

Provisional award Harold van der Heijden-64 JT

My friends Yochanan Afek and Gady Costeff stimulated me to organize a JT when I became 64. This coincided with perhaps the busiest year of my life so far: preparing for my early retirement from my work as a senior scientist, and working on the release of the 7th edition of my database. So it was decided to put the deadline on 18xii2025 – my 65th birthday.

Yochanan Afek took care of publicizing the event, and Gady Costeff acted as tourney director. One day after my birthday, Gady already supplied me with 52 anonymized studies (by 39 composers from 17 countries). Later he also helped me a lot with anticipation checking (and for a remarkable claim also CQL-magician Lewis Stiller kindly contributed).

Only one study (with impressive sacrifices) unfortunately proved to be dualistic.

I scored all studies on a 0-4 point scale (before doing anticipation testing). 43 studies had a score of 2 and higher. My conclusion is that the general level was quite good, but there were no absolute masterpieces among the entries (I am still impressed with Pervakov's HHdbVII#017227 than won 1st prize in my 50-JT).

On the other hand, there were several great original discoveries. Who says that the ideas in endgame studies are exhausted? See for instance the first three prize winners (especially 3rd prize), and the 1st Honourable Mention.

The solutions of the studies were edited, truncating or removing (almost) all dualistic sublines in some studies.

Many thanks to all participants, and of course Gady Costeff and Yochanan Afek. The confirmation period is until March 1st 2026. Then the award will be finalized. Please send your claims (only about soundness or anticipation) to the tourney director Gady Costeff (costeff@gmail.com). At least the prize winners will be offered a copy of [HHdbVII](#).

Harold van der Heijden, Deventer January 22nd, 2026.

No. 8 Poul Rewitz (Denmark)

1st Prize Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



h7h5 4034.11 4/5 Draw.

1.Se4 (1.g6+? Sg5+ or 1.Qf7+? Kh4 win) **1...Bd3** (1...Qe5 2.Qf7+ Kg4 3.Qxd7+ Kh4 4.Sf6 Sxg5+ 5.Kg6 Be2 6.Qd8! Qg3 7.Qd4+ Kh3 8.Sh5 (Qd7+? Kg2;) 8...Bd3+ (if 8...Bxh5+

1.Bb6! (1.gxf5? fxg5 2.Bb6 g4 3.Bxg4 Bxg4 draws) **1...fxg4 2.Sf4!** (2.Se4? gxh3 or: 2.Bxg4? Bxg4 3.Bxf2 Ke2 draw), and now: **2...gxh3 3.Sxe2 Kxe2**



4.Se4! first systematic manoeuvre (Sxh3? Be3;) **4...Be3 5.Sc3+** (5.Sg3+? Kf3 6.Sf1 Bf2 7.Sh2+ Kg3 8.Bc7+ Kh4 9.Bb6 Kg3 10.Sf1+ Kf3 11.Sd2+ Ke2 12.Se4 Be3 is a waste of time) **5...Kd3!** (Kf3; Sd1) **6.Sd5! Bd4 7.Sb4+ Kc4 8.Sc6! Bxb6 9.axb6 wins, or 2...fxg5 3.Sxe2 Kxe2 4.Bxg4+ Kf1**

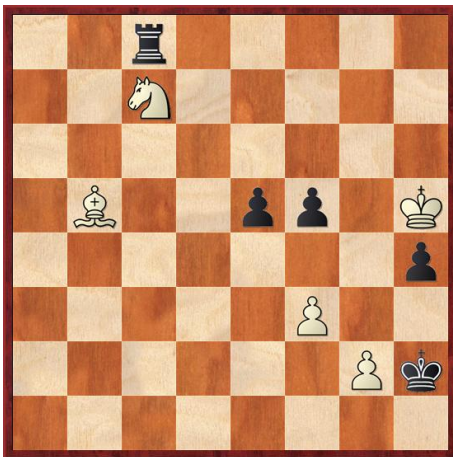


5.Bh3+! second systematic manoeuvre (5.Bf5? g4! 6.Bxg4 Sxh7 draws) **5...Ke2 6.Kg2 Be3 7.Bg4+ Kd3 8.Kf3 Bd4 9.Bf5+! Kc4 10.Ke4 Bc5 11.Ke5! Sf7+** (11...g4 12.Bxg4 Shg6+ 13.Kf6 Bd4+ 14.Kf7 wins) **12.Kf6 Sxh7+ 13.Kxf7 Sf8 14.Ke8!** (14.Bxc5? Kxc5 15.Kxf8 Kc6 16.Ke7 Kc7 positional draw) **14...Kd5 15.Kd8 wins.**

“This study features two different systematic manoeuvres, which is quite an achievement. One of the manoeuvres (and the configuration bPa7/wBb6) reminds us of a study by M. Liburkin (#085423), but remarkably that manoeuvre is still different!”.

No. 49 Serhiy Didukh (Ukraine)

3rd Prize Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



h5h2 0311.23 5/5 Draw.

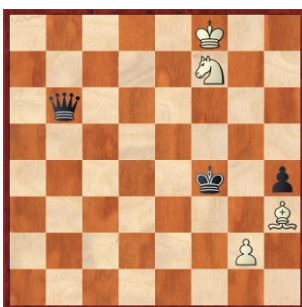
1.Se8 Rc5! (1...Kxg2 2.Kxh4 Kxf3 3.Bd7 Rc4+ 4.Kg5 e4 5.Bxf5, and: 5...e3 6.Bd3 Rc3 7.Bf1! Kf2 8.Ba6 draws, or: Rc5! 6.Sg7! e3 7.Se6 Rd5 (e2; Sd4+) 8.Sf4 Ra5 9.Se6! Rd5 10.Sf4 positional draw) **2.Bd7 e4 3.fxe4 fxe4+ 4.Kg4!** (4.Kxh4? e3 5.Bg4 Rc4 6.Kh5 Rxg4 wins) **4...Re5! 5.Sf6!** (5.Kf4? Re7! 6.Sf6 Rf7 7.Kg5 Rxf6 wins) **5...e3 6.Kf4 e2** (6...Re7 7.Sg4+ Kg1 8.Bb5! e2 9.Bxe2 Rxe2 10.Kg5 Kxg2 11.Kxh4 draws) **7.Sg4+ Kh1! 8.Sxe5 e1Q 9.Bh3 Qb4+** (9...Qf2+ 10.Sf3 positional draw; blockade of the bK. If 9...Qd2+ (Kg1; Sf3+) 10.Ke4! Qd6 11.Sf3



positional draw ; blockade of the bK) **10.Kf5 Kh2 11.Ke6!** (11.Sf7? Qb6!, or 11.Kf6? Qd6 win) **11...Qe4 12.Kf6 Qf4+ 13.Ke6 Qe3 14.Kf6 Qb6+ 15.Ke7!** (Thematic try: 15.Kf7? Qd6! 16.Sg6 Kg3



and Black wins - with Sg6 it is not a fortress because the bK can invade via d8) **15...Kg3 16.Sf7 Kf4 17.Kf8!**

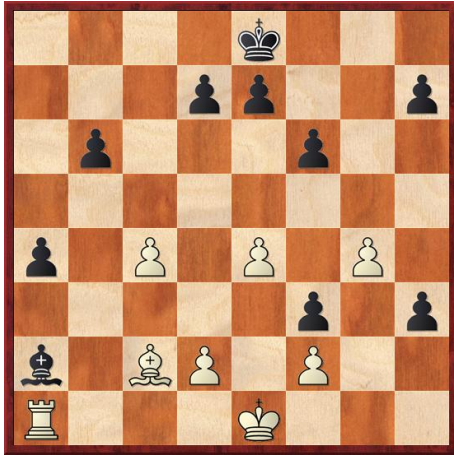


positional draw - fortress.

“We see an excellent synthesis of two positional draws of two minor pieces against queen. The first one – a blockade of the bK is known from an ancient study Herlin (#100772). But the second – a fortress - seems to be completely new. After Black prevented the blockade, the wK had to move to the other side of the board heading for the fortress. In the final position, the wSf7 guards the dark squares of the barrier, while h4 is blocked by a pawn. This fortress even has a thematic try, as after the alternative 15.Kf7? Qd6! 16.Sg6 it is not a fortress, as the

bK can invade via d8. Apart from the amazing find (fortress) the synthesis makes this a prize winner”.

**No. 26 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) & Beat Neuenschwander (Switzerland)
4th Prize Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025**



e1e8 0140.58 8/10 BTM, Win.

1...Bb1 (1...h2 2.O-O-O wins) **2.Bd1 Bxe4 3.Bxa4 Bb1 4.Bd1 Be4 5.Bb3** (5.Bc2? Bxc2 6.d4 Bd3 draws) **Bb1 6.c5 e6** (h2; Ra8 mate) **7.Bd1 Be4 8.Ba4 Bb1 9.Bxd7+ Kxd7 10.d3 Bxd3** (10...h2 11.Ra7+ Kc6 12.Rxh7 wins) **11.O-O-O h2 12.Rxd3+ Kc8 13.Rd1** wins.

“Black has to prevent castling (Bb1) four times. After an ingenious manoeuvre starting with 5.Bb3 and 6.c5, White threatens mate (and Bd5). Black seems to have a remedy, but then the wB switches back to a4, after which now 9.Bxd7+! Kxd7 10.d3 is possible as the 7th rank is open (10...h2 11.Ra7+ Kc6 12.Rxh7). After 10...Bxd3 White castles after all and wins the bBd3 which is pinned. It is a pity that the study starts with BTM, but it is not really disturbing here. All lines are crystal clear. This is a very good castling study!”.

**No. 40 Luiz Miguel González (Spain)
Special Prize Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025**



g4a5 0506.77 10/11 Draw.

1.Rb3! (c3? b5;) **1...Se8!** **2.Rg5** (2.h6? Sf6+ **3.Kh4 Rh5** mate) **2...Sf6+** **3.Kh4 h6!** **4.Rxf5+ exf5** **5.c3!** (threatening 6.Ra3 mate) **5...b5** **6.c5!** (6.Ra3+? Kb6 7.Ra1 Sc8! 8.Rg1 Se7 9.cxb5! a5! 10.Rg7 Seg8 11.bxc6 Kxc6 12.b3 Kd5! 13.c4+ Kxd4 14.c5 Ke3! 15.b4 Se4! 16.fxe4 f3 wins. But Black should avoid 9...Kxb5? 10.Rg7 Seg8 11.b3! a5 12.c4+ Kb6 13.d5 c5 14.d6 Kc6 15.Rg6! Kxd6 16.b4! cxb4 17.c5+ Kc7 18.c6! Se4 19.cxd7 Kxd7 20.Rxg8 b3 21.Rb8, or 9...cxb5? 10.Rg7 Seg8 11.b4! Kc6 12.d5+! Kxd5 13.c4+! bxc4 14.b5 axb5 15.Rxd7+! Sxd7 stalemate) **6...b4** **7.Rxb4 Sb5!** **8.Rc4!** (8.d5? Sxd5 9.b3 Sbxc3! 10.Ra4+ Kb5! 11.Rb4+ Kxc5 12.Rc4+ Kd6 wins) **8...Sd5** (8...Sa3 (Sc7; b3) 9.bxa3 Sd5 10.Rb4! Se3 11.Rb2 draws) **9.b4+!** (9.b3? Sbxc3! wins, but not 9...Sdxc3? 10.d5! cxd5 11.c6! dxc6 12.b4+! Ka4 13.Rxc6 d4 14.Rxh6 d3 15.Rxa6+ Kb3 16.h6 d2 17.Ra1 draws) **9...Ka4**

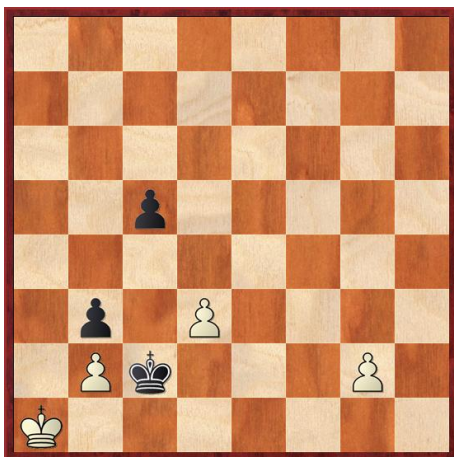


stalemate with incarcerated rook.

“After the wK is immured on the K-side, in some lines (8.Ra3+?) White wants to get rid of all his pawns on the Q-side and sacrifice its rook for stalemate. Black opens the position (6...b4) to bring his bSa7 into play. It is only at the very end that White’s stalemate trick becomes clear: the wR is incarcerated by his own pawns! In total 5 studies are known with a similar rook (white or black) incarceration. In only one, by Gatti (#011675), there is a white stalemate (in a subline). In the present study the wR and 3 of 4 pawns move into the final position”.

No. 25 Árpád Ruzs (Romania)

1st Honourable Mention Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



a1c2 0000.32 4/3 Win.

1.g3! (Thematic try: 1.g4? Kxd3 2.Kb1! (2.g5? Kc2! 3.g6 c4 4.g7 c3 5.g8Q cxb2 mate) 2...Ke4 3.Kc1 Kf4 4.Kd2 Kxg4 5.Kc3 Kf5! 6.Kc4 Ke6! 7.Kxc5



7...Kd7! 8.Kc4 Kc6 9.Kxb3 Kb5! 10.Ka3 Ka5 11.Kb3 Kb5 12.Kc3 Kc5 13.Kb3 Kb5
 positional draw) 1...Kxd3 2.Kb1 Ke4 3.Kc1 Kf3 4.Kd2 Kxg3 5.Kc3 (Kd3) Kf4 6.Kc4!
 (6.Kxb3? Ke5 7.Kc4 Kd6 draws) 6...Ke5 7.Kxc5

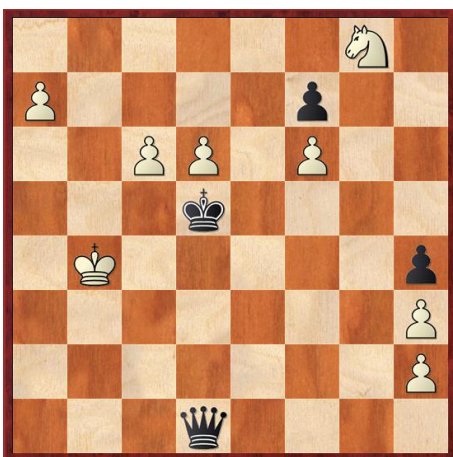


7...Ke6 8.Kb4 (Kc4) Kd6 9.Kxb3 Kc5 10.Ka4 Kb6 11.Kb4! (Obviously not 11.b3? Ka6
 12.Kb4 Kb6 13.Kc4 Kc6 14.Kb4 Kb6 positional draw) wins.

“This pawn study features a new motivation for a *festina lente* move. In the thematic try the bK manages to get to d7 in time after capturing the wP, while in the solution the bK cannot. The only partly anticipation I found is Popov (#057178; see subline 7...Kb4 8.Kd4), but there the bK already is close to the pawn when it plays the *festina lente* move”.

No. 24 Árpád Ruzs (Romania)

2nd Honourable Mention Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



b4d5 3001.62 8/4 Win.

1.Se7+! (Thematic try: 1.a8Q? Qb1+ 2.Ka5! Qa1+ (Qa2+) 3.Kb6 Qxa8 4.Se7+ Ke6! 5.c7 Kd7
 6.c8Q+ Qxc8 7.Sxc8 Kxc8 8.Kc6 Kd8



Now the move Kd6 is not possible. 9.d7 stalemate) **1...Kxd6 2.a8Q** (Sf5+? Kc7;) **2...Qb1+ 3.Ka5! Qa1+ 4.Kb6 Qxa8 5.c7 Kd7 6.c8Q+ Qxc8 7.Sxc8 Kxc8 Kd8**



9.Kd6! Ke8 10.Kc7 wins.

“White boldly wins by 3.Ka5! allowing a black skewer. But the attractiveness of this study lies in the logical try 1.a8Q? when a wPd6 blocks a necessary square for the wK and which Black carefully avoids capturing (4...Ke6!) in the thematic try. Instead, White first forces the bK to take that pawn. This is an excellent study for a solving event”.

No. 52 Auyush Wadhwa

3rd Honourable Mention Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



g5d3 4310.30 6/3 Win.

1.a7! (f3? Rh4!;) **1...Rxf2 2.Qb1+** (2.Qh7+? Kc3! 3.a8Q Qf4+, or 2.a8Q? Qf4+ 3.Kh5 Qf5+! draw) **2...Ke2 3.Qb2+** (3.a8Q? Qf4+ 4.Kh5 Qxe5+ 5.Bg5 Qh2+! 6.Kg4 Rg2+ 7.Kf5 Qh7+ draws) **3...Kf1**



4.Qxf2+! (4.Qa1+ Ke2 5.Qb2+ Kf1) **4...Kxf2** **5.Bb6+!** (a8Q? Qg8+;) **5...Kg3**



6.Bf2+! (6.a8Q? Qf4+ 7.Kg6 Qxe5 draws) **6...Kh2** **7.Bg1+!** (7.a8Q? Qg4+! 8.Kf6 (Kxg4 stalemate) 8...Qf3+! 9.Qxf3 stalemate) **7...Kg3** **8.Bh2+!** (8.a8Q? Qf4+ 9.Kg6 Qxe5 draws) **8...Kxh2** **9.a8Q** wins.

“White needs a Q-sac and three B-sacs to win this ending. First, he must get rid of the wBd8 to prevent the bQ checking on g8. Then a series of B-sacs and refusal of captures follows: Bf2-Bg1-Bh2 forcing the bK to capture after all and end up in a lost Q-ending. There are no difficult sublimes, hence this study is very suitable for a solving event”.

No. 29 Pavel Arestov (Russia)

4th Honourable Mention Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



b1f1 0130.04 2/6 Draw.

1.Rd5! (1.Rc6? Bg4! 2.Kc2 Ke1! 3.Rxc5 Be2 wins) **1...Bg4!** **2.Rg5!** (2.Rxc5? d3 3.Kc1 Ke1 4.Re5+ Be2 wins) **2...Be2** (2...Bf3 3.Kc2! c4 4.Kd2 a4 5.Rxg7 draws) **3.Rxg7** (3.Kc2? Ke1 4.Rg1+ Bf1 wins) **3...d3**



4.Rf7+! (logical try: 4.Rc7? d2 5.Rxc5 Bd3+! 6.Kb2 a4! 7.Rc1+ dxc1Q+ 8.Kxc1 a3 wins)
4...Ke1 5.Rc7 (Rf5? c4;) **5...d2 6.Rxc5 Bd3+!** (d1Q+; Rc1) **7.Kb2 a4!** (7...d1Q 8.Rc1 Qxc1+ 9.Kxc1 a4 10.Kb2 draws) **8.Rc1+! dxc1Q+ 9.Kxc1 a3** (Ke2; Kb2)



stalemate.

“Many endings with R vs B are interesting. This one is no exception. Its focus is the move 4.Rf7+!! which look illogical as it drives the bK towards the battle on the Q-side. But it turns out that the more obvious 4.Rc7+? is a logical try. In the solution, White makes good use of the vicinity of the bK as the study ends with a stalemate!”.

No. 50 Jan Sprenger (Germany)

5th honourable Mention Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



h3h5 0350.11 4/4 Win.

1.h7, and: **1...Rb8 2.Bc4 Be1! 3.Bxe1!** (3.Be5? Kg6 4.Bg8 Rb3+ 5.Kg2 Rg3+! 6.Bxg3 Bc3 draw – fortress) **3...Rh8 4.Bd3 e5 5.Bb4!** (5.Bd2? e4! 6.Bxe4 Rxh7 7.Bxh7 ideal stalemate) **5...Kh6 6.Bd6 Rxh7 7.Bf8+ Rg7 8.Be4** wins, or: **1...Ra8!** (1...Rf8 2.Bc4 Be1 3.Bf6! exf6 4.Bg8) **2.Bb7!** (thematic try 2.Bc4? Be1! 3.Be5 (3.Bxe1 Kh6! 4.Bd3 e5 5.Bb4 Kg7 6.Bd6

Re8 draws) 3...Kg6 (or 3...e6 4.Bxe6 Kg6) 4.Bg8 Ra3+ 5.Kg2 (5.Kh2 Ra4! 6.h8Q Rh4+ draws) 5...Rg3+! 6.Bxg3 Bc3 draws – fortress), with: **2...Rd8 3.Bd5 Be1! 4.Be5!** (blocking the fifth rank for the rook 4.Bxe1? Kh6! 5.Bg8 Rd3+! draws) **4...e6 5.Bxe6 Kg6 6.Bg8 Rd3+ 7.Kh2** wins, or: **2...Re8!** (2...Rb8 3.Bd5 Be1 4.Bxe1!: see 1... Rb8) **3.Bd5 Be1! 4.Bf6!** (thematic try 4.Be5? e6! 5.Bxe6 Kg6 6.Bg8 Rxe5 draws. Thematic try: 4.Bd4? (Bb2?) e6! 5.Bxe6 Kg6 6.Bg8 Re3+! 7.Kh2 (Bxe3 Bc3;) 7...Re4 8.Bf6!? Rh4+! 9.Bxh4 Bc3 draws – fortress) **4...e6!** (exf6; Bg8+) **5.Bxe6 Kg6 6.Bg8 Re3+ 7.Kh2!** (7.Kg2? Rg3+ 8.Kh2 Rg5! 9.Bxg5 Bc3 draws - fortress) **7...Re2+ 8.Kg1** (8.Kh3 Re3+ 9.Kh2 Re3+) **8...Bf2+ 9.Kf1** wins.

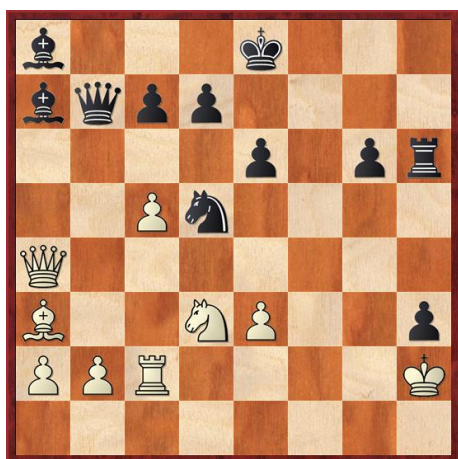


Author: “White responds to the black counterplay Be1 in three different ways, dependent on the position of the bR: Rb8 --- Bxe1!, Rd8 --- Be5!, Re8 --- Bf6!”.

“The composer submitted a better version of his study (shortly) after the deadline. I decided to accept it as indeed it is much better than the original. In the initial position, it is far from obvious how White should win, e.g. Black only needs to exchange his rook for the h-pawn. Black either wants to get his rook to the h-file, or put his bishop on the long diagonal as Black then has a fortress (see thematic try 2.Bc4). Black counterplay (3...Be1!) forces White to find the correct move (4.Be1!, 4.Be5, 4.Bf6!) and avoid the thematic tries. The fortress seems to be original to me”.

No. 18 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark)

1st Commendation Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



h2e8 4474.45 9/11 Win.

1.c6 dxc6 2.Rf2 Rh8 3.Qh4! (logical try 3.Se5? Sxe3 4.Qf4 Sf5 5.Qg5 Qb6! 6.Qxg6+ Kd8 7.Qf6+ Kc8 8.Qxh8+ Kb7



and Black is fine due to the pawn on b2) **3...Qxb2!** (3...Rhx4 4.Rf8+ Kd7 5.Se5 mate) 4.Qa4! switchback (4.Bxb2? (Sxb2? Rxb2?) Rxh4!, or 4.Qg4? Qxa3 draw) **4...Qb7!** **5.Se5** (5.Qg4? c5 6.Qxg6+ (Qxe6+ Se7;)) 7.Se5 Re8 and Black holds) **5...Sxe3** **6.Qf4** (Qe4 Sf5;) **6...Sf5** **7.Qg5** **Qb6** (7...c5 8.Qxg6+ Ke7 9.Qf7+ Kd6 10.Sc4+ Kd5 11.Qd7+ Kxc4 12.Rc2 mate) **8.Qxg6+ Kd8** **9.Qf6+ Kc8** **10.Qxh8+ Kb7**



11.Rb2 wins.

“This study focuses on a remarkable removal of wPb2 by a queen switchback. The composer claimed that ‘this is the first captureless queen switchback in a win study’. Apart from the fact that then apparently the capture by the bQ doesn’t seem to count, I found this claim very improbable. A CQL-script by Lewis Stiller revealed no less than 3,454 Q-switchbacks without capture in win studies in HHdbVII... Without having checked all of those, I consider Nunn (#002822) a fine example. Despite this and the static bishops, in the present study I like the surprising fact that elimination of wPb2 is needed for a win. Interesting examples of studies with a Q-switchback to remove a wP are: Gromov & Pervakov (#008495), Pervakov (#022471), Grigoriev (#087673), and Loveiko (#90441)”.

No. 14 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov (Russia)
2nd Commendation Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



h6b4 0450.22 6/5 Draw.

1.Be1+ Ka3! (Kc5; Bc3) **2.Bc3 Rb2 3.Rf1!** (3.Bxb2+? Kxb2 4.Rf2+ Bc2! 5.Rf1 a1Q 6.Rxa1 Kxa1 7.Kg5 Kb2 8.Kf4 Bxb3 wins) **3...Bb1 4.Bf6!** (Kg7? a1Q;) **a1Q 5.Be7+ Ka2 6.Bf6 Ka3 7.Be7+ Ka2 8.Bf6**



1st positional draw **8...Rh2+ 9.Kg7!** (9.Kg5? Rh5+! 10.Kxh5 Bg6+ 11.Kxg6 Qxf1 wins) **9...Rg2+ 10.Kf8** (10.Kh8? Rg8+! 11.Kxg8 Bh7+ 12.Kxh7 Qxf1 wins) **10...Rg8+! 11.Ke7!** (Kxg8? Bh7+;) **11...Re8+! 12.Kd6!** (Kxe8? Bg6+;) **12...Rd8+! 13.Kc7!** (13.Bxd8? Qd4+, or 13.Ke7? Rd4! win) **13...Rd4 14.Rf2+ Ka3 15.Be7+ Rb4 16.Bf6! Rd4 17.Be7+ Rb4 18.Bf6**



2nd positional draw

“Almost nothing in the initial position (perhaps the wBa4) reveals that a bQ will be put in a cage down left of the board. We see two positional draws keeping the cage functional. During an intermezzo the wK must be careful on its path to the Q-side, e.g. refuse to capture the bR. The author added some fancy lines on move 13, but after White’s initial reply, the rest is dualistic. The cage seems to be original”.

No. 36 Michael Pasman (Israel)

3rd Commendation Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025

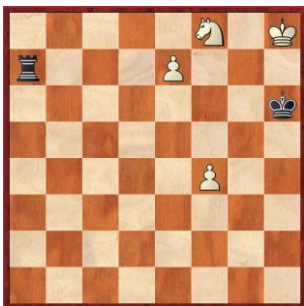


g8g6 3411.40 8/3 Win.

1.Sd3! Rxe3 (1...Rg1 2.Se5+, or: 1...Qxf6 2.Se5+ Kh5 3.Bf7+, or 1...Qxd3 2.f7 win) **2.Se5+! Rxe5 3.f7!** (thematic try: 3.fxe5 Qxe5! 4.Bf7+ Kh6! 5.Rxe5 stalemate) **3...Rh5!**



4.f8S+! (f5+? Kg5;) 4...Kh6 (4...Kf6 5.Sd7+ Kg6 6.Bf7+ wins) **5.Re7! Qg3+ 6.Bg4! Qxg4+ 7.Kh8 Qg6!** (Qf5; Re6+) **8.Re6!** (8.Sxg6 Kxg6+ 9.Kg8 Rxd5 draws) **8...Qxe6 9.dxe6**, and: **9...Rf5 10.e7 Rf7 11.Sg6!** (thematic try : 11.e8Q? Rh7+! 12.Kg8 Rg7+ 13.Kh8 Rh7+ 14.Sxh7 stalemate) **11...Rh7+ 12.Kg8 Rg7+ 13.Kf8 Rxg6 14.f5! Rf6+ 15.Kg8! Rxf5 16.e8Q** wins, or: **9...Ra5** (9...Rh3 10.Kg8! Rg3+ (Re3; Kf7) 11.Kf7 Rf3 (11...Rg4 12.f5! Rg7+ 13.Kf6!) 12.Sg6! wins, or: 9...Rb5 10.e7 Rb7 11.e8R! wins) **10.e7** with: **10...Ra8 11.Kg8! Kh5 12.Kf7 Kg4 13.Se6 Kf5 14.Sc7! Rh8 15.Sd5! Rh7+ 16.Kf8! Rh8+ 17.Kg7 Ra8 18.Kf7! Ke4 19.Sc7! Rc8 20.Kf6 Kxf4 21.Se6+ Ke4 22.Sd8** wins, or: **10...Ra7**



11.e8R! (thematic try: 11.e8Q? Rh7+ 12.Kg8 Rg7+ 13.Kh8 Rh7+ 14.Sxh7 stalemate) wins.

“After a nice introduction, this study features a (Phoenix) S-prom and a (Phoenix) R-prom. The R-prom is anticipated by Rinck (#086804). Unfortunately, the author supplied several ‘fancy’ lines, which are dualistic. I find that a misleading practice, and perhaps I should have disqualified the study. For instance, (even) the ‘thematic try’ 3.Bf7+ Kh6! But also 3...Kxf6 4.fxe5+ Kf5 draws”.

No. 53 Auyush Wadhwa

4th Commendation Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025



h2a8 3810.72 11/6 Win.

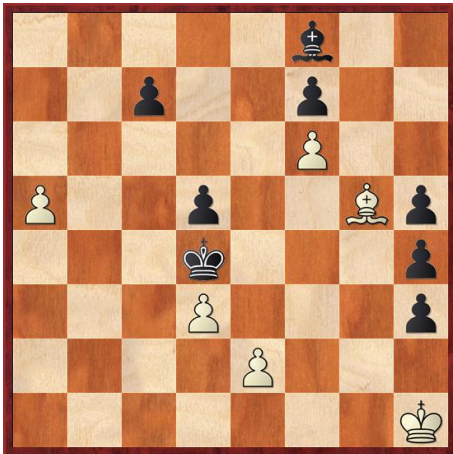
1.Rf8! (1.Rd6? Qxc5 2.Rd8+ Ka7 3.Rxe8 Rxe1 4.Ref8 Rxe7 draws) **1...Ka7 2.Rxe8 Qxe6 3.c7!** (3.Bf2? Qg6! 4.Rd8 Qb1 5.Ra8+ Kxa8 6.e8Q+ Ka7, or: 3.Bd2? Rxc5 4.Rd8 Qxe7 5.Rd7+ Qxd7 6.cxd7 Rd5 draw) **3...Rxe1 4.c8R!** (4.c8Q? Rh1+ 5.Kxh1 Qe1+ 6.Kh2 Qh1+ 7.Kxh1 stalemate; 4.Rd8? Qc6! draws) **4...Qc6!** (4...Qe4 5.Rc7+ Kxa6 6.Rb8! Re2 7.Rb6+ Ka5 8.Ra7+, or 4...Kxa6 5.Ra8+ Kb5 6.Reb8+ win) **5.Rf8! Re2**



6.Rf2! Rxf2 (Qxc8; Rxe2) **7.Rxc6** wins.

“The Phoenix R-prom is nice. But I especially like the play following the promotion: the switchbacks 5.Rf8! and the sacrifice 6.Rf2! (capturing the bQ in both cases would still lead to a stalemate) to defend against Black’s mate threat”.

**No. 27 Beat Neuenschwander (Switzerland)
5th Commendation Harold van der Heijden-64 JT 2025**



h1d4 0040.46 6/8 Win.

1.Bh6! (1.Kh2? Kc5 2.Kxh3 Kb5 3.Bd2 Ba3 4.Kxh4 c5 5.Kxh5 Bb4 6.Bg5 (Bc1 Bc3); 6...c4 (Be1 7.Kh6 c4 8.dxc4+ wins) 7.dxc4+ dxc4 8.Kh6 Be1 9.Kg7 c3 , or: 1.a6? Bc5 2.Bf4 Ba7 draw), and: **1...Bd6 2.Bf4! Kc5 3.Bxd6+ cxd6 4.Kh2 Kb5 5.Kxh3 Kxa5 6.Kxh4 Kb4 7.Kxh5 Kc5 8.Kh6** wins, or: **1...Ba3** (Bc5; Bf4) **2.Bc1!** (2.Kh2? Bd6+ 3.Kxh3 c5 draws) **2...Bb4 3.Bd2! Ba3 4.a6 Bc5 5.Be1!** with: **5...Ke5 6.d4+ Bxd4 7.Bc3!** wins, or: **5...Ke3**



6.Bf2+! Kxf2 7.e4 wins.

“Before the award candidates were checked for possible anticipation, I assumed that 6 bishop sacrifices (of which 2 in sublines) on different squares was a task record and hence it opted for a good spot in the award. I did recall a study by Ornstein, version by Timman (#023216), and that happened to have also 4 + 2 B-sacs. It has a similar matrix, but with the bishops running on the white squares. In total 16 studies were found with 4 B-sacs or more in the main line. But the record holder is Hoch (#052812) that has 10 B-sacs on 8 different squares, with 4 B-sacs in sublines. Moreover, its setting is very economical”.