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**No. 185 – Vol. XVII – July 2011**  
**Supplement**

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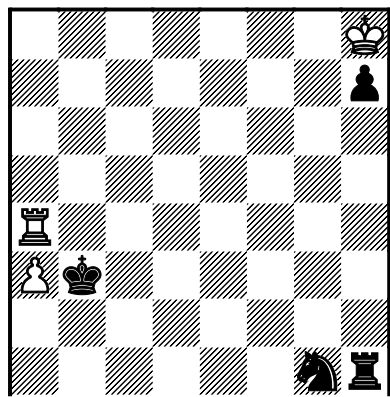
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# ChessStar 2009

Iuri Akobia (Georgia) judged the annual tourney of the website www.chessstar.com. 28 studies competed.

**No 17734 R. Becker**  
1st prize



h8b3 0403.11 3/4 Draw

**No 17734** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Ra8/i h5 2.a4 Kb4 3.a5 Kb5 4.a6 Kb6 5.Rb8+/ii Ka7 6.Rb7+ (Rb1 Kxa6;) Kxa6 7.Rb1 zz Ka5 8.Kh7 zz Ka4 9.Kh6 zz Ka3 10.Rb5 h4 11.Rb1 Ka2 12.Rf1 Kb3 13.Kh5 Kc3 14.Rf4 h3 15.Rf2 Kd3 16.Kg4 Ke3 17.Rb2/iii Sf3 18.Rb3+ Ke4 19.Rb4+, and:

– Sd4 20.Ra4 zz Ke3 21.Ra3+ draws, or:

– Ke3 20.Rb3+ Ke2 21.Rb2+ Sd2 22.Ra2 zz Ke3 23.Ra3 draws.

i) 1.Ra7? h5 2.a4 Sf3 (Se2) wins.

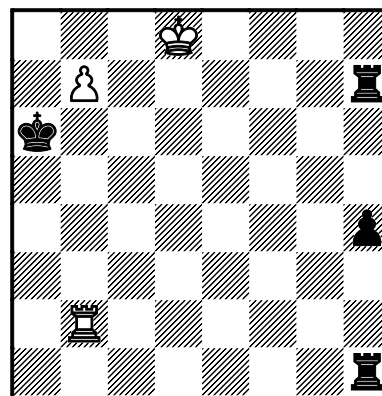
ii) Thematic try: 5.a7? Kb7 6.Rb8+ Kxa7 7.Rb1 Ka6 zz 8.Kh7 Ka5 zz 9.Kh6/iv Ka4 zz 10.Kh7 (Rf1 Kb3;) Ka3 11.Kh6 Ka2 12.Rf1 Kb3 13.Rf5 h4 14.Rf1 Kc3 15.Kh5 Kd3 16.Kg4 Ke2 17.Ra1 Kf2 18.Ra2+ Se2 19.Ra3 Sd4 20.Ra2+ Ke3 21.Ra3+ Kd2 22.Ra2+ Sc2 wins.

iii) Thematic try: 17.Ra2? Sf3 18.Ra3+ Ke2 19.Ra2+ Sd2 zz, and: 20.Kh4/vii Ke3 21.Ra3+ Kf4 22.Ra4+ Se4 23.Ra3 Sf2 24.Ra4+ Kf3 25.Ra3+ Kg2, or here: 20.Kg3 (Rb2 Ke3;) Ke3 21.Ra3+ Kd4 22.Ra4+ Kc3 23.Ra3+ Kb4 win.

iv) 9.Kg6 Rh4 10.Rxg1 Rg4+ 11.Rxg4 hxg4.

“Double-edged interesting battle with mutual zugzwangs in the background. The undisputed favourite of the tourney”.

**No 17735 D. Gurgendize**  
2nd prize



d8a6 0700.11 3/4 Draw

**No 17735** David Gurgendize (Georgia). 1.Rb6+/i Ka5 2.Rb5+ Ka4 3.Rb4+ Ka3 4.Rb3+ Ka2 5.b8Q (Rb2+? Ka1;) Rh8+ 6.Ke7/ii Rxb8 7.Rxb8 h3 8.Rf8 h2 9.Rf2+ Kb3 10.Kf6 Kc3 11.Kf5 Kd3 12.Kf4 draws.

i) 1.b8Q? Rh8+ 2.Ke7 Rxb8 3.Rxb8 h3 4.Rb2 h2 5.Re2 Kb5 6.Ke6 Kc4 7.Ke5 Kd3.

ii) 6.Kd7? Rxb8 7.Rxb8 h3 wins.

“Ingenious manoeuvres of the white pieces lead to a famous finale. Nice rook study in the spirit of Gurgendize”.

The 3rd prize was cooked by MG (the author agrees): J. Mikitovics (Hungary), e8f5 0017. 01 a2h7b3h5.b2 3/4 Draw: 1.Kd7 Sf4 2.Kc6 Sd2 3.Kc5 Ke5 4.Kb4 Kd4 5.Sf6 Se2 6.Bb1 Sc3 7.Bc2 Sa2+ 8.Ka3 Kc3 9.Bh7 Sb4 10.Se4+ draws.

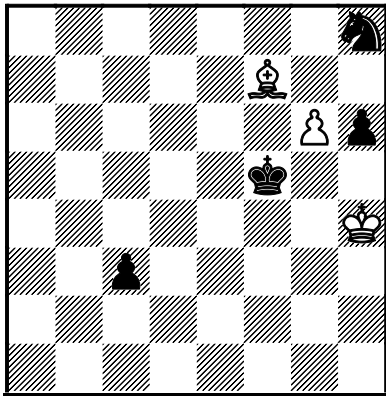
However: 1...Sg3 2.Bb1+ (or 2.Kc6 Ke4 3.Bb1 Sbd2) Se4 3.Kc6 Sbd2 4.Bc2 Ke5 5.Kb5 Kd4 6.Kb4 Sc5 7.Sf6 Sa6+ 8.Ka3 Kc3 wins.

**No 17736** Victor Aberman (USA). 1.g7 c2 2.Be6+ Ke4 3.Bd5+ Kd3 4.Bc4+ Ke4/i 5.g8Q c1Q 6.Qd5+ Kf4 7.Qd6+ Kf3 8.Qc6+ Kf2 9.Qf6+ Kg2 10.Bd5+ Kg1 11.Qd4+ Kf1 12.Bc4+ Kg2 13.Qg4+ Kf2 14.Qg3 mate.

i) Ke3 5.gxh8Q c1Q 6.Qxh6+ wins.

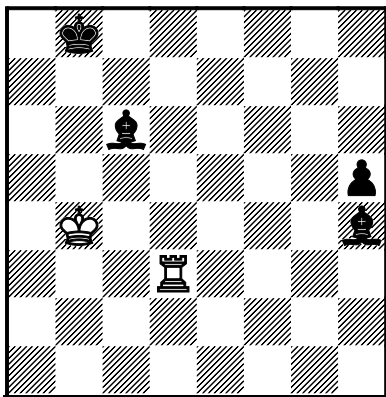
“Interesting presentation of well-known ideas”.

**No 17736 V. Aberman**  
Special prize



h4f5 0013.12 3/4 Win

**No 17737 J. Loustau**  
1st honourable mention



b4b8 0160.01 2/4 Draw

**No 17737** Jean-Marc Loustau (France).  
1.Kc5 Kc7 2.Kd4 Bf6+ 3.Ke3 Be5 4.Rd1 Ba8  
5.Rg1 h4 6.Rg8 Bh1 7.Rg1 Ba8 8.Rg8 Bc6  
9.Rg6, and:

– Bd7 10.Ke4 Bc3 11.Rh6 h3 12.Kf3 Bc8  
13.Rh4 Kd6 14.Rc4 Bb7+ 15.Kg3 draws, or:  
– Bh1 10.Rg1 Bb7 11.Rg5 Bg3 12.Rg7+ Kb6  
13.Rxb7 draws.

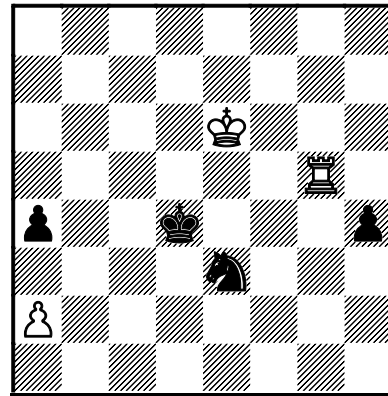
**No 17738** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Ra5 Kc3  
2.Rxa4 Sc4 3.Ra7/i Kb2 4.a4 h3 5.Kd5 h2  
6.Rh7 Sb6+ 7.Kc5 Sxa4+ 8.Kb4 Sb6 9.Rxh2+  
wins.

i) Thematic try: 3.Ra8? Kb2 4.a4 h3 5.Kd5  
Sb6+, or here 5.Rh8 (a5 h2;) Kb3 6.a5 Sxa5  
draws.

**No 17739** Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan). 1.Bb6  
(Rf6+? Kb7;) b2 2.Rb3 g1Q/i 3.Bxg1 b1Q  
4.Rb6+/ii Qxb6 5.Bxb6 Kxb6 6.Kb4 wins.

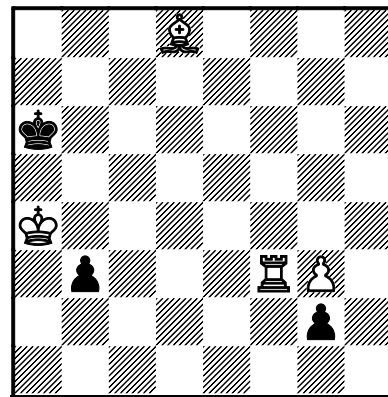
i) b1Q 3.Rxb1 g1Q 4.Rxg1, but not 4.Bxg1?  
stalemate.

**No 17738 A. Pallier**  
2nd honourable mention



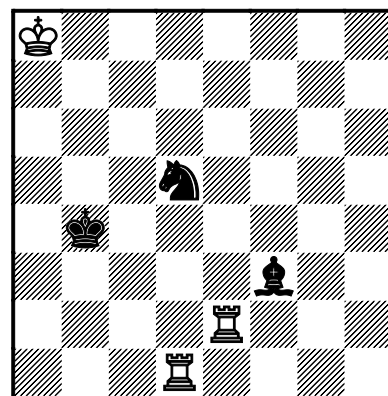
e6d4 0103.12 3/4 Win

**No 17739 I. Aliev**  
3rd honourable mention



a4a6 0110.12 4/3 Win

**No 17740 C. Poisson**  
1st commendation



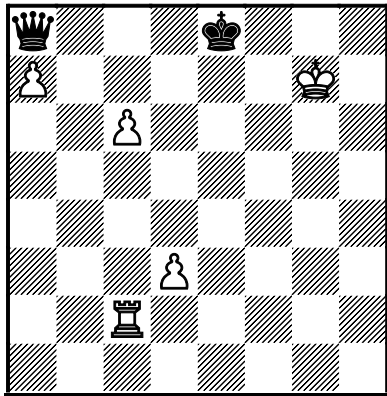
a8b4 0233.00 3/3 Win

**No 17740** Christian Poisson (France).  
1.Rb2+ Kc3 2.Rdb1 Be4 3.Rb3+ Kc4 4.R1b2  
Sf4+ 5.Ka7 Sd3 6.Rb1 Sc5 7.Rb4+ Kc3  
8.R1b2, and:

– Bd5 9.Rb5 Bc4 10.Rxc5 wins, or:

– Bc2 9.Rb8 Sd7 (Sb3; Ra2) 10.R8b7 Sc5  
11.Rxc2+ Kxc2 12.Rc7 wins.

**No 17741** V. Kovalenko  
2nd commendation

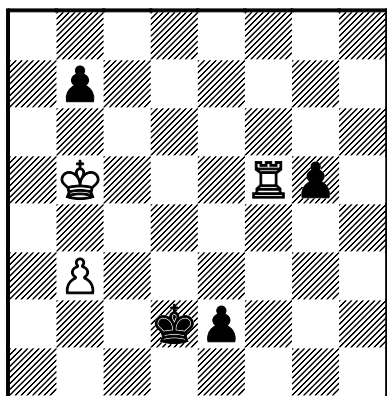


g7e8 3100.30 5/2 Win

**No 17741** Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.c7 Qxa7 2.Re2+ Kd7 3.Re7+, and:

- Kc8 4.Re8+ Kxc7 5.Re7 wins, or:
- Kxe7 4.c8S+ Ke6+ 5.Sxa7 Kd5 6.Sb5 wins.

**No 17742** M. Doré & A. Pallier  
3rd commendation



b5d2 0100.13 3/4 Draw

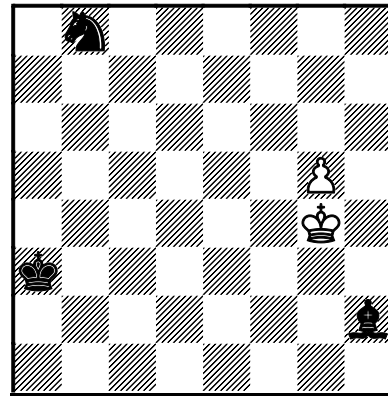
**No 17742** Marcel Doré & Alain Pallier (France). 1.Rd5+ Kc3 2.Re5 Kd3 3.Re8 g4 4.Rd8+ Kc2 5.Re8 Kd1 6.Rd8+ Ke1 7.Kc4 g3 8.Kd3 g2 9.Ra8 Kf2 10.Rf8+ Ke1 11.Ra8 Kf2 12.Rf8+ draws.

**No 17743** Victor Aberman (USA). 1.Kf5 Sc6 2.Ke6 Se5 3.Kf6 Sf3 4.Kf5 Sd4+ 5.Kf6 Sf3 6.Kf5 Sh4+ 7.Kg4 Sg6 8.Kf5 Sh4+ 9.Kg4 Sg6 10.Kf5 Sf4 11.g6 Sh5 12.Kg5 Sg7 13.Kf6 Sh5+ 14.Kg5 Sg7 15.Kf6 draws.

**No 17744** Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan) & Vitaly Kovalenko (Russia). 1.Ka4 Kb7 2.Ka5, and:

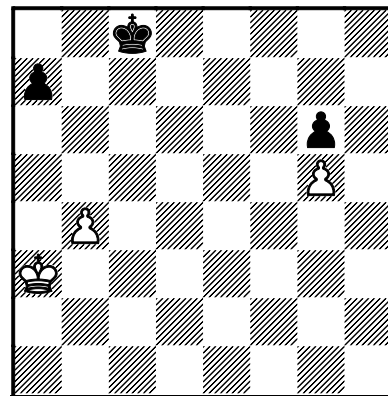
- a6 3.b5 axb5 4.Kxb5 wins, or:
- Kb8 3.Ka6 Ka8 4.b5 Kb8 5.b6 Ka8 6.Kb5 axb6 7.Kxb6 wins.

**No 17743** V. Aberman  
4th commendation



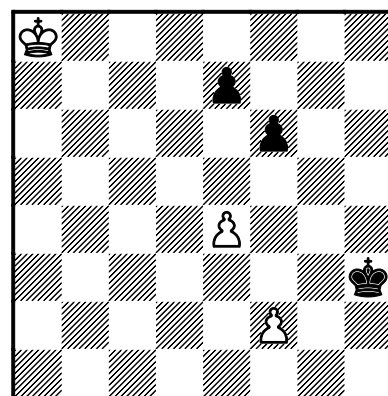
g4a3 0033.10 2/3 Draw

**No 17744** I. Aliev & V. Kovalenko  
5th commendation



a3c8 0000.22 3/3 Win

**No 17745** M. Croitor  
6th commendation



a8h3 0000.22 3/3 Draw

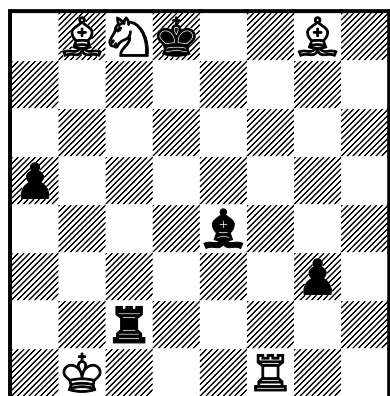
**No 17745** Mikhail Croitor (Moldova). 1.e5 fxe5 2.Kb7 Kg2 3.Kc6 e6 4.Kd6 e4 5.Ke5 Kf3 6.Kd4 Kf4 7.Kc5/i Kf3 8.Kd4 Kf4 9.Kc5 e3 10.fxe3+ Kxe3 11.Kd6 draws.

- i) 7.Kc4? e3 8.fxe3+ Kxe3 wins.

# World cup 2010

Oleg Pervakov judged the Endgame Study section of the FIDE World cup 2010 tourney. 36 studies competed.

**No 17746 I. Akobia**  
1st prize



b1d8 0451.02 5/5 Win

**No 17746** Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rf8+ Kd7 2.Sb6+/i Ke7 (Kc6; Bd5+) 3.Rf4/ii Re2+/iii 4.Rxe4+ Rxe4 5.Sd5+ (Bxg3? Rb4+;) Kf8 6.Bd6+/iv Kg7 7.Bxg3 a4/v 8.Ka1/vi a3 9.Bh7/vii Rd4/viii 10.Be5+ wins.

i) The first interesting moment of the study. It is tempting to play 2.Sd6? Bg6/ix. This seems to draw, but recent investigations by Marc Bourzutschky & Jakov Konoval have shown that the ending of rook and two minor pieces against rook and one minor piece is usually won. It proved possible that here White cannot defend against exchange of one of the pieces: 3.Ka1/x Rc1+ 4.Ka2/xi g2 5.Ba7 g1Q 6.Bxg1 Rxg1 7.Sc4/xii Ke7 8.Ra8 Bf5 9.Ra7+ (Bd5 Be6;) Kf6 10.Ra6+/xiii Ke7 11.Bd5 Re1 12.Ra7+ Kf6 13.Rf7+ Kg6 and 14...Be6.

ii) 3.Rf7+? Ke8 4.Rf4 Re2+ 5.Rxe4+ Rxe4 draws.

iii) Bg6 4.Bd6+ Kxd6 5.Rf6+, or Bd3 4.Sd5+ Ke8 5.Bf7+ Kd7 6.Rd4 g2 7.Bh2 wins.

iv) The heart of the study. Picking up a dangerous pawn is in fact the thematic try: 6.Bxg3? Kg7/xiv 7.Bh7 Rg4 8.Be5+/xv Kxh7 9.Sf6+ Kg6 10.Sxg4 Kf5 draws.

v) Rg4 8.Be5+ Kxg8 9.Sf6+, or Re8 8.Bh7 Kxh7 9.Sf6+, or Re2 8.Sf4 Re3 9.Bd5 Rxg3 10.Sh5+ are all refuted by knight forks.

vi) White just waits, but Black is not in a hurry.

vii) The wB has done its work.

viii) Thanks to 8.Ka1 square b1 is vacant for the wB: Rg4 10.Bc7 Rg1+ 11.Bb1 wins.

ix) But not Bd3? 3.Rf7+ Kd8 4.Bh7 wins.

x) 3.Sf5 Re2 4.Bxg3 Re8 5.Rf7+ Ke6 6.Rg7+ Kxf5 7.Bh4 Kg4+ 8.Rxg6+ Kxh4, or 3.Rf6 Rc8+ 4.Rxg6 Rxb8+ 5.Kc2 Rb6 draw.

xi) 4.Kb2 Rb1+ 5.Ka2 Ke7 6.Re8+ Bxe8 7.Kxb1 g2 draws.

xii) 7.Sb7 Ke7 8.Rc8 (Rf2 Bb1+;) Bf7+ draws

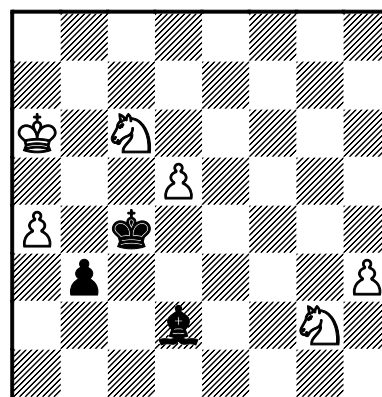
xiii) 10.Rf7+ Kg6, and: 11.Rf8 Re1 12.Rb8 Be6, or: 11.Se5+ Kh6 12.Rf8 Rxg8 draw.

xiv) But not: Rg4? 7.Bd6+ Kxg8 8.Sf6+ fork.

xv) 8.Bc7 Rg1+, or 8.Bf2 Rg2 draw.

“Beautiful study! Amazing reciprocal zugzwang position based on a beautiful domination. Excellent play of both kings (Kg7!!, and, especially Ka1!!). Witty fights all over the board, from the first to the last rank and line a to h. This stands out in the World Cup 2010”.

**No 17747 A. Pallier**  
2nd prize



a6c4 0032.31 6/3 Win

**No 17747** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Se3+/i Bxe3/ii 2.Sa5+ Kxd5 3.Sxb3 Kc4 4.Sa1 (Sa5+? Kb4;), and:

– Bg5 5.a5/iii Bd8 6.Sc2/iv Kc5 7.Se1/v Kb4 (Kc4; Sf3+) 8.Sd3+ Ka4 9.Sc5+ Kb4 10.Sb7/vi Bc7 11.h4 wins, or:

– Bf2 5.a5 Kb4 6.Sc2+ Ka4 7.Sa3 Kxa3 (Kb4; Sb5+) 8.Kb5/vii Kb3 9.a6 Ba7 10.h4 wins/viii.

i) 1.Sa5+? Bxa5 2.Se3+ Kb4 3.Sd1 Kxa4 4.d6 Bd8 5.Kb7 Kb4 6.Kc8 Bh4 7.d7 Kc4 8.d8Q Bxd8 9.Kxd8 Kd3 draws, or here: 4.h4 Kb4 5.h5 Bd8 6.h6 Kc5 draws.

ii) Kd3 2.Sd1 Kc2 3.Sd4+ Kxd1 4.Sxb3.

iii) 5.Sc2? Kb3 (Kc3?; Se1) 6.a5 Kxc2 7.Kb5 Kd3 8.a6 Be3 9.h4 Ke4.

iv) 6.Sb3? Kxb3 7.Kb5 Bxa5 draws.

v) 7.Se3? Kb4 8.Sd5+ Ka4 9.Sb6+ Kb4 draws.

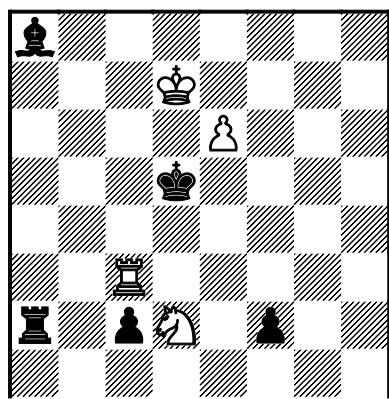
vi) That's where the wS wanted to go. The route c6-a5-b3-a1-c2-e1-d3-c5-b7 is impressive.

vii) 8.Kb7? Kb4 9.a6 Kc4 10.Kc6 Ba7 11.h4 Kd4 draws.

viii) The black pieces do not have sufficient time to stop the white pawns.

“A great discovery in a 6-man endgame. An epic white knight which I think would surely impress practical chess players”.

**No 17748** S. Didukh  
3rd prize



d7d5 0431.12 4/5 Draw

**No 17748** Sergyi Didukh (Ukraine). 1.e7 Bc6+/i 2.Rxc6 Ra7+ 3.Kc8/ii Rxe7 4.Rxc2 Re2 5.Kd8/iii zz Kd4/iv 6.Sf3+ Kd3 7.Rc1 Re3 8.Sh2 Re1 9.Rc7 Rh1 10.Rd7+ Ke4

11.Re7+ Kd4 (Kf5; Rf7+) 12.Rd7+ Kc5 13.Rc7+ Kb5/v 14.Rb7+/vi Kc6 15.Rc7+ Kb6 16.Rf7 Rxh2 17.Rf5 draws.

i) Ra7+ 2.Kd8 Bc6 3.Rxc2 Rd7+ 4.Ke8, but here not 3.Rxc6? Rxe7 4.Rxc2 Re2 zz.

ii) Thematic try: 3.Kd8? Rxe7 4.Rxc2 Re2 zz 5.Kd7/vii Kd4/viii 6.Sf3+ Kd3 7.Rc1 Re3 8.Sh2 Re1 9.Rc6 Rh1 10.Rd6+ Ke4 11.Re6+ Kf5 12.Rf6+ Kxf6 13.Sg4+ Kf5 14.Sxf2 Rh2

iii) 5.Kb8? Kd4 6.Sf3+ Kd3 7.Rxe2 f1Q 8.Rb2 Qa1 9.Se5+ Kd4 10.Rb5 Qa6 11.Ra5 Qb6+.

iv) Ke5 6.Sf3+ Kf4 7.Rxe2 f1Q 8.Re7 Qd3+ 9.Rd7, or f1Q 6.Sxf1 Rxc2 7.Se3+ Ke4 8.Sxc2.

v) An interesting attempt to confuse White.Kd6 14.Rd7+ Ke6 15.Re7+ Kf6 16.Sg4+.

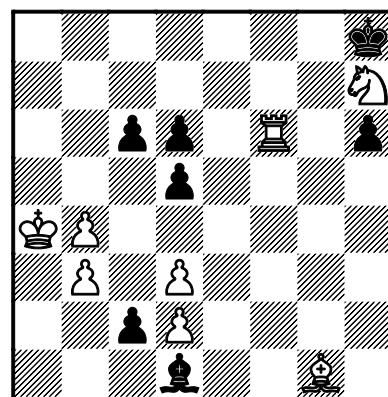
vi) The right response! The hasty 14.Rf7? Rxh2 15.Rf4 Kc5 16.Ke7 Kd5 and suddenly there is a new zz: 17.Kf6 Rg2 18.Kf5 Rg8 and wins.

vii) 5.Ra2 Kc6 6.Rc2+ Kb5 7.Rb2+ Ka4 wins.

viii) But not Ke5? 6.Sc4+ Kd4 7.Rxe2 f1Q 8.Re4+ Kxe4 9.Sd2+ fork.

“In our time 6-man endings with reciprocal zugzwangs are nothing new. It is important how it is conveyed to the judge and public. Here everything is done at a high level and indeed the position with long (but not tiring) play deserves our full attention”.

**No 17749** V. Kalashnikov  
4th prize



a4h8 0141.45 8/7 Win

**No 17749** Valery Kalashnikov (Russia).  
 1.Bd4/i c1Q 2.Rf7+/ii Kg8 3.Rg7+ Kh8  
 4.Rd7+ Kg8 5.Bg7 Bxb3+/iii 6.Ka5 Qa3+  
 7.Kb6 Qxb4+ 8.Kc7 Qa5+ 9.Kxd6 Qa3+/iv  
 10.Ke6 d4+ 11.Kf6 (Kf5?; Bf7;) Qa8 (Kxh7;  
 Bf8+) 12.Kg6 Qe8+ 13.Kxh6 Qxd7 14.Sf6+  
 wins.

i) 1.Rf7? Kg8 2.Rd7 c1Q draws.

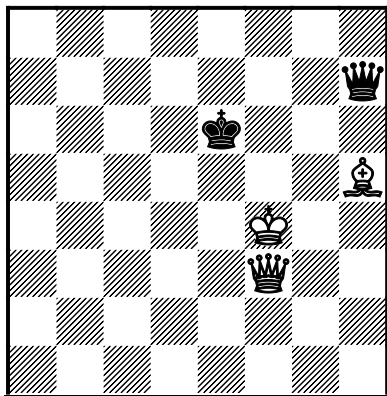
ii) Another attempt to attack: 2.Rxh6+? Kg8  
 3.Sg5 is unsuccessful due to: Bxb3+ 4.Kxb3  
 Qb1+ 5.Ka3 Qxd3+ 6.Bc3 d4 7.Rxd6 Qa6+  
 8.Kb3 dxc3 draws.

iii) Qxd2 6.Sf6 mate, or Kxh7 6.Bb2+.

iv) Qb4+ 10.Ke5 Qb8+ 11.Kf5 Kxh7  
 12.Be5+.

“Large-scale design! In order to win the duel with the bQ, the wK has to run from one edge of the board to the other. It is curious that, when the bQ seems to have escaped, she still falls victim but in a different way to that expected”.

**No 17750** V. Aberman  
 5th prize



f4e6 4010.00 3/2 Win

**No 17750** Victor Aberman (USA). 1.Bg4+/i  
 Ke7/ii 2.Qa3+/iii Ke8 3.Qa8+ Kf7 4.Qa7+  
 Kf6 (Kg8; Be6+) 5.Qd4+/iv Kf7 6.Qd7+ Kf6  
 7.Qd6+/v Kg7 8.Kg5 Kh8 9.Bf5 Qg8+ 10.Bg6  
 wins.

i) 1.Qc6+? Ke7 2.Qc7+ Kf8 3.Qxh7 first  
 stalemate.

ii) The most stubborn defence. After Kd6  
 2.Qa3+ Kc6 3.Qa6+ Kc5 4.Qa5+ Kd6 5.Qb6+  
 Kd5 Black awaits a beautiful mate: 6.Be6 mate.

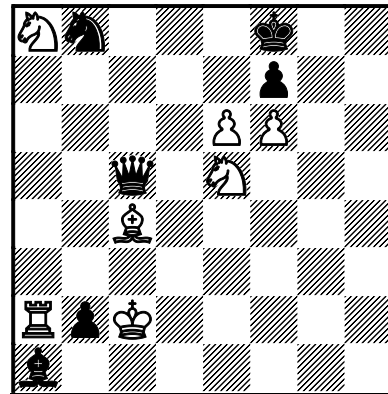
iii) 2.Qb7+? Kf6 3.Qb2+ Kf7 4.Qb7+ Kf6  
 5.Qxh7/v second stalemate.

iv) 5.Qa1+? Kf7 6.Qa7+ Kf6.

v) 5.Qb6+ Kg7 6.Kg5 Kh8 draws.

“The known final position is reached after swinging play by the wQ bypassing two stalemate traps. The novelty in the design brings a piquant middle board mate”.

**No 17751** V. Neishtadt  
 1st honourable mention



c2f8 3145.22 7/6 Draw

**No 17751** Vladimir Neishtadt (Russia).  
 1.Sd7+ Sxd7 2.e7+ Ke8 3.Sc7+ Qxc7 4.Ra8+  
 Sb8 5.Kb1 Qb6/i 6.Rxb8+ Qxb8 7.Bb3 Qb5/ii  
 8.Ba4 Qd7/iii 9.Bc2 Qa7 10.Ba4+ Qd7 11.Bc2  
 draw.

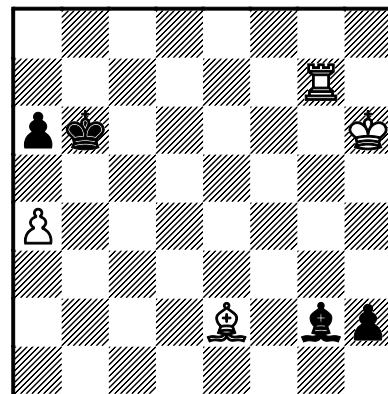
i) Qb7 6.Bd5, or Kd7 6.Bb5+ Kd6 7.e8S+.

ii) Qxb3 stalemate.

iii) Qxa4 stalemate.

“Studies of all kinds are needed! In comparison with the prize winners, this one has no monumental pretention at all. But for a solving competition, I think, this one would be a joy for everybody; everything is clean, clear and witty”.

**No 17752** V. Vlasenko  
 2/3rd honourable mention



h6b6 0140.12 4/4 Draw

**No 17752** Valery Vlasenko (Ukraine).  
 1.a5+/i Kc6 (Kxa5; Rg5+) 2.Rg6+ Kc7  
 3.Rg7+ Kd8 4.Rg8+ Ke7 5.Rg7+ Kf8 6.Bh5  
 Bd5/ii 7.Rf7+ Bxf7 8.Bf3 Ke7 9.Kg5 Kd6  
 10.Kf4 (Kg4, Kh4) Bd5 11.Kg3 Bxf3  
 12.Kxh2 Kc5 13.Kg3 draws.

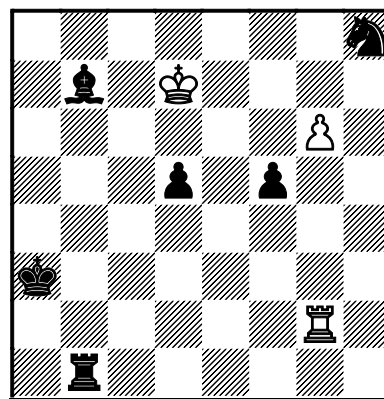
i) Thematic try: 1.Rg6+? Kc7 2.Rg7+ Kd8  
 3.Rg8+ Ke7 4.Rg7+ Kf8 5.Bh5 Bd5 6.Rf7+  
 Bxf7 7.Bf3 Ke7 8.Kg5 Kd6 9.Kf4 Bd5  
 10.Kg3 Bxf3 11.Kxh2 Kc5 and wins, because  
 the wP is now captured at a4 so that the bK is  
 in time to prevent the wK to reach c1.

ii) h1Q 7.Rf7+ Ke8 8.Rf1+ Qxh5+ 9.Kxh5  
 Bxf1 10.Kg4 draw.



*Andrei Selivanov,  
 organizer of the World Cup.*

**No 17753** S. Tkachenko  
 2/3rd honourable mention



d7a3 0433.12 3/6 Win

**No 17753** Sergey Tkachenko (Ukraine).  
 1.Rg3+/i Ka4 (Ka2) 2.g7 Bc6+ 3.Kxc6/ii Rb8  
 4.Kxd5/iii Sf7/iv 5.g8Q Rxg8 6.Rxg8 Sh6  
 7.Rf8 Sg4 8.Kd4 Sf2 9.Rxf5 Sd1 10.Rf1 Sb2  
 11.Kc3 wins/v.

i) Thematic try: 1.g7? see line v.

ii) 3.Kc7? Rb7+ 4.Kxc6 Rb8, or 3.Kc8? Re1  
 4.gxh8Q Re8+.

iii) 4.g8Q? Rxg8 5.Rxg8 d4 6.Rxh8 Kb3  
 draws.

iv) When the rook tries to slow down the  
 pawn, the wK comes to help: Rg8 5.Ke6 f4  
 6.Rg4 Kb5 7.Kf6 f3 8.Rf4 Ra8 9.Kg5 Rg8  
 10.Kh6 wins.

v) Now the reason for the first move be-  
 comes clear. In the thematic try, Black could  
 now play Sa4+.

“Two logical studies with ‘distant vision’  
 with, however, fairly simple play. The first  
 one is airy, the second one more ambitious  
 with the bS travelling from h8 to the a-file”.

**No 17754** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.b7/i  
 Bb5/ii 2.Be3+/iii Kg6/iv 3.Bc2+/v Qxc2  
 4.b8Q Qb2+ 5.Kd6 Qxh2+ 6.Bf4 Qxf4+  
 7.Ke7, and:

– Qxb7 stalemate, or:

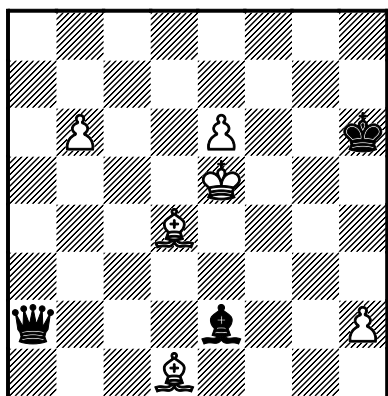
– Qg5+ 8.Kd6 Qf4+ 9.Ke7 Qb4+ 10.Kd8  
 (Qd6? Qh4+;) Kf6 11.Qb6 draws.

i) 1.Bxe2? Qxe2+ 2.Kd5 Kg6 3.Bc5 Kf6  
 wins.

ii) Excellent move opening the 2nd rank and  
 Black is covering the b-file to built a strong



**No 17754 M. Minski**  
4th honourable mention



e5h6 3050.30 6/3 Draw

battery! If Qa5+ 2.Ke4 Qb4 3.Bxe2 Qxb7+ 4.Ke3 draws.

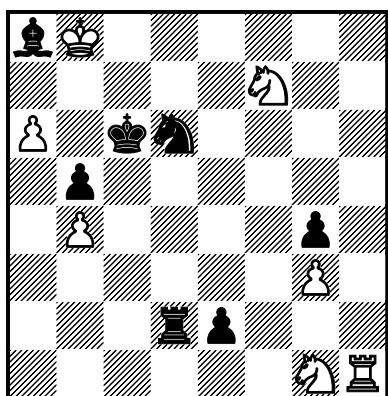
iii) 2.Kf6? Qxh2 3.Be3+ Kh7 4.Bc2+ Kg8 wins.

iv) Kh7 3.b8Q Qb2+ 4.Kd5 Bc4+ 5.Kxc4 Qxb8 6.e7 Qc7+ 7.Bc5 draws.

v) In order to achieve stalemate, White must get rid of both of his bishops. 3.b8Q? (Bh5+? Kxh5;) Qb2+ 4.Kd6 Qxh2+, or here: 4.Kd5 Bc6+ 5.Kxc6 Qxb8 win.

“Accurate struggle of line pieces”.

**No 17755 G. Amann**  
5th honourable mention



b8c6 0435.33 7/7 Draw

**No 17755** Günter Amann (Austria). 1.Se5+ Kb6 2.Sd7+ Kxa6 3.Sf3/i Rd1 4.Sd4/ii Bc6/iii 5.Rxd1/iv exd1Q/v 6.Se6 Bxd7 7.Sc7+ Kb6 8.Sd5+ Kc6 9.Se7+ Kb6 10.Sd5+ Qxd5 stalemate.

i) 3.Sc5+? Kb6 4.Sd7+ Kc6 5.Se5+ Kd5 wins.

ii) 4.Sfe5? Bc6 5.Sxc6 Rxh1 wins.

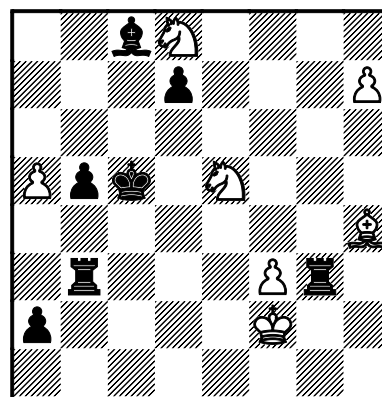
iii) Bxh1 5.Sc5+ Kb6 6.Sd7+.

iv) 5.Se6? Bxd7 6.Rxd1 exd1R wins.

v) exd1R 6.Sxc6, and: Se8 7.Sce5 Sg7 8.Sc5+ Kb6 9.Scd7+, or Rc1 7.Se7 Se4 8.Sd5 draw.

“Again the hero is the wS. The play of both sides is full of wit and (counter) sacrifices. The technical pawns and the immobile bS prevented a higher ranking”.

**No 17756 P. Arestov**  
1st commendation



f2c5 0642.33 7/7 Win

**No 17756** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.h8Q/i a1Q 2.Sd3+/ii Rxd3 3.Qxa1 Rgxf3+ 4.Ke2 Re3+ 5.Kd2 Rd3+ 6.Kc2 Rc3+ 7.Qxc3+ Rxc3+ 8.Kxc3 b4+ 9.Kb3 Kb5 10.Sf7 Kxa5 11.Sd6 Ba6 12.Bd8 mate.

i) The attack 1.Se6+? dxe6 2.h8Q a1Q 3.Be7+/iii is countered by Kd5 4.Qd8+ Kxe5 5.Qc7+ Kd4 6.Bf6+ Kd5 7.Qd8+ Kc4 8.Qxc8+ Kb4 9.Bxa1/iv Rgxf3+ 10.Ke2 Rbe3+ 11.Kd2 Rd3+ 12.Kc2 Ra3 13.Be5 Ra2+ 14.Kb1 Rd2 draw.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Sxd7+? Bxd7 3.Qxa1 Rbxf3+ 4.Ke2 Re3+ 5.Kd2 Rd3+ 6.Kc2 Rc3+ 7.Qxc3+ Rxc3+ 8.Kxc3 b4+ 9.Kb3 Kb5 and White’s last hope, pawn a5, will be lost.

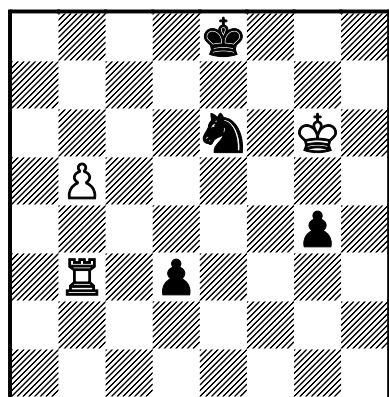
iii) 3.Qxc8+ Kb4 4.Bxg3 Qa2+ 5.Kf1 Rb1+ 6.Be1+ Rxe1+ 7.Kxe1 Qa1+ 8.Kf2 Qxe5 draw.

iv) 9.Qf8+ Ka4 10.Bxa1 Rgxf3+ 11.Qxf3 Rxf3+ 12.Kxf3 Kxa5.

“The final mate is known from other studies (HHdbIV#26900, #55379). The thematic try is certainly nice, but too many ‘extraterrestrial’ forces are involved in its creation, and,

as a result, it is difficult to get a perception of the integrity of the study”.

**No 17757** L. Gonzalez  
2nd commendation



g6e8 0103.12 3/4 Win

**No 17757** Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain).  
1.b6/i d2 2.b7 d1Q 3.b8Q+ Qd8 4.Qe5 Qd5/ii  
5.Rb8+/iii Ke7 6.Qf6+ Kd7 7.Qf7+ Kc6  
8.Qb7+ Kd6/iv 9.Qa6+ Kd7 10.Qc8+ Kd6  
11.Rb6+ Ke5 12.Qh8+/v Ke4 (Kf4; Qf6+)  
13.Qh1+ Ke5 14.Qh5+/vi Ke4 15.Qxg4+/vii  
Sf4+ 16.Kh6 (Kg7? Qe5+;) Qc4 17.Rf6 Qc7  
18.Re6+ wins.

i) Not enough for a win is: 1.Rb1? d2 2.Rd1  
Kd7 3.Rxd2+ Kc7 4.Kf5 Sc5 5.Kxg4 Kb6  
6.Rb2 Sb7 7.Kf4 Sd6.

ii) Beautiful defence! Quickly losing is: Qd7  
5.Rb8+ Ke7 6.Qf6+ Kd6 7.Rb6+ Kd5 8.Qf5+.

iii) The exchange of queens leads to a draw:  
5.Qxd5? Sf4+ 6.Kf5 Sxd5 7.Ke6 Sf4+.

iv) Kc5 9.Qb6+ Kc4 10.Qb3+ Kd4 11.Rb4+  
Ke5 12.Qg3+.

v) 12.Qc3+? Sd4 13.Qg3+ Ke4 14.Qxg4+  
Ke5 draws.

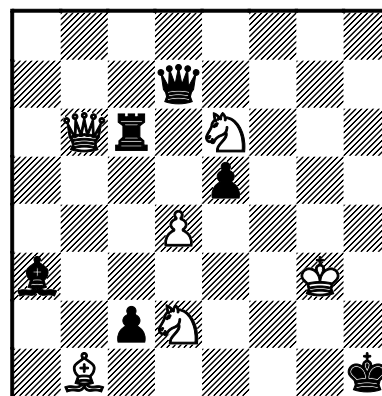
vi) Here, again, the exchange of queens  
doesn't win: 14.Qe1+? Qe4+ 15.Qxe4+ Kxe4  
16.Rxe6+ Kf3.

vii) 15.Rb4+? Sd4 16.Qxg4+ Ke5 draws.

“A miniature with long refined play. All  
clean, monumental, and... boring. Perhaps the  
well-known trick 4...Qd5! can cheer-up a  
more demanding spectator”.

**No 17758** A. Zhukov (Russia). 1.Qb3 e4  
2.Bxc2 (Sxe4? Bd6+;) Rxc2/i 3.Qb1+/ii Bc1  
4.Qxc2 Qd6+ 5.Sf4 Qxd4 6.Qd1+/iii Qg1+

**No 17758** A. Zhukov  
3rd commendation



g3h1 4342.12 6/6 Win

7.Qxg1+ Kxg1 8.Se2+ Kh1 9.Sxe4 Be3/iv  
10.Kh3 Bf2 11.Sxf2+ mate.

i) Bd6+ 3.Kf2 Qf7+ 4.Ke3 Rxc2 5.Qb1+  
Kg2 6.Qxc2 Qxe6 7.Sf3+ Kg3 8.Qh2+ Kg4  
9.Qh4+ Kf5 10.Qg5 mate.

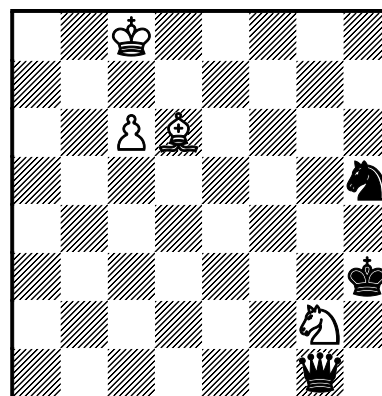
ii) First refusal to capture – in order to decoy  
the bishop. 3.Qxc2? Bd6+.

iii) Second refusal to capture – now to avoid  
a drawn Troitzky position. 6.Qxc1+? Qg1+  
7.Qxg1+ Kxg1.

iv) Bf4+ 10.Kh3 Bg3 11.S4xg3 mate.

“A study claiming to be thematically power-  
ful, but too many pieces are sacrificed on the  
altar of two trivial mates”.

**No 17759** J. Pospíšil  
4th commendation



c8h3 3014.10 4/3 Draw

**No 17759** Jaroslav Pospíšil (Czech Repub-  
lic). 1.c7, and:

– Kxg2/i 2.Be5 Qb6 3.Kd7 Qb5+ 4.Kd8  
Qd5+ 5.Kc8 Kf3 6.Kb8 Qb5+ 7.Ka7 (Ka8)  
Qc6 8.Kb8 Sf6 9.Bxf6 Qb6+ 10.Kc8 Ke4

11.Be7/ii Kf5 12.Kd7 Qe6+ 13.Kd8 draws,  
or:

– Qxg2 2.Kb8/iii Qb2+ 3.Ka7 (Ka8)/iv Qa2+  
4.Kb8/v Qb3+ 5.Bb4 Qxb4+ 6.Ka7 (Ka8)  
draws.

i) Immediate participation of the bS is not  
successful: Sg7 2.Sf4+ Kg4 3.Kd8 Qb6 4.Bc5  
Qf6+ 5.Kd7 Qf7+ 6.Kc6 Qe8+/vi 7.Kb7 Qd7  
8.Sd3 Qd5+ 9.Kb8 Qb3+ 10.Sb4 (Bb4); Sf6  
2.Sf4+ Kg4 3.Kd8 Qb6 4.Bc5 draw.

ii) 11.Kd7? Qb5+ 12.Kd8 Qd5+ 13.Ke7 Qc6  
14.Kd8 Qd6+ 15.Kc8 Kf5 16.Be7 Qd5  
17.Kb8 Qb5+ 18.Ka7 Qc6 19.Kb8 Qb6+.

iii) 2.Be5? Qa8+ 3.Kd7 Qd5+ 4.Kc8 Kg4  
5.Kb8 Qb5+ 6.Ka7 Qc6 7.Kb8 Sf6 8.Bxf6  
Qb6+ 9.Kc8 Kf5 10.Bd4 (Be7 Ke6;) Qb5  
11.Kd8 Qd5+ 12.Ke7 Qc6 13.Kd8/vii Qd6+  
14.Kc8 Ke6 15.Kb7 Qd5+.

iv) 3.Bb4? Qe5 4.Bd6 Qb5+ 5.Ka7 Qc6  
6.Kb8 Sf6 7.c8Q+ Sd7+ wins.

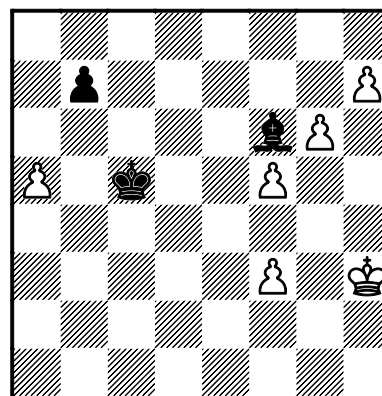
v) 4.Kb7? Qd5+ 5.Kb8 Qb5+.

vi) Qf5 7.Kb7 Qe4+ 8.Kb8 draws.

vii) 13.Bb6 Qe6+ 14.Kd8 Qxb6 wins.

“This adds a second line to a study by the  
author (HHdbIV#67349). Is that a good idea?  
Personally, I am not sure”.

**No 17760** G. Amiryan  
5th commendation



h3c5 0030.51 6/3 Win

**No 17760** Gamlet Amiryan (Armenia).  
1.Kg4 Kd6 2.Kh5 Ke7 3.Kh6 Kf8 4.g7+/i  
Bxg7+ 5.Kg6 Bh8 6.f6 (f4? Ke7;) Ke8 7.f4/ii  
zz Kf8 8.f7/iii Ke7 9.f5 Kf8 10.f6 zz wins.

i) The struggle for mutual zugzwang. Wrong  
is: 4.f4? Bc3 5.g7+ Bxg7+ 6.Kg6 Bh8 7.f6  
Ke8 8.f7+ Kf8 9.f5 Ke7 10.f6+ Kf8 zz in fa-  
vour of Black!

ii) 7.f7+? Ke7 zz.

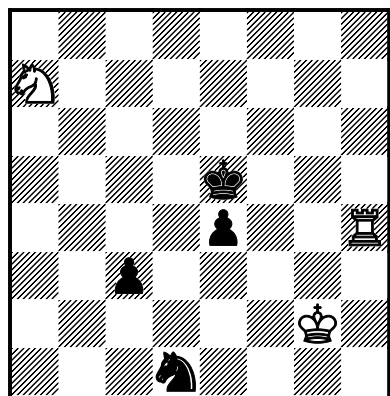
iv) 8.f5? Ke8 9.f7+ Ke7 10.f6+ Kf8 zz.

“Good reworking of a known mutual  
zugzwang (Riihima, 3rd prize *Suomen Shakki*  
1946, HHdbIV#21964).

# Magyar Sakkvilag 2009

Peter Gyarmati, the endgame study editor of *Magyar Sakkvilag*, judged this informal tourney of the Hungarian Chess Federation (also known as MSV). 25 studies by 21 composers from 11 countries participated. The judge considered the level as decent and stated that he didn't award studies that only contained technical play and "database works". The provisional award appeared in *Magyar Sakkvilag* no. 8 viii2010.

**No 17761 M. Minski**  
1st prize



g2e5 0104.02 3/4 Win

**No 17761** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sb5/i Kd5/ii 2.Rh7/iii Kc4 3.Rb7 Se3+/iv 4.Kf2 c2 5.Rc7+ Kd3 6.Rc8 (Rc5? Kd2;) zz Sd5/v 7.Ke1 e3 8.Sa3 Sc3 9.Rd8+ Ke4 10.Sxc2 wins.

i) 1.Sc6+? Kd5 2.Sb4+ Kc4 3.Rxe4+ Kb3 4.Sd3 c2 5.Re7 Kc3 6.Sc1 Kd2 7.Sa2 c1S 8.Rd7+ Sd3 draws.

ii) Se3+ 2.Kf2 c2 3.Rh5+ Sf5 4.Rh1 e3+ 5.Kf3 Kd5 6.Sa3 Sd4+ 7.Kxe3 wins.

iii) Thematic try: 2.Rh8? Kc4 3.Rb8 Se3+ 4.Kf2 c2 5.Rc8+ Kd3 zz 6.Rd8+ Kc4 7.Rc8+ Kd3 8.Rc6/vi Sc4.

iv) Kd3 4.Rd7+ Kc4 5.Sd4 wins.

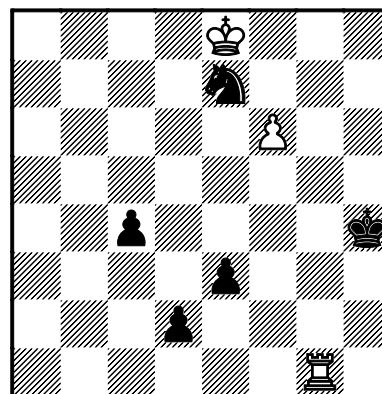
v) Kd2 7.Rd8+ Kc1 8.Kxe3.

vi) 8.Rc7 Sd5, or 8.Rc5 Kd2 9.Sd4 c1S, or 8.Sa3 Kd2.

"A study in classical style. The centre of the study is the position after Black's 5th move. The main line and the thematic try lead only to one difference, but the position of the wR (on c7 or c8) determines the result. The zugzwang position in the thematic try is very surprising. The try after White's first move also increases

the value of the study: here Black is saved by a nice minor promotion. Black's counterplay is strong, both sides are very active. I like it that the lines (main, tries, other) do not lead to database positions".

**No 17762 J. Mikitovics & I. Akobia**  
2nd prize



e8h4 0103.13 3/5 Draw

**No 17762** János Mikitovics (Hungary) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.f7/i Sg6 2.Rxg6/ii e2 3.f8Q e1Q+ 4.Kd8 (Kd7) d1Q+ 5.Kc8/iii Qee2/iv 6.Qf6+/v Kh3 7.Kc7/vi, and:

– Qd5 8.Rh6+ Kg3 9.Rg6+/vii Kh3 10.Rh6+ Kg2 11.Rg6+ draws, or:

– Qh2+ 8.Kc8/viii Qg3/ix 9.Rxg3+/x Kxg3 10.Qe5+/xi draws/xii.

i) 1.Rh1+? Kg3 2.f7 Sg6/xiii 3.Rg1+ Kh2 4.Rxg6 e2 5.Rh6+ Kg3 6.Rg6+ Kh3 (Kh4?; f8Q) 7.Rh6+ Kg4, and: 8.Rg6+ Kh5 9.f8Q e1Q+ 10.Kf7 Qf1+ 11.Rf6 d1Q 12.Qh6+ Kg4 13.Qg7+ Kh3 14.Qh6+ Kg2 15.Qg5+ Kh2 16.Qh4+ Qh3 17.Rf2+ Kg1 18.Qxh3 Qd5+, or 8.f8Q e1Q+ 9.Kd8 d1Q+ 10.Kc8 Qe4 11.Qg8+ Kf3 win.

ii) 2.Rh1+? Kg3 3.Rg1+ Kh2 4.Rxg6 e2 5.Rh6+ Kg3 6.Rg6+ Kh3 7.Rh6+ Kg4 8.Rg6+ Kh5 see line i).

iii) The wK hides behind the c-pawn.

iv) Qe5 6.Qf2+ Kh5 7.Qf7 Qg4+ 8.Rxg4+ draws.

v) 6.Qh8+? Qh5 7.Qf6+ Kh3 8.Rh6 Qxh6 9.Qxh6+ Kg3 wins (EGTB).

vi) Again the wK hides behind the c-pawn. Thematic try: 7.Rh6+? Kg3/xiv 8.Qh4+ Kf3 9.Qh3+ Ke4 10.Re6+ Kd5 11.Qf5+ Kd4 12.Qf6+/xv Kd3 13.Qf5+ Kd2/xvi 14.Qa5+ c3/xvii 15.Qg5+ Kc2. Now the bK on his turn hides behind a c-pawn, and Black wins.

vii) Thematic try: 9.Qh4+? Kf3 10.Qf6+ Ke4 11.Qg6+ Kd4 12.Qg1+ Kc3 13.Qc1+ Qc2 14.Rh3+ Qd3 15.Qa3+ Qb3 wins, or here 14.Qa3+ Kd4 15.Rh4+ Qce4 16.Rxe4+ Kxe4 (Qxe4) wins (EGTB).

viii) Thematic move (see 4.Kc8 and 7.Kc7).

ix) Qhe2 9.Kc7 Qh2+ 10.Kc8.

x) 9.Rh6+? Kg2 10.Qb2+ Kf3/xviii 11.Qc3+ Qd3 wins.

xi) 10.Qg5+? Qg4+, or 10.Qc3+? Qd3 win.

xii) EGTB.

xiii) But not e2? 3.f8Q e1Q 4.Rg1+, and Qxg1 5.Qg7+ Kh2 6.Qh6+ Kg2 7.Qxd2+ Kf3/xix 8.Qc3+ Qe3 9.Qxc4 Sd5+ 10.Kf7 Qe7+ 11.Kg6 Qf6+ 12.Kh7, or Kh2 5.Rxe1 dxe1Q 6.Qf4+ Kh3 7.Qxc4 Sd5+ 8.Kf7 Qe7+ 9.Kg6 Qf6+ 10.Kh7 draw.

xiv) Kg2? 8.Rg6+ Kh3 9.Kc7 see main line.

xv) 12.Rd6+ Kc3 13.Qa5+ Kb2 14.Rxd1 Qxd1 wins.

xvi) But not: Kc3? 14.Qa5+ Kb2 15.Qb4+ Kc1 16.Qc3+ Qec2 17.Qa1+ Kd2 18.Qa5+ Kd3 19.Rd6+ Ke4 20.Re6+ Kf3 21.Qh5+ Kg3 22.Qe5+ Kg4 23.Qg7+ Kf3 24.Qf6+ Kg3 25.Qe5+ perpetual check.

xvii) But not: Kc2? 15.Qa2+ Kd3 16.Qa3+ c3 17.Rd6+.

xviii) But not Kg1? 11.Qb6+ Qf2 12.Qg6+ Qg2 13.Qb6+ Kf1 14.Rf6+ Qdf3 15.Qb1+ Kf2 16.Qb2+ Ke1 17.Qc1+ draws.

xix) Qf2 8.Qg5+ Qg3 9.Qd2+ Kh3 10.Qh6+ Kg2 11.Qd2+ positional draw.

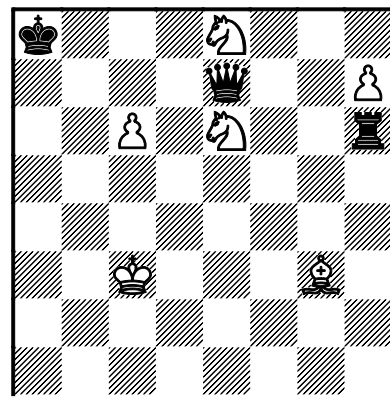
“Both kings hide behind a black c-pawn both in the mainline and in the thematic try. The introductory play is followed by a fight

between the major pieces. White has a big material disadvantage, but the dangerous position of the bK compensates for it. The two silent moves: 5.Kc8!! and 7.Kc7!! are very nice. The structure is complex and the two main lines appear a bit too late. Many variants lead to Q + P vs Q material, and to analysis these positions is quite difficult without the use of a computer. Otherwise the content of this study is very rich!”

The 3rd prize was cooked by MG: E. Eilazyan (Ukraine), a6g8 3142.00 h1b7h5a5d8g5. 5/3 Win: 1.Sde6 Qa1 2.Rb8+ Bd8+ 3.Kb7, and: Qb2+ 4.Kc8 Qh2 5.Bf7+ Kh8 6.Sxd8 Qc2+ 7.Kd7 Qd2+ 8.Ke8 Qxg5 9.Se6 Qa5 10.Ke7+ Kh7 11.Rb3 Qa7+ 12.Kf8 Qa8+ 13.Be8 wins, or: Qb1+ 4.Kc8 Qd3 5.Bg6 Qa6+ 6.Kxd8 Qd6+ 7.Kc8 Qc6+ 8.Sc7 Qxg6 9.Kd7+ Kg7 10.Sce6+ Kf6 11.Rf8+ Ke5 12.Sf3+ Ke4 13.Sd2+ Ke3 14.Sc4+ Ke4 15.Rf4+ Kd3 16.Se5+ Ke3 17.Sxg6 wins.

But: 6.Sf3 Qd6 (Qa2; Se5) 7.Rb2 Bh4 8.Sxh4 Qa6+ 9.Kc7 Qa5+ 10.Rb6 Qa7+ 11.Rb7 Qa5+ 12.Kb8 Qe5+ 13.Rc7 wins.

**No 17763** M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
1st honourable mention



c3a8 3312.20 6/3 Draw

**No 17763** Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia). 1.h8Q/i Rxh8/ii 2.Bd6, and:

– Qh7 3.S6c7+/iii Ka7/iv 4.Bc5+ Kb8 5.Sa6+ Kc8 6.Sd6+ Kd8 7.Sb7+ Ke8 8.Sd6+ Ke7 (Kf8; c7) 9.Se4+/v Kd8/vi 10.Bb6+ Ke7 11.Bc5+, draw, or:

– Rh3+/vii 3.Kb2/viii Qh7 4.S6c7+ Kb8/ix 5.Sb5+ (Be5? Qe4;) Kc8 6.Be5 Rd3 7.Sed6+/x Rxd6 8.Bxd6 (Sxd6+? Kc7;) draws.

i) 1.Bd6? Qxh7 2.S8c7+ Ka7 3.Bc5+ Kb8 4.Bd6 Kc8 5.Sd5 Rh3+ 6.Kb2 Rh2+ 7.Bxh2 Qxh2+ 8.Kc3 Qe5+ wins (EGTB).

ii) Qa3+ 2.Kc4 Rxh8 3.S6c7+ Kb8 4.Sb5+ Qxg3 5.c7+ draws.

iii) 3.S8c7+? Ka7 4.Bc5+ Kb8 5.Bd6 Kc8 6.Sd5 Qh3+ 7.Kb4 Qg4+ 8.Sef4 Qg1 wins.

iv) Kb8 4.Sd5+ Ka7 5.Bc5+ Kb8 6.Bd6+ perpetual check.

v) 9.c7? Kd7 10.c8Q+ Rxc8 11.Sxc8 Kxc8 wins.

vi) Kf7 (Ke6) 10.Sg5+ and 11.Sxh7.

vii) Qh4 (Qxe6; Sc7+) 3.S6c7+ Ka7/xi 4.Bc5+ Kb8 5.Sa6+ Kc8 6.Sd6+ Kd8 7.Bb6+ Ke7 8.Sf5+ Ke6 9.Sxh4; Qf7 3.S6c7+ Kb8 4.Sd5+ Ka8 5.Sec7+ Ka7 6.Bc5+ Kb8 7.Sa6+ Kc8 8.Sb6+ Kd8 9.c7.

viii) 3.Kd4? Qh4+ 4.Bf4 Qf2+.

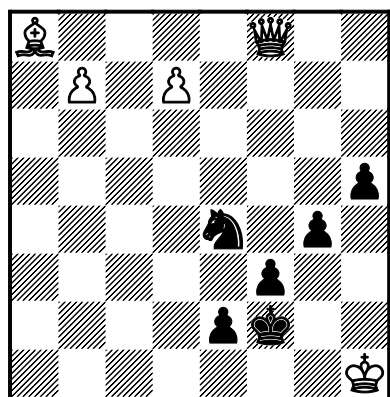
ix) Ka7 5.Bc5+ Kb8 6.Sa6+ Kc8 7.Sd6+ Kd8 8.c7+.

x) 7.Sbd6+? Rxd6, and 8.Sxd6+ Kc7 or 8.Bxd6 Qh8+.

xi) Kb8 4.Sb5+ Kc8 5.Sa7+ Kd8 6.c7+ Kxe8 7.c8Q+.

“A positional draw in two main lines. In one, White escapes with perpetual check, pursuing the bK from a8 to e7. The other main line shows a simple positional draw in which Black cannot win with his material advantage. The elaboration is economical, the study does not have confusing analyses. Black’s counterplay is a bit weak, and there is no harmony between the main lines”.

**No 17764** D. Bergkwist  
2nd honourable mention



h1f2 1013.24 5/6 Draw

**No 17764** David Bergkwist (Sweden).  
1.Qb4 Sg3+ 2.Kh2 Sf1+ 3.Kh1 g3 4.Qe1+/i Kxe1 5.b8Q/ii Kf2 6.Qa7+/iii Se3 7.Qa1 g2+ 8.Kh2 Sf1+/iv 9.Kh3 g1Q 10.Qd4+ Se3 11.Qh4+ Kf1 12.Bxf3 e1Q (Sg2; Bxe2+) 13.d8Q/vi draws/vii.

i) 4.Qd4+? Se3 5.Qa1 g2+ 6.Kh2 Sf1+ 7.Kh3 g1Q 8.Qd4+ Se3 9.b8Q (Qh4+; Kf1) Qg2+ 10.Kh4 e1Q 11.Qbb2+ Kf1+ 12.Kxh5 Qh3+ 13.Kg6 Qf5+ 14.Kh6 Sg4+ 15.Kg7 Qe7+ 16.Kg8 Qff8 mate.

ii) 5.d8Q? Kf2 6.Qd4+ Se3 7.Qa1 g2+ 8.Kh2 Sf1+ 9.Kh3 g1Q 10.Qd4+ Se3 11.b8Q Qg2+ 12.Kh4 e1Q 13.Kxh5 Qeh1+ 14.Qh4+ Qxh4+ 15.Kxh4 Qg4 mate.

iii) 6.Qb6+? Se3 7.Qb1 g2+ 8.Kh2 Sf1+ 9.Kh3 g1Q 10.Qb6+ Se3 wins.

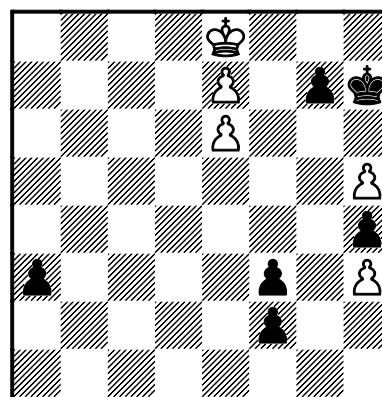
iv) Sg4+ 9.Kh3 g1Q 10.Qxg1+ Kxg1 11.Bxf3 e1Q 12.d8Q Qf1+ 13.Kg3 Qf2+ 14.Kf4 Kh2 15.Qd3 Qg3+ 16.Kf5 draw.

vi) 13.Qxe1+? Kxe1 14.d8Q Qf1+ 15.Kg3 Qf2+ 16.Kf4 Sg2+ 17.Ke4 Qe3+ wins.

vii) e.g. Qc3 14.Qdf6.

“The material and the position are unusual from the beginning to the end. White must sacrifice his first queen because of the threat of Black’s passed pawns, but his king remains in a dangerous position. White bypasses many thematic tries. The self-evident counterplay of Black and the fact that the real point (4.Qe1!!) comes too soon, decreases the artistic value of the study a little”.

**No 17765** R. Becker  
3rd honourable mention



e8h7 0000.45 5/6 Draw

**No 17765** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Kf8/i f1Q/ii 2.e8Q Qb1 3.Qg6+ Qxg6 4.hxg6+ Kh6 5.e7 f2/iii 6.e8Q f1Q+ 7.Qf7 Qxf7+/iv 8.gxf7 a2 9.Kg8 a1Q 10.f8Q Qa2+/v 11.Kh8 Qb2 12.Kg8 Qb3+ 13.Kh8 Qc3 14.Kg8 Qc4+ 15.Kh8 Qd4 16.Qe7/vi Qf6/vii 17.Qe6 zz Qxe6 stalemate.

i) 1.Kf7? a2 2.e8Q a1Q 3.Qg8+ Kh6 4.Qh8+ Kg5 5.Qd8+ Qf6+ 6.Qxf6+ gxf6 7.e7 f1Q wins.

ii) a2 2.e8Q a1Q 3.Qg6+ Kh8 4.e7 f1Q 5.e8Q Qe2 6.Qd8 (Qc8) draws.

iii) a2 6.e8Q a1Q 7.Qe3+ draws.

iv) Qb5 8.Qxg7+, or Qf6 8.Qxf6 gxf6 9.g7.

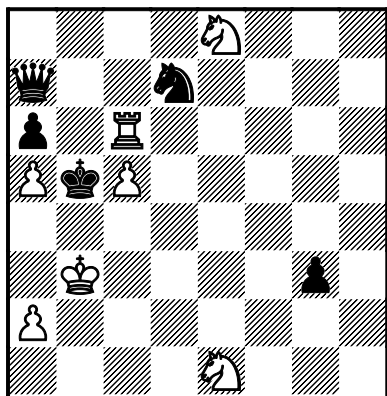
v) Qe5 (Qf6) 11.Qc8.

vi) 16.Kg8? Qd5+ 17.Kh8 Qe5 18.Kg8 Qe6+ 19.Kh8 Qf6 20.Qf7 Qd8+ 21.Qg8 Qxg8+ wins.

vii) g6+ 17.Kg8 Qd5+ 18.Kf8 Qf5+ 19.Kg8 Qc8+ 20.Kf7 Qxh3 21.Qf8+ Kg5 22.Qd8+ Kh5 23.Qh8+.

“The study is a three phase queen endgame, but the first and second phases are maybe part of a long introduction. After the appearance of the third white and black queens, there seems to be no defence against Black’s threat, but White unexpectedly escapes with stalemate or perpetual check”.

**No 17766** J. Csengeri  
4th honourable mention



b3b5 3105.32 7/5 Draw

**No 17766** Jozsef Csengeri (Hungary). 1.Rc7 Sxc5+/i 2.Ka3 Qb8/ii 3.Sd6+ (Rc8? Qe5;) Kxa5 4.Sc4+/iii Kb5 5.Rc8 (Sd6+? Kb6;), and:

– Qf4 6.Rxc5+ Kxc5 7.Sd3+ Kxc4 8.Sxf4 draws, or:

– Qa7/iv 6.Sd6+ Kb6 7.Sc4+ Kb7 8.Sd6+.

i) Qb8 2.Rb7+/v Qxb7 3.Sd6+ Kc6+ 4.Sxb7 Kxb7 5.Kc4 Kc6 6.Kd4 Sxc5 7.Ke3 Kb5 8.Kf3 Kxa5 9.Kxg3.

ii) Qa8 3.Sd6+ Kxa5 4.Rxc5+ Kb6 5.Rc2 Qd5 6.Sc4+ Kb5 7.Kb2 a5 8.Sg2 draws.

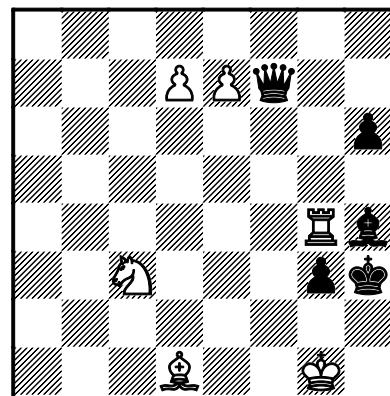
iii) 4.Rxc5+? Kb6 5.Rd5 Kc6 6.Rd1 a5 7.Sc2 Qf8 8.Se3 g2 9.Sxg2 Qf3+ wins.

iv) Qxc8 6.Sd6+ Kc6 7.Sxc8.

v) But not 2.Sd6+? Kxa5+ 3.Sb7+ Qxb7+ 4.Rxb7 Sxc5+ 5.Kc4 Sxb7 6.Kd3 Ka4 7.Ke2 Ka3 8.Sc2+ Kb2 9.Sd4 Kxa2 wins.

“White equalizes the material balance by decoying sacrifices and forks. The elaboration is aesthetic, but the study is a bit old-fashioned and lacks modern ideas”.

**No 17767** E. Minerva  
5th honourable mention



g1h3 3141.22 6/5 Draw

**No 17767** Enzo Minerva (Italy). 1.Se4 Qxe7/i 2.Kh1/ii, and:

– h5 3.Bf3 Qf8 (Qxd7; Rf4) 4.Sd2 Qd6 5.Sc4 Qf6 6.Se5 Qxe5 7.Rxh4+ Kxh4 8.d8Q+, draws/iii, or:

– Qxd7 3.Rxg3+ Bxg3 4.Bg4+ Qxg4 (Kxg4; Sf6+) 5.Sf2+ Bxf2 (Kh4; Sxg4) stalemate, or:

– Qf8 3.Be2 h5 4.d8Q Qxd8/v 5.Rg6/vi Qf8 6.Kg1 g2 7.Rxg2 Qf4 8.Bf1 Qe3+ 9.Rf2+ Kg4 10.Be2+ Kh3 11.Bf1+ perpetual check.

i) Qa2 2.Rxg3+ Bxg3 3.Bg4+ Kxg4 4.e8Q, avoiding 4.d8Q? Qb1+ 5.Kg2 Qxe4+.

ii) 2.Rf4? Bg5 3.Rg4 Be3+, and 4.Kf1 Qf8+ 5.Ke2 Kxg4 6.Kxe3+ Kh3, or 4.Sf2+ Bxf2+ 5.Kf1 Qe1+, or 4.Kh1 Qxe4+ 5.Rxe4 g2 mate.

iii) e.g. Kh3/iv 9.Qd7+.

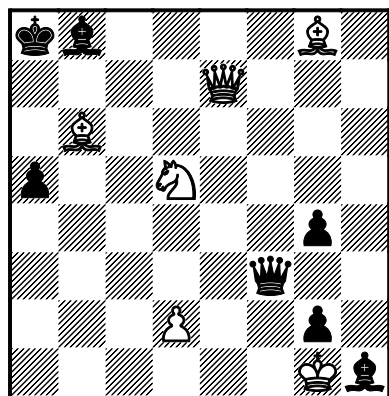
iv) But not Qg5 9.Qd4+ Kh3 10.Bg2 mate.

v) Bxd8 5.Rxg3+ Kh4 6.Kg2 Qf5 7.Sd2 Bc7 8.Sf3+ Qxf3+ 9.Rxf3 and White wins.

vi) 5.Rg7? Qf8 6.Rxg3+ (Rg6 Qf5;) Bxg3 7.Sg5+ Kh4 8.Sf3+ Kg4 wins.

“A good tactical endgame with active play on both sides. There are three main lines after White’s second move. White escapes with stalemate, with perpetual check, or with equalization of material. Unfortunately the main lines do not form a harmonic structure at all”.

**No 17768** P. Rossi & M. Campioli  
1st commendation



g1a8 4081.13 6/7 Win

**No 17768** Pietro Rossi & Marco Campioli (Italy). 1.Sc7+ Bxc7 2.Bd5+ Qxd5 3.Qxc7 Qb7 4.Qd8+ Qb8 5.Qd5+ Qb7 6.Qxa5+ Kb8 7.Qe5+ Ka8 8.Qe8+ Qb8 9.Qa4+ Kb7 10.Qb5 g3 11.d3 (d4? Qf4;) zz Qc8 12.Bc5+ and mates.

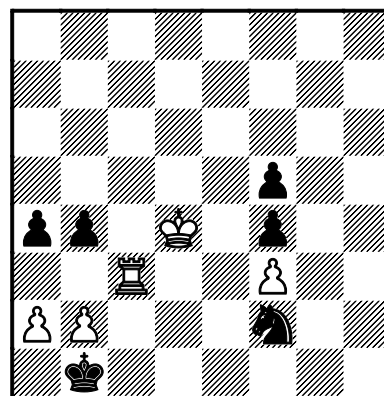
“Tough tactical fight with surprising zugzwang finish”.

**No 17769** Marcel Doré & Alain Pallier (France). 1.Rc4 Kxb2/i 2.Rxb4+ Ka3 3.Rc4 Sd1 4.Rc2 Sb2 5.Kc3/ii Sd1+ 6.Kd3 Sb2+ 7.Kd2 wins/iii.

i) a3 2.Rxb4 Kxa2 3.bxa3 Kxa3 4.Rb5 wins.

ii) 5.Rh2? Kxa2 6.Kc3 a3 7.Kb4 Kb1 8.Kxa3 Sd3 9.Kb3 Kc1 10.Kc3 Se1 11.Rf2 Kd1, or 5.Rg2? Kxa2 6.Kc3 a3 7.Rd2 Kb1

**No 17769** M. Doré & A. Pallier  
2nd commendation



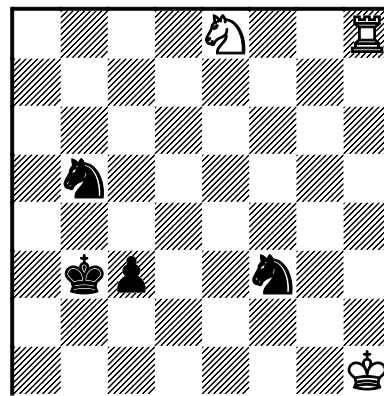
d4b1 0103.34 5/6 Win

8.Kb3 Kc1 9.Rd4 Sd1 10.Kxa3 Kc2 11.Kb4 Sb2 12.Kc5 Kc3 13.Kd5 Sd3 14.Rc4+ Kd2.

iii) Kxa2 8.Rc3 Kb1 9.Rc6 a3 10.Rc3 Ka2 11.Kc2 Sa4 12.Rc7 Sb2 13.Rc5 Sa4 14.Rxf5 Sb6 15.Rxf4 Sd5 16.Rd4.

“White realises his minor material advantage by a nice strategy”.

**No 17770** J. Csengeri  
4th commendation



h1b3 0107.01 3/4 Draw

**No 17770** Jozsef Csengeri (Hungary). 1.Sd6/i c2/ii 2.Rc8 Sc3 3.Rb8+ Ka4/iii 4.Ra8+ Kb4 5.Rb8+ Ka5/iv 6.Sc4+/v Ka6 7.Ra8+ Kb7 8.Ra1/vi Sb1 9.Sa5+ Kb6 10.Sb3 draws.

i) 1.Rh3? c2 2.Rxf3+ Sc3 3.Rf1 Sd1 4.Rf3+ Kb2 (Ka2).

ii) Sxd6 2.Rh3 c2 3.Rxf3+ draws.

iii) Ka2 4.Ra8+ Kb1 5.Rb8+ Kc1 6.Sc4 draws.

iv) Kc5 6.Rc8+ Kd4 7.Sb5+ Sxb5 8.Rxc2 draws.

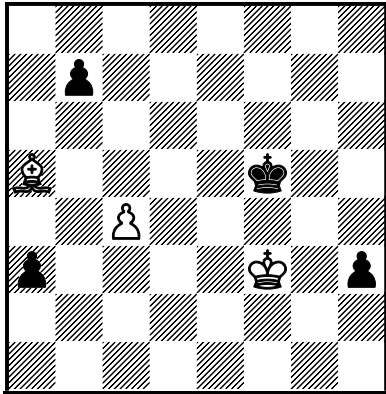
v) 6.Ra8+? Kb6 7.Ra1 Sb1 wins.



vi) 8.Sa5+? Kxa8 9.Sb3 Sd4 10.Sc1 Sce2 11.Sd3 Sb3 12.Kh2 Sf4 wins.

“Simple strategic ideas, boosted with additional tries”.

**No 17771** G. Hörning  
4th commendation



f3f5 0010.13 3/4 Draw

**No 17771** Gerd Wilhelm Horning (Germany). 1.Bb4/i a2 2.Bc3 b6 3.Ba1/ii h2 4.Kg2 Ke4 5.Kxh2 Kd3 6.Kg3/iii Kxc4 7.Kf4 Kd3 8.Ke5 b5 9.Kd5 (Kd6) b4 10.Kc5 b3 11.Kb4 Kc2 12.Ka3 draws.

i) 1.Bc3? h2 2.Kg2 Ke4 3.Ba1 Kd3 4.c5 Kc4 5.Kxh2 Kxc5 6.Kg2 Kc4 7.Kf2 Kd3 8.Ke1 Kc2 wins.

ii) 3.Bb2? h2 4.Kg2 Ke4 5.Kxh2 Kd3 6.Kg3 Kxc4 7.Kf3 Kb3 8.Ba1 b5 9.Ke3 Kc2, or 3.Bh8? h2 4.Kg2 Ke4 5.Kxh2 Kd3 6.Kg2 Kxc4 7.Kf2 Kd3 8.Ke1 Kc2 wins.

iii) 6.Kg2? Kxc4 7.Kf2 Kd3 8.Ke1 Kc2, or 6.c5? bxc5 7.Kg2 c4 8.Kf2 Kd2.

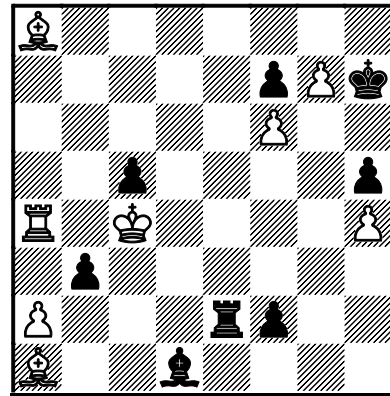
“A good elaboration of an idea from an o.t.b. game – a spectacular king-manoeuvre”.

**No 17772** Gheorghe Telbis (Rumania). 1.Bg2 f1Q 2.Bxf1 Re4+ 3.Kb5/i Rxa4 4.Bd3+ Kg8 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3 bxa1Q 7.Bh7+ Kxh7 8.g8Q+ Kxg8 stalemate.

i) 3.Kxc5? Rxa4 4.Bc4 Kg8 5.a3 Rxa3/ii 6.Be5 (Bc3 Ra2;) Ra2 7.Kb4 Rg2 8.Bd3 Rg4+ wins.

ii) But not Bg4? 6.Bb2 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.Kd6 Kf7 9.g8Q+ Kxg8 10.Ke7 Ra7+ 11.Ke8 Rb7 12.a4 draws.

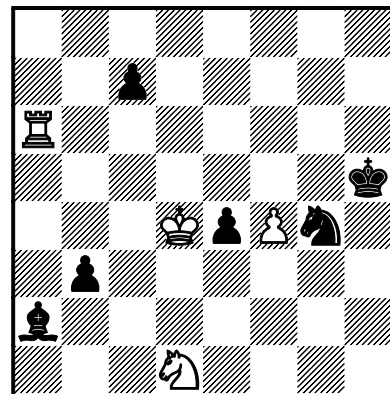
**No 17772** G. Telbis  
5th commendation



c4h7 0450.45 8/8 Draw

“The study contains many good tactical motifs, but the theme (one stalemate) is very old so the study does not give the impression of originality”.

**No 17773** G. Josten  
6th commendation



d4h5 0134.13 4/6 Win

**No 17773** Gerhard Josten (Germany). 1.Sc3 e3 (c5+; Kxe4) 2.Kd3 Kh4/i 3.Ke2 Kg3 (c6; Sxa2) 4.Ra4/ii c5/iii 5.f5 c4 (Sh6; f6) 6.Ra6 Kf4/iv 7.f6 Sxf6 (Sh6l Ra7) 8.Rxf6+ wins.

i) c6 3.Sxa2, or Sf2+ 3.Kxe3 wins.

ii) 4.f5? Kf4 5.f6 Se5 6.f7 Sxf7 7.Rf6+ Ke5 8.Rxf7 b2 9.Rxc7 Kd4 10.Sb5+ Ke4 11.Sa3 b1Q 12.Sxb1 Bxb1 draws.

iii) c6 5.f5 c5 6.Ra6, or Sf6 5.Kxe3 wins.

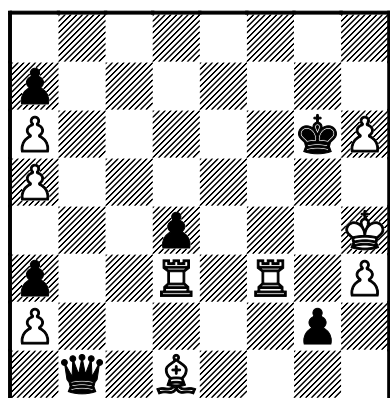
iv) Kh4 7.f6 Sxf6 8.Rxf6 wins.

“Practical lesson with tries”.

# XXth Birnov MT 2009

The 20th (!) MT of the famous Volgograd composer Z. Birnov was judged by Richard Becker (USA). The award appeared in several chess columns of the newspaper *Molodoi* during vii2010. We are able to provide detailed comments since Becker upon request kindly sent his judging report to HH. Of the 36 studies received by Oleg Efrosinin, 13 eventually qualified for the award, and 10 survived soundness checking by Becker.

**No 17774** O. Pervakov  
1st prize



h4g6 3210.54 9/6 Win

**No 17774** Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Rg3+ Kh7 2.Rg7+/i Kxh6/ii 3.Rxg2 Qxd3 4.Bc2 Qxa6 5.Rg6+ Qxg6 6.Bxg6 Kxg6 7.Kg4 d3 8.Kf3 Kg5 9.Ke3 Kh4 10.Kxd3 Kxh3 11.Kc4 Kg4 12.Kb5 Kf5 13.Ka6 Ke6 14.Kxa7 wins.

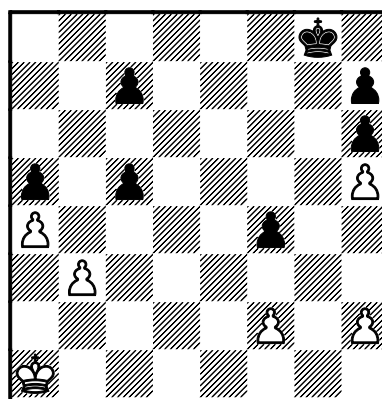
i) Thematic try: 2.Rxg2? Qxd3 3.Bc2 Kxh6 zz 4.Rg6+ (Bxd3 stalemate) Qxg6 5.Bxg6 Kxg6 6.Kg4 d3 7.Kf3 Kg5 8.Ke3 Kh4 9.Kxd3 Kxh3 10.Kc4 Kg4 11.Kb5 Kf5 12.Kc6 Ke6 13.Kb7 Kd7 14.Kxa7 Kc7 draws, or 2.Rxd4? Qf5 3.Rdg4 Qf6+ 4.Rg5 Qf4+ 5.R3g4 Qf2+ 6.Kh5 Qf7+ with perpetual check.

ii) Kh8 3.Rxd4 Qb8 4.Rxg2 wins.

“The winning study exhibits a cleverly constructed zugzwang position in which, with Black to play, an obtrusive wPa6 is captured. The thematic try is identical to the solution except that the wPa6 remains on the board. The importance of the pawn’s capture is revealed only after several moves. A fine example of the modern thematic try (or ‘look ahead’) study”.

**No 17775** Siegfried Hornecker (Germany) & Sergyi Didukh (Ukraine). 1.Kb2 Kf7 2.Kc3 Ke6 3.Kc4 Kd6 4.f3/i Kc6 5.h3/ii Kd6 6.Kb5

**No 17775** S. Hornecker & S. Didukh  
2nd prize



a1g8 0000.56 6/7 Win

Kd5 7.Kxa5 c4 8.Kb4 c5+/iii 9.Kc3 cxb3 10.Kxb3 Kd4 11.a5 Kd3 12.a6 c4+ 13.Kb4 c3 14.a7 c2 15.a8Q c1Q 16.Qe4+ Kd2 17.Qxf4+ wins.

i) 4.Kb5? Kd5 5.Kxa5 c4 6.Kb4 c5+ 7.Kc3 cxb3 8.Kxb3 Kd4 9.a5 Kd3 10.a6 c4+ 11.Kb4 c3 12.a7 c2 13.a8Q c1Q, or 4.h3? f3 5.Kb5 Kd5 6.Kxa5 c4 7.Kb4 c5+ 8.Kc3 cxb3 9.Kxb3 Kd4 10.a5 Kd3 11.a6 c4+ 12.Kb4 c3 13.a7 c2 14.a8Q c1Q 15.Qxf3+ Kd4 draw.

ii) 5.h4? Kd6 6.Kb5 Kd5 7.Kxa5 c4 8.Kb4 cxb3 9.Kxb3 Kd4 10.a5 Kc5 draws.

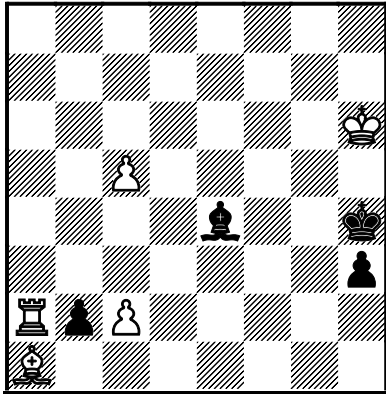
iii) cxb3 9.Kxb3 Kd4 10.a5 Kc5 11.Ka4 c6 12.h4 zz.

“This fine pawn study combines two thematic threads. The first is the ‘look ahead’ effect of 4.f3!

The second is the tempo conserving effect of 5.h3!, which allows White to place Black in a fatal zugzwang should Black choose to play 8...cxb3”.

**No 17776** Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands). 1.Rxb2/i h2 2.Rb1 h1Q/ii 3.Rxh1+

**No 17776** H. van der Heijden  
3rd prize



h6h4 0140.22 5/4 Win

Bxh1 4.Bh8/iii Kg4 5.Kg7 Be4/iv 6.c3 Kf5/v 7.Kf7 Bd5+ 8.Ke7 wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Bxb2? h2 2.Ra1 Kg4 3.Kg7 h1Q 4.Rxh1 Bxh1 Now White cannot play Bh8 5.Kf6 Be4 6.c3 Kf3 (Kf4; Bc1+) 7.Ke5 Ke3 8.Kd6 Kd3 9.c6 Kc2 10.Ba1 Kb1 11.c7 Bf5 12.Ke7 Kxa1 and Black is just in time, e.g. 13.Kd8 Kb2 14.c4 Kc3 15.c5 Kc4 16.c6 Kc5 17.c8Q Bxc8 18.Kxc8 Kxc6 draw.

ii) Kg4 3.Kg7 h1Q 4.Rxh1 Bxh1 5.Kf6 Be4 6.c3 Kf3 7.Ke5 Ke3 8.Kd6 (Kd7) Kd3 9.c6 and, in comparison with line i) the wB is at a1 instead of b2 so Black does not win a tempo by Kc2 10.c7 Bf5 11.Ke7 Kb1 12.Kd8 Kxa1 13.c8Q Bxc8 14.Kxc8 and wins.

iii) 4.Kg6? Be4+ and Bxc2. 4.Kg7? Kg5 5.Kf7 Be4 6.c3 Kf5 7.Ke7 Ke5 8.Kd7 Kd5 9.c7 Bf5+ 10.Kc7 Kc5 11.Kb7 Be4 draws. 4.Be5? Be4 5.c3 Kg4 6.Kg7 Kf5. 4.Bf6 Kg4 5.Kg7 Be4 6.c3 Kf4 7.Kf7 Ke3 8.Ke7 Kd3 9.Kd7 Bf6+ 10.Kc6 Kc4 11.Kb6 Kd5 12.c6 Ke6 13.Bh8 Be4 14.c7 Kd7. 4.c3? Be4 5.Kg7 Kg5 6.Kf7 Kf5 7.Ke7 Ke5 8.c4+ Kf5 9.Kd6 Bd3 10.Kd5 Be4+ 11.Kd6 (Kd4 Bc6;) Bd3 12.Kd5 Be4+.

iv) Kf5 6.Kf7 Ke4 (Be4; c3) 7.Ke6, or Kf4 6.Kf6 Ke3.

v) Kf4 7.Kf6 Ke3 8.Ke6 Kd3 9.Kd7 Kc4 10.c6 Bf5+ 11.Kd8 Kb5 12.c7 Kb6 13.c8Q Bxc8 14.Kxc8 wins.

“The capture key may be forgiven as it provides a mechanism for creating the thematic try. After 1.Bxb2? the wB will be within the

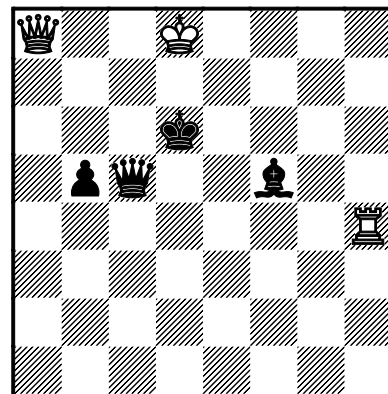
range of the bK, a fact not at all obvious from the initial diagram.

The move 4.Bh8! followed by 5.Kg7 is visually stunning”.

The 1st Hon. Mention by Y. Bazlov (Russia) has been cooked by MG: Y. Bazlov g6g8 0435.02 b6h8h1d4e4g1.a2b7 4/6 Draw: 1.Sf6+ Kf8 2.Re6 Bc6 3.Sxc6 Rg8+ 4.Sxg8 a1Q 5.Rf6+ Ke8 6.Rf1 Qxf1 7.Sf6+ Kf8 8.Sh7+ (Sd7+) Kg8 9.Sf6+ Kh8 10.Se5 Qg2+ 11.Kf7 Qg7+ 12.Ke6 Qg2 13.Kf7 Qa2+ 14.Kf8 Qa3+ 15.Kf7 Qb3+ 16.Kf8 Qb4+ 17.Kf7 draws.

However: 5.Sf6 Qb1+ 6.Re4, and bxc6 7.Sh7+ Kg8 8.Sf6+ Kg8 10.Kh6 (Kf7), or Sf3 7.Sh7+ Kg8 8.Sf6+ Kh8 9.Sd8 Qg1+ 10.Sg4 Se5+ 11.Kf5 Sxg4 12.Sf7+ Kh7 13.Rxg4 draw.

**No 17777** L. Gonzalez  
2nd honourable mention



d8d6 4130.01 3/4 Win

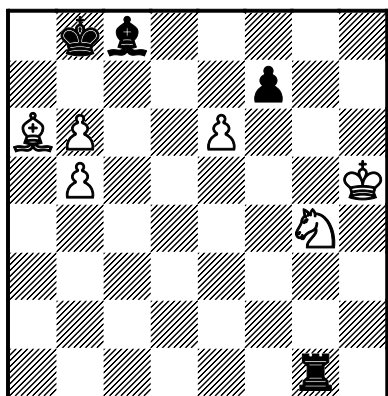
**No 17777** Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.Qa6+/i Ke5 2.Qa1+ Kd5 3.Qa2+ Kd6 4.Rh6+ Ke5 5.Qh2+ Ke4 6.Qg2+/ii Kf4 7.Rh4+ Ke5 8.Qg7+ Ke6 9.Rh6+ Kd5 10.Qg2+ Ke5 11.Qg3+ Ke4 12.Rh4+ Kd5 13.Qf3+ Ke6 14.Rh6+ Ke5 15.Qxf5+ Kxf5 16.Rh5+ wins.

i) 1.Qb8+? Ke6, or 1.Rh6+? Ke5 2.Qb8+ Kd5 (Ke4) draws.

ii) 6.Rh4+? Kd3 7.Qg3+ Qe3 8.Qd6+ Ke2 9.Rh2+ Kf3 draws.

“A delightful and unpretentious miniature. Systematic manoeuvring brings the wQ into position to sacrifice herself for the bBf5”.

**No 17778** S. Hornecker & M. Minski  
3rd honourable mention



h5b8 0341.31 6/4 Win

**No 17778** Siegfried Hornecker & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Se5/i Rh1+ 2.Kg5 f6+ 3.Kxf6 Rh6+ 4.Kf7 Rxe6/ii 5.b7 Bxb7 6.Sd7+ Ka7 7.Bxb7 Rc6 8.Ba8/iii Rc7 9.Bc6 wins.

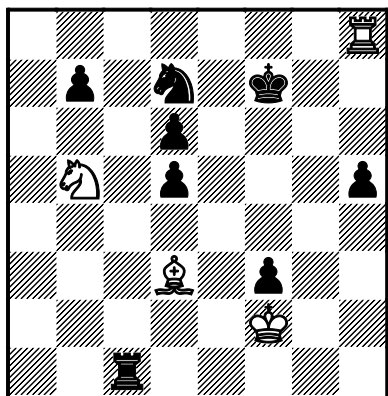
i) 1.Bxc8? Kxc8 2.exf7 Rf1 3.Kg6 Rxf7 4.Kxf7 Kb7 draws.

ii) Bxe6+ 5.Kg7 Rh5 6.Sc6+ Ka8 7.b7 mate.

iii) 8.Bxc6? (bxc6?) stalemate.

“The play flows nicely with both sides leaving pieces en prise. Black’s final rook offer 7...Rc6! would lead to model stalemates, but White sidesteps with 8.Ba8! followed by the Umnov 9.Bc6. The mate after 4...Bxe6 is no surprise, but we would have been disappointed had the composers not worked it into the study”.

**No 17779** V. Maksaev  
4th honourable mention



f2f7 0414.05 4/8 Win

**No 17779** Valeri Maksaev (Russia). 1.Rh7+ Ke6/i 2.Sd4+ Ke5/ii 3.Sxf3+ Ke6 4.Sd4+ (Sg5+ Kf6;) Ke5 5.Ke3 (Se2 Rd1;) Sb6 (Sf6; Re7+) 6.Rf7/iii Re1+/iv 7.Be2 Sc4+ 8.Kd3

Sb2+ 9.Kc3 Sa4+ 10.Kd2 Rg1 11.Ke3 Rg3+ 12.Bf3 Rg5 13.Bd1 Rg3+ 14.Rf3 Rxf3+ 15.Sxf3+ wins.

i) Ke8 2.Sxd6+ Kd8 3.Sf7+ Ke8 4.Bb5 wins.

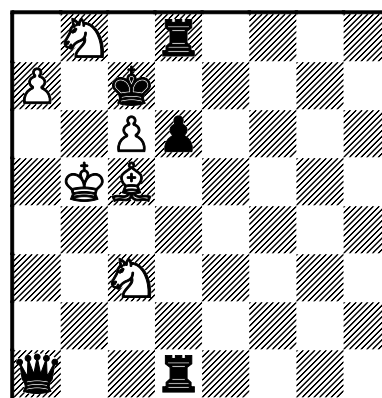
ii) Kf6 3.Rxd7 Rd1 4.Ke3 f2 5.Rxd6+ Kf7 6.Bg6+ Kg8 7.Sf5 f1Q 8.Rd8 mate.

iii) 6.Rh6? Sc4+ 7.Bxc4 dxc4 draws.

iv) Sc4+ 7.Bxc4 dxc4 8.Rf5 mate.

“From the simple knight pendulum to remove bPf3, to the more subtle shifting of the wB from e2 to d1, this combinational study leaves a pleasant impression”.

**No 17780** M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
Commendation



b5c7 3612.21 6/5 Draw

**No 17780** Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Bb6+ (Sa6+? Qxa6+) Kc8 2.Sa6 Qb2+/i 3.Sb4 Ra1 4.Ba5 Rxa5+ 5.Kxa5 Qa3+/ii 6.Sa4 Kc7 7.Sa6+ Kxc6 8.a8Q+ Rxa8 stalemate.

i) Rb1+ 3.Sxb1 Qxb1+ 4.Ka5 draws.

ii) Qa1+ 6.Kb6 Rh8 7.Sb5 (Kd5).

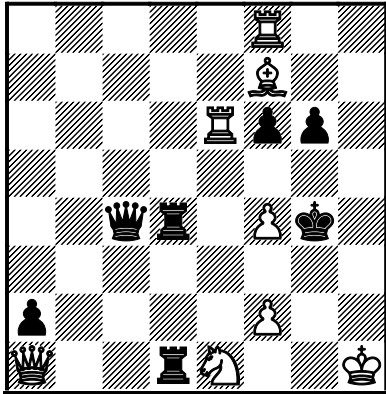
“The struggle over the dangerous wPa7 ends in a side-board model stalemate with two pinned knights. The play is a bit less forced than that which we often see in multi-pin stalemate studies”.

**No 17781** Azmatzia Avni (Israel). 1.Kg2/i Rxa1/ii 2.Rxf6 Qf1+ 3.Kxf1 Rxe1+ 4.Kg2 Rg1+ 5.Kxg1 Rd1+/iii 6.Kg2 Rg1+ 7.Kxg1/iv a1Q+ 8.Kg2 Qxf6 9.Be6+ Qxe6 10.f3+ Kh5 11.Rh8 mate.

i) 1.Kh2? Rxa1 2.f3+ Kf5 (Kxf4) wins.

ii) R4d2 2.Qxd1+ Rxd1 3.f3+ (Rxf6) wins.

No 17781 A. Avni  
Commendation



h1g4 4811.23 8/7 Win

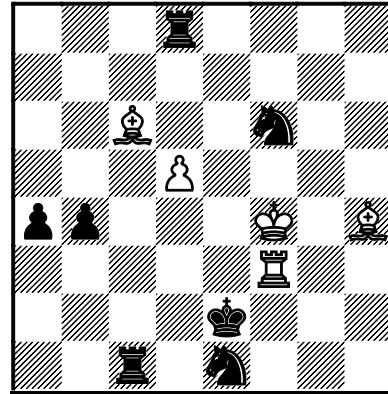
iii) a1Q+ 6.Kg2 Rxf4 7.Be6+ Kh5 8.Rxf4 wins.

iv) 7.Kh2? Rh1+ 8.Kxh1 a1Q+ 9.Kg2 loses time.

“The forced play is intentionally so. The many sacrifices and deflections form the theme of the study. After the dust settles we find the bK is mated by the only remaining white officer”.

No 17782 János Mikitovics (Hungary) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Bb5+/i Kd1/ii 2.Bxa4+ Kd2 3.Rf2+ Kd3 4.Bb5+/iii Rc4+ 5.Bxc4+ Kxc4 6.Kf5/iv Rxd5+ 7.Kxf6 Rd4 8.Bg5/v b3 9.Kf7/vi Sd3 10.Rf1 b2/vii 11.Bf6 Sc1 12.Bg5 Sa2 13.Bf6 Sc1 14.Bg5 Sd3 15.Bf6 Sc1 16.Bg5 Se2 17.Bf6 draws.

No 17782 J. Mikitovics & I. Akobia  
Commendation



f4e2 0726.12 5/7 Draw

i) 1.Rf2+? Kd3, but not Kd1? 2.Bxa4+.

ii) Kd2 2.Rf2+ Kc3 3.Bxf6+.

iii) 4.Bxf6? Rxd5 5.Bb3 Rd6 6.Be5 Rh6 7.Ba2 Rc5.

iv) 6.Bxf6? Sd3+ 7.Kf3 Rf8 8.Rc2+ Kb3 9.Rc6 Se5+.

v) 8.Bg3? Sd3 9.Rc2+ Kd5 10.Rc8 b3.

vi) Thematic try: 9.Ke6? Sd3/viii 10.Rf1 b2/ix 11.Bf6 Sc1 12.Bg5 Re4+ 13.Kf5 Re3 wins.

vii) Re4 11.Kg6 Re6+ 12.Bf6 b2 13.Rb1.

viii) But not Re4+? 10.Kf5 Sd3 11.Rc2+.

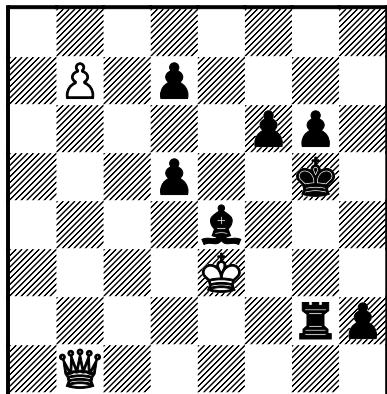
ix) But not Re4+? 11.Kd6 Rg4 12.Bf6.

“The final positional draw is nice enough, but the long introduction with many checks bears no relationship at all to the rest of the study”.

# Uralski Problemist 2009

Sergey Osintsev (Ekaterinburg) judged the annual tourney in which 29 studies by 22 composers competed. Translation from Russian to English by HH.

**No 17783 A. Kosteniuk**  
1st prize



e3g5 1330.15 3/8 Draw

**No 17783** Alexandra Kosteniuk (Russia).  
1.Qc1/i Rg1/ii 2.b8Q h1Q 3.Kd4+/iii Rxc1  
4.Qg3+ (Qf4+ Kh5;) Kh6 5.Qh3+ Kg7/iv  
6.Qxd7+ Kf8 7.Qd8+/v Kg7 8.Qd7+ Kh6  
9.Qh3+ Kg5 10.Qg3+ Kf5 11.Qh3+ Kf4  
12.Qh4+ Kf3/vi 13.Qf4+ Kg2/vii 14.Qg4+  
Kh2 15.Qh4+ Kg2 16.Qg4+ Kf1 17.Qe2+  
Kg1/viii 18.Qf2+ Kxf2 stalemate.

i) Good choice at move one: 1.Qh1? Re2+  
2.Kxe2 Bxh1 3.b8Q Bf3+ 4.Ke3 h1Q 5.Qf4+  
Kh5, or 1.Qf1? Rg3+ 2.Kd4 Rd3+ 3.Kc5 Rb3  
4.Qc1+ Kf5 5.Qf1+ Ke6 6.b8Q Rxb8 7.Qh3+  
Bf5 8.Qxh2 Rc8+ 9.Kb5 d4 10.Qa2+ Ke7  
11.Qe2+ Kf7, or 1.b8Q? Bxb1 2.Qf4+ Kh5  
3.Qf3+ Rg4 4.Qh3+ Rh4 win.

ii) Rc2 2.b8Q Rxc1 3.Qf4+ Kh5 4.Qxh2+  
Kg4 5.Qf4+ Kh3 6.Qxf6 draws.

iii) 3.Qf4+? Kh5 4.Qb2 d4+ 5.Kxd4 Rd1+  
6.Kc5 d6+ 7.Kc4 d5+ 8.Kb5 Rb1 wins.

iv) Qxh3 stalemate.

v) 7.Qd6+? Ke8 8.Qe6+ Kd8 9.Qxf6+ Kc7.

vi) Qxh4 stalemate.

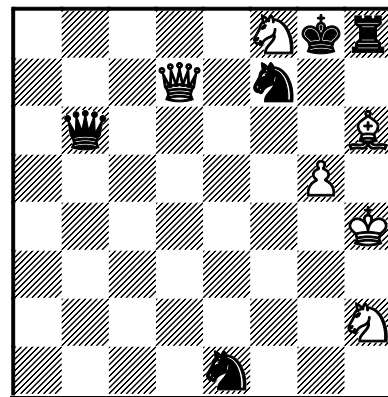
vii) Kxf4 stalemate.

viii) Kxe2 stalemate.

“The composer is World Champion Aleksandra Kosteniuk – a surprisingly versatile

person. The study is based on a position that occurred in one of her games. The result is a successful debut and an excellent study. We wish her more victories and brilliant study finds”.

**No 17784 Y. Bazlov**  
2nd Prize



h4g8 4318.10 6/5 Draw

**No 17784** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Sg4/i  
Sf3+ 2.Kh5/ii Sxh6 (S3xg5; Se6) 3.Sh7/iii Sf7  
4.Sh6+ (Sf6+? Qxf6;) Sxh6 5.Sf6+ Qxf6/iv  
6.Qe8+/v Kh7/vi 7.Qxh8+/vii Qxh8 8.g6+  
Kg8 9.g7 Qh7/x stalemate.

i) 1.Qd5? Qf2+ 2.Kh3 Qe3+ 3.Kg4 Qg1+  
4.Kf5 Qf2+ 5.Ke6 Sg2 6.Ke7 Qe3+ 7.Kd7  
Qa7+ 8.Kc6 Sf4 9.Qc4 Qb8.

ii) Black is hoping for: 2.Kg3? S3xg5 3.Qd5  
Qg1+ 4.Kh4 Qf1 5.Qg2 Qa6.

iii) 3.Sxh6+? Rxh6+ 4.gxh6 Qc5+ 5.Kg4  
Se5+, or 3.Sf6+? Qxf6 4.gxf6 Sf7+ and mate,  
or 3.Sg6? Sxg4+ 4.Sxh8 Sf6+ 5.gxf6 Qc5+  
wins.

iv) Kf8 6.Qe8+ Kg7 7.Qg6+ Kf8 8.Sd7+  
Ke7 9.Qxb6.

v) Black wins back the queen after 6.gxf6?  
Sf7+ 7.Kg4 S3e5+.

vi) Kg7 7.gxf6+ Kxf6 8.Qxh8+ wins, or Qf8  
7.Qg6+ Qg7 8.Qe8+ Qf8 9.Qg6+ perpetual  
check.

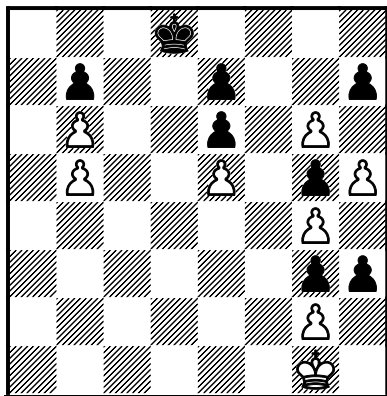
vii) After 7.g6+? Kg7 8.Qxh8+ (Qe7+ Sf7+;) Kxh8 9.g7+ Kh7 10.g8Q+ Sxg8 no stalemate.

x) Qxg7 (Kxg7) stalemate.

“Beautiful final position. Although not easy, the play is witty with sacrifices and counter sacrifices”.

HH observes that the study was first published in 2008 (UP no. 55) and again as an original in 2009 (UP no. 58).

**No 17785 M. Zinar**  
Special prize



g1d8 0000.77 8/8 BTM, Win

**No 17785** Mikhail Zinar (Russia). 1...h2+ 2.Kh1, and:

– h6 3.g7 Kd7 4.g8S/i Ke8 5.Sxh6 Kf8 6.Sf5 exf5 7.gxf5 wins/ii, or:

– hxg6 3.h6 Ke8 4.h7, and:

- Kd7 5.h8B/iii Ke8 6.Bg7 Kf7 7.Bh6 wins, or
- Kf7 5.h8R/iv wins.

i) 4.g8Q? stalemate. 4.g8B? Kc8 5.Bxe6+ Kb8 6.Bd5 Kc8 7.e6 Kb8 and the bishop is useless.

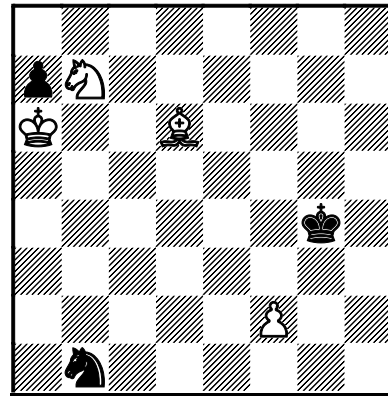
ii) The white pawns win without the support of the wK.

iii) 5.h8Q? stalemate. It is interesting that the knight promotion on h8 doesn't work: 5.h8S? Ke8 6.Sxg6 Kf7, and White has no better than 7.Sxe7 Kxe7 and White is stalemated.

iv) 5.h8Q? stalemate.

“This proves that nothing is impossible. Three different underpromotions”.

**No 17786 I. Akobia & J. Mikitovics**  
honourable mention



a6g4 0014.11 4/3 Win

**No 17786** Iuri Akobia (Georgia) & János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Be5/i Kf3 2.Bd4 Sa3 3.Bxa7 Sc4/ii 4.Kb5, and:

– Se5 5.Sc5 Sg4 6.Sd3 Ke2 7.Kc4 wins, or:

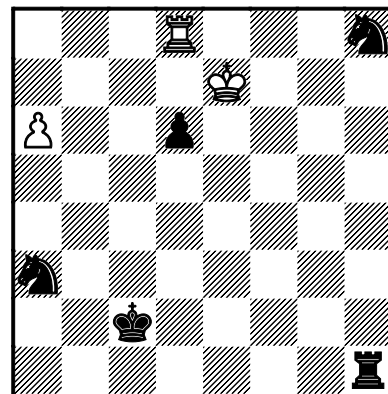
– Sb2 (Sd2; Sd6) 5.Sc5 Sd1 6.Sd3 Ke2 7.Kc4 wins.

i) The shorter route to bpa7 is the thematic try: 1.Bb8? Sc3 2.Sc5 Kf3 3.Bxa7 Sd1 4.Sd3 Ke2 5.Sf4+ Kf3 6.Sh3 Kg2 7.f4 Kxh3 8.f5 Sc3 9.f6 Sd5 10.f7 Sc7+ 11.Kb7 Se6 draws. Also 1.Bc5? Sc3 2.Bd4 Se2 3.Be3 Kf3 4.Sc5 Sc3 5.Sd3 Ke2 6.Sf4+ Kf3 7.Sh3 Kg2 8.Sf4+ Kf3 9.Sd3 Ke2 10.Sc1+ Kf3. 1.Sc5? Kf3 2.Bg3 Sc3 3.Bh4 Sd1 4.Sd3 Ke2 5.Sc1+ Kf3 6.Sd3 Ke2. 1.Bb4? Kf3 2.Be1 Sa3 3.Sd6 Sc2.

ii) Sc2 4.Kb5 Se1 5.Kc4.

“The wK struggles to protect the minimal material needed for a victory”.

**No 17787 B. Olimpiev, E. Kudelich & V. Kalyagin**  
honourable mention



e7c2 0406.11 3/5 Draw

**No 17787** Bronislav Olimpiev, Eduard Kudelich & Viktor Kalyagin (Russia). 1.a7/i Rh7+ 2.Kxd6 Sb5+ 3.Kc5/ii Sxa7 4.Ra8 Sg6 5.Kb6, and:

- Se7 6.Kxa7 Sd5+ 7.Kb8 draws, and;
- Se5 6.Rxa7 Sc4+ 7.Ka6 draws.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kxd6? Sg6 2.a7 Sb5+ 3.Kc5 Sxa7 4.Kb6 Ra1 5.Ra8 Se7 6.Rxa7 Sc8+. 1.Rxd6? Sb5 2.Rb6 Rh5 3.Rb7 Rf5 4.Ke6 Sd4+ 5.Kd7 Sf7 6.a7 Se5+ 7.Kd6 Sc4+ 8.Ke7 Ra5 9.Kd7 Kc3 10.Kc7 Rh5 11.a8Q Rh7+ 12.Kb8 Sc6+ 13.Kc8 Sd6 mate. 1.Rc8+? Kd3 2.a7 Rh7+ 3.Kxd6 Sb5+ 4.Kc5 Sxa7 5.Rd8+ Kc3 6.Ra8 Rh5+/iv 7.Kb6 Sb5 8.Ra5 Kb4 wins.

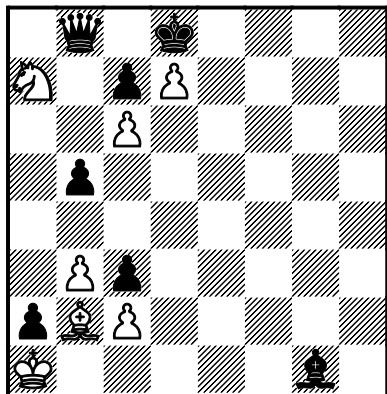
ii) 3.Kc6? Sxa7+ 4.Kb6 Sf7 5.Ra8 Sd6 6.Rxa7 Sc8+.

iii) 4.Kb6? Sf7 5.Ra8 Sd6 6.Rxa7 Sc8+ wins.

iv) But not Sg6? 7.Kb6 Se7 8.Kxa7.

“A thematic try arose from a small change in the initial position of the study as originally published”.

**No 17788** V. Neishtadt  
honourable mention



a1d8 3041.44 7/7 Draw

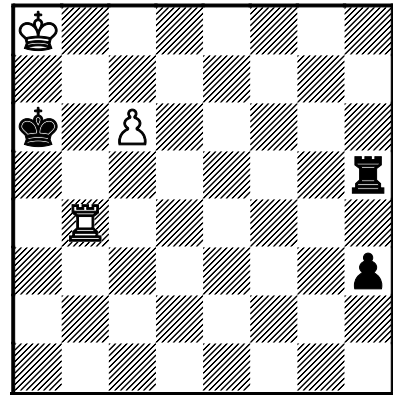
**No 17788** Vladimir Neishtadt (Russia). 1.Bc1/i Bc5 2.Bg5+ Be7 3.Bxe7+ Kxe7 4.Sc8+ Kd8 5.b4 Qa8 6.Sa7 Qb8/ii 7.Sc8 Qa8 8.Sa7 Ke7 9.Sc8+ Kd8 10.Sa7 positional draw.

i) The judge found a thematic try: 1.Bxc3? Bc5 2.Bf6+ Be7 3.Bxe7+ Kxe7 4.Sc8+ Kd8 5.b4 Qa8 6.Sa7 Qxa7 wins since there is no pawn on c3 – no stalemate.

ii) Qxa7 stalemate.

“Alas, all is ready in advance: the stalemate and Black’s restricted position”.

**No 17789** L. Katsnelson  
special honourable mention



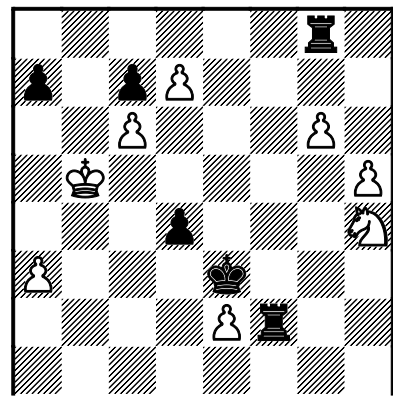
a8a6 0400.11 3/3 Win

**No 17789** Leonard Katsnelson (Russia). 1.c7 Rc5 2.Kb8 h2 3.Rh4/i Rb5+ 4.Ka8 Rc5 5.Rh6+ Ka5 6.Kb7 (Kb8) Rb5+ 7.Kc8 Rb2 8.Kd7 Rd2+ 9.Kc6 Rc2+ 10.Kb7 Rb2+ 11.Ka7 Rc2 12.Rh5+ Ka4 13.Kb6 (Kb7) Rb2+ 14.Ka6 Rc2 15.Rh4+ Ka3 16.Kb6 Rb2+ 17.Ka5 Rc2 18.Rh3+ Ka2 19.Rxh2 Rxh2 20.c8Q wins.

i) 3.Rb1? Rb5+ 4.Ka8 Rc5 5.Kb8 Rb5+ 6.Rxb5 Kxb5 draws.

“A long introduction to Lasker’s staircase, managed without the addition of pieces”.

**No 17790** S. Zakharov  
commendation



b5e3 0601.63 8/6 Draw

**No 17790** Sergey Zakharov (Russia). 1.Ka6/i Kxe2/ii 2.h6 d3 3.h7 Rff8 4.h8Q/iii Rxh8 5.g7 d2 6.Sg6 d1Q 7.gxf8Q Rxf8 8.Sxf8 Qb3 9.Kxa7 Qb6+ 10.Ka8 Qxc6+ 11.Kb8/iv Qb5+/v 12.Kc8/vi Qf5 13.a4/vii c5 14.Kc7/viii Qf4+ (Qxf8; d8Q) 15.Kc8 Qxa4 16.d8Q draws.



i) Advancing of the pawn is disastrous: 1.h6? Rb8+ 2.Ka6 Rf1 3.Kxa7 Rfb1 4.Sf5+ Ke4 5.Sd6+ cxd6 6.a4 Kd5 with mate threats and wins.

ii) d3 2.exd3 Rb8 3.Kxa7 Rfb2 4.Sf5+ Kf4 5.Se7 R8b5 6.Ka6, and now not Rc5 7.Sc8 Rxc6+ 8.Ka5 Rc3 9.a4 Rc5+ 10.Ka6 draws as indicated by the author, but 6...Rb6 (MG) 7.Ka5 Rb8 8.Sf5+ Ke5 9.Sb4 Kd6 10.h6 Ra7+ 11.Kb5 Rh2 12.h7 Rh5+ 13.Kc4 Rh6. Fortunately, White has better (MG): 5.Sd4 Ke5 6.Sf3+ Kd6 7.d4 Kxc6 8.Se5+ Kd5 9.Sf7.

iii) 4.hxg8Q? Rxc8 5.Sf5 d2 6.Sd4+ Kf2 7.Se6 d1Q.

iv) 11.Ka7? Qb6+ 12.Ka8 c5.

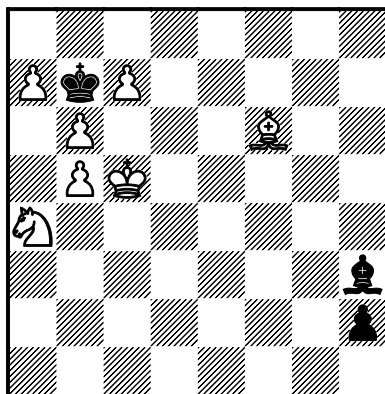
v) Qb6+ (Qd5; a4) 12.Kc8 Qa6+ 13.Kxc7.

vi) 12.Ka8? (Kxc7? Qc5+;) Qg5 13.Kb7 Qd8.

vii) 13.Sg6? c5 14.Kc7 Qf7 15.Se5 Qf4 16.Kd6 Qd4+ wins.

viii) 14.a5? c4 15.Kc7 Qc5+.

**No 17791 A. Jasik**  
commendation



c5b7 0041.41 7/3 Win

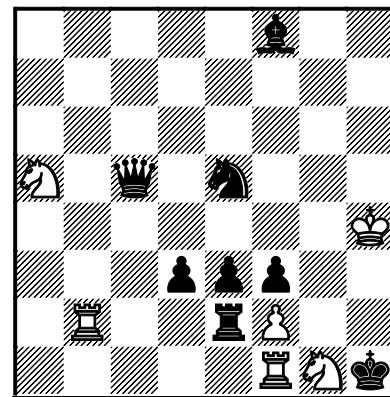
**No 17791** Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Kb4/i h1Q/ii 2.Sc5+ Kxb6 3.c8Q Bxc8 4.a8Q Qxa8 5.Bd8+ Ka7 6.b6+ Kb8 7.Bc7 mate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Kc4? h1Q 2.Sc5+ Kxb6 3.c8Q Bxc8 4.a8Q, and the wK is checked, e.g. by 4...Be6+ or 4...Qf1+.

ii) Ka8 2.Sc5 h1Q 3.b7+ Qxb7 4.Sxb7 Kxb7 5.Bd4 Be6 6.Bb6 Bh3 7.Kc5 Bf5 8.Kd6 Bc8 9.Ke7 Bh3 10.Kd8 and 11.Ba5.

“A model mate with active self-blocks. All pieces play. The wK has to choose the right square on the first move, but it is not a real

**No 17792 V. Kalyagin**  
commendation



h4h1 3535.13 6/8 Draw

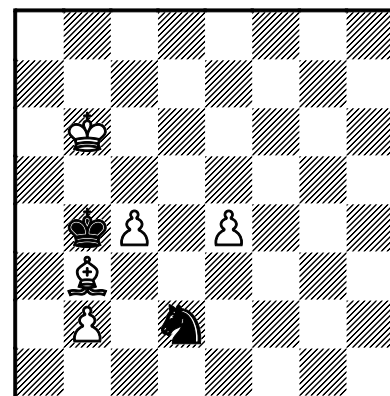
**No 17792** Viktor Kalyagin (Russia). 1.Kg3 Re1 2.Rxe1 exf2 3.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 4.Kxf2 Bc5+ 5.Kf1/i f2 6.Sh3 fxe1Q+ 7.Kxe1 Kh2/ii 8.Sf2 Bb4+ 9.Kf1 Bxa5 10.Sg4+ Sxg4 ideal stalemate.

i) 5.Kg3? f2 6.Sf3+ fxe1Q+ 7.Sxe1 d2.

ii) Bb4+ 8.Kf1 Bxa5 9.Sf2+ Kh2 10.Sg4+ Sxg4 stalemate.

“Unfortunately, neither White not Black have any choices during play”.

**No 17793 A. Pallier**  
commendation



b6b4 0013.30 5/2 Win

**No 17793** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Bc2 Kxc4 2.b3+ Kd4 3.b4 Sc4+ 4.Kc6 Se5+ 5.Kb5 Sc4 6.Ka4 Sb6+ 7.Ka3/i Sc4+ 8.Kb3 zz Sb6 9.Bb1 Sc4 10.Ka4 wins/ii.

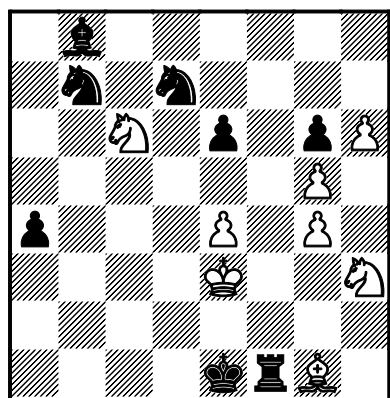
i) 7.Kb3? Sc4 zz 8.Bb1 Sd2+ draws.

ii) Sb6+ 11.Ka5 (Kb5) Sc4+ 12.Ka6 Sa3 13.b5, or Sd6+ 11.Ka5 or 11.Bc2.

# Mat Plus 2009

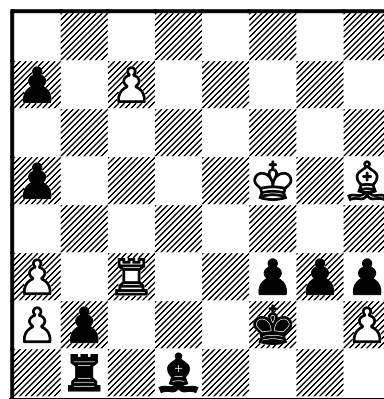
Judge Mirko Miljanic (Serbia) judged 35 studies by 20 composers. He considered the overall level as very satisfactory. The award was published in *Mat Plus Review* no.13-14 (summer 2010).

**No 17794 D. Hlebec**  
1st prize



e3e1 0348.43 8/8 Draw

**No 17795 R. Becker**  
2nd prize



f5f2 0440.35 7/9 Win

**No 17794** Darko Hlebec (Serbia). 1.Bf2+ Rxf2 2.Sxf2 Bf4+ (Sd6; Sxb8) 3.Kxf4 Kxf2 4.h7 Sd8 5.Se5/i Sxe5 6.Kxe5 (h8Q Sd3 mate;) a3 7.Kf6 a2 8.e5/ii a1Q (a1B; h8S) 9.h8Q Qxe5+ 10.Kxg6 Qxh8/iii stalemate.

i) 5.Sxd8? e5 mate, or 5.h8Q? e5+ 6.Qxe5 (Sxe5 Se6 mate;) Sxe5 7.Sxe5 Se6 mate.

ii) 8.h8Q? a1B+ 9.e5 Bxe5+ 10.Kxe5 Sf7+ wins.

iii) Qe4+ 11.Kg7 Sc6 12.Qh2+ Ke3 13.Qg3+ Kd4 14.g6 Kd5 15.Qf2 Qxg4 16.Kf6 e5 17.Qd2+ Kc5 18.g7 Qh4+ 19.Kg6 Qg3+, or Qd5 11.Qf6+ Kg3 12.Kh7 Qd7+ 13.Qg7 Qd6 14.Qc3+ Kxg4 15.g6 Qh2+ 16.Kg7 Qf4 17.Qc5 e5 18.Qc8+ Kg3 19.Qxd8 e4 20.Kh7 e3 21.Qe7, or Qd6 11.Kh7 Qh2+ 12.Kg8 Qxh8+ 13.Kxh8, or Qa5 11.Qh2+ Kf3 12.Kf6 Kxg4 13.Qe2+ Kf4 14.Qc4+ Kf3 15.Qd3+ Kf2 16.Qd4+ Ke2 17.Qe5+ draw.

“A dynamic and sharp battle gradually builds intensity with a sacrifice of the bS (4...Sd8!) and a counter-sacrifice of its white counterpart (5.Se5!) and gains in aesthetical quality, culminating in paradoxical and humorous minor promotions which cannot be realized: 8.e5!! but not 8.h8Q? a1B+! and 8...a1Q! but not 8...a1B? 9.h8S!! This allows White to carry out his stalemate intention”.

**No 17795** Richard Becker (USA). 1.c8Q Kg1/i 2.Qc5+/ii Kxh2/iii 3.Bxf3 Bxf3 4.Rxf3 Rc1 (Rg1; Qc2+) 5.Rf2+ g2/iv 6.Qe5+ Kh1 7.Rxb2 (Qxb2+? Rf1;) Rf1+/v 8.Kg4/vi g1Q+ 9.Kxh3 Rf3+ 10.Kh4 a4/vii 11.Rd2/viii a6/ix 12.Rb2 a5/x 13.Re2 zz Rf2 14.Qe4+ (Qd5+ Rg2;) Kh2 (Rg2; Re1) 15.Qf3/xi Rxe2 16.Qh3 mate.

i) Ra1 2.Rxf3+ Bxf3 3.Qc5+ Kf1 4.Qc4+ Kg1 5.Qd4+ Kh1 6.Bxf3+ g2 7.Qxb2 Rf1 8.Qe2 (Qc3) Rxf3+ 9.Qxf3 Kxh2 10.Qe2 Kh1 11.Kg4 g1Q+ 12.Kxh3 wins.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Bxf3? Bxf3 3.Rxf3 g2/xii 4.Rb3/xiii Kh1/xiv 5.Qb7 a4 6.Rb5 a6/xv 7.Rb4/xvi a5 8.Rb5 Kxh2/xvii 9.Rxb2 Rxb2 10.Qxb2 Kh1 11.Qb7 Kh2 12.Qc7+ Kh1 13.Qc6 Kh2 14.Qc2 Kh1 15.Qe4 Kh2 16.Qe2 Kh1 17.Kg4 g1Q+ 18.Kxh3 Qe3+ 19.Qxe3 stalemate.

iii) Kh1 3.hxg3 Ra1 4.Rb3 wins.

iv) gxf2 6.Qxf2+ Kh1 7.Qxb2

v) g1Q 8.Qe4+/xviii Qg2 9.Rxg2 hxg2 10.Qh4+ Kg1 11.Qd4+ Kh1 12.Qh8+ Kg1 13.Kg4 wins.

vi) 8.Ke6? g1Q 9.Qe4+ Qg2 10.Rxg2 hxg2 draws.

vii) Rf2 11.Qe4+ Rg2 12.Rb1 wins, but not 11.Qd5+? Rg2 12.Rb3 Qf1 13.Kh3 Kg1

14.Qd4+ Rf2+ 15.Kg3 Qg2+ 16.Kh4 Qf1  
17.Rb2 Kg2 18.Qg7+ Kh1 19.Qb7+ Kh2  
draws.

viii) This move works now that moves of the black a-pawns are exhausted. Thematic try: 11.Rc2? Rf2 12.Qe4+ Rg2 13.Rc3 Qf1 14.Kh3 Kg1 15.Qd4+ Kh1 16.Qd5 Kg1 draws. Thematic try: 11.Re2? a5 12.Rb2/xix Rh3+ 13.Kxh3 Qe3+ 14.Qxe3 stalemate.

ix) Rf2 12.Qd5+ Rg2 13.Rd1 wins, but not 12.Qe4+? Rg2 13.Rd3 Qf1 14.Kh3 Kg1 15.Qd4+ Rf2+ 16.Kg3 Kh1 17.Qh4+ Kg1 18.Qd4 Kh1 draws.

x) Rf2 13.Qe4+ (Qd5+? Rg2;) Rg2 14.Rb1 wins.

xi) 15.Qf4+? Kh1 16.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 17.Qxf2 stalemate.

xii) But not: Rc1? 4.Rxg3+ Kxh2 5.Rxh3+ Kxh3 6.Qh8+ wins.

xiii) 4.Qc5+ Kh1 5.Qd5 Rc1 6.Rb3 b1Q+ 7.Rxb1 Rxb1 draws.

xiv) Not a4? 5.Rxb2 Rxb2 6.Qc1+ Kxh2 7.Qxb2 Kh1 8.Qb7 Kh2 9.Qc7+ Kh1 10.Qc6 Kh2 11.Qc2 Kh1 12.Qe4 Kh2 13.Qe2 Kh1 14.Kg4 g1Q+ 15.Kxh3, or Rc1? 5.Qb7 b1Q+ 6.Rxb1 Rxb1 7.Qxb1+ Kxh2 8.Qc2 etc.

xv) Kxh2? 7.Rxb2 Rxb2 8.Qxb2.

xvi) 7.Rb6 Rf1+ 8.Kg4 Rf7 9.Qe4 Re7 10.Qf3 Rf7 draws.

xvii) Not Rf1+? 9.Kg4 Rf7 10.Qa8 Rf8 11.Qe4 Re8 12.Qxe8 g1Q+ 13.Kxh3 Qxh2+ 14.Kg4 wins, e.g. Qg1+ 15.Kh4 Qf2+ 16.Kg5 Qg2+ 17.Kf6 Qf3+ 18.Kg7 Qg3+ 19.Kf8 Qd6+ 20.Qe7 Qh6+ 21.Qg7 Qd6+ 22.Kg8 Qe6+ 23.Kh7 (Qf7).

xviii) Not 8.Qd5+? Qg2 9.Rxg2 hxg2 draws.

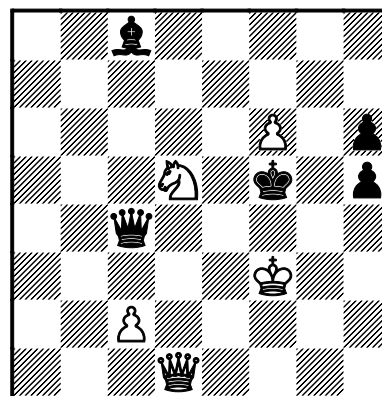
xix) 12.Re1? Rf4+ 13.Kh3 Rf3+ 14.Kh4 Rf4+ 15.Kh5 Rf5+ draws.

“A foundation of this endgame is the interesting mutual zugzwang which arises after 8.Kh4 (not counting the pawns on the a-file). On top of it a logical construction is built which utilizes all the potential of the basic idea and expresses it through a thematic try and solution. The conception and content is as

impressive as in the first prize which, however, just prevailed from the aesthetic point of view”.

The study in the provisional award proved unsound and was corrected (publication in *Mat Plus* no. 37-38, vii2010).

**No 17796 B. Ilincic**  
3rd prize



f3f5 4031.22 5/5 Win

**No 17796** Borislav Ilincic (Serbia). 1.f7/i Qg4+/ii 2.Kf2 Qh4+/iii 3.Kg2 Qg5+ 4.Kf1 (Kh3? Kg6+;) Ba6+ 5.Kf2 Qh4+ 6.Kg2 Qg5+ 7.Kh3 wins.

i) 1.Se3+? Kg6 2.Qg1+ Bg4+.

ii) Qc5 2.Qd3+ Ke6 3.Qg6+ Kxd5 (Kd7; Qd5+) 4.Qe4+, or Kg6 2.f8Q Bg4+ 3.Kf2 Bxd1 4.Qg8+ Kf5 5.Se3+, or Ke6 2.f8Q Qg4+ 3.Kf2 Qxd1 4.Qe7+ wins.

iii) Qxd1 3.f8Q+, and Ke4 4.Sc3+, Ke5 4.Qf6+, or Ke6 4.Qe7+.

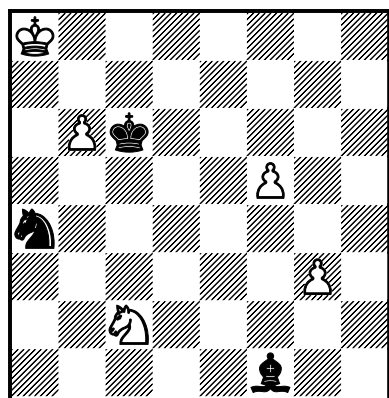
“Already at first glance this endgame attracts the solver’s attention. White has a tempting try to win the queen with 1.Se3+?, but it fails to 1...Kg6! On the other hand, there is the obvious black threat to win a queen with Qg4+. However, both of the above are illusions which extend to the very end and both queens remain on the board, while the main role is usurped by the wK which uses a logical manoeuvre to un-ambush the dangerous bB. After that the black army has to surrender despite none of its soldiers being lost. The excellent harmony between form and content is slightly disrupted by a superfluous black pawn on h6”.

The 4th prize by M. Croitor (Moldova) was cooked by MG: e3a4 0401.13 h2g4g1.f4d5e6 f5 e3a4 0401.13 4/5 Win: 1.Sf3 d4+ 2.Sxd4 e5 3.fxe5 Re4+ 4.Kd3 Rxe5 5.Kc4 Re3 6.Rh6 Re5i 7.Ra6+ Ra5 8.Rb6 Ra8 9.Rb4+ Ka3 10.Sb5+ Ka2 11.Sc3+, and Ka1 12.Rb1 mate, or Ka3 12.Rb3 mate..

However: 9.Sc6 Ka3 10.Kc3 Ka2 11.Rb2+ Ka3 12.Rb3+ Ka4 13.Kb2 and wins.

**No 17797** S. Hornecker & J. Mikitovics

5th prize



a8c6 0034.30 5/3 Win

**No 17797** Siegfried Hornecker (Germany) & János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.b7 Sb6+ 2.Ka7 Sd7 3.f6/i, and:

– Kd6 4.Se3 Bd3 5.Sd5 Kxd5 (Be4) 6.f6 wins, or:

– Bc4 4.Se3/ii Bf7 5.g4/iii, and:

- Kc7 6.g5 Sb8 7.Sg2/iv Sc6+ 8.Ka8 (Ka6? Bc4+;) Bd5 9.Sf4 Be4 (Bc4; g6) 10.Se6+ Kd6 11.f7/v wins, or:

- Kd6 6.g5 Ke5 7.Sg4+ Kf4 (Ke6; Sh6) 8.g6/vi Bxg6 9.f7 Bxf7 10.Sf6 wins.

i) Try: 3.Se3? Ba6 4.Kxa6 Sc5+. 3.Sd4+? Kd6 4.Se6 Bg2 (Be2?; Sf8) draw.

ii) 4.g4? Kd6 draws, but not Bf7? 5.Se3 Kd6 6.g5 = main line.

iii) 5.Sf5? Kd5 6.Se7+ Ke6, or 5.Sd1? Kc5 6.Sc3 Kd4 draw.

iv) 7.Sd1? Bd5 8.Sc3 Bxb7 9.Sb5+ Kc8, and 10.Sd6+ Kc7 11.Se8+ Kc8 12.Sd6+ Kc7 13.Sb5+ Kc8 draws, or here: 10.f7 Sd7 11.g6 Bd5 12.Sd6+ Kc7 13.g7 Bxf7 14.Sxf7 Sf6.

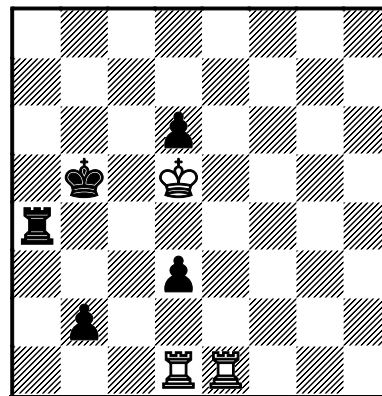
v) 11.Sc5? Bg6, and 12.Sa6 Be4, or Sa4 Bf7.

vi) 8.Sh6? Bd5 9.f7 Bxb7 10.g6 Bd5 draws.

“The peak of this study is the tempting try 3.Se3? which is defeated by the paradoxical 3...Ba6!!”.

**No 17798** R. Becker & I. Akobia

1st honourable mention



d5b5 0500.03 3/5 Win

**No 17798** Richard Becker (USA) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rd2/i Kb4 2.Rb1/ii, and:

– Kb3 3.Rdx2+/iii Kc3 4.Rb3+ Kc2 5.R1b2+ Kc1 6.Rh2 d2 7.Rc3 wins, or:

– Kc3 3.Rbxb2 zz Ra8/iv 4.Ke4/v d5+ 5.Kf3/vi Rf8+/vii 6.Kg2 Rg8+ 7.Kf1 Rf8+ 8.Ke1 Re8+ 9.Kd1 Rf8 10.Rf2 Rg8 11.Rg2 Rh8 12.Rh2 Rf8 13.Rbf2 Rg8 14.Rfg2 Rf8 15.Ke1 Re8+ 16.Kf1 Rf8+ 17.Kg1 Ra8 18.Rh3 Ra1+ 19.Kh2 wins.

i) 1.Rb1? (Rxd3? Ra1;) Rb4 2.Re3 Ka4 3.Rxd3 Rb3 4.Rd2 Ka3 5.Kc4 (Kxd6 Ka2;) Rb8 6.Rxd6 Ka2 draws.

ii) 2.Rxb2+? Kc3 3.Rh2 Rd4+ 4.Ke6 d2 draws.

iii) Thematic try: 3.Rbxb2+? Kc3 zz 4.Ke6 Ra1 draws.

iv) Ra1 4.Ke4 d5+ 5.Kf3 Rf1+ 6.Kg2 Rc1 7.Rf2 Rc2 8.Rb1, or Rd4+ 4.Ke6 Re4+ 5.Kf5 Re1 6.Kf4 win.

v) Thematic try: 4.Rh2? Rh8 5.Rhg2 Rg8 6.Rgf2 Rf8 7.Rfd2 Re8 8.Ra2 Re5+ 9.Kc6 Re1 10.Kd5 (Rh2 Rc1;) Re5+ 11.Kxd6 Re8 zz 12.Kd7 Re4 zz 13.Kd8 Re5 zz 14.Kd7 Re4 15.Kd6 Re8 16.Kd5 Re7 zz 17.Rh2 (Rd1 d2;) Rd7+ 18.Kc5 (Ke4 d2;) Kb3 19.Rab2+ Kc3 20.Ra2 Kb3 21.Rhb2+ Kc3 22.Rd2 Rd8 draws.

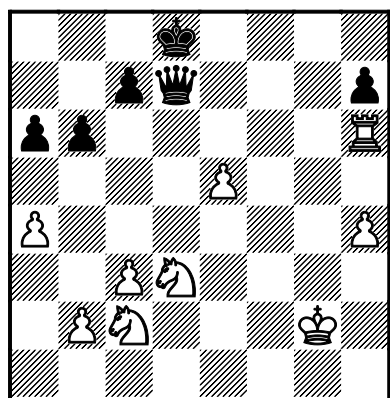
vi) Thematic try: 5.Kxd5? Re8 6.Ra2 Re7 zz and draws as in line v). 5.Ke3? d4+ 6.Kf3

Rf8+ 7.Kg2 Rg8+ 8.Kf1 Rf8+ 9.Ke1 Re8+ (Rh8) 10.Kd1 Rh8 11.Rh2 Rg8 12.Rbg2 Rf8 13.Ke1 Re8+ 14.Kf1 Rf8+ 15.Kg1 Ra8 16.Rh3 Ra1+ 17.Kh2 Re1.

vii) d4 6.Ra2 Rf8+ 7.Kg2 Rg8+ 8.Kf1 wins.

“Most of the contents have already been shown in endgames by the same authors, e.g. 2nd prize Gurgenedze 55 JT 2008 (EG #17098). Compared to that one a minimal addition of material introduces two variations starting with 2...Kb3 and 2...Ke3 with exchanged correct and incorrect continuations”.

**No 17799** M. Neghina  
2nd honourable mention



g2d8 3102.54 9/6 Win

**No 17799** Mihai Neghina (Rumania). 1.Sd4 (Kf3? Qxd3+); Qg7+ 2.Kh3 Qxh6 3.Sf4 Kd7 4.Sde6 Qxe6+/ii 5.Sxe6 Kxe6 6.Kg4 Kxe5 7.Kg5 wins/ii.

i) c5 5.Kg4 Kc6 6.b4 b5 7.a5 cxb4 8.cxb4 Kb7 9.h5 Kc6 10.Kf5 Kb7 11.Ke4 Ka7 12.Kd5 Kb7 13.Kd6 Kb8 14.Kc6 Ka7 15.Kc7, or a5 5.h5 c6 6.Kg4, or c6 5.h5 Kc8 6.Kg4 win.

ii) and an easy technical win: c5 8.Kh6 Kf6 9.Kxh7 Kf7 10.b4.

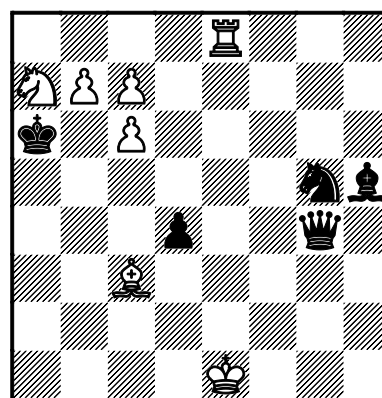
“Interesting domination of two white knights over the bQ, but a mass of pawns on the queen’s side does not quite fit with the content”.

**No 17800** Mirko Markovic (Serbia). 1.b8S+/i Kxa7 (Kb6; Sd7+) 2.Bxd4+ Qxd4/ii 3.c8S+/iii Kxb8/iv 4.Sd6+ Bxe8 (Kc7; Sb5+) 5.c7+ Kxc7 (Ka7; c8Q) 6.Sb5+ Bxb5 stalemate.

i) 1.b8Q? Qg1+ 2.Kd2 Qd1 mate, or 1.Bxd4? Qd1+ 2.Kf2 Qxd4+ wins.

ii) Ka8 3.Sd7+ Bxe8 4.c8Q mate.

**No 17800** M. Markovi  
3rd honourable mention



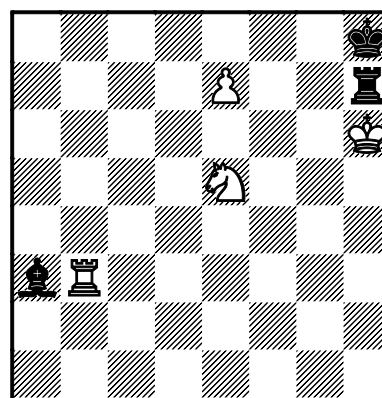
e1a6 3144.31 7/5 Draw

iii) 3.c8Q? Sf3+ 4.Ke2 Qd2+ 5.Kf1 Qd1+ 6.Kf2 Qg1+ 7.Ke2 Qe1+ 8.Kd3 Qd2+ 9.Kc4 Bf7+ 10.Kb5 Qb2+ 11.Ka4 Qb3+ 12.Ka5 Qa3+ 13.Kb5 Sd4 mate.

iv) Ka8 4.Sb6+ Qxb6 5.Sd7+ Bxe8 6.Sxb6+ draws.

“A stalemate combination with two minor promotions and good involvement of all pieces. However, the play is too forced”.

**No 17801** I. Akobia & V. Neidze  
4th honourable mention



h6h8 0431.10 4/3 Win

**No 17801** Iuri Akobia & Vazha Neidze (Georgia). 1.Kg6/i Rg7+ 2.Kf5 (Kf6? Bxe7+) Bxe7/ii 3.Sg6+/iii, and:

– Kg8 4.Rb8+ Bd8 5.Rxd8+ Kh7 (Kf7; Rf8 mate) 6.Rh8 mate, or:

– Kh7 4.Rh3+, and:

• Kg8 5.Rh8+ Kf7 6.Se5 mate, or:

• Bh4 5.Rxh4+ Kg8 6.Rh8+ Kf7 7.Rf8 mate.

i) 1.Kg5? Bxe7+/iv draws.

ii) Rxe7 3.Kf6/v Kg8 (Rxe5; Kxe5) 4.Rg3+ (Rxa3? Rb7;) wins.

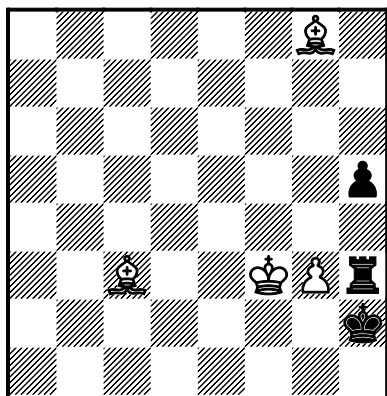
iii) 3.Rh3+? Kg8, or 3.Rb8+? Kh7 draw.

iv) But not Rxe7? 2.Kf6 (Rb8+? Kg7;), and: Kg8 3.Rg3+ (Rxa3? Rb7;), or here Rxe5 3.Kxe5 Bc5 4.Rb5 Ba3 5.Rb7 win.

v) Not 3.Sg6+? Kg7 4.Sxe7 Bxe7 draws.

“A charming miniature with two mating finales based on the selfblocks on g7 and e7 which occur during the play”.

**No 17802** L. Martin  
5th honourable mention



f3h2 0320.11 4/3 Win

**No 17802** Luis Miguel Martin (Spain).  
1.Be5/i h4/ii 2.Kg4 hxg3 (Rxc3+; Kxh4)  
3.Bg7 Kg2/iii 4.Bd5+ Kh2 5.Be4 zz wins.

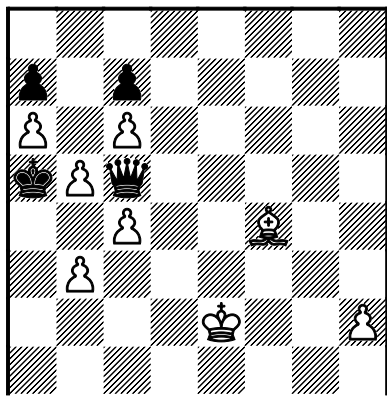
i) 1.Kf2? h4 2.Be5 hxg3+ draws.

ii) Kg1 2.Be6 Rh2 3.Bd4+ Kf1 4.Bb3 h4  
5.Bc4+ Ke1 6.gxh4, or Kh1 2.Bd5 Rh2 3.Bd4  
Rd2 (Rc2; g4) 4.Ke3+ Rg2 5.Bxc2+ wins.

iii) g2 4.Be5+ Kh1 5.Kxh3 g1Q (g1S+; Kg3)  
6.Bd5+ wins.

“Another miniature, this time with an unusual domination”.

**No 17803** S. Hornecker  
6th honourable mention



e2a5 3010.62 8/4 Win

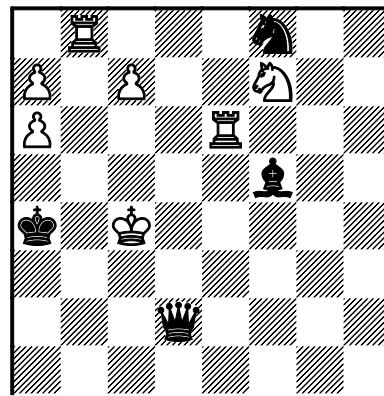
**No 17803** Siegfried Hornecker (Germany).  
1.Bd2+ Kb6 2.Be3 Ka5 3.b4+i Qxb4 4.Bd2  
Kb6 5.c5+/ii Qxc5 6.Be3 wins.

i) 3.Bxc5? stalemate.

ii) 5.Bxb4? stalemate.

“Stalemate avoidance occurs twice”.

**No 17804** L. Kekely & M. Hlinka  
1st commendation



c4a4 3234.30 7/4 Draw

**No 17804** Luboš Kekely & Michal Hlinka  
(Slovakia). 1.Rd6/i Be6+ 2.Kc5/ii Qc3+  
3.Kb6 Sd7+/iii 4.Rxd7/iv Qb4+ 5.Kc6 Qc4+  
6.Kb7/v Qb5+ 7.Ka8 Qc6+ 8.Rb7 Qxd7 9.Sd6  
Qxd6 10.c8Q Bxc8 11.Rb4+ Ka5/vi 12.Rb5+,  
and Kxb5 stalemate, or Kxa6 13.Rb6+ Kxb6  
(Qxb6) stalemate.

i) 1.c8Q? Bxe6+ 2.Qxe6 Sxe6 3.Rd8 Qc2+  
4.Kd5 Sxd8 5.a8Q Qg2+ wins.

ii) 2.Rxe6? Sxe6 3.Rd8 Qc2+ 4.Kd5 Sxc7+  
5.Kd6 Sb5+ 6.Ke6 Sxa7 wins.

iii) Qb4+ 4.Kc6 Qe4+ 5.Kb6 Sd7+ 6.Rxd7  
Qb4+ 7.Kc6 Qc4+.

iv) 4.Kb7? Qf3+ 5.Rc6 Sc5+ 6.Ka8 Qxc6+  
7.Rb7 Sxa6 8.Sd8 Sxc7+ 9.Kb8 Sa6+ wins.

v) 6.Kd6? Qd5+ 7.Ke7 Qxd7+ 8.Kf6 Qxf7+  
9.Ke5 Qxc7+ 10.Kxe6 Qxa7 wins.

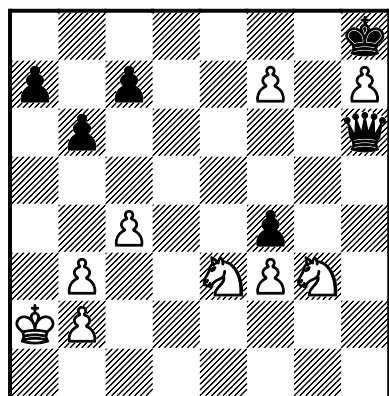
vi) Qxb4 stalemate, or Ka3 12.Rb3+ (Ra4+).

“A stalemate combination with good usage  
of the material, but with forced play”.

**No 17805** Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia).  
1.Sg4 Qg7/i 2.Se4 Qxf7/ii 3.Sg5 Qf5/iii 4.Se5  
Kg7 5.Ka1/iv c6 6.Ka2 Qxg5/v 7.h8Q+ Kxh8  
8.Sf7+ Kg7 9.Sxg5 wins.

i) Qf8 2.Se5 Kxh7 3.Sh5, or Qd6 2.Se4 Qb4  
3.Se5 Kxh7 4.Sd7 win.

**No 17805** Z. Mihajloski  
2nd commendation

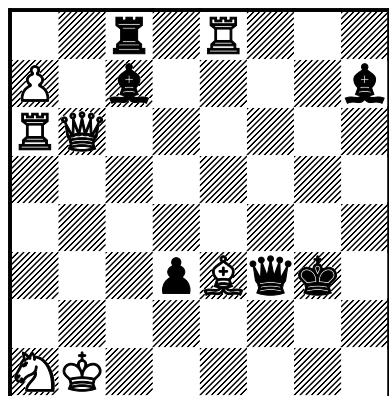


a2h8 3002.64 9/6 Win

- ii) Kxh7 3.Se5 Kh6 4.Sf6 Kg5 5.Sfd7 wins.
- iii) Qg6 4.Se5 wins, but not 4.Sh6? Qxh6 5.Sf7+ Kxh7 6.Sxh6 Kxh6 and Black wins.
- iv) 5.Sef7? Qa5+, or 5.Ka3? Qb1, or 5.b4? Qc2 6.Ka3 c5, or 5.c5? Qc8 6.Sef7 Qa6+ draw.
- v) Kf6 7.h8Q+ Kxg5 8.Qg7+ wins.

“The same comment as for the 2nd HM can be repeated here”.

**No 17806** J. Mikitovics, G Josten & I. Akobia  
3rd commendation



b1g3 4571.11 7/6 Win

**No 17806** János Mikitovics (Hungary), Gerhard Josten (Germany) & Iuri Akobia (Georgia). 1.Rg8+/i Bxg8 (Rxg8; Qxc7+) 2.Qg6+/ii Kh3 3.Qxd3/iii Qb7+ 4.Kc1/iv Bf4+/v 5.Sc2 Rxc2+/vi 6.Kxc2 Bh7 7.Rg6 (a8Q? Bxd3+;) Bxg6 8.Qxg6 Bb8 (Bxe3; Qe6+) 9.Qe6+ (Qf5+? Kg3;) Kh2 10.Bg1+ Kh1 (Kxg1; Qg8+) 11.Qe1, and:

- Kg2 12.Qf2+ Kh1 13.Qf1 wins, or:
- Bxa7 12.Bf2+ Kg2 13.Qg1+ Kf3 14.Qh1+ wins.

i) 1.Qh6? d2+ (Qb7+?; Ka2) 2.Rg6+ Qg4 (Bxg6+; Qxg6) 3.Qxh7 d1Q+, or 1.Bf4+? Bxf4, or 1.a8Q? Bxb6 2.Qxc8 d2+ draw.

ii) 2.a8Q? Bxb6 3.Qxc8 Qxe3 4.Qxg8+ Kf2 5.Ra2+ d2 draws.

iii) 3.Qh6+? Kg2 4.Qg7+ (Rg6+) Bg3 draws.

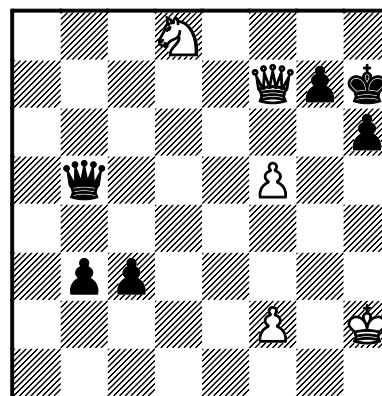
iv) 4.Bb6+? Bg3 5.Qf5+ Kh2, or 4.Rb6? Bxb6, or 4.Sb3? Qxb3+ draw.

v) Bg3+ 5.Sc2 Qh1+ 6.Kb2 wins.

vi) Qh1+ 6.Kb2, or Bh7 6.Qf1+ wins, but not: 6.a8Q? Rxc2+, and 7.Kd1 Qb1+ 8.Bc1+ Bxd3 9.Qf3+ Kh2 (Bg3?; Rh6 mate), or 7.Kxc2 Bxd3+, or 7.Qxc2 Bxe3+ draw.

“Interesting introductory play transforms to an equally interesting ending, but the impression is that there is no strong connection between these two stages”.

**No 17807** B. Ilincic  
4th commendation



h2h7 4001.24 5/6 Win

**No 17807** Borislav Ilincic (Serbia). 1.Se6/i Qe5+/ii 2.Kh3 Qf6/iii 3.Sf8+ Kh8 4.Sg6+ Kh7 5.Qd7 c2/iv 6.Qc8 Qxf5+ 7.Qxf5 c1Q 8.Se7+ wins.

i) 1.Qg6+? Kg8 2.Se6 Qd7 3.f6 c2 and Black wins.

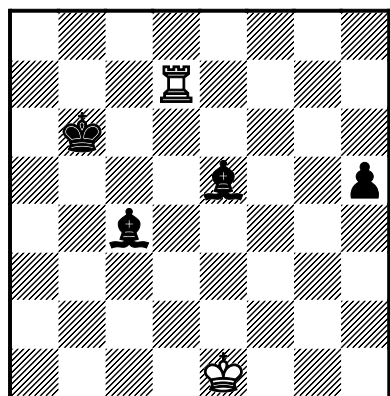
ii) Qb8+ 2.f4 Qg8 3.Qg6+ Kh8 4.f6 gxf6 5.Qxf6+ Kh7 6.Sf8+ Qxf8 7.Qxf8 wins.

iii) c2 3.Sf8+ Kh8 4.Sg6+ Kh7 5.Qf8 Qc3+ 6.Kg2 Qc6+ 7.f3 wins.

iv) Qg5 6.Qc8 Qh5+ 7.Kg3 Qg5+ 8.Kf3 Qh5+ 9.Kf4, or Qa6 6.Kg3 Qa8 (Qf1; Qc8) 7.f6 Qg8 8.f7 wins.

“Sharp and accurate play with excellent quiet moves, but without real finesse”.

**No 17808** J. Loustau  
5th commendation



e1b6 0160.01 2/4 Draw

**No 17808** Jean-Marc Loustau (France).  
1.Kf2/i Bb3/ii 2.Re7 Bd6 3.Re1, and:

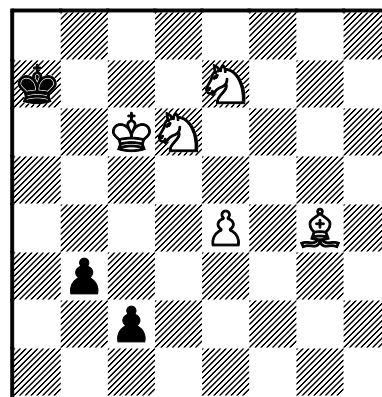
– Ba4 4.Rb1+/iii Kc7 5.Rh1/iv Be8 6.Ra1 Kd7 7.Ra8 Bg6 8.Rh8 Be5 9.Rh6 draws, or  
– Kc7 4.Kg2 Kd7 5.Kh3 Be7 6.Re3/v Bc2 7.Re5 Bg6 8.Ra5 Ke8 9.Kg3 Kf8 10.Kf4 Kf7 11.Rb5 Bd6+ 12.Kg5 Be7+ 13.Kf4 Kg7 14.Rb7 Kf8 15.Rb8+ Kf7 16.Rb5 positional draw, or Bd8 17.Rd5 Bc7+ 18.Kg5 draws.

- i) 1.Rh7? Bg3+ 2.Kd2 h4 3.Ke3 Bd5 wins.
- ii) Be6 2.Re7 Bd4+ 3.Kg3 Bg4 4.Re4 wins.
- iii) Thematic try: 4.Rh1? Be8 5.Ra1/vi Bd7 6.Rh1 Bg4 wins. 4.Kg2? Bd7, or 4.Ra1? Bd7 win
- iv) Thematic try: 5.Ra1? Bb3 6.Rh1 Bf7 7.Ra1 Be6 8.Rh1 Bg4 wins.
- v) Thematic try: 6.Re5? Bf7 7.Kg2 Bd6 8.Re3 Bg6 9.Kh3 Be7 10.Re5 Ke8 11.Rb5 Kf8 12.Kg3 Be8 13.Rb8 Bd6+ wins. 6.Kg3? Ke8 7.Rh1 Bf7 8.Re1 (Kf4 Kf8;) Bg6 9.Re5 Kf8 10.Rb5 Be8 wins.
- vi) 5.Rb1+ Kc6 wins, but not Kc5? 6.Rg1, and Kd5 7.Rg8 Bf7 8.Rg7 Be8 9.Rg8 Ba4 10.Rg5+ Ke4 11.Rxh5, or here: Kd4 7.Rd1+ Kc5 8.Rg1 Kd4 9.Rd1+ Ke5 10.Re1+ Kf4 11.Rxe8 draw.

“White’s precise play, based on the wrong-cornered bB, is probably important for end-

game theory thanks to the genuine ‘endgame move’ 4.Rb1!, while the phenomenon that the wR visits all four corners looks fairly incidental”.

**No 17809** J. Mikitovics  
6th commendation



c6a7 0012.12 5/3 Win

**No 17809** János Mikitovics (Hungary).  
1.Kc7, and:

- b2 2.Sdc8+ (Sc6+? Ka8;) Ka6/i 3.Sc6/ii Kb5/iii 4.Sb6/iv c1S/v 5.Sa4/vi Kxa4 (b1Q; Sc3+) 6.Bd1+ and 7.Bc2 wins, or:
- c1Q+ 2.Sc6+ Ka8 3.Bc8 Qxc6+ 4.Kxc6 b2 5.Kc7 b1Q 6.Bb7+ Ka7 7.Sc8 mate.
  - i) Ka8 3.Sb6+ (Bd7? c1Q+;) Ka7 4.Sc6+ Ka6 5.Be2 mate.
  - ii) 3.Be2+? Ka5 4.Sc6+ Ka4 draws.
  - iii) b1Q 4.Be2+ Qb5 5.Bxb5+ Kxb5 6.Sd4+ wins.
  - iv) 4.Be2+? Ka4 draws, but not Kc5? 5.Sb6 b1Q 6.Sa4 mate.
  - v) c1Q 5.Be2+ Kc5 6.Sa4 mate.
  - vi) 5.Sa7+? Kb4 6.Sd5+ Kc4 7.Sb5 Kxb5 (b1Q?; Sa3+). 5.Sd4+? Kb4 6.Sc2+ Kb3 (Kc3?; Sa3) 7.Sa3 Kxa3 8.Sc4+ Kb3. 5.Sd5? Kc4 6.Sb6+ Kb5 7.Sa4 loss of time. 5.Bd7? b1Q draws.

“A harmonious and lovely coordination of white pieces in building mating threats and preventing black pawns’ promotions”.

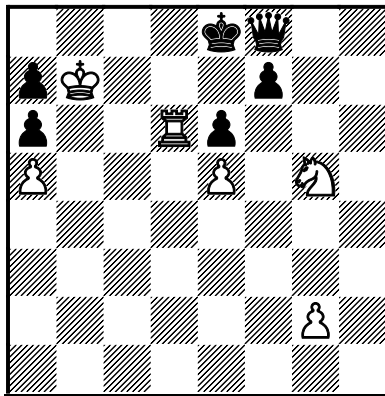


# Schach 2008-2009

20 composers from 12 countries participated with 32 studies in this informal tourney. Judge Martin Minski remarks that for him a good artistic study should have a light, game-like setting and, in addition to forced play, also subtle moves. He prefers a surprising and pointed series of moves from each side, and is not enthusiastic about analytical lines.

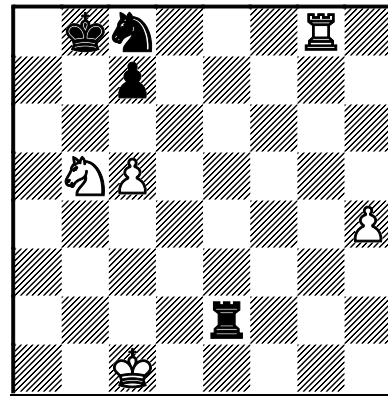
The provisional award appeared in *Schach* ix2010. Translation from German to English by HH.

**No 17810 G. Amann**  
1st prize



b7e8 3101.34 6/6 Win

**No 17811 Y. Afek**  
2nd prize



c1b8 0404.21 5/4 Win

**No 17810** Günter Amann (Austria). 1.Sh7 Qe7+/i 2.Kc8 f6 3.Sg5/ii fxc5 4.g4 zz Kf8 5.Rd8+ Kg7 6.Rd7 wins.

i) Qh6 2.Sf6+ Kf8 3.Rd8+, and Kg7 4.Rg8 mate, or Ke7 4.Re8 mate.

ii) 3.Sxf6+? Kf8 4.Rd8+ Kg7 5.Rd7 Kh8 6.Rxe7 stalemate.

“When I saw 3.Sg5!! for the first time I could not trust my eyes. Similarly, also my friends at my chess club, looking at it, could simply not believe this move. But there is no cheating here: Black with 2...f6! sets up a hidden stalemate trap that becomes clear only a couple of moves later. Instead, White has to sacrifice its wS at g5 to quietly get Black in zugzwang by 4.g4! In close connection the 1...Qh6 line ends in a classical mate final with selfblock. Günter Amann knows how to build firework effects into completely innocent looking game-like positions. This piece is the very best advertisement for endgame study composition”.

**No 17811** Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Sd6/i cxd6 2.cxd6 Re1+ 3.Kc2 (Kd2

Re6;) Re2+ 4.Kc3 Re3+ 5.Kc4 Re4+ 6.Kc5/ii Re5+ 7.Kc6 Re6 8.Rd8 Rf6/iii 9.Kc5/iv Rf5+ 10.Kd4/v Kb7 11.d7 Se7 12.Rb8+ wins.

i) 1.Sd4? Re4 2.Sc6+ Kb7 3.Sd8+ Ka6 4.h5 Kb5 5.c6 Se7 6.Re8 Rc4+ 7.Kd2 Sxc6.

ii) 6.Kd5? Re1 7.h5 Rd1+ 8.Kc5 Re1+ 9.Kd4 Rd1+ 10.Ke5 Re1+ 11.Kf6 Rd1 12.Rd8 Kb7.

iii) Rh6 9.h5 zz wins.

iv) 9.h5? Rh6 zz, or 9.Kd5? Kb7 10.Ke5/vi Rh6 11.d7 Sd6 12.Rf8 (Rb8+; Kc6) Sf7+ 13.Rxf7 Kc7 draw.

v) 10.Kb4? Kb7 11.d7 Se7/vii 12.Rb8+ Ka7 (Ka6?; Rb6+) 13.Ka4 (Ra8+ Kb7;) Rf4+ 14.Kb3 Sc6 15.Rc8 Rxh4 draws.

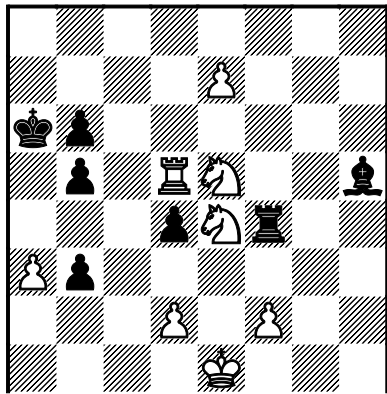
vi) 10.d7 Sb6+ 11.Ke5 Rf8.

vii) But not Sa7? 12.Rb8+ Ka6 13.Rb6+.

“1.Sd6!! is for me the best key move of the tourney – it is hard to believe that White can win only this way. The prominent composer borrowed this sacrificial motif from the 5th World Championship game of Kramnik against Anand in 2008, in which the latter played the sacrifice move. Afek developed the

move into a tense duel with classical study elements like a king-rook manoeuvre as well as an original zugzwang position, that explains the quiet and surprising switch-back 9.Kc5!! As a bonus there is the typical clearance sacrifice 12.Rb8+! It goes to the heart of the judge!”.

**No 17812** M. Prusikhin  
3rd prize



e1a6 0432.44 8/7 Draw

**No 17812** Michael Prusikhin (Germany). 1.d3 Rxe4+ 2.Kd2 (dxe4? b2;)i Re1 3.Sf3 Bxf3 4.Kxe1 b2 5.Rxb5 Kxb5 6.e8Q+ Ka5 7.Kd2 (Qe5+? Ka6;) b1Q 8.Qa4+ Kxa4 stalemate.

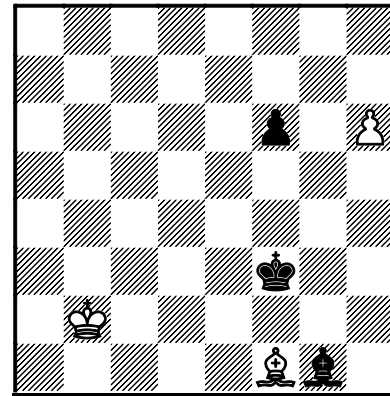
“An avalanche of sacrifices and counter sacrifices. The switchback 7.Kd2 makes a surprising mood swing and initiates an attractive stalemate finish”.

The 1st hon. mention by M. Prusikhin (Germany) was cooked by MG: h4c5 0130.22 g6e3.f3g4c3e5 h4c5 0130.22 4/4 Draw: 1.Rg8 Kc4 2.Rc8+ Bc5 3.Ra8 c2 4.Ra1 Be3 5.g5 Kd5 6.Kg4 Ke6 7.Ra6+ Kf7 8.Rf6+ Kg7 (Ke7) 9.Rc6 c1Q 10.Rxc1 Bxc1 11.Kf5 Bf4 12.g6 zz Bg3 13.Kg4 Bh2 14.Kg5 Bg1 15.Kf5 Bh2 16.Kg5 Bf4+ 17.Kf5 draws, with a thematic try: 8.Rc6? c1Q 9.Rxc1 Bxc1 10.Kf5 Bf4 11.g6+ Kg7 (Ke7) zz wins.

However 4.Ra4+ Kd5 5.Ra1 Be3 6.Kh5 c1Q 7.Rxc1 Bxc1 8.Kg6 Ke6 9.Kg7 Be3 10.Kg6. Also 5.Kh5 draws.

**No 17813** Gunter Sonntag (Germany). 1.Be2+, and:  
– Kxe2 2.Kc3 Bh2 3.Kd4 Be5+ 4.Ke4 Bb2 5.Kf5 wins, or:

**No 17813** G. Sonntag  
2nd honourable mention



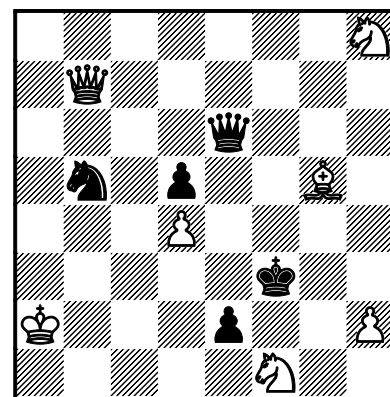
b2f3 0040.11 3/3 Win

– Ke4 2.Kc2, and:

- Bd4 3.Bd3+ Kf4 4.Bf5 Kxf5 5.h7 wins, or:
- f5 3.Bf3+ Kxf3 4.Kd3 Bh2 5.Kd4 Bf4 6.h7 Bc1 7.Kc3 wins.

“The battle for the long diagonal, which has been shown in earlier studies, is effectively staged with a new introduction. The fine key, the additional line 2...f5 3.Bf3+!, as well as optimal economy make the impression that this might be a ‘Letzform’”.

**No 17814** E. Eilazyan  
3rd honourable mention



a2f3 4015.22 7/5 Win

**No 17814** Eduard Eilazyan (Russia). 1.Sd2+ Kg4 2.h3+ Kxh3 3.Sg6 Qxg6 4.Qd7+, and:

– Kh2 5.Qxb5 Qc2+ 6.Ka3/i Qc3+ 7.Qb3 Qa1+ 8.Qa2 Qc3+ 9.Sb3 wins, or:

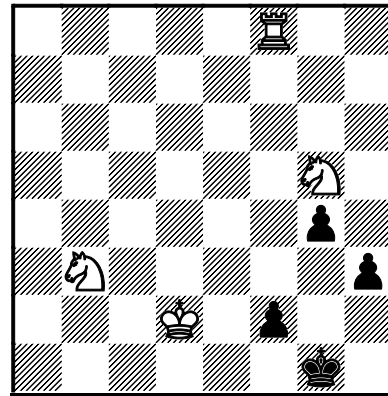
– Kg3 5.Qxb5 Qc2+ 6.Qb2/ii, and:

- Qa4+ 7.Qa3+ Qxa3+ 8.Kxa3 Kg4 9.Bh4/iii Kxh4 10.Sf3+ Kg3 11.Se1 Kf4 12.Kb4, and:

- Ke3 13.Kc3/iv zz Ke4 14.Sc2/v zz Kf3 15.Kd2 (Kd3) wins, or:
  - Ke4 13.Kc5/vi zz Ke3 14.Kxd5 wins, or:
  - Qxb2+ 7.Kxb2 Kg4 8.Sf3/vii Kxf3 9.Bd2/viii Ke4 10.Kc3 zz wins.
- i) Thematic try: 6.Qb2? Qa4+ (Qxb2+?; Kxb2) 7.Qa3 Qc2+ 8.Qb2 Qa4+ perpetual check.
- ii) Thematic try: 6.Ka3? e1Q (Qc3+?; Qb3) 7.Bh4+ Kxh4 8.Sf3+ Kg4 9.Sxe1 Qc3+ 10.Ka2 Qxd4 draws.
- iii) Thematic try: 9.Sf3? Kxf3 10.Bd2 Ke4 draws.
- iv) 13.Kc5? Ke4 zz 14.Sc2 Kd3 15.Se1+ Ke4 16.Sg2 Kf3 17.Se1+ Ke4 positional draw.
- v) 14.Sg2? Kf3 15.Se1+ Ke3 zz 16.Sc2+ Ke4 17.Kd2 e1Q+ 18.Kxe1 Kd3 19.Kd1 Kc3 20.Kc1 Kd3 21.Kb1 Kc3 22.Kc1 Kd3 positional draw.
- vi) Thematic try: 13.Kc3? Ke3 zz 14.Sc2+ Ke4 positional draw.
- vii) Thematic try: 8.Bh4? Kxh4 9.Sf3+ Kg3 10.Se1 Kf2/ix 11.Sd3+/x Ke3 12.Kc3 Ke4 13.Se1 Ke3 14.Sc2+ Ke4 positional draw.
- viii) 9.Bh4? Ke3 (Kf4)/xi 10.Kc3 Ke4 zz 11.Bg3 Kf3 12.Be1 Ke3 13.Bd2+ Ke4 zz 14.Be1 Ke3 15.Bh4 Ke4 16.Bf2 Kf3 17.Be1 Ke3 18.Bg3 Kf3 positional draw.
- ix) But not Kf4? 11.Sc2 Kf3 (Kf5) 12.Kb3 Kf4 13.Kb4 Ke4 14.Kc3 zz, or here Kf3 14.Kc5 Ke4 15.Se1 zz.
- x) 11.Sc2 e1Q 12.Sxe1 Kxe1 draws.
- xi) Ke4? 10.Kc3 zz.
- MG adds the curious try: 2.Bh4? Qe3 3.Qxb5 Qxd2+ 4.Qb2 Qxb2+ 5.Kxb2 Kxh4 6.Sg6+ Kg5 7.Se5 e1Q draws.

“Almost the whole white fighting force falls victim to the bPe2 which is eager to promote. Unfortunately, Black only has a minor influence on the playing flow. The well prepared intermediate check 4.Qd7+! forced the bK to a weaker square and postpones the rather crude capture of the wSb5. The main line 4...Kg3, that I consider more attractive than 4...Kh2, has in addition to 9.Bh4! the Réti-motif

**No 17815** V. Sizonenko  
Commendation



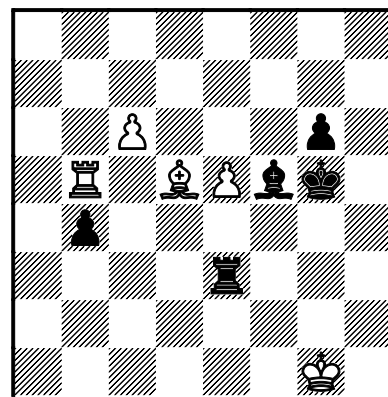
d2g1 0102.03 4/4 Win

**No 17815** Viktor Sizonenko (Russia). 1.Sxh3+/i gxh3 2.Ke2 h2 3.Sd2 h1Q 4.Rg8+ (Sf3+? Kg2;) Kh2 5.Sf1+ Kh3 6.Rh8+ Kg2 7.Se3+ Kg1 8.Rg8+ Kh2 9.Sg4+ Kg1 10.Se5+ Qg2 11.Sf3+ Kh1 12.Rh8+ wins.

i) 1.Ke2? h2 2.Sh3+ gxh3 3.Sd2 h1Q 4.Sf3+ Qxf3+ 5.Rxf3 h2 6.Rg3+ Kh1 7.Kxf2 stalemate.

“The fine cooperation of knight and rook, along with the functionally pure transfer of wSe3 to e5 to clog the long diagonal, compensate for the poor key move”.

**No 17816** M. Prusikhin  
Commendation



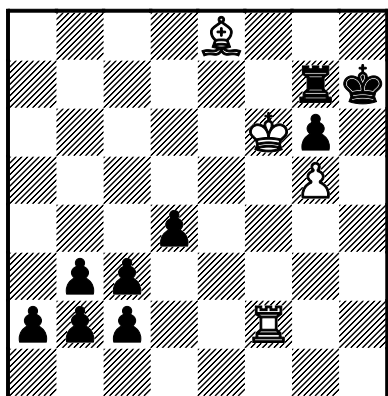
g1g5 0440.22 5/5 Win

**No 17816** Michael Prusikhin (Germany). 1.e6 Kf6 2.Rb8 Rc3 3.Rf8+ Ke7 4.Rf7+ Kd6 5.Rd7+ Kc5 6.e7 Re3 7.Be6 Rxe6 8.c7 Re1+ 9.Kf2 Bxd7 10.Kxe1 wins.

“The classic Novotny move 7.Be6 is elegantly and game-like”.

**No 17817** Emil Melnichenko (New Zealand). 1.Bf7 Kh8 2.Rh2+ Rh7 3.Re2 Rg7

**No 17817** E. Melnichenko  
Commendation

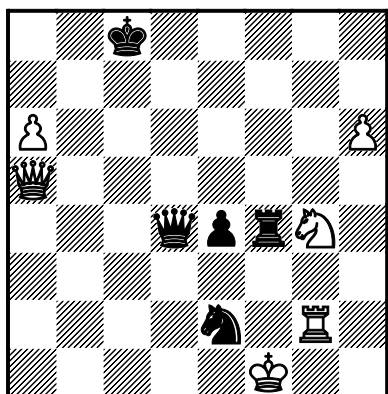


f6h7 0410.17 4/9 Win

4.Re8+ Kh7 5.Re4 Kh8 6.Rh4+ Rh7 7.Rxd4 Rg7 8.Rh4+ Rh7 9.Rc4 Rg7 10.Rc8+ Kh7 11.Rxc3 Kh8 12.Rc8+ Kh7 13.Rc4 Kh8 14.Rh4+ Rh7 15.Rb4 Rg7 16.Rb8+ Kh7 17.Rxb3 Kh8 18.Rh3+ Rh7 19.Rd3 (Re3) Rg7 20.Rd8+ Kh7 21.Rd2 Kh8 22.Rh2+ Rh7 23.Rxc2 Rg7 24.Bxa2 wins.

“The brave and original concept of the author is to successively remove the coal pile. One can ask whether this classical looking manoeuvre with the preoccupied bK has perhaps already been shown in moreover form. The minor dual 19.Re3 and the missing conclusion dim the overall impression considerably”.

**No 17818** J. Mikitovics  
Commendation



f1c8 4404.21 6/5 Draw

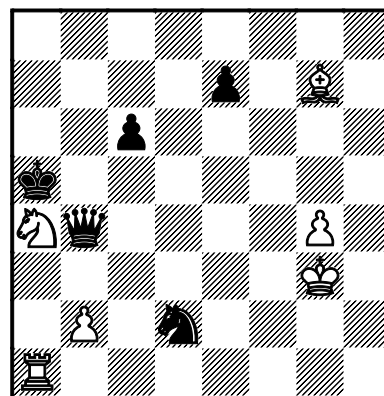
**No 17818** János Mikitovics (Hungary). 1.Sf2 Sg3+ 2.Kg1 Se2+ 3.Kf1 Sg3+/i 4.Kg1 e3 5.Sh3 e2+ 6.Kh2 Rf3/ii 7.Rxg3 Qd6 8.Sf4 Rxf4 9.Qc3+ Kd7 (Kd8; Qa5+) 10.Qg7+ Ke8 11.Qg8+ Rf8 12.a7 Qxh6+ 13.Rh3 Qd6+ 14.Rg3 Qh6+ 15.Rh3 draws.

i) Rxf2+ 4.Rxf2 Qd1+ 5.Qe1 Sg3+ 6.Kg2 Qxe1 7.a7 Kb7 8.Rf7+ Ka8 9.h7.

ii) Rh4 7.Rxe2 Sxe2 8.Qf5+ Kc7 9.Qf7+ Kb6 10.Qe6+, or Rf5 7.Qe1 Rf1 8.Qxg3 e1Q 9.Qg8+ Qd8 10.Qg4+ Qd7 11.Qg8+ Qd8 12.Qg4+.

“Attractive dynamic play by both sides, with the interesting winning attempt 7...Qd6!, that compels White to the effective decoy sacrifice 8.Sf4! It’s a pity the wK is in check in the initial position, which clearly devalues the key”.

**No 17819** G. Amann  
Commendation



g3a5 3114.22 6/5 Win

**No 17819** Günter Amann (Austria). 1.Bc3 Se4+ 2.Kf3 Sxc3 3.bxc3 Qb5 4.c4 Qg5 5.Sc5+ Kb6 6.Ra6+ Kxc5 7.Ra5+ Kxc4 8.Rxg5 wins.

“With almost perfect economy the amazingly mobile bQ is out-counteried in a classical way. One immediately thinks about Henri Rink’s feats. Unfortunately, already in the initial position the rook-knight battery is ready to fire”.

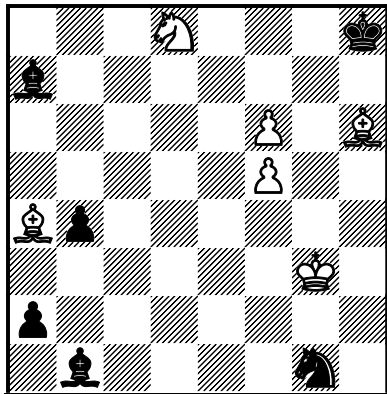


ii) cxd6 7.Ba5 wins.

iii) Kg8 8.Bf6 e1Q 9.Rh8 mate.

“A game-like position leads to some spectacular play in which all three pieces are sacrificed. The preliminary 3.f4! is a delightful finesse, clearing the way for the second f-pawn to advance later”.

**No 17822** O. Pervakov  
3rd prize



g3h8 0084.22 6/6 Draw

**No 17822** Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Bg7+/i Kh7/ii 2.Se6 (Sf7? Be3;) Se2+ 3.Kh4/iii Bf2+/iv 4.Kg4/v Bxf5+/vi 5.Kxf5 Sd4+ 6.Sxd4 a1Q 7.Bc2 Kg8/vii 8.Bb3+ Kh7 9.Bc2 b3/viii 10.Sxb3 Qa3/ix 11.Sa1/x Qg3 12.Ke6+ (Sb3? Qg6+;) Kg8 13.Bb3 Qc7/xi 14.Kf5+ (Sc2? Qf7+;) Kh7 15.Bc2 Qg3 16.Ke6+ Kg8 17.Bb3 positional draw.

i) 1.Se6? (Sf7+? Kh7;) Se2+ 2.Kh4 Sd4 3.Bg7+ Kg8 4.Sxd4 Bxd4 5.Bb3+ Kh7, or 1.Bb3? a1Q 2.Sf7+ Kh7 3.Sg5+ Kxh6 4.Sf7+ Kh7 5.Sg5+ Kh8 6.Sf7+ Kg8 7.Sg5+ Kf8 8.Sh7+ Ke8 9.f7+ Kd7 10.Be6+ Kc6 11.f8Q Qc3+ 12.Kg4 Qh3+ 13.Kg5 Qxh7 win.

ii) Kg8 2.Bb3+ Kh7 3.Se6.

iii) Thematic try: 3.Kg4? Bxf5+ 4.Kxf5 Sd4+ 5.Sxd4 a1Q 6.Bc2 b3 7.Sxb3 Qf1+ as the f-file is not blocked. 3.Kg2? Be4+ 4.Kh2 Bb8+ 5.Kh3 Bxf5+, or 3.Kf3? Sd4+, or 3.Kh2? Bb8+.

iv) Sd4 4.Sg5+ Kg8 5.Bb3+ Sxb3 6.Bh6 Bc5 7.f7+ Kh8 8.f6 a1Q 9.Bg7 mate.

v) 4.Kg5? Sd4 5.f7 Be3+, and 6.Kh4 Sxf5+ 7.Kg4 Sxg7 8.f8Q a1Q, or here: 6.Kh5 Sxe6 7.fxe6 Kxg7 8.e7 Bg6+ wins.

vi) Sd4 5.Sg5+ Kg8 6.Be8 Bxf5+ 7.Kh5 Be6 8.Bg6 a1Q 9.Bh7 mate.

vii) Qxd4 8.Kg5+ Kg8 9.Bb3+ Kh7 10.Bc2+ perpetual check.

viii) surprising counterplay!

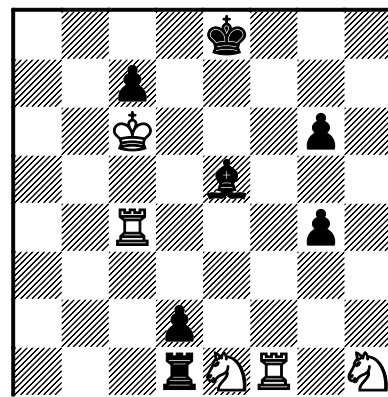
ix) The best move, attacking square d6. Qc3 11.Be4 (Sa1) Qg3 12.Sa5 Bc5 13.Sc6 Qe3 14.Sd8.

x) 11.Be4? (Sd4? Bxd4;) Qd6 12.Sc1 Bd4, and 13.Bb1 Bxf6 14.Bxf6 Qc5+, or here: 13.Sd3 Bc3 14.Kg4+ Kg8 15.Sf4 Bxf6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 win.

xi) Kh7 14.Bc2+ Kg8 15.Bb3.

“As one would expect from this composer, a professional and polished composition with a genuine thematic try to lure the bB to the f-file. The fact that the wS has to move from d8 to a1 is astonishing”.

**No 17823** F. Holzke  
4th prize



c6e8 0532.04 5/7 Draw

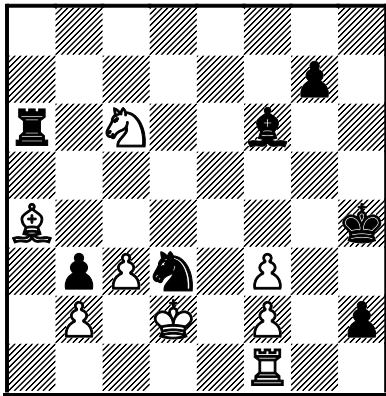
**No 17823** Frank Holzke (Germany). 1.Sf3 Rxf1 2.Sxd2 g3 3.Sxg3 Rf6+ 4.Kd5 Bxg3 5.Se4 Rf5+ 6.Ke6 Bh2 7.Sd6+ Bxd6 8.Rxc7 Bxc7 stalemate.

“An attractive study without distracting sidelines in which sharp play leads to a neat mid-board stalemate”.

**No 17824** Piotr Murdzia & Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Bb5/i Ra1/ii 2.Rxa1 Sc1 3.Rxc1 Bg5+ 4.f4 Bxf4+ 5.Ke2 Bxc1 6.Se5 h1Q 7.Bc6 Qh3 (Qh2; Sf3+) 8.Bd7 Qg2/iii 9.Bc6 Qh3 10.Bd7 Qh1 11.Bc6 draws.

i) 1.Rh1? Sxf2 2.Rxh2+ Kg3, or 1.Bxb3? Sf4 2.Rh1 Kh3 3.Sb4 Rd6+ 4.Ke3 g5 5.Ke4 Kg2 win.

**No 17824** P. Murdzia & A. Jasik  
1st honourable mention

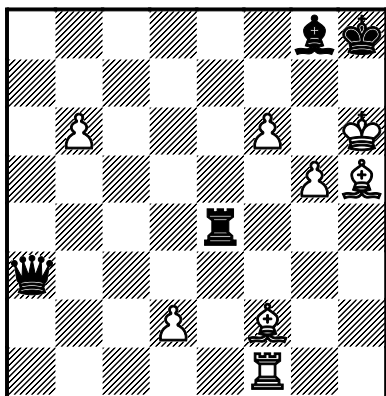


d2h4 0444.43 8/7 Draw

- ii) Rb6 2.Rh1 Sxf2 3.Rxh2+ Kg3 4.Rh5.
- iii) Bxb2 9.Sg6+ Kg5 10.Bxh3 draws.

“Active play by both sides leads to a positional draw by domination of the bQ”.

**No 17825** M. Kwiatkowski  
2nd honourable mention



h6h8 3450.40 8/4 Win

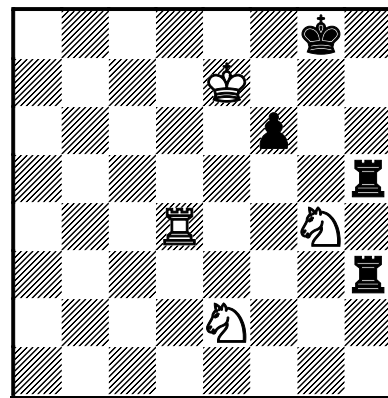
**No 17825** Marek Kwiatkowski (Poland).  
1.g6 Bf7/i 2.b7/ii Qd6/iii 3.g7+/iv Kg8  
4.Bxf7+ Kxf7 5.g8Q+ Kxg8 6.b8Q+ Qxb8  
7.f7+ Kxf7/v 8.Bg3+ Rf4 9.Rxf4+ Kg8  
10.Rg4+ Kh8 11.Rg8+/vi Qxg8 12.Be5+  
wins.

- i) Bd5 2.g7+ Kg8 3.f7+ wins.
- ii) 2.gxf7? Rg4 3.Bxg4 Qe3+ 4.Kg6 Qe4+  
5.Kg5 Qe5+ 6.Kh4 Qh2+ 7.Bh3 Qf4+ 8.Kh5  
Qf5+ 9.Bxf5 stalemate, or 2.Rg1? Bxg6  
3.Rxg6 Qd6 4.Bg3 Qf8+ 5.Kg5 Qc5+, or  
2.g7+? Kg8 3.b7 Re8 4.Re1 Qd6 5.Bxf7+  
Kxf7 6.Rxe8 Qxf6+ 7.Kh5 Qf5+.
- iii) Re8 3.gxf7 Rf8 4.Rg1 wins.
- iv) 3.Be3? Bxg6 4.Bxg6 (Kxg6 Re8;) Rh4+  
5.Kg5 Qg3+ 6.Kf5 Qd6.

- v) Kh8 8.Bd4+ Rxd4 9.f8Q+ Qxf8+ 10.Rxf8  
mate. Kf8 8.Bc5+ Re7 9.Bxe7+ Kxe7  
10.f8Q+ Qxf8+ 11.Rxf8 Kxf8 12.Kg6 wins.
- vi) 11.Bxb8? stalemate.

“This study features non-stop tactical mayhem from the first move to the final stalemate-avoiding rook sacrifice. The sequence in which White jettisons three pawns in a row to set up a R + B battery is entertaining, as is the reversal of this battery in the subsequent play. However, the play is extremely forcing and indeed all White’s move from the third onwards are checks”.

**No 17826** Y. Bazlov  
3rd honourable mention



e7g8 0702.01 4/4 Win

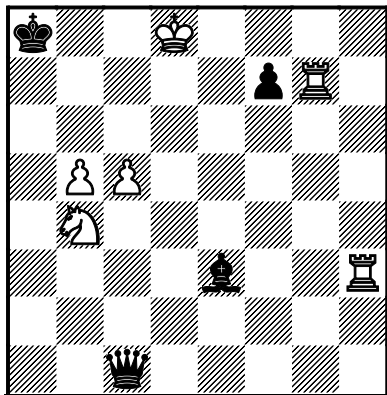
**No 17826** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Sf4/i  
Rh7+/ii 2.Ke6 R3h6 3.Sh5 Rxh5 4.Sxf6+,  
and:

- Kg7 5.Rg4+ Kh6/iii 6.Sg8 mate, or:
- Kf8 5.Rd8+ Kg7 6.Rg8+ Kh6 7.Sg4 mate.
- i) 1.Sxf6+? Kg7 2.Rg4+ Kh6 3.Sf4 Rg5  
4.Sg8+ Rxg8 5.Rxg8 Ra3 draws.
- ii) Kg7 2.Rd7 Rh6 3.Ke8+ Kh8 4.Sxh3  
Rxh3 5.Sxf6, or Rh6 2.Sxh3 Rxh3 3.Sxf6+  
Kg7 4.Rg4+ Kh6 5.Kf7, or Re5+ 2.Kxf6, or  
Re3+ 2.Sxe3 Re5+ 3.Se6 Rxe3 4.Rg4+ Kh7  
5.Kf7 Rh3 6.Rg6 win.
- iii) Kh8 (Kf8) 6.Rg8 mate.

“This score very highly on solver appeal, with a delightful sacrifice on move three paving the way for two echoed mates. It is notable that White’s first three moves are all non-checking and non-capturing. However, the resemblance to Gurgenzidze 1996 (HHdbIV #63799) which has similar material and the

same final mate (although without echo) let to the study being downgraded”.

**No 17827** A. Ornstein  
4th honourable mention



d8a8 3231.21 6/4 Win

**No 17827** Axel Ornstein (Sweden). 1.Rg8/i Bxc5/ii 2.Rc3/iii Qxc3/iv 3.Kc7+ Bf8+ 4.Sc6 Qc5 5.Rxf8+ Qxf8 6.b6 wins.

i) 1.Rh8? Bxc5 2.Kc7+ Bf8+ 3.Sc6 Qf4+ 4.Kb6 Qf2+ 5.Ka6 Qa2+ 6.Sa5 Qe6+. 1.c6? Qc5 2.Rh8 Qd6+ 3.Ke8 Bd4. 1.Sa6? Bxc5 2.Rhh7 Bd6 3.Rxf7 Qg5+ 4.Kd7 Qxb5+ 5.Kxd6 Qd5+ 6.Kxd5 stalemate. 1.Kd7? Bxc5.

ii) Qxc5 2.Rxe3/v Qxb4/vi 3.Kc7+ Ka7 4.Ra3+ Qxa3 5.b6+ Ka6 6.Ra8+ wins, or Kb7 2.c6+ Ka7 3.Sd5, and: Bb6+ 4.Kc8 Qc5 5.Re8 Qxd5 6.Re7+ Bc7 7.Kxc7 Qc5 8.Rhe3, or here: Qc5 4.Rxe3 Qxd5+ 5.Kc7.

iii) 2.Kc7+? Bf8+ 3.Sc6 Qf4+ 4.Kb6 Qf2+ 5.Ka6 Qa2+ 6.Sa5 Qe6+ perpetual check.

iv) Qf4 3.Rxc5, and: Qxb4 4.Kd7+ Kb7 5.Rc7+ Kb6 6.Rb8+ Ka5 7.Ra7 mate, or here: Qd6+ 4.Kc8 Qxc5+ 5.Sc6 Qd6 6.Rd8 Qg3 7.b6 wins.

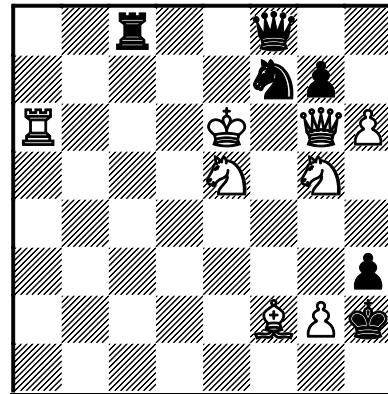
v) But not 2.Kd7+? Kb7 3.Rb8+ Kxb8 4.Sa6+ Kb7 5.Sxc5+ Bxc5 draws.

vi) Qxe3 3.Kc7+ Ka7 4.Sc6 mate. Kb7 3.Re7+ Kb6 4.Sc6 Qxb5 5.Sb8.

“A sharp struggle leads to an attractive final position. A good study with solver appeal, but too short to be really satisfying”.

**No 17828** Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1...Re8+/i 2.Kf5/ii Sxe5+/iii 3.Rf6 gxf6/iv 4.Sf3+ Kh1/v 5.Qg3 Sxf3 6.Qxf3/vi Re5+

**No 17828** Michal Hlinka  
5th honourable mention



e6h2 4415.22 8/6 BTM, Draw

7.Kg4 (Kf4? Qxh6+;) f5+/vii 8.Kxh3/viii Qxh6+ 9.Bh4 Re3/ix 10.g3+ Rxf3 stalemate.

i) Qe8+ 2.Kf5 Qxe5+ 3.Kg4 Rc4+ 4.Kh5 gxf6 5.Bg3+ Kxg3 6.Qd3+ Kh2 7.Qxh3+ Kg1 8.Ra1+ Qxa1 9.Qe3+ Kxg2 10.Qf3+ Kh2 11.Qh3+ Kg1 12.Qg3+ Kf1 13.Qf3+.

ii) 2.Kd5? Rxe5+ 3.Kc4 Rxe5 4.Qb6 Se5+ 5.Kb3 Kxg2.

iii) Rxe5+ 3.Kf4 Sh8+ 4.Kxe5 Sxg6+ 5.Rxg6 Qxf2 6.hxg7.

iv) Qxf6+ 4.Qxf6 gxf6 5.Sxh3 Kxg2 6.Bh4 Kxh3 7.Bxf6 Sf7 8.Kg6.

v) Sxf3 5.Qg3+ Kh1 6.Qxf3.

vi) 6.Qxh3+? Sh2 7.Bg3 Qc5+.

vii) Qc8+ 8.Kh4 Qf5 9.Qxf5 Rxf5 10.gxf3.

viii) 8.Kg3? f4+ 9.Qxf4 Qxf4+ 10.Kxf4 Kxg2.

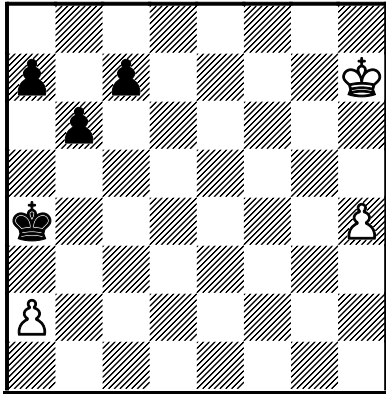
ix) Qe3 10.Bg5 Qxf3+ 11.gxf3.

“The composer asked that the wK be moved from e6 (and therefore Black is to move). I’m not very fond of heavy unnatural starting positions, but here the main line is undeniable spectacular, with both sides playing actively. The tactical chaos eventually results in a double-pin stalemate”.

**No 17829** Jürgen Fleck (Germany). 1.Kg6/i c5 2.Kf5 Ka3/ii 3.Ke4 Kxa2 4.h5 (Kd5? Kb3;) c4 5.h6 c3 6.Kd3 Kb2 7.h7 c2 8.h8Q+ Kb1 9.Qh7 (Qg7, Qa8, Qb8) c1Q 10.Qxa7 b5/iii 11.Ke4 b4 12.Kf5 b3 13.Qb7/iv b2 14.Kg6 Qf4 15.Kh7 Qe5/v 16.Qc6 draws.



**No 17829** J. Fleck  
special honourable mention



h7a4 0000.23 3/4 Draw

i) 1.h5? c5 2.h6 c4 3.Kg6 c3 4.h7 c2 5.h8Q c1Q 6.Qh4+ Ka5 7.Qe7 a6 8.Qe6 Qc2+ 9.Kg7 b5.

ii) c4 3.Ke4 Ka3 4.Kd4 b5 5.Kc3 (h5? Kb2;) Kxa2 6.h5 a5 7.h6 b4+ 8.Kxc4 b3 9.h7 b2 10.h8Q b1Q 11.Qh2+ Ka3 12.Qh3+ draws.

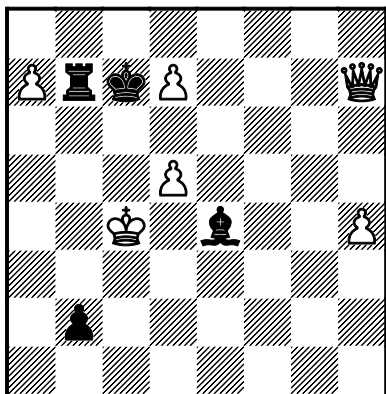
iii) Qc5 11.Qa4 Kb2 12.Qc4 draws.

iv) 13.Kg6? Qc6+ 14.Kh7 Qe4+ 15.Kg8 b2 wins.

v) Qa4 16.Qh1+ Ka2 17.Qd5+ Ka1 18.Qe5 draws.

“This is a marginal case regarding comprehensibility, since although the general principle behind the moves is familiar, the concrete details, especially the reasons for 13.Qb7!, are rather complicated”. “The lengthy switchback by the wK is remarkable, but the main line depends too heavily on tablebase positions which are hard to understand”.

**No 17830** H. van der Heijden  
1st commendation



c4c7 1330.41 6/4 BTM, Win

**No 17830** Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands). 1...Rb4+/i 2.Kc5/ii Rb5+/iii 3.Kd4/iv Rxd5+/v 4.Kxe4, and:

– b1Q+ 5.Kxd5 Qxh7/vi 6.d8Q+ Kxd8 7.a8R+/vii Ke7 (Kc7; Ra7+) 8.Ra7+ Kf6 9.Rxh7 wins, or:

– Rxd7 5.a8S+ Kc6 6.Qg6+ wins/viii.

i) Bxh7 2.a8Q, and: Bd3+ 3.Kd4 Rb4+ 4.Ke5 Re4+ 5.Kf6 Rf4+ 6.Kg5 Rf5+ 7.Kg4, or here Rb4+ 3.Kc5 Rb5+ 4.Kd4 Rb4+ 5.Ke5 Re4+ 6.Kf6 Rf4+ 7.Kg5 Kxd7 8.Qb7+ Kd6 9.Qxb2 win.

ii) 2.Kc3? (Kxb4? b1Q+;) Bxh7 3.a8Q Kxd7 4.Qc6+ (Qa7+ Kd6;) Ke7 5.d6+ Kf8 6.Qc8+ Kg7 7.Qd7+ Kh6 8.Qe6+ Bg6 9.Qe3+ Kg7.

iii) Bxh7 3.a8Q Kxd7 4.Qa7+, and: Ke8 5.d6 Rb5+ 6.Kd4 Rb4+ 7.Ke5 Re4+ 8.Kf6 Rf4+ 9.Kg7 Rg4+ 10.Kh6 Rg6+ (Rxh4+; Kg5) 11.Kxh7, or here: Kc8 5.Kd6 Rb7 6.Qa8+ Rb8 7.Qc6+ win.

iv) 3.Kc4? Bxh7 4.a8Q Bd3+ 5.Kd4 Kxd7 6.Qc6+ Ke7 7.d6+ Kf7 8.Qd7+ Kg8 9.Qe8+ Kg7 10.Qe7+ Kh6.

v) Rb4+ 4.Ke5 Bxh7 5.a8Q Re4+ 6.Kf6 Rf4+ 7.Kg7 Rg4+ 8.Kh6, or Bxh7 4.a8Q Kxd7 5.Qc6+/ix Ke7/x 6.d6+ Kf7 7.Qd7+ Kf6 8.Qe7+ Kg6 9.Qe8+ Kf6/xi 10.d7 Rb4+ 11.Ke3 Re4+ 12.Qxe4 Bxe4 13.d8Q+ wins.

vi) Qb3+ 6.Ke5 Qc3+ 7.Ke6 Qc4+ 8.Kf6 Qd4+ 9.Kf7 Qd5+ 10.Kg7 Qe5+ 11.Kg8 Qe6+ 12.Qf7 Qg4+ 13.Kf8 Qb4+ 14.Qe7 Qf4+ 15.Ke8 wins.

vii) 7.a8Q+? Ke7 8.Qb7+ Kf6 9.Qxh7 stalemate.

viii) e.g. Rd6 7.Qe8+ Rd7 8.Qe6+ Rd6 9.Qc8+ Kb5 10.Qb8+.

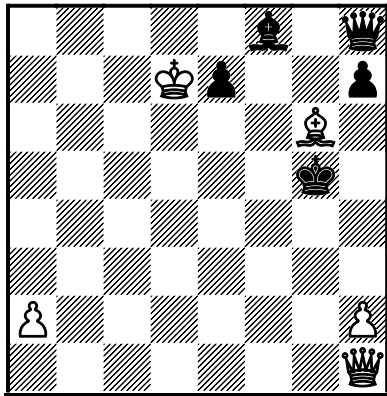
ix) But not: 5.Qa7+? Kd6 6.Qa6+ Ke7 7.d6+ Kf7 8.Qxb5 b1Q 9.Qxb1 Bxb1 10.d7 Ke7 draws.

x) Kd8 6.d6 Rb4+ 7.Ke5 Re4+ 8.Kf6 Rf4+ 9.Kg7 Rg4+ 10.Kh6 Rg6+ 11.Kxh7 wins.

xi) Kg7 10.Qxb5 b1Q 11.Qxb1 Bxb1 12.d7 wins.

“White promotes to Q, R and S in the two main lines, but the brutal introduction and BTM start weigh against a higher placing”.

**No 17831 S. Hornecker**  
2nd commendation



d7g5 4040.22 5/5 Win

**No 17831** Siegfried Hornecker (Germany).  
1.h4+ Kxg6/i 2.Qg2+ Kf7/ii 3.Qd5+ Kg6  
4.Qg5+ Kf7 5.Qh5+ Kf6 6.Qf3+ Kg6 7.Qg4+  
Kf7 8.Qe6+ Kg7 9.h5 Qg8 10.h6+ Kh8  
11.Qe5+ Bg7 12.hxg7+ Qxg7 13.Qb8+ Qg8  
14.Qxg8+ Kxg8 15.a4 e5 16.a5 e4 17.a6 e3  
18.a7 e2 19.a8Q+ wins.

i) Kg4 2.Bf5+ Kg3 3.Qg1+ Kf3/iii 4.Qg4+  
Kf2 5.Qf4+ Ke1 6.Be6 Qg7 7.Qe3+ Kd1  
8.Bb3 mate, or Kf4 2.Qc1+ Kg3 3.Qg5+ Kf3/  
iv 4.Bh5+ Ke4 5.Qg4+ Kd5 6.Qf3+ Kd4  
7.Qd1+ Kc5 8.Qc2+ Kb4 9.Qb3+ Kc5  
10.Qa3+ Kb6 11.Qb4+ Ka7 12.Qa5+ Kb8  
13.Qb6+ Ka8 14.Bf3 mate, or Kh6 2.Qc1+  
Kg7 (Kxg6; Qg5+) 3.Qb2+ Kg8 4.Bf7+ wins.

ii) Kf5 3.Qf3+ Kg6 4.Qg4+

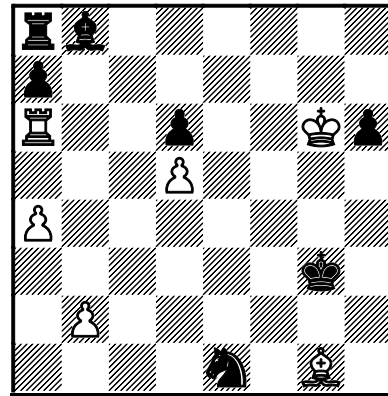
iii) Kf4 4.Qf2+ Ke5 5.Qb2+.

iv) Kf2 4.Qf4+ Ke2 5.Qh2+ Ke3 6.Qg1+  
Kd2 7.Qf2+ Kd1 8.Bc2+ Kc1 9.Bb3 Qc3  
10.Qxf8 wins.

“It’s surprising that the sequence of checks required to drive the bK needs to be so precise. It wasn’t mentioned, but it appears to be a correction of a 2004 study by the same composer which proved to be unsound. A positive feature of this version is that the white pawn starts on h2, whereas in many studies which feature this type of queen manoeuvre the pawn starts in a more advanced position”.

**No 17832** Jan Timman (the Netherlands).  
1.b4 Sd3 2.b5 Sb4 3.b6 Sxa6 4.b7 Sc7 5.Bc5  
dxc5 6.d6 a5 7.dxc7 Ra6+ 8.Kh5 Bxc7 9.b8Q  
Bxb8 stalemate.

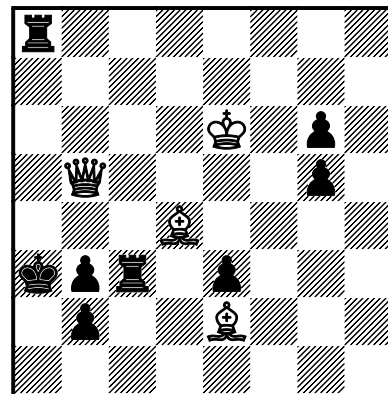
**No 17832 J. Timman**  
3rd commendation



g6g3 0443.33 6/7 Draw

“Excelsior by the b-pawn leading to stalemate, but the bB and bR display little activity during the solution, and the bishop isn’t used in the final stalemate. Additionally, the same final was used in a previous Timman study from 2001 (HHdbIV#68295)”.

**No 17833 M. Minski**  
4th commendation



e6a3 1620.05 4/8 Win

**No 17833** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Bd3  
Rc1/i 2.Bb1/ii Rxb1 3.Ba7 (Qc6? Ra5;) Re8+/  
iii 4.Kf7/iv Rf1+/v 5.Kxe8 (Qxf1? e2;) b1Q/vi  
6.Bc5+ Ka2/vii 7.Qa6+ Kb2 8.Bd4+ Kc1  
9.Qxf1+ Kc2 10.Qe2+ Kc1 11.Bxe3/viii mate.

i) Rxd3 2.Qxd3 e2 3.Bc5+ Ka2 4.Qxe2 Ka1  
5.Qe5 Ka2 6.Qh2 Ka1 7.Bd4.

ii) 2.Ba7? Rxa7 3.Qc5+ Rxc5, or 2.Bxe3?  
Ka2 3.Qxg5 Rc2 4.Bxc2 bxc2 5.Qd5+ Kb1, or  
2.Be4? b1Q 3.Bxb1 e2 4.Bc5+ Rxc5 5.Qxc5+  
Kb2 6.Qe5+ Kxb1.

iii) Rxa7 4.Qc5+ Ka4 (Ka2 Qxa7 mate;)  
5.Qxa7+ Kb4 6.Qd4+ Ka3 7.Qc5+ Ka4  
8.Qc6+ Kb4 9.Qe4+

iv) 4.Qxe8? Rc1 5.Qf8+ Ka4 6.Qe8+ Ka3 7.Qe7+ Ka2 8.Bd4 e2 9.Qa7+ Kb1, or 4.Kd7? Rd1+ 5.Kxe8 b1Q.

v) Re5 5.Bc5+/ix Rxc5 6.Qxc5+ wins.

vi) Rf5 6.Bc5+ Ka2 7.Qa4+ Kb1 8.Qe4+ Ka2 9.Qa8+ Kb1 10.Bd4 Rf4 11.Bxe3 wins.

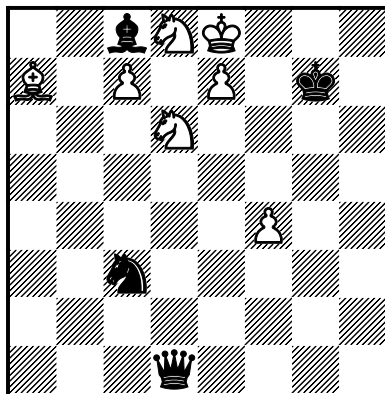
vii) Kb2 7.Bd4+ Ka3 8.Qa5 mate.

viii) White can lose time: 11.Qxe3+? Kc2 12.Qe4+ Kc1 13.Qh1+ Kc2 14.Qc6+ Kd1 15.Qf3+ Kc2 16.Qc3+ Kd1 17.Qf3+ Kc2 18.Qe2+ Kc1 19.Be3 mate.

ix) But not 5.Qxe5? Rf1+. 5.Qa6+? Kb4 6.Qd6+ Ka4 7.Qd4+ Ka3 8.Bc5+ Rxc5 9.Qxc5+ loss of time.

“There are neat preliminary sacrifices by the two wBs to the two bRs, both of which get taken later. It is a weakness that the most spectacular play comes at the start”.

**No 17834** Y. Vovk  
5th commendation



e8g7 3045.30 7/4 Draw

**No 17834** Yuri Vovk (Ukraine). 1.Bd4+/i Qxd4/ii 2.Se6+ Bxe6 3.c8Q Sd5/iii 4.Qxe6/iv Qa4+ 5.Kd8/v Qa5+ 6.Ke8/vi Sf6+ 7.Qxf6+ Kxf6 8.Kf8 Qb4/vii 9.e8S+/viii Ke6 10.f5+ wins/ix.

i) 1.Sxc8? Qa4+ 2.Sc6 Qxc6+ 3.Kd8 Kf7 wins.

ii) Kh7 2.Sxc8 Sd5 (Qxd4?; Se6) 3.Sc6 Qg4/x 4.Kd8 Qxf4 5.e8S, or Kh6 2.S8f7+ Kh5 3.Bxc3, or Kg8 2.Sc6 Qg4 3.f5 win.

iii) Bxc8? 4.Sf5+ Bxf5 stalemate.

iv) 4.Sf5+? Bxf5 5.Qxf5 Sc7 mate.

v) 5.Sb5? (Qd7? Sf6+;) Qxb5+ 6.Kd8 Qb8+ 7.Qc8 Qb6+ 8.Ke8 Sf6 mate.

vi) 6.Kd7? Qc7+ 7.Ke8 Sf6+ 8.Qxf6+ Kxf6.

vii) Qd5 9.e8S+ Kg6 10.f5+ Kg5 11.Ke7 draws.

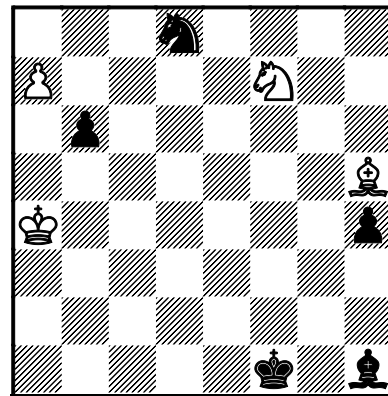
viii) 9.e8Q? Qxd6+ 10.Kg8 Qd5+ 11.Kf8 Qc5+ 12.Kg8 Qg1+ 13.Kf8 Qg7 mate.

ix) e.g. Kd7 11.f6 Qh4 12.Kg8 Qg5+ 13.Kh7 Ke6 14.f7 Ke7 15.Sg7, but not 13.Kf8? Qh6+ 14.Kg8 Qg6+ 15.Kh8 Ke6 16.f7 Ke7 wins.

x) Sxc7+ 4.Kd7 Sd5 5.Kd8 Sxe7 (Sf6; Sb6) 6.S8xe7.

“There’s a stalemate and an underpromotion, but the study finishes tamely”.

**No 17835** D. Keith  
6th commendation



a4f1 0044.12 4/5 Win

**No 17835** Daniel Keith (France). 1.Se5/i Ba8 2.Bf3/ii Sb7 3.Kb5 Sd6+ 4.Ka6/iii Se4/iv 5.Sc4/v Ke1 6.Kxb6 h3 7.Kc7 h2 8.Kb8 Kf2 9.Sd2 Sxd2 10.Bxa8 Sf3 11.Bxf3 Kxf3 12.a8Q+ Kf2 13.Qh1 wins.

i) 1.Sxd8? h3 2.Kb5 h2.

ii) 2.Kb5? Se6, or 2.Bg4? Sc6.

iii) 4.Kxb6? Bxf3 5.Sxf3 Sc8+ draws.

iv) Sc8 5.Bxa8 Sxa7 6.Kxa7 b5 7.Kb6 b4 8.Bd5 wins.

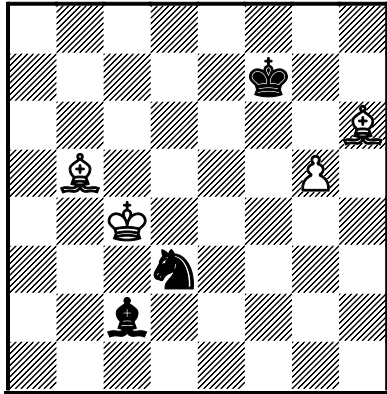
v) 5.Kxb6? Kf2/vi, and: 6.Bxe4 Bxe4 7.Sc6 Bxc6 8.Kxc6 h3 9.a8Q h2, or here: 6.Kc7 h3 7.Kb8 Bd5 draw.

vi) But not: h3? 6.Sf7 h2 7.Sg5 Kg1 8.Sxe4 wins.

**No 17836** Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Kc3 Se1 2.Bc4+/i Ke7/ii 3.Kd2 Sf3+/iii 4.Kxc2 Sd4+ 5.Kd3/iv Sf5 6.Ke4 Sxh6/v 7.Kf4 (gxh6? Kf6;) Sf7 8.g6 Sh6 9.Kg5 wins.

i) 2.Kd2? Sf3+ 3.Kxc2 Sd4+ draws.

**No 17836** Y. Afek  
7th commendation



c4f7 0053.10 4/3 Win.

ii) Kg6 3.Kd2 Sf3+ 4.Kxc2 Sxg5 5.Bf8 wins.

iii) Sg2 4.Kxc2 Se3+ 5.Kd3 wins.

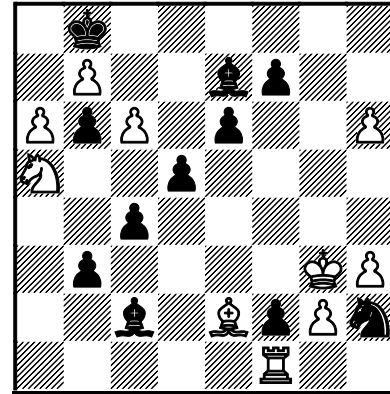
iv) 5.Kd2? Sf5 6.Bd3 Sxh6 7.gxh6 Kf7 8.Bh7 Kf6 9.Bb1 Kf7, avoiding Kf6? 8.Ke3 Kf7 9.Bh7 Kf6 10.Kf4.

v) Sd6+ 7.Kd4 Sf5+ 8.Ke5 wins.

“The study depends on the attractive move 7.Kf4! for its impact”.

**No 17837** Philippe Bichu (France). 1.h7/i Bd6+ 2.Kh4/ii Be7+ 3.Kh5 Bg6+ 4.Kh6 Bf8+ 5.Kg5 Be7+ 6.Kf4 Bd6+ 7.Ke3 Bc5+ (Sxf1+; Kxf2) 8.Kd2 Bb4+ 9.Kc1 Ba3+ 10.Kd1 Bc2+ 11.Kd2 Bb4+/iii 12.Ke3 Bc5+ 13.Kf4 Bd6+ 14.Kg5 Be7+ 15.Kh6 Bf8+ 16.Kh5 Bg6+ 17.Kh4 Be7+ 18.Kg3 Bd6+ 19.Kxf2 Bc5+ 20.Ke1 Bb4+ 21.Kd1 Bc2+ 22.Kc1 Ba3+

**No 17837** P. Bichu  
special commendation



g3b8 0174.67 10/11 Win

23.Kd2 Bb4+ 24.Ke3 Bc5+ 25.Kf4 Bd6+ 26.Kg5 Be7+ 27.Rf6 wins.

i) 1.c7+? Kxc7 2.h7 Bd6+ 3.Kh4 Be7+ 4.Kh5 Bg6+ 5.Kh6 Bf8+ 6.Kg5 Be7+ 7.Kf4 Bd6+ 8.Ke3 Bc5+ 9.Kd2 Bb4+ 10.Kc1 Ba3+ 11.Kd1 Bc2+ 12.Kd2 Sxf1+ 13.Kc3 Bb4+ 14.Kd4 e5+, and: 15.Kxe5 Bc3+ 16.Kf4 (Kxd5 Se3 mate) bxa5, or here: 15.Kxd5 Se3+ 16.Kxe5 Bc3+ 17.Kf4 bxa5 and Black wins.

ii) 2.Kxf2? Bc5+ 3.Kg3 Sxf1+ 4.Bxf1 Bd6+.

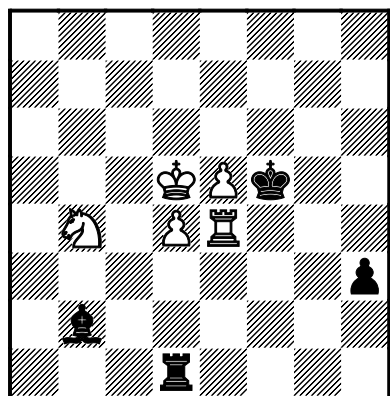
iii) Sxf1+ 12.Kc3 Bb4+ 13.Kxb4 bxa5+ 14.Kxa5 Bxh7 15.Kb6 and mate.

“It’s impossible to compare a position like this to a conventional study and I’m not going to try. It’s undoubtedly a constructional achievement to arrange the marches of the wK, but nothing can fully compensate for the appearance of the starting position”.

# Problem-Forum 2007-2008

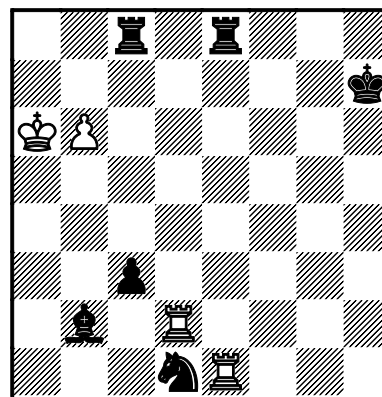
Hans Gruber (Germany) judged this informal tourney in which 24 studies participated. Siegfried Hornecker assisted in anticipation vetting. The award appeared in *Problem-Forum* no. 43 ix2010.

**No 17838 M. Minski**  
1st prize



d5f5 0431.21 5/4 Draw

**No 17839 R. Becker**  
2nd prize



a6h7 0833.11 4/6 Draw

**No 17838** Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Re2/i Bxd4 (Rxd4+; Kc5) 2.e6, and:

– h2 3.Rxh2 Be5+ 4.Sd3 Bxh2/ii 5.e7 Rxd3+ 6.Kc6 Rd6+ 7.Kc7 Rh6+/iii 8.Kd8 Bc7+ 9.Kxc7 Rh8 10.Kd7 draws, or:

– Be5+ 3.Kc4 Rd4+/iv 4.Kc5 Rd6/v 5.e7 Re6 6.Sd5 h2 7.Rf2+ Kg5 8.Rg2+ Kh6/vi 9.Rxh2+ Bxh2 10.Sf6 Bd6+ 11.Kd5 draws.

i) 1.Rh4? Rxd4+ 2.Rxd4 Bxd4 3.Kxd4 h2, or 1.Sc6? h2 2.Rh4 h1Q+ 3.Rxh1 Rxh1 4.Se7+ Kg5 win.

ii) Rxd3+ 5.Kc4 Rc3+ 6.Kb4.

iii) Rd1+ 8.Kc8 Re1 9.Kd7 draws.

iv) Rc1+ 4.Kb5 h2 5.e7 Rc8 6.Re1 Bg3 7.Rf1+ Kg4 8.Sd5 Bh4 9.Se3+ Kh3 10.Rh1 Bxe7 11.Sf1, or Rd6 4.e7 Re6 5.Sd5 h2 6.Re1 Kg4 7.Sf6+ Bxf6 8.Rxe6 Bxe7 9.Re1.

v) Kxe6 5.Sc6 Rd5+ 6.Kc4 h2 7.Re1 Rd2 8.Sxe5 Re2 9.Rh1 Kxe5 10.Kd3 Ra2 11.Ke3 draws.

vi) Kh4 9.Rg6 h1Q 10.Rxe6.

“A thematic heavy weight refining the battle between White and Black with the spectacular decoy Sd3! (WCCT-theme). The solution has a rich content, but is very lucid at the same time”.

**No 17839** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Rh2+/i Kg6 2.b7/ii Rcd8/iii 3.Rg2+/iv Kf5 4.Rf1+ Ke6/v 5.Re2+/vi Kd6 6.Rxd1+/vii Kc7 7.Rd4/viii Rg8 8.Rg2 Rgf8 9.Rf2/ix Kb8 10.Rd3 zz Rfe8 11.Re2 zz Rg8 12.Rg2 zz Rh8 13.Rh2 zz Rde8 14.Re3 zz Rhf8 15.Rf2 zz Rg8 16.Rg2 zz Ref8 17.Rf3 zz Rh8 18.Rh2 zz Rfg8 19.Rg3 zz draws.

i) 1.Rh1+? Kg6 2.Rg2+ Kf5 3.Rxd1 (Rf1 Ke4;) Ra8+, and 4.Kb7 Ke4 5.Re2+ Kf3 6.Rc2 Ke3 7.Rd7 Rh8 8.Kc7 Ra4 9.b7 Rb4 10.Kc6 Rh6+ 11.Kc7 Rc4+ 12.Kb8 Ba3, or here 4.Kb5 Re5+ 5.Kc6 c2 6.Rf1+ Ke4 7.b7 Ra6+ win.

ii) 2.Rxd1? Ra8+ 3.Kb7/x Kf5 4.Re1 (Rc2 Ke4;) Rxe1 5.Kxa8 Ke4 6.b7 Ra1+ 7.Kb8 Bc1, or 2.Rg2+? Kf5 3.b7 (Rxd1 Ra8+;) Rc6+ 4.Kb5 Rxe1 5.b8Q c2 6.Qf8+ (Rxc2 Rxc2;) Bf6 wins.

iii) Rc6+ 3.Kb5 Rc7/xi 4.Rxe8 Rxb7+ 5.Kc4, or Ra8+ 3.bxa8Q Rxa8+ 4.Kb5 draw.

iv) 3.Rg1+? Kf5 4.Rf1+ Kg4 5.Rg2+ Kh3 wins.

v) Ke4 (Sf2; Rgxf2+) 5.Rxd1 Rxd1 6.Re2+ Kd4 7.Rxe8 draws.

vi) 5.Rxd1? Rxd1 6.Re2+ Kf7 7.Rxe8 c2 8.b8Q/xii c1Q 9.Rf8+ Kg7 10.Rg8+ Kh7, or

5.Re1+? Kd6 6.Rxd1+ Kc7 7.Rxd8 Rxd8  
8.Ka7 Ba3 9.Rg7+ Kc6 10.b8Q Bc5+ 11.Ka8  
Rxb8+ 12.Kxb8 c2 win.

vii) 6.Rxe8? Rxe8 7.Rxd1+ Kc7 8.Rd4 Kb8  
9.Rc4 Re6+ wins.

viii) 7.Rxd8? Rxd8 8.Ka7 Ba3 wins.

ix) 9.Rxd8? Rxd8 10.Ka7 Ba3 wins.

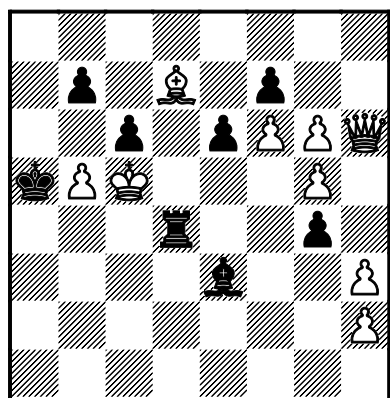
x) 3.Kb5 Re5+ 4.Kb4 Ba3+ 5.Kc4 Rc5+  
wins.

xi) c2 4.Rxc2 Rxc2 5.Rxe8 draws. Rxe1  
4.b8Q c2 5.Qg8+ (Qg3+) draws.

xii) 8.Rc8 Ra1+ 9.Kb5 c1Q wins.

“A virtuoso representation of ‘floating rooks’, tightly composed with spirit. The premature captures are good tries (especially 5.Rxd1). There is a remarkable and beautiful looking manoeuvre on the d-file (6.Rxd1+ 7.Rd4! 8.Rd3!)”.

**No 17840** M. Roxlau  
honourable mention



c5a5 1340.65 9/8 BTM, Draw

**No 17840** Michael Roxlau (Germany).

– Ka4 2.Qf8 Kb3 3.Kb6 Rxd7+ 4.Ka5 Rd4  
5.Kb6/i Rd8+ 6.Kxb7 Rxf8 7.g7 Rg8 8.g6  
fxg6 9.Kxc6 (f7? Rxc7;) Bh6 10.f7 Rxc7  
11.f8Q Rc7+ 12.Kxc7 Bxf8 13.hxg4/ii Kc4  
14.Kc6/iii g5 15.b6 Bc5 16.b7 Ba7 17.Kd6  
draws, or:

– cxb5 2.Bxb5 e5 3.Ba6/iv Kxa6 4.Qf8  
(Qh8)/v Rd8+ 5.Kb4 Rxf8 6.g7 Rd8 7.g6  
draws.

i) 5.Qc5? Ra4+, or 5.bxc6? Rd5+.

ii) 13.b6? Bh6 14.hxg4 Bf4+ 15.Kc6 Bxh2  
16.b7 Kc4 wins.

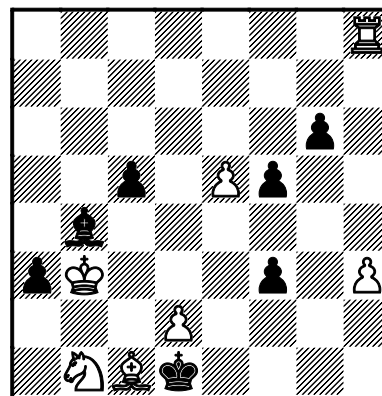
iii) 14.b6? Kc5 15.h4 e5 16.b7 e4 17.Kc8  
Bd6 18.h5 gxh5 19.g5 e3 20.g6 e2 21.g7 e1Q  
wins.

iv) 3.Qf8? Rd8+ 4.Kc4 Rxf8 5.g7 Rc8+  
6.Kd5 Bxc5 7.Bd7 Rg8 8.Kxe5 gxh3 9.Be6  
Bxf6+ wins.

v) 4.Qh4? Bd2 5.Qf2 Bb4 mate.

“White spectacularly plays with fire (= the black battery) that is first provoked twice by the bK, then wins the original wQ, is shifted all over the board and finally turns to the promoted wQ. (The composer has already worked with an analogue white battery in some studies, but here he made good progression). The second main line (1...cxb5) is in my opinion inferior and only lives by the surprising mate threat. The dual and somewhat banal finish devalue this black try, so that the content of the study (and the reason for the HM) comes from the 1...Ka4-line”.

**No 17841** M. Minski & H. Rehm  
1st commendation



b3d1 0141.35 7/7 Win

**No 17841** Martin Minski & Hans Peter Rehm (Germany). 1.Rh4/i g5 2.Rc4 f2 3.Bxa3  
Bxa3 4.Sc3+ Kxd2/ii 5.Sb1+ Kd1 6.Sd2 Kxd2  
7.Rc2+ Ke3 8.Rxf2 Kxf2 9.e6 wins.

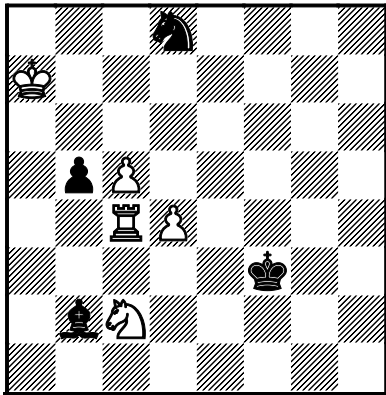
i) 1.Sxa3? Bxa3 2.Rh4 Bxc1 3.Rf4 c4+  
4.Kxc4 Ke2 5.Kb3 (e6 Ba3;) Bxd2 6.e6 Bxf4  
7.e7 f2 8.e8Q+ Be3 9.Qb5+ Ke1 draws.

ii) Ke1 5.e6 f1Q 6.e7 wins.

“The functionally pure sacrifice of wBd2, so that wSb1 is able to sacrifice itself on d2, is very original, but is unfortunately diluted by the sublimes (and the unconvincing ‘try’). I bet

that these prominent composers could do better”.

**No 17842 I. Akobia**  
2nd commendation



a7f3 0134.21 5/4 Win

**No 17842 Iuri Akobia (Georgia).** 1.Se1+/i Ke4/ii 2.Rc2 Bxd4 3.Ka6/iii b4/iv 4.c6/v Sxc6 5.Rxc6 b3 6.Rc7/vi, and:

– Be5 7.Re7/vii b2/viii 8.Rb7 Ke3/ix 9.Sc2+ Kd2/x 10.Sa3 Kc3 11.Ka5 wins, or:

– Bf6 7.Rc1 Ke3 8.Rb1/xi Kd2 9.Kb5, and:

- b2 10.Kc4 Bh4 11.Sd3 wins, or:
- Bh4 10.Sg2/xii Kc2 11.Rf1/xiii b2 12.Se3+ Kd2 13.Sc4+ Kc2 14.Sa3+ Kb3 15.Sb1 wins.

i) 1.Rb4? Sc6+ 2.Ka6 Sxb4+ 3.Sxb4 Bxd4 4.c6 Be5 draws.

ii) Ke3 2.Rc2 Bxd4 3.Ka6 Se6 4.c6 Be5 5.Ra2 Sc7+ 6.Kb7 Se6 7.Kb6 Ke4 8.Kxb5.

iii) 3.Kb8? (Kb6? Se6;) b4 4.c6 Sxc6+ 5.Rxc6 b3 6.Re6+ Kd5 draws.

iv) Kd5 4.Sd3 Se6 5.c6 Kd6 6.Sf4 Sc7+ 7.Kb7 wins.

v) 4.Kb5? Se6 5.c6 b3 6.Rc1 b2 draws.

vi) 6.Rc4? (Rc1? Bf2;) Kd5 7.Rc8/xiv b2 8.Rb8 Be5/xv 9.Rb5+ Kc4 10.Sc2 Kc3 11.Sa3 Bd6 12.Sb1+ Kc2 draws. 6.Rc8? Be5 7.Re8 b2 and Rb8 is not possible.

vii) 7.Rb7? Bc3 8.Re7+ (Sf3 b2;) Kd5 9.Sd3 Kc4 draws, but not Kd4? 10.Sf2 b2 11.Rb7 Kc4 12.Sd1 wins.

viii) Kd5 8.Sd3 Bf6 9.Rc7 Kd4 10.Sb2 Ke4 11.Sc4 Kd3 12.Kb5 b2 13.Sa3 wins.

ix) Bc3 9.Sc2 Kd3 10.Sa3 wins.

x) Kd3 10.Sa3 Kc3 11.Ka5 wins.

xi) or 8.Kb5 Kd2 9.Rb1.

xii) 10.Sf3+? Kc2 11.Rf1 b2.

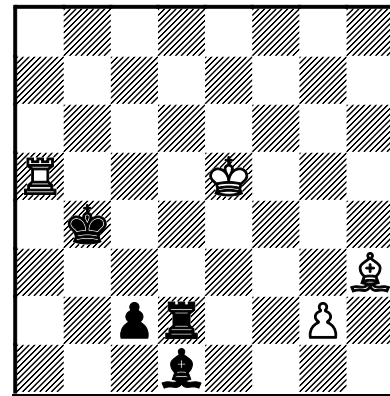
xiii) 11.Rh1? Bf2 12.Rf1 b2 13.Rxf2+ Kb3 14.Rf1 Ka2 draws, but not Kc3? 14.Rf3+ Kc2 15.Se3+ wins.

xiv) 7.Rc7 Be5 8.Rb7 Kc4.

xv) But not: Kc4? 9.Sc2 Be5 10.Sa3+ Kc3 11.Rf8 Kb3 12.Sb1 Ka2 13.Rf1 wins.

“Two pearls (6.Rc7! 11.Rf1!) that you should not miss, are hidden in the jungle of lines.

**No 17843 W. Bruch**  
3rd commendation



e5b4 0440.11 4/4 Draw

**No 17843 Wieland Bruch (Germany).** 1.Ra1 Re2+ 2.Kd4 Rf2 3.Be6/i Bh5 4.Ke5/ii, and:

– Bg6 5.Bd7 Kc3 6.Ba4 Rf5+ 7.Ke6/iii Ra5 8.Bxc2/iv Rxa1 9.Bxg6 draws, or:

– Rd2 5.Bf5 Rd1 6.Ra4+ Kxa4 7.Bxc2+ Kb4 8.Bxd1 draws.

i) 3.Ke3? Rf6 4.Kd2 Kb3 5.Ra8 Rf2+ 6.Kc1 Bg4 7.Rb8+ Kc3 quickly mates.

ii) 4.Ke3? Re2+ 5.Kd3 Rxc2, or 4.Rc1? Bg6 5.g4 Rd2+ 6.Ke5 Rd1 win.

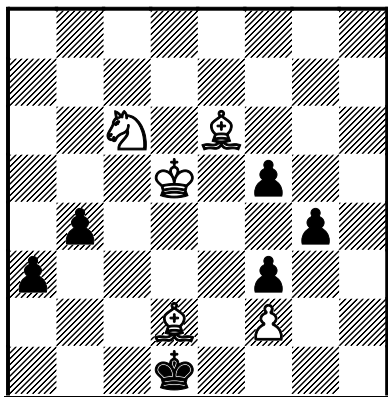
iii) 7.Kd6? Ra5 8.Bxc2 Rxa1 9.Bxg6 Ra6+ 10.Ke5 Rxc2 wins.

iv) or 8.Ra3+ Kd2 9.Bxc2.

“Clever tactics by White and Black with a nice late try (7.Kd6?) and a radical destruction of the Gordian knot”.

**No 17844 Martin Minski (Germany).** 1.Sxb4/i g3/ii 2.Kd4 gxf2/iii 3.Be3/iv f1Q 4.Bb3+ Ke1/v 5.Sc2+ Kd1 6.Sxa3+ Ke1 7.Sc2+ Kd1 8.Sb4+ Ke1 9.Sd3+/vi Ke2

**No 17844** M. Minski  
4th commendation



d5d1 0021.15 5/6 Win

10.Sf4+/vii Ke1 11.Bc4 Qh1/viii 12.Sd3+ Kf1  
13.Sf2+ wins.

i) 1.Bxb4? g3, or 1.Bf4? a2 2.Be5 g3, or  
1.Kd4? Kxd2 2.Sxb4 a2, and: 3.Bxa2 Ke2  
4.Sd3 f4, or here: 3.Sxa2 Ke2 4.Bxf5 Kxf2  
5.Bxg4 Kg3 draw.

ii) Kxd2 2.Bxf5 g3 3.fxg3 f2 4.Bh3 wins.

iii) g2 3.Kd3 g1Q 4.Bb3 mate.

iv) 3.Kc3? (Ke3? f1S+;) f1Q 4.Bb3+ Ke2  
5.Bc4+ Kf2 6.Be3+ Kg2 7.Bxf1+ Kxf1 8.Bd4  
a2 draws.

v) Ke2 5.Bc4+ Ke1 6.Sc2+ Kd1 7.Bxf1  
Kxc2 8.Bc4, and: Kb1 9.Kc3 a2 10.Bd3+ Ka1  
11.Bd4 and mate, or here: Kd1 9.Ke5 Ke1  
10.Bd4 f2 11.Bc3+ Kd1 12.Kxf5 wins.

vi) 9.Bc4? Qxc4+ 10.Kxc4 Ke2 draws.

vii) 10.Sc1+? Qxc1 11.Bxc1 f2 12.Bc4+  
Ke1 13.Ke3 f4+ draws.

viii) Qxc4+ 12.Kxc4 f2 13.Sd3+ Ke2  
14.Bxf2 wins.

“This study receives a commendation for the  
knight pendulum manoeuvre, compensating  
for the weak key”.