



The 6th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section D – Endgame Studies

Final award by

Harold van der Heijden

MMXVIII

Participants

D01	B. Djurašević (SRB)	D18	A. Sochnev (RUS)
D02	M. Hlinka (SVK)	D19	S. Kindermann (DEU)
D03	S. Didukh (UKR)	D20	L. Katsnelson (RUS)
D04	A. Avni (ISR)	D21	E. Kopylov (RUS)
D05	J. A. Garzón (ESP)	D22	A. Avedisián (URY)
D06	V. Samilo (UKR)	D23	S. S. Nielsen (DNK)
D07	A. Pallier (FRA)	D24	O. Pervakov (RUS)
D08	L. Kekely (SVK)	D25	A. Gasparyan (ARM)
D09	E. Wyckoff (USA)	D26	D. Hlebec (SRB)
D10	Á. Ruzs (ROU)	D27	M. Minski (DEU)
D11	L. Topko (UKR)	D28	L. M. González (ESP)
D12	S. Kasparyan (ARM)	D29	D. Gatti (ITA)
D13	P. Arestov (RUS)	D30	V. Syzonenko (UKR)
D14	D. Keith (FRA)	D31	K. Barikbin (IRN)
D15	V. Kalashnikov (RUS)	D32	G. Hadzi-Vaskov (MKD)
D16	V. Tarasiuk (UKR)	D33	B. Shleyfman (RUS)
D17	A. Skripnik (RUS)		

I thank the organizers for the honourable invitation to judge this major tourney.

Following that, something must have gone wrong, because I saw my name listed as a judge for the endgame study section in several announcements before I had accepted (or declined!) the job.

The tourney director provided me with 33 anonymous entries. I had to disqualify one entry (**D21**) which had been sent to me for a previous tourney in which I acted as tourney director, so I knew the identity of the composer. This violates the rule of a formal tourney.

Further, five entries proved to be unsound:

D07: 9.♙g2 ♘e6 10.♖g7 ♘f5 11.♙f1 ♙b1 and now 12.♙c7 ♙:c2 13.c4 ♙d1 14.♙d3+ ♘g5 15.♖f7. In the 10...♘c5 main line there is another cook: 13.♙:f2.

D12: 3.♘c8 ♙:a5 is a winning position (7EGTB), e.g. 4.♘c7 wins. Another cook is the thematic try (!): 5.♙e1+ ♘c5 and now e.g. 6.♙c3.

D14: Cooked by 1.♖h5 ♗d8 2.♖h7+ ♙c7+ 3.♖:c7+ ♗:c7 4.♙c3 (7EGTB), or here: 1...♗a7 2.♖h7+ ♙c7+ 3.♖:c7+ ♘:c7 4.♙d5+ (7EGTB).

D22: In addition to the duals (12.♗g6, 12.♗g7) mentioned by the author, White can win by playing f5-f6 at several instances. E.g. 19.f6 (20.f6, 21.f6, 22.f6) 19...e:f6 20.♘d3 ♘e1 21.h4 ♘f2 22.♘e4 ♘g3 23.♘f5 (the pointe of f5-f6) 23...♙h6+ 24.♘:f6.

D24: Instead of the dual 12.♙e5 (mentioned by the author), White also wins when he gives up his f-pawn. E.g. 12.♘f7 (also 12.♙e7) 12...♙:f4 13.♙e7 ♙e2 (the b♘ cannot escape: 13...♘h6 14.♙d2 ♘g5 15.♙d5) 14.♙g7 ♙f4 and now e.g. 15.♙g8 ♙d5 16.♙e5 c3 17.♙g7 c2 18.♙b2 ♙b4!? (18...♙e3/f4 19.♙f6+ ♘h6 20.♙c1) 19.♙f6+ ♘h8 20.♙d7+ ♘h7 21.♙g7 and mate.

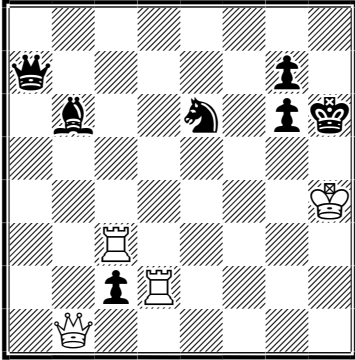
One study suffered from a major anticipation:

D25: Roxlau HHdbV#16170.

The overall level of the tourney was good, with only the gold medal study really standing out. In my view, a good study should always have at least one surprising move (and other artistic features like an idea, flow, economy, difficulty). A position with unique but obvious/normal winning moves is a technical ending rather than an artistic study.

In quite some of the studies with excellent moves in the award, there are passive pieces including pieces that are captured without playing.

1st Prize – Gold medal
 VLADISLAV TARASIUK
 Ukraine



+

4+7

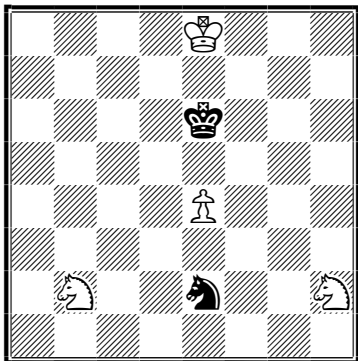
1. ♖h1! (1. ♜h2? ♜b8/♜a5 and White cannot make progress)
 1... ♜f4 2. ♜c8 ♜h7! (2... ♜e7+ 3. ♜g4+ ♜h5 4. ♜h8 mate) 3. ♜g5+ ♜h5 At first sight, black is safe now. But White has a surprising rook sacrifice: 4. ♜h8+! ♜h8 5. ♜g6 ♜a5 Now White seems to win by 6. ♜e4 which threatens 7. ♜e8 mate. But Black counters with a queen sacrifice: 6... ♜g5+! 7. ♜g5 c1♜ 8. ♜e8+ ♜h7 9. ♜h5+ ♜g8 10. ♜e8+ ♜h7 11. ♜e4+ and White seems to win after all (11... ♜g8 12. ♜g6 ♜g1+ 13. ♜g2 ♜f1 14. ♜e8+ ♜f8 15. ♜e6+ and mate), but 11... ♜g6! 12. ♜g6+ ♜h8 draws! But White has 6. ♜h2! c1♜! 7. ♜c1 (7. ♜h5+? ♜h5+ 8. ♜h5+ ♜h6+ draws, avoiding 8... ♜g8? 11. ♜d5+) 7... ♜a6! 8. ♜h5+ ♜g8 The point of 7... ♜a6! is that White cannot check on c4 of c8 now, and obviously threatens to fire the

♜+♜ battery. Now 9. ♜c6? with numerous threats, and pinning the b♜ looks promising, but Black escapes by 9. ♜c6? ♜d3+ 10. ♜f5 ♜g3+ 11. ♜g5 ♜d3+ with a positional draw. Instead White also sacrifices his other rook at h8! 9. ♜h8+! ♜h8 10. ♜h1+ ♜g8 11. ♜d5+ ♜h8 (11... ♜f8 12. ♜f7 mate). It is nonobvious that White wins here: 12. ♜d6! ♜c8 (12... ♜a2 13. ♜b8+! ♜g8 14. ♜h2+ ♜h7+ 15. ♜h7 mate, would also make a nice main line) 13. ♜h2+ ♜g8 14. ♜h7+ ♜f8 15. ♜h8+ wins.

This is a very entertaining study. White must sacrifice both his rooks at h8. After one has recovered from the surprise, White finishes off by the excellent quiet move 12. ♜d6! The inactive b♜b6 is a blemish, and also the initial position of the w♜ being attacked by the b♜c2 is a pity.

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2nd Prize – Silver medal
 ÁRPÁD RUSZ
 Romania



+ 4+2

The thematic try: 1. $\text{h}d3?$ $\text{h}f4!$
 2. $\text{h}c5+$ $\text{h}d6$ 3. $\text{h}d7$ $\text{h}e6$ 4. $e5+$
 $\text{h}d5$ 5. $\text{h}f7!$ $\text{h}c5$ 6. $\text{h}g4!$ $\text{h}:d7$ 7. $e6$
 $\text{h}b6$ 8. $\text{h}e3+$ (8. $e7$ $\text{h}c8$ 9. $e8$ ♖
 $\text{h}d6+$ draws) 8... $\text{h}c5$ 9. $\text{h}e7!$ $\text{h}c8+$
 10. $\text{h}d7$ $\text{h}b6+$ 11. $\text{h}d8$ $\text{h}c8!$
 12. $\text{h}c4!$ (12. $\text{h}:c8$ $\text{h}d6$) 12... $\text{h}a7!$
 (12... $\text{h}d5?$ 13. $\text{h}d7$) 13. $\text{h}a5$ (13. $e7$
 $\text{h}c6+$). This position, occurs,
 vertically mirrored, in the main
 line. The difference is asymmetry:
 13... $\text{h}c8!$ 14. $\text{h}c4$ (14. $\text{h}:c8$ $\text{h}d6$)
 14... $\text{h}a7$ (a similar square is not
 available in the main line) 15. $\text{h}e5$
 $\text{h}c8!$ 16. $\text{h}c4$ $\text{h}a7$ positional draw.

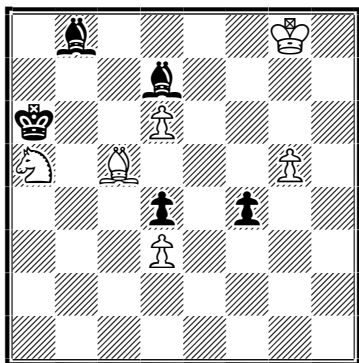
1. $\text{h}f3!$ $\text{h}d4!$ (knight sacrifice.
 1... $\text{h}g3$ 2. $e5$ $\text{h}f5$ 3. $\text{h}d3$ $\text{h}d6+$
 4. $\text{h}f8$ wins) 2. $\text{h}g5+$ (2. $\text{h}:d4+?$
 $\text{h}e5$) 2... $\text{h}f6$ 3. $\text{h}f7$ $\text{h}e6$ 4. $e5+$ $\text{h}f5$
 5. $\text{h}d7!$ (5. $\text{h}e7?$ $\text{h}g5$ 6. $\text{h}c4$ $\text{h}f3$
 draws) 5... $\text{h}g5$ 6. $\text{h}c4!$ knight
 sacrifice 6... $\text{h}:f7$ 7. $e6$ $\text{h}h6$ (7... $\text{h}f6$
 8. $e7$) 8. $\text{h}e3+!$ (8. $e7?$ $\text{h}g8$ 9. $e8$ ♖

$\text{h}f6+$ draws) 8... $\text{h}g5$ 9. $\text{h}e7!$ $\text{h}g8+$
 (9... $\text{h}f4$ 10. $\text{h}f8!$ wins) 10. $\text{h}f7$
 (10. $\text{h}f8?$ $\text{h}f6!$ draws) 10... $\text{h}h6+$
 11. $\text{h}f8$ (11. $\text{h}g7?$ ($\text{h}e7?$) $\text{h}g8(+)$
 12. $\text{h}f7$ $\text{h}h6+$ draws) wins.

We see a perfect symmetry
 study, i.e. symmetry of the initial
 position, but also with a unique
 solution and a unique refutation of
 the thematic try. Such studies
 might suffer from a mechanical
 solution, but here we see fine
 moves like 1... $\text{h}d4!$, 5. $\text{h}d7!$, and
 9. $\text{h}e7!$

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3rd Prize – Bronze medal
 ALEXEY SOCHNEV
 Russian Federation



+ 6+5

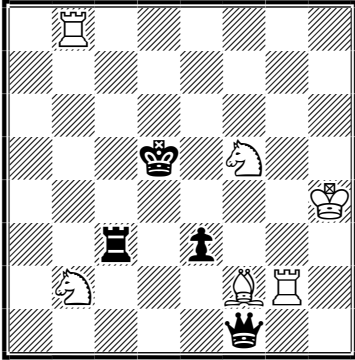
1. ♖c4 (1. ♖b3? ♙:d6 2. ♙:d6 ♙e6+ 3. ♗f8 ♙:b3 4. g6 ♗b5! 5. ♙e5 ♗c5 6. ♙:f4 ♗b4 7. ♙d2+, e.g. ♗a3 8. ♙c1+ ♗a2 draws)
 1... ♙e6+ 2. ♗h7! (Thematic try: 2. ♗h8, see move 12) 2... ♙:c4 (2... ♗b5 3. ♙:d4 ♗c6 4. g6 ♙:d6 5. ♙:d6 ♗:d6 6. g7 wins) 3. d:c4 d3! (3... ♙:d6 4. ♙:d4!) 4. d7 ♙c7 5. ♙d6! d2! (5... ♗b7 6. ♙:f4! ♗c6 7. g6 ♗:d7 8. g7 ♙:f4 9. g8 ♗ wins) 6. ♙:c7 d1 ♗ 7. d8 ♗ ♗:d8! 8. ♙:d8 f3 9. g6 f2 10. g7 f1 ♗ 11. g8 ♗ ♗f7+! (In the thematic try (2. ♗h8?) the w ♗ is now at h8, and it is a zz with WTM) In the present position, White plays 12. ♗h8! zz with BTM (avoiding 12. ♗:f7? stalemate) Now, White wins: 12... ♗h5+ 13. ♗g7 ♗g4+ 14. ♗f8 wins.

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seems to be original. The zugzwang position is remarkable. It is a pity that the less obvious move (2. ♗h8?) is the thematic try. The b ♗a6 does not play.

This shows us a good construction of a (non)-obvious stalemate, which surprisingly

1st Honourable Mention
 STEFFEN SLUMSTRUP NIELSEN
 Denmark



+ 6+4

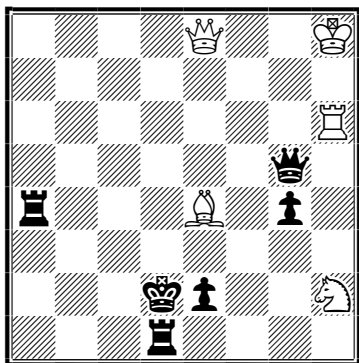
1. ♖d1! (1. ♖:e3+? ♜:e3 2. ♜g5+ ♜e5 3. ♜d8+, e.g. ♜e6 4. ♜e8+ ♜d7 draws. 1. ♜d8+? ♜e6 2. ♖:e3 ♜:e3 draws) 1... ♜h1+ (1... ♜:g2 2. ♖:e3+ wins) 2. ♜g3 ♜:d1!
 3. ♜d8+! Winning the queen (3. ♖:e3+? ♜e6 (♜e5) draws.
 3... ♜e4 4. ♖d6+! But it is too early to capture the queen: 4. ♜:d1? e2+ 5. ♜d3 ♜:d3+ 6. ♜g4 ♜d1 7. ♖g3+ ♜d3 draws. 4... ♜e5 5. ♖c4+ (5. ♖f7+? ♜f6 6. ♜:d1 e2+ draws)
 5... ♜e4 6. ♜:d1 e2+ 7. ♜d3! ♜:d3!
 8. ♖b2+! ♜d2+ (8... ♜c2+ 9. ♜f4 ♜:b2 10. ♖d4! wins) 9. ♜f4 e1 ♜ (9... ♜c2 10. ♖d4!) 10. ♖e3 mate.



that is passive except for the fact that it delivers half of the mate! The initial version was (probably) unsound, but the author managed to provide a quick correction.

The final double-check ideal midboard mate is nice. This study has some excellent moves: the key (1. ♖d1!), the nice knight manoeuvre 4. ♖d6+ 5. ♖c4+, and the surprise 7. ♜d3!. Unfortunately, we see another piece (w ♜g2)

2nd Honourable Mention
AMATZIA AVNI
Israel

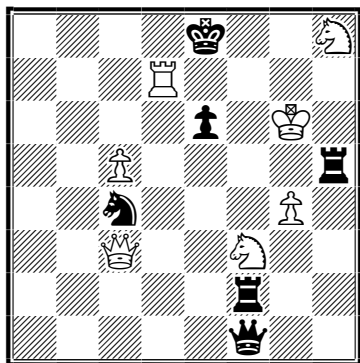


= 5+6

1. **♖d6+ ♖d4!** Black sacrifices his rook. If 1... ♘c3 2. ♖c6+ ♖c4 3. ♖c4+ ♘c4 4. ♗a4+, or 1... ♘e1 2. ♖d1+ ♖e:d1♗ 3. ♕f3+ ♘d2 4. ♕d1 draw. 2. **♖d4+ ♘c3** 3. **♖c4+!** A counter-sacrifice. If 3. ♗a4? ♗f6+ 4. ♘h7 ♖d4, or 3. ♖d3+? ♖d3 4. ♕d3 ♗h4+ 5. ♕h7 e1♗ win. 3... ♘c4 4. **♗a4+ ♘c3** 5. **♗c2+ ♘b4** 6. **♗b2+ ♘c5** (6... ♘a5 7. ♗c3+ ♘b6 8. ♗c6+ ♘a5 9. ♗c3+ draws) 7. **♗c2+ ♘d4** (7... ♘d6 8. ♗e2 ♖d2 9. ♗a6+ ♘e7 10. ♗a3+ ♖d6 11. ♕g4 ♗g4 12. ♗a7+ draws) 8. **♗e2 ♖d2** 9. **♗g4 ♖h2+** (9... ♗g4 10. ♕g4 ♘e4 11. ♕h6 draws) 10. **♕h7+!** ♗g4 stalemate.

The stalemate combination with the queen sacrifice is original (the exact stalemate is not). $w\mathfrak{u}h2$ is captured without playing. The study makes a pleasant impression with rook sacrifices in the introduction by both sides.

3rd Honourable Mention
DARKO HLEBEC
Serbia

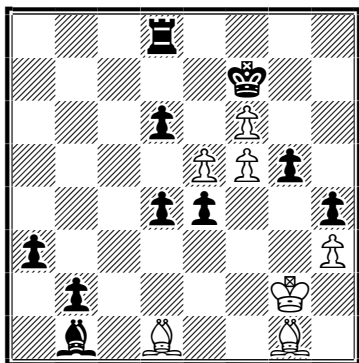


+ 7+6

1. **♗g7! ♕e5+!** 2. **♕e5 ♖f6+!** (After 2... ♖h6+ not 3. ♘h6? ♖h2+! 4. ♘g6 ♖h6+ 5. ♗h6 ♗f6+ 6. ♘f6 stalemate, but 3. ♗h6! ♖f6+ 4. ♘h7 ♖h6+ 5. ♘h6 wins) 3. **♗f6** (3. ♘h5? ♗h3+ quickly leads to a stalemate) 3... **♖h6+** 4. **♘h6 ♗h3+!** (4... ♗f6+ 5. ♘h7! ♗e5 6. ♖d8+ (♖e7+) wins) 5. **♗h4!** (5. ♘g6? ♗h6+ 6. ♘h6 stalemate) 5... **♗h4+** 6. **♘g6!** (6. ♘g7? ♗g5+ 7. ♕hg6 ♗e5+ (♗h6+) 8. ♕e5 stalemate) 6... **♗h8** 7. **♖d8+!** ♘e7! (7... ♘d8 8. ♕f7+ wins) 8. **♕c6** mate, avoiding 8. ♖h8? stalemate.

This is an adventurous study with a whole series of surprising moves: 1... ♕e5+, 2... ♖f6+, a refusal to capture a whole queen (4... ♗h3+), a queen sacrifice (5. ♗h4), and a rook sacrifice (6. ♖d8+), stalemate avoidance and a mate. Again, a passive piece ($w\mathfrak{u}h8$) is captured.

Special Honourable Mention
 LUIS MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ
 Spain



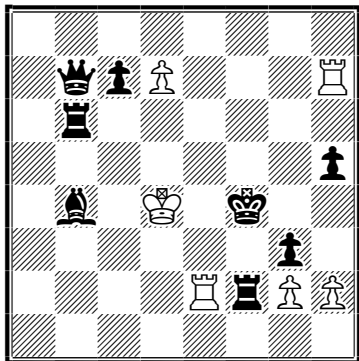
+ 7+10

1. ♖h5+ ♜g8! (1... ♜f8 2.e6 2.e6 ♜c8! (2... ♖a2 3. ♖f7+ ♜h7 4.e7 ♖:f7 5.e:d8 ♖ b1 ♖ 6. ♖f8 wins) 3.f7+ ♜f8 4.f6 ♜c2+ 5. ♜h1 ♜c7 6. ♖h2! (6.e7+? ♜:e7 7.f:e7+ ♜:e7 8. ♖h2 ♖d3 (♖a2) 9. ♖:d6+ ♜d7 10.f8 ♖ b1 ♖+ draws) 6... ♜c1+ 7. ♜g2 ♜c2+ 8. ♜f1 (♜g1) ♜c1+ 9. ♜f2! ♜c2+ (9...e3+ 10. ♜f3 ♜f1+ 11. ♜g4 ♜g1+ 12. ♖:g1 ♖f5+ 13. ♜:f5 b1 ♖+ 14. ♜:g5 ♖e4 15.e7+ ♖:e7 16.f:e7+ ♜:e7 17. ♖h2 a2 18. ♖:d6+ wins) 10. ♜e1 ♜c1+ 11. ♖d1! ♜c6 12.e7+! (12. ♖:d6+? ♜:d6 13.e7+ ♜:f7 14. ♖h5+ ♜:f6 15.e8 ♖, and e.g. 15... ♖d3 draws) 12... ♜:f7 13. ♖b3+! (13. ♖h5+? ♜:f6 14.e8 ♖ ♜c1+ 15. ♜f2 e3+ 16. ♜g2 ♜c2+ draws) 13...d5! 14. ♖:d5+ ♜:f6 15.e8 ♖ ♜c1+ 16. ♜f2! ♜c2+ 17. ♜g1 (♜f1) ♜c1+ 18. ♜g2 ♜c2+ 19. ♜h1 ♜c1+ 20. ♖g1! wins.

This is a curious study. The w ♜ has to shelter three times behind a w ♖ for the checks delivered by the b ♖. b ♖b1 remains passive in the main line.



1st Commendation
 MARTIN MINSKI
 Germany



+ 6+8

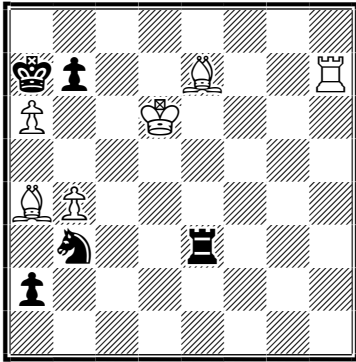
1. ♖f7+ ♔g4 2. h3+ ♔h4
 (2... ♔g5 3. d8♖+ ♖ff6 4. ♖e5+ ♔h4
 5. ♖:f6 c5+ 6. ♔e3 with a mate
 soon) 3. d8♖+ ♖bf6 4. ♖:f6 ♕e7!
 This sacrifice, in combination with
 the next move, is the point of
 Black's defence. Of course 4...c5+
 5. ♔c4 and mate to follow again.
 5. ♖:e7 c5+! 6. ♖:c5 Although the
 w♖/w♖ battery has been
 destroyed, Black, being a rook
 down seems to have no chance at
 all. But: 6... ♖f5! playing for
 stalemate. If White captures the
 rook, Black had a rabid queen. The
 w♖ which is under attack has no
 good move: 7. ♖c4? ♖:f6 8. ♔d3+
 ♔g5 9. ♖e5+ ♔h6 draws, or
 7. ♖b6? ♖d7+ 8. ♖d6 ♖a4+ 9. ♔d3
 ♖d5+! with perpetual check or
 stalemate. Of course 7. ♖e4+?
 ♖:e4 8. ♔:e4 ♖:c5 brings White
 nothing. But: 7. ♖b6! Now the b♖
 does not have a good square

(7... ♖d7+ 8. ♖d6 wins) 7... ♖d5+!
 8. ♔e3! (8. ♖:d5? ♖:b6+ 9. ♔e5
 ♖f6+! 10. ♔:f6 stalemate; 8. ♔e4?
 ♖h7+! 9. ♔:d5 ♖f5+ with
 stalemate to follow) 8... ♖d3+!
 9. ♔:d3 (9. ♔f4? ♖f7+) 9... ♖h7+
 (9... ♖a6+ 10. ♖c4+ wins, or
 9... ♖d5+ 10. ♖d4+) 10. ♖f5!
 (10. ♖e4+? ♖:e4+ 11. ♔:e4
 stalemate; 10. ♔d2? (♔d4?) ♖d3+!
 11. ♔:d3 stalemate) 10... ♖:f5+
 11. ♖e4+ ♔g5 12. h4 mate.

A study that one begins to
 appreciate better and better when
 trying to understand what is going
 on. Black sacrifices a bishop to set
 up a defence which is based on
 stalemate. On an open board both
 queens are attacked by a rook
 (7. ♖b6!, 7... ♖d5+!) and unable to
 move. White must sacrifice his
 queen (8. ♔e3!) and Black counters
 by sacrificing his last rook. Then
 stalemate seems inevitable, but
 after a stunning queen sacrifice,
 White can play a crosscheck and
 mates.



2nd Commendation
ANATOLY SKRIPNIK
Russian Federation

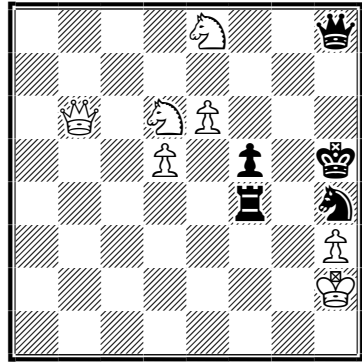


+ 6+5

1. ♖f6 ♘:a6 (1... ♜d3+ 2. ♙c7! ♘d4 3. a:b7 ♜c3+ 4. ♙d7 a1♙ 5. ♙:d4+ ♘:b7 6. ♙d8+! ♘a6 7. ♜a7 mate) 2. ♜h2 (After 2. ♙c7? a1♙ 3. ♙:a1 ♘:a1 White has nothing) 2... a1♙ 3. ♙:a1 ♘:a1 4. ♜a2! ♘b3 (4... ♙b6 5. ♜:a1 ♜e4 6. ♜b1 consolidates) 5. ♙c7 (5. ♙:b3+? ♙b5) 5... ♘a5 (5... ♘c1 6. ♜a1 ♘b3 7. ♜a3 ♜c3+ 8. ♙c6+ and mate) 6. ♙c6 b6 (6... b:c6 7. ♜:a5 mate. 6... ♜e7+ 7. ♙d6 ♜h7 8. ♜:a5+ ♙b6 9. ♜b5+ ♘a6 10. ♙e8 wins) 7. ♙b8 (7. ♙d7? ♜e7 8. b5+ ♘a7 draws) 7... ♜b3 8. b5+ ♜:b5 9. ♙b7 mate

A mate with two active self-blocks. Despite the fact that White plays various quiet and remarkable moves (2. ♜h2, 6. ♙c6, 7. ♙b8), Black is helpless. The whole idea looks familiar, but only the mate position is known (Stavrietsky HHdbV#21467).

3rd Commendation
OLEG PERVAKOV
Russian Federation



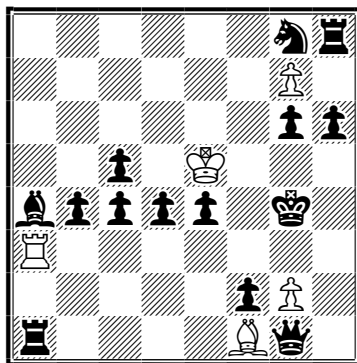
+ 7+5

1. e7 ♜f2+! (1... ♙g6 2. ♙g7+! ♙:g7 3. e8♙ or, 1... ♙f3+ 2. ♙g3 win) 2. ♙:f2 ♙e5+ 3. ♙h1! (3. ♙g1 ♙a1+ 4. ♙f1 ♙d4+ 5. ♙f2 ♙a1+ 6. ♙h2 ♙e5+ 7. ♙h1 loss of time) 3... ♙:d5+ (3... ♙a1+ 4. ♙g1! wins) 4. ♙g1! ♙f3+! (4... ♙d1+ 5. ♙h2 ♙f3+ 6. ♙g3 wins) 5. ♙f1 (5. ♙g2? ♙h4+! 6. ♙f1 ♙d1+ 7. ♙e1 ♙f3+ draws) 5... ♙h2+! 6. ♙:h2 (6. ♙e2? ♙a2+ 7. ♙e3 ♙a7+! draws) 6... ♙d1+ 7. ♙f2 (Loss of time: 7. ♙g2 ♙d5+ 8. ♙g3 ♙e5+! 9. ♙g2 ♙d5+ 10. ♙g1 ♙d1+ 11. ♙f2) 7... ♙d2+! (7... ♙c2+ 8. ♙g3! f4+ 9. ♙f3 ♙:h2 10. ♙g7+! ♙h6 11. ♙gf5+ ♙h7 12. e8♙ wins) 8. ♙g3! (8. ♙f3? ♙:h2 9. ♙g7+ ♙g5! draws) 8... f4+ 9. ♙f3 ♙e3+! (9... ♙:h2 10. ♙g7+! ♙h6 11. ♙gf5+ ♙h7 12. e8♙ wins) 10. ♙g2 f3+ 11. ♙g3 (11. ♙f1 ♙c1+ 12. ♙f2 ♙b2+! 13. ♙g3 ♙e5+ 14. ♙:f3 loss of time) 11... ♙e5+ 12. ♙:f3 ♙:h2

13. ♖g7+! (13. ♕f6+? ♜h4! 14.e8♖
 ♗g3+! 15. ♕e2 ♗g2+ 16. ♕d3 ♗f3+
 17. ♕c4 ♗:f6 draws) 13... ♜h6!
 (13... ♕g5 14. ♕e4+! ♜h4 15. ♕f5+
 ♕:h3 16. ♕g5 mate, or 13... ♜h4
 14. ♕gf5+ ♕:h3 15.e8♖ wins)
 14. ♕gf5+! (14.e8♖? ♗:h3+ draws;
 14. ♕df5+? ♜h7 15. ♕g3 ♕:g7
 draws) 14... ♜h7! 15. ♕g3! ♗:h3
 16. ♕df5! (16.e8♖? ♗f5+! 17. ♕g2
 ♗c2+ 18. ♕h3 ♗f5+ 19. ♕h2 ♗f2+!
 20. ♕h3 ♗f5+ 21. ♕g2 ♗c2+
 22. ♕e2 ♗g6+! draws) 16... ♗h2
 17. ♕e3! wins.

The last couple of moves of this study are remarkable, and during play there are some surprises (1... ♖f2+! 5... ♕h2+!) this study has too many checks.

Special Commendation
 VIKTOR SYZONENKO
 Ukraine



+ 5+14

1. ♕e2+ ♜h4 2. ♖h3+ ♕g5 Now
 3. ♖h5+? is not a mate, because h5
 is covered by b ♖g6. 3. ♖g3+ ♜h4
 4. ♖g4+ ♜h5 Now it looks like
 White quickly wins by 5. ♖f4+?
 ♕g5 6.g:h8♕ – threatening 6. ♕f7
 mate, but Black has 6... ♕e8. This
 not only covers f7, but, after
 7. ♖g4+ ♜h5 8. ♖:g6+ ♜h4 9. ♖g4+
 ♜h5 10. ♖g3+ ♜h4 11. ♖h3+ ♕g5,
 also square h5, and prevents
 12. ♖h5 mate. White must remove
 the b ♕a4: 5. ♖:e4+! ♕g5 6. ♖g4+
 ♜h5 7. ♖:d4+ ♕g5 8. ♖g4+ ♜h5
 9. ♖:c4+ ♕g5 10. ♖g4+ ♜h5
 11. ♖:b4+ ♕g5 12. ♖g4+ ♜h5
 13. ♖:a4+! ♕g5 14. ♖g4+ ♜h5
 Mission accomplished. So now:
 15. ♖f4+ ♕g5 16.g:h8♕!
 threatening 17. ♕f7 mate, which is
 effectively prevented by 16... ♖a7
 17. ♖g4+ ♜h5 18. ♖:g6+ Now we
 see the second function of the
 w ♕h8: it covers g6, and the w ♖ is

able to remove this pawn, and moreover, g6 is not accessible for the b[♙] later. 18... ♖h4 19. ♗g4+ ♘h5 20. ♗g3+ ♘h4 21. ♗h3+ ♘g5 22. ♗h5 mate!

Of course studies like this one are puzzles rather than artistic studies. However, I do like the idea that the Zwickmühle combination is used to replace a strong defence (6... ♗e8) by a weaker defence (16... ♗a7).