

I received 17 studies from the director.

There was no particular study that stood out above the others in this competition. Therefore, in another, very strong competition, none of these studies might not have won first prize, may be even second prize. But at the same time my approach is that prizes should be given out, including first prizes in every competition - just like in a sports competition.

So I awarded 4 studies as prizes, the level difference between prize studies is not that big either

I have used ChessPM search engine (which I developed) with HHdbVI database completed with some additional studies to search for predecessors. Of course, we cannot call only same final position as predecessor, it must be much more. I look at the whole study, the whole idea of the study and what is added to the study compared to already known part.

Some authors invest a lot of time and effort in developing the study. My principle is that a judge should make big efforts not to miss good studies, especially in his award in informal tournaments, when the study can't be sent again to another tournament. The judge needs to have good reasons for downgrading or not awarding good study. I hope I did that here.

In some studies I have seen exchanges in an initial state. It hurts a study. I need to see something special next to justify it.

And this is my ranking :

4. M. Hlinka – L. Kekely **1<sup>st</sup> prize**

A lot of batteries. Interesting coordination between black rook and 2 bishops using changed batteries. White is playing unique moves, ready to sacrifice an exchange. The idea is not new (for example Kalanadze 1987), but still to carry out such a mechanism is not small thing.

13. M. Minski **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**

Clear solution, with pretty sacrifices, especially very nice first move 1.Qf2!! by white and counter-sacrifices by black, finally leading to mate

1.P. Krug – M.Garcia **3rd - 4-th Prize**

Interesting fight between rook and 2 knights against black queen. The idea of mating a black king with rook and 2 knights against black queen is of course not new, but here is a difficult struggle also against 3 advanced black pawns. Finally, 2 nice moves with white king to e7 and e8 and then final mate with more known pattern. I also like line 9...Qxf6, in my opinion could be second main, because its connection to main line. In both lines we received different final (mate or winning the queen) after new queen promotion.

16. S. Didukh **3rd - 4-th prize**

Nice move Kh1! compared with tries b4 and Kg2. I would put Main B as main A or even as the unique main line, while the moves 12...Kd8 13.Kg2 d6 14.b5 should be added at the end of this line, because I think it is more attractive and more connected to the general idea and even emphasizes it. The author does not mention that in this line black bishop is bound and can't escape – and it is logical connection to bound white knight after 3rd move.

11. A. Avni – Y.Afek **1st HM**

Nice Ng5 sacrifice with following Bg7 Reciprocal zugzwang, which is important point of a study.

Another important point is white's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th moves in both lines (in alternative line: 3... Bxg5 4.Be3 Kh5 5.Kh3!! and 6.g4!) , when the victory is achieved by delaying capture of the queen by 2 moves.

15. J. Sprenger **2nd-3rd HM**

Important logical maneuver with the queen to c6 that allows check on g6 and also echo checkmate after 3...Rxa8, while the black bishop is changing places between h2 and g1.

14. P. Arestov **2nd-3rd HM**

The highlights are unexpected, surprising zugzwang positions and nice maneuvers with white king in this looking simple position.

10. D. Gurgenidze **special HM**

Interesting maneuvers, leading to positional draw. Logical connection between 2 main lines with different location of knights adds special value to the study. Pity that c7 bishop was captured unmoved

9. A. Avni **1st comm.**

Accurate king moves depending to the Black Queen first move.

17. Y. Afek **2nd comm.**

Interesting manoeuvre with the bishop, nice Bg6 move (Rundlauf)

5. P. Arestov **3rd comm**

Long line, precise moves with white king required , need something more to award it higher

6. R. Becker – M. Garcia – **special comm**

Fight between rooks and connected pawns. The final mate with knight promotion and Ra7 is nice, but far to be unknown (for example, Pogosyantz,1976, Yarmonov 1986, Matous 2001) , but still, because the start position is from interesting economic rook endgame (compared to Yarmonov's study) - it adds some special value

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