

Problem Paradise

Informal Tourney Award

Endgame 2020

Judge: Mario G. García

I would like to highlight the valuable collaboration with my friend Hiroshi Manabe, Director of the tournament and responsible for the studies section, with the editors of Problem Paradise magazine, and with all the participants of this tournament.

The Director sent me the studies for evaluation, with diagrams and solutions in files word and PGN and magazines.

In the verifications, technical defects were found, which were informed to the authors through the Director of the tournament.

Participants: Michal Hlinka (Slovakia); Pavel Arestov (Russia); Lubos Kekely (Slovakia); Peter S. Krug (Austria); Andrzej Jasik (Poland); Amatzia Avni (Israel); Petr Kiryakov (Russia); Michael Pasman (Israel); Marcel Dore (France); Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (Norway); Valery Kalashnikov (Russia); Jan Timman (Netherlands); Daniel Keith (France); Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine); Steffen Nielsen (Denmark); David Gurgenidze (Georgia); Alexander Avedisian (Uruguay); Yochanan Afek (Israel)

There are 24 studies by 18 composers

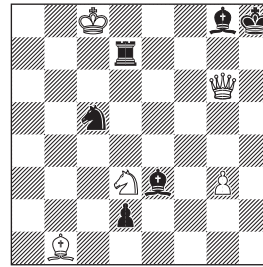
from 12 countries.

My ranking is:

SECTION: WIN

1st/2nd Prize

E146 Petr Kiryakov
Pavel Arestov
(Russia)



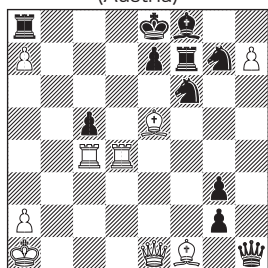
Win (5+6)

1.Ne5! [1.Nxc5? d1Q 2.Nxd7 Qd4 =]
1...Rd8+! [1...d1Q 2.Qf6+ Rg7 3.Ng6+ Kh7 4.Qh4+ Bh6 5.Nf8+ Kh8 6.Qxh6+ Bh7 7.Bxh7 +-] **2.Kxd8 d1Q+ 3.Ke7 Bg5+!** **4.Qxg5 Qd8+!** **5.Kxd8 Ne6+ 6.Ke7 Nxg5 7.Kf6** Line A **7...Nh7+** [Line B 7...Bh7 8.Bxh7 Nxh7+ 9.Kg6! Kg8 (9...Nf8+ 10.Kf7 +-) 10.Nd7 Kh8 11.g4! Kg8 12.Nf6+ +-; Line C 7...Nf7 8.Ng6+! (8.Nxf7+? Bxf7 9.Kxf7 stalemate) 8...Kh7 9.Ne7+ Kh8 10.Ba2! +-(10.Nxg8? Kxg8 11.Ba2 Kf8 12.Bxf7 stalemate) ; Line D 7...Nh3 8.Ng6+ Kh7 9.Nf4+ +-] **8.Bxh7!** with 2 echo-lines
8...Bxh7 [8...Kxh7 9.Nf7 +-] **9.Ng6+ Kg8 10.g4 +-**

Ingenious introduction culminating in varied lines with remarkable moves, even avoiding stalemate.

1st/2nd Prize

E151 Peter Krug
(Austria)



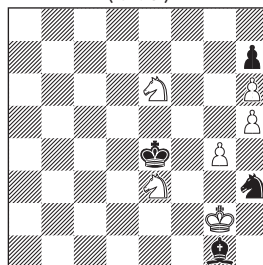
Win (9+11)

1.Rb4 Nd7 [1...cxd4 2.Rb8+ Kd7 3.Rb7+ Ke6 4.Bxd4++] **2.Rb8+ Nxb8 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.Rxd7 Rf5** [4...Rf6 5.Qxh1 gxh1Q+ 6.Rd1+ Kf7 7.Rxh1 Rf5 8.h8Q+-] **5.h8N!** [5.h8Q? Qxe1+ 6.Rd1+ Kf7-+] **5...Qxh8** [5...Qxe1+ 6.Rd1#] **6.Rxe7+ Kxe7 7.Bxg7+ Kf7 8.Bxh8 Be7** [8...Bd6 9.Bc4+ Kf8 10.Qe3 Rf1+ (10...Rf4 11.Bd5 Rxa7 12.Bxg2 Re7 13.Qd3+-) 11.Kb2 g1Q 12.Qh6+-] **9.Bc4+ Ke8 10.Qb1!** [10.Qxg3? Rf1+ 11.Kb2 g1Q 12.Qb8+ Bd8 13.Qe5+ Kf8 14.Qd6+ Ke8 15.Bb5+ Kf7=] **10...Bd6** [10...Rxa7 11.Bb5+ Kd8 12.Qd3+ Kc7 13.Qd7+ Kb8 14.Qe8+ Kc7 15.Qc6+ Kd8 16.Qxg2+-] **11.Bd4!!** [11.Kb2? Rf2+=] **11...g1Q** [11...cxd4 12.Qe4+ Re5 (12...Kd7 13.Qxf5+-) 13.Qxa8+] **12.Qxg1 cxd4 13.Qg2** or [13.Qh1] **13...Rxa7 14.Qc6+ Ke7 15.Qe4+ Re5 16.Qh7+-** untermated

Configuration that allows an entertaining game with surprising moves and interesting complementary variants.

3rd Prize

E155 Amatzia Avni
Yochanan Afek
(Israel)



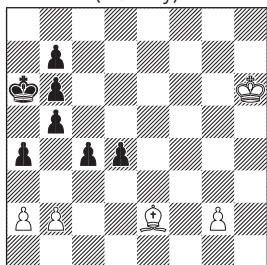
Win (6+4)

1.g5! Non-capture [1.Kxh3? Bxe3 2.Nf8 (2.Kh4 Bxh6 3.g5 (3.Ng5+ Kf4 4.Nxh7 Bg7 5.g5 Kf5=) 3...Kf5=) 2...Bxh6 3.Nxh7 Kf4=; 1.Nc5+? Kf4! (1...Kxe3? 2.Kxh3+-) 2.Kxh3 Bxe3 3.Ne6+ Ke5 4.Nf8 Bxh6 5.Nxh7 Kf4=] **1...Nxg5** [1...Bxe3 2.g6 Bxh6 3.gxh7+-] **2.Nxg5+ Kf4!** A counter non-capture from black: [2...Kxe3?-+ 3.Kxg1 (3.Nxh7)] **3.Nh3+!** [3.Ne6+? Kxe3 4.Kxg1 Kf3=; 3.Nxh7 Bxe3=; 3.Kxg1 again, capture of piece fails: 3...Kxg5=] **3...Kxe3 4.Kg3!** Yet another non-capture: [4.Kxg1? Kf3=; 4.Nxg1? Kf4=] **4...Bh2+! 5.Kg4!** The final avoidance of capture [5.Kxh2? Kf3=] **5...Bd6 6.Ng5** [6.Kf5? Be7! 7.Ng5 Bxg5 8.Kxg5 Ke4 9.Kf6 Kd5 10.Kg7 Ke6 11.Kxh7 Kf7=] **6...Bf4** [6...Be7 7.Nxh7 Ke4 8.Ng5+-] **7.Nxh7 Bxh6 8.Kf5+-** [Or first 8.Ng5 Kd4 9.Kf5]

An original and interesting ending with minor pieces.

Honorable Mention

E153 Jarl Henning Ulrichsen
(Norway)



Win (5+7)

A look at the initial position makes it hard to believe that the theme of the study is stalemate and stalemate avoidance.

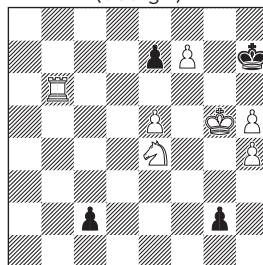
1.Kg5! [1.g4? draws: 1...d3 2.Bf1 Ka7! 3.g5 d2 4.Be2 b4 5.g6 c3 6.bxc3 b3 7.axb3 axb3 8.g7 b2 9.g8Q b1Q= . White cannot both prevent d1=Q and save his pawn on c3; e.g. 10.Qd5 Qc1; 1.Bf1? draws: 1...c3 2.Bd3 ((2.bxc3 dxc3 3.Bd3 Ka5 is worse.)) 2...Ka5 3.g4 cxb2 4.g5 Kb4 5.g6 Kc3 6.g7 Kxd3 7.g8Q Kc2=; 1.Bd1? d3 loses: 2.a3 b4 3.axb4 c3 4.bxc3 a3-+] **1...d3**
2.Bf1 [2.Bd1? a3 3.bxa3 c3-+ and Black wins.] **2...Ka5** [2...Ka7 3.Kf4 d2 4.Be2 b4 5.Ke3 c3 6.Kd3 cxb2 7.Kc2 Kb8 (7...a3 8.g4) 8.Kxb2+- and White wins.; 2...b4 Editor 3.Kf4 b5 4.Ke3 Kb6 5.g4 Kc5 6.g5 Kd6 7.Bh3+-] **3.Kf4 Kb4** [3...a3 4.bxa3 Ka4 5.Ke3 Kxa3 6.g4 Kxa2 (6...Kb2 7.Bxd3 cxd3 8.Kxd3 Kxa2 9.g5 b4 10.g6 b3 11.g7 b2 12.g8Q+-) 7.Bxd3 cxd3 8.g5 b4 9.g6 b3 10.g7 b2 11.g8Q+-] **4.Ke3** [4.g4? d2 5.Be2 a3 6.bxa3+ Kxa3 7.g5 c3 8.Bd1 Kxa2 9.g6 Kb2 10.g7 c2 11.Bxc2 Kxc2 12.g8Q d1Q-+ and Black wins.] **4...a3** [4...Kc5

5.Bxd3 cxd3 6.Kxd3 b4 7.b3 is hopeless for Black. White wins easily with his passed pawn. So Black tries to save himself by creating a stalemate.] **5.Bxd3** ! [Not 5.bxa3+? Kc3 6.g4 d2 7.Be2 Kb2 and Black wins.] **5...cxd3 6.Kxd3 axb2 7.Kc2 Ka3 8.Kb1 b4 9.g4** And finally the pawn can move. [9.g3? b3=] **9...b5 10.g5 b3 11.axb3 b4 12.g6 b6 13.g7 b5 14.g8R!+-** Stalemate avoidance [14.g8Q? stalemate.; 14.g8B? stalemate.; 14.g8N? Kxb3=]

Within the theme of stalemate threat elimination, recommended for fans of the resolution.

Honorable Mention

E147 David Gurgenzidze
(Georgia)



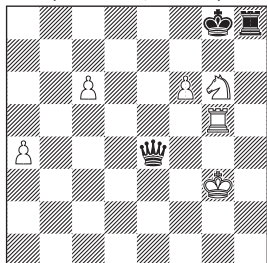
Win (7+4)

1.Kf5! [1.f8N+? Kg8!]=] **1...g1Q**
2.Ng5+ [2.f8Q? Qf1+=] **2...Qxg5+**
3.hxg5 c1Q 4.g6+ Kg7 5.h6+ Qxh6 [5...Kxh6 6.f8Q+-] **6.f8Q+ Kxf8 7.g7+ Qxg7 8.Rb8+ Kf7 9.e6#**

The prolific author develops all the themes. Nice! The solvers will surely ratify it.

Honorable Mention

E142 Steffen S. Nielsen
Pavel Arestov
(Denmark, Russia)



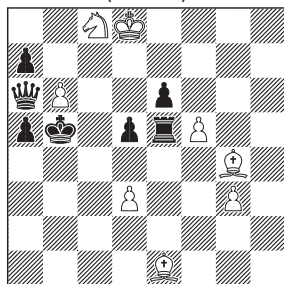
Win (6+3)

1.Ne5+ Kf8 2.Nd7+ [2.Ng6+? Kf7=]
2...Kf7 [2...Ke8 3.Re5+-] 3.Rg7+ Ke8
4.f7+ Kd8 [4...Ke7 5.f8Q+] 5.f8Q+
Rxf8 6.c7+ Kxc7 [6...Kc8 7.Nb6+-]
7.Nf6+! [7.Nc5+? Qe7! 8.Rxe7+ Kd6=]
7...Qe7 [7...Kb6 8.Nxe4+-] 8.Rxe7+
Kd6 9.Ra7 Rxf6 10.Ra6+ Ke5 11.Rxf6
Kxf6 12.a5+-

I liked this co-production. If more comments, the details may not matter, because they are visible to the recipients. The solutionists.

Special Honorable Mention

E139 Andrzej Jasik
(Poland)



Win (8+7)

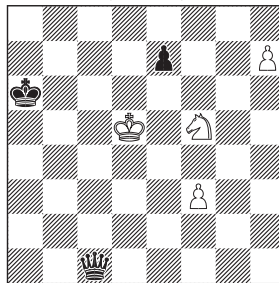
1.b7! Qxb7! 2.Nd6+ Ka6! [2...Kc6

3.Nxb7 exf5 4.Bc3 d4 5.Bf3+ Kb5
6.Bxd4±] 3.Nxb7 exf5 [3...Rxe1 4.fxe6
±] 4.Bc3! d4! 5.Bxd4 Rd5+ 6.Kc7
Rxd4 7.Kc6! [7.Bxf5? a4 8.Kc6 Rb4
9.Nd6 a3=] **7...a4 8.Be2!** Zugzwang
[8.Nc5+? Ka5 9.Bxf5 Rb4=; 8.Bxf5?
Rb4 9.Nd6 a3 10.Be6 Ka5 11.Nb7+ (11.
Kc5 Rb1=) 11...Ka4 12.Nc5+ Ka5=]
8...a3 [8...Rb4 9.d4+ ±] 9.Nc5+ Ka5
10.Nb3+ Kb4 11.Nxd4 Kc3 12.Nb5+
Kb2 13.Nxa3+- Win

The author once again presents us with a study of "special" characteristics.

Commendation

E136 Valery Kalashnikov
(Russia)



Win (4+3)

1.h8Q e6+! double attack [1...Qd1+
Editor 2.Nd4+-] **2.Kxe6 [2.Ke5?!**
Qe1+! (2...exf5? Editor 3.Qf6+-)
3.Kd6 (3.Kf4 Qd2+! 4.Ne3 Qb4+ 5.Kg3
Qe1+! 6.Kf4 Qb4+ 7.Kg5 Qc5+ 8.Kf4
Qb4+ positional draw) 3...Qb4+! 4.Kxe6
Qb3+= double attack] 2...Qc6+ double
attack [2...Qc4+ 3.Ke5 Qe2+ 4.Kf4+-
] 3.Nd6 Qxf3 4.Qa1+ Kb6 5.Qd4+
Ka6! [5...Ka5 6.Qc5+ Ka4 7.Qb5+
Ka3 8.Nc4+-; 5...Kc6 Editor 6.Qc4+
Kb6 7.Qb4+-] **6.Qa4+ Kb6 7.Qb4+!**
[7.Qb5+? Kc7!]=] 7...Ka6 [7...Kc6

8.Qb7+ diagonal attack; 7...Kc7 8.Nb5+ Kc8 9.Qc5+ Kb7 10.Qa7+--; 7...Ka7 Editor 8.Nc8+ Ka8 9.Nb6+] **8.Qb5+ Ka7 9.Nc8+ Ka8 10.Nb6+ Ka7 11.Qa5+ Kb7** [11...Kb8 12.Nd7+ Kc8 13.Qc5+--] **12.Qa8+** diagonal attack

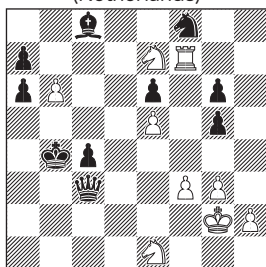
A recognition to the author for his passion, ingenuity and dedication for miniature studies. The study deserves to be recommended within the theme.

SECTION: DRAW

1st Prize

E149

Jan Timman
(Netherlands)



Draw

(9+10)

1.Nc6+! [1.bxa7? Bb7 2.Nf5 Qb2+ 3.Kf1 Ka4-+] **1...Ka4** [1...Kc5 2.bxa7 Qb2+ 3.Kh3 Bb7 4.Na5 g4+ 5.fxc4 Bd5 6.Rc7+ Kb6 7.Nxc4+ Bxc4 8.a8Q Bf1+ 9.Kh4 Qxh2+ 10.Kg5 Qd2+ 11.Kf6 Qf2+ 12.Kg7 Kxc7 13.Qxf8=] **2.bxa7 Qb2+ 3.Nc2!** [3.Kf1? Bb7!-+] **3...Qxc2+** [3...Bb7 4.N6b4=] **4.Kh3 g4+! 5.fxc4** [5.Kxg4? Bb7 6.Rxb7 Qf5+--] **5...Nh7!** **6.Rxh7 g5 7.Rf7 Qg6 8.Nd8!** [8.a8Q? Qxf7 9.Qxc8 Qf1#] **8...Qe4** [8...Bb7 9.Rxb7 Qd3 10.Kg2=] **9.Nc6!** [9.Nb7? Bxb7 10.Rxb7 Qh1! 11.Rf7 c3 12.Rf8 c2 13.a8Q Qxa8 14.Rxa8 c1Q-+] **9...Qxc6** [9...Qg6 10.Nd8=] **10.a8Q Qxa8**

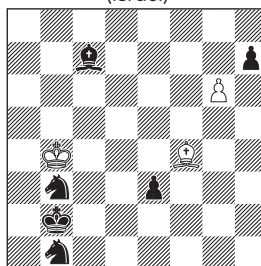
11.Rb7!! Qb8! [11...c3 12.Rb4+ Ka3 13.Rb3+ Kxb3= stalemate; 11...Bxb7= stalemate] **12.Rxb8 Bd7 13.Rd8!** [13.Ra8? Ka5 14.Rd8 Bc6 15.Ra8 Bb7!-+] **13...Bc6 14.Ra8!** [14.Rc8? Kb5-+] **14...Kb5 15.Rxa6 Kxa6=** stalemate

The study's configuration and its potential genesis seem extraordinary to me!

2nd Prize

E158

Michael Pasman
(Israel)



Draw

(3+6)

1.gxh7! [1.g7 e2 2.g8Q e1Q+--; 1.Bxc7 hxg6-+] **1...Ba5+!** [1...Bxf4 2.h8Q+=; 1...e2 2.h8Q+=] **2.Kc4!** [2.Kb5 e2 3.h8Q+ Nc3+--+] **2...e2** [Second line : 2...N3d2+!? 3.Kd3!! (3.Kd5 e2 4.h8Q+ Nc3+! 5.Kc6 e1Q-+) 3...Bc3 4.Bxe3! (4.Kxe3? Kc2! White has no way to block a1-h8 diagonal) 4...Nf3! (4...Kb3 for example 5.h8Q Bxh8 6.Bxd2) 5.Ke2!! (5.Ke4 Nbd2+! 6.Kf5 Kc2 7.Bh6 Nh4+!-+) 5...Nh4 6.Kd3!! Nf5 7.Bg1!! (7.Bf2 Bh8! 8.Ke4 Ng7!) 7...Bh8 (7...Na3 8.Ke4 Ng3+ 9.Kd5) 8.Ke4! Ng7 9.Ke5! Nd2 10.Kf6! =; Another important line : 2...N1d2+!? 3.Kd5!! (Now 3.Kd3 is not enough - 3...Nc5+ 4.Kxe3 Bc3-+ Black is winning because the way to block a1-

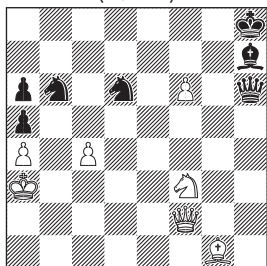
h8 diagonal is too long) 3...Bc3 4.Bxe3
 And then blocking Ke6-f7 and bishop to
 f6 or g7] **3.h8Q+ Bc3 4.Qh2! N1d2+**
 [4...N3d2+ 5.Bxd2 Nxd2+ The same]
5.Bxd2 Nxd2+ 6.Kd3! e1Q 7.Qb8+
Kc1 [Main : 7...Nb3 8.Qxb3+! Kxb3=
8.Qb2+! Kxb2= stalemate[8...Bxb2
 stalemate]

Remarkable combination of two
 main lines, nice stalemate figures and
 surprising moves.

3rd Prize

E145

Andrzej Jasik
 (Poland)



Draw (7+7)

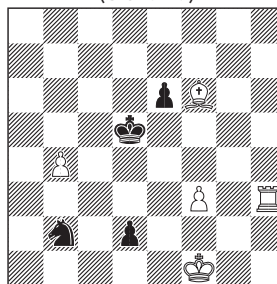
1.f7! Nbxc4+ [1...Nxf7 2.Qxb6=;
 1...Kg7 2.Ka2! Nbxc4 3.Ne5! Bf5
 4.Nxc4 Qe6 5.Qd4+ Kxf7 6.Kb3 Nxc4
 7.Qxc4=; 1...Qc1+ 2.Qb2+ Qxb2+
 3.Kxb2 Nbxc4+ 4.Kc3=] **2.Ka2!** [2.Kb3?
 Kg7 3.Ne5 (3.Ng5 Bf5-+) 3...Qh3+μ]
2...Nxf7 [2...Kg7 3.Ne5! Bf5 4.Nxc4
 Nxc4 5.f8Q+ Kxf8 6.Qxf5+=] **3.Qd4+**
Qg7 4.Qxc4 Ne5! [4...Qg2+ 5.Ka1=]
5.Nxe5 Bg8 6.Nf7+! Bxf7 7.Bd4!!
Bxc4+ [7...Qxd4 8.Qxf7=] **8.Ka3! Qxd4**
 Stalemate[8...Bd3 9.Bxg7+ Kxg7=]

Ingenious configuration and
 entertaining game from both sides.

4th Prize

E137

Michal Hlinka
 Lubos Kekely
 (Slovakia)



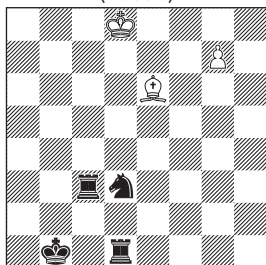
Draw (5+4)

1.Rh5+ Kd6 [1...e5 2.Rxe5+ Kd6
 3.Re1=; 1...Kc6 2.b5+ Kd7 3.Rh7+ as
 main; 1...Kc4? 2.Rh4+ Kb3 3.Rd4+-
] **2.Be5+ Kc6 3.b5+! Kb6 4.Bd4+**
Kb7 5.Rh7+ Kc8 6.Rh8+ Kd7 7.Rh7+
Ke8 8.Rh8+ Kf7 9.Rh7+ Kg8 [9...Kg6
 10.Rg7+ Kh5 11.Rh7+ positional
 draw] **10.Rh8+ Kf7 11.Rh7+ Ke8**
12.Rh8+ Kd7 13.Rh7+ Kd6! [13...Kc8
 14.Rh8+ positional draw] **14.Be5+!**
Kxe5 15.Rd7 d1Q+ 16.Rxd1 Nxd1
17.b6 start of second phase **17...Kd6**
18.b7! [18.Ke2? Nc3+ 19.Kd3 Na4!-+]
18...Kc7 19.Ke2 Nb2 a switchback
20.Ke3 [20.f4 Editor 20...Nc4-+]
20...Kxb7 21.f4 Kc6 22.f5! [22.Ke4?
 Kd6 23.f5 e5 24.f6 Na4 25.f7 Nc5-+]
22...e5 23.f6 [23.Ke4 Editor 23...Kd6
 24.f6 Na4-+] **23...Nc4+** [23...Kd6
 24.f7=] **24.Ke4 Kd6 25.f7** draw.

Rich content in themes and
 derivations, as expressed by the authors
 in their comments: Two phases. Multiple
 refusals to capture. Sacrifices. Positional
 draws. Switchback.

Honorable Mention

E143 Valery Kalashnikov
(Russia)



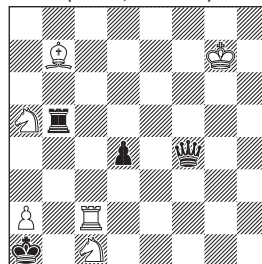
Draw (3+4)

1.g8Q Nc5+ [1...Nf4+ Editor 2.Bd7 Rcd3 3.Kc8] **2.Bd5 Rcd3 3.Qg6!** [3.Qh7? Kc1! 4.Qh6+ R1d2!-+] **3...Kc1 4.Qg5+ Kb2** [4...R1d2 Editor 5.Qg1+ Kb2 6.Qg7+] **5.Qg7+** [5.Qf6+? Ka3!-+] **5...Kc2** [5...Ka3 6.Qa7+ Na4 7.Qe7+ Kb2 8.Qb4+=] **6.Qg6!** [6.Qg2+? Kc3! 7.Qg7+ Kb4 8.Qb2+ Nb3-+] **6...Kc1 7.Qg5+ R1d2 8.Qg1+ Kb2 9.Qg7+ Kc2 10.Qg6! Kc3 11.Qf6+ Kc2** [11...Kb4 12.Qb6+=] **12.Qg6!** positional draw[12.Qf5? Kb2! 13.Qf6+ Ka3 14.Qa1+ Kb4 15.Qb1+ Nb3-+]

Configuration with "equivalent power" material, but Black has the initiative. A nice miniature where White has to make precise moves.

Honorable Mention

E148 Amatzia Avni
Vladislav Tarasiuk
(Israel, Ukraine)



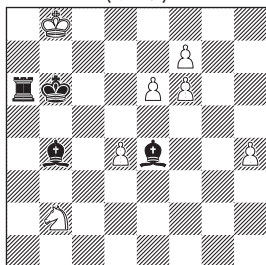
Draw (6+4)

1.Nab3+ Kb1 2.Rb2+! Kxb2 3.Nd3+ Kxa2 4.Nbc1+! [4.Nxf4? Rxb7+-+] **4...Qxc1!** [4...Kb1 5.Nxf4 Rxb7+ 6.Kf6 Kxc1 7.Ne2+ or at first 7.Ke5] **5.Nxc1+ Kb1! 6.Bc6!** [Critical position. Thematic try: 6.Ba6? Rg5+! 7.Kf6 Ra5 8.Nd3 Kc2! (and not 8...Rxa6+? 9.Ke5 Ra4 10.Nc5 Rb4 11.Nd3 Rc4 12.Kd5 = as in the main line) 9.Ne1+ (9.Bc4 Kc3 !) 9...Kd1! 10.Nf3 Rxa6+ 11.Ke5 d3-+] **6...Rg5+!** [6...Rc5 7.Nb3 (e2)! 7...Rxc6 8.Nxd4=] **7.Kf6 Rc5 8.Nd3!** [8.Nb3? Rxc6+ 9.Ke5 d3-+] **8...Rxc6+ 9.Ke5 Rc4** [9...Kc2 10.Nb4+ Kc3 11.Nxc6 d3 12.Ne7 ! 12...d2 13.Nd5+ =] **10.Kd5 Ra4 11.Nc5 Rb4 12.Nd3!** [12.Na6? d3! 13.Nxb4 d2-+] **12...Ra4 13.Nc5** draw by repetition

Ingenious introduction to arrive into an interesting ending, very likely to be appeared in competition games.

Honorable Mention

E157 Michael Pasman
(Israel)



Draw (7+4)

1.Nc4+ Kc6 [1...Kb5 2.e7 Kxc4 3.e8Q=] **2.h5!!** Ignoring material advantage and mate threats and forwarding most unexpected, far of promotion located pawn [Thematic try : 2.e7 Bd6+ 3.Nxd6 Kxd6 4.d5! (4.e8N+ Kd7 5.Nc7 even (5.d5) 5...Rb6+) 4...Bxd5 5.e8N+ Kd7 6.Nc7 Rxf6 7.Nxd5 Rxf7 8.h5 Kd6! 9.Nb6 Kc6 10.Nc4 Rf8+ 11.Ka7 Rf4! 12.Na5+ (12.Ne5+ Kc7 13.Ka6 Rf6+ 14.Ka7 Rf5-+) 12...Kb5 13.Nb7 Rd4! 14.h6 Rd7-+; 2.Ne5+ Kb5! 3.e7 Bd6+ 4.Kc8 Bf5+ 5.Kb7 Rb6+ 6.Ka7 Bb8+ 7.Ka8 Be4+ mating] **2...Ra1** [or 2...Bd5 3.e7 Bd6+ (3...Bxf7 4.Ne5+) 4.Nxd6 Kxd6 5.e8N+ Kd7 6.Nc7 Rxf6 (6...Rb6+ 7.Ka7 Rxf6 8.Nxd5) 7.Nxd5 Rxf7=] **3.Ne5+!** [3.e7? Bd6+ 4.Nxd6 Kxd6 5.e8N+ Kd7-+] **3...Kd5** [3...Kb6 4.Nd7+; 3...Kb5 4.e7] **4.f8Q!** [4.e7 Bd6+ 5.Kc8 Ra8+ 6.Kb7 Ke6+ 7.Kb6 Bxe7 8.fxe7 Kxe7-+] **4...Bxf8** [Important line : 4...Bd6+!? 5.Qxd6+ Kxd6 6.Nf7+! Kxe6 7.Ng5+! Kf5 8.Nxe4 Kxe4 9.h6! And Black has nothing better then to force a draw 9...Rb1+ 10.Kc8 Ra1] **5.e7! Bxe7 6.fxe7 Kd6! 7.e8N+!! Ke7** It is

material equality, but Black is threatening to win the knight and in the same time Kd8 [7...Ke6 8.Ng7+] **8.Ng7!** [8.Nc7 Rb1+-+] **8...Ra6!** Main threat is Kf8 to win the knight [8...Rh1 9.Kc7=; 8...Rg1 9.h6] **9.Kc7!!** [9.Nc4 Kd8] **9...Kf8!** Seems Black winning the knight **10.h6!** [10.d5? Ra7+! 11.Kb6 (11.Kd6 Kxg7) 11...Rxg7-+] **10...Rxb6 11.d5! Kxg7** [11...Bxd5 12.Nf5=] **12.d6** and must give up a piece for the pawn **12...Bf5 13.d7=**

Notable thematic essay. Entertaining and artistically appropriate gameplay featuring the Knights' coronations.

Salta , Argentina April 4 , 2021
Mario G. García
Judge