



UNION ARGENTINA DE PROBLEMISTAS DE AJEDREZ

## 19th INTERNATIONAL INTERNET TOURNAMENT (UAPA) – 2022

### AWARD FINAL

**Section A : –Thematic: Suicidal piece fight – slogan : Win or Draw – With the sacrifice (in more than one opportunity) of: Rook, or knight, or bishop or Queen, through the stalemate resource or positional draw equality is achieved -It is also possible that white after successive attempts to sacrifice black pieces, (R,N,B,Q) avoid the stalemate and achieve victory -- Judge: Alexander Stavrietsky (Russia)**

**Section B : Theme free**

**B.1.) Win – Judge : Darko Hlebec (Serbia)**

**B.2.) Draw – Judge : Jaroslav Polasek (Rep. Checa)**

**Participants: Michal Hlinka (Slovakia); Luboš 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); Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia); Michael Pisman (Israel); Jan Timman (Netherlands); Sergey Osintsev (Russia); Alexander Avedisian (Uruguay); Oleg Pervakov (Russia); Can Aydinoglu (Turkey); Paul Muljadi (USA); Luis Miguel González (Spain); Alexander Zhukov (Russia); Ivan Belonozhko (Russia); Alexander Khalifman (Russia); Evgeny Egorov (Kazajistan); Mihael Croitor (Moldova); Mario Micaloni (Italy); Harold van der Heijden (Netherlands); Daniil Yakimovich (USA); Rainer Staudte (Germany); Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (Norway); Michael Schlosser (Germany)**

**We have received 67 studies from 29 composers from 18 countries.**

**Sebastián A. Palomo  
Coordinator of Tournaments (UAPA)**

## Section A

As a judge of the competition, first of all, I would like to say a few phrases about how important it is to accurately formulate the theme of the competition. She was presented to the etudists as follows: Section A: – Thematic: **Suicidal piece fight** – slogan : Win or Draw –With the sacrifice (in more than one opportunity) of: Rook, or knight, or bishop or Queen, through the stalemate resource or positional draw equality is achieved -It is also possible that white after successive attempts to sacrifice black pieces, (R,N,B,Q) avoid the stalemate and achieve victory.

Since there are not so many among chess composers who are fluent in foreign languages, many have used an electronic translator. As a result, already the first three words - a suicidal game of pieces - caused them a real misunderstanding of how to perceive it. Both the organizers of the competition and me, as an arbiter, began to be contacted, as many wanted to deal with this problem. I suppose that some compilers are scared away. Still, the topic was very easy to understand. In the study for a draw, White had to sacrifice as much material as possible in order to achieve a stalemate or a positional draw later. And in the etude for a win, it was necessary, despite the discarding of the black material, to somehow subtly refute Black's counterplay and win. It must be admitted that the competition still took place. The sketches sent were enough. "Quorum" was. Some authors have worked very hard on the topics. Nevertheless, M. Pasman performed the best. All three of his studies received distinctions. Including he deservedly was awarded the first prize. Before summing up the results of the competition, it is necessary to dwell on some studies that did not receive distinction.

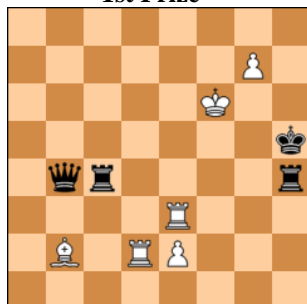
N° 1 Valery Kalashnikov. Despite the fact that we have a miniature before us, the author failed to squeeze the maximum content out of the material. Already after the second move, a position arises in which the white king is stalemated, and the rook can go berserk. And all the sacrifices of the white piece become obvious. Especially in the second option.

No. 2 Pavel Arestov. Extremely bad first move. After all, it is obvious that the black pawn must be taken. Otherwise, there can be no question of winning. And then an exchange of rooks. On the fifth move and on the ninth. There is a capture of the white bishop on c1, which did not move like that. But the white knight standing on h7 looks even more unpleasant.

N° 3 Luboš Kekely & Michal Hlinka. Everything is very simple. At first, Black chases the white king until he occupies the required a7-square. And then the white rook drives the black king, which is pressed against the h-file. No. 4 Pavel Arestov. The exchange of a rook for a promoted queen is perfectly acceptable. But the white horse in the corner of the board looks miserable. It doesn't carry any load. And one more thing. The denouement in the etude does not happen unexpectedly. The method of how to get rid of the "mad" elephant suggests itself. And I would like it to happen unexpectedly. Exactly as it happens in the famous studies, which were compiled by A. Gurvich or E. Pogogyants.

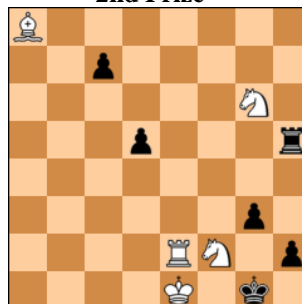
And now we move on to the pleasant procedure of presenting the differences.

**Michael Pasman**  
1st Prize



Win

**Peter Krug & Mario García**  
2nd Prize



Win

### (7) Michael Pasman (Israel)

**1.Re5+!** [Logical try : 1.Rd5+ Kh6 2.g8N+ Kh7 3.Re7+ Kh8! position X1 with rook on d5 is no more than draw, because b2 is undefended 4.Kf7+?? Qxb2-+] **1...Kh6 2.g8N+! Kh7 3.Re7+!** [3.Rd7+ Kh8 white is even lost] **3...Kh8** position X2 with rook on d2 [3...Qxe7+ 4.Nxe7+-] **4.Kf7+! Rcd4!** [4...Kh7 5.Ke6+ winning the queen 5...Qxe7+ 6.Nxe7+- and winning; 4...Rc3 5.Nf6! Qb3+ 6.Kg6+-; 4...Rhd4 5.Rxd4 Rxd4 6.Re3+-] **5.Rxd4!** Creating Bishop-rook battery [5.Bxd4+ Rxd4 6.Rxd4 Qxd4 7.Nf6= is draw] **5...Rh7+!** [5...Rxd4 6.Re3 Qc4+ 7.Re6! Kh7 8.Bxd4+-] **6.Kg6! Rg7+!!** Fighting for stalemate **7.Rxg7** Now there is battery with 2 rooks on bishop's diagonal **7...Qd6+!** **8.Nf6!** Sacrifices knight and rook to avoid stalemate [8.Kf7 Qd5+=; 8.Kf5 Qd5+! 9.Kf4 Qxd4+-] 10.Bxd4 stalemate; 8.Kh5 Qh2+! 9.Rh4 Qxh4+ 10.Kxh4 stalemate] **8...Qxf6+!** **9.Kh5!** [9.Kxf6 stalemate] **9...Qh6+!** [9...Qe5+ 10.Rg5!+-] **10.Kg4!** [10.Kxh6 stalemate] **10...Qe6+** [10...Qxg7+ 11.Kh3 as main; 10...Kxg7 11.Rd6+-] **11.Kh4!** [Thematic try : 11.Kg3 Qe5+! 12.Kf3 Qd5+! 13.Ke3 Qe5+! 14.Kd2 Qxd4+! 15.Bxd4 Stalemate; Thematic try : 11.Kf3 Qd5+! 12.Ke3 (12.Rxd5 stalemate) 12...Qe5+! 13.Kf3 Qd5+! perpetual check] **11...Qh6+ 12.Kg3!** [12.Kg4 Qe6+] **12...Qxg7+** One of the rooks eliminated, bishop-rook battery remains [12...Qe3+ 13.Kh2! Qh6+ 14.Kg1 (or 14.Kg2 ) 14...Qxg7+ 15.Kf1!+-] **13.Kh3!** [13.Kh2? Qc7+=; 13.Kf2 Qa7!= rook is pinned] **13...Qh7+** [13...Qh6+ 14.Rh4+-; 13...Kh7 14.Rh4+-] **14.Rh4+ Kg8 15.Rxh7+**

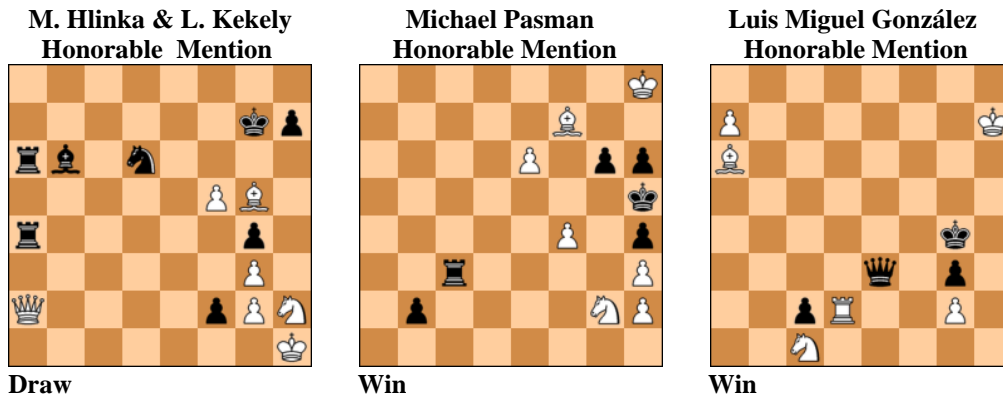
An excellent etude, in which the author, with only ten pieces, managed to play a very interesting duel of the sides on the board. Already on the first move, you have to choose between two possibilities. After a weak promotion of a pawn into a knight, the black king is driven into a corner. And then the victims begin, which is the theme of the competition. I liked how Black deftly forms a stalemate nest around his king, in order to resolutely sacrifice his queen later. However, with precise maneuvers of his king, White still gets away from the importunate queen. Interesting idea!

### (8) Peter Krug & Mario Garcia (Austria-Argentina)

White , after successive attempts to sacrifice black Rook avoid the stalemate and achieve victory **1.Nh1!** [1.Bxd5? h1Q 2.Bxh1 (2.Nxh1 Rxd5 3.Nxg3 Rg5!)=] 2...gxf2+! (2...Rh2? 3.Ne4 Rxe2+ 4.Kxe2 Kxh1 5.Nxg3+-) 3.Rxf2 Kxh1 4.Nf4 Ra5=; 1.Nf4? gxf2+ 2.Rxf2 Re5+ 3.Ne2+ Rxe2+ 4.Kxe2 h1Q=] **1...Kxh1** [1...g2 2.Rxg2+ Kxg2 3.Nf4+ Kg1 (3...Kxh1 4.Kf1 /f2 4...Rf5 5.Bxd5+ Rxd5 6.Nxd5+- e.g. 6...c5 7.Ne3 c4 8.Nd1 c3 9.Nf2#) 4.Nxh5+-] **2.Nf4!** [2.Nh4? c6 /g2=] **2...Rf5 3.Nxd5 c6!** playing for stalemate [3...Rf8 4.Bc6! Rf1+ (4...g2 5.Ne3+-) 5.Kd2+- as main line; 3...g2 4.Ne3! (4.Nc3? c6! 5.Bxc6 Rf6 /c5= 6.Bxg2+ Kg1) 4...c6 5.Bxc6 Rf6 6.Bd5 Rd6 7.Bxg2+-] **4.Bxc6** [4.Ne3? Rf2 5.Rxf2 gxf2+ 6.Kxf2= stalemate] **4...Rf1+!?** sacrifice [4...g2 5.Ne3 Rf6 6.Bd5 Rd6 7.Bxg2+ Kg1 8.Rf2 h1Q 9.Rf1+-] **5.Kd2!** [5.Kxf1= g2+ 6.Rxg2=] **5...Kg1 6.Rg2+!!** [6.Ne3? Rf2! (6...h1Q? 7.Bxh1 Kxh1 8.Nxf1 g2 9.Ng3+ Kh2 10.Ke3!+-) 7.Rxf2 gxf2=] **6...Kh1!** [main 6...Kxg2 7.Nf4+ Kf2 8.Nh3# ideal mate] **7.Rxg3!** [7.Nf4? Rd1+ 8.Ke3 Rd3+ 9.Nxd3= stalemate] **7...Rd1+!?** sacrifice **8.Ke2!!** [Thematic try: 8.Ke3? Rd3+ sacrifice 9.Kf2 Rf3+ sacrifice 10.Kxf3= stalemate(10.Ke1 Rxg3 11.Nc3+ Rg2 12.Ne2÷ stalemate) ; or 8.Kc2? Rc1+ 9.Kxc1= stalemate; or 8.Kxd1?= stalemate] **8...Rd2+!?** sacrifice [8...Re1+ sacrifice 9.Kd3! Re6 10.Bb7 /a8+-] **9.Kf3! Rc2** [9...Rd3+ 10.Ne3+-; 9...Rxd5 10.Rg6+-; 9...Rf2+ 10.Kg4+-] **10.Rg6!+-** [Try: 10.Bb7 Rc7 11.Ba8 Rc8=]

An etude in which a not very complicated, but interesting solution. After a short introduction, a generous dumping of material begins. Black gives up a pawn and then a rook, which corresponds to the theme of the contest. And then a point shoe from the white side. Don't accept sacrifice. Otherwise, a beautiful checkmate with a knight will follow. Refusal to capture leads to a position when the rook starts to "rage". However, White was already ready for this. Honorary reviews on an equal footing

## Honorable Mention on an equal footing



### 5) Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)

**1.f6+ Kh8** [1...Kg6 2.Qg8+ Kf5 3.Qd5+ Kg6 4.Qg8+=] **2.f7 Nxf7 3.Qxf7 Ra1+ 4.Nf1!** [thematic try 4.Bc1? Rxc1+ 5.Nf1 Rxf1+ 6.Kh2 Rh1+ 7.Kxh1 Bc5! 8.Qe8+ Kg7 9.Qd7+ Kf6 (9...Kh6 10.Qd2+ Kg7 11.Qd7+ Kf6 is only waste of time) 10.Qd8+ Kf7 11.Qd7+ Be7 12.Qf5+ Rf6 13.Qxh7+ Ke8 for example (13...Ke6? 14.Qe4+=) 14.Kh2 Bd6+] **4...Rxf1+ 5.Kh2 Rh1+! 6.Kxh1 Ra1+ 7.Bc1!** [try 7.Kh2? f1N+! 8.Kh1 Nd2+ 9.Kh2 Bg1+ 10.Kh1 Bf2+ 11.Kh2 Nf1+ 12.Kh1 Nxc3+ 13.Kh2 Rh1#] **7...Rxc1+ 8.Kh2 f1N+ 9.Qxf1!** [9.Kh1? Nd2+ as after 7.Kh2?] **9...Rxf1** stalemate. 11th WCCT theme.

The sequence of sacrifices (white knight and white bishop) is very important for White. This forms the basis of the author's intention. At the same time, Black also plays inventively, who can sacrifice a rook or turn a pawn into a knight.

### (9) Michael Pasman (Israel)

**1.e7!** [1.Kh7? Rc7=; 1.Kg7? b1Q 2.e7 Re3! 3.Nxe3 Qa1+ /b2+= with Stalemate] **1...b1Q 2.Kh7!** [2.e8Q! Rc8! 3.Qxc8 Qa1+ /b2+= with Stalemate] **2...Re3!** [2...Rc8 3.Be6 g5+ 4.f5+-; 2...Qe4 3.e8Q Qxe8 4.Bxe8 Rc7+ 5.Kg8 Rg7+!? 6.Kf8!+-] **3.Nxe3 Qe4** [3...Qf5 4.e8N! Qxf7+ 5.Ng7+++] **4.Nf5! Qxf5 5.e8N!** Phoenix [5.e8Q? Qxf7+! 6.Qxf7= Stalemate] **5...Qxf7+** [5...Qxf4 6.Ng7+ Kg5 7.Ne6+ Kf5 8.Nxf4 Kxf4 9.Kxh6!+- (9.Kxg6=; 9.Bxg6=) ] **6.Ng7+ Qxg7+ 7.Kxg7 g5 8.f5 g4 9.hxg4+-**

I would finish this etude already on the seventh move, since the subsequent game leads to an obvious defeat for Black. The remaining seven moves are quite enough to consider this study a full-fledged work, in which, in addition to victims, there is also a slight transformation into a horse. The author, apparently, likes to checkmate the black king with a knight converted from a pawn in the finale of studies. And in a couple of sketches of this competition, he skillfully turns pawns into knights at other stages of the sketch. Good habit! As for this etude, I see a certain drawback in it, only that the black king is immovable. It is surrounded by figures

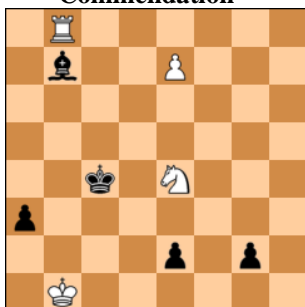
### (12) Luis Miguel González (Spain)

**1.Bc8+!** [1.Be2+? Kh4! 2.Rd4+! Qxd4 3.a8Q Qd7+ 4.Kh8 Qd4+ 5.Kg8 Qd5+! 6.Qxd5 stalemate; 1.Rd4+? Kg5! 2.Rd5+ Kh4 3.a8Q Qe7+ 4.Kg6 Qe6+ 5.Kg7 Qe7+ 6.Kg8 Qe6+ 7.Kf8 Qf6+=] **1...Kg5 2.Rd5+ Kh4! 3.Rd4+!** [3.a8Q? Qh6+! 4.Kxh6 stalemate] **3...Kg5** [3...Qxd4 4.a8Q+-; 3...Kh5 4.Bg4+! Kg5 5.a8Q Qe7+ 6.Kg8+-] **4.Rg4+ Kh5 5.a8Q Qe7+** [5...Qh6+ 6.Kg8 Qh7+ 7.Kf8!+-] **6.Rg7!** [6.Kh8? Qh7+! 7.Kxh7 stalemate] **6...Qe4+! 7.Bf5!** [7.Qxe4? stalemate] **7...Qxa8 8.Ne2!** [8.Bg4+? Kh4 9.Bf3 Qg8+! 10.Kxg8 stalemate] **8...c1Q 9.Nxc3+ Kh4 10.Rg4#**

I perceive this etude as two-phase. At first, White slowly drives the black king to the edge of the board. And then White has to hold back the onslaught of Black. Unfortunately, the sharp duel ends with the banal connection of the white horse to the duel, when, it would seem, the time for pointe shoes has come. Praiseworthy reviews on an equal footing

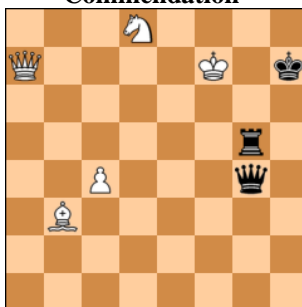
## Commendations on an equal footing

**Michael Pasman  
Commendation**



Draw

**Pavel Arestov  
Commendation**



Win

**L. Kekely & M. Hlinka  
Commendation**



Draw

### (11) Michael Pasman (Israel)

**1.Nd2+ Kc3** [1...Kd3 2.e8Q g1Q+ 3.Ka2 Bd5+ 4.Nb3 e1Q 5.Qb5+=] **2.e8Q g1Q+ 3.Ka2 e1Q** [3...Bd5+ 4.Nb3 e1Q 5.Rc8+=] **4.Qxe1 Bd5+** [4...Qxe1 5.Nb1+ Kc2 6.Nxa3+ Kc1 7.Rxb7 Qd2+ 8.Ka1 Qd4+ 9.Ka2 Qd5+ 10.Rb3 Qd2+ 11.Ka1 Qd4+ 12.Ka2=] **5.Rb3+ Bxb3+ 6.Ka1 Qxe1+ 7.Nb1+ Kd4=** stalemate

The advantage of this study is that it lacks boring analysis. The final stalemate with the pinned knight comes unexpectedly. After there was a sharp confrontation between the parties

### (10) Pavel Arestov (Russia)

**1.Kf8+!** [1.Kf6+? Rg7 2.Bc2+ Kg8=] **1...Rg7** [1...Kh6 2.Nf7+ Kh5 3.Nxg5+-] **2.Bc2+ Kh8 3.Nf7+ Rxf7+ 4.Qxf7 Qf4** Play for stalemate [4...Qf5 5.Bb3! main line] **5.Bb3!** [Thematic Try: 5.Bg6? Qf3! 6.c5 Qf5! 7.c6 Qf4! 8.c7 Qf5 9.Ke7 Qd7+ 10.Kxd7 stalemate] **5...Qf5! 6.Ba2!** [6.Ba4 /d1? 6...Qc5+=] **6...Qc8+** [6...Qc5+ 7.Qe7 Qf5+ 8.Ke8 Qb5+ 9.Kd8+-] **7.Qe8!** [7.Ke7 Qc7+ /c5=] **7...Qf5+ 8.Ke7+-**

After a four-move entry, White gets a position in which he has a clear advantage. However, in order to realize it, they need to overcome Black's stalemate resource and skillfully play the bishop.

### (6) Luboš Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia)

**1.b8Q+! Kxb8 2.Nd7+! Bxd7 3.Re8+ Kc7 4.Re7** pin against mate threat **4...Nf8 5.g6! Nxg6** [5...Nb2+ 6.Kxd2 Nxg6 7.Kc3 Kd6 8.Re8 Nc4 9.f8Q+ Nxf8 10.Rxf8=] **6.Rxd7+!** [6.f8Q? Nb2+! 7.Kxd2 Nxf8 8.Kc3 Ng6 9.Re1 Bg4+-] **6...Kxd7 7.f8N+!** [try 7.f8Q? Nb2+! 8.Kxd2 Nxf8+-] **7...Kd6!** or Kc6 [7...Nxf8 stalemate] **8.Nxg6 Kc5** or Kd5 **9.Nf4 Kd4 10.Nxd3 Ke3!** [10...Kc3 11.Ke2 zz 11...Kc2 12.Nb4+= or Ne1+] **11.Kc2 Na3+ 12.Kd1 Kxd3** stalemate. 11th WCCT theme.

This sketch demonstrates the battle to the last bullet. The study is interesting because here you can see a fork, a weak transformation into a Knight and, of course, victims.

Russia , January 2023

**Alexander STAVRIETSKY (Russia),**

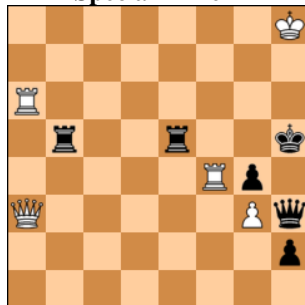
**judge of the competition.**

## Section B.1 (Win)

First I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Mario Garcia who invited me to judge this tournament, and to Mr Branislav Djurasevic for the assistance in checking the studies for anticipation.

Congratulation to all participants that won some award.

**Jan Timman  
Special Prize**



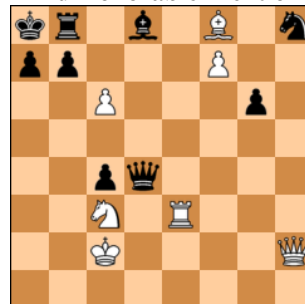
Win

**Michael Pasman  
1st Honorable Mention**



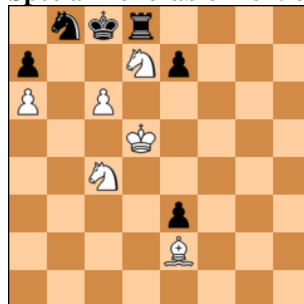
Win

**Osintsev Sergey  
2nd Honorable Mention**



Win

**P. Arestov & A. Gasparyan  
Special Honorable Mention**



Win

**Jan Timman –(Netherlands)**

**1.Rf5+!** Forcing the way to e7 for the queen. [1.Qf8? Rb8! 2.Qxb8 Kg5+ 3.Kg8 Re8+ 4.Qxe8 Qh8+ 5.Kxh8 h1Q+ 6.Qh5+ Qxh5+ 7.Kg7 Qh6+ 8.Rxh6= stalemate; 1.Qd6? Kg5+=; 1.Rf7? h1Q–+] **1...Rxf5 2.Qe7 Rb7!** To get square g5 for the king. **3.Qxb7 Kg5+** [3...Rf8+ 4.Kg7+-] **4.Kg7 Rf7+** For Stalemate. **5.Qxf7 Qh7+!** [5...Qh8+ 6.Kxh8 h1Q+ 7.Qh7!+-] **6.Kxh7 h1Q+ 7.Qh5+!** Queen sac to prevent Stalemate. [7.Kg8? Qh8+! 8.Kxh8= stalemate] **7...Qxh5+ 8.Kg7 Kf5** [8...Qe8 9.Ra5+ Qe5+ 10.Rxe5#] **9.Ra5++-** pin

The Best study at the torney.White start the study with sacrificing a Rook,avoiding a stalemate trap in the first move,such as would follow after 1.Qf8? with first move,with sacrificing all the black figures for stalemate.After a quiet move 2.Qe7 black sacrifices Rooks and Queen to threaten again with the stalemate trap.However white ,by a double sacrifice of Queen ,which Is captured by black with a check ,leads black into a lost position where Queen Is helpless against the Rook.The final position Is known from the study from Marwitz 2hm Mugnos MT.However apart from the final position ,there are two completely different studies.Especially ,it should be mentioned that Queen in this study Is sacrificed on an empty field,rather than by capturing a figure as in the study from Marwitz.This Is a study to be contemplated with pleasure!

**Michael Pasman (Israel)**

**1.Ba7! Qxa7 2.Rac8+!** [2.Rxa7?]=] **2...Nc7** [2...Kb6 3.Rxe8+] **3.Rxc7+ Kb6 4.Rc4!** [4.Rxc3? Ne4+] **4...Ne4 5.Rdc8! Nd6** [5...Nc5+ 6.R4xc5+] **6.Rxc3 Nxc8 7.Rxc8+-**

A study with a brilliant move 2.Rac8+ in which white does not capture the unprotected black Queen,after it was enticed by a sacrifice into a cage,eventually leading black into a position where ,like in the study that won the prize ,black Queen Is helpless against a Rook.Unfortunately,the study Is rather short and black Queen has made only one forced move during the whole study,without a chance to escape from the prison.Moreover white King Is inactive.In spite of all these drawbacks ,not capturing black Queen deserves exvberant congratulations!

**Osintsev Sergey (Russia)**

**1.Bg7!!** [Tries 1.c7? Bxc7 2.Qxc7 Qxe3 3.Qxb8+!? Kxb8 4.Bd6+ Kc8 5.f8Q+ Kd7 6.Bf4 Qf2+=; 1.cxb7+? Rxb7 2.Bc5! Qxc5 3.Qxh8 Qf5+ 4.Ne4 Qxf7 5.Qxd8+ Rb8=; 1.Qg3? bxc6! 2.Bd6 Bg5! 3.Bc5! Qf4! 4.Qxf4 Bxf4 5.Re7 Rd8! 6.Rd7! Nxf7 7.Rxa7+ Kb8 8.Rxf7=] **1...Qxg7 2.c7 Bxc7 3.Nd5!!** [3.Qxc7? Qxf7 4.Re7 Qf2+--+ ] **3...Bd8** [3...Bxh2 4.Nb6+! axb6 5.Ra3# vertically checkmate by Rook] **4.Re8!** [4.Nb6+?! Bxb6 5.Re8 Rd8! 6.Qh3 Qf8 7.Rxf8 Rxf8 8.Qd7 Nxf7 9.Qe7 Rc8 10.Qxf7 Black won't lose; 4.Qc7?! a5! 5.Nb6+ Ka7 6.Qxb8+ Kxb8 7.f8Q Qxf8 8.Nd7+ Kc7 9.Nxf8 Nf7 Black won't lose] **4...Nxf7** [4...Qxf7 5.Qxb8+! Kxb8 6.Rxd8# horizontal checkmate by Rook] **5.Rxd8! Nxd8** [5...Rxd8 allows Lucena checkmate combination 6.Nc7+ Kb8 7.Na6+ Ka8 8.Qb8+! Rxb8 9.Nc7#!] **6.Qh8!!** [6.Nc7+? Qxc7 7.Qxc7 Nc6 Black won't lose] **6...Qd7** [or 6...Qxh8 7.Nc7#! Lucena mate] **7.Nb6+! axb6 8.Qa1+ Qa4+ 9.Qxa4#** vertical checkmate by Queen

White concentrates all his efforts on the black castling position sacrificing Queen once passively,the other time actively to eventually after a series of sacrificed checkmate black King.It Is a pity that a black Rook Is not in play.

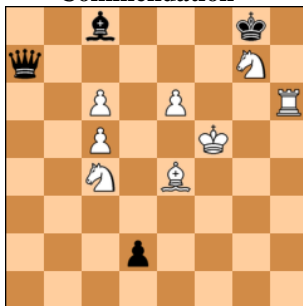
**Pavel Arestov & Alexey Gasparyan (Russia-Armenia)**

**1.Nd6+!** [1.Ncb6+? Kc7 2.Na8+ Kc8=] **1...exd6** [1...Kc7 2.Nb5+ Kc8 3.Nxa7+ Kc7 4.Nb5+++ ] **2.Nb6+!! Kc7** [2...axb6 3.a7+] **3.Na8+ Kc8 4.Bg4+ Rd7!** [4...Nd7 5.Kxd6+-] **5.cxd7+ Nxd7 6.Kc6!!** [6.Kxd6? Kb8 7.Kxd7 e2! 8.Bxe2 Kxa8 9.Kc7= stalemate; 6.Nb6+? Kc7 7.Nxd7 e2! 8.Bxe2 Kxd7=] **6...e2** [6...Kd8 7.Kxd6! (7.Be2? Kc8 8.Nc7 Ne5+!=) 7...Nf6 8.Bf3! Nd7 9.Nc7+-] **7.Bxe2 Nb8+!** [7...Ne5+ 8.Kxd6 Kb8 9.Nb6!+- (9.Nc7? Nf7+=) ] **8.Kd5!!** switchback [8.Kxd6? Nxa6! 9.Bxa6+ Kb8 10.Nc7= stalemate] **8...Nxa6 9.Bxa6+ Kb8 10.Kc6** [10.Kxd6 Kxa8 11.Kc7= stalemate] **10...Kxa8 11.Kc7 d5 12.Bb7#** A. Troitzkiy Correction of study 15th UAPA ?17 section B2.

White sacrifices both Knights and has an interesting game avoiding stalemate traps and eventually checkmating black King with only a Bishop on the model of the end of A Troicky s study.

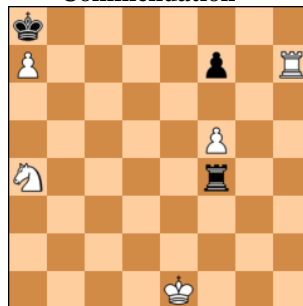
**Commendations on an equal footing**

**M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
Commendation**



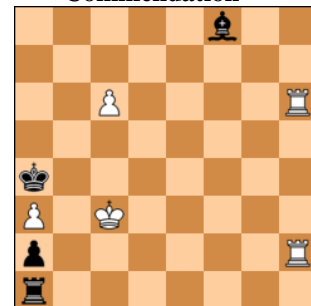
Win

**M. Hlinka & L. Kekely  
Commendation**



Win

**Mihail Croitor  
Commendation**



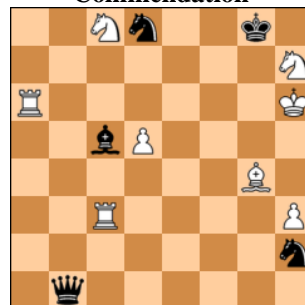
Win

**Michael Pasman  
Commendation**



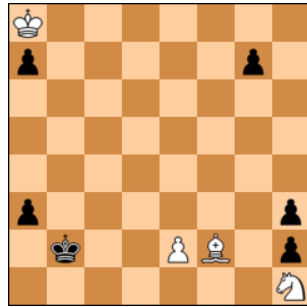
Win

**Mario G. García  
Commendation**



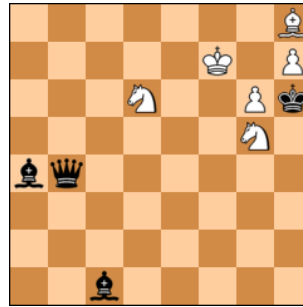
Win

**Alexander Avedisian  
Commendation**



Win

**A. Zhukov & I. Belonozhko  
Commendation**



Win

**Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)**

**1.Nh5 Bxe6+** [1...Qxc5+ 2.Ne5 d1Q 3.Nf6+ Kf8 4.Rh8+ Ke7 5.Rh7+ Kd8 6.c7+ Qxc7 7.Rh8+ Ke7 8.Ng6+ Kd6 9.Ne8+ Kc5 10.Nxc7 Qf1+ 11.Nf4+-] **2.Rxe6** [2.Kxe6? Qf7+ 3.Ke5 d1Q 4.Nf6+ Kf8 5.Rh8+ Ke7 6.Ng8+ Qxg8 7.Rxg8 Qa1+ 8.Kd5 Qd1+ 9.Ke5 Qa1+ 10.Kf4 Qf1+ 11.Ke3 Qxc4=] **2...d1Q** [2...Qxc5+ 3.Ne5 d1Q 4.Re8+ Qf8+ 5.Nf6+ Kg7 6.Rxf8 Kxf8 7.c7 Qc1 8.Ke6 Qxc7 9.Ng6+ Kg7 10.Ne8+- fork] **3.Re8+** [3.Nf6+? Kg7 4.Ne8+ Kf8 5.Rf6+ Ke7 6.Re6+ Kf8=] **3...Kf7** [3...Kh7 4.Kg5#] **4.Nd6+ Qxd6 5.cxd6 Qd7+!** [5...Kxe8 6.c7 Qc5+ 7.Kg4 Kf7 8.Bf5 Qxd6 9.c8Q Qd1+ 10.Kg5 Qd8+! 11.Kh6! (11.Qxd8? stalemate) 11...Qxc8 12.Bxc8+-] **6.Kg5!** [6.cxd7? stalemate; 6.Kf4? Qxe8 7.c7 Qe6=] **6...Qxd6** [6...Qxe8 7.Bg6+-] **7.c7!** [7.Ra8? Qe5+ 8.Bf5 Qe7+=] **7...Qc5+ 8.Bf5 Qg1+** [8...Qc1+ 9.Nf4+-] **9.Kh6** [9.Bg4 Qc5+ 10.Bf5 Qg1+ 11.Kh6 waste of time; 9.Kh4 Qh2+ 10.Kg5 Qg1+ 11.Kh6 waste of time] **9...Qc1+** [9...Qb6+ 10.Be6+-] **10.Kh7 Qxc7** [10...Kxe8 11.c8Q+ Qxc8 12.Bxc8+-] **11.Bg6#** All pieces of final position moved.

**Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)**

**1.Nb6+!** [1.Rxf7? Re4+! 2.Kd2 Rd4+ 3.Ke3 Re4+! 4.Kxe4 stalemate] **1...Kxa7 2.Nc8+!** [2.Rxf7+? Kxb6 3.Ke2 Kc6 4.Ke3 Ra4 5.f6 Kd5 6.Re7 Ra6 7.f7 Rf6 8.Kd3 Rf1=] **2...Kb7 3.Nd6+** [3.Ne7? Re4+=] **3...Kc6 4.Rh6 Kd5 5.Nc8!** [5.Ke2? Ke5 6.Ke3 Ra4 7.Kf3 f6=] **5...Kd4** [5...Rxf5 6.Ne7+- fork] **6.Rh5** [6.Ne7? Re4+=; 6.Rf6? Ke5 7.Rxf7 Rxf5=] **6...Ke5** [6...Re4+ 7.Kf2 Ke5 8.Ne7 Kd6 9.Ng8+-; 6...Kd5 7.Ne7+ Ke5 8.Ke2 Rc4 9.Ng8+-; 6...f6 7.Ke2 Re4+ 8.Kf2 Re8 9.Rh4+ Ke5 10.Rc4 Rh8 11.Rc5+-] **7.Ne7 Rg4 8.Rh6!** and wins, for example 8... Rc4 9.Ra6 +- [8.Ke2? Kd6 9.f6 Ke6 10.Rh6 (10.Rf5 Rg6=) 10...Rf4 11.Ng8 Rg4=]

**Mihail Croitor (Moldova)**

**1.R6h4+ Kxa3** [1...Kb5 2.a4+ Kxc6 3.Kb3 Rf1 4.Kxa2+-] **2.Rxa2+!** [2.R4h3? Rc1+=] **2...Kxa2 3.Rh2+!** [3.c7? Rc1+=] **3...Ka3 4.c7 Bb4+** [4...Rc1+ 5.Rc2 Bb4+ 6.Kd3 Rd1+ 7.Kc4+-] **5.Kd3 Rd1+** [5...Rc1 6.Rc2+-] **6.Kc2 Rd5 7.Rh3+ Ka4 8.Rc3! Bxc3 9.c8Q Rb5 10.Qg4+!** [10.Qxc3 Rc5 11.Qxc5= stalemate; 10.Kxc3 Rc5+ 11.Qxc5= stalemate] **10...Bb4 11.Qd7! Ka5** [11...Ba5 12.Kd3 Kb4 13.Qd4+ Ka3 14.Qa1+ Kb3 15.Qb1+ Ka4 16.Qa2+ Kb4 17.Qc4+] **12.Qa7#**

**Michael Pasman (Israel)**

**1.Nc5!** [1.g7? Rg8 2.Bxg8 (2.Rh1 Rxg7 3.exd4 Kc3=) 2...c1Q 3.Bxh7 Qc7+=] **1...Kxc5** [1...Rf8+ 2.Bf7+-; 1...Kc3 2.g7 Rc8 3.Ne4+ Kb4 4.Rh1+-; 1...c1Q 2.Nd3+-] **2.Be4+** [2.g7? Rc8 3.Bb3+ (3.Be6+ Kd6 4.Bxc8 (4.Rh6) 4...c1Q 5.Rh6+ Ke7 6.g8Q Qxe3+=) 3...Kb4 4.Bxc2 Nf6=; 2.Bb3+? Kd6 3.Bxc2 Rf8+ 4.Kg3 Nf6 5.Rf5 dxe3=] **2...Kd6** [2...Kb4 3.Bxc2 Rf8+ 4.Ke5 Nf6 5.Rh4!+-; 2...Kb6 3.Bxc2 Rf8+ 4.Rf5+-; 2...Kc4 3.Bxc2+-] **3.Rd5+!** [3.Bxc2 Rf8+ 4.Kg3 Nf6 5.Rh6 dxe3=] **3...Ke6 4.Re5+ Kf6** [4...Kd6 5.Bxc2 Nf8 6.exd4 Rh4+ 7.Ke3 Rh3+ 8.Kd2 Rg3 9.Ra5 Ne6 10.Be4+-] **5.Bxc2 Nf8 6.Rf5+! Kg7** [6...Ke7 7.Rf7+ Kd6 8.exd4+-] **7.Rf7+ Kh6 8.Ke5!** [8.g7? Ne6+=; 8.exd4? Nxc6+=; 8.Kf5? Nxc6+=; 8.Rf6? dxe3=] **8...dxe3** [8...Nxc6+ 9.Bxc6 Kxc6 10.Rf6+ Kg7 11.exd4+- Won R+P vs R ending] **9.g7! Ng6+** [9...Nd7+ 10.Rxd7 Rc8 11.Kf6+-] **10.Bxc6** [10.Kf6? Rc8= /b8/a8 11.Bxc6 Rc6+ 12.Kf5 Rc5+! 13.Kf4 Rc8! 14.Kf5 (14.Bf5 Rg8=) 14...Rc5+=] **10...Rd8** [10...Ra8 11.Ra7!+-; 10...Rb8 11.Rb7!+-; 10...Rc8 11.Rc7!+-] **11.Rd7!** [Thematic try : 11.Kf6? Rd6+ 12.Kf5 Rd5+! 13.Kf4 Rd8! 14.Rf8 (14.Kf5 Rd5+=) 14...Rd4+! 15.Kxe3 Kxc7!+] **11...e2!** [11...Rxd7 12.g8Q+-; 11...Ra8 12.Kf6 Ra6+ 13.Kf7 Rxc6 14.Rd6 Rxd6 15.g8Q+-] **12.Kf6!** [12.Rxd8? e1Q+=] **12...e1Q** [12...Rxd7 13.g8N#!] **13.g8N+! Rxc6 14.Rh7#**



**Mario G. Garcia (Argentina)**

**1.Rg6+!** [Try: 1.Be6+? Kh8! (1...Nxe6? 2.Nf6+ Kh8 3.Rxe6 Bf8+ 4.Kg5 Qg1+ 5.Kf5 Qf2+ 6.Kg6 Qg2+ 7.Kf7 Qg7+ 8.Ke8+-) 2.Ng5 Bf8+ 3.Kh5 Qb2 4.Rc7 Qe2+ 5.Kg6 Qd3+ 6.Bf5 Qxa6+ 7.d6 Nf3 8.Nxf3 Bxd6=; or 1.Nf6+? Kh8 2.Rxc5 Nf7+ 3.Kh5 Nxc4 4.Nxc4 Qf5+ 5.Kh4 Qh7+=] **1...Kh8 2.Be6!** [2.Ng5? Qe1! (2...Nxc4+? 3.hxc4 Bf8+ 4.Kh5 Qh1+ 5.Rh3 Qxd5 6.Rf3+-) 3.Rxc5 Nxc4+ 4.Kh5 Qe2=] **2...Nxe6** [2...Ng4+ 3.Bxc4!+- (3.hxc4? Qh1+ 4.Kg5 Qh2! 5.Rxc5 (5.Rf6 Qd2+ 6.Kg6 Qxc3 7.Ng5 Qd3+=) 5...Qe5+ 6.Kh4 Qh2+=) 3...Nf7+ 4.Kh5 Kxh7 5.Rf6! Kg7 6.Rxf7+! Kxf7 7.Rxc5 Qg6+ (7...Kf6 8.Rc6+-) 8.Kh4 Qh6+ 9.Bh5+!+-] **3.dxe6** with two lines : A) **3...Qb4** [B) 3...Ng4+ 4.hxc4 Bf8+ 5.Kh5! (5.Kg5? Qb5+ 6.Kh4 Kxh7 7.e7 Bxe7+ 8.Nxe7 Qe5 9.Rgc6 Qxe7+=) 5...Qh1+ (5...Kxh7 6.Rc7+ Kh8 e.g. 7.Rf6 Bg7 8.Rxc7 Kxc7 9.Rf7+-) 6.Kg5 Qh2 (6...Kxh7 7.Rc7+-) 7.Rf3!! a) Try thematic : 7.Nf6? Bh6+! 8.Rxh6+ Qxh6+! 9.Kxh6= stalemate(9.Kf5 Qg6+! 10.Kxc6= stalemate(10.Ke5 Qg5+!= draw) ) ; b) 7.Rf6? Kxh7 8.Rc7+ Qxc7 9.Rf7+ Qxf7 10.exf7 Kg7=; 7...Qe5+ 8.Rf5 Qe3+ 9.Kf6! (9.Kh4? Bb4 10.Rgf6 Be1+ 11.Kh5 Qh3+ 12.Kg5 Bd2+ 13.Rf4 Bxf4+ 14.Rxf4 Kxh7 15.Rf7+ Kh8 16.e7 Qe3+=) 9...Qc3+ 10.Kf7+-] **4.Rg8+!** sacrifice to avoid the stalemate [Try thematic : 4.Rxc5? Qh4+ 5.Rh5 Ng4+ 6.Rxc4 Qf6+ 7.Nxf6= stalemate] **4...Kxc8 5.Nf6+ Kh8** [5...Kf8 6.Rxc5! Qxc5 (6...Qh4+ 7.Kg6 Qg3+ 8.Rg5+-) 7.Nd7+ fork] **6.e7 Bxe7** [6...Be3+ 7.Rxe3 Qf4+ 8.Kg6 Qxe3 9.e8Q+ Qxe8+ 10.Nxe8+-] **7.Nxe7 Ng4+** [7...Qf4+ 8.Kg6+-] **8.hxc4 Qf4+** [8...Qxc4 9.Rc8+! Qxc8 10.Ng6# mate] **9.g5!** [Try the. : 9.Kg6? Qxc4+ 10.Nxc4= stalemate] **9...Qh2+** [9...Qxf6+ 10.Ng6+!+-] **10.Nh5! Qd6+ 11.Ng6+-**  
Theme: Elimination of the threat of stalemate in the counterplay of the black

**Alexander Avedisian (Uruguay)**

**1.Bd4+ Kc2 2.Ba1!** [2.Bxc7? a2! 3.Ba1 Kb1 4.Bd4 Kc2 5.Kxa7 Kd2=; 2.Ng3] **2...Kb1 3.Bxc7 a2 4.Kb7!** [4.e4? a5 5.Bd4 a1Q 6.Bxa1 Kxa1 7.e5 a4 8.e6 a3 9.e7 a2 10.e8Q Kb1=; 4.Kxa7? Kc2 5.Ba1 Kb1 6.Bd4 Kc2=] **4...a5 5.Kb6!** [5.Kc6 a1Q 6.Bxa1 Kxa1 7.Kb5 Kb2! 8.e4 Kb3!]=] **5...Kc2 6.Ba1!** [6.Kc5? Kd2 7.e4 Ke3 8.Bd4+ Kxe4 9.Kc4 Kf3 10.Kd3 Kg2 11.Ke2 Kxh1 12.Kf1=] **6...Kb1** [6...a4 7.Kb5 /a5+-] **7.Bd4!+- a4 8.Kb5 a3 9.Kb4 Kc2 10.Bc3+-**

**Alexander Zhukov & Iván Belonozhko (Russia)**

**1.Ne6 Be8+!** bishop's sacrifice [1...Qxd6 2.Bg7+ Kh5 3.h8Q+ Kg4 4.Bf6 Qd7+ 5.Be7+-] **2.Nxe8 Bb2** [2...Qb7+ 3.N8c7 Bb2 4.Bxb2 Qxb2 5.Nd5 Qb7+ 6.Nec7 Qc8 7.Ne7 Qh8 8.Ng8+ Kg5 9.Ne6+-] **3.Bg7+!** [3.Bxb2? Qxb2 4.g7 (4.N8g7 Qf6+! 5.Kg8 Kxc6 6.h8N+ Kh6 7.Nf7+ Qxf7+ 8.Kxf7=) 4...Qxc7+ 5.N8xc7 Kxh7=] **3...Bxc7 4.N8xc7 Qe7+!** queen sacrifice [4...Qb7+ 5.Kg8 Kxc6 6.Nf8+ Kf6 7.h8Q Qf7+ 8.Kh7 Kg5 9.Nfe6+-; 4...Qb8 5.Nf5+-] **5.Kxe7** [5.Kg8? Kxc6 6.h8N+ (6.h8Q? Qf7#) 6...Kf6=] **5...Kxc6 6.h8N+!** [6.h8Q /R=stalemate; 6.h8B Kh7!+=; 6.Nf8+ Kxc7 7.Ke8 Kh8=] **6...Kh7 7.Nf7+-**

**Serbia, February 26 , 2023**

**Judge: Darko Hlebec**

## Section B.2 (Draw)

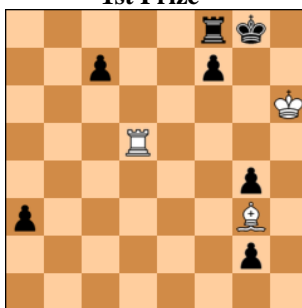
I received 27 studies from the competition organiser, I selected 12 of them for the final judgement, and some others would probably deserve awards as well, but I didn't want to go too far beyond the recommended number of awarded works (1/3 of the total).

I have some sympathy for the authors whose studies did not make it to the final judgment. As a composer, I also find it hard to bear when my studies doesn't commended.

But there is no objective decision, it always depends on the taste of the judge. I prefer studies close to the practical game and preferably ones that will attract the attention of readers and solvers.

Mario Micaloni & Daniele Gatti

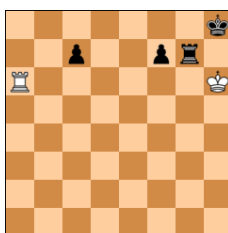
1st Prize



Draw

Mario Micaloni & Daniele Gatti (Italy)

**1.Rg5+! Kh8 2.Bh2** [2.Bf2? Rd8! 3.Ra5 Rd6+→] **2...g3!** [2...Rg8? 3.Be5+→; After 2...f6 is the easiest 3.Rg7 (or 3.Rxg4 Rg8 4.Ra4 g1Q 5.Bxg1 Rxg1 6.Ra8+ Rg8 7.Rxa3=) 3...Ra8 4.Rxc7 a2 5.Bd6 with perpetual check] **3.Rxg3** [3.Bxg3? g1Q 4.Be5+ f6 5.Rxg1 fxe5→] **3...Rg8** [JP 3...a2 4.Ra3 (or 4.Rxg2 a1Q (4...a1B 5.Bxc7) 5.Be5+ Qxe5 6.Rg8+ Kxg8 stalemate) ] **4.Rxa3 g1Q!** [JP 4...Rg6+ 5.Kh5 g1Q 6.Bxg1 Rxg1 7.Rc3 Rg7 8.Kh4 a) or 8.Rd3 Kg8 9.Rd8+! Kh7 10.Re8! (10.Rd1? f6) 10...f6 11.Re6! Rf7 12.Kg4=; b) 8.Rxc7? Rh7+ 9.Kg5 (9.Kg4 f5+) 9...f6+; 8...f6 9.Rc6= e.g. 9...Rf7 10.Kg4 f5+ 11.Kf4 Kg7 12.Rc5] **5.Be5+!** [logical try: 5.Bxg1? Rxg1! 6.Ra6 Rg7 reciprocal zugzwang (JP 6...Rh1+ loses time 7.Kg5 Rc1 8.Kh6 Rh1+ 9.Kg5 Rg1+ 10.Kh6 Rg7) 7.Rc6 Kg8!→ 8.Rxc7 Rh7+ 9.Kg5 f6+ 10.Kxf6 Rxc7→] **5...Qg7+ 6.Bxg7+ Rxg7 7.Ra6!**

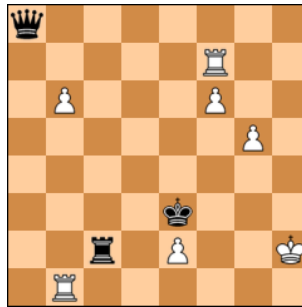


reciprocal zugzwang after 7.Ra6!

[7.Ra7? Rg6+ 8.Kh5 Rc6→; 7.Rc3? Rg6+ 8.Kh5 c6→] **7...Rg1 8.Rc6!** [8.Rf6? Kg8! 9.Rc6 Rg7! 10.Rf6 Kf8→] **8...Rg7 9.Ra6 Rg8** [9...Rh7+ 10.Kg5 Kg7 11.Rc6 Kf8 12.Kf5=] **10.Rf6!** [10.Rc6? Rc8! 11.Rf6 Kg8! 12.Rc6 Kf8→] **10...Rg7 11.Ra6** positional draw

Unexpected saving of the rook endgame with two pawns less. White's precise play puts Black in a mutual zugzwang. I appreciate the natural position and the ability to solve without computer

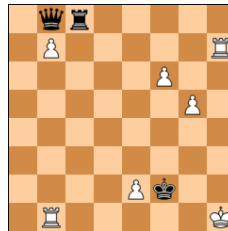
**Peter Krug  
2nd Prize**



**Draw**

**Peter Krug (Austria)**

**1.b7 Qb8+ 2.Kh1!** [2...Kh3? Rc4 3.Rb3+ (3.Rf8 Qe5 4.Rb3+ Kf2 5.Rf3+ Kg1 6.Rg3+ Kh1--+) 3...Kf2 4.e4 Rb4--+] **2...Kf2!** [2...Rc4 3.Rh7 Kf2 4.e4! Rxe4 5.Rg1 /g6=] **3.Rh7 Rc8!** Unexpected Black counterplay with idea 4.g6? Qg3 5.Rh2+ Qxh2+ 6.Kxh2 Rh8 mate. White, of course, must not capture the rook 4.bxc8Q? Qxb1+ 5.Kh2 Qg1+ 6.Kh3 Qg3 mate.



after 3...Rc8!

**4.e3!!** As we will see below, the idea of this move is to guard the f4 square.

[Try: 4.e4? Rd8! (JP 4...Qe5? 5.Rb2+ see main line 5...Qxb2 6.Rh2+ Kg3 7.Rh3+ Kf2 8.Rh2+) 5.Rb2+ Kf3 6.Rb3+ a) 6.Rb1 Qf4 (6...Qe5 or 7.Rh2 (7.Rf1+ Ke2) 7...Qxe4) 7.Rh2 Qxe4-- e.g. 8.Rf1+ Kg3+ (or 8...Kg4+ ) 9.Kg1 Qd4+! (9...Qxb7? 10.f7 Qa7+ 11.Kh1 Qa8+ 12.Kg1 Rh8 13.f8Q Rxf8 14.Rxf8 Qxf8 15.Rg2+ Kh4 16.Rh2+ Kg4 17.Rg2+ Kh5 18.g6!) 10.Kh1 (10.Rhf2 Kh3 11.f7 Qe3 12.g6 Qg3+ 13.Kh1 Qxf2! 14.Rxf2 Rd1+) 10...Qd5+ 11.Kg1 Qc5+ 12.Kh1 Qc6+ 13.Kg1 Qb6+ 14.Kh1 Qxb7+ 15.Kg1 Rh8; b) 6.Rh3+ Kg4 7.Kg2 Qf4 after 4.e3!! this move is not possible 8.Rf2 Rd2+-; 6...Kg4! 7.Rb1 Rd3! (JP 7...Qf4? 8.Rg1+ Kf3 9.Rh3+ Kxe4 10.g6 (or 10.f7 Kf5 11.g6 with swapping the order of moves) 10...Kf5 11.f7 Ke6 (11...Qe4+ 12.Rg2 Ke6 13.g7 Kxf7 14.Kh2=) 12.g7 Kxf7 13.g8Q+ Rxf8 14.Rh7+ Kf8 15.Rxf8+ Kxf8 16.Rd7=) 8.g6 Qf4 9.b8Q Qxe4+ 10.Kg1 Qd4+ 11.Kh1 Qd5+ 12.Kg1 Rg3+ 13.Qxg3+ Kxg3 14.Rh2 Qd4+ 15.Kh1 Qe4+ 16.Kg1 Qxb1#; 4.Rh2+? Qxh2+ 5.Kxh2 Rh8#; JP 4.g6? Qg3 5.Rh2+ Qxh2+ 6.Kxh2 Rh8#; JP 4.bxc8Q? Qxb1+ 5.Kh2 Qg1+ 6.Kh3 Qg3#] **4...Qe5** [4...Rd8 5.Rb2+ Kf3 6.Rh3+ Kg4 7.Kg2= because Black's move Qf4 is impossible.] **5.Rb2+!** [5.bxc8Q? Qe4+ 6.Kh2 Qg2#] **5...Qxb2 6.Rh2+ Kg3 7.Rh3+! Kf2** [7...Kxh3 8.bxc8Q+=] **8.Rh2+=** positional draw

I award the prize for an unusual motif with unexpected moves on both sides

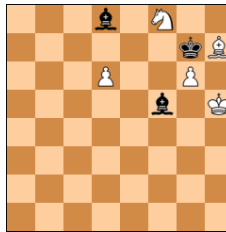
**Oleg Pervakov  
3rd Prize**



**Draw**

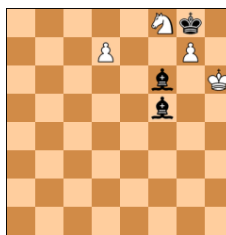
**Oleg Pervakov (Russia)**

JP - Ä\_vod je ponÄ kud tÄ Å3/4kopÄ!dnÄ1/2, ale remÄ^za dosti neÄxekanÄ! **1.d6+** [JP 1.Kh6 Bc7!] **1...Kf8 2.g6** [2.Bg6? Kg7! 3.Nd7 Bxg6+!] **2...f1Q** [2...Bf5 3.Kh6 Bg5+ (3...Bf6 4.d7=) 4.Kxg5 f1Q 5.d7=] **3.Nd7+ Kg7 4.f8Q+ Qxf8 5.Nxf8 Bf5!**



After 5...Bf5

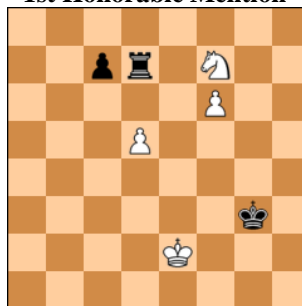
Domination? Yes. And at the same time, no! If you remove all white pieces from the board, white will be stalemated. Here is how to carry out such a suicide: **6.d7 Be7 7.Bg8! Kxg8 8.g7! Bd8** [8...Bf6 9.Kh6! Bxg7+ 10.Kg5=; 8...Kxg7 shortens the solution 9.d8Q Bxd8 10.Ne6+ Bxe6] **9.Kh6 Bf6**



**10.Kh5!** Unexpected positional draw **10...Kxg7 11.d8Q** [11.Ne6+? Bxe6 12.d8Q Bf7+!+] **11...Bxd8 12.Ne6+**! only this move is known **12...Bxe6** Ideal mirror stalemate

After a forcing introduction an original positional draw is created, ending with the well-known 12.Ne6+ motif with a stalemate

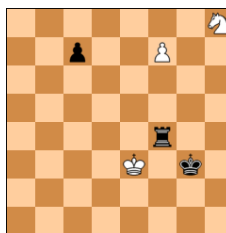
**Pavel Arestov  
1st Honorable Mention**



Draw

**Pavel Arestov (Russia)**

**1.Nh8!** [1.Ne5? Rxd5 2.f7 Rxe5+!+; 1.Ng5? Rxd5 2.f7 Rf5+ 3.Ke3 Kg4 (3...Kh4) ] **1...Rxd5 2.f7 Rf5** [2...Rd8 3.Ng6=] **3.Kd3!!** [Try: 3.Ke3? Rf4!zz 4.Kd3 Kf2 5.Ng6 Rxf7+] **3...Rf4** [3...Kg4 4.Ng6! Rxf7 5.Ne5+fork] **4.Ke3!** zz

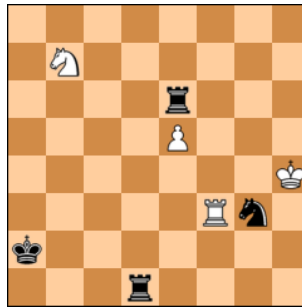


mutual zugzwang

**4...c6** [4...Kg4 5.Ng6! Rxf7 6.Ne5+=] **5.Kd3! Kf2!** [5...Kf3 6.Ng6 Rxf7 7.Ne5+=] **6.Ng6!** [6.Kd2? Rf3!+] **6...Rxf7 7.Ne5 Rf6** [7...Rc7 8.Kd4 /c4 8...Kg3 9.Kc5=] **8.Ng4+** [8.Kd4? Rd6+ 9.Kc5 Rd5+!] **8...Kf3 9.Nxf6=**

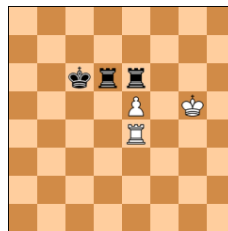
There is beauty in simplicity. First the knight moves to the corner, then White forces a weakening advance of the Black pawn through mutual zugzwang

**Michael Pasman**  
**2nd Honorable Mention**



**Michael Pasman (Israel)**

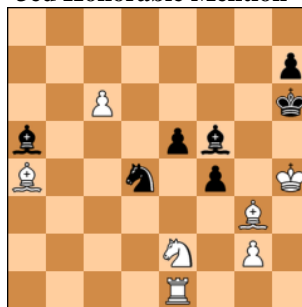
**1.Rf2+!** White can capture on g3, but then he will lose b7 knight [1.Kxg3? Rxe5 2.Rf6 Red5 3.Rc6 Rf1 4.Kg2 Rf7 5.Nc5 Rg5+; 1.Rxg3? Rxe5+] **1...Ka3 2.Rf3+ Kb2 3.Rf2+ Kc3** [3...Kc1 4.Kxg3 Rxe5 5.Rf6 Red5 6.Rc6+ Kb2 7.Nc5=; 3...Kb1 4.Kxg3 Rxe5 5.Rf6 Red5 6.Kf3 /f4=] **4.Rf3+ Kb4!** [4...Kc4 5.Nd6+ Kd5 6.Kxg3=; JP 4...Kd4 5.Kxg3 Kxe5 (5...Rxe5 6.Nd6) 6.Nc5! Red6 7.Rf8! Kd5 (7...Rc6 8.Re8+) 8.Nb3! Kc4 (8...Rd3+ 9.Rf3 Kc4 10.Nc1=) 9.Nc1!] **5.Rf4+!** [5.Kxg3? Rxe5 6.Rf6 Red5+] **5...Ne4!** Black has no other way to escape with king **6.Rxe4+ Kb5 7.Kg5!** [7.Re3? Rd7 8.Rb3+ Kc4! 9.Na5+ Kd4 JP 10.Kg3 (10.Kg4 Rf7+) 10...Ra7 11.Ra3 Kd5! 12.Kf2 Rxe5! 13.Rd3+ Kc5 14.Nb3+ Kc4 15.Nc1 Ra1 16.Rd1 Rh5 17.Kf3 Rh2 18.Rd8 Ra3+ 19.Kg4 Re3!+; now 7.Nd6+? Rxd6+; JP 7.Kg4? Re7! (7...Kc6? 8.Na5+ Kd5 9.Kf3!) 8.e6 Rd5!] **7...Kc6** [7...Rd7 8.Kf5! Re8 9.Nd6+=; 7...Re7 8.e6! =] **8.Nd6!** [8.Na5+? Kd5+; JP 8.Kf5? Kd5 9.Nd6 Rf1+ 10.Kg5 Rxd6! 11.exd6 Kxe4] **8...Rdx6**



9.Kf5!

**9.Kf5!** now d6 is attacked, but can't be moved **9...Kd5 10.exd6!**= after 10...Rxe4?? 11.d7 Black would even lose.

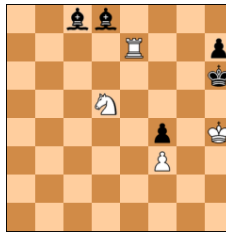
**Jan Timman**  
**3rd Honorable Mention**



**Draw**

**Jan Timman (Netherlands)**

**1.c7!** [1.Bxf4+? exf4 2.g4 Bxe1+ 3.Kh3 Nxe2 4.gxf5 Ba5+] **1...Nf3+!** [1...Bxc7 2.Bxf4+ exf4 3.Nxf4=; 1...Bb4 2.Bxf4+ exf4 3.g4! Bxe1+ 4.Kh3=] **2.gxf3 Bb4 3.c8N!** Starting to play for stalemate [3.c8Q? Be7#] **3...Bxc8 4.Bd7!** [4.Bxf4+? exf4 5.Bd7 Bxe1+ 6.Kg4 Bxd7+] **4...Bxd7 5.Bxf4+ exf4 6.Nc3!** [6.Ng3? Ba5 (JP: or 6...Bc3 7.Nf5+ Bxf5 8.Re6+ Bg6) 7.Re7 Bd8 8.Nf5+ Kg6+] **6...Ba5!** [6...Bxc3 7.Re6+ Bxe6= stalemate(7...Kg7 8.Re7+=) ; 6...Bc5 7.Re2 Bb6 8.Nd5=] **7.Re7! Bd8 8.Nd5 Bc8** [8...Be6 9.Nf6 Bxe7= stalemate;

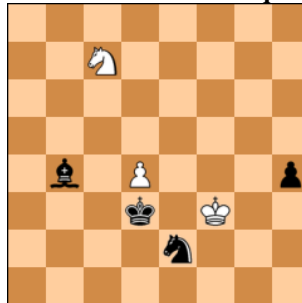


9.Nf6!

**9.Nf6 Kg6** [9...Bxe7= stalemate] **10.Nd5** positional draw **10...Bb7** [10...h5 11.Nxf4+ Kf5 12.Nd5=; JP 10...Bd7 11.Nxf4+! (11.Nf6? Bc6--+) 11...Kf5 12.Nd5 Bxe7+ 13.Nxe7+ Ke6 14.Ng8=] **11.Kg4 Bxd5** [11...Bxe7 12.Nxe7+ Kf6 13.Ng8+ Ke5 (JP 13...Kf7 14.Nh6+ Kg6 15.Ng8) 14.Ne7!= positional draw] **12.Ra7! h5+** [12...Bg5 13.Ra6+=] **13.Kxf4 h4** [13...Bg5+ 14.Kg3=] **14.Ra6+!** [Try: 14.Ra3? Bg5+! (14...Be7? 15.Ra6+ Kh5 16.Ke3 Bc5+ 17.Kf4 Bb4 18.Ke3 h3 19.Kf2 Be1+ 20.Kg1=; JP 14...Bb7 15.Rb3 Bd5 16.Ra3 with repetition) 15.Ke5 (15.Kg4 Be6#) 15...Bc4! (15...Bb7? 16.Rb3 Bc8 (16...Ba8 17.Ra3 Bc6 18.Ra6 Bf6+ 19.Kf4=) 17.f4 Bd8 18.Ke4 Bd7 19.Kf3 Kf5 20.Rc3 Bb6 21.Rc2 /c1 21...Be6 22.Rd2=) 16.Ke4 (16.f4 Be7 17.f5+ Kg5--+) 16...Bb5! (16...Bf1? 17.f4 Bg2+ 18.Ke3 Bf6 19.Kf2=; 16...Kh5? 17.f4 Bf6 18.Ra4 Be2 19.Ke3 Bd1 20.Ra5+ Kg4 21.Ra6 Be7 22.Rg6+ Kf5 23.Rg7 Bc5+ 24.Kd2=) 17.f4 (17.Rc3 Bd7 18.f4 Bf6 19.Rc1 Bg4 20.Ke3 h3 21.Kf2 Bh4+ 22.Kg1 Bg3--+) 17...Bc6+ 18.Ke3 Bf6 19.Ra6 Bb7 20.Ra7 Bh1 21.Ra5 Bd8 22.Ra1 (22.Re5 Bb7 23.Rb5 Bc6 24.Re5 Bf6 25.Re6 Ba8 26.Ra6 (26.Kf2 Kf5--+) 26...h3) 22...Bb7 23.Rb1 (23.Rd1 Bb6+ 24.Ke2 Kf5 25.Rb1 Ba6+--+) 23...Bc6 24.Rc1 Bb6+ 25.Ke2 Be4 26.Rc4 Bd5--+; 14.Kg4 Be6+ 15.Kf4 Bc8] **14...Kh5 15.Ke3!**= positional draw

The author proves at length that White's attempt 14.Ra3? is refuted by Black's single moves. It's basically an analytical study "black wins": 14...Bg5+! 15.Ke5 (15.Kg4 Be6#) 15...Bc4! 16.Ke4 (16.f4 Be7!) 16...Bb5! 17.f4 (17.Rc3 Bd7 18.f4 Bf6 19.Rc1 Bg4 20.Ke3 h3 21.Kf2 Bh4+ 22.Kg1 Bg3) 17...Bc6+ 18.Ke3 Bf6 19.Ra6 Bb7 20.Ra7 Bh1 21.Ra5 Bd8 22.Ra1 (22.Re5 Bb7 23.Rb5 Bc6 24.Re5 Bf6 25.Re6 Ba8 26.Ra6 h3 or 26.Kf2 Kf5) 22...Bb7 23.Rb1 (23.Rd1 Bb6+ 24.Ke2 Kf5 25.Rb1 Ba6+) 23...Bc6 24.Rc1 Bb6+ 25.Ke2 Be4 26.Rc4 Bd5 and Black wins. Unfortunately, the move 14.Ra3? is at first sight weaker than the correct 14.Ra6+, so all this nice analysis is actually useless in this study

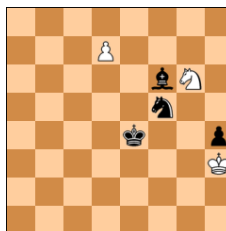
### Jan Timman & Mario Garcia Commendation ex aequo



Draw

### Jan Timman & Mario Garcia (Netherlands -Argentina)

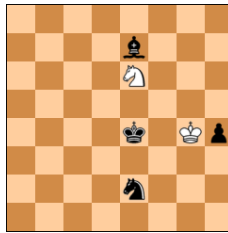
**1.Kg4 Be7** [1...Be1 2.Ne6 Ke3 3.d5=] **2.d5!** After 2.Nd5? Bd8 3.Nf4+ Nxf4 4.Kxf4 Ke2 5.Kg4 Kf2 6.Kh3 Kg1! White does not get to the save corner and loses. Another mistake is 2.Ne6? Ke4 3.d5 Ke5 4.d6 Kxd6 5.Nf4 Nd4(g3) 6.Ng6(g2) Nf5 7.Kxf5 h3--+ **a) 2...Ke3** (2...Nc3 3.d6 Bxd6 4.Ne6 Bg3 5.Nf4+=) **3.Ne6 Bf6** (3...Ke4 4.d6=) **4.d6 Ng3 5.Nf4!** (5.d7? Ne4! 6.d8Q Nf2+) **5...Ke4 6.Ng6 Nf5 7.Kh3!** (7.d7? Bd8 mutual zugzwang 8.Kh3 Kd5! 9.Kg4 Kd6 10.Nf8 Ne7 11.Kh3 Ke5 12.Kg4 h3!--+ with the capture of the white knight) **7...Kf3** (7...Kd5 8.Ne7+) **8.d7 Ke4**



9.Nh8!

**9.Nh8! Nd6** (9...Kd5 10.Nf7=) **10.Ng6** positional draw;

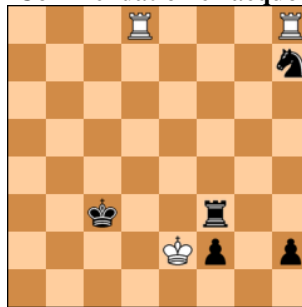
**b) 2...Ke4 3.d6!** [3.Ne6? Ke5 see 2.Ne6?] **3...Bxd6 4.Ne6 Be7**



5.Nf4! Nxf4 stalemate

**5.Nf4! Nxf4 stalemate** or **5...Ng1! 6.Nh3! Nf3 [6...Ne2 7.Nf4! with repetition] 7.Nf2+ Ke3 8.Nd1+ Ke2 9.Nc3+ Kf2 10.Nd1+ Kg2 11.Ne3+ positional draw**

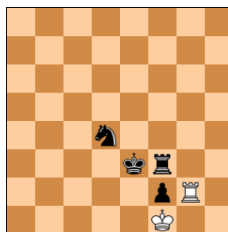
**Michael Pasman  
Commendation ex aequo**



**Draw**

**Michael Pasman (Israel)**

**1.Rc8+ Kd4 2.Rcd8+ Ke5 3.Rde8+ Kf6 [3...Kf4 see 7...Kf7] 4.Ref8+! Ke6 [4...Nxf8 5.Kf1! Ng6 6.Rxh2 Ne5 7.Rxf2; JP 4...Kg7 5.Rhg8+ Kh6 6.Rxf3 h1Q 7.Kxf2=] 5.Re8+ Kd5 6.Rd8+ Ke4 7.Rde8+ Kf4 8.Ref8+! Nxf8 [JP 8...Kg4 9.Rfg8+ Kf4 10.Rf8+ Kg5 11.Rxf3 h1Q 12.Rg8+=] 9.Kf1! [9.Rxf8+=+] 9...Ke3 [9...Kg4 10.Rxh2!= (10.Rg8+? Ng6 11.Rxg6+ Kh5) ; 9...Kg3 10.Rg8+! Ng6 11.Rxg6+ Kf4 12.Rh6 Kg3 13.Rg6+ Positional draw; 9...Ne6 10.Rxh2 Ke3 as main; 9...Nd7 10.Rxh2 Ke3 as main] 10.Rxh2 Ne6 [10...Nd7 11.Rg2! Ne5 12.Rg3! zz Black is in Zugzwang, if white to move he is lost 12...Nc4 13.Rxf3+ Kxf3] 11.Rg2! Nd4 [11...Nc5 12.Rg3! =; 11...Rf7 12.Rg3+ Kd2 13.Rg2=]**



11.Rg3! Mutual zugzwang

**12.Rg3!** zz Black is in Zugzwang, if white to move he is lost! **12...Nf5 13.Rxf3+**

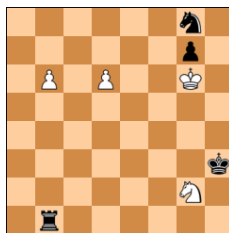
**Andrzej Jasik  
Commendation ex aequo**



**Draw**

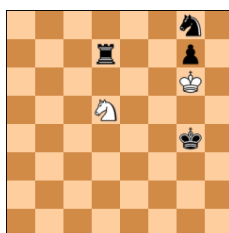
**Andrzej Jasik (Poland)**

**1.Ng2+** [1.Nd3+? Ke3 2.Ng8 (2.Ng4+ Kxd3 3.Kg6 Rxb6 4.Kxg7 Rfb8) 2...h3 3.Bxh3 Rh1→] **1...Kg3!** [1...Ke5 2.Nf7+ Kf6 3.h8Q Rxh8+ 4.Nxh8 Rxb6 5.Ng6=] **2.Ng8 h3** [2...Nf6+ 3.Nxf6 gxf6 4.Nxh4 Rh8 5.Nf5+ Kf4 6.Kg6=] **3.h8Q** [3.Bxh3? Rh1 4.Kg6 Rxh3→] **3...Rxb6!** [3...hxg2 4.Qxg7+ Kh2 5.Qxf8=] **4.Qxg8 Nf6+ 5.Kg6! Nxg8 6.Bxh3! Kxh3**



after 6...Kxh3

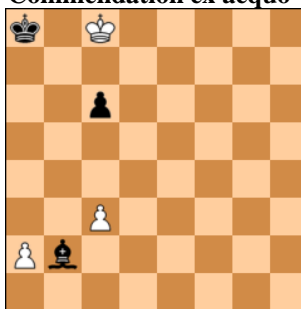
**7.Nf4+ Kg4!** [7...Kg3 8.Nd5 Rb5 9.Nc3 Rxb6 10.Kxg7 Rb8 11.Ne4+ Kf4 12.Nf6=] **8.Nd5 Rb5! 9.b7!** [JP 9.Kxg7 Rxd5 10.b7 Rb5 (or 10...Rg5+ 11.Kf8 Nh6) 11.d7 Rxb7] **9...Rxb7 10.d7! Rxd7** [10...Rb8 11.Nb4 Ne7+ 12.Kf7 Nf5 13.Nc6 Rb7 14.Ke6=]



**11.Nf6+! Nxf6** stalemate[11...gxf6 stalemate]

Pity about the rough introduction and the unnatural opening position. The diagram after 6...Kxh3 would certainly have attracted more solvers.

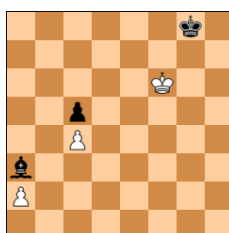
**Jarl Henning Ulrichsen  
Commendation ex aequo**



**Draw**

**Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (Norway)**

White draws by winning the opposition and keeping the black king on the edge of the board. **1.Kc7** [1.c4? c5 loses for White. Black protects his pawn from d4 and wins the white pawn on a2 in a few moves.] **1...c5 2.Kc6!** [2.Kb6? loses 2...Ba3 3.Ka6 ((After 3.c4 Kb8 Black has the opposition and his king will escape from its prison.)) 3...Kb8 4.Kb6 Kc8 5.Kc6 Kd8 6.Kd6 Ke8 7.Ke6 Kf8 8.Kf6 Bb2 9.Ke6 Bxc3 10.Kd5 Bd4→] **2...Ba3** Now the black bishop is pacified and cannot take part in the struggle. **3.Kb6 Kb8 4.c4** Now White has the opposition. **4...Kc8** [4...Bb4 5.a4=; 4...Ka8 5.Ka6 is a loss of time.] **5.Kc6 Kd8 6.Kd6 Ke8 7.Ke6 Kf8 8.Kf6 Kg8** [8...Bb2+ 9.Ke6 Ke8 and e.g. 10.a4 draws.]



9.Ke6!



**9.Ke6!** diagonal opposition. [Not 9.Kg6? Bb2 10.a4 Bc3 11.Kf5 Kf7+] **9...Kg7 10.Ke7 Kg6 11.Ke6 Kg5 12.Ke5 Kg4 13.Ke4 Kg3 14.Ke3 Kg2 15.Ke2 Kg1 16.Ke1 Kg2 17.Ke2 Kg3 18.Ke3 Kh4 19.Kf4 !** [After 19.Ke4? Kg4 Black has the opposition and wins..] **19...Kh5 20.Kf5 Kh6 21.Kf6 Kh7 22.Kf7=**  
 Nice little thing

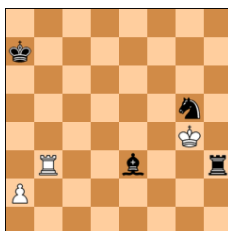
**Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely  
 Special Prize**



**Draw**

**Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (Slovakia)**

after Hlinka+Tazberik 1997 **1.d7!** [1.Rxe3+? Kd7 2.Rc3 Rxc1+] **1...Kxd7** [1...Bd6+ 2.Kxe3 Kxd7 3.Ra7+ Ke6 4.Kd3 Nf6 5.Bd2 Nd7 6.Bc3 Rh4 7.a3 Nc5+ 8.Ke2 Rh2+ 9.Ke3 Rh3+ 10.Kd4 Rh4+ 11.Ke3 Kd5 12.Bb4 Bf4+ 13.Kf3 Ne6 14.Rd7+ Kc6 15.Rd1=] **2.Ra7+** [2.Rd3+? Bd6+→] **2...Kc8** [2...Ke6 3.Bxe3 Bd6+ (JP 3...Bh6+ 4.Kf3 Rh3+ 5.Kg4 Bxe3 6.Ra6+) 4.Kf3 Rh3+ 5.Kg2 Rg3+ 6.Kf1 Nf6 7.Bd2=; JP 2...Kc6 3.Bxe3 Bh6+ 4.Ke4! (4.Kf3? Rh3+ 5.Kg4 Bxe3 6.Ra3 Ng5→) 4...Nf6+ 5.Kd3 Rh3 6.Ra6+ proto krÁ!l ustupuje na c8] **3.Bxe3 Bh6+ 4.Kf3!** [4.Ke4? Nf6+ 5.Kd3 Rh3 6.Re7 Nd5→] **4...Rh3+ 5.Kg4!** [5.Kg2? Bxe3→] **5...Bxe3** [5...Rxe3 6.Rxh7=] **6.Ra8+!** [6.Ra3? Ng5 7.Rb3 (7.Rd3 Ne4→) 7...Kd7 8.a4 Ke6 9.a5 Kf6 10.a6 Rf3 11.a7 Rf4+ 12.Kg3 Ne4+ 13.Kg2 Bxa7] **6...Kb7 7.Ra3** [7.Kxh3? Kxa8→] **7...Ng5 8.Rb3+** [8.Rc3? Kb6→; 8.Rd3? Kc6 9.a4 Ne4→] **8...Ka7!** [8...Ka6 9.a4! as main; 8...Kc6 9.a4 Rf3 10.a5 Kc5 11.a6=]

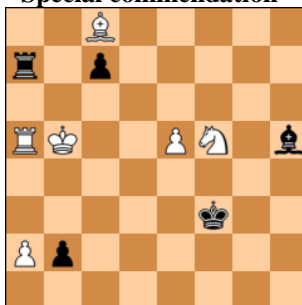


**9.a3!**

**9.a3!** zz JP - bÄ^lÄ1/2 musÄ^ drÄ3/4et ÄxernÄ ho krÄ!le odÄ[]Ä^znutÄ ho [9.a4? Ka6! zz 10.Ra3 Ka5→] **9...Ka6** [9...Rf3 10.a4 Ka6 11.Rd3! Kb6 12.Rb3+! Ka6 13.Rd3 Rh3 14.Rb3! zz] **10.a4!** zz **10...Ka7** JP aÄ3/4 tahle pozice vznikla v TazberÄ^k - Hlinka [10...Rf3 11.Rd3 as after 9...Rf3] **11.a5** [11.Rd3? Kb6→] **11...Ka6 12.Ra3!** zz [12.Rd3? Ne4! 13.Kxh3 Nf2+] **12...Rf3** [12...Kb5 13.a6=] **13.Rd3** tenhle tah funguje pouze kdyÄ3/4 je ÄxVf3 (pÄ[]i ÄxVh3 by rozhodlo Je4! [13.Rc3? Kxa5→] **13...Kxa5 14.Rd5+** with next Rxc5

The improvement of the well-known motif of mutual zugzwang deserves a special prize for its excellent processing

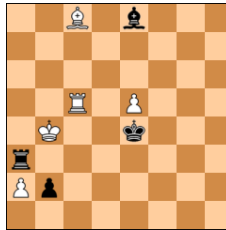
**Michael Pasman  
 Special commendation**



**Draw**

**Michael Pasman (Israel)**

The study participated in 20th Greek Chess Solving Championship, 2022 **1.Nd4+** [1.Nh4+? Ke3 2.Bf5 Be2+— and Bd3 later] **1...Ke3** [1...Kf4 2.Bf5=] **2.Nc2+!** [2.Bf5? Be8+! 3.Kb4 Rxa5 4.Kxa5 Kxd4 5.Kb4 Bf7 6.Ka3 Kc3— dÄ!le analÄ1/2za JP 7.Be4 Be6 8.Bg6 c5 (8...c6 9.Be4 Bg4 10.Bg6 (10.Bh7 Bd1 11.e6 Bc2 12.Bxc2 Kxc2 13.e7 b1Q 14.e8Q Qb2+ 15.Ka4 Qb5+ (15...Qd4+ 16.Ka5 Qa7+ 17.Kb4 Qb6+ 18.Kc4 Qb5+ 19.Kd4 c5+) 16.Ka3 Qa5#) 10...Bd1 11.e6 Bc2 12.Bxc2) 9.Be4 Bg4 10.Bg6 Bd1 11.e6 Bc2 12.Bxc2 Kxc2 13.e7 b1Q 14.e8Q Qb4#] **2...Ke4** [2...Kd2 3.Na3 Be8+ 4.Kb4 c5+ 5.Rxc5 Rxa3 6.Bf5=; or 2...Kf4 3.Na3 Be8+ 4.Kb4 c5+! 5.Rxc5 Rxa3 6.Rc4+ Kg5 (6...Kxe5 as main line) 7.Rg4+ Kh5 8.Rg1=] **3.Na3 Be8+ 4.Kb4 c5+! 5.Rxc5 Rxa3!**



6.Rc4+!

**6.Rc4+! Kxe5** [6...Ke3 7.Bf5=] **7.Re4+!** [7.Rc5+? Kd6 8.Bf5 Ra4+—] **7...Kxe4 8.Kxa3** [JP 8.Bf5+? Kxf5 (8...Kd4 9.Kxa3 Kc3) 9.Kxa3 b1N+] **8...b1R** [8...b1Q 9.Bf5+ Kxf5=] **9.Bf5+! Kxf5=** Model Stalemate

Nice treatment of a well-known stalemate - a delight for solvers. The study participated in 20th Greek Chess Solving Championship 2022

**Prague, 30 April 2023**

**IM Jaroslav Polášek**  
**International judge**