

# My First Endgame Study – Awards

*By Gady Costeff*

This tourney was a collaboration between ChessBase India and the World Federation for Chess Composition (WFCC). Tourney director Satanick Mukhuty sent me 60 studies by 35 composers. I am happy that so many tried to compose their first study. Of the 60 entries, 25 studies contained alternative ways to win or other serious analytic flaws, 3 were anticipated, and 1 study did not conclude with the required mate. This left 31 studies. My criteria for judging the studies: 1. An attractive idea or mate. 2. Active play by both sides. 3. Maximize economy and minimize technical captures.

## **Maxim Avvakumov, 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



*White wins*

**1.Ng6+ Kf5**

1...Kd4 2.Nxe6+ Kc4 3.Ba6+ Kc3 4.Nxc5

1...Kf6 2.Ne4+

**2.Bxe6+**

2.Nxe7+ Kg4 3.Bxe6+ Kh5

**2...Kxg6 3.dxe7 Rxc5+**

3...Nf3+ 4.Nxf3 Rcl+ 5.Kg2

**4.Kh1!**

4.hxg5 Qxg5+

**4...Rg1+! 5.Kxg1 Nf3+ 6.Kg2 Nxc4+ 7.Kh3!**

7.Kg3 Qg5+ 8.Bg4+ Kf7 9.Re6 Nf5+

**7...Qc3+ 8.Kxc4 Qf6+**

8...Qh8+ 9.Kg3! (9.Kg4? Qh5+ 10.Kg3 Kg7! 11.f4 Qe8 12.Bd5 Qxe7 13.Rb7 Kh8! 14.Rxe7 stalemate) 9...Qe5+ 10.Kf3! Qf6+ 11.Bf5+

8...Qd4+ 9.Kg3 Qxb6 10.e8Q+

**9.Kg3!**

9.Kg4? Qg5+! 10.Kf3 Qxe7 11.Bc8+ Kg5

**9...Qxe7**

9...Qg5+ 10.Bg4+ Kf7 11.Re6; 9...Qe5+ 10.Kf3 Qf6+ 11.Bf5+

**10.Bc8+! Kh5**

10...Kf7 11.Rb7

10...Kg5 11.f4+ Kh5 12.Bg4#

**11.Bg4+**

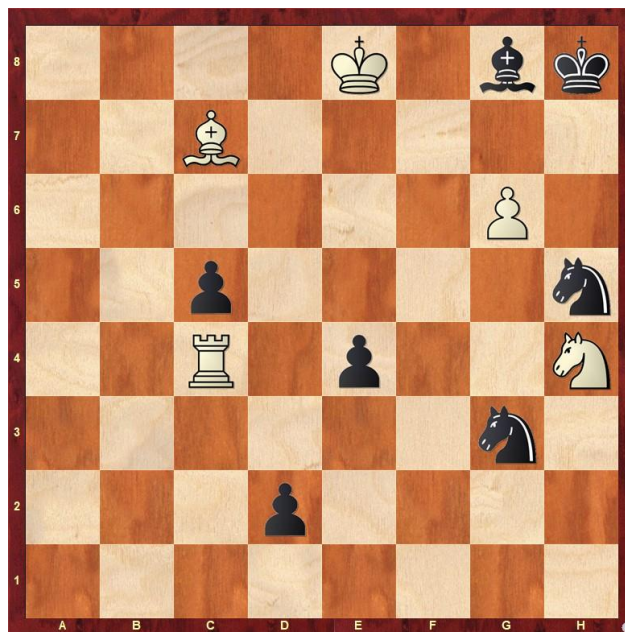
11.Rb5+ Kg6 12.Rb6+ Kh5 waste of time.

11...Kg5 12.f4# (diagram) 1-0



An attractive mate, where both sides play actively - 3...Rxf5+! 4.Kh1! Rg1+!  
and 8. Bc8+! - and the white king makes some subtle moves. The technical captures at the start are not ideal, but the exciting events make us forget quickly. An excellent first study!

Viani Antonio D'Cunha, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



*White wins*

**1.Be5+!**

1.Kf8 Nf6 2.Be5 Ngh5

1.Rd4 Nf6+

**1...Ng7+ 2.Kf8 N3h5 3.Rd4!** *Blocking the d-file.*

3.Nf5 d1Q 4.Nxg7 Qd5

**3...cxd4 4.Nf5 Bh7!** *Clearing space for the king.*

4...d1Q 5.Nxg7 Qf1+ 6.Nf5+ Nf6 7.Bxf6#

**5.Nxg7 Bxg6 6.Nxh5+ Kh7 7.Nf6+ Kh8**

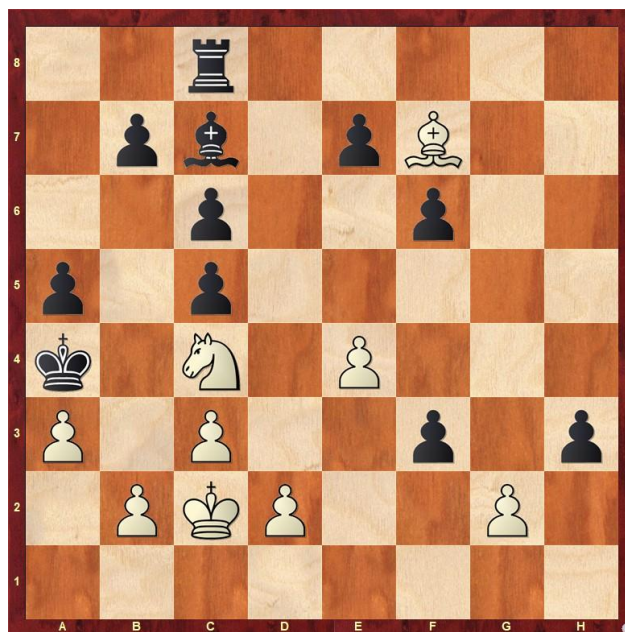
7...Kh6 8.Bf4#

**8.Bf4! d1Q 9.Bh6 Qb3 10.Bg7#** *(diagram) 1-0*



3.Rd4! and 8.Bf4! are exciting, as every unit plays, with the exception of Pe4. Moreover, the queen's helplessness to stop the mate is a nice touch. An elegant study!

## Hunter Klotz-Burwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



*White wins*

### 1.Nb6+! Bxb6

1...Kb5 2.Nxc8 a4 (2...fxg2 3.Bc4+ Ka4 4.Na7 g1Q 5.Bb3#) 3.Bc4+! Ka5  
(3...Kxc4 4.Na7 f2 5.d3#) 4.gxh3+–

### 2.Bb3+ Kb5 3.Bc4+! Ka4

3...Kxc4 4.a4 Rd8 5.b3#

### 4.Kb1! Rd8

4...hxg2 5.Ka2 g1Q 6.b3#

### 5.d3! Rxd3

5...Rg8 6.Bxg8 e6 7.Bxe6 Bc7 8.Bc4 b5 9.Ka2 bxc4 10.dxc4

**6.Bxd3 Kb3! 7.a4!!** Surprisingly, White has time to control the b5 square, preparing the mating net.

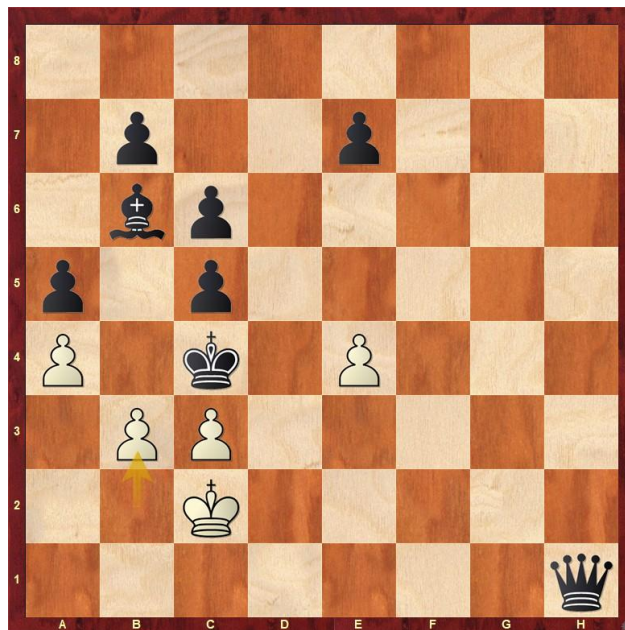
7...f5

7...c4 8.Bc2#

8.gxf3 h2

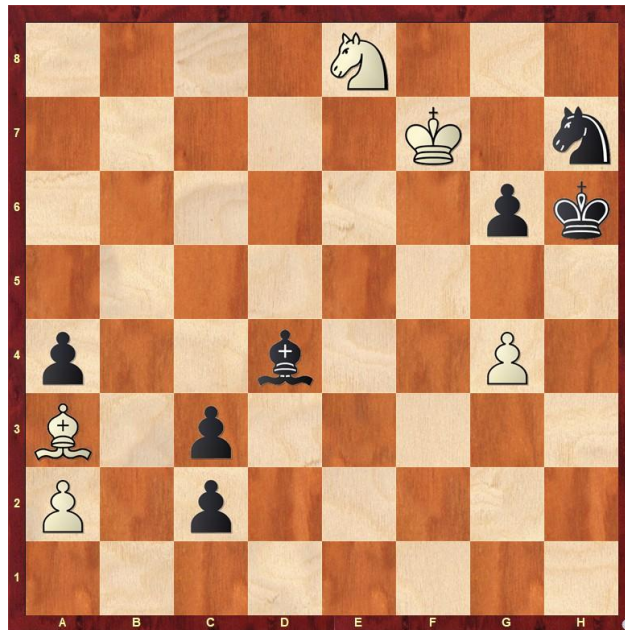
8...fxe4 9.fxe4

9.Bc4+ Kxc4 10.Kc2 fxe4 11.fxe4 h1Q 12.b3# (diagram) 1-0



1.Nb6+!, 4.Kb1!, 6...Kb3!, and 7.a4!! are surprising moves, and the battle is intense throughout. The unusual mate is orchestrated with modest means.

## Viani Antonio D'Cunha, 4<sup>th</sup> Prize



*White wins*

**1.Bc1+ Ng5+**

1...g5 2.Nd6 *idea* Nf5# 2...Nf6 3.Nf5+ wins material

**2.Kg8** with a strong threat of Nd6-Nf7#

**2...Be5**

2...Bc5 - The only other move to prevent Nd6 loses to 3.Nf6 Bd6 4.Ne4 Be7  
5.Bxg5+ Bxg5 6.Nd6 c1Q 7.Nf7#

**3.a3!** Zugzwang

3.Kf8 Bh8 4.Kg8 Be5 wastes time.

**3...Bg3**

3...Bf4 4.Bxf4 c1Q 5.Bxc1 c2 6.Kf8!

4.Nf6 with the threat of Ne4.

4...Bf4

4...Be1 5.Kh8 Bd2 6.Ng8#

5.Bxf4 c1Q 6.Kh8!!

6.Bxc1? c2 7.Bf4 c1Q 8.Bxc1 stalemate.

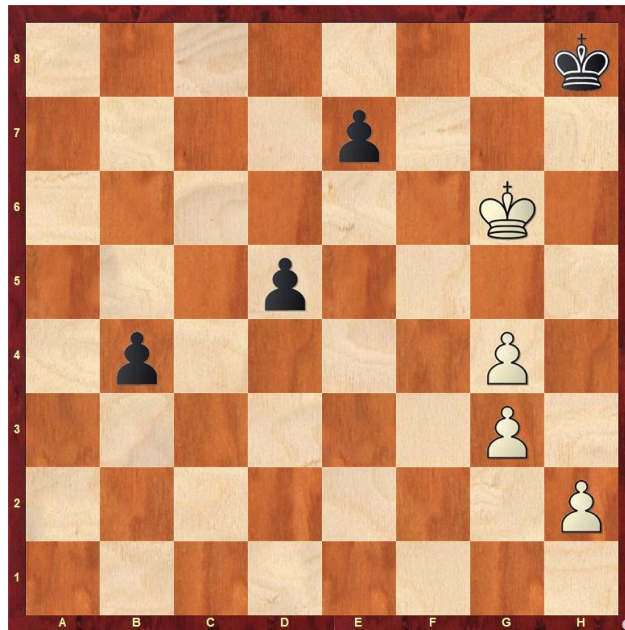
6...Qxf4 7.Ng8# (diagram) 1-0



White defeats the black stalemate counterplay with the help of zugzwang after 3.a3. The study could be improved by showing the zugzwang with White to move in a try.



**Malanin Egor Dmitrievich, 5<sup>th</sup> Place**



*White wins*

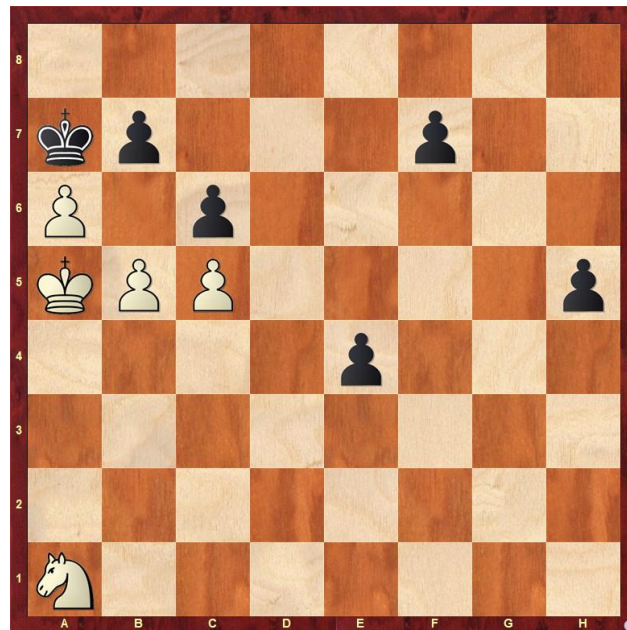
**1.Kf7 b3 2.g5 b2 3.g6 b1Q 4.g7+ Kh7 5.g8Q+ Kh6 6.Qh8+ Qh7+  
6...Kg5 7.Qh4+**

**7.Qxh7+ Kxh7 8.g4 Kh6 9.h4 d4 10.g5+ Kh5 11.g6 d3 12.g7 d2 13.g8Q d1Q  
14.Qg5# (diagram)**



The economy and long solution are commendable, although both sides just push pawns so there is not much excitement.

### Nick Desmarais, 6<sup>th</sup> Place



*White wins*

**1.b6+!**

1.axb7 Kxb7

1.Nc2 cxb5 2.axb7 Kxb7

1.Nb3 h4 2.Nd4 e3 3.bxc6 bxa6 4.c7 Kb7 5.c8Q+ Kxc8 6.Kb6 h3 7.c6 h2

**1...Ka8 2.Nc2!**

2.a7 e3 3.Nc2 e2; 2.Nb3 e3 3.Nd4 h4 4.Ne2 h3

**2...h4**

2...f5 3.a7 f4 4.Nd4 f3 5.Ne6 f2 6.Nc7#

2...e3 3.Nxe3 bxa6 4.Kxa6 Kb8 5.b7 h4 6.Nd5 h3 7.Kb6 h2 8.Nf6 h1Q 9.Nd7#

2...bxa6 3.Kxa6 h4 4.b7+ Kb8 5.Kb6 h3 6.Nb4 h2 7.Na6#

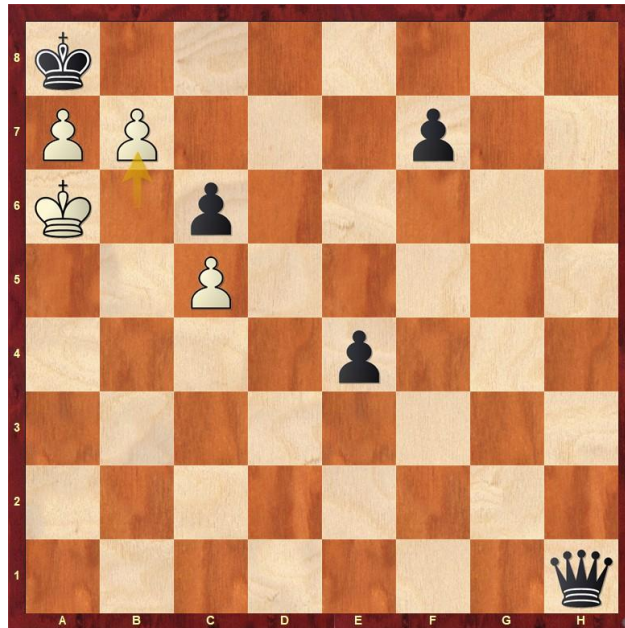
**3.a7!**

3.Nb4 e3 4.a7 e2 5.Na6 e1Q+

**3...h3**

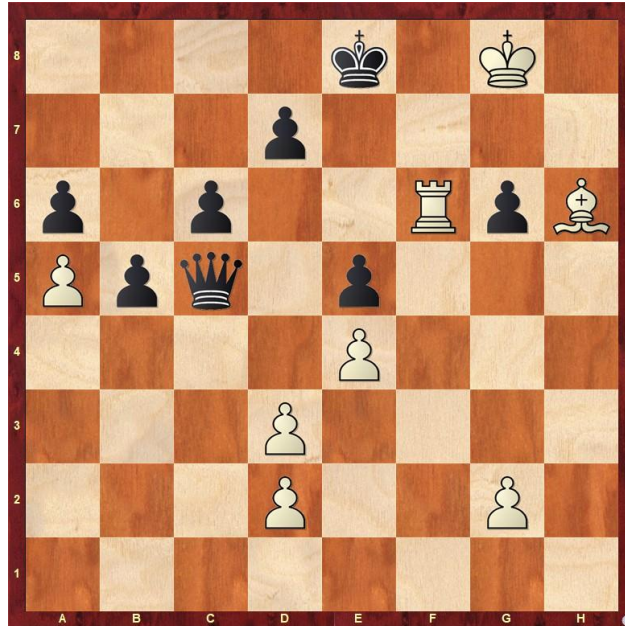
3...e3 4.Nxe3 h3 5.Nd5! cxd5 6.c6 bxc6 7.Ka6

**4.Nb4 h2 5.Na6! bxa6 6.Kxa6 h1Q 7.b7# (diagram) 1-0**



5.Na6! is the main idea, and therefore the white knight must reach b4, which explains why 2.Nc2! is the correct choice. Nice logic!

## Hunter Klotz-Burwell, 7<sup>th</sup> Place



*White wins*

**1.Rf8+ Ke7 2.Bg5+ Kd6 3.Bd8 Qc2**

If the queen stays on the a7-g1 diagonal, then Rf6+ followed by Bb6+ will win the queen.

**3...Qg1 4.Rf6+ Kc5 5.Bb6+ Kb4 6.Bxg1**

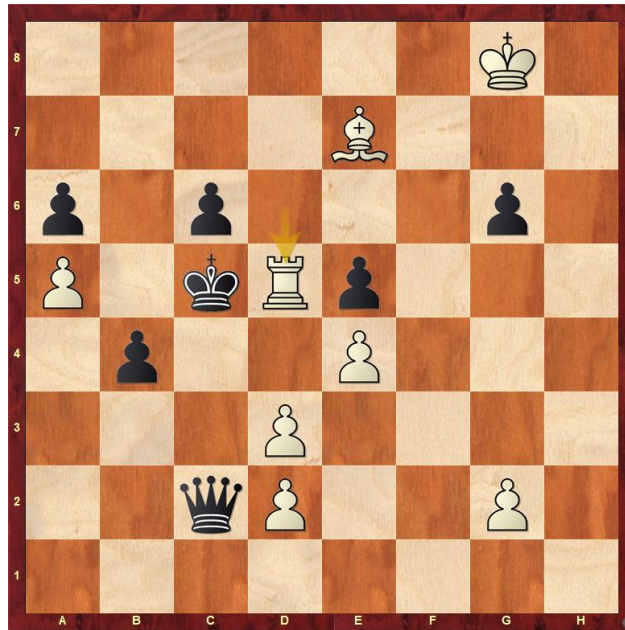
**4.Rf6+ Kc5 5.Be7+ d6**

**5...Kd4 6.Rd6+ Kc5 7.Rd5#**

**6.Rxd6 b4**

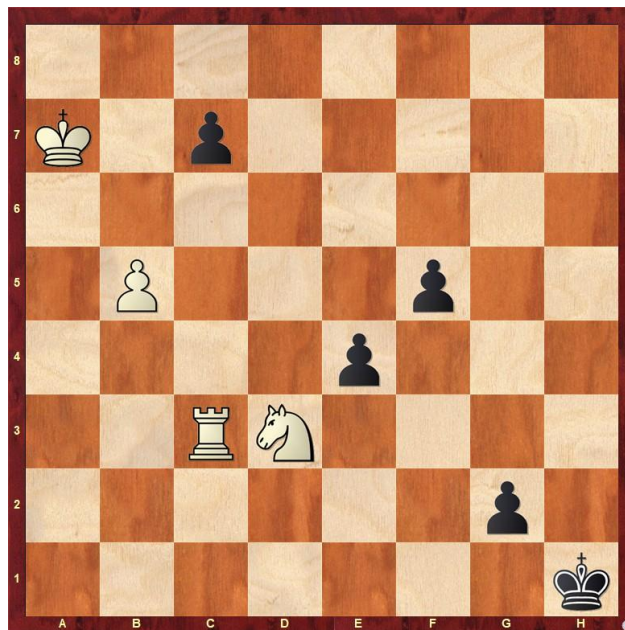
**6...Kb4 7.Rxc6+**

**7.Rd5# (diagram) 1-0**



The rook and bishop chase the black king until it can no longer escape.

### Harnagea Stefan-Constantin, 8<sup>th</sup> Place



*White wins*

**1.Nf2+ Kh2 2.Nh3 f4!**

**2...g1Q+ 3.Nxg1 Kxg1 4.Rxc7**

**3.b6!**

3.Nxf4 g1Q+ 4.b6 Qxb6+

**3...cxb6**

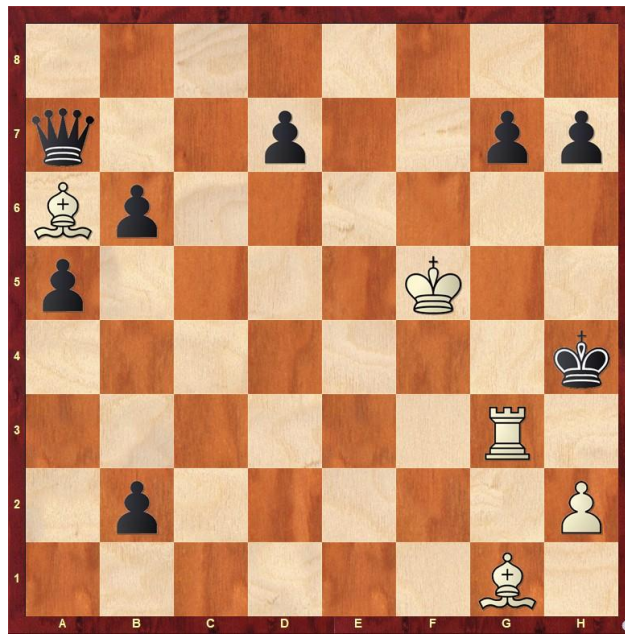
3...e3 4.bxc7

**4.Nxf4 g1Q 5.Rh3# (diagram) 1-0**



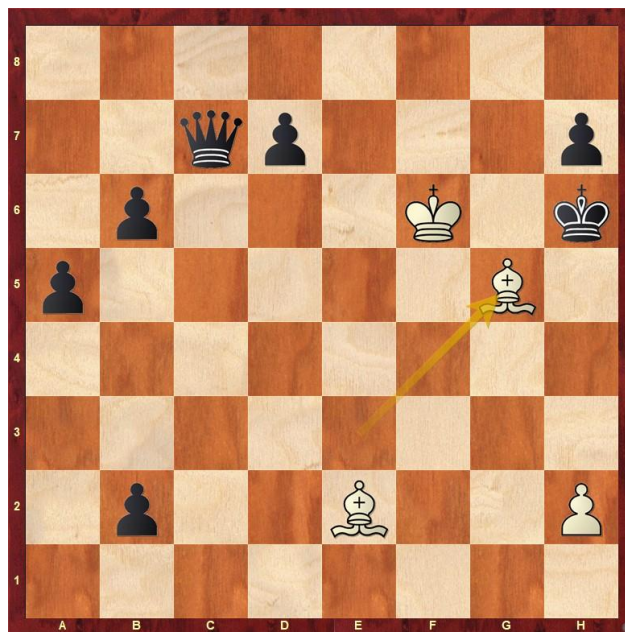
3.b6! closes the g1–a7 diagonal in advance, preparing the mate. A longer solution and managing without Pe4 would improve the study.

## Saga Arseniy Nikolaevich, 9<sup>th</sup> Place



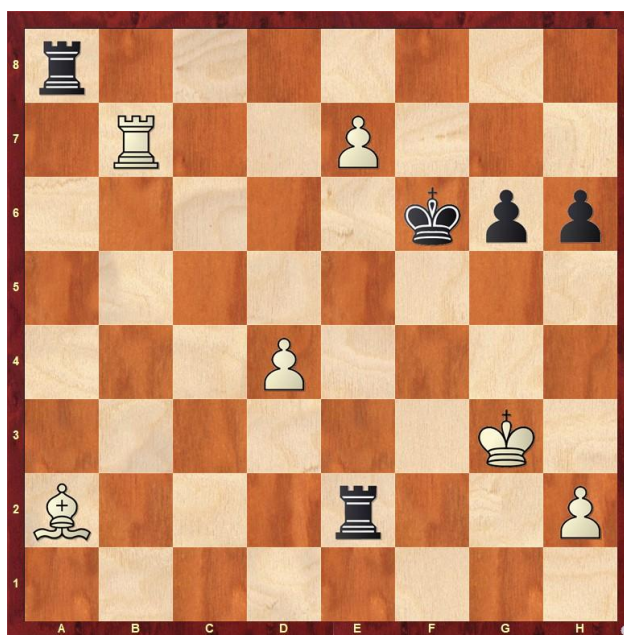
*White wins*

**1.Rh3+ Kxh3 2.Bf1+ Kh4 3.Bf2+ Kh5 4.Be2+ Kh6 5.Be3+ g5 6.Kf6 Qc7  
7.Bxg5# (diagram) 1-0**



A rook sacrifice leads to a forced mate by the bishop pair. The quiet move 6.Kf6 is noteworthy. Starting the study with Rg3 on g2 and Kh4 on h3 would add the introductory moves 1.Rg3+ Kh4. Furthermore, moving Ba6 to c4 or b5 would eliminate the threat to the bishop, making the initial position more attractive.

## Camiel Maseland, 10<sup>th</sup> Place



*White wins*

**1.e8N+!**

1.e8Q? Ra3+ 2.Bb3 Rxe8

**1...Raxe8**

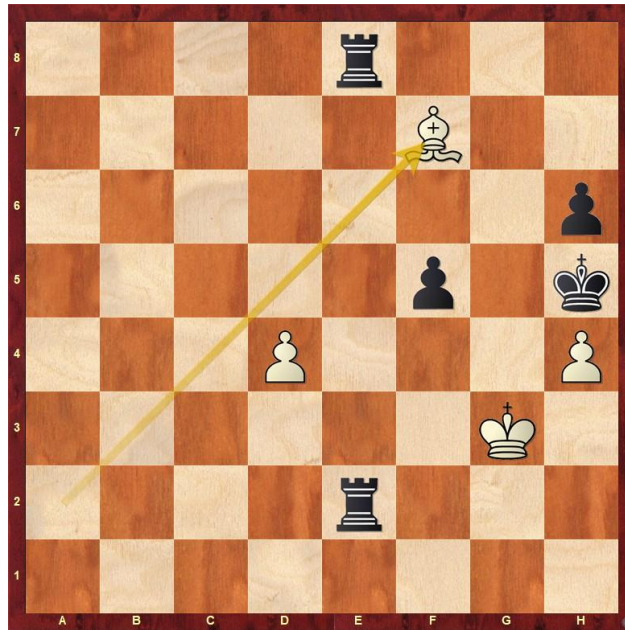
1...Kf5 2.Nd6+ Kf6 3.Rf7+ Kg5 4.h4+ Kh5 5.Rf5+ g5 6.Bf7#

**2.Rf7+ Kg5 3.h4+ Kh5 4.Rf5+ gxf5**

4...g5 5.Bf7#

**5.Bf7# (diagram) 1-0**





1.e8N+ and 4.Rf5+! are nice moves. However, since every white move is a check, the play is one-sided.