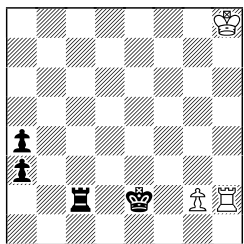


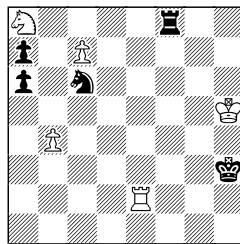
Thirty entries were published in 2021. Here is my decision:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
David Gurgenzidze  
& Martin Minski



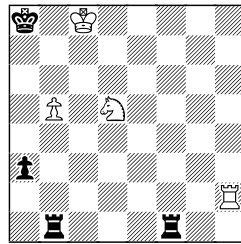
Draw (3+4)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Franjo Vrabec



Win (5+5)

Special Prize  
Richard Becker



Draw (4+4)

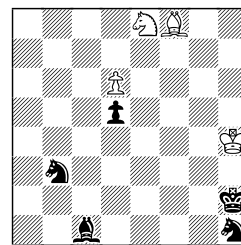
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - (David Gurgenzidze & Martin Minski - E0406) 1.g4+!** (1.Rh4? Rc3! 2.Rxa4 Rg3+-, or 1.Rh3? a2 -+) **1...Kd3** (1...Kd1 2.Rh1+ Kd2 3.g5 a2 4.g6 Rc8+ 5.Kh7 Kc3 6.g7 Kb2 7.Rh2+ Kb1 8.Rh1+ Kb2 9.Rh2+ =) **2.Rh3+ Kc4 3.Rxa3 Kb4 4.Rg3 a3 5.g5 Rh2+** [5...a2 6.Rg4+! Ka3 7.Rg3+ Kb4 8.Rg4+ Kb5 9.Rg1 Rg2! (9...Rh2+ 10.Kg8 = see main line) 10.Ra1! =] **6.Kg8 a2 7.Rg4+!** [logical try 7.Rg1? Rg2! 8.Rxg2 a1Q 9.Rg4+ (9.Rf2 Qg1/Qd4 10.Rf5 Qg4 -+, or 9.g6? Qa8+ 10.Kh7 Qxg2+-) 9...Kb5! (9...Kc5? 10.g6 Qe5 11.Rg1! =, or 9...Ka5? 10.Kh7! Qe5 11.Kh6=) 10.Rf4 (10.g6 Qe5! -+, or 10.Kh7 Qe5/Qc3 11.Kh6 Qh2+ 12.Kg6 Kc5 -+) 10...Qe5! -+] **7...Ka3 8.Rg3+!** [8.Rg1? Rb2! (8...Rg2? 9.Rxg2 a1Q 10.g6=) 9.Ra1 Rg2!-+] **8...Kb4 9.Rg4+ Kb5 10.Rg1 Rg2! 11.Rxg2** [11.Ra1? Rxg5+ -+] **11...a1Q 12.Rf2 Qe5** [12...Qa8+ 13.Kg7 Qa7+ 14.Rf7 =, or 12...Qg1/Qd4 13.Rf5+ =] **13.g6 =**. Another excellent logical study with a critical move 7.Rg4+!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - (Franjo Vrabec - E0401) 1.Re3+!** (1.Rc2? Se7 2.Re2 Sc6, or 1.Re6? Sxb4 2.Rd6 Rxa8 3.Rd8 Rc8! 4.Rxc8 Sd5 5.Kh6 Kh4 6.Kg7 Kg5 7.Kf7 Kf5 8.Ke8 Ke6 9.Kd8 Kd6 =) **1...Kh2!** (1...Kg2 2.Re6 Sxb4 3.Rd6 Rxa8 4.Rd8 Sd5 5.Rxd5 Rc8 6.Rc5 a5 7.Kg4! a4 8.Rc2+ Kf1 9.Kf5 a3 10.Ke6 a2 11.Rc1+ Ke2 12.Kd7 +-) **2.Re6** (2.Re2+ Kg3 3.Re6 Sxb4 4.Rd6 Rxa8 5.Rd8 Sd5 6.Rxd5 Rc8 7.Rc5 a5 =) **2...Sxb4 3.Rd6 Rxa8 4.Rd8 Rc8!** (4...Sd5 5.Rxd5 Rc8 6.Rc5 a5 7.Kg4! a4 8.Rc2+ Kg1 9.Rc1+ Kf2 10.Kf5 a3 11.Ke6 +-) **5.Rxc8 Sd5 6.Kg4! Kg2 7.Kh4! Kh2 8.Rf8! Sxc7 9.Rf2+ Kg1 10.Kg3 Sb5 11.Rf3! Sd6 12.Rd3 Sf5+ 13.Kg4!** (13.Kf3 Sh4+ 14.Kg3 Sf5+, or 13.Kf4 Sh4 14.Kg3 Sf5+) +-. A very good study with an unexpected 8.Rf8!

**Sp. Prize - (Richard Becker - E0390) 1.Rh4!** [Logical try: 1.Rh3? Rf8+ 2.Kd7 Ra1 (2...Rf7+ 3.Kc6 Rc1+ 4.Kb6 Rb7+ 5.Ka6 Ra7+ 6.Kb6 Rc8 7.Sc7+ Raxc7 8.Rxa3+ Kb8 9.Ra7 zz Rxa7 stalemate) 3.Kc7 (3.Sb4 Kb7 4.Sc2 Rc1 5.Sxa3 Rfc8) 3...Rc1+ 4.Kb6 Rb8+ 5.Ka6 a2 6.Sb6+ Rxb6+ 7.Kxb6 Rc6+ (7...a1Q 8.Ra3+ etc.) 8.bxc6 a1Q wins) (1.Kc7? Rxb5) (1.Rh6? Rf8+ 2.Kc7 Rc1+ 3.Kd7 Rf7+)] **1...Rf8+ 2.Kc7 Rc1+ 3.Kb6 Rb8+** (3... Kb8 4.Sb4) **4.Ka6 a2 5.Sb6+ Rxb6+ 6.Kxb6 Rc6+** (6...a1Q 7.Ra4+ Kb8 8.Ra8+ Kxa8 stalemate) **7.bxc6 a1Q 8. Rc4 Qb2+ 9.Kc5 Kb8** (9...Qe5+ 10.Kb4) **10.Rb4+ draw**. An excellent logical study with a subtle key-move by the white Rook. The try 1.Rh3? seems more natural than the key-move 1.Rh4.

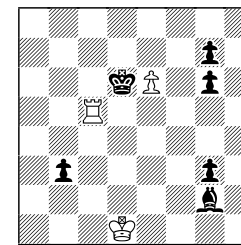
The similarity with author's 2<sup>nd</sup> H.M. at 6<sup>th</sup> FRME precluded it from winning the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize.

1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention  
Paul Răican



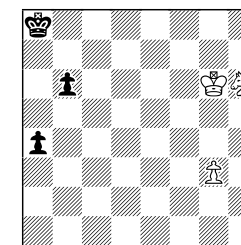
Win (4+5)

2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention  
Michal Hlinka  
& L'uboš Kekely



Draw (3+6)

3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention  
Jan Sprenger



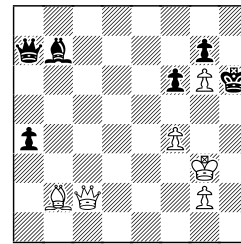
Win (3+3)

**1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention - (Paul Răican - E0408) 1.d7! Sd4 2.Bd6+** [2.d8Q? Bg5+ 3.Qxg5 (3.Kxg5 Se6+) Sf3+] **2...Sg3 3.Bxg3+ Kg2 4.Bf4!** (4.Sf6? Sc6 5.Sxd5 Kf3! 6.Bc7 Ba3! 7.Kg5 Ke4 =) **4...Ba3 5.Bd6!** (5.d8Q? Be7+ 6.Qxe7 Sf5+) **5...Bxd6 6.Sxd6 Sc6 7.Sf5! Kf3** (7...Kf2 8.Kh5! Sd8 9.Kg5 Kf3 10.Kf6 +-) **8.Sd4+ +-**. A study pleasant for solving.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention - (Michal Hlinka & L'uboš Kekely - E0395) 1.e7!** [1.Rc3? b2 2.Kc2 Be4+ 3.Kxb2 g2 4.Rg3 Kxe6 -, or 1.Rg5? Be4 2.Kc1 (2.Rxg3 b2 -) 2...g2 3.Rg4 Kxe6! 4.Rxe4+ Kf5 5.Re1 Kf4 -+] **1...Kxe7 2.Rc3** (2.Re5+? Kf6 3.Re3 Bd5 4.Rxg3 g5 -+) **2...Bd5 3.Rxg3 Kf6 4.Kd2!** (4.Kc1? g5! -+) **4...g5 5.Rg4 Kf5 6.Rd4!** (6.Rb4? or Ra4? g4 7.Rd4 Be4 -+) **6...Be4 7.Rb4 Bc2** (7...Bd5 8.Ke3 =) **8.Ke3** (8.Kc3? g4 -, or 8.Rb7? g6 -+) **8...Ke5!** [8...g6 9.Kf3 g4+ (9...Bd1+ 10.Ke3! Bc2 11.Kf3 =) 10.Kg3 Bd1 11.Rd4 Bc2 12.Rb4 =, or 8...g4 9.Rb5+ Kf6 10.Kf4! =] **9.Rb5+** (9.Kd2? g6 10.Rb5+ Kf4 -+) **9...Ke6!** (10.Kd2? g4! zz 11.Rg5 Bf5 -, or 10.Kf3? Kd6 11.Kg4 Kc6 12.Rb8 Kc5 -+) **10...g4 11.Kd2!** zz **g6** (11...g3 12.Rg5 =) **12.Kc3 zz Kf7** (12...Kf6 13.Kd2! zz g3 14.Ke3 =) **13.Rb4!** switchback (13.Kd2? Kf6! zz 14.Ke3 Ke6! 15.Kf4 Bd1 16.Rb8 Kd7! 17.Rb6 Kc7 18.Rb4 Kc6 -, or 13.Rb6? g3 -+) **13...g3 14.Rg4 =**. A subtle duel between the white Rook and black Bishop and Pawn.

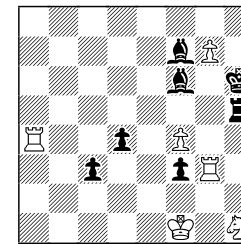
**3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention - (Jan Sprenger - E0405) 1.Sf5!** [1.Sg4? Kb7! 2.Se3 Kc6 3.g4 (3.Kf5 Kc5 4.Ke4 b5!) 3...Kc5! 4.Kf5 Kd4 5.Sc2+ Kc3 6.Sa3 b5! (6...Kb3? 7.g5! Kxa3 8.g6 Kb2 9.g7 a3!0.g8Q!) 7.Sxb5+ Kc4 8.Sa3+ Kb3 9.g5 Kxa3 10.g6 Kb2 11.g7 a3 12.g8Q a2 =) **1...Kb7 2.Sd4!** (2.Se3? Kc6! see 1.Sf5) **2...b5!** (2...a3 3.g4 a2 4.Sc2 +-) **3.Sxb5 Kc6 4.Sa3!** (4.Sc3? a3 5.Kf5 Kc5 6.g4 Kc4 =) **4...Kc5 5.Kf5** (minor dual 5.Sb1 Kb4 6.Kf5 Kb3 ) **5...Kb4 6.Sb1 Kb3 7.Ke4 Kc2 8.Sa3+ Kb3 9.Sb5 Kc4! 10.Sd6+** (10.Sd4? a3 11.g4 a2 12.Sc2 Kc3 13.Sa1 Kb2 =) **10...Kc5 11.Sf5 a3 12.Kd3!** (thematic try 12.Sd4? Kc4! 13.g4 a2 14.Sc2 Kc3 15.Sa1 Kb2 =) **12...a2 13.Sd4! a1Q** (13...a1S 14.Ke4 ) **14.Sb3+ +-**. An interesting study with a nice maneuver by the white Knight, but the duals in the moves by the white King detract. Also, 1.Sf5 looks more natural than 1.Sg4 in the try.

Special Honorable Mention  
Steffen Nielsen



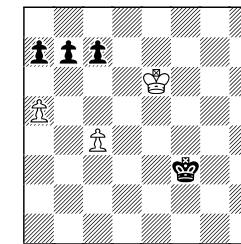
Win (6+6)

Special Honorable Mention  
Michael Pasman



Draw (6+7)

Commendation  
Martin Minski



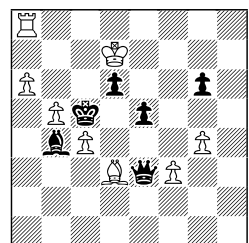
Win (3+4)

**Special Honorable Mention - (Steffen Nielsen - E0412) 1.Bc1!** (1.f5? Qe3+ =) **1...Qb8** (1...f5 2.Qxf5 +-) **2.Kh3** [2.Kg4? f5+ 3.Qxf5 Bc8 4.Qe6 (4.Qd7 Qc7 {Kxg6} =) 4...Qc7 5.Be3 (5.Bd2 {eg} Qd6) 5...Qc4! 6.Qxc8 Qe2+ =, or 2.Kh4? f5 3.Qxf5 Qd8+ 4.Kg3 Bc8] **2...f5 3.Qxf5! Bc8** **4.Qe6 Qb3+** (4...Qb1 5.Qxc8 +-, or 4...Bxe6+ 5.f5+ Kh5 6.g4#) **5.Kh4 Qc2** (5...Bxe6 6.f5+) **6.Qe2** (6.Be3? Qf2+) **6...Qxe2** (6...Qf5 7.g4, or 6...Kxg6 7.Qxc2+, or 6...Qxg6 7.f5+, or 6...Qxc1 7.Qh5#) **7.f5+ +-**. The study being a candidate for a prize was prevented by the unfortunate variation 2.Kf2 Qd6 3.Be3 Bxg2 4.Kxg2 with a chance for a win for White.

**Special Honorable Mention - (Michael Pasman - E0414) 1.Sf2! Rh1+!** (1...c2 2.g8S+ Bxg8 3.Sg4+ Kg7 4.Se3+ Kf8 5.Sxc2! =, or 1...Rb5 2.g8S+ Bxg8 3.Sg4+ =) **2.Sxh1 c2 3.g8S+** (logical try 3.Rh3+ Kxg7 4.Rg3+ Kh7 5.Rh3+ Kg6 6.Rg3+ Kf5 7.Ra5+ Kxf4 8.Rc5 d3 9.Sf2 Kxg3 10.Sxd3 Bg6 -+) **3...Bxg8 4.Rh3+ Kg6 5.Rg3+ Kf5 6.Ra5+ Kxf4 7. Rc5 Bh7!** [7...d3? 8.Rxg8 (see logical try 3.Rh3+) 8...d2 9.Rg4+! Kxg4 10.Sf2+ =] **8.Kf2! Bh4 9.Rc4! Be4!** (9...Bd3 10.Rxd4+) **10.Rxd4! c1Q 11.Rxe4+! Kxe4 stalemate**. An interesting play ending with a stalemate. A higher award was not possible because of the idle Sh1.

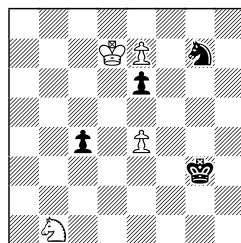
**Commendation - (Martin Minski - E0392) 1.Kd7! b6** (1...Ke4 2.Kxc7 Kd4 3.Kxb7 +-) **2.a6** (2.axb6? cxb6) **2...Kf4! 3.Kc6!!** (logical try: 3.Kxc7? Ke5 4.Kb7 Kd6 5.Kxa7 Kc7! =, or 3.Kc8? c6! 4.Kb7 b5 5.cxb5 cxb5 6.Kxa7 b4 7.Kb8 b3 8.a7 b2 9.a8Q b1Q+ =) **3...Ke5 4.Kb7 Kd6 5.Kxa7 +**.

Commendation  
Peter Krug



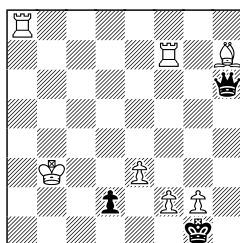
Win (6+8)

Commendation  
Marcel Doré



Win (4+4)

Commendation  
Amatzia Avni &  
Vladislav Tarasiuk



Win (7+3)

**Commendation - (Peter Krug - E0396) 1.Rc8+!** (1.a7? Kb6 2.Rc8 Qxf3 =) **1...Kb6 2.Rc6+ Ka5 3.a7 Qxa7+ 4.Ke6 g5 5.Ra6+ Qxa6 6.bxa6 Kb6! 7.f4!!** [Thematic try 7.c5+? Bxc5! (7...dxc5? 8.f4) 8.f4 gxf4 9.g5 e4 10.Bxe4 Kxa6 =] **7...exf4 8.c5+ dxc5 9.Kf6! Bd2 10.Kxg5 +-**.

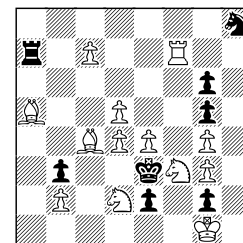
**Commendation - (Marcel Doré - E0399) 1.Sa3!** [Thematic try: 1.Kd6? Kf4/Kf2 2.Sc3 Ke3 3.Ke5 Kd3 4.Kf6 Se8+ 5.Kf7 Sc7 6.Sb5 Sxb5! (6...c3? 7.Sxc7 e2 8.e5 c1Q 9.e8Q Qxc7 10.Kf6! +- EGTB) (10.Kxe6? Qb6+! 11.Kf5 Qf2+12.Ke6 Qa2/Qb6 13.Kf5 Qf2+ positional draw.)] **1...c3 2.Sb5 c2 3.Sd4 c1Q 4.Se2+ Kf3 5.Sxc1 Kxe4 6.Sb3!** [6.Se2? e5! (6...Ke3? 7.Sc1! Ke4 8.Sb3 Kd5 9.Sd2! +- see main line after 7.Sd2!) 7.Sg3+ Kf4! 8.Sh5+ Sxh5 =] **6...Kd5 7.Sd2!** [Thematic try: 7.Sa5? e5! 8.Sb7 e4 9.Sd8 Kc4! (9...e3? 10.Se6! +- see main line) 10.Se6 Sh5 (10...e3? 11.Sxg7! +-) 11.Kd6 Sf6 12.Ke5 e3 13.Kxf6 e2 =] **7...e5 8.Sf3 e4 9.Sg5!** (and the refutation in T.T: 7.Sa5?... 9...Kc4 is no longer allowed here) **9...e3 10.Se6! Sh5 11.Sf4+ Sxf4 12.e8Q! +-**.

**Commendation - (Amatzia Avni & Vladislav Tarasiuk - E0409) 1.Ra1+!** (Rd8? Qb6+, or 1.Rd7? Qe6+, or 1.Kc2? Qc6+) **1...Kh2 2.Kc2!** (2.Rf4? Qxh7 3.Kc3 Qg7+ 4.Rd4 Kxg2 =, or 2.Bg8? Qg7 3.Rxg7 d1Q+ 4.Rxd1 stalemate) **2...d1Q+!** (2...Qd6 3.Kd1 +-) **3.Kxd1** (3.Rxd1? Qc6+ 4.Kb2 Qb5+ =) **3...Qh5+ 4.Rf3 Kxg2** (4...Qxh7 5.Rh3+ +-) **5.Be4 Qh1+ 6.Ke2 Qxa1 7.Rf5+!** (7.Rf6+? Kh3! 8.Rh6+ Kg4 =) **7...Kh3** (7...Kg1 8.Rg5+ Kh2 9.Rh5+ Kg1 10.Rh1+ mate) **8.Rh5+ Kg4 9.Bf3#**.

Many thanks to Pavel for this quick award which stays open for three months. Please send comments to Franjo Vrabec.

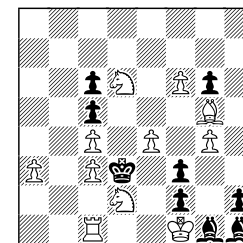
## Recent Tourney Winners

**N°1 Emil Klemanič**  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Probleemblad 2019



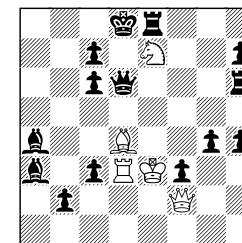
h#2 4 solutions (13+8)

**N°2 Viktor Syzonenko**  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Kaila-100 MT 2019



h#2½ 5 solutions (11+9)

**N°3 Petko A. Petkov**  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Saint-Germain-  
Au-Mont-D'or 2019



h#2 2 solutions (5+14)

**N°1** 1.e1S Bc3 2.Sxf3+ Rx3f3#; 1.e1B Rf4 2.Bxd2 Bxd2#; 1.Sxf7 Bb6 2.Se5 dxe5#; 1.Rxa5 Re7 2.Rxd5 exd5#. In the first set, two underpromotions leading to capture of white pieces to free the mating squares. In the second set, White creates batteries with Rook and Bishop while black sacrifices its Rook and Knight after capturing white thematic pieces (Zilahi).

**N°2** 1...Sb5 2.cxb5 Sb3 3.bxc4 Se5#; 1...Sf5 2.gxf5 Sxf3 3.fxe4 Se5#; 1...Sxf3 2.Bxf3 Sf7 3.Bxe4 Se5#; 1...Bh4 2.Kxd2 Rd1+ 3.Ke3 Bg5#; 1...Rd1 2.Kxc3 Bf4 3.Kd4 Sb1#.

**N°3** 1.Qc5 Qxh4 2.Rxh4 Bxc5#; 1.Qf6 Qxb2 2.Bxb2 Bxf6#. Both Queens sacrifice twice.

## Series-movers Tourneys: Technical Excellence Challenge Fifth Challenge

**Ser-s= with double excelsior with the least number of moves.**

If two entries have the same number of moves, then additional criteria will be considered such as the number of pieces. In the case of equal number of pieces, additional criteria will be considered: the type of pieces with the least number of point: Q=10, R=5, B/S=3 and P=1. Illegal settings, promoted pieces and King-in-check are not allowed. Promoted Bishop is allowed only if there is none already existing on the squares of the same color (one set rule). Previously published works that have been improved, will be allowed.

Due to the compressed schedule, as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> challenge (coming in SG99), all the entries must be sent to the director (Mike Prcic) by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The final results will be published in SG100.

[Additional judge's comments from page 60.]

One white and three black Knights provide shields for the white King to access f1, the intersection square of four different black Queen lines. Even after the bQd3 is out of the cage, the solution requires precision to untangle, with two pairs of cross-captures by the black pawns, in order to break through the wall of white pawns. The "add a black Knight" part of the stipulation demonstrates the inherent inability of a Knight to lose a tempo. Among the four screening squares, the white Knight must stand on e2 and the black Knights on e1, g1, g2. With the black Knight starting from h8, the retro-opposition is wrong: When the critical position of the four Knights is reached, the white King ends up moving to f2, instead of f1, and further progress is impossible. It may be interesting to compare this problem with T.R. Dawson's work on retro-opposition; it is available online at <https://theproblemist.org/trd/trd-retop.html>. The ninth diagram (D 1089) uses the same "add a bS in a corner" effect, too.