



UNION ARGENTINA DE PROBLEMISTAS DE AJEDREZ

**12th INTERNATIONAL INTERNET TOURNAMENT–UAPA–2020  
“MT 110 FRANCISCO BENKO”**

**AWARD FINAL**

**Section A :** Theme: Studies that contain castling, (of the white, the black or from both sides. In a line principal, or in thematic try ) – Slogan win or draw.

If the number of studies is significant, two sections : Studies with : castling of the White, and studies with castling of the black, can be established

Judge : **Peter Gyarmati** (Hungary)

**Section B:** No set theme.

B.1. Studies Win – B.2. Studies Draw- Judge: **Eduard Eilazyan** (Ukraine)

On behalf of the “Union Argentina de Problemistas de Ajedrez”, we thank composers and judges for their participation in the tournament organized to celebrate the 12th Edition of the Tournaments of the UAPA in memory of Francisco-Benko.

After the deadline 31.08.2020, the Director sent the studies with diagrams and solutions to the judges for their evaluation.

Participants: Michal Hlinka (Slovakia); Luboš Kekely (Slovakia); Valery Kalashnikov (Russia); Andrzej Jasik (Poland); Mario G. García (Argentina); Pavel Arestov (Russia); Marc Gelly (France); Peter S. Krug (Austria); Alexander Avedisian (Uruguay); Pert Kiryakov (Russia); Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine); Leonid Topko (Ukraine); Alain Pallier (France); Amatzia Avni (Israel); Oleg Pervakov (Russia); Alexander Stavrietsky (Russia); Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia); Michael Pasman (Israel); Jochanan Afek ( Israel); Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine); Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain); Richard Becker (USA); David Gurgenidze (Georgia); Alezander Zhukov (Russia); Ruslan Musalov (Russia); Igor Yarmonov (Ukraine); Peter Gyarmati (Hungary); Jan Timman (Netherlands); Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan); Can Aydinoglu (Turkey; Stanislav Nosek (Rep. Checa); Poul Rewitz (Denmark)

We have received, 91 studies from 33 composers 20 from countries.

**Sebastián A. Palomo**  
Coordinator of Tournaments (UAPA)

# Section A

## REPORT

First of all, thank you to the tournament organizers for choosing me as the judge for section A.

The statistics. A.1 section: 16 entries, by 13 authors from 7 countries. A.2 section: 13 entries by 6 authors from 6 countries. In both section were three joint-compositions between the works.

Of course particularly important the quality the showing of the theme. Obviously, an advantage the multiple showing (in thematic deception, deception) of theme, and also if the key moments are built around the castling. I like if the thematic motif is in another theme. Difficult task and rich content. If in a study the castling is obvious move, that not beneficial. In some cases, the authors did not describe important versions. I missed this when I didn't understand a difficult variant, or I need using a chessprogram. The simplicity delights, but the bigger material can add valuable content to composition. I preferred the economical elaboration generally. I consider an serious formal defect that, if a figure don't play, the opponent just captures it. There were works like that, I didn't awarded them.- In the provisional period, several analysts have found an anticipation of study N°3 (f2-e8),. For this reason, in this final verdict, the aforementioned study that was located with the 2nd Prize (section A.2.) has been eliminated - So, my ranking is here.

### Section A.1. Studies with castling of the White



**Yochanan Afek (Israel-Netherlands)**

**1.Bd5+!** [1.Rd1? Nd3+! 2.Kd2 b2 3.h7 a1Q= (3...b1Q=) ] **1...Kxd5 2.0-0-0+!** Nd3+! [2...Kc4 3.Kb2 Nd3+ 4.Ka1+-] **3.Rxd3+ Kc4 4.Rd4+!** [Logical try: 4.Kb2? Kxd3 5.h7 a1Q+ 6.Kxa1 Kc2 7.h8Q b2+ 8.Ka2 b1Q+ 9.Ka3 Qb3#] **4...Kxc3 5.Rc4+!** [5.Rd3+??] **5...Kxc4 6.Kb2 Kd3 7.h7 a1Q+ 8.Kxa1 Kc2 9.h8Q+-** 4 active neat sacrifices.

In the keymove white guides the black king to the wrong place with Bishop sacrifice. After this the white castling is a check. 1.Rd1? not enough, the black passed pawns are unstoppable. After the beautiful Knight sacrifice of the black, the black king has serious threat. White get rid of from his harmful pawn, what closing the diagonal a1-h8, by an active rook sacrifice. In study are two active neat sacrifices on each side. Extraordinary content with small material.

### Oleg Pervakov (Russia)

**1.d5!** Main A [Try-1 1.0-0? Rh4! 2.d5 Rg4+ 3.Kh1 Rg5=; Try-2 1.Rf1? Rxh2!=] **1...Kf7** [Main B 1...Rh4 2.Rf1! Rg4 3.h4! Rxh4 4.d6+-] **2.0-0+! Ke7 3.Kg2 Rh4 4.h3 Kd6 5.Kg3 g5 6.Rf6+!** [6.Rf5? Rf4 7.Rxf4 gxf4+ 8.Kxf4 Kxd5 9.h4 Kd4 10.Kf5 Kd5=] **6...Ke5 7.Rg6 Kf5 8.d6!+-** "Pseudo-Banny" theme in study, domination over black rook

The study depicted the hard Banny theme, and white castling more times. Briefly on the theme from the problems. Thematic tries are possible instead of the key move. Let these 2 now be 'A' and 'B'. In these, their black defensive moves are 'a' and 'b'. In the main line, if the black defends with move 'a', then move 'B' gives mate (in studies this is the winning move), and if black play the 'b' move, then 'a' move is mate/wins. Defensive move 'b' is missing in the main line, so the correct name for this theme is "Pseudo-Banny" here. White dominates over the black rook.

### Michael Pasman (Israel)

**1.0-0-0! c2!** [1...cxb2+ 2.Kb1+-] **2.Rd7! Bh6** [2...Bf6 3.h4! Kxe3 (3...Bxh4 4.Rd4+; 3...b6 4.Rd6) 4.Rxb7 Bxh4 5.Rg7! Kd3 (5...Bd8 6.Rg3+ Kd4 7.Rxb3) 6.Rg2!! with b6(6.b6? Bf2!=) ; 2...Bf8 3.Rd8 Bh6 4.Re8+ Kd5 5.a4 is similar to main line] **3.Re7+ Kd5** [3...Kd3 4.h4!+-; 3...Kf5 4.a4! (4.h4? a4!=) 4...Bg5 5.Re8 b6 6.h4 Bxh4 7.Rc8! Bf6 8.Rc6!+-] **4.a4!** [4.h4? a4!= White can not improve the position - and it is positional draw] **4...Bg5** [4...b6 5.h4+-; 4...Kc4 5.Kd2 Bg5 6.Re6 Kd5 7.Re8 Bf6 8.Kc1 Bg5 9.b6!+- See next move] **5.Re8 b6!** [#] How can White improve his position? [If black allows b6 for White, White should play more easily h4 and win 5...Kd6 6.b6 Kd5 7.h3 (or even 7.h4? Bxh4 8.Rc8 Be1 9.Rc7=) 7...Kd6 8.Re4 Kd5 9.Rd4+ Kc5 10.Rd3 Kc4 11.h4+-] **6.h3!** Zugzwang [6.Kd2? Bf6 and no better then return - Kc1] **6...Kd6!** [6...Bh6 7.h4] **7.Re4!** [7.Kd2 Bf6= White must go back Kc1] **7...Kd5** [7...Bh6 8.h4+-] **8.Rd4+!** [8.h4? Kxe4 9.hxg5 Kf5+- can even loose!] **8...Kc5 9.Rd3!** [9.Rf4? Bxf4 10.exf4 Kd6 11.h4 Ke6=] **9...Kc4** [#] [9...Kb4 10.h4+-] **10.h4!** After all the manueres White finally can play this move [10.Rc3+? Kb4 White must return to d3, 11.h4? Bxh4=] **10...Bh6** [10...Bxh4 11.Rd4+-; 10...Kxd3 11.hxg5+-] **11.Rd4+** Now we go back **11...Kc5 12.Re4!** White makes all the way back **12...Kd5** [12...Kd6 is similar: 13.h5 Kd5 14.Re8+-] **13.Re8** [13.Re7? Kd6 14.Re8 Kd7 just wastes time; 13.Rd4+ Kc5 14.Re4=] **13...Kd6** Now we reached the same position as 7 moves before, only with pawn on h4 instead of h3 ( Bh6 instead of g5). This allows White to forward the pawn h, the King to d2 and attack with a rook from c-file. For example: **14.h5 Kd5 15.Kd2! Kd6 16.Rd8+ Kc5 17.Rc8+ Kb4 18.Rc6+-** White wins with beautiful strategy play. The advance of the 'h' pawn is prepared by a very fine game. After 6.h3! black is in a surprising zugzwang. This work is an important example of what real strategic content is like. At the same time, the castling move occurs only once, and there is no thematic try, therefore the award is special.



### Peter S. Krug (Austria)

**1.0-0-0!** [1.Qg6+? Kd8!+-] **1...a2** [B] 1...0-0 2.Rhg1! (2.Rdg1? Rf1+!) 2...Qxg3 3.Rxg3+ Kh7 4.Rh1#] **2.Kc2 Qd4 3.Qg4!** [Thematic try: 3.Rxh8+? Qxh8 4.Rh1 0-0-0! 5.Rxh8 Rxh8 6.Qe1 Kb7! 7.Qa1 Ra8 8.Kxc3 Ra4 =] **3...Qe5 4.Qg5! Qd4 5.Rxh8+ Qxh8 6.Ra1 Qf6** [6...Kd8 7.Qxd5+ Kc7 8.Qc5+ +-; 6...0-0-0 7.Rxa2+-] **7.Qxd5 Rb8 8.Rxa2 Kf8 9.Ra8 +**

Sharp tactical game, with queens and rooks. The really interesting part follows after 2... Qd4. Here the thematic try leads to a nice positional draw. After the diversionary sacrifices of white queen, she gets in the right place, with Qd5 threat. Black can avoid against immediate loss. However, after the rook exchange, the white king is safe and due to the weak pawns, black loses. The 'B' variant does not appear to be an equivalent main version.

**Pavel Arestov (Russia)**

**1.Rg5+!** [1.0-0-0? Bh6+ 2.Kb2 Bg7+ 3.Nc3 Qxf5-+] **1...Kf3!** [1...Kf4 2.Rxg2!=] **2.0-0-0!** [2.Nc2? Qh4+! 3.Kd1 Qxg5 4.h8Q g1Q+ 5.Ne1+ Kg4 /g3-+] **2...Bxa3+ 3.Nb2!** [3.Kc2? Qxh7+ 4.Kb3 Qe4 /Be7-+] **3...Qxh7** [3...Bxb2+ 4.Kxb2 Qxh7 5.Rd2! Qb7+ 6.Kc1! Qc6+ 7.Rc2! Qh6 8.Rcxg2=] **4.Rxg2!** [4.Rd2? Qc7+! 5.Kb1 Bxb2-+ 6.Rxb2 Qh7+ 7.Ka2 Qa7+] **4...Kxg2** [4...Qc7+ 5.Rc2=] **5.Rd2+ Kf1 6.Rd1+ Ke2 7.Rd2+ Kf3** [7...Ke3 8.Rd3+= main line] **8.Rd3+ Qxd3=** model stalemate with pin Nb2.[8...Ke4 9.Rxa3=]

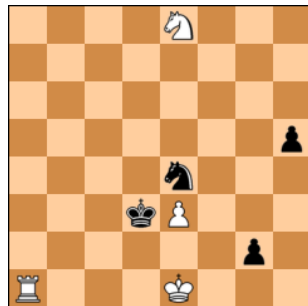
The theme move stands out in the introductory game. In the first move it is too early and in the second it is wrong instead of 2.Nc2. This knight must be sacrificed. After this the black passed pawn will be the protagonist of play. White is forced to give a rook for it as early in 4th move, otherwise he will lose a rook. The remaining material seems to be 3 scarce, but the bad position of black bishop on a3 saves the game. The end of the game is a model stalemate with pin knight or perpetual chess. The game is pulsating and doesn't get boring for a moment. The sidelines are not difficult.

**Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine)**

**1.g7 Nxg7** [1...h2 2.0-0-0 /Kd2 2...Nxg7 3.Nxg7+ Kg6 4.Rh1!= Bg1 5.Ne6 Nd3+ (5...Ne2+ 6.Kd2) 6.Kc2 Nf2 7.Rxh2 Bxh2 8.Nc5 Kf5 9.Nb7 a4 10.d6 Ke6] **2.Nxg7+ Kg6** [2...Kh6!? 3.Nf5+!= (3.Ne6? h2! 4.Kd2 Bg1 5.Nxf4 h1Q-+) ] **3.Ne6!** [3.Kd2? Kxg7-+ (3...h2? 4.Rh1=) ] **3...Nxe6** [3...h2 4.Nxf4+ Kf7 5.0-0-0 /Kd2=] **4.dxe6 h2 5.0-0-0** [Try : 5.Kd2? Bg1 6.Re1 (6.e7) 6...h1Q 7.e7 Qd5+ 8.Kc2 Qc6+ 9.Kd2 Kf7 (9...Qe8? 10.Rxg1+=) 10.e8Q+ Qxe8 11.Rxe8 Kxe8-+] **5...Bg1 6.e7** [6.Re1 h1Q 7.Kb1 Kf6 8.e7] **6...Kf7 7.Rd8** [7.Re1? Ke8!-+] **7...Be3+ 8.Kc2 Kxe7 9.Rh8=** 1/2-1/2

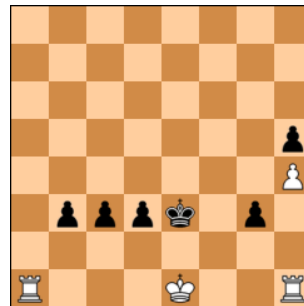
White has to bring his Knight into play. 1.g7 is a natural move, but the advance of the black passe pawns must also be taken into account. In more variant white must sacrifice the rook for the 'h' pawn, but black cannot protect the 'a' pawn. The black bishop threatens more times to close the first line, but a really dangerous situation only develops after 4...h2. The castling is a good key, because so the rook is also will be in a good place. In deception, after 6.e7 Kf7, the rook cannot move to 8th line. If white play 6.Re1, then after the simplification of the material, the black wins due of good corner.

**Pavel Arestov  
1st Commendation**



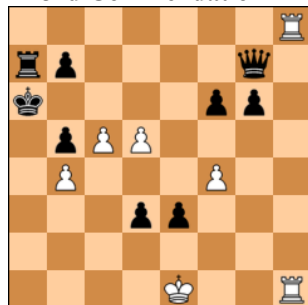
**Draw**

**P. Krug & M. Garcia  
2nd Commendation**



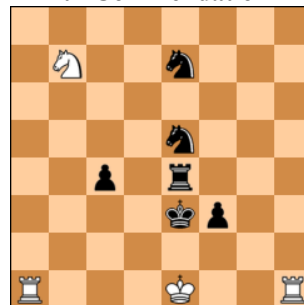
**Draw**

**Andrzej Jasik  
3rd Commendation**



**Win**

**Mario Garcia  
4th Commendation**



**Draw**

### **Pavel Arestov (Russia)**

**1.0-0-0+! Kxe3 2.Ng7! Nc3!** [2...Ng3! 3.Nxh5! Nf1 4.Rd3+! Ke4! 5.Rd4+ Kxd4 6.Nf4 g1Q 7.Ne2+ Ke3 8.Nxg1=] **3.Re1+ Kf2 4.Kd2 h4 5.Ne6! Ne4+! 6.Rxe4 g1Q 7.Rf4+ Kg3 8.Nd4!! Kxf4** [8...Qa1 9.Ne2+ Kh3 10.Ke3 Qe5+] **9.Ne2+ Kf3 10.Nxg1+ Kg2 11.Ne2! h3 12.Nf4+ Kg3 13.Nxh3=**

Nice game in two main line. White defends with bright spectacular active rook sacrifices and knight forks. The castling, however is a compulsion.

### **Peter Krug & Mario Garcia (Austria-Argentina)**

**1.0-0!** [1.0-0-0? d2+!-+] **1...b2** [1...d2 2.Ra3! (2.Rfb1? b2 3.Ra3 Kd4 4.Rd1 Kc4 5.Ra8 Kb3 6.Rb8+ Kc2-+) 2...Ke2 (2...c2 3.Rxb3+ Kd4 4.Rbb1=) 3.Rxb3=] **2.Rae1+** [2.Ra2? d2 3.Ra3 Kd4 4.Ra4+ (4.Kg2 c2 5.Ra4+ Kd5 6.Ra5+ Kc4 7.Rf4+ Kb3 8.Rf3+ Kb4-+) 4...Kd3 5.Ra3 Kc2-+; 2.Rfe1+? Kd4 3.Ra4+ Kc5 4.Re5+ Kd6 5.Rb5 c2-+] **2...Kd4 3.Rf4+ Kc5 4.Rf5+ Kc4** [4...Kc6 5.Rf6+=] **5.Rf4+ Kb3 6.Rf3 d2** [6...Kc2 7.Kg2! b1Q (7...d2 8.Rh1 d1N 9.Rxc3+ Nxc3 10.Kxg3=) 8.Rxb1 Kxb1 9.Rxd3=; 6...c2 7.Rxd3+ Kc4 8.Rdd1!]=] **7.Ref1!** [7.Rd1? Kc2 8.Rff1 Kd3 9.Rf8 Ke2-+] **7...Kc2** [7...Kb4 8.Rf4+ Ka3 9.R4f3 Ka2 10.Rxc3=] **8.Rxg3 d1N** [8...d1Q 9.Rxc3+ Kxc3 10.Rxd1=] **9.Rxc3+ Nxc3 10.Rf2+ Kc1 11.Rxb2 Kxb2 12.Kf2!** [12.Kg2? Kc2 13.Kf3 Kd3 14.Kf4 Ne4-+] **12...Kc2 13.Ke3!**= positional draw

In the initial position, the castling is possible on both sides, but it is easy to see that 1.0-0-0 d2+ and black wins. The short castling is the right one. It is surprising that, two white rooks fights for the draw against the black passed pawns. Black promotes his pawn to knight, then white forced to sacrifice both rooks, but finally, the material equilibrates.

### **Andrzej Jasik (Poland)**

**1.R8h7!** [Try: 1.0-0? f5-+; Try: 1.Rg8? Qd7 2.0-0 Qg4+ 3.Kh2 Qh4+ 4.Kg2 Qg4+=] **1...Qxh7!** [1...Qg8 2.0-0 Qxd5 3.Ra1+-+; 1...b6 2.Rxg7 Rxg7 3.c6 Rg8 4.d6 Rc8 5.c7 Kb7 6.Rh7 Rf8 7.Re7 g5 8.Rxe3 Kc6 9.Rxd3+-] **2.0-0! b6 3.c6 Qh2+! 4.Kxh2 Rh7+ 5.Kg2!** [Try: 5.Kg3? Ka7 6.d6 e2 7.Ra1+ Kb8 8.Kf2 Rh2+ 9.Kf3 Rh3+ 10.Kf2 Rh2+=] **5...Ka7 6.d6 e2** [6...Kb8 7.c7+ Kb7 8.Rc1 Kc8 9.Ra1 Kd7 10.Ra8+-; 6...Rh8 7.Kf3 Rh3+ (7...e2 8.Rc1 Kb8 9.Ke3 Kc8 10.Ra1 e1Q+ 11.Rxe1) 8.Ke4 e2 9.Ra1+ Kb8 10.c7+ Kb7 11.Rc1 Rh8 12.Kxd3 Kc8 13.Kxe2 Kd7 14.Ke3 Rc8 15.Rd1+-] **7.Ra1+ Kb8 8.c7+ Kb7 9.Ra8! e1N+! 10.Kf2 Kf1 10...Rxc7 11.dxc7 Kxc7 12.Kxe1+-** Win[12.Ra7+? Kb8 13.Rf7 d2=]

The castling is not good in the first move, but neither is the 1.Rg8 diversion. After 1.Rh7! may come the castling, and Ra1 mate threat. Black sacrifices only delay the loss. In 6th move, white avoids a deception. In the 6.Kg3 variant when black promote his pawn, then this move is a check. Otherwise perpetual check is the end of game. The game-like sidelines are not complicated.

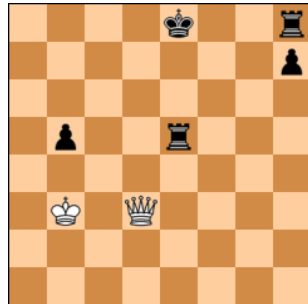
### **Mario Garcia (Argentina)**

**Theme: Studies that contain castling, (in thematic try) 1.Nc5!** [Try: 1.Nd6? Rd4 2.Rh7 Nd3+ 3.Kf1 Rxd6 4.Rxe7+ Kd4-+] **1...Nd3+ 2.Nxd3 cxd3 3.Kf1!** [Thematic Try : 3.0-0? Rg4+ 4.Kh1 Nf5 5.Rae1+ Kf4-+; Thematic Try : 3.0-0-0? Rc4+ 4.Kb1 Nd5 5.Rhe1+ Kd4-+; or 3.Kd1? f2 4.Ra2 Rf4 5.Rh3+ Ke4 6.Ra4+ Ke5 7.Rxf4 Kxf4-+; 3.Rb1 Nf5] **3...d2** [3...Nf5 4.Re1+ Kf4 5.Rxe4+ Kxe4 6.Kf2 d2 7.Rd1= positional draw; 3...Nd5 4.Re1+ Kd4 5.Rxe4+ Kxe4 6.Kf2 d2 7.Rd1=] **4.Rh2 Rd4** [4...Ra4 5.Rd1 Nf5 6.Rhxd2=; 4...Nd5 5.Rd1=] **5.Ra3+ Ke4** [5...Rd3 6.Rxd3+ Kxd3 7.Rxd2+ Kxd2 8.Kf2=] **6.Rh4+ Ke5 7.Rxd4** [7.Re3+? Kd5-+] **7...Kxd4 8.Ra4+!** [8.Ra1? Ng6 /c6 9.Kf2 Ne5-+] **8...Ke5** [8...Kc3 9.Ra3+ Kb2 (9...Kc2 10.Ra2+=) 10.Rd3 Kc2 11.Rxd2+ Kxd2 12.Kf2=] **9.Ra1!** [9.Ra5+? Nd5-+] **9...Nd5** [9...Nf5 10.Kf2 Ke4 11.Rd1!= positional draw] **10.Kf2 Kf4 11.Ra4+ Ke5 12.Ra1=** positional draw

After the second move, there is a critical position. Black threatens with Nf5 and Nd5. To prevent these, white must make the e1 field free. 3... Nf5 (d5) 4.Re1 + and then the rook exchange lead to a positional draw. Four moves also seems good: the castling on both sides, Kd1 and Kf1. It soon turns out that, the castlings is just a tries. Stopping the dangerous 'd' passed pawn is not easy. The end of the game is a positional draw.

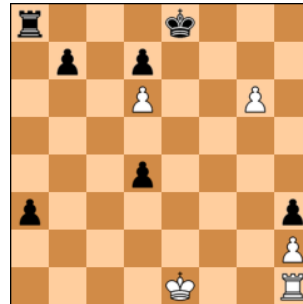
## Section A.2. Studies with castling of the black

P. Arestov & P. Kiryakov  
1st Prize



Win

Vladislav Tarasiuk  
2nd Prize



Draw

Pavel Arestov & Petr Kiryakov (Russia)

**1.Qc3!** [Thematic Try: 1.Qd4? 0-0! 2.Qxe5 h6! 3.Qg3+ Kh7 4.Qd3+ Kg7 5.Qg3+ Kh7=] **1...0-0**  
**2.Qg3+!!** [2.Qxe5? h6! 3.Qg3+ Kh7=] **2...Kf7** **3.Qxe5 h6** **4.Qg3!** [4.Kb4? Kg6! 5.Qg3+ Kh7 6.Qd3+ Kg7=] **4...Rg8** **5.Qc7+!** [5.Qf3+? Kg7=] **5...Kg6** **6.Kb4** **Rf8** [6...Rg7 7.Qc2+! Kf7 8.Qc8 Kg6 9.Qh8! Rh7 10.Qe8+ Rf7 11.Kc5! (11.Kxb5? Kg7! 12.Kc6 Rf6+ 13.Kd7 Rf7+ 14.Ke6 Rf6+ 15.Ke7 Rf3! 16.Qh5 Re3+ 17.Kd7 Rd3+ 18.Kc7 Rc3+ 19.Kb7 Rb3+ 20.Ka7 Ra3+=) 11...Kg7 12.Kd6 Rf6+ 13.Ke7 Rf3! 14.Qh5! Re3+ 15.Kd7 Rd3+ 16.Kc6 Rc3+ 17.Kb6+-] **7.Kxb5** [7.Kc5 /a5? 7...Rf7! 8.Qg3+ Kh7=] **7...Rf6** [7...Rf7 8.Qc4! main line] **8.Ka5!!** [8.Kc5? Rf7! 9.Qg3+ Kh7 10.Kd6 Rg7! 11.Qh4 Rg6+ 12.Ke7 Rg7+ 13.Kf8 Rg8+ 14.Kf7 Rg7+=, 8.Qe7? Rf7! 9.Qe6+ Kg7=, 8.Qa7? Rf5+! 9.Kc6 Rf6+ 10.Kd5 Rf5+ 11.Ke4 Rf7 12.Qg1+ Kh7 13.Ke5 Rg7=] **8...Rf7** **9.Qc4!** **Rf6** **10.Qg8+!+-**

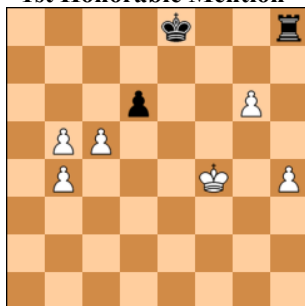
The game begins with a real key move. One line is the main version, the other is thematic try. Black castle in both variant. That's great! The game becomes difficult after 6.Kb4, here 6...Rf8 and 6... Rg7 are also possible here. After 6...Rf8 white must capture b5 pawn, in the second variant the capturing of pawn lead to draw only. Two equivalent main lines. Perfect structure!

Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine)

**1.0-0!** [1.g7? Kf7-+] **1...0-0-0!** [1...a2 2.g7 0-0-0 3.Ra1 see main line] **2.g7!** [2.Ra1? Rg8 3.Rxa3 Rxc6+ 4.Kh1 Rxd6-+] **2...a2** **3.Ra1** **Rg8** **4.Rxa2** [4.Kh1? b5 5.Rxa2 Kb7 6.Ra3 b4-+] **4...Rxc6+** [4...Kb8 5.Kh1 b6 6.Rf2 Kb7 7.Rf8 Rxc6 8.Rb8+ perpetual check] **5.Kh1!** [5.Kf1? b5-+] **5...Kb8** [5...b5 6.Ra8+ perpetual check; 5...Rf7? 6.Ra8#] **6.Ra8+!** [6.Ra3? Rh7 7.Rd3 Rh4-+] **6...Kxa8** - stalemate. Monkey theme.

Theme on the theme. The Monkey theme ends with a stalemate. When white castle, black also responds with castling. Black imitates the white moves five times. In the 4...Kb8 sideline the end of game is positional draw. More game-like variations enrich the play, these are fun.

Pavel Arestov  
1st Honorable Mention



Win

P. Krug & M. Garcia  
2nd Honorable Mention



Win

Michael Pasman  
3rd Honorable Mention



Win

**Pavel Arestov (Russia)**

**1.Kg5!** [1.Kg4? 0-0 2.c6 d5 3.b6 d4 4.c7 d3 5.b7 d2 6.c8Q d1Q+=] **1...dxc5** [1...0-0 2.c6! d5 3.b6 d4 4.c7 d3 5.b7 d2 6.c8Q /b8Q+-] **2.bxc5** [2.g7? Rg8 3.Kf6 c4 4.h5 Rxc7 5.Kxc7 c3=] **2...0-0!** **3.Kg4!** [3.c6? Rb8! 4.Kf6 Rxb5=] **3...Rf1 4.c6!** [4.b6? Rb1 5.Kf5 Rb5 6.Ke6 Rxc5=] **4...Rc1 5.Kf5! Rc5+ 6.Ke6 Rxb5 7.c7 Rc5 8.Kd7 Kg7 9.h5!** [9.c8Q? Rxc8 10.Kxc8 Kxc6=] **9...Kf6!! 10.c8Q** [10.c8R? Rxb5!]=] **10...Rxc8 11.Kxc8+-**

Black castle in the main version, in the try, and in sideline. The position is especially interesting after the castling of black. Now black threatens with Rb8. The beautiful king triangulation (Kf4-g5-g4) prevents it too.

**Peter Krug & Mario Garcia (Austria-Argentina)**

**1.Bc5!** [Try The: 1.Qc7? Bc4+ 2.Qxc4 Ne7 3.Qc5 0-0! 4.Qxc2 (4.Kxe7 Rae8+=) 4...Nxc6 =] **1...Nb6** [1...Rg8 2.Kf6+-] **2.Bxb6** [2.Qxf1? 0-0-0! 3.Ba3 Rhe8+; 2.g7? Rg8 3.Qd6 Bc4+ 4.Kxf5 Nc8= Switchback!] **2...axb6 3.Qc7!** [Try The: 3.g7? 0-0-0!! (3...Rg8 4.Qc7 Rxc7 5.Qc6+ Kd8 6.Qxa8+ Kc7 7.Qc6+ Kb8 8.Qxc2+-) 4.gxh8Q Rxb8 5.Qxf1 Rh7 6.Qc1 Rc7!= positional draw] **3...Bc4+ 4.Qxc4 0-0! 5.Qc7 Rae8+ 6.Kd5 Rd8+ 7.Ke5 Rde8+ 8.Kf4!** [8.Kd4? Re4+ 9.Kd5 Rh4=] **8...Re7! 9.Qxc2 Rf6 10.a5!** [10.Kg5? Ree6 11.a5 Rxc6+ =] **10...bxa5** [10...Rxc6 11.a6+-] **11.Kg5 Ree6 12.Qc8+ Kg7 13.Qc3!** (1) [13.Qc7+? Kf8 14.Qh7 (14.Qd8+ Kg7 15.Qd4 Rd6 16.Qe5 Rde6 17.Qc3 is loss of time , see position (1)) 14...Rxc6+ 15.Qxc6 Rxc6+ 16.Kxc6 Ke7-+] **13...Kg8** [13...a4 14.b6 Rxb6 15.Qc7+ Kf8 16.Qd8+ Kg7 17.Qe7+ Kg8 18.Qh7+ Kf8 19.g7+] **14.Qxf6** +-

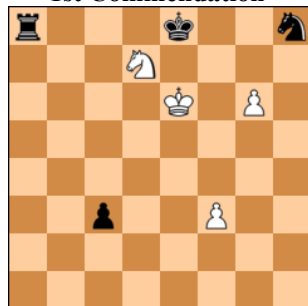
In the introduction play, the black minor pieces prevent the direct threats. I like the 3.g7? try, there black castle, and reaches a nice positional draw. The correct move is 3.Qc7, then the king can hide from the checks. However, the two rooks seem to be holding the position stable. 10.a5! a fine pawn sacrifice. The 'b' passed pawn allows the exchange of queen for the two rooks, and white wins.

**Michael Pisman (Israel)**

**1.Be6!!** Tries: [1.Rc8+?? Kf7 2.Bxc6+ Bxc6+-; 1.Bxc6+ Bxc6+ 2.Kxc6 Rh2! 3.e5 (3.Kg5 Rxc2 4.Kxf4 Rf2+ 5.Ke5 d3 6.g5 d2=) 3...Kd7! 4.g5! d3! 5.Rd1 d2!! 6.Rxd2 (6.Kf5 Rxc2 7.Kxf4=) 6...f3! 7.Rd3 f2! 8.Rf3 Rxc2= 9.Rf4 Kd8! 10.Rf3 Kd7! 11.Rf8 Kc7=; 1.Kg5 Nf8 2.Rc8+ Kf7 3.Be6+ Nxe6+ 4.dxe6+ Kxe6 5.Rxb8 Bxe4 6.Kxf4 Bxc2=] **1...Bg8+ 2.Kxc6 Bxe6 3.dxe6 0-0!** [3...Rh6+ 4.Kf5 Rf6+ 5.Ke5! Kd8 6.g5+-] **4.g5!!** [Try 4.e5 Rd8 5.Rc7 Kf8 6.Kh7 (6.Rd7 Ke8) 6...g5=] **4...Rd8 5.Rc7! Kf8! 6.Kh7!** [6.Rc5 Kg8! wastes time 7.Rc7] **6...d3 7.Rc5! g6!** [7...d2 8.Rf5+; 7...Ke8 8.Kxc6+-] **8.Rf5+!!** [8.Kxc6 Kg8! 9.Rc1 d2=] **8...Ke8!** [8...gxf5 9.g6+-] **9.Kxc6** [9.Rxf4 Rd6=] **9...Rd6! 10.Kh7! d2 11.g6 d1Q** [11...Kd8 12.g7 d1Q 13.g8Q+ Kc7 and for example : 14.Qe8+- Qh1+ 15.Rh5+-] **12.Rf8+! Kxf8 13.g7+ Ke8 14.g8Q# / R**

The game has a rich content, with a good key move. An interesting, play follows after 1... Bxe6, that resembles to a practical game because of sidelines. After the introduction play white has big space advantage, but this is not easy to take advantage of. 4.g5 !! and 8.Rf5 !! are really problem-like moves. I missing the multiple showing of thematic move.

**Vladimir Samilo  
1st Commendation**



**Draw**

**Valery Kalashnikov  
2nd Commendation**



**Win**

**Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine)**

**1.g7** [1.Nf6+? Kf8-+] **1...0-0-0** **2.Nf8 c2** [2...Re8+ 3.Kf6!]=] **3.gxh8Q** [3.g8Q? c1Q-+] **3...c1Q** **4.Qh3!! Qf4!** [4...Kb7 5.Qh7+! Ka6 6.Qe7! Qc6+ 7.Kf7=] **5.Ke7+ Kb7! 6.Ne6!** [6.Kxd8? Qxf8+! 7.Kd7 Qc8+ 8.Kd6 Qxh3] **6...Qd6+ 7.Kf7!** [Try: 7.Kf6? Rf8+ 8.Kg6 Rf4!-+] **7...Rd7+ 8.Kg6!** [8.Kf6? Qe7+ 9.Kf5 Rd5+-+] **8...Re7** [8...Qc6] **9.Kf6!**=

In the introduction play, both sides promote a queen. White threatens with a nice battery. Black sets a trap. White cannot capture the rook, because loss his queen due a geometric motif. 6.Ne6! stabilizes the position, but white needs to take a few precise king moves yet.

**Valery Kalashnikov (Russia)**

**1.c7 0-0** [1...Rh6+ 2.Kd5 Rc6!? 3.Kxc6+-] **2.Nc6 Nb3** [2...Nc2 3.Nd8 Nd4+ 4.Kd7 Ne6!? 5.Kxe6+-] **3.Nd8 Nc5+ 4.Ke7 Nb7 5.c8Q Re8+! 6.Kf6! Nxd8** [6...Rf8+ 7.Kg6+- (or 7.Kg5+- ) ] **7.Qg4+** [or 7.Qd7 Kf8 8.Qg7#] **7...Kf8 8.Qg7#**

The castling of black is a compulsion. But it's a lot of fun that, his knight comes from far away to battlefield, and he creates several strong threats. The material equilibrates, but black get mate unexpectedly. Peter Gyarmati Zalaegerszeg, 15th November 2020. Judge

**Hungary Zalaegerszeg, 5th February 2021.**

**Peter Gyarmati  
Judge**



## Section B (no set theme): B.1. Studies Win - B.2. Studies Draw

### REPORT

Thanks to the Union Argentina of Problemistas de Ajedrez (UAPA), organizers and participants of the 12th Tourney of the UAPA-2020 MT 110 Francisco Benko. Congratulations to the winners of the competition on their creative success! The competition was a success! A lot of bright, original studies were presented, and the winning compositions will undoubtedly influence the development of the art of chess study!

The statistics. **Section B:** 61 studies by 28 authors from 19 countries.

**Section B.1. Studies – Win:** 31 studies by 24 composers from 17 countries (Russia, Slovakia, Austria, Italy, Uruguay, USA, Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, Hungary, Netherlands, Azerbaijan, Israel, Turkey, Argentina, Denmark, Armenia).

**Section B.2. Studies – Draw:** 30 studies by 23 composers from 17 countries (Russia, Slovakia, USA, Italy, Poland, Austria, France, Georgia, Ukraine, Denmark, Uruguay, Rep.Checa, Netherlands, Azerbaijan, Israel, Slovakia, Argentina).

My ranking is as follows.

### Section B.1.: Studies – Win



**Amatzia Avni (Israel) 1st Prize**

**1.Be2!** (1.Bxd2+ Kxg6=; 1.Kf7? Rf3+) **1...Nxf2** (1...Nc3 2.Kf7 Rxh4 (2...Rd3 3.Ne3! Rd7+ 4.Ke6) 3.Bxc3 Rf4+ 4.Kg8 Rxf2 5.Bxd2+ Kxg6 6.Bd3+ Kf6 7.Bc3+ Kg5 8.Kxg7+-; 1...Kxg6 2.Bxd1+-) **2.Kf7** and branching:

**A) 2...Rd3!?** **3.Bxd3!!** d1Q **4.Nd4** **QxBd3** **5.Bd2+** sacrifice of two bishops to pave way for the knight (5.Nf5+?? Qxf5+!) **5...QxBd2** **6.Nf5#**. Or

**2...d1Q!** **3.Bxd1**

**B) 3...Rd3** **4.Ne3!!** sacrifice of a knight to enable a bishop move **4...RxNe3** (4...Rd7+ 5.Ke6 Rxd1 [a] 5...Nxd1 6.Kxd7 Nxe3 7.Bd2+-; b) 5...Ra7 6.Bb6 Rb7 (6...Ra6 7.Kf7) 7.Nf5+ Kxg6 8.Bxf2+-] 6.Nxd1 Nxd1 7.Kf7+-.) **5.Bd2** **NxBd1** **6.Bc1** **Nc3** **7.Bxe3#**.

**C) 3...Ne4** **4.Bd2+!!** sacrifice of a bishop to enable a knight move (not at once 4.Nd4? Nd6+ 5.Ke6 Rd3!)=) **4...NxBd2** **5.Nd4** **Rxh4** **6.Nf5+ Kg5** **7.Nxh4** **Kxh4** **8.Kxg7+-**.

**Theme:** change of sacrifices.

A very interesting theme is presented by the author in this study. Theme *change of sacrifices* is a special case of the theme *change of the functions of pieces*, first described in my article "Two themes of change" (Problemist of Ukraine No.3, 2012). Formulation of the theme change of sacrifices: *In one phase of solution of the study, after the sacrifice of the X piece, the decisive blow is made by the Y piece, and in the other phase the functions of the X and Y pieces mutually change.* In the presented study, the thematic pieces are a knight and a dark-squared bishop. In variation **A**) the bishop is sacrificed, and the knight delivers the decisive blow. In **B**), on the contrary, the knight is sacrificed, and the bishop deals the decisive blow. But the ending of variation **C**) for the homogeneity of all three variations I would present in the following form: **5.Nd4 Rf3+** (5...Rhx4 6.Nf5+ Kg5 7.Nxh4 Kxh4 8.Kxg7+-) **6.Bxf3 Nxf3 7.Nf5#**. Here the situation is the same as in variation **A**). In variants **A**) and **B**) the light-squared bishop is also sacrificed, but there is no variant where it delivers the decisive blow and cannot formally be considered a thematic piece. However, in all three variants, this bishop dies, one way or another contributing to the decisive blow. The theme *change of sacrifices* declared by the author of the study is brilliantly executed! A wonderful composition from a technical and artistic point of view. Bravo, Amatzia!

I will only add that in the development of the theme it would be interesting to carry out a cyclic change of the sacrifices of the three pieces X-Y, Y-Z, Z-X in a three-variant study.

### Jan Timman (Netherlands) 2nd Prize

**1.Rh5+!** [Try: 1.Qf1+? Kg3 2.Rh5 Rb1 3.Rh3+ gxh3 4.Rg6+ Kh4 5.Be7+ Kh5 6.Rg5+ Kh6 7.Qxb1 Re8! 8.Qb5 d1Q+=] **1...Kg3 2.Rh3+!** (2.Qf1? Rb1!= similar to try) **2...Kxh3** (2...gxh3 3.Rg6+-) **3.Qf1+ Kg3** (3...Kh4 4.Qxf2+ g3 5.Qxf3+-) **4.Bc5 d1N!** [main 4...Bd4 5.Bxd4 d1N 6.Rh6! (6.Qxd1? Re8!)= 6...Ne3 (6...Re8 7.Bf6 Re1 8.Bh4# mate) 7.Rh2! (7.Bf6? Ng2 8.Bd4 Rxc2=) 7...Nxf1 (7...Rb1 8.Qxb1 Rh8 9.Rxh8 f1Q+ 10.Qxf1 Nxf1 11.Kg1+-) 8.Bxf2# mate.] **5.Rxd1 Bd4!** (5...Rxc2 6.Rd3 Kh4 e.g. 7.Bxf2+ g3 8.Rxf3 Rf8 9.Qe1 Rxf2 10.Rxf2 gxf2 11.Qxf2+ Kg4 12.Qxa7+-) **6.Bxd4 Rh8+ 7.Bxh8 Rb6 8.Bg7 Re6 9.Ra1!** (9.Rb1? Re7! 10.Qd3 Re1+ 11.Qf1 Re7 12.a3 Rxc7 13.Qd3 Re7=) **9...Re7 10.Qb1!** Bristol! (10.Qd3? Re1+ 11.Qf1 Re7 12.Qb1 is a loss of time) **10...a3** (10...Rxc7 11.Qb7!+-; 10...Kh3 11.Bd4 g3 12.Bxf2 gxf2 13.Qb5 Kg3 14.Qg5+-) **11.Qb5! Re1+ 12.Qf1 Re7** (12...Re6 13.Qd1! Re1+ (13...Re7 14.Bh6+-) 14.Qxe1 fxe1Q+ 15.Rxe1 f2 16.Rf1+-) **13.Qb1! Rxc7** (13...Kh3 14.Bd4! g3 15.Bxf2 gxf2 16.Qb5 Re1+ 17.Qf1+ Rxf1+ 18.Rxf1 Kg3 19.Rb1 f1Q+ 20.Rxf1 f2 21.Rb1! (21.Ra1? Kf3 22.Kh2 Ke2 23.Kg2 f3+ 24.Kg3 Kd2=) 21...Kf3 (or 21...Kh3 22.Rd1! Kg3 23.Rd3+ f3 24.Rd1 Kf4 25.Kh2 Ke3 26.Kg3+- similar ) 22.Kh2 Ke2 23.Kg2 f3+ 24.Kg3 f1Q (24...Kd2 25.Kxf2 Kxc2 26.Rb7+-) 25.Rxf1 Kxf1 26.Kxf3 Ke1 27.Ke3 Kd1 28.Kd3 Kc1 29.Kxc3 Kb1 30.Kb3+-) **14.Qb7 Rg5 /g8 15.Qh7 Re5 16.Qh2# mate.**

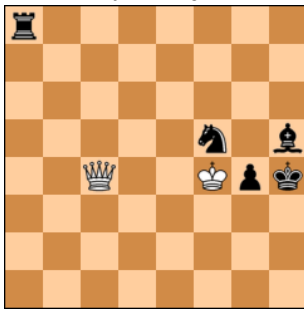
In this magnificent chess performance, an intense and inventive struggle takes place on both sides. A rich arsenal of means of conducting chess battles is used: clearing the field, distracting, blocking, tying-unleashing, threats, sacrifices, a logical maneuver and even a Bristol maneuver! With the help of an ingenious maneuver – the queen's triangle – White passes the move on to Black, puts him in the zugzwang position and forces him to capture the bishop. After that Black still creates a mate threat, but White manages to checkmate a move earlier. The study is decorated with an complementary variant (also with sacrifices!) with two final checkmates with bishop. Surprisingly, with so many interacting pieces, a total of 8 sacrifices pass in two variants, but there is not a single exchange! Brilliant work!

### Andrzej Jasik (Poland) 3rd Prize

**1.Nf6!** (1.Qg3? Ka8 2.Qxc7 Rh4+ 3.Kg5 Rg1+ 4.Kf5 Rf1+=; 1.Qf2? Rf1! 2.Qxh2 Rff4=) **1...Rh4+** (1...Rg1 2.Qxh2 Rh1 3.Qxh1 a1Q 4.Qd5 cxb6 5.Qd8+ Ka7 6.Qc8 Qh1+ 7.Kg6 Qg2+ 8.Kf7+-; 1...cxb6 2.Qg7 Ra7 3.Qg3+ Kc8 4.Nd5 Rg1 5.Qh3+ Kd8 6.Qxh2 Rh1 7.Qxh1 a1Q 8.c7+ Kd7 9.Qh3+ Kd6 10.c8Q+-) **2.Nh5 Rg1! 3.Bxg1 Rxh5+!** (3...hxg1Q 4.Qxg1 Nc4 5.Qg5 a1Q (5...Rd4 6.Qb5+ Nb6 7.Qa6+-) 6.Qd8+ Ka7 7.Qxc7+ Ka6 8.Qb7+ Ka5 9.Qa7+ Kb4 10.Qxa1+-) **4.Kxh5 h1Q+! 5.Qxh1 a1Q 6.Kg6!** (6.Qg2? Qd1+=) **6...Nc4** (6...Qb1+ 7.Kg7 Qf5 8.Qh8+ Qc8 9.Ba7+ Kxa7 10.Qxc8+-) **7.Ba7+! Qxa7 8.Qh8#.**

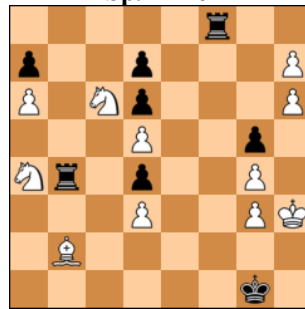
With material equality on the board, a tense, sharp starting position with mutual chances. Almost every move by White and Black is multifunctional – it is both a defense against enemy threats and the creation of counter threats. The game covers the whole board, the intensity of the struggle does not subside until the end, but the last word, as it should be in the study, remains with White. A very emotional and pleasant study for solving!

**Richard Becker**  
4th Prize



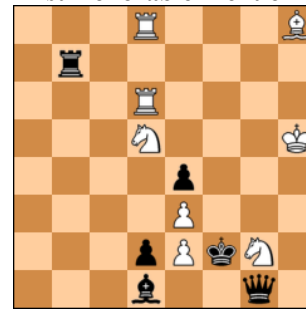
Win

**Mario G. García**  
Sp. Prize



Win

**Alexey Gasparyan**  
1st Honorable Mention



Win

### Richard Becker (USA) 4th Prize

**1.Qc6!** (1.Qe4? Ra1=) **1...Ra3** (1...Ra1 2.Qf6+-) **2.Qh1+ Rh3 3.Qe1+ g3 4.Kxf5 Rh2 5.Qe4+ Kh3 6.Kg5 Bd1 7.Qc6!** (7.Qa8? Be2=; 7.Qd5? Bc2 (or Ba4)=) **7...Bg4** (7...Bb3 8.Qd7+ Kg2 9.Kg4 Kh1 10.Kxg3 Rg2+ 11.Kf3 Bc4 12.Qh7+ Kg1 13.Qa7+ Kh1 14.Qa1+-) **8.Qd5!** (8.Qb7? Be2=; 8.Qe4? Bc8=) **8...Bc8 9.Qg8!** (9.Qc6? Ra2=; 9.Qc4? Bd7=) **9...Bg4 10.Qh7+ Kg2 11.Qc2+ Kh3 12.Qc6! Ra2 13.Qh1+ Rh2 14.Qf1+ Rg2 15.Qc4! Rb2** (15...Ra2 16.Qxa2+- (16.Qxg4+? Kh2=); 15...Kh2 16.Kxg4+- (16.Qxg4? Ra2=)) **16.Qxg4+-** wins.

The minimal study – in the initial position White has only one piece besides the king. In this case, the minimal miniature with a queen. Surprisingly, on a free board White is forced to make only moves to achieve his goal. When the material ratio is drawn, White performs a subtle multi-move maneuver with the transfer of the move to Black (positions after Black's 7th move and White's 12th move coincide) and puts them in the zugzwang position. It is this maneuver that gives the study an aesthetic value. After losing the bishop, Black is doomed. Despite the simple starting position, it is very difficult to solve such a study in a competition with limited time.

### Mario G. García (Argentina) Sp. Prize

**1.Bxd4+** (1.Nxb4? Rf2 2.Bxd4 Kh1 3.Bxf2= stalemate) **1...Kh1** (1...Rxd4 2.Nxd4 Rf2 3.Nf3+ Rxf3 4.h8Q+-) **2.h8Q/R Rxh8 3.Bxh8 Rxa4 [main 3...Rb1 4.Nd4! a) 4.Nb6? Rf1!= (4...dxc6? 5.Nc4 Rf1 6.Bd4+-; 4...Rg1? 5.Nd4 Rg2 6.Nf3+-); b) 4.Bd4 Rc1!= (4...Rd1? 5.Be3! Re1 6.Nc3+-); c) 4.h7 Rg1! 5.Nd4 Rg2 6.Nf3 Rxxg3+ 7.Kxxg3= stalemate; 4...Rf1 5.Nc3! (5.h7? /Nb2 5...Rf2 6.Nf3 Rxf3=) 5...Rf2 6.Nf3 Rxf3 7.Ne4!+-] 4.Nb4! sacrifice-1** (4.Bb2? Ra2! 5.Nd4 Rxb2 6.Nf3 Rg2! 7.h7 Rxxg3+ 8.Kxxg3= stalemate) **4...Rxb4 5.Bf6!** (5.h7? Rb1! 6.Bd4 (6.Ba1 Rxa1 7.h8Q Ra2 8.Qa1+ Rxa1 9.d4 Rxa6 stalemate) 6...Rf1 7.h8Q Rf2! 8.Bxf2= stalemate) **5...Rb1** (or 5...Ra4 6.Bxxg5 Ra2 similar) **6.Bxxg5 Rb2 7.Bd2! sacrifice-2 7...Rxd2 8.g5!** (8.Kh4? Rh2+ 9.Kg5 Kg2!)=) **8...Rh2+ 9.Kg4 Kg2 10.Kf4!** (10.d4? Rh1! 11.Kf4 Rf1+ 12.Ke4 Rh1 13.g4 Kg3 14.Kf5 Rf1+) **10...Rh1 11.g4!** (11.Kf5? Kxxg3 12.g6 Rh5+!)=) **11...Rf1+ 12.Ke4 Re1+! 13.Kf5 Rf1+ 14.Kg6 Kg3 15.Kh7!** [Try: 15.h7? Rh1 16.Kg7 Kxxg4 17.h8Q Rxh8 18.Kxh8 Kxxg5 19.Kg7 Kf5 20.Kf7 Ke5 21.Ke7 Kxd5 22.Kxd7 (1) 22...Ke5! (22...Kc5? 23.Kc7 d5 24.Kb7 Kd6 25.Kxa7 Kc7 26.d4!+-) 23.Kc6 Ke6 24.d4 d5! 25.Kc5 Ke7 26.Kxd5 Kd7 27.Kc5 Kc7 28.d5 Kd7=] **15...Kxxg4** (15...Rf7+ 16.Kg8!+-) **16.g6 Rf6 17.g7 Kh5 18.g8Q** [or 18.Kg8 similar] **18...Rxxh6+ 19.Kg7 Rg6+ 20.Kf7/f8 .Rxxg8 21.Kxxg8 Kg6 22.Kf8 Kf5 23.Ke8/e7 Ke5 24.Kd8!** [24.Kxd7? Kxd5 similar a try in (1)] **24...Kxd5 25.Kc7!+-.**

A three-phase study with rich content. In the first phase, White neutralizes Black's stalemate counterplay by precise play with sacrifices. In the second phase, the black rook is fighting against the passed pawns, and White must go around a strong false trail. The third phase is a pawn endgame, where only a paradoxical refusal to capture the black pawn leads to White's victory. The study is decorating with a complementary variant in the first phase with numerous tries and false refutations.

### Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia) 1st Honorable Mention

**1.Rf8+** (1.Rf6+?! Kg3! 2.Rg6+ Kf2=, or 2...Kh2 3.Be5+ Kh1!=) **1...Kxxg2!** (1...Kg3? 2.Be5+! (2.Rg8+? Kh2 3.Be5+ Kh1!=)+-) **2.Rg8+!** (not 2.Rg6+? K- 3.Rxxg1 Kxxg1=) **2...Kf1!** (2...Kf2 3.Rf6+ +-) **3.Rxxg1+!** (3.Rf6+? Qf2! 4.Rxxf2 Kxxf2=) **3...Kxxg1 4.Nc3!** (not 4.Nf4?! Ba4 5.Rxd2 Rh7+ and 6...Rxxh8=). Now 4...Rh7+?! 5.Kg5(g6) (but not 5.Kg4? Bb3! 6.Be5(f6) Rd7! 7.Rxd7 Be6+ 8.Kf4 Bxd7 9.Kxe4 Bb5! 10.Kf3 Kf1= or 6.Rxd2?! Rxh8 7.Nxe4 Rb8 8.Sc5 Kf2!=) 5...Rxxh8 6.Nxd1 etc.+-) **4...Bxe2+!** (And not 5.Kg5?! Bd3! 6.Kf4 Rc7=) **5.Nxe2+! Kf2 6.Rxd2! Rh7+!** (Or 6...Kxe3 7.Bc3-main) **7.Kg4!** (7.Kg5(g6)?! Rxh8 =) with A) **7...Rxxh8 8.Ng3+! Kxe3 9.Nf1#; B) 7...Kxe3 8.Bc3 Rh2! 9.Rd1!! Rxe2 10.Bd4#!** – ideal mate.

A great find by the author – two beautiful final mates! But the introduction with the capture of two pieces that did not make a single move spoils the overall impression of the study. Moreover, the introduction has nothing to do with the ending and does not contain any independent idea. If the author managed to find an introduction consonant with the final, then the etude could claim a high prize in any competition.



#### Andrzej Jasik (Poland) 2nd Honorable Mention

**1.Qc3!** (1.Bb5? Qd1+ 2.Ka2 Rxd4=) **1...axb6** (1...Rd7 2.b7+ Kxb7 3.Be4+ Kc8 4.cxb8Q+ Kxb8 5.Be5+-; 1...Qd1+ 2.Kb2 Rxd4 3.cxb8Q+ Kxb8 4.Qc7+-) **2.Be5! Ba7** (2...Kd7 3.cxd8Q+ Kxd8 4.Bxb8+-) **3.Ba6+! Qxa6** (3...Kd7 4.Qd3+ Ke6 5.cxd8Q+-) **4.Qh3+ Rd7 5.Qh8+ Kb7 6.c8Q(B)+ Nxc8 7.Qh1+ Rd5 8.Qxd5#.**

Linear study with a beautiful model mate with four active self-blocks. All the pieces participating in the construction of the matte picture came to their places during the game.

#### Igor Yarmonov & Alexander Zhukov (Ukraine-Russia) 3rd Honorable Mention

**1.Bxe4! Qe6 2.Bxb7+ Ka7 3.Nc6+ Bxc6** (3...Kxb7 4.Nd8+-; 3...Kb6 4.Bf2+ Kb5 5.Nd4+-) **4.Bc8+ Bd7 5.Rxd7+ Kb8 6.Rb7+ Kxc8 7.d7+ Kxb7** (7...Qxd7 8.Rb8# mate) **8.d8N+ Kc8 9.Nxe6 +-.**

A combinational study with a clear motivation for moves and a harmonious interaction of white pieces.

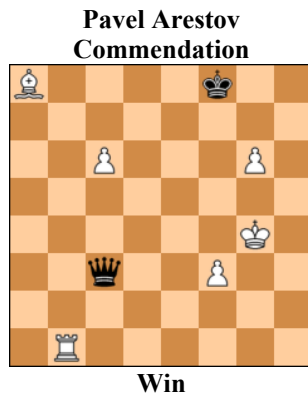
#### Igor Yarmonov (Ukraine) Sp. Honorable Mention

**1.Qxd3!** The white queen throws herself on the altar of slaughter! [Try: 1.e3+? Ke1/g1 2.Rd1+ Kf2 3.Qxd3 Rxb4+ 4.cxb4 Nb6+ 5.Ka5 Nc4+ 6.Ka6 Qd6+ 7.Ka7 Qb6+ checks continuos] **1...Rxb4+! 2.cxb4 Nb6+ 3.Ka5!** (3.Kb5?? dxe4+-) **3...Nc4+! 4.Bxc4** (4.Ka4? Nb6+ 5.Ka5 Nc4+ is loss of time) **4...dxe4+!** (4...dxc4+ 5.Ka6 cxd3 6.Nc4!+-) **5.Bb5! exd3 6.Nc4! Qxe2 Domination** (6...Qd5/f5 7.e4+-; or 6...Qd4/f4 7.e3+-; or 6...Qe4 7.exd3+-) **7.Rxe2+ dxe2 8.Ne5 Be8** (8...e1Q 9.Nd3+ Ke2 10.Nxe1+ Kxe1 11.Bc4!+-) **9.Bxe8 Ke3 10.Nf3! Kxf3 11.Bxh5+ Kf2 12.Bxe2+-.**

A romantic study in which the black queen falls under the dominance in the center of the board. The sacred meaning of the author's commentary on the first move can be understood as follows: "The white queen desperately rushes into the thick of bloody events, she is ready to perish herself, but to strangle the black queen." Romantic plot. And at the same time, very vital. Both die. But the attack on the first move on the black king leads to eternal persecution and wanderings of the white king. (The eternal tragedy of King Lear).

Well, the final of the chess play is quite optimistic for White – they will have a new queen!

## Commendations on an equal footing



### Pavel Arestov (Russia) Commendation

**1.Rb8+!** (1...c7? Qxc7 2.Rb8+?? Qxb8 -) **1...Kg7!** (1...Ke7 2.c7! Qxc7 3.Rb7+-) **2.c7! Qc4+!** Play for stalemate. (2...Qd4+ 3.Be4! Qd7+ 4.Kh5! Qh3+ 5.Kg5 Qg3+ 6.Kf5+-) **3.Be4!** (3.f4? Qe6+! 4.Kf3 Qh3+ 5.Ke4 (5.Ke2 Qh2+! 6.Kb3 Qg3+! 7.Ke4 Qxg6+=) 5...Qh1+! 6.Ke5 Qa1+! 7.Kf5 Qf6+ 8.Ke4 Qxg6+=) **3...Qxc7 4.Rb7 Kh6!** (4...Qxb7 5.cxb7+-) **5.g7!** (5.Rxc7? – stalemate.) **5...Qd7+!** **6.Kg3!** (6.Rxd7? – stalemate; 6.Kh4? Qg4+! 7.Kxg4 – stalemate.) **6...Qd6+** (6...Qd1 7.g8N+! Kh5 8.Rh7+ Kg5 9.f4#; 6...Qg4+!? 7.fxg4! +-) **7.Kh3!** (7.Kg2? Qd2(Qd8)+=; 7.Kg4? Qe6+! =) **7...Qd8** (7...Qe6+ 8.Kg2! Qe8 9.Re7!! Qxe7 10.g8Q(g8N)+-) **8.Re7!!** (8.Rc7? Qh4(Qg5)+ 9.Kg2 Qg5+=) **8...Qxe7!** Play for stalemate. (8...Qd1 9.g8N+! Kg5 10.Rg7(Re5)+ Kf4 11.Rf7+ Ke3 12.Nf6+-) **9.g8N+!** [Try: 9.g8Q? Qh4+! 10.Kg2 (10.Kxh4 – stalemate) 10...Qg4+! 11.Qxg4(fxg4) – stalemate.] **9...Kg5 10.Nxe7**, win.

Passed pawns supported by pieces represent a real danger. Black's chances are related to counterplay on stalemate. However, White avoids numerous stalemate traps, lures the queen to the fateful square with the sacrifice of the rook, and the fight ends with the final fork with the new-born knight.

### Ilham Aliev (Azerbaiján) Commendation

**1.Rf3+!** (1.Rb7+? Ne7 2.Rxe7+ Kxe7=; 1.Qb1? Qxh7+ 2.Qxh7 Bxh7 3.Kxh7 Nxc7=) **1...Nef4** (1...Qxf3 2.hxg8Q+ Ke7 3.Qxe6+ Kxe6 4.g8Q+-; 1...Ke7 2.Qa3+ Kd7 3.Rh3+-; 1...Ke8 2.Qb8+ Ke7 3.Qa7+ Kd6 4.Qa3+ Kd7 5.Rh3+-; 1...Ndf4 2.Qb7+ Kf6 (2...Kg6 3.Rg3+; 2...Ke8 3.Kxg8) 3.Rxf4+-) **2.Rxf4+!** (2.Qb7+? Kg6 3.Qc6+ Kg5 4.Rg3+ Kf5 5.Qc8+ Be6 6.Qc2+ Kf6 7.Qc5 Qh4 8.Qf8+ Ke5 9.Qb8+ Kf5 10.Qb1+ Kf6 11.Qb2+ Ke7 12.Qb7+ Kf6 13.g8Q Bxg8 14.Qg7+ Ke6 15.Qxg8+ Kf5 16.Qc8+ Ke5 17.Rg7 Qf6=) **2...Nxf4 3.Qb7+!** [3.Qa2+? Ne6! (3...Nd5? 4.Qxd5+! Qxd5 5.hxg8Q+)] **3...Qxb7 4.hxg8Q+ Kf6 5.Qd8+!** (5.Qf8+? Kg5! 6.Qd8+ Kh5 7.Qe8+ Kh6 8.g8N+ Kg5 9.Qe5+ Kg4=) **5...Kf5** (5...Ke5 6.g8Q+-) **6.Qa5+!** (6.g8Q? Ng6+ 7.Qxg6+ Kxg6=) **6...Kf6 7.Qc3+!** (not 7.g8Q? because of 7...Ng6+ 8.Qxg6+ Kxg6+-; 7.Qa1+? Kf5!) **7...Kf5 8.Qc2+!** (not 8.g8Q? because 8...Ng6+ 9.Qxg6+ Kxg6=) **8...Kf6 9.g8Q** and after the white queen's maneuver to "c2" there is no move Ng6+. **9...Qh1+** (9...Qe7 10.Qf2 Qe5 11.Qg7+-) **10.Qch7+-** [10.Qgh7 waste of time 10...Qa8+].+

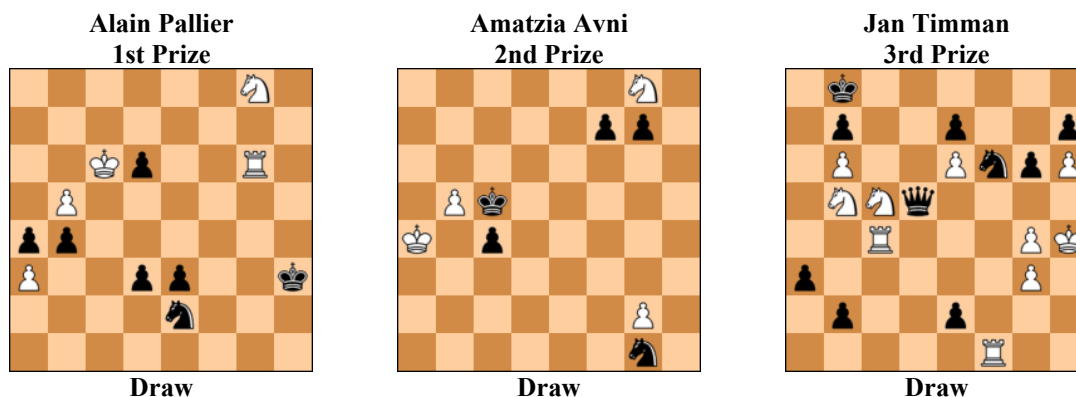
In the initial position White is under threat of mate. They need to act decisively but discreetly. First, White carries out an exchange operation to open the lines. Then, by sacrificing the queen on the b7-square, the black queen is distracted and thus unpin the h7-pawn. As a result of accurate play, White gets two new queens for the sacrificed queen and a material advantage sufficient to win.

### Valery Kalashnikov (Russia) Commendation

**1.Nb5+!** (Prematurely 1.Rxf5? Bxd4 2.Nxd4 Rxd4=; 1.Ne6+? Kd6 2.Rxf5 Kxe6=; 1.Rg7+?! Bxg7 2.Rxg7+ Kb8 3.Rg8+ Ka7 4.Kb2 Bxb3=) **1...Bxb5 2.Rxf5 Bh4 3.Rg7+ Kb6 4.Rg6+ Rc6** (4...Bc6 5.Na5 Rc3 6.Kb2 Rc5 7.Rxc5+-) **5.Rxb5+!** (5.Rxc6+? Bxc6=) **5...Kxb5 6.Nd4+-**.

A short combinational study. In the initial position White has a material advantage sufficient to win, but two of his pieces are under attack. The first move of the solution looks like a sacrifice of a doomed piece. In fact, this is a temporary sacrifice, the purpose of which is to attract the black bishop to the dangerous square. After White's second move, two black bishops are already attacked by the rook. A few moves later, the piece is played back with the exchange of a pair of rooks. The status quo has been restored: a rook advantage guarantees White a victory. The study can be used in the educational process for the development of combination vision.

## Section B.2.: Studies – Draw



### Alain Pallier (France) 1st Prize

**1.b6** (1.Rxd6? Ng3! 2.b6 e2 3.b7 e1Q 4.b8Q bxa3+- eg 5.Qc8+ Kg2 6.Kd7 a2 7.Qc6+ Ne4 8.Rg6+ Kf1 9.Nf6 a1Q+!) **1...Nd4+ 2.Kd7!** (2.Kc7? d2 2.b7 d1Q 3.Rh6+ Kg2-+) **2...e2 3.b7 d2** (3...e1Q 4.b8Q d2 5.Qa8 Qf1 and, eg, 6.Rh6+ Kg3 7.Rg6+=) **4.b8Q d1Q 5.Qa8!!** **Logical try:** 5.Rh6+? Kg2 6.Rg6+ (6.Qa8+? Nf3-+) 6...Kf2! (6...Kf3? 7.Qf8+ Ke3 8.Rg4! Kd3 9.Qxd6 e1Q 10.Rxd4+ Kc2 and, eg, 11.Nf6 Qf3 12.Rc4+ Kb3 13.Rxb4+=) 7.Rf6+ Nf3 8.Nh6 e1Q 9.Ng4+ Ke2 10.Re6+ **Ne5+!** 11.Nxe5 dxe5+ with (double) countercheck and Black wins. **Thematic try-1:** 5.Qf8? e1Q 6.Rh6+ **Qh4!** (but not 6...Kg2? 7.Rg6+ Qg3 8.Rxg3+ Kxg3 9.Qxd6+ and 10.Qxb4=) 7.Rxh4+ Kxh4 8.Qf2+ Kh3 9.Nf6 bxa3 ... and Black wins. **Other tries:** -5.Qb7? d5! 6.Rh6+ (6.Kd8 e1Q 7.Qd7+ Kh4/Ne6+-) 6...Kg2! 7.Qb8 e1Q 8.Qh2+ Kf1 and black King escapes. -5.Nf6? e1Q 6.Qh8+ Qh4 7.Rh6 Qe1 8.axb4 a3 9.Rxh4+ Qxh4+-. **5...d5** Explaining why promoting d-pawn was stronger than promoting e-pawn. Now 6.Qxd5? Nf3 and White queen is pinned. **6.Rh6+!** **Thematic try-2:** And not, again, 6.Qf8? e1Q 7.Rh6+ **Kg2!** (with a different refutation now: not 7...Qh4? – as after 5.Qf8? (in TT-1) – 8.Rxh4+ Kxh4 9.Qxb4=, a move that was impossible with bpd6. Theme: *Change of false refutation*) 8.Rg6+ Qg3 9.Rxg3+ Kxg3 10.Qd6+ Kh3-+. **6...Kg2 7.Rg6+** (7.Qxd5+? Nf3!-+) **7...Kf2 8.Qf8+ Nf3** (8...Ke3 9.Rg3+! Kd2 10.Qxb4+ Kc1 11.Rg2! Nb3 12.Qf4+! Nd2 13.Rxe2 Qxe2 14.Qxa4=) **9.Nh6!! e1Q 10.Ng4+ Kf1** [main 10...Ke2 11.Re6+! Kd3 (not 11...Ne5+??) 12.Rxe1! Qxe1 13.Qxf3+!=, (or 11...Kd2 12.Qf4+ Kc2 13.Ne3+=)] **11.Nh2+ Kf2** (11...Ke2 12.Nxf3=) **12.Ng4+!** (12.Nxf3? Qxf3 13.Rf6 Qe4 14.Rxf3+ Qxf3 15.Qxb4 Qe4 and Black wins) **12...Kf1 13.Nh2+=** positional draw.

A very deep and clever study. To explain the cause-and-effect relationships of events taking place on the board, it is necessary to involve a difference-analysis.

In the main variation White carries out a logical maneuver, the purpose of which is to move the black pawn from the d6-square to d5, and the motivation is to remove control over the e5-square (the critical  $\Delta$ -factor of the difference  $\Delta$ : pd6-d5). This deprives Black of the possibility of defending against the rook check by Ne5+, as it was in the logical try, and a draw becomes inevitable (*decisive* difference of the d6-pawn). Foresight effect on 5 moves ahead.

The two thematic tries TT-1 and TT-2 are connected by *changing the false refutation of the tries*. In this case a deeper analysis is required. White manages the difference of the d-pawn. And Black in every try has the choice of defence against the check with the rook (Qh4 or Kg2), which leads to the king's difference  $\Delta 1$ : Kh4-g3, managed by Black. With pd6 only Kh4 is correct: the critical  $\Delta$ -factor of the difference  $\Delta 1$  – the capture of the d-pawn by the queen occurs without a check. With pd5 only Kg3 is correct: the critical  $\Delta$ -factor of the difference  $\Delta 1$  – the capture of the b-pawn by the queen occurs without pinning the knight d4. In this case, the difference of the d6-pawn is *significant*, and the difference of the king is *decisive*.

The implementation of such a complex theme is a rare success, and organic synthesis with the logical effect of foresight is the highest class! Bravo, Alain!

### Amatzia Avni (Israel) 2nd Prize

The white knight has 3 flight squares; a different square will be chosen in three variations.

**1.b6** (1.Ne7 Ne2 2.b6 Kxb6 3.Kb4 c3-+) **1...Kxb6 2.Kb4** and branching. **A) 2...Ne2 3.Kxc4 Nf4** (3...Kc6 4.Ne7+) **4.Ne7!**= (4.g3? Ng6-+), or **2...Kc6 3.Kxc4** (3.Ne7+? Kd6 4.Nf5+ Ke5 5.Ne3 Kd4 6.Nxc4 f5-+) **3...Kd7 4.Kd3** with two variants: **B) 4...Ke8 5.Ke3 Kf8 6.Nf6! gxf6 7.Kf2=**. **C) 4...f5 5.Ke3 Ke6 6.Kf2 Kf7 7.Nh6+! gxf6 8.Kxg1=**. Theme: **change of critical square**

The theme of *change the critical square* is presented in an elegant, crystal-clear form. In each variant, the choice of the square for the white knight has its own original motivation and is in no way connected with any tries. A valuable finding!

### Jan Timman (Netherlands) 3rd Prize

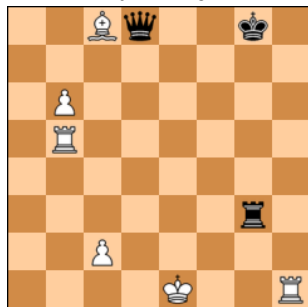
**1.Nd7+!** (Try: 1.Rxf6? g5+ 2.Kh5 Qh1+ 3.Kxg5 exf6+ 4.Kxf6 Qxh6-+) **1...Nxd7 2.exd7 g5+ 3.Kh5 Qg8 4.Rf8+!** (4.Rc8+? Qxc8 5.dxc8Q+ Kxc8 6.Rg1 a2!-+) **4...Qxf8 5.Nd6 exd6 6.Rc8+ Qxc8 7.d8Q b1N!** (7...Qxd8= stalemate) **8.Qxd6+ Ka8 9.Qe5!** (Try: 9.Qd8? Qb8! 10.Qe7 a2 11.Qe5 (11.Qb4 Qe8+ 12.Kxg5 e1Q-+) 11...e1B!-+; or 9.Qb4? Qe8+ 10.Kxg5 e1Q-+) **9...e1B** (9...Qg8 10.Qa5+=) **10.Qxe1 Nc3** (10...Nd2 11.Qxd2 Qe8+ 12.Kxg5 Qg6+ (12...Qe7+ 13.Kh5) 13.Kh4=) **11.Qe7!** (11.Qe5? Nd5! 12.Qxd5 Qe8+ 13.Kxg5 Qg6+ 14.Kf4 Qxh6+ 15.g5 Qxb6-+) **11...Nb5** (11...Na4 12.Qxa3 Qe8+ 13.Kxg5 Qg6+ 14.Kf4 Qxh6+ 15.g5=) **12.Qd8!** (12.Qe4? Qc6! (12...a2? 13.Qa4+ Kb8 14.Qxb5 a1Q (14...a1B 15.Qxg5-) 15.Qe5+ Qxe5=) 13.Qxh7 Qe8-+; 12.Qf7? Nd6!-+) With two variants:

**A) 12...Qb8 13.Qd7 a2 14.Qxb5 a1Q 15.Qa5+ Qa7 16.bxa7 Qxa5=** stalemate.

**B) 12...Kb8 13.Qe7 a2 14.Qe5+ Ka8 15.Qxb5 Qe6** (15...a1Q 16.Qa5+ Qxa5= stalemate) **16.Qa5+!** (16.Qa4+? Kb8 17.Qa7+ Kc8 18.Qa8+ Kd7 19.Qxb7+ Kd6-+) **16...Kb8 17.Qe5+! Qxe5=** stalemate.

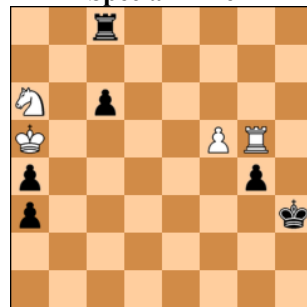
A large-scale study with mutual sacrifices, promotion of minor pieces and beautiful geometry. The inventive struggle on both sides ends with a stalemate in two thematic variations.

### Michal Hlinka & Mario García 4th Prize



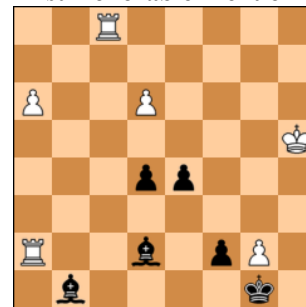
Draw

### David Gurgenzidze & Vladislav Tarasiuk Special Prize



Draw

### Andrzej Jasik 1st Honorable Mention



Draw

### Michal Hlinka & Mario García (Slovakia-Argentina) 4th Prize

**1.Be6+! Kg7 2.Be4!** (2.Rd5? Qe8! (2...Qxb6? 3.Rd7+ Kg6 4.Bf7+=) 3.Rd7+ Kg6!-+) **2...Qd4 3.Rbh5 Qxc4 4.Rh7+ Kf8 5.Rh8+ Ke7 6.R1h7+!** (6.R8h7+? Kd8 7.Rh8+ Rg8 8.Rxg8+ Qxg8-+) **6...Kf6 7.Rh6+ Kf7** (7...Kf5 8.Rh5+ Kf4 9.Rh4+ Rg4 10.b7 Qb4+ 11.Kd1 Qxb7 12.Rxg4 /Rf8+.Kxg4 13.Rg8+ Kf3 (13...Kf5 14.Kc1!)=) 14.Rf8+ Ke3 15.Re8+=; 7...Rg6 8.b7!)=) **8.R8h7+!** (Thematic try: 8.R6h7+? Rg7! 9.b7 (9.Rxg7+ Kxg7 10.Rh2 Qe6+! position X 11.Kd1 Qf6! 12.Re2 Qa1+ 13.Kd2 Qd4+ 14.Kc1 Qg1+ 15.Kd2 Qxb6 16.Re4 Qa5+ 17.Kc1 Qa1+ 18.Kd2 Qa3!-+) 9...Qb4+ 10.Kd1 Qb1+ 11.Kd2 Qxb7 12.Kc1 Qf3 13.Rxg7+ Kxg7 14.Rb8 Qf4-+) **8...Rg7 9.b7!!** (Try: 9.Kd2? Qf4+ 10.Kc3 Qe5+ 11.Kd2 (11.Kb3 Rxh7 12.Rxh7+ Kg6 13.Rc7 Qb5+ 14.Kc3 Qa5+ 15.Kd3 Qxb6-+) 11...Qg5+ 12.Kc3 (12.Kd1 Qg1+ 13.Kd2 Rxh7 14.Rxh7+ Kg6-+) 12...Ke8-+, or 9.Rxg7+? Kxg7 10.Rh2 Qe6-+ position X) **9...Qb4+ 10.Kd1 Qb1+ 11.Kd2 Qxb7 12.Kc1!** (12.Rxg7+? Kxg7 13.Rh3 Qg2-+) **12...Qg2 13.Rxg7+ Kxg7 14.Rd6!** (14.Rh5? Kg6! 15.Ra5 (15.Rb5 Qf1-+) 15...Qg1+ 16.Kb2 Qb6-+) **14...Qg5+ 15.Kb1 Qg1+ 16.Kb2=** positional draw.

An easy, "airy" starting position, but difficult for White. With material equality, blacks created real threats. Losses are inevitable. White needs to consolidate his forces and create counter threats. White succeeds in this. The final positional draw, of course, is not the center of the study or the culmination of the solution. White's play is based on the well-known theoretical endings Q vs R + p. In the thematic try, the white rook turned out to be on the wrong horizontal and quickly dies. Only an accurate choice of the move in a critical position allows White to get a draw in the final theoretical position.

The game in this study is very similar to the grandmaster game in a real practical endgame.

### David Gurgeniuz & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Georgia -Ukraine) Special Prize

An interesting study, originally conceived as a simple logical one, but then turned “from an ugly duckling into a beautiful white swan”. However, the author's presentation of the solution does not fully disclose its content. Here is my version of the presentation of the content of the study.

**1.Rh5+!** (1.Nb4? Ra8+ 2.Kb6 g3→) **1...Kg2 2.Rh4 Rg8!** (2...Kf3 3.Rh2 g3 (3...Rf8 4.Ra2 Rxf5+ 5.Kxa4 g3 6.Rxa3+=) 4.Ra2 g2 5.Rxa3+ Kf2 6.Ra2+=) **3.Nb4 Ra8+ 4.Kb6** (4.Na6? Kf3 5.f6 a2 6.Rh1 g3→) **4...Rb8+ 5.Ka5!** (Try: 5.Kc5? Rb5+! 6.Kc4 g3 7.Rf4 Rxb4+! 8.Kxb4 a2→).

**A. 5...Rxb4 6.Kxb4 a2 7.Rxg4+ Kf2 8.Rf4+ Ke2 9.Re4+ Kd2 10.Rd4+ Kc2 11.Rc4+ Kb2 12.Rf4(h4) c5+! 13.Kc4! a1Q 14.Rf2+ Ka3 15.Rf3+ draw.** No move 15...Ka4. For this reason, black carries out logical maneuver, the purpose of which is to drop a pawn, and the motivation is to free the a4-square.

**B. 5...Rb5+!! 6.Kxa4 Rxb4+ 7.Kxb4 a2 8.Rxg4+ Kf2 9.Rf4+ Ke2 10.Re4+ Kd2 11.Rd4+ Kc2 12.Rc4+ Kb2 13.Rf4! c5+!** Now the continuation 14.Kc4, which was a solution in line A, becomes here a **Thematic try:** 14.Kc4? a1Q 15.Rf2+ Ka3 16.Rf3+ Ka4→. But it is thanks to the pawn sacrifice that White has a new opportunity! Change of solution! **14.Kb5!! a1Q 15.f6 Qa7 16.Rf2+! Kc3 17.f7 Qb8+ 18.Kxc5 Qa7+ 19.Kd6 Qxf2 20.Ke7 draw.**

In their presentation of the study, the authors use the expression “change of plan”, but this term is ‘patented’ by F.M. Simkhovich in 1938 as the name of the study theme. In this study there is no such theme. In this study the theme of *change of solution* is very vividly and convincingly realized.

A weak dual on the 12th move in variation A does not affect either the course of the struggle or the assessment of the study.

### Andrzej Jasik (Poland) 1st Honorable Mention

**1.Rc1+!** (1.Rf8? Bxa2 2.d7 Ba5 3.a7 Bd5→) **1...Bxc1 2.Rxf2! e3! 3.Re2!** (3.Rf8? e2 4.d7 e1Q 5.d8Q Qe5+ 6.Kh4 Bd2→) **3...d3 4.Re1+ Kh2! 5.d7** (5.a7? d2 6.a8Q dxe1Q→) **5...d2 6.Rh1+! Kxh1 7.d8Q Bc2 8.a7 d1Q+ 9.Qxd1+ Bxd1+ 10.Kh4! e2 11.a8Q** (11.g3? Be3 12.a8Q+ Kh2 13.Qe4 Bf2→) **11...e1Q+ 12.g3+ Kg1 13.Qg2+! Kxg2=** Stalemate.

A linear study in which a sharp game with sacrifices leads to a very beautiful stalemate position with a pinned pawn. It is noteworthy that in the final all the pieces took their places during the game.



### Poul Rewitz (Denmark) 2nd Honorable Mention

**1.b7 Nc6** [1...Rb4 2.Be4!= dominates the knight and black can't win, e.g.: 2...Bb3 3.Rg1 Nd5 (3...Rb5 4.Rh1 Nd5 5.Bxd5 Bxd5 6.Rh5!) 4.Bxd5 Bxd5 5.Rg4! Rxb7 6.Rxa4+! Kxa4 stalemate; 1...Rd8 2.Be4!= e.g.: 2...Bb3 3.Rc1 Re8 4.Rc3 Nd5 5.b8Q Rxb8 6.Bxd5 Re8 7.Kb1! Kb4 8.Bxb3! Kxc3 9.Bf7! (or 9.Bd5!; 9.Bxa4? Rb8+→)] **2.b8Q!/b8R/b8B** (2.Rh8? Rd8→; 2.Rh6? Nb8→) **2...Nxb8 3.Rh8 Rd8 4.Bh7 Rd1+** [4...Nc6 5.Rxg8 Rd1+ 6.Bb1 Nd4 7.Rg3+ Nb3+ 8.Rxb3+ axb3 stalemate (8...Kxb3 stalemate)] **5.Bb1 Rg1 6.Rh1! Rg4** (6...Rxb1 stalemate; 6...Rg2 7.Rg1! Bd5 (7...Rxg1 stalemate) 8.Rxg2 Bxg2 9.Be4! Bf1 (9...Bxe4 stalemate) 10.Bd3! Bh3 11.Bf5! Bxf5 stalemate) **7.Rg1! Be6** (7...Rxg1 stalemate) **8.Rxg4 Bxg4 9.Bf5! Bh5** (9...Bxf5 stalemate) **10.Bg6! Bf3 11.Be4! Bd1 12.Bc2! Be2 13.Bd3! Bxd3** stalemate.

Easy starting position, play covers all the chess board. In the main line, you can find various interesting elements: stalemate, checkmate, domination, pinning, sacrifices, persecution. A pleasant study for solving! Successful processing of an idea encountered in one of the author's games

([http:// view.chessbase.com/cbreader/2020/5/3/ Game129233578.html](http://view.chessbase.com/cbreader/2020/5/3/ Game129233578.html)).



### Pavel Arestov & Petr Kiryakov 3rd Honorable Mention

**1.Re8+**! (1.Rc8? Rg3+ 2.Kh6 (2.Kf4 Bd6#) 2...Bc1+ 3.Kxh7 Be4+ 4.Kh8 Bb2-) **1...Be7+**! (1...Bxe8 2.g8Q+ Bf7 3.Qc8+=) **2.Kg4!** (Try: 2.Kf4? Rf3+! **Black Bc6** (2...Rxx4+ 3.Kg3 – main line) 3.Kg4 h5+! 4.Kxh5 Bxe8-+; 2.Rxe7+? Kxe7 3.g8Q Rg3-) **2...Bd7!!** (2...Rxx4+ 3.Kg3=) **3.Kf4!** (Try: 3.Kxx3? **white Kh3** 3...Kf7+! 4.K~ Bxe8-; 3.g8Q+? Ke5+! 4.Kh5 Rxx4#) **3...Rxx4+** (3...Rf3+? 4.Kxf3, **black Bd7!** =) **4.Kg3!** (4.Kf3? Bxe8! (4...Rg4? 5.Kxxg4 – main line) 5.g8Q+ Bf7-) **4...Rg4+**! (4...Bxe8 5.g8Q+ Bf7 6.Qc8+=, no 6...Kf6 7.Kxx4) **5.Kxxg4 white Kg4!** **5...Kf7+**! **6.Kh5 Bxe8 7.Kh6 Bc6** (7...Kg8 – stalemate №1) **8.Kxx7 Be4+ 9.Kh8 Bf6** – stalemate №2.

In the initial position Black has two extra bishops and all White's hopes are connected with the passed pawn g7. Bypassing tries, making accurate moves, White does not risk losing after the 6th move. In the final of the battle, Black saves by putting a stalemate on White.

### Pavel Arestov (Russia) Sp. Honorable Mention

**1.e4!** (1.Kf7(Kf6)? Bc6! 2.e3 (2.e4 Rxe4+) 2...Kb4! 3.Bg4 Kc5 4.d7 Rh8! 5.Ke7 Rh7-) **1...Bc6!** (1...Bxe4 2.Kf6(Bg4)=; 1...Rxe4 2.Bf3! Ra4 3.d7=) **2.Bg4!!** (Try: 2.Bh5? Re6!! (2...Rxe4? 3.Bf3! – main line; 2...Re5? 3.Bf7! Rxe4 4.Bd5! – main line) 3.Bf7 Rxd6-; 2.Kf7? Rxe4! 3.Bf3 Rf4(Bd5)-) **2...Rxe4** (2...Bxe4 3.Kf6(d7)=; 2...Kb4 3.e5 Kc5 4.Bg4 Rxe5 5.d7=) **3.Bf3! Rc4! 4.Bd5!!** (4.Bxc6? Rxc6 5.d7 Rd6(Rc7)-) **4...Bxd5** (4...Rc3 5.Kf8! Bxd5 6.d7=; 4...Rc5 5.Be6! Re5 6.Kf7=) **5.d7 Rc7 6.Kh8! Rxd7** – stalemate.

The game in this miniature with an “airy” starting position, with a wonderful (!) opening move and elegant play ends with a well-known stalemate in the corner of the board.

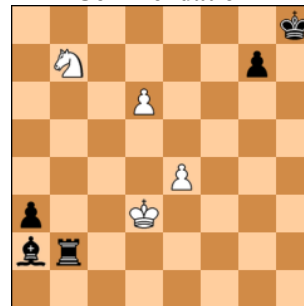
## Commendations on an equal footing

### Michael Pasman Commendation



Draw

### Luboš Kekely & Michal Hlinka Commendation



Draw

### Michael Pasman (Israel) Commendation

**1.c7+**! (1.Nd7+? Ka8! 2.Nf6 Nc8+ 3.Ka5 (3.Kb5 Qe2+) 3...Qxc5-) **1...Ka8** (1...Kc8 2.Nc4 Kd7 3.c6+! Nxc6 4.c8Q+! Kxc8 5.e8Q+ Qxe8 6.Nd6+=) **2.Nc4!! Nc8+** (2...Qe8 3.Nd6 Qc6+ (3...Nc8+ 4.Nxc8 Qxc8 5.c6! also positional draw) 4.Ka5 Qxc5+ (4...Qxc7+ 5.Ka4) 5.Ka4 Qc2+ 6.Ka5 Qxc7+ 7.Ka4 Qc6+ 8.Kb3 Qd5+ 9.Kb2 Qd4+ 10.Kb1=) **3.Ka6 Qe2!** (3...Qg6+ 4.Nb6+ Nxb6 5.e8Q+! (5.cxb6? Qd3+ 6.Ka5 Qd2+ 7.Ka6 Qe2+ 8.Ka5 Kb7-) 5...Qxe8 6.Kxb6! = as main line. 3...f3? 4.Nb6+ Nxb6 5.cxb6+-. 3...Qf7 for example 4.e8Q the same (4.Nb6+ Nxb6 5.Kxb6 Qb3+ 6.Ka5 Qe6 7.e8Q+ Qxe8 8.Kb6) 4...Qxe8=. 3...Qe8 4.Nb6+ Nxb6 5.Kxb6! =.) **4.e8Q!! Qxe8 5.Nb6+! Nxb6 6.Kxb6! Qf8!** (6...Qe6+ 7.c6! Qe3+ 8.Kb5! Qe5+ 9.Kb6 Qd4+ 10.Kb5! Black cannot improve his position – positional draw) **7.Be1!!** The only defence. (**Thematic try:** 7.Bf2? f3! Now White is in zz 8.c6 (8.Ka6 Qf6+ 9.Kb5 Kb7) 8...Qb4+ 9.Ka6 Qa4+ 10.Kb6 Qa7+ 11.Kb5 Qxc7-+; or 7.Bd8 Qf5! 8.Bh4 Qb1+ 9.Kc6 Qe4+ 10.Kb6 Qb7-+; or 7.c6? Qb4+ 8.Ka6 Qa4+ 9.Kb6 Qa7+ 10.Kb5 Qxc7-) **7...f3** (7...Qf5 8.c6! =) **8.Bf2!** Black in zz **8...Qf6+** (8...Qf5/g8 9.c6=) **9.c6 Qf5 10.Ka6! Qc8+ 11.Kb6! Qf5 12.Ka6=**. Positional Draw.

Interesting handling of 7-man mutual zugzwang position! But, unfortunately, the distance from the critical position (after 6... Qf8!) to the positions of mutual zugzwang in the solution and in the thematic try is too short, there is no foresight effect.

### Luboš Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia) Commendation

**1.d7 Bb1+ 2.Kc3** (2.Ke3? Rb3+ 3.Ke2 Rd3-+) **2...Rc2+ 3.Kb3** (3.Kd3? Rc7+-- battery) **3...Rd2 4.d8Q+ Rxd8 5.Nxd8 a2** (5...Bxe4 6.Nf7+=) **6.Kb2 Bxe4** (6...g5 7.Nf7+ fork 7...Kg7 8.Nxg5=) **7.Kxa2** (7.Ne6? g6! 8.Kxa2 (8.Ng5 Bd5-+) 8...Bd5-+) **7...Bd5+ 8.Kb2!** (8.Ka3? g5-+; 8.Kb1? g5 9.Kc2 g4 10.Kd3 Kg7 11.Kd4 (11.Ke3 Kg6 12.Kf4 Kh5 13.Ke5 g3-+) 11...g3 12.Ke3 g2 13.Kf2 Kf6-+) **8...g5** (8...g6 9.Kc3 Kg7 10.Kd4=) **9.Kc3 g4 10.Kd4 g3** (10...Kg7 11.Kxd5 g3 12.Ne6+ Kf6 13.Nf4=; 10...Kg8 11.Ke3=) **11.Ke3 g2** (11...Kg7 12.Ne6+! Bxe6 13.Kf3=) **12.Kf2 Kg7 13.Ne6+! Bxe6 14.Kxg2=** Draw.

After the standard introduction, the black bishop dominates over the knight. White is rescued by the exact movement of the king within the square of Black's passed pawn. Twice the white king played according to Reti (9.Kc3 and 10.Kd4), which made it possible to achieve a draw by exchanging a knight for a passed pawn.

#### Ilham Aliev Commendation



Draw

#### Pavel Arestov & Alexander Zhukov Commendation



Draw

### Ilham Aliev (Azerbaiyan) Commendation

**1.Bh6+ f4+** (1...Ke4 2.Re2+=) **2.Bxf4+! Nxf4 3.d7 Nc6 4.d8Q Nxd8 5.Rxd8 Rg1+ 6.Kh4!** (6.Kh2? Rg2+ 7.Kh1 Rg4 8.Ra8 Kf2 9.Rh8 Rg5 10.Rh7 Rf5 11.Rh6 Ng6 12.Rh7 Nh4 13.Rxh4 Kg3-+) **6...Kf3 7.Rg8! Ng6+** (7...Rxc8 stalemate) **8.Kh5** (8.Kh3? Rh1#) **8...Nf4+ 9.Kh4** (9.Kh6? Rxc8-+) **9...Ng2+** (9...Rxc8 stalemate) **10.Kh5** (10.Kh3? Rh1#) **10...Nf4+ 11.Kh4** (11.Kh6? Rxc8-+) **11...Rh1+** (11...Rxc8 stalemate) **12.Kg5 Rg1+ 13.Kh4 Rxc8** stalemate.

In the initial position Black has an extra piece, besides, both White pieces are under attack. Skillfully using tactical motives, White exchanges pawns and achieves a drawn balance of power. A well-known ending arises where Black cannot use the constrained position of the white king on the edge of the board. Black's attempts to avoid the stalemate do not succeed.

### Pavel Arestov & Alexander Zhukov (Russia) Commendation

**1.Ra1+ Kd2 2.Rd1+!!** sacrifice wR **2...Bxd1** (2...Kxd1 3.Qf1+ Kd2 4.Qf4+ Kd1 5.Qf1+=) **3.Qd3+ Ke1 4.Qe4+ Be2 5.Qh4+!** (5.Ra1+? Kf2 6.Qh4+ Ke3-+) **5...Kd2 6.Qf4+!** (6.Ra2+? Ke3!-+) **6...Kc2 7.Qa4+ Kc1 8.Ra1+ Kd2 9.Qf4+ Kd3 10.Ra3+!!** sacrifice wR **10...Qxa3** (10...Kc2 11.Qa4+= positional draw) **11.Qd6+! Ke3!!** sacrifice bQ (11...Qxd6 – stalemate №1) **12.Qxa3+ Kf2! 13.Qh3! Bf3+** (13...Rg1+ 14.Kh2=) **14.Kh2** with 2 lines:

A) **14...Rg2+ 15.Qxg2+!** sacrifice wQ (15.Kh1? Rg1+ 16.Kh2 Rh1#) **15...Bxg2** – stalemate №2.

B) **14...Rg1 15.Qg3+!** sacrifice wQ (15.Qg2+? Rxc2+!-+) **15...Rxc2** – stalemate №3.

The main content of this study is three stalemates and the numerous sacrifices of the major pieces. But these sacrifices are made in the forced play, and the stalemate positions are built without any claim to originality. In general, the game is for entertainment purposes and should appeal to solvers and to fans of external effects.

Donetsk, November 30, 2020

Judge: Eduard Eilazyan (Ukraine)