

Provisional study award of Springaren 2021-22

(Judge: Martin Minski, Germany)

There were 24 studies from 15 authors. Thanks to Jan Sprenger for helping about anticipations checking!

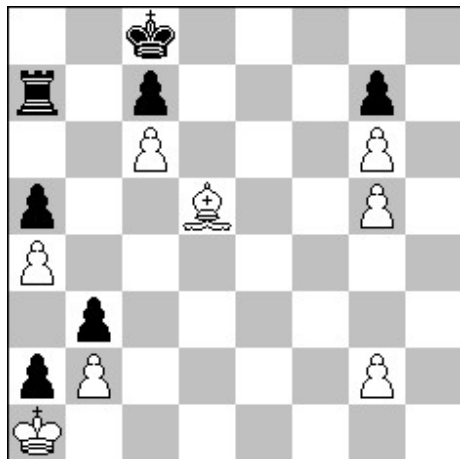
Elliot Christophers appears to be a new composer. He submitted 4 studies at once. Unfortunately, not all ideas are original and, above all, there are very serious weaknesses in all introductions (e.g. capture key, capture of pieces that do not move, exchange, passive pieces without move, etc.). Unfortunately, this also applies to introductions to other studies by actually experienced composers. So there are none of this studies that I can include in the award. The best idea is a delayed Combination Kling in #15197. I show how I imagine an introduction. I hope that the author will not lose heart and work on the technical improvement of his studies.

Elliot Christophers

Version Minski

Springaren #15197v

not in the award



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1.Bc4!

[1.Be6+? Kd8! (1...Kb8? 2.Bc8!)=]

2.Bg4 (2.Bc4 e.g. 2...Ke7 3.Be2 Ra8 4.Bh5 Rd8 5.g4 Rd1#) 2...Ra6-+;

1.Bf3? Ra6!-+]

1...Ra8 2.Be2 Rb8 3.Bg4+!

[logical try: 3.Bh5? Rb6/Rb4 4.g4 Rb5! 5.axb5 a4 6.b6 cxb6 7.c7 position X with bKc8

7...a3!-+]

3...Kd8 4.Bh5 Rb6 5.g4 Rb5 6.axb5 a4 7.b6 cxb6 8.c7+ position X with bKd8

8...Kxc7 stalemate

#14784 by Franjo Vrabec anticipated by C. Locock, Ka1-Kg8, +, British Chess Magazine 1892 (almost the same position with reversed colors)

Here is my selection:

1st prize

#15023 by Geir Sune Tallaksen Ostmore

From the beginning I liked this study the best. A classic duel with stalemate avoidance and mate. Such constellations with "floating" pieces are not new, but here the running white king becomes the match winner.

2nd prize

#15136 by Jan Rusinek

Bazlov already showed an ideal mirror mate with knight promotion and 4 self-blocks (1st/2nd prize Corus-70 AT 2008), but the scheme is different. There are minor flaws in Rusinek's study (capture of two technical pawns, Be8 without move). On the other hand there are many positive things: 1.Bg3+!/1.Bxf2? with a touch of logic, subtle justification of move order and of course 6.d5+!!

A note: 3.d5+? does not fail against 3...Bxd5? 4.a8Q+! Nxa8 5.Ke7 Re6+ 6.Kf8 Rf6+ 7.Kg7 Rf7+ 8.Bxf7 Kxd7 9.Bxd5 with a technical win according to TB. But 3.d5+? Kb7! 4.Bxb6 Bxd5 5.Ke7 Re6+ 6.Kf8 Rd6 7.Bc5 Rxd7 8.Bxd7 is a draw.

3rd prize

#14908 by Michael Pasman

A wild starting position that doesn't actually suggest anything good. But then comes an epic fight with sacrifice, counter sacrifice, knight promotion and at the end a skewer and suddenly there are only three pieces. All pretty forced and two captures of technical pawns. I have long hesitated where to place this study. Not all judges will agree on this.

1st honorable mention

#15133 by Amatzia Avni

4.Rg2!! is the move of the tournament. Who expects two rook sacrifices in this simple position? 3 captures on g6 prevent this study from receiving a prize.

2nd honorable mention

#15074 by David Gurgenzidze

After an economically and technically well implemented introduction with black sacrifices, the play ends in a classic duel RR – Q with echo mats, which are always welcome.

3rd honorable mention

#14851 by Pavel Arestov

The pawn is the bait to turn into a pretty scheme with stalemate avoidance.

Commendation**#15020 by Amatzia Avni**

In the introduction a rook sacrifice to eliminate the dangerous black pawn. At the end a phoenix knight. Not spectacular, but solid.

Special commendation**#15137 by Vladimir Samilo**

A small snippet with a surprising key move and a classic triangle maneuver to force Black to move.