

Award Minski/Nielsen 100 AT

Our joint anniversary tournament was themeless but with one specific requirement. Only joint studies were accepted.

For the tournament we received 38 studies, a number we are very happy about. Given the amount of difficulty two composers can have in agreeing on the placement of just a single pawn in a joint work, it is exceptionally rewarding for us to know that 38 such agreements have been reached and 38 joint works have been produced.

The studies were given to us in anonymous form from tournament director Bjørn Enemark. While we both agree that the ultimate masterpiece study was not among them, we also agree that the average level was very high. The large majority of the studies were seriously considered for the award.

As can probably be deduced from our comments below, we didn' agree on everything, but in the end we found a ranking we could both live accept.

A special mention should also go to the composers who were most active in finding partners! Mario Garcia (7 partners), Vladislav Tarasiuk (5 partners) and Michael Pasman and Pavel Arestov (4 partners).

Here is the list of all participants:

- 1 Amatzia Avni & Yochanan Afek
- 2 David Gurgenidze & Vasha Neidze
- 3 Mario Garcia & Janos Mikitovics
- 4 Rainer Staudte & Michael Schlosser
- 5 Mario Garcia & Valery Kalashnikov
- 6 Mario Micaloni & Daniele Gatti
- 7 Emil Vlasak & Jaroslav Polasek (after Cortlever 1991)
- 8 Jaroslav Polášek & Stanislav Nosek
- 9 Alexey Gasparyan & Sergey Kasparyan †
- 10 Pavel Arestov & Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely
- 11 Ilham Aliev & Zaur Bayramov
- 12 Peter Gyarmati & Mario Garcia
- 13 Amatzia Avni & Michael Pasman
- 14 Mihail Croitor & Pavel Arestov
- 15 Jan Sprenger & Vidadi Zamanov
- 16 Mario Garcia & Michael Pasman
- 17 David Gurgenidze & Vladislav Tarasiuk
- 18 Evgeny Kopylov & Oleg Pervakov
- 19 Michael Pasman & Csaba Horvath
- 20 Petr Kiryakov & Pavel Arestov
- 21 Igor Yarmonov & Vladislav Tarasiuk
- 22 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov
- 23 Pavel Arestov & Vasilij Lebedev
- 24 Michal Hlinka & Mario Garcia
- 25 Sergey N. Tkachenko & Maxim Notkin
- 26 Mario Garcia & Jaroslav Polasek
- 27 Volodymyr Samilo & Vladislav Tarasiuk
- 28 Paavo Tikka & Vladislav Tarasiuk
- 29 Michal Hlinka & Emil Vlasak
- 30 Manuel Sanz Cabrero & Luis Miguel Gonzales
- 31 Mihail Croitor & Vasilij Lebedev
- 32 Daniele Gatti & Mario Garcia
- 33 Javier Rodriguez Ibran & Miguel Quesada
- 34 Jan Sprenger & Robin Swinkels
- 35 Ivan Bondar & Mikhail Khramtsevich

36 Darko Hlebec & Branislav Djurasevic

37 Amatzia Avni & Vladislav Tarasiuk

38 Michael Pasmaan & Yochanan Afek

First a few words about some of the studies not in the award. The comments to the studies are either by Martin (MM) or Steffen (SN).

#6

SN+MM: The fine finish is known from Pogosyants, Omskaja Pravda 1978 (HHDBVI #43553).

#8

MM: There are two reasons for letting Black keep pawn-g4: To block d4-h4 and also to keep h3-c8 closed.

SN: The logic is good, but a queen exchange is a too high a prize to pay.

#9

MM + SN: The moves 4.Rh8+!, 7.Kg4! und 17.Nh1+ are good, but the study is too technical in large parts. The two phases of the study seem unconnected.

#16

MM + SN: 1.Rf3+! is a good start, but the finish disappoints. The starting position is too charged.

#17

MM: 5.Kh6! Qb3! 6.Rc3!! is great, but the study is cooked due to 8...Kc6. In any case, the intro with the exchange on d2 was not optimal. Hopefully the composers can be successful with a correction of this study elsewhere.

#24

MM: A miniature with a good intro. 7. Rc5 is subtle, but not spectacular.

SN: Too technical for my taste

#25

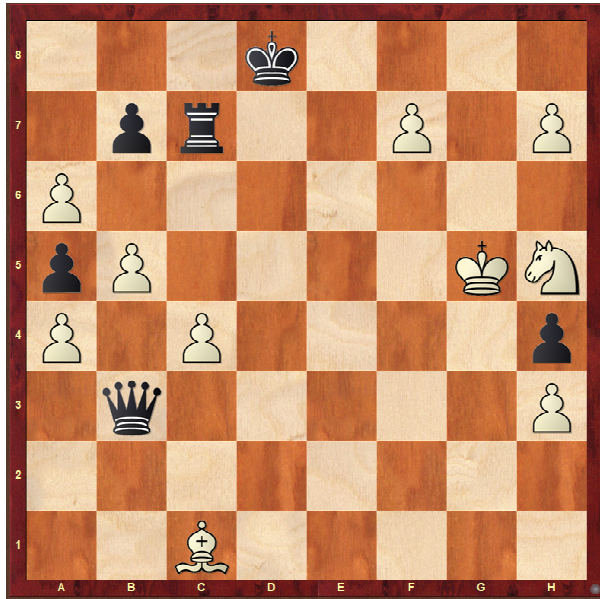
MM: 10.Kc4! deserves a better introduction. Nh3 in the initial position is unnatural. Who is going to solve this?

SN: The study could have begun with 6. Kc3

#34

MM: The idea of 7.d6 is good.

SN: I don't like the technical introduction leading up to the main point.



Black to move

1st prize

#30 Manuel Sanz Cabrero & Luis Miguel Gonzalez

Win

MM: This is an epic study, with a variety of good moves and an original zugzwang. The introduction is forced with Black to move. The finish lacks pointedness.

SN: This begins like a grotesque monster. Two pawns waiting to promote with check and the rest of pieces thrown around the board (the pawn on a6 being particularly annoying). But then the study turns into a fascinating epic tale. Playing through the study one is in for a number of surprises. Having witness the zugzwang after 12. c5, one expects the study to end in some kind of prosaic fashion where Black runs out of moves, but then the play becomes really fascinating with 15. Bf8, 17. c6! and 18...Qg7!

1...Rc5+ 2.Kg6! [2.Kh6? Rxh5+! 3.Kxh5 Qf3+ 4.Kg5 Qg3+ 5.Kh6 Qd6+= perpetual check]

2...Qc2+! 3.Kg7 Qg2+ 4.Kf6! Qf2+ 5.Bf4 Qd4+ 6.Kg6 Ke7! 7.f8Q+! [7.axb7? Qe4+ 8.Kg7 Qd4+ 9.Kh6 Rxh5+! 10.Kxh5 Qxf4 11.h8Q Qf5+= perpetual check]

7...Kxf8 8.h8Q+! Qxh8 9.Bd6+ Ke8 10.Nf6+ Kd8 11.a7! [11.Bxc5? bxa6! 12.bxa6 Kc7=]

11...Rc8 12.c5 [or 12.b6 a minor dual]

12...Ra8 13.b6 Kc8! 14.Be7! [Bishop manoeuvre to lose a tempo]

14...Rb8! [14...Rxa7 15.bxa7 Kc7 16.Bd6+ Kc6 17.Bb8+–]

15.Bf8! [15.axb8Q+? Kxb8 16.Bf8 Kc8 17.Kf7 Kb8! =]

15...Ra8 16.Bd6! Kd8! [16...Qd8 17.Kg7!+– Domination]

17.c6! [Now, with bK on d8, the break pawn is effective]

17...bxc6 18.b7 Qg7+! [An unexpected Queen sacrifice]

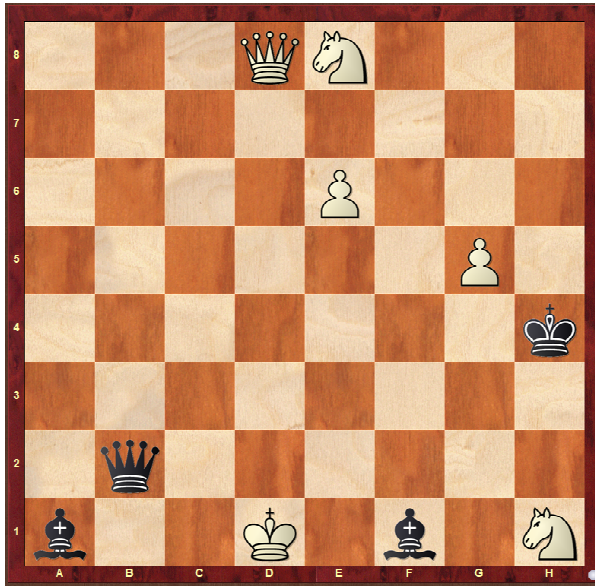
19.Kxg7 Rxa7 20.Be7+! [This Bishop interference, also aiming at the h4–square, saves the day]

20...Kc7 21.Ne8+! Kxb7 22.Bxh4 c5 23.Nf6! Kc6+ 24.Kg6! c4 25.Ne4! [25.Bg5? c3! 26.h4 c2 27.h5 Kc5 28.h6 Kb4 29.h7 Rxh7=]

25...Rd7 26.Bf6 Rd3 27.h4 Kd5 28.Nc3+ Ke6 29.Ne2! [The last point since now the h-pawn is unstoppable]

[29.Nb5? Rg3+ 30.Bg5 Kd5! 31.h5 c3 32.Na3 Rg2 33.h6 c2 34.Nxc2 Rxc2 35.h7 Rc8=]

1-0



2nd prize

#18 Evgeny Kopylov & Oleg Pervakov

Draw

MM: Twice the theme from the 11th WCCT: A choice of sacrifices.

SN: This is very ambitious and certainly the best technical achievement of the tournament with impeccable economy. Also very difficult. 2. Qd5!, for instance is not at all obvious.

The study with theme of 11 WCCT

1.g6+ [1.Qd5? Qe2+ 2.Kc1 Bc3-+]

1...Kg4! 2.Qd5! [2.g7? Qb1+ 3.Kd2 Qa2+ 4.Kc1 Bb2-+]

2...Qe2+ [2...Qb1+ 3.Kd2 Qb2+ 4.Kd1]

3.Kc1 Bb2+! [Main A]

[Main B 3...Bg2! 4.Qh5+! Theme

a) Try 4.Qf5+? Kxf5 5.Ng3+ Kxe6! 6.Nxe2 Kd7! (6...Be5? 7.Ng7+! Bxg7 8.Nf4+= , fork) 7.Nf4 Be4! (7...Bf1? 8.Nc7! Kxc7 9.Ne6+ Kd6 10.g7=) 8.Nc7!? Kxc7 9.g7 Bh7!-+ (9...Bxg7? 10.Ne6+= , fork) ;

b) 4.Qd2? Qc4+ 5.Kb1 Qf1+ 6.Ka2 (6.Kc2 Qf5+! 7.Kc1 Qc5+ 8.Kb1 Be4+! 9.Ka2 Bd5+ 10.Kb1 Bc3-+) 6...Qa6+! 7.Kb3 Qxe6+ 8.Ka3 Qa6+ 9.Kb3 Bc6! 10.Qb4+ Kf3 11.Qf8+ Kg2-+;

4...Kxh5 5.Ng3+ Kxg6 6.Nxe2 Be5! 7.Nd4! Theme (Try 7.Nf6? Kxf6!-+ (7...Bxf6? 8.Nf4+= , fork)) 7...Bxd4 8.e7 Kf7 9.Nd6+! Kxe7 10.Nf5+= , echo-fork; 3...Be5! 4.Nf2+!= Theme (Try 4.Qe4+? Bf4+!-+) ; 3...Qe3+ 4.Qd2! Qa3+ 5.Kd1 Bc3 6.Nf2+ Kf3 7.Qd5+ Kxf2 8.Qf5+ Ke3 9.Qg5+!]=]

4.Kb1 Bc3! [4...Be5 5.Nf2+! Kg3 6.Ne4+ Kf4 7.Qd2+ Qxd2 8.Nxd2 Bd3+ 9.Kc1 Bxg6 10.Nc4!]=]

5.Qh5+! [Theme]

[Try 5.Qf5+? Kxf5 6.Ng3+ Kxe6!-+]

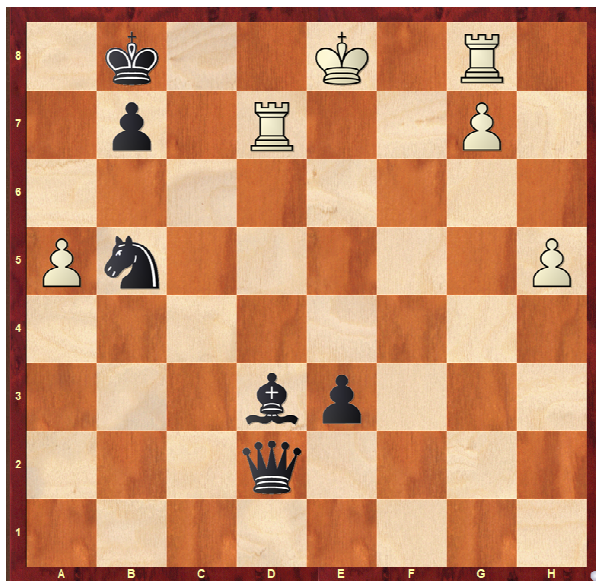
5...Kxh5 6.Ng3+ Kxg6 7.Nxe2 Be5! 8.Nc3! [Theme]

[Try 8.Nd4? Bxd4 9.e7 Bd3+! 10.Kc1 Kf7! (10...Be3+? 11.Kd1! Kf7 12.Nf6 Kxe7 13.Nd5+= , fork)
11.Nd6+ Kxe7 12.Nf5+ Bxf5-+]

8...Bxc3 9.e7 Bd3+! 10.Kc1! [10.Ka2? Kf7! 11.Nc7 Bc4+! 12.Ka3 Kxe7 13.Nd5+ Bxd5-+]

10...Kf7 11.Nc7! Kxe7 12.Nd5+ [, fork]

$\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$



3rd prize

#38 Michael Pasman & Yochanan Afek

Draw

MM: I like it. A good flow with logical tries.

SN: I love the idea of the eternal pin on the pawn (why didn't I come up with this idea myself?!), but the introduction (while containing many excellent moments like 3. Rc6!!) is not thematically or logically linked to the finale. What are 2 rooks, a bishop and a knight doing in what is essentially a queen ending? In addition, the main idea can be expanded with further dance moves of the queens. I would certainly have preferred more focus on the idea compared to perfecting the introduction.

1.Rf8! [Logical try : 1.Rh8? Nc7+ 2.Rxc7 Bb5+ 3.Rc6 Bxc6+ 4.Ke7+ Ka7 5.g8Q Position X1, is lost because white has no checks with rook on a8, f. e. 5...Qd7+ 6.Kf6 Qd4+ 7.Kg5 Ka6-+; 1.Ke7+? Ka7 2.Ra8+ (2.Rc8 Qb4+) 2...Kxa8 3.g8Q+ Ka7 4.Qd8 Qb4+--+]

1...Nc7+ [1...Ka7?? 2.g8Q e2 3.Qg1+-]

2.Rxc7 [2.Ke7+? Ka7 3.g8Q Qb4+ 4.Rd6 Qc5 5.Ra8+ Nxa8 6.Qd5 Qxd5 7.Rxd5 e2 8.Re5 Nc7-+]

2...Bb5+ 3.Rc6!! [Logical try : 3.Ke7+? Kxc7 4.Rc8+ Kxc8 5.g8Q+ Kc7 6.Qg3+ Position Y1 with bishop on b5 6...Kc6-+]

3...Bxc6+ 4.Ke7+ Kc7 [4...Ka7 5.g8Q Position X2 5...Qd7+ 6.Kf6 Qd4+ 7.Kg5= As Ra8 is threatened]

5.Rc8+! Kxc8 6.g8Q+ Be8! [6...Kc7 Position Y2 with bishop on c6 7.Qg3+=]

7.Qc4+! [7.Qxe8+? Kc7-+]

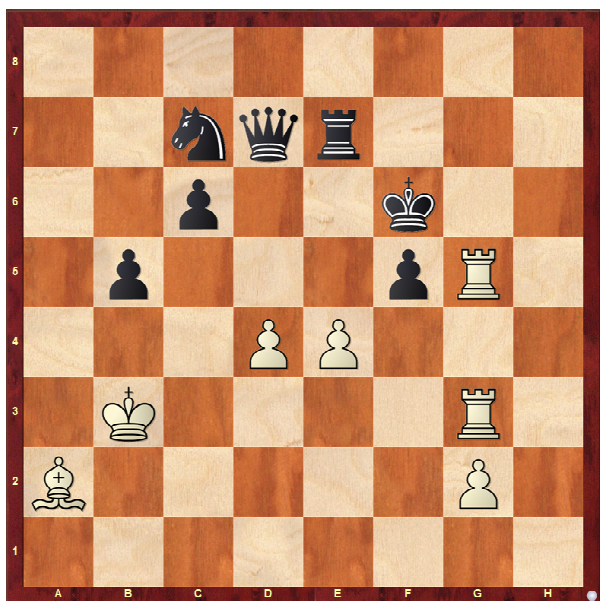
7...Bc6 [7...Kb8 8.Qf4+ Ka8 9.Kxe8 main]

8.Qg8+ Kc7 9.Qg3+ Kc8 10.Qg8+ Be8 11.Qc4+ Kb8 12.Qf4+! Ka8 [12...Ka7 13.Kxe8 Qf2 (13...Qc3 14.h6 e2 15.Qf2+=) 14.Qd4+=]

13.Kxe8 Qf2 14.Qd4! Qd2 15.Qf4! Qf2 [15...Qc3 16.a6! e2 17.axb7+ Kxb7 18.Qf7+ Qc7 19.Qb3+ Qb6 20.Qf7+ Kb8 21.Qf4+ Ka7 22.Qf7+=]

16.Qd4 [Perpetuum mobile. Positional draw.]

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$$



1st hm

#22 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov

Win

MM: This is an amusing en passant theme, which has already been shown by Helmut Waelzel in the 10th WCCT (HHDBVI #4576). In a logical try White's pawn is still on g2 before g2-g4 allowing Black to capture en passant fxg3. In the solution the pawn ends up on g3, so that Black cannot capture en passant after g3-g4. The exchange on d5 is a minus.

SN: The play is full of subtleties and the en passant finesse is more impressive to me than in Waelzel's study.

1.Rg6+! [Thematic try-1: 1.e5+? Kf7! 2.Rg7+ Kf8 3.Rg8+ Kf7 4.Kb4+ Nd5+ 5.Bxd5+ , but 5...Qxd5!]=]

1...Kf7 2.Kb4+! [Logical try: 2.Rg7+? Kf8 3.Rg8+ Kf7 4.Kb4+ Nd5+ 5.Bxd5+ cxd5 6.R3g7+ Ke6! 7.Rg6+ Kf7 8.e5 f4 9.g4!?, but en passant 9...fxg3!]=; Thematic try-2: 2.Kb2+? Nd5 3.e5 Kf8 4.Rg8+ Kf7 5.R3g7+ Ke6 6.Rg6+ Kf7 7.g3 f4! 8.g4 f3 9.g5 , but 9...Rxe5! 10.dxe5 Qg4!]=]

2...Nd5+! [2...Ne6 3.Rg7+ Ke8 4.Rg8+ Nf8 (4...Kf7 5.R3g7+ Kf6 6.e5#) 5.Rxf8+ Kxf8 6.Rg8#]

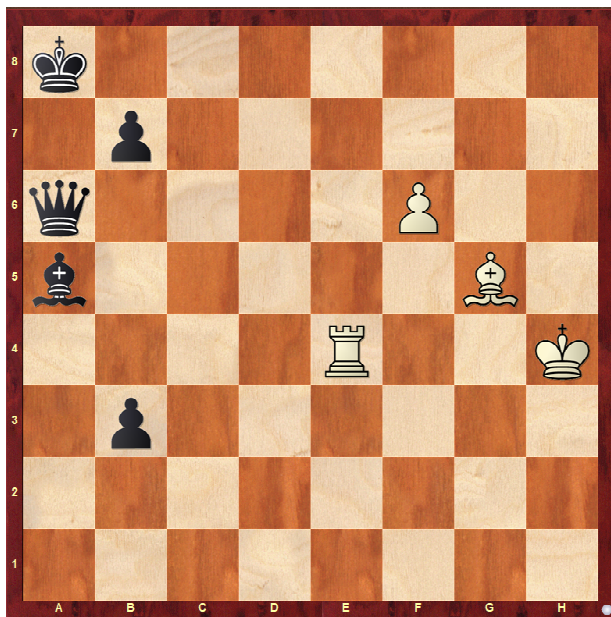
3.Bxd5+! cxd5 **4.e5! Kf8** [4...Qc7 5.e6+! Rxe6 6.Rg7+-; 4...f4 5.Rf6+ Ke8 6.Rg8#]

5.Rg8+ Kf7 6.R3g7+ Ke6 7.Rg6+ Kf7 8.g3! [8.e6+? Qxe6!]=]

8...f4 9.g4! [The position from the logical try, but Black have not en passant!]

9...f3 [9...Qe8 10.Rxe8 Kxe8 11.Kc5!+-; 9...Qc7 10.e6+! Rxe6 11.R6g7+-]

10.g5! Qf5 11.e6+! Rxe6 12.R6g7# [Model mate] **1-0**



2nd hm

#10 Pavel Arestov & Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely

Draw

MM: The introduction is nicely connected with the finish.

SN: A good logical study with the kind of natural position that tempts the solver to start solving. It is not easy to see that g5 is the dream square for the White king, but this becomes obvious on the very last move where it covers the rook on f4 and f5, saving the day. Like study no 8, this study also features a queen exchange, but here this is somehow less of a nuisance.

1.f7 Qf1 2.Re8+ Ka7 3.Be3+! [try 3.f8Q? Be1+ 4.Kg4 move Kg5 is not 4...Qxf8 5.Rxf8 b2 6.Be3+ b6 7.Rf7+ Ka6 8.Rf6 Ka5 9.Rxb6 Bb4 10.Bc5 b1Q 11.Rxb4 Qd1+ 12.Kg3 Qd5--+]

3...b6 [3...Ka6 4.Ra8+ Kb5 5.f8Q Qxf8 6.Rxf8 Be1+ 7.Kg4 b2 8.Rb8 Kc6 (8...Ka6 9.Ra8+ Kb5 10.Rb8 pos. draw) 9.Rc8+ Kd7 10.Rc1!=]

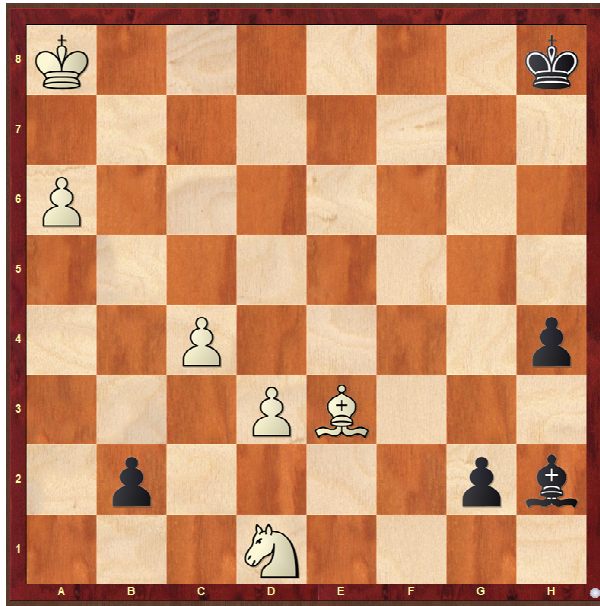
4.f8Q [4.Bxb6+? Kb7! 5.f8Q Be1+! 6.Kg5 Qxf8 7.Rxf8 b2--+]

4...Be1+ 5.Kg5! [try 5.Kg4? Qxf8 6.Rxf8 b2--+ as after 3.f8Q?; try 5.Kh5? Qxf8 6.Rxf8 b2 7.Rf7+ Ka6 8.Rf6 Ka5 9.Rxb6 Bb4 10.Bc5 b1Q 11.Rxb4 Qf5+--+]

5...Qxf8 6.Rxf8 b2 7.Rf7+ [7.Rf6? b1Q 8.Rxb6 Bh4+! 9.Kh6 Qe1--+; 7.Bxb6+ Kb7--+]

7...Ka6 [7...Kb8 8.Rf6=]

8.Rf6 Ka5 9.Rxb6 Bb4 10.Bc5 b1Q 11.Rxb4 Qc1+ 12.Rf4 Qxc5+ 13.Rf5 ½-½



3rd hm

#28 Paavo Tikka & Vladislav Tarasiuk

Draw

MM. A logical study with foresight effect. The Black king is forced from the corner to block the queen's access to that square.

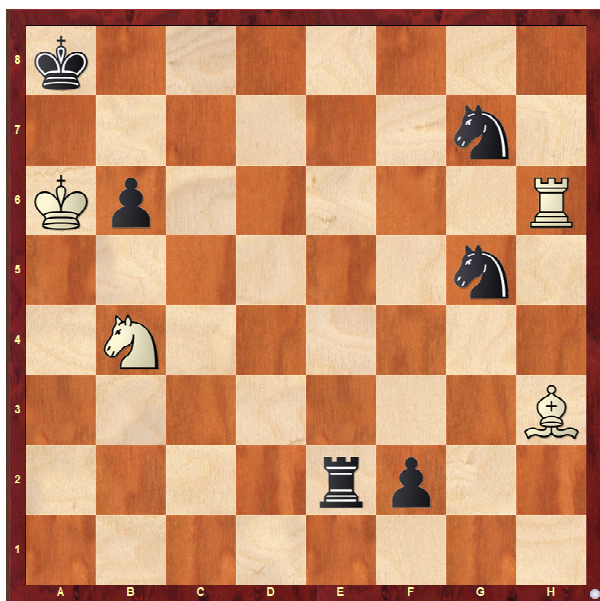
SN: Solid logic. The first move is especially surprising because normally you would want to keep the king on a Black square for future checks. That g8 is need for the pawn on h4 is not exactly easy to predict.

1.Bd4+! [Logical try 1.Nxb2? g1Q (1...h3? 2.Bd4+ Kg8 3.a7 g1Q 4.Bxg1 Bxg1 5.d4! see main line) 2.Bxg1 Bxg1 3.a7 h3 4.d4 Bxd4 5.c5 h2! 6.Kb8 Be5+! 7.Kb7 h1Q+ 8.c6 Qh7+ 9.Ka6 Position X with bKh8 9...Qg8!-+]

1...Kg8 2.Nxb2 h3 3.a7 g1Q 4.Bxg1 Bxg1 5.d4! [5.Kb8? Bxa7+--+]

5...Bxd4 6.c5! h2! [6...Bxc5 7.Nd3 h2 8.Nxc5=]

7.Kb8 Be5+ 8.Kb7 h1Q+ 9.c6 Qh7+ 10.Ka6! [draw. Position X with bKg8 (no moves 10...Qg8)] ½-½



Special hm

#19 Michael Pasman & Csaba Horvath

Win

MM:

I was very happy about this study and I thought it might be first prize, but then we discovered an anticipation by Richter (Sach 2nd hm, 1940, HHDBVI #72321) Therefore its place in the award is given solely for the great introduction.

SN: Martin already said what I wanted to say.

1.Rc6! [1.Bg2+ Kb8]

1...Re8 2.Bg2 [Battery]

2...Ne4 [2...Kb8 3.Kxb6+–; 2...Nf3 3.Rc7]

3.Rc7! f1Q+ [3...Kb8 4.Rxg7 Re6 5.Bh3+–; 3...Ne6 4.Ra7+ Kb8 5.Nc6+ Kc8 6.Kxb6]

4.Bxf1 Nc5+ [4...Ne6 5.Ra7+ Kb8 6.Nc6+]

5.Kxb6 Rb8+ 6.Ka5! [6.Kxc5 Ne6+]

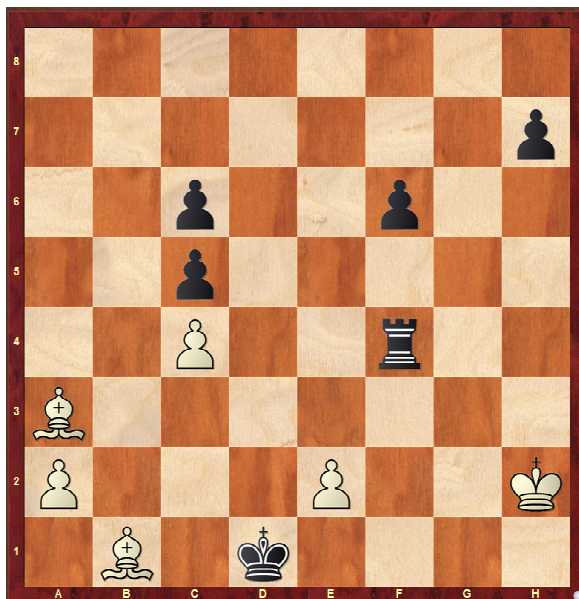
6...Nb7+ [6...Rxb4 7.Kxb4+–; 6...Nge6 7.Bg2+]

7.Ka6 [7.Kb6 Nd6+]

7...Ne6 8.Bg2!! Nxc7+ 9.Kb6! Ne6 [9...Nd5+ 10.Bxd5!+–; 9...Nb5 10.Na6!; 9...Ne8 10.Na6 zz]

10.Na6! [zz]

10...Rh8 11.Bxb7# [Model Mate] **1–0**



Commendation

#7 Emil Vlasak & Jaroslav Polasek

Win

(Commendations ex aequo)

MM: Interesting mutual zugzwang with Bc3! and later Be5+ Partially anticipated by Cortlever, Schakend Nederland, 1991 (HHDBVI #28770).

SN: A good technical achievement and a substantial addition to Cortlever's study.

1.Bd3 [1.Kg3 Rxc4 2.Bd3 Ra4 3.Bxc5 Rxa2 4.Kf3 h5; 1.Bxc5 Rxc4 2.Be7 Kxe2= 3.Bxf6 Rf4 4.Bg5 Rf2+ 5.Kg3 c5 6.Bxh7 Rf3+ 7.Kg4 Ra3 8.Bg8 Ra4+ 9.Kf5 Kd3 10.Ke5 c4 11.Be6 Ra5+ 12.Kf4 Rxa2; 1.e4?! Rf3 the best defence, Black wins a minor piece 2.Bxc5 Kc1 3.e5!? fxe5 (Possible is also the following forced line 3...Kxb1 4.e6 Rf5 5.e7 Rh5+! (5...Re5? 6.a4) 6.Kg3 Rg5+ 7.Kf4 Rg8 8.a4 Kc2 9.a5 Kb3 10.a6 Kxc4 11.Bf2 Kb5 12.a7 c5 13.Kf5 Kb6 14.Kxf6 Kxa7) 4.Bxh7 Rc3 5.Bd6 Rxc4]

1...Rf2+ 2.Kh3!! [sees far ahead]

[Thematic try 2.Kg3!? Rxe2 3.Bxe2+ Kxe2 4.Bc1! see the similar main line to explain 4...Kd3 5.a4 Kxc4 6.Bd2 f5 7.Bc3!? (7.Kf3 h5 8.Kg3 f4+! 9.Kf3 (9.Kxf4 Kd5) 9...h4 10.Kg4 h3 11.Kxh3 f3 12.Kg3 Kd3=) 7...h5! mutual zugzwang, see main line 8.Bd2 f4+! 9.Kxf4 Kd5 10.Kf5 c4=; 2.Kg1? Rxe2 3.Bxe2+ Kxe2 4.Bc1 Kd3 5.a4 Kxc4 6.Bd2 h5 7.Kg2 (7.Kf1 f5 8.Bc3 f4 9.Kf2 h4 10.Kg2 h3+ 11.Kxh3 Kxc3) 7...f5]

2...Rxe2 3.Bxe2+ Kxe2 4.Bc1! [The c5 pawn has to stay alive to block a way to a8]

[4.Bxc5? Kd3 5.a4 Kxc4 6.Ba3 c5 7.Kg4 Kd5 8.Kf5 Kc6]

4...Kd3 5.a4 [5.Bd2? Kxd2]

5...Kxc4 6.Bd2! h5 [6...f5 main 7.Bc3!! (thematic try 7.Kg3? h6!= 8.Bc3 h5! mutual zugzwang) 7...h5 (7...h6 8.Kh4) 8.Kg3! mutual zugzwang 8...Kd5 9.a5! Kd6 10.Be5+!; 6...Kd5 7.a5! Kd6 8.Bf4+ Kd7 9.a6 Kc8 10.Kg3 wins, see main]

7.Kg3! [thematic try 7.Kh4? f5 8.Kxh5 Kd5!= 9.a5 Kd6 10.Bf4+ Kd7 11.a6 Kc8 12.Kg5 c4!]

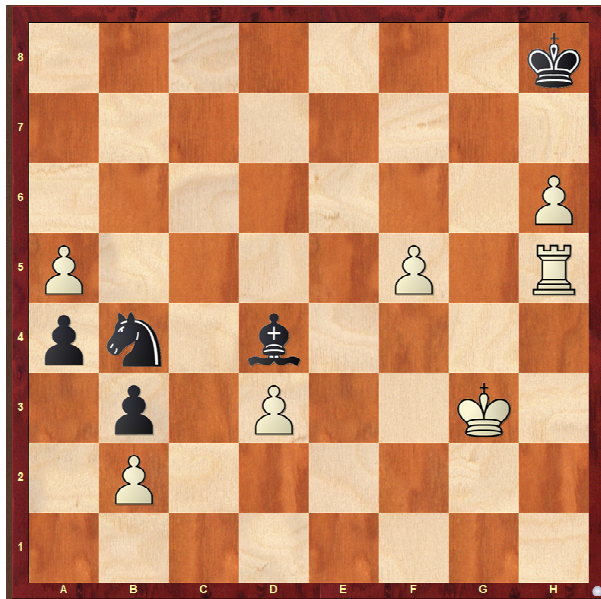
7...f5 8.Bc3!! [The point. White controls the diagonal h2–b8 even after Black move Pf4. The same time Black is in zugzwang.]

[8.Kf3 h4 9.Be1 Kd5 10.Bxh4 c4]

8...Kd5 9.a5 Kd6 10.Be5+! [for example]

10...Kd7 11.a6 Kc8 12.Kf3 [White surprisingly wins against a lot of Black pawns. The bishop controls the K-side while the King captures c-pawns outtemping Black King.]

12...h4 13.Ke3 h3 14.Kd3 1-0



Commendation

#15 Jan Sprenger & Vidadi Zamanov

Draw

MM: Nice flow with a number of sacrifices, but the pawn sacrifice is without purity of aim.

Also there is no model stalemate.

SN: Very pleasant, with 6. Kh3 being the most beautiful move.

1.f6! [The point of this move is not to open the fifth rank for the Rh5, but to prepare Rh4 by removing the d3-pawn.]

[logical try 1.Rh4? a3! 2.bxa3 (2.Rxd4 axb2 and White has no Rd1 because of the d3-pawn.) 2...Bf2+!! 3.Kxf2 Nxd3+ 4.Ke3 b2 5.Rh1 Nc1-+]

1...Bxf6 2.d4! [2.a6? Nxa6 3.Ra5 Bxb2 4.Rxa4 Be5+ 5.Kf3 b2-+]

2...Bxd4 [With the d-pawn off the board, White can now execute his main plan.]

3.Rh4 Nc6! [3...Bxb2!? 4.Rxb4 a3 5.Rb8+ Kh7 6.Rb7+ Kxh6 7.Rb6+ Kg5 8.Rb5+ Kf6 (8...Be5+!? 9.Rxe5+ Kf6 10.a6 a2 11.Ra5 b2 12.a7 a1Q 13.a8Q=) 9.Rxb3 a2 10.Rf3+ Kg6 11.Rf1=; 3...a3?? does not work here because of 4.Rxd4! axb2 5.Rd1-+]

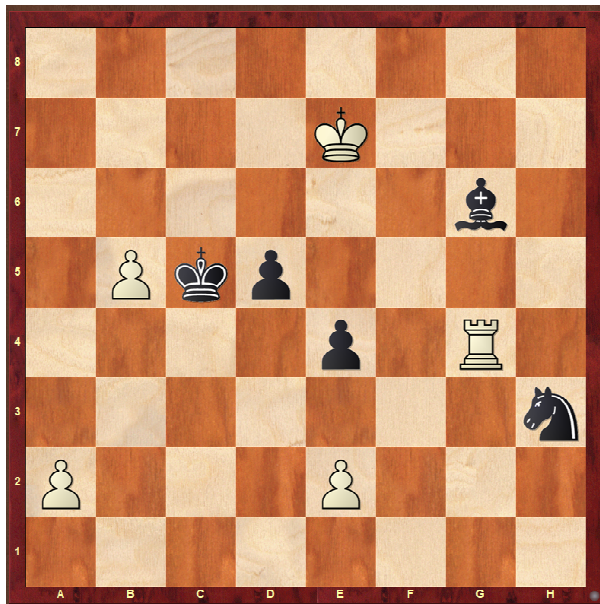
4.a6 Bxb2 5.Rxa4 Be5+ 6.Kh3! [prepares the stalemate counterplay]

[6.Kg4 b2 7.a7 Nxa7 8.Rb4 Nc6-+]

6...b2 7.Rb4! [7. a7 leads to the lost endgame from the previous variation.]

7...Nxb4 8.a7 b1Q 9.a8Q+ Kh7 10.Qe4+! Qxe4 [stalemate]

1/2-1/2



Black to move

Commendation

#21 Igor Yarmonov & Vladislav Tarasiuk

Draw

MM: 2 b6! An original positional draw with zugzwang and a thematic try. But why “Black to move”? The second main line seems unrelated to the first.

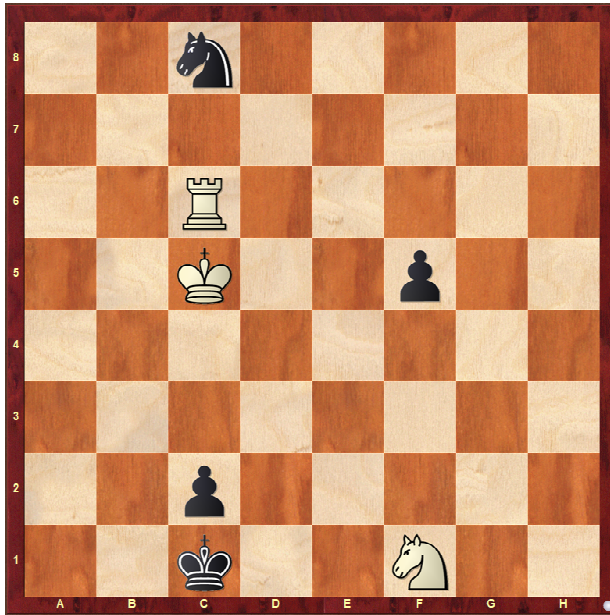
1...Bh5 2.b6!! [Thematic try: 2.Rh4? Bxe2 3.b6 Ba6! (3...Kxb6? 4.Kd6! - main line) 4.Rxh3 d4 5.Rh6 d3!-+]

2...Kxb6 3.Rh4 Bxe2 4.Kd6! [4.Rxh3? d4 5.Kd6 d3 6.Ke5 d2-+]

4...Bf1 [main 4...d4 5.Rxe4 d3 6.Rb4+ Ka5 7.Rb2 Ka4 8.Ke5! (Try: 8.Kd5? Ka3 9.Rd2 Ng5! 10.Kc4 Nf3 11.Rxd3+ Kb2!-+) 8...Ka3 9.Rd2 Ng5! 10.Kf4 Nf3 11.Rxd3+! draw]

5.Kxd5 e3 6.Rb4+ Ka5 7.Rb1 e2 8.Kd4!
 [Try: 8.Ke4? Nf2+! 9.Ke3 Nd3! 10.Kd2 Ka4! zz 11.Ke3 Ka3 12.Kd2 Kxa2-+] ...**Nf4!** [8...Nf2 9.Re1!=]
9.Ke4! [9.Ke3? Nd3 10.Kd2 Ka4! zz -+] **9...Nd3**
 [9...Ng2 10.Kf3! e1Q 11.Rxe1 Nxe1+ 12.Kf2=] **10.Ke3!** [10.Kxd3? e1Q+-+]

10...Ka4 11.Kd2! [zz] **11...Ka5 12.Ke3!** [positional draw.] [12.Ra1? Kb4 13.Rb1+ Ka4! zz -+] ½.-½



Commendation

#23 Pavel Arestov & Vasilij Lebedev

Win

MM: A miniature with the fine moves 4. Kb4+!! 5. Rd7+ and 5...Nd5+

1.Ne3! [1.Rxc8? f4 Kb2 2.Kd4 Kb2=]

1...Ne7! [1...f4 2.Nxc2 Kxc2 3.Rf6!! Kd3 4.Rxf4 Ne7 5.Rf6+- Kd6]

2.Rc7! [2.Re6? f4 3.Nxc2 Kxc2 4.Rxe7 Kd3=; 2.Rf6? Kd2 3.Nxc2 Kxc2 4.Kd6 Nc8+! 5.Kc5 Ne7! 6.Kd6 Nc8+= pos. draw]

2...f4 [2...Kd2 3.Nxc2 Kxc2 4.Rxe7+-]

3.Nxc2 Kxc2 4.Kb4+!! [TRY: 4.Kd4+? Kd2 5.Rxe7 f3 6.Rf7 Ke2 7.Re7+ Kd2! pos. draw]

4...Kd3 5.Rd7+!! [5.Rxe7? f3 6.Rf7 Ke3=]

5...Nd5+! [5...Ke3 6.Rxe7+ Kd3 7.Rf7 Ke3 8.Kc3 f3 9.Kc2 Re7 9...f2 10.Kd1+-]

6.Rxd5+ Ke4 [6...Ke3 7.Re5+! Kd4 8.Rf5 Ke4 9.Rf8+- Rf7]

7.Rd1! [7.Rd8? f3 8.Rf8 Ke3 9.Kc3 f2= Ke2]

7...f3 8.Kc3 f2 [8...Ke3 9.Re1+ Kf2 10.Kd2+-]

9.Kd2 1-0

Steffen Nielsen, Copenhagen

Martin Minski, Berlin

14.04.2023