 9. ♜a3=] 9. f8♟! [9. ♟e3? ♜b7 10. f8♟ ♟g4!+—] ♟f8 10. ♟e3! ♜b7 11. ♟b6! ♜c8 12. ♟c5! ♟c5 stalemate!

## 12. S. SLUMSTRUP NIELSEN

Two Black ♟+♙ batteries, unleashed against the white monarch, are unable to tame the advanced pawn owing to white's accurate play.

1. a7 ♟h3 2. ♗g3 ♙f3 3. ♗e4 ♙g2 [3... ♙g4 4. ♜a4+—] 4. ♜b2 ♙c3 5. ♜c1! [5. ♜c2? ♟c8 6. ♟g2 ♙g7] ♟c8 [5... ♟h6 6. ♜b1+—] 6. ♟g2 ♙g7 7. ♟c2 ♙h6 8. ♗d2! [8. ♜b2? ♙g7 9. ♗c3 (9. ♜c1 loss of time) ♟c6 (9... ♟a6) 10. ♟b3 ♜h7=] ♙d2 9. ♜b2! ♟b7 [9... ♟a6 10. ♟b3 ♜g7 11. ♟g3 White will check his way to the a8 square, for instance 11... ♜h7 12. ♟h4 ♙h6 13. ♟e4; 9... ♟a8 10. ♟b3 ♜g7 11. ♟b8+—; 9... ♙c3 10. ♟c3 ♟b7 11. ♟b3] 10. ♟b3+—

*Yochanan Afek,  
International arbiter*