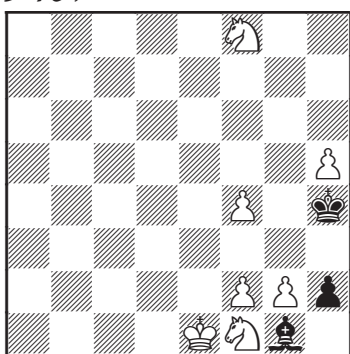


Originals

BY STEFFEN SLUMSTRUP NIELSEN
 JUDGE FOR 2024-2025: JAN SPRENGER

In 2023, a young Austrian, Joachim Hambros, caused quite a stir in the chess composition society by winning the proof-game section of the FIDE World Cup! Joachim composes in many genres including a number of fairy genres, but this is his first work in the most orthodox of genres: Studies. The study was based on Joachim's idea and was composed this summer in cooperation with Martin Minski during the World Congress of Chess Composition in Latvia.

No 25673 J. Hambros & M. Minski



e1h4 0032.41 7/3 BTM, Win

No 25673 Joachim Hambros (Austria) & Martin Minski (Germany). 1...Bxf2+/i 2.Ke2/ii h1Q 3.Kxf2 zz Kg4 4.Sg6 zz Qxh5/iii 5.Se3 mate.

i) h1Q 2.Sg6+ Kg4 3.f3+ Kxh5 (Kf5) 4.Sg3+ wins.

ii) The thematic try is: 2.Kxf2? h1Q zz 3.Sg6+/iv Kg4 zz 4.h6 (Se5+ Kxf4;) Qxh6 draws.

iii) Kxh5 (Kf5) 5.Sg3+ wins.

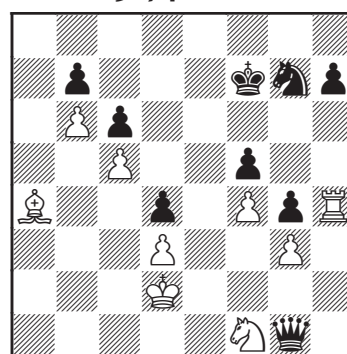
iv) 3.h6 Kg4 4.h7 Qh4+ 5.g3 Qf6 6.Se3+ Kh3 7.Sg6 Qb2+ 8.Kf3 Qb7+ draws.

The next study features an extensive domination in the southeast corner of the board, but in the end the intricacies involve the entire board.

No 25674 Volodymyr Samilo (Ukraine). 1.Ke1/i Qg2 2.Bb3+ (Rh2? Qd5;) Kg6 3.Rh2 Qf3

4.Bc4 Sh5/ii 5.Rf2 Qh1 6.Rh2 Qg1 7.Rxh5/iii Kxh5 8.Bd5 Kg6 (cxd5; c6) 9.Bxc6 h5 10.Be8+ Kh6 11.c6 h4 12.cxb7/iv hxg3 13.b8Q Qf2+ (g2; Qd6) 14.Kd1 draws.

No 25674 V. Samilo



d2f7 3114.56 9/9 Draw

i) 1.Bb3+? Kg6 2.Ke1 Se8 wins.

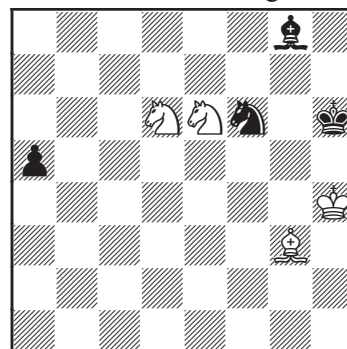
ii) Se8 5.Rf2 Qh1 6.Rh2 draws.

iii) 7.Bf7+? Kxf7 8.Rxh5 Ke6 9.Rxh7 Kd5 10.Rxb7 Kxc5 wins.

iv) 12.c7? hxg3 13.c8Q Qf2+ 14.Kd1 Qxf1+ 15.Kc2 Qe2+ 16.Kb3 g2 wins.

The following study shows classic material and tells a clear story. Can White win material or even mate before Black's passed pawn on a5 makes its presence felt? The drama turns out to take longer than one initially suspects.

No 25675 V. Hergert



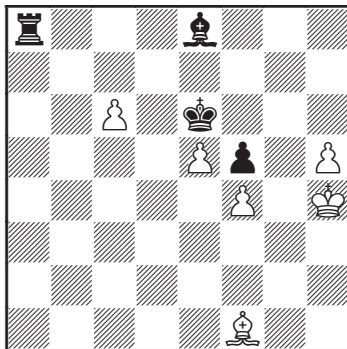
h4h6 0045.01 4/4 Win

No 25675 Volker Hergert (Germany).
 1.Bf4+/i Kh7/ii 2.Sf8+ Kg7/iii 3.Bh6+ Kh8
 (Kxh6; Sf5 mate) 4.Sg6+/iv Kh7 5.Kg5 Sd5/v
 6.Se4/vi a4 (Bf6; Sf4) 7.Sf4 Sxf4/vii 8.Sf6+ Kh8
 9.Kxf4 a3 10.Kg5 a2 11.Kg6 Bh7+ 12.Kf7 Bg8+
 13.Kf8 a1Q 14.Bg7 mate.

- i) 1.Sf5+? Kg6 2.Se7+ Kf7 draws.
- ii) Kg6 2.Sf8+ see main line.
- iii) Kh8 3.Be5 Kg7 4.Sd7 wins.
- iv) or 4.Kg5 Sd5 5.Sg6+ Kh7 6.Se4 (minor dual).
- v) Sd7 6.Se4 wins, e.g. Bd5 7.Sf8+ Sxf8 8.Sf6+ Kh8 9.Bxf8 a4 10.Kh6 a3 11.Bg7 mate, or a4 6.Sf8+ Kh8 7.Kxf6 wins.
- vi) 6.Se8? Bf7, or 6.Sf5? Bf7 draw.
- vii) a3 8.Sxd5, and: Bxd5 9.Sf6+ Kh8 10.Bf8 a2 11.Kh6 a1Q 12.Bg7 mate, or: a2 9.Sdf6+ Kh8 10.Kg6 Bh7+ 11.Kf7 Bg8+ 12.Kf8 a1Q 13.Bg7 mate.

The next study is by Volker Hergert as well. Again we have a classic tale: White tries to create enough confusion before Black is able to consolidate.

No 25676 V. Hergert



h4e6 0340.41 6/4 Draw

No 25676 Volker Hergert (Germany). 1.c7/i Rc8/ii 2.Kg5/iii Rxc7 3.h6/iv Kf7 (Rh7; Bd3) 4.e6+/v Kxe6/vi 5.Bc4+ (h7? Rxh7;) Rxc4 (Kd6; Bg8) 6.h7 Rc1 7.h8Q Rg1+ 8.Kh6 (Kh4) Rh1+ 9.Kg5vii Rxh8 stalemate.

- i) 1.Bc4+? Ke7, or 1.h6? Bxc6, or 1.Kg5? Bxc6 2.Bc4+ Ke7, or 1.Bb5? Ra1/viii 2.c7 Rh1+ 3.Kg3 (Kg5 Rxh5 mate) Bd7, or 1.Bg2? Bxh5 2.Kxh5 Rh8+ 3.Kg5 Rg8+ 4.Kh4 Rxg2 wins.
- ii) Bd7 2.Bc4+ Ke7 3.Kg5 draws.

iii) 2.h6? Bg6, or 2.Bc4+? Ke7 3.Kg5 Rxc7 wins.

iv) 3.Bd3? (Bh3?) Rg7+ win.

v) 4.Bd3? Bd7, or 4.Bh3? Bd7, or 4.Kxf5? Bd7+ 5.Kg5 Rc1 6.Bd3/ix Rg1+ 7.Kh5 Bg4+ 8.Kh4 Bd1 win.

vi) Kg8 5.Bd3 Rc1 6.Bxf5 Rg1+ 7.Kf6 draws.

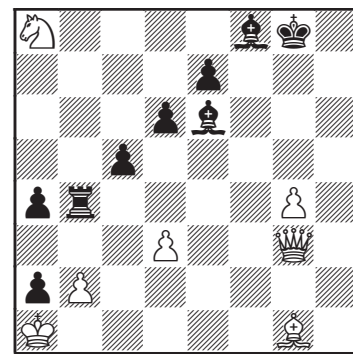
vii) 9.Kg7? Rxh8 10.Kxh8 Kd5

viii) But not Rc8? 2.Kg5 Bxc6 3.Bc4+ Ke7 4.h6 Rh8 5.Kg6 Kf8 6.h7 Be8+ 7.Kh6 draws.

ix) 6.Be2 Rg1+ 7.Kh5 Bf5 wins.

Fittingly we include in this column the winner of the previous EG tourney (award published in EG237) With his newest study, Beat Neuenschwander seems to be exploring how much can happen down a diagonal in one single main line of a study.

No 25677 B. Neuenschwander



a1g8 1371.35 7/9 Draw

No 25677 Beat Neuenschwander (Switzerland). 1.Qe3/i Bf7/ii 2.Sc7/iii a3/iv 3.b3/v Bxb3/vi 4.Qg5+/vii Bg7+ 5.Bd4/viii Rxd4 6.Se8 Rxc4+/ix 7.Sf6+/x exf6/xi 8.Qxc4 f5+/xii 9.d4/xiii fxg4 stalemate

i) 1.d4? Rb3 (a3?; Qxa3) 2.Qe1 (Qh4 a3;) Bf7 3.Sc7 a3 wins.

ii) Bb3 2.d4 Bg7 3.Qxe7 draws.

iii) 2.d4? Bg7 3.Qxe7 a3 4.Qd8+ Kh7 5.Qh4+ Bh6 wins.

iv) Bg7 3.Se6 Rxb2 4.d4 draws, e.g. Rb6 5.Kxa2. After cxd4 (Bxd4; Qg5+) 5.Qg5 Bxe6 6.Kxb2 d3+ 7.Bd4 White would even win.

v) 1st opening of the long diagonal.

vi) Rxb3 4.Se6 Bg7+ 5.Kxa2.

- vii) 4.Se6? Bg7+ 5.Sxg7 Bd5 (Bf7? Se6) 6.Qe1 Rb1+ 7.Qxb1 axb1Q+ 8.Kxb1 Kxg7 wins.
- viii) 1st closing of the long diagonal.
- ix) 2nd opening.
- x) 2nd closing.
- xi) Kf7 (Kf8) 8.Qxg4 Bxf6+ 9.d4 Bxd4+ 10.Qxd4 cxd4 stalemate.
- xii) 3rd opening.
- xii) 3rd closing.

Breaking news

It rarely happens that I am given the opportunity to use my Breaking News stamp in this column, but, if not on this occasion, then when?

The final study is by Gady Costeff. It was received past the deadline for originals for EG, but the e-mail from Gady was not an ordinary one, as it contained three words that immediately caught our attention: **The Babson Task**.

The diagram below shows the first ever full Babson-task in a study. I am not going into the full story of the Babson Task, but I will just mention that it was first suggested by Joseph Babson in 1884 and first achieved in a four-mover by Leonid Yarosh 99 years later in 1983.

The requirements for the Babson Task in studies are as follows:

Black's defences include the promotion of a certain pawn to a queen, rook, bishop, or knight.

After Black's four promotions, the only way for White to progress towards a win is immediately to promote a pawn to the same type of piece as Black did (a so-called reciprocal promotion).

On two occasions Gady has previously achieved a three-quarters Babson (QBS and QRS). Those studies were published in 1984 and 1997, suggesting a dedication to the task close to lifelong.

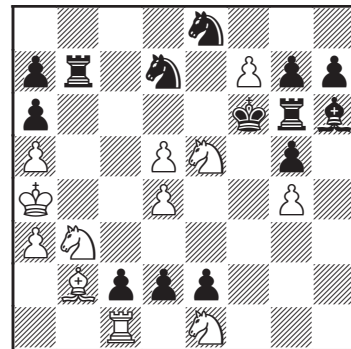
Before we move on to the solution of Gady's remarkable achievement, it must be noted that

the starting position is sadly illegal. Normally EG would not accept illegal starting positions for originals but here is what Gady writes about the matter:

"The position is unreachable by a single capture. For example, if Ph2 could start on g3, the position would be reachable. I composed this [setting] in 2011 and tried for a decade to make it legal. The pleasure of 45 years of research and learning is far more dear to me than any publication honours. I do not care at all if the study is left out of the award for being illegal. I do think it is interesting and readers would be interested in how a Babson may look."

Indeed, readers of EG now have the privilege to stare directly into the first full Babson study. Here are the four lines:

No 25678 G. Costeff



a4f6 0749.68 12/14 BTM, Win

No 25678 Gady Costeff (Israel/USA).

- **d1Q! 2.fxe8Q! Qxd4+ 3.Sc4 Sc5+ 4.Sxc5 Rb4+ 5.axb4** wins.
- **d1R! 2.fxe8R!**
2.fxe8Q? Rxd4+ (Sc5+) 3.Sc4 Sc5+ 4.Sxc5 Rb4+ 5.axb4 stalemate.
2.fxe8B? Rxc1 with 3.Bxc1 Sxe5/i, or 3.Sxc1 Rxb2/ii.
2.fxe8S+? (Rxc2? Ke7;) Ke7 3.Sxg6+ Kxe8 and Black wins.
2...Rxd4+/iii 3.Sc4 wins.
- **d1B! 2.fxe8B!** wins/iv.
2.fxe8Q? Sc5+ 3.Sxc5 Rb4+ 4.axb4 stalemate
2.fxe8R? Sc5+ 3.Sxc5 Rb4+ 4.axb4 stalemate
2.fxe8S+? Ke7 and Black wins/v.
- **d1S! 2.fxe8S+!/vi** wins/vii.

i) and White cannot win, e.g. 3...Sxe5 4.Sc5 Rb5 5.dxe5+ Kxe5 6.Bxb5 axb5+ 7.Kxb5 Kxd5.

ii) and Black wins, e.g. 4.Sxe2 Rb1 5.S1d3 Ke7 6.Bxd7 Rf6 7.Be6 g6 8.Bg8 Rff1 9.Bxh7 Rfe1 10.Sdc1 Rexc1 11.Sxc1 Rxc1 12.Bxg6 Kd6 13.Be4 Rd1 14.Sc4+ Kc7 15.d6+ Kd8 16.Bxc2 Rxd4 17.Kb4 Rxg4 18.Kc5 Bg7.

iii) Sxe5 3.Rxe5 (dxe5+) wins.

iv) e.g. Ke7 3.Bxg6 hxg6 4.Bc3 Kd6 5.Sxc2 Ke7 6.d6+ Kxd6 7.Sxd7 Rxd7 8.Bb4+.

v) e.g. 3.Sxg6+ hxg6.

vi) Black threatened 2...Sxb2 mate, so other promotions don't work. If 2.Ba1? Sd6 3.Sxd7+ Kxf7 draws, e.g. 4.Se5+ Ke8 5.Sxg6 hxg6 6.Rxc2 Se3 7.Rxe2 Re7 8.Sd3 Sxg4 9.Rc2 (Se5 Sf6;) Sf6 10.Se5 g4 11.Sc5 Sxd5 12.Sxg4 Se3 13.Sxe3 Bxe3 14.Sxa6 Sf5. If 2.Rxc2? e.g. Sd6 3.Sxd7+ Kxf7 4.Se5+ Kg8 5.Sxg6 hxg6 6.Bc3 Sc4 7.Ba1 Sde3

8.Rxe2 Sxg4 9.Sd3 Sf6 10.Rc2 Sd6 11.Rc6 Sf7 12.Sbc5 Rb1 draws.

vii) Ke7 e.g. 3.Sxg6+ hxg6 4.Rxc2 Kxe8 5.Rxe2+ Kd8 6.Ba1 Sf6 7.d6 Sxg4 8.Sc5 wins.

Other lines on the first move like 1...Sd6, 1...Ke7 and 1...Sc7 have been refuted as well. These lines are very difficult but were thoroughly tested by the best in the business: Gady Costeff using Stockfish 16.1 and the interesting approach of letting the engine play one hundred times against itself starting from the “unclear” positions (no convincing score) and White always won. HH used another version of Stockfish on his computer armed with many 7EGTB's on fast SSD accessible by the engine during the calculation of lines. In addition, HH decided to repeat the testing with another engine (Fritz 17). We won't bother the reader with all the (thousands of) moves of the analyses...



Gady Costeff, Ofer Comay and Martin Minski in Jurmala 2024 (LP).