

Award for E.G. Vratnica 2013-2015

I received only eleven studies to judge. The average level is not high, even if some very famous authors have participated. I have commented every study at the tournament. I wish to thank editor Boško Milošeski for entrusting me with judging this tournament.

D1. Marco Campioli, Italy (Ke5/Kb8, win):

It is a pity that the author of this study did not point out his analysis with the main difference between 6...Qb1 and weaker 6...Qb2 move. I could have given some distinction to this study too for the author's courage to publish such elementary position with only six pieces, but I did not find sufficient artistic value.

D3. Mario Guido Garcia, Argentina (Ka1/Kf4, draw):

There are no attractive or interesting moves.

D5. Vitaliy Storchak, Russia (Kf6/Kh8, draw):

Unsound.

D7. Mario Guido Garcia, Argentina :

There is nothing interesting in this study too, except try 3.Bf2?, but insufficient for any distinction.

D8. Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely, Slovakia (Kh6/Kh8, draw, BTM):

The long and sometimes complicated and boring variations did not impressed me. Ideal stalemate at the end.

D9. Darko Hlebec, Serbia (after Ilham Aliev, Matouš JT, 2008, (Kf1/Kd3, draw)):

My compatriot friend did not manage to improve the original study, so this time without any distinction. It is better to say that the improvement costs a lot of materials and uninteresting moves.

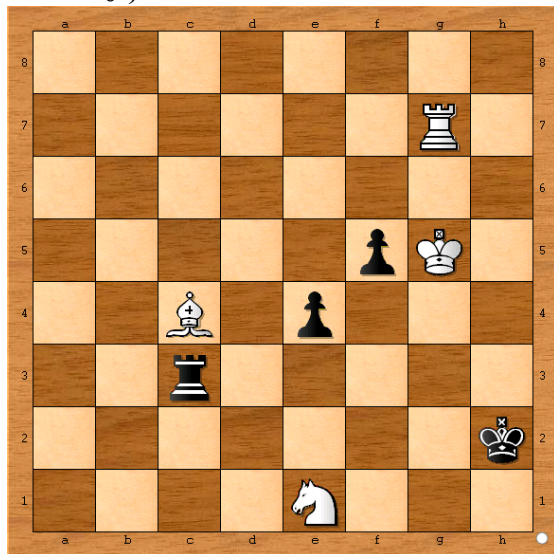
D10. Vladimir Vladimirov, Macedonia (Kd5/Kb8, draw):

The play is too forced; beginner's work.

D11. Peter S. Krug & Mario G. Garcia, Austria-Argentina (Kc7/Kc5, win):

Long play in several variations but without a clear idea.

D2. *Prize*, Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely, Slovakia

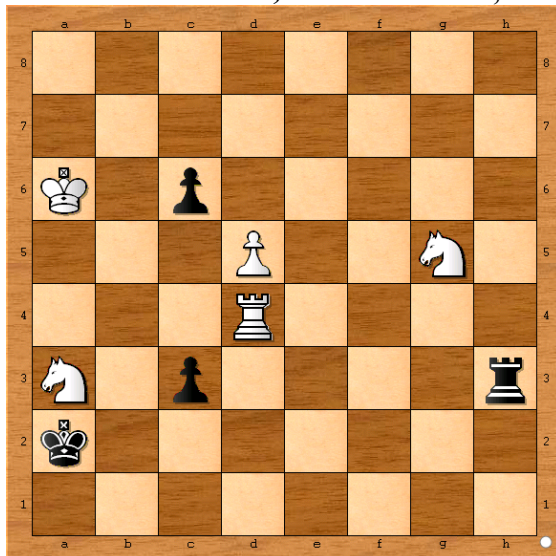


Win

1.Rh7+ [1.Bd5? Rg3+ 2.Kf6 Rxc7 3.Kxc7 Kg3 4.Kf6 Kf2=] **1...Kg1** [1...Kg3 2.Be6! Rc1 3.Rh1 f4 4.Bf5 f3 5.Rh3+ Kf2 6.Nc2 e3 7.Nd4+-] **2.Bd5! Kf1** [2...Rc1 3.Nd3!+-; 2...Rc5 3.Bb7 Kf1 4.Rh1+ Kf2 5.Kf4+-] **3.Rh1+ Ke2 4.Kxf5 Rc5!?** [4...Rc1 5.Kxe4+-] **5.Ke5!** [Thematic try 5.Kxe4? Rc1! zz 6.Bb3 Rxe1 7.Rh2+ Kf1+ 8.Kf3 Kg1 9.Rg2+ Kh1 10.Rd2 (10.Rg4 Rf1+-) 10...Rc1 11.Bd5 Kg1 12.Kg3 Kf1 13.Bg2+ Ke1=] **5...Rc1 6.Kxe4!** zz [6.Bxe4? Rxe1=] **6...Rxe1 7.Rh2+ Kd1+** [7...Kf1+ 8.Kf3 Kg1 9.Rg2+ Kh1 10.Rg4 Kh2 (10...Rf1+ 11.Ke2+-) 11.Rh4+ Kg1 12.Kg3 Kf1 13.Bf3!+-] **8.Kd3 Kc1** [8...Rg1 9.Bf3+ Kc1 10.Kc3 Rf1 11.Be2 Rg1 12.Rh8 Re1 13.Ra8+-] **9.Rc2+ Kb1 10.Ba2+! Ka1 11.Bc4!+- Rh1 12.Kc3 Rd1** [12...Rg1 13.Ra2+! Kb1 14.Rb2+ Ka1 15.Bd3 Rc1+ 16.Bc2 Rh1 17.Rb6 Rh3+ 18.Bd3] **13.Ra2+!** [13.Rf2 Rc1+ 14.Kb3 Rb1+ 15.Ka3 Rb8=] **13...Kb1 14.Rf2 Rc1+ 15.Kb3 Rd1 16.Be2 Rg1 17.Bf3 Ka1 18.Ra2+ Kb1 19.Be4+ 1-0**

Excellent mutual zugzwang, hoping that it is an original setting. It is a pity that the white knight does not play in the main variation. Surprisingly accurate play at the end of the study, especially 10th and 11th moves by bishop.

D4.Honour mention, Martin Minski, Germany:

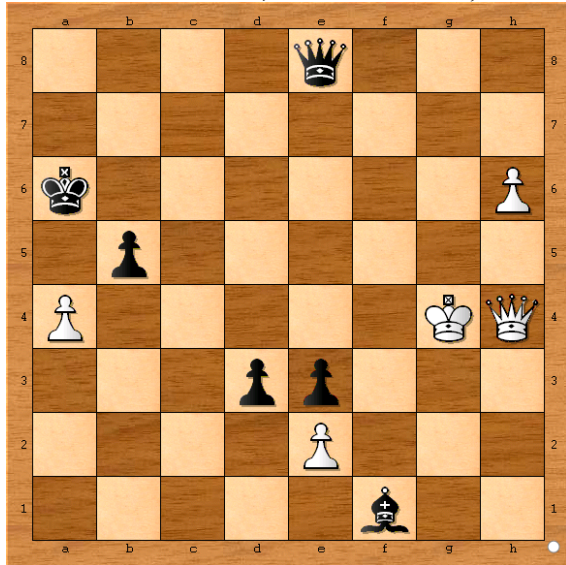


win, BTP

1...Rh6 2.d6 [2.dxc6? Rxc6+!= (2...Kxa3? 3.Rc4! Kb2 4.Nf3+- (4.Nf7+-))] **2...c5! 3.Ra4** [3.Rd3? Rxd6+ (3...c4 4.Nxc4 c2 5.Rc3 Rxd6+ 6.Nxd6 Kb1!= (6...Kb2? 7.Nge4 c1Q 8.Nc4+ Kb1 9.Ned2+-)) 4.Rxd6 Kxa3=] **3...Rxd6+ 4.Kb5 c2!** [4...Rd4 5.Nc4+ Kb1 6.Nf3 c2 7.Nfd2+ Rxd2 8.Nxd2+ Kb2 9.Nc4+ Kb1 10.Na3+-] **5.Nxc2+ Kb3 6.Ne4!** [Thematic try 6.Ne3? Rb6+! 7.Ka5 Ra6+ 8.Kxa6 Kxa4 9.Nc4 Kb4!= (9...Kb3? 10.Kb5+-) ; 6.Na1+? Kb2 7.Nf3 Rd1! 8.Ne5 Rxa1 9.Nc4+ Kb1 10.Nd2+ Kb2=] **6...Rb6+** [6...Rd8 7.Na1+! Kb2 8.Nxc5+- (8.Kxc5+-)] **7.Kxb6** [7.Ka5? Rb8 8.Na1+ Kb2 9.Nxc5 Ra8+ 10.Na6 Rh8 11.Kb5 Rh1= (11...Rh3=)] **7...Kxa4 8.Nxc5# 1-0**

Model mate at the end. Interesting play for both sides, but I do not like inaccuracy moves at several places, especially at the ending of the study. Also, I wonder why the author has decided that black starts first without a specific reason.

D6. Commendation, Pavel Arestov, Russia:



Draw

1.Qf6+ [1.h7? Qe4+ 2.Kg5 Qxh4+ 3.Kxh4 dxe2 4.h8Q e1Q+-+] **1...Ka5** [1...Kb7 2.Qg7+=]
2.Qc3+ b4! [2...Kxa4 3.Qa1+ Kb3 4.Qb1+=] **3.Qxd3** [3.Qc5+? Kxa4-+] **3...Bxe2+!** [3...Kxa4
4.h7=] **4.Qxe2 Qg6+ 5.Kf3 Qh5+ 6.Kxe3 Qxh6+ 7.Kd4!** [7.Kd3? Qa6+-+] **7...Qd6+ 8.Kc4!!**
Qa6+ 9.Kb3 Qxe2 [9...Qe6+ 10.Qxe6] ½-½

I am not too much impressed with the introductory play which leads to two stalemates for both sides, almost in the same move. This is a curiosity per se.

In Belgrade, July 2017
Judge: Branislav Djurašević

<http://www.vratnica-64.com/>