

Springaren 2019-20 Studies Provisional Award / Yochanan Afek

I received 26 entries from editor Axel Ornstein. Thanks to Gady Costeff for his efficient assistance in testing my candidates for originality and soundness. The following candidates were significantly anticipated:

14330: There are quite a few similar stalemates, starting with Rinck and Kubbel. The most recent one is by Arestov & Garcia 4th Comm. Gravura 2019.

14428: Complete anticipation- P. Krug & M. Garcia, 2nd Pr. Die Schwalbe 2017.

14546: Self anticipation in Probleemblad 2019.

The 9 awarded entries are of decent standard and display a variety of interesting ideas.

First Prize- **14679 Michael Pasman:** A most subtle bishop endings of the same colour with all units active. White tries to penetrate through the enemy pawn barricade to trap the black Bishop in the queenside, while Black opts for a well-known fortress on the kingside. The White Bishop's journey of 9 only moves is the highlight of this tough and deep battle.

Second Prize- **14325 Lubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka:** A fluent and elegant introduction with a couple of quiet moves is followed by an aristocratic domination that seems new.

Third Prize- **14619 Amatzia Avni & Vladislav Tarasiuk:** The agile white knight is the hero of the defensive efforts all along the board. A fine example of the Grand Leap motive.

First Hon. Mention- **14327 Daniel Keith & Pavel Arestov:** The tense play of mutual blows ends up in a well-trodden maneuver of Q&N Vs. Q

Second Hon. Mention- **14321 Pavel Arestov:** White manages to insert sacrificial harmony in his scattered pieces to navigate the game to a peaceful conclusion.

Special Hon. Mention- **14620 David Gurgenzidze:** The ancient Rook sacrifice followed by a skewer is combined here with 2 additional echoing quiet sacrifices followed by forks. Lovely tactics however at the high price of capturing an immobile queen.

First Commendation- **14329 Geir Sune Ostmo Tallaksen** (After A. Gillberg): The main point 10.Qe2!! belongs to A. Gillberg (Springaren 2013) however the additional introductory play inserts considerable liveliness in the pale source of inspiration.

Second Commendation- **14328 Beat Neuenschwander:** An original logical foresight study with the thematic try witnessing the White King swallowing the bait to reach its destination a single tempo too late.

Third Commendation- **14677 Marcel Dore:** A Grand Leap of the agile white Knight all the way from d8 to c1 while securing the promotion of its own pawn.

Fourth Commendation- **14680 Vladimir Samilo**: This pleasant ending could have looked even nicer if just started on move 4.

Yochanan Afek, Amsterdam 10th April 2021