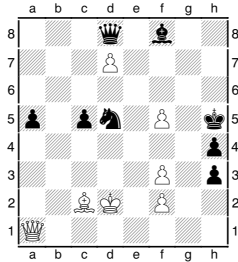


MSV 2023 - preliminary award

I received 20 studies from the competition director Peter Gyarmati for judging. The level of the compositions was on average good. In some of the studies there are already known motifs or fragments of them. I present my evaluation:

1st prize, Steffen Nielsen

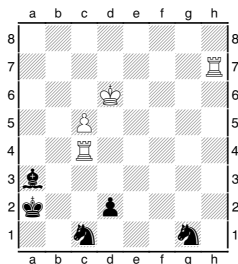


wins

The shootout in the introduction is a favourite phenomenon in the composer's work. Black's king is under a checkmate attack, which he does manage to parry, but after 10.Nf3! white dominates and the attacked black queen has no square to hide in.

1. ♖h8+ ♕h6+ 2.f4! ♜xf4 [2... ♗xh8 3. ♔d1#] **3. ♔d1+** [3. ♗xd8?? ♜c6+-+; 3. ♗e8+? ♜g4! 4. ♔d1+ ♜xf5 5. ♔c2+ ♜g4=] **3... ♜e2+ 4.f4! ♗xd7+** [4... ♗xh8 5. ♔xc2#] **5. ♜xe2 h2 6. ♗e8+! ♜g4** [6... ♗xc8+ 7. ♜d2+-+] **7. ♗xd7** [7. ♜f2+ ♗xd1 8. ♗g6+ ♜xf4 9. ♗xh6+=] **7... h1 ♗ 8. ♜f2+!** [8. ♜e3+ ♜g3-+ (8... ♜h3-+)] **8... ♜xf4** [8... ♜h3 9.f6+ ♜h2 10. ♗g4+-] **9. ♗d6+** [9. ♗c7+ ♜xf5=] **9... ♜g5!** [9... ♜xf5 10. ♔c2+ ♜g4 eg 11. ♗c6+ ♜g5 12. ♗f5#] **10. ♔f3** [Domination!] [10. ♗g6+ ♜f4 11. ♗d6+ waste of time; 10. ♗e7+ ♜f4 11. ♗d6+ waste of time] **10... ♗a1** [10... ♗h3 11. ♗c7+ ♜f4 12. ♗c3+ ♜xf5 13. ♔c4+ ♜g4 14. ♔f5+-+; 10... ♗c1 11. ♗g6+ ♜f4 12. ♗xh6+-+; 10... ♗b1 11. ♗g6+ ♜f4 12. ♗xh6+ ♜xf5 13. ♗h7+-+] **11. ♗g6+ ♜f4 12. ♗xh6+** [12. ♗g4+ ♜e5 13. ♗c4+ ♜f6 14. ♗c6+ ♜g5 15. ♗g6+ ♜f4 16. ♗xh6+ waste of time] **12... ♜xf5 13. ♗h7+! ♜e6** [13... ♜g5 14. ♗h5+ ♜f6 (14... ♜f4 15. ♗g4+ ♜e5 16. ♗g7+-+) 15. ♗h8+-+] **14. ♔g4+ ♜d6** [14... ♜d5 15. ♗d7+ (15. ♗b7+ ♜c4 16. ♔e2+) 15... ♜c4 16. ♔c6+] **15. ♗d7+ ♜e5 16. ♗g7+ ♜d6 17. ♗xa1+-.**

2nd prize, Pavel Arestov

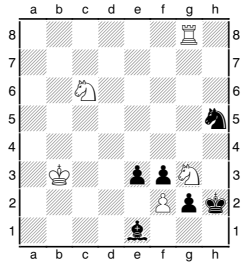


wins

A fascinating duel of three white pieces against two rooks. Black defends inventively, sacrificing pieces that the white King rejects and becoming the informal commander of the attack (3.Kd5!, 5.Kc4!). Finally, the move 7.Kb3!! is the golden nail in the opponent's coffin.

1. ♔c2+ ♜a1! [1... ♜b1 2. ♔xd2 ♔xc5+ 3. ♜d5! ♔e3 4. ♔b7+-+ ♜a1 5. ♔db2] **2. ♔xd2 ♔xc5+!** [2... ♜f3 3. ♔d1+-] **3. ♜d5!** [3. ♜xc5? ♜b3+=] **3... ♜ge2** [3... ♔c3 4. ♔c2 ♜b1 5. ♔c3+-] **4. ♔h1 ♜c3+!** [4... ♔g1 5. ♜c4+-] **5. ♜c4!** [5. ♜xc5? ♜e4+ 6. ♜d4 ♜xd2 7. ♔xc1+ ♜b2=] **5... ♜b1 6. ♔xc1 ♔e3 7. ♜b3!!** [7. ♔dd1? ♔xc1=] **7... ♔xd2 8. ♔c2! ♔g5** [8... ♜c3 9. ♔xd2+] **9. ♔a2#**

3rd prize, Peter Krug and Mario García

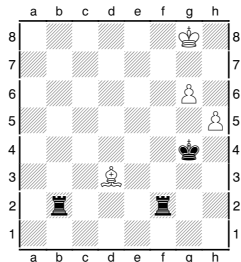


wins

After the foreplay and after 4...Kf1, a position arises in which white has a choice of up to several rook moves, but only one of them is winning (5.Rg8!). The other attempts the black bishop is able to eliminate and the win escapes.

1.♖e5! [1.♜d4? g1♜! = (1...g1♞? 2.♜xf3+ ♔g2 3.♜xg1 see solution)] **1...g1♞** [1...♜f6 2.♜xf3+ ♔h3 e.g. 3.♞g5 cxf2 4.♜e2 f1♞ (4...♜h5 5.♜eg1+ fxc1♞ 6.♜xg1+ ♔h2 7.♜f3+ ♔h3 8.♜xe1 ♜g3 9.♜f3+-) 5.♜f4#] **2.♜xf3+ ♔g2 3.♜xg1 ♜xg3** [3...♜f6 4.♞g6 cxf2 5.♜f5+ ♔h1 6.♜e2 f1♞ (6...♜d5 7.♞d6+-) 7.♜eg3+-] **4.♞xg3+ ♔f1** [4...♔h1 5.♞h3+ ♔xg1 6.fxc3+-] **5.♞g8!** [Thematic try : 5.♞g7? cxf2 6.♜f3 ♔e2 7.♞f7 (7.♜h2 f1♜ =) 7...♞b4! = 8.♜h2 ♞d6; 5.♞g6? cxf2 6.♜f3 ♔e2 7.♞f6 ♞c3! =; 5.♞g5? cxf2 6.♜f3 ♔e2 7.♜h2 f1♜! 8.♞g2+ (8.♞e5+ ♜e3 9.♜g4 ♞f2 /d2 =) 8...♞f2 9.♜g4 ♜d2+ 10.♔c2 ♜e4 =; 5.♞g4 cxf2] **5...cxf2 6.♜f3 ♔e2 7.♞f8!** [7.♜h2? f1♜! =] **7...♞b4** [7...♞a5 8.♜h2 ♞c7 9.♞e8+ ♔d3 10.♜f1+-; 7...f1♞ 8.♜d4+-; 7...♔f1 8.♞e8! ♔g2 9.♜xc1+ ♔g3 10.♞g8+ ♔h3 11.♞h8+ ♔g3 12.♞h1+-] **8.♜d4+!** [8.♔xb4? f1♞ 9.♜d4+ ♔e1 =] **8...♔e1 9.♞e8+ ♔d1 10.♞a8 ♞d2** [10...♞c1 11.♞f8+-] **11.♞a1+!** [11.♞f8? ♞c3! =] **11...♞c1 12.♜f5 f1♞** [12...f1♜ 13.♔c3+-] **13.♜e3+-**

Prize for the miniature, Pavel Arestov

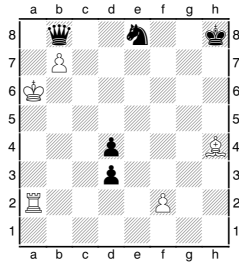


draw

This elegant miniature is decorated with a nice try (3.h6?) and a number of stalemates, which Black must avoid but cannot overcome.

1.g7 ♞b8+ [1...♞fd2 2.♞c4 ♞b8+ 3.♔h7 main line] **2.♔h7 ♞f7 3.♞c4!** [TRY: 3.h6? ♞c7! 4.♞f5+! ♔h5! (4...♔xf5? stalemate) 5.♞g6+ ♔h4!! 6.♞f5 ♞c7! 7.♔g6 ♞b6+ 8.♔h7 ♔g5! 9.♔h8 ♞e8+ Rb8 10.g8♞+ ♞xg8+ 11.♔xg8 ♔xf5+-] **3...♞c7** [3...♞c7 Ra7 4.h6 ♔g5 5.♞f7 main line] **4.♞e6+!** [4.h6 ♞xc4+-] **4...♔g5!** [4...♔xh5 5.♞f7+! ♞xf7 stalemate] **5.h6 ♞f8!** [5...♞a7 6.♞f7 ♞xf7 stalemate] **6.♞d7!** [6.♞f7? ♞xf7!+-] **6...♞d8** [6...♞xd7 stalemate] **7.♞e6 ♞a7** [7...♞f8 8.♞d7 ♞d8 9.♞e6 positional draw] **8.♞f7!** [8.♞g8? ♞a6+- Rd6] **8...♔f6!** [8...♞a6 9.g8♞+=] **9.♞g8!** [9.g8♞? ♞xg8! (but not 9...♞xf7+? 10.♞xf7+ ♔xf7 stalemate) ; 9.♞c4? ♞d1 10.♔h8 ♞h1 11.g8♞ ♞xh6+-+] **9...♞a3** [9...♞d2 10.♔h8 ♞h2 11.♞h7! =] **10.♞f7!** [10.♔h8? ♔g6 11.h7 ♞xg8+ 12.♔xg8 ♞a8#] **10...♞a7 11.♞g8 ♞a5** [11...♞b8 12.♔h8 ♔g6 13.h7 ♞bb7 14.♞f7+! ♞xf7 15.g8♞+ ♔h6 16.♞g7+ ♞xg7 stalemate; 11...♞xg8 12.♔xg8 ♞a8+ 13.♔h7 ♔f7 14.g8♞+ ♞xg8 stalemate] **12.♞f7 ♔xf7** [12...♞a7 13.♞g8 positional draw] **13.g8♞+ ♞xg8** [stalemate]

1st honorable mention, Eduard Eiliazyan

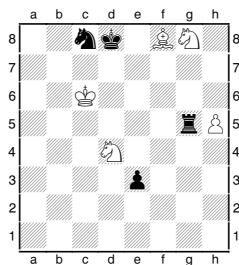


wins

After reducing the material in the intro, a precise duel of rook with pawns against queen with pawns occurs. At the end of the study, Black is finally about to bring his captain into the game, but White is ready to complete his mission and after 12.f4! he submits a final positional draw.

1.♔g3 [A:] **1...♛d6** [B: 1...♛c7+ 2.♔xc7 (2.♔b6? ♛d5+ 3.♔c6 ♛b4+ 4.♔b6 ♛d8+ 5.♔a7 ♛c6+ 6.♔a6 d2 7.♛xd2 ♛a5#) 2...♛xc7 3.♛b2! (3.♛d2? ♔g7! 4.♔b5 ♛xb7+ 5.♔c4 ♛e4 6.♛xd3 ♔f6 7.♛xd4 ♛c2+ 8.♔d5 ♛xf2+-) 3...♛c6+ 4.♔a7! (4.♛b6? ♛a4#; 4.♔a5? ♛c5+ 5.♛b5 ♛a7+ 6.♔b4 ♛xb7 7.♛xb7 d2 8.♛d7 d1 ♛-+) 4...♛a4+ 5.♔b6! ♛c8 6.♔a6! (6.♛d2? ♛d8+ 7.♔c6 ♔g7 8.♛xd3 ♛f6+ 9.♔b5 ♛f5+ 10.♔c4 ♛f7+ 11.♔xd4 ♛xf2+-; 6.♔c5? ♛b8 7.♔xd4 d2 8.♛xd2 ♛xb7+-; 6.♔c7? ♛e5+ 7.♔c6 ♛b8 8.♛d2 ♛e8+ 9.♔b6 ♛d8+ 10.♔c5 ♛c7+ 11.♔xd4 ♛xb7+-) 6...♛c6+ 7.♔a7 ♛c5+ 8.♛b6! (8.♔b8? ♛c3 9.♛b5 d2 10.♔a7 ♛a3+ 11.♔b6 ♛d6+ 12.♔a7 d1 ♛-+) 8...♛c7 9.♔a6 ♛b8 10.♛b4! ♛d6+ (10...♔g7 11.♛xd4!)=) 11.♛b6! (11.♔a5? ♛c5+ 12.♔a4 ♛a7+ 13.♔b3 ♛b8 14.♛xd4 ♛xb7+-) 11...♛b8 (11...♛a3+ 12.♔b5 ♛b3+ (12...♛a7? 13.b8 ♛+ ♛xb8 14.♛xb8+ ♔g7 15.♛d8+-) 13.♔a5 ♛d5+ 14.♔a6 ♛c4+ 15.♔a5 ♛c5+ 16.♔a6 ♛a3+ 17.♔b5=) 12.♛b4! (12.♛b1? ♔g7 13.♛b4 ♛d6+ 14.♛b6 ♛a3+ 15.♔b5 ♛a7 16.b8 ♛ ♛xb8 17.♛xb8 d2+-) 12...♛d6+ 13.♛b6= Positional draw with perpetual movement of queen and rook.] **2.♔xd6 ♛xd6+ 3.♔a7!** [3.♔b5 ♛d5+ 4.♔b6 ♛b3+ 5.♔c7 ♛xa2 6.b8 ♛+ ♔g7+-] **3...♛c5+ 4.♔a8! ♛d5 5.♛a1!** [5.♛a3? d2 6.♛d3 ♔g7+-] **5...d2 6.♔a7! ♛c5+ 7.♔a8! ♛c6 8.♔a7 ♛c7 9.♔a8! d1 ♛ 10.♛xd1 ♛a5+ 11.♔b8 ♛c5 12.f4!** [12.♛d3? ♔g7 13.♔a8 ♛a5+ 14.♔b8 ♛b6 15.♔c8 ♛c6+ 16.♔b8 ♛c4 17.♛g3+ ♔f6 18.♔a7 ♛c7 19.♔a6 ♔e5+-; 12.♔a8? ♛a3+ 13.♔b8 d3 14.f3 ♔h7! 15.♔c7 ♛c5+ 16.♔d7 ♛d5+ 17.♔c7 ♛f7+ 18.♔c6 ♛xf3+-] **12...♔g7 13.♛g1+! ♔f6 14.♛g5! ♛d6+ 15.♔a7 ♛a3+ [15...♛xf4 16.♛c5=] 16.♔b6! ♛d6+ 17.♔a7=** [Positional draw with perpetual movement of queen and king.]

2nd honorable mention, Jan Sprenger



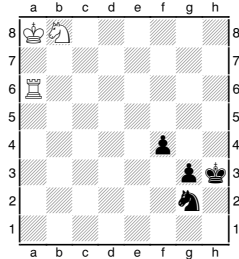
wins

A lively and very interesting play that presents already quite familiar motifs. The study is well elaborated and contains moments that will certainly enjoy to the solver.

1.♛f6! [with the threat Ne6# [economic mate]] [1.♛e6+? ♔e8 2.♛xg5 ♔xf8 and White will not be able to save the h5 pawn, e.g. 3.♛f6 e2 4.♛f3 ♔g7 5.♛g4 ♛c7+ 6.♔c5 ♛g8=] **1...♛e7+!** [1...♛a7+ 2.♔b7 ♛c5 3.h6! eg (3.♛d6? e2! no self-block on e7 4.♛c7+ ♔e7=; 3.♔xa7? e2 4.♔b7 ♛b5+!=) 3...e2 4.h7 e1 ♛ 5.h8 ♛+-] **2.♔b7 ♛c5 3.♛h6!** [3.h6? e2 4.h7 e1 ♛ 5.h8 ♛? ♛b4+- /Qb1+, compare to the 1... Na7+ line] **3...e2 4.♛f4 ♛b5+!** [main 4...e1 ♛ 5.♛e6+! ♛xc6 6.♛c7# model mate with knight sacrifice] **5.♛xb5 ♛d5! 6.♛c7+!** [6.♛d2? ♛xf6 7.h6 ♔e7 /Ke8 with transposition 8.♛d4 ♔f7 9.♛xe2 ♔g6 10.♛g3 ♛g4=; 6.♛xd5? e1 ♛=] **6...♛xc7 7.♛d4! e1 ♛** [White wins prosaically]

after 7...♔e7 8.♖xe2 ♖c6 (8...♗xf6 9.♔xc7 ♔g5 10.♖g3+-) 9.♖g4 ♔f7 10.♖g3+-] **8.♖c6#** [model mate with bishop sacrifice]

Honourable mention for miniature, Martin Minski

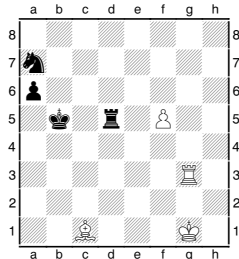


draw

An attractive study with a nice try at 1.Ra1? presents the old R+N versus Q duels, but the content of its game with a nice introduction will surely please miniature lovers.

[task of three rook sacrifices with knight forks] **1.♖c6!** [try 1.♖a1? ♖e1!! here the knight sacrifice works (1...f3? 2.♖h1+= position X with bNg2) 2.♖xe1 f3 3.♖h1+ position X without bNg2 3...♔g2! 4.♖a1 f2 5.♖c6 fl ♖ 6.♖xf1 ♔xf1 7.♖d4 g2 8.♖f3 ♔f2 9.♖g5 ♔g3+-; 1.♖h6+? ♖h4 2.♖c6 f3 3.♖d4 f2 4.♖f5 ♔g4!-+ (4...fl ♖ 5.♖xh4+ ♔g2 6.♖e3+ fork); 1.♖f6? ♖h4! 2.♖xf4 g2-+; 1.♖d7? f3 2.♖e5 f2 3.♖f6 ♖c3-+)] **1...f3 2.♖d4 f2 3.♖f6 ♖f4!** [3...♖e3 4.♖e2=] **4.♖xf4 g2 5.♖f3+!** [try 5.♖xf2? g1 ♖ 6.♖f3+ ♔h2!-+ and the fork Nf3+ is not possible] **5...♔g4** [5...♔h2?? 6.♖xf2+- pin] **6.♖xf2 g1 ♖ 7.♖f4+!** [first rook sacrifice] **7...♔h5** [main 7...♔xf4 8.♖e2+ first fork; 7...♔h3 8.♖h4+! =] **8.♖h4+!** [second rook sacrifice] **8...♔g6** [main 8...♔xh4 9.♖f3+ second fork] **9.♖c6!** [switchback] **9...♖b6 10.♖c4!** [third rook sacrifice] **10...♖a6+ 11.♔b8 ♖xc4 12.♖e5+** [third fork] =.

Special honourable mention, Marek Halski



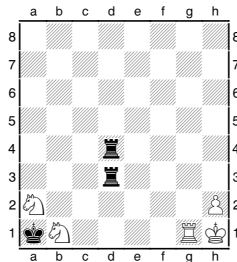
wins

A very interesting manoeuvre by which white systematically pushes the black king to the fatal first horizontal. It is important to see the study by the same author, from which he apparently drew inspiration and he has also worked the study to win.

[Theme: Repeated manoeuvres of a group of figures exploit the threat of White pawn promotion; Black rook attempts to control f-vertical are thwarted by the White that systematically push Black king towards the fatal 1-st horizontal by applying threats of Black rook pinning.] **1.f6!** [the pawn is more valuable than the bishop!] [1.♖g7? ♖d1+ 2.♔f2 ♖xc1 3.♖xa7 ♖c5 4.♖f7 a5 5.f6 a4 6.♔g3 a3 7.♖a7 ♖f5 =; 1.♖f3? ♖d1+ 2.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 3.♔xf1 ♔c6 4.f6 ♔d6 =] **1...♖d1+** [1...♖d7 2.♖g5+ (also 2.♖g7 ♖d1+ 3.♔g2 ♖xc1 4.f7 etc as in solution) 2...♔c6 3.♖g7 ♖b5 4.f7 with win; 1...♖f5 2.♖g5 ♖xg5+ 3.♖xg5 ♖c6 4.f7+-] **2.♔f2!** [loss of time is: 2.♔g2 ♖xc1 3.f7 ♖c2+ 4.♔f1 ♖c1+ 5.♔e2 ♖c8 6.♖g8 ♖c2+ 7.♔e3 ♖c3+ 8.♔f2 ♖c2+ 9.♔g3 etc] **2...♖xc1** [What else?] [2...♖d8 3.♖a3 ♖d7 4.♖e7+-; 2...♖d7 3.♖g7 ♖d6 4.♖b2+-] **3.f7 ♖c2+ 4.♔e3!** [All other king moves lead to a repetition or worse, e.g. : 4.♔e1 ♖c1+ 5.♔e2 (5.♔d2?? ♖f1!-+) 5...♖c2+ 6.♔f3 (6.♔d3?? ♖f2-+) 6...♖c3+ 7.♔f2 a) 7.♔f4? ♖c8! 8.♖g8 ♖c1! 9.♖g3 ♖c8 10.♖g8 (10.♖g5+? ♔b6! 11.♖g8 = (11.♖f5? ♖f8! 12.♔g5 ♖c6 13.♔f6 ♖d8-+)) 10...♖c1 =; b) 7.♔e4? ♖xg3! 8.f8 ♖ ♖c6 9.♖f1+ ♔a4 10.♖xa6+ ♖a5 =; 7...♖c2+ 8.♔e3! etc as in solution] **4...♖c8!** [after: 4...♖c3+ 5.♔d2!! ♖xg3 (5...♖c8? 6.♖g8+-) 6.f8 ♖ ♖g2+ (6...♖c6 7.♖f5+ ♔b6 8.♖f2+-) 7.♔e3 ♖g3+ 8.♔f4 ♖c3 Qb8+\$18] **5.♖g8 ♖c3+ 6.♔f2!**

[6.♔f4? ♖c1! 7.♖g3 (7.♔g3 ♖f1!) =) 7...♖c8 8.♖g8 ♖c1 etc positional draw; loss of time is: 6.♔e4 ♖c4+ 7.♔f3 (7.♔e3 ♖c3+ 8.♔f2 etc) 7...♖c1 Kg2/Kf2 Rc2+ 8.♔g3 etc] **6...♖c2+ 7.♔g3! ♖c3+ 8.♔g4 ♖c4+ 9.♔g5** [9.♔h5? ♖f4 =] **9...♖c5+ 10.♔h6!** [loss of time is: 10.♔h4 ♖c4+ 11.♖g4 ♖c8 12.♖g8 (but not 12.♖g5+? ♔b6 13.♖g8 ♖c4+ 14.♔g5 ♖c5+ 15.♔g6 ♖c6+ 16.♔h5 (16.♔h7 ♖c7 =) 16...♖c5+ 17.♖g5 ♖c8 =) 12...♖c4+ etc as in solution] **10...♖c6+ 11.♖g6 ♖c8 12.♖g5+!** [White push Black king 1 row down Rg6 Rc8 would lead to a repetition] **12...♔b4** [Black king cannot go up because: 12...♔b6 13.♖g8 ♖c6+ 14.♖g6! pinning Black rook and winning; It is also bad: 12...♔a4 because of 13.♖g8 ♖c6+ 14.♖g6 ♖c8 15.♖xa6+ ♔b5 16.♖xa7 White win] **13.♖g8 ♖c6+ 14.♔g5** [14.♖g6 ♖c8 15.♖g8 ♖c6+ 16.♔g5 etc with repetition] **14...♖c5+ 15.♔g4 ♖c4+ 16.♔h5! ♖c5+ 17.♖g5 ♖c8 18.♖g4+!** [White repeats once again their manoeuvre pushing Black king 1 more row down!] **18...♔b3** [and again Black king cannot go up: 18...♔b5 19.♖g8 ♖c5+ 20.♖g5! pinning Black rook and winning; and after 18...♔a3 19.♖g8 ♖c5+ 20.♔g4 ♖c4+ 21.♔f3 ♖c3+ Ke2/Ke4 Rc2+/Rc4+ Ke3! Rc3+ Kd2 Rf3 Rg3! Rxf3 f8=Q+ Kb2 Qb8+ win] **19.♖g8 ♖c5+ 20.♔g4 ♖c4+ 21.♔g3 ♖c3+ 22.♔h4! ♖c4+ 23.♖g4 ♖c8 24.♖g3+!** [pushing Black king 1 more row down!] **24...♔b2** [24...♔b4 25.♖g8 ♖c4+ 26.♖g4! pinning Black rook and winning] **25.♖g8 ♖c4+** [Not much help is: 25...♔c6 26.♖xc8 ♔e5 27.f8♖ ♔g6+ 28.♔g3 ♔xf8 29.♖xf8 a5 30.♖a8+-] **26.♔g3 ♖c3+ 27.♔g2 ♖c2+ 28.♔h3! ♖c3+ 29.♖g3 ♖c8 30.♖g2+** [pushing Black king to the first row!] **30...♔b1** [30...♔b3 31.♖g8 ♖c3+ 32.♖g3! pinning Black rook and winning] **31.♖g8 ♖c3+ 32.♔g2 ♖c2+ 33.♔h1! ♖f2 34.♖g1+ ♔c2 35.♖g2+-** [pinning Black rook and winning]

Commendation, Amatzia Avni

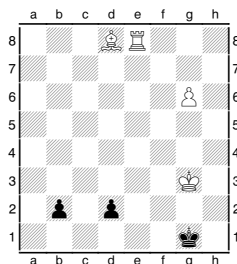


wins

White has material ahead and a battery at his disposal, but he must first prepare its use. He breaks his battery after 1.Nc1 and then sacrifices a knight with 2.Nb3+! reopens and the battery is already functional. Black avoids the "total" fork (he does not accept the rook sacrifice after 4.Ra1+!), but white has already prepared the way to the winning pawn advance by doing so. An amusing study that delights the solver's eye.

1.♔c1 ♖h3 [best] **2.♔b3+!** [2.♔c2 ♖dh4 3.♔d2+ ♔b2 4.♔f1 ♖f3 and white's forces are badly placed, his material advantage cannot be converted] **2...♖xb3 3.♔d2+ ♔a2** [liquidating to a winning rook endgame, white now has to choose the accurate path] **4.♖a1+!** [4.♔xb3? ♔xb3=] **4...♔b2 5.♖b1+ ♔c2 6.♖xb3** [6.♔xb3? ♖h4! 7.♖c1+ ♔xb3 8.♔g2 ♖h8! 9.♔g3 ♖g8+=] **6...♖d8** [a shrewd defence C)] [A] **6...♔xd2 7.♔g2+-; B) 6...♖xd2 7.♖f3!+-** (but not 7.♖e3? ♖d3=)] **7.h4!+-** [a different winning method has to be discovered] [A] **7.♔g2?? ♖xd2+; B) 7.♖f3? ♔xd2=**] **7...♖d4 8.♖h3+-.**

Commendation for the miniature, Evgeny Egorov



wins

The promotion of the three pawns into a queen and Black's counterplay with several stalemate tries after white's accurate play is not successful.

1.g7! [1.♙b6+? ♕f1 2.g7 (2.♙f8+ ♕e1! 3.g7 d1♙ 4.♙e8+ ♕f1=) 2...d1♙ 3.g8♙ ♙d6+ 4.♕h3 ♙d7+ 5.♙e6 ♙xc6+ 6.♙xc6 b1♙ 7.♙c4+ ♕c1=] **1...b1♙** [1...d1♙ 2.g8♙+] **2.♙b6+!** [2.g8♙? ♙d3+ 3.♕f4+ (3.♕h4+ ♕h1=) 3...♕f1 4.♙h8 (4.♙b6 ♙f3+! 5.♕xf3 d1♙+=) 4...♙c4+ 5.♙e4 ♙f7+ 6.♕e5 (6.♙f6 d1♙ 7.♙h1+ ♕f2 8.♙h2+ ♕f1=) 6...♙f3!! 7.♙f4 ♙xf4+ 8.♕xf4 d1♙ 9.♙h1+ ♕c2 10.♙f3+ ♕d2=] **2...♙xb6 3.g8♙ ♙c6!** [3...♙f2+ 4.♕h3+ ♕h1 5.♙d5+ ♕g1 6.♙g8++-] **4.♕h4+!** [4.♕f4+? ♕f1 5.♙f7 ♙xc8 6.♙xc8 d1♙=; 4.♕h3+? ♕h1 5.♙d8 ♙f3+=] **4...♕h1 5.♙d8 ♙h6+ 6.♕g4** [6.♕g3 ♙e3+=] **6...♕h2! 7.♙d3!!** [7.♕f3? ♙h5+ 8.♙g4 ♙d5+! 9.♕f2! (9.♙xd5 d1♙+ 10.♙xd1 stalemate) 9...♙f7+ 10.♙f3 (10.♕e3 ♙e7+ 11.♕f3 d1♙+ 12.♙xd1 ♙e3+ 13.♕xe3 stalemate) 10...♙a7+ 11.♙e3 ♙f7+ 12.♕e2 ♙h5+ 13.♙f3 (13.♕xd2 ♙a5+=) 13...♙e5+ 14.♕d3 ♙f5+! 15.♕e3 ♙e5+ 16.♙e4 ♙g3+ 17.♙f3 (17.♕xd2 ♙g5+=) 17...♙e5+ 18.♕d3 ♙f5+ 19.♕e2 ♙e5+ 20.♕d1 ♙a1+ 21.♕c2 ♙a2+ 22.♕d3 ♙a3+ 23.♕e2 ♙e7+= 24.♕f1 ♙e1#; 7.♙d5? ♙h3+ 8.♕f4 ♙f1+=] **7...d1♙+ 8.♙xd1 ♙h4+! 9.♕f3!** [9.♕xh4 stalemate] **9...♙h3+ [9...♙f6+ 10.♕e4 ♙h4+ 11.♕d3 ♙h3+ 12.♕c2 ♙f5+ 13.♙d3!+-] 10.♕f4** [10.♕e4 ♙g4+ 11.♙xg4 stalemate; 10.♕f2 ♙f5+ 11.♕e3 ♙e5+=] **10...♙h4+ 11.♙g4** [11.♕e3 ♙h3+ 12.♕f4 ♙h4+] **11...♙f6+ [11...♙f2+ 12.♙f3+- (12.♕g5? ♙f6+ 13.♕xf6 stalemate)] 12.♙f5!+-**

Košice, on 5th February 2024

Michal Hlinka, FIDE International judge

 You can send your observations to the address of the tournament director (slowpane@gmail.com) until 15th April 2024.

(Peter Gyarmati)