

UNION ARGENTINA DE PROBLEMISTAS DE AJEDREZ

15th INTERNATIONAL INTERNET TOURNAMENT-UAPA-2021

AWARD FINAL

Section A: Theme: Section A: Rook with one or more pawns against two minor pieces Slogan Win – (other pieces may be presented at the beginning)

Judge: Michael Pasman (Israel)

Section B: No set theme.

B.1. Studies Win – Judge: Daniele Gatti (Italy)

B.2. Studies Draw- Judge: Peter Gyarmati (Hungary)

On behalf of the "Union Argentina de Problemistas de Ajedrez", we thank composers and judges for their participation in the tournament organized to celebrate the 15th Edition of the Tournaments of the UAPA.

After the deadline (30-8-2021), the Director sent the studies with diagrams and solutions to the judges for their evaluation.

Participants: Michal Hlinka (Slovakia); Ľuboš Kekely (Slovakia); Valery Kalashnikov (Russia); Andrzej Jasik (Poland); Mario G. García (Argentina); Pavel Arestov (Russia); Marc Gelly (France); Peter S. Krug (Austria); Daniele Gatti (Italy); Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine); Amatzia Avni (Israel); Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia); Michael Pasman (Israel); Jan Timman (Netherlands); Itay Richardson (Israel); Jarl H. Ulrichsen (Norway); Luis Miguel González (Spain); Paul Muljadi (USA); Sergey Osintsev (Russia); Alexander Avedisian (Uruguay); Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine) . János Mikitovics (Hungria); Jan Rusinek (Poland); Leonid Topko (Ukraine); Vidadi Zamanov (Azerbayan) ; Ivan Malyi (Ukraine) ; Bizya Buyannemekh (Mongolia); Richard Becker (USA); Petr Kiryakov (Russia) ; Marcel Dore (France); Alain Pallier (France);

We have received 71 studies from 31 composers from 18 countries.

Sebastián A. Palomo Coordinator of Tournaments (UAPA)

Section A

REPORT

This is the first time I have served as a judge in a tournament. And it was not so easy task...

I have received 20 studies from 13 composers, 8 countries, 4 of them were joint compositions for judgment.

The theme is: Rook with one or more pawns against two minor pieces.

The level of the studies was average. I couldn't find a special study that stands out above others, so there was a division in first prize.

Usually if there is series of forced technical moves only, the study, in my opinion, can't receive more then a commendation, but in this case, it is very specific theme, so I accepted also technical studies.

My preference is usually for studies with some special idea or there are some paradoxical or nice moves, some surprises, but I considered that it is more difficult to achieve this with the theme of current tournament.

Because the tournament was defined as thematic on a topic of 2 minor vs rook endgame, most of the score I gave to position with that material and obtaining the necessary material only at the end of study is not enough.

I have used my new ChessPM Search Engine (which I improved thanks to this tournament) and van der Heijden database plus some of last tournaments to find predecessors.

It must be stated that even when I found predecessors, this does not disqualify the study. My approach is that only final position is not anticipating the study at all, because today most of the studies are finished with some familiar mate or double attack or stalemate or another idea that appeared before in some way. In this case we must judge the way to this final and looking through all the solution.

Some of the cases while predecessors influenced my judgement:

Initially I wanted to award higher the study of Richard Becker, but then I found that there is very similar study of Vandecasteele, Schaakstudiespinsels, 2012. But still the study of Becker adds interesting zugzwang position, so it deserved to be awarded.

Study number 9 of Pavel Arestov has similar 3-moves most important final to his study from Polish Chess Federation tourney 2015. The final position in both studies is beautiful, the introduction of current study is nice, but it does not add enough to previous study in thematic section to justify being awarded here.

Jan Timman noted by himself that he created introduction to beautiful study of A. Avni from 1979. In this case I looked at the add-on, which is good, but still not enough in my opinion to make it awarded.

Study number 16 (Paul Muljadi) starts from similar position of pawns and knights as study 5, only the kings are on different location compared to study 5 (which was published before). A different solution (but still not special) was not enough for me to award this study.

Here is my award.









(4) Pavel Arestov (Russia)

1.g5! [1.Ke4? Nxg4 2.Ra2+ Bd2 /Ke1=] 1...Bxg5 [1...Nc4+ 2.Ke6 Nxa5 3.gxh6+-] 2.Ke4 Bh6 [2...Nc2 3.Rxg5+-] 3.Ra2+ Kf1 [3...Ke1 4.Ra6! Ng4 5.Rg6 Nf2+ 6.Kf3 Bc1 7.Rg1++-] 4.Kf3! Kg1 [4...Nd1 5.Rh2! Be3 6.d5+-; 4...Nc4 5.Ra1++-] 5.Ra1+! [5.Ra6? Nc2! 6.d5 Bf8=] 5...Kh2 6.Ra5! [6.Ra6? Nf5! 7.d5 Bc1 /g7=] 6...Kg1 [6...Nc2 7.Ra2+-; 6...Kh3 7.Rh5#] 7.Rc5! Nf1 8.Rc6! Nd2+ [8...Bf8 9.Rc1+-; 8...Nh2+ 9.Ke2! Bf4 10.Rg6+ Kh1 11.Kf2!] 9.Ke2 Bg5! [9...Bf4 10.Rg6+ Kh1 11.Rg4 Bh6 12.Rh4++-] 10.Rg6 Ne4 11.Kd3! [11.Kf3? Nd2+ 12.Ke2 Ne4 loss of time] 11...Nf2+ 12.Kc4 Nh3 [12...Ne4 13.Kd5 Nf6+ 14.Ke6+-] 13.d5 Kf2 14.d6 Kf3 15.Rg8! [15.d7 Bd8 /e7=] 15...Kf4 [15...Bf6 16.Rf8+-; 15...Bh4 16.Rh8 Kg4 17.Rxh4+! Kxh4 18.d7+-] 16.d7 Be7 [16...Ke5 17.Rxg5+! Nxg5 18.d8Q+-] 17.Kd5! [17.Re8? Bg5 18.Rg8 Be7 loss of time; 17.Rg7? Bd8 18.Rg8 Be7 loss of time] 17...Kf5 [17...Ng5 18.Re8 Bf6 19.Rf8+-] 18.Rf8+! Kg6 [18...Bxf8 19.d8Q+-] 19.Ke6 Bxf8 [19...Bh4 20.Rg8+!+-] 20.d8Q+- Impressive how white first pushes back the black king and knight, makes the pieces get tangled up and then forwards the pawn

(19) Sergey Osintsev (Russia)

1.Rb3! Nd1 2.d5 [2.Rb1? Nf2! 3.Rxc1 Nd3+=] 2...Nf2 3.Kb6! [3.Kc6? Ng4! (3...Ne4? 4.Rb1! Bg5 5.Rg1! Bd2 6.Rg2 Bc3 7.Rc2!+-) 4.Rb4 Nf6!=] 3...Ne4 [3...Ng4 4.d6! Nf6 5.Rh3! Nd7+ 6.Kc7 Nf6 7.Rf3 Bb2 8.Rb3+-] 4.Rh3! [4.Rf3? Bh6 5.Kc7 Bc1! 6.Kb6 Bh6 7.Rh3 Bg7! 8.Kc6 Kb8 9.Re3 (9.Rh7 Bc3! (9...Bf6? 10.Rb7+! Kc8 11.Rb4! Ng5 12.Rf4 Bg7 (12...Be7 13.Ra4! Kd8 14.Ra8#) 13.Rf5! Ne4 14.Rf7! Bh6 15.Rh7! Bg5 16.d6 Nxd6 17.Rh8+ Bd8 18.Kxd6+-) 10.Rb7+ Kc8 11.Re7 Nf6=) 9...Nf6! 10.d6 (10.Rg3 Bf8! 11.Rf3 Bg7! 12.d6 Kc8! 13.Rg3 Bf8 14.Rg6 Nd7!=) 10...Kc8! (10...Bh6? 11.Re8+! Ka7 12.Re5! Bd2 13.Re7+ Kb8 14.Rb7+ Ka8! 15.Rf7! Bc3 16.Kb6 Nd5+ 17.Ka6 Nb4+ 18.Kb5 Kb8 19.Rf5! Be1 20.Rc5! Nd3 21.Rd5! Nf4 22.Re5 Bh4 23.Kb6 Bd8+ 24.Kc6+-) 11.Re7 Bh6 12.Rf7 Ng4! 13.Kd5 (13.Rf5 Bg7! 14.Rg5 Ne5+ 15.Kd5 Bf6=) 13...Bg5! 14.Rg7 Nf6+ 15.Kc6 Bh4! 16.Ra7 Kb8 17.Rf7 Bg5! 18.Rf8+ Ka7 19.Rf7+ Kb8=] 4...Bf4 [4...Bb2 5.Rh4!+-] 5.Rh8+ Bb8 6.Kc6 [6.Rh4? Nc3! 7.Kc6 Nxd5=; 6.Rh1? Be5!=] 6...Nd2 [6...Ng5 7.Rf8! (7.d6? Nf7=; 7.Rh4? Be5! 8.Rg4 Nf7=) 7...Ne4 8.Rf1 (8.Rf3) 8...Nd2 9.Ra1+ Ba7 10.Ra4! Nf3 11.d6+-] 7.Rh4! [7.Rh1? Nc4! 8.Ra1+ Ba7 9.Ra4 Nb6 10.Rh4 Nxd5=] 7...Nf3 8.Ra4+! Ba7 9.d6 [9.Kc7? Nd4! 10.d6 Nb5+ 11.Kc6 Nxd6=] 9...Ne5+ [9...Kb8 10.Rb4++- (10.Kd5); 9...Nd4+ 10.Kd5!+-] 10.Kc7 [10.Kd5? Nf7=] 10...Nf7 11.d7+-

Nice study with domination. White takes advantage of the king's position causes black pieces to reach worse positions.

(21) Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)

1.Ba4! [1.c8Q? Ne7+ 2.Kg7 Nxc8=; 1.Kxf5? c2 2.Rf1 Bxc7=] 1...c2 2.Bxc2 [2.c8Q? Ne7+ 3.Kf7 Nxc8 4.Bxc2 Kxc2=] 2...Ne7+ 3.Kf6! [Try: 3.Kf7? Kxc2 4.Rd7 Nc8 5.Ke6 Kb3 6.Rf7 Bh2 7.Rh7 Bf4 8.Kf5 Bxc7 9.Rxc7 Nd6+=] 3...Kxc2 [3...Bxc7 4.Be4 Nc8 5.Rb1+ Ka3 6.Bc2 Nb6 7.Ke6+-; 3...Ng8+ 4.Ke6 Bxc7 5.Bh7 Nh6 6.Rb1+ Ka3 7.Kd5 Ng4 8.Kc5+-] 4.Rd7! Nc8 5.Kf5! Bd6 [5...Bg3 6.Rg7 Bd6 7.Ke6 as main] 6.Ke6 Bh2 7.Rh7 Bg3 8.Rg7 Bf4 9.Rf7 [9.Kf5? Bd6 10.Ke6 Bf4 11.Rf7 is only waste of time] 9...Bg3 [9...Bh2 10.Rf2++-; 9...Bd6 10.Kd7 Bxc7 11.Kxc7 Na7 12.Rf5 Kc3 13.Ra5+-] 10.Kd5! [Try: 10.Kd7? Nb6+ 11.Kc6 Bxc7 12.Rxc7 Na4 13.Kb5+ Kb3=] 10...Nb6+ [10...Kd2 11.Kc6 Na7+ 12.Kb6 Nc8+ 13.Kb7 Nd6+ 14.Kc6 Nc8 15.Rd7+ Ke3 16.Kb7+-] 11.Kc5! [11.Kc6? Bxc7 as try] 11...Bxc7 [11...Na4+ 12.Kb4 Nb6 13.Kb5 Nc8 14.Kc6+-] 12.Rxc7 Na4+ [12...Na8 13.Rc8+-] 13.Kb4+!+- After pretty introduction, interesting attack with white rook on 7-th to force the bishop to go to 2-nd or 3-rd rank and finally white goes to attack with the king.

(13) Pavel Arestov & Petr Kiryakov (Russia)

1.Kb2! [1.Kxa2? pos. X with bBd7 1...Bb5 /e8 2.Rxe6 Bc4+=] **1...Bc8 2.Kxa2** pos.X with bBc8 **2...Kb8** [2...Ka7 3.Ka3+-] **3.Rc6!** [3.Rb6+? Ka7= pos. Y with Bc8 =;; 3.Kb3? Kc7=] **3...Bd7** [3...Nd4 4.a7++-] **4.Rb6+ Ka8** [4...Ka7 5.Rb7+ pos. Y1 with bBd7 +-.] **5.Kb2!!** swirhback [5.Kb3? Nc7! zz 6.Rb7 Be6+! 7.Kb2 Nxa6=; 5.Ka3? Nd4! 6.Rd6?? Nb5+-+] **5...Nd4!** [5...Nc7 6.Kb3! zz 6...Bc8 7.Rc6 Kb8 8.a7+! Kxa7 9.Rxc7++-] **6.Kc3!** [6.Rd6? Nc6! 7.b5 (7.Rxd7 Nxb4 8.Rd6 Ka7=) 7...Nb8 8.b6 Bc8! 9.a7 Nd7=] **6...Nc6 7.Kc4** [7.b5? Na7!=] **7...Ka7! 8.Kc5!** [8.Rb7+? Kxa6 9.Rxd7 Ne5+=] **8...Nxb4** [8...Nb8 9.b5+-] **9.Rb7+!** [9.Rxb4 Kxa6=] **9...Kxa6 10.Rxd7 Ka5 11.Ra7+ Na6+ 12.Kc6+**-

Nice manoeuvres of white king. Manoeuvres that lead to interesting zugzwang position on move 5.

Luis Miguel González 1st/2nd **Honorable Mention**



Andrzej Jasik st/2nd Honorable Mention



Sergey Osintsev



(20) Luis Miguel González (Spain)

1.Bc5+! Kxc5 [1...Kb7 2.Rh7+ Kc6 3.Rc7+ Kd5 4.Rxc8 Nf4 5.Ba3 Nxg6 6.Rc5+ Kc4 7.Rxb5+- as R+B vs 2N is a general win] 2.g7 Be6! [2...Nf4 3.Rxf5+! Bxf5 4.g8Q Ne6+ 5.Kc7 Nd4 6.Kf6+-] 3.Rxf5+ Kd4 4.Kc7! [4.Ke8? Ne3!=] 4...Bg8 5.Kf8! [5.Rxb5? Nf4! 6.Rf5 Ne6 7.Rf8 Nxg7 8.Rxg8 Nf5+=] 5...Bh7 6.Kf7! [6.Rh5? Nf4! 7.Rxh7 Ne6+ 8.Kc7 Nxg7 9.Rxg7 b4=] 6...b4! [6...Ne3 7.Rxb5! Nd5 8.Rb2 Nf4 9.Rh2 Be4 10.Kf6 Nd5+ 11.Ke6 Nf4+ 12.Kd6 Bd5 13.Rh4+-] 7.Rh5 Bc2! 8.Rd5+! [8.Rh3? Ne3! 9.Kf8 Bb3=; 8.Rb5? Bb3+! 9.Kf8 Kc3=] 8...Kxd5 9.g8Q Nc3 10.Qd8+! [10.Qg5+? Kd4! 11.Qf6+ Kd3 12.Qd6+ Kc3 13.Qe5+ Kd3! 14.Qb5+ Kc3= positional draw] 10...Kc4 11.Qh4+! Kc3! 12.Qe1+ Kd3 13.Qxb4+-

Several nice moves by white (Bc5!, Rd5+! and some moves with the king - to e7 and later to f7). Not so clear win after best black's move 1...Kb7 is some disadvantage of the study.

(2) Andrzej Jasik (Poland)

1.h8N+! [1.h8Q? g1Q+-+] **1...Kh7!!** [1...Kh6 2.Rh5#] **2.Rh5+ Kg8 3.Rg5+! Kxh8 4.Kh5 Nd4 5.f7 Ne6 6.Kh6! Bh7 7.Rxg2!** [7.Rg7? Nf8 8.Rxg2 Bg6! 9.Rxg6 Nxg6 10.Kxg6= stalemate] **7...Nf8 8.Rg7!** zugzwang **8...Bg6** [8...Ne6 9.Rxh7#] **9.Rg8**#

Lovely battle in the corner against black king, leading to zugzwang position.

(18) Sergey Osintsev (Russia)

1.c6 Nd6+ 2.Kd5 [2.Ke5? Nf7+! 3.Kd4 Nf4! 4.c7 (4.Re8 Nd6 5.c7 Nb5+=) 4...Nxe2+!!= (4...Nd6? 5.Kc5 Nc8 6.Re8 Na7 7.Kc4!! Ng6 8.Ra8 Ne5+ 9.Kd5 Nec6 10.Kc5+-)] 2...Nc8 3.Re8 Nf4+ 4.Ke5 [4.Kc5? Na7 5.c7 Kf6 (5...Kf5) 6.Ra8 Ne6+ 7.Kb6 Nxc7 8.Kxc7 Nb5+ 9.Kc6 Nd4+= (9...Nc3)] 4...Ng6+ [4...Nd3+ 5.Kd4 Na7 6.c7 Nb5+ 7.Kxd3 Nxc7 8.Re7 Nd5 9.Re5++-] 5.Ke6 Nf4+ 6.Kd7 Nb6+ [6...Na7 7.c7 Ng6 8.Ra8 Ne5+ 9.Kd6 (9.Ke6) 9...Nb5+ 10.Kxe5 Nxc7 11.Ra7+-] 7.Kd6 Kf5! [7...Kf6 8.Rf8+! (8.Kc5 Nbd5 9.Kd6 Nb6) 8...Kg5 9.Kc5! (9.Rb8? Nc4+ 10.Kc5 Na5! (10...Ne5? 11.c7 Ne6+ 12.Kd5 Nxc7+ 13.Kxe5 Na6 14.Rb5+-) 11.c7 Ne6+ 12.Kd6 Nxc7 13.Kxc7 Nc4!=) 9...Na4+ 10.Kb5 (10.Kb4 Nb6 11.Kc5 Na4+) 10...Nc3+ 11.Kc4 Ne4 (11...Ncd5 12.Rxf4! Nxf4 13.c7+-) 12.c7 Ne6! (12...Nd6+ 13.Kc5+-) 13.c8Q Nd6+ 14.Kd5 Nxc8 15.Kxe6!+-; 7...Kg6 8.Rf8!+-] 8.c7 [8.Kc5 Na4+ 9.Kd6 Nb6; 8.Rf8+? Ke4 9.Re8+ Kd4 10.c7 Nfd5=; 8.Re5+? Kf6 9.Re4 (9.Re8 Kf7) 9...Ng6 10.Rb4 Nc8+=; 8.Rb8? Nc4+ 9.Kc5 Ne5 (9...Na5 10.c7 Ne6+) 10.c7 Ne6+=] 8...Kf6 [8...Nfd5 9.Re5+ Kf6 10.Rxd5!+-] 9.Rf8+! [9.Ra8!? Nfd5 10.Ra6 Kf7 11.Kc6 Nxc7 12.Kxc7 Nd5+= (12...Nc4) ; 9.Rb8? Nfd5 10.Kc6 Nxc7 11.Rxb6 Ne8!=] 9...Kg5 10.Ra8! [10.Kc6? Nfd5 11.Ra6 (11.Kc6 Nfd5 12.Ra6) 11...Nfd5 12.Kc6 Ke7 (12...Nxc7 13.Kxc7+-) 13.Rxb6+-] 10...Nfd5 [10...Kf6 11.Ra6 (11.Kc6 Nfd5 12.Ra6) 11...Nfd5 12.Kc6 Ke7 (12...Nxc7 13.Kxc7+-) 13.Rxb6+-] 11.Ra5! Kf6 12.Rxd5+-

Pretty maneuvers with white pieces.











(10) Marc Gelly (France)

1.Kb6! [1.Rf6? Kb7 2.Rxd6 Kc7=; 1.d4? Nbc6 2.Kb6 Kb8 3.Rf6 Ne7 4.Rh6 Nd5+ 5.Kb5 Kc7=]
1...Nbc6! [1...Ne6 2.Rf1 Nd7+ 3.Kc6 Nb8+ 4.Kxd6 Nd4 5.Rf7! Na6 6.Kd5! Nc2 7.Kc6 Nab4+ 8.Kb6 Nd5+ 9.Kc5 Ndb4 10.Rh7 Kb8 11.Rh4!+-] 2.Rf6!! [Thematic try : 2.Kc7? Ne6+! 3.Kxd6 Kb7! 4.Rf1 Ned4! 5.Rb1+ Kc8 6.Rc1 Kb7=; 2.Rf8? Kb8=] 2...Nd4! [2...Ne7 3.Rf8! Nd5+ 4.Ka5!-+] 3.Kc7!! [Logical try : 3.Rxd6? N8e6=] 3...Nb7! [3...N8e6+ 4.Kxd6 Ng5 5.Kc5 Nde6+ 6.Kb6+-] 4.Rf1! Ne6+ 5.Kc8!! [5.Kd7? Nec5+ 6.Kc7 Ka7! 7.Ra1+ Na6+ 8.Kc6 Nbc5 9.d4 Ne6 10.d5 Nd4+ 11.Kxd6 Kb6=] 5...Ka7 [5...Na5 6.Ra1 Ka7 7.Rxa5+ Kb6 8.Rh5 Kc6 9.Rh6 Nd4 10.Kd8+-] 6.Ra1+! [6.Rf7? Ned8 7.Rc7 Kb6 8.d4 d5 9.d3 Ka6 10.Rd7 Nf7! 11.Kc7 Ng5 12.Kb8 Ne6 13.Rxb7 Nxd4=] 6...Kb6 7.Rb1+ Kc6 [7...Kc5 8.Rxb7 Ng5 9.Kc7 Ne6+ 10.Kd7 Nf8+ 11.Ke7 Ng6+ 12.Kf6+-] 8.Rxb7 Nc5! [8...d5 9.Rh7 Nc5 10.Rh6+ Kb5 11.Kc7+-; 8...Nf4 9.Rb3 Kd5 10.Kd7 Kc5 11.d4++-] 9.Ra7!! Nxd3 [9...d5 10.Ra3 d4 11.Kd8 Kd6 12.Ke8 Ke6 13.Kf8 Kf6 14.Kg8 Kg6 15.Ra5 Nb3 16.Ra4! Kf5 17.Kf7 Ke5 18.Ra2+-; 9...Kd5 10.Kc7 Ne6+ 11.Kb6 Nc5 12.Ra3 Ne6 13.Ra8+-; 9...Ne6 10.d4! Nxd4 (10...Kd5 11.Kd7+-) 11.Ra6+!+-] 10.Ra6+!! Win ,e.g. 10...Kc5 11.Kc7 d5 12.Ra5+ Kc4 13.Kd6 d4 14.Ra4+ Kb3 15.Rxd4 Kc2 16.Kd5 Kxd2 17.Ke4+-

Trapping the king in the corner, white wins one of black knights. At the end, pretty realization of exchange advantage.

(5) Luboš Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia)

1.Kc2 Na3+ 2.Kb2! [try 2.Kb3? Nb5 3.Kb4 Nd6 4.Kc5 Nbc8 5.Rh8+ Kc7 6.Kc6 Ne8 7.Rh7+ Kf8! (7...Kd8? 8.Rd7#) 8.Rh6 Nc7+ 9.Kc5 Nf5=] 2...Nb5 3.Rh8+ Kc7 [3...Kf7 4.Rb8 Na4+ 5.Kb3 Nc5+ 6.Kc4 Nc7 7.Rc8 N5a6 8.d6 Nc6 9.d4+-] 4.Rb8 Na4+ 5.Kb3 Nc5+ [5...Nbc3 6.d4+-] 6.Kc4! [6.Kb4? Na6+= fork] 6...Nc7 7.d6+! [7.Kxc5? Na6+= fork] 7...Kxd6 8.Rb6+ Kd7 9.Kxc5+- Elegant try on 2-nd move and important resource d6+

(12) Richard Becker (USA)

1.Rf3 Bd7 2.Kc2! [2.Kc1? Ba4 zz 3.Rf4 Nc3 4.Rc4 Ne2+ 5.Kd2 Bb5 6.Rc5 Ba6 7.Ra5 Bc4 8.Ra7+ Kf8 =] 2...Ba4+ 3.Kc1 zz 3...Kg6 4.Rf4 Nc3 5.Rc4 Ne2+ 6.Kd2 Bd7 7.Rc7 Bb5 [7...Bg4 8.Ke3+-] 8.Rc5 Nd4 9.Rd5 Nf3+ 10.Ke3 Bc6 11.Rd6+ wins

Awesome sequence of moves and zugzwang position on move 3. Partially Anticipated by Vandecasteele, 2012 (without zugzwang). Award is given for zugzwang position addition

(17) Ivan Malyi (Ukraine)

1.Rf8+! [1.Rb8? Bg4 2.Rb4+ Kg3 3.Kg5 Bxh5 4.Kxh5 Kxg2=] **1...Kg4 2.Rb8** [2.Rd8? Nf5+ 3.Kg6 Bc6=] **2...Kh4 3.Rb4+ Bg4 4.Rb5 Kg3 5.Re5** [5.Rg5? Kf4 6.Ra5 Nf5+ 7.Kg6 Nh4+ 8.Kf6 Bxh5 9.Rxh5 Nxg2=; 5.Kg7? Kxg2 6.Kf6 Ng8+ 7.Kf7 Nh6+ 8.Kg6 Ng8 9.Kg7 Ne7=] **5...Nc6 6.Rg5 Kf4** [6...Ne7 7.Kg7 Nf5+ 8.Kg6+-] **7.g3+!! Kxg3 8.Kg7**/g6+-

Number of accuracies are required

(14) Paul Muljadi (USA)

1.a4! [1.Kf7? Ba4=] **1...Bc4+** [1...Nc1 2.axb5+-] **2.Kf8 Kg6 3.Ke7 Kf5 4.Ra3 Ke5 5.Kd7 Nc5+** [5...Kd4 6.a5 Kd3 7.a6 Kc2 8.a7+-] **6.Kc6!** [Try: 6.Kc7? Nd3! 7.b3 Bf7! 8.a5 Nb4 9.Ra4 Na6+ 10.Kb6 Bxb3 11.Rh4 Nb8 12.Kb7 Nd7 13.Kc7 Nc5 14.Kc6 Na6 15.Kb6 Nb8 16.Rh8 Nd7+ 17.Kc7 Nc5=] **6...Kd4 7.a5!** [Try: 7.b4? Nd3! (7...Bd5+? 8.Kb6 Nd7+ 9.Ka5 Ne5 10.Rg3 Kc4 11.b5+-) 8.b5 Bd5+ 9.Kb6 (9.Kc7 Kc4 10.b6 Nc5 11.Ra1 Na6+=) 9...Nb2 10.Ra1 Nc4+ 11.Kc7 Kc5 12.Rb1 Nb6 13.Rc1+ Bc4 14.a5 Nd5+=] **7...Nd3 8.Ra4 Nxb2 9.Rxc4+ Nxc4 10.a6** +-

Cute battle between Rook and a-b pawns vs bishop and knight

Israel, 1 November, 2021

Judge: Michael Pasman

Section B.1.: Studies – Win

REPORT

First of all, I would like to thank the director Mario Guido Garcia for appointing me as judge of this competition. This is my first experience ever as a judge of chess composing tournaments.

Just a pair of quick words about myself. I'm 33 years old and I've started composing chess in late 2015. I'm mainly a selfmate problem composer, but I dedicated to many genres, including endgame studies. Generally speaking, I'm attracted by constructional tasks, geometrical themes and non-standard configurations. I considered this judging experience as an interesting occasion to enter in touch with other composing styles and to refine my taste and knowledge in matter of endgame studies.

I received a total of 20 studies, from 16 composers from 11 countries. Good entries were alternated to less interesting ones. Studies not included in the award suffered from mainly three defects, in some cases mixed up together:

- Mere technical play or computer variations without inspiring artistic content;
- Heavy constructions or confused play lacking clear ideas:
- Realization of simple themes without particular surprises.

This is the ranking I propose for the awarded studies:





(3) Andrzej Jasik (Poland)

1.Rh2! [1.Rxf2? Qc4+ 2.Bc2 Qxg4 3.Rf7 Qxe6=] 1...Qc4+ [1...bxa3 2.Nf8+ Nh4 3.Ng6+ Kg8 4.Rxf2 Qc4+ (4...Nxg6 5.Nf6+ Nxf6 6.Rxf6 Qc6+ 7.Bc2 a2 8.Rxg6++-) 5.Bc2 Qxg4 6.Rf8+ Kg7 7.Rd7+ Kh6 8.Nxh4 Qg1+ 9.Kd2+-] 2.Bc2 Qf4+ 3.Kb1! [3.Rd2? Be1 4.Kb1 Bxd2 5.Nhf6+ Qxh2 6.Nxh2 Nxf6=] 3...Bh4! 4.Nf8! Qxf8 [4...Qxg4 5.Nxg6+ Qxg6 6.Rxh4++-] 5.Ne5! Nxe5 6.Rxh4+ Kg8 [6...Kg7 7.Rg3+ Kf6 8.Rf4+ Ke7 9.Rxf8 Kxf8 10.axb4+-] 7.Rg3+ Ng7 8.Bh7+ Kh8 9.Bd3+! Kg8 10.Rgh3! Ng6! [10...Nxe6 11.Rh8+ Kf7 12.Rxf8+ Kxf8 13.axb4+-] 11.Rh8+! [11.Rh6? Qf2 12.Rxg6 (12.axb4 Qe1+=) 12...bxa3-+] 11...Nxh8 12.Bh7#

Checkmate studies could be considered outdated, but I find them timelessly fascinating: a well-placed ending blow is always able to create a sense of wonder in the observer. In this study, the construction of the mating cage is obtained with multiple neat sacrifices and a precise discovered check to prevent the black Queen coming into play after the quiet organization of White forces. The two technical pawns a3/b4 are a slightly disturbing element in the final mating picture, but I can surely point this as an insignificant flaw.

(8) Jan Timman (Netherlands)

1.h6 Qd8 2.Ra1! [2.Qa1+? f6 3.Rd1 Kg8! 4.Qa7 (4.h3 Re4 5.Be1 Qf8 6.Kxg2 Rxe3 7.Rd7 Qc8 8.Rg7+ Kh8 9.Kf2 Qf5+=) 4...Kf8 5.Qg7+ Ke8 6.Qg8+ Ke7 7.Qxh7+ Ke6=] **2...Qf6+** [2...Nxe3 3.Qb2+ Rd4 4.Bxe3 Qh4+ 5.Kf1+-] **3.Ke2 Nf4+! 4.exf4 Rg2+ 5.Kf1!** [5.Kf3? Qc6+-+; 5.Kd1? Rg1+-+] **5...Rxd2 6.Qb2!** Klyukin **6...Rf2+! 7.Kg1! Rg2+ 8.Kh1! Rxh2+ 9.Kg1 Rg2+ 10.Qxg2! Qxa1+ 11.Kh2** Black is 4 pawns up and although there is no direct mating threat,he still has no defence. **11...Kg8 12.Qd5!+-** eg **12...Qb2+ 13.Kg3** [13.Kh3] **13...Qc3+ 14.Kg4 Kf8 15.Qd8#** While the whole idea is based on Steinitz-Von Bardeleben,the 6th move is specifically by Klyukin.

A revisitation of the famous game Steinitz – Von Bardeleben, with a mad Rook progressively brought to remove the obstacle from the h2 square, for enemy King's joy. The amazing Klyukin's sacrifice adds fireworks and beauty to an already beautiful combination. This synthesis work surely deserves a special distinction. "Recombination idea previously achieved by Minski & Nielsen (e4 e5 magazine, 1° st Prize on Bukovina-Rumania unification 100 AT, 2018). However, I think that is different strategy about removing the white pawn obstacle and the active Queen sacrifice both add enough originality to the study. I don't consider this an anticipation".







(19) Sergey Osintsev (Russia)

1.Ne4+! [1.Ng4+? Ke2 2.Re3+ Kf1 3.Rf3+ Ke2 4.Re3+ (4.Rf2+? Ke1-+) 4...Kf1=] **1...Kg1** [1...Kg1 2.Re3+ Kf1 (2...Kd1 3.Nf2+ Kc2 4.Rc3+ Kb1 5.Rg3+-) 3.Nxd2+ Kf2 4.Ne4+ Kf1 5.Rf3+ Ke1 6.Rg3 Kf1 7.Bh6 g1Q+ 8.Rxg1+ Kxg1 9.Kc5!+-] **2.Nxd2 Nb3+! 3.Ke3!** [3.Nxb3? Kh2 4.Ra1 cxb3 5.Nxg6 g1Q+ 6.Rxg1 Kxg1=] **3...Nxd2 4.Kxd2 Kh2! 5.Nd5!!** [5.Nxg6? c3+! 6.Rxc3 Nc4+! 7.Rxc4 g1Q 8.Bd6+ Kg2! 9.Rg4+ (9.Nf4+ Kf3=) 9...Kh3! 10.Rh4+ Kg2 11.Rg4+ Kh3 12.Rxg1=; 5.Bh6? c3+! 6.Rxc3 Nc4+! 7.Rxc4 g1Q 8.Be5+ Kh3!=] **5...c3+!** [5...g1Q 6.Bd6+ Kh1 7.Rh3+ Kg2 8.Rg3+ Kf2 9.Rxg1 Kxg1 10.Nxb6+-] **6.Rxc3 Nc4+! 7.Rxc4 g1Q 8.Bd6+ Kh3 9.Nf4+! Kg4** [9...Kg3 10.Ne2++-] **10.Ne2++-**

The thematic play begins from 5th move Nd5! (Nxg6?), with White choosing a counter-intuitive plan. Leaving Black with a pawn on the board, indeed, is necessary to avoid stalemate. Black sacrifices are countered by a precise play, and the final exchange between the two batteries alternatively firing gives the study a noticeable power-up.

(11) Itay Richardson (Israel)

1.Rf7! [1.Kg8? Nhxg6=] 1...Ne6! [1...Nhxg6+ 2.Kg7 Rxf2 3.a6 Rg2 (3...Rc2 4.Rxf4 (4.a7? Rc8=) 4...Nxf4 5.h8Q+-) 4.a7+-; 1...Rxf2 2.Kg7 Ne6+ (2...Nhxg6 3.a6+- wins as was seen before) 3.Kg8 Rc2 4.g7+- (4.h8Q? Rc8+ 5.Kh7 Ng5+=)] 2.Rf6! [2.g7? Ng6+ 3.Kg8 Ng5 4.Rf8 (4.Rf5? Re8+ 5.Rf8 Ne7+ 6.Kh8 Nf7#; 4.h8Q? Re8+ 5.Rf8 Ne7#) 4...Ne7+ 5.Kh8 Ng6+ 6.Kg8 Ne7+ perpetual check] 2...Nxg6+! [2...Ng5 3.g7+-] 3.Rxg6 Nf8! [3...Rxf2 4.Rxe6+-; 3...Kxa4 4.Kg8+-] 4.Rg3+ [4.Rg7 Nxh7 5.Kxh7 Rxf2=] 4...Kxa4 [4...Kb4 5.a6 Nxh7 6.a7 Re8+ 7.Kxh7 Ra8 8.Rg7 Kxa4 9.Rb7 Ka5 10.Ne4 Ka6 11.Nc5++-] 5.a6 [5.Rg8? Nxh7 6.a6 Re7=] 5...Nxh7! [5...Kb5 6.a7 Ra2 7.Rg8 Nxh7 8.a8Q+-; 5...Rxf2 6.a7+-] 6.Ne4! with two main lines: A 6...Rxe4 [6...Kb4! Correction, as now promotion won't come with check, yet after 7.Kxh7 Rxe4 8.Rg4! Rxg4 9.a7 White wins, as the Black king in b4 is used for a cover for the White king from the Black rook's checks: 9...Rh4+ 10.Kg7 /g8 10...Rg4+ 11.Kf7 (11.Kf8 is a waste of time, due to 11...Rh4 and the White king must return to the g-file) 11...Rf4+ 12.Ke7 (12.Ke8?? Rh4-+) 12...Re4+ 13.Kd7 Rd4+ 14.Kc7 Rc4+ 15.Kb7+-; 6...Rc2 7.Nc3+ (7.a7? Rc8+=) 7...Kb4 8.a7+-; 6...Rh2 7.Kg8+-] 7.Rg4! Rxg4 8.a7 Nf6 9.a8Q+ Kb5 [9...Kb4 10.Qf8++-; 9...Kb3 10.Qf3++-] 10.Qb7+ Kc5 11.Qe7++-

After a decisive pin-sacrifice, Black can choose between being unable to activate his Rook on G-file (the Arabian's mate threat is intercepted by promotion with check) or A-file (black King, this time safely placed, unfortunately closes the way to his major piece). This double possibility of counterplay, thematically coherent, got my interest and appreciation.

(4) Andrzej Jasik (Poland)

1.Qa8+ [1.e6? Qg6+ 2.Ke5 Qxe6+ 3.Kd4 g3 4.Qxh4 gxh4=] 1...Kg7 2.Qf8+! Kxf8 3.d7+ Kg7 4.Bf8+! Kxf8 5.d8Q+ Kg7 6.Qf6+! [6.Qxg5+? Qg6+ 7.Qxg6+ hxg6+ 8.Kf4 Rxh2 9.Kg3 Rh1=] 6...Qxf6+ 7.exf6+ Kh6! [7...Kg8 8.Ra8#] 8.Rh3!! gxh3 9.g4! Rxg4 10.Kxg4 Kg6 11.a4 Win

From an apparently quiet initial position, White manages to sacrifice all his pieces in order to lock the enemy King in a cage, and then wins with a single little pawn going to promotion. The idea is certainly not new, and the construction is maybe too artificious, but the result is pleasantly fluid and quite spectacular.











(9) Peter Krug & Pavel Arestov (Austria-Russia)

1.Kg6 Kg8 2.h7+! [2.Kf6? Kh7 3.Kg5 Nc3=] **2...Kh8 3.Kh6! Nb2** [3...Nc3 4.c5 bxc5 5.bxc5 Nd5 6.c6 Ne7 7.c7 Nf5+ 8.Kg5 Kg6 8...Ne7 9.c4 Kxh7 10.Kf6+-] **4.c5 bxc5 5.bxc5 Nd3! 6.c6!** [6.cxd3? stalemate] **6...Ne5 7.c7 Nf7+ 8.Kh5!!** [Try: 8.Kg6 Nd6 zz 9.c3 Ne8! 10.c8B! (10.c8N Nd6! 11.Nxd6 stalemate) 10...Nc7! 11.Bf5 Nd5 12.c4 Nb6! 13.c5 Nd7! 14.c6 (14.Bxd7 stalemate) 14...Ne5+ 15.Kh6 Nxc6=] **8...Nd6 9.Kg6** z **9...Ne8! 10.c8B!** win[10.c8Q? stalemate; 10.c8R? stalemate; 10.c8N? Nd6! 11.Nxd6 stalemate.]

A good example of economic anti-stalemate study, with final underpromotions to add interest, and with an attractive and dual-free thematic try (8. Kg6?) that brings to an acrobatic challenge for Black, if he wants to hold a draw.

(13) Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)

1.c7 Kg6 2.Kg8! [2.c8Q? Rf8+ 3.Qxf8 stalemate] 2...Rf7 3.c8R! [3.c8Q? Rg7+ 4.Kh8 Rh7+ 5.Kg8 Rg7+ 6.Kf8 Rg8+ 7.Kxg8 stalemate] 3...Re7 [3...Rd7 4.Rc6+ Kf5 5.e6 Re7 6.Kf8 Kf6 7.Ra6 Rxe6 8.Rxe6+ as main] 4.Rc6+ [4.e4? Re8+ 5.Rxe8 stalemate] 4...Kf5 5.e6! [5.Rxc4? Kxe5 6.Kf8 Ra7 7.Ke8 Rg7 8.Rc5+ Ke4 9.Rxh5 Kxe3 10.Rxh6 Rc7 11.Rf6 Ke4 12.h5 Ke5 13.Rf3 Rh7 14.Rh3 Ke6 15.Kf8 Kf6 16.Kg8 Rg7+ 17.Kh8 Rc7=] 5...Rxe6 [5...Kf6 6.Kf8 Rxe6 7.Rxe6+ as main] 6.Rxe6 Kxe6 7.Kg7 or Kh7 7...Kf5 8.Kxh6 Kg4 [8...Ke4 9.Kxh5 Kd3 10.Kg6 Kxc3 11.h5 Kb4 12.h6 c3 13.h7 c2 14.h8Q c1Q 15.Qb8+ Ka5 16.Qd8+ Kb5 17.e4 Qc6+ 18.Kf5+-] 9.e4 Kf4 10.Kxh5 Kxe4 11.Kg4! [11.Kg5? Kd3 12.h5 Kxc3 13.h6 Kd2 14.h7 c3 15.h8Q c2=] 11...Kd3 12.h5 Kxc3 13.h6 Kb3 [13...Kd2 14.h7 c3 15.h8Q c2 16.Qb2 Kd1 17.Kf3+-] 14.h7 c3 15.h8Q c2 16.Qa1+-

After an attractive anti-stalemate introduction with White underpromotion, the study turns into an apparently basic pawn endgame. However, even if it seems that Black could hold the draw thanks to the F-file pawn in 7th rank, the subtle 11. Kg4! (11. Kg5?) allows the decisive 16. Qa1 and also protects from the defence 13. ... Kd2, not working because of mate in e2. A nice find. The winning final blow is a well-known motif, but it's always pleasant to see it as a mocking conclusion.

(5) Michael Pasman (Israel)

1.Rd7! Need to force Black's Nc3 move, [1.Re7? f4=; 1.Rf7? a2-+; Logical try: 1.Nc5? a2! (1...f4 2.Rd7+-) 2.Nb3 f4! 3.Rd7 f3!= White is missing an important tempo] **1...Nc3** [1...f4 2.Nc5 Nc3 3.Rf7 main] **2.Nc5!** [Try: 2.Na5? f4 3.Rf7! Ne2! 4.Nb3 Kg2 5.Kg5 f3=] **2...a2** [2...f4 3.Rf7+-] **3.Nb3** [3.Ra7? f4 4.Kg5 f3 5.Nd3 Kg1=/g2] **3...f4 4.Rf7!** Compared to logical try, knight is standing worse on c3, and Black has to lose a tempo for Nd4 **4...Ne2 5.Kg5! f3!** [5...Nd4 6.Na1! f3 7.Kf4! Kg2 8.Ke3+-; 5...Kg2 6.Ra7! f3 7.Rxa2 f2 8.Rxe2 and Nd2] **6.Kg4!** [Thematic try: 6.Rxf3 Nd4! 7.Rf1+ Kg2 8.Ra1 Nxb3 9.Rxa2+ Kf1=/g1] **6...Nd4!** [6...Kg2 7.Rxf3 Nd4 8.Rg3+ Kf2 9.Na1+-] **7.Kg3!!** White has extra tempo for this move [7.Na1 Kg2=] **7...Kg1** [Second line: 7...Nxb3 8.Kf2! a1Q 9.Rh7# Twin mate to a main line] **8.Nxd4!** [8.Na1 Kf1!=] **8...a1Q 9.Nxf3+ Kf1 10.Nd4+ Kg1 11.Ne2+ Kh1 12.Rh7**#

Well-constructed logical tries and zugzwang motifs, from a light starting position, lead to two crystalclear mates, with the useless black Queen who can only observe from the distance the fluid coordination between the White pieces.

(12) Michael Pasman (Israel)

1.Ne7! [1.Ned6? Nc2=; Thematic try: 1.Ke8 Nc2 2.c6 Nxb4 3.c7 (3.Nb6+ Kb8=) 3...Nd5=] 1...Bxe7 [1...Nc2 2.c6! (2.Ke8 Nxb4) 2...Bxe7 (2...Nxb4 3.c7+-; 2...Kb8 3.Nd5 Nd4 4.c7+) 3.Ke8!! Nxb4 4.c7 Kb7 5.Kd7+-; 1...Kb7 2.Nd6++-; 1...Nb3 2.Ke8! (2.c6 Kb8=) 2...Nd4 (2...Bxe7 3.c6; 2...Kb8) 3.Nd5+-; 1...Kb8 2.Nc6++-] 2.Ke8!! [2.Kxe7 Nc2 3.c6 Nxb4 4.c7 Nd5+=] 2...Nc2 [2...Ka7 3.c6+-] 3.c6 Bd8! [3...Nxb4 4.c7 Kb7 5.Kd7+-; 3...Kb8 4.Kd7! Bd6! 5.Nxd6! (5.Kxd6 Nxb4 6.c7+ Kc8=) 5...Ka8 6.c7+-] 4.Kxd8 Nxb4 5.c7 Nc6+! 6.Kc8! [6.Kd7 Nb8+ 7.Kd8 Nc6+ returns to same position] 6...b4 [6...Na7+ 7.Kd7+-] 7.Nc5! Ne5 [7...Ka7 8.Kd7+-; 7...b3 8.Nxb3 Ka7 (8...Nb4) 9.Nd4 (9.Nc5 Kb6) 9...Ne5 (9...Ka8 10.Nb5 Ne7+ 11.Kd7 Nc8 12.Nd6 Nb6+ 13.Kd8+-) 10.Nb5+ Ka8 11.Kd8 Nc6+ 12.Kd7 Nb8+ 13.Kd6+-; 7...Na7+ 8.Kd8 (8.Kd7 b3) 8...Nc6++-] 8.Kd8! [8.Nb3? Ka7 no better then 9.Nc5] 8...Nc6+ 9.Ke8 [9.Kd7 Na7 10.Nb3] 9...Na7 10.Kd7 b3 11.Nxb3 Kb7 12.Na5+ Kb6 13.Nc6+-

The black Bishop is apparently inexplicably not captured, then he suddenly offers himself to the white King, in a subtle little dance also returning in sidelines (3. ... Kb8). The remaining play is technically good but not astounding: maybe a deeper developing of the subtleties would have allowed a higher ranking.

(7) Peter Krug & Mario Garcia (Austria-Argentina)

1.h7+ Kxh7 [1...Kh8 2.Qxf6++-] 2.Rd7+! [2.Rc7+? Kg8 3.Qh6 Rh2+ 4.Kg4 Qb4+ 5.f4 f5+ 6.Kg5 Qxf4+ 7.Kxg6 Rf6+ 8.Kxf6 Qxh6+ 9.Kxe5 Rd2 /Qh8=] 2...Kg8 3.Qh6 Rh2+ 4.Kg4 Qb4+ [4...Rxh4+ 5.Qxh4+-] 5.f4 f5+ 6.Kg5 Qxf4+ 7.Kxg6! [7.gxf4?? Rg2#] 7...Rf6+ [7...Qxg3+ 8.Qg5+-] 8.Kxf6 Qxh6+ 9.Kxe5 Qh8+ 10.Kd6 Rd2+ [10...Qd4+ 11.Kc7 Qe5+ 12.Kb7+-] 11.Kc7! [11.Kc6? Qb2 12.Rc5 Rc2 13.a7 Rxc5+ 14.Kxc5 Qa3+=] 11...Qb2 12.Rc6 Rc2 [12...Qe5+ 13.Kb7 Qe4 14.a7 Ra2 15.Rd8+ Kg7 16.e7 Qxe7+ 17.Rc7+-] 13.a7 Rxc6+ 14.Kxc6 Qc2+ [14...Qc1+ 15.Kb7 Qh1+ 16.Kb8! (16.Kc7!? e2 17.b7 Qc1+ 18.Kd8 e1Q 19.b8Q Qxe6=) 16...e2 17.b7+-] 15.Kd6! [15.Kb7? Qe4+=] 15...Qd3+ 16.Kc7! [Try: 16.Ke5? Qe4+ 17.Kf6 e2 18.Rd8+ Kh7 19.b7 Qxb7 20.Rd7+ Kh6! 21.Rxb7 e1Q 22.e7 (22.Rh7+ Kxh7 23.a8Q Qc3+! 24.Kxf5 Qc5+! 25.Kg4 Qc4+!=) 22...Qc3+ /a1 23.Kf7 Qg7+ 24.Ke6 Qg8+ jaques continuos] 16...Qc4+ 17.Kd8! [17.Kb8? Qxe6 18.Rd8+ Kf7! 19.a8Q Qxb6+ 20.Kc8 Qc5+=] 17...Qa6 18.Rd6 e2 [18...Qa3 19.Rc6 e2 20.e7 e1Q (20...Qd3+ 21.Kc7+-) 21.e8Q+ Qxe8+ 22.Kxe8 Qa4 23.Kd7+-] 19.e7 e1Q 20.e8Q+ Qxe8+ 21.Kxe8 Qc8+ 22.Ke7 [22.Rd8?? Qe6#] 22...Kg7 23.h5!!+- the only move to win [not 23.Rd7? Qf8+ 24.Ke6+ Kh6! 25.b7 Qg8+ 26.Rf7 Qe8+ 27.Kd6 Qd8+ 28.Kc6 Qe8+ 29.Rd7 Qe4+ 30.Kc7 Qc4+ 31.Kb8 Qg8+=] 23...Qf8+ [23...Qb7+ 24.Kd8 Kf8 25.h6 Qe7+ 26.Kc8 Qxd6 27.a8Q Oxb6 28.Kd7++-] 24.Kd7+-

A tactical war with no holds barred, where the pieces activity is brought to the maximum. After the furious storm, a quiet zugzwang move (23. h5!) eventually closes the game. Despite the quite violent play, I found the solution enjoyable. A good study for solvers.

(1) Valery Kalashnikov (Russia)

1.b7! [1.e7? Rxe5 2.d7 Rxe7—+; 1.d7? Rd3 2.e7 Rxd7+—+] **1...Rxe5**+ [1...Rc3+ 2.b6 Bxe6 3.b8Q+ Rc8 4.Qb7+-; 1...Rf3+ 2.b6 Bxb6+ 3.Kxb6 Rb3+ 4.Ka7 Bxe6 5.b8Q+ Rxb8 6.Kxb8+-; 1...axb5 2.e7 Re2+ 3.Ka8 Ra2+ 4.Kb8 Ba7+ 5.Kc7 Rc2+ 6.Kd7+-] **2.b6 Bxb6+!** [2...Rxe6 3.b8Q Bh2 4.Qd8 Rxg6 5.d7 Rf6 6.b7+-] **3.Kxb6 Rb5**+ [3...Rxe6 4.b8Q Rxg6 5.Ka7 Rxd6 6.Qxd6+-] **4.Kxa6 Rxb7 5.d7!** [5.e7? Rd7 6.e8Q Rxd6+ 7.Kb7 Re6 8.Qb8 Rxg6=] **5...Rb8** [5...Rb1 6.e7 Ra1+ 7.Kb7 Rb1+ 8.Kc8 Rc1+ 9.Kd8+-] **6.e7 Re8!** [6...Rd8! 7.exd8N!+-; 6...Ra8+ 7.Kb7 Bd5+ 8.Kc7 Bg8 9.d8Q Rc8+ 10.Kd7 Rxd8+ 11.Kxd8+-] **7.dxe8B!** WIN [7.dxe8Q? stalemate; 7.dxe8N? Bc4+ 8.Kb6 Bd3 9.Nxg7 Bxg6=; 7.Kb5? Rxe7 8.d8Q Re5+ 9.Kc6 Re6+ 10.Kd7 Rxg6=] **7...Bf7? 8.gxf7+-**

Another study with a final correct underpromotion in order to avoid stalemate and at the same time avoid positional draw. A similar theme to the Krug&Arestov study. However, I had to rank this study much lower of his colleague, because of the heaviness of the initial position and the many captures in the introduction.





(17) Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia)

1.Kd7! Qxf6! [1...Qe2 2.Rc8+ Rxc8 3.Rb8+ Bxb8 4.Kxc8 Bg4+ 5.Kd8+-; 1...Rd8+ 2.Kc7 Qe5 3.Qe4+-; 1...Qe5 2.Rc8+! Rxc8 3.Kxc8 axb5 4.Qxb5 Bg4+ 5.Nxg4+-] 2.Rc8+! Rxc8 3.Qe4+! [3.Qh1+?? Bf3!-+] 3...d5 4.Qxd5+ Qc6+! 5.Qxc6+ Rxc6 6.Rb8+!! Bxb8 [6...Kxb8 7.Bg3+! Ka8 (7...Rc7+ 8.Bxc7+ Kb7 9.Bc6#; 7...Kb7 8.Bxc6+ Kb6 9.Bc7#; 7...Rd6+ 8.Bxd6+ Kb7 9.Bc6+ Kb6 10.Bc7#) 8.Bxc6#] 7.Bxc6+ Ka7 8.Bxc5#

Many introductory defects (King in check, Knight in f6 suddenly captured) and a moremover-shaped construction do not permit this work to achieve a higher position in the award. But the four double-Bishop echo mates are surely worth a kind of special distinction.

(16) Richard Becker (USA)

1.f8Q+! [1.d8Q+? Kxd8 2.f8Q+ Kc7 3.Qc5+ Kb7=] 1...Kxd7 2.Qf7+ Kd6 3.Qd5+ Ke7 4.Qg5+ Kf8 5.Qc5+ Kg7 6.Qd4+ Kg6 7.Qb6+ Kg7 8.Qb7+ Kf8 [8...Kg8 9.Qc8+ Kf7 10.Qc4++-] 9.Qxb4+ Ke8 10.Qb8+ Kd7 11.Qb7+ Ke8 12.Qc8+ (Qc6+) 12...Ke7 13.Qc5+ Kd7 14.Qd5+ Ke7 15.Qg5+ Kf8 16.Qc5+ Kg7 17.Qc3+ Kg6 18.Qg3+ Kh7 19.Qh4+ (Qh3+) 19...Kg6 20.Qg4+ wins

Even if it suffers from some defects, some of them correctly marked by the composer (I've considered the two real duals unimportant, due to the uniqueness of the winning manoeuvre), I eventually decided to include this study in the award. A storm of Queen checks culminating in a decisive double attack could seem little material for a distinction: however, the long trip of the white Queen has something attractive, like a strive one-against-all, and this left me with a pleasant sensation. Also, the double possibility to begin will be a good point for solvers. Therefore, special commendation for this out-of-schemes study.

Thanks again to the Director and to all participants for their creative efforts.

This verdict is provisional and open to claims. After two months from publication date, the verdict will become definitive.

Italy, Juanary 4, 2022

Judge: Daniele Gatti (Italy)

Section B.2.: Studies – Draw

REPORT

My evaluation was based on the fact that study composing is an art.

Accordingly, computer-generated studies I not considered in the award.

An exception is if the work is inspired and the author describes how each position is to be judged.

This will at least make the game understandable, even if the solvers won't love it.

Where does computer "creation" lead? The complete elimination of man from our genre. Chess program 'composes the study', and the 'solver' uses the computer too. Terrible.

In the analytical works, it is necessary to comment on the plans.

Complicated, long studies, however, are still boring for solvers.

Among of entries are analytical works with very small material. These seemed more of an educative example than a study.

Several studies seemed interesting at first look, but in fact contained only moments known from practice.

Some entries are not real studies but puzzles with the 'draw' requirement.

In the stalemate ending studies does not bother that me, if the stalemate picture is anticipated, if the play to it is interesting. Otherwise nowadays a stalemate motif must be very unnatual, for example 3 pieces pinned in the end.

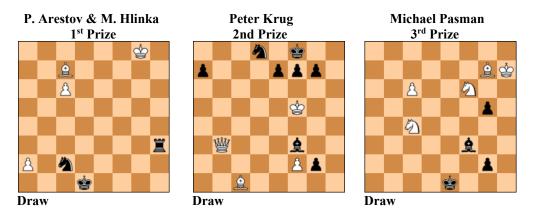
There were several fine creations among the positional draw theme.

I valued the original thoughts a lot.

It is an advantage if the initial position is inviting to solution.

L. Topko's (Kf5-Kh4) study is an anticipation : Cool, W. (Tijdschrift v.d. KNSB # 282, 1952) - Arestov-Gasparyan study has faulty: 5. Ke1 is also draw, serious dual.

And the ranking of entries is follow:



(9) Pavel Arestov & Michal Hlinka (Russia-Slovakia)

1.Be5! [1.Bd6? Rc3 2.c7 Ne3!—+ 3.Kf8 Nd5; 1.Ba5? Nd4 /Ne3 2.c7 Nc6 3.Kf7 Na7 4.Ke8 Re3+!—+ (4...Rd3? 5.Bb6!=) 5.Kd7 Rd3+—+ 6.Ke6 Nc8—+] **1...Nb4 2.c7 Nc6!** [2...Nd5 3.Kf8! Nb6 4.Bd4! Nc8 5.Ke8= further than in the main solution] **3.Bd4!!** [3.Kf8? Nxe5! 4.c8Q Rh8+] **3...Ne7**+ [3...Rh5 4.Kg7! Ne7 5.Kf8= /Kf7 5...Rh7 6.Ke8 Nc8 7.Kd8] **4.Kf8** /Kf7 **4...Nc8 5.Ke8 Rd3 6.Bg1!** [6.Kd7? Na7—+; 6.Bc5? Kc2 /Kd2 7.a4 Kb3 8.a5 Kc4! 9.Bg1 Kb5—+; 6.Bf2? Ke2 7.Bc5 Kd2 8.a4 Kc3 9.a5 Kc4!—+] **6...Ke2! 7.a4! Rd1 8.Bc5 Rd5 9.Bg1 Kf1** [9...Kd3 10.a5 Kc4 (10...Rxa5 11.Kd7=) 11.a6=] **10.Be3 Rd3 11.Bc5 Rd5 12.Be3 Ke2 13.Bg1=** pos. draw

The study looks very original, has no weaknesses and without capture of pieces.

It is a very good study. I like the move Bd4!! After 5 Rd3 in the second phase a surprising positional draw unfolds. The threat of white is the push forward of his "a' pawn. The dark bastion cannot leave the 'd' column because then Kd8 is a draw. So his black plan is to pursuit the bishop with a Rook and the King, but the bishop will always find free space. Interesting try is 6.Bc5? instead of Bg1, because the black King can threat the pawn and the bishop with tempo, and he can stop the 'a' pawn. Very logical and clear study.

(12) Peter Krug (Austria)

1.Qb8 Ke8 [1...g6+ 2.Kf4 Ke8 3.Kxf3 g1Q 4.Qb5+ Kf8 5.Bh6+ Kg8 6.Qe8+ Kh7 7.Qxd8 Qh1+ 8.Kg3 Qxh6 9.Qxe7 Kg8 10.Qxa7 =] **2.Qh2** [try : 2.Qg3? Ne6 3.Ba3 a5 4.Ke5 (4.Qh4 Nd4+!-+) 4...Kd7 mutual Zugzwang-+] **2...Ne6 3.Ba3 a5** main [3...Kd7 4.Bxe7! ! 4...Kxe7 main (4...Nd4+ 5.Ke5 Ne2 6.Qh3+ ! (6.Qh4? a5 7.Qh3+ lose of time 7...Kxe7 8.Qe6+) 6...Kxe7 7.Qe6+! fxe6 stalemate 3) 5.Qd6+ Kxd6 stalemate 2; 3...a6 4.Bxe7 Kxe7 5.Qd6+ Ke8 6.Qb8+ Kd7 7.Qd6+ Kc8 8.Qxa6+ Bb7=] **4.Ke5!** [4.Qg3? Kd8! 5.Ke5 Kd7 ! zz; try : 4.Bxe7? Kxe7 5.Qd6+ Ke8!! -+ 6.Qb8+ Kd7 7.Qd6+ Kc8! 8.Qa6+ Bb7 -+] **4...Kd8** [4...Kd7 5.Qg3 zz 5...a4 (5...f6+ 6.Kf5 Nd4+ 7.Kg6 Be4+ 8.Kf7 Nf3 9.Bxe7 g1Q 10.Qd6+ =) 6.Bb4 g6 7.Bxe7 g1Q 8.Qxg1 Kxe7 9.Qxg6 fxg6 Patt Patt] **5.Qg1!** [5.Qg3? ? 5...Kd7 -+zz for White] **5...Kd7 6.Qa1** [6.Qc1? f6+ 7.Kf5 Nd4+ 8.Kg6 Ne2 9.Qc5 g1Q+ 10.Kf7 Qb1 -+] **6...g6** [6...f6+ 7.Kf5 Ng5 8.Qe1 e6+ 9.Kg6 Nh3 10.Kf7! g1Q 11.Qxe6+ =] **7.Bxe7! g1Q** [7...Kxe7 8.Qa3+ =] **8.Qxg1 Kxe7 9.Qxg6 fxg6** stalemate

Who would think, looking at the game-like intitial position, that a mutual zugzwang can soon emerge here, and later further another zugzwang positions? It is also hard to imagine that the white King will be threatened with a mate in the middle of the board. White defends itself with very fine Queen moves. After the bishop sacrifice still seems that black wins, but the Queen's sacrifice saves the game. Although the stalemate is familiar (Wotawa Deutsche Schachzeitung # 736), it is not the theme of Krug's study. Very original study.

(7) Michael Pasman (Israel)

1.Nd2!! [1.Ne5? Bxc6 2.Nxc6 g1Q-+; 1.c7? Bb7 2.Nd2 Ke2! 3.Nf3 Kxf3-+] 1...Kxd2 [1...Bxc6 2.Nd5!!=] 2.c7! Bb7 3.Ne4+!! Allows to capture a knight with check 3...Ke3! [3...Bxe4+ 4.Kh6! Bb7 5.Bd4=] 4.c8Q! [Try: 4.Bf8 Kxe4 5.Bc5 is lost, with this line (first black moves may also be changed in order): 5...g4 6.Kg6 Kf3 7.Kg5 and now: 7...Kg3! 8.Bb6 Bc8! 9.Bg1 Kf3 10.Kh4 Ke2! 11.Kg3 Kf1! 12.Kh2 g3+!-+] 4...Bxc8 5.Nxg5! Bg4! Defends in same time f3 and h3 square [5...g1Q 6.Bd4+! Kxd4 7.Nf3+=] 6.Bf8! Kd4 7.Ne4!! Second time on the same square sacrifice 7...Bf5+ [7...Kxe4 8.Bc5=] 8.Kh8! This time h8, not h6 as in previous Ne4 Bxe4 line 8...Bxe4 9.Bd6! g1Q 10.Bc5+! Kxc5= Model stalemate The final 2 moves are known from study of Ratner, 1920

An classical style study, that's really enjoyable. The key move is nice, the play is very solver friendly and rich. The play is lively on both side. There is in the 4th move is a try, but thot thematic. The final two move-pair is well known, but the author wrote it in his comment. Very fair.

M. Hlinka & L. Kekely 1st Honorable Mention



Michael Pasman 2nd Honorable Mention



Draw

Andrzej Jasik 3rd Honorable Mention



Peter Krug Special Honorable Mention



Draw

(2) Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)

Draw

1.Ra5+ [1.Kf7? Rf8+ 2.Ke7 Bxa6 3.Ra5+ Kb2 4.Rxa6 Ra8-+] 1...Kb3 [1...Kb2 2.Bxc4 Re4 3.Ra2+ Kb1 4.Ra4 Nf8+ 5.Kg7 Ne6+ 6.Kf6=] 2.Bxc4+! [2.Bxc8? Nf8+ 3.Kf7 Rxc8-+] 2...Kxc4 3.Rxa7 [3.Kxh7? a6-+] 3...Nf8+ 4.Kf7 Rd8 5.Rc7+! [5.Ke7? Rd7+ 6.Rxd7 Nxd7 7.Kd8 Nb6-+] 5...Kd5 6.Ke7 Ne6 7.d7! Ba6 [7...Nxc7 8.Kxd8=] 8.Rc1! [8.Rc2? Rh8 9.Rd2+ Ke5 10.d8N (10.d8Q Rh7+ 11.Ke8 Bb5+-+) 10...Nxd8 11.Rxd8 Rh7+ 12.Kf8 Bc8 13.Kg8 Rc7-+] 8...Bb5 9.Rd1+ Ke5 10.Re1+ [10.Rd6? Nc5-+] 10...Kf5 11.Rd1! positional draw[11.Rxe6? Rxd7+ 12.Kf8 Kxe6-+]

Great positional draw with unexpected twists. Many times seems that, the game to be over, but both sides offer surprises and the play is continued, becomes exciting again and again. The sidelines are not boring, in fact, it is an explicit experience to explore them, these decorate the game.

(16) Michael Pasman (Israel)

1.e7! [1.Bf4+ Kc6 2.e7 Re2-+] 1...Rb5+ [1...Bc6 2.Bf4+ Kb6 3.Rf8=; 1...f1Q 2.Bf4+=] 2.Kh4! [2.Kf6 Rb6+ 3.Kf7 Bd5+; 2.Kg6 Rb6+ 3.Kg7 Re6] 2...Re5 [2...f1Q 3.Bf4+=] 3.Bf4! [3.Rf8 Re4+ 4.Kxg3 f1Q] 3...Kd7! 4.Bxe5 Kxe7 5.Bf6+!! [5.Nf4 f1Q-+; 5.Nxf2 gxf2 6.Bf6+ Kf7-+] 5...Kf7! [5...Kxf6 6.Nxf2 gxf2 7.Rf8+ Ke5 8.Rxf2=; 5...Kd7 6.Rd8+=] 6.Ng5+! Kxf6 7.Ne4+! Bxe4 8.Kxg3! [8.Rf8+ Kg7 /e7-+] 8...f1N+! [8...f1Q 9.Rf8+ Kg5 10.Rxf1=] 9.Kf4! [9.Kf2? Nh2-+] 9...Bc6 10.Rxb7! Bxb7= Ideal Stalemate

Similar to the 3rd prize winner study. The study is based on simple tactical motifs, but the play is very interesting. I feel that clearly visible for solvers after 4 Kxe7 that, the game is aimed at enforcing the final stalemate. The sidelines are short and clear. I think this study invites the solvers.

(4) Andrzej Jasik (Poland)

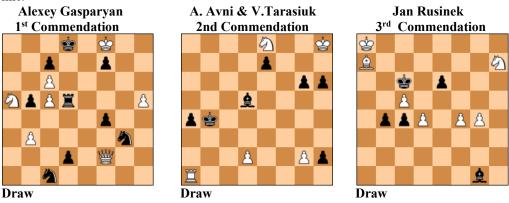
1.Qd3! [1.Qb1? Bc8+ 2.Nge6 Nxd4+ 3.Kxe5 Nxe6 4.Kxd5 g2 5.Qg6+ Kf8 6.Qh6+ Kf7 7.Qh5+ Kg7 8.Qg4+ Ng5-+] 1...e4! [1...Nxd4+ 2.Kxe5 Nc6+ 3.Kf5 Bc8+ 4.Ke4 Nf6+ 5.Ke3 Ne5 6.Qb3+ Kg7 7.Ne6+ Bxe6 8.Qxe6 Bc5+ 9.Kf4 g2 10.Kxe5=] 2.Nxe4 [2.Qxe4? Nxg5 3.Qe5 g2 4.Ne6 Nxe6 5.Qxe6+ Kf8 6.Qh6+ Ke8-+] 2...Bc8+ 3.Ne6 g2 [3...Bxe6+ 4.Kxe6 Nf4+ 5.Kxe7 Nxd3 6.Nxg3=] 4.Qxf3 [4.Qxd5? g1Q 5.Kf4 Qh2+ 6.Kxf3 Qh3+ 7.Kf2 Bxe6-+] 4...g1Q 5.Nf6+!! Nxf6 [5...Bxf6 6.Qg2+! Qxg2= Stalemate] 6.Qg3+! Qxg3= Stalemate

The point is brilliant, 5.Nf6 +! and then the two stalemates with the pinned Knight. The silent key move 1.Qd3! is it ok, but the 1.Qb1? try is too complicated a version, as the all sidelines too.

(8) Peter Krug (Austria)

1.Nf8! [1.d4+? Qxd4+ 2.Rxd4 Nh3 3.Ra4 Nf2+ 4.Kf3 Kxf5 5.Kxe3 Nd1+ 6.Ke2 Nb2 7.Ng7+ Ke5-+] 1...Qd4+! [1...d4? 2.Nd7+ Kd5 3.Ra8! Qb5 4.Re8 c5 5.Be4#] 2.Rxd4 Nf3! [2...Kxd4?? 3.Ne6+ Ke5 4.d4+ Bxd4 5.Nd8 Bc5 6.Nxc6#] 3.Rxd5+! Kxd5 [3...cxd5 4.d4+ Kxd4 5.Kxf3 =] 4.Be4+ Kd4 5.Ne6+ Ke5 6.Kxf3 c2 7.d4+ Kxe6 [7...Bxd4 8.Nf4! c1N 9.Bxc6 or(9.Ng6+ Ke6 10.Bxc6=)] 8.d5+! cxd5 9.Bxc2 =

It seems that, this is that well-known idea that between several black pieces, the King gets a mate due of self-blocks. This also happens here, just but in the two sidelines. The real theme is the positional draw in two lines: 7 ... Ke6, 7 ... Bxd4. Rich content. The study get a 'special' hm, because the study has weaknesses: the initial position is at least weird, and the black Queen lives for a very short time in the main line.



(25) Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia)

1.Nb7+! Kc8 2.Nd6+!! Rxd6 3.cxd6 d1Q 4.d7+! Kd8 and only now 5.Qxf4! [5.Qc5!? Qd6+! 6.Qxd6 cxd6 7.h6 Nd3! 8.h7 Ne5!-+] 5...Nxh5 [5...Qd6+ 6.Qxd6 cxd6 7.h6! draws, for example 7...Nd3 8.h7 Ne5 9.Kg7 Ng6 10.Kxf7 Nh8+ 11.Ke6 Ne4 12.b4=] 6.Qg5+! [6.Qh4+!? f6-+] 6...f6 7.Qg8! Qxb3! 8.Qe6! [8.Qg6!? Qa3+ 9.Kg8 Ng7! 10.Kxg7 Qe7+-+] 8...Qa3+ 9.Kf7 Qa2! 10.Kf8! Qa3+ 11.Kf7 Qb3 12.Kf8! Qb4+ 13.Kf7 Qc4 14.Kf8 Qxe6= stalemate The threat of mate in the final of this study allowed White to escape in a seemingly hopeless position.

The introductional play is hard, but interesting. The creating the stalemate trap is surprising with the nice Queen's manouvre.

(28) Amatzia Avni & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Israel-Ukraine)

1.Rb1+! [1.Rh1? a3 2.Rxh2 a2-+] **1...Kc4 2.d3+!** [2.Rc1+? Kb3! 3.Rb1+ Kc2 4.Rh1 a3-+] **2...Kc3!** [2...Kxd3 3.Rh1 draws, because the BK is too far from his a-pawn 3...a3 4.Rxh2 a2 5.Rh1=] **3.Rc1+! Kb3 4.Rb1+ Kc2 5.Rh1** only now, when the BK is placed on the second rank **5...a3 6.Rxh2** [6.Nc7? a2 7.Nxd5 Kb2-+] **6...a2 7.g3+!** combined with 2.d3+, the second rank is cleared [7.Rh1? Bxg2 8.Ra1 Kb2-+] **7...Kxd3 8.Rxa2 Bxa2 9.Kg7!** [9.Kh7? Bf7!-+] **9...g5 10.Kxh6 g4 11.Kg5 Be6** [11...e5 12.Kxg4 e4 13.Nf6 e3 14.Nh5! e2 15.Nf4+=] **12.Kf4!** [12.Nc7? Bd7! 13.Nd5 e5-+] **12...Bd7! 13.Nf6!** [13.Nc7? Kd4-+] **13...exf6** stalemate

The preliminary opening of the second line, the wandering of the King into the distant stalemate nest, and the surprising Knight sacrifice (13.Nf6!) makes the study to valuable.

(19) Jan Rusinek (Poland)

1.f5! [1.d5+? exd5-+] **1...exf5** [1...b3 2.fxe6 b2 3.d5+ Kxd5 4.e7=] **2.d5+!** [2.gxf5? Bxd4! 3.f6 c3 4.f7 Bg7-+] **2...Kxd5 3.gxf5 c3** [3...Bd4 4.f6 c3 5.f7 Bg7 6.Nf6+ Kc6 7.Nh5 Bf8 8.Ng3+-; 3...b3 4.f6 Ke6 5.c6+-] **4.f6 Ke6 5.Ng5+!** [5.c6? c2-+] **5...Kxf6** [5...Kd7!? 6.c6++-] **6.Ne4+ Ke5 7.Nxc3!** [7.c6? c2-+] **7...bxc3 8.c6** [8.Bb8+? Kd5 9.Bf4 Kxc5-+] **8...c2 9.Bb8+!** (now!) [9.c7? c1Q 10.Bxg1 Kd6-+] **9...Kd5** [9...Ke6 10.Bf4!=] **10.c7** [10.Bf4? Kxc6-+] **10...c1Q** [10...c1R 11.Kb7=] **11.c8Q Qxc8** stalemate The return of an old, great author is a joy in itself. He gave a correct, practical like study. The study is sure to be interesting for practical players. The stalemate end is well known.

Hungary, October 29- 2021

Judge: Peter Gyarmati