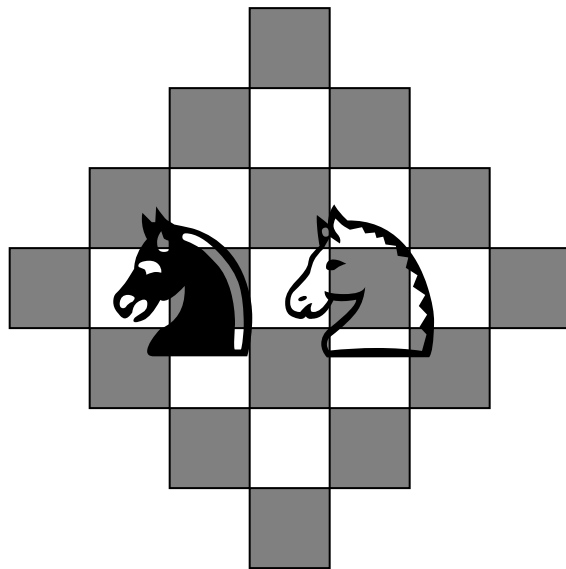


StrateGems



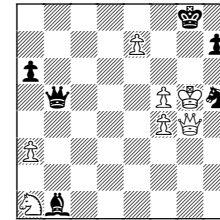
Ourstanding Awards

December 2022

Special thanks to the *StrateGems* Chief Editor, Mike Prcic, studies section editor, Franjo Vrabec, as well as to all participants of this informal tourney.

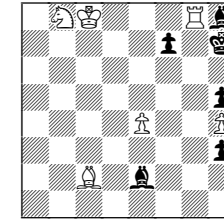
I reviewed nineteen studies by thirteen composers from eleven countries. My ranking is:

1st Prize
Richard Becker



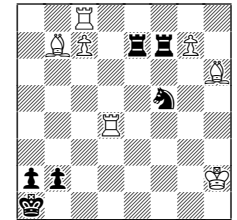
Win (7+6)

2nd Prize
Jan Timman



Win (6+6)

3rd Prize
Sergey Osintsev



Win (7+6)

1st Prize - (Richard Becker - E0421) 1.Kh6+! (1.Kxh5+? Kf7 =) **1...Kh8** (1...Kf7 2.Qxh5+ Kxe7 3.Qg5+ Kd7 4.Qg7+ ++) **2.Qg2!** (2.Qxh5? Qc6+ 3.Kg5 Qg2+ 4.Qg4 Qe4 5.f6 Qg6+ 6.Kh4 Qxf6+ 7.Qg5 Qe6 8.Qe5+ Qxe5 9.fxe5 Bg6 =) **2...Qe8 3.Qb2+!** [Choosing to keep the wP on a3. Thematic try 3.a4? Be4! 4.Qb2+ Kg8 5.Qb3+ Kh8 6.Qc3+ Kg8 7.Qc4+ Kh8 8.Qd4+ Kg8 9.Qxe4 Sg7 10.Qd5+ Qf7 11.Qa8+ Se8 12.Qg2+ Qg7+! (12...Kh8? 13.Qb2+ Kg8 14.Qb3 Sg7 15.Kg5! ++) 13.Qxg7+ Sxg7 14.Kg5 (14.f6 Se8 15.Sb3 Sxf6 16.Sc5 Kf7 17.Sxa6 Sd5! 18.Kg5 h5! =) 14...Kf7 15.Sb3 h6+ 16.Kxh6 (16.Kg4 Kf6! 17.Sc5 h5+ 18.Kf3 Kxe7 19.Sxa6 Sxf5 =) 16...Sxf5+ 17.Kg5 Sxe7 18.Sc5 a5 19.Sb7 Sd5 (or Sc8) 20.Sxa5 Sb6 (or Sc3) and the wPa4 is lost] **3...Kg8 4.Qb3+ Kh8 5.Qc3+ Kg8 6.Qc4+ Kh8 7.Qd4+ Kg8 8.Qd5+ Kh8 9.Qg2! Be4** (9...a5 10.a4! ++) **10.Qb2+! Kg8 11.Qb3+ Kh8 12.Qc3+ Kg8 13.Qc4+ Kh8 14.Qd4+ Kg8 15.Qxe4 Sg7 16.Qd5+ Qf7 17.Qa8+ Se8 18.Qg2+ Qg7+** [18...Kh8 This defense is stronger with wP on a3. 19.Qb2+ Kg8 20.Qb3 Sg7 21.f6! (21.Kg5? h6+ 22.Kg4 Se8 23.Qe6 Sg7 24.Qb3 Se8 25.a4 Kg7 26.Qe6 Qxe6 27.fxe6 Kf6 28.Sb3 Kxe6 29.Sc5+ Kxe7 and draws due to the loss of tempo by White's a-pawn) 21...Se8 22.f5 Sxf6 23.Qe6 Se8 24.Sc2! Sacrifice of an f-pawn has gained a tempo for the Knight 24...Sg7 25.Qxf7+ Kxf7 26.Se3 Se8 27.Kxh7 Sf6+ 28.Kh6 Sg8+ 29.Kh5! (29.Kg5? Sxe7 zz 30.a4 a5 zz 31.Sc4 Sd5 32.Sxa5 Sb6 (or Sc3) =) 29...Sxe7 30.Kg5 zugzwang with BTM] **19.Qxg7+ Sxg7 20.Kg5 Kf7 21.Sb3 h6+ 22.Kxh6 Sxf5+ 23.Kg5 Sxe7 24.Sc5 a5 25.Sb7!** (25.Sb3? Sc6 26.a4 Ke6 27.f5+ Kf7 =) **25...a4 26.Sc5 +-.** Logical study with twenty-move foresight effect. The point is 3.Qb2!. It is notable, also the complementary main line and the surprise is the culmination in an ending of pawns and minor pieces.

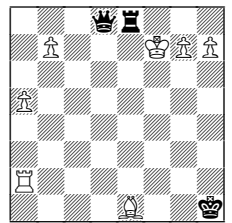
2nd Prize - (Jan Timman - E0425) 1.Rg1! Bf3 (1...Bd4 2.e5+) **2.e5+ Kh6 3.e6! h2 4.exf7 Bb7+! 5.Kxb7 hxg1R!** [5...hxg1Q? 6.f8Q+ Qg7+ 7.Sd7 Qxf8 8.Sxf8 Bd4 9.Sg6 Bf2 10.Ke6 Kg7 11.Kd7 Kf6 (11...Kf7 12.Se5+ Kf6 13.Sf3 +-) 12.Ke8 Bc5 13.Sf4 Bf2 14.Sg2 Bc5 15.Bd1 Kg6 16.Kd7 +-] **6.f8R!** [6.f8Q+ Rg7 7.Qxg7+ (7.Sd7 = stalemate) 7...Kxg7 (Bxg7) =] +- The interesting Black's counterplay draws attention. Both sides have the opportunity to promote to a rook, which generates sequences of significant artistic value.

3rd Prize - (Sergey Osintsev - E0430) 1.Ra8! (1.g8Q? Sxd4 2.Ra8 b1Q 3.c8Q Rxb7 4.Qc3+ Rb2+ 5.Qg2=; 1.Rd1+? b1Q 2.Rxb1+ axb1Q 3.Ra8+ Kb2=) **1...Re2+** [1...b1Q 2.c8Q! (2.Rd2? Rxc7 3.Rxa2+ Qxa2 4.Rxa2+ Kxa2 5.Bd5+ Kb2 6.g8Q Rh7 7.Qb8+ Kc3=) 2...Rxb7 (2...Sxd4 3.Qc3+ Qb2+ 4.Qxb2+ Kxb2 5.Rxa2+ Kxa2 6.Bd5+; 2...Rxc7 3.Bxc7 Rxc7 4.Qc3+ Qb2+ 5.Qxb2+ Kxb2 6.Rb4+; 3.Rd2! (3.Rxa2+? Qxa2+ 4.Rd2 Qb2 5.Rxb2 Rxb2+ 6.Kg1 Rb1+ 7.Bc1 Rxc7+ 8.Kf2 Rbb7=) 3...Sxh6 4.Raxa2+ Qxa2 5.Qc1+ Rb1 (5...Qb1 6.Qa3+) 6.Rxa2+;]

2.Bg2 Rxc2! [2...b1Q e.g. 3.c8Q Rxc2+ 4.Kxc2 Se3+ 5.Bxc3 Qf1+ 6.Kg3! Qe1+ (6...Qf3+ 7.Kh4!+ Qf6+ 8.Kh5 Qe5+ 9.Bg5+) 7.Kg4! Qe2+ (7...Rxc7+ 8.Kf5!+) 8.Kh4+] **3.Kxc2 Se3+** (3...b1Q 4.c8Q+) **4.Bxc3 Rxc7+** (4...b1Q 5.c8Q Qf1+ 6.Kg3 Qe1+ 7.Kg4 Rxc7+ 8.Kf5!+) **5.Kh2!!** (5.Kf3? b1Q 6.c8Q Qf1+ 7.Ke4 Re7+ 8.Kd5 Qb5+ 9.Kd6 Qe5+ 10.Kc6 Re6+ 11.Kd7 Re7+ 12.Kc6 Re6+)= **5...Rxc7** [5...b1Q 6.c8Q Qh7+ 7.Bh6!! (7.Qh3? Qc2+ 8.Rd2 Qc7+ 9.Kh1 Qc1+! 10.Kh2 Qc7+ 11.Bf4! Qxf4+ 12.Kh1 Qe4+ (12...Qxd2? 13.Qf1++) 13.Rg2=) 7...Qxh6+ 8.Qh3+; additional thematic line 5...Rh7+ 6.Kg3! (Thematic try: 6.Kg2? Rxc7 7.Rd1+ Rcl 8.Bxc1 b1Q 9.Rb8!? Position A2. 9...Qb7+ /e4= "mad" Queen followed by a stalemate) 6...Rxc7 7.Rda! Position B. (Thematic try: 7.Rd1+? Rcl 8.Bxc1 b1Q 9.Rb8!? Position A1 (9.Rad8 Qg6!+) 9...Qb3+ /d3= 10.Rxb3 /d3=stalemate) 7...b1Q 8.Bd4+;]

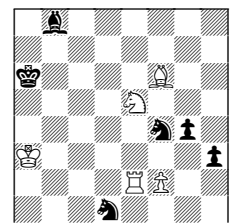
6.Rd1+ (Thematic try: 6.Rda4? error! Position B1: change of false trail and solution 6...Rc2+! 7.Kg3 b1Q 8.Bd4+ Rb2=) **6...Rc1 7.Bxc1!** (7.Rxc1+? bxc1Q 8.Bxc1 Kb1) **7...b1Q 8.Rb8!!** Under the capture with a check! Position A. (8.Rg1? Qh7+ 9.Bh6+ Kb2 10.Rg2+ Kb3= /c3=; 8.Ra7? Qc2+! 9.Rd2 Qb3=) **8...Qxb8+ 9.Bf4+ Qb1** (9...Kb2 10.Bxb8+) **10.Be5#**. Model mate with the Queen pin and active blocking. White manages to eliminate the stalemate threat, culminating in a nice mate. The game is completed with interesting additional lines that lead to victory with trials of equal positions.

Special Prize Franjo Vrabec



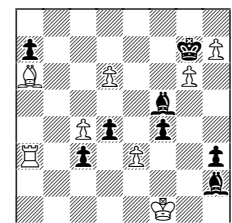
Win (7+3)

Special Prize Jan Rusinek



Draw (5+6)

Special Prize Michael Pasman



Draw (8+8)

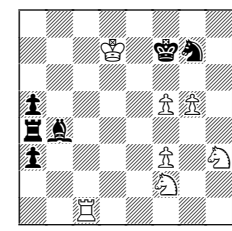
Special Prize - (Franjo Vrabec - E0421) 1.Rh2+! (1.h8Q+? Rxh8 2.gxh8Q+ Qxh8 3.a6 Qh7+ 4.Kf6 Qh8+ 5.Kf5 Qf8+ 6.Ke4 Qe7+ 7.Kd4 Qxe1=) **1...Kxh2 2.b8Q+** (2.Bg3+? Kh3 3.h8Q+ Rxh8 4.gxh8Q+ Qxh8 5.b8Q Qh5+=) **2...Qxb8 3.Bg3+** (3...Kxc3 4.g8Q+ Kf2 5.Qxe8 Qf4+ 6.Kg7 Qd4+ 7.Kg8 Qg4+ 8.Kf8 Qd4 9.Qe6 Qc3 10.a6 Kg2 11.a7+) **4.h8R+!!** [4.h8Q+? Kg1 5.g8Q (5.Qxe8 Qf4+ 6.Kg8 Qc4+ 7.Qf7 Qc8+=) 5...Rxc8 6.Qxc8 Kh1 7.Qxc3 stalemate] **4...Rxb8+ 5.gxh8R+! Kg2 6.Rg8+**. Ingenious configuration where the stalemate is avoided through the successive Rook promotions.

Special Prize - (Jan Rusinek - E0424) 1.Rd2! (1.Re1? Sxf2+) **1...Sxf2! 2.Rxf2 g3!** (2...Sg2? 3.Sxc4+) **3.Rxf4** (By sacrifices two Knights, Black advanced his Pawn) **3...Bd6+**! (3...h2 4.Ra4+ Kb7 5.Rb4+ Ka8 6.Ra4+ Ba7 7.Sc6 Kb7 8.Rxa7+; 3...g2 4.Ra4+ Kb7 5.Rb4+ Ka8 6.Rxb8+) **4.Ka2!** [4.Ka4? g2 5.Rg4 h2 6.Rxc2 h1Q 7.Rd2 Qe4+; 4.Kb3? g2 5.Rg4 h2 6.Rxc2 h1Q 7.Ra2+ (7.Rd2 Qb1+ 8.Kc4 Qf1+) 7...Kb5 8.Rb2 Bb4+; 4.Kb2? h2 5.Rh4 g2 6.Rxb2 g1Q 7.Rd2 Qb6+] **4...h2** [Or similarly: 4...g2 5.Ra4+! (5.Rg4? h2 6.Rxc2 h1Q 7.Rd2

Bb4+) 5...Kb5 (5...Kb7 6.Rg4 h2 7.Rxc2 h1Q 8.Rb2+ Ka6 9.Sc4 Qd5 10.Kb3=) 6.Rg4 h2 7.Rxc2 h1Q 8.Rb2+ Ka4 9.Sc4! (9.Nd3? Qd5+) 9...Qd5 10.Rc2 Qf5 11.Ba1! Qxc2+ 12.Sb2+ Kb5= stalemate] **5.Ra4+!** (5.Rh4? g2 6.Rxb2 g1Q 7.Rd2 Qg8+) **5...Kb5** (5...Kb7 6.Rh4 g2 7.Rxb2 g1Q 8.Rb2+ Ka6 9.Sc4 Qg8 10.Kb3=) **6.Rh4 g2 7.Rxb2 g1Q 8.Rb2+ Ka6 9.Sc4! (9.Sd3? Qg8+ 10.Ka1 Qg6+) 9...Qg8 10.Rc2 Qg6 11.Ba1! Qxc2+ 12.Sb2+ Kb4=** stalemate. Entertaining study, with a variety of lines and trials culminating in stalemates.

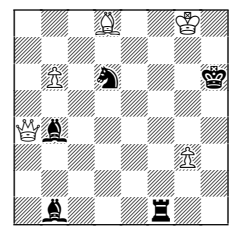
Special Prize - (Michael Pasman - E0431) 1.Bc8! [Thematic try: 1.Bb5? c2 2.Rxa7+ Bd7 Nowotny 3.Rxd7+ Kxc6 4.h8Q c1Q+; or 1.exd4? c2 2.Ra1 (2.Rc3 Bg3 3.Bb7 f3 4.Bxf3 Bxd6 5.c5 Bf4+) 2...f3! 3.Kf2 Bf4 4.Kxf3 c1Q 5.Rxc1 Bxc1 6.c5 h2 7.Kg2 Bf4 8.Bb7 a5+; 1.d7? Bxd7 2.exd4 c2 3.Rc3 Bf5 4.Bc8 Bd3+ 5.Ke1 Be4 6.Kd2 f3+] **1...c2 2.Rxa7+ Bd7!** Nowotny (2...Kxc6?? 3.Bxf5+) **3.Rxd7+ Kxc6 4.h8S+ Kf6** (4...Kh6 5.Rh7+! Kxh7 6.Bf5+ Kxh8 7.Bxc2=) **5.Rf7+ Ke5** (5...Kg5 6.Rg7+ Kh4 7.Rh7+ Kg5 8.Rg7+=) **6.Sg6+ Kxd6 7.c5+ Kd5** (7...Kc6?? 8.Se5+ Kd5 9.Sd3+) **8.Rd7+ Kc4 9.Rxd4+ Kc3** (9...Kxc5 10.Rc4+ Kxc4 11.Se5+=) **10.Rd3+ Kb4** (10...Kxd3 11.Sxf4+ Bxf4 12.Bf5+ Kd2 13.Bxc2=) **11.Rd4+ Kxc5 12.Rc4+ Kxc4 13.Se5+ Kc3 14.Sd3 Kxd3** (14...Bg1 15.exf4 h2 16.Kg2 Kxd3 17.Bf5+ Ke3 18.Bxc2=; 14...Kd2 15.exf4=) **15.Bf5+ Kd2** (15...Kxe3 16.Bxc2=) **16.Bxc2 fxe3** (16...Kxc2 17.exf4 Kd3 18.f5 Ke4 19.f6 Kf3 20.f7=) **17.Bd1! Kxd1=** stalemate. The game is dynamic, since both sides have opportunities. A clever combination of themes.

Special Prize Peter Krug



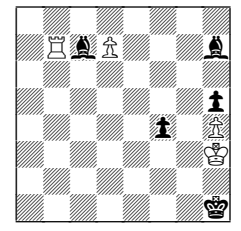
Win (7+6)

Honorable Mention Peter Krug & Pavel Arestov



Draw (5+5)

Special Honorable Mention Michal Hlinka & L'uboš Kekely



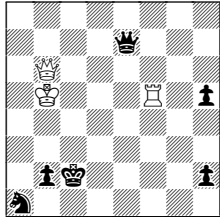
Draw (4+5)

Special Prize - (Peter Krug - E0429) 1.g6+! Kf6 (1...Kg8 2.f6 Sh5 3.Sg4 Bf8 4.Sh6+ Bxh6 5.f7+ Kg7 6.Ke7 Rf4 7.Rc8 Bg5+ 8.Sxc5 Kxc6 9.Rg8+ Sg7 10.Rxc7+ Kxc7 11.Se6+;)] **2.Sg4+!** (Try: 2.Rc6+? Kxf5 3.Sg4 Bc3! 4.Rxc3 a2 5.Rc5+ Kxc6 6.Rc6+ Se6! 7.Rxe6+ Kg7! 8.Re7+ Kg6=) **2...Kxf5 3.Rc4!!** (3.Rc6 Bc3!)= **3...a2** [3...Kxc6 4.Rc6+ Se6 5.Rxe6+ Kg7 6.Sf4! Bc3 7.Re7+ Kg8 (7...Kf8 8.Sg6+ Kg8 9.Sh6#) 8.Sh6+ Kh8 9.Sg6#] **4.Rf4+ Kxc6 5.Rf6+ Kh7** (5...Kh5 6.Rh6#) **6.Sg5+ Kg8** (6...Kh8 7.Rh6+;)] **7.Rf8+ Kxf8** (7...Bxf8 8.Sf6+ Kh8 9.Sf7#) **8.Sh6 a1Q 9.Sh7#**. Variety of mates with a good try.

Honorable Mention - (Peter Krug & Pavel Arestov - E0422) 1.Bg5+! (1.Qxb4? Bh7+ 2.Kh8 Rf8#) **1...Kxc5** (1...Kg6 2.Be7/f4=) **2.Qxb4** (2.Qb3? Re1+) **2...Ba2+ 3.Kg7!** (3.Kh8? Rh1+ 4.Kg7 Sf5+ 5.Kf8 Rh8#) **3...Se8+!** (3...Sf5+ 4.Kf8!; 3...Rf7+? 4.Kh8 Rf8+ 5.Kg7=) **4.Kh8!** (4.Kh7? Rh1+ 5.Qh4+ Rxh4+ 6.gxh4+ Kxh4 7.b7 Sf6+ 8.Kg6 Sd7+) **4...Rh1+ 5.Qh4+ Rxh4+ 6.gxh4+ Kh6!** (6...Kxh4?? 7.b7+) **7.b7 Sd6! 8.h5!!** [Try: 8.b8Q? Sf7+ 9.Kg8 Se5+! 10.Kh8 (10.Kf8 Sd7+) 10...Sg6#; 8.b8S? /Be6+ domination to Knight 8...Nf5] **8...Sf7+ 9.Kg8 Sd8+ 10.Kh8!** (10.Kf8? Sxb7+) **10...Sxb7=** stalemate (10...Sc6 11.b8Q Sxb8= stalemate). We arrive at stalemate position through an appropriate and interesting introduction.

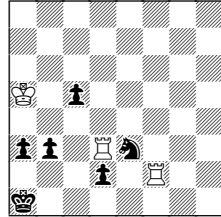
Special Honorable Mention - (Michal Hlinka & L'uboš Kekely - E0420) 1.Rb5! Be4 (1...Bd3 2.Rxh5 Bf1+ 3.Kg4 Be2+ 4.Kh3 same as the solution) **2.Rg5!** (2.Rxh5? Bc6 3.Rh7 f3 4.Rf7 Bd5→) **2...Bd3** (2...Bf3 3.d8Q! Bxd8 4.Rg1+ Kxg1= stalemate) **3.Rxh5 Bc4** (3...f3 4.d8Q Bxd8 5.Kg3 Be2 6.Rf5 Kg1 7.Rxf3 Bc7+ 8.Rf4 Bd1 9.h5 Bxh5 10.Kh4=) **4.Kg4** (4.Rh6? f3→) **4...Be2+** (4...Be6+ 5.Kf3=) **5.Kh3 Bf1+** (5...Bxh5 6.d8Q Bxd8= stalemate) **6.Kg4 Be2+ 7.Kh3 f3 8.Rf5 Kg1 9.Rg5+! Kh1 10.Rf5 Bf1+ 11.Kg4 Kg2 12.Rc5!** (12.Rxf3? Be2+; 12.h5? f2→) **12...Bb6 13.Rc6 Ba5 14.Rc5 Bd8 15.Rc8 f2 16.Rxd8 Be2+** (16...Bb5 17.Rf8=) **17.Kg5! f1Q 18.Rg8! Kh3 19.d8Q=**. White successfully combines its defense with stalemate traps and a drawing position.

Special Honorable Mention
David Gurgenzidze



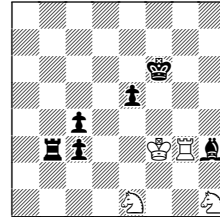
Draw (3+6)

Special Honorable Mention
Paul Răican
Dedicated to E. Dobrescu



Draw (3+6)

Special Honorable Mention
Michael Pasman



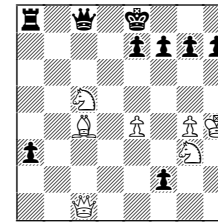
Draw (4+6)

Special Honorable Mention - (David Gurgenzidze - E0423) 1.Rf2+! Kb1 2.Rxb2+ (2.Qg6+? Ka2 3.Qg8+ Sb3 4.Qa8+ Qa3→) **2...Kxb2 3.Ka4+ Kc1 4.Qc5+ Sc2** (4...Qxc5= stalemate) **5.Qxe7 h1Q 6.Qg5+ Kb1 7.Qb5+ Ka1 8.Qe5+ Kb1 9.Qb5+ Kc1 10.Qg5+ Kd1 11.Qd5+ Qxd5=** stalemate.

Special Honorable Mention - (Paul Răican - E0419) 1.Rf3! [Try: 1.Rdxd2? Sc4+ 2.Ka4 Sxd2 3.Rxd2 b2 4.Rd1+ b1R! (4...b1Q? 5.Kxa3 Qxd1= stalemate) 5.Rd2 Rb2 6.Rd1+ Ka2→] **1...a2** (1...c4 2.Rxd2=) **2.Rfxe3 b2 3.Rxd2** (3.Re2? b1Q 4.Rdxd2 Qb4+ 5.Ka6 Qxd2 6.Rxd2 c4→) **3...b1Q 4.Rh2!** (4.Rg2? Qb4+ 5.Ka6 Kb1 6.Rg1+ Kc2 7.Rg2+ Kd1 8.Rg1+ Kd2 9.Rh3 Qe4!→) **4...Qb4+ 5.Ka6 Kb1** (5...c4 6.Ree2=) **6.Rh1+ Kc2 7.Rh2+ Kd1 8.Rh1+ Kd2 9.Rg3! Qa4+** (9...c4 10.Rh2+ Kd1 11.Rg1+ Qe1 12.Rxa2=; 9...Qd4 10.Rh2+ Ke1 11.Rh1+ Kf2 12.Rgg1 Qa4+ 13.Kb6=) **10.Kb6! a1Q 11.Rh2+ Kc1 12.Rg1+ Qd1 13.Rxd1+ Kxd1 14.Rh1+=**. An original configuration that culminates in a draw, after precise movements of the Rooks. This equality also occurs in several complementary lines.

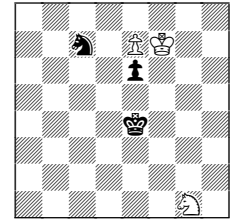
Special Honorable Mention - (Michael Pasman - E0431) 1.Ke4! (1.Rxh3? c2+→) **1...Rb1!** (1...Bf5+ 2.Kd5 Rb1 3.Re3 c2 4.Sxc2 Rxh1 5.Sb4 Be6+ 6.Kc5 Rh8 7.Sc6 Rc8 8.Kd6 Bf5 9.Rc3 e4 10.Rxc4=) **2.Re3 Ke6** (2...c2 3.Rf3+ Ke6 4.Sxc2 Bg2 5.Sg3 to solution 5...Rc1 6.Se3 Re1 7.Se2 similar) **3.Sg3** (3.Kf3? Bf5 4.Rxc3 Rxe1 5.Sg3 Bd3→) **3...c2 4.Sxc2 Bg2+ 5.Rf3 Re1** [5...Rd1 6.Se2 Bh1 (6...Rf1 7.Sc4+ exd4 8.Sf4+=) 7.Sg3 Bxf3+ 8.Kxf3 Rd2 9.Se1 c3 10.Ke3=] **6.Se3 Re1 7.Se2 Rxe2=**. Ideal-stalemate with self-pinned pieces (7...Bh1 8.Sc3=).

Commendation
Peter Krug



Win (7+9)

Commendation
Marcel Doré



Win (3+3)

Commendation - (Peter Krug - E0422) 1.Sf5! [1.Sh5? Qxc5! (1...a2? 2.Sxg7++) 2.Bxf7+ Kf8 3.Qxc5 f1Q=; 1.Sa4? Rb8=] **1...a2!** (1...Qxc5 2.Bxf7+ Kxf7 3.Qxc5 f1Q 4.Qxe7++; 1...Kf8 2.Bxf7! f1Q 3.Qxf1 Qxc5 4.Bd5→) **2.Sxg7+ Kf8** (2...Kd8 3.Bxf7→) **3.Sge6+! fxe6 4.Qh6+ Ke8 5.Bb5+ Kf7 6.Qxh7+ Kf8** (6...Kf6 7.Sd3+) **7.Be8! Qxe8** (7...f1Q 8.Qh8#; 7...Kxe8 8.Qg8#) **8.Sxe6#**.

Commendation - (Marcel Doré - E0427) 1.Sh3! (1.Se2? e5! 2.Sc3+ Kd4 3.Sb5+ Sxb5 4.Ke6 Sc7+ /Kc5=) **1...Kf5 2.Sf2!** (2.Sg1? e5! 3.Se2 e4 4.Sd4+ Kg4 5.Se6 Sb5! 6.Ke8 e3 7.Kd7 e2=) **2...e5 3.Sd3 e4 4.Sc5!** [4.Sb4? e3! 5.Sc2 Ke4= (5...e2! 6.Sd4++)] **4...e3 5.Se6 Sb5!** (5...e2 6.Sd4++) **6.Sd4+ Sxd4 7.e8Q e2 8.Qe3!+-**.

We thank Mario for this timely award. Please send comments to Mike Prcic within ninety days.