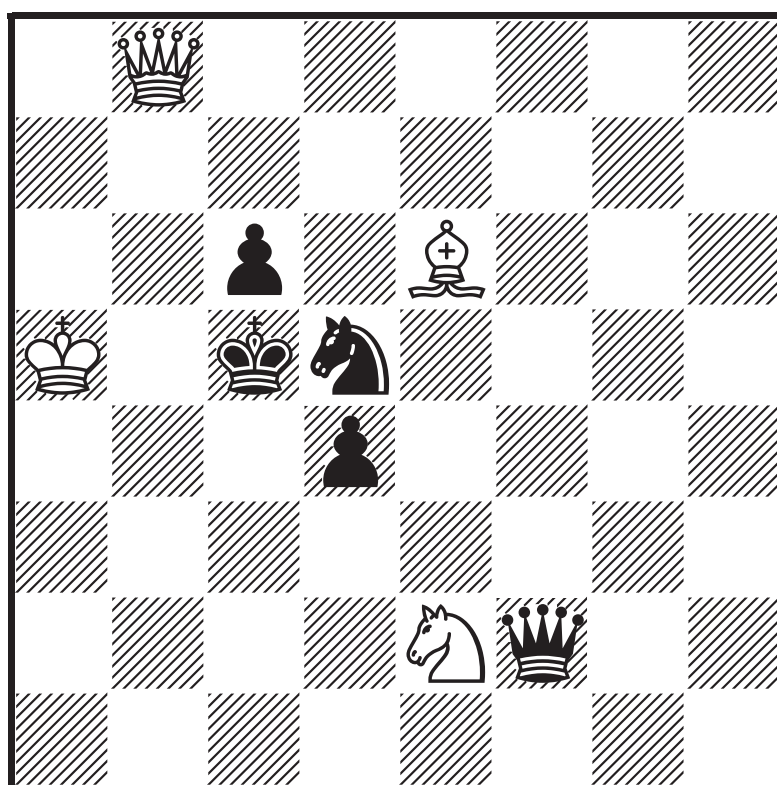


No. 210 — Vol. XXIII — OCTOBER 2017



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

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diagram on the cover: see p. 254

Editorial

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

The response to my challenge in EG209 defining an endgame study was not very good but, however, it is not at all easy to write such a definition. The example I might have used before in an editorial in EG (because it is my favourite example) is: how to define a chair? Do give it a try and then look in the dictionary. Elsewhere in this EG I elaborate on the definition of an endgame study. Any comments/corrections *et cetera*, are welcome (before December 1st; the deadline for the next issue) then I will publish our definition in Wikipedia and the ARVES website.

Another important issue was that I announced that ARVES wanted to put more issues of EG on line, but assistance was needed with respect to incorporate illustrations in the PDFs. Several readers offered to help (thank you!) but could not solve the problem we had (adding pictures to existing PDFs). I undertook to do this myself with the tools I had at my disposal, using the excellent PDFs which our technical editor, Luc Palmans, had produced directly from his desk-top publishing programs during the years (i.e. not scans). Now all issues up to EG190 (!) are available on the ARVES website www.arves.org. Unfortunately, the illustrations are only visible when one uses Acrobat PDF reader or Foxit PDF reader, and not with e.g. a browser like Microsoft Edge. I have received some very positive responses (very clear PDFs!) in my mailbox. Some people reported mistakes

and there are also some problems with older (scanned) issues of EG. Please be patient and continue to report errors and we will try and improve our EG PDF collection. “And what about Paul Valois’ index?”, ARVES’ webmaster Peter Boll asked me....

EG has a scoop! Our editor Yochanan Afek has a deadline for the long-awaited book with his collected studies. Of course, over the years some of his studies were cooked and, in an article in this EG, he corrects and considerably improves five of those.

Our editor Jaroslav Polášek runs a column with corrections and improvements of endgame studies. So far, he has published only corrections to his own studies. Quite a few composers have sent me their corrections of their own studies for publication in EG, or have sometimes sent them to Ed van de Gevel, the editor of our Originals column. Please do send such corrections/improvements to Jaroslav but please be aware that he will consider not only soundness but also the quality of a correction or improvement (the title of his column is “Quality Control”) and he may expose examples of inferior corrections. Of course, in my view, two main principles remain: 1) a version of a study from an informal tourney should be sent to the original source, and 2) a version of a study by another composer (if still alive) should have his consent.

Originals (55)

EDITOR: ED VAN DE GEVEL

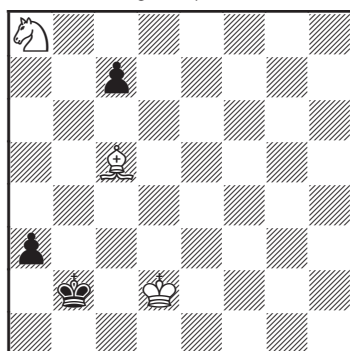
*“email submissions are preferred.”
Judge 2016-2017: Martin Minski*

For this issue, as well as for the previous one, I received studies which were in fact corrections containing no new ideas and therefore could not be called “originals”. I do appreciate the fact that correcting can be just as difficult as composing “originals”, but such corrections will not be included in this column. Composers that want to have their corrections published in **EG** should contact Jaroslav Polášek, who runs our corrections column.

Yechiel Robinson has retracted his study (**EG**206.20988). HH: Probably because he had submitted a very similar study to another tourney.

For this issue we have three studies, the first by Jurgen Kratz from Germany who wrote to me that he actually found this in an OTB game and was surprised that he could not find anticipations in HHdbIV.

No 21366 J. Kratz



d2b2 0011.02 3/3 Win

No 21366 Jurgen Kratz (Germany). 1.Kd1/i a2 2.Bd4+ Kb1 3.Ba1 c5/ii 4.Sc7/iii c4 5.Sb5 c3 6.Sa3+ Kxa1 7.Kc1 c2 8.Sxc2 mate.

i) 1.Bd4+? Kb1 2.Ba1/iv Kxa1 3.Kc2 Ka2 4.Sxc7 Ka1 draws.

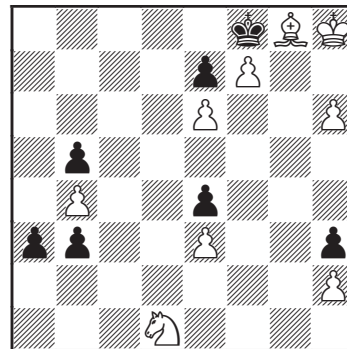
ii) Kxa1 4.Kc1 wins, but not 4.Kc2? c5 draws.

iii) 4.Sb6? c4 5.Sd5 c3 6.Sb4 c2+ 7.Sxc2 stalemate.

iv) 2.Bh8 a2 3.Ba1 c5 4.Sc7 c4 5.Sb5 c3+ draws, or 2.Kd1 c5 3.Ba1 c4 4.Sc7 c3 5.Bxc3 a2 draws.

The next study made me hesitate: is it a correction or a new version? The added switch-back and play after the promotion of the second black pawn made me decide “new version” and thus publication in this column.

No 21367 V. Samilo
after Evert-Jan van den Berg (1933)



h8f8 0011.33 6/4 Draw

No 21367 Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Sb2/i a2 2.h7 a1R 3.Sd1/ii Ra6 4.Sf2/iii b2 5.Sg4 b1Q 6.Se5 Qa1 stalemate.

i) Try: 1.h7? b2 2.Sc3 a2/iv 3.Sxa2 b1Q wins.

ii) Not 3.Sa4? bxa4 4.b5 b2 5.b6 b1Q 6.b7 Qb2 mate, nor 3.Sc4? bxc4 with a similar outcome.

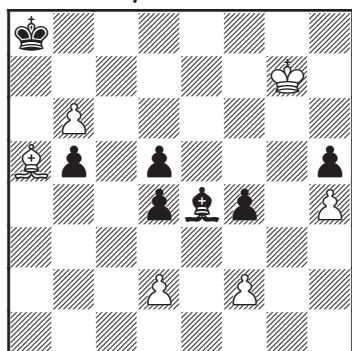
iii) 4.Sb2? Rxe6 5.Sd1 Rf6 6.Sc3 b2 7.Sd5 Rxf7 wins.

iv) b1Q? 3.Sxb1 a2 4.Sc3 a1Q stalemate.

The next study is an endgame with bishops of different colours. Black is a pawn up, so surely the stipulation will be White to draw? No it

is not, White has to win and to do so he has to find his way through a lot of complex lines.

No 21368 P. Gyarmati & M. Garcia



g7a8 0040.45 6/7 Win

No 21368 Peter Gyarmati (Hungary) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Kh6/i and now:

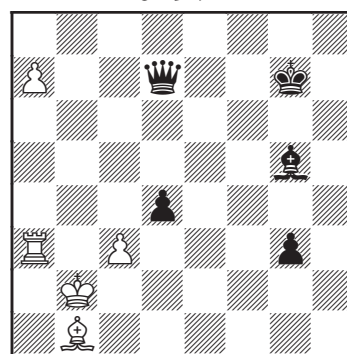
- Bf3 2.Kg5 Kb7 3.Kxf4 and now:
 - Bg2 4.Ke5/ii b4 5.Kxd4/iii Bf3 6.Kc5 b3 7.Bc3 wins, or here:
 - Bd1 4.Ke5 b4 5.Bxb4 Kxb6 6.f4 Kc6 7.Kxd4 Bc2/iv 8.Ke5 Bh7 9.f5 Kd7 10.Kf6 Ke8 (d4; d3) 11.Kg5 Kf7 12.Bc3 Ke7 13.f6+ Kf7 14.Kxh5 wins/v, or:
- Kb7 2.Kxh5 and now:
 - b4/vi 3.Bxb4 Kxb6 4.f3 (Kg4? f3;) Kb5/vii 5.Ba3/viii Bxf3+ 6.Kg5 Be4 7.Kxf4 Kc6 8.h5 Kd7 9.Ke5 wins, or here:
 - f3 3.Bb4 Kxb6 4.Kg5 Kc6 5.Kf6 d3 6.h5 d4 7.Ke5 wins.
- i) 1.Kf6? Kb7 2.Kg5 b4 3.Bxb4 Kxb6 4.Kxh5 f3 draws.
- ii) 4.Bb4? Kxb6 5.Ke5 d3 6.f4 Kc7 positional draw.
- iii) 5.Bxb4? Kxb6 6.f4 Kc7 7.f5 Kd8 8.Ke6 Ke8 9.d3 Bh3 positional draw.
- iv) Bf3 8.Ke5 Kd7 9.d4 Bg2 10.f5 Be4 11.Bd6 Bd3 12.f6 Bg6 13.Kxd5 Bf7+ 14.Kc5 wins.
- v) White will exchange his f-pawn for the Black d-pawn and win, for example: Bf5 15.Kg5 Bb1 16.h5 Bd3 17.Kf4 Ke6 18.Ke3 Be4 19.Be5 Bh7 20.Kd4 Bg8 21.h6 Bh7 22.f7 Kxf7 23.Kxd5 and wins.
- vi) f3 2.Kxh5 Kb7 3.Bb4.

vii) Bxf3+ 5.Kg5 Be4 6.Kxf4 Kb5 7.Ba3 wins.

viii) 5.Kg4? Is the try ...Kxb4 6.fxe4 dxe4 7.Kxf4 e3 8.Kf3 Kc4 9.Ke2 Kd5 draws.

For our final study we return to Germany and to Jurgen Kratz. Soon White finds himself with the task of stopping two tricky Black pawns with his Rook. Let us have a look at how the drama unfolds.

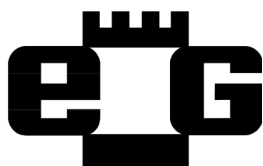
No 21369 J. Kratz



b2g7 3140.22 5/5 Win

No 21369 Jurgen Kratz (Germany). 1.a8Q dxc3+ 2.Ka1/i Bf6/ii 3.Bc2/iii Qd1+ 4.Bxd1 c2+ 5.Ka2 cxd1Q 6.Rxg3+ Kh6 (Kf7; Qg8+) 7.Rh3+/iv and now:

- Kg7 8.Qh8+ Kf7 9.Rh7+ Ke6 10.Qc8+ Ke5 11.Rh5+ wins.
- Kg6 8.Qe4+ Kf7 9.Rh7+ Kf8 10.Qa8+ Qd8 11.Rh8+ wins.
- Kg5 8.Qg2+ Kf4 9.Qf2+ Ke5 10.Rh5+ wins.
- i) 2.Kc2? Qd2+ 3.Kb3 Qb2+ 4.Kc4 Qe2+ 5.Bd3 Qe6+ 6.Kxc3 Qf6+ 7.Kc4/v Qe6+ 8.Qd5 Qxd5+ 9.Kxd5 g2 draws, or 2.Kb3? Qb5+ 3.Kxc3 Bf6+ draws, or 2.Kxc3? Bf6+ 3.Kc2 (Kc4 Qd4+;) Qf5+ draws.
- ii) c2 3.Bxc2 Qd4+/vi 4.Kb1 (Ka2? Qc4+;) Qb4+ 5.Rb3 wins.
- iii) 3.Ra7? c2+ 4.Ka2 c1S+ 5.Ka3 Be7+ 6.Kb2 Qd2+ 7.Bc2 Sd3+ draws.
- iv) 7.Qf8+? Kh5 8.Qxf6 Qb1+ 9.Ka3 Qb4+ 10.Kxb4 stalemate.
- v) 7.Kb3 Qb6+ 8.Kc2 Qf2+ draws.
- vi) Bf6+ 4.Ka2 (Kb1? Qb5+;) Qe6+ 5.Rb3 wins.



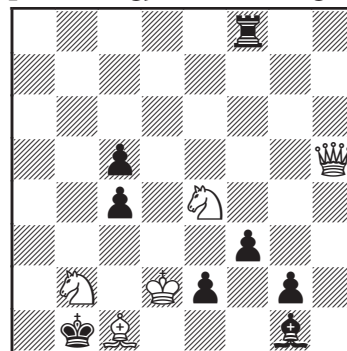
Composer Gallery

Martin Minski

BY YOCHANAN AFEK

Last June I spent an enjoyable week with Martin Minski and his charming wife Wiesława in their home in Berlin. Martin (48), happily married, is a teacher for Mathematics in Berlin and, among other hobbies, is 1st tenor in a men's choir but, however, chess and chess composition and especially the art of the endgame study is by far his greatest passion. Martin is one of the most enthusiastic composers I have ever met and I have met more than a few. He is a hard worker who would never get tired seeking an optimal form for his never-ending stream of ideas. He was an average OTB player for about 30 years (between 1980–2010) but, quite early on, became captivated by the charms of chess composition. His first problem was published in 1989 and his first endgame study in 1993. He has now composed some 450 studies out of which more than 100 have been awarded prizes, making him one of the most prolific and successful of contemporary study composers. The highlight of his competitive career was twice winning the study section of the WCCT: The 8th edition (with Gunter Sonntag) and the most recent 10th edition. He is also a co-author of two books: *Wege zu Schachstudien* (2006) with Gerhard Josten and Gerd Wilhelm Hörning, and *ASymmetrie* (2013) with Michael Schlosser. Martin has been an International judge since 2012 and, since the last world congress in Dresden, an International Master of Chess Composition! The following selection is considered by Martin as his own favourites. As I was privileged to act as the judge for half of them I couldn't agree more. In this selection Martin is the sole composer but, however, he is known as one of the most sociable composers, always willing to share his great skills and ready to co-operate with others. In A.1 the pawn regiment defends heroically almost like royal cavalry:

A.1 M. Minski
3rd prize *Magyar Sakkvilag* 2006



d2b1 1342.05 5/8 Win

1.Sc3+ Ka1 2.Qe5! Centralizing the strongest piece against the threat **2...Be3+**. **2.Sxc4??** is met by **2...Rd8+!** **3.Kc2 e1S+ 4.Kb3 Rb8+** and Black is the one to win. **2...Be3+!** (**2...Bd4** loses to **3.Sxc4! Bxe5 4.Bb2** mate) **3.Qxe3 g1Q!** Not directly **3...f2 4.Sxc4!** (**4.Sxe2? f1S+!**), and **4...Rd8+ 5.Kc2 e1S+ 6.Kb3 Rb8+ 7.Ka4 Ra8+ 8.Kb5**, or **4...e1Q+ 5.Kc2! Rb8 6.Qh6!** wins. **4.Qxg1 f2 5.Sd3!!** (Surprise! **5.Sbd1? Rd8+!** **6.Kxe2 fxg1S+!**; **5.Qxf2? Rxf2 6.Sba4 e1Q++ 7.Kxe1 Rf1+ 8.Kd2 Rxc1 9.Kxc1** stalemate) **5...e1Q+** (**5...cxd3** allows **6.Bb2+!** and mate in three) **6.Sxe1!** Not **6.Qxe1? fxe1Q+ 7.Sxe1 Rd8+ 8.Kc2 (Ke3 Re8+;)** **8...Rd2+!** **9.Kxd2** stalemate. **6...Rd8+ 7.Kc2!** (**Ke2? fxg1S+!**) **7...Rd2+!** (**7...fxe1S+ 8.Qxe1 Rd2+ 9.Bxd2** mate) **8.Kxd2 fxe1Q+!** **9.Kc2! Qf2+!** **10.Se2!** **10.Qxf2?** stalemate. **10...Qxe2+ 11.Bd2+ Ka2 12.Qb1+ Ka3 13.Qa1** mate. A tense tactical battle. How many knights were promoted in the course of the side lines? (EG#16838).

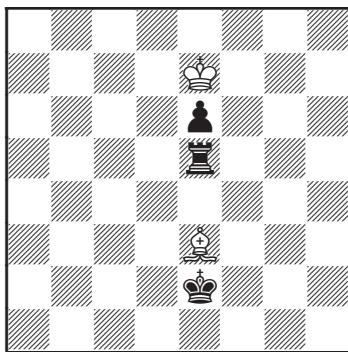
One of Martin's good deeds for our art was the comeback of the semi-retired Georgian GM David Gurgénidze. They have recently created a considerable number of joint studies, winning quite a few prizes and other distinctions. Almost a decade ago Martin had created



The Minski family.

the following 5-man piece for the Malyutkas section in David's jubilee tourney. The Georgians have been especially fond of "baby studies" and David even documented that "baby boom" in a book.

A.2 M. Minski
1st prize Gurgeni-dze-55 JT 2008

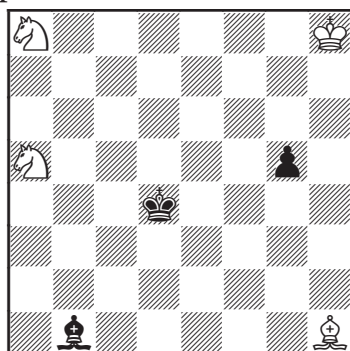


e7e2 0310.01 2/3 Draw

1.Bd4! White should not allow the enemy king to protect its pawn. The key shows

asymmetry by the thematic try: **1.Bf4?** Re4! **2.Bh2** Kd3 **3.Kd6** Rh4 and since **4.Li3??** is impossible, after **4.Be5** Rh6 **5.Bg7** Rg6, Black gains a vital tempo for his king and wins. **1...Re4 2.Bb2!** Similarly **2.Ba1?** allows **2...Kf3!** **3.Kf6** Ra4! **4.Be5** Ra6 after which the bK heads to d5 comfortably. **2...Kf3 3.Kf6 Rb4 4.Ba3!** But not **4.Be5?** Rb6 **5.Bc7** Rc6 as we have already realized. **4...Rb6 5.Ke5** Kg4 **5...Rb3 6.Bd6** Re3+ **7.Kf6** draws. **6.Be7!** Attention! both **6.Bd6?** Rxd6! **7.Kxd6** Kf5, or **6.Bc5?** Rb5! lose in the resulting pawn ending, while **6.Bf8?** Kg5! **7.Be7+** Kg6 allows the bK to f7 as the wK is obstructed by his own bishop. **6...Ra6 7.Bd8!** Precision till the very end: **7.Bf6?** Kh5! **8.Bd8** Kg6, or **7.Bb4?** Kg5! **8.Be7+** Kg6 win. **7...Kh5 8.Kf6** Rc6 **9.Be7** Ra6 **10.Bd8** Kg4 **11.Ke5** Rc6 **12.Be7** Ra6 **13.Bd8** A highly instructive positional draw contributing to the theory and at the same time a fine piece of art! (EG#17113).

A.3 M. Minski
1st prize *Die Schwalbe* 2013-2014

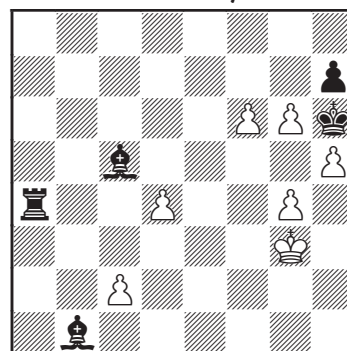


h8d4 0042.01 4/3 Win

Another logical concept in a comprehensive miniature: White should refrain from bishop exchanges to avoid Troitzky's draw of 2 knights vs. pawn. **1.Sb3+!** The thematic try: 1.Sc7? allows 1...Be4 2.Se6+ Kd5! (But not 2...Ke5? 3.Sc4+ Kd5 4.Se3+! Ke5 5.Sg4+ Kf5 6.Sd4+ – 6.Sg7+ does the trick too – 6...Kf4 7.Se2+ Kf5 8.Sg3+ wins) 3.Sc7+ Kd4 4.Se6+ Kd5 positional draw, since 5.Sf4+? is impossible due to the bPg5. 1.Sc6+? is met by 1...Ke3 2.Sc7 Be4 3.Sd5+ Kd3 4.Se5+ Kd4 draws. **1...Kc3** (1...Ke3 2.Sc7! g4 3.Sc5! wins, hinders any black counter play) **2.Sc5 Kd4 3.Se6+ Ke5 4.Sxg5** (4.Sac7? Be4 5.Bxe4 Kxe4 is a Troitzky draw since the pawn cannot be stopped in time) **4...Kf4** While 4...Kf5 allows 5.Sf7 Be4 6.Sd6+ and wins. **5.Se6+ Ke5 6.Sc5 Kd4 7.Sb3+ Kc3 8.Sa5!** (Not 8.Bd5? Ba2 draws) **8...Kd4** After 8 moves the game has amazingly reached the initial position, however without the bPg5! **9.Sc7! Be4 10.Se6+ Kd5** (10...Ke3 (Ke5) 11.Sc4+ wins) **11.Sf4+** is now possible since the black pawn has been eliminated. **11...Ke5** Or 11...Kd4 12.Sb3+ Ke3 13.Sd5+! Kd3 14.Sc5+ and wins. **12.Sg2! Bd5** (12...Kd4 is premature in view of 13.Sb3+ Kc3 14.Sc5 wins) **13.Kg7 Kd4** but now it's a tempo too late! **14.Kf6 Kc3** (14...Kc5 is hardly better: 15.Ke5 Bf3 (Ba8) 16.Sb3+ wins) **15.Ke5 Bf3 (Ba8) 16.Kd6 Kb4 17.Sc6+** and wins just in time!

(A4) The white infantry tames the black artillery and a colourful blend of classical motifs makes it a cheerful contribution to the theme: "A double Nowotny, sacrificial counter-play, model mates and even an under-promotion to conclude a delicious meal".

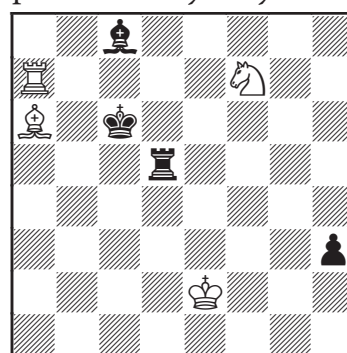
A.4 M. Minski
4th prize Isenegger MT
(7th Jenever Ty) 2014



g3h6 0360.61 7/5 Win

1.g7 Ba2 2.c4! The first Nowotny: The pawn is sacrificed on the intersection of 2 enemy officers with different movements. The logical try is: 2.Kh4? (3.g5#) 2...Rxd4! pin, wins. **2...Bd6+!** Clearing the fifth rank: 2...Rxc4 loses to 3.g8Q! wins, while 2...Bxc4 fails to 3.Kh4 and 4.g5 mate **3.Kh4** (threatening 4.g5#) **3...Bg3+! 4.Kxg3 Bxc4** Alternatively 4...Rxc4 5.g8Q! (g8S+? Kg5;) Rc3+ 6.Kh4 Rh3+ 7.Kxh3 Bxg8 8.Kh4 Bd5 9.g5 ends up in a model mate. **5.Kh4** (Resuming the threat 6.g5#) **5...Ra5 6.d5!** A second Nowotny on the new interception of the same pair of pieces. **6...Rxd5** Or 6...Bxd5 7.g5 model mate **7.g8S** mate! Not 7.g8Q?? Rxh5+! 8.gxh5 Bxg8 and Black wins (EG#19848).

A.5 M. Minski
1st prize *Zadachy i Etyudi* 2014

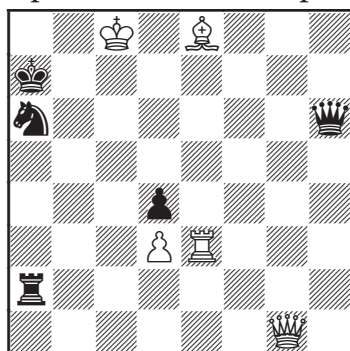


e2c6 0441.01 4/4 BTM, Draw

A.5 is, as I wrote in my award, "A superbly constructed fierce campaign against promotion highlighted by the surprising intermediate 7.Bb5!! and then by the unexpected Nowotny 10.Be2!! A delightful gem to remember!". **1...h2 2.Sd8+!** Naturally not 2.Bxc8? h1Q 3.Bb7+ Kb6

wins) **2...Kb6** **3.Rh7 Bg4+** **4.Kf2 Bh5!** **5.Rh6+** Obviously not **5.Kg2?** **Rd2+** **6.Kh1 Bf3** mate. **5...Kc7** Both **5...Ka5** **6.Rxh5!** **Rxh5** **7.Bb7** draws; or **5...Ka7** **6.Sc6+!** **Kxa6** **7.Se5+** lead to an easy draw. **6.Rc6+!** (**6.Se6+?** loses to **6...Kb8!** **7.Rh7 Rd2+!** **8.Ke3 h1Q** **9.Rb7+** **Qxb7** **10.Bxb7 Re2+** wins) **6...Kd7!** Refusal of capture (stalemate avoidance); see later. **7.Bb5!!** The thematic try: **7.Rc1?** is met by **7...Bd1!** echo **8.Bb5+!** **Ke7!** (again **8...Kxd8?** **9.Kg2** leads to the study's highlight) **9.Rc7+** (**9.Kg2 Rd2+** **10.Be2 Rxe2+** **11.Kh1 Bc2!** **12.Rxc2 Rxc2** no stalemate) **9...Kxd8** **10.Rh7 Bh5!** switchback **11.Kg2 Rd2+** **12.Be2 Rxe2+** **13.Kh1 Bf3** mate. **7...Kxd8** (**7...Rxb5** **8.Rc1 Rb2+** **9.Kg3**, **7...h1Q** **8.Rc1+**, or **7...h1S+** **8.Kg2** draws. **8.Rc1 Bd1!** Echo of file and rank compared to the position after the 3rd move. **9.Kg2 Rd2+** **10.Be2!!** Nowotny! (**Kh1?** **Bf3** mate;) **10...Rxe2+** (**Bxe2;** **Kxh2**) **11.Kh1 Re1+** The alternatives are: **11...Bc2** **12.Rxc2** (or **12.Rd1+** **Ke8** **13.Rd8+** **Kxd8** stalemate) **12...Rxc2** stalemate, or **11...Rd2** **12.Rc3** draws (or **12.Rc8+** **Kxc8** stalemate). **11.Kxh2** draws.

A.6 M. Minski
2nd place 4th World Cup 2015

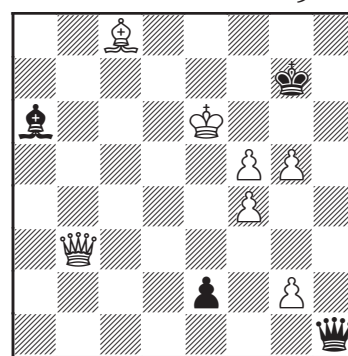


c8a7 4413.11 5/5 Win

A.6: “Another superb mutual sacrificial play necessary to avoid mates and stalemates with the cherry on top – the formidable **8.Qb6!!** allowing a model mate. A genuine masterpiece in an excellent setting” were my own words in the tourney award. **1.Re7+ Ka8** **2.Qb1!** Threatening **3.Qb7#**. **2.Qxd4?** fails to **2...Rc2+** **3.Kd8 Sc5!** **4.Qd5+** **Kb8** and Black manages to hold. **2...Sb4!** **3.Qxb4 Rc2+** **4.Kd8** (**4.Rc7?** allows **4...Qe6+** **5.Kd8 Qd5+** **6.Kc8 Qe6+** with perpetual check; while **4.Kd7?** even loses to **4...Qc6+** **5.Kd8 Qc8** mate with a self-block) **4...Rc8+!**

(**4...Qa6** is met by **5.Re1!**) **5.Kxc8** (**5.Kd7??** is met by **5...Qc6** another mate by a self-block) **5...Qa6+** **6.Kc7!** (To avoid either **6.Kd7?** **Qc6+!** **7.Kxc6** stalemate; or **6.Qb7+?** **Qxb7+** **7.Rxb7** stalemate) **6...Qc8+!** Or **6...Qa7+** **7.Kd8!** **Qb6+!** **8.Rc7!** (**8.Qxb6?** stalemate) **8...Qxb4** **9.Bc6+** **Kb8** **10.Rc8+** (**10.Rb7+?** **Qxb7** **11.Bxb7 Kxb7** draws) **10...Ka7** **11.Ra8+** **Kb6** **12.Rb8+** wins. **7.Kd6!** (**7.Kxc8?** stalemate) **7...Qa6+** (Or **7...Qd8+** **8.Bd7 Qb6+!** **9.Kd5 (Ke5)** (**9.Qxb6?** stalemate) **9...Qxb4** **10.Bc6+** **Kb8** **11.Rb7+** **Qxb7** **12.Bxb7 Kxb7** **13.Kxd4 Kc6** **14.Ke5 Kd7** **15.Kd5** wins) **8.Qb6!!** Neat queen sacrifices in an open board are frequently seen in Martin's work. Logical try: **8.Bc6+?** **Qxc6+!** **9.Kxc6** stalemate. If **8.Kd5?** **Qd6+!** **9.Kc4** (**9.Qxd6** stalemate; **9.Kxd6** stalemate) **9...Qd5+!** **10.Kxd5** stalemate. **8...Qxb6+** **9.Bc6+** **Kb8** As **9...Qxc6+?** **10.Kxc6** is no stalemate. **10.Re8+** (Not **10.Rb7+?** **Qxb7** **11.Bxb7 Kxb7** **12.Kd5 Kc7** **13.Kxd4 Kd6** draws) **10...Ka7** **11.Ra8** a model mate following an active self-block (EG#20506).

A.7 M. Minski
2nd prize Chess Informant-50 AT 2016

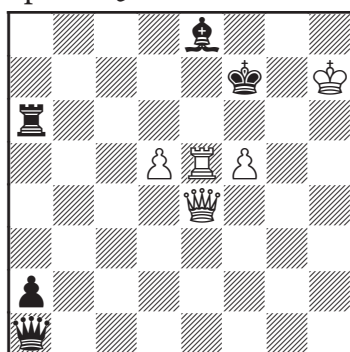


e6g7 4040.41 7/4 Win

In A.7 we encounter a thrilling symphony of mutual queen sacrifices. From my award: “In the heat of the battle each side promotes a second queen; however the side that sacrifices both his queens is the one to emerge the eventual winner against the remaining enemy queen”. A breath-taking battle with plenty of quiet moves and subtle finesses. **1.f6+** The attempt **1.Qc3+?** **Kg8** **2.Kd6 e1Q** **3.Be6+** **Qxe6+** **4.Kxe6 Qxg2** **5.Qc7 Qa8** **6.Qf7+** **Kh8** results in no more than a draw. **1...Kh8** **2.g6!** **e1Q+** (**2...Bc4+** **3.Qxc4 e1Q+** **4.Kf7** see mainline) **3.Kf7 Bc4+!** (**3...Qh5** loses to **4.Qb8**) **4.Qxc4 Qe8+!** (while **4...Qh5** is

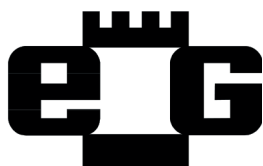
met by 5.Be6!) **5.Kxe8 Qe1+ 6.Qe2!!** It's White's turn to sack a queen to avoid all stalemate traps. 6.Qe6? Qxe6+! 7.Bxe6 stalemate; 6.Be6? Qxe6+! 7.Qxe6 stalemate; 6.Kf7? Qe8+ (Qe7+) 7.Kxe8 (Kxe7) stalemate. **6...Qxe2+ 7.Kf8 Qxg2 8.g7+ Kh7 9.Bb7!** Not 9.Bf5+? Kh6 10.g8Q Qa8+ 11.Ke7! Qa3+! with perpetual check. **9...Qg1** Where else? 9...Qg6 10.Be4! Qxe4 11.g8Q+; 9...Qxb7 10.g8Q+; and finally 9...Qg4 10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc8+ 12.Ke7! see mainline. **10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc5+ 12.Ke8** Not 12.Kf7? Qc4+! 13.Ke7 Qxe4+ with check! **12...Qc8+ 13.Ke7!!** Giving away his remaining queen while 13.Kf7? Qd7+(Qc4+) leads him nowhere. **13...Qxg8** Or 13...Qc7+ 14.Ke6 Qc4+ 15.Bd5 with a quick win. **14.f7 Qg7 15.Ke8** wins. Black has run out of useful checks and should throw in the towel. In this anniversary tourney of the world famous periodical Martin was also co-author of the next two prizes (EG#21294).

A.8 M. Minski
2nd prize 23rd Birnov MT 2017



h7f7 4430.21 5/5 Win

Here is an eye-catching variety of logical concepts with both queens involved and being mutually sacrificed. Plenty of other tactical elements are displayed in the course of the tense solution. **1.d6!** (1.Re7+? Kf6 2.Qh4+ Kxf5 3.Qf2+ Kg5! after which since 4.Qc5? comes without check. White, surprisingly, has got nothing better than perpetual check) **1...Ra7!?** play for stalemate. 1...Rxd6 falls to the logical concept of the try: 2.Re7+ Kf6 3.Qh4+ Kxf5 4.Qf2+ Kg5 5.Qc5+! this time with check! 5...Kg4 6.Re4+ followed by mate in four. After 1...Bc6 2.Qc4+ Kf6 3.Qe6+ Kg5 4.f6+ Kh4 5.f7 the bK is helpless. **2.Re7+ Kf8!** The wR is pinned. **3.Rxa7 Bg6+! 4.fxg6** (king moves lead to a perpetual check: 4.Kxg6? Qg1+!; 4.Kh6? Qc1+ 5.Kxg6 Qg1+!) **4...Qh8+! 5.Kxh8 a1Q+** Phoenix **6.Qe5!!** (As 6.Rxa1? is stalemate; such as 6.g7+!? cross-check 6...Qxg7+ 7.Rxg7 – position X with wQe4! – stalemate. Not 6.Qd4!? Qxd4+ 7.g7+ Ke8! 8.Re7+ Kd8 position Y with bQd4) **6...Qxe5+** Or 6...Qh1+ 7.Rh7 Qxh7+ 8.gxh7 and White wins (8.Kxh7? stalemate). **7.g7+** cross-check **7...Ke8** (7...Qxg7+ 8.Rxg7 wins – position X without wQe4, no stalemate) **8.Re7+** switchback **8...Kd8** (position Y with bQe5) **9.Rxe5** wins.



Tasks
and themes

New Queen Sacrifices

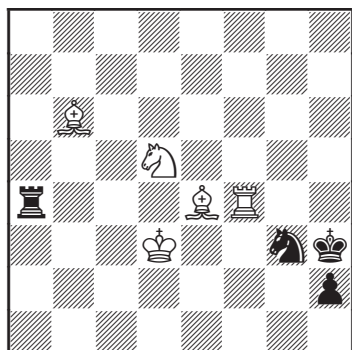
BY SIEGFRIED HORNECKER

In this article we will take a closer look at the top three prizewinners in the recent Informator-50 AT, as well as the development of a queen sacrifice study. In the final study a perpetual queen sacrifice leads to a draw.

I have a love for Serbia since I first met Milan Velimirović's friends in Belgrade in 2013, and when the Serbian periodical *Šahovski Informator*, known also as the *Chess Informant*, reached its 50th anniversary and celebrated it with a study tourney, Naturally I participated, although the business contact I had previously initiated with Josip Asik unfortunately did not lead me to writing or translating English books into German for him.

The first prizewinner in the Informator tourney shows a fierce battle of forces against the queen but, however, she is not sacrificed at her own will, making this a rather non-thematic study for our article. Still, to understand the ranking, we will review this interesting battery study in a classical style.

S.1 L'ubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka
1st prize Chess Informator-50 AT 2016



d3h3 0424.01 5/4 Win

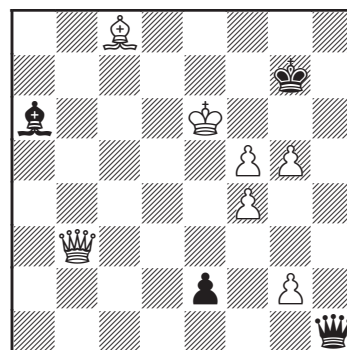
The study starts with a series of sacrifices and, subsequently, the critical endgame is achieved.

1.Bf3! Ra3+ 2.Sc3 Rxc3+ 3.Kxc3 Se2+ 4.Bxe2 h1Q 5.Bf1+ Kg3 6.Bc7! The first battery is established, pointing towards the king, so Black

must defend accurately in order not to lose the queen immediately. It is noteworthy that **6...Qb7** would lose, similarly to the main variation, but shorter. **6...Qh8+ 7.Kb3! Qh1! 8.Ka3! Qb7 9.Rf7+** The battery against the queen is established so Black cannot enter the black squares with his king. **9...Kg4 10.Rg7+ Kh5 11.Rh7+ Kg4 12.Bh3+ Kf3 13.Rf7+ Ke2** Unfortunately, a skewer is also in effect after **13...Ke4 14.Bg2+. 14.Bf1+ Kd1 15.Rd7+ Kc2 16.Bd3+** Now the final battery is established to fire if Black moves towards d1, otherwise after **16...Kc1 17.Bf4+** the battery on the 7th rank fires and White wins.

By definition a sacrifice should not be entirely forced but, more often than not, it will be forcing. Apparently Martin Minski was working on this theme, as the other examples almost all feature him. If you want to see multiple queen sacrifices after promotion by your author – without the subtleties, but within a “kindergarten” setting, please refer to EG178, January 2012.

S.2 Martin Minski
2nd prize Chess Informator-50 AT 2016



e6g7 4040.41 7/4 Win

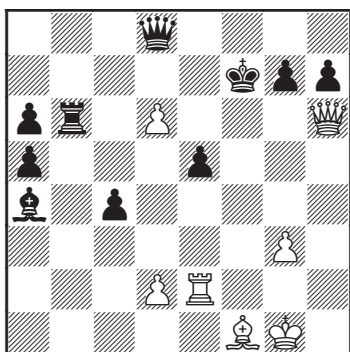
1.f6+ Kh8 2.g6 e1Q+ 3.Kf7 Bc4+ 4.Qxc4 Qe8+ 5.Kxe8 Qe1+ 6.Qe2 A rather forced sacrifice, seeing that otherwise Black has a stalemate. **6...Qxe2+ 7.Kf8 Qxg2 8.g7+ Kh7 9.Bb7!** A very important zwischenzug. After **9.Bf5+**

Kh6 10.g8Q Qa8+ 11.Ke7 Qa3+! Black has perpetual check. **9...Qg1 10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc5+ 12.Ke8 Qc8+ 13.Ke7** The passive sacrifice leads to a won ending. **13...Qxg8 14.f7 Qg7 15.Ke8** wins.

It might be of note that 1.Qc4+? Kg8 2.Kd6 fails to 2...e1Q 3.Be6+ Qxe6+ 4.Kxe6 Qxg2 5.Qc7 Qa8! 6.Qf7+ Kh8 with a draw. Another (rather forced) sacrifice.

The third study reminds us more of an actual game, and a famous Russian grandmaster helped by “playing” it. In my personal opinion it is better than the second prize but the judge, Yochanan Afek, also an avid EG writer whose great knowledge about many topics outside of chess is admirable, thought vice versa.

S.3 Martin Minski & Oleg Pervakov
3rd prize Chess Informator-50 AT 2016



gf7 4440.36 7/10 Win

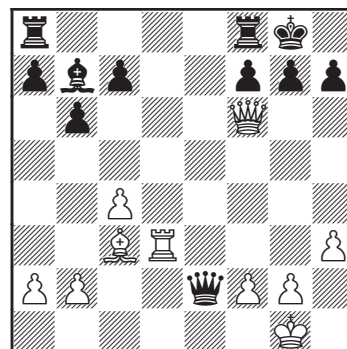
1.Rf2+ Kg8 2.Qg6!! Not 2.Bxc4+? Kh8 3.Qg6 Rxd6!, but Black can't take on d6 now on account of 3.Qf7+, also the queen is a forbidden fruit on account of the checkmate 2...hxg6 3.Bxc4+ and 4.Rh2+ Qh4 5.R:h4. So Black best defends the eighth rank. Other defences fail, as 2...Kh8 3.Rh2 h6 4.Rxh6+ gxh6 5.Qxh6+ Kg8 6.Bxc4 mate or 2...Rb7 3.Qe4! Rb4 4.Qd5+ Kh8 5.Qxa5! Rb8 6.Qxa4 show. An additional queen sacrifice, exploiting the missing “luftloch”. **2...Rb8! 3.Bxc4+ Kh8 4.Bd3** The battle seems over, as Black “must” take on g6, after which he is checkmated in a few moves.

But are you familiar with the game of Carl Ahues versus an unnamed player in Berlin 1920 that was, as Martin confirmed, the inspiration for this study?

Black resigned but with 1...Qg4!! White would have had to resign. As Tim Krabbé

observed, the sadistical zwischenschach 1...Qd1+ was possible before that.

Ahues – N.N. (sometimes given
as Hans Müller),
Berlin 1920



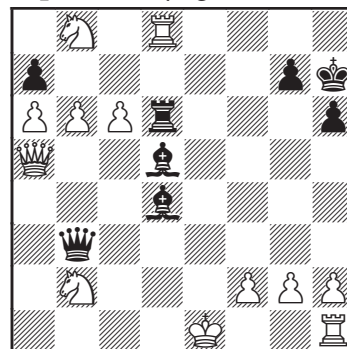
Black to move

Returning to our study, Black has the same defence: **4...Qh4!! 5.Qf5! Qxg3+ 6.Kf1 Qxd3+! 7.Qxd3 Bb5** Black wins, truly a triumph of the defence. Oh, one moment, there is more. Actually it is White who wins after all... **8.Qxb5 axb5 9.d4!!** The rook needs access to c2. **9...exd4 10.Rc2 Rf8+ 11.Ke1! Kg8 12.d7 Rd8 13.Rc8** wins.

Black will be able to stop the pawn with 13...Kf7, but must give his rook, after which White wins easily.

The same motif as in this study and Ahues' game was shown in a study by Darko Hlebec a few years ago, which is also included in the FIDE Album 2010-2012.

S.4 Darko Hlebec
1st prize Kalyagin MT 2011

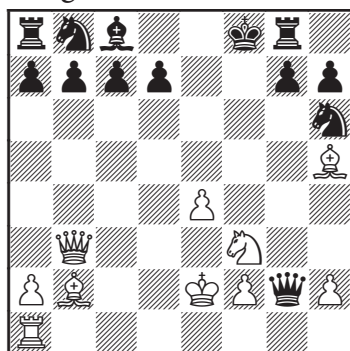


e1h7 4562.63 12/8 Win

1.o-o Bxb6 2.Qxb6 Qf3! 3.Rh8+! Kxh8 4.Qd8+ Kh7 5.Qg5!! Qe4 6.Qg3 Rg6 7.f3! Qd4+ 8.Qf2 Bxf3! 9.g3! wins.

Undeniably games are a good inspiration for endgame studies and it was his presentation of an old game that made the German over-the-board grandmaster Niclas Huschenbeth co-author of a study.

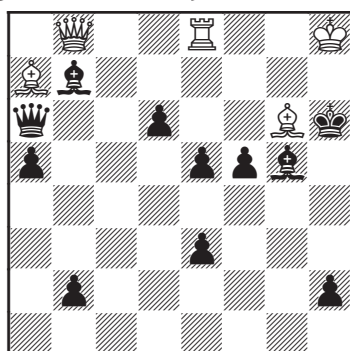
Sergeev – Lebedev 1928



White to move

Niclas Huschenbeth presented this position in an online video series named “Unglaubliche Züge” (“incredible moves”, literally “unbelievable moves”).⁽¹⁾ White won with the indeed incredible move **1.Qe6!!**, and if **1...dxe6 2.Ba3+ c5 3.Bxc5** mate. So the game continued **1...g6 2.Ba3+ d6 3.Qxc8+ Ke7 4.Qxc7+ Sd7 5.Qxd6+ Kd8 6.Rd1 Rd7 7.Qf6+** and Black had enough.

S.5 Niclas Huschenbeth &
Martin Minski
5th UAPA 2017, section B1



h8h6 4180.07 5/11 Win

1.Re6 Bc8 2.Bf7+!/i Bf6+! 3.Rxf6+ Kg5 The king tries to escape, but White has a nice trick **4.Rh6!/ii Kxh6/iii 5.Qxb2** The battle seems

over, as **Bxe3+** is a strong threat, but Black has a great defence. **5...Qe2!! 6.Qxe2 h1Q** White now must be careful, as **7.Qxe3+? f4 8.Qg3!!** is refuted by **8...Bg4! 9.Qxg4 Qa8+ 10.Qg8 Qxg8+** with a draw. **7.Qg4!! fxe4 8.Bxe3** mate.

The study was analysed – in German – by Niclas Huschenbeth in a Youtube video.⁽²⁾

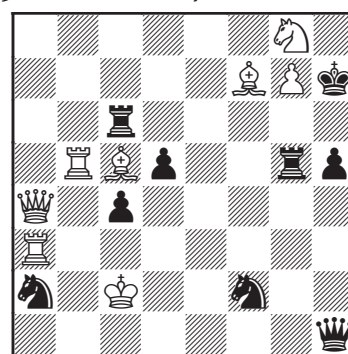
i) **2.Be8+? Bxe6**, and **3.Qf8#** is impossible.

ii) **4.Rg6+? Kf4** keeps the initiative, but it is not enough to win both after **5.Bxe3+** or **5.Bd5**. For example **5.Bxe3+ Kf3 6.Bd5+ e4 7.Rh6 Bb7 8.Qg8 Qa8**, and White has nothing better than a draw.

iii) Not better is **4...Qb7 5.Rh5+! Kf4 6.Qxd6**, and either **6...Qxf7 7.Qh6+ Ke4 8.Qxe3+ Kd5 9.Qb3+** with **10.Qxf7** and checkmate soon to follow, or **6...Qxa7 7.Bd5! Qa6 8.Qe7 e4 9.Rh4+! Kg3 10.Qg5+ Kf3 11.Rh3+** and White wins.

The end of our final study shows an incredible geometric situation.

S.6 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
& Martin Minski
5th UAPA 2017, section B2

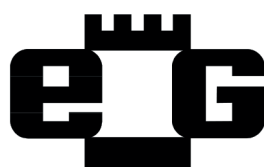


c2h7 4827.13 8/9 Draw

1.Sf6+ Rxf6 2.g8Q+ Rxe8 3.Bxe8+ Kh8 4.Rb1 Qh2! 5.Kb2 Sd3+ 6.Ka1 Sc3 7.Ra2! Qb8!! Isn't White completely lost after this ingenious sacrifice? No, he can reverse the relevant part of the position. **8.Qd1!! Qh2! 9.Qa4! Qb8 10.Qd1** with perpetual sacrifice, counter-sacrifice and draw.

(1) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBoNMO3aV_A (Niclas Huschenbeth: “Unglaubliche Züge #96”, German).

(2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p751tdVOeZA> (Niclas Huschenbeth: “Unglaubliche Studien #1”, German).



Computer News

A Houdini Trick

BY EMIL VLASÁK

The pros and cons of the 9th WCCT

The 9th WCCT was announced in 2011 with a theme that is slightly strange for endgame studies: *In a win study, the wQ moves, without capturing, checking or refuting a check, to a square where she is not guarded by White and where she can immediately be captured by Black.*

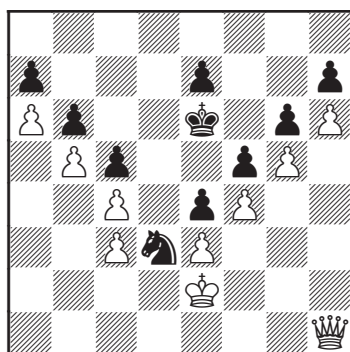
Of course, such a pure queen sacrifice is one of the most spectacular features of chess but, for the same reason, this theme has been extensively studied and processed in the past. I predicted it would be hard to bring something completely new.

And I was right. Even the 1st Place (Didukh, EG#19399) is anticipated by Farago, *Suomen Shakki* 1946 (HHdbV#61892). This is nothing against Didukh because we have used the same scheme ourselves in Vlasák, Polášek and Šindelář, 11st-14th Place (EG#19411). I just want to illustrate the situation.

A full blockade study

In order to find something new, I invented a scheme with an almost complete blockade.

V.1 Emil Vlasák and Jaroslav Polášek



e2e6 1003.88 10/10
Mutual zugzwang?

Black to move is in zugzwang. The king has to play, weakening the king- or queenside. There are two thematic lines:

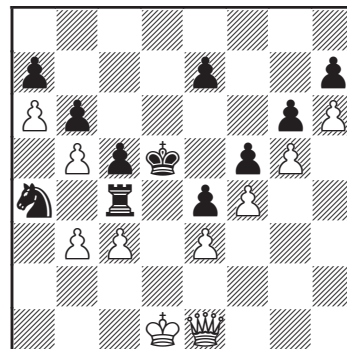
- **Kf7 2.Qa1 Ke8 3.Qa5! bxa5** Because of the threat 4.Qxb6. **4.b6**
- **Kd7 2.Qh5! gxh5** Because of the threat 4.Qxg6. **3.g6 h4 4.g7! h3 5.g8Q h2 6.Qg2.**

White to move has to leave the brilliant square h1, from where the queen could quickly attack both sides. For example 1.Qh5 Kf7! 2.Qh1 Ke8! 3.Qa1 Kd7 4.Qa5 Kc7 – positional draw: the king is able to defeat both b6 and g6. It is enough for black to reach e8, having an extra tempo e6 in case of out-tempi-ing.

White could also try to use the second rank but it is not sufficient: 1.Kd2 Sf2 2.Qh2 Sd3 3.Kd1 Kd7! 4.Qh5 gxh5 8.g6 h4 9.g7 h3 10.g8Q h2 11.Qg2 h1Q+ 12.Qxh1 Sf2+.

Now you can easily understand the whole WCCT study V.2.

V.2 Emil Vlasák and Jaroslav Polášek
70th-73rd place 9th WCCT (no points)



d1d5 1303.88 10/11 BTM, win

1...Sb2+ 2.Ke2! Sd3 3.bxc4+ Kd6!? 3...Ke6
4.Qh1 see V.1. **4.Qh4! Ke6 5.Qh1** zugzwang – see V.1.

Thematic tries:

- **2.Kd2?! Sd3 3.bxc4+ Ke6! 4.Qh1** zugzwang?
4...Sf2! 5.Qh2 Sd3 6.Kd1 zugzwang? 6...
Kd7! 7.Qh5 gxh5 8.g6 h4 9.g7 h3 10.g8Q h2
11.Qg2 h1Q+ 12.Qxh1 Sf2+ draw.
- **2.Kc2?! Sd3 3.Qh1 Ke6! 4.bxc4** and now
not 4...Sf2?! 5.Qh2 Sd3 6.Kb1! zugzwang
(6.Kb3? Kf7!, draws, e.g. 7.Qa2? Sc1+) 6...
Se1 7.Qa2 Kd7 8.Qe2 Sd3 9.Qh5 wins, but
4...Kd7! 5.Qh5 gxh5 6.g6 h4 7.g7 h3 8.g8Q
h2 9.Qg2? Se1+.

We were slightly disappointed that this study did not score. It got a solid 2.5 points from Finland and 1.5 points from Russia but some anonymous judge from Azerbaijan granted 0 points without any explanation. However, this is a computer column and I have another reason to publish it than merely wanting to complain.

What about engines?

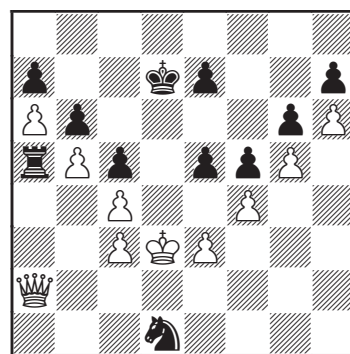
At that time it was almost impossible to test such a study with a computer. Start your engine and even today you can see the problem immediately. Every engine evaluates a big white material advantage of 6 to 8 pawns. There are no threats on the horizon so all moves seem to be winning and there is no reason to look for the strongest one.

Several years later Jaroslav Polášek found a dual win in this study in a rather curious way. The then star engine Houdini 3, indicated after a long run a slightly higher score in one of the side lines. Jaroslav checked the reason by hand and found a hidden way to win V.1 in an alternative way: **1.Qf1! Kd7 2.Qh3!**. Black cannot play **2...Ke8** because of **3.Qxf5! gxf5 4.g6 Kf8 5.gxh7**. And after **2...Ke6 3.Qh1!** we have V.1 again with Black to move.

Reconstruction

(V.3) **1.Qd2! 1.Qxa5?!** is a premature thematic try: 1...bxa5 2.b6 Sb2+ 3.Ke2 Sxc4 4.bxa7 Sb6. **1...Ra2!!** A nice defence but bad is 1...Ra1 2.fxe5 Ke6 3.Qg2. **2.Qxa2 e4+ 3.Kd2! Sf2 4.Qa5!** Winning a tempo to transfer the queen to the first

V.3 Jaroslav Polášek and Emil Vlasák



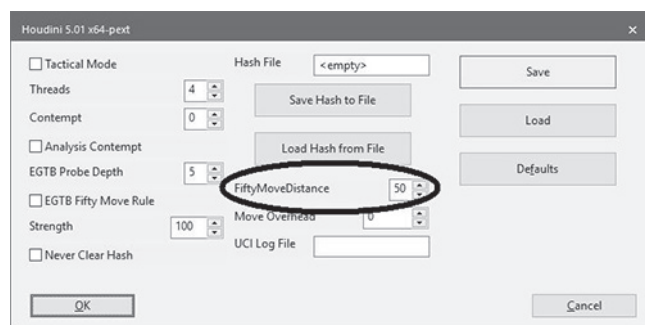
d3d7 1303.88 10/11 Win

rank. **4...Kc7 5.Qa1 Kd7!** Or 5...Sd3 6.Qh1 Kd7 7.Qh5!. Bad is also 5...e5 6.Qf1! Sd3 7.Qxd3 exd3 8.e4!. **6.Qf1!! Sd3 7.Qh3!** The threat is 8.Qh5. **7...Ke6 7...Ke8 8.Qxf5. 8.Qh1!** Zugzwang. **8...Sf2!? 8...Kd7 9.Qh5. 9.Qf1! 9.Qh2?! Sd3 10.Kd1? Kd7!! 11.Qh5 gxh5 12.g6 h4 13.g7 h3 14.g8Q h2. 9...Sd3 10.Ke2! Kd7 11.Qh3! Ke6 12.Qh1!** Zugzwang.

The try **3.Kc2?! Sf2 4.Qa5! Kc7 5.Qa1 Kd7 6.Qf1 Sd3 7.Qh3 Ke6! 8.Qh1** would win after 8...Sf2?! 9.Qh2 Sd3 6.Kb1!, but 8...Kd7! 9.Qh5 gxh5 10.g6 h4 11.g7 h3 12.g8Q h2 is a draw (Qg2? Se1+;).

A Houdini Trick

Houdini was the first engine able to help a human with such a position. Since version 2c, the author Robert Houdart has introduced a special parameter to the engine setting named FiftyMoveDistance.



This option specifies how many moves must go by without capture or pawn move before Houdini starts pulling the score towards a draw.

The idea is clear. After dropping that number from 50 somewhere to 20-30 moves, suddenly

not all lines seem to be winning more and the scores contrast increases rapidly.

In other words, this way you can say to Houdini: if you do not raise your advantage in 20-30 moves, it is a draw.

Does it work?

As usually, I have made several tests on my computer i7 6700K, 16GB RAM, SSD Syzygy 6. The GUI was ChessBase 14 Service Pack 7 running under Windows 10 Creators Update. I remind you that, with a multicore machine, you always need to perform several runs.

I analysed the study V.3, position after 2... e4+. Surely the most natural way would be using the two-line-mode to see both moves 3.Kd2 and 3.Kc2 at the same time. But through side effects of multi-line-analyses the results are almost irreproducible. So I have used the more precise single-line-mode. I considered the study to be solved if the move 12.Qh1! was indicated in the main line.

After short testing I have chosen the Jesus Christ number 33 as the most suitable FiftyMoveDistance value to illustrate this phenomenon on the V.3 study. It is rather alchemic because another study might require a different value.

FiftyMoveDistance = 50

Analysis by Houdini 5.01 x64-pext:

run 1: 3.Kd2 Nf2 4.Ke2 ...

White is clearly winning: +- (6.88 ++) Depth: 55/109 01:31:56 76754MN, tb=790960

run 2: 3.Kd2 Nf2 4.Qa5 Kc7 5.Qa1 Kd7 6.Qf1 Nd3 7.Qh3 Ke6 8.Qh1 Nf2 9.Qf1 Nd3 10.Kc2 ...

White is clearly winning: +- (12.04 ++) Depth: 43/116 00:46:22 36630MN, tb=738316

After a lot of GigaNodes the study is not fully solved.

FiftyMoveDistance = 33

run 1: 3.Kd2 Nf2 4.Qa5 Kc8 5.Qa1 Kd7 6.Qf1 Nd3 7.Qh3 Ke6 8.Qh1 Nf2 9.Qf1 Nd3 10.Ke2

Kd7 11.Qh3 Ke6 12.Qh1 Kf7 13.Qa1 e5 14.Qa5 exf4 15.Qxb6 axb6 16.a7...

White is clearly winning: +- (9.32) Depth: 36/89 00:16:00 14447MN, tb=33326

run 2: 3.Kd2 Nf2 4.Qa5 Kc7 5.Qa1 Kd7 6.Qf1 Nd3 7.Qh3 Ke6 8.Qh1 Nf2 9.Qf1 Nd3 10.Ke2 Kd7 11.Qh3 Ke6 12.Qh1 Kf7 13.Qa1 e5 14.Qa5 exf4 15.Qxb6 axb6

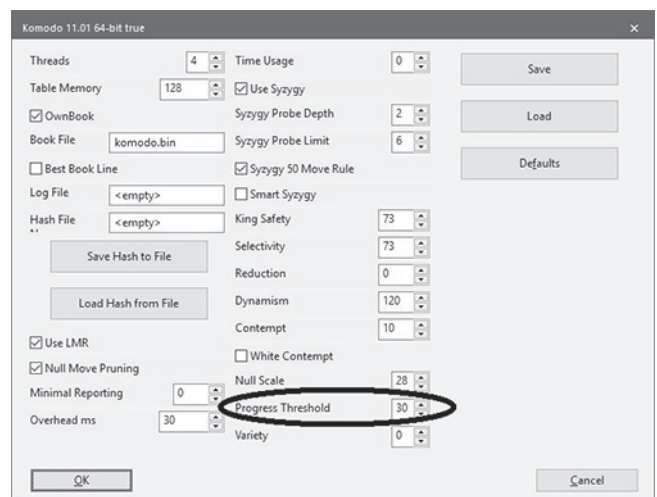
White is clearly winning: +- (8.05 --) Depth: 35/89 00:04:34 3925MN, tb=8440

The study is relatively quickly solved.

Yes, with Houdini 5 it does work! In such a blocked position it makes sense to lower the parameter FiftyMoveDistance to get better results.

Komodo

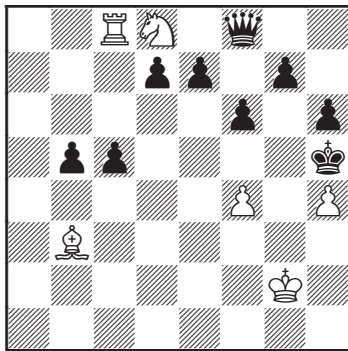
Komodo introduced something like this in version 10.1 from July 2016. This option is named ProgressTreshold. The maximal allowed value is 99, so it is set in plies (halfmoves). I am surprised the default value is only 30.



I spent a lot of time testing the V.3, but I am not yet able to confirm or refute the influence of the ProgressTreshold setting. Komodo is able to crack V.3 study with different values (30, 66, 99), but the solution times always fluctuate between 3-50 minutes which safely masks the examined effect. Perhaps we will go back to that in several next column.

Anti Houdini

V.4 Amatzia Avni
5th commendation
Polášek and Vlasák 60JT 2017



g2h5 3111.27 6/9 Win

1.Kh3! Avoiding future checks Qc7 or f4. **1...e6** Another nice line runs **1...c4 2.Se6! Qxc8 3.f5!**. Bad is **1...Kg6 2.Sc6 Qxc8 3.Sxe7+**. **2.Sf7 Qe7! 2...Qxf7 3.f5. 3.Re8! 3.Sh8? Qd6! 3...Qxe8 4.Sh8! Qxh8 5.f5 exf5 6.Bf7+ g6 7.Bb3! 7.Bd5? Qa8.**

It seems that such an attacking study with tactical tricks must be a tasty delicacy for chess engines. The main line is long enough and engines need about one minute to find it:

Analysis by Stockfish 8 64 POPCNT:

1.Kg3 e6 2.Sxe6 Qd6 3.Rxc5... The position is equal: = (-0.01) Depth: 33/71 00:00:38 310MN:

1.Kh3: The position is equal: = (0.06 ++) Depth: 34/71 00:00:40 329MN

1.Kh3: The position is equal: = (0.13 ++) Depth: 34/71 00:00:40 331MN

1.Kh3: White has an edge: = (0.24 ++) Depth: 34/71 00:00:40 332MN

1.Kh3: White is slightly better: +/- (0.60 ++) Depth: 34/71 00:00:40 336MN

1.Kh3: White is better: +/- (1.25 ++) Depth: 34/71 00:00:41 340MN

1.Kh3: White is clearly better: +- (2.36 ++) Depth: 34/71 00:00:42 348MN

1.Kh3: White has a decisive advantage: +- (3.16 ++) Depth: 34/71 00:00:45 367MN

Analysis by Komodo 11.01 64-bit true:

1.Kg3 e6 2.Sxe6 Qd6 3.Rxc5+ ... The position is equal: = (0.00) Depth: 33 00:00:16 128MN

1.Kh3 e6 2.Sf7: The position is equal: = (0.06 ++) Depth: 33 00:00:16 135MN

1.Kh3 e6 2.Sf7: White has an edge: = (0.25 ++) Depth: 33 00:00:17 138MN

1.Kh3 e6 2.Sf7: White is slightly better: +/- (0.61 ++) Depth: 33 00:00:18 144MN

1.Kh3 e6 2.Sf7: White is better: +/- (1.30 ++) Depth: 33 00:00:19 156MN

1.Kh3 e6 2.Sf7: White is clearly better: +- (1.86 ++) Depth: 33 00:00:24 197MN

1.Kh3 e6 2.Sf7: White has a decisive advantage: +- (2.64 ++) Depth: 33 00:00:33 269MN

1.Kh3 e6 2.Sf7: White is winning: +- (3.73 ++) Depth: 33 00:00:46 381MN

Analysis by Houdini 4 Pro x64:

1.Kg3 e6 2.Sxe6 Qd6 3.Rxc5+... Black is slightly better: =/+ (-0.48) Depth: 26/94 00:01:25 1037MN

1.Kh3: Black has an edge: = (-0.30 ++) Depth: 26/94 00:01:28 1076MN

1.Kh3: The position is equal: = (-0.03 ++) Depth: 26/94 00:01:29 1078MN

1.Kh3: White is better: +/- (0.75 ++) Depth: 26/94 00:01:29 1086MN

1.Kh3: White is winning: +- (3.69 ++) Depth: 26/94 00:01:31 1103MN

Surprisingly, however, the latest Houdini 5 needs a very long time to crack V.4. In an OTB game Houdini 5 would probably only make a draw. I tested it many times and here is the fastest and the slowest result.

Analysis by Houdini 5.01 x64-pext x64-pext:

1.Kg3 e6 2.Sxe6 Qd6 3.Rxc5+... The position is equal: = (0.00 --) Depth: 34/72 00:06:03 4368MN

1.Kh3: The position is equal: = (0.17 ++)
Depth: 34/72 00:06:08 4437MN

1.Kh3: White has an edge: = (0.30 ++) Depth:
34/72 00:06:13 4492MN

1.Kh3: White is slightly better: +/= (0.49 ++)
Depth: 34/72 00:06:22 4601MN

1.Kh3: White is better: +/- (1.00 ++) Depth:
34/72 00:07:16 5259MN

1.Kh3: White is clearly better: +- (2.31 ++)
Depth: 34/72 00:10:20 7524MN

1.Kh3: White has a decisive advantage: +-
(3.08 ++) Depth: 34/72 00:14:42 10743MN

1.Kh3: White is winning: +- (4.07 ++)
Depth: 34/72 00:21:33 15822MN

Analysis by Houdini 5.01 x64-pext x64-pext:

1.Kg3 e6 2.Sxe6 Qd6 3.Rxc5+... The position is equal: = (0.00 --) Depth: 39/80 00:30:01 22628MN

1.Kh3: The position is equal: = (0.17 ++)
Depth: 39/80 00:30:21 22881MN

1.Kh3: White has an edge: = (0.30 ++) Depth:
39/80 00:30:27 22965MN

1.Kh3: White is slightly better: +/= (0.49 ++)
Depth: 39/80 00:30:37 23084MN

1.Kh3: White is better: +/- (1.00 ++) Depth:
39/80 00:33:17 25102MN

1.Kh3: White is clearly better: +- (1.74 ++)
Depth: 39/80 00:41:33 31417MN

**1.Kh3: White has a decisive advantage: +-
(3.08 ++) Depth: 39/80 01:15:14 57401MN**

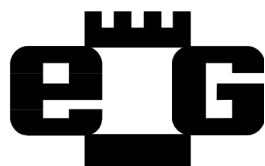
This example nicely illustrates the difficulties in developing chess software. Strong engines are already very well-tuned today and, if you try to improve their behaviour in any situation, it could get worse, unnoticed, elsewhere. It is known that for evaluation of any change, testing around a thousand games is required.

TCEC 10

In EG207 (Jan 2017) I discussed season 9 of TCEC (Top Chess Engine Championship), the world strongest chess tournament ever. After some delay season 10 was announced in August 2017 on www.chessdom.com. It will start in late September or the beginning of October. It will take about 3 months; all the games will be played sequentially with the possibility to watch online. The hardware for this season will be at least a 24 core server from the very beginning. The estimated cost for a 3 months season is about 6000-7000 EUR.

Houdini 6

Houdini 6 will be released in September, maybe just in time for the TCEC tournament. Robert Houdart has not provided any more details yet. But it is clear that he is heading to the top. And because he can legally study Stockfish source codes, I see his chances of success as very high.



History

The Rinck memorial tourneys (part 1)

BY ALAIN PALLIER

In February 1952, after a long chess career that lasted 49 years, Henry Rinck died in Badalona, 'under the clear blue sky of Spain'. He was 82 and was admired during his lifetime as a tireless creator and, even if his style was criticized, especially in the Soviet Union, he was widely respected by the chess world.

Rinck had settled in Spain, more precisely in Badalona, near Barcelona, in 1900. He was a chemist: his discovery some years earlier of a refining process of green vegetal oils (thanks to special works on chlorophyll) was implemented in several places, especially in Spain.

When the Civil War broke up (July 1936), Rinck's position was threatened: he could hardly be suspected of having any sympathy for Communism. Catalonia remained loyalist and rose up against the nationalist faction led by General Franco. The region remained controlled by the loyalist Republicans until the beginning of 1939, when the Nationalists invaded Catalonia. During this period of civil war, revolutionary violence, inspired by NKVD agents sent to Spain, was extreme (historians call this the 'Red Terror').

Rinck had to leave Spain for France, apparently in 1937. The German Wikipedia page mentions Lyon, the English one Marseille. A letter to J.C.A. Fischer, written by Rinck in October 1938 from Lyon, but he ended his letter by giving Fischer his address, 'as in the past': Villa La Raquette, a family holiday house in La Napoule (Côte d'Azur, near Cannes). This was confirmed by Chéron, some years before (13viii1930, *Le Temps*): 'He often stays in La Napoule (Alpes-Maritimes), where he owns a villa and in Lyon, where his family lives'.

In March 1939, *L'Action Française*, an extreme right newspaper under the pen of chess journalist Gaston Legrain, quoted another letter

received from Rinck: 'These damned Reds not only made us suffer but they arrested me five times for spying. Chess correspondence on postcards in algebraic notation was for these 'scholars' ciphers'. Thanks to his fame as a chess composer, Rinck was apparently defended by some Russian chessplayers who examined his case and he was authorized to leave Spain for France, where he had to wait before being authorized to return in Spain. Gaston Legrain added: 'The author of *1000 Endgames* hopes to find back in the deposit box in a Spanish-American bank the manuscript of this major book, his life work, that will comfort him after being stolen'. Specialists of Rinck's work know that the composer did not published any book with that title. He wrote his first collection of studies as early as in 1909 (*150 fins de partie*, with a second edition in 1913). *300 fins de partie* and *700 fins de partie* followed (1919 and 1927). Rinck saw, six days before his death, the publication of his ultimate collection, *1414 fins de partie* (1952).

A short article in the *Revista Română de Șah* (January 1940), written for Rinck's birthday, indicates that the composer was back in Badalona.

Despite sometimes being described as a Spaniard, Rinck remained French. Halberstadt, in his obituary written for *L'Échiquier de Paris*, called for a Rinck Memorial organized by FIDE, IPB (*International Problem Board*) or FFE (*French Chess Federation*). But two 'rival' tourneys were eventually organized, more or less at the same time, by two French chess magazines, *L'Échiquier de Paris* (EdP) and the *Bulletin Ouvrier des Echecs* (BOE). There was a slight difference: the *Échiquier de Paris* tourney was named 'Mémorial Rinck' when the BOE's formulation was: '2^{ème} Concours international

d'études à la mémoire de H. Rinck' (2nd tourney because of a previous study tourney in 1951-52).

I will begin with the 'second tourney' (*Bulletin Ouvrier des Échecs* – its award was published one year after the other one), because it was in fact the first one...

The announcement was published in November 1952, with a closing date set for 30vi1953 but the award, announced for August 1953, was not published until February 1955... In late 1953, in no. 79, a short announcement gave explanations for the delay. 'Unfortunately, Mr Halberstadt, who had accepted to act as the judge, recently recused himself for personal reasons and prohibited the use of his name in our publication. In the text of the award, the apologies were repeated: *'First we apologize for the delay. This delay was caused by the withdrawal of the judge and promoter'* (this time, Halberstadt's name was not quoted, as requested by himself). The reasons for the dispute are not known.

Julien Vandiest, who had been praised in fulsome terms in a previous article of the *BOE* by Halberstadt himself, was called to the rescue and acted as judge together with Cornelis de Feijter. De Feijter offered copies of his book 'Fins de parties', as written in the text of the award (in French: maybe *De eindspelstudie*, written with Jan Marwitz and published in 1948). These books were added to the rewards originally announced: a copy of *1414 fins de partie* (Rinck's ultimate collection), *Fins de parties*, by André Chéron (in fact, *Nouveau traité complet d'échecs – la fin de partie*, 1952), *Fins de partie* (3 volumes) by Alexander Rueb (another inaccuracy: title is *De Schaakstudie*).

Chess magazines were probably embarrassed by this strange situation. For instance, in *Problemas*, only the *L'Échiquier de Paris* tourney was announced (No. 132-133, March-April 1953). This was logical: during the French era, it was inconceivable to seek to promote a tourney organized by a communist publication. However, in *Československý šach* (1/1953), it was the *Bulletin Ouvrier des Echecs* that was announced, and not the other one. Later, the same magazine partially reproduced the final

award of the *EdP* tourney but without mentioning it as a Rinck Memorial!

The *BOE* was one of these chess magazines that were linked with the labour movement, close to the Communist parties of their respective countries. Other such magazines were the *Työväen Shakki* (Finland, 1934-1938, with a study section edited by Visa Kivi and two informal study tourneys organized in 1935 and 1936), the *Arbeiter Schachzeitung* in Switzerland (it had several names and was published from 1930 till 1995 – an informal study tourney was organized in 1954) or the *Arbejder Skak* (Denmark, 1931-1970).

In early 1939, Vitaly Halberstadt began his collaboration with the *BOE* and announced a tourney for 6-man studies (theme: struggle against a passed pawn) but after the outbreak of WWII the tourney was abandoned. In 1951-52, a thematic tourney for miniatures was organized, by the same Vitaly Halberstadt. This tourney mainly attracted composers from countries behind the Iron Curtain, from Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Among participants we see the name of some composers who were, somewhat later, among the participants of the (*BOE*) Rinck Memorial Tourney (Prokop, Voia, Nyeveckzey, Farago... but the 1951-52 tourney was formal and the full nominative list of participants was not given).

So, it was no surprise that most of the participants of the *BOE* tourney came from Eastern Europe (14 out of 18, with five each from Romania and Hungary and 4 from Czechoslovakia). This time, the names of the composers were given: R. Voia, V. Nestorescu, L. Loeventon, S. Samarian and P. Farago (for Rumania), F. Prokop, F. Richter, L. Prokeš and M. Soukup-Bardon for Czechoslovakia, L. Lindner, L. Nyeveckzey, J. Lazar and a certain Kele (without first name) for Hungary. There was also a handful of composers from the 'free world': Hugh Blandford (United Kingdom), Axel Åkerblom (Sweden), C. Peronace (Argentina) and M. Marassoglou (Greece). There was not a single composer from France.

Hugh Blandford (1917-1981), who had two entries, may have chosen this tourney for

political reasons. In his book about Blandford (*Published work and notebooks of Hugh Blandford*), John Roycroft writes: 'Hugh's mildly left-wing views are evident, not only from his interest in the Common Wealth Party, before he attended the Mandrake Club, well known as meeting place for aesthetes and intellectuals [...] but from his consistent support of 'worker' chess magazines, such as the French one [BOE] and its Swiss counterpart *Schweizerisch Arbeiter-Schachzeitung*'. Blandford's entries (mottoes: Pinza I and Pinza II) were interesting especially Pinza II, see below).

At the time, Åkerblom also took part in some tourneys in Eastern Europe countries and also in the Soviet Union. I know very little about him but I remember that Lars Falk once wrote to me that he was delighted to re-discover in *Schackvärlden* some fierce articles by Åkerblom against the Nazi regime, written in 1935-1936. So, maybe, his participation had a political intention.

Carlos Peronace (Argentina) was (more or less) a beginner and was apparently the only composer to enter studies in both memorial tourneys (I will revert to him in the second part of this article). Finally, nothing is known about the last composer, the Greek M. Marassoglou.

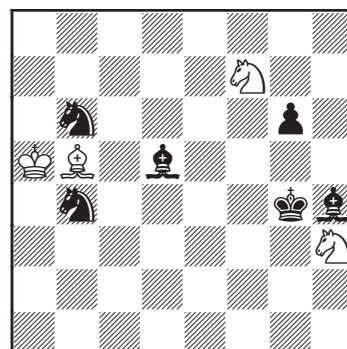
The 33 entries were published during the first half-year of 1953: in February (BOE n°72), June (BOE n°76), July-August (BOE n°77/78). The judges selected 10 studies for their award (after eliminating 14, either unsound or anticipated) and added 2 'reserve' studies in case of cooks or bust:

- 1st prize: F. Richter
- 2nd prize: L. Nyeveckzey
- 3rd-4th prizes equal: C. Peronace and F. Prokop
- 1st hm: R. Voia
- 2nd hm: L. Lindner
- 3rd hm: H. Blandford
- 4th hm: A. Åkerblom
- 5th hm: F. Prokop
- 6th hm: L. Loeventon
- Reserve no. 1: L. Loeventon
- Reserve no. 2: F. Richter

P.1 F. Richter

1st prize

Bulletin Ouvrier des Échecs,
Rinck Memorial 1953-1955



a5g4 0078.01 4/6 Draw

1.Se5+ Kxh3 2.Sxg6 Be4 3.Sxh4 S6d5 4.Sf5 Bxf5 5.Bd7 Bxd7 stalemate or 3...S4d5 4.Sg2 Bxg2 (4...Kxg2 5.5.Bd3 Bf3 6.Be2 Bxe2 stalemate) 5.Bf1 Bxf1 stalemate.

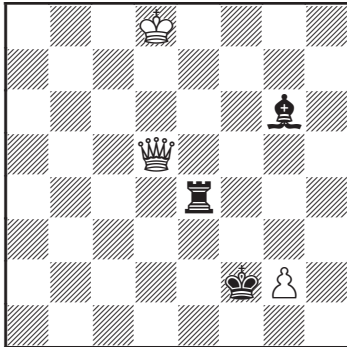
The Judges did not comment on the early captures (two unmoved figures and a pawn in the six first half-moves) but they did praise the final echo, in Bohemian style. František Richter (1913-1971), not to be confused with Emil Richter (1894-1971) is one these numerous Czech composers about whom little is known. His obituary in *Šachové umění* tells us that he was born in the Russian Empire, in Rostov-on-Don. He was a rather prolific composer in several genres of composition (his obituary presents 2 studies out of 6 compositions).

The interest of second prize, by L. Nyeveckzey, eludes me. The third and fourth prizes (equal) were studies by Carlos Peronace and by F. Prokop. Prokop's work was a classical study (Q+S versus QP), that could only please Vandiest; the Peronace study will be presented in part 2 of this article.

I have selected two honourable mentions I find especially interesting:

(P.2) 1...Kg3 2.Qd6+ (Qg5+? Rg4;) 2...Kh4 3.Qxg6 the bK is virtually stalemated; Black will try to get rid of the Rook. **3...Rd4+ 4.Kc7!!** (4.Kc8? Rc4+ 5.Kb7 Rb4+ 6.Ka6 Ra4+ 7.Kb5 Ra5+ 8.Kb4 Ra4+ with perpetual check or stalemate if the wK goes to h2; 4.Ke7? Rd7+

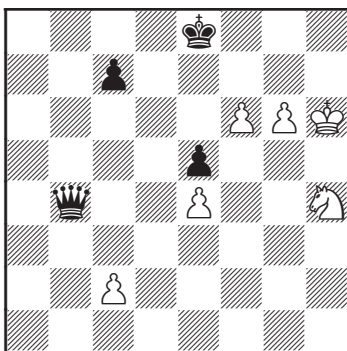
P.2 R. Voia
1st hon. mention
Bulletin Ouvrier des Échecs,
Rinck Memorial 1953-1955



d8f2 1330.10 3/3 BTM, Win

5.Kf8 Rd8+ 6.Kg7 Rg8+ 7.Kxg8 stalemate) 4...
Rc4+ 5.**Kb6** **Rb4+** 6.**Kc5!** **Rc4+** 7.**Kd5** **Rd4+**
8.**Ke5** **Rd5+** 9.**Ke4** (here 9.Kf4 can be played
but after 9...Rf5+ 10.Ke4 Re5+ we are back in
the author's solution) 9...**Re5+** 10.**Kf3** (**Kd3**)
Rf5 (**Rd5+**) 11.**Ke2** **Re5+** 12.**Kf1!** **Re1+** 13.**Kf2**
Rf1+ (13...Re2+ 14.Kf3 Rf2+ 15.Ke3 Re2+ 16.Kf4
Rf2+ 17.Ke5 and White wins) 14.**Ke2** (**Ke3**)
and White wins, e.g. 14...Re1 15.Kd2(3) Rd1+
16.Kc2(3) Rc1+ 17.Kb2.

P.3 H. Blandford
3rd hon. mention
Bulletin Ouvrier des Échecs,
Rinck Memorial 1953-1955



h6e8 3001.42 6/4 Win

1.g7 Kf7 2.Sf3 Kg8 3.Sg5 Qd6 4.Kg6 Qc6
and the *festina lente* theme decides: 5.c3 Qb6
6.c4 Qc6 7.c5 Qa6 8.Sf7 and White wins.

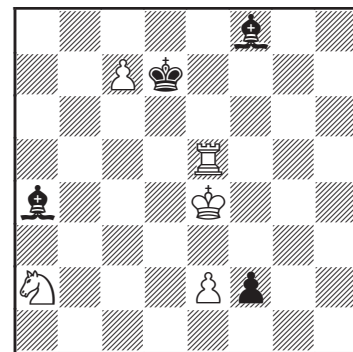
In *BESN* special number 35 (6/2003), the
soundness of this study was questioned: John
Nunn proposed a second solution with 1.Kh7
Qxe4 2.Kg7 Qxh4 3.f7+ Kd7 4.f8Q e4 5.Qf5+

Ke7 6.Kg8 with an 'extreme favourable Queen
and pawn ending'.

But Black has 2...Qf4! and after 3.Sg2 Qf3!
(3...Qf2? 4.Se3 c6 5.Sg4 Qf4 6.Sh6 e4 7.f7+ Ke7
8.Sg8+ Kd8 9.Sf6 and White wins) 4.Se3 (as
proposed) 4...c6 5.Sc4 (now 5.Sg4 Kd8 6.Sh6
e4 7.f7 e3 8.f8Q+ Qxf8 9.Kxf8 e2) 5...Kd8 6.Sd2
Qf4 7.Se4 Kd7 and there is no win.

Blandford's second entry was 'conceived
on such a scale', wrote John Roycroft, that its
demolition was a big disappointment to Hugh
Blandford (the judges agreed, since, among the
unsound studies, it is the only one about which
they commented: 'A pity').

P.4 H. Blandford
Bulletin Ouvrier des Échecs,
Rinck Memorial 1953



e4d7 0161.21 5/4 Win

The intended solution: was: 1.**Re8** **Bc6+**
2.**Kd3** **Bb5+** 3.**Kc2** **Ba4+** 4.**Kb2** **Bg7+** 5.**Sc3**
Kxc7 6.**Ke7+** The key position: Blandford now
continues with 6...**Kc6** but the judges noticed
6...Kd8 7.Rf7 Bd4 8.e3 Be8 and 'White cannot
win'. I don't give any exclamation mark here
because, even after 8...Bb5, the move given
by Blandford, White cannot win: 9.Rxf2 Bxe3
10.Rf8+ and, again, 10...Be8 draws, instead of
the faulty 10...Ke7? 11.Rf5 followed by 12.Re5+
winning.

But Black also draws after 6...Kd6: 7.Rf7
Bd4 8.e3 Bxe3 (8...Bb5, as analysed by Bland-
ford, loses: 9.Rxf2 Bxe3 10.Sxb5+) 9.Sxa4 and
now 9...Ke5! with the threat 10...Bf4 and it is
a draw.

The author's solution ended as follows: 7.**Rf7**
Bd4 8.**e3** **Bb5** 9.**Rxf2** **Bxe3** 10.**Rf6+** **Kc5** 11.**Rf5+**

Kc4 12.Sxb5 (and not 12.Rxb5? Bd4 13.Rb3 Kd3 draw) and White wins.

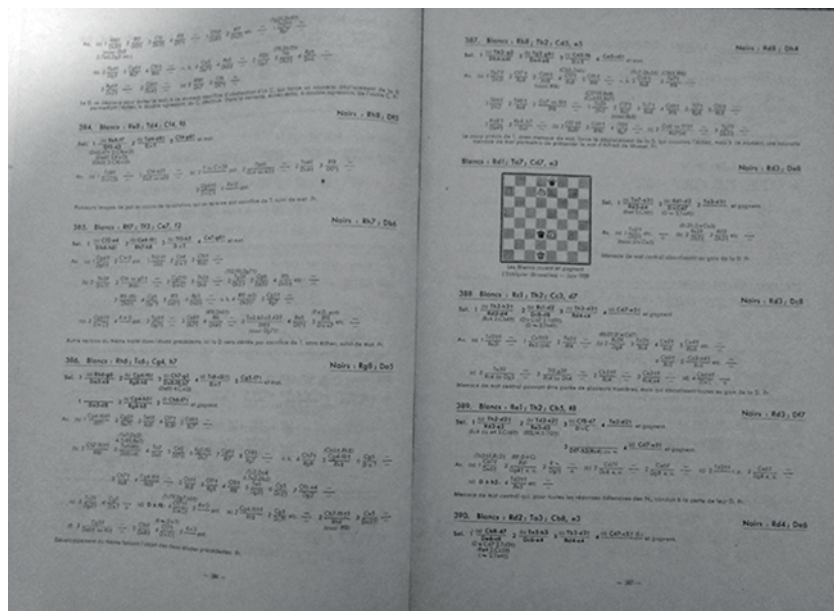
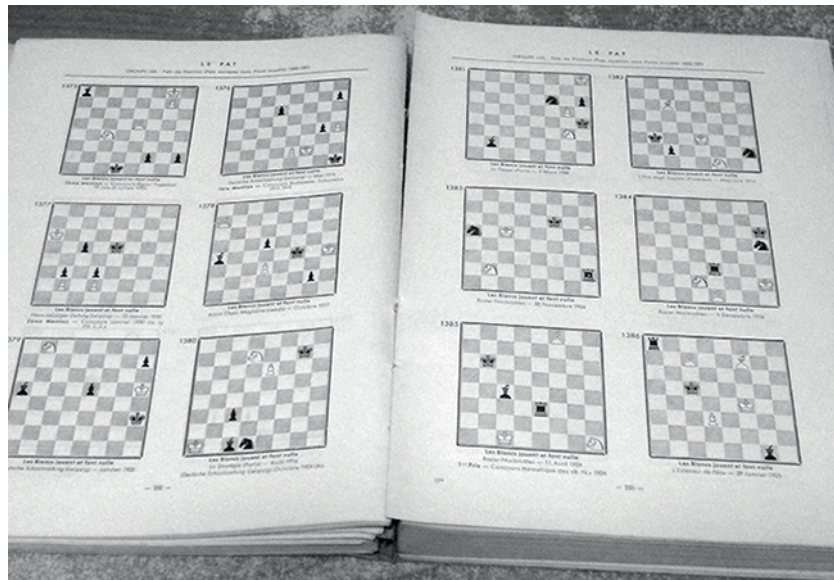
(to be continued)

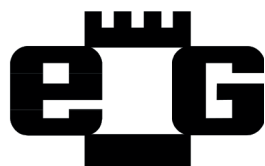
Sources:

Special thanks to Marcel Doré, Lars Falk and Timothy Whitworth.

The published work and notebooks of Hugh Blandford John Roycroft, STES 1993

BESN Special number 35 (June 2003).





Quality Control

Corrections and reconstruction of old endgame studies

BY JAROSLAV POLÁŠEK

The well-known Czech composer Miroslav Šindelář (1948–2016) died last year.

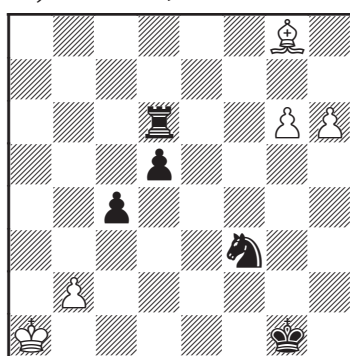
Jindřich Fritz described in his manuscript *Česká studie* (The Czech study, 1983) Šindelář's work as follows: "He was a problemist, but he was also composing studies. His works are thorough and profoundly thoughtful, always original. Every new diagram is very good. Unfortunately, there are few..."

I tried to map his studies in the magazine *Šachová Skladba* – for those who are interested I can point at my articles in issue 133 (x2016) and 136 (vii2017). It is possible to download them in PDF or PGN here: www.sach.cz in the section „studie“ (studies). I corrected here some of his studies. Let's have a look at one of them.

P.1 Miroslav Šindelář

4th prize *Šachové umění* 1970

Correction J. Polášek, *Šachová Skladba* 2016



a1g1 0313.32 5/5 Win

1.h7 Sd2! Threatening **2...Ra6** mate. **2.b4! c3** **3.b5 Rd7!** (3...Rd8 4.Bxd5 c2 5.Kb2 Rc8 6.Bc6) **4.b6 Rd8 5.b7 Rd6! 6.b8S! wins.** „The Excelsior motif consists of a pawn moving from the base square to the promotion square.“ (J. Fritz).

The history of the development of this study is interesting. Šindelář printed the study first with bKf2 – but the king is too close to his

c-pawn, so that after 3...Rd8! 4.Bxd5 Ke2 5.g7 c2 6.Kb2 Kd1 Black even wins. The author tried to correct the study by moving the king on g3, but neither he nor the judge didn't notice the simple dual 6.b8Q with the pin of bR (6.Bxd5 wins, too).

The next correction was done by Libiš – he added a bPf4 in the position with Kg3 to block the diagonal b8-h2. The added pawn is not only unattractive, but is also destroying the study: Black draws after 6...Rb6 7.h8D Rb1+ 8.Ka2 Rb2+ 9.Ka3 Rb3+ 10.Ka4 c2 11.Qa1 Sb1.

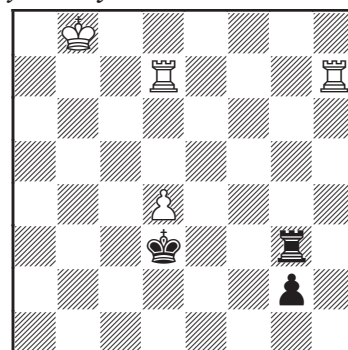
The sound correction which you can see in diagram P.1 was not difficult – it was enough to move the king to g1 and the study shines again in all its beauty.

The next three studies I prepared for this year's Solving Championship of the Czech Republic in Pardubice.

For the first one I got the inspiration from a simple work by Ladislav Prokeš.

P.2 Ladislav Prokeš

Tijdschrift van de KNSB 1948



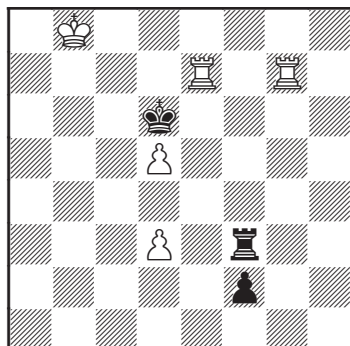
b8d3 0500.11 5/3 Draw

Try **1.Rh3?! g1Q 2.Rg7! Qb1+ 3.Rb7 Qxb7+ 4.Kxb7 Rxh3 5.d5 Rh6 6.Kc7** with a draw is refuted by **1...Rxh3 2.Rg7 Rh8+ 3.Kb7 Rh7! counterpin! 4.Rxh7 g1Q 5.d5 Qc5** and Black wins.

Therefore: **1.Rdg7!** and after **1...g1Q 2.Rh3!**

However, the solution is too short, therefore an introduction is needed.

P.3 Jaroslav Polášek
Original, after Ladislav Prokeš

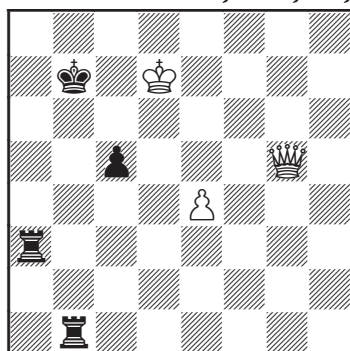


b8d6 0500.21 5/3 Draw

Let's try **1.Rd7+?! Ke5 2.Rde7+ Kd4 3.Rg4+ Kxd3!** (after **3...Kxd5? 4.Rge4!** White saves himself with perpetual chess) **4.Rg3** hoping for **4...f1Q? 5.Rf7!** with a draw. But **4...Rxc3! 5.Rf7 Rg8+! 6.Kc7 Rg7!** and Black wins. To a similar finish leads **2.d4+ Kxd4 3.Rg4+ Kd3 4.Rg3 Rxc3! 5.Rf7 Rg8+ 6.Kc7 Rg7!**

Right is **1.d4!** threatening Rd7 mate. **1...Kxd5 2.Rd7+ Ke4 3.Rde7+ Kd3** and now like Prokeš: **4.Ref7! f1Q 5.Rg3! Qb1+ 6.Rb7 Qd1 7.Rxf3+!**, because after **7...Qxf3?? 8.Rb3+!** Black even loses.

P.4 V. Razumenko
hon. mention *Zadachy i Etyudy* 1995



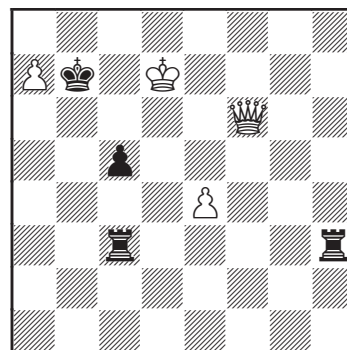
d7b7 1600.11 3/4 Win

The nice solution is: **1.Qd5+ Kb8 2.Qd6+ Ka8 3.Qc6+ Rb7+ 4.Kc8 Raa7** (Rab3; Qa4+) **5.e5 c4 6.e6 c3 7.e7 c2 8.e8S!** (8.e8Q? c1Q 9.Qee4 Qb2) **8...c1Q 9.Sc7** mate. However, there is a dual: **3.Kc8 Ra7 4.e5 Rab7 5.Qa6+ Ra7 6.Qc6+ Rab7 7.e6 Ka7 8.Qxc5+ and 9.e7, or 4...c4 5.e6**

c3 6.Qc6+ (6...Rbb7 7.e7 leads to the main line) 6...Rab7 7.e7 c2 8.Qxc2 wins (EG#11352).

The correction was rather easy.

P.5 V. Razumenko
hon. mention *Zadachy i Etyudy* 1995
correction J. Polášek

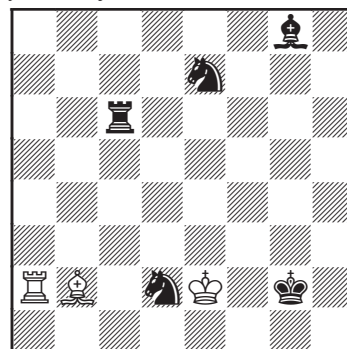


d7b7 1600.21 4/4 Win

1.a8Q+! Kxa8 2.Kc7! Enforces the splitting of the black rooks (**2.Kc8? Ka7**). **2...Rh7+ 3.Kc8 Rb3 3...Ra3 4.Qc6+ Ka7 5.Qxc5+ and bRa3** is lost. **4.Qa6+ Ra7 5.Qc6+ Rbb7 5...Rab7 6.Qa4+ and bRb3** is lost. **6.e5** and further like Razumenko: **6...c4 7.e6 c3 8.e7 c2 9.e8S c1Q 10.Sc7** mate.

Jindřich Fritz liked studies without pawns – so called aristocrats.

P.6 Jindřich Fritz
Tijdschrift van de KNSB 1955



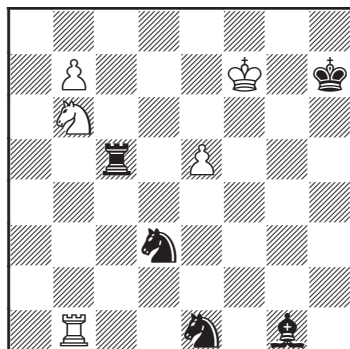
e2g2 0446.00 3/5 Draw

1.Ra7! Rc2! 2.Rxe7 Bc4+ 3.Kd1 Rxb2 4.Kc1! Ra2 5.Re2+ Bxe2 stalemate.

The study is incorrect, Black has several ways to transfer the position to the ending RBSxRP with opposite-coloured bishops, which always wins for the strong side, e.g. **2...Sf1+ 3.Kd3 Rd2+ 4.Kc3 Rd8.**

Philidor already said that "the pawns are the soul of chess". With their help I managed to reconstruct this study for the solvers in Pardubice:

P.7 Jaroslav Polášek
after Fritz

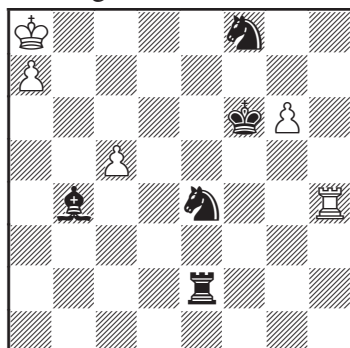


f7h7 0437.20 5/5 BTM, Draw

1...Rc7+ 2.Sd7! Sxe5+ (2...Rxd7+ 3.Ke8 Rg7 4.b8Q Rg8+ 5.Ke7 Rxb8 6.Rxb8) **3.Ke8!** 3.Ke6? Sxd7 4.Rxe1 Bb6 wins. **3...Sxd7 4.Rxe1** (4.Kd8? Bh2 5.Rxe1 Sb8 6.Rh1 Sc6+ 7.Ke8 Kg7 8.Rxh2 Re7 mate) **4...Bc5!** Guarding the square e7. **5.Kd8 Rxb7 6.Kc8 Ra7 7.Re7+ Bxe7** stalemate.

I was not fully satisfied with this version, the bK didn't play, bSe1 was dead wood and some might also not like when Black starts. Just before deadline for this issue, I found a better solution.

P.8 Jaroslav Polášek
Original, after Fritz



a8f6 0436.30 5/5 Draw

1.g7! The bK is forced to move to the seventh row – the reason will be seen at the end of the solution. **1...Kxg7 2.Kb8 Sd7+** After 2...Sxc5 3.a8Q Re8+ 4.Ka7 Rxa8+ 5.Kxa8 White holds the RxBSS ending. **3.Kc7!** But not 3.Kc8? Bxc5

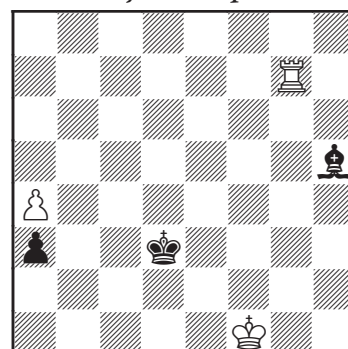
4.a8Q Sb6+. **3...Ra2 4.Rxe4** (4.Kxd7? Rxa7+ 5.Kc6 Re7) **4...Rxa7+ 5.Kc8 Bxc5 6.Re7+ Bxe7** stalemate.

Swapping moves is not possible: after 1.Kb8? Sd7+ 2.Kc7 Ra2 3.Rxe4 Rxa7+ 4.Kc8 Bxc5 5.g7 Black doesn't have to take Pg7; e.g. 5...Sb6+ wins easily.

I wanted to prolong the solution by moving the pieces wPg6 to g5 and bKf6 to e5 with the introduction 1.g6! Kf6. It is well known that extension of the plot without adding any pieces is beneficial and improves the study. Beware that is not the case here, the study would be overloaded by the difficult analysis in the side line 1...Sxg6. The engines indicate a draw after 1.Rh5+ Kd4 2.Kb7 Sf4 3.Rf5! Sd5 4.Rxd5+ Kxd5 5.a8Q Sxc5+ 6.Kc7+, because the weaker side usually holds the ending QxRBS. In this case, Black surprisingly wins after 6...Kc4, as you can see in the EGTB. The reason is the position of the bR on the key square e2 where it blocks the rescue 7.Qa2+. It would be sufficient move the bRe2 to e1 or e3 at the initial position and the study would be correct. As you can see I didn't do that, because it would disgusts the solvers by a lot of analysis.

While searching for predecessors I found a nice study by V.N. Kondratev.

P.9 V.N. Kondratev
special hon. mention
Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia 1994



fid3 0130.11 3/3 Win?

1.Rg3+ Kc4 2.Rxa3 Kb4 3.Ra2! Ka5 (3...Bf7 4.Ra1 Ka5 5.Ke2 Be8 6.Kd3 Bxa4 7.Kc4)

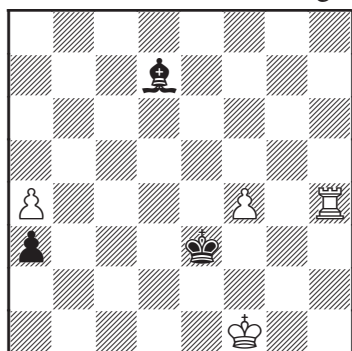
4.Ke1 Bf7! 5.Ra3! Be8 6.Kd2 Bxa4 7.Kc3 Kb5 8.Ra1! Reciprocal zugzwang! **8...Ka5 9.Kc4** win.

Even though the final theme was used often, the study got a special distinction for the surprising induction of the reciprocal zugzwang (EG#10515).

Unfortunately, the study is incorrect as the simple 6...Kb4! cooks the study and leads to a draw!

I saved the study by moving bBh5 to f5 and moreover I added a short introduction.

P.10 V.N. Kondratev
special hon. mention
Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia 1994
Correction J. Polásek, original



f1e3 0130.21 4/3 Win

1.f5! (1.Rh2? Bxa4 2.Rh3+ Ke4! 3.Rxa3 Bb5+) **1...Bxf5 2.Rh2!** After 2.a5?! Be4 3.Rh3+ Bf3 4.Rh2 Bd5 5.Rh3+ Bf3 6.Rh4 Be4 positional draw. **2...Kd3** After 2...Be6 3.Re2+ Black loses the bishop. **3.Ra2 Kc4 4.Rxa3 Kb4 5.Ra2!** 5.Ra1? Ka5 6.Ke2 Bc2 7.Kd2 Bxa4 8.Kc3 Kb5 zz. **5...Ka5 6.Ke2!** This move was impossible in Kondratev original, because the bB stood on h5. After 6.Ke1? Black draws by 6...Be6! 7.Ra3 Bd7 8.Kd2 Kb4! **6...Bb1** (6...Bd7 7.Kd3 Bxa4 8.Kc4) **7.Ra3! Bc2 8.Kd2 Bxa4 9.Kc3 Kb5 10.Ra1! zz Ka5 11.Kc4** wins.



Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen enjoys his solving in Dresden.

Improving oneself

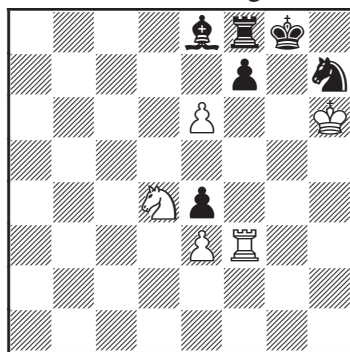
BY YOCHANAN AFEK

While trying to remain active in the competitive composing scene, every now and then I delve into my older studies in an effort to rescue as many as possible from the cooking section. Recently I have been sufficiently inspired to have restored or reconstructed a dozen studies which seemed pretty much hopeless. In most of the cases I believe I even managed to improve on my original efforts and I would like to present to you here four successful examples. The demolished originals are given with just their main lines and the cooks.

Y. Afek, 1st hon. mention *Buletin Problemistic* 1996, h5g8 o334.22 g4h3d5f8.e3e6e4f7 4/6 Draw: 1.e7 Rg5+ 2.Kxg5 Sh7+ 3.Kh6 Bd7 4.e8Q+ Bxe8 5.Se7+ Kh8 6.Sg6+ Kg8 7.Se7+ Kf8 8.Sd5 Kg8 9.Se7+ Kh8 10.Sg6+ fxg6 stalemate! (EG#11137).

Cooked by MG: 3.Kf4! Bd7 4.Kxe4 Kg7 5.Ke5 Be8 6.Kf5 wins (HHdbIV 2010).

Y.1 Yochanan Afek
1st hon. mention *Buletin Problemistic* 1996
Correction, original



h6g8 o434.22 5/6 Draw

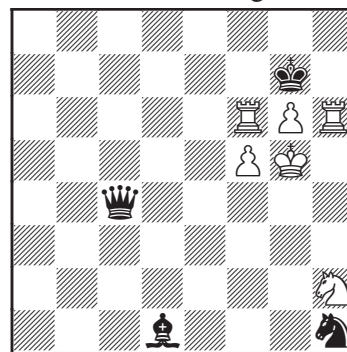
White, a piece down, makes the most of his remaining pieces. **1.Rg3+** (1.e7? is met by 1...exf3 2.exf8Q+ Sxf8 3.Sxf3 and the material advantage decides. 3...f6 wins) **1...Kh8 2.e7! Rg8 3.Rxg8+ Kxg8 4.Sf5! Bd7** (4...Sf6 allows the precise drawing line 5.Sg5! Nd5 6.Sd6 f6+ 7.Kf5

Bd7+ 8.Kg6! Sxe7+ 9.Kxf6 Kf8 10.Sxe4 draws) **5.e8Q+!** To vacate a key square while following 5.Sd6? Sf6 6.Kg5 Kg7 Black wins comfortably. **5...Bxe8 6.Se7+ Kh8 7.Sg6+! Kg8** (Or 7...fxg6 stalemate!) **8.Se7+ Kf8 9.Sd5! Kg8** Since the knight is dominated. **10.Se7+ Kh8 11.Sg6+!** Positional draw or stalemate!

Y. Afek, 5th prize Nona ty 2005, g5h8 3144.20 a2h4h6d1h2h1.f5g6 6/4 Win: 1.Bg7+ Kxg7 2.f6+ Kf8 3.Rh8+ Qg8 4.g7+ Kf7 5.Sg4 Bxg4 6.Kxg4 Sf2+ 7.Kf4 (7.Kf5? Sd3 8.Kg5 Se5) 7...Sd3+ 8.Kf5 Sc5 9.Rxg8 Kxg8 10.Kg6 wins (EG#14830).

Cooked by HH: 1.Rd4! (HHdbV 2015)

Y.2 Yochanan Afek
5th prize Nona ty 2005
Correction, original



g5g7 3234.20 6/4 Win

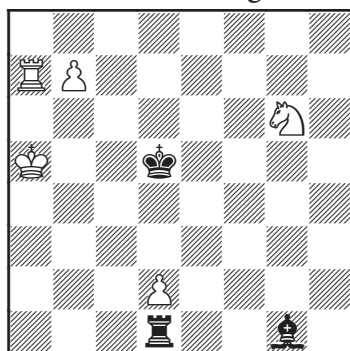
Black's sharp threats against the wK require some urgent measures: **1.Rf7+** No time for 1.Rh7+? Kg8 2.Rd6 owing to 2...Qc1+ 3.Kf6 Qc3+ with perpetual check. **1...Kg8 2.Rg7+! Kxg7** (The capture refusal 2...Kf8 is vigorously met by 3.Rc7!! Qxc7 (3...Qd4 4.Rh8+ Qxh8 5.Rc8+) 4.Rh8+ Ke7 5.Rh7+ Kd6 6.Rxc7 Kxc7 and now most straightforward is 7.f6 Kd7 8.f7 Ke7 9.Kh6 Kf8 10.g7+ Kxf7 11.Kh7 Bc2+ 12.Kh8) **3.f6+ Kf8** (3...Kg8 loses to 4.f7+ Qxf7 5.gxf7+ Kxf7 6.Rf6+ Ke7 7.Rf1) **4.Rh8+ Qg8 5.g7+ (5.Rxg8+? Kxg8 6.Kh6 Bb3 is just a draw) 5...Kf7 6.Sg4! Bxg4 7.Kxg4 Sf2+ 8.Kf4!** (8.Kf5? Sd3 zz 9.Rxg8 Kxg8

10.Kg6 Se5+ draws) **8...Sd3+** (8...Sd1 9.Kg5! Qxg7+ 10.fxg7 Kxg7 11.Rc8!) **9.Kf5!** zz **9...Sc5** (9...Qxg7 10.fxg7 Kxg7 11.Rc8! is again the winning move isolating and trapping the enemy knight) **10.Rxg8 Kxg8 11.Kg6 Se6 12.f7** mate.

Y. Afek, 4th commendation Nestorescu-80 JT 2010, a5a8 0431.10 f7d1a1f8.b5 4/3 Win: 1.b6 Be5 (1...Bd4 2.Ra7+ Kb8 3.Sd7+ Kc8 4.b7+, or 1...Bc3+ 2.Kb5 Ra1 3.Sd7 wins) 2.Ra7+ Kb8 3.Sd7+ Kc8 4.b7+ Kd8 5.Sxe5 Kc7 6.Sc6 Kxc6 7.b8S+ Kc5 8.Rc7+ Kd4 9.Rd7+ Kc3 10.Rxd1 (EG#18025).

Cooked by MG: 4.Sc5! (EGTB) Bd6 5.Ra8+ Bb8 6.Kb5 wins (EG187, 2012).

Y.3 Yochanan Afek
4th commendation
Nestorescu-80 JT 2010
Correction, original



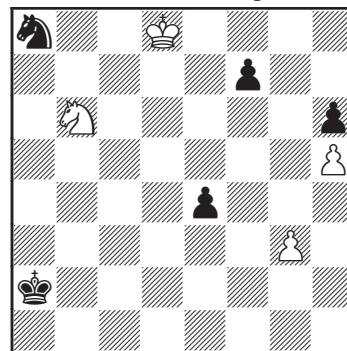
a5d5 0431.20 5/4 Win

The knight is the hero of the drama: **1.Sf4+**! The hasty promotion 1.b8Q? allows perpetual check by 1...Ra1+ 2.Kb5 Rb1+ draws. **1...Kc4!** The most active defence, threatening mate. **2.d3+! Kc5 3.d4+!** (3.Se6+? looks promising yet following 3...Kc6 4.Sd8+ Kc5 5.Ka4 (d4+; Kc4) Bh2 6.Ra5+ Kb6 7.Rb5+ Ka6 8.Rd5 Bc7 9.Rd7 Bxd8 10.b8S+ Kb6 11.Rxd8 Kc7 not too much is left to play for anymore) **3...Bxd4 4.Se6+ Kc6 5.Sxd4+ Kc7 6.Sc6! Kxc6** (6...Ra1+ 7.Kb5 Rb1+ 8.Sb4 Kb8 9.Ka6 Ra1+ 10.Kb6 and wins) **7.b8S+!** Phoenix! **7...Kc5 8.Rc7+ Kd4** and the decisive skewer **9.Rd7+** finishes Black off.

Y. Afek, 1st hon. mention Chessbase-25 AT 2012, d8d3 0130.24 f4a8.g4h5c3e5f7h6 4/6 Win: 1.Rf3+ Ke4 2.Rxc3 Kf4 3.Rc4+ e4 4.Rxe4+ Kxe4 5.g5 Kf5 6.gxh6 Kf6 7.Kd7 Sb6+ 8.Ke8 zz Sd5 9.Kf8 Se7 10.h7 and wins (EG#18668).

Cooked: 2.Rf1 f6 3.Rxf6 c2 4.Rf1 Sb6 5.g5 Sd5 6.Ke8 hxg5 7.Kf7 Se3 8.Rc1 wins.

Y.4 Yochanan Afek
1st hon. mention Chessbase-25 AT 2012
Correction, original



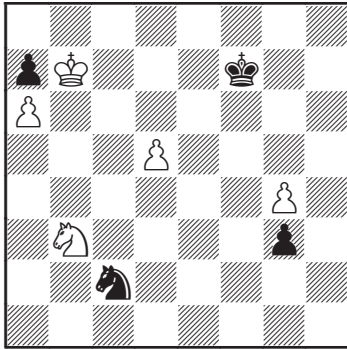
d8a2 0004.23 4/5 Win

The wK is clearly ahead of his counterpart in the battle on the kingside and yet it's not over until it's over. **1.Sc4!** While 1.Sd5? Kb3 2.Ke7 Sb6 3.Se3 Sc4 4.Sg4 e3 5.Sxe3 Sxe3 is just a draw. **1...Kb3!** Black's only practical chance is to rush his remote king to the main scene even at the price of his best pawn. His position is hopeless after either 1...f5 2.Kd7! Kb3 3.Se3 f4 4.gxf4 Sb6+ 5.Ke6 Sc4 6.Sg2, or 1...f6 2.g4 Kb3 3.Sd2+ Kc3 4.Sxe4+ Kd4 5.Sxf6 Ke5 6.Ke7 Kf4 7.Kf7 Kg5 8.Sd5! wins. **2.Sd2+ Kc3 3.Sxe4+ Kd4 4.g4!!** My horse for a tempo! Any knight move allows 4...Ke5 and the king arrives just in time to cover the kingside successfully. **4...Kxe4 5.g5 Kf5 6.gxh6 Kf6 7.Kd7!!** This waiting move is the only move to prevail whereas 7.Ke8? fails to 7...Sb6! as it is reciprocal zugzwang with White to play! (But not to 7...Sc7+? 8.Kf8 Se6+ 9.Kg8 Sg5 10.h7 Sxh7 11.Kxh7 Kg5 12.h6 wins) 8.Kf8 Sd7+ 9.Kg8 Kg5 10.h7 Sf6+ 11.Kg7 Sxh7 draws. **7...Sb6+ 8.Ke8!** The same reciprocal zugzwang just seen in the try, however this time with Black to play! **8...Sd5 9.Kf8** wins; the white pawn is unstoppable.

Y. Afek, hors concours Doré JT 2008, b7b2 0004.22 c5c2.a6g4a7g3 4/4 Win: 1.Sd3+ Kc3 2.Sf4 Kd4 3.Se2+/i Ke3 4.Sxg3 Kf4 5.Sh1/ii Kxg4/iii 6.Sf2+ Kf5 7.Sd3 Ke4 8.Kxa7 wins (EG#16608).

Cooked by MG: 6.Sd3+ Kf5 7.Kxa7 wins (HHdbIV 2010).

Y.5 Yochanan Afek
hors concours Doré JT 2008
Correction 2012

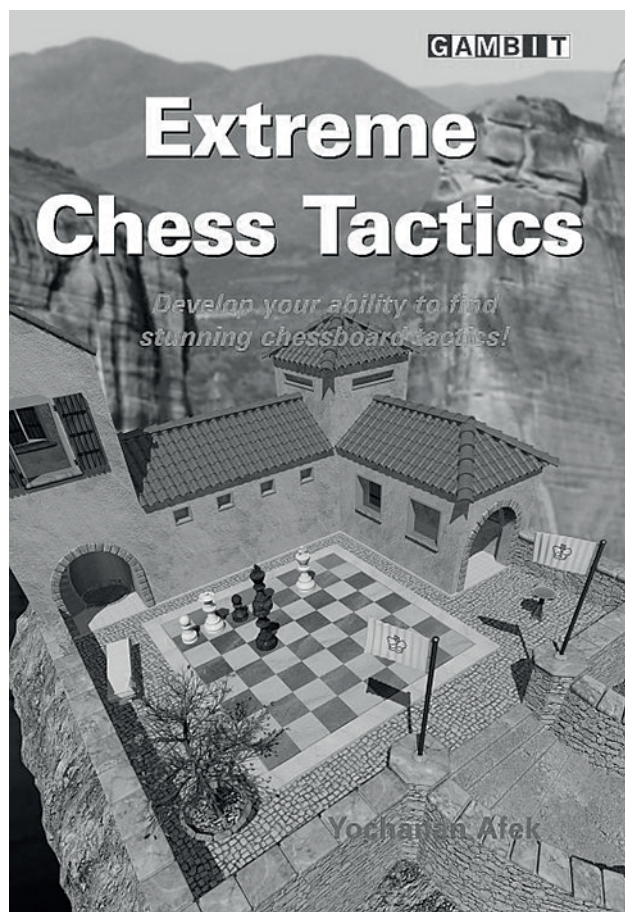


b7f7 0004.32 5/4 Win

Black's passed pawn should be stopped and then the win is easy. Or is it? **1.d6!** (The more active approach; moving the knight towards

the pawn leads nowhere following 1.Sd2? Ke7! 2.Sf3 Sb4 3.g5 Sxd5 4.Kxa7 Sc7, or here 2.Kc7 Sb4 3.d6+ Ke6 4.d7 Sd5+ 5.Kc6 Se7+ 6.Kc7 Sd5+ draw) **1...Ke6** (1...g2 2.d7 g1Q 3.d8Q The black pieces are not set up to cope with the would-be strong passed pawn on a6) **2.Sc5+** (2.Kc7? is rather slow in view of 2...g2 3.d7 g1Q 4.d8Q Qb6+) **2...Kxd6 3.Se4+ Ke5 4.Sxg3 Kf4 5.Sh1!!** Only this funny-looking move to the most remote corner does the trick. 5.Sf1 (Sf5)? Kxg4 6.Se3+ Nxe3 7.Kxa7 Sf5!! 8.Kb6 Sd6. **5...Kxg4** (As 5...Sb4 is well met by 6.Sf2 protecting the last pawn or...) **6.Sf2+ Kf5 7.Sd3!** and the crucial b4 square is now out of the bS' reach. **7...Ke4 8.Kxa7!** after which the white pawn promotes comfortably.

NEW!



http://www.gambitbooks.com/books/Extreme_Chess_Tactics.html

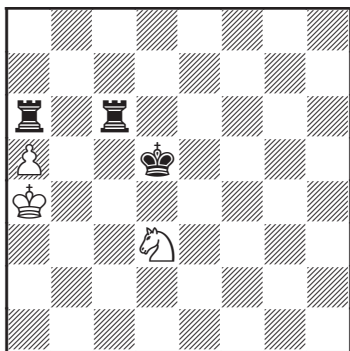
Obituary

Robert Fontana (13xii1928 – 20ii2017)

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

Robert Fontana from Zürich, Switzerland, was an endgame study composer and editor of the endgame study column of *Schweizerische Schachzeitung*, succeeding Samuel Isenegger. He was also a strong OTB chess player, but especially an endgame theoretician who contributed significantly to the Q+P vs. Q ending, which was extremely difficult in the pre-EGTB era.

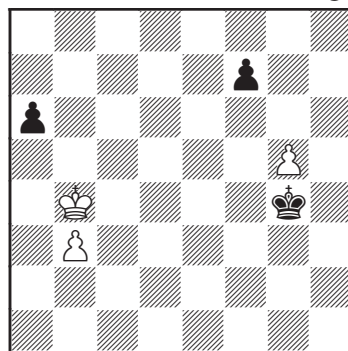
F.1 Robert Fontana
Basler Nachrichten 1950



a4d5 o6o1.10 3/3 Draw

The obvious fork 1.Sb4+ fails to Kc4 (Kc5) and both after 2.Sxa6 Rxa6 or 2.Sc6 Rxc6 Black has a won ending. **1.Kb5! Kd6 (Ra7) 2.Sb4 Ra7 (Kd6) 3.Sxc6 Rb7+ 4.Ka6 Kxc6** stalemate!

F.2 Robert Fontana
National Zeitung 1946, version
Schweizerische Schachzeitung 1946



b4g4 oooo.22 3/3 Draw



What to do? The problem is that the natural 1.Ka5? Kxg5 2.Kxa6 with a pawn race fails because Black promotes with check on f1. The nice idea to draw is **1.g6! fxg6 2.Ka5 Kf3 3.Kxa6 g5 4.b4 g4 5.b5 g3 6.b6 g2 7.b7 g1Q (no check) 8.b8Q** draws.

His countryman Roland Ott, kindly assisted in obtaining a picture from Robert's son René for publication in EG.

WFCC 2017

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

The 60th World Congress of Chess Composition (WCCC) of the World Federation of Chess Composition (WFCC) was held in Dresden, Germany in 2017. The organizing committee, headed by Torsten Linß, did an excellent job, not only taking care of “normal business” but excellently organizing many side events. The hotel was located quite far from the city’s centre but public transport was efficient and cheap. The conference was part of the Dresden chess month (with included an OTB GM tournament which ended just before the WCCC). The hotel hired more staff when they found out (...) that the chess composition public spends much more time in the bar and on the terrace... The room for the solving event (and other activities like the final banquet) was excellently large – the best facility I have myself seen so far.

Starting with a pleasant reception by the Mayor of Dresden (who also turned up at the closing banquet!), my personal highlight of the event was the studies corner with endgame study composers frequenting a corner in the hotel lobby. To me it was especially thrilling when the young Russian talent Aleksey Popov showed his studies to top composers like Minski, Pervakov, Hornecker, Slumstrup Nielsen, Afek, Costeff, Comay and others. Subsequently, most of the other composers mentioned above showed us their more recent studies or ideas. Some of those spectators were sometimes rather critical – for the furtherance of the art of course.

The endgame study subcommittee’s meeting, with spokesman Yochanan Afek, discussed a protest regarding the judging for the FIDE Album section for a long time. For this topic, the spokesman of the FIDE Album subcommittee (also President of WFCC), Harry Fouxiagis, attended the meeting. Some people in the subcommittee were involved (replacement

Section Director Siegfried Hornecker, judge Martin Minski, reserve-judge Oleg Pervakov). Fouxiagis explained that the FIDE Album subcommittee had closely examined the scores and confirmed that no irregularities had occurred (e.g. not a single study dropped out of the Album because a single judge scored it much lower than the other two judges). After a long discussion, with some members agreed on the fact that they disagreed in opinion, it was concluded that nothing could (should) be done.

Only one other proposal (by HH) was discussed: to update AJR’s guidelines for endgame study tourneys (e.g. for e-mail submissions, re-considering time schedules and the like). Gady Costeff, Siegfried Hornecker and Harold van der Heijden will work on a proposal.

The Jenever Ty, which had a problem theme (Umnov) was a success. The award is in this EG.

Of course, there were many solving events like the world championship and the open championship, and even a solving tournament for fairies. Many results and reports can be found on the WFCC website.

During the closing banquet, the new composition titles were announced. Among them were no less than 7 composers who scored (many) FIDE Album points with studies. Ladislav Salai jr (Slovakia), Richard Becker (USA) and Nikolai Ryabinin (Russia) were awarded a GrandMaster title, Valery Kirillov (Russia) and Martin Minski (Germany) became International Master, and Andrzej Jasik (Poland) and Peter Krug (Austria) are now FIDE Master.

Both Luc Palmans (Belgium) and Ward Stoffelen (Belgium) obtained a (new) title: FIDE Solving Judge. In both cases this title is very appropriate and very well-deserved.

One of the studies the young talent Aleksey Popov showed in the ‘endgame study corner’ was:

Of course, White's only option is to play for stalemate: **1.Ke1 b1Q+ 2.Kd2**, and now 2...Qxh1 3.a7+ Kxa7 (Ka8) leads to stalemate. If 2...Qb6 then White has 3.Rb1! Qxb1 4.a7+ and again stalemate. But Black as the nasty move **2...Qa2**. Now it looks like the stalemate is gone. White could try 3.Rh8+? as 3...Kc7? fails to 4.a7! and Black must capture: 4...Qxa7 with 5.Rh7+ and 6.Rxa7 with a draw pawn ending. But Black plays 3...Ka7! instead. If now 4.Rh7+ then Black wins by 4...Kb6! (not 4...Kxa6 as we will see later) 5.Rh6+ Kb5 6.Rh5+ Kc6 (Ka4?; a7) 7.Rh6+ Kd5 8.Rh5+ Ke4. White must try to get rid of the a-pawn first: **3.a7+! Kb7** (Kxa7; Ra1). Now 4.a8Q+? Qxa8 makes no sense. But White has **4.Rh8!** (threatening to promote) **4...Kxa7** (Qxa7; Rh7+). Now the situation looks completely hopeless for White but with the magnificent quiet move **5.Rh1!!** he returns to the stalemate plan. Curiously, the bQ can do nothing (5...Qa- 6.Ra1), so Black has nothing else

I remember that the endgame study composers in ‘the corner’ were very impressed by 4.Rh8! and 5.Rh1!! That is a genuine switchback (not only a co-incidental move by a piece moving to a square it was on before – often called a ‘switchback’ – but also returning to the initial stalemate concept). Some endgame study composers suggested that the introduction could have been better – e.g. perhaps some setting is possible with a wR visiting all four corners of the board.... HH thinks that the very limited lines and textual explanation of the study in the tourney (cf. the award) may have contributed to the low distinction (only a commendation).





The endgame study subcommittee discusses the protest about the FIDE Album 2013-2015 section on the terrace of the conference hotel. Behind the table from right to left: Spokesman Yochanan Afek, Oleg Pervakov, Siegfried Hornecker, David Gurgenidze, Harry Fougiaxis. In front of the table, from right to left: Gady Costeff, Harold van der Heijden, Marcel Van Herck, Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen, Martin Minski. (Picture: Myrna & Wolfgang Siewert.)



Endgame study definition

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

In reply to my challenge in EG209 to our readers, asking you to define an endgame study, I have received only one definition (by AJR) but I was not fully satisfied with it. The difficulty seems to be that a definition must be both short and comprehensive, but also explanatory because not everyone understands the jargon we use. Perhaps a definition with explanatory footnotes might work. Here is my attempt, making good use of AJR's characteristics in his definition.

My definition uses the MOSCOW (must, should, could, would) concept. For instance, an endgame study **must** have a "win" or "draw" stipulation (otherwise it is not an endgame study), **should** be sound (if unsound, it is still an endgame study, but much devalued), **could** have more than one main line, **would** win a prize when it is excellent.

An endgame study is a composed chess problem which must have the stipulation "win" or "draw". The initial position should be legal, the solution should be sound and the main line(s) should be unique.

Endgame study: short "study". Sometimes an endgame study is incorrectly called "ending" (which refers to an OTB game or to a technical endgame position from endgame theory).

Composed: This is an art form and artistic features that could apply are e.g. originality, surprise, difficulty, style, economy. These are evaluated by an expert (judge) when the endgame study participates in a tourney (sometimes incorrectly called tournament, which refers to an OTB event).

Chess problem: Various genres exist, which have other stipulations such as "mate in 2". In endgame studies, depending on the stipulation (by convention) White must achieve a win or draw. The number of moves is not relevant.

Initial position: It could be White to move in the initial position but it is permitted to have

Black to move (for instance with the stipulation: Black to move, White wins – short BTM, Win) but this is considered a small blemish.

Legal: It should be possible to reach the initial position of the endgame study in an OTB game: for instance, that is not the case for a position that has wPg2, wPh2 and wPh3 and such an endgame study is illegal.

Solution: This usually refers to the main line(s) of an endgame study (i.e. should be artistic). So-called "logical" endgame studies have one or more "thematic tries" which are white alternatives that seem to win, but don't because of a unique black refutation. Further, a composer would be allowed to add (non-artistic) analytical lines to prove that the study is sound.

Main line(s): The composer decides if a study could have more than one main line, and when the main line ends (he usually should when the further continuation is "book", or when the white moves are no longer unique).

Sound: An endgame study should be sound. That means that either White should at least meet the stipulation against any black move, and that the main line(s) should have unique white moves. Further, a thematic try should have unique black moves. If this is not the case, an endgame study is said to be unsound, refuted, cooked or dualistic. However, alternative white moves (so-called "minor duals") do not always spoil the endgame study.

Unique: In the main line(s) of an endgame study every move by White should be the only move to meet the stipulation (and in a thematic try every black move should be the only move to prevent White meeting the stipulation). This does not apply to analytical lines that are needed only to prove that White can meet the stipulation against any black move, or that alternative white moves allow Black to prevent White meeting the stipulation.

Review

BY JOHN ROYCROF

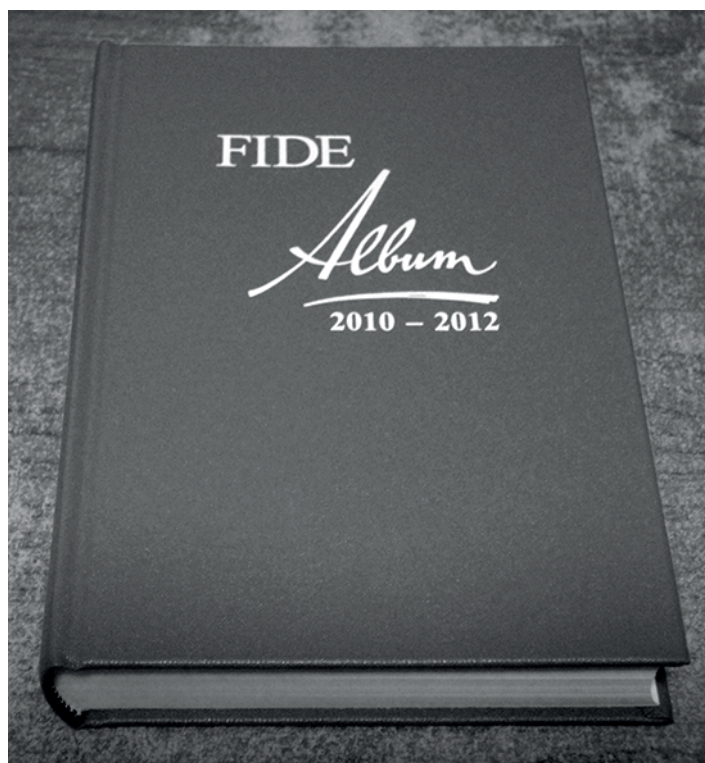
Max Euwe, 5th World Chess Champion, Isaak and Vladimir Linder, 2017. 240 pages. In English. ISBN 978-1-936490-56-1.

Anecdotaly, visually and statistically impressive, this translated and updated edition of the Russian original is both impressive and readable. Euwe's interest in composition is faithfully represented. Flaws seem due to proofreader's oversights.

FIDE Album 2010-2012, Bratislava 2017. 644 pages. Hard blue traditional cover. In English (ie no Cyrillic). Beautifully prepared (even two illegal positions and one cook identified, but

studies not affected) and lovingly produced. 122 studies, decently annotated (but solutions with parentheses, not the EG format). Edition size: not stated. <http://www.wfcc.ch/fide-albums/>. ISBN 978-80-971988-1-4.

As WFFC president Harry Fougiaxis draws attention to in his foreword, literally thousands of hours of unpaid work by judges, directors, indexers and editors have gone into this volume. Great attention has been given to theme definitions. The only feature missing is a GBR code diagram retrieval directory. Noteworthy as regards the studies is that no fewer than 39 figure in the WCCI event.



Price 45 euro (surface shipping free).

Discounts if more copies ordered.

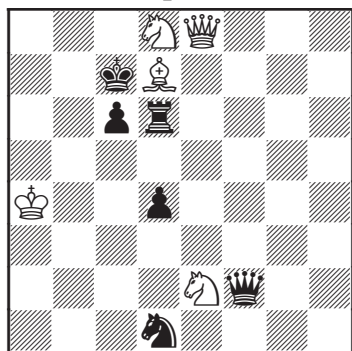
Orders to Peter Gvozdjak, peter.gvozdjak@gmail.com.

Jenever Ty 2017

During the 60th WCCC congress in Dresden (Germany) ARVES organized its 10th Jenever tourney. The theme was: “Win or draw study with the Umnov effect: White plays to a square previously vacated by a black piece (not a pawn). The thematic try should be that White makes the same move as a capture before the black piece vacates the square.

Tourney Director Marcel Van Herck received 6 entries. In contrast with some previous years, the quick composing tourneys were only open to the congress participants. The judge was Martin Minski (Germany) who also proposed the theme.

No 21370 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
1st prize



a4c7 4315.02 5/6 Win

No 21370 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Se6+ Rxe6 2.Qc8+ Kb6/i 3.Qb8+ Kc5 4.Bxe6 Sc3+ (Qxe2; Qb4 mate) 5.Ka5/ii Sd5 6.Sc3/iii Qd2/iv 7.Qb4+ Sxb4 8.Se4 mate.

i) Kd6 3.Qxc6+ Ke5 4.Qxe6 mate.

ii) Thematic try: 5.Sxc3? Qc2+ draws.

iii) Umnov.

iv) dxc3 7.Qa7+, or Qe1 7.Qf8+ Kc4 8.Qb4+ Kd3 9.Bf5+ Ke3 10.Sxd5+, or Kc4 7.Qb4+ Kd3 8.Bf5+ Qxf5 (Ke3; Sd1+) 9.Qb1+ wins.

“In the introduction, White must force the bK to his mating square. In my opinion the Umnov 6.Sc3 is most surprising, which is followed by a spectacular queen sacrifice in order to unpin the wS. In my view, this is by far the best study of the tourney”.

No 21371 Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Kg2 Rf7 2.Kf1 Re7 3.c7/i Rxc7 4.e6 Rc6/ii 5.e7/iii Re6 6.Sc6/iv Re1+ 7.Kxf2 Re3/iv 8.a7/v wins.

i) clearing the thematic square.

ii) Re7 5.Sd5 Rxe6 6.Sc7+ wins.

iii) Thematic try: 5.Sxc6? stalemate.

iv) Umnov. 6.Sd5? Ka7 (Re5) 7.Kxf2 Re5 8.Kf3 Kxa6 9.Kf4 Rxe7 10.Sxe7 Ka5 11.Sd5 Ka4 draws.

v) Re2+ 8.Kf3 Re3+ 9.Kf4 Re4+ 10.Kf5 wins.

vi) 8.a4? Rf3+ 9.Kg2 Rg3+ 10.Kf2 Rf3+ 11.Ke2 Re3+ 12.Kd2 Rd3+ 13.Kc2 Rc3+ 14.Kb2 Rb3+ draws.

“I like the natural initial position: the moves are very understandable without difficult sidelines. The fact that White has first to clear the thematic square is a nice addition, which is followed by a classical rook sacrifice in order to achieve stalemate. It is very surprising that White has to play 6.Sc6! (instead of 6.Sd5?) with a paradoxical stalemate invitation to Black. This remarkable struggle is surely interesting for a solver”.

No 21372 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Bc2/i g2+/ii 2.Kg1 Qh3/iii 3.Sg3 Qxg3 (Rxc4; Bd1) 4.fxg3/iv Re5+ 5.c5/v Bxc5+/vi 6.Be3 (Rf2? Kh3;) Rxe3/vii 7.Bd1/viii Rc3+ 8.Re3+/ix Kh3 9.Rxc3 Sc4 10.Bg4+ (Rxc4? Bxe3 mate;) Kxg4 11.Rxc4+ wins.

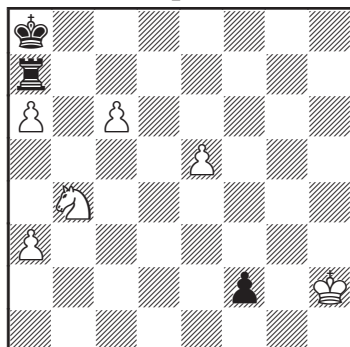
i) 1.Sxc5? g2+ 2.Kg1 Qh3 3.f3+/x Kg3 4.Be1+ Kf4, or 1.Re3? Sxc4 2.Rxb3 Sxd2+ 3.Sxd2 Rxc1+ 4.Kg2 gxf2 draw.

ii) Sxc4 2.Bxb3 Sxd2+ 3.Rxd2 Rxc1+ 4.Bd1+ Kf4 5.Sxg3 wins.

iii) Qxc4 3.Sxc5 Qxe2 4.Bd1 wins.

iv) 4.Bd1? Kh3 5.Re3 Qxe3 6.Bxe3 Re5 7.c5 Rxe3 8.fxe3 Bb8 9.Bf3 Bh2+ 10.Kf2 Bg3+ 11.Ke2 Kh2 12.Bxg2 Kxg2 13.c6 Bc7 draws.

No 21371 Y. Afek
2nd prize



h2a8 o3o1.41 6/3 Win

No 21372 O. Pervakov
3rd prize

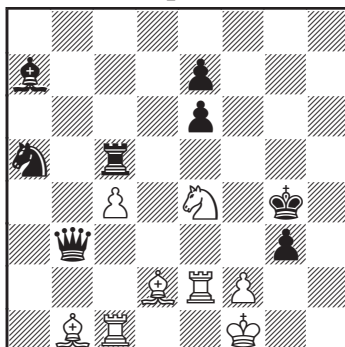
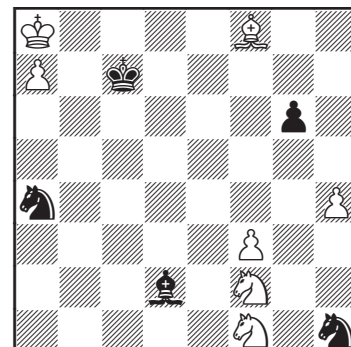


fig4 3554.23 8/8 Win

No 21373 O. Pervakov
honourable mention



a8c7 oo48.31 7/5 Draw

v) 5.Rf2? (Be3? Rxe3;) Kh3 6.Bd1 Bxf2+ 7.Kxf2 Rf5+ 8.Bf4 (Bf3 Sb3;) e5 9.Bf3 exf4 10.Bxg2+ Kg4 draws.

vi) Rxe2 6.Bd1 Kh3 7.Bxe2 wins.

vii) Bxe3+ 7.Kxg2 Bd4 8.Rxe5 Bxe5 9.Re1 Bxg3 10.Bd1+ wins.

viii) Thematic try: 7.Rxe3? Bxe3+ 8.Kxg2 Bxc1 and Black wins.

ix) Umnov. 8.Rf2+? Kh3 draws, as 9.Rxc3 Bxf2+ 10.Kxf2 Kh2 and Black wins.

x) 3.Re4+ Kh5 4.Re5+ Kh4 draws.

“This has a heavy initial position, but the tactical play with battery, counter-battery, and cross-checks is impressive. Unfortunately, the thematic 8.Be3+! is not really in the paradoxical spirit of Umnov because Black cannot capture this piece immediately and White has time to guard square e3”.

No 21373 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Bd6+/i Kc8 2.Bc5, and:

— Sxc5 3.Se4 Sxe4 4.fxe4 Bf4/ii 5.h5 gxh5 6.e5 Sg3/iii 7.e6/iv Sf5 8.Sg3/v Sd6/vi 9.Sf5 Sb5 10.Se7+ Kd8 11.Sf5/vii Kc8 12.Se7+ Kd8 13.Sf5 positional draw, or:

— Sxf2 3.Sxd2/viii Sxc5 4.Sc4 Sd7 5.Sd6+ Kc7 6.Sb5+ (Se8+? Kc6;) Kc6 (Kb6; Sc3) 7.Sc3

(Sd4+? Kb6;) Sd3 8.Sd5 S3c5 9.Sb4+/ix Kd6 10.f4 Kc7 11.Sd5+ Kc6 (Kd6; Sb4) 12.Sb4+ Kd6 13.f5 gxf5 14.h5 Kc7 15.Sd5+ Kd6 16.Sb4/x Bb4 3.Bd4 Sxf2 4.Bxf2 Ba5 5.f4 Bb6 6.Se3 Sc3 7.Be1 draws.

i) 1.Bc5? Sxc5 2.Se4 Sa4 wins.

ii) Bb4 5.Se3 (e5? Bc5;) Bc5 6.Sd5 Sg3 7.e5 Sf5 8.e6 Sg7 9.e7 Se8 10.h5 gxh5 11.Sb6+ Kc7 12.Sd5+ Kc6 13.Sf4 h4 14.Kb8 draws.

iii) Bxe5 7.Sg3 h4 8.Sf5 draws.

iv) Thematic try: 7.Sxg3? Bxg3 8.e6 Bf2 9.e7 Kd7 10.Kb7 Bxa7 wins.

v) Umnov. 8.e7? Sxe7 9.Se3 Sc6, or 8.Se3? Bxe3 9.e7 Kd7 win.

vi) Se7 9.Sf5 Sd5 10.Se7+ Sxe7 draws, or Bxg3 9.e7 Sxe7 stalemate.

vii) 11.Sg6? Be3 12.Kb7 Sxa7 wins.

viii) Try: 3.Bxf2? Sc3 4.Sxd2 Sd5 wins.

ix) 9.Se7+? Kd6 10.Sxg6 Kc7 wins.

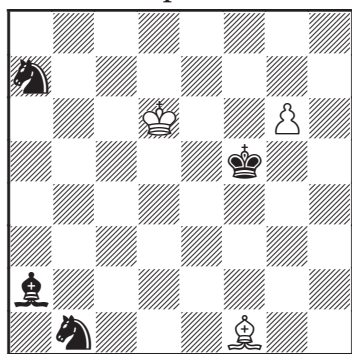
x) 16.h6? Kxd5 17.h7 Kc6 18.h8Q Sb6+ 19.Kb8 Sa6+ (Scd7) mate.

“8.Sg3! is a fine Umnov. The subsequent pursuit of the knights is nice, but this is not quite new and not Umnov (missing thematic tries). The second main line is not thematic and there are captures of pieces that haven’t moved”.

Die Schwalbe 2015

The annual tourney of the German chess composition magazine was judged by Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina). In total 18 studies participated. The award appeared in *Die Schwalbe* no.280 viii2016.

No 21374 S. Slumstrup Nielsen 1st prize



d6f5 0046.10 3/4 Draw

No 21374 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.g7 Kf6/i 2.Kc5 Sc3 3.Bc4 Sa4+ 4.Kb4 Sc6+ 5.Kb5 Sd4+ 6.Kb4 Sc2+ 7.Kb5 Sc3+/ii 8.Kc5 Se4+ 9.Kd5 Sb4+ 10.Kd4 Sc6+ 11.Kd5 Se7+ 12.Kd4 Sf5+ 13.Kd5 Se3+/iii 14.Kxe4 Sxc4 15.g8S+ (g8Q? Sd6+) draws.

i) Sc3 2.Ke7 Sd5+ 3.Kd6 Sc8+ (Sf6; Bh3) 4.Kc5 Se3 5.Bh3+ Sg4 6.Bf1 Se5 7.Bh3+ positional draw.

ii) Sa3+ 8.Kxa4 Sxc4 9.g8Q/iv Sb2+ 10.Ka3 draws.

iii) Sc3+ 14.Kc5 Sa4+ 15.Kb4 draws.

iv) But not 9.g8S+? Ke6 10.Sh6 Se5 wins.

“The point of the study, a knight promotion to prevent a discovered check, is surprising. To achieve this goal, various threats had to be dealt with, in particular the domination of the promoted knight. This is original and entertaining”.

No 21375 Michal Hlinka & Ľubos Kekeľy (Slovakia). 1.Sc5+ Ka3 2.Rb3+ (Kb1? Qxa4;) Ka2 3.Se2, and:

— Qa4 4.Sxc3+/i Ka1 5.g3/ii Qa2+ 6.Sxa2 Ba4 7.Sc1 Rxc5+ 8.Kd2 Rxc1 9.Ra3+ Kb2 10.Rxa4 wins, or:

— Rb8 4.Sc1+/iii Ka1 5.Rxb8 Qxb8 6.S5b3+ Qxb3+ 7.Sxb3+ Ka2 8.Sc1+ Ka3 9.g3/iv Kb4 10.Sa2 wins.

i) 4.Sxa4? Bxa4 5.Sxc3+ Ka1 draws.

ii) 5.d4? Be4+ 6.S3xe4 Qa2 draws.

iii) 4.Rxb8? Qxb8 5.Sxc3+ Ka3 6.Sb1+ Ka2, or 4.Sxc3+? Ka1 5.Rxb8 Qxb8 6.Sb3+ Qxb3+ 7.Kxb3 Bxg2 draw.

iv) 9.g4? Kb4 10.Sa2+ Kc5 draws.

“In the two lines with unique continuations we find subtle moves and surprises (5.g3 in the first main line and 9.g3 in the second). It is this combination that raises the level of this study sufficiently to get a distinction”.

No 21376 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Bc3/i Bb5 2.Rc4+ Bxc4 3.b3+ (Rb4+? Kxa5;) Bxb3 4.Rb4+ Ka3 5.Rxb3+ Ka2 6.Rb2+/ii Kxa1 7.Be5 zz e6 8.Ke3 f4+ 9.Ke2/iv f3+ 10.Kf2/iv zz Rc7 11.Rb8+ Ka2 12.Rxa8 wins.

i) 1.Be5? Qg8 2.b3+ Ka3 3.Sc2+ Ka2 4.Se3 Qh7 5.Sxf1 Qh4+ 6.Kf3 Qe4+ 7.Kf2 Qh4+ 8.Kg1 Qg4+ 9.Sg3 f4 10.Rc3 Qd1+ 11.Sf1 Qg4+ 12.Kf2 Qh4+ draws.

ii) 6.Rb6? e5+ 7.Ke3 Qf8 8.Rb2+ Ka3 9.Sc2+ Ka4 10.Rb4+ Qxb4 draws.

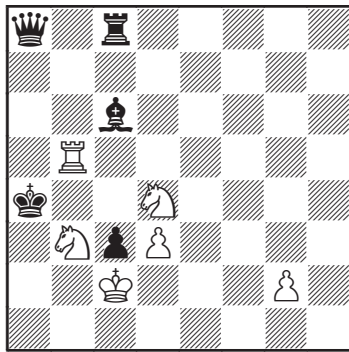
iii) 9.Kf2? f3 zz, draws.

iv) Try: 10.Ke1? Rc7 11.Rb8+ Ka2 12.Rxa8 Rxc6 only draws.

“After a worthwhile introduction we reach an ending in which White, with his a-pawn and bishop of wrong colour, must be careful and the try is relevant. This is entertaining and has theoretical value”.

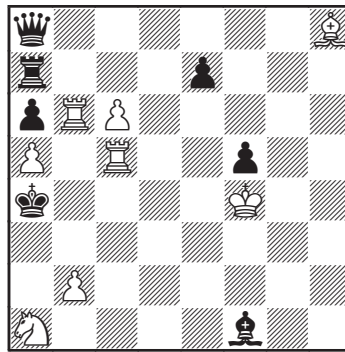
No 21377 Ladislav Salai (Slovakia). 1.Qc7+/i Kd3 2.Qxb8 Re4+ 3.Kf3/ii Re3+ 4.Kg2 Re2+ 5.Kf1 Rf2+ 6.Ke1 Re2+ 7.Kd1 Rd2+ 8.Kc1 Rc2+ 9.Kb1 Rxb2+ 10.Kc1 Rc2+ 11.Kd1 Rd2+ 12.Ke1 Re2+ 13.Kf1 Rf2+ 14.Kg1 Re2+ 15.Kh1 Re1+ 16.Kg2 Re2+ 17.Kf3 Re3+ 18.Kg4 Re4+ 19.Kh5 Bf2 20.Qxb5+ Kd2 21.Qd5+ Rd4 22.Qa2+ Ke3 23.Qb3+ Kd2 24.Qb2+ Ke1 25.Qc1+/iii Ke2 26.Ba6+ Kf3 27.Qh1+ Kg3 28.h4 Rf4 29.Bd3 Be3 30.Be4 wins.

No 21375 M. Hlinka
& L. Kekely
2nd/3rd prize



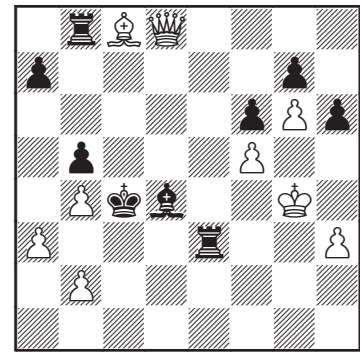
c2a4 3432.21 6/5 Win

No 21376 A. Jasik
2nd/3rd prize



f4a4 3541.33 8/7 Win

No 21377 L. Salai
special prize



g4c4 1640.65 9/9 Win

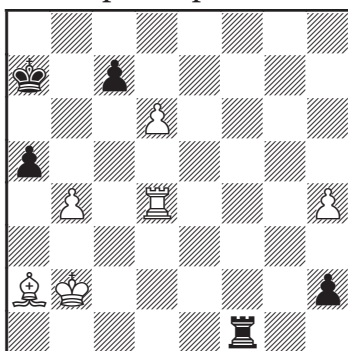
i) Thematic try: 1.Be6+? Kd3 2.Qxb8 Re4+ 3.Kf3 Re3+ 4.Kg2 Re2+ 5.Kf1 Rf2+ 6.Ke1 Re2+ 7.Kd1 Rd2+ 8.Kc1 Rc2+ 9.Kb1 Rxb2+ 10.Kc1 Rc2+ 11.Kd1 Rd2+ 12.Ke1 Re2+ 13.Kf1 Rf2+ 14.Kg1 Re2+ 15.Kh1 Re1+ 16.Kg2 Re2+ 17.Kf3 Re3+ 18.Kg4 Re4+ 19.Kh5 Bf2 20.Qxb5+ Kd2 21.Qd5+ Rd4 22.Qa2+ Ke3 23.Qb3+ Kd2 24.Qb2+ Ke1 25.Qc1+ Ke2 26.Bc4+ Kf3, and now 27.Qh1+ Kg3 28.h4 Rxc4 even loses.

ii) 3.Kh5? Bf2 4.Qxb5+ Kd2 5.Qd5+ Rd4 draws.

iii) 25.Qc3+? Kf1 26.Qc1+ Kg2 27.Bb7+ Kg3 28.Qc3+ Kh2 29.Qc7+ Kxh3 30.Qc3+ Kh2 draws.

“The precision of the manoeuvres, the high originality and the thematic try complete this excellent study; impressive!”

No 21378 H. van der Heijden & G. Haworth
special prize



b2a7 0410.33 6/5 Win

No 21378 Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands) & Guy Haworth (United King-

dom). 1.dxc7/i Rf2+/ii 2.Ka3/iii axb4+/iv 3.Rxb4, and:

— Rxa2+ 4.Kxa2 h1Q 5.c8R/v wins., or:

— h1Q 4.c8S+ Ka8 5.Bd5+ Qxd5 6.Sb6+ Ka7 7.Sxd5 wins.

i) 1.d7? Rf2+ 2.Ka3 axb4+ 3.Rxb4 h1Q and there is no S-promotion with check. If 1.Bd5? cxd6 2.bxa5 h1Q 3.Bxh1 Rxh1 draws.

ii) Kb7 2.Rc4 Kc8 3.Rc2 Rb1+ 4.Bxb1/vi h1Q 5.Rc5 Qg2+ 6.Kb3 a4+ 7.Kxa4 Qa8+ 8.Kb5 Qb7+ 9.Kc4 wins, e.g. Qa6+ 10.Kd5 Qa8+ 11.Kd6 Qe4 12.Bc2 (Bxe4? stalemate) Qd4+ 13.Kc6 Qe4+ 14.Kb5 Qb7+ 15.Kc4 Qa6+ 16.Kd5 Qf6 17.h5 Qf7+ 18.Ke4 Qe6+ 19.Kf4 Qh6+ 20.Kf3 Qf6+ 21.Bf5+.

iii) 2.Kb3? h1Q 3.c8Q Qf3+ 4.Ka4 Rxa2+ 5.Kb5 Qe2+ 6.Rc4 axb4 draws.

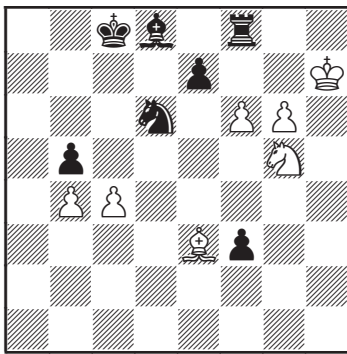
iv) h1Q 3.c8Q Qf3+ 4.Bb3

v) 5.c8Q? Qb1+ (Qa1+) 6.Ka3 Qa2+ 7.Kxa2 stalemate. The position before 5.c8R is the Distance to Mate (DTM) record position requiring an underpromotion move. White needs no less than 431 half moves (plies) to mate.

vi) Until move 18 White has a single winning line (some move order duals): Qd5+ 6.Kb1 Qe5 7.Ra4+ Kb6 8.Rc2 Kb5 9.Rac4 Qg7 10.Rc5+ Kb4 11.R2c4+ Kb3 12.Rc3+ Kb4 13.R5c4+ Kb5 14.Rc7 Qg1+ 15.Ka2 Qg2+ 16.Ka3 Qa8+ 17.Kb2 Qg2+ 18.Rc2 wins, e.g. 19.R7c5+ Kb6 20.h5 Qb4+ 21.Ka2 Qa4+ 22.Kb1 Qe4 23.Rc3 Ka5 24.Rc4 Qe1+ 25.Kb2 Qe5+ 26.R2c3 Qe2+ 27.Ka3 et cetera.

“In both main lines White must avoid a stalemate by promoting to rook and knight, respectively. This combination is remarkable, as well as is the RRB vs Q ending of the first main line. This co-production therefore deserves a special distinction”.

No 21379 A. Jasik
1st honourable mention



h7c8 o344.43 7/7 Win

No 21379 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.g7/i Re8 2.Se4 Sxe4/ii 3.f7 f2 4.Bxf2/iii Sg5+ 5.Kg6 Sxf7 6.Kxf7 Kd7 7.c5 Bc7 8.c6+ Kd8 9.Bd4/iv zz e5 10.Bc5 e4 11.Bf8 e3 12.g8Q wins.

i) 1.f7? Rxf7+ 2.gxf7 Sxf7 3.Sxf7 Bc7 4.Bf2 bxc4 5.Sg5 Bd6 6.b5 c3 draws.

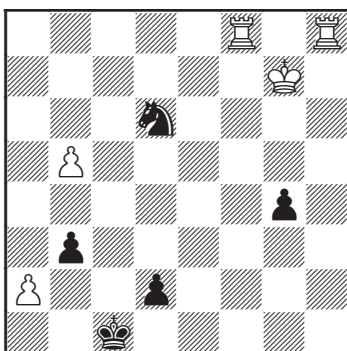
ii) Sf7 3.g8Q Rxc8 4.Kxc8 Se5 5.f7 Sxf7 6.Kxf7 bxc4 7.Ke6 Kb7 8.Kd5 wins.

iii) 4.fxe8Q? Sf6+ 5.Kg6 Sxe8 6.g8Q f1Q and Black wins

iv) 9.Be3? Be5 10.Bb6+ Kc8 11.Kxe8 Bxc7 12.Kxe7 Bc3 draws.

“This study has interesting lines with subtle manoeuvres by the wB and an appropriate presentation of a zugzwang”.

No 21380 V. Tarasiuk
2nd honourable mention



g7c1 o203.34 5/5 Win

No 21380 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Rf1+/i d1Q 2.Rxd1+ Kxd1 3.axb3 Sxb5 4.Rh5/ii Sa3 (Sc7; Kf6) 5.Rh2 Sc2 6.Kh8/iii Se3 7.b4 g3/iv 8.Rh3 Sf5/v 9.Rh5 Sd6 10.Rd5+ Kc2 11.Rxd6 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rh1+? d1Q 2.Rxd1+ Kxd1 3.axb3 Sxb5 4.Rf5 Sa3 5.Rf2 Sc2 6.Kh8 Se3 7.b4 Ke1 8.Ra2 Kf1 9.b5 Sc4 10.Ra4 Sd6 11.b6 g3 12.Rd4 Sb7 draws.

ii) 4.Rh2? Ke1 5.Rg2 Sd4 6.b4 Sf5+ 7.Kf6 Se3 8.b5 Sxg2 9.b6 g3 10.b7 Sf4 11.b8Q Sh5+ 12.Kf5 g2 13.Qb1+ Kf2 draws.

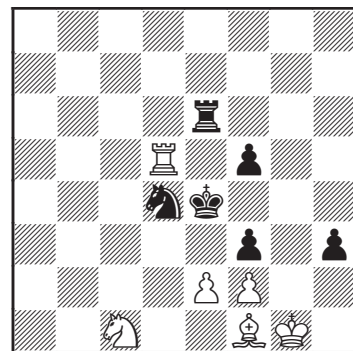
iii) 6.Kh7? Se3 7.b4 g3 8.Rh3 g2 9.Rg3 Ke1 10.b5 Kf1 11.b6 Sd5 12.b7 Sf6+ 13.Kg6 Sd7 draws.

iv) Here is the difference in comparison with the thematic try: now 7...Ke1 8.b5.

v) g2 9.Rg3 Ke2 10.b5 Kf2 11.Rxc2+ Sxc2 12.b6 Sf4 13.b7 Sg6+ 14.Kg7 wins.

“There is an interesting introduction with a well-motivated thematic try which resolves into a domination. The highlight of this study is 6.Kh8!!”.

No 21381 P. Arestov
3rd honourable mention



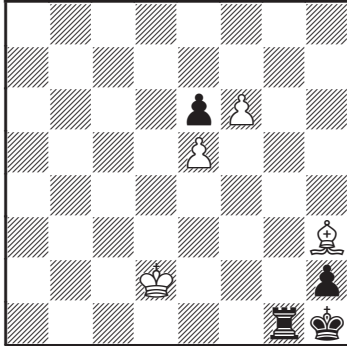
g1e4 o414.23 6/6 Win

No 21381 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rd7/i fxe2 2.Sxe2 Sxe2+ 3.Bxe2 Rg6+ 4.Kh2 Rg2+ 5.Kxh3 Rxf2 6.Re7+ Kf4 7.Re8 zz Kg5 8.Kg3 Rf4 9.Rg8+ wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rd8? fxe2 2.Sxe2 Sxe2+ 3.Bxe2 Rg6+ 4.Kh2 Rg2+ 5.Kxh3 Rxf2 6.Re8+ Kf4 zz 7.Re7 Kg5 8.Kg3 Rf4 9.Rg7+ Kf6 (Kh6) draws.

“This is a refreshing indirect domination; the bR wins the last white pawn, but finds itself confined but, by precise moves, White reaches the right side of a zz”.

No 21382 L. Koblížek
special honourable mention

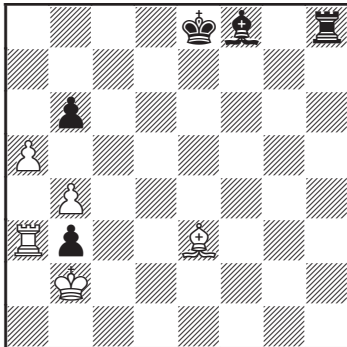


d2h1 0310.22 4/4 Win

No 21382 Lubomir Koblížek (Czech Republic). 1.f7 Rg8 2.fxg8B (fxg8Q? stalemate) Kg1 3.Bg2 Kxg2 4.Bxe6 Kf3 5.Bd5+ Kf4 6.e6 Ke5 7.e7 Kxd5 8.e8Q h1Q 9.Qa8+ wins.

“We see the ever-fresh under-promotion theme necessary to prevent stalemate combined with an economic finish. This is a solver friendly study”.

No 21383 D. Keith
special honourable mention



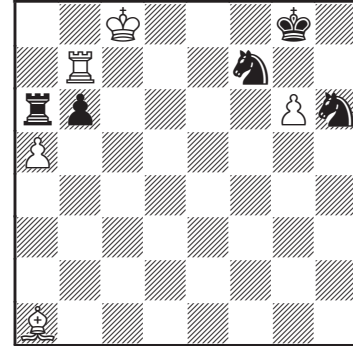
b2e8 0440.22 5/5 Win

No 21383 Daniel Keith (France). 1.a6/i Bxb4 2.Ra4 (Rxb3? Bd6;) Ba5 3.Rh4 Bc3+/ii 4.Kxb3/iii wins.

- i) 1.axb6? Bd6 (Bg7+?; Kxb3) 2.Ra8+ Kd7 3.Rxh8 Be5+ 4.Kxb3 Bxh8 5.Kc4 Kc6 draws.
- ii) O-O 4.Bd4 (a7) wins.
- iii) 4.Kxc3? Rxh4 5.a7 Ra4 draws.

“This study has only a few moves but it is not always necessary to construct a polished introduction which might blur the study’s idea. The problem is certainly original with sufficient tries and castling as a defence resource, the latter not being commonplace for Black”.

No 21384 D. Keith & M. Minski
commendation



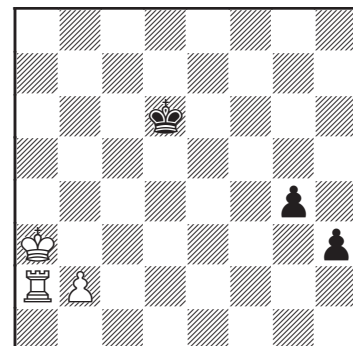
c8g8 0416.21 5/5 Win

No 21384 Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Kc7/i Kf8/ii 2.Rb8+/iii Ke7 3.Bf6+ Kxf6 4.Rxb6+ Rxb6 5.gxf7 Rb7+/iv 6.Kxb7 Sxf7 7.Kc6/v Sd8+ 8.Kb6 Sf7 9.Kc5 (a6? Sd6;) Ke6 10.a6 Sd6 11.a7 wins.

- i) 1.Kd7? Sd8 2.Rb8 Ra7+ 3.Kxd8 bxa5 draws.
- ii) Sd8 2.Rb8 Ra7+ 3.Kxb6 wins.
- iii) 2.Bf6? Sd6 3.Kxd6 bxa5+ 4.Ke5 Sg4+ draws.
- iv) Sxf7 6.axb6 Ke6 7.b7 wins.
- v) 7.a6? Sd6+ 8.Kc6 Sc8 9.Kc7 Sa7 10.Kb7 Sb5 11.Kb6 Sd6 draws.

“We see a sophisticated introduction to the ‘wall’ that the wK must construct to ensure promotion”.

No 21385 V. Tarasiuk
special commendation



a3d6 0100.12 3/3 Draw

No 21385 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.b4 g3 2.Rd2+ Ke5 3.Rd3 Kf4 4.Rd4+ (b5? h2;) Ke3/i 5.Rg4/ii Kf3/iii 6.Rh4 h2 7.Ka2/iv g2/v 8.Rxh2 g1Q 9.Rh3+ Ke4 10.Rc3 Kd4 11.Rc5 Qd1 12.Ka3 draws.

- i) Kf3 5.Rh4 h2 6.Ka2 see main line.
- ii) 5.Rh4? h2 6.b5 g2 7.Rxh2 g1Q 8.Rh6 Qf1 (Qg5) wins.
- iii) g2 6.Rg3+ Kd4 7.Rg4+/vi Kc3 8.Rg3+ Kd4 9.Rg4+ draws.
- iv) 7.b5? g2 8.Rxh2 g1Q wins. 7.Kb2? Ke3/vii 8.Ka3 g2 9.Rxh2 g1Q 10.Rc2 Qa1+ wins.

v) Ke3 8.b5 g2 9.Rxh2 g1Q 10.Rb2 Kd4 11.b6 draws.

vi) But not 7.Rxh3? g1Q 8.Rh4+ Kc3 wins.

vii) But not Kg2? 8.b5 h1Q 9.Rxh1 Kxh1 10.b6 g2 11.b7 g1Q 12.b8Q draws.

“The right defence is demonstrated in a struggle between rook and knight pawn and queen. Practical players are recommended to examine this study closely”.

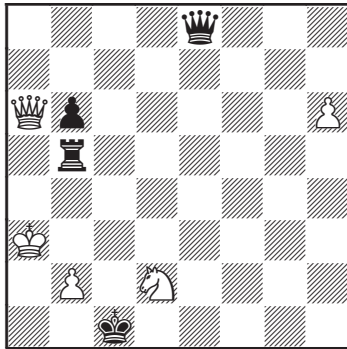


Martin Minski & Niclas Huschenbeth

Springaren 2011-2012

Axel Ornstein judged the biennial tourney of the Swedish magazine. HH assisted in soundness checking and anticipation vetting. The award was published in *Springaren* no.142 xii2016 with the usual 3 month confirmation time.

No 21386 A. Jasik
prize



a3c1 4301.21 5/4 Draw

No 21386 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Sb3+/i Kb1 2.Sd2+ Kc2 3.Sc4 Rb3+ 4.Ka2 b5/ii 5.Sa3+ Rxa3+ 6.Qxa3/iii Qe6+ 7.b3/iv Qe5 8.h7/v b4 9.h8Q/vi Qxh8 10.Qc1+ Kxc1 stalemate.

i) 1.Sc4? Qf8+ 2.Ka2 Qf5

ii) Qe1 5.Se3+ Rxe3 6.Qc4+ Kd2 7.h7 Re8 8.Qd4+ draws.

iii) 6.Kxa3? Qe7+ 7.Ka2 Qf7+ 8.Ka1 Qf1+ 9.Ka2 Qb1+ 10.Ka3 Qxb2 mate.

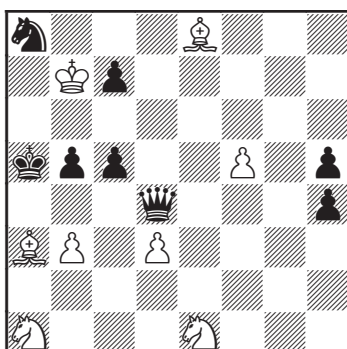
iv) 7.Ka1? Qe1+ 8.Ka2 Qb1 mate.

v) 8.b4? Qe6+ 9.Ka1 Qe1+ 10.Ka2 Qb1 mate.

vi) 9.Qc1+? Kxc1 10.h8Q Qa5 mate.

“Sacrifices by both sides lead to stalemate”.

No 21387 A. Jasik
1st honourable mention



b7a5 3025.35 8/8 Win

No 21387 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Sec2/i Qd5+/ii 2.Bc6 Qxc6+/iii 3.Kxc6 h3 4.Bb4+ cxb4/iv 5.Sd4 (Kb7? c5;) h2 6.Kb7 h1Q+ 7.Sc6+ Qxc6+ 8.Kxc6 h4 9.Sc2/v h3 10.Sd4 h2 11.Kb7 h1Q+ 12.Sc6+ Qxc6+ 13.Kxc6 Sb6 14.f6/vi zz, wins.

i) 1.Sac2? Qd5+ 2.Bc6 Qxb3 3.Bxc5 Sb6 draw.

ii) Qf6 2.Bxc5 Qa6+ 3.Kb8 h3 4.b4+ Ka4 5.Bf7 win.

iii) Qxf5 3.Sd4 cxd4 (Qxd3; Bxc5) 4.Sc2 win.

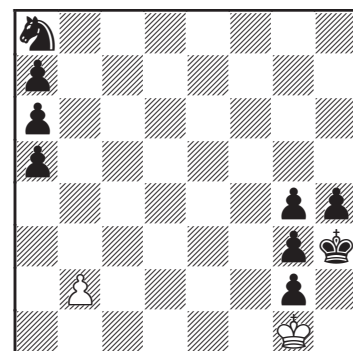
iv) Ka6 5.Bxc5 h2 6.Sb4+ Ka5 7.Kb7 h1Q+ 8.Sc6+ wins.

v) 9.f6? h3 10.f7 h2 11.f8Q h1Q+ 12.Kd7 Sb6+ wins.

vi) 14.Kxc7? Sd5+ 15.Kd6 Sf4 16.f6 Kb6 draws.

“Black has to give up three queens and finally White gets one”.

No 21388 R. Uppström
2nd honourable mention



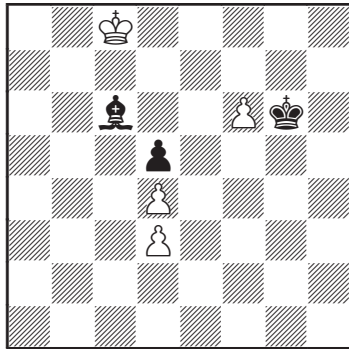
g1h3 0003.17 2/9 Draw

No 21388 Rolf Uppström (Sweden). 1.b4 a4 2.b5 a5 3.b6 a3 4.bxa7 Sc7 5.a8Q Sxa8 stalemate.

“Minimal and excelsior. A very special theme – an excelsior with a single pawn”.

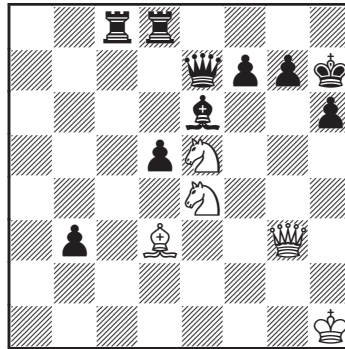
No 21389 Anders Gillberg (Sweden). 1.Kc7 Ba8 2.Kb8 Bc6 3.Kc7 Be8 4.Kd6 (Kd8 Kf7;) Bf7 5.Ke7 Bg8 6.Kf8 Bh7 7.Ke7/i Bg8 8.Kf8 Be6 9.Ke7 Bf7 10.Kf8 Kxf6 stalemate.

No 21389 A. Gillberg
1st commendation



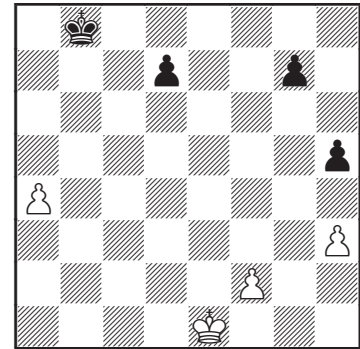
c8g6 0030.31 4/3 Draw

No 21390 G. Josten
2nd commendation



h1h7 4642.05 5/10 Win

No 21391 I. Akobia †
3rd commendation



e1b8 0000.33 4/4 Win

i) 7.f7? Kf6 8.Ke8 Bg6 9.Kf8 Bh5 wins.

“This miniature might happen in a real game”.

No 21390 Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.Sf6++ Kh8 2.Qg6 Rc1+ 3.Kg2 Bh3+/i 4.Kxh3 Rh1+ (Qe6+; Kg2) 5.Kg2 Rh2+ 6.Kg1 Qa7+ 7.Kxh2 Qf2+ 8.Kh1 Qf3+ (Qe1+; Kg2) 9.Kg1 Qe3+ 10.Kg2 Qd2+ 11.Kf3 Qd1+ 12.Be2 wins.

i) Rg1+ 4.Kxg1 Qc5+ 5.Kg2 Bh3+ 6.Kf3 wins.

“A nice mating threat forces Black to give up all his pieces”.

No 21391 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Kd2/i Kb7 2.Kc3, and:

— Ka6 3.Kb4 Kb6 4.f4/ii zz h4 5.f5 zz Ka6 6.Kc5 Ka5 7.Kd6 Kxa4 8.Kxd7 wins, or:

— Kb6 3.Kb4 h4 4.f3/iii zz Ka6/iv 5.f4 zz Kb6 6.f5/v zz d6 7.Kc4 Ka5 8.Kd5 Kxa4 9.Kxd6 wins.

i) 1.h4? Kb7 2.Kd2 Kb6 3.Kc3 Ka5 4.Kb3 d5 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 4.h4? Ka7 5.f4/vi Ka6 zz 6.f5 Kb6 7.a5+ Ka6 8.Ka4 d5 9.Kb4 d4 10.Kc4 Kxa5 11.Kxd4 Kb4 12.Ke5 Kc4 13.Ke6 Kd4 14.Kf7 Ke4 15.Kg6 Kf4 (Ke5) draws.

iii) Thematic try: 4.f4? Ka6 zz 5.a5/vii d5 6.f5 d4 7.Kc4 Kxa5 8.Kxd4 Kb4 9.Ke5 Kc4 10.Ke6 Kd4 11.Kf7 Ke4 12.Kg6 Kf4 (Ke5), or 4.a5+? Ka6 5.f4 d5 as in the thematic try.

iv) g5 5.a5+ Ka6 6.Ka4 d5 7.Kb4 wins.

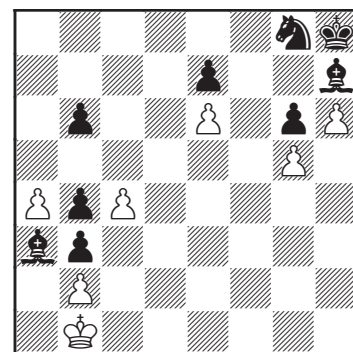
v) Thematic try: 6.a5+? Ka6 7.f5 d6 8.Ka4 d5 9.Kb4 d4 10.Kc4 Kxa5 11.Kxd4 Kb4 draws.

vi) 5.Kc5 g5 6.hxg5 h4 7.g6 h3 8.g7 h2 9.g8Q h1Q draws.

vii) 5.f5 Kb6 6.a5+ Ka6 7.Kc5 Kxa5 draws.

“This type of pawn endgame with a distant passed pawn regularly happens in practice”.

No 21392 J. Pitkänen
4th commendation



b1h8 0063.65 7/9 Draw

No 21392 Jorma Pitkänen (Finland). 1.c5/i bxc5 2.a5 c4 3.a6 c3 4.a7 Bxb2 (cxb2; a8Q) 5.a8Q Ba3 6.Ka1 c2 7.Qxa3 bxa3 stalemate.

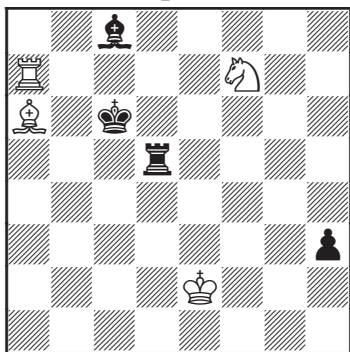
i) 1.bxa3? bxa3 2.c5 bxc5 3.a5 c4 4.a6 c3 5.a7 a2+ 6.Ka1 c2, or 1.a5? bxa5 2.c5 Sxh6 3.c6 Sf5 4.c7 Sd6 win.

“Forced play leads to stalemate”.

Zadachy i Etyudi 2014

Yochanan Afek judged the annual tourney of the Russian problem magazine for 2014. Mario Garcia was consulted for soundness checking and anticipation vetting. In total 24 studies participated. The award was published in issue no. 69 x2016.

No 21393 M. Minski
1st prize



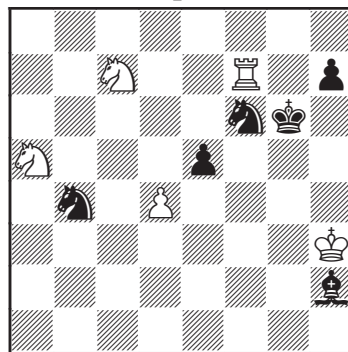
e2c6 0441.01 4/4 BTM, Draw

No 21393 Martin Minski (Germany). 1...h2 2.Sd8+/i Kb6 3.Rh7 Bg4+ 4.Kf2 Bh5 5.Rh6+/ii Kc7/iii 6.Rc6+/iv Kd7 7.Bb5/v Kxd8/vi 8.Rc1 Bd1 9.Kg2 Rd2+ 10.Be2 Rxe2+ (Bxe2; Kxh2) 11.Kh1 Re1+/vii 12.Kxh2 draws.

- i) 2.Bxc8? h1Q 3.Bb7+ Kb6 wins.
- ii) 5.Kg2? Rd2+ 6.Kh1 Bf3 mate.
- iii) Ka5 6.Rxh5 Rxh5 7.Bb7, or Ka7 6.Sc6+ Kxa6 7.Se5+ draw.
- iv) 6.Se6+? Kb8 7.Rh7 Rd2+ 8.Ke3 h1Q 9.Rb7+ Qxb7 10.Bxb7 Re2+ wins.
- v) Thematic try: 7.Rc1? Bd1 8.Bb5+ Ke7/ix 9.Kg2 Rd2+ 10.Be2 Rxe2+ 11.Kh1 Bc2 12.Rxc2 Rxc2 and no stalemate.
- vi) Rxb5 8.Rc1 Rb2+ 9.Kg3, or h1S+ 8.Kg2 draw.
- vii) Bc2 (Rd2; Rc3) 12.Rxc2 Rxc2 stalemate.
- viii) But not: Kxd8? 9.Kg2 see main line.
- ix) 9.Rc7+ Kxd8 10.Rh7 Bh5 11.Kg2 Rd2+ wins.

“This is a magnificently constructed study with sharp play connected with the threat of a black pawn promotion and the help of the intermediate sacrifice 6.Bb5!! Then follows the surprising Novotny 9.Be2!! This is a delightful and memorable pearl!”

No 21394 S. Didukh
2nd prize



h3g6 0138.12 5/6 Win

No 21394 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Re7 Bf4 2.dxe5 Se4/i 3.Kg4/ii Sd3 4.Re6+ (Sc6? Sg5;) Kg7 5.Sc6/iii h5+ 6.Kxh5/iv Bxe5 7.Re7+ (Sxe5? Sf4+;) Kf6 (Kf8; Se6+) 8.Sd5+ Kf5 9.Rxe5+ Sxe5 10.Sd4 mate.

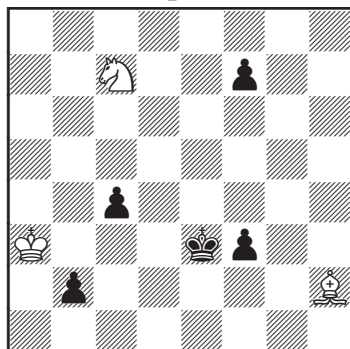
- i) Sbd5 3.Sxd5 Sxd5 4.Rd7 wins.
- ii) 3.Sc4? Sg5+ 4.Kg2 Sc6 5.Re8 Sxe5 6.Sxe5+ Kf5 draws.
- iii) 5.Sc4? h5+ 6.Kxh5 Bxe5 7.Re7+ (Sxe5 Sf4+;) Kf8/v 8.Re8+ Kg7 9.Sxe5 Sf6+ draws.
- iv) 6.Kf5? Sg3 mate, or 6.Kf3? Sg5+ draws.
- v) But not: Kf6? 8.Sd5+ Kf5 9.Sce3 mate.

“After a pretty introduction with two active self-blocks, a beautiful ideal mate follows. There are several studies in which such a mate picture occurs, but in none of them – as far as I know – there is such a midboard mate”.

No 21395 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Bg1+ (Kxb2? f2;) Kd2 2.Kxb2 c3+ 3.Kb3/i c2 4.Sd5 c1Q 5.Be3+ Ke1 6.Bxc1 f2 7.Se3 f5 8.Ka2/ii zz f4 9.Sg2+ Ke2 (Kd1; Bxf4) 10.Sxf4+ Kf3 11.Se6 f1Q 12.Sd4+ Ke4 13.Bb2 Qa6+ 14.Kb1 Qf1+ 15.Ka2 draws.

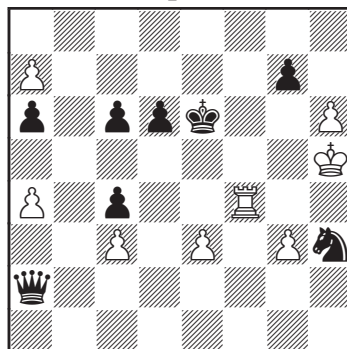
- i) Thematic try: 3.Ka2? c2 4.Sd5 c1Q 5.Be3+ Ke1 6.Bxc1 f2 7.Se3 f5 zz 8.Kb3 f4 9.Sg2+ Ke2 10.Sxf4+ Kf3 wins, e.g. 11.Se6 f1Q 12.Sd4+ Ke4 13.Bb2 Qb1.

No 21395 V. Tarasiuk
3rd prize



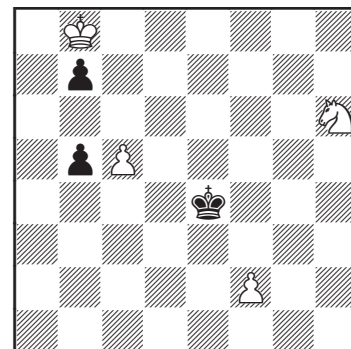
a3e3 0011.04 3/5 Draw

No 21396 A. Zhukov
4th prize



h5e6 3103.65 8/8 Win

No 21397 V. Tarasiuk
1st honourable mention



b8e4 0001.22 4/3 Win

ii) 8.Kc2? f4 9.Sg2+ Ke2 10.Sxf4+ Kf3 wins.

“The excellent logical try 3.Ka2? seems to lead to the desired theoretical fortress, but White gets into a zugzwang and the fortress collapses. With the skilful foresight move 3.Kb3 the very same position is reached, but with Black in zugzwang, and it is a draw”.

No 21396 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Re4+ Kf6 2.hxg7/i Qh2/ii 3.g8S+/iii Kf5/iv
4.Rh4 Qxg3 (Qe2+; g4+) 5.Sh6+ (Se7+? Kf6;) Ke6
6.Re4+ Kd5/v 7.Rd4+ Kc5 (Ke6; Sg4) 8.Sg4 Sf4+
9.Rxf4/vi Qh3+ 10.Kg6/vii Qh8 11.Rf8/viii Qxf8
12.Sf6 Qd8 13.a8Q Qxa8 14.Sd7+ Kd5 15.Kf5
(Sb6+? Ke4;) c5/ix 16.Sb6+ wins.

i) 2.a8Q? Qe2+ 3.g4 g6+ draws.

ii) Qe2+ 3.Kh6 Qh2 4.Re6+ wins.

iii) 3.Re6+? Kxg7, or 3.Rh4? Qxg3.

iv) Kg7 4.Re7+ Kh8 5.Sf6 wins.

v) Kf6 7.Sg4+ Kf5 8.Rd4, or Kd7 7.Re7+ Kxe7 8.Sf5+ win.

vi) 9.exf4? Qh3+ 10.Kg5 Qh8 draws.

vii) 10.Kg5? Qh8, and: 11.Rf7 Kb6, or: 11.Rf5+ d5 draws.

viii) 11.Sf6? Kb6 12.Rh4 Qa8 13.Rh7 Ka5 draws.

ix) White threatened 16.e4 mate. If Qe8 16.Sf6+ wins.

“This study has exciting play like an episode, with a white pawn promoting to a knight and an abundance of tactical sacrifices all the way from the beginning until the very end”.

No 21397 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Sf5/i b4/ii 2.Sd6+ Kd4/iii 3.Sxb7 Kd5 4.f3/iv
Kc6 5.f4/v Kd5 6.f5 b3 7.c6 Kxc6 8.Sa5+ Kd5
9.Sxb3 Ke5 10.Sd4 wins.

i) 1.Sf7? Kd5 2.Kxb7 Kxc5 draws.

ii) Kxf5 (Kd5; Kxb7) 2.Kxb7 b4 3.c6 and promotes with check.

iii) Kd5 3.Sxb7 b3 4.c6 Kxc6 5.Sa5+ wins.

iv) 4.f4? b3 5.c6 Kxc6 6.Sa5+ Kd5 7.Sxb3 Ke4 draws.

v) 5.Kc8? Kd5 6.Kb8 Kc6 draws.

“This is an elegant realization of the *festina lente* (hasten slowly) theme with crystal clear introductory play after a very good first move. The slowly advancing pawn marches on to achieve the win for White in the end”.

No 21398 Martin Minski (Germany).
1.Rg1/i Rxcg1/ii 2.h7 (Bxcg1? Bxh6;), and:

— Ra1+ 3.Sxa1 Bg7 4.Sb3 Kxb3 5.Kb7 Sg3 6.Bf8/iii Bh8 7.e5 Bxe5 (Se4; e6) 8.Bd6 Bxd6 (Bh8; Bxc3) 9.h8Q wins, or:

— Bg7 3.Bxcg1 Kxb3 4.Kb7 Kc4 5.Kc6 Kd3/iv 6.Kd5 Sg3 7.Bd4 (e5? Se4;) Bxd4 8.e5 Se4 9.h8Q wins.

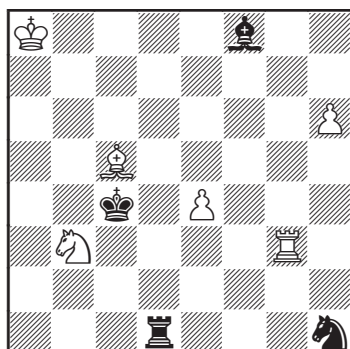
i) 1.h7? Rd8+ 2.Kb7 Bxc5 3.Sd2+ Kd4 4.Rh3 Sf2, or 1.Sa5+? Kb5 2.Rg1 Rxcg1 3.h7 Bxc5 4.h8Q Kxa5 draw.

ii) Rd8+ 2.Kb7 Bxh6 3.Rxh1 Kxb3 4.Rxh6 wins.

iii) 6.e5? Se4 7.Bf8 Bxe5 draws.

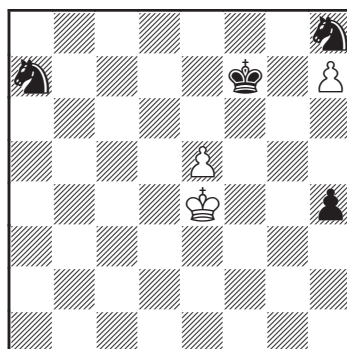
iv) Sg3 6.e5 Bxe5 7.Bh2 wins.

No 21398 M. Minski
2nd honourable mention



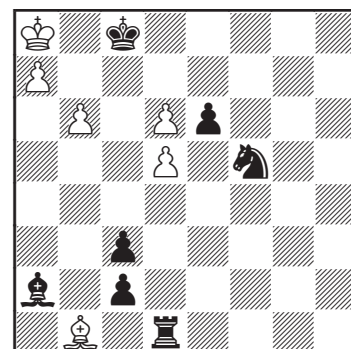
a8c4 0444.20 6/4 Win

No 21399 A. Skripnik
3rd honourable mention



e4f7 0006.21 3/4 Draw

No 21400 P. Arestov
4th honourable mention



a8c8 0343.43 6/7 Draw

“A pleasant series of mutual sacrifices ends in both lines with a wB sacrifice that cannot be refused and leads to the promotion of a pawn to a queen”.

No 21399 Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.e6+ Kg7 2.e7 Sc8 3.e8S+ Kxh7 4.Kf5 Kh6 (h3; Sf6+) 5.Kf4/i Sg6+ 6.Kg4 zz Sb6 7.Sd6 Sd7 8.Sf5+ wins.

i) 5.Kg4? Sg6 zz 6.Sf6 Sce7 wins.

“This knight ending with the background threat of a pawn promotion is based on a mutual zugzwang”.

No 21400 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.b7+ Kd7 2.dxe6+/i Bxe6/ii 3.Bxc2 Ra1 (Sxd6; Bxd1) 4.Be4 (b8Q? Bd5+;) c2 5.Bxc2/iii Sxd6 (Bd5; Bxf5+) 6.Kb8/iv Sb5/v 7.Ba4 (a8Q? Rg1;) Rxa4 8.a8B (a8Q? Rh4;) Ke7 stalemate.

i) 2.Bxc2? Bxd5 3.Bxd1 Sxd6 4.Kb8 Bxb7, or 2.Bxa2? Sxd6 3.b8Q c1Q 4.dxe6+ Kc6 wins.

ii) Kxe6 3.Bxa2+ Kf6 4.b8Q draws.

iii) 5.b8Q? c1Q 6.Qb7+ Kxd6 wins.

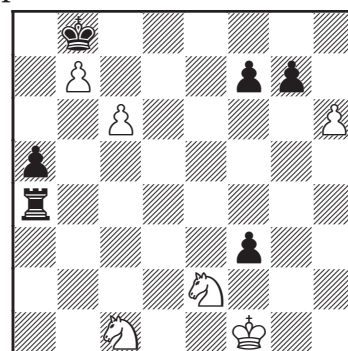
iv) 6.b8Q? Bd5+, or 6.Be4? Sb5 7.b8Q Bd5+ 8.Bxd5 Sc7+ wins.

v) Sxb7 7.a8Q Rxa8+ 8.Kxa8 draws.

“The bishop promotion to achieve a self-stalemate is not new but the phoenix theme is nice”.

No 21401 Leonard Katsnelson (Russia). 1.Sc3/i Ra1 2.c7+/ii Kxb7/iii 3.hxg7 Rxc1+ 4.Sd1 (Kf2? Rc2+;) Rxd1+ 5.Kf2 Rd2+ 6.Kxf3 Rd3+ 7.Kf4/iv Rd4+ 8.Kf5 Rd5+ 9.Kf6 Rd6+ 10.Ke7 Rg6 11.Kd7 Rc6 12.g8Q wins.

No 21401 L. Katsnelson
special honourable mention



fib8 0302.34 6/6 Win

i) Thematic try: 1.Sf4? gxh6/v 2.Scd3 Rc4 3.Se5 Rb4 4.Sd5 Rxb7 5.cxb7 Kxb7 6.Sc3 Kb6 7.Sd3 f5 8.Kf2 h5 9.Kxf3 h4 10.Sa4+ Kb5 11.Sdb2 Kb4 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 2.hxg7? Rxc1+ 3.Kf2 Rc2+ 4.Ke3/vi Rg2 5.Sd5 Rxg7 6.Sf6 Ka7 7.Kxf3 a4 wins.

iii) Kxc7 3.Sb5+ Kxb7 4.hxg7 Rxc1+ 5.Kf2 Kb6 6.Sd6 Rc6 7.g8Q Rxd6 8.Kxf3 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 7.Kg4? f5+/vii 8.Kf4 Rd4+ 9.Kxf5 Rd5+ 10.Kf6 Rd6+ 11.Ke7 Rg6 12.Kd8 Rd6+ 13.Ke7 Rg6 draws.

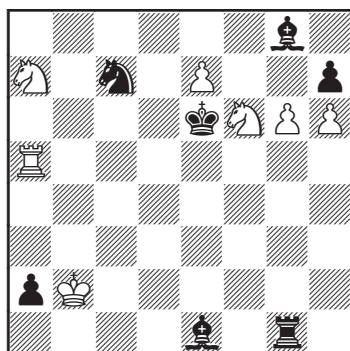
v) But not: Rxf4? 2.Sd3 Rf6 3.hxg7 Rg6 4.Se5 wins.

vi) 4.Kxf3 Rxc3+ 5.Kf4 Rc4+ draws.

vii) But not Rd1? 8.c8Q+ Kxc8 9.g8Q+ wins.

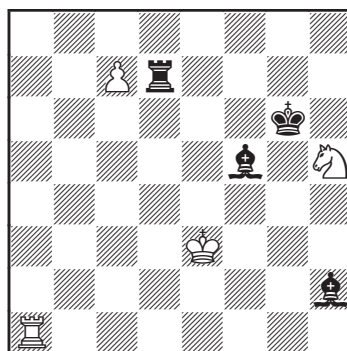
“After a paradoxical pawn sacrifice, the knight pair is offered as a bait for the bR, leading to a win involving a systematic manoeuvre”.

No 21402 D. Hlebec
1st commendation



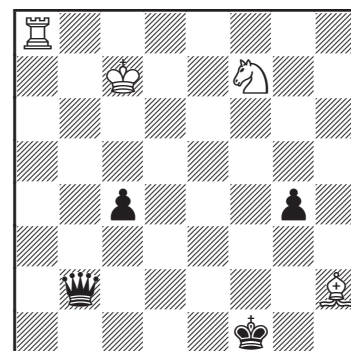
b2e6 0465.32 7/7 Draw

No 21403 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
2nd commendation



e3g6 0461.10 4/4 Draw

No 21404 A. Pallier
& M. Garcia
3rd commendation



c7f1 3111.02 4/4 Draw

No 21402 Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.e8Q+ Sxe8 2.Ra6+ Sd6 3.gxh7/i Bxh7/ii 4.Sxh7 a1Q+ 5.Rxa1/iii Bc3+ 6.Kxc3 Rxa1 7.Sf8+/iv Kf7 8.h7 Kg7 9.Sc6/v Rc1+ 10.Kd4 Rxc6 11.Kd5 (Se6+? Kh8;) Ra6 12.Se6+ Kxh7 13.Sc5/vi Rb6 14.Sd7 (Sa4? Rb4;) Ra6 15.Sc5 draws.

i) 3.Sxg8? Rxg6 4.Sc8 Rg2+ 5.Kb3 a1Q 6.Rxa1 Sxc8 7.Rxe1+ Kf7 wins.

ii) Rg2+ 4.Kb3 Bf7 5.h8S Kxf6+ 6.Sxf7 Kxf7 7.Rxa2 draws.

iii) 5.Kxa1? Bc3++ 6.Ka2 Ra1+ wins.

iv) Thematic try: 7.Sg5+? Kf6 8.h7 Kg7 9.Sc6 Rc1+ 10.Kd4 Rxc6 11.Kd5 Rb6/vii 12.Se6+ Kh8/viii wins.

v) 9.Se6+? Kh8 10.Sc6 Rc1+ 11.Kd4 Rxc6 12.Kd5 Rb6 wins.

vi) 13.Sc7? Rb6 14.Sa8 Rb8 wins.

vii) Ra6? 12.Se6+ Kxh7 13.Sc5.

viii) Kxh7? 13.Sf8+ Kg7 14.Sd7.

“This original logical study has a good prototype positional draw. I would have preferred to end the solution after move 7”.

No 21403 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Sf4+/i Kg5 2.Se6+/ii Bxe6 3.Ra5+/iii Kh6/iv 4.c8Q/v Bg1+ 5.Kf3/vi Rf7+ (Rd3+; Kg2) 6.Kg2 Rg7+ 7.Kh1 Bxc8 8.Rh5+, and Kxh5 stalemate, or Kg6 9.Rh8 draws.

i) 1.c8Q? Re7+, or 1.c8S? Kxh5 2.Rh1 Rd3+ 3.Kf2 Rd2+ 4.Ke3 Ra2 win.

ii) 2.c8S? Bxf4+ 3.Kf2 Rd2+ 4.Kf3 Rd3+ 5.Ke2 Re3+ 6.Kf2 Bxc8 wins.

iii) 3.c8Q? Bf4+ 4.Kf3 Bg4+ wins.

iv) Kf6 4.c8Q Bg1+ 5.Kf3, or Kg6 4.c8Q Bg1+ 5.Kf3 Rf7+ 6.Kg2, or Kh4 4.Ra4+ draw.

v) 4.Ra6? Rd6 5.Ra8 Bg1+ 6.Kf3 Rc6 wins.

vi) 5.Ke2? Bg4+ 6.Kf1 Rd1+ wins.

“The wK finds asylum from the black battery in the corner of the board”.

No 21404 Alain Pallier (France) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Se5/i Qf2/ii 2.Ra1+ Kg2 3.Sxg4 Qc5+ 4.Kb7 (Kb8? Qf8+;) Kh3 5.Rg1 c3 6.Rg3+ Kh4 7.Se3/iii c2/iv 8.Sg2+ Kh5 9.Sf4+ Kh6 10.Rh3+ Kg7 11.Se6+/v Kf7 12.Sxc5 draws.

i) 1.Be5? Qf2 2.Ra1+ Kg2 3.Sd8 c3 wins.

ii) Qd4 2.Ra4 Qc5+ 3.Sc6 c3 4.Bd6 Qf2 5.Ra1+ Kg2 6.Sb4 wins, e.g. g3 7.Rc1 Qd4 8.Kc6 Qc4+ 9.Bc5 Kh3 10.Sd5, or c3 2.Sxg4 Kg2 3.Bd6 Qe2 4.Se5 c2 5.Rg8+ Kf1 6.Rf8+ Ke1 7.Bb4+ Kd1 8.Rd8+, or Kg2 2.Bf4 Qd4 3.Rg8 Qc5+ 4.Kb8 Qb6+ 5.Ka8 Qa6+ 6.Kb8 Qd6+ 7.Ka7 Qe7+ 8.Kb8 c3 9.Rxg4+ Kh1 10.Sc6 Qe4 11.Kb7 c2 12.Rh4+ Kg2 13.Rh2+ Kg1 14.Rh4 Kf1 15.Rh2 draws.

iii) 7.Se5? Qb4+ 8.Kc7 c2 9.Sf3+ Kh5 10.Rh3+ Kg6 wins.

iv) Kh5 8.Rh3+ Kg6 9.Bc7 draws.

v) 11.Sd3? Qd5+ 12.Kc7 Qc4+ 13.Kd6 Qd4+ 14.Kc6 Qe4+ wins.

“This is a good coordinated hunt for the bQ”.

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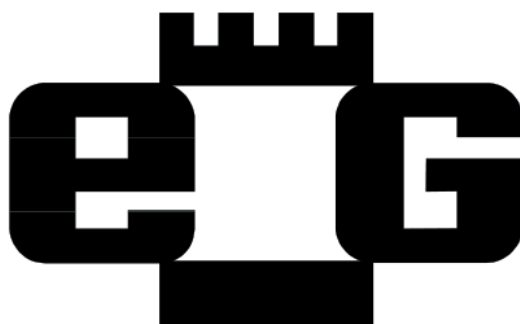
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SUPPLEMENT

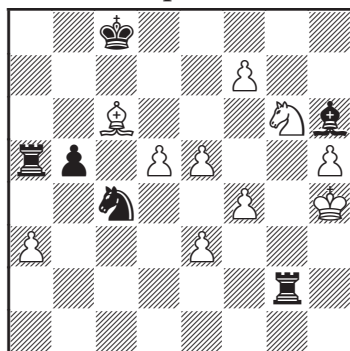
Awards

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Zadachy i Etyudi 2015

Valery Kalashnikov judged the annual tourney of *Zadachy i Etyudi*. Of the 28 participating studies he included no less than 19 studies in the award, which appeared in issue 69, iv2017.

No 21405 S. Osintsev
1st prize



h4c8 o644.71 10/6 Win

No 21405 Sergei Osintsev (Russia). 1.e6 Rh2+/i 2.Kg3 Re2 3.e7 Rxe3+ 4.Kh4/ii Rxe7 5.Sxe7+ Kd8 6.Sf5 Bf8 7.h6 Bxh6/iii 8.Sxh6 Ke7 9.Sf5+ Kxf7 10.d6 Sb6/iv 11.d7 Sxd7 12.Bxd7 Kf6 13.Kg4/v zz b4 14.axb4/vi Rd5 15.Ba4/vii Rxf5 16.Bc6 zz Ke6 (Kg6; Be4) 17.Bd7+ Kxd7 18.Kxf5 wins.

i) Sxe3 2.Kh3 Rxa3 3.e7 Sxd5+ 4.Kxg2 Sxe7 5.Sxe7+ Kc7 6.Bxb5 Ra5 7.Sf5 Bf8 8.h6 Rxb5 9.h7 Rxf5 10.h8Q Rxf7 11.Qd4 Rd7 12.Qe5+ Kd8 13.f5 Rd6 14.f6 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 4.Kg4? Rxe7 5.Sxe7+ Kd8 6.Sf5 Bf8 7.h6 Bxh6 8.Sxh6 Ke7 9.Sf5+ Kxf7 10.d6 Sb6 11.d7 Sxd7 12.Bxd7 Kf6 zz 13.Bc6/viii b4 14.axb4 Rxf5 zz, draws.

iii) Se3 8.Sxe3 Bxh6 9.Sf5 Bf8 10.d6 Rxa3 11.Bxb5 Ra2 12.Sd4 Rh2+ 13.Kg5 Rh6 14.Sc6+ Kd7 15.Se7+ Ke6 16.Sg6 Kxf7 17.Bc4+ wins.

iv) Sxd6 11.Sxd6+ Ke6 12.Sxb5, or Rxa3 11.d7 Rd3 12.Bxb5 Kf6 13.Kg4 win.

v) 13.Sd6? Ke7 14.Sb7 Ra7 15.Bc6 Ra6 16.Bd5 Rxa3, or 13.Se3? Ke7 14.Bc6 Rxa3 15.Sd1 b4

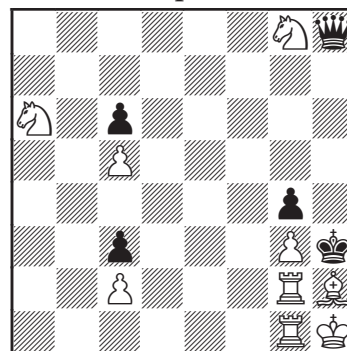
vi) 14.Bc6? Rxf5 zz, draws.

vii) 15.Bc8? Rd8 16.Bb7 Rg8+ draws.

viii) 13.Se3 Ke7 14.Bc6 Kd6, or 13.Sd4 b4 14.axb4 Rd5, or 13.Be8 Ra8 14.Sd6 (Bxb5 Rg8+;) Ke7 15.Sxb5 Rxe8 draw.

“Two zugzwang positions are resolved in favour of White by tempo moves by different pieces. The wK becomes the hero of the extraordinary first zugzwang position with nine-move foresight and the second zugzwang is fixed by the wB, presenting a rare domination”.

No 21406 P. Krug & M. Garcia
2nd prize



h1h3 3212.33 9/5 Win

No 21406 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Sh6/i Qxh6 (Qd4; Sxg4) 2.Sb4, and:

— Qh7 3.Sd3/ii Qxd3 4.cxd3 c2 5.Re2/iii c1Q 6.Re7 Qh6 7.Rge1/iv Qg6 8.Bg1 Qxd3 9.R1e3 Qd5+ 10.R7e4 Qd2 11.Re2 Qd3 12.Rh2+/v Kxg3 13.Re3+ wins, or:

— Qe3 3.Sd5/vi cxd5 4.c6/vii d4 5.c7 Qe8 6.Rf1 Qa8/viii 7.Rf2 d3 8.Bg1/ix d2 9.c8Q (c8R) d1Q 10.Qh8+/x Qxh8 11.Rh2+ Kxg3 12.Rg2+ Kf3 13.Rxh8 wins.

i) Try: 1.Sb4? Qd4 2.Sd5 Qxd5 3.Sh6 Qxg2+ 4.Rxg2 stalemate.

ii) Try: 3.Sd5? cxd5 4.Re1 Qf5, and: 5.c6 d4 6.c7 d3 7.c8Q Qxc8 8.Re5 Qh8 positional draw, or here: 5.Kg1 d4 6.Rf2 Qg5 7.Rf8 Qh6 8.Ree8 Qc1+ 9.Rf1 Qh6 10.Rf4 d3, or 5.Bg1 Qf3 6.Re2 d4 draw.

iii) Try: 5.Rf2? c1Q 6.Rf5 Qg5 7.Rxg5 stalemate.

iv) Try: 7.Rf1? Qh5 8.Rf6 Qd5+ 9.Re4 Qxe4+ 10.dxe4 stalemate.

v) Try: 12.Bd4? Qf3+ 13.Kg1 Qg2+ 14.Rxg2 stalemate.

vi) 3.Sd3? Qxg1+ 4.Bxg1 stalemate.

vii) 4.Rf1? Qe4 5.Rf2 d4 draws.

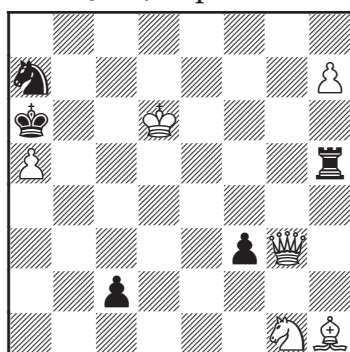
viii) Qc6 7.Rf2 d3 8.Bg1 dxc2 9.c8Q Qxc8 10.Rf7 wins.

ix) 8.c8Q? Qxc8 9.Rf7 Qg8 draws.

x) 10.Qxa8? Qxg1+ 11.Rxg1 stalemate.

“The bK is in a stalemate knitwork that has to be unknotted. There are two main lines with the change theme of related sacrifices on d3 and d5”.

No 21407 A. Zhukov
3rd/5th prize



d6a6 1314.22 6/5 Win

No 21407 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Qf4 (Qe1? Sb5+;) Sb5+ (f2; Se2) 2.Ke6 (Kc6? Rxh7;) Sd4+/i 3.Kf7/ii Rf5+/iii 4.Qxf5 Sxf5 5.h8Q Sd6+/iv 6.Ke7/v c1Q 7.Qa8+ Kb5 8.Sxf3/vi Qc5/vii 9.Qc6+/viii, and:

— Kxc6 10.Sd4++ Kc7 11.Se6+ Kb8 12.Sxc5 wins, or:

— Qxc6 10.Sd4+ Ka6 11.Bxc6 (Sxc6? Sc4;) Sc4 (Sb7; Bxb7+) 12.Bb5+ wins.

i) Rxh7 3.Bxf3, or Rxh1 3.Sxf3 Rxh7 4.Qe3 win.

ii) 3.Kf6? f2 4.Se2 Sxe2 5.Qxf2/xiii Rh6+ 6.Kg7 c1Q draws.

iii) f2 4.Se2 Sxe2 5.Qxf2, or Rxh7+ 4.Kg8 Rg7+ 5.Kh8 Rxg1 6.Qxd4 wins.

iv) c1Q 6.Qf6+ Kxa5 7.Qxf5+ wins.

v) 6.Ke6? c1Q 7.Qa8+ Kb5 8.Sxf3 Qh6+ 9.Kd7 Sc4 draws.

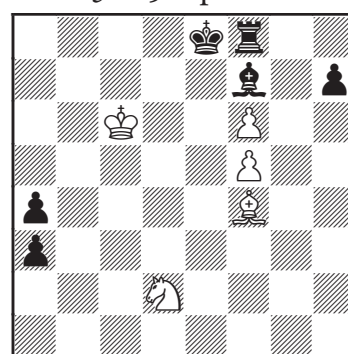
vi) 8.Bxf3? Qxg1, or 8.Qd5+? Qc5 9.Qxc5+ Kxc5 draws.

vii) Qc7+ 9.Ke6 Sc4 10.Sd4+ Kb4 11.Qf8+ Kxa5 12.Sc6+ wins.

viii) 9.Ke6? Sc4, or 9.Qb8+? Sb7+ draws.

“The queen phoenixes create a bombardment in the open field b3-b8-e8-e3, the point being the very original sacrifice 9.Qc6+!! We wonder who would have found this when one is not trying to solve a study?”

No 21408 E. Kudelich
3rd/5th prize



c6e8 0341.23 5/6 Draw

No 21408 Eduard Kudelich (Russia). 1.Se4, and:

— Rh8/i 2.Sd6+ Kf8 3.Bh6+ Kg8 4.Kd7/i a2 5.Sc8 Bg6 6.Ke6 Bxf5+ 7.Ke7 (Kxf5 a1Q;) Bg6 8.Ke6 Bf7+ 9.Kd7 Bd5 10.Ke8 Bc6+ 11.Ke7 Bd5 12.Ke8 Bf7+ 13.Kd7 Bh5 14.Ke6 Bg4+ 15.Ke7 Bh5 16.Ke6 Bf7+ 17.Kd7 positional draw, or:

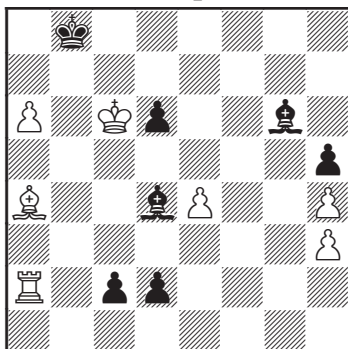
— Bh5/ii 2.Sd6+ Kd8 3.Sb7+ Kc8 4.Sd6+ Kb8 5.Sb5+ Ka8 6.Sc7+ Ka7 7.Sb5+ Ka6 8.Sc7+ Ka7 (Ka5; Bd2 mate) 9.Sb5+ Ka8 10.Sc7+ Ka7 11.Sb5+ positional draw.

i) 4.Sc8? Be8+ 5.Kd5 Kf7 6.Bc1 a2 7.Bb2 Rg8 8.Ke5 Rg1 wins.

ii) a2 2.Kc7 Rg8 3.Bh6 a1Q 4.Sd6 mate, or Bd5+ 2.Kxd5 a2 3.Be5 Kd7 4.Sc5+ Ke8 5.Ke6 Rf7 6.Sa6 h5 7.Sb4 Rb7 8.Sd5 Rf7 9.Sb4 Rb7 10.Sd5 positional draw.

“Without the necessary analyses, complex positional draws are presented in two parallel lines: a perpetual manoeuvre of the bB and the wK and perpetual check by the wS. Could we name this a ‘colour change’?”

No 21409 V. Neishtadt
3rd/5th prize



c6b8 0170.44 7/7 Draw

No 21409 Vladimir Neishtadt (Russia).
1.a7+/i Bxa7 2.Rb2+/ii Ka8/iii 3.Bxc2 Bxe4+
4.Bxe4 d1Q 5.Kc7+ (Kd7+) d5 6.Kc8 Qc1+/iv
7.Rc2 Qd1 8.Rb2 Bb6 9.Ra2+ Ba7 10.Rb2 posi-
tional draw.

i) 1.Rxc2? (Bxc2? Bxe4+;) d1Q 2.Rb2+ Bxb2
3.Bxd1 Be5 4.Be2 Ka7 5.Bd3 Be8+ 6.Kd5 Kb6
7.Ke6 Bg6 8.Be2 Bxe4 9.Bxh5 Kxa6 10.Bg4 Bf4
wins.

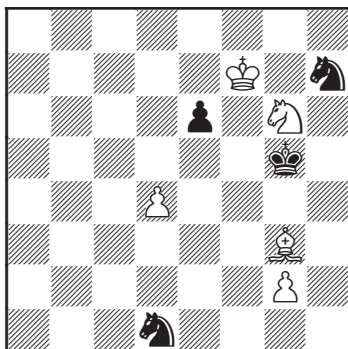
ii) 2.Rxc2? Be8+ 3.Kxd6 d1Q+ wins.

iii) Kc8 3.Bxc2 Bxe4+ 4.Kb5 Bxc2 5.Rxc2+
draws. Bb6 3.Bxc2 Bxe4+ 4.Kxb6 Bxc2 5.Ka6+
Ka8 6.Rxc2 wins.

iv) dxe4 7.Rb8+ Bxb8 stalemate.

“This is clear and concrete: ‘Perpetual check
by Black and perpetual check by White’. Under
the threat of an ancient stalemate one goes suc-
cessively from one to the other and vice versa.
Is this a ‘colour change?’”

No 21410 Y. Bazlov
special prize



f7g5 0017.21 5/4 Win

No 21410 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Kg7/i Kg4
2.Be1/ii Sg5 3.Se5+ Kf5 (Kh5; g4 mate) 4.Bd2 Sf2

(Se4; g4 mate) 5.Bc1 zz Sge4 6.g4+ Sxg4 7.Sf7/iii
zz, and: 7...Sg- 8.Sh6 mate, or: 7...Se-/iv 8.Sd6
mate.

i) 1.Be1? Kf5 2.Sh4+ Kg4 3.Kxe6 Sg5+ 4.Ke7
Se3 5.Bd2 Sc2, or 1.Bd6? Kf5 2.Sh4+ Kg4 3.Sf3
Se3 4.Kg6 Sxg2 5.Sh2+ Kh3 6.Kxh7 Se1 (Sh4)
draw.

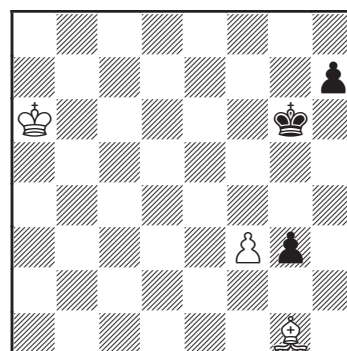
ii) 2.Bf4? Sg5 3.Kf6 Sh7+ 4.Kxe6 Sf8+ 5.Sxf8
Kxf4 draws.

iii) 7.Sc4? Se-? 8.Sd6, mate, but: 7...Sg- 8.Se3+
Kf4 (Kg5).

iv) Sd2 8.Sd6+ Kf4 9.Bxd2+ Kf3 10.Kf7, or
Se3 8.Sd6+ Kf4 9.Bxd2+ Kf3 10.Kf7 wins.

“All light pieces on the board play and create
model mate patterns with active self-blocks:
feel the harmony and note the dynamics”.

No 21411 V. Tarasiuk
1st honourable mention



a6g6 0010.12 3/3 Draw

No 21411 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Russia). 1.Bc5
Kg5/i 2.Bd6 Kh4 3.Be7+ (Bc5? h5;) Kh3 4.Bc5
h5/ii 5.Kb7/iii h4 6.Kc8/iv Kg2 7.f4 h3 8.f5 h2
9.f6 h1Q 10.f7 Qh3+ 11.Kb8/v Qh8+ 12.f8Q
draws.

i) g2 2.Bg1 Kg5 3.Bh2 Kh4 4.f4 Kh3 5.Bg1 Kg4
6.Bh2 Kh3 7.Bg1 positional draw.

ii) g2 5.Bf2 Kh2 6.f4 draws.

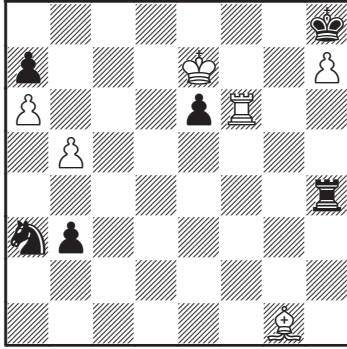
iii) Thematic try: 5.Kb5? h4 6.Kc4 Kg2 7.f4
h3 8.f5 h2 9.f6 h1Q 10.f7 Qf1+ wins.

iv) Thematic try: 6.Kc7? Kg2 7.f4 h3 8.f5 h2
9.f6 h1Q 10.f7 Qh7 wins.

v) 11.Kd8? Qh4+ 12.Kc8 Qg4+ 13.Kb8 Qf4+
wins.

“The big guy wK delivers an unexpected
plot”

No 21412 V. Prigunov
2nd honourable mention



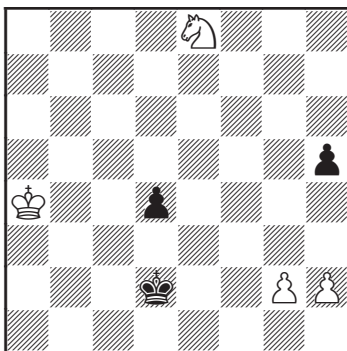
e7h8 0413.33 6/6 Win

No 21412 Vyacheslav Prigunov (Russia).
1.b6 axb6 2.Rh6 (a7? Ra4;) Rxh6 3.Bd4+ (a7?
Rxh7+;) e5 4.Bxe5+ Kxh7 5.a7 b2 6.Bxb2
Re6+ 7.Kxe6/i Sb5 8.a8S/iv Kg6 9.Sxb6 Kg5
10.Kd7 Kf5 11.Kc6 Sa7+ 12.Kc5 Ke6 13.Bc1
Ke7 14.Bg5+ Ke8 15.Bf6 (Bh4) Kf7 16.Be5 Ke7
17.Bb8 wins.

i) 7.Kd7? Re8 8.Kxe8 Sb5 9.a8S Sd6+ draws.

“The pawns dream of a higher rank but, after mutual combinations, the result is a promoted knight that forms a team involved in catching Black’s knight”.

No 21413 P. Arestov
3rd honourable mention



a4d2 0001.22 4/3 Win

No 21413 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sg7/i
d3/ii 2.Sxh5 Kc2/iii 3.Sg3 d2 4.Sf1 d1S 5.Kb5/iv
Kd3 6.Kc6/v Ke2 7.h4/vi Kxf1 8.h5 Se3 9.h6 Sg4
10.h7 Sf6 11.h8Q wins.

i) 1.Sf6? h4/vii 2.Kb3 (Sd5) Ke2 3.Sd5 (Kb3)
Kf2 4.Sf4 Ke3 5.Kc4 Kxf4 6.Kxd4 h3 7.g3+ Kf3
draws.

ii) h4 2.Sf5 d3 3.Sxh4 wins.

iii) Kc1 3.Sf4 d2 4.Sd3+ Kc2 5.Sf2, or Ke1 3.Sf4
d2 4.Sd3+ Ke2 5.Sb2 win.

iv) 5.h4? Sf2 6.h5 Se4 7.h6 Sf6 draws.

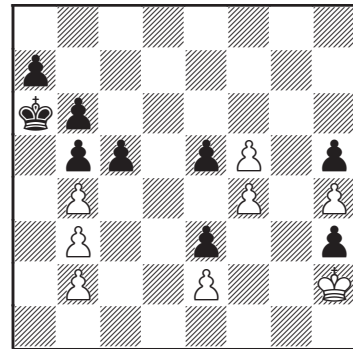
v) 6.Kc5? Ke2 7.h4 Kxf1 8.h5 Sf2 9.h6 Se4+
draws.

vi) 7.g4? Kxf1 8.g5 Se3 9.g6 Sf5 draws.

vii) But not: d3? 2.Sxh5 Kc2 3.Sg3 d2 4.Sf1
d1S 5.Kb5 Kd3 6.Kc6 Ke2 7.h4 Kxf1 8.h5 wins.

“In a natural-looking position we do not yet know what is interesting. Suddenly an under-promotion occurs: is this an endgame study or an original ending?”

No 21414 M. Zinar
4th honourable mention



h2a6 0000.78 8/9 BTM, Win

No 21414 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1...cx-
b4/i 2.f6 Ka5 3.f7 a6 4.f8Q/ii e4/iii 5.Qc5/iv bxc5
6.f5 c4 7.f6/v cxb3/vi 8.f7 Ka4 9.f8S/vii a5/viii
10.Kg3 h2 11.Sd7 (Se6) h1Q 12.Sb6 (Sc5) mate.

i) exf4 2.f6 f3 3.f7 fxe2 4.f8Q e1Q 5.Qc8 1st
mate.

ii) 4.f8B? exf4 draws, 4.f8S? e4 5.Kg3 h2
6.Kxh2 1st stalemate.

iii) exf4 5.Qc8 f3 6.Qc1 f2 7.Qa1 mate.

iv) 5.Qxb4+? Kxb4 6.Kxh3 Kc5 7.Kg3 Kd5
8.f5 Ke5 9.f6 Kxf6 10.Kf4 b4 11.Kxe4 a5 12.Kxe3
Ke5 13.Kd3 b5 and Black wins.

v) 7.bxc4? bxc4 8.f6 c3 draws.

vi) c3 8.f7 (bxc3? Bxc3;) c2 9.f8Q c1Q 10.Qd8+
Qc7+ 11.Qxc7 echo-chameleon mate.

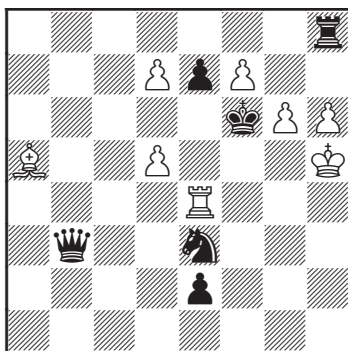
vii) 9.f8Q? a5 10.Kg3 h2 11.Kxh2 echo-cha-
meleon stalemate.

viii) Ka5 10.Sd7 Ka4 11.Kxh3 wins.

“This is a re-working of a study by the author (EG#20653). Black’s first move constructs the

first “niche”, and with its 7th move a chameleon echo version of it (2nd ‘niche’). Both promoted white pieces deliver mate”.

No 21415 P. Arestov & A. Skripnik
5th honourable mention



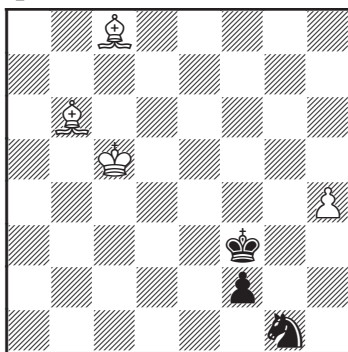
h5f6 3413.52 8/6 Draw

No 21415 Pavel Arestov & Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.Bc3+/i Qxc3 (Kf5; g7) 2.g7 Rxh6+ 3.Kxh6 Sg4+ (Sf5+; Kh7) 4.Kh7 Qh3+ 5.Kg8 Sh6+ 6.Kf8 Qxd7 7.Re6+/ii Qxe6 (Kf5; g8Q) 8.dxe6 e1Q 9.Ke8/iii Qxe6/iv 10.f8Q+ Sf7 (Kg6; Qxe7) 11.g8S+ (g8Q? Qc8 mate) Kg6 12.Sxe7+ Kf6 13.Qg7+ Kxg7 stalemate.

- i) 1.g7? Qxd5+ 2.Kh4 Qxe4+ wins.
- ii) 7.g8S+? Kg5, or 7.Rf4+? Sf5 win.
- iii) 9.g8Q? Qxe6 10.Qg7+ Kf5 wins.
- iv) Qb4 10.f8Q+ Kxe6 11.g8Q+ Sxg8 12.Qxg8+ draws.

“The lively piece-costing play transforms into a colourful rectangle and ends with stalemate with a phoenix knight pinned by a phoenix queen”.

No 21416 L. Katsnelson
1st special honourable mention



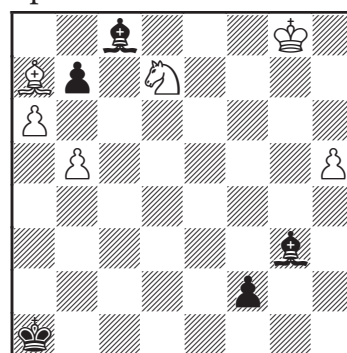
c5f3 0023.11 4/3 Win

No 21416 Leonard Katsnelson (Russia). 1.Bb7+ (Ba6? Se2;) Kg4/i 2.Ba6/ii Kxh4 3.Kd4 Kg3 4.Ke3 (Bf1? Kf3;) Kg2/iii 5.Bb7+ Kf1 6.Bd8/iv Sh3/v 7.Kf3 Sg1+ (Ke1; Ba5+) 8.Kg3 Se2+ 9.Kh2 Ke1/vi 10.Ba5+ Kf1 (Kd1; Kg2) 11.Bg2 model mate.

- i) Ke2 2.Ba6+ Ke1 3.Kd6 Se2 4.Bxe2 wins.
- ii) 2.Bg2? Kxh4 3.Kd4 Kg3 4.Bf1 Kf3 5.Kd3 Se2 6.Bxe2+ Kg2 draws.
- iii) Sf3 5.Ke2 Sg1+ 6.Kf1 wins.
- iv) Thematic try: 6.Bc7? Sh3 7.Kf3 Sg1+ 8.Kg3 Se2+ 9.Kh2 Sd4 10.Ba6+ Se2 11.Bg3 Ke1 12.Bh4 Sf4 13.Bb5 Sg6 (Se2?; Kg2) 14.Bg3 Sf4 positional draw. Thematic try: 6.Bc8? Ke1 7.Ba5+ Kf1 8.Ba6+ Kg2/vii 9.Bb7+ Sf3 10.Bxf3+ Kg1 draws.
- v) Ke1 7.Bh4 Sh3 8.Bg2, or Se2 7.Bh4 Sc3 8.Bf3 win.
- vi) Sd4 10.Ba6+ Se2 11.Bh4 Ke1 12.Kg2 Sf4+ 13.Kf3 wins.
- vii) But not: Se2? 9.Kf3 Kg1 10.Bb6 wins.

“After some time the study becomes more subtle thanks to the proven relation of 2B vs S. The process of knitting a mate net shows a careful attitude to the material”.

No 21417 P. Arestov
2nd special honourable mention



g8a1 0071.32 6/5 Win

No 21417 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bd4+/i Kb1/ii 2.Bxf2 Bxf2 3.a7 Bxa7 4.b6 Bxb6 5.Sxb6 Be6+/iii 6.Kf8/iv Bf5 7.h6/v Kc2/vi 8.Kf7/vii Kc1 9.Kg7 Bc2/viii 10.Sc4 b5 11.Sa3 b4 12.Sxc2 Kxc2 13.h7 b3 14.h8Q wins.

- i) 1.Bxf2? Bxf2 2.a7 Bxa7 3.b6 Bxb6 4.Sxb6 Bf5 (Be6) draws.

ii) Ka2 2.a7 f1Q 3.a8Q+ wins.

iii) Bf5 6.h6 Kb2 7.Kf7 see main line.

iv) Thematic try: 6.Kh7? Bf5+ 7.Kg7 Ka2 8.h6 Ka1 zz 9.Kf6 Bh7 10.Kg7 Bf5 zz 11.Sd5 b5 12.Se7 b4 13.Sxf5 b3 14.h7 b2 15.h8Q b1Q draws. 6.Kg7? Kc1 (Ka1) 7.h6 Bf5 zz, draws.

v) Thematic try: 7.Kg7? Ka2 8.h6 Ka1 zz 9.Kf6 Bh7 zz 10.Kg7 Bf5 11.Kf7 Bc2 zz 12.Kg7 Bf5 zz 13.Sd5 b5 14.Se7 b4 15.Sxf5 b3 16.Sd4 b2 17.Sb3+ Kb1 18.Sd2+ Kc1 draws.

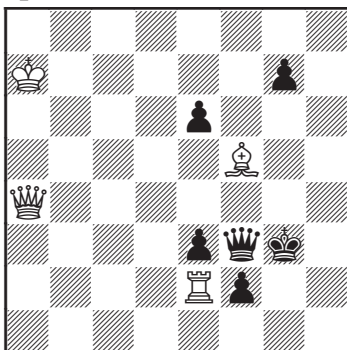
vi) Ka2 8.Kf7, or Kc1 8.Kg7 see main line.

vii) 8.Kg7? Kc1 9.Kf6 Bh7 10.Kg7 Bf5 zz 11.Kf7 Bc2 (Bd3) 12.Sd5 b5 13.Sf4 b4 draws.

viii) Bb1 10.Sc4 (Sd5) b5 11.Sa3 (Sc3) wins.

“Non-obvious logic flows into a six man ending with thematic tries featuring mutual zugzwangs”.

No 21418 M. Campioli
3rd special honourable mention



a7g3 4110.04 4/6 Draw

No 21418 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Bg4 (Bd3? f1Q;) Qf7+ 2.Kb6 f1Q 3.Rxe3+ Kh2 4.Re2+ Qxe2 5.Bxe2 Qf2+ 6.Kc6/i Qxe2 7.Qh4+ Kg2 8.Qg5+ Kf1/ii 9.Qf4+/iii Qf2 10.Qc4+/iv Qe2 11.Qf4+ Kg2 12.Qg5+ Kf2 13.Qh4+ Ke3 14.Qg5+ Ke4 15.Qg6+/vi Kf4 16.Qf7+, and: Ke5 17.Qxg7+ draws, or 16...Ke3 17.Qxe6 draws.

i) 6.Ka5? Qxe2 7.Qh4+ Kg2 8.Qg5+ Kf2 9.Qh4+ Ke3 10.Qg5+ Kd4 11.Qxg7+ Qe5+, or 6.Kb7? Qxe2 7.Qh4+ Kg2 8.Qg5+ Kf2 9.Qh4+ Ke3 10.Qg5+ Kd4 11.Qxg7+ e5 12.Qd7+ Ke3 13.Qh3+ Qf3+, or 6.Kc7? Qxe2 7.Qh4+ Kg2 8.Qg5+ Kf2 9.Qh4+ Ke3 10.Qg5+ Ke4 11.Qg6+ Kd5 12.Qg5+ Qe5+ win.

ii) Kf2 (Kh2) 9.Qh4+, or Kf3 9.Qh5+, or Kh1 9.Qh4+ Qh2 10.Qe1+, or Kh3 9.Qxg7 Qc4+ 10.Kb6 Qb4+ 11.Kc6 Qe4+ 12.Kc5 Qd5+ 13.Kb4 draw.

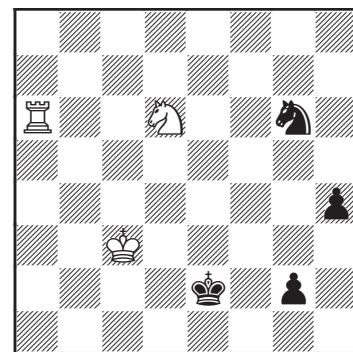
iii) 9.Qxg7? Qf3+ 10.Kc7 Qf4+ 11.Kd8 Qb8+ win.

iv) 10.Qc1+? Kg2 11.Qg5+ Qg3 12.Qd2+ Kh3 wins.

vi) 15.Qh4+? Kf5 16.Qh3+ Kf6 17.Qh4+ g5 18.Qh8+ Kf5 19.Qf8+ Kg4, or 15.Qxg7? Qa6+ 16.Kc5 Qa5+ 17.Kd6 Qb6+ win.

“After a decent introduction a position arises which contributes to the theory of queen endings”.

No 21419 V. Kalyagin † & E. Kudelich
commendation



c3e2 0104.02 3/4 Draw

No 21419 Viktor Kalyagin, & Eduard Kudelich (Russia). 1.Sf5/i g1Q 2.Sd4+ Ke3 3.Re6+ Kf2 4.Rf6+ Sf4 5.Rxf4+ Ke3 6.Rxh4 Qe1+ 7.Kc2/ii, and:

— Qd2+ 8.Kb3/iii Kd3 9.Sb5 draws, or:

— Qf2+ 8.Kc3 Qe1+ 9.Kc2 Qf2+ 10.Kc3 positional draw.

i) 1.Sb5? Sf4 2.Sd4+ Ke3/iv 3.Sf5+ Ke4 4.Sxh4 g1Q wins.

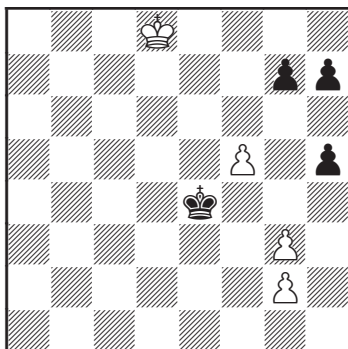
ii) 7.Kc4? Qxh4, or 7.Kb3? Kd3, or 7.Kb2? Kd3 8.Rg4 Qd1 9.Rh4 Qd2+ 10.Ka3 Qg5 11.Sf3 Qc5+ 12.Ka4 Qc6+ win.

iii) 8.Kb1? Qf2 9.Rg4 Kd3 10.Ka1 Qd2 wins.

iv) But not Kf2? 3.Ra2+ Kg3 4.Sf5+ Kh3 5.Rxg2 draws.

“If you can’t stop a pawn – let it go. In the tradition of classical miniatures”.

No 21420 Z. Mihajloski
commendation



d8e4 0000.33 4/4 Draw

No 21420 Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia).
1.f6/i gxf6 2.Ke7, and:

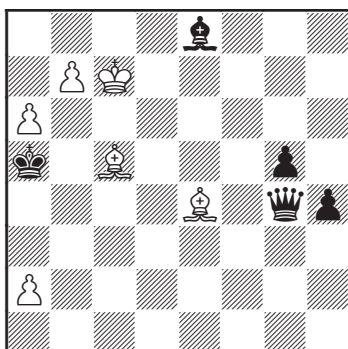
- Kf5 3.Kf7 Kg5 4.Kg7 Kg4 5.Kxf6 Kxg3 6.Kf5/
ii h4 7.Kg5 h6+ 8.Kh5 draws, or:
- f5 3.Kf6 f4 4.Kg5 fxg3 5.Kh4 Kf4 6.Kh3 (Kxh5
Ke3;) h4 7.Kxh4 draws.

i) 1.Ke7? Kxf5 2.Kf7 g5 3.Kg7 Kg4 4.Kxh7
Kxg3 5.Kg6 Kg4 6.Kh6 h4 7.Kg6 Kf4 8.Kh5 Kf5
wins.

ii) 6.Kg5? h4 7.Kh5 h6 wins.

“The try on the first move makes this study a
puzzle. After the logical sacrifices the main line
breaks up in two lines with refusal of capture.
Altogether this is a new exercise for the column
‘when lessons are learned’”.

No 21421 A. Zhukov
commendation



c7a5 3050.32 6/5 Win

No 21421 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Bb4+/i Kxa6/ii 2.Bd3+ Bb5 3.b8S+/iii Ka7
4.Bxb5/iv Qf4+ 5.Bd6 Qf5 6.Bc5+/v Qxc5+
7.Sc6+ Qxc6+ (Ka8; Ba6) 8.Kxc6 (Bxc6? Ka6;)
h3 9.Kc5/vi h2 10.Bc6 wins.

i) 1.Bb6+? Kb5 2.Bd3+ Kb4 3.a7 Qd7+ 4.Kb8
Qd6+ 5.Bc7 Qf8 draws.

ii) Ka4 2.Bc2+ Kxb4 3.b8Q+ Bb5 4.Qf8+ Kc3
5.Qc5+ Qc4 6.Qxc4+ Bxc4 7.a7 Bd5 8.Bf5, or
Kxb4 2.b8Q+ Bb5 3.Qf8+ win.

iii) Thematic try: 3.Bxb5+? Kxb5 4.b8Q+
Kc4? 5.Bd6 Qh5 6.Qb3+ wins, but: Ka4 5.Bd6
Qc4+ draws.

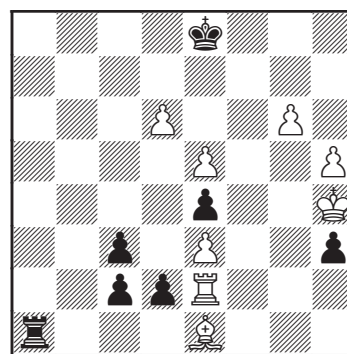
iv) 4.Bc5+? Ka8 5.Bxb5 Qf4+ 6.Bd6 Qf5
draws.

v) 6.a4? h3 7.Bc5+ Qxc5+ 8.Sc6+ Qxc6+
9.Bxc6 Ka6, or 6.Sc6+? Ka8 7.Ba6 Qf7+ draw.

vi) 9.Bf1? h2 10.Bg2 Ka6 11.Kc5 Ka5 12.Bc6
g4 13.Kc4 g3 14.Kc3 Kb6 15.Ba8 Kb5 16.a3 Ka4
17.Kb2 Kb5 18.Kb3 Kc5 19.a4 Kd4 20.a5 Ke3
21.a6 Kf2 22.a7 g2, or 9.Be2? h2 10.Bf3 g4 11.Bh1
Ka6 draws.

“Sacrifices, refusal or capture, Roman sacri-
fice, points, introductory play by pieces, coun-
tersacrifices – viva impressionism!”

No 21422 D. Hlebec
commendation



h4e8 0410.55 8/7 Draw

No 21422 Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.d7+/i
Kxd7/ii 2.Bxd2 h2 3.Rxh2 Rh1 4.Rxh1 cxd2
5.e6+/iii Kd6 6.e7 Kxe7 7.g7 d1Q/iv 8.Rxd1 cx-
d1R/v 9.g8S+/vi Ke6 10.Sh6 draws.

i) 1.Bxd2? cxd2 2.d7+ Kd8 wins.

ii) Kd8 2.g7 c1Q 3.g8Q+ draws.

iii) 5.g7? c1Q 6.Rxc1 dxc1Q 7.e6+ Kd6 8.g8Q
Qh1+ 9.Kg5 Qg2+ 10.Kh6 Qxg8 wins.

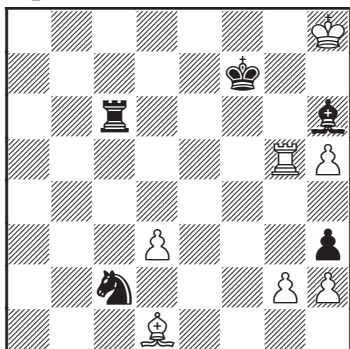
iv) Kf7 8.Rg1 Kg8 9.h6 wins.

v) cxd1Q 9.g8Q Qh1+ 10.Kg5 Qg2+ 11.Kh6
Qxg8 stalemate.

vi) 9.g8Q? Rh1+ 10.Kg5 Rg1+ 11.Kh6 Rxd8 wins.

“It is fun, fun to see each move! Mutual sacrifices precede mutual under-promotions”.

No 21423 D. Keith & M. Minski
special commendation



h8f7 o443.41 7/5 Draw

No 21423 Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rg6/i Rxd6/ii 2.hxd6+

Kf8 (Kxd6; gxd3) 3.g3/iii Bg7+ 4.Kh7 Sb4 5.Bb3/iv, and:

— Sxd3 6.Be6 (Bd1? Sc5;) Se5 7.Bg4 Sxd3 stalemate, or:

— Sc6 6.d4/v Sxd4 7.Bd5 Sb5 8.g4 Sd4 9.g5 draws.

i) 1.Rg8? hxd6 (Bg5?; Rg7+) 2.Bf3/ix Rc5 3.Rxd6 Se1 4.Rg3 Bg5 5.Bd1 Rc6 6.Bb3+ Kf8, or 1.Rf5+? Ke7 2.gxd3 Se3 3.Re5+ Kf8 win.

ii) hxd6 2.Bf3 Rc5 3.Kh7 draws.

iii) 3.gxd3? Bg7+ 4.Kh7 Sb4 5.Bb3 Sxd3 6.Be6 Sf4 7.Bg4 Sd5 8.h4 Sf6 mate, or 3.g4? Bg7+ 4.Kh7 Sd4 5.g5 Se6 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 5.Bf3? Sxd3 6.Bg4 Se5 7.Bxd3 Sf3 or here: 7.Be2 Sd7.

v) Thematic try: 6.Be6? Se5 7.Bg4 Sxd3 wins.

“The authors have succeeded in getting all pieces on the planned squares to construct the stalemate known from a study by Réti”.

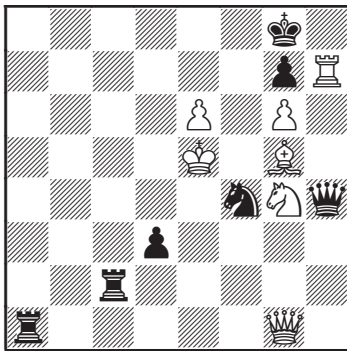


The tournament room in Dresden.

Israel Ring Ty 2015

Ofer Comay was tourney director for this ring tourney and received 18 studies. Judge Amatzia Avni considered the overall level as fair. Gady Costeff was consulted for anticipation vetting. The award appeared in *Variantim* no. 70 xii2016.

No 21424 P. Arestov
1st prize



e5g8 4714.22 7/7 Draw

No 21424 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sh6+/i gxf6/ii 2.Rh8+ (Bxf4? Rxf1;) Kxf8 3.Qxa1 Qe1+ (Ra2; e7) 4.Qxe1 Re2+ 5.Qxe2 dxe2 6.Bf6+/iii Kg8 7.Bh4 Sxg6+ 8.Kf6 Sxh4 (Kh7; Bf2) 9.e7 e1R (e1Q) 10.e8Q+ Rxe8 stalemate.

i) 1.Rxf4? Sxg6+ 2.Kd6 Rxf1, 1.Rxf7+? Kxf7 2.Qxa1 Qxf5+, or 1.Qxa1? Qxf5+ win.

ii) Qxf6 2.Bxf6 Rxf1 3.Rxf7+ Kh8 4.Rh7+ Kg8 5.Rg7+ draws.

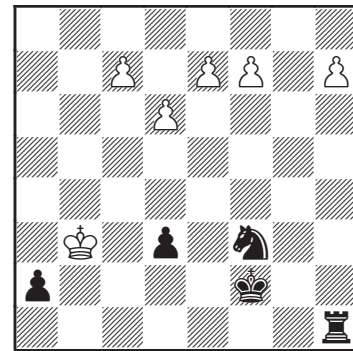
iii) Try: 6.Bh4? Sxg6+ 7.Kf6 Sxh4 8.e7 e1R 9.e8Q+ Rxe8 wins, avoiding e1Q? 9.e8Q+ Qxe8 stalemate.

“We see lively play, captivating and imaginative from beginning to end and with tactical blows and counter-blows, a minor promotion in a try and a stalemate. A pleasure”.

No 21425 János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.h8Q/i Rxf8 2.Kxa2 Ra8+/ii 3.Kb2 d2 4.c8Q/iii Rxc8 (d1Q; Qc2+) 5.d7 Rb8+/iv 6.Kc2 Rb2+ 7.Kxb2 d1Q 8.d8Q Qe2+ 9.Ka3/v Qa6+ 10.Kb4 (Kb2? Qb5+;) Qb7+ 11.Ka5 (Kc5)/vi Qa7+ 12.Kb5 Qb7+ 13.Qb6+ Sd4+ 14.Kc4/vii Qxb6 (Qxe7; Qxd4+) 15.f8Q+ Sf3 16.e8Q wins.

i) 1.Kxa2? d2 2.h8Q d1Q/viii 3.Qb2+ Kg3 4.e8Q Qd5+ draws.

No 21425 J. Mikitovics
2nd prize



b3f2 0303.52 6/5 Win

ii) d2 3.e8Q (f8Q? d1Q;) d1Q/ix 4.c8Q Rh2/x 5.f8Q Kg3+ 6.Ka3 Qa1+ 7.Kb4 wins.

iii) 4.e8Q? or 4.f8Q? d1Q draws.

iv) d1Q (Rd8; exd8Q) 6.dxc8Q Qd4+ 7.Qc3 Qb6+ 8.Kc1 Qh6+ 9.Kb1 Qb6+ (Qg6+; Qc2+) 10.Qb2+ Qxb2+ 11.Kxb2.

v) 9.Kb3? Qb5+ (Sd2+?; Qxd2) 10.Ka3 Qc5+ 11.Kb3 Qb5+ draws.

vi) 11.Kc4? Se5+ 12.Kc5 Qc6+ draws.

vii) 14.Ka4? Qd7+ 15.Ka5 Qd5+ 16.Ka6 Qa8+, or 14.Ka5? Qd5+ 15.Kb4 Qb3+ 16.Kc5 Qxf7 17.Qd8 Se6+ draw.

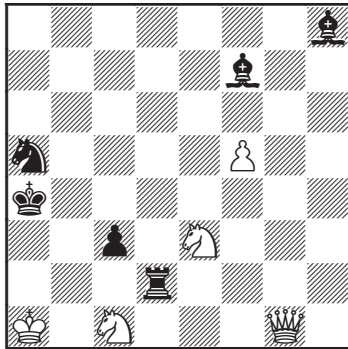
viii) Avoiding Rxf8? 3.e8Q d1Q 4.c8Q Qd2+ 5.Kb3 wins.

ix) Rh4 4.c8Q d1Q 5.Qc3 Ra4+ 6.Kb2 Qa1+ 7.Kc2 Ra2+ 8.Kd3 Ra3 9.Qe2+ (Qe3+) Kg3 10.Qxf3+ Kxf3 11.f8Q+ wins.

x) Qd2+ 5.Kb3 Sd4+ 6.Kc4 Qc2+ 7.Kxd4 Rh4+ 8.Kd5 Qb3+ 9.Kc6 Rc4+ 10.Kd7 wins.

“A charming position appears on the board after White’s fifth move. This has many fine points, especially the clash illustrated by 13.Qb6+ Sd4+! 14.Kc4!!”.

No 21426 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
1st hon. mention



a1a4 1365.11 5/6 Draw

No 21426 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.f6/i Bxf6 2.Sc2/ii Rxc2 3.Qd1 Sb3+ (Bb3; Qd7+) 4.Sxb3 Rc1+/iii 5.Ka2/iv Ra1+/v 6.Qxa1 (Kxa1? c2+;) Bxb3+ 7.Kb1+ Kb4 8.Qb2 cxb2 stalemate.

i) 1.Sc2? (Qg4+? Ka3;) Rxc2 2.Qd1 Sb3+ 3.Sxb3 Rc1+ 4.Qxc1/vi c2+ 5.Qb2 Bxb3 6.Qxh8 c1Q mate.

ii) 2.Qf1? Ra2+ 3.Sxa2 Sb3+ 4.Kb1 Sd2+ wins.

iii) Rd2 5.Sc5++ Kb5 6.Qa4+ Kxc5 7.Qa7+ Kd6 8.Qxf7 draws.

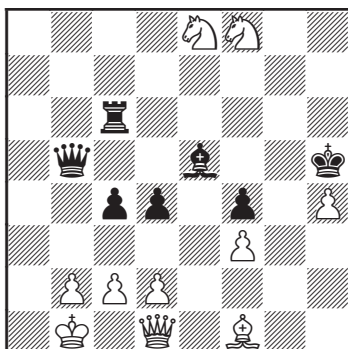
iv) 5.Sxc1+? c2+ 6.Qd4+ Bxd4 mate, or 5.Qxc1? c2+ 6.Qb2 Bxb3 (Bxb2+) wins.

v) Rxd1 stalemate, or Be6 6.Qd4+ (or Qc1+) Bxd4 stalemate.

vi) 4.Ka2 Rxd1 no stalemate.

“Sacrificial play from both sides (4...Rc1+! 5.Ka2! Ra1+!) culminates in a stalemate”.

No 21427 P. Krug & M. Garcia
2nd hon. mention



b1h5 4342.53 10/7 Win

No 21427 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Bd3 (Sd7? d3;) cxd3/i

2.Qg1 dxc2+ 3.Kc1 Qxb2+/ii 4.Kxb2 c1Q+ 5.Qxc1 d3+ 6.Kb1 Ra6 7.Sg7+ Kh6 8.Sf5+ Kh5 9.Qb2 Bxb2 10.Kxb2 Ra2+ 11.Kc3/iii Rc2+ 12.Kxd3 Rxd2+ 13.Ke4/iv Re2+ 14.Kxf4 Re4+ 15.Kg3 wins.

i) Rb6 2.b3, and: Qa4 3.Qe1 cxd3 4.Qxe5+ Kxh4 5.Sg6+ Kg3 6.Qe1+ Kh2 7.Qf2+ Kh1 (Kh3; Sf4 mate) 8.Qf1+ Kh2 9.Qxd3 Qxe8 10.Sxf4 Qb5 11.Qh7+ wins, or here: cxd3 3.Qg1 dxc2+ 4.Kc1 Bh8 5.Sd6 Rxd6 6.Qg4+ Kh6 7.Qxf4+ Kg7 8.Qxd6 Qf1+ 9.Kxc2 wins.

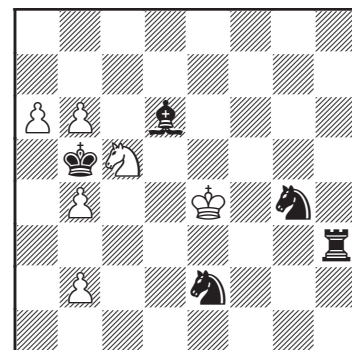
ii) Bh8 4.Sd6 Rxd6 5.Qg4+ Kh6 6.Qxf4+ Kh5 7.Qxd6 Qf1+ 8.Kxc2, and: Qc4+ 9.Kb1 d3 10.Qg6+ Kxh4 11.Qe4+ Qxe4 12.fxe4, or here: Qxf3 9.Qg6+ Kxh4 10.Qh7+ Kg4 11.Qg8+ win.

iii) 11.Kxa2? stalemate.

iv) 13.Kxd2? stalemate.

“Black’s inventive play, striving for stalemate, is cleverly neutralized; but play is forced”.

No 21428 M. Garcia,
I. Akobia † & P. Krug
3rd hon. mention



e4b5 0337.40 6/5 Draw

No 21428 Mario Garcia (Argentina), Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Peter Krug (Austria). 1.a7 Sf2+/i 2.Kd5 Bxc5 3.bxc5/ii Rh5+ 4.Ke6 (Kd6 Se4+;) Se4 5.b4/iii Sf4+ 6.Kd7 Rh7+ 7.Kc8 Sd6+ 8.cxd6 Kxb6 9.d7 Se6 10.a8S+/iv Kc6 11.Sc7/v Rh8+ 12.Se8 draws.

i) Re3+ (Bxc5; bxc5) 2.Kf5 Re8 3.b7 Se3+ 4.Kf6 Rf8+ 5.Ke6 Sc4 6.a8Q Sd4+/vi 7.Kd5 Sb6+ 8.Kxd6 Sxa8 9.Sd7, or Sf4 2.b7 Re3+ 3.Kf5 Sh6+ 4.Kf6 Be7+ 5.Kg7 Sf5+ 6.Kf7 draw.

ii) 3.a8Q? Sf4+ 4.Ke5 S2d3+ 5.Kf5 Bxb6 wins.

iii) Thematic try: 5.a8Q? Sf4+ 6.Kd7 Rh7+ 7.Kc8 Rh8+ 8.Kb7 Sxc5+ 9.Ka7 Rxa8+ 10.Kxa8

Kxb6 11.b4 (Kb8 Sb3;) Sa6 12.b5 Sd5 13.bxa6 Kc7 14.Ka7 Se7 15.Ka8 Sc8 16.a7 Sb6 mate.

iv) 10.d8Q+? Sxd8 11.a8Q Sc6 wins.

v) Thematic try: 11.b5+? Kd6/vii 12.Sc7 Rh8+/viii 13.Se8+ Ke7 wins.

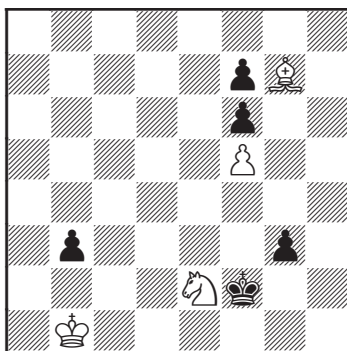
vi) Sf4+ 7.Kd7 Sb6+ 8.Kxd6 Sxa8 9.Sd7 draws.

vii) But not: Kxb5? 12.Sc7+ Kc6 13.Sxe6 Rxd7 14.Sd8+ Kd6 15.Sb7+ draws.

viii) But not: Rxd7? 13.Sxe6 Kxe6 14.b6 Kd6 15.b7 Rc7+ 16.Kb8 Rc4 17.Ka8 Ra4+ 18.Kb8 Kc6 19.Kc8 Rg4 20.b8S+ draws, or here: Kc6 17.Ka8 Rxb7 stalemate.

“The concluding phase, a fight between R+S vs. pawns, has appeared in many studies, notably in the works of Sochnev; however, the introduction and the try on the fifth move are noteworthy”.

No 21429 P. Arestov
1st commendation



b1f2 0011.14 4/5 Win

No 21429 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sc1/i g2 2.Bf8/ii Kf1 3.Bc5 g1Q 4.Bxg1 Kxg1 5.Sxb3/iii Kf2 6.Sd4/iv, and now:

— Ke3 7.Se6 Ke4 (fxe6; fxe6) 8.Sg7 wins, or:

— Kg3 7.Kc2/v Kg4 (Kf4; Kd3) 8.Kd2 (Kc3)/vi Kf4 9.Kd3 zz Ke5 10.Ke3 zz, wins.

i) 1.Sf4? g2 (Kf3) 2.Sxg2 Kxg2 3.Bxf6 Kf3 4.Bc3 f6 5.Bxf6 Ke4 draws.

ii) Logical try: 2.Bxf6? g1Q 3.Bd4+ Kf1 4.Bxg1 Kxg1 5.Sxb3 Kf2 6.Sd4 Ke3 7.Se6 Ke4 8.Sg7 Ke5 9.Kc2 Kf6 draws (no bPf6!).

iii) 5.Se2+? Kf2 6.Sd4 Kg3 7.Kb2 Kf4 8.Kxb3 Ke4 9.Kc3 Ke5 10.Kd3 Kf4 draws.

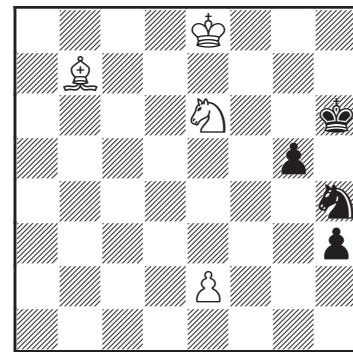
iv) 6.Kc2? Ke3 7.Kc3 Ke4 (Kf4) 8.Sd4 Ke5 9.Kc4 Ke4 10.Kc5 Ke5 11.Kc4 Ke4 positional draw.

v) 7.Se6? Kg4 8.Sg7 Kg5 9.Kc2 Kh6 10.Se8 Kg5 11.Sd6 Kf4 12.Kd3 Ke5 draws.

vi) 8.Kd3? Kf4 zz 9.Kc4 Ke4 (Ke5) 10.Kc5 Ke5 (Ke4) draws.

“Abstaining from capturing the f6-pawn on the second move makes all the difference. The clever try on White’s 6th move and the mutual zz at the end are bonuses”.

No 21430 M. Minski
2nd commendation



e8h6 0014.12 4/4 Win

No 21430 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Kf7 (Ke7? Kg6;) Sf5 2.Kf6 Sg3 (Se3; Sxg5) 3.e4/i h2 4.e5 h1Q 5.Bxh1 Sxh1 6.Sg7/ii Sg3/iii 7.Kf7/iv g4/v 8.e6 Kg5/vi 9.e7 Se4 10.Sh5/vii Kxh5/viii 11.Ke6 Kg5 12.e8Q wins.

i) 3.Sd4? g4 4.e3 Kh5 5.e4 Kh6 6.e5 Sh5+ 7.Kf5 g3 8.Kg4 g2 9.Se2 Sg7 10.Kxh3 Kg5 11.Bc8 g1Q 12.Sxg1 Kf4 draws, or here: 10.Be4 Se6 11.Kg3 Sd8 12.Kxh3 Sf7 draws.

ii) 6.Sxg5? Sg3 7.Sf7+/ix Kh7 8.e6 Kg8 9.e7 Sh5+ 10.Kg6/x Sf4+ 11.Kf5 Kxf7 draws, or 6.Sd4? Sg3 7.Kf7/xii g4 8.e6 Kg5 (Se4) 9.e7 Se4 draws.

iii) Sf2 7.Sf5+ Kh7 8.e6 Sg4+ 9.Kxg5 Sf2 10.e7 Se4+ 11.Kf4 Sf6 12.Ke5 wins.

iv) 7.e6? Se4+ 8.Kf7 Sd6+ draws.

v) Se4 8.Sf5+ Kh5 9.e6 g4 10.e7 wins.

vi) Se4 9.e7 g3 (Kg5; Sh5) 10.Sf5+ wins.

vii) 10.Se6+? Kh4 11.Sc5 Sd6+, or 10.Ke6? Sf6 draw.

viii) Sd6+ 11.Ke6 Se8 12.Kd7, or Kh4 11.Ke6 win.

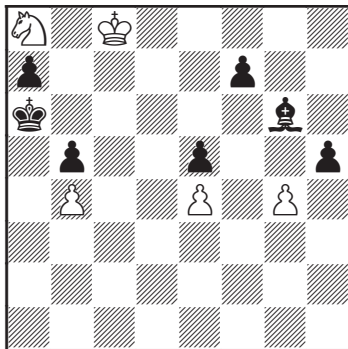
ix) 7.e6 Sh5+ 8.Kf5 Sg7+ draws.

x) 10.Ke6 Sg7+ 11.Kf6 Sh5+ 12.Kg6 Sf4+ 13.Kf5 Kxf7 draws.

xii) 7.e6 Sh5+ 8.Kf7 Sg7 9.e7 g4 10.Se6 Sf5 11.e8Q Sd6+ draws.

“We note light structure and flowing play, but after several moves we are in database territory; the point 10.Sh5!! is anticipated by Hooper (EG#3106)”

No 21431 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
3rd commendation



c8a6 0031.35 5/7 Draw

No 21431 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely
(Slovakia). 1.gxh5/i Bxh5/ii 2.Sc7+ Kb6 3.Sd5+/

iii Kc6 (Ka6; Kc7) 4.Se7+ Kd6 5.Sf5+ Kc6 6.Se7+ Kd6 7.Sf5+ Ke6 8.Sg7+/iv Kf6 9.Sxh5+ Kg5 10.Sg7/v Kf4 11.Kb7/vi Kxe4 12.Ka6 (Kc6? a6;) f5/vii 13.Kxb5 f4 14.Kc4/vii f3 15.Sh5 f2 16.Sg3+ Kf3 17.Sf1 draws.

i) 1.Sc7+? Kb6 2.Sd5+ Kc6 3.gxh5 Bxe4 4.Sc3 Bh7 5.Kd8 e4 wins.

ii) Bxe4 2.h6 Bh7 3.Kc7 f6 4.Kc6 Be4+ 5.Kc7 Bh7 6.Kc6 draws (perpetual mate threat).

iii) 3.Kd7? Bg6 4.Sd5+ Kb7 5.Kd6 Bxe4 6.Sf6 Bc2 7.Kxe5 a5 8.bxa5 b4 9.Kd4 Ka6 10.Sd5 Kxa5 wins.

iv) 8.Sg3? Bg6 9.Kc7 Bxe4 10.Sxe4 f5 11.Sc3 e4 12.Kc6 a6 13.Kb6 Ke5 14.Kxa6 f4 15.Kxb5 f3 wins.

v) 10.Sg3? Kf4 11.Sf5 Kxe4 12.Sh4 f5 wins.

vi) 11.Kd7? (Kc7?) Kxe4 12.Kc6 a6 13.Kd6 f6 14.Sh5 Kf3 15.Sxf6 e4 16.Sd7 e3 17.Sc5 e2 18.Sd3 Ke3 19.Se1 Kd4 20.Ke6 Kc4 21.Ke5 Kxb4 wins.

vii) Kd3 13.Kxb5 e4 14.Ka6 e3 15.Sh5 f5 16.Kxa7 f4, or Kf4 13.Kxb5 e4 14.Kc4 e3 15.Kd3 draws.

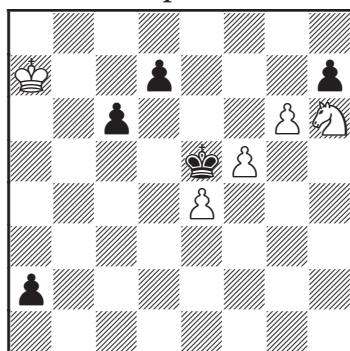
vii) 14.Sh5? Kf5 15.Kc4 Kg6 16.Sxf4+ exf4 wins.

“We have seen before many knight tours in the introductory phase but here there is a worthwhile continuation of the struggle”.

Troitzky-150 MT 2017

This tourney commemorated the 150th birthday of Russia's Father of the Endgame Study, A.A. Troitzky and was judged by Yuri Bazlov (Russia). The provisional award, dated 3iii2017, was published in *Zadachy i Etyudi* no. 71 iv2017. Recently, HH found a final award (still dated 3iii2017) on the internet, in which the only apparent change was its title (final award).

No 21432 A. Sochnev
1st prize



a7e5 0001.34 5/5 Win

No 21432 Aleksey Sochnev (Russia). 1.g7 a1Q+ 2.Kb8/i Qg1/ii 3.g8Q Qxg8+ 4.Sxg8 d5/iii 5.f6 Ke6 6.e5 d4 7.Sh6 d3 8.f7/iv Ke7 9.e6 d2 10.Sg8+/v Kf8/vi 11.Sf6 d1Q 12.Sxh7+/vii Ke7/viii 13.f8Q+ Kxe6 14.Qf6+ Kd7 15.Sf8+ Ke8 16.Se6 Qd6+ (Qb3+; Kc8) 17.Kb7 zz Qe7+ 18.Sc7+, and:

— Kd7 19.Qxc6+ Kd8 20.Qd5+ Qd7 21.Qg5+ Qe7 22.Qg8+ Kd7 23.Qg4+ Kd6 24.Qd4 mate, or:

— Kd8 19.Qf4/ix Qa3 20.Qd4+ Ke7 21.Qg7+ Kd8 22.Se6+ Ke8 23.Qg8+ Kd7 24.Qc8+ Kd6 25.Qf8+ wins.

i) Logical try: 2.Kb7? Qg1 3.g8Q Qxg8 4.Sxg8 d5 5.f6 Ke6 6.e5 d4 7.Sh6 d3 8.f7 Ke7 9.e6 d2 10.Sg8+ Kf8 11.Sf6 d1Q 12.Sxh7+ Ke7 13.f8Q+ Kxe6 14.Qf6+ Kd7 15.Sf8+ Ke8 16.Se6 Qd6 17.Kc8/x Qd7+ 18.Kb8 Qe7 (Qd6+?; Kb7 zz) 19.Sc7+ Kd7 (Kd8?; Qf4) 20.Qd4+ Qd6 21.Qg7+ Kd8 22.Qg8+ Ke7 23.Qg7+ Kd8 24.Qg5+ Kd7 positional draw.

ii) Kxe4 3.g8Q Qf6 4.Qxh7 d5 5.Qg6 Qd8+ 6.Kb7 Qd7+ 7.Kb6 Qd8+ 8.Kxc6 wins.

iii) c5 5.Sh6 c4 6.Sg4+ Kxe4 7.f6 c3 8.Se3 Kxe3 9.f7 c2 10.f8Q c1Q 11.Qh6+ Kd3 12.Qxc1, or h5 5.Kc7 h4 6.Sh6 h3 7.Sg4+ Kf4 8.Sh2 win.

iv) 8.Sg4? h5 9.Sf2 d2 10.Kc7 h4 11.f7 Kxf7 12.Kd7 h3 13.e6+ Kg7 14.e7 h2 draws.

v) 10.Sf5+? Kxe6 11.f8Q d1Q 12.Sg7+ Ke5 13.Qf5+ Kd6 14.Qf8+ Ke5 15.Qf5+ Kd6 positional draw.

vi) Kxe6 11.f8Q d1Q 12.Qf6+ Kd5 13.Qd8+ wins.

vii) 12.Sd7+? Ke7 13.f8Q+ Kxe6 14.Sc5+ Ke5 15.Qe7+ Kf4 (Kf5) draws.

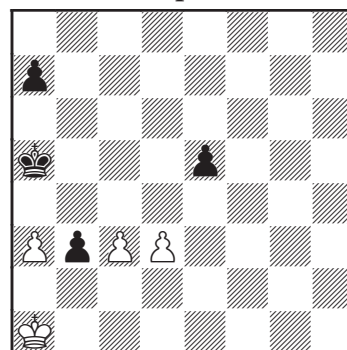
viii) Kg7 13.f8Q+ Kxh7 14.Qf7+ Kh6 15.e7 wins.

ix) 19.Qh8+? Kd7 20.Qd4+ Qd6 21.Qg7+ Kd8 22.Qg8+ Ke7 23.Qg7+ Kd8 24.Qg5+ Kd7 positional draw.

x) 17.Sc7+ Kd7 18.Qf7+ Qe7 19.Qf5+ Kd6 20.Qd3+ Ke5 21.Qe3+ Kf6, or 17.Sg7+ Kd7 18.Qf7+ Qe7 19.Qf4 Kd8+ draw.

“This is a large-scale study at grandmaster level with a foresight effect record, an original systematic manoeuvre, mutual tricks and a bright finish”.

No 21433 V. Tarasiuk
2nd prize



a1a5 0000.33 4/4 Win

No 21433 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
 1.Kb2/i Ka4 2.c4 a6/ii 3.Ka1/iii Ka5 4.Kb1 Kb6/
 iv 5.Kb2 Kc5 6.Kc3/v b2 7.Kxb2 Kd4 8.Kb3/vi
 Kxd3 (a5; a4) 9.c5 e4 10.c6 e3 11.c7 e2 12.c8Q
 e1Q 13.Qxa6+ Kd4 14.Qd6+ wins.

i) Logical try: 1.c4? Kb6 (a6?; Kb1) 2.Kb2 Kc5
 3.Kc3 b2 4.Kxb2 Kd4 5.Kb3 Kxd3 6.c5 e4 7.c6 e3
 8.c7 e2 9.c8Q e1Q draws.

ii) a5 3.Kb1 Kxa3 4.c5 wins.

iii) 3.Kb1? a5 4.Kb2 e4 5.dxe4 and Black is
 stalemated.

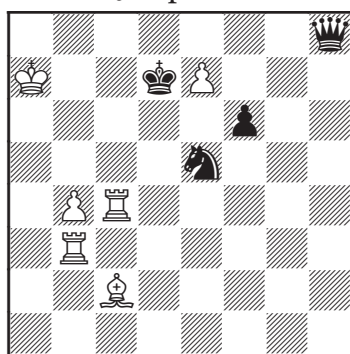
iv) Ka4 5.Kb2 Ka5 6.Kxb3 wins.

v) 6.Kxb3? Kd4 7.Ka4 Kxd3 8.c5 e4 9.c6 e3
 10.c7 e2 11.c8Q e1Q 12.Qxa6+ Kc2 draws.

vi) 8.Kc2? e4 9.dxe4 Kxc4 draws.

“In the opinion of the judge this is one of the
 best pawn studies of recent years”.

No 21434 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
 & M. Minski
 3rd prize



a7d7 3213.21 6/4 Win

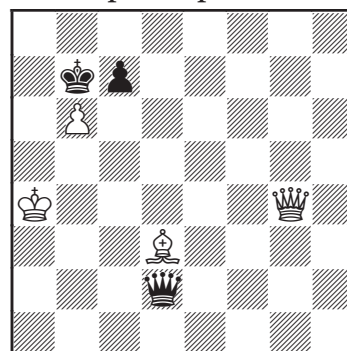
No 21434 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Den-
 mark) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rc8/i
 Kxc8 (Qxc8; Bf5+) 2.Rc3+ Sc6+/ii 3.Rxc6+ Kd7
 4.Rc8 Kxc8 5.Bg6 (Ba4? Qg7;) Qg7 (Kd7; e8Q+)
 6.Bf5+ Kc7 7.e8S+ (e8Q Qg1+;) Kc6+ 8.Sxg7
 wins.

i) 1.Rd3+? Kxe7 wins, but not Sxd3? 2.e8Q+
 Kxe8 (Qxe8; Ba4+) 3.Rc8+ wins.

ii) Kd7 3.e8Q+ Kxe8 (Kd7; e8Q+) 4.Rc8+
 wins.

“This combinational study makes pleasant
 solving, very much in the spirit of Troitzky”.

No 21435 R. Becker
 special prize



a4b7 4010.11 4/3 Win

No 21435 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Qc4/i
 Qd1+/ii 2.Kb5/iii Qh5+ 3.Kb4 cxb6 4.Qe4+
 (Be4+? Kb8;) Kb8 5.Qf4+ Kb7 6.Be4+ Ka6/iv
 7.Qf1+ Ka7 8.Kb3 zz Kb8 (b5; Kb4) 9.Qf4+ Kc8
 10.Bf5+ Kb7 11.Qe4+ Ka7 (Kb8; Qe5+) 12.Qe7+
 Ka6 13.Bc8+ Kb5 14.Qd7+ Kc5 15.Bb7 wins.

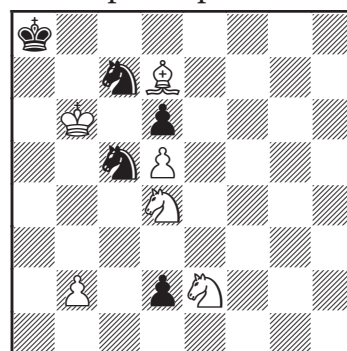
i) 1.Qe4+? c6 2.Qe7+ Kxb6 3.Qd8+ Kc5
 draws.

ii) cxb6 (Kxb6; Qd4+) 2.Qe4+ Kb8 3.Qe8+
 Kc7 4.Qe7+ Kc6 5.Be4+ wins, 5.Bb5+? Kd5
 6.Qd7+ Kc5 7.Qxd2 stalemate.

iii) 2.Ka3? Qa1+, or 2.Kb4? Qe1+ draws.

iv) Kc8 7.Bf5+ Kb7 8.Qe4+ Kb8 9.Qe5+
 wins.

No 21436 V. Tarasiuk
 special prize



b6a8 0018.22 6/5 Win

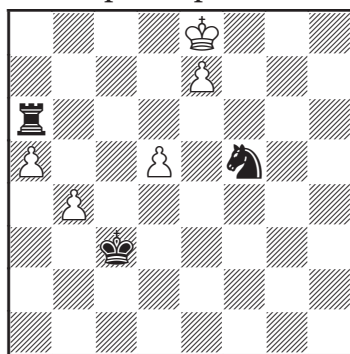
No 21436 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
 1.Bc6+/i Kb8 2.Sc3 Sxd5+/ii 3.Bxd5 Sa4+ 4.Sxa4
 d1Q 5.Sc6+ Ka8 (Kc8; Be6+) 6.Kc7 Qxa4 (Qxd5;
 Sb6+) 7.Sd4+ Ka7 8.b4 Qe8/iii 9.Sc6+ Ka8

(Ka6; Bc4 mate) 10.Se7+/iv Ka7 11.Sc8+ Ka6 12.Bb7+/v Kb5 13.Sxd6+ Kxb4 14.Sxe8 wins.

- i) 1.Sc3? Sxd5+ 2.Kc6 Sxc3 draws.
- ii) Se4 3.Sde2 Sf2 4.Ba4 Sd3 5.b4 Sxb4 6.Sf4 Kc8 7.Ka5 Sba6 8.Se4 wins.
- iii) Qxb4 9.Sc6+ Ka6 10.Sxb4+ wins.
- iv) 10.b5? Qc8+ 11.Kxc8 stalemate.
- v) 12.Bc4+? Qb5 13.Sxd6 Qxc4+ 14.Sxc4 Kb5 draws.

“After the sacrifices of the two black knights White opposes with well-coordinated play of his light pieces against the bQ”.

No 21437 A. Sochnev
special prize



e8c3 0303.40 5/3 Draw

No 21437 Aleksey Sochnev (Russia). 1.b5 Ra7/i 2.Kd8 Sxe7/ii 3.b6 Rxa5 4.d6 (Kxe7? Rxd5;) Sc6+ 5.Kc7 Rc5 (Sd4) 6.d7/iii Sd4+/iv 7.Kd6 Kc4 8.d8S Rd5+/v 9.Kc7 Sb5+ 10.Kc8 Sd6+ 11.Kc7 Se8+ 12.Kc8 Rc5+ 13.Kd7 Sf6+ 14.Kd6, and:

- Rd5+ 15.Kc7 Rd1/vi 16.b7 Sd5+ 17.Kd7/vii Sb4+ 18.Kc8 Sa6 19.Sc6 Rd6 20.b8S Sc5 21.Sa5+ Kd5 22.Sb7 draws, or:
- Se4+/viii 15.Kd7 Rb5/ix 16.b7 Sc5+ 17.Kc8 Sa6 18.Sc6 Rc5 (Rb6; b8S) 19.Kd7 Rd5+ 20.Kc8 Rc5/x 21.Kd7 Rb5 22.Kc8 positional draw.
- i) Ra8+ 2.Kd7 Ra7+ 3.Ke6 Sxe7 4.b6 Rxa5 5.b7, or Rxa5 2.Kf8 Sd6 3.e8Q Sxe8 4.Kxe8 Rxb5 5.d6 draw.
- ii) Rxe7 3.a6 Rh7 4.b6 draws.
- iii) Thematic try: 6.b7? Sb4+/xi 7.Kb6 Kc4 8.b8S Rc8/xii 9.Kb7 Rh8 wins.
- iv) Sa5+ 7.Kb8 Sc6+ 8.Kc7 repeats.

v) Rc8 9.Kd7 Rb8 10.Kc7 Ra8 11.Kd7 Rb8 12.Kc7 Ra8 13.Kd7 positional draw. Sb5+ 9.Kd7 Kd5/xiii 10.Se6 Rc6 11.Sc7+/xiv Kc5 12.Sxb5 draws.

vi) Rc5+ 16.Kd6 Rd5+ 17.Kc7 draws.

vii) 17.Kc8? Sb6+ 18.Kc7 Kb5 19.b8S (b8Q Rd7 mate;) Sd5+, or 17.Kd6? Sb4+ 18.Kc7 Sa6+ 19.Kb6 Sc5 20.Kc7 Kd5 21.b8S Rh1 wins, or 17.Kc6? (Kd6?) Sb4+ 18.Kc7 Sa6+ 19.Kb6 Sc5 20.Kc7 Kd5 21.b8S Rh1 wins.

viii) Rc8 15.b7 Rxd8+ 16.Kc7 draws.

ix) Rd5+ 16.Kc8 Rc5+ 17.Kd7, or Sf6+ 16.Kd6 Se4+ 17.Kd7 draws.

x) Rd6 21.b8S Sc5 22.Sa5+ Kd5 23.Sb7 draws.

xi) Se5+? 7.Kd8 Sc6+ 8.Kc7 Sb4+ loses time.

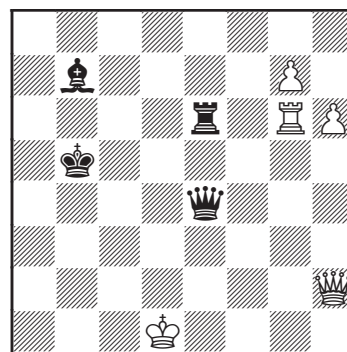
xii) Sd5+? 9.Kb7 Sf4 10.d7 Se6 11.Sc6 loses time. Rh5? 9.d7 Sd5+ 10.Kb7 Rh7 11.Kc6 Rh8 12.Sa6 Rh6+ 13.Kb7 Rb6+ 14.Kc8 Se7+ 15.Kc7 Sd5+ 16.Kc8, or Rb5+? 9.Kc7 Sd5+ 10.Kc8 Rc5+ 11.Kb7 Sf4 12.d7 Se6 13.Sc6 Rd5 14.Kc8 Rd6 15.Sd8 (d8S? Sf8;) Sc5 16.Sf7 Rc6+ 17.Kd8 Kd5 18.Ke8 Re6+ 19.Kd8 Kd4 20.Kc8 positional draw.

xiii) Rh5 10.b7 Rh7+ 11.Kc6 Rh6+ 12.Kd7 Rh7+ 13.Kc6 draws.

xiv) 11.b7? Rd6+ 12.Kc8 Sa7+ 13.Kc7 Sc6 14.Sd4 Sb4 15.b8S Rh6 wins.

“It seems that the avalanche of white pawns is powerless against the power of the rook and knight tandem but this impression is deceptive”.

No 21438 A. Zhukov
1st honourable mention



d1b5 4430.20 5/4 Win

No 21438 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia). 1.Qb2+/i Ka4/ii 2.Qa2+/iii Kb4 (Kb5; Qxe6)

3.Qd2+/iv Kb3/v 4.Rg3+ (Rxe6? Qh1+;) Qf3+ (Ka4; Qa2+) 5.Rxf3+ Bxf3+ 6.Qe2/vii Bxe2+ (Rxe2; g8Q+) 7.Kd2/viii Rxh6 (Bc4; h7) 8.g8Q+ Bc4 9.Qb8+ Ka4 (Ka3; Qf8+) 10.Kc3 Bb5 11.Qf4+ wins.

i) 1.Rxe6? Qb1+ 2.Ke2 Qa2+ 3.Kf1 Qxh2 4.g8Q Qf4+ draws.

ii) Kc4 2.Rxe6 Qh1+ 3.Re1 Bf3+ 4.Kc2 Be4+ 5.Kd2 Qxh6+ 6.Kd1 wins.

iii) 2.Rxe6? Qd5+ 3.Qd2 Qxe6 4.Qc2+ Ka3 5.Qc3+ Ka2 6.Qa5+ Kb3 7.Qb5+ Kc3 8.Qxb7 Qd6+ draws.

iv) 3.Qxe6? Qd3+ 4.Ke1 Qc3+ 5.Kf2 Qf3+ draws.

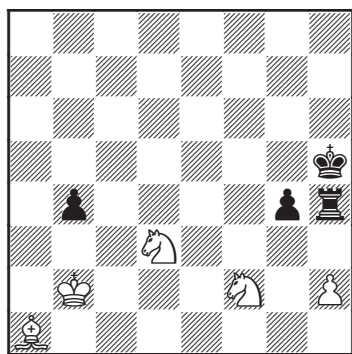
v) Ka4 4.Qd7+ Kb4 5.Rxe6, or Ka3 4.Rg3+ Ka4 5.Qa2+ wins.

vii) 6.Kc1? Rc6+ 7.Qc3+ Kxc3 8.g8Q Kd3+ 9.Kb2 Rxh6 draws.

viii) 7.Ke1? Rxh6 8.g8Q+ Bc4 9.Qb8+ Ka4 draws.

“This is interesting and bright but too forced”.

No 21439 M. Hlinka & J. Polášek
2nd honourable mention



b2h5 o312.12 5/4 Win

No 21439 Michal Hlinka (Slovakia) & Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic). 1.Ka2/i b3+/ii 2.Ka3/iii b2/iv 3.Bxb2 (Kxb2? Rxh2;) Rxh2 4.Be5 g3/vi 5.Bxg3 Rh4 6.Sf4+ (Bxh4? Kxh4;) Kg5 7.Se6+ Kh5 8.Kb3 zz, wins.

i) 1.Kb3? Rxh2 2.Be5 g3 3.Bxg3 Rh4 4.Sf4+ Kg5 5.Se6+ Kh5, or 1.Kc2? b3+ 2.Kxb3 Rxh2 draw.

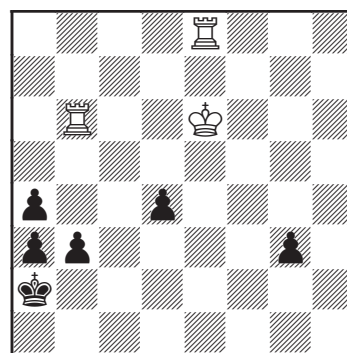
ii) Rxh2 2.Be5 g3 3.Bxg3 Rh4 4.Sf4+ Kg5 5.Se6+ Kh5 6.Kb3 zz, wins.

iii) 2.Kxb3? Rxh2 3.Be5 g3 4.Bxg3 Rh4 5.Sf4+ Kg5 6.Se6+ Kh5 zz, draws.

iv) Rxh2 3.Be5 b2 4.Kxb2 g3 5.Bxg3 Rh3 6.Kb3 zz, wins, or here g3 4.Bxg3 Rh4 5.Kxb3 zz wins.

v) Rh4 5.Bg3 Kg5 6.Se4+ Kh5 7.Sf4+ Kh6 8.Bxh4, or here: Rh3 6.Sxh3 gxh3 7.Sf2 wins.

No 21440 M. Gromov & O. Pervakov
3rd honourable mention



e6a2 o200.05 3/6 Win

No 21440 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Kd5 d3 2.Re3/i b2/ii 3.Re1 d2 4.Rg1/iii g2 5.Kc4 d1Q 6.Rxd1 g1Q/iv 7.Rxg1 b1Q 8.Rg2+/v Qb2 9.Rbg6 Kb1 10.Rg1+ Ka2/v 11.R6g2 zz Qxg2 12.Rxg2+ Kb1 13.Kc3 wins.

i) 2.Re1? Kb2 3.Kc4 a2, or 2.Kc4? Kb2 3.Kxd3 a2 4.Re2+ Ka3 5.Re1 b2 draw.

ii) Kb2 3.Rxd3 a2 4.Rd2+, and: Kc1 5.Rg2 a1Q 6.Rh6, or here: Kc3 5.Rd1 b2 6.Rc6+ Kb4 7.Rd4+ Kb3 8.Rd3+ Kb4 9.Rb6+ Ka5 10.Kc6 win.

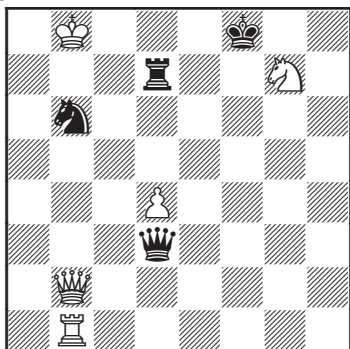
iii) Logical try: 4.Rd1? g2 5.Kc4 g1Q 6.Rxg1 d1Q 7.Rxd1 b1Q 8.Rd2+ Qb2 9.Rbd6 zz? No! Kb1 10.Rd1+ Qc1+/vi draws.

iv) b1Q 7.Rbxb1 g1Q 8.Ra1+ wins, but not 8.Rxg1? stalemate.

v) Qc1+ 11.Rxc1+ Kxc1 12.Kc3 wins. Kc2 11.R6g2 mate.

vi) But not: Ka2? 11.R6d2 zz Qxd2 12.Rxd2+ Kb1 13.Kc3 wins, or Kc2? 11.R6d2 mate.

No 21441 S. Slumstrup Nielsen & M. Minski
special honourable mention



b8f8 4404.10 5/4 Win

No 21441 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Se6+/i Ke7 2.Re1/ii Qg3+ 3.Re5 Rd5 4.Qb4+ (Sc7+? Rxe5;) Kd7 5.Sf8+ Kc6 6.Qd6+, and:

— Kxd6 7.Re6 mate, or:

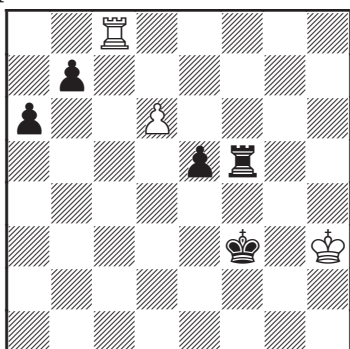
— Rxd6 7.Rc5 mate.

i) 1.Qxb6? Kxg7 2.d5 Qf5 3.Qg1+ Kh7 4.Qh1+ Kg8 5.Rg1+ Rg7 6.Rxg7+ Kxg7 7.d6 Qf8+ 8.Kc7 Qf7+ 9.d7 Qf4+ draws.

ii) 2.Qxb6? Qg3+ 3.Sc7 Qg8+ 4.Ka7 Qa2+ 5.Kb8 Qg8+ draws.

“A single move study! Unfortunately, the previous sacrificial play is not interesting, the mates are not ideal and the bS did not leave its starting place”.

No 21442 V. Tarasiuk
special honourable mention



h3f3 0400.13 3/5 Win

No 21442 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Rc3+ (d7 Rh5 mate;) Kf2/i 2.d7 Rf8 3.Rc8 Rf3+ 4.Kh2/ii Rd3 5.d8Q Rxd8 6.Rxd8 e4 7.Ra8/iii e3 8.Rf8+ Ke2 9.Kg2, and:

— a5 10.Ra8 b6 11.Ra7/iv Kd2 12.Kf3 b5 13.Rxa5 e2 14.Ra2+ Kc3 15.Kxe2/v wins, or:

— b5 10.Rb8 Kd2 11.Kf3 a5 12.Rxb5 a4 13.Rd5+ (Rb2+? Kc3;) Kc3 14.Ra5/vi Kd2 15.Rxa4 wins.

i) Ke2 2.d7 Rf8 3.Rc8 Rf3+ 4.Kg4 Rf4+ 5.Kg5 Rd4 6.d8Q Rxd8 7.Rxd8 Ke3 8.Kf5 e4 9.Re8 a5 10.Rxe4+ Kd3 11.Kf4 b5 12.Re3+ Kc4 13.Kf3 b4 14.Ke2, or Ke4 2.d7 Rf8 3.Rc8 Rf3+ 4.Kg2 Rd3 5.d8Q Rxd8 6.Rxd8 Ke3 7.Rb8 b5 8.Rb6 win.

ii) Logical try: 4.Kg4? Rf4+ 5.Kg5 Rd4 6.d8Q Rxd8 7.Rxd8 e4 8.Kf4 e3 9.Rh8 e2 10.Rh2+ Kf1 11.Kf3 e1S+ draws.

iii) 7.Rf8+? Ke2 8.Kg3 Kd3 9.Rb8/ix b5 10.Kf4 a5 11.Rxb5 a4 12.Rb4 e3 13.Kf3 e2 14.Kf2 a3 draws.

iv) 11.Kg3? Kf1 12.Rh8 Ke2 13.Rh2+ Kd3 draws.

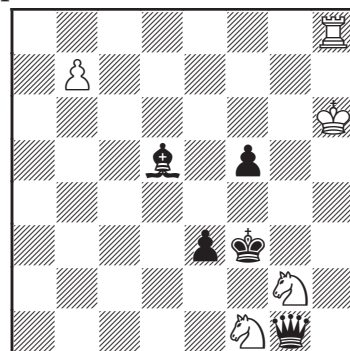
v) 15.Rxe2? b4 16.Re8 b3 17.Ke2 b2 18.Rc8+ Kb3 draws.

vi) 14.Kxe3? a3 15.Ra5 Kb2 16.Kd2 a2 17.Rb5+ Ka1 draws, but not: Ka3? 18.Kc2 a1S+ 19.Kc3 wins.

vii) 9.Kf4 a5 10.Rd8+ Kc2 11.Kxe4 a4 draws.

“We see an entertaining ending with non-obvious play by the wR”.

No 21443 M. Gromov & O. Pervakov
special honourable mention



h6f3 3132.12 5/5 Win

No 21443 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Sh4+/i Kg4 (Kf2; b8Q) 2.b8Q e2/ ii 3.Qg8+/iii Bxg8 4.Rxg8+ Kxh4/iv 5.Rxg1 e1Q 6.Rh1+ Kg4 7.Sh2+ Kf4 8.Rxe1 no stalemate, wins.

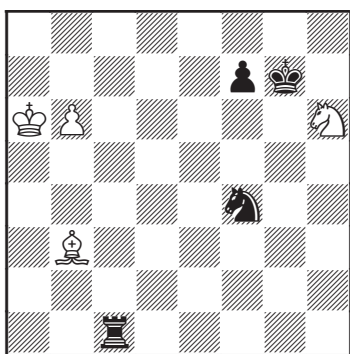
i) 1.Se1+? Kg4 2.b8Q Qxf1 3.Qd8 Qa6+ 4.Kg7 Qb7+ 5.Kf6 Qf7+ 6.Ke5 Qe6+ 7.Kd4 Qe4+ 8.Kc5 Qc4+, or 1.b8Q? Qh1+ 2.Sh2+ Kxg2 3.Qb2+ Kg1 4.Qc1+ Kg2 5.Qxh1+ Kxh1 6.Kg5 e2 draw.

ii) Qxf1 3.Qd8 Qf4+ 4.Kg6 e2 5.Sg2 Bxg2 6.Rh4+ Kg3 7.Rxf4 e1Q 8.Qh4 mate.

iii) 3.Rg8+? Bxg8 4.Qxg8+ Kxh4 5.Qxg1 e1Q 6.Qh1+ Kg4 7.Sh2+ Kf4 8.Qxe1 ideal stalemate. 3.Sh2+? Qxh2 4.Qxh2 e1Q 5.Sg6 Qe3+ 6.Kg7 Qa7+ 7.Kh6 Qe3+ perpetual check.

iv) Kf4 5.Rxg1 e1Q 6.Sg2+ Kf3 7.Sxe1+ wins.

No 21444 L. Gonzalez
1st commendation



a6g7 0314.11 4/4 Win

No 21444 Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.b7/i Ra1+ 2.Kb5/ii Rb1 3.Kc4/iii Rc1+ 4.Kb4 Sd3+ 5.Kb5/iv Rc5+ 6.Kb6/v Rc3 7.Ba4 Sc5 8.b8Q Rb3+/vi 9.Bxb3 Sd7+ 10.Kc7 Sxb8 11.Sg4 Sa6+ 12.Kb6 Sb4 13.Sf2 Kf6 14.Kb5 domination, wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Sf5+? Kf6 2.b7 Ra1+ 3.Kb5 Rb1 4.Kc4 Rc1+ 5.Kb4 Sd3+ 6.Kb5 Rc5+ 7.Kb6 Rc3 8.Ba4 Sc5 9.b8Q Rb3+ 10.Bxb3 Sd7+ 11.Kc7 Sxb8 12.Sd4 Ke5 13.Sf3+ Ke4 14.Se1 Sa6+ 15.Kb6 Sb4 draws.

ii) 2.Kb6 Sd5+ 3.Kb5 Sc7+ draws.

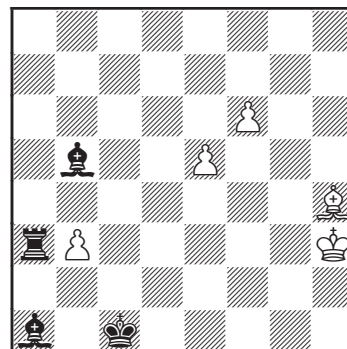
iii) 3.Sf5+? Kf6 4.Sd4 Se6 5.b8Q Sxd4+ 6.Ka6 Sxb3 7.Qf4+ Kg7 draws.

iv) 5.Ka3? Ra1+ 6.Ba2 Rxa2+ 7.Kxa2 Sb4+ draws.

v) 6.Ka6? Rc6+ 7.Ka5 Se5 8.b8Q Rc5+ 9.Ka4 Ra5+ 10.Kxa5 Sc6+ 11.Kb6 Sxb8 draws.

vi) Sxa4+ 9.Ka5 Kxh6 10.Kxa4 wins.

No 21445 P. Arestov & M. Hlinka
2nd commendation



h3c1 0370.30 5/4 Draw

No 21445 Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.Bg5+/i Kd1/ii 2.f7 Rxb3+ 3.Kh4/iii Rf3/iv 4.Bf6/v, and:

— Bxe5 5.f8Q Bxf6+ 6.Kh5/vi Be2 7.Kg4/vii Ke1/viii 8.Qb4+/ix Kf1 9.Qb1+ Kg2 10.Qb7 (Qe4? Kf2;) Kf2 11.Qb6+/x Kf1 12.Qb1+ positional draw, or:

— Rxf6 5.exf6 Bxf6+ 6.Kh5 Bg7 7.Kg6 Bf8 8.Kh7 Bc4 9.Kg8 Bh6 10.Kh7 Bf8 11.Kg8 Bb4 12.Kg7 Bc3+ 13.Kg6 Bd3+ 14.Kh6 Bb4 15.Kg7 Bc3+ 16.Kh6 positional draw.

i) 1.f7? Rxb3+ 2.Kg4 Be2+ 3.Kg5 Rf3 wins.

ii) Kc2 2.f7 Rxb3+ 3.Kh4 Rf3 4.Bf6 Bxe5 5.f8Q Bxf6+ 6.Kg4 Be2 7.Qg8 draws.

iii) 3.Kg4? Bxe5 4.f8Q Be2+ 5.Kh4 Bg3+ 6.Kh3 Bd6+ wins.

iv) Rb4+ 4.Kh5 Be2+ 5.Kg6 Bd3+ 6.Kh5 Be2+ 7.Kg6, or Bxe5 4.f8Q Bg3+ 5.Kh5 draw.

v) 4.e6? Bc4 5.e7 Bxf7 wins.

vi) 6.Kg4? Be2 zz 7.Qf7 Ke1 8.Qf8 Kf1 9.Qf7 Rf2+ 10.Kh3 Be5 11.Qd5 Rh2 mate.

vii) 7.Kg6? Bd3+ 8.Kh5 Rf4 9.Qd6 Rh4 mate.

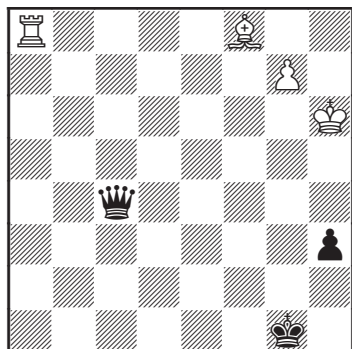
viii) Rf2+ 8.Kh3 Bf1+ 9.Kg4 Be2+ 10.Kh3 positional draw, or Kc2 8.Qg8 Kd2 9.Qa2+ Ke1 10.Qb1+ Kf2 11.Qb6+ Kf1 12.Qb1+ Kg2 13.Qb7 draws.

ix) 8.Qg8? Rf2+ 9.Kg3 Be5+ 10.Kh4 Rh2+ 11.Kg5 Rg2+, or 8.Qh6? Rf1+ 9.Kg3 Be5+ 10.Kh4 Rh1+ win.

x) 11.Qa7+? Ke1 12.Qa5+ Kf1 wins.

“The authors have accomplished a synthesis of different positional draws”.

No 21446 V. Kalashnikov
3rd commendation



h6g1 3110.11 4/3 Win

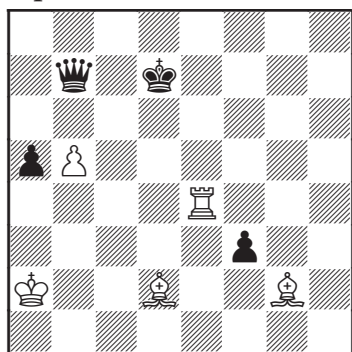
No 21446 Valery Kalashnikov (Russia).
1.Bc5+/i, and:

— Kh1 2.g8Q Qxg8 3.Rxg8 h2 4.Kg5 Kg2 5.Kh4+ Kf1 6.Rf8+ Ke1 7.Bb4+ Ke2 8.Re8+ Kf2 9.Re1 wins, or:

— Kf1 2.Rf8+ Ke1 3.g8Q Qxg8 4.Bb4+ Kd1 5.Rxg8 h2 6.Rd8+ Kc1 7.Ba3+ Kc2 8.Rc8+ Kd2 9.Rc1 wins.

i) 1.g8Q+? Qxg8 2.Bc5+ Kf1 3.Rxg8 h2 4.Rf8+ Kg2 (ke1) draws.

No 21447 R. Becker
special commendation



a2d7 3130.12 5/4 Win

No 21447 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bh3+ Kd6 2.Rd4+ Kc5 (Ke5; Bc3) 3.Be3 Kxb5/i 4.Bd7+ Kc5 5.Bf2/ii a4 (Qa6; Kb3) 6.Bxa4/iii Qa6 7.Kb3 (Ka3? Qf1;) Qe6+ 8.Ka3 Qa6 9.Bg1 f2 (Qa5; Kb3) 10.Bxf2 Qf1 11.Rd2+ Kc4 12.Kb2 Kb4/iv 13.Bd7 Ka5 14.Rd5+ Kb4 (Ka6; Bc8 mate) 15.Rd4+ Kc5 (Ka5; Ra4 mate) 16.Rd2+ Kb4 17.Bb6 Qf6+ 18.Rd4+ wins.

i) Qf7+ 4.Ka3 Kxb5 5.Rd6 wins.

ii) Echoing 5.Be8? Qa6 6.Bg1 (Bf2 Qf1;) Qe6+ 7.Ka3 Qh3 8.Rh4+ f2+ 9.Rxh3 fxg1Q wins.

iii) Echoing 6.Rd2+? Kc4 7.Be6+ Kc3 8.Be1 f2 draws.

iv) Qg2 13.Rc2+ Kd3 14.Bb5+ wins.

“This is too much ‘computer’ although not without its subtleties but finding the solution without ever stumbling is a hard task for a human – perhaps impossible”.

The last two special commendations were cooked by MG:

A. Oganessian, special commendation, e7g7 0134.12 a2c4c7h5.g6e6h7 4/5 Win. Intended:

1.Se8+ Kh8 2.Ra8 Bd5 3.g7+ Sxg7 4.Sd6+ Bxa8 5.Sf7+ (Kf8? h5;) Kg8 6.Sh6+ Kh8 7.Kf8 and 8.Sf7 mate.

But MG cooks: 2.Rc2 Bd3 and now 3.g7+ Sxg7 4.Rd2, and Bc4 5.Sf6 Sf5+ 6.Kf8 Sh4 7.Sg4 Sf3 8.Rc2 Bd5 9.Sh6 e5 10.Sf7+ Bxf7 11.Kxf7 h6 12.Kg6 Sh4+ 13.Kxh6 Kg8 14.Rf2 e4 15.Rf4 Sf3 16.Rxe4 wins, or: Bb1 5.Sc7 h6 6.Kf6 Sh5+ 7.Kxe6 wins, or: Bg6 5.Sc7 Sf5+/vi 6.Kf6 Sh6 7.Sxe6 Sg8+ 8.Ke5 wins. If in this line Sh5 (h6; Kf6) 6.Sxe6 h6 7.Rh2 Sg7 8.Sf4 wins.

A. Popov, special commendation Troitzky-150 MT 2017, h5e5 e8d2e7b5h8.f5g7f7 6/4 Draw. Intended:

1.Kh6 Qg8 2.f6, and Kxf6 3.Bg5+ Ke6 4.Sc7+ Kd7 5.Bxe7 Kxe7 6.Sd5+ Ke6 7.Sg6 fxg6 8.Sf6 Kxf6 stalemate, or: Bxf6 3.Bc3+, with Kf5 4.Sd6+ Ke6 5.Bxf6 Kxf6 6.Se4+ Ke6 7.Sg6 fxg6 8.Sf6 Kxf6 stalemate, or here: Ke6 4.Sc7+ Kf5 5.Bxf6 Kxf6 6.Sd5+ Ke6 7.Sg6 fxg6 8.Sf6 Kxf6 stalemate.

But MG cooks: 2...Bd8 3.Bc3+ (Bb4; Ke6) Ke6, and now: 4.Sd4+ Kxf6 5.Sc6+ Ke6 6.Sd4+ Kd6 7.Sf5+ Kd7 wins, or 4.Bd4 Ba5 5.Sc3 (Bc3; Bb6) Bxc3 6.Bxc3 Qd8 7.Bd4 Qa8 wins. HH: this is not so easy yet (this also goes for the 4.Sd4+ line), but the point is that the bQ wins the wB and is able to capture it despite it looks like White could promote on g8: e.g. 8.Bc3 Qh1+ 9.Kg5 Qd5+ 10.Kh4 (Kf4) Qc4+ 11.Kh5 Qxc3 12.g8Q Qh3+ 13.Kg5 Qg3+.

4th UAPA internet Ty 2016-2017

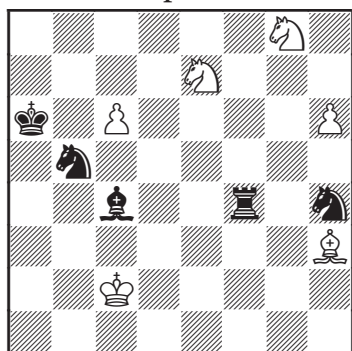
The 4th internet tourney organized by the Argentine chess composition organization (UAPA) was judged by Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). In total 79 studies by 29 composers from 17 countries participated. The provisional award dated 20iv2017 was published on the UAPA website, and had a confirmation time of 2 months. In the final award one study was eliminated because of an anticipation.

There were two thematic sections and two sections without theme (for wins, and draws, respectively).

Section A1

The theme was: “three minor pieces dominate one or two minor pieces”.

No 21448 P. Arestov
1st prize



c2a6 0348.20 6/5 Win

No 21448 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.c7/i Sxc7/ii 2.h7 Sg6 (Rf2+; Kc1) 3.Sxg6 Bd3+ 4.Kb3/iii Rh4 5.Sxh4 Bxh7 6.Bf1+ (Sf6? Bd3;) Ka5 7.Sf6 Bb1 8.Kb2 wins (domination).

i) 1.h7? Rf2+ 2.Kc1 Sd4 3.h8Q Sb3+ 4.Kd1 Rd2+ 5.Ke1 Sf3 mate.

ii) Rf2+ 2.Kc1 Sxc7 3.h7, or Sd4 3.c8Q+ wins.

iii) Thematic try: 4.Kc1? Rc4+/iv 5.Kb2 Rb4+/v 6.Kc1 Rc4+ 7.Kd2 Rh4 8.Sxh4 Bxh7 9.Bf1+ Ka5 10.Sf6 Bb1 11.Kc1 Ba2 draws. 4.Kxd3? Rf3+ 5.Ke4 Rxh3, or 4.Kc3? Sd5+ 5.Kxd3 Rf3+, or 4.Kd2? Rh4 5.Sxh4 Bxh7 draw.

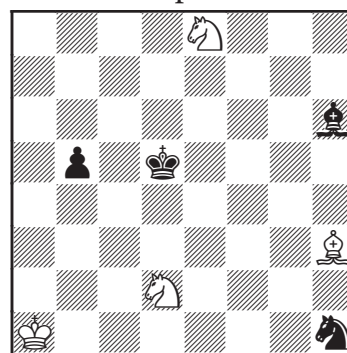
iv) Rh4? 5.Sxh4 Bxh7 6.Bf1+ Ka5 7.Sf6 wins.

v) Rh4? 6.Sxh4 Bxh7 7.Bf1+ Ka5 8.Sf6 wins.

“This is an elegant work by the author with the theme executed with purity in which the

interesting solution is closely connected to a thematic try. The correct move choice of the wK on the 4th move, while avoiding capturing the bB, does not leave any escape routes for the bB in the finish. The study is decorated with two piece sacrifices”.

No 21449 R. Becker
2nd prize



a1d5 0045.01 4/4 Win

No 21449 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bg2+ Ke6 2.Se4 Bf4 3.Sg7+/i Kf7 4.Sh5 Be5+ 5.Kb1/ii Kg6 6.Bf3 Kh6 (Bd4; Sf4+) 7.Kc2, and:

— b4 8.Kb3 Bd4 9.Kc4 Be5 10.Kxb4 Bd4 11.Kc4 Ba7 12.Shf6 Sf2 13.Sxf2 Bxf2 14.Sg4+ wins, or:

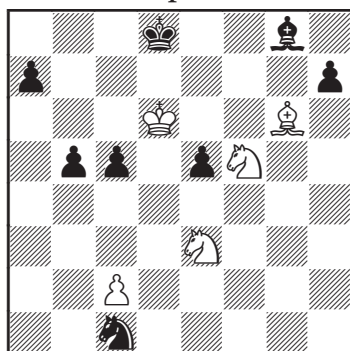
— Bd4 8.Kd3 Be5 9.Ke2 b4 10.Kf1 b3 11.Kg2 b2 12.Sd2 Bc3 13.Sb1 wins.

i) 3.Bxh1? Ke7 (Be5+) draws.

ii) Try: 5.Ka2? Kg6 6.Bf3 Kh6 7.Kb3 Bd4 draws.

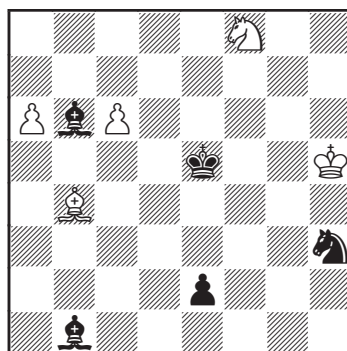
“This is a nice miniature with the domination of light pieces in the old and good tradition of the genre. It is technically impeccable (a nine

No 21450 J. Timman
& M. Garcia
3rd prize



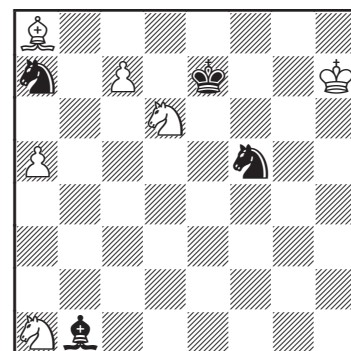
d6d8 0045.15 5/8 Win

No 21451 P. Arestov
1st honourable mention



h5e5 0074.21 5/5 Win

No 21452 M. Hlinka
& Ľ. Kekely
2nd honourable mention



h7e7 0048.20 6/4 Win

move introduction without capture), where White skilfully creates advantage out of the unfortunate position of the cornered knight!”

HH: miniature? There are 8 pieces in the initial position.

No 21450 Jan Timman (the Netherlands) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Bh5/i b4 2.Se7 b3 3.cxb3 Bxb3 4.S3f5 Ba2/ii 5.Sc6+/iii Kc8 6.Sa5 Kb8/iv 7.Se7/v e4 8.Bg4/vi Sb3 9.Sac6+/vii Kb7 10.Bc8+ Kb6 11.Sd5+ Kb5 12.Sc3+ Kc4 13.Sxa2 Kd3 14.Se5+ Kc2 15.Sc4 e3 16.Bf5+ wins.

i) 1.Se7? hxg6 2.Sxg8 a5 3.Kxc5 a4 draws.

ii) Ba4 5.Sg7 Bd7 6.Be8 Bxe8/viii 7.Se6 mate. Or a5 5.Sg7 a4 6.Bg4 Sd3 7.Sc6 mate. Or e4 5.Sg7 Sd3 6.Sc6+ Kc8 7.Bg4+ Kb7 8.Sa5+ wins. Or Sd3 5.Sc6+ Kc8 6.Sfe7 domination.

iii) 5.Sg7? Sd3 6.Bg4 Sb4 draws.

iv) Sb3 7.Se7+ Kb8 8.Sxb3 (Sc6+) Bxb3 9.Sc6+ Ka8 10.Bf3 c4 11.Kc7 a5 12.Se7+ Ka7 13.Bb7 Ba4 14.Sc8 mate.

v) 7.Bf3? Bb3 8.Se7 Ba4 draws.

vi) Try: 8.Sec6+? Ka8 9.Kc7 Be6 10.Sd8 Bd5 draws.

vii) Try: 9.Sec6+? Ka8 10.Bc8 Sxa5 11.Sxa5 Bf7 12.Kc7 (Sc6 Be8;) Bd5 13.Sc4 e3 draws.

viii) Bh3 7.Bb5 c4 8.Sc6+ Kc8 9.Ba6 mate.

“We see an unusual study with interesting content and positional struggle by both sides that resembles a chess game (one of the authors is an o.t.b. GM). The play finishes with

the capture of a bB after it quietly arrived on square a2 nine moves earlier!”

No 21451 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sd7+/i Kd4/ii 2.a7/iii Sf4+/iv 3.Kg4/v Bxa7 4.c7 Bf5+/vi 5.Kxf5 e1Q/vii 6.Bxe1 Sd5 7.c8S/viii Se3+ 8.Kg5 Bc5 9.Sxc5 Kxc5 10.Bf2 Kd4 11.Kf4 wins.

i) 1.Kh4? Kd5 2.Sd7 Bf2+ 3.Kxh3 Kxc6 draws.

ii) Ke4 2.a7 Bxa7 3.c7 wins.

iii) 2.Sxb6? Sf4+ 3.Kg4 Sd3 4.a7 Sxb4 5.a8Q e1Q draws.

iv) Bxa7 3.c7 Sf4+ 4.Kg4 see main line.

v) 3.Kg5? Se6+ 4.Kf6 Bxa7 5.Kxe6 Bd3 6.c7 Ba6, or 3.Kh6? Bxa7 4.c7 Sd5 5.c8Q Sxb4 6.Qh8+ Ke3 draw.

vi) Sd5 5.c8Q Sxb4 6.Qh8+ Ke3 7.Qh6+ Kd3 8.Se5+ Kc2 9.Sf3 Sd3 10.Qd2+ Kb3 11.Qxe2 wins.

vii) Sd5 6.c8Q Se7+ 7.Bxe7 e1Q 8.Bf6+ Ke3 9.Qe8+ Kd2 10.Bc3+ wins.

viii) 7.c8Q? Se7+, or 7.Bf2+? Kd3 draw.

“This is a full-fledged struggle by both parties with the participation of a promoted wS leading to the win of a black piece; a pleasant study for solving”.

No 21452 Michal Hlinka & Ľubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.c8S+/i Sxc8/ii 2.Sxc8+ Kd7 3.Sb6+/iii Kd6/iv 4.Kh8/v Sd4 5.Bb7/vi Bd3 6.a6/vii Bxa6 7.Bxa6 Kc5 8.Sc4 Kb4 9.Kg8/viii Kc3 10.Kf7 wins.

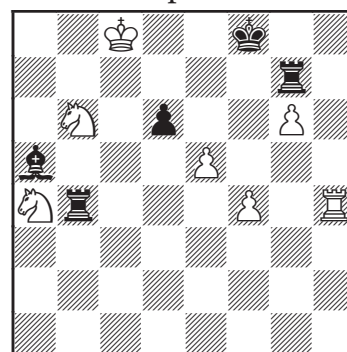
i) 1.c8Q? Sxd6+ 2.Qc2 Bxc2+ draws.

Section A2

The theme was: “rook against rook”.

No 21454 Y. Bazlov

1st prize



c8f8 0732.31 7/5 Win

No 21454 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Rh8+/i Ke7/ii 2.Rh7/iii Kf8 3.e6 Rxc6/iv 4.f5/v Rxe6/vi 5.Sd7+/vii Ke8 6.fxe6 Bd8 7.Sab6 Rxb6 8.e7 (Sxb6? Bxb6;) Rc6+ 9.Kb7 Rc7+ 10.Kb8 Rxd7 11.exd8Q+, and:

— Rxd8+ 12.Kc7 domination Ra8 13.Rh8+ wins, or:

— Kxd8 12.Rh8+ Ke7 13.Kc8 domination Ra7 14.Rh7+ wins.

i) 1.Sd7+? Rxd7 2.Kxd7 dxe5 3.Sc5 exf4 4.Se6+ Kg8 draws.

ii) Rg8 2.Sd7+ Kg7+ 3.Rxc8+ Kxc8 4.e6 Kg7 5.e7 Re4 6.Se5 Rxf4 7.Kd7 Rf8 8.exf8Q+ Kxf8 9.Kxd6 Kg7 10.Sc5 wins.

iii) 2.f5? dxe5 3.Sd5+ Kd6 4.Sxb4 Bxb4 5.Rh7 Rg8+ 6.Kb7 e4 7.Sb6 Ke5 draws.

iv) Rxf4? 4.Rh8+ Rg8 5.Sd7+ Ke7+ 6.Rxc8 Rc4+ 7.Kb7 Kxe6 8.Re8+ Kxd7 9.g7 Rb4+ 10.Sb6+ Rxb6+ 11.Ka7 Kxe8 12.g8Q+ Ke7 13.Qg5+ wins.

v) 4.Sd7+? Kg8 5.e7 Re4, or 4.e7+? Ke8 5.Sd5 Rc4+ 6.Kb7 Re6 7.f5 Rxe7+ 8.Rxe7+ Kf8 draws.

vi) Rg7 5.Rh8+ Rg8 (Ke7; Sd5 mate) 6.Rxc8+ Kxc8 7.Kd7 Bxb6 8.Sxb6 Re4 9.Sd5, or Bxb6 5.e7+ Ke8 6.Sxb6 Rg1 7.f6 Rc1+ 8.Kb7 Re1 9.Rh8+ Kf7 10.Rf8+ Kg6 11.Kc7 win.

vii) 5.fxe6? Bxb6 6.Kd7 Rxa4 7.e7+ Kg8 8.e8Q+ Kxh7 9.Kxd6 Ra7 10.Kc6 Bg1 11.Qh5+ Kg8 12.Qd5+ Rf7 13.Qd8+ Kh7 14.Qh4+ Kg8 15.Qg5+ Rg7 draws.

ii) Kd7 2.Sxa7 Sxd6+ 3.Kg7 Be4 4.Bxe4 Sxe4 5.Sb3 wins.

iii) 3.Sa7? Kc7 4.Sb5+ Kb8 5.Sc3 Kxa8 6.Sxb1 Sd4 draws.

iv) Kc7 4.Kh8 Sd4 5.Bd5 Sc6 6.Bxc6 Kxc6 7.Sb3 Ba2 8.Sd2 Be6 9.Kg7 Kb5 10.Sdc4 wins.

v) 4.Kg8? Sd4 5.Sc8+ Kc5 6.a6 Ba2+ 7.Kh7 Be6 8.Bg2 Sb5 9.Se7 Kb6, or 4.Sa4? Sd4+ 5.Kg7 Bf5 6.Sb2 Be6 7.Bg2 Sc6 8.a6 Bc8 9.Bf1 Kc5 10.Kf6 Kb6 11.Sa4+ Ka7, or 4.Bb7? Kc7 5.Bd5 Se3+ 6.Kg7 Sxd5 7.Sxd5+ Kc6 8.Sc3 Bd3 9.Sb3 Bc4 10.Sd2 Bd3 11.Kf6 Kc5 draw.

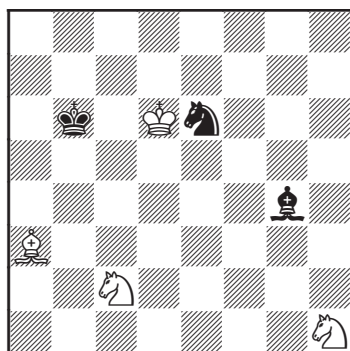
vi) 5.Kg7? Kc5 6.Kf6 Kb5 7.Ke5 Sc2 8.Sb3 Ba2 9.Sc1 Kxa5 draws.

vii) Try: 6.Kg7? Bb5 7.a6 Bxa6 8.Bxa6 Kc5 9.Sc4 Se6+ 10.Kf6 Sc7 draws.

viii) 9.Kg7? Se6+ 10.Kf6 Sc7 draws. 9.Kh7? Kc3 10.Kh6 Se6 11.Bc8 Sd4 12.Ba6 Se6 positional draw.

“We have an attractive study in which, in order to achieve his goal, White has to keep his king on the very far edge of the board”.

No 21453 V. Kalashnikov
commendation



d6b6 0045.00 4/3 Win

No 21453 Valery Kalashnikov (Russia). 1.Sf2 Bf5 2.Se3, and:

— Sc7 3.Bc5+ (Sxf5? Sb5+;) Kb5 4.Bd4/i Se8+ 5.Ke7 Bg6 6.Kd7 domination, wins, or:

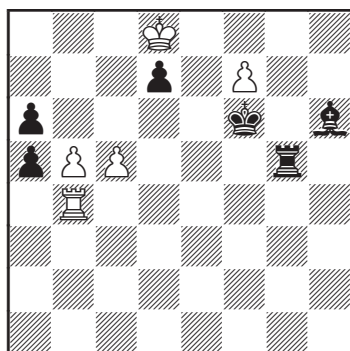
— Sg7 3.Bb2 Se8+ 4.Ke7 Bg6 5.Sd5+/ii Kc5 6.Sf4 domination, wins

i) 4.Sxf5? Se8+ 5.Kd5 Sc7+ 6.Kd4 Se6+ draws.

ii) 5.Kd7? Sc7 6.Sc4+ Kb7 7.Sd6+ Kb8 draws.

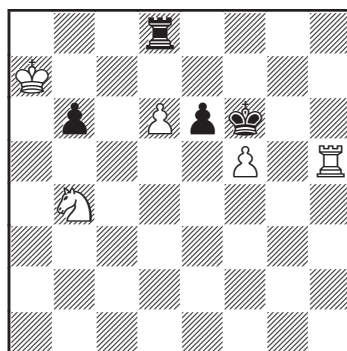
“The thoughtful action of the white pieces prevents Black from consolidating his forces; simple and thematic”.

No 21455 P. Arestov
honourable mention



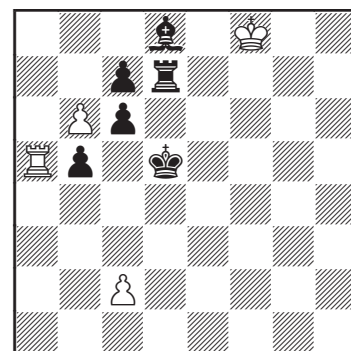
d8f6 0400.33 5/6 Win

No 21456 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
commendation



a7f6 0401.22 5/4 Win

No 21457 M. Hlinka
& L. Kekely
commendation



f8d5 0430.23 4/6 Win

“In this memorable work both lines end in an echo of the bR, giving the study a special attraction. The struggle by both sides deserves high praise. I hope that the analyses of this amazing work will give you a very pleasant time”.

No 21455 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rf4+ Ke6/i 2.bxa6 Rxc5 3.f8S+/ii Bxf8/iii 4.Rxf8 (a7? Be7+;)

a4/iv 5.a7 Ra5 6.Kc7 Rxa7+ 7.Kb6, and:

— Kd5 8.Rc8/v a3 9.Kxa7 a2 10.Rc1 wins, or:

— a3 8.Kxa7 a2 9.Rf1 Kd5 10.Rc1/vi wins.

i) Ke5 2.Rh4 Bg7 3.bxa6 wins.

ii) 3.f8Q? Bg5+ 4.Ke8 Rc8+ mate. 3.Re4+? Kxf7 4.a7 Bg5+ 5.Kxd7 Rd5+ 6.Kc7 Rd8 draws.

iii) Kd6 4.Rf6+, or Ke5 4.Sxd7+ wins.

iv) Rc6 5.a7 Ra6 6.Kc7 Rxa7+ 7.Kb6 wins.

v) Try: 8.Kxa7? Kc4 9.Kb6 a3 10.Ka5 a2 11.Rf1 Kb3 draws.

vi) 10.Ra1? Kc4 11.Rxa2 d5 12.Kb6 d4 13.Ra4+ Kc3 14.Kc5 d3 15.Ra3+ Kc2 16.Kc4 d2 17.Ra2+ Kc1 18.Kc3 d1S+ draws.

“In this interesting two-line study the curious play of the wR skilfully twice cuts the bK off (8.Rc8! and 10.Rc1!) from the location of the main events; this is very instructive”.

No 21456 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Sd5+/i exd5 2.Kb7/ii Rxd6/iii 3.Kc7 Ke5 4.f6+ Ke6 5.Rh7 d4/iv 6.Re7+ Kd5 7.Rd7

Rxd7+ 8.Kxd7 d3 9.f7 d2 10.f8Q d1Q 11.Qd6+ wins.

i) 1.Kb7? Rxd6 2.Kc7 Rd4, or 1.fxe6? Rxd6 draw.

ii) 2.Kxb6? Ke5 3.Kc7 Rxd6 4.f6+ Ke6 5.Rh7 Ra6 draws.

iii) d4 3.Kc7 Ra8 4.d7 d3 5.d8Q+ wins.

iv) Ke5 6.Re7+ Re6 7.Kd7 Kxf6 8.Rxe6+ wins.

The idea of this uncomplicated work is the refusal to capture a pawn with the idea of the domination of a rook in the centre of the board”.

No 21457 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.b7 Be7+/i 2.Ke8/ii Rd8+ 3.Kxe7 Rb8 4.Kd7 (Ra7? Kc5;) Rxb7 5.Kc8 Rb6 6.Kxc7 Kc5 7.c3 Rb8 8.Kxb8 Kc4 9.Ra6/iii c5 10.Rc6 Kxc3 11.Rxc5+ Kb4 12.Rc7/iv Ka3 13.Ra7+ Kb3 14.Kb7 b4 15.Ka6 Kc2 16.Rc7+ Kd2 17.Rb7 wins.

i) Bf6 2.Ra8 Ke6 3.Re8+ Be7+ 4.Kg7 Rd4 5.Rxe7+ Kxe7 6.b8Q Rg4+ 7.Kh6 Kd7 8.Qf8 Rc4 9.Qf5+ Kd6 10.Kg6 Rd4 11.Kf7 Rd5 12.Qf4+ Kc5 13.Qxc7 wins.

ii) 2.Kf7? Bb4+ 3.Kf6 Bxa5 4.b8Q Kc4 draws.

iii) 9.Kc7? Kxc3 10.Kxc6 b4 11.Kb5 b3 12.Ka4 b2 13.Rb5 Kc2, or 9.Ra3? c5 10.Kc7 b4 draws.

iv) 12.Rc6? Ka3 13.Ra6+ Kb3 14.Kc7 b4, or 12.Rh5? Kc4 13.Kc7 b4 draws.

“The bR has to eliminate a white intruder and then falls into a trap without escape”

Section B1: no theme, win studies

No 21458 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Re5+/i Kf6/ii 2.Re4+ d4 3.Rxd4/iii Rg7+ 4.Kf8 Rg8+ 5.Kxg8/iv Qb3+ 6.Rd5+ e5 7.Bxe5+ Ke6 8.Sc6/v Qxd5/vi 9.Bg4+ (Bxd5+? Kxd5;) mate.

i) 1.Bxd5+? Kd6 2.Bxf7 Qb8+ 3.Kg7 Qxa7, or 1.Sc6? Qa4 2.Sd8+ Kd7 3.Rxd5+ Kc8 4.Sxf7 Qxa1 draws.

ii) Kd7 2.Rxd5+ Ke8 3.Bh5, or Kd6 2.Rxd5+ Ke6 3.Re5+ Kd6 4.Kxf7 Qf4+ 5.Ke8 Qxf3 6.Sb5+ Kc6 7.Sd4+ wins.

iii) position X

iv) position X without bRf7.

v) 8.Sb5? Qxf3 9.Sd4+ Kxd5 10.Sxf3 Ke4 draws.

vi) Qxf3 9.Rd6+ Kf5 10.Rf6+ wins, but not 9.Sd4+? Kxd5 10.Sxf3 Ke4 draws.

“This is the best study of the section: the pieces of both sides play to their positions in the final position with an original ideal mate, thereby showing maximum ingenuity by the composers! The study has an attractive initial position and the idea is elegantly implemented”.

No 21459 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.h7/i Qa5+ 2.d5 Rxd5+ 3.Be5 (Kf4? Kg7;) Rxe5+ 4.Kf4 Rf5+ (Kg7; d8Q) 5.Kg4 Bd1+ 6.Qxd1 Rg5+ 7.Kh4 Qd8 8.Qd6+/ii Kf7/iii 9.h8S+ Kg7 10.Qh6+ Kxh6 11.Sf7+ Kh7/iv 12.Sxd8 Rd5 13.Se6 Rxd7 14.Sf8+ Kg8 15.Sxd7 wins.

i) 1.Bxd6+? Qxd6 2.Qf4 Qxd7+ 3.Kg5+ Bf7 4.Qb8+ Be8 5.Qe5 Kg8 draws.

ii) 8.h8Q+? Rg8+ 9.Kh3 Rxh8+ wins.

iii) Kg7 9.h8Q+ Kxh8 10.Qh6+ Kg8 11.Qxg5+ wins.

iv) Kg6 12.Sxd8 Rd5 13.Sc6 Kf5 14.Se7+ Ke5 15.Sxd5 wins, avoiding 13.Se6? Kf5 14.d8Q Rxd8 15.Sxd8 Ke4 draws.

“After a subtle introduction with a capture refusal, the points 2.d5!!, and 3.Be6!!, an unexpected queen sacrifice and a fork by the promoted knight in the end, all contribute to this interesting study. An ideological analogue of E. Dobrescu (EG#10544) exists (with the final perpetual queen sacrifice and fork threat) that does not influence the overall assessment”.

No 21460 Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands). 1.f7/i Rxg6+ 2.Ka5 Ra6+/ii 3.Kxa6 Qc8+/iii 4.Bxc8 f1Q+ 5.Kb6/iv Qxf3 6.Kc5 (f8Q? Qxb3+;), and:

— Qxb3 7.Bb7+ Qxb7 8.f8R+/v Kxa7 9.c8Q Qxc8+ 10.Rxc8 wins, or:

— Qxf7 7.Bb7+/vi Kxa7 8.c8S+ Kb8 9.Bd5+ Kxc8 10.Bxf7 wins.

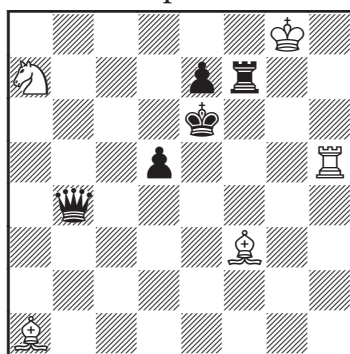
i) 1.fxg7? Qxb3+ (f1Q) draws.

ii) Rg5+ 3.Ka4 Ra5+ 4.Kxa5 Qg5+ 5.Ka4 Qf4+ 6.Rb4 wins, echo.

iii) f1Q+ 4.Bxf1 Qc8+ 5.Kb5 Qb7+ 6.Ka4 Qxa7+ 7.Kb4 Qd4+ 8.Bc4 wins, echo.

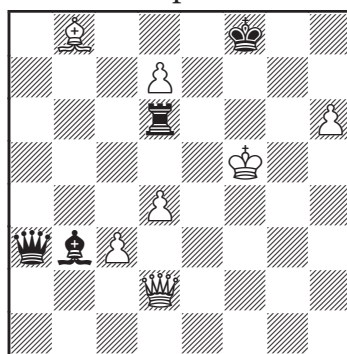
iv) 5.Rb5? Qa1+ 6.Kb6 Qf6+ 7.Kc5 Qe5+ draws.

No 21458 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
1st prize



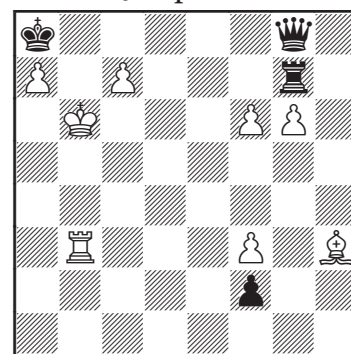
g8e6 3421.02 5/5 Win

No 21459 A. Jasik
2nd prize



f5f8 4340.40 7/4 Win

No 21460 H. van der Heijden
3rd prize



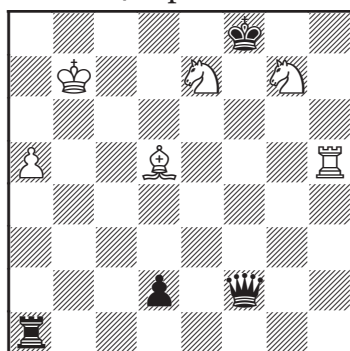
b6a8 3410.51 8/4 Win

v) 8.f8Q+? Kxa7 9.c8Q Qxc8+ 10.Qxc8 stalemate.

vi) 7.Rb8+? Kxa7 8.Rb7+ Ka8 positional draw.

“This is a very spectacular study with a bright introduction, fresh play by both sides and two promotions to rook and knight! Yes, there are two-line studies with the under-promotion theme, but here the idea is expressed in a form with the promotion of two different pawns. Everything has been done skilfully. This is the version of the study that was initially published”.

No 21461 P. Krug
4th prize



b7f8 3412.11 6/4 Win

No 21461 Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Sgf5/i Qa7+/ii 2.Kxa7 Rxa5+ 3.Kb7/iii Rxd5/iv 4.Sg6+ Kf7 5.Sh6+ Ke8 6.Rxd5 d1Q 7.Re5+/v Kd7 8.Sf8+ Kd8 (Kd6; Sf7 mate) 9.Sf7 mate.

i) Try: 1.Sef5? Qa7+ 2.Kxa7 Rxa5+ 3.Kb7 Rxd5 4.Se6+ Kf7 draws.

ii) Rb1+ 2.Ka8 Ke8 3.Rh8+ Kd7 4.Rh7 Qe2 5.Sc6+ Ke8 6.Sd6+ Kf8 7.Rf7+ wins.

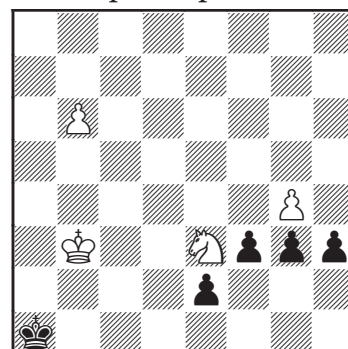
iii) Thematic try: 3.Kb6? Rxd5 4.Sg6+ Kf7 5.Sh6+ Ke8 6.Rxd5 d1Q 7.Re5+ Kd7 8.Sf8+ Kc8 draws.

iv) Rb5+ 4.Kc6 Rxd5 5.Sg6+ Kf7 6.Sh6+ Ke8 7.Rxd5 d1Q 8.Re5+ leads to mate.

v) 7.Rxd1? stalemate.

“After being faced with the refutation of the thematic try, White wins by playing the right move 3.Kb7!! The play of the rook and the two white knights makes a very solid impression. This is a well-balanced and well-designed study”.

No 21462 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
special prize



b3a1 0001.24 4/5 Win

No 21462 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.b7/i e1Q 2.Sc2+ Kb1 3.Sxe1 f2 4.Sf3 (b8Q? fxe1Q;) f1Q 5.Sd2+ Kc1/ii 6.Sxf1 g2 7.Sg3 (b8Q? gxf1Q) g1Q (Kd1; b8Q) 8.Se2+ (b8Q? Qd1+;) Kd1/iii 9.Sxg1 h2 10.Sh3 (b8Q? hxg1Q;) h1Q 11.Sf2+ Ke2 12.Sxh1 wins.

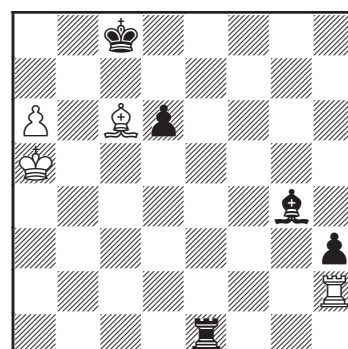
i) 1.Sc2+? Kb1 2.b7 f2 3.Sa3+ Kc1 4.b8Q e1Q 5.Qc7+ Kd2 draws.

ii) Ka1 6.Sxf1 g2 7.b8Q wins.

iii) Kd2 9.Sxg1 h2 10.Sf3+ wins.

“In this amazing work the play of the wS with a very clear mechanism and a beautiful geometrical pattern takes 11 moves! We see no black counterplay, but the study is from a category that is quite rare: a real find! This is a development of a study by M. Travasoni (EG#6258)”.

No 21463 D. Keith & M. Minski
1st honourable mention



a5c8 0440.12 4/5 Win

No 21463 Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rh1/i Re2/ii 2.a7/iii Ra2+ 3.Kb6 Rb2+ 4.Bb5 Rxb5+ 5.Kxb5 Kb7 6.a8Q+

(a8B+) Kxa8 7.Kb6 (Rg1? h2;) Kb8 8.Rg1/iv Be6/v 9.Re1 Bd7 10.Rf1 Kc8/vi 11.Rf8+ Be8 12.Rxe8+ wins.

i) Logical try: 1.a7? Ra1+ 2.Kb6 Rb1+ 3.Bb5 Rxb5+ 4.Kxb5 Kb7 5.a8Q+/vii Kxa8 6.Kb6 Kb8 position X with wRh2. 7.Rf2 Kc8 8.Rf8+ Kd7 draws.

ii) Re3 (Re5+; Kb6) 2.a7 Ra3+ 3.Kb6 Rb3+ 4.Bb5 Rxb5+ 5.Kxb5 see main line.

iii) Try: 2.Bd5? Be6/viii 3.Rc1+ Kb8/ix 4.Rb1+ Kc7/x 5.Rb7+ Kc8 6.a7 Ra2+ 7.Bxa2 Kxb7 draws.

iv) 8.Rf1? Kc8 9.Rf8+ Kd7 draws.

v) h2 9.Rxg4 h1Q 10.Rg8 mate.

vi) h2 11.Rf8+ Bc8 12.Rh8 wins.

vii) 5.Ra2 Bd7+ 6.Kb4 (Ka5 Kxa7;) Ka8 draws.

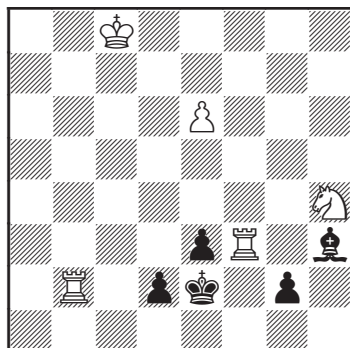
viii) A logical black try is now: Rd2? 3.a7 Rxd5+ 4.Kb6 Rb5+ 5.Kxb5 Kb7 6.a8Q+ Kxa8 7.Kb6 Kb8 position X with wRh1: 8.Rg1 wins, see main line.

ix) Kd7? 4.Bc6+ Kd8 5.Ra1 Bd7 6.Bxd7 Kxd7 7.a7 wins.

x) Kc8? 5.Bxe6+ Rxe6 6.a7 wins.

“In this logical study the result depends on the correct choice of the first move. The wR, which moves, in the introduction, to the first rank concludes by triumphantly striking a blow on the eighth rank”.

No 21464 P. Arestov
2nd honourable mention



c8e2 o231.13 5/5 Win

No 21464 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rg3 Bxe6+ 2.Kb8/i Bd5/ii 3.Sxg2 Bxg2 4.Rxg2+ Kd3 5.Rb3+, and:

— Kc4 6.Rb1 Kd3 7.Ra1 e2 8.Ra3+, and now:

– Kc4 9.Rg4+ Kb5/iii 10.Rh3 e1Q 11.Rh5+ Kc6 12.Rg6+ Kd7 13.Rh7+ Kd8 14.Rg8+ wins, or here:

– Kd4 9.Rg4+ Ke5 10.Ra5+ Kf6 11.Rc4 d1Q 12.Rc6+ Ke7 13.Ra7+ Ke8 14.Rc8+ wins, or:

— Ke4 6.Rg4+ Kf5 (Kf3; Rd4) 7.Ra4 d1Q 8.Rb5+ Kf6 9.Ra6+ Ke7 10.Rb7+ Kd8 11.Rf6/iv Ke8 12.Rc6 e2 13.Rc8+ wins.

i) 2.Kc7? Bd5 3.Sxg2 Bxg2 4.Rxg2+ Kd3 5.Rb3+ Kc4 6.Rb1 Kd3 7.Ra1 e2 8.Ra3+ Kc4 9.Rg4+ Kd5 10.Ra5+ Ke6 11.Rg6+ Kf7 draws.

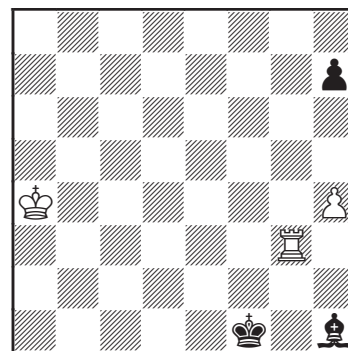
ii) Kd3 3.Rxd2+ Kxd2 4.Sxg2 e2 5.Rg6 Bc4 6.Rd6+ wins.

iii) Kc5 10.Ra5+ Kb6 11.Rh5 wins.

iv) 11.Rc6? Qg4, or 11.Rg6? Qd5, or 11.Rh6? Qa1 draws.

“This is an attractive two-line study with the memorable point 2.Kb8!! and with two similar captures of the bQ by both rooks. One of the lines is known from a study by V. Razumenko (HHdbV#06764)”.

No 21465 Á. Rusz
3rd honourable mention



a4f1 o130.11 3/3 Win

No 21465 Árpád Rusz (Rumania). 1.h5 (Rg7? h5;) Kf2 (h6; Rg6) 2.Rg6/i Be4/ii 3.Ra6/iii Kg3 4.h6 Kg4 5.Ra5 Bf5 6.Kb5/iv Kg5 7.Kc6 Kg6 8.Kd6 Bg4 9.Ra4 Bh5 10.Ke5 (Ke6, Ke7) Kxh6 11.Kf6 Bg6 12.Rh4+ Bh5 13.Kf5/v wins.

i) 2.Rg7? h6 3.Rg6 Kf3 4.Rxh6 Kg4 draws.

ii) hxg6 3.h6 Be4 4.h7 wins.

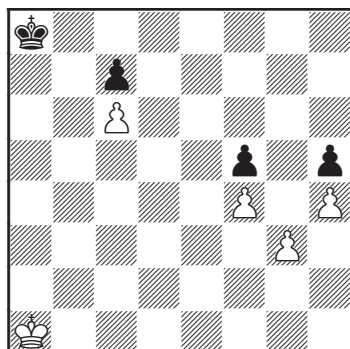
iii) 3.Rf6+? Kg3 4.Kb4 Kg4, or 3.Rg5? h6 4.Rg6 Kf3 5.Rxh6 Kg4 6.Re6 Bc2+ draws.

iv) 6.Kb4? Kg5 7.Kc4 Kg6 8.Ra6+ Kg5 (Kh5) 9.Ra5 Kg6 positional draw.

v) 13.Rh1? stalemate.

“In this skilful work the wR is the key to success in the final. This study must have theoretical value”.

No 21466 Á. Rusz
commendation



a1a8 0000.43 5/4 Win

No 21466 Árpád Rusz (Rumania). 1.Kb2 Ka7 2.Kc3 Kb6 3.Kd4 Kxc6 4.Ke5 Kd7 5.Kf6/i Kd6/ii 6.Kxf5 c5 7.g4/iii c4/iv 8.gxh5 c3 9.h6 c2 10.h7 c1Q 11.h8Q Qc2+ 12.Kg5 Qg2+ 13.Kh6 wins.

i) Thematic try: 5.Kxf5? c5 zz 6.g4/v c4 7.gxh5 c3 8.h6 c2 9.h7 c1Q 10.h8Q Qc2+ 11.Kg5 Qg2+ 12.Kh6 Qc6+ – the 6th rank is free – 13.Kg5 Qg2+ perpetual check.

ii) c6 6.Ke5 Kc7/vi 7.Kxf5/vii c5 8.Kg6/viii c4 9.f5 c3 10.f6 Kd7/ix 11.f7 Ke7 12.Kg7 wins.

iii) 7.Kg6? (Ke4? Ke6;) Ke7 8.Kg7 Ke6 9.Kg6 Ke7 positional draw.

iv) hxg4 8.Kxg4 c4 9.Kf3 wins.

v) 6.Kg6 Ke7 7.Kg7 Ke6 8.Kg6 Ke7 positional draw.

vi) Ke7 7.Kxf5 c5 8.Ke5 wins.

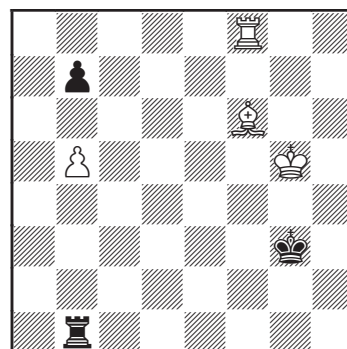
vii) 7.Ke6? c5 8.Kxf5 Kd7 draws.

viii) 8.Ke5? Kc6 9.f5 c4 10.f6 Kd7, or 8.g4? c4 9.gxh5 c3 10.h6 c2 11.h7 c1Q 12.h8Q Qc2+ 13.Kg5 Qg2+ 14.Kh6 Qc6+ 15.Kg5 Qg2+ perpetual check.

ix) c2 11.f7 c1Q 12.f8Q wins.

“This is an uncomplicated but pleasant pawn study in which the wK by precise moves (point 5.Kf6!!) forces his counterpart to stand on the ‘mined’ field”.

No 21467 L. Gonzales
commendation



g5g3 0410.11 4/3 Win

No 21467 Luis Gonzales (Spain). 1.Be5+/i Kg2 2.Bb2 Rxb2 3.Rf5 Kg3 4.Kf6 Re2 5.Re5 Rd2/ii 6.Re7/iii Kf4/iv 7.Ke6 (Rxb7? Rd6+;) b6 8.Rh7/v Ke4 9.Rh4+ Ke3 10.Ke5/vi Rd1 11.Rh6/vii Rc1 12.Rc6/viii Rg1 13.Re6 Kd3 (Rg5+; Kd6) 14.Kd5/ix Rg5+ 15.Kc6 Kc4 16.Re4+ wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Bb2? Rxb2 2.Rf5 Re2 3.Kf6 Re4 4.Re5 Kf4 5.Re7 Rd4 6.Rxb7/x Rd6+ 7.Ke7 Rh6 8.Rb8 Ke5 9.Kd7 Kd5 10.Kc7 Kc5 draws.

ii) Kf3 6.Re6 Rb2 7.b6 Kf4 8.Ke7 Kf5 9.Rh6 Ke5 10.Kd8 Rc2 11.Rh7 Rc6 12.Rxb7 wins.

iii) 6.Ke7? Kf4 7.Re6 Kf5 8.b6 Rh2 draws.

iv) Rd6+ 7.Re6 Rd7 8.Ke5 Kf3 9.Rd6 Rc7 10.Rd8 Rc5+ 11.Rd5 Rc1 12.Kd4 Kf4 13.Rd6 Kf5 14.Kd5 Rc7 15.Rh6 Kg5 16.Re6 Rg7 17.Kd6 wins.

v) 8.Rb7? Ke4 9.Rxb6 Rd5 10.Rb8 Rh5 11.b6 Rh6+ 12.Kd7 Kd5 draws.

vi) 10.Rh5? Rc2 11.Rd5 Ke4 12.Rd6 Rb2 13.Rxb6 Kd4 draws.

vii) 11.Re4+? Kf3 12.Rf4+ Ke3 13.Rf6 Rc1 14.Rc6 waste of time.

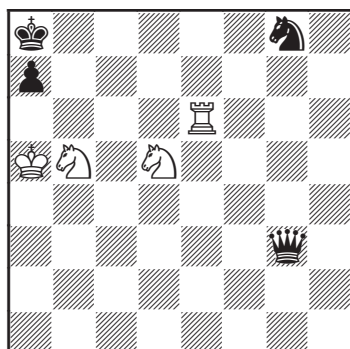
viii) 12.Rxb6? Rc5+ 13.Kd6 Kd4 draws.

ix) 14.Kd6? Rc1 15.Kd7 Rc5 16.Rxb6 Kc4 draws.

x) 6.b6 Rd6+ 7.Re6 Rd7 8.Re7 Rd6+ positional draw.

“White has a laborious job in preserving and advancing his pawn to the promotion square. Although the exact play by both sides seems to be a little dry, it contains a lot of subtleties”.

No 21468 D. Gurgenidze & M. Minski
commendation



a5a8 3105.01 4/4 Win

No 21468 David Gurgenidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Ka6 Se7 2.Sb6+/i axb6/ii 3.Rxe7, and:

- Qh2 4.Re8+ Qb8 5.Sc7 mate, or:
- Qg6/iii 4.Rb7 Qd3 5.Rf7 Qd8 6.Ra7+ Kb8 7.Rb7+ Kc8 8.Sa7 mate.

i) 2.Rxe7? Qg6+ draws since 3.Sb6+ fails to Qxb6 mate. 2.Sdc7+? Kb8 3.Rxe7 Qd6+ 4.Sxd6 stalemate.

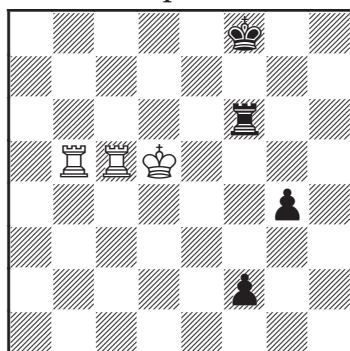
ii) Kb8 3.Rxe7, and: Qg6 4.Rb7 mate, or: axb6 4.Re8 mate.

iii) Qg8 4.Ra7+ Kb8 5.Rb7+ Kc8 (Ka8; Sc7 mate) 6.Sd6+ (Sa7+) Kd8 7.Rb8+ wins.

“This is an ingenious study with model echo-mates by the wS”.

Section B2: no theme, draw studies

No 21469 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
1st prize



d5f8 0500.02 3/4 Draw

No 21469 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Rb1/i Rf5+ 2.Ke4 Rxc5 3.Kf4 Rf5+

(Rc4+; Kg3) 4.Kxf5 g3 5.Kf6 Ke8 6.Ke6 Kd8 7.Kd6/ii Kc8 (g2; Rc8 mate) 8.Rc1+/iii Kb7 9.Rb1+ Ka6 10.Kc6 Ka5 11.Kc5 draws.

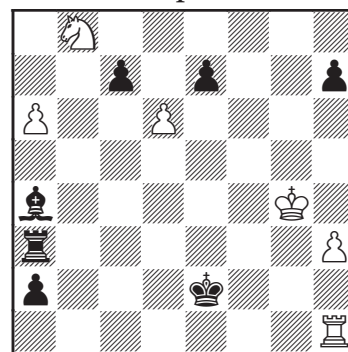
i) Logical try: 1.Rc1? Rf5+ 2.Ke4 Rxb5 3.Kf4 Rf5+ 4.Kxf5 g3 5.Kf6 Ke8 6.Ke6 Kd8 7.Kd6, now the wR is at c1, allowing 7...g2 8.Ra1 Ke8 9.Ke6 Kf8 win. 1.Rb8+? (Rc8+?) Kg7 2.Rc1 (Rb1) f1Q 3.Rxf1 Rxf1 4.Rc6 Rf6 5.Rb4 (Rc4) Rf5+ 6.Ke4 Kg6 wins.

ii) the wR is at b1 now.

iii) Try: 8.Kc6? g2 9.Ra1 Kd8 10.Kd6 Ke8 11.Ke6 Kf8 wins.

“This shows a perfect synthesis of a logical try and the solution of two known key positions, for example the well-known study by J. Moravec (HHdbV#75387). In a simple-looking position, the author has found interesting and elegant play with a logical choice on the 1st move. This amazing miniature, composed in classical style, will be remembered for a long time!”.

No 21470 V. Samilo
2nd prize



g4e2 0431.34 6/7 Draw

No 21470 Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Rh2+/i Ke1/ii 2.Rh1+/iii Kd2 3.Rh2+ Ke3/iv 4.Rxa2 Rxa2 5.dxc7 Bd1+ (Rc2; a7) 6.Kg3/v Rc2 7.a7 Bf3 8.Sc6 Rxc6 (Bxc6; c8Q) 9.a8Q/vi Rg6+ 10.Kh4 Rh6+ 11.Kg3 (Kg5 Rh5 mate;) Rg6+/vii 12.Kh4 positional draw.

i) Try: 1.dxc7? Bd1 2.Rxd1 Kxd1 3.c8Q a1Q 4.Qd7+ Ke2 5.Qe6+ Re3 6.Qc4+ Ke1 7.Qb4+ Kd1 8.Qf4 Qg7+ 9.Kh4 Qc3 10.Qf1+ Kc2 11.Qf5+ Kb2 12.Sd7 (Qb5+ Ka3;) Qc4+ 13.Kh5 Qe2+ 14.Kh6 Qxa6+ 15.Kxh7 Qd3 wins.

ii) Kf1 2.Rxa2 Rxa2 3.dxc7 Bd1+ 4.Kf4 (Kg3) draws.

iii) Thematic try: 2.Rxa2? Rxa2 3.dxc7 Bd1+ 4.Kf4 Ra4+ 5.Kg3 Ra3+ 6.Kf4 Rf3+ 7.Ke5 Rc3 8.a7 Bf3 9.Sc6 Rxc6 10.a8Q Rc5+ 11.Kd4 Bxa8 12.Kxc5 Bb7 wins.

iv) Ke1 4.Rh1+ positional draw.

v) 6.Kf5? Rc2 7.a7 Bf3 wins.

vi) 9.a8R? Rg6+ 10.Kh4 Bb7 11.c8Q Bxc8 12.Rxc8 e5 wins.

vii) Bxa8 12.c8Q Rg6+ 13.Kh4 draws.

“This is a rare draw study with the Novotny theme. The point 6.Kg3!! unites the events on different sites on the board. Two positional draws are successfully combined: at the beginning of the solution the wR pursues the bK on the first two lines, and in the final the bR chases the wK on the last two files, making this a kind of chameleon echo!”

No 21471 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.c7 Rg5+/i 2.Sg7 (Kh8? Rf8+;) Rc6 3.Kf8 Ke5 (Rxc7; Se6+) 4.Se8 Ke6 5.Bc2/ii Rcc5/iii 6.Bb3+ Kd7 7.Be6+/iv Kxe6 8.c8Q+ Rxc8 stalemate.

i) Rc6 2.Sd4 Rc4 3.Bd3 Rxc7 (Rcc5) 4.Se6+, or Rc1 4.Se2+ draws.

ii) 5.Be4? Rc4 6.Bb7 Rf4+, or 5.Bd3? Kd7 6.Bb5 Rxb5 wins.

iii) Rg4 6.Bf5+ Kxf5 7.Sd6+ Ke6 8.c8Q+ Rxc8+ 9.Sxc8 Kd7 10.Sb6+ Ke6 11.Sc8 positional draw. Rxc2 6.c8Q+ Rxc8 stalemate.

iv) 7.Ba4+? Kc8 8.Sd6+ Kxc7 9.Se4 Rcf5+ wins.

“The laconic play in this interesting miniature unexpectedly ends in a stalemate with a pinned knight with all the pieces playing to their final squares. This is beautiful, and the judge was surprised that he couldn’t find a predecessor”.

No 21472 David Gurgénidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.a8Q Sf6+ 2.Kf7 Qh7+ 3.Kxf6 (Ke6? Qd7+;) a1Q+/i 4.Qxa1 Qh8+ 5.Kf7 Qxa1 6.f4 Qa8 7.Rg8 Qa1 8.Rg1, and:

— Qa8 9.Rg8 Qa1 10.Rg1 positional draw, or:

— Kh5/ii 9.Rg5+ Kh4 10.Sf3+ Kh3 11.Sg1+ Kh2 12.Sf3+ Kh3 13.Sg1+ Kh4 14.Sf3+ draws.

i) Bd8+ 4.Qxd8 a1Q+ 5.Ke6 draws.

ii) Bxf4 9.Rh1+ Bh2 (Kg5; Sf3+) 10.Rxh2+ Kg5 11.Rg2+ Kf5 12.Rf2 draws.

“This study has geometrical motifs and a final perpetual check in the h1 corner. The work is decorated with a positional draw with pirouettes of long-ranging pieces (queen and rooks) across the board”.

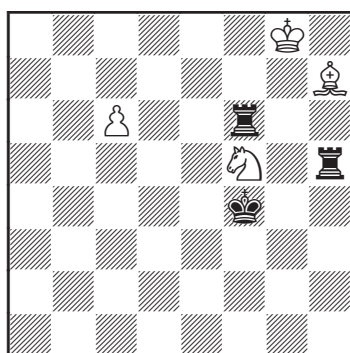
No 21473 Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sf4+/i exf4/ii 2.Sg3+ (f3? gxf1Q;) Kd3 (Kf3) 3.Se2/iii Kxe2/iv 4.f3 Kxf3 5.Kh4 (Bg1? Kf3;) Ke4 6.Bg1/v d5 7.Kh3 f3/vi 8.Kg3 d4 9.Kf2 Kf4/vii 10.Bh2+/viii Kg4 11.Bg1 Kf4 12.Bh2+ Kg4 13.Bg1 d3 14.Ke3 Kg3 15.Bf2+ (Kxd3? f2;) Kh2 16.Kxf3 d2 17.Ke2 draws.

i) 1.Sg3+? Kxd3, or 1.Sc1+? Kxf1 2.f4 exd4 win.

ii) position X

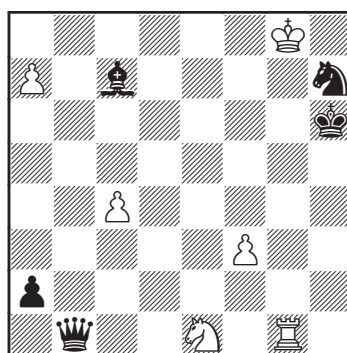
iii) 3.f3? Kxd4 4.Se2+ Ke3 wins.

No 21471 P. Arestov
1st honourable mention



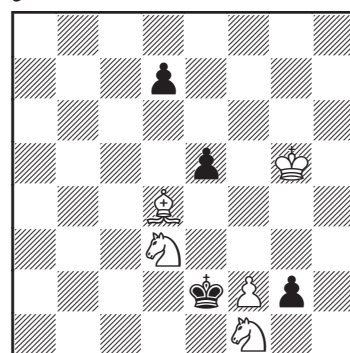
g8f4 0611.10 4/3 Draw

No 21472 D. Gurgénidze
& M. Minski
2nd honourable mention



g8h6 3134.31 6/5 Draw

No 21473 D. Keith
& M. Minski
3rd honourable mention

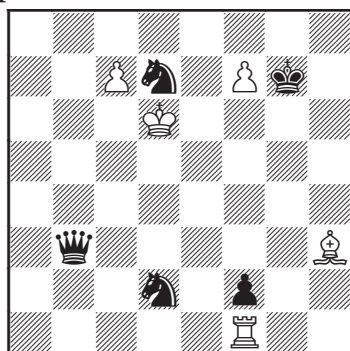


g5e2 0012.13 5/4 Draw

- iv) position X without wSf1.
 v) Thematic try: 6.Bf2? d5 7.Kh3 f3 8.Kg3 d4 wins.
 vi) d4 8.Kxg2 d3 9.Kf2 (Kf1) f3 10.Ke1 draws.
 vii) d3 10.Ke1 Kf4 11.Bf2 Kg4 12.Kd2 Kh3 13.Kxd3 draws, avoiding 11.Kd2? Kg3 12.Ke1 d2+ 13.Kxd2 f2 winning.
 viii) 10.Ke1? Kg3 11.Bxd4 Kh2 wins.

“After spectacular sacrifices of the two white knights, a duel between three black passers and a single bishop arises which requires accurate play by White. It is a pity that there is no connection between the beautiful introduction and the prosaic final”.

No 21474 B. Buyannemekh,
 P. Krug & M. Garcia
 special honourable mention



d6g7 3116.21 5/5 Draw

No 21474 Bizya Buyannemekh (Mongolia), Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). I: diagram, II: wBh3 to e8.

I: 1.c8Q/i Sc4+/ii 2.Kxd7 Sb6+ 3.Kc7/iii Sxc8 4.f8Q+ Kxf8 5.Rxf2+ Ke7 6.Re2+ Kf6 7.Rf2+ Ke5/iv 8.Bxc8 Qc3+ 9.Kb8 Qb4+ 10.Ka8 Qa5+ 11.Kb7 Qb5+ 12.Ka8 Kd6 13.Rf7 Qe8 14.Rd7+ Kc6 15.Kb8 draws.

II: 1.c8Q/v Sc4+ 2.Kxd7 Sb6+ (Qb5+; Kd8) 3.Kd8 Qd5+ (Qd3+; Bd7) 4.Bd7 Sxc8/vi 5.f8Q+ Kxf8 6.Rxf2+ Kg7 7.Rf5 Qg8+ 8.Be8 Qe6/vii 9.Bd7 Qg8+ 10.Be8 Qh8 11.Rf7+ Kh6 12.Rf5 (Rc7? Sd6;) Qc3 13.Rh5+ Kg7 14.Rg5+ Kf6 15.Rg6+ Ke5 16.Rc6 draws.

i) 1.f8Q+? Sxf8 2.c8Q Qd3+ 3.Kc6 Sxf1 4.Bxf1 Qxf1 wins.

ii) Qg3+ 2.Kc6 Se5+ 3.Kb7 Qf3+ 4.Ka6 draws.

iii) 3.Kd8? Sxc8 4.f8Q+ Kxf8 5.Rxf2+ Kg7 6.Rg2+ Kh6 7.Bxc8 Qd5+ wins.

iv) Kg5 8.Rg2+ Kh4 9.Bxc8 Qc4+ 10.Kb8 draws.

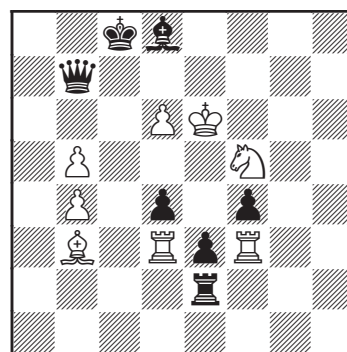
v) 1.Rxf2? Se4+ 2.Ke7 Qb4+ 3.Kxd7 Qd4+ wins.

vi) Qg5+ 5.Ke8 Qe5+ 6.Be6 Qb5+ 7.Bd7 Qe2+ 8.Be6 draws.

vii) Qh8 9.Rf7+ Kh6 10.Rf5 is similar.

“This twin successfully combines two different motivations for reaching a draw by consolidation of material”.

No 21475 A. Jasik
 commendation



e6c8 3541.33 8/7 Draw

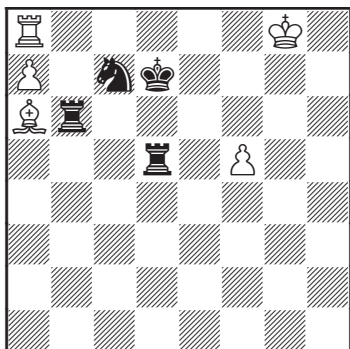
No 21475 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Bd5 Qd7+ 2.Ke5 Qe8+ 3.Se7+ Bxe7 4.d7+ Qxd7 (Kxd7; Bc6+) 5.Be6 Qxe6+ 6.Kxe6, and:

— Rd2 7.Rxd2 exd2 8.Rf1 (Rd3? Bxb4;) Bh4 9.Ra1 Be1 10.Kd5 (Kd6? Kb7;) d3 11.Kc6 draws, or:

— Rf2 7.Rxf2 exf2 8.Rd1 (Rf3? Bh4;) Bxb4 9.Rh1 Be1 10.Kd5 (Kd6? Kb7;) d3 11.Kc6 draws.

“This is an interesting study with two echo-finales and moves of the wR to two corners (a1 and h1). It is a pity that the introduction is not connected to the remaining play”.

No 21476 S. Hornecker & M. Minski
commendation



g8d7 0713.20 5/4 Draw

No 21476 Siegfried Hornecker & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bc8+ Ke7/i 2.Rb8 Rdb5/ii 3.a8Q/iii Sxa8 4.Rxa8 Rb8 5.f6+/iv Kxf6 6.Ra6+ R5b6 7.Kh7/v Rxa6 8.Bxa6 draws/vi.

i) Kd6 2.Rb8 Rdb5 3.Rxb6+/vii Rxb6 4.f6 draws.

ii) Rd8+ 3.Kh7/viii Rf6 4.Bb7/ix Rd3 5.a8Q Sxa8 6.Bxa8 draws.

iii) 3.Rxb6? Rxb6 4.Kg7 Sa8 wins.

iv) 5.Ra7+? Kd6 6.Rd7+ Kc6 7.Rd8 Kc7 wins.

v) Thematic try: 7.Rxb6+? Rxb6 8.Kh7 Rb4/ix 9.Ba6, now the bR is at b4, 9...Kf7 10.Kh6 (Bc4+ Rxc4;) Rb6+ wins.

vi) now the bR is at b8.

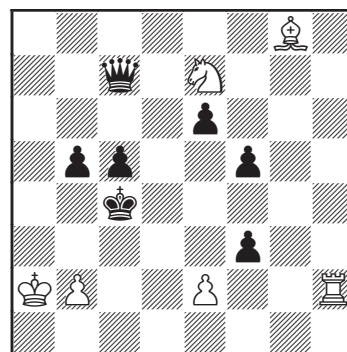
vii) But not 3.a8Q? Sxa8 4.Rxa8 Rb8 wins.

viii) But not 3.Kg7? Se8+ 4.Kh7 Sf6+ 5.Kg7 Rg8+ 6.Kh6 Sd7+ 7.Kh7 Kf7 8.Rxb6 Rg7+ 9.Kh6 Sxb6 10.Bb7 Kf6 11.a8Q Sxa8 12.Bxa8 Rg8 wins.

ix) But not 4.a8Q? Sxa8 5.Rxa8 Ke8 6.Kg7 Rf7+ 7.Kg6 Rc7 wins.

x) Avoiding: Rb2? 9.Ba6 Kf7 10.Bc4+ draws.
“The unexpected final point 7.Kh7!! becomes clear in the thematic try”.

No 21477 F. Magini
commendation



a2c4 3111.25 6/7 Draw

No 21477 Fabio Magini (Italy). 1.Rh4+/i f4 2.Rxf4+/ii Qxf4 3.Bxe6+ Kd4/iii 4.e3+ Ke5/iv 5.Sg6+ Kxe6 6.Sxf4+ Kf5 7.Sh5/v Kg4 8.Sf6+ Kf5 9.Sh5 f2 10.Sg3+ Kg4 11.Sf1 positional draw.

i) 1.Bxe6+? Kd4 2.Rh4+ Ke5 3.Bxf5 f2 4.Re4+ Kf6 5.Bh3 Qa5+ wins.

ii) 2.Bxe6+? Kd4 3.Rxf4+ Ke5, and now: 4.Rxf3 Qxe7 5.Re3+ Kd6 6.Rd3+ Kc6, or: 4.Sg6+ Kxe6 5.exf3 Qa5+ win.

iii) Kb4 4.Sc6+ Ka4 5.b3 mate.

iv) Kxe3 5.Sd5+ Ke4 6.Sxf4 draws.

v) 7.Sd3? Ke4 8.Sf2+ Kxe3, or 7.Sh3? Ke4 8.b4 c4 win.

“Co-ordinated action by the white pieces prevents Black winning with his material superiority”.

XXIII Birnov MT 2017

The tourney was judged by Sergey Osintsev and the results were published in the on-line magazine *Teoriya i Praktika Kompozitsii*. In total 30 studies by 29 composers from 15 countries took part.

No 21478 Daniel Keith (France). 1.Rg2/i Bd6+ 2.Kg8 Qc4+ 3.Se6 Rb2/ii 4.Rg7/iii Be5 (Re2; Qf1+) 5.Qh4+/iv Qxh4 6.c8Q Rb8 7.Rf7+ Kg6 8.Sf8+ Kh5 9.Rf5+/v Kg4 10.Qc4+ Kh3 11.Qf1+ wins.

i) 1.Rg1? Bd6+ 2.Kg8 Qc4+ 3.Kh8 (Se6 Bxc7;) Rxc7 4.Rf1+ Bf4 5.Rxf4+ Qxf4 6.Qe6+ Kg5 draws.

ii) Bxc7 4.Rf2+ Ke7 5.Rf7+ Kd6 6.Sxc7 Rb8+ 7.Se8+ wins.

iii) 4.Rf2+? Rxf2 5.Qxf2+ Ke5, or 4.Rxb2? Qg4+ 5.Kh8 Qh5+ draw.

iv) 5.Qf1+? Qxf1 6.c8Q Rb8 7.Rf7+ Kg6 8.Sf8+ Kg5/vi 9.Qc2 Rxf8+, or 5.Rg6+? Kxg6 6.Qxe5 Rg2 draw.

v) 9.Rh7+? Kg5 10.Qc1+ Qf4 11.Qg1+ Qg4 draws.

vi) But not Kh5? 9.Qe6 Qg2+ 10.Kh7 Qe4+ 11.Rf5+ wins.

No 21479 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.d6/i Ra7/ii 2.Re7+ Kf8 3.Rxa7 Bg6+ 4.fxg6/iii Qh8+ 5.Kxh8 a1Q+ 6.Qe5/iv Qxe5+/v 7.g7+ Ke8/vi 8.Re7+ Kd8 9.Rxe5 wins.

i) 1.Re7+? Kf6 2.Qh4+ Kxf5 3.Qf2+ Kg5 and 4.Qc5 is not a check.

ii) Rxd6 2.Re7+ Kf6 3.Qh4+ Kxf5 4.Qf2+ Kg5 5.Qc5+ Kg4 6.Re4+, or Bc6 2.Qc4+ Kf6

3.Qe6+ Kg5 4.f6+ Kh4 5.f7 win. Qxe5 2.Qxe5 Rxd6 3.Qg7 mate.

iii) 4.Kxg6? Qg1+, or 4.Kh6? Qc1+ 5.Kxg6 Qg1+ draw.

iv) 6.Rxa1? stalemate. 6.g7+? Qxg7+ 7.Rxg7 stalemate. 6.Qd4? Qxd4+ 7.g7+ Ke8 8.Re7+ Kd8 draws.

v) Qh1+ 7.Rh7 Qxh7+ 8.gxh7 wins, but not 8.Kxh7? stalemate.

vi) Qxg7+ 8.Rxg7 no stalemate.

No 21480 Vasily Lebedev (Russia). 1...Re2+ 2.Kd6/i g2 3.Shg3 Ra2/ii 4.Ra8/iii Rxa8/iv 5.Se2+ Kd1 6.Se3+ Kxe2 7.Sxg2 Kf3/v 8.Se1+/vi Ke4 9.Sc2/vii Rb8 10.Sa3 Kd4 11.Kc6 Rb3 12.Sb5+

i) Logical try: 2.Kd7? g2 3.Shg3 Ra2 4.Ra8 Rxa8 5.Se2+ Kd1 6.Se3+ Kxe2 7.Sxg2 Ra4 wins. 2.Kf6? g2 3.Shg3 Rf2+ 4.Ke5 (Kg5) g1Q wins.

ii) Rf2 4.Rh8 g1Q/viii 5.Rh1 Qg2 6.Se3+, or Re1 4.Sd2 g1Q 5.Se2+ Rxe2 6.Rb1+ draw.

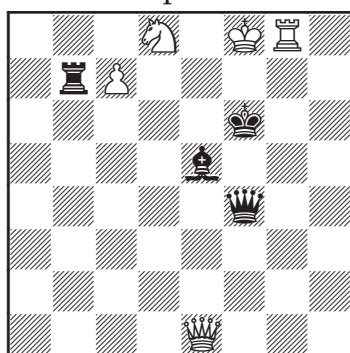
iii) 4.Re8? g1Q 5.Re1+ Kb2 6.Re2+ Ka3 7.Rxa2+ Kxa2 8.Ke5 Qf2 wins.

iv) g1Q 5.Rxa2 Qd4+ 6.Ke6 (Ke7) Qc4+ 7.Ke5 (Kf6) Qxa2 8.Se3 Kd2 9.Sef5 draws.

v) Compare with logical try. Now the wK is at d6 instead of d7: Ra4 8.Ke5 Rg4 9.Sf4+ draws.

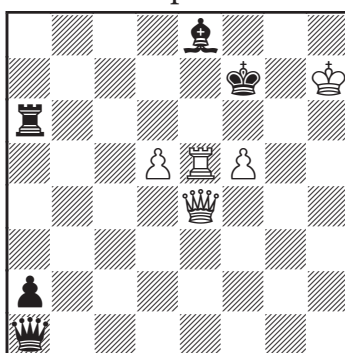
vi) 8.Sh4+? Kg4 9.Sg6 Ra6+ wins.

No 21478 D. Keith
1st prize



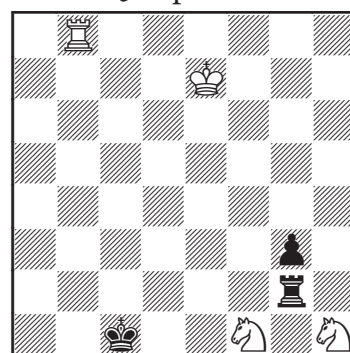
f8f6 4431.10 5/4 Win

No 21479 M. Minski
2nd prize



h7f7 4430.21 5/5 Win

No 21480 V. Lebedev
3rd prize



e7c1 0402.01 4/3 BTM, Draw

vii) 9.Sg2? Ra2 10.Sh4 Rh2 11.Sg6 Rh6 wins.
 viii) Kb2 5.Rh1 gxh1Q 6.Sxh1 Rxf1 7.Sg3 draws.

No 21481 Vladislav Tarasiuk & Sergey Tkachenko (Ukraine). 1.e6/i fxe6 2.g6 Rf6 3.Kh7 Rf1 4.g7 Rh1+ 5.Kg6 Rg1+ 6.Kf7 Kd7/ii 7.g8Q/iii Rf1+ 8.Kg7 Rg1+ 9.Kf8/iv Rxg8+ 10.Kxg8 Kxd6 11.b4 b5 12.Kf8/v, and:

— e5 13.Bf7/vi e4 14.Be8 e3 15.Bxb5 wins, or:

— Ke5 13.Ke7 Kd4 14.Kd6 e5 15.Kc6 e4 16.Kxb5 e3 17.Bc4 wins.

i) 1.g6? fxg6 2.e6 Rd5 draws.

ii) Rf1+ 7.Ke7 (Ke8) Rg1 8.d7+ wins.

iii) 7.g8R? Rf1+ 8.Kg6 Rg1+ 9.Kh7 Rh1+ perpetual check.

iv) 9.Kh8? Rh1+ 10.Qh7+ Rxh7+ 11.Kxh7 Kxd6 draws.

v) 12.Kf7? e5 13.Kf6 e4 14.Be6 e3 15.Bg4 Kd5 16.Be2 Kd4 17.Bxb5 Kc3, or 12.Kg7? Ke5 13.Kf7 Kd4 14.Kxe6 Kc3 draw.

vi) 13.Bb3? e4 14.Bd1 Kd5 15.Be2 Kd4 16.Bxb5 Kc3 draws.

No 21482 Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands). 1.Rh8+/i Kg5 2.f6/ii Rxe6/iii 3.c7 Rc6 4.c8Q Rxc8 5.Rxc8 Be3 6.f7 Bxd4+ 7.Ka6/iv Bg7 8.Rg8 Kh4/v 9.Rxg7 f2 10.f8R/vi wins.

i) 1.c7? f2 2.Rh8+ Kg5 3.c8Q f1Q 4.Rg8+ Kh4 5.Qd8+ Kh3, or 1.f6? Rxe6 2.c7 Rc6 3.f7 Ba3 4.Kb7 Rxc7+ draw

ii) 2.Rg8+? Kh4 3.f6/viii Rxe6 4.c7/ix Rc6 5.c8Q Rxc8 6.Rxc8 Be3 7.f7 Bxd4+ 8.Ka6 Bg7, draws as 9.Rg8 Bf8 10.Rxf8 f2 and Black wins.

iii) f2 3.f7 f1Q 4.Rg8+ Kh4 5.f8Q Qxf8 6.Rxf8 Rxe6 7.c7 Rc6 8.Kb7 Rxc7+ 9.Kxb7 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 7.Kb7? Bg7 8.Rg8 Kh6 9.f8Q Bxf8 10.Rxf8 Kg5 11.Kc6 h4 draws.

v) Kf6 9.f8Q+ Bxf8 10.Rxf8+ Kg5 11.Kb5 h4 12.Kc4 h3 13.Kd3 h2 14.Rh8 f2 15.Ke2 wins.

vi) 10.f8Q? f1Q+ 11.Qxf1 stalemate.

No 21483 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bc4+/i Kg1 2.Qe1+/ii Kg2 3.Bf1+ Kg1 4.Be2+ Kg2 5.Qf1+ Kh2 6.Qf2+ Kh3 7.Qxf3+ Kh2 8.Qf4+ Kg2 9.Bf3+ Kf2 10.Bg4+ Kg2 11.Qf3+ Kg1 12.Qe3+ Kg2 13.Bf3+ Kg3 14.Be4+ Kg4 15.Qf3+ Kh4 16.Qf2+ Kg4 17.Bf3+ Kf5 18.Bg2+ Ke6 19.Qe3+ Kd7 20.Qxa7+ Ke6 21.Qb6+/iii Kf5 22.Qf2+ Ke6 23.Qa2+ Kf5 24.Qc2+ Kg5 25.Qd2+ Kg4 26.Qe2+ Kg3 27.Qf3+ Kh2 28.Qh3+ Kg1 29.Bd5 Kf2 30.Qf3+ Ke1 31.Bc4 Kd2 32.Qd3+ Kc1 33.Qe3+ Kc2 34.Bd3+ Kc3 35.Bf5+/iv Kb4 36.Qd4+ Kb3 37.Qd3+ Kb4 38.Be6 Kc5 39.Qc4+ (Qd5+) Kb6 40.Qd4+ Kc6 41.Bd5+ Kd7 (Kc7; Bc6) 42.Qb6 wins.

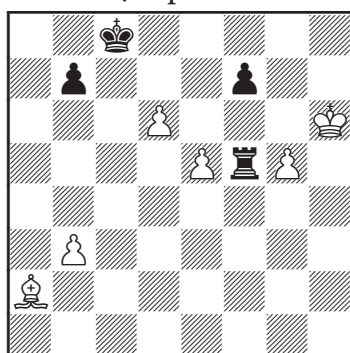
i) Logical try: 1.Qd1+? Kf2 2.Qxf3+ Ke1 3.Bc4 Kd2 4.Qd3+ Kc1 5.Qe3+ Kc2 6.Bd3+ Kc3 7.Bf5+ Kb4 8.Qd4+ Kb3 9.Qd3+ Kb4 10.Be6 Kc5 11.Qd5+ Kb6 12.Qd4+ Kc6 (Kb7, Kc7) 13.Bd5+ Kc7 (Kd7) draws.

ii) 2.Qe3+? Kg2 3.Bd5 Kf1 4.Qxf3+ Ke1 5.Bc4 Kd2 draws.

iii) 21.Qxa6+? Ke5 22.Qe2+ Kd4 23.Qd2+ Kc4 24.Bf1+ Kc5 draws.

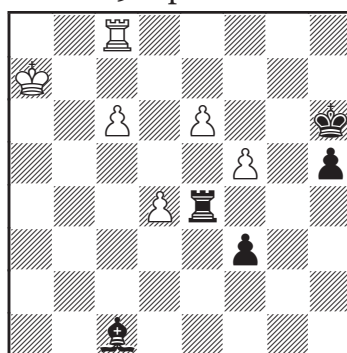
iv) 35.Bxa6+? Kc2 36.Qd3+ Kc1 37.Qc3+ Kd1 38.Qd3+ Kc1 39.Qe3+ Kc2 40.Bd3+ waste of time.

No 21481 V. Tarasiuk
& S. Tkachenko
4th prize



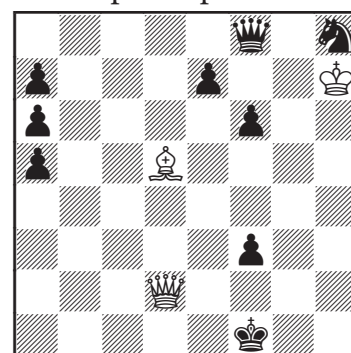
h6c8 0310.42 6/4 Win

No 21482 H. van der Heijden
5th prize



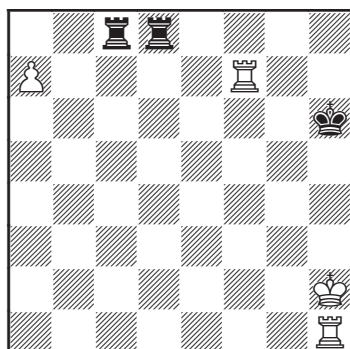
a7h6 0430.42 6/5 Win

No 21483 R. Becker
special prize



h7f1 4013.06 3/9 Win

No 21484 P. Arestov
honourable mention



h2h6 o8oo.10 4/3 Win

No 21484 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Ra1/i Kg6 2.Rf3 Rd2+/ii 3.Kg3 Ra8 4.Kf4 Rd7 5.Ke3/iii Re8+/iv 6.Kf2 Rd2+ 7.Kf1/v Ra8 8.Ra6+ Kg7 9.Ra4 Rd7/vi 10.Rg4+ Kh8 11.Rh3+ Rh7 12.Rxh7+ Kxh7 13.Ra4 Kg7 14.Ke2 Kf7 15.Kd3 Ke7 16.Kc4 Kd7 17.Kb5 Kc7 18.Ka6 wins.

i) 1.Kg3+? Kg6 2.Rf3 Rc6, and: 3.Kf2 Rc2+ 4.Ke3 Rc3+, or 3.Rg1 Rf6 4.Kf2+ Kf7 5.Rxf6+ Kxf6 6.Ra1 Ra8 7.Ke3 Ke5 draw.

ii) Rc2+ 3.Kg3 Ra8 4.Kf4 Re2 5.Ra6+ Kg7 6.Rg3+ Kf7 7.Kf5 Re7 8.Rf6+ wins.

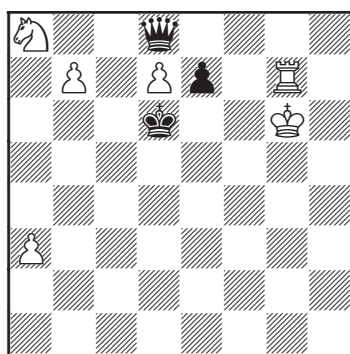
iii) 5.Ke5? Re8+ 6.Kf4 Rf7+ 7.Kg4 Ra8 draws.

iv) Raxa7 6.Rg1+ Kh5 7.Rh3 mate.

v) 7.Kg1? Ra8 8.Ra6+ Kg7 9.Ra4 Rd6 (Rd7) draws.

vi) Rd6 10.Ke2 Re8+ 11.Re3 Ra8 12.Re7+ Kf6 13.Rb7 wins.

No 21485 A. Zhukov & V. Kirillov
honourable mention



g6d6 3101.31 6/3 Win

No 21485 Aleksandr Zhukov & Valery Kirillov (Russia). 1.Kf7/i Kxd7/ii 2.Rg8 Qa5

3.b8S+/iii Kd6 4.Rg6+ e6 5.Rxe6+ Kc5 6.Re5+/iv Kd6 7.Sb6/v Qxb6 (Qa7+; S8d7) 8.Re6+ Kc7 (Kc5; Sd7+) 9.Sa6+ (Rxb6? Kxb6;) Kb7 10.Rxb6+ Kxb6 11.Sb4 wins.

i) 1.Kh7? e6 2.Rg8 Qxd7+ 3.Rg7 Qb5 (Qd8) draws.

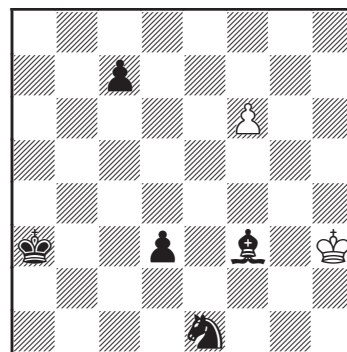
ii) e6 (e5) 2.Sb6 Qxb6 3.Ke8, or Qe7+ 3.Kg6 win.

iii) 3.b8Q? Qf5+ perpetual check.

iv) 6.Sa6+? Kd4 7.S6c7 Kd3 8.Sb6 Qxa3, or 6.Sd7+? Kd4 7.Rd6+ Kc3 8.Rc6+ Kb3 9.Sc5+ Kxa3, or 6.Sb6? Qxa3 draw.

v) 7.Rxa5? stalemate.

No 21486 V. Kalashnikov
honourable mention



h3a3 oo33.12 2/5 Draw

No 21486 Valery Kalashnikov (Russia). 1.f7 d2 2.f8Q+ Ka2 3.Qg8+/i Ka1 4.Qh8+ Ka2 5.Qg8+ Ka3 6.Qf8+ Kb3 7.Qb8+/ii Ka4 8.Qa7+ Kb5 9.Qb8+ Kc4 10.Qxc7+ Kd3 11.Qd6+/iii Ke2 12.Qa6+/iv Sd3 13.Qa2 Ke3 14.Qa7+/v Ke2 15.Qa2 Ke1 16.Qa5 Ke2 17.Qa2 Bd5 18.Qc2 Se1 19.Qb2 Sd3 20.Qc2 Ke3 21.Kg3 Bf3 22.Qxd2+ Kxd2 23.Kxf3 draws.

i) 3.Qf7+? Kb2 4.Qg7+ Kb1 5.Qh7+ Sc2 wins.

ii) 7.Qg8+? Kc3 8.Qg7+ Kd3 9.Qd7+ Ke2 10.Qb5+ Sd3 wins.

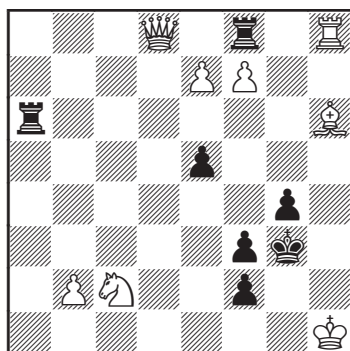
iii) 11.Qd7+? Ke2 12.Qb5+ Sd3 wins.

iv) 12.Qe5+? Kf1 13.Qb5+ Be2 14.Qf5+ Sf3 15.Kg3 d1Q 16.Qh3+ Ke1 17.Qh1+ Kd2 wins.

v) 14.Qe6+? Be4 15.Qh6+ Ke2 (Sf4+?; Kg3) 16.Qh5+ Bf3 wins.

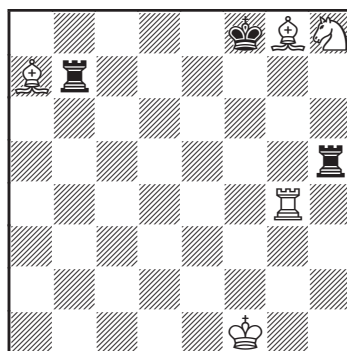
No 21487 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Bf4+ exf4 2.Rh3+ Kxh3 3.Qd1/i Rxf7 4.e8Q Rh6 5.Qg1

No 21487 M. Campioli
honourable mention



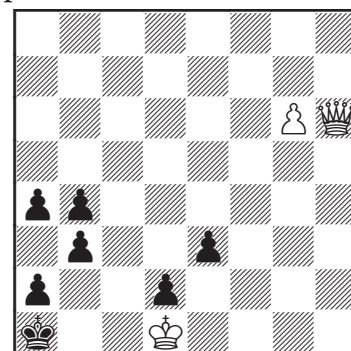
h1g3 1711.34 8/7 Draw

No 21488 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
& M. Minski
honourable mention



f1f8 0721.00 5/3 Win

No 21489 M. Campioli
special honourable mention



d1a1 1000.16 3/7 Win

g3/ii 6.Qc8+ Kh4 7.Qg8 fxg1Q+ 8.Kxg1 Rd7 9.Se3 fxe3 10.Qc4+ Kh3 11.Qf1+ Kg4 12.Qc4+ Kg5 13.Qb5+ Kf4 14.Qa4+/iii draws.

i) 3.Qd3? Rxf7 4.e8Q Rh6 5.Qxf7 Kg3+ and mate.

ii) fxg1Q+ 6.Kxg1 Rc7 7.Qe4 Rd6 8.Sd4 Rc1+ 9.Kf2 g3+ 10.Kxf3 Rf1+ 11.Ke2 Rf2+ 12.Ke1 draws.

iii) 14.Qxd7? f2+ 15.Kg2 Rh2+, or 14.Qb4+? Ke5 15.Qc3+ Ke4 16.Qc2+ Rd3 17.Qc4+ Rd4 18.Qc2+ Kf4 19.Qc7+ Kg4 20.Qg7+ Kf5 21.Qxh6 Rd1+ win.

No 21488 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bd4 Rh2 2.Kg1 Rc2 3.Bc4 Rxc4 4.Sg6+ Ke8 (Kg8; Se5+) 5.Re4+ Kd7 (Kd8; Bf6+) 6.Se5+ Kd6 7.Sxc4+ Kd5 8.Bh8/i, and:

— Rb1+ 9.Kg2 (Kf2, Kh2) Kxe4 10.Sd2+ and 11.Sxb1 wins, or:

— Kxe4 (Rh7; Rd4) 9.Sd6+ and 10.Sxb7 wins.

i) 8.Bf6? Rb1+ 9.Kg2 Kxe4 10.Sd2+ Kf5 11.Sxb1 Kxf6, or 8.Sd2? Rb4 draw.

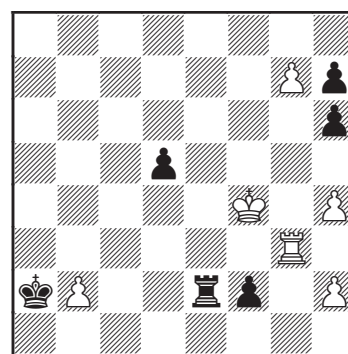
No 21489 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.g7/i Kb1 2.Qg6+/ii Kb2 3.Qf6+ Kb1 4.Qf5+ Kb2 5.Qe5+ Kb1 6.Qe4+ Kb2 7.Qd4+ Kb1 8.g8Q a1Q 9.Qgc4/iii Qxd4 10.Qxd4 a3 11.Qxb4 Ka2 12.Qc4 Kb2 13.Qd4+ Ka2 14.Qd5 (Qxe3? b2;) Kb2 15.Qe5+ Ka2 16.Qe6 Kb2 17.Qxe3 Ka2 18.Qg1 b2 19.Kc2 wins.

i) 1.Qxe3? b2 2.Qd4 Kb1 3.g7 a1Q 4.g8Q Qa3 5.Qgc4 Qf3+ 6.Kxd2 Qg2+ draws.

ii) 2.Qxe3? a1Q 3.g8Q Qc3 4.Qxd2 Qxd2+ 5.Kxd2 b2 6.Qc4 Ka1 7.Qd4 Ka2 draws.

iii) 9.Qxa1+? Kxa1, or 9.Qxe3? Qc3 draw.

No 21490 I. Aliev
& A. Almammadov
commendation



f4a2 0400.44 6/6 Win

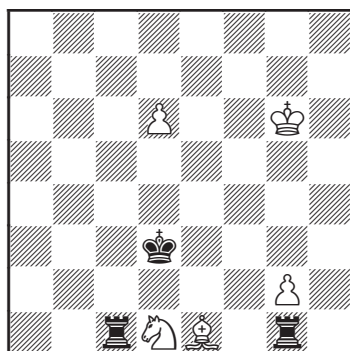
No 21490 Ilham Aliev & Araz Almammadov (Azerbaijan). 1.Ra3+/i, and:

— Kxb2 2.Rf3 f1Q 3.Rxf1 Rg2 4.Rf2+ Rxf2+ 5.Kg3 Rf1 6.Kg2 Rf6 7.h5 Rf5 8.h4 wins, or:

— Kb1 2.Rf3 Re6 (f1Q; Rxf1+) 3.g8S (g8Q? Rf6+) Re4+ 4.Kg3 Re3 5.Kxf2 Rxf3+ 6.Kxf3 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rf3? f1Q 2.Rxf1 Rg2 and 3.Rf2+ is no check.

No 21491 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
commendation



g6d3 0611.20 5/3 Draw

No 21491 Michal Hlinka & Ľubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.d7 Rxg2+/i 2.Kf5/ii Rc5+ 3.Ke6 Rg6+ 4.Kf7 (Ke7? Re5+;) Rd6 5.Ke7 Rcd5 6.Bb4 Rxd7+ 7.Ke6 Rd8/iii 8.Be7 R8d7 9.Bb4 Rd4 10.Bc5 R4d5 11.Bb4 Rb5 12.Sf2+/v, and:

— Ke2 13.Kxd7 Rxb4 14.Sh3 draws, or:

— Ke3 13.Sg4+ Kf4 14.Kxd7 draws.

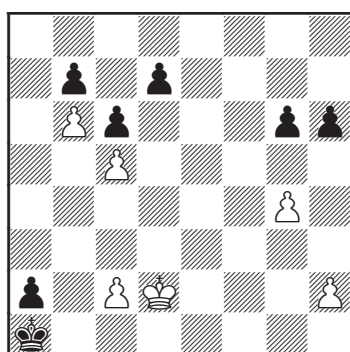
i) Rc6+ 2.Kf7 Rc7 3.Sf2+ Kc4 4.Ke7 Rxe1+ 5.Kd6 Rc5 6.d8Q Rd5+ 7.Kc7 Rxd8 8.Kxd8 draws.

ii) 2.Kf6? Rc6+ 3.Kf7 Rc7 4.Ke6 Rg6+ 5.Kf5 Rd6 6.Bg3 Rc5+ wins.

iii) Rb7 8.Kxd5 Rxb4 9.Sf2+ Ke3 10.Sd1+ Ke2 11.Kc5 Rb3 12.Kc4, or Kc4 8.Se3+, or Ke2 8.Sc3+.

v) 12.Kxd7? Rxb4 13.Sf2+ Ke3 wins.

No 21492 M. Zinar
commendation

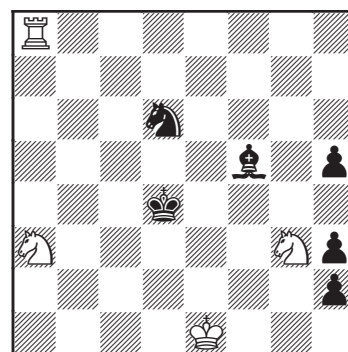


d2a1 0000.56 6/7 Win

No 21492 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.Kc1 h5 2.g5/i h4 3.h3 d5 4.cxd6ep c5 5.d7 c4 6.d8S c3 7.Sc6 bxc6 8.b7 c5 9.Kd1 c4 10.Ke2 Kb2 11.b8Q+ Kc1 12.Qa7 Kb2 13.Qb6+ Kc1 14.Qa5 Kb2 15.Qb4+ Kxc2 16.Qa4+ Kb2 17.Kd1 a1Q+ 18.Qxa1+ Kxa1 19.Kc2 with a won pawn ending.

i) Thematic try: 2.gxh5? gxh5 3.h4 d5 4.cx-d6ep c5 5.d7 c4 6.d8S c3 7.Sc6 bxc6 8.b7 c5 9.Kd1 c4 10.Ke2 Kb1 11.b8Q+ Kxc2 12.Qa7 Kb2 13.Qb6+ Kc2 14.Qa5 Kb2 15.Qb4+ Kc2 16.Qa4+ Kb2 17.Kd1 a1Q+ 18.Qxa1+ Kxa1 19.Kc2 with a draw pawn ending.

No 21493 P. Krug & M. Garcia
commendation



e1d4 0135.03 4/6 Win

No 21493 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Sb5+ Sxb5 2.Sxf5+ Ke4 3.Sg3+ Kf3 4.Sh1 Kg2 5.Rg8+/i Kxh1 6.Kf1/ii Sc3 7.Ra8/iii h4 8.Ra3/iv Se2 9.Kf2/v Sg1/vi 10.Ra4 Se2 11.Re4 Sg1 12.Rxh4 Se2 13.Re4 Sg1 14.Kg3 wins.

i) 5.Ra2+? Kg1 6.Sf2 h1Q 7.Sxh1 Kxh1 draws.

ii) 6.Kf2? Sd6 7.Kf3 Se4 8.Kxe4 h4 draws.

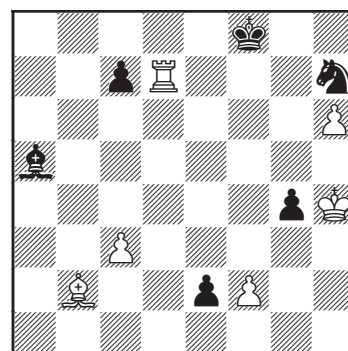
iii) 7.Rc8? h4 8.Re8 Se4 9.Rxe4 stalemate.

iv) 8.Ra1? Sb1 9.Ra2 Sd2+ 10.Kf2 Se4+ 11.Kf3 Sg5+ 12.Kf2 Se4+ draws.

v) 9.Ra1? Sc1 10.Rb1 Sd3 draws.

vi) Sc1 10.Rxh3 Sd3+ 11.Rxd3 h3 12.Rd1 mate.

No 21494 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
commendation

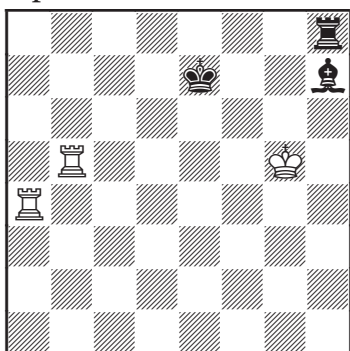


h4f8 0143.33 6/6 Win

No 21494 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Ba3+ c5 2.Bxc5+ Kg8 3.Rg7+ (Re7? Bd8;) Kh8 4.Bd4 Bd8+ 5.Rg5+/i Sf6 6.Re5 Sd7+ 7.Re7+ Kg8 8.h7+ Kf8 9.h8Q+ Kxe7 10.Bc5+ (Bb6? Bxb6;) Sxc5 11.Qe5+ Kd7+ 12.Kxg4 (Kh5?Sd3;) wins.

i) 5.Kg3? Sf6 6.Rd7 e1Q 7.Rxd8+ Kh7, or 5.Kxg4? Sf6+ 6.Bxf6 Bxf6 draw.

No 21495 M. Doré
special commendation



g5e7 0530.00 3/3 Win

No 21495 Marcel Doré (France). 1.Ra6/i Kd7 (Rg8+; Kh6) 2.Rb7+ Kc8 3.Re7 Kb8 4.Ra4 Rg8+/ii 5.Kf6 Rg6+ 6.Ke5 Bg8 7.Rh4 Kc8 8.Rh2/iii Rg1 9.Rh8 Kd8 10.Ra7/iv Ke8 11.Rh4/v, and:
— Re1+ 12.Kf6 Rf1+ 13.Kg7 Rg1+ 14.Kh6 Kf8 15.Rf4+ Ke8 16.Rb4 wins, or:

— Rg5+ 12.Kf6/vi Rg2 13.Rb4 wins.

i) 1.Rb6? Rg8+ 2.Kh6 Bf5 3.Ra7+ Bd7 4.Rbb7 Rd8 5.Kg7 Kd6 draws.

ii) Bd3 5.Rd4 Bf1 6.Rb4+ Kc8 7.Re1 Bh3 8.Rc1+ Kd7 9.Rd4+ Ke7 10.Re1+ Be6 11.Rde4, or Bc2 5.Rb4+ Ka8 6.Rc7 Bd3 7.Rc3 Ba6 8.Ra3 Ka7 9.Rba4 wins.

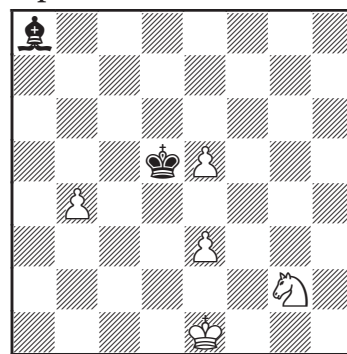
iii) 8.Rh8? Kd8 9.Ra7 Ke8, or 8.Rh1? Rg2 9.Rh8 Kd8 10.Ra7 Ke8 11.Rh4 Kd8 12.Rh1 Ra2 draw.

iv) 10.Rb7? Ke8 11.Kf6 Rf1+ 12.Kg7 Rg1+ 13.Kf6 Rf1+ positional draw.

v) 11.Rh2? Re1+ 12.Kf6 Rf1+ 13.Kg7 Rg1+ 14.Kh6 Bc4 (Bb3) draws.

vi) 12.Kf4? Rg2 13.Kf3 Ra2 draws.

No 21496 A. Pallier
special commendation



e1d5 0031.30 5/2 Win

No 21496 Allain Pallier (France). 1.Kd2/i Kxe5 2.Se1 Bc6 3.Sc2/ii Bg2/iii 4.Kc3/iv Bf1 5.Sa3/v Ke4 6.Sc4 Bg2 7.Kc2/vi Bh3 8.Kd2 (Kc3? Bd7;) Bf1 (Be6; Sa3) 9.Sb2/vii Kd5 10.Kc3 Ke4 11.Sd1 Ba6 12.Kc2/viii Bf1/ix 13.Kb3 Kd3 14.b5 Be2 15.Sc3 Bg4 (Bf3; e4) 16.b6 Bc8 17.Sd1 Bb7 18.Kb4 wins.

i) 1.Ke2? Kxe5 2.Se1 Be4 3.Sd3+ Kd5 draws.

ii) 3.Kc3? Ke4 4.Sc2 Bd7 draws.

iii) Bd7 4.Sa3 Ke4 5.b5 wins.

iv) 4.Sa3? Ke4 5.Sc4 Bh3 6.Ke2 Bg4+ 7.Kd2 Bh3 8.Kc2 Be6 9.Kc3 Bd7 10.Kd2 Bh3 11.b5 Kd5 12.b6 Kc6 draws.

v) 5.Sd4? Ke4 6.Kd2 Kd5 7.Kc3 Ke4 positional draw.

vi) 7.b5? (Kd2? Bh3;) Kd5 8.Kb4 Ke4 9.b6 Kd3 10.Kb5 Ba8 11.Kc5 Ke4 12.Kd6 Kd3 13.Kc5 Ke4 draws.

vii) 9.Sa3? Bg2 10.b5 Kd5 draws.

viii) 12.Kb3? Kd3 13.Ka4 Bb7 14.b5 Kd2 draws.

ix) Bb7 13.b5 Kd5 14.Kd3 Kc5 15.Sc3 wins.

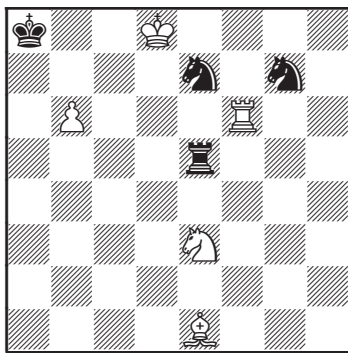
5th World Cup 2017

The 5th FIDE World Cup was judged by Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) for whom it was his first tourney as a judge. In total 42 composers participated (only one study each allowed) and Siegfried Hornecker was consulted for anticipation vetting.

The provisional award (dated 29v2017) and final award appeared on the WFCC website. It was unfortunate that two studies proved to be unsound, especially since first place was involved. Its composer was allowed to correct, and succeeded, his study.

Slumstrup Nielsen writes: "Precision and economy does not make a study and showing the complexity of chess is not the job of study composers. In some of the studies I saw no idea at all: this was typically the case in studies without accompanying prose. Amatzia Avni, in a lecture at the Belgrade WCCC last year, correctly pointed to the need for textual explanations".

No 21497 Y. Bazlov
1st prize (gold medal)



d8a8 0117.10 5/4 Win

No 21497 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Bf2 Se8/i 2.Rf3 Sc6+ 3.Kc8 Rc5 4.b7+ Ka7 5.b8Q+ Sxb8+ 6.Kd8 Rc8+/ii 7.Kxc8 Sd6+ 8.Kc7/iii Sb5+ 9.Kd8 Sc6+ 10.Ke8 Sc7+ 11.Kf8/iv Se6+ 12.Kg8 Se7+ 13.Kh8/v Sg6+ 14.Kh7 Sg5+ 15.Kxg6 Sxf3 16.Sf1+ Kb7 17.Kf5 Kc6 18.Kf4 wins.

i) Re4 2.Kd7 Kb7 3.Rf7 Sh5 4.Kd6 Kxb6 5.Sd5++ Ka6 6.Rxe7 Rxe7 7.Kxe7 wins.

ii) Sd6 7.Sc4 Sb7+ 8.Ke7 Ka6 9.Bxc5 wins.

iii) 8.Kd8? Sc6+ 9.Kc7 Sb5+ 10.Kc8 Sd6+.

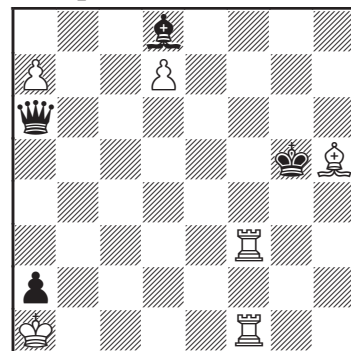
iv) 11.Kd7? (Kf7?) Se5+.

v) 13.Kf7? (Kh7?) Sg5+.

"6...Rc8!! What a move. A misprint? Not at all. Before this move, all the main actors are brought into play. The composer has shown great technical skill in luring White's rook into its cave/grave on f3. The sidelines in this part of the study (especially 1...Re4, 2.Rh6 and 6...Sd6+) are unfortunately extremely difficult and

require help from tablebases. But then comes..... 6...Rc8!!+ and all is forgiven. Did I mention this move already? Now White has only a narrow king route avoiding a perpetual or loss of his rook. In the end the trip seems to no avail as the rook is forked leaving the drawing material of KBS vs KS. However, Black's knight is dramatically trapped midboard and it is conquered just one move before the bK comes to the rescue. A memorable study in classical style".

No 21498 P. Arestov
2nd prize (silver medal)



a1g5 3240.21 6/4 Win

No 21498 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rf5+ Kh6 2.Be8 Qxa7 3.Rf6+ Bxf6+/i 4.Rxf6+, and:

— Kg5 5.Rg6+/ii Kf5 6.d8R/iii Qc5 (Qb6; Rxb6) 7.Rgd6 Qc1+ 8.Kxa2 Qc2+ 9.Ka3 Qc3+ 10.Ka4 Qc4+ 11.Ka5 wins. or:

— Kg7 5.Rg6+/iv, and now:

– Kh7 6.d8R/v Qc7 7.Rgd6 Qc3+ 8.Kxa2 Qc2+ 9.Ka3 Qc3+ 10.Ka4 Qc4+ 11.Ka5 wins, or here:

– Kf8 6.d8R/vi Qa5/vii 7.Rgd6 Qc3+ 8.Kxa2 Qc2+ 9.Ka3 Qc3+ 10.Ka4 Qc4+ 11.Ka5 Ke7 (Qc5+; Bb5+) 12.R6d7+ wins.

i) Kg7 (Kg5) 4.Rg6+ wins.

ii) 5.d8Q? Qd4+ 6.Qxd4 1st stalemate.

iii) 6.d8Q? Qd4+ 7.Qxd4 2nd stalemate.

iv) 5.Rf7+? Kg8 6.d8Q (d8R Qb6;) Qd4+ 7.Qxd4 3rd stalemate. 5.d8Q? Qg1+ 6.Kxa2 Qg2+ 7.Kb3 Qg3+ 8.Kc4 Qg4+ 9.Kc5 Qg5+ draws.

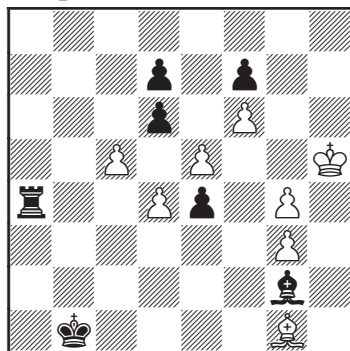
v) 6.d8Q? Qd4+ 7.Qxd4 4th stalemate.

vi) 6.d8Q? Qg1+ 7.Rxg1 5th stalemate.

vii) Qc7 7.Rgd6 Ke7 8.R6d7+ wins.

“Generally speaking, I am not a fan of studies with several main lines (not to speak of sub-main lines), as they conflict with the principle of clarity which is dear to me but here the thematic coherence between the three lines reaches a very high level. We witness three rook promotions on square d8 to avoid three different stalemates. In addition there are two other stalemates after queen promotions. In the five stalemates Black’s king is caught on five different squares, f5, f8, g5, g8 and h7. The economy is excellent, especially considering the task nature of the study. It may not be obvious to everyone that RRB vs Q is a general win, but this weakness is an inherent part of the scheme and the final moves of the study offer good clarity. This study shows, in my view, the highest level of constructional skill in the entire tourney”.

No 21499 J. Timman
3rd prize (bronze medal)



h5b1 o340.64 8/7 Draw

No 21499 Jan Timman (the Netherlands).
1.c6/i dxc6/ii 2.e6 e3/iii 3.Bxe3/iv Bd5 4.e7

Ra8 5.Kh6 Be4 6.Kg7 (d5? Rg8;) Bg6 7.d5 cxd5 8.Bb6/v Re8 9.Be3 d4/vi 10.Bxd4 Kc2 11.Be3 d5 12.Bh6 Kd3 13.g5 Ke4 14.g4 d4 stalemate.

i) 1.g5? dxc5 2.dxc5 e3 3.Bxe3 Bd5 wins.

ii) Ra8 2.cxd7 e3 3.e6 e2 4.Bf2 fxe6 5.g5, or e3 2.cxd7 e2 3.Bf2 Ra8 4.e6 draw.

iii) Ra8 3.exf7 e3 4.Bxe3 Rf8 5.g5 Rxf7 6.Kg6 Bd5 7.Kf5 (Bf4) draws.

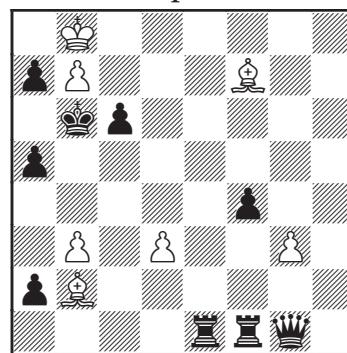
iv) 3.exf7? e2 4.f8Q e1Q 5.f7 Ra5+ wins.

v) 8.Bh6? d4 9.g5 d3 10.g4 Be4 wins.

vi) Kc2 10.Bh6 d4 11.g5 d3 12.g4 Be4 13.Kxf7 d2 14.Kxe8 d1Q 15.f7 (Kf8) draws.

“We see a study with a well-hidden theme. The initial position is rather unnatural (the pawn confrontation c5-e5 vs. d6 being my main complaint) but this is adequately compensated by the tour de force that follows. In fact this study more than anything highlights the art of creating an introduction. Obviously the composer must have worked his way back from the final unavoidable stalemate but the introduction has so many fine intricacies (the line openings 3...e3 and 7. d5 just to mention a couple) that one forgets that it is an introduction. In other words, the two parts of the study – introduction and climax – meld together into a harmonic whole. The final stalemate is known from a (cooked) study by Emil Richter (HHdbV#66127), preventing this study from fighting for first prize”.

No 21500 V. Tarasiuk
4th prize



b8b6 3620.45 7/9 Win

No 21500 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Kc8/i Re8+/ii 2.Bxe8 Ka6/iii 3.Bf7/iv Rc1/v 4.Bxc1 Qc5 5.Bc4+ Qxc4 6.dxc4/vi a1Q 7.Bb2/

vii Qxb2/viii 8.b8S+ Kb6 9.Sd7+ Ka6 10.Sc5+/ix Kb6 11.Sa4+ Ka6 12.Sxb2 fxc3 13.Sa4/x g2 14.Sc5+ Kb6 15.Sd7+ Ka6 16.Kc7 g1Q 17.Sb8+

i) 1.Ka8? Kc7 2.b8Q+ Kd7 3.Qb7+ Kd6 4.Qb8+ Kd7 positional draw.

ii) Ka6 2.Bc4+, or Kc5 2.b8Q win.

iii) Kc5 3.b8Q Qe3 4.Qxa7+, or Kb5 3.d4 win.

iv) 3.b8Q? Qb6 and Black wins.

v) Qc5 4.Bc4+ Qxc4 5.dxc4 Re1 6.b8S+ Kb6 7.Sd7+ Ka6 8.Bf6 wins.

vi) Thematic try: 6.bxc4? a1Q 7.b8S+ Kb6 draw, e.g. 8.Bb2 Qxb2 9.Sd7+ Ka6 10.Sc5+ Kb6 11.Sa4+ Ka6 12.Sxb2 fxc3 13.Sa4 g2 14.Sc5+ Kb6 15.Sd7+ Ka6 16.Kc7 a4 draws.

vii) Thematic try: 7.b8S+? Kb6 8.Bb2 Qe1/xi 9.Sd7+ Ka6 10.Sc5+ Kb6 11.Sa4+ Ka6, or 7.b8Q? Qh8+ 8.Kc7 Qe5+ draw.

viii) Qe1 8.b8Q Qe8+ 9.Kc7 Qe7+ 10.Kxc6 wins.

ix) 10.Kc7? Qg7 and Black wins.

x) Try: 13.Sd3? a4/xii 14.b4 Kb6 and Black wins.

xi) But not: Qxb2? 9.Sd7+ Ka6 10.Sc5+ Kb6 11.Sa4+ Ka6 12.Sxb2, or Qh1? 9.Sd7+ Ka6 10.Sc5+ Kb6 11.Bd4 Qh3+ 12.g4 Qxg4+ 13.Sd7++ Ka6 14.Kc7.

xii) But not g2? 14.Sc5+ Kb6 15.Sd7+ see main line.

“We might suspect from the configuration of the pieces in the top left corner of the diagram that a knight promotion is coming. That this knight has to detour via b2 before returning to b8 comes as a complete surprise and makes this study memorable. There are a number of additional subtleties, for instance the arrival of the bQ on g1 to cover c5, avoiding the dual mating move 17.c5 mate. Also, the way the composer has managed to avoid the move transposition 7.b8S+? deserves praise. The mating picture is known from a study by Aliev (HHdbV#o6777)”.

No 21501 Yochanan Afek (the Netherlands). 1.Sd8+ Kh8/i 2.Re7 Bg6/ii 3.Bf7/iii Bxf7/iv 4.Sxf7+ Kg8 5.g6 Qxg6 6.Se5 Qf6/v 7.Re8+ Kh7 8.g5 Qxg5 9.Rh8+ Kxh8 10.Sf7+ Kh7 11.Sxg5+ Kh6 12.Sf7+/vi Kg6 13.Se5+/vii Kf6 14.Sd3 g5

15.Kb6 f4 16.Kc5 f3 17.Kd4 g4 18.Sc5/viii Kf5 19.a4 g3/ix 20.Ke3 g2 21.Kf2 Ke5 22.a5 Kd6 23.a6 Kc7 24.a7 wins.

i) Kf8 2.Se6+ Kg8 3.Rxg7+ Qxg7+ 4.Sxg7+ Kxg7 5.gxf5 wins.

ii) Qh2 3.Rxe8+ Kh7 4.gxf5 Qf2+ 5.Ka6 Qxf5 6.Se6 Qd3+ 7.Kb6 Qd6+ 8.Kb7 Qd7+ 9.Sc7 wins on material.

iii) 3.gxf5? Qh2 4.fxc6 Qxa2+ 5.Bxa2 stalemate.

iv) Qh3 4.Re8+ Kh7 5.Bg8+ Kh8 6.Sf7+ Bxf7 7.Bxf7+ Kh7 8.g6+ Kh6 9.Rh8+ wins.

v) Qd6 7.Re8+ Kh7 8.Rh8+ Kxh8 9.Sf7+ wins.

vi) 12.Sf3? g5 13.Kb6 g4 14.Se5 Kg5 draws.

vii) 13.Sd6? Kf6 14.a4 g5 15.a5 g4 16.a6 g3 draws.

viii) 18.Ke4? Ke6 19.a4 f2 20.Sxf2 g3 21.Sd3 g2 22.Sf4+ Kd6 23.Sxg2 Kc5 24.Kd3 Kb4, or 18.Ke3? Ke6 19.Sf2 g3 20.Se4 g2 21.Sg5+ Kd5 22.Sxf3 Kc4 draw.

ix) f2 20.Se4 f1S 21.a5 g3 22.Sxg3+ wins.

“Not all epic studies are bad and this one has two phases of equal value. A tactical festival of forks and sacs is followed by an interesting knight endgame”.

No 21502 Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Rg1+/i Kb2 2.g8Q Rxd7+ (h2; Rh1) 3.Kc8 h2/ii 4.Rh1/iii c1Q 5.Rxc1 Kxc1 6.Qh8/iv Kb1 7.Qxh2/v c2 8.Qxb8/vi Rf7 9.Qc7 Rf8+ 10.Kd7 c1Q 11.Qxc1+/vii Kxc1 12.Kc7/viii Rf7+ 13.Kc6 Rf8 14.Kb5 Kb2 15.Ka6 Kb3 16.Ka7 Kb4 (Rf7; Ka8) 17.b8Q wins.

i) 1.Rxc2? Rxg7, but not Rxd7+? 2.Kc8 Rxg7 3.Kxb8 Rh7 4.Ka8 Kb1 5.Rxc3 h2 6.b8Q h1Q+ 7.b7.

ii) Rd1 4.Rg5 c1Q 5.Rb5+ Kc2 6.Qb3+ Kd2 7.Qa2+ wins.

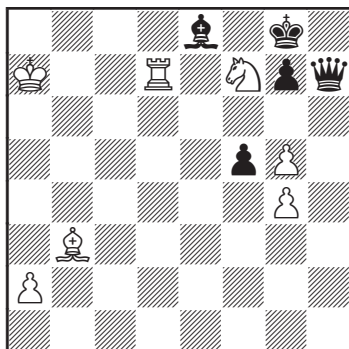
iii) 4.Rf1? Rd1 5.Rf5 h1Q 6.Rb5+ Kc1 7.Qg5+ Rd2 8.Kxb8 Qg2 draws.

iv) 6.Qg5+? Rd2 but not Kb2? (Kb1?; Qb5+) 7.Qh5 c2 8.Qxh2.

v) 7.Kxb8? c2 8.Qxh2 c1Q draws.

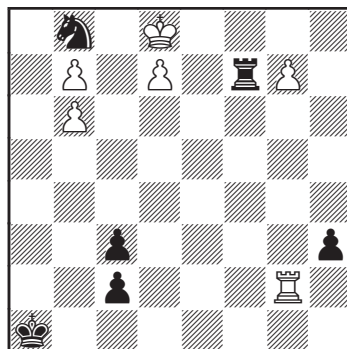
vi) Tries: 8.Qxc2+? Kxc2 9.Kxb8 Rd3, or 8.Qh1+? c1Q+ 9.Qxc1+ Kxc1 10.Kxb8 Rd2 draw.

No 21501 Y. Afek
1st honourable mention



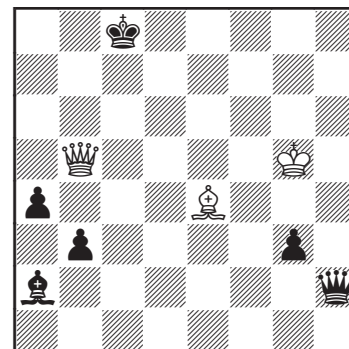
a7g8 3141.32 7/5 Win

No 21502 V. Samilo
2nd honourable mention



d8a1 0403.43 6/6 Win

No 21503 R. Becker
3rd honourable mention



g5c8 4040.03 3/6 Win

vii) 11.b8Q? Qd1+ 12.Ke7 Rxb8 13.Qxb8 Qe2+ draws.

viii) 12.Kc6? Kb2 13.Kb5 Kb3 14.Ka6 Kb4 15.Ka7 Kb5 draws.

“This is a tribute to the founders of the end-game study. The winning manoeuvre starting with 13.Kc6 was shown by Kling and Horwitz in 1851! (HHdbV#83878). On his eighth move White can choose among three moves. In the first two cases the bR ends up on d3 and d2 respectively securing him a draw. In the third it ends up on d4 and this proves to be a decisive weakness in the black position”.

No 21503 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bb7+/i Kb8/ii 2.Bd5+ (Qb6? Qf2;) Kc7 3.Qc6+ (Qc5+) Kd8 4.Qb6+ Kd7 5.Bc6+ Kd6 6.Bb7+ Kd7 7.Qc6+ Ke7 8.Qc5+ Kd7 9.Bc6+ Kc7 10.Bb5+/iii Kb7 11.Qc6+ Kb8 12.Qd6+ Kb7 13.Bc6+ Kb6 14.Bd7+ Ka7 15.Qc7+ (Qc5+) Ka6 16.Qc6+ Ka7 17.Qxa4+ Kb8 18.Qb5+ Ka7/iv 19.Qc5+ Kb7 20.Bc6+ Kc7 21.Be4+ Kd8 22.Qd6+ Kc8 23.Qb6 Qd2+ 24.Kg6 Kd7 25.Bc6+ (Bf5+? Ke8;) Ke6 26.Bd5++ Ke5 27.Qf6+ Kxd5 28.Qd8+ wins.

i) 1.Qb6? Qd2+ 2.Kg6 Kd7 3.Bc6+ Ke6 4.Bd5++ Kxd5 5.Qd8+ Kc4 6.Qxd2 a3 draws.

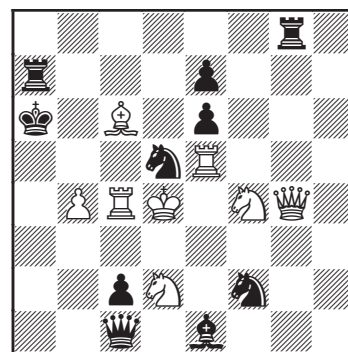
ii) Kc7 2.Qc6+ Kb8 3.Qc8+ (Qb6? Qf2;) Ka7 4.Qc7 Qd2+ 5.Kh5 Qh2+ 6.Kg4 g2 7.Qxh2, or Kd8 2.Qb6+ Ke7 3.Qc5+ Kd7 4.Bc6+ win.

iii) 10.Bxa4+? Kb8 11.Qd6+ Ka7 12.Bc6 Qe2 draws.

iv) Kc7 19.Qc6+ Kd8 20.Qd6 g2 21.Qxh2 b2 22.Bf5 wins.

“White’s main plan 1.Qb6? Qd2+ 2.Kg6 fails to 2...Kd7 3.Bc6+ Ke6 4.Bd5++ Kxd5 5.Qd8+ Kc4 6.Qxd2 a3 when Black’s pawns secure him a draw. Therefore White must first get rid of the pawn on a4. This requires a foreplan of 22 accurate moves”.

No 21504 D. Hlebec
1st commendation



d4a6 4847.13 8/10 Draw

No 21504 Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.Kc5/i Sxb4/ii 2.Qxe6/iii Rc7 3.Rxb4 Se4+ 4.Rxe4 Bf2+ 5.Red4 Rg5+ 6.Sd5 Qa3/iv 7.Sc4 c1Q (Rxd5+; Kxd5) 8.Qc8+ Rxc8 ideal stalemate.

i) 1.Qe2? Qxd2+ 2.Qxd2 Bxd2 3.Bxd5 exd5 wins.

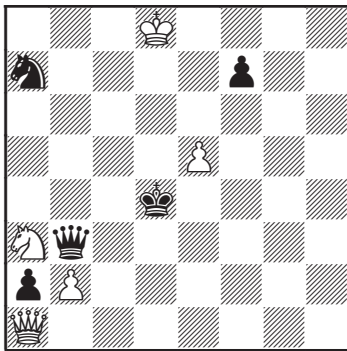
ii) Sxg4 2.b5+ Ka5 3.Sb3+, or Qxd2 2.Bb5+ Kb7 3.Bc6+ Ka6 4.Bb5+ draw.

iii) 2.Rxb4? Se4+ 3.Rxe4 Bf2+ 4.Kc4 Rxg4 5.Rxe6 Qf1+ 6.Sxf1 c1Q+ wins.

iv) Qa1 7.Qc8+ Rxc8 8.Rb6+ Ka7 9.Rb7+ Ka8 10.Rc7+ draws.

“This study may have been inspired by the composer’s own Special Prize from the FIDE Olympic Tournament in Composing 2016 showing a stalemate with five pinned pieces. The five pieces are here pinned in a different pattern offering a clear improvement. The composer has managed to remove a pawn and a piece and has avoided the “Black to move” stipulation. The play also flows more naturally beginning with 4 quiet half moves (in this kind of position I consider the capture of a pawn to be a quiet move). I have nothing but praise for the composer but, still, this is a task-style problem and, considering the task had already been accomplished, a commendation is the maximum honour I am able to give”.

No 21505 Á. Rusz
2nd commendation



d8d4 4004.22 5/5 Draw

No 21505 Árpád Rusz (Hungary). 1.Qg1+ Ke4 2.Qg4+ Kd5 (Kxe5; Sc4+) 3.Qd7+ Kxe5 (Ke4; Qg4+) 4.Qxa7 a1Q (Qd1+; Ke8) 5.Sc4+ Qxc4 6.Qxa1 f5 7.b4+/i Qd4+ 8.Qxd4+ Kxd4 9.Kc7/ii Kc4/iii 10.Kc6 Kxb4 (f4; b5) 11.Kd5 draws.

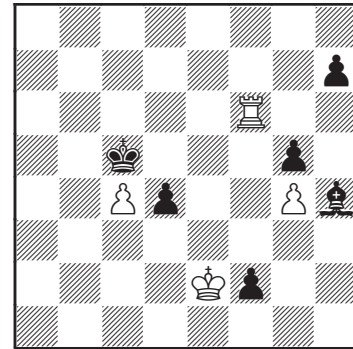
i) Thematic try: 7.b3+? Qd4+ 8.Qxd4+ Kxd4 wins.

ii) 9.b5? Kc5 10.Kc7 Kxb5 11.Kd6 f4, or 9.Kd7? f4 10.b5 Kc5 win.

iii) f4 10.b5 f3 11.b6 f2 12.b7 f1Q 13.b8Q draws.

“We see a clear and excellent idea, a Rundlauf of the wQ but, unfortunately, this happens at the cost of a capture on a7. Also, at the peak of the study (7.b4!!) I need help from the tablebases to understand why other moves like 7.Qe1+ or 7.Ke7 are insufficient to draw”.

No 21506 A. Shpakovsky
3rd commendation



e2c5 0130.24 4/6 Win

No 21506 Aleksandr Shpakovsky (Russia). 1.Kd3 Bg3 2.Rf3 h6 (Bh4; Rf5+) 3.Rf5+ Kd6/i 4.Ke2 (Kxd4 Bf4;) Bh4 5.Kf1/ii Kc6 6.Rb5 Kc7/iii 7.Rc5+ Kb6 8.Rd5 Kc6 9.Ke2 Kb6/iv 10.Rf5 Bg3/v 11.Rf3 Bh4 12.Rf6+ Kc5 13.Kd3 Bg3 14.Rf3 Bh4 15.Rf5+ K- 16.Kxd4 wins.

i) Kc6 4.Rf6+ Kc5 5.Rf3 Bh4 6.Rf5+ K- 7.Kxd4 wins.

ii) 5.Kd3? h5, or 5.Rd5+? Kc6 6.Rxd4 Kc5 7.Re4 Kb4 draw.

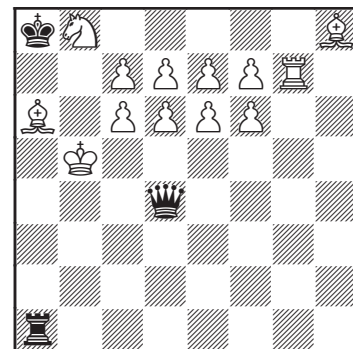
iii) Kd6 7.Rd5+ Kc6 8.Ke2 see main line.

iv) Bg3 10.Rxd4 Kc5 11.Rd3 Bh4 12.Rc3 wins.

v) Kc6 11.Rf6+ Kc5 12.Kd3 see main line.

“The idea of this study is clear: a tempo move is necessary for White to make progress but the actual variations are less clear. It takes a lot of work to convince oneself that the intended solution is indeed the only way to win and this is in part due to some loss of time duals and transpositions to the mainline”.

No 21507 M. Zinar
4th commendation



b5a8 3421.80 13/3 Win

No 21507 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.Bb7+ Ka7 2.c8S+ Kxb8 3.c7+ Kxb7 4.d8S+ Kxc8 (Ka8; Sb6+) 5.d7+ Kxc7 6.e8S+ Kxd8 (Kb8; Sc6+) 7.e7+ Kxd7 8.f8S+ Kxe8 (Kc8; Sd6+) 9.f7+ Kxe7 10.Sg6+ Ke6 11.f8S+ wins.

“We pity the judge: he was really put to the task by this amusing task study. How to place this? The idea here is not simply showing the

fivefold knight promotion (which has been shown on other occasions, even in pawn studies), but rather the systematic and humorous movement of the bK and the entire forest of white pawns. In fact the economy of the study is excellent, leaving only the necessary white army to force the win in the end”.



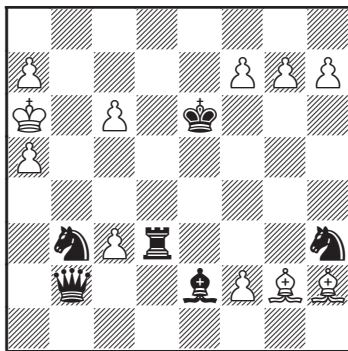
Impressions from Dresden.

18th Ukraine Team Championship 2016

This championship was judged by Nikolai Mansarliisky with 10 studies participating. The required theme was: “An under-promotion by Black or White during the main line”.

Vladislav Tarasiuk very kindly sent, upon request, HH the full final award for publication in EG.

No 21508 V. Tarasiuk
1st place



a6e6 3356.80 11/6 Win

No 21508 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Kb7/i Sxa5++ 2.Ka8/ii Rd8+ 3.Bb8 Qb7+/iii
4.cxb7 Sc4 5.Bxh3+/iv Kd5 6.Bg2+ Bf3/v 7.Bxf3+
Ke6 8.Bg4+/vi Kd5 9.Be6+ Kxe6 10.f8S+ (f8Q?
Sb6 mate;) Ke7/viii 11.Sg6+ Kf6 12.g8S+ Kg5
13.f4+ Kxg6 14.Se7+ Kxh7 15.Sc8/ix wins.

i) Try: 1.f8S+? Kf6 2.g8S+ Kf7 3.Sh6+ Ke8
4.a8Q+ Rd8+ 5.Ka7 Rxa8+ 6.Kxa8 Qxc3 7.c7
Sxa5 8.Bb7 Bf3 draws.

ii) 2.Kc7? Rd7+ 3.cxd7 Qxc3+ 4.Kd8 Qf6+
5.Kc7 Qc3+ draws.

iii) Sc4 4.f8Q Sb6+ 5.Kb7 Sd5+ 6.Qb4 Ba6+
7.Kxa6 Sxb4+ 8.cxb4 Qa1+ 9.Kb5 Qxg7 10.c7
Qe5+ 11.Ka6 Qd6+ 12.Ka5 Qe5+ 13.b5 Qa1+
14.Kb6 Qd4+ 15.Kb7 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 5.f8S+? Ke7 6.Sg6+ Kf6
7.g8S+ Kg5 8.f4+ Sxf4 9.h8Q Sb6 mate.

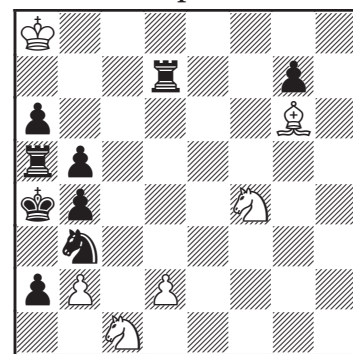
v) Ke6 7.f8S+ Ke7 8.Sg6+ Kf6 9.g8S+ Kg5
10.f4+ Kxg6 11.Se7+ wins.

vi) Thematic try: 8.f8S+? Ke7 9.Sg6+ Kf6
10.g8S+ Kg5 11.h8Q Sb6 mate.

vii) Kf6 11.g8S+ Kg7 12.Sd7 wins.

ix) 15.Sd5? Kg7 16.f5 Kf7 17.f6 Rh8 18.Se7 Sb6
mate.

No 21509 V. Tarasiuk
2nd place



a8a4 0615.25 6/9 Draw

No 21509 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Bc2 a1S/i 2.Sxb3 (Se6? Sxc2;) Sxb3 (Sxc2;
Sc5 mate) 3.Se6 Rd5 4.d4/ii g5 5.Sc5+/iii Rxc5
6.dxc5 g4 7.c6 g3 8.c7/iv g2 9.c8S (c8Q? g1Q;),
and:

— g1B 10.Kb7/v Bd4 11.Sb6+ Bxb6 12.Kxb6
Black is stalemate, or:

— g1Q 10.Sb6+ Qxb6 11.Bxb3+ Kxb3 White is
stalemated.

i) Rd8+ (a1Q; Bxb3 mate) 2.Kb7 a1S 3.Sxb3
Sxb3 4.Se6 Rd5 5.d4 g5 6.Kc6 wins.

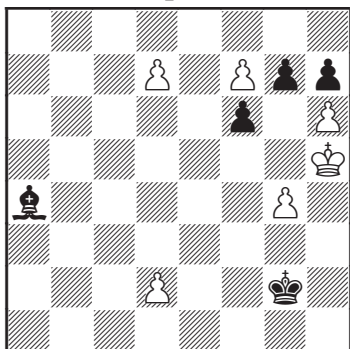
ii) Try: 4.Kb7? g5, and: 5.Bd1 g4 6.Kc6 Rf5
7.Kc7 g3 8.Sd4 Rc5+ 9.Kb6 Rc3 10.dxc3 bxc3
11.bxc3 Ka3 12.Bxb3 Ra4 wins, or here: 5d4 g4
6.Kc6 Rh5 7.d5 Rh6 8.Kd7 Rxe6 9.dxe6 g3 10.e7
g2 11.e8Q g1Q wins.

iii) 5.Kb7? g4 6.Kc6 Rh5 wins.

iv) 8.Be4? Sd2 9.c7 Sc4 10.c8Q Sb6+ wins.

v) 10.Kb8? Bd4 11.Kb7 Bxb2

No 21510 V. Pogorelov & V. Kopyl
3rd place



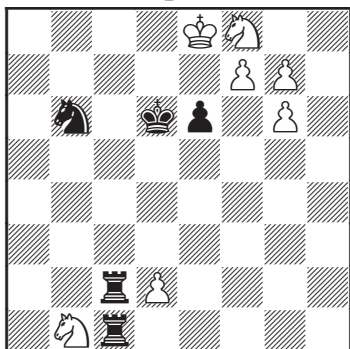
h5g2 0030.53 6/5 BTM, Draw

No 21510 Vladimir Pogorelov & Valery Kopyl (Ukraine). 1...g6+ 2.Kh4 g5+ 3.Kh5 Bc2 4.d3/i Bxd3 5.f8S (f8Q? Bg6 mate;) Bc4 6.d8S Bb5 7.Sc6/ii Bxc6 8.Sd7 Kf3/iii 9.Sxf6 Kf4 10.Sd5+ Bxd5 stalemate.

- i) Try: 4.f8S? Bb3 5.d8S Ba4 wins.
- ii) 7.Sf7? Be8 8.Sg6 Kf3 (Kg3, Kh3) wins.
- iii) Bxd7 stalemate.

After Hlinka (EG#8416).

No 21511 S. Borodavkin & N. Griva
4th place

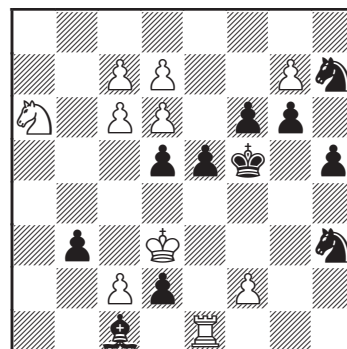


e8d6 0605.41 7/5 Draw

No 21511 Sergey Borodavkin & Nikolai Griva (Ukraine). 1.Sc3 Rxc3 2.dxc3 Rxc3 3.Sxe6 Kxe6 4.f8S+ Kf6 5.g8S+ Kg7 6.Se7 Re3 7.Kd8 Kxf8 8.g7+ Kxg7 9.Sf5+ draws.

After Vlasák (HHdbV#31160).

No 21512 V. Kopyl, G. Kozura,
V. Pogorelov & A. Solovchuk
no award



d3f5 0137.77 10/11 Win

No 21512 Valery Kopyl, Gennady Kozura, Vladimir Pogorelov & Aleksey Solovchuk (Ukraine). 1.Rd1/i Sxf2+/ii 2.Ke2 Sxd1 3.Kxd1 b2 4.g8Q b1S 5.Qe6+/iii Kxe6 6.d8S+ Kxd6 7.c8S+/iv wins.

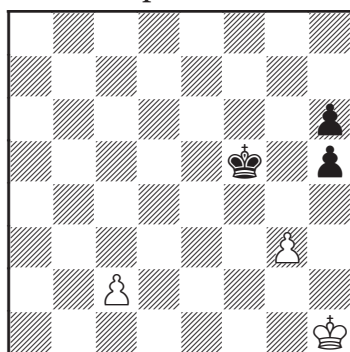
- i) 1.Rf1? b2 2.c8Q b1Q wins.
- ii) Sf4+ 2.Kc3 b2 3.Kb4 b1Q+ 4.Ka5 Qxc2 5.c8Q wins.
- iii) 5.Ke2? Sc3+ (Kg5) wins.
- iv) The award indicates 7.Ke2 Sc3+ 8.Kf2 e4 9.c8Q winning, which certainly is a cook!

Artistic King and Pawns Ty 2017

ChessProblem.net organized its second composition tourney, this time a thematic study tourney. Artistic pawn studies were required. Promotions were allowed only if the promoted pieces were exchanged quickly. Some thematic examples were given (EG#18285, EG#13163) as well as a non-thematic example (EG#18723).

Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway) judged his first tourney and received 9 studies from organizer and tourney director Alexander George.

No 21513 P. Arestov
prize



h1f5 0000.22 3/3 Win

No 21513 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Kh2/i h4/ ii 2.gxh4 Kg4 3.c4 (Kg2? Kxh4;) Kf4 (Kxh4; c5) 4.Kg2/iii zz Ke4/iv 5.Kh3/v h5/vi 6.Kg3 Ke5/vii 7.Kf3 Kd4 8.Kf4 Kxc4 9.Kg5 Kd5 10.Kxh5 Ke6 11.Kg6 Ke7 12.Kg7 Ke6 13.h5 Kf5 14.h6 wins.

i) 1.Kg2? h4 2.gxh4 Kg4 3.c4 h5 (Kf4) zz 4.Kf2 Kf4 zz 5.Ke2 Ke4 6.Kd2 Kd4 draws.

ii) Kg4 2.c4 h4 3.gxh4 see main line.

iii) 4.Kh3? h5 5.c5 Ke5 6.Kg3 Kd5 7.Kf4 Kxc5 8.Kg5 Kd6 9.Kxh5 Ke7 10.Kg6 Kf8 11.h5 Kg8 draws.

iv) h5 5.Kf2 Ke4 6.Kg3 Kf5 7.Kf3 Ke5 8.Ke3 wins.

v) 5.Kg3? h5 zz 6.c5 Kd5 7.Kf4 Kxc5 8.Kg5 Kd6 9.Kxh5 Ke7 10.Kg6 Kf8, or 5.Kf2? Kd4 6.Kf3 Kxc4 7.Kg4 Kd5 (Kd4, Kd3) draw.

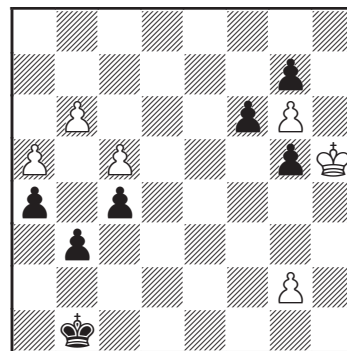
vi) Kd4 6.Kg4 Kxc4 7.Kh5 Kd5 8.Kxh6 wins.

vii) Kf5 7.Kf3 Ke5 8.Ke3 wins.

“You might think that, in 2017, there is nothing left to discover in six-piece pawn studies. Think again! This is an excellent study where White has to play precise and surprising moves

such as 1.Kh2!, 4.Kg2! and 5.Kh3! in order to end up on the right side of the mutual zugzwang position”.

No 21514 M. Campioli
commendation



h5b1 0000.56 6/7 Win

No 21514 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.c6/i c3/ ii 2.c7/iii c2 3.c8Q c1Q/iv 4.Qxc1+/v Kxc1 5.b7 b2/vi 6.b8Q b1Q 7.Qxb1+ Kxb1 8.a6 a3 9.a7 a2 10.a8Q a1Q 11.Qxa1+ Kxa1 12.Kg4 Kb2 13.Kf5 Kc3 14.g4/vii Kd4 15.Ke6 f5 16.gxf5 (Kxf5? Kd5;) wins.

i) 1.a6? c3 2.a7 c2 3.a8Q c1Q 4.Qe4+ Qc2 5.Qxc2+ bxc2, or 1.b7? c3 2.b8Q c2 win.

ii) a3 2.c7 a2 3.c8Q a1Q 4.Qxc4 Qxa5 5.Qxb3+ Ka1 6.b7 g4+ 7.Kxg4 Qf5+ 8.Kg3/viii Qxg6+ 9.Kf2 Qf5+ 10.Qf3 Qc5+ 11.Kg3 Qg5+ 12.Kh2 Qh4+ 13.Kg1 Qe1+ 14.Qf1, or b2 2.b7 K- 3.b8Q b1Q 4.Qxb1+ wins.

iii) 2.b7? c2 3.b8Q c1Q and Black wins.

iv) b2 4.b7 c1Q 5.b8Q Ka1 6.a6 b1Q 7.Qxb1+ Kxb1 (Qxb1; Qc3+) 8.Qxc1+ wins.

v) 4.b7? Qd1+ 5.Qg4 Qh1+ 6.Qh3 Qd1+ 7.g4 Qd8 8.Qh1+ Ka2 9.Qh2+ b2 10.b8Q Qxb8 11.Qxb8 b1Q draws.

vi) a3 6.b8Q a2 7.Qc7+ Kb1 8.Qxg7 a1Q 9.Qf8 g4 10.g7 Qxa5+ 11.Kg6 Qg5+ 12.Kf7 wins.

vii) 14.Ke6? g4 15.Kf7 f5 16.Kxg7 f4 17.Kf6 f3, or 14.g3? Kd4 15.Ke6 f5 16.Kxf5 Kd5 17.g4 Kd6 draw.

viii) 8.Kxf5? stalemate.

“This study shows a funny idea: White must advance the three passed pawns in the right order. Interestingly, the most advanced pawn is not the right one to advance first”.

ARVES Solving in Wijk aan Zee

The ninth international **ARVES Study Solving Day** will be held
on Saturday, January 27th 2018 in Wijk aan Zee
The exact location will be informed later to the inscribing participants.

Chief Arbiter: Luc Palmans

10:00-10.30: Registration

10.45: Official opening

11.00-14.00: International Open Solving Competition of original studies with money and book prizes. Special prizes will be awarded to the best newcomers and youth solvers.

14.00-16.30: Watching the world's most famous Tata Steel chess tournament with live expert commentary.

16.30: Announcing the preliminary results. – 17.00: Prize giving.

Entry fee: 15 Euros; juniors (u-20) 10 Euros; GMs and IMs – free.

For further details and registration please write to **Yochanan Afek** afekchess@gmail.com before January 21st 2018 as the number of participants is limited.

Past winners: 2009: GM Twan Burg; 2010: GM John Nunn 2012: IM David Klein 2013: GM John Nunn; 2014: IM Joost Michielsen; 2015: Wouter van Rijn; 2016: GM Twan Burg; 2017: GM Twan Burg

The Dutch section of the **International Solving Championship 2018**
(for problems & studies) will be held in the same venue
on Sunday, January 28th 2018 from 10.30 and is open to all.
Organizer is Hans Uitenbroek; e-mail address: jc.uitenbroek@kpnplanet.nl.