



UNION ARGENTINA DE PROBLEMISTAS DE AJEDREZ

AWARD
MT110 JOSE MUGNOS - 2014

I thank Mario Garcia and the Union Argentina de Problemistas de Ajedrez for trusting me with the important task of judging the Jose Mugnos-110 Memorial Tourney.

I received from Mario a convenient PGN file with 36 anonymous studies. It was immediately clear that Mario had performed extensive testing of an untold number of entries. I found errors in only one of the 36 that reached me. Mario deserves much of the credit for the timeliness of this award.

The quality of the studies I received was good, and two studies were quickly designated as prize worthy. Unfortunately, one of these two was unsound, leaving only one prize in the award. Another four studies impressed me with their thematic content, but they also had some minor points of detraction. It is all explained in my comments to the honorably mentioned studies below.

Considerable time was spent on selecting studies for commendations. I wanted all the studies in the award to be memorable, and so some competent works were left out. Here are brief explanations for the exclusion of some interesting studies.

[g8/g6] Many duals. Two are 1.Rc3 Bxd5 2.Rxa3 Nc6 3.Rxd7 +- and 2.Rg3+ Kf6 3.Rxd7 Nc8 4.Kh7 +-.

[d5/g8] Cooked by 3...Bb8+! 4.Kf3 Rf1+ 5.Kxg2 Rb2+ 6.Rd2 Rxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Rg1+ 8.Kf3 Qf1+ 9.Rf2 Rg3+ 10.Ke4 Qc4+ 11.Kf5 Qc5+ 12.Ke6 Re3+ 13.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 14.Kd7 Qa7+ 15.Ke8 Qxf2 16.Ne6 Qf3 --.

[b7/e1] Anticipated by V. Vlasenko, 2nd Comm., Dobrescu-80 JT, 2014.

[b8/a4] The echo mates have been shown before, and without the heavy introduction.

[a6/e8] This tablebase position is just a little beyond my comprehension. It may deserve publication, but not here.

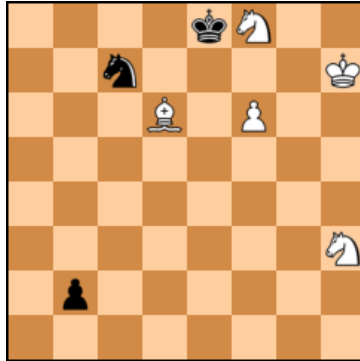
[h1/f5] Too game-like. The idea needs more distillation.

[c8/a6] This old idea was just one new twist away from entering the award.

[h4/h1], [b2/a4], [e1/d3] Excellent analyses, but in need of a stronger theme or point.

[d4/b3], [e8/b3], [d7/a8] The introductory play did not redress the banality of the root zugzwang positions.

**Yuri Bazlov
(Russia)
Prize**



Win

This is a memorable bit of chess poetry. The clear and concise struggle ends with a knight promotion and model mate.

1.Kg8!

1.Kg7? b1Q 2.f7+ Kd8 3.Nf4 Ne8+ =

1...b1Q 2.f7+ Kd8 3.Nf4!

3.Ng5? Qf5! =

3...Qf5 4.N8g6 Ne6 5.Nxe6+Kd7

5...Qxe6 6.Be7+ Kc7 7.Kg7 +-

6.Ba3!

6.Bb4? Kxe6 7.f8N+ Kd5! 8.Ne7+ Kc4 =

6...Kxe6

6...Qxg6+ 7.Ng7 +-

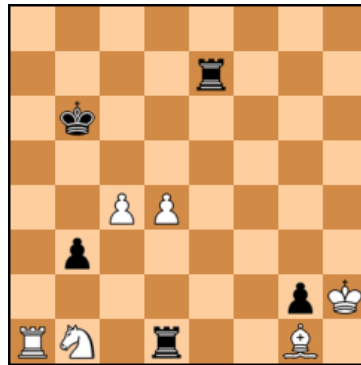
7.f8N+!Kf6

7...Kd5 8.Ne7 +-

8.Be7 Mate. Lovely.

**Sergiy Didukh
(Ukraine)**

1st Honorable Mention



Draw

A well constructed logical study. It hasn't got the longest or deepest thematic try seen lately, but difficulty is not a main criterion. The precision of the mechanism, with its unifying knight forks, lifts the study to a good artistic level. A certain debt is owed to M. Liburkin, 2nd Prize, Shakhmaty v SSSR, 1949.

1.d5+ Rxc1 2.c5+!

Thematic try 2.Kxg1? Re1+ 3.Kxg2 Re2+ 4.Kf3 Ra2 5.Nd2 Rxa1 6.Nxb3 Ra3 -+

2...Kb7

2...Kxc5 3.Kxg1 Re1+ 4.Kxg2 Re2+ 5.Kf3 Ra2 6.Nd2 Rxa1 7.Nxb3+ =

3.c6+! Kb8

3...Kb6 4.Kxg1 Re1+ 5.Kxg2 Re2+ 6.Kf3 Ra2 7.Nd2 Rxa1 8.Ke4! b2 9.Nc4+ =

4.c7+! Kxc7

MAIN 4...Rxc7 5.Kxg1 Rc1+ 6.Kxg2 Rc2+ 7.Nd2! =

4...Kb7 5.Ra7+! Kxa7 6.c8Q =

5.d6+! Kxd6 6.Kxg1 Re1+ 7.Kxg2 Re2+

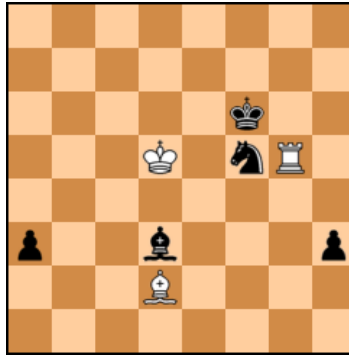
7...Kc5 8.Kf2! =

8.Kf3 Ra2 9.Nd2

9.Ke4? Kc5 10.Nd2 Rxd2! -+

9...Rxa1 10.Ke4! b2 11.Nc4+ draws.

**Harold van der Heijden &
Yochanan Afek
(Netherlands – Israel)
2nd Honorable Mention**



Draw

The corner-to-corner moves by the Bishop are incredible. It zips back and forth to avoid echoed shut-offs by the enemy Knight, then is trapped on a1, but the King arrives just in time. The first five move pairs only add clutter to what should have been a most remarkable bishop versus knight study.

1.Rg1 h2 2.Bc3+ Kf7 3.Rh1 Be4+ 4.Kxe4 Ng3+ 5.Kf3 Nxh1 6.Kg2 Nf2

6...Ng3 7.Kxh2 Ne4 (7...Ne2 8.Bh8! =) 8.Ba1! =. This variation compliments nicely the main line

7.Kxh2 Nd1 8.Bh8!

8.Ba1? Ke6 9.Kg2 Kd5 10.Kf3 Kc4 11.Ke2 Nb2 12.Kd2 Kb3 13.Kc1 Ka2 -+

8...Ne3 9.Ba1!

9.Kg3? Nf5+! 10.Kf4 Ng7 -+

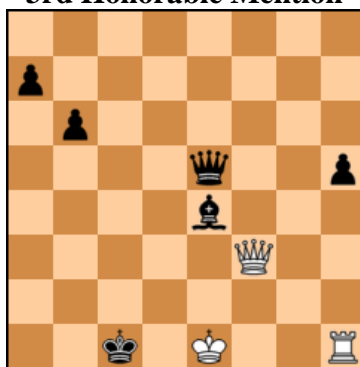
9.Kg1? Ke6 10.Kf2 Ng4+! 11.Kf3 Nf6 -+

9...Nc2 10.Bh8! Ne3

10...Ke6 11.Kg3(Kg2) Kd5 12.Kf3 Nd4+ 13.Ke3 =

11.Ba1! Ke6 12.Kg3 Kd5 13.Kf3 Nd1 14.Ke2 Nb2 15.Kd2 draw

**Luís Miguel González
(Spain)
3rd Honorable Mention**



Win

There are many checking moves in the solution to this study. Perhaps some will find so many checks annoying. I think the study is a good puzzle. Only some tricky maneuvering allows the white King to escape the black Queen's blows; a process that one could argue amounts to a systematic maneuver of two units. The case for this would be easier to make if the movements were very precise, but some minor duals are present.

1.O-O! Kb2 2.Qe2+ Ka3
2...Kc3 3.Rc1+ Kd4 4.Qd2+ Bd3 5.Qc3+ -

3.Qe3+ Ka4
3...Kb4 4.Rb1+ Kc4 5.Qe2+Kd4 6.Rb4+ -

4.Rf4! Qg5+ Kf1(Kf2) Qg2+ 6.Ke1 Qh1+ 7.Kd2 [Minor dual 7.Ke2 Qg2+ 8.Kd1 Qc2+ etc.] **7...Qh2+ 8.Kd1 Qc2+9.Ke1 Qb1+ 10.Kf2 Qc2+ 11.Kg3**
11.Qe2? Qc5+ 12.Qe3 (12.Ke1 Qg1+ 13.Kd2 Qd4+ =) 12...Qc2+ loss of time

11...Qg2+12.Kh4 Qh2+ 13.Kg5 Qg2+ 14.Kxh5
14.Kf6 Qg6+ 15.Ke5 Qe8+ =

14...Qg6+ 15.Kh4 Qh6+ 16.Kg3 Qg5+ 17.Kf2 Qg2+ 18.Ke1 Qh1+ 19.Kd2 [Minor dual 19.Ke2 Qg2+ 20.Kd1 etc.] **19...Qh2+ 20.Kd1 Qc2+ 21.Ke1 Qb1+ 22.Kf2 Qb2+ 23.Kg3**
23.Qe3?Qd4+ 24.Kg3 Qc3+ 25.Kf2 Qd4+ 26.Qe3 Qb2+ loss of time

23...Qg7+

23...Qg2+ 24.Kh4 Qh1+ 25.Kg5 Qg2+ 26.Rg5 +-

24.Rg4!Qc7+ 25.Kf2 Qc2+ 26.Qe2! Qc5+ 27.Ke1 Qb4+

27...Qc3+ 28.Qd2 Qc4 29.Kf2! +-

28.Kf1!

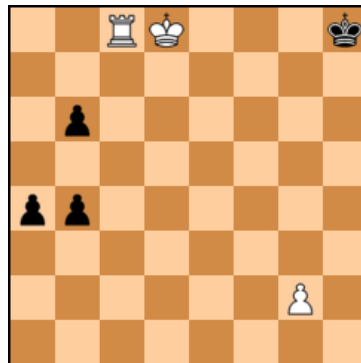
28.Qd2? Qb1+ 29.Kf2 Kb5! 30.Qe2+Bd3 31.Qe5+ Kc6! 32.Qe6+ Kc5 33.Qe3+ Kb5(Kc6)
34.Qe8+ Kc5! 35.Qc8+ Kb5 36.Qd7+ Kc5 37.Qd4+ Kc6 =

28...Qf8+ 29.Qf2!

29.Kg1? Qc5+ =

29...Qb4 30.Qa2+ Kb5 31.Qe2+ wins

**Marco Campioli
(Italy)
4th Honorable Mention**



BTM Win

The pawns are threatening, but White turns the tables with good and simple tactics. The composer makes chameleon echo model mates seem effortless. The try 2.Ke8? is also appreciated. The first move by Black isn't necessary. It would be better to start with White's move Ke7+!

1...b3

1...a3 2.Ra8 +-

2.Ke7+!

A good try is 2.Ke8? Kg7! 3.Rc7+ Kf6 4.Rb7 Ke5 5.Rxb6 Kd4 6.g4 Kc3 7.g5 a3
8.g6 a2 =

2...Kg7 3.Rc4 a3

3...b2 4.Rg4+ Kh7 5.Kf7 Kh6 6.Rb4 a3 7.Rb5 transposes to main line

4.Rg4+ Kh7 5.Kf7 Kh6 6.Kf6 Kh7

MAIN 6...Kh5 7.Ra4! (7.Rb4? a2 8.Ra4 b5! -+) 7...a2 8.g3 b2 9.Rh4 **Mate**

7.Rg7+ Kh8

7...Kh6 8.g4 a2 9.Ra7 b2 10.Rxa2 b1Q 11.Rh2 **Mate**

8.Kf7

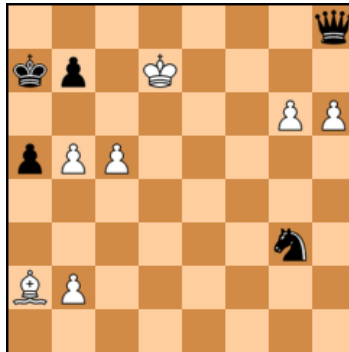
8.Kg6? b2! -+

8...b2 9.Rg8+

9.Rg3? b1Q -+

9...Kh7 10.Rg5 Kh6 11.Rb5 a2 12.g4 ~ 13.Ra5 **Mate**

**Andrzej Jasik
(Poland)
Commendation**



Win

A pleasant little exercise in Zugzwang. I'm glad to see that the composer did not make his study "front heavy" by loading it with introductory exchanges.

1.g7

1.b6+? Kb8 +-

1...Qh7 2.Kc7 Ne4

2...Nf5 3.b6+ Ka8 4.Bd5 +-

3.b6+ Ka8

3...Ka6 4.Bc4 **Mate**

4.c6 Nd6 5.cxb7+

5.Bf7? Nb5+ +- ; 5.Be6? Ne8+ 6.Kc8 Qe4 7.g8Q Qxc6+ 8.Kd8 Nf6! =

5...Nxb7 6.Bb3!

6.Bc4? a4! zz 7.Bd5 Qc2+ 8.Bc6 Qh2+ +-

6...a4 7.Bc4! zz and wins.

**Richard Becker
Oregon City, USA
15.05.2015**