

Advantage / Disadvantage tourney – Provisional Award

BY ED VAN DE GEVEL

This tourney was plagued by problems. First the announcement had to be placed in EG one issue (three months) later than planned. Later tourney directory Harold van der Heijden suffered from a computer crash, and had to redo most of his work. In the end only seven studies (although one in two versions) were entered. The judge thought about giving one fewer prize, but in the end decided against it. I wish to thank all contestants and a special thank you to goes to the tourney director.

No 23119 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.c7/i Rc5/ii 2.Rf6/iii Rc3/iv 3.Be3/v h2/vi 4.Be4/vii Bd1+ 5.Kg3/viii Bf3/ix 6.Bc5/x Bxe4+/xi 7.Kxh2/xii Rxc5 (Bxc5; c8Q+) 8.Rf8 mate.

i) Every tempo is important to see who promotes first. 1.Bd3? (cx b7? Rxb6;) Rxb6 2.Rg7 h2 3.Rxh7+ Kg8 4.Rg7+ Kf8 5.Bxh2 Bd1+ 6.Kg3 f1Q 7.Bxf1 Be1+ 8.Kh3 Rb3+ 9.Bg3 bxc6 and Black survives after the exchanges on g3.

ii) 1...Bd1+ 2.Kg3 wins. In general White is doing well if he can get his king to g3 as his own pawn on c7 will cost Black material sooner or later.

iii) Keeping an eye on both f1 and f8.

iv) The rook must open the way to f8 and stay on the c-file. On c3 it stops the wK from approaching the pawns on h3 and f2. 2...Rc4? 3.Bd3 and White stops the pawn, keeping his own trump on c7.

v) A move of many purposes. It opens the way for the rook on f6, stopping promotion and it blocks the third rank, allowing the wK access to g3. As we shall see, the move has a third purpose as well. 3.Bd3, with the same idea, is met by 3...Bd1+ 4.Kg3 f1Q draws.

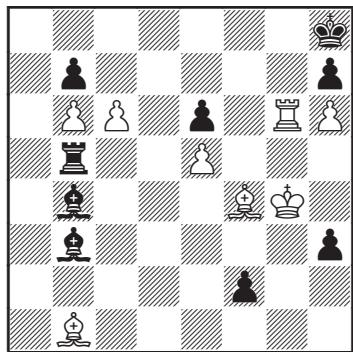
vi) Threatening a new promotion. Bd1+ 4.Kxh3; Rxe3 4.c8Q+.

vii) Both pawns are under control and with normal play White wins easily, capturing on both f2 and h2.

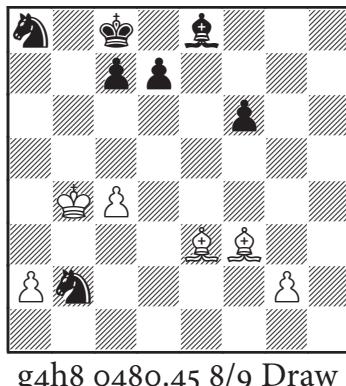
viii) Not fearing Rxe3. Other moves: 5.Kg5? Rc4 6.Rxf2 Be7+ 7.Rf6 h1Q 8.Bxh1 Rg4+ 9.Kh5 Ra4+ and a perpetual; 5.Kh3? allows promotion on h1 with check. 5...Bf3 6.Rxf3 (Bxf3 f1Q+;) h1Q+ wins.

ix) The classic Novotny, interfering with the lines f6–f1 and e4–h1. The advantages are clear,

No 23119 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
1st prize



No 23120 L. Miguel González
2nd prize



No 23121 P. Arrestov
3rd prize



but unfortunately for Black it also interferes with the c3–g3 line, unpinning Be3...

x) Counter-Novotny. Now both immediate captures on c5 gives White a choice of winning moves. 6.Rxf3? h1Q draws; 6.Bxf3 f1Q and Black wins.

xi) f1S+ 7.Kf4; h1S+ 7.Kh4.

xii) Black checks on f1 or h3 only prolong the agony, so:

“Black sets up a classic Novotny with the known advantage that it blocks a White line and a White diagonal so White cannot defend against both threats. The unexpected disadvantage is that the Novotny also blocks a Black line, thus unpinning a wB which in turn is used for a counter Novotny. In addition, since the White threats are mate and the Black ones only queening, White wins. A brilliant display of the advantages and disadvantages hidden in a well-known theme”.

No 23120 Luis Miguel González (Spain).
 1.Kc3/i Sb6/ii 2.Bxb6/iii Sa4+ 3.Kb4 Sxb6 4.c5
 Sa8/iv 5.Bxa8 c6/v 6.Ka5 Kb8/vi 7.Bxc6 dxc6
 8.Kb6 Ka8 9.a3/vii zz f5 10.g3/ix zz Kb8 11.a4
 zz Ka8 12.a5/x zz Kb8 13.a6 zz Ka8 14.a7 zz Bd7
 15.Kc7 Be8/xi 16.Kb6 positional draw.

i) Thematic try: 1.Bxa8? c6 2.Bd4 (Kb3 Sd3;)
 Sd3+ 3.Ka5 Kb8 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Bxf6 Kc7 Black
 wins; 1.Kb3? Sd3 2.Kc3 Se5 3.Bxa8 c6 4.Ba7 Bf7
 5.a4 Bxc4 Black wins.

ii) Sxc4 2.Kxc4 Sb6+ 3.Kb5 d6+ 4.Bc6 Bxc6+
 5.Kxc6 Sc4 6.Bf4 Se5+ 7.Kd5 Kd7 8.a4 draws.

iii) 2.c5? S6a4+ 3.Kb3 Bf7+ 4.Kb4 Bxa2 5.Bd4
 Sxc5 6.Ka3 Be6 7.Bxb2 f5 Black wins.

iv) Thematic move: knight retreat in order to trap the bishop along the h1–a8 diagonal by pawn interference. Bf7 5.cxb6 cxb6 6.a4 Kc7 7.g3 Kd6 8.Kb5 Bb3 9.Kb4, and: Bc2 10.Kb5 Ke5 11.Bg2 d5 12.Kxb6 Bxa4 13.Kc5, or Bf7 10.Kb5 Kc7 11.a5 bxa5 12.Kxa5 draw.

v) Bf7 6.c6 Bxa2 7.cxd7+ Kxd7 8.Kc5 draws.

vi) Bf7 7.Kb6 Bxa2 8.Bb7+ Kd8 9.Ba6 Bd5
 10.g3 draws.

viii) The black thematic move has the disadvantage that, once the bishop is captured, White can apply the *Festina Lente* theme. 9.a4?

Kb8 10.a5 Bd7 11.a6 Be8 12.a7+ Ka8 13.g3 f5 zz
 wins. 9.g3? Kb8 10.a3 Bd7 11.a4 Be8 12.a5 Bd7
 13.a6 Be8 14.a7+ Ka8 wins. 9.Kc7? Ka7 10.Kd6
 f5 11.Ke7 Bh5 12.Kd6 Kb7 13.Ke5 Bg4 wins.

ix) 10.a4? f4 11.a5 Bg6 12.Kxc6 Be4+ wins.

x) 12.Kc7? Ka7 13.Kd8 Bf7 14.Kc7 Bd5 wins.

xi) Be6 16.Kxc6 Kxa7 17.Kd6 draws.

“The thematic move ...c6 has the advantage that it traps the wB but it gives away the option to lose a tempo. In the thematic try both sides keep a minor piece and White cannot exploit black’s disadvantage. In the solution the extra minor pieces get exchanged and so White can use the *Festina Lente* theme to save the draw”.

No 23121 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Rd4+
 (Bg2? hxg2;) Ke5 2.Rd1 Kf4/i 3.Kh4 f1Q/ii 4.Rxf1
 Sxf1 5.Kxh3, and:

— d5 6.Bg2/iii Se3 7.Kh2 Sxg2/iv 8.Kxg2 Ke3
 (d4; Kf2) 9.f4/v Kxf4 (d4; f5) 10.Kf2 Ke4
 11.Ke2 Kd4 12.Kd2 draws, or:

— d6 6.Bg2 Se3 7.Kh2 Sxg2/vi 8.Kxg2 Ke3 (d5;
 9.Kf2) 9.Kg3/vii d5 10.f4/viii d4 11.f5 d3 12.f6
 d2 13.f7 d1Q 14.f8Q draws.

i) Stops wPf3 which is a disadvantage, as it
 blocks wBh1. f1Q 3.Rxf1 Sxf1 4.Kg4 (Kh4) d5
 5.f4+ draws.

ii) d5 4.Rd4+ Ke3 5.Rd1 d4 6.f4 d3 7.Kxh3
 f1Q+ 8.Rxf1 Sxf1 9.Bc6 d2 10.Ba4 draws.

iii) 6.Kg2? Sg3? 7.Kf2 Sxh1+ wins.

iv) d4 8.Bh3 d3 9.Bd7 d2 10.Ba4 draws.

v) The advantage of wPf3!

vi) d5 8.Bh3 d4 9.Bd7 draws.

vii) 9.f4? Kxf4 10.Kf2 Ke4 11.Ke2 Kd4 12.Kd2
 d5 wins.

viii) The advantage of wPf3!

“After the introduction Black has the advantage that the wB is trapped by the white pawn on f3, but it is not enough for Black to win because, in the end, it is a disadvantage to Black that he has to stop that same f-pawn. I like it that White has to use his pawn differently depending on Black’s choice of d5 or d6”.

This award is provisional. Please send your claims to the tourney director HH:

heijdenharold@gmail.com