

MSV-2020 award

I have received 23 studies from 16 composers (including GMs and IMs!) from 12 countries. (Argentina, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Russia, Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine).

Hlinka (1*), Garcia (3*), Keith (1*), Kekely (3*), Jasik (2), Gurgenedze (1), Arestov (1+1*), Mikitovics (1), Krug (3+2*), Kekely (1*), Rusz (1), Pasma (1), Avni (2), Bazlov (1), Nielsen (1*), Minski (1*)

I want to thank all authors for their hard work in studies composing.

As a practical player, I mostly value bright endgame ideas over technical computer lines. Some studies were too complicated for human brains, but anyway you will get fun replaying them on the board.

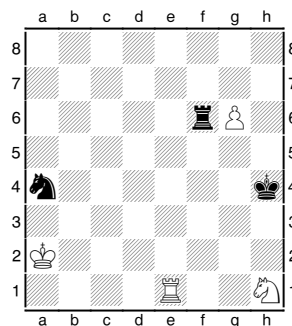
Studies #678 (Krug) and #682 (Pasma) ended by well known positions "Rook vs 3 pawns" from Averbakh's "Rook endings" work. Also, I hope that interesting finding by Rusz (study 2020/11-1) will be included in the next edition of Averbakh's Manual). I didn't award some studies which look like slightly changed combinations from practical games.

Here is my award. It contains 2 prizes, 3 honourable mentions and 4 commendations.

Prizes:

1st

IM Nielsen & GM Minski (2020/1-CCI-2.)

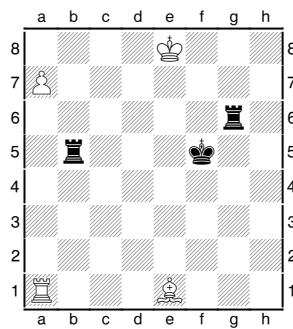


wins

1.g7 ♖c3+ [1...♙g6 2.♜g3! ♜c3+ 3.♜b3! see main line] **2.♜b3!** [logical try 2.♜b2? ♙g6 3.♜g3! ♜e2! 4.♜f5+ (4.♙xe2 ♜xg3=; 4.♜xe2 ♙xg7=) 4...♜g5 5.♙f1 ♜f6! 6.g8♙ ♙xg8 7.♜h6+ ♜g7 8.♜xg8 ♜xg8 position X with wKb2 9.♙f2 ♜d4=] **2...♙g6** [2...♙b6+ 3.♜c2! (3.♜xc3? ♙g6 4.♜g3 ♙xg3+! with check 5.♜d4 ♙xg7=; 3.♜c4? ♙c6+ 4.♜b3 ♙b6+) 3...♙g6 4.♜g3! ♜e2! 5.♜f5+! ♜g5 6.♙f1 ♜g3 7.♙f2! ♜xf5 8.♙g2+-] **3.♜g3! ♜e2!** [3...♙xg7 4.♜f5+-; 3...♜xg3 4.♙g1+-; 3...♙xg3 4.♙h1+-; 3...♜g5 4.♜h5! ♜xh5 5.♙h1+ ♜g5 6.♙g1+-] **4.♜f5+!** [4.♜xc2? ♙xg7=] **4...♜g5 5.♙f1 ♜f6!** [5...♜g3 6.♙f2! ♜xf5 7.♙g2+-] **6.g8♙!** [logical try 6.♜h4+? ♜xg7 7.♜xg6 ♜xg6 position X with bKg6 8.♜c4 ♜g5 /Kh5/Kh6= The black king is not far enough.] **6...♙xg8 7.♜h6+ ♜g7** [7...♜f4 8.♜xg8+- (8.♙xf4+? ♜e5=)] **8.♜xg8 ♜xg8** [position X] **9.♜c4!** [domination] **9...♜g3** [9...♜h7 10.♙f2 /Rf3 10...♜g3 11.♙h2+ ♜g6 12.♙g2+-] **10.♙g1+**

Very nice miniature which combined some unexpected moves and logic.

2nd

GM Bazlov
(2020/9-CCIX.)

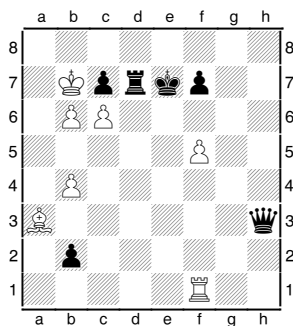
wins

1. ♖b4! ♜xb4 [1... ♞c5+ 2. ♜f7 ♞f6+ 3. ♜g7 ♞g6+ 4. ♜h7 ♞ec6 5. ♞f1+-; 1... ♞c6+ 2. ♜c7 ♞b7 3. ♞f1+-] 2. ♞a5+ ♜f4 [2... ♜c6 3. ♞a6+ ♜f5 4. ♞xg6 ♞a4 5. ♞g7+-] 3. ♜f7! ♞gb6 [3... ♞h6 4. a8 ♞ ♞b7+ 5. ♜g8 ♞g6+ 6. ♜f8 ♞f6+ 7. ♜c8 ♞bb6 8. ♞a4+ ♜g3 9. ♞a3+ ♜h2 10. ♞a2+ ♜g1 11. ♞a1+ ♜f2 12. ♞a2+-] 4. a8 ♞ ♞b7+ 5. ♜c6 ♞4b6+ 6. ♜d5 ♞b8 7. ♞a4+ ♜f5 8. ♞a7!+- [8. ♞a5? ♞b5+=] 8... ♞8b7 9. ♞a5! ♞b5+ 10. ♜c6 ♞xa5 11. ♞xa5+ [wins.]

White promotes a pawn and overcomes black's counterplay by discovered king check. Classical style, very good looking study.

Honourable mentions:

1st

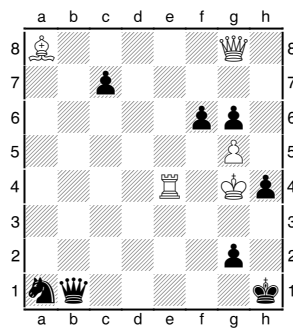
IM Avni
(2020/10-CCX.)

draw

1. b5+ [thematic try 1. ♞e1+ ♜d8 2. ♞d1 ♞xd1 3. bxc7+ ♜e7 4. ♜xb2 ♞b3! (4... ♞g4 5. ♜a3) 5. f6+ ♜d6 6. c8 ♞ ♞xb4+ 7. ♜a8 ♞a5+ 8. ♜b8 ♞b5+ 9. ♞b7 ♞xb7+ 10. cxb7 ♞b1-+] 1... ♞xa3 [1... ♜d8? 2. ♞d1!] 2. f6+ ♜d8 [2... ♜c6 3. ♞e1+ ♜d6 4. cxd7 ♞f3+ 5. ♜b8 ♜xd7 6. bxc7=] 3. ♞d1! ♞a8+! [3... ♞xd1?? 4. bxc7+ ♜e8 5. c8 ♞+ ♞d8 6. ♞xd8+ ♜xd8 7. c7+-; 3... ♞d6 4. ♞xd6 cxd6+ 5. c7+ ♜e8 6. ♜a6 (6. ♜c6) 6... b1 ♞ 7. c8 ♞+ ♞d8 8. b7=] 4. ♜xa8 ♞xd1 5. b7 [split] [5. ♜b7? ♞d7!+- Umnov] [A)] 5... ♞a1+ [B) 5... ♜e8! 6. b6! (6. b8 ♞+? ♞d8-+) 6... ♞d8+ (6... b1 ♞ 7. b8 ♞+ ♞d8 8. bxc7=) 7. ♜a7! (7. b8 ♞? ♞xb8+ 8. ♜xb8 b1 ♞-+) 7... b1 ♞ 8. bxc7 [#] pawns draw against queen and rook 8... ♞a2+ 9. ♜b6 ♞b3+ 10. ♜a6 ♞a4+ 11. ♜b6 ♞d4+ 12. ♜a6 ♞xf6 13. c8 ♞= (13. cxd8 ♞+?? ♞xd8-; 13. b8 ♞?? ♞xc6+-)] 6. ♜b8 ♞c1 7. ♜a8 [7. ♜a7] 7... ♞a1+ 8. ♜b8 b1 ♞ 9. b6 [[#] pawns draw against queen and rook] 9... ♞xb6 [stalemate] [9... cxb6 10. c7+ ♜d7 11. c8 ♞+= e.g. 11... ♜d6 12. ♞d7+ ♜e5 13. ♜c8]

After starting firework white achieves positional draw with pawns against black Q+R. It leaves pleasant impression.

2nd

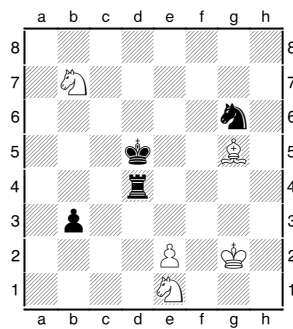
FM Krug
 (2020/5-CCV-2.)


wins

1. ♖xg6 ♘h2 2. ♜c2 ♞xg6 3. ♞xg2+ ♘h1 4. ♘h3 c6 5. ♙xc6 fxg5 6. ♙b7 [6. ♙a8 ♞a6] 6... ♞h7 7. ♙a8 ♞a7 8. ♙c6 ♞c7 [8... ♞c5 9. ♙b7 ♞a7 10. ♞a2+] 9. ♙e4 [9. ♙f3 ? 9... ♞f4 10. ♞f2+ ♞xf3+ 11. ♞xf3 g4+ 12. ♙xg4 ♖c2 13. ♞d3 ♖b4 14. ♞d4 ♖c6] 9... ♞e7 10. ♞g4+ [10. ♙a8 ? 10... ♞a3+] 10... ♞xe4 11. ♞xe4 g4+ [11... ♖c2 12. ♞c2 g4+ 13. ♙xh4 ♖d4 14. ♞c4 ♘h2 15. ♙xg4] 12. ♙xh4 ♘g2 13. ♞e2+ ♘f3 14. ♞a2 ♖b3 15. ♞a3 [wins.]

White battery wins spectacular fight. Game ends by trapping the knight like in the 1st prize winner study.

3rd

IM Hlinka & IM Kekely
 (2020/2-CCII.)


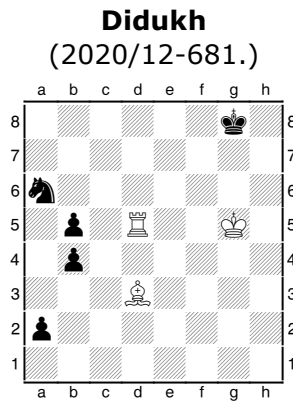
draw

1. ♙c1 ♞d1 2. ♖d3 [2. c4+ ♘c4] 2... ♞xc1! 3. ♖xc1 ♖f4+ [3... b2 4. ♖a2 ♖f4+ 5. ♙f2! as main] 4. ♙f2! [try 4. ♙f3? b2 5. ♖a2 ♖xe2 6. ♙xe2 (6. ♖b4+ ♘c4 7. ♖c2 ♖d4+-) 6... ♘d4! 7. ♖a5 b1♞ 8. ♖c6+ ♘c5 9. ♖cb4 ♘c4-+] 4... b2 5. ♖a2 ♖xe2! [5... ♘c4 6. ♖a5+=; 5... ♘d4 6. e3+! ♘c4 7. ♖a5+ ♘d3 8. ♖b4+ ♘c3 9. ♖a2+ ♘c2 10. ♖c4 b1♞ 11. ♖a3+= fork] 6. ♖b4+ [6. ♙xe2? ♘d4!-+] 6... ♘c4 [6... ♘e4 7. ♖d6+! ♘d4 8. ♖c2+ ♘c3 9. ♖a3=; 6... ♘e6 7. ♖c5+! ♘f5 8. ♙xe2 b1♞ 9. ♖bd3! positional draw – compare with try] 7. ♖c2 ♘b3 8. ♖a5+ ♘a4 [8... ♙xc2 9. ♖c4 b1♞ 10. ♖a3+= fork] 9. ♖a3! ♘xa3 10. ♖c4+ [fork] 10... ♘a2 11. ♖xb2 [draw. Meredith. Counterplay sacrifices. Forks. Funny final position – mirror on 2nd rank.]

White survives in the interesting 3-knights endgame.

Commendations:

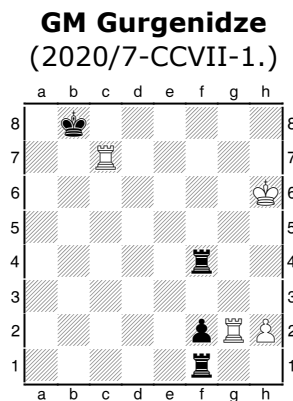
1st



draw

1.♔g6! ♕f8 2.♖f5+ ♔e7 3.♖f7+! ♔d8 [3...♔d6 4.♖f6+ ♔c5 5.♖xa6=] 4.♖f1 b3 5.♖a1 ♖b4 6.♖b1 ♔e7 7.♔f5!
[Try 7.♖xa2? bxa2 8.♔f5 ♔d6 9.♔c4 ♔e6! zz 10.♖h1 (10.♖e1 ♖c2-) 10...♖c2 11.♖h6+ ♔d7! 12.♖a6 a1♖
13.♖xa1 ♖xa1 14.♔d5 ♖b3-+] 7...♔d6 8.♔e4 ♔c5 [8...♔c6 9.♔d4 ♖c2+ 10.♖xc2] 9.♖xa2! [Try 9.♔e3? ♔d5!
(9...♔c4? 10.♔d2= zz) 10.♔d2 ♔c4-+ zz 11.♖g6 ♖d5 12.♖b1 axb1♖ 13.♖xb1 ♖c3 14.♖b2 ♔b4 15.♔d3 ♔a3
16.♔xc3 b4+-+] 9...bxa2 10.♖c1+ ♔d6 11.♖d1+ ♔c5 12.♖c1+ ♔b6 13.♖a1! ♔a5 [13...♔c5 14.♖c1+ positional
draw.] 14.♔e5! ♔a4 15.♔d6 ♔b3 16.♔c5 ♔a4 17.♔d6! [positional draw.]

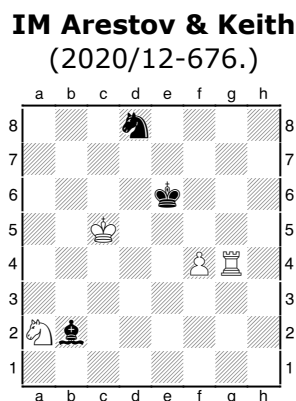
2nd



draw

1.♖c2 ♖h4+ 2.♔g7 ♖xh2 3.♖b2+ [3.♖xh2 ♖g1+ 4.♔f8 f1♖+ 5.♖cf2 ♖a1 6.♖b2+ ♔c7-+] 3...♔a7 4.♖xh2 ♖g1+
5.♔f8 f1♖+ 6.♖hf2 ♖e1 7.♖fe2 ♖f1+ 8.♔e8 ♖d1 [8...♖c1 9.♖a2+ ♔b6 10.♖eb2+ ♔c5 11.♖c2+=] 9.♖a2+ ♔b6
10.♖eb2+ ♔c5 11.♖c2+ ♔b4 [11...♔d4 12.♖d2+=] 12.♖ab2+ ♔a3 13.♖a2+ ♔b3 14.♖ab2+ [draw.]

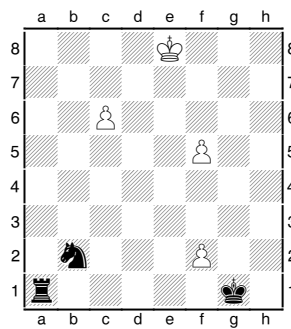
3rd



wins

1.♖g8! [1.♖g5? ♔f6! 2.♔d5 ♖e6=] 1...♔f6 2.♖c1! [2.♖b4? ♔f5 3.♖d3 ♖e6+ /Ke4=] 2...♔f7! [2...♔f5 3.♖e2
main line] 3.♖g4! ♔e6 4.♖e2! [4.♖d3 ♔f5 5.♖g8 ♖e6+=] 4...♔f5 5.♖g8 ♖e6+ 6.♔d6! ♖xf4 7.♖g3#

4th

IM Hlinka & Garcia
 (2020/12-683.)


draw

1.f6! [1.♔d7? ♖c4 2.c7 ♖a6+] **1...♖a8+** [main 1 : 1...♔d3 2.c7! (2.f7? ♖a8+ 3.♔e7 (3.♔d7 ♖e5+-) 3...♖f4 4.♔d7 ♖f8 5.c7 ♖xf7+ 6.♔d6 (6.♔c6 ♖g6 7.c8♖ ♖e7+-) 6...♖f8 7.♔d7 ♔d5 8.c8♖ ♖b6+-) 2...♖a8+ 3.♔d7 ♖c5+ 4.♔e7 ♖c8 5.♔d6! ♖a6 6.f7 ♖xc7 7.f4! (7.♔e7? ♔d5+-) 7...♔f2 8.f5! (8.♔d7? ♖a8 9.♔xc7 ♖a7+ 10.♔d6 ♖xf7 11.♔e5 ♔g3-+) 8...♔e3 9.♔d7 ♖a8 10.♔xc7 ♔e4 11.♔d6 /d7 11...♔xf5 12.♔e7 ♖a7+ 13.♔c8 ♔e6 14.f8♖+=; 1...♔c4 2.f7 main line 2...♖a8+ 3.♔e7=] **2.♔d7!** [2.♔e7? ♔d3! 3.f7 (3.c7 ♖b4 4.f7 (4.♔d6 ♖a6 5.f7 ♖xc7 6.♔e7 ♔d5+-) 4...♔d5+ 5.♔d7 ♖xc7-+) 3...♖f4 4.♔d7 (4.f8♖ ♖g6+- fork; 4.f8♖ ♖c8 5.♔d7 ♖xf8 6.c7 ♔d5 7.c8♖ ♖b6+- fork) 4...♖f8 5.c7 ♖xf7+ 6.♔c6 ♖g6 7.c8♖ ♖e7+- fork] **2...♔c4** [2...♔d3 3.c7! ♖c5+ 4.♔e7= similar to main] **3.f4!** [3.c7? ♔xf2 4.c8♖ ♖a6 5.f7 ♖c5+-; 3.♔e6? ♖c8 4.♔d7 ♖b6+-] **3...♖b6+** **4.♔d6!** [4.♔e6? ♔f2-] **4...♖h8** [main 2 : 4...♔f2 5.f7 ♔f3 (5...♖h8 6.♔e6! ♖c8 7.♔e7 ♔d5+ 8.♔d6 ♖xf4 9.c7! (9.♔d7? ♖f8 10.c7 ♖xf7+-) 9...♖h8 10.♔d7 ♔d5 11.c8♖!)= 6.♔c5 ♖a4+ 7.♔d6 ♖c3 8.c7 ♔xf4 9.♔d7! (9.♔e6? ♔g5! 10.♔d7 ♔d5 11.c8♖ ♖f6+! 12.♔e7 ♖h7!-+) 9...♔d5 10.c8♖! ♖f6+ 11.♔e7 ♖h7 12.♖b6! ♖a7+ 13.♔d7!)=] **5.f7 ♔g2** **6.♔e6!** [6.♔c5? ♖c8 7.♔d5 ♖e7+! (7...♖a7? 8.c7 ♖c8 9.♔e6 ♖b6 10.♔e7 ♔d5+ 11.♔d6 ♖xc7 (11...♖xf4 12.♔d7 ♔d5 13.c8♖=) 12.f5 ♔g3 13.♔xc7=) 8.♔d6 ♖xc6 9.♔xc6 ♖f8-+] **6...♖c8** [6...♔f3 7.♔f6! ♖c8 8.♔g7=] **7.♔e7 ♔d5+** **8.♔d6!** [8.♔e6? ♖xf4+ 9.♔d7 ♖f8 10.c7 ♖xf7+ 11.♔d6 ♖f8 12.♔d7 ♔d5 13.c8♖ ♖b6+-] **8...♖xf4** [8...♖d8+ 9.♔e5!∞] **9.c7 ♖f8** **10.♔e7 ♖h8** [10...♖g6+ 11.♔f6 ♖h8 12.♔e7=] **11.♔d7!** [11.f8♖? ♔d5+ 12.♔d6 ♖xc7-+] **11...♔d5** **12.c8♖!**=

Petr Kiryakov
 judge

Moscow, 5th April 2021.

You can send your observation (anticipations, faulties, duals) to the tourney director, Peter Gyarmati (slowpane@gmail.com) until two months.

Additional comment from tourney director:

Thanks for Petr Kiryakov for excellent judging, and for all participants. Participants included the lot of GM and IM and also two world champions. I think this was the best study tournament of Hungarian chessmagazines ('Magyar Sakkélet' and 'Magyar Sakkvilág') since 1980.