

Award Tehtäväniekka 2023 / Studies

The annual competition *Tehtäväniekka* - 2023 was attended by 14 composers from 8 countries: Argentina, Austria, Finland, Germany, Israel, Italy, Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany. The authors sent 17 studies. Preference was given to compositions with the presence of internal playing connections that form a clear and interesting plot.

There are comments on two studies that were not marked:

Amatzia Avni (e4-e1) - White's path to salvation is not without subtleties, but there is a predecessor V. Evreinov, M. Havel MT, 1975, 2 hm. in which the final attractive position is created entirely in the course of play;

Rainer Staudte & Michael Schlosser (h1-c8) - the authors indicated that the etude is based on Peter Schmidt, Vandiest-80 JT, 2000, 1hm. but the final is known, e.g. A. Frolkin & V. Samilo, *Československý šach*, 2017, 1 Pr.

1st Prize
Jan Sprenger



Voitto / Win (+) 8+6

1st Prize Jan Sprenger (GER/ITA) (5601, TN 4/2023)

1.Rg3+ Thematic try: 1.b8Q? Qe6+!

2.Kd8 Qf6+ 3.Kc8 Qc6+=; Thematic try:
1.Bc3? Nxc3 2.Qd4!? Qxd4 3.Rg3+ Kf6!
(3.-
Kh7? 4.b8Q Qa4+ 5.Ke7 Qxh4+ 6.Kxf7+-)
4.b8Q Qa4+! (4.- b1Q?? 5.Qd6+ Kf5
6.Rg5#)
5.Kd8 Qa5+ 6.Ke8 Qb5+ 7.Qxb5 Nxb5
8.Rg1 Nc3= **1.- Kf6 2.b8Q! Qxb8** 2.- Qe6+
3.Kd8 Qe7+ 4.Kc8 Qe6+ 5.Kb7+- **3.Bc3+!**
Nxc3 4.Qd4+ Qe5 5.Rg7!! 5.Qb6+? /or
Qxe5+ 5.- Qe6+ 6.Qxe6+ fxe6= main A: **5.-
Kxg7 6.Qxe5+ f6! 7.Qg3+!**
7.Qe7+? Kxh8 8.Qxf6+ Kg8 9.Qxc3 b1Q=
7.- Kh7 7.- Kxh8 8.Qb8+! Kh7 9.Qxb2+-
8.Ng6! b1Q 9.Ne7 and after Qb5+ etc. the
white king will hide on f7.

main B: **5.- Qxd4 6.Rxf7+ Ke5 7.Ng6#**

Despite White's material advantage, the choice on the first move is important - their king in mate danger. In the solution, sacrificing a pawn-queen and a knight in turn, and then the spectacularly and unexpectedly rook 5.Rg7!!, White himself, in the final move, weave a mat net for the black king.

2nd Prize
Peter Krug



Voitto / Win (+) 5+5

2nd Prize Peter Krug (AUT) (5599, TN 4/2023)

1.f6 1.Ng6? Re8+= 1.- Re8+ 2.Kh7!

Try: 2.Kg7? Nxb3 3.f7 Rd8! 4.Ng6 (4.Rg2+

Kf3=; 4.Re2? h3 5.Re8 Rd7 6.Kf6 Rxf7+ 7.Nxf7 h2 8.Ne5+ Kh3=) 4.- h3 5.Re2 Nc5 6.Re8 h2= **2.- Nxb3 2.- h3 3.f7 Rf8 4.b4 Nb3 5.Kg7 Rxf7+ 6.Nxf7 Kg3 7.Rb2 Nd4 8.Nd6 h2 9.Ne4+++ 3.f7 3.Ng6? h3 4.f7 Ra8= 3.- Rf8 3.- Rd8 4.Rg2+ Kf3 5.Rg8 Rd7 6.Kg6 Rxf7 7.Nxf7 h3 8.Ng5+ Kg2 9.Kf5 h2 10.Ne4+++ 4.Rxh4+!**

Kxh4 5.Ng6+ Kg5 6.Nxf8 Nc5 7.Kg8!

7.Kg7? Kf5 8.Kg8 b5 9.Ng6 Nd7 10.Ne7+ Kg5 11.Nc6 Kh6= **7.- Kf5 8.Ng6 Ne6 8.- Nd7 9.Kg7 b5 10.Ne7+ Ke4 11.Nc6 Kd5 12.Nb8+- 9.Ne7+ Ke5 10.Nc8 Kd5 11.Nb6+ Kd6 11.- Kd4 12.Na8! b5 13.Nc7+-**

; 11.- Kc6 12.Na4 b5 13.Nc3 b4 14.Ne2 b3 15.Nd4+++ **12.Nc4+ Kd5 13.Ne3+ Ke4 14.Nd1! Kd4 14.- b5 15.Nc3+++ 15.Nf2 b5 16.Nh3 b4 17.Nf4! 17.Ng5? Nf8= 17.- b3 18.Nxe6+ win.**

The fight unfolds around White's strong passed pawn, which is rushing towards the promotion square. Attractive accurate play of the king of white and unusual route of their knight to different edges of the board.

**3rd Prize
Martin Minski**



Voitto / Win (+) 5+4

3rd Prize Martin Minski (GER) (5598, TN 4/2023)

1.Ra8! d2+! 1.- Bf4+! 2.Rxf4 d2+!

3.Kxd2 Qxa8 4.Ra4+! Qxa4 5.h8Q+++ **2.Kc2!** Logical try: 2.Kd1?? Qxa8 3.d8Q Qxd8+- position X with bPd2; 2.Kxd2? Qxa8 /Ba5+= **2.- d1Q+!** 2.- Qxa8 3.h8Q+! Qxh8 4.Ra4# **3.Kxd1 Qxa8 4.d8Q!!** the point **4.- Qxd8+** position X without bPd2 4.- Bxd8 5.h8Q+++; 4.- Qxe4 5.h8Q+++ **5.Kc2 Qa8 6.h8Q+! Qxh8 7.Ra4#**

An uncomplicated but fun study on checkmate with a little logic and sacrifices on the eighth rank.

**Sp. Prize
Michael Pasman**



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+5

Sp. Prize Michael Pasman (ISR) (5597, TN 4/2023)

1.a4+! 1.Kxe6? c5+-; 1.Bg2? Ng4 1.- Kxa4 1.- Kb6 2.a5+ Kxa5 3.Kxe6 c5 4.Kd6 2.a3!! 2.Kxe6? c5 3.Kd6 (3.Kd5 Kb5) 3.- c4+-; 2.Bxc6+? Nxc6 3.Kxc6 (3.Kxe6+-) 3.- Ng4 4.Kd6 e5+-; 2.Bg2? Ng4 3.Bh3 Nf6 4.Kxe6 Ne8 5.Ke7 Nc7 6.Kd6 Nca6 7.Bg2 c5+- **2.- Ng4 2.- Kxa3 3.Bxc6 Nxc6 4.Kxe6=; 2.- Kb5 3.a4+! Kxa4 4.Bxc6+= Nxc6 5.Kxe6=; 2.- Nf1 3.Bxc6+= 3.Kxe6 c5 4.Bf3 Nf2 5.Kd5 Kb5 6.a4+ Kb4 7.Be2 Nh3 8.Bb5! Ng5 9.Bd3! Nf3 10.a5 Nd4 11.a6 Nb5 12.Bxb5 Kxb5 13.a7 Nd7 14.a8N! 14.a8Q? Nb6+-+ **14.- Nf6+ 15.Kd6 c4 16.Nc7+ Ka4 17.Ne6 draw.****

White achieves equality by accurate pawn play (excelsior) and subtle bishop maneuvers. A successful development of the study V. Vlasenko & S. Tolstoy, All-Russian ty, 1969, 1 hm.

1st Hon. Mention
Ivan Maly



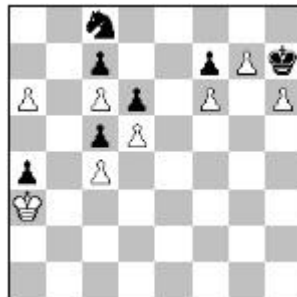
Voitto / Win (+) 4+3

1st Hon. Mention Ivan Maly (UKR)
(5594, TN 4/2023)

1.Kb7! 1.Re4? Nf5 2.c5 Bxc5 3.Re5 Bd4!= **1.- Kg6 2.Re4 Nf5 3.Kb6 3.Kc6?** Bf6 4.Kd7 Bxc3 5.c5 Nd4= **3.- Bd8+** 3.- Bf6 4.c5 Bxc3 5.c6 Kf7 6.Rf4 Ke6 7.Rxf5+-; 3.- Nd6 4.Rd4 Kf5 5.c5 Ne4 6.Rd5+ Ke6 7.c4+- **4.Ka6!** 4.Kc5? Ba5=
4.- Bf6 5.c5 Bxc3 6.c6 Kf6 7.c7 Nd6 8.Re8! win. 8.Rc4? Ba5! =.

To achieve a win, White must subtly maneuver the king with 4.Ka6! and make the final touch 8.Re8!, crowning the struggle of rook and pawns against minor pieces. The final move was encountered in the study I. Akobia & J. Mikitovics, V. Kozhakin JT, 2012, 1-2 Pr.

2nd Hon. Mention
Paavo Tikka



Voitto / Win (+) 8+7

2nd Hon. Mention Paavo Tikka (FIN)
(5446, TN 1/2023)

1.a7! Nb6! 2.a8Q! 2.Ka2? a3! 3.Kxa3 Nxc4+ **2.- Nxa8 3.Kxa4 Nb6+ 4.Kb5 Kg8 5.Ka6!** Nxc4 5.- Nxd5 6.cxd5 c4 7.Kb7 c3 8.Kxc7 c2 9.Kd7! (9.Kd8? c1Q 10.c7 Qxh6!)= 9.- c1Q 10.c7+- **6.Kb7 6.h7+?** Kxh7 7.Kb7 Na3! 8.Kxc7 Nb5+ 9.Kb6! Nc3! 10.Kc7! Nb5+ **6.- Nb6 7.h7+!** Try: 7.Kxc7? Nxd5+ 8.Kxd6 Nxf6 9.Kxc5 Ne8 10.Kd5 Kh7! 11.Ke5 Kg8! 12.Kd5 Kh7 13.Kc5 Kg8 14.Kb6 f5! and draw e.g. 15.Kc5 f4 (15.- Kf7=) 16.Kd4 Kh7! 17.Ke4 (17.Kd3 Nc7 18.Ke4 Ne6!) 17.- Kxh6! 18.g8Q (18.c7 Kxg7 19.c8Q Nd6+=) 18.- Nf6+ 19.Kxf4 Nxe8 20.c7 Ne7= **7.- Kxh7 8.Kxc7 Nxd5+ 9.Kxd6 Nxf6 10.c7!** 10.Ke7? Kxg7 11.c7 Nd5+-+ **10.- Ne8+ 11.Ke7! Nxc7 12.Kxf7** win.

Step by step, White exploits the tightness of the black king on the edge of the board and brings his king closer to the g7 passed pawn. The center of the study is the right choice of play on the seventh move.

Sp. Hon. Mention
Yochanan Afek



Voitto / Win (=) 5+2

Sp. Hon. Mention Yochanan Afek (ISR)
(5490, TN 2/2023)

1. Bf5+ 1. Kc5? Ra5+ 2. Kc4 Ke6= 1.- Ke7 2. Kc5! 2. d5? Rf4! 3. d6+ Kd8 4. Bg6 Kd7= 2.- Ra2 3. d5! 3. h3? Re2! 4. Bd3 Re1= 3.- Rxh2 4. d6+ Kd8 5. e6! Rh5 6. e7+ Ke8 7. Kd5! Rxf5+ 8. Ke6 Ra5 9. d7# A pretty miniature for the solution. Yes, the mating picture has been met more than once, but it appears after the unexpected maneuvers 2. Kc5! and 7. Kd5!

1st Comm.
Volodymyr Samilo



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+6

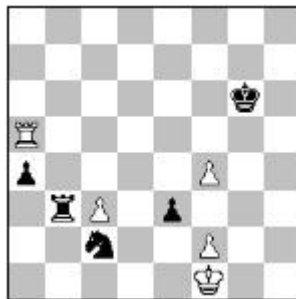
1st Comm. Volodymyr Samilo (UKR)
(5447, TN 1/2023)

1. Nc4+! 1. Kb7? Kb5! 2. Nc4 Ne8

3. Nxd6+ Nxd6+ 4. Kc7 Ne4 5. Rxh5 Kb4 6. Rh3 f4-+ 1.- Kb5 2. Nxd6+ Kc6 3. Rc4+! 3. Ra4? f4! 4. Nf5 Rxh1 5. Rc4+ Kd5! 6. Rxf4 (6. Rxc7 h4 7. Kb7 h3-+) 6.- Ke5 7. Rf2 Nd5! 8. Ng3 Ra1+ 9. Kb7 h4 10. Ne2 Rh1!-+; 3. Ng3? Ra1+!-+ 3.- Kxd6 4. Ng3 Rf3 4.- Rf2 5. Nxb5 Ra2+ 6. Kb7 Rb2+ 7. Kc8 Nd5 8. Rd4 Rh2 9. Ng3! f4 10. Nf1! Rf2 11. Nd2= 5. Nxb5 Ra3+! 6. Kb7! Try: 6. Kb8? Na6+! 7. Kc8 Nc5! 8. Rb4 Rh3 9. Rd4+ Ke7! 10. Ng7 Rh8+ 11. Kc7 Ne6+! fork 12. Nxe6 Kxe6-+; Try: 6. Kb6? Nd5+! 7. Kb5 Rb3+ 8. Ka5 Rh3! 9. Ng7 f4 10. Nf5+ Ke5 11. Nd4 Rd3! 12. Nc6+ Kd6 13. Nd4 Ne3 14. Ra4 Nc4+! 15. Rxc4 Kd5 16. Kb5 Rxd4-+ 6.- Rb3+ 7. Kc8! 7. Ka7? Kd7! 8. Nf6+ Kc8-+ 7.- Nd5 8. Rd4 Rh3 9. Rxd5+ Kxd5 10. Nf4+ fork 10.- Ke4 11. Nxb3 draw.

Overcoming the dominance of black pieces over white with the active play of all pieces, including kings. The introduction with logic motive (in the initial position does not work 1. Ng3? Bxg3). In try 6. Kb8? black wins with a knight fork. In the final decides a little one combination with a rook sacrifice and fork already a white knight. (author)

2nd Comm.
Michal Hlinka & Euboš Kekely



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+5

2nd Comm. Michal Hlinka & Ľuboš Kekely (SVK) (5448, TN 1/2023)

1.f5+! 1.Rxa4? Rb1+ 2.Ke2 Re1+ 3.Kf3 Rf1-+ **1.- Kf7 2.Ra7+ Kf8 2.- Ke8 3.Rxa4=**
3.Ra8+ Kf7 4.Ra7+ Kf6 5.Ra6+ Kxf5 6.Rxa4! Rb1+ 7.Ke2 7.Kg2? e2-+ 7.- Re1+
8.Kf3 8.Kd3? exf2-+ 8.- Rf1 9.Rf4+ Ke5 9.- Kg5 10.Rg4+ Kh5 11.Rg2= 10.Re4+ Kd5 10.- Kd6 11.Kg3 Rg1+ 12.Kf3 Rf1 13.Kg3 positional draw 11.c4+ Kc5 12.Kg3 Rxf2 12.- Rg1+ 13.Kf3 Rf1 14.Kg3 positional draw 13.Rxe3! Nxe3 14.Kxf2 draw.

Pursuit of the black king by the white rook vertically and horizontally with the final denouement 13.Rxe3!

3rd Comm.

Peter Krug & Mario García



Voitto / Win (+) 4+11

3rd Comm. Peter Krug & Mario García (AUT/ARG) (5491, TN 2/2023)

1.Kh3! 1.Qxe1+?? Ke3 2.Nf1+ Ke4-+

1.- h5 1.- Rg8 2.Qf4 d2 (2.- Rg3+ 3.Qxg3+ Ke3 4.Qe5+--) 3.Qxf3+ Kg1 4.Ng4+- Rxg4
 (4.- Qa3 5.Qxa3 d1Q 6.Qe3+ Kh1 7.Qf3+ Kg1 8.Qg2#) 5.Qxg4+ Kf1 6.Qg2#; 1.- Bxb4 /Ke3 2.Ng4# **2.Rxe1!** 2.Qf4? Rf8!
 3.Qg3+ Ke3= **2.- Qa4!** 2.- Rg8 3.Qh4+ Ke3 4.Nf1# **3.Qxa4 Kxe1 4.Qb4+!**
 4.Qa5+? d2 5.Nxf3+ Kf2= **4.- d2 5.Nxf3+** 5.Qd4? Kd1 6.Qa4+ Kc1= **5.- Kf2 5.- Kd1 6.Qxd2# 6.Qf4 d1Q 6.- Rf8 7.Qg3+ Ke3 8.Ne1+!**
 (8.Ng1+? Ke4=) 8.- Kd4 9.Qd3+ Kc5 10.Qc3+ Kd6 11.Qxd2+--; 6.- b1Q 7.Nxd2+ Ke1 8.Nxb1+- **7.Nh4+ Ke1 7.- Kg1 8.Qg3+ /h2 8.- Kf1 9.Qg2+ Ke1 10.Nf3# 8.Ng2#**

Unlucky position of the black king leads to a bouquet of different mates.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the authors of the annual contest, congratulate the winners and wish everyone new creative findings and sporting successes.

Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine),
 International Judge
 January 9, 2024

Thank you, dear Vladislav, for the prompt award! Any claims should be submitted within three months from the publication date of this issue to the originals editor of studies, see the originals column.