

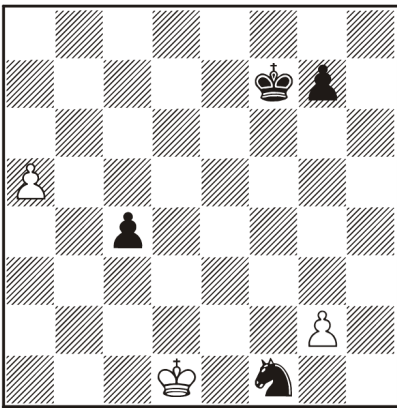
Provisional Award Averbach-80 JT

by Harm Benak

72 studies competed. Unfortunately, a couple of studies arrived too late, and even some composers sent their studies directly to the judge. It was decided that these compositions could 'only' gain a special prize. Comments by Yuri Averbach.

1st Prize

Eduardo Iriarte (Argentina)



Draw

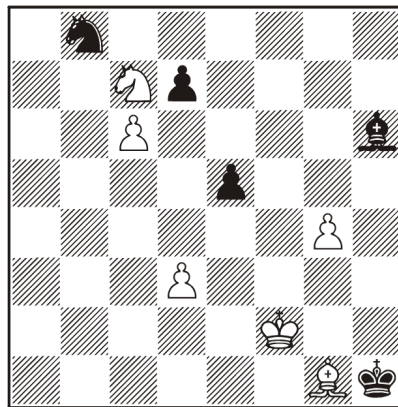
1.♔e2 (1.a6? ♚e3+ 2.♚d2 ♚d5 3.a7 ♚c7 -+; 1.♔c2? ♚e3+ 2.♔c3 ♚xg2 3.a6 ♚f4! 4.a7 ♚d5+ 5.♔xc4 ♚c7 6.♔c5 ♔e7 -+, or 3.♔xc4 ♚f4! 4.♔c5 ♔e7 5.♔c6 ♚e6 6.a6 ♔d8 -) 1...♚g3+ (1...c3 2.♔d3 c2 3.♔xc2 ♚e3+ 4.♔d3 ♚d5 (4...♚xg2? 5.♔e4) 5.♔d4 ♚c7 6.♔c5 ♔e7 7.♔c6 ♔d8 8.♔b6 ♔d7 9.♔b7 ♔d8 10.a6 =) 2.♔e1 (2.♔e3? ♚f5+ 3.♔e4 ♚d6+ 4.♔d4 ♔e6 5.a6 ♔d7) 2...c3 3.♔d1! (3.a6? ♚f1! 4.a7 c2 5.a8♖ c1♖+ 6.♔e2 ♚g3+ 7.♔f3 ♚f5) 3...♚f5 4.♔c2 ♚e3+ 5.♔xc3 ♚xg2 6.♔d4 ♚f4 (6...♔e7 7.♔e4! ♔d6 8.♔f5) 7.♔e5 ♚e6 (7...♚d3+ 8.♔d6 ♚b4 9.♔c5 ♚a6+

10.♔b6 ♚b8 11.♔c7) 8.♔d6! (8.♔d5? ♔e7 9.♔c6 ♔d8; 8.♔f5? ♚d4+ 9.♔e4 ♚c6 10.a6 g6) 8...♚d4 9.a6 ♔e8 10.♔c5 ♚e6+ 11.♔d6 draw.

'Theoretical important ending. In order to win Black is trying to stop the opponent's passed pawn using "minesquares". But by means of a number of precise moves White succeeds to keep the balance'.

2nd Prize

Sergei Osintsev (Russia)



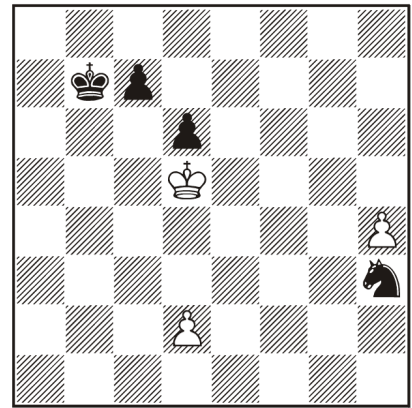
Win

1.♚e6! (1.cxd7? ♚xd7 2.♚d5 ♚c5 3.♚f6 ♚xd3+ 4.♔f1 ♚g5 5.♚e4 ♚h4 6.g5 ♚f4 =) 1...♚xc6 (1...dxc6 2.g5 ♚xg5 3.♚xg5 ♚d7 4.♚e4 c5 5.♚g3 mate) 2.g5 ♚xg5 (2...dxe6 3.gxh6 ♚d8 4.h7 ♚f7 5.♔f1 +-) 3.♚xg5 d5 4.♚h3 ♚b4 (4...e4 5.♔f1 e3 6.♚xe3 +-) 5.d4! exd4 (5...e4 6.♔f1 e3 7.♚f4 +-) 6.♔g3! (6.♔f1? ♚d3! =) 6...♚d3 (6...d3 7.♚h2 d2 8.♚f2 mate) 7.♚h2 ♚e1 8.♚f2 mate.

'The black king is in a dangerous position in a corner of the board and the knight is in a hurry to help him, but an unexpected pawn sacrifice puts Black in a disastrous zugzwang'.

3rd Prize

Jaroslav Pospisil (Czech Republic)

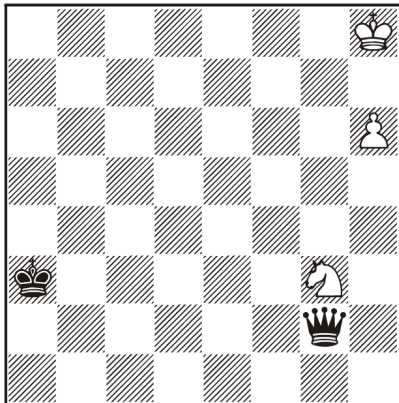


Draw

1.♔e4 (1.♔e6? ♔c6 2.♔f6 ♔d7 3.h5 ♚f2! 4.♔g6 ♔e7 5.h6 ♚g4 6.h7 ♚e5+ 7.♔g7 ♚f7 8.♔g6 ♔e6 9.♔g7 c5 -) 1...♔c6 2.♔f3 ♔d5 3.♔g3 ♚g1 (3...♔e5 4.♔xh3 ♔f4 5.d3! c6 6.d4 ♔f5 7.♔g3! =) 4.♔f2 ♔e4 5.♔xg1 ♔f5! 6.♔f2! (6.d3? ♔f4 7.♔f2 ♔g4 8.♔e3 ♔xh4 9.♔f4 ♔h3! 10.♔f3 c6! 11.d4 d5 12.♔f4 ♔g2! -) 6...♔f4 7.♔e2! (7.d3? ♔g4 8.♔e3 ♔xh4 -) 7...♔g4 8.♔e3! ♔xh4 9.♔f4! ♔h3 10.♔f3 ♔h2 11.♔f2 c6! 12.d3! (12.d4? d5 13.♔f3 ♔h3 -) 12...♔h1 13.♔f1! c5 14.d4! c4 15.d5 draw.

‘Fine and instructive ending. White equalizes against the pre-dominant opponent’s forces finally blocking the black king at the edge of the board’.

**1st Honourable Mention
Rainer Staudte (Germany)**

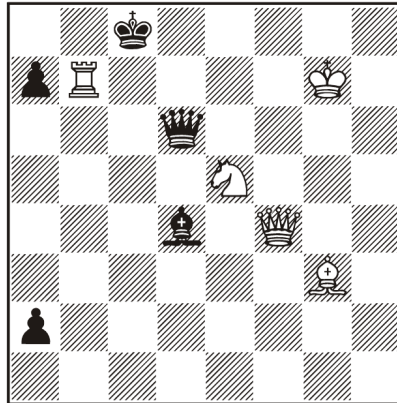


Draw

1.h7! (1.♘h5? ♖g6 2.h7 ♗f7 3.♘f6 ♖b4 4.♘g8 ♖c5 5.♘h6 ♗f6+ 6.♖g8 ♗g6+! 7.♖h8 ♖d6 -+, or 1.♘f5? ♗g6 2.h7 ♖b4 (2...♗f7? 3.♘h6! ♗f6+ 4.♖g8 ♗g6+ 5.♖h8 =) 3.♘e7 ♗f7! 4.♘g8 ♖c5 5.♘h6 ♗f6+ 6.♖g8 ♗g6+! 7.♖h8 ♖d6 -+) **1...♗d5 2.♘f5!** (2.♖g7? ♗g5+ 3.♖h8 ♗f6+ 4.♖g8 ♗g6+ 5.♖h8 ♗f7 6.♘e4 ♗f8 mate) **2...♗f7 3.♘h6!** (3.♘e7? loses a decisive tempo: 3...♖b4 4.♘g8 ♖c5 5.♘h6 ♗f6+ 6.♖g8 ♗g6+ -+) **3...♗f6+ 4.♖g8 ♗g6+ 5.♖h8 ♖b4 6.♘f7! ♖c5 7.♘e5! ♗g5 8.♘g6! ♖d5 9.♖g7!** draw.

‘The fine manoeuvre of the knight enable White to keep the draw’.

**2nd Honourable Mention
Henk van der Velde
(Netherlands)**

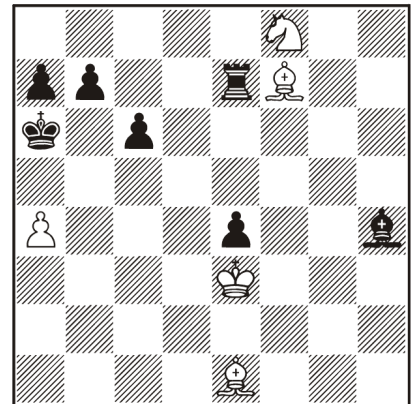


Win

1.♖b3 (1.♖b5? ♖xe5+ 2.♗xe5 a1♗ 3.♗xa1 ♗d7+, or 1.♖f7? a1♗ 2.♗g4+ ♖b8 3.♖h7 ♗h1+ 4.♖g8 ♗d8+ 5.♖f8 ♗h8+ 6.♖xh8 ♗xf8+ =) **1...♗xe5+** (1...a1♗ 2.♗f5+ ♖c7 3.♗f7+ ♖c8 4.♗b7+ ♖d8 5.♖h4+ +-) **2.♗xe5 a1♗ 3.♖b8+ ♖d7 4.♖b7+ ♖c8** (4...♖c6 5.♖c7+ ♖b6 6.♖f2! +- , or 4...♖d8 5.♖h4+ ♖c8 6.♖b8+ ♖d7 7.♖d8+ +-) **5.♖c7+ ♖b8 6.♖c3+ ♖xe5+ 7.♖xe5+ ♖a8** (7...♖b7 8.♖b3+ +-) **8.♖c8+ ♖b7 9.♖b8+ (9.♖xa1? ♖xc8) 9...♖c6 10.♖xa1** wins.

‘The first move allows White to profitably transform the pin along the big diagonal into the battery which gives the decisive blow’.

**3rd Honourable Mention
D.V. Voronov (Russia)**

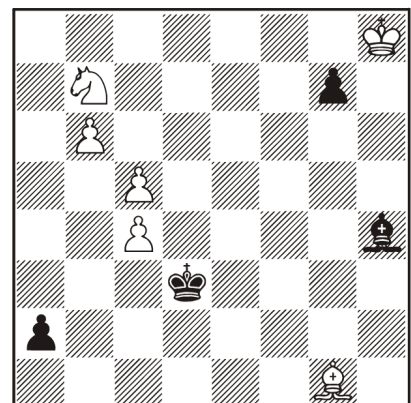


Win

1.♖c4+ b5 (1...♖b6 2.a5+ ♖c5 3.♖xh4 ♖e8 4.♖f7 ♖xf8 5.♖e7+ +-) **2.♖xh4 ♖e8 3.♘e6 ♖h8 4.♖f6 ♖h3+ 5.♖d4! bxc4 6.♘c5+ ♖a5 7.♖xc4! ♖d3 8.♖e5 ♖b6 9.a5+ ♖xa5 10.♖c7** mate.

‘The sharp fight is crowned with an ideal mate’.

**Commendation
Pietro Rossi (Italy)**



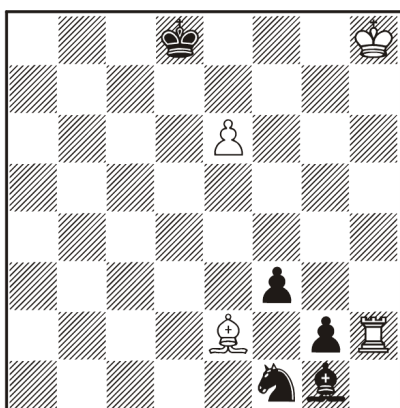
Draw

1.♖d4! (1.c6? a1♗ 2.c7 ♗a8+ 3.♘d8 ♗c8 4.♖h2 ♖xd8! 5.b7 ♗h3+ 6.♖g8 ♗e6+ 7.♖h8 ♗e8+ 8.♖h7 ♖xc7 9.♖xc7

♖e4+ 10.♔h8 ♖xb7 +-)
1...♔xd4 2.c6! (2.♘a5? ♔c3
 3.b7 ♖g3 +-)
2...a1♖ 3.c7 ♖a8+
4.♘d8! ♖xd8 (4...♖c8?
 5.b7! ♖xc7 6.♘e6+ +-)
5.b7! ♖xb7 6.cxd8♖+ ♔xc4
7.♖g8+ draws.

‘With a bishop’s sacrifice White is able to queen his pawn and to save the game’.

Commendation
Ignace Vandecasteele
(Belgium)

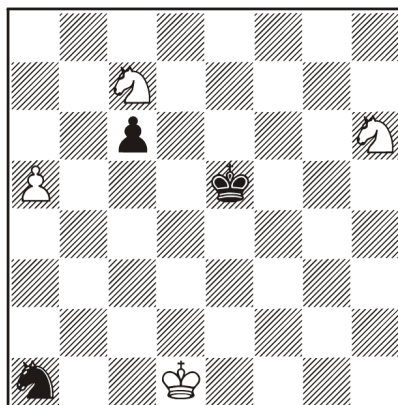


Draw

1.e7+! (1.♖xf3? ♖d4+ 2.♔g8
 g1♖+ 3.♖g2 ♖e3 4.e7+ ♖xe7)
1...♔e8! (1...♔xe7 2.♖xf3
 ♖d4+ 3.♔g8 g1♖+ 4.♖g2 ♖e3
 5.♖e2 =; or 1...♔c7 2.♖h4
 ♖d4+ 3.♖xd4 g1♖ 4.♖c4+
 ♔d7 5.♖e4 ♖g6 (5...♖h2+
 6.♔g7 ♖b8 7.e8♖+ ♖xe8
 8.♖b5+ +-)
 6.♖b5+ ♔c7 7.e8♖ +-)
2.♖xf3! ♖d4+
3.♔g8! (3.♔h7? g1♖ 4.♖g2
 ♖h1+ -)
3...g1♖+ 4.♖g2! ♖e3
5.♖h5+ ♔xe7 6.♖e2
 draws.

‘Here White cannot prevent queening, but using a pawn he successfully traps the new queen’.

Commendation
Pietro Rossi (Italy)

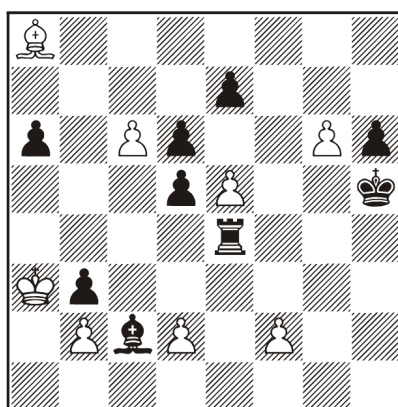


Black to move, White wins

1...♔d6 2.♘e6! (2.♘e8+? ♔c5
 =) **2...c5** (2...♔d7 3.♘c5+ ♔c8
 4.♔c1 +-)
3.♘f5+ (3.a6? ♔c6 4.♘f5 ♔b6
5.♘xc5 ♘b3 =)
3...♔c6 4.♘xc5! ♔xc5 5.♘d4!
 wins.

‘An elegant miniature with repeated knight’s sacrifices and a curious final position’.

1st Special Prize
Oleg Pervakov (Russia)



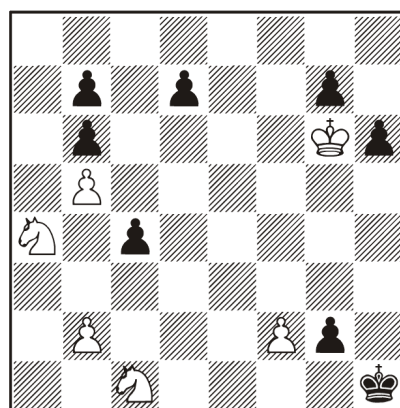
Win

1.d3! (1.g7? ♖g4 2.c7 ♖f5 3.e6
 ♖xe6 4.♖xd5 ♖xd5 5.c8♖
 ♖xg7 6.♖h3+ ♔g5! 7.f4+
 (7.♖g3+ ♔f6! 8.♖f4+ ♔e6
 9.♖xh6+ ♔f7 10.♖h5+ ♔e6)
 7...♔f6! 8.♖xh6+ ♖g6 9.♖h8+
 ♔e6 10.♖c8+ ♔f6! =)
1...♖xd3 (1...♔xg6 2.c7 ♖c4

(2...♖xd3 3.c8♖ ♖xe5
 4.♖xd5!) 3.dxc4 ♖f5 4.exd6
 exd6 5.♖b7 h5 6.cxd5 h4
 7.♖xa6) **2.g7 ♖g4 3.c7 ♖f5**
4.e6! ♖xe6 (4...♖xg7 5.c8♖ d4
 6.♖d5 ♔g6 7.♖xa6 h5 8.♖a4)
5.♖xd5! ♖xd5 6.c8♖ ♖xg7
 (6...e5 7.♖f5+ ♖g5 8.♖h3+
 ♔g6 9.♖d3+ ♔xg7 10.♖xd5
 ♖g6 11.♖b7+ ♔f6 12.♖xa6
 ♔g5 13.♔xb3) **7.♖h3+ ♔g5**
8.♖c3 ♖f7 9.♖d2+ ♔g6
10.♖xd5 wins.

‘A good logical study. The idea of the first move came to light only after 9 moves’.

2nd Special Prize
Karen Sumbatjan (Russia) &
Noam Elkies (USA/Israel)



Win

1.♘e2 d5 2.f3! (2.f4? d4 3.f5 d3
 4.♘ac3 dxe2 5.♘xe2 g1♖+
 6.♘xg1 ♔xg1 7.♔xg7 h5 8.f6
 h4 9.f7 h3 10.f8♖ h2 11.♖f3
 h1♖ 12.♖xh1+ ♔xh1 13.♔f6
 ♔g2; 2.b3? c3 3.♘axc3 d4
 4.♘e4 d3 5.♘4c3 dxe2 6.♘xe2
 g1♖+ 7.♘xg1 ♔xg1 8.f4 ♔g2!
 9.f5 h5 10.♔xh5 ♔g3 11.♔g6
 ♔g4! 12.f6 gxf6 13.♔xf6 ♔f4!)
2...d4 (2...♔h2 3.♔xg7 h5
4.♔g6 h4 5.♔g5 h3 6.♔g4 d4
7.f4 d3 8.♘ac3 dxe2 9.♘xe2
3.f4! d3 4.♘ac3 dxe2 5.♘xe2
g1♖+ 6.♘xg1 ♔xg1 7.f5! ♔g2
8.♔xg7 h5 9.f6 h4 10.f7 h3

11.f8♔ h2 12.♔e7 h1♔
13.♔xb7+ wins.

‘A clear demonstration of mutual zugzwang, but 4 duals on

move 12 slightly spoil the impression’.

Claims (incorrectness and/or possible anticipation) should be sent to Harm Benak before March 1st 2005.