



TOURNEY
“FOR THE TRIUMPH
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW”
to commemorate
the Chess
Composition Day
2024

AWARD IN THE TOURNAMENT
“FOR THE TRIUMPH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW”
dedicated to the International Day of Chess Composition

A total of **177** entries from **100** authors representing **26** countries of the world were received:

Azerbaijan – Salman Javadzade, Jahangir Nifdaliyev, Kenan Velikhanov, Vidadi Zamanov.

Belgium – Marcel Van Herck.

Brazil – Ricardo de Mattos Vieira

Czech Republic – Miroslav Bílý, Josef Burda, Michal Dragoun, Miroslav Svitek.

Denmark – Niels Danstrup, Steffen Nielsen.

Finland – Kenneth Solja.

France – Gérard Doukhan, Sébastien Luce, Alain Pallier.

Georgia – David Gurgenidze.

Germany – Michael Barth, Raúl Jordan, Ralf Krätschmer, Michael Lütt, Martin Minski, Dieter Müller†, Thomas Niessen, Franz Pacht, Frank Richter, Michael Schlosser, Rainer Staudte, Sven Trommler, Rolf Wiehagen.

Greece – Emmanuel Manolas.

Hungary – János Csák, Bela Majoros, Gábor Tar.

Israel – Yochanan Afek, Amatzia Avni, Emanuel Navon, Michael Pasman, Menachem Witztum.

Italy – Alberto Armeni, Carlo de Grandi, Marco Guida, Francesco Simoni, Jan Sprenger.

Lithuania – Viktoras Paliulionis, Antanas Vilkauskas.

Netherlands – Jan Timman.

North Macedonia – Zlatko Mihajloski.

Poland – Krzysztof Drażkowski, Bogusz Piliczewski, Waldemar Tura.

Romania – Mihaiu Cioflâncă, Ovidiu Crăciun, Vlaicu Crisan, Gurgui Dan-Constantin, Arpad Ruzs.

Russia – Ivan Belonozhko, Gennady Chumakov, Valery Kirillov, Oleg Pervakov.

Serbia – Darko Hlebec, Dragan Stojnić.

Slovakia – Juraj Brabec, Peter Gvozdiák, Michal Hlinka, Lubos Kekelu, Zoltán Labai, Daniel Novomesky.

Spain – José Miguel Abad, Luis Gomez Palazon, Luis González.

Sweden – Christer Jonsson.

Turkey – Kivanç Çefle.

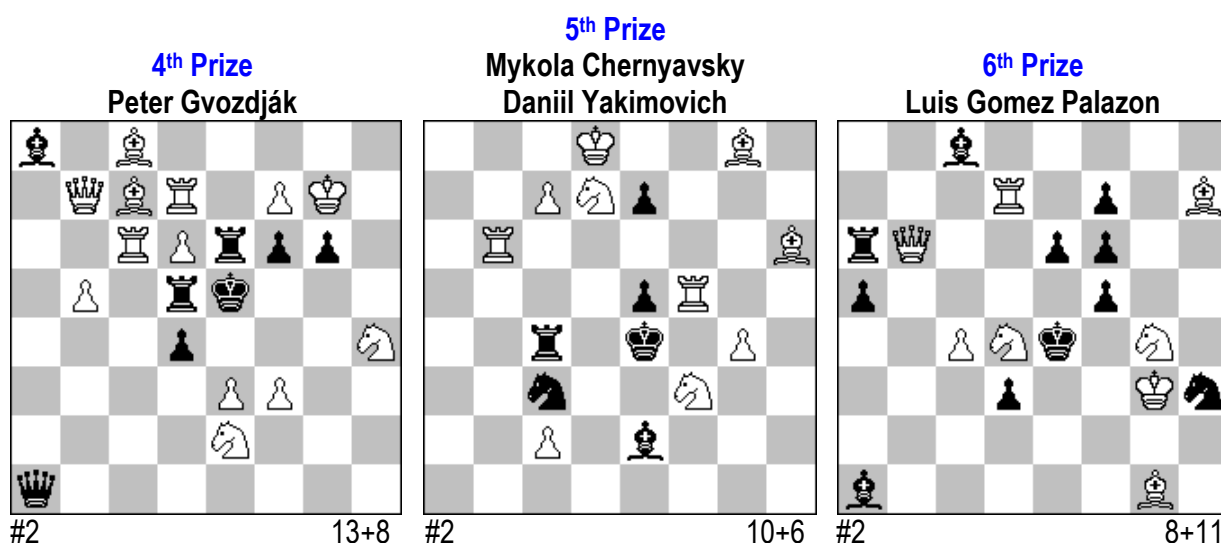
Ukraine – Yuri Bilokin, Ivan Bryukhanov, Mykola Chernyavsky, Volodymyr Chornous, Oleksandr Derevchuk, Eduard Eilazyan, Andriy Frolkin, Evgeny Gavryliv, Dmytro Grinchenko, Mykhailo Halma, Anatoly Karamanits, Mykola Kolesnik, Valery Kopyl, Volodymyr Lastivka, Ivan Malyi, Georgy Oblyashevsky, Taras Rudenko, Volodymyr Samilo, Oleksandr Semenenko, Valery Semenenko, Andriy Sergienko, Oleg Shalygin, Ivan Soroka, Anatoly Vasylenko, Mykola Vasyuchko.

USA – Rauf Aliovsadzade, Daniil Yakimovich.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who submitted their problems and endgame studies to the tournament, thereby confirming their commitment to the principles of international law. Our special gratitude to the chess composers who unequivocally expressed their support for the Ukrainian people. The tournament “For the Triumph of International Law” was announced during the war, at a time when, as a result of the brutal aggression of the Russian Empire against our country, the structure of international law, which had been created by the joint efforts of the world after the Second World War, was in fact destroyed. The invaders are depriving the citizens of Ukraine of their basic rights: to life, freedom, peace and well-being, which is a crime against humanity and a threat to the peaceful life of all mankind. The Russian invaders are killing civilians, destroying enterprises, residential buildings, hospitals, schools with missiles, appropriating territories and property. Referendums are held at gunpoint in the occupied territories, people are forced to obtain passports of the aggressor country. Prisoners are tortured and executed. Everyone is constantly threatened with nuclear apocalypse. Against that background, it is crucial for the survival of Ukraine and the world civilization that justice based on the fundamental principles of international law be restored as soon as possible. Our tournament is a manifesto of solidarity of chess composers of the world with Ukrainian chess composers.

The Federation for Chess Composition of the city of Dnipro

Two systems of play (TOTF = twomover of the future). The first system presents line theme A and interchange of defense and refutation, while the second features changed mates, Vladimirov effect and White Holzhausen.



4th Prize Peter Gvozdjak

1.Se2-g3? ~ 2.f3-f4 # A 2.Sh4*g6 # B
 1...Rd5-c5 a 2.Rc6*c5 # C 1...Re6-e7 b 2.Rd7*e7 # D 1...d4*e3!
 1.Rc6-c5? C ~ 2.Rc5*d5 #
 1...Rd5*c5 a 2.f3-f4 # A 1...Re6-e7 b 2.Rd7*e7 # D 1...Ba8*b7!
 1.Rd7-e7! D ~ 2.Re7*e6 #
 1...Rd5-c5 a 2.Rc6*c5 # C 1...Re6*e7 b 2.Sh4*g6 # B 1...Rd5*b5 2.Qb7*b5 # 1...Rd5*d6 2.Rc6-c5 #
 Double combination of Erokhin theme in three phases using double thematic threat. Again "algebra" of theoretical importance. Unfortunately, the author was unable to get rid of the parasitical defenses on c6.

5th Prize Mykola Chernyavsky & Daniil Yakimovich (dedicated to the memory of Michael Lipton)

1.Rb6-f6? ~ 2.Rf5*e5 # B
 1...Rc4-c5 c 2.Sd7*c5 # A 1...e7*f6 e 2.Sd7*f6 # D 1...Be2*f3! b
 1.Rb6-b4? ~ 2.Sd7-c5 # A
 1...Rc4-d4 a 2.Sf3-d2 # C 1...Be2*f3 b 2.Rb4*c4 # E 1...e7-e6 d 2.Sd7-f6 # D 1...Sc3-a4!
 1.Rb6-d6! ~ 2.Sf3-d2 # C
 1...Rc4-d4 a 2.Sd7-c5 # A 1...Be2*f3 b 2.Rf5*e5 # B 1...e7*d6 f 2.Sd7-f6 # D
 1...Sc3-b1 (d5) 2.Bg8-d5 #

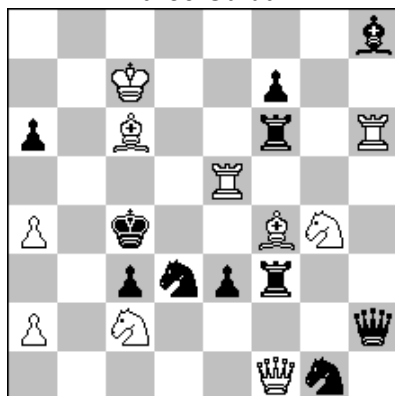
Le Grand, Dombrovskis, changed mates and defenses. The way Le Grand is presented is of interest: in the try, prior pinning of the black rook is used, while in the solution prior unpinning of a white knight takes effect.

6th Prize Luis Gomez Palazon

1...e6-e5 a 2.Sg4*f6 # A 2.Bh7*f5 # B
 1...Ba1*d4 b 2.Rd7*d4 # C 2.Qb6*d4 # D
 1.Qb6-b8? ~ 2.Sg4*f6 # A
 1...e6-e5 a 2.Bh7*f5 # B
 1...Ba1*d4 b 2.Rd7*d4 # C
 1...Sh3-f2 (g1) 2.Qb8-f4 #
 1...d3-d2 2.Qb8-b1 #
 1...Ra6-d6!
 1.Rd7-e7! ~ 2.Bh7*f5 # B
 1...e6-e5 a 2.Sg4*f6 # A 1...Ba1*d4 b 2.Qb6*d4 # D

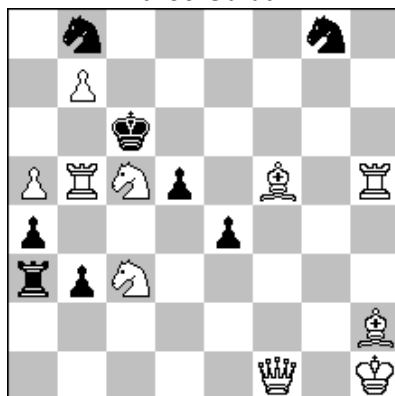
Le Grand is presented in a harmonious way, with hidden line-opening for black line pieces. Changed mates and Makihovi theme.

7th Prize
Marco Guida



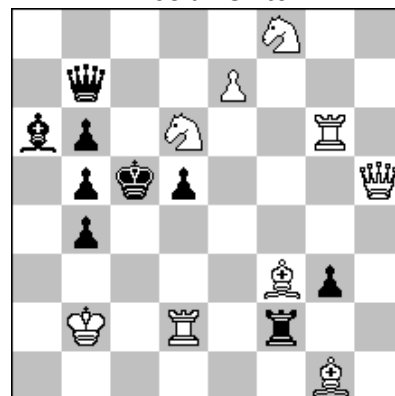
#2 10+11

8th Prize
Marco Guida



#2 10+8

9th Prize
Miroslav Svitek



#2 9+9

7th Prize Marco Guida

1.Kc7-b6? ~ 2.Re5-c5 # **A** 2.Re5-e4 # **B**, (not 2.Bc6-d5? **C**)

1...Rf6-f5 **c** 2.Bc6-d5 # **C** 1...Rf6*c6+ 2.Rh6*c6 #

1...Sg1-e2!

1.Bf4*e3! ~ 2.Bc6-d5 # **C** (not 2.Re5-c5?? **A**, 2.Re5-e4?? **B**)

1...Rf6-d6 **a** 2.Re5-c5 # **A** (not 2.Re5-e4? **B**)

1...Qh2*c2 **b** 2.Re5-e4 # **B** (not 2.Re5-c5? **A**)

1...Rf6*c6+ 2.Rh6*c6 # 1...Rf3*e3 2.Sg4*e3 # 1...Qh2*e5+ 2.Sg4*e5 #

Double pseudo Le Grand with dual avoidance based choice of threats and use of pinning and unpinning of white pieces.

8th Prize Marco Guida

1.Sc3*e4? ~ 2.Rb5-b6 # **A**

1...d5*e4 **a** 2.Bf5*e4 # **B**

1...Sb8-d7 **c** 2.Bf5*d7 #

1...d5-d4! **b**

1.Sc5*e4? ~ 2.Rb5-b6 # **A**

1...d5*e4 **a** 2.Qf1-c4 # **C** (not 2.Bf5*e4? **B**)

1...Sb8-d7! **c**

1.Qf1-g1? ~ 2.Rb5-b6 # **A**

1...d5-d4 **b** 2.Bf5*e4 # **B**

1...Sb8-d7 **c** 2.Bf5*d7 #

1...e4-e3!

1.Bf5*e4! **B** ~ 2.Be4*d5 #

1...d5*e4 **a** 2.Rb5-b6 # **A**

1...Sg8-e7 (f6) 2.Qf1-f6 #

In a well-known mechanism, the author emphasizes the implementation of all forms of Erokhin theme (Erokhin theme itself, its anti-form, and pseudo Erokhin).

9th Prize Miroslav Svitek

1.Kb2-b3? ~ 2.Sd6-e4 # **A**

1...Qb7*e7 2.Qh5*d5 #

1...Kc5-c6! **a**

1.Qh5-h8? ~ 2.Rd2-c2 # **B**

1...d5-d4 2.Qh8*d4 #

1...Kc5-c6! **a**

1.Bf3-e2? ~ 2.Sd6-e4 # **A**

1...Kc5-c6 **a** 2.Rd2-c2 # **B**

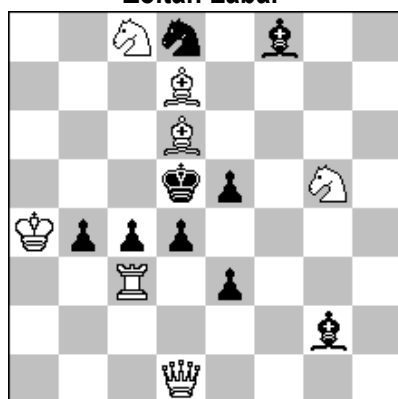
1...b4-b3! **b**

1.Qh5-e5! ~ 2.Rd2-c2 # **B**

1...Kc5-c6 **a** 2.Sd6-e4 # **A** 1...b4-b3 **b** 2.Qe5-c3 #

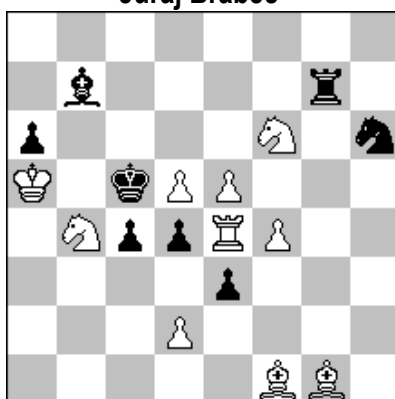
In the try, Le Grand with Ventura theme. Dombrovskis tries with a single refutation.

10th Prize
Zoltán Labai



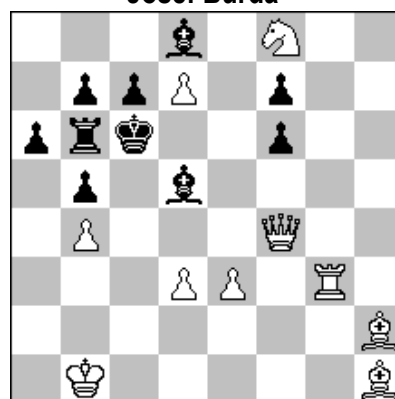
#2 7+9

1st Honorable Mention
Juraj Brabec



#2 10+ 8

2nd Honorable Mention
Josef Burda



#2 10+10

10th Prize Zoltán Labai

1.Qd1-d3? **A** ~ 2.Qd3*c4 #
 1...c4*d3 2.Rc3-c5 # **C** 1...Bg2-f1 **a** 2.Qd3-e4 #
 1...b4*c3! **b**
 1.Qd1-b3? **B** ~ 2.Qb3*c4 #
 1...c4*b3 2.Rc3-c5 # **C** 1...b4*c3 **b** 2.Qb3-b5 #
 1...d4*c3 2.Qb3-d1 #
 1...Bg2-f1! **a**
 1.Rc3*c4! ~ 2.Rc4-c5 # **C**
 1...d4-d3 2.Qd1*d3 # **A** 1...Kd5*c4 2.Qd1-b3 # **B**
 1...Bf8*d6 2.Sc8-b6 # 1...Sd8-b7 (e6) 2.Bd7-e6 #

The three-phase change of play is implemented without any claim to purity of presentation, since all the variants are only possible in the process of play. The content is very appropriately cemented by changed functions of moves, with the first movers of the tries turning to mates in post-key variants and a mate from try play variants becoming the post-key threat. Also, there is a defense-refutation interchange.

1st Honorable Mention Juraj Brabec

1...e3-e2 **a** 2.Bg1*d4 # **A** 1...d4-d3 **b** 2.Bg1*e3 # **B**
 1.Re4*e3? ~ 2.Sf6-e4 # **C**
 1...d4-d3 **b** 2.Re3-g3 # **D** 1...d4*e3 **c** 2.Bg1*e3 # **B**
 1...Bb7*d5! **e**
 1.Re4*d4! ~ 2.Rd4*c4 #
 1...e3-e2 **a** 2.Sf6-e4 # **C** 1...Kc5*d4 **d** 2.Bg1*e3 # **B** 1...Bb7*d5 **e** 2.Rd4*d5 # **E**

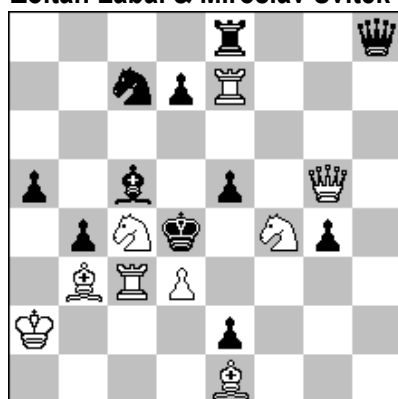
Three-phase change of play (mates, defenses, and random) with Threat Correction.

2nd Honorable Mention Josef Burda

1...Bd5-e4 2.Bh1*e4 #
 1...Bd5-f3 2.Bh1*f3 #
 1.Qf4-f5? ~ 2.Qf5*d5 #
 1...Bd5-e4 (f3) 2.Qf5-c5 #
 1...Kc6-d6!
 1.Rg3-g2! ~ 2.Rg2-c2 #
 1...Bd5-e4 2.Qf4*e4 #
 1...Bd5-f3 2.Qf4*f3 #
 1...Bd5*g2 2.Bh1*g2 #
 1...Bd5-a2+ 2.Rg2*a2 #
 1...Bd8-e7 2.Qf4*c7 #

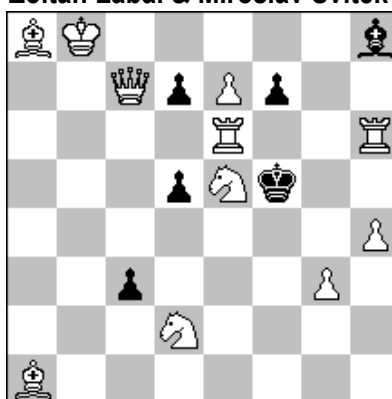
Changed mates. A good key unpinning a bishop and allowing a check to the white king in an additional variant.

3rd Honorable Mention
Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svitek



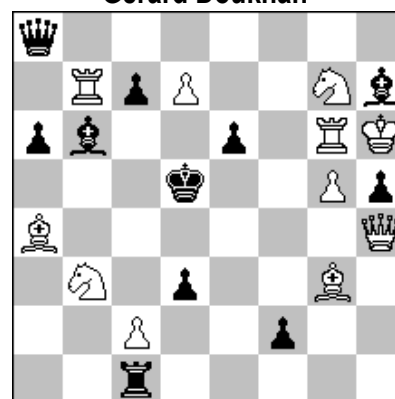
#2 9+11

4th Honorable Mention
Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svitek



#2 11+6

5th Honorable Mention
Gérard Doukhan



#2 11+11

3rd Honorable Mention Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svitek

1...d7-d5 2.Sf4*e2 # **A**
 1.Ka2-b2? ~ 2.Be1-f2 # **B**
 1...Sc7-d5 **a** 2.Sf4*e2 # **A** 1...e5-e4 **b** 2.Sf4*e2 # **A** 1...b4*c3+ **c** 2.Be1*c3 #
 1...Qh8-h2 (h3, h4) 2.Qg5*e5 # **C**
 1...g4-g3!
 1.Sc4~? ~ 2.Sf4*e2 # **A**
 1...Kd4-e3! **e**
 1.Sc4*e5? ~ 2.Sf4*e2 # **A** 1...Kd4-e3 **e** 2.Sf4-e6 # 1...Qh8*e5 2.Qg5*e5 # **C** 1...Qh8-h2! **x**
 1.Sc4-d2! ~ 2.Sf4*e2 # **A**
 1...b4*c3 **c** 2.Be1-f2 # **B** 1...Kd4*c3 **d** 2.Sd2-f3 # 1...Kd4-e3 **e** 2.Sf4-e6 #
 1...e5*f4 2.Qg5*c5 # 1...Qh8-h2 **x** 2.Qg5*e5 # **C**
 White Correction, pseudo Le Grand, change of play. A good key.

4th Honorable Mention Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svitek

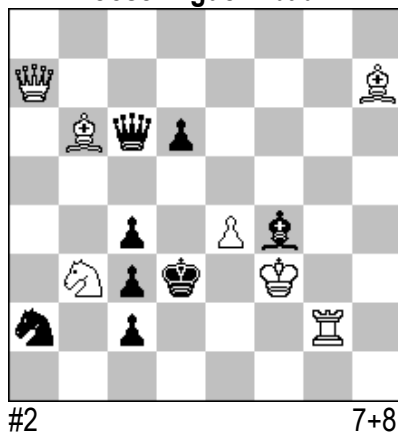
1...d5-d4 2.Ba8-e4 # 1...Bh8-f6 **a** 2.Rh6*f6 # **A** 2.Re6*f6 # **B**
 1.Ba8*d5? ~ 2.Rh6-h5 # 2.Bd5-e4 # 1...Bh8-f6 **a** 2.Rh6*f6 # **A** 2.Re6*f6 # **B**
 1...Bh8*e5! **b**
 1.Qc7*d7? **C** ~ 2.Rh6-h5 #
 1...Bh8-f6 **a** 2.Rh6*f6 # **A** 1...Bh8*e5+ **b** 2.Re6-d6 # **D** 1...f7*e6 2.Qd7*e6 # 1...c3*d2! **x**
 1.Re6-d6! **D** ~ 2.Rh6-h5 #
 1...Bh8-f6 **a** 2.Rd6*f6 # **B** 1...Bh8*e5 **b** 2.Qc7*d7 # **C** 1...Kf5*e5 2.Rd6*d5 # 1...c3*d2 **x** 2.Qc7-c2 #
 Salazar, changed mates, Makihovi theme. A good key.

5th Honorable Mention Gérard Doukhan

1...e6-e5 2.Ba4-c6 # 1...Rc1-e1 c2-c4 # 1...Bb6-a5 2.Qh4-d4 #
 1.Rg6*e6 ? ~ 2.Ba4-c6 # **A** (not 2. Qh4*e4+? **B** Bh7-e4!)
 1...Bh7-e4 2.Qh4*e4 # **B** 1...Qa8*b7 2.d7-d8=R/Q # 1...Rc1*c2!
 1.c2*d3? ~ 2.Qh4-e4 # **B** (not 2. Qh4-c4+? **C** Rc1*c4!)
 1...Rc1-e1 2.Qh4-c4 # **C** 1...Bh7*g6!
 1.Rb7*c7! ~ 2.Qh4-c4 # **C** (not 2. Ba4*c6+? **A** Qa8*c6!)
 1...Qa8-c6 2.Ba4*c6 # **B**
 1...Rc1*c2 2.Qh4-h1 #
 1...Bb6-c5 2.Rc7*c5 #
 1...Bb6*c7 2.Qh4-d4 #
 Cyclic pseudo Le Grand with cyclic dual avoidance based choice of threats. Unfortunately, in the try 1.c2*d3? after 1...Rc4 the thematic mate 2.Q*c4# occurs in parallel with 2.d3*c4#. The author shows a different defense, without a dual: 1...Re1, but it is quite logical in this scenario for all thematic defenses in the phases to be moves by a black piece along the opened line (1...Be4, 1...Re1, 1...Qc6).

4th Commendation

José Miguel Abad



4th Commendation José Miguel Abad

1.Bb6~? ~ 2.Qa7-d4 #
1...c4*b3!
1.Bb6-f2? ~ 2.Qa7-d4 #
1...c2-c1=Q!
1.Bb6-e3 ? ~ 2.Qa7-d4 #
1...Bf4-e5!
1.Bb6-g1! ~ 2.Qa7-d4 #
1...Bf4-e3 (e5) 2.Qa7*e3 #
1...Qc6*e4+ 2.Bh7*e4 #
1...Qc6-c5 (b6) 2.e4-e5 #
1...Qc6-d5 2.e4*d5 #
White Correction. Bristol.

I thank all the participants in the tournament, the level of which turned out to be quite high, and congratulate the laureates. I wish you all great creative success.

Vasyl Dyachuk,
International Judge

Endgame Studies

The endgame studies submitted to the tournament presented a variety of styles. Therefore, I paid special attention to the distinctiveness and technical skill displayed by the authors in presenting their concepts and also took into account the originality and brilliance of content, the dynamics of pieces and the availability of Black's counterplay.

Entries with defects or very close anticipations could not be included in the award:

Darko Hlebec (e7-h7) – self-anticipated by Darko Hlebec, Steniczka-90 MT, 2019, 2 hm;

Ivan Belonozhko (f7-d4) – the material and idea are known: V. Novikov, Shakhmaty v SSSR, 1962;

Taras Rudenko (b8-d8) – anticipated by L. Sedlak, Zemedelske Noviny, 1975;

Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (f7-g2) – conceptually anticipated by D. Gurgenidze, L. Kubbel MT, 1992;

Rainer Staudte & Michael Schlosser (a5-a7) – partially anticipated by A. Dall Ava, Bianchetti MT, 1965;

Marcel Van Herck (e1-e7) – endgame study of an analytical nature, related to preservation of White's material advantage, overloaded with analysis anyway; duals, e.g. 6.Ne2, have a negative effect on the overall impression;

Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (c8-c5) – the dual 13.Kd8(e8) before the key zugzwang position is unpleasant;

Vidadi Zamanov (c7-e7) – the departure of pieces at the introductory stage appears to be unrelated to the interesting denouement in the finale;

Vidadi Zamanov (f2-c3) – the endgame study is spoiled by the brutal introduction;

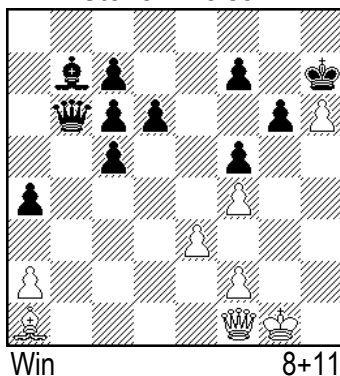
Alain Pallier (a5-g2) – complicated analytics, especially the variant 5.Ke7?; also, a mixed impression from the way the scenario of this study is unraveled – it stays behind the scenes of the solution and the full picture of clarity (White's win) can only be seen several moves after the end of the main line of play, with White no longer needing to make precise moves;

Eduard Eilazyan (h8-f5) – the author makes pieces move, choose the right squares, but the study evokes no special emotions – there is no special white move that can stick in the memory. A remodeling of the study by M. Zinar & E. Eilazyan, A. Sochnev-50 JT, 2014, 2 hm, with change of colors.

Oleg Pervakov (e7-a6) – it is a pity that the author failed to breathe life into the second black rook.

The award is as follows.

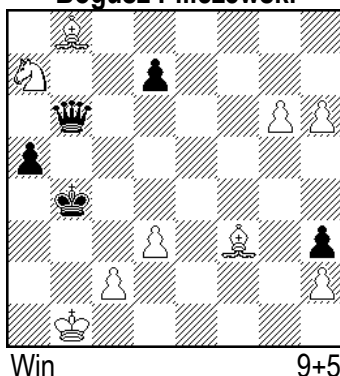
1st Prize
Steffen Nielsen



1.Bh8! a3 1...f6 2.Qa1 a3 3.Bxf6 transfers to the mainline 1...Kxh8?? 2.Qa1+--; 1...d5 2.Qa1 d4 3.exd4! Qb4! (3...Kxh8 4.dxc5+) 4.dxc5 Kxh6 5.Bg7+ (5.Qg7+? Kh5) 5...Kh7 (5...Kh5 6.Qd1+--+) 6.Bh6! f6 7.Qxf6 Qe1+ 8.Kg2 Qe4+ 9.Kh2 Kxh6 10.Qh8# **2.Qa1 f6!** **3.Bxf6** 3.Qxf6? Qb2(b1+)= **3...c4** 3...Kxh6 e.g. 4.Kg2 is out of the question. **4.Bh8 c3!** **5.Bxc3** 5.Qxc3? Qb2(b1+)= **5...d5** 5...Kxh6 e.g. 6.Bg7+ Kh5 (6...Kh7 7.Bh8) 7.Qd1+-- **6.Bh8 d4!** **7.Bxd4** 7.Qxd4? Qb1+= (7...Qb2=; 7...Qxd4=) **7...Qb4** 7...c5 8.Bh8 Kxh6 9.Kh2! Qe6 10.Qg7+ Kh5 11.Qh7+ Kg4 12.Qh3# **8.Bc5!** 8.Bh8? Qf8= **8...Qb2** 8...Qxc5 9.Qg7# **9.Qd1 Bc8** 9...Qh8 10.Qd7+; 9...Qf6 10.Qd7+ Kxh6 11.Qxc7+; 9...Kxh6 10.Qd8! Qc1+ 11.Kg2 Qxc5 12.Qh8# **10.Qd8! Qc1+** **11.Kh2!** 11.Kg2? Qxc5 12.Qf6 Qd5+ 13.Kg3 Qg8-- (13...Qd7=) **11...Qxc5** **12.Qf6! Kxh6** **13.Qh8#**

The best endgame study of the tournament, the axis of struggle being the a1-h8 diagonal. The play evolves in one breath; and the study itself demonstrates how to place appropriate load on the key pieces in the intended plot. Highly impressive are the maneuvers of the white bishop: three times to the corner and the sudden move 8.Bc5! which provides for White's success in their hunt aimed at checkmating the black king. The bishop's first move to h8 and the final mate delivered by the queen from the same corner square impart a special attractiveness to this catchy piece of work.

2nd Prize
Bogusz Piliczewski

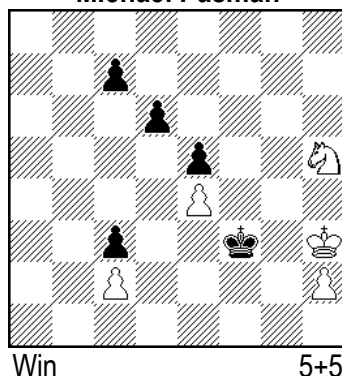


1.Bc7! 1.Bf4? Ka4+ 2.Nb5 (2.Kc1 Qf6 3.g7 Qxf4+ 4.Kb1 Qb4+ =) 2...Qxb5+ 3.Ka1 Qc5 4.Bc1 Qxc2 5.Bb2 Kb3 6.Bd5+ Kb4 7.g7 Qd1+ 8.Ka2 Qa4+; 1.Kb2? Qxb8 2.g7 Qe5+ 3.Ka2 Qxh2 4.g8Q Qxc2+; 1.Kc1? Qxg6 2.h7 Qxh7 3.Bd6+ Ka4 4.Bd1 Qh6+ 5.Kb1 Qc1+ 6.Kxc1 stalemate **1...Qg1+** 1...Qxg6 2.Bf4+; 1...Qxa7 2.g7 Qg1+ 3.Kb2 Qd4+ 4.Ka2+; 1...Qxc7 2.g7 Qb8 3.Nb5 Kxb5 4.h7+- **2.Kb2** 2.Ka2? Qxg6= **2...Qxg6** 2...Qd4+ 3.Ka2 Qc3 4.Nc6+! dxc6 5.Bd6+ c5 6.Bd1+- **3.h7!** 3.d4? a4 4.c3+ Kc4= **3...Qxh7** 3...Qg7+ 4.d4! Qxd4+ (4...Qxh7 5.Be2+-) 5.Kb1 Ka4 (5...Qg1+ 6.Ka2 Qg7 7.Bd6+ Kc4 8.Be4+-) 6.Be2! Qb4+ 7.Kc1 Qa3+ (7...Qh4 8.Bb5+ Ka3 9.Bd6+ Ka2 10.Bc4+ Qxc4 11.h8Q+-) 8.Kd1 Qa1+ 9.Kd2 Qd4+ 10.Bd3+- **4.Bd6+ Ka4** **5.Bd1 Qh5!** **6.Nb5!** 6.Bxh5? stalemate **6...Qxb5+** 6...Qxd1 7.Nc3# **7.Ka1! Qc6** 7...Qc4 8.c3+ (8.dxc4? stalemate) 8...Qb3 9.Bxb3+-- **8.c4#**

A spectacular plot with a small but witty encounter of pieces which gets hotter and more inspired with each move. The parties' inventive struggle, featuring mutual sacrifices, counterplay for stalemate and the white king's move to the corner, leads to the formation of a white battery and its

Special Prize for the best miniature. Forced and yet attractive play with three black pieces pursuing the white king. White avoids three different checkmating collisions and has a rescuing move in store in the finale: 15.Qf6!

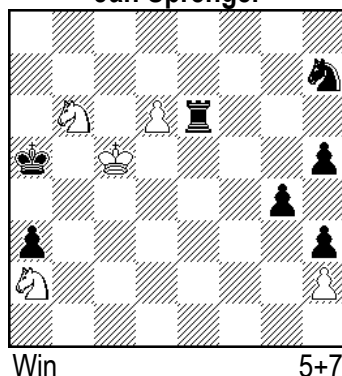
1st Honorable Mention
Michael Pisman



1.Ng3! zz 1.Nf6? c6= **1...d5!** 1...c6 2.Nf5 d5 3.Ne7! d4 (3...dxe4 4.Nxc6) 4.Nxc6 Ke2 5.Nb4+- **2.exd5 e4**
3.Nh5! zz Switchback 3.Nf5? e3 4.Nd4+ Kf2! 5.Kg4 e2 6.Nxe2 Kxe2= **3...e3** **4.Nf4!** 4.Ng3? e2= **4...Kxf4**
 4...e2 5.Nd3!+- **5.Kg2 Ke4** **6.Kg3!** 6.h3? Kxd5 7.Kf3 Kd4 8.h4 e2 9.Kxe2 Ke4= **6...Kxd5** 6...e2 7.Kf2+-
7.Kf3 Kd4 **8.h3!!** zz Logical try: 8.h4? e2 9.Kxe2 Ke4 zz Position Y1, white to move 10.h5 Kf5 11.Kd3
 Kg5 12.Kxc3 Kxh5 13.Kd4 Position X1 13...Kg6! 14.Ke5 Kf7= **8...e2** 8...c6 9.h4 e2 10.Kxe2 Ke4 11.h5
 Kf5 12.Kd3 Kg5 13.Kxc3+- **9.Kxe2 Ke4** **10.h4!** zz Position Y2, black to move **10...Kf4** 10...c6 11.h5 Kf5
 12.Kd3 Kg5 13.Kxc3+- **11.Kd3 Kg4** **12.Kxc3 Kxh4** **13.Kd4** Position X2 **13...Kg4** **14.Ke4!** **Kg5** **15.Ke5**
Kg6 **16.Ke6** win.

From the two studies submitted by the author, I preferred including in the award this subtle piece of work, with a bouquet of reciprocal zugzwang positions starting from the first moves of the solution. The outcome of the encounter in this study is decided on the kingside, due to precise play by the white knight (1.Ng3! zz and 3.Nh5! zz) and pawn (8.h3! zz) ensuring the successful advance of the white c2-passer on the queenside at the final stage.

2nd Honorable Mention
Jan Sprenger



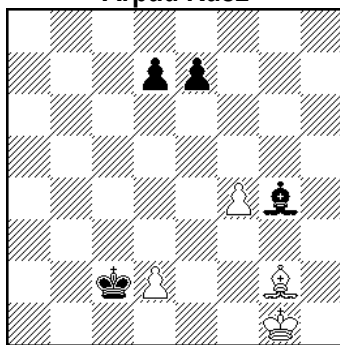
1.Nc4+! Try: 1.d7? Re5+ 2.Kd6 Re6+! 3.Kc5 (3.Kxe6 Nf8+) 3...Re5+ 4.Kc4 Re4+ 5.Kc3 Rd4! 6.Kxd4
 Nf8(g5) 7.d8Q Ne6+= **1...Ka6!** 1...Ka4 2.d7 e.g. 2...Re5+ 3.Kc6 Rc5+ 4.Kb6 Rb5+ 5.Ka7 Rd5 6.Nb6+-
2.d7 Re5+! **3.Nxe5** 3.Kc6? Rc5+! 4.Kxc5 Nf8 5.d8N e.g. 5...g3=; 3.Kd6? Rd5+! 4.Kxd5 Nf6+ 5.Kc6
 Nxd7-+ **3...Nf8** **4.d8N!** 4.Nb4+? Kb7 5.d8N+ Kc7 6.Ndf7 Nd7+=; 4.d8Q? Ne6+ **4...g3!** **5.Nb4+ Ka5**
 5...Ka7 6.Nec6+ checkmate is imminent, e.g. 6...Ka8 7.Kd6 gxh2 8.Nd5 h1Q 9.Nc7# **6.Ndc6+!** Thematic
 try: 6.Nb7+? Ka4 7.Kc4 preparing Na2 and Nc3 mate 7...a2! (7...gxh2? 8.Na2 h1Q 9.Nc3#) 8.Nc5+ Ka3
 9.Kb5 Kb2! (9...a1Q? 10.Nc4#) 10.Nc4+ Kc1(c3) with transposition (10...Kb1? 11.Ncd3! a1Q 12.Nd2#)
 11.Nxa2+ Kc2 12.Ne3+ Kb2 13.Nb4 g2 14.Nc4+ Kb1 15.Ne4 Ne6= **6...Ka4** **7.Kc4 a2!** 7...gxh2 8.Na2!
 h1Q 9.Nc3# **8.Nxa2** 8.Nc2? a1Q! (8...gxh2? 9.Nd3 h1Q 10.Nc5#) 9.Nxa1 gxh2-+ **8...Ka3!**? [8...gxh2
 9.Nc3+ Ka3 10.Nd3 transposes; 8...Nd7 9.Nc3+ Ka3 10.Nd3 Nb6+ 11.Kd4 gxh2 12.Nf2+- **9.Nc3** 9.Nc1?
 gxh2 10.Kb5 Kb2!= 10...h1Q?? 11.Nc4# **9...gxh2** **10.Nd3!!** Thematic try: 10.Nb5+? Ka2 11.Nd3 h1Q

12.Nc3+ Ka1! 13.Nd4 checkmate threats Nb3# and Nc2# 13...Qb1! 14.Nb3+ Qxb3+ 15.Kxb3 Ne6!=; Transposition does not work: 10.Nd4? Nd7! 11.Ndb5+ Kb2 12.Nd3+ Kc2 13.Nd4+ Kd2 14.Nf3+ Ke3 15.Nxh2 Nb6+!= **10...h1Q 11.Nd4!** The black lady is helpless against the double threat Nc2# and Ndb5# 11.Na7? Qb7! 12.Nab5+ Qxb5+= **11...Qb7 11...Qg2 12.Ndb5# 12.Nc2#**

Step by step, White uses the cramped position of the black king on the edge of the board. After 11.Nd4!, a curious setting arises in which White consolidates his forces in the form of a rectangle of pieces. One move later, on account of the limited movement capacity of the promoted black queen, the encounter logically ends with two checkmate finales.

3rd Honorable Mention

Arpad Rusz



Draw

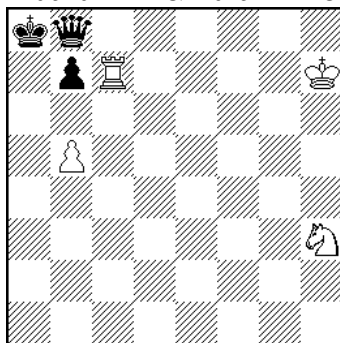
4+4

1.d4 1.Kf2? Kxd2 2.Kg3 Bf5--+ **1...Kd3 2.d5 Ke3 3.d6! exd6** 3...e6 4.Bc6! e5 5.Bxd7! (5.fxe5? dxc6--+)
5...Bxd7 6.fxe5= **4.Ba8!!** zz 4.Kf1? Be6! (4...Kxf4? 5.Kf2=) 5.Ke1 d5--+; 4.Bd5? Kxf4! 5.Kf2 Ke5 6.Bb7
Kd4--+; 4.Bh1? Bh3! zz 5.Ba8!? Kxf4! 6.Kf2 Ke5 7.Ke3 d5 8.Bb7 Bf1! 9.Bc8 Bb5 10.Bb7 Bc4 11.Bc8
Kd6 12.Bb7 Kc7 13.Ba8 Kb8--+; 4.Bb7? Be6! zz 5.Kg2 (5.Kf1 Bc4+!--+)
4...Bh3! 4...Kxf4 5.Kf2 Ke5 6.Ke3 d5 7.Bb7= **5.Bh1!!** zz **5...Be6!** 5...Bg4 6.Ba8 positional draw **6.Bb7!**
zz **6...Bf5** 6...d5 7.f5! Bxf5 8.Bxd5= **7.Bg2!** zz **7...Bg4 8.Ba8!** positional draw.

A subtle duel between the two sides' bishops, featuring their attractive maneuvering on four pairs of corresponding squares. To make that happen, White first has to sacrifice his pawn.

Special Honorable Mention

Amatzia Avni & Martin Minski



Draw

4+3

1.b6, and three variants:

A) 1...Qf8 2.Nf4! 2.Rg7? Qf5+--+ **2...Kb8** 2...Qxf4 3.Rc8+ Qb8 4.Rg8!= **3.Rg7 Qf5+ 4.Rg6** self-pin
4...Kc8 5.Ne6 Kd7 5...Qh5+ 6.Kg7=; 5...Qf7+ 6.Kh6= **6.Ng5** fortress when R+N are on the g-file.

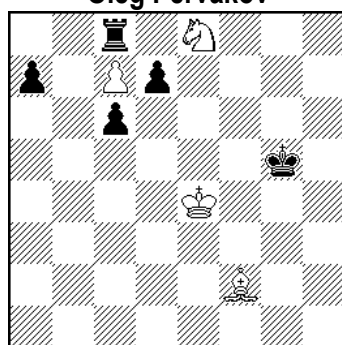
B) 1...Qe8 2.Nf4 Qe4+ (2...Kb8 3.Rg7) **3.Kg8! Kb8 4.Rf7** fortress when R+N are on the f-file.

C) 1...Qd8 2.Nf4 Kb8 3.Ne6 Qd3+ (3...Qf6 4.Nc5; 3...Qh4+ 4.Kg7 Qb4 5.Nc5=) **4.Kg7! Qg3+** (4...Qd6
5.Nc5=) **5.Kf6 Qf2+** (5...Qd6 6.Rc4 transposes) **6.Ke5 Qxb6 7.Rc4!** accurate: (7.Rc5? Ka7--+; 7.Rc3?
Qb2--+; 7.Rc2? Qe3+--+)
7...Qa5+ 8.Rc5 draw.

A small confrontation of the white rook and knight with the black queen, involving the construction of two echoed fortresses. An appealing miniature – not marked by any depth of content, but evoking a smile.

1st Commendation

Oleg Pervakov



Win

4+5

1.Be3+! Thematic try: 1.Nd6? Rxc7 2.Be3+ Kh4!! 3.Bc5 Kg4! zz 4.Ke3 Kg3 zz 5.Ke4 Kg4 6.Ke5 Kg5 zz positional draw.

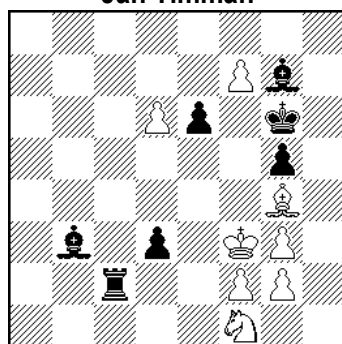
A) 1...Kg6! 1...Kh4 2.Kf5! Rxe8 3.Bg5+ Kg3 4.Bd8+- **2.Nd6 Rxc7 3.Bc5! Kg5 4.Ke5** zz Loss of time 4.Kf3 Kh4 5.Kf4 Kh3 6.Kg5 Kg3 7.Kf5 Kf3 8.Kf6 Kf4... **4...Kg4 4...Kg6 5.Kf4+-; 4...a5 5.Bb6+- 5.Kf6 Kf4 6.Ke7 Ke5 7.Kd8 Kd5 8.Ba3!** win.

B) 1...Kh5! 2.Nd6 Rxc7 3.Kf5! c5 4.Bg5 Rc6 5.Ne4! (5.Ne8? Rg6=) **5...d5 6.Ng3#**

In order to win, White has to make a precise move with his bishop at the very beginning. Cf. S. Didukh, ChessStar, 2020, 3rd Prize, also presenting a hunt on the black rook and king.

2nd Commendation

Jan Timman

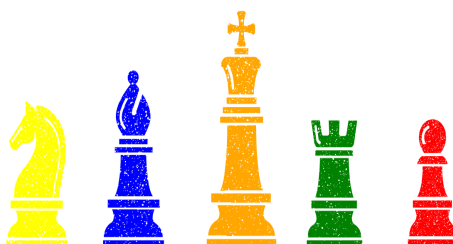


Draw

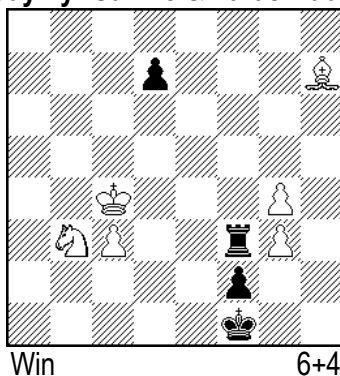
8+7

1.d7 Re2! 2.Bh5+! 2.d8Q? Bd5+ 3.Qxd5 exd5 4.Ne3 Kxf7 5.Bf5 Bd4 6.Bxd3 Rd2-+; 2.Ne3? Ba4 3.Bxe6 Bc6+ 4.Kg4 Bxd7 5.Bxd7 d2-+ **2...Kxh5 3.g4+ Kh4! 4.d8Q** 4.Ne3? Ba4!-+ **4...Bd5+ 5.Qxd5 exd5-+ 6.Ng3** 6.f8Q? Bxf8 7.Ng3 Rxf2+ 8.Kxf2 Kxg4-+ **6...Re5 7.f8N!** 7.f8Q? d2!-+ **7...Bxf8 8.Nh1!** A. Wotawa **8...Rf5+!** 8...d2 9.g3+ Kh3 stalemate **9.gxf5 Bc5 10.g4 Bd4 11.f6!** 11.Ng3? d2 12.Ke2 Bxf2-+ **11...d2 12.Ke2 Bxf6 13.Ng3 Kxg4 14.Nf1!** 14.Kxd2? Kf3-+ **14...d1Q+** 14...Bc3 15.Ne3+= **15.Kxd1 Kf3 16.Nh2+** 16.Ne3? d4-+ **16...Kg2 17.Ng4** draw.

Based on the endgame study by A. Wotawa, *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, 1936, the author found interesting possibilities for creating a large-scale study.



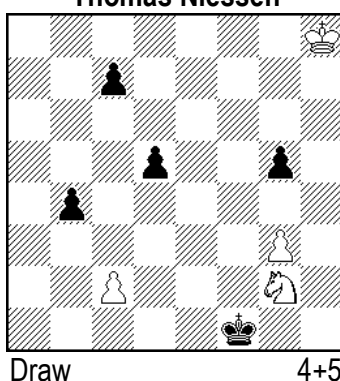
3rd Commendation
Volodymyr Samilo & Taras Rudenko



1.Nd2+ Kg2 1...Ke2 2.Nxf3 f1Q 3.Bd3+++ 2.Be4 d5+! 3.Kxd5! 3.Bxd5? Kh3 4.Bxf3 f1Q+ 5.Nxf1 stalemate 3...Kh3 4.c4! Try: 4.g5? Rxc3 (4...Rxc3? 5.g6 Rg1 6.Bf5+! Kh4 7.Ke5 Kh5 8.Bd3+-) 5.g6 Rc1 6.g7 Rd1 7.Kc5 Rxd2 8.g8Q f1Q 9.Qh7+ Kxg3=; 4.Kd4? f1Q! (4...Rxc3? 5.Bf5! Kh4 6.Nf1 Rg1 7.Bd3 Kxg4 8.Ke3!+-) 5.Nxf1 Rxf1 6.g5 Kxg3 7.g6 Kf4!= **4...Rxc3 5.Nf1! Rg1 5...Rc3 6.g5 Rc1 7.Bd3+- 6.Bd3 Kg2 7.g5! 7.Ne3+? Kf3 8.Nf1 Kg2 7...Rxf1 8.Bxf1+ Kxf1 9.g6 Ke2 10.g7 f1Q 11.g8Q win.**

Quite interesting are the short play for stalemate at the beginning and the choice on the 4th move: the c-pawn must be retained for the 5-piece queen finale in which its presence on the board will provide for White's decisive advantage.

4th Commendation
Thomas Niessen



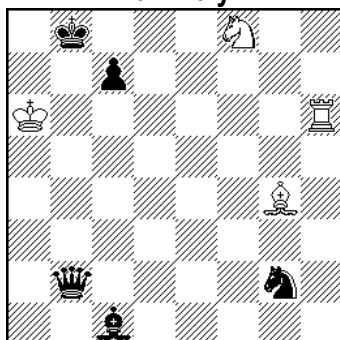
1.Nf4! Try: 1.Ne3+? Ke2(e1) 2.Nxd5 c5 3.g4 (3.Nc7 g4+-) 3...Kd2 4.Nb6 Kxc2-+ **1...c5 1...d4 2.Nd3 b3** (2...g4 3.Nxb4 c5 (3...Kg2 4.Nc6=) 4.Nd3 c4 5.Ne5=) 3.cxb3 Ke2 4.Nc5 Kf3 5.Kg7 Kxg3 6.Ne6! d3 7.Nc5! d2 8.Ne4+ Kf4 9.Nxd2 g4 10.Nf1=; 1...Kf2 2.Nxd5 c5 3.Kg7 Kxg3 4.Kf6 g4 5.Ke5=; 1...gxf4 2.gxf4= for example 2...d4 3.f5 d3 4.cxd3 b3 5.f6 b2 6.f7 b1Q 7.f8Q+ **2.Nd3 g4 2...Ke2 3.Nxc5 Kd2?** 4.Na6+- **3.Kg7!** 3.Nxc5? Kf2-+ **3...Kg2 4.Kf6 Kxg3 5.Ke5 b3!** 5...c4 6.Nxb4 Kf3 7.Nxd5 g3 8.Nf4=; 5...Kf3 6.Kxd5= **6.cxb3 c4 7.bxc4 dxc4 8.Nb2! Kf2 8...c3 9.Nd3 c2 10.Kd4 Kh2 11.Kc3 g3 12.Kxc2 g2 13.Ne1 g1Q 14.Nf3+= 9.Ke4!** 9.Kf4? g3 10.Nd1+ Ke1 11.Ne3 Ke2-+ **9...g3 10.Nd1+ Ke1 11.Ne3 Kf2 11...Ke2 12.Nd5 g2 13.Nf4+= 12.Nd1+ Ke2 12...Ke1 13.Ne3 Ke2 14.Nd5 Kf2 15.Nf4= 13.Nc3+ Kd2 14.Nb1+ Kc1 14...Kc2 15.Na3+ Kb3 16.Nxc4 Kxc4 17.Kf3= 15.Nc3 g2 15...Kd2 16.Nb1+ Ke1 17.Kf3= 16.Kf3 Kc2 16...g1Q 17.Ne2+ Kd2 18.Nxg1=; 16...Kd2 17.Ne4+ Kd3 18.Nf2+ Kd4 19.Nh3 c3 20.Ke2= **17.Ne2 Kd2 18.Kf2 g1Q+ 19.Nxg1, draw.****

White's painstaking work for the sake of stopping the black passers.



5th Commendation

Ivan Malyi



Draw

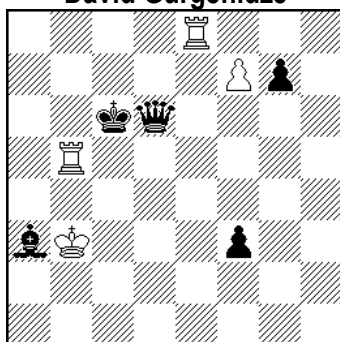
4+5

1.Nd7+ Kc8 2.Rh8+! 2.Ne5+? Kd8 3.Re6 (3.Rh8+ Ke7-+) 3...Ne3! (3...c5?? 4.Nf7+ Kc7 5.Re7+ Kb8 6.Re8+ Kc7 7.Rc8#) 4.Nc6+ Kd7 5.Ne5+ Qxe5 6.Rxe5+ Nxc4-+ **2...Qxh8 3.Ne5+ Kb8 4.Nd7+ Kc8 5.Ne5+ Kd8 6.Nf7+ Ke7 7.Nxh8 Kf6 8.Bh5!** 8.Bf3? Nf4-+; 8.Be2? Kg7-+; 8.Kb7? c5 9.Bh5 Nf4-+; 8.Kb5? Kg7 9.Kc6 Bf4-+ **8...Nf4 9.Be8 Be3 10.Kb5! Kg7 11.Kc6 Bb6 12.Nf7 Kf8 13.Ne5!** 13.Kd7? Nd3! 14.Ng5 Nc5+ 15.Kd8 c6+ 16.Kc8 Kxe8-+ **13...Kxe8 14.Nc4**, draw.

Certain points in the play are perceived with interest: easy to follow and styled like an OTB game.

Special Commendation

David Gurgenzidze



Draw

4+5

1.f8Q 1.Reb8? Qd3+ 2.Ka4 Be7 3.R8b6+ Kd7 4.Rb7+ Ke6 5.Re5+ Kxf7 6.Rbxe7+ (6.Rexe7+ Kg6 7.Rxg7+ Kh6 8.Rgf7 f2-+) 6...Kg6 7.R7e6+ Kh7 8.Rh5+ Kg8 9.Re8+ Kf7-+ **1...Qd3+ 2.Ka4 Bxf8 3.Rc8+ Kd7 4.Rd8+! Kxd8 5.Rd5+! Ke8!** 5...Qxd5 stalemate **6.Rxd3 f2 7.Rf3 7.Re3+? Be7 8.Rf3 Bh4!** 9.Kb5 g5 10.Kc4 g4-+ **7...Bc5 8.Kb5 Ba7 9.Kc4 g5 10.Kd3 g4 11.Ke2! gxf3+ 12.Kf1** stalemate.

The stalemate study by W. Korteling, Tijdschrift v.d. KNSB, 1942, is supplemented with one more stalemate and two rook sacrifices.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the laureates of the tournament and sincerely wish all participants health, new successes and discoveries on the chessboard!

Vladyslav Tarasiuk,
International Judge

Helpmates

The following entries could not be included in the award:

M. Bílý (Ka4-Kc5) in view of anticipations: Valery Kirillov Na Smenu! 1989 (v) 1st Prize and Miroslav Bílý U.S. Problem Bulletin 1993.

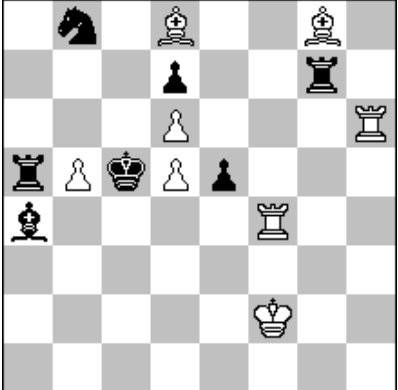
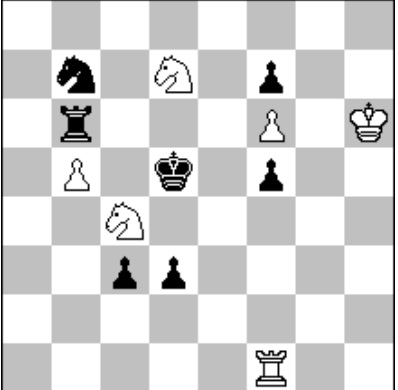
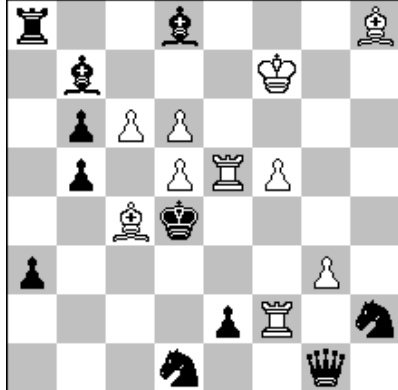
A. Armeni (Kc6-Ka6) on account of being anticipated by Andrzej Babiarz Polish Chess Federation 2014.

K. Çefle (Kh2-Ka1) on account of being anticipated by Nikola Stolev Mat 1984, com.

D. Novomesky (Ka2-Kh7) on account of being anticipated by Norbert Geissler StrateGems 2002, 1 HM.

The level of the problems was rather high, which made it possible to divide the award into three separate sections. The resulting award is as follows:

Section H#2

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
Michal Dragoun	Michal Dragoun	Waldemar Tura
		
H#2 4.1... 8+7	H#2 2.1... 6+7	H#2 2.1... 10+11
	b) bBb6	b) Rf2→a4

1st Prize Michal Dragoun

1.Rg7-e7 d6*e7 2.Ba4*b5! Bd8-b6 # **A**

1.Sb8-c6 d5*c6 2.Ra5*b5! Rf4-c4 # **B**

1.Rg7-f7 Bd8-b6+ **A** 2.Kc5*d5 Bg8*f7 #

1.Rg7-g6 Rf4-c4+ **B** 2.Kc5*d6 Rh6*g6 #

HOTF. The first pair of solutions presents active sacrifices of black pieces to open white lines. Self-block of the b5-square involving dual avoidance. In the second pair, lines for white pieces are closed. Delayed sacrifices of black pieces. Both pairs of solutions are connected by interchange of White's first and mating moves.

2nd Prize Michal Dragoun

a) 1.Rb6-e6 Rf1-f4 **A** 2.Sb7-d6 Sc4-b6 # **B**

1.Rb6-d6! ((Sb7-d6?) Sc4-b6+ **B** 2.Kd5-e6 Rf1-e1 # **C**

b) 1.Bb6-d4 Rf1-e1 **C** 2.Sb7-c5 Sd7-b6 # **D**

1.Bb6-c5! ((Sb7-c5?) Sd7-b6+ **D** 2.Kd5-d4 Rf1-f4 # **A**

HOTF. In each pair of solutions, there are critical moves by Black and self-blocking of d6 and c5 involving dual avoidance. The two pairs of solutions are combined by a closed cycle of white moves (AB – BC – CD – DA).

3rd Prize Waldemar Tura

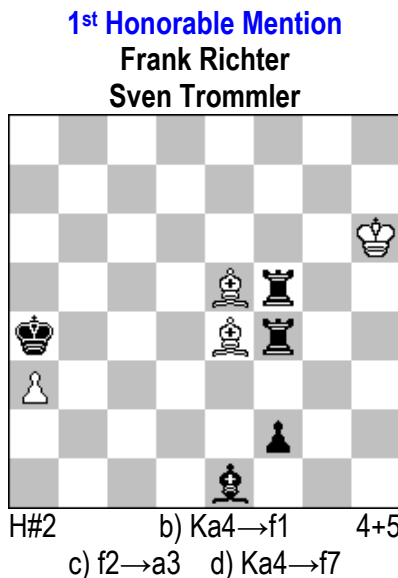
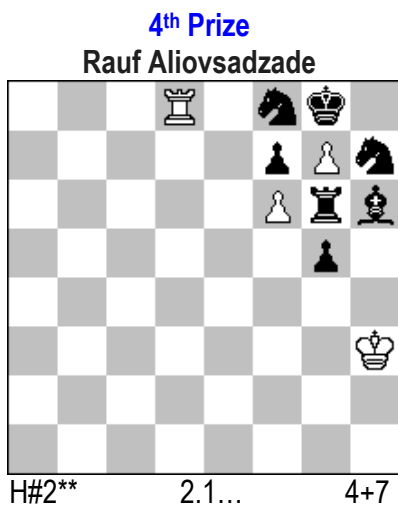
a) 1.Sh2-f3 Re5-e3+ 2.Kd4*e3 Rf2*e2 #

1.Sd1-e3 Re5-e4+ 2.Kd4*e4 Rf2-f4 #

b) 1.Ra8-c8 c6*b7 2.Rc8-c5 Re5-e7 #

1.Bd8-e7 d6-d7 2.Be7-c5 Re5-e8 #

The first pair of solutions highlights battery play with white rook sacrifice. In the second pair, the same white battery plays on the mating moves, with the white rook closing lines for black pieces. HOTF. An excellent composition by the chess composition veteran.



4th Prize Rauf Aliovsadzade

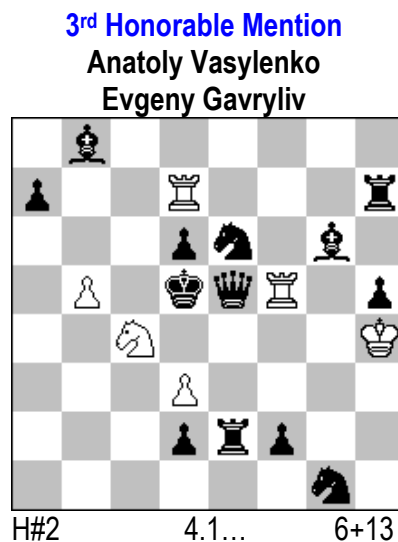
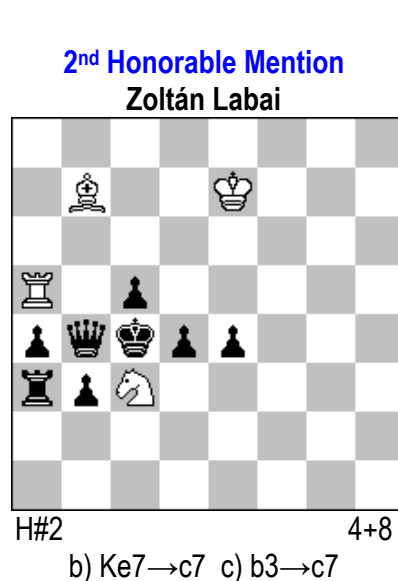
*1...g7*f8=S 2.Kg8-h8 a Sf8*g6 # **A** *1...g7*f8=B 2.Kg8-h8 a Bf8-g7 # **B**
1.Rg6*f6 g7*f8=R+ 2.Kg8-g7 Rf8-g8 # 1.Sh7*f6 g7*f8=Q+ 2.Kg8-h7 Qf8-h8 #
A block problem (set play preserved). Changed functions of the white rook. AUW.

Special Prize Oleksandr Semenenko

1.Sh6*g4 Rc4-c3+ **A** 2.Ke3-f4 Sf2-h3 # **B** 1.Rc8-d8 Sf2-h3! **B** (Sf2-d3?) 2.Rd8*d2 Rg4-g3 # **C**
1.Rc8*c4 Rg4-g3+ **C** 2.Ke3-d4 Sd2-b3 # **D** 1.Rc8-f8 Sd2-b3! **D** (Sd2-f3?) 2.Rf8*f2 Rc4-c3 # **A**
The most economical (11 pieces) presentation: Synthesis of four-phase cyclic Zilahi and cyclic interchange of white moves (AB – BC – CD – DA). Cyclic interchange of functions of four white pieces. The externally symmetric configuration of white pieces leads to asymmetric solutions.

1st Honorable Mention Frank Richter & Sven Trommler

a) 1.Ka4-a5 Be4-d3 2.Rf4-a4 Be5-c7 # b) 1.Rf4-g4 Be5-h2 2.Rg4-g2 Be4-d3 #
c) 1.Be1-b4 Be5-c7 2.Rf5-b5 Be4-c2 # d) 1.Kf7-g8 Be5-g7 2.Rf5-f7 Be4-h7 #
A line-opening cycle: Be4 for Rf4, Rf4 for Be5, Be5 for Rf5, Rf5 for Be4. Model mates.



2nd Honorable Mention Zoltán Labai

a) 1.Qb4*a5 Bb7-a6+ 2.Kc4-b4 Sc3-d5 #
b) 1.Qb4*c3 Ra5*a4+ 2.Kc4-b5 Bb7-c6 #
c) 1.Qb4*b7 Sc3*a4 2.Kc4-d5 Ra5*c5 #
Cyclic Zilahi. Cycle of functions (wSc3/wBb7/wRa5, Guard / Mate / Captured). Model mates.

3rd Honorable Mention Anatoly Vasylenko & Evgeny Gavryliv

- 1.Se6-c5 Rd7-d8 2.Rh7-c7 Rd8*d6 #
1.Se6-d4 Rf5-g5 2.Bg6-e4 Rg5*e5 #
1.Kd5-c5 Sc4*e5 2.Kc5-b6 Se5-c4 #
1.Kd5-d4 Sc4*d6 2.Kd4-e3 Sd6-c4 #

HOTF. The pairs of solutions are connected by black pieces' first moves to the same squares. The drawback of the problem consists in that the play is partially symmetric.

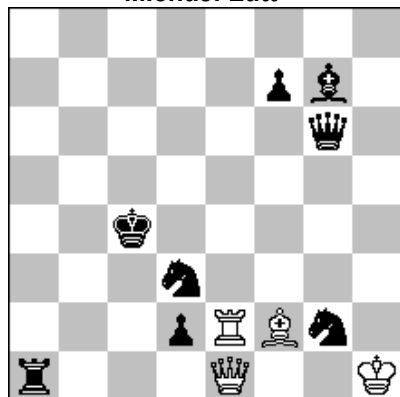
4th Honorable Mention Francesco Simoni

- a) 1.Sb4-c6 Re6*d6 2.Sc6-a7 Rd6*b6 #
1.Rd6-d7 Rb3*b4 2.Rd7-a7 Rb4*b6 #
b) 1.Re5-g5 Rb3*c3 2.Rg5-g4 Rc3*e3 #
1.Qc3-c8 Re6*e5 2.Qc8-g4 Re5*e3 #

The pieces of a white half-pin defend each other in the mating moves. One of two black units, in turn, moves twice: at B1 to open a gate to one of the half-pinned pieces, and then, at B2, to self-block. The second half-pinned white piece, in turn, captures the other black unit at W1 to guard the mating square and then to mate. Mutual support of white pieces. The problem's drawback is the long-distance shifting of the black king in the twin.

1st Commendation

Michael Lütt

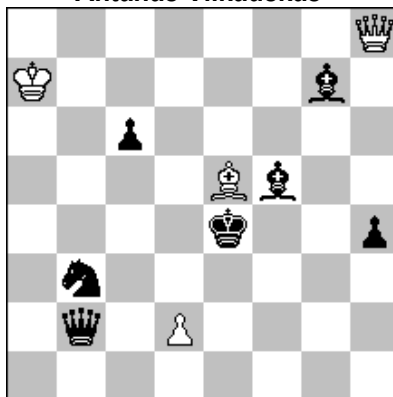


H#2 2.1... 4+8

- b) Kc4→h6 c) Re2→e3

2nd Commendation

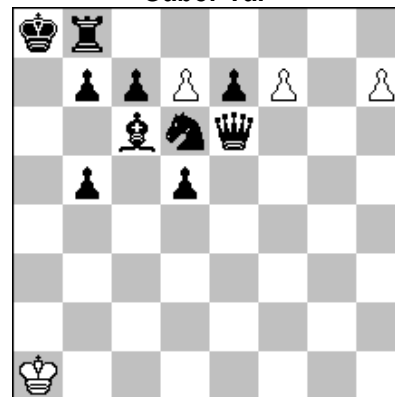
Antanas Vilkauskas



H#2 4.1... 4+7

3rd Commendation

Gábor Tar



H#2 4+10

- b) -d7 c)=b) -f7

1st Commendation Michael Lütt

- a) 1.Kc4-c3 Qe1-b1 2.d2-d1=S Re2-c2 #
1.Kc4-d5 Qe1-c1 2.Sd3-e1 Qc1-c5 #
b) 1.Kh6-h5 Qe1-d1 2.Bg7-h6 Re2-e5 #
1.Kh6-g5 Qe1-f1 2.Kg5-f6 Bf2-h4 #
c) 1.Sd3-c1 Re3-b3 2.f7-f6 Qe1-e6 #
1.d2-d1=B Qe1-a5 2.Sd3-e5 Re3-c3 #

The first pair of solutions features Pelle moves. The second pair presents the creation and play of white batteries. In the third pair, the white queen is unpinned. In each pair, purity of aim is lacking.

2nd Commendation Antanas Vilkauskas

- 1.Qb2*d2 Qh8-h5 2.Qd2-d5 Qh5-e2 # 1.Qb2*e5 Qh8-h6 2.Qe5-d5 Qh6-e3 #
1.Ke4-d5 d2-d4 2.Bf5-e4 Qh8-g8 # 1.Bf5-e6 d2-d3+ 2.Ke4-f5 Qh8-h5 #

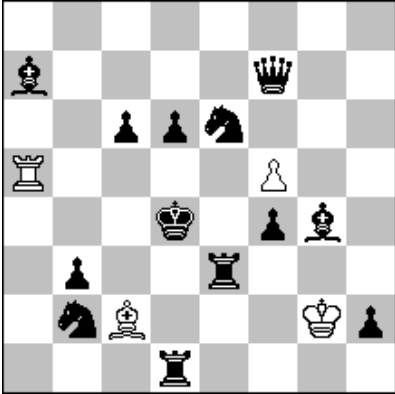
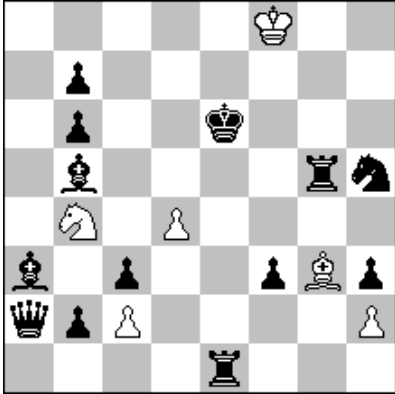
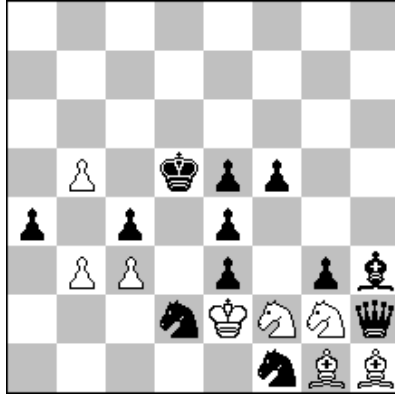
Four model mates with active blocking of the black king's flights.

3rd Commendation Gábor Tar

- a) 1.Sd6-c8 d7*c8=Q 2.b7-b6 Qc8-a6 #
b) 1.Bc6-e8 f7*e8=Q 2.b5-b4 Qe8-a4 #
c) 1.Qe6-g8 h7*g8=Q 2.d5-d4 Qg8-a2 #

Sacrifices of black pieces and model mates delivered from the queen's ambush.

Section H#3

<p>1st Prize Gennady Chumakov</p>  <p>H#3 2.1... 4+13 b) b3→f6 H#2.5</p>	<p>2nd Prize Emanuel Navon Menachem Witztum</p>  <p>H#3 2.1... 6+13</p>	<p>3rd Prize Mykola Kolesnik</p>  <p>H#3 b) Kd5→c5 8+12</p>
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1st Prize Gennady Chumakov

- a) 1.Qf7*f5 Bc2*d1! 2.Kd4-e4 Bd1*g4 3.Ba7-d4 Bg4*f5 #
 1.... Ra5*a7? 2.Kd4-e5 Ra7-f7 3.Rd1-d4 Rf7*f5 #? 4.Bg4*f5!
 1.Bg4*f5 Ra5*a7! 2.Kd4-e5 Ra7*f7 3.Rd1-d4 Rf7*f5 #
 1.... Bc2*d1? 2.Kd4-e4 Bd1-g4 3.Ba7-d4 Bg4*f5 #? 4.Qf7*f5!
 b) 1...Ra5-a3 2.Kd4-e5 Ra3-d3 3.Ke5*f5 Rd3-d5 #
 1...Bc2-a4 2.Kd4-e4 Ba4-b5 3.Ke4*f5 Bb5-d3 #

A non-standard HOTF. Creation of the twin results in a shortened solution! The key f5-square is guarded by two white pieces. In the first pair, White checkmates from f5, eliminating black pieces on each move. Chumakov theme. In the second pair, the black king takes different routes to get to the same f5-square, where it is mated.

2nd Prize Emanuel Navon & Menachem Witztum (*dedicated to Paz Einat*)

- 1.Bb5-e2 Kf8-e8 2.Ke6-f5 Sb4-d5 3.Kf5-g4 Sd5-e3 #
 1.Rg5-d5 Kf8-g8 2.Ke6-d7 Sb4-a6 3.Kd7-c6 Sa6-b8 #

The potential black royal batteries are ruined by elimination of the double guard of the squares e8 and g8. Mate is delivered by the unpinned white knight.

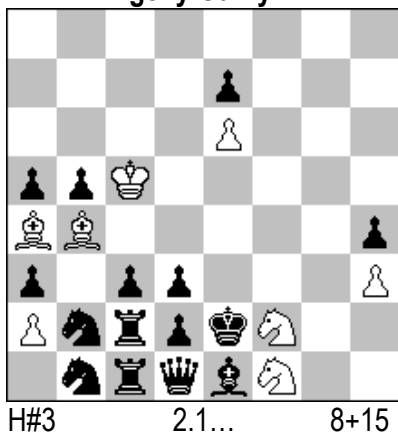
3rd Prize Mykola Kolesnik

- a) 1 Qh2*g1 Sf2*e4 2.Sd2*e4 b3-b4 3.Se4-d6 Sg2-f4 #
 b) 1.Qh2*h1 Sg2*e3 2.Sf1*e3 b3*a4 3.Se3-d5 Sf2*e4 #

Double Zilahi. Active and passive sacrifices of white pieces. Elimination of white half-pin and creation of two white half-batteries. Annihilation.

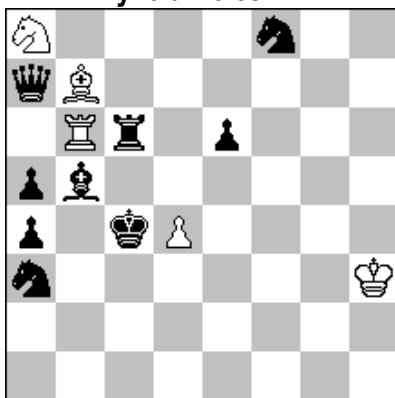


4th Prize
Evgeny Gavryliv



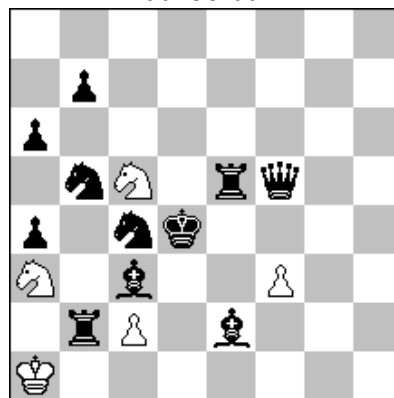
H#3 2.1... 8+15

1st Honorable Mention
Mykola Kolesnik



H#3 2.1... 5+9

2nd Honorable Mention
Raúl Jordan



H#3 2.1... 5+11

4th Prize Evgeny Gavryliv

1.a5*b4 Sf2*d1 2.Ke2*d1 Ba4*c2+ 3.Kd1*c2 Sf1-e3 #

1.b5*a4 Sf1*d2 2.Ke2*d2 Bb4*c3+ 3.Kd2*c3 Sf2-e4 #

Sacrifices of three white pieces in each phase. Double Knight. Zilahi. The inclusion of set play in the problem's content, as proposed by the author, is inappropriate, since in this case the set play is exactly the same as what is observed in the two solutions.

1st Honorable Mention Mykola Kolesnik

1.Qa7*b7 Rb6*b7 2.Kc4-b4 Sa8-b6 3.Bb5-c4 Sb6-d5 #

1.Qa7*a8 Bb7*a8 2.Kc4-d5 Rb6-b7 3.Rc6-c4 Rb7-d7 #

Sacrifices of the black queen for the possibility of creation of white batteries. Blocking of the black king's initial square.

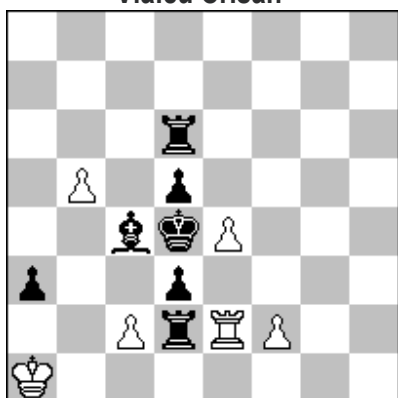
2nd Honorable Mention Raúl Jordan

1.Be2*f3 Sc5-e6+ 2.Kd4-e4 Sa3*b5 3.Sc4-e3 Sb5*c3 #

1.Qf5*c2 Sc5-d7 2.Kd4-d3 Sa3*c4 3.Sb5-d4 Sd7*e5 #

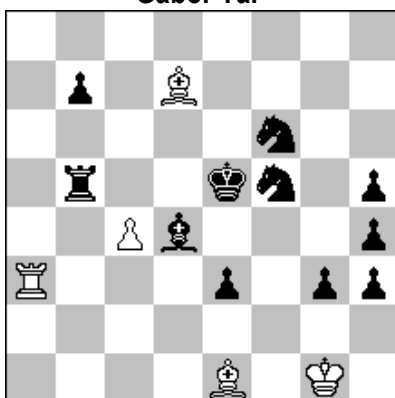
Active and passive forms of Chumakov theme. The king is mated on squares twice guarded by White in the diagram position.

3rd Honorable Mention
Vidadi Zamanov
Vlaicu Crisan



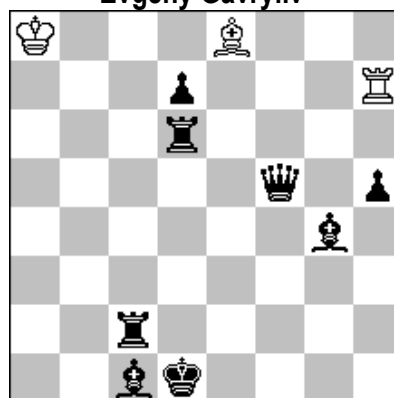
H#3 2.1... 6+7

4th Honorable Mention
János Csák
Gábor Tar



H#2.5 2.1... 5+11

1st Commendation
Volodymyr Lastivka
Evgeny Gavryliv



H#2.5 b) Rc2→e1 3+8

3rd Honorable Mention Vidadi Zamanov & Vlaicu Crisan

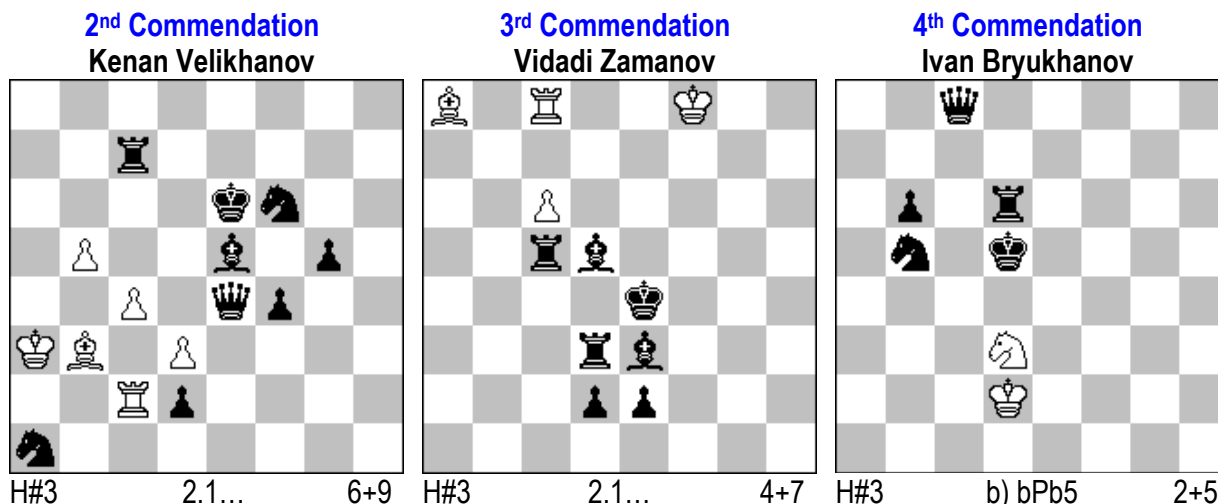
1.d3*c2 e4*d5 2.Kd4*d5 f2-f4 3.Rd2-d4 Re2-e5 #

1.d5*e4 c2*d3 2.Kd4*d3 Ka1-b1 3.Rd6-d4 Re2-e3 #

Reciprocal captures of two pairs of pawns of the two sides. Knight. Blocking of the d4-square by different rooks.

4th Honorable Mention János Csák & Gábor Tar
 1...Be1-a5 2.Sf5-d6 Ra3*e3+ 3.Sd6-e4 Ba5-c7 #
 1...Ra3-a6 2.Sf6-d5 Be1*g3+ 3.Sd5-f4 Ra6-e6 #
 Interchanged functions (wBe1/wRa3, Mate / Pin). ODT. Model pin-mates.

1st Commendation Volodymyr Lastivka & Evgeny Gavryliv
 a) 1...Be8*h5 2.Bg4-e2 Bh5-f3 3.Rd6-d2 Rh7-h1 #
 b) 1...Rh7*d7 2.Rd6-d2 Rd7-d3 3.Bg4-e2 Be8-a4 #
 Annihilation. Pelle moves. Pin-mate.

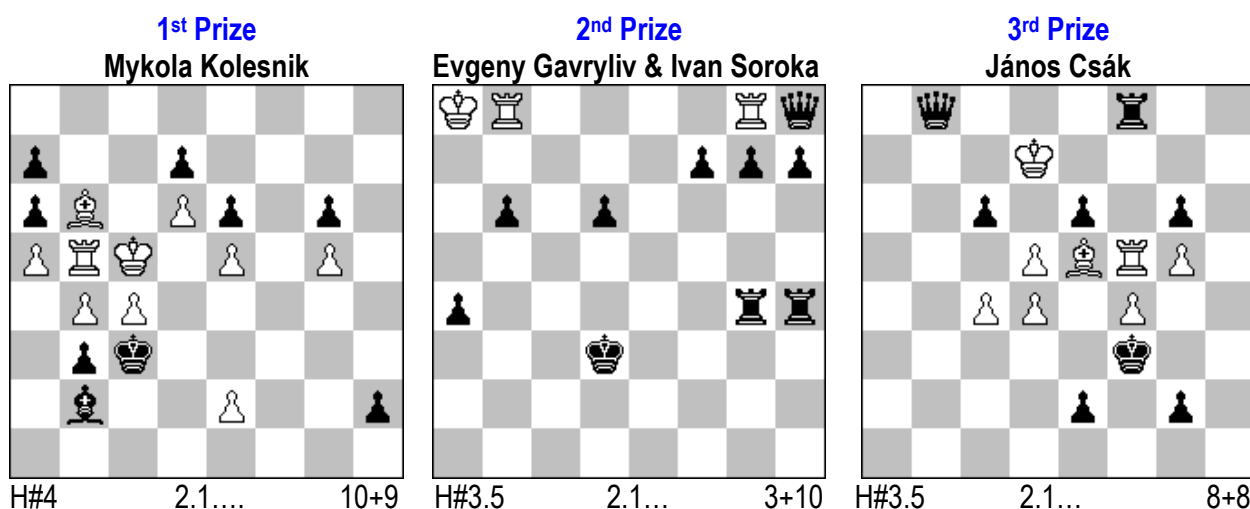


2nd Commendation Kenan Velikhanov
 1.Rc7*c4 Rc2*c4! 2.Qe4-g6 Rc4-c6+ **A** 3.Ke6-f5 Bb3-e6 # **B**
 1.Qe4*c4 Bb3*c4+! 2.Ke6-d6 Bc4-e6 **B** 3.Rc7-e7 Rc2-c6 # **A**
 Active sacrifices of black pieces on the c4-square. Interchanged functions of black pieces (bQe4/bRc7, Active sacrifice / Self-block). Interchange of W2 and W3. Model mates.

3rd Commendation Vidadi Zamanov
 1.Rc5*c6 Ba8*c6 2.Rd3-d4 Bc6-a4 3.Ke4-d3 Ba4-c2 #
 1.Bd5*c6 Rc8*c6 2.Be3-d4 Rc6-f6+ 3.Ke4-e3 Rf6-f3 #
 Active sacrifices of black pieces on the c6-square. Interchanged functions (wBa8/wRc8, Mate / Passive guard).

4th Commendation Ivan Bryukhanov
 a) 1.Sb5-c7 Kd2-c3 2.Kd5-c6 Kc3-c4 3.Qc8-b7 Sd3-e5 #
 b) 1.Qc8-c6 Sd3-f2 2.Kd5-c5+ Kd2-c3 3.Rd6-d5 Sf2-e4 #
 Ideal chameleon echoed mates.

Section H#n



1st Prize Mykola Kolesnik

1.a7*b6+ Kc5*b6 2.h2-h1=R Rb5-d5 3.Rh1-c1 Kb6-c5 4.Rc1-c2 Rd5-d3 #

1.a6*b5 Kc5*b5 2.h2-h1=B Bb6-f2 3.Bh1-e4 Kb5-c5 4.Be4-c2 Bf2-e1 #

Klasinc and Zilahi themes. Blocking of the c2-square by promoted pieces.

2nd Prize Evgeny Gavryliv & Ivan Soroka

1...Rg8-c8 2.Rg4-d4 Rc8-c2 3.Qh8-c8! Rb8*c8 4.Rh4-e4 Rc8-c3 #

1...Rg8-e8 2.Rg4-c4 Re8-e2 3.Qh8-e8! Rb8*e8 4.Rh4-d4 Re8-e3 #

Super-mirrored initial position of the black king. Numerous Bristol clearances. Active sacrifices of the black king. Echoed mates.

3rd Prize János Csák

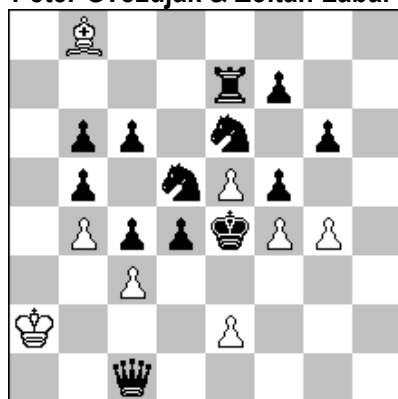
1...d5*e6 2.Rf8*f5 e6-e7 3.Qb8-f8 e7*f8=Q 4.Rf5*f4 Qf8*f4 #

1...d5*c6 2.Qb8*e5 c6-c7 3.Rf8-b8 c7*b8=Q 4.Qe5*f4 Qb8*f4 #

Two active sacrifices of black pieces in each phase. Annihilation. ODT.

4th Prize

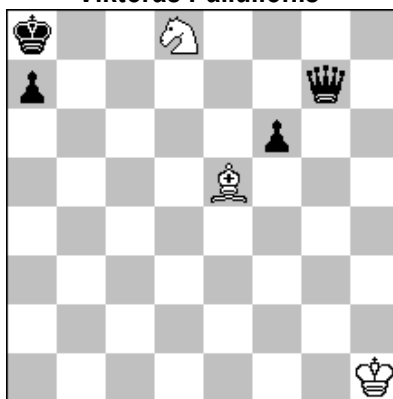
Peter Gvozdják & Zoltán Labai



H#3.5 2.1... 8+13

Special Prize

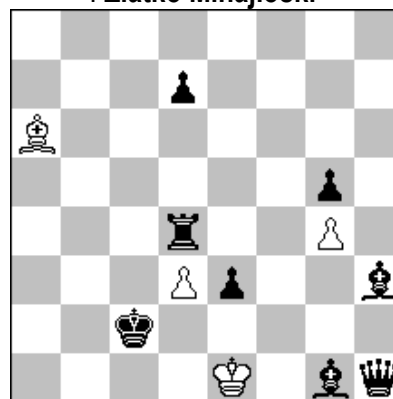
Viktoras Paliulionis



H#6 b) -f6 3+4
c)=b) -Be5 d)=c) +bRf6

1st Honorable Mention

Zlatko Mihajloski



H#5.5 4+8

4th Prize Peter Gvozdják & Zoltán Labai

1...g4*f5 2.Sd5-f6 e5*f6 3.Ke4*f5 e2-e4+ 4.Kf5*f6 Bb8-e5 #

(2.Ke4*f5? e2-e4+ 3.Kf5-f6??) (2.f7-f6? ... 5.Kf6-f7!)

1...c3*d4 2.Se6-c5 b4*c5 3.Ke4*d4 e2-e3+ 4.Kd4*c5 Bb8-d6 #

(2.Ke4*d4? e2-e3+ 3.Kd4-c5??) (2.c6-c5? ... 5.Kc5-c6!)

A wonderful problem by world champions presenting the WCCT-11 theme (delayed sacrifices of white pieces). Two sacrifices in each phase. A favorable impression from the attempted sacrifices of black pawns on f6 and c5.

Special Prize Viktoras Paliulionis

a) 1.Qg7-g6 Sd8-c6 2.Ka8-b7 Be5-g3 3.Kb7-c8 Kh1-g2 4.Kc8-d7 Kg2-f3 5.Kd7-e6 Bg3-f4 6.Ke6-f5 Sc6-d4 #

b) 1.Qg7-c7 Kh1-g2 2.Ka8-b8 Kg2-f3 3.Kb8-c8 Kf3-e4 4.Qc7-b8 Ke4-d5 5.Qb8-a8+ Kd5-d6 6.Kc8-b8 Kd6-d7 #

c) 1.Qg7-a1+ Kh1-g2 2.a7-a6 Kg2-f3 3.Ka8-a7 Kf3-e4 4.Ka7-b6 Ke4-d5 5.Kb6-a5 Kd5-c5 6.Qa1-a4 Sd8-b7 #

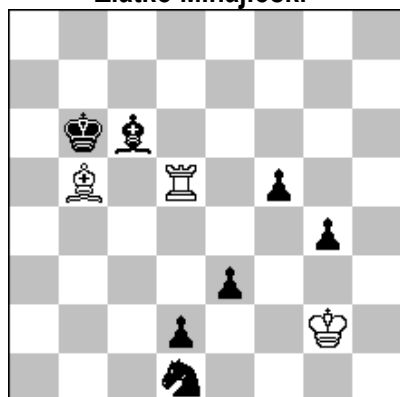
d) 1.Qg7-b7+ Kh1-g1 2.Rf6-b6 Kg1-f2 3.a7-a6 Kf2-e3 4.Ka8-a7 Ke3-d4 5.Qb7-a8 Kd4-c5 6.Rb6-b7 Sd8-c6 #

A miniature with a rare concept: in each twin, the initial balance of forces of the sides is changed (3+4, 3+3, 2+3, 2+4). A complex of various themes. In all phases, the first move is made by the black queen.

1st Honorable Mention Zlatko Mihajloski

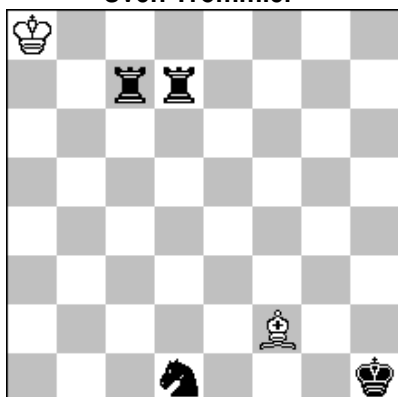
1...Ba6-c4 2.Qh1-c6! Bc4-d5 3.Kc2*d3 Bd5-h1! 4.Bh3-g2 Ke1-d1 5.Bg2-e4 Bh1-f3 6.Qc6-c3 Bf3-e2 #
Interesting maneuvers by pieces of the two sides on the h1-c6 diagonal.

2nd Honorable Mention
Zlatko Mihajloski



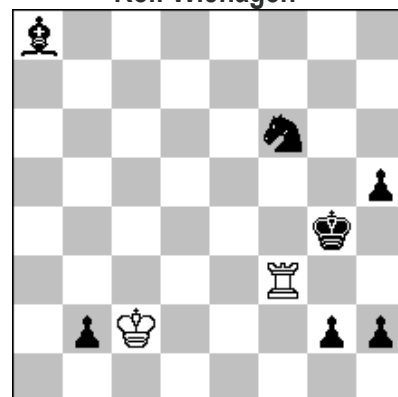
H#4.5 2.1... 3+7

3rd Honorable Mention
Sven Trommler



H#8 2+4

4th Honorable Mention
Rolf Wiehagen



H#3.5 2.1... 2+7

2nd Honorable Mention Zlatko Mihajloski

1...Kg2-g3 2.e3-e2 Rd5*d2 3.Kb6-c5 Bb5-d3 4.Kc5-d4 Bd3*f5+ 5.Kd4-e3 Rd2-d3 #
1...Bb5*c6 2.Kb6-c7 Rd5-a5 3.Kc7-d6 Bc6-b5 4.Kd6-e5 Bb5-d3+ 5.Ke5-f4 Ra5*f5 #

Indian theme presented in each solution. Klasinc in the second solution. Interchange of squares occupied by white pieces on the 4th and 5th moves.

3rd Honorable Mention Sven Trommler

1.Rd7-d2 Bf2-d4 2.Rc7-c1 Ka8-b7 3.Sd1-c3 Kb7-c6 4.Sc3-e2+ Kc6-d5 5.Kh1-g2 Kd5-e4
6.Kg2-f1 Ke4-f3 7.Kf1-e1 Kf3-g2 8.Rc1-d1 Bd4-f2 #

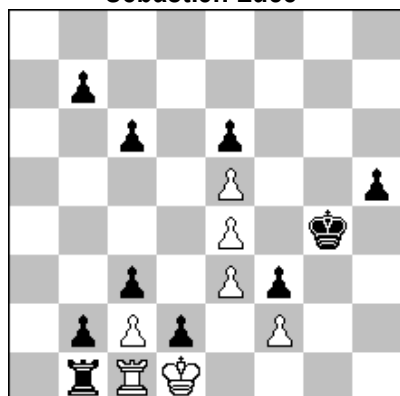
In the diagram position, the kings are in the opposite corners of the board. At different points of the solution, each of the kings makes a move to the g2-square. A long march by the white king. Indian theme. Ideal mate.

4th Honorable Mention Rolf Wiehagen

1...Rf3-f1 2.Kg4-g3 Rf1-b1 3.Kg3-f2 Kc2-d1 4.Kf2-g1 Kd1-e2 #
1...Rf3-a3 2.h5-h4 Ra3*a8 3.Kg4-h3 Ra8-f8 4.Sf6-g4 Rf8-f3 #

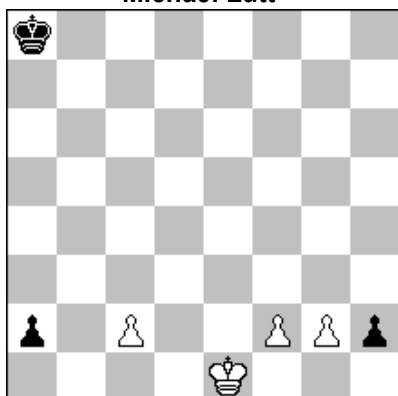
Probably, the first-ever presentation of a synthesis of Indian theme and white rook's roundtrip in a minimal problem.

1st Commendation
Sébastien Luce



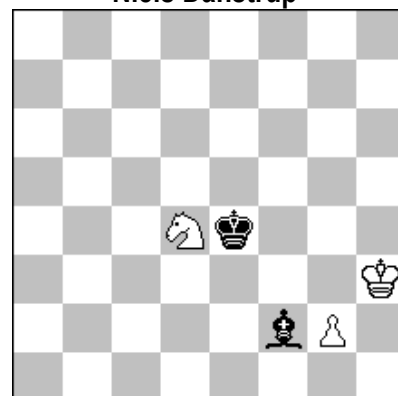
H#6 7+10

2nd Commendation
Michael Lütt



H#5 b) Ka8→h8 4+3

3rd Commendation
Niels Danstrup



H#5 b) Sd4→e3 3+2

1st Commendation Sébastien Luce

1.Rb1-a1 Rc1*a1 2.b2-b1=B Ra1-a8 3.Bb1*c2+ Kd1*c2 4.d2-d1=R Ra8-f8 5.Rd1-h1 Rf8*f3
6.Rh1-h4 Rf3-g3 #

Black rook's phoenix. Sacrifice of a promoted bishop: Ceriani-Frolkin theme.

2nd Commendation Michael Lütt

a) 1.h2-h1=S c2-c4 2.Sh1*f2 c4-c5 3.Sf2-d1 c5-c6 4.a2-a1=R c6-c7 5.Ra1-a7 c7-c8=Q #

b) 1.a2-a1=B f2-f4 2.Ba1-d4 f4-f5 3.Bd4-g1 f5-f6 4.h2-h1=R f6-f7 5.Rh1-h7 f7-f8=Q #

Interchanged functions of white pawns (promotion + blocking – promotion + shielding). Three promotions of pawns in each phase. AUW.

3rd Commendation Niels Danstrup

a) 1.Ke4-f4 g2-g4 2.Kf4-g5 Sd4-e6+ 3.Kg5-h6 Se6-f8 4.Bf2-d4 Kh3-h4 5.Bd4-g7 g4-g5 #

b) 1.Bf2-h4 Se3-d5 2.Bh4-g5 Kh3-g3 3.Ke4-f5 Kg3-h2 4.Kf5-g4 Sd5-f6+ 5.Kg4-h4 g2-g3 #

Ideal echoed mates.

Valery Semenenko,
International Judge

Helpselfmates

1 st Prize Menachem Witztum	2 nd Prize Michal Dragoun	3 rd Prize Michael Barth & Sven Trommler
HS#4 2.1... 7+12	HS#3.5 2.1... 6+8	HS#3 duplex 5+7

1st Prize Menachem Witztum

1.Sh2-f1 Rb2-b6 2.Bc2-e4 Kf6-e5 3.Kd2-c1 Rb6-f6 4.Be4-c2+ Qg5*e3 #

1.Sh2-f3 Qg5-e5 2.Re3-e4 Kf6-f5 3.Kd2-e2 Qe5-f6 4.Re4-e3+ Rb2*c2 #

A complicated mechanism involving a total of 9 pieces of the two sides. Unpinning of white pieces. ODT. Pelle moves. Moves by both kings. Grimshaw. Blocking of the f6-square by different black pieces. Switchback of pieces. Interchange of squares of check and checkmate. The best two-phase problem in the section.

2nd Prize Michal Dragoun

1...Bg5-h6 2.Rb5*d5 Bb3-c4 3.Be4-g6 Bc4-a6 4.Rd5-b5+ Ba6*b5 #

1...Rh7-f7 2.Be4*d5 Rd3-d4 3.Rb5-b8 Rd4-f4 4.Bd5-e4+ Rf4*e4 #

Unpinning of black pieces. ODT. Interchanged functions of black as well as white pieces. Klasinc theme with two-move maneuver of black pieces. Unguarding of mating lines. Annihilation. A light position. A bright problem.

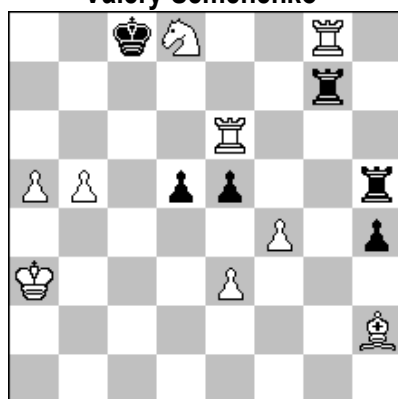
3rd Prize Michael Barth & Sven Trommler

1.Re2-d2 Kf4-e5 2.Sf6-d5 Be4*d5 3.Qa4-f4+ Ke5*f4 #

1.Re3-g3 Kc3-c4 2.Be4-h7 Sf6*h7 3.Qh8-c3+ Kc4*c3 #

Unpinning of wSf6 and bBe4 by the king of the other side. Mutual sacrifices of wSf6 and bBe4. Creation and play of royal batteries. Queen sacrifices. The authors managed to find a more economical position compared to the problem by the same duo from TT Muldenberg 2017, 3rd Prize.

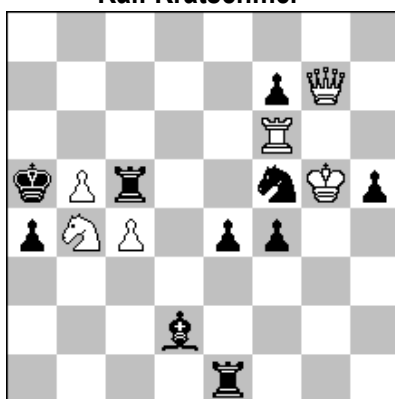
Special Prize
Valery Semenenko



HS#5.5

9+6

1st Honorable Mention
Ralf Krättschmer

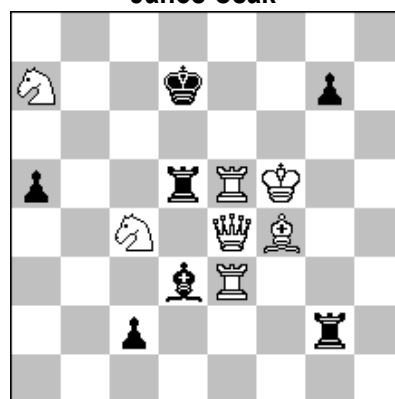


HS#3.5

2.1...

6+10

2nd Honorable Mention
János Csák



HS#3

b) Sc4→d4

7+7

Special Prize Valery Semenenko

1... Rg7-g4 2.Rg8-g5 e5*f4 3.Rg5*d5 Rh5-e5 4.Ka3-a4 Re5*e3 5.Re6-e4 f4-f3
6.Re4-c4+ Rg4*c4#

First-ever presentation of a fourfold Bristol clearance cycle. A concept that is hard to implement.

1st Honorable Mention Ralf Krättschmer

1...Bd2*b4 2.Kg5*f4 Bb4-a3 3.Qg7-g2 Ba3-c1+ 4.Qg2-d2+ Bc1*d2 #

1...Rc5*b5 2.Qg7-f8 Rb5*b4 3.Kg5*f5 Rb4*c4 4.Qf8-c5+ Rc4*c5 #

Black pieces' circuits. Annihilation.

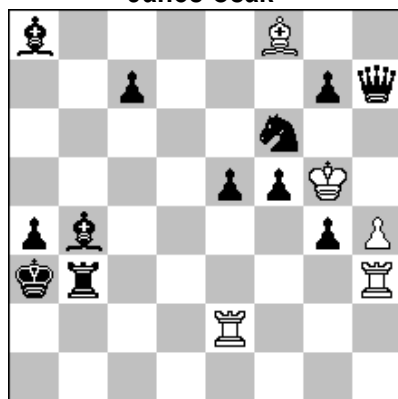
2nd Honorable Mention János Csák

a) 1.Sc4*a5 Rd5*a5 2.Re5-b5 Bd3*b5 3.Qe4-d3+ Bb5*d3 #

b) 1.Sd4*c2 Bd3*c2 2.Qe4-d3 Rd5*d3 3.Re5-d5+ Rd3*d5 #

Active sacrifices of white pieces. Bristol clearance. Creation and play of black batteries. No white pawns in the diagram position.

3rd Honorable Mention
János Csák

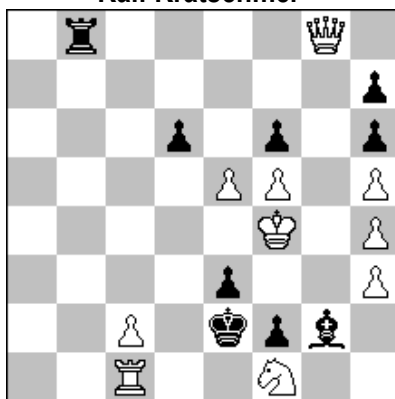


HS#3

2.1...

5+12

4th Honorable Mention
Ralf Krättschmer

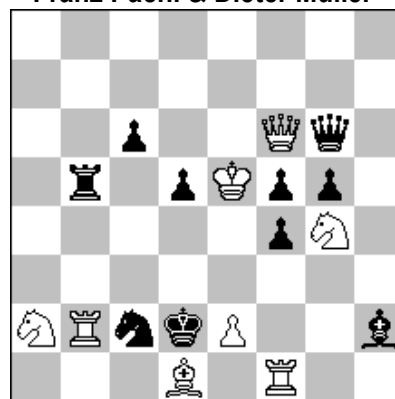


HS#3

b) d6→e4

10+9

5th Honorable Mention
Franz Pacht & Dieter Müller



HS#2.5

b) -Sg4

8+10

3rd Honorable Mention János Csák

1.Rh3-g3 c7-c6 2.Rg3*g4 Rb3-h3 3.Rg4-g3+ Rh3*g3 #

1.Bf8-e7 Ba8-c6 2.Be7*f6 Bb4-f8 3.Bf6-e7+ Bf8*e7 #

Interchanged functions of white as well as black line pieces. Klasinc. Pickabish. Annihilation.

4th Honorable Mention Ralf Krättschmer

a) 1.Qg8*b8 Bg2-a8 2.Qb8-b7 d6*e5+ 3.Kf4-e4 Ba8*b7#

b) 1.Qg8*g2 Rb8-h8 2.Qg2-g8 f6*e5+ 3.Kf4-g4 Rh8*g8 #

Zilahi. Critical moves to create zugzwang for Black. In the first phase, Maslar; in the second, Klasinc. The queen acts as a rook.

5th Honorable Mention Franz Pacht & Dieter Müller †

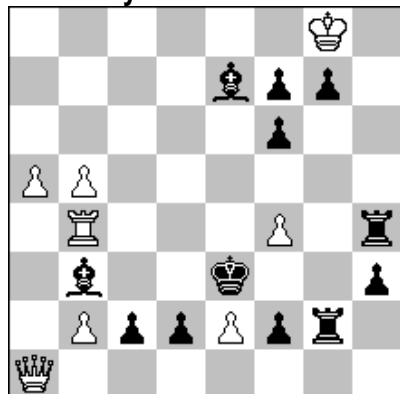
a) 1...Bh2-g1 2.Qf6*c6 Bg1-c5 3.Qc6*d5+ Bc5-d4 #

b) 1...Rb5-b3 2.Qf6*g5 Rb3-g3 3.Qg5*f4+ Rg3-e3 #

Creation of reciprocal black batteries. Mates with white queen pinned.

1st Commendation

**Mykola Vasyuchko
Mykhailo Halma**



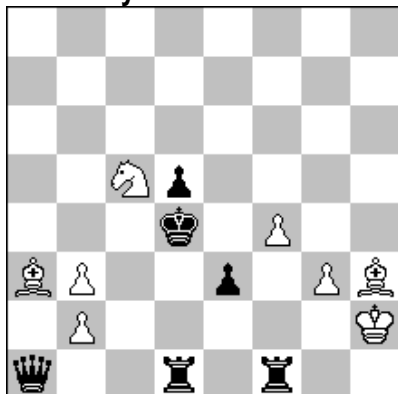
HS#3

b) bPe2

8+12

2nd Commendation

**Mykola Vasyuchko
Mykhailo Halma**



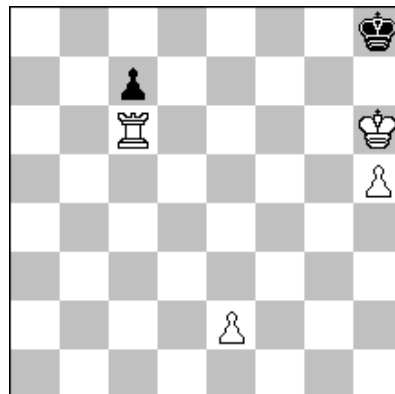
HS#3

b) e3→a6

8+6

3rd Commendation

Sébastien Luce



HS#8

4+2

1st Commendation Mykola Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Halma

a) 1.Qa1-a2 Bb3-a4 2.Qa2*f7 Ba4-b3 3.Qf7-e6+ Bb3*e6 #

b) 1.Qa1-g1 Rg2-h2 2.Qg1*g7 Rh2-g2 3.Qg7-g3+ Rg2*g3 #

Ambush. Klasinc. Annihilation. Pelle moves. The authors failed to implement the concept without twinning.

2nd Commendation Mykola Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Halma

a) 1.b3-b4 Rf1*f4 2.b2-b3 Rf4-h4 3.Ba3-b2+ Qa1*b2 #

b) 1.Ba3-b4 Qa1-b1 2.Bb4-e1 Qb1-h7 3.Be1-f2+ Rf1*f2 #

Interchanged functions of black pieces: in one phase, a black piece pins a white one; in the other, it delivers mate.

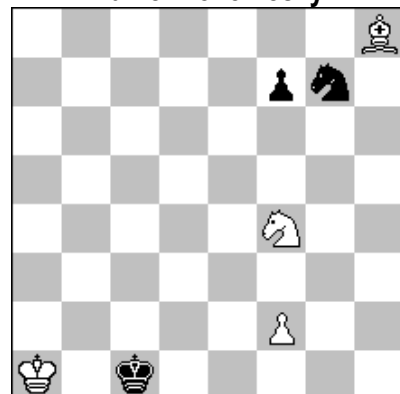
3rd Commendation Sébastien Luce

1.Rc6-g6 c7-c5 2.e2-e4 c5-c4 3.e4-e5 c4-c3 4.e5-e6 c3-c2 5.e6-e7 c2-c1=S 6.e7-e8=S Sc1-d3
7.Se8-d6 Sd3-e5 8.Sd6-f7+ Se5*f7 #

Excelsiors with promotions to S by both sides. Ceriani-Frolkin.

4th Commendation

Daniel Novomesky

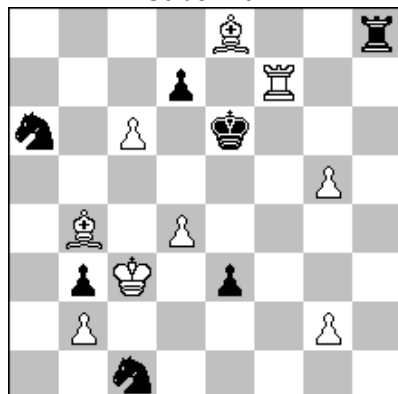


HS#8

4+3

5th Commendation

Gábor Tar



HS#3.5

b) Sa6→h5

9+7

4th Commendation Daniel Novomesky

1.Sf4-e6 f7*e6 2.f2-f4 e6-e5 3.f4-f5 e5-e4 4.f5-f6 e4-e3 5.f6*g7 e3-e2 6.g7-g8=B e2-e1=Q
7.Bg8-b3 Qe1-d2 8.Bh8-b2+ Qd2*b2 #

Excelsiors by both sides. Active sacrifice of the white knight and passive sacrifice of its black counterpart. Cf. Jorma Pitkanen, Springaren 2018.

5th Commendation Gábor Tar

a) 1...d7*c6 2.Be8*c6 Sa6-c7 3.Bc6-b5 Rh8-c8 4.Bb5-c4+ Sc7-d5 #

b) 1...d7-d5 2.g2-g4 Sh5-g3 3.Rf7-f3 Rh8-h3 4.Rf3*e3+ Sg3-e4 #

Creation and play of black batteries.

Oleksandr Semenenko,
International Judge