

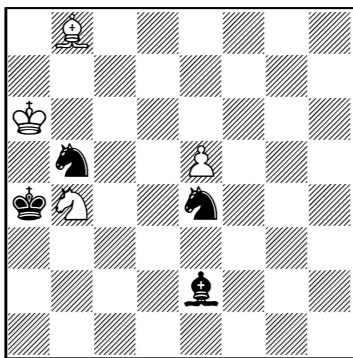
8. ♖a5+ ♜b8 9. ♗b6+ ♜c8  
10. ♙f5+ wins.

vi) 12. ♗xb3? stalemate!

vii) But not 7... ♜c7? 8. ♗c6+ ♜b8/viii 9. ♙f7 d3 10. ♙e8 d2 11. ♗a8+ and 12. ♗d8 mate, or here 9... ♗b2(1) 10. ♙e8 ♗e2(1)+ 11. ♜d8(7), or also 8... ♜d8 9. ♙e6 ♗b1+ 10. ♙f6 ♗f1+ 11. ♙f5! wins.

**In the middle of a furious battle with pins, discovered check, piece sacrifice and almost a theoretical drawn endgame, White plays 7. ♙h5! The only square from which the king enjoys the victory!**

**1st Honourable Mention  
Emil Melnichenko  
New Zealand**



**Draw**

1. ♖c6/i ♖c5+ 2. ♙b6 ♖d7+  
3. ♙b7/ii ♙f3 4. ♙d6/iii ♙d5/iv  
5. e6/v ♙xe6/vi 6. ♖e5/vii  
♖xd6+/viii 7. ♙c6/ix ♖xe5+/x  
8. ♙xd6 draws.

i) 1. ♖a2? ♖bc3+; 1. ♙d6?  
♖bxd6+; 1. ♖c2? ♖d4+;  
1. ♖d5? ♖bc3+

ii) 3. ♙a6? ♖d4+ 4. ♙b7 ♖xc6  
5. ♙xc6 ♖xb8+ 6. ♙d6 ♙b5  
7. e6 ♙b6, or 7. ♙c7 ♖a6+.

iii) 4. e6? ♖xb8 and 4... ♙xc6;  
4. ♙c7? ♖d4 5. ♙b6 ♖xc6 6. e6  
♖d4+ 7. ♙c7 ♖xb6 wins.

iv) 4... ♖xd6+ 5. ♙c7 (exd6?;  
♙b5) ♙b5 6. ♖d4+; 4... ♖d4  
5. ♙c7 ♙xc6 6. e6 ♖f6 7. ♙c5  
♖d5(e8)+ 8. ♙d(b)6; 4... ♙b3  
5. e6 ♖xd6+ 6. ♙c7, or here  
5... ♖f6 6. ♙b6 ♙a4 (♖xd6;  
♖d4+) 7. ♙e5 ♖e8 8. ♖d4.

v) 5. ♙c7? ♖d4 6. e6 ♙xc6+;  
5. ♙b8? ♖xb8; 5. ♙c8? ♙xc6  
6. e6 ♖f6.

vi) 5... ♖xd6+ 6. ♙c7 ♙b5  
7. exd7; 5... ♖f6 6. ♙e5 ♖g4  
(♖g8; ♙b6) 7. e7 ♖xe5 8. e8 ♗  
♖d6+ 9. ♙b6 ♖xe8 10. ♖xe5, or  
here: 7... ♙f7 8. ♙c8 ♙e8 9. ♙d8  
♙xc6 10. e8 ♗.

vii) 6. ♖d8? ♙d5+ 7. ♖c6 ♖d4  
8. ♙c7 ♙xc6 9. ♙h2 ♙b5, or  
here 7. ♙c8 ♖b6+ 8. ♙b8 ♖xd6;  
6. ♖b8? ♖xd6+ 7. ♙c6 ♖xb8+  
8. ♙xd6 ♙h3; 6. ♖a7? ♙d5+  
7. ♙c8 ♖b6+ 8. ♙d8 ♖xd6  
9. ♙c7 ♖dc4; 6. ♖e7? ♖xd6+;  
6. ♙e5? ♙d5 7. ♙b2 ♙b3 8. ♙c1  
♙c4 9. ♙b2 ♙c5, or 9. ♙e3 ♖e5,  
or 9. ♙f4 ♖d4.

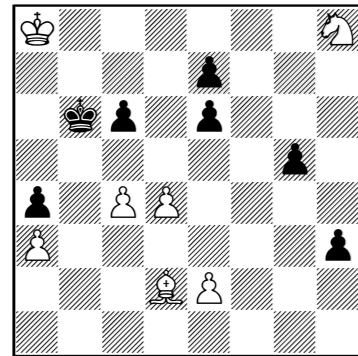
viii) 6... ♙d5+ 7. ♙a6 ♖f6 8. ♙e7  
♖g8 9. ♙g5, or 7... ♖xd6  
8. ♖xd7.

ix) 7. ♙c7 ♖b5+.

x) 7... ♖b5 8. ♖xd7.

**The white pieces suffer from limited freedom. White makes a virtue from a necessity with the self-sacrificial 6. ♖e5! with the requested draw as a result.**

**3rd Prize  
Claudio Fabiano  
Italy**



**Win**

1. ♙a5+! ♙xa5/i 2. ♙a7! h2  
3. ♖f7 h1 ♗ 4. ♖d8 c5 5. dxc5!/ii  
g4 6. e3!/iii ♗e4!/iv 7. ♖b7+  
♗xb7+ 8. ♙xb7 g3 9. c6 g2  
10. c7 g1 ♗ 11. c8 ♗ ♗b1+  
12. ♙a8!/v wins/vi.

i) 1... ♙a6 2. ♙c7 wins.

ii) 5. d5? ♗xd5 6. cxd5 exd5  
7. ♖c6+ ♙b5 8. ♖xe7 g4! and  
Black wins.

iii) Thematic try: 6. ♖b7+?  
♗xb7+ 7. ♙xb7 g3 8. c6 g2 9. c7  
g1 ♗ 10. c8 ♗, and now:  
10... ♗b6+ 11. ♙a8 ♗a6+  
12. ♙b8 ♗xc8+ 13. ♙xc8 ♙b6  
14. ♙d7 e5 15. ♙xe7 ♙c5 16. e4  
♙xc4 17. ♙e6 ♙b3 18. ♙xe5  
♙xa3 draws.

iv) 6... g3 7. c6 ♗b1 8. ♖b7+  
♗xb7+ 9. cxb7 g2 10. b8 ♗ g1 ♗  
11. ♗b6 mate.

v) 12. ♙a7? ♗b6+ 13. ♙a8  
♗a6+ 14. ♙b8 ♗xc8+ 15. ♙xc8  
♙b6; 12. ♙c7? ♗b6+ 13. ♙d7  
♗d6+ 14. ♙e8 ♙b6 draw.

vi) e.g. 12... ♗e4+ 13. ♙a7 (also  
13. ♙b8) 13... ♗xe3+ 14. c5  
♗xa3 15. ♗a6+ ♙b4 16. ♗b6+  
♙c3 17. c6, or 12... ♗b6  
13. ♗b7! ♗a6+ 14. ♗a7 ♗xa7+  
15. ♙xa7 win.