

Award Tehtäväniekka Endgame Studies 2024

The annual competition *Tehtäväniekka* – 2024 was supported by 25 composers, representatives of 17 countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Argentina, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and USA. The authors sent 36 studies. I would like to thank all the participants who sent their works to the tournament.

When awarding works, I assessed, first of all, the novelty of the game and took into account the unity of form and content, and subtleties in the solution. The studies sent to the competition were in a variety of styles, but most of them had already known ideas. The award is as follows.

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

1st Prize



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+5

1st Prize Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (DEN) (5658, TN 1/2024)

1.f4! 1.Nd3? Bd7+ 2.Kh4 Bf6+ 3.Kg3 h4+ 4.Kf4 eg 4...Kg2-+ 1...Bxf4 2.Bg2+ Kf2 3.Nd3+ Ke3 4.Nxf4 4.Nb4? g5 (4...Bd7+--+ 4...Bd7+ 4...Kxf4 eg 5.Bd5= 5.Ne6! Try: 5.Kg3? h4+ 6.Kxh4 Kxf4 7.Be4 Kxe4 8.Kg5 Be8 9.Kf6 Kf4--+ 5...Bxe6+ 6.Kg3 h4+ 7.Kxh4 Kf4 8.Be4! 8.Bf3? Kxf3 9.Kg5 Bf7 10.Kf6 Be8--+ 8...Bf5 8...Kxe4 9.Kg5 Bf7 10.Kf6 Be8 11.Ke7 Ba4 (11...Kf3 12.Kxe8 g5 e.g. 13.Kf7 Kg2

14.Kg6 g4 15.Kg5=) 12.Kf6 9.Bf3! 9.Bxf5? gxf5 10.Kh3 Kf3--+ 9...Kxf3 10.Kg5 Kg2 11.h4 Kg3 12.h5 draw. White sacrifices a knight, attracting the black bishop to the unfavorable d6 square, after which the white king can move to the left flank with the eternal pursuit of the bishop (variant 8...Kxe4). The initial position with equal light piece material and two echo sacrifices of the white bishop is attractive. An interesting idea from the study by L. Prokeš, *Sachove Umenie*, 1951, expressed impeccably and in a logical format.

Jan Sprenger

2nd Prize



Voitto / Win (+) 6+5

2nd Prize Jan Sprenger (GER/ITA) (5743, TN 3/2024)

1.Ra4+ Kb1 2.Rb4+ Ka1 3.Rcc4! plan Ra4+ and Rcb4+. Thematic try: 3.Rc5? plan Ra5# 3...b5! 4.Rcxb5 Re2+! 5.Kxe2 Nd4+ 6.Kd1 Nxb5 7.c7 almost the same position as in the solution, but here the rook does not control the c-file: 7...Nc3+! (7...Nxc7? 8.d8Q! Qxd8+ 9.Kc2 Qa8 10.h8Q+ Qxh8 11.Ra4#) 8.Kc2 Qxh7+ 9.Kxc3 Qxd7= no c8Q= 3...b5! 3...Re3 4.cxb7+- 4.Rxb5 Re2+! 5.Kxe2 Nd4+ 6.Kd1! 6.Kd3? Nxb5 7.c7 Qxh7+!; 6.Kd2? Nxb5 7.c7 Qb2+! 6...Nxb5 7.c7! preparation for the main plan 7.d8Q?? Qxd8+ 8.Kc2 e.g. 8...Na3+ 7...Nxc7 The difference to the try is visible in the

line 7...Nc3+ 8.Kc2 other moves just lose time after Nb1+ or Na2+ 8...Qxh7+ 9.Kxc3 Qh3+ 10.Kb4!+- 8.d8Q! execution of the main plan 8...Qxd8+ 9.Kc2 Qa8 10.h8Q+! Qxh8 11.Ra4# Black finds a defensive resource (4...b5!) in the fight against doubled rooks in the opening, but White implements a new plan with the exact 7.c7! and the final checkmate, known from the study by M. Minski, Tehtavaniekka, 2023, 3 Prize. Skillful implementation by White of the unfortunate position of the black king in the corner of the board.

Michael Pasman
3rd Prize



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+4

3rd Prize Michael Pasman (ISR) (5791, TN 4/2024)

1.Rf8! Thematic try: 1.Rb8+? Kxb8 2.c6 Bb3+! 3.Kc5 Bf7-+; 1.Rh7? Be8 2.c6+ Bxc6+ 3.Ke5 Be8-+ 1...Nf7! 2.Rb8+!! 2.Rxf7? Bb3+ 2...Kxb8 3.c6 Bb3+ 4.Kc5 Nd6! 5.Kxd6 Bf7 6.Kd7! Be8+! 6...f1Q 7.c7+= 7.Kxe8 Kc8 7...f1Q 8.Kd7 Qf5+ 9.Kd6!= 8.Bd8! f1Q 9.c7! Kb7 10.Kd7 Qf5+ 10...Qd3+ 11.Ke6!= 11.Kd6 Qe4 12.Kc5! positional draw. Study of a game plan with mutual sacrifices of pieces with unexpected self-blocking of the white bishop. Compare, for example, R.Aleksandrov & G.Kasparyan, *Schackvarlden*, 1937. In the finale, there is a nice little confrontation between the black queen and the white king, which returns to the square c5.

Martin Minski & David Gurgendize

Special Prize



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+4

Special Prize Martin Minski (GER) & David Gurgendize (GEO) (5792, TN 4/2024)

1.b7! 1.Rxf7+? Kxf7 2.b7 a2-+ 1...a2! 1...Rxf2 2.b8Q= 2.Rxa2 Rfxh7 (3...R7h5#) 3.g4!! play for stalemate 3.Kd5? R7h5+--+ no stalemate 3...Rxc4 4.Kd5 Rh5+ 4...Rb4 5.b8Q! Rxb8 (5...Rh5+ 6.Qe5+=) 6.Ra7+= 5.Kc6 Rb4 6.Kc7

main A: 6...Rhb5 7.Kc8 Rxb7 8.Ra7! Rxa7 stalemate.

main B: 6...Rh7! 7.Kb8! Ke8! (7... Kd8 8.Ra7! Kd7 9.Ka8 Kc6 10.Ra6+ Kc7 11.Ra7 Kc6 12.Ra6+ Kc7 13.Ra7 positional draw) 8.Re2+! (8.Ra7? Rd7!-+) 8...Kd8 9.Ka8 (9.Rd2+? Rd7-+) 9...Rhxb7 /Rbxb7 10.Re8+! Kxe8 stalemate. Two stalemate endings form the theme of the study. Similar stalemates are presented in the study by G. Nadareishvili, Tbilisi ty, 1978, but the co-authors' inventive duel begins with point 3.g4!! (playing for stalemate) and the rook sacrifice is clearly presented in each of the two variants.

Jan Timman
Special Prize



Voitto / Win (+) 6+6

Special Prize Jan Timman (NLD) (5704, TN 2/2024)

1.f6! 1.Rh1? f2= 1...Kxf6 2.Rh6+ Kf5
main 2...Ke5 3.Rh1 f2 4.Rh5+! (4.Ng2?
Rh3) 4...Kf6 5.Ng2+-; main 2...Kg5 3.Rh1
f2 4.Ng2 Rh3 5.Rxh3 gxh3 6.Nf4! h2
7.Nh3+- 3.Rh1 Rg1! 3...f2 4.Ng2 Rh3
5.Nh4+- 4.Rxg1 f2 5.Nf3! exf3 6.Rg2!!
Try: 6.Rg3? Kg5 7.Kd2 Kh4= 6...fxg2
7.Bxg2 d5 8.Kd2! d4 9.exd4 Kf4 10.Ke2
win. The author has significantly improved
the incorrect study by J. Timman & J. Van
Reek, *STES Journal*. 6.Rg2!! - the most
beautiful move of the competition.

Volodymyr Samilo
1st Honorable Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 5+3

1st Honorable Mention Volodymyr Samilo (UKR) (5657, TN 1/2024)

1.Ra7! Try: 1.Kc3? Re6 2.Rc6 Bb7=

1...Bc8 2.Kc3 2.Kd3? Re6= 2...Re6 3.Rf7!
3.Ra8? Rxd6= 3...Rxd6 4.Rf8+ Kd7 5.Nf6+
Ke7 6.Re8+!! Thematic try: 6.Rxc8? Rxf6!
7.Kb4 Kd7 8.Rc4 Position A with bRf6
8...Rf8! 9.Ka5 Ra8+ 10.Kb5 Rb8+= 6...
Kxf6 7.Rxc8 Ke6 7...Rb6 8.Re8!+- 8.Kb4!
Kd7 8...Rb6+ 9.Ka4 Kd6 10.b4+- 9.Rc4!
Position A with bRd6 9...Rb6+ 10.Ka4
Rb7 main 10...Kd6 11.b4 Rb8 12.b5! (12.
Ka5? Kd5! 13.Rc5+ Kd6 14.Rc4 Kd5 po-
sitional draw) 12...Kd7 13.Ka5+- 11.b4
Rc7 12.Rxc7+ Kxc7 13.Ka5! win. With
subtle maneuvers, the thematic figures
are brought into place in the introduction.
Interesting dynamics and an unexpected
choice of rook on the 6th move form the ba-
sis of this nice study.

Yochanan Afek
2nd Honorable Mention



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+3

2nd Honorable Mention Yochanan Afek (ISR) (5701, TN 2/2024)

1.Ne2!! 1.Nh3+? Kf1! 2.Nf4 a3-- 1...
Kxe2 2.Na7! Kd3 2...a3 3.Nb5 a2 4.Nc3+=
3.Nb5 Ne5+ 4.Kf5! Kc4 5.Na3+ Kb3 6.h4!
Try: 6.Nb5? Kb4 7.Nd4 Nf3 8.Nc2+ Kb3
9.Na1+ Kb2-- 6...Kxa3 7.h5! Nf7 8.Kg6!
8.Kf6? Nh6-- 8...Ne5+ 9.Kf5! Kb3 10.h6
Nf7 11.h7 Nh8 12.Kf6 a3 13.Kg7 draw. An
attractive miniature with a knight sacri-
fice on the first move. It is curious that the
white king in the solution, and the black
king in the try, trap the opponent's knight
in the corner of the board.

Jarl Henning Ulrichsen
3rd Honorable Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 8+7

3rd Honorable Mention Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (NOR) (5795, TN 4/2024)

1.Kg8! dxc4 1...d4 2.Qf8+ Ka7 3.Qc5+ Kxa6 (3...Ka8 4.axb5+-) 4.cxb5+ Ka5 5.Qxc1+- 2.e4!! 2.Qf8+? Ka7 3.Qxf2+ Kxa6 4.Qc5 Qb1 5.Bd4 Ka5 6.Qa7+ Kb4 7.axb5 Qf5= 2...Bxe4 3.Qf8+ Ka7 4.Qxf2+ Kxa6 5.a5! 5.Qc5? Qb1 6.Bd4 Ka5= 5...Kxa5 5...Kb7 6.Qb6+ 6.Bb2! Qc2 7.Qa7+ Kb4 8.Qa3# Unconventional game with a beautiful sacrifice 2.e4!! The study was compiled in the style of works by L. Kubbel with similar material, for example, *Shakhmaty*, 1955.

Nxe2 4.f7 Nc7 5.Nxg5 Bxg5 6.f8Q Nf4+ 7.Kxg5 Nfe6+--+ 3...Nxe2 4.Ne6 Nc7 5.f8Q Nxe6--+ 1...c2 1...Nb6 2.a8Q Nxa8 3.f6 Nb6 4.f7 Nd5 5.Nd3+ Kxb3 6.f8Q Nf4+ 7.Nxf4+- 2.Nd3+ Ka3 3.f6 c1Q! 4.Nxc1 Nb6 5.f7 Nd7 6.f8R! 6.f8Q? Nf6+ 7.Qxf6 stalemate 6...Nxf8 7.a8R! 7.a8Q? Nd7 8.Qa6 Nf6+ 9.Qxf6 stalemate 7...Nd7 7...Ne6 8.Nd3+- 8.Ra6 Nf6+ 9.Rxf6 win. To avoid a stalemate, White promotes his pawns to rooks twice. But the hasty advancement of the pawn 1.f6? leads to the transformation of a black pawn into a knight and loss.

Mykola Cherniavskiy
5th Honorable Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 6+6

Daniele Gatti
4th Honorable Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 10+9

4th Honorable Mention Daniele Gatti (ITA) (5746, TN 3/2024)

1.Nc5 1.f6? c2! 2.Nc5 c1N! 3.f7 (3.Ne6

5th Honorable Mention Mykola Cherniavskiy (UKR) (5705, TN 2/2024)

1.g5 hxg5 2.h5! 2.hxg5? a4 3.bxa4 bxa4= 2...a4 3.bxa4 b4! 4.d5! 4.h6? b3 5.h7 b2 6.h8Q b1Q 7.d5+ Kc4= 4...exd5 4...b3 5.dxc6 b2 6.c7 b1Q 7.c8Q++- 5.h6 b3 6.h7 b2 7.h8Q+ d4 8.Qh7! 8.Qb8? Kc2= 8...d3 9.Qb7 c5 10.a5! 10.Qh1? Kc2 11.Qg2+ d2 12.Qe4+ Kc1 13.Qc4+ Kb1 14.Qd3+ Ka1! 15.Qa3+ Kb1 16.Qd3+ Ka1 positional draw 10...Kc2 11.Qg2+ d2 12.Qe4+ Kc1 13.Qc4+ win. A pawn study with mutual refusals to capture pawns on both flanks and the sacrifice 4.d5!, in order to free up the large diagonal.

Ilham Aliev & Toghrul Hasanzade

Special Honorable Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 3+3

Special Honorable Mention Ilham Aliev & Toghrul Hasanzade (AZE) (5655, TN 1/2024)

1.Rh3! 1.Rf4+? Kb3 2.Rh4 a4!= 1... Rd8 2.Rh4+! Try: 2.h7? Rc8+! 3.Kb6 Rb8+ 4.Ka6 Ra8+ 5.Kb7 Rh8! 6.Kb6 Rb8+ 7.Kc6 Rc8+ positional draw. 2...Kb3 3.Kc5 3.h7? a4=; 3.Kb5?! Rd5+ 4.Kc6 Rd8 3...a4 4.Rh3+! 4.Rb4+? Ka3!= 4...Kb2 5.Kc4 a3 6.Rh2+! Kb1 7.Kc3 a2 8.Rh1+ Rd1 9.Rxd1# The hasty pawn advance 2.h7? leads to a positional draw, the correct move 2.Rh4+! commences a systematic movement of the pieces leading to checkmate of the black king.

Paul Raican

Special Honorable Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 6+6

Special Honorable Mention Paul Raican (ROU) (5794, TN 4/2024)

1.Rc8+ 1.Bxe6 Qa3+ 1...Nf8! 1... Nd8 2.Bf6+! Kh7 3.Bf5+ Kh6 4.Rxd8 Qb7+ 5.Kf8 Qxa7 6.Be7 Nc7 7.Rd6+ Kh5 8.Be4+-; 1...Kg7 2.Bf6+ Kg6 3.Rg8+ Kh6 4.Bxe6 Qb7+ 5.Kf8 Nc7 6.Bf7 Qa8+ 7.Ke7 Qe4+ 8.Kd6 Nb5+ 9.Kc5 Qf5+ 10.Kb4 Nxa7 11.Rh8+- 2.Kxf8! 2.Rxf8+? Kg7! 3.Bf6+ Kg6 4.Be5 Qb7+ 5.Bd7 Qxa7= 2... Qd5 3.Rd8! 3.Bf6+? Kh7 4.Rd8 Qc5+ 5.Kf7 Qh5+ 6.Kf8 Qc5+ perpetual check 3...Qe5! 3...Qc5+ 4.Be7+- 4.Kf7+ 4.Rd7? f3 5.Rf7 Qd6+ 6.Be7 Qh6+ 7.Ke8 Qc6+ 8.Kf8 Qh6+ perpetual check 4...Kh7 5.Rh8+!! 5.Bf6? Qh5+ 6.Ke7 Qc5+ 7.Kf7 Qh5+ perpetual check 5...Qxh8 5...Kxh8 6.Bf6+- 6.Bf5+! 6.Bf6?? Qg8+-+ 6...Kh6 7.Bf6! domination of the Queen 7...Qxf6+ 7...f3 8.Bxh8 f3xg2 9.Bd4 win. 8.Kxf6 f3! 9.Be4! 9.gxf3?? g2-+ 9...f2 10.Bd3 win. A nice version of an incorrect study by the author of *StrateGems*, 1994.

Amatzia Avni

Special Honorable Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 4+3

Special Honorable Mention Amatzia Avni (ISR) (5699, TN 2/2024)

1.f5 intending 2.Bf4+ with 3.f7 1...Re1+ 2.Kf4 split 2.Kf3? Kg5 3.f7 Rf1+-+ main: A) 2...Rb1 2...Re8 3.Bd6+- 3.Bd6 Rf1+ 4.Kg4 Rg1+ 5.Bg3 echo 5.Kh4? Rg4+!= 5...Rg2 6.Kf3 win. main: B) 2...Rd1 3.Ba7! Rf1+ (3...Rd6 4.Ke5 Rd7 5.Be3+ Kh5 6.Ke6+-; 3...Rd7 4.Bc5+-) 4.Kg4 Rg1+ 5.Kf3 (5.Bxg1?+) 5...

Rf1+ (5...Rg8 6.Be3+ Kh5 7.Bc5 Kg5 8.f7 Rc8 9.Ke4+-) 6.Bf2 win. White's path to victory is on the passed pawn on f6. White skillfully blocks Black's rook from his important pawn twice.

The following studies, which received commendation, have several key moments when whites make important decisions to realize their goals.

Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely
Commendation



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 6+5

Commendation Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (SVK) (5791, TN 4/2024)

1.Re4+ Kg5! 1...Kg3 2.Ka7 Qxc6 3.Re3+ Kf4 4.e7= 2.Re5+! 2.Na7? Qe8+ 3.Kb7 cxb4 4.e7 b3 5.Nc6 Kf6 6.Rf4+ Ke6-+ 2...Kf6 3.Rxc5 Qa6+ 4.Kb8 Qb6+ 5.Kc8 Kxe6 6.Nd8+ Ke7 6...Kf6 7.Rc6+= 7.Re5+ 7.Rc7+? Ke8-+ 7...Kf6! 7...Kf8 8.bxa5= 8.Re6+ 8.Rxa5? Qxb4 9.Ra6+ Kg7 10.d4 Kg8 11.Rf6 Qc4+-+ 8...Qxe6+ 9.Nxe6 axb4 10.Nc5! 10.Nd4? h5 11.Kc7 h4-+ 10...h5 11.d4 h4 12.Nd3! h3 12...Ke6 13.Nxb4=; 12...b3 13.d5= 13.d5 h2 14.Nf2 Ke5 14...b3 15.d6 b2 16.d7 b1Q 17.d8Q+= 15.Ng4+ Kxd5 16.Nxh2 Ke4 17.Ng4! draw, for example 17.Nf1? Kd3-+ 17...b3 17...Kd4 18.Nf2 b3 19.Nd1= 18.Nf2+ Ke3 19.Nd1+ Kd2 20.Nb2 draw.

Ivan Maly
Commendation



Voitto / Win (+) 3+4

Commendation Ivan Maly (UKR) (5788, TN 4/2024)

1.Kc5 1.Rd3? Bf7 2.Bxf7 (2.Bg4 Ne4=) 2...Nxf7 3.Kc3 Ng5 4.Re3 Kd1 5.Rxe5 Nf3(h3) = 1...Bg2 2.Rh2 Nb7+ 2...Ne4+ 3.Kd5 Nf6+ 4.Kxe5 Nxh5 5.Rxg2+- 3.Kb4! 3.Kc4? Be4! 4.Kc3 Nc5 5.Re2 Na4+ 6.Kb3 Bd3! 7.Re1+ (7.Rxe5 Bc2+=) 7...Kd2 8.Rd1+ Ke3 9.Kxa4 Bc2+= 3...Be4 4.Be2! 4.Re2? Nd6! 5.Kc5 Nb7+ 6.Kc4 Nd6+= 4...Nd6 main 4...Kd2 5.Bf3+ Ke3 6.Bxe4 Kxe4 7.Rd2! win 5.Kc3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Ne4+ 6...Kd1 7.Rd2+ Ke1 8.Re2+ Kf1 9.Rxe5+-+ 7.Bxe4 Bxe4 8.Re2! win.

David Gurgenzidze
Commendation



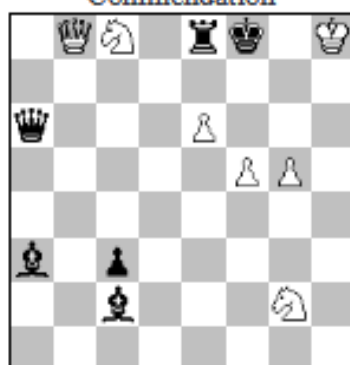
Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+7

Commendation David Gurgenzidze (GEO) (5703, TN 2/2024)

1.Re1+ Kxe1 2.Rxe7+ Qe5! 2...Qxe7

stalemate 3.Rxe5+ Ne4! 3...Kd2 4.Rc5 Nd3
 5.Rxc2+ Kxc2 6.Kxh7= 4.Rxe4+ Ne3! 4...
 Kd2 5.Rc4= 5.Rxe3+ Kd2 6.Rg3! 6.Re7?
 c1Q 7.Kxh7 (7.Rxh7 Kd3+ 8.Kg6 Qc6+
 9.Kg5 Qe6→) 7...Qc5→ 6...c1Q 7.Kxh7
 Qc7+ 8.Rg7 Qc2+ 9.Rg6 Ke3 10.h6 Kf4
 11.Kg7 Kf5 12.Kh7 Ke5 13.Kg7 Kf5
 14.Kh7 positional draw.

Peter Krug
 Commendation

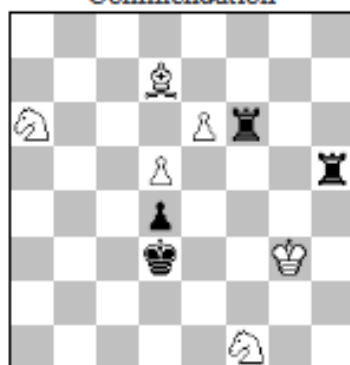


Voitto / Win (+) 7+6

Commendation Peter Krug (AUT) (5744, TN 3/2024)

1.Qe5! 1.Qc7? Rxe6 2.fxe6 Qxe6= 1...
 Rxe6 2.fxe6 Ke8 2...Qxc8 3.Qg7+ Ke8
 4.Qg8+ Bf8 5.Qf7+ Kd8 6.Ne3! Be7 7.Nd5
 Qc5 8.Qg8+ Bf8 9.e7+- 3.Qb8! 3.Ne3?
 Bb3 4.Nf5 Bxe6= 3...Qxe6 4.Nf4 Qd7 4...
 Qb3 5.Nb6+- 5.g6! Bxg6 6.Nd6+ Ke7
 7.Qf8+! Kxf8 8.Nxg6#

Daniil Yakimovich
 Commendation

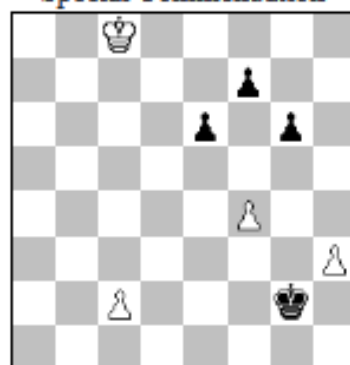


Voitto / Win (+) 6+4

Commendation Daniil Yakimovich
 (5742, TN 3/2024)

1.e7 1.Nh2? Kc4! 2.Ng4 Rf1 3.e7 Rh8
 4.Nc7 Kc5 5.e8Q Rxe8 6.Bxe8 Kd6= 1...
 Rg5+! an important Zwischenzug, as we'll
 see later 2.Kh4 Rg8 3.e8Q Rxe8 4.Bxe8
 Kc3! foreplan 4...Kc4 5.Nc7+- main plan
 fails first; 4...Rxf1 5.Bb5+- 5.Nc5 5.Nc7?
 Rxf1 6.d6 d3= 5...Kc4 after White Knight
 was deflected, Black performs his main
 plan 5...Rxf1 6.d6+- 6.Ne4! White can't
 play Nc7 anymore, but he finds another
 way 6...Rf4+ ...which falls into Black's trap
 6...Rxf1 7.Nd2+- 7.Kg5! White loses a
 Knight due to Black's Roman theme, but
 sets up his own trap 7...Rxe4 8.Nd2+ Kxd5
 9.Bf7+ Ke5 9...Re6 10.Kf5+- 10.Nc4#

Michael Pasman
 Special Commendation



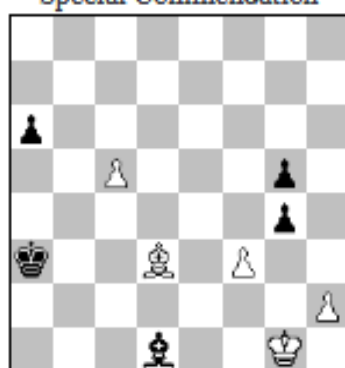
Voitto / Win (+) 4+4

Special Commendation Michael Pasman
 (ISR) (5789, TN 4/2024)

1.Kd7! Thematic try: 1.c4? f6! (1...
 g5? 2.fxg5 e5 3.h4! e4 4.h5 e3 5.g6! fxg6
 6.hxg6 e2 7.g7 e1Q 8.g8Q+-) 2.c5 e5
 3.fxe5 fxe5 4.c6 e4 5.c7 e3 6.Kd7 e2 7.c8Q
 e1Q= 1...Kxh3 2.Ke7! Thematic try: 2.c4?
 g5! 3.fxg5 e5 4.c5 e4 5.c6 e3 6.c7 e2 7.c8Q
 e1Q= 2...Kh4! 2...g5 3.fxg5 e5 4.Kxf7
 e4 5.g6 e3 6.g7 e2 7.g8Q+-; 2...f5 3.c4 e5
 4.fxe5 f4 5.c5 f3 6.c6 f2 7.c7 f1Q 8.c8Q+-
 ; 2...Kg4 3.c4 3.Kf6!! [3.Kxf7 Kg4 4.c4
 (4.Kxe6 Kxf4 5.c4 g5 6.c5 g4) 4...Kxf4
 5.c5 Ke5! =; Thematic try: 3.c4? g5! 4.fxg5

e5 5.c5 e4 6.c6 e3 7.c7 e2 8.c8Q e1Q+=
 3...g5! 3...Kg4 4.c4! Kxf4 5.c5 g5 6.c6 g4
 7.c7 g3 8.c8Q+- 4.fxg5 e5 5.Kf5!! 5.Kxe5
 Kxg5=; 5.c4 e4= 5...e4 6.g6! 6.Kxe4?
 Kxg5= 6...fxg6+ 7.Kxe4 g5 8.c4 g4 9.c5
 g3 with known win: 10.Kf3 Kh3 11.c6 g2
 12.c7 g1Q 13.c8Q+ Kh4 13...Kh2 14.Qh8#
 14.Qh8+ win. Based on the study by A.
 Mandler, *Narodni Osvobozeni*, 1938, the
 author found new interesting possibilities
 for the game.

Jan Timman
 Special Commendation



Voitto / Win (+) 5+5

Special Commendation Jan Timman
 (NLD) (5741, TN 3/2024)

1.f4! 1.Be4 gxf3= 1...gxf4 2.c6 Bf3 2...
 Ba4 3.c7 Bd7 4.Be2! Kb4 5.Bxg4! Bxg4
 6.h4+- 3.c7 Bb7 4.Be4! Try: 4.Be2 Kb4!
 4...Bc8 5.Bf3! Kb4 6.Bxg4! Bxg4 7.h4!
 win. Elegant implementation of an idea
 from a study by B. Breider, *Suomen Teh-
 täväniekat*, 1988.

Valeriy Vlasenko
 Special Commendation



BTM Voitto / Win (+) 4+4

Special Commendation Valeriy Vlasenko
 (UKR) (5702, TN 2/2024)

1...f2 1...Nb4 2.Bd4+- 2.Bc2+ Kf7 2...
 Kg5 3.Bd3 Nb4 4.Bf1! Nc2+ (4...Kg4 5.Kb1
 Kg3 6.Kc1 Kh2 7.Kd2 Kg1 8.Ke2 Nc6
 9.Bxf6+-) 5.Kb1 Ne1 6.Bd4 Nf3 7.Be3+
 Kf5 8.Bd3+ Kg4 9.Bxf2+-; 2...Kh5 3.Bd3
 Nb4 4.Bf1 Nc2+ 5.Ka2 Ne3 6.Be2+ Kg6
 7.Bc1 f1Q 8.Bxf1 Nxf1 9.Bf4 Kf5 10.c5+-
 3.Bd3 Nb4 4.Be2! Nc2+ 5.Kb1! Ne3 6.Bc1
 f1Q 7.Bxf1 Nxf1 8.Bf4 Ke6 9.Ka2! zz 9...
 Kf5 10.c5 Kxf4 11.c6 win. The author
 succeeded in a good revision of his study
Shakhmatnaya kompozitsia, com., 2013.

In conclusion, I would like to congratu-
 late the laureates of the tournament and
 sincerely wish all participants health, new
 successes and discoveries on the chess-
 board!



P.S. For three years there has been a full-
 scale war in Ukraine... The life of each
 Ukrainian has changed forever: daily air
 raids, evacuation of the civilian popula-
 tion, shelling of cities and villages, death

that walks nearby. Every day there are reports about the dead: military personnel, friends, acquaintances, other people... And yet, Ukrainians demonstrate their unshakable fortitude and faith in a good future. We are a strong country, we show it on the battlefield during this war against Russian aggression. This is what distinguishes us and makes us a truly special people. We do not give up, do not lose hope and believe that the enemy will disappear, the war will end, in the palms of God, Ukraine will all rise again and become strong, free and united!

February 23, 2025.

*Vladislav Tarasiuk,
International Judge*

Any claims against this award should be submitted within three months to the originals editor of studies.