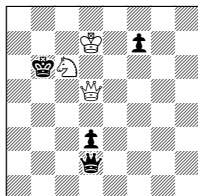


# StrateGems 2013 Studies Award

By Zlatko Mihajloski

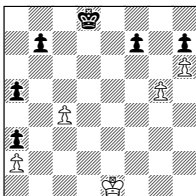
Twenty studies were entered in the year 2013 informal tourney (E0233 to E0252). The quality of the entries was solid. After a detailed analysis of all entries, I have decided on the following ranking:

1st-2nd Prize  
Richard Becker



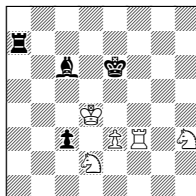
Win

1st-2nd Prize  
Franjo Vrabec



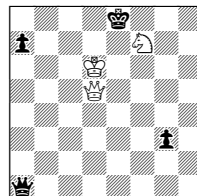
(3+4) Win

3rd Prize  
Daniel Keith &  
Jarl Ulrichsen



Win

1st Honorable Mention  
Richard Becker



Win

(3+4)

**1st-2nd Prize - (Richard Becker - E0237)** A study with a beautiful solution. With the moves 1.Qe5! and 7.Qb3!, White keeps the black Queen in Zugzwang. This leaves the black King to defend against white pieces. Even when the black King moves to the center of the board (14.Ke4), it is not safe since now the white Knight steps into action deciding the outcome. This study is similar to the author's 2nd HM, *The Problemist* 2012-2013, which had a forced solution. This is not the case here. **Solution:** 1.Qe5! zz (1.Qb3+? Kc5 2.Se5 Qa5 3.Qc4+ Kb6 4.Qc6+ Ka7 5.Sc4 Qb4 6.Sd6 Kb8 7.Qc7+ Ka8 8.Qc8+ Ka7 9.Qc7+ Ka8 10.Qc6+ Kb8 11.Sb5 Qg4+ =>) 1...f6 ( 1...5 2.Sd4 Qb4 3.Qe6+ Kc5 4.Sb3+ Kb5 5.Qc6#) 2.Qxf6 Kb5 ( 2...Qe3 3.Qb2+ Kc5 4.Qc3+ Kd5 5.Se7+ Ke4 6.Qc6+ Ke5 7.Qe6+ +-) 3.Qa1 Kc5 (3...Qf2 4.Qa5+ Kc4 5.Qb4+ Kd5 6.Se7+ Ke5 7.Sg7+ Kd5 8.Sf4+ Ke5 9.Sxd3+ +-) 4.Qa7+ Kb5 5.Qa3 Kc4 (5...Kb6 6.Sd4 Qg5 7.Qd6+ Ka5 8.Sc6+ Ka6 9.Qa3+ Kb6 10.Qa7+ +-) 6.Qa4+ Kc5 (6...Kc3 7.Qa5+ Kc2 8.Sd4+ Kd1 9.Qh5+ +-) 7.Qb3 zz Qe1 (7...Qf4 8.Qa3+ Kd5 9.Se7+ Ke4 10.Qa8+ Kd4 11.Q4+ +-) 8.Qb2 Qg1 (8...Kc4 9.Kd6 d2 10.Qc2+ +-) 9.Qc3+ Kd5 10.Qxd3 Kc5 11.Qc3+ Kd5 12.Qb3+ Kc5 13.Qb4+ Kd5 14.Qb5+ Ke4 15.Qc4+ Kf3 (15...Kf5 16.Sd4+ Kf6 17.Qe6+ Kg7 18.Sf5+ Kh7 19.Qf7+ Kh8 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Ke8 Qg2 22.Qf7+ Kh8 23.Qf6+ +-) 16.Se5+ Kg2 17.Qe4+ Kf2 18.Qc2+ Kg3 19.Qg6+ Kf2 20.Sd3+ Kf1 21.Qf5+ Ke2/Kg2 22.Sf4+ Kf3 23.Sh3+ +

**1st-2nd Prize - (Franjo Vrabec - E0235)** Pawn studies are unique in the sense that losing tempo is not an option. This study is a typical example where White, despite being a Pawn down, wins. The key, 1.Kf2!, holds the distant opposition and robs Black of a tempo move (1...b6!). After 7.Kf5 Ke7, the black King's position worsens and 8.Ke4 a4 eliminates another tempo move. After 13.Kd3! Ke7 (desperation move), White wins with 17.Kf5! This study belongs in an Encyclopedia of Pawn Endings. **Solution:** 1.Kf2!! [1.Kd2? Ke7! 2.Kd3 (2.Ke3 b6! =>) 2...Ke6 3.Ke4 b6! 4.Kf4 Kd7! =, or 1.Ke2? b6! =, or 1.c5? Ke7 2.Kf2 Ke6 3.Kf3 Kf5 +-] 1...b6! [1...Ke8 2.Ke2!! Kd8 3.c5! Kd7 4.Kd3 Ke7 5.Kc4 +-, or 1...Ke7 2.Kf3! Ke6 (2...b6 3.Ke3 +-, or 2...Kd6 3.Ke4 Kd7 4.Ke5! +-, or 2...Kd7 3.Ke3! Kd6 4.Ke4 Kc5 5.Ke5 Kxc4 6.Kf6 +-) 3.Kf4 Ke7 4.Kf5 +-, or 1...Kd7 2.Ke3! Kd6 3.Ke4 Ke6 4.c5 +-] 2.Ke2!! (2.Kf3? Ke8!! =, or 2.Ke3? Ke7 =, or 2.Kg3? Ke7 3.Kf4 Kd7! =>) 2...Kd7 (2...Ke7 3.Ke3 +-) 3.Kd3! (3.Ke3? Ke7! =, or 3.Kf3? Ke8! =) 3...Ke7 4.Ke3 Ke8 5.Kd4! (5.Kf3 Ke7 6.Ke3 Ke8) 5...Kd8 6.Ke4 (6.Ke5? Ke7 =, or 6.Kd5 Kd7 =>) 6...Ke8 7.Kf5 Ke7 8.Ke5 a4 9.Kf5! [9.Ke4? Ke6 10.Kf4 Kd7 11.Ke3 Ke7 11.Kd3 Kd7 12.Ke4 (12.Kc3 Ke6 13.Ke4 =>) 12...Ke6 13.Kf4 Kd7 14.Kf5! wastes time] 9...Ke8 10.Ke4! Kd8! 11.Kd4 Ke8 12.Kc3 Kd7 (12...Ke7 13.Kb4 Kd6 14.Kb5! Kc7 15.Kxa4 Kc6 16.Kxa3 +-) 13.Kd3!! (13.Kb4 Kc6 14.Kxa4 Kc5 =>) 13...Ke7 14.Ke3 Ke8 15.Kd4 Kd8 16.Ke4 Ke8 17.Kf5 +.

**3rd Prize - (Daniel Keith & Jarl Ulrichsen - E0239)** After introductory play, Black fights back with 4...c2 and later 6...Bd3. However, the white Rook, with an excellent maneuver, 7.Rd4 Bh7 8.Rh4 & 9.Rh6 Kf7 10.Rh1 and with the repeated maneuver 11.Rh4, keeps attacking the black Bishop and preventing promotion of the black Pawn. After 14...Bf5, the white King springs into action, while the white Rook holds the black promotion off. An attractive Rook-Bishop duel. **Solution:** 1.Sg5+! Ke7 (1...Kd7 2.Sde4 (2.Rf7+ Ke8) 2...c2 (2...Ra4+ 3.Kd3 c2 4.Rf7+) 3.Sc5+ Kc7 4.Rf1) 2.Sde4 (2.Rf7+ Ke8!) 2...Ra4+ (2...c2 3.Rf7+) 3.Kd3 (3.Ke5 Ra5+ 4.Kf4 Rxc5 5.Kxc5 Bxe4) 3...Rxe4 4.Sxe4 c2 5.Kd2 Bxe4 6.Rf4 Bd3 7.Rd4 Bh7 (7...Bg6 8.Rg4 Bd3 (8...Kf7 9.e4) 9.Rg1) 8.Rh4 Bd3 9.Rh6 (9.Rh1 Be4 10.Rh6 (10.Rh4 Bd3 11.Rh6 {transposes}; 10.Rg1 Kf6 11.Kc3 Ke5; 10.Rf1 Ke6) 10...Bd3 11.Rc6 Kd7 12.Rb6 Ke7 13.Rh6 {transposes}) 9...Kf7 (9...Be4 10.Ra6 Kf7 11.Ra4 (11.Rh6 Bg6) 11...Bg6 12.Rg4 {transposes at 13th move}) 10.Rh1 Be4 11.Rh4 Bd3 12.Rd4 Bg6 (12...Bh7 13.Rd7+ Kg6 14.Rxh7 Kxh7 15.Kxc2 Kg6 16.Kd3) 13.Rg4 (13.Rc4 Kf6 14.e4 (14.Rc6+ Kg5 15.Rxc6+ Kxg6 16.Kxc2 Kf5 17.Kd3 Ke5) 14...Ke5; 13.e4 Kf6) 13...Bd3 (13...Kf6 14.e4 Ke5 15.Rxc6) 14.Rg1 Bf5 15.Kc3 Kf6 16.Kd4 +.

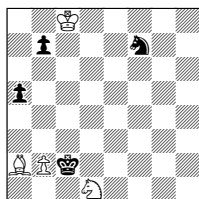
**1st Honorable Mention - (Richard Becker - E0233)** Similar to Richard's prizewinner but with the weaker position of the black King. The similarity prevented higher placement. **Solution:** 1.Ke6 Qa6+ [1...Qe1+ 2.Kf6 Qe7+ (2...Qf2+ 3.Kg7 Qb6 4.Sd6+ +) 3.Kg7 a6 4.Qc6+ Qd7 5.Qa8+ Ke7 6.Qe4+ Qe6 7.Qb7+ Ke8 8.Qb8+ Kd7 9.Se5+ +] 2.Sd6+ Kd8 (2...Kf8 3.Qf3+ Kg7 4.Ke7 Kh6 5.Sf7+ Kh7 6.Qh5+ {(Qh1+)} Kg7 7.Qh8+ Kg6 8.Qh6+ +-) 3.Qg5+ Kc7 4.Qc5+ Kd8 (4...Qc6 5.Qxa7+ +-) (4...Kb8 5.Qc2 +-) 5.Qc2! {zz} g2 6.Qxg2 Ke7 7.Qg7+ Kb8 (7...Kb6 8.Qd4+ Kc6 {(Ka5)} 9.Qc3+ Kb6 10.Qc2 etc.) 8.Qg8+ {(Qh8+)} Ke7 9.Qh7+ Kb6 (9...Kb8 10.Qc2 +-, or 9...Kc6 10.Qc2+ Kb6 11.Kd7 Qf1 12.Qc7+ Ka6 13.Qb7+ Ka5 14.Qb3 Ka6 15.Qa4+ {(Qa3+)} Kb6 16.Qb4+ Ka6 17.Qb3 Qe2 18.Kc7 Qe7+ 19.Kc6+-) 10.Qc2 Qf1 11.Qb3+ Kc5 12.Qc3+ Kb6 13.Kd7 Qe2 14.Qb4+ Ka6 15.Qa3+ Kb6 16.Sc8+ Kb5 17.Sxa7+ Kb6 18.Sc8+ Kb5 19.Sd6+ Kb6 20.Qb4+ Ka6 21.Qc3! Kb6 (21...Qg4+ 22.Kc7 Qa4 23.Qd3+ Ka5 24.Qd5+ Kb4 25.Qc4+ Ka3 26.Sb5+ +-) 22.Kd8 Qh5(22...Qf1 23.Sc4+ +-, or 22...Ka6 23.Kc7 Qe7+ 24.Kc6 +-) 23.Sc4+ Kc6 24.Se5+ Kb5 25.Qb3+ Kc5 26.Qc4+ Kb6 27.Qb4+ Ka6 28.Qa4+ +.

2nd Honorable Mention  
Iuri Akobia† &  
Mario Guido Garcia

3rd Honorable Mention  
Valery Kalashnikov  
& Janos Mikitovics

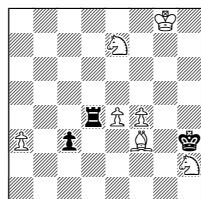
Commendation  
Martin Minski

Commendation  
Pavel Arestov



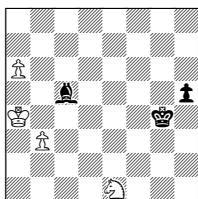
Win

(4+4)



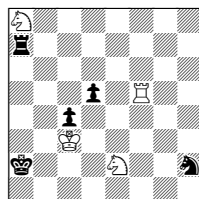
Win

(7+3)



Win

(4+3)



Win

(4+5)

**2nd Honorable Mention - (Iuri Akobia† & Mario Guido Garcia - E0238)** After 1.Se3! and later 6...Kb4, the black King is on the sidelines observing a duel between the white King and the black Knight. The duel ends when the black Knight becomes stranded on g1-square. The activity of the white King is admirable. **Solution:** 1.Se3+! (1.Bxf1? Kxd1 2.b3 Kc2 3.Kxb7 Kc3 4.Kb6 Kb4 5.Kc6 a4 =) 1...Kd3 2.Sc4 [2.Bxf7? Kxe3 3.Kxb7 Kd2! (3...Kd3? 4.Kb3! Kd2 5.Ba4! Kc1 6.b3 +-) 4.b3 (4.Kb6 a4 =) 4...Kc3 5.Kb6 Kb4 6.Kc6 a4 =] 2...b5 3.Sxa5 Se5 4.Bb1+ (4.Be6? Sc4 5.Sxc4 bxc4 =) 4...Kd2 5.b3 Kc3 6.Kb7 (6.Kc7? Kb4 7.Kb6 Sd7 + =) 6...Kb4 7.Ka6! Sd7 8.Be2 Sc5+ 9.Kb6 Sd7+ 10.Kc6 Se5+ (10...Sf6 11.Sb7 Sg4 12.Sc5! +-) 11.Kd6 Sf7+ (11...Sg4 12.Sc6+ Kc3 13.Bf5 Se3 14.Be6 +-) 12.Ke6 Sg5+ (12...Sh6 13.Sc6+ +-) 13.Kf5! (13.Kf6? Sh3 14.Sc6+ Kc3 15.B5 Sg1 16.Be6 Se2 17.Ke5 Se1 18.Sa5 Kb4 19.Sc6+ Kc3 20.Sa5 =) 13...Sh3 14.Kg4 Sg1 15.Sc6+ Kc3 16.Bd1 Kd2 17.Bf3 Kc3 18.b4 +

**3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention - (Valery Kalashnikov & Janos Mikitovics - E0247)** After 1...c2!, White sacrifices his Bishop with 2.Bg2+! in order to capture the white Pawn. Black has three possible continuations, all ending in defeat after careful play by White. Solution: **1.Sf1** (1.Sc6? c2 2.Sxd4 c1Q 3.Se6 Kxh2 4.e5 Qxa3 5.Bh5 Qe7 6.Bf7 Kg3 7.f5 Qb7 =) **1...c2!** (1...Rd3 2.Bd1!! Rxd1 3.Se3 Rd8+ 4.Kg7! +-) **2.Bg2+!** (2.Bg4+? Kxg4 3.Se3+ Kxf4 =) **2...Kxg2** (2...Kh4 3.Sf5+ fork #1) **3.Se3+ Kf3 4.Sxc2:**

**A) 4...Rd8+ 5.Kg7 Kxf4 6.e5 Rd2** (6...Kxe4 7.Sc6+ fork #2) **7.Sg6+ Ke4 8.Sb4! Rd7+** (8...Kf5 9.Sc6 Ra2 10.Sd4+ Ke4 11.Sb5 Kd5 12.Sc3+ fork #3) **9.Kf6 Ra7 10.e6 Rxa3 11.Se5! Ra8 12.Sf7 Kd4** (12...Re8 13.Sd6+ fork #4) **13.Sd8!! Rxd8 14.Sc6+** fork #5 +

**B) 4...Rxe4 5.f5 Rxe7 6.f6 Re4 7.Sb4 Rg4+8.Kf8 Ke3 9.f7 Kd4 10.Sc6+ Kc3** (10...Kc4 11.Se5+ fork #6) **11.Ke8 Rf4** (11...Re4+ 12.Se7 Rf4 13.Sd5+ fork #7) **12.a4 Kc4 13.Se5+ Kb4 14.Sd3+** fork #8 +

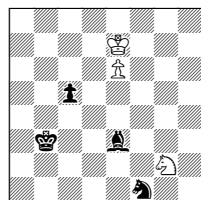
**C) 4...Rd2 5.Sd5! Kxe46.Sce3! Rd3** (6...Rb2 7.f5! Ra2 8.Sc3+ fork #9) **7.a4 Rd4** (7...Ra3 8.f5! Ke5 9.Sc4+ fork #10, 8...Rxa4 9.Sc3+ fork #11; 7...Kf3 8.f5! Ra3 9.Sb6 Kxe3 10.Sc4+ fork #12) **8.f5! Kd3 9.a5! Ra4 10.a6!! Rxa6 11.Sb4+** fork #13 +

Commendations are in publishing order and without comments.

**Commendation - (Martin Minski - E0234)** Solution: **1.b4!** [1.Sd3? Ba7! =; 1.Kb5? Ba7! =] **1...Bb6!** [1...Ba7 2.Sg2! (2.Ka5? h4! 3.b5 h3 4.Sf3! Kxf3 5.b6 Bxb6+ 6.Kxb6 h2 7.a7 Kf2 8.a8Q Kg1 =) 2...Kg3 3.Sh4!! Kxh4 4.Ka5! (4.b5?? Bb6! -) 4...Kg3 5.b5 +- see main line] **2.Kb5!** [2.Sg2? Kg3! 3.Kb5 Bf2! (3...Bd4? 4.Sh4!! Kxh4 5.Ka5 Kg4 6.b5 Bc3+ 7.Kb6 h4 8.Kc5! Be1 9.b6 Bf2+ 10.Kb5 +-) 4.Sh4!? Kxh4 5.Ka5 Kg4/Kg5 6.b5 Bel+! 7.Kb6 h4! (7...Bf2+? 8.Kc7! +-) 8.a7 Bf2+ 9.Ka6 Bxa7 =] **2...Ba7 3.Sg2!** [3.Ka5? h4! 4.b5 h3 5.Sf3! Kxf3 6.b6 Bxb6+ 7.Kxb6 h2 8.a7 Kf2 9.a8Q Kg1 =] **3...Kg3 4.Sh4!!** [*Thematic try* 4.Ka5? Kxg2! 5.b5 Kg1 (or 5...h4) 6.b6 Bxb6+ 7.Kxb6 h4 8.a7 h3 9.a8Q h2 =] **4...Kxh4 5.Ka5!** [5.Kc6? Kg3/Kg4/Kg5 6.b5 h4 7.b6 h3! 8.bxa7 h2 9.Kc7 h1Q 10.Kb8 =] 5...Kg3 6.b5 h4 7.b6 Bxb6+ 8.Kxb6 h3 9.a7 h2 10.a8Q Kf2 11.Qh1 +-.

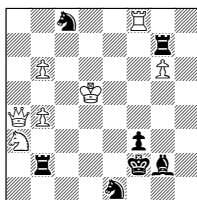
**Commendation - (Pavel Arestov - E0243)** Solution: **1.Sb6** (1.Rf8? Ra3+ 2.Kb4 Rb3+ 3.Kc5 Rf3=) = **1...Ra3+** (1...Re7 2.Sd4 Sg4 3.Sxd5 Se3 4.Rf2+ Ka3 5.Sc2+ Sxc2 6.Sxe7 +- ) **2.Kc2! d4!** (2...Ka1 3.Sxd5 +- ) **3.Sxd4** (3.Sxc4? d3+ 4.Kd2 Sf1+! 5.Rxf1 exd=) **3...Sg4! 4.Sd5!** (Thematic try: 4.Sxc4? Se3+! 5.Sxe3 Rxe3 6.Rh5 Ka3! 7.Ra5+ Kb4 8.Sc6+ Kc4!=) **4...Se3+ 5.Sxe3 Rxe3 6.Rh5!** zz (6.Ra5+? Ra3 7.Rh5 Re3! zz =) **6...Ka3** (6...Rg3 7.Se2! Rg2 8.Ra5#) **7.Ra5+ Kb4 8.Sc6#!**

Commendation  
Pavel Arestov



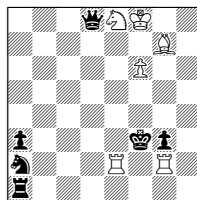
Win (3+4)

Commendation  
Peter Krug



Draw (7+7)

Commendation  
Peter Krug



Win (6+6)

**Commendation - (Pavel Arestov - E0248)** Solution: **1.Kf6! Bg5+!** (1...Sd2 2.Sxe3 Se4+ 3.Ke5 +-) **2.Kxg5 Sd2! 3.Kf6!** (3.e7? Se4+ 4.Kf5 Sd6+ 5.Ke6 Se8 =) **3...Sc4!** (3...Se4+ 4.Ke5 +-) **4.Ke7!!** (switchback, 4.e7? Sd6 =) **4...Kb4** (4...Se5 5.Kd6! Sg6 7.Sf4! +-) **5.Kd7 Sb6+** (5...Se5+ 6.Kd6! Sg6 7.Sf4! +-) **6.Kd8!** (6.Kd6? c4 7.e7 Sc8+ =, or 6.Kc6? Sc8 7.Kd7 Sb6+ loss of time) **6...Sd5 7.Se3! Sf6** (7...Sxe3 8.e7 +-) **8.e7** (8.Ke7? Se4 9.Kd8 loss of time) **8...c4 9.Sd5+!** (9.Sg4? c3! 10.Sxf6 c2 11.e8Q c1Q =) **9...Sxd5 10.e8Q +-**

**Commendation - (Peter Krug - E0249) Solution: 1.Sc4!** (1.Rxc8 2.Kg1) **Sxb6+** (1...Kg1 2.Kc5 Sxb6 3.Kxb6 Rxc6+ 4.Ka5 Re2 5.b5 f2 6.Qa1 Rg5 7.Rxf2) **2.Sxb6 Kg1 3.Qd1** (3.Qa1 f2+ 4.Ke5 Re2+ 5.Kf6 Rg8) (3. Ke5 Rxc6) **3...f2+ 4.Ke5 Rxc6** (4...Re2+ 5.Kf6 Re7 (5...Rg8 6.Qxe2 Rxf8+ 7.Ke7) 6.Rf7 Rxc7+ 7.gxf7 Re3 8.Qd6 f1Q+ 9.Kg7 Qf5 10.f8Q Qg5+ 11.Qg6) **5.Rxf2 Kxf2 6. Kf5** (6.Qd4+ Kf1 7.Kf5 Rg5+ 8.Kf6 Re2) **6...Be4+ 7.Kxe4 Rxb4+ 8.Kd5 Rxb6 9.Qd2+ Kf1 10.Qd3+ Kg1 11.Qe3+ Kf1 12.Qd3+ Sxd3 drawn.**

**Commendation - (Peter Krug - E0250) Solution: 1.f7** (1.Rd2 Qb8 2.f7 Re1 3.Rxa2 Kg4 4.Rgc2 Kh3 5.Rc3 Qb4+ 6.Kg8 Qb8 7.Raxa3 Rxe8+ 8.Kh7 Rd8) **1... Rf1** (1...Re1 2.Rxa2) **2.Kg8** (2.Rxa2 Rf2 3.Rgxf2+ gxf2 4.Kg8 Qd5 5.Rxa3+ Kg2 6.Ra1 f1Q 7.Rxf1 Kxf1) **2...Qd5** (2...Rf2 3.Rgxf2+ gxf2 4.Re6 Qd3 5.f8Q+ Kg2 6.Be5) **3.Sf6 Qxf7+ 4.Kxf7 Sc3 5.Rc2 a2 6.Rgd2 a1Q 7.Rd3+ Kf4 8.Rcxc3 Qxc3 9.Bh6+** (9.Rxc3 g2 10.Bh6+ Ke5 11.Rc5+ Kd4) **9...Ke5 10.Rd5#**

*Many thanks to Zlatko for being a judge. The award stays open for 3 months. Please send your comments to Franjo Vrabec.*