



The 8th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section D – Endgame Studies

Preliminary award by

Yohanan Afek

MMXX

Participants

D01	V. Kuzmichev (RUS)	D29	Y. Bazlov (RUS)
D02	P. Rewitz (DNK)	D30	P. Arestov (RUS)
D03	I. Aliev (AZE)	D31	D. Gatti (ITA)
D04	V. Samilo (UKR)	D32	B. Djurašević (SRB)
D05	P. Muljadi (USA)	D33	M. Formela (POL)
D06	M. Halski (POL)	D34	O. Dimitrov (BGR)
D07	R. Staudte (DEU)	D35	O. Pervakov (RUS)
D08	P. Kiryakov (RUS)	D36	V. Vlasenko (UKR)
D09	G. Østmoe (NOR)	D37	J. Sprenger (ITA)
D10	I. Bondar (BLR)	D38	L. Katsnelson (RUS)
D11	M. Hlinka (SVK)	D39	D. Gurgenidze (GEO)
D12	S. Nielsen (DNK)	D40	L. Topko (UKR)
D13	J. Aagaard (GBR)	D41	M. Minski (DEU)
D14	G. Costeff (USA)	D42	J. Timman (NLD)
D15	A. Avni (ISR)	D43	M. Pastalaka (UKR)
D16	A. Pallier (FRA)	D44	L. González (ESP)
D17	I. Yarmonov (UKR)	D45	D. Hlebec (SRB)
D18	V. Tarasiuk (UKR)	D46	A. Sergiienko (UKR)
D19	A. Kostyukov (RUS)	D47	A. Shpakovsky (RUS)
D20	M. Campioli (ITA)	D48	E. Kopylov (RUS)
D21	V. Neistadt (RUS)	D49	E. Wyckoff (USA)
D22	A. Antipov (RUS)	D50	A. Sochnev (RUS)
D23	S. Abramenko (RUS)	D51	M. Pasma (ISR)
D24	V. Suchkov (RUS)	D52	A. Gasparyan (ARM)
D25	C. Yoo (USA)	D53	A. Stavrietskiy (RUS)
D26	D.-C. Gurgui (ROU)	D54	M. Zinar (UKR)
D27	S. Osintsev (RUS)	D55	K. Barikbin (IRN)
D28	J. Mikitovics (HUN)	D56	S. Didukh (UKR)

I would like to thank Andrey Selivanov for inviting me, for the second time, to act as the judge of this important tourney, to director Aleksandr Bulavka and to all participants for their artistic and sportive efforts.

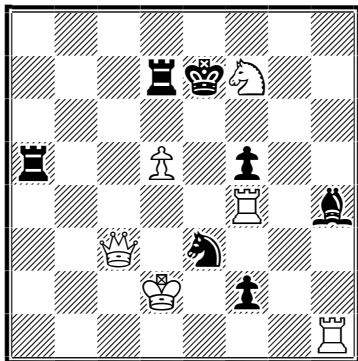
The general standard of the field was lower than expected from such a major event; however the eventual award displays a fine selection that would hopefully appeal to the general chess community.

I received 56 entries on anonymous diagrams. I had to exclude one of the final 20 candidates **D12** (♔h1/♔a6) due to a cook: 3. ♖:e4 ♕:c6 (3...b2 4. ♕d5 b1♖ 5. ♖:e2 ♔b6 6. ♖e8) 4. ♕d5 ♕:d5 5. c:d5 b2 6. ♖:e2 b1♖ 7. ♖e6+ = Tablebase.

The following candidates had significant anticipations: **D9** (♔b4/♔h5) **D22** (♔h1/♖b5), **D27** (♔c1/♖g3), **D46** (♔h1/♖g4), **D54** (♔d1/♖c6).

The remaining 14 candidates are ranked as follows:

1st Prize – Gold medal
DARKO HLEBEC
Serbia



+ BTM 6+7

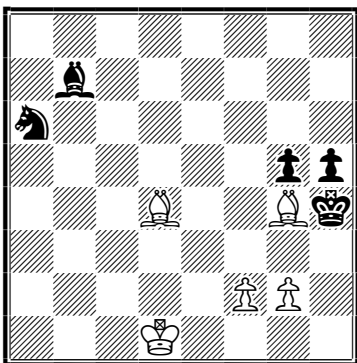
- 1... ♖f1=♔+! 2. ♖h:f1!
[2. ♖f:f1? ♔:f1+=]
- 2... ♔:f1+ 3. ♔e2!
[3. ♖:f1? ♖a:d5+= or 3. ♖d:d5=]
- 3... ♖a:d5 4. ♔e5!
[4. ♖:h4? ♔g3+ 5. ♖:g3 ♖d2+=]
- 4... ♔g3+ 5. ♔f3 ♕f6 6. ♖b4+!
[6. ♖a3+? ♖7d6 7. ♖a7+ ♔e6=]
- 6... ♖7d6 7. ♖b7+
[7. ♔c4? ♕c3 8. ♖a3 ♖d3+ 9. ♔g2 ♕e5! =]
- 7... ♔e6 8. ♖c8+ ♔:e5
[8... ♔e7 9. ♔c6+ +=]
9. ♖:f5+! ♔:f5 10. ♖e4#

~

11 years ago I was privileged to award a shared victory in a major tourney to a gem study displaying an ideal mate by a knight underpromotion following 4 active selfblocks . (Yuri Bazlov, 1st-2nd prize, Corus-70 JT, 2009). Here we witness a similar magic carried out by a single Rook (not by promoting

though...) mating following 4 active self-blocks! The fluent and natural introductory play with all units active is highlighted by a queen sacrifice so that the absence of a white key is easily forgiven.

2nd Prize – Silver medal
OLEG PERVAKOV
Russian Federation



+ 5+5

1. ♕h3!

[1. ♕e2? ♖b4! 2. g3+ ♜h3 3. ♕:h5 ♜g2=; 1. ♕f5? ♕:g2=]

1... ♕f3+! - Black king in trouble

[1... ♖b4 2. ♜d2!+–; 1...g4? 2. ♕f6#]

2. ♜e1!

[Try 2. ♜d2? ♕g4! 3.f3 ♜g3 4. ♕e5+ ♜h4! 5. ♜e3 ♖b4! 6. ♕d6 ♖d5+ 7. ♜f2 ♖f4 8. ♕:g4 h:g4 9.g3+ ♜h3 10.g:f4 g:f4=]

2... ♖b4!

[2... ♕g4 3.f3 ♜g3 4. ♕e5+ ♜h4 5. ♜f2+–]

3. ♜f1! ♕g4!

[3... ♖c6 4. ♕c3! ♕g4 5. ♕e1+–; 3... ♖d5 4. ♕f5+–; 3... ♖d3

4. ♕f5+–; 3... ♖c2 4. ♕e5+–]

4.f3 ♖d3

[4... ♕:f3 5. ♕f2#; 4... ♜g3 5. ♕e5+ ♜h4 6. ♜g1+–]

5. ♕f2+! ♖:f2 6. ♜:f2 zz - Original mutual zugzwang, domination

6... ♕:f3 [Main A]

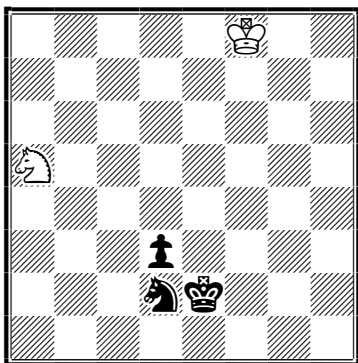
[Main B: 6... ♕:h3 7.g3#! Ideal pawn mate №1; 6... ♕c8 7. ♕:c8+–]

7. ♜:f3 g4+ 8. ♜f4 g:h3 9.g3#! - Ideal pawn mate №2

A subtle eye catching struggle of minor pieces to trap the Black monarch leads to a surprising mutual Zugzwang followed by a pair of ideal mates. The quiet and precise support of the white King all the way through is impressive. An original piece of fine art!



3rd Prize – Bronze medal
VLADIMIR KUZMICHEV
Russian Federation



= 2+3

1. ♖e7!

[1. ♜f7? ♜f3! (1... ♜e4? 2. ♜c4! ♜d6+ 3. ♜:d6 d2 4. ♜e4! d1=♚ 5. ♜c3+!)= 2. ♜b3 ♜e3! (2. ♜c4 ♜e5+! 3. ♜:e5 d2!) 3. ♜f6 ♜d2! (3... ♜d4? 4. ♜a5! ♜d2 5. ♜c4+! ♜c3 6. ♜a3! ♜b3 7. ♜b1! ♜f3 8. ♜f5! ♜b2 9. ♜e4! ♜e5 10. ♜d2! ♜c2 11. ♜f1!)= 4. ♜c1 ♜e4+! 5. ♜e5 d2! – black wins]

1... ♜d1 2. ♜e6!

[2. ♜d7? ♜c1! 3. ♜c6 ♜b2! 4. ♜b5 ♜a3! (4... ♜c3? 5. ♜a4! ♜c4 6. ♜b3! ♜b6+ 7. ♜a3! ♜c4+ 8. ♜a4! ♜b2 9. ♜b4! ♜b6 10. ♜d2! =) 5. ♜c5 ♜b3+! 6. ♜c4 d2! 7. ♜c3 d1=♚! 8. ♜c4+ ♜a2!–+]

2... ♜c1

[2... ♜c2 3. ♜c6! ~ (3... ♜c3 ♜e5! =) 4. ♜b4+ =]

3. ♜d7!

[3. ♜e5? ♜c2! 4. ♜e4 ♜f3+!; 3. ♜d5? ♜b1! 4. ♜e6 ♜b2! 5. ♜d5

♜c3! 6. ♜b7 ♜e4! 7. ♜:e4 d2! – black wins]

3... ♜b1

[3... ♜b2 4. ♜e6! ♜c3 5. ♜d5! =]

4. ♜e7! ♜a1

[4... ♜a2 ♜c6! ~ 5. ♜b4/♜e5 =]

5. ♜d7!

[5. ♜d6? ♜a2! 6. ♜d5 ♜b1! 7. ♜d4 ♜c2! 7. ♜e6 ♜b2! 8. ♜d5 ♜c3! 9. ♜b7 ♜e4! 10. ♜:e4 d2!]

5... ♜b1

[5... ♜a2 6. ♜c6! ~ 7. ♜b4/♜e5 =]

6. ♜e7! ♜c1 7. ♜d7! ♜b2 8. ♜e6!

♜c3 9. ♜d5! ♜b2 10. ♜e6! ♜c1

11. ♜d7! ♜b1 12. ♜e7! = The original eternal maneuver!

1... ♜f3 2. ♜b3! ♜e3 3. ♜d6! ♜d2

[3... ♜d4 4. ♜a5! ♜e4 5. ♜c4! ♜b3 6. ♜e6! ♜d4 7. ♜e5! ♜c5+ 8. ♜f5! d2 9. ♜f3+! =]

4. ♜a5! ♜d4 5. ♜c6! ♜e4

[5... ♜c4 6. ♜b3! ♜c3 7. ♜c5! d2 8. ♜e4+! =]

6. ♜b5! ♜c3 7. ♜c4! ♜b3 8. ♜a5+!

♜b2 9. ♜b4! ♜d2

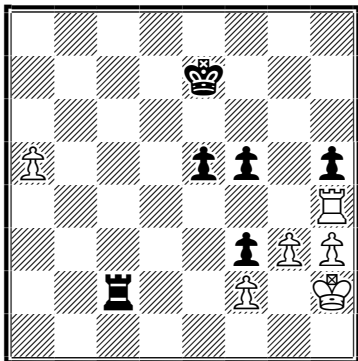
[9. ♜a4? ♜c3+! 10. ♜b4 ♜d5+! 11. ♜a4 ♜b6+! 12. ♜b4 d2! – black wins]

10. ♜a4! ♜c3 11. ♜b5! ♜e4

12. ♜c4! = The original eternal maneuver!

Royal corresponding squares in a knight ending with just 5 pieces! All squares around the white king are empty and still after each and every black move just one of them is available to hold on. A remarkable positional draw!

4th Prize
 JACOB AAGAARD
 Great Britain



= 6+6

1.g4!

[1. ♖:h5? ♜:f2+ 2. ♔g1 ♜g2+
 3. ♔f1 ♔e6 -+; 1. ♔g1? ♜c1+
 2. ♔h2 e4 3. ♖:h5 e3 -+]

1...h:g4

[1... ♜:f2+ 2. ♔g3 ♜f1 3.g:f5! ♔f6
 4. ♖a4=; 1...f4 2.g:h5 ♜:f2+
 3. ♔g1 ♜g2+ 4. ♔f1 e4 (4... ♔f7?
 5.h6 ♔g8 6. ♖g4+ +-) 5. ♖:f4
 ♖a2=; 1...e4 2. ♔g3=]

2. ♔g3! The king has to come

[2.h:g4 f4+; 2. ♖h7+? ♔e6 3. ♔g3
 f4+ 4. ♔g4 ♜:f2 transposing to
 4. ♖h7+?]

2...f4+ 3. ♔g4 ♜:f2 4.a6!

[4. ♖h5? ♔e6 5.a6 ♔d5 6.a7 ♖a2
 7. ♔:f3 ♖a3+ 8. ♔g4 ♖:a7-+]
 [4. ♖h7+? ♔e6! (4... ♔f6 5. ♖h6+
 ♔e7 6.a6) 5.a6 e4 6. ♔:f4 ♜g2!
 (6... ♖a2 7. ♖b7) 7. ♔:e4 (7. ♖b7
 f2 8. ♖b1 ♜g1) 7...f2 8. ♖h6+
 (8.a7 f1=♚ 9.a8=♚ ♖e2+ +-)
 8... ♔f7 9. ♖h7+ ♔g6 10.a7 f1=♚

11.a8=♚ ♖e2+ +-]

4... ♔e6 5. ♖h8

[5. ♖h6+? ♔d5 6. ♖b6 ♜g2+
 7. ♔:f3 ♜g3+ 8. ♔f2 ♖a3!-+
 (8... ♖:h3? 9. ♖b5+ ♔e4 10. ♖a5=)]

5... ♖a2 6. ♔:f3 ♖a3+ 7. ♔g2! A

natural move, as king belongs to
 g1 or h1 and never e1 and f1, when
 the king comes to e3/f3 threatening
 mate with tempo, winning.

[7. ♔g4? ♜g3+ 8. ♔h4 ♜g7!
 (8... ♖a3? 9. ♖h7! e4 10. ♔g4 f3
 11. ♔g3 ♖a2 12.a7 ♜g2+ 13. ♔h4
 ♜g8 14. ♖g7! ♖f8 15. ♔g3 f2
 16.a8=♚ f1=♚ + 17. ♔g2 ♚e3+
 18. ♔g3 ♖:a8 19. ♔f4=) 9. ♖f8!
 ♔d5 10. ♔h5 ♔e4! 11.h4 f3
 12. ♔h6

A) 12... ♖c7!? 13.h5 ♔e3
 (13... ♖c6+? 14. ♔g5 ♖:a6 15. ♔g4
 ♖a3 16.h6=) 14. ♖f6 f2 15. ♔g6
 ♖c6 16. ♖:c6 f1=♚
 17. ♖f6 ♚d3+! 18. ♔g7 ♚d7+
 19. ♔g6 ♚e8+ 20. ♖f7 e4+;
 B) 12... ♖a7! 13. ♖f6 ♔e3 14.h5
 f2! (14...e4?! also wins and is
 fascinating, but not relevant)
 15. ♔g6 ♖:a6 16. ♖:a6

f1=♚ This is surprisingly very
 far from a fortress. You would
 believe that White has drawing
 chances, with the idea of giving
 up the rook for the pawn and
 draw with the hpawn, but this is
 never possible.

17. ♖f6 ♚g2+ 18. ♔f7 ♚e4
 19. ♔e6 ♔d4 20. ♖g6 ♚d5+
 21. ♔f6 e4 22.h6 e3 23. ♜g4+
 ♔d3 24.h7 ♚d6+ 25. ♔g5 ♚e5+
 26. ♔g6 e2-+]

[7. ♔f2? ♔f5 8. ♖a8 ♔e4 9.a7
 ♖a2+ 10. ♔g1 f3+ transposing to

move 10]

7... ♖f5

[7... ♖a2+ 8. ♗f3; 7... ♖g3+ 8. ♗f2 ♖g7 9. ♖a8 ♗f5 10. h4 ♗e4 11. h5 f3 12. h6 ♖h7 (12... ♖g2+? 13. ♗f1 ♖h2 14. a7 ♗e3 15. ♖g8+)- 13. a7=; 7... ♖:a6?? 8. ♖h6+ +-]

8. ♖a8 ♗e4 9. a7 ♖a2+

[9... ♖g3+ 10. ♗f2 ♖g7 11. h4 f3 12. ♖f8=]

10. ♗h1!

[10. ♗f1 ♗f3+-; 10. ♗g1? f3

A) 11. ♗h1 ♗e3 12. ♖e8 ♖:a7 13. ♖:e5+ ♗f4 14. ♖e8 (14. ♖e1 ♗g3 15. ♖b1 ♗:h3+) 14... ♖a1+ 15. ♗h2 f2 16. ♖f8+ ♗e3 17. ♗g2 ♖g1+ +-;

B) 11. ♗f1 ♗e3+-;

C) 11. h4 This is point. When forced to advance the pawn, White is lost. 11... ♗e3 12. ♖e8 ♖a1+ 13. ♗h2 f2 14. ♖:e5+ ♗f4 15. ♖e7 ♖h1+ 16. ♗:h1 f1=♖+ 17. ♗h2 ♖f2+ 18. ♗h1 ♗g3! (18... ♖:h4+ 19. ♗g1=) 19. ♖g7+ ♗h3! +- The king is safe from checks]

10...f3 Mutual zugzwang

[10... ♗e3 11. ♖e8=]

11. ♗g1! ♗e3 12. ♖e8 ♖a1+

13. ♗h2 f2 14. ♖:e5+ ♗f4 15. ♖e7!

[15. ♖e8? ♖h1+ 16. ♗:h1 f1=♖+ 17. ♗h2 ♖f2+ 18. ♗h1 looks similar, but loses to 18... ♖f3+! 19. ♗h2 ♖g3+ +- It is important to notice that it would be a fortress if the white rook was on g4 and pawn on h3.]

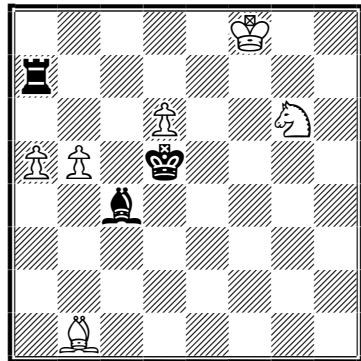
15... ♖h1+! 16. ♗:h1 f1=♖+ 17. ♗h2 ♖f2+ 18. ♗h1 ♗g3 19. ♖g7+! Now this is a draw, because the black king cannot hide.

19... ♗:h3 20. ♖h7+!=

An inventive tactical Rook ending likely to be appreciated as a practical challenge. In a seemingly desperate position White actively exploits his only counter chances to be eventually saved by a positional draw following reciprocal Zugzwang. The choice between the tempting 15. ♖e8? and the surprising 15. ♖e7! is instructive.

5th Prize

BRANISLAV DJURAŠEVIĆ
Serbia



+

6+3

1. b6 ♖b7!

[1... ♗d7 2. ♖f5! ♖:d6 3. ♗e7+! ♖a6 (3... ♖c6 4. ♗e8!+) 4. ♖f4+ ♗e5 (4... ♗c6 5. ♖e4+ ♗c5 6. ♖e6+! +-) 5. ♖d3+! ♖:d3 6. b7! +-]

2. ♖a2! ♖:a2 3. a6 ♖f7+!

[3... ♖b8+ (3... ♖:b6 4. a7! ♖a6 5. d7+-) 4. ♗e7 ♖c4 5. a7 ♖a8 6. ♖e5! +-]

4. ♗:f7 ♗:d6+ 5. ♗f8!

[5. ♗e8? ♗c6! 6. b7 ♗c7 7. ♖e7

♙e6! 8. ♘c6 ♙d7+ !=; 5. ♗f6?
 ♙c4! 6.a7 ♙d5 7. ♘e5 ♗c5!
 8. ♙d7+ ♗d6! =]

5... ♙c4!

[5... ♗c6 6.b7! (6.a7? ♗b7=),
 6... ♗c7 7. ♘e7! (7. ♘e5? ♙d5! =)
 ♙e6 8. ♘c6! +-, no check on d7]

6.a7 ♙d5 7. ♘e5!

[Thematic try: 7. ♘e7? ♙b7
 8. ♗e8 ♗c5 9. ♘c8 ♗c6 10. ♗d8
 ♙a8! = white king could not pass
 over c8 because it is occupied by
 its own piece!]

7.... ♗c5! the most resistant

[7... ♗:e5 8. ♗e7! ♙c6 9. ♗d8
 ♗d6 10. ♗c8 +-]

8. ♙d7+ - d7 instead of c8 is the
 proper square to protect the b6
 pawn by knight!]

8... ♗d6

[8... ♗b5 9. ♗e7! ♗a6 10. ♗d6!
 ♙f3 11. ♗c7+- immediately wins]

**9. ♗e8 ♙b7 10. ♗d8 ♗c6 11. ♗e7!
 ♗d5**

[11... ♙a8 12. ♗e8! ♙b7 13. ♗d8!
 (triangulation) ♗d6 14. ♘c5 ♗:c5
 15. ♗c7+-]

12. ♗f7!

[another spectacular winning
 move, here preparing for new
 triangulation, 12. ♗f8? ♗c6! =]

12... Kd6

[12... ♗c6 13. ♗e6! ♙a8 13. ♗e7
 ♙b7 14. ♗d8+-; 12... ♙a8
 13. ♗e8! ♙b7 14. ♗e7! ♗c6
 15. ♗d8+- the same as in the
 main line]

13. ♗e8 ♗d5 14. ♗e7! (useful loss
 of a tempo) ♗c6 **15. ♗d8!** ♙a8
 (15... ♗d6 16. ♘c5+-) **16. ♗c8** (now
 the king could pass) ♙b7+ **17. ♗b8**
 +

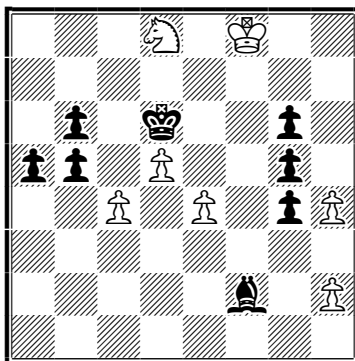
A precise and original
 triangulation manoeuvre of the
 white King to support his fragile
 pawn pair and clumsy knight on

the far queenside. The
 introductory play is superb.

1st Special Prize

MICHAEL PASMAN

Israel



+ 7+8

1.c5+!

[1. ♘f7+ ♗d7 2. ♘e5+ (2.e5
 ♙c5+) 2... ♗d6 =]

[1. ♙b7+ ♗e5 2.d6 ♙c5 3. ♘:c5
 ♗:d6 4. ♙b7+ ♗e5 =]

[1.h5 g3! (1...g:h5 2.c5+ b:c5
 {2... ♗:c5 3. ♙b7+} 3. ♘f7+ +-)
 2.h:g6 (2. ♘f7+ ♗d7 3. ♘e5+
 ♗d6) 2...g:h2 3.g7 h1=♙ 4.g8=♙
 ♙:e4]

1... ♙:c5

[1... ♗d7 2.c6+ ♗:d8 3.d6 g:h4
 4.e5 ♙c5 5.c7+ ♗d7 6.c8=♙+
 ♗:c8 7. ♗e8 +-]

[1... ♗:c5 2. ♙b7+ ♗c4 3.h5 g:h5
 4.d6 g3 5.h:g3 ♙:g3 6.d7 ♙c7
 7. ♗e7 g4 8. ♙d6+ ♗b4 9. ♘e8
 ♙d8+ 10. ♗:d8 g3 11. ♗c8 g2
 12.e5 g1=♙ 13.e6 +-]

[1...b:c5 2. ♘f7+ ♗c7 3.e5 c4 4.e6
 +-) 2. ♙b7+! ♗e5+]

[2... ♗d7+? 3. ♘:c5+ b:c5 4.e5]

3. ♖:c5 b:c5 4.h5!

[4. ♗e7 g:h4 5.d6 g3 6.h:g3 h:g3!
7.d7 g2 8. d8=♙ g1=♙]

4...g:h5 5. ♗e7! Now starting the race to Queen promotion. Black has 7 different possibilities to promote the Queen

5...g3! Black has possible Queen promotions on 5 squares: a1,b1,c1,g1,h1. All are lost after check with Queen on different diagonals!

[5...a4 6.d6 a3 7.d7 a2 8.d8=♙ a1=♙ 9. ♗h8+ +-]

[5...b4 6.d6 b3 7.d7 b2 8.d8=♙ b1=♙ 9. ♗d6+ ♗:e4 10. ♗g6+ +-]

[5...c4 6.d6 c3 7.d7 c2 8.d8=♙ c1=♙ 9. ♗d5+ ♗f4 10. ♗f5+ ♗e3 11. ♗:g5+ +-]

[5...h4 6.d6 g3 7.d7! g2 (7...g:h2 8.d8=♙ h1=♙ 9. ♗d6+ ♗:e4 10. ♗c6+) 8.d8=♙ g1=♙ 9. ♗d5+ ♗f4 10. ♗f5+ ♗e3 11. ♗:c5+ +-]

So Black chooses 6-th and the best way:

6.h:g3 h4 7.g:h4!

[7.d6 h:g3! 8.d7 g2 9.d8=♙ g1=♙ 10. ♗d5+ ♗f4 11. ♗f5+ ♗g3! =]

7... g4!

[7...g:h4 8.d6 h3 9.d7 h2 10.d8=♙ h1=♙ 11. ♗d6+ ♗:e4 12. ♗c6+ +-]

8.h5!

[8.d6 g3 9.d7 g2 10.d8=♙ g1=♙ 11. ♗d5+ ♗f4 12. ♗f5+ ♗g3 =]

8...g3 9.h6 g2 10.h7 g1=♙

11.h8=♙+ ♗:e4 Now black has 2 possibilities to move the King. After 11... ♗f4 White wins for example in this way: 12.d6 c4 13.d7 ♗c5+ 14. ♗f7 ♗c7 Ther way to stop d7 pawn movement in Queen endgame 15. ♗h2+ 6-th

diagonal winning check in this endgame - and White winning

12.d6 This endgame without a5,b5,c5 pawns and only a4 or b4 or c4 black pawn is drawn. But 3 pawns are only obstruction for black.

12...c4

[12... ♗g5+ 13. ♗f6 +- And black can do nothing to stop d pawn]

13.d7 ♗c5+ 14. ♗e8 ♗c6 The common defense in this type of Queen endgame and the only way to stop d7 pawn advance

15. ♗h1+ +- 7-th diagonal winning check in this endgame - and White winning

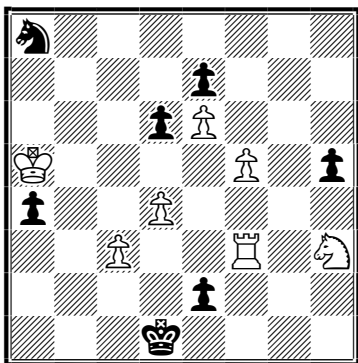
[15. ♗h7+ ♗e3 is draw]

[15. ♗h5 ♗d4 16. ♗e7 ♗c7 is draw]

Early piece exchanges result in a highly original pawn ending which after move 5 splits to sixth(!) different variations each ending up in a queen promotion followed by a different skewer on a different diagonal! Quite an achievement however personally I would prefer to skip those early exchanges on their extra load of side play and start the solution on move 4 in a pure pawn ending.



2nd Special Prize
ALEXEY SOCHNEV
Russian Federation



+ 7+7

1. ♖f2+!

[1. ♜d3+? ♜c2 2. ♜e3 ♜d2
3. ♜e4!? ♜d3! (3...e1=♚? 4. ♜:e1
♜:e1 5. ♜:a4+→) 4. ♖f2+ ♜d2
5. ♖h3!? ♜d3 6. ♖f2+ ♜d2=
positional draw]

1... ♜c2! 2. ♖d3

[2. ♜e3? ♜d2 3. ♜d3+ ♜c2 4. ♜e3
♜d2= positional draw]

2... a3 3. ♖e1+ ♜c1!

[3... ♜d2 4. c4!+→]

4. c4 a2 5. ♜a3

[5. ♜c3+? ♜b2 6. ♜c2+ ♜b1!
7. ♜:a2 ♜:a2 etc see them. try 1]

5... ♜b2 6. ♜a4!

[Thematic try 1: 6. ♜:a2+? ♜:a2
7. f6 e:f6 8. e7 ♖c7 9. ♜b6 ♖e8
10. c5 d:c5 11. ♜:c5 h4 12. d5 h3
13. d6 ♖:d6 14. ♜:d6 h2 15. e8=♚
h1=♚ 16. ♚:e2+ ♜a3! 17. ♚d3+
♜a4 18. ♚c4+ ♜a5=]

[Thematic try 2: 6. ♜a4? a1=♚
7. ♖d3+ ♜b1 8. ♜:a1+ ♜:a1 9. f6
e:f6 10. e7 ♖c7 11. d5 h4 12. c5

♖e8 13. c:d6 ♖:d6 14. ♜b4 h3
15. ♜c5 ♖e4+! (15... ♖e8? 16. d6
♖:d6 17. ♜:d6 e1=♚ 18. ♖:e1 h2
19. e8=♚ h1=♚ 20. ♚a4+ ♜b2
21. ♚c2+ ♜a3 22. ♖d3 ♚a1
23. ♚c4 ♚b1 24. ♜c7! zz etc. as in
the main solution) 16. ♜b4 ♖d6!
17. ♜c5 ♖e4+ 18. ♜d4 ♖d6
positional draw]

[6. ♜b4? a1=♚ 7. ♖d3+ ♜b1
8. ♜:a1+ ♜:a1 9. f6 e:f6 10. e7 ♖c7
11. c5 ♖d5+!]=]

6... h4

[6... ♖c7 7. f6 e:f6 8. e7 h4 etc. as
in the main solution]

7. f6! e:f6 8. e7 ♖c7 9. ♜b6

[Thematic try 3: 9. c5? d:c5 10. d5
♖e8 11. ♜b5 h3 12. ♖d3+ ♜b1!
13. ♜:a2 ♜:a2 14. ♖c1+ ♜a3!
15. ♖:e2 c4! (15... ♖d6+?
16. ♜c6!+→) 16. ♜:c4 ♖d6+
17. ♜c5 ♖e4+! 18. ♜d4 ♖d6
19. ♜c5 ♖e4+!]

9... ♖e8 10. c5 d:c5 11. ♜:c5!

[Logical try: 11. d:c5? a1=♚
12. ♖d3+ ♜b1 13. ♜:a1+ ♜:a1
14. c6 h3 15. c7 ♖:c7 16. ♜:c7
e1=♚ 17. ♖:e1 h2 18. e8=♚ h1=♚
19. ♚a4+ ♜b2 20. ♚c2+ ♜a3
21. ♖d3 ♚a1 22. ♚c4 ♚b1! zz
23. ♖c1 ♜b2! (23... ♚h7+?
24. ♜b6 ♚b1+ 25. ♜c6 ♜b2
26. ♖d3+ ♜a3 27. ♚c3+ +→)
24. ♖d3+ ♜a3 25. ♖c5 (25. ♚c3+
♚b3 26. ♚a5+ ♚a4 27. ♚c3+
♚b3=) 25... ♚h7+! (25... ♜b2?
26. ♚b3+! ♜a1 27. ♚a3+ ♚a2
28. ♖b3+ ♜b1 29. ♚c1#) 26. ♜b6
♚b1+! 27. ♜c7 ♚h7+= positional
draw]

11... a1=♚

[11... h3 12. ♖d3+ ♜c2 13. ♜:a2+

♖:d3 14. ♜a1 ♘d2 15.d5 e1=♔
 16. ♜:e1 ♘:e1 17.d6 h2 18.d7
 h1=♔ 19.d:e8=♔ ♔g1+ 20. ♘b5!
 ♔f1+ 21. ♘a5! ♔d3 22. ♔d8!+–
 and white wins easily]

12. ♗d3+ ♘b1 13. ♜:a1+ ♘:a1
 14.d5 h3 15.d6 ♗:d6 16. ♘:d6
 e1=♔!

[16...h2 17.e8=♔ h1=♔
 18. ♔a4++–]

17. ♗:e1 h2 18.e8=♔ h1=♔
 19. ♔a4+ ♘b2 20. ♔c2+ ♘a3
 21. ♗d3! ♔a1

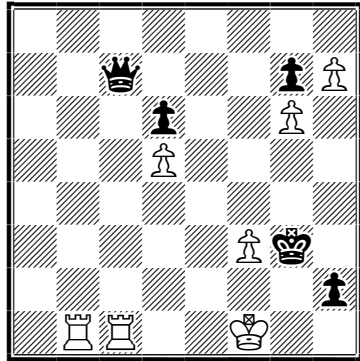
[21...♔b7 22. ♔c1+ ♘a2 23. ♔d2+
 ♘b1 24. ♔e1+ ♘c2 25. ♗b4+
 ♘b3 26. ♔d1+ ♘a3 27. ♔a1+
 ♘b3 28. ♔a2+ ♘c3 29. ♔c2+
 ♘:b4 30. ♔b2++–]

22. ♔c4! ♔b1 23. ♘c7! zz 23... ♔b3
 24. ♔a6+ ♔a4 25. ♔d6+ ♘a2
 26. ♔h2+ ♘a3 27. ♔b2#

A two phase study starting with
 an eventful epic introduction
 leading to a O+ Kt vs. Q+P new
 ending highlighted by a familiar
 Mutual Zugzwang.

~

1st Honourable Mention
 LUIS MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ
 Spain



+ 7+5

1.h8=♜!

[1.h8=♔? h1=♔+! 2. ♔:h1 ♔c4+!
 3. ♘e1 (3. ♜:c4 stalemate)
 3... ♔b4+! 4. ♘d1 (4. ♜:b4
 stalemate) 4... ♔d4+ 5. ♘e2
 ♔e3+! 6. ♘:e3 stalemate;
 1. ♜:c7? h1=♔+ 2. ♘e2 ♔:b1 (also
 2... ♔:f3+=) 3.h8=♔ ♔b5+ 4. ♘d2
 ♔:d5+= perpetual check]

1... ♔d8!

[1... ♔a7 2. ♘e2! ♔a2+ 3. ♘e3
 ♔a7+ 4. ♘d3 ♔a3+ 5. ♜c3 ♔a6+
 6. ♜c4 ♔a3+ 7. ♘d4 ♔a7+ 8. ♘e4!
 ♔a2 9. ♜cb4!+–]

2. ♜h5!

[2. ♜h7? ♔f6! 3. ♜b3 ♔d4 4. ♘e2!
 (4.f4+ ♘g4 5. ♜bc3 ♔g1+ 6. ♘e2
 h1=♔ 7. ♜:h1 ♔g2+ 8. ♘e3 ♔f3+
 9. ♘d4 ♔e4+! 10. ♘:e4 stalemate)
 4... ♔:d5! 5. ♜bc3 ♔e5+ 6. ♘d2
 ♔d5+ 7. ♜d3 ♔a2+ 8. ♜c2 ♔a5+
 9. ♜dc3 d5! 10. ♘d3 (10.f4+ ♘g4!
 11. ♘d3 ♔b5+ 12. ♘d4 ♔b4+
 13. ♘:d5 h1=♔+ 14. ♜:h1 ♔e4+!

15. ♖:e4 stalemate) 10... ♗b5+
 11. ♖d4 ♗b6+ 12. ♖:d5 ♗d8+!
 possible 13. ♖c4 ♗g8+! 14. ♖d4
 (14. ♖d3 ♗:h7!) 14... ♗d8+!
 15. ♖e3 ♗b6+! 16. ♖c5 ♗e6+
 17. ♖d4 ♗d6+ 18. ♖c4 ♗e6+
 19. ♖b5 ♗e8+]=]

2... ♗f8! 3. ♖b3!

[3. ♖c3? ♗f5! 4.f4+ ♖g4 5. ♖:f5
 h1=♗+=; 3. ♖g5+? ♖f4! 4. ♖h5
 ♖g3 5. ♖b3 loss of time]

3... ♗f5! 4. ♖h8! switchback

[4. ♖h7? ♗:d5! 5. ♖bc3 ♗b5+!
 6. ♖e1 ♗e5+ 7. ♖d2 ♗d5+=
 transposes to the supporting line
 after 2. ♖h7?; 4.f4+? ♖g4! 5. ♖:h2
 ♗:f4+ 6. ♖f2 ♗:c1+=]

4... ♗:d5 5. ♖bc3! ♗d2!

[5... ♗b5+ 6. ♖e1 ♗e5+ 7. ♖d2
 ♗d5+ 8. ♖d3 ♗a2+ 9. ♖c2 ♗a5+
 10. ♖dc3 d5 11. ♖d3 ♗b5+
 12. ♖d4 ♗b6+ 13. ♖:d5+- and
 now 13... ♗d8+ no possible,
 compare with the supporting line
 2. ♖h7?]

6.f4+ ♖g4! 7.f5!

[7. ♖hh3? d5! 8. ♖cg3+ ♖:f4
 9. ♖f3+ ♖g4!+=; 7. ♖3c2? h1=♗+!
 8. ♖:h1 ♗:f4+=]

7...d5!

[7... ♗f4+ 8. ♖g2 ♗d2+ 9. ♖h1
 ♗d5+ 10. ♖:h2+-; 7... ♖g5 8.f6!+-]

8. ♖3c2!

[8.f6? d4! 9. ♖3c2 h1=♗+!
 10. ♖:h1 ♗f4+ 11. ♖f2 ♗:c1+
 12. ♖g2 ♗c6+!= possible]

8...h1=♗+! 9. ♖:h1 ♗f4+ 10. ♖f2!

[10. ♖e2? ♗e4+ 11. ♖d2 ♗d4+
 12. ♖e1 ♗e3+ 13. ♖d1 ♗f3+
 14. ♖d2 ♗f4+ 15. ♖c3 ♗c4+
 16. ♖d2 ♗d4+ 17. ♖e2 ♗e4+

18. ♖f2 ♗f3+ 19. ♖g1 ♗e3+
 20. ♖f2 ♗:c1+ 21. ♖g2 loss of
 time]

10... ♗:c1+ 11. ♖g2

[now 11... ♗c6+ no possible,
 compare with supporting line
 8.f6?]

11... ♗e3 12. ♖hf1!

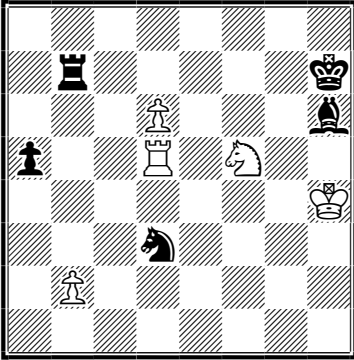
[12.f6? ♗e4+! 13. ♖h2 ♗e5+
 14. ♖g1 ♗e1+ 15. ♖g2 ♗e4+=]

**12... ♗g3+ 13. ♖h1 ♗h3+ 14. ♖g1
 ♖g5 15.f6!+-**

A rook pair is often capable of giving an enemy queen a fair fight yet an extra rook right from move one is a game changer. They defend efficiently along rank and file against all Black's attempts to steal a perpetual. The extra rook is eventually given away in good timing to secure the desired breakthrough to promotion. An interesting saga however overloaded with supporting side play and lacking a touch of brilliancy.



2nd Honourable Mention
 JAN SPRENGER
Italy



+ 5+5

1.d7!

[1. ♖:d3? ♜f4! 2.b3 (2.d7 ♜c7 3.b3 ♜d8+ 4.♙g4 ♙g6 =) 2... ♜:d6 3. ♙:d6 ♖b4+ 4.♙g5 a4 =]

1... ♖b4+!

[1... ♙e5!? 2.d8=♙ ♜g5+ 3.♙:g5 ♙f7+ 4.♙f6 ♙:d8 5.♖:d8 ♖b6+ 6.♖d6 ♖:b2 7.♖d7+ ♙h8 (7... ♙g8 8.♙h6+ ♙h8 9.♙f7+ ♙h7 10.♙g5+) 8.♖d3!+- Mate is imminent: 8... ♖b6+ (8... ♖f2 9.♙g6 ♖g2+ 10.♙g3) (8... ♙g8 9.♙e7+) (8... ♖b8 9.♖h3+ ♙g8 10.♙e7+) 9.♙f7 ♖b7+ 10.♙e7 ♖c7 11.♖h3#]

[1... ♖b8 2.♖:d3 ♖d8 3.♙e7]

2.♙d4!

[2. ♖d4? ♖:d4+ 3.♙:d4 ♜g5+! 4.♙:g5 ♙e5 5.d8=♙ (5.d8=♙ ♙f7+ 6.♙f6 ♙:d8 7.♙e7 ♙b7 8.♙b3 a4=) 5...a4 6.♙e6 ♙c4 =]

2... ♙e5!

[2... ♙f4 3.d8=♙ ♙:d5 4.♙:d5

♜g7 5.♙:a5 ♖:d4+ 6.♙h5+-]

3.d8=♙ ♜g5+! 4.♙:g5

[4.♙:g5? ♙f3+ 5.♙h5 ♙:g5 6.♙:g5 ♖:b2 =]

4... ♙f7+ 5.♙f6 ♙:d8 6.♖d7+

[6.♖:d8 ♖:b2 =]

6... ♙h6 7.♖:d8 ♙h5

[7... ♙h7 8.♙e6 ♖b6 9.♖d2 +-]

8.♙f5!

[8.b3 a4 =]

8... ♙h4 9.♖h8+ ♙g3 10.♙e2+

♙f3

[10... ♙g2 11.♙f4+ ♙g1 12.♙d3 ♖d4 13.♖h3 +-]

11. ♖h2! +- White consolidates his position and wins with a piece up, since capturing the pawn with

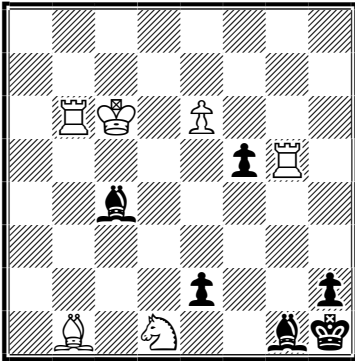
11... ♖:b2 is answered with

12.♙g1+ ♙e3 13. ♖:b2

A fierce battle rich with mutual tactical blows to secure the last pawn is finally decided by a battery created on the other side of the board.



3rd Honourable Mention
 MARTIN MINSKI
Germany



+ 6+6

1. ♖f2+!

[1. ♖e3? e1=♔=; 1. ♜:f5? ♜d5+!
 2. ♛:d5 e:d1=♔+ -+]

1... ♜:f2 2. ♜:f5 ♜d3! play for stalemate

[2... e1=♔ 3. ♞b1+]

3. ♜:d3 e1=♔ 4. ♜c4! (threatens 5. ♜d5+)

[thematic try 4. ♞b1? ♜g1! switchback unpin 5. ♜c4 (5. ♞:e1 pin stalemate) 5... ♞:e6+! 6. ♜:e6 pin stalemate; 4. ♞d7? ♞e3! =]

4... ♞c1! pin 5. ♞b1! counter pin

5... ♜e1! echo unpin 6. ♞g4!

[6. ♞:c1? pin stalemate]

6... ♞d1! 7. ♞b4!

[7. ♜d5+? ♞:d5+ 8. ♛:d5 pin stalemate]

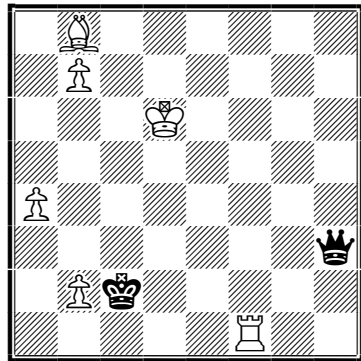
7... ♞:g4

[7... ♜:b4 8. ♜d5+ ♞:d5+ 9. ♛:d5+]

8. ♜d5+ ♞g1 9. ♞:g4+ +-

Struggle for mate is encountered by a play for stalemate. A fine demonstration of mutual pinning and unpinning is displayed all the way to decision.

4th Honourable Mention
 YURI BAZLOV
Russian Federation



+ 6+2

White has a sufficient advantage to win, but how to implement it? The rook is decentralized, and it is also under attack, the bishop blocks a pawn that is ready to turn into a queen, but cannot immediately make way for it. Useless 1. ♜a7? or 1. ♜c7? because of 1... ♞d3+, and white faces an unenviable choice between eternal check and losing his pass. If 1. ♞f2+?, intending after 1... ♞b3! 2. ♞f4 to block the important vertical b for black, then 2... ♞h1 (the simplest) 3. ♞c7 3... ♞h6 4. ♞d4 ♞g7+ 5. ♞d7 ♞:b2

6.a5 ♖a4! 7.♙a7 ♖c3(e5)+, forcing a draw.

1. ♖f4! ♖d3+!

[In other continuations, the king easily hides from prosecution in the first vertical, and 1...♖e3 refutes 2. ♖c4+ etc]

2. ♖c7!

[2. ♖c6? ♖a6+! 3. ♖c7 ♖:b2

4.♙a7 with the transition to the main option is refuted by refusing to take 3...♖b3! 4.a5

♖b5! - white can't enhance the game. After the 2. ♖c5? ♖e3+!

3. ♖b5 ♖e8+ 4. ♖a6 ♖c6+! 5. ♖a7

♖c5+ 6. ♖a8 ♖a5+ 7.♙a7 ♖d8+!

8.b8=♖ ♖d5+! 9.♖b7 ♖d8+!

10.♙b8 ♖a5+ 11.♖a7 ♖d5+!

white, despite the huge material superiority, are forced to agree to a draw. Or 3. ♖c6 ♖e8+ 4. ♖b6

♖:b8 5. ♖b4 ♖d6+ 6. ♖b5 (6. ♖a5

♖c5+ 7. ♖b5 ♖a7+ 8. ♖b4 ♖d4+)

6...♖d7+ 7. ♖a6 ♖c6+! 8. ♖a7

♖c5+ 9. ♖b6 ♖a5+ 10. ♖a6 ♖c5+

11. ♖a8 ♖c4! 12. ♖a5 ♖b4!

13. ♖a6 ♖c4 14. ♖a5 positional

draw (14. ♖a7 ♖e4(b4,d4,f4,

g4,h4,c5,b3)=)]

2... ♖e3!

[On 2...♖a6 only won 3. ♖b4!

♖a5+ 4. ♖b6 ♖e5+ (4...♖:a4 5.

b4!+-) 5. ♖c6! ♖e8+ 6. ♖c5 ♖:b8

7. ♖c4 win. White lost the victory

after 3. b4?! ♖b3! 4.a5 ♖h6!

5. ♖d4 ♖c1+! 6. ♖b6 ♖e3 7.♙e5

♖:e5 8. ♖g4(h4) ♖e6(f6)+ 9. ♖a7

♖:g4(h4) draw]

3. ♖c4+! What else? 3...K:b2

4.♙a7!

Without clearing the b8 square,

even at the cost of your own

bishop, you can't win. But white doesn't even have a pawn b2...

4...♖:a7! 5. ♖b4+!

[Thematic try 5. ♖c6? ♖a2!

6. ♖b6 ♖a3! zz WTP 7.a5 ♖a4!

8. ♖c6 ♖b8! - white's own pawn

prevents him from strengthening

the game. 8.a6 also doesn't help

because of 8...♖a5! 9. ♖c6 ♖b5!

zz WTP- draw]

5...♖a2! 6. ♖b5! zz BTP 6...♖a3

7. ♖b6! zz BTP 7...♖:a4 8. ♖c6!

♖b8 But now white doesn't have

the a4 pawn and maybe 9. ♖a6+!

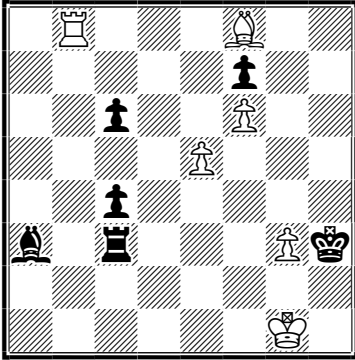
♖b4 10. ♖a8 ♖ ~ 11.b8=♖ with a

win.

The only way for White to convert his huge advantage is by sacrificially luring the enemy queen to the upper corner and then force the decision by a couple of Zugzwangs.



1st Commendation
 MIKHAIL PASTALAKA
 Ukraine



+ 6+6

1.e6!

[1. ♖f2? ♖g4 2.e6 ♕:f8 3.e7
 (3. ♖:f8 ♖f3+ 4. ♖e2 ♖:f6 5.e:f7
 ♖f5 =) 3... ♖c2+ 4. ♖e1 ♖h6
 5. ♖b1 (5.e8=♚ ♖c1+ 6. ♖f2
 ♖c2+ 7. ♚e2+ ♖:e2+ =) 5... ♖c3
 6.e8=♚ ♖e3+ 7. ♚:e3 ♕:e3
 8. ♖b7 ♕d4 9. ♖:f7 c5 10. ♖f8
 ♖f5 11.f7 ♖f6 12. ♖e2 ♖e7=]

1... ♖:g3+

[1... ♖e3 2. ♕:a3 ♖:e6 3. ♕e7
 ♖:g3 4. ♖f1 ♖f3 5. ♖b2 +-]

2. ♖f2 ♖g6 3. ♕e7 ♕c5+!

[3...f:e6 4. ♖f3 ♖h6 5. ♖a8 ♕b4
 6. ♖a4 ♕:e7 7.f:e7 ♖h8 8. ♖a1
 ♖h2 9. ♖a2+ ♖h1 10. ♖e2 +-]

4. ♖e2

[4. ♖f3? ♖g3+ 5. ♖e2 ♖e3+
 6. ♖d2 ♖:e6 7. ♕:c5 ♖:f6 =]

4... ♕:e7

[4...f:e6 5. ♖f8 ♖:f6 (5... ♖g2+
 6. ♖d1 ♕d4 7. ♖h8+ ♖g4 8. ♖g8+

♖h3 9.f7) 6. ♖h8+ ♖g4 7. ♕:f6 +-]

5. ♖h8+

[5.f:e7? ♖:e6+ 6. ♖f3 ♖f6+ 7. ♖e4
 ♖e6+ =]

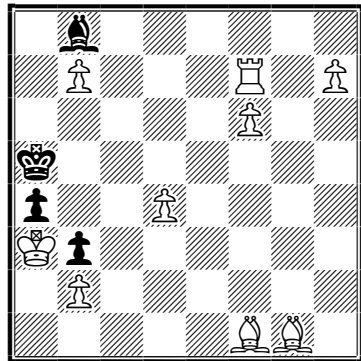
5... ♖g4 6. ♖g8! ♖:g8

[6... ♕:f6 7.e:f7 ♕g7 8. ♖:g7 ♖:g7
 9.f8=♚ +-]

7.e:f7 ♖f8 8.f:e7 ♖:f7 9.e8=♚ +

In an uncompromising struggle to secure promotion all is given away for an unstoppable pawn pair on the seventh rank.

2nd Commendation
 EDDIE WYCKOFF
 USA



+ 9+4

1. ♕h2!

[1. ♖d7 ♕d6+ 2. ♖:d6 =]

1... ♕:h2 2.b8=♕!

[2.b8=♚ ♕d6+ 3. ♚:d6 =]

2... ♕:b8 3. ♖a7+ ♕:a7 4. ♕b5!

[4.h8=♚ ♕c5+ 5.d:c5 =]

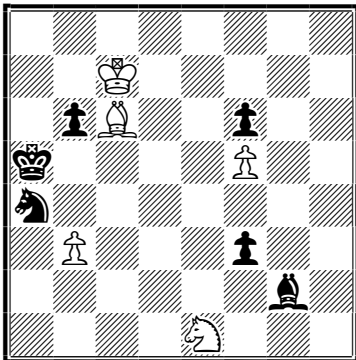
4... ♕:d4 5. ♕:a4 ♕:f6 6. ♖:b3

[6. ♕:b3? ♕e7+ 7. ♖a2 ♕f6 allows
 Black to defend]

6... ♖b6 7. ♖a3 ♜c7 8. b4 ♜d6 9. b5
 +- now the Black king and bishop
 cannot switch roles in time.

To avoid stalemate White is obliged to sacrifice almost his entire property in order to win the resulting opposite colour bishops ending. The white Bishop is given away and reborn to serve an appealing Phoenix starter.

3rd Commendation
 DAVID GURGENIDZE
Georgia



+ 5+6

- 1. ♜c2!**
 [1. ♜d3? ♜f1 2. b4+ ♖a6 3. ♜f2 ♜c3 4. ♜:f3 ♜b5=]
- 1... ♜c3**
 [1... ♜h3 2. b4+ ♖a6 3. ♜d4 ♜c5 4. ♜b5+ ♖a7 5. b:c5 b:c5 6. ♜c6+ ♖a8 7. ♜a6 f2 8. ♜b7#]
- 2. b4+ ♖a6 3. ♜d4 f2**
 [3... b5 4. ♜b7+ ♖a7 5. ♜c6#]
- 4. ♜:g2 ♜b5+ 5. ♜:b5 f1=♚ 6. ♜b8!**
 [6. ♜:f1? stalemate]
- 6... ♚:b5**

[6... ♚f4+ 7. ♜c7+]
7. ♜b7#

Black plays for stalemate but is mated first.