

## **Provisional study award of ChessStar 2023**

(Judge: Martin Minski, Germany)

There were 29 studies from 16 authors from 10 countries.

**Gurgui #3424, #3425, #3475** Not studies, just incorrect moves.

**Aliev #3572** I've looked at the game Carlson - Nepo and don't see any enrichment on the part of the composer. Such rook distractions have been shown so many times.

**Gurgenidze #3596** Only a correction of Gurgenidze 1995.

**Yarmonov & Kirillov #4496** Anticipated by Kirillov, 3.p Badalov-55 MT 2017.

**Kandinski #4518** Two simple stalemates anticipated. The other two are dualistic. Technical deficits. All of this is not enough for an award.

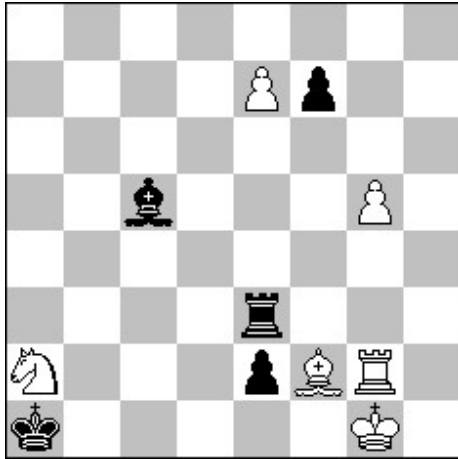
**Kandinski #4523** Only a correction of Rusinek 1978.

Here is my selection:

1st prize

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

#3270 ChessStar 2023



+

(6+5)

**1.Nc3! e1Q+ 2.Bxe1 Rxc3+ 3.Rf2!**

[3.Kh2? Re3 4.Bc3+ Kb1 5.Bf6 Bxe7 6.Bxe7 Rxe7 7.Kg3 Kc1 8.Kg4 Kd1 9.Rf2 the rook gets to f2 too late: 9...Ke1=]

**3...Re3** Unpin

[3...Rg3+ 4.Kh2 Re3 5.Bc3+ Kb1 6.Bf6 Bxe7 7.Bxe7 Rxe7 8.Kg3 (or 8.Kh3) Kc1 9.Kg4 (or 9.Kf4; 9.Kh4) 9...Kd1 10.Kf5 (or 10.Kh5 Ke1 11.Rf5+-) 10...Ke1 11.Kf6+-]

**4.Rf1!! Ka2 5.Bf2 Rxe7 6.Bxc5 Re5 7.Rf2+! Kb1 8.Rb2+!**

Main A **8...Ka1 9.Bd4 Rxc5+ 10.Rg2+ Kb1 11.Rxc5+-**

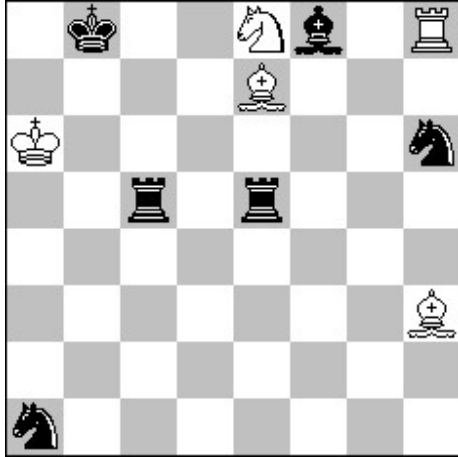
Main B **8...Kc1 9.Ba3 Ra5 10.Rb3+ Kc2 11.Rg3+-**

Attractive play and a lot of content with only 11 pieces and the impressive maneuver Rf2-Rf1!! The motivation behind the self-pin 3.Rf2! is interesting. After 3...Rg3+ ... 7...Rxe7 Black has a decisive tempo more than after 3.Kh2? Re3 ... 6...Rxe7. As they say when it comes to cars: "Price and performance are in the best ratio!"

2nd prize

Michael Pasman

#4462 ChessStar 2023



+

(5+6)

**1.Bd6+! Bxd6 2.Nc7+! Ng8**

[Secondary line : 2...Bf8 3.Kb6!! Rb5+! 4.Nxb5 Re8 5.Rh7! Re7 6.Nc7!! Rxh7 7.Na6+ Ka8 8.Bg2+ Rb7+ 9.Bxb7# model mate]

**3.Rxg8+ Bf8 4.Kb6!! Rb5+! 5.Nxb5 Re8 6.Nd6! Rd8 7.Nb7! Bc5+! 8.Nxc5 Rxg8 9.Na6+**  
[Thematic try : 9.Bf5? Ka8! 10.Be4+ Kb8 11.Bf5 Ka8 12.Na6 Rb8+!]

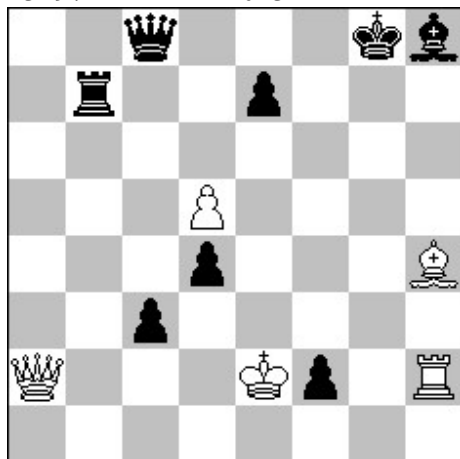
**9...Ka8 10.Nc7+ Kb8 11.Bf5! Nb3 12.Na6+ Ka8 13.Be4#**

White has a whole rook less and still plays to win. A tactical battle that remains exciting until the end. The only downside is the black knight on a1, which is hardly involved in the play.

**3rd prize**

**Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen**

#3297 ChessStar 2023



+

(5+8)

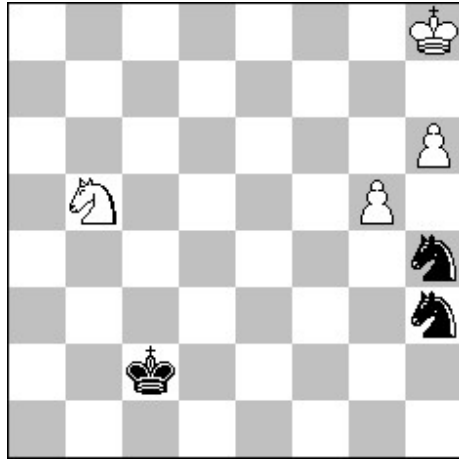
**1.d6+! e6 2.d7 f1Q+! 3.Kxf1 Rxd7 4.Qxe6+ Rf7+ 5.Bf6! Qa6+! 6.Kf2! Bg7! 7.Qe8+ Rf8  
8.Rh8+! Kxh8 9.Qxf8+ Kh7 10.Qxg7#**

In almost every move there is a new, surprising punchline until the final checkmate. However, Steffen has already shown such scenarios in a similar form.

special prize

**Pavel Arestov & Peter Krug**

#3296 ChessStar 2023



+

(4+3)

**1.Nd4+! Kd3 2.Nf3! Nxf3 3.g6 Nf4 4.g7 Ng6+ 5.Kg8! Ng5 6.h7 Nxh7 7.Kf7!!** the point  
[7.Kxh7? Ne7=]

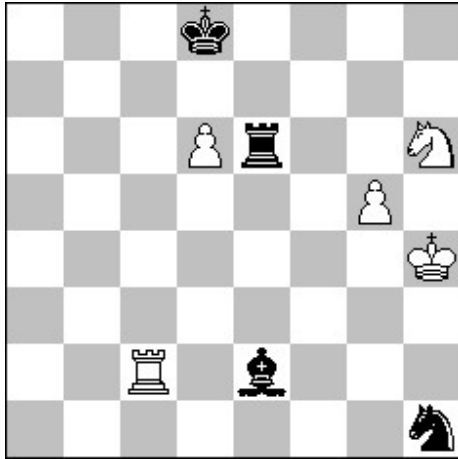
**7...Ne5+ 8.Ke6! Ng5+ 9.Kf6! Nef3 10.g8Q Ne4+ 11.Kf5 Nd4+ 12.Ke5! Nf3+ 13.Kf4+-**

The ending is checkmate in 57 moves, which no one can understand, but 7.Kf7!! is really incredible! The introduction is also good. A miniature to remember.

1st hm

Michael Pasman & Pavel Arestov

#3421 ChessStar 2023



+

(5+4)

**1.g6! Kd7 2.Nf7! Re4+! 3.Kh3! Bg4+ 4.Kh2!**

[Logical try : 4.Kg2? Ke8! 5.d7+ Kxd7 6.g7 Re8 7.Ne5+ Position Y2, and white king is badly located on g-file, e.g. 7...Kd6 8.Nxg4 Rg8!]=]

**4...Ke8 5.d7+ Kxd7 6.g7 Re8 7.Ne5+ Position Y1**

**7...Kd8 8.Rd2+ Kc8! 9.Ng6! Be6 10.Re2! Nf2! 11.Rxe6! Ng4+ 12.Kg1!**

[Logical try : 12.Kh1? Rg8 13.Re7 Nh6 14.Rf7 Kd8 15.Ra7 Re8 Position X1 16.Kg2 Re6!]

**12...Rg8 13.Re7 Nh6 14.Rf7! Re8**

[14...Kd8 15.Ra7 Re8 Position X2 16.Kf2!]

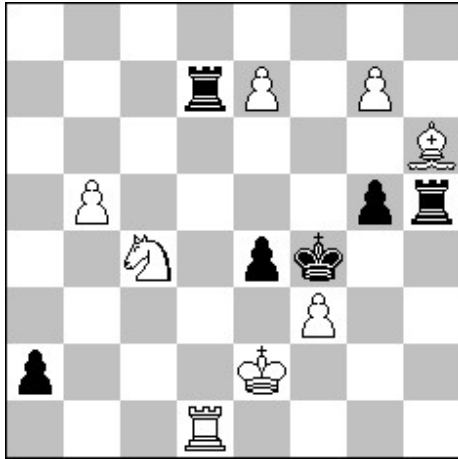
**15.Rf6! Kb7 16.Nf4 Re7 17.Nh5!+-**

Solid study with tactical and logical elements. The big idea and a pointed ending are missing.

2nd hm

Michael Pasman

#3419 ChessStar 2023



= (8+6)

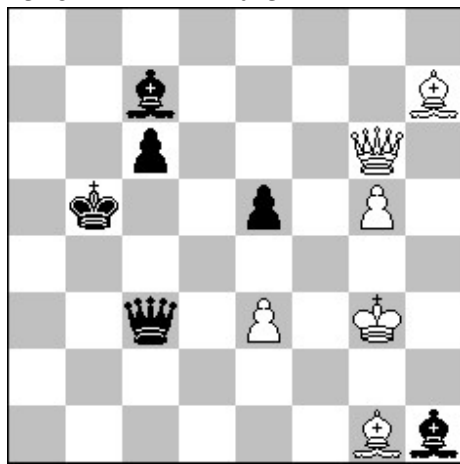
1.Rh1! Rxh1 2.Bxg5+! Kg3 3.Bh4+! Kxh4 4.g8Q Re1+! 5.Kf2! Rf1+ 6.Ke2! exf3+ 7.Ke3!  
a1Q 8.Qh7+ Kg5 9.Qg8+ Kh6 10.Qe6+ Kg7 11.Qg8+! Kh6 12.Qe6+ Kg5 13.Qg8+ Kf5  
14.Nd6+! Rxd6 15.Qc8+! Kg5 16.Qg8+ Kh6 17.Qf8+ Qg7 18.Qxg7+ Kxg7 19.e8N+! Phoenix  
19...Kg6 20.Nxd6 f2 21.Nb7! Rb1 22.Kxf2 Rxb5 23.Nd6=

Wild confrontation with mutual sacrifices and Phoenix knight along with 21. Nb7! I'm a bit missing the common thread and from a solver's point of view it's probably a bit too long (difficult).

special hm

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

#3481 Chessestar 2023



+

(6+6)

**1.Qb1+ Kc5 2.Be4 Bxe4 3.Qxe4 Qd3!! 4.Qf5!! Kb4 5.Qxd3 e4+ 6.Qd6+! Bxd6+ 7.Kg4 c5  
8.g6 Bf8 9.Bh2 c4 10.Be5 c3 11.g7 Bxg7 12.Bxg7 c2 13.Bb2 Kb3 14.Bc1+-**

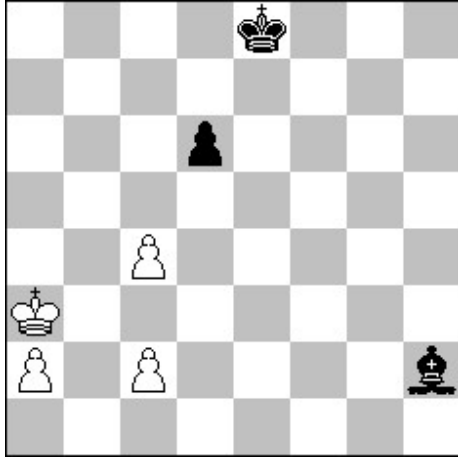
Impressive echo queen sacrifices. Unfortunately this could only be achieved with an exchange on e4.



**Commendation**

**Michal Hlinka & Ľuboš Kekely**

#3183 ChessStar 2023



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(4+3)

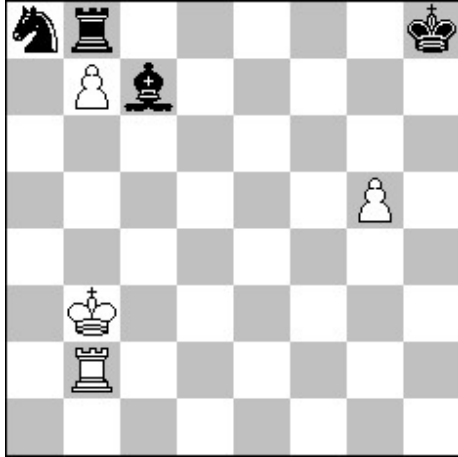
**1.c5! dxc5 2.Ka4 Kd7 3.Kb5 Bg1 4.Kb6! Kd6 5.c3! Kd5 6.Kb5 Bh2 7.a4 Bb8 8.a5 Ba7  
9.Ka6=**

Commendation for the good key and 5.c3!

### Commendation

Michal Hlinka & Ľuboš Kekely

#3826 ChessStar 2023



=

(4+4)

**1.Kc4! Nb6+ 2.Kc5 Rxb7 3.Kc6 Ra7 4.Re2! Na8 switchback 5.Re7 Kg8 6.g6! zz  
6...Kf8 7.Rf7+ Ke8 8.Rh7! Kf8 9.Rf7+ Kg8 10.Re7 zz, positional draw or 10...Bb6 11.Rxa7  
Bxa7 12.Kb7=**

Interesting reciprocal zugzwang. Unfortunately there is no thematic try with zugzwang and BTM and bBc7 is already there.