

Award of the 8th YCCC, Section B, Studies

It was a pleasure to judge the endgame section of the 8th YCCC.

19 studies (including 2 versions of the same study) took part, and with few exceptions, they displayed interesting ideas and technical ability. Improvements are always possible, but the general level has improved compared to previous tourneys.

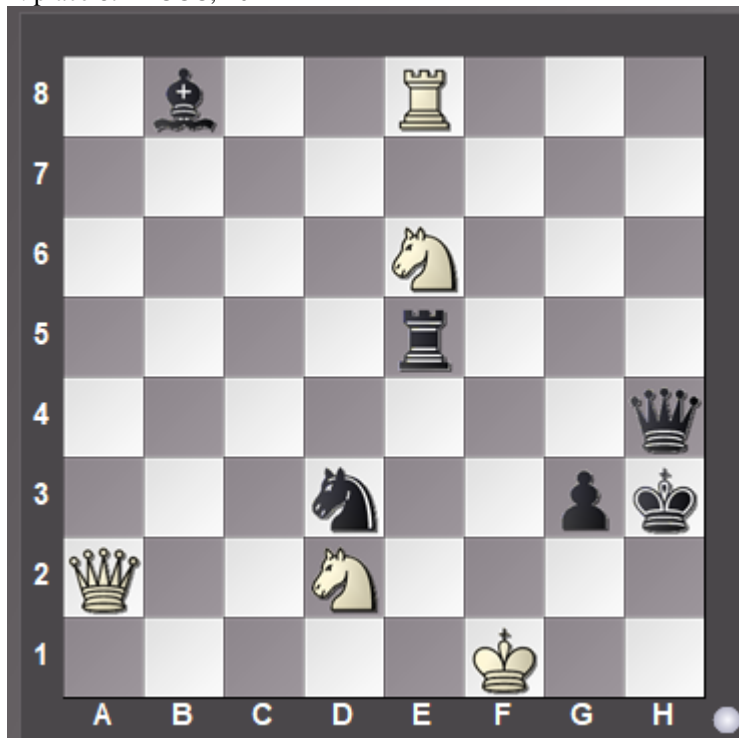
One study proved to be unsound. Below is our ranking of the remaining 17 studies.

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (SN)

Gady Costeff (GC)

Ural Khasanov

1. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Draw

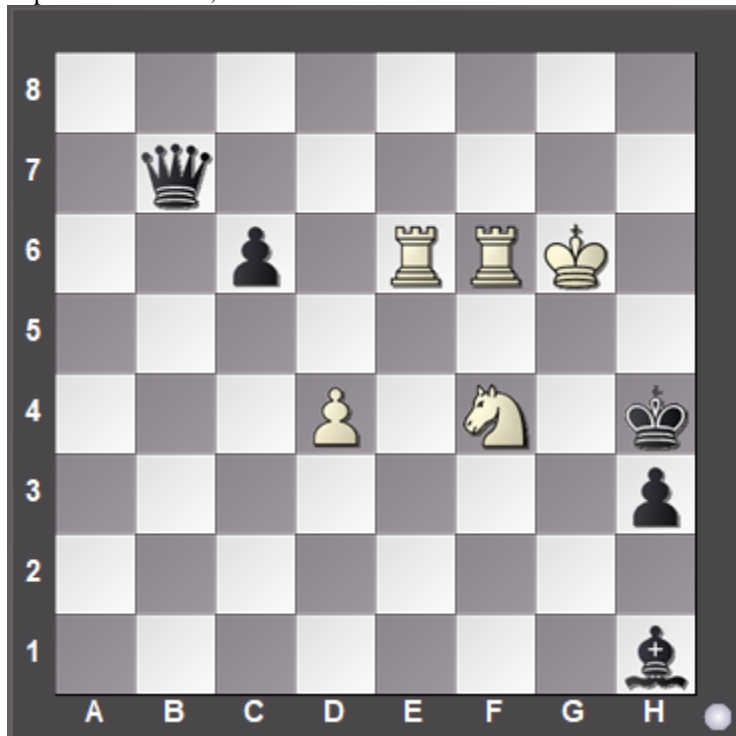
1.Nf3 Re1+ 2.Nxe1 Qf6+ 3.Nf4+ Qxf4+ 4.Kg1 Qd4+ 5.Kf1 Qf6+ 6.Kg1 Nxe1 7.Rh8+ Qxh8 8.Qh2+ gxh2+ 9.Kh1=

GC: Three white piece sacrifices, culminating with a queen sacrifice followed by the quiet Kh1! after which black cannot lift the stalemate.

SN: Great idea of unavoidable stalemate. Amusingly I have worked on something similar myself but never managed to find a good introduction.

Ilija Serafimović, Serbia

2. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Ne2 1.Nh5? Qb1+ 2.Kh6 Qc1+ 3.Rf4+ Qxf4+ 4.Nxf4 h2! WK is too far from f5

1...Qb8 1...Qb1+ 2.Kg7; 1...Qb1+ 2.Kh6

2.Rf4+ Qxf4 **3.Nxf4** h2 **4.Kf5** **Be4+** **5.Rxe4** **h1Q** **6.Re1!** **Qf3** 6...Qh2 7.Rc1 Qd2 8.Rh1+ Kg3 9.Rh3+ Kf2 10.Rh2+;
6...Qh2 7.Rc1 Qf2 8.Rh1+ Kg3 9.Rh3# fastest; or 6...Qh2 7.Rc1 Qf2 8.Rc3

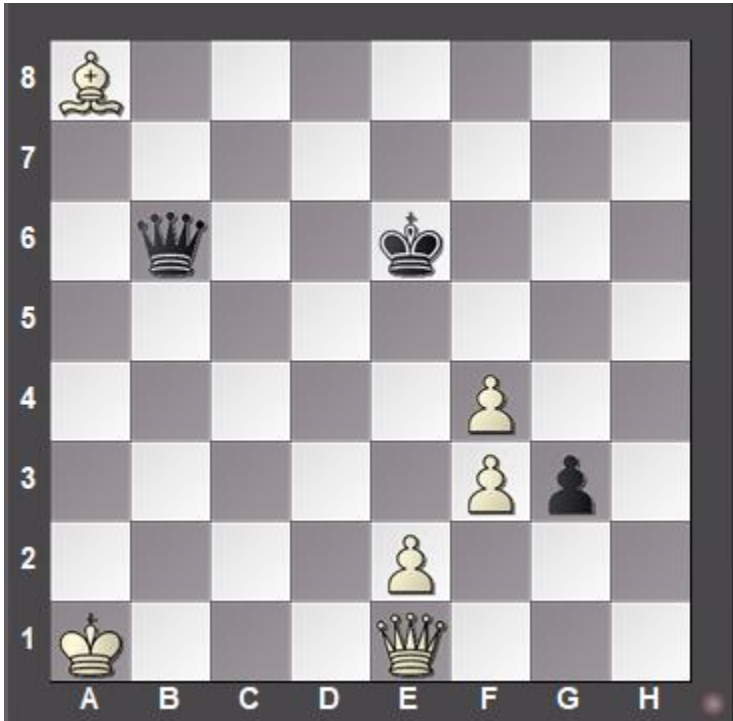
7.Rg1 **c5** **8.d5!** +- 8.dxc5? Qe4+ 9.Kxe4

GC: An interesting tactical struggle. It is possible to arrange the pawns in the final position to produce a position of mutual zugzwang with some further composing possibilities.

SN: A classical study with just the right mix of Black and White play. My favorite.

Itay Richardson

3. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Black to move, Draw

1...g2 1...Qb8

2.f5+! 2.e3? Qa7+ 3.Kb1 Qb8+ 4.Kc2 Qxa8— with Qxf3, promotion is unstoppable

2...Kxf5 2...Kf7 3.Bd5+ Kf8 4.e3 Qb5 5.Qg3= perpetual check is unavoidable

3.Be4+ 3.e3? Qa7+ 4.Kb1 Qb8+ 5.Kc2 Qxa8 6.e4+ Ke6 7.Qg1 Qa2+ 8.Kc3 Kf7!— (8...Qe2? 9.Qb6+=)

3...Ke6 4.e3 Qa7+ 5.Kb1 Qb8+! 6.Ka2! other moves would block the queen and not allow her to give checks later

6...Qh2 7.Bf5+! Try: 7.Bd5+? Kd7 8.Bc6+ Kc8 9.Bb7+ Kb8— escaping all checks

7...Kf7 8.Bg6+! Kg8 9.Bh7+! Kf7 9...Kxh7 10.Qb1+ Kh8 (10...Kh6 11.Qb6+=) 11.Qb2+ Kg8 12.Qb3+=; 9...Qxh7 10.Qg3+ Qg7 11.Qb8+ Qf8 12.Qg3+ Qg7 13.Qb8+ Kh7 14.Qh2+=; 9...Kh8 hiding behind the bishop doesn't work here due to 10.Qa1+= or c3

10.Bg6+ Kf6 10...Ke6 11.Bf5+ Ke7 12.Qb4+=

11.Qc3+ Qe5 12.Qc1! 12.Qc6+? Qe6+—

12...Qd5+ 12...Kxg6 13.Qc2+=

13.Ka3 13.Kb2? Qxf3 14.Bd3 Qf2+—

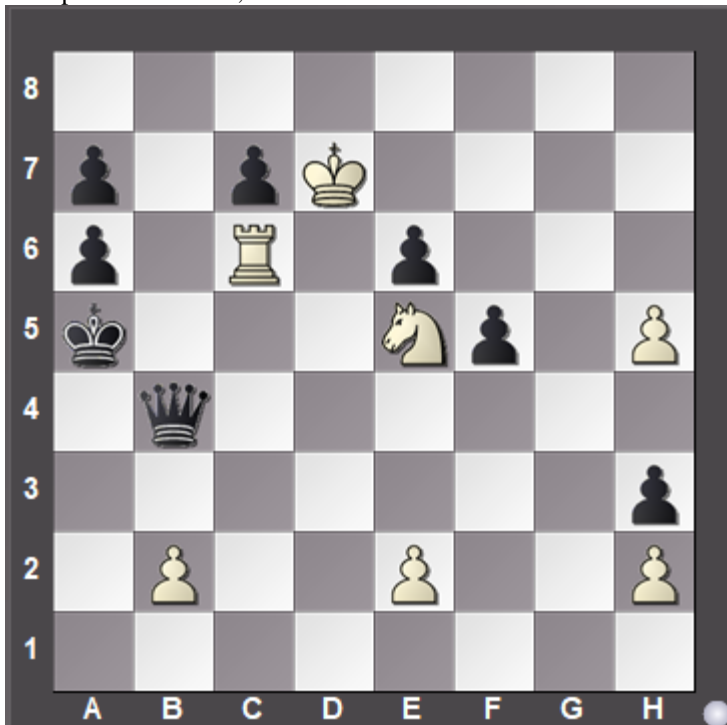
13...Qa8+ 14.Kb4 14.Kb3? Qg8+—

14...Qxf3 15.Bh5! = stopping Qg4 and ready to check perpetually.

GC + SN: A difficult and accurate study with an analytic flavor. The four bishop sacrifices add some welcome paradox.

William Dolmer

4.-6. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Rc5+ Kb6 2.Kc8 a5 3.Nd7+ Ka6 4.Nb8+ Kb6 5.h6 Qxb2 6.Re5 Qb4 7.Nd7+ Kc6 8.Rxe6+ Kb5 9.e4 Qc4 10.Nf8 a4 11.h7 Qd4 12.Ng6 a3 13.exf5 13.Re5+? c5 14.h8Q a2 15.Qe8+ Kb4 16.Ne7 Qc4 17.Nd5+ Kb3 18.Re7 Qa6+ 19.Rb7+ Kc2 20.Nc7 Qxb7+ 21.Kxb7 a1Q 22.e5 Qh1+ 23.Kc8 Qxh2 24.Qa4+ Kb2 25.Qb5+ Ka2 26.Nd5 Qd2 27.Qc4+ Ka3 28.Qxc5+ Kb3 29.Qb5+ Ka3 30.e6 h2=
13...a2 14.Re1 a1Q 15.Rxa1 Qxa1 16.h8Q Qa6+ 17.Kb8 17.Kxc7? Qc6+ 18.Kd8 Qd5+ 19.Ke8 Qxf5 20.Ne7 Qe4 21.Qxh3 a5=

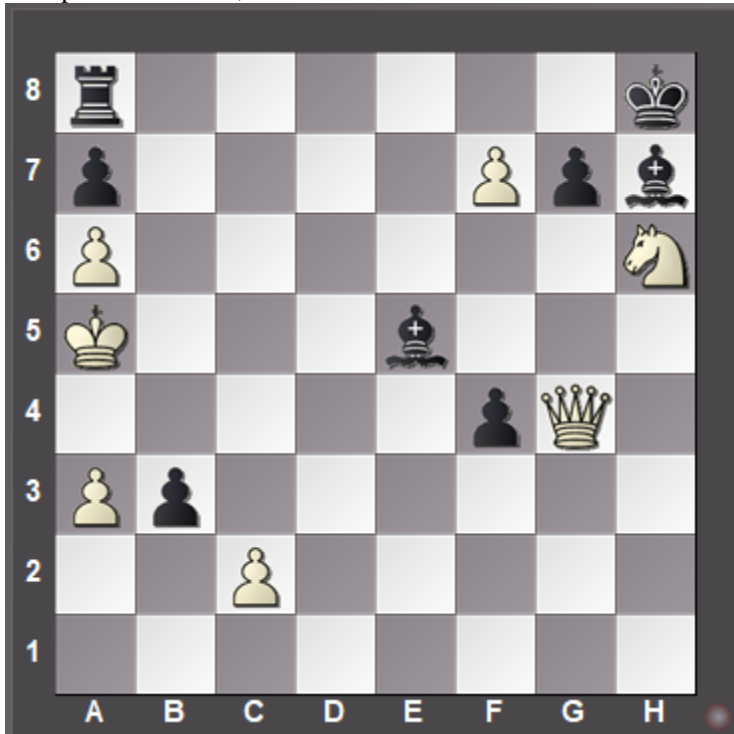
17...Qb6+ 18.Ka8 Qc6+ 19.Kxa7 Qb6+ 20.Ka8 Qa6+ 21.Kb8 Qb6+ 22.Kc8+-

GC: White requires 22 moves to win, including placing his rook en prise several times.

SN: Surprising and unusual domination of the queen. The first half of the study is much better than the latter. Some lines are very difficult.

Andrii Sergiienko

4.-6. place 8th YCCC, 2024

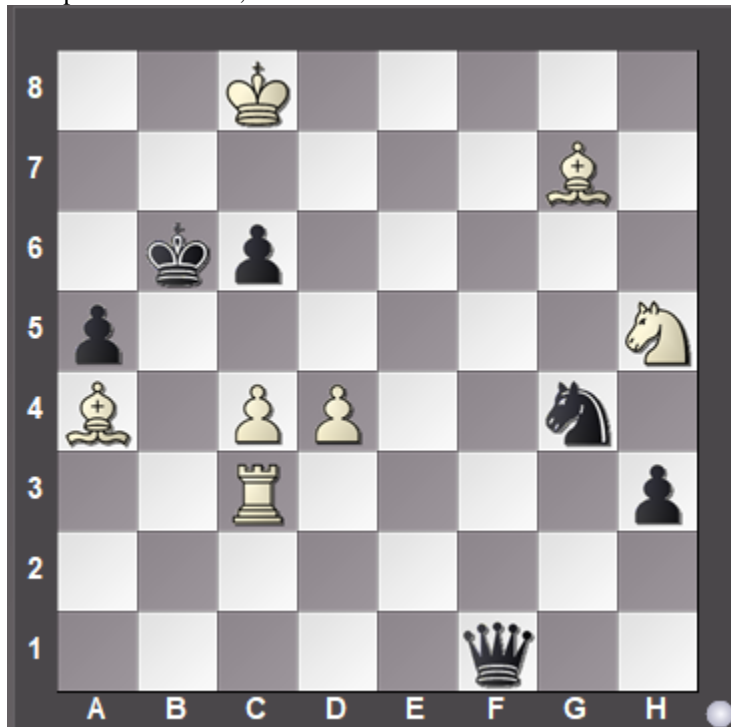


Black to move, Draw

1...Bc3+ 1...Bc7+ 2.Ka4 (2.Kb5? b2 3.f8Q+ Rxf8 4.Nf7+ Rxf7 5.Qc8+ Rf8 6.Qxf8+ Bg8 7.Qb4 Be5 8.Ka4 Bd5 9.c3 Bc6+-
 +) 2...Bxc2 3.Qe2 gxh6 (3...Rf8 4.Qh2 f3 5.Qxc7=) 4.Qe8+ Kh7 5.f8N+ Kg8 6.Qe6+ Kxf8 7.Qf6+= (1st perpetual)
2.Kb5 2.Ka4 Bxc2 (2...bxc2 3.Qf3+-) 3.Qg2 f3 4.Qh2 Be5+-
2...b2 3.f8Q+ Rxf8 4.Nf7+ **Kg8** 5.Nh6+ **Kh8** 6.Nf7+= (2nd perpetual)
6...Rxf7 7.Qc8+ **Bg8** 8.Qh3+ **Bh7** 9.Qc8+= (3rd perpetual)
9...Rf8 10.Qxf8+ **Bg8** 11.Ka4 **Bd2** 11...b1Q 12.Qxg8+ (12.Qxg7+?? Bxg7) 12...Kxg8
12.Qb8 **Bc1** 13.Qa8 f3 14.Qxf3 **b1Q** 15.Qh1+ **Bh7** 16.Qa8+ **Bg8** 17.Qh1+ (4th perpetual)
 GC: 4 perpetual checks. The author managed good black counterplay which improves the study.
 SN: Perpetuals are generally boring (because the game ends with them), so it is brave to attempt to make a study based on this idea. It is an original idea that is well executed.

Ben Smolkin

4.-6. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Nf4 1.Rb3+? Ka6 2.c5 (2.Nf4 Qxc4=) 2...Qf7 3.Rb6+ Ka7 4.Bxc6 Qg8+ 5.Kd7 Qf7+ 6.Kd8 Qg8+ 7.Ke7 h2 8.Bf3 Ne3 9.Rb7+ Ka6=

1...Qxf4 2.Rb3+ Ka6 3.Rb7 Qf1 3...Ne3 4.Bb5+ cxb5 5.cxb5#

4.Rc7 Qf5+ **5.Kb8** Qf4 **6.Be5** Qf8+ **7.Rc8** Nxe5 7...Qb4+ 8.Bb5+ cxb5 9.Rc6#

8.dxe5 8.Rxf8 Nd7+ 9.Kc7 Nxf8+

8...h2 **9.Rxf8** h1Q **10.Rc8** Kb6 **11.Rxc6+** Qxc6 **12.Bxc6** Kxc6 **13.Kc8** 13.e6 a4 14.e7 Kd7 15.c5 a3 16.c6+ Kxe7 17.c7 a2 18.c8Q a1Q=

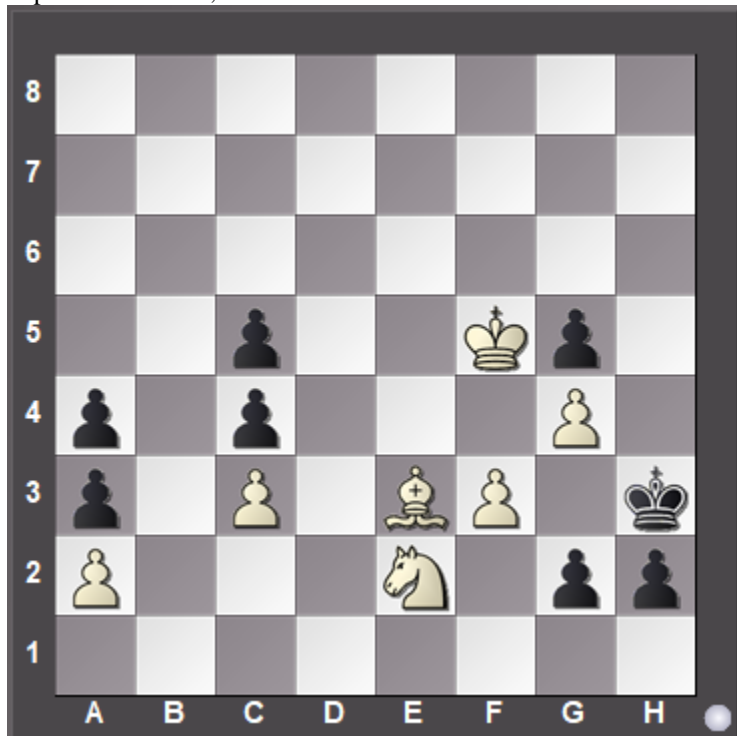
13...a4 **14.Kd8** a3 **15.e6** a2 **16.e7** a1Q **17.e8Q+** Kc5 **18.Qb5+** Kd4 **19.Qd5+** +-

GC: 19 moves of heterogeneous motifs. The author managed to use all the material and while there is no single paradoxical moment, the interest never wanes.

SN: Well-constructed, mature study but without real surprises

Benjamin Defromont

7. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Bg1 hxc1Q 2.Nxc1+ Kg3 3.Kxc5 Kf2 3...Kh2 4.Ne2+-

4.Nh3+ Kg3 5.Nf4 g1N 6.Kf5 Nxf3 7.g5 7.Ng6? Nd4+! 8.cxd4 c3 9.dxc5 c2 10.Nf4 Kf3 11.Nd3 Ke3 12.Nc1 Kd2 13.c6 Kxc1=

7...Nxc5 8.Kxc5 Kf3 9.Kf5 9.Nd5? Ke4 10.Nb6 Kd3 11.Nxa4 Kc2 12.Kf4 Kb1=

9...Ke3 10.Nd5+ Kd3 11.Kf4 Kc2 12.Ke3 Kb2 13.Kd2 Kxa2 14.Kc2 14.Kc1? Kb3 15.Kb1 a2+=

14...Ka1 15.Ne3 15.Nb6? a2 16.Nxc4 a3 17.Nd2 (17.Na5 c4) 17...c4=

15...a2 15...Ka2 16.Nxc4

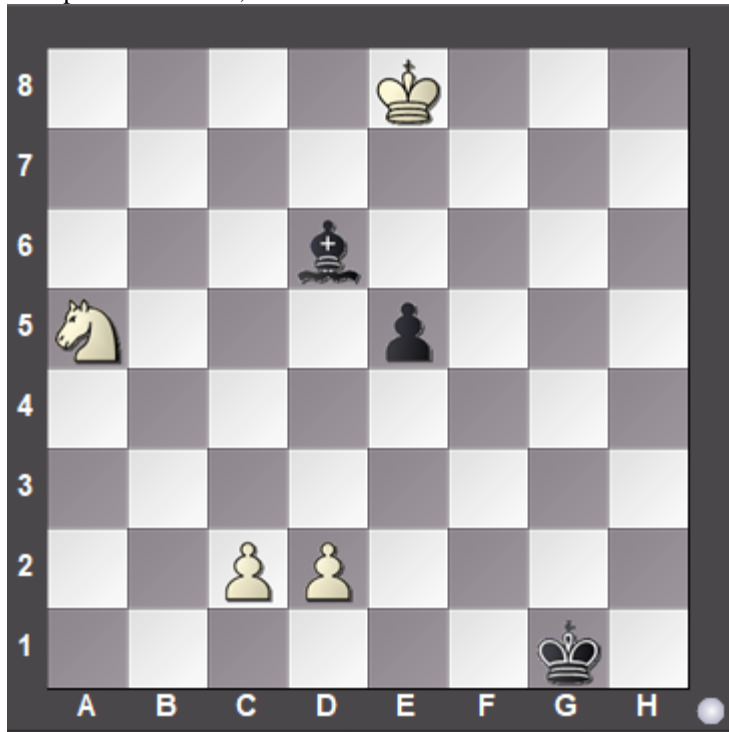
16.Kc1 a3 17.Nc2#

GC: The play moves from the kingside to the queenside culminating in mate.

SN: Some good play with a knight promotion, but also a number of well-known motives including the final mate.

Dylan Schenker

8.-9. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Nc4 1.Kd7 Bb4 2.Nc4 e4 3.c3 Bc5 4.Kc6 Bf2 5.Kd5 Kf1 6.Kxe4 Ke2 7.d4 Be1 8.d5 Bxc3=; 1.Nb7 Bb8 2.c4 Kf2 3.c5 Ke2 4.c6 Kxd2=

1...Bb8 1...Bc5 2.Kd7 (2.Nxe5 Kf1 3.Nc6 Bf2) Main B 2...Kf1 3.Kc6 Bd4 4.c3 Bf2 5.Nxe5 Be1 6.Nf3

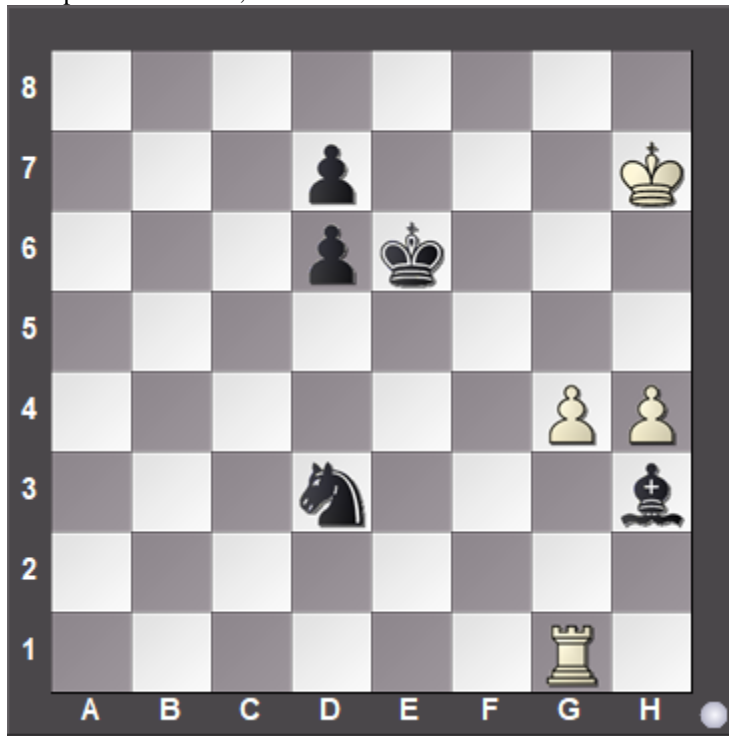
2.Kd7 Kf2 2...Kf1 3.Kc6 e4 4.Kd5 Ke2 5.Kxe4

3.Kc8 Ba7 4.Kb7 Bc5 5.Kc6 Bd4 6.c3+-

CG + SN: The white king pursues the black bishop and wins the black pawn. The composer offered two versions of this study which were very equal in quality.

Renārs Mūzis

8.-9. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Rg3 it is really important to not let the bishop in the game

1.h5? Ne5 2.g5 Bf5+ 3.Kg7 d5 4.h6 d4 5.g6 Bxg6 6.Rxg6+ Nxg6 7.Kxg6 d3 8.h7 d2 9.h8Q d1Q 10.Qe8+ Kd6=

1...Nf4 2.h5 Bxg4 Black has to sacrifice a piece otherwise the pawns will be unstoppable.

2...Bg2 3.Rxg2 Nxg2 4.Kg7+–

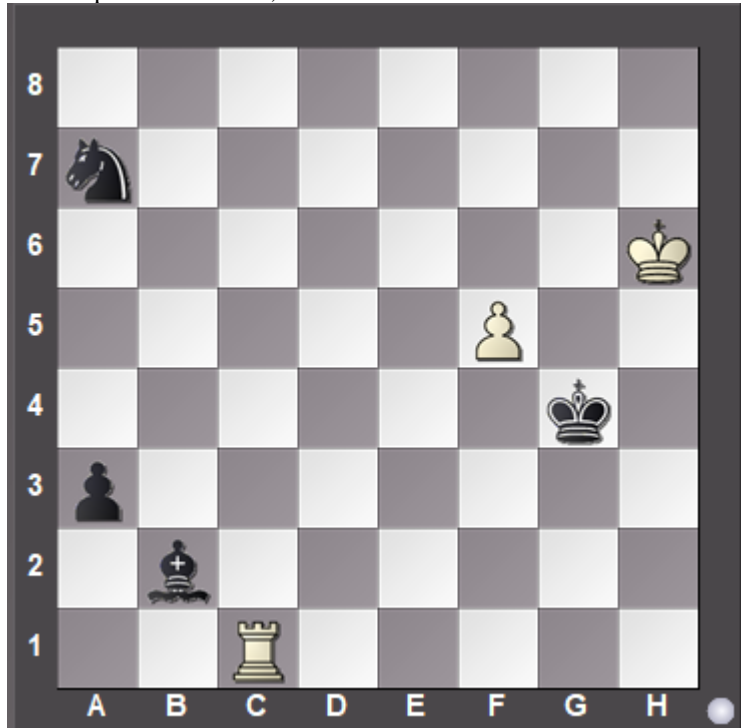
3.Rxg4 Nxh5 4.Kg6 Nf6 5.Rf4 Nd5 5...d5 6.Rxf6+ Ke5 7.Kg5 d4 8.Rf7 Ke4 9.Kg4 d3 10.Re7+ Kd4 11.Kf3+–

6.Re4#

GC + SN: Mate with an active selfblock after some natural play.

Tymon Piotrowski

10.–13. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Draw

1.Rc7! 1.Rf1? a2 2.Kg6 Nc6! 3.f6 Ne5+! 4.Kh7 Kg5 → (4...Nf7) 5.Kg8; Logical try 1.Rc4+? Kxf5 2.Rc7 Bd4! →

1...Nb5 1...Bd4 2.Rc4 Nb5 3.f6 a2 4.Ra4 =

2.Rc4+ Nd4! 2...Kf3 3.Ra4 =; 2...Kxf5 3.Rc5+ =

3.f6! 3.Ra4? Kxf5 →

3...a2 3...Kf5 4.f7 Ne6 5.Ra4 Kf6 6.Ra7 Bc1+ 7.Kh7 =

4.Ra4! 4.f7? a1Q 5.Rxd4+ (5.f8Q Qa6+ 6.Kh7 Qxc4 →) 5...Bxd4 6.f8Q Qh1+ 7.Kg6 Qh5#

4...a1Q 5.Rxa1 Bxa1 6.f7 Ne6 6...Nf5+ 7.Kh7 Bg7 8.Kg8 =

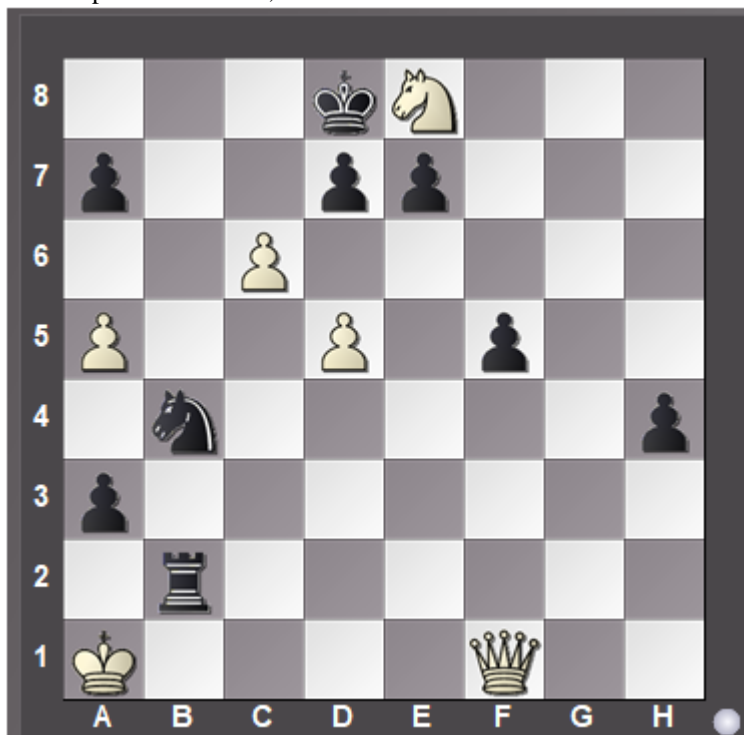
7.f8Q! Nxf8 Stalemate

GC: The well-known stalemate is pretty, but the two kings don't play at all and there is no extraordinary content to compensate for that.

SN: The lack of king moves downgrades this fine study.

Anton Nasyrov

10.–13. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Draw

1.c7+ Kc8 2.Nd6+ exd6 3.Qa6+ Kxc7 4.Qc4+ 4.Qxa7+? Kd8 5.Qb6+ Ke7 6.Qe3+ Kf7 7.Qxa3 Nc2+ 8.Kxb2 Nxa3 9.Kxa3

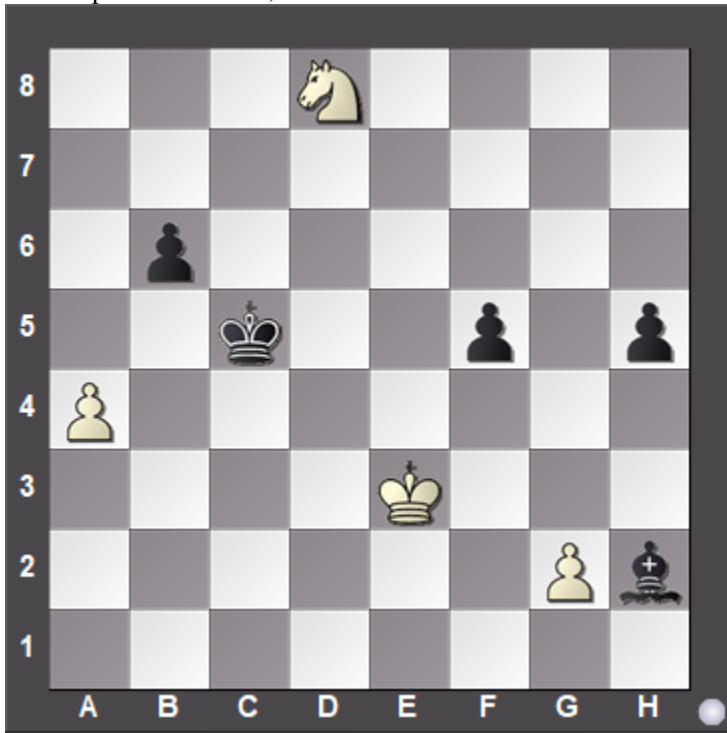
h3 10.a6 h2 11.a7 h1Q 12.a8Q Qa1++

4...Kb8 5.Qb5+ Ka8 6.Qb7+ Kxb7 7.a6+=

GC + SN: White must sacrifice his queen correctly in this duel between queen and king. The study would improve if the thematic part was longer, or if the other pieces actively participated.

Ivan Vasiliev, Russia

10.–13. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Ne6+ Kb4 2.Ng7 f4+ 3.Kf3 h4 4.g4 fxg3 5.Kg2 Kxa4 6.Nf5 b5 7.Nxh4=

GC + SN: 4.g4 forces the en-passant capture and shuts-in the black bishop. This idea is well known.

Anirudh Daga

10.–13. place 8th YCCC, 2024



BTM, Draw

Black to move. White draws? Being almost a rook up after the trades, one may think as to where the Black's counterplay exists.

1...Qh3! 2.Ne4!! 2.gxh3 Ne2#; 2.f3? Ne2+ 3.Kh1 (3.Kf2 Qh4+ 4.g3 Qxh2+) 3...Qxh2+! 4.Kxh2 Rh8#

2...Bxe4 2...Rxe4 3.Bxc3 (3.gxh3 Rg4+ 4.hxg4 Ne2#)

3.f3 Ne2+ 4.Kf2 Qh4+! 5.Kxe2 White is a rook up but with his king stuck in the centre, Black generate a lot of counterplay
5...Bc6+ 5...Bd5+ 6.Re3!

6.Kd3! 6.Kd2 Qg5+ 7.Kc2 Qxg2+ 8.Kb1 Qxf1+ The king is too exposed to be able to salvage a draw.; 6.Re3? Bb5+ 7.Kd2 Qb4+ 8.Bc3 Qd6+ 9.Kc2 Rxe3! Black wins back the rook and probably wins the game too.

6...Rd8+ 6...Bd5? 7.Bd4! Bxb3 8.Qd7! White may even win this, with the central bishop guarding the wK.

7.Ke3! 7.Ke2 runs into 7...Qc4+ 8.Kf2 Rd2+ 9.Kg1 Qxb3

7...Qg5+ 8.Kf2 Rd2+ 8...Qc5+ 9.Kg3! and the best Black can do is repeat the position.

9.Ke1 Rxx2 9...Rxb2?! 10.Rxb2 Qc1+ 11.Kf2 Qc5+ again a repetition, followed by a draw - neither sides can do anything.; 9...Rc2 10.Rf2! Rc1+! Black must play this to salvage a draw. 11.Bxc1 Qxc1+ 12.Ke2 Qc2+

10.f4! 10.Rf2? Rg1+ 11.Rf1 Qh4+!

10...Qf5! 10...Qh4+ 11.Kd1 Qh5+ 12.Kc1 Qc5+ 13.Kb1! White tucks himself into the queenside, where most of his cavalry is present.

11.Bxf6+!! Qxf6 11...Kxf6? 12.Qa1+ Ke6 13.Re3+ And suddenly, Black's king is under fire!

12.Qa5 12.b7?? Ba4! (12...Qe6+ 13.Re3) 13.Qxa4 Qe6+; 12.Qa3? Qd4 13.Qc1 Bb5!

12...Bb5! 12...Qe6+ 13.Qe5+

13.Qc3! 13.Rxb5 Qe6+

13...Qxc3+ 14.Rxc3=

GC: After a spectacular start and exciting attack, the play peters out to a draw. The study would be memorable if there was a stronger conclusion.

SN: The first moves are very promising with a middlegame position and Novotny on e4. But after that the play becomes less interesting.

Taras Rudenko

14. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Nc6 1.Nb7? Qxd7 2.Rd2 Qh3 3.Rd8+ Bf8—

1...Qxd7 2.Rd2 Qxc6 2...Qh3 eg 3.Rd8+ Bf8 4.Nxa7 Qxf3 5.Kb2 Kg7 (5...Qxe4 6.Bh6) 6.Nc6 Qxe4 (6...Qe2+ 7.Bd2+—)

7.a7 Qxc6 8.a8Q Qxa8 9.Rxa8 Bxb4 10.Be3

3.Rd8+ Bf8 4.Bh6 Qd6 5.Rxf8+ 5.Rxd6? Bxd6 6.Be3 Bc7 (6...Bb8? 7.Bxb6 axb6 8.c5 bxc5 9.bxc5 Kf8 10.c6 Ke7 11.c7+—)

7.c5 bxc5 8.Bxc5 Bb8=

5...Qxf8 6.Bxf8 Kxf8 7.b5 7.c5? b5=

7...Ke7 8.c5 Kd7 9.cxb6 Kc8 10.bxa7+—

GC + SN: The pawn endgame is won by a single tempo. The author chose to reach this via 5 piece captures. The study would be improved if those pieces contributed some spectacular moves.

Idan David

15. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Rxc6+ 1.Nxc6+ Kc3 2.cxd3 Rxc6 3.Rd6 h3 4.Rc4+ Kd2 5.Rh4 h2 6.Rxd5 Rxc6—

1...Rxc6 2.Nb5+ 2.cxd3+? Kxd3 3.Nxc6 Rxc6 4.Rxc6+ Kc5 3.h6 dxc2 4.Ne5 Nf6 5.Rc4+ Kd6 6.Nxf7+ Ke7=

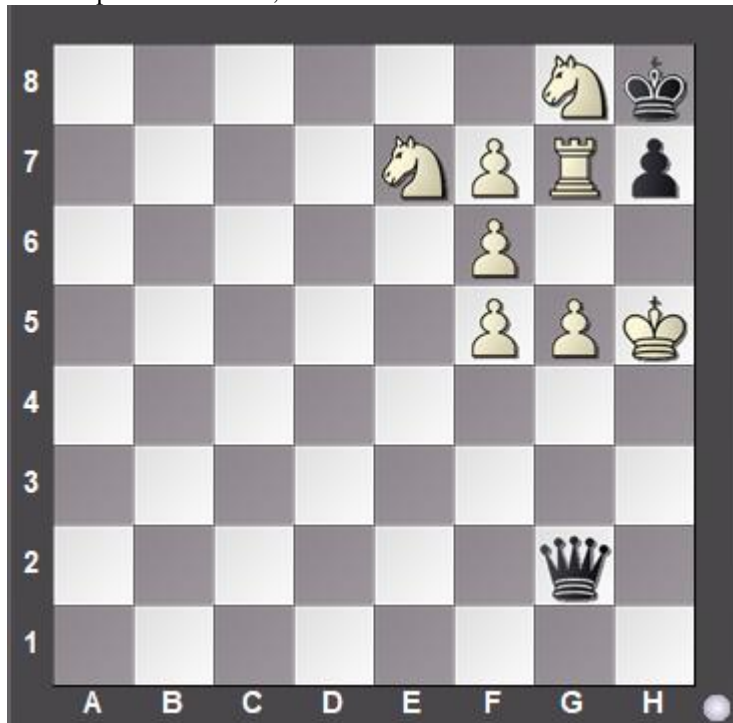
2...Kc5 3.cxd3 Bb3 3...Ra6+ 4.Kxa6 Nc7+ 5.Nxc7 Bxh5 6.Rc4+ Kd6 7.Nb5+ Ke5 8.Rxc4+—

4.Rc4+ Bxc4 5.d4#

GC + SN: Mate with two active selfblocks. 4.Rc4+ is a known mechanism but in the mating position there are seven irrelevant units.

Ivan Belonozhko

16.- 17. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

Black threatens 1...Qh3, so...

1.Rxh7+ 1.Kh4

1...Kxh7 2.g6+ 2.f8N+ Kh8 3.Nfg6+ Kh7 4.Nh4 Qe2+=

2...Qxg6+ 2...Kh8 3.g7+ Kh7 4.f8N#

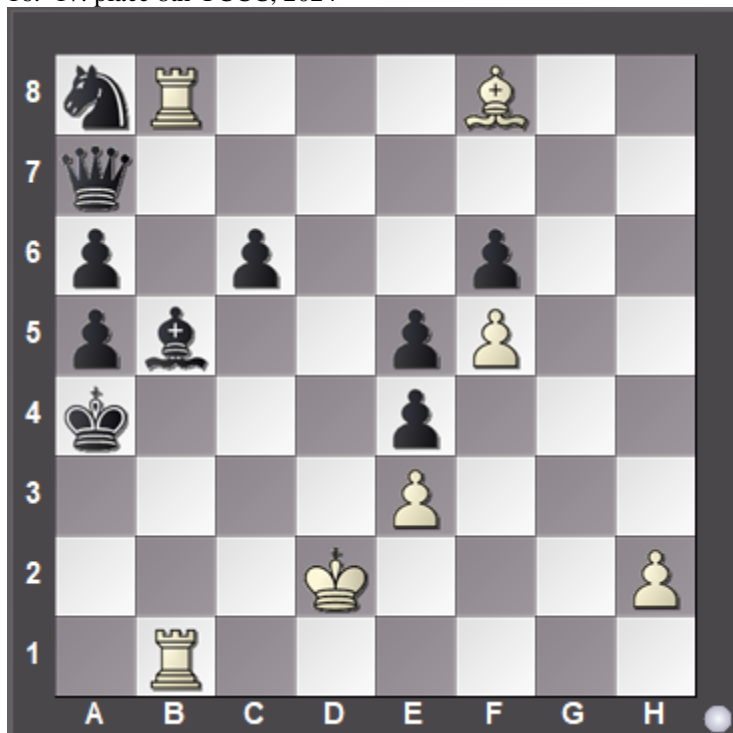
3.fxg6+ Kh8 4.g7+ Kh7 5.f8N#

GC: White checks on every move which makes the battle one-sided.

SN: The amusing point of interest in this study is the surprise fact that White has only one way to win/lift the stalemate after 3...Kh8. But play is too forced.

17 Iancu-Ioan Sandea

16.-17. place 8th YCCC, 2024



Win

1.Rb7 Qxb7 2. Kc3 Bd3 3.Rxb7+-

GC + SN: Too many units are idle during the solution.