

## Prusikin 45 tourneyaward

First of all, I would like to thank all participants very much for their entries! The realization of the tournament was a rather spontaneous idea, so that there were only 40 days between the publication of the announcement and the deadline for entries. Nevertheless, the tournament director IM Maximilian Berchtenbreiter (many thanks also to him!) received 28 studies from 10 countries. Study composers from Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine participated in the competition.

I would like to emphasize that as a judge I more or less completely disregarded the usual evaluation criteria in the industry and relied almost exclusively on my aesthetic sensibilities as a practitioner.

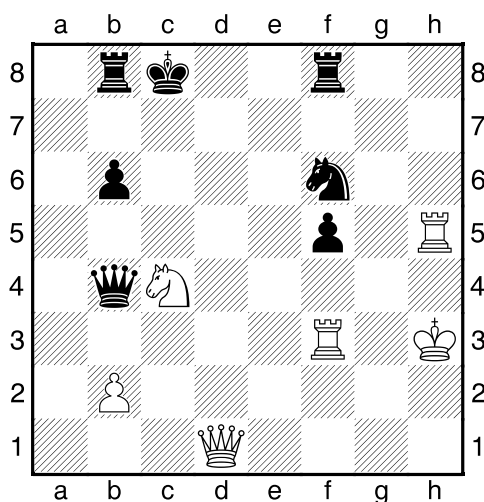
Unfortunately, one of the studies was obviously a first attempt at chess composition, and so it had some inaccuracies.

From the remaining 27 works the following prize winners were chosen:

### 1. Prize

**Timman Jan**

Prusikin 45, 2023



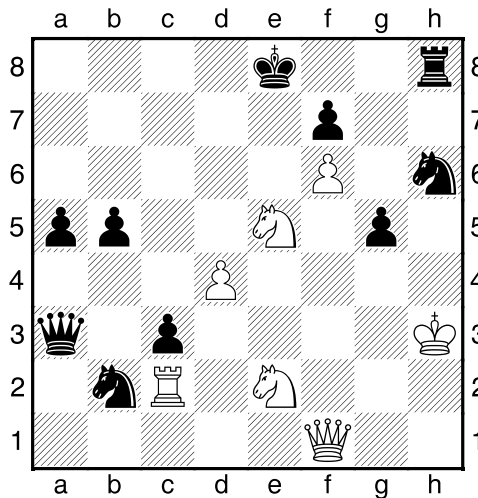
**1. ♖h4 1. ♖c3 ♖b7! 2. ♖h4 (2. ♗e5+ ♜xc3+ 3. bxc3 ♗xh5 4. ♜xh5 ♖g7 5. ♗f3 ♖fg8=) 2... ♗e4 3. ♗xb6+ ♗b8 4. ♗d7+ ♖xd7 5. ♜xd7 ♗g5+ 6. ♗g2 ♜xb2+ 7. ♗f1 ♜b1+=1... ♗e4 1... ♗c7 2. ♖c3 ♖h8 3. ♗d6++- 2. ♜d5! 2. ♗e5 ♜d2!= 3. ♖c3+? ♜xc3+ 4. bxc3 ♗f2+2... ♖b7! 3. ♗e5! 3. ♜e6+? ♗b8-+3... ♜xb2 [3... ♜d6 4. ♖c3+! ♗d8 5. ♜xd6+ ♗xd6 6. ♖d3 ♖f6 7. ♗c4 ♗e7 (7... ♖d7 8. ♗xb6 ♖e7 9. ♗d5+-) 8. ♖xd6! ♖xd6 9. ♖h7+-+4. ♜e6+ ♗b8 5. ♗c6+ ♗a8 6. ♜f6!! ♗f2+ 6... ♜xf6 7. ♖a3+; 6... ♖xf6 7. ♖h8+; 6... ♗xf6 7. ♖a4+; Main- 6... ♗g5+ 7. ♜xg5 ♖h8 8. ♖xh8+ ♜xh8+ 9. ♗g3 f4+ 10. ♖xf4! ♜c3+ 11. ♗g4! ♜xc6 12. ♜g8+ ♗a7 13. ♜a2+ ♗b8 14. ♖f8+ ♗c7 15. ♜h2+!+-7. ♗h2! 7. ♖xf2 ♜a3+ 8. ♗h2 ♖h7 9. ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 10. ♖xh7 ♜d6+= 7... ♗g4+ 8. ♗g3 f4+ 9. ♜xf4! ♖xf4 10. ♖h8+! ♜xh8 11. ♖a3+1-0**

*A study with a perfectly party-like starting position, a natural-looking introduction and an absolutely spectacular strike 6. Qf6!!! It captured my heart immediately!*

## 2. Prize

**Didukh, Sergiy**

Prusikin 45, 2023



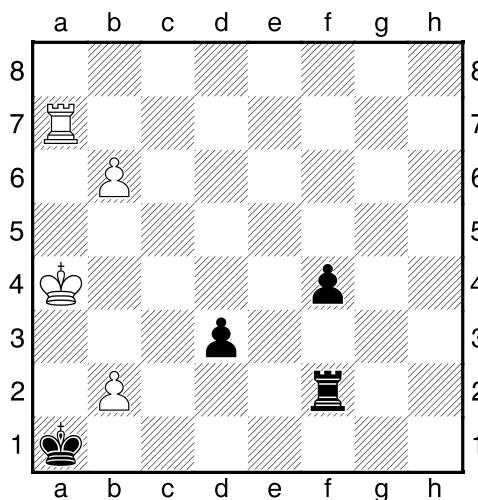
**1. ♔g2!** 1. ♖xc3? ♜xc3+ 2. ♘xc3 ♘f5+ 3. ♔g2 ♘e3+ **1... ♜d6** 1... ♘c4 2. ♘xc4 bxc4 3. ♖xc3 ♜d6 4. ♞e3+ (Black couldn't castle) 4... ♔d8 5. ♜f3+—**2. ♘xc3 ♘c4** 3. ♘xb5! ♜d5+ 4. ♔g1 ♜xb5 4... ♘g4 5. ♘c7+**5. ♖xc4 0–0!** Black king castled... only to be kicked in the face. **6. ♘xf7!** 6. ♜c1? ♔h8! 7. ♜xg5 (7. ♜d1 ♜b7 8. ♖c3 ♖b8 9. ♖h3 ♔g8 10. ♖xh6 ♜e4=) 7... ♖g8 8. ♖c8 ♜b1+ 9. ♔f2 ♜h7= **6... ♘xf7** The other captures lose the queen. Now Black loses his king: **7. ♜d3 ♘h8** 8. ♖c7! ♜xd3 9. ♖g7#1–0

*Another absolutely thrilling study with a furious finale, which coincidentally is again (as in the study above) introduced with White's sixth move.*

## 3. Prize

**Sprenger, Jan**

Prusikin 45, 2023



**1. b4** 1. b7?? ♖xb2—+**1... f3!** Since immediate Kb1 or d2 fails to Rd7, Black threatens to advance with both pawns. **2. b7!** 2. ♔b3+? ♔b1=; 2. ♔b5+? ♖a2=**2... d2** 2... ♖a2+ 3. ♔b3 ♖xa7 4. b8♜+—**3. ♔b3+ ♔b1** **4. ♖a1+!** ♔xa1 **5. ♔c2 d1♜+** **6. ♔xd1 ♖f1+** **7. ♔d2!** thematic try 7. ♔c2? ♖c1+! (7... f2? 8. b8♜ ♖c1+ 9. ♔b3 ♖c3+ 10. ♔xc3 f1♜ 11. ♜a8+ ♔b1 12. ♜e4+ ♔a1 13. ♜d4+— shows the idea of 7. Kc2.) 8. ♔b3 ♖b1+ 9. ♔a3 position X 9... ♖xb4! 10. ♔xb4 f2 11. b8♜ f1♜=**7... f2** **8. b8♜ ♖d1+** **9. ♔c2 ♖d2+!** 9... ♖c1+?!

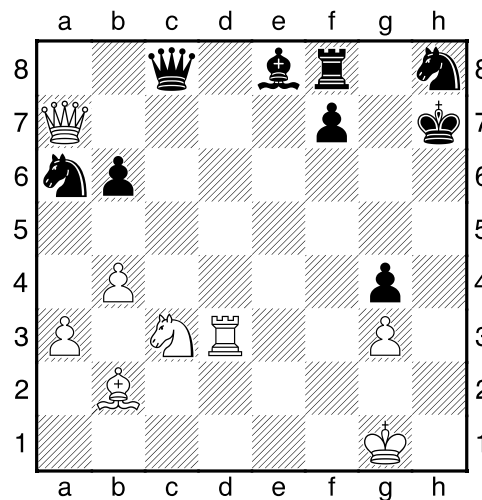
10. ♖b3! ♜b1+ 11. ♗a3 position X with the insertion of b7–b8=Q and f3–f2 11...f1♚ 12. ♞e5+! 10. ♗xd2 f1♚ The queen ending is drawish, but... 11. ♞e5+ ♗a2 12. ♞e2!! Black's queen is in a dilemma: she must cover the c3 square against Kc3+, but when she does so, White can trade queens on that square. 12...♞f6 12...♞h3 loses in the same way: 13. ♞c4+ ♖b2 14. ♞c2+ ♗a3 15. ♞c3+ ♞xc3+ 16. ♗xc3; 12...♞f4+ 13. ♗c3+ ♗a3 14. ♞a6# 13. ♞c4+ ♖b2 14. ♞c2+! ♗a3 15. ♞c3+ ♞xc3+ 16. ♗xc3 [It is also possible to add a black pawn on f7 to the initial position. This leads to the same solution with some "Nachspiel" ( 16... Ka4 17. Kc4 f5 18. b5 Ka5 19. Kc5 f4 20. b6 etc. ), but the author prefers the economic version. 1–0

*A study with a little less "special effects", but economical and elegant.*

#### 4. Prize

### Nielsen Steffen

Prusikin 45, 2023



The middlegame position looks promising for White if not for the fact that he is a piece down. 1. ♗d2 The star piece of the study. 1. ♗d5?? ♞c2–+; 1. ♗d6? ♞c7 2. ♞xb6 ♞xb6+ 3. ♞xb6 ♗c7=; 1. ♗e4? ♞c2 2. ♞e7 ♞xb2=; 1. ♞e7? ♞e6 2. ♞h4+ (2. ♞xf8 ♞e1+) 2...♗g8 3. ♗e4 f6 4. ♗xf6+ ♞xf6 5. ♞xf6 ♞e1+=1... ♞c7 1... ♗c7 2. ♗e4 f6 3. ♞xb6 ♗e6 4. ♞f2 ♞d7 5. ♗xf6+ ♞xf6 6. ♞xf6+– 2. ♞h2+ 2. ♞xa6??–+ ♞xg3+; 2. ♗d5?? ♞xg3+–+ 2...♗g6 3. ♗e2!! With a passive sacrifice of the queen, White invites the Black king on a unwanted, and fairly long, journey into White's camp. 3. ♗d5? ♞xg3+=3... ♞xa7 3... ♗b5 4. ♗f4+ ♗f5 5. ♞h5+ ♗e4 6. ♞e5+ ♗f3 7. ♗g2 24. ♗f4+ ♗f5 4...♗g5? 5. ♞h5# 5. ♞h5+ ♗e4 6. ♞e5+ ♗f3 7. ♗d4 7. ♗g2?? b5+–+ 7...♗xg3! 7... ♞e7? 8. ♞xe7 ♗xg3 9. ♗g2 ♗h3 10. ♗f4+ ♗g3 11. ♗e2+ ♗h4 12. ♗f6+ ♗h5 13. ♗f4+ ♗h6 14. ♞e5 (or 14. ♞e2 g3 15. ♞e5) 14...♗h7 eg 15. ♞h5+ ♗g8 16. ♞xh8# 8. ♗g2 8. ♗d5 ♗h3 9. ♞h5+ ♗g3 10. ♞f5 b5 11. ♗xa7 ♗h3 12. ♗f4+ ♗h4 13. ♗g2+ ♗h3 14. ♗f2 waste of time; 8. ♗h5+ ♗h3 9. ♗f4+ ♗g3 10. ♗g2 waste of time 8...♗h3 [8... ♞e7 9. ♞xe7 ♗h3 10. ♗f4++– as in the line above. Now White needs to transfer his rook to f5 to cover vital square on the f-file. 9. ♞h5+ ♗g3 10. ♞f5 b5! [Black also makes a passive sacrifice of his queen. The point is to deflect the bishop from f6. The alternative: 10...♗h3 11. ♗f4+ ♗g3 (11...♗h4 12. ♗f6+ ♗g3 13. ♗e2+ ♗h3 14. ♞h5#) 12. ♗e2+ ♗h4 13. ♗f6+ ♗h3 14. ♞h5# 11. ♗xa7 ♗h3 12. ♗f2! Provoking g4–g3. 12. ♗f4+ (?) 12...♗h4 (12...♗g3) 13. ♗g2+ (13. ♞h5+ ♗g3 14. ♞f5 ♗h4 and there is no bishop check on f6, so White must again transfer to the same mainline with 15. ♗g2+ ♗h3 16. ♗f2) 13...♗h3 14. ♗f2 waste of time

12...g3 13. ♞g5! gxf2+ 14. ♗xf2 White is still two pieces down but is threatening 15. Rg3+ Kh2 16. Ne3 and mate with the rook on g1. Therefore 14...Bd7 seems forced to cover everything from h3. 14... ♗xb4!! Black logical try 14... ♗d7? 15. ♞g3+ ♗h2 16. ♗f4 (change of plan as 16. ♗e3 ♗h3 no longer works) 16... ♞c8 the only way to try disturbing White (16... ♞g8 17. ♞xg8 ♗g6 18. ♗xg6 fxg6 19. ♞xg6 ♗b8 20. ♞b6 ♗c6 21. ♞xb5+–) 17. ♞g2+ ♗h1 18. ♗e2 ♞c2 19. ♗g3 ♞c3+ (19... ♞xe2 20. ♞xe2+–) 20. ♗xc3+– 15. ♞g3+!! White logical try 15. axb4? ♗d7 16. ♞g3+ ♗h2 17. ♗f4 (17. ♗e3 ♗h3=) 17... ♞a8! 18. ♞g2+ ♗h1 19. ♗e2 ♞a2 (19... ♞a3 20. ♗g3+ ♞xg3 21. ♗xg3+–) 20. ♗g3? (20. ♞g7=; 20. ♞g5=) 20... ♞a3+–+ compared to Black's try 14...Bd7 the rook can give this disturbing check from a3 instead

of c3.15...♔h2 16.♖f4 ♖d3+ The only way to disturb the mating net. 16...♙d7 17.♖g2+ ♔h1 18.♖g5+– (18.♖g7+–) 17.♖xd3 17.♖xd3?? ♖g6!–+17...♙d7 18.♖g3 18.♖xd7? ♖g6=18...♖a8 18...♖g8 19.♖xg8+–; 18...♖c8 19.♖g2+ ♔h1 20.♖e2 ♖c2 21.♔g3+– as already seen.19.♖g2+ ♔h1 20.♖e2 [20.♖h5 ♖xa3 21.♖g3+ transfers

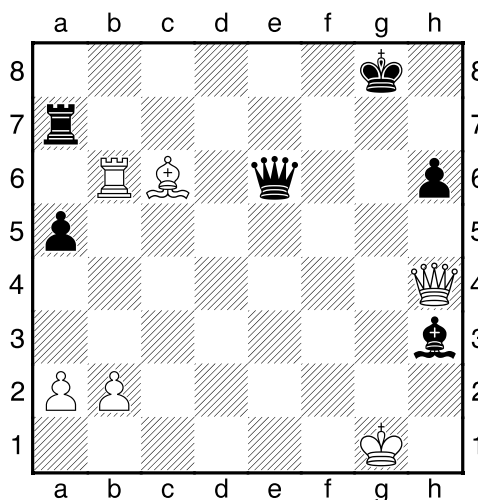
20...♖xa3 Compared to White's try 14. axb4? the a3–pawn is still on the board and Black won't have Ra2+.21.♖g3+ ♖xg3 22.♔xg3 White now plans to mate on the first rank.22...f5 22...♙h3 23.♔xh3 ♖g6 eg 24.♔g3 f5 25.♖a2 (or elsewhere on the 2. rank) 25...f4+ 26.♔h3 ♔g1 27.♖g2+ ♔f1 28.♖xg623.♔f2! Change of plan. Now mate must be threatened on the h-file.23.♖d2!? f4+ 24.♔xf4 ♙h3=23...f4 23...♙e8 24.♖g7! (Not 24.♖g8 ♖g6=) 24...♙g6 (blocks g6 for the knight) 25.♖g8 ♖f7 26.♖xg6 ♔h2 27.♖g7+–24.♖g8 24.♖g7? ♙h3 (24...♙f5 25.♖g5 ♙h3=) 25.♖h7 ♔h2 26.♖xh8 b4 27.♖h4 b3 28.♖xf4 b2=24...♖f7 24...♖g6 25.♖xg6 ♔h2 26.♖h6+ ♙h3 27.♖h4 is one move quicker25.♖g7 ♖h6 26.♖h7 ♙h3 or 26...♔h2 27.♖xh6+ ♙h3+–27.♖xh6 ♔h2 28.♖h4 [28.♖b6 ♙d7 29.♖h6+– waste of time29...b4 30.♔f2! 30.♖xb4!? and now surprisingly only 30...♙d7! draws for Black.30...b3 31.♖b4 ♙e6 32.♖b6! Black is allowed to promote.32...b2 32...♙f5 33.♖xb3 The rook will reach the h-file, pinning the bishop and winning. For instance: 33...♙c2 34.♖b2 ♙f5 35.♖b5 ♙g6 36.♖b6 ♙f5 37.♖h6+ ♙h3 38.♖h7 ♔h1 39.♖xh3#33.♖xe6 b1♚ 34.♖h6# The study was inspired by Chigorin's famous (missed) tactic 22...Rh1! in his game against Schiffers, Saint Petersburg 1897: <https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=17926671-0>

The solution to this study is remarkably long and complex, I found it hard to believe at first that the whole construct was viable at all. But: it is. And it's pretty to boot. I thought it was a bit of a pity that the queen on a7 "dies" without having made a single move.

### 1. Honorable mention

**Timman Jan**

Prusikin 45, 2022



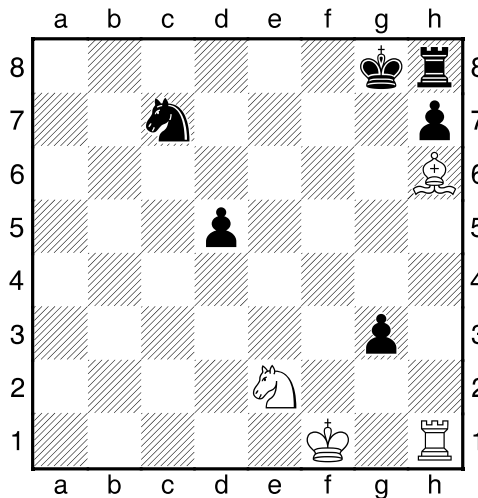
1.♖b8+ ♔h7 1...♔g7 2.♖d4+–2.♙e4+ ♙f5 2...♔g7 3.♖b3! ♖e7 4.♖g3+–3.♖g4! ♖g7! A pin after the cross pin.3...♖xe4 4.♖g8#4.♖b7! The second pin after the cross pin.4...♖b6+! Trying to unpin.5.♔f1! ♖a6+ 6.♔e1! 6.♔f2 ♙g6! The pawn ending is a draw6...♖xb7 [6...♙g6 7.♖xg6+ (The alternatives 7.a4; 7.♙xg6+; 7.♖xg7+ are also winning) 7...♖xg6 8.♙xg6+ ♔xg6 9.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 10.a4! ♔f6 11.b4 ♔e5 12.b5+–7.♖xf5+ White wins the rook by force1–0

A study, light and elegant, like the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart!

## 2. Honorable mention

### Minski/Stavrietsky

Prusikin 45, 2023



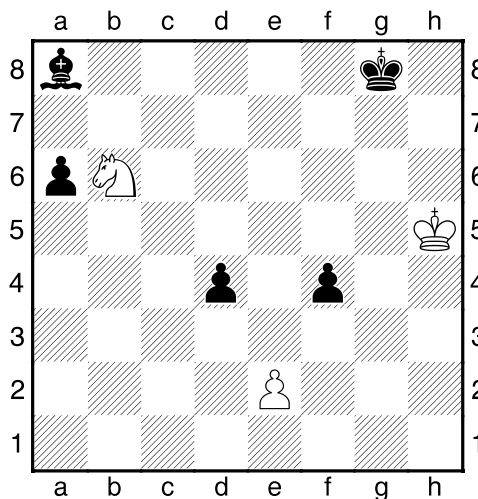
1. ♖f4 ♗e6 2. ♙e5 ♜g7 3. ♜d4! main A: logical try: 3. ♜xg3? ♜f7! 4. ♜f5 ♜xf5 5. ♙xh8 position X without the bPg3 5... ♜g3+!=; 3. ♜f4? h5!=3...h6 main B: 3...h5 4. ♜f5! g2+ (4... ♜xf5 5. ♙xh8 ♜e3+ 6. ♜e2+-) 5. ♜xg2 ♜xf5 6. ♙xh8 ♜xh8 7. ♙xh5+-; compare with the logical try: 3... ♜f7 4. ♜f5 ♜xf5 (4... ♜e6 5. ♙xg7+-; 4... ♙a8 5. ♜xg7+-) 5. ♙xh8+- position X with the bPg34. ♜e6! g2+ 4... ♜xe6 5. ♙xh8 ♜f4 6. ♙xh6+-5. ♜xg2 ♜xe6 6. ♙xh8 ♜xh8 7. ♙xh6+-1-0

A very nice logical study whose only shortcoming is the idle rook on h8.

## 3. Honorable mention

### Arestov, Pavel

Prusikin 45, 2023



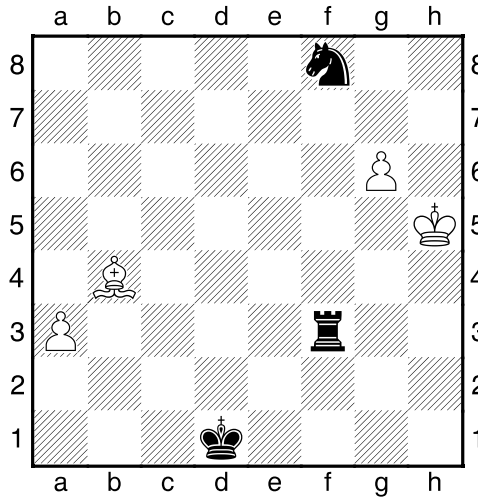
1. ♜g4! 1. ♜c4? f3 2. exf3 d3 3. ♜g4 a5 4. ♜f4 ♙d5 5. ♜d2 a4 6. ♜e3 a3+-; 1. ♜xa8? f3 2. exf3 d3+-+1...f3! 1...d3 2. exd3 f3 3. ♜g3=2. exf3 2. ♜g3 fxe2 3. ♜f2 ♙f3!-+2...a5 2...d3 3. ♜a4! ♙c6 4. ♜c3!=3. ♜g3!! Try: 3. ♜f4? ♜f7! bBa8 4. ♜c4 a4 5. ♜a3 ♜e6 6. ♜c2 ♜d5!-+3... ♙c6 3... ♜g7 4. ♜xa8 a4 5. ♜c7 d3 6. ♜f2 a3 7. ♜e6+ ♜f6 8. ♜c5 a2 9. ♜b3=; 3...d3 4. ♜f2=4. ♜f4! 4. ♜f2? ♙b5! 5. f4 a4+-+4... ♜g7! 4... ♜f7 5. ♜c4 a4 6. ♜e5+ bBc6, fork, =5. ♜c4 a4 6. ♜a3! 6. ♜e5? d3 7. ♜d4 a3! 8. ♜xa3 d2+-+6... ♜f6 7. ♜c2 d3 7...a3 8. ♜xa3=8. ♜e3!! 8. ♜b4? d2-+8...dxc2 9. ♜d2 a3 9... ♙e4 10. fxe4=10. ♜xc2 a2 11. ♜b2 1/2-1/2

This study impresses with a very natural opening position as well as some surprising twists on the way to the saving fortress.

#### 4. Honorable mention

### Hornecker/Minski

Prusikin 45, 2023



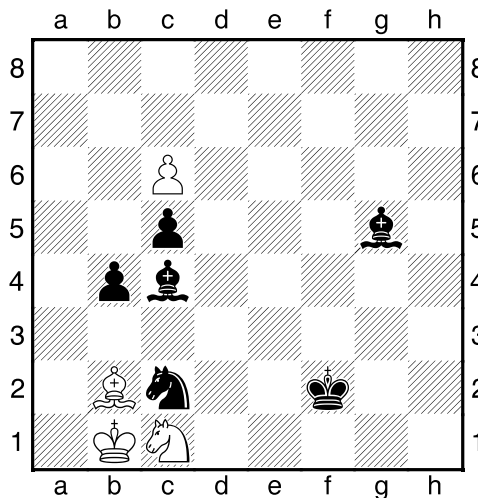
1.g7 ♖d7 1...♗h7 2.♙e7 ♖h3+ 3.♗g6+-; 1...♖h3+ 2.♗g4=2.♙e7 2.g8♞?? ♗f6+-+ fork2...♖h3+ 2...♖g3 3.♙g5 ♗c2 4.a4 ♗d3 5.a5 ♗e4 6.♗h4! ♗f6 7.♗xg3+- (7.♙xf6? ♖xg7 8.♙xg7 ♗d5=) 3.♗g6 3.♗g4? ♖h1=3...♗e5+ 4.♗f5 ♗f7 [4...♖g3 5.♙g5 ♗f7 6.g8♞♗h6+ 7.♗f4! ♗xg8 8.♗xg3 ♗c2 9.a4+- 5.♙g5 5.g8♞?? ♗h6+-+ fork5...♖f3+ 5...♖g3 6.g8♞♗h6+ 7.♗f4! ♗xg8 8.♗xg3 ♗c2 9.a4+-6.♗g4 ♗e5+ 7.♗h4 ♖f8!? 8.gxf8♗! 8.gxf8♞? ♗g6+= fork8...♗c2 9.a4 ♗c6 10.♗d7 ♗b3 11.♗b6 ♗a5 12.♙d2 ♗c4 13.a5+- 13.♗xc4? ♗xc4=1-0

Another study with an opening position "taken from the game" and a lively exchange of blows in which the maximum is extracted from all the players on the board.

#### 5. Honorable mention

### Avni/Minski

Prusikin 45, 2023



1.c7 1.♗xc2? ♗e3+- e.g. 2.♗b3 ♙d3+ 3.♗d1 ♙e7 4.♗a5 ♙a6 5.c7 ♗d31...♙e6 1...♗a3+ 2.♙xa3 ♙a6 3.c8♞♙xc8 4.♗d3+ ♗e2 5.♗xb4=2.♗d3+ ♗e3 3.♗xc5 ♗a3+ 3...♙f5 4.c8♞♙xc8 5.♗xc2=4.♙xa3

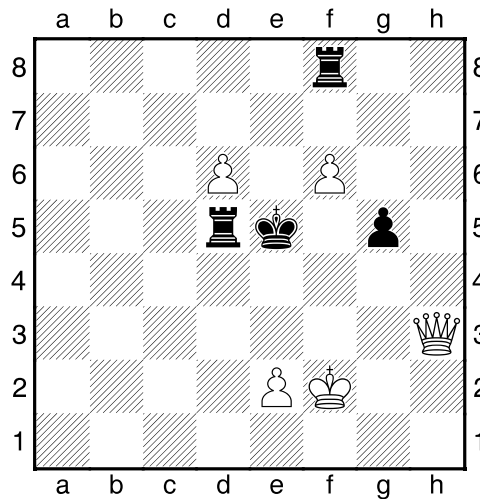
4. ♖a1? ♕f5 5. ♖c1+ ♖d4 6. ♖xg5 ♖xc5—+4... ♕f5+ 5. ♗e4! 5. ♗d3? bxa3—+; 5. ♖a1? bxa3—+5... ♕e7!  
 [5... ♕xe4+ 6. ♖a1! (6. ♖a2? ♕d5+ 7. ♖b1 bxa3 8. c8♖ a2+ 9. ♖c2 a1♖ 10. ♖e6+ ♖d4 (10... ♕e4+; but  
 not 10... ♕xe6? stalemate) 11. ♖e3+ ♖c4—+) 6... ♕f6+ 7. ♖b2=; 5... bxa3 6. c8♖ ♕xc8  
 7. ♗xg5=6. c8♖ [6. ♕xb4? ♕xb4—+; also 6. c8♖; but not 6. c8♗? ♕xe4+—+6... ♕xc8 7. ♗c3! 7. ♗f6? ♕f5+  
 8. ♖a2 (8. ♖c1 bxa3 9. ♗d5+ ♖d4 (9... ♖d3) 10. ♗xe7 ♖c3—+) 8... ♕e6+ 9. ♖b1 bxa3—+7... ♖d4 7... bxc3  
 8. ♕xe7=; 7... bxa3 8. ♗d5+=8. ♗e2+ ♖e3 9. ♗c3 ♕f5+ 10. ♖a1 ♖d4 11. ♗e2+ ♖e3 12. ♗c3 ♕e6  
 12... ♖d2 13. ♗d5 bxa3 14. ♗xe7=13. ♖b2= 13. ♖c1+? ♖d3—+1/2—1/2

*It is amazing how many white pieces "voluntarily" move to threatened squares in this study!*

### 1. Commendation

#### Pervakov Oleg

Prusikin 45, 2023



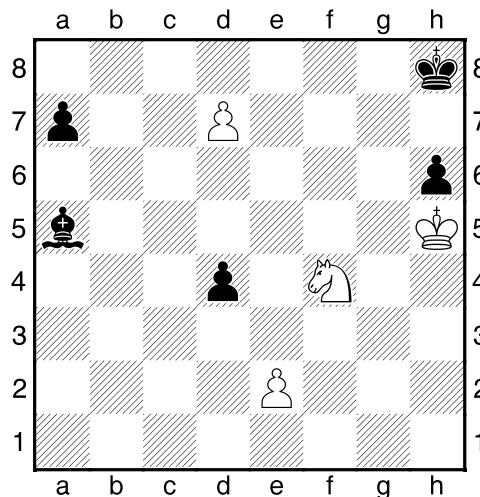
1. e4!! ♖xf6+ 1... ♖xe4 2. ♖e6+ ♖e5 3. ♖g4+ ♖d5 4. d7+—2. ♖e3 ♖dxd6 3. ♖h2+ ♖f4 3... ♖e6 4. e5+—  
 4. ♖h8+ ♖ff6 4... ♖df6 5. ♖b8+ ♖e6 6. ♖e8+ ♖d6 7. e5++—5. ♖b8!! ♖h6 6. ♖b5+ ♖e6 7. ♖e8+ ♖f6  
 8. ♖f8+! 8. e5+? ♖f5 9. exd6 ♖e6+=8... ♖e5 9. ♖f5#1—0

*With precise maneuvers and surprising silent moves, the white queen deals with the two black rooks.*

### 2. Commendation

#### Egorov Evgeny

Prusikin 45, 2023



**1.♔g6!** 1.♔xh6? ♕g8 2.♔g6 (2.♖e6 d3 3.exd3 ♔f7=) 2...♔f8 3.♔f6 ♕d8+ 4.♔e6 a5 5.♔d6 ♕e7+ 6.♔d5 ♕d8 7.♔d6 ♕e7+ 8.♔e5 ♕d8 9.♔d6 ♕e7+ 10.♔d5 ♕d8 11.♖g6+ ♔f7 12.♖e5+ ♔e7=; 1.♖e6? ♔h7= (1...♔g8 2.♔g6+–) **1...♔g8** [1...h5 2.♔f7! (Thematic try 2.♔xh5? ♔g7 3.♖e6+ ♔f6 4.d8♙+ ♕xd8 5.♖xd8= King on f6!) 2...♔h7 a) 2...h4 3.♖g6+ ♔h7 4.♖xh4+–; b) 2...♕b6 3.♖xh5 (3.♖e6? d3!)= 3...a5 4.♖f4 a4 5.♖d5 ♕a5 6.♖b4! a3 7.♖c6 ♕b6 8.♖xd4+–; 3.♖xh5 ♔h6 4.♖g7! ♔g5 5.♔e6 ♔f4 6.♔d5+–]

**2.♖e6 h5 3.♔xh5 ♔f7 4.d8♙♕xd8 5.♖xd8+** King on f7!**5...♔f6 5...♔e7 6.♖c6+ ♔d6 7.♖xd4 ♔c5 8.♖c2+–6.♖c6 ♔e6 6...d3 7.exd3 ♔f5 8.♖xa7+–; 6...♔f5 7.♖xd4+ ♔f4 8.♖c2! a5 9.♔h4 a4 10.♔h3+–**

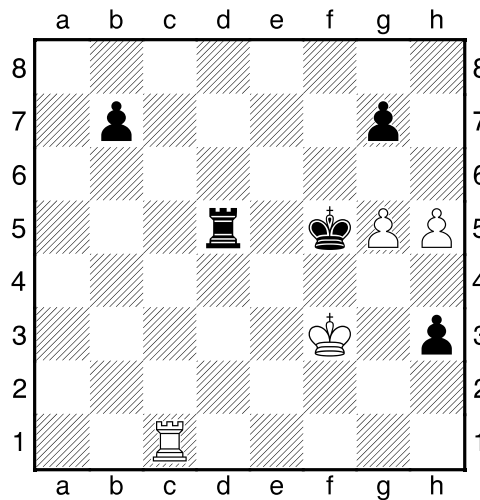
**7.♖xd4+ ♔d5 8.♖c2! a5 9.♔g5!!** RetiThematic try 9.♔g4? ♔c4! 10.e4 (10.♖a3+ ♔b3 11.e4 ♔xa3 12.e5 a4 13.e6 ♔b2 14.e7 a3 15.e8♙ a2=; 10.♔f4 ♔c3!)= 10...♔d3 11.e5 ♔xc2 12.e6 a4 13.e7 a3 14.e8♙ a2 15.♙e5 ♔b1=**9...♔c4 9...a4 10.♔f4 ♔c4 11.♔e3!** (Thematic try 11.♔e4? ♔c3 12.♖a3 ♔b3 13.♖b1 ♔c2 14.♖a3+ ♔b3 15.♖b5 (15.♔d3 ♔xa3 16.♔c3 ♔a2 17.e4 a3 18.♔c2 ♔a1 19.e5 a2 20.e6=) 15...♔b4! (15...♔c4? 16.♖d6+ ♔c5 17.♖f5! a3 (17...♔c4 18.♔e3 a3 19.♔d2 a2 20.♖e3+ ♔b3 21.♖c2+–) 18.♔d3 a2 19.♖d4 a1♙ 20.♖b3+–) 16.♖d4 ♔c4 17.♖c2 ♔c3= Positional draw) 11...♔c3 12.♖d4! zz(12.♖a3? ♔b3! 13.♖b1 ♔c2 14.♖a3+ ♔b3 15.♖b5 ♔b4! 16.♖d4 ♔c3= zz) 12...♔c4 13.♖f5! a3 14.♔d2 a2 15.♖e3+ ♔c5 16.♖c2+–**10.♖a3+ ♔b3** [10...♔b4 11.♖b1! a4 12.e4 ♔b3 13.e5 ♔b2 14.♖d2 ♔c2 15.♖c4 (15.e6? a3 16.e7 a2 17.e8♙ a1♙=) 15...♔b3 16.e6+–**11.♖b5! ♔b4 12.e4! ♔xb5 13.e5 a4 14.e6 ♔c6 15.♔f6 a3 16.e7 ♔d7 17.♔f7 a2 18.e8♙+ Excelsior!1–0**

White had to work hard for the full point. Especially his king is doing a great job!

### 3. Commendation

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**1.h6!** 1.♖c7? ♖b5! (1...b5? 2.h6 gxh6 3.gxh6 h2 4.♔g2=) 2.h6 (2.♔g3 ♔xg5 3.♔xh3 ♔h6! 4.♔g4 ♖g5+ 5.♔f4 b5+–) 2...gxh6 3.gxh6 ♔g6 4.♔g3 ♖b3+ 5.♔h2 ♔xh6+–; 1.♖b1? b5! (1...♔xg5? 2.♖xb7 ♔h4 3.♔f2 ♖g5 4.h6 gxh6 5.♖b4+=) 2.h6 ♔g6! Echo (2...gxh6 3.gxh6 ♔g6 4.♔g3=) 3.hxg7 ♔xg7 4.♔g3 ♖xg5+ 5.♔xh3 ♔f6+–; 1.♔g3? ♔xg5 2.♔xh3 ♔h6!+– Echo (2...♔xh5 3.♖c7=) **1...gxh6 2.gxh6 ♔g6 2...♖d3+ 3.♔f2 ♖d6 4.♖c5+! ♔g4 5.♖c4+ ♔g5 6.♖c5+ ♔g4 7.♖c4+ ♔g5 8.♖c5+ ♔xh6 9.♖c3! h2 10.♔g2=3.♖b1 b5 3...♖h5 4.♖b6+=4.♔g3 ♖h5 5.♔h2 ♔xh6 6.♖g1! ♖c5!** 6...b4 7.♖b1 ♖h4 8.♖g1 ♔h5 9.♖g8 ♔h6 10.♖g1 ♖h5 11.♖b1 ♖h4 12.♖g1=; 6...♖g5 7.♖f1! Echo 7...♖h5 8.♖g17.♖f1!! Echo7.♖g4? ♖c4! (7...♔h5 8.♖b4=) 8.♖g1 (8.♖g8 ♖c3 9.♖b8 ♖b3+–) 8...♔h5 9.♖b1 (9.♔xh3 ♖h4+ 10.♔g3 ♖g4+ 11.♔f2 ♖xg1+–) 9...b4 10.♔xh3 ♔g5 11.♔g3 ♔f5 12.♔f3 ♔e5 13.♔e3 ♔d5+–; 7.♔xh3? ♖h5+ 8.♔g3 ♖g5+ 9.♔f2 ♖xg1 10.♔xg1 b4+–**7...♖h5 8.♖g1 ♖c5 9.♖f1 ♔g5 10.♔xh3 ♖f5 11.♔g2! ♖xf1 12.♔xf1 ♔f5 13.♔e1 ♔e5 14.♔d1 ♔d5 15.♔c1 ♔c5 16.♔b1 ♔b4 17.♔b2 ♔a4 18.♔a2 ♔b4 19.♔b2 ♔c4 20.♔c2 ♔b4 21.♔b2=** The well-known theoretical ending is preceded by an interesting and struggle game in the rook endgame!

Fascinating how many nuances there can be in an elementary-looking rook ending!