

EG 50 AT 2016

Tourney director Mario Garcia (Argentina) received only 27 studies for our anniversary tourney. The good news is that the quality level was quite high with no fewer than 18 studies well deserving a distinction (most of you will know that I am against the policy of some judges to include almost every sound study in their awards).

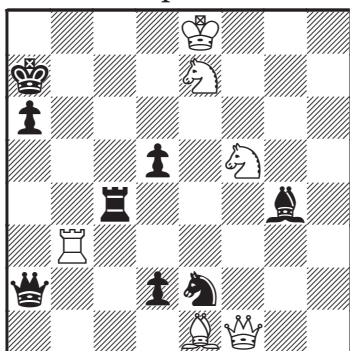
The announcement requested in particular that composers submit an artistic presentation as well as an analytical version, if necessary. This was done for about half of the submissions. One of the composers who overlooked this request supplied a horrible computer dump and after several attempts I decided to stop trying to find if something interesting was hidden in it.

However, as said above, the overall quality level was quite high, with the first two prize winners clearly standing out. I am certain that some of the HM's and commendations would qualify as prize-winning studies in other tourneys. We are grateful that so many composers undertook to send one of their best studies to this anniversary tourney.

The provisional award appeared in EG203 (January 2016) and became final (without changes) in EG204 (April 2016)".

Harold van der Heijden, FIDE judge for endgame studies

No 20487 O. Pervakov
1st prize



d8a7 4445.03 6/8 Draw

No 20487 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Qf2+/i d4/ii 2.Sc6+/iii Rxc6 3.Sxd4 Bd7+/iv 4.Kxd7/v d1Q/vi 5.Bd2/vii Qaxd2 6.Kxc6, and:

- Qh6+ 7.Se6+ Sd4+ 8.Qxd4+ Qxd4 9.Rb7+ Ka8 10.Rb8+ Kxb8 stalemate, or:
- Q1c1+ 7.Sc2+ Sd4+ 8.Qxd4+ Qxd4 9.Rb7+ Ka8 10.Rb8+ Kxb8 stalemate, or:
- Qh1+ 7.Sf3+ Sd4+/viii 8.Qxd4+ Qxd4 9.Rb7+ Ka8 10.Rb8+ Kxb8 stalemate.

i) 1.Bf2+? Ka8 2.Rb6 Qa4+ 3.Kd8 Bxf5 4.Sxf5 Sd4 5.Bxd4 d1Q 6.Qf4 Rc8+ 7.Kxc8 Qe8+ 8.Kc7 Qc2+ 9.Kd6 Qcc8 10.Kxd5 Qg8+ 11.Ke4 Qc2+ 12.Ke5 Qc7+ 13.Ke4 Qg2+ 14.Qf3 Qcc2+ 15.Ke3+ Qxf3+ 16.Kxf3 Qxf5+ wins.

ii) Ka8 2.Rb8+ Kxb8 3.Qb6+ draws.

iii) 2.Sxd4? Bd7+ 3.Kxd7 Rxd4+ 4.Ke8 Qxb3 5.Bxd2 Qb5+ 6.Kf7 Qc4+ 7.Kf8 Kb8 wins.

iv) Counter play! If Bh5+ (Sxd4; Qf7+) 4.Ke7 Sxd4 5.Qxd4+ Ka8 6.Qh8+ and White wins.

v) 4.Ke7? Sxd4 5.Qxd4+ Ka8 6.Qh8+ Bc8 wins.

vi) After 5...d1R White builds a new battery 5.Qf7.

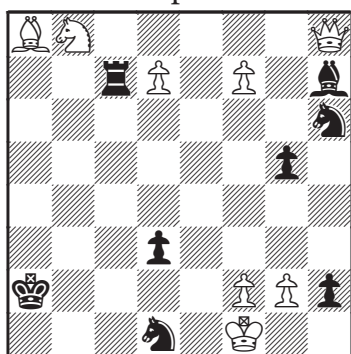
vii) Echo-sacrifice. 5.Kxc6? (Qf7? Qaxb3;) Sxd4+ 6.Qxd4+ Qxd4 and no stalemate, which explains why White must sacrifice its bishop.

viii) Qd4 8.Rb7+ Ka8 9.Rb8+ Kxb8 10.Qg3+ Sxg3 stalemate.

“This is the best study of the tourney. There are three main lines ending in a midboard mirror stalemate, with a wS either pinned diagonally, vertically or horizontally! Only a recent study by Krug (HHdbV#02028) comes near with three knights being simultaneously pinned in a mirror stalemate position with the wK cornered, and a study by Sarychev (EG#03369) with three stalemates in different lines, but also with wK cornered and one of the stalemates is not a mirror stalemate. The main lines in the present study are much better. After the introduction (I do not like the “try” very

much), Black counters with a bishop sacrifice: 3...Bd7+! which White must accept. As a result the wS is pinned after the queen promotion and cannot capture on c6. But White returns the honours with an echo sacrifice 5.Bd2!! getting rid of the bishop. Black, having two queens, has three relevant checks and each one is countered by a self-pinning discovered check of the wS ending in stalemate”.

No 20488 G. Tallaksen Østmoe
2nd prize



f1a2 1347.43 8/8 Draw

No 20488 Geir Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway). 1.Bd5+/i Kb1 2.g4 Se3+ 3.fxe3 Rc1+ 4.Kf2 Sxg4+ 5.Kg3 Rg1+ 6.Kh3 Be4 7.Qa1+/ii Kxa1 8.Bxe4 h1Q+ 9.Bxh1 Rxh1+ 10.Kxg4 Rh8 11.Sc6 d2 12.d8Q Rxd8 13.Sxd8 d1Q+ 14.Kxg5 Qxd8+ 15.Kg6 Kb2 16.e4 Kc3 17.e5 Qf8 18.e6 Kd4 19.e7 Qxe7 20.Kg7 Ke5 21.Kg8 draws.

i) Logical try: 1.g4? Se3+ 2.fxe3 Rc1+ 3.Kf2 Sxg4+ 4.Kg3 Rg1+ 5.Kh3 Be4 6.Bxe4 h1Q+ 7.Bxh1 Rxh1+ 8.Kxg4 Rxh8 9.Sc6 d2 10.d8Q Rxd8 11.Sxd8 d1Q+ 12.Kxg5 Qxd8+ 13.Kg6 Kb3 (or Qf8) 14.e4 Kc4 (or Qf8) 15.e5 Qf8 16.e6 Kd5 (or Kc5) 17.e7 Qxe7 18.Kg7 Ke6 wins.

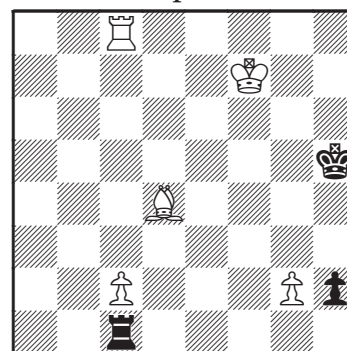
ii) Logical try: 7.Bxe4? h1Q+ 8.Bxh1 Rxh1+ 9.Kxg4 Rxh8 10.Sc6 d2 11.d8Q Rxd8 12.Sxd8 d1Q+ 13.Kxg5 Qxd8+ 14.Kg6 Kc2 (or Qf8) 15.e4 Kd3 (or Qf8) 16.e5 Qf8 17.e6 Ke4 18.e7 Qxe7 19.Kg7 Kf5 20.Kg8 Kg6 wins.

“This is a truly marvellous study which becomes better and better when you begin to understand what is going on. The point is that the main line and both tries end with a Q vs. P ending, with the bK diagonally approaching d5 or f5 in the tries, but e5 in the solution, which is a well-known theoretical draw. Ok, nice, but

then we see that the key move is already a surprise, forcing the bK to the right square (a2). Then there is a tactical intermezzo until move 6...Be4. What follows next is a queen sacrifice coming out of the blue: 7.Qa1+!! The amusing thing is that it is not really a queen sacrifice as the wQ would also be lost when White falls into the thematic try 7.Bxe4? because after another tactical intermezzo Black captures the wQ when he plays his rook to h8 (9...Rxh8). In the solution, Black also has to play 10...Rh8 which is not a capture as the wQ was sacrificed, a brilliant and perhaps new idea! The only difference is that in the solution the bK is at a1, and in the 2nd thematic try at b1!”

“There are some move transposition black duals (Qf8) in both thematic tries, and perhaps a more serious black dual (16...Kc5 17.e7 Qxe7 18.Kg7 Kd6), which is not a true time wasting dual (19.Kg8 Qg5+ 20.Kh7 Ke7) in the 1st thematic try, but I accept it as a minor dual”.

No 20489 R. Becker
3rd prize



f7h5 3110.21 5/3 Win

No 20489 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bf6/i Rxc2/ii 2.Rxc2 h1Q 3.Rc4 Qh2/iii 4.Be7/iv Qh1/v 5.Rf4 Qh2 6.Ra4 Qh1 7.Bf6 Qh2 8.g4+ Kh6 9.g5+ Kh5 10.g6 Qc7+ 11.Be7 wins.

i) The most obvious move is a try: 1.Rh8+? Kg4 2.Rxh2 Rxc2 positional draw. 1.Rg8? Rxc2 2.Bf6/vi Rxg2 3.Rxg2 h1Q 4.Rg5+ Kh6 5.Rg6+ Kh5 draws.

ii) h1Q 2.Rg8, and now: Qd1 3.g4+ Qxg4 4.Rh8 mate, or here: Rg1 3.g4+ Rxg4 4.Rh8 mate. Or Kg4 2.Rc4+ Kg3 3.Be5+ Kxg2 4.Bxh2 wins.

iii) Qe1 4.g4+ Kh6 5.Rc8 (g5+) wins.

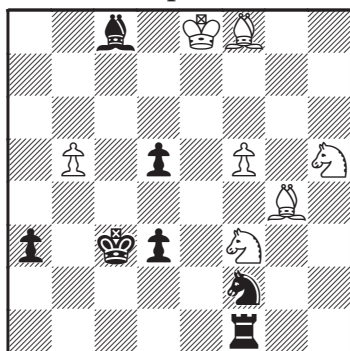
iv) Logical try: 4.g4+? Kh6 5.g5+ Kh5 6.g6 Qa2 pinning wRc4, draws.

v) Qg3 5.Rc5+ Kg4 6.Rg5+ Kf4 7.Bd6+ Kxg5 8.Bxg3 wins.

vi) 2.g4+ Kh4 3.Bf6+ Kh3 draws.

“First, there is a curious positional draw after 1.Rh8? after which White cannot make progress. The play becomes interesting after 3...Qh2. The logical try shows that Black has a nasty pin when White carries out his plan. He uses a precise preparatory manoeuvre (Be7-Rf4-Ra4-Bf6) to move the wRc4 to a4, and now the plan wins. Despite “database” material, the moves are easy to comprehend”.

No 20490 M. Minski
4th prize



e8c3 0355.23 7/7 Draw.

No 20490 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Sg3 Re1+ 2.Sxe1 d2 3.Bg7+ d4 4.Bxd4+ Kxd4 5.Sc2+ Kd3 6.Bd1 Sxd1 7.Sxa3 Bd7+/i 8.Kd8/ii, and:

— Sc3 (Sf2) 9.Sc4 Kxc4 (d1Q; Sb2+) 10.Sf1 d1Q 11.Se3+ draws, or:

— Se3 (Sb2) 9.Se4 Kxe4 (d1Q; Sf2+) 10.Sb1 d1Q 11.Sc3+ draws.

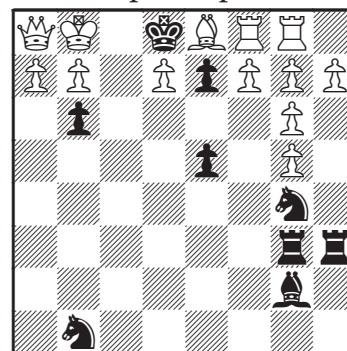
i) Sc3 (Sf2) 8.Sc4 Kxc4 9.Sf1 d1Q 10.Se3+ Kxb5 11.Sxd1 Sxd1 12.f6 draws, or Se3 (Sb2) 8.Se4 Kxe4 9.Sb1 d1Q 10.Sc3+ Kxf5 11.Sxd1 Sxd1 12.Kd8 draws.

ii) 8.Kxd7? Se3 9.Se4 Kxe4 10.Sb1 d1Q+ with check.

“This is a tactical study whose introduction features a bR sacrifice for promotion, a wB sacrifice to prevent the promotion and another wB sacrifice to block the bP. Then the highlight of the study follows: a great bB sacrifice (7... Bd7+!!) followed by a capture refusal (8.Kd8!!). The composer calls this optically nice position

the “EG jubilee tree” which is a nice gesture, but we fail to see a direct connection. The study ends with 4 main lines each with wS sacrifices and forks”.

No 20491 M. Zinar
1st special prize



b8d8 1846.83 13/9 Draw

No 20491 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.h8B/i Rxh8 2.gxh8B/ii Sd2 3.g7 Rh3 4.g6 Rxh8 5.gx-h8B/iii Sb3 6.g7 Sd4 stalemate.

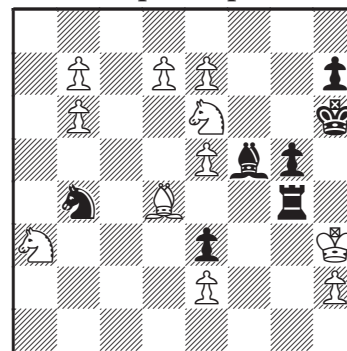
i) 1.h8S? Sh6 2.gxh6 Sc3 3.h7 Rxh7 4.gxh7 Se4 5.Sg6 Sc5 6.h8Q Sa6 mate.

ii) 2.Rxh8? e4 3.g8S/vii e3 4.Sxe7 e2 5.Sc6+ Bxc6 6.Rfg8 e1Q 7.f8Q Qe5+ 8.Qd6 Qxd6 mate.

iii) 5.gxh8Q? Sf3 6.Qh4 Sxh4 7.Rh8 Sf5 8.Rfg8 Sd4 9.f8Q Sc6 mate.

“Apart from a terribly unsound study by Pomogalov (#08083) this is the first study in which three bishop promotions are needed for a draw. However, the play is very limited so, therefore, a special prize is awarded for the new task record”.

No 20492 J. Timman
2nd special prize



h3h6 0345.73 11/7 Draw

No 20492 Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.Sg7 Kxg7 2.e6+ Kh6 3.Bg7+ Kxg7 4.e8S+ Kg6

5.Sd6 Bxe6 6.d8S Bd7 7.b8S Sd3 8.exd3 e2 9.Sc2, and:

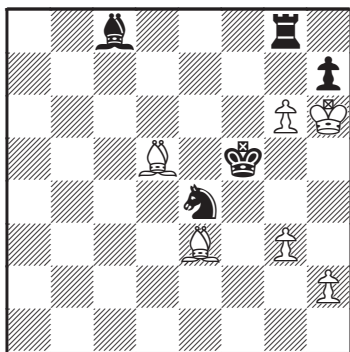
— Ba4 10.Sbc6 (Se1 Rg1;) Rg1 11.Se8 Bxc2 12.Se7+ Kh5 13.Sg7+ Kh6 14.Sgf5+ Kh5 15.Sg7+ positional draw, or:

— Rc4+ 10.Sxd7 Rxc2 11.S8f7 e1Q/i 12.Sfe5+ Kg7 13.Sf5+ Kh8 14.Sf7+ Kg8 15.S7h6+ Kh8 16.Sf7+ positional draw.

i) g4+ 12.Kxg4 h5+ 13.Kf4 e1Q 14.Sfe5+ Kh7 15.Kf5 draws.

“I like the two piece sacrifices on g7 and the three knight promotions for a draw. Initially I curiously overlooked the connection between the two main lines after the S promotions, but the (obvious!) point is that either the bB or the bR captures the wSc2 that stops the bPe2 from promoting”.

No 20493 L. Kekely & M. Hlinka
1st honourable mention



h6f5 o353.31 6/5 Win

No 20493 L'ubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). 1.g4+/i Kxg4/ii 2.gxh7 Rg6+ 3.Kxg6 Bf5+ 4.Kg7/iii Bxh7 5.h3+/iv Kxh3/v 6.Be6+ Kh4 7.Kh6 zz (Kxh7? Sg5+;) Sf6 8.Bf2 mate.

i) 1.Bxg8? hxg6 2.Bf7 Kg4 3.Kxg6 Sxg3 4.hxg3 Kxg3 draws.

ii) Ke5 2.Bxg8 hxg6 3.g5 Bf5 4.Bf7 Sd6 5.Bxg6 wins.

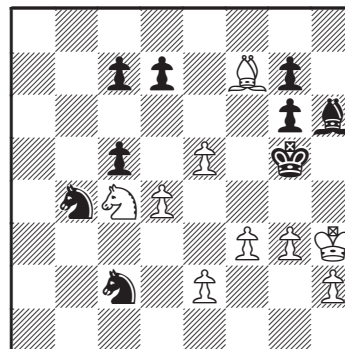
iii) Thematic try: 4.Kh6? Bxh7 5.h3+ Kxh3 6.Be6+ Kh4 zz, draws.

iv) 5.Be6+? (Kxh7? Sf6+;) Bf5 6.h3+ Kf3 7.Bxf5 Sg3 draws.

v) Kg3 6.Be6 Kf3 7.Bh6 wins as the bB is lost.

“This has an introduction with quite a few captures but also with two sacrifices from each side. It is a solid reciprocal zugzwang study with an original zz position and a good try, finishing with a model mate”.

No 20494 O. Pervakov
2nd honourable mention



h3g5 oo47.65 9/9 Win

No 20494 Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Be8/i Sd5 2.dxc5/ii Sce3 3.c6 dxc6 4.Sxe3 Sxe3 5.Bd7 Kh5/iii 6.Bg4+ Sxg4 7.fxg4+ Kg5 8.e4 zz c5 9.Kg2 Kxg4 10.h3+ Kh5 11.h4 g5/iv 12.e6 Kg6 13.e5 gxh4 14.gxh4 Bf4/v 15.h5+ Kxh5 16.e7 wins.

i) It is too early for pawn moves: 1.dxc5? Sd4 2.Be8 Sxe2 3.Bxd7 Sf4+ 4.gxf4+ Kxf4 5.e6 Bg5 6.Kg2 Be7 7.c6 Sd5 8.Kf2 Bh4+ 9.Ke2 Bf6, or 1.d5? d6 2.f4+ Kf5 3.Sxd6+ cxd6 4.Be6+ Ke4 5.exd6 Sd4 6.d7 Sbc6 7.dxc6 Sxc6 8.Kg4 Sd8 9.Bg8 Ke3 10.Bh7 c4 11.Bxg6 Kxe2 12.Kf5 c3 13.Ke5 Kf3 14.Be4+ Ke3, or 1.e4? Sd3 2.Sb2 Sce1 3.Sxd3 Sxd3 4.Bc4 Sf4+ 5.gxf4+ Kxf4, or 1.f4+? Kf5 2.d5 Bxf4 3.gxf4 Kxf4 4.e6 dxe6 5.dxe6 Sd5 6.Bxg6 Sce3 win.

ii) Logical try: 3.Sxe3? Sxe3 4.Bxd7 Kh5 5.Bg4+ Sxg4 6.fxg4+ Kg5 7.e4/vi c6 zz 8.Kg2 Kxg4 9.h3+ Kh5 10.h4 Be3 11.e6 Bxc5 wins.

iii) Sd5 6.e3 Sxe3 7.f4+ Kh5 8.g4+ Sxg4 9.Bxg4 mate.

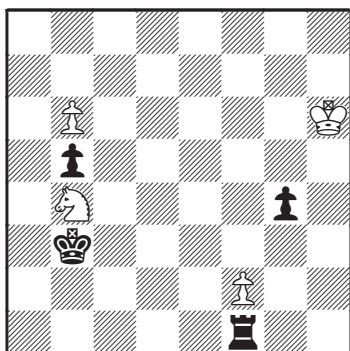
iv) c4 12.e6 c3 13.e7 c2 14.Kh3 c1Q/xvii 15.g4 mate.

v) Bg5 15.hxg5 c4 16.Kf2 wins.

vi) 7.e3 c6 8.e4 stalemate!

“This is a fine study with (full point) reciprocal zugzwang. The excellent sacrifice (3.c6!!) gets on the right side of the zz whereas the more natural move 3.Sxe3? is the logical try. The point is that after 11.h4 the move that refutes the white plan in the thematic try (10... Be3) does not work (11...Be3 12.e6) because the a3-f8 diagonal is blocked”.

No 20495 V. Tarasiuk & V. Samilo
3rd honourable mention



h6b3 o3o1.22 4/4 Win

No 20495 Vladislav Tarasiuk & Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.b7 g3 2.fxc3/i Rf8 3.Sc6/ii b4 4.Kg7/iii Re8 5.Kf7 Rh8 6.Ke7 Rh7+/iv 7.Kf6/v Rxb7 8.Sa5+ Kc2/vi 9.Sxb7 b3 10.Sa5 b2 11.Sc4 b1S 12.g4 Sc3 13.Ke5 wins.

i) 2.b8Q? gxf2 3.Qg3+ Kxb4 4.Qg4+ Ka5 draws.

ii) Try: 3.Sa6? b4 4.b8Q (Kh7 Rd8;) Rxb8 5.Sxb8 Ka2 6.Sa6 b3 7.Sc5 b2 8.Sa4 b1S 9.g4 Sd2 10.g5 Sf3 11.g6 Sh4 12.g7 Sf5+ draws.

iii) If 4.b8Q?, see note ii).

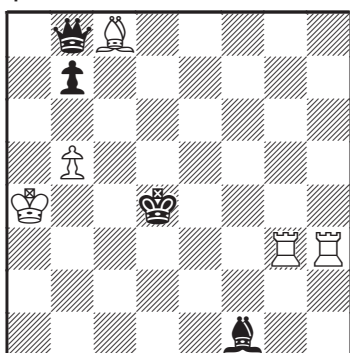
iv) Kc2 7.Sd8 Rh7+ 8.Sf7 wins.

v) 7.Ke6? Rxb7 8.Sa5+ Kc2 9.Sxb7 b3 10.Sa5 b2 11.Sc4 Kd3 12.Sxb2+ Ke4 draws.

vi) Ka2 9.Sxb7 b3 10.Sc5 b2 11.Sa4 wins, e.g. b1S 12.g4.

“The point of the study is the original wK manoeuvre Kg7-Kf7-Ke7-Kf6 before winning the S and P vs S ending. There is a good thematic try 3.Sa6? when a similar ending draws. Both solution and try have a knight promotion”.

No 20496 P. Arestov & A. Skripnik
4th honourable mention



a4d4 3240.11 5/4 Win

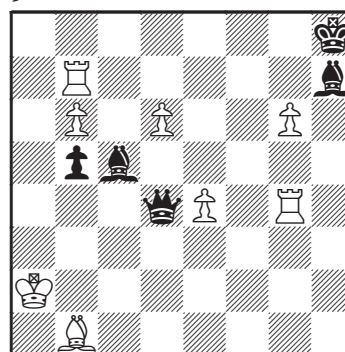
No 20496 Pavel Arestov & Anatoly Skripnik (Russia). 1.Rg4+/i Kc5 2.Rh5+ Kb6 3.Rg6+ Ka7 4.b6+ Ka8 5.Ra5+ Ba6 6.Rxa6+ bxa6 7.b7+ Ka7 8.Ka3/ii zz a5 9.Kb3 zz a4+ 10.Ka3 Qc7 (Qf4; Ra6+) 11.Ra6+ Kxa6 (Kb8; Ra8 mate) 12.b8Q+ wins.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rh4+? Kc5 2.Rg5+ Kb6 3.Rh6+ Ka7 4.b6+ Ka8 5.Ra5+ Ba6 6.Rxa6+ bxa6 7.b7+ Ka7 8.Rf6/vii a5 zz 9.Ka3 Qg3+ draws.

ii) 8.Rf6? a5 zz 9.Rc6 Qf4+, or 8.Kb3? a5 zz 9.Ka3 a4 zz 10.Rc6 Qg3+ draws.

“This is a zz study with a natural thematic try. The pattern of the pieces in the top left corner of the board is original”.

No 20497 J. Timman
5th honourable mention



a2h8 3270.41 8/5 Draw

No 20497 Jan Timman (the Netherlands). 1.g7+/i Kg8 2.Rb8+ (Bc2 Qd2;) Kf7 3.Rb7+ Ke6 4.Re7+/ii Kxd6 5.e5+ Kxe7 6.Rxd4 Bg8+ 7.Rc4/iii bxc4/iv 8.b7 c3+ 9.e6 Bxe6+ 10.Ka1 Bd4 (Bd6; Bh7) 11.g8S+ Bxg8 12.b8R/v Bb3/vi 13.Rb4 c2+ 14.Rxd4 c1Q 15.Rd7+ (Re4+ Be6;) Kf6 16.Rf7+ Kg5 17.Rg7+ (Rf5+? Kg4;) Kf4 18.Rf7+/vii Ke5 19.Rf5+ (Re7+? Be6;) Kd6 20.Rd5+ Kc6 21.Rd6+ Kc7 22.Rd7+ Kc8 23.Rd8+ perpetual check or stalemate.

i) 1.Rxh7+? Kg8 2.Rh2 Qc4+ wins.

ii) 4.Rg6+? Ke5 5.Re7+ Kf4 6.Rf7+ Ke3 7.Rg3+ Ke2 8.Rg2+ Ke1 wins.

iii) 7.Kb2? Bxd4+ 8.Ka3 Bc5+ wins.

iv) Bxc4+ 8.Kb2 Bd4+ 9.Ka3 draws.

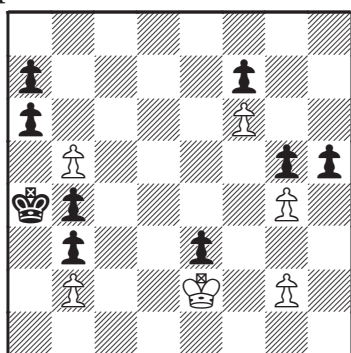
v) 12.b8Q? c2+ 13.Qb2 c1Q wins.

vi) c2+ 13.Rb2 c1Q stalemate or here: c1B 14.Bd3 Bcxb2+ 15.Kb1 positional draw.

vii) 18.Rg4+? Ke5 19.Re4+ Kf6 20.Re6+ Kg5 wins, e.g. 21.Re5+ (Rg6+ Kh5;) Kf4 22.Rf5+ Kg4 or 22.Re4+ Kf3.

“The introduction is a bit too violent to my taste, e.g. with the bQ being captured without having moved. The rest is interesting with S and R promotions in a draw study with good counter play (12...Bb3!) and a rabid rook ending with accurate wR moves. The stalemate is well-known (Maksimovskikh & Shupletsov, #28739) and the study is partly anticipated by a recent one by Minski (#01012), which has the counter move in a win study”.

No 20498 M. Zinar
special honourable mention



e2a4 0000.58 6/9 Win

No 20498 Mikhail Zinar (Ukraine). 1.b6/i axb6 2.gxh5 b5/ii 3.h6 g4 4.h7 g3 5.h8S zz a5 6.Sg6 zz fxg6 7.f7 g5 8.f8S g4 9.Kd3 e2 10.Sd7/iii e1Q/iv 11.Sb6 (Sc5) mate.

i) Logical try: 1.gxh5? (bxa6? hxg4;) axb5 2.h6 g4 3.h7 g3/v 4.h8S a6 zz 5.Sg6 a5 6.Ke1 e2/vi 7.Kxe2 fxg6 8.f7 g5 9.f8S g4 10.Sd7 stalemate.

ii) g4 3.h6 g3 4.h7 a5 5.h8S Kb5 6.Sxf7 a4 7.Sd6+ Kc6 8.f7 a3 9.f8Q wins.

iii) 10.Se6? e1S+ 11.Ke2 Sd3, covering c5, 12.Kxd3 stalemate.

iv) e1S+ 11.K- Sd3 12.Sb6 mate.

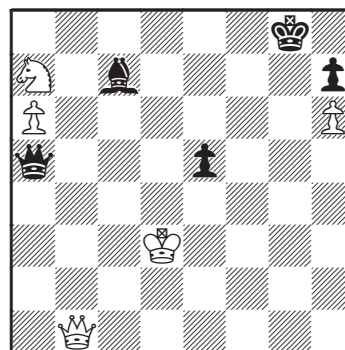
v) Avoiding: a5? 4.h8S, or a6? 4.h8Q winning.

vi) But not: fxg6 7.f7 g5 8.f8S wins.

“Zinar composed a lot of studies with such schemes (e.g. #00637, 01806) and it was no surprise to me that he turned out to be the composer of this study. His studies usually have accurate king moves, or extra underpromotions. In this case we have a reciprocal zugzwang study with an excellent try (1.gxh5? 4...a6!) and

a great key move (1.b6!) to get on the right side of the zz position”.

No 20499 A. Jasik
1st commendation



c5f8 4031.21 5/5 Win

No 20499 Andrzej Jasik (Poland). 1.Qb5 e4+ 2.Kxe4 Qe1+ 3.Kd5 Qh1+ 4.Kc5 Qg1+/i 5.Kc6 Qxa7 6.Qb3+/ii Kf8 7.Qb7 Bb8 8.Qg7+ Qxg7/iii 9.hxg7+ Kxg7 10.Kb7 wins.

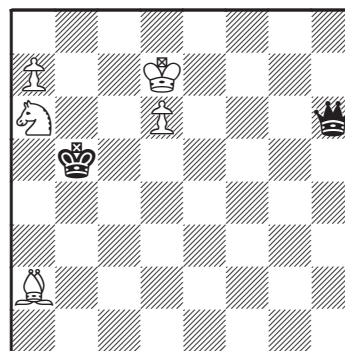
i) Kf8 5.Qd3, but not the composer's 5.Sc6? Qc1 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 6.Qb7? Bb8 7.Qg7+ Qxg7 8.hxg7 and Black has time for 8...Ba7 and draws.

iii) Ke8 9.Qg8+ Ke7 10.Qxh7+ wins.

“This has a nice point (8.Qxg7+ Qxg7 9.hxg7+ with check) with a thematic try. The optically appealing position in the top left corner seems to be original”.

No 20500 R. Becker
2nd commendation



d7b5 3011.20 5/2 Win

No 20500 Richard Becker (USA). 1.Bd5/i Qg7+/ii 2.Kc8 Qxa7/iii 3.Sc7+ Kb6 4.Ba8/iv Qa3 5.d7 Qh3 6.Bd5/v Qf5 7.Ba2/vi Qe4/vii 8.Sd5+ Kc6 9.d8Q Qf5+ 10.Kb8 wins.

i) 1.a8Q? Qg7+ 2.Ke8 Qe5+ 3.Kd7 Qg7+ 4.Kc8 Qf8+ 5.Kb7 Qf3+ 6.Kb8 Qf8+ 7.Ka7 Qf2+ perpetual check, or 1.Sc7+? Kb6 2.a8S+ Ka7 draws.

ii) Kb6 2.a8Q and no perpetual check, e.g. Qh3+ 3.Ke7 Qh7+ 4.Kf6 Qh6+ 5.Kf5 Qh5+ 6.Kf4 Qh4+ 7.Kf3 Qf6+ 8.Ke4 Qg6+ 9.Ke3 Qg5+ 10.Ke2 Qe5+ 11.Be4 Qb2+ 12.Kd3 Qb5+ 13.Ke3 Qg5+ 14.Ke2 Qh5+ 15.Bf3 Qb5+ 16.Ke3 Qb3+ 17.Kf4 Qf7+ 18.Ke5 Qg7+ 19.Ke4 Qg6+ 20.Ke3 Qg1+ 21.Ke2 Qh2+ 22.Bg2.

iii) Kb6 3.a8S+/viii Kxa6 4.Sc7+ wins.

iv) 4.Bg2? Qa2, or 4.Bh1? Qa1 draws.

v) 6.Be4? Qg4 7.Bh1 Qh3 8.Bd5 loss of time.

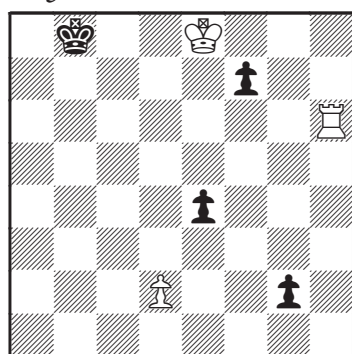
vi) 7.Bb3? Qf3 8.Bd5 Qf5 loss of time. 7.Be6? Qe4 8.d8Q Qb7+ 9.Kd7 Qc6+ 10.Kc8 Qb7+, or 7.Bg8? Qe4 8.Sd5+ Kc6 9.d8Q Qf5+ 10.Kb8 Qb1+ draw.

vii) Qg4 8.Se6, or Qh3 8.Be6 Qf3 9.Sd5+, or Kc6 8.Be6 Qb1 9.Bd5+ win.

viii) But not 3.a8Q? Qf8+ 4.Kd7 Qf5+ 5.Ke8 Qe5+ 6.Kf7 Qf5+ 7.Ke7 Qe5+ perpetual check.

“4.Ba8! and 7.Ba2! are very good moves. The final point is that the bQ cannot access b1. This is easy to understand despite being database material”.

No 20501 V. Tarasiuk & S.N. Tkachenko
3rd commendation



e8b8 0100.13 3/4 Win

No 20501 Vladislav Tarasiuk & Sergey N. Tkachenko (Ukraine). 1.Rb6+ Kc7 2.Rb1 f5 3.Rg1 Kd6/i 4.Rxg2 Ke5 5.Rg5/ii Kf4 6.Rh5 (Rg1 Kf3;) Kg4 7.Rh6/iii f4 8.Re6/iv Kf3 9.Ke7/v e3 10.d4 Ke2/vi 11.d5 f3 12.d6 f2 13.d7 f1Q/vii 14.d8Q wins.

i) f4 4.Rxg2 Kd6 5.Rg5 wins.

ii) 5.Kf7? f4 6.Kg6 f3 7.Rg5+ Kd4 8.Rg4 Kd3 draws.

iii) Try: 7.Rh7? f4 8.Re7 Kf3 9.Kf7 e3 10.d4 Ke2 11.d5 f3 12.d6 f2 13.d7 f1Q+ draws.

iv) 8.Ke7? e3 9.dxe3 fxe3 draws.

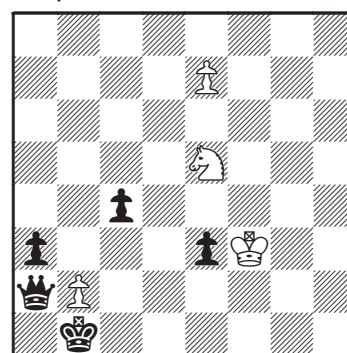
v) Try: 9.Kf7? e3 10.d4 Ke2 11.d5 f3 12.d6 f2 13.d7 f1Q+ draws.

vi) e2 11.Kf6 Kf2 12.Kf5 (Kg5) f3 13.Kf4 (Kg4). The composer gave this as a 2nd main line, but to me it only distracts from the point of the study and tries.

vii) The point: without check.

“7.Rh6! is an excellent move, also returning to its original square (Rundlauf), avoiding a block of the e7-square”.

No 20502 L. Kekely & M. Hlinka
4th commendation



f3b1 3001.23 4/5 Draw

No 20502 L'ubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Ukraine). 1.e8Q axb2/i 2.Qc6/ii Ka1/iii 3.Sxc4 e2 (b1Q; Qf6+) 4.Kxe2/iv b1Q+ 5.Sd2 zz Qb-c2/v 6.Qf6+/vi Qab2 7.Qa6+/vii Qa2 8.Qf6+ Qcb2 9.Qf1+ Qbb1 10.Qxb1+/viii Qxb1 11.Sxb1 draw.

i) Qxb2 2.Sxc4 Qf2+ 3.Ke4 e2 4.Sxa3+ Ka2 5.Kd3 e1Q 6.Qg8+, or c3 2.bxa3 Qf2+ 3.Kg4 Qe2+ 4.Kf4 c2 5.Qb8+ Ka1 6.Qh8, or Kxb2 2.Qb5+ Ka1 3.Qa5 draw.

ii) 2.Kxe3? Qa7+ 3.Kf3 c3 wins.

iii) c3 3.Qxc3 Qd5+ 4.Kxe3 Ka2 5.Sd3, or e2 3.Kxe2 Ka1 4.Sxc4 draw.

iv) 4.Qe4? (Qe6?) Qxc4 5.Qxc4 e1Q wins.

v) Qbb2 6.Qh1+, or Qab2 6.Qa4+ Q1a2 7.Qd1+ perpetual check.

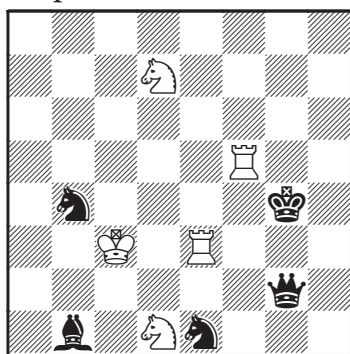
vi) 6.Qh1+? Kb2 7.Qb7+ Kc3 8.Qg7+ Kb4 9.Qb7+ Kc5 10.Qc7+ Kd5 11.Qd8+ Ke5 12.Qh8+ Kf5 13.Qf8+ Kg5 14.Qe7+ Kf4 wins.

vii) 7.Qf1+? Ka2 8.Qf7+ Ka3 9.Qf3+ Kb4 10.Qb7+ Kc5 11.Qc7+ Kd5 12.Qd7+ Ke5 13.Qe7+ Kf5 wins.

viii) 10.Qf6+? Qab2 11.Qa6+ Q1a2 wins.

“This study ends in a positional draw featuring a zz position in which White has only QS vs. QQ with BTM. There are some good moves; e.g. 2.Qc6 (unexplained by the composers) which covers e4 and b5 and anticipates a check at h1”.

No 20503 M. Minski & S. Slumstrup Nielsen
1st special commendation



c3g4 3238.00 5/5 Draw

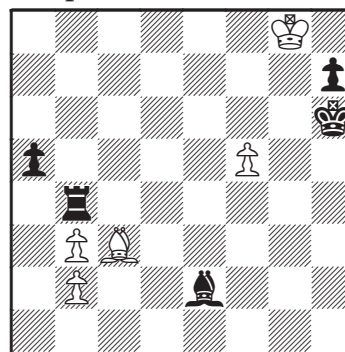
No 20503 Martin Minski (Germany) & Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Re4+ Qxe4 2.Sf6+/i Kxf5 3.Sxe4 Sd5+ 4.Kd2 Sf3+ 5.Kc1 Bxe4 6.Sf2 draws.

i) Thematic try: 2.Sf2+? Kxf5 3.Sxe5 Sd5+ 4.Kd2 and now not 4...Sf3+? 5.Kc1 Bxe4 6.Sc5 drawing – an echo to the main line – but 4...Kxe4 5.Kxe1 Kd4 wins.

“The final position, the highlight of the study with 3 active selfblocks of the bB, is unfortunately anticipated by Liburkin (#66408),

although that study has a different finish. This study is an improvement as it has a thematic try in which Black on his turn can go wrong with an echo final position”.

No 20504 V. Samilo
2nd special commendation



g8h6 0340.32 5/5 Draw

No 20504 Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Bd2+/i Kh5 2.Bxb4 axb4 3.f6 (Kxh7? Kg5;) Bd1 4.Kxh7/ii Bxb3 5.Kg7/iii Kg5 6.f7 Bxf7 7.Kxf7 Kf5 8.Ke7 Ke5 9.Kd7 Kd5 10.Kc7 Kc5 11.Kb7 Kb5 12.b3/iv Kc5 13.Ka6 draws.

i) 1.Bxb4? axb4 2.f6, e.g. Bd1 3.f7 Bxb3 4.Kh8 Bxf7 wins.

ii) Try: 4.f7? Bxb3 5.Kxh7 Bxf7 6.Kg7 Bg8 H. Weenink!

iii) 5.f7? Bxf7 6.Kg7 Bg8 wins.

iv) 12.Kc7? b3 13.Kb7 Kc4 wins.

“This is the first sound study that uses Weenink’s (#76420) famous move 1.Bb1!! As it occurs in a try, almost inevitably, the try is better than the main line. The pawn ending with the oppositions and the move 12.b3! is known from Irirarte (#31031). The composer gives two exclamation marks for 5.Kg7, but it is the only move that makes sense. Anyway, a nice re-working of old ideas”.