

Magyar Sakkvilag – 2025

The annual tournament was attended by 18 authors from 13 countries, who submitted 27 studies. They were of various styles. I paid particular attention to how well the authors expressed their ideas and technically executed them, as well as the dynamics of the pieces and the presence of black's counterplay. I would like to thank all the participants who sent their works to the tournament.

I have some comments on some of the unmarked studies:

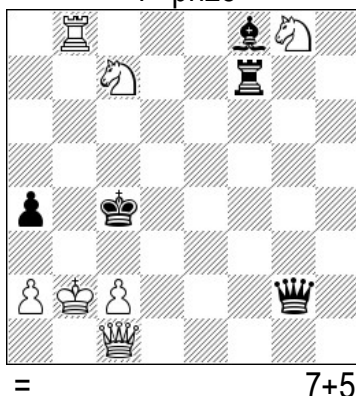
Marcel Dore (e7-e4) – the material and idea are well known, M. Dore, 10th UAPA, 2019, com;

Fabian Lajos (d4-d6) – dual on the last move 9.c4+ Bxc4 10.Ra5#, Black's bishop and rook are not played.

The following distribution of distinctions is proposed.

Amatzia Avni & Michael Pasma (Israel)

1st prize

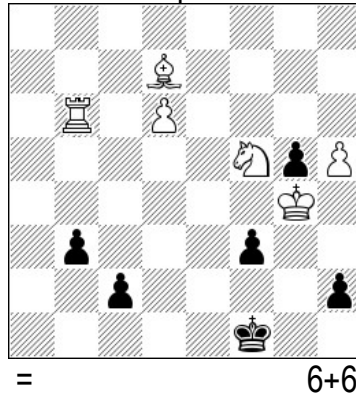


1.Nb5! 1.Qe1? a3+ 2.Kc1 Rf1–+; 1.Ne6? a3+ 2.Kb1 Rf1–+; 1.a3? Rf1 2.Nd5 Qg7+–+ **1...Bg7+ 2.Nf6!**
2.Ka3? Qg3+ 3.Kxa4 Qxb8 4.Na3+ Kc5 5.Qg1+ Bd4 6.Qg5+ Qe5 7.Qxe5+ Bxe5–+ **2...Rxf6 2...Bxf6+** 3.Ka3!
 Qg3+ 4.Kxa4 Qxb8 5.Qf1+ Kd5 6.Qf3+ Ke6 7.Qc6+ Ke7 8.Qc5+= **3.Nc3!** 3.Na3+? Kd5 4.Qd1+ Kc5! 5.Rb5+
 Kc6–+ **3...Rf8!** 3...a3+ 4.Kb1 Rf8 5.Rb3 Bh6! 6.Qxh6 Rf1+ 7.Qc1 Rxc1+ 8.Kxc1= **4.Ka3!** 4.Rxf8? Qb7+–+
4...Bxc3 4...Rxb8 5.Qf4+ Bd4 6.Qxb8= 5.Qe3! 5.Rxf8? Bb4+ 6.Kb2 Qg7+–+ **5...Bb2+!** 5...Rxb8 6.Qf4+ Bd4
 7.Qxb8 Qf3+ 8.c3! Bc5+ 9.Kxa4 Qc6+ 10.Ka5= **6.Rxb2 Rf3 7.Qb3+!** Thematic try: 7.Qd3+? Kc5! (7...Rxd3+
 8.cxd3+–) 8.c3 Qxb2+! 9.Kxb2 Rxd3–+ **7...Kc5!** 7...axb3 8.cxb3+– **8.c3! axb3 9.Rxg2** draw.

In the best study of the competition, the axis of the struggle becomes the diagonal a1-h8, where both sides sacrifice their pieces. After 1...a3+, Black threatens to pin White's queen on the 1st rank. In the course of the game, they succeed – Black pins White's queen, but on the 3rd rank. The final denouement is memorable: 7.Qb3+!, refusal to take and a quiet move 8.c3!

Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (Slovakia)

2nd prize



=

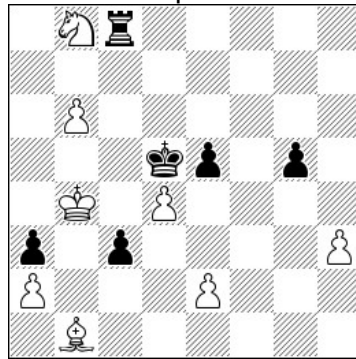
6+6

1.Ng3+ 1.Rxb3? h1Q! 2.Ng3+ Kg2 3.Nxh1 c1Q—+ **1...Kg1!** **2.Rxb3** 2.Kxf3? h1Q+! 3.Nxh1 c1Q 4.Rxb3 Qd1+ 5.Ke4 Qxb3—+ **2...c1Q** **3.Rxf3 Qc4+** **4.Kxg5 Kg2** **5.Bg4!** 5.Re3? Qc5+ 6.Nf5 h1Q 7.Bc6+ Qxc6 8.Re2+ Kf1 9.Ng3+ Kg1 10.Re1+ Kf2 11.Rxh1 Kxg3—+ **5...Qc5+** **6.Kh4!** 6.Kf4? Qxd6+ 7.Ke4 Qb4+ 8.Kf5 Qd2! 9.Nf1 Qd5+ 10.Kf6 Qd6+ 11.Kf5 h1Q 12.Ne3+ Kg1 13.Rf1+ Kh2 14.Rxh1+ Kxh1—+ **6...Qxd6** **7.h6!** **Qxh6+** 7...Qe7+ 8.Kh5 Qe8+ 9.Kg5 Qe5+ 10.Kg6 Qxg3 11.Rxg3+ Kxg3 12.h7 h1Q 13.Kg7 Qa1+ 14.Kg8 Qa8+ 15.Kg7 Qb7+ 16.Bd7! Qxd7+ 17.Kg8= **8.Nh5 h1Q+** 8...h1N 9.Rf6! Qe3 10.Bf3+ Kh2 11.Bxh1= **9.Bh3+!** **Kxf3** stalemate. 9...Kh2 10.Rf2+ Kg1 11.Rf1+ Kh2 12.Rf2+=.

Three white pieces successfully oppose black's passed pawns. In the final game, black manages to promote two pawns to queens, which leads to an unexpected stalemate with two pairs of minor pieces.

Arkadij Vorovich (Ukraine)

3rd prize



+

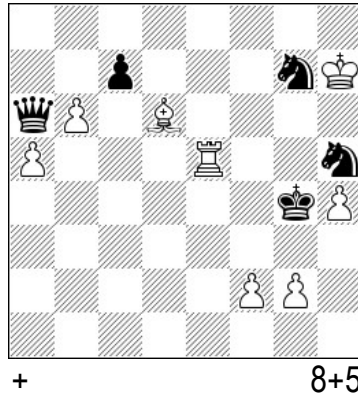
8+6

1.Na6! Logical try: 1.Nd7? c2 2.Bxc2 Rxc2 3.Kxa3 Position A with wNd7 3...Kc6!= **1...c2** **2.Bxc2 Rxc2** **3.Kxa3** Position A with wNa6 3.b7? Rb2+—+ **3...Rc3+!** **4.Kb4!** Logical try: 4.Kb2? Rxh3 5.b7 Rh8 6.b8Q Rxb8+ 7.Nxb8 g4 8.Nd7 Kxd4 9.Nf8 g3 10.Ng6 g2 11.Nh4 g1N 12.Nf3+ Nxf3 13.exf3 Position B with Kb2 13...Ke3 (13...e4 14.fxe4 Kxe4) 14.a4 e4 15.fxe4 Kxe4= **4...Rxh3** **5.b7 Rh8** **6.b8Q Rxb8+** **7.Nxb8 g4** **8.Nd7 Kxd4!** 8...g3 9.Nxe5 g2 10.Nf3+- **9.Nf8!** **g3** **10.Ng6 g2** **11.Nh4 g1N!** **12.Nf3+!** **Nxf3** **13.exf3** Position B with Kb4 **13...Ke3** **14.a4 Kxf3** **15.a5 e4** **16.a6 e3** **17.a7 e2** **18.a8Q+** win.

A nice logical study in practical style, where subtle choices on the 1st and 4th moves are the key to the successful excelsior of the white pawn in the finale.

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark)

1 hm.

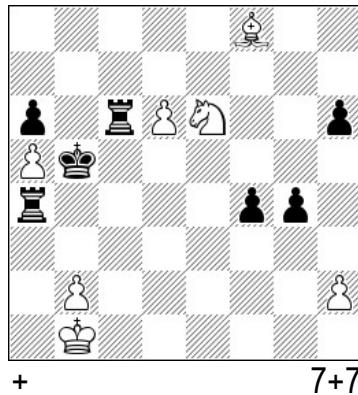


1.Rg5+ Kxh4 2.Be7 Ne8 3.Kh6 3.f3? Qd3+-- 3...cxb6 3...Qe2 4.Re5+--; 3...Qf1 4.bxc7+--; 3...Nhf6 4.f3!+- 4.f3 bxa5+ 5.Rg6+ Qf6 5...Nhf6 6.Rg4# 6.Bd8! 6.Bxf6+? Nhx6= 6...a4 7.Kh7 Nf4 8.Bxf6+ 8.Rxf6? Nxf6+ 9.Bxf6+ Kg3= 8...Nxf6+ 9.Rxf6 Nxf6 9...Kg3 10.Kh6 a3= 10.Kg6 10.Kh6? a3= 10...Kg3 10...a3 11.Kf5! a2 12.Ra6 Kg3 13.f4 (Ke4)+- 11.Kg5 a3 12.f4! a2 13.Ra6 Nxf4 14.Ra3+ Kf2 15.Kxf4 win.

After the second move, White creates a formidable R+B battery. Black is forced to give up his queen, but White prudently refuses to take it 6.Bd8! and wins.

David Gurgenzidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany)

2 hm.

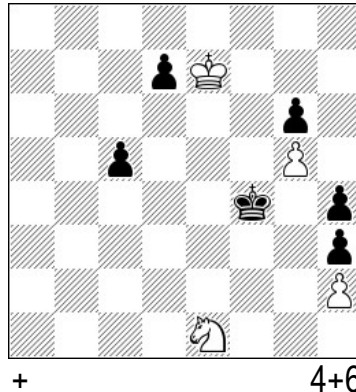


1.d7 Ra1+! 2.Kxa1 Rc1+ 3.Ka2 Rd1 4.d8Q Rxd8 5.Nxd8 g3! 5...f3 6.Ne6 f2 7.Nd4+ Ka4 8.Bxh6 f1Q 9.Bd2!+- 6.hxg3 f3! 7.Ne6 f2 8.Nd4+ Ka4! 8...Kxa5 9.Nb3+ Kb5 10.Nd2+- 9.Bb4!! Logical try: 9.Bxh6? f1Q 10.Bd2 Position A without bPh6 10...Qa1(b1)+! 11.Kxa1 stalemate 9...f1Q 9...Kxb4 10.Nc2+ Kc4 11.Ne3+ Kd3 12.Nf1 Ke2 13.Nh2+- 10.Bd2! Position A with bPh6 10...Qf2 10...Qc4+ 11.b3+ Qxb3+ 12.Nxb3+- 11.b3#

The final game – in accordance with all the rules of the study genre, the pointe 9.Qb4!

Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan)

3 hm.

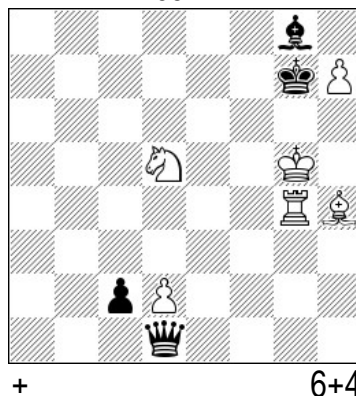


1.Kf6 c4 2.Kxg6 d5 3.Kf6! d4 4.g6! 4.Nc2? d3 5.Nb4 d2 6.Nd5+ Ke4 7.Nc3+ Kd3 8.Nd1 c3—+ 4...d3 5.g7!
 Thematic try: 5.Nxd3+? cxd3 6.g7 d2 7.g8Q d1Q 8.Qg5+ Ke4 9.Qe5+ Kd3!= **5...d2 6.Nd3+! cxd3 6...Ke3**
7.Nb2 c3 8.Nd1+- 7.g8Q d1Q 8.Qg5+ Ke4 9.Qe5+ Kf3 10.Qh5+ Kg2 11.Qxd1 win.

White sacrifices a knight on the sixth move, which blocks the d3 square and allows Black to capture the queen.

Yochanan Afek (Israel)

com.

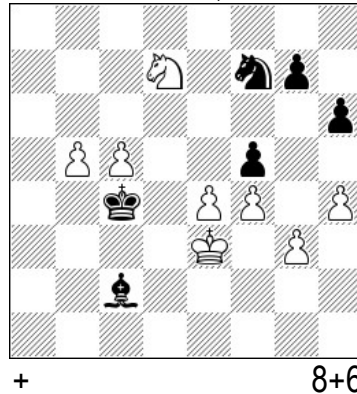


1.h8Q+! 1.Kf5+? Qxg4+!—+ 1...Kxh8 2.Kh6! Qxd2+ 2...Qxg4 3.Bf6+-; 2...Qh1 3.Ne7! Bf7 4.Rg8+! Bxg8
5.Ng6# 3.Nf4! Qd6+ 3...Qh2 4.Ng6# 4.Ng6+ Qxg6+ 5.Kxg6 5.Rxg6? c1Q+-+ 5...Bf7+! 5...Bh7+ 6.Kh5!
 (6.Kf7? Bg6+ 7.Rxg6 c1Q 8.Bf6+ Kh7=) 6...Bg6+ 7.Rxg6 c1Q 8.Bf6+ Kh7 9.Rg7+-+ **6.Kxf7 c1Q 7.Bg5!**
7.Bf6+? Kh7 8.Rh4+ Qh6= 7...Qe1 main 7...Qc7+ 8.Be7 Qh2 9.Bf6+ Kh7 10.Rg7+ Kh6 11.Bg5+ Kh5
12.Rh7+ Kg4 13.Rxh2+- 8.Rg2 Qh1 9.Bf6+ Kh7 10.Rg7+ Kh6 11.Bg5+ Kh5 12.Rh7+ Kg4 13.Rxh1 win.

The struggle between the sides is well presented, although the final capture of the black queen was seen in an study by P. Rossi, Solidarity ty, 1 com., 2003.

Alexander Halifman (Switzerland) & Michael Pasman (Israel)

com. MSV, 2025

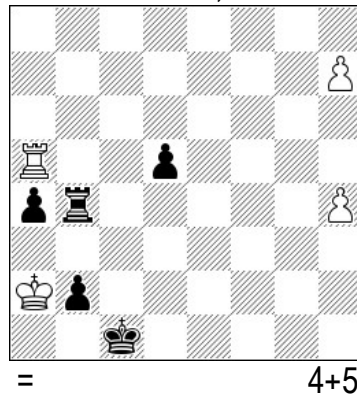


1.e5! Kxb5 1...Nd8 2.c6 Kxb5 3.c7+- 2.e6 Nd6! 3.cxd6 Kc6 4.Kd2! Bb1 4...Ba4 5.Nc5!+-; 4...Be4 5.Nc5! Kxd6 6.Nxe4+-; 4...Bb3 5.Nc5!+- 5.Nb6! Kxd6 6.e7! Kxe7 7.Nd5+ Kd6 7...Ke6 8.Nc3 Be4 9.Nxe4 fxe4 10.g4!+- 8.Nc3! Be4 9.Nxe4+ fxe4 10.g4! 10.Ke3? h5! 11.Kxe4 Ke6=; 10.h5? Ke6! 11.g4 Kd6! 12.Ke3 Kd5= 10...Kd5 11.Ke3 Switchback 11...g6 12.h5! gxh5 13.gxh5 win.

White uses the strength of its pawns. First, Black is forced to give up a knight, and after a favourable exchange, in the pawn endgame, White plays the precise 10.g4! and wins.

David Gurgenzidze (Georgia)

com. MSV, 2025

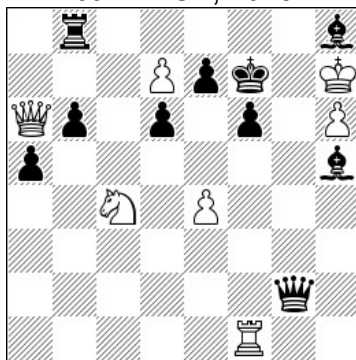


1.Rc5+ Rc4 2.Rb5 Rxh4 3.h8Q! 3.Rc5+? Rc4 4.Rb5 Rc2 5.Ka3 Rh2 6.Rxb2 Rh3+ 7.Ka2 Rxh7-- 3...Rxh8 4.Rc5+ Kd2 5.Rxd5+ Kc3 6.Rg5! 6.Rb5? a3 7.Rb3+ Kc2 8.Rxb2+ axb2-- 6...Rh3 6...a3 7.Rg3+ Kd2 8.Rg2+ Ke3 9.Rg3+ Ke2 10.Rxa3= 7.Rb5 a3 8.Rb3+ Kc2 9.Rxb2+! axb2 stalemate.

Nice new study by the author on the stalemate.

Daniele Gatti (Italy)

com. MSV, 2025



=

7+10

1.Ne5+ dxe5 2.d8N+! Phoenix. 2.Qc4+? Kf8! 3.Rxf6+ exf6! 4.Qc8+ (4.d8Q+ Rxd8! 5.Qf7+ Bxf7! bBh8 is not defended because King obstructs the way - stalemate not possible →) 4...Rxc8! 5.dxc8Q+ Be8! Again bBh8 is not defended - stalemate not possible → **2...Rxd8 2...Kf8 3.Ne6+! Kf7 4.Nd8+! Ke8 5.Qb5+! Kf8 6.Ne6+! Kf7 7.Nd8+! Rxd8 8.Rxf6+! exf6 9.Qb3+! Kf8 10.Qa3+! Ke8 11.Qe7+! Kxe7 stalemate 3.Rxf6+ Ke8 3...Kxf6 4.Qf1+! (4.Qxb6+? Rd6!→) 4...Qf3 5.Qxf3+! Bxf3 stalemate; 3...Bxf6 4.Qc4+ Rd5 5.Qxd5+! e6 6.Qxe6+! Kxe6 stalemate 4.Qb7! Bg4 4...Qg4 5.Rf8+! Kxf8 6.Qxe7+! Kxe7 stalemate; 4...Qg5 5.Qc6+! Rd7 6.Qc8+ Rd8 7.Qc6+ perpetual check; 4...Bf7 5.Qc6+! Kf8 6.Rxf7+! Follows Queen sacrifice with inevitable stalemate; 4...Qxe4+ 5.Qxe4! Bxf6 6.Qc6+! Follows draw for perpetual check or stalemate 4...Qg8+ 5.Kxg8 Bxf6 stalemate threat is eliminated but Black cannot obtain more than a draw. **5.Qc6+! Bd7 6.Qc4! 6.Rf8+? Kxf8! 7.Qf6+ exf6! bBh8 not defended - Not possible stalemate → 6...Rc8 6...Qxe4+ 7.Qxe4! exf6 8.Kxh8! Kf7+ 9.Kh7! positional draw 7.Rf8+! 7.Qf7+? Kd8! 8.Qf8+ Kc7! 9.Rc6+ Kb7!→ 7...Kxf8 8.Qf7+! Kxf7 stalemate.** As in the previous study, White takes advantage of the unfortunate position of his king on the edge of the board to achieve stalemate.**

January 24, 2026

Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine)
International Judge