

Die Schwalbe 2017-2018

International Tourney for Studies

The periodical **Die Schwalbe** published 33 chess endgame studies in the year 2017 (14 compositions) and in the year 2018 (19 compositions).

22 authors participate in the informal tourney; the composers came from 14 countries.

Thanks to Michael Roxlau (Germany), the Tournament Director, and to clever readers of **Die Schwalbe** for their help to the Judge for checking the anticipations and the correctness of the works. The anticipations are not much taken into consideration when starting positions accompanied by original and interesting introductory play are different from structures previously published. Therefore well-known final positions or well-known structures are often put in evidence in the award: moreover, in any case, all experienced composers will easily find these similarities ... Assessment of studies according to correctness, difficulty, artistic impression and personal taste.

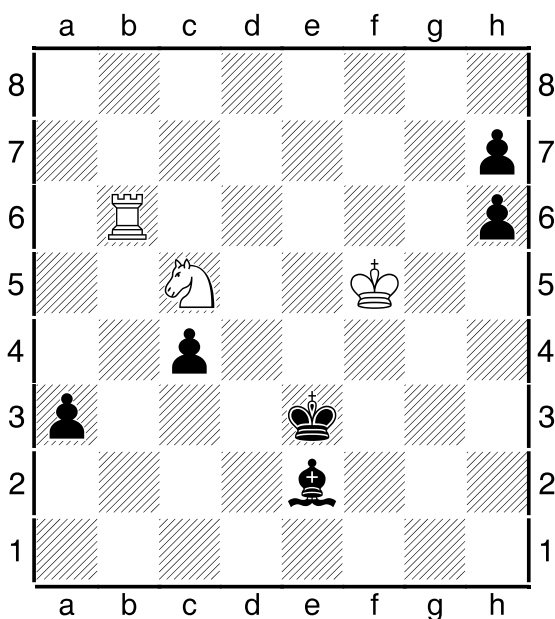
The following studies have minor duals that affect the overall impression:

17245 twin B: inversion of moves, both 13.Rd4 d2 14.Kf2 and 13.Kf2 d2 14.Rd4 go well;
17380 twin B: also 9.Kf5 wins; 17378: also 7.Kc2 wins (correction: add a Black pawn "b2");
17630 inversion of moves: line A) both 4.R:e2+ B:e2 5.h:g7 b1Q 6.g8Q and 4.h:g7 b1Q 5.R:e2+ B:e2 6.g8Q go well.

Partial anticipations were found and some of them are mentioned in the award. The tournament was organized in two sections: win studies and draw studies.

Win studies

1st Prize: Mario Guido Garcia (Salta, Argentina) 17444



1. Ta6! 1.Ke5? c3! (1.—h5? 2.Ta6 h4 3.T:a3+ Ld3 4.Ta1! siehe Lösung) 2.Tb3 a2 3.T:c3+ Kd2 4.Kd4 a1S! 5.Se4+ Kd1 6.Ke3 Sc2+!=

A 1.--Ld3+ 2.Ke5! 2.Kg4? c3 3.T:a3 h5+ 4.Kg3 h4+ 5.K:h4 Kd2 6.Ta8 (6.Kg3 Lg6 7.Sb3+ Kc2 8.Sd4+ Kd3 9.Sb5 Kc4=) 6.--c2 7.Td8 c1S= **2.--h5 3.T:a3 h4 4.Ta1!** 4.Se6? h3= **4.--Kf3 5.Se6 h3 6.Sg5+ Kg2** 6.--Kg3 7.Tg1+ Kf2 (7.—Kh2 8.Sf3#) 8.S:h3+ +- **7.Kf4 c3 8.Sf3 Kf2 9.Th1!** 9.Se5? Le2! 10.Ta2 h2 11.Sg4+ Ke1 12.S:h2 Kd1 13.Ke3 c2!= **9.--Lf1 10.Sh2 Ld3** 10.--Lg2 11.Tc1!+- **11.Sg4+ Kg2 12.Th2+** 12.Tc1? h2= **12.--Kg1 13.Ta2!** 13.T:h3? c2 14.Tg3+ Kf1 15.Se3+ Ke1 16.Tg1+ Kd2= **13.--Lb1** 13.--c2 14.Ta1+ Kg2 15.Se3+ Kf2 6.S:c2 L:c2 17.Ta2 h2 18.T:c2+ +- **14.Te2**

A1 14.--Ld3 15.Te1+ Kg2 15.--Lf1 16.Kg3+- **16.Se3+ Kf2 17.Th1! c2 18.S:c2 L:c2 19.Th2+ Kg1 20.T:c2 h2 21.Kg3!+-**

A2 14.--c2 15.Te1+ Kg2 16.Se3+ Kf2 17.Ta2 h2 17.--h2 18.S:c2 L:c2 19.T:c2+- **18.S:c2 L:c2 19.T:c2+ +-**

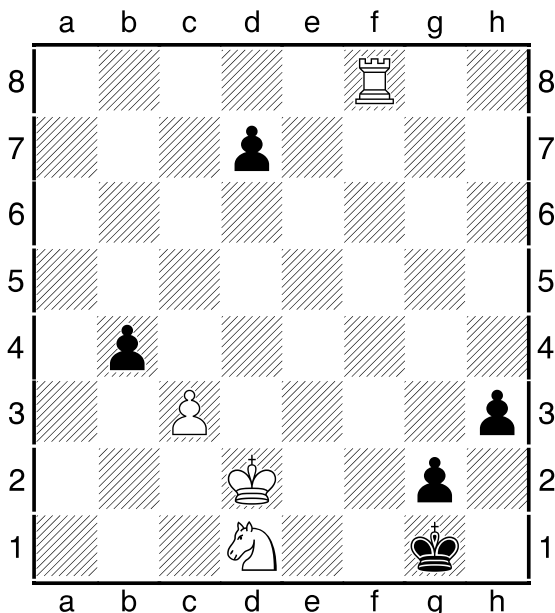
B 1.--Kd4 2.Se6+ Kc3 3.T:a3+ Kb2 4.Ta8! 4.Ta7? c3 5.Tb7+Ka3 6.Sd4 Ld3+ 7.Kf4 c2 8.Sb3 Kb2 9.Ke3 La6!= **4.--c3 5.Tb8+ Ka3 6.Sd4**

B1 6.--Ld3+ 7.Kf4 c2 8.Sb3 Kb2 9.Ke3! Lc4 10.Sd2+ Ka1 10.--Kc3 11.Se4# nach Perkonoja; 10.--Ka2 11.Ta8+ Kb2 12.S:c4+ Kc3 13.Ta1+- **11.Ta8+ La2 12.Kd3 c1D 13.Sb3+ Kb2 14.S:c1 K:c1 15.T:a2+-**

B2 6.--Ld1 7.Kf4 c2 8.Sb3 Kb2 9.Sc5+ Kc3 10.Se4+ Kc4 11.Tc8+ Kd3 12.Ke5! h5 13.Tc3+ +-

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

2nd Prize: Peter Siegfried Krug (Salzburg, Austria) & Mario Guido Garcia (Salta, Argentina) twin A 17245

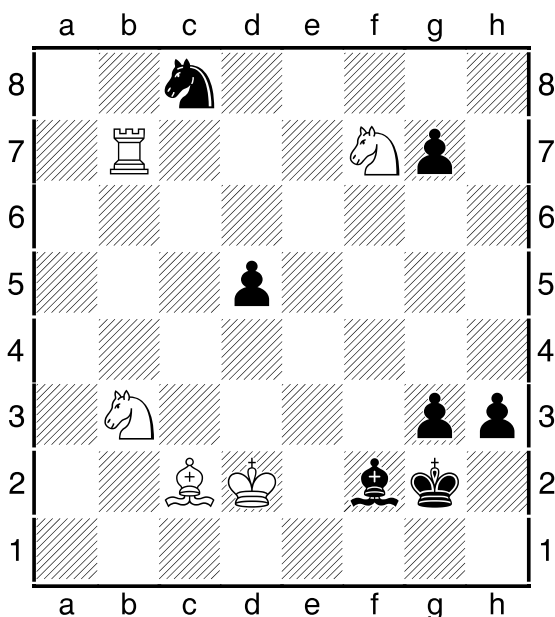


1.Sf2! 1.c:b4? Kh2 2.Tf2 2.Kg3= **1.--b:c3+ 2.Ke2 h2** 2.--Kh2 3.S:h3 c2 4.Tc8 K:h3 5.Kf2+- **3.Sh3+!** 3.Sg4? c2! 4.Tc8 h1D 5.T:c2 Dh6! 6.S:h6 Kh1!=; 3.Ta8? h1S! 4.Sg4 Sg3+ 5.Kf3 Sf1=) **3.--Kh1 4.Ta8** 4.Kf3? c2! (4.--g1S+? 5.Kg3 S:h3 6.Tf1+ Sg1 7.Tf2+-) 5.Tc8 g1S+! 6.Kg3 Se2+!= **4.--g1S+ 4.--g1D 5.Sf2+ Kg2 6.Tg8# 5.Kf2!** 5.Kf1? S:h3= **5.—S:h3+ 6.Kg3 d5!** 7.Ta1+ Sg1 8.Ta2! 8.Tc1? d4 9.Tc2 Sh3! 10.K:h3 Kg1 11.Kg3 Kf1 12.T:h2 Ke1 13.Kf3 Kd1 14.Ke4 c2 15.Kd3 c1S+!=

8.--Sh3! 9.K:h3 Kg1 10.Kg3 h1S+ 10.--Kf1 11.T:h2 Ke1 12.Kf3 /f4 Kd1 13.Ke3 d4+ 14.Kd3+-
 11.Kf3 d4 11.--Kf1 12.Ta1# 12.Tc2! z d3 13.T:c3 d2 13.--Sf2 14.Tc1+ +- 14.Td3 Kf1 15.T:d2 +-

The authors present a twin study but the twin B has 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 praise worthy. 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, under-promotions to Knight .

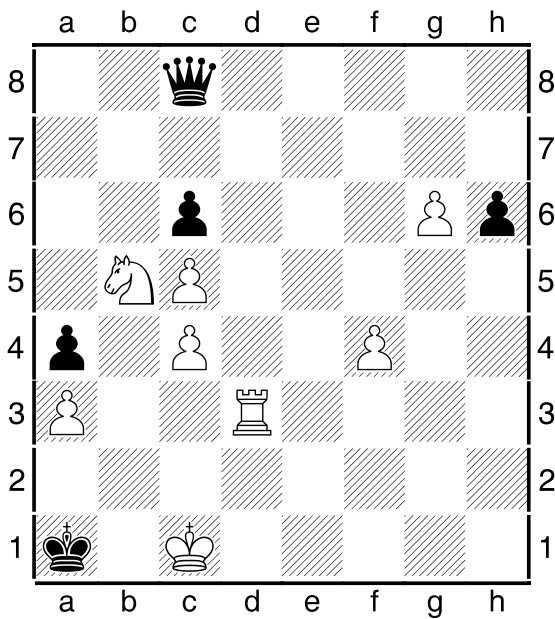
3rd Prize: Darko Hlebec (Belgrad, Serbia) 17179



1.Ld1! 1.Se5? z.B. Sd6 2.T:g7 h2= 1.--Sd6! 1.--h2 2.Se5 Le1+! 3.Kd3! Sd6 4.Lf3+ +- 2.S:d6 h2
 3.Sd4! L:d4 3.--Kh3 4.T:g7 L:d4 5.Th7+ Kg2 6.Sf5! (6.Lb3? Lc3+! 7.K:c3 Kg1=) 6.--h1D 7.Lf3+!
 K:f3 8.T:h1 Lc5 9.Tf1+ Kg4 10.Se3+ L:e3+ 11.K:e3 d4+ 12.Ke2! d3+ 13.Ke3+- 4.Lb3 Kh3 5.L:d5
 Le3+! 5.--g2 6.Tb3+ +- 6.K:e3 g2 7.L:g2+ K:g2 8.Tb2+! Thematic Try 8.T:g7+? Kh1! (8.--Kf1?
 9.Se4 h1D 10.Sg3+-) 9.Tb7 (9.Se4 patt) 9.--Kg2 10.Tb2+ Kg1 11.Tb1+ Kg2 12.Th1 K:h1 13.Kf2
 patt 8.--Kg1 9.Tb1+ Kg2 10.Th1! K:h1 11.Kf2 g5 12.Sf5 (12.Se4) g4 13.Sg3#

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 (Rh1!) was already utilized in the composition (A. Mouterde, Sydsvenska Dagbladet Snallposten, 1913; F. Richter, Narodni Listy, 1933; A. Gillberg, Ericsson MT, Springaren, 1986), but this study shows original starting position and original main line. The final minor dual (12.Nf5/Ne4) is influential.

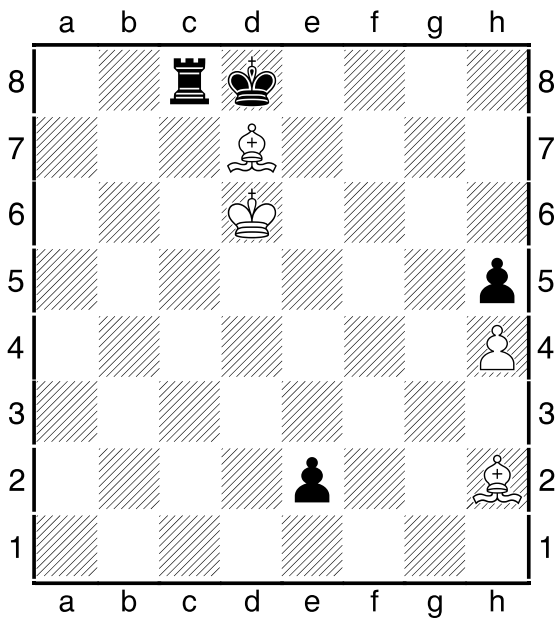
4th Prize: Gunter Sonntag (Oelsnitz, Germany) 17379



1.Sd4 Dg4 2.Sc2+ Ka2 3.Sb4+ Ka1 4.f5! D:f5 4.--Df4+ 5.Td2 Df1+ 6.Td1 Dg2 7.Sd3 (Te1)+- 5.g7 Df4+ 6.Td2 Df1+ 7.Td1 D:c4+ 8.Sc2+ 8.Kd2+? Kb2 9.Sd3+ K:a3= 8.--Ka2 9.Td2 Kb3 9.--Df1+ 10.Se1+ +- 10.Td3+ Ka2 10.—D:d3 11.g8D+- 11.Tf3 Dg4 12.Sb4+ Ka1 13.Tf1 Dg2 14.Te1! 14.g8D? D:f1+ 15.Kd2 Df2+ 16.Kd3 Df3+ 17.Kd4 Df4+ 18.Kc3 Df6+ = 14.--Dg3 14.--Db2+ 15.Kd1+- 15.Th1 Dg2 16.g8D!+-

The starting position shows material balance between the white army and the black army, but White has the advantage: as a matter of fact the white forces occupy active positions and, moreover, the black King is in narrowness. The play is interesting and the collaboration of the white pieces is remarkable. Of course the counter-play by Black is exclusively referred to 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 the checkmate.

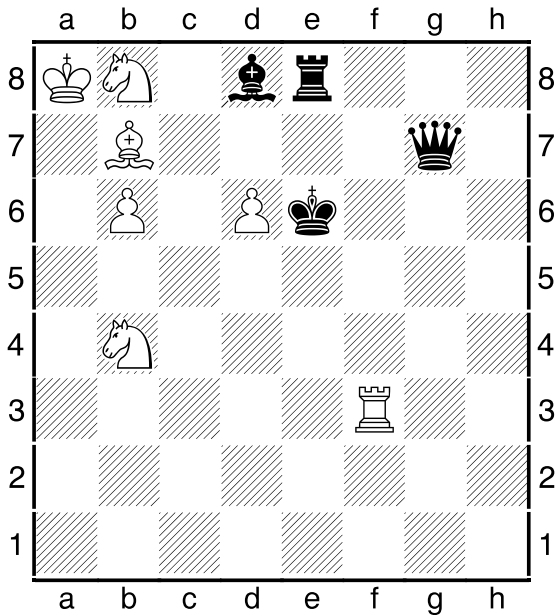
5th Prize: Pawel Arestow (Krasnogorsk, Russia) 17118



1.Le5 1.Lg3? Tc3 2.Le1 Td3+ -+; thematic try 1.Lf4? Tc6+ 2.K:c6 e1D 3.Lg5+ De7zz 4.Lf5 Ke8! 5.Lg6+ Kf8! 6.L:e7+ K:e7= 1.--Tc6+ 2.K:c6 2.L:c6? e1D= 2.--e1T! 2.--e1D 3.Lf6+ De7 4.Lg5!zz D:g5 5.h:g5+- 3.Lf6+ Te7 4.Lg4 4.Lg5? patt; 4.Lf5? Ke8 5.Lg6+ Kf8 6.L:h5 Te6+= 4.--h:g4 4.--Ke8 5.L:h5+ +- 5.Kd6 Ke8 6.L:e7 Kf7 7.Ld8! 7.Lg5 g3 8.Ke5 Kg6 9.Ld8 g2 10.Lb6 Kh5= 7.--g3 8.Ke5 Kg6 9.Kf4 g2 10.Lb6 Kh5 11.Kg3+-

In the initial stage this study presents very brilliant moves: the thematic try 1.Bf4?! with ZZ-position, the sacrifice of the Rook and also the promotion to Rook. And this unexpected promotion to Rook 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.

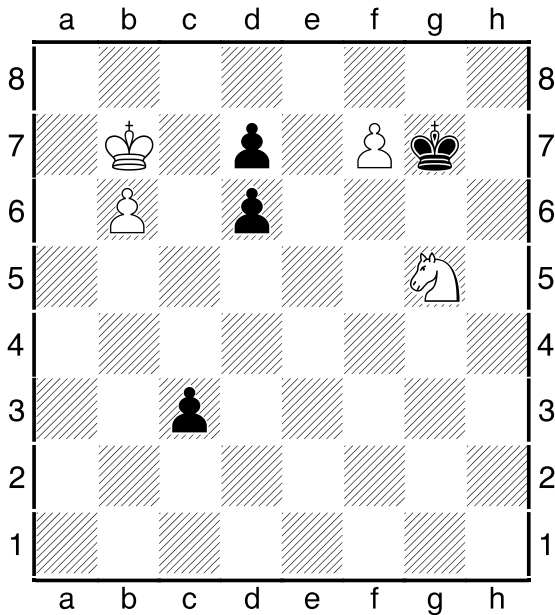
1st Honourable Mention: Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Vanløse, Denmark) & Martin Minski (Berlin, Germany) 17180



1.Lc8+ 1.Te3+? K:d6= 1.--K:d6 2.b7 2.Td3+? Kc5 3.b7 K:b4 4.Sa6+ Kc4 5.b8D
 K:d3 6.Db5+ Kd2 7.D:e8 Lb6= 2.--Lb6!? 3.S8a6 3.Td3+? Kc5= 3.--T:c8+ 4.b:c8S+!
 4.b:c8D?? Da7# 4.--Ke5
 4.--Ke6 5.S:b6 Dg2 6.Sc5+ Ke5 7.Scd3+ Ke6 (7.--Kd6 8.Sc4+ +-) 8.Sf4+ Kf5
 9.S:g2+ +- 5.S:b6 Dg2 6.Sc6+ Kd6 7.Tf6#

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

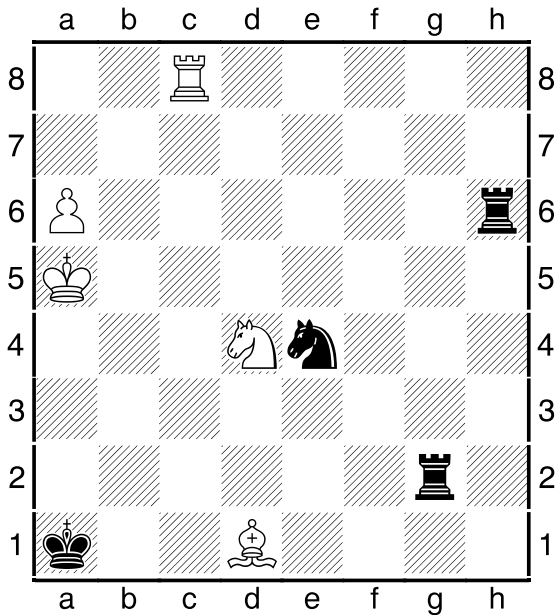
2nd Honourable Mention: L'ubos Kekely (Snežnica, Slovakia) & Michal Hlinka (Košice, Slovakia) 17117



1.Ka8! 1.Ka7? c2 2.b7 c1D 3.b8D Dc5+ 4.Ka6 Dc6+ 5.Ka5 Dc3+ 6.Db4 Da1+ 7.Da4 Dc3+ 8.Ka6 Dc8+ 9.Ka5 Dd8+ 10.Kb4 D:g5=; 1.Ka6? c2 2.b7 c1D 3.b8D Dc6+= **1.--c2 2.b7 c1D 3.b8D Da3+** 3.--Dc6+ 4.Db7 Da4+ 5.Kb8+- **4.Da7** 4.Kb7? Db4+ 5.Kc8 Dc5+ 6.K:d7 Df5+ 7.Ke8 De5+=
4.--D:a7+ 4.--Dc5 5.Da1+ De5 6.Df1+-; 4.--Dc3 5.Da6 d5 6.Dd6 Dc6+ 7.D:c6 d:c6 8.Kb7 d4 9.K:c6 d3 10.Kd7+- **5.K:a7 d5 6.Kb6!** nach Reti; 6.Kb7? Kf8! 7.Kc7 Ke7= **6.--d4** 6.--Kf8 7.Kc5+ **7.Kc7 d3** 7.--Kf8 8.K:d7 d3 9.Ke6 d2 10.Kf6 **8.K:d7** 8.Kd6? d2 9.Ke7 d1D 10.f8D+ Kg6= **8.--d2 9.Ke7** 9.Ke6? d1D=; 9.Ke8? d1D 10.f8D+ Kg6= **9.--d1D 10.f8D+ Kg6 11.Se6!** 11.Dg8+? Kf5!|=; 11.Df6+? Kh5 12.Se6 (12.Se4 Dd5=) 12.--Dc1 13.Df3+ Kh4!|= **11.--Dd2 12.Df7+** 12.Df6+? Kh5= **12.--Kh6 13.Df3! Kg6** 13.--Db4+ 14.Kf7 Dh4 15.De3+ Kh5 16.De5+ Kg4 17.Df4+ Kh3 18.Sg5+ +- **14.Ke8!** 14.Df7+ Kh6 15.Df3 Kg6 16.Ke8+-; 14.Dg4+ Kh6 15.Df3 Kg6 16.Ke8+- Tempo **14.--Da5** 14.--Dc1 15.Sf4+ Kg5 16.Dh5+ Kf6 (16.--K:f4 17.Dh6+ +-) 17.Dg6+ Ke5 18.Sd3+ +- **15.Sf4+ Kf6 16.Sd5+ Kg5** 16.--Ke6 17.Df6+ K:d5 18.Df5+ +-; 16.--Ke5 17.Df4+ Ke6 18.Df6+ K:d5 19.Df5+ +- **17.Dg3+ +-**

The structure of this study remembers a real ending: an OTB player will surely find reason for interest. The play of the first player is precise. The first move - the White king moves to the corner – is paradoxical. After 13.Qf3 the position is identical to J. Nunn, Schakend Nederland, 1991 and V. Kondratev, Hlinka – 50 JT, Ceskoslovensky Sach, 2000, but the starting position and the solution are original.

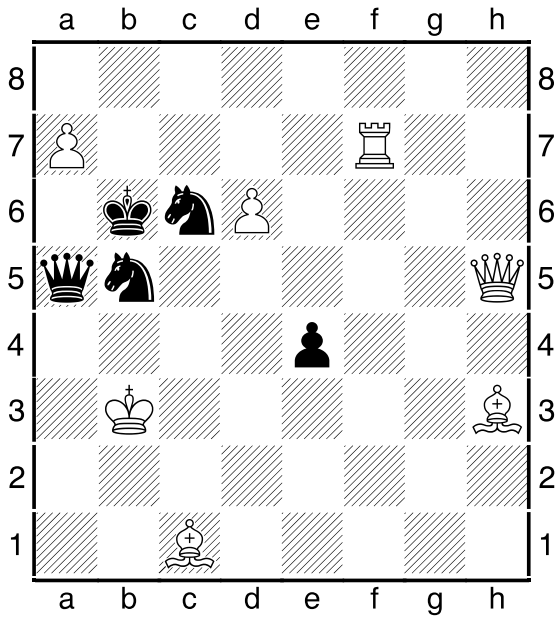
3rd Honourable Mention: Michal Hlinka (Košice, Slovakia) & L'ubos Kekely (Snežnica, Slovakia) 17056



1.a7 1.Le2? Tg5+ 2.Ka4 Td5 3.Sc2+ Kb2 4.a7 Th4! 5.Sb4 (5.Tb8+ K:c2 6.a8D Sc3+ 7.Ka3 Ta4+=) 5.--Sc3+ 6.T:c3 K:c3 7.a8D T:b4+ 8.Ka3 Tb3+ 9.Ka2 Td2+ 10.Ka1 Tdb2= **1.--Ta2+ 2.La4 T:a4+ 3.K:a4 Ta6+ 4.Kb3 Sd2+ 5.Kc2 Ta2+!** 5.--T:a7 6.Kc1!+- zz, see solution **6.Kd1!** thematic try 6.Kc1? T:a7= zz; **6.--T:a7 7.Kc1!zz Ta4** 7.--Ta3 8.Sc2+ +-; 7.--Ka2 8.Tc2+ Ka3 9.Sb5+ +-; 7.--Ta5 8.Tb8 Sc4 9.Sb3+ +-; 7.--Ta6 8.Sc2+ Ka2 9.Sb4+ +-; 7.--Sb3+ 8.S:b3+ Ka2 9.Sd4 Ta4 10.Kc2 Ka3 11.Kc3 Ta5 12.Tc4 Ka2 13.Sb3 Ta3 14.Tb4 Ta8 15.Sd2+- **8.K:d2 Kb2** 8.--Ka2 9.Kc2 Ka3 10.Kc3+- (see 7.—Sb3+); 8.--T:d4+ 9.Kc2 Ta4 10.Kb3 Ta7 11.Tc1# after Saavedra **9.Tb8+ Ka2 10.Kc3** 10.Kc2? Tc4+= **10.--Ta3+ 11.Sb3!** 11.Kc2? Th3! 12.Ta8+ Ta3 13.Th8 Te3! 14.Ta8+ Ta3 15.Te8 Th3!= **11.--Ta7(Ta6) 12.Sd2** 12.Tc8? Kb1= **12.--Tc7+** 12.--Ta3+ 13.Kc2 Th3 14.Ta8+ Ta3 15.Th8+- **13.Sc4+-**

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 scheme of Saavedra.

4th Honourable Mention: Gunter Sonntag (Oelsnitz, Germany) 17004

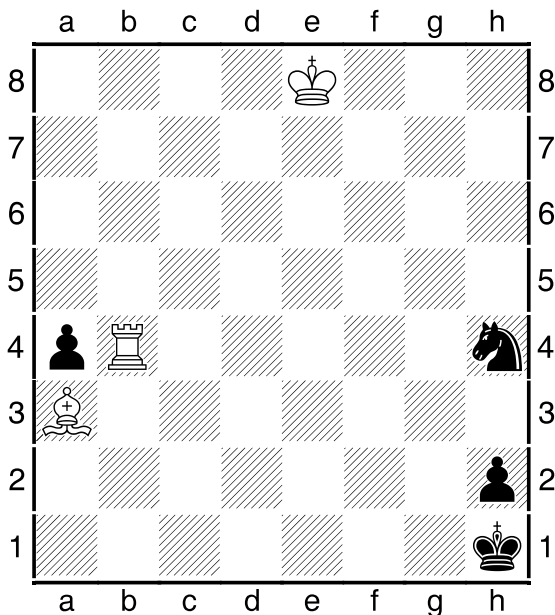


1.a8S+ 1.Le3+? Scd4+ 2.L:d4+ S:d4+ 3.Kc4 D:h5=; 1.Tb7+? K:b7 2.a8D+ K:a8= **1.--D:a8**
2.D:b5+! 2.Le3+? Scd4+ 3.L:d4+ S:d4+ 4.Kb4 Sc6+ 5.Kb3 Sd4+ =; 2.Kc2? Da4+ 3.Kd2 Da5+
 4.Kd1 Sc3+ 5.Ke1 D:h5= **2.--K:b5** **3.Tf5+ Se5** 3.--Ka6 4.Lf1+ Kb7 5.Tf7+ Kb6 6.Le3+ Sd4+
 7.L:d4+ Kc6 8.d7+- **4.T:e5+ Kc6** **5.d7 Dg8+** 5.--Db8+ 6.Kc4+- **6.Kb4 Db8+** **7.Kc4 D:e5** **8.d8S+!**
 8.d8D? Dc5+ = **8.--Kb6** **9.Le3+ Kc7** 9.--Ka6 10.Lc8+ Ka5 11.Sc6+ +- **10.Lf4! D:f4** **11.Se6+ Kd6**
12.S:f4+-

Very good orchestration of the White pieces. The two promotions to Knight enrich the composition. The brilliant sacrifice of the white Queen prepares the decisive collaboration of the remaining pieces of the first player.

5th Honourable Mention: Peter Siegfried Krug (Salzburg, Austria)

17247

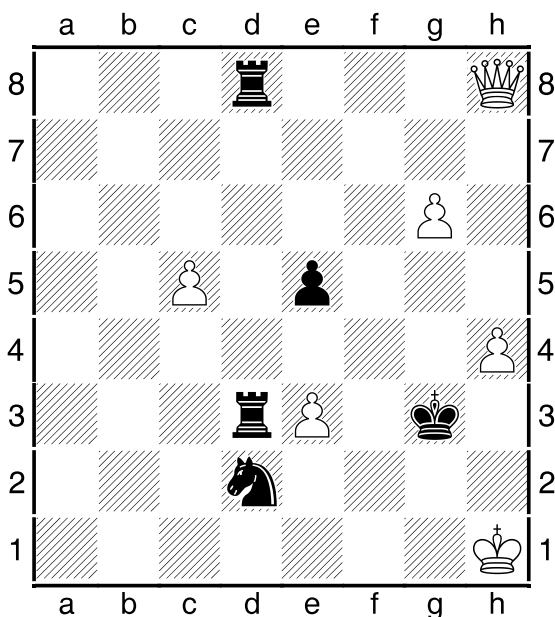


1.Tb2! Sf3 **2.Lc5 a3!** **3.Ta2** 3.Te2 a2 4.T:a2 Sd2 5.Ld6 Sf3; 3.Te2 a2 4.T:a2 Sd2
3.--Sd4 **4.Ke7!!** thematic try 4.Kf7? Sb5 5.Tc2 a2 6.T:a2 Sc3! 7.Tc2 Se4 8.Le3 Sg3 9.La7 (9.Kg6
 Se2=) 9.--Se4 10.Lb8 Sg5+ 11.Kg6 Sf3 12.La7 Sd2 13.Lb8 Sf3 14.La7 Sd2 15.Kh5 Kg2 16.T:d2+

Kh3=; 4.Kd7(Lb6)? Sb5 5.Tc2 a2 6.T:a2 Sd4! 7.Ke7 Sf3 8.Kf6 Sd2 9.Kg5 Kg2 10.T:d2+ Kh3= **4.-- Sb5 5.Tc2(Td2) a2 6.T:a2 Sc3** 6.--Sd4 7.Kf6 Se2(Sf3) 8.Ld6+- **7.Tc2 Se4 8.Le3!** 8.La7? Sd2 9.Lb8 Sf3= **8.--Sg3 9.La7!** 9.Lb6? Sf5+ 10.Kf6 Se3=; 9.Lc5 Se4 10.Le3 Sg3 Tempo **9.--Se2** 9.--Sf5+ 10.Kf6+-; 9.--Se4 10.Lb8+- **10.Lb8 Kg1 11.L:h2+ +-**

A nice miniature. The coordination between the Rook and the Bishop is remarkable. The fourth move (4.Ke7) is astonishing; and at this point also the tries are interesting. The counter-play by Black is strong, see – for example - the alternatives for the Knight at the ninth move. The minor dual (5.Rc2/Rd2) is influential. This composition has another merit: during the main line there are only the two captures necessary to eliminate the dangerous pawns; and the Rook and the Bishop, by common consent, share this work.

1st Commendation: Daniel Keith (Molsheim, France) & Martin Minski (Berlin, Germany) 11505

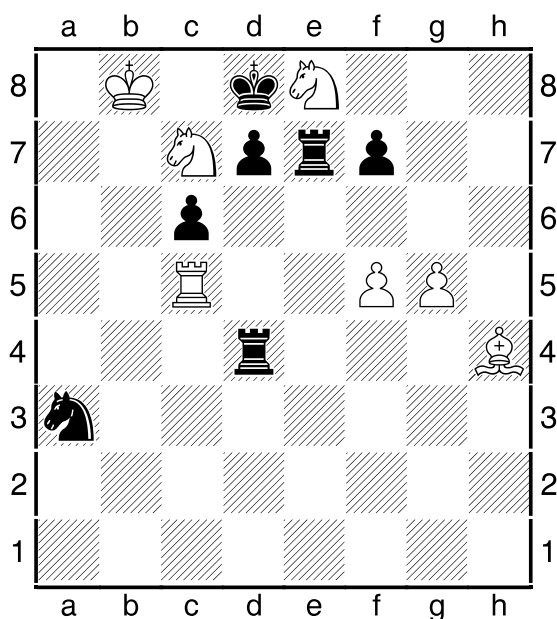


1.g7! 1.D:e5+? Kf2 2.Dh2+ K:e3= **1.--Tg8!** 1.--T:h8 2.g:h8D Sf3 3.Dg8+ Kf2 4.Da2+! K:e3 5.Da7! Td1+ 6.Kg2 Tg1+ 7.Kh3 Th1+ 8.Kg4+- **2.D:g8 Tc3!** 2.--T:e3 3.Db3! T:b3 4.g8D+ +-; 2.--Ta3 3.Da2!

T:a2 4.g8D+ +-, 2.--Sc4 3.Dd5! T:d5 4.g8D+ +- **3.Dc4! T:c4 4.g8D+ Tg4 5.Dg5!** 5.De6? T:h4+ 6.Kg1 Sf3+ 7.Kf1 Th2 8.Dg6+ Kh3 9.c6 Td2= **5.--Sf3 6.D:g4+! K:g4 7.c6 S:h4 8.c7 Sf5 9.c8D+ -**

In the starting position the two adverse 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.

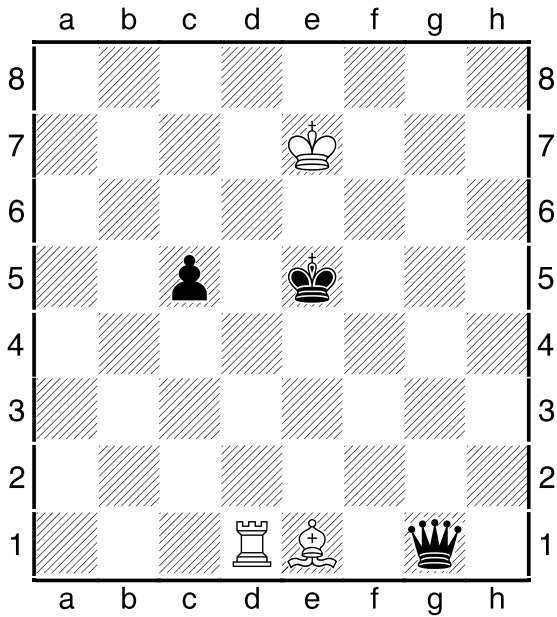
2nd Commendation: Andrzej Jasik (Ostrolęka, Poland) 16945



1.Sd6! T:d6 2.g6 f6 2.--f:g6 3.Te5+- 3.Te5!! c5! 3.--Sb5 4.g7 T:g7 5.Te8#
4.Sd5! 4.T:c5? Tb6+ 5.Ka7 Tc6 6.T:c6 d:c6 7.L:f6 Sb5+! 8.Kb6 (8.Kb8 Kd7!
 9.L:e7 K:e7 10.S:b5 c:b5=) 8.--S:c7=; 9.g7?? Sd5+ 10.K:c6 S:f6-+ **4.--T:e5 5.g7 Te8 5.--Te:d5**
 6.g8D+ Ke7 7.Dg7+ Ke8 8.L:f6 Tb6+ 9.Kc8 T:f6 10.D:f6+- **6.L:f6+**
 6.S:f6? Tb6+ 7.Ka7 T:f6-+ **6.--T:f6 7.S:f6 Ke7+ 8.S:e8 K:e8 9.g8D+ +-**

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.Nd5) decidedly tip the scales in favour of the first player. The final moves seem forced.

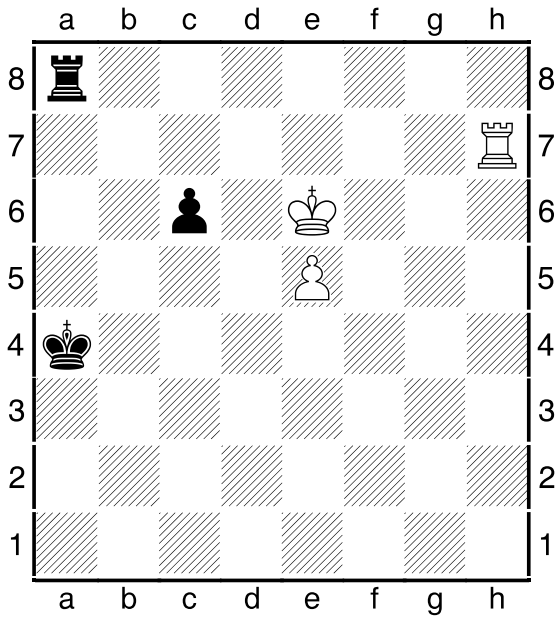
3rd Commendation: Árpád Ruzs (Budapest, Hungary) 17566



1.Lc3+ Dd4! 1.--Ke4 2.T:g1+-; **2.La1!!zz** 2.L:d4+? c:d4zz 3.Kd7 Kd5 zz 4.Kc7 Kc5zz 5.Kd7 Kd5= **2.--D:a1** 2.--Kd5 3.L:d4 c:d4 4.Kd7!zz - chameleon echo (4.Kf6? Ke4=) **3.T:a1 c4 4.Kd7** 4.Tc1? Kd4 5.Kd6 c3= **4.--Kd5 5.Tc1 zz Kc5** 5.--Kd4 6.Kc6 c3 7.Kb5 Kd3 8.Kb4+- **6.Kc7!+- zz - chameleon echo** 6.Ke6? Kd4=

Of course this miniature reminds the chess player (= the reader) of another one: the famous study by R. Reti, 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 echo 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.

4th Commendation: Marcel Doré (Paris, France) 17633

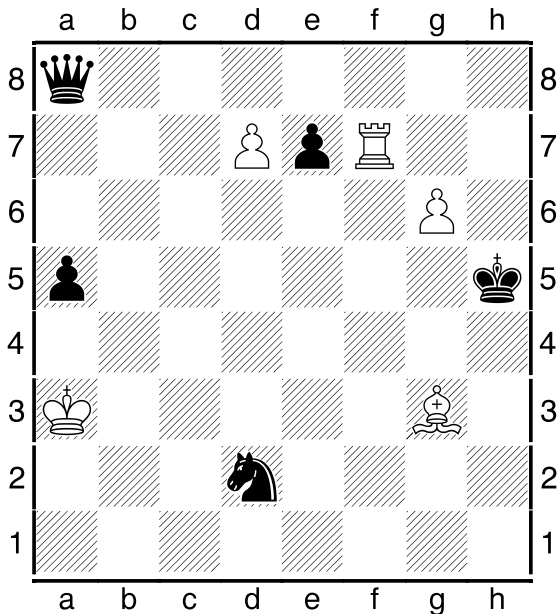


1.Kd6! 1.Tc7? Kb5 2.Kd6 Td8+ 3.Td7 Te8 4.e6 c5 5.Kd5 Kb6! 6.e7 c4 7.Kd6 Kb5= **1.--Kb5**
2.Tb7+! 2.e6? c5! 3.Tb7+ Kc4 4.Tc7 Td8+ 5.Td7 Te8 6.e7 Kb4! (6.--Kd4? 7.Td8 T:e7 8.K:e7+ +-)
 7.Td8 T:e7 8.K:e7 c4 9.Kd6 c3= (9.--Kb3? 10.Tb8+! Kc2 11.Kc5+-) **2.--Kc4 3.Tc7!** 3.e6? c5 4.Tc7
 Td8+= wie nach 2.e6 **3.--Td8+ 4.K:c6! Kd4 5.e6 Ke5 6.e7 Td6+ 7.Kb7! Te6 8.Kc8! Kf6 9.Kd8+-**

A nice miniature with a natural position. Both colours play precise moves. The winning manoeuvre is praiseworthy. This composition would be published in a book wholly devoted to rook endings. The OTB chess player can find very interesting moves 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 coordination of all the forces “.

Draw studies (=).

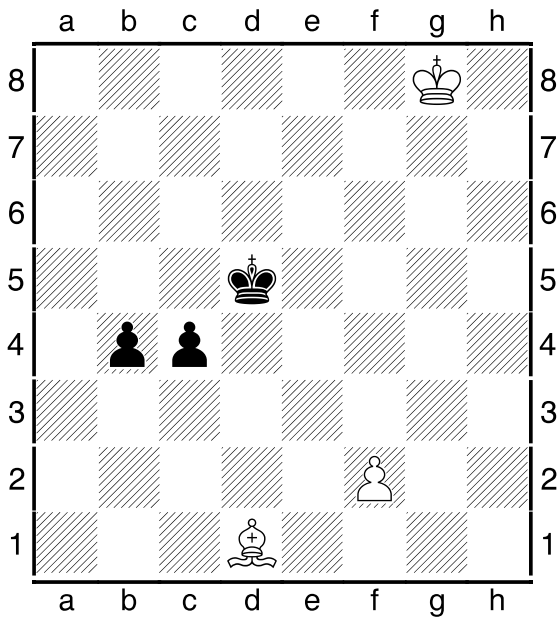
1st Prize: Bizya Buyannemekh (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia) & Wladimir Tarasiuk (Perwomajskij, Ukraine) & Mario Guido Garcia (Salta, Argentina) 17506



1.g7! Db7 1.--De4 2.Kb2! (2.Tf5+? Kh6-+) 2.--Db1+3.Kc3 Se4+ 4.Kd4 Db4+ 5.Ke3!= **2.Tf5+ Kh6**
3.Lf4+! 3.g8S+? Kh7 (3.--Kg7) 4.Tf7+ Kg6 5.S:e7+ Kh5 (5.--K:f7? 6.d8S+!=) 6.Th7+ Kg4!-+ **3.--**
K:g7 4.L:d2 a4! 4.--D:d7 5.Lc3+ Kg6 6.T:a5= **5.Lc3+ e5!** 5.--Kg6 6.K:a4 D:d7+ 7.Tb5= **6.L:e5+**
Kh7 7.Th5+! 7.Tf7+? Kg6 8.Tg7+ Kf5! 9.Tg5+ (9.K:a4 Da8+ 10.Kb5 K:e5-+) 9.--Ke4! (9.--Ke6?
10.d8S+! +-) 10.Tg3 D:d7 11.Lb2 Dd6+ -+ **7.--Kg6 8.Tg5+! Kh6!** 8.--K:g5 9.d8D+= **9.Tg3!** 9.Lg7+?
Kh7! 10.Tg3 D:d7-+ **9.--D:d7 10.Te3!** 10.Tc3? De7+ -+ **10.--De7+** 10.--Da7 11.Th3+! (11.Lf4+?
Kg6 12.Te4 Dg7 13.T:a4 Dc3+-+) 11.--Kg5 12.Lc3 Kg4 (12.--Dg1 13.Lb2!=) 13.Td3 Dc5+ 14.Lb4
Dc2 15.Tc3!= **11.Ka2! Df7+!** **12.Ka3!** 12.Kb1? Df1+ 13.Ka2 Dc4+! (13.--Df2+? 14.Lb2!= see
solution) 14.Kb1 a3! 15.T:a3 De4+ -+ **12.--Dd5!** **13.Lb2!!** 13.Th3+? Kg5! (13.--Kg6? 14.La1! Dd6+
15.Kb2! Db6+ 16.Ka3 Dd6+ 17.Kb2=) 14.Lb2 Dd6+ -+ **13.--Dc5+ 14.Ka2! D:e3 15.Lc1! D:c1** **patt**

After a long and complex play with unexpected moves, various tries and a strong counter play by Black, at the end White can save himself with a clever manouevre and reaches the stalemate. The main line is attractive and interesting but surely also the variations attract attention of the chess player. The starting structure and the long solution are original but the stalemate is well-known: in the beginning F. Lazard (L'Echiquier de Paris, 1948) and recently V. Kovalenko and A. Skripnik (Shakhmatnaja Kompozicija, 2001).

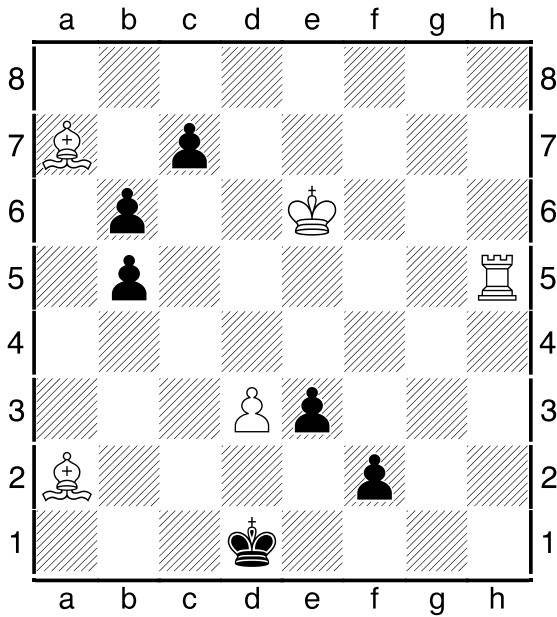
2nd Prize: Pawel Arestow (Krasnogorsk, Russia) & Wladimir Tarasiuk (Perwomajskij, Ukraine) 17632



1.Lf3+! A 1.--Kc5 2.Lg4!! thematic try 2.Lh5? b3! 3.Lf7 Kd4! zz 4.Kg7 Kd3! 5.Lg6+ Kd2! (5.--Ke2? 6.Lf7! Kd3 7.Lg6+ Tempo) 6.f4 c3 7.f5 c2 8.f6 c1D 9.f7 Dc3+! 10.Kg8 Dg3! 11.Kh7 Df4 12.Kg7 De5+ 13.Kg8 Dg5 14.Kg7 b2! 15.f8D b1D 16.Df2+ Kc3 17.Df3+ Kd4 18.Df2+ Kd5 19.Df3+ Kd6 20.Df8+ Kc7 21.Df7+ Kb6-+ **2.--b3 3.Le6! Kd4 4.Lf7!zz Kd3 5.Lg6+ Ke2 6.Lf7! Kd3 7.Lg6+ Kd2 7.--Ke2 8.Lf7= 8.f4! 8.Lf7? b2 9.Lg6 c3 10.f4 c2-+**
A1 8.--c3 9.f5 c2 10.f6 c1D 11.f7 Dg1 12.Kg7! 12.f8D? D:g6+ -+ 12.--Dd4+ 13.Kg8 Dg4 14.Kg7! 14.Kh7? Df4-+ 14.--b2 14.--Dd4+ 15.Kg8 Dg4 16.Kg7= 15.f8D b1D 16.Df2+!= 16.Dd6+? Ke2-+
A2 8.--b2 9.Lb1 c3 10.f5 c2 11.L:c2 K:c2 12.f6 b1D 13.f7=
B 1.--Ke5 2.Le2!! thematic try 2.Lh5? b3 3.Lf7 Kd4!-+ zz siehe A **2.--Kd4 3.Lh5! 3.Lg4? b3 4.Le6 Kd3! 5.f4 b2 6.Lf5+ Ke3 7.Lc2 K:f4-+ 3.--b3 4.Lf7!!= zz siehe A**

A miniature well-constructed. White reaches a draw principally with a clever manoeuvre of the Bishop, but also the King and the pawn of the first player are active. Interesting the two main lines. The counter play by Black is strong. Also the OTB chess player can find very interesting the play (and the use of the zugzwang) of this ending.

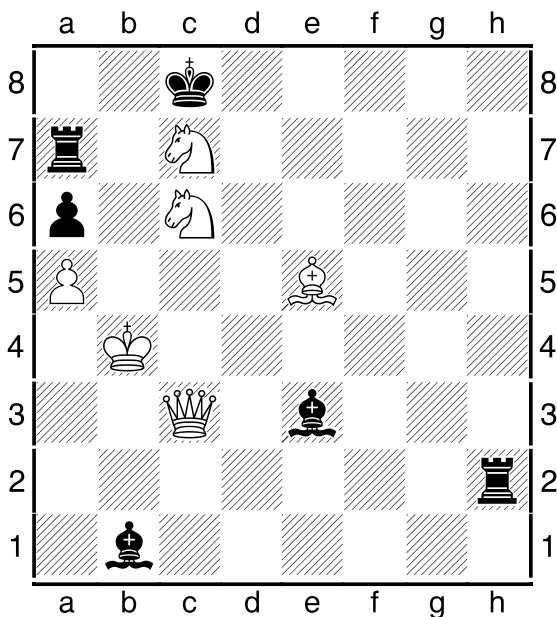
1st Honourable Mention: Wladimir Samilo (Kharkiv, Ukraine) 17631



1.Lb3+ Ke1 1.--Kd2 2.Tf5 Ke1 3.Lb8 e2 4.L:c7 f1D 5.L:b6= 2.Th1+ f1D 3.T:f1+ K:f1 4.Ld1
A b4 5.Lb8! Ke1 6.Lf3! Kf2 6.--b3 7.Ld5! b2 8.La2 Kd2 9.L:c7= 7.Ld1! b3 8.L:c7 e2 9.L:b6+ Kg2
10.L:b3 e1D+ 11.Kd7! Db1 12.Ld5+ Kf1 13.Kc7 D:d3 14.Lc6=
B 4.--e2 5.L:e2+ K:e2 6.L:b6! 6.d4? b4 7.L:b6 b3+ 6.--c:b6 7.d4 b4 8.d5 b3
9.d6 b2 10.d7 b1D 11.d8D De4+ 11.--Dg6+ 12.Ke5!= 12.Kf7 Dh7+ 13.Ke6 Dg6+ 14.Ke5 Dg3+
15.Ke6 Dg6+ 16.Ke5=

The author presents an interesting ending with two good main lines. Giambattista Lolli, 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 be in advantage ... but all the White pieces collaborate very well in order to reach a draw after a long fight.

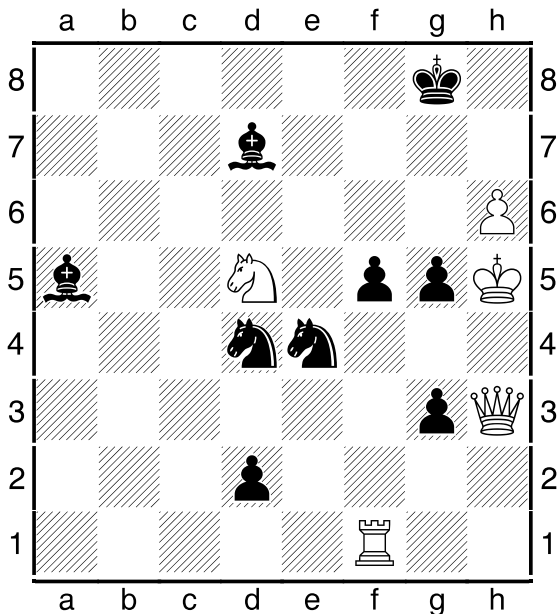
2nd Honourable Mention: Michal Hlinka (Košice, Slovakia) & L'ubos Kekely (Snežnica, Slovakia) 17629



1.--Tb7+ 2.Kc4 Th4+ 2.--Tc2 3.D:c2 L:c2 4.S:a6= 3.Kd5 3.Sd4? L:d4 4.D:d4 La2+ 5.Kc5 T:d4+
 3.--La2+ 4.Kd6 Th6+ 5.Lf6 Lf4+ 6.Se5 6.Kc5? Th5+ 7.Kd4 T:c7-+ 6.--T:f6+ 7.Se6+ Kb8 8.Dc7+!
 Ka7 9.Dc5+ Ka8 10.Dc8+ Ka7 11.Dc5+ 12.Dc7+ T:c7 patt

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.

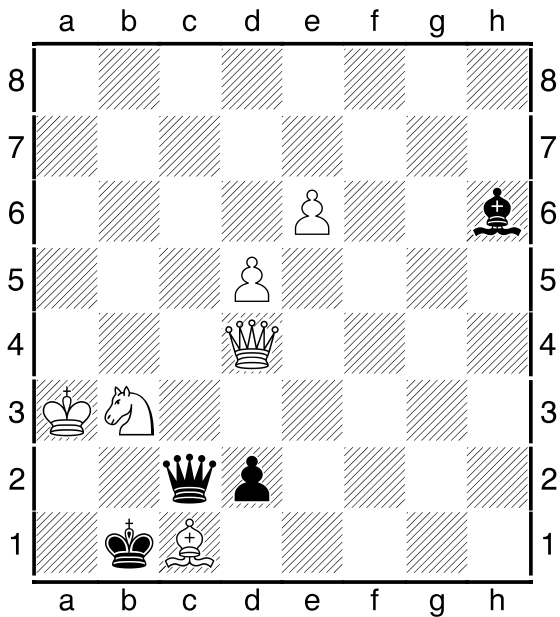
3rd Honourable Mention: Pawel Arestow (Krasnogorsk, Russia) & Peter Siegfried Krug (Salzburg, Austria) 17246



<1.h7+! K:h7 1.--Kh8? 2.Kh6!+- 2.Sf6+! Kg7! 2.--S:f6+? 3.K:g5+ Kg7 4.Dh6+ +- 3.S:e4 Se2!
 3.--Sf3 4.Sf6= 4.Dh1! 4.S:d2? L:d2-+; 4.S:g5? Sf4+ 5.T:f4 d1D+ 6.Sf3 Le1 7.Kg5 Dd6 8.Td4 Ld2+!!
 9.T:d2 De7+ 10.Kf4 De4+ 11.Kg5 De3+ -+; 4.Dg2 Sf4+ 5.T:f4 d1D+ 6.Tf3 4.--g2! 4.--Ld8 5.S:g5=
 5.D:g2 Sf4+ 6.T:f4 d1D+ 7.Tf3 Ld8 7.--f:e4 8.D:g5+ Kh7 9.Dg6+= 8.S:g5! Le8+ 9.Sf7+! Kf8! 9.--
 K:f7 10.Kh6! Dc1+ 11.Kh7= 10.Dg7+! K:g7 patt

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 White Queen are precise and the final sacrifice is strong.

4th Honourable Mention: Michal Hlinka (Košice, Slovakia) & L'ubos Kekely (Snežnica, Slovakia) 17055



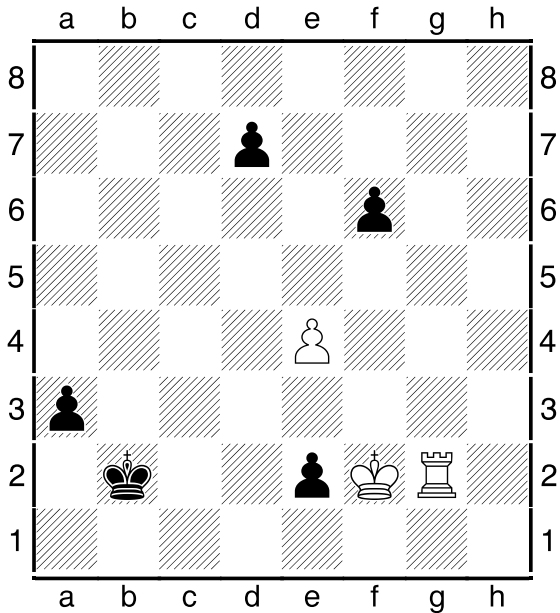
1.--Lf8+ 2.e7! 2.Ka4? Da2+ 3.Kb5 D:b3+ -+; 2.d6? L:d6+ 3.D:d6 d1D 4.Sd2+ K:c1 5.Dd4 Dd:d2
 6.Dg1+ Dcd1 7.Dc5+ Kb1 8.Db6+ Ka1-+ 2.--L:e7+ 3.d6 L:d6+ 4.D:d6 d1D 5.Sd2+ 5.D:d1? D:d1-+
5.--K:c1 6.Dd4! Dd:d2 6.--De1 7.Sb3+ D:b3+ 8.K:b3= 7.Dg1+ Dcd1 8.Dc5+ Kb1 9.Db6+!
 9.Db5+? Ka1 10.De5+ Dd4-+ 9.--Ka1 9.--Kc2 10.Db3+ Kc1 11.Db1+! K:b1 patt **10.Dd4+!** 10.Df6+?
 Dd4-+ **10.--D:d4 patt** 10.--Kb1 11.Db6+ =

After a starting play with many captures, the solution of this Meredith continues with good moneuvres (zugzwang, switchbacks) and ends with interesting stalemates. Black plays with two Queens but the moves of the White Queen are precise; after the final sacrifice the first player can reach the draw.

Attachments

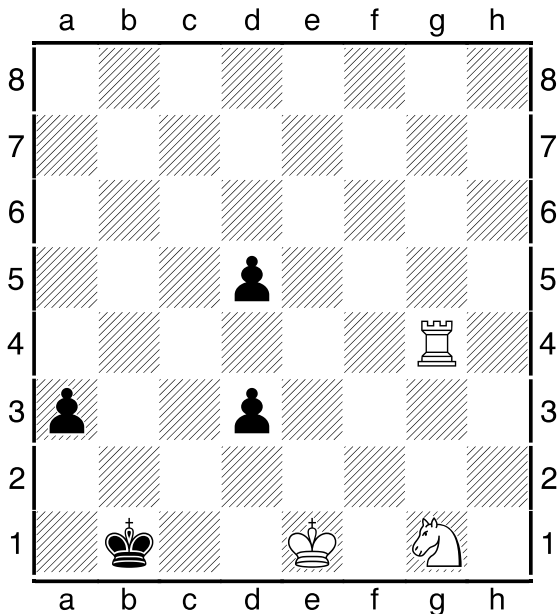
To 17179 Darko Hlebec

A.Mouterde, Sydsvenska Dagbladet Snallposten 1913



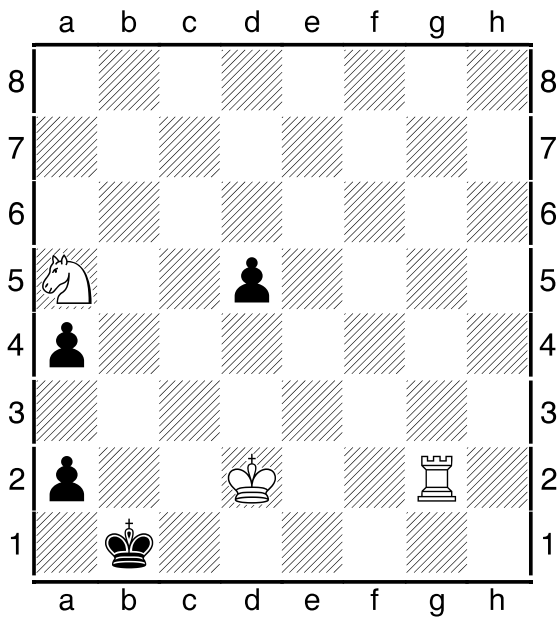
1.K:e2 a2! 2.Kd3+ Kb1 3.Tg1+ Kb2 4.Ta1! K:a1 5.Kc2 f5 6.e:f5 d5 7.f6 d4 8.f7 d3+
9.Kc1! d2+ 10.K:d2 Kb1 11.f8D a1D 12.Df5+ Kb2 13.Db5+ Ka3 14.Da5+ Kb2
15.Db4+ Ka2 16.Kc2+-

F.Richter, Narodni Listi 1933



1.Kd2! d4! 2.Sf3 a2 3.Tg1+ Kb2 4.Ta1! K:a1 5.Kc1 d2+ 6.S:d2 d3 7.Sb3#

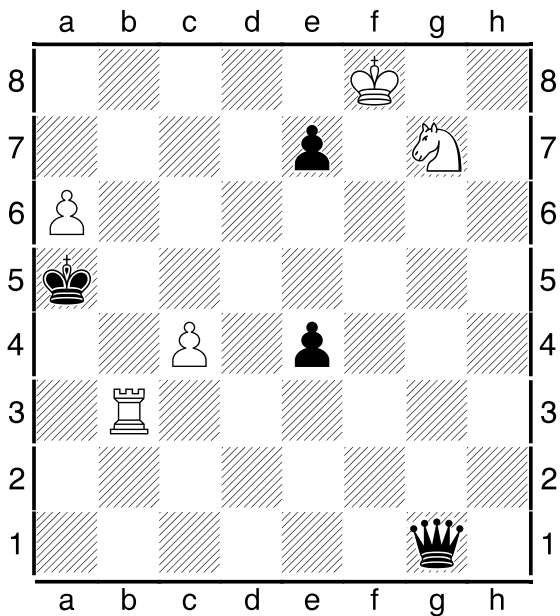
A.Gillberg, Ericsson MT Springaren 1986



1.Tg1+ Kb2 2.Ta1! a3 3.Sb7! d4 4.Sc5 d3 5.Th1 a1D 6.S:d3+! Ka2 7.Sb4+! Kb2
8.T:a1 K:a1 9.Kc1 a2 10.Sc2#

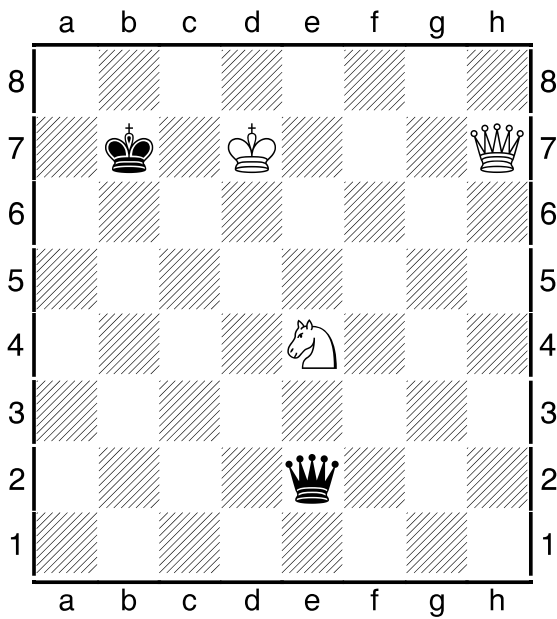
To 17117 L'ubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka

V.Kondratev, Hlinka 50 JT Ceskoslovensky Sach 2000



1.a7! D:a7 2.Ta3+ Kb6 3.c5+!Kb7 4.c6+ Kb8 5.T:a7 K:a7 6.c7 Kb7 7.Se8! e3 8.K:e7
e2 9.Kd7 e1D 10.c8D+ Kb6! 11.Sd6 De2! 12.Dc7+ Ka6 13.Dc3! Kb6 14.Kd8! Dh5
15.Sc4+ Kc6 16.Se5+ Kb5 17.Db3+ Kc5 18.Dc4+ Kb6 19.Db4+ Ka6 20.Da4+ +-

J.Nunn, Schakend Nederland 1991



1.Sd6+! Ka6 2.Dh3! Ka7 3.Sc8+! Ka6 4.Da3+ Kb5 5.Sd6+! Kb6 6.Db4+! Ka6 7.Dc3!
 Kb6 8.Kd8! Dh5 9.Sc4+! Kc6 12.Dc4+! Kb6 13.Db4+! Ka6 14.Da4+! Kb6 15.Sd7+
 Kb7 16.Db4+ Kc6 17.Db6+ +-

To 17247 Peter Krug

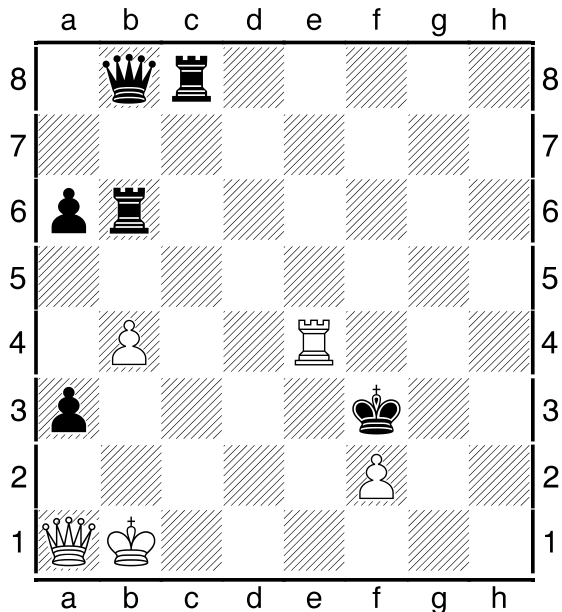
Version Michael Roxlau 2018 (identical to author's solution until move 9)

9.--Sf1 10.Tf2 Sg3 11.Kf8! Se4 12.Te2 Sg3 13.Tc2(Ta2,b2) Sf1
 14.Tf2 Sd2 15.Lb8 Sf1 16.Te2 Kg1 17.La7+ Kh1 18.Kg7! Sg3 19.Tc2 (Ta2,b2)
 Sf1 20.Tf2 Sg3 21.Kg6(Kh6) Se4 22.Te2 Sg3 23.Tc2(Ta2,b2) Sf1 24.Kg5(Kh5) Sg3
 25.Kg4 A 25.--Sf1 26.Kh3 nebst # B 25.--Se2 26.Lb8 Kg1 27.L:h2+ +-

The version deals with the stronger black sequel 9 .--Sf1, this solution was published in "Die Schwalbe" in June 2018 too. I see the added value above all in the paradoxical king move to f8, which continues 4.Ke7 harmoniously.

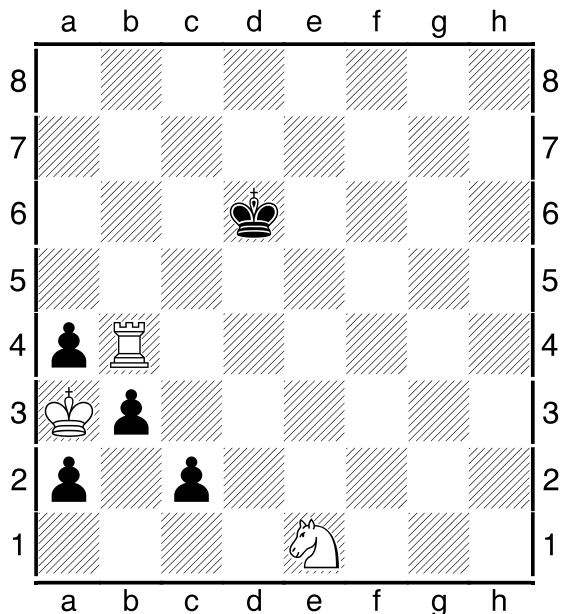
To 17706 Bizya Buyannemekh & Wladimir Tarasiuk & Mario Guido Garcia

V.Kovalenko & A.Skripnik, Shakhmanaja Kompozicija 2001



1.Dd4! T:b4+! 2.D:b4 a5! 3.Te3+! K:f2 4.Db3! a4! 5.Tf3+! Ke2 6.Te3+ Kd2 7.Td3+ Ke2 8.Te3+ Kf2 9.Tf3+ Kg2 10.Tg3+! Kh2 11.Th3+ Kg2 12.Tg3+ D:g3 13.Db7+ Df3 14.D:c8 Dd1+ 15.Dc1! a2+ 16.K:a2 D:c1 patt

F.Lazard, L'Echiquier de Paris 1948



1.Td4+ Kc5 2.S:c2 b:c2 3.K:a2 c1D 4.Td5+ K:d5 patt

I congratulate the authors on their success!

Sassuolo, 17 March 2020

THE JUDGE

Marco Campioli (Italy)

