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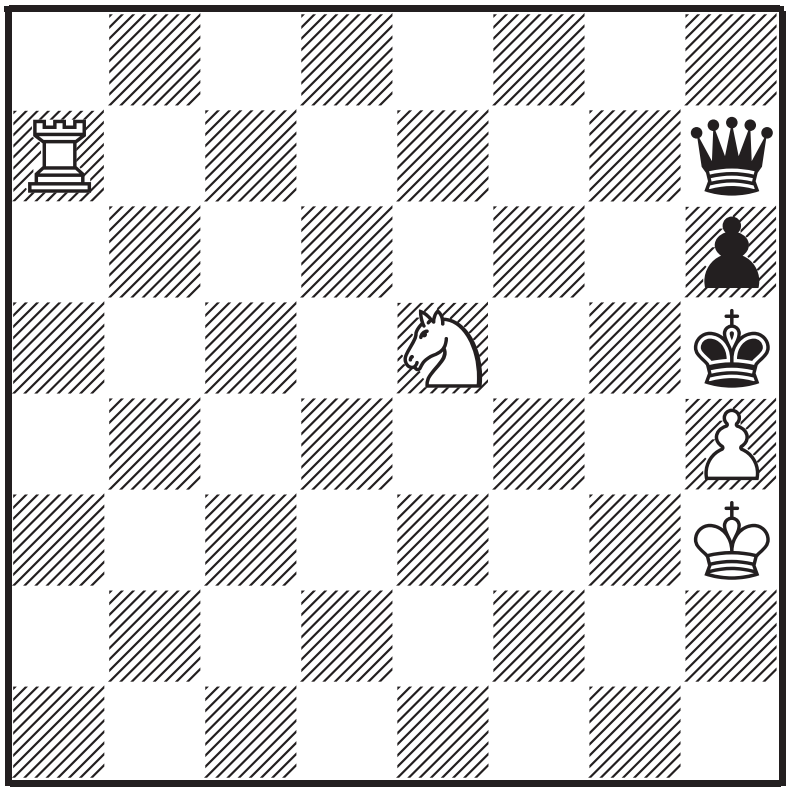

White to play and win

Friends of EG

Harm Benak
Hans Böhm
Martin Minski
Roland Ott
Jurgen Stigter
Harold van der Heijden
Marcel Van Herck

and one other who prefers to remain anonymous

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diagram on the cover: see p. 186

Editorial

by Harold van der Heijden

This issue brings very exciting news but also very sad news on computer chess. We have an extra Computer News column by Emil Vlasák to deal with the former: the generation of several pawnless 8-man endings by Marc Bourzutschky with some interesting discoveries about endgame studies. The very sad news is the passing of Guy Haworth. There is an exceptionally long obituary on him in this issue, as several people wanted to write something on their respective collaborations with Guy.

The History column by Alain Pallier deals with the Soviet All-Union tourney in the 1920's. The Quality Control by Jaroslav Polášek has, as always, several high-class corrections, and also deals with 8-man territory. There is an erratum on the previous Originals column of Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen, dealing with an improvement (?) on a study by Karsten Müller. In his own column he deals with pawn waves – a new phrase to me, but it is immediately clear what is meant. Finally, Siegfried Hornecker writes about asymmetry – quoting from and updating the book by Minski and Schlosser. I must say that I was surprised about that as I was expecting an article on the so-called "turtle" theme. That is again something I have never heard of – to find out that I had composed one or the other study on that theme myself! Are you curious? Perhaps in the next issue?

EG originals

Announcement: **EG** 2020-2021

EG, the only periodical exclusively devoted to endgame studies,
announces an informal tourney for original studies.
The studies and the award will be published in **EG**.

You are strongly urged to send only your best and most creative works.
The original's editor will only select very good studies for publication.

Please send your originals in PGN-format to the editor
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen at stjeffen@gmail.com

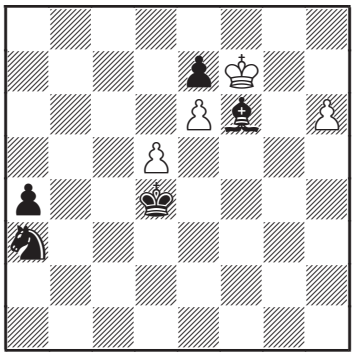
The judge for the 2020-2021 tourney is Árpád Rusz.

Originals

by Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
Judge for 2020-2021: Árpád Rusz

I am fascinated by studies where the main theme or climax is extraordinarily well hidden in the initial position. My favourite example is a study by Kazantsev:

S.1 A.Kazantsev
4th prize Overall
Champ USSR 1947-1948



f7d4 0033.32 4/5 Draw

1.d6 Sb5 2.dxe7 Ke5 3.e8S Bh8 4.Kg8/i Kxe6 5.Kxh8 (h7) Kf7 6.h7 a3 7.Sd6+ Kf8 8.Sxb5 a2 9.Sd4/ii a1R 10.Se6+ Kf7 11.Sd8+ Kg6 12.Kg8 Ra8 13.h8S+ Kf6 14.Shf7 draws.

i) or 4.h7? a3 5.Kg8 Kxe6 6.Kxh8 Kf7 7.Sd6+ see main line.

ii) 9.Sc3? a1R 10.Sb5 Kf7 wins, e.g.11.Sc7 Ra7 12.Se8 Rd7 13.Sd6+ Kg6.

The study starts off with pawns vs bishop and knight and ends with White drawing with two knights against a rook!

The theme of our first study is almost as well hidden as Kazantsev's. Do you see White's queen sacrifice on g8? Probably not, as there is no queen in sight and the bK is safely occupying that very square.We will let the drama of the Israeli-Ukrainian duo unfold:

No 23710 Amatzia Avni (Israel) & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.d6/i e1Q/ii 2.d7 Qe7/iii 3.Ra8+ (Rxd1? Qxg5+;) Kh7 (Kf7; d8Q) 4.d8Q Bxf3+/iv 5.Kxf3/v Qb7+ 6.Kg3/vi Be5+ 7.f4 Bxf4+ 8.Kh4 (Kxf4? Qe4+) Bxg5+ (Bg3+; Kh3) 9.Kxg5 (Qxg5 Qh1+;) Qxa8 10.Qg8+/vii Qxg8 (Kxg8; Rxa8+) 11.Rh1 mate.

i) 1.Re6? Bxa1 2.d6 Bc3 3.d7 Ba5 draws.

ii) Bxa1 2.d7 e1Q 3.d8Q+ Kh7 4.Qd3 wins.

iii) Ba5 3.R6xa5/viii, and: Kh7 4.d8Q Bxf3+ 5.Kg3 wins, or Bxf3+ 4.Kxf3 Qc3+ 5.Kg2 Qc6+ 6.f3 Qxd7 7.Ra8+ Kf7 (Kh7; Rh1+) 8.R1a7 wins.

iv) Playing for stalemate

v) 5.Kg1? Qxd8 6.Rxd8 Bxa1 draws.

vi) 6.Kf4? Be5+ 7.Ke3 Bd4+ 8.Qxd4 Qe4+ 9.Kxe4 stalemate.

vii) 10.Rxa8? stalemate, or 10.Qd4? Qd8+ 11.Qxd8 stalemate, or 10.Qd1? Qg2+ draws.

viii) But not 3.R1xa5? Bxf3+ 4.Kxf3 Qd1+ 5.Kg3 Qxd7.

The next entry is the second from OTB IM Michael Pasman of Israel. We will observe a tactical battle with some subtle moves, especially 6.Kg6!!, mixed in.

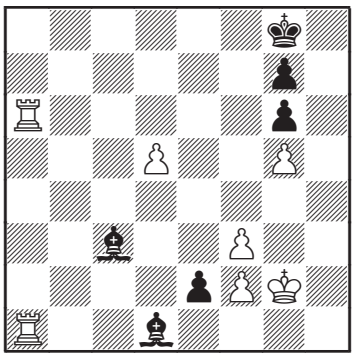
No 23711 Michael Pasman (Israel). 1.Sg2+ Kd4/i 2.Sc5/ii Kxc5 3.Se1 (Sf4? Kxd6;) c1Q/iii 4.Sd3+ Kxd6 5.Sxc1 Ke7 6.Kg6/iv Qe8+/v 7.Kh6 Kf7 8.Sd3 Qb8/vi 9.Bxe6+/vii dxe6 (Kxe6; Kh7) 10.Se5+ Qxe5 /viii 11.g6+ Kg8 (Ke7; g8Q) ideal stalemate with selfblocks.

i) After 1…Ke2, the simplest is 2.Sf4+ Ke3 3.Sg2+ returning to the initial position. If Kf3 (Kd2; Sc5) 2.Se1+ Kxe4 3.Sxc2 Kf4 4.Kg6 (Kh6).

ii) 2.Sf4? Kxe4 3.Se2 Qe8+ 4.Kh6 Kf5 5.Sg3+ Kg4 6.Sc7 Qf7 wins.

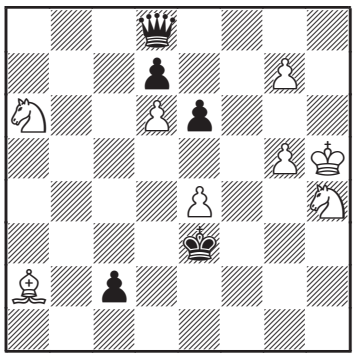
iii) c1S 4.Kh6, and: Qg8 5.e5 Sxa2 6.Sd3+ with a knight manoeuvre to f6, or Sxa2 5.Kh7 Qxg5 6.g8Q Qh4+ 7.Kg7 Qxe1 White captures all black pawns and forces a draw, e.g. 8.Qc8+ Kxd6 9.Qb8+ Kc5 10.Qc7+ Kb4 11.Qxd7 Qxe4 12.Kf6. If Kxd6 4.Sxc2 Ke7 5.Se3 Kf7 6.Kh6 is very bad for Black.

No 23710 A.Avni & V.Tarasiuk



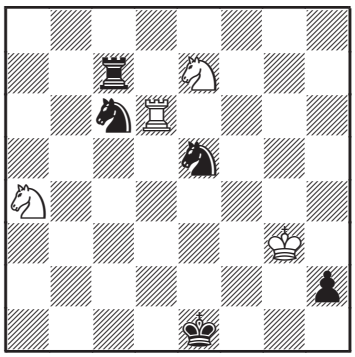
g2g8 0260.43 7/6 Win

No 23711 M. Pasman



h5e3 3012.43 8/5 Draw

No 23712 O. Pervakov



g3e1 0408.01 4/5 Draw

iv) The queen is forced to go to e8 first. Logical try: 6.Kh6? Kf7 7.Sd3 Qc7 (Qb8?; Bxe6+) 8.Bxe6+ dxe6 9.Se5+ Kg8 Position X with queen on c7 instead of b8. On 10.Sg4 Black has Qxg7+. Or: 6.Sd3? Kf7 7.Kh6 Qc7 is the same as logical try line.

v) Black needs the king on f7 to defend from promotion, so that is the only move (Qa8; Bb1).

vi) The only move against the Sf4 and Se5 threats.With the queen on e8 instead of d8

Black does not have the move Qc7.

vii) 9.Se5+? Qxe5 10.Bxe6+ Qxe6+.

viii) if 10…Kg8, we almost have position X of the logical try 6.Kh6?, but as the bQ is on b8, now 11.Sg4+ wins.

It is an honour to welcome back the current World Champion, Oleg Pervakov.White is just a small step from capturing the dangerous passed pawn on h2, but it will prove extraordinarily difficult.

No 23712 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Sc3/i Sd4/ii 2.Rxd4/iii Rxc3+ 3.Kg2 (Kxh2?; Sf3+) Sf3/iv 4.Ra4/v h1Q+/vi 5.Kxh1 Kf2/vii 6.Ra1/viii Rc7/ix 7.Ra2+ Kg3 8.Rg2+/x Kh3 9.Sc6 Rb7/xi 10.Sb4 Rd7 (Ra7; Sc2) 11.Sd5/xii Rxd5 12.Rg3+ Kxg3 stalemate.

i) Black wins easily wins after 1.Kxh2? Sxe7 2.Re6 S7g6 3.Rb6 Sf4 4.Kg3 Se2+.

ii) h1S+ (h1Q; Rd1 mate) 2.Kg2 Sf2 3.Scd5 Rb7 4.Rxc6 Sxc6 5.Sxc6, but not 4.Sxc6? Rg7+ with mate.

iii) 2.Kxh2? Rxc3 3.Rd8 Se2 wins.

iv) Rh3 4.Kh1 Sd3 5.Rxd3 Rxd3 6.Kxh2 Kf2 7.Sg6/xiii Rd6 8.Sh4 Rh6 9.Kh3, or: Rc2+ 4.Kh1 Kf2 5.Rd1 draw.

v) 4.Re4+? Kd2, and: 5.Re6 Rc1 6.Rh6 Ke2 7.Re6+ Kd3 8.Rh6 Ke4 9.Re6+ Kf4 wins, or here: 5.Sf5 Rc1 6.Sg3 Rg1+ 7.Kxf3 Rxg3+ wins, or 4.Rb4? h1Q+ 5.Kxh1 Kf2 6.Rb2+ (Rb1 Sd2;). Kg3 7.Sf5+ Kh3 8.Rb1 Rc2 wins.

vi) Rc2+ 5.Kh1 Kf2 6.Ra1, and Kg3 7.Sf5+ Kh3 8.Se3, or here: Rc5 7.Sg6 Kg3 8.Rb1 Rg5 9.Rb2 draw.

vii) Rc2 6.Ra1+ Kf2 7.Sf5 draws.

viii) 6.Ra2+? Kg3 7.Sf5+ Kh3 8.Ra1 Rc2 wins.

ix) Rc5 (Rc2; Sf5) 7.Sf5/xiv Rxf5 8.Ra2+ (Ra5) Kg3 9.Rg2+ Kf4 10.Rg8 draws.

x) 8.Sf5+? Kh3 9.Ra1 Rc2 wins.

xi) Rxc6 10.Rg3+ Kxg3 stalemate, or Rc8 (Rd7; Sd4) 10.Rf2 Kg3 11.Rg2+ Kf4 12.Rg7 Rxc6 13.Kg2 Rc2+ 14.Kf1 Ke3 15.Re7+ draws.

xii) But not 11.Sd3? Rxd3 12.Rg3+ Kh4, and: 13.Rh3+ Kg4 14.Rg3+ Kf4 15.Rg8 Rd2, or here: 13.Kg2 Se1+ (Rd2+?; Kf1) wins.

xiii) But not: 7.Sf5? Kf3 8.Sh4+ Kg4 wins.

xiv) but not 7.Sd5? Rxd5 8.Ra2+ Sd2 wins.

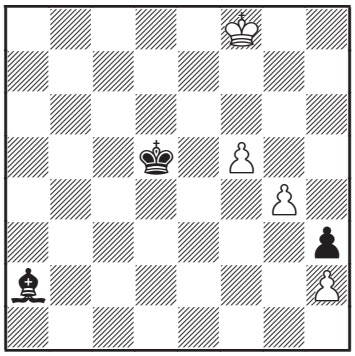
An erratum – and more!

by Harold van der Heijden

EG*225*.23633 (p.97) is a draw study, not a win study but there is more: Peter Schmidt and Karsten Müller exchanged some e-mails and finally asked me to publish a new version in **EG**.

Peter Schmidt (Germany) wrote: "At the end of January, I tried to find an attractive setting for an own study, which led to nearly the same position:"

No 23713 K. Müller,
version P. Schmidt



f8d5 0030.31 4/3 Win

"The solution is one move longer. But my version has not yet been published, because I an not completely satisfied but let me briefly explain what "not completely satisfied" means: the original solution (with an extra move now): 1.Kg7 Ke4 2.Kh6 Kf4 3.Kh5 Kf3 4.g5 Kg2 5.f6 Kh2 6.Kg4 Be6 7.Kf4 Kg2 8.g6 h2 9.Ke5 Bb3 10.f7 h1Q 11.f8Q Qa1 12.Ke4 includes some weaknesses:

1) Why should Black prefer 1…Ke4 instead of 1…Ke5? Only to force a unique answer by White (because 1…Ke5 allows 2.Kg6 as well as 2.Kh6)? Or to bring his king faster to h2? If so, what is the reason for Black playing 2…Kf4 and 3…Kf3 instead of playing 2…Kf3 immediately?

2) A similar question to move 9: Why should Black prefer 9…Bb3 instead of 9…Bc4 or 9…Ba2? Only to force uniqueness (which is not the case after 9…Ba2)?

Therefore my intended solution, shortening the solution but eliminating weakness no. 2, is:

No 23713 Karsten Müller & Peter Schmidt (Germany). 1.Kg7 Ke4 2.Kh6 Kf4 3.Kh5 Kf3 4.g5 Kg2 5.f6 Kxh2 6.Kg4 Be6+ 7.Kf4 Kg2 8.g6 h2 9.Ke5 h1Q 10.Kxe6 draws.

Finally, let me say that such weaknesses (in my opinion) are present in many, many studies. The solver as well as the connoisseur may ask himself 'Why the #### does Black play this move???', and for my taste it is not enough to give the uniqueness answer!".

HH does not agree with this view. The composer produced a work of art, and he controls the initial position and the black moves (the white moves follow automatically as they must be unique). Of course, one could think that Black must always play the best move but what is the best move? In the Saavedra study, for instance, Black plays 5…Rd4 forcing White to play the beautiful move 6.c8R! after which Black loses quickly. A computer would play 5…Rf3 because this gives maximum delay of the mate. An OTB player would perhaps resign (seeing that he will end up in a R vs Q ending) or play something like 5…Rf3 (hoping that his opponent will not manage to win the ending) or play 5…Rd4 seeing the stalemate trick. A solver would only consider 5…Rd4 (after he sees the stalemate trick and R-promotion) as he knows that a study is a piece of art and must contain something special. What is the best move?

Of course, Peter Schmidt's point is somewhat different. He is correct that a composer should always try to improve a setting. Of course, the extra first move is fine, and Müller was clearly satisfied too early. But I strongly disagree on his weakness no. 2. After 9.Ke5! h1Q? an OTB player would ask himself: "Why the #### does Black play this move? His bishop is

attacked and he just lets White capture it and then he cannot win anymore". Of course, a bishop move is much better, and Black foresees White's position after 9…B- 10.f7 h1Q 11.Qa1+ is still tricky since 11…Kd6 12.Qa3+ will cost him the queen. Of course, then 9…Ba2 is a stupid move as 12.Qa3+ is not possible. That is not "uniqueness" (for some database coincidence) but study-like tactics! The composer had to choose between 9…Bc4 or 9…Bb3 (see later).

Then Schmidt's alternative solution: as argued above, Black voluntarily leaves his piece en-prise. But what is worse is that the solution drops dead after 9…h1Q 10.Kxe6. I do not think that any OTB player would immediately agree on a draw here. They would perhaps try 10…Qh6, but then White draws by 11.Kf7, 11.g7, or 11.Kf7. And, likewise, White has always more than one drawing move after other black moves. So Schmidt's solution stops because of "uniqueness". To me that solution is an anti-climax. In Müller's solution Black still has to be very careful. The best move, without doubt is the one he chose: 9…Bb3! since after 10.f7 h1Q 11.f8Q Qa1+ 12.Ke4! (Kd6? Qa3+;) (Kf4? Qf1+;) Black has 12…Bc2+ (not possible after 9…Bc4) 13.Kd5! (only move) and draws. Unfortunately, Müller overlooked that. It is a pity that the solution cannot continue with 13…Bb3+ 14.Ke4 Bc2+ 15.Kd5 positional draw, as 14.Kc6 would also draw.

So, Müller should have invested more time on the beginning ànd the end of his study. But I prefer his solution.

Obituary
Guy McCrossan Haworth
(xi1946 – 16vi2021)

by Harold van der Heijden

Guy Haworth was a computer scientist at the School of Systems Engineering of the University of Reading, UK who wrote many articles on computers and chess. He was always very keen on keeping his University's repository up to date, and as a result we still have access to many of his papers: http://centaur.reading.ac.uk/view/creators/90000763.default.html

Guy's work dealt in the first place with computer science and the endgame study was one of the practical fields in which he could test his theories and computer algorithms. While doing so, he contributed a lot to our art, for instance by testing, together with Eiko Bleicher, all endgame studies in HHdbV against the 6-man EGTB's. Everybody that has used EGTBs for testing endgame studies for soundness will know that it is sometimes quite difficult to distinguish a time-wasting minor dual from a real cook. I was therefore enthusiastic when Guy managed to 'compose' a computer algorithm that could actually do that. I thought that this algorithm had not yet been implemented in practice, but the contribution from Árpád Rusz (see below) proves me wrong. As Guy has contributed to so many topics in computer chess, it is quite likely that specialized obituaries on Guy will appear in other chess journals. For **EG** we focus on some on his achievements in the endgame study field with the three contributions below.

After Guy retired from the University, he wrote to me in an e-mail (2016): "I dreamed last night that I was in a job with absolutely nothing to do – and woke up to find that I was". But, as a matter of fact, after his retirement he just continued to work – there are several manuscripts he was working on with other people, and we trust that his co-authors will do their best to finish those off.

We were all shocked to receive the message from his wife Annette informing us that Guy passed away after being in hospital since the end of May suffering from a bad stroke. May he now rest in peace – or start a digital revolution in heaven if that exists.

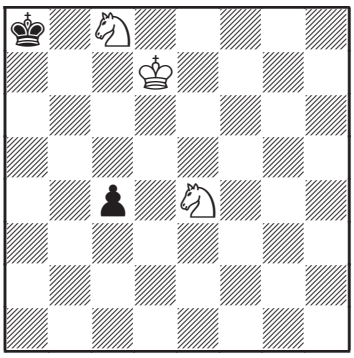
GM Dr Karsten Müller contributes this: "I have written several articles together with Guy for *ICGA Journal* and we were planning more also for *ChessBase Magazine*. Unfortunately, they all will now be unfinished as without Guy it cannot be done. One article dealt with studies in Lasker chess, which awards 3/4 of a point to the player who gives stalemate, which Guy called 'win by the stale'. Of course, there are many studies ending in stalemate for White, which would then be 1/4 of a point. But we searched Harold's great study database and found out that 'win by the stale' studies are very rare as with the traditional point count they have not such a point. From Guy's search result I liked Khatyamatov (**EG**#17321) most. Certainly much more can be done and 'win by the stale' studies in Lasker chess might be an interesting topic for an endgame study competition. Maybe Guy's idea can be realised some day. Guy was always an inspiration. He will be sorely missed. RIP Guy".

Árpád Rusz writes: "Guy's algorithm was described in a 2011 *ICGA Journal* paper. I have implemented it first in my Starchess tablebase generator but, later, special versions of Freezer and FinalGen were also created with the ability to seed results of some positions before generating the tablebase.

You all know the Q/R Philidor position where the queen triangulates in order to give the move to Black. If returning to the same position but with the other side to move is essential to winning, we have a so-called 'cyclic zugzwang'. Is Philidor's position a cyclic zugzwang? It can be proved whether it is or not by using Guy's algorithm. One has to set the BTM Philidor position to 'DRAW' before starting the tablebase generation and see what will be the WTM Philidor position's value at the end of the tablebase generation. If it still is a WIN, that means there is an alternative way to win for White (a dual) which doesn't pass through the BTM Philidor position. If it turns to be a DRAW, that means white cannot win without passing the move to Black. Can you guess if Philidor's position is a cyclic zugzwang or not?

I worked with Guy on a new paper (together with Galen Huntington) about cyclic zugzwangs. It was almost complete … According to our results, there are 1,135 such positions with up to 5 pieces. Some cycles are linked together, some cycles have inner cycles and some cycles are surprisingly long. The longest cyclic zugzwang has a 45-move transit. I composed several studies featuring them and the one that follows is an original for **EG** that I dedicate to Guy's memory. He was a fan of these embedded cycles…".

H.1 Árpád Rusz
Original, dedicated to the memory of Guy Haworth



d7a8 0002.01 3/2 Win

1.Sc3! (Logical try: 1.Kc7? The bK is already in the corner, maybe it can be immediately checkmated. 1…c3 2.Sed6 c2 3.Sb5 c1Q+ but due to the check, 4.Sb6 mate, cannot be delivered. White has to win a tempo. It is paradoxical that in order to achieve that, first White actually has to lose three times a tempo and give the move to Black) **1…Kb7** (*cyclic zugzwang #1*

WTM - the start of an 18–move-long cycle). In order to win, White has to return to this position, but with BTM) **2.Se7 Kb6 3.Kd6 Kb7** (*cyclic zugzwang #2* WTM - the start of the 14–move-long cycle) **4.Sed5 Kb8 5.Sf4 Kb7 6.Se6 Kb6 7.Kd5 Kb7 8.Kc5 Ka7 9.Kc6 Ka6 10.Sf4 Ka5 11.Sfd5 Ka6** (*cyclic zugzwang #3* WTM - the start of the 3–move-long cycle) **12.Kc7 Ka5 13.Kd6 Ka6 14.Kc6** (*cyclic zugzwang #3* BTM - the end of the 3–move-long cycle) **14…Ka5 15.Kc5 Ka6 16.Se7 Kb7 17.Kd6** (*cyclic zugzwang #2* BTM - the end of the 14–move-long cycle) **17…Ka6 18.Sc8 Kb7 19.Kd7** (*cyclic zugzwang #1* BTM – the end of the 18–move-long cycle) **19…Ka6 20.Kc6 Ka5 21.Kc5 Ka6 22.Sd6 Ka5 23.Sb7+ Ka6 24.Kc6 Ka7 25.Sc5 Kb8 26.Kd7 Ka7 27.Kc7 Ka8 28.Sb5 c3 29.Sa4 (Sd7) c2 30.Sb6** mate. The checkmate from the logical try has been delivered.

Marc Bourzutschky writes: "Guy was particularly interested in chess endgame tablebases. He pointed out very early that optimal play that respects the 50-move rule (the DTZ50 metric) could differ from play that achieves the quickest mate (DTM). About twenty years ago he suggested that I modify Eugene Nalimov's tablebase generator to produce DTZ50, which enabled us to identify positions in the QP v Q ending where White can win while still respecting the 50-move rule by judiciously timing his pawn moves, wheres pursuing a DTM strategy takes fewer moves to win overall but falls foul of the 50-move rule.

Guy's easygoing style brought together many researchers and facilitated collaborations that otherwise might not have happened. A recent example is Los Alamos chess, of historical interest as one of the first chess variants programmed on a computer. Los Alamos chess is played on a 6x6 board, without bishops. Guy pointed out that the starting position may be solvable by combining a forward search with exact tablebases for a small number of pieces, analogous to how the starting position for checkers was solved. Guy brought together Aloril, who has solved several small-board chess variants, and me, who has created 8-man tablebases for small boards, to pursue exactly Guy's suggestion".

Studies for Practical Players: Pawn waves

by Karsten Müller

A) Piece sacrifices

Connected passed pawn are very strong trumps in the endgame. Because the pawns gain so much in strength by promoting it can be justifiable to give up a piece to stop their advance:

(M.1) 49…Be7!! The bishop must prepare to take on f6. 49…a2? runs into the amazing 50.g6 a1Q 51.g7+ Kg8 52.Kg6 and Black is powerless despite the extra queen: 52…Qxf6+ 53.Kxf6 Bd4+ (Bd6; Kg6) 54.Kg6 Bxg7 55.e7 Bf8 56.e8Q e3 57.Bxd5+ Kh8 58.Qxf8 mate. **50.fxe7+** (50. g6 is met by 50…Bxf6 51.Kxf6 a2 52.e7+ Ke8 53.g7 a1Q+ 54.Kg6 Qxg7+ 55.Kxg7 Kxe7 draws) **50…Kxe7 51.g6 a2** (51…Kf8 52.Kf6 a2 53.e7+ Ke8 54.g7 a1Q+ 55.Kg6 Qa6+ 56.Kh7 Kxe7 57.g8Q draws) **52.g7 a1Q 53.g8Q** Of course not 53.g8S+? Kd6 54.e7 Qe5+ 55.Kg6 e3 wins. **53… Qf6+ 54.Kg4 Qxe6+ ½–½**

In the next case even a rook can be given up:

(M.2) 73.Rxf7+! Rxf7 74.e6 Kg8 75.Kg6 (75. exf7+ Kxf7 76.Ke5 Kf8 77.Ke6 Ke8 78.f7+ Kf8 79.Kf6 h5 80.g5 h4 81.g6 h3 82.g7 mate, and 75.e7 Rxe7 76.fxe7 Kf7 77.e8Q+ Kxe8 78.Kg6 h5 79.Kxh5 win as well) **75…Ra7 76.e7 1–0**

In studies this can of course be realised more beautifully and even a full queen can be sacrificed:

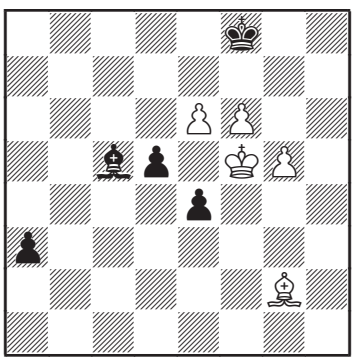
(M.3) 7.Qg5!! (7.Ka6? Qe2+ 8.Ka5 Qe5+ 9.Ka6 Qe2+ draws) **7…Qxg5+** (7…Qe2 8.b7+ Kxa7 9.Qc5 mate) **8.Ka6 Bxa7 9.c7** (it is clear that 9.b7+? can't be winning, but slightly surprising is that it also does not lose: 9…Kb8 10.c7+ Kxc7 11.b8Q+ Bxb8 stalemate) **9…Qa5+** (Qf5; b7 mate) **10.Kxa5 Kb7 11.bxa7 Kxa7 12.c8Q** wins (**EG**#00383).

B) Breaking the pawn wave

Connected passed pawns are strongest when they can potentially advance further and further so two defensive methods are (i) breaking the pawn wave and (ii) blocking it.

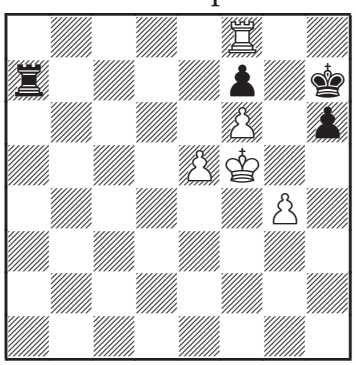
(M.4) 75.Ra3? Now Black's pawns will roll. White must sacrifice the last pawn to break the wave: 75.h4+! gxh3 76.Kf3! and White holds, e.g. 76…h2 (e2; Ra1) 77.Ra1 e2 78.Rh1 Sh5 79.Kf2 Sf6 80.Kxe2 Sg4 81.Kf3 Kh4 82.Kg2

M.1 A. Goganov – C. Ali Marandi
Biel 2017



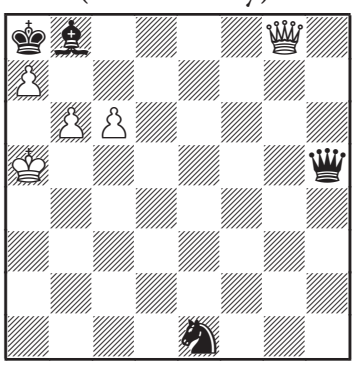
Black to move

M.2 Pedrag Nikolic – Falk Hoffmeyer
German club competition 2019



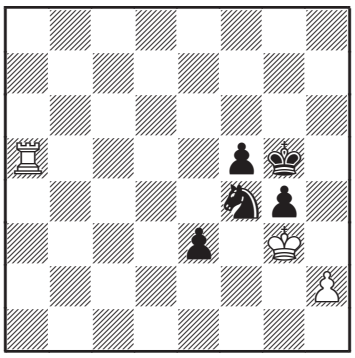
White to move

M.3 Leopold Mitrofanov
1st prize Rustaveli-800 AT 1967
(end of study)



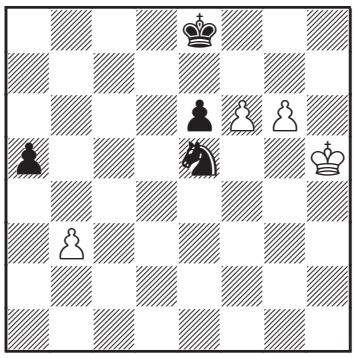
White to move

M.4 Marharyta Khrapko – Olga Badelka
Champ. Belarus 2017



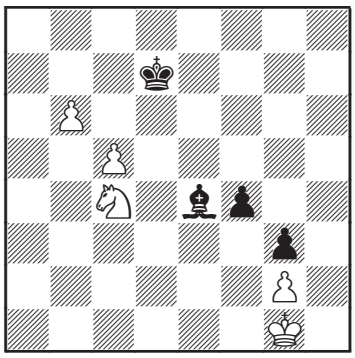
White to move

M.5 Lance Henderson de la Fuente – C. Krishna
Gibraltar 2020



White to move

M.6 Michael Rahal – Jesus Alberto Alcazar Jimenez
Champ. Spain 1995



Black to move

f4, and now not: 83.Rxh2+? Sxh2 84.Kxh2 f3 wins, but: 83.Kf3 Kg5 84.Kg2 Kf5 85.Kf3 draws. **75..Se2+ 76.Kg2 Kf4** (76…f4–+ wins as well) **77.Ra4+ Ke5 78.h3** (78.Ra2 can be met by 78…f4) **78…Sf4+ 79.Kg3 e2! 80.Ra5+ Ke4 81.Ra4+ Ke3 82.Ra1 gxh3 83.Kh2 Sd3 0–1**

Often the pawns are best placed next to each other:

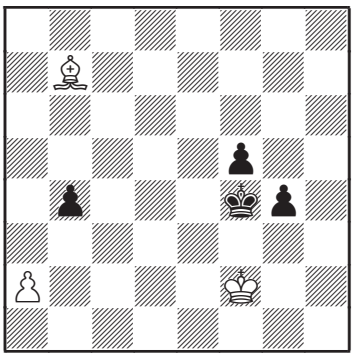
(M.5) The king must help as the pawns must stay next to each other: **56.Kh6!** (56.g7? Kf7 57.Kh6 Sg4+ 58.Kh7 Sxf6+, 56.f7+? Kf8 57.Kh6 Sd7 58.Kh7 Sf6+ 59.Kh6 Sd5 60.Kh7 Se7 61.Kh6 e5 62.Kg5 Sxg6 win. After 56.Kg5? Kf8 57.Kh6 Sd7 58.Kg5 Kg8 White is in zugzwang and must advance one of the pawns with fatal consequences) **56…Sd7** (56…Kf8? 57.Kh7 Sxg6 58.Kxg6 Kg8 59.f7+ Kf8 60.Kf6 e5 61.Kxe5 Kxf7 62.Kd6 Ke8 63.Kc7 Ke7 64.Kb6 a4 65.bxa4 Kd8 66.Kb7 wins) **57.Kg7 Sf8** (57…e5 58.f7+ Ke7 59.Kh8 Sf6 60.Kg7 Sd7 draws). Now follows a nice switchback festival draw: **58.Kh6** (58.f7+? Ke7 59.Kh6 Kf6 60.g7 Kxf7 wins) **58…Sd7** (58…Sxg6 draws as well: 59.Kxg6 Kf8 60.f7 e5 61.Kf5 Kxf7 62.Kxe5 a4 63.bxa4 Ke7 draws) **59.Kg7 Sf8 60.Kh6 ½–½**

In the next case the pawns can be blocked:

(M.6) 61…Kd8? But not like this. The switchback 61…Kc6! 62.Sa5+ (b7 Kc7;) 62…Kd7!! was forced (after 62…Kxc5? 63.b7 Bxb7 64.Sxb7+ Kd4 65.Sd6 the knight returns just in time: 65…Ke3 66.Sf5+ Ke2 67.Sh4 Ke3 68.Kf1 Kd2 69.Sf3+ Kd3 70.Ke1 Ke3 71.Se5 Ke4 72.Sc4 Kd3 73.Sd2 Ke3 74.Sf3 Kd3 75.Kf1 Ke3 now a study like win follows: 76.Se1 Kd2 77.Sc2 Kd3 78.Ke1 Kxc2 79.Ke2 wins), e.g. 63.c6+ Kc8! 64.c7 Bd5 draws. **62.Se5 Kc8 63.c6 Kb8 64.Sd7+ 1–0**

When the pawns can be firmly blocked a win can be possible:

M.7 Dmitry Gordievsky – Nodirbek Abdusattorov
Chigorin MT 2017



Black to move

49…Kg5? The king chooses the wrong direction. It had to keep the option open to go to the queenside: 49…Ke5! 50.Ke3 (50.Kg3 b3 51.axb3 Kd4 draws) 50…f4+ 51.Kd3 Kd6 52.Kc4 f3 53.Kxb4 Ke5 54.Kc3 Kf4 55.Kd2 g3 56.Ke1 Ke3 57.Kf1 f2 58.a4 Kd4 59.a5 Kc5 60.a6 Kb6 draws) **50.Ke3 f4+ 51.Ke4 g3 52.Kd3 Kg4 53.Ke2! Kh3 54.Bf3 Kh2 55.Kf1 Kh3 56.Kg1 Kh4 57.Kg2 Kg5 58.Kf1!** The king heads for the queenside. **58…Kh4 59.Bg2 Kg5 60.Ke1! Kf5 61.Kd2!** White circumvents the square e2. After 61.Ke2?! Kg4 it had to start all over again: 62.Bf3+ Kh3 63.Kf1

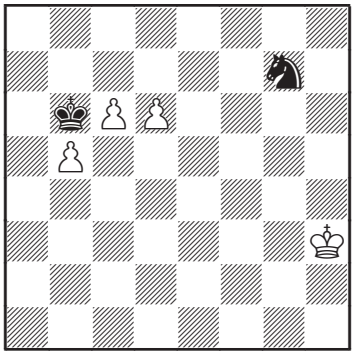
Kh4 64.Bg2 Kg5 65.Ke1 wins. **61…Kg5** (61…Kg4 62.Ke2 Kf5 63.Kd3 Kg4 64.Ke4 wins) **62.Kd3 Kf5 63.Kd4 Kg5 64.Ke5!** White circumvents the mined e4 square. **64…Kg4 65.Ke4 Kg5 66.Bf3** Finally the decisive zugzwang. **66… Kh4 67.Kxf4 Kh3 68.Ke3 g2 69.Bxg2+ 1–0**

Exercises

This time I have also included several practical games.

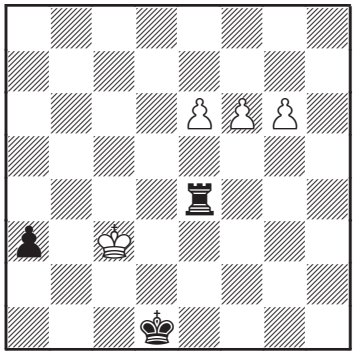
Solutions on p. 157–158

M.8



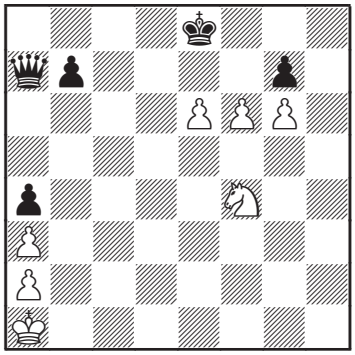
h3b6 0003.30 4/2 Win

M.9



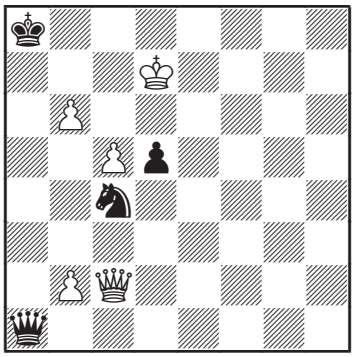
c3d1 0300.31 4/3 Win

M.10



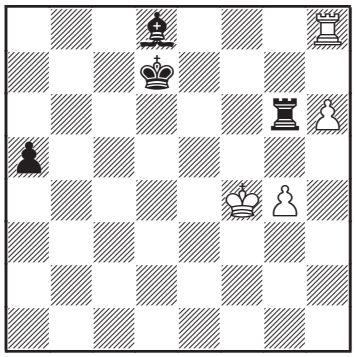
a1e8 3001.53 7/5 Draw

M.11



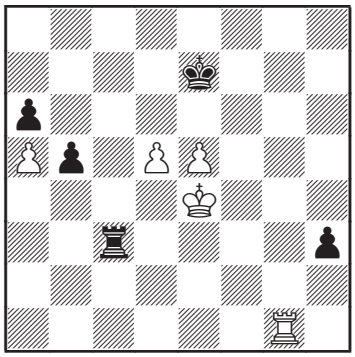
d7a8 4003.32 5/4 Win

M.12



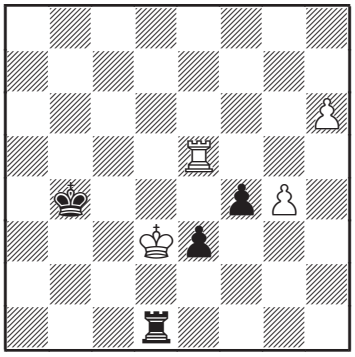
f4d7 0430.21 4/4 Win

M.13



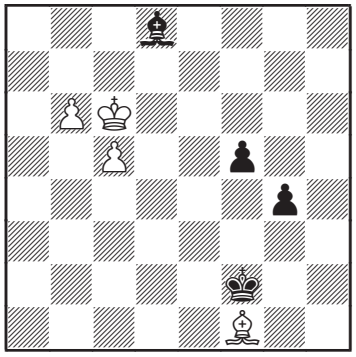
e4e7 0400.43 5/5
Black to move and draw

M.14



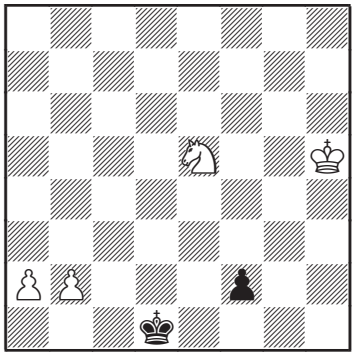
d3b4 0400.22 4/4 Win

M.15



c6f2 0040.22 4/3
Black to move and draw

M.16



h5d1 0001.21 4/2 Win

M.19

d4d6 0003.30 4/2

M.18

f4h5 0003.32 4/4 Win

M.17

g8e8 3003.31 4/4 Win

Solutions

M.8: S. Ravishankar, *The Problemist* 2014: **1.Kg4!** (1.d7? Se6 2.Kg4 Kc7 3.Kf5 Sd4+ 4.Kf6 Kd8, or: 1.c7? Kb7 2.b6 Kc8, or: 1.Kg2? Se6 2.d7 Kc7 draws) **1...Se8** (1...Se6 2.Kf5 Sd4+ 3.Kf6 Sxb5 4.d7 Kc7 5.Ke7 wins) **2.d7 Sf6+ 3.Kf5 Sxd7 4.cxd7 Kc7 5.Ke6 Kd8 6.Kd5 Kxd7 7.b6 Kd8 8.Kd6 Kc8 9.Kc6 Kb8 10.b7** wins.

M.9: V. Goluhenko & V. Slobodeniuk, *Bulletin Problemistic* 1965: **1.Kb3 a2 2.Kxa2 Kc2 3.Ka3 Kc3 4.e7 Re1 5.Ka4 Kc4 6.Ka5 Kc5 7.Ka6 Kc6 8.Ka7 Kc7 9.e8S+ Rxe8 10.f7 Re1 11.Ka6 Kc6 12.Ka5 Rf1 13.g7 Rxf7 14.g8Q** wins.

M.10: T. Gorgiev, *Československý šach* 1936: **1.f7+ Kf8 2.e7+! Kxe7 3.Sd5+ Kf8 4.Sb6!! Qxb6** stalemate.

M.11: L. Kekely & M. Hlinka, 5th comm. *Shakmatnaya Kompzitisia* 2015 (end of study): **7.Kc7 Qa6 8.Qa4! Qxa4 9.b7+ Ka7 10.b8Q+ Ka6 11.b4! Qb5 12.Qa8** mate (EG#20969).

M.12: Stanislav Bogdanovich – Krishnan Saravana, Chennai 2020: **95.Rxd8+! Kxd8 96.g5 Rg8 97.h7 Rf8+ 98.Ke5! Re8+ 99.Kd6! a4 100.g6 a3 101.g7 a2 102.h8Q** and **1–0** due to 102...a1Q 103.Qxe8+ Kxe8 104.g8Q mate.

M.13: Daniel Taboas Rodriguez – Daniel Campora, Lisbon 2020: **67...Kf8!** (The end of the game was 67...Rc4+? 68.Kf5 Rh4 69.d6+ Kf8 70.e6 h2 71.e7+ Kf7 72.Re1 and Black resigned **1–0**. The direct 67...h2? allows the activation of the rook with 68.Rg7+ Kf8 69.Rh7 Rc2 70.e6 b4 71.d6 b3 72.e7+ Kg8 73.Rxh2 wins) **68.Rf1+** (68.e6 h2 69.Rf1+ Ke8 70.d6 Rh3 71.Rh1 b4 draws) **68...Ke8! 69.e6 h2 70.d6 Rh3 71.Rh1** (71.d7+? Ke7 72.Rf7+ Kxe6 73.d8S+ Kd6 wins) **71...b4 72.Kf5 b3 73.Kf6 Rf3+ 74.Ke5 Rh3** draws.

M.14: Thauane Medeiros – Kathie Libreato, Champ. Brazil 2020: **70.Ke2!** (The game went 70.Ke4? e2 71.Kxf4 e1Q 72.Rxe1 Rxe1 73.g5 Rh1 74.Kf5 Kc5 75.g6 Rh5+! The saving check. 76.Kf6 Rxh6 77.Kf7 Rh1 78.Kf6 Rh6 79.Kf7 Rh2 80.g7 Rf2+ 81.Ke6 Rg2 82.Kf7 Rxg7+ and a draw was agreed) **70...Rd2+ 71.Kf3! Rf2+ 72.Ke4 e2 73.Kf5! f3 74.Kf4!** wins.

M.15: Vahap Sanal – Jorden van Foreest, ETCC 2017 (Turkey – the Netherlands): **81...Bf6?** (The bishop had to be sacrificed: 81...Bxb6!! 82.cxb6 Kxf1 83.b7 f4 84.b8Q f3, and: 85.Qg3 f2 86.Kd5 (Qxg4 Ke1;) 86...Ke2 87.Qxg4+ Ke1 draws, or: 85.Kd5 f2 86.Ke4 Kg2 87.Qb2 Kg1 88.Qd4 Kg2 89.Qd2 Kg1 90.Qe3 Kg2 91.Qe2 Kg1 92.Qxg4+ Kh1 draws) **82.Kd5?** (82.Kd6! dominates the bishop: a) 82...Bh4 83.c6 Kxf1 84.c7 g3 85.c8Q g2 86.Qc4+ wins, or: b) 82...Bg5 83.c6 Kxf1 84.c7 g3 85.c8Q Bf4+(g2; Qxf5+) 86.Kd5 g2 87.Qxf5 g1Q 88.Qxf4+ Ke2 89.Qe4+ Kd2 90.Qd4 wins, or c) 83.c6 (83.b7? Bh4! 84.c6 Bg3+ 85.Kd7 Kg2 86.c7 Bxc7 87.Kxc7 f4 88.b8Q f3 draws) 83...g3 84.b7! (84.c7? g2 85.c8Q g1Q 86.Qc1+ Kg2 87.Qxg1+ Kxg1 88.b7 Bh4 draws) 84...g2 85.b8Q g1Q 86.Qb1+ Kg2 87.Qxg1+ Kxg1 88.c7 wins (Jonas Lampert) **82...**

Bd8 8.Kc6 (8.Kd6 Kxf1 8.b7 Bh4 draws) **8...Bf6? 8.Kd5? Bd8** ½–½

Many thanks to Jonas Lampert for the instructive example and the analysis!

M.16: P. Arestov, *The Problemist* 2015: **1.Sg4 fi5 2.b4! Sd2** (2...Kc2 3.b5 Sg3+ 4.Kg6 Se4 5.b6 Sc5 6.Kf7 Kc3 7.Ke7 Kb4 8.Kd6 Kb5 9.Kc7 Se6+ 10.Kb7 Sd8+ 11.Kc8 Kxb6 12.Kxd8 Kb5 13.Se3 Kb4 14.Sd1 Ka3 15.Sc3 Kb4 16.a4 wins) **3.b5 Sc4 4.Se3+! Sxe3 5.b6 Sd5 6.b7 Sf6+ 7.Kg6 Sd7 8.Kf7 Kc2 9.Ke7! Sb8 10.Kd6! Kc3 11.Kc7 Sa6+ 12.Kb6 Sb8 13.a4** wins.

M.17: A. Heinonen, *Tehtävänieksat* 2014: **1.Kh7 Qe4+ 2.Kh8 Qd4 3.a8Q+ Kf7 4.Qa7+ Qxa7 5.g8Q+ Kf6 6.Qg7+ Qxg7+ 7.hxg7** wins.

M.18: A. Shpakovsky, ChessStar 2013: **1.a5! d4 2.Ke4 Sa3 3.b6 Sc4 4.b7 Sd6+ 5.Kf3! Sxb7 6.a6 Sd6 7.a7** wins.

M.19: V. Aberman, special hon. mention FIDE World Cup 2015: **8.a3! Sg4 9.Ke4 Se5 10.g3! Ke6 11.Kf4 Sd3+ 12.Kg5 Sc5 13.b4 Se4+ 14.Kh4 Sc3 15.g4! Kf6 16.Kh5 Kg7 17.Kg5 Sd5 18.b5 Sb6 19.Kf5 Sa4 20.Ke5 Sc3! 21.b6 Sa4! 22.b7 Sc5 23.b8S!** wins.

Tasks and themes

ASymmetry in endgame studies

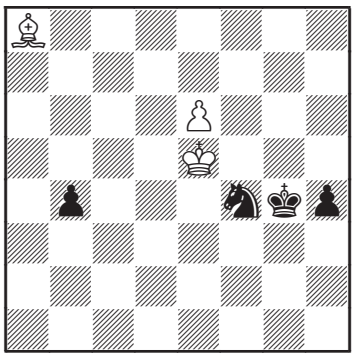
by Siegfried Hornecker

As I find it difficult to find new ideas to write about, this time I browsed through the book *ASymmetrie* by Martin Minski and Michael Schlosser and I present a small selection from it.

"ASymmetry" is defined as a symmetrical position with an asymmetrical solution. The authors, at the end of their monumental work, write that symmetrical solutions sometimes are also of great interest, citing for example the Bianchetti study in the Rc3 version (**EG**#01112) as well as the study by me and Martin Minski in *Schach* 2009, prize (**EG**#18876) and the "Fritz memorial cross" by Yuri Bazlov that won the Fritz-100 MT in 2012 (**EG**#18958).

While it must have been around 80 years old when I first saw it, the third study in the book (they are in chronological order) has now passed its centenary. It still should be reprinted, at least in the symmetrical position, in every comprehensive endgame theory book. Despite being reprinted as **EG**#01111 (i.e. directly prior to the Bianchetti study), we take the liberty of reprinting it here.

S.1 Alexander Selezniev
Deutsches Wochenschach 23ix1917

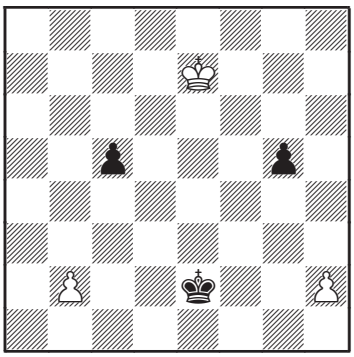


e5g4 0013.12 3/4 Win

1.Be4! S:e6 2.Bf5+ Kf3 3.Bxe6 Ke3! leads to a symmetrical position. As there is no symmetrical waiting move, the solution has to be asymmetrical, but the reason why only one move succeeds is interesting. 4.Kf6? Kf4 5.Kg6 Kg3 6.Kf5 h3 7.Ke4 h2 closes an important diagonal. Of course the solution **4.Kd6! Kd4 5.Kc6! Kc3 6.Kd5 b3 7.Ke4 b2** also closes a diagonal, but it is not as important due to **8.Ba2 h3 9.Kf3 h2 10.Kg2** draws. The position in the try lacked the move 8.Bi2 to stop the h-pawn.

T. R. Dawson was a great propagator of "ASymmetry" and, nearly a century ago, *The Chess Amateur* held a thematic tourney. Henry A. Adamson submitted a few entries with pawn endgames, to which he gave motto names. He showed the difference between a Euclidean and Einsteinian triangle in the initial positions. I personally find non-Euclidean geometry fascinating if it has another touch to it, i.e. if it uses illusions or such. Video games can accomplish this in fascinating ways, but in real life some interesting examples exist as well. Impossible objects are possible to display if seen from a specific angle, as the famous Penrose triangle sculpture proves. Three of Adamson's pawn study submissions shared the 2nd to 4th place.

S.2 Henry A. Adamson
Asymmetry TT, *The Chess Amateur*
1923/1924, "The Triangle (Einsteinian)"



e7e2 0000.22 3/3 Win

1.Kd6! leads to two main variations:

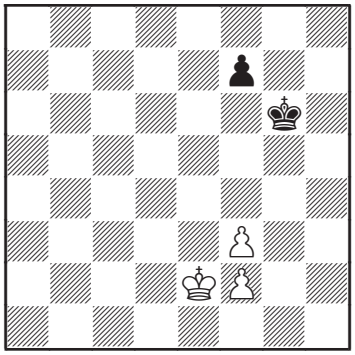
— **c4 2.Kd5 Kd3 3.h3 Kc2 4.Kxc4 Kxb2 5.Kd4 Kb3 6.Ke5 Kc4 7.Kf5 Kd5 8.Kxg5 Ke6 9.Kg6** wins, or:

— **Kf3 2.Kxc5 Kg2 3.b4 Kxh2 4.b5 g4 5.b6 g3 6.b7 g2 7.b8Q+** wins.

In the first variation, the fifth to seventh moves are not unique but their aim to get to g5 is. The second variation shows why 1.Kf6? Kd3 draws and, in the end, the queen fights a pawn on c2.

The first "King of pawn endgames" composed a small "ASymmetry" as well.

S.3 Nikolay D. Grigoriev
64 1936



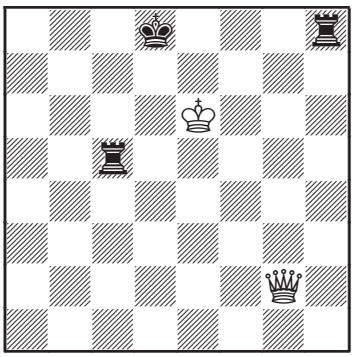
e2g6 0000.21 3/2 Win

After **1.f4! Kf6! 2.Kf3 Kf5** the symmetrical position is reached. White wins only with **3.Kg3! Kg6 4.Kg4 f6 5.f5+ Kh6 6.Kf4 Kh5 7.f3! Kh6 8.Ke3! Kg7 9.Ke4 Kf7 10.Kd5 Ke7 11.Kc6** wins. The other main variation runs **4… f5+ 5.Kf3 Kf6 6.Ke3! wins** with another asymmetrical move. After 3.Ke3? Black would play the first main variation's mirror with 4.-f6 and White lacks the space for 11.Ki6 (**EG**#00951b).

So what should I do with this knowledge? For one, improving old endgame studies might be an option…

(S.4) After **1.Qa8+ Rc8 2.Qa5+ Ke8 3.Qe5 Rg8 4.Qh5+! Kd8 5.Qa5+ Ke8 6.Qe5!** a 1949 Prokes study is reached. White wins after **6…Ra8 7.Qb5+ Kf8 8.Kf6! Rh8 9.Qc5+ Kg8 10.Qd5+** and **11.Qxa8** mate.

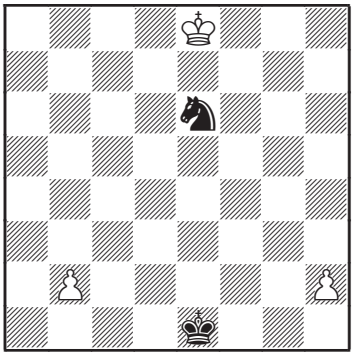
S.4 Valery Khortov
Shakhmaty v SSSR 1978, after Prokes 1949



e6d8 1600.00 2/3 Win

… but composing new studies is also a viable idea.

S.5 Jarl Henning Ulrichsen
Schach 2021



e8e1 00003.20 3/2 Win

1.b4 Ke2 2.Kf7 Sd8+ 3.Kg6 Kf4 4.h4 Kf4 5.b5! Ke5 6.b6 Kd6 7.Kf6 wins.

The draw variations are rather complex here and not related to the main variation, for example 1.h4? Ke2 2.Kd7 Sf4! draws while 2… Sf8+ would lose here.

Jarl Henning Ulrichsen specialized in the "ASymmetry" field, among others.

p.s. Martin Minski drew attention to two recent "Asymmetry" studies. One by Arpad Rusz, winning 1st prize in the 2017-2019 *Tehtävänieka* ty (elsewhere in this issue), and a study by Michael Schlosser getting a special HM in the provisional award of the Krikheli MT. Keep an eye open on the next issues!

History

The All-Union Chess Section Tourney 1925-1926 (part 1)

by Alain Pallier

*After the Russian Revolution (1917), the restart of chess life in the new country commonly called Soviet Russia (1917-1922) and officially Soviet Union from 1922, was slow. There were chess tournaments from 1920 but no composing tourney before 1924. All three magazines (*Shakhmatny Listok, Shakhmaty *and* 64*) organized their tourneys,* Shakhmaty *being the first with a formal one. The 1925 Moscow super-tournament (Nov-Dec 1925) brought attention to the Soviet chess scene, a good opportunity for organizing composing tourneys.*

The tourney, for two-movers, three-movers and studies, was announced in *64* (30vii1925). Its organizer was the chess section of the All-Union Council on Physical and Sports (Всесоюзный совет физической культуры in Russian). Entries had to be received by November 1st. The award in the study section, by Nikolaï Grigoriev, can be found in *64* no. 9-10 (30v1926): the diagrams of 15 studies followed Grigoriev's report.

With 49 entries and 22 participants (9 from the Soviet Union, 13 from other countries), the tourney was a relative success. The first *Shakmatny Listok* tourney, announced some months earlier (i1925, closure date 15v1925), had received 46 entries, with a total of 22 composers (12 from USSR- counting the Platovs as one unity – and 9 foreigners). Relative only, because among the 49, 10 had been sent by an unknown composer, W. Dröge – his name did not pass into posterity and his entries were very weak. In Italy, the only other tourney organized in the same period (*L'Italia Scacchistica*, award iv1926) attracted 19 composers with exactly the same number of entries (49).

Several famous names were absent (e.g. Mattison, Rinck, Réti and, in the USSR, Troitzky and the Platov brothers – all of them, except Réti, had taken part in at least one of the tourneys mentioned above). Among the composers of the new generation, several were beginners who had only composed a handful of studies in 1925: Bron, Kaminer, Halberstadt…

The tourney was formal and each entry had its motto chosen by the composer. Grigoriev commented on each awarded study, explaining the reason for his choice; he also gave information about unsound studies and about the correct studies he did not find good enough to include in the award.

Here is his provisional award:

1st prize: M. Havel (Czechoslovakia)

2nd prize: K.A.L (L.) Kubbel (USSR)

3rd prize: F.J. Prokop (Czechoslovakia)

4th prize: K. Runquist (Sweden)

5th prize: K.A.L (L.) Kubbel

6th prize: L. Prokeš (Czechoslovakia)

1st HM: L.B. Zalkind (USSR)

2nd HM: 'unknow author'

3rd HM: V.A. Bron (USSR)

4th HM: V.A. Bron (USSR)

5th HM: R. Bianchetti (Italy)

commended: L.B. Zalkind, F. Simkhovich (USSR), V.I. Ivanova (USSR), S. Gliaz (?) (Estonia).

This last name should probably read Klas (this unknown composer from Reval, the former name of Tallinn, took part in all 3 sections and his name is not identically spelled in the respective lists of participants).

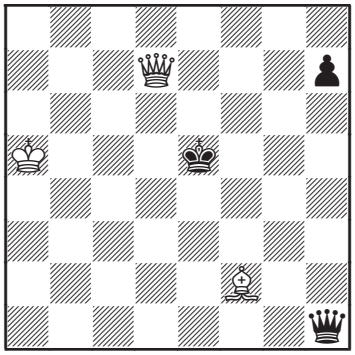
We also know who took part but were unsuccessful: S. Levman (with one study), S. Kaminer (1), V. Halberstadt (3), Y. Brenev (3), V. Kosek (1), E. Zepler (1), S. Clausen (1). Rewarded composers also had some other studies

that were not retained in the award: Prokeš (2 studies), Zalkind (3), Simkhovich (2), Bron (2), Klas (2), Bianchetti (1) and Ivanova (1).

The tourney was a success for Czech composers, who were very active (especially Prokop) in this period. Grigoriev was a classic composer and it is not surprising that he chose Havel's miniature for first prize, with its echoed mates.

But it soon appeared that there was a problem with the Havel study. In his column of *Shakhmatny Listok* (15viii1926), Leonid Kubbel pointed out a serious dual.

P.1 M. Havel
1st prize All-Union Chess Section,
64, 1925-1926



a5e5 4010.01 3/3 Win

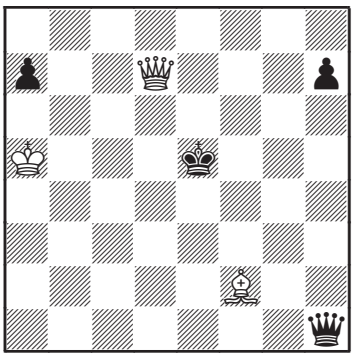
I begin with Havel's solution: **1.Bg3+ Kf6 2.Bh4+ Ke5** (Kg6 3.Qe6+ Kg7 4.Bf6+ etc.) **3.Qg7+**, and:

— **Ke6** (Kf4 4.Qh6+ and White wins) **4.Qe7+ Kf5 5.Qf6+ Kg4 6.Qg5+** and White wins, or:

— **Kd6 4.Qe7+** (Losses of time: 4.Qf6+?! Kd5 5.Qf5+ Kd6 6.Qf8+ Ke5 7.Qg7+ Kd6 or 4.Qh6+?! Kd5 5.Qh5+ Ke6) **Kc6 5.Qe8+ Kc5 6.Bf2+ Kd6 7.Bg3+ Kc5 8.Qb5+ Kd4 9.Bf2+ Kc3 10.Be1+ Kd4 11.Qb2+ Kc5 12.Qb6+ Kc4 13.Qb4+ Kd3 14.Qc3+ Ke2 15.Qd2+** and White wins.

The unsoundness is here, in B-line : 5.Qe6+ Kc7 6.Qb6+ Kd7 7.Qd8+ Ke6 8.Qe7+ etc. and White wins. Kubbel proposed adding a black pawn on a7 so that 5.Qe6+ Kc7 6.Qb6+ would no longer be possible (intended solution unchanged).

P.2 M. Havel
1st prize All-Union Chess Section,
64, 1925-1926 (version)

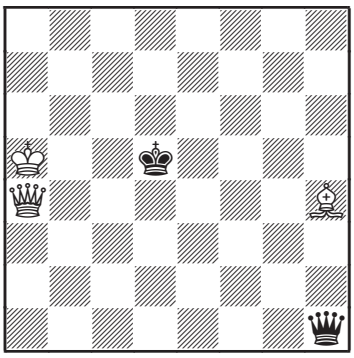


a5e5 4010.02 3/4 Win?

The solution is intended as before but after **1.Bg3+ Kf6 2.Bh4+ Ke5 3.Qg7+ Kd6 4.Qe7+ Kc6 5.Qe8+ Kc5 6.Bf2+ Kd6 7.Bg3+ Kc5 8.Qb5+ Kd4 9.Bf2+ Kc3 10.Be1+ Kd4 11.Qb2+**, instead of 11…Kc4? that loses, 11…Kc5! draws as shown by the strong solver V. Proskurnin in *Shakhmatny Listok* (20ix926). Kubbel concluded that the study could not be saved. Note that 6…Kc4 is another drawing move.

In December 1928, Havel published in *Československý šach* a correction ('oprava') of his 1st prize:

P.3 M. Havel
Československý šach 1928



a5d5 4010.00 3/2 Win

So, apparently, with this 6-man setting, Havel had succeeded in eliminating the black pawn! For many years thereafter, this study was invariably reproduced by writers-composers. We find it in Lommer's anthology (*1234 Modern End-game Studies* 1938 and 1968), in Chéron's *Lehr- und Handbuch der Endspiele* (vol 3, first edition, 1958), in Kasparyan anthologies (*555 Etyud-miniatur* 1975; *Zamechatelnyie*

Etyudy 1982). They all gave a (different) wrong source (Lommer: *Schach in USSR*; Chéron: *Schachmatny*; Kasparyan: *Shakhmaty*). In *České granáty* (1975), a book that collects works by Havel (articles and problems/studies), the 1928 study is no.1677, with the '1c' (i.e. 1st prize) mention and the date of… 1xi1925, i.e. the closure date of the tourney ! It was only in 2007 in *Suomen Tehtäväniekat* that it was shown that the line beginning with 1.Qb5+ was a second solution but Pauli Perkonoja, who mentions the cook, writes that the discovery was made by Bruno Breider (1907-1995), years before the EGTB. True, the new setting allows a second solution beginning with 1.Qb5+ Kd6 2.Qb8+! Ke6 3.Qe8 (Qg8)+ and White wins.

In no. 58 of the *Bulletin Ouvrier des Echecs* (1951), for the 70th birthday of the great Czech composer, Halberstadt reproduced the 1928 version. Here is it, as presented in Halberstadt's article (he underlines the echo-moves):

1.Qd7+, and:

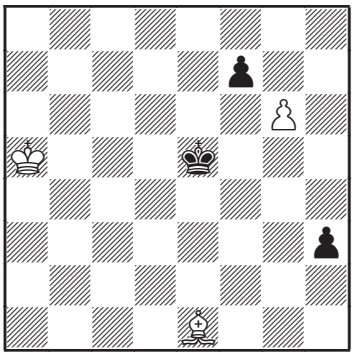
— Ke5 **2.Qg7+!!** Kd6 (Kf4 **3.Qh6+** Ke5 **4.Bg3+)** 3.Qf8+!! Kd7 4.Qd8+ Ke6 5.Qe7+ Kf5 6.Qf6+ Kg4 7.Qg5+ wins, or:

— Kc5 2.Bf2+ Kc4 3.Qb5+ Kc3 4.Be1+!! Kd4 **5.Qb2+!!** Kc5 (Ke3 **6.Qc1**+ Kd4 **7.Bf2+** wins) 6.Qb6+ Kc4 7.Qb4+ Kd3 8.Qc3+ Ke2 9.Qd2+ wins.

At last, in 2018, 93 years after the composition of the first version of Havel's work, the study found its final form (I don't consider as appropriate M. Garcia's correction in 2012, with 2 additional black knights on e1 and g7 that are captured without moving during the solution).

(P.4) 1.g7 h2 2.Bg3+! (Forcing the bK to go to f6) **Kf6 3.g8Q h1Q 4.Bh4+ Ke5** (Kf5 5.Qxf7+ Ke5 6.Qg7+ Ke6 7.Qe7+ Kf5 8.Qf6+ Kg4 9.Qg5+ Kh3 10.Qg3 mate) **5.Qh8+!** (5.Qe8+? Kf4! 6.Qxf7+ Ke3! and White draws) **Ke6 6.Qe8+** (6.Qc8+?! Ke5 7.Qh8+ is a loss of time) **Kd6 7.Bg3+** (Here again queen checks are all losses of time) **Kc5 8.Qb5+ Kd4 9.Bf2+ Kc3 10.Be1+** (10.Qc5 (Qe5)+?! Kb3 11.Qe3+ - 11.Qb5+ repeats - 11…Kc2 12.Qe2+ Kc3 13.Be1+ Kd4 14.Qb2+ must be considered as a loss of time) **Kd4** (Kc2 11.Qe2+ Kc1 12.Qd2+ Kb1 13.Qd3+ Kb2 14.Bc3+ Kb3 15.Bd4+ Ka2 16.Qc2+ Ka3 17.Bc5 mate) **11.Qb2+ Kc5 12.Qb6+ Kc4 13.Qb4+** (13.Qb5+?! Kd4 14.Qb2+ Kc4 15.Qb4+ is another loss of time) **Kd3 14.Qc3+ Ke2 15.Qd2+ Kf1 16.Qf2** mate.

P.4 V. Kozyrev
Special honourable mention
Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsya 2018, after Havel 1926.



a5e5 0010.12 3/3 Win

A very small change (h7 pawn moved to f7) is enough for a perfect correction (the 'imperfections' at moves 14 and 15, already in Havel's study, cannot be considered as serious).

If there was no formal final award, as it appears, was Havel entitled to consider that his corrected study (corrected, at least according to him) still deserved the first prize in the tourney? Can we imagine that composers like Havel and Kubbel were not in contact, by sending each other letters (in the mid-twenties, I believe that it was possible, the doors of Soviet Union were not fully closed)?

In any case, in his 1938 collection, Kubbel's second prize is given as the first prize (and his second prize-winner study in the award also gains one place in the ranking to 4th prize). Kubbel did not make any comment about this. Timothy Whitworth, in his book about Kubbel, wrote: '… it appears that the award was changed when Havel's entry was found faulty'. This wording shows that Timothy did not succeed in finding any trace of the final award. But there is even worse: as far I am aware, solutions of the rewarded studies were *never* published in *64!*

The awards of the two- and three-movers sections were presented in the same way. First the report and the diagrams, in the same issue. For instance, for two-movers, diagrams appeared in the January issue. The final award, after publication of solutions, was modified in November. So everything was ok for these sections. For the study section, could the final award of the study tourney have been published elsewhere, with solutions, e.g. in a booklet?

But several clues seem to confirm that there were no solutions published at the time:

— *Československý šach* reproduced no less than 9 studies, soon, in 1926, first in July (the six prizes) and then in October (three honourable mentions). But only 3 solutions were given in April 1927, for the studies by Havel, Prokop and Prokeš, i.e. solutions that Czech composers could supply themselves.

— In his collection, for both studies by Bron (3rd and 4th hm), Marcel Lamare gives two wrong solutions. Clearly he had no access to any printed solution and had to try to find them himself. In some other cases he found solutions (e.g. for both Zalkind studies), but sometimes he did not.

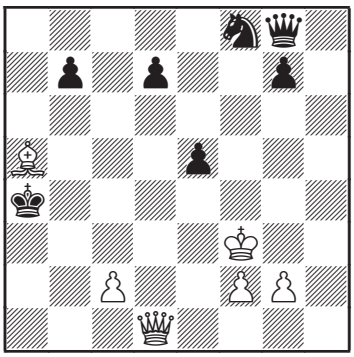
How did we know about the studies from this tourney? Some were reproduced in other magazines, in the USSR (both Kubbel's studies in *Shakhmatny Listok* for instance) and outside, for instance, as mentioned, in *Československý šach*.

Some studies were selected in collections or anthologies like Lommer's *1234*, published in 1938 or later (the Bron study that got 2nd hm was selected in *Sovietsky Shakhmatny Etyud* in 1955). But such a disparity of sources also generates mistakes. Just to show how confusing can be Lommer's *1234*, here are the rankings and the sources that you find in this anthology:

Havel a5e5 I. Pr « Schach in U.S.S.R » 1926, Kubbel f3a4 I. Pr « All Union of Chess Sections » 1926, Prokop d4-h7 III Pr. « Schach in U.S.S.R. » 1925, Rundquest (sic) b3c1 III Pr. « V.S.L.S. » 1926, Prokeš f5d8 IV. Pr. « 64 » 1926. What a mess!

Here is, at last, the Kubbel study, the true winner of the tourney:

P.5 L.Kubbel
2nd prize (1st prize) All-Union Chess Section, *64*, 1925-1926



f3a4 4013.34 6/7 Win

1.c4+ Kxa5 2.Qb3 (The natural defence (2… Ka6) fails to 3.Qa2+ Kb6 4.c5+ winning the bQ) **Qf7+ 3.Ke2 Qh5+ 4.g4! Qxg4+ 5.Kf1** (the bK must now move to a6) **Ka6 6.Qa4+ Kb6 7.c5+** and White wins.

This time White wins the queen along the rank.

As usual with L. Kubbel, clear, neat and precise.

(to be continued)

Computer

8-man endings

by Marc Bourzutschky
and Emil Vlasák

Moore's empirical law states that every 18 months the performance of equally expensive computing technology doubles. More generally, computing power is expected to increase exponentially over time. Applied to chess endgame tablebases, or EGTBs, this suggests that since adding another piece increases the search space exponentially by a factor of about 64, we should expect roughly a constant time interval between n-piece and (n+1)-piece EGTBs.

Thirty years ago, Lewis Stiller made the first experiments with 6-piece endings, and fifteen years ago Marc Bourzutschky (USA, hardware) and Yakov Konoval (Russia, software), referred as YK/MB, published the first results of their research on 7-piece tablebases. Karsten Müller and Yakov Konoval recently published a 4-volume endgame series that includes extensive discussion of 7-piece endings. Now Marc has decided that the time has come to take on the next big challenge, 8-piece endgames.

Software

Extending the EGTB algorithm from 7 to 8 pieces required a number of enhancements. Most importantly, the extended algorithm uses multi-threading to speed up the search. Again, the intuitive DTC (Distance To Conversion) metric is used, i.e. the distance to capture/promotion or mate is stored with the position. Castling and the 50-move rule are ignored; we tolerate such minor things for pioneering work. But the devil is in the huge numbers that are associated with tablebases. Increasing the number of pieces always needs two steps. It starts with pawnless constellations, where symmetries greatly reduce computational and capacity requirements. Only later, in the second phase, we move to pawn positions. There are 1632 possible 8-piece constellations without pawns, and a total of 4795 if pawns are included. There are same- and different-coloured bishops for both sides; each combination has a separate table and files. They are labelled using Ken Thompson's notation with a four-digit number after the material configuration to indicate the relative colours of the bishops.

Hardware

What hardware is needed for this kind of madness? While some of the computations were done with a basic home computer with 64 GB of RAM, the bulk of the work was done with two mid-sized workstations with 1.5 TB RAM and up to 24 threads each. As well as a large RAM, significant hard disk storage is required. For example, the ending QRB-QBS has about 20 trillion legal positions, and on-the-fly compression is needed to perform the generation with 16 TB SATA disks. Once computed, EGTBs can be moved to cheaper off-line storage.

Record length positions

Currently, Marc has generated over 15 percent of the pawnless constellations, which already contain many of the constellations of potential interest. Even this small subset of 8-piece EGTBs generated so far occupies about 200 TB and contains about 4 times as many legal positions as the total of all 7-piece tablebases.

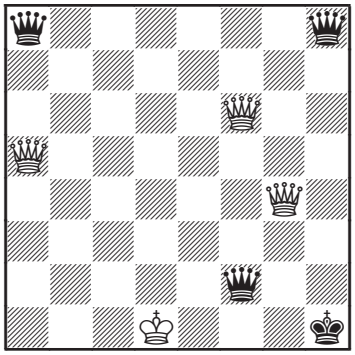
Identifying record-length-win positions is a popular EGTB application. In EGTB 6, this was a position from the constellation RS-SS, where 243 moves are needed to win. This record was significantly surpassed by YK/MB in EGTB7 with QS-RBS with an incredible

517-move win. This may be an absolute record for the entire game of chess; the chess board becomes so crowded that adding more pieces may not lead to longer winning lines due to the increased likelihood of shortening captures. Marc's tests so far suggest that the 8-piece wins will not exceed the 400-move length achieved in the RRS-RBB_0020 constellation, i.e. with the same-coloured bishops. The normal record position without promoted pieces is a RRBS-QR position with a length of 360 moves. However, surprises are still not ruled out for EGTB9. In fact, with piece strengths of 9, 5, 3, 3, the difference for 8-piece is always even, while for 9-piece it will be odd, giving this constellation a dynamic similar to 7-piece.

Zugzwangs

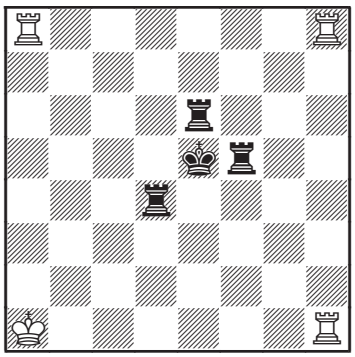
Other beacons in the galaxy of positions are mutual zugzwangs. Marc generates their lists in EPD files. Árpád Rusz picked out two fun positions.

BV.1 M. Bourzutschky 2021



d1h1 9000.00 4/4 mutual zugzwang

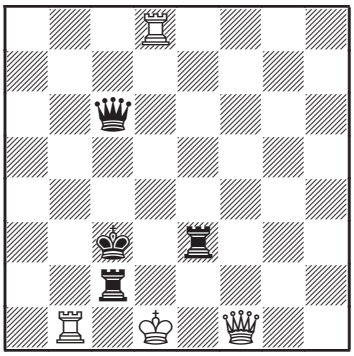
BV.2 M. Bourzutschky 2021



a1e5 0900.00 4/4 mutual zugzwang

The so-called full-point reciprocal zugzwangs**,** where the right to move decides the whole point, have a privileged position. Marc has found one very interesting case containing major pieces only. Since there are no examples with a smaller number of pieces, the only possible such configuration without promoted pieces is QRR-QRR. Play by both sides is not elementary but is still comprehensible.

BV.3 M. Bourzutschky 2021



d1c3 4800.00 4/4
Whoever is to move loses

WTM must play with the b-rook or lose immediately. Simple is 1.Ra1 Kb2! After **1.Rb7** the strong move **1…Rb2!** follows. But not 1…Qxb7? 2.Rc8+! Qxc8 3.Qf6+! Re5 4.Qf3+! Kb4 5.Qb3+ with stalemate or perpetual. The text move creates a threat Qa4+, which is more valuable than a rook. **2.Rc8 Rd2+!** (Qxc8?; Qf6+) **3.Kc1 Qxc8.** Similar is **1.Rb5 Rb2! 2.Rxb2** There is no perpetual after 2.Rc5+ Qxc5 3.Qf6+ Qe5 4.Rc8+ Kb3 5.Qf7+ Qe6 6.Rb8+ Ka2. **2…Qa4+! 3.Kc1 Qa1+! 4.Rb1 Qa3+! 5.Kd1 Qa4+**! After the strongest defence **1.Rbb8** Black does not have 1…Rb2? 2.Rdc8 but must find the elegant **1…Ra2!** which eliminates all stalemate and perpetual tricks: **2.Rb3+ Kxb3 3.Qf7+ Re6 4.Rb8+ Ka3 5.Qa7+ Qa4+** wins.

BTM has only queen moves**.** After **1…Qe6** White has the nice move **2.Rb3+!** with two lines: 2… Qxb3 3.Qf6+! Kc4 4.Qd4+ Kb5 5.Rb8+, or 2…Kxb3 3.Qb5+! Kc3 4.Qc5+! Qc4 5.Qxe3+! Kb2 6.Qb6+! Ka1 7.Ra8+! Ra2 8.Qf6+! Kb1 9.Rb8+. The best move is **1…Qc5 2.Qf6+ Re5** White has to find here a quiet elegant move **3.Qg7!!** preventing 3…Qg1+ and threating 4.Rd7. **3…Qe3** 3…Kc4 4.Qf7+ Kc3

5.Rb3 mate. **4.Rc8+ Kd4 5.Rb4+ Kd3 6.Rb3+ Kd4 7.Rxe3** wins.

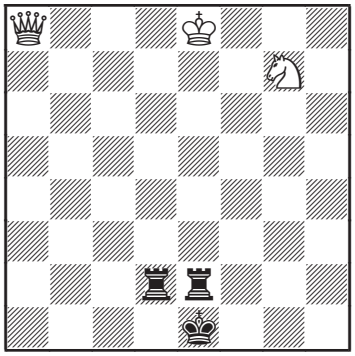
General wins

A (pawnless) constellation is considered a general win if the stronger side wins most of the quiet positions. Such knowledge is usually associated with the development of EGTB and several ones were a surprise to classical chess theory. There are several known general wins: BB-S, Q-BB, Q-BS, RMM-RM (M is a minor piece), RRM-RR. The win of RBS-RB with opposite-coloured bishops was even known in the pre-computer era, but YK/MB proved the generalization to all minor pieces. Particularly unexpected was RSS-RB.

Marc supplied an Excel file with detailed 8-piece statistics and Emil asked if it would be possible to recognize 8-piece general wins automatically. This has sparked an interesting discussion about general wins but the idea itself is not a good one. In fact, a general win is in principle a part of chess strategy and has its nature as a useful but imprecise heuristic.

John Beasley recalled problems with the QS-RR constellation, whose assessment changed several times even when EGTBs were available. The rooks could hold on by doubling on the third rank with the king on the side closer to the edge but, if this fails, they will lose. So the constellation must be considered complex, as the following interesting position illustrates as well.

BV.4 John Beasley & Emil Vlasák 2021



e8e1 1601.00 3/3 WTM wins,
but with Sg8 it is drawn

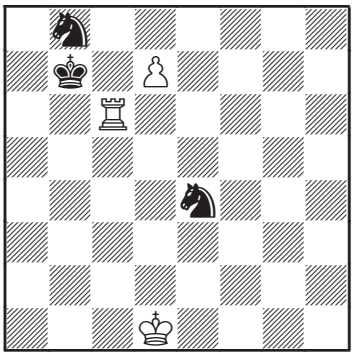
The difference is that the knight on g7 reaches f5 in one move, where it interferes with Black setting up a third-rank defence. Given the difficulty of reaching the third-rank defence from many positions, John Beasley suggests that it is unclear whether the third-rank defence should be considered an exception to an otherwise general win, or whether the availability of the third-rank defence is common enough to label the ending a general draw, as suggested by John Nunn in the 2nd edition of his book *Secrets of Pawnless Endings*.

Today it is clear that one extra minor piece with sufficient accompaniment is enough to win. And what about an extra exchange? RMM-MMM (again, M for minor piece) is still a draw and similarly RM-MM. RRM-RMM gives significantly higher chances than RR-RM, but it is still not a general win. The similar situation RBS-Q is a draw but RRBS-QR is significantly better, but not a general win. And maybe an extra exchange needs even bigger accompaniment to assert itself? And even if it did, would it have any practical significance?

Paradoxes

In rare situations, two weaker pieces are more successful than a queen.

BV.5 Emil Vlasák and Jaroslav Polášek
Československý šach 2016



d1b7 0106.10 3/3 scheme, White wins

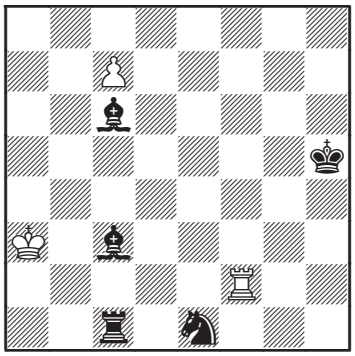
Emil had already foreseen such a possibility in a 1997 article but, without EGTB6, he missed the sound position. In BV.5 all is correct – **1.d8Q? Sxc6** is only a draw but **1.d8S+!** wins in 101 moves.

The first 7-piece SSSS-Q was generated by Marc in 2004 and it confirmed the old Troitzky results that it is a general win. However, the RB team (constellation SSSS-RB) will hold a draw fairly easily, because the stronger side cannot prevent the exchange of the bishop for one of knights. But SSSS-RS and BSSS-RB are general wins regardless of the bishop's colours.

Studies

8-piece study positions without pawns comprise only about 2.5% of all 8-piece study positions. In addition, many 8-piece study positions without pawns are intentionally resolved quickly by exchanges to 6-piece positions, so perhaps it is not surprising that the tablebases reveal only a small number of new cooks.

BV.6 A. Skripnik
1st/3rd prize Ellerman-120 MT 2014

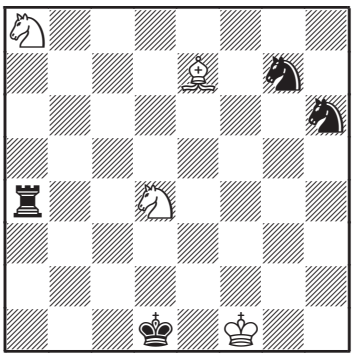


a3h5 0463.10 3/5 Win?

Intended was: **1.c8Q Ra1+2.Ra2 .Sc2+ 3.Kb3 Bd5+ 4.Kxc3 Bxa2 5.Kb2! Bb1 6.Qf5+ Kh4 Kg5 Kf6 9.Qd5 Ke7 10.Qc6 Kd8 11.Qb7 Ke8 12.Qc7 Kf8 13.Qd7 Kg8 14.Qe7 Kh8 15.Qf7** wins (**EG**#19998).

Black's rescue based on Lolli's BBxQ draw is interesting: **3…Rxa2!** with: a) **4.Kxa2 Bd5+ 5.Kb1 Sa3+! 6.Kc1 Bf6! 7.Qh3+ Kg5 8.Qxa3 Bf7** Lolli draw, or b) **4.Qh3+ Kg6 5.Kxa2 Bf6 6.Qd3+ Kf7 7.Qxc2 Bd5+ 8.Ka3 Kg7**, or c) 4.**Qf5+ Kh4!** (Kh6? 5.Kxa2 Bd5+ 6.Kb1 Sb4 7.Qh3+) **5.Qf4+ Kh5!** (Kh3? 6.Kxa2 Bd5+ 7.Kb1 Sb4 8.Qe3+) **6.Kxa2 Bd5+ 7.Kb1 Sb4!** Or also **3…Bg7!**

BV.6 C. M. Bent
The Best of Bent 1993



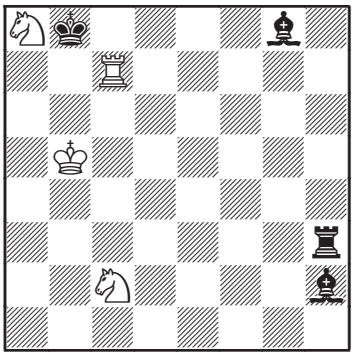
f1d1 0318.00 4/4 Draw?

Intended was: **1.Bf6 Se8 2.Sb6 Ra6 3.Bd8 Sf7 4.Sd5 Sxd8 5.Sb3 Re6 6.Sc3+ Kc2 7.Sd4+** draw.

It seems that EGTB6 on a local drive is sufficient for Stockfish to find Black's win with several only-moves: **1…Sgf5! 2.Sb6 Se3+! 3.Kf2 Seg4+! 4.Kf1 Ra7! 5.Bg5 Sf5!**

So far Marc has found only three examples where the cook seems to be non-trivial.

BV.7 R. Becker
special prize Akobia-80 MT 2017



b5b8 0462.00 4/4 Draw

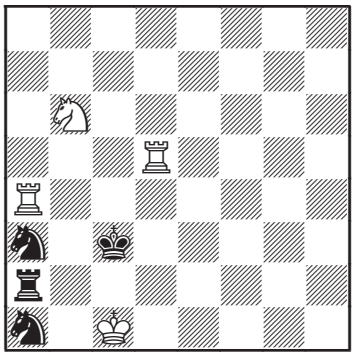
Intended was: **1.Rd7 Be6 2.Rd8+ Kb7 3.Sd4 Ba2 4.Kc5 Rc3+ 5.Kb5 Rc1 6.Sf5 Rb1+ 7.Kc5 Bg1+ 8.Sd4 Rd1 9.Sb6 Rc1+ 10.Kb5 Rb1+ 11.Kc5 Rxb6 12.Rd7+ Ka6 13.Ra7+ Kxa7** draw (**EG**#21545).

But **6…Bc4+ 7.Kb4 Be6!** This is the unique winning move according to the EGTB8. The path to victory is very narrow. **8.Sd4 Rb1+! 9.Kc3 Bg4! 10.Rg8 Rc1+! 11.Kd2 Bf4+ 12.Kd3 Rg1! 13.Ke4 Bh2! 14.Ke3 Bd7! 15.Rh8 Rg3+! 16.Ke4 Rh3 17.Rd8 Rh7 18.Kd3 Bh3 19.Kc3 Be5 20.Re8 Bf6 21.Rf8 Be7 22.Rg8 Bd7 23.Kd2**

Bc5 24.Kc3 Rh4 25.Se2 Bc6 26.Rd8 Be7 27.Rg8 Rh8 28.Rxh8 Bf6+ 29.Sd4 Bxh8.

Another way to win is **7…Rc1+**.

BV.8 A. Botokanov
Shakhmaty v Kirgizzi 1981



c1c3 0507.00 4/4 Win

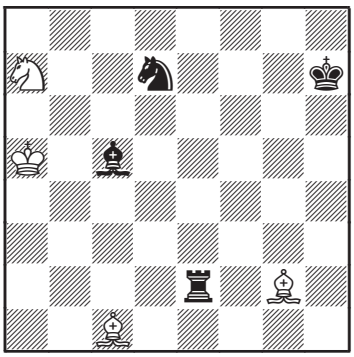
1.Rc5+ Kb3 2.Rc3+ Kxc3 3.Sd5+ Kd3 4.Sb4+ Kc3 5.Sxa2+ Kb3 6.Rb4+ Kxa2 7.Rb2 mate. This position is an 8-piece tablebase win not intended by the author. This win seems to be beyond human and current engine understanding.

First: Black holds on after **4…Kd4! 5.Sxa2+ Sc4.**

Second: The fastest solution according to the 8-piece tablebase is **1.Rd7 Sb3+ 2.Kd1 Kb2 3.Rda7! Ra1+ 4.Ke2 Sc1+ 5.Kf2 Sd3+ 6.Ke3 Sc5 7.Rb4+! Sb3 8.Sa4+! Ka2 9.Rh4 Re1+ 10.Kf4 Rf1+ 11.Ke4 Re1+ 12.Kd5 Rd1+ 13.Ke5! Rd3 14.Ra8 Sd2 15.Sc5 Sf3+ 16.Kf6 Re3 17.Rb4 Se1 18.Sa4 Rf3+ 19.Ke6 Re3+ 20.Kd5 Rd3+ 21.Kc6 Sec2 22.Rb2+! Ka1 23.Rh8 Rd1** (23…Sd4+ 24.Kb7 Rd1 25.Rd8 Rd3 26.Ka8 Rb3 27.Rxb3) **24.Kc5 Rg1 25.Rh5 Rc1 26.Rh2 Rg1 27.Rb8 Rg5+ 28.Kd6 Sb5+ 29.Ke7 Sca3 30.Rd8 Rg4 31.Sc5 Rb4 32.Rd3 Rb2 33.Rxb2 Kxb2.**

(BV.9) Intended was: **1.Bh3 Ra2+ 2.Kb5 Rxa7 3.Bf5+ Kg8 4.Be6+ Kh7 5.Bf5+ Kg7 6.Bxd7 Rxd7 7.Bb2+ Bd4 8.Kc6 Rd8 9.Kc7 Rd5 10.Kc6 Rc5+ 11.Kd6 Rc4 12.Kd5** draw.

BV.9 H. Kallström
Tidskrift för Schack 1977



a5h7 0354.00 4/4 Draw

This position is really lost in 26 for White, but the winning line is very difficult **1…Se5! 2.Sc8 Kg7! 3.Bf4 Bf2! 4.Bf5 Be1+! 5.Ka6 Ra2+ 6.Kb7 Rb2+ 7.Ka6 Kf6 8.Sd6 Sc6! 9.Bh3 Sb4+ 10.Ka7 Bf2+ 11.Ka8 Bd4 12.Se4+ Kg7 13.Bg3 Sc6 14.Bd7 Se5 15.Be6 Kf8 16.Bh3 Ke8 17.Sd6+ Kd8 18.Bf1 Rb1 19.Be2 Rb3 20.Bf4 Rb2 21.Sb5 Kc8 22.Sa7+ Kd7 23.Bb5+ Kc7 24.Bg3 Ra2 25.Ba6 Kb6.**

You can find several other examples in Polášek's column in this **EG** issue.

Tablebases with pawns will probably be much more interesting. YK/MB are now working on subsets of 8-piece endings with pawns, where one pawn pair is blocked.

Links

http://www.arves.org/arves/index.php/en/latestnews/latest-news/2-ongecategoriseerd/1509-8-men-tablebase-first-explorations
The first report by Bourzutschky.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hhqMEklD5D-GDIP5DIUGrfPuGCkwXDTI
Supporting files.

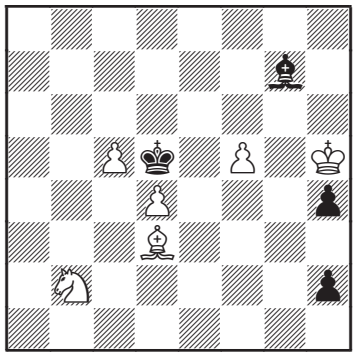
Quality Control

Quality control

by Jaroslav Polášek

Thank you, Martin Minski, for sending a correction of a study by E. Grosz.

P.1 E. Grosz
Tijdschrift 1938
correction Martin Minski



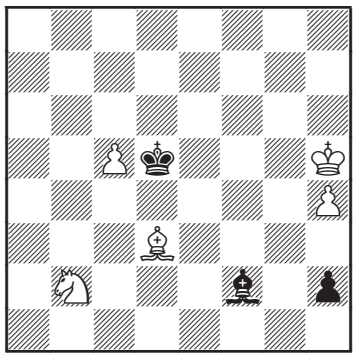
h5d5 0041.32 6/4 Draw

1.f6!! White prepares a stalemate rescue. **1…Bxf6** The capture is necessary (h1Q?; fxg7) **2.Sd1! Bxd4** (h1Q 3.Be4+! Kxe4/Qxe4 4.Sf2/Sc3+ - fork) **3.Se3+!** The knight must be sacrificed; otherwise the stalemate would not take place (Ba6? Kc6;) **Bxe3 4.Ba6 Kc6 5.Bd3!**, and:

— **h1Q 6.Be4+ Qxe4** stalemate.

— **Kd5 6.Ba6 Kc6 7.Bd3** with perpetual repetition.

P.1a E. Grosz
Tijdschrift 1938



h5d5 0041.21 5/3 Draw

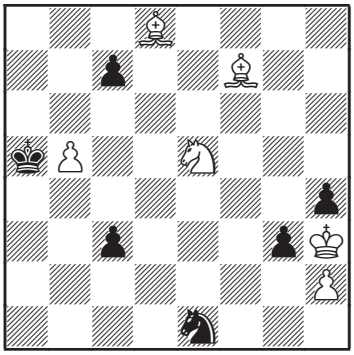
The original Grosz study had a serious dual, after **1.Sd1! Bd4 2.Se3 +! Bxe3 3.Ba6! Kc6** instead of the author's **4.Bd3** another move immediately draws: **4.Bf1** h1Q 5.Bg2 + Qxg2 stalemate, so there was no perpetual repetition.

It is a pity that the third fork 1…Be1 2.Bf1! h1Q 3.Bg2+ Qxg2 4.Se3+ could not be preserved in the correction.

The Minski correction ends with a model stalemate, but with the uneconomic bPh4. That is acceptable in mate problems, but in the study – where Black is the equal partner of White – it is a small defect after all. However, it could not be avoided in this construction.

I tried to adapt Grosz's theme with an economic stalemate.

P.2 Jaroslav Polášek
after E. Grosz



h3a5 0024.24 6/6 Draw

1…c2! (1…g2 2.Bxc7+ Kxb5 3.Sf3 c2 4.Bf4 draws) **2.Sc6+!** White prepares the destruction of bPc2 using a fork on d4. The moves 2.Bg5? g2 3.Sc6+ Ka4! 4.Bb3+ Kxb3 5.Sd4+ Kc4 6.Se2 Sf3! double attack 7.Kxg2 Sxg5 or 2.b6 cxb6 3.Sc6+ Ka6 4.Sb4+ (Bc4+ Kb7;) Ka7 5.Sxc2 g2 6.Sxe1 g1Q 7.Sf3 Qf1+ 8.Kg4 Qd3 are bad because the three white pieces don't have a proper coordination and cannot resist the bQ. **2…Ka4!** After

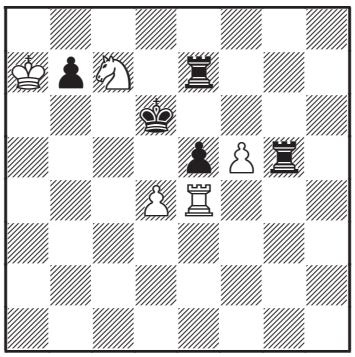
2…Kb6?? 3.Bg5 g2 4.Be3+ Kxb5 5.Sd4+, or 4…Kb7 5.Sa5+ Kb8 6.Sb3 White holds both pawns and even wins. **3.Bb3+! Kxb3 4.Sd4+ Kc3!** After 4…Ka4 5.Se2 g2 6.Bg5 Sf3 7.Be3 g1Q 8.Sxg1 Sxg1+ 9.Kxh4 White draws thanks to the fast h-pawn. **5.Sxc2** (5.Se2+? Kd2 6.Sg1 Ke3 7. hxg3 Kf2) **5…g2! 6.Sd4!** 6.Bf6+? Kxc2 7.Bd4 is too slow due to 7…Sf3!, e.g. 8.Bc5 g1Q 9.Bxg1 Sxg1+ 10.Kxh4 Kd3 11.Kg4 Ke4! 12.h4 Ke5 and bK holds the h-pawn with win. **6…Kxd4** Black must capture the knight (6…g1Q 7.Se2+; 6…Kd3? 7.Sf3! Sxf3 8.Kxg2 draws). **7.Bxc7 Kc5!** This is a modified Grosz's finale. **8.Bb8 Kb6 9.Be5**, and:

— **g1Q 10.Bd4+ Qxd4** stalemate, or:

— **Kc5 10.Bb8 Kb6 11.Be5** with perpetual repetition.

[HH considers having BTM here in the initial position to be a small blemish. Why not skip 1…c2 that contributes nothing?].

P.3 Igor Yarmonov & Jaroslav Polášek
after Kubbel and Benkő
original



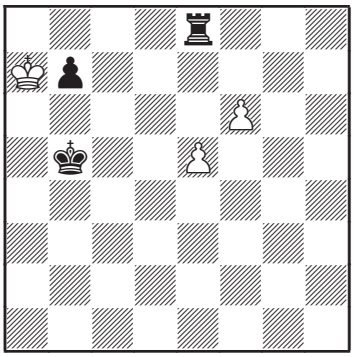
a7d6 0701.22 5/5 Draw

Igor Yarmonov has found an interesting idea joining two stalemates. I contributed to the study with minor improvements to the introduction: **1.Sb5+ Kc6 2.f6 Re8!** (Rf7 3.dxe5 Rg8 4.Sd6 is the simplest way to draw. e.g. Rd7 5.Rc4+ Kd5 6.Kb6 Rxd6+ 7.exd6 Kxc4 8.Kxb7 Kd5 9.Kc7 Ke6 10.d7) **3.Rxe5!** (3.dxe5? Kxb5 4.f7 Rf8 5.e6 Kc6 6.e7 Ra5 mate), and:

— **Rgxe5 4.dxe5 Kxb5** (see P3a – Leonid Kubbel) **5.f7 Rf8 6.e6 b6! 7.Kb7 Kc5 8.e7!** (8.Kc7? Kd5 9.Kd7 Ke5 10.Ke7 Ra8 11.Kd7 Kf6 12.e7 Kxf7) **Rxf7 9.Ka6 Rxe7** stalemate, or:

— **Rexe5 4.dxe5 Kxb5** (see P3b - Pál Benkő) **5.f7** (5.e6? Kc6 6.f7 Kc7 7.f8Q Ra5 mate) **Rf5 6.e6 Kc6 7.f8Q!** (7.e7?! Kc7! 8.e8S+ Kd7! 9.Kxb7 Rxf7 10.Sc7 Kd6) **Rxf8 8.e7 Rc8 9.e8Q+ Rxe8** stalemate.

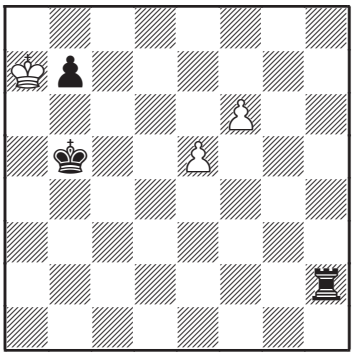
P.3a Leonid Kubbel
Tidskrift för Schack 1916



a7b5 0300.21 3/3 Draw

1.f7 Rf8 2.e6 b6! 3.Kb7 Kc5 4.e7! Rxf7 5.Ka6! Rxe7 stalemate.

P.3b Pál Benkő
EG153 2004,
version of Kubbel

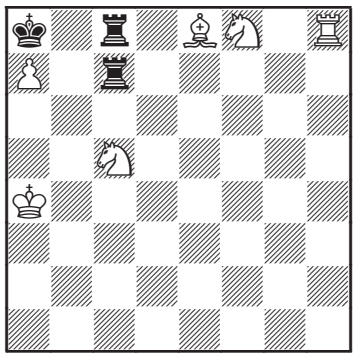


a7b5 0300.21 3/3 Draw

1.f7 Rf2 2.e6 Kc6 3.f8Q! Rxf8 4.e7 Rg8 5.e8Q+! Rxe8 stalemate.

Marc Bourzutschky has generated some 8-man EGTB's and has used them to test 8-man studies (see Computer News, elsewhere in this issue). In the list of unsound studies, I was interested in Gurvich's study, which I finally managed to correct.

P.4 Abram Gurvich
2nd prize *64* 1927
correction Jaroslav Polášek



a4a8 0712.10 6/3 Win

1.Sa6 Rxa7 2.Bc6+! (Bb5? Rf7;) **Rxc6 3.Sd7+ Kb7 4.Rb8+ Kxa6 5.Rb6+ Rxb6 6.Sc5** mate.

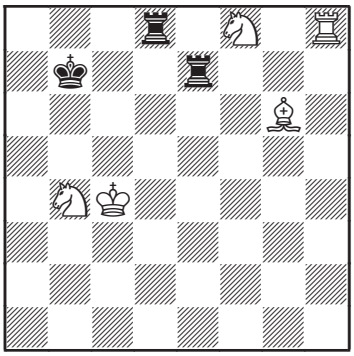
Abram Gurvich (1897–1962) published his study as an 8-man position without wPa7 and another small difference wRh8->g8. The study was unsound, Black draws by 1…Re7! 2.Bg6 Ka7! 3.Sb4 Rb7 (HH 2018, HHdbVI#80987), because wSf8 is pinned and eventually the exchange of the rooks creates a draw BSS-R constellation. Marc found out that here 2…Rb7 also draws.

In the fixed version, the defence **1…Re7 2.Bg6 Kxa7 3.Sb4 Rb7** will no longer help Black. The little shift wRg8->h8 completely changed the situation, White has the study win **4.Be4! Rf7 5.Kb5!** (5.Ka5? Rc5+ 6.Ka4 Rc8 with repetition) **Rb8+ 6.Ka5 Rbxf8 7.Sc6+ Kb7 8.Sd8+! Ka7** (after 8…Kc8 9.Sxf7 the bRf8 is pinned; 8…Kc7 9.Se6+ fork) **9.Sxf7 Rxf7 10.Ra8** mate.

Black will not be saved even by **3…Ra8**, White can break out of the pin on 8th rank in time. **4.Kb5!** (Kb3? Rb8;) **Re5+ 5.Kc4 Rc8+ 6.Kb3!** (6.Kd4? Rb5 7.Sd5 Rd8 8.Rh7+ Rb7 draws) **Re3+ 7.Ka4** (wK circled his wSb4) **Ra8** (Re7 8.Rh5 Rxf8 9.Sc6+ fork) **8.Sd5 win**, e.g. Re5 9.Sc7 Rd8 10.Rh7 Rd4+ 11.Kb3 Re3+ 12.Kc2 Kb6 13.Sfe6.

The extra wPa7 is necessary, without it Black draws **2…Kb7! 4.Kb5 Re5+ 5.Kc4 Re7!** (see P.5). This is the key arrangement of black pieces. White can't release the knight f8, Black builds a fortress. **6.Sd5 Red7!** Black takes advantage of the fact that 7.Sxd7 Rxh8 leads to the exchange of rooks with a draw. **7.Sb4** (7.Be4 Ka7 with Rf7 next) **7…Re7** draw, e.g. 8.Bh5 Re4+ 9.Kb3 Re3+ 10.Ka4 Ra8+ 11.Kb5 Rxf8 12.Rxf8 Re5+.

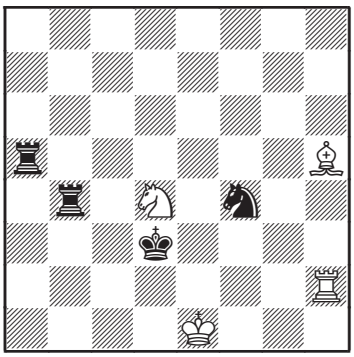
P.5 Fortress



White does not win

6.Sd5 Red7! draws.

P.6 Norman Macleod
special hon. mention *Szachy* 1987



e1d3 0714.00 4/4 Draw

1.Rd2+ Kc3 2.Se2+ Sxe2 3.Bxe2 After an analytically complex introduction, an elegant study score emerged. White avoids mutual zugzwang in two lines:

— **Ra1+ 4.Bd1!** (4.Rd1? Rxd1+ 5.Bxd1 Rb1 6.Ke2 Ra1) **Re4+ 5.Re2 Rxe2+ 6.Kxe2** draws, or:

— **Rb1+ 4.Rd1!** (4.Bd1? Re5+ 5.Re2 Rxe2+ 6.Kxe2 Ra1) **Rxd1+ 5.Bxd1 Ra1 6.Ke2** draws.

Norman Macleod (1927–1991) was a Scottish chess player and chess composer.

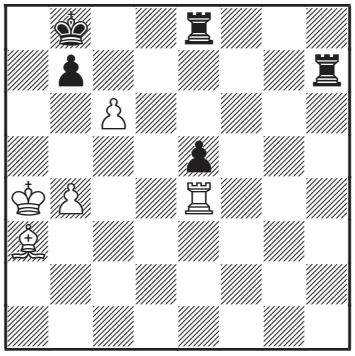
In the second edition of *Endgame Magic* (2017, John Beasley and Timothy Whitworth), the authors preferred to shorten the study by one move. They were afraid of 1…Kc4 with an unclear result at the time. We now know that the study is sound as according to Marc Bourzutschky, White is o.k. after 2.Be2! But 2.Sc6? loses because of 2… Rb1+! 3.Bd1 Raa1! 4.Se5+ Kc3! 5.Rd8 Rb5! 6.Rc8+ Kd4! 7.Sg4 Rf5!

8.Rd8+ Sd5! 9.Kd2 Ra2+ 10.Kc1 Rg2 11.Rd6 Rg3 12.Kd2 Kc5 13.Ra6 Rf4 14.Ra5+ Kd6! 15.Be2 Rb4 16.Sh6 Ke6 17.Ra6+ Ke5! 18.Sg4+ Kd4 19.Sh2 Rb2+ 20.Ke1 Sc3 21.Sf3+ Kd5 22.Ra5+ Ke4! 23.Sd2+ Kf4 24.Bf3 Rg1+ 25.Kf2 Rgb1.

John Beasley wrote to me about this (shortened): "*The position after **1…Kc4 2.Be2+** isn't so easy. Black has R for B and White is pressed against the edge; win, or only draw? We now know that it is only a draw* (Marc Bourzutschky confirmed that)*, but how do I present this to an audience? Do I just say: "the computer says draw" and expect the audience to be satisfied, or can I say: "but White's pieces are well organized and the computer confirms that Black cannot win"? I would be willing to say the latter if I thought it was justified, but I don't think I would be willing to say the former.*

So, our shortening of the study to ensure soundness was not necessary, but has it improved the study aesthetically? It has certainly made it less complicated. I am happy just to report the facts: the shortening is now known not to have been necessary for soundness, but it did simplify things."

P.7 Norman Macleod
special hon. mention *Szachy* 1987
Modification Jaroslav Polášek



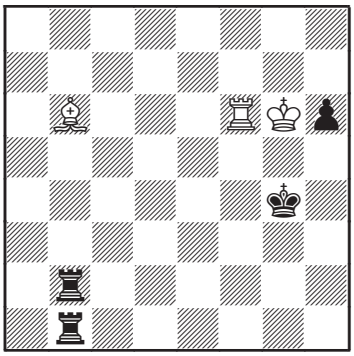
a4b8 0710.22 5/5 Draw

I don't like Macleod's complicated introduction. Not even a shortening by one move satisfied me because I always try to avoid a simple exchange of pieces. That's why I offer a version that could be attractive even for OTB players. **1.b5!** (1.cxb7? is completely hopeless for 1…Rd7 2.Bb2 Rd5 3.Kb3 Kxb7 4.Kc4 Kc6 and Black wins) **bxc6 2.Bd6+!** (bxc6? Ra7+;) **Kb7** After 2…Kc8 3.bxc6 Rd8 (3…Rh5?? 4.Rb4 and Black would even lose) 4.Bc5! Rd5 5.Kb5 Kc7 6.Ra4 Black cannot strengthen its own position – draw. **3.Rxe5! cxb5+** (3…Rxe5 4.bxc6+ Kxc6 5.Bxe5) **4.Rxb5+!** (4.Kxb5?! Rxe5+ 5.Bxe5 Rh5 loses a piece) **Kc6** The study could also be started here without pawns. **5.Bb4!** and further as in the Macleod's study:

— **Ra8+ 6.Ba5!** (6.Ra5?! Rxa5+ 7.Bxa5 Ra7 8.Kb4 Ra8 zz) **Rh4+ 7.Rb4 Rxb4+ 8.Kxb4** draws, or:

— **Ra7+ 6.Ra5!** (6.Ba5?! Re4+ 7.Rb4 Rxb4+ 8.Kxb4 Ra8 zz) **Rxa5+ 7.Bxa5 Ra8 8.Kb4** draws.

P.8 Jaroslav Polášek
Československý šach 2015
(After Macleod),
version, original



g6g4 0710.01 3/4 Draw

While finishing my column, I suddenly remembered that I have improved this study once before. In the article "With the extra Exchange…" (S kvalitou více…, *Československý šach* 5/2015), I published the study in a simple 6-piece position with a black move. For the purposes of that article, it was sufficient. Now I have managed to start with a short introduction with WTM in the initial position (I turned the original position by 90 degrees and added a one black pawn).

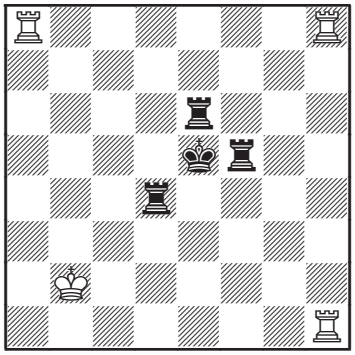
White must not play 1.Bc7?! because of a nice refutation 1…Rc2! 2.Be5 (hopeless is 2.Bd6 2.Bd6 Rc6 3.Kxh6 Rbb6) 2…Rb5 (or 2…Rc5 with the same idea) 3.Rf4+ Kh3 4.Bf6 Kg3 5.Rh4 Rg5+! The key check, the rook is taboo. 6.Kxh6 Rf5 and Black wins due to poor coordination of the white pieces, e.g. 7.Be7 Rc6+ 8.Kg7 Re6 9.Bd8 Rd5 10.Rh8 Rd7+ 11.Kf8 Rxd8+.

Correct is **1.Be3! h5 2.Rf4+ Kg3 3.Kxh5** This position, rotated 90 degrees, I published the study in *Československý šach* 5/2015. **3…Re1** The line 3…Rb5+ 4.Kg6 R5b3 5.Bd2 Rd3 6.Rb4! illustrates the tactical rescue motif in a difficult situation. **4.Rg4+ Kf3 5.Bg5** (5.Bh6? Rh1+ 6.Bg5 Rf5!), and:

— **Rh1+ 6.Bh4** (6.Rh4? Rxh4+ 7.Bxh4 Rh2 8.Kg5 Rh1) **Rb5+ 7.Rg5 Rxg5+ 8.Kxg5** draws, or:

— **Rh2+ 6.Rh4** (6.Bh4? Re5+ 7.Rg5 Rxg5+ 8.Kxg5 Rh1) **6…Rxh4+ 7.Bxh4 Rh1 8.Kg5** draws.

P.9 Jaroslav Polášek & Emil Vlasák
Československý šach vi2021



b2d4 0900.00 4/4 Win

In the Computer News column in this issue, Marc Bourzutschky and Emil Vlasák give the nice mutual zugzwang BV2, unfortunately without further analysis. I commented on this unusual position for *Československý šach* and I was surprised by its richness. I even created a mini-study with a paradoxical introduction **1.Ka1!!** (Bad is 1.Re1+? Re4! 2.Ra5+ Kf6! 3.Rxe4 Rb6+! or 1.Ra5+? Rd5! 2.Re1+ Kf6! 3.Rxd5 Rf2+!) All corners of the chessboard are occupied by white pieces! Now Black is in zugzwang and all his moves lead to a loss:

— **Rg6 2.Rae8+! Kf4** (Kd6 3.Rd8+ Kc5 4.Rc1+; Kf6 3.Ref8+) **3.R8h4+!** with winning the rook, e.g. 3…Rg4 4.Rf1+ Kg5 5.Rxg4+ Rxg4 6.Rg8+ Kh6 7.Rh1+! Rh5 8.Rh8+, or:

— **Rdf4 2.Ra5+! Ke4 3.Re1+ Kd3 4.Ra3+! Kc4 5.Rc1+!** (the greedy 5.Rxe6?? Rf1+ 6.Kb2 R5f2+ ends with a mate) **Kb4 6.Ra2!** and Black prevents the mate only at the cost of the rook, or:

— **Rdd6 2.Re1+! Kd4** (Kf4 3.Rf1+ Kg5 4.Rag8+ Rg6 5.Rg1+) **3.Rh4+ Kc3 4.Ra3+ Kd2 5.Rb1!** win.

If White was on the move in BV2 (the position after 1.Ka1 in P.9), Black would be saved, e.g. 1.Rc1 Rg6! 2.Rae8 + Kf6! 3.Ref8 + Kg5 draw (the winning move R8h5 + is missing, because wR left h1 in the first move).

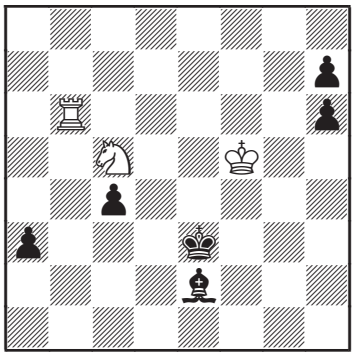
All these studies with detailed analyses can be found at www.sach.cz/download/eg225_jp.pgn

Die Schwalbe 2017-2018

Marco Campioli (Italy) was judge of the informal tourney of the German composition magazine. He considered 33 studies by 22 composers from 14 countries. The award was, for unknown reasons, split into a win and a draw section. The provisional award appeared in *Die Schwalbe* no. 304 (viii2020) with a three-month confirmation time.

Win section

No 23714 M. Garcia
1st prize



f5e3 0131.04 3/6 Win

No 23714 Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina). 1.Ra6/i, and:

— Bd3+ 2.Ke5 (Kg4? h5+;) h5 3.Rxa3 h4 4.Ra1 (Se6? h3;) Kf3 (h3; Rh1) 5.Se6 h3 6.Sg5+ Kg2/ii 7.Kf4 c3 8.Sf3 Kf2 9.Rh1/iii Bf1 10.Sh2 Bd3 (Bg2; Rc1) 11.Sg4+ Kg2 12.Rh2+ (Rc1? h2;) Kg1 13.Ra2/iv Bb1/v 14.Re2, with:

– Bd3 15.Re1+ Kg2 (Bf1; Kg3) 16.Se3+ Kf2 17.Rh1 c2 18.Sxc2 Bxc2 19.Rh2+ Kg1 20.Rxc2 h2 21.Kg3 wins, or here:

– c2 15.Re1+ Kg2 16.Se3+ (Rc1) Kf2 17.Rc1 Ke2/vi 18.Sxc2 Bxc2 19.Rxc2 wins, or:

— Kd4 2.Se6+ Kc3 3.Rxa3+ Kb2 4.Ra8/vii c3 5.Rb8+ Ka3 6.Sd4 Bd3+ 7.Kf4 c2 8.Sb3 Kb2 9.Ke3 Bc4 10.Sd2+ Ka1/viii 11.Ra8+ Ba2 12.Kd3 c1Q 13.Sb3+ Kb2 14.Sxc1 Kxc1 15.Rxa2 wins.

i) 1.Ke5? c3/ix 2.Rb3 a2 3.Rxc3+ Kd2 4.Kd4 a1S 5.Se4+ Kd1 6.Ke3 Sc2+

ii) Kg3 7.Rg1+ Kf2 8.Sxh3+ wins.

iii) 9.Se5? Be2 10.Ra2 h2 11.Sg4+ Ke1 12.Sxh2 Kd1 13.Ke3 c2 draws.

iv) 13.Rxh3? c2 14.Rg3+ Kf1 15.Se3+ Ke1 16.Rg1+ Kd2 draws.

v) c2 14.Ra1+ Kg2 15.Se3+ Kf2 16.Sxc2 Bxc2 17.Ra2 h2 18.Rxc2+ wins.

vi) h2 18.Sxc2 Bxc2 19.Rxc2+

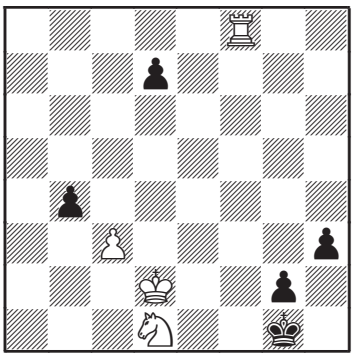
vii) 4.Ra7? c3 5.Rb7+ Ka3 6.Sd4 Bd3+ 7.Kf4 c2 8.Sb3 Kb2 9.Ke3 Ba6 10.Rb6 Bc4 draws.

viii) Kc3 11.Se4 mate, or Ka2 11.Ra8+ Kb2 12.Sxc4+ Kc3 13.Ra1 wins.

ix) h5? 2.Ra6 h4 3.Rxa3+ Bd3 4.Ra1 see main line.

"There are only nine pieces in the starting position but there is much tension in the structure: White has a material advantage but Black, on the other hand, has two dangerous passed pawns on each wing. Therefore White must act immediately and with great decision. All the pieces, both from the attacking and defensive armies, take part in the fight. There are countless brilliant moves. Various main lines considerably enrich the composition".

No 23715 P. Krug & M. Garcia
2nd prize



d2g1 0101.14 4/5 Win

No 23715 Peter Krug (Austria) & Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina). 1.Sf2/i bxc3+ (Kh2; Sxh3) 2.Ke2 h2 (Kh2; Sxh3) 3.Sh3+/ii Kh1 4.Ra8/iii g1S+/iv 5.Kf2 (Kf1? Sxh3;) Sxh3+ 6.Kg3

d5 7.Ra1+ Sg1 8.Ra2/v Sh3 9.Kxh3 Kg1 10.Kg3 h1S+/vi 11.Kf3 d4 12.Rc2 d3 13.Rxc3 d2 14.Rd3 Kf1 15.Rxd2 wins.

i) 1.cxb4? Kh2 2.Rf2 Kg3 draws.

ii) 3.Ra8? h1S 4.Sg4 Sg3+ 5.Kf3 Sf1, or 3.Sg4? c2 4.Rc8 h1Q 5.Rxc2 Qh6 6.Sxh6 Kh1 draw.

iii) 4.Kf3? c2 5.Rc8 g1S+ 6.Kg3 Se2+ draws.

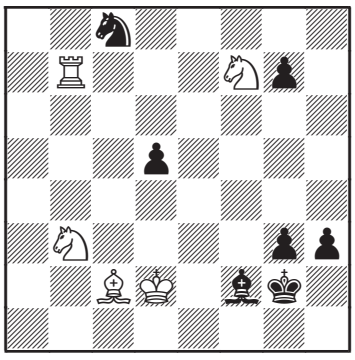
iv) g1Q 5.Sf2+ Kg2 6.Rg8 mate.

v) 8.Rc1? d4 9.Rc2 Sh3 10.Kxh3 Kg1 11.Kg3 Kf1 12.Rxh2 Ke1 13.Kf3 Kd1 14.Ke4 c2 15.Kd3 c1S+ draws.

vi) Kf1 11.Rxh2 Ke1 12.Kf3 (Kf4) Kd1 13.Ke3 d4+ 14.Kd3 wins.

"The authors presented a twin study but the twin B had an inversion of moves at the end of the solution. This composition – only the twin A remains – is very interesting: the starting position is similar to a real ending and the play of both colours presents strong and precise moves. Also, the variations are praiseworthy. In the end White wins but only after a difficult fight: the black counter-play is dangerous. During the long main line one can find various tries, brilliant moves, refusal to capture undefended material, zugzwang, underpromotions to knight" .

No 23716 D. Hlebec
3rd prize



d2g2 0145.04 5/7 Win

No 23716 Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.Bd1 Sd6/i 2.Sxd6 h2 3.Sd4 Bxd4/ii 4.Bb3 Kh3 5.Bxd5 Be3+ (g2; Rb3+) 6.Kxe3 g2 7.Bxg2+ Kxg2 8.Rb2+/iii Kg1 9.Rb1+ Kg2 10.Rh1 Kxh1 11.Kf2 g5 12.Sf5 (Se4) g4 13.Sg3 mate.

i) h2 2.Se5 Be1+ 3.Kd3 Sd6 4.Bf3+ wins.

ii) Kh3 4.Rxg7 Bxd4 5.Rh7+ Kg2 6.Sf5 h1Q 7.Bf3+ Kxf3 8.Rxh1 Bc5 9.Rf1+ Kg4 10.Se3+ Bxe3+ 11.Kxe3 d4+ 12.Ke2 d3+ 13.Ke3 wins.

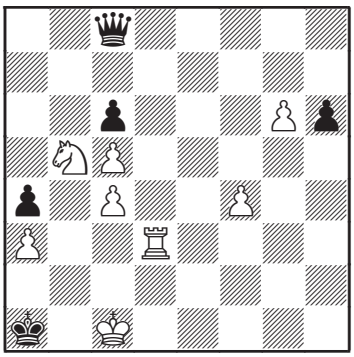
iii) Thematic try: 8.Rxg7+? Kh1/iv 9.Rb7/v Kg2 10.Rb2+ Kg1 11.Rb1+ Kg2 12.Rh1 Kxh1 13.Kf2 stalemate.

iv) But not Kf1? 9.Se4 (Sf5) h1Q 10.Sg3+ wins.

v) 9.Se4 stalemate.

"In the 'airy' starting structure the white pieces dance with great elegance: at first bishop and knights collaborate in order to improve the position. Then a bolt from the blue: a knight sacrifices itself. The white pieces prepare the decisive descent of the Rook. Of course, the sacrifice of the rook (10.Rh1!) had previously been utilized in composition (A.Mouterde, HHdbVI# 87056; F. Richter, HHdbVI#76830; A. Gillberg, HHdbVI#33559), but this study shows an original starting position and an original main line. The final minor dual (12.Sf5/Se4) has no influence".

No 23717 G. Sonntag
4th prize



c1a1 3101.53 8/5 Win

No 23717 Gunter Sonntag (Germany). 1.Sd4 Qg4 2.Sc2+ Ka2 3.Sb4+ Ka1 4.f5 Qxf5/i 5.g7 Qf4+ 6.Rd2 Qf1+ 7.Rd1 Qxc4+ 8.Sc2+ (Kd2+? Kb2;) Ka2 9.Rd2 Kb3 (Qf1+; Se1+) 10.Rd3+ Ka2 (Qxd3; g8Q) 11.Rf3 Qg4 12.Sb4+ Ka1 13.Rf1 Qg2 14.Re1/ii Qg3 (Qb2+; Kd1) 15.Rh1 Qg2 16.g8Q Qxg8 17.Kc2+ Qg1 18.Rxg1 mate.

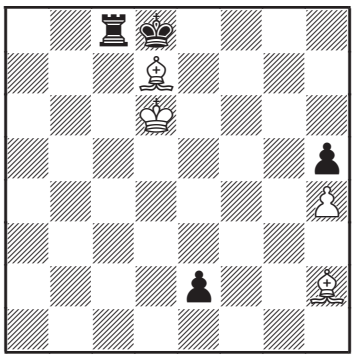
i) Qf4+ 5.Rd2 Qf1+ 6.Rd1 Qxf5 7.Sd3 wins.

ii) 14.g8Q? Qxf1+ 15.Kd2 e,g, Qf2+ 16.Kd3 Qf3+ 17.Kd4 Qf4+ 18.Kc3 Qf6+ draws.

"The starting position shows a material balance between the white and back armies but

White has the advantage: as a matter of fact the white forces occupy active positions and, moreover, the bK is tightly resricted. The play is interesting and the collaboration of the white pieces is remarkable. Of course, Black's counter-play by is exclusively by the Queen, but nevertheless also the second player has many strings to his bow. After a hard fight White improves its position and Black cannot escape checkmate".

No 23718 P. Arestov
5th prize



d6d8 0320.12 4/4 Win

No 23718 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Be5/i Rc6+ 2.Kxc6 (Bxc6 e1Q;) e1R/ii 3.Bf6+ Re7 4.Bg4/iii hxg4/iv 5.Kd6 Ke8 6.Bxe7 Kf7 7.Bd8/v g3 8.Ke5 Kg6 9.Kf4 g2 10.Bb6 Kh5 11.Kg3 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Bf4? Rc6+ 2.Kxc6 e1Q 3.Bg5+ Qe7 zz 4.Bf5 Ke8 5.Bg6+ Kf8 6.Bxe7+ Kxe7 draws. If 1.Bg3? Rc3 2.Be1 Rd3+ and Black wins.

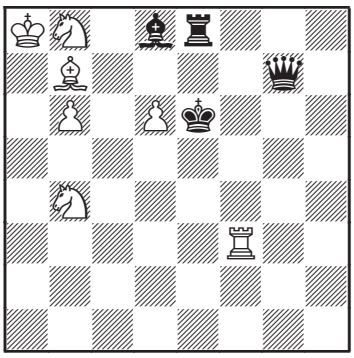
ii) e1Q 3.Bf6+ Qe7 4.Bg5 zz Qxg5 5.hxg5 wins.

iii) 4.Bg5? stalemate, or 4.Bf5? Ke8 5.Bg6+ Kf8 6.Bxh5 Re6+ draws.

iv) 7.Bg5? g3 8.Ke5 Kg6 draws.

"In the initial stage this study presents very brilliant moves: the thematic try 1.Bf4?! with a zz position, the sacrifice of the rook and also the unexpected promotion to rook which is stronger than the ordinary promotion to queen! The conclusive manoeuvre of the bishops is elegant: at first the very strong sacrifice (4.Bg4) which sets the pawn free and then the 'entrance' of its colleague in order to stop the dangerous black pawn".

No 23719 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
& M. Minski
1st honourable mention



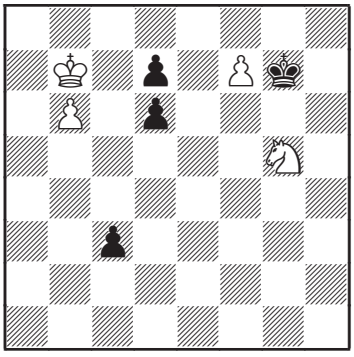
a8e6 3442.20 7/4 Win

No 23719 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bc8+ (Re3+ Kxd6;) Kxd6 2.b7 Bb6 3.S8a6 (Rd3+? Kc5;) Rxc8+ 4.bxc8S+ (bxc8Q? Qa7 mate;) Ke5/i 5.Sxb6 Qg2 6.Sc6+ Kd6 7.Rf6 mate.

i) Ke6 5.Sxb6 Qg2 6.Sc5+ Ke5 7.Scd3+, and Ke6 8.Sf4+, or Kd6 8.Sc4+ wins.

"The white pieces collaborate with great precision in order to improve the position. Various brilliant moves enrich the composition. In spite of clever resistance by the black pieces, the first player constructs a fantastic checkmate. A structure worth remembering appears: a model mate deserving of the highest praise".

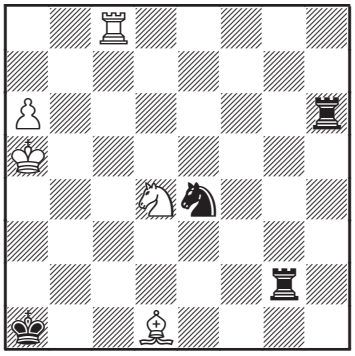
No 23720 L'. Kekely & M. Hlinka
2nd honourable mention



b7g7 0001.23 4/4 Win

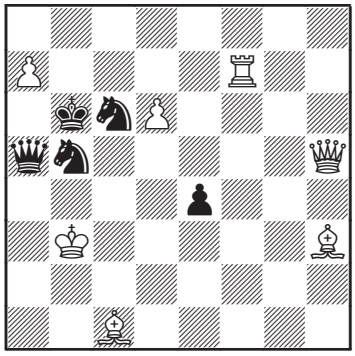
No 23720 L'ubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.Ka8/i c2 2.b7 c1Q 3.b8Q Qa3+/ii 4.Qa7/iii Qxa7+ (Qc5; Qa1+) 5.Kxa7 d5 6.Kb6/iv d4 7.Kc7 d3/v 8.Kxd7 d2 9.Ke7 d1Q 10.f8Q+ Kg6 11.Se6/vi Qd2 12.Qf7+ (Qf6+? Kh5;) Kh6

No 23721 M. Hlinka & L'. Kekely
3rd honourable mention



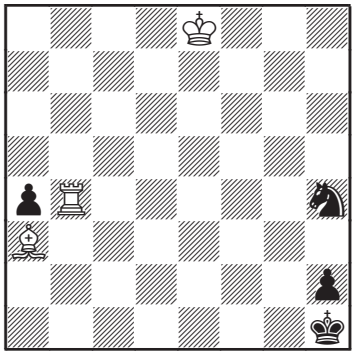
a5a1 0714.10 5/4 Win

No 23722 G. Sonntag
4th honourable mention



b3b6 4126.21 7/5 Win

No 23723 P. Krug
5th honourable mention



e8h1 0113.02 3/4 Win

13.Qf3 Kg6/vii 14.Ke8 Qa5 15.Sf4+ Kf5 16.Sd5+ Kg5/viii 17.Qg3+ wins.

i) 1.Ka6? c2 2.b7 c1Q 3.b8Q Qc6+ (Qa3+) draws. 1.Ka7? c2 2.b7 c1Q 3.b8Q Qc5+ (Qa3+) draws.

ii) Qc6+ 4.Qb7 Qa4+ 5.Kb8 wins.

iii) 4.Kb7? Qb4+ 5.Kc8 Qc5+ 6.Kxd7 Qf5+ 7.Ke8 Qe5+ draws.

iv) 6.Kb7? Kf8 7.Kc7 Ke7 draws.

v) Kf8 8.Kxd7 d3 9.Ke6 wins.

vi) 11.Qg8+? (Qf6+?) Kf5 draws.

vii) Qb4+ 14.Kf7 Qh4 15.Qe3+ wins, e.g. Kh5 16.Qe5+ Kg4 17.Qf4+ Kh3 18.Sg5+.

viii) Ke5 17.Qf4+, or Kxd5 19.Qf5+ wins.

"The structure of this study resembles a real ending: an OTB player will surely find a reason for interest. The first player's play is precise. The first move – the wK moves to the corner – is paradoxical. After 13.Qf3 the position is identical to a study by J. Nunn (HHdbVI#28731), and V. Kondratev, (**EG**#14643), but the starting position and the solution are original".

No 23721 Michel Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.a7/i Ra2+ 2.Ba4 Rxa4+ 3.Kxa4 Ra6+ 4.Kb3 Sd2+ 5.Kc2 Ra2+/ii 6.Kd1/iii Rxa7 7.Kc1 zz Ra4/iv 8.Kxd2 Kb2/v 9.Rb8+ Ka2 10.Kc3 (Kc2; Rc4+;) Ra3+ 11.Sb3/vi Ra7 12.Sd2 (Rc8? Kb1;) Rc7+ (Ra3+; Kc2) 13.Sc4 wins.

i) 1.Be2? Rg5+ 2.Ka4 Rd5 3.Sc2+ Kb2 4.a7 Rh4 5.Sb4 Sc3+ 6.Rxc3 Kxc3 7.a8Q Rxb4+ 8.Ka3 Rb3+ 9.Ka2 Rd2+ 10.Ka1 Rdb2 draws.

ii) Rxa7 6.Kc1 zz, see main line.

iii) Thematic try: 6.Kc1? Rxa7 zz, draw.

iv) Ra3 8.Sc2+, or Ka2 8.Rc2+ Ka3 9.Sb5+, or Ra5 8.Rb8 Sc4 9.Sb3+, or Ra6 8.Sc2+ Ka2 9.Sb4+, or Sb3+ 8.Sxb3+ Ka2 9.Sd4 Ra4 10.Kc2 Ka3 11.Kc3 wins.

v) Rxd4+ 9.Kc2 Ra4 10.Kb3 Ra7 11.Rc1 mate.

vi) 11.Kc2? Rh3 12.Ra8+ Ra3 13.Rh8 Re3 14.Ra8+ Ra3 15.Re8 Rh3 draws.

"There are various elements of interest in this elegant meredith: zugzwang, refusal to capture, fork. The authors make also a clever and pleasant reference to the well-known Saavedra scheme".

No 23722 Gunter Sonntag (Germany). 1.a8S+/i Qxa8 2.Qxb5+/ii Kxb5 3.Rf5+ Se5/iii 4.Rxe5+ Kc6 5.d7 Qg8+ (Qb8+; Kc4) 6.Kb4 Qb8+ 7.Kc4 Qxe5 8.d8S+ Kb6 9.Be3+ Kc7 (Ka6; Bc8+) 10.Bf4 Qxf4 11.Se6+ wins.

i) 1.Be3+? Sd4+ 2.Bxd4+ Sxd4+ 3.Kc4 Qxh5 draws.

ii) 2.Be3+? Sd4+ 3.Bxd4+ Sxd4+ e.g. 4.Kb4 Sc6+ draws.

iii) Ka6 4.Bf1+ Kb7 5.Rf7+ Kb6 6.Be3+ Sd4+ 7.Bxd4+ wins.

"We see very good orchestration of the white pieces. The two promotions to knight enrich

the composition. The brilliant sacrifice of the wQ prepares the decisive collaboration of White's remaining pieces".

No 23723 Peter Krug (Austria). 1.Rb2 Sf3 2.Bc5 a3 3.Ra2 Sd4 4.Ke7/i Sb5 5.Rc2 (Rd2) a2 6.Rxa2 Sc3/ii 7.Rc2 Se4 8.Be3/iii Sg3 9.Ba7/iv Se2 (Sf5+; Kf6) 10.Bb8 Kg1 11.Bxh2+ wins.

i) 4.Bxd4? stalemate. Thematic try: 4.Kf7? Sb5 5.Rc2 a2 6.Rxa2 Sc3 7.Rc2 Se4 8.Be3 Sg3 9.Ba7 Se4 10.Bb8 Sg5+ 11.Kg6 Sf3 12.Ba7 Sd2 13.Kf5 Kg2 14.Rxd2+ Kh3 draws. or 4.Kd7? (Bb6?) Sb5 5.Rc2 a2 6.Rxa2 Sd4 draws.

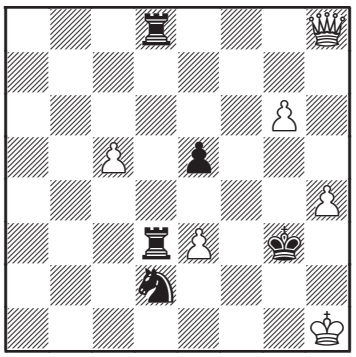
ii) Sd4 7.Kf6 Se2 8.Bd6 wins.

iii) 8.Ba7? Sd2 9.Bb8 Sf3 draws.

iv) 9.Bb6? Sf5+ 10.Kf6 Se3 draws.

"This is a nice miniature and the coordination between rook and bishop is remarkable. The fourth move (4.Ke7) is astonishing and at this point also the tries are interesting. Black's counter-play is strong, see – for example – the alternatives for the knight at the ninth move. The minor dual (5.Rc2/Rd2) is not important. This composition has another merit: during the main line there are only two captures necessary to eliminate the dangerous pawns and the rook and the bishop, by common consent, share this work".

No 23724 D. Keith
& M. Minski
1st commendation



h1g3 1603.41 6/5 Win

No 23724 Daniel Keith (France) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.g7/i Rg8/ii 2.Qxg8 Rc3/iii 3.Qc4 Rxc4 4.g8Q+ Rg4 5.Qg5/iv Sf3 6.Qxg4+ Kxg4 7.c6 Sxh4 8.c7 Sf5 9.c8Q wins.

i) 1.Qxe5+? Kf2 2.Qh2+ Kxe3 draws.

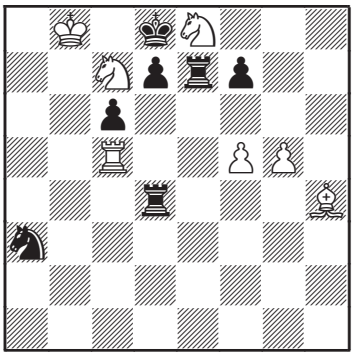
ii) Rxh8 2.gxh8Q Sf3 3.Qg8+ Kf2 4.Qa2+ Kxe3 5.Qa7 Rd1+ 6.Kg2 Rg1+ 7.Kh3 wins.

iii) Rxe3 3.Qb3, or Ra3 3.Qa2, or Sc4 3.Qd5 Rxd5 4.g8Q+ win.

iv) 5.Qe6? Rxh4+ 6.Kg1 Sf3+ 7.Kf1 Rh2 8.Qg6+ Kh3 (Kh4) 9.c6 Rd2 draws.

"In the starting position the opposing forces balance out: the material is almost equal… but White has a strong strategic position. The first player immediately acts with great decision. There are very brilliant moves: both White and Black play with precision. The first defensive move with the rook is praiseworthy. But then White gets on its high horse: two beautiful sacrifices of the queens and two promotions to queen are decisive: at the end the scales tip in its favour".

No 23725 A. Jasik
2nd commendation



b8d8 0715.23 7/7 Win

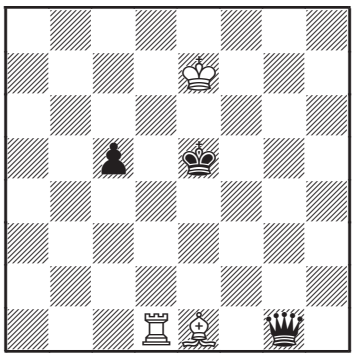
No 23725 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Sd6 Rxd6 2.g6 f6 (fxg6; Re5) 3.Re5 c5/i 4.Sd5 Rxe5 5.g7 Re8 (Rxed5; g8Q+) 6.Bxf6+/ii Rxf6 7.Sxf6 Ke7+ 8.Sxe8 Kxe8 9.g8Q+ wins.

i) Rxe5 (fxe5) 4.g7 wins.

ii) 6.Sxf6? Rb6+ 7.Ka7 Rxf6 and Black wins.

"The white pieces accompany the g-pawn to promotion with an elegant use of tactics. The starting sacrifice of the knight is very brilliant and then the following moves (3.Re5 and 4.Sd5) decidedly tip the scales in favour of the first player. The final moves seem forced".

No 23726 Á. Rusz
3rd commendation



e7e5 3110.01 3/3 Win

No 23726 Árpád Rusz (Hungary). 1.Bc3+ Qd4 (Ke4; Rxg1) 2.Ba1/i, and:

— Qxa1 3.Rxa1 c4 4.Kd7/ii Kd5 5.Rc1 zz Kc5 6.Kc7 (Ke6? Kd4;) zz, wins, or:

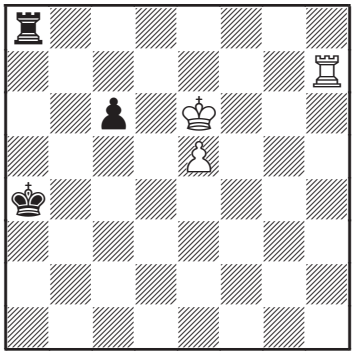
— Kd5 3.Bxd4 cxd4 4.Kd7 (Kf6? Ke4;) zz, wins,

i) 2.Bxd4+? cxd4 zz 3.Kd7 Kd5 zz 4.Kc7 Kc5 5.Kd7 Kd5 draws.

ii) 4.Rc1? Kd4 5.Kd6 c3 draws

"Of course, this miniature reminds the chess player (= the reader) of another one: the famous study by R. Réti 1929. But the composition is enriched by other elements: first of all the composer presents a very brilliant move (2.Ba1) and a zugzwang; then two chameleon echoes with zugzwang. The main line of the study is short … but the composers and the OTB players won't forget this composition for a long time".

No 23727 M. Doré
4th commendation



e6a4 0400.11 3/3 Win

No 23727 Marcel Doré (France). 1.Kd6/i Kb5 2.Rb7+/ii Kc4 3.Rc7/iii Rd8+ 4.Kxc6 Kd4 5.e6 Ke5 6.e7 Rd6+ 7.Kb7 Re6 8.Kc8 Kf6 9.Kd8 wins.

i) 1.Rc7? Kb5 2.Kd6 Rd8+ 3.Rd7 Re8 4.e6 c5 5.Kd5 Kb6 6.e7 c4 7.Kd6 Kb5 draws.

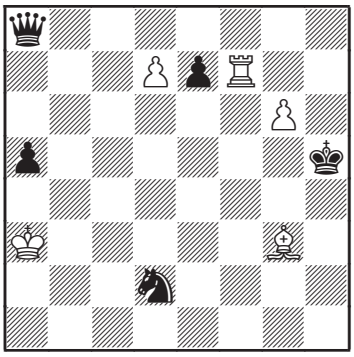
ii) 2.e6? c5 3.Rb7+ Kc4 4.Rc7 Rd8+ 5.Rd7 Re8 6.e7 Kb4 7.Rd8 Rxe7 8.Kxe7 c4 9.Kd6 c3 draws.

iii) 3.e6? c5 4.Rc7 Rd8+ draws.

"This is a nice miniature with a natural position. Both colours play precise moves. The winning manoeuvre is praiseworthy. This composition could be published in a book wholly devoted to rook endings. The OTB chess player can find very interesting moves in this study. This work shows that a positional advantage in a rook ending can be realized – in accordance with the fundamental *Comprehensive Chess Endings* by Y. Averbakh & N. Kopayev – only with the pieces active, only with co-ordination of all the forces ".

Draw section

No 23728 B. Buyannemekh,
V. Tarasiuk & M. Garcia
1st prize



a3h5 3113.22 5/5 Draw

No 23728 Bizya Buyannemekh (Mongolia), Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine) & Mario Guido Garcia (Argentina). 1.g7 Qb7/i 2.Rf5+ Kh6 3.Bf4+ Kxg7 4.Bxd2 a4/ii 5.Bc3+ e5/iii 6.Bxe5+ Kh7 7.Rh5+/iv Kg6 8.Rg5+ Kh6 (Kxg5; d8Q+) 9.Rg3/v Qxd7 10.Re3 (Rc3? Qe7;) Qe7+/vi 11.Ka2 Qf7+ 12.Ka3/vii Qd5 13.Bb2/viii Qc5+ 14.Ka2 Qxe3 15.Bc1 Qxc1 stalemate

i) Qe4 2.Kb2 Qb1+ 3.Kc3 Se4+ 4.Kd4 Qb4+ 5.Ke3 draws.

ii) Qxd7 5.Bc3+ Kg6 6.Rxa5 draws.

iii) Kg6 6.Kxa4 Qxd7+ 7.Rb5 draws.

iv) 7.Rf7+? Kg6 8.Rg7+ Kf5 9.Rg5+ (Kxa4 Qa8+;) Ke4 10.Rg3 Qxd7 11.Bb2 Qd6+ wins.

v) 9.Bg7+? Kh7 10.Rg3 Qxd7 wins.

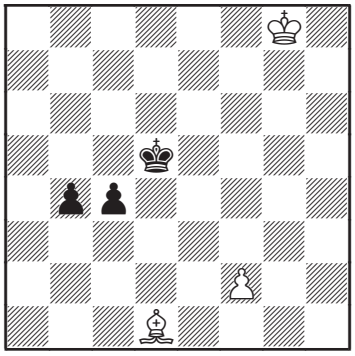
vi) Qa7 11.Rh3+ Kg5 12.Bc3 Kg4 (Qg1; Bb2) 13.Rd3 Qc5+ 14.Bb4 Qc2 15.Rc3 draws.

vii) 12.Kb1? Qf1+ 13.Ka2 Qc4+ 14.Kb1 a3 15.Rxa3 Qe4+ wins.

viii) 13.Rh3+? Kg5 14.Bb2 Qd6+ wins.

"After long and complex play with unexpected moves, various tries and strong counter play by Black, at the end White can save himself with a clever manoeuvre and reaches the stalemate. The main line is attractive and interesting but surely also the variations attract the attention of any chess player. The starting structure and the long solution are original but the stalemate is well-known: in the beginning F. Lazard (HHdbVI#68105) and recently V. Kovalenko and A. Skripnik (**EG**#16467)".

No 23729 P. Arestov & V. Tarasiuk
2nd prize



g8d5 0010.12 3/3 Draw

No 23729 Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Bf3+, and:

— Kc5 2.Bg4/i b3 3.Be6 Kd4 4.Bf7 zz Kd3 5.Bg6+ Ke2 6.Bf7 Kd3 7.Bg6+ Kd2 (Ke2; Bf7) 8.f4, and:

– c3 9.f5 c2 10.f6 c1Q 11.f7 Qg1 12.Kg7 Qd4+ 13.Kg8 Qg4 14.Kg7 b2 15.f8Q b1Q 16.Qf2+ draws, or:

– b2 9.Bb1 c3 10.f5 c2 11.Bxc2 Kxc2 1.f6 b1Q 11.f7 draws, or:

— Ke5 2.Be2/ii Kd4 3.Bh5/iii b3 4.Bf7 zz, see 1… Kc5.

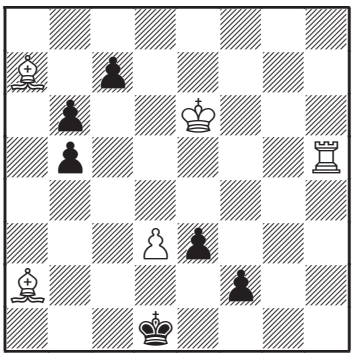
i) Thematic try: 2.Bh5? b3 3.Bf7 Kd4 zz 4.Kg7 Kd3 5.Bg6+ Kd2 6.f4 c3 7.f5 c2 8.f6 c1Q 9.f7 Qc3+ 10.Kg8 Qg3 11.Kh7 Qf4 12.Kg7 Qe5+ 13.Kg8 Qg5 14.Kg7 b2 15.f8Q b1Q 16.Qf2+ Kc3 17.Qf3+ Kd4 18.Qf2+ Kd5 19.Qf3+ Kd6 20.Qf8+ Kc7 21.Qf7+ Kb6 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Bh5? b3 3.Bf7 Kd4 zz.

iii) 3.Bg4? b3 4.Be6 Kd3 5.f4 b2 6.Bf5+ Ke3 7.Bc2 Kxf4 wins.

"This is a well-constructed miniature. White reaches a draw principally with a clever bishop manoeuvre, but also White's king and pawn are active. The two main lines are interesting. Black's counterplay is strong. Also the OTB chess player can find the play (and the use of the zugzwang) of this ending to be very interesting".

No 23730 V. Samilo
1st honourable mention



e6d1 0120.15 5/6 Draw

No 23730 Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Bb3+ Ke1/i 2.Rh1+ f1Q 3.Rxf1+ Kxf1 4.Bd1, and:

— b4 5.Bb8 Ke1 6.Bf3 Kf2/ii 7.Bd1 b3 8.Bxc7 e2 9.Bxb6+ Kg2 10.Bxb3 e1Q+ 11.Kd7 Qb1 12.Bd5+ Kf1 13.Kc7 Qxd3 14.Bc6 draws, or:

— e2 5.Bxe2+ Kxe2 6.Bxb6/iii cxb6 7.d4 b4 8.d5 b3 9.d6 b2 10.d7 b1Q 11.d8Q Qe4+ 12.Kf7 Qh7+ 13.Ke6 Qg6+ 14.Ke5 Qg3+ 15.Ke6 Qg6+ 16.Ke5 draws.

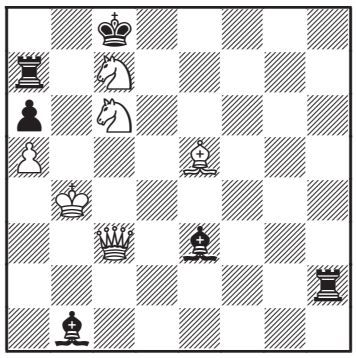
i) Kd2 2.Rf5 Ke1 3.Bb8 e2 4.Bxc7 f1Q 5.Bxb6 draws.

ii) b3 7.Bd5 b2 8.Ba2 Kd2 9.Bxc7 draws.

iii) 6.d4? b4 7.Bxb6 b3 wins.

"The author presents an interesting ending with two good main lines. Giambattista Lolli, in 1763, would have certainly looked at the first main line with interest … After strong moves both White and Black promote to queen and Black seems to have the advantage … but all the white pieces collaborate very well in order to reach a draw after a long fight".

No 23731 M. Hlinka & Ľ. Kekely
2nd honourable mention



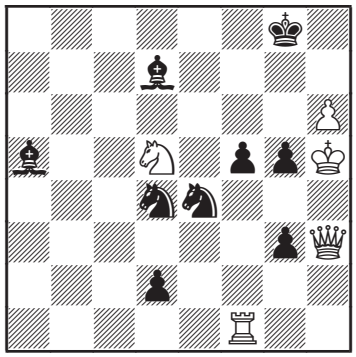
b4c8 1672.11 6/6 BTM, Draw

No 23731 Michael Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1…Rb7+ 2.Kc4 Rh4+ 3.Kd5/ii Ba2+ 4.Kd6 Rh6+ 5.Bf6 Bf4+ 6.Se5/i Rxf6+ 7.Se6+ Kb8 8.Qc7+ Ka7 9.Qc5+ Ka8 10.Qc8+ Ka7 11.Qc5+ Kb8 12.Qc7+ Rxc7 stalemate.

i) 6.Kc5? Rh5+ 7.Kd4 Rxc7 wins.

"In this meredith both White and Black play interesting and clever moves. There are switchbacks, good sacrifices and a brilliant final manoeuvre of the queen. The stalemate with a double pin is well-constructed".

No 23732 P. Arestov & P. Krug
3rd honourable mention



h5g8 1167.14 5/9 Draw

No 23732 Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Peter Krug (Austria). 1.h7+ Kxh7 (Kh8; Kh6) 2.Sf6+ Kg7/i 3.Sxe4 Se2 (Sf3; Sf6) 4.Qh1/ii g2 (Bd8; Sxg5) 5.Qxg2 Sf4+ 6.Rxf4 d1Q+ 7.Rf3 Bd8/ (fxe4; Qxg5+) 8.Sxg5 Be8+ 9.Sf7+ Kf8/iii 10.Qg7+ Kxg7 stalemate.

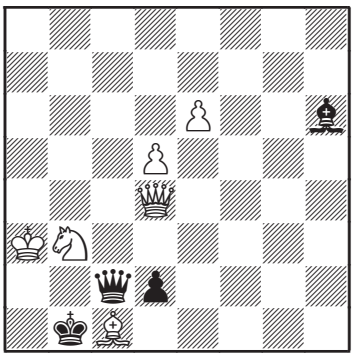
i) Sxf6+ 3.Kxg5+ Kg7 4.Qh6+ wins.

ii) 4.Sxg5? Sf4+ 5.Rxf4 d1Q+ 6.Sf3 Be1 7.Kg5 Qd6 8.Rd4 Bd2+ 9.Rxd2 Qe7+ 10.Kf4 Qe4+ 11.Kg5 Qe3+ wins.

iii) Kxf7 10.Kh6 Qc1+ 11.Kh7 draws.

"In this large sized study the black pieces occupy active positions but White can save himself with brilliant moves and a well-constructed stalemate. The moves of the wQ are precise and the final sacrifice is strong".

No 23733 M. Hlinka & Ľ. Kekely
4th honourable mention



a3b1 4041.21 6/4 BTM, Draw

No 23733 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1…Bf8+ 2.e7/i Bxe7+ 3.d6 Bxd6+ 4.Qxd6 d1Q 5.Sd2+ (Qxd1? Qxd1;) Kxc1 6.Qd4 Qdxd2 (Qe1; Sb3+) 7.Qg1+ Qcd1 8.Qc5+ Kb1 9.Qb6+/ii Ka1 10.Qd4+ (Qf6+? Qd4;) Qxd4 stalemate.

i) 2.d6? Bxd6+ 3.Qxd6 d1Q 4.Sd2+ Kxc1 5.Qd4 Qdxd2 6.Qg1+ Qcd1 7.Qc5+ Kb1 8.Qb6+ Ka1, or 2.Ka4? Qa2+ 3.Kb5 Qxb3+ win.

ii) 9.Qb5+? Ka1 10.Qe5+ Qd4 11.Qxd4+ Qxd4 wins.

"After initial play with many captures, the solution of this meredith continues with good manoeuvres (zugzwang, switchbacks) and ends with interesting stalemates. Black plays with two queens but the moves of the wQ are precise; after the final sacrifice the first player can reach the draw".

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