



GENS UNA SUMUS

The 9th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section D – Endgame studies

Final award by

Oleg Pervakov

MMXXI

Participants

D01	Prusikin M. (GER)	D25	Gasparyan A. (ARM)
D02	Minski M. GER)	D26	Gatti D. (ITA)
D03	Abramenko S. (RUS)	D27	Raican P. (ROU)
D04	Topko L. (UKR)	D28	Sochnev A. (RUS)
D05	Stavrietsky A. (RUS)	D29	Kostyukov A. (RUS)
D06	Avni A. (ISR)	D30	Tkachenko S. N. (UKR)
D07	Arestov P. (RUS)	D31	Malyi I. (UKR)
D08	Nielsen S. (DNK)	D32	Gurgenidze D. (GEO)
D09	Varitsky A. (BLR)	D33	Aliiev I. (AZE)
D10	Muljadi P. (USA)	D34	Halski M. (POL)
D11	Sayman U. (TUR)	D35	Samilo V. (UKR)
D12	Neyshtadt V. (RUS)	D36	Osintsev S. (RUS)
D13	Timman J. (NLD)	D37	Tarasiuk V. (UKR)
D14	Syzonenko V. (UKR)	D38	Ruvalcaba J. J. G. (MEX)
D15	Mikitovics J. (HUN)	D39	Østmoe G. S. T. (NOR)
D16	Egorov E. (KAZ)	D40	Sergiienko A. (UKR)
D17	Didukh S. (UKR)	D41	Tang X. (CHN)
D18	Campioli M. (ITA)	D42	Yoo C. (USA)
D19	Dimitrov O. (BGR)	D43	Sprenger J. (GER)
D20	Palazon L. G. (ESP)	D44	Kozhakin V. (RUS)
D21	Pasman M. (ISR)	D45	Zilberstein D. (USA)
D22	Pallier A. (FRA)	D46	Ilić M. (SRB)
D23	González L. M. (ESP)	D47	Hlebec D. (SRB)
D24	García C. E. (VEN)	D48	Djurašević B. (SRB)

In the section D of 9th FIDE World Cup, 48 studies participated. Based on the quality of the submitted works and the status of the tourney, the judge decided to mark a third – 16, according to the “classical scheme”: Prizes, Honorable mentions, Commendations, Special distinctions. But at first I say about studies that did not qualify for the award.

Following studies may well be marked at other tourneys with at least Commendations or even higher: **D07, D09, D23, D25, D27, D30, D31, D33, D40.**

Shortly about rest:

D03. A final is well-known: J. Timman, «Schaakwerk» II 218, 1991;

D04. Weak introduction, simple and uninteresting final;

D10. The author wrongly estimated 6-pieces-position (!), despite an existence 7-pieces-base;

D11. The judge didn't see any study play;

D12. Too many pieces are involved for simple final;

D14. A play and a final do not cause any emotion;

D15, D22. Studies without ideas: White wins without any subtles;

D19. Illegal initial position;

D21. Many sacrifices, few impressions;

D24. Well-known idea from problem-genre – this idea has nothing to do in study-genre;

D29. The idea, although quite complex, is not new. Many static Pawns that is unnecessary in the final.

D32. A final “pick” is well-known by at least S. Belokon («Tidskrift for Schack», 1973, 1st Comm.).

D34. Interesting final, but unlucky introduction. I'll give the author a chance to work on the study again.

D35, D42. Clear idea is absent: the White somehow defended and did a draw.

D36. A final is quite amazing, but introduction is bad.

D38. There is second solution 4. ♖f6+ ♔h8 5. ♖e4, but in any case the study falls short of the World Cup.

D41. Mansubst with more than 120-moves forced solution. Too tedious and not very interesting, although a record for a study.

D44. Unsound 7... ♖h7+ according 7-pieces-base.

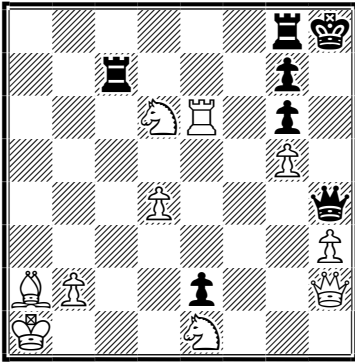
D45. A capture of undefended Black Rook on 1st move and another “baby pranks” sent this “study” to the trash can.

D46. Two sacrifices on the same square do not surpass the technical shortcomings of the study.

D48. Unlucky introduction, well-known final.

Here is a proposal award.

1st Prize – Gold medal
ALEKSANDR STAVRIETSKY
Russia



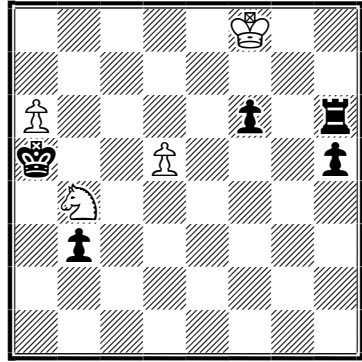
= 10+7

A quite playable position. White has a material advantage, but Black's threats seem more weighty. 1. ♖:e2? ♜c1+ 2. ♙b1 ♜a8+ is early – Black checkmates. That's why 1. ♙f7+! ♜h7! 2. ♖:e2 ♜c1+ 3. ♙b1 ♜a8+ 4. ♜a6 ♖e4! Defending a8 and g6 and attacking White Bishop and Queen – it's multifunctional move! 4... ♜:a6+? 5. ♖:a6 ♖e4 6. ♙d3 – Black loses. 5. ♙c2! Of course, not 5. ♖:e4??/ ♙d3?? ♜:a6#. 5... ♖:c2. In the case 5... ♖:e2 6. ♜:a8 ♜:b1+ 7. ♜:b1 ♖f1+ 8. ♜a2 ♖:f7+ White is saved by 9. b3! 6. ♖h5+!! g:h5 7. g6+! ♖:g6 [7... ♜g8? ♜:a8+] 8. ♙g5+ ♜h6 [8... ♜g8? 9. ♜:a8+] 9. ♙f7+ ♜h7 10. ♙g5+. Perpetual check by Knight that cannot be captured by Black Queen in view of diagonal or horizontal pin alternately.

Original, bright and unexpected final with clear and untiring play.

Excellent counterplay 4... ♖e4! and its refutation 5. ♙c2!, 6. ♖h5+!! A great example for a propaganda of creativity of composing studies.

2nd Prize – Silver medal
VLADISLAV TARASIUUK
Ukraine



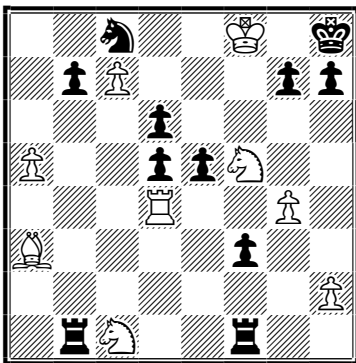
= 4+5

1. ♜g7 ♜g6+! 1... ♜b6 2. ♙d3 h4 3. ♜:h6 h3 4. d6 h2 5. ♙f2 b2 6. d7 with obvious draw. 2. ♜:g6 b2 3. a7 b1 ♖+ 4. ♜g7! ♖g1+ 5. ♜h8! But not 5. ♜f8? ♖c5+! 6. ♜g8 ♖c8+. 5... ♖:a7. The a7-pawn cannot be delayed, so the Black has to go under the fork. 6. ♙c6+ ♜b6 7. ♙:a7 ♜c5! Strongest. After 7... h4 8. ♙c8+ ♜c7 9. ♙e7 h3 10. ♙f5 h2 11. ♙g3 Knight catches up the Pawn. 8. ♙b5! Responding sacrifice from the White. Now 8. ♙c8? ♜:d5 9. ♙e7+ ♜e4(e6) loses. 8... ♜:b5. After 8... ♜:d5 the Knight comes from below: 9. ♙c3+ ♜d4 10. ♙e2+ ♜e3 11. ♙g3! h4 12. ♙f5+ – fork. 9. ♜g7! Reti maneuver! [9. ♜g8? ♜c5!] 9... h4 10. ♜f7! And now –

anti-Rink! [10.♔:f6? h3 11.d6 h2 12.d7 h1♔ 13.d8♚ ♚h4+].
10...♙c5 11.♙e6 h3 12.d6 h2 13.d7 h1♔ 14.d8♚ ♚e4+! 15.♙f7!
 [15.♙:f6? ♚h4+] **15...♚h7+**
16.♙e6! [16.♙f8? ♚h8+] **16...♚e4+**
17.♙f7 – positional draw.

Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the theme by R. Reti (1921). An easy to build dynamic study with a synthesis of two well known themes. Mutual sacrifices and two knight routes in side variations to neutralize the pawn h look nice. A similar ending can be seen (if you really want to) in the false trace of a false trace (!) in study I. Aliev (D. Gurgenzidze-55 AT, 2008, commendation). But the judge did not consider it critical: the idea of the study-the second prize winner is completely different and is not at all in its final.

3rd Prize
 JAN TIMMAN
 Netherlands



+

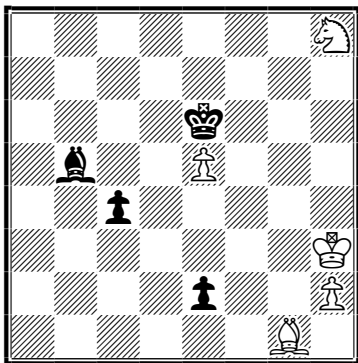
9+11

Storm on the board! **1.♙d3!** Ensuring the safety of the main trump card – a Pawn c7. **1.♙:d6?** h6 **2.♙d3 f2 3.♙:d5 ♖fd1 4.♙:f2 ♖:d5 5.♙:c8 ♖d7** gave nothing. **1...f2. 1...e:d4 2.♙:d6 ♙:d6 3.♙:d6** is weakly. **2.♖f4!** The beginning of the sacrificial extravaganza. First of all it's necessary to close the f-line. Capturing the d6-pawn does not lead to success: **2.♙:d6? e:d4 3.♙h6 ♙:d6 4.c8♚ ♖fc1 5.♚d8 ♖c7 6.♙:f2 ♖bc1 7.♚:d6 ♖c8+ 8.♙e7 ♖1c7+ 9.♙e6 ♖c6** or **2.♙:d6? h6! 3.♙:e5 ♖fe1 4.♖f4 f1♚ 5.♖:f1 ♖:f1+ 6.♙e8 ♙:d6+ 7.♙:d6 ♖fc1 8.♙d7 ♖b5=.** **2...e:f4** White wins, though not without some fuss, also after **2...h5 3.♖f3 h:g4 4.♖g3 (4...♖g1 5.♙:f2 ♖:g3 6.h:g3) 4...♙h7 5.♖:g4 ♖g1 6.♙:f2 ♖:g4 7.♙:g4 ♖f1 8.♙e3 ♖f4 9.♙e8 d4 10.♙d7 d:e3 11.♙:e3 ♙a7 12.♙:d6.** **3.♙h6!** Now it's necessary to line a diagonal a1-h8 and to block h7-Pawn. **3...g:h6 4.♙c5!** And now – paving the way for Knight to f7. **4...♖b4!** But the Black finds counterplay [4...d:c5 5.♙e5 with checkmate]. **5.a6!!** A centre of the study. Logical try: **5.♙:b4? ♖c1 6.♙:c1 d4 7.♙c5 d:c5 8.♙d3 h5 9.g5 (9.a6 b5=) 9...f1♚** – why white is bad here, it will become clear from the further solution. **5...b:a6.** In the case of **5...b6 6.♙:b4 d4 7.♙:d6 ♙:d6 8.♙e5 ♖e1** underpromotion comes to the rescue: **9.c8♙! ♖:e5 10.♙:d6 ♖e7 11.♙:e7 f1♚ 12.♙f8 ♚:a6 13.♙f7#. 6.♙:b4 ♖c1! 7.♙:c1 d4 8.♙c5! d:c5 9.♙d3 h5 10.g5! f1♚**

11. ♖e5 ♘d6 [11...h6 12.g6].
 12. ♖f7+! [12.c8♙? ♚c4!] 12... ♖:f7
 13.c8♙ ♚c4 14.♙f5! And it turns
 out that the square a6 (unlike a
 logical try) is not available for
 Black Queen. 14...d3 15.♙f6#.

Powerful combinational study
 with a point 5.a6!! The overall
 impression is slightly reduced by
 the ponderous initial position and
 the presence of a number of
 technical variations. It is
 interesting to compare with the
 study of V. Smyslov ("New in
 Chess", 2000), where a Knight
 sneaks on f7 from d1.

Special Prize
 SERGEY DIDUKH
 Ukraine



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5+4

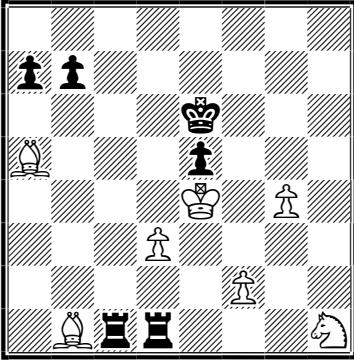
Graceful position; the
 beginning, however, is obvious.
 1. ♖f2 c3 2. ♖g6 ♙f5 3. ♖h4+ ♙e4
 4. ♖g2 c2 [4...♙f3 5.♖d4!] 5. ♖e3
 ♙f3. It's time to think... 6.e6!! A
 first logical try: 6. ♖e1+? ♙:e3
 7. ♖:c2+ ♙d2 8. ♖d4 ♖d7+ 9.e6!?

[9. ♙g2 ♖c6+ 10. ♙h3 e1♙]
 9... ♖:e6+ 10. ♙g2 ♖d5+ 11. ♙h3
 e1♙! 12. ♖f3+ ♖:f3 – and
 stalemate did not take place.
 6... ♖d3 7. ♖e1+! White King will
 be in check after 7.e7? ♖f5+!
 8. ♙h4 ♖d7 9. ♖e1+ ♙:e3 10. ♖:c2+
 ♙d2 11. ♖d4 e1♙+. 7... ♙:e3 8.e7
 ♖b5! [8...c1♙ 9.e8♙+ ♖e4
 10. ♖g2+] 9. ♖:c2+ ♙d2
 10.e8♙(♙)! A second logical try:
 10. ♖d4? ♖d7+ 11. ♙g2 ♖c6+
 12. ♙h3 e1♙ 13. ♖f3+ ♖:f3 – and
 stalemate did not take place in
 view of e7-Pawn. 10... ♖:e8 11. ♖d4
 ♖d7+ 12. ♙g2 ♖c6+ 13. ♙h3 with
 short branching:

I) 13...e1♙ 14. ♖:c6! – Bishop is
 under a fork; II) 13...e1♙ 14. ♖f3+!
 ♖:f3 – model stalemate.

Excellent logical study with
 Roman theme. The author noted
 that a final was already met in the
 study of V. Vinichenko (VIII team
 championship of RSFSR, 1983,
 1st Place). If only this... The
 Novosibirsk master showed the
 very idea of dropping a Pawn and
 the Roman attraction of the
 Bishop, however, trying to
 formalize it in one move.
 Nevertheless, the study deserves a
 special prize.

1st Honorable Mention
 STEFFEN NIELSEN
Denmark

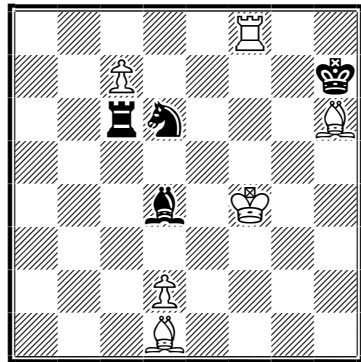


= 7+6

If White is able to save a piece, he will achieve a draw. 1. ♖a2+ ♜d7! Without a fight, black missed the victory after 1... ♜f6 2. ♗g3 b6 3. ♗b4 a5 4. ♗d6. 2. ♗g3 ♞a1 [2...b6 3. ♗b4 a5 4.g5! a:b4 5.g6 ♞c8 6.g7]. 3. ♗b3. It's a beginning of alternating attack of bishops and rooks on each other. 3... ♞db1 4. ♗c3! [4. ♗c2? ♞c1 5. ♗c3 ♞a6]. 4... ♞a3 5. ♗c2 ♞c1 [5... ♞g1 6. ♗e5]. 6. ♗b2 ♞e1+ 7. ♗d5! Only there. Not 7. ♗f3? ♞a2 8. ♗c3 ♞g1! 9. ♗b3 ♞:g3+ 10. ♗:g3 ♞a3 or 7. ♗f5? ♞a2 8. ♗c3 ♞g1. 7... ♞a2 8. ♗c3 ♞c1. In the case of 8... ♞g1 9. ♗b3 ♞a3 a modest-looking Knight takes the floor: 10. ♗e4! 9. ♗b3 ♞a3 10. ♗b2! It's not too late to be wrong: 10. ♗d2? ♞b1 11. ♗c4 b5! 10... ♞a5+ 11. ♗e4 ♞b1 [11... ♞e1+ 12. ♗f3 ♞b1 13. ♗c3 ♞a3 14. ♗c2]. 12. ♗c3 ♞a3 13. ♗c2 – positional draw.

An original spinner featuring King, Bishops and Rooks. Some dissonance is introduced by the presence of an inactive Knight on the board. And, of course, it is a pity that a point is missing. I remember a study by V. Korolkov and L. Mitrofanov (Olympic tourney, 1960, 1st HM), where the only Bishop successfully "dances" with Rooks. Although it is clear that it is more difficult to establish a mechanism of a larger number of pieces.

2nd Honorable Mention
 AMATZIA AVNI
Israel



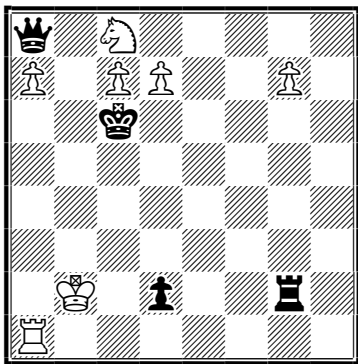
+ 6+4

While Black will capture the c7-pawn, White needs to coordinate the actions of his pieces. 1. ♞d8 ♗b6 [1... ♗:h6 2. ♞:d6+ ♞:d6 3.c8♖] 2. ♞d7+. Not dangerous 2. ♗f8? ♗:c7 3. ♞d7+ in view of 3... ♗f7+! 4. ♗f5 ♗g8. 2... ♗f7! 3. ♞:f7+ ♗g6! [3... ♗:h6 4.c8♖ ♞:c8 5. ♞f6+] 4. ♗b3! It's not

hard to be wrong: 4.c8♙? ♖:c8
 5.♙b3 ♙a5 6.♙f8 ♖b8!
 [6...♙:d2+? 7.♙g4] 7.♙a2 ♙:d2+
 8.♙g4 ♙b4! 9.♙g7 ♖a8! 10.♙b3
 ♖a3 11.♙c4 ♖a4=; 4.♖d7? ♙:c7+
 5.♖:c7 ♖:c7 with with the loss of a
 Bishop. 4...♖:c7 [4...♙:c7+ 5.♖:c7
 ♖:c7 6.♙f8] 5.♖f5! [5.♖f8? ♙a5].
 White has adjusted the interaction
 of his pieces, but Black is looking
 for a subtle resource. 5...♖b7!
 [5...♖c1 6.♙e4! ♖e1+ 7.♙e3 ♙:e3
 8.♙f7+!] 6.♙d5 ♙c7+ 7.♙g4
 [7.♙f3? ♖b2!] 7...♖b4+ 8.♙f4. Not
 8.♖f4? ♖b5! 9.♙c4 ♖c5. 8...♖d4
 9.d3! ♙:f4 10.♙e4! with victory.

Pleasant playable study.

3rd Honorable Mention
 MARTIN MINSKI
 Germany



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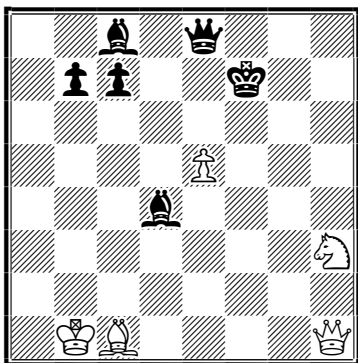
7+4

We walk together in a row...
 Four (!) White pawns are ready to
 find a new life. 1.g8♙! At first it is
 necessary to neutralize a Black
 battery. 1...♙b7+ [1...♖:g8 2.d8♙
 ♙b7+ 3.♙c2 d1♙+ 4.♖:d1 ♖g2+

5.♖d2+; 1...d1♙+ 2.♙c1 ♖:g8
 3.d8♙] 2.♙c2 d1♙+! 3.♙:d1 ♖:g8
 4.a8♙. Underpromotion does not go
 away yet: 4.d8♙+? ♙d7 5.♙:b7
 ♖g1+ 6.♙c2 ♖:a1. 4...♙:a8
 5.♖c1+! A queen on a8 can wait.
 [5.♖:a8? ♖g1+! 6.♙e2 ♙:d7 7.♙d6
 ♙:c7] 5...♙b5. In the case of
 5...♙b7 6.♙d6+ ♙b6 it works
 7.c8♙+! ♙a6 8.♖a1# with Rook's
 switchback and checkmate; 5...♙:d7
 6.♙b6+. 6.♙d6+ ♙b4 [6...♙b6
 7.c8♙+!] 7.♖b1+ ♙c5 [7...♙a4
 8.♖a1+] 8.c8♙+ [8.♙b7+? ♙c6!]
 8...♙:d6 9.♖b6+ ♙e7 [9...♙d5
 10.♖b5+ ♙d6 11.♙c5+] 10.♖e6+!
 Nice, though well-known sacrifice.
 [10.♙c5+? ♙d8!] 10...♙:e6
 [10...♙f7 11.♙c4! with deadly
 battery] 11.d8♙+! Phoenix.
 11...♙e7 12.♙e6+! [12.♙:a8?
 ♖:d8+; 12.♙c7+? ♙f6!] 12...♙:d8
 13.♙:g8+, and Black queen
 eliminated.

Rich content: refusal to capture,
 underpromotions, Phoenix,
 batteries, hunt for Queen... But
 the play is quite forced.

4th Honorable Mention
 MIKHAEL PRUSIKIN
 Germany

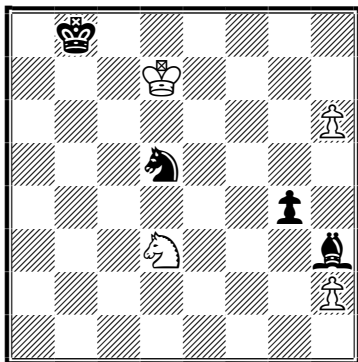


+ 5+6

1. ♖g5+ ♜e7 2. ♗h7+ ♜d8
 3. ♘f7+ ♜d7 4. ♘d8+! ♜e7
 [4... ♜:d8 5. ♘g5+] 5. e6+ ♜e8
 [5... ♜:d8 6. ♗g8+ ♜e8 7. ♘g5+ ♘f6
 8. ♘:f6#] 6. ♗g6+ ♜f8. After a
 forced introduction, it is need to
 look around and do prevention.
 7. ♘a3! Early 7. ♘h6+? ♘g7
 8. ♘:g7+ (8. ♘g5? ♗b4+!) 8... ♗:g7
 9. ♗:g7+ ♜:g7 10. e7 ♘d7. 7...c5
 [7... ♗:a3 8. ♗f7#]. 8. ♘c1! The
 safety of a King is more expensive
 than two tempos! 8... ♗c7 9. ♘h6+
 ♘g7 10. ♜c1! Again, prevention.
 [10. ♗h7? ♗b6+]. 10... ♘:h6+
 [10... ♜g8 11. ♘f7]. 11. ♗:h6+ ♜g8
 [11... ♜e8 12. ♗h8+ ♜e7 13. ♗g7+
 ♜:d8 (13... ♜d6 14. ♗g3+) 14. ♗f8#]
 12. ♘f7 ♘:e6 13. ♗h8+ ♜:f7
 14. ♗h7+, as if stringing the
 strongest Black piece on a “skewer”
 of the opened 7th rank.

Ideas of the prevention still live
 on and win.

5th Honorable Mention
 JAN SPRENGER
 Germany

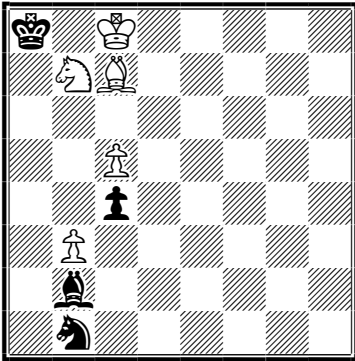


+ 4+4

1. ♜e8! [1. ♜d6? ♘f6] 1...g3!
 Otherwise – a domination of
 Knight over Bishop: 1... ♘g2
 2. ♘c5. 2. h:g3 ♘f5 [2... ♘e6 3. ♜f8
 ♘f6 4. ♘f2 ♜c7 5. ♘e4! with
 winning: 5... ♘h7+ 6. ♜g7 ♘f5
 7. ♘g5 or 5... ♘d7+ 6. ♜e7 ♘f5
 7. ♘d6 ♘d3 8.g4 ♘e5 9. ♘f5! ♘:g4
 10.h7] 3. ♘e5. Planning ♜f7 and
 ♘g6. 3... ♘f6+! [3... ♜c7 4. ♘f7 ♜d6
 5. ♘g6] 4. ♜f7 ♘h7 5. ♘d7+!
 Thematic try: 5.g4? ♘b1! 6. ♘d7+
 ♜b7! 7. ♘f8 ♘g5+ 8. ♜f6 ♘e4+
 9. ♜e7 ♘g5 10. ♘e6 ♘h7 11.g5
 ♜c6 12. ♜f7 ♜d6(d5) 13.g6 ♘:g6+
 14. ♜:g6 ♜:e6 15. ♜:h7 ♜f7=.
 5... ♘:d7. Now after 5... ♜b7 6. ♘f8
 ♘g5+ White plays 7. ♜f6,
 attacking both Black pieces.
 6. ♜g6! ♘f8+ 7. ♜g7 ♘e6+ 8. ♜f6
 ♘f8 9. ♜e7 with capture of one of
 Black pieces and wuth winning.

Live struggle of minor pieces is
 highlighted by thematic try.

Commendation
 EVGENY EGOROV
Kazakhstan

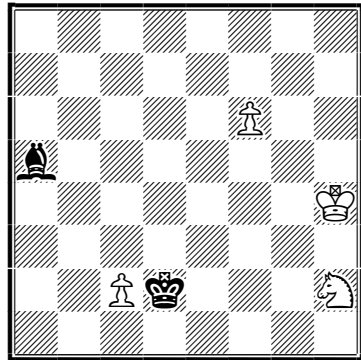


+ 5+4

1.b4! Tied Pawns are stronger than doubled ones.: 1.b:c4? ♖a3! 2. ♖a5 ♜c3! 3.c6 ♜:a5 4. ♜:a5 ♖:c4 5.c7 ♜e5! **1...♖a3** [1...c3 2.b5 c2 3.♜f4 ♜e5! 4.♜e3! ♖c3 5.b6 ♖d5 6.♖a5! ♜e7+ 7.♜d7 ♖d5 8.♜g5] **2.♖d6 c3 3.b5 ♜:b5 4.♜:b5 c2.** Looking forward to stalemate. **5.♜b8!** [5.♜f4? ♜c1 6.♜e5 (6.♖c7+ ♜a7 7.♜:c1, stalemate) 6...♜e3 7.♜b8 ♜f4! 8.♜:f4 stalemate] **5...♜e5! 6.♜:e5 c1♚.** The pawn took advantage of the chance given on the first move, but this does not save Black. **7.♖c7+.** Early 7.♖d4? ♚:c5+! 8.♜:c5 – stalemate. **7...♜a7 8.♖d4! ♚b2!** [8...♚:c5 9.♜:c5#] **9.c6+** [9.♜:b2? – stalemate again] **9...♚b6** [9...♚:d4 10.♖b5+] **10.♜:b6+** [10.♖b5+? ♜a8! 11.♖c7+ (11.♜:b6=) 11...♚:c7+ 12.♜:c7 – stalemates all around!] **10...♜:b6 11.♜d7 +–.**

Nice minor-pieces-study. But it is not surprising to show the abundance of stalemates in counterplay with a King squeezed in the corner. And the scale of the battle is not very impressive.

Commendation
 LUIS GOMEZ PALAZON
Spain



+ 4+2

1.♖f1+! [1.f7? ♜b4!; 1.♖f3+? ♜:c2! 2.♖d4+ ♜d3; 1.c4? ♜d8=] **1...♜:c2 2.♖e3+ ♜d3 3.♖d5,** and the play branches:

A) 3...♜e1+ 4.♜g4! But not 4.♜g5? ♜f2! 5.f7 (5.♖f4+ ♜e4 6.♖e6 ♜g3! 7.f7 ♜d6=) 5...♜c5 6.♜f6 ♜f8 7.♖e7 ♜e3 8.♖g6 ♜h6. **4...♜f2 5.♖f4+ ♜e4** [5...♜c4 6.f7 ♜c5 6.♜f5] **6.♖e6 ♜e1 7.♖c5+ ♜d5 8.f7;**

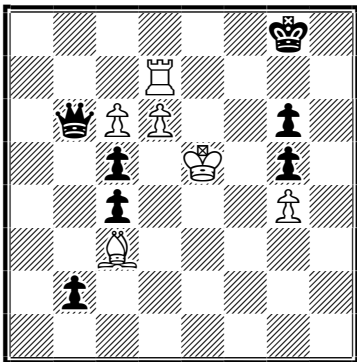
B) 3...♜d8 4.♖e7 ♜e4 5.♜g5! ♜e5 6.♖c6+;

C) 3...♜d2 4.♜h5! ♜c1 5.♖b4+ ♜c4 6.f7.

Interesting enough content for a six-pieces-study. The white King

chooses the correct square three times, and the Knight twice cuts off the Bishop from the Pawn along the a3-f8 diagonal.

Commendation
DANIELE GATTI
Italy



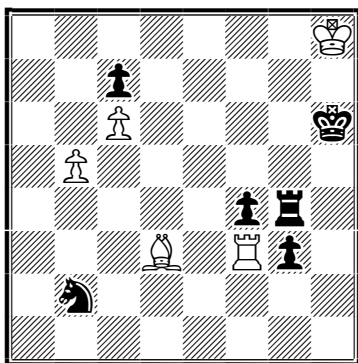
+ 6+7

1.c7! ♖b7 2.♞d8+. The king is on necessary place: 2.♙e6? ♚c8! 3.♙e7 ♜f8+ 4.♙e6 b1♚ 5.♞g7+ ♚:g7 6.♙:g7 ♙:g7 7.c8♚ ♚e4+ 8.♙d7 ♚:g4+. 2...♙f7 3.c8♞! First underpromotion. After 3.c8♚? ♚e4+! 4.♙:e4 b1♚+ 5.♙d5 ♚e4+! the newly minted mad Black Queen successfully takes out the White King in the corner: 6.♙:c5 ♚d5+ 7.♙b6 ♚b5+ 8.♙a7 ♚b6+ 9.♙a8 ♚a7+! 10.♙:a7 stalemate. 3...♚:c8 4.♞:c8 b1♚ 5.d7 ♚b6! 5...♚d3 6.d8♚ ♚:c3+ 7.♙d6 ♚d3+ 8.♙c6 ♚f3+ 9.♚d5+. 6.d8♙+! Second underpromotion (6.d8♚?? ♚e6#). 6...♙e7 7.♙c6+ ♙d7 [7...♙f7 8.♙d6 ♚b8+ 9.♞c7+!

cross-check] 8.♞d8+ ♙c7 [8...♙:c6 9.♞d6+] 9.♙a5 +.

Another interpretation on the theme of two underpromotions in Rook and Knight. The White King, like a tiger in a cage, looks at what is happening, realizing what awaits him in the corner a8.

Commendation
GEIR SUNE TALLAKSEN ØSTMØE
Norway



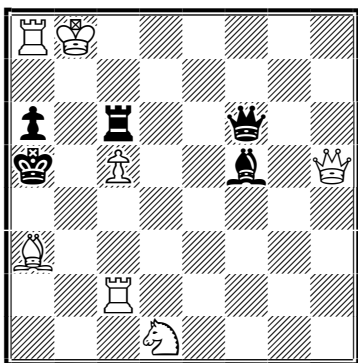
= 5+6

1.b6 ♙c4! Diversion a Bishop from diagonal b1-h7. Early 1...g2 2.♞h3+! ♙g5 3.b:c7 g1♚ 4.c8♚. 2.♙:c4 [2.b7? ♙e5! 3.b8♚ ♙f7#] 2...g2 3.♞f1! [3.♞h3+? ♙g6 – now the square g6 is not under attack] 3...f3! [3...g:f1♚? 4.♙:f1 ♞g7 5.b7] 4.b:c7 ♞:c4 5.♞a1! Logical try: 5.♞e1? ♞:c6 6.♞e6+!? ♞:e6 7.c8♚ g1♚ 8.♚:e6+ ♚g6 (zz WTM) 9.♚e3+ ♚g5 10.♚e6+ ♙h5 11.♚f7+ ♙g4. 5...♞:c6 6.♞a6! ♞:a6 7.c8♚ g1♚ 8.♚:a6+ ♚g6 [8...♙h5 9.♚h6+! ♙:h6 stalemate] 9.♚e6! (zz BTM) 9...♚:e6

stalemate or **9...f2 10.♖e3+** with losing of Pawn.

Five-pieces-zugzwang that is formalize according to all canons – with the try. It is surprising that so far it has not attracted the attention of other composers – apparently, not so interesting.

Commendation
DARKO HLEBEC
Serbia

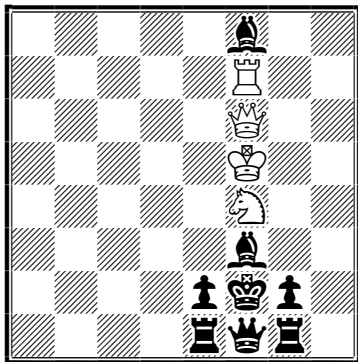


+ 7+5

1.♙b4+! [1.♗e8? ♜b6+! 2.♗c7! ♗g7+ =; early 1.♞:a6+? ♞:a6 2.♙b4+ ♗:b4 3.♞b2+ ♗:c5=].
1...♗:b4 2.♞b2+ ♗a5 3.♞:a6+! ♞:a6 4.♗e8! ♞a8+! 5.♗:a8 ♙e4+! 6.♗:e4 [6.♗b8? ♗f4+ 7.♗c8 ♙f5+ 8.♗b7 ♙e4+ 9.c6 ♙:c6+ 10.♗:c6 ♗b8+! with stalemate] **6...♗c6+!** [6...♗a6+ 7.♗b8 ♗a7+ 8.♗c8!] **7.♗b8!** (7.♗:c6 stalemate) **7...♗:e4 8.♞a2+ ♗b4 9.♞a4+! ♗:a4 10.♙c3+ ♗b4 11.♙:e4 +-.**

“Children’s firecracker” for the New Year for novice chess players.

Special Commendation
MARCO CAMPIOLI
Italy



+ 4+8

Fun initial position. What reminds you? To me personally – a rocket. Well, yes, 60 years after all the first flight of Yuri Gagarin into space! **1.♙h3+!** 1.♗b6+? ♗g3 2.♗g6+ ♗f2 3.♙h3+ ♗e3 4.♗b6+ ♗d2; 1.♗g5? ♞d1! 2.♙h3+ ♗e1 3.♗c3+ ♞d2 4.♞a7 ♙e7+! 5.♗h6 ♙f8+ 6.♗g5 ♙e7+; 1.♙d5? ♞h1! 2.♗d4+ ♗g3 3.♗f4+ ♗f2 =. **1...♗g3** [1...♗e3 2.♗c3#] **2.♗g5! ♙h5!** [2...♙h6+ 3.♗:h6] **3.♙f2! ♙e7** [3...♙h6+ 4.♗:h6] **4.♗:e7** [4.♞:e7? ♗:f2] **4...♗:f2 5.♞:f2.** But not 5.♗e5+? ♗h3 6.♞:f2 ♞gf1! 7.♗e3+ ♗h2 8.♗:h5 ♞:f2 9.♗:f2 ♞h1. **5...♞gf1!** [5...♗:f2 6.♗c5+ ♗f1 7.♗f5+ ♙f3 8.♗:f3#] **6.♗e4! ♗:f2 7.♗d4+ ♗g3 8.♗h4+ ♗f3 9.♗f4#.** Special distinction – for a schahograpy.

September 20th, 2021
Oleg Pervakov