

Afek 64 Tourney Award

Judge: Yochanan Afek, Amsterdam

64 is a unique round chess anniversary which my Israeli chess friends happily found appropriate to celebrate with me by organizing a special jubilee composing tourney. The symbolic anniversary also happens to coincide with my 50 years of chess activities as a competitive player, composer, writer, trainer and organizer.

I am grateful to my fellow composers for their highly appreciated initiative, especially to Amatzia Avni for taking the trouble to act as the devoted tourney director, to Gady Costeff who patiently assembled all 60 anonymous entries to create an organized, standardized PGN file, to Mario Garcia for thoroughly checking the candidates for soundness and to Harold van der Heijden for his instructive originality report.

My old chessfriends who kindly contributed to the generous prize-fund are: Eli Amit, Amatzia Avni, Ofer Comay, Gady Costeff, Harel Elyosef, Alex Hartman, Noam Manella, Moshe Pyernik, Israel Shrentzel and Moti Shrentzel. Cordial thanks to them all!

Various persons have had their impact on my career as a study composer over the years. I would like to use this opportunity for mentioning with great appreciation two of them who undoubtedly were especially instrumental from the very beginning: my chess mentor IM Moshe Czerniak (1910-1984), a great lover of the endgame study who introduced the wonders of this fine art to me and to my friends in the Tel-Aviv youth center. At the same time it was Hillel Aloni, the pioneer of the Israeli endgame study, who patiently guided generations of Israeli young composers through this minefield, in his capacity as the editor of the studies section in the Israeli monthly *Shahmat*, a great job which will always be cherished!

Last but not least, all 47 composers should be praised for their efforts to make judging this event most enjoyable even if by no means a simple task. The standard of the leading entries is outstandingly high, with more than one candidate for top honors. Other serious candidates were left out of the award due to soundness, originality or structural flaws. Here are a couple of such reasons: No.41 (♖a6/♖c4) cook 3.h3! and probably also 3...g2; No.43 (♖h4/♖e5) 2.♖c2 and probably also 2.♖g5 ♖a1 3.♖h5 seem like duals ; No.54 (♖c1/♖e1) Dual: 4.♗xe4 (EGTB). I also allowed myself to decline a couple of candidates that didn't meet my views as to how a study should be presented or which I failed to understand despite repeating efforts. The rest is a pure matter of personal taste.

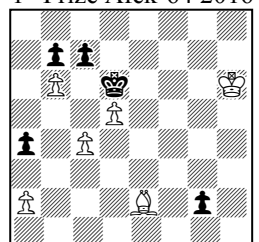
Following the usual inner struggle here is my classification:

1st Prize, Andrei Visokosov, Russia:

Following a natural introduction an outstanding logical pawn ending is presented in a most clear-cut fashion. The cool-blooded and far-sighted 6.♖h5!! is the star move in the struggle over the reciprocal zugzwang. A genuine masterpiece of classical and modern standards!

1.c5+ ♖e7 1..♖d7 2.c6+ bxc6 (2..♖c8 3.♗g4+ ♖b8 4.d6) 3.b7 g1=♖
4.b8=♖ ♖e3+ 5.♖g6 ♖e4+ 6.♖g5 ♖e5+ 7.♖g6 ♖xe2 8.dxc6+ ♖xc6
9.♖a8+ ♖b5 10.♖b7+) **2.bxc7** (2.c6 g1=♖ 3.bxc7 ♖f6 **2..♖d7 3.d6 g1=♖**
4.c6+! 4.♗h5 ♖e3+ 5.♖g6 ♖f4 6.♖h7 ♖f5+ 7.♗g6 ♖xc5 **4..bxc6 5.♗a6**
♖g8 6.♖h5!! Thematic try: 6.c8=♖+? ♖xc8 7.♗xc8+ ♖xc8 8.♖g5 ♖d7
9.♖f4 ♖xd6 10.♖e3! ♖c5!! 11.♖d3 ♖b5!! 12.♖c3 c5 13.♖b2 ♖b4 White
got in zugzwang and loses. 6.♗b7 ♖e6+ 7.♖g7 ♖e5+ 8.♖f7 ♖d5+ 9.♖g7
♖g2+ 10.♖h7 ♖h2+ 11.♖g7 ♖b2+ 12.♖f7 ♖xb7) **6..♖a8** a4-a3 is a bad
move for black, as is a2-a3 for white.**7.c8=♖+ ♖xc8 8.♗xc8+ ♖xc8**
9.♖g4!! ♖d7 10.♖f3!! ♖xd6 11.♖e2!! ♖c5! 12.♖d1!! ♖b5! 13.♖c1!!
c5 14.♖b1!! ♖b4 15.♖b2 It's the same final position as in thematic try,
but Black to move. Now Black is in zugzwang and therefore it's a draw.

Andrei Visokosov
1st Prize Afek-64 2016



Draw

6+5

2nd Prize, Oleg Pervakov, Russia:

Mutual tactical blows ending up in an ideal mate following two active self-blocks. The quiet stunning sacrifice 2.♖h4!! creating an echo threat to the final mate and the subtle 3.♗d1! as well as the pair of bishop sacrifices all turn this study to a genuine gem in the best of my own favorite romantic style!

1.♖b1 ♗e2 (1...♗c2 2.♖f1 f2 (2...♖h2 3.♖xf3 ♗d1 4.♖h4!) 3.♖f3 ♖h2 4.♖e5 +-) **2.♖h4!!** (2.♖e4 ♖g3 3.♖f4 ♗c3 4.♖g1+ ♖h2 5.♖g4 (5.♖g6 ♗d2 6.♖g4 ♗xf4 7.♖xf4 ♖g3 8.♖e3 ♗xd3=) 5...♗d1 6.d4 ♗e1 7.♖e3 f2 8.♖g2+ ♖h1 9.♖xf2 ♗xf2+ 10.♖xf2 ♗b3=) **2...♗e5+!**(2...♗xd3 3.♖h1#) **3.♖xe5 ♗xd3** (3...f2 4.♖h1+ ♖g4 5.♖f5 ♗xd3 6.♖e3+ ♖f3 7.♖d4) **4.♖d1!**

Thematic try: 4.♖h1+? ♖g3 5.♖d4 ♗c2 6.♖e3 f2 7.♖f3 ♗e4!! The second bishop's sacrifice! (7...♗d3 8.♖d2 ♖g2 9.♖h5 +-) 8.♖xe4 ♖g2 9.♖h2+ ♖g3 10.♖h1 ♖g2 positional draw 11.♖f4 ♖xh1 (11...f1=♖ 12.♖h2#)) (4.♖b3 ♗c2 5.♖c3 ♖xh4 6.♖xc2 ♖g3=) **4...♗e2** (4...♗c2 5.♖c1 ♖xh4 6.♖f4) (4...♖xh4 5.♖xd3 f2 6.♖f3) **5.♖h1+ ♖g4 6.♖f5 f2 7.♖e3+ ♖f3** (7...♖g3 8.♖a1 ♖f3 9.♖d4 ♗b5 10.♖b1 ♗a6 11.♖b6 ♗e2 12.♖f6+ +-) **8.♖h3#** 8.♖d4 f1=♖ 9.♖xf1 ♖g2= Ideal mate with two active blocks. Echo with 3.♖h1#, but in the middle of the board.

3rd Prize, Alexandre Zhukov, Russia:

Inserting new life in the well-trodden Troitzky curve and in what a glorious manner! A highly tense and tactical introduction reaches a high point where the white knight avoids the capture of a newly born counterpart in favor of blocking a pawn to gain the single tempo securing a Troitzky win. The spared enemy knight apparently goes nowhere, however the rest of the battle still requires high precision till the happy end. An exceptionally original concept!

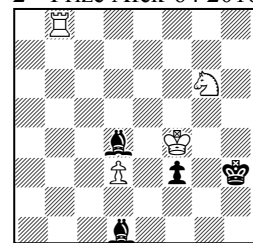
1.♖f2! (1.♖b1 g1=♖+!2.♖xg1 f2+!3.♖xf2 ♖xb2+ 4.♖xb2 ♖d3+=) **1...♗e2** (1...♖xb2 2.♖xb2 f2 3.♖xf2 g1=♖+ 4.♖xg1 ♖h3+ 5.♖g2 ♖xf2 6.♖xf2 e5 7.♖f5 e4 8.♖e3 no Troitzky. 1..g1=♖+ 2.♖xg1 ♖e2+ 3.♖xe2 fxe2 4.♖xe2 ♖g3+ 5.♖g2+ ♖xg2+ 6.♖xg2 e5 7.♖f5 e4 8.♖e3 no Troitzky) **2.♖xe2** (2.♖xb3? g1=♖+ 3.♖h3 ♖g3# **2...fxe2 3.♖xe2!** 3.♖xb3? g1=♖+ 4.♖xg1 e1=♖+ 5.♖g2 ♖d2+= 3.♖xb3? g1=♖+ 4.♖xg1 e1=♖+ 5.♖g2 ♖e4+ 6.♖f2 ♖f4+ 7.♖e1 ♖e4+ 8.♖d1 ♖h1+ 9.♖c2 ♖e4+!10.♖c3 ♖e3+=) **3...♖h3+!!** (3...♖g3+ 4.♖xg3 g1=♖+ 5.♖g2+ ♖xg2+ 6.♖xg2 e5 7.♖f5 e4 8.♖e3 no Troitzky) **4.♖xh3 g1=♖+ 5.♖g2!!** (5.♖g3 ♖xe2+ 6.♖xe2 e5!= 5.♖g4? will be understood to fail below **5...♖xe2 6.♖e6!!** (6.♖xe2 e5=) **6...♖b7 7.♖f2!** (7.♖f3? this would be required had white played 5.♖g4? ♖d4+! (7...♖g1+ 8.♖f2 ♖h3+ 9.♖g2 ♖c6 10.♖xh3) 8.♖xd4 e5 9.♖f5 e4+!)=) **7...♖f4 8.♖xf4 e5 9.♖d5 e4 10.♖e3 +-**

4th prize, Vladislav Tarasiuk, Ukraine:

I should admit that Q vs. 2 pieces endings usually don't turn on my imagination, however this one seems like a true artistic miracle with a lengthy and highly precise play all the way to an ideal mate following a pair of active self-blocks.

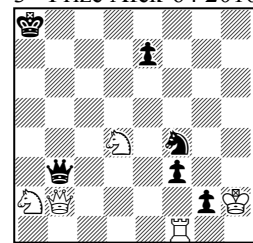
1.♖h3+ 1.♖h6+ ♖f6 **1...♖d5** 1.♖xd6 2.♖a3+ **2.♖b3+** 2.d7 ♖d8 3.♖f5 ♖d6 **2...♖c5 3.♖a3+ ♖b5** 3...♖c6 4.♖a6+ **4.♖e2** 4.d7 ♖d8 5.♖e7 ♗c7 6.♖e6 ♖c5 7.♖e2 ♗d6 8.♖e3 ♖c6= **4...♖h8** 4...♖d8 5.♖e3 ♗xd6 6.♖g5+ **5.d7** 5.♖e3 ♖h2+ 6.♖d3 ♗xd6 **5...♖d8 6.♖e7** minor dual: 6.♖e3 **6...♗c7 7.♖e6** 7.♖d3 ♖c6 8.♖e6+ ♗d6 **7...♖c5 8.♖d3** 8.♖e3 ♗d6 9.♖e8 ♗c7 10.♖e6 ♗d6= **8...♗d6 9.♖c4+ ♖b6 10.♖c8 ♗c7 11.♖e4** 11.♖d4 ♖c6 **11...♖c6 12.♖f5 ♖d6** 12...♖xd7 13.♖e8 ♖d6 (13...♗d6 14.♖e6) 14.♖e6+ **13.♖a6+ ♖xd7 14.♖e6#**

Oleg Pervakov
2nd Prize Afek-64 2016



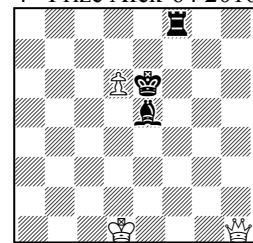
Win 4+4

Alexandre Zhukov
3rd Prize Afek-64 2016



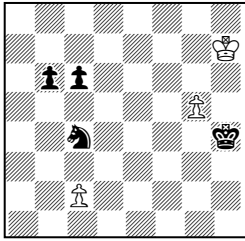
Win 5+6

Vladislav Tarasiuk
4th Prize Afek-64 2016



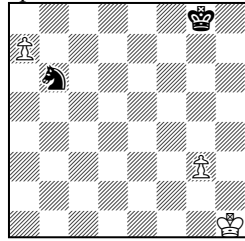
Win 3+3

Pavel Arestov
5th Prize Afek-64 2016



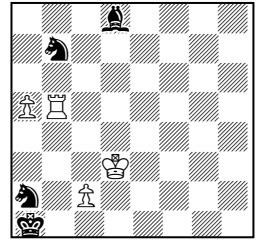
Draw 3+4

Victor Aberman
Sp. Prize Afek-64 2016



Win 3+2

Vladislav Tarasiuk
1st HM Afek-64 2016



Win 4+4

5th prize, Pavel Arestov, Russia: The early underpromotion heralds a subtle knight ending highlighted by 11.♔d8!! and symbolized by the final forking. If not for the slight move order blemish - a perfect miniature to remember!

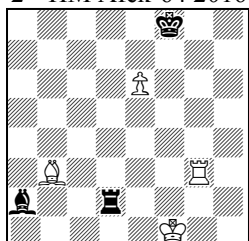
1.g6 ♖d6!2.g7 ♜e8 3.g8=♖! 3.g8=♗? ♜f6+ fork, +. 3..♗g5 4.♜e7 c5 5.♗g8! 5.♜d5? ♜f6+!-+ 5..♜d6 6.♜d5 (♖f8) b5 7.♗f8 (♜d5) ♗f5 8. ♗e7 ♗e5 9.♜c7! 9.♜b6? ♜c4 -+ 9..c4! 9..b4 10.♜d7 c4 11.♜a6 b3 12.cxb3 cxb3 13.♜c5 b2 14.♜d3+ fork,=. 10.♗d7 c3 11.♗d8!! 11.♜c6? b4 12.♜d5 b3 13.cxb3 c2 14.♜b4 \$5 c1=♗+ -+ check! 11..♗d4 12.♗d7! 12.♗e7? ♜c8+ (♖c5) -+ 12..♗e5 12..b4 13.♗xd6 b3 14.♜b5+ = 13.♗d8!b4 13.♗e4 14.♗d7 ♗e5 15.♗d8 - positional draw. 13..♜b7+ 14.♗e7 b4 15.♜a6 - main line. 14.♜a6!♜b7+! 14..b3 15.cxb3 - main line. 15.♗e7! 15.♜c7? b3 16.cxb3 c2 17.♜b4 c1=♗+ check! -+ 15.♗d7? b3 16.cxb3 c2 17.♜b4 ♜c5+ -+ check! 15..b3 16.cxb3 c2 17.♜b4! c1=♗ 18.♜d3+ 1/2-1/2

Special prize, Victor Aberman, USA: An amazingly accurate and original corner-to-corner journey in a baby format. Even though the final destination is not difficult to guess, two obstacles along the route still turn it into a surprising adventure decided as expected by a hair. The last part of the solution starting from move 10 has already been shown by Gillberg #03986.

1.♗g2 1.♗h2? ♖f7! (1..♗g7? 2.♗h3 win) (1..♖f8? 2.g4 win) 2.♗h3 ♗e6 3.g4 It is necessary to stop the advance of Black's King to the queenside. (3.♗h4 ♗d6 4.g4 ♗c7 5.g5 ♗b7 draw) 3..♖f6 4.♗h4 ♗g6 draw 1..♖f7 2.♖f3 ♗e6 3.g4! 3.♗e4? ♗d6 4.g4 ♗c7 5.g5 ♗b7 6.g6 ♜c8! 7.♗e5 ♜e7 draw 3..♗e5 3..♗d5 4.g5 ♗e5 5.♗g4 win 4.♗g3 An unexpected move of White's King! Immediate advance to the queenside would have been a mistake. It is necessary to move in the opposite direction! 4.♗e3? ♜a8 zz WTM 5.♖f3 (5.g5 ♖f5 draw) (5.♗d3 ♖f4 draw) 5..♜c7 6.♗g3 ♖f6 7.♖f4 ♗g6 draw 4..♜a8 This exquisite defense complicates White's task the most. Black lets White to push his king from the pawn, but he is preparing a surprise for White. 4..♖f6 5.♖f4! ♗g6 (5..♜a8 6.♗e4 ♗g5 7.♗d5 ♗xg4 8.♖c6 win (5..♜d5+ 6.♗e4 ♜c7 7.♗d3 etc. see main) 6.♗e5 ♗g5 7.♗d4 (7.♗d6? ♜c8+ draw) 7..♗xg4 8.♖c5 ♜a8 9.♖c6 win) 5.♗h4 ♖f6 6.♗h5 ♗g7 7.♗g5 ♜c7 8.♗f5 ♖f7 9.♗e4 Here comes a surprise! Straight route to the square a8 is blocked. Nevertheless, White's King has a workaround to the goal again! (9.♗e5? ♗g6 10.♗d4 /♗d6 ♜b5+ draw) 9..♖f6 10.♗d3! ♗g5 11.♖c4! ♗xg4 12.♖c5 ♜a8 13.♖c6 ♖f5 14.♗b7 ♗e6 15.♗xa8 win.

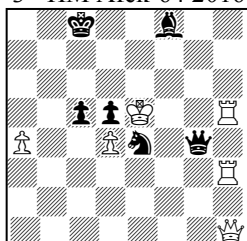
1st HM, Vladislav Tarasiuk, Ukraine: An excellent demonstration of R+P dominating B+S. The highlight of this encounter is a well-timed Festina Lente to pass the move to black in the critical reciprocal Zugzwang position. 1.a6 1.♖xb7 ♜xa5= 1..♜c5+! 1..♜b4+ 2.♖xb4 ♜c5+ 3.♖c3 ♜f6+ 4.♖c4 ♜xa6 5.♖a4+ 2.♖xc5 ♜b4+ 3.♖c3 3.♖c4? ♜xa6 4.♖c6 (4.♖d5 ♜e7) (4.♖c8 ♜e7) 4..♖b2= 3..♜xa6 4.♖c6 4.♖c8 ♜a5+ 5.♖b3 ♖b1= 4.♖d5 ♜b6 5.♖d6 ♜c5 6.♖c4 ♜a7= 4..♜c7 4..♜b8 5.♖c8 ♜a5+ (5..♜f6+ 6.♖b3 ♜d7 7.♖c7 ♜f8 8.♖f7) 6.♖b3 ♜d7 7.♖a8 5.♖b3 ♖b1 6.c3!! 6.c4 ♖c1 7.c5 ♜b5= 6..♜b5 6..♖c1 7.c4 ♜e8 8.♖c8 7.♖c5 7.♖h6 ♖c1 8.c4 ♜d4+ 9.♖c3 ♜e2+= 7..♜c7 7..♜xc3 8.♖xc3 +- 8.c4 ♜e6 8..♖c1 9.♖c6 ♜e8 10.♖c8 9.♖d5 9.♖e5 ♜d4+ 10.♖c3 ♜c6 9..♜g5 9..♜f6 10.♖d1#) (9..♖c1 10.♖d6 ♜c5+ 11.♖b4 ♜a5+ 12.♖xc5 10.♖e5 10.c5 ♜d2!11.c6 ♖c1= 10..♜d4+ 11.♖c3 ♜f3 12.♖f5 ♜d2!13.♗d3 13.c5 ♜e4+ 14.♗d4 ♜xc5 or 13.♖xg5 ♜e4+ 13..♜xc4 14.♖xg5 ♜a3 15.♖c3 +

J. Polášek & E. Vlasák
2nd HM Afek-64 2016



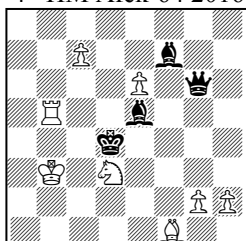
Win 4+3

Árpád Rusz
3rd HM Afek-64 2016



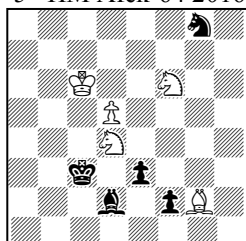
Win 6+6

Martin Minski
4th HM Afek-64 2016



Win 8+4

Richard Becker
5th HM Afek-64 2016



Win 5+5

2nd HM, Jaroslav Polášek & Emil Vlasák, Czech Republic: A fierce and tense struggle over a diagonal to secure promotion of the last shaky pawn. A charming miniature! **1.♠g8+**! 1.♠f3+ ♖e8 2.♙a4+ ♖e7 **1..♜e7** 1..♜xg8 2.e7+ ♙xb3 3.e8=♙+ **2.♠g7+ ♜d8!** 2..♜f6 3.e7 ♙xb3 4.e8=♙ ♙c4+ 5.♜g1 ♖d1+ 6.♜h2 ♜xg7 7.♜e5+ 2..♜f8 3.♠f7+ 2..♜e8 3.♙a4+ ♜d8 4.e7+ **3.e7+ ♜e8** **4.♙a4+ ♖d7** **5.♠g6!!** the point! (5.♠g4 ♙e6 6.♖d4 (6.♠g7 ♙b3) 6..♜xe7) (5.♜f2 ? ♙b3! 6.♙c6 (6.♙xd7+ ♜xd7 7.♜e3 ♜e8! 8.♜f4 ♙f7 =) 6..♙a4 7.♙xd7+ (7.♙xa4 stalemate) 7..♙xd7!8.♜e3 ♙e6 9.♜e4 ♙f7 =) **5..♙b3** 5..♜xe7 6.♠g7+ **6.♙c6!** 6.♙xd7+? ♜xd7 7.♠g7 ♜e8 8.♠g3 ♙e6 = **6..♙d5** 6..♙f7 7.♖d6 **7.♙xd7+ ♜xd7** **8.♖d6+!** +-

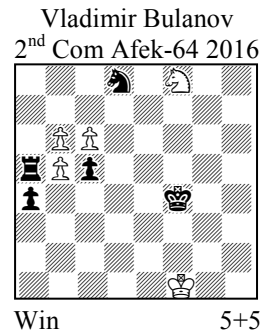
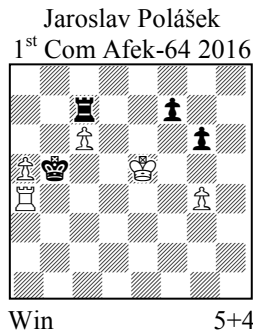
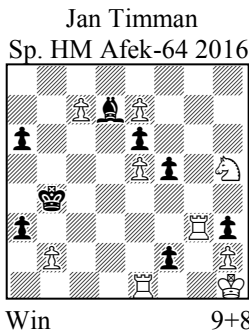
3rd HM, Árpád Rusz, Romania: A spectacular yet logical manoeuvre of a fearless white king to open up the a-file for the final mate. **1.♜f3! ♙g7+ 2.♜xd5 ♚c3+!3.♜xc3 ♜d7+ 4.♜c4!** Thematic try: 4.♜xc5? ♙xd4+ 5.♜xd4 ♜a7+ 6.♜c4 ♜xa4+ 7.♜c3 ♜a1+ 8.♜d3 ♜d1+ 9.♜e3 ♜g1+ 10.♜e4 ♜g4+ 11.♜e5 ♜g7+ 12.♜d5 ♜d7+ 13.♜c5 ♜a7+ perpetual check. Loss of time 4.♜e4 ♜g4+ 5.♜d3 ♜d1+ 6.♜c4 ♜xa4+ **4..♜xa4+ 5.♜d5!** 5.♜xc5? ♙xd4+ 6.♜d6+ ♙xc3 7.♖xc3+ ♜b7 = (7..♜b8? 8.♖h8+ ♜b7 9.♖c7+ ♜b6 10.♖b8+ ♜a6 11.♖a8+ +-) (7..♜d8? 8.♖h8+ +-) **5..♜d7+ 6.♜xc5! ♙xd4+ 7.♜b4+!! ♙xc3+ 8.♖xc3+ ♜b7 9.♖b5+ ♜a6 10.♖a3#** The mate is possible only because the harmful a-pawn has disappeared.

4th HM, Martin Minski, Germany: Without the queens it would have been the good old 5..Bh3!! draws. With the queens on the board the astounding 5..♜h3+!! 6.g3!! wins. Truly amusing! 1.♖d5+! 1.c8=♙? ♙xe6+ 2.♖d5+ ♙xd5+ 3.♜c2 ♜c6+ 4.♜xc6 ♙xc6 5.♙xe5 ♙xg2!(5..♜xe5? 6.g3 +-) 6.♙xg2 ♜xe5 =) (1.♖b4+? ♜e3!2.exf7 (2.c8=♙ ♙xe6+ =) 2..♜xf7+ 3.♖c4 ♙xc7 =) (1.♙xe5? ♙xe6+ = **1..♜xd5** 2.c8=♙ (2.exf7? ♜f5!)=) **2..♜xe6** 2..♙xe6 3.♜c5+ ♜e4+ 4.♜b4 /♜a3 ♙xh2 5.♙f2+ ♜f4 6.♜d4+ ♜g5 7.♙e4+ ♜h6 8.♜h8+ ♜h7 9.♜xh7+ ♜xh7 10.♙g5+ +- **3.♜c4+!** 3.♜xe6+? ♙xe6 4.♙xe5 ♙xe5+ 5.♜c3 ♙h3! = (or 5..♜e4 6.♜d2 ♙h3! =) (3.♙f4+? ♜d6+! (3..♙xf4? 4.♙c4+ +-)) 4.♙xe6 ♙xe6+ 5.♜xe6+ ♜xe6 = **3..♜d6** **4.♙xe5 ♜xe5** 4..♜xe5 5.♜xf7+- **5.♜c3!** 5.♜xe6+? ♙xe6+ 6.♜c3 ♙h3! = (or 6..♜e4 7.♜d2 ♙h3! =) (5.♜b4? ♜b6+ 6.♜b5+ ♜xb5+ 7.♙xb5 ♜d4! = (or 7..♙d5 8.g3 ♜d4! =) **5..♜h3+!!** 5..♜xc4+ 6.♙xc4 +-) (5..♜d5 6.♜xd5+ ♙xd5 7.g3 +-) (5..♜f6 6.♜d4+ +- **6.g3!!** 6.gxh3? ♙xc4 = 6.♜d3? ♜xh2 7.♜d4+ ♜f5 8.♙d3+ ♜g5 9.♜g7+ ♜h4 10.♜f6+ ♜g3 11.♜f3+ ♜h4 12.♜xf7 ♜xg2 = **6..♙xc4** 6..♜xh2 7.♜f4+ /♜d4+ ♜e6 8.♙c4+ +- **7.♙xh3** +-)

5th HM, Richard Becker, USA: A lovely pair of model mates with the white knights exchanging roles. Though both mate pictures are known they seem to have been combined here for the first time. **1.♙e2+** 1.♙xg8? ♜xd4 = **1..♜c2** 1..♜d3 2.♙f4+ ♜c2 (Black has lost a tempo) 3.♙xg8 ♜d1 4.d6 e2 5.♙xe2 ♜xe2 6.d7 (♜c5) and White will win the ♜e2-♜d1 ending **2.♙g4** (Try 2.♙xg8? ♜d1 3.♙f1 (3.♙g3 e2 4.♙xe2 ♜xe2 and Black will be in time to draw the ♜e2-♜d1 ending) 3.♜e1 4.♙g3 e2 5.♙xe2 ♙f4 =) (An intense try 2.♙e4? ♜d1!(2..♙e7+? 3.♜c5 ♙f5 4.d6 ♙a5 5.♙f1 ♜d1 6.♙d2g3 (♙4g3) ♙xg3 7.♙xg3 ♜e1 8.♜d4!e2 9.♙xe2 f1=♙ 10.♙xf1 ♜f2 11.♙f5 ♜xf1 12.♜c4 ♜f2 13.♙d4 ♙d8 14.♙c6 +-) 3.♙d4 (3.♙4g3 ♙e7+ 4.♜c5 ♙f5 =) (3.♙f4 ♙e7+ 4.♜c5 ♙f5 = (Also 4..♙b4+ 5.♜xb4 ♙xd5+ =)) (3.♙f1 ♜e1 (Or, first 3..♙e7+ 4.♜c5 ♙f5 5.d6 ♜e1 6.♙4g3 (♙2g3) ♙xg3 etc.) 4.♙4g3 (♙2g3) ♙e7+ 5.♜c5 ♙f5 6.d6 ♙xg3 7.♙xg3 e2 (♙c3) +-)) (3.♙2g3 ♙e7+ 4.♜c5 ♙g6

(♙e1) (♙c1) =) 3. ♖f6!(3. ♗e7+? 4. ♖c5 ♗xd5 (4. ♗g6 5.d6 ♗f4 6. ♙f3+ ♙e1 7.d7 +-)) 5. ♖xd5 e2 (5. ♙e1 6. ♗f3+ +-)) 6. ♗xf2+ ♙e1 7. ♗d3+ (♗e4) +-)) 4. ♗g3 (4. ♗xf6 e2 (4. ♙c3? 5. ♙f3+ ♙e1 6. ♗c2+ ♙d2 7. ♗e4+ ♙xc2 8. ♙e2 +-)) 5. ♗xe2 ♙xe2 6. ♗h5 (6. ♗e4 ♙f4 =) 6. ♗f1=♗! (=) (4. ♙f3+ ♙e1 (4. ♙c1? 5. ♗e2+ ♙c2 6. ♗4g3 ♙c3 7. ♗xc3 +-)) 5. ♗c2+ ♙f1 6. ♗g3+ ♙g1 7. ♙e2 f1=♗ 8. ♗xf1 ♙f2 =) 4. ♙c3!5. ♗df5 e2 6. ♙f3 f1=♗ 7. ♗xf1 ♙e1 8. ♗lg3 ♙f2 9. ♙xe2 ♙e5! =) **2.. ♙d1** (2. ♗e7+ 3. ♖c5 ♗f5 4.d6 (4. ♙f1? ♙c1 5. ♗d4+ ♙d2 =) 4. ♙d1 5. ♙f1 (Also 5.d7 ♙a5 6. ♙f1 ♙e1 7. ♗h2 +-)) 5. ♙e1 6. ♗h2 +-)) **3. ♙f1!** (3. ♗d4? ♗e7+ (Also 3. ♗h6 4. ♙f3+ ♙c1 =) 4. ♖c5 ♗xd5 5. ♖xd5 ♙e1 =) (3. ♗g3? ♗e7+ (Also 3. ♙e1 4. ♗e5 f1=♗ 5. ♙xf1 ♙f2 =) 4. ♖c5 ♗g6 5.d6 ♙e1 6. ♗h2 (6.d7 ♗f8 =) 6. ♗f4 7. ♖b5 e2 8.d7 ♗e6 =) (3. ♗f4? ♗e7+ (♗h6) =) **3.. ♙e1** (3. ♗f6 (♗h6) 4. ♗xf6 (♗xh6) ♙e1 5. ♗g3 +-)) **4. ♗h2 ♙b4** (4. ♗e7+ 5. ♖c5 ♗g6 (5. ♗f5 6.d6 +-)) 6.d6 (Or, first ♗g3 ♗f4 7. ♗f3+ ♙d1 8. ♗d4 ♙a5 9.d6 etc.) 6.. ♙a5 7. ♗g3 (7. ♗d4? ♗f4 8. ♖b5 ♙d8 9. ♗df3+ ♙d1 10. ♗g4 e2 11. ♗xf2+ ♙c2 12. ♙h3 ♙c3 =) 7. ♗f4 8. ♗f3+ ♙d1 9. ♗d4 +-)) **5.d6!** 5. ♗g3? ♗e7+ 6. ♙d7 ♗xd5 =) (5. ♗f4? ♗e7+ 6. ♙d7 ♗f5 7. ♙a6 ♗h4!(7. ♙d1? 8. ♙e2+ ♙d2 9. ♗f3+ ♙c3 10. ♗h5 ♗d6 11. ♗g3 ♙c5 12. ♖e6 +-)) (7. ♙f8? 8. ♗f3+ ♙d1 9. ♙e2+ ♙c2 10. ♗h5 ♙e7 11. ♖e6 +-)) 8. ♖e6 (8. ♗d3+ ♙d1 9. ♗xb4 e2 10. ♙xe2+ ♙xe2 11. ♖e6 ♗f3 =) 8..e2 9. ♙xe2 (9. ♗xe2 f1=♗ 10. ♗xf1 ♙xf1 =) 9. ♙d2 = **5.. ♙xd6 6. ♙xd6** with two variations:

- A) 6.. ♗f6 7. ♗g3 ♗e4+ 8. ♗xe4 e2 9. ♗c3!exf1=♗ 10. ♗f3# model mate.
 B) 6.. ♗h6 7. ♗g3 ♗f5+ 8. ♗xf5 e2 9. ♗f3+! ♙xf1 10. ♗e3# model mate)

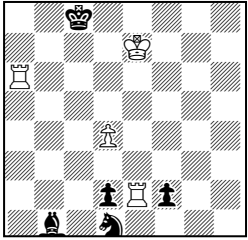


Special HM, Jan Timman, Netherlands: Three different underpromotions, even in one line of play, are by no means a novelty. However, here we witness the Phoenix theme in action following the double rook sacrifice as well as a "normal" game-like follow up with the Rook still required for precision. **1. ♙e4+! fxe4 2. bxa3+ ♙a5 3. ♙f3!3. ♙g1? e3 4.c8=♗ ♙xc8 3..exf3 4. ♗g3 f1=♗+! 5. ♗xf1 f2 6.e8=♙!** Variation A: **6.. ♙xe8 7.c8=♙! ♙a4 8. ♗e3 ♙b6 9. ♗d5+! ♙a5 10. ♙f8 ♙c6 11. ♙xf2 ♙xd5+ 12. ♙g1 +-** Variation B: **6.. ♙c8 7. ♙c6 ♙b6 8. ♙g2 ♙b7 9.c8=♗+! ♙xc8 10. ♙xh3 +-**

1st commendation, Jaroslav Polásek, Czech Republic: A fine logical Rook ending inspired by an old Mandler (HHdbV 56524) but in fact significantly improving on that source of inspiration. **1. ♙a2!!** Thematic try: 1. ♙a1?! ♙xc6 2.a6 f6+ 3. ♙d5 ♙xa6 4. ♙b1+ ♙a4! ZZ 1. ♙a3?! ♙xc6 2.a6 f6+ 3. ♙d5 ♙xa6 4. ♙b3+ ♙a5! 5. ♖c5 (5. ♙b1 ♙b6) 5. ♙a4 6. ♙b1 ♙e6 = **1.. ♙xc6 2.a6! 2.g5? ♙e6+ 3. ♙d5 ♙a6 4. ♙f2 ♗e7 5. ♙d6 ♙e6+ 6. ♙d7 ♙e5 = 2..f6+! 3. ♙d5 ♙xa6 4. ♙b2+ ♙a4 5. ♙b1! ZZ f5 5..g5 6. ♙a1+ ♙b5 7. ♙xa6 ♙xa6 8. ♖e6 or 5.. ♙a5+ 6. ♖c4 6.g5 and wins f4 7. ♙a1+ 7. ♖e4 also wins 7.. ♙b5 8. ♙xa6 ♙xa6 9. ♙e4 +-**

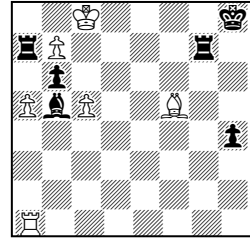
2nd commendation, Vladimir Bulanov, Russia: A pleasant synthesis of two ancient motives: pawns dominating pieces in the spirit of the evergreen Ortueta- Sanz (Madrid, 1933), and the white king's grand tour to the upper queenside. **1.c7 1. ♗e6+? ♗xe6 2.c7 a3!3.c8=♗ a2 4. ♙b8+ ♙f5 -+ 1.. ♙a8 2. ♗e6+! 2.cxd8=♗ ♙xd8 3. ♗e6+ ♙f3 4. ♗xd8 a3 5.b7 a2 2.. ♗xe6 2.. ♙f3 3. ♗xd8 a3 4.b7 3.b7! ♗xc7 4.b6! ♙h8 4. ♙b8 5.bxc7 ♙xb7 6.c8=♗ database mate in 35 5.bxc7 ♙f3 6. ♙e1 ♙e3 7. ♙d1 ♙d3 8. ♙c1 ♙c3 9. ♙b1 ♙h1+ 10. ♙a2 ♙h2+ 11. ♙a3 ♙h1 12. ♙xa4 ♙c4 13. ♙a5 ♙a1+ 14. ♙b6 +-**

Pavel Arestov
3rd Com Afek-64 2016



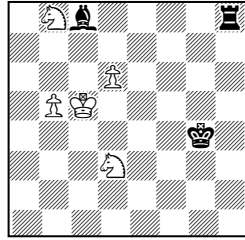
Win 4+5

M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
4th Com Afek-64 2016



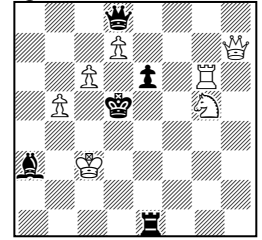
Draw 6+6

Luis M. Gonzales
5th Com Afek-64 2016



Win 5+3

Daniel Keith
Sp. Com Afek-64 2016



Win 7+5

3rd commendation, Pavel Arestov, Russia: The white rook is thrice given away on an attacked square. Though in all three such moments the Rook is clearly "taboo", these only moves are still pretty impressive. **1.♖f6!** 1.♖c6+? (♖a8) ♖b7 2.♖f6 (♖f8) ♖f5!! 3.♖xf5 ♖e3! 4.♖xe3 d1=♖ 5.♖xf2 ♖xd4 = **1..♖e3!** 1..♖f5 ♖5 2.♖xf5 ♖e3 3.♖f8+ ♖b7 4.♖xd2 + **2..♖f8+!** 2.♖xd2? f1=♖ 3.♖xf1 ♖xf1 4.♖d1 ♖e3 5.♖xb1 ♖f5+ 6.♖f6 ♖xd4 7.♖e5 ♖c6+ = **2..♖c7** 2..♖b7 3.♖xd2 f1=♖ 4.♖xf1 ♖xf1 5.♖b2+ ♖c6 6.♖xb1 ♖e3 7.♖e6 +- **3..♖xd2 f1=♖** **4.♖xf1 ♖xf1 5.d5!!** A pawn is more important than the rook! 5.♖d1? ♖e3 6.♖xb1 ♖f5+ = **5..♖f5!** 5..♖xd2 6.d6+ check, b♖ on c7, that's why it was 2.♖f8+! ♖c6 7.d7 +- **6.♖d3!!** 6.d6+? ♖c6 (♖b6) 7.♖2 ♖e3 8.♖f3 ♖d5+ = with two variations:

6..♖g4 6..♖xd3 7.d6+ +- 6..♖c8 (♖d7) 7.♖c3+ ♖b8 8.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 9.d6 +- **7.♖f3!!** A pawn is more important than the rook! 7.♖b3 ♖d2 8.♖d3 ♖f1 - loss of time **7..♖d2** 7..♖xf3 8.d6+ +- **8.♖f2!** 8.♖d3? ♖f1 9.♖f3 ♖d2 - loss of time or 8.♖f4? ♖h3 9.♖d4 ♖f1 10.♖d3 ♖g4 - loss of time **8..♖b3** 8..♖c4 9.♖c2 +- 8..♖e4 9.♖f4 +- 8..♖f3 9.♖xf3! ♖xf3 10.d6+ +- **9.♖f4!** 9.♖c2+? ♖b6! 10.♖b2 ♖c5 11.♖xb3 ♖xd5 = 9.d6+? ♖c6 = **9..♖c8** 9..♖h3 10.♖c4+ +- **10.♖c4** + wins.

6..♖h2 7.♖c3+! ♖b6 8.d6 ♖g4 **9.♖f3!** ♖h6 9..♖c8 10.♖f8 ♖b7 11.♖xc8 ♖xc8 12.d7+ +- **10.d7!** And here a rook is more important than the pawn! ♖xd7 **11.♖xd7 ♖c5** 11..♖g4 12.♖d6 +- **12.♖e6!** ♖g4 **13.♖f5!** wins 13.♖f5+? ♖c6 14.♖f3 ♖c5 - loss of time

4th commendation, Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely, Slovakia: Another fine demonstration of pawns taming pieces. **1.♖h1** 1.b8=♖? ♖g8# 1.♖d1? ♖a6! 2.♖d8+ ♖g8 3.♖xg8+ ♖xg8 4.c6 bxa5 +- **1..♖a6!** threat 2.- ♖a8 mate 1..♖e7 2.♖xh4+ ♖g8 3.axb6 ♖axb7 4.♖e4 ♖bd7 5.c6 ♖d6 6.b7 ♖xc6 7.b8=♖ ♖e8+ 8.♖c7 ♖xb8 9.♖xd6 = EGTB 1..♖axb7 2.♖xh4+ ♖g8 3.♖e6+ ♖f8 4.♖h8+! ♖e7 5.♖xb7 = **2.♖xh4+** ♖g8 **3.♖e6+** ♖f8 **4.♖f4+** ♖e8 4..♖e7 5.♖c4 ♖xb7+ 6.♖b8 ♖xa5 7.♖xb7 bxc5 8.♖b6 ♖a8 9.♖xc5 = EGTB **5.♖d7+!** ♖xd7 5..♖e7 6.c6 bxa5 7.♖d4 ♖g6 8.♖c7 = **6.♖e4+** ♖e7 6..♖f7 7.♖xd7 ♖xb7+ 8.♖d6 bxa5 9.c6 ♖a7 10.♖c5 ♖c8 11.♖b6 ♖a8 12.♖a4 = **7.♖xe7+** ♖xe7 **8.axb6!** A 8.cxb6? ♖xb7+ 9.♖c7 ♖xa5 10.♖xb7 ♖d7 +- EGTB **8..♖xb7+** (B 8..♖xb7 9.c6 ♖d7+ B1 (9..♖xb6+ B2 10.♖c7 ♖b1 stalemate) 10.b7 (10.♖b8? ♖d6 11.♖c7 ♖b5! +- EGTB) 10..♖d1 11.♖c7!(11.♖b8? ♖xb7! 12.cxb7 ♖d7 +- EGTB) 11..♖xb7 12.cxb7 ♖c1+ 13.♖b6 draw, EGTB - same material unbalance as initial.) (8..♖a8+ 9.♖c7 ♖xb7 10.♖xb7 = EGTB) **9.♖c7!** 9.♖b8? ♖a5! 10.♖xb7 ♖xc5 +- EGTB **9..♖a5!** **10.c6!** ♖xc6 **11.♖xc6** ♖a1 **12.b7** ♖b1 **13.♖c7** ♖c1+ **14.♖b6!** draw, EGTB same material unbalance as initial. Meredith. Multiple draws. Mates. Stalemate. Surprise after 8.axb6! - despite heavy material advantage black cannot win.

5th commendation, Luis M. Gonzales, Spain: A couple of surprising knight moves highlight this game-like battle. **1.b6!** 1.♖c6? ♖f5! 2.♖d7 ♖xd3 3.♖e5+ ♖f5 4.♖xd3 ♖c8+! 5.♖d5 ♖b8! = **1..♖f5!** 2.♖c6! (2.♖c6? ♖f6! 3.♖e7 ♖b7 4.♖f4 ♖f7!) (2.d7? ♖xd7! 3.♖xd7 ♖e6 4.♖3e5 ♖c8+ 5.♖d4 ♖d6 =) **2..♖e4!** 3.♖c5+ ♖d4 **4.♖bd7!** 4.♖cd7? ♖h1 5.♖c7 ♖d5! 6.♖f6+ ♖e6 7.♖xc8 ♖xd6 = **4..♖h6!** 4..♖h7 5.♖e6+ ♖c3 6.♖f6! ♖h2 7.b7 ♖xb7+ 8.♖xb7 ♖c4 9.♖c7! ♖h8 10.♖c6! ♖f8 11.♖fe8 +- 4..♖xd7+ 5.♖xd7 ♖c8+ 6.♖b7 +- **5.♖c7!** 5.♖b3+? ♖c4! 6.♖d2+ ♖d3! 7.♖b3 ♖c4 = **5..♖d5** **6.♖e4!** 6.♖d3? ♖xd7! 7.b7 ♖h8 8.♖f4+ ♖c5! 9.♖xd7 ♖b6 = **6..♖h8!** 6..♖xe4 7.♖xc8 ♖xd6 8.b7 ♖h6 9.♖d8 ♖h8+ 10.♖e7 ♖d5 11.♖f8 +- **7.♖ef6+!** 7.♖c3+? ♖c4! = 7.♖df6+? ♖e5! = **7..♖e6** **8.♖h5!!** ♖xd7 8..♖xh5 9.♖f8+ ♖f7 10.♖xc8 ♖h8 11.d7 +- **9.♖f4+** ♖f5 **10.♖xd7 ♖xf4** **11.♖c7!** ♖e5 **12.d7!** 12.b7? ♖e6 13.d7 ♖e7 = **12..♖d5** **13.b7** +-

Special commendation, Daniel Keith, France: The underpromotion and the following play are unfortunately anticipated; however the introduction is superb and deserves a special distinction. **1.♖d3!** 1.♖b3? ♖e3+! 2.♖c2 ♖e2+ 3.♖d1 ♖e1+! (3..♖d2+? 4.♖e1! ♖a5 5.d8=♖+ +-) 4.♖xe1 ♖a5+ 5.♖f2 ♖d2+ 6.♖f3 ♖d1+ =) (1.♖c2? ♖e2+ 2.♖d3 ♖d2+! 3.♖xd2 ♖a5+ 4.♖e2 ♖xb5+ 5.♖f3 ♖f1+ =) **1..♖b6!** 1..♖d1+ 2.♖e2 (2.♖c2? ♖c1+ 3.♖b3 ♖c3+! = 2..♖e1+ 3.♖f3! ♖f1+ 4.♖g2 ♖g1+ 5.♖xg1 +- **2.d8=♖** +

♟xd8 3.♘xe6!! (3.♖d7+? ♟xd7 4.cxd7 ♗e7=) (3.♘f3? ♜c5+ 4.♖d7 ♖d1+!=) (3.♘f7? ♖d1+!4.♞e2 ♖d2+!5.♞f1 (5.♞xd2 ♖a5+ 6.♞d1 ♖a4+=) 5..♖d1+ 6.♞g2 ♖d2+ 7.♞h3 ♖d3+ 8.♞g4 (8.♞g3 ♖xg3+ 9.♞xg3 ♖c7+ 10.♞f3 ♜c5=) 8..♖d4+ 9.♞h3 ♖d3+=) **3..♖xe6!** (3..♖d1+ 4.♞e2!(4.♞c2? ♖c1+ 5.♞b3 ♖c3+!6.♞xc3 ♖a5+ 7.♞d3 ♖xb5+=) 4..♖e1+ 5.♞xe1!♖a5+ 6.♞f1 ♖xb5+ 7.♞f2!♗c5+ 8.♘xc5 +-) **4.c7** 4.♖h5+? ♞d6 5.♖g7 ♖e7= **4..♖e8** 4..♖e3+ 5.♞c2!+- **5.♖xe6** (5.♖h1+? ♜c5!6.♖xe6 ♖xb5+!7.♞e4 ♖b7+ 8.♞f4 (8.♞f5 ♖xh1 9.c8=♖+ ♞d4!)=) 8..♖xc7+!= e.g. 9.♖e5+ ♞b6 10.♖b1+ ♞a7=) **5..♖xb5+!** 5..♖xe6 6.♖h1+ ♜c5 7.♖c6+ +- **6.♖e3** 6.♞d2? ♖b4+ 7.♞e2 ♖g4+ = **6..♗c5+!** 6..♗c1+ 7.♞f2!+- **7.♞f4** 7.♞f3? ♖f1+= **7..♗d6+** 7..♖c4+ 8.♞g5 ♖c1+ 9.♞g6 +- **8.♖xd6+!** 8.♞g4? ♖a4+!9.♞h5 ♖d1+= **8..♞xd6 9.c8=♘+!!** Phoenix (9.c8=♖? Phoenix ♖e5+!10.♞f3 ♖f6+ 11.♞g2 ♖g5+ 12.♞h1 ♖d5+=) (9.c8=♖? ♖c4+ (9..♖e5+ 10.♞g4 ♖e4+ 11.♖xe4 stalemate) 10.♖xc4 stalemate) **9..♞c5 10.♖e7+ ♞d4 11.♖e3+ ♞d5 12.♖e5+ ♞c6** 12..♞c4 13.♘d6+ +- **13.♘a7+** +-