

Award in the Olympic Tourney for EG studies – Dresden 2008

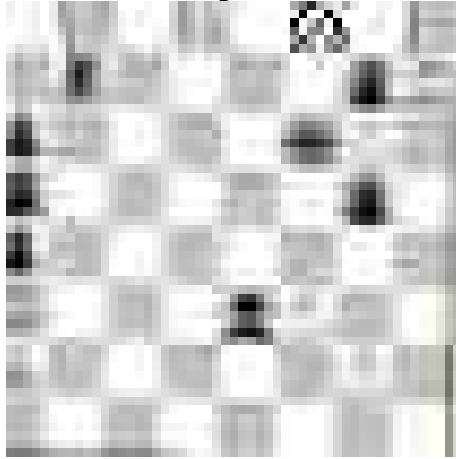
The chess Olympiad as the ultimate demonstration of **Gens Una Sumus** is not just a great opportunity to enjoy quality over the board encounters but also an ideal podium to introduce the best of chess art to the general public. Writing this award I can already conclude that the Olympic spirit has indeed been maintained by the finest chess artists before even one single move was actually made in the playing rooms.

I received for judgment 61 anonymous entries (I was later informed that 41 composers from 17 countries took part). The general standard proved exceptionally high. Even the analytical standard was impressive since just a handful of the entries were (so far) found unsound.

Here I should express my gratitude to both tournament director Martin Minski and the chess laboratory worldwide expert Harold van der Heijden for their invaluable assistance in checking the field for correctness and originality.

My job was very pleasant yet rather tough in view of the extraordinary rich field even after a couple of excellent entries had been disqualified due to insufficient originality. I should emphasize that almost each of the awarded entries was seriously considered as a candidate for top honours in the course of the judging process. The final ranking gave priority to originality, wealth of ideas and naturally to the judge's own personal taste which usually seeks extra spirit and soul beyond the accuracy and unity. The inevitable inner struggle eventually led to the following verdict:

Wieland Bruch & Martin Minski (Germany)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
1st prize



Win

1.Rh8!

(1.Bd5? Bc1+! 2.Ka2 (2. Kxa4 Rb4+ 3.Kxa5 Rb5+ 4.Kxa6 Rxd5 =) 2... Rb2+ 3.Ka1 Rxd2 =) (1.Kxa4? Rb4+! 2.Kxa5 Bd2 3.Bf7 Rb8+ =)

1... Bc1+

(1... Ke7 2.Nh7 Rb4 3.Rc8 +-)

(1... Rb4? 2.Rh1 Bc5? 3.Nd7+ +-)

2. Kxa4 Rb4+ 3.Kxa5 Bd2!

(3... Rb2? 4.Bf7 Rxd2 5.Rg8 +-)

4. Nh7+ Kxg6

(4... Kf5? e.g. 5.g4+!! (or 5.Rg8) (or 5.Rf8+) 5... Rxd4+ (5... Kxg6? 6.Nf8+ Kf6 7.Rh2! Rb2+ 8.Ka4 Rxa2+ 9.Kb3 Ra1 10.Rxd2 +-) 6.Kb6! (6.Kxa6? Ra4+! =) 6... Rb4+ 7.Kc5 a5 8.Bc4 a4 9.Kd5 a3 10.Ra8 Kxg6 11.Bd3+ Kh6 12.Rxa3 +- etc.)

5.Bg8! Rb8+

(5... Re4+ 6.Kxa6 Re8 7.g4 Bf4 etc. similar to the mainline) (5... Rg4+? 6.Kxa6 Rxd2 7.Be6 +-)

6.Kxa6 (idea 7.Lf7+) Bf4!

(6... Re8? 7.g4! Bf4 8.Kb6 Rb8+ 9.Kc5 Bc7 (9... Bg3 10.Kc6!) 10.Kd5 Bg3 11.Kc6! zugzwang)

7.g4!

(7.Ka7? g4! 8.fxg4 (8.Bf7+? Kxf7 9.Rxb8 Bxb8+ 10.Kxb8 Kg6! =) 8... Bg3 =)

7... Bc7!

(7... Bd6? 8.Ka7 Re8 9.Kb6 (or 9.Kb7) 9... Rb8+ 10.Kc6 Bg3 11.Kc5! Bc7 12.Kd5 Bg3 13.Kc6 zugzwang)

8.Ka7 (idea 9.Lf7+) Re8!

(8... Rd8? 9.Kb7 Ba5 10.Kc6! zugzwang)

9. Kb7 Ba5!

(9... Bg3? 10.Kb6! (10.Kc6? Rb8 !) 10... Rb8+ 11.Kc6! zugzwang) (9... Be5!? 10.Kc6 (or 10.Kb6) 10... Bf6 11.Kc7! zugzwang (but not 11. Kd7?? (11.Kd6??) Rd8+! 12. Kc7 Re8! = zugzwang) 11... Rxd8 12.Rxd8 +- etc.)

10.Kc6!

(loss of time 10.Ka6 Bc7 11.Kb5 (11.Kb7? Ba5) 11... Rb8+ 12.Kc5 (12.Kc6? Bg3!) 12... Rd8 13.Kc6 Ba5 see mainline after 10.- Rd8)

10... Rd8 11.Kb5!

(loss of time 11.Kc5 Bc7! 12.Kb5 Rb8+ 13.Kc6 (13. Kc4 Re8 14.Kc5 Rd8) (13.Kc5 Rd8) 13... Bg3!)

11... Bc7 12.Kc5! zugzwang Rb8?!

(12... Ba5? 13.Kc6! zugzwang Re8 14.Kd7 Rxc8 15.Rxc8 +-)

13.Kd5! (idea 14.Ke6)

(13.Kc6? Bg3 !)

mainline A: 13... Bg3 14.Kc6! zugzwang Bh2

(14... Bf4 15.Nxc5! see mainline B after 17.Sxc5!)

15. Kd7!!

(15.Nf8+? Rxf8 16.Bh7+ Kf7 17.Bg6+ Ke7! 18.Rxc2 Rf6+!=) (15.Kd5? Bg3!)

15... Rb7+ 16.Ke6 Rb6+ 17.Kd5! Rb8

(17... Rb5+ 18.Kc4/Kd4/Ke4 +-)

18.Nf8+! Rxf8 19.Bh7+ Kf7 20.Bg6+! Kxc6

(20... Ke7 21.Rxc2 +-)

21.Rxf8 +-**mainline B: 13... Bf4!? 14.Ke6!!**

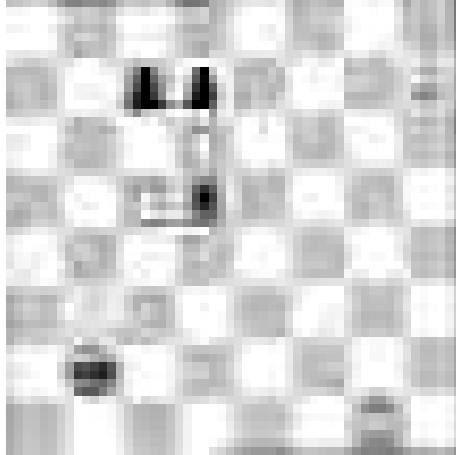
(14.Nxc5? Rb5+! 15.Ke4 Bxc5 =) (14.Kc6? Bg3!)

14... Rb6+ 15.Kd7 Rb7+ 16.Kc6! Rb8 17.Nxc5! Kxc5 18.Rh5+ Kf6 19.Rf5+ Ke7**20.Rf7+ Ke6 21.Rxc7+ Kf6 22.Rf7+ Kg5 23.Rf5+ Kh4 24.Rxf4 +-**

(13... Bh2? 14.Nf8+! see mainline A after 18.Nf8+!)

An astounding and daring concept displaying an exceptional pivot role of the white king in creating a series of zugzwang aimed to set his tied up pieces free. Willing to include the introductory paradoxical moves of the white piece into the cornered cage, the ambitious composer was even ready to sacrifice a more appealing initial setting without this trio along the "a" file. I admit that I would have been strongly (and wrongly!) tempted to start the solution on move 5 for the sake of a more natural look; therefore I salute the composer for declining this populist approach and uncompromisingly striving for the ultimate form and content.

Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
2nd prize



Win

1.Rg5!!

(1.dxc7? Rxc5) (1.c6? Rxd6) (1.b4? cxd6)

1... Rxc5 2.c6!

mainline A: **2... dxc6 3.dxc7 Rh5+ 4.Kg7** (or 4.Kg8) **Rg5+ 5.Kf7 Rf5+ 6.Ke7 Re5+**
7.Kd7 Rd5+ 8.Ke6! +-

(8.Kxc6? Rd3 9.b4 Rc3+ 10.Kd7 Rd3+ 11.Kc8 Rb3!

12.Kd7 Rd3+ 13.Kc6 Rc3+ 14.Kb7 Kb3 15.b5 Kb4 16.b6 Kb5 =)

mainline B: **2... cxd6 3.cxd7 Rh5+ 4.Kg7** (or 4.Kg8) **Rg5+ 5.Kf7 Rf5+ 6. Ke7 Re5+ 7.**
Kf6! +-

(7. Kxd6? Re3 =)

mainline C: **2... Rh5+ 3.Kg7 Rg5+ 4.Kf7 Rf5+ 5.Ke7 Re5+ 6.Kxd7 cxd6 7.b4!!**

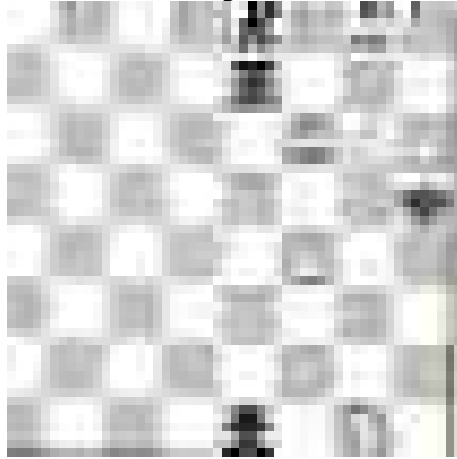
(Try: 7.c7? Rc5 8.b4 (8.Kxd6 Rxc7 =) 8... Rxc7+! 9.Kxc7 d5 10.b5 d4 11.b6 d3
12.b7 d2 13.b8=Q+ Kc2/Kc1 =)

7... Rh5 8.c7 Rh7+ 9.Kxd6! +-

(9.Kc6? Rxc7+ 10.Kxc7 d5 11.b5 d4 12.b6 d3 13.b7 d2 14.b8=Q+ Kc2 =))

A magnificent blend of known motives introduced by a superb key. Most original is the doubling of the Prokes element (basically introduced in Prokes a8a4, 1941) with a pair of lines ending up in an echo-chameleon positions on the upper half of the board.

Gunter Sonntag (Germany)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
3rd prize

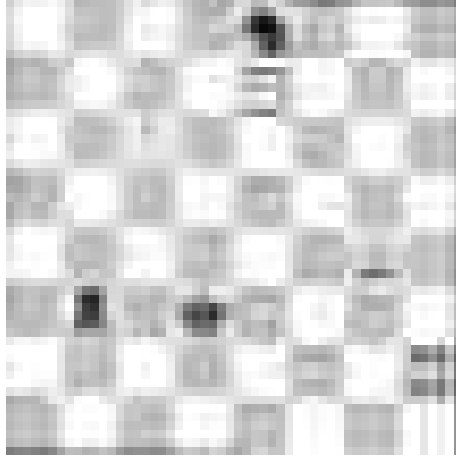


Draw

1.h7! Kg4! (Idea Lc3#) **2.Nf3! Re6+ 3.Kg7!**
(3. Kf7? R8e7+! 4.Kf8 Bb4 -+)
3... Bc3+
(3... R8e7+ 4.Kh6!Bd2 5.Rf8 =)
4.Ne5+
(4.Kh6? Re1! (4... Kxf3? 5. f5!)=) 5.Nh2+ (5.Nxe1 Rxe1 -+) 5... Kxf4 -+)
4... Bxe5+ 5.fxe5 R8e7+ 6.Kh8!
(6.Kh6? Rxe5 -+)
6... Kg5 7.Rg7 Re8+ 8.Rg8 Kh6 9.g7 R8e7 10.Re8!
(10.Rf8? Rxg7! -+)
10... Rxe8+ 11.g8=N+!
(11.g8=Q? Rxe5 or 11... R6e7 -+)
11... Kg5
(11... Kg6 stalemate)
12.Kg7 R6e7+ 13.Nxe7 Rxe7+ 14.Kg8 Kg6 15.h8=N+!
(15.h8=Q? Re8#)

A highly attractive and natural struggle secures a pair of underpromotions and subsequently saves a desperate position. .

Harold van der Heijden (Netherlands)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
4th prize



Win

1.Rh8

(1.Rh3+? Kc4! 2.Rxb3 (2.Rh8 Rb8 3.c7 Rc8) 2... Kxb3 = 3. Kf5 e.g. Kc4 4.Ke6 Kc5 5.Kd7 Nf6+! 6.Kc7 Nd5+) (1. Kf5? Kd4 2.Ke6 (2.Rc2 Re3 3.c7 Nd6+! (3... Rxe7? Not 4. Rd2+ !) 4.Kf6 Nc8 5.Rd2+ Kc5 =) (2.Rh8 Rb8 = e.g. 3.c7 Ng7+ 4.Kf6 Rxh8 5.Kxg7 Rc8! 6.Kf7 (6.Kf6 Kd5) 6... Rxc7 =) 2... Kc5 3.Rc2+ (3.Kd7 Nf6+) 3... Kb6 4.c7 Nxc7+ 5.Rxc7 Kxc7 6.e8=Q Re3+) (1.Ra2? Rb5 2.Ra8 Nf6+! 3.Kh3 Rh5+! (3... Rc5? 4.Rf8) 4.Kg3 Rg5+! 5.Kf4 Rc5! 6.Rf8 Nd5+ 7.Ke5 Nxe7+ =)

1... Rb8

(1... Rb4+ 2.Kg5 Rb5+ 3. Kg6)

2.c7!

(2.Kg5? Ke4 3.c7 Rb5+! 4.Kg6 Nxc7 =) (2.Kf5? Kd4 3.c7 (3. Kg6 Kd5 4.c7 Rb6+! 5.Kf7 Nxc7 =) 3... Ng7+ 4.Kg6 Rxh8 5.Kxg7 Rc8! =)

2... Rb4+

(2... Rc8 3. Rxe8 (or 3. Kg5 +-) Rxe8 e.g. 4.Kf5 Kd4 5.Ke6) (2... Nf6+ 3.Kf5! Rxh8 4.Kxf6 Rc8 5.Ke6 +-)

3.Kf5!

(3. Kg5? Nxc7 4. Rc8 Ne6+! 5. Kf6 Rb6! 6. Kf7 Ng5+ =)

3... Nxc7

(3... Rb5+ 4.Ke6 +- (or 4.Kg6 +-) 4... Nxc7+ e.g. 5.Kd6! Rb7 6.Kc6)

4.Rc8

mainline A: **4... Rb5+ 5.Kg6!**

(5. Kg4? Rb4+ 6.Kf3 Rf4+! 7.Kxf4 (7.Kg3 Re4 8.Rxc7 Kd4 =) 7... Nd5+ 8.Ke5 Nxe7 9.Rd8+ Kc4! 10.Rd7 Nc6+ =)

5... Rb6+ 6.Kg7!

(6.Kf7? Rb7! 7.Rxc7 (7.Kg8 Nd5! 8.e8=Q Nf6+ =) 7... Rxc7 =) (6.Kh7? Nd5! 7.Rd8 (7.e8=Q Nf6+) 7... Rb7! 8.Rxd5+ Ke4! =)

6... Rb7

(6... Rc6 7.Kg8! (7.Kh8 Rh6+ 8.Kg8 Rg6+) 7...Rg6+ 8.Kf7! Rc6 9.e8=Q! Nxe8 10.Rxc6 +-) (6... Ne6+ 7.Kg8 +- (or 7. Kh8+-))

7.Kh8!!

(7. Kf8? Ne6+) (7.Kg8? Nd5! 8.e8=Q Nf6+) (7.Rxc7? Rxc7) (7.Kh6? Rb6+)

7... Ne8

(7... Kd4 8.Rxc7 Rb8+ 9.Kg7 +-)

8. Rxe8 Ke4 9. Kg7 Ke5 10. Kf7

mainline B: **4... Rf4+ 5. Kg6!**

(5. Kxf4? Nd5+ 6.Ke5 Nxe7 7.Rd8+ Kc4! 8.Rd7 Nc6+ =) (5.Kg5? Ne6+ 6.Kg6 (6.Kh6 Rh4+) 6... Re4 = (or 6... Rg4+ =))

5... Rg4+ 6.Kh6!!

(6. Kh5? Nd5! 7.e8=Q (7.Kxg4 Nxe7 8.Rd8+ Kc4 =) 7... Nf6+ =) (6.Kf5? Rf4+ =)

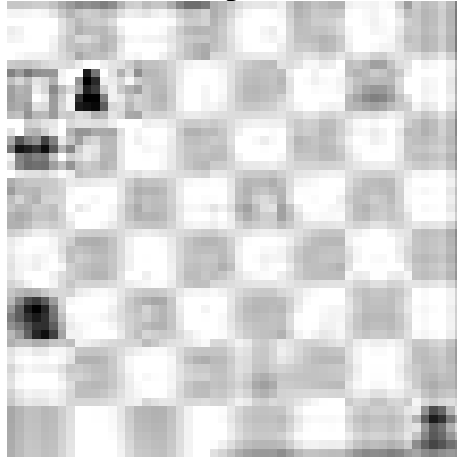
(6.Kf7? Rf4+ =) (6.Kh7? Rh4+ =)

6... Rh4+ 7. Kg5! Now that bR is on h4 instead of f4, 4...Se6+ is not possible.

7... Re4 8. Rxc7 +-

An amazingly accurate play of the white king in the open, highlighted by the “Let’s go to the corner” motive. A brilliant miniature!

Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
5th prize



Win

1.Nd7!

(1.Nc8? Bg2 2.Bf8 Nb5 3.Bc5 Bh3 4.Ne7 Nc3+ 5.Kd3 Na4 6.Bf2 Nxb6 =) (1.Bf8? Kxb6 2.Nc8+ Kc7 3.Ne7 b5 =)

1... Nc4 2.Bd4!

(2.Nc8? Bg2 3.Bd4 Bh3 4.Nb8+ Kb5 5.Na7+ Ka5 6.Nbc6+ Ka6 7.Nb4+ Ka5 8.Nd5 Be6 9.Nc6+ Kb5 10.Nce7 Bxd5 11.Nxd5 Kc6 12.Ne7+ Kd7 13.Nd5 Kc6 14.Nb4+ Kb5 15.Nd5 Kc6 =)

2... Nxb6 3.Bxb6 Bf3+ 4.Kd3!

(thematic try 4.Ke3? Bg4 5.Kd4 Be6 = zugzwang)

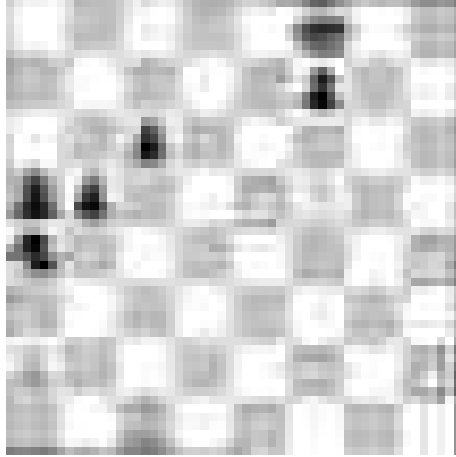
4... Bg4 5.Kc4!

(thematic try 5.Kd4? Be6 = zugzwang)

5... Be6+ 6.Kd4 zugzwang **Bh3 7.Kd5 Bg4 8.Kd6 Bxd7 9.Kc5 Be8 10.Nc8 +- e.g. 10... Bc6 11.Nd6 Bd7 12.Nc4 Bc6 13.Ne5 Bb5 14.Nf3 Bd7 15.Nd4 Bf5 16.Nb5 Bd3 17.Nc7#**

An impressive discovery combining a mate net with anti-stalemate play and reciprocal zugzwangs in a perfect construction.

Michael Prusikin (Germany)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
Special prize



Win

1.Bxf7! Kxf7

(1... Nc5 2.e6 a4 3.Kb1 b4 4.h5 Ne4 5.h6 Nf6 6.Bg6 c5 7.h7 Nxh7 8.Bxh7 Ke7 9.h4)

2.e6+ Kf6 3.h5 Nc3 4.h6 Nd5 5.e7!!

(5.h7? Kg7 6.e7 Nf6) (5.h4? Nc7 6.h5 Ne8 7.Kb2 c5 8.Kb3 b4 9.Ka2 c4 10.Ka1 a4
 11.Kb1 c3 12.Kc2 Nd6 13.h7 Kg7 14.f6+ Kxh7 15.e7 b3+ 16.Kxc3 Ne4+ 17.Kb2 Nxf6)

(5.h3? Nc7 6.Kb2 Ne8 7.h4 b4 8.h5 c5 9.Kb3 c4+ 10.Kb2 a4 11.Kb1 b3

12.Kb2 Nd6 13.h7 Kg7 14.f6+ Kxh7 15.e7 c3+)

5... Nxe7

(5... Kxe7 6.h7)

6.h7 Ng6

(6... Kg7 7.f6+ Kxf6 (7... Kxh7 8.fxe7) 8.h8=Q+)

7.fxg6 Kg7 8.Kb2! c5

(8... a4 9.Ka3! (9.h3 b4 =) 9... c5 10.h3! Kh8 11.h4 Kg7 12.h5 c4 13.Kb4 +-)

9.h3!!

(9.h4? Kh8 10. h5 Kg7) (9.Kb3? Kh8 10.h3 (10.h4 Kg7

11.h5 b4! 12.h6+ Kh8 13.Kb2 a4 =) 10... a4+ 11.Ka3 c4 12.Kb4 Kg7 13.h4 Kh8 14.h5

Kg7 -+)

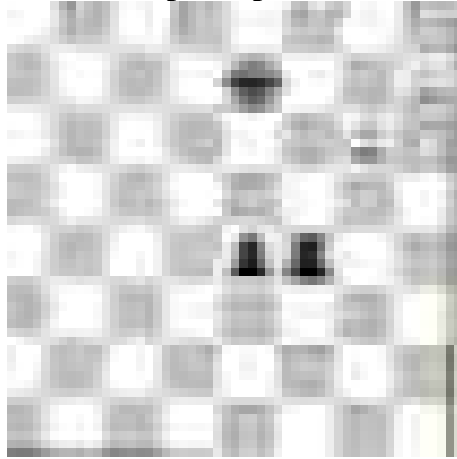
9... Kh8 10.h4 Kg7 11.h5 Kh8 12.h6 b4

(12... c4 13.Kc3 a4 14. Kb4) (12... a4 13. Ka3 c4 14. Kb4)

13.Kb3 c4+ 14.Kxc4 e.g. 14... b3 15.Kxb3 a4+ 16.Ka2 a3 17.g7+ Kxh7 18.Kxa3 +-)

The pawn ending has been already shown by Guy (c2 f8 1995) however the introductory play starting with the sacrificial key and highlighted by 5.e7!! turns it into an exemplary multi-phase masterpiece which every chess player would love to solve or at least to play through the solution.

**Michael Roxlau (Germany)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
Special prize**



Win

1.Bg8!

(thematic try: 1.Kg7? now the wK is staying adverse, open the square f5 for the bK to escape e3 2.Bd3 f3 3.h7 e2 4.h8=Q e1=Q 5.Qf8+ Kd7 6.Bb5+ Kc7 7.Qc5+ Kb8 8.Qd6+ Kb7 9.Bc6+ Ka6 10.Bd7+ Ka7 11.Qc5+ Kb7 12.Bc6+ Kc8 13.Bd5+ (13.Bxf3+ Kd8 14.Qb6+ Ke7 15.Qc7+ Ke6 16.Qf7+ Kd6 =) 13... Kd8 14.Qb6+ Kd7 15.Bc6+ Ke6 16.Ba4+ Kf5 =)

1... e3 2.Bc4!

(2.h7 e2 3.h8=Q e1=Q 4.Qf6+ Kd7 =)

2... f3 3.h7 e2 4.h8=Q e1=Q 5.Qf6+!

(5.Qg7+? Kd6 6. Qd4+ Kc6 and the bK can escape)

5... Kd7 6.Bb5+ Kc7 7.Qc6+ Kb8 8.Qd6+

(loss of time 8.Qb6+ Kc8 9.Qc5+ Kb8 10.Qd6+)

8... Kb7 9.Bc6+ Ka6 10.Bd7+! (1.discovered check) (10.Be8+? Ka7 =)

10... Kb7 11.Qc6+

(loss of time 11.Qd5+ Kb6 12.Qc6+ Ka7 13.Qc5+)

11... Ka7 12.Qc5+ Kb7 13.Bc6+ Kc8 14.Bd5+!! (2.discovered check)

(14.Bxf3+?/14.Be4+? Kd8! 15.Qd6+ Kc8 16.Qc6+ Kd8 17.Qb6+ Ke7 18.Qc7+ Ke6 19.Qc6+ Ke7! =)

14... Kd8 15.Qb6+

(loss of time 15.Qd6+ Kc8 16.Qc6+ Kd8 17.Qb6+)

15... Kd7 16.Bc6+ Ke6 17.Ba4+! (3.discovered check) (17.Bb5+? Kd5! =)

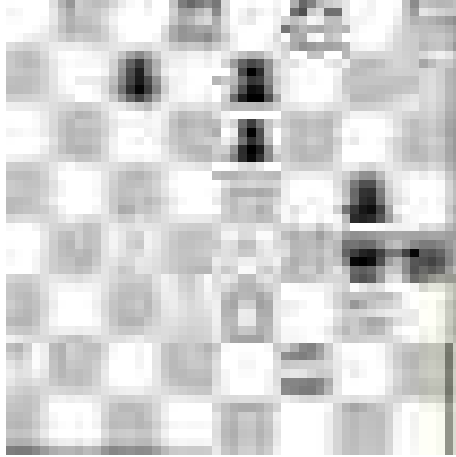
17... Ke5

(17... Kd5 18.Bb3+)

18.Qc5+ Kf4 19.Qg5+ Ke4 20.Qe7+ +-

Though not the first presentation of three Q+B batteries created in the course of one line of play (Mann and Vandiest showed it earlier), it seems the first successful attempt to obtain it without duals. The introductory play pleasantly and naturally leads to the main thematic scene following an important thematic try 1.Kg7? A remarkable achievement!

Jörg Gerhold (Germany)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
1st honourable mention



Win

1.Ng6+! Kh5

(1... Kh3 2.Nxg5+ Qxg5 3.Rh8+ Kg4 4.Rh4+ +- (or 4.Rg8 +-))

2.Nf6+! exf6 3.Ne5! fxe5

(3... Qh4+ 4.Kg2! +-)

4.Rh8+ Kg6 5.Rh1 Kf7 6.a4 Ke7 7.a5 Kd7 8.a6 Kc8

(8... Kc6 9.c5! +-)

9.Rh8+ Kd7 10.a7 Qd1 11.Rh7+!

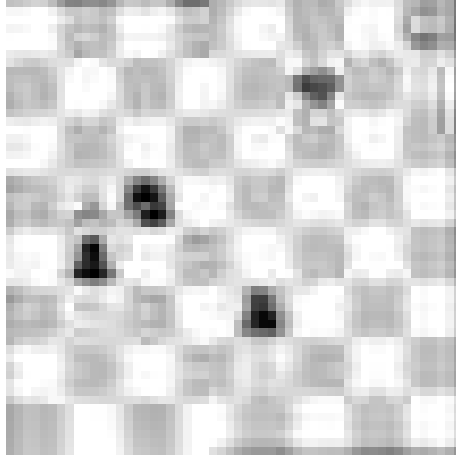
(11.a8=Q? Qd2+! perpetual chess)

e.g. 11... Kd6 12.a8=Q Qd2+ 13.Kf3 Qd1+ 14.Kg2 Qe2+ 15.Kg3 Qxe3+ 16.Kg4 Qe2+

(16... Qf4+ 17.Kh5 Qh2+ 18.Kg6) 17.Kxg5 Qe3+ 18.Kg6 Qg3+ 19.Kf7 +-)

A double sacrifice of the white cavalry in order to neutralize her majesty and prevent her comeback in time to stop a passed pawn that hasn't even started yet his march!

Wolfgang Erben (Germany)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
2nd honourable mention



Draw

1.Ba6!!

(thematic try 1.Bc4+? Kf8 zugzwang 2.Bf7 (2.Be6 Nd3 3.Bf7 Kxf7) 2... Nd3!! 3.Be8 (3.Bd5 Ne5) (3.Bc4 Ne5) 3... Nc1!-+) (1.Be8+? Kf8! 2.Bf7 Nd3!! etc.)

1... Kf8 2.Bc4! zugzwang Nd7

(2... Ne4 3.Bf7 (or 3.Le6 or 3.Lg8) (3.Bd5? Nd2! zugzwang 4. Bf7 Nf3!! -+) 3... Nd2 4.Bd5! zugzwang)

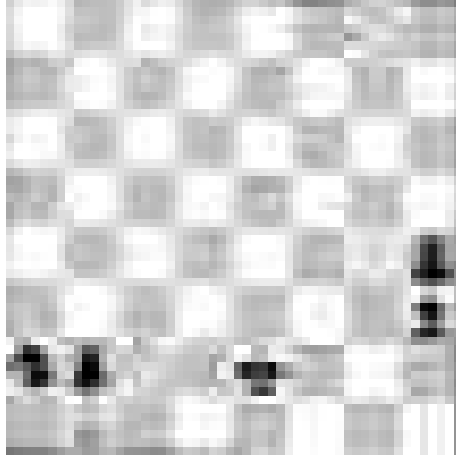
3.Bf7!! Ne5 4.Bh5!

(4.Be8? Nd3!!)

4... Nc6 5. Bf7!! Nd4 6.Bc4 =

A typical (yet new) encounter between a knight and a bishop with a king in a mate net. As usual reciprocal zugzwang is the name of the game and as usual it seems extremely difficult to crack.

Iuri Akobia (Georgia)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
3rd honourable mention



Draw

1.Ne7!

(1. Nf6!? Bg2 2.g5 h3 3.Ng4 Be4 4.Kxb2 Kf3 5.Nh2+ Kg2 6.Ng4 Kg3 7.Nce3 Nb4 8.Kc3 (8.Nf6 Bd3 -+) 8... Nd5+ -+) (1.Nh6!? Bg2! 2.g5 (2.Nd4+ Kd3 3.Kxb2 h3 4.Ndf5 Ke4 5.Ng3+ Kf3 -+) 2... h3 3.Ng4 Be4 -+) (1.Kxb2!? Bg2 2.Nd4+ Ke1 3.Nf6 h3 4.Nf5 h2 -+) (1.Nd4+!? Kd3 -+) (1. Kxa2!? Bxg4 -+)

main D: 1... Bxg4

(main A: 1... Bf1 2.Ng6!(2. Nf5 !? Nc3+! 3.Kxb2 h3 4.Ng3+ Kf2 5.Nh1+ Kg1 6.Kxc3 Bg2! (6... Kxh1 !? 7. g5 =) 7.Ng3 Kf2 -+ (7... h2 !? 8. Ne3 Kf2 9. Nef5 =)) 2... Kd2 (2... h3 3.Nf4+ =) 3.Nxh4 (3.Kxb2!? h3 4.Nh4 Bg2 -+) (3.Nf4!? Bd3 4.Kxb2 Bxc2 -+) 3...Kc3 4.Nf3 Bd3! 5.Kxa2 Bxc2 (5... Kxc2 6.Ne1+ Kc3 7.Nxd3 Kxd3 =) 6.Nd2 Bg6 7.Nb1+ Kc2 8.Na3+ Kc1 9.Kb3 =)

2.Ng6

(2.Kxa2!? h3 -+)

2... Kd2

(2... h3 3.Nf4+ Kd2 4.Nxh3 =)

3.Nxh4 Kc3 4.Nd4!

(4.Na3!? Kb3 5.Nb5 (5. Ng2 Nc3#) 5... Nc3+ 6.Nxc3 Kxc3 -+) (4.Ne3!? Kb3 5.Nxg4 Nc3#)

4... Kxd4 5.Kc2!! zz BTM

(thematic try: 5.Kxb2!? Nb4 zz WTM 6.Kb3 (6.Ng2 Nd3+ 7.Kc2 Bf3 8.Nh4 Be4 -+) (6.Ng6 Nd5 -+) 6... Nd5 7.Ng2 Bd1+ 8.Kb2 Kd3 9.Ne1+ Kd2 -+) (5.Kxa2!? Kc3 -+)

5... Nb4+

(5... b1=Q+ 6.Kxb1 Nb4 7.Kb2 Nd3+ 8.Kc2 main line)

6.Kxb2 zz BTM Nd3+

(main B: 6... Nd5 7.Ng2 Kd3 (or 7... Bf3 8. Ne1 Be4 9. Nc2+ =) 8.Ne1+ Kd2 9.Nc2!=(9. Ng2 Bf3 -+ EGTB))

7.Kc2!

(7.Kb3 !? Nf4 -+)

7... Nf4 8.Kd2 Ke4 9.Ke1 Ke3 10.Kf1 Bh3+ 11.Kg1 Ke2

(main C: 11... Ne2+ 12.Kh2 Bc8 13.Kg2 Bb7+ (13... Bg4 14.

Ng6 =) 14.Kh3 Bc8+ 15.Kg2 positional draw)

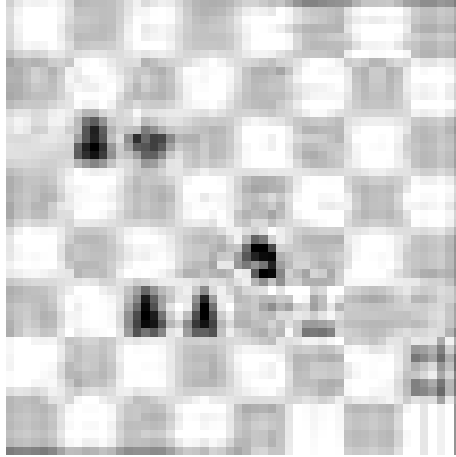
12.Kh2 Bc8 13.Kg3 Nh5+ 14.Kg2 Nf4+ 15.Kg3

(15. Kh2 !? Kf2 -+)

15... Nh5+ 16.Kg2 positional draw

A surprising reciprocal Zugzwang in a pawnless ending following a lovely neat sacrifice.

David Gurgenidze & Velimir Kalandadze (Georgia)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
4th honourable mention

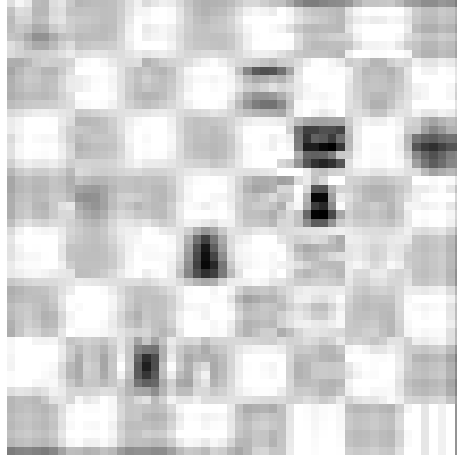


Win

**1.Ra2! d2 2.Ke2 Ng3+! 3.Kd1 Nf5! 4.Nf2 Ne3+ 5.Ke2 d1=Q+! 6.Nxd1 c2! 7.Nxe3
c1=N+!! 8.Kd1!!**
(8.Kd2?! Nxa2 9.Nd5 b5 10.Kc2 b4 11.Kb2 b3 =)
8... Nxa2 9.Nd5!! b5 10.Kd2!! b4 11.Kc2 b3+ 12.Kb2! +-

The final basic zugzwang position is known (Pogosiants c1 c6 1962) yet the superb fore play leading to it introduces some new and refreshing elements.

Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
Special honourable mention



Draw

1.Rd7!

(1.Qa4? Rc5! -+) (1.Re8? d3 2.Qa4 fxc4 3.fxc4 Rc1 (Rb2) -+) (1.g5+? Kxg5 2.f4+ Kh6 3.Rd7 d3 -+)

1... d3

(1... Rxd2 2.Qc5 (Qc4) =) (1... Qf8+ 2.Ka7 Ra2+ 3.Kb7 Qa8+ 4.Kc7 Ra7+ (Rc2) 5.Kd6 =)

2.Qa4!

(2.g5+? Kxg5 3.Qa5 Qc6+ 4.Rb7 Qd6 -+)

2... fxc4 3.fxc4

(3.Qa3? Qxf3+ 4.Ka7 Rc6 5.Qe7 Qf2+ 6.Kb8 (6.Ka8 Ra6+ 7.Kb8 Qb6+ 8.Rb7 Qd6+ 9.Qxd6+ Rxd6 -+) 6... Qf5! 7.Qh4+ (7.Qg7+ Kh5 -+) 7... Kg6 8.Qe7 (8.Qh7+ Kg5 9.Qe7+ Rf6 -+) 8... Rf6 9.Qe8+ Kg5 10.Qd8 Qe5+ -+)

mainline A: 3... Qf8+ 4. Ka7

(4. Kb7 Qc8+ 5. Ka7 Qc5+ 6. Ka8 loss of time)

4... Qc5+ 5.Ka8 Qc8+

(5... Rc4 6.Qa6+ Kg5 7.Rg7+ Kh4 8.Rd7 Qf8+ 9.Ka7 Qf2+ 10.Ka8 =)

6.Ka7 Qc5+ 7.Ka8 Kg5 8.Rh7!

(8.Rg7+? Kh4 9.g5+ Rc4 10.Rh7+ Kg3 11.Qe8 Kg2 12.Rb7 Rf4 13.Rf7 Rxf7 14.Qxf7 Qxg5 -+)

8... Qd5+ 9.Ka7 Kg6 10.Rd7 Qc5+ 11.Ka8

(11. Kb8? Kg5 12.Rg7+ Kh4 13.Qa1 Rc1 14.Qf6+ Kg3 15.Rb7 Kg2 -+)

11... Qc8+ 12.Ka7 Qc5+ 13.Ka8 Kg5 14. Rh7 repeating. Positional draw 1.

mainline B: 3... Rb2 4.g5+! Kxg5 5.Rg7+!!

(5.Qa5+? Kg6 6.Ka7 Qf2+ 7.Ka6 Qf4 8.Rc7 (8.Rb7 Qxd2 -+) 8... Qd6+ 9. Ka7 Rxd2 10. Rb7 Rc2 11.Qa4 Kf5 12.Rf7+ (12.Qa1 Qc5+ 13.Rb6 Qc7+ 14.Rb7 Rc1 15.Qa2 Qc5+ 16.Ka6 Qc4+ 17.Rb5+ Ke6 -+) 12... Ke6 13.Rb7 Ke5 14.Qe8+ Kd4 15.Qg8 (15.Qh8+ Ke3 16.Qh3+ Kd2 17.Qg2+ Kc3 -+) (15.Qa4+ Ke3 16.Qe8+ Kd2 17.Qa4 Qc5+ -+)

15... Qc5+ 16.Kb8 Qe5+ 17.Ka8 (17.Ka7 Rc4 18.Qg1+ Qe3 -+) 17... Qd5 18.Qg1+ Ke5 -+)

5... Kh6!

(5... Qxg7 6.Qg4+ Kxg4 stalemate)

6.Re7! Qh8+

(6... Rc2 7.Rb7 Rc6 8.Qb5 Ra6+ 9.Ra7 Qf3+ 10.Kb8 Rg6 11.Rd7! Qf4+ 12.Kb7 Qxd2 13.Qc4 =) (6... Qf3+ 7.Re4 Qf5 8.Qc6+ Kg5 9.Ra4 =) (6... Qf8+ 7.Re8 Qf3+ 8.Re4 =)

7. Re8

(7.Qe8? Qxe8+ 8.Rxe8 Rxd2 -+)

7... Qf6 8.Re7!

(8.Rc8? Qf3+ 9. Rc6+ (9.Qc6+ Qxc6+ 10.Rxc6+ Kg5 -+) 9... Kg5 10.Qa5+ Kg4 -+)

8... Qf8+ 9.Re8 Qf3+ 10.Re4 Qf8+

(10... Qf5 11.Qc6+ Kg5 12.Ra4 Qf8+ 13.Ka7 =)

11.Re8 Qf6 12.Re7!

(12. Rc8? Qf3+ 13.Rc6+ Kg5 14.Qa5+ Kg4 -+)

12... Kg5

(or 12... Rb6 13.Rh7+! Kxh7 14.Qa7+ Kg6 15.Qxb6 Qxb6 stalemate) (12... Qxe7 13.Qc6+ =)

13. Rg7+ Kh6 14.Re7 repeating. Positional draw 2.

mainline B1: **14... Rb1 15.Qe8! Ra1+ 16.Kb8 Rb1+ 17.Ka8 Ra1+ 18.Kb8 Qb6+ 19.Rb7 Qd6+ 20.Rc7 Qb4+ 21.Rb7 Qf4+ 22.Rc7 Rb1+ 23.Ka8 Ra1+ 24.Kb8 Qb4+ 25.Rb7 Qd6+ 26.Rc7 Qb6+ 27.Rb7** repeating. Positional draw 3.

mainline B2: **14... Rxd2 15.Rb7!**

(15.Qe8? Ra2+ 16.Kb8 Rb2+ 17.Ka8 Rb6 -+)

15... Qf8+ 16.Ka7

(16. Rb8? Qf3+ 17. Rb7 Re2 18. Qh4+ Kg6 19. Qh7+ Kg5 20.Qg7+ Kh4 -+)

16... Qf2+ 17.Rb6+

(17. Kb8? Qh2+ 18.Kc8 Rc2+ 19.Kd7 Qh3+ 20.Ke7 Qe3+ 21.Kd7 Kg5 22.Qa5+ Kf4 23. Rb4+ Kg3 -+)

17... Kg5 18.Qa5+!

(18.Qb5+? Qf5 19.Qe8 (19.Qb3 Rc2 -+) 19... Ra2+ 20.Kb8 Kf4 21.Rb4+ Kg3 22.Qe7 Kg2 23.Qg7+ Kf2 -+)

18... Kf4 19.Qb4+

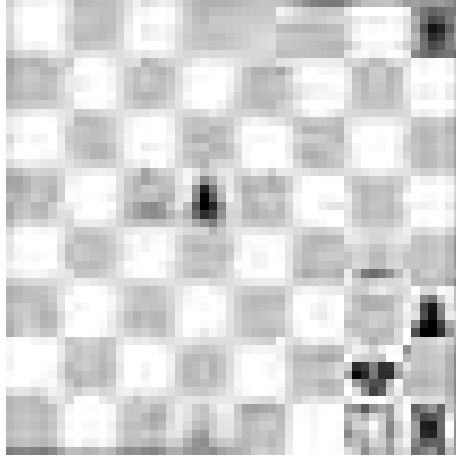
(19.Qd5? Ra2+ 20.Kb7 Qg2 21.Rf6+ Ke3 22.Re6+ Kf2 -+)

19... Kg3 20.Qd6+ Kg2 21.Qc6+ Kg1 22.Qc1+ Kg2 23.Qc6+ repeating.

Positional draw 4.

A highly accurate heavy- weight battle displaying an original positional draw. My own difficulty with this sort of endings is that they often seem to fall beyond the human understanding and thus fail to evoke any emotions. A kind of purely scientific matter of high standard rather than a digestible piece of art.

Sergej Kasparjan (Armenia)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
1st commendation



Win

1.Bf3+ Kf1 2.Bxh1

(2.Ne2? Rg8+ 3.Kf4 Rh2 4.Ng3+ Ke1 =)

2... Rg8+ 3.Kf3

(3.Kxh3? Rh8+ 4.Kg3 Rxh1 =)

3... Rxc1 4.Nf6!

(4.Bxc1 Kxc1 =)

4... d4! 5.Ng4!

(5.Bxd4? Rxh1 6.Ng4 Ke1 7.Bc3+ Kd1! 8.Nf2+ Kc2 =) (5.Bb4? Rg2 6.Ng4 Rxc4 =)

5... Rxh1

(5... Rxc4 6.Kxc4 d3 7.Bf3 d2 8.Kxh3 Ke1 9.Bb4 +-)

6. Bb4!

(6.Bxd4? Ke1 7.Bc3+ Kd1 8.Nf2+ Kc2 =)

6... Kg1

(main 6... h2 7.Ba5 (or 7.Bd2) 7... Rg1 8. Nxc2#)

7.Bd6 Kf1 8.Bg3 Kg1

(8... Rg1 9. Nh2#)

9.Bf2+

(loss of time 9.Be5 Kf1 10.Bg3 Kg1)

9... Kf1 10.Bh4!

(10.Bxd4? Ke1 11.Bc3+ Kd1! 12.Nf2+ Kc2 =)

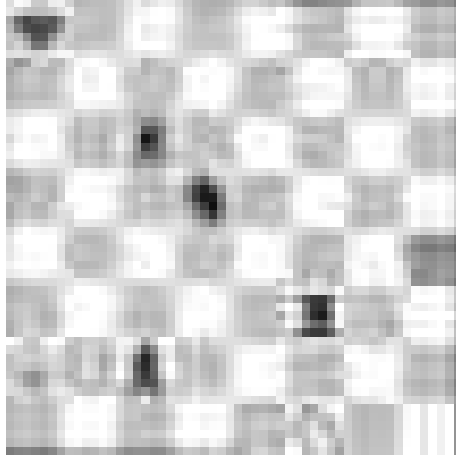
10... Kg1 11.Bg3! Kf1

(11... h2 12. Bh4 (or 12. Be1) 12... Kf1 13. Bf2 Rg1 14.Nxc2#) (11... d3 12.Bf2+ Kf1 13.Ne3#)

12.Bf2 h2 13.Bh4 (or 13.Bg3) **13... Rg1 14.Nxc2#**

Subtle domination of B+ S vs.R however the tiresome lengthy play unnecessarily uses captures of passive extras.

Leonid Topko (Ukraine)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
2nd commendation



Draw

1.Qd8+! Ka7

(1... Kb7 2.Qxd5 Rd3 3.Qf7+ Ka6 4.Qf4 Bb3+ 5.Kb1 Rcd6 6.Ne3 Rd2 7.Qe5 Kb7
8.Qg7+ =)

2.Qxd5 Bb3+!

(2... Rfc3 3.Ne3 Bd3 4.Qd7+ Kb8 5.Nd5 Ra6+ 6.Kb2 Rc2+ 7.Kb3 Rc8 8.Kb4 Rac6
9.Qe7 =)

3.Qxb3 Rf2+!!

(3... Ra6+ 4.Kb2 Rf2+ 5.Kc3 Rxf1 6.Qd5 Rc6+ 7.Kd2 =)

4.Nd2!

(4.Kb1? Rxf1+ --)

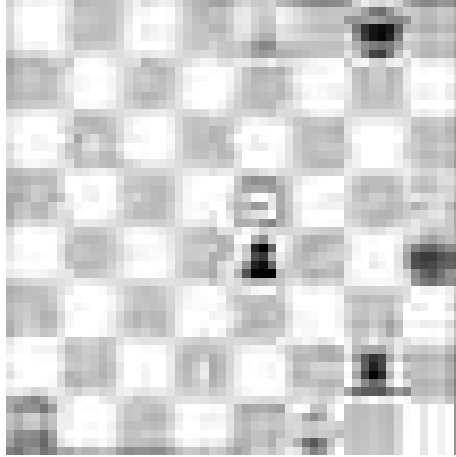
4... Rxd2+

(4... Ra6+ 5.Kb2 =)

5.Kb1 Rb6 6.Ka1 Ra6+ 7.Kb1 Rb6 8.Ka1 =

An aesthetic and aristocratic (pawnless) play full of tactical surprises ends up in a choice between positional draw and stalemate.

Daniel Keith (France)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
3rd commendation



Draw

1.b7

(1.Ra4? Rg1+ 2.Kf2 Qg2+ 3.Ke3 Re1+ 4.Kd4 Qxd2+ 5.Kc5 Qg5! 6.Kd5 Qg8+! (6... Qd8+? 7.Bd7 Kxh5 8.b7 =) 7.Bf7 Qd8+ 8.Ke6 Qxb6+ 9.Ke7! (9. Kf5 Rf1+ 10.Kxe4 Kg5! -+) 9... Qc5+ 10.Ke6 Kg5!! -+)

1... Rxd2!

(1... Rg1+ 2.Ke2 Qg2+ 3.Ke3 Rxa1 4.b8=Q Re1+ 5.Kd4 Qxd2+ 6.Kc5 Rc1+ 7.Nc4 Qe3+ 8.Kd6 Rxc4 9.Ke6!)=)

2.Nf3+!

(2.Ng6+? Kg5! 3.Ra5+ Kh6 4.Ke1 Rb2 5.Rb5 Qa2! 6.Rxb2 Qa1+! -+)

2... exf3 3.Ra4+ Kh3!

(3... Kg5? 4.b8=Q Rd1+ 5.Kf2 Rd2+ 6.Ke1 +-)

4.Bg6! Qxg6

(4... Qb3? 5.Bf5+ Kh2 6.Rh4#)

5.Nf4+ Kg3 6.Nh5+

(6.Nxg6? Rd1#)

6... Qxh5! 7.b8=Q+ Kh3 8.Rc4!!

(8.Qb3? Kh2!-+) (8.Qc8+? Kh2!-+)

8... Qh6!

(8... Rh2 9.Qc8+ Kg3 10.Qb8+) (8... Qh7 9.Rc3 Rd1+ 10.Kf2 Qh4+ 11.Kxf3 Qf6+ 12.Ke2+) (8...Rd1+ 9.Kf2 Qc5+? 10.Rxc5 +-)

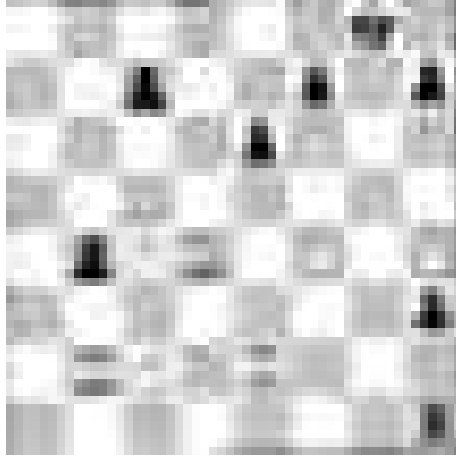
9.Qb3!

(9. Rc3? Qa6+)

9... Kg3 10.Qb8+ =

High tension all the way through with 8.Rc4!! as an island of soberness .

Jörg Gerhold (Germany)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
4th commendation



Win

1.Be5! h2 2.Rg2+ Kh8

(2... Kf8 3.Rd2! Ke8 4.Bxc7 +-)

3.Rxh2! Rxh2 4.f5!Re2 5.fxe6! Kg8 6.e7 Rxe5 7.h5! Re3

(7... c5 8. Kb3 +-)

8.c5! c6 9.Kc1

(9. Kb1? Re1+ 10. Kb2 Re3)

9... Re1+ 10.Kd2 Re4 11.Kd3 Re6 12.Kc4 Re4+ 13.Kb3 h6 14.Ka4 b3+! 15.Kxb3 Kh7

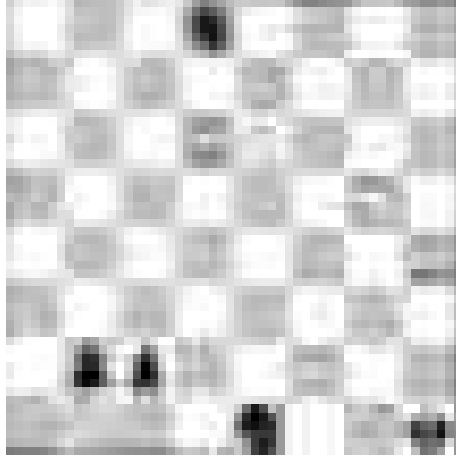
16.c4! Kh8 17.Kb4 Re5 18.Ka5!

(loss of time 18.Ka4 Kh7 19.Ka5)

e.g. 18... Rxc5+ 19.Kb6 Re5 20.Kxc6 Re4 21.Kd7 +- 1-0

For the sake of creating a mighty supported passed pawn white is ready to give up all his capital.

Mario Matouš (Czech Republic)
Olympic Tourney Dresden 2008
Special commendation



Win

1.e7! cxb1=Q

(1... c1=Q 2.exd8=Q +-) (1... Ng2+ 2.Kg3 c1=Q 3.Rh6+ Kg1 4.Nf3+ Kf1 5.Rh1+ Ke2 6.e8=Q+ Ne3 7.Rh2+ +-) (1... Nf3+ 2.Kg3 Nf7 3.e8=Q +-)

2.e8=Q!

(2.exd8=Q? Qf5 3.Rd1 (3.Kg3?? Qe5+ +-) 3... b1=Q =)

2... Nf3+!

(2... Nf7 3.Kg3 +-) (2... Qc1 3.Qe4+! Kh2 (3... Ng2+ 4.Kg4! b1=Q (4... Qc8+ 5.Kg3 Qc3+ 6.Nf3 Qg7+ 7.Kf2 Qa7+ 8.Rd4 +-) (4... Kg1 5.Nf3+ Kf1 6.Nd2+ Kf2 7.Rf6+ +-) (4... Ne6 5.Rxe6 +-) (4... Nf7 5.Qh7+ Kg1 6.Nh3+ Kh2 7.Nf2+ Kg1 8.Rd1+ Kxf2 9.Qxf7+ +-) 5.Rh6+ Kg1 6.Nh3+ Kh1 (6... Kf1 7.Qf3+ Ke1 8.Qf2+ +-) 7.Nf4+ +-) 4.Qe5+ Kh1 5.Kg3 +-)

3. Nxf3

(3.Kg3? Qg1+ 4.Kxf3 Qg2+ 5.Kf4 Qh2+)

3... Qh7+ 4.Kg3 b1=Q 5.Qe4! Qg1+!

(5... Qbxe4 6.Rd1+) (5... Qhxe4 6.Rh6+)

6. Nxf3+ Qxe4 7.Nf3 Qxf3+ 8.Kxf3 +-

e.g. 8... Nb7 (8... Nf7 9. Rd5) 9.Rd7 Nc5 10.Rd5 Ne6 11.Kg3 +-)

5.Qe4!! is remarkable.

Finally I would like to thank all participants for their contribution to the success of this important event and to the German chess problem society for the honour to take active part in it. I am pretty confident that the awarded team will serve as a highly respectable and enjoyable selection to be appreciated by the entire Olympic community.

Yochanan Afek
 International Judge for chess composition

Amsterdam, August 2008