

Problem Paradise

Informal Tourney Awards

Studies 2016-17

Judge: Ilham Aliev

In 2015, when on my way to the Congress in Ostroda, Poland, at the Istanbul aeroport, Tadashi Wakashima (the meaning of his first name in azeri is elder brother) offered me to judge studies in 'Problem Paradise'. It was my pleasure to accept his offer, although, lately, because of my being very busy, I have judged not much. Also I couldn't decline an offer made by a very friendly person.

I took up this offer also for another reason. I fell in love with Japan after being present at the Congress in Kobe (15-22.09.2012). I have to admit that study composition isn't quite popular in Japan. I don't know any Japanese study composer. I hope my report is going to be my input in developing study composition in this great country.

Before, in this publication, study tourneys were held for several years. I propose to have two-years tourneys and I hope this approach will be continuing for years to come.

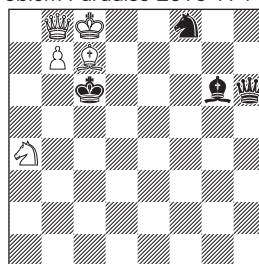
I thank my colleagues who responded to my call to support this tourney and sent in original studies.

Congratulations to the winners and success to everybody in future!

During 2016-2017, 18 studies by 18 composers from 13 countries were published: **Argentina** (Mario Garcia), **Azerbaijan** (Araz Almammadov), **Austria** (Peter Krug), **Denmark** (Slumstrup Steffen Nielsen), **France** (Daniel Keith), **Germany** (Martin Minski), **Hungary** (Rusz Arpad), **Italy** (Marco Campioli), **Israel** (Amatzia Avni), **Russia** (Pavel Arestov, Victor Zheltukhov, M.V.Neistadt, Alexander Stavrietsky), **Slovakia** (Michal Hlinka, Lubos Kekely), **Serbia** (Mirko Miljanic, Branislav Djurasevic), **Ukraine** (Vladimir Samilo).

And here is my decision:

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
E068 Martin Minski
Problem Paradise 2016-17 Prize



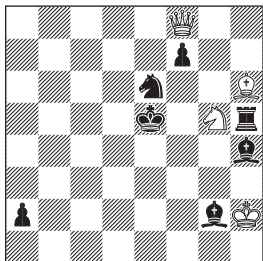
Win (5+4)

1.Qa7! Bf5+ 2.Kb8 Nd7+ 3.Ka8 Qf8+ 4.b8Q Nxb8 5.Bd6!! [5.Bxb8? Kb5=; 5.Qb6+ Kd7 6.Nc5+ Ke8 7.Kxb8 Kf7+ 8.Kb7 Qe7 9.Qb3+] **5...Qxd6** [5...Kxd6

6.Qc5+- skewer; 5...Qf6 6.Be7+-; 5...Qc8 6.Qc5+ Kd7 7.Nb6+; 5...Qd8 6.Be7 (6.Qc5+ Kd7 7.Nb6+ Ke8 8.Qe5+ Kf7 9.Qxf5+-) 6...Qc7 7.Qc5+ Kd7 8.Nb6+; 5...Qe8 6.Qc5+ Kd7 7.Nb6+ Ke6 8.Qe5+ Kf7 9.Qxf5+; 5...Qg8 6.Qc5+ Kd7 7.Nb6+; 5...Qh8 6.Qc5+ Kd7 7.Nb6+; 5...Qh6 6.Qc5+ Kd7 7.Qc7+ Ke6 8.Qe7+ Kd5 9.Nb6+ Kd4 10.Qe5+ Kd3 11.Qxf5+- Ke2 12.Nd5! Nc6 (12...Qxd6 13.Nc3+ Ke3 14.Qh3+) 13.Nc3+] **6.Qb7#.**

Nice self-block culmination point leads to a checkmate. Pity, the authors weren't able to find a better position for the wKnight.

E075 Amatzia Avni
Problem Paradise 2016-17 1HM



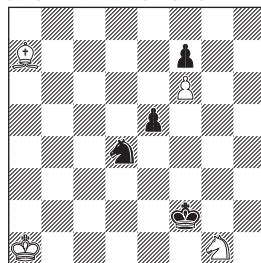
Draw (4+7)

1.Bg7+ [1.Nxf7+? Kf5; 1.Qb8+? Kf5; 1.Qh8+? Kf5 2.Kxg2 Bxg5 3.Qb2 Nf4+ 4.Kg1 Rxh6 5.Qc2+ Kg4 6.Qd1+ Kh4 7.Qe1+ Kh5 8.Qd1+ Kg6 9.Qc2+ f5 10.Qxa2 Bf6 11.Qg8+ Kh5 12.Qf8 Bd4+ 13.Kf1 Kg5 14.Qg8+ Ng6 15.Qd5 Rh4; 1.Qxf7? Rxh6 2.Nxe6 Bf6+ 3.Kxg2 a1Q] **1...Nxb7 2.Qxb7+ f6** [2...Kf5 3.Qxf7+ Kxg5 4.Qxa2=] **3.Qc7+** [3.Nf7+? Kf4; 3.Qe7+? Kf5] **3...Kf5 4.Qa5+** [4.Qc2+? Kxg5 5.Qxa2 (5.Qxg2+ Bg3+) 5...Be4+] **4...Kg6 5.Qxa2 Bd5!** [5...Rxb7?

6.Qg8+=] **6.Qxd5 Be1+ 7.Nh3!** [7.Kg2? Rxb7+] **7...Rxd5 8.Nf4+ Kg5 9.Nxd5, draw.**

White is safe after Queen sac and a fork. The author claims that 7...Rxb7+ is a fork, but this is rather a double attack.

E076 Alexander Stavrietsky
Problem Paradise 2016-17 2HM

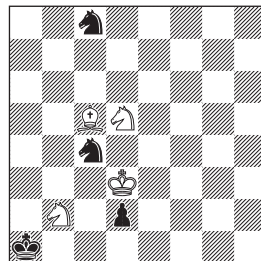


Win (4+4)

1.Nh3+ Kg3 2.Ng5 Kf4 3.Nxf7 Kf5 4.Nxe5 Nb3+ [Main: 4...Nc2+ 5.Kb2! Kxf6 6.Nd3! wins; 4...Ne6 5.Nd7! +-; 4...Kxf6 5.Bxd4+-] **5.Kb2! Kxf6 6.Nc4! wins.**

Not-difficult study with domination, similar variations with a tiny difference shown in the winning move by the wKnight.

Michal Hlinka, Lubos Kekely
E069 1st Comm
Problem Paradise 2016-17

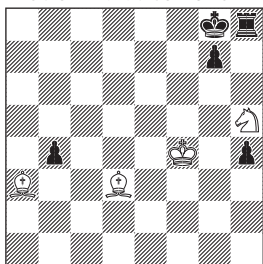


Win (4+4)

1.Nd1 [1.Kxc4? Kxb2 2.Ne3 Kc1 3.Ba3+ Kb1 4.Kb5 Ka2 5.Bc5 Kb3 6.Kc6 Kc3 7.Kc7 Kd3 8.Kxc8 Ke2=] **1...Nb2+** [1...N8d6 2.N5c3 Ne5+ (2...Nb7 3.Be7+-) 3.Kxd2 Ndc4+ 4.Kc2 Nf3 5.Ne2 Ne1+ 6.Kc3 Ne5 7.Kb3+-] **2.Kxd2!** [2.Nxb2? Kxb2 3.Kxd2 Kb3 4.Kd3 Ka4 5.Kc4 Ka5 6.Nc7 Nb6+=] 2...Nxd1 [2...Ka2 3.Nxb2 Kxb2 4.Kd3 Kb3 5.Nc3!+-] **3.Kc1!** refusal of catching [3.Kc2? Ka2!= zz; 3.Kxd1 Kb2 4.Kd2 Kb3 5.Kd3 Ka4 6.Kc4 Ka5=] **3...Ka2** [3...Nb2 4.Nb4+-] **4.Kc2! zz 4...Nb2** [4...Nf2 5.Nc3+ Ka1 6.Bxf2+-] **5.Nc3+ Ka1 6.Ne2 Na4 7.Bf8! Ncb6** [7...Na7 8.Bg7+ as main line 8...Ka2 9.Nc1+ Ka3 10.Bf8+ Nc5 11.Bxc5+ Ka4 12.Bxa7+-] **8.Bg7+ Ka2 9.Nc1+ Ka3 10.Bf8+ switchback 10...Nc5 11.Bxc5+ Ka4 12.Bxb6, wins.**

Mutual zugzwang with checkers like blow at the end. Strange, no anticipation found...

Araz Almamadov
E066 2nd Comm
Problem Paradise 2016-17



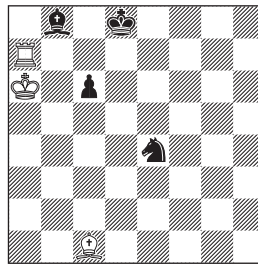
Win (4+5)

1.Bc4+ [1.Bxb4? Rxh5] **1...Kh7** [1...Kf8 2.Bxb4+ Ke8 3.Nxg7+] **2.Bxb4** [2.Bb2? h3 3.Bd3+ Kg8 4.Kg5 Kf7] **2...Kg6** [2...Rb8 3.Bd2; 2...Rc8 3.Bd3+; 2...Rd8

HM 3.Ke3 Rb8 4.Bd6 Rd8 5.Bf4 Rc8 6.Bd3+ Kg8 7.Be5 Rc5 8.Kd4 Ra5 9.Bf5+-; 2...Ra8 3.Kg5 h3 4.Bd2 h2 5.Bd5 Ra4 6.Bh1] **3.Kg4 Rxh5** [3...h3 4.Nf4+ Kh6 5.Nxh3+-] **4.Bd3+ Kh6 5.Bd2+ g5 6.Bb4! h3** [6...Kg7 7.Kxh5] **7.Bf8#.**

Last moves with domination and a checkmate. Pity, wKnight never moves.

Michal Hlinka, Pavel Arestov
E063 3rd Comm
Problem Paradise 2016-17



Win (3+4)

1.Ra8 [1.Rh7? Be5 2.Kb6 c5 3.Rh4 Nf6 4.Kxc5=] **1...Nc5+ 2.Kb6 Nd7+ 3.Kb7!** [3.Kxc6? Ke7= , zz] **3...Ke7 4.Kxc6 zz 4...Ke6** [4...Ne5+ 5.Kd5 Nd7 6.Bg5+ Kf7 7.Ra6 Bg3 (7...Nf8 8.Bd8) 8.Ra3 Bh2 9.Rf3+ Kg6 10.Bd8] **5.Ba3 Ne5+ 6.Kb7 Bd6** [6...Nd7 7.Ra6+ Kd5 8.Kc8+-] **7.Ra6 Nc4 8.Bxd6 Nxd6+ 9.Kc7 Ke7 10.Rxd6, wins.**

Pieces play with mutual zugzwang and domination. Pawn capture refusal by wKing obliges Black to play. After White's 4th move a position from zugzwang base is evident.

Ilham Aliev (Sumgayit, Azerbaijan)
International judge for Endgame Studies.
01.07.2018