

# Paul Valois MT 2015

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

All chess composers who knew Paul Valois were terribly shocked to learn of his premature decease. In most obituaries we read that Paul was very kind, very modest, very helpful, well ... virtually everything on the positive side. We all seem to regret that, with hindsight, we hadn't expressed our gratitude to him more often. Paul was very helpful to me by supplying me with "new" endgame studies from old English and Russian newspapers he scrutinized for reflex-mates by browsing through microfilmed pages in libraries.

ARVES and BCPS agreed to organize a commemorative endgame study tourney. Brian Stephenson acted as tourney director and supplied me with no less than 49 anonymized entries by 35 composers from 20 countries. Ian Watson was kind enough to assist in checking the studies for soundness, and provided his views on the studies, which was certainly helpful in some cases.

Unfortunately, I had to disqualify 10 studies. One study has been published elsewhere (when submitted by the same composers!), another one is fully anticipated (probably a case of accidental recompositon), and no less than 8 studies seemed to me to be unsound.

The level of the tourney was average with good studies but no masterpieces. As a matter of fact, almost half of the studies in the award were among the last 10 studies I looked at, with the first/second prize as no. 48/49! Another curious fact was that there were no fewer than five studies that started with BTM for no apparent reason (except for numerical reasons). In my view this spoiled those studies, some of which could even have featured in the award had the composer just skipped the first black move.

The other studies which I have not awarded suffered from various problems; e.g. poor (violent) introduction, immobile pieces present

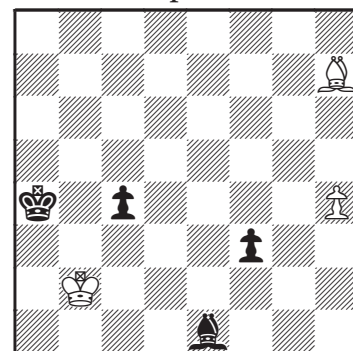
merely to be captured, anticipations, endgames with a unique (i.e. sound) solution but without any study-like move or idea, and also some corrections of old studies from another composer. Such corrections are not suited for formal tourneys.

I thank BCPS and ARVES for trusting me to judge this tourney, Brian and Ian for their help, and the composers for their participation. I am very grateful that, finally, I had a chance to do something back for Paul. I am certain that he would have been delighted with the studies in the award.

The award has a three month confirmation time, which ends 1vii2015. The final award will be announced in *The Problemist*.

Dr. Harold van der Heijden  
FIDE judge for endgames studies

No 20175 A. Pallier  
1st prize



b2a4 0040.12 3/4 Draw

No 20175 Alain Pallier (France). 1.Bc2+/i Kb4 2.Bd1 f2 3.Be2 Kc5 4.h5/ii Bd2 5.Kc2 (Bf1? Kd4;) Bf4 6.Kc3/iii Be5+ 7.Kd2 c3+/iv 8.Kd3 Kb4 9.Kc2 Kc5/v 10.Kd3 (h6? Kd4;) Kd5 11.h6/vi Ke6 12.h7 Kf5 13.Ke3 Kg5/vii 14.Bd3 c2 15.Kd2 draws.

i) Thematic try: 1.Be4? f2 2.Bg2 Kb4 3.Bf1 Kc5 4.h5 Bd2 5.Kc2 Bf4/viii 6.Kc3 Be5+ 7.Kd2 c3+ 8.Kd3 Kd6 9.h6 Ke6 10.h7/xix Kf5 11.Ke3

and now, as the wB is at f1 instead of e2, Black can play the winning move 11...Kg4.

ii) 4.Kc2? Kd4 5.h5 Bb4 (Ba5) wins.

iii) 6.Bf1? Kd4 7.Be2 c3 8.Bf1 Be5 9.h6 Ke3 (Ke4), or 6.Kd1? c3 7.Kc2 Kd4 wins.

iv) Kd4 8.Bxc4 Kxc4 9.Ke2 Bd4 10.h6 draws.

v) Bg7 10.Bf1 Kc5, and e.g. 11.h6 Bh8 12.Kd3 Kd5 13.Ke3 Bd4+ 14.Kd3 draw.

vi) 11.Ke3? Bd4+ 12.Kd3 Ke5 13.h6 Kf6 (Kf5), or 11.Bf1? Ke6 12.Bh3+ Kf6 win.

vii) 12.Bf1? Kf6 13.Ke2 Bd4 14.Bg2 Kg6 15.Be4+ Kxh6, or 12.Ke3? Bd4+ 13.Kd3 Kf6 (Kf7), or 12.Kc2? Kf5 13.Bd3+ Kf4 14.h7 Kg3 wins.

vii) Compare with the thematic try. Now the wB is at e2 and prevents 13...Kg4.

viii) But not Bg5? 6.Kc3 Bf6+ 7.Kd2 c3+ 8.Kd3 Kd6 9.h6 Ke6 10.Ke2 – now Black's problem is that square f7 is not available - Kf7 11.Bg2 Kg6 12.Be4+ draws.

xix) 10.Ke2 Kf6 11.Bg2 Kf5, or 10.Be2 Kf6 11.Ke3 Bd4+ 12.Kd3 Kg6, or 10.Bh3+ Kf6 win.

“This shows the far foresight theme. The main line and the thematic try are 100% unique and have no captures at all. The tiny difference is that, in the thematic try, after 11.Ke3 the wB is at f1, so Black has the winning move 11...Kg4. In the solution, after 13.Ke3 the wB is at e2, preventing 13...Kg4. A tiny difference, and occurring 10-12 moves later. The author has attempted to hide the artistic in an avalanche of multilevel nested lines”.

**No 20176** Yochanan Afek (Israel/the Netherlands). 1.Bh6+/i Kxh6/ii 2.d7+ Sg6+ 3.Rxg6+/iii Kxg6 4.Qb1+ Rc2/iv 5.Qxc2+ Kf7 6.Qh7+ Ke6 7.d8R/v Qe5+ 8.Qg7 (Kg8? Qg5+;) Qh5+ 9.Kg8 wins.

i) 1.Qb5+? Kg4 2.d7 Rh2+, and: 3.Rh6 Rxh6+ 4.Bxh6 Qe7 5.Qg5+ Qxg5 6.Bxg5 Se6 7.Be7 Kf5, or here: 3.Kg8 Qe4 4.Bh6/vi Rh5 5.Qxh5+/vii Sxh5 6.d8Q Qxc6 draws.

ii) Kg4 2.Qxf4+ Qxf4 3.Bxf4 Kxf4 4.Kg7 Ke5 5.Kf7 Kd5 6.d7 wins.

iii) 3.Kg8? Ra8+ 4.Rc8 Qe6+ 5.Qf7 Rxc8+ 6.dxc8Q Qxc8+ 7.Qe8 Qxe8 mate.

iv) Kf7 5.Qh7+ Ke6 6.d8Q Qe5+ 7.Qg7/viii Rh2+ 8.Kg8 wins.

v) 7.d8Q? Qd4+ 8.Qxd4 stalemate.

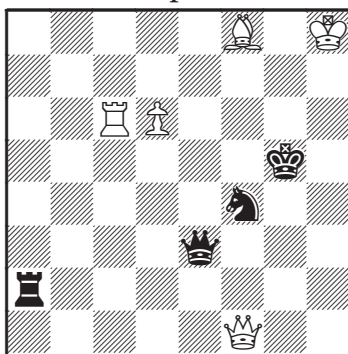
vi) 4.Bg7 Rh5 5.Qb3 Qd5+ 6.Qxd5 Rxd5 draws.

vii) 5.Qc4 Qd5+ 6.Qxd5 Rxd5 7.Rc4 Rxd7 draws.

viii) But not: 7.Kg8? Rg2+ 8.Kf8 Rf2+ 9.Ke8 Qh5+ 10.Qxh5 Rf8+ 11.Kxf8 stalemate.

“This has a good introduction with a surprising white sacrifice (1.Bh6+) followed by strong Black counterplay (4...Rc2!). The position featuring the rook promotion is known (Conrady HHdbIV#70317) but that position with a one-move solution is a scheme rather than a study. This study is great fun and we almost forget to notice that it features the phoenix theme as well! It is a good study for solvers but a drawback is the large number of checks”.

**No 20176** Y. Afek  
2nd prize



h8g5 4413.10 5/4 Win

**No 20177** A. Pallier  
3rd prize

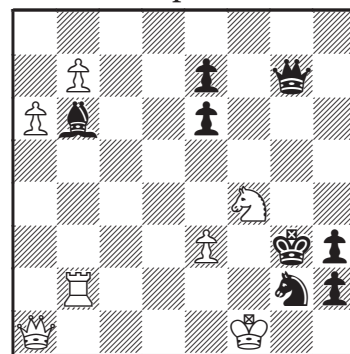


fig3 4134.34 7/8 Win

**No 20177** Alain Pallier (France). 1.Se2+ Kf3 2.Sg1+ hxg1Q+ 3.Kxg1 Sxe3+ 4.Kh1 Qg2+ 5.Rxg2 hxg2+ 6.Kh2 Ba7/i 7.b8Q/ii Bxb8+/iii 8.Kg1 Ba7 9.Qa3 Kg3 10.Qxe7/iv Bd4 11.Qa3/v wins/vi.

i) Sf1+ 7.Kh3 g1Q 8.Qd1+ Ke3 9.b8Q Qh1+ 10.Kg4 Sh2+ 11.Kg3 Sf1+ (Qxd1; Qxv6+) 12.Qxf1 Qxf1 13.Qxb6+ Ke4 14.Qxe6+ and 15.a7 wins.

ii) 7.Qa3? Kf2 8.Qb2+ Kf1 9.Qa1+ Kf2 10.Qg1+ Kf3 11.Kh3 e5 draws. 7.Qg1? Sg4+ 8.Kh3 Bxg1 9.b8Q Sf2+ 10.Kh4 Se4 11.Qf8+ Sf6 12.Kh3 Be3 13.a7 and e.g. g1Q 14.a8Q+ Kf2 15.Qa2+ Kf3 draws.

iii) Sg4+ 8.Kh3 Sf2+ (Bxb8; Qd1+) 9.Kh4 Bxb8 10.Qc3+ Ke2 11.Qb2+ Kf3 12.Qb7+ Se4 13.Qb3+ Ke2 14.Qc4+ Kf3 15.Qd3+ Kf2 16.Qd4+ Kf1 17.Qa1+ and 18.a7 wins.

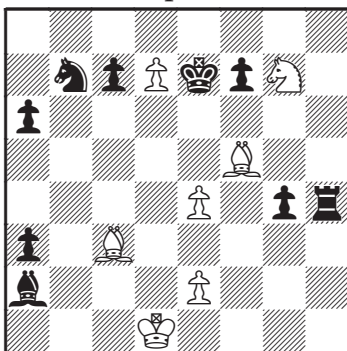
iv) 10.Qc3 Kf3 11.Qa3, or 11.Qd3 Kg3 12.Qc3 Kf3 13.Qa3 waste of time.

v) 11.Qd6+? e5 12.Qa3 Ba7 13.Qc3 Bd4 14.Qxd4 exd4 15.a7 d3 16.a8Q d2 draws.

vi) e.g. Ba7 12.Qd6+ Kf3 13.Qd3 Bc5 14.Qb3 Bd4 15.a7 Bxa7 16.Qb7+.

“This has a good introduction with a brave wK moving into a battery and with a black Q-sacrifice. The move 7.b8Q! is excellent (and has a good try). It is still difficult to see how White can make progress in the position after 8...Ba7. The point of 9.Qa3! is to remove bPe7 and gain access to d6”.

**No 20178** L. Gonzalez  
4th prize



f2e5 0354.25 7/9 Win

**No 20178** Luis Miguel Gonzalez (Spain). 1.d8Q+ (d8B+) Sxd8/i 2.Bb4+ Kf6/ii 3.Se8+ Ke5/iii 4.e3, and:

— Rh1+ 5.Kd2/iv Rh2+ 6.Ke1 Rh1+ 7.Kf2 g3+ 8.Kxg3/v Rc1 9.Bxa3/vi Rc2 10.Be7 Rc6 11.Bxd8/vii Bb3/viii 12.Bg5/ix Rg6 13.Bxg6 fxg6 14.Sxc7 a5 15.Sa6 Bc2 (Kxe4; Sc5+) 16.Sc5 Kd6 17.Sb7 wins, or:

— Bb3+ 5.Ke1/x Rh1+ 6.Kf2/xi g3+ 7.Kg2/xii Rh2+ 8.Kg1 Rc2 9.Be7 Rc1+ 10.Kg2 Rc2+ 11.Kh3 Rc6/xiii 12.Bxa3 Rc2 13.Be7 Rc6 14.Bg5/xiv Se6/xv 15.Bf6 mate.

i) Kxd8 2.Bf6 mate.

ii) c5 3.Bxc5+ Kf6 4.Se8+ Ke5 5.e3 Bb3+ 6.Ke1 Rh1+ 7.Kf2 Rh2+ 8.Kg1 Rd2 9.Be7 mates.

iii) Kg5 4.Bd2+ Kh5 5.Sg7 (Sf6) mate.

iv) 5.Ke2? Bc4+ 6.Kd2 Rh2+ 7.Kc1 Rh1+ draws.

v) Try: 8.Kg2? Rc1 9.Be7 Rc2+ 10.Kh3 Rc6 11.Bg5 Rh6+ 12.Bxh6 Se6 draws.

vi) 9.Be7? Rc6 10.Bxa3 Rb6 draws.

vii) Try: 11.Bg5? Rg6 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.Bxd8 Kxe4 14.Kf2 a5 15.Sxc7 a4 16.Sb5 Bb3 17.Be7 Kd3 18.Kf3 Bd5+ 19.Kf4 Bb7 20.Sa3 Bc6 positional draw.

viii) f6 12.Kf3 Bb3 13.Bxc7+ Rxc7 14.Sxc7 a5 15.Sb5 Bd1+ 16.Kf2 Bc2 17.Sd6, or Be6 12.Bf6 mate.

ix) 12.Bxc7+? Rxc7 13.Sxc7 Bc4 14.Sa8 a5 15.Sb6 Bb3 16.Bd7 Kxe4 17.Kf2 Kd3 18.Kf3 Kc3 19.Ke4 Bc2+ 20.Kd5 Kb4 21.Kd4 a4 22.Be8 Bb3 23.Bc6 a3 24.Sd5+ Ka5 25.Kc3 Bc4 26.Bb7 a2 27.Kb2 Kb5 positional draw.

x) 5.Kd2? Rh2+ 6.Ke1 waste of time.

xi) 6.Ke2? Bc4+ 7.Kd2 Rh2+ 8.Kc1 Rh1+ draws.

xii) Try: 7.Kxg3? Rc1 8.Bxa3 Rc2 9.Be7 Rc6 10.Bxd8 a5 11.Bg5 Rg6 12.Bxg6 fxg6 13.Sxc7 a4 14.Sb5 Kxe4 15.Kf2 Kd3 16.Kf3 Bd5+ 17.Kf4 Bb7 18.Sa3 Bc6 19.Ke5 Bb7 positional draw.

xiii) Rh2+ 12.Kxg3 Rh6 13.Bxa3 mates.

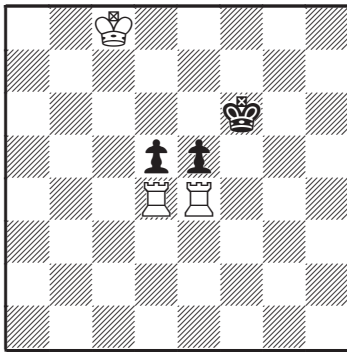
xiv) Try: 14.Bxd8? Bc2 15.Bxc7+ Rxc7 16.Sxc7 Bxe4 draws.

xv) Rh6+ 15.Bxh6 Se6 16.Sxc7 Sxc7 17.Bf4+ wins.

“The second main line (4...Rh1+) somehow distracted me from the play in the very neat 4...Bb3+ main line, despite the double exchange

of solution and tries (Kxg3/Kg2 and Bxd8/Bg5). White sets up a centre-board mate, which involves a single wB moving around the board and forcing Black to do everything to cover a certain square to deal with a mate threat. The wK must be very careful to select the right flight squares to escape from the black checks. Finally, White has to remove bPa3 (12.Bg5? Rh6+ 13.Bxh6 Se6 and the bPa3 will promote). Eventually the only defence against a mate of f4 is the interference 14...Se6 allowing a mate on f6. This is a post-modern study featuring more-mover ideas”

No 20179 G. Costeff  
special prize



c8f6 0200.02 3/3 BTM, Win

No 20179 Gady Costeff (USA/Israel). Two main lines:

— exd4 2.Rxd4 Ke5 3.Rd1 d4 4.Kc7/i Kd5 5.Kd7 wins, or:

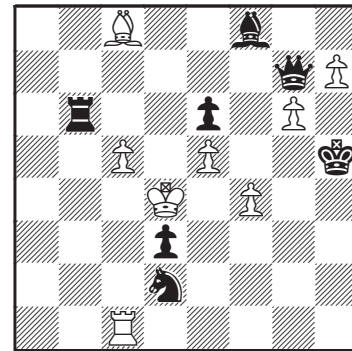
— dxe4 2.Rxe4 Kf5 3.Re1 e4 4.Kd7/ii Ke5 5.Ke7 wins.

i) Thematic try: 4.Kd7? Kd5. Thematic try: 4.Kb7? Kd5 5.Kc7 Kc5 6.Kd7 Kd5 draws.

ii) Thematic try: 4.Kc7? Ke5 5.Kd7 Kd5 6.Ke7 Ke5 draws.

“This is an amusing and interesting position! The composer calls this a chameleon echo of the famous Réti-study (e7e5), getting rid of the dual at move 1. However, the real point of Réti’s study is the tempo losing move 1.Rd2 (Rd3) d4 2.Rd1! but that is missing from this study. One of the accurate K-moves is anticipated by... Réti! (HHdbIV#08344) The extra prize is awarded for the composer’s imagination”

No 20180 S. Didukh  
1st honourable mention



d4h5 3443.52 8/7 Win

No 20180 Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine).  
1.h8Q+/i Qxh8 2.Rh1+ Kxg6 3.Rxh8, and:

— Sb3+ 4.Kxd3 Bxc5/ii 5.Re8/iii Ba3/iv 6.Rxe6+ Rxe6 7.f5+ (Bxe6? Sc5+;) Kxf5 8.Kc4 Sc5 9.Kd5 Bb4 10.Kc4 Ba3 11.Kd5 draws, or:

— Sf3+ 4.Kxd3 Bxc5 5.Bxe6/v Rxe6 6.Ke4 Sd4 7.f5+ Sxf5 8.Rg8+/vi Sg7 (Kf7; Kxf5) 9.Kd5 Bb4 10.Rxg7 draws.

i) 1.Rh1+? Kg4 2.cxb6 Qe7 3.Bxe6+ Qxe6 4.h8Q Qc4+, or 1.cxb6? Sb3+.

ii) Sxc5+ 5.Kc4 Be7 6.Re8, and here: Rc6 7.Kb5 Rc7 8.Kb6 draw, or here: Rb8 7.f5+ Kf7 8.Rh8 exf5 9.Rh7+ Kg6 10.Bxf5+.

iii) 5.Bxe6? Rxe6 6.Kc4 Rb6, or 5.Kc4? Rb4+ 6.Kc3 Sd4 wins.

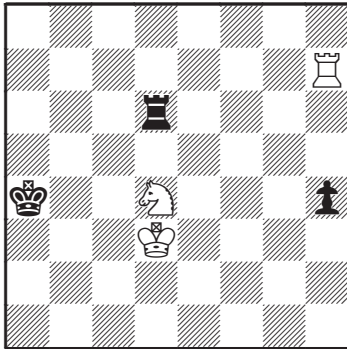
iv) Sd4 6.Kc4 Rc6 7.Bd7 Rc7 8.Bxe6, or Bg1 6.Rg8+, or Kf7 6.Rxe6 Rxe6 7.Bxe6+ Kxe6 8.Kc4 draw.

v) 5.Ke4? Sd4 6.Bxe6 Sxe6 7.f5+ Kg7 8.Rc8 Sg5+ 9.Kf4 Sh3+ 10.Kg4 Sf2+, or 5.Re8? Kf7 6.Rh8 Bg1 7.f5 Sxe5+ 8.Ke2 exf5 9.Bxf5 win.

vi) Not 8.Kd5? Rxe5+ 9.Kxe5 Bd4+.

“Murky lines, e.g. (3...Sf3+) 5.Ke4 Sd4 6.Rg8+ Kf7 7.Rh8 Rb1 8.Rh7+ Ke6 9.Rh6 Ke7 10.Rg6 and it is unclear how White can make progress. Instead of 5...Sd4, probably 5...Kg7 is better: 6.Rh5 Sd4 7.Rh1 Sf5 8.Rc1 Rb4+ 9.Kd3 Rb3+ 10.Kc4 Be3 11.Ra1 Rb6! 12.Kd3 Kf7 13.Ra7+ Kg6 14.Ra4 Kh5 wins.... But, assuming that the study is sound, the idea is great: two lines with Rxe6/Sxe6 and f5+. This is original!”

**No 20181** R. Becker  
2nd honourable mention



d3a4 0401.01 3/3 Win

**No 20181** Richard Becker (USA). 1.Kc4 Ka5 2.Kc5 Ra6 3.Rb7/i Ra8 4.Sc6+ Ka4 5.Kc4 Ka3 6.Rb3+/ii Ka2 7.Kc3 Ka1/iii 8.Kc2 Ra2+ 9.Kc1 Rh2 10.Ra3+ Ra2 11.Rd3 Rh2 12.Sb4 Rh3 13.Rd1/iv Rh2 14.Re1 Rg2 15.Rf1 Rh2 16.Rf5/vi Rh1+ 17.Kc2 Rh2+ 18.Kc3 Rh3+ 19.Sd3 Ka2 20.Kc2/vii Rh2+ 21.Sf2 Ka3 22.Kc3 Ka4 23.Sd1 Rh3+ 24.Kc4 Rg3 25.Sc3+ Ka3 26.Ra5+ Kb2 27.Ra2+ Kc1 28.Kb3 Rg2 29.Rxg2 is not a stalemate, White wins.

i) Thematic try: 3.Rxh4? Rg6 4.Sc6+ Ka6 5.Ra4+ Kb7 6.Ra7+ Kc8 7.Kb6 Rg7 8.Ra8+ Kd7 9.Ra7+ Kc8 10.Se7+ Kd8 11.Sc6+ Kc8 12.Rxg7 stalemate.

ii) 6.Kc3? Ra6, and 7.Sb4 Ra8 8.Rb6 Ka4 9.Sc6 Rg8 (Re8), or 7.Sd4 h3 8.Sc2+ Ka4 draws.

iii) Rc8 8.Rb6 Rg8, and: 9.Sb4+ Kb1 10.Sd3+, or here: h3 9.Kc2 Ra8 10.Rb2+ wins.

iv) 13.Rxh3? stalemate, or 13.Sc2+? Ka2 14.Rxh3 stalemate.

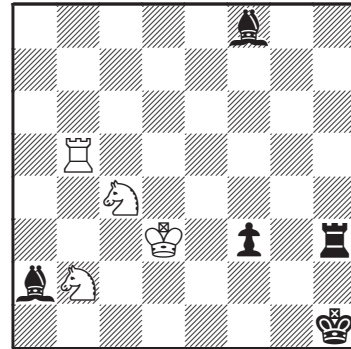
v) 14.Rg1? Rf2 15.Rh1 Rg2 16.Rf1, or 14.Rf1? Rg2 15.Re1 Rh2 16.Re5 Rh1+ 17.Kc2 Rh2+ 18.Kc3 Rh3+ 19.Sd3 Ka2 20.Ra5+ Kb1 21.Rf5 Ka2 22.Kc2 Rh2+ 23.Sf2 are losses of time.

vi) 16.Rf3? Rh3 17.Sc2+ Ka2 18.Sb4+ Ka1 19.Rf5 Rh1+ loses time.

vii) 20.Ra5+? Kb1 21.Rb5+ Ka2 22.Kc2 Rh2+ 23.Kc3 Rh3 24.Ra5+ Kb1 25.Rf5 Ka2 loss of time.

“This is a good achievement with a nice thematic try 3.Rxh4? ending with stalemate but with a vertically mirrored final position in the solution without stalemate. It looks familiar but no real anticipations have been found. See Missiaen #66471”.

**No 20182** Y. Bazlov  
3rd honourable mention



d3h1 0462.01 4/5 Draw

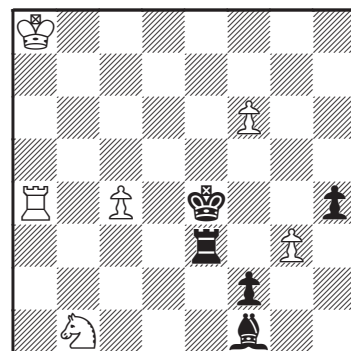
**No 20182** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Sd2/i Bh6 2.Sd1 f2+/ii 3.Ke2 f1Q+ 4.Kxf1 Bxd2 5.Sf2+ Kh2 6.Re5 Bc4+ 7.Re2 Rf3 stalemate.

i) 1.Ke3? Kg2 2.Rg5+ Rg3 3.Rxg3+ Kxg3 4.Kd3 Bxc4+ wins.

ii) Kg2 3.Rf5 Be6 4.Rf6 f2+ 5.Ke4 Rh4+ 6.Ke5 Bg4 7.Rxf2+ Kh3 8.Sf3 Rh5+ 9.Ke4 (Kg3; Se3) 10.Kd4 draws.

“A curious draw position arises after 6.Re5! following a good introduction with quiet moves and without many simple exchanges and checks. Kasparyan #54569 has the same stalemate, but there the bK made the last move”.

**No 20183** P. Arestov  
4th honourable mention



a8e4 0431.32 6/5 Win

**No 20183** Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.f7/i Bg2 2.f8Q f1Q 3.Qxf1 Bxf1 4.Sd2+ Kd4 5.Sxf1 Re8+/ii 6.Ka7/iii hxg3 7.Sxg3 Kc5 8.Sf5 Re1/iv 9.Kb8/v Re4/vi 10.Sd6 Kxd6 11.c5+ Kxc5 12.Rxe4 wins.

i) 1.Sd2+? Ke5 2.f7 Bg2+ 3.Kb8 Rb3+ 4.Kc8 Bh3+ 5.Kc7 f1Q 6.Sxf1 Rf3 draws.

ii) Re1 (hxg3; Sxe3) 6.gxh4 Rxf1 7.Kb7 win.

iii) Thematic try: 6.Kb7? hxc3 7.Sxc3 Kc5 8.Sf5 Re4 9.Sd6 Re7+ 10.Ka6 Kxd6 draws.

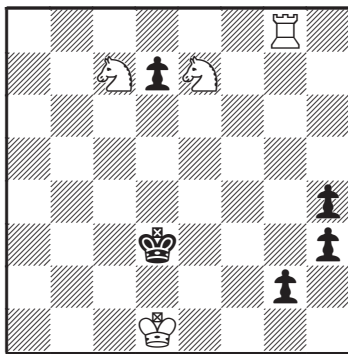
iv) Now Re4 9.Sd6 Re7+ 10.Sb7+ wins.

v) 9.Kb7? Re4 10.Sd6 Re7+, or 9.Ka8? Kb6 10.Rb4+ Kc5 11.Ra4 Kb6 positional draw.

vi) Re8+ 10.Kc7 Re4 11.Sd6 Re7+ 12.Kd8 Kxd6 13.Ra6+, or Rc1 10.Se3 Rc3 11.Ra5+ Kd4 12.Kc7 win.

“This shows an excellent thematic try (6.Kb7?) and solution move (6.Ka7!) along with other precise K-moves (9.Kb8!) and a nice final combination. This is solver-friendly, despite the fact that this is EGTB territory”.

**No 20184** D. Keith  
5th honourable mention



d1d3 0102.04 4/5 Draw

**No 20184** Daniel Keith (France). 1.Sc5/i h2 2.Sf4+ Ke4 3.Sxc2 h1Q+ 4.Se1/ii Qh3/iii 5.Rg2 Qxc2 6.Sxc2 h3 7.Sf5 (Sd5? h2;) h2 8.Sg3+ Kf3 9.Se3 draws.

i) Thematic try: 1.Sed5? h2 2.Sf4+ Ke4 3.Sxc2 h1Q+ 4.Se1/iv Kf5 5.Rf8+ Kg5 6.Rf3 Kg4 7.Rd3 h3 8.Sd5 h2 9.Se3+ Kh5 10.Ke2 Qe4 wins.

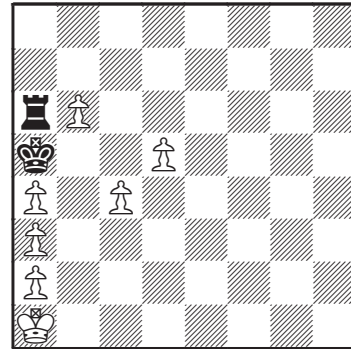
ii) 4.Ke2? Qh3 5.Kf2 Qf3+ 6.Kg1 Qd1+ 7.Kh2 Qd6+ wins.

iii) h3 5.Rh8 Kf4 6.Sg6+ Kg3 7.Se5 Qd5+ 8.Kc1 Qxe5 9.Rg8+ draws.

iv) 4.Ke2 h3 5.Rg4+ Ke5 6.Sh4 h2 wins.

“1.Sed5? is a genuine thematic try (although the author didn’t make this specific) with the nice point 4...Kf5. The finale has some good points including quiet moves (5...Qh3, 5.Rg2), sacrifices (5...Qxc2) and a great point in 7.Sf5!”

**No 20185** V. Tarasiuk  
special honourable mention



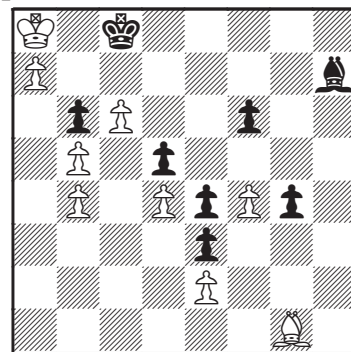
a1a5 0300.60 7/2 Win

**No 20185** Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.c5 Rxb6 2.cxb6 Kxb6 3.a5+ (Kb2? Kc5;) Kxa5 4.a4/i Kb6 5.a5+ (Kb2? Kc5;) Kxa5 6.Kb2 Kb5 7.Ka3 (Kb3) Kc5 8.Ka4 Kxd5 9.Kb5 Kd6 10.Kb6 Kd7 11.Kb7 Kd6 12.a4 Kc5 13.a5 Kb5 14.a6 wins.

i) 4.Kb2? Kb6 5.Kb3 Kb5 zz 6.Kc3 Kc5 draws.

“This is an unnatural initial position. After move 3, with 4 pawns against no pawns, the white win is non-trivial with three surprise moves 3.a5+, 4.a4, 5.a5+ which are original. The minor dual 7.Kb3 is not a big deal here (despite the fact that in pawn studies we tend to be stricter). The move 4.a4 is known only from unsound studies (Lilja #32842, Dukic #58562), with the unsoundness related to that move”.

**No 20186** W. Neef  
special honourable mention

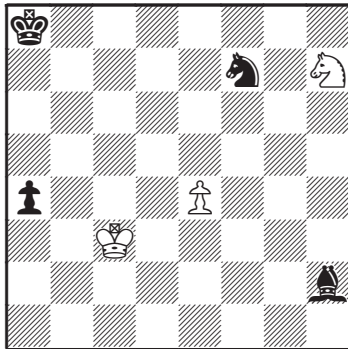


a8c8 0040.76 9/8 Draw

**No 20186** Wilfried Neef (Germany). 1.f5 g3 2.Bh2 Bxf5 3.Bxc3 Bg4 4.Bb8 f5 5.c7 Bf3 6.exf3 f4 7.fxe4 f3 8.e5 f2 9.e6 f1Q 10.e7 Qxb5 11.e8Q+ Qxe8 12.b5 Kd7 13.Kb7 e2 14.a8Q draws, e.g. e1Q 15.Qa3.

“The fortress is original and is a nice discovery but it is a pity that it is not shown in the solution; however, I could live with the presentation 14.a8Q e1Q 15.Qa2(3) draw”.

**No 20187** S. Slumstrup Nielsen  
1st commendation



c3a8 0034.11 3/4 Draw

**No 20187** Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.e5/i Bxe5+ (Sxe5; Kb4) 2.Kb4 a3/ii 3.Kxa3 Kb7 4.Ka4/iii Bg7 (Kc6; Sf8) 5.Kb5 Kc7 6.Kc5 Kd7 7.Kd5 Ke7 8.Ke4 Ke6 9.Kf4 Bh6+ 10.Kg4 Ke5/iv 11.Kh5 Kf5 12.Sg5 Bxg5 stalemate.

i) Try: 1.Kb4? This move fails because the e4-pawn is in the way of the wK: Bd6+ 2.Kxa4 Be7 3.Kb3 (Kb5 Se5;) Kb7 4.Kc4 Kc6 5.Kd4 Kd6 6.Ke3/v Ke5 7.Kf3 Sd6/vi 8.Kg4 Sxe4 9.Kh5 Kf5 10.Kh6 Sc5 11.Kg7 Se6+ 12.Kf7 Ba3 (Bb4, Bc5) 13.Sf6 Sg5+ 14.Kg7 Bb2 wins.

ii) Bd6+ 3.Kxa4 Be7 4.Kb3 Kb7 5.Kc4 Kc6 6.Kd4 Kd6, and now square e4 is available - 7.Ke4 Ke6 8.Kf4 Kd5 9.Kf5 draws, or Kb7 3.Kxa4 Bg7 4.Kb5 transposes to the main line.

iii) 4.Kb4? Kc6 5.Kc4 (Sf8 Bd6+;) Bg7 6.Kd3 Kd5 7.Ke3 Ke5 wins, or 4.Kb3? Bg7 5.Kc4 Kc6 6.Kd3 Kd5 7.Ke3 Ke5 wins.

iv) Se5+ 11.Kh5 Bd2 12.Sg5+ (Sf8+? Kf6;) Kf5 13.Sf3 Sxf3 stalemate.

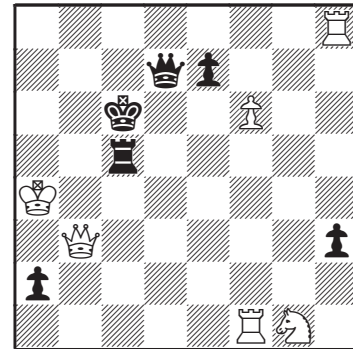
v) 6.e5+ Sxe5 7.Ke4 Ke6 8.Kf4 Sf7 9.Kg4 Ke5 10.Kh5 Kf5 wins.

vi) Sh6? 8.Ke3 Sg4+ 9.Kf3 Sh6 10.Ke3 Sf7 11.Kf3 Sd6 12.Kg4 waste of time for Black.

“This has a very nice key, and a surprising move: 4.Ka4!, but the finish is partly anticipated; however, would you expect this to end in stalemate? The bonus is an extra stalemate line; see note (iv). The composer did not present

this line as a main line, probably focussing on the thematic try and solution difference. See Akobia #74638.”

**No 20188** A. Stavrietsky  
2nd commendation



a4c6 4501.13 6/6 Win

**No 20188** Aleksandr Stavrietsky (Russia). 1.Ka3 a1Q+ 2.Rxa1 Ra5+ 3.Kb2, and:

— Qd2+ 4.Qc2+ Qxc2+ 5.Kxc2 Rxa1 6.f7/i Rf1 7.Sf3 Rxf3 8.f8Q Rxf8 9.Rxf8 wins, or:

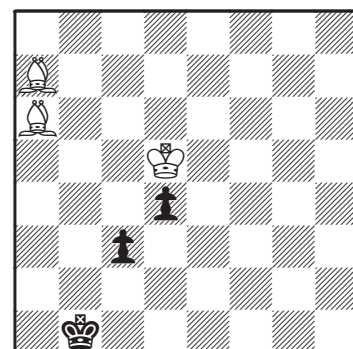
— Qd4+ 4.Qc3+ Qxc3+ 5.Kxc3 Rxa1 6.fxe7/ii Re1 7.Se2 Rxe2 8.e8Q+ Rxe8 9.Rxe8 wins.

i) Thematic try: 6.fxe7? Re1 7.e8Q+ (Se2 Rxe2+;) Rxe8 8.Rxe8 h2 draws.

ii) Thematic try 6.f7? Rf1 7.f8Q (Sf3 Rxf3+) Rxf8 8.Rxf8 h2 draws.

“In the line 3...Qd2+, White can lose time by 8.Rc8+ but we can deal with that. We see a very nice and original echo with accompanying exchange of tries and solutions. One feels that more could be made from it (seeing the material in the initial position, one would be surprised if White wouldn't win)”.

**No 20189** Y. Bazlov  
3rd commendation



d5b1 0010.12 3/3 Win

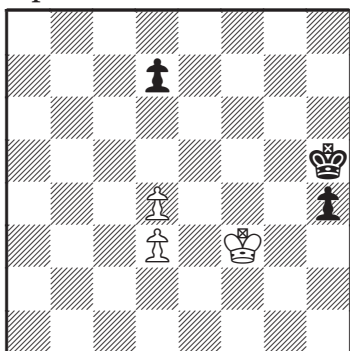
**No 20189** Yuri Bazlov (Russia). 1.Kc4 c2 2.Kb3 Kc1/i 3.Bd3/ii Kd2 4.Bxc2 d3 5.Bb1 Ke2 6.Kc3 d2 7.Bd3+ Ke1 8.Bb8 d1Q 9.Bg3 mate.

i) c1Q 3.Bd3+ Ka1 4.Bxd4+ with mate.

ii) 3.Bxd4? Kd1, but not Kd2? 4.Bc3+ Kd1 5.Bc8 c1Q 6.Bg4 mate.

“Well done! The final mate is known, of course. Kasparyan #32379, Perkonaja #32067, Gazonyi #14925”.

**No 20190** RD. Blundell  
special commendation



f3h5 0000.22 3/3 Draw

**No 20190** David Blundell (Great Britain). 1.d5/i Kg5 (d6; Kf4) 2.d6/ii Kf5 3.Kg2, and:

— Kg4 4.Kh2/iii h3 5.Kg1/iv Kg3 (Kf3; Kh2) 6.Kh1 h2 7.d4 Kh3/v 8.d5 Kg4 9.Kxh2 Kf3/vi 10.Kg1 Ke4 11.Kf2 Kxd5 12.Ke3 Kxd6 13.Kd4 draws, or:

— Kf4 4.Kh3 Ke3 5.Kxh4 Kxd3 6.Kg3/vii Ke3 7.Kg2 Ke4 8.Kf2 Kd5 9.Ke3 Kxd6 10.Kd4 draws, or:

— Ke5 4.Kh3 Kxd6 5.Kxh4 Ke5 6.Kg4 (Kf4? d5;) Kd4 7.Kf5/xi Kxd3 8.Ke5 Kc4 9.Kd6 draws.

i) 1.Kf4? d5 zz.

ii) 2.Kg2? d6 3.Kh3 Kh5 4.Kg2 Kg4 5.Kh2 Kf4 6.Kh3 Ke3 wins.

iii) 4.Kf2? Kf4 5.Kg2 Ke3 6.Kh3 Kxd3 wins.

iv) Thematic try: 5.Kh1? Kg3 6.Kg1 h2+ 7.Kh1 Kh3 8.d4 Kg3 9.d5 Kf3 (Kf4) 10.Kxh2 Ke4 11.Kg3 Kxd5 12.Kf4 Kxd6. The composer explains that the wP must arrive at d5 when the bK is at h3 and not g3.

v) Kf3 8.Kxh2 Ke4 9.Kg3 Kxd4 10.Kf4 Kd5 11.Ke3 Kxd6 12.Kd4 draws.

vi) Kf4 10.Kg2 Ke5 11.Kf3.

vii) 6.Kg5? Ke4 (Kd4?; Kf4) 7.Kf6 Kd5 8.Ke7 Kc6 wins.

viii) 6.Kg5? d5 (Kd4?; Kf5) 7.K- Kd4, or 6.Kg3? Kd4 (d5?; Kf3) 7.Kf4 d5 win.

“This is an interesting pawn ending with the highlight on move 5 (it would have been more interesting if the relatively illogical 5.Kh1 was the right move and 5.Kg1 the solution). As a bonus there are two extra main lines each with good K-moves at move 6. The composer adds the comments that the study was tested for soundness using the Nalimov tablebases but that these were not used during composition. Perhaps he also prepared the text for his e-mail using pen and paper”.