

Problem Paradise

Informal Tourney Award

Endgame 2022

Judge: Mario G. Garcia

I have looked through the magazines over the year of 2022, which contained many studies from the participants.

In addition, after the closing of the contest, I received studies in word and PGN format, which I used to carry out the analysis and evaluation.

I would like to highlight the valuable collaboration with the Director of the tournament, Hiroshi Manabe. We have had important interactions during the year 2022.

I also want to thank the composers who offered brilliant works for the publication.

Participants: Michal Hlinka (Slovakia); Pavel Arestov (Russia); Lubos Kekely (Slovakia); Peter S. Krug (Austria); Andrzej Jasik (Poland); Michael Pasman (Israel); Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (Norway); Valery Kalashnikov (Russia); Jan Timman (Netherlands); Sergey Osintsev (Russia); Jan Rusinek (Poland); Leonid Topko (Ukraine); Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia); Rainer Staudte (Germany); David Gugenidze (Georgia); Michael Schlosser (Germany)

There are 28 studies by 16 composers from 11 countries.

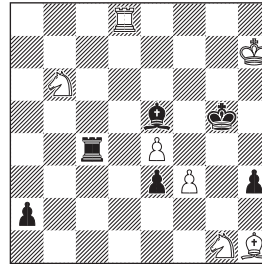
Here is the presentation of my

evaluation.

SECTION A WIN STUDIES

1st Prize

E216 Peter Krug
(Austria)



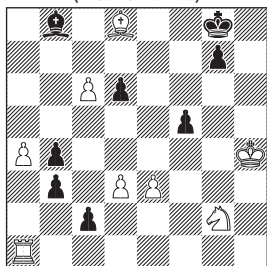
Win (7+6)

1.f4+! Bxf4! [main B:1...Kxf4 2.Rf8+!
a) 2.Nxc4? a1Q 3.Rg8 Qa7+ 4.Kg6 Qc5!
5.Ne2+ Kg4 6.Kh6+ (6.Nxe5+ Qxe5
7.Kh7+ Kh4 8.Bf3 h2 9.Rg4+ Kh3=)
6...Kh4 =; b) 2.Nd5+? Kg3 3.Rg8+
Kf2 4.Nxh3+ Ke1; 2...Kg3 3.Rg8+ Kh2
(3...Kf2 4.Nxh3+ Ke2 5.Rg2+--)
4.Nf3+ Kxh1 5.Rg1# mate] **2.Rg8+!** [2.Nd5?
Rc7+! 3.Nxc7 a1Q 4.Rg8+ Kf6! =]
2...Kf6 3.Nd5+ Ke5 [3...Kf7 4.Rg7+!
(4.Ra8? Rc1 5.Ra7+ Bc7 6.Rxa2 Rxg1=)
4...Ke8 5.Ra7 Rc1 6.Rxa2 Bb8 7.Nf3
+-] **4.Re8+!** [4.Ra8? Rc1 5.Re8+
Kd6=] **4...Kd6 5.Rd8+ Ke5 6.Nf3+
Kxe4 7.Kg6 Rc6+ [7...a1Q 8.Nc3+!
Qxc3 9.Ng5+ Ke5 10.Rd5#] 8.Nf6+!
Rxf6+ 9.Kxf6 a1Q+ 10.Rd4+ Qxd4+
11.Ne5# mate**

Culmination in mate in two lines!
With variations and trials, a study of
significant and pleasant artistic level.

2nd Prize

E203 Jan Timman
(Netherlands)



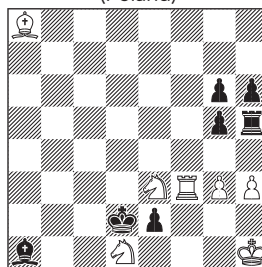
Win (8+8)

1.Ne1! Bc7! [1...b2 2.Nxc2 b3 3.Bf6
bxa1Q 4.Nxa1 gxf6 5.Nxb3+-] **2.Bg5!**
[2.Bf6? gxf6 3.d4 b2 4.Nxc2 bxa1Q
5.Nxa1 d5! (5...Kf7? 6.d5+-) 6.Nb3 Kf7
7.a5 Ke7 8.a6 Bb6=] **2...b2 3.Nxc2**
b3 4.Bf6! Bd8! [4...bxa1Q 5.Nxa1
gxf6 6.Nxb3+-; 4...bxc2 5.Bxb2+-]
5.c7! [5.Kh3? Bxf6 6.c7 bxc2 7.c8Q+
Kf7 8.Qd7+ Kf8=] **5...Bxf6+ 6.Kg3!**
bxc2 [6...Be5+ 7.Kg2! (7.Kf2? bxc2
8.c8Q+ Kf7 9.Qd7+ (9.Rg1 b1Q 10.d4
Bf6=) 9...Kf6 10.Rg1 b1Q 11.Qxg7+
Ke6 12.Rg6+ Kd5 13.Qg8+ Kc5
14.Qc4+ (14.d4+ Kb4=) 14...Kb6
15.a5+ Kb7 16.a6+ Kb6=) 7...bxc2
(7...bxa1Q 8.Nxa1 b2 9.c8Q+ Kh7
10.Qxf5+-) 8.c8Q+-] **7.c8Q+ Kf7**
8.Rh1! [8.Qd7+? Kg6 9.Rh1 (9.Rf1
c1Q 10.Qxf5+ Kf7=) 9...Be5+!=]
8...b1Q 9.Qd7+ Be7 [9...Kf8 10.Rh8#]
10.Qxf5+ Bf6 11.Qd7+ Be7 [11...Kg6
12.Qe8+ Kg5 13.Qh5# /Rh5+#]
12.Qc6!+-

The variety of "unexpected" and
surprising movements, both in White'
s try and in Black' s counterplay, is
striking. The sequence of the moves
makes culmination, which in some cases
with mate.

3rd Prize

E202 Andrzej Jasik
(Poland)



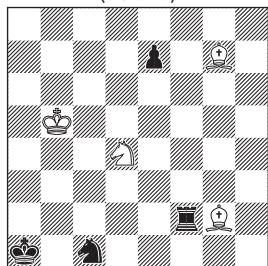
Win (7+7)

1.Rf2! Kd3 [1...g4 2.Kg2 Kd3 3.hxg4
Re5 (3...Rh2+ 4.Kxh2 e1Q 5.Rf4 Qd2+
6.Kg1 Qe1+ 7.Kg2 Qd2+ 8.Nf2+ Kxe3
9.Re4#) 4.Bb7 Re6 5.Bd5 Rxe3 6.Bc4+
Kxc4 7.Nxe3+ Kd3 8.Nc2 ±] **2.Be4+!**
Kxe4 3.Rxe2 Kf3 4.Rf2+ [4.Rh2?
Kxg3 5.Nf1+ Kf4= 6.Nde3 Ke5 7.Ra2
Bd4 8.Ng4+ Ke6 9.Kg2 Rh4 10.Ra6+
Kf7 11.Ng3 h5 12.Nh6+ Kg7 13.Nhf5+
gxf5 14.Nxf5+ Kf7 15.Nxh4 gxf4 16.Kf3
Be5=] **4...Kxg3 5.Nf1+ Kxh3 6.Ra2!**
[6.Rg2? Bd4 ZZ draw; 6.Re2? Kh4 7.Nf2
g4!=] **6...Bd4** [6...Be5 7.Nf2+ Kh4
8.Ra4+ Bf4 9.Kg2 g4 10.Rxf4 ±] **7.Rg2!**
ZZ 7...Rh4 [7...g4 8.Rh2#] **8.Rg3#**

With subtle moves White reaches
a favorable Zugzwang position and
culminates in two mates according to
Black's responses. In addition, a trial
with an interesting sequence.

Special Prize

E195 Jan Rusinek
(Poland)



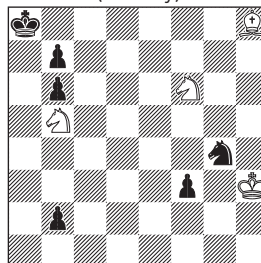
Win (4+4)

1.Ne2+ e5 [1...Kb1 2.Be4+ Ka2 3.Nxc1+-; 1...Ka2 2.Bd5+ Nb3 3.Nd4+-] **2.Bxe5+ Ka2 3.Bd5+** [3.Nc3+? Kb3 4.Bd5+ Kc2=] **3...Ka3** [3...Kb1 4.Be4+ Ka2 5.Nxc1+-] **4.Nc3 Rb2+ 5.Ka5!** [5.Ka6? Kb4! (5...Rc2? 6.Bd6+ Kb2 7.Nd1+ Ka1 8.Be5+ Kb1 9.Nc3+-) 6.Ne4 Rc2/a2=] **5...Nb3+ 6.Kb6 Rc2** [6...Nd4+ 7.Ka6 Rc2 8.Bxd4+-; 6...Nc1+ 7.Nb5+ Rxb5+ 8.Kxb5+-] **7.Bd6+ Kb2 8.Na4+ Ka2 9.Nc5 Rc3 10.Kb5 Rh3 11.Kb4 Rh4+ 12.Kc3+-**

A nice domination by the combination of BBN against Rook and BB against N, with variants and trials that enrich the study.

Special Prize

E210 Jarl Henning Ulrichsen
(Norway)



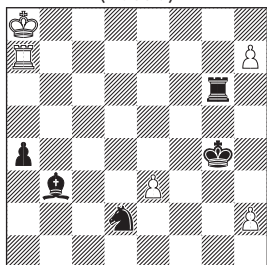
Win (4+6)

1.Na3! [1.Nc3? loses after 1...f2 2.Kg2 Ne3+ 3.Kxf2 Nd1+ 4.Nxd1 b1Q-+] **1...f2** Black's defence leads to a draw-like endgame with king, bishop and knight versus king and knight, but the position of the pawns proves to be unfavourable for Black. **2.Kg2 Ne3+ 3.Kxf2 Nd1+ 4.Ke2! Nc3+ 5.Kd3!** White plays for mate. **5...b1Q+ 6.Nxb1 Nxb1 7.Nd5!** Here the white knight controls both b6 and c7. **7...Na3 8.Bb2!** A surprise! The white bishop seems to chase the Black knight back to a safe harbour. **8...Nb5 9.Be5!** The point! **9...Ka7** forced [as 9...Na7 is met by 10.Nxb6#] **10.Kc4! Ka6** [The knight is lost after 10...Na3+ 11.Kb3 Nb1 (or 11...Nb5 12.Kb4 Ka6 13.Bb8+- mating next move) 12.Bf4+-] **11.Kb4! Na7 12.Nc7#**

An ingenious configuration, with minor pieces, with the 'domination' theme and the culmination in mate.

Honorable mention

E213 Pavel Arestov
(Russia)



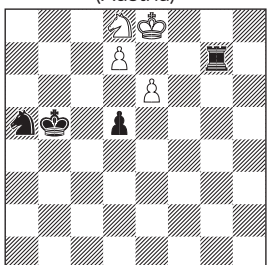
Win (5+5)

1.h8Q Bd5+! [1...Rg8+ 2.Qxg8+ Bxg8 3.Rg7+ Kh3 4.Rxg8 Kxh2 5.Kb8+-] **2.Kb8 Rg8+ 3.Qxg8+ Bxg8 4.Rg7+ Kh3 5.Rg3+!!** [5...Rxg8? Kxh2 6.Kc7 a3 7.Rg4 Nf1 8.Ra4 Nxe3=] **5...Kxh2 6.Rxg8 Nc4** [6...Kh3 7.Kc7+-] **7.e4 a3 8.Kc7 a2 9.Ra8 Kg3 10.Rxa2 Kf4 11.Ra4!** [11.Re2? Ke5=] **11...Nd2 12.Kd6!** [12.Kc6 Ke5=] **12...Nxe4+ 13.Kd5+-**

A pertinent introduction and an instructive final moves.

Special Commendation

E207 Peter Krug
(Austria)



Win (4+4)

1.Kf8! Rxd7 2.exd7 d4 3.Nf7! [try:

3.Ne6? Nc6 4.Nxd4+ Nxd4 5.d8Q Ne6+ =] **3...Nc6 4.Ne5 Nd8 5.Ke7 Nb7 6.Nf7 Na5! 7.Nd6+ Kc5 8.Ne4+ Kb5 9.Kd6 d3** [main B: 9...Nb7+ 10.Kc7 Ka6 11.Kc6! Nd8+ 12.Kd6 Kb5! 13.Kc7 Ne6+ 14.Kc8 d3 15.Ng5! d2 16.Ne4! 16...d1N 17.Ng5!+- Second mainline with Black underpromotion] **10.Kc7!** [10.Nf2? Nb7+ 11.Kc7 Nc5 12.d8Q Ne6+ =] **10...Nc6 11.Nf2 d2 12.Ne4 d1N 13.Nd6+ Kc5 14.Nb7+ Kb5 15.Na5! Nd4 16.Kd6!+-**

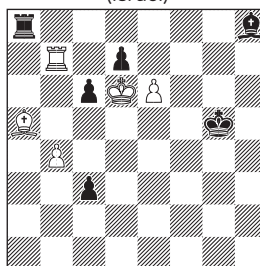
Black's counterplay with knights promotion is not enough! A nice ending of minor pieces.

SECTION B

DRAW STUDIES

1st/2nd Prize

E199 Michael Pasman
(Israel)



Draw (5+6)

1.Ra7!! [1.e7? Bf6 2.Bb6 (2.b5 Bxe7+ 3.Kxe7 Rxa5 4.bxc6 dxc6+-) 2...Kf4+-; 1.Bb6? dxe6 2.Rc7 Kf5 3.Rxc6 Ke4 4.Kxe6 Kd3+-; 1.b5? Rxa5 2.exd7 (2.e7 Ra8 3.bxc6 (3.Ra7 Re8+-) 3...dxc6+-) 2...Bf6 3.Rc7 Rxb5 4.Rxc6 Rb8 5.Rc8 Rb6+ 6.Kd5 Rb1! 7.Ke6

19.Qe6+ Kc3 20.Qe3+ Kb4 21.Qb6+ Ka4 22.Qa6+ Na5 23.Qc6+ Rb5 24.Qc2+ Rb3 25.Qc6+ Nxc6= mirror stalemate) 13.Qd4+ Rb4 14.Qd1+ Ka5! 15.Qd5+ Rb5! Position C1. Both black Rooks are indirectly protected by Knight forks 16.Qa2+ (or 16.Qxf7? Nd6+-+) 16...Kb4 17.Qb2+ Kc4 18.Qe2+ Kd4!! 19.Qxb5 Nd6+-+; Logical try No.2: 9.Kc8? Rf7! The Rook goes under the protection of the Knight fork (9...Re7? 10.Qh1+ Kc4 11.Qh4+=) 10.Qh1+ (10.Qh5+ Kc6! 11.Qxf7 Nd6+-+) 10...Ke5! Position B2(with Ke5). Only move 11.Qh5+ Rf5 12.Qh8+ Rf6-+; 9.Qh5+? Kc6 10.Qf3+ Kb5!-+) **9...Kd6 10.Qh6+** [10.Qd1+? Ke7! 11.Qe1+ Kf8 12.Qf1+ Rf7-+] **10...Kd5 11.Qh1+ Kc4 12.Kc8!** [12.Qc1+? Kb3!-+] **12...Rf7!** Position B3 (with Qh1 and Kc4)[Additional line 12...Rdd2 13.Qe4+ (13.Qc6+? Nc5! 14.Qa6+!? (or 14.Qe6+!? Rd5-+ (14...Nxe6?= mirror stalemate)) 14...Kc3-+ (14...Nxa6?= mirror stalemate)) 13...Rd4 14.Qe6+ Kc5 15.Qe5+ Kc6! 16.Qc7+! (16.Qxd4? Nd6+ 17.Kd8 Rb8+ 18.Ke7 Nf5+-+; 16.Qe8+? Kb6!-+) 16...Kd5 17.Qf7+ (17.Qd7+? Nd6+-+) 17...Kc5 18.Qc7+= Positional draw 18...Kb4 19.Qxb7+ (not 19.Kxb7? Rc4! (19...Ka3+? 20.Kc8=) 20.Qg3 Rb3! 21.Qd6+ (or 21.Qe5 Ka3+-+) 21...Kc3+ 22.Ka6 Ra4#) ; 12...Nc5 13.Qc1+= (not 13.Qf1+? Rd3!-+ (13...Kb4? 14.Qc4+! Kxc4= stalemate)) ; 12...Re7 13.Qh4+=] **13.Qe4+!** [13.Qc1+? Kb3 14.Qe3+ Ka4-+] **13...Kb5 14.Qe5+!** [14.Qd3+? Kb4!-+] **14...Kc6 15.Qe4+!** [Similar with logical try No.1

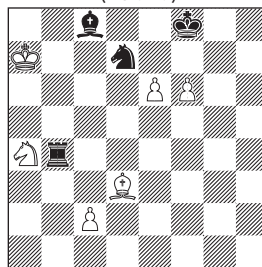
15.Qe8+? Kb6! 16.Qe6+ Ka5! 17.Qe5+ Rb5-+ Position C2] **15...Kb5** [or 15...Kb6 16.Qd4+=] **16.Qe5+=** Position C3. In contrast to the logical try No. 1, the Black Rook can not move to b5 under the protection of the Knight fork. **Positional draw.**

White must avoid the domination of RRN vs Q. Both in the main line and in the complementary ones, we surprisingly encounter similar positions, stalemates and logical movements that do not achieve their objectives.

3rd Prize

E209

Andrzej Jasik
(Poland)



Draw

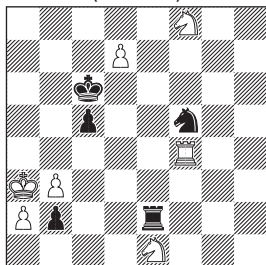
(6+4)

1.Nb6! [1.e7+? Kf7 2.Bg6+ Kxf6! 3.e8Q Rxa4#] **1...Rxb6** [1...Nxb6 2.e7+ Kf7 3.Bg6+ Kxf6 4.e8Q ±] **2.exd7** [2.e7+? Kf7 3.Bg6+ (3.Bc4+ Ke8-+) 3...Kxf6 4.e8Q Ra6#] **2...Rb7+ 3.Ka8! Rxd7 4.Kb8! Bb7** [4...Rd8 5.Kc7 Re8 6.Bg6! Draw] **5.Bb5! Rf7 6.Bc4 Rh7 7.Bd3 Rd7 8.Bb5 Rd5 9.c4= Draw**

An entertaining game of domination in an original setting.

4th Prize

E192 Michal Hlinka
Lubos Kekely
(Slovakia)



Draw (7+5)

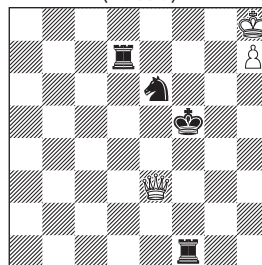
1.Nc2! a sacrifice for opening the 1st rank. [1.d8Q? b1N+! 2.Ka4 Rxa2#]
1...Rxc2 [1...b1Q 2.d8Q Qc1+ 3.Ka4 Qxf4+ 4.b4! Nd6 5.Qa8+! Kc7 6.Qa5+! Kb7 7.Nd7 Rxc2 8.Nxc5+ Rxc5 9.Qxc5=]
2.Rf1 [2.d8N+? Kb6 3.Rf1 Rc1 4.Kxb2 Rxf1 5.Nf7 Rf2+ 6.Kc3 Rxa2 7.Ne5 Re2-+] **2...Nd6** [2...Nd4 3.d8N+! Kd6 4.Nb7+ Kd5 5.Nd7 Nb5+ 6.Ka4 Rc1 7.Nb6+ Kd4 8.Rxc1 bxc1Q 9.Kxb5 Qc2 10.Nc4 Qxa2 11.Nxc5=] **3.d8N+** phoenix [3.Rb1? Nb5+ 4.Ka4 Nc3+ 5.Ka5 Kc7-+; 3.d8Q? b1N+! 4.Rxb1 Nb5+ 5.Ka4 Rxa2#] **3...Kd5 4.Nd7 Nb5+ 5.Ka4 Nc3+** [5...Rc1 6.Nb6+ Ke4 7.Nc4 Nc3+ 8.Ka5 as main] **6.Ka5 Rc1** [6...b1Q 7.Rxb1 Nxb1 8.Kb6=]
7.Nb6+! Ke4 [7...Kd4 8.Ne6+ Ke5 9.Nxc5 Rxf1 10.Nd3+ Kd4 11.Nxb2 Rf5+ 12.Ka6 Nxa2 13.N6c4] **8.Nc4 Rxf1 9.Nxb2 Kd5 10.Nc4!** switchback [10.Na4? Nxa4 11.Kxa4 Rf2 12.a3 Rf8 13.Nb7 Rb8 14.Na5 Rb6 15.Nc4 Rb7-+]
10...Rf8 [10...Nxa2 11.Ne3+=; 10...Rf6 11.a4] **11.Nb6+!** switchback [11.Nb7? Kc6 12.Nbd6 Ra8#] **11...Kd6 12.Nb7+**

Kc6 13.Nxc5 [13.Ka6? Kc7 14.Nxc5 Rf6 15.Ncd7 Rf5! 16.a3 Nd5-+] **13...Kxc5** [13...Nxa2 14.b4=] **14.Nd7+ Kc6 15.Nxf8=**

Certain complexity (due to the complementary variants) and a remarkable combination with two lines in which the promotions to Knights are necessary.

5th Prize

E194 Valery Kalashnikov
(Russia)



Draw (3+4)

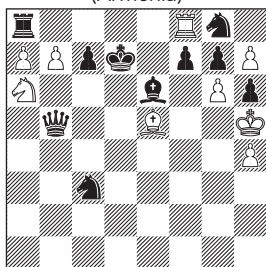
1.Kg8 [Premature is 1.Qh3+? Ke5 2.Qc3+ because (2.Qe3+ Kf6 3.Qc3+ Kf7 4.Qc8 Ke7 5.Kg8 Rg1+ 6.Kh8 Rgd1-+)] **2...Rd4 3.Qe3+ Kf6 4.Qxd4+ Nxd4 5.Kg8 Rg1+ 6.Kf8 Ne6-+]** **1...Rg7+** [1...Rd8+ 2.Kf7 Ng5+ 3.Ke7=] **2.Kh8 Rc7! 3.Kg8** [after 3.Qh3+? Ke5 Poorly White could not play 4.Qc3+?]-+] **3...Rc8+ 4.Kf7 Ng5+ 5.Kg7** [5.Ke7? Rf4! 6.Kd7 Rh8 7.Qc5+ Kg6-+]
5...Rc7+ 6.Kg8 Rc8+ 7.Kg7 Ne6+ 8.Kf7 Rc7+ [8...Nf4 9.Qe7 Nh5 10.Qe2 Rc7+ 11.Kf8=] **9.Kg8 Rg7+** [9...Rc8+ 10.Kf7 Perpetual check for White] **10.Kh8 Rf7 11.Qh3+!** [11.Qd3+? Kg5! 12.Qg3+ Kf6 13.Qc3+ Kg6 14.Qc2+ R1f5 15.Qg2+ Ng5]

16.Qc6+ R7f6--+] **11...Ke5 12.Qc3+!**
and Rd4 is impossible [12.Qe3+? Kf6
13.Qc3+ Kg6 14.Qg3+ Ng5 15.Qd6+
R1f6--; 12.Qg3+? R1f4 13.Qc3+ Kf5
14.Qh3+ Kf6 15.Qh6+ Ke7--+] **12...Kf5**
13.Qh3+! Perpetual check

In this award I consider it appropriate
to include another game where
domination is avoided, but presented in
miniature. This study has artistic value
from a technical point of view as well.

Special Prize

E215 Alexey Gasparyan
(Armenia)



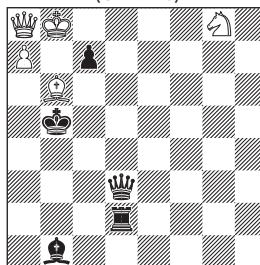
Draw (9+10)

1.Nb8+! [1.Nc5+?! Qxc5 2.b8N+
Ke7 3.Re8+ Kxe8 4.hxg8Q+ Qf8--+]
1...Rxb8 2.axb8N+ phoenix **2...Ke7**
3.Nc6+ Kxf8 [Line B: 3...Qxc6
4.hxg8N+ Kxf8 5.b8Q+ Qe8 6.Qxe8+
(6.Bxg7+? Kxg8 7.Qxe8+ Kxg7 8.gxf7
Bxf7+ 9.Qxf7+ Kxf7--+) 6...Kxe8
7.Bxc3=] **4.b8Q+ Qxb8 5.Nxb8 Nd5!**
[5...fxg6+ 6.Kxg6 Bf7+ 7.Kf5 Ne7+
8.Kg4=] **6.Nd7+** [6.Bxg7+? Kxg7
7.hxg8Q+ Kxg8--+] **6...Bxd7 7.Bxg7+**
Kxg7 8.h8B+ phoenix **8...Kf8** [8...Kxh8
9.g7+ Kxg7= stalemate] **9.g7+ Ke7=**
stalemate

Of significant artistic value with minor
promotions and stalemates.

1st Honorable Mention

E212 Leonid Topko
(Ukraine)



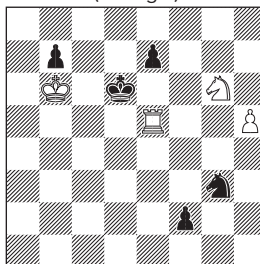
Draw (5+5)

1.Ne7! [1.Qh1? cxb6 2.Qh5+ Kb4
3.Qg4+ Qe4--; 1.Bd4? Qxd4 2.Qb7+
Qb6--+] **1...Qd8+ 2.Nc8 Qxc8+**
[2...Bf5 3.Qb7! (3.Qc6+? Kxc6 4.a8Q+
Kd7 5.Qa4+ Ke6 6.Qc6+ Kf7 7.Qxc7+
Qxc7+ 8.Bxc7 Rb2--+) 3...Bxc8
4.Qxc8=] **3.Kxc8 Bf5+ 4.Kxc7 Rd7+**
5.Kb8 [5.Kc8? Rh7+ 6.Kb8 Rh8--+]
5...Kxb6 6.Qc6+! Kxc6 7.a8Q+ Kb6
8.Qa7+ Rxa7= stalemate

An entertaining game that leads to
stalemate, with interesting variants of
precise moves.

2nd Honorable Mention

E197 David Gurgenzidze
(Georgia)



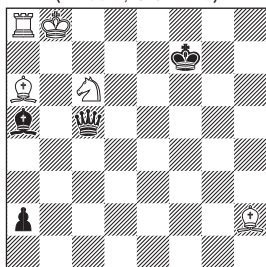
Draw (4+5)

1.Nf4 e6 [1...Kxe5 2.Nd3+ Kd4 3.Nxf2=; 1...Kd7 2.Rd5+ Ke8 3.Rd1=]
2.Rxe6+ Kd7 3.Nd3! [3.Re7+? Kxe7 4.Nd5+ Kd6 5.Ne3 Nxh5-+] **3...f1Q**
4.Nc5+ Kd8 5.Nxb7+ Kc8 6.Nc5! [6.Rc6+? Kd7 7.Rc7+ Ke6-+] **6...Qb1+**
7.Kc6 Qh1+ 8.Kb6 Qxh5 9.Rc6+ Kd8 10.Nb7+ Ke7 11.Rc7+ Kf6 12.Rc6+ Kg5 13.Rc5+ Nf5 14.Nd6=

With material economy, the game is surely to the liking of fans of solving.

Special Honorable Mention

Pavel Arestov
 Michal Hlinka
E193
 (Russia, Slovakia)



Draw (5+4)

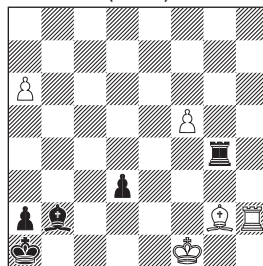
1.Bc4+ Kf6! [1...Qxc4 2.Ne5+=; 1...Kg6 2.Ra6 /Bd3=; 1...Kg7 2.Ra7+ / Be5+=] **2.Be5+** [2.Ra6? a1Q 3.Ne5+ Ke7-+] **2...Qxe5+** [2...Kg6 3.Bd3+ Kg5 4.Rxa5 Qb6+ 5.Kc8 Qxc6+ 6.Bc7+=] **3.Nxe5 a1Q** Black phoenix
4.Nd7+ [4.Nd3? Qd4 5.Rxa5 Qb6+-+] **4...Ke7** [4...Kg5 5.Ra6 Qa4 6.Ka8! Qxd7 7.Rxa5+ Kf4 8.Rc5 Qd6 9.Rc8=]
5.Ra7 [5.Bb5? Qc3-+ 6.Ra7 Kd8 7.Ka8 Bc7 8.Kb7 Qf3+] **5...Kd8!** [5...Qc3 6.Nc5+=; 5...Kd6 6.Bb5 Qc3 7.Kb7 Qb4 8.Ka6 Bd8 9.Nb6 Qa3+ 10.Na4! Ke5 11.Rd7=] **6.Ka8!** [6.Nc5? Qe5+-+;

6.Bb5? Qc3 /e1-+] **6...Qh1+** [6...Qc3 7.Nc5! Qf3+ (7...Qxc4 8.Nb7+=) 8.Kb8 Qf4+ 9.Ka8 pos. draw] **7.Rb7 Kc8 8.Bd5! Qa1** [8...Qxd5 9.Nb6+! Bxb6 stalemate] **9.Ra7 Qc3** [9...Qd4 10.Rxa5! Kxd7 11.Ra7+ Kd6 12.Bf7=; 9...Qb2 10.Rxa5!]=] **10.Nb8! Bc7** [10...Bb6 11.Be6+=] **11.Na6 Bh2** [11...Be5 12.Be6+ Kd8 13.Rd7+ Ke8 14.Kb7! Qf3+ 15.Bd5! Qa3 16.Bc6= / Be6=] **12.Rh7!** [12.Be6+? Kd8 13.Rd7+ Ke8 14.Rb7 Qa5 15.Bf7+ Kf8 16.Bc4 Qd8+ 17.Nb8 Bc7-+ egtb] **12...Bg3 13.Rf7! Kd8!** [13...Qa5 14.Be6+ Kd8 15.Bc4! Kc8 16.Be6+= pos. draw] **14.Kb7! Qb2+** [14...Qd4 15.Bc6! Qb2+ 16.Ka7! Qd4+ 17.Kb7= pos. draw; 14...Bd6 15.Be6! Be7 (15...Qa3 16.Rd7+=) 16.Rf5! Bd6 (16...Qb2+ 17.Kc6=) 17.Rf7!= pos. draw] **15.Kc6 Qc2+** **16.Nc5 Bf2 17.Bc4!**= [17.Rf8+? Ke7 18.Rf7+ Ke8 19.Bc4 Bg1 20.Kb5 Qb2+ 21.Nb3 Qe5+ 22.Ka4 Qe4 23.Kb5 Be3 24.Rf1 Qe5+-+ egtb]

White avoids domination. Although the study has artistic edges, it is necessary on various occasions to resort to the technical controls of the tablebases.

Special Honorable Mention

E198 Michael Pasman
 (Israel)



Draw (5+5)

1.a7! [1.Bd5? Bd4! 2.Rxa2+ Kb1-+]
1...Rf4+ [1...Ra4 2.Bd5! as main]
2.Bf3! White is blocking with the Bishop and sacrifices it, but Black does not accept it. **2...Ra4!** [2...Rxf3+ 3.Kg2!=; 2...d2 3.Ke2!=] **3.Bd5 Rxa7 4.Rd2 Ra3!** [4...Kb1 5.Bxa2+=] **5.Rd1+ Bc1**
 Now Black is blocking from the check with Bishop, the same as White before, but White does not accept it. **6.f6!** [6.Rxc1+? Kb2-+; 6.Bxa2? Kxa2 7.Rxc1 Kb2! 8.Rd1 (8.Rc8 Ra1+ 9.Kf2 d2-+) 8...Kc2-+] **6...Kb2 7.Bxa2 Kc2! 8.Ke1 d2+** Main Line A. [Main Line B: 8...Rxa2 9.f7 Ra8 10.f8Q! Rxf8 11.Rxc1+! Kxc1= Ideal Stalemate] **9.Ke2 Rh3! 10.Bc4!!** [Logical try: 10.f7 Rh2+ 11.Kf1 Ba3! and White's Bishop takes no control on e2 square to play Kg1] **10...Rh2+ 11.Kf1! Rh1+** [11...Kxd1?? 12.Bb3#; 11...Ba3 12.Kg1! and the bishop takes control on the e2 square, for example 12...Rh3 13.Be2 Re3 (13...Bc5+ 14.Kg2 Re3 15.Kf2 Re6+ 16.Kf3=) 14.Kf2=] **12.Ke2! Rxd1 13.Bd3+!** [Thematic try : 13.Bb3+ Kxb3 14.Kxd1 Kc3 15.f7 Ba3-+] **13...Kc3 14.Kxd1 Kxd3 15.f7 Ba3 16.f8Q Bxf8 Stalemate.**

Ideal stalemate in main line A with logical try and ideal stalemate in main line B as well. The presentation of the stalemate figures, with thematic tries and logical moves that do not achieve the objectives. The study deserves the inclusion to this award, with a special distinction.

Salta, Argentina
 February 20, 2023
 International Judge Mario G. García