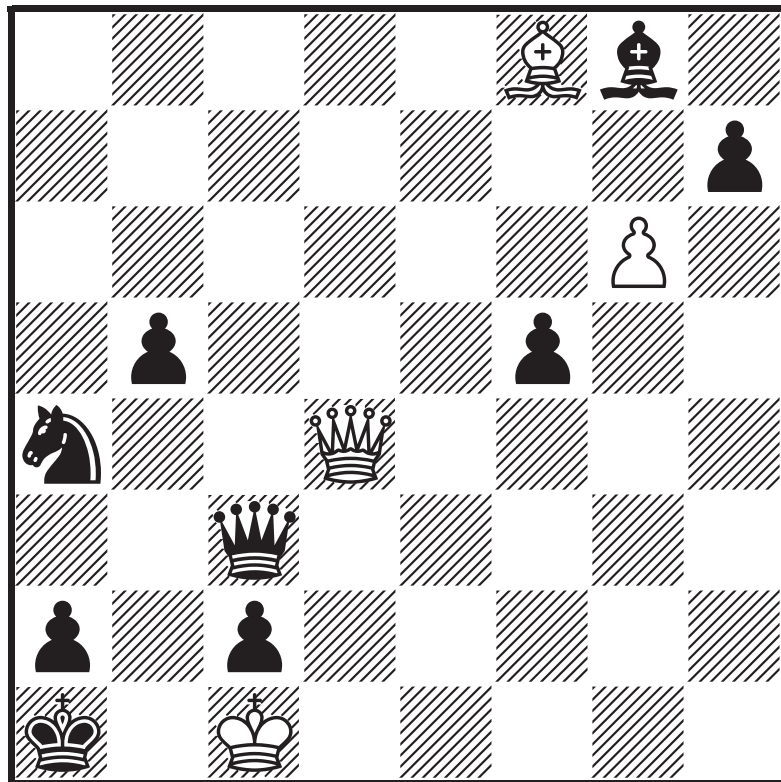


No. 212 — VOL. XXIV — APRIL 2018



WHITE TO PLAY AND WIN

EG is produced by the Dutch-Flemish Association for Endgame Study
(‘Alexander Rueb Vereniging voor schaakEindspelStudie’) ARVES
<http://www.arves.org>

EG was founded by John Roycroft in 1965

Editor in chief

Harold van der Heijden
Postbus 246, 7400 AE Deventer
e-mail : heijdenharold@gmail.com

Editors

Originals : *Ed van de Gevel*
Binnen de Veste 36, 3811 PH Amersfoort, the Netherlands
e-mail : gevel145@planet.nl

Computer news : *Emil Vlasák*
e-mail : evcomp@quick.cz

Composer gallery : *Yochanan Afek*
e-mail : afekchess@gmail.com

Themes and tasks : *Siegfried Hornecker*
e-mail : sh-schach@gmx.eu

History : *Alain Pallier*
e-mail : alain.pallier@wanadoo.fr

Quality control : *Jaroslav Polášek*
e-mail : jaroslav.polasek@brouzdej.net

Lay-out : *Luc Palmans*
e-mail : palmans.luc@skynet.be

printed (& distributed) by -be- à aix-la-chapelle
e-mail: be.fee@unitybox.de

diagram on the cover: see Supplement p. 108

Editorial

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

We have not received any claims regarding the award of our biennial tourney (EG 2016-2017) so the award is now final. We thank the judge, Martin Minski, as well as all participants.

As announced in the previous issue, there will be less space for articles in EG. Specifically, there is no History article in this issue (although editor Alain Pallier had already prepared two columns...), and we will skip the computer column next issue. However, in this issue Emil Vlasák discusses the sensational chess news about DeepMind. Also AJR contributes on the same topic.

It is good to have an article on composing technique. Amatzia Avni describes the relatively unusual way of composing studies based on similar interesting positions in his interesting article Ideas and Settings.

Some people are sending me corrections or improved versions of studies for awards that are final and due for EG. I am well aware that we have sometimes included some of these versions in awards. But I do not want this to become common practice. For corrections and versions we have the column Quality Control by Jaroslav Polášek. Please send you re-workings directly to him. Of course, as the name of the column rightfully suggests: he will only publish versions of high quality.

Luckily, the number of unsound studies in awards (and in study tourneys in general) is gradually declining in time. Both EG tester Mario Garcia and I had made this observation independently and we were discussing what could be the reason for this. An obvious explanation would be the advent of the computer but we have had that for two decades, so what has changed so radically during the last couple of years? For instance, even in recent informal awards only a few studies are being cooked. And I was just editing an award (dated 2017) of an informal Russian tourney dating back to 2010-2012. Almost half (!) of the more than 70 studies was found to be unsound...

My impression was that there is also another trend in endgame study composition, one with which I am much less happy. I am working on an extensive index of awards published in EG since 1965 (also see my editorial in EG211). So far, more than 1800 awards have been reproduced in our magazine. The statistics (more to follow in later issues) make it clear that there is a steady increase in the proportion of studies awarded in tourneys over the years – see the graph. Almost a doubling – very disturbing: a considerable deflation of distinctions.



Obituary:

W.J.G. (Wouter) Mees (6viii1921 – 25i2018)

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

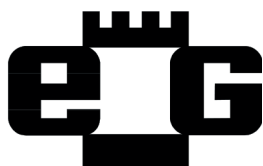
Wouter Mees, Honorary Member and founder of ARVES, has passed away. He was my endgame study mentor, although I have never said that to him... However, his endgame study textbook articles for *EBUR*, the ‘composing workshop’ during an ARVES meeting in 1995, the theme tourney for his 75th birthday and his letters inspired and motivated me to take up composing again after I had made a handful attempts as long ago as in the 1970s.

Wouter learned chess in 1935, and soon became interested in chess composition. In 1940 he wrote to John Selman jr, who apparently was working on a book on Dutch endgame study composers, that he had started to compose studies and problems in 1937 after reading a memorial book on the talented Dutch composer and strong o.t.b. player Henri Weenink (1892-1931) who unfortunately died at an early age. In 1960 there was an unsuccessful attempt by Cor de Feijter and John Selman jr. to establish an endgame study circle, after the Dutch chess problem society (NBvS) was very reluctant to allow endgame study composition “in”. As his own inspirer Weenink was interested in both problems and studies, Mees dedicated his chess life trying to build a bridge between endgame studies and problems. For instance, he ran an endgame study column in *Probleemblad*

for many years. When I visited him in 2011 to discuss a composition tourney ARVES wanted to organize to celebrate his 90th birthday, Wouter insisted on a thematic tourney together with the NBvS. The theme was a logical *ult* (see EG186) – a chess composition form between problem and study. I was sceptical, and he was stubborn, and, unfortunately, I was right. Not a single correct thematic problem/study was submitted...

Wouter obtained the title of FIDE judge in 1959, and e.g. acted as judge for the FA. In total there are 142 of his studies in HHdbVI (work in progress), including unsound studies and versions/corrections. In Afek’s column Composer Gallery he presents some of Wouter’s studies.

The last time I met Wouter was about a year ago when he had to leave his beautiful bungalow for a smaller home. At the age of 96, he was still very bright. His son informed me that he was enjoying his chess hobby last year, e.g. always happy to receive EG. He also wanted me to thank everybody that had signed the postcard I had sent him from the WFCC meeting in Dresden last year. During a recent meeting of ARVES/NvBS in Nunspeet Hans Uitenbroek and I presented some of Wouter’s problems and studies. He would have been proud of us for the co-operation!



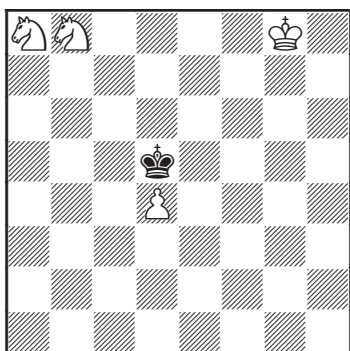
Composer Gallery

Wouter Mees (6viii1921 – 25i2018)

BY YOCHANAN AFEK

Mees published his first studies in *De Schaakwereld* at the age of 17, just a couple of weeks prior to the break of World War II. This one is an attractive *malyutka*.

A.1 W. Mees
De Schaakwereld 1939

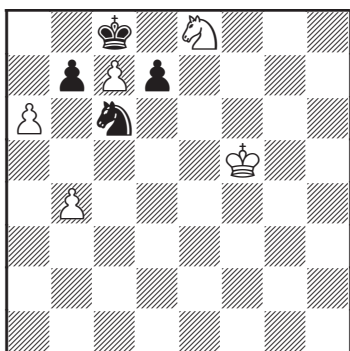


g8d5 0002.10 4/1 Win

Since a knight pair is unable to deliver mate, how can White secure the survival of the pawn its eventual promotion? By actively giving away both knights!

1.Sc6! The first deflection of the bK away of the precious pawn. **1...Kxc6 2.Sb6!** and a second one! But not **2.Sc7?** Kxc7 and the wK will be a tempo behind. **2...Kxb6 3.Kf7 Kc6 4.Ke6 Kc7 5.d5 Kd8 6.Kd6** Seizing the opposition and no matter whose turn it is, White wins.

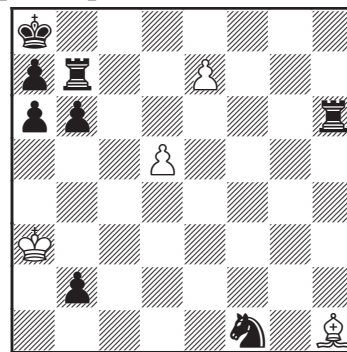
A.2 W. Mees
1st prize *Schakend Nederland* 1963



f5c8 0004.32 5/3 Win

This is one of Mees' best efforts – a tactical and tense knight ending. **1.b5! Sd4+ 2.Kf4!** (2.Ke4? Sxb5 3.Sd6+ Sxd6+ check!) **2...Sxb5** (2...bxa6 3.b6 Sb5 4.Ke5 a5 5.Kd5 a4 6.Kc5 Sxc7 7.bxc7 Kb7 8.Kd6 Kc8 9.Sf6 and White is first, just in time. **3.Sd6+!** Deflection! **3...Kxc7** Denied, since 3...Sxd6 allows 4.a7. **4.Sxb5+ Kb8 5.a7+ Ka8 6.Ke5 b6** (6...d6+!? and now 7.Kxd6 b6 is either positional draw or stalemate, so 7.Kd5! b6 8.Kc6. Likewise 6...d5 7.Kd6! skips the stalemate pitfalls 7...b6 8.Kc7 d4 9.Kxb6 d3 10.Sc7 mate) **7.Kd5! Kb7 8.Kd6! Ka8 9.Kc7** sparing Black a move. **9...d5** to allow **10.Kxb6 d4 11.Sc7** mate.

A.3 W. Mees
special prize Kivi-60 JT 1965

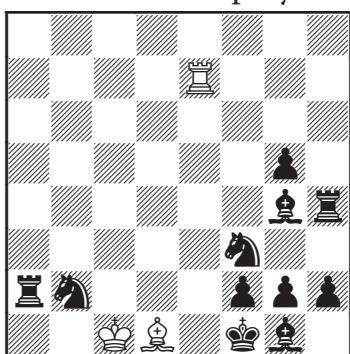


a3a8 0613.24 4/8 Win

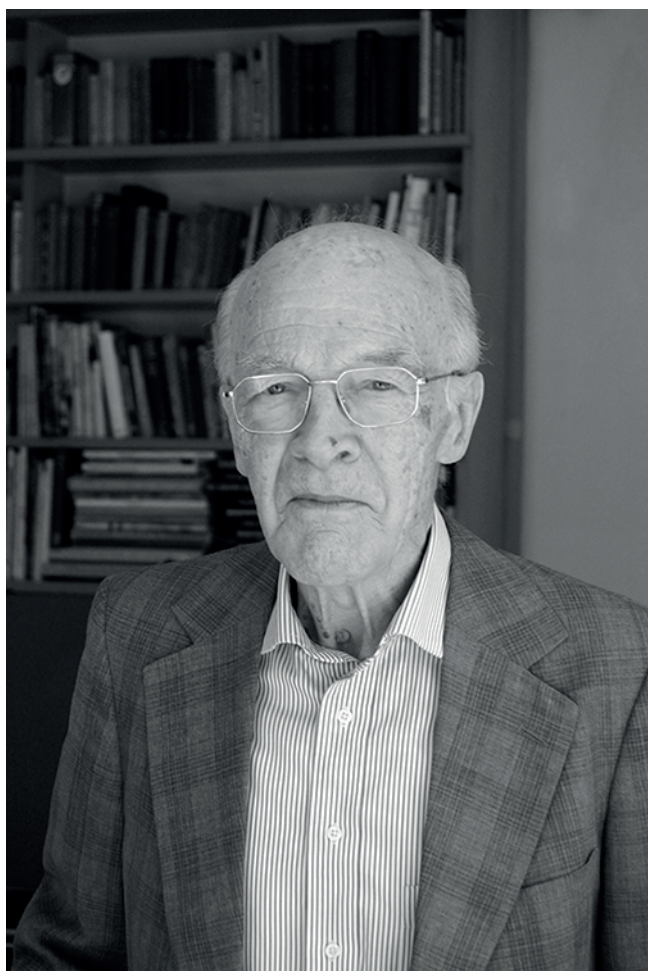
The battle is focused on the control of the longest light squared diagonal. **1.e8Q+ Rb8 2.Qc6+!** After 2.d6+? Rxb1 3.Qc6+ Rb7 4.d7 Rh8 5.Qc8+ Rb8 White should be happy with the perpetual check. **2...Rxc6 3.dxc6 b1S+!** **4.Kb2!** Not 4.Kb3? Sfd2+ and the wK will find no shelter from a further check after which Black takes over the diagonal. **4...Sg3 5.Bd5! Sc3! 6.Kxc3 Se2+ 7.Kc4!** (7.Kb2? allows 7...Sf4 8.Be4 Sd3+ 9.Kc3 Sc5 and the knight joins the defence to spare White no chance, while 7.Kd2? is met by the deadly pin 7...Rd8) **7...b5+ 8.Kb4 Sf4** (8...a5+ is doomed to failure in view of

9.Kxa5 Sc3 10.Bg2 a6 11.Kxa6 Rb6+ 12.Kxb6 Sa4+ 13.Kxb5 Sc3+ 14.Kc4 with a decisive double threat) **9.Bh1!** a powerful switchback to the corner avoids further harmful encounter with the enemy knight. 9.Bf3? loses to 9...Sd3+ 10.Ka5 Se5; 9.Be4? is refuted by 9...Re8. **9...Sd3+ 10.Ka5 Sc5 11.c7+ Sb7+ 12.Kxa6** Game over! (EG#00535).

A.4 W. Mees
9th place WCCT1 Ty 1972–1975
Version: G. Kasparian

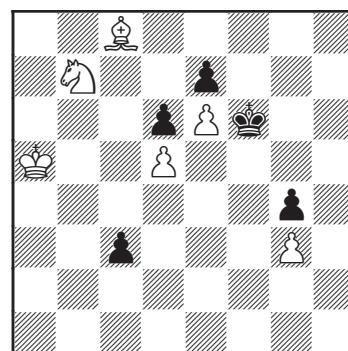


c1f1 0776.04 3/11 Win



The theme of the first WCCT (still called the Friendship Tourney) required white battery play with the thematic pieces, the front and the rear one exchanging roles to create a new battery. **1.Be2+ Ke1 2.Bb5+!** already preparing the next battery by posting the bishop on an unattacked square. **2...Se5 3.Rxe5+ Be2 4.Rxe2+ Kf1** The white pieces have indeed exchanged their role: the rook is the now the front piece and the bishop-the rear one. **5.Re4+! Sc4 6.Bxc4+ Re2 7.Bxe2+ Ke1** exchanging roles once again! **8.Bg4+ Kf1 9.Kd2!** The king actively joins to round up the siege. **9...Rxc4 10.Rxc4 h1Q 11.Rc4!** The only move to threat mate which cannot be met. **11...Qh8 12.Rc1** mate. Three white pieces win against the almost complete black camp (EG#02837a).

A.5 W. Mees
special commendation
Schakend Nederland 1991

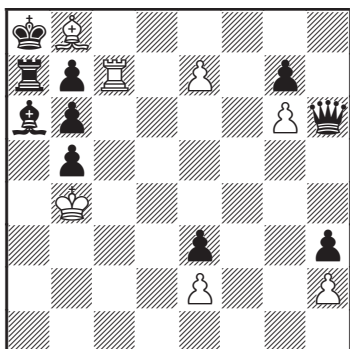


a5f6 0011.34 6/5 Draw

How can we tame the advanced black pawn? **1.Sc5!** A neat sacrifice! The alternative knight sacrifice 1.Sxd6? fails to 1...c2 2.Se4+ Kf5 3.d6 c1Q queening and winning. **1...dxc5 2.d6! exd6** To clear the diagonal for the bishop. **3.e7! Kxe7 4.Bf5 Kf6 5.Bb1!** Not 5.Bc2? Ke5 6.Kb6 Kd4 7.Kc6 Ke3 8.Kxd6 Kd2! and Black wins. The reason that b1 the only square for the bishop will become apparent in the following logical try: 5.Bh7? Ke5 6.Kb6 Kd4 7.Kc6 Ke3! 8.Kxd6 Kf3 9.Kxc5 Kxc3 10.Kd4 Kf4! 11.Kd3 c2! That's it! "Vive la petite difference", which was in fact the theme of the most recent WCCT. **5...Ke5 6.Kb6** (6.Kb5? Kd5 is in fact reciprocal zugzwang with WTM and... lose! 7.Bh7 (Kb6 Kc4;) Kd4 8.Kc6 Ke3! 9.Kxd6 Kf3 10.Kxc5 Kxc3 11.Kd4 Kf4! 12.Kd3 c2! 13.Kxc2 g3 and Black

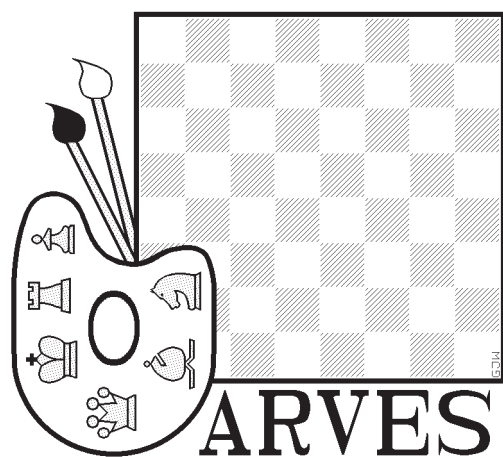
wins. **6...Kd4 7.Kc6 Ke3 8.Kxd6 Kf3 9.Kxc5 Kxg3 10.Kd4 (Kc4) Kf4** (10...Kf3 11.Kxc3 g3 12.Kd4 g2 13.Be4+) **11.Kd3 g3 12.Ke2** draws (EG#10092).

A.6 W. Mees
commendation Olthof-40 JT 1999

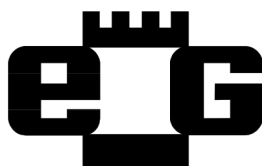


b4a8 3440.46 7/10 Win

Here we witness a pair of underpromotions on the very same square from 2 different files:
1.Rc8 Qh8 2.Rf8! Qxf8 3.exf8B! (3.exf8Q? is stalemate) **3...Kxb8 4.Bxg7 Ra8** (4...Kc7 hardly meets the threat 5.Bf8 Ra8 6.g7) **5.Bf8!** The switchback of the promoted bishop creates an anticipatory interference to secure promotion. **5...Ka7 6.g7 Rxf8** (After 6...Re8, 7.Kb3! is the only right way 7...b4 8.g8Q Bxe2 9.Qf7 Re4 10.Bxb4 Bc4+ 11.Qxc4 Rxc4 12.Kxc4 and White wins) **7.gxf8S!** (7.gxf8Q? is stalemate again, while 7.gxf8B? Kb8 8.Bh6 Kc7 draws comfortably since the wK is tied up to keep the bB locked in its cage) **7...Kb8 8.Se6 Kc8 9.Sf4 (Sg5) Kd7 10.Sxh3 Ke6 11.Sf4+ Ke5 12.Sg2!** The only way to obtain a pair of passed pawns supported by their knight. **12...Kd4** wins, e.g. 13.h3 Ke4 14.h4 Kd4 15.h5 Ke5 16.Sxe3 (EG#13898).



please visit www.arves.org!



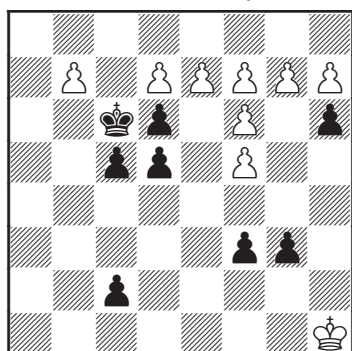
Tasks
and themes

From Ukraine with love

BY SIEGFRIED HORNECKER

Your author is a great fan of pawn studies and of promotions to pieces other than a queen. Both of these are combined together in the task to show the most knight promotions in a pawn study. The third such study was published on 14ii2018 – Valentine’s Day – by the man whom I jokingly once accused of having forgotten to create this task, referring to him having shown pretty much all possible promotion tasks in pawn endgames. I will need to retract that statement now: he really has gone all the way, not only creating that task but also showing the promotions in order!

S.1 Mikhail Zinar
Sosiura-120 MT, 14ii2018 ⁽¹⁾



h1c6 0000.87 9/8 Win

The poet of pawn endgames sent this study to the tourney of the poet of words. His poem “Lyubit Ukrainu” is very famous, a partial translation can currently be seen on the English Wikipedia page of this lyricist.

The chess poem of Zinar could be titled “Lyubit Shakhmaty”: 1.d8S+ Kc7 2.e8S+ Kd7 3.f8S+ Kxe8 4.f7+ Ke7 5.g8S+ Kxf8 6.Se6+ K:f7 7.h8S+ Kxg8 8.b8Q+! and Black has overeaten.

Isn’t it fitting that 100 years after the Russian civil war, of which Sosiura was a veteran, this entry for the informal tourney comes from a part of Ukraine that today knows all too well about civil war itself.

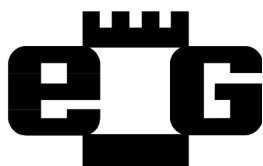
(1) The tourney closed on 28ii2018, I accessed the site ten days earlier.

Errata

In the award of EG 2016-2017 (EG211, pp 18-23) the number used below the diagrams (#50001-50004) were dummy numbers for editing, and should have been replaced by M1-M15. Further, M14 is EG#20484 and not EG#21352. These are ‘only’ textual mistakes.

Worse is that EG#21514 was used twice (both in EG210 and in EG211).

Finally, although we had proofread the Timman-65 JT several times, a wrong stipulation was given for the study by Amatzia Avni (first section, 4th prize, EG#21589). We apologize to the composer and our readers.



Computer
History

Album bona FIDE?

BY EMIL VLASÁK

I went through an unofficial database of studies selected for the new *FIDE Album*. Here are some of the findings obtained in cooperation with my computer i7 6700 3.4 GHz with 16 Gb RAM.

(V.1) **1.a5! Qd3 2.a6+ Qxa6 3.c8Q+!** 3.Rc1? Rh8 4.Rfc6 Rc8. **3...Kxc8 4.Kg6 Rxd5** 4... Rh8 5.b7+! Qxb7 6.Rf8+. **5.b7+!** 5.Rc1+? Kd8! 6.Rf8+ Ke7 7.Rf7+ Ke8 8.Re1+ Kd8 9.Rf8+ Kd7 10.Rf7+ Kd6 11.Rf6+ Kc5 12.Rc1+ Kb4 13.Rb1+ Kc3. **5...Qxb7 6.Rf8+!** 6.Rc1+? Kb8 7.Rf8+ Ka7 8.Ra1+ Kb6 9.Rf6+ Kc5 10.Rc1+ Kd4. **6...Kc7 7.Rc1+ Kb6 8.Rf6+ Ka7 9.Ra1+ Kb8 10.Rf8+ Kc7 11.Rc1+ Kd6 11...Kb6 12.Rf6+** repeating. **12.Rf6+ Ke5 13.Rf5+ Kd4 14.Rd1+ Kc5 15.Rc1+ Kd6 16.Rf6+** repeating. Double rundlauf of bK.

Becker's studies are hard to solve without a computer, but even using one I was unable to find how to draw after **1...Rh8!** For example **2.Kg7 Re8 3.d6** (Kf7 Rc8;) **3...g3 4.Kf7 Rh8 5.Kg7 g2!** winning easily (EG#20618).

(V.2) **1.e7! Rh7 2.c5!** 2.d4? Kh2 3.Rg8 Rxe7+ 4.Kf3 Rf7+! 5.Ke4 Re7+. **2...Kh2 3.Rg8 Rxe7+ 4.Kf3 g1S+!** 5.Rxg1 Kxg1 **6.d4** with:

— **Rc7 7.c3!!** zz 7.c4? Kh2 8.Ke4 Kg3 9.d5 Rxc5 10.Kd4 Ra5. **7...Rc8** Or 7...Kh2 8.Kf4 Kh3 9.Ke5 Kg4 10.Kd6 Ra7 11.c6 or 7...Kf1 8.c4 Ke1 9.Ke3 Re7+ 10.Kd3 Rc7 11.d5 Rxc5 12.Kd4. **8.Ke4 Kf2 9.Kd5 Ke3 10.c6 Kd3 11.Kc5 Ke4 12.Kd6 12.d5?** Kf5! 13.c4 Ke5 zz 14.d6 Ke6 15.c7 Kd7. **12...Kd3 13.Kd7 Ra8 14.c7 Kxc3 15.d5 Kc4 16.Kc6 Rc8 17.d6** wins, or:

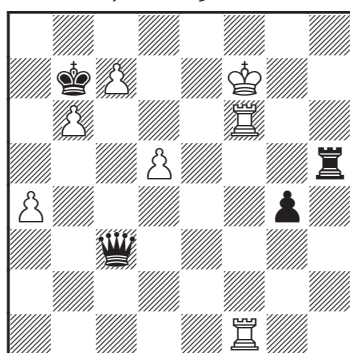
— **Rd7 7.Ke4 Rc7 8.c4!** 8.c3? Kf2 9.Kd5 Ke3 10.c6 Ra7 11.Kd6 Ra3 12.c7 Rxc3. **8...Kf2 9.d5 Rxc5 10.Kd4 Ra5 11.d6 11.c5?** Ra4+ 12.Kc3 Ra1! 13.c6 Rc1+ 14.Kb4 Ke3. **11...Ra1 12.c5 Rd1+ 13.Ke5 Ke3 14.c6.**

Thematic try: **1.c5? Kh2 2.Rg8 Rxe6+ 3.Kf3 g1S+!** 4.Rxg1 Kxg1 **5.d4 Rc6 6.c3 Rc7!** zz 7.c4 Kh2 8.Ke4 Kg3 9.d5 Rxc5 10.Kd4 Ra5.

Did anyone study this complicated variation system? If so, he could easily find a simple White win after **1.c5! Kh2 2.Rg8 Rxe6+ 3.Kd2! g1Q 4.Rxg1 Kxg1 5.d4 Rc6 6.Kc3 Kf2 7.Kc4** or **3...Rf6 4.c4! Rf3 5.c6 Rg3 6.Rxg3** (EG#19500). HH: also 1.Kd2 wins similarly.

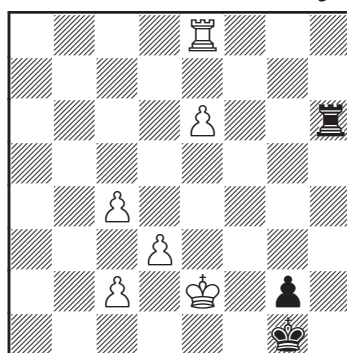
(V.3) **1.R3h2!** Looking ahead 17 moves. **1... Bxh1 2.Rxh1 d2 3.Bxb7+ Kxb7 4.Rd1 c3 5.g6**

V.1 R. Becker
3rd commendation
Ibran-80 JT 2015, correction



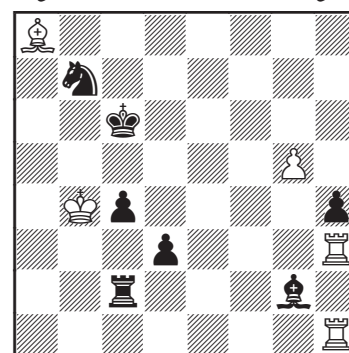
f7b7 3500.41 7/4 Draw

V.2 I. Akobia
1st prize *Uralski*
Problemist-20 AT 2013



e2g1 0400.41 6/3 Win

V.3 R. Becker
1st place
3rd FIDE WCCI 2013



b4c6 0543.13 draw

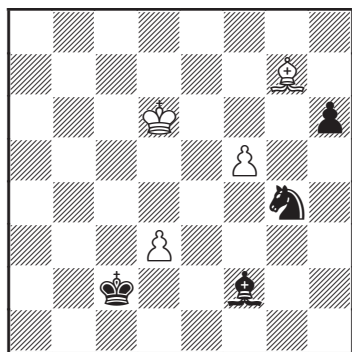
Rc1 6.g7 c2 Or 6...Rxd1 7.g8Q Rb1+ 8.Kxc3 d1Q 9.Qf7+! Ka6 10.Qa2+ Kb7 11.Qf7+ Kc6 12.Qc4+ Kd6 13.Qf4+ Ke6 14.Qe4+ Kd7 15.Qf5+ Kc7 16.Qc5+ Kb8 17.Qf8+ Kc7 18.Qc5+ Kb7 19.Qe7+ Kc6 20.Qc5+! Kxc5 stalemate. **7.g8Q Rb1+** 7... cxd1Q 8.Qd5+ Rc6 9.Qd7+ Kb6 10.Qd8+ Ka7 11.Qd7+ Kb6 12.Qd8+ Kb7 13.Qd7+ Rc7 14.Qd5+ Ka7 15.Qd4+ Ka8 16.Qd8+ Kb7 17.Qd5+ perpetual check. **8.Ka5 cxd1Q 9.Qd5+! Kc7 10.Qc5+ Kd7 11.Qd5+ Ke7 12.Qe5+ Kf7 13.Qf5+ Kg7 14.Qg5+ Kh7 15.Qf5+ Kh6 16.Qf6+ Kh5 17.Qf5+ Kh6** The point, Kh4, is not possible now. **18.Qf6+** perpetual check.

The study was probably composed as an anti-computer study. A solver has to see not only 17 moves ahead, but over 24 moves to evaluate perpetual check possibilities in the try **1.Rxh4? Bxh1 ... 17...Kh4! 18.Qf6+ Kg3 19.Qe5+ Kf2 20.Qd4+ Kg1 21.Qf4+ Kg2 22.Qg5+ Kf3 23.Qf5+ Ke3 24.Qe5+ Kd3**.

Surprisingly, top engines on my computer are able to see the whole solution incredibly quickly: Komodo 11 in 3-6 seconds (20-60 Mnodes), Stockfish 8/9 in 4-7 seconds (30-50 Mnodes) and Houdini 6 in 12-20 seconds (120-220 Mnodes).

There is an unpleasant dual **3.Rd1** underlining the unnatural setup with Ba8 and Sb7. It does not destroy the study, but I do not understand why it is not mentioned.

V.4 Oleg Pervakov
Internet 2014 (chess-news.ru)



d6c2 0043.21 4/4 Draw

1.f6! Bd4! 2.Bh8! A transposition does not work: 1.Bh8? h5 2.f6 Be1! 3.f7 Bb4+ 4.Kd5 Kxd3 5.Be5 h4 6.Bd6 Sf6. **2...Se5!** Or 2...Bxf6 3.Bxf6

Sxf6 4.Ke5 h5 5.d4 Kc3! 6.d5! Sxd5 7.Kxd5 Kd3 (7...h4 8.Ke4) 8.Ke5 Ke3 9.Kf5 Kf3 10.Kg5. After 2...Se5! 3.Ke6? Black would win: 3...Kxd3 4.Bg7!? h5 5.f7 Sxf7 6.Bxd4 Kxd4 7.Kf5 Ke3 (Kd5). But White has a surprising move **3.Kd5!!** winning a tempo: **3...Bc3!** 3...Kxd3 4.f7 Sxf7 5.Bxd4. **4.Ke6 Kxd3** 4...h5 5.d4 Bxd4 6.f7 Sxf7 7.Bxd4. **5.Bg7!!** Switchback! **5...h5** 5...Sg4 6.Kf5 h5 7.Kg5 Bxf6+ 8.Kxh5. **6.f7! Sxf7 7.Bxc3 Kxc3** Compared with 3.Ke6? the bK is now on c3. **8.Kf5 Kd4 9.Kf4 Kd5 10.Kg3 Ke6 11.Kh4** positional draw.

Unfortunately, this analysis is false: **4.d4! Sf7 5.Bg7 h5 6.Ke6!!** draws, too – for example **6...h4 7.Kxf7 h3 8.Kg8 h2 9.f7 Bb4 10.Bf8!! h1Q 11.Bxb4**. Or, the same motif **4.Bg7! h5 5.d4 Sf7 6.Ke6!**.

That's all, dear reader. This is a computer column so I leave any conclusions about the level and quality of the Album to your consideration.

Houdini 6

The Houdini 6 engine was launched in late September 2017. It seems that its author, Robert Houdart, is the first chess programmer in history who managed to return to the absolute top after a break.

Houdini is a commercial engine. The cheapest way to get it is to purchase just the engine directly from the author. ChessBase offers Houdini 6 integrated with the Fritz 15 GUI and ChessOK with the Aquarium 2018 and ChessAssistant 18 packages.

Fritz 16

The ChessBase package Fritz 16 was released in November 2017. The new engine written by "star-programmer" Vass Rajlich (the author of Rybka) is a big disappointment. On the IPON list Fritz 16 is 330 Elo points below Houdini. It does not support Syzygy EGTB and because it ignores bishop promotions it is absolutely unusable for studies.

TCEC

TCEC (Top Chess Engine Championship) is the world strongest (computer) chess tournament. Many people consider it the unofficial World Chess Computer Championship. The Season 9 was commented in detail in EG207.

The TCEC 10 took place in October-December 2017. The previous winner Stockfish 8 has not been defeated in any single game, but because of the many draws with weaker engines it finished only third. In the 100-game-Superfinal Houdini 6 defeated Komodo 11 with a convincingly score 15:9 (76 draws).

The TCEC 11 was started in January 2018. A New Division system is used to avoid games of unequal opponents. The competition started with the lowest Division allowing winners immediately qualify to a higher group.

Surprisingly, ChessBase has entered Fritz 16 into the competition. Fritz won the Division 3, but it was clearly knocked out in Division 2 demonstrating its poor strength.

Last minute info: the ranking after the first quarter of the Premier Division: Stockfish 9 (15), Houdini 6 (14), Komodo 11 (12.5).

Season 11 server: 2x Intel Xeon E5 2699, 2.8 GHz (44 cores), 64G RAM, SSD for EGTBs.

The AlphaZero story

The London software company DeepMind with IM Demis Hassabis on the board is engaged in artificial intelligence with an emphasis on games. Since 2014 it is part of Google. Using Google's superchips TPU (Tensor Processor Unit) – specialized for powerful Neural Networks (NN) emulations (e.g. searching in Google StreetView photos) – they successfully reanimated the old idea of using NN in programming games.

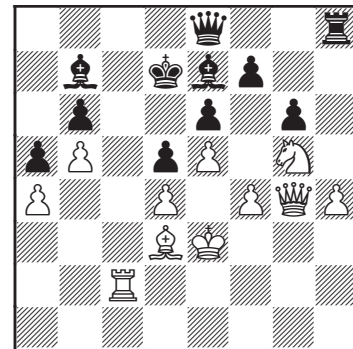
The AlphaGo system defeated in 2016 the go-legend Lee Sedol with the crushing score 4:1. In the game of Go this was a milestone comparable with the Kasparov – DeepBlue 1997 match.

Surprisingly, it seems the NN concept could work in chess game too. The new AlphaZero software running on a 25-million-dollar computer system was able to beat Stockfish 8 28:0 (72 draws) in internal tests. In addition AlphaZero did not need any human chess knowledge; it played first about 44 millions of training games with itself tuning this way the NN coefficients.

The DeepMind paper (see links section) sparked among chess players of great interest, but also doubts. Only 10 games were published but it is enough to see Stockfish was disadvantaged in many ways. It played with only 1 Gb of hash memory, without any opening book and it was forced to keep the tempo of one move per minute eliminating its time management.

On the other side there are several excellent moments within the published games which top classical engines do not find at all or only after many hours of analysis.

V.5 AlphaZero – Stockfish 8
game 9



e3d7 4471.66 White wins

30.Bxg6!! Bxg5 30...fxg6 31.Qxe6+ Kd8 32.Qxb6+ Kd7 33.e6 mate. 31.Qxg5 fxg6 32.f5! The point. **32...Rg8 33.Qh6 Qf7 34.f6!** This pawn is much stronger than Black's wrong bishop – no matter if in the middle game or in the endgame after exchanging queens. Actually White is already winning, but the classic engines evaluate the initial position as equal.

The future of AlphaZero is uncertain. Perhaps – like DeepBlue – it served as a demonstration of Google's technological advancement and we will no longer hear about it.

Stockfish 9

Links

Stockfish 9 was introduced at the beginning of February 2018. Currently it is IPON number one about 30 ELO points ahead Houdini 6 and it is completely free. The new engine took a lesson from the AlpaZero match, in V.5 it will indicate 30.Bxg6 as the best move in 5 minutes and a White advantage in 8 minutes.

<http://www.cruxis.com/chess/houdini.htm>
Houdini 6
<http://www.inwoba.de/> IPON rating list
<http://tcec.chessdom.com/live.php> TCEC live games
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1712.01815.pdf> AlphaZero paper
[https://stockfishchess.org/download/Stockfish 9](https://stockfishchess.org/download/Stockfish_9)

DeepMind (London)'s achievement, December 2017

Having already defeated a world-ranked human exponent of Go, the program AlphaZero, product of a London-based artificial intelligence group of boffins working as DeepMind, comprehensively defeated, as reported in the 'January 2018' **CHESS** (actually published in December 2017) Stockfish 8, a leading sample of chessplaying software. It did so in a match of 100 games. The fundamental novelty of DeepMind's AlphaZero is (to my mind) that it addresses *generality*. Traditionally, computers have addressed, and in many, but not all, cases solved, precisely defined puzzles or problems of all kinds.

This left unaddressed the human ability, often assumed to be unique to the species, to roam without restriction as to domain. Now, this 'impossible' task appears to have been successfully 'programmed', by DeepMind. In the process it has, I suggest, re-defined, or infinitely extended, the meaning of a 'program'. This amounts to programming the brain state of the new-born child, who does not yet have a language, but does have the potential to acquire one. DeepMind, we read, did this from scratch (ie with literally zero initial knowledge of chess) in four hours, though the hardware in use has not, we think, been disclosed. The

technique, though, involves *neural nets*, which are in themselves far from new.

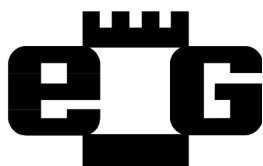
The implications are boundless. We have, late in 2017, entered a new intellectual era comparable to the ancient Indian invention of the digit zero, the discovery of the wheel, or the baking of bread. But those leaps forward, however powerful, were *specific*. What we have now is genuinely *general*, something that is the breakthrough to end all breakthroughs.

The implications for our tiny field of the composed chess endgame study call for cool consideration. Can DeepMind compose studies? Well, if it can, it will do so by taking as its input the whole Harold van der Heijden database, hooking onto what 'it' is all about, and 'studying' the latter in its own, totally revolutionary, way. Why should this process not have as its outcome the 'composition' of original, sound endgame studies?

We hope the DeepMind team will accept the challenge. In advance of the outcome I'm already quaking in my shoes. But I'm also celebrating still being alive to share this experience, even if it's only the start.

John Roycroft

London, January 2018



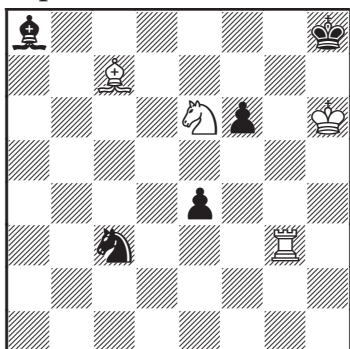
Quality Control

Corrections and reconstructions of old EG studies

BY JAROSLAV POLÁŠEK

Martin Minski criticized my article in EG211. He wrote: “Wieland Bruch and I don’t think that there is a defect in our correction. The line 1...Kb4 is very understandable in our view. We are not very happy with your ‘improvement’ P.9 in your article in EG211. Maybe you didn’t understand what is a ‘mutual blocking square by White and by Black’. In addition, we show you a simple example, the famous mate in 3 by S. Brehmer with the white blocking square on d8 and the black blocking square on d5.

P.1 S. Brehmer
5th prize *Die Schwalbe* 1950



Mate in 3

The thematic try: 1.Bd8? Sd5! 2.Sd8 impossible and 1.Sd8? Bd5! 2.Bd8 impossible are very important.

1.Rg6! threat 2.Rxf6.

a) 1...Bd5 2.Bd8!

b) 1...Sd5 2.Sd8!

In the original study by Pachman there are also two important thematic tries, Pachman’s idea is only realized if the thematic tries are correct. Your version P.9 is incorrect because there are duals in the thematic tries:

a) 4.Bf6? Sf7! 5.Bd8+?! Ka6! draws (dual 5...Sxd8! wins).

b) 4.Sf6? Bf7 (duals 4...Be6!, or dual 4...Bc4! draw) 5.Bd8+ Kb4!

In your study, in the main line after 4.Bd8+ Kb4 5.Bf6 Sf7 the bS is closing the bishop line (and not blocking the square f7 for the bishop). Therefore this is not Pachman’s ‘blocking square motif’! By the way, we are not sure if an introduction is needed for this type of study.“

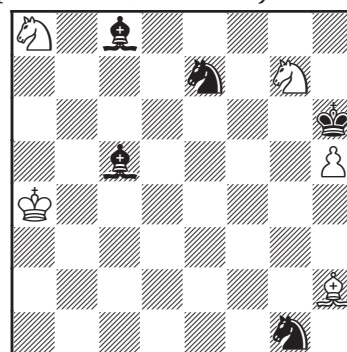
I thank Martin for his critique and explanation of the topic of ‘mutual blocking by White and Black’. However, I did not try to work on this task topic. I was attracted by the idea of capturing a man when one bishop blocks his own knight, the second time vice versa.

More important than formal fulfilment of the task motif is for me a live play with Black counterplay – bB voluntarily retreats to the g8 to escape from the forks of bS. In the Bruch and Minski study the bB is restricted from the start – that’s probably a necessary tax for trying to transfer the task topic to the study.

Before I published my study, I showed it to practical players, and they were excited. It does not fulfil the task topic, but the content is impressive and the winning is surprising.

Let’s take a look at another famous Pachman study, where hopefully my correction will not waken controversy.

P.2 Vladimír Pachman
1st prize *Československý šach* 1965



a4h6 0078.10 5/5 Draw?

1.Kb5 Bd4/i 2.Se8 Bd7+ 3.Kc4 Bxe8/ii 4.Bf4+!
Kxh5 5.Kxd4/iii Se2+ 6.Ke3!, and:

— Sxf4 7.Kxf4 Sd5+ 8.Ke5 Bc6 9.Sc7! Sxc7
10.Kd6 draws, or:

— Sd5+ 7.Kxe2 Sxf4+ 8.Ke3 Sd5+ 9.Kd4! Bc6
10.Sb6! Sxb6 11.Kc5 draws.

A beautiful echo!

Pachman's construction has several defects. Even if White manages to save the endangered pieces, the BBSS vs BSS ending is probably lost (it is enough for the stronger side to exchange a knight because the ending BBS vs BS or BBS vs SS is won).

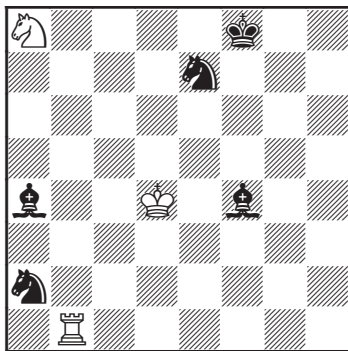
i) Black wins after 1...Bf2! 2.Bd6 Sd5 3.Bf8 (3.Se8 Bd7+ 4.Kc4 Se3+) 3...Kh7 4.Kc6 Kg8 5.Kxd5 Kxf8 6.Se6+ Kf7.

ii) Probably Black will win after 3...Sf3 too.

iii) 5.Sc7! is a cook (Mário García) – White manages to exchange one of the bB.

Therefore it was necessary to reconstruct Pachman's scheme. I found this possibility:

P.3 Jaroslav Polášek after Pachman correction and reconstruction – original



d4g7 0167.00 3/5 Draw

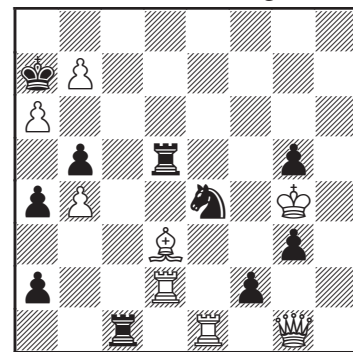
The material balance is lost for White. The only rescue is to exchange the wS for the bB (R vs. BSS is a draw). **1.Rb2!** The immediate 1.Rf1? is bad for 1...Sf5+! 2.Ke4 (2.Kc5 Be3+ 3.Kc4 Bc2) 2...Sg3+ fork! After 1.Sb6? Bc2 2.Rb2 Sf5+ 3.Kc5 Be3+ 4.Kd5 Bg1 both black men are taboo. **1...Sc1!** (1...Sc3 2.Kxc3 Be5+ 3.Kb4) **2.Rf2 Ke8** Bishop sacrifice! After 2...Sg6 3.Sb6 Bc6 4.Sd5 Sb3+ 5.Kc4! Se5+ 6.Kc3! Bxd5 7.Rxf4 White draws (R vs BSS) **3..Rxf4 Se2+ 4.Ke3** with Pachman's echo:

— Sxf4 5.Kxf4 Sd5+ 6.Ke5 Bc6 7.Sc7+ Sxc7
8.Kd6 draws, or:

— Sd5+ 5.Kxe2 Sxf4+ 6.Ke3 Sd5+ 7.Kd4 Bc6
8.Sb6 Sxb6 9.Kc5 draws.

Branislav Djurasević wrote: “Darko Hlebec's study winning 1st prize in the ARVES 2016 Jenever ty was found to be incorrect (discovered by Alain Villeneuve). In the meantime Darko succeeded in making a correct version, which is better than the original itself because now White starts and there is one extra queen sacrifice!”

P.4 Darko Hlebec
1st prize Jenever thematic ty 2016
Correction – original



g4a7 1813.36 8/10 Win

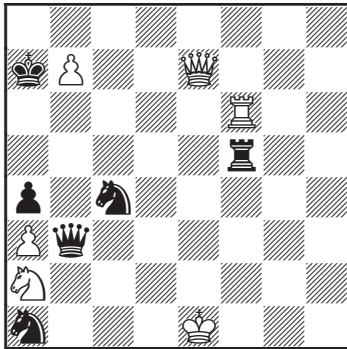
1.Qxg3! (1.Rxf2? Sxf2+! 2.Kxg3 Rxd3+ 3.Kxf2 a1Q 4.Rxc1 Qd4+ draws) **1...Sf6+!** (Sxg3; Re8) The bPg5 was missing in Hlebec's original study (the introduction was o...Rd7-d5+ 1.Kf5-g4 Sg8-f6+) **2.Kf3 fxe1S+!** **3.Ke2! Sd7 4.Qe3+! Kxa6 5.Bxb5+!** (In the honoured work (without bPg5) also 5.Qe6+ wins: Ka7 6.Qxd5 a1Q 7.Be4 Qh8 8.b8Q+ Qxb8 9.Qxd7+ Qc7 10.Qd4+ Ka6 11.Qf6+ Ka7 12.Rd6 Qc4+ 13.Kf2. The addition of bPg5 allows the rescue 13...Sd3+! 14.Bxd3 Qh4+ draws) **5...Rxb5 6.Rxa2** (6.Rd6+? Rc6! 7.Rxc6+ Kxb7 8.Qc1/i Re5+ 9.Kf1 Rf5+ 10.Kxe1 a1Q 11.Rc7+ Kb6 12.Qxa1 Kxc7 13.Qxa4 draws) **6...Rc2+** (Kxb7; Qxc1) **7.Rxc2 Sxc2 8.Qe6+ Sb6 9.Qc8!** (9.b8Q? Sd4+! fork) **9...Sxb4! 10.b8S+!** (10.Qe8? Kxb7 11.Qxb5 Sc6) **10...Ka5** (10...Ka7 11.Qc7+ Ka8 12.Sc6 wins) **11.Qa6+!! Sxa6 12.Sc6** mate.

i) After 6.Rd6+? Rc6! 7.Rxc6+ Kxb7 8.Rd6! (the author did not show this move) Black has a narrow path to a draw: 8...Se5 9.Qc3 Sc2 10.Re6 Rd5 11.Re7+ Sd7 12.Qc4 Re5+! (12...Rd1? 13.Kxd1 Se3+ 14.Rxe3 a1Q+ 15.Kc2) 13.Rxe5 Sxe5 14.Qxa2 Sxb4 15.Qxa4 Sbc6 draws.

I do not agree that the correction is better than the original. The bPg5 does not play in the final mate picture – it somewhat spoils the impression. The author's intention – to promote bS participating in the final picture is remarkable, but in my opinion this required too much material. I do not like the unnatural starting position (pawns on the queen side), too.

For a long time, I tried to make Darko's pseudo-smothered mate (the square b4 is free) in a classic style. I almost gave up, but just before the deadline I finally managed to achieve it.

P.5 Jaroslav Polášek after Darko Hlebec

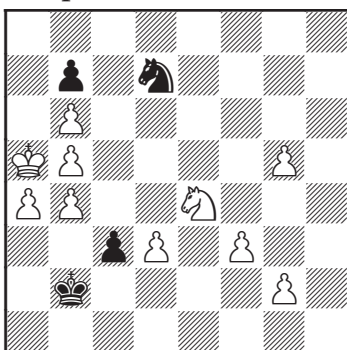


e1a7 4407.21 6/6 Win

1.Ra6+! (1.b8Q+? Kxb8 2.Qd8+ Kb7 3.Qd7+ Kb8 4.Qxf5 Qg3+ draws) **1...Kxa6** **2.Sb4+ Qxb4+!** (2...Ka7 3.Sc6+ Ka6 4.b8S+! Kb5 5.Sd4+ fork) **3.axb4 Sc2+!** Black activates the knight as long as the wK cannot return to f2. **4.Ke2 Rb5 5.Qe6+ Sb6** – see P4.

I thank Gady Costeff for sending a correction of his study P.6 and subsequent exchange of views.

P.6 Gady Costeff
1st/2nd prize Czerniak MT 1986



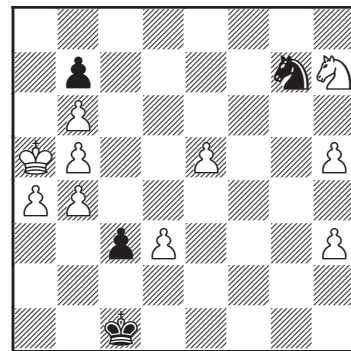
a5b2 0004.82 10/4 Win?

1.g6 c2 2.g7 Sf6! Getting rid of the knight and preparing a stalemate rescue. **3.Sxf6**, and:

— **c1S 4.g8B!** wins (4.g8Q? Ka1!! 5.Se4 Sb3+ 6.Qxb3 stalemate), or:

— **c1Q 4.g8R!** (4.g8Q? Ka3! 5.Qc4 Qc2 6.Qxc2 stalemate, or 5.Se4 Qc2 6.Sc5 Qxa4+ 7.Sxa4 stalemate) **4...Ka3 5.Sd7 Qc3 6.Rg4 Qc8 7.Sc5** – end of variation – win? But... 7... Qa8+ 8.Sa6 bxa6 9.bxa6 Qd5+ 10.b5 Qxd3 11.a7 Qc3+ 12.Ka6 Qc8+ 13.b7 Qe6+ 14.Ka5 Qe1+ 15.Kb6 Qe6+ 16.Kc5 Qe7+ 17.Kc4 Qxb7 draws (EG#6969).

P.7 Gady Costeff
1st/2nd prize Czerniak MT 1986
Correction G. Costeff, original



a5c1 0004.82 10/4 Win

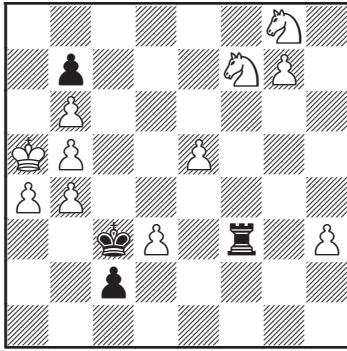
1.Sg5 (1.h6? Se6 2.Sf6 Sd4 with Sb3 mate next move) **1...c2** (1...Sf5 2.Se6 c2 3.h6 Sxh6 4.Sc5 Kb2 5.Sxb7 c1Q 6.Sc5 Qg5 7.b7 Qd8+ 8.Ka6 Qb8 9.Sd7) **2.h6 Kb2!** (2...Sf5 3.Se6! see previous line) **3.hxg7** with:

— **c1S 4.g8B!** wins (4.g8Q? Ka1!! 5.Qd5 Sb3+ 6.Qxb3 stalemate).

— **c1Q 4.g8R!** (4.g8Q? Ka3 5.Se4 Qc2 6.Sc5 Qxa4+ 7.Sxa4 stalemate or 5.Qc4 Qc2 6.Qxc2 stalemate) **4...Ka3 5.Se6 Qc2** (5... Qc3 6.Rg4 Qxe5 7.Sc5 Qb8 8.d4 Qa8+ 9.Sa6 bxa6 10.Rg3+ Kb2 11.bxa6) **6.Sc5** wins.

This is a nice study but it is a pity that the bS does not play. The original version was more dynamic (with the sacrifice 2...Sf6!). Therefore I tried to find a different introduction.

P.8 Gady Costeff
1st/2nd prize Czerniak MT 1986
Version Jaroslav Polášek, original



a5c3 o3o2.82 11/4 Win

1.Sf6 (Se7 c1S;) **1... Rg3!** (1...c1S 2.Se4+ Kb2 3.Sc5) **2. Se4+** (2.Sg5? Rxc5 3.Se4+ Kb3! 4.Sxc5 c1Q 5.g8Q+ Ka3! with known stalemates) **2... Kb2!** (Kb3; Sxc5) **3. Sfg5!** (Sxc5? c1S!;) **3...Rxc5!** preparing the stalemates **4.Sxc5** and we're in Costeff's position.

Gady did not like my introduction, writing: "For me, in art there is no truth, only preferences. Even if we occasionally agree on what we like, this does not mean that it is the truth, but simply an agreement of opinion. When composing I try for the highest ratio of beauty to material. If the introduction can add to the beauty I will consider adding material, but if

it does not, my preference is for the minimal amount of material. There are exceptions but I will ignore them for this discussion. In the case of my study, I considered the immobile knight imperfection to be much preferable to adding an extra piece and an extra capture. Adding the rook goes even further. In general, I'd rather have an imperfection, than try to cover it up with another imperfection. This is well illustrated by the famous Mitrofanov Qg5!! study (EG#00383). Mitrofanov preferred the version starting with 1.Re1 but I preferred the correction with the immobile Se1. Covering one imperfection with another never appealed to me. My preferences are subjective and are only valid for myself. Your version is right for you'.

My view is a bit different, I prefer the dynamic introduction that is related to the content itself. In my opinion, Mitrofanov's correction (HHdbV#46716) is better than the truncated version with the immobile bSe1. The sacrifice 2.Re1! is closely related to the study's content – the bSe1 blocks the path of the bQ.

I acknowledge that the basis for Gady correction is a correct scheme that was very difficult to discover. Therefore I respect Gady choice and show P.8 just for discussion only.

Ideas and settings

BY AMATZIA AVNI

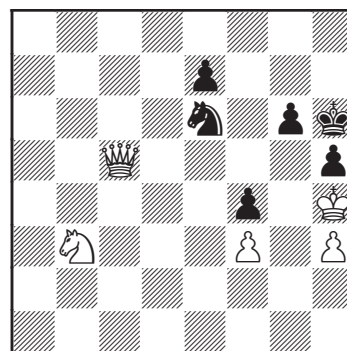
Frequently when a composer has an idea, He is searching for the best way to express it. For example, a problemist creates a mate in two, and then wonders if he could make his idea work, perhaps with richer content and more instructively, in a more-mover or in a helpmate.

This is the usual way things tend to develop – first one finds *what* one wishes to do (idea), then the question of *how* (setting) is pondered.

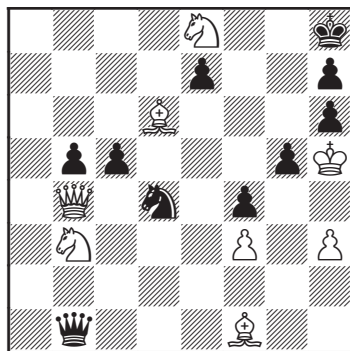
Sometimes the processes of developing an idea and finding an appropriate setting are interwoven. Even less common is starting from the setting and moving towards the idea. Admittedly, it is possible to toy with the pieces with no particular goal in mind and suddenly get an inspiration but this is hardly considered to be a promising composing method.

Recently, while working on some interesting positions, I thought how they can be used to express various ideas. We are not talking here about nuances or variations on a theme, but different studies which stem from quite similar settings.

Although three pieces up, White must find a defence against 1...Qg6+ 2.Kg4 h5 mate. **1.Be5+ Kg8 2.Bc4+ Kf8** (2...bxc4 3.Qxc4+; 2...e6 3.Sf6+ Kf7 4.Bxe6+ Sxe6 5.Qe4) **3.Bg7+ Kxe8 4.Bxb5+ Kf7** (4...Sxb5 5.Qxb5+ Kf7 6.Bxh6 Qg6+ 7.Kg4 Qxh6 8.Sxc5) **5.Be8+!** (5.Bc4+ Kxg7 6.Qb6 Qg6+ 7.Qxg6+ hxg6+ 8.Kg4 Sf5 9.h4 Se3+ 10.Kh3 Sxc4 11.Sxc5 Kf6 wins) **5...Kxg7 6.Qxc5** (6.Qb7? Qe1; 6.Qb6? Qxb3 7.Qxh6+ Kg8 8.Qxg5+ Kf8 wins) Now it's Black's turn to start giving some checks! **6...Qg6+! 7.Bxg6 hxg6+ 8.Kg4 h5+ 9.Kxg5 Se6+ 10.Kh4 Kh6!** (not 10...Sxc5 11.Sxc5 with advantage to White).



A.1 Amatzia Avni
Chess 2017



h5h8 4025.27 8/10 Draw

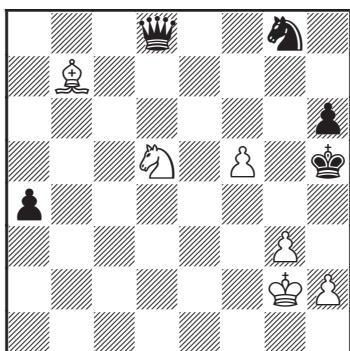
The critical position.

Tries: A) 11.Qxe7 g5+ 12.Qxg5+ Sxg5 13.Sd4 Kg6! zz, wins, or B) 11.Qxh5+ gxh5 12.Sd4 Sg7! zugzwang, or C) 11.Qg5+ Sxg5 12.Sd4 Se4! wins.

Solution: **11.Sd4! Sxc5 12.Sf5+ Kh7** (12...gxf5 stalemate) **13.Sxe7 Se4!** (Se6; 14.Sxg6) **14.fxe4 Kh6 15.Sg8+** (15.Sxg6? Kxg6 16.e5 Kf5; 15.Sf5+? gxf5 16.exf5 Kg7 wins) **15...Kg7 16.Se7 Kh6 17.Sg8+** draws. This is my best study ever.

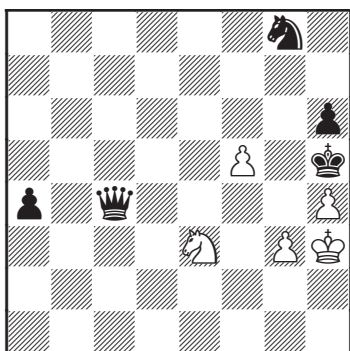
Themes: Mate, Stalemate, Zugzwang, Fork, Sacrifices, Avoidance of capture, Anti-stalemate, Positional draw by repetition.

A.2 Amatzia Avni
The Problemist 2017



g2h5 3014.32 6/5 Draw

1.h4 Qd7 (1...a3? 2.Kh3!; 1...Kg4? 2.Se3+)
2.Bc6! Qxc6 (2...Qc8? 3.Bxa4! Qc1 4.Se3! and
White even wins; 2...Qxf5? 3.Be8+) 3.Kh3 Qc4
4.Se3

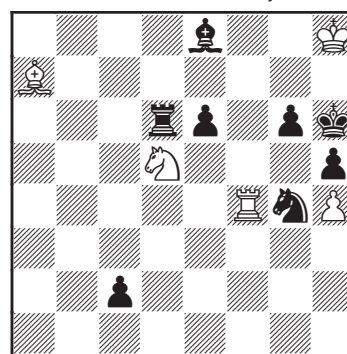


You will notice this position's resemblance to the critical position (with reversed colours) of the previous study. However, although the construction looks alike, the content is not: the former study was about tries, with all sorts of *zugzwangs* and *stalemates*. In the present work there are no side-variations, the move 4.Se3 is multifunctional – attacking the queen, supporting g3-g4 and protecting f1. In addition, what was the heart of the matter in the previous study, is just a prelude to the main events in the present one. 4...Qe4 5.g4+ Qxg4+ 6.Sxg4 a3 By tactical means White has achieved material equilibrium, but now he must deal with the advanced a-pawn. 7.Se5 (Sf2) If 7.Se3? Se7 8.f6 Sg6 9.Sc2 a2 10.f7 Sf4+ 11.Kg3 Se6 12.Sa1 Sf8 13.Sb3 Kg6 14.Kf4 Kxf7 and Black wins (Lomonosov). 7...Sf6 8.Sd3 Sd5 9.Sc1 Sc3 (Sb4??; Se2) 10.Sd3! White forces the draw by playing

on both wings, combining defence against the advanced a-pawn with mating threats against the bK. 10...Se2 11.Sb4 Sf4+ 12.Kg3 Se2+ 13.Kh3 (13.Kf3? Sc3 14.Sc2 a2 15.Ke3 Kxh4) 13...Sc3 14.Sd3 Sd5 15.Sc1 draws.

Here follows another pair of studies which share constructional characteristics but present independent content.

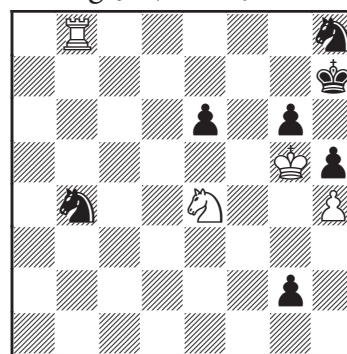
A.3 Amatzia Avni
Pat a Mat 2017



h8h6 0444.14 5/8 Win

- 1.Se7 (threat 2.Sg8 mate), and:
- 1...g5 2.Be3! (intending 3.Rf6+ with mate) Rd8 (2...gxf4 3.Bxf4 mate) 3.Rf8 (Rf6+? Bg6+;) Sxe3 4.Sg8+ (Rf6+? Bg6+;) Kg6 5.Rf6 mate, or:
 - 1...Bf7 2.Rxf7 Rd8+ 3.Sg8+ Rxc8+ 4.Kxc8 Sf6+ (g5; Be3) 5.Rxf6 c1Q 6.Be3+! Qxe3 7.Rf7 g5 8.Rf6 mate. Double switch-back: Rf7-f6-f7-f6.

A.4 Amatzia Avni & Yochanan Afek
1st prize Krug-50 JT 2017, draw section

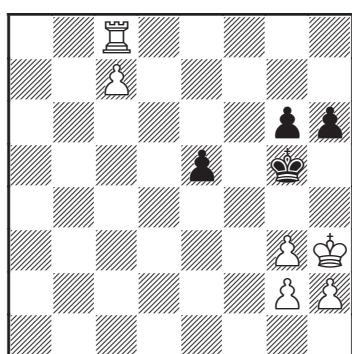


g5h7 0107.14 4/7 Draw

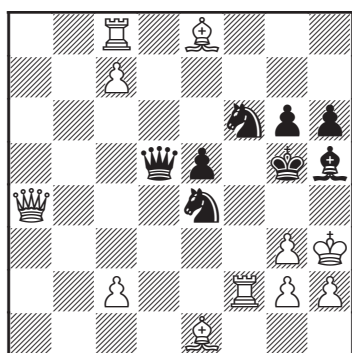
- 1.Rb7+ (1.Sf6+? Kg7 2.Se8+ Kf7 3.Sd6+ Ke7 4.Sc8+ Kd7 wins) 1...Sf7+! (1...Kg8 2.Sf6+ Kf8 3.Sh7 (Sd7)+ Ke8 4.Sf6+ Kd8 5.Rd7+ Kc8 6.Rd1 draws) 2.Kf6! (Rxf7+ Kg8;) 2...Sd5+ 3.Kxf7

g1Q 4.Sg5+ Kh6 5.Kg8! Sf6+ Notice the con-
 structural resemblance to the previous study.
6.Kh8 Qxg5 7.Rg7!! If **7.hxg5+ Kxg5** wins. After
 the text, despite Black's huge material advan-
 tage he is unable to win. **7...e5** (Qf5; Rxc6+)
8.hxg5+ Kxg5 9.Rxc6+! Kf5 10.Rh6 Kg5
11.Rg6+ Kf5 12.Rh6 e4 13.Kg7 draws.

The last pair to be presented is quite striking:
 not less than ten pieces (!) are placed on the
 very same squares in both works (see next dia-
 gram), and there are other pieces placed almost
 similarly, yet each of the studies is distinct.



A.5 Amatzia Avni
 4th prize Timman-65 JT 2017,
 title holders section

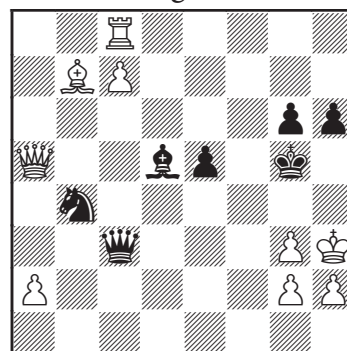


h3g5 4265.53 11/8 Draw

1.Bd7 Bg4+ (1...Qxd7+ 2.Qxd7 Sxd7 3.Rf4;
 1...Sxd7 2.Bd2+ or 2.Qxe4). **2.Bxg4 Sxg4**
3.Bd2+ Qxd2 (3...Kh5? 4.Rf5+ Sg5+ 5.Rxc6+)
4.Rf5+ (4...Rxd2? allows mate in two) **4...Kxf5**
 (4...gxf5? 5.Rg8+ Kf6 6.Qc6+ Sd6 7.c8Q)
5.Rf8+ Kg5 6.Qxe4 Qd7 7.Qf4+! Kh5!

(7...exf4 8.gxf4+ Kh5 9.c8Q) **8.Qf3 Kg5**
 (Both sides must be content with a draw: 8...
 e4? loses to 9.c8Q exf3 10.gxf3) **9.Qf4+** Draw
 by repetition (EG#21589).

A.6 Amatzia Avni
 Original



h3g5 4143.43 9/7 Win

White has a material advantage but he faces
 multiple vicious threats such as 1...Be6 mate,
 1...Qd4 (Qc4), and 1...Sd3, intending mate on
 both f2 and f4. **1.Qb6!** (1.Re8? Sd3 2.Rxe5+ Qxe5
 3.Qd2+ Kf6 – threatens 4...Qh5 mate – 4.g4
 Qxc7; 1.Bxd5? Qd4! (Sd3?; Rf8) 2.Bf3 h5!) The
 multi-purpose text move protects square e6,
 and prepares to defeat 1...Sd3 or 1...Qc4 with
 2.Qe3+. **1...Bxb7** (1...Sc6 2.Re8 Qd2 3.Rxe5+!
 Sxe5 4.Bxd5) **2.Rf8** (2.Qe6? Sd5 3.Qg4+ Kf6
 4.Rf8+ Kg7 5.c8Q Sf4+ 6.Qxf4 Bxc8+; 2.Rg8
 Qd3 3.Qe6 Bxg2+ 4.Kxg2 Qe2+; 2.Qxb7 Qd4
 3.Qf3 Sd3 4.Rf8 Sf2+ 5.Qxf2 Qg4 mate) **2...
 Bc8+ 3.Rxc8 Sd5 4.Qf2** (4.Qxg6+? Kxg6 5.Rg8+
 Kh5) **4...Sf4+ 5.Qxf4+ exf4 6.Rf8** White loses
 his advanced c-pawn but wins the battle. **6...
 Qxc7 7.gxf4+ Kh5 8.g4** mate. Double switch-
 back – Rc8-f8-c8-f8.

I will not go so far as to suggest that building
 a setting and then contemplating what to do
 about it is the most reasonable or economical
 way of creating a study (*although it should be
 pointed out that this is what practical players do
 in their everyday routine – calculating how to
 proceed from a given position*). The usual com-
 posing method, from idea to setting, should
 prevail.

Yet, occasionally, after finishing a study, it
 may be useful to ask ourselves if the setting
 we have just used opens the gate to other ide-
 as which can be implemented. Thus, we may
 sometimes catch two birds (studies) on one
 tree (setting).

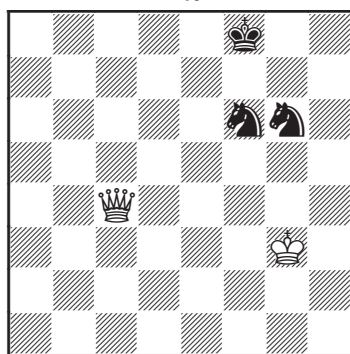
Queen versus two knights: we revisit a famous ending

BY PIERRE GIORDANO (FRANCE)

Among the pawnless chess endgames, certain positions with queen vs. two knights have been analysed in more detail for nearly three centuries.

The **Bilguer** study is well known: *Handbuch des Schachspiels*, von der Lasa (1843), *Practical Chess Endings*, Keres (1974), *Endspielpraxis im Schach*, Pachman (1976), *Les Finales*, Villeneuve (1984).

G.1 P. von Bilguer
1843



Bilguer and von der Lasa gave this line: 1.Qe6 Kg7 2.Kf3 Sh7 (appears to be the best move (1843); 2...Sf8 is wrong because 3.Qe7+, or 2...Sh8 3.Kf4 Sf7 4.Kf5 Sh6+ 5.Kg5 Sf7+ 6.Kh4 Kg6 is possible, or here: 3.Qe7+ Sf7 (also Kg6) etc. (1873). 3.Kg4 Shf8 4.Qd6 Kf7 5.Qd5+ Kg7 6.Kg5? Sfh7+ draws.

Keres stated that this ending is a draw and gave as the main line: 1.Qe6 Kg7 2.Kf3 Sh7 3.Kg4 Shf8 4.Qd6 Kf7 5.Qd5+ Kg7 6.Qd4 Kf7 7.Kf5 Se7 8.Ke4 Sfg6 draws.

Pachman believed that trying to win will always fail in this position and provided this line: 1.Qe6 Kg7 2.Kf3 Sh7 3.Kg4 Shf8 4.Qd6 Kf7 5.Qd5+ Kg7 6. Kg5 Sh7+ picks up the queen.

Villeneuve's main line was: 1.Qe6 Kg7 2.Kf3 Sh7 3.Kg4 Shf8 4.Qd6 Kf7 5.Qd5+ Kg7 6.Qd4+ Kf7 7.Kf5 Se7+ 8.Ke4 Sfg6 draws.¹

Draw? No!

The relevant endgames tablebase (Lomonosov & Nalimov) showed that in G.1 White can mate in 43 moves, for example: 1.Qc7 Se7 2.Qb7 Sfd5 3.Kf3 Kf7 4.Qb3 Ke6 5.Ke4 Kd6 6.Qa3+ Ke6 7.Qh3+ Kd6 8.Qh6+ Kc5 9.Qf8 Kd6 10.Kd4 Ke6 11.Qh6+ Sf6 12.Qe3+ Kd7 13.Qd3 Kd6 14.Qa3+ Ke6 15.Qa6+ Kf5 16.Qb5+ Ke6 17.Qe2+ Kf7 18.Qc4+ Ke8 19.Ke5 Sd7+ 20.Kd6 Sf8 21.Qe4 Sfg6 22.Qe6 Kf8 23.Kd7 Kg7 24.Ke8 Kh6 25.Kf7 Kh5 26.Kf6 Sf4 27.Qe4 Sed5+ 28.Kf5 Kh6 29.Qe8 Kg7 30.Qd7+ Kg8 31.Ke5 Kf8 32.Qh7 Ke8 33.Qg7 Sh5 34.Qg6+ Ke7 35.Qxh5 Sc7 36.Qf5 Se8 37.Qh7+ Kd8 38.Qb7 Sc7 39.Kd6 Se8+ 40.Kc6 Sc7 41.Qxc7+ Ke8 42.Qg7 Kd8 43.Qd7 mate.

Looking for a win is no different from the classical way: try to infiltrate the king into the black defensive line by mixing mate threats and attacks to pick up a knight through skewers, pins and enfilades.

An interesting new finding is that all initial queen positions which enable access to the seventh rank (a7, b7, c7) on the first move are winning: Qc1, c4, c7, b3, b5, b7, a2, a4, a5, a7.

Is this all? Maybe not...

In 1998, Alain Villeneuve discussed a position with **wQe2** instead of c4. We see that the queen cannot play to the 7th rank on the first move so it's a draw. Villeneuve assigns the position to Von der Lasa but no trace is found in the Bilguer.

A position comparable to that of Villeneuve is with **wQd2**: 1.Qh6+ Kf7! (the only move to

draw), 1.Qd6+ Kf7 (Kg7), 1.Qd8+ Kf7 (Kg7), 1.Qf3 Kf7 (Kg7, Sh5+) etc. draw.

Is this all? No!

John Nunn in *Secrets of Pawnless Endings* (1994) came to the conclusion that “The general result is undoubtedly a draw, but there are many losing positions, some of them very lengthy”.

In 1994 Nunn, after consulting the 5 man TB (Thompson’s Databases, 1991) probably was the first to give the correct result for G.1 (mate in 43 moves).

On https://wikiz.org/en/Chess_endgame#Endings_with_no_pawns we read: “73.44% of positions are won by the queen, almost all of the remainder being positions where the side with two knights can immediately capture the queen – 97.59% of positions with the side with the queen to move are won by that side. However, these percentages can be misleading, and most ‘general results’ are based on

the analysis of grandmasters using the table-base data” (Müller & Lamprecht 2001), (Nunn 2002: p.324)⁽¹⁾.

Later **Cuppini**’s book (Venice 2007): *Antologia di Studi Scacchistici* provides the Bilguer position with the correct stipulation and move⁽²⁾.

What moral do we learn ? Do not blindly trust analyses of ancient positions by the old (Grand) Masters and other experts. Consult the EGTBs!

(1) In EG93 p.429-431 (1988) **Alexandr Manyakhin** (Blockade yes! Fortress no?) studies a near position: FEN: 5k2 / 8 / 5nn1 / 8/8 / 6K1 / 4Q3 / 8 w - - o 1 (and therefore different from G.1), where he questions the draw stipulation and attempts to show that White wins. Today the tablebases prove him wrong: with wQe2 it is a draw (the position given by Villeneuve in 1998).

(2) **A. Cuppini** (*Antologia di Studi Scacchistici*, 2007) indicates that Manyakhin had given the correct judgment (White wins) but with a wrong solution (in a slightly different example).

Interview with Boris Sakharov

BY JOHN ROYCROFT

Conflated from interview material at the Barcelona international gathering of composition enthusiasts, 1966: AJR with Boris A. Sakharov (1914-1973), conducted principally in the English language.

AJR: In what capacity are you attending this meeting?

BAS: As delegate and Chairman of the Commission for Composition of the Chess Federation of the USSR.

AJR: Please excuse a personal question. You look young, yet your hair is silver.

BAS: I am 52. My hair has been white for 25 years, from the start of the Great Patriotic War.

AJR: You have said that study composers should be good analysts...

BAS: Usually, but not necessarily. Chekhover, Kasparyan and Anatoly Kuznetsov are master-rank players, Pogosyants is not. Korkov’s wife is, I believe, stronger than he is.

AJR: Is it possible to distinguish the compositions of the two groups?

BAS: No.

AJR: As between Troitzky and Leonid Kubel, whom do you prefer?

BAS: Troitzky

AJR: What help did you receive from other composers when you started out?

BAS: I began to compose before the war. Soon after the war I was in a chess club in Moscow working at a composition when Mr Liburkin showed interest and expressed an opinion. I thought about what he said, went away, and came back the next week with more ideas. Mr Liburkin was a very great help to me.

AJR: Did you and he compose any joint studies?

BAS: No. He did not like to do this... He was a man who lived for chess.

AJR: What was the main thing you learned from him?

BAS: That every piece must do some work.

AJR: Was Liburkin a happy man or an unhappy man?

BAS: He was a very ill man.

AJR: I recall a famous study of yours in a thematic tourney, where the theme was mid-board mate with discovered check. How long did it take to compose?

BAS: This was composed with Anatoly Kuznetsov. But as joint compositions were not permitted in this tourney it was entered under my name. Composing it took ten to fifteen hours.

AJR: When you work with Mr Kuznetsov, which of you has the ideas and which of you the technique?

BAS: We both have ideas and we both have technique.

AJR: Are all your compositions as quick as that one?

BAS: By no means. One idea, where a wP plays to g7 to threaten bQh8, with bSh7 and bBg8, was worked at for 25 years. We had several hundreds of candidate settings before ...

AJR: How many hours a month do you spend on chess?

BAS: Several years ago I composed on Saturday evenings and on Sundays. Perhaps ten hours a week and three times a month. I sleep for six hours a night, but once or twice a month I sleep for twelve hours.

AJR: What is your work?

BAS: I am a specialist in semi-conductors.

AJR: Are you married?

BAS: Yes. We have a son. He wishes to be a biologist.

AJR: Do you have other interests?

BAS: Yes. I play the piano.

AJR: Do you agree that a good parallel for chess composition is that of music, the chessmen being the instruments and the moves the musical notes?

BAS: Yes. In my opinion the parallel is closer than with other art genres.

AJR: About how many active study composers are there today in the USSR?

BAS: Perhaps 150 to 200.

AJR: Thank you, Boris Andreevich, for answering my questions.

Review

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

Endgame Magic (2nd edition), John Beasley & Timothy Whitworth, Dover Publications 2017. 192 pages. In English. ISBN 978-0-486-81943-3.

The writers of this book are well-known for being extremely accurate on sources and other details (Whitworth) or for having an eagle eye for endgame study subtleties (Beasley). It might not seem to be a good idea when such a duo writes a book about endgame studies which is aimed at a general chess public. However, the authors have found a perfect solution to this: many source details and some analytical notes have been included in a supplement to the book aimed at the die-hards. There is another useful supplement entitled “Winning material advantages” which explains which material advantage wins and – despite that title – those which do not win.

The book has 17 thematic chapters and the examples are thematically well-chosen. The solutions are very well presented in the book: for most studies there are three diagrams, making it possible to understand the solution without a chessboard..

In my review of the first edition of the book (in *EBUR* no.2 1996) I had then observed that the authors had painstakingly avoided jargon, for instance “perpetual harassment” instead of “positional draw”. While reading the book for this review, I noticed “spear check” (e.g. 2.5, 14.8) instead of “skewer” and “the bK is penned” (8.4) meaning that the bK was confined to a corner. In the introduction, the authors write that, of the 160 studies, more than 20 are new. In almost all of these cases, the studies in the first edition had proven unsound (e.g. 1.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 3.8, 4.6, 4.7, 7.9, 8.5, 8.7, 10.8, 11.6, 12.6, 14.2, 14.9, 15.5, 17.8) or for other reasons (more than 10 studies).

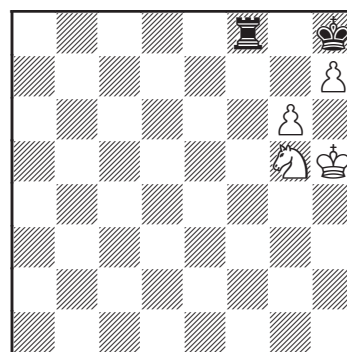
My recommendation is that when you do not possess the first edition, you should immediately buy this book. It makes excellent

reading as the authors patiently and precisely explain what is going on. If you do, however, possess the first edition, I do not believe that the second edition offers very much new. This is meant literally since, although more than 20 years have passed since the first edition, the authors have largely neglected recent material. I counted only a handful of studies originating from the present century (15.4, 16.9, 16.10, 17.8), the most recent being a grandmasterly study by (new) GM Ladislav Salai jr. 2011 (EG#19226). Of course, for a general chess public the brilliant compositions of the old masters are still illustrative but we might have hoped for a second edition with more recent material. Potential buyers browsing through the book in a shop might conclude from the dates of the studies that it is a re-print of old material rather than a revised edition.

The authors recommend showing the following study to your friends at the club. “It is easy to remember and to set up; the two starting positions are entirely natural; each solution is striking in itself; and the combination of the two is out of the world”.

H.1 F. Sackmann

Münchener Neueste Nachrichten 1913



h5h8 o3o1.2o 4/2 Win

II: exchange wSg5 and wKh5

I: 1.Sf7+ Rxf7 2.gxf7 Kxh7 3.f8R!

II: 1.g7+ Kxh7 2.f8B!

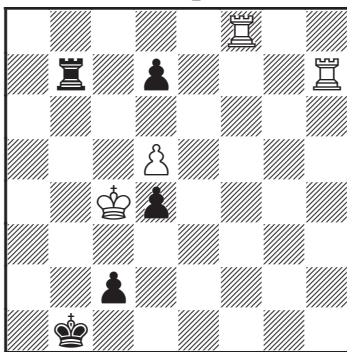
ChessStar 2015

The very large number of 61 studies by 17 composers from 6 countries were published on the website (which seems to have disappeared) with the Krug/Garcia duo publishing no fewer than 28 studies. The judge, Michal Hlinka (Slovakia), rightfully remarked that this would suffice for a separate ty. He considered the level as average, but was pleased to see a variety of interesting ideas. His view was that there were unnecessarily long introductions with exchanges or captures of pieces that did not otherwise play any part. However, for unclear reasons, the judge still found it appropriate to include no fewer than 20 studies in the award, in two sections (win/draw).

HH thinks that in tourneys without a maximum of studies per composer (three is a common maximum) and when there also is no editor taking responsibility for publishing only decent studies, the judge has an extra responsibility to award only decent studies. This does not necessarily apply to the present tourney, but the words of the judge are not very promising (and there is a capture of wood in one of the first prize winners at move 1).

Win section

No 21605 P. Arestov
1st/2nd prize



c4b1 o500.13 4/5 Win

No 21605 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rh1+/i c1Q+ 2.Rxc1+ Kxc1 3.Kxd4/ii d6 4.Rf6/iii Rb6 5.Kc3/iv Kd1 6.Re6 zz Ra6 7.Kb4/v Kc2 8.Kb5 Ra8 9.Rxd6 wins.

i) Try: 1.Rf1+? c1Q+ 2.Rxc1+ Kxc1 3.Kxd4, and now not 3...Kc2? 4.Re7 zz, but 3...Kb2 4.Re7 Kc2 zz 5.Kc5 Kd3 6.d6 Kc3 7.Re2 Kd3 8.Re7 Kc3 9.Re8 Kd3 draws.

ii) 3.Kd3? Kb2 4.Kxd4 d6 draws.

iii) Try: 4.Rd8? Rb6 5.Ke4 Kc2 (Kb2, Kd2) 6.Kf5 Kd3 7.Ke6 Kc4 8.Rxd6 Rb8 9.Rc6+ Kb5 10.Rc1 Rh8 11.d6 Kb6 12.d7 Rh6+ 13.Ke7 Rh7+ 14.Ke8 Rh8+ 15.Kf7 Rh7+ draws.

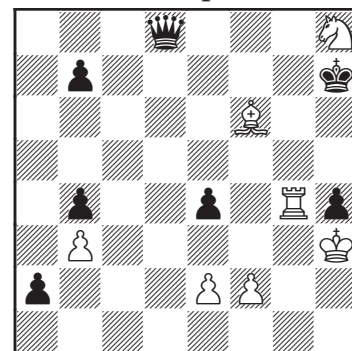
iv) 5.Ke4? Kc2 6.Kf5 Kd3 (Kc3) draws.

v) 7.Kc4? Rb6 8.Kc3 Ra6. This is not a loss of time dual (as mentioned in the award), but

repeats the position (8.Kc3 is the only way to win). White cannot make progress this way. It is not even a minor dual.

“The author often deals with zugzwangs and this is one of his best studies on the topic. The introduction starts with the subtle distinction between 1.Rh1+! and 1.Rf1+? White must avoid the zugzwang after 3...Kb2! 4.Re7 Kc2! zz, while in the main line after 6.Re6 Black is on the wrong side of the zugzwang. An extra is the try 4.Rd8? This is elegant and interesting”.

No 21606 P. Krug & M. Garcia
1st/2nd prize



h3h7 3111.35 7/7 Win

No 21606 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Rg7+/i Kxh8/ii 2.Ba1 Qa8 3.f4/ii, and:

— exf3ep 4.exf3 Qc8+ 5.Kxh4 Qd8+ 6.Kh5 Qe8+ 7.Kh6 Qf8 8.f4/iii b6 (b5; f5) 9.Bb2/iv a1Q 10.Bxa1 b5 11.Be5/v Qf6+ 12.Rg6 Qxe5 13.Rg8+/vi Kxg8 14.fxe5 Kf7 15.Kg5 Ke6 16.Kf4 Kd5 17.Kf5 wins, or:

— e3 4.f5 Qa5 5.Kg4/vii h3 6.f6 h2 7.f7 Qh5+ 8.Kf4 Qh6+ 9.Kf5 Qh3+ 10.Rg4+ Kh7 11.f8Q Qf1+ 12.Rf4 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rxh4+? Kg8 2.Rg4+ Kh7 3.Rg7+ Kxh8 4.Ba1 Qa8 5.Kg4 e3 6.fxe3 Qa3 7.Kh5 Qxb3 8.Kh6 Qb1 9.Rg1+ Qxa1 10.Rxa1 b3 11.Rc1 Kg8 12.Kg6 Kf8 draw. 1.Bxd8? a1Q 2.Rxh4+ Kg8 3.Sg6 Qf1+ 4.Kg3 Qxe2 5.Se5 e3 6.fxe3 Qxe3+ 7.Sf3 Qxb3 draws.

ii) Try: 3.Kxh4? e3 4.f4 Qa3 5.Kh5 Qxb3 6.Kh6 Qb1 7.Rg1+ Qxa1 8.Rxa1 b3 9.f5 Kg8 10.Kg6 Kf8 11.Kf6 Ke8 12.Ke6 Kd8 13.Kd6 Ke8 draws.

iii) 8.Bb2? a1Q 9.Bxa1 b5 10.f4 Qf6+ 11.Bxf6 stalemate.

iv) 9.Be5? Qd6+ 10.Bxd6 a1Q 11.Be5 Qh1+ draws.

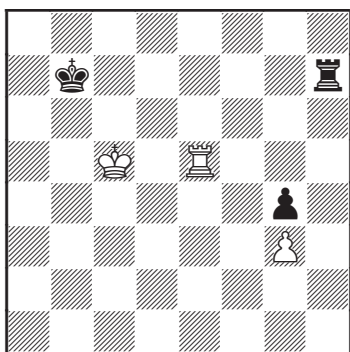
v) 11.f5? Qf6+ 12.Bxf6 stalemate.

vi) 13.fxe5? stalemate.

vii) 5.Kxh4? Qd8+ 6.Kh5 Qe8+ 7.Kh6 Qf8 8.Bb2 b6 zz 9.Ba1 b5 10.Bb2 a1Q 11.Bxa1 Qf6+ 12.Bxf6 stalemate.

“There are many studies with a battery of R+B vs Q on the long diagonal. In 1907 Troitzky created several such studies, as well as e.g. E. Dobrescu and V. Nestorescu in 1967. The idea is that the bQ tries to hide from the battery. Here we have a new idea, and with nice content. The solution has two equivalent lines, adding to its attractiveness”

No 21607 B. Akhaladze
1st honourable mention



c5b7 0400.11 3/3 Win

No 21607 Beka Akhaladze (Georgia). 1.Kd6 Rh3 2.Re3 Kc8 3.Ke6 Kd8 4.Kf5/i Rh8 5.Kxg4 Kd7 6.Kf5 Rf8+ 7.Kg6 Kd6 8.Rb3 (Ra3) Rg8+

9.Kf7 Rg4 10.Kf6 Rg8 11.Rd3+ Kc5 12.Ke6 Kc4 13.Ra3/ii Kb4 14.Kf7 Rg4 15.Rf3 Kc5 16.Kf6 Kd5 17.Kf5/iii Rg8 18.Rd3+ Kc4 19.Ra3 Kb4 20.Rf3 Rf8+ 21.Kg4 Rg8+ 22.Kh5 Kc5 23.g4 Rh8+ 24.Kg5 (Kg6) Rg8+ 25.Kf5 Kd6 26.Rd3+ Ke7 27.g5 Rc8 28.Kg6 Kf8 29.Kh7 Rc7+ 30.Kh8 Kf7 31.Rd6 Rc8+ 32.Kh7

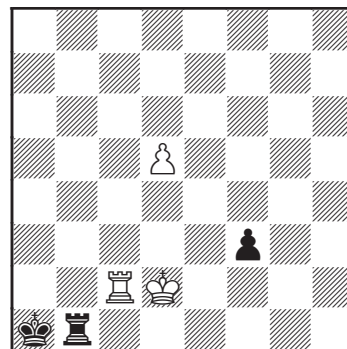
i) 4.Rb3? Rh6+ 5.Kf7 Rh7+ draws.

ii) 13.Rf3? Kd4 14.Kf5 Rf8+ 15.Kg4 Rg8+ 16.Kf5 Rf8+ draws.

iii) Thematic try: 17.Re3? Kd4 18.Rb3 Ke4 19.Ra3 Rg8 draws.

“We see an interesting six-man ending in which White manages to increase, step by step, his apparently slight advantage. Even a GM would find it difficult to convert this ending into a win against optimal black play. After all ‘all rook endings are drawn!’”

No 21608 R. Becker
2nd honourable mention



d2a1 0400.11 3/3 Win

No 21608 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Kc3/i Rf1 2.Rd2 Kb1 3.Rb2+/ii Ka1/iii 4.Rc2 f2 5.Kc4 zz Kb1 6.Kb3 Ka1 7.Ra2+ Kb1 8.Rd2 Ka1 9.Ka3 Kb1 10.Rb2+ Kc1 11.Kb3 Kd1 12.Kc3 (Kc4) Kc1 13.Ra2 Kb1 14.Kb3 Rd1 15.Rxf2 Rxd5 16.Rf1+ Rd1 17.Rxd1 mate.

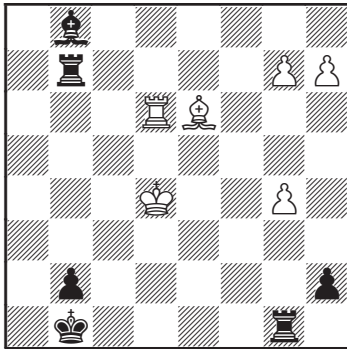
i) 1.Ke3? Rb3+ 2.Ke4 Kb1 3.Rf2 Rb4+ 4.Kd3 Rb3+ 5.Ke4/x Rb4+ 6.Ke5 Rb3 draws.

ii) 3.Kd3? Kc1 4.d6 f2 5.d7 Rd1 draws.

iii) Kc1 4.Rc2+ Kb1 5.Rd2 Re1 6.d6 Re8 7.Rd1+ Ka2 8.Kd4 wins.

“This is similar to the previous study: it is also an interesting six-man story, but its solution is easier... A large number of rook studies have been published, but there is still something new to offer!”

No 21609 P. Arestov & A. Skripnik
3rd honourable mention



d4b1 0740.32 6/6 Win

No 21609 Pavel Arestov & Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.Bf5+ Kc1 2.Rc6+ Kd2 (Kd1; h8Q) 3.Rc2+/i Kd1 4.Rxh2 Rxg7 5.h8Q R1xg4+/ii 6.Bxg4+/iii Rxg4+ 7.Ke3/v Bf4+/iv 8.Kf3/v Bxh2 9.Qxb2 Rg3+ 10.Kf2 zz, wins.

i) 3.h8Q? Ba7+ 4.Ke5 Re1+ 5.Kf4 Rf1+ 6.Ke5 Re1+ draws.

ii) b1Q 6.Bxb1 R7xg4+ 7.Kc3 Bxh2 8.Qxh2 wins.

iii) 6.Kc5? Bxh2 7.Qxh2 R7g5 8.Qc2+ Ke1 draws.

iv) 7.Kc3? Rg3+ 8.Kc4 Rg4+ 9.Kc3 Rg3+ 10.Kxb2 Rg2+ 11.Rxg2 Be5+ 12.Qxe5 stalemate.

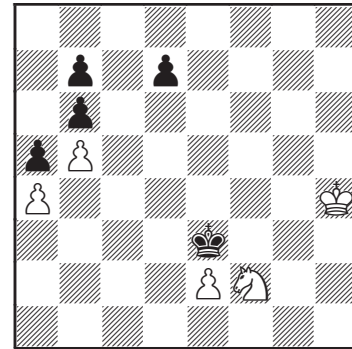
v) 8.Kf2? Bxh2 9.Qxb2 Rg3 zz 10.Qb1+ Kd2 11.Qb2+ Kd1 zz, draws.

“After the introduction, there is an interesting moment when White must play 7.Ke3! instead of the more obvious 7.Kc3? One move later, the main point of the study is 8.Kf3! followed by 10.Kf2, putting Black in zugzwang. After the less natural move 8.Kf2 Black plays 9...Rg3 putting White in zugzwang, resulting in a draw. Perhaps this would work better in a draw study”.

No 21610 L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Kg5/i Kxe2/ii 2.Kf6/iii Kd2/iv 3.Ke7 Kc3 4.Kxd7 Kb4 5.Kc7 Kxa4 6.Kxb6 Kb4 7.Sd3+ Kc3/v 8.Sc5 Kc4/vi 9.Sxb7 a4 10.Ka5 a3 11.Ka4 a2 12.Sa5+ Kd5 13.Sb3 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kg3? Kxe2 2.Kf4 Kd2 3.Ke5 Kc3 4.Kd6 Kb4 5.Kc7 Kxa4 6.Kxb6 d5 7.Sd3 d4 8.Kc5 Kb3 9.Kxd4 a4 draws.

No 21610 L' Kekely
4th honourable mention



h4e3 0001.34 5/5 Win

ii) Kxf2 2.e4 Ke3 3.e5 Kd4 4.Kf6 Kd5 5.Ke7 Kxe5 6.Kxd7 Kd5 7.Kc7 Kc5 8.Kxb7 wins.

iii) 2.Se4? Kd3 3.Sf6 Kc4 4.Sxd7 Kb4 5.Sxb6 Kc5 6.Sc8 Kb4 draws.

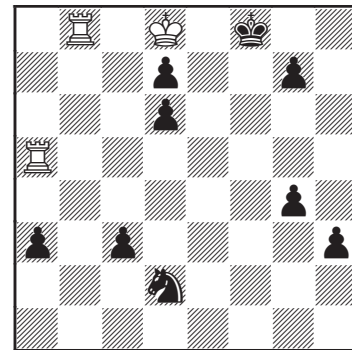
iv) Kxf2 3.Ke5 Ke3 4.Kd6 Kd4 5.Kxd7 Kc4 6.Kc7 Kb4 7.Kxb7 wins.

v) Kc4 8.Se5+ Kd5 9.Kxa5, or Ka4 8.Se5 Kb4 9.Sc6+ wins.

vi) Kb4 9.Sa6+ Ka4 10.Sb8 Kb4 11.Sc6+ wins.

“White does not defend its knight at move 1, and Black does not capture it, as the wPe2 is more important.

No 21611 P. Krug & M. Garcia
5th honourable mention



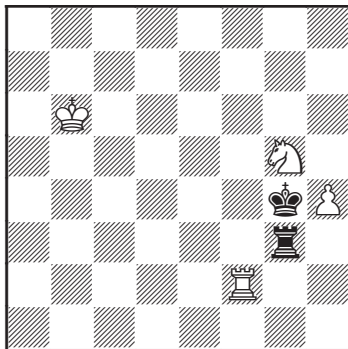
d8f8 0203.07 3/9 Win

No 21611 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Rf5+ Kg8 2.Ke7+ Kh7 3.Kf7 g6 4.Ra5 h2 5.Raa8 Kh6 6.Rb5 d5/i 7.Rxd5 Kh7 8.Rxd7 Se4/ii 9.Ke6+/iii Kh6 10.Rh8+ Kg5 11.Rd5+ Kf4 12.Rxh2 Sd2 (g3; Rc2) 13.Rd4+ Kg3 14.Rh1 Sb3 15.Rg1+/iv Kf3/v 16.Rb4/vi Kf2 17.Rbxg4 c2 18.R1g2+/vii Kf3 19.Ke5 c1Q 20.R4g3 model mate.

- i) Kh7 7.Rh8+ Kxh8 8.Kxg6 h1Q 9.Rb8 mate.
- ii) Kh6 9.Rd5 and either h1Q 10.Rh8 mate, or Kh7 10.Rh8+ Kxh8 11.Kxg6 h1Q 12.Rd8 mate.
- iii) 9.Rdd8? Sg5+ 10.Kf6 Kh6 11.Rh8+ Sh7+ draws.
- iv) Try: 15.Rb4? Kg2 16.Re1 Kf2 17.Rh1 Kg2 draws.
- v) Kf2 16.Rdxg4 a2 17.R4g2+ wins.
- vi) 16.Rdxg4? c2 17.Rc4 a2 18.Rc3+ Kf2 draws.
- vii) 18.R4g2+? Ke3 19.Rg3+ Kf2 20.Ke5 c1Q 21.Rxc1 Sxc1 draws.

“Black tries to promote his passed pawns. White, having the rook pair, develops enormous pressure, combining mate threats and the gain of dangerous pawns. Finally, Black promotes, but it is too late as the play ends with a mate”.

No 21612 B. Akhaladze
commendation

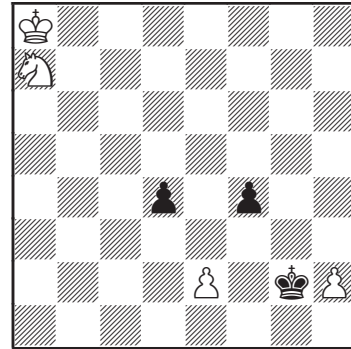


b6g4 o4o1.10 4/2 Win

- No 21612** Beka Akhaladze (Georgia). 1.Rh2/i Re3 2.Kc5/ii Re8 3.Sf7, and:
 — Kh5 4.Kd5 (Sd6? Rf8;) Rf8 5.Ke6 Re8+ 6.Kf5 Rf8 7.Kf6 Ra8 8.Sd6 Ra4 9.Sf5 Ra6+ 10.Ke5 Ra5+ 11.Ke4 Ra4+ 12.Sd4 wins, or:
 — Rf8/iii 4.Se5+ Kh5 5.Sd3 Ra8 6.Sf4+ Kg4 7.Sd5 Kg3 8.Rh1 Rh8 9.Se3 Rxh4 10.Sf5+ Kg2 11.Rxh4 wins.
- i) Thematic try: 1.Sf3? Rh3 2.Rf1 Rg3 3.Kc5 Rg2 draws, or here: 3.Rf2 Rh3 4.Kc5 Rh1 5.Kd4 Ra1 6.Ke3 Ra3+ draws.
 - ii) Thematic try: 2.Kc6? Re8 3.Sf7 Rf8 4.Se5+ Kg3 5.Rh1 Rf6+ 6.Kd5 Kg2 7.Rh2+ Kxh2 8.Sg4+ Kg3 9.Sxf6 Kxh4 draws.
 - iii) Re1 4.h5 Kg3 5.Rd2 Re7 6.Sd6 Re5+ 7.Rd5 wins.

“White’s material advantage is very fragile so, for a win, it is necessary to keep the last pawn”.

No 21613 P. Arestov
commendation



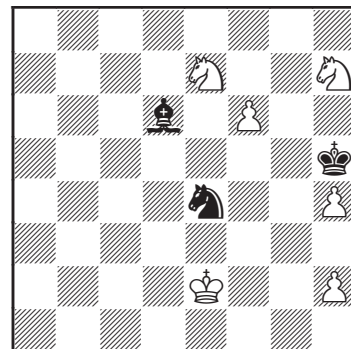
a8g2 o0o1.22 4/3 Win

No 21613 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sb5/i d3 2.exd3 f3 3.Sc3 f2 4.Sd1 (Sd5? Kf3;) f1S 5.h4 Sg3 6.d4 Kf3/ii 7.d5 Sf5 8.h5 Kf4 9.h6 Sxh6 10.d6 Sf7 11.d7 Ke5 12.Kb7 (Kb8) Kd6 13.Kc8 Ke7 14.Kc7/iii wins.

- i) 1.Sc6? f3 2.exf3 d3 3.Se5 d2 4.Sc4 d1Q 5.Se3+ Kxh2 6.Sxd1 Kg3 draws.
- ii) Kh3 7.d5 Kxh4 8.d6 wins.
- iii) 14.Sc3? Sd6+ 15.Kc7 Se8+ 16.Kc8 Sd6+

“The distant knight must advance quickly. Black defends resourcefully with a knight promotion but, however, that is not sufficient to stop the white pawns. This is an elegant miniature, but certain fragments of the play are well-known”.

No 21614 P. Krug & M. Garcia
commendation



e2h5 o035.30 6/3 Win

No 21614 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Kf3/i, and:

— Sd2+ 2.Ke3 Sf1+ 3.Ke4 Sxh2 4.Sf5 Sg4 5.f7/
ii Ba3 6.Kf4/iii Sf2 7.f8Q Bxf8 8.Sxf8 Sh3+
9.Kg3/iv wins, or:

— Sxf6 2.Sxf6+ Kxh4 3.Sg6+/v Kh3 4.Sg4 Bxh2
5.Sf2 mate.

i) 1.Ke3? Sxf6 2.Sxf6+ Kxh4 3.Sf5+ Kh3, or
1.Sf5? Kg6 2.Sxd6 Sxd6 3.Sg5 Kxf6, or 1.Sc8?
Bb4 2.f7 Kg6 draw.

ii) 5.Sxd6? Sxf6+ 6.Sxf6+ Kxh4 draws.

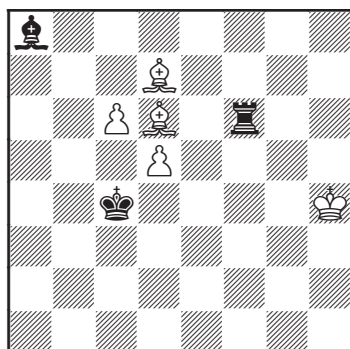
iii) 6.f8Q? Bxf8 7.Sxf8 Sh6 8.Sxh6 Kxh4
draws.

iv) Try: 9.Ke4? Sg5+ 10.Kf4 Sf3 11.Kxf3
stalemate.

v) 3.Sf5+? Kh3 4.Sg4 Bc7 draws.

“Winning this is not easy and, from start to finish, White must play very precisely. A sympathetic study. The inspiration probably comes from an earlier study of these composers (EG#21114)”.

No 21615 M. Minski
commendation



h4c4 0350.20 5/3 Win

No 21615 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.c7
Rh6+ 2.Kg5/i Rh8 3.Bf8/ii Rg8+/iii 4.Kh6/iv
Rxf8 5.d6 Kd5/v 6.Be8/vi Bc6 (Re8; d7) 7.c8Q
Rxe8 8.d7/vii wins.

i) 2.Kg3? Rh8 3.Bf8 Bb7 4.Be6/ix Kb5 5.Be7
Rc8 6.d6 Kc6 7.Bd5+ Kb6 8.Be6 Kc6 draws.

ii) 3.Be5? Rg8+ 4.Kf6 Bxd5 draws.

iii) Bb7 4.d6 Kd5 5.Be7, or Rxf8 4.d6 Kc5
5.Be8 win.

iv) 4.Kh4? Rh8+ 5.Kg5 Rg8+, or 4.Kh5? Rxf8
5.d6 Bf3+ draw.

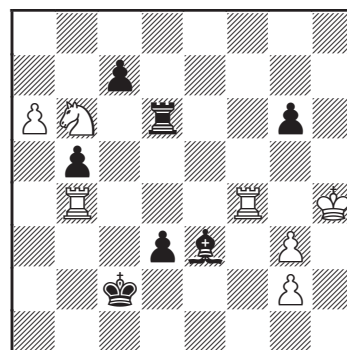
v) Bd5 6.Bb5+ Kxb5 7.d7, or Bb7 6.Be6+ Kc5
7.d7 win.

vi) Echo.

vii) 8.Qc7? Re6+ 9.Kg5 Rxd6

“This is a sympathetic little study for solvers”.

No 21616 A. Pallier
commendation



h4c2 0531.34 7/7 Win

No 21616 A. Pallier (France). 1.a7 Rd8
2.a8Q/i Rxa8 3.Sxa8 c5/ii 4.Rxb5 g5+ 5.Kxg5 d2
6.Rxc5+ Bxc5 7.Rf1 d1Q 8.Rxd1 Kxd1 9.g4 Ke2
10.Kh4 Bf2+ 11.Kh3/iii Ke3 12.Sc7/iv Kf4 (Ke4)
13.Se6(+) Ke5 14.Sg5 Kf4 15.Sf7 Be1 16.g5 Kf5
17.g4+ Ke6/v 18.Sd8+ Ke7 19.Sc6+ Ke6 20.Sd4+
Kf7 21.Sf3 Bc3 22.Kg3 (Kh4 Kg6;) Bg7/vi 23.Kf4
Ke6 24.Sg1/vii Bd4 25.Se2 Bf2 26.Ke4 Bb6
27.Sf4+ (Sd4+? Kf7;) wins.

i) 2.Sc4? g5+ 3.Kxg5 bxc4 4.Rxc4+ Kd1 draws.

ii) Bxf4 4.gxf4 d2 5.Rd4 c5 6.Rd6 b4 7.Sc7
d1Q 8.Rxd1 Kxd1 9.Sa6 b3 10.Sxc5 b2 11.Sa4
draws.

iii) 11.Kh5? Kf1 12.g5 Kxg2 draws.

iv) 12.g5? Kf4 13.g6 Bd4 14.Kh4 Bf6+ 15.Kh5
Kg3 draws.

v) Kg6 18.Se5+ Kg7 19.Sd3 Ba5 20.Kh4 Bc7
21.Kh5 wins.

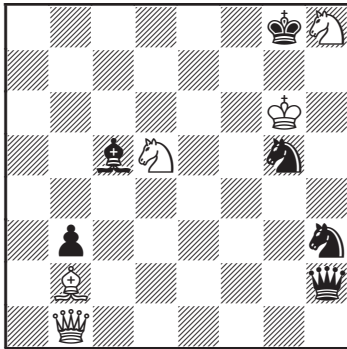
vi) Kg6 23.Kf4 Bb2 24.Sh4+ wins.

vii) 24.Se1? Be5+ 25.Ke4 Bc7 26.Sd3 Bd6
27.Sf4+ Kf7 28.Kf5 Bxf4 29.Kxf4 Kg6 draws.

“The composer has found a demanding six-
man ending with a long solution”.

HH: Luckily the judge provided a decent
presentation in the award instead of the hor-
rifying version the composer dumped on the
website. But I still skipped a line. Who on earth
would consider playing a move such as 9.Kh4?

No 21617 P. Krug & M. Garcia
special prize



g6g8 4048.01 5/6 Win

No 21617 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Qf5/i Sf4+ 2.Sxf4 Qh7+ 3.Kxg5 Be7+ 4.Kg4 Qh4+ 5.Kf3 Qh1+ 6.Ke2/ii Qh2+ 7.Ke3 Qg1+ 8.Ke4 Qh1+ 9.Ke5 Qxh8+ 10.Ke6 Qh6+ 11.Sg6/iii Qh7 12.Kd7/iv Bb4+ 13.Kc6/v Qa7 14.Qd5+ Qf7 15.Qg5 Qe8+ 16.Kc7 (Kb7? Qd7+;) Ba5+ 17.Kb7 Qd7+ 18.Ka6 Bd8 19.Se7++ Kf7 20.Qg6+ Kf8 21.Bg7+ Kxe7 22.Qf6+ Ke8 23.Qf8 mate.

i) Try: 1.Sf6+? Kf8 2.Qf5 Sf4+ 3.Kxg5 Se6+ 4.Kg6 Sf4+ 5.Kg5 Se6+ 6.Qxe6 Be3+ 7.Qxe3 Qh6+ 8.Kxh6 stalemate.

ii) 6.Ke3? Bc5+ 7.Ke2 Qh2+ 8.Kf3 Qh1+ 9.Kg4 Qg1+ 10.Kh5 Qh2+ 11.Kg5 Be7+ 12.Kg4 Qh4+ 13.Kf3 Qh1+ 14.Ke2 wins.

iii) 11.Kxe7? Qd6+ 12.Kxd6 stalemate.

iv) 12.Sxe7+? Qxe7+ 13.Kxe7 stalemate. 12.Bd4? Ba3 13.Qf6 Qh3+ 14.Kd5 Qd7+ 15.Ke4 Qg4+ 16.Kd3 Qg3+ 17.Kc4 Qc7+ 18.Kxb3 Bd6 draws.

v) Try: 13.Kc8? Qa7 14.Qd5+ Qf7 15.Qg5 Qe6+ 16.Kb7 Qd7+ draws.

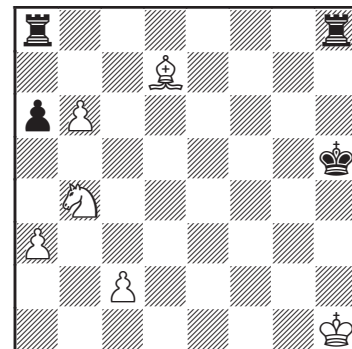
“Black has a very nice defensive manoeuvre starting with 2...Qh7+. There are several stalemate tries. The play develops into the position after 11...Qh7, which move seems to rescue Black. But the very surprising 12.Kd7 – walking into a battery – evaporates all black hopes for a draw. The mate conclusion with two self-blocks is fine. A very nice idea!”

HH: The judge proposed another setting eliminating the introduction (which has the

unfortunate wood capturing 3.Kxg5 which even got an exclamation mark in the award). But the long journey of the wK to the second rank and back would also be lost.

Draw section

No 21618 R. Becker
prize



h1h5 0611.31 6/4 Draw

No 21618 Richard Becker (USA). 1.b7 Rab8 (Rag8; Kh2) 2.Bc6/i a5 3.Sa6/ii Rbg8 4.Bd5/iii Rg5 5.b8Q/v Rxb8 6.Bf7+ Kh4 7.Sxb8 Kg3 8.Kg1 Rb5 9.Kf1 Kf3 10.Ke1/vi Ke3 11.Bb3 Rxb8 12.Kd1 a4 13.Ba2 Rb2 14.Kc1 Rxa2 15.Kb1 Rxa3 16.Kb2 draws.

i) 2.Bc8? a5 3.Sc6 Rbxc8 4.bxc8Q Rxc8 5.Sxa5 Rxc2 6.Kg1 Kg4 7.Kf1 Kf3 8.Ke1 Ke3 9.Kd1 Rc3 10.a4 Kd3 wins.

ii) 3.Sd3? Rh7 4.Kg2 Rc7 5.Bd5 Kg4 6.Kf1 Kf5 7.Ke2 Rxc2+ 8.Ke3 Re8+ 9.Kd4 Rd8 10.a4 Kf6 wins.

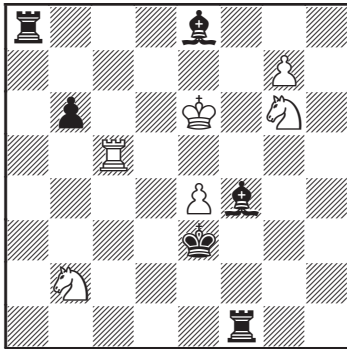
iii) 4.b8Q? Rxb8 5.Sxb8 Rxb8 6.Kg2 Rf8, or 4.c4? Kg4+ 5.Kg2 Kf4+ 6.Kf1 Ke3 7.Bd5 Re8 8.a4 Kd4 9.Kf2 Rhf8+ 10.Kg3 Re3+ 11.Kg4 Rb3 win.

v) 5.Bg2? Rb5 6.Bc6 Rb6 7.b8Q Rbxb8 8.Sxb8 Rxb8 wins.

vi) 10.Bb3? Rxb8 11.Ke1 Rd8 12.Bc4 Ke3 wins.

“Seeing the strong wPb6 in the initial position, it seems that achieving a draw cannot be a problem. But in fact White must play very precisely. This study is a correction (EG#17232)”.

No 21619 P. Arestov & I. Akobia †
prize



e6e3 0762.21 6/6 Draw

No 21619 Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Sc4+/i Kxe4 2.Sxb6 Bf7+ 3.Kxf7 Bg5+ 4.Sf4/ii Rxf4+ 5.Kg6 Rf6+ 6.Kh5/iii Rh6+ 7.Kg4 Rxb6 8.Kxg5 zz Rd6 9.Rc4+ Ke3 10.Ra4 Rd5+ 11.Kf6/iv Rxa4 12.g8Q Ra6+ 13.Ke7 draws.

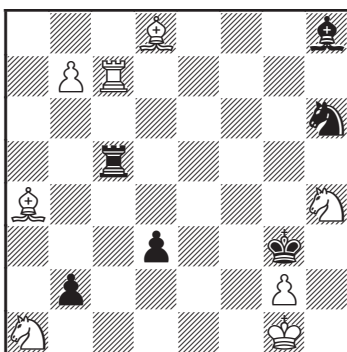
i) 1.Rc3+? Kxe4 2.Rc4+ Ke3 3.Rc3+ Kd2 4.Rd3+ Kc2 5.g8Q Bd7+ 6.Rxd7 Rxd8 wins.

ii) 4.Ke6? Rf6+ 5.Kd7 Ra7+ 6.Ke8 Rxd8 wins.

iii) Try: 6.Kxg5? Rxb6 zz, and 7.Rf5 Rb7 8.Kg6 Rxd8+ wins, or here: 7.Rc4+ Ke3 8.Rg4 Ra5+ 9.Kh4 Rh6+ 10.Kg3 Ra1 11.g8Q Rg1 mate.

iv) 11.Kh6? Rxa4 12.g8Q Rh4+ 13.Kg6 Rg4+ wins.

No 21620 S. Osintsev
honourable mention



g1g3 0455.22 8/6 Draw

No 21620 Sergey Osintsev (Russia). 1.Rg7+ Bxg7 2.b8Q+ Be5 3.Qxb2 Bxb2/i 4.Sb3 Rd5 5.Be7 Sg8/ii 6.Bc6 d2 7.Sxd2 Rxd2 8.Bd6+/iii Kg4 9.Bd7+ Kxh4 10.g3+ Kh5 11.Be8+ Kg4 (Kh6; Bf4+) 12.Bd7+ Kf3 (Ke3; Bf4+) 13.Bc6+ Ke2 (Ke3; Bf4+) 14.Bb5+ Kd1 (Kc1; Bf4) 15.Ba4+ Ke2 16.Bb5+ draws.

i) Bd4+ 4.Kf1/iv Bxb2 5.Sb3 Rd5 6.Be7 Sg8 7.Bc6 d2 8.Sxd2 Rxd2 9.Bb4 Rf2+ 10.Kg1 Rc2 11.Be1+ draws.

ii) d2 6.Sxd2 Rxd2 7.Bg5 Bd4+ 8.Kf1 Rf2+ 9.Ke1 Sg4 10.Bc6 Se3 11.Bxe3 Bxe3 12.Sg6 draws.

iii) 8.Sf5+? Kf4 9.g4 Sxe7 10.Sxe7 Kxg4 wins.

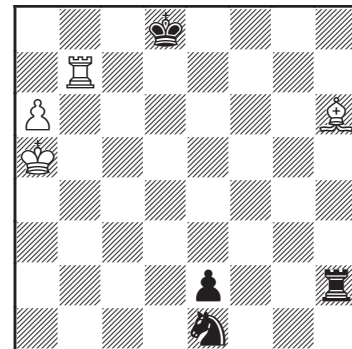
iv) 4.Kh1? Bxb2 5.Sb3 Rd5 6.Be7 Sg8 7.Bc6 d2 8.Sxd2 Rxd2 9.Bd6+ Kxh4 10.g3+ Kg4 11.Bd7+ Kf3 12.Bc6+ Kf2 wins.

“This study has a fresh look and there is also attractive play after 3...Bd4+. White needs to sacrifice his queen, rook, bishop and knight both to defend actively and to accomplish a positional draw”.

MG casts serious doubt on the correctness of this study: 6.Sf5+!? Rxf5 7.Bd6+ Kh4 8.g3+ Kg5 9.Bf4+, and now: 9...Kg6 10.Bc6 Sf6 11.Kg2 Sd5 (11...Rh5 12.Kf3 Rh8 13.Be4+ Sxe4 14.Kxe4) 12.Kf3 Bc3 13.Bxd5 Rxd5 14.Ke4, or 9...Kf6 10.Bc6 Bc3 11.Be4 Rb5 12.Sd2 Rb2 (12...Bxd2 13.Bxd2 Rb3 14.Bd5) 13.Sc4 Bd4+ 14.Kh1.

No 21621 S. Hornecker, M. Minski
& K. Rubin

honourable mention



a5d8 0413.11 4/4 BTM, Draw

No 21621 Siegfried Hornecker, Martin Minski & Klaus Rubin (Germany). 1...Rh5+/i 2.Rb5/ii Sf3 3.Bd2 Sxd2 4.a7 Sc4+ 5.Ka4 (Ka6? Rh6+); Sb6+ 6.Rxb6 Ra5+ 7.Kxa5 e1Q+ 8.Ka6/iii, and:

— Qf1+ 9.Kb7 Qf7+ 10.Kb8 Qc7+ 11.Ka8 Qc3 12.Rb8+ Kd7 13.Rb7+ Kd6 14.Rc7 Qxc7 (Kxc7) stalemate, or:

— Qe2+ 9.Kb7 Qe4+ 10.Kb8 Qe5+ 11.Kb7/iv Qd5+/v 12.Kb8 Qc5 (Qd7) 13.a8S (a8Q? Qc7 mate) Qc8+ 14.Ka7 draws, or:

— Qe4 9.Ka5/vi Qd5+ 10.Rb5 Qa2+ 11.Kb6 Qe6+ 12.Ka5 Kc7 13.a8S+ Kc8 14.Sb6 draws.

i) Sf3 2.Bd2 Sxd2 3.a7 draws.

ii) 2.Ka4? Rxh6 3.a7 Ra6+ 4.Kb5 Rxa7 5.Rxa7 Sc2 wins.

iii) 8.Rb4? Qa1+ 9.Kb6 Kd7 wins.

iv) 11.Ka8? Qf5 12.Rb8+ Kc7 13.Rb7+ Kc6 14.Rc7+ Kb6 draws.

v) Qc7+ 12.Ka8 Qxb6 stalemate.

vi) 9.Rb8+? Kc7 10.a8Q Qa4 mate.

“The authors have found an interesting five-man ending which appears after a pleasant introduction. A practical player, looking at the diagram, might say that it is a draw. He would have been right, but probably he would be unaware what White has to go through to achieve this. Black has three choices and White is saved twice by a knight promotion, a positional draw or a stalemate. This conclusion has a theoretical value”.

iv) 4.Kh2? Kg5 5.Ba3 Kg4 6.Bc5 Rb2 7.Be3 Rc2 8.Bh6 Rc1 9.Bf8 Rc6 10.Bb4 Re6 wins.

v) 5.Be7? Kg4 6.Bd8 Rb7 7.Bf6 Rb1+ 8.Kh2 Re1 wins.

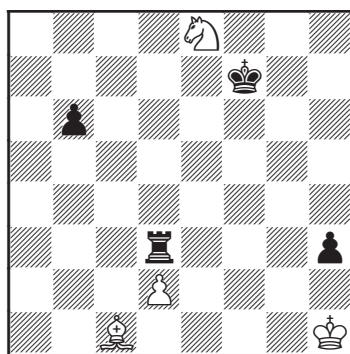
vi) 6.Be3? Kg4 7.Kh2 Re7 8.Kg1 Rc7 9.Kh2 Rc2 wins.

vii) 7.Bc5? Rd8 8.Bb4 Kg4 9.Kh2 Rd7 10.Kh1 Kg3 wins.

viii) But not: 2.Sa8? b5 3.Sc7 Rb3 4.Sxb5 Rxb5 5.Ba3 Rd5 6.Bb2+ Ke6 7.Bc3 Kf5 zz 8.Kg1 Kf4 9.Kh2 Kg4 zz 10.Bb4 Rd7 zz 11.Bc3 Re7 12.Ba5 Re2+ 13.Kh1 h2 14.Bc7 Kh3 wins.

“The introduction of this study is analytically challenging. It is very difficult to find the defence 2.Sa8!! with the intention of sacrificing the knight for the pawn. The authors found a very interesting six-man ending with nice defensive and attacking motifs. Similar to the previous study, this conclusion also has theoretical value”.

No 21622 R. Becker & I. Akobia †
honourable mention



h1f7 0311.12 4/4 Draw

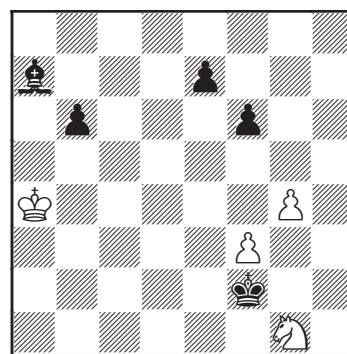
No 21622 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Sc7 Kg6/i 2.Sa8/ii Rb3/iii 3.Sxb6 Rxb6 4.Ba3/iv Kh5 5.Bc5/v Re6 6.Ba7/vi Re8 7.Bb6/vii Re7 8.Bc5 Re6 9.Ba7 Re8 10.Bb6 Re7 11.Bc5 Rd7 12.Bb4 Rd5 13.Bc3 Kg4 14.Kh2 Kf3 15.Bb4 Kg4 16.Bc3 Rf5 17.Bd4 Rd5 18.Bc3 draws.

i) Kf6 2.Bb2+/viii Kf5 3.Bc3 draws.

ii) 2.Sb5? Kh5 3.Sc3 Kh4 4.Se4 Rd4 5.Sc3 Rf4 6.Ba3 Rf1+ 7.Kh2 Rf2+ 8.Kh1 Rxd2 wins.

iii) b5 3.Sc7 Rb3 4.Sxb5 Rxb5 5.Ba3 Rd5 6.Bb2 Kf5 7.Bc3 zz Kf4 8.Bg7 Kg3 9.d4 Rb5 10.Be5+ draws.

No 21623 P. Krug & M. Garcia
commendation



a4f2 0031.23 4/5 Draw

No 21623 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.g5/i fxg5 2.Sh3+ Kxf3 3.Sxg5+ Kf4 4.Se6+ Ke5 5.Sc7/ii Bb8 6.Sa8 Ba7 7.Sc7 Ke4 8.Kb5/iii e5/iv 9.Kc4 Kf3 10.Se6 Ke2 11.Sg5/v Ke3 12.Se6 (Sf7? Bb8;) Bb8 13.Kb5 e4 14.Kxb6 draws.

i) Try: 1.Sh3+? Kxf3 2.g5 b5+ 3.Kxb5 Be3 4.Sg1+ Kf2 5.g6 Bh6 wins.

ii) 5.Sd8? Kd6 6.Kb5 Bb8 7.Sf7+ Kc7 8.Se5 Kb7 9.Sc6 Bd6 10.Sd8+ Kb8 11.Se6 Ka7 wins.

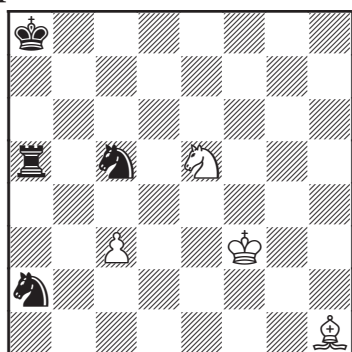
iii) 8.Kb3? Kf5, and: 9.Kc4 e6 10.Sb5 Bb8 11.Sd4+ Kf6 12.Kb5 e5 13.Se2 Bc7, or here: 9.Sd5 Ke6 10.Sc7+ Kd7 11.Sb5 Bb8 win.

iv) Bb8 9.Sa8 Kd3 10.Sxb6 draws.

v) Try: 11.Kd5? b5 12.Sc7 b4 13.Kc4 Bb8 14.Sb5 e4 15.Sd4+ Ke3 16.Sc2+ Kd2 17.Sxb4 e3 18.Sc6 Ba7 19.Se5 e2 20.Sf3+ Ke3 wins.

“This study has a nice key move and the impressive knight secures the draw”.

No 21624 M. Garcia & P. Krug
special honourable mention



f3a8 0317.10 4/4 Draw

No 21624 Mario Garcia (Argentina) & Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Ke3+/i Sb7 2.Sc6 (Sc4? Ra6;) Rh5 3.Bf3, and:

— Rf5 4.Be4/ii Rf1 5.Bg2/iii Re1+ 6.Kd2/iv Rb1 7.Kc2 Rc1+/v 8.Kd2 Rg1 9.Bd5/vi Rg5 10.c4 draws, or:

— Rh3 4.Kf2/vii Sc1 5.Kg2 Rh8 6.Sa5 draws.

i) Try: 1.Kg3+? Sb7 2.Sc6 Rg5+ 3.Kh4 Rg8 4.Bf3 Rf8 5.Kg4 Sc1 6.Sa5 Rxf3 7.Kxf3 Sxa5, or 1.Kf2+? Sb7 2.Sc6 Rf5+ 3.Kg3 Sxc3 4.Sd8 Rf8 5.Sxb7 Se2+ 6.Kg4 Rg8+ 7.Kf3 Sg3 win.

ii) Try: 4.c4? Sc3 5.Sd8 Rxf3+ 6.Kxf3 Sxd8 7.c5 Sc6 Troitzky.

iii) 5.Sa5? Re1+ 6.Kf4 Rxe4+ 7.Kxe4 Sxa5, or 5.Bf3? Sc1 6.Sa5 Rxf3+ 7.Kxf3 Sxa5, or 5.Sd8? Re1+ 6.Kf4 Rxe4+ 7.Kxe4 Sxd8 8.Kd3 Sc1+ 9.Kc2 Se2 win.

iv) Try: 6.Kf2? Rb1 7.Sa5 Rb2+ 8.Kf1 Rxd2 9.Kxd2 Sxa5 wins.

v) Rg1 8.Bd5 Rg5 9.Bxa2 draws.

vi) 9.Bf3? Rg3 10.Ke3 Sc1 11.Kf2 Rg5 12.Sd8 Sd3+ 13.Ke2 Sc5 wins.

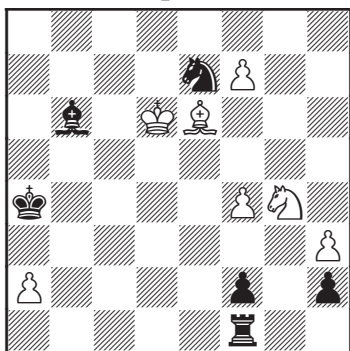
vii) Try: 4.Kf4? Rh8 5.Sa5 Rf8+ 6.Ke3 Rxf3+ 7.Kxf3 Sxa5 wins.

“An unsound study by J. Rusinek was the inspiration for this study. The intention of the authors was, probably, a correction but they added an extra line with another theme, with totally different play. It is a pity, however, that the new version has reduced dynamics. Further, in contrast to the original, Sa2 and Ka8 do not play in the main line. The extra pawn helps, but also damages”.

ChessStar 2016

This internet tourney was judged by Pavel Arestov. The provisional award was dated 9v2017, but no final award could be located. In total 76 studies were published during 2016.

No 21625 A. Zhukov
1st prize



d6a4 0344.42 7/6 Draw

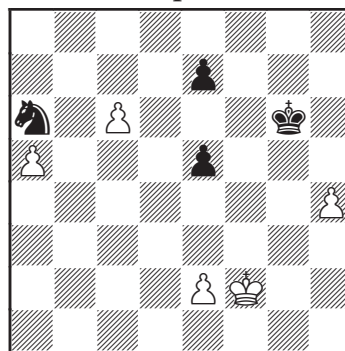
No 21625 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Bb3+/i Kb4 2.Sxh2 Rh1 3.f8Q Rxh2/ii 4.Bc4
Kxc4/iii 5.Qf7+/iv Kd4 6.Qg7+/v Kd3 7.Qg3+/
vi Be3/vii 8.Qxh2/viii Sf5+ 9.Ke5 Bd4+ 10.Kxf5
f1S 11.Qh1/ix Sg3+ 12.Kg6/x Sxh1 13.f5 Sf2/xi
14.f6 Sxh3 15.f7 Bc5 16.Kg7 Sf4 17.f8S draws.

- i) 1.f8Q? Rd1+ 2.Kxe7 Bc5+ wins.
- ii) Bc5+ 4.Kd7 (Ke6) Rxh2 5.Qb8+ draws.
- iii) Bc5+ 5.Ke6 Kxc4 6.Qa8 draws.
- iv) 5.Qa8? Sf5+ 6.Kc6 Se3 wins.
- v) 6.Qf6+? Kd3 7.Qa1 Sf5+ wins.
- vi) 7.Kxe7? (Qa1? Sf5+;) Bc5+ 8.Ke8 Rh1
9.Qg3+ Kd2 10.Qg2 Re1+ 11.Kf7 Bd4 wins.
- vii) Ke4 8.Qxh2 Sf5+ 9.Kc6 draws.
- viii) 8.Kxe7? Rh1 9.Qg6+ Kd2 10.Qd6+ Ke2
11.Qa6+ Ke1 12.Qe6 f1Q 13.Qxe3+ Kd1 14.Qd4+
Ke2 15.Qe4+ Kf2 16.f5 Qc1 wins.
- ix) 11.Qc2+? Kxc2 12.Kg6 Se3, or 11.h4? Sxh2
12.h5 Sf1 13.h6 Se3+, or 11.a4? Sxh2 12.a5 Sf3 win.
- x) 12.Ke6? Sxh1 13.f5 Sf2 14.f6 Sxh3 15.f7 Sg5+
wins.

xi) Sg3 14.f6 Ke4 15.f7 Bc5 16.h4 Ke5 17.h5
draws.

“This is a bright and exciting chess spectacle with the author’s favourite theme, viz. domination of the queen. In this study, a black domination is shown after a surprising knight promotion. White must also promote to knight to achieve a draw”.

No 21626 S. Didukh
2nd prize



f2g6 0003.42 5/4 Win

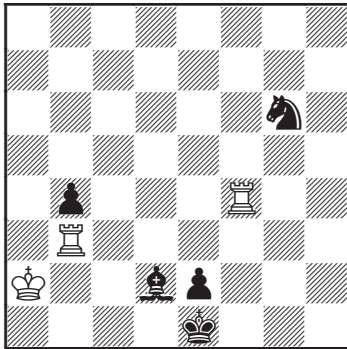
No 21626 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Ke1/i
Kh5 2.Kd2 Kxh4 3.Kc3 (Kd3? Sb4+;) Kg5 4.Kc4
Sc7 5.Kc5 Sa8 6.a6/ii Kf6 7.c7/iii Sxc7 8.a7 Ke6
9.Kc6 Sa8 10.e4 zz, wins.

i) Logical try: 1.Kf3? Kf5 2.e4+ Kg6 3.Ke3 Kh5
4.Kd2 Kxh4 5.Kc3 Kg5 6.Kc4 Sc7 7.Kc5 Sa8 8.a6
Kf6 9.c7 Sxc7 10.a7 Ke6 11.Kc6 Sa8 zz, draws. If
1.Ke3? Sb4 2.c7 Sd5+ 3.Ke4 Sxc7 draws.

- ii) 6.Kb5? Kf5 7.Ka6 Ke6 8.Kb7 Kd6 draws.
- iii) 7.a7? Ke6 8.c7 Kd7 draws.

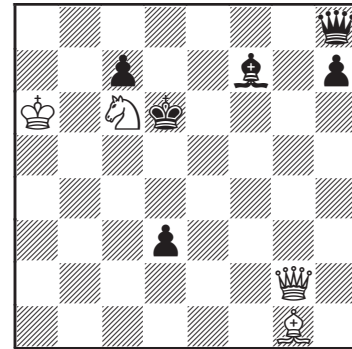
“We also like this very beautiful study with the paradoxical key 1.Ke1! and the mutual zug-zwang at the end”.

No 21627 V. Tarasiuk
3rd prize



a2e1 0233.02 3/5 Win

No 21628 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
4th prize



a6d6 4041.03 4/6 Win

No 21627 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Rb1+ Bc1 2.Rf6/i Kd2 3.Rd6+ Kc2 4.Rc6+ Kd2
5.Rcxc1/ii Sf4 (Se5) 6.Rh1/iii Sd3 7.Rh2 Ke3
8.Rh3+ Kd2 9.Rg1/iv Kc3/v 10.Ka1/vi b3 11.Kb1,
and:

— Kd2 12.Rh2/vii Ke3 13.Rg3+ Kf4 14.Rxe2
Kxg3 15.Re3+ wins, or:

— Kd4 12.Rg4+/viii Kc5 13.Rh5+ Kd6 14.Rg6+/
ix Ke7 15.Rg1 e1Q+ 16.Rxe1+ Sxe1 17.Re5+
wins.

i) Try: 2.Rc4? Kf2 (Kd2?; Rcxc1) 3.Rcxc1 Sf4
4.Rh1 Sg2, and: 5.Rb2 Kf3 6.Rh3+ Kg4 7.Rh1
Kf3 8.Rbb1 Kf2 positional draw, or 5.Rh2 Kg3
6.Rhh1 Kf2 positional draw.

ii) 5.Rbxc1? Se5 6.R6c2+ Kd3 7.Rc8 Sf3 draws.

iii) Try: 6.Rg1? Sd3 7.Rg2 Ke3 8.Rg3+ Kd2
9.Rbg1 Kc2 10.R3g2 b3+ 11.Ka3 Kd2 12.Kxb3 Ke3
draws.

iv) 9.Kb3? Sc1+ 10.Rxc1 Kxc1 draws.

v) Kc2 10.Rh2 b3+ 11.Ka3 Kd2 12.Rgg2 wins.

vi) Try: 10.Kb1? b3 11.Rhh1 Kd4 12.Rg4+ Ke3
13.Rg3+ Ke4 14.Rh4+ Kf5 draws.

vii) 12.Rxd3+? Kxd3 13.Kc1 b2+, or 12.Rg2?
Sf4 draw.

viii) 12.Rh4+? Ke3 13.Rg3+ Kf2 draws.

ix) 14.Rg1? e1Q+ 15.Rxe1 Sxe1 draws.

“This study is nice for solving, with the ‘pat-
ented’ move of the wK to the corner, and win-
ning the knight in two lines”.

[HH observes that studies with two main
lines are not useful for solving events!].

No 21628 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Den-
mark). 1.Bh2+/i Kd7/ii 2.Se5+ Ke7/iii 3.Qg5+
Qf6+/iv 4.Sc6+ Ke6 5.Sd8+ Ke7+ 6.Bd6+ cxd6
7.Sc6+ Ke6 8.Qg4+ Kd5 (Qf5; Sd4+) 9.Kb5
Qb2+/v 10.Sb4+ Ke5 11.Qg7+ Ke4 12.Qxb2 wins.

i) 1.Kb7? Bd5 2.Qg3+ Kd7 3.Qxc7+ Ke6
4.Qe7+ Kf5 draws.

ii) Kc5 2.Qg5+ Kc4 3.Qb5+ Kc3 4.Be5+ wins.

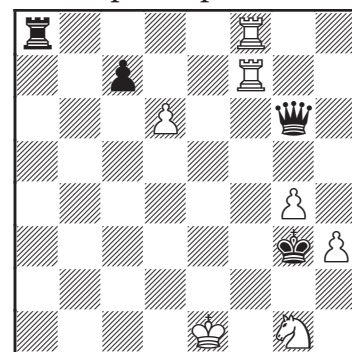
iii) Ke8 3.Qa8+, or Ke6 3.Qc6+, or Kd6
3.Sxf7++ win.

iv) Ke8 4.Qf5 Qg8 5.Qc8+ Ke7 6.Qxc7+ Kf6
7.Sd7+ Kg6 8.Qg3+, or Ke6 4.Qg4+ win.

v) Be8 10.Qc4 mate.

“This is a light, airy study with the point
6.Bd6+!”.

No 21629 A. Zhukov
special prize



e1g3 3501.31 7/4 Win

No 21629 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Se2+/i Kh4 (Kh2; Kf2) 2.d7/ii Qb1+/iii 3.Kf2
Qb6+ 4.Kf1/iv Qb1+/v 5.Kg2 (Kf2? Qb6+;)
Qc2/vi 6.Re8/vii Qc6+ 7.Kf2 Rxe8 (Qb6+; Re3)

8.Sd4/viii Qa8/ix 9.dxe8Q Qxe8 10.Rf8 (Kg2? Kg5;) Qxf8+/x 11.Kg2 c5 12.Sf3+ Qxf3+ 13.Kxf3 wins.

i) 1.Rf3+? Kg2 2.Rxa8 Qe4+, or 1.Rxa8? Qb1+ draws.

ii) 2.dxc7? Rxf8 3.Rxf8 Qb1+ 4.Kf2 Qb6+, or 2.Rxa8? Qxf7 draws.

iii) Ra1+ 3.Kf2 Qb6+ 4.Kg2 Qc6+ 5.Rf3 Qxd7 6.R8f5 Qe8 7.Rh5+ wins.

iv) 4.Kg2? Qc6+ 5.Kh2 Qd6+ draws.

v) Ra1+ 5.Kg2 Qc6+ 6.Rf3 wins.

vi) Qb7+ 6.Kh2 Qe4 7.Sg1 Ra2+ 8.Rf2 Rxf2+ 9.Rxf2 Qe5+ 10.Kg2 Qg3+ 11.Kh1, or Qa2 6.Rh7+ Kg5 7.Rf5+ Kg6 8.Re7, or Qd3 6.Sg1 win.

vii) A study within a study: 6.Kf2? Qc5+ 7.Kf1 Qxf8 8.Rxf8 Rxf8+ 9.Kg2 c5 draws, but not Rxf8? 8.d8Q+ Rxd8 9.Rh7+ Kg5 10.Rh5+ wins.

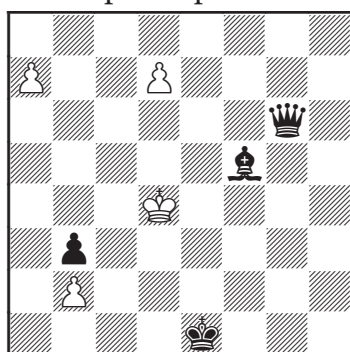
viii) Thematic try: 8.dxe8Q? Qxe8 draws.

ix) Qa4 9.Sf3+ Kxh3 10.Rh7+ Kxg4 11.Rh4+ wins, or Qe4 9.Sf3+ Kxh3 10.Sg5+ wins.

x) Qg6 11.Sf3+ Kxh3 12.Rh8+ Kxg4 13.Se5+ wins.

“This study deserves a special prize for being the most combinational study of the tourney”.

No 21630 P. Krug & M. Garcia
special prize



d34e 3030.31 4/4 Draw

No 21630 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.d8Q/i Qg7+/ii 2.Kc4/iii

Be6+ 3.Kb4 Qxa7/iv 4.Qh4+ Kd2/v 5.Qf4+/vi, and:

— Qe3 6.Ka3 Bd5 7.Qd4+ Qxd4 stalemate, or:

— Ke2 6.Qe4+ Qe3 7.Ka3 Qxe4 stalemate.

i) 1.a8Q? Qd6+ 2.Kc3 Qc5+ 3.Kxb3 Be6+ 4.Ka4 Bxd7+ 5.Kb3 Be6+ 6.Ka4 Qc4+ 7.Ka5 Qa2+ wins.

ii) Qg1+ 2.Ke5 Qxa7 3.Kxf5 draws.

iii) 2.Kc5? Qxa7+ 3.Kb4 Bc2 wins.

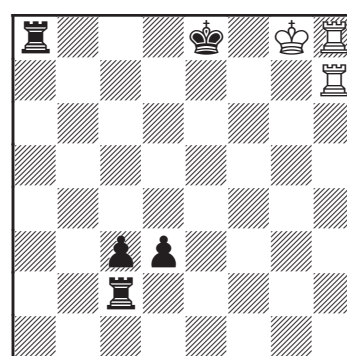
iv) Qb7+ 4.Kc3 Qxa7 5.Qd2+ (Qh4+) draws.

v) Qf2 5.Ka3 or 5.Qe4+ Qe2 5.Kc3 (Ka3) draws.

vi) 5.Qh2+? Kd3 6.Qg3+ Qe3, or 5.Qg5+? Qe3 wins.

“This special prize is for the most surprising quiet move”.

No 21631 P. Krug & M. Garcia
1st honourable mention



g8e8 o800.02 3/5 Win

No 21631 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Rc7/i Kd8 2.Rb7 Kc8 3.Re7/ii Rh2 4.Rxh2 Ra4 5.Rh8 Rd4 6.Kf7+ Rd8 7.Rxd8+ Kxd8 8.Re3 d2/iii 9.Rd3+ Kc7 10.Rxc3+ wins

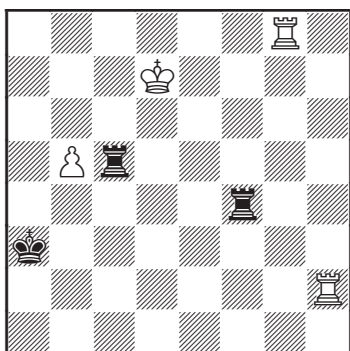
i) 1.Kg7+? Kd7 2.Rxa8 Kc6 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 3.Rf7? Rh2 4.Rxh2 Ra4 5.Rh8 Rd4 6.Kg7+ Rd8 7.Rxd8+ Kxd8 8.Rf3 d2 9.Rd3+ Ke7 (Ke8) wins.

iii) c2 9.Rxd3+ Kc7 10.Rc3+ wins.

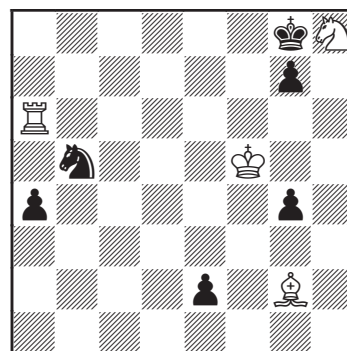
“This is a very good study with a beautiful thematic try”.

No 21632 A. Skripnik
2nd honourable mention



d7a3 o8oo.10 4/3 Win

No 21633 A. Emelin
3rd honourable mention



f5g8 o114.o4 4/6 Win

No 21632 Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.b6/i Rd4+ 2.Ke6 Rc6+/ii 3.Ke5 Rb4 4.Rg3+/iii Ka4 5.Ra2+ (b7? Rb5+;) Kb5 6.b7 Rb6 7.Rg7/iv Kc6 8.Rc2+ Kb5 9.Rc1/v Ka4/vi 10.Ra1+ Kb3 11.Rb1+ Ka4 12.Rxb4+ Kxb4 13.Rg1, and:

— Kc3 14.Rc1+ Kb2 15.Rc7 Kb3 16.Kd5/vii Kb4 17.Rc1/viii Ka3 18.Ra1+ Kb2 19.Ra7 Kb3 20.Kc5 wins, or:

— Ka3 14.Ra1+ Kb2 15.Ra7 Kb3 16.Kd5/ix Kb4 17.Ra1/x Kc3 18.Rc1+ Kb2 19.Rc7 Kb3 20.Kc5 wins.

i) 1.Rg3+? Ka4 2.b6 Rd4+ 3.Ke6 Rc8 4.b7 Re8+ draws.

ii) Rb4 3.Rg3+ Ka4 4.Kd6 Rcb5 5.Ra2 mate.

iii) 4.Rh3+? Kb2 5.Rg2+ Rc2 6.Rxc2+ Kxc2 7.Rh6 Rb5+ 8.Kd4 Kb3 draws.

iv) 7.Ra7? Kc4 8.Rg4+ Kc5 9.Rxb4 Rxb4 10.Ke6 Kc6 draws.

v) 9.Rc8? Ka4 10.Ra8+ Kb3 draws.

vi) Ka5 10.Ra1+ Ra4 11.b8Q Rxb8 12.Ra7+ wins.

vii) 16.Kd4? Rb5 17.Rh7 Kb4 18.Rc7 Kb3 draws.

viii) 17.Rc2? Kb3 18.Rc1 Kb2 19.Rc7 repeats.

ix) 16.Kd4? Rb5 17.Ra1 Kb2 18.Ra7 Kb3 draws.

x) 17.Ra2? Kc3 18.Ra3+ Kb4 19.Ra1 repeats.

“This pleasant miniature has practical value”.

[HH: with regard to the practical value, probably after one pair of rooks has gone, is anticipated by Grigoriev HHdbV#65783].

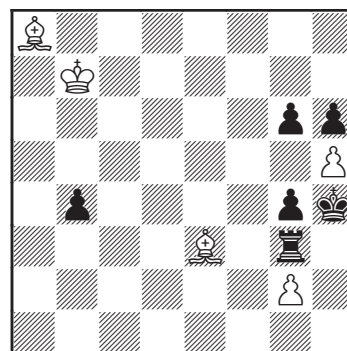
No 21633 Arseny Emelin (Russia). 1.Ra8+ Kh7 2.Sg6 (e1Q; Rh8 mate) Sd6+ 3.Kg5 Sf7+ 4.Kh5 e1Q 5.Bd5 Qb4/i 6.Re8/ii a3 7.Sf8+ Kg8 8.Se6+ Kh7 9.Sg5+ Sxg5 10.Bg8+ Kh8 11.Bf7+ Kh7 12.Bg6 mate.

i) Qe3 (Qd2) 6.Rh8+ Sxh8 7.Sf8 mate.

ii) 6.Sf8+? Kg8 7.Se6+ Sd8 8.Rxd8+ Kf7 draws.

“This is a good study from a not well-known composer. I hope that the studies by Arseny Emelin will figure many times among the winners of various tourneys”.

No 21634 V. Vlasenko
4th honourable mention



b7h4 o320.24 5/6 Win

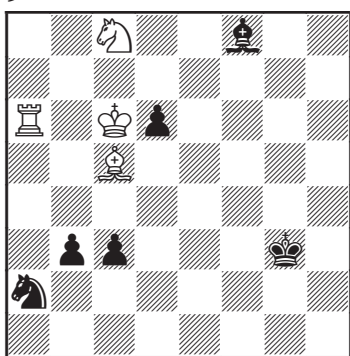
No 21634 Valery Vlasenko (Ukraine). 1.Bf2 b3 2.Kb6/i b2 3.Be4 g5 4.Bg6/ii b1Q+ 5.Bxb1 Kxh5 6.Ba2/iii Rxg2/iv 7.Bf7+

i) First thematic tourney: 2.Kc7? b2 3.Be4 g5 4.Bg6 b1Q 5.Bxb1 Kxh5 6.Ba2 Rc3+ draws. Second thematic try: 2.Kb8? b2 3.Be4 g5 4.Bg6 b1Q+ 5.Bxb1 Kxh5 6.Ba2 Rf3 7.gxf3 gxf3 draws.

- ii) 4.Kc5? Kxh5 5.Bxg3 b1Q 6.Bxb1 stalemate.
- iii) 6.Bxg3? stalemate.
- iv) Kh4 7.Bf7 h5 8.Bxh5 Kxh5 9.Bxg3 wins.

“The author has composed a pleasant study with a delicate wK move choice at the 2nd move”.

No 21635 R. Becker
5th honourable mention



c6g3 0144.03 4/6 Draw

No 21635 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Ba3/i d5/
ii 2.Sd6 Bxd6 3.Bxd6+/iii Kg4/iv 4.Ra4+/v, and:
— Kg5 5.Kxd5 b2 6.Ke6 b1Q 7.Be7+ Kg6 8.Rg4+
Kh5 9.Rh4+ Kg6 10.Rg4+ draws, or:

— Kf5/vi 5.Kxd5/vii b2 6.Rxa2 zz, and:

– Kg6 7.Ke6 b1Q 8.Rg2+ Kh5 9.Rh2+ Kg4
10.Rg2+ Kh3 11.Rh2+ Kg4 12.Rg2+ Kf3
13.Rg3+ Ke4 14.Rxc3 draws, or:

– b1Q 7.Rf2+, and:

• Kg6 8.Rg2+ Kf7 9.Rf2+ Ke8 10.Rf8+ Kd7
11.Rf7+ Ke8 12.Rf8+ draws, or:

• Kg4 8.Rg2+ Kh3 9.Rh2+ Kg4 10.Rg2+
Kf3 11.Rg3+ Ke2 12.Rxc3 draws.

i) 1.Sxd6? c2 2.Ba3 Sb4+ 3.Kb5 Sxa6 4.Kxa6
Kf2 5.Kb5 Bxd6 6.Bb2 Be5 wins.

ii) Sb4+ 2.Bxb4 b2 3.Ra3 b1Q 4.Rxc3+ Kf2
5.Bxd6 Qf5 6.Kb6 wins.

iii) 3.Kxd6? d4 4.Rb6 d3 5.Rxb3 d2 wins.

iv) Kf3 4.Kxd5 b2 5.Rb6 c2 6.Rxb2 Sc3+ 7.Kc4
c1Q 8.Rb3 draws.

v) Thematic try: 4.Kxd5? b2 5.Rxa2 (Ra4+
Kf3;) Kf5 zz 6.Be5 (Ra3 c2;) b1Q 7.Rf2+ Kg6
8.Rg2+/viii Kf7 9.Rf2+/ix Ke8 10.Bxc3 Qb3+
11.Kd4 Qb6+ wins.

vi) Kf3 5.Ba3 b2 (d4; Rxd4) 6.Bxb2 cxb2
7.Ra3+ Ke4 8.Rb3 main:

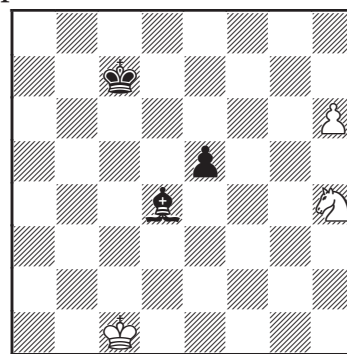
vii) 5.Ba3? b2 6.Bxb2 cxb2 wins.

viii) 8.Rf6+ Kg5 9.Bxc3 Qb3+ wins.

ix) 9.Rg7+ Kf8 10.Bxc3 Qb3+ wins.

“The problem with this interesting study by
the American composer is that the solution is
overloaded with analytical lines”.

No 21636 I. Aliev & H. Guliyev
special honourable mention



c1c7 0031.11 3/3 Win

No 21636 Ilham Aliev & Hasan Guliyev
(Azerbaijan). 1.Sf5 Ba1 2.Kb1 Bc3 3.Kc2 Ba1
4.Kd3/i e4+ 5.Kxe4 Bh8 (Kd7; Sd4) 6.Sg7 Kd6
7.Kf5 Ke7 8.Kg6 Kf8 9.Kh7/ii Bxg7/iii 10.hxg7+
wins.

i) 4.Sd4? e4/iv 5.Sb5+ Kd7 6.Sc3 e3 7.h7 e2
draws.

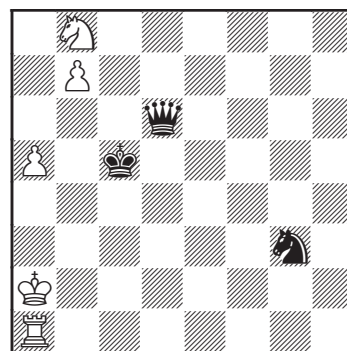
ii) 9.Se6+? Ke7 10.Sg7 Kf8 repeats.

iii) Kf7 10.Kxh8 Kg6 11.h7 Kf7 12.Se6 wins.

iv) Avoiding Bxd4? 5.Kd3 Bb2 6.Ke4, or
exd4? 5.Kd3 winning.

“This is a curious study that has a practical
relevance in the material S+P vs B+P”.

No 21637 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
commendation



a2c5 3104.20 5/3 Win

No 21637 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely
(Slovakia). 1.Sa6+/i Qxa6 2.Rc1+ Kd5/ii 3.b8Q

Qxa5+ 4.Kb1 Sf5 5.Rg1/iii zz Kc4 6.Rf1/iv Se3/v 7.Rf4+/vi Kd3 8.Qb3+ Ke2/vii 9.Qb2+ Qd2 (Kd1; Rf2) 10.Rf2+ Kxf2 11.Qxd2+ wins.

i) 1.Sd7+? Kc6 2.b8Q Qd5+ 3.Qb3 Qxa5+ 4.Kb2 Qd2+ 5.Qc2+ Qxc2+ 6.Kxc2 Kxd7, or 1.Rc1+? Kb5 2.Sc6 Qe6+ 3.Kb2 Qf6+ 4.Kb1 Qf5+ 5.Rc2 Qf1+ 6.Kb2 Qf6+ 7.Rc3 Qf2+ 8.Kb3 Qf7+ 9.Ka3 Qxb7 draws.

ii) Kd4 3.b8Q Qxa5+ 4.Kb3 Qd5+ 5.Kb4 wins.

iii) 5.Qg8+? Kd4, and: 6.Rc4+ Kd3, or 6.Qc4+ Ke5 draws.

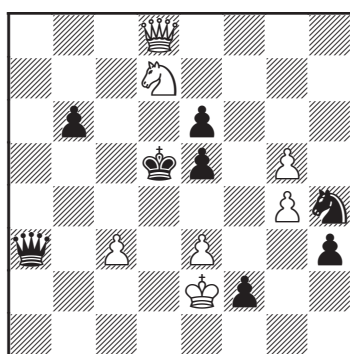
iv) 6.Rc1+? Kd3 7.Qb3+ Kd4 8.Rc4+ Ke5 9.Qb8+ (Qb2+ Kd5;) Sd6 10.Qh8+ Ke6, or 6.Rg4+? Sd4, or 6.Qc8+? Kd3 7.Qc2+ Ke3, or 6.Qg8+? Kc3 7.Rc1+ Kd4, or 6.Qf4+? Kb3 7.Qf3+ (Qb8+ Qb4;) Qc3 draws.

v) Sd4 7.Rc1+ Kd3 8.Qg3+ wins.

vi) 7.Qf4+? Kd3 8.Qd6+ Ke2 draws.

vii) Kd2 9.Rf2+, or Qc3 9.Qb5+ Kd2 10.Rf2+ Ke1 11.Qe2 mate.

No 21638 S. Didukh
commendation



e2d5 4004.45 7/8 Win

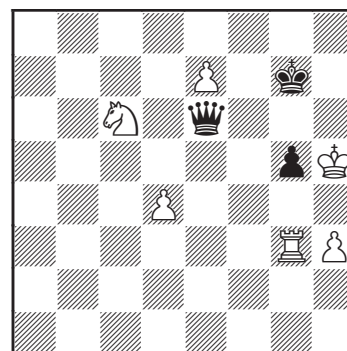
No 21638 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Sx-e5+/i Qd6 2.c4+ Kxe5 (Kc5; Sd3+) 3.Qh8+/ii Ke4 4.Qa8+ Ke5 5.Qa1+/iii Ke4 6.Qh1+ Sg2 (Ke5; Qh2+) 7.Qb1+ Ke5 8.Qa1+ Ke4 9.Qa8+ Ke5 10.Qh8+ Ke4 11.Qh7+ Ke5 12.Qg7+ Ke4 13.Qg6+ Ke5 14.Qf6+ Ke4 15.Qf3+ Ke5 16.Qg3+ wins.

i) 1.Sc5+? Kc4, or 1.Sf6++? Kc4 2.Qd3+ Kb3, or 1.Sxb6++? Kc6 draws.

ii) Logical try: 3.Qf6+? Ke4 4.Qf3+ Sxf3.

iii) 5.Qh1? Sf5, and: 6.Qxh3 f1Q+ 7.Qxf1 Sg3+, or here: 6.Qh2+ Ke4 7.Qxd6 Sxd6.

No 21639 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
commendation



h5g7 3101.31 6/3 Win

No 21639 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.d5/i Qg6+/ii 2.Kg4 Qe4+ 3.Kxg5 Qxd5+ (Kf7; Rf3+) 4.Kh4+ Kf6 (Kf7; Rf3+) 5.Rf3+/iii Qxf3 6.e8S+, and:

— Kg6 (Kf7) 7.Se5+ wins, or:

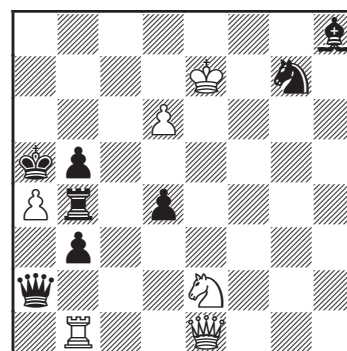
— Kf5 (Ke6) 7.Sd4+ wins.

i) 1.Rxg5+? Kh7 2.d5 Qxh3 mate.

ii) Qh6+ 2.Kg4 Qh4+ 3.Kf5 Qxg3 4.e8Q wins.

iii) 5.e8Q? Qg5+ 6.Rxg5 stalemate, or 5.e8R? Qxc6 draws, or 5.e8S+? Kf7 draws.

No 21640 M. Minski
& S. Slumstrup Nielsen
commendation



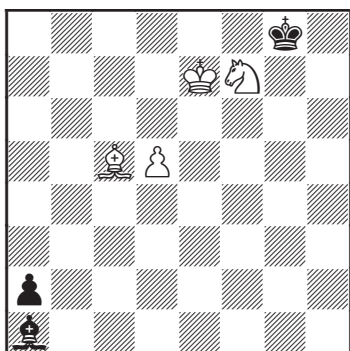
e7a5 4434.23 6/8 Win

No 21640 Martin Minski (Germany) & Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Rb2/i Qxb2 2.d7 Se6/ii 3.Kxe6 Bf6 4.Kxf6 d3+ 5.Sc3 Rd4 6.Sd5+ Kxa4 7.Qa5+ Kxa5 8.d8Q+ Ka4 9.Qa8 model mate.

i) 1.d7? Sf5+ 2.Ke6 b2+ wins.

ii) Sf5+ 3.Ke6 Sg7+ (Bf6; Kxf6) 4.Kf7 (Kd5) Se6 5.Kxe6 see main line.

No 21641 M. Minski
commendation

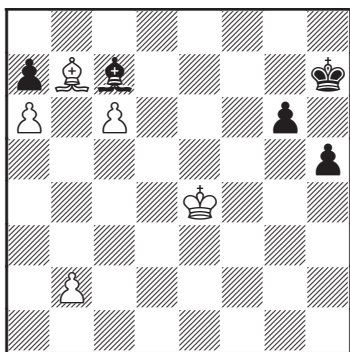


e7g8 0041.11 4/3 Draw

No 21641 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.d6 (Sh6+? Kh7;) Kg7/i 2.Se5/ii Bxe5 3.d7 Bf6+/iii 4.Ke8 a1Q 5.d8Q Bxd8 (Qe5+; Be7) 6.Bd4+ Qxd4 ideal stalemate.

- i) Bf6+ 2.Kxf6 a1Q+ 3.Se5, or Bg7 2.d7 draws.
- ii) Thematic try: 2.d7? Bf6+ 3.Ke8 a1Q 4.d8Q Bxd8 5.Bd4+ Qxd4 no stalemate.
- iii) a1Q 4.d8Q Bf6+ 5.Ke8 see main line.

No 21642 A. Shpakovsky
commendation



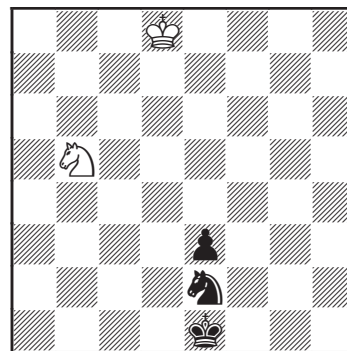
e4h7 0040.33 5/5 Win

No 21642 Aleksandr Shpakovsky (Russia). 1.Kd5/i h4 2.Ke6 h3 3.Kd7 h2 4.Kxc7 h1Q 5.Kb8

Qh2+ (Kg7; c7) 6.c7/ii Qd6 7.b4/iii g5 (Qxb4; Kxa7) 8.b5 g4 9.b6 Qxb6 (axb6; a7) 10.c8Q wins.

- i) 1.Bc8? Kg7 2.Kd5 Kf7 draws.
- ii) 6.Kxa7? Qf2+ 7.Kb8 Qf8+ 8.Bc8 Qb4+ draws.
- iii) 7.Bc6? Qxc6 8.c8Q Qxc8+ 9.Kxc8 g5 10.Kb7 g4 11.Kxa7 g3 12.Kb7 g2 13.a7 g1Q draws.

No 21643 V. Tarasiuk
commendation



d8e1 0004.01 2/3 Draw

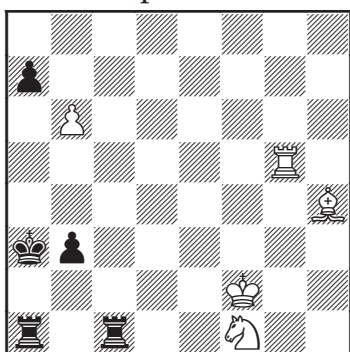
No 21643 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Kd7/i Kd1/ii 2.Ke7/iii Kc1 3.Kf7/iv Kc2 4.Kf6 Kd3 5.Ke5 Sf4 6.Sd4 Sg6+ 7.Kd5 Se7+ 8.Kc5/v Sf5 9.Se6 (Sf3? e2;) Ke4 10.Sg5+ Kf4 11.Sh3+ Kg3 12.Sg1 Kf2 13.Sh3+ Kg2 14.Sf4+ Kg3 15.Se2+ (Sd3? e2;) draws.

- i) Thematic try: 1.Ke7? Kd1 2.Kf7 Kc1 3.Kf6 Kc2 4.Ke5 Kd3 zz 5.Sc7 Sf4 6.Kxf4 e2 wins.
- ii) Kd2 2.Sd6 Kd3 (Sd4; Sc4+) 3.Sf5 draws.
- iii) 2.Kd6? Kc2 3.Kc5 Kb3 4.Kd5 Sc3+ 5.Kd4 e2, or 2.Ke6? Kd2 3.Ke5 Kd3 4.Sc7 Sf4 5.Kxf4 e2 win.
- iv) 3.Kf6? Kc2 4.Ke5 Kd3 5.Sc7 Sf4 6.Kxf4 e2 wins.
- v) 8.Ke5? Sc6+ 9.Sxc6 e2 wins.

Suomen Tehtäväniekkat 2014-2016

Ed van de Gevel (the Netherlands) judged this informal Finnish tourney. In total 18 studies by 17 composers from 10 countries participated. HH was consulted for anticipation checking of the award candidates. The award was published in *Suomen Tehtäväniekkat* no. 2 vi2017 with a three month confirmation time.

No 21644 K. Valtonen
prize



f2a3 0711.12 5/5 Win

No 21644 Kari Valtonen (Finland). 1.Ra5+ Kb4 2.Rxa1 b2 3.Be7+/i Kb5/ii 4.Rb1 Rxb1 5.Sd2 Rd1/iii 6.b7 Rxd2+ 7.Kg3 Rd8 8.Bxd8 b1Q (Ka6; b1Q) 9.b8Q+ Ka6 10.Qc8+/iv Qb7 11.Qe6+ Kb5 12.Qb3+ Kc6/v 13.Qf3+ wins.

i) 3.b7? Rc2+ 4.Kf3 Rc3+ 5.Ke2 Rc2+ 6.Kd3 Rc3+ 7.Kd2 bxa1Q 8.b8Q+ Kc4 9.Qg8+ Kb5 10.Qd5+ Ka4 11.Qd7+ Kb3 12.Qb5+ Ka2 draws.

ii) Kc3 4.Bf6+, or Kb3 4.Ra3+, or Kc4 4.Sd2+ Kd3 5.Rxa7 Kxd2 6.Ra2 win.

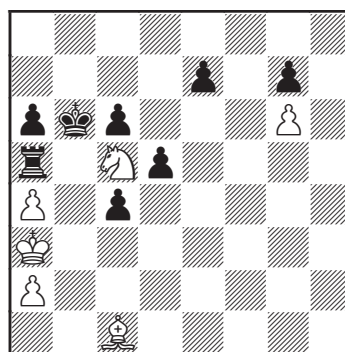
iii) axb6 6.Sxb1 Kc4 7.Ke2 b5 8.Kd1 Kb3 9.Sd2+ Ka2 10.Kc2, or Rh1 6.b7 Rh8 7.Bd6 Ka4 8.Ke2 win.

iv) 10.Qxb1? stalemate.

v) Ka6 13.Qa4 mate.

“After the introduction, Black will be skewered so he sets up a well-known stalemate defence. However, with a clever sequence White transforms the vertical skewer into a diagonal one to which Black has no defence. Since the stalemate is well-known, I was very surprised that this study was not anticipated, but HH confirms it is not, so we must congratulate Mr. Valtonen with a fine find”.

No 21645 M. Minski
1st honourable mention



a3b6 0311.36 6/8 Win

No 21645 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bh6/i Kxc5/ii 2.Bxg7 Kd6 (d4; Bh6) 3.Kb4 Rc5/iii 4.Bd4/iv a5+/v 5.Kc3/vi Ke6 6.a3/vii Kf5 7.g7 wins.

i) 1.Bb2? c3 2.Sd7+ Kc7 3.Bxc3 Kxd7 4.Bxa5 e5, or 1.Sd7+? Kc7, or 1.Se6? d4.

ii) Rxc5 2.Bxg7 c3 3.Bd4 c2 4.Bxc5+ Kxc5 5.Kb2 wins.

iii) c3 4.Kxa5 e5 5.Bf6 c2 6.Bg5 Ke6 7.Kb4 e4 8.Kc5 wins.

iv) 4.Be5+? Kxe5 5.g7 c3 6.g8Q Rc4+ 7.Kb3 c2 draws.

v) e5 5.Bxc5+ Ke6 6.Bd6 wins.

vi) 5.Ka3? Ke6 6.Bxc5 Kf6 7.Bb6 Kxg6 8.Bxa5 Kf5 9.Bd8 Ke6 10.a5 Kd7 11.a6 Kc8 draws.

vii) 6.Bxc5? Kf6, or 6.Kc2? c3 7.Bxc5 Kf6 draw.

“It is charming that White must, at the end of the study, refuse to capture the bR to achieve the win, but I wish that the bR had had more freedom in the initial position”.

No 21646 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sa5 d2 2.Sc4 d1S (d1Q; Se3+) 3.Kg2/i Ke4 4.Kf1 Kd3

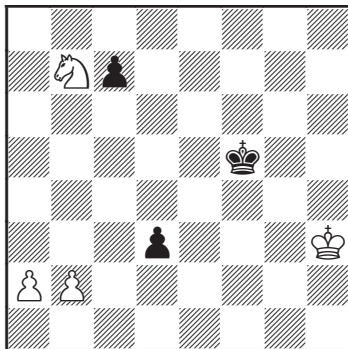
5.Ke1 (b3? Kc3;) Kc2/ii 6.a4/iii Sxb2 7.Sxb2 Kxb2 8.a5 c5 9.a6 c4 10.a7 wins.

i) 3.Kg3? Ke4 4.a4 Kd4 5.a5 Kc5 6.Kf4 Kb5 7.b3 Sc3 draws.

ii) Sxb2 6.Sxb2+ Kc3 7.Sd1+ wins.

iii) 6.b4? Kc3, or 6.Ke2? Sxb2 draw.

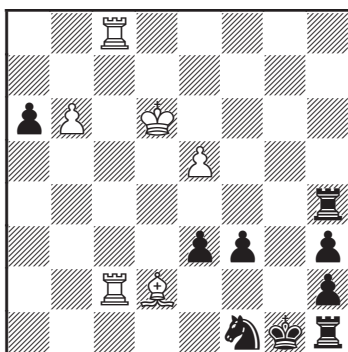
No 21646 P. Arestov
2nd honourable mention



h3f5 0001.22 4/3 Win

“In the first phase White only partially succeeds in stopping the black pawn as Black can promote to knight, only to find this knight trapped; the escape to the pawn ending also brings no relief”

No 21647 D. Keith
commendation



d6g1 0813.25 6/9 Win

No 21647 Daniel Keith (France). 1.Be1 Rd4+/i 2.Kc5/ii Rd2/iii 3.Rg8+/iv Rg2 4.Rgxf2+ hxf2 5.Bf2+ exf2 6.Rc1 a5 7.b7 a4 8.b8S a3 9.Sc6 a2 10.Sd4 a1Q 11.Sxf3+/v mate.

i) Rg4 2.b7 f2/vi 3.Bxf2+ exf2 4.b8Q Se3 5.Rc1+ Kg2 6.Qb7+, or Sg3 2.Rg8 Kf1 3.Bxf2 Rg1 4.Rxf2 f2 5.e6 win.

ii) 2.Ke6? Sd2 3.b7 Rb4 4.b8Q Rxb8 5.Rxb8 f2 draws.

iii) Sd2 3.Kxd4 f2 4.Bxd2 exd2 5.Rxd2 f1Q 6.Rg8+ Qg2 7.Rgxf2+ hxf2 8.b7 Kf1 9.b8Q g1Q+ 10.Kd5 Qg2+ 11.Rxf2 Kxf2 12.Qb2+ Kg3 13.Qc3+ Kf2 14.Qd2+ Kg3 15.Qe3+ wins.

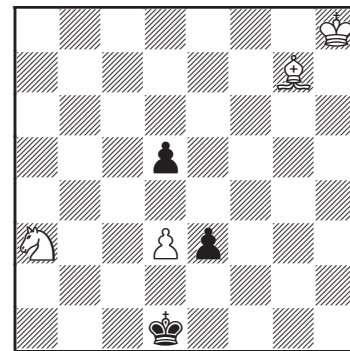
iv) 3.Rc1? Sg3 4.Rg8/ (Bxd2+ Kg2;) Rd8 5.Rxf3+ Kf1 6.Rxf3+ Ke2 7.Rxf3 Rc8+ draws.

v) Avoiding 11.Rxa1? stalemate.

vi) Sd2 3.Bxd2 Rd4+ 4.Ke6.

“The finale, where White needs to promote to knight to mate the boxed-in bK, is of course well-known. But in this kind of study Black is usually boxed in from the start. This one shows how Black might have gotten into this predicament”.

No 21648 V. Samilo
commendation



h8d1 0011.12 4/3 BTM, Win

No 21648 Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1... Kd2/i 2.d4/ii e2 3.Bf8 Kc3 4.Sb1+ Kc2/iii 5.Bb4 Kxb1 6.Kg7 Kc2 7.Kf6 Kd3 8.Ke5 wins.

i) e2 2.Bc3 e1Q 3.Bxe1 Kxe1 4.Sc4 Ke2 5.Se5 Ke3 6.Kg7 Kd4 7.Kf6 wins.

ii) 2.Bd4? Kxd3 3.Bb6 Kd2 4.Ba5+ Kd1 5.Sb5 e2 6.Sc3+ Ke1 7.Sxd5+ Kf2 8.Sb4 e1S draws.

iii) Kc4 5.Sd2+ Kxd4 6.Sf3+ Ke3 7.Se1 Kf2 8.Bb4 d4 9.Kg7 Ke3 10.Kf6 d3 11.Ke5 d2 12.Bc5 mate.

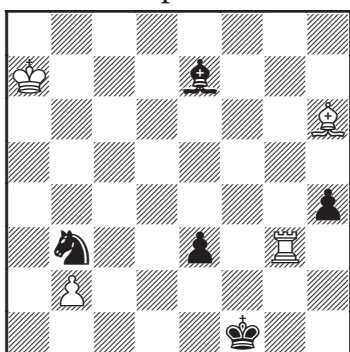
“This is a nice study, although I am not sure why the line that ends with Bc5 mate was given as a side line and not as the main point. It is unfortunate that the composer could not avoid the BTM stipulation”.

[HH observes that, in line iii), Black is completely helpless after 8.Bb4 so that White does not need the mate. See for instance 8.Bd2. This is the reason the composer could not make this the main line].

StrateGems 2015

The annual tourney of the US magazine was judged by Yochanan Afek (the Netherlands/Israel). In total 23 studies by 18 composers from 11 countries participated. HH was consulted for checking the award candidates for soundness and originality. Four studies proved to be unsound. The award was published in *StrateGems* no. 79 vii2017 with a three month confirmation time.

No 21649 I. Akobia † & P. Arestov 1st prize



a7f1 0143.12 4/5 Draw

No 21649 Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rf3+/i Kg2 2.Rxe3 Bc5+ 3.Ka8/ii Bxe3 4.Bxe3 Kf3/iii 5.Bg1 Kg3/iv 6.Ba7/v h3 7.Bb8+ Kg2 8.Bf4 Kf3 9.Bh2 zz Kf2 10.Bc7 zz Kg2 11.Bf4/vi zz Sd4 12.b4 Se2 13.b5 Sxf4 14.b6 Sd5 15.b7 Sb6+ 16.Kb8 draws.

i) 1.Rxe3? Bc5+ 2.Ka8 Bxe3 3.Bxe3 h3 4.Bf4 Sc5 5.b4 Sd3 6.b5 Sxf4 7.b6 h2 8.b7 h1Q wins.

ii) 3.Ka6? Bxe3 4.Bxe3 h3 5.Bf4 Sc5+ 6.Ka7 Se4 wins.

iii) h3 5.Bf4 Sc5 6.b4 Sd3 7.b5 Sxf4 8.b6 h2 9.b7 h1Q 10.b8Q draw.

iv) Kg2 6.Be3 Kg3 7.Ba7 main line.

v) Thematic try: 6.Bb6? h3 7.Bc7+ Kf2/vii 8.Bh2 Kf3 zz.

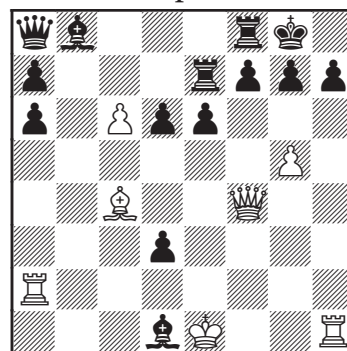
vi) positional draw.

vii) Kg2? 8.Bf4 zz, or Kf3? 8.Bh2 zz.

“This is an original and complex mechanism of a positional draw based on reciprocal zugzwang with only six pieces spread all over the board. Following the subtle 3.Ka8!! the wB should be moved only to those squares that wouldn't allow Black to win a single tempo on his way to interfere with it on g3 (nor the forking of the bishop and pawn, nor a black promotion with a check or a pin) to prevent a

successful chase of the white pawn. Even when Black eventually manages to break this vicious circle, he is still faced with the final and familiar positional draw. This study is highly subtle and precise and yet comprehensible to the mind – a remarkable achievement!”

No 21650 P. Krug & M. Garcia 2nd prize



e1g8 4870.28 7/14 Win

No 21650 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Qh4/i Bh5/ii 2.Qxh5 f5 3.Qxh7+/iii Kf7 4.Qxf5+ Ke8 5.Qxf8+ Kxf8 6.g6/iv Re8/v 7.Rf2+ Kg8 8.Rfh2 Kf8 9.O-O/vi Kg8/vii 10.Bxe6+ Rxe6 11.Rh8+ Kxh8 12.Rf8 mate.

i) 1.Rxh7? Bc2 2.Bxd3 Bxd3 3.Rxg7+ Kxg7 4.Qf6+ Kg8 5.Rh2 Bh7 6.g6 fxc6 7.Qxe7 Rf7 draws.

ii) f5 2.g6 h6 3.Qxe7 wins.

iii) 3.gxf6ep? gxf6 4.Bxd3 f5 5.Rg2+ Kh8 6.Qg5 Qxc6 7.Qxe7 Qc3+ 8.Rd2 Qa1+ 9.Rd1 (Ke2 Qe5+;) Qe5+ 10.Be2 Qg3+ 11.Kd2 Qf4+ draws.

iv) 6.Rh8+? Kf7 7.Rf2+ Kg6 8.Bxd3+ Kxg5 9.Rh1 d5 10.Rg1+ Bg3 11.Rxg3+ Kh4 12.Rg1 Qb8 draws.

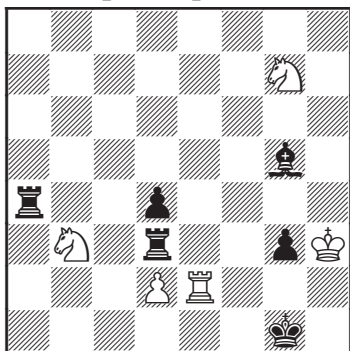
v) Rf7 7.Rh8+ Ke7 8.gxf7 wins.

vi) 9.Rf1+? Kg8 10.Rfh1 Kf8 draws.

vii) Ke7 10.Rf7+ Kd8 11.Rd7+ Kc8 12.Bxa6+ wins.

“This sacrificial middlegame-like encounter makes original use of castling. Players and solvers will like it”.

No 21651 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
special prize



h3g1 0732.12 5/6 Draw

No 21651 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Rg2+/i Kh1/ii 2.Sc1/iii Rxd2 3.Se2 Rxe2 4.Rxe2 g2 5.Rxg2 Ra3+ 6.Rg3 d3 7.Sf5 d2 8.Rxa3 d1Q 9.Rf3/iv Qxf3+/vii 10.Sg3+ Kg1 stalemate.

i) 1.Sc5? Rxd2 2.Rxd2 Bxd2 3.Sxa4 g2 wins.

ii) Kf1 2.Sc5 Rxd2 3.Rxg3 Rc4 4.Se4 draws.

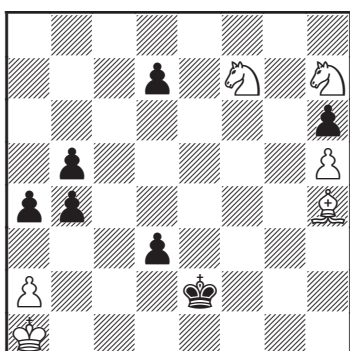
iii) 2.Sc5? Rxd2 3.Rxg3 Rc4 4.Se4 d3 5.Sxd2 Rh4 mate.

iv) 9.Sg3+? Kg1 10.Rf3 Qd7+ wins.

vii) Kg1 10.Rg3+ Kf2 11.Rxg5 draws.

“The final stalemate has been displayed quite often previously. A fine example is Zakhodyakin (HHdbV#47281). Nevertheless, the tense tactical struggle, rich with mutual blows and highlighted by the quiet 9.Rf3!., is new and deserves an honour”.

No 21652 Z. Mihajloski
1st honourable mention



a1e2 0012.26 6/7 Draw

No 21652 Z. Mihajloski (Macedonia). 1.Be1 Kxe1 2.Se5 d2 3.Sf3+ Ke2 4.Sxd2 Kxd2 5.Kb2/i d5 6.Sf6 d4 7.Sd5 d3 8.Sxb4 Ke2 9.Ka3/iii d2 10.Sd5, and:

— Kd3 11.Sc3 Kxc3 and White is in a stalemate, or:

— d1Q 11.Sc3+ Kd2 12.Sxd1 Kxd1 13.Kb4 Kc2 14.Kxb5 a3 15.Kc4/iv Kb2 16.Kd3 Kxa2 17.Kc2 and Black is in a stalemate.

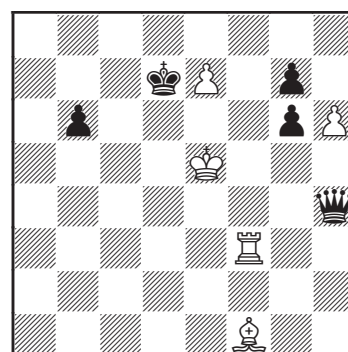
i) 5.Kb1? d5 6.Sf6 d4 7.Sd5 d3 8.Sxb4 Ke2 9.Sd5 d2 10.Kb2 b4 wins.

iii) 9.Sd5? b4 10.Sf4+ Kd2 11.Kb1 a3 12.Sd5 Ke1 13.Se3 Ke2 wins.

iv) 15.Kb4? Kb2 16.Kc4 Kxa2 wins.

“All three pieces are given away to restrain the pawn thrust, after which the kings are mutually stalemating each other”.

No 21653 L. Kekely
2nd honourable mention



e5d7 3110.23 5/5 Draw

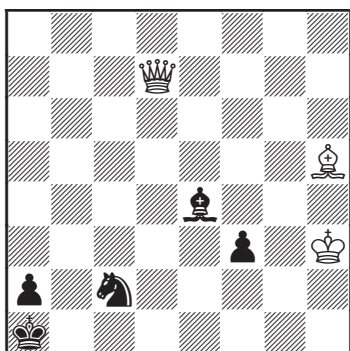
No 21653 L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.e8Q+/i Kxe8 2.h7 Qxh7/ii 3.Rh3 Qg8 4.Ra3 Qh7 5.Rh3 Qg8 6.Ra3 Kd7 7.Bb5+ Kc7 8.Ra7+ Kb8 9.Re7 Qb3 10.Re8+ Kc7 11.Re7+ Kd8 12.Re8+ draws.

i) 1.h7? Qxe7+ 2.Kd5 Qg5+ 3.Kc4 Qh4+ 4.Kb3 Qxh7 wins.

ii) Ke7 3.Rh3, or Qh2+ 3.Ke6 Qxh7 4.Bb5+ Kd8 5.Rf8+ Kc7 6.Rf7+ draws.

“The white pawns are sacrificed to deflect the royal couple leading to a total domination by the rook and the bishop. Consequently a positional draw is obtained and concluded by perpetual check. The long-distance moves create an aesthetic impression”.

No 21654 D. Keith & M. Minski
1st commendation



h3a1 1043.02 3/5 Win

No 21654 Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bf7/i f2 2.Qb5/ii Bd5 3.Bxd5 Se3 4.Bg2 Sxg2 5.Kg3 (Kxg2? f1Q+;) f1Q 6.Qxf1+ Se1 7.Kf2/iii Kb2 8.Qb5+ Ka3 9.Qa5+ Kb2 10.Qb4+ Kc2 11.Qa3 Kb1 12.Qb3+ wins.

i) 1.Qb5? Bd3 2.Qxd3 Kb2 3.Bg6 a1Q 4.Qxc2+ Ka3 draws.

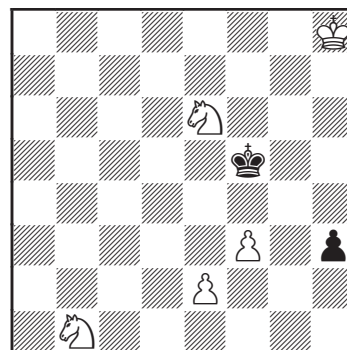
ii) 2.Qd1+? Kb2 3.Bxa2 Bg2+ 4.Kg3 f1Q, or 2.Bc4? f1Q+ 3.Bxf1 Kb2 draw.

iii) 7.Qf6+? Kb1 8.Qb6+ Kc2 9.Qa5 Kb3 10.Qb5+ Ka3 11.Qe5 Kb3 12.Qxe1 Kb2 draws.

“We have seen before a refusal to capture the knight in order to avoid a basic theoretical

draw. Here the attraction is its repetition in a natural and fluent play”.

No 21655 P. Arestov
2nd commendation



h8f5 0002.21 5/2 Win

No 21655 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Sg7+ (Sd4+? Kg6;) Kg6/i 2.Sh5 Kxh5 3.Sd2 h2 4.Sf1 h1S 5.Kg7 Kg5 6.e3 Sf2 7.Sg3 (Sd2? Sd1;) Sd3/ii 8.Se2/iii Kf5 9.Sd4+ Ke5 10.Kg6 Se1 11.f4+ Ke4 12.f5 wins.

i) Kg5 2.Sd2 h2 3.Se4+ wins.

ii) Sd1 8.f4+ Kg4 9.f5 Sxe3 10.f6 wins.

iii) 8.Se4+? Kf5 9.Sg3+ Kg5 repeats.

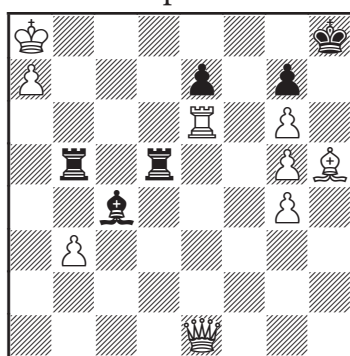
“Both white knights are given away in a successful effort to tame an unstoppable pawn and then to force a winning knight ending”.

StrateGems 2016

Franjo Vrabec (Sweden) judged the annual tourney of *StrateGems*. He considered 23 studies by 19 composers from 16 countries. There were 9 joint compositions. Two studies were excluded because of anticipation. The award was published in *StrateGems* no. 79 vii2017 with a three month confirmation time.

The judge remarks: “I like tactical studies and clear strategic composition. I appreciate the complex structures: two or more main lines and thematic tries. It is crucial for the study to be an inspired work. I don’t like computer based technical play with many side lines. One more important thing: the study must be user-friendly”.

No 21656 M. Minski
1st prize



a8h8 1740.52 9/6 Win

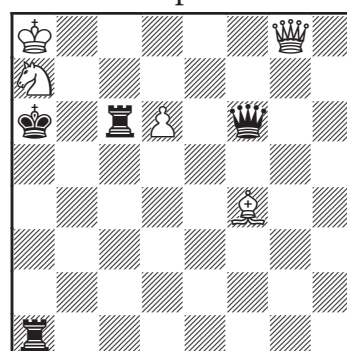
No 21656 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rb6 Rxb6/i 2.Qxe7 Re5/ii 3.Qd8+/iii Re8 (Bg8; Qxb6) 4.Qxe8+ Bg8 5.Qe5/iv zz Rb4/v 6.Qd6/vi Rxb3/vii 7.Qb8 zz Rxb8+/viii 8.axb8S/ix Bd5+ 9.Ka7 wins.

- i) Rd8+ 2.Kb7 Rd7+ 3.Kc8 wins.
- ii) Rd7 3.Qxd7 Bg8 4.Qb7 Rxb3 5.Qb8 zz, see main line.
- iii) Thematic try: 3.Qxe5? Bg8 zz 4.Qb8 Rxb3 5.Qxb3 Bxb3 6.Kb8 Bd5 draws.
- iv) 5.Qb8? Rxb3 zz, or 5.Qd8? Rb8+ 6.axb8Q stalemate.
- v) Rxb3 6.Qb8 zz, wins.
- vi) 6.Qb8? Rxb3 zz, draws.
- vii) Rb5 7.b4 Bd5+ 8.Qxd5 wins.
- viii) Ra3 8.Kb7 Rxa7+ 9.Qxa7 wins, avoiding 9.Kxa7? stalemate.
- ix) 8.axb8Q? stalemate, or 8.Kxb8? Bd5 draws.

“A beautiful key setting is achieved after the seventh move when Black is in zugzwang

in the main line (the roles are reversed in the try). All moves show tactical motifs. The author has built his work superbly, the highlight of the study coming at the end: a minor piece promotion”.

No 21657 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
2nd prize



a8a6 4611.10 5/4 Win

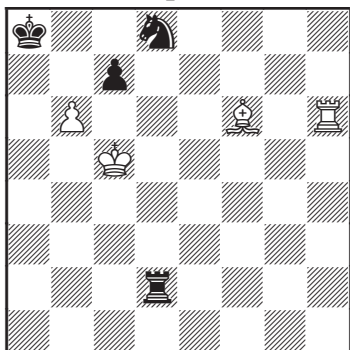
No 21657 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Qb8/i Rb1/ii 2.Qxb1 Qf8+ 3.Qb8 Rxd6 4.Sc6 (Bxd6? Qf3+;) Rf6/iii 5.Bg5/iv Rf7/v 6.Bd8 Qc5 7.Sb4+ Qxb4 8.Qxb4 Ra7+ 9.Kb8 Ra8+ 10.Kc7/vi wins.

- i) 1.d7? Qb2 2.Qc8+ Rxc8+ 3.dxc8Q+ Ka5 draws.
- ii) Rb6 2.Qc8+ Ka5 3.Bd2+ Ka4 4.Qc4+ Ka3 5.Qc5+ Ka2 6.Qa5+ Kb2 7.Qxb6+ wins.
- iii) Qxb8+ 5.Sxb8+ Kb6 6.Bxd6, or Rxc6 5.Qxf8 win.
- iv) 5.Sb4+? Ka5 6.Bc7+ Ka4 draws.
- v) Qxb8+ 6.Sxb8+ Kb5 7.Bxf6 wins
- vi) 10.Kxa8? stalemate.

“We see excellent tactical play in a classical style. Black’s counterplay is very interesting.

After 3...Rxb6 the position is difficult for both sides. My impression is that the ending is not as impressive as the first prize winner's study".

No 21658 Á. Rusz
3rd prize



c5a8 0413.11 4/4 Win

No 21658 Árpád Rusz (Rumania). 1.bxc7 Rc2+/i 2.Bc3/ii Rxc3+ 3.Kb6 Rb3+/iii 4.Ka6 Rb8/iv 5.Rg6/v zz Rc8/vi 6.Rg8 Rxc7 7.Rxd8+ Rc8 8.Rxc8 mate.

i) Se6+ 2.Kc6 (Kb6? Rd6+;), and now: Rc2+ 3.Kb6 Sf8 (Sxc7; Rh8) 4.Be5/vii Sd7+ 5.Ka6 Ra2+ (Sxe5; Rh8 mate) 6.Kb5 Kb7 7.Rh8 Rc2 8.Rb8+ Sxb8 9.cxb8Q mate, or here: Sxc7 3.Kxc7 Ka7 4.Bc3 Rd5 5.Rc6 Rb5 6.Bd4+ Ka8 7.Ra6 mate.

ii) 2.Kb6? Rc6+ 3.Kb5 Rxc7 draws.

iii) Sf7 4.Rh3, and Rxc7 5.Kxc7 wins, here: Rxh3 5.c8Q mate.

iv) Ra3+ 5.Kb5 Rb3+ 6.Ka4 Rb8 7.Rh8 wins, avoiding 6.Kc4? Rb8 7.Rh8 Rc8 draws.

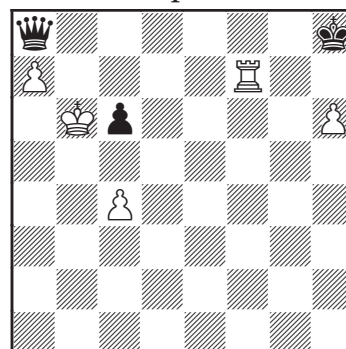
v) 5.Rf6? Sc6, and 6.cxb8Q+ Sxb8+ 7.Kb6 Sd7+ draws, or 6.Rxc6 Rb6+ 7.Kxb6 stalemate, or 5.Rh8? Rb6+ 6.Ka5 Ra6+ 7.Kb5 Rb6+ 8.Kxb6 stalemate, or 5.Rd6? Sf7 6.cxb8Q+ Kxb8 draws.

vi) Sf7 6.cxb8Q+ Kxb8 7.Rg8+ Kc7 8.Rg7 wins.

vii) 4.Rh8? Rb2+ and 5.Bxb2 stalemate or 5.Ka6 Ra2+.

"This is a very rich study! The 2.Bc3!! move is excellent, avoiding the stalemate trap by opening the wR's line. While it is true that the material is in the EGTB after White's first move, a solver can also work out all of the moves. The brilliant 5.Rg6!! (instead of the try Rf6?) is not an EGTB move! All side lines contain interesting tactical play".

No 21659 A. Jasik
4th prize



b6h8 3100.31 5/3 Win

No 21659 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Rb7/i Qd8+ 2.Ka6 Qc8 3.c5 (h7? c5;) Kg8 4.Kb6/ii Qd8+ 5.Rc7 Qa8 (Qe8; Kb7) 6.Ka6 Kh8 7.Rb7/iii Qc8 8.h7 zz Qd8 9.Rb8 wins.

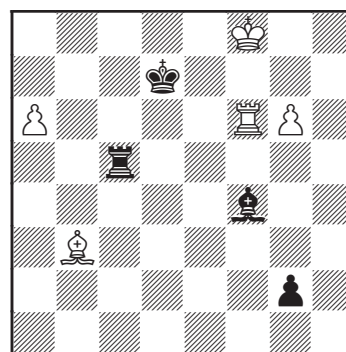
i) 1.h7? c5 2.Kxc5 Qxa7+ 3.Rxa7 stalemate.

ii) Thematic try: 4.h7+? Kh8 zz 5.Kb6 Qd8+ draws.

iii) 7.h7? Qxa7+ 8.Kxa7 stalemate.

"The composer has managed a clean and elegant elaboration of a strategic theme. White avoids the zugzwang positions, and thereby the stalemate traps – a solver-friendly study".

No 21660 D. Gurgenzidze & M. Minski
1st honourable mention



f8d7 0440.21 5/4 Draw

No 21660 David Gurgenzidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Ba4+/i Kc7 2.a7 Kb7/ii 3.Bc6+ Rxc6 4.Rxc6 Bh6+ 5.g7 Bxg7+ 6.Kg8 g1Q 7.Rg6 Qxg6/iii 8.a8Q+ Kxa8 model stalemate.

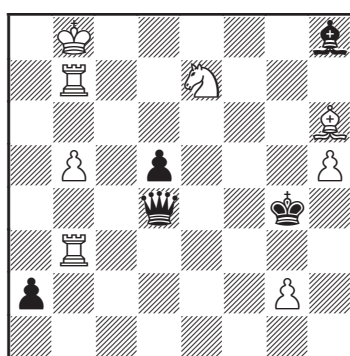
i) 1.a7? Rc8+ 2.Kf7 g1Q 3.Be6+ Kd8 4.Bxc8 Qxa7+ wins, or 1.g7? Bd6+ 2.Kf7 Rg5 3.a7 (Ba4 Kc7;) Rxg7+ 4.Kxg7 g1Q+, or 1.Be6+? Kd8, or 1.Rxf4? g1Q win.

- ii) Ra5 3.g7 g1Q 4.g8Q draws.
- iii) Qh1 8.Rxg7+ Kb6 9.Rd7/iv Qa1 10.Kh7/v draws.
- iv) But not: 9.Re7? Kc5 10.Rd7 Qa1 11.Rh7 (Kf8 Kc6;) Qa6 win.
- v) And not: 10.Kf7? Kc6 11.Re7 Kd6 wins.

“This study has nice tactical play but the check and many captures detract. The 7... Qh1 variant is interesting, but both 9.Rd7 and 10.Kh7 are EGTB moves”.

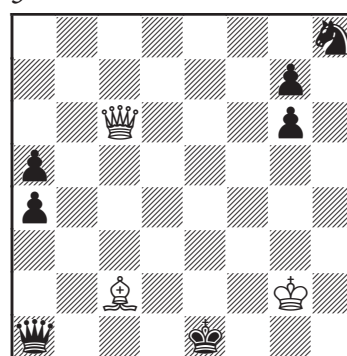
**No 21661 A. Jasik
& M. Garcia**

2nd honourable mention



b8g4 3241.22 8/5 Draw

No 21662 R. Becker
3rd honourable mention



g2e1 4013.04 3/7 Win

No 21661 Andrzej Jasik (Poland) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Rg3+/i Kxg3/ii 2.Sf5+ Kxg2/iii 3.Sxd4, and:

- Bxd4 4.Rg7+/iv Kh3 5.Rg1 Bxg1 6.Bg7 d4 7.h6 a1Q 8.h7 Bh2+ 9.Kb7 draws, or:
- Be5+ 4.Kc8 (Rc7? a1Q;) Bxd4/v 5.Rg7+/vi Kf2 6.Rf7+ Kg2 7.Rg7+ Kh3 8.Ra7/vii Bxa7 9.Bg7 d4 10.h6 a1Q 11.h7 Qc3+ 12.Kd7/viii
 - i) 1.Sc6? Be5+ 2.Ka8 a1Q+ 3.Ra7 Qaxa7+ 4.Sxa7 Qa4 5.Rb1 Kxh5, or 1.Ra3? Be5+ 2.Ka8 a1Q 3.Rxa1 Qxa1+ 4.Ra7 Qb2 5.Sc6 Bh2 win.
 - ii) Kxh5 2.Rg5+ Kxh6 3.Rg6+ Kh5 (Kh7; Ra6) 4.g4+ Qxg4 5.Rxg4 a1Q 6.Rg6 Be5+ 7.Rc7 d4 8.Ra6 Bxc7+ 9.Ka7 draws.
 - iii) Kh2 3.Sxd4 Bxd4 4.Bg7 a1Q 5.h6 Be5+ 6.Bxe5+ Qxe5+ 7.Ka7 Qa1+ 8.Kb6 Qf6+ 9.Kc5 Qxh6 10.Kxd5 draws.
 - iv) 4.Bg7? a1Q 5.h6 Be5+ 6.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 7.Ka7 Qe3+ 8.b6 Qxh6 wins.
 - v) a1Q 5.Sc6 Qa8+ 6.Sb8 d4 7.Bg7 Bxb8 8.Rxb8 Qd5 9.Bxd4 draws.

vi) 5.Ra7? Bxa7 6.Bg7 d4 7.h6 a1Q 8.h7 Qc3+ 9.Kd7 Qh3+ 10.Kd6 Qxh7 wins.

vii) 8.Rg1? Bxg1 9.Bg7 d4 10.h6 a1Q 11.h7 Qa8+ wins.

viii) 12.Kd8? Bb6+, or 12.Kb7? Qf3+ 13.Ka6 Qa3+ 14.Kb7 Qe7+ win.

“We see two main echo lines with good strategic content. Unfortunately the introductory play is not related to the theme (please read the judgement report of the ChessBase-25 AT by John Nunn. He wrote about introductory play in great detail)”.

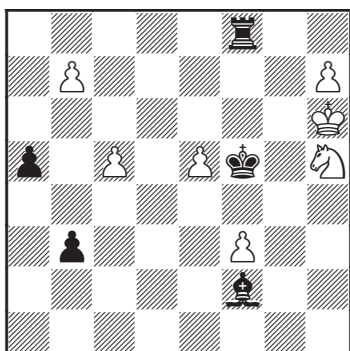
No 21662 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Qd6 g5 2.Qg3+ (Qd3? Qc1;) Kd2 3.Qd3+ Kc1 4.Qd1+ Kb2 5.Qd4+ Ka2 6.Qxa4+ Kb2 7.Qd4+ Ka2 8.Qd5+ Kb2 9.Qe5+ Ka2 10.Qxa5+ Kb2 11.Qe5+ Ka2 12.Qd5+ Kb2 13.Qd4+ Ka2 14.Qa7+ Kb2 15.Qxg7+ Ka2 16.Qg8+ Kb2 17.Qxh8+ Ka2 18.Qg8+ Kb2 19.Qg7+ Ka2 20.Qa7+ Kb2 21.Qd4+ Ka2 22.Qb4 Qb2/i 23.Qc4+ Ka1 24.Qa4+ Qa2 25.Qd4+ Qb2 26.Qd1+ Ka2 27.Qd5+ Ka1 28.Qa5+ Qa2 29.Qe1+ Kb2 30.Qd2 g4 31.Kg3 Qa3+ 32.Bd3+ Kb3/ii 33.Qc2+ Kb4 34.Qc4+ Ka5 35.Qb5 mate.

i) Qc1 23.Qb3+ Ka1 24.Qc3+ Qb2 25.Qa5+, or here: Ka2 25.Bb3+ Kb1 26.Ba2+ wins.

ii) Ka1 33.Qd1+ Kb2 34.Qc2+ Ka1 35.Qb1 mate.

“It is well-known that Richard is a great composer even without a computer – see his beautiful masterpiece from 1982 (HHdbV#31846) – but this material is rather boring. Otherwise the mate ending is nice, and the technical part was hard work”.

No 21663 A. Pallier & M. Garcia
4th honourable mention



h6f5 o331.52 7/5 Draw

No 21663 Alain Pallier (France) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.c6/i Bb6 2.Kg7 Rb8/ii 3.h8Q/iii Rxh8 4.Kxh8 Bc7 5.Sg7+ Kxe5 6.Se8 b2 7.Sxc7 b1Q 8.Kg7/iv Qb2 9.Kf7 Qb3+ 10.Ke7 a4 11.f4+/v Kf5 12.Se8 Kxf4 13.Sf6/vi a3 14.Sd7 a2 15.b8Q+ Qxb8 16.Sxb8 a1Q 17.c7 draws.

i) Try: 1.Kg7? Bxc5 2.Sg3+ Ke6 3.h8Q Rxh8 4.Kxh8 Ba7 5.Se4 b2 6.Sd2 a4 7.Sb1 Kxe5 wins.

ii) Rd8 3.Kf7 b2 4.Sg7+ Kxe5 5.Se8 b1Q 6.h8Q+ Kd5 7.b8Q Rxb8 8.Sf6+ Kxc6 9.Qxb8 draws.

iii) 3.Kf7? Kg5 4.Sg7 Kh6 5.Se8 Kxh7 6.Sf6+ Kh6 wins.

iv) Try: 8.Sa6? Kf6 9.b8Q Qh1+ 10.Kg8 Qg2+ 11.Kf8 Qg7+ 12.Ke8 Qe7 mate.

v) Try: 11.Sa6? Qe6+ 12.Kd8 Qd6+ 13.Kc8 Qxc6+ 14.Sc7 Qb6 15.f4+ Kf5 16.b8Q Qxb8+ 17.Kxb8 a3 18.Sb5 a2 19.Sd4+ Kxf4 20.Sc2 Kf3 21.Kc7 Ke2 22.Kc6 Kd2 23.Sa1 Kc3 24.Kd5 Kb2 25.Kd4 Kxa1 26.Kc3 Kb1 wins.

vi) Try: 13.Sd6? Ke5 14.Sf7+ Kd5 15.Sd8 a3 16.c7 Qb4+ 17.Kd7 Qa4+ 18.Ke7 Qe4+ 19.Kd7 Qh7+ 20.Kc8 a2 21.b8Q Qh3+ 22.Kb7 a1Q wins.

“Is this an analysis of a grandmaster’s practical game? This work is a good technical performance with non-thematic tries but, unfortunately, I don’t see a single tactical motif”

No 21664 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bc4+/i Ka3/ii 2.Bxa6 bxa6 3.b7/iii Sd8 4.b8S (b8Q? Sc6+;) f5 5.Sxa6/iv f4 6.Sc5 (Sb4? Kb3;) Sb7+ 7.Sxb7 f3 8.Sd6 f2 9.Sc4+ and 10.Se3 (Sd2) draws.

i) 1.Bxa6? bxa6 2.b7 Sd8 3.b8S f5, and: 4.Sxa6 f4 5.Sc5 Sb7+ 6.Sxb7 f3 7.Sc5 f2, or here: 4.Sd7

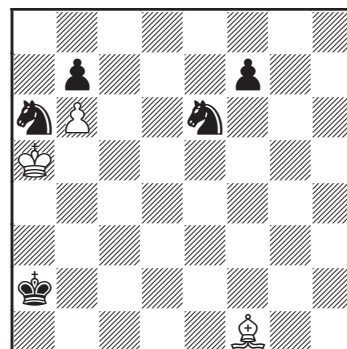
Sc6+ 5.Kxa6 f4 6.Sf6 f3 7.Se4 Kb2 8.Kb6 Se7 wins.

ii) Ka1 2.Bxa6 bxa6 3.b7 draws.

iii) 3.Kxa6? Kb4 4.b7 Sc5+ wins.

iv) 5.Sd7? Sf7 6.Kxa6 f4 7.Sf6 f3 8.Se4 Kb2 wins.

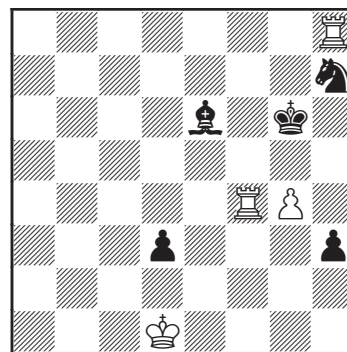
No 21664 P. Arestov
1st commendation



a5a2 o016.12 3/5 Draw

“This is not a big task, but a nice study. The theme is the well-known foresight, with minimal material”.

No 21665 M. Garcia & P. Krug
2nd commendation



d1g6 o233.12 4/5 Win

No 21665 Mario Garcia (Argentina) & Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Rf1, and:

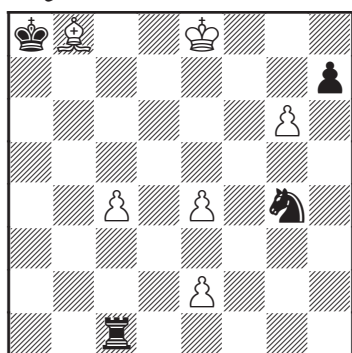
— Bd5 2.Rd8 Be4 3.Rg8+ Kh6 4.Rf2/i Bd5 5.Rd8 Bg2 6.Rf5 Kg7 7.Rh5/ii Sf6/iii 8.Rh4 Se4 9.Ke1 d2+ 10.Ke2 Kg6 11.Ke3 Kg5/iv 12.Rg8+ Kf6/v 13.Rh6+ Kf7 14.Rd8 Sf6 15.Kxd2 Sxg4 16.Rd7+ Ke8 17.Rhh7 Sf6 18.Rhe7+ Kf8 19.Rf7+ Ke8 20.Rde7+ Kd8 21.Ra7 h2 22.Rxf6 h1Q 23.Rf8 mate, or:

— h2 2.Rh1 Sg5 3.Kd2 (R8xh2? Bxg4+;), and:

- Sf3+ 4.Ke3 (Kxd3? Se5+;) Se5 (d2; Rd8) 5.Kf4 Sxg4 6.Rd8 wins, or:
- Se4+ 4.Ke3 Sg3 5.R1xh2 Sf1+ 6.Kf4 d2 7.R2h6+ Kg7 8.Kg5 Bg8 (d1Q; R6h7 mate) 9.Rxg8+ Kxg8 10.Rd6 wins, or:
- Kg7 4.R8xh2 Sf3+ 5.Ke3 Sxh2 6.Rxh2 wins, or:
- Bd5 4.R1xh2/vi Sf3+ 5.Ke3 Sxh2 6.Rxh2 Be6 7.Kf4 wins.
- i) 4.Re8? Bg2 5.Rf5 Kg7 draws.
- ii) 7.Rd7+? Kg8, and: 8.Rh5 Sf6 9.Rd8+ Kf7, or here: 8.Kd2 h2 9.Rxh7 Kxh7 10.Rh5+ Kg6 draws.
- iii) Bf3+ 8.Ke1 Bxg4 9.Rh4 Sf6 10.Rxd3 Kg6 11.Kf2 Kg5 12.Rh8 wins.
- iv) Sf6 12.Kxd2 Kg5 13.Rhh8 wins.
- v) Kxh4 13.Kf4 Sf6 14.Rh8+ Sh5+ 15.Rxh5+ mate.
- vi) 4.R8xh2? Bxh1 5.Rxh1 Sf7 6.Kxd3 Se5+ 7.Ke4 Sxg4 8.Rg1 Kh5

“This is a careful work: mainly by the chess program. The main lines are not equivalent in content and quantity – the 1...Bd5 main line is more valuable. The mate ending is good, but overall the play is not interesting enough”.

No 21666 V. Tarasiuk
3rd commendation



e8a8 0313.41 6/4 Draw

No 21666 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Bf4/i Rxc4/ii 2.gxh7/iii Sf6+ 3.Kf7/iv Sxh7
4.Kg7 Rxe4 5.Bh6 Re7+ 6.Kg6 Rc7 7.e3/v Kb7
8.e4 Kc6 9.Bg7/vi Sg5 10.Be5 Re7 11.Bf6 draws.

i) 1.gxh7? Sf6+ 2.Kf7 Sxh7 3.Bf4 Rf1 4.e3 Sg5+, or 1.Bd6? hxg6 2.e5 Rxc4 win.

ii) Rf1 2.gxh7, and Sf6+ 3.Ke7 Sxh7 4.e3 Kb7 5.e5, or here: Rh1 3.e5 Rxh7 4.e6 draw.

iii) 2.g7? Rxe4+ 3.Kd8 Sf6 wins.

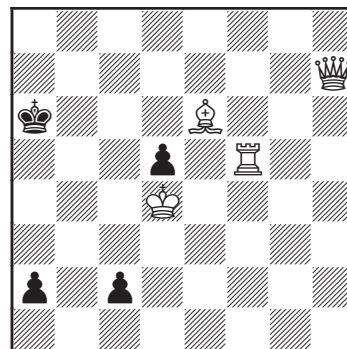
iv) 3.Kf8? Rc8+ 4.Kf7 Sxh7 5.Kg7 Sf8 wins.

v) Try: 7.e4? Kb7 8.e5 Kc6 9.e6 Kd5 10.e7 Rxe7 11.Bg7 Ke6 (Sg5?; Bf6) 12.Kxh7 Kf7 13.Kh6 Re6+ wins.

vi) 9.e5? Kd5 10.Bg7 Sg5 11.Kxg5 Rxg7+ wins.

“This is a lovely study. Tarasiuk likes the foresight theme, but this study does not clearly show the theme by 7.e3! and 7.e4?, since the difference between the two lines is not small”.

No 21667 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
4/5th commendation



d4a6 1110.03 4/4 BTM, Draw

No 21667 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1...a1Q+/i 2.Kxd5 c1Q/ii 3.Bc8+/iii Qxc8 4.Qg6+ Kb7 5.Rf7+ Kb8 (Ka8; Qg2) 6.Qg3+ Ka8 7.Qg2 Qaa6/iv 8.Ke5+/v Kb8 (Qac6; Qa2+) 9.Qb2+ Ka8 10.Qg2+ Qac6/vi 11.Qa2+ Q8a6 12.Rf8+ Kb7 13.Rf7+ Kc8 14.Rf8+ Kc7 15.Rf7+ Kb6 16.Qxa6+ Kxa6 17.Rf6 draws.

i) c1Q 2.Bc8+ Qxc8 3.Qh6+ Kb7 4.Rf7+ Ka8 5.Qh1 Qc4+ 6.Ke5 Qc3+ 7.Ke6 Qc6+ 8.Kf5 Qc2+ 9.Kg5 Qd2+ 10.Rf4 Ka7 11.Qa1 Kb6 12.Kf5 draws.

ii) Qa5+ 3.Ke4 Qe1+ 4.Kd5 Qd1+ 5.Kc5 Qe2 6.Kd6 c1Q 7.Qd7 Qd3+ 8.Ke7 Qxd7+ 9.Bxd7 draws.

iii) 3.Bd7? Qa5+ 4.Ke6 Qc4+ 5.Ke7 Qab4+ 6.Kd8 Qd6 7.Qg7 Qcc7+ 8.Ke8 Qb8+ 9.Kf7 Qxd7+ wins.

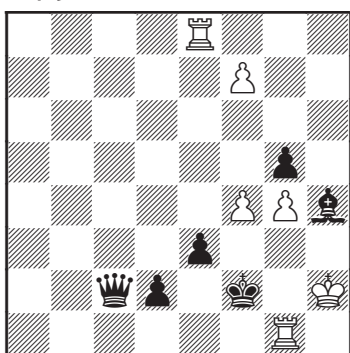
iv) Qb1 (Qa3) 8.Kd4+, or Qa4 8.Kd6+ Kb8 9.Qb2+ Ka8 10.Qg2+ wins.

v) 8.Kd4+? Qac6 9.Qa2+ Q8a6 10.Rf8+ Kb7 11.Qf7+ Qc7 12.Qd5+ Qac6 wins.

vi) Qcc6 11.Rf8+ Kb7 12.Rf7+ Kb6 13.Qxc6+ Kxc6 14.Rf6+ Kb5 15.Rxa6 draws.

“It seems that the authors researched Q+R vs Q+Q material. It is clear that this is an EGTB work by chess program analysis. Nevertheless the play is interesting if you know the solution”.

No 21668 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
4/5th commendation



h2f2 3230.33 6/6 Win

No 21668 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.f8Q/i Ke2/ii 2.Rg2+/iii Bf2 3.Rxf2+ Kxf2 4.fxc6+ Ke2 5.Qf4/iv d1Q 6.Rxe3+ Kd2 7.Rf3+ Ke1+ 8.Kg3 Qxf3+ 9.Kxf3/v Qf2+ 10.Ke4 Qc2+ 11.Kd5 wins.

i) 1.Rg2+? Kf1 2.f8Q Bf2 3.Rxe3 d1Q 4.fxc6 Qd6+ 5.Qxd6 Bg1+ 6.Kg3 Qxc6+ 7.Kh4 Qh1+ 8.Rh3 Bf2+ 9.Kh5 Qxh3+.

ii) Qc7 2.Rg2+ Kf1 3.Rxe3 d1Q 4.Rg1+ Kf2 5.Rxd1 Kxe3 6.Qa3+ Kxf4 7.Rc1 Qb8 8.Rc4+ Ke5 9.Kh3.

iii) 2.Qa3? Bf2 3.Qa6+ Qd3 4.Qxd3+ Kxd3 5.Rd1 e2 6.Rd8+ Ke4 7.R8xd2 exd1Q 8.Rxd1 Kxf4, or 2.Qd6? Qa4 3.Rd8 Qxf4+ 4.Qxf4 gxf4 5.Rg2+ Bf2 6.g5 f3 7.g6 fxc6 8.Kxc6 Bh4 draws.

iv) 5.Kg3? Qc7+ 6.Kg2 d1Q 7.Qf2+ Kd3 8.Rxe3+ Kc4.

v) 9.Qxf3? Qd3 10.Qxd3 stalemate, or 10.Kg2 Qd2+ 11.Kg3 Qd3 12.Kf4 Qd6+ 13.Kf5 Qf8+ draws.

Mario Guido García-70 JT

The Argentinian Society of Chess Problemists (UAPA)
announces a composition tourney

The study sections are:

A) Theme: ending in mate with knight or bishop in the centre of the board
(the bK must be on one of the 16 central squares).

B) No theme with two sections : B.1.) Win and B.2.) Draw

The judge is Mario G. García

The provisional award, will be available on the UAPA website
www.problemistasajedrez.com.ar

No more than three studies per composer for each section are allowed.

The tourney director is:

Felipe Guanica: torneo@problemistasajedrez.com.ar

The closing date is 22vi2018

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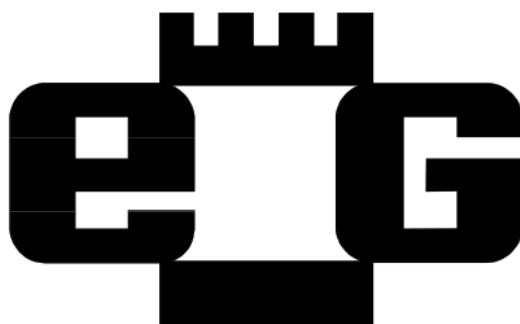
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ISSN-0012-7671

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SUPPLEMENT

Awards

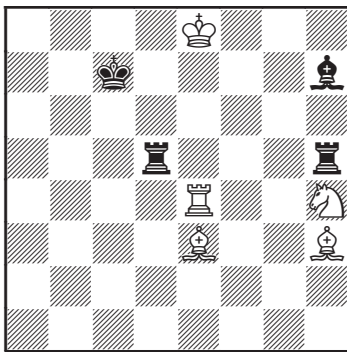
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Polášek-60 JT & Vlasák-60 JT 2017

This tourney attracted 46 studies by 36 composers from 20 countries. The jubilants, both international FIDE judges, considered the level to be very high. The tourney was sponsored by the Czech Chess Federation and *Československý Šach*. The total prize money was almost 500 EUR. The provisional award was dated 18vi2017 and became final on 4x2017 without changes.

For the commendations, the judges made the following observation: “The original purpose of a study was to please, entertain or teach the human solver. Today’s purpose of a study is to take the highest place in composer competitions. The gap between these purposes is getting wider as themes are getting exhausted. Tourney prize-winners are these days often so complex and complicated that they are not suitable for a human solver anymore. The commendations here are not so original and perfect, but right here man reaches for materials for training or solving competition. We believe that you will choose here...”

No 21669 Y. Bazlov
1st prize



e8c7 0751.00 5/4 Win

No 21669 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Re7+ Kc6/i 2.Bg2 Bf5/ii 3.Rf7/iii Kd6 4.Rf6+/iv Ke5 5.Rxf5+ Rxf5 6.Ke7/v Rd6/vi 7.Bd4+ Rxd4 (Kxd4; Sxf5+) 8.Sg6 mate.

i) Kd6 2.Re6+ Kc7 3.Bf4+ Kb7 4.Bg2 Bg8 5.Bxd5+ wins.

ii) Rxh4 (Bb1) 3.Re6+ wins.

iii) 3.Bxd5+? Kxd5 4.Bf2 Rh8+ 5.Kf7 Rh7+ draws.

iv) 4.Bxd5? Rh8+, or 4.Bf4+? Re5+ 5.Bxe5+ Kxe5 6.Sf3+ Kd6 7.Rf6+ Be6 draws.

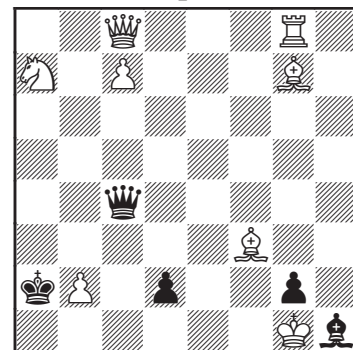
v) 6.Bxd5? Kxd5 7.Sxf5 Ke4, or 6.Sxf5? Rd3 7.Bh3 Ke4 draws.

vi) Rh5 7.Sg6+ Kf5 8.Bxd5 Kxg6 9.Bf7+ wins.

“This is a typical Bazlov study: a technically perfect construction leads to an original mating finish. After 6.Ke7!, Black, who has the move and a small material advance and centralized pieces, has no defence. The composition

is based on the computer knowledge that two minor pieces win against one when both sides have an additional rook but, with this information, the study is solvable and understandable without a computer”.

No 21670 D. Gurgenzidze & M. Minski
2nd prize



g1a2 4151.22 8/5 Win

No 21670 David Gurgenzidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Qa6+/i Qxa6 2.Sb5 d1Q+/ii 3.Bxd1 Qxb5 4.Ra8+ Kb1 5.Bc2+ Kxc2 6.c8Q+ Kb1 7.Ra1+ Kxa1 8.Qc4/iii Qxc4/iv 9.b3+ Qc3 10.Bxc3+ Ka2 11.b4 Kb3 12.b5 Kc4 13.b6 Kb5 14.b7 Ka6 15.b8R/v wins.

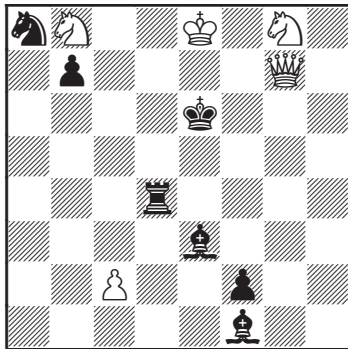
i) Normal moves are insufficient for a win: 1.Qg4? Qc1+ 2.Kh2 Qxc7+ 3.Kg1 Qc1+ 4.Bd1 Qxd1+ 5.Qxd1 stalemate, or 1.Bc3? Qc5+ 2.Kh2 Qd6+ 3.Be5 Qxe5+ 4.Kh3 Qf6 5.Qg4 g1S+ 6.Qxg1 Qxf3+ with perpetual check.

ii) Distracting the wB from e4. If Qxb5 3.Ra8+ Kb1 4.Be4+, or Qb6+ 3.Bd4 Qxb5 4.Ra8+ Kb1 5.Be4+ win.

- iii) 8.b3+? Kb1 9.Qc4 Qf5 draws.
- iv) Qf5 9.b4+ Kb1 10.Qb3+ Kb1 11.Bh6+ and mate.
- v) 15.b8Q? stalemate.

“The composers have managed an excellent synthesis of several interesting and spectacular motifs with almost every move surprising and delighting the solver”.

No 21671 Y. Bazlov & V. Kovalenko †
3rd prize



e8e6 1365.11 5/7 Win

No 21671 Yuri Bazlov & Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Qf6+ Kd5 2.Se7+ Kc4 3.Qe6+ Kb5 4.Qb3+ Ka5 5.Qxb7 Rd8+ 6.Kxd8 Bb6+ 7.Kd7 Bh3+ 8.Kd6/i Bc7+/ii 9.Kc6 Bg2+/iii 10.Sd5 Bxd5+ 11.Kxd5 Sb6+/iv 12.Kc5 Sa4+ 13.Kd4 Bb6+ 14.Kd5 f1Q 15.Qa6+ Qxa6 16.Sc6+ Kb5 17.c4 mate.

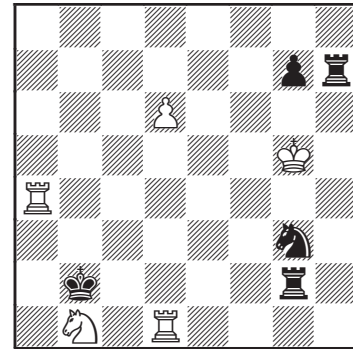
- i) The immediate 8.Kc6? Bg2+ 9.Sd5 Bxd5+ 10.Kxd5 f1Q is a draw.
- ii) f1Q 9.Qxa8+ Kb4 10.Sd5+ Kb5 11.Qa6 mate.
- iii) f1Q 10.Qxa8+ Kb4 11.Sd5+ Kc4 12.Qa4 mate.
- iv) f1Q 12.Sc6+ Ka4 13.Qb3 mate.

“The final mate picture with three active blocks is entirely built during play”.

No 21672 Árpád Ruzs (Rumania). 1.d7 Se4++ 2.Kf5/i g6+ 3.Kxe4 (Ke5? Re7+;) Rg4+/ii 4.Kf3 Rxd7 5.Sc3/iii Kxc3/iv 6.Ra3+ Kb2 7.Rxd7 wins.

- i) 2.Kf4? Rh4+ 3.Ke5 Rg5+
- ii) Now it looks like Black has saved himself. When White captures a rook, Black does the same: 5.Rxd7? Rxa4, or 5.Rxg4? Rxd1.

No 21672 Á. Ruzs
4th prize



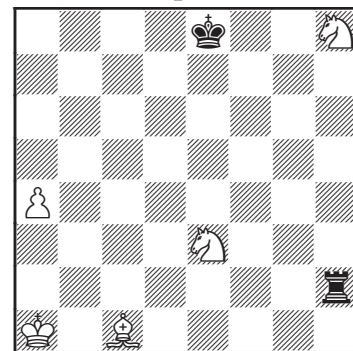
g5b2 o8o4.11 5/5 Win

- iii) The grip theme.

iv) Rxa4 6.Sxa4+ Kc2 7.Rxd7, or Rxd1 6.Sxd1+ Kb3 7.Rxg4 wins.

“One of the jubilants is inventor of the so-called ‘grip theme’, so we were pleased with this innovative working-out of it. The final position is not only original enough but at the same time the way the position, with mutually attacked rooks, appears on the board is very natural. The apparently simple move 3...Rxd7? happens to be bad because of 4.Rxd4 Rg4+ 5.Kd3 Rxa4 6.Rb7+ Kc1 7.Sc3! and White wins”.

No 21673 M. Hlinka & Ľ. Kekely
5th prize



a1e8 o312.10 5/2 Win

No 21673 Michal Hlinka & Ľubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Sg6 (Bb2? Rh4;) Rh6 2.Se5 Ra6 3.Sd5 (Kb1? Ra5;) Rxa4+/i 4.Kb1/ii Kf8/iii 5.Bh6+ Ke8/iv 6.Kb2/v zz Kd8 7.Sf7+/vi Ke8 8.Sd6+ Kd8 9.Bg5+/xii Kd7 10.Sb6+ Kxd6 11.Sxa4

- i) Ra5 4.Sf6+ Kf8 5.Bh6+ Ke7 6.Sc6+ wins.
- ii) After 4.Kb2? Kf8 5.Bh6+ Ke8 White does not have a suitable waiting move.

iii) Kd8 5.Sf7+, or Ra5 (Ra7) 5.Sf6+ Kf8 6.Bh6+ Ke7 7.Sc6+, or Rh4 5.Sc7+ Kd8 6.Bg5+ wins, or Rd4 5.Sc7+ Ke7 (Kd8) 6.Sc6+ (Se6+) wins.

iv) Kg8 6.Sf6+ Kh8 7.Sg6 model mate.

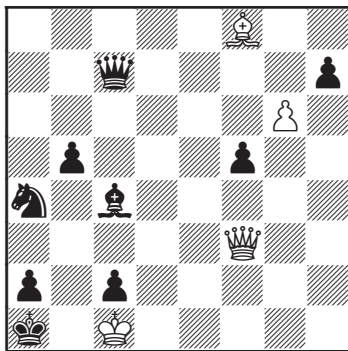
v) 6.Bc1? Kf8 7.Bh6+ Ke8 wastes time.

vi) 7.Sc6+? Ke8 8.Se5 Kd8, or 7.Bg5+? Ke8 8.Bh6 Kd8 repeat.

vii) White cannot make progress by 9.Sb7+? (Sf7+?) Ke8 10.Sd6+ Kd8.

“Studies based on positions found in EGTB can be rather tedious, but this study is exceptionally successful. After White’s pawn is lost, a zz occurs in which it is hard to believe that the free bR cannot find a secure place”.

No 21674 G. Costeff
special prize



c1a1 4043.15 4/9 Win

No 21674 Gady Costeff (USA/Israel). 1.Qe3 Bg8 (Bd5; gxh7) 2.Qd4+/i Qc3 3.Qh8/ii b4 4.Bg7 hxg6 5.Bxc3+ Sxc3 6.Kxc2 wins/iii.

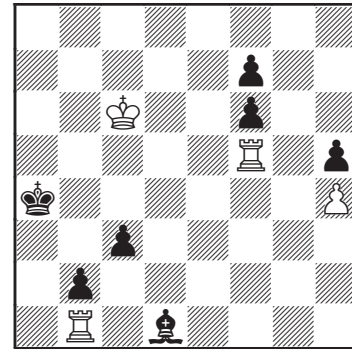
i) 2.Qg1? Sc3 3.Kxc2+ Sb1+ 4.Bc5 b4 5.Qd4+ Sc3 6.Qxb4 Qh2+ draws.

ii) A bold from the blue! Officially this is the Loyd-Turton theme, but the main point here undoubtedly is the line 3...Qxh8 4.g7 and we see the consequence of the active self-block Bg8.

iii) e.g. Bd5 7.Qd4 Be4+ 8.Kb3 Bd5+ 9.Kxb4 Kb1 10.Qd3+ Kb2 11.Qxc3+ Kb1 12.Qd3+ Kb2 13.Qxd5 a1Q 14.Qd2+ Kb1 15.Kb3.

“If you solve this short study yourself without a computer, there is nothing to explain”.

No 21675 J. Timman
special prize



c6a4 0230.15 4/7 Draw

No 21675 Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.Rf2/i Bc2/ii 2.Rxc2 Kb3 3.Rf2 c2 4.Rxb2+ Kxb2 5.Kb7/iii f5/iv 6.Kb6 f4 (Kb1; Rxf5) 7.Kb5 f3 (Kb1; Rxf4) 8.Kc4/v Kb1 9.Rf1+ c1Q+ 10.Rxc1+ Kxc1 11.Kd3 f2/vi 12.Ke2 f1Q+ 13.Kxf1 Kd2 14.Kf2 Kd3 15.Kf3 Kd4 16.Kf4 f6 17.Kf5 Ke3 18.Kxf6 Kf4 19.Ke6 Kg4 20.Ke5 Kxh4 21.Kf4 draws.

i) It seems that White is facing a lost pawn ending, e.g. 1.Rc5? Bc2 2.Re1 Kb4 3.Kb6 b1Q 4.Rxb1+ Bxb1 5.Rb5+ Ka3 6.Rxb1 c2, or 1.Rxd1? c2 2.Rff1 cxd1Q 3.Rxd1 Kb3 4.Kd5 Kc2 5.Rf1 b1Q 6.Rxb1 Kxb1 7.Ke4 Kc2 8.Kf5 Kd3 9.Kxf6 Ke4 10.Kxf7 (Kg5 f5;) Kf5 win.

ii) Kb3 2.Rxd1 c2 3.Rd3+ wins.

iii) After 5.Kd5? Kb1 6.Rf1+ c1Q 7.Rxc1+ Kxc1 8.Ke4 Kd2 9.Kf5 Ke3 10.Kxf6 Kf4 11.Kxf7 Kg4 White is short of one tempo.

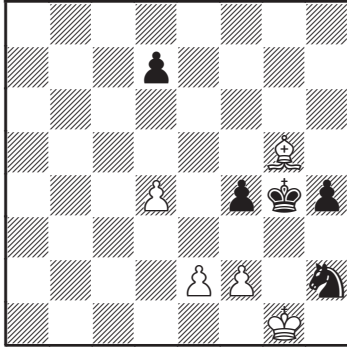
iv) After 5...Kb1 White draws using a well-known perpetual check: 6.Rxf6 c1Q 7.Rb6+ Ka2 8.Ra6+.

v) 8.Kb4? Kb1 9.Rxf3 c1Q 10.Rb3+ Ka2 wins.

vi) Kd1 12.Ke3 Ke1 13.Kxf3 f6 14.Ke3 Kf1 15.Kf3 Kg1 16.Kg3 Kh1 17.Kh3 draws.

“The paradoxical move 5.Kb7!!, in a position heading for a pawn ending, is such a wonderful find that perhaps the study should start here. Yes, it is customary to mask the idea with an introduction. But in exceptional cases – as the classic study by the Sarychev brothers from 1928 – the textbooks have just taken the version without the intro”.

No 21676 O. Pervakov
1st honourable mention



g1g4 0013.33 5/5 Win

No 21676 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Bh6 Kh3 (Kh5; Bxf4) 2.Bxf4/i Sf3+ 3.exf3 d5 4.Bg3 hxc3 5.Kf1/ii Kh2 6.fxc3 Kxc3 7.Ke2 Kh4 8.Kd3(Kd2) Kh3 9.Kd2 (Kd3) Kh4 10.Ke2 Kg5/iii 11.Kf1 Kf5 12.Kg2 Kf4 13.Kf2 Kg5 14.Kg3 Kf5 15.f4 Ke4 16.Kg4 Kxd4 17.f5 Ke5 18.Kg5 d4 19.f6 Ke6 20.Kg6 d3 21.f7 d2 22.f8Q d1Q 23.Qe8+ Kd6 24.Qd8+ wins.

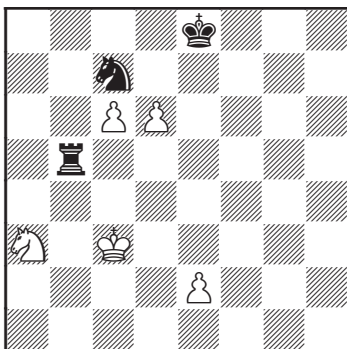
i) 2.d5? Sg4 3.Bxf4 Sf6 4.d6 Se4 5.f3 Sxd6 6.Bxd6 stalemate.

ii) Thematic try: 5.f4? gxf2+ 6.Kxf2 Kg4 7.Ke3 Kh5 8.Kf3 Kh4 9.Kf2 Kg4 10.Ke3 Kh5 11.Kf3 Kh4 positional draw.

iii) and we are facing a Kling and Horwitz position from 1855 (HHdbV#83472).

“We see a masterly development of a classical pawn study”.

No 21677 V. Tarasiuk
2nd honourable mention



c3e8 0304.30 5/3 Win

No 21677 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Kc4 Rb6/i 2.Kc5 Sa8 3.Sb5 Ra6/ii 4.Sc7+ Sxc7 5.dxc7 Ra8 6.Kd6/iii Rc8 7.e3/iv Ra8 8.e4 Rc8 9.e5 Ra8 10.Kc5 Ke7 11.Kb6 Ke6 12.Kb7 wins.

i) Rb8 2.dxc7 Rc8 3.Sb5.

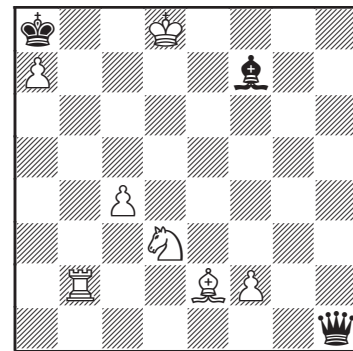
ii) Rb8 4.c7 or 4.Sc7+ wins.

iii) Thematic try: 6.Kb6? Ke7 7.e4 (Kb7 Kd6;) Kd6/x 8.Kb7 Ra7+ 9.Kb6 Ra8 positional draw.

iv) 7.e4? Ra8 8.e5 Rc8 9.e6 Ra8

“This is an interesting logical motif in a pawn vs rook ending”.

No 21678 D. Gurgenzidze & M. Minski
3rd honourable mention



d8a8 3141.30 7/3 Draw

No 21678 David Gurgenzidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Kc7 Qe4 (Bxc4; Se5) 2.Bf3/i Qxf3 3.Rb8+ Kxa7 4.Rb1/ii Bxc4/iii 5.Se5 Qf4/iv 6.Ra1+ Ba6 7.Ra5 zz Qh2 8.Rd5 Ka8 9.Rd8+ Ka7 10.Rd5 Bf1 11.Ra5+ Ba6 12.Rd5 Qf4 13.Ra5 positional draw.

i) The refutation of 2.Kb6? is cumbersome: Qe6+ 3.Ka5 Qxc4 4.Sb4 Qc5+ 5.Ka4 Qc3 6.Rb1 Bg6 7.Rg1 Bc2+ 8.Kb5 Bb3 9.Sc6 Bd5 10.Sa5 Qb2+ 11.Kc5 Qa2 wins.

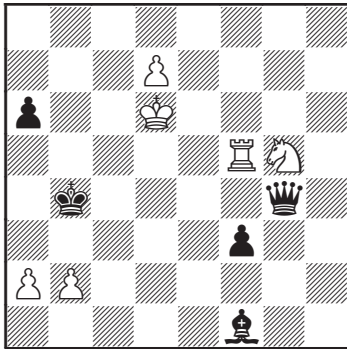
ii) Thematic try: 4.Rb5? Bxc4 5.Se5 Qf4 6.Ra5+ Ba6 7.Rd5 Qh2 zz 8.Ra5 Qh7+ wins.

iii) Qf6 5.Rb7+ Ka8 6.Rb8+ Ka7 7.Rb7+ draws.

iv) Qxf2 6.Sc6+ Ka6 7.Ra1+ Ba2 8.Rxa2+ Qxa2 9.Sb4+ draws.

“This interesting positional draw study has the unexpected tempo losing move 4.Rb1!!”.

No 21679 G. Amann
4th honourable mention



d6b4 3131.32 6/5 Win

No 21679 Günter Amann (Germany).
1.Rd5/i Qxd7+/ii 2.Kxd7 f2 3.a3+/iii Ka4/iv
4.Rd4+ (Se4? Bc4;) Ka5 5.Se4 Bb5+/v 6.Kc7 f1Q
7.Ra4+, and

— Kxa4 8.Sc5+ Ka5 9.b4 mate, or:

— Bxa4 8.b4+ Kb5 9.Sd6 mate.

i) 1.a3+? Ka4 2.b3+ Kxa3 3.Ra5+ Kxb3 4.d8Q
Bb5 draws.

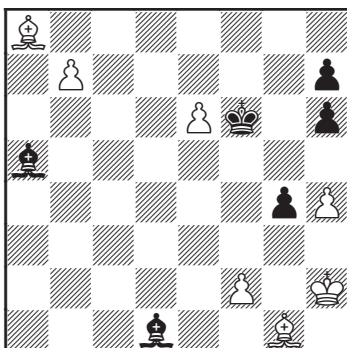
ii) For a solver this does not look like the
best defence. If 1...Qf4+ 2.Ke7 Qe3+ 3.Se6 Bh3
4.Rd4+ Kb5 5.a4+ Kc6 6.d8S+ Kb6 7.Rb4+ Ka7
8.Sc6+ Ka8 9.Rb8 mate.

iii) 3.Sf3? Bh3+ 4.Kc6 f1Q 5.Kb6 Qb5+ draws.

iv) Kc4 4.Rf5, or Kb3 4.Se4 Bh3+ 5.Kc7 f1Q
6.Sd2+ wins.

v) Bh3+ 6.Kc6 Bd7+ 7.Kc7 f1Q 8.Sc3 wins.

No 21680 O. Pervakov & K. Sumbatyan
5th honourable mention



h2f6 0080.43 7/6 BTM, Draw

No 21680 Oleg Pervakov & Karen Sumbatyan (Russia). 1...Bc7+ 2.f4/i gxf3ep+/ii 3.Kh3/
iii h5 4.e7/iv Kxe7 5.Bb6/v Be5 6.Bd4 Bb8/vi
7.Ba7/vii Bxa7 8.b8Q Bxb8 9.Bxf3/ix Bc2 10.Be4
Bb3 11.Bd5 Ba4 12.Bc6 Bxc6 stalemate.

i) After 2.Kg2? Bf3+ 3.Kf1 Kxe6 4.Ke1 Bf4
White is completely paralyzed, e.g.5.b8Q Bxb8
6.Bxf3 gxf3 7.Kd2 Kf5 8.Ke3 Kg4.

ii) Bxf4+ 3.Kg2 Bf3+ 4.Kf2 Bb8 5.Bh2 Bxb2
6.b8Q Bxb8 7.Bxf3 gxf3 8.Kxf3 draws.

iii) 3.Kh1? Bb8 4.Be3 h5 5.Kg1 Kxe6 6.Kf2
Kf5 7.Ke1 Be2 8.Bf2 Kg4 9.Kd2 Kh3 10.Ke1 h6
11.Kd2 Kg2 12.Ke1 Be5 wins.

iv) 4.Bh2? f2 5.Kg2 f1Q+ 6.Kxf1 Bxb2, or
4.Bd4+? Kxe6 5.Bb6 Bb8 6.Ba7 Be2 7.Bxb8 f2,
or 4.b8Q? Bxb8 5.Bh2 f2 6.Bg2 Bg4+, or 4.Bb6?
Bb8 5.e7 Ba4 win.

v) The first manoeuvre starts now.

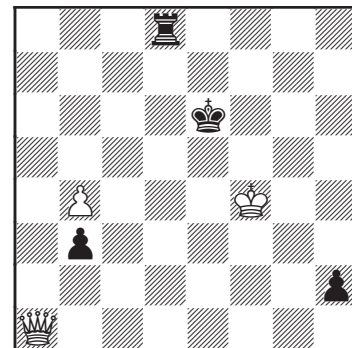
vi) After Bf4 7.Be3 Bb8 White has 8.Ba7 or
8.Bf4 Bxf4 9.b8Q.

viii) 7.Be5? f2 8.Kg2 Bxe5 9.b8Q Bxb8 10.Kxf2
Bg4 11.Kg2 Kf6 and Black wins.

ix) The second pursuit.

“This study, with the difficult theme of a re-
peated systematic manoeuvre of two bishop
pairs, unfortunately feels somewhat schematic”.

No 21681 P. Arestov
1st special honourable mention



f4e6 1300.12 3/4 Win

No 21681 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Qe1+/i
Kf7/ii 2.Qf1/iii b2 3.Kg3+ Ke6 4.Kxh2 Rd2+
5.Kh3/iv Kd5 6.b5 Kc5 7.Kg3 zz Kb6 8.Qf5 Ka5
9.b6+ Kxb6 10.Kf3 Rd4 11.Qf8 Kb7/v 12.Qf7+
Kc6 13.Qb3 wins.

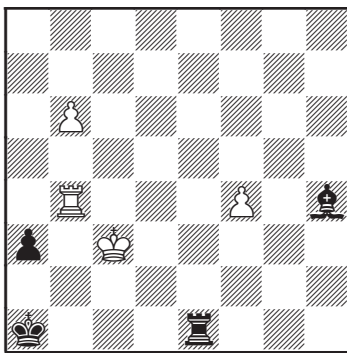
i) White is able win bPh2 after a series of
checks, but it leads to nothing: 1.Qa6+? Kd7
2.Qd3+ Kc8 3.Qh3+ Rd7 4.Qxh2 Rd4+ 5.Ke5
Rxb4.

ii) Kd5 2.Qe4+ Kd6 3.Kg3 b2 4.Kxh2 wins. If
Kd7 2.Kg3 Rh8 3.Qd2+ Ke6 4.Qe3+ Kf5 5.Qf4+
Kg6 6.Qe4+ Kf7 7.Qf5+ Kg7 8.Qe5+ Kg8
9.Qd5+ Kf8 10.Qd8+ Kg7 11.Qd4+ Kg8 12.Qc4+
Kf8 13.Qc8+ Kg7 14.Qc3+ Kg8 15.Qxb3+ wins.

- iii) 2.Kg3? Rd2 3.b5 b2 4.b6 Rd3+ 5.Kxh2 Rb3.
- iv) 5.Kg3? Kd5 6.b5 Kc5 zz 7.Qf5+ Kc4 8.Qb1 Rd3+ draws.
- v) Rd3+ 12.Ke4 Rb3 13.Qb8+ wins.

“This is a study with many interesting moments: an unexpected plan of capturing Ph2, a surprising triangulation and the quiet move 11.Qf8!! It aspired to a prize, but it is hard for solvers to digest it without a computer”.

No 21682 L. González
2nd special honourable mention



c3a1 0430.21 4/4 Win

No 21682 Luis Miguel González (Spain).
1.b7 Bf6+/i 2.Kd2/ii Bc3+ 3.Kxc3 a2 4.b8B/iii Re8 5.Kb3 Re3+ 6.Kc4 Rc3+ 7.Kd5 Rc5+ 8.Ke6/iv Rc6+/v 9.Kf5 Rc5+ (Rf6+) 10.Kg4 Rg5+ (Rg6+) 11.Kf3 Rg3+ 12.Ke4 Re3+ 13.Kf5 Re8 14.Bd6/vi Rf8+ 15.Kg4 Rg8+ 16.Kf3 Rg3+ 17.Ke4 Re3+ 18.Kf5 Re6 19.Rd4 Kb2 20.Rd2+ Kb3 21.Rxa2 wins.

i) Re8 2.b8Q Rxb8 3.Rxb8 Bg3 4.Kb3 Bxf4 5.Rc8 Kb1 6.Kxa3 wins.

ii) 2.Kc2? Be5 3.fxe5 a2 4.b8Q Rc1+ 5.Kb3/vii Rc3+ 6.Ka4 Ra3+ 7.Kb5 Ra5+, and either 8.Kc4 Rc5+ 9.Kb3 Rc3+ 10.Ka4 Ra3+, or 8.Kc6 Rc5+ 9.Kd6 Rd5+ 10.Ke6 Rd6+ 11.Kf5 Rf6+ 12.Ke4 Rf4+ 13.Kd5 Rd4+ draw.

iii) 4.b8Q? Re3+ 5.Kc4 Rc3+ 6.Kd4 Rd3+ 7.Ke4 Rd4+ 8.Kf5 Rxf4+ draws.

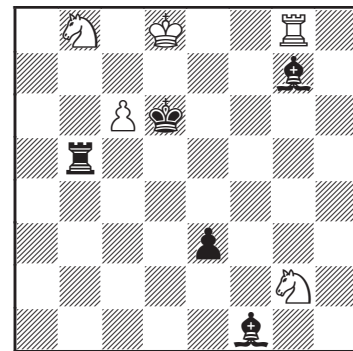
iv) 8.Ke4? Rb5 9.Bd6 Rd5 10.Bc7 Rc5 11.Bb6 Re5+ with perpetual check.

v) Rb5 9.Bd6, and now: Ra5 10.Rb6 Rb5 11.Rb8 Rb6 12.Rg8 Kb2 13.Ke7 Rxd6 14.Rg2+ Kb3 15.Rxa2 wins, or here: Rb6 10.Re4 Kb2 11.Ke7 Rxd6/viii 12.Re2+ Kb3 13.Rxa2 wins.

- vi) 14.Bc7? Re7 15.Bd6 Rf7+ loses time.
- vii) 5.Kd3 Rc3+ 6.Ke4 Re3+ 7.Kf5 Rf3+ 8.Rf4 Rxf4+.
- viii) Rb5 12.Re2+ Kb3 13.Re1 and 14.Be5.

“We have granted two special honourable mentions for comprehensive studies that are practically insolvable without the first aid of EGTB but, with the commentary, they are understandable and beautiful in their own way”.

No 21683 Y. Bazlov
1st commendation



d8d6 0462.11 5/5 Draw

No 21683 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.c7 Bf6+ 2.Ke8 (Kc8? Rc5;) Kxc7 3.Sxe3/i Be2/ii 4.Sa6+ (Sd7? Bh5+;) Kb7 5.Kd7 Kxa6 6.Sd5 Rxd5+/iii 7.Ke6 Rd8/iv 8.Rg6 Bh4 9.Rh6 Bg5 10.Rg6 positional draw.

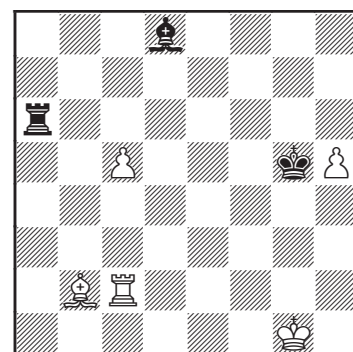
i) 3.Sa6+? Kb7 4.Sxe3 Bd3 5.Kf7 Be5 6.Rd8 Be2.

ii) Re5+ 4.Kf7, or Rxb8+ 4.Kf7 Rxb8 5.Kxg8 Bb5 6.Sd5+, or Bd3 4.Sd7 (Sa6+? Kb7;).

iii) Rb7+ 7.Kc6 Bf3 8.Ra8+ Ra7 9.Rf8.

iv) Rg5 8.Ra8+ Kb7 9.Kxf6.

No 21684 Á. Ruz
2nd commendation



g1g5 0440.20 5/3 Win

No 21684 Árpád Ruzs (Rumania). 1.Rh2/i Kh6/ii 2.Bc1+ Bg5 3.Bxg5+ Kxg5 4.Rh1/iii Ra2 5.h6 (c6? Kh6;) Kg4 6.c6/iv Kg3 7.Kf1 Ra1+ 8.Ke2 Rxh1 9.c7 Rc1 10.h7 wins.

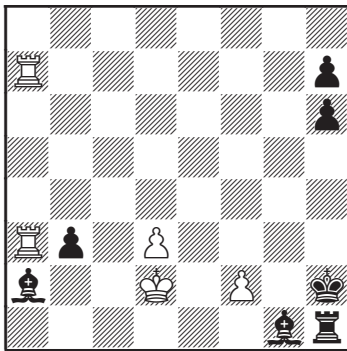
i) The tempting 1.Rd2? would win after Bc7? 2.Rd5+ Kg4 3.Bg7 Bf4 4.Kf1 Kf3 5.Rd3+ Ke4 6.Rd4+ Kf3 7.Rxf4+ Kxf4 8.h6 Ke4 9.h7 Ra8 10.h8Q Rxh8 11.Bxh8 Kd5 12.Bd4. But Black improves by: Be7 2.Rd5+ Kg4 3.Bg7 Bg5 4.Rxg5+ Kxg5 5.h6 Kg6.

ii) Bc7 2.Rh1 Ra2 3.Bd4 Kg4 4.h6 wins.

iii) 4.h6? Ra1+ 5.Kg2 Ra2+ 6.Kg3 Ra3+ 7.Kf2 Ra2+ 8.Kg3 Ra3+ perpetual check.

iv) 6.h7? Ra1+ 7.Kg2 Ra2+ 8.Kf1 Ra1+ 9.Kg2 Ra2+ perpetual check.

No 21685 P. Arestov & Anatoly Skripnik
3rd commendation



d2h2 0560.23 5/7 Draw

No 21685 Pavel Arestov & Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.Ke2/i b2/ii 2.R3a6/iii Bxf2 3.Kxf2/iv h5/v 4.Rb7/vi b1Q 5.Rxb1 Bxb1 6.Rh6 Rf1+ 7.Kxf1 Bxd3+ 8.Ke1/vii Bg6 9.Kf2 zz, draws.

i) 1.R3a6? Kg2 2.Rg7+ Kf1.

ii) Kh3 2.Rxh7 Rh2 3.Rxh6+ Kg2 4.Rb6.

iii) 2.R3a5? Be6 3.Rh5+ Bh3 4.Rb7 Bxf2 5.Kxf2 b1Q 6.Rxb1 Rxb1 7.Rxh6 Rb7.

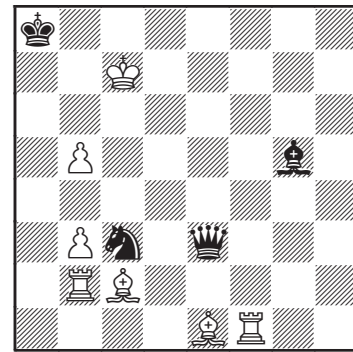
iv) 3.Rxh6+? Kg2 4.Rxh1 Bxa7.

v) Rf1+ 4.Ke3 Re1+ 5.Kf2.

vi) 4.Rxh7? Rf1+ 5.Ke3 Re1+ 6.Kf2 Re5, or 4.Rb6? b1Q 5.Rxb1 Bxb1 6.Rxh7 Rf1+ 7.Kxf1 Bxd3.

vii) 8.Kf2? Bg6 9.Kf3 Kh3 10.Kf4 Kh4 wins.

No 21686 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
& M. Minski
4th commendation



c7a8 3253.20 7/4 Win

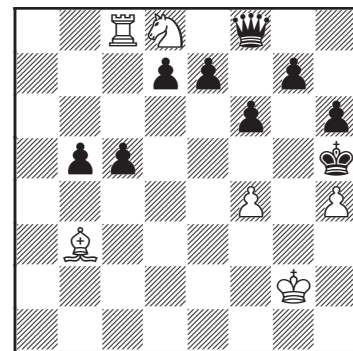
No 21686 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Rf8+ Bd8+ 2.Rxd8+/i Ka7 3.Bf2 Qxf2 4.Ra8+ Kxa8 5.Be4+ Sd5+/ii 6.Bxd5+ Ka7 7.Ra2+/iii Qxa2 8.b6+ Ka6 9.Bc4+ Ka5 10.b4+ Kxb4 11.Bxa2 wins.

i) 2.Kxd8? Kb7 3.Bxc3 Qxc3 4.Be4+ Kb6 5.Rbf2 Qc7+ 6.Ke8 Qe5+ 7.Kd7 Qxe4 draws.

ii) Sxe4 6.Rxf2 Sxf2 7.b6.

iii) 7.Rxf2? stalemate.

No 21687 A. Avni
5th commendation



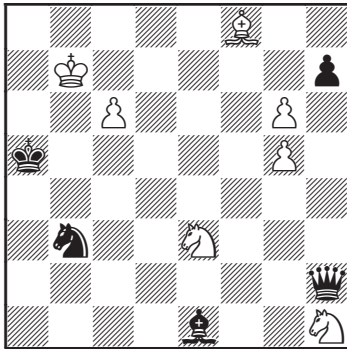
g2h5 3111.27 6/9 Win

No 21687 Amatzia Avni (Israel). 1.Kh3 e6/i 2.Sf7 Qe7 (Qxf7; f5) 3.Re8 (Sh8? Qd6;) Qxe8 4.Sh8 Qxh8 5.f5 exf5 6.Bf7+ g6 7.Bb3 and mate.

i) Kg6 2.Sc6 Qxc8 3.Sxe7+, or c4 2.Se6 Qxc8 3.f5 wins.

ii) But not: 7.Bd5? Qa8 8.Bxa8 g5.

No 21688 P. Arestov
6th commendation



b7a5 3045.31 7/5 Draw

No 21688 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.g7 Sc5+ 2.Bxc5 Qb2+ 3.Ka8/i Qxg7 4.c7 Qxc7 5.Bb6+, and:

— Qxb6 6.Sc4+ Kb5 7.Sxb6 Kxb6 8.Sg3/ii Bxg3 9.g6 hxg6 stalemate, or:

— Kxb6 6.Sd5+ Kc6 7.Sxc7 Kxc7 8.Sf2/iii Bxf2 9.g6 hxg6 stalemate.

i) 3.Kc8? Qxg7 4.c7 Ka6 e.g. 5.Sc4 Qg8+ 6.Kd7 Qf7+ 7.Be7 Qf5+ 8.Kd8 Qd3+ 9.Sd6 Ba5 wins.

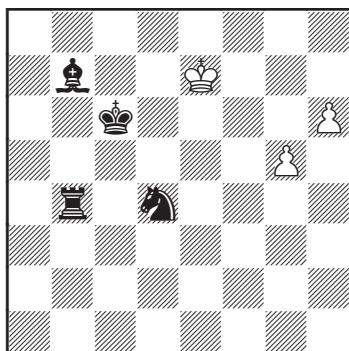
ii) But not: 8.g6? hxg6 9.Sg3 Kc6.

iii) But not: 8.g6? hxg6 9.Sf2 g5.

No 21689 Valery Kalashnikov (Russia). 1.h7 Sf5+ 2.Kf6 Rh4 3.g6 Bc8 4.g7 Rh6+ 5.Kg5 Rxh7 6.g8Q Rg7+ 7.Kh5 Sg3+/i 8.Kh4 Rxxg8 stalemate.

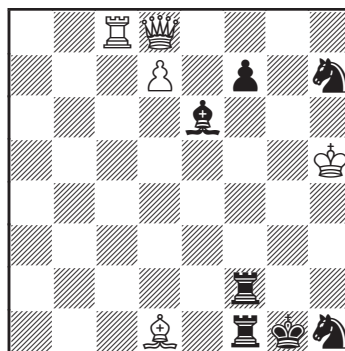
i) Rxxg8 stalemate.

No 21689 V. Kalashnikov
7th commendation



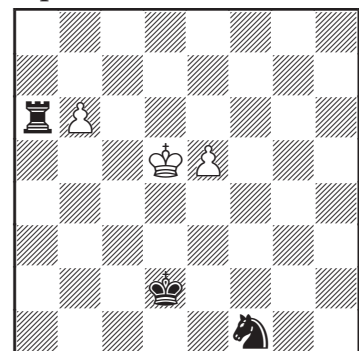
e7c6 0333.20 3/4 Draw

No 21690 A. Gasparyan
8th commendation



h5g1 1746.11 5/7 Draw

No 21691 A. Sochnev
special commendation



d5d2 0303.20 3/3 Draw

No 21690 Aleksey Gasparyan (Armenia). 1.Qg8+/i Rg2 2.Qxg2+ Kxg2 3.Rc2+/ii Sf2 4.d8Q Rh1+ 5.Qh4 Sf6+ 6.Kg5 Sh7+ 7.Kh5 Bg4+ 8.Bxg4 Sf6+ 9.Kg5 Se4+ 10.Kh5 Sg3+ 11.Kg5 f6+ 12.Kf4 (Kxf6? Rxh4;) Rxh4 13.Rxf2+ Kxf2 stalemate.

i) 1.Qb6? Sf6+ 2.Kh4 Bxd7 3.Rc2 Rxd1 4.Rxf2 Sxf2 5.Qxf6 Be6, or 1.Kh6? Sf6 2.Bf3 Bxd7 3.Qxf6 Bxc8 4.Qg5+ Kh2 5.Qh4+ Bh3 6.Bg4 Rf6+ 7.Kh7 Sf2 8.Qxf6 Sxg4.

ii) 3.d8Q? Sg3+ 4.Kh6 Rh1+ 5.Kg7 Sf5+ 6.Kg8 f6+ 7.Kh8 Sg5+.

No 21691 Aleksey Sochnev (Russia). 1.Kc6 Se3 2.e6 Sf5 3.Kc7 Sg7 4.e7 Se8+ 5.Kb7/i Ra3 6.Kc8 Rc3+ 7.Kd8 Sd6 8.Kd7 Se4 9.Kd8 Rd3+ 10.Kc8/ii Rh3 11.b7 Rh8+ 12.Kc7 Sc5 13.b8S Se4 14.Sc6 Ke3/iii 15.Sd8/iv Kf4/v 16.Kd7 Kf5 17.e8S Rh7+ 18.Kc6 Rh8 19.Kd7 draws.

i) 5.Kd8? Ra8+ 6.Kd7 Sf6+ 7.Ke6 Se4.

ii) 10.Kc7? Sf6 11.b7 Sd5+ 12.Kd7 Sxe7+ 13.Kc7 Rc3+.

iii) Sf6 15.Kd6 Ke3 16.Sd8 Kd4 17.Se6+ Ke4 18.Sg7 Kf4 19.Ke6 Kg5 20.Kf7 Rh7 21.Kf8 Rh8+ 22.Kf7, or Kd3 15.Sd8 Kd4 16.Se6+ Ke5 17.Sf8 Sf6 18.Sg6+ Ke6 19.Sxh8 wins.

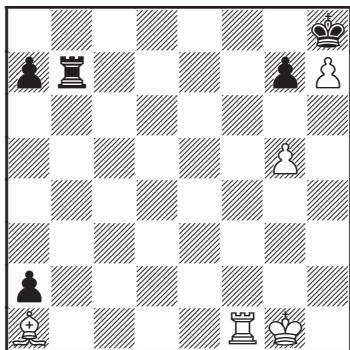
iv) 15.Kd7? Sf6+ 16.Ke6 Se8 17.Sd8 Kd4 18.Sb7 Rh7 19.Kd7 Sf6+ 20.Kd6 Rh8.

v) Sf6 16.Kd6 Se8+ 17.Kd7 Kd4 18.Sf7 draws.

3rd Azerbaijan cup 2017

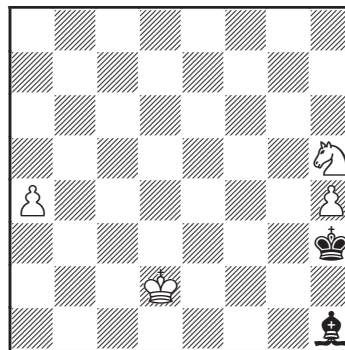
Muradkhan Muradov (Gobustan) judged the endgame study section of the 3rd Azerbaijan chess composition cup. This was a formal tourney for Azerbaijani composers. The director was Elmar Abdullev (Sirvan).

No 21692 I. Aliev
1st place



g1h8 0410.23 5/5 Win

No 21693 M. Ibrahimli
2nd place



d2h3 0031.20 4/2 Win

No 21692 Ilham Aliev (Sumgayit). 1.g6 (Kg2? Rb1;) Rb1 2.Bc3, and:

— a5 3.Be1 (Bxa5? a1Q;) Rb8 4.Bd2/i Rb1 5.Bc1/ii Rb8 6.Bb2/iii Rxb2/iv 7.Rf8 mate, or:

— Rxf1+ 3.Kxf1 a5 4.Ke2 (Ke1) a4 5.Kd2 (Kd1, Kd3) a3 6.Kc2 (Kc1) a1Q 7.Bxa1 a2 8.Bxg7+/v Kxg7 9.Kb2 wins.

i) 4.Bxa5? Rb1 5.Bc3 a1Q 6.Bxa1 Rxf1+ 7.Kxf1 stalemate.

ii) 5.Bc3? Rxf1+ 6.Kxf1 a1Q+ 7.Bxa1 a4 8.Ke2 a3 9.Kd3 a2 draws.

iii) 6.Be3? Rb1 7.Bd4 Rxf1+ 8.Kxf1 a4 draws.

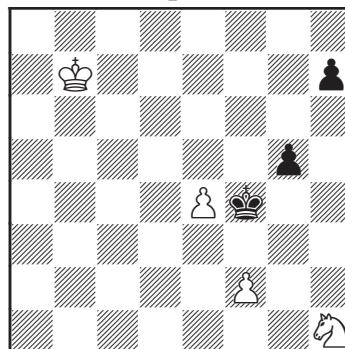
iv) a4 7.Rf7, or a1Q 7.Bxa1 wins.

v) 8.Bc3? a1Q 9.Bxa1 stalemate.

MG seems to have cooked this study: 4... a1Q 5.Rxa1 Rb6 6.Kf2 Rxg6 and White must play 7.Rh1 after which White does not seem to be able to make progress. For instance, Black could, among others, play 7...Rc6. But even giving up his a-pawn quickly seems to draw. For instance: 7...a4 8.Bc1 a3 9.Kf3 a2 10.Bb2 a1Q! (or 10...Rg5) 11.Bxa1 Rg3+ and Black has a rabid rook.

No 21693 Murad Ibrahimli (Sumgayit). 1.Sg3 Kxg3 (Kxh4; Sxh1) 2.h5 Kf4 3.h6 (a5? Kg5;) Be4 4.a5 Ke5 5.Ke3 (a6? Kf6;) Kd5 6.a6 Ke5 (Bh7; a7) 7.a7 wins.

No 21694 S. Murtuzov
3rd place



b7f4 0001.22 4/3 Win

No 21694 Söhrab Murtuzov (Quba). 1.f3/i h5/ii 2.Kc6 h4/iii 3.Kd5 Kxf3 4.e5 g4 5.e6 g3 6.e7 g2 7.e8Q gxh1Q (g1Q; Qe4 mate) 8.Qe4+ Kf2 9.Qxh1 wins.

i) 1.Sg3? h5 2.Kc6 Ke5 (h4?; Kd5) 3.f3 g4 4.fxg4 hxg4 5.Kc5 Kf4 draws.

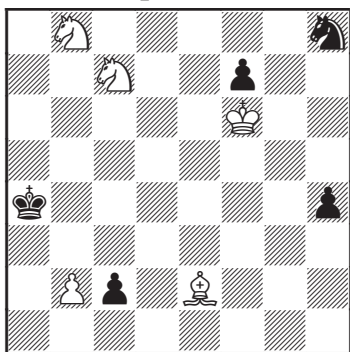
ii) Kxf3 2.e5 g4 3.e6 g3 4.Sxg3 wins.

iii) g4 3.fxg4, and: hxg4 4.Kd5, or: Kxe4 4.gxh5 Kf5 5.Sg3+ wins.

Phénix 2000-2002

During these three years only 9 studies were published, by 8 composers from 5 countries. Despite that, there were two judges, Vlaicu Crisan and Eric Huber. Two studies were found to be incorrect. The award was published in *Phénix* no. 147 i2006.

No 21695 E. Melnichenko
prize



e3g2 o1o1.o3 3/4 Win

No 21695 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Sb6/i h2/ii 2.Sd5 h1Q 3.Sf4+ Kg1 4.Se2+ Kh2 5.Rh8+ Kg2 6.Rg8+ Kh2/iii 7.Kf2 Qa1 8.Rg5 Qh8/iv 9.Rg2+ and wins/v.

i) 1.Sc7? a2 2.Ra8 h2 3.Rxa2+ Kg1 4.Ra1+ Kg2 5.Sd5 h1Q 6.Sf4+ Kh2 7.Ra2+ Kg1 8.Ra1+ Kh2, or here: 2.Rg8+ Kf1 3.Ra8 h2 draws.

ii) a2 2.Rc2+ Kg3/vi, or f4+ 2.Kxf4 h2/vii 3.Sd5 h1Q 4.Se3+ Kh2 5.Sg4+ Kg1 6.Rc1+ Kg2 7.Rc2+ Kf1 (Kg1; Kg3) 8.Se3+ Kg1 9.Kg3 wins.

iii) Kh3 7.Sg1+, avoiding 7.Kf2? Qa1.

iv) Kh3 9.Sg1+ Kh4 10.Sf3+ Kh3 11.Rg3 mate.

v) Kh3 10.Sg1+ Kh4 11.Rh2+.

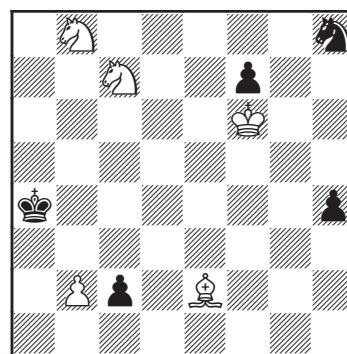
vi) But not Kg1? 3.Rc1+ Kg2 4.Sd5, and Kg3 5.Rg1+ Kh2 (Kh4; Kf4) 6.Kf2 a1Q 7.Rxa1 f4 8.Sf6 f3 9.Sg4 mate, or here: h2 5.Sf4+ Kg3 6.Ra1 Kg4 7.Sd3 Kg3 8.Sf2 f4+ 9.Ke2 Kg2 10.Rxa2 wins.

vii) a2 3.Rc2+ Kg1 4.Rxa2 h2 5.Kg3.

“This study is extremely difficult to solve. In the main line White does not attempt to prevent the black promotion, but centralizes its forces to play for mate. The bQ finds long moves to the corners (h1-a1-h8) against the offensive white play but, having moved away

from her monarch, she finally falls victim to a skewer on the h-file”.

No 21696 M. Caillaud
commendation



f6a4 o015.13 5/5 Draw

No 21696 Michel Caillaud (France). 1.Sca6 c1Q 2.Sc5+ Qxc5/i 3.Bd1+ Kb5/ii 4.Be2+ Qc4 5.Sc6/iii Qxe2/iv 6.Sd4+ Kb4 7.Sxe2 draws.

i) Ka5 (Kb4) 3.Sb3+ wins.

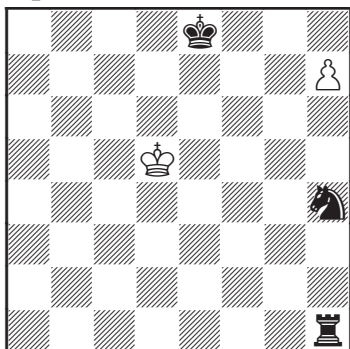
ii) Ka5 4.b4+ Qxb4 (Kxb4) 5.Sc6+ (Sa6+) draws.

iii) 5.Bxc4+? Kxc4 6.Sc6 Sg6 7.Kxf7 h3 wins.

iv) Sg6 6.Sd4+ Kc5 7.Bxc4, or h3 6.Bxc4+ Kxc4 7.Se5+ draw.

“After the inevitable promotion of the bQ, the white camp fights like a beautiful devil to eliminate the powerful enemy. Black tries to lose its queen in an advantageous way (4... Qc4!!), a move that White refutes with a firework (5.Sc6!!), putting both of his two remaining pieces ‘en-prise’. The study is rich in tactical points and attractive as Black has sufficient counter play. The forks of pawn and knight, used by White to destabilize the black play, are known, the novelty here being possibly that black continues to play for a win after losing its queen. However, half of the pieces in the initial position are spectators during the solution”.

No 21697 I. Akobia †
special commendation



d5e8 o3o3.10 2/3 Win

No 21697 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.h8Q+ Kf7 2.Qh7+/i Kf6 3.Qh5/ii zz Kg7 4.Kd6 zz Kf6 5.Kd7/iii zz, and:

- Rh2 6.Qh6+ Kf5 7.Qe6+ Kf4 (Kg5; Qe5+) 8.Qd6+ wins, or:
- Rh3 6.Qh6+ Kf5 (Ke5) 7.Qe6+ wins, or:

— Kg7 6.Qd5/iv Rh3 7.Qe5+ Kh6 (Kg6) 8.Qe6+ wins.

i) 2.Qh5+? Kf6 zz, and: 3.Qe5+ Kf7 4.Qe6+ (Qc7+ Kg6;) Kg7 5.Qe7+ Kh6, or here: 3.Qh6+ Kf5 4.Qh5+ Kf6.

ii) 3.Qh6+? Kf5 4.Qh5+ Kf6 draws.

iii) 5.Qe5+? Kg6 6.Qe4+ Sf5+ draws.

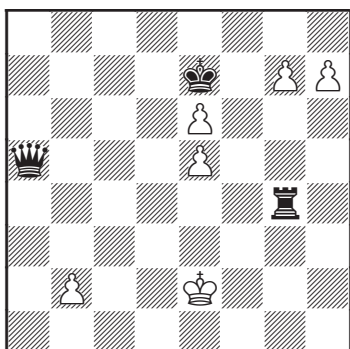
iv) 6.Kd8? (Kd6?) Kf6 7.Kd7 Kg7 repeats.

“This study, the result of a 5 man EGTB, presents three sequential reciprocal zugzwangs. This single amazing feature deserves attention, and makes this study interesting after the trivial first move. White has to make very precise moves in order not to fall into zz positions himself. So 2.Qh7+! loses a tempo in order to play to h5 on the 3rd move, after which the wK curiously advances from d5 to d7, leaving square d6 free for the wQ. The forks of the wQ are far from original. The essential words of this study are being said during the first five moves”.

Phénix 2003-2005

Only 11 studies by 6 composers from 4 countries participated in the 2003-2005 tourney of the French composition magazine. The judge was Alain Villeneuve. The award was published in *Phénix* no. 169-170 ii2008.

No 21698 I. Akobia †
1st honourable mention



e2e7 3300.50 6/3 Draw

No 21698 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.g8S+ Kxe6 2.h8Q Qxe5+ 3.Qxe5+ Kxe5 4.Sh6/i Rg6/

ii 5.Sf7+ Ke4 6.b3/iii Rg2+ 7.Kf1 Rd2 (Rg6; Ke2) 8.Sg5+ Kf4/iv 9.Sh3+ (Ke1) Kg3 10.Ke1 Rh2 11.Sg5 Kf4 12.Se6+ Ke3 13.Kd1 Rb2 14.Sc5 draws.

i) Thematic try: 4.Se7? Ke4 5.Sc6 Rg2+ 6.Kd1 Rxb2 7.Ke1 Rb6 8.Se7 Re6 wins.

ii) Rh4 5.Sf7+ Kf6 6.Sd6, or Rb4 5.Kf3 Rb3+ 6.Kg4 draws.

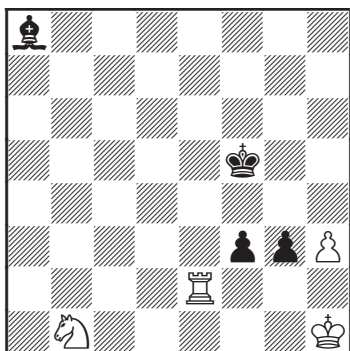
iii) 6.b4? Rg2+ 7.Kf1 Rd2 8.Sg5+ Kf4 9.Sh3+ Kg3 10.Ke1 Rh2 11.Sg5 Kf4 12.Se6+ Ke3 13.Kd1 Rb2 14.Sc5 Rxb4 15.Se6 Rb7 16.Sc5 Rb6 wins.

iv) Ke3 9.Sh3 Rh2 10.Sg1 Rf2+ 11.Ke1 Rb2 12.Kf1 Rf2+ 13.Ke1 Rb2 14.Kf1 wins.

“The introduction is satisfactory and the heroic knight is not present in the initial position. After a diabolical thematic try on the fourth

move, the remarkable point of the sixth move finds its justification ... eight moves later! This is a profound work, one which would certainly have tortured the competitors of the French solving championship, if it had been retained. The minor dual at the ninth move is, to me, inconsequential as it is necessary to go to the key position $Kd1, Sc5, b3; Ke3, Rb2$, which is lost with $wPb4$ ”.

No 21699 E. Melnichenko
2nd honourable mention



h1f5 0131.12 4/4 Draw

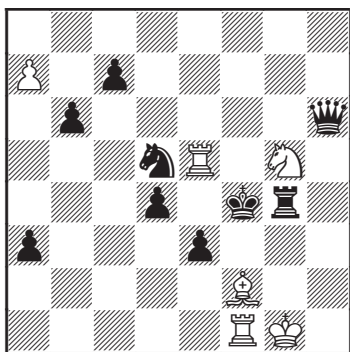
No 21699 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Rg2/i f2 2.Sd2 Kg5 3.Sf1 Kh4 4.Sd2 (Sxg3 Kxh3;) Kxh3 (Kh5; Sf1) 5.Sf3 f1Q+/ii 6.Sg1+ Qxg1+ (Kg4 stalemate) 7.Kxg1 Bxg2 main:

i) 1.Rf2? gxf2 2.Sd2 Kf4 3.h4 Bd5 4.h5 Bc4 5.h6 f1Q+ 6.Sxf1 Bxf1 7.h7 Kg3 8.h8Q Bg2+ 9.Kg1 f2 mate.

ii) Bxf3 stalemate, or Bd5 e.g. 6.Rxg3+ Kxg3 stalemate, f1S e.g. 6.Rf2 Se3 7.Kg1 gxf2+ 8.Kxf2 draws.

“The main idea is known from a study by E. Pogosyants (HHdbV#37955)”.

No 21700 V. Sizonenko
3rd honourable mention



g1f4 3514.15 6/9 Win

No 21700 Viktor Sizonenko (Russia). 1.Bg3++ Kxg3 2.Rf3+ Kh4+ 3.Kh2/i Rg2+/ii 4.Kxg2 Qc6 5.Rh3+/iii Kg4 6.Rh4+ Kxh4 7.Sf3+ Kg4 8.Rg5+ Kf4 9.Rg4+ Kxg4 10.Se5+ Kh5 11.Sxc6 Sf4+ 12.Kf3 e2 13.Kf2 d3 14.a8Q d2 15.Qe8+ Kh4 16.Qd8+ Kh5 17.Qxd2 wins.

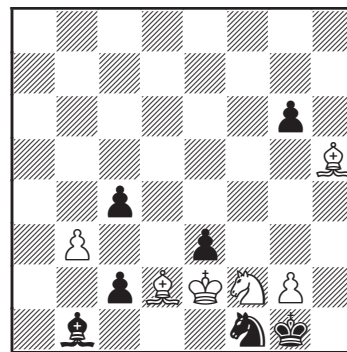
i) 3.Kh1? Rg3, or 3.Kf1? Rxg5 4.Re4+ Rg4 5.a8Q Rxe4.

ii) Rxg5 4.Re4+ Kh5 5.Rh3+ Kg6 6.Rxh6+ Kxh6 7.a8Q Rh5+ 8.Kg3 Rg5+ 9.Rg4 Rxg4+ 10.Kxg4 e2 11.Qh8+ Kg6 12.Qh5+ Kf6 13.Qf5+ Kg7 14.Qe5 wins.

iii) 5.Se4? Qc2+ 6.Sf2 Qg6+ 7.Kh2 exf2 8.Rh3+ Kg4 9.Rg3+ Kf4 10.Rxg6 f1Q 11.Re8 Qd1 12.Rf8+ Ke4 13.Re6+ Kd3 14.a8Q Qh5+ 15.Kg3 Qg5+ 16.Kf3 Qh5+ wins.

“Of course, the initial position evokes, as J. Beasley would say, a ‘traffic accident’, like so many other studies, but the last two rook sacrifices are pleasing to the eye, and not easy to spot”.

No 21701 I. Akobia †
1st commendation



e2g1 0054.24 6/7 Draw

No 21701 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Sh3+/i Kxg2 (Kh2; Bc1) 2.Sf4+/ii Kg3 3.Bc1 (Bxe3? Sxe3;) Kxf4 4.Bxg6 (Kxf1? gxh5;) Sg3+ (cxb3; Kxf1) 5.Ke1 cxb3 6.Bxe3+/iii Kxe3 7.Bxc2 Ba2/iv 8.Bxb3 Bxb3 stalemate.

i) 1.Bxe3? Sxe3, or 1.Bc1? exf2 wins.

ii) 2.Bc1? Sg3+ 3.Kxe3 Sxh5 4.Sg5/xii cxb3 5.Sf3 Sf6 6.Sd2 Sd5+ 7.Kd4 Ba2 8.Sc4 Sf6 wins.

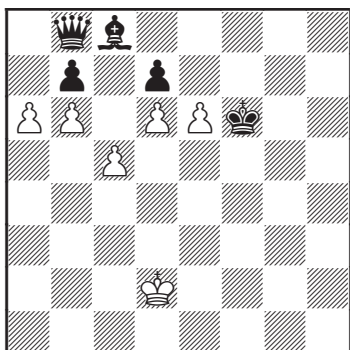
iii) 6.Bh7? b2 7.Bxb2 c1Q+ 8.Bxc1 Bxh7 wins.

iv) bxc2, or Bxc2 stalemate.

“The stalemate picture is not so obvious. Certainly it is not original, e.g. Bron

(HHdbV#69325), or Branton (#47610), but we cannot speak of anticipations”

No 21702 P. Rouzaud
2nd commendation



d2f6 3030.52 6/5 Win

No 21702 Philippe Rouzaud (France). 1.a7/i Qa8 2.e7 Kf7 3.Ke3 Ke8 4.Kf4 Kf7 5.Kg5 Ke8 6.Kh6/ii Kf7 7.e8Q+ Kxe8 8.Kg7 Kd8 9.Kf7/iii Qb8 10.c6 Qa8/iv 11.c7 mate.

i) 1.e7? bxa6 2.e8Q Qb7 draws.

ii) 6.Kg6? Qb8 7.Kh7 (axb8Q stalemate) Qa8 8.Kh6 loses time.

iii) 9.Kf8? Qb8 10.Kg8 Qa8 11.Kf7 wins.

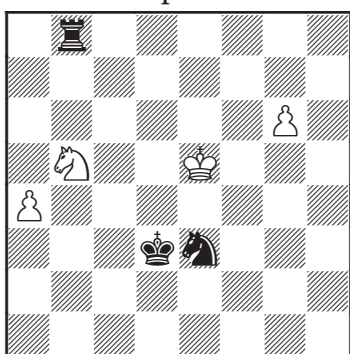
iv) Qxd6 11.c7+, or bxc6 11.axb8Q wins.

“The tenth move is interesting but the introduction is a bit schematic”

Phénix 2006-2011

AJR judged this informal tourney of the French composition magazine. During the 5 years, 20 studies by 13 composers from 8 countries participated. Ian Watson assisted in soundness checking and HH in anticipation vetting. The award was published in *Phénix* no.230 vii2013.

No 21703 J. Mikitovics
1st prize

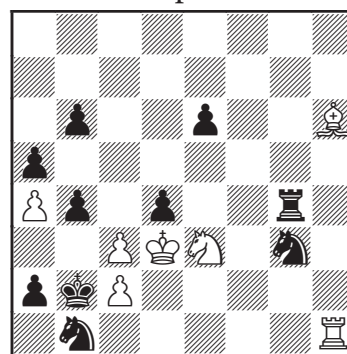


e5d3 0304.20 4/3 Draw

iii) Sf6 14.Se7 Rxa7 15.Kf8 Kf4 16.g8Q draws.

“We see play at master level with profound threats, without captures and with accurate defences across the board; in a position that exceptionally resembles one from a real game, the finish is a striking move and even the stalemate is almost a model stalemate. White has two main trumps: to push the g-pawn, which is supported by the wS on e7 or f6, and to push the pawn supported by the Sc7, but a rook is a rook!”

No 21704 A. Gasparyan
2nd prize



d3b2 0417.36 7/10 Win

No 21703 János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.g7/i Sg4+/ii 2.Kf5 Sh6+ 3.Kg6 Sg8 4.Kf7 Ke4 5.Sd6+ Ke5 6.Sc4+ Kf5 7.Sd6+ Kg5 8.Se4+, and:

— Kh5 9.Sg3+ Kh4 10.Se4 Sh6+ 11.Kg6 Rb6+ 12.Kh7 Sf5 13.g8S draws, or:

— Kh6 9.a5 Ra8 10.a6 Kh5 11.Sg3+ Kh4 12.Sf5+ Kg5 13.a7 Kxf5/iii stalemate.

i) 1.Sc7? Rb6 2.g7 Rg6 3.Se6 Kc4 4.Kf4 Kb4, wins, e.g. 5.Sf8 Sg2+.

ii) Sf1 2.Sc7 Sg3 3.a5 Sh5 4.a6 draws.

No 21704 Aleksey Gasparyan (Armenia).
1.Sc4+ Ka1 2.Bc1 (cxb4? Sxh1;) dxc3/i 3.Bb2+
cxb2 4.Sd2 Rd4+ 5.Kxd4 Se2+ 6.Ke5/ii Sc1
7.Sb3+ Sxb3 8.cxb3 b5 9.axb5 a4 10.b6, and:

— a3 11.Kf6/iii e5 12.b7 e4 13.b8B/iv e3 14.Bd6
e2 15.Bxb4 e1Q 16.Bxe1 Sd2 17.Bxd2+ b1Q
18.Bc3 mate, or:

— axb3 11.Kd6 (Kf6) e5 12.b7 e4 13.b8S e3 14.Sd7
(Sa6) e2 15.Sc5 e1Q 16.Sxb3 mate.

i) bxc3 3.Bb2+ cxb2 4.Sd2 and mate.

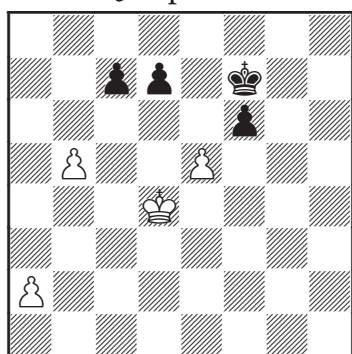
ii) 6.Ke3? Sc1 7.Sb3+ Sxb3 8.cxb3 e5 9.Ke4 b5
10.axb5 a4 11.b6 axb3 12.Kd5 e4 13.b7 e3 14.b8B
e2 15.Bg3 e1Q 16.Bxe1 Sd2 17.Bxd2+ b1Q and
Black wins.

iii) 11.Kd6? e5 12.b7 e4 13.b8B e3 14.Kd7 e2
15.Bg3 e1Q 16.Bxe1 Sd2 17.Bg3+ Sb1 draws.

v) 13.b8Q? e3 14.Qxb4 e2 15.Qh4 e1Q 16.Qxe1
stalemate, or 13.b8S? e3 14.Sc6 e2 15.Sxb4 e1S
16.Rxe1 draws.

“The duals after the 10th move are inherent
in knight manoeuvres in endgame studies and
can be ignored in the context of the rare task of
parallel under-promotions”.

No 21705 D. Forlot
3rd prize



d4f7 0000.33 4/4 Win

No 21705 Dominique Forlot (France).
1.a4/i fxe5+ 2.Kxe5 Ke8 3.a5 Kd8 4.a6/ii Kc8
5.Kf6 c5/iii 6.Ke5 c4 7.Kd4 d5 8.Kc5 (b6 Kb8;)
c3 9.Kb6 c2/v 10.a7 c1Q 11.a8Q+ Kd7 12.Qxd5+
Kc8 13.Qc6+ Qxc6+ 14.Kxc6 Kb8 15.Kb6 Ka8
16.Kc7 wins.

i) 1.exf6? Kxf6 2.a4 Ke7 3.a5 Kd8 4.a6 Kc8
5.Ke5 (Kc5 Kb8;) Kb8 6.Kf6 Ka7 7.Ke7 c6 8.bxc6
dxc6, or 1.Kd5? fxe5 2.Kxe5 Ke7 3.a4 Kd8 4.a5
Kc8 draw.

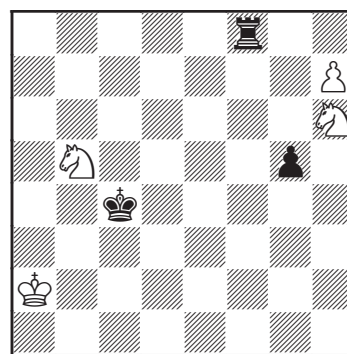
ii) 4.Kf6? c5 5.Ke5 c4 6.Kd4 d5 7.a6 Kc7 draws.

iii) Kb8 6.Ke7, and: d5 7.Kd7 d4 8.a7+ Kxa7
9.Kxc7 d3 10.b6+ Ka6 11.b7 wins, or here: c5
7.Kxd7 c4 8.b6 c3 9.a7+ Kb7 10.a8Q+ Kxa8
11.Kc7 c2 12.b7+ Ka7 13.b8Q+ Ka6 14.Qb6 mate.

v) Kb8 10.a7+ Ka8 11.Ka6 c2 12.b6 c1Q 13.b7
mate.

“This is a 6-piece study after 2.Kxe5, four of
those being pawns. There is no ‘database fla-
vour’ here and a plus point is the appearance of
the classical ending”.

No 21706 V. Gerasimov
1st honourable mention



a2c4 0302.11 4/3 Win

No 21706 Vladimir Gerasimov (Russia).
1.Sd6+ Kc3/i 2.Sdf7 Ra8+/ii 3.Kb1 Rb8+ 4.Kc1
Ra8 5.Kd1 Kd3 6.Ke1 Ke3 7.Kf1 Kf3 8.Sxg5+ Kg3
9.Sgf7 Kf3 10.Se5+/iii Kg3 11.Sg6/iv Kf3 12.Sh4+
Kg3 13.Sg8 wins.

i) Kd5 2.Sdf7 Ke6 3.Sg8 Kxf7 4.h8Q Rxc8
5.Qh7+ Rg7 6.Qf5+ Kg8 7.Qg4 (Qe4? g4;) Kh7
8.Kb3 Kg6 9.Qe6+ Kh7 10.Qe5 g4 (Kg6; Kc4)
11.Qg3 Rg6 12.Kc2 Rg7 13.Kd2 Rg6 14.Ke3 Kg7
15.Kf2 Rf6+ 16.Kg2 Rg6 17.Qe5+ Kf7 18.Kg3
Kg8 19.Kh4 and: g3 20.Kh5 g2 21.Qe8+, or Kf7
20.Qf5+ Kg7 21.Kh5.

ii) Kc2 3.Ka3 Kc3 4.Ka4 Kc4 5.Se5+/v Kd5
6.Sg6 wins.

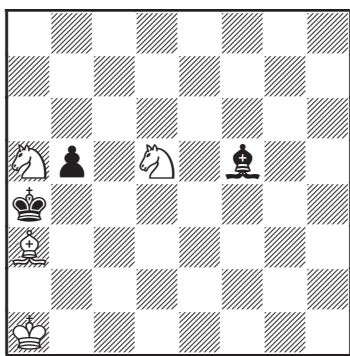
iii) 10.Ke1? Ke3 11.Kd1 Kd3 12.Se5+ Ke4
13.Sg6 Kd3 14.Ke1 Ke3 15.Kf1 Kf3 16.Sh4+ trans-
poses to the main line.

iv) 11.Sg8? Ra1+ 12.Ke2 Rh1 draws.

v) But not: 5.Ka5? Kc5 6.Ka6 Ra8+ 7.Kb7
Rf8 8.Kc7 g4 9.Kd7 g3 10.Ke7 Rxf7+ 11.Sxf7 g2
12.h8Q g1Q draws.

“The play is across the whole board, i.e. from the files a to h and ranks 1 to 8. The fact is that not a single tactic is original but, as a whole, the effect is irresistible. White’s only requirement is to capture the bP_{g5} with check and that is difficult to foresee in the initial position”.

No 21707 E. Melnichenko
2nd honourable mention



a1a4 0042.01 4/3 Win

No 21707 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Bb4, and:

— Be4 2.Kb2 Bg2 (Bf3) 3.Kc2/i Be4+ 4.Kd2 Bg2 5.Kd3 Be4+ 6.Kd4/ii Bxd5 7.Kc3 Bf3 8.Sb3 Bd5 9.Sc5 mate, or:

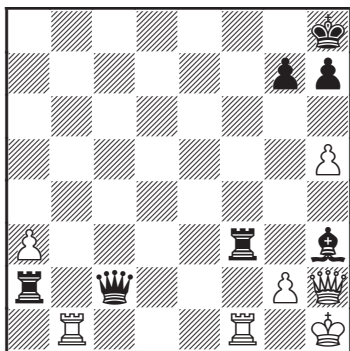
— Be6 2.Kb2 Bf7 3.Kc2 Bg8 4.Kd3 Be6 5.Kd4 Bxd5 6.Kc3 wins.

i) 3.Kc3? Bxd5 zz.

ii) 6.Kxe4? stalemate.

“One hardly expects such a prolonged tempo duel between the wK and bB. This compensates for the immobility of the structure a4b4a5b5”.

No 21708 J. Iglesias
3rd honourable mention



h1h8 4830.32 7/7 Draw

No 21708 Joachim Iglesias. 1.Qb8+/i Bc8 2.Qg3 Rf5/ii 3.Rfc1 (Rxf5? Qxb1+;) Rb2/iii 4.h6/

iv gxh6/v 5.Ra1 Ra2/vi 6.Rab1 Rb5/vii 7.Qf3 Kg7 8.Qg3+ Kh8 9.Qf3 positional draw.

i) 1.Rb8+? (Qg3? Bxg2+;) Bc8 2.Rxf3 Ra1+ 3.Qg1 Rxg1+ 4.Kxg1 Qc5+ 5.Kf1 h6 wins.

ii) Rxf1+ 3.Rxf1 h6/viii 4.Rf8+ Kh7 5.Qg6+ Qxg6 6.hxg6+ Kxg6 7.Rxc8 Rxa3 8.Kh2, or Rf2 3.Rfc1 Qf5 4.Rxc8+ Qxc8 5.Rb8 Ra1+ 6.Kh2 Rxg2+ 7.Kxg2 Ra2+ 8.Kf3 Rxa3+ 9.Ke4 Ra4+ 10.Kd5 Ra5+ 11.Ke4 draw.

iii) Rxh5+ 4.Kg1 Rb5 5.Rxc2 Rxb1+ 6.Kh2 Rxc2 7.Qd3.

iv) 4.Rxc2? Rxb1+ 5.Kh2 Rxh5+, or 4.Ra1? Rxh5+ 5.Kg1 Qf5.

v) Rh5+ 5.Kg1 gxh6 6.Rxc2 Rxb1+ 7.Kf2 Rf5+ 8.Ke2 Ba6+ 9.Kd2 Rd5+ 10.Kc3 draws.

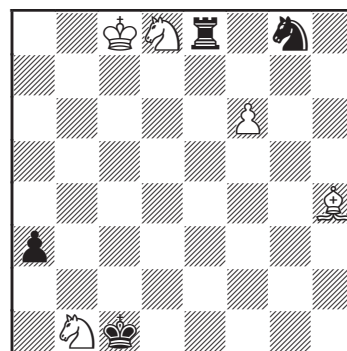
vi) Rh5+ 6.Kg1 Qf5 7.Qc3+ Kg8 8.Qxb2.

vii) Rb2 7.Ra1, or Rh5+ 7.Kg1 Rb2 (Qf5; Qc3+) 8.Ra1.

viii) Be6 4.h6, and: Qg6 5.Rf8+ Bg8 6.Rxg8+ Kxg8 7.Qb3+ Qf7 8.Qb8+, or Kg8 4.h6 g6 5.Qf3 Bf5 6.Qb7 Kf8 7.Re1 Be4 8.Qxe4 or here: Qb2 5.Rf8+ Bg8 6.hxg7+ Qxg7 7.Rxg8+ Kxg8 8.Qb8+ Qf8 9.Qg3+.

“All six heavy pieces play during the solution! HH claimed to have found duals (7.Rxc2 and 7.Kh2). However, we have never seen anything like this before”.

No 21709 E. Eilazyan
1st commendation



c8c1 0315.11 5/4 Win

No 21709 Eduard Eilazyan (Ukraine). 1.f7/i Rxd8+/ii 2.Kxd8/iii a2 3.Sd2 Kxd2 4.Be1+ Kc2/ iv 5.Bc3 Kxc3 6.f8Q (fxg8Q? Kb2;) a1Q/v 7.Qg7+ wins.

i) 1.Sxa3? Sxf6 2.Bxf6 Rf8 draws.

ii) Rf8 2.Sxa3 Sh6 3.Bg5+ wins.

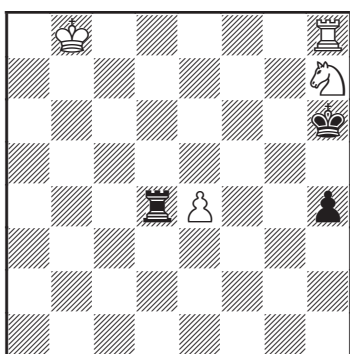
iii) 2.Bxd8? a2 3.Sd2 Kxd2 4.Ba5+ Kc2 5.Bc3 Se7+ 6.Kd7 Sg6 draws.

iv) Kxe1 5.fxg8Q a1Q 6.Qg1+ Ke2 7.Qxa1 wins.

v) Se7 7.Kd7 Sd5 8.Qa3+, or Kb3 7.Qf3+ Kb2 8.Qb7+ Kc2 9.Qa6 Kb3 10.Qb5+ Kc2 11.Qa4+ Kb2 12.Qb4+ Kc2 13.Qa3 Kb1 14.Qb3+ Ka1 15.Qc2, or Kb2 7.Qb4+ Kc2 8.Qa3 Kb1 9.Qb3+ Ka1 10.Qc2 Se7 11.Qc1 mate.

“This is attractive from start to finish”.

No 21710 V. Sizonenko
2nd commendation



b8h6 0401.11 4/3 Win

No 21710 Viktor Sizonenko (Russia). 1.Sf8+ Kg7 2.Se6+ Kxh8 3.Sxd4 Kg7 4.Kc7 Kf6 5.Kd6 Kg5 6.Ke5/i h3 7.Sf3+ Kg4 8.Sh2+ Kg3 9.Sf1+ Kf2 10.Kf4 Kxf1 11.Kg3 wins.

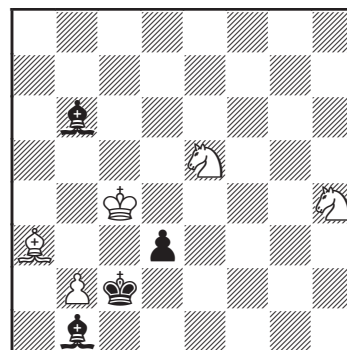
i) 6.e5? h3 7.e6 Kg4, and: 8.e7 h2 9.e8Q h1Q 10.Qe2+ Kg5 11.Se6+ Kh4 12.Qf2+ Kh3 or here:

8.Sf3 Kxf3 9.e7 Kg2 10.e8Q h2 11.Qc6+ Kg1 12.Qc1+ Kg2 draws.

“This problem is striking for its simplicity but it is a pity that the bR is only there to be captured and therefore that the exchange

preamble (bringing the bK to h8) has nothing to do with the theme of the 5 pieces”.

No 21711 E. Melnichenko
3rd commendation



c4c2 0072.11 5/4 Win

No 21711 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Sxd3/i Ba2+/ii 2.Kb5 Bd4/iii 3.Sb4+, and:

— Kb3 4.Sf3 Bxb2 5.Sd2+ Kxa3 6.Sc2 mate, or:

— Kb1 4.Sf3 Bxb2/iv 5.Sd2+ Ka1/v 6.Sc2 mate.

i) 1.Sf5? d2 2.Sg4 d1Q 3.Sge3+ Bxe3 4.Sxe3+ Kd2 5.Sxd1 Kxd1 draws.

ii) Bd8 2.Sb4+ Kc1 3.Sf3 Be4 4.Sd3+ Kc2 5.Sfe1+ Kd2 6.Bb4+ Ke3 7.Sc2+ Kf3 8.Bd6 Bh7 9.b4 Bg8+ 10.Kc5 Ke4 11.Sf2+ Kf3 12.Sh3 Bh7 13.Sd4+ Ke3 14.Sf4 Ke4 15.b5 Ba5 16.Sd5 Bg6 17.Bc7 wins.

iii) Be3 3.Sb4+ Kb1 4.Sxa2 Kxa2 5.Kc4 Bg5 6.Sf5 Bf6 7.Sd4 Be5 8.Kc3 Bf6 9.Bc5.

iv) Bg7 5.Sd2+ Kc1 6.Sxa2+ Kxd2 7.Kc4.

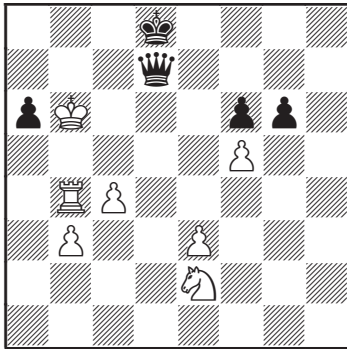
v) Kc1 6.Sxa2+ Kc2 7.Bb4.

“This has charming moves, albeit it is on a small scale. The targets are a3 and b2”.

Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia 2009

The award of this tourney was considerably delayed (it is dated July 2017 i.e. it was published 7 years late). The judge was Sergey Osintsev who considered 40 studies by 16 composers from 4 countries, among which no fewer than 11 studies were by M. Zinar (in an article).

No 21712 A. Zhukov
1st prize



b6d8 3101.43 7/5 Win

No 21712 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Sd4/i Qd6+/ii 2.Ka7/iii gxf5/iv 3.Rb6 Qc7+
4.Ka8/v Qxb6 5.c5, and:

— Qxc5 (Qc7) 6.Se6+ wins, or:

— Qa5 (Qb4) 6.Sc6+ wins/vi.

i) 1.fxc6? Qc7+ 2.Kxa6 Qd6+ 3.Rb6 Qa3+
4.Kb7 Qe7+ draws.

ii) gxf5 2.c5 a5 3.c6 Qc7+ 4.Ka6 axb4 5.Se6+
wins.

iii) 2.Sc6+? Kd7, or 2.Ka5? gxf5 3.Rb6? Qa3
mate.

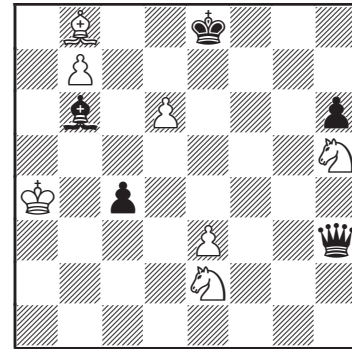
iv) Qxb4 3.Sc6+, or g5 3.Se6+ Kc8 4.Rb6 Qe5
5.c5 Qxf5 6.Rc6+ Kd7 7.Sd4 Qh7 8.Kb6 Qh2
9.Rd6+, or Kc8 3.Rb6 Qe7+ 4.Kxa6 Qxe3 5.Rd6
Qe4 6.fxc6 wins.

v) 4.Kxa6? Qc8+ 5.Kb5 Qd7+ 6.Rc6 Qb7+
7.Kc5 Qe7+ 8.Rd6+ Kc8 9.Sxf5 Qa7+ 10.Kb5
Qb8+ 11.Ka4 Qa7+ 12.Kb4 Qb7+, or 4.Rb7?
Qc5+ 5.Kxa6 Ke8 6.Rb5 Qa3+ 7.Kb7 Qe7+ draw.

vi) After Qc7 6.Se6+ Kd7 7.Sxc7 Kxc7 White
has 8.Ka7 a5 9.Ka6 Kc6 10.Kxa5 winning.

“Two fantastic moves by the wK turn the situation upside down! The initially dominating bQ becomes a victim of domination herself! And all of this happens in an elementary, almost boring position!”

No 21713 A. Zhukov
2nd prize



a4e8 3042.32 7/5 Win

No 21713 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Bc7/i Bxc7/ii 2.Sf6+ Kd8 3.Sf4/iii Qf5/iv
4.dxc7+ Kxc7 5.e4, and:

— Qxf6 6.Sd5+ Kxb7 7.Sxf6 Kc6 8.Kb4 Kd6
9.Sg4 h5 10.Sf2 Ke5 11.Kxc4 wins, or:

— Qxf4/v 6.Sd5+ Kxb7 7.Sxf4 Kc6 8.Kb4 Kd6
9.Sg6/vi Ke6 10.Kxc4 wins.

i) 1.Sf6+? Kf7 2.Bc7 Qxe3 3.Sd4 Qxd4 draws.

ii) Ba7 2.Sf6+ Kf7 3.d7, or Qd7+ 2.Kb4 Bxc7
3.Sf6+ Kd8 4.Sxd7 Bxd6+ 5.Sc5 wins.

iii) 3.Sd4? Bxd6 4.Sc6+ Kc7 5.b8Q+ Kxc6
6.Qb5+ Kc7 7.Se8+ Kd8 8.Sxd6 Qxe3 9.Qb8+
Kd7 draws.

iv) Qxe3 4.dxc7+ Kxc7 5.S6d5+ Kxb7 6.Sxe3
wins.

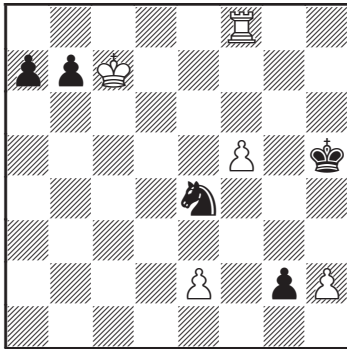
v) Qg5 (Qc5) 6.Se6+, Qe5 6.b8Q+ Kxb8
7.Sd7+ wins, or Qxe4 6.Sxe4 wins.

vi) 9.Kxc4? Ke5, or 9.Se2? Ke5 10.Sc3 Kd4, or
9.Sh3? Ke5 10.Sf2 Kd4 draws.

“White answers the capture of each of the knights by precise play of the surviving knight”

No 21714 Valery Kalashnikov (Russia).
1.Rg8/i Sg5 2.h3 Kh6/ii 3.Rg6+ Kh5 4.Rg8 Kh4
(Kh6; Rg6+) 5.Rh8+ Kg3 6.Rg8 Kf4 (Kh4;
Rh8+) 7.e3+ Kxf5 8.h4 g1Q 9.Rxg5+ Qxg5
10.hxg5 Kxg5 11.Kd6, and:

No 21714 V. Kalashnikov
3rd prize



c7h5 0103.33 5/5 Draw

— Kf6 12.e4 Kf7 13.Kd7 Kf6 14.Kd6 Kf7 15.Kd7 draws, or:

— Kf5 12.Kd5 Kf6/iii 13.Kd6 Kf7 14.Kd7 Kf6 15.Kd6 Kf5 16.Kd5, draws/iv.

i) White must try and stop the g-pawn, 1.Rh8+? Kg4 2.Rg8+ Sg5 3.h3+ Kxf5 4.h4 g1Q 5.Rxg5+ Qxg5 6.hxg5 Kxg5 7.Kd6, but Kf4 8.Kd5 Ke3 is lost pawn ending.

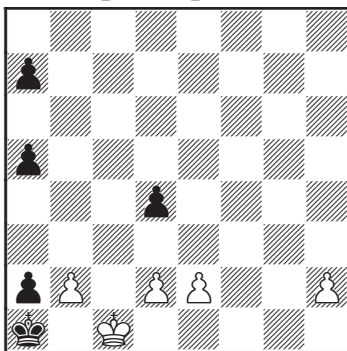
ii) If now g1Q 3.Rh8+ Sh7 4.Rxh7+ Kg5 5.Rg7+ White wins.

iii) a5 13.e4+ Kf6 14.Kd6 a4 15.e5+ Kf7 16.Kd7 a3 17.e6+ Kg7 18.e7 draws.

iv) Kg6 17.Kd6 Kf7 18.Kd7 draws.

“This good logical study has two echo-chameleon positional draws”.

No 21715 V. Kovalenko †
special prize



c1a1 0000.44 5/5 Win

No 21715 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.h4 a4 2.h5 d3 3.exd3 a5 4.h6 a3 5.b3/i a4 6.h7 axb3 7.h8Q+ b2+ 8.Kd1/ii Kb1 9.Qf8/iii Ka1/iv 10.Qg7/v Kb1 11.Qa7 Ka1 12.Qd4 Kb1 13.Qc5 (Ke2? a1S) Ka1 14.Qc3 Kb1 15.Ke2/vi a1Q/vii 16.Qb3 Qa2 (a2, Kc1) 17.Qd1 mate.

i) 5.b4? a4 6.h7 stalemate.

ii) 8.Kc2? stalemate.

iii) 9.Qc3? a1Q 10.Qc2+ Ka2+ and Black wins. If 9.Qd4? (Qf6?, Qg8?) a1S draws, avoiding a1Q? 10.Ke2 Qa2 11.Qg1+ Kc2 12.Qd1 mate.

iv) Now a1S 10.Qxa3, and a1Q 10.Ke2 Kc2 11.Qc5+ Kb3 12.Qc4 mate.

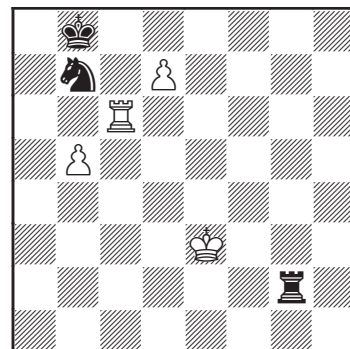
v) 10.Qf6? Kb1 11.Qb6 a1S draws.

vi) 15.Ke1? a1S draws, since 16.Qxa3? Sc2+.

vii) a1S 16.Qxa3 Sc2 17.Qc5 Sa1 18.Qc4 Sc2 19.Kd1 Ka1 20.Qa4+ wins.

“Draw studies with knight promotions in such a scheme are known but here the author’s luck is the wPd3 which allows an original win after some ‘ladders’”.

No 21716 V. Vlasenko
1st honourable mention



e3b8 0403.20 4/3 Win

No 21716 Valery Vlasenko (Ukraine). 1.b6 Rg8 2.Re6 Rd8/i 3.Re8 Ka8 4.Kd4/ii Rb8 5.Rc8 Sd8 6.Kc5 Kb7 7.Rc7+ Ka6/iii 8.Ra7 mate.

i) Rg3+ 3.Ke2/iv Rg2+ 4.Kd1 (Ke1) Rg1+ 5.Kd2 (Kc2) Rg2+ 6.Kc3 Rg3+ 7.Kc4/v Rg4+ 8.Kd5 Rg5+ 9.Kd4 Rg4+ 10.Ke5 Rg5+ 11.Kf6 Rd5 12.Re8+ Sd8 13.Rxd8 wins.

ii) 4.Kf4? Rb8 5.Ke5 Sd8 6.Kd6 Kb7 draws.

iii) Ka8 8.Ra7 mate, or 8.Kb5.

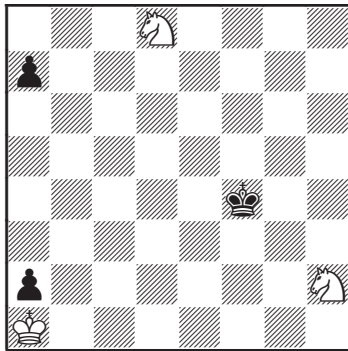
iv) 3.Kd4? Rd3+ 4.Kxd3 Sc5+, or 3.Kf4? Rd3 4.Re8+ Sd8 5.Rxd8+ Kb7 draw.

v) 7.Kd4? Rd3+ 8.Kxd3 Sc5+ draws.

“The king worked for the glory! This is also the case for line (i) where the author indicated some minor duals, but his intolerance of duals caused him to avoid making this a main line.

However, this line influenced the judge very positively!”

No 21717 A. Zhukov
2nd honourable mention



a1f4 0002.02 3/3 Win

No 21717 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia).
1.Se6+ Ke5/i 2.Sc5 Kd5 3.Sa6 Kc4 4.Sf3 Kb5
5.Sc7+ Kc6/ii 6.Se8 a5/iii 7.Sd4+ Kd7/iv 8.Sf6+
Ke7 9.Sd5+ Kd6 10.Se3/v Kc5 11.Sdc2 (Sec2?
a4;) a4 12.Sa3 Kb4 13.Kxa2/vi wins.

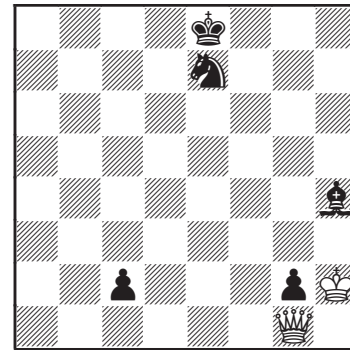
- i) Kg3 2.Sf1+ Kf2 3.Sd2 a5 4.Sc4 a4 5.Sa3 wins.
- ii) Kc4 6.Kxa2 a5 7.Sd2+ Kb4 8.Sb1 a4 9.Sa3 wins.
- iii) Kd7 7.Sg7 a5 8.Se5+ wins.
- iv) Kc5 8.Sc2 a4 9.Sa3 Kb4 10.Kxa2 wins.
- v) 10.Sf4? a4 11.Sb5+ Ke5 12.Sd3+ Ke4 13.Sc5+ Kd5 draws. Or 10.Sc3? a4 11.Sdb5+ Kc5 12.Sa3 Kb4 13.Scb5 Kb3 zz, draws.
- vi) 13.Sec2+? (Sec4+?) Kb3 zz, draws.

“The king secures the victory but, before doing so, was a spectator of the ingenious knight moves. I am glad that the composer managed

later to improve significantly all his studies in this contest!”

MG cooks: 4.Kxa2 Kb5 5.Sc7+ Kc6 6.Se6 Rd5 7.Sf4+ Ke4 8.Se2 Kd3 9.Sc1+ Kc2 10.Sb3 a5 11.Sd4+ Kd3 12.Sb5 a4 13.Sa3. A very nice cook (only way to win for White). How is it possible that this wasn't discovered?

No 21718 A. Visokosov & K. Sumbatyan
special honourable mention

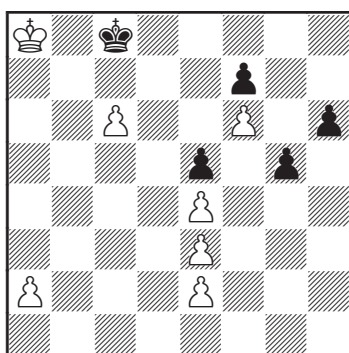


h2e8 1033.02 2/5 Win

No 21718 Andrey Visokosov & Karen Sumbatyan (Russia). 1.Qc1/i Sd5 2.Qxc2 (Kxg2? Sb4;) Bg3+ 3.Kg1 (Kxg2? Se3+;) Sf4 4.Qh7 Kd8/ii 5.Qf7 Kc8 6.Qe7 Kb8 7.Qd7 Ka8 8.Qg7 Kb8 9.Qxg3 wins.

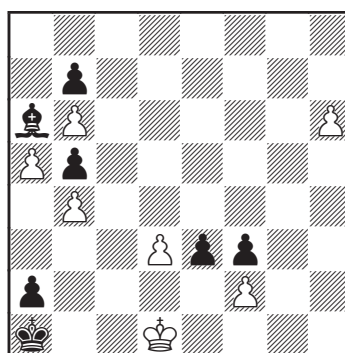
- i) Try: 1.Qa1? Sd5 2.Qa4+ Kf7 3.Qxc2 Bg3+ 4.Kg1 Sf4 positional draw. Try: 1.Qc5? Bf2 2.Qb5+ Kd8/iii 3.Qd3+ Ke8 4.Qb5+ Kd8 5.Qa5+ Ke8/iv 6.Qa4+ Kd8 7.Qa5+ Ke8 positional draw.
- ii) Kf8 5.Qa7 Kg8 6.Qe7 Kh8 7.Qf7 wins
- iii) Kf8? 3.Qb8+ Kf7 4.Qf4+ Ke8 5.Kxg2 wins.
- iv) Kd7? 6.Qd2+ Ke8 7.Kxg2 wins.

No 21719 M. Zinar
commendation



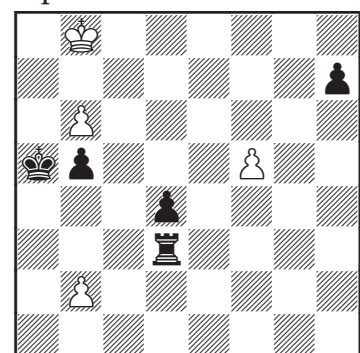
a8c8 0000.64 7/5 Draw

No 21720 M. Zinar
commendation



d1a1 0030.65 7/7 Win

No 21721 V. Kovalenko †
special commendation



b8a5 0300.33 4/5 Win

“The judge of the Open Championship of Moscow 2009, Karen Sumbatyan, proposed the theme for that tourney with this co-authored study: White to win and draw, thanks to a pin of a black piece or pawn”.

No 21719 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.a4 g4 2.a5 g3 3.a6 g2 4.a7/i g1S/ii 5.c7 Sf3 6.exf3 Kxc7 7.f4 exf4 8.exf4/iii h5 9.e5 h4 10.e6 h3 11.e7 h2 12.e8S+ Kc8 13.Sd6+ draws.

i) 4.c7? Kxc7 5.a7 Kb6 6.Kb8 g1Q 7.a8Q Qg8 mate.

ii) g1Q 5.c7 Kxc7 stalemate.

iii) 8.e5? fxe3 9.e6 e2 10.exf7 e1Q 11.f8Q Qe4 mate.

No 21720 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.Kc2 e2 2.h7 e1S+ 3.Kd2 (Kc1? Sxd3+;) Kb1 4.h8Q a1Q 5.Qxa1+ Kxa1 6.Kxe1 Kb2 7.d4 Kc3 8.d5 Kd4 9.d6 Kd5 10.d7 Kc6 11.d8B/i wins.

i) 11.d8Q? (d8R?) stalemate. 11.d8S+? Kd5 12.Kd2 Kc4 draws.

“The irrepressible experiments with various combinations of under-promotions make Zinar the renowned leader of the pawn study”.

No 21721 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.b7/i Rg3 2.Ka7, and:

— Rg7 3.f6 Rf7 4.Ka8 Rxb7 5.Kxb7 d3 6.f7 d2 7.f8Q d1Q 8.Qa3+ Qa4 9.b4 mate, or:

— Rg8 3.f6 d3 4.f7 Rf8 5.b8Q Rxb8 6.Kxb8 d2 7.f8Q d1Q 8.Qa3+ Qa4 9.b4+ Kb6 10.Qe3+ Kc6 11.Qe6 mate.

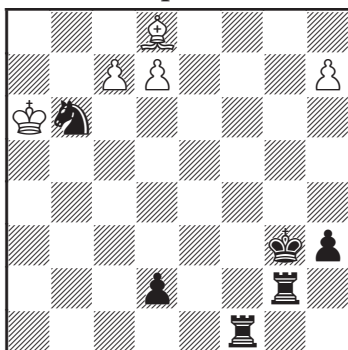
i) 1.Ka7? Rc3 2.bxc3 dxc3 3.b7 c2 4.b8Q c1Q draws.

“Of course the mates are known but their synthesis gives this study the small chance of being original”.

Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia 2010-2012

Judge Sergey Osintsev considered no fewer than 71 studies by 22 composers from 5 countries, among which were 33 studies by Mikhail Zinar almost all of which were published in his article “How I became an artist and composed poetry”. No fewer than 30 studies proved unsound but none of these were by Zinar!

No 21722 P. Arestov
1st prize



a6g3 o613.32 5/6 Win

No 21722 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bh4+ Kh2 2.d8Q d1Q 3.Qxd1 Rxd1 4.h8Q Sc8 5.Qxc8 Rb2 6.Bg3+/i Kxg3/v 7.Qxh3+ Kxh3 8.c8Q+, and:

— Kg2 9.Qg4+ wins, or:

— Kh2 9.Qh8+/iii wins.

i) Thematic try: 6.Be1? Rxe1 7.Qxh3+ Kxh3 8.c8Q+ Kg2 draws. Thematic try: 6.Qxh3+? Kxh3 7.c8Q+ Kh2, and now: 8.Bg3+ Kg2 9.Qc6+ Kg1 10.Qc5+ Kg2 11.Qc6+ Kg1 12.Qc5+ Kg2 13.Qa3 Rdb1, or similarly: 8.Qc7+ Kh1 9.Qc6+ Kh2 10.Bg3+ Kg1 11.Qc5+ Kg2.

ii) Kg2 7.Be1 Rxe1 8.Qg4+ Kh2 9.Qa4 wins, or Kg1 7.Bf2+/iv Kxf2 (Kh2; Qxh3+) 8.Qf5+ wins.

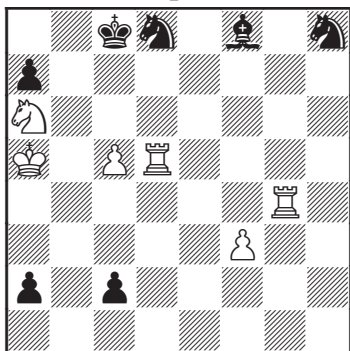
iii) Kh3 9.Qc3+ (Qc7+).

iv) But not 7.Be1? Rxe1 8.Qg4+ Rg2 9.Qd4+ Kh2 10.c8Q Ra2+ 11.Kb5 Rb1+ draws.

“The thematic tries and line (v) perfectly complement the main line and sometimes even surpass it! This is a bright study”.

No 21723 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rg1 Bh6 2.f4/i Bxf4 3.Sb4 c1Q 4.Rxc1 Sc6+ 5.Sxc6 Bxc1 6.Sxa7+ Kc7/ii 7.Sb5+ Kb7 8.c6+/ Kxc6 9.Rd6+ Kc5 10.Rd5+ Kxd5 11.Sc3+ Kc4 12.Sxa2 Bd2+ 13.Ka4 Sg6 14.Sb4 Bxb4 stalemate.

No 21723 P. Arestov
2nd prize

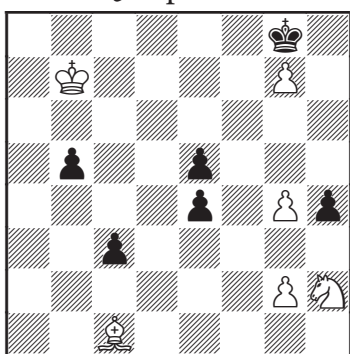


a5c8 0237.23 6/7 Draw

i) Thematic try: 2.Sb4? c1Q 3.Rxc1 Sc6+ 4.Sxc6 Bxc1 5.Sxa7+ Kc7 6.Sb5+ Kc6 7.Rd6+ Kxc5 8.Rd5+ Kxd5 9.Sc3+ Kc4 10.Sxa2 Bd2+ 11.Ka4 Sg6 and now White is too late to dump his pawn for a stalemate: 12.f4 Sxf4 13.Sb4 Se6 14.Sc6 Sc5+ wins.

ii) Kb8 7.Kb6 Sf7 8.Rd7 a1Q 9.Sc6+ Ka8 10.Ra7+ draws.

No 21724 S. Didukh
3rd prize



b7g8 0011.35 6/6 BTM, Win

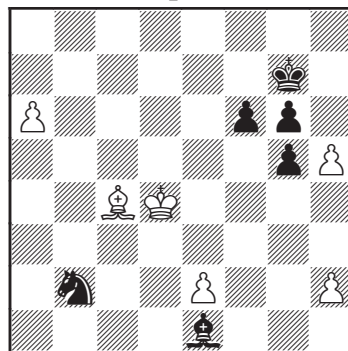
No 21724 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine). 1... e3/i 2.Bxe3 b4 3.Bh6 b3 4.g5 b2 5.Sg4 b1Q+ 6.Kc7 Qg6 7.Sf6+ Kf7 8.g8Q+ Qxg8 9.Sxg8 Kg6 10.Bf8/ii Kxg5 11.Bh6+/iii Kg4 12.Se7 e4 13.Bc1 Kg3 14.Sf5+ Kxg2 15.Sxh4+ Kf2 16.Sf5 Ke2 17.Se3 wins.

i) b4 2.Bh6 b3 3.g5 b2 4.Sg4 b1Q+ 5.Kc7 Qf1 6.Sf6+ Qxf6 7.gxf6 wins.

ii) 10.Se7+? Kh5 11.Sf5 c2 12.g4+ Kg6 13.Sxh4+ Kh7 14.Sf5 c1Q+ with check!

iii) 11.Ba3? Kg4 12.Sh6+ Kg3 13.Sf5+ Kxg2 14.Sxh4+ Kf2 15.Sf5 Ke2 16.Bc1 Kd1 17.Bh6 c2 18.Se3+ Kc1 19.Sc4+ Kb1 draws.

No 21725 V. Tarasiuk
4th prize



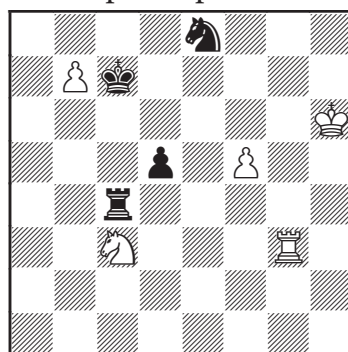
d4g7 0043.43 6/6 Win

No 21725 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.h6+/i Kh7 2.Bg8+ Kxg8 3.a7 Bf2+ 4.e3 Bxe3+ 5.Kxe3 Sc4+ 6.Kd4 Sb6 7.Kc5 Sa8 8.Kc6 f5 9.Kb7 f4 10.Kxa8 f3 11.Kb7 f2 12.a8Q+ (a8R+) wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.a7? Bf2+ 2.e3 Bxe3+ 3.Kxe3 Sxc4+ 4.Kd4 Sb6 5.Kc5 Sa8 6.Kc6 f5 7.h6+, and now not Kxh6? 8.Kb7 f4 9.Kxa8 f3 10.Kb7 f2 11.a8Q f1Q 12.Qh8 mate, but Kh7 8.Kb7 f4 9.Kxa8 f3 10.Kb7 f2 11.a8Q f1Q draws.

“As a result of mutual ‘foresight effects’ the bK is exposed to a check”.

No 21726 P. Arestov
special prize



h6c7 0404.21 5/3 Win

No 21726 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rg8 Rh4+ 2.Kg5 Rg4+ 3.Kxg4 Sf6+ 4.Kh4/i Sxg8 5.Sxd5+ Kb8 6.Kh5 Kxb7 7.Kg5 zz Kc6 (Kc8; Kg6) 8.Se7+ Sxe7 9.f6 Kd7 10.f7 Sg6 11.Kxg6 Ke7 12.Kg7 wins.

i) 4.Kg5? Sxg8 5.Sxd5+/ii Kxb7 6.Se7/iii Sxe7 7.f6 Sc6 8.f7 Sd8 9.f8Q Se6+ draws, or 4.Kf4? Sxg8 5.Sd5+ Kb8 6.Kg4 Sh6+.

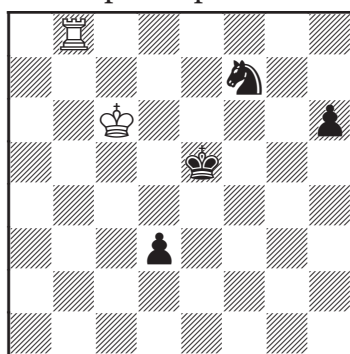
ii) 5.b8Q+ Kxb8 6.Sxd5 Kb7 draws.

iii) 6.Kg6 Kc6 7.Kg7 Kxd5 8.Kxg8 Ke5 draws.

“This is the first award combining several years. Otherwise this study would have been the laureate of 2011”.

In the award this study was published without bPd5. This diagram error allows many cooks. The author informed MG about the missing pawn.

No 21727 V. Kalashnikov & J. Mikitovics
special prize



c6e5 0103.02 2/4 Draw

No 21727 Valery Kalashnikov (Russia) & János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Rb5+/i Kd4 2.Rd5+/ii Kc4 3.Rc5+ Kd4 4.Rd5+ Ke3 5.Kd7 (Kc5? d2;) Sg5/iii 6.Ke7 Ke4/iv 7.Kd6 Sf3/v 8.Kc5/vi d2 9.Rd8/vii Ke3 10.Kc4 Ke2 11.Re8+ Kf2 12.Rd8 h5 13.Kc3 h4 14.Kc2 h3 15.Rh8 Kg2 16.Rg8+ Kf2 17.Rh8 Ke2 18.Re8+ Kf2 19.Rh8 positional draw.

i) 1.Rb1? Sg5 2.Kc5 Se4+ 3.Kc4 Sd2+ wins, or 1.Rb2? Kd4 2.Kd7 Kc3 3.Rh2 d2 wins.

ii) 2.Rf5? Se5+ 3.Kd6 Sg6 4.Ke6 d2 5.Rf1 Kd3 6.Kf6 Sh8 7.Rh1 Kc2 8.Kg7 h5 9.Kh6 h4 10.Kh5 Sg6 wins.

iii) d2 6.Ke6 h5 7.Kf5 h4 8.Rxd2 draws.

iv) Sf3 7.Kf6 h5 8.Rxh5 d2 9.Rh1 Se1 10.Rh3+ Ke4 11.Rh4+ Kd5 positional draw, or 12.Rh8 Sd3 13.Rh1 Se1 14.Rh8 draws.

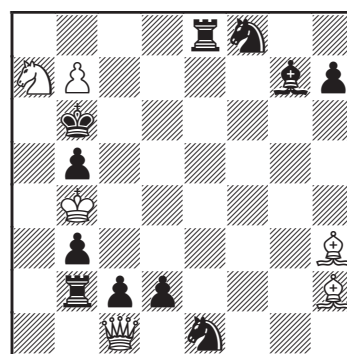
v) Sh3 8.Kc5 Sf2 9.Kc4 Ke3 10.Re5+ Kf4 11.Rd5 Ke3 12.Re5+ draws.

vi) 8.Ke6? Sd4+ 9.Kd6 d2

vii) 9.Kc4? Se5+ 10.Kc5 Sd3+, or 9.Rd6? Ke3 10.Kc4 Sg5 11.Kc3 Se4+, or 9.Rd7? h5 10.Kc4 Se5+ win.

“The accurate and delicate play in this 6-piece format is comprehensible without a computer and this is not often the case for such studies”.

No 21728 V. Tarasiuk
1st honourable mention



b4b6 1657.15 6/11 Draw

No 21728 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.b8Q+/i Rxb8 2.Qxd2 Bc3+ 3.Qxc3 c1Q 4.Sc8+/ii Rxc8 5.Bg1+ Kb7 6.Bxc8+ Kb8 7.Ba7+ Ka8 8.Qxc1 Sd3+ 9.Ka5/iii Sxc1 10.Kb6 Sd7+ 11.Bxd7 Rc2 12.Bf5 Rc4 13.Bh3 Rc2 14.Bf5 Re2 15.Bd7 Rc2 16.Bf5 draws.

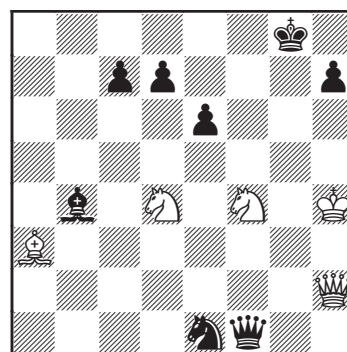
i) 1.Qxd2? Re4+ 2.Ka3 Ra4 mate.

ii) 4.Bg1+? Kb7 5.Qxc1 Sd3+ 6.Kc3 Sxc1 7.Kxb2 Se2 wins.

iii) 9.Kxb5? Sxc1 10.Kb6 Sd7+ 11.Bxd7 Rc2 12.Bf5 Rc4 13.Bh3 Rb4+ wins.

“Of course, many pieces depart the board, but they played, sacrificed themselves, and, what is nice, the sacrifices were not always accepted.

No 21729 V. Tarasiuk
2nd honourable mention



h4g8 4045.04 5/8 Win

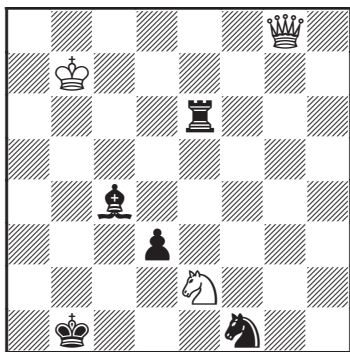
No 21729 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
 1.Qg3+/i Kh8 2.Bxb4 Qxf4+ 3.Qxf4 Sg2+ 4.Kg3/
 ii Sxf4 5.Kxf4 e5+ 6.Kxe5 d6+ 7.Kf6 c5 8.Sf5
 cxb4 9.Sh6 b3 10.Kf7 b2 11.Kf8 b1Q 12.Sf7 mate.

i) 1.Bxb4? Qxf4+ 2.Qxf4 Sg2+ 3.Kg3 Sxf4
 4.Kxf4 e5+ 5.Kxe5 d6+ 6.Kf6 c5 draws.

ii) 4.Kg5? h6+, or 4.Kg4? h5+ draw.

“White has time to construct a mating net, conceived by the first move and at the last moment but it could be destroyed by careless actions of the wK at the fourth move. That is an excellent idea, but the captures at the beginning greatly rescues the impression”.

No 21730 I. Akobia †
 3rd honourable mention



b7b1 1334.01 3/5 Draw

No 21730 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Qf8/i
 Rxe2/ii 2.Qxf1+ Ka2 3.Qd1 Rc2 4.Ka8/iii Bb5
 5.Kb8 Rb2 6.Kc7 d2 7.Kd6 Bc4 8.Qa4+ Kb1
 9.Qd1+ Ka2 10.Qa4+ draws.

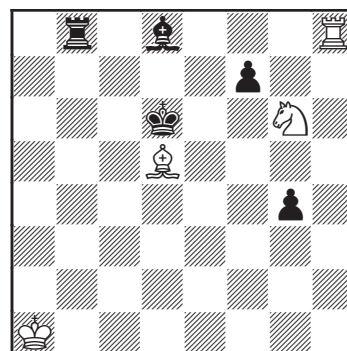
i) 1.Sc3+? Kc2 2.Qg7 d2 wins.

ii) dxe2 2.Qb4+ Ka1 3.Qc3+ Kb1 4.Qb4
 draws, Bd5+ 2.Ka7 dxe2 3.Qb4+ Ka2 4.Qa4+
 Kb2 5.Qd4+ Ka3 6.Qc5+ Ka4 7.Qd4+ Ka3
 8.Qc5+ Kb2 9.Qd4+ Kc2 10.Qc5+ draws.

iii) 4.Kb8? Bb5 5.Kb7 Kb2 6.Qf1 Bc6+ wins,
 or 4.Kb6? Kb2 5.Ka5 d2 6.Kb4 Bb3 wins.

No 21731 Valery Kalashnikov (Russia) &
 János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Se7/i Kxe7 2.Rh7
 Kd6 3.Bxf7 Bf6+ 4.Ka2 g3 5.Rh6/ii Rb2+ 6.Ka3
 g2 7.Rg6/iii Rd2/iv 8.Kb4 (Kb3? Kc5;) Ke5
 9.Rg8 Bd8/v 10.Be8/vi Bb6 11.Kc3 Ra2 12.Kb3
 Re2 13.Bb5 Rd2 14.Kc3 Ra2 15.Kb3 Rd2 16.Kc3
 Rf2 17.Bc6 draws.

No 21731 V. Kalashnikov & J. Mikitovics
 4th honourable mention



a1d6 0441.02 4/5 Draw

i) 1.Se5? Bf6 2.Rxb8 Bxe5+ 3.Kb1 Kxd5 wins.

ii) 5.Rh1? Rb2+ 6.Ka3 Rd2 7.Rh6 g2 8.Rg6
 Kc5

iii) 7.Rxf6+? Ke7 8.Rg6 Kxf7 wins.

iv) Ke5 8.Rg8 Kf5 9.Bd5, or Kc5 8.Be6 Re2
 9.Bh3, or Rf2 8.Kb4 Ke5 9.Rg8 Bd8 10.Kb5 Rb2+
 11.Kc6 Bb6 12.Rxg2 draw.

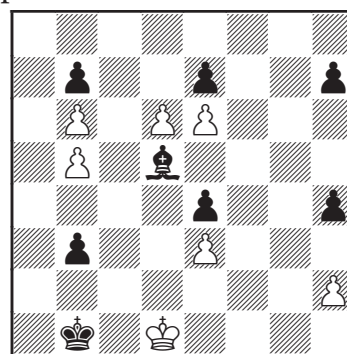
v) Ke4 10.Be8/vii Kf3 11.Bc6+ draws.

vi) 10.Kc5? Kf4 11.Bd5 Rxd5+ 12.Kxd5 Bg5
 wins.

vii) But not: 10.Kc4? Rd4+ 11.Kc5 Be7+
 12.Kc6 Rd6+ 13.Kc7 Kf3 14.Be8 Kf2 wins.

“This study originally lacked a point, but an excellent first move was added to the initial position!”.

No 21732 G. Amiryan †
 special honourable mention



d1b1 0030.66 7/8 Win

No 21732 Gamlet Amiryan (Armenia).
 1.d7/i b2 2.d8Q Ka1 3.Qa8+ (Qh8? Ka2;) Ba2
 4.Qh8 Bb3+ 5.Kd2 Ba4 6.Qd4/ii Bb3 7.Qc3 h3/
 iii 8.Qh8 Ba4 9.Qd4 Bb3 10.Qc3 h6 11.Qh8 Ba4
 12.Qd4 Bb3 13.Qc3 h5 14.Qh8 Ba4 15.Qd4 Bb3

16.Qc3 h4 17.Qh8 Ba4 18.Qd4 Bb3 19.Qc3 Ba2 (Ba4; Qa3+) 20.Kc2 Bb1+ 21.Kb3 Ba2+ 22.Ka3 wins.

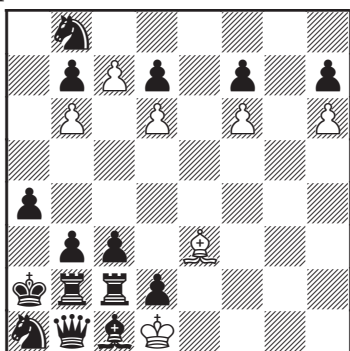
i) 1.dxe7? b2 2.e8Q Ka2 3.Qa8+ Kb3 wins.

ii) 6.Qc3? Ka2 7.Qb4 b1Q 8.Qxa4+ Kb2 draws.

iii) Ka2 8.Qa5+ Kb1 9.Qa3 wins.

“The first attempt of the author with this study was unsuccessful. This would have been the laureate of 2010 being the only study from that year awarded”.

No 21733 M. Zinar
special honourable mention



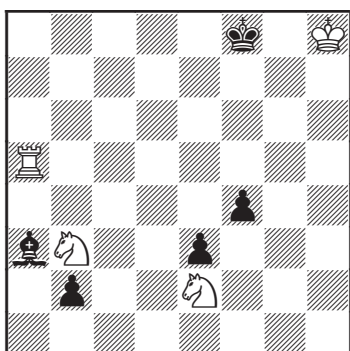
d1a2 3646.58 7/15 Win

No 21733 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.cxb8S/i a3 2.Sa6 bxa6 3.b7 a5 4.b8S a4 5.Sc6 dxc6 6.d7 c5 7.d8S c4 8.Se6 fxe6 9.f7 e5 10.f8S e4 11.Sg6 hxg6 12.h7 g5 13.h8S g4 14.Sf7/ii g3 15.Se5 g2 16.Sc6 g1Q+ 17.Bxg1 e3 18.Sb4 mate.

i) 1.c8Q? Sa6 2.Qc4 Ka3 3.Bc5+ Sxc5 4.Qxc5+ Ka2 5.Qc4 Ka3 draws. 1.c8S? Sa6 2.Sa7 Ka3 3.Sb5+ Kb4 and Black wins.

ii) of 14.Sg6 g3 15.Se5 g2 16.Sc6.

No 21734 S. Zakharov
commendation



h8f8 0132.03 4/5 Draw

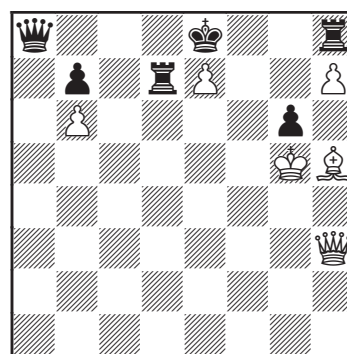
No 21734 Sergey Zakharov (Russia). 1.Rf5+/i Ke7 2.Sc3 b1Q 3.Sxb1 Bb2+ 4.Sc3 Bxc3+ (e2; Re5+) 5.Sd4 Bxd4+ 6.Kg8 f3/iii 7.Rxf3 e2 8.Rf4 e1Q 9.Re4+ Qxe4 stalemate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Sc3? b1Q 2.Sxb1 Bb2+ 3.Kh7/ii e2 4.Ra8+ Ke7 5.Ra7+ Kf6 6.Ra6+ Kf5 7.Ra5+ Kg4 8.S1d2 e1Q 9.Rg5+ Kh3 wins.

ii) 3.Sc3 Bxc3+ 4.Sd4 Bxd4+ 5.Kh7 e2 wins.

“The preliminary check on the first move prepared a stalemate harbour for the wK”.

No 21735 V. Kovalenko †
commendation



g5e8 4610.32 6/6 Win

No 21735 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Qe6/i Qa5+/ii 2.Kxg6 Qxh5+ 3.Kxh5 Rxh7+ 4.Kg6 Rg7+/iii 5.Kf6/iv, and:

— Rd6 6.Qxd6 Rg6+ 7.Ke5/v Re6+ 8.Kd5/vi Rxd6+ 9.Kxd6 wins, or:

— Rg6+ 6.Kxg6 Rd6 7.Qf6/vii Rxf6+ 8.Kxf6 wins.

i) 1.Bxg6+? Kxe7 2.Qe3+ Kd6 3.Qd4+ Kc6 4.Be4+ Kb5 5.Bd3+ Kc6 6.Be4+ Kb5 draws.

ii) Rd5+ 2.Kxg6 Rxh5 without check 3.Qf7+ Kd7 4.e8Q+ wins.

iii) Rhxe7 5.Qg8 mate, or Rdxex7 5.Qc8 mate.

iv) 5.Kxg7? Rxe7+ 6.Kf6 Rxe6+ 7.Kxe6 Kd8 8.Kd6 Kc8 draws.

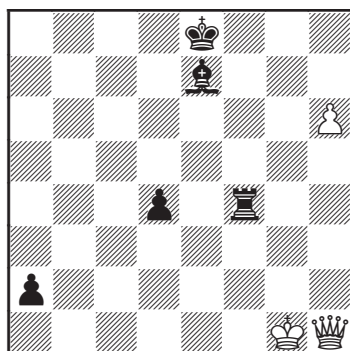
v) 7.Kxg6? stalemate.

vi) 8.Qxe6?

vii) 7.Qxd6? stalemate.

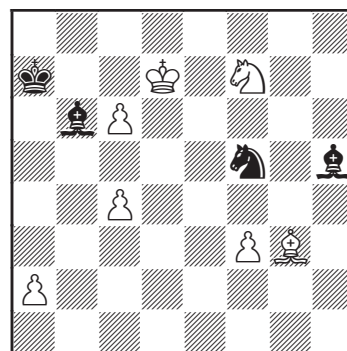
“Two echo-lines symmetrical to the e-file”.

No 21736 A. Skripnik & J. Mikitovics
commendation



g1e8 1330.12 3/5 Win

No 21737 A. Pallier
commendation



d7a7 0074.40 7/4 Win

No 21736 Anatoly Skripnik (Russia) & János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Qa8+ Kf7 2.h7 Rg4+ 3.Kf1/i a1Q+ 4.Qxa1 Kg7 5.Qe1 Bf6 6.h8Q+ Kxh8 7.Qe8+ Rg8 8.Qf7 Bd8 9.Ke2 Rg2+ 10.Kf3/ii Rg8 11.Ke4 Rg4+ 12.Kd5 Rg5+ 13.Kc4 (Kxd4 Bb6+;) Rg8 14.Kb4 d3 15.Kc3 (Kb3) d2 16.Kc2 (Kxd2? Bg5+;) Rg1 17.Qf8+ Rg8/iii 18.Qh6 mate.

i) 3.Kf2? a1Q 4.Qxa1 Kg7 5.Qe1? Bh4+.

ii) 10.Kd3? Rg3+ 11.Ke4/iv Rg8 12.Kxd4 Bb6+, or here 12.Kf3 d3 draw.

iii) Kh7 18.Qf5+ Kg7 19.Qd7+ Kg6 20.Qd3+ Kf7 21.Qc4+ Kg7 22.Qd4+ wins.

iv) 11.Kxd4 Bg5+ (Bb6+) draws.

No 21737 Alain Pallier (France). 1.Bf2/i Bxf2 2.c7 Sd6 3.Sxd6 Bxf3 4.c8Q Bg4+ 5.Kc7/ii Bxc8 6.Sxc8+ Ka6 7.Sd6 Ka5 8.Se4 Bb6+/iii 9.Kb7 (Kc6? Bg1;) Bg1 10.c5 Kb4 11.c6 wins.

i) Logical try: 1.c5? Ba5 2.Be1 Bxf7 3.Bxa5 Sd4 4.Bc3 Sxf3 5.c7 Sg5 6.c8Q Be6+ 7.Kc7 Bxc8 8.Kxc8 Se4 draws.

ii) 5.Kc6? Bxc8 6.Sxc8+ Ka6 7.Sd6 Ka5 8.Se4 Bg1 9.c5 Kb4 10.Kd5 Bxc5 11.Sxc5 Ka3 draws.

iii) Bg1 9.c5 Kb4 10.c6 wins.

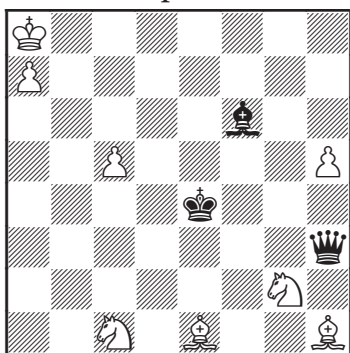
“This is a pleasant study with good thematic tries”.

Masimov-55 JT 2017

The Azerbaijan Chess Composition Commission organized a formal tourney to celebrate the 55th birthday of Aghsin Masimov (b. 1962). The jubilant judged the tourney himself and received 33 studies by 26 composers from 13 countries. The provisional award was published on the Azerbaijan Chess Federation website <http://ulvichess.az/chess-composition/> and became final on 20ix2017 with one study corrected in time.

HH undertook to translate the Azerbaijani text using Google Translate.

No 21738 P. Arestov & D. Keith
1st prize



a8e4 3052.30 8/3 Win

No 21738 Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Daniel Keith (France). 1.Sh4+/i Kd4/ii 2.Sf3+/iii Kxc5 3.Sb3+/iv Kb5/v 4.Kb8 Qxh5/vi 5.Sfd4+/vii Bxd4 6.Sxd4+ Kb6 7.Ba5+/viii Qxa5 8.a8S+ Ka6 9.Bb7 mate.

i) Opening the h1-a8 diagonal. 1.Sf4+? Kxf4 2.Kb8 Qd7 3.Sd3+ Qxd3 4.a8Q Qb1+ 5.Kc7 Qxe1 draws.

ii) Ke3 2.Kb8 Qd7 3.Sf5+ wins, or Qxh1 2.Kb7 Kd4+ 3.c6 Kc5 4.Sd3+ Kb5 5.Sb4 Qg1 6.Sd5 wins.

iii) Closing the diagonal. 2.Kb7? Qd7+ draws. If 2.Kb8? Be5+ 3.Kb7 Qd7+ 4.Ka6 Kc4 and Black wins.

iv) 3.Kb8? Qe6 4.Sd3+ Kb5, or 3.Sd3+? Kb5 draw.

v) Kb6 4.Kb8 Qxh5 5.Ba5+ wins.

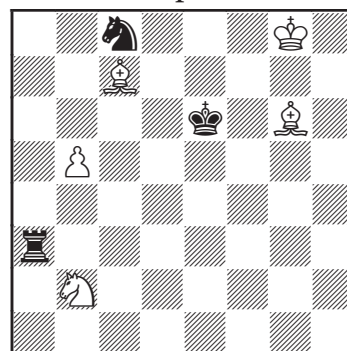
vi) Qd7 5.Sfd4+ Bxd4 6.Bc6+ Qxc6 7.Sxd4+ wins.

vii) Opening the diagonal. 5.a8Q? Qe8+ 6.Ka7 Qe3+, or 5.Sbd4+? Kb6 6.Ba5+ Qxa5 7.a8S+ Ka6 draw.

viii) 7.a8S+? Kc5 8.Se6+ Kd6 draws.

“The mobility of the pieces, the opening of the diagonals, the under-promotion and the final ideal mate all attract attention. Despite the fact that the promotion and mate are known from a study by Bazlov (HHdbV#00017), the remainder of the play is very interesting, especially the opening of the h1-a8 diagonal and the many thematic tries. This study is very difficult to solve”.

No 21739 M. Minski
2nd prize



g8e6 0324.10 5/3 Win

No 21739 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sc4/i Ra7/ii 2.Bf7+/iii Ke7/iv 3.Be5/v Rb7 4.b6 Sxb6 5.Sa5 Rd7 (Sd7)/vi 6.Sc6 model mate with self-block.

i) 1.Bf7+? Ke7, and: 2.Sc4 Ra1, or: 2.b6 Sxb6 3.Bxb6 Rg3+ draw.

ii) Ra1 2.Kf8 Rf1+ 3.Ke8, or Ra2? 2.Kf8 Rf2+ 3.Ke8, or Se7+? 2.Kg7 Ra7 3.Bf7+, or Rb3 2.Bf7+ Ke7/x 3.b6 Sxb6 4.Sxb6 win.

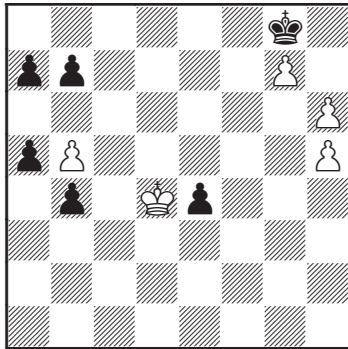
iii) 2.b6? Rxc7 3.bxc7 Kd7 draws.

iv) Kd7 (Kf5; b6) 3.Be5 Rb7 4.Kf8 Rxb5 5.Be8+ win.

v) Thematic try: 3.Bg3? Rb7 4.b6 Sxb6 5.Sa5 Rd7 6.Sc6+ Kf6 and no mate.

vi) Ra7 6.Sc6+ wins.

No 21740 M. Zinar
3rd prize



d4g8 0000.45 5/6 Draw

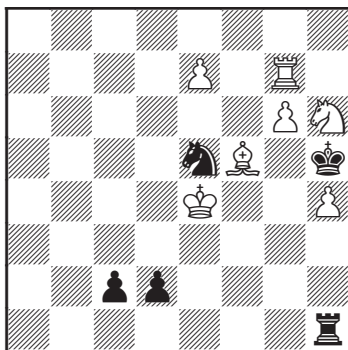
No 21740 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.Ke5/i Kf7/ii 2.Kxe4 a4 3.Kd3 a3 4.Kc2 a2 5.Kb2 b3 6.Ka1 a6 7.bxa6 bxa6 8.Kb2 zz a5 9.Ka1 zz a4 10.Kb2 zz a3+ 11.Ka1 zz Kg8 12.h7+ Kxg7 (Kh7; h6) 13.h6+ Kxh7 stalemate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kxe4? a4 2.Kd3 a3 3.Kc2 a2 4.Kb2 b3 5.Ka1 a5 6.bxa6ep bxa6 zz 7.Kb2 a5 zz 8.Ka1 a4 zz 9.Kb2 a3+ 10.Ka1 Kh7 zz 11.g8Q+ Kxg8 12.h7+ Kxh7 13.h6 b2+ and Black wins.

ii) e3 2.Kf6 e2 3.Kg6 e1Q 4.h7 mate.

“The capture refusal on the first move makes the difference 11 moves later!”

No 21741 V. Tarasiuk
special prize



e4h5 0414.32 7/5 Win

No 21741 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Sf7/i Sxf7/ii 2.gxf7 Rxh4+/iii 3.Bg4+/iv Rxg4+ 4.Kf5/v Rf4+ (Rxg7; e8Q) 5.Kxf4 d1Q 6.Rh7+ Kg6 7.f8S+ Kf6 8.e8S mate.

i) 1.Sg4? Sxg4 2.Rh7+ Sh6 3.e8Q Re1+ 4.Kf4 Rxe8 5.Bxc2 d1Q 6.Bxd1+ Kxg6 draws.

ii) d1Q 2.Rh7. MG adds an interesting line: Re1+ 2.Kf4 Sd3+ 3.Bxd3 Rf1+ 4.Bxf1 d1Q 5.Rh7+

Kxg6 6.Bd3+ Kf6 7.e8S+ Ke7 8.Se5+ Kxe8 9.Bg6+ Kf8 10.Rf7+ Kg8 11.Bh7+ Kh8 12.Sg6 mate, or here: Kf8 9.Rh8+ Ke7 10.Sg6+ wins.

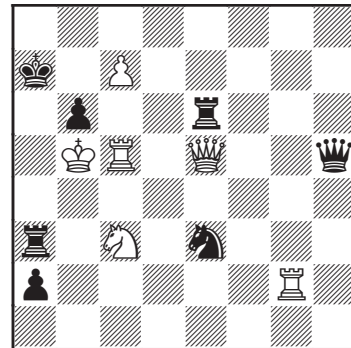
iii) Re1+ 3.Kf4 Rf1+ 4.Ke5 Re1+ 5.Kf6 wins.

iv) 3.Ke5? d1Q 4.Rh7+ Kg5 5.Rg7+ Kh5 draws.

v) 4.Rxg4? c1Q 5.e8Q Kxg4 draws.

“After mutual sacrifices a mate is delivered by two promoted knights. Unfortunately, the introduction lowered my enthusiasm and prevented this study from winning a prize”.

No 21742 D. Hlebec
special prize



b5a7 4804.12 6/7 Win

No 21742 Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.c8S+/i Ka8 2.Sxb6+ Rxb6+ 3.Kxb6 Sc4+/ii 4.Rxc4 Ra6+/iii 5.Kxa6 a1Q+ 6.Ra4/iv Qxa4+/v 7.Sxa4 Qg6+/vi 8.Qd6/vii Qxd6+ 9.Sb6+ Kb8 10.Rg8+ Kc7 11.Rc8 mate.

i) 1.Qxh5? Ra5+ draws. If 1.c8Q? Ra5+ 2.Kb4 Qh4+ 3.Kb3 a1S+ Black wins.

ii) Rb3+ (Qh6+; Kb5) 4.Sb5 Sc4+ 5.Rxc4 Rxb5+ 6.Qxb5 Qxb5+ 7.Kxb5 a1Q 8.Ra4+ wins.

iii) Qxe5 5.Rc8+ Qb8+ 6.Rxb8+ Kxb8 7.Rg8 mate.

iv) 6.Ra2? Qxa2+ 7.Sxa2 Qxe5 8.Rc8+ Qb8 draws.

v) Qg6+ 7.Rxg6 Qxa4+ 8.Qa5 wins, avoiding 8.Sxa4? stalemate.

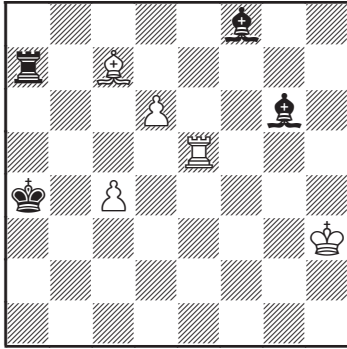
vi) Qxe5 8.Rg8+ Qb8 9.Sb6 mate.

vii) Not 8.Rxg6? stalemate, or 8.Sb6+? Qxb6+ 9.Kxb6 stalemate. And 8.Qf6? Qxf6+ 9.Sb6+ Kb8 10.Rg8+ Kc7 11.Rc8+ Kd6 draws.

“This is a beautiful study with a synthesis of known ideas (queen sacrifice: M. Minski

& G. Sonntag, EG#16779; ideal mate: C. Bent, HHdbV#42451”.

No 21743 V. Tarasiuk
honourable mention



h3a4 0470.20 5/4 Win

No 21743 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.d7 Be7/i 2.Rxe7 Bf5+ 3.Kh4 Bxd7 4.Rxd7 Rb7/ii 5.Rg7/iii Kb3/iv 6.c5 Kc4 7.c6 Ra7 8.Be5 wins.

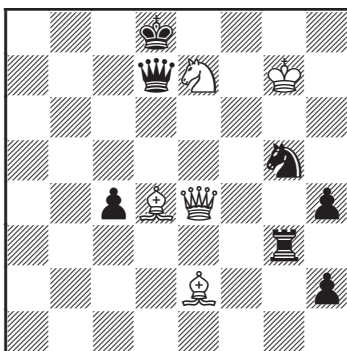
i) Ra8 2.Ra5+ Rxa5 3.d8Q wins.

ii) Kb4 5.Bd6+ Kxc4 6.Rxa7, or Kb3 5.c5 Kc4 6.Re7 win.

iii) Thematic try: 5.Rf7? Kb3 6.c5 Kc4 7.c6 Ra7 8.Kg5 Kb5 (Kd5) draws. Thematic try: 5.Kg5? Kb3 6.c5 Kc4 7.c6 Rb5+ 8.Kf6 Rc5 9.Rd6 Kb5 draws.

iv) Kb4 6.Bd6+ Kxc4 7.Rxb7 wins.

No 21744 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
honourable mention



g7d8 4324.03 5/7 Win

No 21744 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Bb6+ Ke8 2.Bh5+ Sf7+ 3.Sg6+ Se5+ 4.Kh8 Qc8 (h1Q; Qxe5+) 5.Sf8+/i Kxf8 6.Qf5+ Ke7+/ii 7.Qxc8 h1Q 8.Bd8+/iii Kd6 9.Bc7+ Kc5/iv 10.Bxe5+ Qc6 11.Bd4+ Kd6/v 12.Qd8+ Qd7/

vi 13.Qb8+ Ke7/vii 14.Qe5+ Kd8/viii 15.Bb6+ Kc8 16.Be8 wins.

i) 5.Qxe5+? Kd7+ 6.Kh7 Qb7 draws. If 5.Sxe5+? Ke7+ and Black mates.

ii) Qxf5 7.Bc5 model mate.

iii) 8.Qf8+? Ke6 (Kd7), avoiding Kxf8? 9.Bc5 mate.

iv) Kd5 10.Qd8+ Kc5 11.Bxe5 wins.

v) Kb5 12.Be8, or Kd5 12.Bf7+ win.

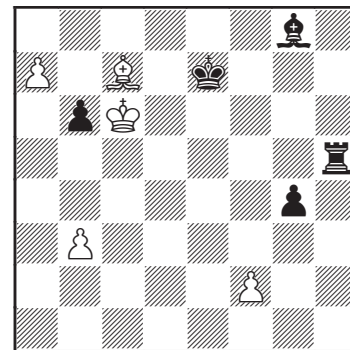
vi) Ke6 13.Qf6+ Kd7 14.Be8+ wins.

vii) Qc7 14.Be5+, or Kc6 14.Be8, or Kd5 14.Qe5+ Kc6 15.Be8 win.

viii) Qe6 15.Qc7+ Qd7 16.Bf6+ wins.

“Except for the good first move, the study requires considerable analysis. This dull aspect of the study prevented a higher ranking”.

No 21745 V. Lebedev
honourable mention



c6e7 0340.32 5/5 Draw

No 21745 Vassily Lebedev (Russia). 1.Bd8+/i Ke8 (Kxd8; a8Q+) 2.Bg5 (a8Q? Bd5+;) Bd5+ 3.Kxd5 Rxg5+ 4.Kc6 Ra5 5.Kb7/ii Kd7 6.b4/iii Ra2 7.b5 Kd6 8.Kxb6/iv Kd5 9.Kb7 Kc5 10.b6 Kb5 11.a8Q Rxa8 12.Kxa8 Kxb6 13.Kb8 Kc6 14.Kc8 (Ka7? Kd5;) Kd5 15.Kd7 Ke4 16.Ke6 Kf3 (Kf4; Kf6) 17.Kf5 draws.

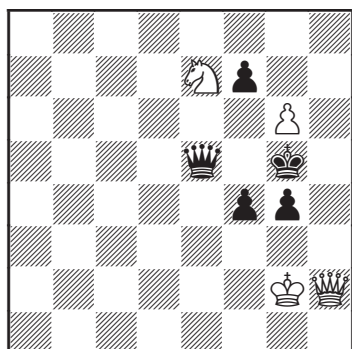
i) 1.Bd6+? Kf6 2.Kxb6 Bd5, or 1.Kxb6? Bd5, or 1.a8Q? Bd5+ win.

ii) 5.Kxb6? Ra3 6.b4 Kd7 7.Kb7 (b5 Kc8;) Rb3 8.a8Q Rxb4+ 9.Ka7 Ra4+ 10.Kb7 Rxa8 11.Kxa8 Kd6 wins.

iii) 6.a8Q? (Kxb6? Ra3;) Rxa8 7.Kxa8 Kc7 8.Ka7 Kc6 9.Ka6 Kc5 wins.

iv) 8.a8Q? Rxa8 9.Kxa8 Kc5 wins.

No 21746 A. Zhukov & V. Kirillov
honourable mention



g2g5 4001.13 4/5 Draw

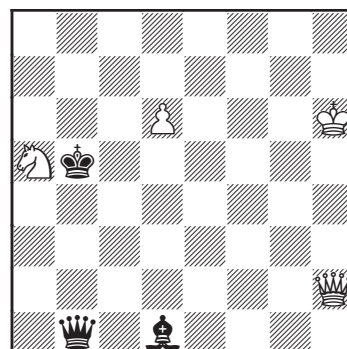
No 21746 Aleksandr Zhukov & Valery Kirillov (Russia). 1.g7 (gxf7? f3+;) Qb2+/i 2.Kh1 Qxg7 3.Qh4+ Kxh4 4.Sf5+, and:

- Kh3 5.Sxg7 f3 6.Sh5/ii, and:
 - f2 7.Sg3 (Sf4+? Kg3;) f6/iii 8.Sf1 f5 9.Sg3 (Se3? g3;) f4 10.Sf1 g3 11.Sxg3 Kg4/iv 12.Sf1 Kf3 13.Sh2+/v Kg3 14.Sf1+ Kf3 15.Sh2+ 1st positional draw, or:
 - g3 7.Sf4+ Kg4 8.Sd5 (Sd3? Kf5;) Kh3 9.Sf4 2nd positional draw, or:
- Kg5 5.Sxg7 g3 6.Se8 (Kg2? Kg4;) f3 7.Sd6/vii Kf4 8.Kg1 Ke3 9.Sf5+ Kf4 10.Sd6 Ke3 11.Sf5+ 3rd positional draw.
 - i) Qxg7 2.Qh4+ Kxh4 3.Sf5+ Kg5 4.Sxg7, or Qe4+ 2.Kf1 Qb1+ 3.Ke2, or f3+ 2.Kh1 Qxg7 3.Qd2+ Kh5 4.Qh2+ draw.
 - ii) 6.Sf5? g3 7.Kg1 f2+ 8.Kf1 g2+ 9.Kxf2 Kh2 wins.
 - iii) f5 8.Sf1 f4 9.Sg3 Kh4 10.Sf1 Kh3 11.Sg3 Kxg3 (fxg3) stalemate, or here: g3 11.Kg2 Kg4 12.Sd2 f3+ 13.Kf1 draws.
 - iv) fxg3 (Kxg3) stalemate.
 - v) 13.Sd2+? Ke3 14.Kg2 Ke2 zz, wins, but not Ke2? 14.Kg2 zz, draws.
 - vi) 7.Kg1? Kg4 8.Sf6+ Kh3 9.Se4 f2+ 10.Sxf2+ gxf2+ 11.Kxf2 Kg4 wins.

“After S. Osintsev 1985 (HHdbV#29135)”

No 21747 Anatoly Skripnik & Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.d7/i Qc1+ 2.Kg6 Bc2+ 3.Kf7/ii Qf1+ 4.Kg8 Bb3+ 5.Sxb3 Qc4+ 6.Kf8 Qb4+ 7.Sc5 Qxc5+ 8.Ke8 Qe3+ 9.Kd8 Ka6/iii 10.Kc8/iv Qc3+ 11.Qc7 Qh8+ 12.d8R/v Qh3+ 13.Qd7 Qc3+ 14.Kb8 Qb4+ 15.Ka8/vi Qe4+ 16.Qd5 wins.

No 21747 A. Skripnik, & P. Arestov
honourable mention



h6b5 4031.10 4/3 Win

i) 1.Qe5+? Ka6 2.d7 Qb6+ 3.Kg7 Ba4 4.Qa1 Qd8 5.Qxa4 Qg5+ 6.Kf7 Qf5+ 7.Ke7 Qe5+ 8.Kd8 Qb8+ 9.Ke7 Qe5+ 10.Kd8 Qb8+ positional draw.

ii) 3.Kf6? Qf1+ 4.Ke7 Qe1+ 5.Kf8 Qf1+ 6.Kg8 wastes time.

iii) Qg5+ 10.Kc8 Qc5+ 11.Qc7 wins.

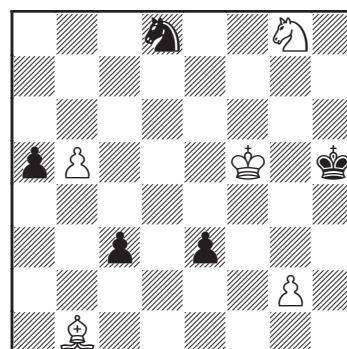
iv) 10.Kc7? Qe4 11.Kc8 Qa8+ 12.Qb8 Qc6+ 13.Qc7 Qa8+ positional draw.

v) 12.d8Q? Qh3+ 13.Qdd7 Qh8+ 14.Qcd8 Qc3+ 15.Kb8 Qb3+ 16.Ka8 Qd5+ 17.Qxd5 stalemate.

vi) 15.Kc7? Qb6+ 16.Kc8 Qc5+ 17.Kb8 Qb4+ 18.Ka8 wastes time.

“For practical chess players, but well-known: J. Pospisil (EG#05553), M. Roxlau (EG#14875), A. Zhuravlev, Y. Konoval & M. Bourzutschky (HHdbV#08604)”

No 21748 L. Gonzalez
commendation



f5h5 0014.23 5/5 Win

No 21748 Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.g3/i e2/ii 2.Be4 e1S 3.Bd5 c2 4.Bc4 c1S 5.g4+ Kh4 6.g5 Sg2/iii 7.g6 Se3+ 8.Kf6 Sxc4/iv 9.Sh6/v

Sd6/vi 10.Ke7 S8f7 11.b6/vii Sxh6 12.Kxd6 Sf5+ 13.Ke6/viii Kg5 14.b7 Se2 15.b8Q Sf4+ 16.Kd7 Sxg6 17.Qd8+

i) 1.Sf6+? Kh4 2.g3+ Kxg3 3.Se4+ Kf3 4.Sxc3 e2 draws.

ii) Sb7 2.Sf6+ Kh6 3.Sg4+ Kg7 4.Sxe3 wins.

iii) Sf3 7.g6 Sd4+ 8.Kf6 Sce2 9.Bxe2 Sxe2 10.Ke7 Sf4 11.Kxd8 wins (EGTB), or here: Kg5 11.g7 Kg6 12.b6 Sd4 13.Kxd8 Sc6+ 14.Kc7 Sb4 15.b7 Sa6+ 16.Kb6 Sb8 17.Ka7 Sc6+ 18.Ka8 Kxg7 19.Se7 wins.

iv) Sg4+ 9.Ke7 Sb7 10.g7 a4 11.Be6 a3 12.Sf6 Sh6 13.Sg4 Sf5+ 14.Bxf5 a2 15.g8Q a1Q 16.Be6 Qb2 17.Se5 Qb4+ 18.Kf6 Qf4+ 19.Bf5 Qh6+ 20.Sg6+ Kg3 21.Qb8+, or Se2 9.Bxe2 a4 10.Bd3 a3 11.Bb1 Sd5+ 12.Kf5 Se3+ 13.Ke4 Sg4 14.g7 Kg5 15.Se7 Kh6 16.g8Q Sf6+ 17.Ke5 Sxg8 18.Sxg8+ win.

v) 9.Se7? Sd6 10.Sf5+ Sxf5 11.Kxf5 Sd3 12.b6 Sc5 13.g7 Sf7 14.Kf6 Sh6 15.Kg6 Sg8 draws.

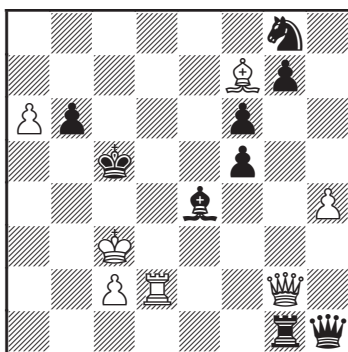
vi) Se3 10.g7 Sd5+ 11.Ke5 Sf7+ 12.Sxf7 Se7 13.b6 wins.

vii) 11.Sxf7? Sf5+ 12.Kf6 Sg3 13.b6 Sh5+ 14.Ke7 Sd3 15.b7 Sb4 16.Se5 Sa6 draws.

viii) 13.Kd5? Sd3 14.b7 Sf4+ 15.Ke4 Sxg6 16.b8Q Sfe7 17.Qb5 a4 18.Qxa4 Kg5 19.Qb5+ Kh6 draws.

“G. van Breukelen (HHdbV#23847) published a beautiful study. Unlike its predecessor, this study has a lot of analysis”.

No 21749 A. Jasik commendation



c3c5 4443.34 7/9 Win

No 21749 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Qf2+ Kb5/i 2.Bc4+ Ka5/ii 3.a7/iii Rb1 4.Qxf5+/iv b5/v 5.Qc5/vi Qf3+ 6.Bd3/vii Ba8/viii 7.Re2 Qd5/ix

8.Qxd5 Bxd5 9.Kd4/x Bb7 10.Kc5/xi Ka6 11.c4 Ra1 12.cxb5+ Kxa7 13.b6+ Kb8 14.Re8+ Bc8 15.Rxg8 g5 16.h5 wins.

i) Kc6 2.Be8+ Kc7 3.Qf4+ Kc8 4.Bd7+ wins.

ii) Ka4 3.Qxb6, or Kc6 3.Qd4 win.

iii) 3.Rd6? Qf3+ 4.Qxf3 Bxf3 5.a7 Se7 6.Rd7 b5 draws.

iv) 4.Rd6? (Rd7? Ba8;) Qc1 5.Qxf5+/xii b5 6.Qxe4 Qa3+ 7.Kd2 Qc1+ 8.Kc3 Qa3+ draws.

v) Bxf5 5.Rd5+ Qxd5 6.Bxd5 wins.

vi) 5.Qf4? Qe1 6.Qc7+ Ka6 draws.

vii) 6.Rd3? Bxd3 7.Bxd3 Ka4 8.Qd6 Qb7 draws.

viii) Bb7 7.a8Q+ Bxa8 8.Qa7 mate.

ix) Qg4 8.Re1 Qb4+ 9.Qxb4+ Rxb4 10.Re8 wins.

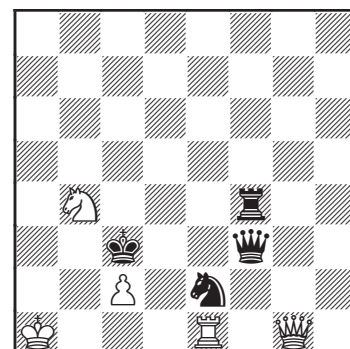
x) 9.Re8? Kb6 10.Kd4 Bb7 11.Rxg8 Rb4+ 12.Ke3 Kxa7 draws.

xi) 10.c4? Rb4 11.Kc5 bxc4 12.Bxc4 Rxc4+ 13.Kxc4 Kb6 14.Re8 Sh6 15.a8Q Bxa8 16.Rxa8 Sf5 17.h5 Sg3 18.Rh8 Kc6 draws.

xii) 5.Qc5+ Ka4 6.Bb5+ Rxb5 7.Qc4+ Ka3 8.Rd3 Qe1+ 9.Kd4+ Kb2 10.Qxb5+ Kc1 11.Ra3 Qf2+ 12.Kc4 Qe2+ 13.Kb4 Qd2+ 14.c3 Qd6+ 15.Kb3 Qd1+ 16.Ka2 Qd5+ 17.Qxd5 Bxd5+ 18.c4 Ba8 19.Kb3 Kd2 20.Ra2+ Kd3 21.Ra1 Kd2 22.Rg1 g5 23.hxg5 f4 24.gxf6 Sxf6 25.Rg6 Se4 26.Rg8 Sc5+ 27.Ka3 Bc6 28.Rc8 Bb7 29.Rb8 Be4 30.Rd8+ Kc3 31.Rd5 Kxc4 32.a8Q Bxd5 draws.

“The sacrifice of the most powerful piece is surprising. This study in the final award is a correction, the original study in the provisional award having been cooked by HH”.

No 21750 I. Aliev commendation



a1c3 4404.10 5/4 Win

No 21750 Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Sa2+, and:

— Kd2 2.Rd1+ Kxc2 3.Qe1 Qe3 (Kb3; Qa5) 4.Rd2+ Qxd2/i 5.Qb1 mate, or:

— Kxc2/ii 2.Rxe2+ Qxe2 3.Qb1+ Kd2 4.Qc1+ Kd3 5.Qa3+, and:

– Kd2 6.Qc3+ Kd1 7.Qc1 mate, or:

– Kc4 6.Qa6+ wins, or:

– Ke4 6.Sc3+ wins, or:

– Kd4 6.Qa7+, and now:

• Ke4 (Kd3) 7.Sc3+ (Sc1+) wins, or:

• Ke5/iii 7.Qe7+ wins.

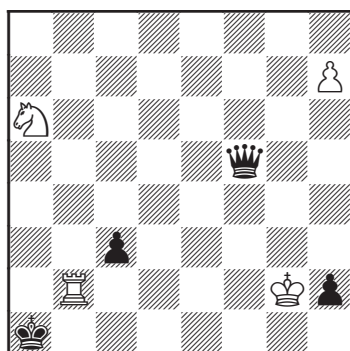
i) Kb3 5.Qd1+ Ka3 6.Rd3+ wins.

ii) Kc4 2.Qb6 Qf2 3.Qb4+ Kd5 4.Qb5+ Kd6 5.Rxe2 wins.

iii) Kd5 7.Sc3+ (but also Qd7+), Kc4 7.Qa6+ (but also Qc7+) win.

“This is a study by one of the famous masters from Azerbaijan who brings friends to our country from all over the world. This work shows many queen wins and mating combinations”.

No 21751 M. Campioli
commendation



g2a1 3101.12 4/4 Draw

No 21751 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Ra2+/i Kxa2 2.h8Q Qg4+ (h1Q+; Kxh1) 3.Kxh2 c2 4.Qc3/ii, and:

— Qh4+ 5.Kg2 (Kg1 Qg5+;) Qg5+ 6.Kf3/iii c1Q 7.Sb4+ Kb1 8.Qb3+ Qb2 9.Qd3+ Ka1 10.Qa6+ Kb1 11.Qd3+ perpetual check, or:

— Qf4+ 5.Kg2/iv c1Q 6.Sb4+/v Kb1 7.Qb3+/vi Qb2+ 8.Qxb2+ Kxb2 9.Sd3+ draws.

i) 1.h8Q? e.g. cxb2 2.Kxh2 Qc2+ 3.Kg3 Qg6+ 4.Kf3 Qxa6 5.Qc3 Ka2 6.Qc2 Qa3+ 7.Ke2 Ka1 wins.

ii) 4.Qh6? Qe2+ 5.Kg3 Qe1+ 6.Kf3 c1Q 7.Sb4+ Kb3 wins.

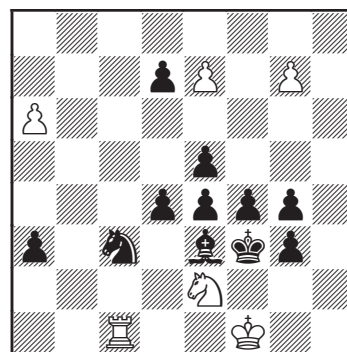
iii) 6.Kh3? c1Q 7.Sb4+ Kb1 8.Qb3+ Qb2 9.Qd1+ Qgc1 10.Qd3+ Ka1 wins.

iv) 5.Kh3? Qf1+ 6.Kg3 c1Q 7.Sb4+ Kb1 8.Qb3+ Qb2 wins.

v) 6.Qa5+? Qa3 7.Qd5+ Qb3 8.Qa5+ Kb2 wins.

vi) 7.Qd3+? Kb2 8.Qe2+ Kb3 wins.

No 21752 M. Campioli
commendation



f1f3 0134.38 6/11 Draw

No 21752 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Sg1+/i Bxg1 2.Rxc3+ Be3/ii 3.Rxe3+ dxe3/iii 4.g8Q/iv e2+ 5.Ke1 g2 6.Qb3+ e3 7.Qd5+ (Qb7+) e4 8.Qxe4+ Kxe4 9.e8Q+/v Kf3 10.Qa8+ Kg3 11.Qxg2+ Kxg2 12.a7 f3/vi 13.a8Q d5/vii 14.Qxd5 a2 15.Qxf3+ Kxf3 (gxf3) stalemate.

i) 1.Rxc3? g2+ 2.Ke1 dxc3 3.g8Q (e8Q a2;) c2 4.Qc8 a2 5.Qc3 (Sg1+ Bxg1;) c1Q+ 6.Qxc1 Bxc1 7.e8Q a1Q 8.Sg1+ Ke3 wins.

ii) dxc3 3.g8Q Be3 4.Qxg4+ Kxg4 5.e8Q c2 6.Qg6+ draws.

iii) fxe3 4.e8Q e2+ 5.Ke1 g2 6.Qf8+ Ke3 7.Qf2+ Kd3 8.Qxe2+ wins.

iv) 4.e8Q? g2+ 5.Kg1 e2 wins.

v) 9.Kxe2? f3+ 10.Kd1 Kd3 and mate.

vi) d5 13.a8Q f3 14.Qxd5 see main line.

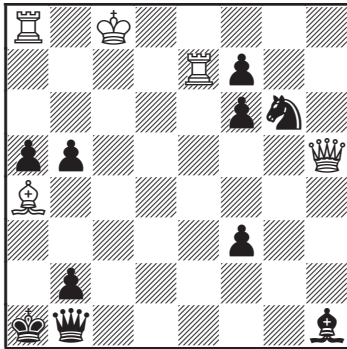
vii) Kg1 14.Qxf3 gxf3 stalemate.

“We see sacrifices and a stalemate but also a very heavy initial position”.

Magyar Sakkvilag 2016

Mario Garcia (Argentina) judged this annual tourney in which a total of 22 studies participated. The provisional award appeared in *Magyar Sakkvilag* iii2017 with a three month confirmation time.

No 21753 V. Tarasiuk
1st prize



c8a1 4243.06 5/10 Draw

No 21753 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Re3/i Qc1+ (bxa4; Ra3+) 2.Bc2 (Kd8? b1Q);
Qxc2+/ii 3.Kb7/iii f2+/iv 4.Qxh1+ b1Q 5.Rxa5+
Qa4 6.Ra3+/v Kb2 7.Qxb1+ Kxb1 8.R3xa4/
vi bxa4 9.Rb5+/vii Ka1 10.Rf5 Se5 11.Rxf2 a3
12.Rxf6 a2 13.Ka8/viii Kb1 14.Rb6+ Kc1 15.Ra6
Kb1 16.Rb6+ positional draw.

i) Try: 1.Rb7? bxa4 and either 2.Qxa5 Qc2+
3.Rc7 b1Q 4.Qxa4+ Qxa4 5.Rxa4+ Qa2 6.Rc1+
Kb2 7.Rxa2+ Kxc1, or 2.Rxa5 Qc2+ 3.Kb8 Se5
4.Qxh1+ Ka2 draws.

ii) b1Q 3.Rxa5+ Kb2 4.Qc5 Qbxc2 5.Rxb5+
Ka1 6.Ra5+ Kb2 7.Rb5+ positional draw.

iii) Try: 3.Kb8? Qa4 4.Re1+ b1Q 5.Rxb1+
Kxb1 6.Qxh1+ Kc2 7.Qxf3 Qf4+ 8.Qxf4 Sxf4
9.Rxa5 b4 10.Rf5 b3 11.Rxf4 b2 12.Rf2+ Kb3
13.Rf3+ Ka2 wins.

iv) b1Q 4.Rxa5+ Qa4 5.Ra3+ Qxa3 6.Rxa3+
Kb2 7.Qxb5+ Kc2 8.Rc3+ Kxc3 9.Qxb1 draws.

v) 6.Rxa4+? bxa4+ 7.Qxb1+ Kxb1 8.Rf3 a3
9.Rxf2 a2 wins.

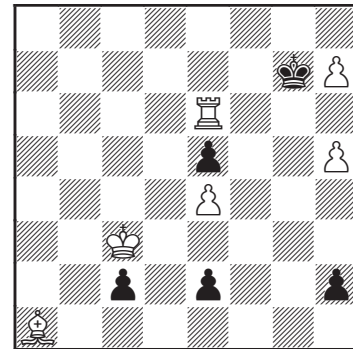
vi) Thematic try: 8.R5xa4? bxa4 9.Rf3 a3
10.Rxf2 a2 11.Rf1+ Kb2 12.Rf2+ Kb3 13.Rf3+ Kb4
wins.

vii) Try: 9.Rf5? a3 10.Rxf2 a2 wins.

viii) Tries: 13.Ka7? Sd3 14.Rxf7 Kb1 15.Rf1+
Sc1, or 13.Kc8? Sc4 14.Kd7 Kb2 15.Rf2+ Ka3, or
13.Rb6? Sc4 14.Rb4 Sb2 win.

“White escapes with an interesting positional
draw after an original introduction and sub-
tle tries. The surprise move is 13.Ka8!”

No 21754 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
2nd prize



c3g7 0110.34 6/5 Win

No 21754 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Den-
mark). 1.Re7+ Kh8 2.Kb3/i c1S+ 3.Kc4 Sd3
4.Kxd3 e1S+ 5.Ke3/ii Sf3 6.Rxe5 Kxh7 7.Re8/
iii Kh6 8.Rh8+ Kg5 9.Rg8+ Kh6/iv 10.Bf6 Sg5
11.Bg7+ Kh7 12.Be5 h1Q 13.Rh8 mate.

i) 2.Kxc2? e1S+ 3.Kb3 (Kd2; Sf3+) Sf3 4.Rxe5
Kxh7 5.Re8 Kh6 6.Bf6 Sg5 draws.

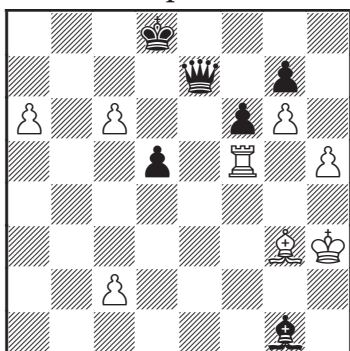
ii) 5.Ke2? Sf3 6.Rxe5 Kxh7 7.Re8 Kh6 8.Rh8+
Kg5 9.Rg8+ Kf4 draws.

iii) 7.Re7+? Kh6 8.Re6+ Kg5 9.Rg6+ Kh4
10.h6 h1Q 11.h7 Qxa1 draws.

iv) Kh4 10.Bf6+ Kh3 11.h6 h1Q 12.h7 Qc1+
13.Kxf3 Qf1+ 14.Ke3 wins.

“Black has original counterplay; this is a
pleasant and artistic study”

No 21755 A. Jasik
3rd prize



h3d8 3140.53 8/6 Win

No 21755 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Re5 Qc5 2.c7+ (h6? Qxc6;) Kd7 3.h6 (a7? Qc6;) gxh6 4.a7 (g7? fxe5;) Qc6 5.g7 Qa8 6.Rf5/i Ke7/ii 7.Be5 Qc8 8.Kh4/iii Qxf5/iv 9.g8Q wins.

i) 6.Rh5? (Rxd5+? Ke7;) Ke7 7.Rxh6 d4 8.Rh8 Qh1+ 9.Kg4 Qe4+ draws.

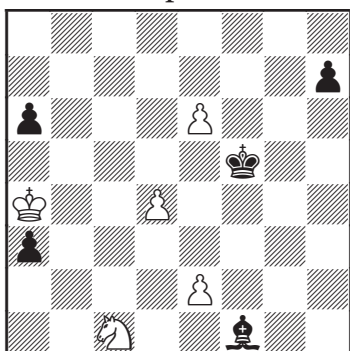
ii) Ke6 7.Rf4 Kf7 8.Rg4 Kg8 9.Rb4 Bxa7 10.Rb8+ Bxb8 11.cxb8Q+ Qxb8 12.Bxb8 Kxg7 13.Kg4 wins.

iii) 8.Kg2? (a8Q? Qxf5+;) Qxf5 9.g8S+ Kf8 10.a8Q+ Kg7 11.Bxf6+ Kh7

iv) fxe5 9.Rf8, or Bxa7 9.Rxf6 win.

“Although the position suggests various alternative possibilities, surprisingly only one way with precise white moves works”.

No 21756 P. Arestov
4th prize



a4f5 0031.33 5/5 Win

No 21756 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.e7 a2/i 2.Sxa2 Bxe2 3.e8Q Bb5+ 4.Qxb5+ axb5+ 5.Kb4/ii h5 6.d5 zz h4 7.Sc1/iii zz h3/iv 8.Sd3/v zz, and:

— h2 9.Sf2 zz Ke5 10.Kc5 b4 11.Sg4+ Kf4/vi 12.Sxh2 b3 13.Sf1 b2 14.Sd2, or:

— Ke4 9.d6 Ke3/vii 10.Se5 (d7? h2;) Kf4/viii 11.Sf3/ix Kxf3 12.d7 h2 13.d8Q h1Q 14.Qd5+ (Qa8+) wins.

i) Bxe2 2.Sxe2 a2 3.e8Q a1Q+ 4.Kb4 wins.

ii) 5.Kxb5? h5 6.d5 h4 7.Sc1 h3 8.Sd3 h2 9.Sf2 Ke5 10.Kc6 Kf4 11.d6 Kg3 12.Sh1+ Kg2 draws as there is no bPb5!

iii) 7.Sc3? h3 8.Sd1 Ke5 9.Kc5 b4 10.Kxb4 Kxd5 draws.

iv) Ke5 8.Kc5 b4 9.Sd3+ Ke4 10.d6 wins.

v) 8.Se2? Ke5 9.Kc5 h2 draws.

vi) Ke4 12.Sxh2 b3 13.Kc4 b2 14.Sf1 b1S 15.d6 wins.

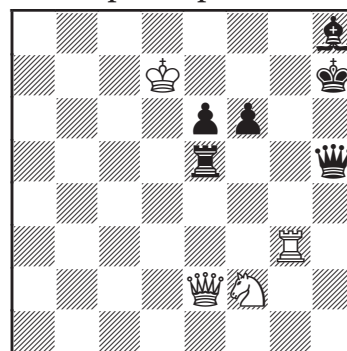
vii) h2 10.Sf2+ Kf3 11.Sh1 Kg2 12.d7 Kxh1 13.d8Q, or Kxd3 10.d7 h2 11.d8Q+ wins.

viii) Ke4 11.d7 h2 12.Sg4 h1Q 13.Sf2+ wins.

ix) 11.Sd3+? Ke3 12.Se5 Kf4 wins.

“After an ingenious introduction we arrive at a pleasant finale which could well occur in a game at your chess club”.

No 21757 M. Minski
special prize



d7h7 4431.02 4/6 Win

No 21757 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Qc2+/i Qf5 (g5; Rh3) 2.Se4/ii Bg7/iii 3.Qh2+ Bh6 4.Qh5/iv Rd5+/v 5.Ke7 Qxh5/vi 6.Sxf6+ Kh8 7.Rg8 mate.

i) 1.Qxh5+? Rxh5. See move 4.

ii) 2.Rh3+? Kg6, or 2.Qc8? Bg7 3.Rh3+ Bh6 draw.

iii) Rxe4 (Qxe4) 3.Qh2+ wins.

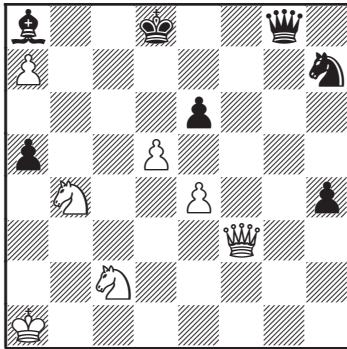
iv) Umnov-effect. (1.Qxh5+?).

v) Qxe4 5.Qf7+, or Rxe4 5.Qf7+ Bg7 6.Qxg7 mate.

vi) Rd7+ 6.Kxd7 Qxe4 7.Qf7+ wins.

“Solvers will be grateful for this study!”

No 21758 A. Jasik
1st honourable mention



a1d8 4035.33 7/7 Win

No 21758 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Sc6+/i Bxc6 2.dxc6, and:

— Qg7+ 3.Qf6+ (Kxa2? Qxa7;) Qxf6+ (Sxf6; a8Q+) 4.Ka2 Ke7 5.a8Q Qc3/ii 6.Qb7+ Kd6/iii 7.e5+ Kxe5 8.c7 Qxc2+ 9.Qb2+ Qxb2+ 10.Kxb2 wins, or:

— Qg1+ 3.Qd1+ Qxd1+ 4.Kb2 Ke7 (Kc7) 5.a8Q Qd6 6.Qb7+ Kd8 7.Qxh7 wins.

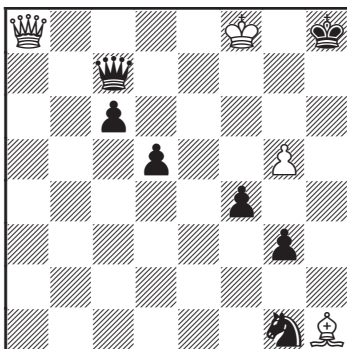
i) 1.Qf4? Qg1+ 2.Kb2 Qxa7 draws.

ii) Kd6 6.e5+ Qxe5 7.Qb8+, or Qf2 6.Qb7+ Kd6 7.Qd7+ Ke5 8.Kb2 wins.

iii) Kf6 7.c7 Qxc2+ 8.Qb2+ Qxb2+ 9.Kxb2 wins.

“This study has two well-coordinated main lines with different queen sacrifices”

No 21759 I. Aliev
2nd honourable mention



f8h8 4013.14 4/7 Win

No 21759 Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Qa1+ Kh7/i 2.Qb1+/ii Kh8 3.Qb2+ Kh7 4.Qc2+ Kh8 5.Qc3+ Kh7 6.Qd3+ Kh8 7.Qd4+ Kh7 8.Be4+ dxe4 9.Qxe4+ Kh8 10.Qh1+ Qh7 11.g6/iii Qxh1 12.g7+ Kh7 13.g8Q+ Kh6 14.Qh8+/iv Kg5 15.Qxh1 wins.

i) d4 2.Qxd4+ Kh7 3.Be4 mate.

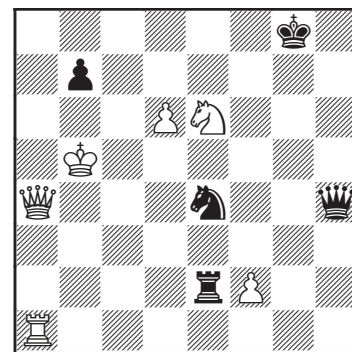
ii) 2.Qf6? Qc8+ 3.Ke7 Qc7+ draws.

iii) 11.Qxh7+? Kxh7 12.Kf7 Sf3 13.g6+ Kh6 14.g7 Sg5+ 15.Kf6 Kh7 wins.

iv) Try: 14.Qg7+? Kh5 15.Qh7+ Kg4 16.Qxh1 Sf3 17.Qd1 g2 draws.

“We see an ingenious presentation of the domination theme, resulting in mate or winning the bQ by a skewer” [HH: the judge mistakenly called this a pin].

No 21760 D. Keith
3rd honourable mention



b5g8 4404.21 6/5 Win

No 21760 Daniel Keith (France). 1.Qd4 Sx-d6+/i 2.Qxd6 Rb2+ 3.Ka5 Qxf2/ii 4.Rg1+/iii Qxg1 5.Qd8+ Kf7 6.Sg5+ Kg6 7.Qe8+ (Qg8+? Kh5;) Kxg5/iv 8.Qg8+ wins.

i) Qf6 2.d7 Rb2+ 3.Ka4 Sc3+ 4.Ka3 wins.

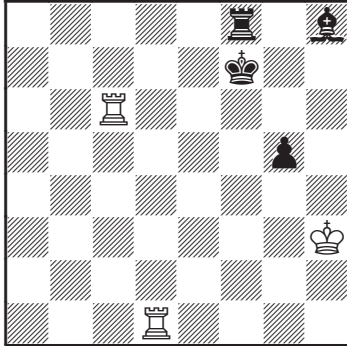
ii) Qh5+ 4.Sc5 b6+ 5.Ka6 Qe2+ 6.Sd3 wins.

iii) 4.Qd8+? Kf7 5.Sg5+ Kg7 6.Qe7+ Kg8 7.Qh7+ Kf8 8.Se6+ Ke8 9.Sc7+ Kf8 10.Qh8+ Kf7 11.Qe8+ Kg7 draws.

iv) Kh6 8.Qh8+ Kg6 9.Qh7+ wins.

“After an appropriate introduction, this study concludes with winning the bQ” [HH: the judge states that the queen is dominated, but I do not see it].

No 21761 R. Becker
special honourable mention



h3f7 0530.01 3/4 Win

No 21761 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Rd7+ Ke8 2.Rh7/i Bf6 3.Re6+/ii Kd8 4.Ra6 Ke8 5.Kg3/iii zz Be7 6.Ra5/iv zz Bf6 7.Kg4 Be7 8.Kh5 g4/v 9.Kxg4 Rg8+ 10.Kh5 Rf8 11.Rb5/vi Bd6/vii 12.Rd5 Be7/viii 13.Ra5 Bf6 14.Kg6 Be7 15.Ra8+ Bd8 16.Ra6 Rg8+ 17.Kh6 Bg5+ 18.Kh5 Be7 19.Re6 Rg5+ 20.Kh6 wins

i) 2.Ra7? Rf3+ 3.Kg4 Rc3 4.Rg6 Kf8 5.Ra8+ Kf7 draws.

ii) 3.Ra6? Be7 4.Re6 Rf7, or 3.Kg4? Be7 4.Rc8+ Bd8 5.Kh5 g4 6.Kxg4 Rg8+ 7.Kf4 Rf8+ 8.Ke5 Rg8 draw.

iii) 5.Kg4? Be7 6.Kh5 g4 7.Kxg4 Rg8+ 8.Kf5 Rg5+ 9.Kf4 Rg8 10.Re6 Rf8+ 11.Ke5 Rf7 draws.

iv) 6.Kg4? Rf4+, or 6.Ra7? Bd8 draw.

v) Bf6 9.Kg6 Be7 10.Ra8+ Bd8 11.Ra6 Rg8+ 12.Kh5 (Kh6) g4 13.Re6+ Kf8 14.Rd7 wins.

vi) 11.Kg6? Rf6+, or 11.Ra6? Rf5+ draw.

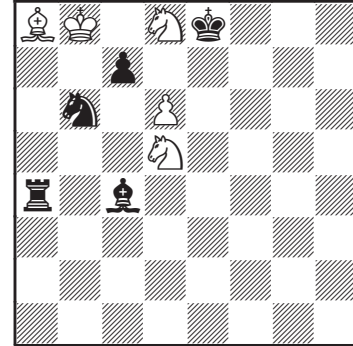
vii) Bf6 12.Rc5 Be7 13.Ra5 transposes.

viii) Rf6 13.Ra5 Be7 14.Ra8+ wins.

“We see an interesting demonstration of domination, taking advantage of the awkward position of the bK on the 8th rank”.

No 21762 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Bc6+ Sd7+/i 2.Bxd7+ (Kxc7? Ra7+;) Kxd7/ii 3.dxc7 Ra8+ 4.Kxa8 Kc8 5.Ka7 Bb3/iii 6.Ka6 Bc4+ 7.Ka5 Ba2 8.Kb5 Bxd5/iv 9.Kb6 Bc4/v 10.Sb7 Ba6/vii 11.Sc5 Bb5 12.Se4 Ba6 13.Sf6 Bb5/ix 14.Sd5 Bd7 15.Se7 mate.

No 21762 E. Melnichenko
special honourable mention



b8e8 0345.11 5/5 Win

i) Kf8 2.Sxb6 cxd6 3.Bxa4 Ba2 4.Kc7 wins, or Kxd8 2.dxc7 mate.

ii) Kxd8 3.dxc7+ Kxd7 4.c8Q+, or Kf8 3.dxc7 Ra8+ 4.Kxa8 Bxd5+ 5.Kb8 win.

iii) Bxd5 6.Kb6 Bc4 7.Sb7 is similar to the solution.

iv) Bb3 9.Kc6 Bxd5+ 10.Kb6 wins.

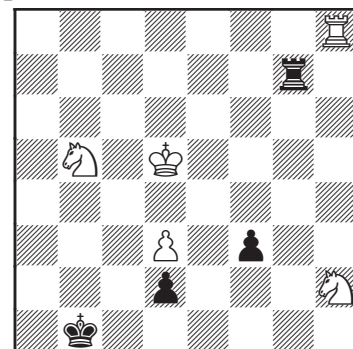
v) Be4 10.Sf7 Kd7 11.Sd6 wins.

vi) Kd7 11.Sc5+ Kc8 12.Se4 Kd7 13.Sf6+ Kc8 14.Se8 Kd7 15.Kb7 Bd5+ 16.Kb8 wins.

vii) Bc4 14.Se8, and now: Kd7 15.Kb7 Bd3 or here: Ba6 (Be6; Sd6+) 15.Kxa6 Kd7 16.Kb7 win.

“This study has entertaining play with an ever-welcome mating conclusion”.

No 21763 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
special honourable mention



d5b1 0402.12 5/4 Win

No 21763 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Sxf3/i Rd7+ 2.Ke4/ii Rxd3 3.Kxd3 d1Q+ 4.Sd2+ Kb2/iii 5.Rc8 (Rb8? Qc2+;) Qa4/iv 6.Sc4+ Ka1/v 7.Kc3 Qa2 8.Rg8 Qf2/vi 9.Ra8+

Qa2 10.Sba3 Qb3+ 11.Kd2/vii Qb4+ 12.Kd1 Qb7
13.Sc2++ Kb1 14.Ra1 mate.

i) 1.Sf1? d1Q 2.Sc3+ Kc2 3.Sxd1 Kxd1 4.d4
Ke2, or 1.Sc3+? Kc2 2.Rc8 Kxd3 3.Sxf3 d1Q
4.Sxd1 Ke2 fork.

ii) 2.Kc4? Rc7+ 3.Sxc7 d1Q draws.

iii) Kc1 5.Rc8+ Kb2 6.Rc4 wins.

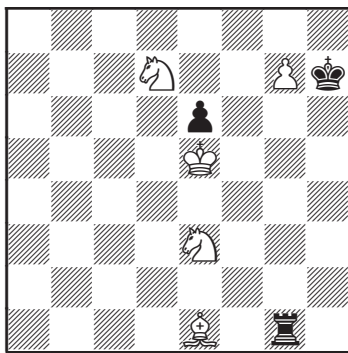
iv) Qc1 6.Sc4+ Kb3 7.Sd4+ Kb4 8.Rb8+ Ka4
9.Sb6+ Ka5 10.Sb3+ wins.

v) Kb3 7.Sd4+ Kb4 8.Rb8+ Kc5 9.Se6+ wins.

vi) Qe2 9.Sd4 Qe1+ 10.Sd2 Qe3+ 11.Kc2 Ka2
12.Se2 Qa7 13.Sc3+ Ka1 14.Sb3 mate.

vii) 11.Kxb3? stalemate.

No 21764 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
commendation



e5h7 0312.11 5/3 Win

No 21764 Michal Hlinka & Ľubos Kekely
(Slovakia). 1.Bf2 (Kxe6? Kxg7;) Rg5+ 2.Kf6/i
Rg6+ 3.Kf7/ii Rxg7+ 4.Kxe6 zz Rg5/iii 5.Sg4
Kg6/iv 6.Sde5+ Kg7 7.Bd4 Rh5 8.Sd7+ Kg6
9.Sge5+ Kg5 10.Be3+ Kh4 11.Sf6 Rg5 12.Sf3+
wins.

i) 2.Kxe6? Rxg7 zz 3.Sf8+ Kg8, or 2.Kd6? Ra5
3.Sc4 Ra6+ 4.Ke7 Kxg7 draw.

ii) 3.Ke7? Kh6 4.Sf8 Rxg7+ draws.

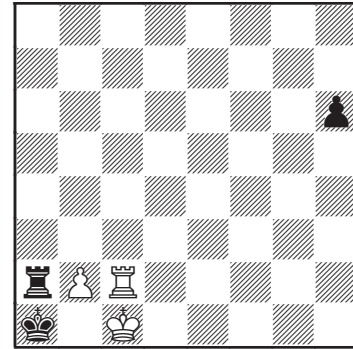
iii) Kg6 5.Sf5 Rg8 6.Se7+, or Rg6+ 5.Sf6+
Kh8 6.Sg4 Rg7 7.Be3 Rb7 8.Bh6 Rg7 9.Kf5 Rg6
10.Bc1 Kg7 11.Be3, or Kg8 5.Sf5 Rg2 6.Bc5 Re2+
7.Kf6, or Kh8 5.Sf5 Rg4 6.Kf6 Ra4 7.Sf8 Ra2
8.Be3 Ra3 9.Bh6 Ra6+ 10.Se6 Kh7 11.Bg7 Rb6
12.Bf8 Rb8 13.Sg5+ Kg8 14.Bc5 win.

iv) Kg7 6.Bd4+ Kg6 7.Sde5+ Kg7 8.Sf3+, or
Kg8 6.Sde5 Kg7 7.Bd4 win, or Ra5 6.Kf7 Rf5+

7.Sdf6+ Kh8 8.Bd4 Rf4 9.Se5 Rxd4 10.Sg6
mate.

“Here is a domination that requires several
precise moves to achieve”.

No 21765 A. Skripnik & P. Arestov
special commendation



c1a1 0400.11 3/3 Win

I: Diagram, II: bPh6 to e7,
III: bPh6 to wPg2, IV: no bP.

No 21765 Anatoly Skripnik & Pavel Arestov
(Russia).

I: 1.b4 Ra4 2.Rc4/i zz Ka2 3.Kc2 zz Ka3 4.Kc3
Ra8 5.Rc5/ii Ka4 6.Kc4 zz Ra7/iii 7.Rc8 h5 8.b5
Ka5 9.Kc5 h4 10.b6 Rb7 11.Ra8+ wins.

II: 1.b4 Ra4 2.Rc8/iv Ka2 (Rxb4; Ra8+) 3.Kc2
Ka3 4.b5 Ra5/v 5.Kc3 Ka4 6.b6 Kb5 7.b7 wins.

III: 1.Rxa2+ Kxa2 2.Kc2 Ka3 3.g3/vi zz Kb4
(Ka2; g4) 4.Kd3 Kc5 5.Ke4 Kd6 6.Kf5 Ke7 7.Kg6
wins.

IV: 1.b3/vii Ra3/viii 2.Rc3 Ka2 3.Kc2 Rxb3
4.Rxb3 wins.

i) Try: 2.Rc8? Ka2 3.Kc2 Ka3 4.b5 Rg4 5.Kc3
Rg3+ 6.Kc4 Rg4+ 7.Kc5 Rg5+ 8.Kc4 Rg4+
draws.

ii) 5.Rc6? Ka4 6.Kc4 h5 7.b5 Ka5 8.Kc5 h4
9.Rc7 h3 draws.

iii) h5 7.Rxh5 Rc8+ 8.Rc5 Rb8 9.Ra5 mate.

iv) Try: 2.Rc4? Ka2 3.Kc2 Ka3 4.Kc3 Ra8
5.Rc5 Ka4 6.Kc4 e6 zz 7.Rc7 e5 8.b5 Ka5 9.Kc5
e4 10.b6 Ka6 11.Kc6 e3 12.Kc5 e2 13.Re7 Rc8+
draws.

v) Rd4 5.Kc3, or Ra7 5.Kc3 Ka4 6.Kc4 Ka5
7.Kc5 Rb7 8.Ra8+ wins.

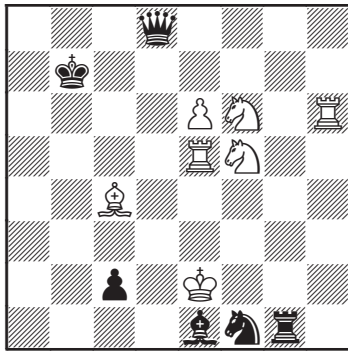
vi) Try: 3.g4? Kb4 4.Kd3 Kc5 5.Ke4 Kd6 6.Kf5 h5 7.gxh5 Ke7 8.Kg6 Kf8 draws.

vii) Try: 1.b4? Rb2 2.Rxb2, stalemate, or here: 2.Rc5 Ka2 3.Ra5+ Kb3 draws.

viii) Rb2 2.Rc5 Ka2 3.Ra5+ wins.

“We see remarkable configurations with the same material – a mathematical composition”.

No 21766 Á. Ruzs special commendation



e2b7 3545.11 7/6 Win

No 21766 Árpád Ruzs (Rumania). 1.Rb5+/i, and:

— Kc6 2.Sd5/ii Rg2+ 3.Kxf1 (Kd3? c1S+) Rf2+ (Rg1+; Ke2) 4.Kxe1 c1Q+ 5.Kxf2 Qc2+ 6.Be2 Qxf5+ 7.Ke1 Qdxd5 (Qfxd5; e7+) 8.e7+ Kd7 9.e8Q+ Kxe8 10.Rh5/iii, and:

– Qxb5 11.Bxb5+ Ke7 12.Rxf5 wins, or here:

– Qxh5 11.Bxh5+ Ke7 12.Rxd5 wins, or:

— Kc8 2.Se7+/iv Qxe7 3.Rh8+ Kc7 4.Sd5+ Kd6 5.Sxe7 Sg3+/v 6.Kf3/vi c1Q 7.Sc8+/vii Kc6 8.Sa7+ Kd6 9.Rd8+ Ke7 10.Rd7+ Kf6 11.Rf7+ Kg6 12.Bd3+ Sf5 13.Bxf5+ Kh6 14.Rh7+ Kg5 15.Bb1+ Kf6 16.Rf7+ Kxe6 17.Ba2+ wins.

i) 1.Rh7+? Kc6 2.Bb5+ Kb6 3.Sd7+ Ka5 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Sd7? Rg2+ 3.Kxf1 Rf2+ 4.Kxe1 c1Q+ 5.Kxf2 Qf4+ 6.Ke1 Qc1+ 7.Kf2 Qf4+ perpetual check.

iii) The grip theme.

iv) Thematic try: 2.Sd6+? Qxd6 3.Rh8+ Kc7 4.Sd5+ Qxd5, or here: 4.Se8+ Kc6

draws.

v) c1S+ 6.Kxe1, or Rg2+ 6.Kxf1 Rf2+ 7.Kg1 c1Q 8.Sc8+ Kc6 9.Sa7+ Kd6 10.Rd8+ Ke7 11.Rd7+ Kf6 12.Rf7+ Kg6 13.Bd3+ Kh6 14.Rh7 mate.

vi) Thematic try: 6.Kd3? c1Q 7.Sc8+ Kc6 8.Sa7+ Kd6 9.Rd8+ Ke7 10.Rd7+ Kf6 11.Rf7+ Kg6 and White has no check on d3.

vii) Thematic try: 7.Rd8+? Kxe7 8.Rd7+ Kf6 9.Rf7+ Kg6 10.Bd3+ Sf5 11.Bxf5+ Kh6 12.Rh7+ Kg5 draws.

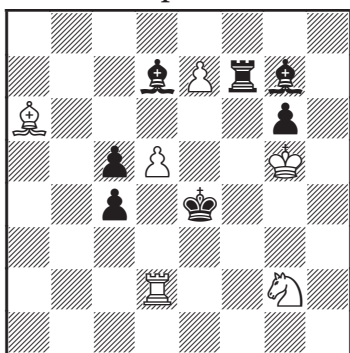
“After Hlinka and Kekely”.

Polish Chess Federation ty 2016

GM Jan Rusinek (Poland) judged the annual tourney of the Polish Chess Federation in which 31 studies participated. The tourney was informal as the studies were published on the website of the federation during the year.

The provisional award, dated 10v2017, was published on the website, with one month confirmation time, and became final without changes.

No 21767 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
& M. Minski
1st prize



g5e4 0471.23 6/7 Win

No 21767 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.d6/i Bd4/ii 2.Re2+/iii Kd5/iv 3.Bc8/v Rf5+/vi 4.Kg4/vii Bxc8/viii 5.e8Q Rf8+ 6.d7 Rxe8 7.Re6/ix Bxd7 (Kxe6; dxe8Q+) 8.Sf4+ mate.

i) 1.Kxg6? Rf6+ 2.Kxg7 Rxa6 draws.

ii) Rf5+ 2.Kxg6, or Ke5 2.Kxg6 Rf6+ 3.Kxg7, or c3 2.Re2+ Kd5 3.Kxg6, or Be8 2.Bxc4 Rf5+ 3.Kg4 Bf6 4.Bd3+ Ke5 5.Bxf5 win.

iii) 2.Bc8? Rf5+ 3.Kg4 Rf4++ 4.Kg5 Rf5+ 5.Kg4 Rf4++, or 2.e8Q+? Bxe8 3.Re2+ Kd5 4.Rxe8 c3, or 2.Bxc4? Rf5+ 3.Kh6 Ke5 4.e8Q+ Bxe8 5.Re2+ Kxd6 draws.

iv) Kf3 3.Bxc4 Rf5+ 4.Kh6 wins.

v) 3.Sf4+? Kc6 (Kxd6; Re6+) 4.Bc8 Rf5+ 5.Kh6 Re5 6.Bxd7+ Kxd7 7.Kxg6 Be3 8.Kf7 Rf5+ 9.Kg6 Re5 draws.

vi) Kxd6 4.Re6+ – first sacrifice on e6 – Kxe6 (Bxe6) 5.e8Q(+) wins.

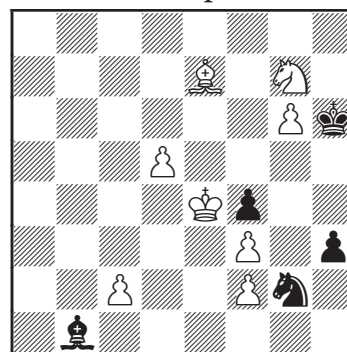
vii) Thematic try: 4.Kxg6? Rf6+ 5.Kg5 Rf5+ 6.Kg4 Bxc8 7.e8Q Rf8+, and now there is no bPg6, so 8.d7 fails to Rxe8 9.Re6 Rg8+ and Black even wins. 4.Kh6? Rh5+ 5.Kxg6 Be8 mate.

viii) Re5+ 5.Bxd7 Rxe2 6.Be6+ – second sacrifice on e6 – and either: Rxe6 7.d7, or here: Kxe6 7.e8Q+ wins.

ix) Third sacrifice on e6. Compare with the thematic try: now there is a bPg6.

“This is a great study, full of subtleties. We see three double sacrifices on e6, a thematic try allowing the bR to escape, and an impressive mate in the final position. Almost every white move is surprising but Black is passive without a strong defence. In my opinion, this excellent and impressive study would be the winner of any tourney”.

No 21768 P. Arestov
2nd/4th prize



e4h6 0044.52 8/5 Draw

No 21768 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.d6/i Bxc2+ (h2; d7) 2.Ke5 Ba4 (h2; d7) 3.Kf6 Sh4 4.Sf5+ (Se6+? Sxg6;) Sxf5 5.Bf8+ Sg7/ii 6.Bxg7+ Kh5 7.Bh8/iii h2 8.g7 Bb3 9.g8Q/iv Bxg8 10.d7 h1Q 11.d8Q Qh4+ 12.Kg7 Qxd8 stalemate.

i) 1.Ke5?, e.g. h2 2.d6 h1Q 3.Sf5+ Kxg6 4.d7 Qh8+ wins.

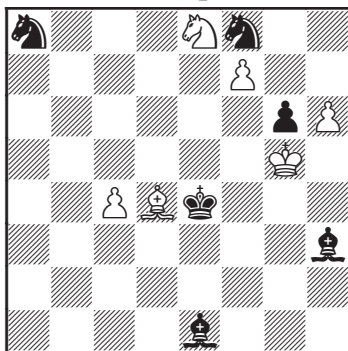
ii) Kh5 6.Kxf5 h2 7.g7 h1Q 8.g8Q draws.

iii) 7.Bf8? h2 8.g7 Bb3 9.d7 h1Q 10.d8Q Qh4+ wins.

iv) 9.d7? h1Q 10.g8Q Qh4+ wins.

“We see a nice stalemate with an actively incarcerated bishop. The study has interesting play but the impression is slightly spoiled by the presence in the final position of three pawns which are not required for the stalemate”.

No 21769 P. Arestov
2nd/4th prize



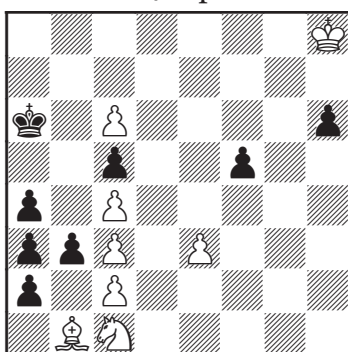
g5e4 0077.31 6/6 Draw

No 21769 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Bg7/i Sh7+ 2.Kxg6 Bf5+ 3.Kh5 Bb4 4.c5/ii Bxc5 5.f8Q Sxf8/iii 6.Bxf8 Bxf8 7.h7/iv Bxh7 8.Sf6+ Kf5 9.Sxh7 Be7 10.Sg5/v Bxg5 stalemate.

- i) 1.Bc5? Bd2+ 2.Kf6 (Kh4) Bxh6 wins.
- ii) Thematic try: 4.f8Q? Sxf8 5.Bxf8 Bxf8 6.h7 Bxh7 7.Sf6+ Kf5 8.Sxh7 Be7 9.c5 (Sg5 Bxg5;) Sc7 10.c6 Se6 (Se8) 11.c7 Sxc7 12.Sg5 Sd5 (Se8) wins.
- iii) Bxf8 6.Bxf8 Sxf8 7.Sd6+ draws.
- iv) 7.Sf6+? K- 8.h7 Bg7 wins.
- v) 10.Kh6? Sc7 11.Kg7 Se6+ 12.Kf7 Bc5 (Bd6, Bb4, Ba3) 13.Sf6 Sg5+ 14.Kg7 Bd4 (Be5, Bc3, Bb2) wins.

“This study has lively play by the light pieces and the several moves foreseen pawn sacrifice 4.c5! in order to obtain a stalemate”.

No 21770 G. Costeff
2nd/4th prize



h8a6 0011.57 8/8 Draw

No 21770 Gady Costeff (USA/Israel). 1.Bx-a2/i bxa2 2.Sxa2 h5 3.Kg7/ii h4 4.Kf6 Kb6 5.Ke5 Kxc6 6.Kf4 Kd6 7.e4 fxe4 8.Kxe4 h3 9.Kf3 Ke5 10.Kg3 Ke4 11.Kxh3 Ke3 12.Kg2 Kd2 13.Kf2 Kxc2 14.Ke2 Kb2 15.Kd2 Kxa2 16.Kc2 draws.

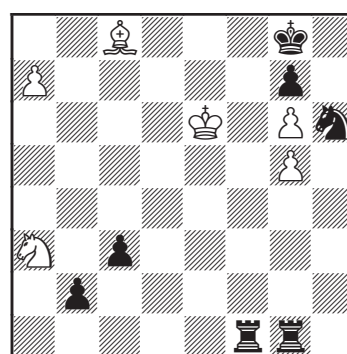
i) Try: 1.Sxa2? bxa2 2.Bxa2 h5 3.Kg7 h4 4.Kf6 Kb6 5.Ke5 Kxc6 6.Kf4 Kd6 7.e4 fxe4 8.Kxe4 h3 9.Kf3 Ke5 10.Kg3 Ke4 11.Kxh3 Ke3 12.Kg2 Kd2 13.Kf2 Kc1/iii 14.Ke2 Kb2 15.Kd2 Kxa2 16.Kc1 Ka1 wins.

ii) Réti.

iii) But not: Kxc3? 14.Ke2 Kb2 15.Kd2 Kxa2 16.Kc1 Ka1 17.c3 draws, or Kxc2? 14.Ke2 Kb2 15.Kd2 Kxa2 16.Kc2 draws.

“This deep study has two attractive motifs, the first being the classical Réti manoeuvre and the second being the choice of which piece should stand on a2, B or S. At first sight, it seems that this makes no difference because the piece will be captured anyway. However, it turns out that the B is the wrong choice since it will allow Black to avoid capturing one of the wPs that are Black’s allies blocking the square for their own king. An S forces Black to capture wPc2 which allows the wK to use that square later. This is a very original idea, but it has some drawbacks: a very unnatural initial position and a capture on the first move”.

No 21771 P. Krug & M. Garcia
honourable mention



e6g8 0614.33 6/7 Win

No 21771 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Ke7 (a8Q Rf8;) Kh8 2.Be6 Sg8+ 3.Bxg8 Rf8 (b1Q; Sxb1) 4.Kxf8 b1Q 5.Sxb1 c2 6.a8Q/i c1Q 7.Bc4 (Be6? Qc7;) Qxc4 8.Ke7+ Qg8 9.Qe4 Re1 10.Qxe1 Qf8+ 11.Kd7/ii Qf5+ 12.Qe6 Qd5+ 13.Qd6 Qb7+/iii 14.Kd8/iv Qd5/v

15.Kc7 Qa5+ 16.Kc6 Qa4+ 17.Kb6 Qb3+ 18.Kc7/
vii Qc4+ 19.Qc6 Qxc6+/viii 20.Kxc6 wins.

i) 6.Bc4? Rf1+ draws, e.g. 7.Bxf1 (Ke7 Rf8);
cxb1Q 8.a8Q Qb8+ 9.Qxb8 stalemate.

ii) 11.Kxf8? stalemate.

iii) Qb5+ 14.Kc7 Qa5+ 15.Kc6 wins.

iv) 14.Ke6? Qe4+, e.g. 15.Kf7 Qd5+ 16.Ke7
Qxg5+ draws.

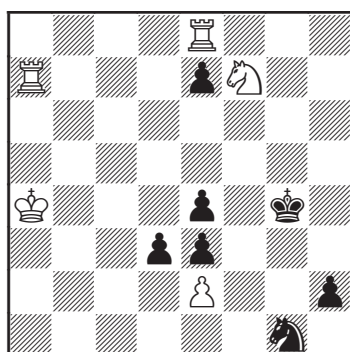
v) Qa8+ 15.Kc7 Qa7+ 16.Kc6 wins.

vii) 18.Ka5? Qd5+ 19.Qxd5 stalemate.

viii) Qf4+ 20.Kb6 e.g. Qe3+ 21.Kc6 Qe6+
22.Kb5.

“Here are interesting manoeuvres where the
main idea is to avoid stalemate”.

No 21772 V. Tarasiuk
honourable mention



a4g4 o2o4.15 5/7 Win

No 21772 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).
1.Se5+ (Rg8+? Kf4;) Kh3/i 2.Sxd3/ii exd3 3.exd3
e2/iii 4.Raxe7/iv h1Q 5.Rh8+/v Kg2 6.Rxh1
Kxh1 7.Re8/vi Kg2 8.d4 Kf2/vii 9.d5 Sf3 10.d6
Sd4 11.d7 Sc6 12.Kb5 wins.

i) Kg3 2.Rg8+ Kf2 3.Sg4+ Kxe2 4.Sxh2 wins.

ii) 2.Rh8+? Kg2 3.Sg4 dxe2 4.Rxh2+ Kf3
draws.

iii) h1Q 4.Rh8+ Kg2 5.Rxh1 Kxh1 6.Rxe7 e2
7.Re8 wins.

iv) 4.Rh8+? Kg4 5.Rxe7 Sh3 6.Re4+ Kg3
7.Re3+ Kf4 8.Rh3 h1Q 9.Rxh1 Kxe3 draws.

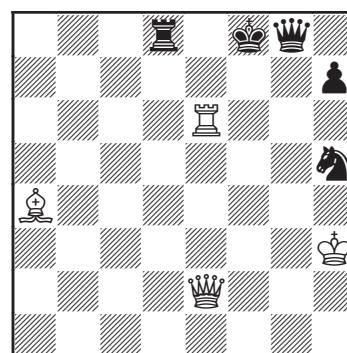
v) Thematic try: 5.Rh7+? Kg2 6.Rxh1 Kxh1
7.Re7 Kg2 8.d4 Kf2 (Kf1) 9.d5 Sf3 10.d6 Sd4
11.d7 Sc6 12.Re8 e1Q 13.Rxe1 Kxe1 draws.

vi) 7.d4? Sf3 8.d5 e1Q 9.Rxe1+ Sxe1 10.d6 Sd3
11.d7 Sc5+ draws.

vii) Kf3 9.d5 Sh3 10.d6 Sg5 11.d7 Se4 12.Rxe4/
ix Kxe4 13.d8Q e1Q 14.Qe7+ (Qe8+) wins, but
not 12.d8Q? e1Q 13.Qd3+ Kf4 14.Rf8+ Ke5
15.Qb5+ Kd4 16.Rd8+ Ke3 draws.

“This is a good, solid study with an interest-
ing point on move 5”.

No 21773 M. Minski
honourable mention



h3f8 4413.01 4/5 Win

No 21773 Martin Minski (Germany).
1.Qf2+ (Qf3+? Qf7;) Kg7/i 2.Qb2+/ii Kf8/iii
3.Qb4+/iv Kg7 4.Re7+/v Kh8 (Kf6; Qh4+)
5.Qc3+ Sg7 6.Bb3 Qf8/vi 7.Rf7 Qg8 8.Rd7
Rc8/vii 9.Qg3 Qf8 10.Rf7 Qg8 11.Rc7 Qf8/viii
12.Qxg7+ Qxg7 13.Rxc8+ wins.

i) Qf7 2.Qc5+ Kg8 3.Qg5+ wins.

ii) 2.Re7+? Kh8 3.Qb2+ Sg7 draws.

iii) Kf7 3.Qb7+ Kxe6 4.Bb3+ wins.

iv) 3.Rf6+? Sxf6 4.Qxf6+ Qf7 5.Qxd8+ Kg7
draws.

v) 4.Qc3+? Kf7 5.Qf3+ (Qc7+ Kxe6;) Sf4+
6.Qxf4+ Kxe6 7.Bb3+ Rd5 draws.

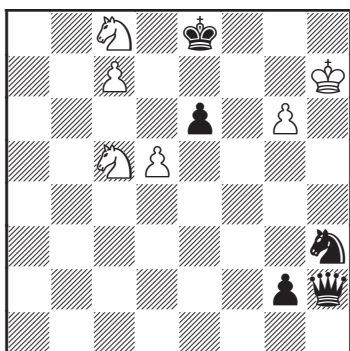
vi) Rc8 7.Qg3 Qf8 8.Rf7 Qg8 9.Rc7 Qf8
10.Qxg7+ Qxg7 11.Rxc8+ wins.

vii) Rxd7 9.Bxg8 Kxg8 10.Qc8+ Kf7 11.Qxd7+,
or Qf8 9.Qxg7+ Qxg7 10.Rxd8+ win.

viii) Rxc7 12.Bxg8 Kxg8 13.Qxc7 wins.

“Step by step the white pieces improve their
position by very precise manoeuvres, thereby
resembling the hunt for a victim by a well-
organized predator flock. A deficiency is the
total passivity of Black who is only ‘looking’ at
what White is doing”.

No 21774 P. Arestov & A. Skripnik
honourable mention



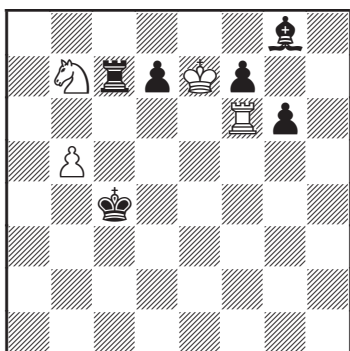
h7e8 3005.32 6/5 Win

No 21774 Pavel Arestov & Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.d6/i Sf4+ (Sg5++; Kg8) 2.Kg8 (Kg7? Sh5+); Qh8+ 3.Kxh8 Sxg6+ 4.Kg7/ii Se5 (Sf8)/iii 5.d7+ Sxd7 6.Sd6+ Ke7 7.c8S+ Kd8 8.Sxe6 mate.

- i) 1.Sd6+? Ke7 2.c8Q Sf4+ 3.Kg8 Kxd6 draws.
- ii) 4.Kg8? e.g. Se5 5.d7+ Sxd7 6.Sd6+ Ke7 7.c8S+ Kf6 draws.
- iii) g1Q 5.d7 mate.

“We see a sympathetic mate with three knights at the edge of the chessboard”.

No 21775 V. Samilo
honourable mention



e7c4 0431.13 4/6 Win

No 21775 Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Sd6+ Kc5 2.Kd8/i Ra7 3.b6 (Sc8? Rb7;) Kxb6 4.Sc8++ Kb7 5.Sxa7/ii Kxa7 6.Kxd7 g5 7.Kc6/iii g4 (Ka6; Rh6) 8.Rf4/iv g3/v 9.Ra4+ Kb8 10.Rb4+ Kc8/vi 11.Rg4 Bh7 12.Rh4 wins.

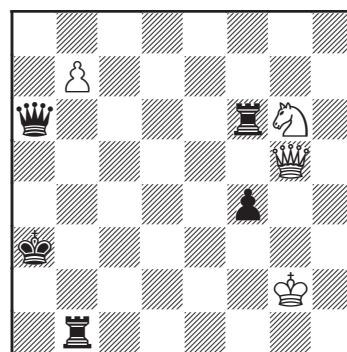
- i) 2.Kf8? Bh7 3.Kg7 g5 4.Kxh7 g4 5.Kg7 g3 6.Kxf7 g2 7.Rg6 g1Q 8.Rxg1 Kxd6 draws. HH observes that also 2...Ra7 draws here: 3.Kxg8

Ra1 (Ra2) 4.Kxf7 Re1 5.Rxg6 Re2 and White cannot make progress.

- ii) 5.Rb6+? Ka8 6.Sxa7 Kxa7 draws.
- iii) 7.Ke7? Bh7, or 7.Kc8? g4, or 7.Ke8? Kb8 (Ka8) draws.
- iv) 8.Rf1? g3 9.Ra1+ Kb8 10.Rb1+ Kc8 11.Ra1 Kb8 draws.
- v) f5 e.g. 9.Rb4 f4 (Be6; Kc7) 10.Rb7+ Ka6 11.Rb8 wins.
- vi) Ka7 11.Rb7+ Ka6 12.Rb8 wins.

“The author has accomplished an interesting synthesis of two domination positions”.

No 21776 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
commendation



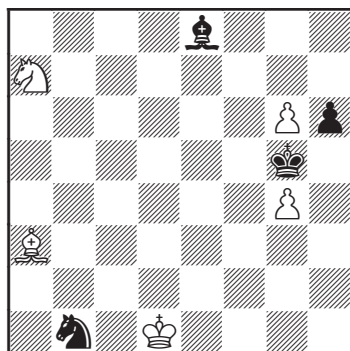
g2a3 4601.11 4/5 Draw

No 21776 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Qc5+ Rb4 (Ka4; Qc2+) 2.Qc3+/i Ka4 3.Qc2+ Ka3 4.Qc3+ Ka2 5.Qc2+ (Qd2+? Kb3;) Rb2/ii 6.Qxb2+ Kxb2 7.b8Q+ Kc2/iii 8.Sxf4 Qc6+ 9.Kg3 Qc3+/iv 10.Kh4/v Qc5 11.Kg4/vi zz Rf8 12.Qb2+ Kxb2 13.Sd3+ Kc3 14.Sxc5 draws.

- i) 2.Qxb4+? Kxb4 3.b8Q+ Qb5 4.Qxb5+ Kxb5, or 2.Qc1+? Kb3 3.Qb1+ Kc3 4.Qc1+ Kd4 5.Qd2+ Kc5 wins.
- ii) Ka1 6.Qc3+ Rb2+ 7.Qxb2+ Kxb2 8.b8Q+ draws.
- iii) Rb6 8.Qe5+, or Ka3 8.Sxf4 draw.
- iv) Qc5 10.Kg4 Qg1+ 11.Kf3 draws.
- v) Thematic try: 10.Kg4? Qc5 zz 11.Qb2+ Kxb2 12.Sd3+ Kc3 13.Sxc5 Kd4 wins.
- vi) 11.Qb2+? Kxb2 12.Sd3+ Kc3 13.Sxc5 Kd4 wins.

“The mutual zugzwang can be found in the database but the play to get there is sufficiently interesting to make the study stand out”

No 21777 A. Jasik
commendation



d1g5 0044.21 5/4 Win

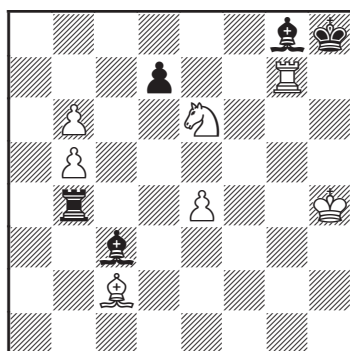
No 21777 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.g7 Bf7 2.Bb2 h5 3.gxh5 Kh6 4.Sb5/i Bg8 5.Kc2/ii Bh7+ 6.Kc1 Kxh5 7.Sd4 Kh6 8.Sc2 wins.

i) 4.Sc8? Sa3 e.g. 5.Sd6 Bxh5+ 6.Kd2 Kh7 draws.

ii) 5.Kc1? Bh7 6.Sd4 Kxg7 draws.

“White needs accurate play to catch the bS”.

No 21778 A. Jasik
commendation



h4h8 0471.31 7/5 Win

No 21778 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Rg5 Be1+/i 2.Kh5 Bf7+ 3.Kh6 dxe6/ii 4.b7 Bg3 5.Rxg3 (e5? Rh4+;) Rxb5 6.e5 Rxb7 7.Rg7 Rd7 8.Bh7/iii Be8 9.Rg8 mate.

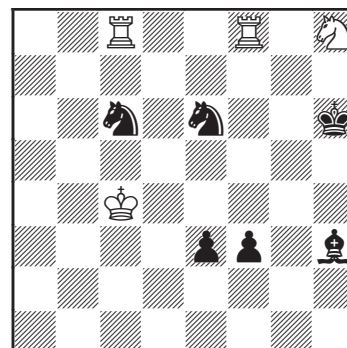
i) Bxe6 2.b7 Be1+ 3.Kh5 Bg3 4.Kg6 wins.

ii) Bd2 4.Bd3 Bxe6 5.b7 Bf4 6.Kg6 Bd6 7.Rc5 wins, e.g. Rd4 8.Rc3 Bg8 9.Kf6.

iii) 8.Bg6? Be8 9.Rxd7 Bxd7 draws.

“Lively play leads to an interesting zugzwang after 8.Bh7!”

No 21779 P. Krug & M. Garcia
commendation



c4h6 0237.02 4/6 Draw

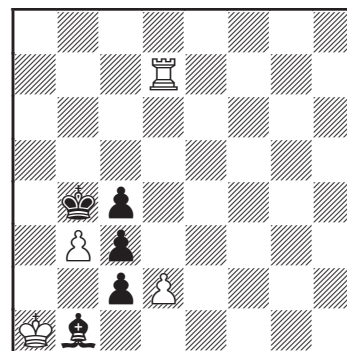
No 21779 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Garcia (Argentina). 1.Rf6+/i Kg5 2.Rxf3 Se5+ 3.Kc3 Sxf3 4.Kd3 Sf4+/ii 5.Kxe3 Bxc8 6.Sf7+ Kg4 7.Sh6+ Kg3 8.Sf5+ Bxf5 stalemate.

i) 1.Rxf3? Se5+ 2.Kc3 Sxf3 3.Kd3 e2 4.Kxe2 Sed4+ 5.Ke3 Bxc8, or 1.Rxc6? e2 2.Rxf3 e1Q 3.Rxh3+ Kg7, or 1.Kd3? e2 2.Kd2 (Rf6+ Kg5;) Sxf8 3.Rxc6+ Kg7 (Se6) draws.

ii) e2 5.Rg8+ Kf5 6.Kxe2 draws.

“We see a nice stalemate with three black pieces in the middle of the chessboard. Since it is not a model stalemate, there is a good chance that it is original. The play that leads to the final position does not match”.

No 21780 A. Babiarcz
commendation



a1b4 0130.23 4/5 Draw

No 21780 Andrzej Babiarcz (Poland). 1.dxc3+ Kxc3/i 2.Rc7 Kxb3 3.Rb7+ Kc3 4.Rb3+/ii Kd2/

iii 5.Rc3 Ba2/iv 6.Kb2 Bb3 7.Ka1 Kd1 8.Kb2 Kd2
9.Ka1 c1Q+ 10.Rxc1 Kxc1 stalemate.

i) Kxb3 2.Rb7+ Kxc3 3.Rb3+ draws.

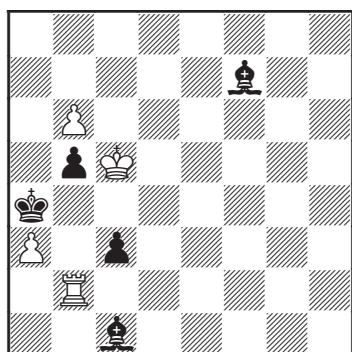
ii) 4.Rc7? c1R wins, but not c1Q? 5.Rxc4+
Kxc4 stalemate.

iii) cxb3 (Kxb3) stalemate.

iv) Kxc3 stalemate. c1Q 6.Rxc1 Kxc1
stalemate.

“There are five similar stalemates”.

No 21781 V. Shansin & A. Zhuravlev
commendation



c5a4 0160.22 4/5 Draw

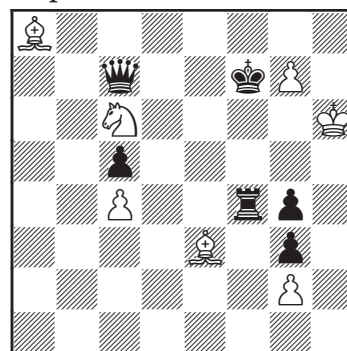
No 21781 Valery Shansin & Andrey Zhurav-
lev (Russia). 1.Rb4+ Ka5 2.Rxb5+ Ka6 3.Kb4

c2/i 4.b7 Bd2+ 5.Ka4 c1Q 6.b8S+ Ka7 7.Sc6+
Ka6 8.Sb8+ Ka7 9.Sc6+ Qxc6 stalemate.

i) Bd2 4.b7 c2+ 5.Ka4 draws.

“This is a short and pleasant study”.

No 21782 M. Frak & I. Aliev
special hon. mention



h6f7 3321.33 7/6 Win

No 21782 Marian Frak (Poland) & Ilham
Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Sd8+/i Qxd8 2.Bd5+ Qxd5
3.cxd5 Rf6+ 4.Kh7 Rg6 5.Bh6 c4 6.d6 c3 7.d7 c2
8.d8S+ Kf6 9.g8S+ Kf5 10.Se7+ wins.

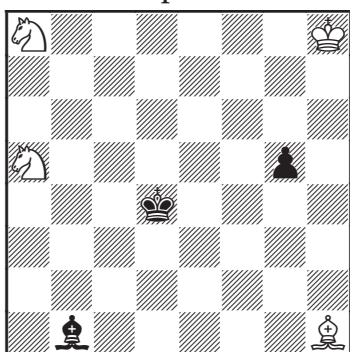
i) 1.Se5+? Qxe5 2.Bd5+ Ke7 3.Bxf4 Qxf4+
draws.

“This study with two knight promotions is
a correction of a study by one of the authors
(EG#21102)”.

Die Schwalbe 2013-2014

Peter Schmidt (Passade, Germany) judged the biennial tourney of the German composition magazine in which 29 studies by 23 composers participated. The judge considered the level to be quite average. The provisional award was published in issue no. 284 ii2017. During the confirmation time a commended study was eliminated from the award because of anticipation.

No 21783 M. Minski
1st prize



h8d4 0042.01 4/3 Win

No 21783 Martin Minski (Germany).
1.Sb3+/i Kc3/ii 2.Sc5 Kd4 3.Se6+ Ke5 4.Sxg5/iii
Kf4/iv 5.Se6+ Ke5 6.Sc5 Kd4 7.Sb3+ Kc3 8.Sa5
(Bd5? Ba2;) Kd4/v 9.Sc7 Be4 10.Se6+ Kd5/
vi 11.Sf4+ Ke5/vii 12.Sg2 Bd5/viii 13.Kg7 Kd4
14.Kf6 Kc3/ix 15.Ke5 Bf3 16.Kd6/x Kb4 17.Sc6+
wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Sc7? Be4 2.Se6+ Kd5/
xi 3.Sc7+ Kd4 4.Se6+ Kd5 positional draw as
3.Sf4+ is not possible. 1.Sc6+? Ke3 2.Sc7 Be4
3.Sd5+ Kd3 4.Se5+ Kd4 draws.

ii) Ke3 2.Sc7 g4 3.Sc5 wins.

iii) 4.Sac7? Be4 5.Bxe4 Kxe4 draws.

iv) Kf5 5.Sf7 Be4 6.Sd6+ wins.

v) This is the initial position without bPg5,
so 11.Sf4+ is possible.

vi) Ke3(Ke5) 11.Sc4+ wins.

vii) Kd4 12.Sb3+ Ke3 13.Sd5+ Kd3 14.Sc5+
wins.

viii) Kd4 13.Sb3+ Kc3 14.Sc5 wins.

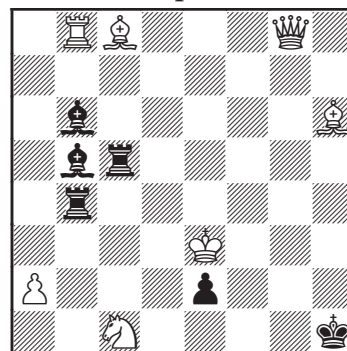
ix) Kc5 15.Ke5 Bf3 (Ba8) 16.Sb3+ wins.

x) 16.Kf4? Ba8 17.Ke5 Kb4

xi) But not Ke5? 3.Sc4+ Kd5 4.Se3+ Ke5
5.Sg4+ wins

“After the first inspection this work was immediately my #1 favourite. Black threatens to centralize his bishop and exchange the white pendant, after which the 2S vs. P ending is a draw. The hard-to-see main plan is to shield the corner bishop with a knight and thus prevent the exchange. Although this idea is not new, in the present study it is combined with crystal clear logic. As the thematic try shows, it would be desirable to eliminate first the bPg5. It is wonderful that this Vorplan is actually feasible and in a clear way. Basically, this takes care of the issue. But as a bonus there is even a single move winning sequence when Black starts to hunt the hero of the Vorplan. Congratulations to the author for this outstanding work!”

No 21784 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
2nd prize



e3h1 1781.11 7/6 Win

No 21784 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Bb7+/i Rc6+ 2.Kf3 Rc3+ 3.Sd3/ii
Rxd3+ 4.Kxe2+ Rd5+ 5.Kf3 Rd3+ 6.Be3 Rxe3+
7.Kf2+ Ree4+ 8.Kg3 Bc7+ 9.Kf3 Be2+ 10.Kf2
Bb6+ 11.Ke1 Ba5/iii 12.Bxe4+ Rxe4+ 13.Kf2 Be1+
14.Kxe1 Bc4+ 15.Kf2 Bxg8 16.Rxg8 Rf4+ 17.Kg3
Ra4 18.Rb8 Ra3+ 19.Rb3 Rxa2 20.Rb1 mate.

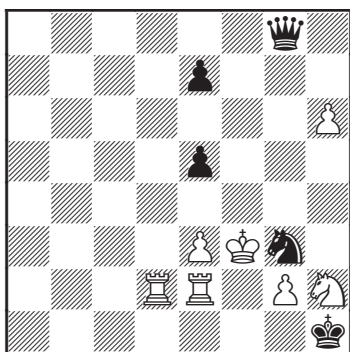
i) 1.Sxe2? Rxc8+ 2.Kf3 Rxg8 3.Rxg8 Bxe2+
4.Kxe2 Rb2+ 5.Kf3 Rxa2 draws.

ii) 3.Be3? Rxe3+ 4.Kf2+ Ree4+ 5.Kf3 e1S+ 6.Kg3 Bc7+ 7.Kf2 Rb2+ 8.Se2 Rxe2+ 9.Kf1 Rxa2+ 10.Qc4 Bxc4 mate.

iii) Bf3+ 12.Bxe4 Rxe4+ 13.Kd2 Re2+ 14.Kd3 Re3+ 15.Kc4 Re4+ 16.Kb5 wins.

“This is a completely different kind of study. The composer has found a fruitful scheme for the representation of as many cross checks as possible. After the smoke has cleared, a won ending for White remains. Even if constructive measures are necessary to achieve the task, the achievement of the author deserves recognition. The geometrical motion of the bRc5 (c5-c6-c3-d3-d5-d3-e3-e4) is very attractive. And it is nice that, of all the pieces, the tiny white pawn ultimately decides”.

No 21785 P. Krug
1st honourable mention



f3h1 3204.32 7/5 Win

No 21785 Peter Krug (Austria). 1.h7/i Qg7/ii 2.h8Q/iii e4+ 3.Kf2 Qxh8 4.Sg4/iv Qh4 5.Rd1+ Sf1+ 6.Kxf1 Qxg4 7.g3 Qxg3 8.Rf2 Qxe3 9.Rdd2 Qg3 10.Ke2 Qg4+ 11.Ke1 Qg3 12.Rd1 Qe3+ 13.Kf1 e6 14.Rdd2 Qg3 15.Ke2 Qg4+ 16.Ke1 Qg3 17.Rd1 Qe3+ 18.Kf1 e5 19.Rdd2 Qg3 20.Ke2 Qg4+ 21.Ke1 Qg3 22.Rd1 Qe3+ 23.Kf1 wins.

i) 1.Sg4? Sf1 2.Re1 Qf7+ 3.Ke4 Qg6+ draws.

ii) Qxh7 2.Kxg3 Qxh2+ 3.Kg4 wins.

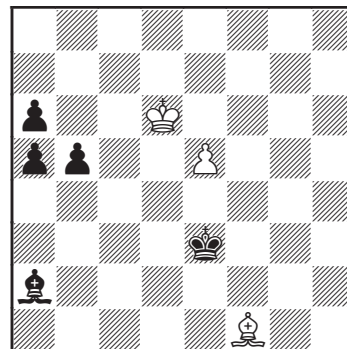
iii) 2.Sg4? Sf1 3.Rd1 Qf7+ 4.Sf6 Qxf6+ 5.Ke4 Qg6+ draws.

iv) 4.Kxg3? Qe5+ 5.Kg4 Qg7+ 6.Kf4 Qf6+ 7.Kxe4 Qc6+ 8.Kf4 Qf6+ 9.Kg3 Qe5+ 10.Kf2 Kxh2 draws.

“After the somewhat ponderous introduction, the study really starts with 7.g3!! Qxg3 8.Rf2! Qxe3 and a five-move mechanism (a

rook pendulum and triangulation of the wK) follows, which forces Black to give up his tempo moves until he runs out of breath”.

No 21786 M. Minski
2nd honourable mention



d6e3 0040.13 3/5 Draw

No 21786 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Kc5 a4 2.Bxb5 a3/i 3.Bd3/ii a5/iii 4.Kb5 Bb3 5.Bb1 Kd2 6.e6 Kc1 7.e7 Bf7 8.Ba2 draws.

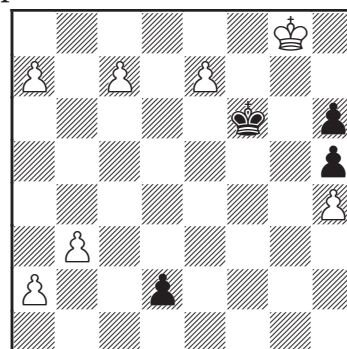
i) axb5 3.Kxb5 Bb3 4.Kb4 draws.

ii) 3.Kb4? axb5 4.Kxa3 Bf7 5.Kb4 Be8 wins.

iii) Kxd3 4.Kb4 Bd5 5.Kxa3 Kc3 6.Ka4 Bc4 7.Ka5 draws.

“We see a subtle bishop ending, with a surprise at move 3 that would have the best chance of being called the most spectacular move of this award: 3.Bd3!! and which is excellent propaganda for the endgame study art!”

No 21787 G. Østmoe
special honourable mention



g8f6 0000.63 7/4 BTM, Win

No 21787 Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway). 1...d1Q 2.e8S+ Kg6 3.a8B/i, and:

— Qd4 4.c8R/ii wins, or:

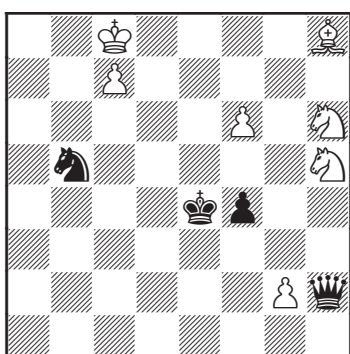
— Qg4 4.c8Q Qxc8 5.Be4+ wins.

i) 3.a8Q? Qd5+ 4.Qxd5 stalemate.

ii) 4.c8Q? Qd5+ 5.Bxd5 stalemate.

“The theme of this study is a mixed (black and white) AUW, which is rare in a pawn ending. In comparison with Costeff’s *EG#16982*, the author has made progress in economy (material and moves), which is, in my view, a considerable achievement and must be appreciated accordingly”.

No 21788 H. van der Heijden
1st commendation



c8e4 3015.31 7/4 Win

No 21788 Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands). 1.f7/i f3 2.gxf3+ Kd5 3.f4 Qh3+/ ii 4.Kd8 Sxc7 5.Kxc7 Qa3 6.Sf6+ Ke6 7.f8S+/iii Qxf8/iv 8.f5+ Ke7 9.Shg8+/v Kf7 10.Kd7 zz Qa3 11.Sh6+ Kf8 12.Sh7 mate.

i) 1.Kd7? Qxg2 2.c8Q/xv Qd2+ 3.Ke7 Qb4+ 4.Kd8 Qa5+ 5.Kd7 Qd2+ 6.Ke6 Qa2+ 7.Ke7 Qa3+ 8.Kd8 Qa5+ positional draw.

ii) Qc2 4.Be5 wins, e.g. Qc5 5.Sf6+ Kc6 6.Kd8 Sxc7 7.Bxc7 Qf8+ 8.Se8 Qxh6 9.Ke7 Qh7 10.Sf6 Qg7 11.Be5.

iii) 7.f8Q? e.g. Qc5+ 8.Qxc5 stalemate, or 7.f5+? Ke7 8.Sfg8+ (Sd5+) Kf8 and stalemate.

iv) Ke7 8.Sg6+ Ke6 9.f5 mate.

v) 9.Sfg8+? (Sd5+?) Ke8 10.Sf6+ Ke7 repeats.

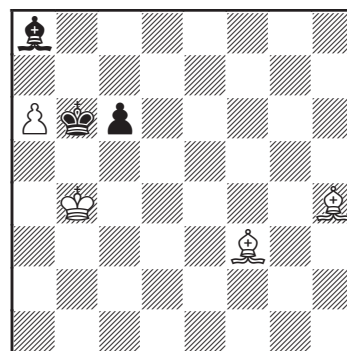
“After an unconventional battle for the promotion of the wPf6, the action culminates in an equally unconventional mate picture. 10.Kd7 suddenly creates a zugzwang position in which the bQ can no longer cover square h6. Also the extraordinary mate after 7...Ke7 8.Sg6+ Ke6 9.f5 mate should not go unmentioned”.

No 21789 Gunter Sonntag (Germany). 1.Ka4/i Kxa6 2.Bf2 Kb7 3.Ka5 Kc7 4.Bg3+ Kb7

5.Bd6 Ka7 6.Bc5+ Kb7 7.Bg4 Kc7 8.Ka6 Bb7+ 9.Ka7 Bc8 10.Bb6+ Kd6 11.Bxc8 wins.

i) 1.Be2? c5+ 2.Ka3 Bc6 3.Bd8+ Ka7 draws.

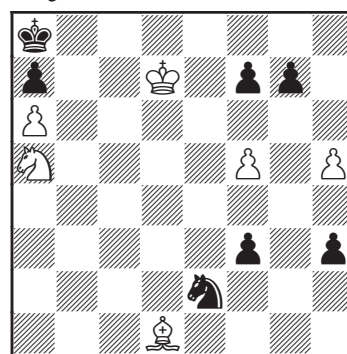
No 21789 G. Sonntag
2nd commendation



b4b6 0050.11 4/3 Win

“The play of the white pieces against the constellation bBa8, bPc6 has been demonstrated earlier on several occasions. The most famous one by Troirzky (HHdbV#71192), which as we know today is free of duals for only four moves, but still can only be described as sensational. In the present study I like that, White in the beginning leaves his own pawn in the dark, as well as the move 5.Bd6! which is the only one that makes blocking of the black pawn possible”.

No 21790 G. Bomsdorf
3rd commendation



d7a8 0014.35 6/7 Win

No 21790 Gerhard Bomsdorf (Germany). 1.h6/i gxh6 2.Kc8/ii h2/iii 3.Ba4 Sd4 4.Sb3 (Sc6? Sxf5;) h1Q 5.Sxd4 f2 6.Sb5 Qc1+ 7.Sc7+ Qxc7+ 8.Kxc7 f1Q 9.Bc6 mate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kc8? h2 2.Ba4 Sd4 3.Sb3 h1Q 4.Sxd4 Qc1+ 5.Sc2 Qh6 and Black wins.

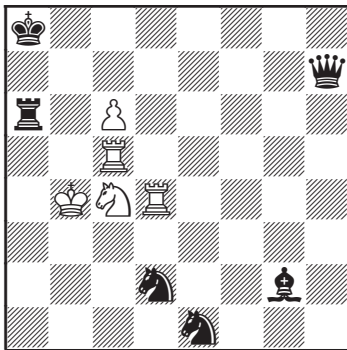
ii) 2.Ba4? f2 3.Kc8 Sd4 4.Sb3 f1Q and Black wins.

iii) Sd4 3.Sb3 f2 4.Sxd4 f1Q 5.Bf3+ Qxf3 6.Sxf3 h5 7.Sd4 h2 8.Sb5 h1Q 9.Sc7 mate.

iv) Now, after 5...Qc1+ 6.Sc2 and the bQ cannot play to h6.

“This again is a study with a logical structure. The try 1.Kc8?? fails to the move 5...Qh6. Therefore, White first robs the bQ’s access to h6 by playing 1.h6! gxh6”.

No 21791 V. Kovalenko †
4th commendation



b4a8 3537.10 5/6 Draw

No 21791 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Rd8+ Ka7 2.Rd7+ Qxd7 3.cxd7 Sd3+ 4.Kb5/i Sxc4 5.Rc7+ Bb7 6.Rxb7+ Kxb7 7.d8S+ Ka7 8.Sc6+ Kb7 9.Sd8+ draws.

i) 4.Kc3? Se4+ 5.Kc2 Ra2+ wins.

“Although here half of a primeval forest is chopped down, the fact that a lonely pawn draws against a rook and two knights, and that only by an underpromotion, is very witty. 7.d8S!! Ka7 8.Sc6+ Kb7 9.Sd8+ is an original drawing swing, which reimburses for the crude introduction”.