

Siegfried Hornecker 25 JT
Tourney director: Youness Ben Jelloun
Judge: Siegfried Hornecker

There were 56 entries of great quality (many thanks to all composers!) for judging in my jubilee tourney. The promised prize fund was at least 200 Euro, in two sections:

1. Tasks and themes (eg)
2. Kings and Pawns (#2 + #3 + #n + eg)

In both sections the prize fund is each 50 / 30 / 20 Euro. To ensure neutrality, the entries are anonymized.

When the announcement was made, I expected to maybe receive 15 to 20 entries. As it has turned out to be a lot more, there will – unless there are complaints within the limitation of the preliminary award – the section two be split into two separate sections with a full prize money for each. Please note that for obvious reasons the prizes will only be sent, by SH but not by YB, when the final award has appeared! The award will be open until 19th March 2012.

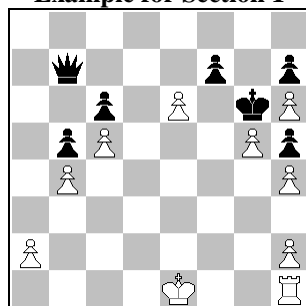
1. Tasks and Themes (eg)
2. Kings and Pawns (eg)
3. Kings and Pawns (#2+)

[Some comments are given in hard brackets: []

After the award was finished I have received the names list and reworked the entry of Youness for the names. However, of course no rankings were changed there. SH]

The following examples can be taken as examples by the jubilee about the different tourney themes, thereby justifying the choice of themes. My thanks here go also to Gilles Regniers who is co-author of one example. Since this is a jubilee tourney, this small gallery had to be expected. :-)

Example for Section 1

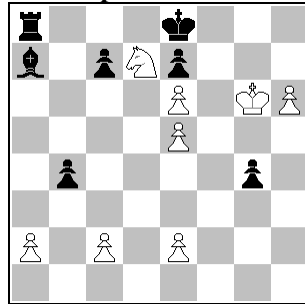


Siegfried Hornecker
König & Turm, May 2007. 1st prize
White wins

1. 0-0 f5 2. gxf6 e.p. and:
2... Qc8 3. f7 Qxe6 4. f8S+ wins
2... Qc7 3. f7 Qe5 4. f8R wins
2... Qa7 3. f7 Qxa2 4. Rf6+! Kxf6 5. f8Q+ Kxe6 6. Qg8+ wins

Task: Valladao

Example for Section 1

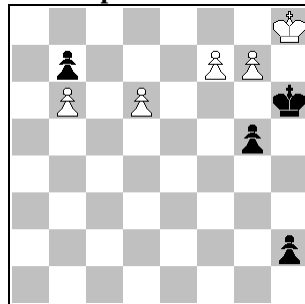


Siegfried Hornecker
Shahmat 2005. 2nd honorable mention in Israel Ring Tourney
White wins

1. Sb8 Bd4 2. Sc6 Ra3 3. e3!! Rxe3 4. h7 Rh3 5. Sxd4 g3 6. Kg7 g2 7. Se2 g1Q+
8. Sxg1 Rg3+ 9. Kh6 wins.

The moves 4 to 6 can be played in a different order, a symptom that shows the difficulty in composing this theme: Anti castling theme with a knight on b8.

Example for Section 2

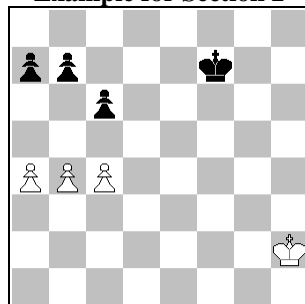


Siegfried Hornecker
Rochade Europa, January 2009. Prize
Black to move, White wins

1...h1Q 2.f8S Qa1 3.Se6 Kg6 4.d7 Kf7 5.d8S+ Ke7 6.Kh7 Qb1+ 7.Kh6 Kf6 8.g8S+ draws.

And a lightweight:

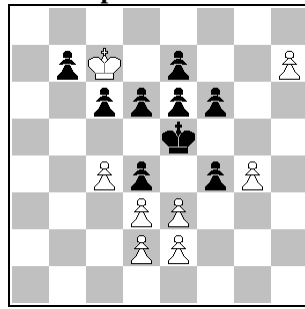
Example for Section 2



Siegfried Hornecker
Internet, 2005
Draw

1.Kg3 a5! 2.b5! Ke7 3.Kf4 Kd6 4.b6! Kc5 5.Ke5 Kxb6 6.Kd6 draws.

Example for Section 3

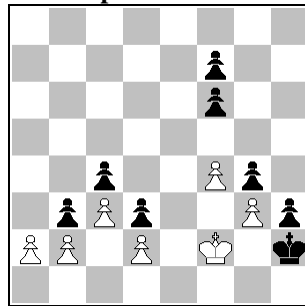


Siegfried Hornecker & Gilles Regniers
chessproblem.net, 13th February 2009
Mate in 5

1.h8Q dxe3 2.Qa8 d5 3.Qa1+ d4 4.Qh1 f5 5.Qh8#

Four corner theme in a pawn problem

Example for Section 3



Siegfried Hornecker
MatPlus 37-38, Spring/Summer 2010
Mate in 15

1.a4 f5 2.a5 f6 3.a6 Kh1 4.a7 Kh2 5.a8R! Kh1 6.Ra4 Kh2 7.Rxc4 Kh1 8.Ra4 Kh2
9.c4 Kh1 10.c5 Kh2 11.c6 Kh1 12.c7 Kh2 13.c8Q Kh1 14.Qc1+ Kh2 15.Qg1#

Before they are put into each section (when no explanation was given on a kings and pawns study, common sense was used to determine the appropriate section), all entries are entered into a database for analysis. The following entries have had to be disqualified prior to entering for not meeting the criteria of the tourney:

no. 2, Vasil Krizhanivskiy, Ke8-Kd6, #2

no. 37, Vasil Krizhanivskiy, Kh3-Ke4, #3

In both cases a directmate with pieces other than kings and pawns has been entered to the tourney, thereby not fitting into any of the three categories. [Still I'd like to thank the author for the friendly gesture. SH]

Of the remaining entries, the following have been sorted out due to incorrectness:

no.1 - Alain Pallier, Ke8-Kd6 + – Dual in main variation A: 4.Ke6 Kc5 5.Kf5 Kd4 6.Kxg4 e3 7.Kf3!, and 7...e4+ 8.Ke2 exf2 9.Kxf2 Kd3 Kh1, or 7...exf2 8.Kxf2, both winning.

no.8 - Fulvio Morelli, Kb7-Ke8 + – Other solution: 1.Kxc6 ... 6.Qb8! winning.

The following entries have been sorted out due to anticipations or too similar forerunners:

no.9 - Fulvio Morelli, Kd7-Kf7 = – Very famous stalemate theme.

no.35 - Marco Campioli, Kc1-Kc4 + – I had asked for original studies. This one has no originality, and even if the position is not anticipated exactly, the whole idea is well known. Examples include Troitzky "500 Endspielstudien no.391" in 1924 via correction Zinar, "Harmony in pawn endgames" 1990 (hhdbiv #9560) as well as works by Kok in Vaderland, 14th December 1934 (hhdbiv 16660) and Beasley in "Correspondence Chess" 2002 (hhdbiv 69288). Since it was asked for originals, not for new versions of old correct studies, this must be excluded.

no. 56 = – was a duplicate entry of 54. 54 participated in the tourney.

After this, the following studies and problems were left to participate:

Section 1 – Tasks and themes: 10 studies

- 4, Alain Pallier: Ka3-Ka8
- 28, Ljubomir Culic: Kc7-Ke1
- 34, Marco Campioli: Kd4-Ke1
- 38, János Mikitovics: Kd1-Kh7
- 39, Anatoly Skripnik: Kh5-Kd8
- 40, Jan Timman: Kc3-Kh1
- 46, Mihai Neghina: Ka3-Kh6
- 47, Anatoly Skripnik: Ka2-Kc3
- 48, Christian Poisson: Kc8-Ke5
- 54, Luis Miguel González: Kg8-Kg5

Section 2 – Kings and pawns (studies): 15 studies

- 3, Alain Pallier: Kf5- Kf3
- 5, Alain Pallier: Ka7-Ke2
- 6, Iuri Akobia: Kd1-Kb1
- 7, Iuri Akobia: Kh4-Kh1
- 10a; Marco Campioli: Kh1-Kf6
- 10b, Marco Campioli: Kh1-Kf6
- 29, ???: Kf4-Kc6 [sadly YB did not provide the name here. SH]
- 30, Marco Campioli: Ka3-Kh4
- 31, Marco Campioli: Kd3-Kb2
- 32, Marco Campioli: Ke7-Kc8
- 33, Marco Campioli: Ka5-Ka3
- 35, Marco Campioli: Kc1- Kc4
- 36, Yochanan Afek: Ke3-Kh2
- 45, Marco Campioli: Ke1-Kh1
- 55, Richard Becker: Ka8-Kb6

Section 3 – Kings and pawns (directmate): 26 entries

- 12, Claudius Gottstein Ke1-Kb8
- 13, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kd5-Kf7
- 14, Dragoslav Marjanović: Ke8-Kd6
- 15, Dragoslav Marjanović: Ke2-Kf5
- 16, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kd7-Kh5
- 17, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kc2-Kb6
- 18, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kc2-Ka2
- 19, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kh5-Kf8
- 20, Dragoslav Marjanović: Ke1-Kh6
- 21, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kb3-Kf6
- 22, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kc4-Kf5
- 23, Dragoslav Marjanović: Ka6-Kc6
- 24, Dragoslav Marjanović: Ke2-Ka6
- 25, Dragoslav Marjanović: Kg8-Kh6
- 26, Ralf Krätschmer: Kc3-Ke5
- 27, Ralf Krätschmer: Kg7-Kh5
- 41, Ralf Krätschmer & Ingemar Lind: Kd4-Kb5
- 42, Ralf Krätschmer: Kf6-Kh7
- 43, Ralf Krätschmer: Kc1-Ka1
- 44, Ralf Krätschmer: Kc1-Ka1
- 49, Christian Poisson: Kd5-Kd7
- 50, Ralf Krätschmer: Kd1-Kh8
- 51, Ralf Krätschmer: Kc2-Ka1
- 52a, Ralf Krätschmer: Kc6-Kf6
- 52b Ralf Krätschmer: Kc6-Kf6
- 53 Ralf Krätschmer: Kc3-Ka1

Award: Section 1

The 10 entries were only of mediocre quality. Several entries were not understandable for a human, therefore being of inferior artistic value. The quality did not allow me to award any prizes. The tourney being not a classical tourney but rather a celebrative tourney I however did the ranking in my personal taste, grossly ignoring established conventions. For this reason “special” rankings are not given, although some settings would have deserved them normally.

Two honorable mentions are given ex aequo, as well as three commendations. The other studies will be discussed afterwards.

Rankings:

40 Euro each go to entries **47, Anatoliy Skripnik** and **34, Marco Campioli (honorable mention ex aequo)**

20 Euro go to entry **40, Jan Timman (1st commendation)**

Entries no **4, Alain Pallier (2nd commendation)** and **54, Luis Miguel González (3rd commendation)** did not reach the money prizes.

Discussion:

28, Ljubomir Culic, Kc7-Ke1 – I don’t see a special theme, in a normal tourney this might get a commendation

38, János Mikitovics, Kd1-Kh7– Analysis is too difficult. Computer analysis?

39, Anatoly Skripnik, Kh5-Kd8 – Such a very basic eternal check does not create a theme, even with two pseudo-echoes.

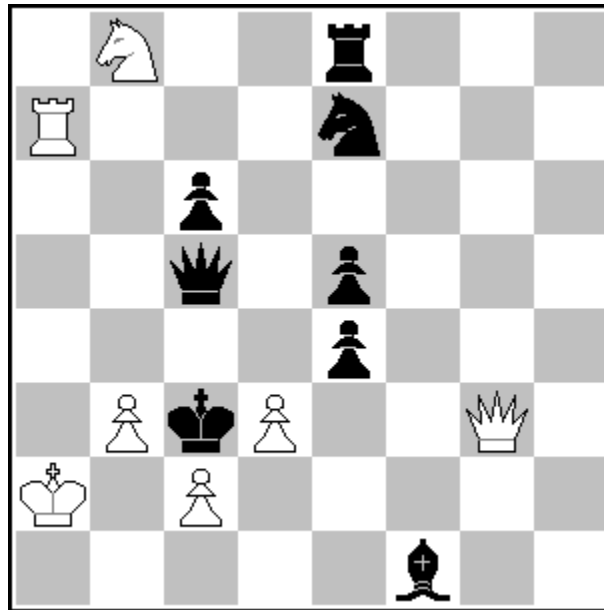
46, Mihai Neghina, Ka3-Kh6 – The author sent a solution with several duals. Even if those are removed by correct play, a duty he should have done himself, the overall play is of the quality to be expected in a game but not in a study. In a normal tourney a commendation could have been awarded here, but I want to give him the possibility to find improvements.

48, Christian Poisson, Kc8-Ke5 – The theme is very nice, but the execution needs too much analysis. I admit that this is a case on the very edge, and it might earn a prize at another judge. For me the play is too forced and the variations too broad.

Honorable mention e. a. [40 Euro]

Entry no. 47

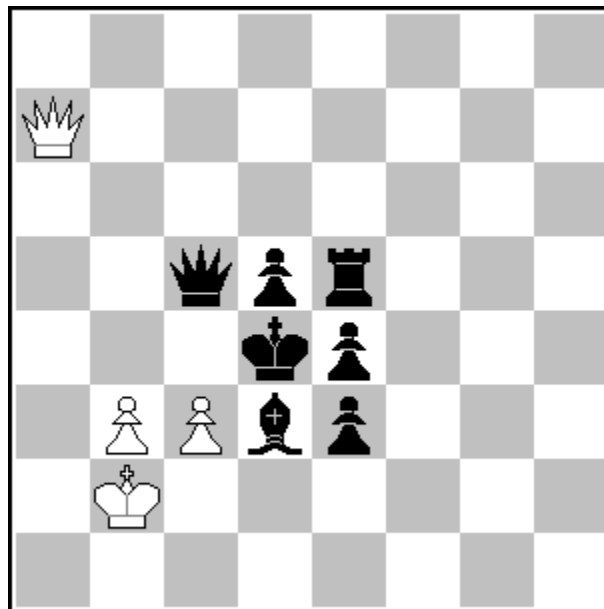
Anatoliy Skripnik



White to move and win

Solution:

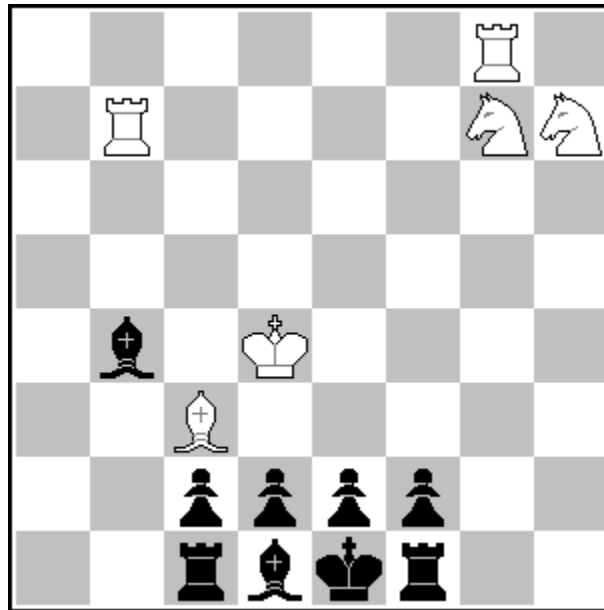
**1.d3-d4+ Kc3xd4 2.Ra7-d7+ Se7-d5 3.Ka2-b2! Bf1-d3! 4.Qg3-g1+ e4-e3 5.Qg1-g4+ e5-e4 6.Qg4-g7+ Re8-e5
7.Rd7xd5+ c6xd5 8.Sb8-c6+ Qc5xc6 9.Qg7-a7+ Qc6-c5 10.c2-c3 mate**



Ideal midboard checkmate with six active selfblocks. While the construction is economical, the play is very forced and there are no surprises. Still all pieces except Pb3 moving into their final position deserves respect. This is one of the two outstanding studies of this section, although not outstanding from the gros of existing studies, so in view of the overall quality of the section this high distinction is given while under other circumstances a different rating might have applied.

Honorable mention e. a. [40 Euro]

**Entry no. 34
Marco Campioli**



White to move and win

Solution:

1.Sh7-g5!

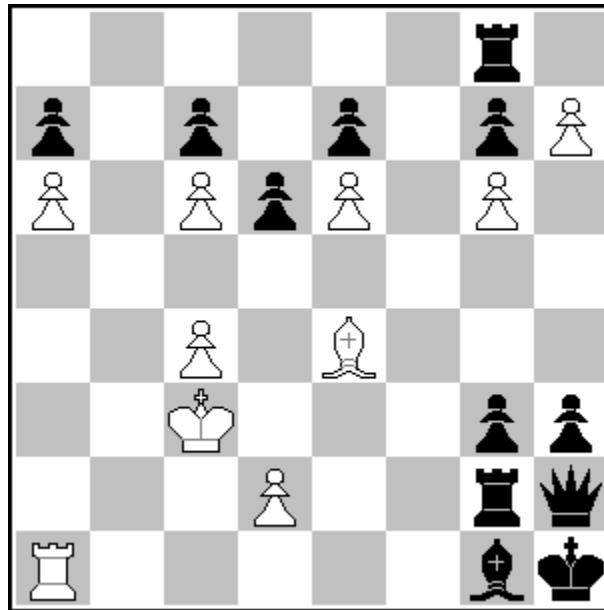
- **1...Rf1-g1! 2.Sg5-f3+ Ke1-f1 3.Sg7-f5! Bb4-c5+ 4.Kd4xc5 e2-e1Q 5.Sg4-h2+ Kf1-e2 6.Kc5-c4!**
 - **6...f2-f1Q 7.Bc3-d4! Rg1xg8 8.Rb7-e7 mate**
 - **6...f2-f1S! 7.Sf3-d4+ Ke2-e3! 8.Rb7-e7+**
 - **8...Ke3-f4 9.Re7-f7+ Kf4-e4 10.Rg8-e8 mate**
 - **8...Ke3-f2 9.Re7-f7+ Bd1-f3 10.Rf7xf3 mate**
- **1...Bb4xc3+! 2.Kd4-c4!! Rf1-h1 3.Sg5-f3+ Ke1f1 4.Sg7-f5! e2-e1Q 5.Sf5-g3+ Kf1-g2 6.Sg3xh1+**
 - **6...Kg2xh1 7.Rb7-h7 mate**
 - **6...Kg2xf3 7.Rb7-f7+ Kf3-e4 8.Rg8-e8+ Bc3-e5 9.Sh1-g3+ Ke4-e3 10.Re8xe5 mate**

An interesting battle between the White and Black forces that ends with the Black king being checkmated on e2, e3, e4, f2 and h1. While the battle here has a higher tension than in entry 47, the overall construction is worse with several Black pieces that never get an active role. I personally like this study, although I see no justification to place it higher than its concurrent. A honorable mention ex aequo, under the conditions outlined at entry 47, therefore is in my opinion the fairest measure.

1st commendation [20 Euro]

Entry no. 40

Jan Timman.



White to move and win

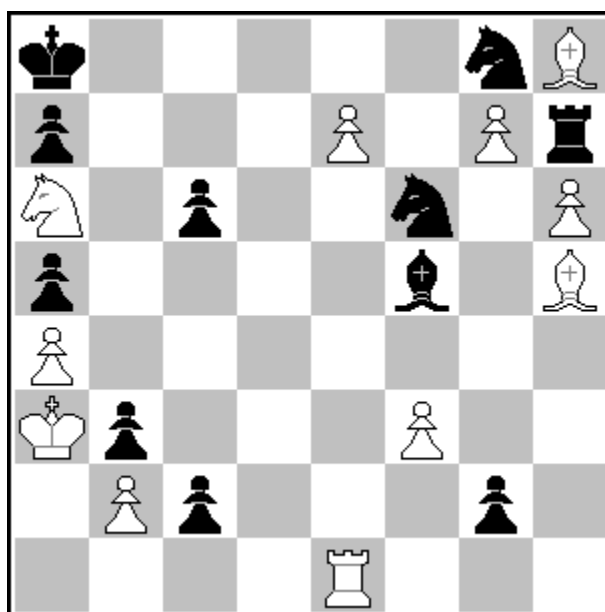
**Solution: 1.h7xg8S! d6-d5 2.Be4-f3 d5-d4+ 3.Kc3-b4! d4-d3 4.Sg8-h6! g7xh6 5.g6-g7 h6-h5 6.g7-g8S h5-h4
7.Sg8-f6 e7xf6 8.e6-e7 f6-f5 9.e7-e8S f5-f4 10.Se8-d6 c7xd6 11.c6-c7 d6-d5 12.c7-c8S d5-d4! 13.Sc8-b6
a7xb6 14.a6-a7 b6-b5 15.a7-a8B! b5xc4 16.Ba8-e4 c4-c3 17.Be4xd3 c3-c2 18.Bd3-f1 d4-d3 19.Kb4-
a4/b3/c4/b5 c2-c1Q 20.Ra1xc1 Bg1-- 21.Bf1xg2 mate**

The study for the first time shows in this well known matrix four promotions to knight and one promotion to bishop. I found instances of only knight promotions or of bishop promotions when fewer knight promotions had happened, for example Yochanan Afek, 3rd prize, MatPlus 2007, without any knight promotion. In spite of the minor dual and the difficult construction I feel that the novelty is worth a commendation. Since I like this study more than the two other commendations it is ranked as first commendation, even though this distinction only is awarded because of the bishop promotion.

2nd commendation

Entry no. 4

Alain Pallier

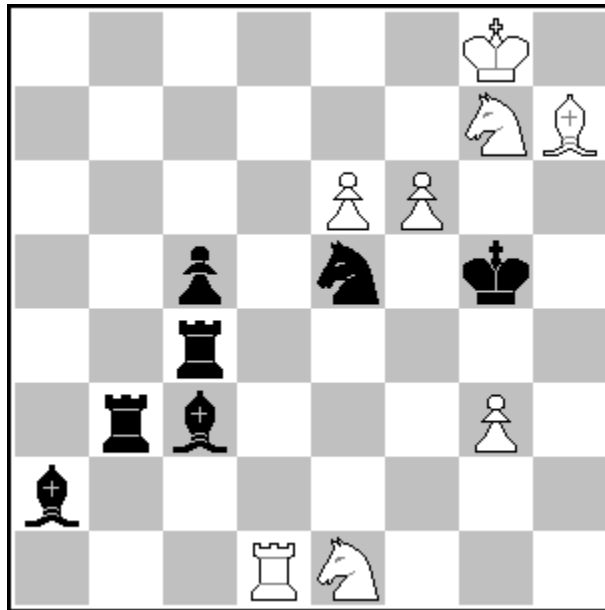


White to move and draw

**Solution: 1.e7-e8Q+ Sf6xe8 2.Re1xe8+ Ka8-b7 3.Re8-b8+ Kb7xa6 4.f3-f4 g2-g1S 5.Bh5-f7 c2-c1R!
6.Bf7xg8 Rh7xb6 7.Bg8-c4+ Rc1xc4 8.g7-g8Q Rc4-c1 9.Rb8-e8 Bf5-c2 10.Re8-e1 Rc1xe1 11.Qg8-c8+
draws**

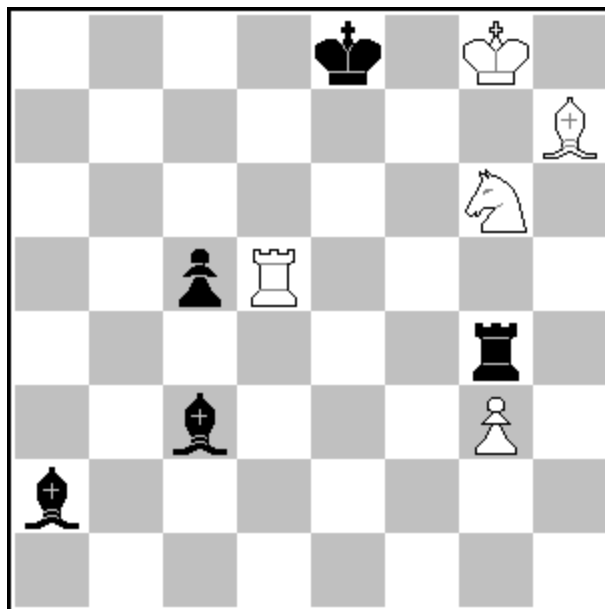
The theme of the study is the maneuver of the White rook. At least that is what the author said. Three promotions are adding to the otherwise mediocre play. The study is in my opinion not very good with its forced play and huge amount of material but as a whole I think a low commendation can be given.

3rd commendation
Entry no. 54
Luis Miguel González



White to move and draw

Solution: 1.f6-f7 Se5xf7 2.Rd1-d5+! Sf7-e5 3.Se1-f3+ Kg5-f6 4.e6-e7 Rb3-b8+ 5.e7-e8S+ Kf6-e7 6.Sf3xe5 Rb8xe8+ 7.Sg7xe8 Rc4-g4+ 8.Se5-g6+ Ke7xe8 stalemate



A nice stalemate with two pinned and one incarcerated piece but the difficulties of the construction are clearly visible. The play is okay but the White king and bishop as well as the two Black bishops never move at all, taking a lot of the appeal of this study. A commendation however surely is the correct distinction for this study, but it must be a low one in view of the setbacks.

Award: Section 2

There were 14 (or 15) entries of mostly good quality. However, there were four outstanding studies, each one for their own reason. I acknowledge that my ranking is highly controversial, but in my opinion the quality of all other studies was lower. I am as surprised as the reader will be about my ranking. :-) However, the small bit that settled the ranking of the prizes was the originality.

The other studies were in my opinion of inferior quality, but as already said still in most cases of good quality. The ranking also must acknowledge that pawn studies were asked for, of which there are as of my knowledge several kinds. The following selection does not necessarily have to be comprehensive. Also, studies often fit into several categories:

- Pawn studies with immediate promotions, transforming into piece endgames
- Pawn studies without any promotions or with promotions late in the solution, being classical pawn studies
- Pawn studies that transform into piece endgames at some point, then transforming back into pawn studies again, etc (mostly promotion studies).
- Static pawn endgames where both kings maneuver. This is the classical kind of studies with opposing squares
- Static pawn endgames where only one king maneuvers. This is mostly done when White (in rare cases Black) tries to force a zugzwang position upon the opponent. Sometimes the opposing king can't move at all, sometimes he is trapped on a few fields.
- Tactical pawn studies where several pawns are sacrificed to secure the promotion
- Tactical pawn studies where one or several pawns are sacrificed for other reasons.
- Other kinds of battle for promotion.

After this general talk, it is time for the award.

Distinctions

Rankings:

50 Euro – no.10, Marco Campioli and 11, Marco Campioli (or 10a and 10b) for the first prize

30 Euro – no.6, Iuri Akobia for the second prize

20 Euro – no.55, Richard Becker for the third prize

Book prize – no.36, Yochanan Afek for the special prize

Entries no **32, Marco Campioli (1st honorable mention)**, **5, Alain Pallier (2nd honorable mention)**, **30, Marco Campioli (3rd honorable mention)** and **31, Marco Campioli (commendation)** were included into the award but did not reach the money prizes.

Discussion:

3, Alain Pallier, Kf5- Kf3 – So the moves are all unique, but I can't grasp the artistic content.

7, Iuri Akobia, Kh4-Kh1 – An interesting endgame, mostly for players, but there is little artistic content.

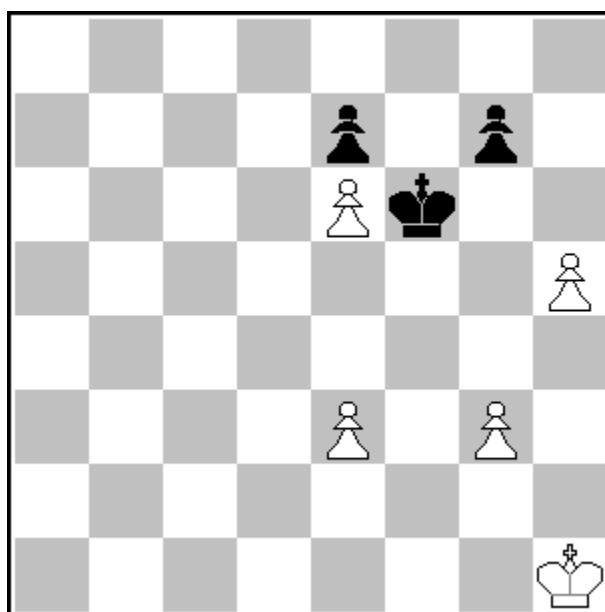
29, ???, Kf4-Kc6 – The same reasoning as for no.7 applies here. [The author was not provided by YB and his name is not to be found in the Excel table he sent me. SH]

33, Marco Campioli, Ka5-Ka3 – A nice endgame in Zinar's style, but the time of such endgames is over if not more promotions are shown.

35, Marco Campioli, Kc1-Kc4 – All pieces of this are well known, and I don't see any improvements over the predecessors.

43, Ingemar Lind, Kc1-Ka1 – Fully anticipated by Guy, Le Problème 1938 (hhdbiv#18506)

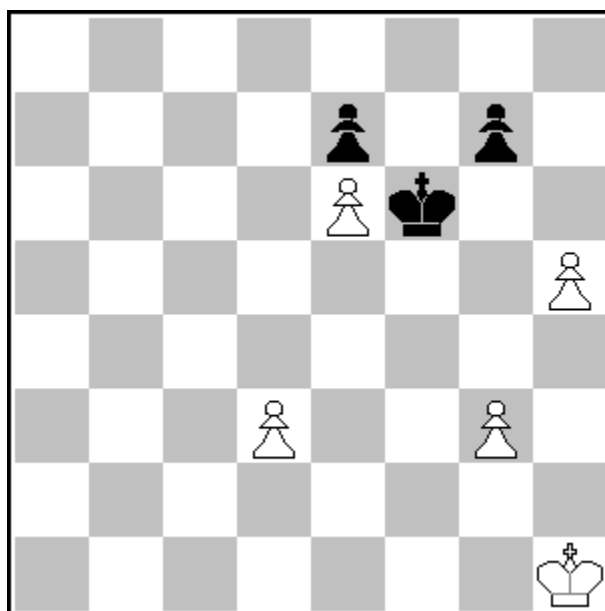
1st prize [50 Euro]
Entry no. 10 & 11 (10a & 10b)
Marco Campioli



Black to move, White wins

Solution:

1...Kg5 2.Kg2 Kxh5 3.Kf3 Kg5 4.Ke4 Kg4 5.Kd5 Kxg3 6.Kc6 g5 7.Kd7 g4 8.Kxe7 Kf2! 9.Kf8! g3 10.e7 g2 11.e8Q g1Q 12.Qf7+!! Kxe3 13.Qa7+ wins.



Black to move, White wins

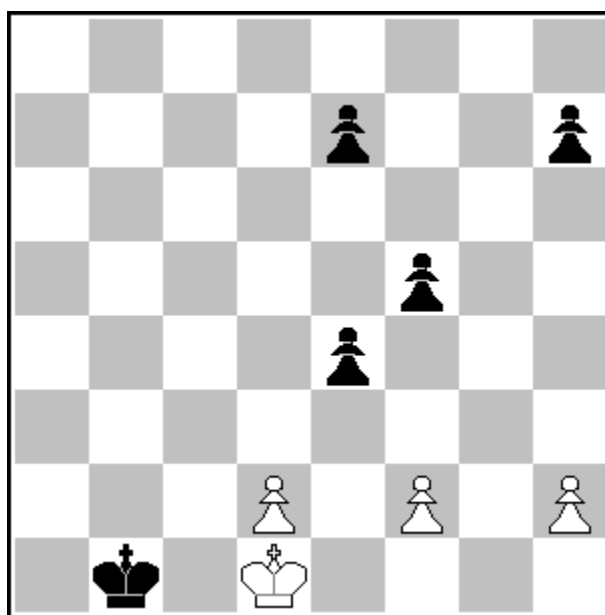
Solution: 1...Kg5 2.Kg2 Kxh5 3.Kf3 Kg5 4.Ke4 Kf6 5.Kd5zz Kf5 6.g4+ Kf6 7.g5+ Kf5 8.g6! Kxg6 9.Ke5! Kh7 10.d4 g6 11.d5 Kg7 12.d6 exd6+ 13.Kxd6 Kf8 14.Kd7 wins

The study leaves a very nice overall impression. The first setting shows a very nice skewer, while the second setting shows a mutual zugzwang, sadly without a proper try, that leads to a – admittedly well known – bodycheck situation winning the game. The good flow, as well as the higher originality than in the second prized study, enables this work to become the surprise winner.

2nd prize [30 Euro]

Entry no. 6

Iuri Akobia



Draw

Solution: 1.d3! exd3 2.Kd2 h5 3.h4 e6 4.Kc3!!

- 4...Kc1 5.Kxd3zz Kd1 6.f4!zz Kc1 7.Kc3 Kd1 8.Kd3 Ke1 9.Ke3 Kf1 10.Kf3 Kg1 11.Kg3 Kh1 12.Kh3 draws

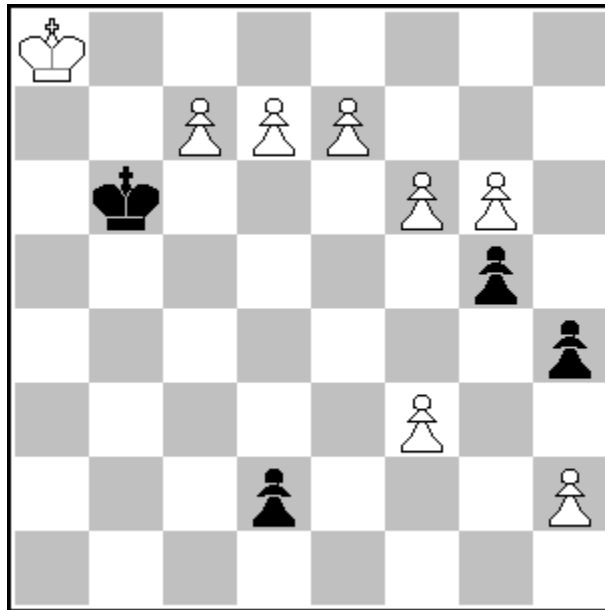
- 4...e5 5.Kxd3 Kc1 6.Kc4 Kd2 7.Kd5 e4 8.Ke5 Ke2 9.Kxf5 Kf3 10.Ke5 draws

I am well aware that another judge could have made this the tourney winner. There is no flaw in this study, the zugzwang also has a try that is much more easy to see than the solution. The move 4.Kc3 is probably the most surprising move in the tourney. Why only the second prize then? Well, maybe only for the same reason why the famous masterpiece by Gurgendze and Kalandadze of Shakhmaty v SSSR 1975 won only the second prize: Bad luck that there was a study of equally high quality in the tourney and the judge liked it more. At first I was not very impressed by the content, but then I never could have forgiven myself to rate this lower than it deserves to be. In a world where Oleg Pervakov's idea in 64 Shakhmatnoe Obozrenye 2000 wins a first prize only for one surprise move – in a regular tourney – there is no reason to give a similarly surprising move, with some not too bad foreplay, not a prize.

3rd prize [20 Euro]

Entry no. 55

Richard Becker



Black to move, White draws

Solution: 1...d1Q 2.c8S+! Ka6 3.d8S! Qxf3+ 4.Kb8 Qf4+ 5.Sd6! Qxd6+ 6.Kc8 Kb6 7.e8S! Qd3 8.f7! Qf5+ 9.Se6! Qxe6+ 10.Kd8 Kc6 11.f8S! Qa2 12.Ke7 Qa3+ 13.Kf7 Qa7+ 14.Kf6 Qf2+ 15.Ke7 Qc5+ 16.Kf7 Qd5+ 17.Ke7 g4 18.g7 g3 19.hxg3 hxg3 20.Sf6 draws

It is impossible to not give this study a prize, showing for the first time a fourfold knight promotion in the pawn endgame. However, the partial anticipation has to be considered, consisting of the first seven moves and most of the setting. It is apparent that Richard Becker's study in ChessStar of April 2010 and my study of Problem-Forum 2011 (composed after Becker's study was published but without knowing it) were either known to the author or rediscovered. In any case, the ranking of this study has to be lowered significantly by this. However, in this special case the study still deserves a prize for the huge improvement. In a completely original setting I would not have hesitated to give the first prize to the study.

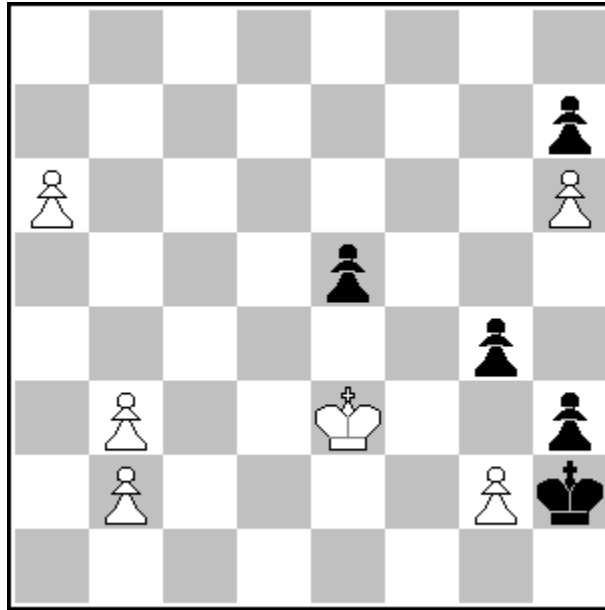
A sidenote regarding my own discoveries:

After the deadline for entries for this tourney, I have found an original and better setting for this task, although with the same number of pieces. Of course, this can't count against this study and couldn't even if the award was published after my study would have appeared (it is currently scheduled for Problem-Forum in February 2012) due to the priority date being the closing date.

Special Prize [book prize]

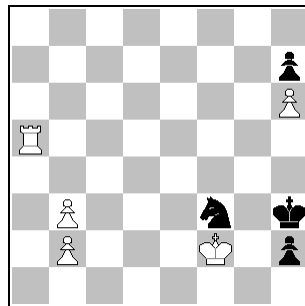
Entry no.36

Yochanan Afek



Win

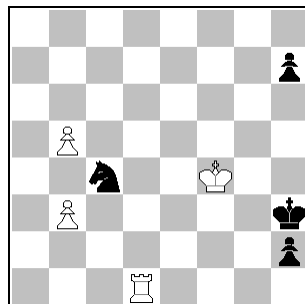
Solution: 1.g3! Kxg3 2.a7/i e4! 3.a8R! Kh2 4.Ra7! Kg2 5.Kxe4! g3 6.Kf4 h2 7.Ra1 Kh3 8.Kf3 g2 9.Ra5 g1S+ 10.Kf2 Sf3!



Position after 10...Sf3

11.Ra1! Se5! 12.Rd1! Sg4+ 13.Kf3 Sxh6 14.b4 Sg4 15.b5 Se5+ 16.Kf4 Sc4 17.b3! wins

i - 2...h2 3.a8B! wins (side variation)

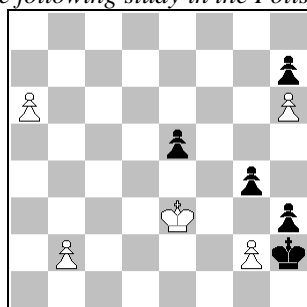


Final position

This emerged from a pawn endgame by both sides playing their best moves!

There is a good reason why this study's evaluation must take up more space than the usual one page I decide for an entry. The author wrote – and I did therefore not look for anticipations for this study – the following lines:

1974 I published the following study in the Polish monthly "Szachy"



The study won initially the first prize and later was disqualified due to a non original stalemate position!! At the time it was a blow for a young composer to see a famous composer sending a false appeal in an attempt to improve his position in the final award. Some famous composers are still doing it but I care a bit less.

Recently I discovered that I can improve on that youth effort by adding just one pawn. The result: All four underpromotios are now displayed in a King and pawns ending. Moreover the 2 underpromoted pieces continue their accurate fight for another (record?) 8 more moves.

The study might be found suitable for both tourney sections and I leave it to Siegfried to decide. (See below). He should therefore kindly be aware of all these details of the story.

While I have to agree with the author that – let me say it in my own words – the judge must have been not very competent for excluding the study from the award due to an anticipated stalemate position (a claim that indeed is correct, by the way) there of course is no way to revise that judgment after such a long time. However, there is a way to do justice to the work, a stunt that however makes it unable to give out any reward, that would have been promised for an usual placement, for its entrance into the award.

The study, in full knowledge of the above story as submitted by the author, is awarded for its construction as a whole, and not only of the final eight moves, a special prize. Yes, this is an unjustified distinction, but it is necessary to counter the unjustified removal of a distinction! If the study would have to be judged normally, it could never have received a prize again in view of the predecessor.

I hope for the author's understanding that I can't award a monetary prize for this improvement. However, as a consolation I can offer him a book prize.

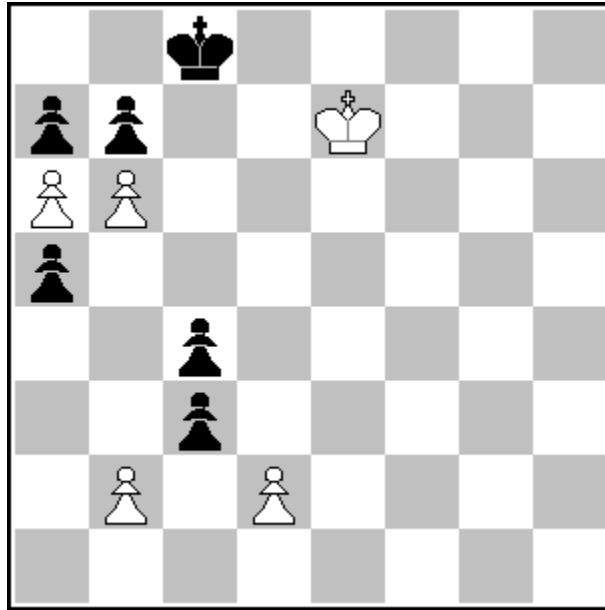
Do two injustices balance each other out?
I hope so.

There must be a human view towards art and its creators, one that in rare cases like these must outlaw the usually applied technical view. I know my judgment of this study is wrong on the technical view, but on the human view it could not be correct to refuse this study the justice it deserves.

1st honorable mention

Entry no.32

Marco Campioli



Black to move, White wins

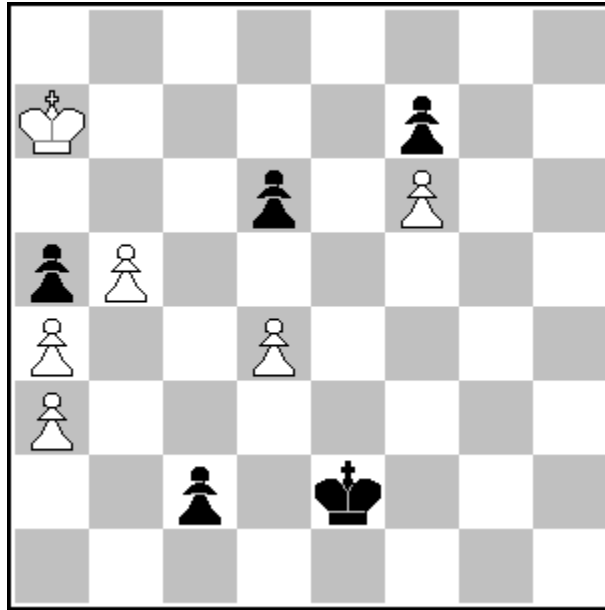
**Solution: 1...Kb8! 2.bxa7+ Kxa7 3.dxc3 b5! 4.Kd6 a4! 5.Kc5 Kxa6 6.Kb4 Kb6 7.Ka3 Kc5 8.Ka2 Kd5 9.Ka3 Ke4 10.Kb4 Kd3 11.Kxb5 a3! 12.bxa3 Kxc3 13.a4
- 13...Kd4 14.a5 c3 15.a6 c2 16.a7 c1Q 17.a8Q Qb1+ 18.Ka6! draws
- 13...Kb3 14.a5 c3 15.a6 c2 16.a7 c1Q 17.a8Q Qc4+ 18.Kb6! draws**

The very nice flow makes this study a good one, as well as the interesting ending where White has to avoid getting into a skewer, although that reply is very easy to find. The White king maneuver from e7 to a2 to a6 or b6 makes a good impression as well.

2nd honorable mention

Entry no.5

Alain Pallier

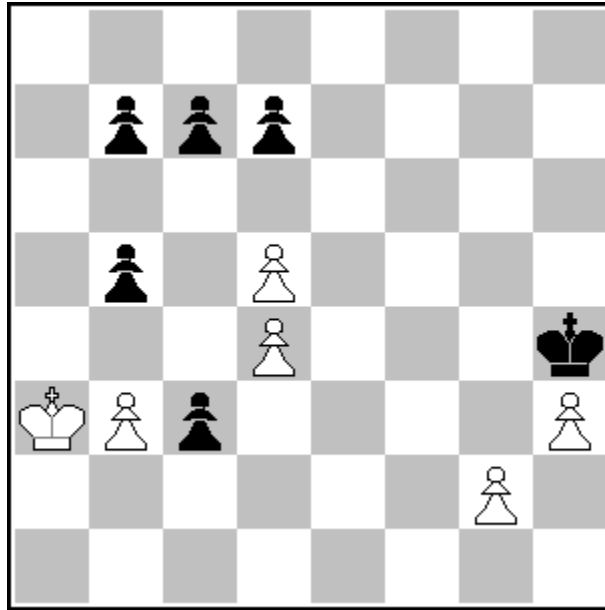


Draw

**Solution: 1.b6 c1Q 2.b7 Qc7 3.d5! Qc5+ 4.Ka6 Qc7 5.Ka7 Kd3 6.Ka8 Kd4 7.b8Q Qxb8+ 8.Kxb8 Kxd5
9.Kc7 Ke5 10.Kb6 Kd4 11.Kc6/i Ke5 12.Kb6 Kd4 13.Kc6/i Ke5 14.Kb6 draws**

A nice symbiosis of two positional draws, with an interesting and highly paradox move 3.d5.

3rd honorable mention
Entry no.30
Marco Campioli

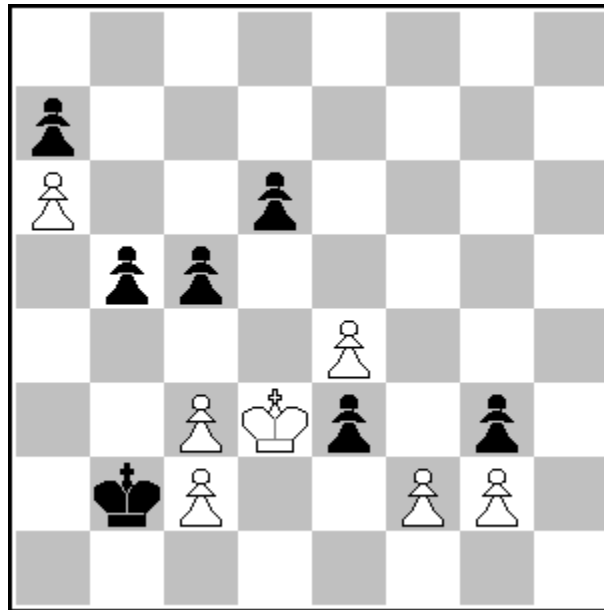


Win

Solution: 1.b4 Kg3 2.Kb3 Kxg2! 3.h4 Kf3 4.h5 Ke4 5.Kxc3 Kf5 6.Kd3 Kg5 7.Ke4 d6! 8.h6! Kxh6 9.Kf5 Kh5 10.Ke6 Kg4 11.Kd7 Kf4 12.Kxc7 Ke4 13.Kxd6 Kxd4 14.Ke6 Ke4 15.d6 wins

A nice play on the famous Réti theme, with excellent flow.

Commendation
Entry no. 31
Marco Campioli



Win

Solution: 1.f4! c4+! 2.Kxe3 Kxc2 3.e5! dxe5 4.fxe5 b4 5.e6 b3 6.e7 b2 7.e8B! b1Q 8.Bg6+ Kb2 9.Bxb1 Kxb1 10.Kd4 Kc2 11.Kxc4 Kd2 12.Kd5! Kxc3 13.Kc6 wins

Another study with nice flow. Of course the underpromotion is well known, but the interesting overall play deserves a distinction.

Award: Section 3

There were 26 entries of differing quality. The shortest entry had three and the longest 17 moves. Sadly, no positions with Black to move, en passant keys, etc. have been sent in. Most positions show underpromotions. Very rarely Black counterplay is seen, and often the key move already promotes a pawn and takes away a Black flight. Also, too often there are well-known schemes shown.

Sadly the Serbian book “Kings & Pawns” was not of much help here since I found no anticipations. More have been known to me by studies, for example through hdbiv.

Since in almost all cases the play lacked deeper substance, the main criteria for judging often became the kind and number of promotions.

Distinctions

Rankings:

50 Euro – Entry no.52, Christian Poisson for the 1st honorable mention

30 Euro – Entry no.23, Dragoslav Marjanović for the 2nd honorable mention

20 Euro – Entry no.14, Dragoslav Marjanović for the 3rd honorable mention

Entries no **15, Dragoslav Marjanović (4th honorable mention), 22, Dragoslav Marjanović (1st commendation), 50, Christian Poisson (2nd commendation), 41, Ingemar Lind (3rd commendation), 21, Dragoslav Marjanović (4th commendation) and 12, Claudius Gottstein (5th commendation)** were included into the award but did not reach the money prizes.

Discussion:

13, Dragoslav Marjanović, Kd5-Kf7 – Not special enough

16, Dragoslav Marjanović, Kd7-Kh5 – Uninteresting play

17, Dragoslav Marjanović, Kc2-Kb6 – Anticipated (by?)

18, Dragoslav Marjanović, Kc2-Ka2 – Combination is well known

19, Dragoslav Marjanović, Kh5-Kf8 – Too simple with bad key

20, Dragoslav Marjanović, Ke1-Kh6 – Bad key, uninteresting play

24, Dragoslav Marjanović, Ke2-Ka6 – Combination is known

25, Dragoslav Marjanović, Kg8-Kh6 – Nice small problem, but with only one line too small

26, Ralf Krätschmer, Kc3-Ke5 – Schemes like this are well known

27, Ralf Krätschmer, Kg7-Kh5 – Is better known from studies

42, Ingemar Lind, Kf6-Kh7 – Too small

43, Ingemar Lind, Kc1-Ka1 – Is known from studies

44, Ingemar Lind, Kc1-Ka1 – See 43

49, Christian Poisson, Kd5-Kd7 – Too small and promotion mate duals

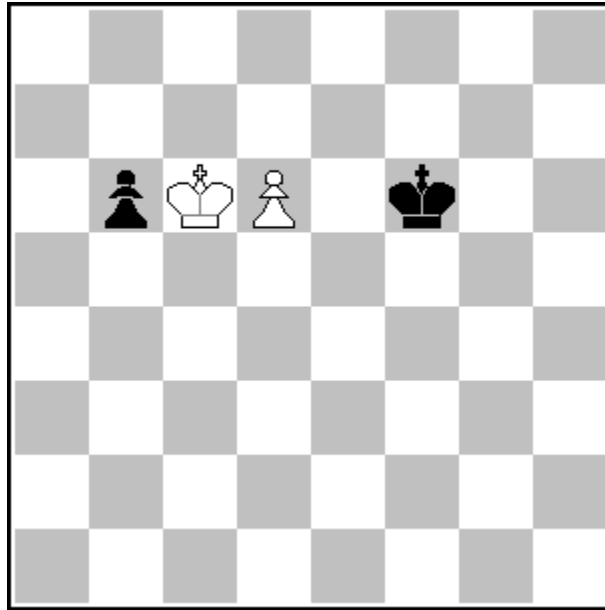
51, Christian Poisson, Kc2-Ka1 – Not interesting enough, but can surely be published elsewhere

53, Christian Poisson, Kc3-Ka1 – Too simple

1st honorable mention [50 Euro]

Entry no.52

Christian Poisson

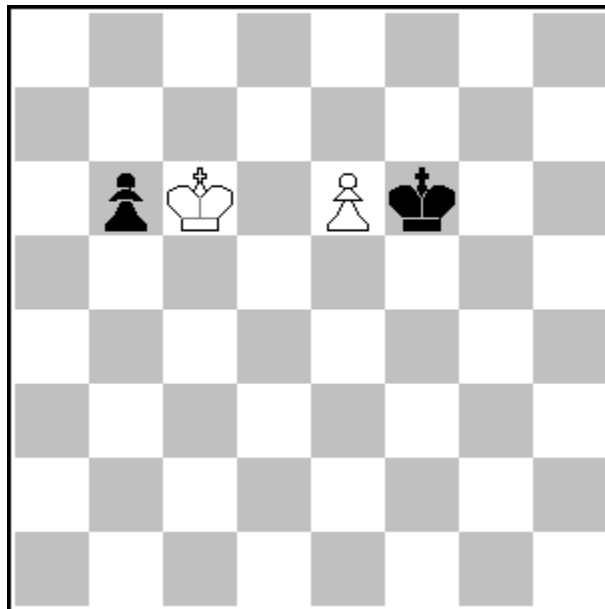


Mate in 11

a) Diagram

b) Pd6->e6

Solution: 1.d7 Ke7 2.Kc7 Kf6 3.d8Q+ Ke5 4.Kxb6 Kf4 5.Kc5 Kf5 6.Kd4 Kf4 7.Qf6+ Kg3 8.Ke3 Kg4 9.Qg6+ Kh3 10.Kf3 Kh2 11.Qg2 mate



Mate in 11

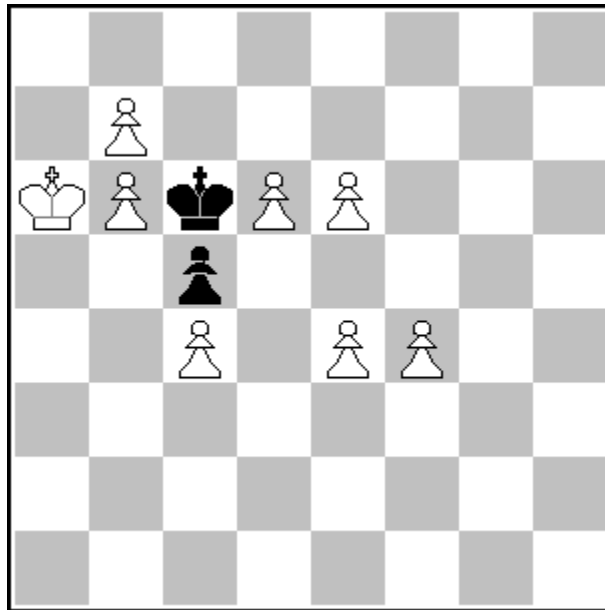
Solution: 1.Kd6 b5 2.e7 Kf7 3.Kd7 Kg6 4.e8Q+ Kf5 5.Qe3 b4 6.Kd6 b3 7.Qf3+ Kg5 8.Ke6 b2 9.Qg3+ Kh6 10.Kf6 Kh7 11.Qg7 mate

A nice twinning leading to an, although not difficult to create, echo checkmate. The problem is the few ones showing Black play.

2nd honorable mention [30 Euro]

Entry no. 23

Dragoslav Marjanović



Mate in 4

Solution:

1.e7

- 1...Kd7 2.b8Q Ke6 3.Qf8! Kd6 4.e8Q mate

- 1...Kxd6 2.e8R

-- 2...Kd7 3.b8Q Kc6 4.Qc7 mate

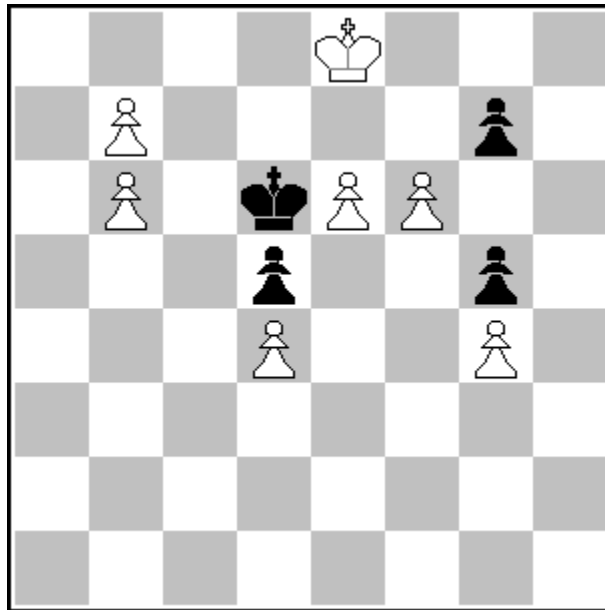
-- 2...Kc6 3.b8S+ Kd6 4.e5 mate

The author skillfully avoided all variations with duals and managed to find a key that gives a flight. There are four different promotions, and while the two promotions into minor pieces of course are the “highlight” of the problem, the beautiful Hinterstellung 3.Qf8 also adds value, although it sadly takes the flights on the f-file.

3rd honorable mention [20 Euro]

Entry no.14

Dragoslav Marjanović



Mate in 4

Solution: 1.b8S

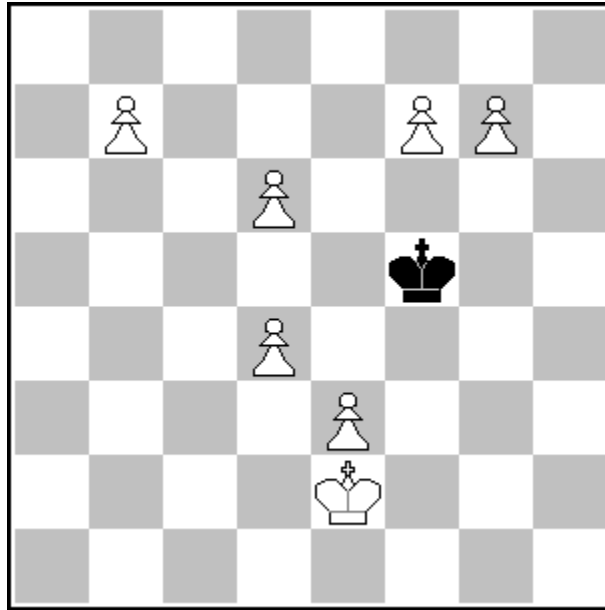
-1...gxf6 2.Kf7 f5 3.e7 fxg4 4.e8S mate

-1..g6 2.f7 Kxe6 3.f8R Kd6 4.Rf6 mate

-1...Kxe6 2.fxg7 Kf6 3.g8R Ke6 4.Rg6 mate

Rich play with four different promotions, but the key is poor insofar as it takes a flight.

4th honorable mention
Entry no.15
Dragoslav Marjanović

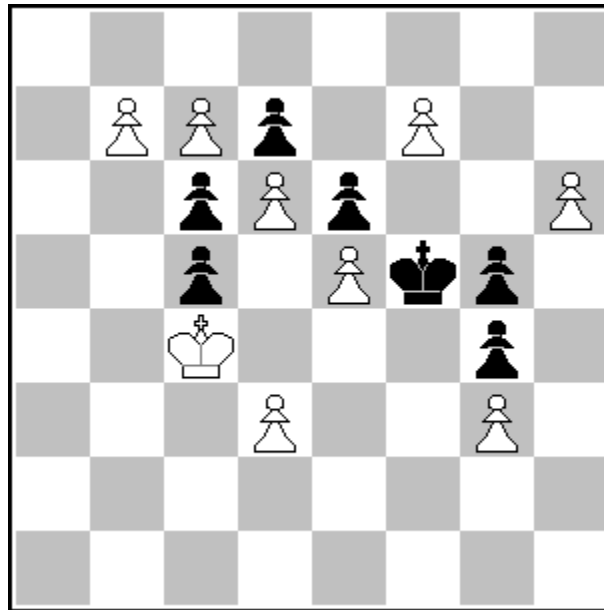


Mate in 3

Solution: 1.g8Q
-1...Ke6 2.f8Q+ Kd7 3.b8S mate
-1...Ke4 2.f8S Kf5 3.Qg6 mate

A very "short" problem, showing the skillful design of two promotions to queen and knight each. The key is a bit better than in the third honorable mention, while the overall play makes less impression.

1st commendation
Entry no.22
Dragoslav Marjanović



Mate in 3

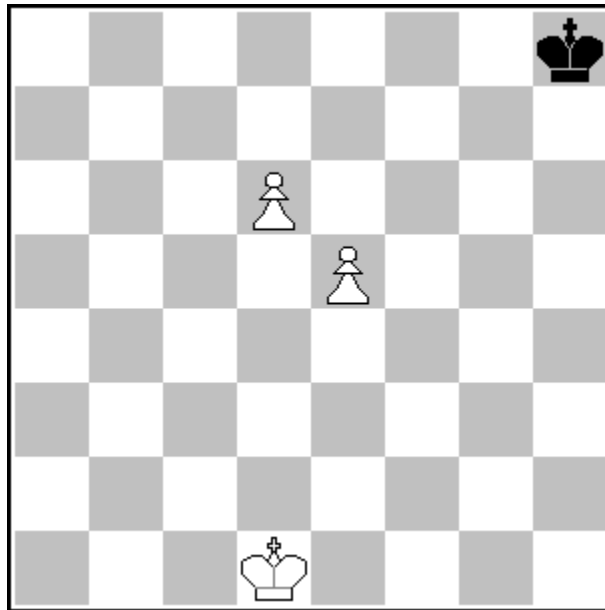
Solution: 1.b8Q
-1...Kg6 2.f8Q Kh5 3.Qbe8 mate
-1...Kxe5 2.f8R Kxd6 3.c8S mate

Four different promotions in an interesting setting, sadly two times into queen.

2nd commendation

Entry no.50

Christian Poisson



Mate in 7

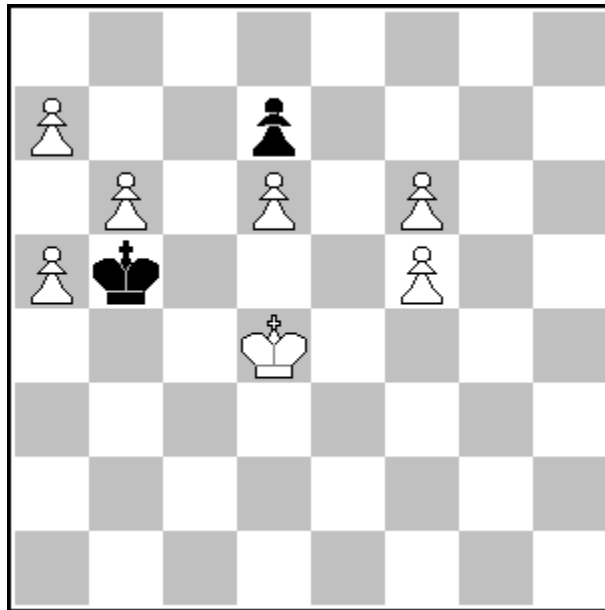
**Solution: 1.d7 Kg7 2.d8Q Kg6 3.Qf6+
-3...Kh5 4.Qg7 Kh4 5.Ke2 Kh3 6.Kf3 Kh2 7.Qg2 mate
-3...Kh7 4.e6 Kg8 5.e7 Kh7 6.e8S Kg8 7.Qg7 mate**

A very economical problem with an appealing starting position that however lacks depth, although the move 3.Qf6+ is nice, postponing the walk of the other pawn.

3rd commendation

Entry no.41

Ingemar Lind



Mate in 4

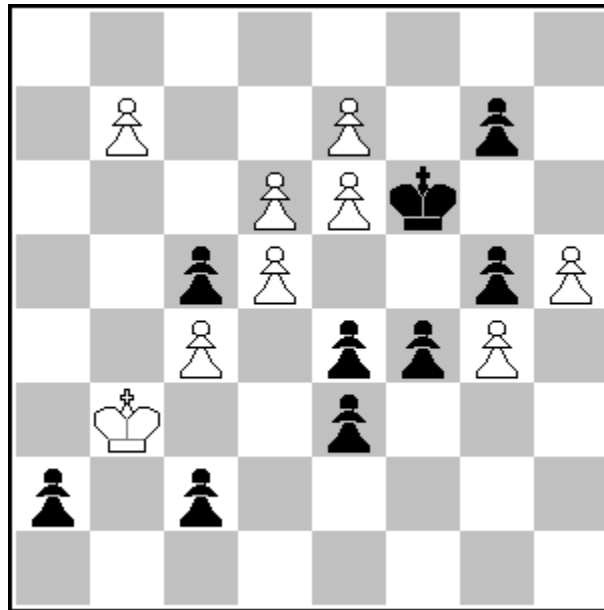
Solution: 1.b7!

-1...Ka4 2.b8Q Ka3 3.Kc3 Ka2 4.Qb2 mate

-1...Kc6 2.b8R Kxd6 3.a8S Kc6 4.Rb6 mate

Three promotions, of which the both underpromotions are the stars. However, the play very much lacks substance.

4th commendation
Entry no.21
Dragoslav Marjanović



Mate in 5

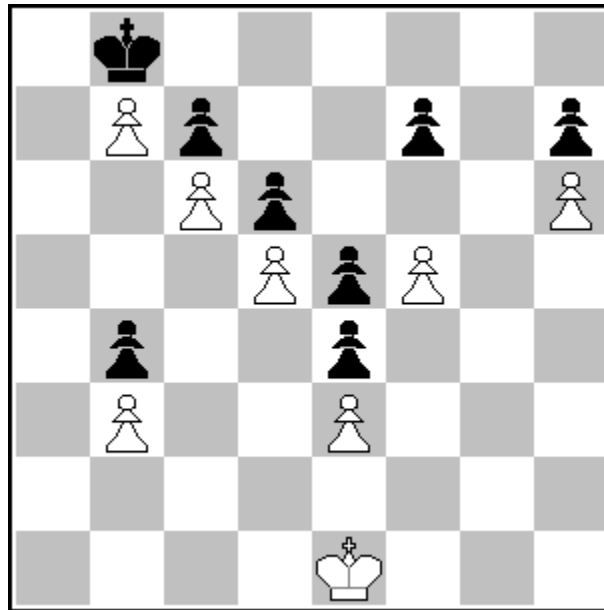
Solution: 1.b8S c1S+ 2.Kc2 a1S+ 3.Kb1
-3...g6 4.e8S+ Ke5 5.Sc6 mate
-3...Ke5 4.Sc6+ and 5.e8S mate

The problem theme can't console for the Black promotions being just a nice but unconnected addition. With the nice key, the problem still is worth to be commended.

5th commendation

Entry no.12

Claudius Gottstein



Mate in 17 moves

Solution: 1.f6 Ka7 2.Kf2 Kb8 3.Kg3 Ka7 4.Kg4 Kb8 5.Kf5 Ka7 6.Kxe4 Kb8 7.Kd3 Ka7 8.Kc4 Kb8 9.Kxb4 Ka7 10.Ka5 Kb8 11.b4 Ka7 12.b5 e4 13.b6+ Kb8 14.Kb5! cxb6 15.Ka6 b5 16.Kb6 b4 17.c7 mate

The problem has a nice length, but as it is often with problems of this length, the Black counterplay is minimal. The move 14.Kb5 is a nice small point, but overall the play reminds more of a seriesmover or one of those problems with a far triangulation that were researched a hundred years ago, for example by Otto Bláthy.

Epilogue

I want to thank all composers who participated or otherwise wished me the best for my birthday. Just like birthdays commonly stand for a year that has gone and one that is to come, this award should represent the notion by being published on 19th December 2011, giving it the possibility to become final on 19th March 2012 – the 26th birthday of the judge.

Everything must come to a conclusion, and so with this award I will end my work as a judge of chess composition. My intention, all the time, was to become an international judge, and I hope to be able to formally apply to and receive this title. Why applying if I don't judge anymore? Well, the reason is very simple. I decided to not participate in FIDE albums, but I still want to have an official title. This one was the most realistic to get. This hopefully is the gift that you have helped me receiving.

As of the writing of this, I have suspicions about a few entries who is or is not the author of it. However, I tried my best to judge in a neutral way, and I sincerely believe that the only possibility to do so is to not know the author's names unless the award is finished.

I will send the award to the tourney director, Youness Ben Jelloun, who will add the names of the participants, and I will probably be as much surprised about it as the participants will be about their ranking. And if not, we might at least share the curiosity – mine being who participated and who didn't, and theirs being what rankings they received.

I got the impression, over the various months, that people expected this to be my opus magnum, a masterpiece that would change their views on chess compositions. It is not, and it never was intended to be. It is just an award, one that hopefully will appeal to the random readers as well as to the participants. It is in no way intended to be a guide for judging – it never could be, seeing it consists only of thematic tourneys.

I hope to have contributed a bit to the world of chess composition, not to have changed it.

People should remember that there might be more important things to do than thinking about chess. However, if chess contributes to the spiritual development, to the expression of the human soul itself, then indeed it might be the most important thing to do.

The past century has probably given us the biggest changes so far in the history of humanity. The end of the century, as the French called it, was followed by devastating wars and decades of terror in all three worlds. I believe that following this path further will ultimately result in the extinction of mankind. There will be big changes in the upcoming century, bigger than in the past one. If those changes will be for the good or bad of humanity, that is yet to decide.

There will be a global spiritual awakening. The past century has brought us more wunderkinder than ever before. Those prodigies will change the world, if humanity lets them.

Will the next prodigy be like Leonard Euler, one who understands the fundamentals of the world? Will it be like Bobby Fischer, a brilliant but crazy genius? Will it be a harbinger of paradise or a messenger of doom? Will our travel lead to the stars or into ourselves? Everything is possible, and if there are any borders, we still have our imagination. The same imagination that once told a Spanish priest that an underpromotion into a rook was possible in what is now widely known as the Saavedra study.

The same imagination that enabled the heroes of the past century to fly into space. It was not a coincidence that Andriyan Nikolaev and Vitaly Sevastyanov took one of the greatest creations of the human mind into the space mission Soyuz 9. An invention so small it fits into a jacket, but yet so big that it proved the possibilities of the human imagination.

In the cosmonautics museum in Cheboksary, the photo of the two Soviet heroes Nikolaev and Sevastyanov is publically displayed. In the same showcase we see what they carried into space – a device that in the case of an alien encounter could have proven the creativity of the human brain, a complex form that was created over a decade earlier and yet must have been very fascinating to Nikolaev. He, himself a passionate chess player, carried a chess diagram with him: [V. F. Rudenko, Suomen Shakki 1957, 1st prize. Mate in 3 moves.](#)
Yes, now we are heroes as well!

Heidenheim, 2011
Siegfried Hornecker