

## **BCPS AWARD: STUDIES 2025, by Péter Gyamarti**

[In the solutions below, just the main line has been given. Readers wanting a full analysis will find this in the issue of the original publication. In order to assist in this, the page number and issue are given in the text.]

Many thanks to tourney director, Yochanan Afek that I was chosen as judge. A very sad event casts a shadow over this great tournament. On 18th February GM Jan Timman, a multiple world champion candidate who also left us a brilliant life's work as a study composer, passed away at the age of 74. May he rest in peace.

I received 40 entries from the tourney director in pgn format. There were 32 authors from 13 countries. The entries included 9 joint compositions. I have taken the following aspects into account in the evaluation: the study must be based on one or more ideas; the elaboration must be economical; the study must not contain a check-capture series; the parts of the complex structure must be related to each other in terms of content; and if the study has a good theme, then that is great. This was a high-quality tournament, so the ranking was not easy. Therefore I took partial anticipations into account a little more strictly than usual. All my appreciation goes to works that are similar to practical endgames, the deep thoughts, the precise analyses, but a significant part of these have been left out of the award. I did not find them effective from an artistic point of view.

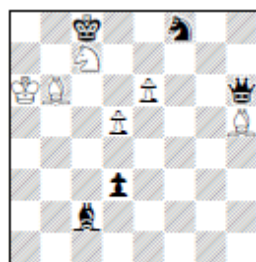
I have found three full or strong anticipations. It is certain that these are not just partial anticipations. **E1461 Daniele Gatti** (Gatti, 10th UAPA internet ty#21), **E1439 Eduard Eilazyan** (Eilazyan, 2.HM Krabbe-60 JT, 2003 and Eilazyan, Sp Pr Victory-60 JT *Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsiya*, 2005), **E1455 John Nunn** (M.Hlinka &

L.Kekely, Commended, Khatyamov MT *Uralsky Problemist*, 2013). Nunn's work has a nice reciprocal zugzwang, and White wins. Unfortunately the structures and play are very similar.

**1st Prize E1465 Steffen Nielsen** (September, p.177) 1.Rf7! Rb1 2.Be4+ Rb7 3.Rxb7+ Ka8! 4.Rc7+ fxe4 5.Rc8+! Ka7 6.Rc1 a1Q! 7.Rxb1 Qd4+ 8.Kh1 Qf6 9.Qg1+ Ka8 10.Sg6! Qxg6 11.Qc5!! Qxh6+ 12.Kg1 Qh2+ 13.Kf1 Qh1+ 14.Qg1 e3 15.Qxh1 e2+ 16.Kg1 d2 17.Qh8+ Bb8 18.Qa1 wins. This is a multi-phase, monumental work. When a new phase begins, I feel like it connects nicely with the story so far. Great! The main character is the white queen, who breaks free halfway through the game and reaches the three corners of the board. When she reaches a1, she stops the black passed pawns with the help of her rook. The beginning of the game with the B+R to R+B battery transformation is very spectacular.

**2nd Prize E1437 David Gurgenzidze & Martin Minski** (January, p.8) 1.c7! Sb6+! 2.axb6 Rxd8+! 3.cxd8S! Qf8/Qf6 4.b7! Qxd8+ 5.Bc8 Qd5 6.Rb3!! Qxb3 7.b8R+! Ka5 8.Rxb3 wins. A crystal clear tactical work. Black's sacrifices create an exciting situation at the beginning of the game. On the third move the knight promotion is needed, because this avoids the mate. White establishes a battery position after the knight sacrifice. The point of the game is 6.Rb3!! After the capture of the rook, it is immediately reborn – the Phoenix theme. What happens if the black queen does not capture the rook, but tries to maintain the pin? The authors entrusted us with this small task.

**Michael Pasman**  
3 Pr *The Problemist* 2025



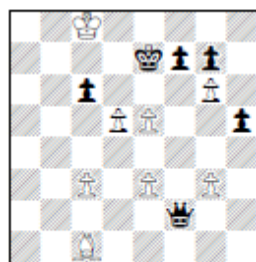
Win

**3rd Prize E1456 Michael Pasman** (July, p.139) 1.e7 Ba4 2.Bg4+! Se6! 3.Bxe6+ Kb8 4.Be3! Qh2 5.Bf4!! Qxf4 6.Sb5! Bxb5+ 7.Kxb5 d2 8.e8Q+ wins. The fight revolves around the move e7-e8. Black prevents this move with his bishop and queen. Closing the a4-e8 diagonal with Sb5 comes into consideration several times. The question is when is it a try and when is it a winning move? Tries and Black's attempts both fit well with the main line. A sharp and interesting tactical battle.

**4th Prize E1473 Yochanan Afek** (November, p.215) 1.Ba3+ Bd6! 2.exd6 Bd1+! 3.Kd3! Qa5! 4.Bc5!! Qxc5 5.Rf6+! Kg8 6.Rxg6+ Sg7! 7.Rxg7+ Kh8 8.Rh7+!! Kxh7 9.d7! Qd5+ 10.Kc3+! Kg8 11.Bh7+!! Kxh7 12.Se6! Qc6+ 13.Kb4 Qb6+ 14.Kc3 Qe3+ 15.Kb4 Qb3+ 16.Kc5 Qa3+ 17.Kd4! Qd6+ 18.Kc3 Qc6+ 19.Kb4 Qb6+ 20.Kc3 Positional draw! Both sides are very active in the introductory play. After the spectacular 4.Bc5!!, White pushes the king to the edge of the board. The rook can act with impunity, because if Black captures it then a knight fork will take the queen. Finally, even the white bishop must be sacrificed, in order to achieve a positional draw. The d7 pawn is taboo, because of Sf8+. When the queen gives check, the king moves to a square of the opposite colour to the bishop's colour, and Black can't win. The last phase is identical in content to N.Kralin, 5 Pr *Vecherny Krasnoturinsk-10 JT*, 2003.

**5th Prize E1462 Jan Timman** (September, p.176) 1.Kb4! Bg1 2.h3 Bd4 3.Kc4! Bxc3 4.Kd5! Kh6 5.Ke6 Bxb2 6.Kf7 Bc3 7.Kg8 Bd2 8.c4 Bb4 9.Kf7 wins. A graceful, yet engaging strategic study. The white king wanders from the queen side to the king side. It has two purposes: to break the stalemate nest if the black king locks himself in, and to prevent him from re-entering the game via g7. Several subtle short sidelines enrich the work, such as forcing the white move h3. The stalemate nest is well-known.

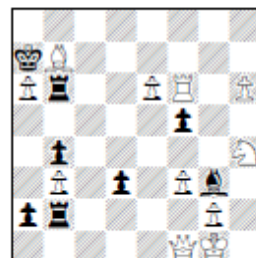
**Jan Sprenger**  
6 Pr *The Problemist* 2025



Win

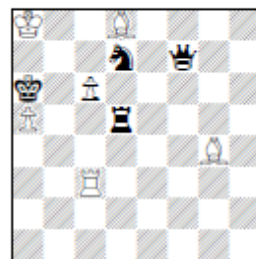
**6th Prize E1472 Jan Sprenger** (November, p.215) 1.Ba3+! Ke8 2.e6! fxe6 3.d6 Qd2 4.Bc5 Qd3 5.Bd4 Qa6+ 6.Kc7 Qa5+ 7.Bb6 Qd5! 8.e4 Qe5 9.Bc5! Qxg3 10.Bd4! c5 11.e5 Qxg6 12.d7+ Kf7 13.d8Q! cxd4 14.Kd7 and mate next move. The advance of the 'd' pawn is at the focus of the game. The strategic content is enriched by subtle tactical motifs (line and diagonal closures). Finally, White sacrifices his bishop and promotes the 'd' pawn

**Steffen Nielsen**  
1 Pr *The Problemist* 2025



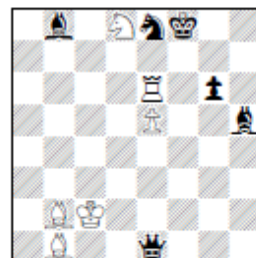
Win

**David Gurgenzidze & Martin Minski**  
2 Pr *The Problemist* 2025



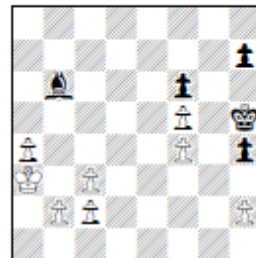
Win

**Yochanan Afek**  
4 Pr *The Problemist* 2025



Draw

**Jan Timman**  
5 Pr *The Problemist* 2025



Win

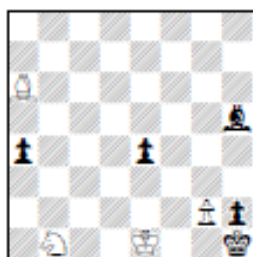
Jan Timman  
After Jan Sprenger  
1 HM *The Problemist* 2025



Win

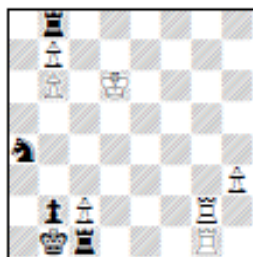
5.f4! Rd4 6.Kg1! [main A: 6.Rf8? Rd6 7.f5 Rf6 8.Ra8 Rxf5+ 9.Kg1 Rf6 wins (9...Rg5+ 10.Kh1 Rxc6? 11.Rxc6+! Kxc6 White is stalemated)] 6..Rd6 [main B: 6...Rc4 7.Re8! Rxf4 8.Re5 Bc4 9.Re8+ Bg8 10.Re5 Rg4+ 11.Kh1! Rxc6 12.Rh5+ Bh7 13.Rxh7+! Kxh7 White is stalemated; main C: 6...Rd8!? 7.Rxd8 Black is stalemated] 7.f5 Rf6 8.Ra4! Bd5 9.Rd4! Rxf5 10.Rh4+ Kg8 11.Rh8+! Kxh8 White is stalemated.

Serhiy Didukh  
3 HM *The Problemist*  
2025



Win

David Gurgendze &  
Vladislav Tarasjuk  
4 HM *The Problemist*  
2025



Draw

Jaroslav Poláček &  
Stanislav Nosek  
6 HM *The Problemist* 2025



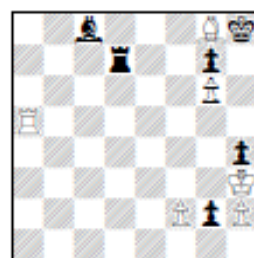
Win

to queen. The material is approximately equal, but the highpoint of the game is that Black can't avoid mate after 14.Kd7.

**1st Honourable Mention E1445 Jan Timman (after Sprenger)** (March, p.55) 1.Sb6! axb6 2.Sf6+ Ke7 3.Sg8+ Ke6 4.Bb3+ Sc4! 5.Bxc4+ Bd5 6.Rf7!! Bxc4 7.Re7+ Kd5 8.Sf6#. Black's passed pawns are dangerous. White opens the a4-e8 diagonal with the keymove and starts a mating attack. Black can defend in several ways. In the sidelines White wins technically. In the main variation 6.Rf7!! is a great highpoint. If Black captures the rook, then Bxd5+ attacks the g2 square and White wins, if Black captures the bishop, mate follows in the middle of the board. Amazing. The Sprenger forerunner is at Annex A on p.371.

**2nd Honourable Mention E1457 Peter Boll, Camiel Maseland & Martin Minski** (July, p.139) 1.Be6! Rd3+ 2.Kxg2 h3+ 3.Kf1 Bxe6 4.Ra8+ Bg8 5.f4! Rd4 6.Kg1! [main A: 6.Rf8? Rd6 7.f5 Rf6 8.Ra8 Rxf5+ 9.Kg1 Rf6 wins (9...Rg5+ 10.Kh1 Rxc6? 11.Rxc6+! Kxc6 White is stalemated)] 6..Rd6 [main B: 6...Rc4 7.Re8! Rxf4 8.Re5 Bc4 9.Re8+ Bg8 10.Re5 Rg4+ 11.Kh1! Rxc6 12.Rh5+ Bh7 13.Rxh7+! Kxh7 White is stalemated; main C: 6...Rd8!? 7.Rxd8 Black is stalemated] 7.f5 Rf6 8.Ra4! Bd5 9.Rd4! Rxf5 10.Rh4+ Kg8 11.Rh8+! Kxh8 White is stalemated. Great structure with two main lines and a logical try in main A. The theme is stalemate, and Black is stalemated in the C line. The latter is not an equivalent main line. White's precise play is very valuable and there are fine sidelines too. The advance of the 'f' pawn is surprising and effectual.

Peter Boll, Camiel  
Maseland & Martin Minski  
2 HM *The Problemist*  
2025



Draw

**3rd Honourable Mention E1460 Serhiy Didukh** (September, p.176) 1.Kf1 a3! 2.Sc3! a2 3.Sxa2 e3 4.g4 e2+ 5.Bxe2 Bxg4 6.Bd3! Be2+ 7.Kf2 Bxd3 8.Sc3! Be4 9.Se2 Bf3 10.Sg3#. The author has expanded the known endgame with a thematic try and reciprocal zugzwang. The introductory play is pleasing and fits perfectly into the thematic part of the game.

**4th Honourable Mention E1471 David Gurgendze & Vladislav Tarasjuk** (November, p.215) 1.Kc7 Rxb7+! 2.Kxb7 Kal! 3.Rg4! Sxb6! 4.R1g3 Sc4! 5.Rxc4 b1Q+ 6.Rb3 Qa2 7.Rcc3 Rxc2! 8.Rd3! Rd2 9.Rdc3! Rd7+ 10.Kc8! Qd2 11.Ra3+ Kb1 12.Rab3+! Positional draw. White is fighting for a draw at material disadvantage. This is a study with strategic content, supplemented by simple tactical motifs. The sidelines show Black's possibilities. The highpoint of the main line is 8.Rd3!, after which 10.Kc8 attacks the black rook, and the game ends in a positional draw.

**5th Honourable Mention E1450 Michael Pasman** (May, p.100) 1.d5+! Kd7 2.Bd6!! Sxd6 3.f8S+! Ke7 4.Rg7+ Sf7 5.d6+! Kxd6 6.Rg6+ Ke5 7.Re8+ Qe7 8.Rxe7+ Rxe7 9.Ke3! Sd6 10.Re6+! Rxe6 11.Sd7#. Ideal mate with a promoted knight and 2 self-blocks, while alternative lines with the promoted knight are decided by forks. The sharp tactical struggle is interesting. At the end of the game, the mating attack and the mate picture are partially anticipated (see Annex B on p.371).

Michael Pasman  
5 HM *The Problemist*  
2025

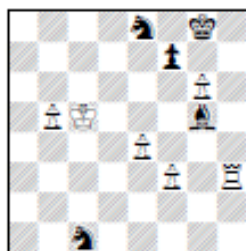


Win

**6th Honourable Mention E1463 Jaroslav Poláček & Stanislav Nosek** (September, p.176) 1.Qe8+! Kc4! 2.Rf4+! Qxf4 3.Qxa4+ Kd5 4.Qxf4 a1Q+ 5.Kxa1 g1Q+ 6.Ka2! Qxf2 7.Kb3 Kxc5 8.Se6+ Kd5 9.Sd4!! Qxd4 10.c4+ Kc5 11.Qc7+ Bc6 12.Qa7+ Finally trapping the queen by a deadly skewer. The theme is White capture of the black queen by two self-blocks with a geometric motif. The highpoint of the game is the silent move, 9.Sd4!! Unfortunately the end of the game has a strong partial anticipation (see Annex C on p.371).

**Commendation E1454 Jan Timman** (July, p.139) 1.Sd6+ Kd7 2.Sb5! Kc6 3.Sc3 a3 4.g6! hxg6 5.g5! Be4+! 6.Sxe4 a2 7.Kh2! a1Q 8.Bg2 Qh8+ 9.Kg1 Sf2 10.Sxf2+! Kc7 11.Se4 Qa1+ 12.Kh2 Positional draw. White at the beginning of the game tries to stop the black pawn. To do this he has to bring his bishop into play: 4.g6! and 5.g5! At this point Be6 is threatened, but Black speeds up the game with a great bishop sacrifice and promotes his pawn to queen. However, White's position is saved by the fine 7.Kh2 and he reaches the Karstedt fortress. The capture of the knight would be wrong, because Black can then prevent the building of White's fortress.

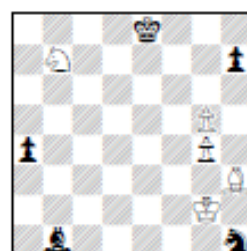
Jan Timman  
C *The Problemist* 2025



Win

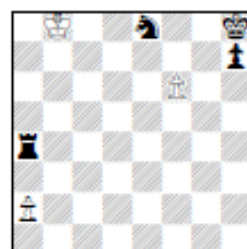
**Commendation E1469 Jan Timman** (November, p.214) 1.f4! Bxf4 2.Rh8+! Kxh8 3.gxf7 Sb3+ 4.Kc6! Sa5+ 5.Kb6! Sc4+ 6.Ka7 Be3+ 7.b6! Bxb6+ 8.Kb8 Bc7+ 9.Ka8! Sb6+ 10.Ka7 Sc8+ 11.Ka6 Scd6 12.f8Q+ Kh7 13.e5 (or 13.Qe7+ first) and wins. The beginning of play is elegant. White directs Black's bishop and king to the wrong place, then after gxf7 he threatens to promote the pawn to queen. Black's counterplay is dangerous, but the white king moves wisely again and again. In the end, Black cannot save all of his pieces. This is nice, but the win after 8...Sg7 (instead of Bc7+) is technically difficult.

Jan Timman  
C *The Problemist* 2025



Draw

Yochanan Afek  
C *The Problemist* 2025



Draw

**Commendation E1447 Yochanan Afek** (May, p.100) 1.f7 Ra8+! 2.Kxa8 Sc7+ 3.Kb7! Se6 4.f8Q+!! Sxf8 5.a4 h5 6.a5 Sd7 7.Kc6! h4 8.a6! Sb8+ 9.Kd5! Sxa6 10.Ke4 h3 11.Kf3 draw. Black's big material advantage quickly disappears in the fight to stop the 'f' passed pawn. After that, White's escape depends on the tempo several times. 4.f8Q!! is certainly a high point. Due to the knight's retreat, there is no time to bring the black king into play. White also sacrifices the pawn, but catches up with the black pawn.

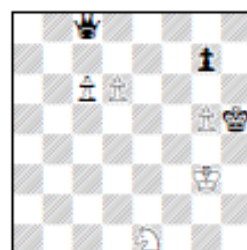
**Commendation E1448 Peter Boll & Vladislav Tarasyuk** (May, p.100) 1.d6+! Kxd6 2.a8Q Qxa8 3.Bxa8 Rxc4+ 4.Be4!! Rxe4+ 5.Kg5! Rg4+ 6.Kxh5 Rg1 7.Bxe5+! Ke6 8.Bf6! Rh1+ 9.Bh4 wins. An angelic little work! The authors use simple tactical motifs, but these, one after the other, give an incredible effect. All bishop sacrifices are a real surprise.

Peter Boll &  
Lladielav Tarasyuk  
C *The Problemist* 2025



Win

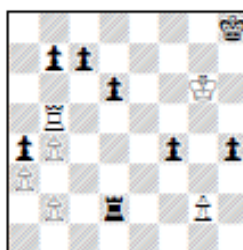
Ľuboš Kekely & Michal  
Hlinka  
C *The Problemist* 2025



Draw

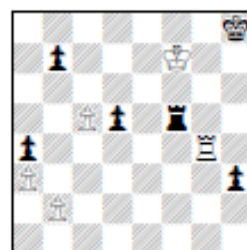
**Commendation E1435 Ľuboš Kekely & Michal Hlinka** (January, p.8) 1.d7 Qc7+ 2.Kf2 Qh2+ 3.Ke3! Qe5+ 4.Kf3! Qd6 5.Ke2 Qe7+ 6.Kf3 Qd6 7.Ke2 Kg4! 8.g6! Qe7+ 9.Kd2 Qd6+ 10.Ke2! Qe7+ 11.Kd2 Kf5 12.Sd3 Qd6 13.Ke2! Kf6 14.Sc5 Ke7 15.Sb7. A monumental positional draw. White's plan is Sd3-c5-b7, which is realised at the end of the game. Black repeatedly threatens to capture one of the pawns with check, or with zugzwang positions, or with the king catching up with the passed pawns, or with mate. There are many side lines and short tries, but these are necessary for precise analysis.

Beat Neuenschwander  
C *The Problemist* 2025



Draw

Beat Neuenschwander  
position after 9...Rf5+



Draw

**Commendation E1444 Beat Neuenschwander** (March, p.55) 1.g3!! Rg2 2.Kf7 c5 3.bxc5 d5 4.Rb4! Rxc3 5.Rxf4 Rg7+ 6.Kf8 h3 7.Rh4+ Rh7 8.Rg4 Rh5 9.Kf7! Rf5+ 10.Ke6! Rh5 11.Kf7 Rh7+ 12.Kf8 Rh5 13.Kf7 Rf5+ 14.Ke6 Positional draw. This is a very interesting rook endgame. After some nice play we reach the point of the game: 9.Kf7 and a well-known perpetual check threatens. After 9...Rf5+ [see diagram at far right] a surprise follows. 10.Ke6! leads to a positional draw. A fresh idea!

[Thanks to Péter for his award. Claims should be directed to Yochanan Afek (afekchess@gmail.com) within three months, please.]