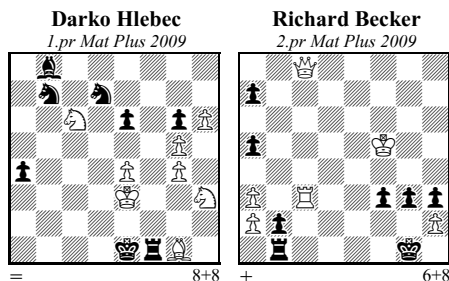


## ENDGAMES 2009

by Mirko Miljanić (Serbia)

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the editorial team of Mat Plus for their confidence in me, especially because this is my maiden judging. I must stress that my job was made much easier because as far as the soundness and originality of entries is concerned I could rely on the knowledge and work of the column editor Iuri Akobia, as well as to the expertise of the magazine readers. In four issues of 2009, (Mat Plus 33-34, 35 and 36) there were 35 original endgames by 20 authors. I find that the overall level of the tourney was very satisfactory both in terms of quantity and quality. I decided to reward 17 works in the following order:



**1st Prize: 1445 – Darko Hlebec (Serbia).** A dynamic and sharp battle gradually builds intensity with a sacrifice of the black knight (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.h8=Q? a1=B! and 8...a1=Q! but not 8...a1=B? 9.h8=S!!!. This allows White to carry out his stalemate intention.

1.Bf2+ Rxf2 2.Sxf2 Bf4+ 3.Kxf4 Kxf2 4.h7 Sd8 5.Se5 /i Sxe5 6.Kxe5 /ii a3 7.Kf6 a2 8.e5 /iii a1Q /iv 9.h8Q Qxe5+ 10.Kxg6 Qxh8=

i) 5.Sxd8? e5#; 5.h8Q? e5+ 6.Qxe5 (6.Sxe5 Se6#) 6...Sxe5 7.Sxe5 Se6#; ii) 6.h8Q? Sd3#; iii) 8.h8Q? a1B+ 9.e5 Bxe5+ 10.Kxe5 Sf7+ -+; iv) 8...a1B 9.h8S=.

**2nd Prize: 1248 – Richard Becker (USA).** A ground-stone 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 is built a logical construction which utilizes all potentials 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.

1.Qc5+! /i Kxh2 /ii 2.Rxf3! /iii Rc1 3.Rf2+ g2 4.Qe5+ Kh1 5.Rxb2 Rf1+iv [6.Kg4 g1Q+ 7.Kxh3 Rf3+ 8.Kh4 a4 /v 9.Rd2! /vi a6 /vii 10.Rb2! a5 11.Re2! This move works only now that moves of the black a-pawns are exhausted. 11...Rf2 12.Qe4+ Kh2 13.Qf3 /viii Rxe2 14.Qh3#

i) Thematic try 1.Rxf3? g2! (1...Rc1? 2.Rxg3+ Kxh2 3.Rxh3+ Kxh3 4.Qh8+ +-) 2.Rb3 (2.Qc5+ Kh1 3.Qd5 Rc1 4.Rb3 b1Q+ 5.Rxb1 Rxb1 =) 2...Kh1! (2...a4? 3.Rxb2 Rxb2 4.Qc1+ Kxh2 5.Qxb2 Kh1 6.Qb7 Kh2 7.Qc7+ Kh1 8.Qc6 Kh2 9.Qc2 Kh1 10.Qe4 Kh2 11.Qe2 Kh1 12.Kg4 g1Q+ 13.Kxh3 +-; 2...Rc1? 3.Qb7 b1Q+ 4.Rxb1 Rxb1 5.Qxb1+ Kxh2 6.Qc2 etc.) 3.Qb7 a4! 4.Rb5 a6! (4...Kxh2? 5.Rxb2 Rxb2 6.Qxb2 etc.) 5.Rb4 (5.Rb6 Rf1+ 6.Kg4 Rf7 7.Qd5 Rd7 8.Qe4 Re7 9.Qf3 Rf7 =) 5...a5! 6.Rb5 Kxh2 (6...Rf1+? 7.Kg4 Rf7 8.Qa8 Rf8 9.Qe4 Re8 10.Qxe8 g1Q+ 11.Kxh3 Qxh2+ 12.Kg4 +-) 7.Rxb2 Rxb2 8.Qxb2 Kh1 9.Qb7 Kh2 10.Qc7+ Kh1 11.Qc6 Kh2 12.Qc2 Kh1 13.Qe4 Kh2 14.Qe2 Kh1 15.Kg4 g1Q+ 16.Kxh3 Qe3+ 17.Qxe3 stalemate. Moves of the black a-pawns echo the main line. ii) 1...Kh1 2.hxg3 Rg1 3.Rb3 b1Q+ 4.Rxb1 Rxb1 5.Qf2 (Qc2) +-;

iii) Thematic try 2.Rc2+? g2 3.Kg4 (3.Qf2 (Qe5+) 3...Kh1 4.Qg3 h2 =) 3...Re1! 4.Qd6+ (4.Rxb2 Kh1 5.Rxg2 Kxg2 6.Qc6 Re3 7.Kf4 Rxa3 8.Qg6+ Kf1 9.Kg3 f2+ =) 4...Kg1 5.Rxb2 f2 6.Qd4 Kh1 7.Rxf2 g1Q+ 8.Kxh3 Re5! 9.Qxe5 Qxf2 10.Qa1+ Qg1 =; iv) 5...g1Q 6.Qe4+ (6.Qd5+? Qg2 7.Rxg2 hxg2 =) 6...Qg2 7.Rxg2 hxg2 8.Qh4+ Kg1 9.Qd4+ Kh1 10.Qh8+ Kg1 11.Kg4 +-; v) 8...Rf2 9.Qe4+ (9.Qd5+? Rg2 10.Rb3 Qf1 11.Kh3 Kg1 12.Qd4+ Rf2+ 13.Kg3 Qg2+ 14.Kh4 Qf1 15.Rb2 Kg2 16.Qg7+ Kh1 17.Qb7+ Kh2 =) 9...Rg2 10.Rb1 +-; vi) Thematic try 9.Rc2? Rf2 10.Qe4+ Rg2 11.Rc3 Qf1 12.Kh3 Kg1 13.Qd4+ Kh1 14.Qd5 Kg1 =; Thematic try 9.Re2? a5 zz 10.Rb2 (10.Re1 Rf4+ 11.Kh3 Rf3+ 12.Kh4 Rf4+ 13.Kh5 Rf5+ 14.Qxf5 Qxe1 =) 10...Rh3+ 11.Kxh3 Qe3+ 12.Qxe3 stalemate; vii) 9...Rf2 10.Qd5+ (10.Qe4+? Rg2 11.Rd3 Qf1 12.Kh3 Kg1 13.Qd4+ Rf2+ 14.Kg3 Kh1 15.Qh4+ Kg1 16.Qd4 Kh1 17.Qxf2 Qxd3+ =) 10...Rg2 11.Rd1 +-; viii) 13.Qf4+? Kh1 14.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 15.Qxf2 stalemate.

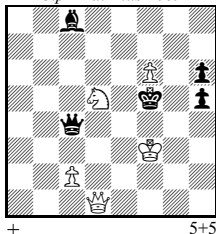
**3rd Prize: 1440 – Borislav Ilinčić (Serbia).**

Already on 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, either of the above is an illusion which extends to the very end and both queens remain on the board, while the main role is usurped by the white king which uses a logical maneuver to un-ambush the dangerous black bishop. 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.

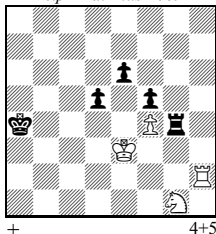
1.f7! /i Qg4+ /ii 2.Kf2! Qh4+ /iii 3.Kg2! Qg5+ 4.Kf1! /iv Ba6+ 5.Kf2 Qh4+ 6.Kg2! Qg5+ 7.Kh3+-

- i) 1.Se3+? Kg6! 2.Qg1+ Bg4+!=; ii) 1...Qc5 2.Qd3+ Ke6 3.Qg6+ Kxd5 (3...Kd7 4.Qf5+ +-) 4.Qe4+ +-; 1...Kg6 2.f8Q Bg4+ (2...Qg4+) 3.Kf2 Bxd1 4.Qg8+ Kf5 5.Se3+ +-; 1...Ke6 2.f8Q Qg4+ 3.Kf2 Qxd1 4.Qe7+ +-; iii) 2...Qxd1 3.f8Q+ Ke4 (3...Ke5 4.Qf6+; 3...Ke6 4.Qe7+) 4.Sc3+; iv) 4.Kh3? Kg6+!

**Borislav Ilinčić**  
3.pr Mat Plus 2009



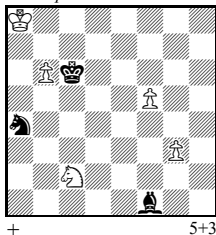
**Mihail Croitor**  
4.pr Mat Plus 2009



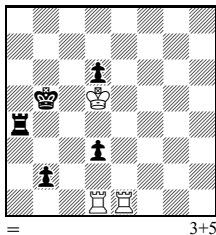
**4th Prize: 1247 – Mihail Croitor (Moldova).** An attractive initial position completely transforms itself in the course of the solution which ends with beautiful mating pictures. Pity that 9...Kd5 10.Sb4+ Ka7 11.Rb7# is not the main line.

- 1.Sf3 d4+! 2.Sxd4 e5 3.fxe5 Re4+ 4.Kd3 Rxe5 5.Kc4 Re3 /i 6.Rh6 Re5 /ii 7.Ra6+ Ra5 8.Rb6! Ra8 /iii 9.Rb4+ Ka3 /iv 10.Sb5+ Ka2 11.Sc3+ Ka1 12. Rb1#  
i) 5...Ka3 6.Sb5+ +- or 5...Ka5 6.Sc6+ +-; ii) 6...Ka3 7.Sc2+ or 6...Ka5 7.Sb3+ +-; iii) 8...Ka3 9.Rb4 (9.Sb5+ +-); iv) 9...Ka5 10.Sb3+ (10.Sc6+ +-).

**Siegfried Hornecker**  
**János Mikitovics**  
5.pr Mat Plus 2009



**Richard Becker**  
**Iuri Akobia**  
1.hm Mat Plus 2009



**5th Prize: 1437 – Siegfried Hornecker (Germany) and Janos Mikitovics (Hungary).** The peak of this study is the tempting try 3.Se3? which is defeated by the paradoxical 3...Ba6!!

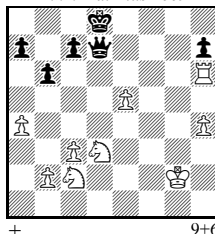
- 1.b7 Sb6+ 2.Ka7 Sd7 3.f6!! /i 3...Kd6 4.Se3 Bd3 5.Sd5!! Kxd5 (5...Be4 6.f7+-) 6.f7+-; 3...Bc4 4.Se3! /ii Bf7! 5.g4! /iii 5...Kc7 6.g5 Sb8 7.Sg2!! /iv Sc6+ 8.Ka8 /v Bd5 9.Sf4 Be4 (9...Bc4 10.g6+-) 10.Se6+ Kd6 11.f7!+ - /vi 5...Kd6 6.g5 Ke5 7.Sg4+ Ke6 8.Sh6+-; 7...Kf4 8.g6! /vii 8...Bxg6 9.f7! Bxf7 10.Sf6 wins.  
i) 3.Se3! Ba6 4.Kxa6 Sc5+=; 3.Sd4+? Kd6 4.Se6 Bg2= (4...Be2? 5.Sf8!+-); ii) 4.g4? Kd6! = (4...Bf7? 5.Se3 Kd6 6.g5+- main line); iii) 5.Sf5? Kd5 6.Se7+ Ke6= (6...Ke5? 7.Sc8 Kxf6 8.Sb6 Se5 9.Kb8 Sc6+ 10.Kc7+-) 5.Sd1? Kc5 6.Sc3 Kd4=-; iv) 7.Sd1? Bd5! 8.Sc3 Bxb7 (8...Sc6+?

- 9.Ka8 Bf3 10.Sb5+ +-) 9.Sb5+ Kc8 10.Sd6+ (10.f7 Sd7 11.g6 Bd5 12.Sd6+ Kc7 13.g7 Bxf7 14.Sxf7 Sf6=) 10...Kc7 11.Se8+ Kc8 12.Sd6+ Kc7 13.Sb5+ Kc8 positional draw; v) 8.Ka6?? Bc4#; vi) 11.Sc5? Bg6 (11...Bf5? 12.b8Q+ Sxb8 13.Kxb8 Bg6 14.Kc8!+-) 12.Sa6 (12.Sa4 Bf7! = (12...Ke6? 13.Sc3 Bb5 14.Sb5 Bf3 15.Sc7+ Kd7 16.b8Q!+-) ) 12...Be4=-; vii) 8.Sh6? Bd5 9.f7 Bxb7 10.g6 Bd5=-.

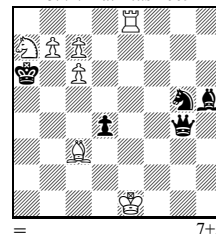
**1st Honourable Mention: 1243 – Richard Becker (USA) and Iuri Akobia (Georgia).** Most of the contents have already been shown in endgames by the same authors, e.g. 2nd Prize Gurgendize 55 JT 2008. Compared to that one a minimal addition of material introduces two variations starting with 2...Kb3 and 2...Kc3 with exchanged correct and incorrect continuations.

- 1.Rd2/i Kb4 2.Rb1 and:  
A) 2...Kb3 3.Rdxb2+/ii Kc3 4.Rb3+ Kc2 5.R1b2+ Kc1 6.Rh2 d2 7.Rc3+ and White wins, or  
B) 2...Kc3 3.Rbxb2 zz Ra8 (or 3...Ra1 4.Ke4 d5+ 5.Kf3 Rf1+ 6.Kg2 Rc1 7.Rf2 Rc2 8.Rb1 +-); 4.Ke4!/iii d5+! 5.Kf3 /iv Rf8+ 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 win  
i) 1.Rb1!? Rb4 2.Re3 Ka4 3.Rxd3 Rb3 4.Rd2 Ka3 5.Kc4 (5.Kxd6 Ka2=) 5...Rb8 6.Rxd6 Ka2=-; 1.Rxd3!?! Ra1=-; ii) Thematic try 3.Rbxb2+!?! Kc3 zz 4.Ke6 Ra1=-; iii) Thematic try 4.Rh2!?! Rh8 5.Rhg2 Rg8 6.Rgf2 Rf8 7.Rfd2 Re8 8.Ra2 Re5+ 9.Kc6 Re1 10.Kd5 (10.Rh2 Rc1 =) 10...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 (17.Rd1 d2 =) 17...Rd7+ 18.Kc5 (18.Ke4 d2 =) 18...Kb3 19.Rab2+ Kc3 20.Ra2 Kc3 21.Rhb2+ Kc3 22.Rd2 Rd8=-; iv) Thematic try 5.Kxd5!?! Re8 6.Ra2 Re7 zz and draw as in line 4.Rh2!?.

**Mihai Neghina**  
2.hm Mat Plus 2009



**Mirko Marković**  
3.hm Mat Plus 2009



**2nd Honourable Mention: 1354 – Mihai Neghina (Romania).** Interesting domination of two white knights over the black queen, but a mass of pawns on the queen's side does not quite fit with the content.

- 1.Sd4 /i Qg7+ 2.Kh3 Qxh6 3.Sf4 Kd7 4.Sde6 (Completing the fortress) 4...Qxe6+ /ii 5.Sxe6 Kxe6 6.Kg4 Kxe6 7.Kg5 and the easy technical win: 7...c5 8.Kh6 Kf6 9.Kxh7 Kf7

10.b4 a6 11.bxc5 bxc5 12.c4 a5 13.h5 Kf6 14.Kg8 Kg5 15.Kf7 Kxh5 16.Ke6 Kg5 17.Kd5 Kf6 18.Kxc5

i) 1.Kf3? Qxd3 =; ii) 4...c5 5.Kg4 Kc6 6.b4 b5 7.a5 cxb4 8.cxb4 a6 9.h5 Kb7 10.Kf5 Kb8 11.Ke4 Ka7 12.Kd5 Kb7 13.Kd6 Kb8 14.Kc6 Ka7 15.Kc7+; or 4...a5 5.h5 c6 6.Kg4+; or 4...c6 5.h5 Kc8 6.Kg4 a5+.

**3rd Honourable Mention: 1443 – Mirko Marković (Serbia).** A stalemate combination with two minor promotions and good involvement of all pieces. However, the play is too forced.

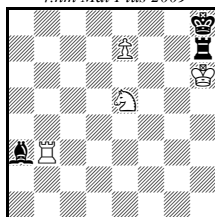
1.b8S+/i Kxa7/ii 2.Bxd4+! Qxd4/iii 3.c8S+/iv Kxb8/v 4.Sd6+! Bxe8/vi 5.c7+ Kxc7/vii 6.Sb5+ Bxb5=

i) 1.b8Q? Qg1+ 2.Kd2 Qd1#, 1.Bxd4? Qd1+ 2.Kf2 Qxd4+ -; ii) 1...Kb6 2.Sd7+ -; iii) 2...Ka8 3.Sd7+ Bxe8 4.c8Q#, iv) 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#, v) 3...Ka8 4.Sb6+ Qxb6 5.Sd7+ Bxe8 6.Sxb6+; vi) 4...Kc7 5.Sb5+ =; vii) 5...Ka7 6.c8Q=.

**Iuri Akobia**

**Vazha Neidze**

4.hm Mat Plus 2009

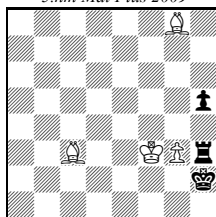


+

4+3

**Luis Miguel Martin**

5.hm Mat Plus 2009



+

4+3

**4rd Honourable Mention: 1240 – Iuri Akobia and Vazha Neidze (Georgia).** A charming miniature with two mating finales based on selfblocks on g7 and e7 which occur during the play.

1.Kg6! /i Rg7+ 2.Kf5!! /ii Bxe7 /iii 3.Sg6+ /iv and main lines:

A) 3...Kg8 4.Rb8+ Bd8 5.Rxd8+ Kh7 /v 6.Rh8#

B) 3...Kh7 4.Rh3+ Kg8 5.Rh8+ Kf7 6.Se5#, or 4...Bh4 5.Rxh4+ Kg8 6.Rh8+ Kf7 7.Rf8#

i) 1.Kg5? Bxe7+! = (1...Rxe7? 2.Kf6! Kg8 3.Rg3+! +-); ii) 2.Kf6? Bxe7+ =; iii) 2...Rxe7 3.Kf6! (3.Sg6+? Kg7! 4.Sxe7 Bxe7=) 3...Kg8 (3...Rxe5 4.Kxe5+-) 4.Rg3+! +-; iv) 3.Rh3+? Kg8=; 3.Rb8+? Kh7=; v) 5...Kf7 6.Rf8#.

**5th Honourable Mention: 1242 – Luis Miguel Martin (Spain).** Another miniature, this time with an unusual domination.

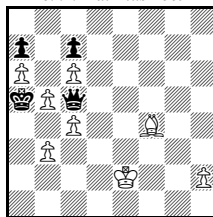
1.Be5/i h4/ii 2.Kg4 hxg3 (2...Rxc3+ 3.Kxh4 +-) 3.Bg7! (Mutual zugzwang) Kg2/iii 4.Bd5+ Kh2 5.Be4 (Mutual zugzwang) +-

i) 1.Kf2? h4 2.Be5 hxg3+ = (but not 2...Rxc3?? with mate in 4); ii) Black must remove white pawn. Other plan has no problem for white, for example: 1...Kg1 2.Be6 (2.Bd4+ Kh2 3.Kf2 h4 4.gxh4 +-) 2...Rh2 3.Bd4+ Kf1 4.Bb3 h4 5.Bc4+ Ke1 6.gxh4 +-; 1...Kh1 2.Bd5 Rh2 3.Bd4 Rc2

(3...Rd2 4.Ke3+ Rg2 5.Bxc2+ +-) 4.g4 +-; iii) 3...g2 4.Be5+ Kh1 5.Kxh3 g1=S+ 6.Kg3(g4) +-

**Siegfried Hornecker**

6.hm Mat Plus 2009



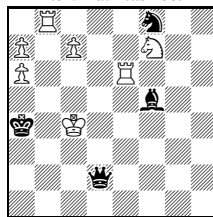
+

8+4

**Lubos Kekely**

**Michal Hlinka**

1.cm Mat Plus 2009



=

7+4

**6th Honourable Mention: 1350 – Siegfried Hornecker (Germany).** The stalemate avoidance occurs twice.

1.Bd2+ Kb6 2.Be3 Ka5! 3.b4+!i Qxb4 4.Bd2 Kb6! 5.c5+!i Qxc5 6.Be3 wins

i) 3.Bxc5 and 5.Bxb4 would be stalemate.

**1st Commendation: 1349 – Lubos Kekely and Michal Hlinka (Slovakia).** A stalemate combination with good usage of the material, but with forced play.

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+ Kxb5 stalemate, or 12...Kxa6 13.Rb6+ Kxb6 stalemate

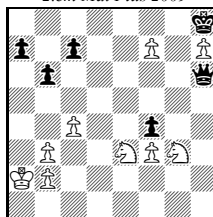
i) 1.c8Q? Bxe6+ 2.Qxe6 Sxe6 3.Rd8 Qc2+ 4.Kd5 Sxd8 5.a8Q Qg2+-; ii) 2.Rxe6? Sxe6 3.Rd8 Qc2+ 4.Kd5 Sxc7+ 5.Kd6 Sb5+ 6.Ke6 Sxa7+-; iii) 3...Qb4+ 4.Kc6 Qe4+ 5.Kb6 Sd7+ 6.Rxd7 Qb4+ 7.Kc6 Qc4+ etc..as main line, black only waste time; iv) 4.Kb7? Qf3+ 5.Rc6 Sc5+ 6.Ka8 Qxc6+ 7.Rb7 Sxa6 8.Sd8 Sxc7+ 9.Kb8 Sa6+-; v) 6.Kd6? Qd5+ 7.Ke7 Qxd7+ 8.Kf6 Qxf7+ 9.Ke5 Qxc7+ 10.Kxe6 Qxa7+-; vi) 11...Ka3 12.Rb3+ or 12.Ra4+=.

**János Mikotivics**

**Gerhard Josten**

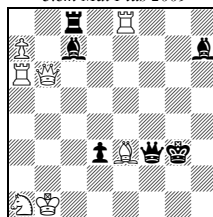
**Iuri Akobia**

3.cm Mat Plus 2009



+

9+6



+

7+6

**2nd Commendation: 1249 – Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia).** The same comment as for No.1354 can be repeated here.

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+-

- i) 1...Qf8 2.Se5 Kxh7 3.Sh5+-; 1...Qd6 2.Se4 Qb4 3.Se5 Kxh7 4.Sd7+-; ii) 2...Kxh7 3.Se5 Kh6 4.Sf6 Kg5 5.Sfd7+-; iii) 3...Qg6 4.Se5!+- (4.Sh6? Qxh6! 5.Sf7+ Kxh7 6.Sxh6 Kxh6+-); iv) 5.Sef7? Qa5+! =; 5.Ka3? Qb1! =; 5.b4? Qc2 6.Ka3 c5 =; 5.c5? Qc8! 6.Sef7 Qa6+-; v) 6...Kf6 7.h8Q+ Kxg5 8.Qg7+ +-.

**3rd Commendation: 1351 – Janos Mikitovics (Hungary), Gerhard Josten (Germany) and Iuri Akobia (Georgia).** Interesting introductory play transforms to equally interesting endings, but the impression is that there is no strong connection between these two stages.

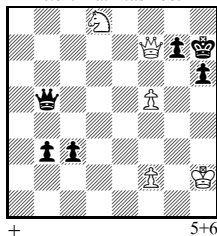
1.Rg8+!/i Bxg8/ii 2.Qg6+/iii Kh3 3.Qxd3/iv Qb7+ 4.Kc1!/v Bf4+!/vi 5.Sc2 Rxc2+/vii 6.Kxc2 Bh7! 7.Rg6!/viii Bxg6 8.Qxg6 Bb8!/ix 9.Qe6+!/x Kh2 10.Bg1+!! and main lines:

A) 10...Kxg1 11.Qg8+-; 10...Kh1! 11.Qe1 Kg2 12.Qf2+ Kh1 13.Qf1+-, or

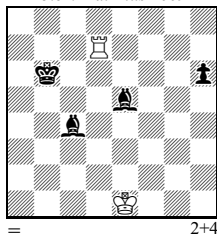
B) 11...Bxa7 12. Bf2+ Kg2 13.Qg1+ Kf3 14.Qh1+ wins.

- i) 1.Qh6!? d2+! Bristol-theme (1...Qb7+? 2.Ka2! +-); 2.Rg6+ Qg4! (2...Bxg6+? 3.Qxg6+ +-) 3.Qxh7 d1Q+! =; 1.Bf4+? Bxf4! =; 1.a8Q? Bxb6 2.Qxc8 d2+ =; ii) 1...Rxb8 2.Qxc7+ +-; iii) 2.a8Q? Bxb6! 3.Qxc8 Bxe3 4.Qxg8+ Kf2 5.Ra2+ d2 =; iv) 3.Qh6+? Kg2 4.Qg7+ (Rg6+) 4...Bg3 =; v) 4.Bb6+? Bg3! 5.Qf5+ Kh2 = ; 4.Rb6? Bxb6 =; 4.Sb3? Qxb3+ =; vi) 4...Bg3+ 5.Sc2 Qh1+ 6.Kb2+-; vii) 5...Bh7 6.Qf1+ +- (6.a8Q? Rxc2+ 7.Kd1 (7.Kxc2 Bxd3+ =; 7.Qxc2 Bxe3+ =) 7...Qb1+! 8.Bc1+ Bxd3 9.Qf3+ Kh2 = (9...Bg3? 10.Rh6#); 5...Qh1+ 6.Kb2+ = (6.Kd2? Qg2+ 7.Kc1 Qh1+ 8.Kb2 loss of time; viii) 7.a8Q? Bxd3+ =; ix) 8...Bxe3 9.Qe6+ +-; x) 9.Qf5+? Kg3 =.

**Borislav Ilinčić**  
4.cm Mat Plus 2009



**Jean-Marc Loustau**  
5.cm Mat Plus 2009



**4th Commendation: 1441 – Borislav Ilinčić (Serbia).** Sharp and accurate play with excellent quiet moves, but without real finesse.

1.Se6 /ii Qe5+ /i 2.Kh3! Qf6 /iii 3.Sf8+ Kh8 4.Sg6+ Kh7 5.Qd7! c2/iv 6.Qc8! Qxf5+ 7.Qxf5 c1Q 8.Se7+ +-

- i) 1.Qg6+? Kg8! 2.Se6 Qd7! 3.f6 c2+-; ii) 1...Qb8+ 2.f4! /iv Qg8 3.Qg6+ Kh8 4.f6! gxf6 5.Qxf6+ Kh7 6.Sf8+ Qxf8 7.Qxf8+-; iii) 2...c2 3.Sf8+ Kh8 4.Sg6+ Kh7 5.Qf8 Qc3+ 6.Kg2 Qc6+ 7.f3! +-; iv) 5...Qg5 6.Qc8! Qh5+ 7.Kg3 Qg5+ 8.Kf3 Qh5+ 9.Kf4! +-; 5...Qa6 6.Kg3! Qa8 (6...Qf1 7.Qc8!) 7.f6! Qg8 8.f7+-.

**5th Commendation: 1237 – Jean-Marc Loustau (France).** The precise play of White based on the wrong-cornered black bishop is probably important for endings theory thanks to the genuine “endgame move” 4.Rb1!, while the phenomenon that the white rook visits all four corners looks fairly incidental.

1.Kf2 /i Bb3 2.Re7 /ii Bd6 3.Re1! with two main thematic lines:

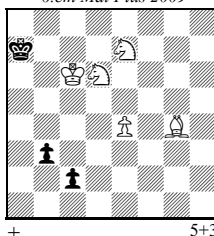
A) 3...Ba4 4.Rb1+ /iii Kc7 5.Rh1! /iv (wR on the corner 1) Be8 6.Ra1! (wR on the corner 2) 6...Kd7! 7.Ra8 (wR on the corner 3) Bg6 8.Rh8 (wR on the corner 4) 8...Be5 9.Rh6 =.

B) 3...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 16...Bd8 17.Rd5 Bc7+ 18.Kg5 =

- i) 1.Rh7!? Bg3+! 2.Kd2 h4 3.Ke3 Bd5+-; ii) 2.Rh7!? Bd1! 3.Rd7 Bg4+-; iii) Thematic try: 4.Rh1!? Be8! 5.Ra1 (5.Rb1+ Kc6!! (5...Kc5!? 6.Rg1 Kd5 7.Rg8 Bf7 8.Rg7 Be8 9.Rg8 positional draw, or 9...Ba4 10.Rg5+ Ke4 11.Rxh5 =; or 6...Kd4 7.Rd1+ Kc5 8.Rg1 Kd4 9.Rd1+ positional draw, or 9...Ke5 10.Re1+ Kf4 11.Rxe8 =) 5...Bd7! 6.Rh1 Bg4+-; or: 4.Kg2!? Bd7+-; 4.Ra1!? Bd7+-; iv) Thematic try: 5.Ra1!? Bb3! 6.Rh1 Bf7 7.Ra1 Be6 8.Rh1 Bg4+-; vi) Thematic try: 6.Re5!? Bf7! 7.Kg2 Bd6 8.Re3 (8.Rf5 (Or 8.Ra5 Ke6!) Be8 9.Kh3 Ke6!) Bg6 9.Kh3 Be7 10.Re5 Ke8 11.Rb5 Kf8! 12.Kg3 Be8!! 13.Rb8? Bd6+!+-; or: 6.Kg3!? Ke8! 7.Rh1 Bf7 8.Re1 (Or 8 Kf4 Kf8!) Bg6 9.Re5 Kf8 10.Rb5 Be8! +-.

**6th Commendation: 1438 – Janos Mikitovics (Hungary).** A harmonious and lovely coordination of white pieces in building mating threats and preventing black pawns’ promotions.

**János Mikitovics**  
6.cm Mat Plus 2009



1.Kc7!

A) 1...b2! 2.Sdc8+! /i Ka6 /ii 3.Sc6!!/iii Kb5!/iv 4.Sb6! thr. Be2+ and #1 /v] 4...c1S!/vi 5.Sa4!! /vii 5...Kxa4/viii 6.Bd1+! Sb3 (Ka3,Kb5) 7.Bc2 wins.

B) 1...c1Q+ 2.Sc6+ Ka8 3.Bc8 Qxc6+ 4.Kxc6 b2 5.Kc7! b1Q 6.Bb7+ Ka7 7.Sc8#

- i) 2.Sc6+? Ka8 =; ii) 2...Ka8 3.Sb6+ (3.Bd7? c1Q+ =) 3...Ka7 4.Sc6+ and #1; iii) 3.Be2+? Ka5 4.Sc6+ Ka4 =; iv) 3...b1Q 4.Be2+ Qb5 5.Bxb5+ Kxb5 6.Sd4+ +-; v) 4.Be2+? Ka4 = (4...Kc5? 5.Sb6 # & #1); vi) 4...c1Q 5.Be2+ Kc5 # & #1; vii) 5.Sa7+? Kb4! 6.Sd5+ Kc4! 7.Sb5 Kxb5! - + (7...b1Q? 8.Sa3+ +-); 5.Sd4+? Kb4 6.Sc2+ Kb3 (6...Kc3? 7.Sa3+-) 7.Sa3 Kxa3 8.Kxb5 6.Sc4+ Kb3 = (8...Ka2 9.Be6 Sd3 10.Sd2+ Ka1 =) ; 5.Sd5? Kc4 6.Sb6+ Kb5 7.Sa4 loss of time; 5.Bd7? b1Q =; viii) 5...b1Q 6.Sc3+-.

