

No. 173 – Vol. XIV – July 2008
Supplement

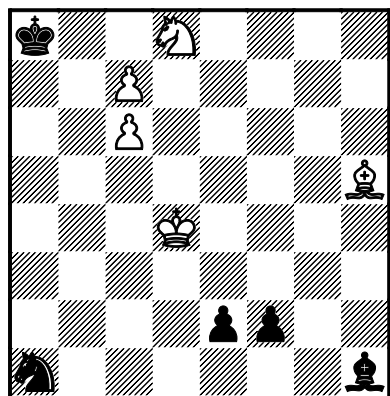
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Kozatska Shakhivnitsa 2005

Provisional/definitive published: *Kozatska Shakhivnitsa* 4-5(26-27) 2006. Judge: Vitaly Shevchenko (Zaporozhe, Ukraine). Type: informal international. Theme: none. Confirmation: no mention. Report: 4 studies by 4 composers, from Italy and Ukraine.

No 16460 P. Rossi & M. Campioli
prize

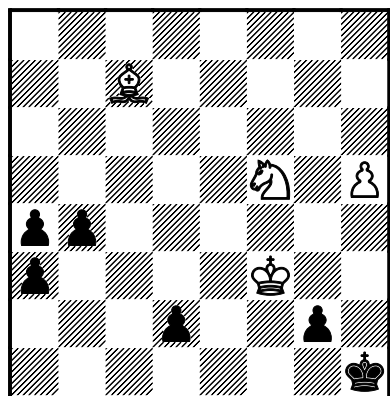


d4a8 0044.22 5/5 Win BTM

No 16460 Pietro Rossi & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1...Sb3+ 2.Kd3 Be4+ 3.Kxe2 Bf5 4.Be8 Sd4+ 5.Kxf2 Sxc6 6.Sxc6 Kb7 7.Sd4 Bd3 8.Bb5/i Bg6 9.Se6 wins.

i) "The triumph of domination!"

No 16461 F. Bertoli
honourable mention

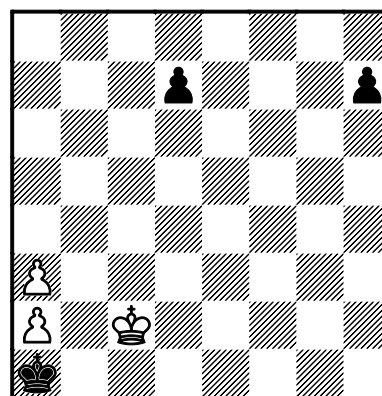


f3h1 0011.15 4/6 Draw

No 16461 Franco Bertoli (Italy). 1.Sg3+ Kh2 2.Se2+ Kh1 3.Sg3+ Kg1 4.Ke2 a2 5.Be5 Kh2 6.Se4+ Kh3 7.Sf2+ Kh4 8.Bf6+ Kg3 9.Be5+ Kh4 10.Bf6+ Kxh5 11.Sh3 Kg4 12.Sg1 b3 13.Kxd2 a3 14.Kc1 draws.

HH: 5...b3 cooks, e.g. 6.h6 a1Q 7.Bxa1 Kh2 8.Bd4 b2 9.h7 d1Q+ 10.Kxd1 b1Q+.

No 16462 F. Kapustin
commendation
dedicated to V. Shevchenko



c2a1 0000.22 3/3 'Win'

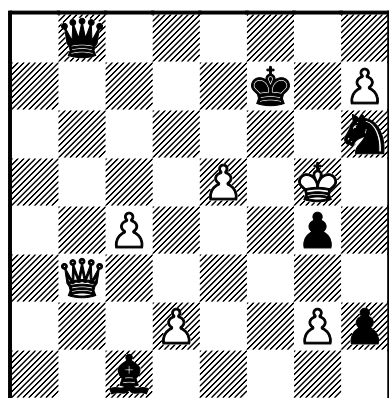
No 16462 F. Kapustin (Ukraine). This is the ideal introduction to a rather old joke theme. Of course White wins by 1.a4 – and your computer or database will confirm this. However, Black has no last move, so it is BTM and he wins with 1...h5.

Moscow Town 2006

Announcement in *Shakhmatnaya kompozitsia* 69 (p28), 28ii2006. Provisional/definitive published: on the Internet – Selivanov site link, but for that very reason no date is available. Judge: A. Visokosov (Moscow). Type: formal international. Theme: none. Confirmation: announced as definitive. Report: 17 by 18 composers from four countries

As of June 2007 it is not clear in which issue of *Shakhmatnaya kompozitsia* the award is published.

No 16463 N. Ryabinin
1st prize



g5f7 4033.52 7/6 Win

No 16463 Nikolai Ryabinin (Russia). 1...Bxc2+ is threatened. 1.e6+ Kg7 2.h8Q+ Qxh8 3.Qb7+ Kg8 4.Kg6 Ba3/i 5.c5/ii Bxc5 6.Qc8+ Bf8 7.Qd7 Qg7+/iii 8.Qxg7+ Bxg7 9.e7 h1Q 10.e8Q+ Bf8 11.Qe6+ Kh8 12.Qe5+ Kg8 13.Qd5+ Kh8 14.Qd4+ Kg8 15.Qc4+/iv Kh8 16.Qc3+ Kg8 17.Qb3+ Kh8 18.Qb2+ Kg8 19.Qb7+ Sf5 20.Qf7+ Kh8 21.Qxf8 mate.

i) “The key position. 5.Qc8+? suggests itself: Bf8 6.Qd7 Qg7+ 7.Qxg7+ Bxg7 8.e7, so as to try chances with fresh queens. But this is only the (thematic!) try.”

ii) “To be understood later – ten moves later!”

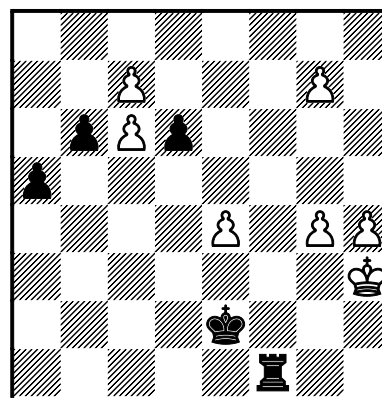
iii) Qf6+ 8.Kxf6 h1Q 9.Kg6 Qb1+ 10.d3 Be7 11.Qxe7 Qxd3+ 12.Kxh6 Qe3+ 13.Qg5+, when White forces the exchange of queens to leave him with a winning pawn endgame.

iv) “With wPc4 – see move 5 – this move would be impossible.”

“An excellent logical study with what is by now the traditional trademark of the type, namely look-ahead. It’s ten moves deep and

the play is quite pleasing. The tidy realisation of the idea charms us – just think of the absence of obfuscating analysis! Nikolai Ryabinin has not outdone himself here but nor has the reputation of the world’s most interesting composer been tarnished.”

No 16464 N. Ryabinin
2nd prize



h3e2 0300.63 7/5 Win

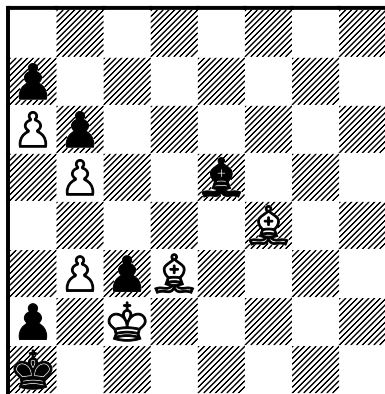
No 16464 Nikolai Ryabinin (Russia). “We must start with the thematic try: 1.h5? Kf3 2.Kh4 Kf4 3.Kh3 Kf3 4.Kh2 Rf2+ 5.Kg1 Rg2+ 6.Kf1 Rh2 7.Ke1 Ke3 8.Kd1 Kd3 9.Kc1 Kc3 10.Kb1 Rb2+ 11.Ka1 Kc2 12.g8Q Rb1+ 13.Ka2 Rb4 14.Ka3 b5 15.Qa2+ Kc3, after which it transpires that the repeated Q-sac line: 16.Qb2+? Rxb2 17.c8Q Rb4 18.Qh8+ Kc2 19.Qb2+ Rxb2, fails to: 20.c7 Rb3+ 21.Ka2 Rc3, leading to repetition of moves, while 16.Qa1+ Kc2 17.Qa2+ Kc3 is likewise a draw.” 1.g5 Kf3 2.Kh2 Rf2+ 3.Kg1 Rg2+ 4.Kf1 Rh2 5.Ke1 Ke3 6.Kd1 Kd3 7.Kc1 Kc3 8.Kb1 Rb2+ 9.Ka1 Kc2 10.g8Q Rb1+ 11.Ka2 Rb4 12.Ka3 b5 13.Qa2+ Kc3 14.Qb2+/i Rxb2 15.c8Q Rb3+ 16.Ka2 Kc2 17.Qe6 Rb2+ 18.Ka3 Rb4 19.Qa2+ Kc3 20.Qb2+ Rxb2

21.c7 Rb4 22.c8Q+ Kd2 23.Qh3 Ra4+ 24.Kb2 Rb4+ 25.Qb3. "Victory!"

i) "From here on the solution and the try lines diverge."

"A logical study on the grand scale, embellished by extreme look-ahead and the bold strokes of a systematic manoeuvre, with cyclical sacrifices. One has to observe that like ideas and structure have been seen in studies by the same author: 2nd/3rd prize *Shakhmatnaya nedelya* 2003 and 1st prize Kuryatnikov JT 2003.

No 16465 G. Popov
1st honourable mention



c2a1 0050.34 6/6 Win

No 16465 Grigory Popov (Russia). 1.Bxe5 stalemate? 1.Bc1 Bf4 2.Ba3 Bd6 3.b4 Bf4 (Bxb4; Bc1) 4.Bc4/i Be5/ii 5.Bc1 Bh8 6.Be3/iii Bd4 7.Bxa2 Bxe3 8.Bc4 Bd2 9.Kb3 Kb1 10.Bd3 Kc1 11.Kc4 Kb2 12.Kd5 Kb3 13.Kc6 Kxb4 14.Kb7/iv c2 15.Bxc2 Kxb5 16.Kxa7 Bc3 17.Kb7 (Bd3+? Kc6;) Kb4 18.a7, leading to a white win.

i) 4.Kxc3 Bc1 5.Kb3 Bxa3 6.Kxa3 stalemate.

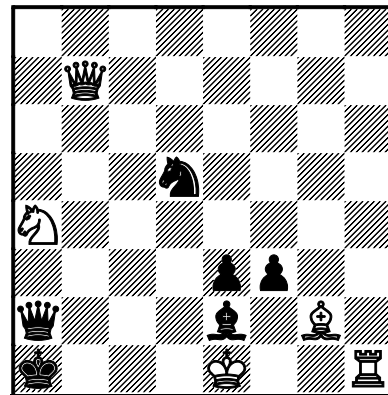
ii) Bd2 5.Bc1 Bxc1 6.Kxc1 c2 7.Bxa2 Kxa2 8.Kxc2zz.

iii) After 6.Bf4(?) Be5 7.Bxa2? Bxf4 8.Bc4 Be5 9.Kb3 Kb1 10.Bd3+ Kc1, the move 11.Kc4? loses by force: Kd2 12.Bf5 c2 13.Bxc2 Kxc2 14.Kd5 Kb3 15.Kc6 Kxb4 16.Kb7 Kxb5 17.Kxa7 Kc6.

iv) "Now we know why 8.Bc4! was played: wPb5 is defended."

"An interesting piece, with elements of logic."

No 16466 Iu. Akobia & R. Becker
2nd honourable mention



e1a1 4144.02 5/6 Draw

No 16466 Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Richard Becker (USA). "Let's start with a thematic try: 1.Qb2+? Qxb2 2.Sxb2 fxg2 3.Rg1 Sf4 4.Sd1 Bxd1 5.Kxd1 Kb1zz 6.Re1 Kb2 7.Rg1 Kc3." 1.Qg7+ Kb1 2.Qb2+ Qxb2 3.Sxb2 fxg2 4.Rg1, with:

– Sf4 5.Sd1 Bxd1 6.Kxd1zz/i Kb2 7.Re1 e2+ 8.Kd2 drawn, or

– Bf1 5.Sd3 Kc2/ii 6.Rxg2+ Bxg2 7.Sf4 Sxf4 stalemate.

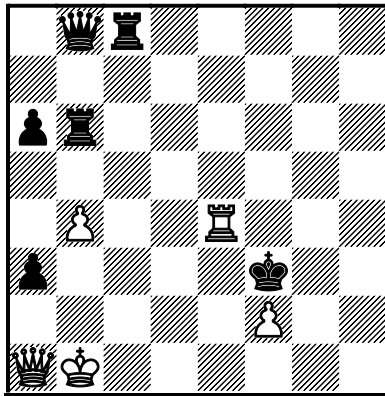
i) "A position known to us from the thematic try, but here in White's favour."

ii) Bxd3 6.Rxg2 Kc1/iii 7.Rg3(Rg4) Kc2 8.Rg5 Sf4 9.Rg3 Sd5 10.Rg5 Sb6 11.Rc5+ Sc4 12.Rxc4+ Bxc4 stalemate.

iii) Sb4 7.Kd1 Bf1 8.Rh2zz Sd5 9.Rh5 Sf4 10.Rh4 Sd3 11.Rh2 Se5 12.Rc2, and Sc4 13.Rh2 Sa3 14.Ke1 drawn, or Bh3 13.Rc3 Bg4+ 14.Ke1 drawn.

"The international trans-oceanic partnership for the manufacture of good quality, durable, inexpensive, bargain cultural artefacts Akobia, Becker & Co. (the 'co.' is for computer, not company) launches down the slipway their latest product of grand cultural significance, an unsinkable dreadnought. With chessmen painted on the sides." [Your translator AJR has done his best!]

No 16467 V. Kovalenko
3rd honourable mention



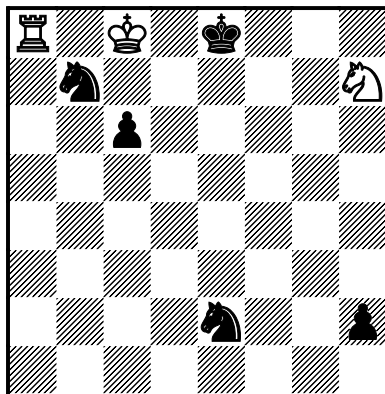
b1f3 4700.22 5/6 Draw

No 16467 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Qd4 Rxb4+ 2.Qxb4 a5/i 3.Re3+ Kxf2 4.Qb3 a4 5.Rf3+ Ke2 6.Re3+ Kd2 7.Rd3+ Ke2 8.Re3+ Kf2 9.Rf3+ Kg2 10.Rg3+ Kh2 11.Rh3+ Kg2 12.Rg3+ Qxg3 13.Qb7+ Qf3 14.Qxc8 Qd1+ 15.Qc1/ii a2+ 16.Kxa2 Qxc1, a pure stalemate.

i) "Here beginneth a systematic manoeuvre of four pieces, here somewhat curtailed."

ii) 15.Ka2? Qb3+ 16.Ka1 Qb2 mate.

No 16468 B. Sidorov
commendation



c8e8 0107.02 3/5 Draw

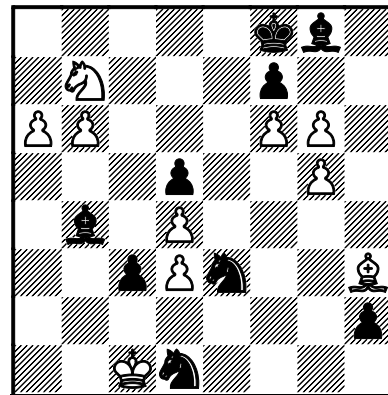
No 16468 Boris Sidorov (Russia). "I confess to having adjusted this opus by suppressing the first move so as to eliminate a cook." 1.Kc7+ Ke7 2.Ra1 Sg1 3.Re1+ Kf7 4.Sg5+ Kf8/i 5.Rf1+ Ke8 6.Re1+ Kf8 7.Rf1+ Kg8 8.Sh3/ii h1Q 9.Rxg1+ drawn.

i) Kg6 5.Sh3 Sxh3 6.Rh1. Kf6 5.Se4+ Kg6 6.Sg3. Level game in both cases.

ii) 8.Sf3? Sxf3 9.Rh1 c5 10.Kc6 c4 11.Kd5 Sd6, or if 10.Kxb7 c4 11.Kc6 c3 12.Kc5 c2

13.Kb4 Sg1, "when White's defensive potential evaporates."

No 16469 S. Abramenko
commendation



c1f8 0077.74 10/9 Win

No 16469 Sergei Abramenko (Russia). "A arab mansuba?" 1.g7+/i Ke8 2.Sd6+/ii Bxd6 3.a7 Ba3+ 4.Kb1 c2+ 5.Ka2 c1S+ 6.Kxa3 Sc2+ 7.Ka4 Sc3+ 8.Ka5 Sb3+ 9.Ka6 Sb4+ 10.Kb7 Sa5+ 11.Kc8, mating.

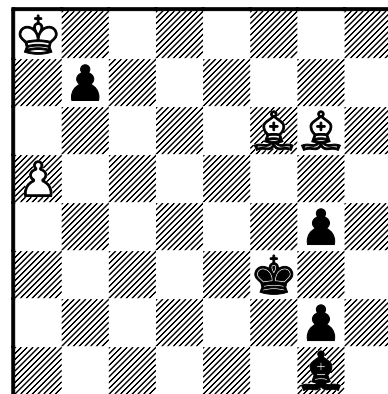
i) 1.Bd7? Ba3+ 2.Kb1 c2+ 3.Ka2 c1S+ 4.Ka1 Sb3+ 5.Ka2 Sc1+, with perpetual check.

ii) A try: 2.a7? Ba3+ 3.Kb1 c2+ 4.Ka2 c1S+ 5.Kxa3 Sc2+ 6.Ka4 Sc3+ 7.Ka5 Sb3+ 8.Ka6 Sb4 mate.

"In the try Black mates White – in the solution it's the other way round."

HH: cooks: 8.Kb5 Sxd4+ 9.Ka6.

No 16470 G. Amirian
commendation



a8f3 0050.13 4/5 Draw

No 16470 Gamlet Amirian (Armenia). "The natural desire to simplify life by 1.a6 bxa6, rebounds: 2.Be8 Be3 3.Bc6+ Kf2 4.Bxg2 Kxg2 5.Kb7 g3 6.Be5 a5 7.Ka6 a4 8.Kb5 a3 9.Kb4

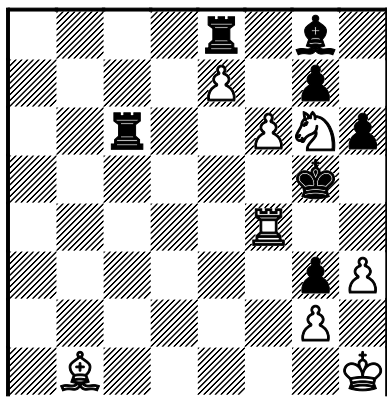
a2 10.Kb3 Kh3 11.Kxa2 g2, and this pawn runs home.” 1.Bf7 Ke4 2.Bg6+ Kf4 3.Bg5+ Ke5 (Kxg5 Be4) 4.Bf6+ Kd5 (Kxf6; Be4) 5.Bf7+ Kd6 6.Be7+/i Kc6 7.Bg6 Kd5/ii 8.Bf7+ Ke5 9.Bf6+ Ke4 10.Bg6+ Kf4 11.Bg5+ Kf3/iii 12.Bf7 Kg3 13.Bd5 draw.

i) “The dark-squares wB offers himself for the third time.”

ii) “On the way back!”

iii) “Now bK is on his diagram square.”

No 16471 V. Kovalenko
commendation



h1g5 0741.43 8/7 Win

No 16471 Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.h4+ Kh5 2.Rf5+ Kxg6/i 3.f7/ii Bxf7/iii 4.h5+ Kh7 5.Rxf7 Kg8 6.Rf8+ Rxf8 7.Ba2+ Kh7 8.exf8S+ Kh8 9.Sg6+ Kh7 10.Bg8+ Kxg8 11.Se7+ Kf7 12.Sxc6 wins.

i) Kg4 3.Se5+ Kxh4 4.Sxc6+.

ii) “The solution’s only ‘quiet’ move, if indeed one can call it quiet.”

iii) Rc1+ 4.Rf1+ Rxb1 5.fxe8Q+ wins.

No 16472 Evgeny Markov (Russia). “The top miniature in the award.” 1.Kb3/i Rxd2 2.Bd4+/ii Rxd4 3.c7 Rd3+ 4.Kb4 Rd4+ 5.Kb5 Rd5+ 6.Kxb6/iii Rd6+ 7.Kb5 Rd5+ 8.Kb4 Rd4+ 9.Kb3/iv Rd3+ 10.Kc2 Rd4 11.c8R Ra4 12.Kb3 Ra7 13.Rc1 mate.

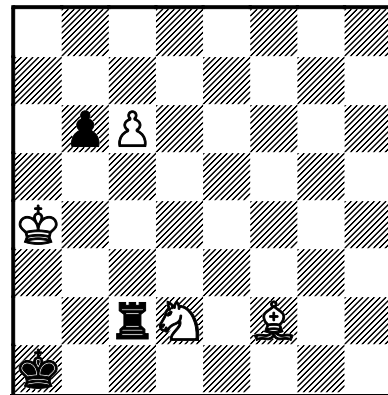
i) “Threatens mate and at the same time gives up wS...”

ii) “...and now it’s wB’s turn.”

iv) “9.Kc3 Rd1 10.Kc2 comes to the same thing.”

iii) “Here the good Markov signs off and the classic takes over.”

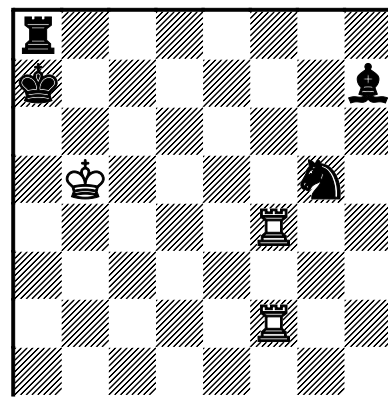
No 16472 E. Markov
special commendation



a4a1 0311.11 4/3 Win

“There has been many an extension of the good old Saavedra and Barbier chef d’oeuvre ... it seems, the old ‘uns didn’t get it right...’ Here we have one more.”

No 16473 Andrei Zhuravlyov
special commendation



b5a7 0533.00 3/4 Win

No 16473 Andrei Zhuravlyov (Russia). A thematic try right at the start: 1.Ra4+? Kb7 2.Rxa8 Bd3+ 3.Ka5 Kxa8 4.Kb6 Sh7 (Se6; Rh2+) 5.Rd2 (Rf7 Kb8;) Kb8 6.Rxd3 Kc8, and 7.Rd6 Sg5 8.Kc6 Sf7 draws, or 7.Kc6 Sf6 8.Rd1 Sc8 9.Ra1 Kd8 10.Ra7 Sf6 11.Rf7 Se8, when theory says ‘draw’. 1.Ra2+ Kb7 2.Rxa8 Kxa8/i 3.Kb6 Se6 4.Rf6 Bg8 5.Rg6 Bf7 6.Rh6 Sg7 7.Rh7 (Rh8+? Se8;) Kb8 8.Rxg7 wins.

i) Bd3+ 3.Ka5 Kxa8 4.Kb6 Sh7 5.Rd4 wins. For the remainder of the ‘main line’ one might as well consult a Ken Thompson database.

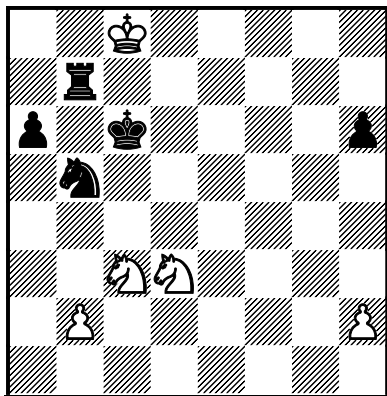
C.M. Bent MT (2007)

The tourney was promoted by The British Chess Problem Society. 40 entries by 28 composers from 17 countries were received by tourney director Adam Sobey. No less than three judges were appointed: David Friedgood, Timothy Whitworth and John Roycroft. Due to a dispute regarding positions that can be found in EGTB's, AJR eventually withdrew from judging (when the award was almost finished and most of the work had been done). Especially for a memorial tourney it is a pity when people are too stubborn to give in.

The provisional award was published in *The Problemist* ix2007 with a three month confirmation time. HH was consulted for anticipation testing. Curiously, no correctness testing was done: "The [provisional] award suffered a little from one or two excellent works having to be eliminated for unsoundness. We should add however [HH: sic!] that in this computer age we believe in relying on the composers' notes and have not analysed all the studies exhaustively". As a consequence three studies, among which the first prize winner, were removed from the final award because of unsoundness.

The final award was published in *The Problemist* Vol. 21, No. 9, v2008.

No 16474 C. Bill Jones
1st prize



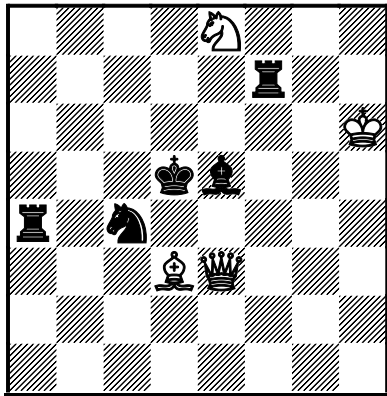
c8c6 0305.22 5/5 Draw

No 16474 C. Bill Jones (USA). 1.Sb4+? Kb6, and if 2.Sa4+ Ka7 3.Sxa6/i Sd4 4.S6c5 Rb4 5.Kd7 Sb3 wins for Black, as does 2.cSd5+ Ka7 3.Sc6+ Ka8 4.Kd8 (b4, Sa7+;) Rg7, eg 5.h4 Rg6 6.dSe7 Rg2 7.b4 Kb7 or 5.b4 Rg5 6.Sf6 Rg2 7.h4 Sd4. So: 1.Se5+ Kb6 2.Sxb5/ii axb5/iii 3.Sd7+ Kc6/iv 4.Se5+ Kb6 5.Sd7+ Ka7 6.b4 Ka8/v 7.h3zz (h4? h5zz;) h5 8.h4zz Ka7 9.Kd8zz Ka8 10.Kc8zz drawn.

- i) 3.Sc6+ Ka8 4.Kd8 Rc7 wins.
- ii) 2.Sd7+ Rxd7 3.Kxd7 Sxc3.
- iii) As GBR 0106 is drawn, Black may prefer: Re7 3.Sd6/vi Kc5 4.dSc4 Kd5 5.b3 Ke4/vii 6.Sg4 Re6 7.h4 Kf4 8.Kd7 Rg6 9.cSe5 Rb6 10.Sc4 drawn.
If 2...Rg7 – a suggestion by AJR – 3.Sd4 Ka5 4.Sd3, when 5.b4+ is a threat, and if Ka4 5.Sc5+. Thanks to HH and his powerful computer!
- iv) Rxd7 4.Kxd7 draw. Ka7 4.b4 is the main line.
- v) h5 7.h3zz h4 (Ka8; h4zz) 8.Kd8zz (“the fifth!”) Ka8 9.Kc8 (“the sixth”).
- vi) 3.Sa3 Kc5 4.aSc4 comes to the same thing.
- vii) Rg7 6.Sf3 h5 7.h4 Rg3 8.cSd2 draw.

“A very sweet study with deceptively simple play and ending in a surprisingly unfamiliar positional draw. There is a paradoxical exchange on move 2 when you expect White to continue the attack with 2.Sd5+ and 3.Sc6+”.

No 16475 Y. Bazlov
2nd prize

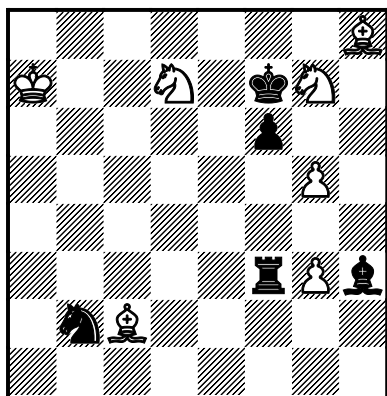


h6d5 1644.00 4/5 Win

No 16475 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1. *Qe4+?* Kc5 2. *Bxc4* Bf4+ 3. *Kg6* Rxc4 4. *Qa8* Re7 draw. 1. *Be4+* Ke6 2. *Qc5/i* Bf4/ii 3. *Kg6* Se5+ 4. *Kh5* Rxe4/iii 5. *Qd6+* Kf5 6. *Qf6+* Rxf6 7. *Sg7* mate. i) 2. *Qb3?* Rf4 3. *Qxa4+* Rxe4 draw. ii) *fRa7* 3. *Bd5+* Kf5 4. *Qf8+* Kg4 5. *Qf3+* Kh4 6. *Be6* with mate. iii) *Rd7* 5. *Bd5+* Rxd5 6. *Sc7+* Kd7 (Kf5) 7. *Sxd5* wins. *fRa7* 5. *Bd5+* Kd7 6. *Sf6+* Kd8 7. *Be6* R4a5 8. *Qb6+* Ke7 9. *Sg8+* Kf8 (Ke8; Qb8 mate) 10. *Qd8+* Kg7 11. *Qf6+* Kh7 12. *Se7* wins.

“An outstanding and aristocratic example of the familiar maximal selfblock mate, this study has an excellent quiet second move permitting black counterplay. All pieces move into their final positions”.

No 16476 G. Josten & M. Minski
1st honourable mention



a7f7 0355.21 7/5 Win

No 16476 Gerhard Josten & Martin Minski (Germany). 1. *g4?* fxg5. 1. *g6+* Kg8 (Ke7; Sb6)

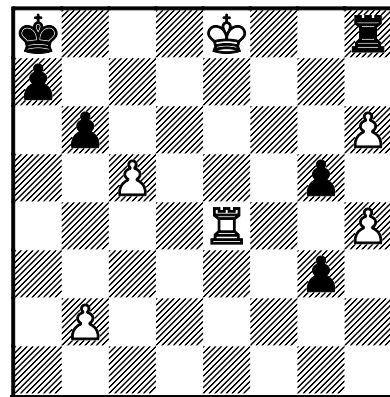
2. *g4* Bxg4 3. *Bb3+* Rxb3 (Kxh8; Se8) 4. *Sxf6+* Kxh8 (Kf8; Sf5) 5. *gSe8* Ra3+ 6. *Kb8* Rb3+ 7. *Kc7* Rc3+ 8. *Kd6* Sc4+/i 9. *Ke7* Re3+ 10. *Kf8* Rxe8+ 11. *Sxe8* Be6/ii 12. *Sf6* Se5 13. *g7* mate.

i) *Rd3+* 9. *Ke7* *Rd7+* 10. *Sxd7* *Bxd7* 11. *Kf8* *Bxe8* 12. *g7+* wins.

ii) *Se5* 12. *g7+* *Kh7* 13. *g8Q+* wins.

“A fine passage-at-arms, with no particular theme to the fore, although there is some nice depth in White’s second – to block the g-file for later – and a decoy of the black rook on the following move. There is also an accurate king march. Again, a work characterised by good counterplay and a pleasing lack of turgid sidelines”.

No 16477 I. Akobia
2nd/3rd honourable mention



e8a8 0400.44 6/6 Draw

No 16477 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). wK is in check. 1. *Kf7?* g2 2. *Rg4* gxh4 3. *Rxg2* h3 4. *Rh2* Rxh6 5. *Kg7* (cxb6, a5;) *Rh4* 6. *cxb6* a5 7. *Kg6* Kb7 wins. So: 1. *Kd7* g2/i 2. *Rg4* gxh4 3. *Rxg2/ii* h3 4. *Rh2* *Rh7+* 5. *Kc8* *Rxh6* 6. *cxb6/iii* *axb6* (*Rh8+*; *Kc7*) 7. *Rh1/iv* *Rh5/v* 8. *b4/vi* *Rh7* 9. *Rh2* b5 10. *Ra2+* *Ra7* 11. *Rh2* *Ra3* (*Ra7*; *Ra2+*) 12. *Kc7* *Ka7* 13. *Kc6* *Ka6* 14. *Rc2/vii* *Ra4* 15. *Kc5* draw.

i) *gxh4* 2. *Rxh4* g2 3. *Rg4* draw.

ii) 3. *h7?* *Rxh7+* 4. *Kc6* *Rh8* 5. *Rxg2* h3 6. *Rh2* *Rh6+* wins.

iii) 6. *b4?* a6, and 7. *cxb6* *Rc6+* 8. *Kd7* *Rc3* wins, or 7. *Kc7* b5 8. *Kc8* *Ka7* 9. *Kc7* *Rh4* 10. *Kc6* *Rh5* winning.

iv) Thematic try: 7. *b3?* or 7. *b4?* *Rc6+* 8. *Kd7* *Rc3* wins.

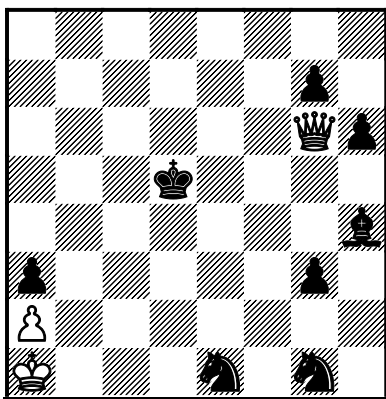
v) *Rh7* 8. *Ra1+* *Ra7* 9. *Rh1* drawn.

vi) Thematic try: 8.Ra1+? Ra5 9.Rh1 Rc5+ 10.Kd7 Rh5 11.Rh2 Kb7, winning. Or 8.b3? Rc5+ 9.Kd7 Rc3 10.b4 Kb7 winning.

vii) 14.Re2? Rc3+ 15.Kd5 Rc4 16.Re6+ Kb7 17.Re7+ Rc7 wins.

“A natural position yields a number of subtleties, including the white b-pawn’s need for restraint on move 6, followed on move 8 by its lunge to b4. The positional draw is well engineered, but the whole lacks sparkle”.

No 16478 R. Becker
2nd/3rd honourable mention



a1d5 1036.14 3/8 Draw

No 16478 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Qh5+? Ke4 2.Qxh4+ Kf3, and 3.Qa4 Kg2, or 3.Kb1 Kg2. 1.Qf7+? Ke4 2.Qe6+ Kf3 3.Qxe1 Bf6+ 4.Kb1 Kg2 (or Se2). So: 1.Qf5+ Kd4 2.Qf4+ Kd3 3.Qxh4 Sc2+/i 4.Kb1 Se2 5.Qxh6 Sc3+ 6.Kc1 Sxa2+ 7.Kd1 Se3+ 8.Ke1 Sg2+ 9.Kd1 Sc3+ 10.Kc1 Se2+ 11.Kd1 Se3+ 12.Ke1 Sc2+ 13.Kd1 drawn.

i) Se2 4.Qa4 g2/ii 5.Qxa3+ Sc3/iii 6.Qd6+ Kc2 7.Qg3 Kd1 8.Kb2 Sd5 (Se4; Qg4+/Qxg7) 9.a4 g5/iv 10.a5 Ke2 11.Kc1 Kf1 12.Kd2 g1Q 13.Qxe1+ Kg2 14.Qe4+ draw.

ii) Sc2+ 5.Qxc2+ Kxc2 stalemate. Or Ke3 5.Qxa3+ Sd3 6.Qa7+ Kf3 7.a4 g2 8.a5 Se5 9.a6/v Sd7 10.Qb7+ Kg3 11.Qc7+ Kf2 12.Qa7+ Ke1 13.Qxd7 g1Q 14.a7 draw.

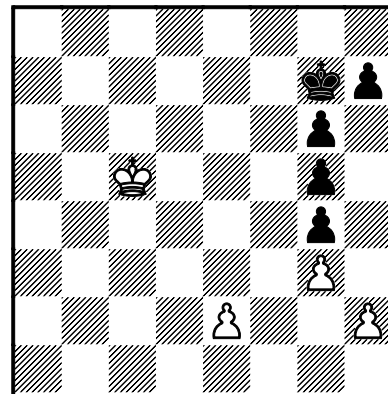
iii) Kd2 6.Qb4+ Kd1 7.Qd6+ Kc2 8.Qc5+ Kd2 9.Qb4+ Ke3 10.Qe7+ Kf3 11.Qb7+ Kf2 12.Qa7+ Kf1 13.Qf7+ Kg1 14.Qxg7 draw.

iv) Ke2 10.Qg4+ Kd2 11.Qg3 draw.

v) 9.Qb7+? Kf2 10.Qb6+ Kg3 11.a6 g1Q 12.Qxg1+ Sxg1 wins.

“This extends a predecessor’s work (A. & K. Sarychev, 64 1929) cited by HH. It is an unusual perpetual stalemate with a king march back and forth in relation to an axis of symmetry, but the introductory play is marred by cumbersome variations”.

No 16479 V.S. Kovalenko
1st commendation

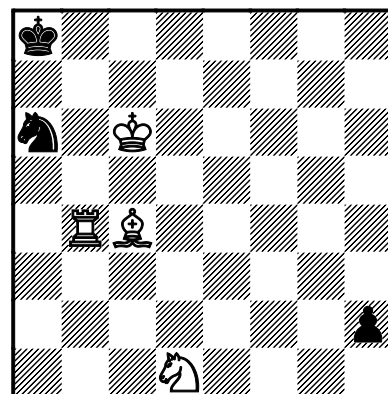


c5g7 0000.34 4/5 Win

No 16479 Vitaly S. Kovalenko (Russia). 1.e4 Kh6/i 2.e5 Kh5 3.e6 h6 4.h3 (h4) gxh3 5.e7 h2 6.e8Q h1Q 7.Qe2+ g4 8.Qe5+ g5 9.Qe8 mate. i) Kf8 2.Kd6 Kf7 3.e5 Ke8 4.Ke6 h6 5.Kf6 Kf8 6.Kxg6 Ke7 7.Kxh6 Ke6 8.Kxg5 wins; Kf7 2.Kd6 h5 3.e5 Ke8 4.Ke6 h4 5.Kf6 Kf8 6.Kxg5 wins.

“Both the black stalemate defence and the mating finale have been seen before, but the way they are combined in a pure pawn ending with Excelsior will surely make composers say to themselves: ‘I should have thought of that!’”.

No 16480 Y. Bazlov
2nd commendation

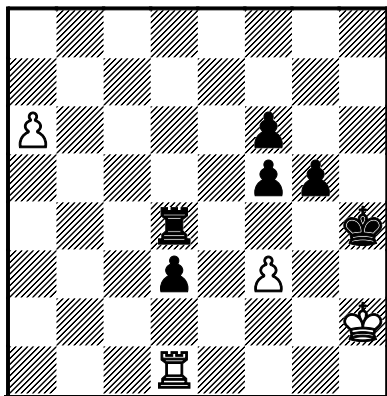


c6a8 0114.01 4/3 Win

No 16480 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). *1.Sf2? Sxb4+ 2.Kc5 Sc2 3.Bd5+ Ka7 4.Sg4 Ka6 5.Sxh2 Ka5 draw.* 1.Rb6 h1Q+ 2.Bd5 Sb4+/i 3.Rxb4 Qxd1/ii 4.Kc5+ (Kc7+? Ka7;) Ka7 5.Rb7+ Ka6 6.Rg7 Qh5 7.Rg3 (Rg2) Ka7 8.Rg8 wins.
 i) Qxd1 3.Rxa6+ Kb8 4.Kd6 and 5.Ra8 mate. Qh7 3.Kb5+ Ka7 4.Rxa6+ Kb8 5.Ra8+ Kc7 6.Ra7+ wins.
 ii) Qh6+ 4.Kc7 wins. Qh2 4.Sc3 and 5.Sb5 wins.

“A finale of a kind seen before databases, but the introduction is excellent, with black counterplay. Bringing about the final position of this ending seems to have required the use of a black pawn in earlier versions. Note the sideline 1...Qxd1 2.Rxa6+ Kb8 3.Kd6, with a symmetrical echo of the main line. The slight dual on move 7 (7.Rg2 is also effective) is hardly worth mentioning”.

No 16481 R. Becker & I. Akobia
 3rd commendation



h2h4 0400.24 4/6 Draw

No 16481 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). *1.Kg2? g4, and if 2.f4 Rxf4, or 2.Ra1 d2 3.a7 Ra4, or 2.Rh1+ Kg5 3.Ra1 d2 4.a7 Rd8 5.Kf2 Re8 6.Kg3 f4, winning.* So: 1.Ra1 d2 2.a7 Rd8 3.Kg2, with:

- g4 4.f4 g3/i 5.Kf3 (a8Q? d1Q;) Rd3+ 6.Kg2/ii Ra3 7.a8Q Rxa8 8.Rxa8 d1R/iii 9.Rh8+ Kg4 10.Rg8+ Kh4 11.Rh8+ Kg4 12.Rg8+ Kxf4 13.Rg4+ Kxg4 draw, or:
- Kh5 4.Kf2 g4/iv 5.f4 Re8/v 6.Rh1+ Kg6 7.Ra1 Kf7 8.Kf1/vi Kg7 9.Kf2 Kg6 10.Kf1 Kh5 11.Kf2 Ra8 12.Ke2 g3 13.Kf3 Rxa7 14.Rh1+ Kg6 15.Kxg3 Rd7 16.Rd1 Rd3+ 17.Kf2 Kh5 18.Ke2 Rd8 19.Kf3 Rd3+ 20.Ke2 drawn.

- i) ‘4...Kh5 transposes into the 3...Kh5 line’.
- ii) 6.Ke2? d1Q+ 7.Rxd1 Ra3 8.Rd7 Kg4 9.Rb7 Kxf4 10.Rb4+ Kg5 wins.
- iii) d1Q 9.Rh8+ Kg4 10.Rh4+ Kxh4 drawn.
- iv) Re8 5.Rh1+ Kg6 6.Ra1 f4 7.Rd1 Ra8 8.Rxd2 Rxa7 9.Rd6 (or 9.Rd8) draw.
- v) Ra8 6.Ke2, cuts to 12.Ke2 in this line.
- vi) 8.Kg2? Ra8 9.Kf2 d1Q 10.Rxd1 Rxa7 wins.

“The interest here is how so natural a setting could end in a mid-board stalemate. The way White manages to keep the enemy king penned while his back is to the wall is interesting and difficult. However, the length of the sideline on Black’s third does undermine the credibility of the main line somewhat”.

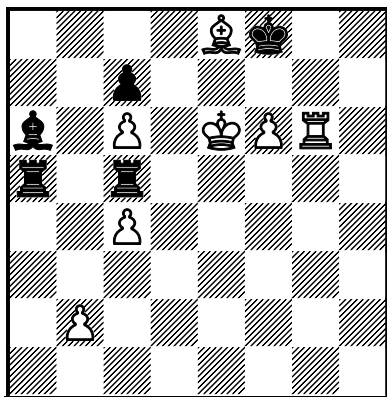
Iuri Akobia 70 JT 2007

My special gratitude to all participants in the Iuri Akobia 70 JT. A total of 55 studies were received from 32 composers. During the open period, I checked the studies for analytical soundness and anticipations. I considered it necessary to inform authors of my remarks. Some composers withdrew their entries or corrected mistakes. There were unfortunate exceptions where authors had no e-mail and I could not inform them of faults. In this connection I apologise to: O. Carlsson and J. Vandiest.

Iuri Akobia, International Judge

Main award

No 16482 R. Becker
1st/3rd prize



e6f8 0740.41 7/5 Draw

No 16482 Richard Becker (USA). 1.f7? Bxc4+ 2.Kd7 Bxf7 3.Bxf7 Kxf7 wins. 1.b4? Re5+ 2.Kd7 Ra8 3.f7 Re7 mate. 1.Kd7 Bxc4 2.b4/i Rd5+ 3.Kxc7 Ra7+ 4.Kb8/ii Ra4 5.f7 Rb5+/iii 6.Kc8/iv with:

- Ke7 7.Rf6 Bxf7/v 8.Rxf7+ Kxe8 9.Rb7 bRxb4 (aRxb4; c7) 10.Kb8zz/vi Rxb7+ 11.cxb7 Kd7 ‘model stalemate’, or
- Bxf7 7.Bxf7 Kxf7 8.Rg4/vii Ke7 9.Rg7+ Kd6 10.Rg6+ Ke7 11.Rg7+ Ke6 12.Rg6+ Kf7 13.Rg4 aRxb4 14.Rxb4 Rxb4 15.c7 Ke7 ‘model stalemate’.

i) 2.f7? Bxf7 3.Bxf7 Kxf7 wins.

ii) 4.Kb6? Ra8 5.f7 Rb5+ 6.Kc7 Bxf7 7.Bxf7 Kxf7 8.Rg4 Ke6 9.Rg6+ Kf5 wins.

iii) Rxb4+ 6.Kc7 Rf5 7.Rg4(Rg8+) draw. Rf5 6.Rg8+ Ke7 7.Kc7 Bxf7 8.Bxf7 Kxf7 9.Rg4 ‘draw’, the given line stopping here, which may be OK, but, asks AJR, how should it go after 9...Ke6 –?

iv) 6.Kc7? Bxf7 7.Bxf7 Kxf7 wins.

v) Ra8+ 8.Kc7 Ra7+ 9.Kc8 Ra8+ 10.Kc7 Bxf7 11.Rxf7+ Kxe8 12.Re7+ draws, though it looks as if 12.Rf4 will do as well.

vi) 10.Kc7? Ke7 wins. 10.c7? Rxb7 11.Kxb7 Rb4+ wins.

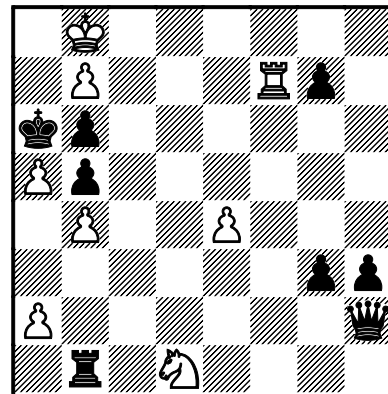
vii) 8.Rd6? Ke7 9.Rd7+ Ke6 10.Rb7 Rh5 11.Rb6 Ra8+ wins.

viii) 2.Rxg5? Rxg5 3.b3 Rg3 wins. 2.Rg7? Bxc4 3.Bg6 Ra7 4.Kc8 Be6+ 5.Kb8 Ra2 wins.

ix) 4...Rc5 5.f7 Bxc4 6.Kxc7 Rxb5 7.Kc8 draw.

“Two equivalent variations with sharp play. An original pair of echo model stalemates! A very complicated idea to set!”

No 16483 D. Gurgenzidze
1st/3rd prize



b8a6 3401.55 8/8 Win

No 16483 David Gurgenzidze (Georgia). 1.Ka8 g2 2.e5/i Qxe5 3.b8Q(b8S+) Qxb8+ 4.Kxb8 bxa5 5.Rxg7 axb4 6.Rg6+ Ka5 7.Kb7 b3 8.a3 b4 9.Rg5+ Ka4 10.Sb2+ (Ka6? b2;) Rxb2 11.Ka6 (Kb6?? g1Q+;) with:

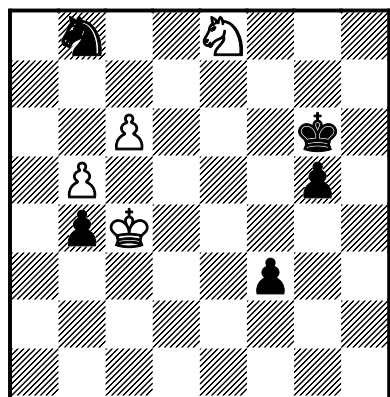
- bxa3 12.Rg4 mate, (result of move 2.e5), or
- Kxa3 12.Ra5 mate.

i) Thematic try: 2.b8Q? Qxb8+ 3.Kxb8 bxa5 4.Rxg7 axb4 5.Rg6+ Ka5 6.Kb7 b3 7.a3 b4 8.Rg5+ Ka4 9.Sb2+ Rxb2 10.Ka6 bxa3, see-

ing that Rg4 is not even check, let alone chackmate.

“An excellent ‘look-ahead’ try accompa- nies two beautiful mates. Everything is in the spirit of this author.”

No 16484 A. Sochnev
1st/3rd prize



c4g6 0004.23 4/5 Win

No 16484 A. Sochnev (Russia). 1.Kxb4? Sxc6+ 2.bxc6 f2 draw. 1.c7 Sd7/i 2.Kd4 – White is ‘looking ahead’ /ii Sb6/iii 3.Kc5 Sc8/ iv 4.b6/v Sxb6/vi 5.Kxb6 f2 6.c8Q f1Q 7.Qe6+ Kh7/vii 8.Qe7(Qd7)+ Kg6 9.Qg7+ Kh5 10.Sf6+ Kh4 11.Qh6+ Kg3 12.Se4+ Kg2 13.Qxg5+ Kh2 14.Qg3+/viii Kh1 15.Sf2+ Qxf2+ 16.Qxf2 wins – no stalemate.

i) f2 2.cxb8Q f1Q+ 3.Kxb4 Qb1+ 4.Ka5 Qa2+ 5.Kb6 Qf2+ 6.Kb7 Qf3+ 7.Kc8 Qh3+ 8.Kd8 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Kxb4? Sb6 3.Kc5 Sc8 4.b6/ ix Sxb6/x 5.Kxb6 f2 6.c8Q f1Q 7.Qe6+ Kh7 8.Qe7+ Kg6(Kh6) 9.Qg7+ Kh5 10.Sf6+ Kh4 11.Qh6+ Kg3 12.Se4+ Kg2 13.Qxg5+ Kh2 14.Qg3+ Kh1 15.Sf2+ Qxf2+ 16.Qxf2 stale- mate. (Idea due to Lazar, 1962.)

iii) f2 3.c8Q f1Q 4.Qc6+ Kh5 5.Qxd7 Qf4+/xi 6.Kc5 b3 7.Qh3+ Kg6 8.Qe6+ Kh5 9.Sf6+ Kh4 10.Qe1+ Kh3 11.Qh1+ Qh2 12.Qf3+ Qg3 13.Qxg3+ Kxg3 14.b6 b2 15.Se4+ wins.

iv)i f2 4.Kxb6 f1Q 5.c8Q Qg1+ 6.Kb7 Qg2+ 7.Ka7 Qa2+ 8.Kb8 Qh2+ 9.Sc7 wins. Sd7+ 4.Kc6 f2 5.c8Q f1Q 6.Qxd7 Qf3+ 7.Kc7 Qc3+ 8.Kd8 wins.

v) 4.Sd6? Se7 5.b6 f2 6.b7 f1Q 7.b8Q Qf2+ 8.Kb5 Qf1+ 9.Sc4 Qf5+ 10.Ka4 Qd7+ draw.

vi) f2 5.b7 f1Q (Se7; c8Q) 6.bxc8Q wins.

vii) Kh5 8.Sg7+ Kh4 9.Sf5+ wins.

viii) 14.Qh6+? Kg1 15.Qe3+ Kg2 16.Qg3+ Kh1 17.Sf2+ loss of time.

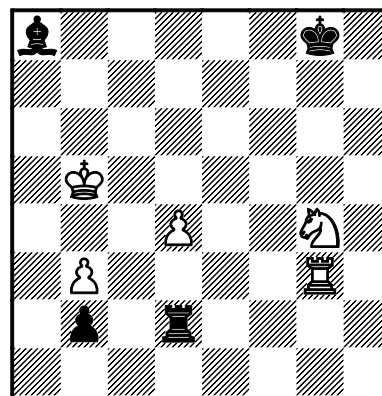
ix) 4.Sd6 f2 5.Sxc8 f1Q 6.Se7+ Kf7 7.c8Q Qf2 wins.

x) 4...f2 5.b7 Se7 6.c8Q Sxc8 7.bxc8Q f1Q same play, but loss of time.

xi) 5...Qd1+ 6.Kc4 Qxd7 7.Sf6+.

“A familiar finale, but with a cleverly con- structed try! Yet another beautiful work by the author!”

No 16485 M. Hlinka
4th/5th prize



b5g8 0431.21 5/4 Draw

No 16485 Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). Themat- ic try: 1.Se3+? Kh7 2.Rh3+ Kg6 3.Rg3+ Kh5 4.Rg1/i Be4 5.Sc4 Rg2 6.Rh1+ Kg6 7.Sxb2 Rg5+ wins, see the main line move 11.Sxb2(Sa3). 1.Rg1? Rg2 2.Rb1 Kg7 3.Se3 Be4 4.Rd1 Rg3 wins. 1.Se5+ Kh7 2.Rh3+ Kg7 3.Rg3+ Kh6/ii 4.Rh3+/iii Kg5 5.Rg3+ Kh5 6.Rh3+/iv Kg5 7.Rg3+ Kh4/v 8.Rg1/vi Be4/vii 9.Sc4 Rg2 10.Rh1+ Kg5 11.Sxb2(Sa3) draw, as bKg4 stops ‘11...Rg5+’.

i) 4.Rh3+ Kg5 5.Rg3+ Kf4 6.Rg1 Kxe3 wins.

ii) Kf6 4.Rg1 Be4 5.Sc4 Rg2 6.Rf1+ Kg5 7.Sxb2 draw.

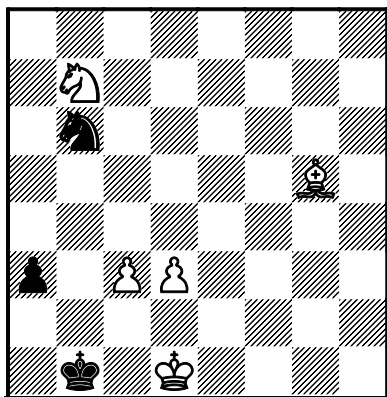
iii) Thematic try: 4.Sg4+? Kh5 5.Sf6+ Kh4 6.Rg4+ Kh3 7.Rg1 Bf3 8.Rb1 Be2+ 9.Kc6 Bd3 10.Rxb2 Rxb2 11.d5 Rf2 12.Sd7 Be4 wins, having avoided 11...Rc2+? 12.Kb6 Rf2 13.Sd7 Rd2 14.d6 Bf5 15.Kc6 draw.

iv) 6.Rg1? Be4 7.Sc4 Rg2 8.Rh1+ Kg6 9.Sxb2 Rg5+ wins.

- v) Kf4 8.Rg1 Be4 9.Sc4 Rg2 10.Rf1+ draw.
- vi) 8.Rg4+? Kh5 9.Rg1 Be4 10.Sc4 Rg2 wins.
- vii) Rg2 9.Rh1+ Kg5 10.Sc4 Rg3 11.Rb1 draw.

“A light, economical position. The precision of the choice on the first move emerges only right at the end! Thematic tries are organic with the main line.”

No 16486 M. Roxlau
4th/5th prize



d1b1 0014.21 5/3 Win

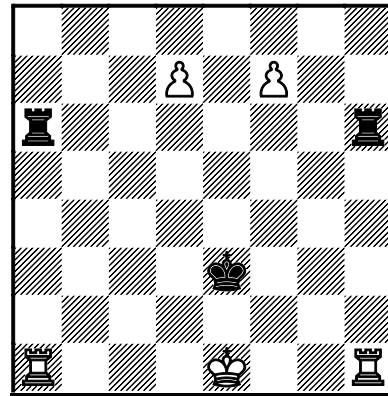
No 16486 Michael Roxlau (Germany). 1.Sc5? Sa4 (a2? Sb3) 2.Sb3 Kb2 3.Sa1 Sxc3+ 4.Kd2 Sb1+ 5.Ke1 Kxa1 6.Bf6+ Ka2 draw. 1.c4? a2 2.Bf6 Sa4 draw. 1.Sa5 a2 2.Sb3 Kb2 3.Sa1 – the first white piece is cornered – Kxa1 4.Kc1/i Sc4 5.Bf6 (dxc4 stalemate?) Se5 6.Kc2 Sc4 7.Bh8 – the second white piece is cornered – / ii Se5 (Se3+; Kc1) 8.Bg7 (Bf6? Sc4/Sg4;) Sc4 9.Bf6 Se5 10.Bh8 – once again the white bishop must play to the corner – Sc4 11.d4 Sa3+ 12.Kc1 Sb5 13.c4 wins/iii.

- i) 4.Kc2? Sd5 5.c4 Sb4+ 6.Kc1 Sxd3+ 7.Kc2 Sb4+ draw.
- ii) Thematic try: 7.Bg7? Se3+ 8.Kc1 Sf5 9.Bh8 Sd4 10.Bf6 Sc2(Sb3+) 11.Kc2 Sd4+ 12.cxd4 stalemate.
- iii) 13.d5? Sd4 14.d6 Sb3+ 15.Kd1 draw.

“Interesting play in a setting of minor pieces. Stalemate avoidance and two white cornered pieces. Non-standard manoeuvres of wB.”

No 16487 Martin Minski (Germany). Thematic try: 1.Rh3+? Rxh3 2.0-0-0 Ra1+/i 3.Kb2 Rxd1 4.f8Q Rd2+ (Rh2)+ draw. 1.0-0-0?

No 16487 M. Minski
1st honourable mention



e1e3 0800.20 5/3 Win

hRc6+ draw. 1.Kd1? Rhd6+ draw. 1.0-0?? aRg6 mate. 1.Ra3+ Rxa3 2.0-0 Rg6+ 3.Kh2/ii Ra2+ 4.Kh3 Rh6+ 5.Kg4 Rh8 6.Re1+ (f8Q? Rg2+;) Kf2/iii 7.Re8 wins.

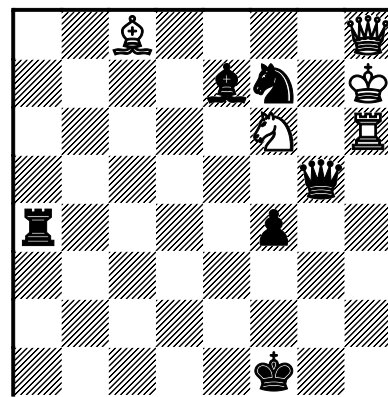
i) 2...Rc6+? 3.Kb2 Rh2+ 4.Ka3 Ra6+ 5.Kb4 wins.

ii) 3.Kh1(?) Rh6+ 4.Kg2 Ra2+ 5.Kg3 Rg6+ 6.Kh3 Rh6+ 7.Kg4 wins is a loss of time – cf. main line after 5.Kg4.

iii) Kd3 7.Re8 wins. Kd2 7.Re8 wins.

“Despite the short solution, this rook study makes a deep impression!”

No 16488 M. Campioli
2nd/5th honourable mention



h7f1 4444.01 5/6 Draw

No 16488 Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Qg7? Qxh6+. 1.Rh5? Bxf6. 1.Rg6? Qh4+. 1.Rh1+ Kg2/i 2.Bb7+ f3 3.Bxf3+ Kxf3 4.Qg7/ii Rh4+ 5.Rxh4 Qxh4+ 6.Kg6 Sh8+/iii 7.Kf5 Qf4+ 8.Ke6 Qd6+ 9.Kf5 Qc5+ 10.Ke6 Qd6+ 11.Kf5 Bxf6 12.Qxf6/iv Qd5+ 13.Qe5 Qf7+ 14.Qf6 Qd5+ 15.Qe5 Qd7+ 16.Qe6 positional draw.

i) Kf2 2.Sg4+. Ke2 2.Qe8 Ra7 3.Qxf7 Bc5 4.Bd7+ draw.

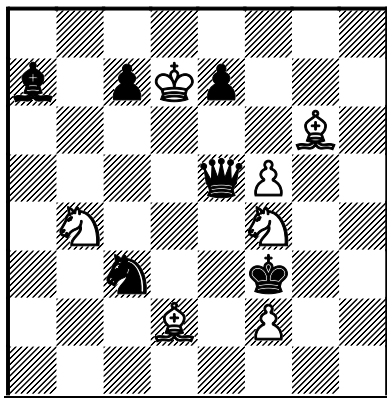
ii) 4.Qg8? Rh4+ 5.Rxh4 Qxh4+ 6.Sh5 Qxh5+ wins.

iii) Se5+ 7.Kf5 Bxf6 8.Qxf6 Qh5+ 9.Qg5 draw.

iv) 12.Qg4(Qb7)+? Ke3 (Kf2? Qf3+) 13.Qf3+ Kd2 wins, not 13...Kxf3 stalemate?, nor 13...Kd4? 14.Qd1+ draw.

“Some rather forced tactical play brings about a fine positional draw.”

No 16489 L. Gonzalez
2nd/5th honourable mention



d7f3 3055.22 7/6 Win

No 16489 Luis Gonzalez (Spain). 1.Bh5+ Ke4 2.f3+ Kxf5 3.Bg6+/i Kf6/ii 4.Bxc3 Bd4/iii 5.Bxd4/iv Qxd4+ 6.Sbd5+ Ke5/v 7.Sd3+ Kxd5 8.Bf7+ e6 9.Bxe6 mate.

i) 3.Bg4+? Kf6 4.Bxc3 Bd4 5.bSd5+ Kf7 6.Bh5+ Kg8 7.Sxe7+ Kh7 (Kg7) 8.Bg6+ Kh6 9.Sf5+ Kg5 10.Bxd4 Qb5+ draw.

ii) Kg5 4.fSd3+ Qe3 5.Bxe3+ Bxe3 6.Bf7 wins.

iii) Qxc3 5.bSd5+ Ke5 6.Sxc3 Kxf4 7.Be4 wins.

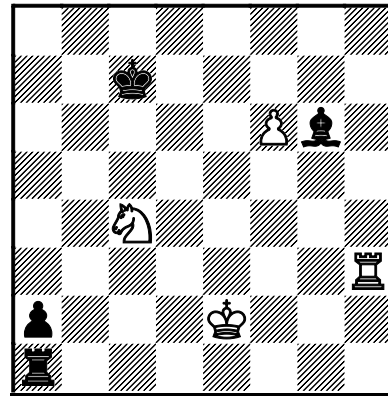
iv)i) 5.bSd5+? Kg5 6.Bxd4 Qd6+ 7.Ke8 e5 draw.

v) Qxd5+ 7.Sxd5+ Kxg6 8.Sxc7 Kf5 9.Se6 wins.

“The model mate is original. Play of a forcing nature is characteristic of such finales.”

No 16490 Sergei Kasparyan (Armenia). 1.Ra3 Bh5+/i 2.Kf2 Rh1 3.Ra7+/ii Kd8 4.Ra8+ Kc7 5.Ra7+ Kb8 6.Rxa2 Rh2+ 7.Kg3 Rxa2 8.Se5 Kc7 9.f7 Ra8 10.Kh4/iii Rh8/iv 11.Kg5/v Kd6 12.Kf6 draw.

No 16490 S. Kasparyan
2nd/5th honourable mention



e2c7 0431.11 4/4 Draw

i) Rh1 2.Ra7+ Kb8 3.Rxa2 Rh2+ 4.Ke3 Rxa2 5.Se5 Bh5 6.f7 Re2+ 7.Kd4(Kd3) Rf2 8.f8Q draw, or 8.Sd7+ first. The award gives 4.Ke1 as an alternative, ie a dual if the variation is to be considered artistic.

ii) 3.Rxa2? Rh2+ 4.Kg3 Rxa2 wins.

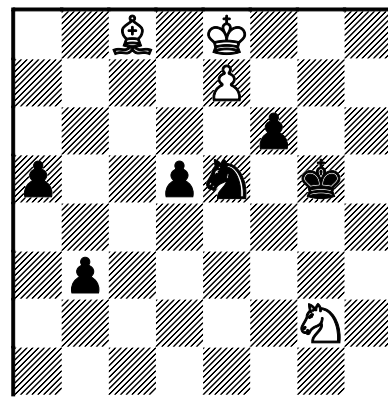
iii) 10.Kf4? Bxf7 11.Sxf7 Rf8 wins.

iv) Kd6 11.Sc4+ Kc5 12.Kxh5(Se5) Kxc4 13.Kg6(Kh6) draw.

v) 11.f8Q? Rxf8 12.Kxh5 Rf5+ wins.

“White’s first move is obvious. Manoeuvres of wR (3.Ra7!) force bK to the required b8 square. wK’s manoeuvres are likewise remarkable.”

No 16491 J. Mikitovics
2nd/5th honourable mention



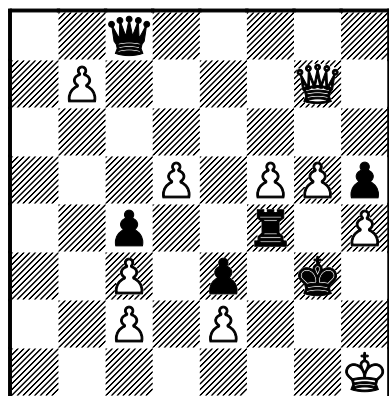
e8g5 0014.14 4/6 Draw

No 16491 Janos Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Kd8? Sc6+ wins. 1.Kf8? Sg6+ wins. 1.Bd7 b2 2.Kd8 b1Q/i 3.e8Q Qb8+/ii 4.Ke7 Qc7/iii 5.Qg8+ Sg6+ 6.Ke8 with:

- d4 7.Qe6 Qe5 8.Se1 Qxe6+ 9.Bxe6 Se5 10.Bb3 d3 11.Sg2 f5 12.Ke7/iv f4 13.Ke6/v f3 14.Se3 Kf4 15.Sd1 Sg4 16.Kd6 d2 17.Kc5, or
- Qb8+ 7.Kf7 Qxg8+ 8.Kxg8 Se5 9.Bb5/vi d4 10.Kf8 f5 11.Ke7 f4 12.Ke6/vii f3 13.Sh4 draw.
- i) Sxd7 3.e8Q draw, not 3.Kxd7? b1Q 4.e8Q Qb5+ winning.
- ii) Qh7 4.Be6 d4 5.Qb5 Qh8+ 6.Ke7 Qg7+ 7.Kd6 Qf8+ 8.Kd5 Qa8+ 9.Kxd4 Qxg2 10.Qxa5 draw.
- iii) Qb3 5.Qg8+ Sg6+ 6.Kd6 Qg3+ 7.Kc5 Qc3+ 8.Kd6 Qa3+ 9.Kc6 draw.
- iv) 12.Se3? Kf4 13.Sd1 Sg4 14.Kd7 Se3 15.Sc3 Ke5 16.Kc6 f4 17.Kb5 Kd4 18.Sb1 f3 wins.
- v) Thematic try: 13.Kd6? a4 14.Bxa4 Sc4+ 15.Kc5 f3 16.Se1 f2 17.Sf3+ Kf4 18.Sh2 Sb2 wins.
- vi) 9.Ba4? d4 10.Kf8 f5 11.Ke7 f4 12.Se1 d3 wins.
- vii) Thematic try: 12.Kd6? f3 13.Se1 f2 14.Sc2 Kf4 15.Sxd4 Sd3 16.Se2+.Kg4 wins.

“Two equivalent variations, each its own thematic try. Some slackening of tension at the end.”

No 16492 M. Croitor
6th-9th honourable mention



h1g3 4300.83 10/6 Win

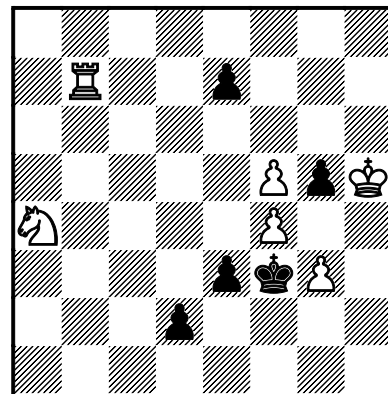
No 16492 M. Croitor (Moldova). 1.Kg1? Rf1+ 2.Kxf1 Qxf5+ wins. 1.Qe5 Qb8/i 2.Qxb8 Kh3 3.Kg1 Rg4+ 4.Kf1 Rf4+ 5.Ke1

Rg4 6.Qf4/ii Rxf4 7.b8Q Rg4 8.Kf1 Rf4+ 9.Kg1 Rg4+ 10.Kh1 with:

- Rf4 11.Qb1 wins – possible because wP is not on b7, or
- Rg2 11.f6 Rxe2 12.Qc8+ Kg3 13.Qc7+ Kh3 14.Qd7+ Kg3 15.Qd6+ Kh3 16.Qe6+ Kg3 17.Qe5+ Kh3 18.Qf5+ Kg3 19.Kg1 or 19.Qf1 wins.
- i) Qxb7 2.Qxe3+ Kg4 3.Kh2 wins.
- ii) 6.Qg3+? Rxg3 7.Kf1 Kh2 8.b8Q Kh1 9.Qxg3 stalemate.

“Good play with logical elements, but there are many ‘technical’ pawns... In spite of this, the young author deserves his success.”

No 16493 G. Hörning
6th-9th honourable mention



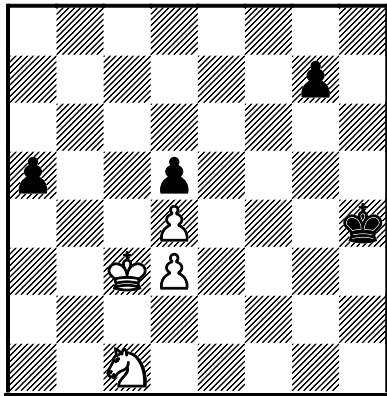
h5f3 0101.34 6/5 Win

No 16493 Gerd Wilhelm Hoerning (Germany). 1.Rxe7? d1Q 2.fxg5 Qh1+. 1.Sc3? e2 2.Sxe2 d1Q draw. 1.Rd7 e2/i 2.Rd3+ (Rxd2? e1Q;) Ke4 3.Sc5+ Kxf5 4.g4+ Kf6 5.fxg5+ Kg7/ii 6.Se6+ Kf7 7.g6+ Kxe6 8.g7 Kf7 9.Kh6 d1Q 10.Rf3+ Ke6 11.g8Q+ Kd7 12.Re3 Qd6+ 13.Qg6 Qf4+ 14.Qg5 wins.

- i) gxf4 2.g4 e2 3.Rd3+ Kf2 (Ke4; Sc5+) 4.Rxd2 wins.
- ii) Kf7 6.g6+ Kg8 7.Rd8+ Kg7 8.Se6+ Kf6 9.g7 d1Q 10.Rf8+ Ke5 11.g8Q e1Q 12.Sf4 Qd7 13.Rd8 Qxd8 14.Sg6+ wins. There are transposition duals.

“Both sides contribute to an interesting and pleasing fight. (Dedicated to the composer’s father.)”

No 16494 G. Josten
6th/9th honourable mention



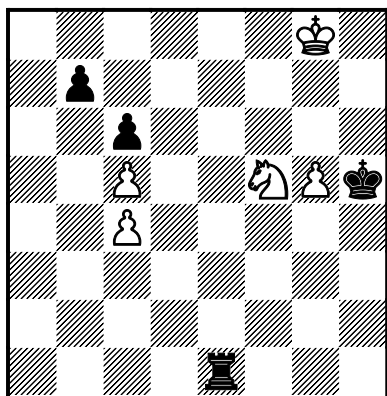
c3h4 0001.23 4/4 Win

No 16494 Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.Se2 g5/i 2.Kb3 g4/ii 3.Ka4 Kh3 4.Sf4+/iii Kg3 5.Sxd5 Kf3 6.Se7 Kf4/iv 7.Sg6+ Kg5/v 8.Se5 g3 9.Sf3+ Kf4 (Kg4; Se1) 10.Sh4 Kg4 11.d5 Kxh4 12.d6 g2 13.d7 g1Q 14.d8Q+ Qg5 15.Qxg5+ Kxg5 16.Kxa5 wins.

- i) Kg4 2.Kd2 a4/vi 3.Sc3 a3 4.Kc2 wins.
- ii) Kg4 3.Sc3 Kf3 4.Sxd5 g4 5.Se7 Kf4 6.d5 Ke5 7.Kc4 a4 8.Sg6+ wins.
- iii) 4.Sc3? Kg2 5.Sxd5 g3 6.Sf4+ Kf3 draw.
- iv)i g3 7.Sf5 g2 8.Sh4+ wins.
- v) Kf5 8.Se5 g3 9.Sf3 wins.
- vi) 2...g5 3.Sc3 Kf3 4.Sxd5 wins.

“This puts one in mind of a practical game ending. One would have liked to see sharper moments in the play – not enough ‘salt’.”

No 16495 A. Pallier
6th/9th honourable mention



g8h5 0301.32 5/4 Draw

No 16495 Alain Pallier (France). 1.Kg7? Kxg5 wins. 1.Sd6? Re7 2.Kf8 Rh7 3.Se4 Kg6 wins. 1.Kf7 Kxg5 2.Sd6 Re5 3.Sxb7 Kf5

4.Sd6+/i Kf4 5.Kf6 (Sb7? Ke4;) Rxc5 6.Ke6/ii with:

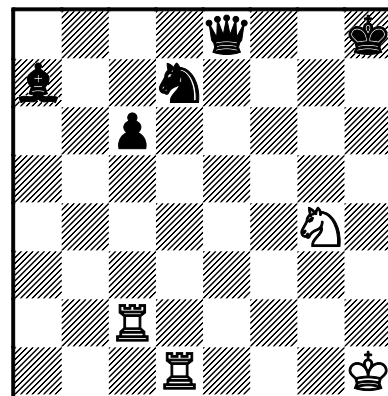
- Ke3 7.Kd7 Kd4 8.Kc7 draw , or 6...Rh5 7.Sb7 Rh6+ 8.Kd7 Ke5 9.Sa5 c5 10.Sb3 draw, or
- Re5+ 7.Kd7 c5 8.Sb7 Ke4 9.Sa5 Rh5 10.Kc6 Kd4 11.Kb5 Rh3 (Rh6; Sb3+) 12.Sc6+ draw.

i) 4.Sd8? Rxc5 5.Sb7 Re5 6.Sd8 c5 wins.

ii) 6.Ke7? Rh5 7.Kd7 c5 wins.

“A light position, but there are few unexpected moments. There is also the problem of ‘salt’.”

No 16496 S. Hornecker
commendation



h1h8 3234.01 4/5 Draw

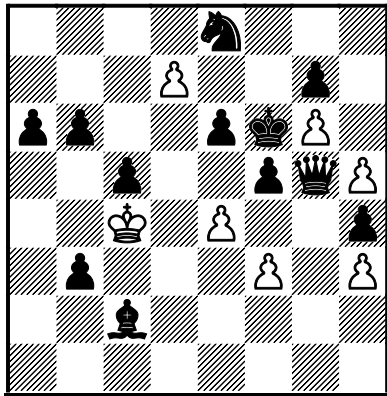
No 16496 Siegfried Hornecker (Germany). 1.Rh2+ Kg8 2.Rg2 Kh8/i 3.Rh2+ Kg7 4.Rxd7+ Qxd7 5.Rh7+ Kxh7 6.Sf6+ Kg6 7.Sxd7 Kf5 8.Kg2/ii Ke6/iii 9.Sf8+ drawn.

- i) Qe4? 3.Sf6+ wins. Qe6 3.Rf1 draw. Qh5+ 3.Sh2+ (Rh2? Qb5;) Kf8 4.Rxd7 draw. Kf7 3.Sh6+ Ke7 4.Re2+ Kd8 5.Rxe8+ Kxe8 draw.
- ii) 8.Sf8? c5 9.Kg2 c4 10.Kf3 c3 11.Ke2 Ke4 12.Sd7 Bd4 wins. 8.Kh2? Ke6 9.Sf8+ Kf7 10.Sh7/iv Be3 11.Kg3 Kg7 12.Kf3 Bc1 wins.
- iii) Ke4 9.Kf1 draw. c5 9.Sxc5 draw.
- iv) 10.Sd7 Ke7 11.Se5 Bb8 wins.

10.Kf2 is intriguingly described as a ‘loss of time’.

v) Also 6.h6 Kxf3, or if 6...b2 7.Qxb6 b1Q 8.Qxb1 Bxb1 9.hxg7 Sxf3+ 10.Kc3 Bxe4 11.g8Q Bd5 12.g7 Ke4 13.Qd8 e5 14.Qd6 Sd4 15.Qxc5 wins.

No 16497 S. Hornecker
commendation



c4f6 3033.68 7/12 Win

No 16497 Siegfried Hornecker (Germany). 1.d8Q+ Ke5 2.Qxg5 Sd6+/i 3.Kc3 Sb5+ 4.Kd2 c4/ii 5.h6 c3+ 6.Ke3 b2 7.Qf4+ Kf6 8.Qxh4+/iii Kxg6/iv 9.h7 b1Q 10.h8S mate, with 10.Kf2 intriguingly described as ‘loss of time.

i) b5+ 3.Kc3 b4+ 4.Kd2 Sd6 5.f4+ Kxe4 6.Qg2+ Kxf4 7.Qh2+ Kg5 8.Qxd6 Be4 9.Kc1 Kxh5 10.Qxe6 wins. b2 3.f4+ Kxe4 4.Qg2+ Kxf4 5.Qxc2 Sd6+ 6.Kb3 wins.

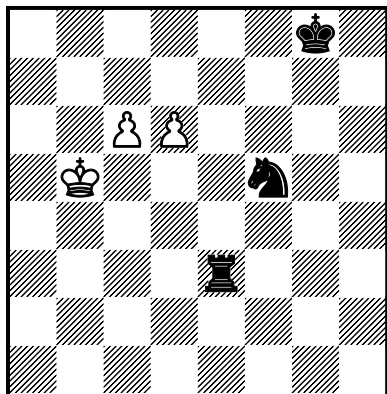
ii) Sd4 5.Qd8 threatens both 6.Qxb6 and 6.Qc7+ Kf6 7.f4.

iii) 8.h7? b1Q 9.Qxh4+ Ke5 draw.

iv) Ke5 9.Qg3+ Kf6 10.e5+ Ke7 11.hxg7 b1Q 12.g8Q wins, as also does 9.hxg7 b1Q 10.Qg3+ Kf6 11.g8Q.

Special section

No 16498 A. Sochnev
1st special prize



b5g8 0303.20 3/3 Draw

No 16498 Aleksei Sochnev (Russia). 1.d7 Sd4+ 2.Kb6/i Rb3+ 3.Kc5/ii Se6+ 4.Kd5/iii Kf7 5.d8S+ Sxd8 6.c7 Rc3 7.cxd8S+ draw.

i) Thematic try: 2.Kc5? Se6+ 3.Kd6/iv Kf7 4.d8S+ Sxd8/v 5.c7 Sb7+ 6.Kc6 Sa5+ wins.

ii) 3.Kc7? Se6+ 4.Kd6 Kf7 wins.

iii) Thematic try: 4.Kd6!? Kf7! 5.d8S+ Sxd8 6.c7 Sb7+ 7.Kc6 Sa5+ wins.

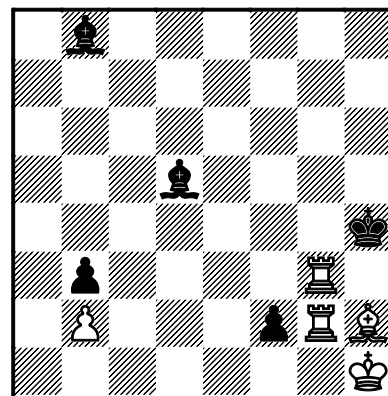
iv) 3.Kd5 Kg7/vi 4.d8Q Sxd8 5.c7 Rc3 6.cxd8Q Rd3+ wins.

v) 4...Kf6? 5.Sxe6 Rd3+ 6.Sd4 Rxd4+ 7.Kc5 Rd1 8.c7 Ke7 9.c8S+ draw.

vi) 3...Kf7? 4.d8S+, and Sxd8 5.c7 Rc3 6.cxd8S+ draw, or Ke7 5.Sxe6 Rxe6 6.c7 Rd6+ 7.Kc5 Rd1 8.c8S+ draw.

“‘Beep’ of knight’s promotion in main line and thematic tries! ‘King of knight’s promotion’ has discovered best setting of this idea than before.” [Judge’s comment verbatim.]

No 16499 G. Slepian
2nd special prize



h1h4 0270.12 5/5 Draw

No 16499 Grigory Slepian (Belarus). 1.Rg4+ Kh3 2.Bg1/i f1B/ii 3.Rh4+/iii Kxh4 4.Bf2+ Kh3 5.Kg1 dBc4/iv 6.Be1/v Bxg2/vi 7.Bg3 Ba7+ (Kxg3/Bxg3 stalemate) 8.Bf2 Bb8 (Bxf2+; Kxf2) 9.Bg3 positional draw.

i) Thematic try: 2.Rh4+? Kxh4 3.Bg3+ Kh3 4.Bxf2 Bxg2+ 5.Kg1 Bh2 mate – or 4...Bh2 and 5...Bxg2 mate.

ii) f1Q 3.Rh4+ (Rg3) Kxh4 stalemate. Bxg2+ 3.Rxg2 f1Q 4.Rg3+ Kh4 5.Rg4+ Kxg4 stalemate.

iii) 3.Be3? dBxg2+ 4.Kg1 Kxg4 wins.

iv) fBc4 6.Bg3 Bxg3 7.Rxg3+ Kxg3 stalemate. dBxg2 6.Bg3 Ba7+ 7.Bf2 Bxf2+ 8.Kxf2 draw.

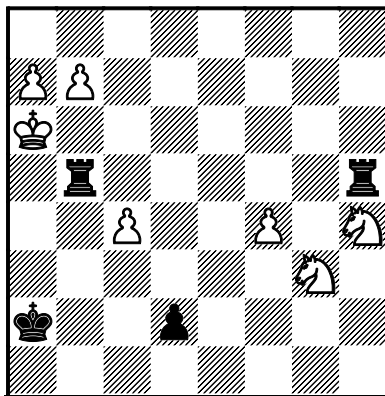
v) 6.Rg3+? Bxg3 7.Bxg3 Kxg3 8.Kh1 Bg2+ 9.Kg1 Bh1 10.Kxh1 Kf2 wins.

Ba7+ 7.Bf2 Bb8 8.Be1 draw.

vi) Ba7+ 7.Bf2 Bb8 8.Be1 draw.

“A new variation of a known idea by the same author (EG/64.2006). The position here has greater economy, though the full contents not preserved.”

No 16500 Yo. Afek
3rd/4th special prize



a6a2 0602.41 7/4 Win

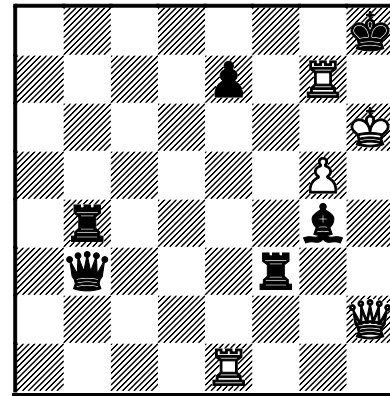
No 16500 Yochanan Afek (Israel). 1.b8Q? d1Q 2.Qxb5 Qd6+ 3.Qb6 Qa3+ 4.Kb7 Rh7+ 5.Kc6 Rh6+ draw. 1.Se4 d1Q 2.Sc3+ Kb3 3.Sxd1 Kxc4 4.Sf5/i hRxf5 5.Se3+ Kc5 6.Sxf5 Rb6+ 7.Ka5 Rb1 8.Ka4 Ra1+ 9.Kb3 Rxa7 10.b8R (b8Q? Rb7+;) Rf7 11.Rb5+/ii Kxb5 12.Sd6+ wins.

i) 4.Se3+? Kc5 5.Sef5 Rb6+ 6.Ka5 Rb1 (Rb2; also) 7.Ka4 Rh8 (or Ra1+; first) 8.a8Q Rxa8+ 9.bxa8Q Ra1+ 10.Kb3 Rxa8 draw. 4.f5? Rh6+ 5.Sg6 Rh3 wins. 4.a8Q? Rh6+ 5.Ka7 Ra5+ 6.Kb8 Rh8+ 7.Kc7 aRxa8 (or hRxa8;) 8.bxa8Q Rxa8 draw.

ii) 11.Rc8+? Kb6 12.Rb8+ Kc5 13.Rb5+ loss of time. 11.Ka4? Ra7+ 12.Kb3 Rf7 13.Rb5+ likewise loss of time.

“Obvious introductory play leads to an original R-promotion scheme. 4.Sf5!! is a fine move.”

No 16501 I. Aliev
3rd/4th special prize



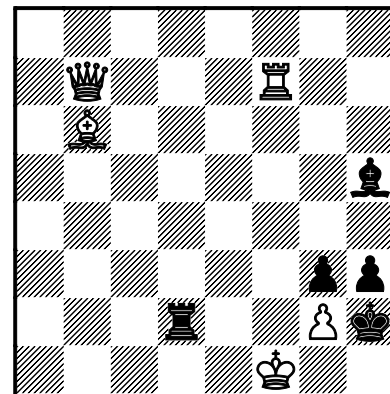
h6h8 4830.11 5/6 Draw

No 16501 Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Kg6+? Bh3 2.Rh7+ Kg8 3.Rh8+ (Rg7+, Kf8;) Kxh8 4.Qe5+ Rf6+ 5.gxf6 Qg8+ wins. 1.Qe5? Rh3+ 2.Kg6 Bh5+ 3.Kf5 Rf3+ 4.Qf4 Qd5+ wins. 1.Rh7+ Kg8 2.Rh8+ Kxh8 3.Qe5+ Rf6+ 4.Qxf6+ exf6 5.Re8+ Qg8 6.g6 with:

- Qxe8 7.g7+ Kg8 stalemate, or
- Rb7 7.g7+ Rxg7 8.Rxg8+ Kxg8 stalemate, ditto after 8...Rxg8.

“Rich content: an introduction with the 7WCCT theme, sacrifices and stalemates, and the remarkable quiet move 6.g6!! . A pity that wK and bB remain motionless.”

No 16502 A. Ruzs
5/6th special prize



f1h2 1440.12 5/5 Win

No 16502 Arpad Ruzs (Romania). 1.Bg1+/i Kh1 2.Rf3 Bxf3/ii 3.Qxf3 with:

- Rd1+ 4.Qxd1/iii hxg2+ 5.Ke1 wins (5.Ke2? stalemate – T. Kok, 1936), or

– h2 4.Be3/iv Re2 5.Bf4 (Qxg3? Rxe3;) Rf2+ 6.Qxf2 gxf2 7.Bxh2 wins (E. Melnichenko, EG 1980).

i) Thematic try: 1.Rf3? Rd1+ 2.Ke2 Kxg2 3.Ke3 Rd3+ 4.Kxd3 Bxf3 draw – there is no 5.Qb2+.

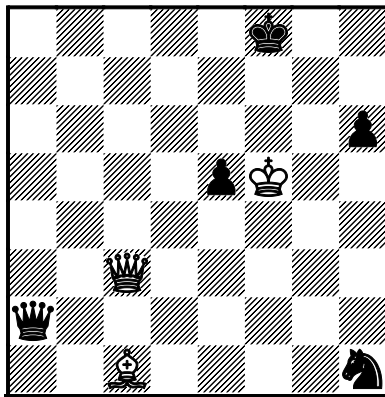
ii) h2 3.Bxh2 Bxf3 4.gxf3 Rf2+ 5.Ke1 win.

iii) 4.Ke2? Rxg1 5.gxh3+ g2, EGTB draw.

iv) 4.Bxh2? Rf2+ 5.Qxf2 gxh2 6.Ke2 stalemate. 4.Ba7? Rd1+ 5.Ke2 Rd2+ 6.Ke3 Rd3+ 7.Ke4 Rxf3 8.Kxf3 stalemate.

“Short, but an interesting synthesis of known ideas.”

No 16503 J. Vandiest
5th/6th special prize



f5f8 4013.02 3/5 Win

No 16503 Julien Vandiest (Belgium). 1.Ba3+/i Kg8 2.Qc8+ Kh7/ii 3.Qc7+ (Qd7+? Kh8;) with:

– Kh8 4.Qxe5+ Kh7 5.Qe7+ Kh8 6.Qf6+ Kh7 7.Qg6+ Kh8 8.Qxh6+ Kg8 9.Qf8(Qg5)+ Kh7 10.Qe7+ Kh8 11.Qd8(Qe5)+ Kh7 12.Qc7+ Kh8 13.Qb8+ Kg7 14.Bb2+ Kf7 15.Qb7+ Ke8 16.Kf6 Kd8 17.Bd4 Qc4 18.Bb6+ Ke8 19.Qe7 mate, or

– Kg8 4.Qd8+ – the h-file has to be opened, and therefore bPh6 must be eliminated – Kh7 (Kg7; Bf8+) 5.Qe7+ Kg8 6.Qe8+ Kh7 7.Qg6+ Kh8 8.Qxh6+ Kg8 9.Qf8+/iii Kh7 10.Qe7+ Kg8 11.Qd8+ Kh7 12.Qc7+ Kg8 13.Qb8+ Kh7 14.Qb7+ Kg8 15.Qa8+ Kh7 16.Qxh1+ Kg7 17.Qg1+ Kh8 18.Kf6 Qg8 19.Qh1+ Qh7 20.Qa8+ Qg8 21.Bf8 wins.

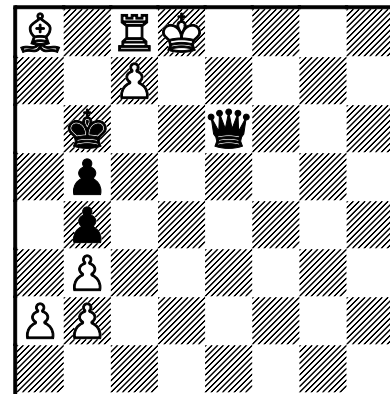
i) 1.Bxh6+? Kg8 2.Qc8+ Kh7 draw. 1.Qc8+? Kg7 draw.

ii) Kg7 3.Qf8+ Kh7 4.Qe7+, as main line.

iii) 9.Qg6+(?) Kh8 10.Qf6+ Kh7 11.Qe7+, loss of time.

“Forced play (only three moves without check) ends in an original finale.”

No 16504 S. Hornecker
7th special prize



d8b6 3110.42 7/4 Win

No 16504 Siegfried Hornecker (Germany).

1.Rb8+ with:

– Ka5 2.Rxb5+ Kxb5 3.c8Q Qg8+ 4.Kc7/i Qg3+ 5.Kb7 Qf3+ 6.Kb8 Qg3+ 7.Qc7 Qg8+ 8.Kb7 Qg2+ 9.Kc8 Qxa8+ 10.Qb8+ win, or

– Ka7 2.Rb7+/ii Kxa8/iii 3.Rb8+ (c8Q+? Qxc8+;) Ka7 4.Ra8+ (c8Q? Qe7+;) Kb6/iv 5.Ra6+ Kxa6 6.c8B+/v Ka5 7.Bxe6 wins.

i) 4.Kd7? Qf7+ 5.Kd6 Qf4+ 6.Kd5 Qd2+ 7.Ke4 Qe2+ 8.Kf4 Qd2+ 9.Kf5 Qd3+ 10.Kf6 Qd4+ 11.Ke7 Qh4+ 12.Kd7 Qh7+ 13.Kd8 Qg8+ 14.Kc7 wins – loss of time.

ii) Thematic try: 2.c8Q? Qe7+ 3.Kxe7 stalemate. Another thematic try: 2.c8R? Qd6+ 3.Ke8 Qe6+ draw.

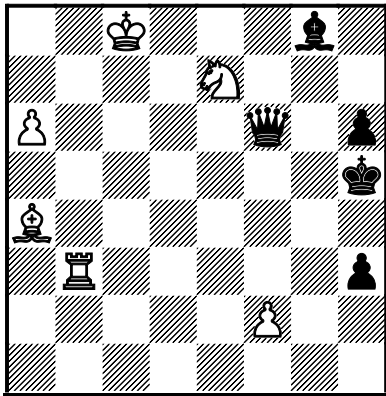
iii) Ka6 3.c8S Qg8+ 4.Kc7 Qg3+ 5.Sd6 Qg7+ 6.Kb8 Qf8+ 7.Sc8 Qf4+ 8.Rc7 wins.

iv) Kxa8 5.c8Q+ Qxc8+ 6.Kxc8 wins.

v) Thematic try: 6.c8Q+? Ka5 7.Qxe6 stalemate.

“.... Many unemployed pawns. Model stalemates would have helped.”

No 16505 A. Kovrizhenko & Y. Chervoniuk
1st special honourable mention

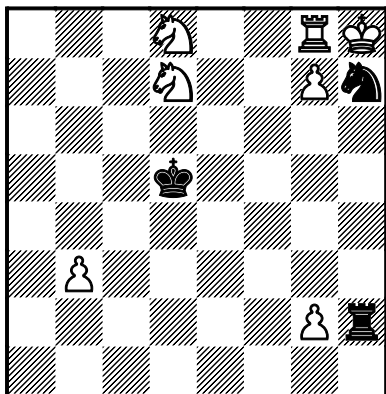


c8h5 3141.22 6/5 Win

No 16505 A. Kovrizhenko & Y. Chervoniuk (Ukraine). 1.Rxh3+? Kg5 2.Rg3+ Kf4. 1.Be8+? Kg5 2.Rg3+ Kf4, and Black has no more than technical difficulties in winning. 1.Rb5+ Kh4 2.Sg6+ Qxg6 3.Rb4+ Kg5 4.f4+ Kf6 5.Rb6+ Be6+ 6.Rxe6+ Kxe6 7.f5+ with:
– Kd6 8.fxg6 h2 9.Bc6 Kxc6 10.a7 h1Q 11.a8Q/B+ wins, or
– Qxf5 8.Bd7+ Ke5 9.Bxf5 h2 10.Be4 Kxe4 11.a7 h1Q 12.a8Q+ wins.

“Not such a bad elaboration of development of a known theme of winning of bQ.”

No 16506 E. Melnichenko
2nd special honourable mention



h8c5 0405.30 7/3 Win

No 16506 Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Sb6+ Kd4 2.Sc6+ Kc3 3.Sa4+ Kc2 (Kxh3; Rb8+) 4.Sd4+ Kb1 5.Sc3+ Kc1/i 6.cSe2+ Kb2 7.Sf4 Rh6/ii 8.Sf5(Sd3+) win.

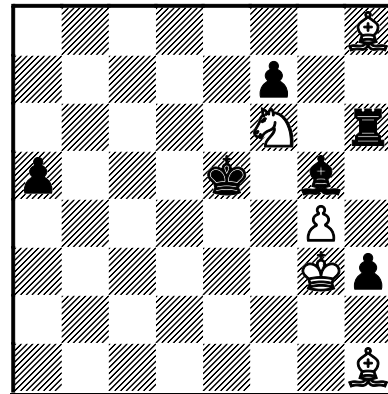
i) If 5...Kb2, then either 6.Sd1+ Kb1 7.Sf3/iii Rh6 8.Sd2+ win, or 6.Sf3 Rh6 7.Sd1+ Kb1 8.Sd2+.

ii) Sg5+ 8.Sh3 Sxh3 9.Sf3 wins.

iii) But not 7.Sf2? Rh5 8.g4 Rh6 9.Sf5 Rh2 10.Sg3 Sf6+ 11.Sh5 Sxh5 12.Sh3 Rxh3 13.gxh5 Rxh5 mate.

“Interesting movements of both wSS, but what to say about so many immobile pieces?”

No 16507 G. Hoerning & G. Josten
3rd/4th special honourable mention



g3e5 0351.13 5/6 Draw

No 16507 Gerd Wilhelm Hoerning & Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.Sh7+/i f6/ii 2.Sxg5 Rxh8 3.Sf7+ Kd4 4.Sxh8 a4 5.g5 fxg5/iii 6.Sf7 a3 7.Sxg5 a2 8.Kxh3 a1Q 9.Kh2 Ke3 (Qf1; Se4) 10.Se4 Qe1(Qg7) 11.Bg2 draw.

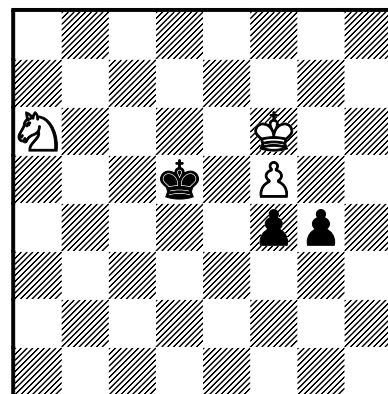
i) 1.Se4+? Rxh8 2.Sxg5 a4 3.Sxf7+ Kd4 wins.

ii) Bf6 2.Bxf6+ Rxf6 3.Sxf6 Kxf6 4.Kxh3 draw.

iii) a3 6.Bd5 Kxd5 7.g6 a2 8.g7 a1Q 9.g8Q+ draw.

“Not so difficult play leads to a known theoretical draw.”

No 16508 M. Minski
3rd/4th special honourable mention



f6d5 0001.12 3/3 Draw

No 16508 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sc7+ (Sb4+? Ke4;) Ke4 2.Se6 (Ke6? f3;) f3 (g3; Sg5) 3.Sg5+ with:

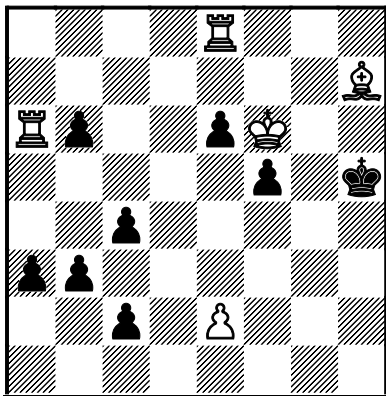
– Kd5 4.Sxf3 gxf3 5.Kg7 f2 6.f6 f1Q 7.f7 draw, or

– Kf4 4.Sxf3 gxf3 5.Kg6/i f2 6.f6 f1Q 7.f7 Ke5 (Troitzky *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, 1906) 8.Kg7 Qf6+ 9.Kg8 Qg6+ 10.Kh8 Qxf7 stalemate.

i) 5.Ke6? f2 6.f6 f1Q 7.f7 Kg5 wins. With several move-order duals.

“Nuances added to the already known.”

No 16509 J. Mikitovics
3rd/4th special honourable mention



f6h5 0210.17 5/8 Draw

No 16509 Janos Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Rh8? Kg4 2.Rg8+ Kf4 3.Rg1 b2 4.Rf1+ Ke4 5.Rxf5 (Kxe6,c1Q;) c1Q 6.Rh5+ Kd4 7.Rxa3 Qf1+ 8.Ke7 e5 9.Rh4+ Kc5 10.Re3 b5 wins. 1.Bxf5 exf5 2.Kxf5 c1Q/i 3.Rh8+ Qh6 4.Rxh6+/ii Kxh6 5.Rxb6+ Kg7 6.Rb7+ Kf8 7.Kf6 Ke8 8.Ke6 Kd8 9.Kd6 Kc8 10.Kc6/iii a2 11.Ra7 Kb8 12.Ra5 b2 13.Rb5+ Kc8 14.Rh5 Kd8 15.Kd6 Ke8 16.Ke6 Kf8 17.Kf6 Kg8 18.Rg5+ Kf8 19.Rh5 draws.

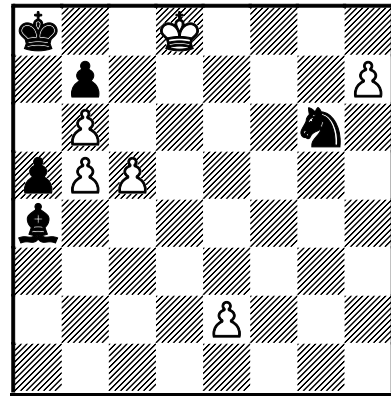
i) Kh4 3.Re4+ Kg3 4.Rxc4 draw.

ii) 4.aRa8 b2 wins, not 4...a2? 5.aRg8, mate in 2.

iii) 10.Rc7+? Kb8 11.Rxc4 a2 wins, not 11...b2? 12.Rb4+ Ka7 13.Kc6 draw.

“Cf. L.Katsnelson, *L’Italia Scacchistica*, 1966.”

No 16510 R. Brieger
special commendation



d8a8 0033.52 6/5 Win

No 16510 Robert Brieger (USA). 1.c6 Bc2/i 2.c7/ii Bf5 3.e4/iii Be6(Bg4/Bh3) 4.c8Q+/iv Bxc8 5.Kxc8 a4 6.e5 a3 7.e6 a2 8.h8Q Sxh8 9.e7 a1Q 10.e8S wins.

i) bxc6 2.Kc7 wins. Bxb5 2.c7 wins. Bb3 2.e4 Be6 3.Kc7 wins.

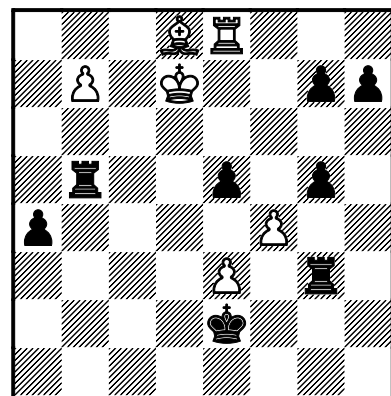
ii) 2.Kc7? Be4 wins. 2.Kc8? Be4 3.c7 Bf5+ wins.

iii) 3.c8Q+? Bxc8 4.Kxc8 a4 wins.

iv) 4.e5 a4 5.c8Q+. A transposition.

“Cf. Zinar, 2nd HM *Magyar Sakkvilág*, 1987.”

No 16511 J. Mikitovics
special commendation



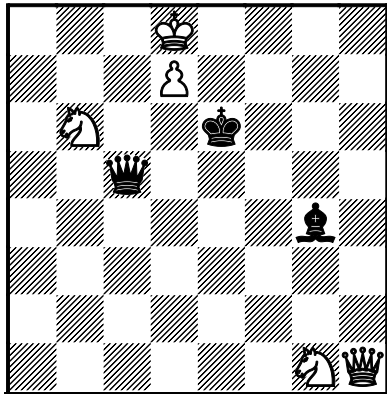
d7e2 0710.35 6/8 Draw

No 16511 Janos Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Kc6 Rxb7/i 2.Kxb7 exf4/ii 3.exf4+ Re3 4.Rxe3+ Kxe3 5.fxg5 a3 6.Bf6 Kf4 7.Kc6/iii a2 8.Bxg7 Kxg5 9.Kd5 Kf4 10.Kc4 h5 11.Kd3 Kf3

12.Kc2 h4 13.Kb2 drawn. (Cf. A. Ornstein, 2nd prize *Springaren*, 1999).

- i) Rb3 2.Bb6 gxf4 3.b8Q Rg6+ draw.
- ii) g4 3.fxe5 Rxe3 4.Bb6 Re4 5.Kc6 a3 6.Re7 Ra4 7.Ra7 Rxa7 8.Bxa7 Kd3 9.Kd5 draw.
- iii) 7.Bxg7? Kxg5 wins. 7.g6? hxg6 wins.

No 16512 J. Pospíšil
special commendation



d8e6 4032.10 h15/3 Win

No 16512 Jaroslav Pospíšil (Czech Republic).

1.Se2? Kf7 2.Qh7+ Kf8 3.Qh8+ Kf7 4.Qe8+ Kg7 draw. 1.Qh6+? Kf7 2.Qf4+ Bf5 3.Sc4 Qe7+ 4.Kc7 Qxd7+ 5.Kb6 Ke7 draw. 1.Qe4+? Kf7 2.Qf4+ Bf5 draw. 1.Sf3 Qxb6+/i 2.Ke8 Qb8+ 3.d8S+/ii Kf5 4.Qh7+ Kf4 5.Qh2+ wins.

- i) Alternatives all seem to have duals: Bxf3 2.Qxf3/iii Qxb6+ 3.Ke8 Qb8+ 4.d8S+/iv Ke5 5.Qg3+ wins. Qf8+ 2.Kc7 Qf4+ 3.Se5/v Qxe5+ 4.Kb7 Qg5 5.Kc6 Qf6 6.Sd5 Bf3 7.Qe1+ Kf7+ 8.Kc7 Bxd5 9.Qe8+ wins. Kf7 2.Qh7+ Kf8 3.Qh8+ (also 3.Sc4 Bf5 4.Qh8+ Kf7 5.cSe5+ wins) Kf7 4.Se5+ Ke6 5.Sxg4 wins. (5.Sc6 or 5.bSc4 also win).

ii) 3.d8Q? Bh5+ 4.Qxh5 Qb5+ 5.Qxb5 stalemate.

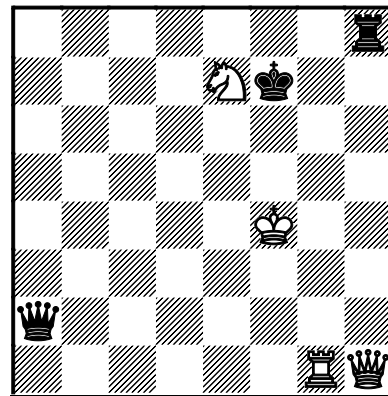
iii) Also 2.Qh3+ Ke5 3.Sc4+ Kf4 4.Qh2+ wins.

iv) 4.d8Q? Qb5+ 5.Kf8 Qc5+ 6.Kg8 (Kg7, Qc7+;) Qg1+ 7.Kh7 Qh2+ 8.Kg6 Qg3+ 9.Qxg3 stalemate.

v) Also 3.Kc8 Kd6 4.Qd1+ Kc5 5.Qg1+ Kb5 6.Sd4+ Ka6 7.Sc6 wins.

“A version of *Magyar Sakkvilág*, 2006, by the same composer.”

No 16513 P. Rossi
special commendation



f4f7 4401.00 4/3 Win

No 16513 Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1.Rg7+ Kxg7 2.Sf5+ Kf8 3.Qxh8+ Qg8 4.Qf6+ Qf7 5.Qd8+ Qe8 6.Qd6+ Kg8 7.Qf6 Qb8+ 8.Kg4 Qb4+ 9.Kh5 Qf8 10.Sh6+ Kh7 11.Sf7 Qc5+/i 12.Sg5+ wins.

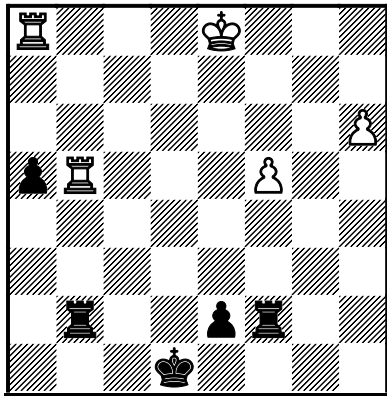
i) 11...Qg7 is much more troublesome for White. The absence of notes could be taken as evidence of EGTB consultation or plagiarism.

“After move 4 we see I. Saren, *Stella Polaris*, 1967.” (I.e. ante database era.)

Olimpiya Dunyasi 2006

Informal tourney of *Olimpiya Dunyasi*, 2006. 'OD' is the newspaper of the National Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan. Award published: OD no. 9 (409) of 10-12i2007, on p7. Judge: Ilham Aliev (columnist).

No 16514 Iu. Akobia
1st prize



e8d1 0800.22 5/5 Draw

No 16514 Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rd5+/i with:

– Rd2 2.Re5/ii e1Q/iii 3.Rxe1+ Kxe1 4.Rxa5 Rb2 5.Kf7 Rb7+/iv 6.Kf6/v Rb6+/vi 7.Kg5 Rg2+ 8.Kf4 Rb4+ 9.Ke5 Re2+ 10.Kf6 Rb6+ 11.Kg5 Rg2+ 12.Kf4 Rb4+ 13.Ke5, and the alternative to the merry-go-round ('carousel') is Rh4 14.Ra1+ Kf2 15.Ra2+ Kg1 16.Rxg2+ drawing. Or:

– Kc1/vii 2.Re5/viii Rxf5/ix 3.aRxa5 Kb1/x 4.h7/xi Rh5 5.Rxh5 e1Q+ 6.aRe5 Rb8+ 7.Kf7 Qf2+ 8.eRf5 Qa2+/xii 9.Kg6 Qg2+ 10.hRg5 Qe4/xiii 11.Rg1+ Kc2 12.gRf1 Rb6+ 13.Kg7 Qe7+ 14.Rf7 Qe5+/xiv 15.R7f6 Rb7+ 16.Kh8 Rf7 17.R1f2+ Kc3 18.Rf3+ Kd4 19.Rf4+ positional draw.

i) 1.Re5? Rxf5 Black wins. 1.Rd8+? Kc1 2.Re5 Rxf5 3.Re4 Rf1 Black wins.

ii) 2.aRxa5? e1Q+ 3.Re5 Qxe5+ 4.Rxe5 Rf4 5.Kf7 Rh2 6.Kg6 Rg4+ 7.Kh7 Rg5 8.Ra5 Rb2 9.Ra7 Rxf5 Black wins.

iii) Rxf5 3.aRxa5 Rxe5+ 4.Rxe5 Rd6 5.h7 Rh6 6.Rd5+ Ke1 7.Rd7 Kf1 8.Rf7+ draw.

iv) Rh2 6.Kg6 hRg2+ 7.Kh5 Rg3 8.Ra4 Rb7 9.Rg4 Rf3 10.Kg5 draw.

v) 6.Kg6? Rg2+ 7.Kh5 Rg3 8.Ra1+ Ke2 9.Ra2+ Kd1 10.Ra4 Rf7 11.Rg4 Rxf5+

12.Kg6 gRf3 13.h7 Rf8 14.Kg7 R3f7+ Black wins.

vi) Kf1 7.Kg5 Rg2+ 8.Kh5 Rg3 9.Ra4 Kf2 10.Rg4 Rf3 11.Kg5 Ke3 12.Rh4 Rg3+ 13.Kf6 Rh7 14.Ke5 draw.

vii) Kc2 2.Re5 Rb1 3.Kd7 e1Q 4.Rxe1 Rxe1 5.h7 draw.

viii) 2.Rc5+? Kb1 3.Re5 Rxf5 4.aRxa5 Rf1 5.Ra7 e1Q 6.Rxe1+ Rxe1+ Black wins.

ix) If 2...Rb5, then not 3.Re7? bRxf5 4.Rc7+ Kd2 5.Rd8+ Ke3 6.Re7+ Kf3 7.Rd3+ Kg2 8.dRe3 Kf1 9.Rh3 Rf7 10.Rh1+ Kg2 11.Rxf7 Kxh1 Black wins, but instead: 3.Rc8+ Kd2 4.Rd8+/xv drawing, because wRe5 will check if bK strays to b-file or third rank, whereupon Kf8 follows.

Or 2...Rf1 3.aRxa5 Kb1 4.aRb5 Rxb5 5.Rxb5+ Kc1 6.Re5 draw.

x) Rf6 4.h7 Rh6 5.aRc5+ Kb1 6.Rb5 draw.

xi) Try: 4.aRc5? Rh5/xvi 5.Kf7 Rxh6 6.Re4 Rh2 7.Ke6 Rf2 8.Kd6 Rc2 9.cRe5 Kc1 Black wins.

xii) Qa7+ 9.Kg6, and Qb6+ 10.Rf6, or Qg1+ 10.hRg5, or Rb6+ 10.Rf6 draw.

xiii) 10.Qc2 11.Rg1+ Kb2 12.gRf1 Rb6+ 13.Kg7 Qg2+ 14.Kh8 Rb8+ 15.Rf8 draws.

xiv) Qg5+ 15.Kh8 Rb8+ 16.Rf8 Qe5+ 17.Kg8 Qg5+ 18.Kh8 Qe5+ 19.Kg8 positional draw.

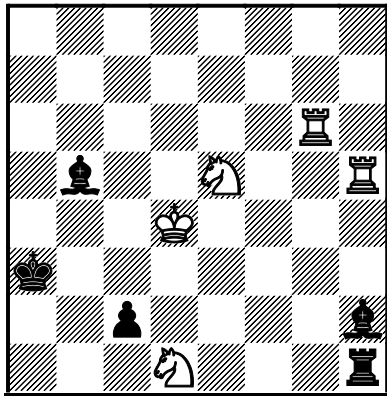
xv) And not 4.Re7? fRxf5 5.Rd8+ bRd5 and Black wins, though 4...Kc3 5.Re3+ draws.

xvi) 4...Rf1? 5.Rb5 Rxb5 6.Rxb5+ Kc2 7.Re5 draw.

“Full-scale long R-study with interesting tries branched on the 1st move leading to a positional ‘carousel’ draw or perpetual check unless bK broaches the 5th rank, when bQ will be pinned.”

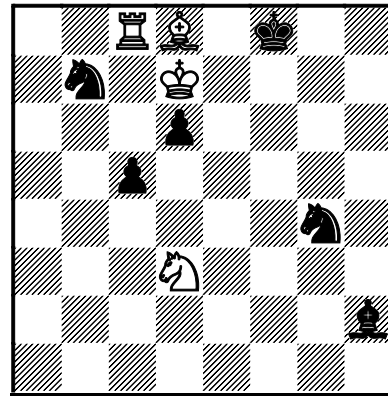
[no.93 in OD no.58 (363) 12-14viii2006.]

No 16515 Yu. Bazlov
2nd prize



d4a3 0562.01 5/5 Draw

No 16516 Yu. Bazlov
3rd prize



d7f8 0147.02 4/6 Win

No 16515 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Sc4+/i Bxc4 2.Se3 Be5+/ii 3.Rxe5/iii Rh4+ 4.Rg4 Rxc4+ 5.Kc3, with:

– c1Q+ 6.Sc2+ Ka4 7.Ra5+ Kxa5 stalemate, or

– c1R+ 6.Kd2 gRg1 7.Rc5 positional draw: Kb4 8.Rc8(Rc7/Rc6).

i) 1.Rh3+ Kb4 2.Sc6+ Bxc6 3.Sc3 Be5+ 4.Kxe5 Rxc3 5.Sa2+ Kc5 6.Rg1/iv Rd3 7.Rc1 Ba4 8.Rf1 Rd1 9.Rf4 Bb3 10.Rf3 Re1+ 11.Bf6 Ra1 Black wins.

ii) c1Q? 3.Sc4+ Kb3 4.Rh3+ Ka2 5.Ra6+ draws.

iii) 3.Kc5? Rxc5 4.Sxc2+ Kb3 5.Sd4+ Kc3 6.Sb5+ Bd3. Or 3...Bd6+ 4.Rxd6 c1Q 5.Rxc1 Qxe3+ wins.

iv) 6.Rxc6+ Kxc6 7.Sb4+ Kc5 8.Sxc2 Rc3.

“Vivid play with mutual sacrifices, capture refusal, getting rid of unnecessary units for a stalemate, underpromotion. Also a positional draw with Black a rook up being unable to unpin the bishop.”

[no.9 in OD no.75 (380) 10-13x2006.]

No 16516 Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Bb6+ Kf7 2.Rc7 c4 3.Kc8+ Ke6 4.Rxc4 Se5 5.Sxe5 d5/i 6.Rc6+ Sd6+ 7.Rxd6+/ii Kxd6 8.Sf3 Kc6 9.Ba7, and Bd6/iii 10.Sd4 mate or Bf4 10.Sd4+ Kd6 11.Bb8+ Kc5 12.Se6+ wins.

i) Threat: 6...Sd6+ and 7...Bxe5.

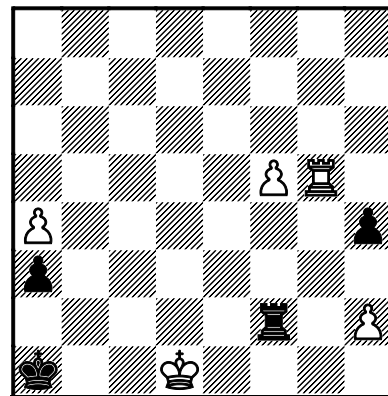
ii) 7.Kc7? Bxe5 8.Bd7 Ke4 draw, not, in this, 7...Kxe5? 8.Bc5 d4 9.Bxd6+ winning.

iii) Bc7 10.Sd4+ Bd6 11.Sb5+.

“Playful study. Good black domination counter-play and a model in the centre of the board.”

[no.120 in OD no.75 (380) 10-13.10.2006.]

No 16517 Iu. Akobia & R. Becker
1st honourable mention



d1a1 0400.32 5/4 Draw

No 16517 Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & Richard Becker (USA). 1.Kc1/i Ka2 2.f6/ii Kb3/iii 3.Rb5+ Kxa4 4.Rb6/iv a2/v 5.Ra6+ Kb3 6.Rb6+ Ka3 7.Ra6+ Kb3 8.Rb6+ Kc4 9.Ra6 (Rc6+? Kb5;) Kb3 10.Rb6+ Kc3 11.Rc6+ with:

– Kd3 12.Ra6 h3/vi 13.Ra3+/vii Ke4 14.Ra4+ Ke5 15.f7 (Ra5+? Kxf6;) Rxf7 16.Kb2/viii Rf2+ 17.Ka1 draws, or

– Kb4 12.Ra6 h3 13.f7/ix Rxf7/x 14.Rxa2/xi Rf1+ 15.Kc2/xii Rf2+ 16.Kb1 Rg2 17.Rb2+ (Rc2? Kb3;) Ka3 18.Ka1zz Rxb2 stalemate, or if, in this, 17...Kc4 18.Ka2/xiii Kc3 19.Ka1/xiv 19.Rxb2 stalemate.

i) 1.f6? Kb2 2.Rb5+ Kc3 Black wins. If 1.Ke1? Rxh2 (or Rf4) Black wins.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Rg8? Rxf5 3.Rb8 h3 4.Kc2(Kd2) Rf2+ 5.Kc3 Rxh2 6.Rf8 Rb2 7.a5 h2 8.Rf1 Rb3+ 9.Kc4 Rh3/xv 10.Rh1 Kb2 11.a6 a2 (Rh4+) 12.a7 Rh4+ 13.Kc5 Rh5+ 14.Kc4 Ra5 Black wins. Black alternatives 7...Rb3+ and 11...Rh4+ transpose. '4.a5?' is given in the source without comment.

iii) Rxf6 3.Rb5 Rf1+ (h3; a5) 4.Kc2 Rf2+ 5.Kc3/xvi 5.Rxh2 6.a5 (also: Re5 or Rf5) draw.

iv) 4.Rb8? Rxf6 5.Re8/xvii Kb3/xviii 6.Re3+ Ka2 7.Re2+ Ka1 8.Kc2 Rf3/xix 9.Re4 h3 10.Re2 Ka2 11.Rd2 Rb3 Black wins.

v) Rxh2 5.Kb1/xx Rh1+ 6.Ka2 Rf1 7.Re6 (or Rd6) Rf2+ 8.Kb1 h3 9.Re4+ draw.

vi) Rxf6 13.Ra3+ Ke4 14.Ra4+ (or Kb2) draw.

vii) 13.f7? Rxf7 14.Kb2/xxi Rf3 15.Kxa2/xxii Ke2 16.Kb1 Kf1 17.Rg6 Re3 18.Kc1 Re1+ 19.Kd2 Re2+ Black wins.

viii) 16.Ra5+? Ke4 17.Ra4+ Ke3 18.Ra3+ Kf2.

ix) 13.Ra8? Kb3 14.Rb8+ Kc3 15.Rc8+ Kd3 16.Ra8 Rxf6/xxiii 17.Ra3+/xxiv Ke4/xxv 18.Ra4+ Ke3 (Ke5? Kb2) 19.Ra3+ Kf2 20.Rxa2+ Kg1 21.Re2 Rg6 22.Kd1 Rg2 Black wins.

x) Kb3 14.Rb6+ Kc3 15.Rc6+ Kd4 16.Ra6 Rxf7 17.Kb2 Rf3 18.Kxa2 Ke3 19.Kb3 Kf2+ 20.Kc4 draw.

xi) 14.Kb2? Rf1 15.Kxa2 Rf2+ (Rh1? Rb6+) 16.Kb1 Rxh2 Black wins.

xii) Thematic try: 15.Kb2? Rh1 Black wins. 15.Rf2? 16.Kb1 and transposes to the main line.

xiii) Thematic try: 18.Ka1? Kc3, with mutual zugzwang to the benefit of Black.

xiv) Mutual zugzwang to the benefit of White, 19.Rxb2 stalemate.

xv) 9.Rb1? 10.Rf2+ Rb2 11.Rf1 Rc2+ 12.Kb4 Kb2 13.a6 a2 14.a7 Rc8 15.Rf2+ Kb1 16.Rf1+ Kc2 17.Rh1 draw.

xvi) 5.Kd3? Rb2 6.h3 Kb1 Black wins. 5.Kc1? Rxh2 6.a5 Rb2 7.Rh5 Kb3 Black wins.

xvii) 5.Kb1 Rf1+ 6.Ka2 Rf2+ 7.Ka1 Rxh2 Black wins.

xviii) 5...Rf1+? 6.Kc2 Rf2+ 7.Kb1 Rxh2 8.Re4+ Kb3 9.Re3+ Kb4 10.Re4+ Kc5 11.Re3(Ka1) draw.

xix) Also: 8...Rb6 9.Kc3 Rb2 10.Re3 Kb1 11.h3 Rg2 winning.

xx) 5.Ra6+? Kb4 6.Kb1 (Rb6+, Ka5;), and Rb2+ 7.Ka1 Rf2 8.Re6 Rf4 9.Rb6+ Kc4 10.Ra6 Kd5, but not here 6...Rf2? 7.Re6 Rf4 8.Rb6+ Kc4 9.Ra6 Kb3 (Kd5; Rxa3) 10.Rb6+ Kc3 11.Ka2 draw.

xxi) 14.Ra3+ Ke4 15.Ra4+ Ke3 16.Ra3+ Kf2 17.Rxa2+ Kg1 18.Re2 Rg7 19.Kd1 Rg2 Black wins.

xxii) 15.Ra3+ Ke4 (Ke2? Rxa2) 16.Ra4+ Ke3 17.Rg4 Kf2(Ke2) 18.Kxa2 Kf1(Re3) 19.Kb1 Re3 Black wins.

xxiii) 16...Rxh2? 17.f7 Rc2+ 18.Kd1 h2 19.Rd8+ Kc4 20.Rc8+ Kb3 21.Rb8+ Kc3 22.Rc8+ Kd4 23.Kxc2 (Rd8+) draw.

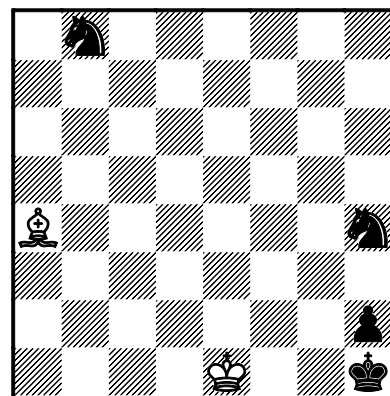
xxiv) 17.Kb2 Rf3 18.Ra3+ Ke4.

xxv) 17...Ke2? 18.Rxa2+ Kf1 19.Ra8(Ra7) Rd6 20.Rg8 draw.

“Another R-study with a nice finale. Introductory play is rather dull compared to the R-study higher in the award.”

[no.67 in OD no.26(331) 15-17iv2006.]

No 16518 S. Javadzade
2nd honourable mention



e1h1 0016.01 2/4 Win [Mate in 5]

No 16518 Salman Javadzade (Ganja, Azerbaijan). 1.Kf2/i, with:

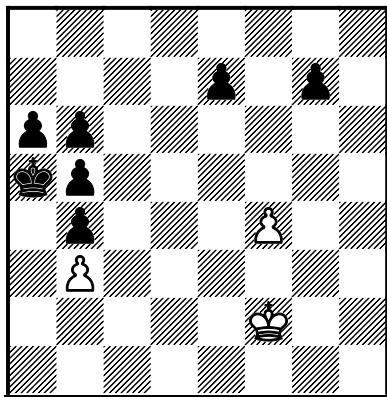
- Sf5 2.Bd1 Sd4 (2.Sh4 3.Bc2, Bb3) 3.Bg4 Sd7 4.Bh3 & 5.Bg2 mate, or
- Sf3 2.Bb3 Sc6 3.Bd5 Sce5 4.Kf1 S- 5.Bxf3 mate.

i) 1.Kf1? Sf3 2.Bb5 Sd2+ 3.Kf2 Se4+ draw.

“A better stipulation: Mate in 5. Super-miniature.”

[no.105 in OD no.70 (375) 23-25ix2006.]

No 16519 V.S. Kovalenko
1st commendation



f2a5 0000.26 3/7 Win

No 16519 Vitaly S. Kovalenko (Russia). 1.f5, with:

- e6 2.fxe6 g5 3.e7 g4 4.e8S/i g3+ 5.Kf3 (Ke2) g2 6.Sd6 g1Q 7.Sb7 mate, or
- g6 2.fxg6 e5 3.g7 e4 4.g8S/ii e3+ 5.Kf3 (Ke2) e2 6.Se7 e1Q 7.Sc6 mate.

i) 4.e8Q? g3+ 5.Kf3 g2 6.Qe2 g1S+ draw.

ii) 4.g8Q? e3+ 5.Kf3 e2 6.Qg2 e1S+ draw.

“To B. Badai’s study (1911-1967) *Šeskoslovensky Sach* 1963 (W=Kd2, Bc4, pb3, f4, h2, h5 B=Ka7, Sa3, pa6, b4, b7, c6, d3, h6, h7 Win), the author has added an echo-mate and another black promotion in the try. But the ‘niche’ is pre-set [AJR: the intended meaning is unclear to us], and, also, there are duals on the 5th move.”

“There is also move inversion (e7/Ke2 and g7/Kg2). It is true that this is inherent. After being informed, the author submitted the following correction.”

[no.117 in OD no.75 (380) 10-13x2006.]

V. Kovalenko (Russia)

f2a5 0000.37 .b2f3f5a6b4b5b6e7f4g7 4/8+.

117a.V. Kovalenko (Russia). 1.b3, with:

- e6 2.fxe6 g5 3.e7/i g4 4.e8S/ii g3+ 5.Ke2 g2 6.Sd6 g1Q 7.Sb7 mate, or
- g6 2.fxg6 e5 3.g7/iii e4 4.g8S/iv e3+ 5.Kg2 e2 6.Se7 e1Q 7.Sc6 mate.

i) 3.Ke2? g4 4.e7 gf+ 5.Kf1 f2 6.e8Q f3. Or 3.Ke1? g4 4.e7 gf 5.e8S f2+ 6.Kf1 f3. Or 3.Kf1? g4 4.e7 g3 5.e8Q g2+draw.

ii) 4.e8Q? g3+ 5.Ke2 g2, ... 6.Qe2, ...

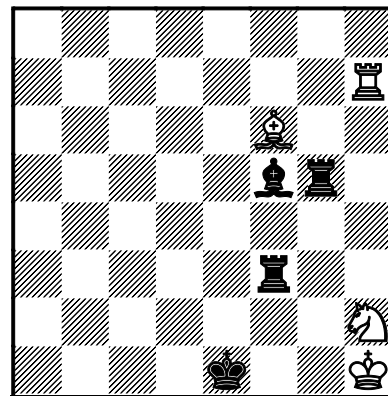
iii) 3.Kg2? e4 4.g7 ef+ 5.Kf1 f2 6.g8Q f3 7.Kxf2 stalemate.

iv) 4.g8Q? e3+ 5.Kg2 e2, 6.Qg2) 4...e3+ 5.Kg2 e2 6.Se7 e1Q 7.Sc6 mate.

“In this corrected version there no move-order duals and there are fresh tactical points and tries, but the underpromotions are missing and the setting is clumsier. Therefore I restored the original version.”

[Publication data: this award.]

No 16520 P. Rossi
2nd commendation



h1e1 0741.00 4/4 BTM, Draw

No 16520 Pietro Rossi (Italy). If 1... Be4 2.Sxf3+ (Bxg5? Rf1 mate) Bxf3+ 3.Kh2 Rg2+ 4.Kh3 (Kh1? Rg7+;), so Black plays better: 1... Rg1+ 2.Kxg1 Rg3+ 3.Kh1 Be4+/i 4.Sf3+ Rxf3/ii 5.Rh4/iii Rxf6+ 6.Kg1/iv Rg6+/v 7.Kh2 Kf2/vi 8.Rf4+/vii Bf3/viii 9.Kh3 (Rh4? Rg1;) Rg1/ix 10.Kh4 draw.

i) Bxh7 4.Bh4 Be4+ 5.Sf3+ Bxf3+ 6.Kh2 draw, but not, in this, 4.Be5? Be4+ 5.Sf3+ Bxf3+ 6.Kh2 Rg2+, when Black wins.

ii) Bxf3+ 5.Kh2 Rg2+ 6.Kh3 draw, not 6.Kh1? Rg7+. Or Kf1 5.Rh6 Bxf3+ (Rxf3;

Kh2) 6.Kh2 Rg2+ 7.Kh3 draw, but not 7.Kh1? Rf2 mate.

iii) 5.Rh8? Rxf6+, and 6.Kg1 Rg6+ 7.Kh2 Kf2 8.Rf8+ Bf3 9.Kh3 (Rh8, Rg1;) Rh6 mate, or 6.Kh2 Kf2 7.Kh3 (Rh4, Bd5;) Rf4 winning.

iv) 6.Rxe4+? Kf2 7.Rh4 Kg3 Black wins (Barbier/Saavedra 1895). 6.Kh2? Kf2, and 7.Rxe4 Rh6+, or 7.Kh3 Bf5+, or 7.Rh3 Bf5+: Black wins.

v) Rf1+ 7.Kh2 Rh1+ 8.Kg3 draw. Or Bc6 7.Rc4 Rg6+ 8.Kh2 Kf2 9.Rc2+ draw.

vi) Rg2+ 8.Kh3, not 8.Kh1? Rg4+.

vii) 8.Rxe4? Rh6+ Black wins. Or 8.Kh3? Rg3+ 9.Kh2 Rg2+ 10.Kh3 Bf5+ Black wins. Or 8.Rh8? Rg2+ 9.Kh3 Bf5+ 10.Kh4 Rh2.

viii) If 8...Ke3, then not: 9.Rh4? Rg2+ 10.Kh3 Rg1 11.Kh2 Rg6 12.Rh3+ Bf3, winning for Black, but 9.Rf8 Rg2+ 10.Kh3 draw, though 10.Kh1? loses to 10...Rg8+.

ix) Ke3 10.Rf8 Rg1(Rg5) 10.Rf6 draw.

“Aristocrat. I disapprove of Black starting first which I consider to be a shortcoming. Stormy introductory play results in a position with a rare correlation of forces. But the play, in general, is not very interesting. A piece of flavour is added when in one of the variations we can see the finale from the famous Saavedra & Barbier study.”

[no91 in OD no.58 (363) 12-14viii2006.]

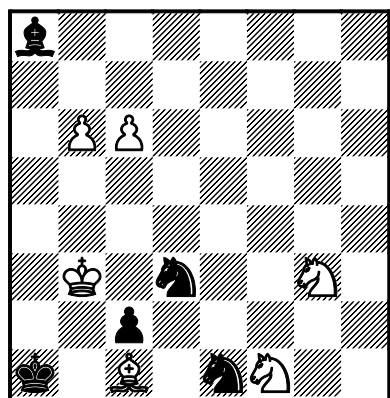
Hero Towns Match no. 5 (2005)

The match commemorated the 50th anniversary of victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War (1941-1945). The seven participating cities of this 5-genre match, the fifth in the series, all organised by Konstantin Sukharev – this was his last, and the studies judge has also passed away – were: Brest, Volgograd, Kiev, Minsk, Odessa, Tula, St Petersburg, ie all the places on which the title of 'Hero Town' was conferred. The teams varied in size from Brest's two to St Petersburg's seven. The winners: Tula (50 points), ahead of Odessa (48), Volgograd, Kiev and St Petersburg (all 46), Minsk (30), Brest (24). The 15-point system was used. In the studies section 12 were entered from 10 composers. Six were eliminated, so we see here all that remained.

Judging from the try in the third placed the theme was far from easy to realise. Questions that arises:

- can a white move which ignores what Black is threatening be accepted as a 'thematic try'?!
- does it invalidate a study in a thematic tourney if there is a serious dual in a thematic try?

No 16521 S.N. Tkachenko
1st/2nd place



b3a1 0048.21 6/5 Win

No 16521 Sergei N. Tkachenko (Odessa).
1.b7 Bxb7 2.cxb7 Sxc1+ 3.Ka3/i cSd3 4.Se2 Sc5/ii 5.Sc1/iii Sxb7 6.Sb3+ Kb1 7.Sd2 mate, 'pure' checkmate. 10 points.

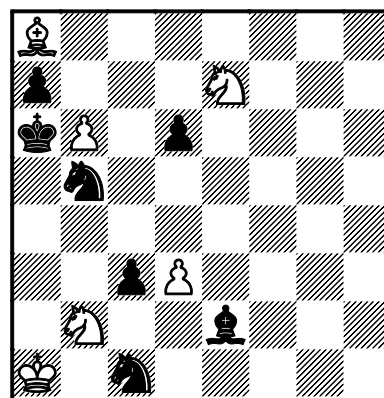
i) 3.Kc4? Sb3 4.Se2 Sa5+ and it's a draw after 5.Sxb7.

ii) c1Q+ 5.Sxc1 Sc2+ 6.Kb3 Sc5+ 7.Kc3 Sxb7 8.Sxc2 Sc5 9.Sd2z.

iii) Thematic try: 5.b8Q? c1Q+ 6.Sxc1 Sc2 mate.

"Pure mate. Elegant play characteristic for the Ukrainian master starts on the third move. One could wish for a better introduction."

No 16522 S. Abramenko
1st/2nd place



a1a6 0048.23 6/7 Win

No 16522 Sergei Abramenko (Volgograd).
1.b7 c2 2.Sc4/i Sb3+/ii 3.Ka2 Sc3+/iii 4.Kxb3 c1Q 5.b8S+ Kb5 6.Bc6+ Kc5 7.Sa6+ Kd4 8.Sf5+ Kxd3 9.Sb4 mate. 10 points.

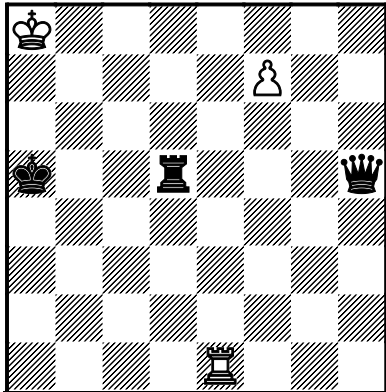
i) Thematic try: 2.b8Q? Sb3+ 3.Ka2 c1S+ 4.Kb1 Sa3 mate.

ii) Sc3 3.Sd2 Sxd3 4.Sb3, White wins.

iii) c1S+ 4.Kb2 Sxd3+ 5.Kb1 Sc3+ 6.Kc2 Se4 7.Sc6 winning.

No 16523 Andrei Zhuravlyov (Tula). 1.f8Q Rd4 2.Ra1+ Ra4 3.Rb1/i Qg5 4.Rb2 Qd5+ 5.Rb7zz Rg4 6.Qa3+ Ra4 7.Qc3+ Ka6 8.Qf6+/ii Ka5 9.Qb6 'pure' checkmate. 9 points.

No 16523 A. Zhuravlyov
dedicated to K.K. Sukharev
3rd place



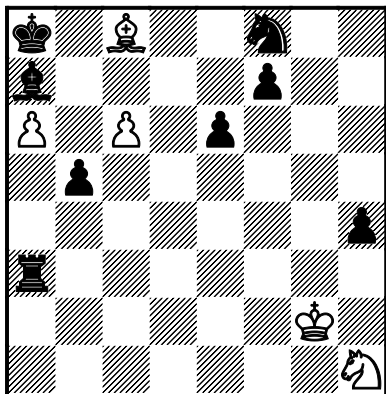
a8a5 3400.10 3/3 Win

i) We read: “Thematic try: 3.Ra3?? Kb6+ 4.Rxa4 Qh1+(Qd5+) 5.Kb8 Qb7 mate.”

ii) We read: “Thematic try: 8.Qc8? Rg4 9.Qxg4 Qxb7 mate, in the fight to draw possible is 9.Kb8 Rg8 10.Ra7+ Kb6 11.Rb7+!? Qxb7 mate.”

“Pure mate. Tries in a miniature are thin on the ground.”

No 16524 Yu. Roslov



g2a8 0344.24 5/8 Win

No 16524 Yuri Roslov (St Petersburg). 1.c7 h3+ 2.Kf1 (Kh2? Bb8;) Ra1+ 3.Ke2 Ra2+ 4.Kf3 Ra3+ 5.Kg4 Ra4+ 6.Kxh3/i Ra3+ 7.Kg3/ii Rxg3+ 8.Kh2/iii Bb8 9.Bb7+ Ka7 10.c8S mate, the square b8 having just been deliciously blocked! 8 points.

i) The composer’s given try: 6.Kh5? Bf2 7.Bb7+ Ka7 8.c8Q Rh4+ 9.Kg5 Sh7+ would be thematic (Black giving checkmate) were it not for the better but for the better 8.Sxc2 Rc4 9.c8Q Bxc8 10.Bxc8 drawing.

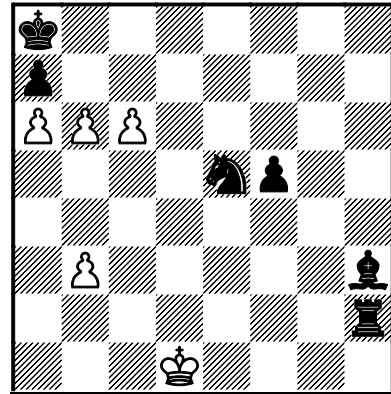
ii) Thematic try: 7.Kg4? f5+ 8.Kh5 Rh3+ 9.Kg5 Bc5 10.Bb7+ Ka7 11.c8Q Be7+ 12.Kf4

Sg6 mate. It is again a pity – we quote the judge – that 9...Be3+ also wins.

iii) 8.Kxg3 Bb8 9.Bb7+ Ka7, and wPc7 is pinned.

“Pure mate with underpromotion to wS. In spite of the duals in the tries, we like it.”

No 16525 I. Bondar

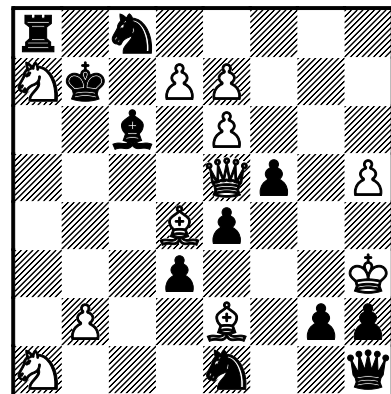


d1a8 0333.42 5/6 Draw

No 16525 Ivan Bondar (Belarus). 1.c7 Bg4+ 2.Kc1/iv Sd3+ 3.Kb1 Rh1+ 4.Ka2 Sb4+ 5.Ka3 Sxa6 6.c8Q+ Sb8 7.b7 mate. 6 points.

iv) Thematic try: 2.Ke1 Sd3+ 3.Kf1 Bh3+ 4.Kg1 Rg2+ 5.Kh1 Sf2 mate. However, 2...Sf3+ also wins.

No 16526 A. Varitzky



h3b7 4358.55 11/11+

No 16526 A.Varitzky (). The author’s ‘thematic try’ runs: 1.d8Q? g1S+ 2.Kh4 eSf3+ 3.Bxf3 Sxf3+ 4.Kh3 Qf1+ leading to mate, but there are duals a-plenty. 1.Qc7+ Kxc7 2.e8S+ Kb7 3.d8S+ Ka6 4.Sc7+ Ka5 5.dSxc6+ Ka4 6.b3+ Ka3 7.cSb5+ Ka2 8.Sb4+ Kb1 9.Sa3+ Kc1 10.Sa2+ Kd2 11.Sc4+ Kxe2 12.Sc3+ Kf3 13.Se5+ Kf4 14.Sd5+ Kg5 15.Sf7+ Kxh5 16.Sf4 mate. 5 points.

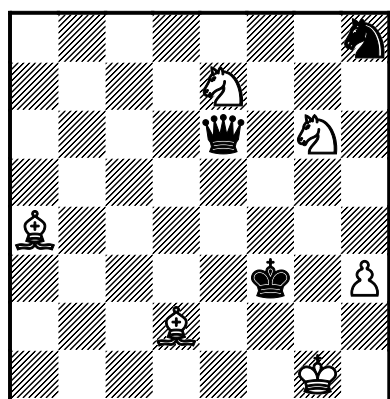
“Problem/study! Mate in 16.”

Československý šach 2005-2006

The provisional award was published in *Československý šach* ii2007 with the usual three month confirmation time. The judge, Emil Vlasák also provided an English translation of his extensive award, including an interesting introduction that we condense into:

“Our traditional two-years international composition tournament was simultaneously announced as the Karel Husak (*06-23-1925, †12-06-2004) MT. 24 original endgame studies competed, 13 authors, 6 countries. Thanks to all, also from my departed friend. A high percentage of entries was awarded with accent on Prizes and honourable mentions. An interesting aspect of the tournament was to receive a lot of database composition entries. The endgames with 6 and less men are perfectly analysed by computer and the results are now publicly available (Web, DVDs). I have to remind you of an excellent sci-fi story *Jokester* of I. Asimov, who foresaw already in 1956 that scientists will only give fitting questions to computers. Giving fitting questions to EG databases is surely thankworthy handling; nice study-like positions can be mined this way.”

No 16527 M. Matouš
1st prize



g1f3 3025.10 6/3 Win

No 16527 Mario Matouš (Czech Republic).
1.Bc6+ Kg3 2.Sf5+/i Qxf5/ii 3.Be1+ Kxh3
4.Se5/iii Qg5+ 5.Kh1 Qg7/iv 6.Bf2 Sg6(Sf7)
7.Bg2(Bd7) mate.

i) An unexpected move! 2.Bf4+? Kxh3
3.Bg2+ Kg4 4.Kh2 Sxg6 5.Bh3+ Kxf4 6.Bxe6
Sxe7.

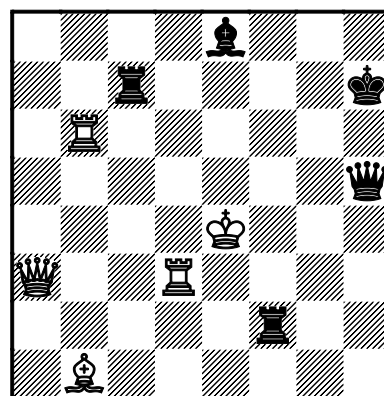
ii) Or Kxh3 3.Bg2+ Kg4 4.Sh6+ Kh5 5.Sf4+.

iii) Another surprise!

iv) Qg3 6.Bd7+ Kh4 7.Sf3+.

“Battles with a black queen are Matouš’ favorite theme. In a difficult introduction White attacks using two hard-to-see piece’s sacrifices. And the solution finishes by a quiet final move with an entertaining zugzwang leading to two problem mates”.

No 16528 P. Rossi & M. Campioli
2nd prize



e4h7 4840.00 5/5 Win

No 16528 Pietro Rossi & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Rh3/i Bg6+ 2.Rxg6 Rc4+ 3.Ke3/ii Re2+ (Qxh3+; Rg3+) 4.Kd3 Qxh3+ 5.Rg3/iii Qxg3+ 6.Kxe2+/iv Rc2+ (Re4+) 7.Bxc2+ (Bxe4+) Kh8 8.Qf8+ Qg8 9.Qh6/v wins.

i) 1.Rg3? Bg6+ 2.Rbxg6 Rc4+ 3.Ke3 Qe2+, or 1.Rd5? Bg6+ 2.Rxg6 Rc4+ 3.Rd4 Qf5+ 4.Ke3 Qf3+, or 1.Ke3? Re2+ 2.Kf4 Qh4+ 3.Kf5 Rf7+, or 1.Kd4? Rf4+ 2.Ke3 Qf3+ 3.Kd2 Qg2+ 4.Ke3 Qf2+.

ii) 3.Kd3? Qxh3+ 4.Rg3 Qf1+ 5.Ke3+ Kh8 6.Qa8+ Rf8 7.Qa1+ Qf6.

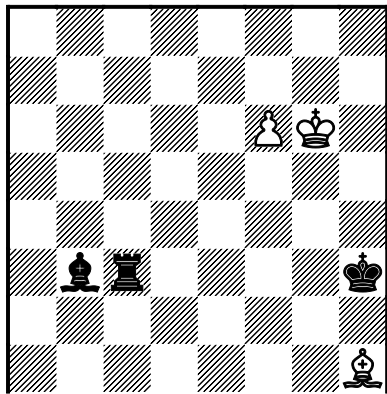
iii) A nice picture! 5.Kxc4? Qxa3 6.Rg3+ Kh6.

iv) The right rook! Not 6.Kxc4+? Rc2+(Re4+) 7.Bxc2+(Bxe4+) Kh8 8.Qf8+ Qg8 check!

v) Duals to one-move-mates are usually tolerated and this is a close situation: 9.Qf6+ Qg7 10.Qh4+ Kg8 11.Bb3+ also wins.

“Vivid funny play with a lot of pins, batteries and discovered checks – hard to forget. I permit a small finish dual, because as a solver I had no problem with it”.

No 16529 M. Matouš
3rd prize



g6h3 0340.10 3/3 Draw

No 16529 Mario Matouš (Czech Republic). 1.f7/i Rc8 2.Be4, and:

– Rf8 3.Bc2 Ba2 4.Bb1 Bc4 5.Bd3 Bd5 6.Be4 Bxf7+/ii 7.Kg7 Re8 8.Bf5+ and 9.Kxf7 draws, or:

– Kh4 3.Kf6 Kh5 4.Bc2 Bd5 5.Be4 Bc4 6.Bd3 Ba2 7.Bb1 Bb3 8.Bc2 Bxf7 9.Bd1+ and 10.Kxf7 draws.

i) 1.Be4? Rg3+ 2.Kh6 Bf7, or 1.Kg7? Kg4 2.Be4 Kg5.

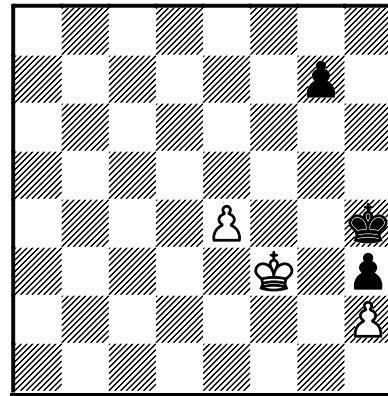
ii) Last try.

“A pursuit of the Bishop in such an open position is very unusual and unexpected – I think that many a strong player would have resigned here”.

No 16530 Alain Pallier (France). 1.Kf4/i g6/ii 2.Ke5/iii g5 3.Kf5/iv g4 4.Kf4 g3 (Kh5; e5) 5.hxg3+ Kh5 6.Kf3/v Kg5 7.Kf2 (g4 h2;) Kg4 8.Kg1/vi wins.

i) The natural progress of e-pawn will be postponed for long time: 1.e5? Kg5 2.Ke4 Kg6 3.Kd5 Kf7 4.Kd6 Ke8 5.Ke6 g5 6.Kf5 Ke7 7.Kxg5 Ke6.

No 16530 A. Pallier
4th prize



f3h4 0000.22 3/3 Win

ii) g5+ 2.Kf5, but not 2.Kf3? Kh5 3.e5 Kh6 4.Kg3 Kh5 5.Kxh3 g4+ 6.Kg3 Kg5 7.e6 Kf6 8.Kxg4 Kxe6 9.Kg5 Kf7.

iii) Premature is again 2.e5? g5+ 3.Kf5 g4 4.Kf4 Kh5zz. Or here 4.e6 g3 5.e7 gxh2 6.e8Q h1Q 7.Qe7+ Kg3 8.Qd6+ Kg2.

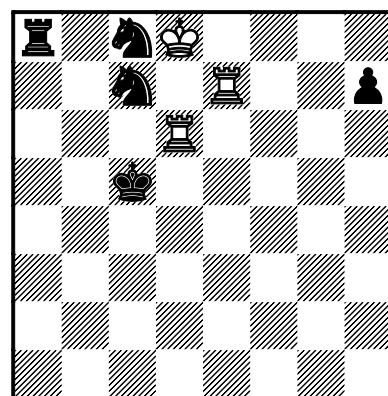
iv) triangulation.

v) 6.g4+? Kh4 7.Kf3 h2 8.Kg2 Kxg4.

vi) But still not 8.e5? Kf5 9.g4+ Kxe5 10.Kg3 h2 11.Kxh2 Kf4 12.Kh3 Kg5.

“An interesting pawn endgame is lifted to a high ranking because of the beautiful move 2.Ke5!!!”.

No 16531 R. Becker & I. Akobia
5th prize

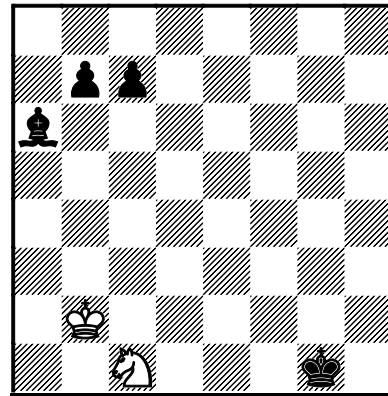


d8c5 0506.01 3/5 Draw

No 16531 Richard Becker (USA) and Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rh6/i Sxe7+/ii 2.Kxe7, and:

– Rh8/iii 3.Kf7 (Kf6, Kd7) Se8 4.Ke6 Kd4 5.Rh3/iv Sg7+ 6.Kf6 Se8+ 7.Ke6 Sc7+ 8.Kf6 (Kf7) Se8+ 9.Ke6 h5/v 10.Rh4+ Ke3

No 16532 J. Polašek
6th prize



b2g1 0031.02 2/4 Draw

11.Kf7 (Kf5? Rg8;) Sd6+ 12.Kg6 Rg8+
13.Kh7/vi Rg5 14.Kh6 Sf7+ 15.Kh7 Kf3
16.Rf4+ Kg3 17.Rg4+/vii Kf3 18.Rf4+/viii
Kxf4 2nd stalemate, or:

– Ra7 3.Kf8/ix Kd5/x 4.Rxh7 (Kg8? Se6;)
Se6+ 5.Ke8 Ra8+ 6.Ke7 Ra7+ 7.Ke8 Rxh7
3rd stalemate.

i) 1.Rxc7+? Kxd6 2.Rd7+ Kc6/xi 3.Rc7+ Kd5
4.Rxh7 Sd6+/xii 5.Kd7 Ra7+ 6.Kd8 Sf7+
7.Ke8/xiii Ke6 8.Kf8 Kf6 9.Ke8 Re7+ 10.Kf8
Rd7 wins.

ii) The most natural and best continuation.
1...Sd5!/? with a mate threat is also interesting,
but 2.Rc7+ Sxc7 3.Kxc7 Sb6 4.Rxh7 Ra7+
5.Kb8 Rxh7 stalemate.

iii) Se8 3.Rh1 Kd5 4.Rh5+ Kd4 5.Kf7 Sd6+
6.Kg7 Ra7+ 7.Kh8 (Kg8? Se4;) h6 8.Kg8 Sf7
9.Kg7 Ke4 10.Rc5 Kf4 11.Kg6 Kg4 12.Rc4+
Kg3 13.Rc5.

iv) 5.Rh4+? Ke3 6.Kf5 Kf3 wins.

v) Ke4 10.Rxh7 Rxh7 1st stalemate.

vi) 13.Kxh5? Se4 14.Rh3+ Sg3+.

vii) 17.Rf3+? Kh4 18.Rh3+ Kg4 19.Rg3+ Kf4
20.Rf3+ Ke5 21.Re3+ Kd6 22.Rd3+ Ke6.

viii) 18.Rg3+? Ke4 19.Rg4+ Kd5 20.Rd4+
Ke6.

ix) 3.Kf7? Se6+ 4.Kg8 Kd5 5.Rxh7 Ra8+
6.Kf7 Sg5+.

x) Sd5 4.Kg8 Kd4 5.Kh8, or here Se7+ 5.Kh8
Sg6+ 6.Kg8 Kd5 7.Rxh7.

xi) Ke6 3.Rxh7 Se7+ 4.Kc7 Ra7+ 5.Kb8 Sc6+
6.Kc8 Rxh7, or Kc5 3.Rxh7 Sd6+ 4.Kd7
Ra7+ 5.Kd8 Rxh7.

xii) Sb6+? 5.Kc7 Ra7+ 6.Kb8 Rxh7.

xiii) 7.Kc8 Kc6 8.Kb8 Rb7+ 9.Ka8 Rd7
10.Rh1 Sd6 11.Rh8 Kb6 12.Rb8+ Ka6 13.Rg8
Sc4 14.Kb8 Rb7+ 15.Kc8 Sb6+.

“A happy discovery in a database position.
After 2.Kxe7 Black has different possibilities
to keep his decisive material advantage, but
White saves himself in all lines using three
stalemate defenses. The solver without a com-
puter has no chance and of course the organic
dual is also unpleasant”.

No 16532 Jaroslav Polašek (Czech Republic).

1.Sb3/i, and:

– Kf2/ii 2.Sc5 Ke3 3.Kb3/iii c6 (Kd4; Se6+)
4.Kc3 draws/iv, or:

– b6 2.Sd4/v Kf2 3.Se6, and now:

- c5 4.Sc7/vi Bc4/vii 5.Kc3/viii Bf7 6.Kd2/
ix Bc4/x 7.Kc3/xi Bf7 8.Kd2/xii draws,
or:

- c6 4.Sc7/xiii Bb7/xiv 5.Kc3/xv Ke3/xvi
6.Se8 Bc8/xvii 7.Sc7 Ke4 8.Sa8 b5 9.Kb4
Kd5 10.Sb6+ draws.

i) 1.Sa2? Kf2 2.Sb4 c6 3.Kc3 Ke3 4.Sc2+ Ke4
5.Sd4 Kd5 wins.

ii) Bf1 2.Sc5 b6 3.Se6 c5 4.Sc7 Kf2 5.Sa8 b5
6.Sc7 b4 7.Kb3 Ke3 8.Sd5+ and Sxb4 draws;
Bb5 2.Sc5 b6 3.Se6 c5 4.Sc7 Bc6 5.Kc3.

iii) Not the natural 3.Kc3? c6zz 4.Kb4 Kd4
5.Se6+ Kd5 6.Sc5 Kd6 wins.

iv) The black king is cut-off, e.g. Kf4 5.Kb4
(Kd4) Ke5 6.Ka5 Kd4 (Kd6; Kb6) 7.Kb6 Kd5
8.Sb3 and Black cannot make progress.

v) 2.Kc3? Kf2 3.Kd4 Bb5 4.Ke4 Ke1 5.Kd5
Be8 6.Sd4 Kd2 wins.

vi) 4.Kc3? Kf3 5.Sc7 Bf1 6.Sd5 b5 7.Sc7 b4+
8.Kb3 Ke4 wins.

vii) Bb7 5.Kc3 Bc6 6.Kc4, or Be2 5.Sa8 b5
6.Sc7 Ke3 7.Se6 c4 8.Kc3 safely blocking.

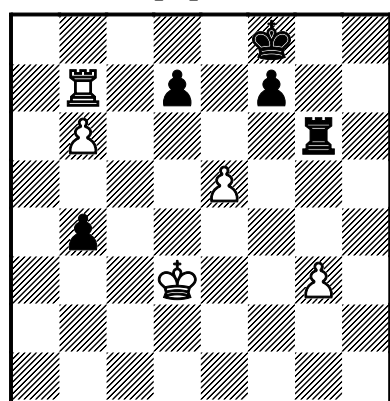
viii) 5.Sa8? b5 6.Kc3 (Sc7 b4;) Bf7 7.Sc7 b4+
wins.

ix) 6.Sa8? b5 7.Sc7 b4+ wins.

- x) Kf3 7.Sa8 b5 8.Sc7 b4 9.Sa6.
- xi) 7.Sa8? b5 8.Sc7 b4
- xii) But not 8.Kd3? Kf3 9.Sa8 b5 10.Sc7 Bc4+ 11.Kc3 Ke4, or here 9.Sb5 Kf4 10.Sc3 Bb3 11.Sb5 Ke5.
- xiii) Not 4.Ke3? Sc7, but unfortunately exchanging moves also works 4.Kc3 Ke3 5.Sc7.
- xiv) Be2 5.Sa8 b5 6.Kc3 Ke3 7.Sc7 threatening 8.Kb4 Kd4 9.Ne6+.
- xv) 5.Se8? Kf3 6.Kc3 Ke3.
- xvi) Kf3 6.Kd4 Kf4 e.g. 7.Se8 Bc8 8.Sc7 Bh3 9.Sa8 c5+ 10.Kc3 b5 11.Sc7 Bd7 12.Sa6.
- xvii) Ba8 7.Sc7 Bb7 8.Se8 draws.

“Jaroslav Pospíšil used the same theme in several tournaments. Finally he won 3rd hon. mention in Kralin JT 55 2000 (EG#12017), but the careless judge didn't see duals in all three unimpressive lines (EG 143, page 535). The other Jaroslav worked-out the central difficult move repetition in a pure and bold matter, so a strong solver could succeed without using a computer. The quite new lines are added – with a mutual zugzwang and with knight corner moves. Unfortunately there is a small transposition in the third main line”.

No 16533 J. Polašek
sp. prize



d3f8 0400.33 5/5 Win

No 16533 Jaroslav Polašek (Czech Republic). The normal way to make progress would be 1.Kc4? Ke7 2.Kxb4/i Rg4+/ii draws, e.g.

3.Ka5 Rxc3 4.Rc7 Ke6 5.Rc4/iii Kd5 6.Rb4 (Kb5 Rg8;) Kc6 7.b7 Ra3+, or 3.Kc5 Rxc3 4.Ra7 Rc3+ 5.Kb4 Rc1/iv 6.Ra3 Rc8 7.Kb5 Rb8 8.Rf3/v Ke6 9.Ka6 Kxe5 10.Rxf7 d5 11.Ka7 Rh8 12.b7 d4.

So: 1.Rb8+ Ke7/vi 2.b7/vii Rb6 3.Kc2 b3+ 4.Kb2 Rb5 5.g4 Rb4 6.g5 Rb5 7.e6 Rb6 8.Kc1(Ka1)/viii b2+/ix 9.Kb1zz, and:

– Rb5 10.exd7 Kxd7 11.Rf8 Kc7 12.Rxf7+ Kb8 13.g6 wins, or:

– dxe6 10.g6 Kf6 11.gxf7 Kxf7 12.Rh8 Rxb7 13.Rh7+ wins.

i) White cannot repair his first move: 2.Rb8 b3 e.g. 3.Kxb3 Rxc3+ 4.Kc4 Rg1 5.Kb5 Rb1+ 6.Ka6 Ra1+ 7.Kb7 d6 8.Ra8 Rb1.

ii) But not Rxc3? 3.Rc7 Rg1 4.Rc3.

iii) 5.b7 Rb3 6.Ka6 Kxe5 7.Rc5+ Kd6.

iv) But not Rc8? 6.b7 Rb8 7.Kc5 Ke6 8.Kb6 Kxe5 9.Ra8.

v) 8.Re3 d6 9.exd6++ Kxd6 10.Rf3 Ke6 11.Kc6 f5 12.Kc7 Rf8 13.b7 Ke5; 8.Ra7 Ke6 9.b7 Kxe5 10.Kb6 f5.

vi) After 1...Kg7 the bK is too far off: 2.Kc4 wins, e.g. Rc6+ 3.Kxb4 Re6 4.Kc5 Rxe5+ 5.Kd6 Re3 6.Rc8 Rb3 7.Kc7, or b3 3.Kxb3 Rxc3+ 4.Kc4 Rg1 5.Rd8 Rb1 6.Kc5.

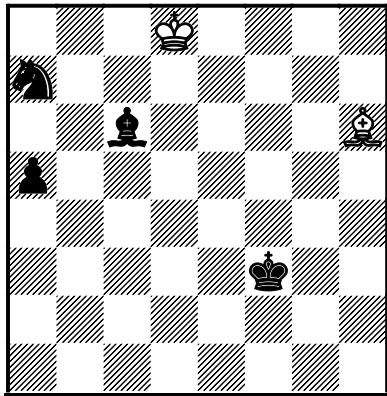
vii) 2.Kc4? b3 3.Kxb3 Rxc3+ see line zi), or 2.Kc2? b3+ 3.Kb2 Rxc3, and 4.Ra8 Rg2+ 5.Kxb3 Rg6 6.Ra6 Rg1, or 4.b7 Rg2+ 5.Kxb3 Rg6 6.Re8+ Kxe8 7.b8Q+ Ke7 or similarly 5.Ka3 b2 6.Ka2 Rg6 7.Re8+ Kxe8 8.b8Q+ Ke7 with a theoretical draw.

viii) Premature is 8.exd7? Kxd7 9.Rf8 Kc7 10.Rxf7+ Kb8. White has to lose a tempo.

ix) Rc6+ 9.Kb1 Rb6 10.Kb2.

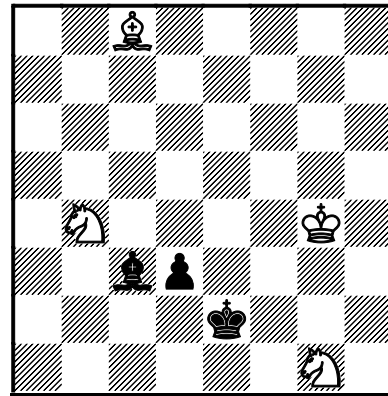
“Special Prize for developing a theme. The clearance of the seventh rank in a rook ending is a well-known theme closely connected with otb games. It is also known that the pawn breakthrough could be moved from a wing to the center of the board. The author makes a next step finding a natural connected mutual zugzwang”.

No 16534 M. Hlinka
honourable mention



d8f3 0043.01 2/4 Draw

No 16535 M. Matouš
honourable mention



g4e2 0042.01 4/3 BTM, Win

No 16534 Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.Kc7 Be8/i 2.Kb6 Sc6 3.Kb5/ii Ke4 4.Bg7/iii Kd3 5.Bf6/iv Kc2 6.Ka4 Kd3/v 7.Kb5/vi Kc2 8.Ka4 positional draw.

i) Be4 2.Kb6 Sc6 3.Kb5 Ke2 4.Bf4 Kd3 5.Bc7.

ii) 3.Bg7? a4 4.Bb2 Sb4 5.Ka5 Sc2 or 4.Bf8 Sd4 5.Ka5 Sc2.

iii) This precise move is necessary. First 4.Bd2? is bad for Sd4++ 5.Kc4 (Kxa5 Sb3+;) Bf7+ 6.Kc3 a4. And 4.Bg5? is a fatal loss of time: Kd5 5.Bf6 (Bd2 Sd4++;) Bh5 6.Bc3 Be2+ 7.Ka4 Kc4 8.Bxa5 Bd1.

iv) Bad is 5.Bh8? Kc2 6.Ka4 Bg6 7.Kb5 Be4 8.Ka4 Bd3 9.Bg7 Ba6 10.Bf6 Kd3 11.Bg5 Kc4 12.Bd2 Bb5+.

v) Bg6 7.Bh4 Kc3 8.Kb5 Be4 9.Be1+ Kb3 10.Bxa5.

vi) 7.Bh4? Kc4 8.Be1 Bh5 9.Bxa5 Bd1+.

“The starting position is perfectly natural, but in some moves we will get a complicated web, where White’s bishop has to make two only-moves on an almost empty board”.

No 16535 Mario Matouš (Czech Republic). 1...Kf1/i 2.Sd5 Ba5/ii 3.Sf3 d2 4.Kg3 Bc7+/iii 5.Sxc7 d1Q 6.Sd5 Qa1/iv 7.Sc3 wins.

i) Ke3 2.Sd5+ Kd4 3.Bb7 d2 4.Se2+, or Kf2 2.Sh3+ Ke3 3.Sd5+ draw.

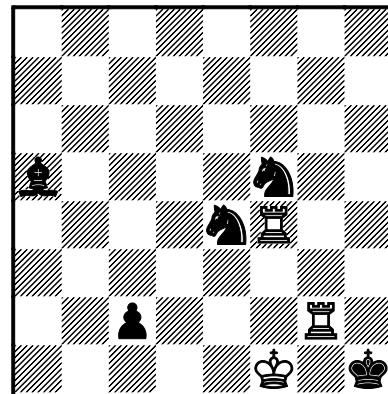
ii) Be1 3.Sf3 d2 4.Sc3.

iii) d1Q 5.Ba6+ Qe2 6.Se3 mate.

iv) Ke2 7.Sc3+, or Qe2 7.Bh3+, or Qd3 7.Bh3+ Ke2 8.Sf4+.

“The similar motiv as in the win study, but less interesting for solvers. I played the key moves 6.Sd5 and 7.Sc3 almost automatically”.

No 16536 M. Matouš
honourable mention



f1h1 0236.01 3/5 Draw

No 16536 Mario Matouš (Czech Republic). 1.Rg1+/i Kh2 2.Rg2+ Kh3 3.Rxc2 Sfg3+ 4.Kg1 Bb6+ 5.Rcf2/ii Sxf2/iii 6.Rf6 (Rb4? Be3;) Be3 (Bc5; Rh6+) 7.Rf3 Bc5 8.Rc3/iv Bb6 9.Rb3 Bc5 10.Rc3 Bd4 11.Re3zz Bxe3 stalemate.

i) Because of 1.Rxc2? Sfg3 mate, or 1.Rh4+? Sxh4 2.Rxc2 Sf5 3.Ke2 Sd4+.

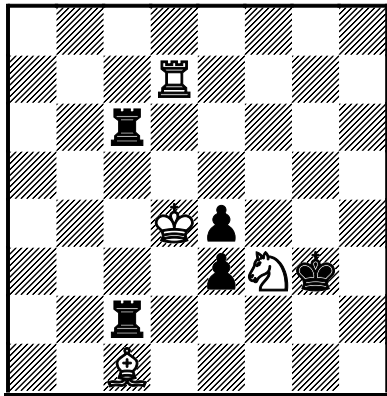
ii) Not the other rook: 5.Rff2? Sxf2 6.Rc6 Be3 7.Re6(Rc3) Se4(Sd3) mate, or 6.Rc5 Se2+ 7.Kxf2 Sg3 wins.

iii) Sc3 6.Rh4+ Kxh4 7.Kg2.

iv) Not 8.Re3? Bd4zz 9.Kxf2 Kg4 wins.

“Matouš” patented theme of duels in a good version. The rook-bishop battle is enlarged with mutual zugzwang motifs”.

No 16537 J. Polašek
honourable mention



d4g3 0711.02 4/5 Draw

No 16537 Jaroslav Polašek (Czech Republic).

1.Sg5/i R6c4+/ii 2.Kxe3 R2c3+ 3.Kd2/iii Kf4/iv 4.Sxe4/v Kxe4 5.Rd4+/vi Kxd4 6.Bb2 Rc8 7.Ba1 Rc4 8.Bb2 positional draw.

i) 1.Kxe4? Re6+ 2.Kd5 Rxc1 3.Kxe6 Kxf3 with a won rook ending.

ii) e2 2.Sxe4+ Kg4 3.Rg7+ Kf5 4.Sg3+ Kf6 5.Sh5+ Ke6 6.Sf4+ or Rxc1 2.Sxe4+ Kf3 3.Rf7+ Ke2 4.Sg3+ Kd2 5.Se4+, or here Kf4 3.Rf7+ Kg4 4.Kxe3 Re1+ 5.Kd4.

iii) Because of 3.Ke2? Rxc1 4.Ke3 R1c3+ 5.Kd2 Kf4, White has to block his bishop giving Black extra time to strengthen his position.

iv) e3+ 4.Ke2 Rxc1 5.Kxe3, or Rxc1 4.Sxe4+.

v) 4.Se6+? Ke5 5.Bb2 Kxe6 6.Bxc3 Kxd7 wins.

vi) A nice try is 5.Re7+? Kd5 6.Re5+ Kd6 7.Bb2 Rc2+ 8.Kd3 Rxb2 9.Kxc4 Kxe5 wins.

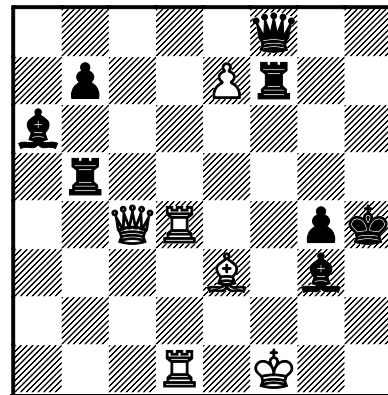
“J. Polášek entered the tournament with some excellent “remakes” – this is the development of a study by Frantisek Richter. A thematic try 5.Re7+?! would be more impressive, if he solver could find it before the mail line; the scheme obviously doesn’t allow it”.

F. Richter, *Shakhmaty v SSSR 1955*, b5e6 0740.20 d3c4d6a6h7.d4f4 5/4 Draw: 1.f5+ Bxf5 2.Re3+ Kd5 3.Re5+ Kxd4 4.Rxf5 Rcc6 5.Rd5+ Kxd5 6.Bb7 Rh6 7.Ba8 draw.

No 16538 Michal Hlinka (Slovakia) & Karel Husak (Czech Republic). 1.Kg1 (Kg2? Rf2+;) Qxe7 2.Rxg4+ Kh3/i 3.Rxg3+ Kxg3 4.Rd3

Rf1+/ii 5.Kxf1 Rf5+ 6.Bf2++ Kh2 7.Qf4+ Rxf4 stalemate.

No 16538 M. Hlinka & K. Husak †
commendation



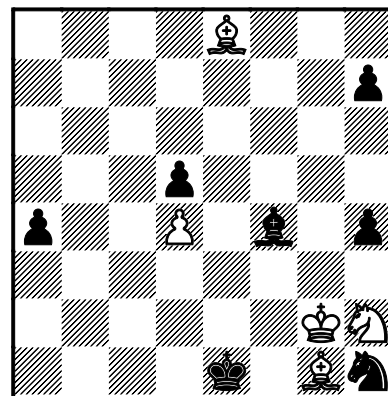
f1h4 4870.12 6/8 Draw

i) Kh5 3.Rxg3 Qxe3+ 4.Kh1 (Rxe3? Rg5+;) Qxg3 5.Qxf7+ with perpetual check: Qg6 6.Qf3+ Kh6 7.Qf8+ Qg7 8.Qd6+ Kh5 9.Qh2+ Kg6 10.Qc2+.

ii) Rb1+? 5.Bc1+ Rf3 6.Qf4+ mates.

“A sharp middlegame ends with an interesting stalemate with two pins. But the whole play is too forced, wK is in check, only one quiet move.”.

No 16539 L. Koblizek & J. Polašek
commendation



g2e1 0054.14 5/7 BTM, Draw

No 16539 L. Koblizek & Jaroslav Polašek (Czech Republic). 1...h3+/i 2.Kxh1/ii a3/iii 3.Sf3+ Ke2 4.Bb5+ Kxf3 5.Ba4 a2/iv 6.Bb3 a1Q 7.Bd1+ Ke4 8.Bc2+ Kf3 9.Bd1+ Qxd1 stalemate, or Kg3 10.Bf2+ Kxf2 stalemate.

i) 1...a3 gives White time to stop the pawn: 2.Sf3+ Ke2 3.Bb5+ Kd1 4.Ba4+ Kc1 5.Bb3 Sg3 6.Bxd5.

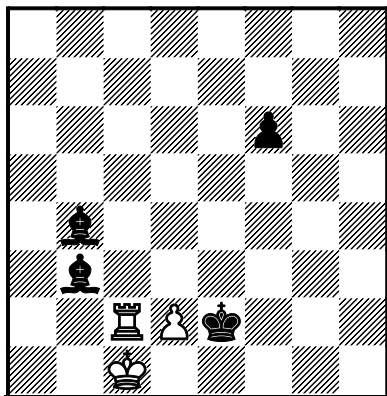
ii) 2.Kf3? Bxh2, or 2.Kxh3? a3 3.Sf3+ Ke2 4.Kg4 a2 5.Bb5+ Kd1 6.Ba4+ Kc1 7.Kxf4 a1Q 8.Be3+ Kb2 wins.

iii) Bxh2 3.Bxh2 a3 4.Bd6 a2 5.Bb4+ Kd1 6.Bc3 Kc2 7.Ba1 Kb1 8.Bc6 Kxa1 9.Bxd5.

iv) h2 6.Bd1+ Kg3 7.Bxh2+ Kh3 8.Bb3 draws.

“Stalemates with pin are not new and the start position seems to be a little unnaturally. But the paradox after the third move deserves attention. The normal chess logic would be to stop the passed pawn but here White forces immediate promotion.”

No 16540 S. Nosek
commendation



c1e2 0160.11 3/4 Draw

No 16540 Stanislav Nosek (Czech Republic). 1.Rc6/i f5/ii 2.Rf6 Bd5/iii 3.Rxf5/iv Be4/v 4.Rb5 Ba3+ 5.Rb2 Bh7/vi 6.d3+/vii Kxd3 7.Kb1 Kc3+ 8.Ka2 Bxb2 stalemate.

i) 1.Rb2? Ba3, or 1.Rc8? Bxd2+ 2.Kb2 Bd5 3.Re8+ Be3 4.Kc3 f5.

ii) Be7 2.Rc3 and Re3+, or Bxd2+ 2.Kb2.

iii) Bad is Bc4 3.Rxf5 Bd3 4.Re5+, or f4 3.Rxf4 Bxd2+ 4.Kb2 Bxf4 5.Kxb3.

iv) 3.d3? f4 4.Rf5 Bd2+ 5.Kc2 Bc6.

v) Ba3+ 4.Kb1 Be4+ 5.Ka2 Bxf5 6.Kxa3 draws.

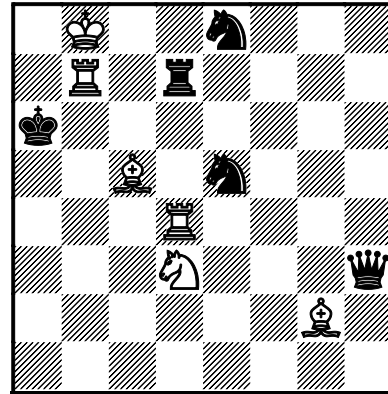
vi) Ke1 6.d3 Bxd3 stalemate, or Kf3 6.d3 Bxd3 7.Kd2.

vii) But not 6.d4+? Kd3 7.d5 Kc3 8.d6 Bc2 9.d7 Bxb2.

“Both the start position and the construction are perfectly natural. But the final con-

stellation BBxR with a pin is too well-known, e.g.: Manvelyan (EG#13496)”.

No 16541 P. Rossi
commendation



b8a6 3527.00 6/5 BTM, Draw

No 16541 Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1...Sc6+/i 2.Bxc6/ii Qg3+/iii 3.Sf4/iv Qxf4+/v 4.Ka8/vi Sc7+/vii 5.Rxc7/viii Rd8+/ix 6.Rxd8 Qxc7 7.Bb5+ Kxb5/x 8.Rb8+/xi Kxc5/xii 9.Rb5+ Kd6 10.Rb6+ (Rd5+? Ke6;) Qxb6 stalemate.

i) Rxd4 2.Rb6+/xiii Ka5 3.Bxh3, or Qxd3 (Qxg2) 2.Ra4 mate, or Rxb7+ 2.Bxb7+ Ka5/xiv 3.Sxe5 Qh8/xv 4.Ka7 Qxe5 5.Bb6+ Kb5 6.Rd5+ and White wins, or Rd8+ 2.Rxd8 Qxg2 3.Rb6+ Ka5 4.Sxe5.

ii) 2.Ka8? Sc7+ 3.Rxc7 Qh8+, or 2.Kc8? Rd8 mate.

iii) Qh2+ 3.Kc8 Rc7+ 4.Kd8/xvi ,or Qg4 3.Sb4+/xvii Ka5 4.Bb6 mate.

iv) 3.Kc8? Rc7+ 4.Kd8 Qg5+ 5.Kxe8 Qg8+ 6.Bf8 Qe6+ 7.Kd8 Rc8 mate, or 3.Ka8? Sc7+ 4.Rxc7 Qg8+, or, or 3.Se5? Qxe5+ 4.Ka8 Sc7+ 5.Rxc7 Qe8+ mating.

v) Rxb7+ 4.Bxb7+ Kb5 (Ka5; Bc6) 5.Be7 Qc3 6.Se6 Qg3+ 7.Ka7 Qe1 8.Bd5.

vi) 4.Rxf4? Rd8 mate, or 4.Kc8? Rc7+ mating.

vii) Qxd4 5.Rb6+/xviii Ka5 6.Rb5+ Ka6/xix 7.Rb6+ perpetual check.

viii) 5.Kb8? Sd5+/xx 6.Kc8 (Ka8 Rd8+;) Rc7+ 7.Kd8 (Kb8 Rxb7+;) Qf6+ 8.Ke8 Rc8+ 9.Kd7 Qxc6 mate.

ix) The bQ has no check. Qxd4 6.Bb7+ Kb5 7.Bxd4, or Rxc7 6.Bb7+ Rxb7 7.Rxf4, or

Qxc7 6.Ra4+ Qa5 7.Rxa5+ Kxa5 8.Bxd7 and White wins, or Rxd4 6.Ra7 mate.

x) Ka5 8.Rd5 Qc8+ (Kxb5; Bd6+) 9.Ka7 Kxb5 10.Bb6+ Kb4 11.Rc5/xxi draws.

xi) Not 8.Bb6? Qc6+ wins.

xii) Ka6 (Ka4; Bb6) 9.Rb6+ (Bb6? Qc6+;) Ka5 10.Bb4+/xxii Kxb6 11.Ba5+ Kxa5 stalemate, or Ka4 11.Rb7 (Ra6+? Kb5;) draws.

xiii) But not 2.Bxh3? Rd8+ 3.Bc8 Sc6+ 4.Ka8 Rxc8+ mates.

xiv) Kb5 3.Rb4+ Ka5 4.Bb6 mate.

xv) Qg3 4.Bb4+ Kb5 5.Bc6+ Ka6 6.Bxe8 and White wins.

xvi) But not 4.Rxc7? Qxc7 mate, or 4.Kb8? Rxb7++ mating.

xvii) But not 3.Rxg4? Rd8 mate.

xviii) But not 5.Bxd4? Rd8+ 6.Rb8 Sc7 mate.

xix) Since Ka4? 7.Rb2+ Ka5 8.Ra2 mate.

xx) But not Sb5+? 6.Ka8 Sc7+ 7.Rxc7 Rd8+ 8.Rxd8.

xxi) But not 11.Bc5+? Kc4 wins.

xxii) But not 10.Bd6? Qd8+/xxiii 11.Bb8 Qd5+/xxiv 12.Ka7 (Rb7 Ka6;) Qd7+ 13.Rb7 Qd4+ 14.Ka8 Qd5 15.Ka7 Qc5+ 16.Ka8 Qc6 17.Ka7 Qa6 mate.

xxiii) But not Qxb6? 11.Bc7 Qxc7 stalemate, or Qc8+? 11.Bb8 Kxb6 stalemate.

xxiv) Kxb6? stalemate.

“The study has a similar style as the 2nd Prize, even with a purer construction. A big annihilation is reached by sacs and counter-sacs. But for all that the final impression is considerably lower”.

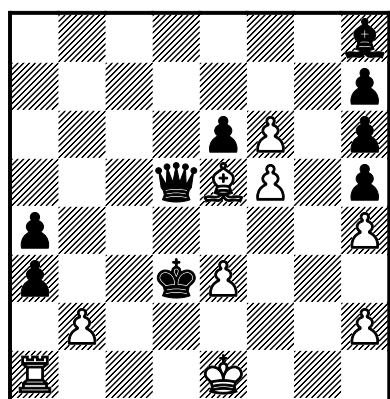
König & Turm 2005

Gerhard E. Schoen (Germany) judged the multi-genre tourney of the German magazine that is fully dedicated to castling (editor Hanspeter Suwe). First prize went to Klaus Wenda and featured a Proca-Retractor Anticirce, selfmate in one, four moves back, which your editor is unable to explain.

No 16542 G. Costeff

Dedicated to South-American composers

2nd prize



e1d3 3140.66 9/9 Win

No 16542 Gady Costeff (USA/Israel). 1.O-O-O/i Ke4/ii 2.Rxd5 exd5/iii 3.Bd4 a2 4.b4/iv axb3ep/v 5.Kb2 Kxf5/vi 6.f7 Bxd4+ 7.exd4 Kg6 8.f8R/vii wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rd1+? Ke4 2.Rxd5 exd5 3.Bd4 a2 4.b4 axb3ep 5.Ke2 Kxf5 6.f7 Bxd4 7.f8Q+ Bf6 8.Qc8+ Ke5 9.Qa8 Ke6.

ii) Kxe3 2.Rxd5 a2 3.Rd3+ Kxd3 4.b4 exf5 5.b5 f4 6.Kd1 Ke4 7.Ba1 Bxf6 8.Bxf6 Kd5 9.b6 Kc6 10.Ke2 Kxb6 11.Kf3 Kc5 12.Kxf4 Kc4 13.Ke4 Kb3 14.Kd3 a1Q 15.Bxa1 a3 16.Be5 Ka2 17.Ke4 Kb1 18.Kf5 a2 19.Kf6 a1Q 20.Bxa1 Kxa1 21.Kg7 Kb2 22.Kxh7 Kc3 23.Kxh6 Kd4 24.Kxh5 Ke5 25.Kg6 wins, or here Kb3 18.Kf5 Kc4 19.Bg7 a2 20.Ke4 Kc5 21.Kd3 Kd5 22.Kc2 Ke4 23.Kb2 Kf4 24.Kxa2 wins.

iii) Kxd5 3.Bc3 a2 4.b4 axb3ep 5.e4+ Kxe4 6.fxe6 Bxf6 7.Bxf6 Kf5 8.Ba1 Kxe6 9.Kb2

Kf5 10.Kxb3 Kg4 11.Kxa2 Kxh4 12.Be5, or here Kc4 6.Bb2 e5 7.Bxe5 Kd3 8.Bb2 Bxf6 9.Bxf6 Kxe4 10.Ba1 Kxf5 11.Kb2 Kg4 12.Kxb3 Kxh4 13.Kxa2 Kh3 14.Be5 win.

iv) Thematic try: 4.b3? a3 5.Kc2 Kxf5 6.f7 Bxd4 7.f8Q+ Bf6 draws.

v) a3 5.Kc2 Kxf5 6.Kb3 Bxf6 7.Bxf6 Kxf6 8.Kxa2 wins.

vi) Bxf6 (Kd3; Kb3) 6.Bxf6 Kxf5 7.Bd4 wins.

vii) Thematic try: 8.f8Q? a1Q+ 9.Kxa1 b2+ 10.Ka2 b1Q+ 11.Kxb1 stalemate, or 8.f8B? Kf5 9.Bb4 Kg4 10.Bc3 Kxh4 11.Kxb3 Kh3 12.Kxa2 Kxh2 draws, or 8.f8S+? Kf5 9.Sd7 Ke4 10.Sc5+ Kxd4 11.Sxb3+ Ke3 12.Kxa2 Kf3 draws.

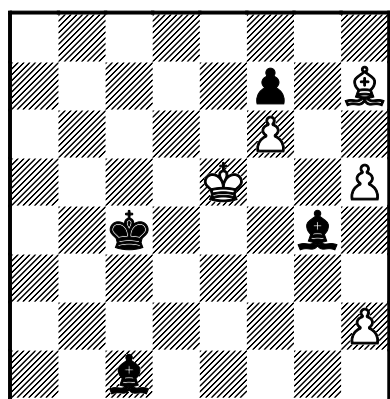
HH defined a “perfect” Valladolid-task as follows: all the special moves associated with the Valladolid-task, i.e. castling, promotion and en-passant capture, should have a thematic try. That means that White should promote and castle, and Black plays the en-passant capture. Only “real” underpromotion is allowed (i.e. bishop or rook, a knight promotion does not always qualify), with at least a single thematic try (queen-promotion) ending with stalemate. Instead of queenside castling the move Rd1 should be a thematic try, and the same goes for the move Rf1 in case of kingside castling. Finally, instead of the double move of the pawn before the en-passant capture, advancing the pawn only a single square, should be the thematic try. Costeff was the first to accomplish the task.

Meleghegyi MT (2005)

The 2005 tourney of the Hungarian Chess Federation (MSV) also served as the Csaba Meleghegyi MT. The tourney was informal, i.e. all studies were published in *Magyar Sakkvilág* 2005. The provisional award was published in issue 6, 2006 with a three month confirmation time. An English translation of the judge's report in Hungarian was supplied at the website of the Hungarian chess federation.

Judge o.t.b. IGM Pal Benkő considered both the quantity (39 studies) and the quality a success. He observes that the predominant majority of the studies are draws.

No 16543 R. Becker
1st prize



e5c4 0070.31 5/4 Draw

No 16543 Richard Becker (USA). 1.h6/i Bxh6/ii 2.Bg8/iii Be6/iv 3.Kd6 Bf8+ 4.Kc7 Kd5 5.Kd8 Kd6 6.Ke8/v Bh6 7.h3 Bf5 8.Kxf7 Kd7 9.h4 Kd8 10.h5 Kd7 11.Bh7 Bxh7 stalemate.

i) 1.Bg8? Bxh5 2.Kd6 Ba3+ 3.Kd7 Kd5 4.Ke8 Ke6 wins.

ii) Bb2+ 2.Kf4 Be6 3.Kg5, or Be6 2.Kd6 Ba3+ 3.Kc7 Bb2 4.Kd8 Bxf6+ 5.Ke8 Bg5 6.Bg8 draw.

iii) 2.Bb1? Kc5 3.Ba2 Bh5 wins.

iv) Bh5 3.Kd6 Bf8+ 4.Kd7 Kd5 5.Ke8 draws.

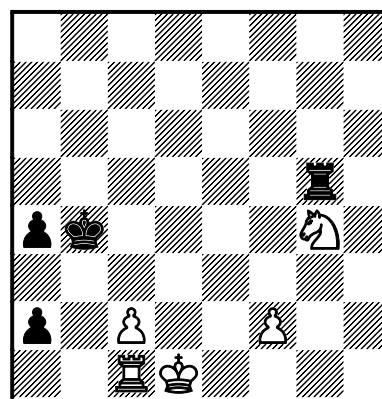
v) White can also first play 6.h3.

“In an unusual way the black pieces pursue the wK to a clear stalemate. The play is nice with mutual zugzwang positions. All pieces take part in the play. The elaboration of the study is economical. The final is spectacular”.

No 16544 Yochanan Afek (Israel/Netherlands). 1.Ra1/i Ka3 2.Se3/ii Kb2/iii 3.c3/iv

Rg1+ 4.Kd2 Rxa1/v 5.Sc4+ Kb3 6.Sa5+ Ka3 7.Sc4+ Kb3 8.Sa5+ Kb2 9.Sc4+ Kb3 10.Sa5+ positional draw.

No 16544 Yo. Afek
2nd prize



d1b4 0401.22 5/4 Draw

i) 1.c3+? Kb3 2.f3 Rd5+ 3.Ke2 Kb2 4.Re1 a1Q 5.Rxa1 Kxa1 6.Se3 Rd8 7.Sc4 Ka2 8.Sb6 Kb3 9.Sxa4 Kxa4 wins.

ii) 2.f3? Kb2 3.c4 Rf5 wins.

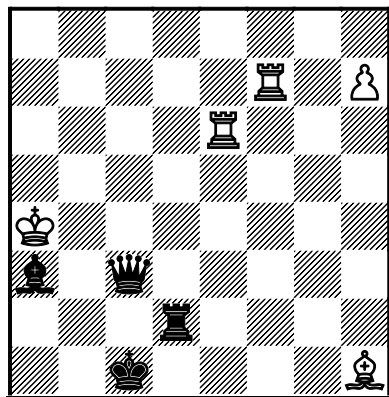
iii) Rg1+? 3.Kd2 Rxa1 4.Kc3 Re1 5.Sc4 mate!

iv) 3.Rxa2+? Kxa2 4.f4 Rg3 5.Sc4 a3 wins.

v) Rg6 (Kxa1; Kc2) 5.Sc2 Rd6+ 6.Ke3 Kxc2 7.Rxa2+ Kb3 8.Ra1 a3 9.f4 Kb2 10.Rf1 Rc6 11.f5 Rxc3+ 12.Ke4 draws.

“After an obligatory sacrifice of the wR two unusual positional draws show up: one perpetual check and a fortress. The initial position is similar to a practical game, but perhaps it would have been better to have it in a mirrored version (wK is on e1). It's not a big thing, but sometimes even something like this matters”.

No 16545 V. Nestorescu & P. Joitsa
3rd prize



a4c1 3540.10 5/4 Draw

No 16545 Virgil Nestorescu & Paul Joitsa (Romania). 1.Rf1+/i Kb2/ii 2.Rb6+ Ka2 3.Bd5+ Rxd5 4.Rf2+ Ka1 5.Rf1+ Bc1 6.Rxc1+ Qxc1 7.h8Q+ Ka2 8.Qc3/iii Qxc3 9.Rb2+ Ka1 10.Rb1+ Kxb1 stalemate.

i) 1.Re1+? Kb2 2.Rb7+ Ka2 3.Bd5+ Rxd5 4.Re2+ Ka1 5.Re1+ Qxe1 6.h8Q+ Re5/iv 7.Rb5 Qe4+ 8.Kxa3 (Ka5 Qb4+;) Qe3+ 9.Rb3 (Ka4 Qd4+;) Qa7+, or 1.Rc6? Bc5 2.Rf1+ Kb2 3.Rxc5 Qxc5 4.h8Q+ Rd4+ wins.

ii) Kc2 2.Be4+ Kb2 3.Rb6+ Ka2 4.Bb1+ Ka1 5.Bf5+, or Rd1 2.Rc6 Bc5 3.Rxc5 Qxc5 4.Rxd1+ Kxd1 5.h8Q draw.

iii) 8.Qh2+? Rd2 9.Qe5 Qa3+ 10.Kb5 Rb2+ 11.Kc6 Qa8+ 12.Kc7 Rc2+ wins.

iv) but not Ka2? 7.Rb2+ Bxb2 8.Qxb2+ Kxb2 stalemate.

“Here the stalemate is the white goal, but comparing to the previous one, here the play is more aggressive with checks and sacrifices of pieces. The mating net is already present in the initial position. The thematic try increases the value of the study”.

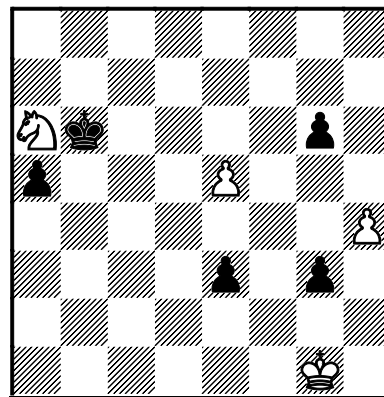
No 16546 C. Bill Jones (USA). 1.Kf1 Kc6 2.e6/i Kd6 3.e7/ii Kxe7/iii 4.Sc5 Kf6/iv 5.Se4+ Kf5/v 6.Sxg3+ draws/vi.

i) 2.Sb8+? Kd5 3.Sd7 Ke6 4.Sb6 Kxe5 5.Sc4+ Kd4 6.Sxa5 Kc3 7.Sc6 g2+ 8.Kxg2 e2 9.Kf2 Kd2 wins.

ii) 3.Sc5? Ke7 4.Sa4 Kxe6 5.Sb6 Ke5 6.Sc4+ Kd4 7.Sxa5 Kc3 wins.

iii) Kd7 4.Sc7 (Sc5+? Kxe7;) Kxe7 5.Sd5+ Ke6 6.Sxe3 a4 7.Sc4 Kf5 8.Kg2 wins.

No 16546 C.B. Jones
4th prize



g1b6 0001.24 4/5 Draw

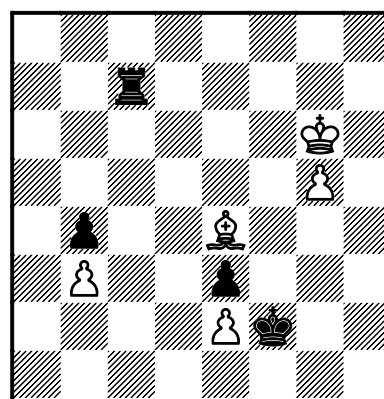
iv) Kf7 5.Sb7 a4 6.Sd6+ Ke6 7.Sc4 Kf5 8.Sxe3+ Kf4 9.Sc4 draws.

v) Ke5 6.Sxg3 a4 7.Se2.

vi) e.g. Kg4 7.Se4 a4 8.Ke2 a3 9.Sc3 Kxh4 10.Kxe3 Kg3 11.Kd2 g5 12.Kc2 Kf3 13.Sb5 Ke3 14.Sd6 Kf4 15.Sb5 g4 16.Sd4.

“A S-endgame, which is similar to a practical game, but the quality of the work is remarkable. We can see mutual zugzwangs and tries in several lines”.

No 16547 M. Roxlau
1st honourable mention



g6f2 0310.32 5/4 Draw

No 16547 Michael Roxlau (Germany). 1.Bf3/i Rc3/ii 2.Kf6/iii Rxb3 3.g6 Rc3 4.g7 Rc8 5.Bb7 Rd8 6.Bd5/iv Kxe2 7.Ke7 Rb8 8.Kd6 Rb6+ 9.Bc6 Rb8 10.Bd5 b3 11.Bxb3 Kd3 12.Kc7 Re8 13.Bf7 draws.

i) 1.Bd3? Rc3 2.Bb5 Rxb3 3.Kf6 Rc3 4.g6 b3 5.g7 b2 6.g8Q b1Q wins.

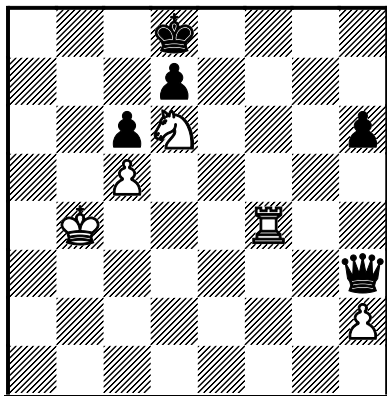
ii) Rc2 2.Kf5 Rxe2 3.Bxe2 Kxe2 4.g6 Kd1 5.g7 e2 6.g8Q draws.

iii) 2.Kf5? Rxb3 3.g6 Rc3 4.g7 Rc8 5.Bb7 Rd8 wins.

iv) 6.Ba6? b3 7.Ke7 b2 8.Kxd8 b1Q 9.g8Q Qb6+ 10.Ke7 Qxa6 wins.

“This is again an endgame similar to a practical game. The author shows the battle of R and B with passed pawns. White must play accurately to bypass tries”.

No 16548 P. Bennó
2nd honourable mention



b4d8 3101.23 5/5 Win

No 16548 Pál Bennó (Hungary). 1.Re4 Qh5 2.Re3/i Qg4+/ii 3.Ka5 Qg6/iii 4.h3/iv h5 5.h4zz Qg8 6.Kb6 Qg6 7.Ka7 Kc7 8.Re8 Qg8 9.Sb5+/v cxb5 10.Rxg8 wins.

i) 2.Re5? Qg4+ 3.Ka5 Qg8 (Qg6? Re3) 4.Kb6 Qb3+ 5.Ka7 Kc7.

ii) Qg6 3.Ka5 h5 4.h4 Qg8 5.Kb6 Qg6 6.Ka7 Qg8 7.Kb8 and there's no defence against 8.Sb7 mate.

iii) Qg8 4.Kb6 h5 5.h4.

iv) 4.h4? h5zz 5.Ka6 Kc7 6.Re8 Qd3+.

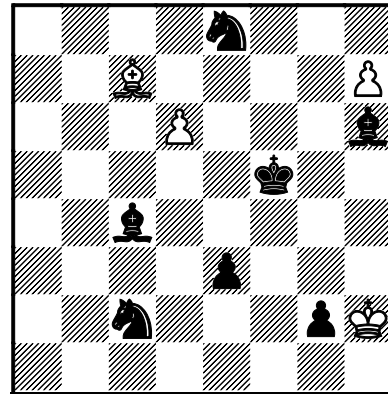
v) avoiding 9.Rxg8? stalemate.

“A nice exception after the many draws. White forces zugzwang in the bQ and then delivers mate”.

The 3rd Honourable mention by N. Miroenko (Ukraine); e5b5 4400.12 h8a7f1c2. f5c3d4 4/5 Draw was cooked by MG. The intended solution: 1.Qe8+ Kb4 2.Qf8+ Qc5+ 3.Qxc5+ Kxc5 4.f6 Re2+ 5.Kf5 Re8 6.f7 Rd8 7.Ke4 d3 8.Rf3 c2 9.Rxd3 c1Q 10.f8Q+ Rxf8 11.Rc3+ Qxc3 stalemate, but: Kb3 3.Qg8+ Kb2 4.Qc4 Qa5+, and 5.Ke4 Rh2 6.f6 Rh4+ 7.Rf4 Rxf4+ 8.Kxf4 c2, or 5.Ke6 Rd2 6.f6 d3

7.Kd7 Re2, or 5.Kf4 Rg2 6.Qc6 Rg7 7.Rf2+ Kb3 8.Qe6+ Kb4 or here 7.f6 Qg5+ 8.Ke4 Qe3+ 9.Kd5 Rg5+ 10.Kd6 Qe5+ 11.Kd7 Qd5+ 12.Qxd5+ Rxd5+ 13.Ke6 Rd8.

No 16549 R. Becker
4th honourable mention



h2f5 0076.22 4/7 Draw

No 16549 Richard Becker (USA). 1.h8Q e2 2.Qh7+ Ke5 3.Ba5/i Be3/ii 4.Qh5+/iii Kxd6 5.Qg6+ Kc5 6.Kxg2 e1Q/iv 7.Qb6+ Kd5 8.Qb7+ Kd6 9.Qb8+ Kd5/v 10.Qb7+ Kd4 11.Qa7+ (Bxe1? Bd5+;) Kd3 12.Qh7+ Kd4 13.Qa7+ Kd5/vi 14.Qb7+ Ke6 15.Qe4+ Kd6 16.Qg6+ Ke7 17.Qe4+/vii Kd6 18.Qg6+ Kd5 19.Qh5+/viii Kd4 20.Bxe1/ix Sxe1+ 21.Kh3/x Be6+ 22.Kg3 Sd6 23.Qd1+ Sd3 24.Qa1+ Kd5 (Kc5; Qa3+) 25.Qa8+ Ke5 26.Qh8+ Ke4 27.Qh1+ Kd4 (Kf5; Qh7+) 28.Qa1+ positional draw.

i) 3.Qh8+? Kd5, or 3.d7+? Sxc7 4.d8Q g1Q+ 5.Kxg1 e1Q+ wins.

ii) Bf4+ 4.Kxg2 e1S+ 5.Bxe1 Sxe1+ 6.Kf2 Sd3+ 7.Qxd3 Bxd3 8.d7.

iii) 4.Qe7+? Be6 5.Kxg2 Sxd6 6.Qg7+ Kd5 wins.

iv) e1S+ 7.Kg3 Sd6 8.Bc7 Sb5 9.Bb6+ Kb4 10.Bxe3 Sxe3 11.Qb1+ draws.

v) Ke7 10.Qe5+ Be6 11.Bxe1 Sxe1+ 12.Kf1 draws.

vi) Ke5 14.Qe7+ Kf5 15.Bxe1 Sxe1+ 16.Kh3.

vii) 17.Qh7+? Kf6 18.Bxe1 Sxe1+ 19.Kg3 Sd6 wins.

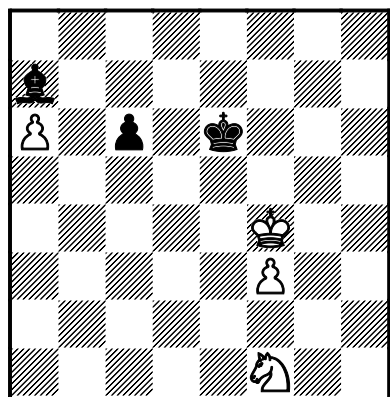
viii) 19.Qf5+? Kd4 20.Bxe1 Sxe1+ 21.Kg3 Sd6.

ix) 20.Qg4+? Bf4 21.Qxf4+ Qe4+ wins.

x) only square: 21.Kg3? Sd6, or 21.Kh2? Bf4+, or 21.Kh1? Bd5+.

“The final is phenomenal, but the route to it is clumsy with many checks. I think it’s only possible to solve this study by using a computer”.

No 16550 M. Doré
commendation



f4e6 0031.21 4/3 Win

No 16550 Marcel Doré (France). 1.Ke4/i Kd6 2.f4 Kc7 3.f5 Bc5 4.f6 (Ke5? Be7;) Kb6 5.Ke5(Kf5) Kxa6/ii 6.Ke6, and:

– Kb5 7.Sg3 Bf8 8.Kd7 Kc4 9.f7/iii Kd5 10.Sf5 Ke5 11.Ke8 Bb4 12.Se7 wins, or:

– Bf8 7.Kd7 c5 8.Se3, and now:

- Bh6 9.f7 Kb5 10.Sf5 (Ke8? c4;) Bf8 11.Ke8 wins, or:

- c5 9.Ke8 Bh6 10.Sf5 c4 11.Sxh6 c3 12.Sf5 wins.

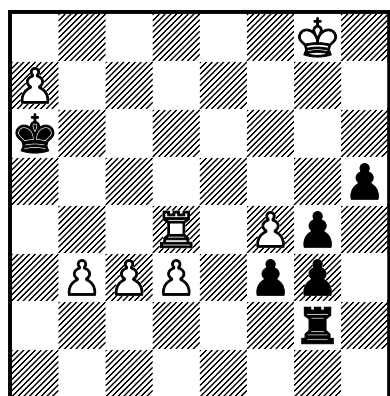
i) 1.Kg5? Kd6 2.f4 Kc7 3.f5 Bd4/iv wins.

ii) Bf8 6.Ke6 Kxa6 7.Se3 draws.

iii) of first 9.Sf5.

iv) But not Bc5? 4.f6 Kb6 5.Kf5.

No 16551 P. Rossi
commendation



g8a6 0400.54 7/6 BTM, Draw.

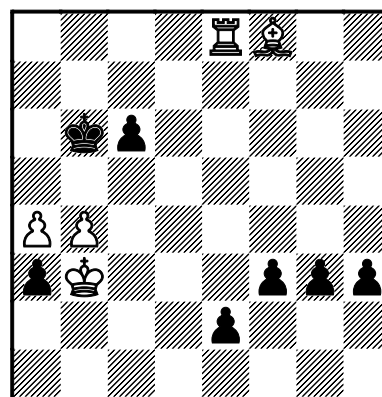
No 16551 Pietro Rossi (Italy). Two main lines:

– Kb7 2.a8Q+/i Kxa8 3.Ra4+ Kb7 4.Kf7 Ra2 5.Rxa2 g2 6.Ra1 g3 7.Re1 g1Q 8.Rxg1 f2 9.Ra1 (Rf1? h4;) g2 (h4; Ra4) 10.Ra4 g1Q 11.Rb4+ Ka6 12.Ra4+ Kb5 13.Rb4+ Ka5 14.Ra4+ Kb5 15.Rb4+ Kc5 16.Rc4+ Kd5 17.Rd4+ perpetual check, or:

– Kxa7 2.Kf7 Ra2 3.Ke7 f2 4.Rd7+ Kb6 5.Rd6+ Kc5 6.d4+ Kb5 7.Rd5+ Kb6 8.Rd6+ perpetual check.

i) 2.f5? Ra2 3.f6 f2 4.Rf4 Rxa7 5.f7 Ra8+ wins.

No 16552 M. Roxlau
commendation



b3b6 0110.26 5/7 Win

No 16552 Michael Roxlau (Germany). 1.Re7, and:

– Ka6 2.Kc4 e1Q 3.b5+ (Rxe1? c2;) cxb5+ 4.axb5+ Kb6 5.Rxe1 f2 6.Bc5+ Kb7 7.Bxf2 wins, or:

– c5 2.a5+/i Kb5 3.Re6 c4+ 4.Kxa3 c3 5.Kb3 c2 6.Rb6 mate.

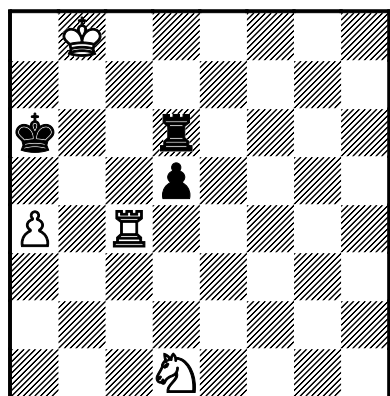
i) 2.Kc4? cxb4 3.Kd5 Ka6 4.Re6+ Kb7 5.a5 a2 6.a6+ Kc7 7.Bg7 f2 8.Be5+ Kd7.

Another commendation by J. Csengeri (Serbia) was cooked by MG: e5a8 0100.33 c3.b6d4f5a6f2g4 5/4 Draw. Intended solution: 1.b7+ Kb8 2.Rc8+ Kxb7 3.Rc1 g3 4.Kd6 g2 5.Rb1+ Kc8 6.Rc1+ Kd8 7.Rb1 Ke8 8.Ke6 Kf8 9.f6 Kg8 10.f7+ Kg7 11.Rb8 f1Q 12.Rg8+ Kh7 13.Rxg2 Qc4+ 14.d5 Qe4+ 15.Kf6 Qxg2 16.f8Q Qf3+ 17.Ke7 draws. But also 13.d5 Qe2+ 14.Kf6 Qf2+ 15.Ke6 and Black cannot make progress. Also 14.Ke7 Qc7+ 15.Ke6 Qc6+ and now the composer gave 16.Ke5, but why not 16.Ke7.

Šachova Skladba 2005-2006

The award, dated 1v2007 by judge Ladislav Salai jr., was published in issue no. 96. 14 studies by 10 composers from 8 countries participated.

No 16553 R. Becker & I. Akobia
prize



b8a6 0401.11 4/3 Win

No 16553 Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rc2/i d4/ii 2.Sb2/iii d3 3.Rd2 Rd4/iv 4.Kc8/v Ka5 5.Kc7zz Rd5 6.Sxd3zz/vi Rd4 7.Kc6zz, and:

– Rxa4 8.Sc5 Rh4/viii 9.Ra2+ Kb4 10.Ra4 wins, or:

– Rd8 8.Rd1zz Rd4/vii 9.Kc5 Rxa4 (Rd8; Kc4) 10.Sb2 Ra2 (Rh4; Ra1+) 11.Rd8 Rxb2 12.Ra8 mate.

i) 1.Rc8? Kb6 2.Rh8 Rg6 3.Kc8 Ka5 4.Sb2 Rg2, or here 2.Sb2 Rh6 3.Rg8 Rh2; 1.Rd4? Kb6 2.Kc8 Rc6+ 3.Kd7 Rc4 draw.

ii) Kb6 2.Rb2+, or Ka5 2.Kc7 Rh6 3.Sb2.

iii) 2.Kc7? d3 3.Rd2 Rd4 4.Sb2 Ka5zz 5.Kc6 Kb4, or here 3.Rc4 Rd5 4.Kc6 Rd8; or 2.Rd2? Kb6 3.Kc8 d3 4.Sb2 Rc6+ 5.Kd7 Rc2 draws.

iv) Rd5 4.Rxd3, or Rd7 4.Kc8 Rd4 5.Rxd3 Rb4 6.Rd2 win.

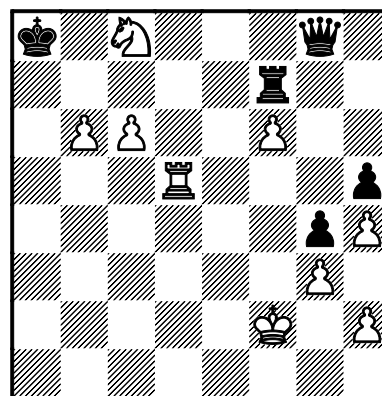
v) 4.Kc7? Ka5zz 5.Kc6 Kb4 6.Kb6 Rd6+ 7.Kc7 Rd5 8.Sxd3+ Ka5 9.Kc6 Rd4 10.Rd1 Rd8zz, draws.

vi) 6.Kc6? Rd8 7.Sxd3 (Kc5 Rc8+;) Rd4zz 8.Rd1 Rd8zz 9.Rd2 Rd4 10.Kc5 Rxa4.

vii) Rc4 9.Rb2 Rb4 10.Ra2+ and mate.

viii) Rc8+ 9.Kd7 Rc2 10.Ra1 Rc4 (Rd2; Ra2) 11.Sb2 wins, or here Rc4 10.Sb2 Rc2 11.Rd5+ wins.

No 16554 J. Polášek
honourable mention



f2a8 3401.62 9/5 Win

No 16554 Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic).

1.Se7/i Rxf6+/ii 2.Kg1 Qxd5/iii 3.b7+ Ka7 4.b8Q+ Kxb8 5.c7+, and:

– Ka8 6.c8R+/iv wins, or here:

– Ka7 6.c8S+ Kb7 7.Sxd5 wins, or here:

– Kb7 6.c8B+/v Kb8 7.Sxd5 Rd6 8.Se7 Kc7 9.Bf5 wins.

i) 1.Ra5+? Kb8 2.Se7 Rxf6+ 3.Kg1 Rf1+ 4.Kg2 Rf2+ 5.Kxf2 Qa2+ 6.Rxa2 stalemate.

ii) Rxe7 2.fxe7 Qf7+ 3.Kg1 Qxe7 4.Ra5+ Kb8 5.c7+ Kb7 6.Ra7+ Kxb6 7.c8S+ wins.

iii) Qf8 3.Ra5+ Kb8 4.c7+ Kb7 5.c8Q+ Qxc8 6.Sxc8 Kxc8 7.Rxh5 wins.

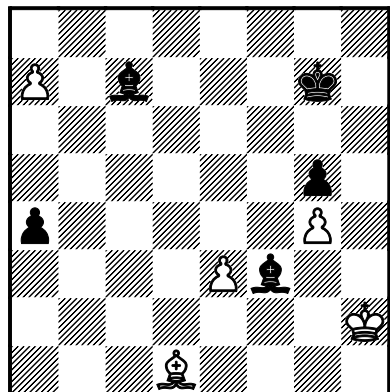
iv) 6.c8Q+? Ka7 7.Sxd5 Rf1+ 8.Kg2 Rf2+ 9.Kg1 Rf1+ 10.Kxf1 stalemate, or 6.Sxd5? Rc6 7.Sb6+ Kb7 8.c8Q+ Rxc8 9.Sxc8 Kxc8 draws, 10.Kf2 Kd7 11.Ke3 Ke7 or here 10.h3 Kd7 11.hxg4 hxg4 12.Kf2 Ke6 13.Ke3 Ke5 draws.

v) 6.c8Q+? Ka7 7.Sxd5 Rf1+ 8.Kxf1 stalemate.

This is a correction of a study by F. Prokop, 2nd prize *Shakhmaty* 1927: g1a7 3311.41 d5f6d6e7.c6g2g3g4g5 7/4 Win: 1.Bb8+ Kxb8 2.c7+, and 2...Ka8 3.c8R+, 2...Ka7 3.c8S+, 2...Kb7 3.c8B+ Kb8 4.Sxd5 Rd6 5.Se7 Rd1+ 6.Kf2 Rd2+ 7.Kf3 Rd3+ 8.Ke4 wins. But

5...Kc7! (J. Polášek, *SS* no. 91, iv2006), e.g.
6.Bf5 Kd8 7.Sg6 Ke8 8.Se5 Ke7 9.Sd3 Kf6
10.Sc5 Kg7 11.Se4 Rd1+ 12.Kf2 Kh6 draws.

No 16555 Z. Mikhailovski & J. Polášek
1st commendation

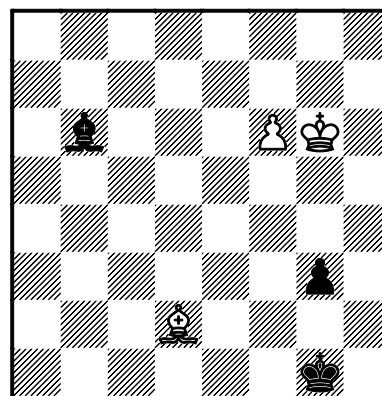


h2g7 0070.32 5/5 Draw

No 16555 Zlatko Mikhailovski & Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic). 1.Kh3/i Ba8 2.Bf3 a3/ii 3.Bxa8 a2 4.Bh1 a1Q 5.a8Q Qe1 6.Qf3/iii Qg1 7.Qg2 Qxe3+ 8.Qf3 Qd2 9.Bg2/iv Qe1 10.Bh1 positional draw.

- i) 1.Kg1? Bd5 2.Kf2 Bb6 3.Bxa4 Bxa7 wins.
- ii) Bxf3 3.e4 Bxe4 4.a8Q Bxa8 stalemate.
- iii) 6.Qg2? Qh4 mate.
- iv) 9.Qg2? Qd3+ 10.Qf3 Qc2 11.Qg2 Qh7 mate.

No 16556 M. Matouš
2nd commendation



g6g1 0040.11 3/3 Win

No 16556 Mario Matouš (Czech Republic).

1.f7 Bc5 2.Be3+ Bxe3 3.f8Q g2 4.Kh5/i Kh1/ii 5.Qf3/iii Kh2 6.Qe2 (Kh4 Bg5+;) Kh1 7.Kg4/iv g1Q+ 8.Kh3 Qf2 9.Qd1+ draws.

i) 4.Qf3? Kh2 5.Qh5+ Kg3, or 4.Kf5? Kf1 5.Ke4+ Bf2 draw.

ii) Kh2 5.Qd6+ Kh3 6.Qe6+ Kh2 7.Qe5+ Kh1 8.Qe4 Kh2 9.Qh4+ Kg1 10.Kg4 wins.

iii) 5.Qa8? Kh2 6.Qb8+ Kh3 7.Qc8+ Kg3 draws.

iv) 7.Kh4? Bg5+ 8.Kh3 g1S+ draws.