

Jan Timman-70 JT – preliminary award – 14xii2021

Summary

The Royal Dutch Chess Federation KNSB organized an endgame study composition tourney to celebrate the 70th birthday of o.t.b. GM and also prolific composer Jan Timman. The prize fund for this tourney consisted of money prizes (500 €, sponsored by KNSB), 15 king statues made by the Dutch artist Margaret Wevers (sponsored by o.t.b. IM Hans Böhm), 100 € for the best study by a strong practical player (sponsored by o.t.b. GM Jan Sprenger who initiated and organized this event), two endgame study databases HHdbVI (Harold van der Heijden) and chess books by Jan Timman (KNSB – Dharma Tjiam & Erik Mijnheer).

As the tourney director of the Jan Timman-70 JT I received no less than 95 entries (one twin study) by 66 composers from 24 countries. Among the participants there are 17 composition title holders (4 GM, 7 IM and 6 FM) and 19 o.t.b. title holders (7 GM, 9 IM, 2 FM, 1 CM). Three o.t.b. GM's had an ELO-rating higher than 2600 at the time of submission!

Eight studies proved to be unsound when checking with Stockfish with a large proportion of the 7EGTB and all sub-7 men EGTB's accessible during calculation. For anticipation vetting, the magnificent tool CQL 6.1 (Costeff & Stiller) was used. For 8 studies a relevant anticipation (one almost completely anticipated) was found, sometimes already indicated by the author. Obviously, in all cases I only reported my findings to the judge leaving it up to him to decide about the degree of anticipation and the relevance of a (minor) dual.

A special prize was available for a study by a strong practical player (2000+ ELO rating, not more than ten entries in HHdbVI). But when I received the ranking of the tourney from the judge, it turned out that not a single study by a “strong practical player” had made into the main award. As all entries were still anonymous to him, I proposed Jan to establish a separate section and sent him the 14 studies that qualified for this section.

Some studies have comments by Jan Timman (labelled with pre-fix JT) or Harold van der Heijden (HH), while all other (textual) comments are from the composer (sometimes the prefix *Composer* is added for clarity). Further, the solutions were edited to remove redundant analysis.

This is the preliminary award. Claims regarding soundness and anticipation must be sent to heijdenharold@gmail.com before 14i2022.

Please note that submitted studies that are not in the award will only become available for the composers for submission to other events after the award becomes final (scheduled 31i2022).

Harold van der Heijden, tourney director

The initiative for my 70JT came from GM Jan Sprenger. He contacted the KNSB (Dutch Chess Federation) which provided book and money prizes. My good old friend Hans Böhm provided 15 beautiful statues. I wish to express my gratitude to them. I contacted Harold van der Heijden with the question if he wanted to become the tourney director (again!) and he consented. Early October he sent me 91 studies, as usual in anonymous form. Van der Heijden had checked all studies on soundness and anticipations. He confided to me that he had spent a quarter of an hour on each study. A tremendous amount of work and I thank him for his efforts. The 91 studies were a rich harvest; there were theoretical investigations - even on the 9th game of the first Karpov-Kasparov match - that were certainly worthwhile. I concentrated, however, on complicated and beautiful twists and combinations in endgames. My first selection contained 37 studies, a clear sign that the general level was high. In my final selection quite a few good studies were left out; they may score well in other tourneys. I take this opportunity to thank all composers for their entries. Before I made my final decision, I asked GM Erwin L 'Ami for advice, as I did 10 years ago for my 60JT. Our views didn't differ that much, but he helped me to make some important decisions for example about the first prize. While I could guess the names of the 2nd and 3th prize with almost certainty, the overall winner came as a surprise.

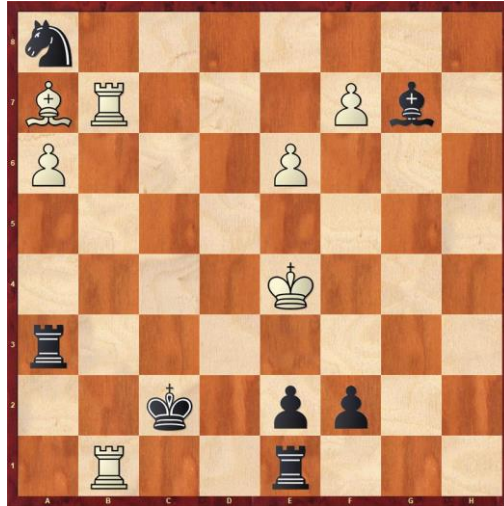
There is a separate section for studies by strong players, a proposal of Harold. In fact, a special prize was donated for this section by Jan Sprenger. Alexander and Victor Mikhalevsky dominated this section.

Jan Timman, judge



Main Section

Michel Pasman (Israel)
1st prize Timman-70 JT

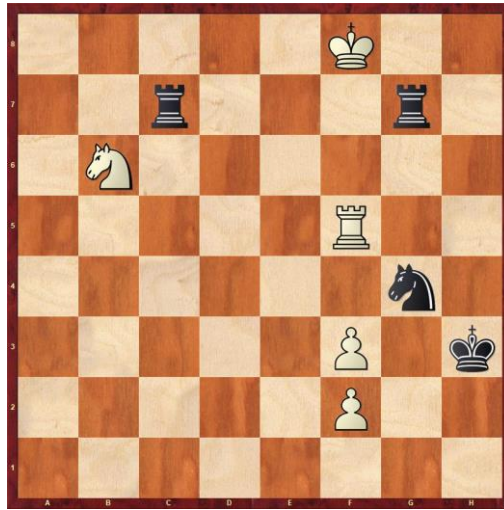


Win

1.f8Q! Ra4+! (1...Bxf8 2.R7b2+ Kc3 3.Bd4+ Kc4 4.Rc2+ wins) **2.R1b4!** (*JT*: White must interpose the right rook: 2.R7b4? Rxb1, e.g. 3.Qc8+ Bc3 and Black wins) **2...Bxf8** (Rxb4+; 3.Qxb4) **3.Rxa4 Sb6!** The first Novotny interference. (3...Ra1 4.Rc4+ Kd2 5.Bxf2 wins) **4.Rxb6** (Now the attack on f2 has been temporarily removed. 4.Bxb6? closes the b-file and then Rc4+ is no longer a threat, so 4...f1Q and Black wins) **4...Ra1! 5.Rc6+! Bc5!** (Second Novotny - puts a new interference between the bishop and the f2 pawn; 5...Kb3 6.Bxf2) **6.Rxc5+** (Rxa1 e1Q+); **6...Kb3! 7.Ra3+!** (*JT*: the highlight of the study. *Composer*: Thematic try: 7.Rc3+? - the other way to free the bishop to capture the f2 pawn, also at the price of two rooks - does not work. 7...Kxc3! (Kxa4?; Bxf2) 8.Bxf2 Rxa4+ 9.Kf3 Rxa6 draws. If 7.Rxa1? e1Q+ 8.Rxe1 fxe1Q+ draws) **7...Kxa3** (7...Rxa3 8.Rb5+ Kc4 9.Bxf2 Kxb5 10.e7 wins) **8.Ra5+!** (8.Rc3+? Kb2 (Kb4) 9.Bxf2 Kxc3 draws) **8...Kb4** (8...Kb3 9.Bxf2 Rxa5 10.e7 wins) **9.Bxf2!** The first interference on a5, White captures the f2 pawn at the price of two rooks, and:
- 9...e1Q+ 10.Bxe1+ Rxe1+ 11.Kd5 Kxa5 12.a7 Rd1+ 13.Kc6! Rd8 (Rc1+; Kd7) **14.e7! Re8** (14...Rh8 15.Kb7 Re8 16.a8Q+, or 14...Ra8 15.Kb7 Rg8 16.a8Q+ wins) **15.Kd7 Ra8 16.e8Q** wins, or:
- 9...Kxa5 10.a7 e1Q+! (Kb5; e7) **11.Bxe1+ Kb6** (11...Rxe1+ 12.Kd5! Rd1+ 13.Kc6! Rd8 14.e7! as in other main line) **12.Ba5+!** (*JT*: Umnov. *Composer*: The second interference on a5 (Try : 12.Bc3 Ra4+! 13.Kd5 Kc7 draws) **12...Rxa5** (12...Kxa7 13.e7 Kb7 14.e8Q wins) **13.e7 Rxa7 14.e8Q** wins.

JT: An impressive study. There is a synthesis in the mutual sacrifices. The recurring Novotny theme is very convincing. Basically, it is all about the a- and e-file where White's passed pawns are. Still this only becomes apparent at the end. I believe that the second main line is not really necessary, as 12.Ba5+!! is an important final point of the solution. My congratulations to Michael Pasman, who has made great progress this year.

Yuri Bazlov (Russia)
2nd prize Timman-70 JT



Draw

1.Sd5! (JT: At first White must centralise the knight. 1.fxg4? Kxg4! 2.Rc5 Rcf7+! 3.Ke8 Ra7! 4.Kf8 Rh7! 5.Kg8 Rhb7! wins) **1...Rg8+!** **2.Kxg8 Sh6+** **3.Kh8! Rc8+** **4.Rf8! Rxf8+** **5.Kg7! Rf5!** (Rd8; Sf4+) **6.Se3!** (JT: After mutual rook sacrifices White brings his knight to a square where it is protected) **6...Rh5** **7.Kh7!** zz (7.Kg6? Rh4! zz 8.Kg7 Kh2 9.Kg6 Kg1 10.Kg5 Rh3 11.Kg6 Kxf2 wins) **7...Rh4** (7...Sf7+ (Sf5+, Sg4+) 8.Kg6!) **8.Kg6!** zz **Sg8** **9.Kf7! Sh6+** **10.Kg6 Kh2** **11.Kg5!** (11.f4? Sg4, and: 12.f5 Se5, or: 12.Kg5 Kh3 wins) **11...Rh3** **12.Kg6! Sg8** (12...Kg1 13.Sg4! Sxg4 14.fxg4 Kxf2 15.g5 draws) **13.Kf7! Sh6+** **14.Kg6 Rh4** **15.Kg5 Kh3** **16.Kg6!** zz **Sg8** **17.Kf7 Sh6+** **18.Kg6** Positional draw.

JT: A very fine piece of artwork. The content is very rich, especially if you consider how few pieces there are. White's rook sacrifice leads to a surprising reciprocal zugzwang. All pieces are involved in it. The 7th move is really beautiful. I am actually delighted that a great composer who is even older than me took second prize.

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark)
3rd prize Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Bf3 (JT: Black threatened a deadly check on h5) **1...Qe5** (JT: The only queen move:
Composer: 1...Qc3 2.g8Q Kf5+ 3.Qg7 Rh6+ 4.Kg8 Rg6 e.g. 5.Rd5 wins, 1...Qg5 2.g8Q Qxg8+ 3.Kxg8 and the a-pawn decides. 1...Re5 2.Rxd6+ Qxd6 3.Bxd6 Re8+ 4.g8Q Rxg8+ 5.Kxg8 wins) **2.g8Q Kf5+** Otherwise 3.Bg7+ will decide. **3.Kh7!** (*Composer:* Logical try: 3.Qg7? Rh6+ 4.Kg8 Rg6 5.Rd5 Ba2 6.Bg4+ Kg5 and Black wins as 7.h4+ is not possible) **3...Kf6+** **4.Kh6 Kf5+** **5.Kh5 Kf6+** **6.Kxh4 Kf5+** **7.Kh5 Kf6+** **8.Kh6** (8.Kg4?? Qf5+ 9.Kh4 Ke5+ and Black wins) **8...Kf5+** **9.Kh7 Kf6+** **10.Kh8** (JT: Finally the wK is back on h8) **10...Kf5+** **11.Qg7** (Bg7?? Rh6+;) **11...Rh6+** (11...Bf6 12.Bg4+ Ke4 13.Re2+ wins) **12.Kg8 Rg6** (Qe6+; Qf7+) **13.Rd5** (13.g4+? fxg3 14.Bg4+ Kg5 15.f4+ Qxf4! (15...Kxf4? 16.Qxg6 Bxg6 17.Bxd6 wins) 16.Rd5+ Qe5 17.Rxe5+ dxe5 18.a7 Rxg7+ 19.Bxg7 Be4 draws) **13...Ba2** **14.Bg4+** (14.Be4+? Kxe4 15.Qxg6+ Kxd5 draws) **14...Kg5** **15.h4+!** **Kxh4** (15...Kxg4 16.Qxg6+ Kxh4 17.Qh7+! Kg4 18.Qd7+ Kg5 19.Qxd8+ Kg6 20.Qxd6+ Qxd6 21.Bxd6 Bxd5+ 22.Kf8 wins) **16.Qxg6 Bxd5+** **17.Kh7 Be4** **18.g3+ fxg3** **19.fxg3+ Kxg3** (19...Qxg3 20.Qxe4) **20.Bf5+ Kf2** **21.Bxe4** wins.

Composer: A foreplan of 16 consecutive king moves allows White the pawn sacrifice 15.h4+.
JT: This study is like a slide box. For a long time only the kings can move. White tries to wiggle out Black's counter chances. In the final part of the study we see interesting pins and counterpins, one of the trademarks of Nielsen.

Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway)
4th prize Timman-70 JT



Draw

1.Be2 Sc1! 2.Bxb5 Bc5+! (Bf6+; Se5) **3.Kxc5** (3...Rxc5? Se2+ 4.Bxe2 Rxe2 5.Rc1 Re1 wins) **3...Re2!** (3...Se2 4.Se5 f1Q 5.Rg5+ Kf6 6.Sg4+ Ke7 7.Re5+ draws) **4.Rg5+ Kf6 5.Se7!** (5...Se5? f1Q 6.Sg4+ Ke7 wins) **5...f1Q** (5...Kxe7 6.Re5+ Kf6 7.Rxe2 f1Q 8.Re6+! draws) **6.Sg8+ Ke6** (6...Kf7 7.Bc4+ Ke8 8.Sf6+ Ke7 9.Sd5+ transposes) **7.Bc4+ Kd7 8.Sf6+ Ke7 9.Sd5+ Kf8 10.Rg8+! Kxg8 11.Se3+** draws.

JT: A fine study with subtle finesses. The 5th move is really beautiful. It is interesting to see the importance of square g8.

Pavel Arestov (Russia)
5th prize Timman-70 JT



Draw

1.Qd7 (1.Rd3? e.g. Kf2 2.Qg8 Qb1 wins, or 1.Qxb7? d1Q win) **1...Sd6!** (1...Sf4 2.Qd4 Qd5+ 3.Qxd5 Sxd5 4.Rd3 Ke2 5.Rxd5 d1Q+ 6.Rxd1, or 1...Ke1 2.Rg3! Sf4 3.Rg1+ draw) **2.Qxd6 Qa8+ 3.b7!** (3.Rc6? Qa3! 4.Qxd2 Qh3+ 5.Qh2 Qf3+ 6.Qg2+ Qxg2 mate) **3...Qxb7+ 4.Rc6 Qxb4!** (4...Qxc6+ 5.Qxc6 d1Q 6.Qg2+ Ke1 7.Qg1+ draws) **5.Qxb4 d1Q 6.Rc2!** (If 6.Qe4? Kf2+ wins, or 6.Qh4? Qf3+ 7.Kh2 Qg2 mate, or 6.Kh2? Qe2+ 7.Kh3 Qg2+ 8.Kh4 Qh2 mate) **6...Qxc2** (6...Qd5+ 7.Kh2 Qe5+ 8.Kh1! Qd5+ 9.Kh2 positional draw) **7.Qf8+!** (Try: 7.Qf4+? Qf2! (but not 7...Sxf4? stalemate) 8.Qg4 Qf7! (but not 8...hxg4? stalemate) 9.Qg2+ Ke1 10.Qf2+!? Kxf2! (but not 10...Qxf2? stalemate) wins) **7...Qf2!** (7...Sxf8 stalemate or 7...Ke2 (Ke1) 8.Qf1+! Kxf1 stalemate) **8.Qf4!** zz **8...Sd4!** (8...Qxf4 stalemate or 8...Sxf4 stalemate. If 8...h4 9.Qc4+ Qe2 10.Qf4+ Qf2 11.Qc4+ positional draw) **9.Qg3!** (9.Qc1+? Qe1! 10.Qf4+ Ke2+ wins, or 9.Qg4? Sf3! 10.Qc4+ Qe2 wins) **9...Se2** (9...Qxg3 stalemate, or 9...Qf6 10.Qf4+! Qxf4 stalemate, or 9...h4 10.Qd3+ Qe2 11.Qh3+ draws, or 9...Ke1 (Ke2) 10.Qe5+ Qe2 11.Qxd4 draws, or 9...Sf3 10.Qxf2+! Kxf2 stalemate) 10.Qh3+ Ke1 11.Qc3+! (Qxh5? Sg3 mate;) **11...Sxc3** stalemate.

JT: A tense fight with the highlight on the 7th move. I also like the 6th move. The reciprocal zugzwang requires deep understanding.

Oleg Pervakov & Aleksandr Stavrietsky (Russia)
1st special prize Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Rh4! (Composers: Thematic try: 1.Re1? R1h6! 2.Qf5 Rf6! (2...Bf6? 3.Rxe7+! Kxe7 4.d6+ Kf8 5.e7+ Kf7 6.Qe6+ wins) 3.Qh7! (3.Rxe7+ Kxe7 4.d6+ Kf8! 5.e7+ Kf7 and Black wins) 3...Rhx7 4.Rc7 Rxe6! 5.dxe6 Qd2 6.Rc8+ Qd8+ 7.Rxd8+ Kxd8 8.Kb7 Ke8! (8...b1Q? 9.Rxb1 Ke8 10.Re1! Rh4 11.a6 Ra4 12.a7 wins) 9.a6 Rh4 10.a7 Ra4 11.Rh1 Bh6 draws. Try: 1.Rf4? Bf6! (Bxf4?; Qf5!) 2.Qxh1 Qxh1 3.Kc7 0-0! and Black wins) **1...Bxh4** (0-0; 2.Qh7 mate) **2.Qh7!** (Qf5? Bf6;) **2...Qg1+** (2...Bf2+ 3.Kc7 Qg3+ 4.f4 Qxf4+ 5.d6! exd6 6.Qg6+, or 2...Rhx7 3.Rc7! Kd8 4.Kb7, or 2...Be1 3.Qf5! wins) **3.Kb7 Qa7+!** **4.Kxa7 Bf2+** (4...Rhx7 5.Rc7! Kd8 6.Kb7 wins) **5.Kb7 R1xh7!** **6.Rd8+!** (JT: the 3rd sacrifice to prevent castling) **6...Kxd8 7.dxc6 Bg3 8.a6!** (8.f4? Bxf4 9.a6 Rh3! 10.a7 Rxa3 and Black wins) **8...Rh4 9.f4!** Composers: Novotny **9...Bxf4** (Rxf4; c7+) **10.a7** wins.

Composers: White prevents castling three times by sacrifices of queen and two rooks.

JT: A marvellous study, the Novotny is superb. It would have been in contention for the first prize if the move 2.Qh7 to prevent castling was not anticipated in studies by Jamnicki (HHdbVI#42276) and Stavietsky (#02220) himself. It has to be noted though that this study is by far superior to the earlier ones.

Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine)
2nd special prize Timman-70 JT



Draw

1.f7! (1.Bxe5? d6;) **1...Qxf7 2.b5 d6** (2...Kxc7 3.b6+! Kxb6 4.c5+! Kc6 5.Rb4 draws) **3.b6 Qxc7!** (3...Qe8 4.b7+ Kxc7+ 5.b8Q+ wins) **4.bxc7 Sd7 5.c5!** (5.Bd4? exd4 6.c5 dxc5 7.Sc4?! dxc4 8.Rh8 - no 8.Rb5 - 8...Sb6 mate) **5...dxc5 6.Rb4! cxb4 7.Sc4!** (7.Bd4? exd4 8.Sc4 Kxc7! (8...dxc4? 9.Rb5 see main line) 9.Rh7 Sgf6 10.Re7 d3 11.Rxe6 b3 wins) **7...dxc4 8.Bd4! exd4 9.Rb5 Se7 10.Rb8+ Kxc7 11.Rb7+!** (11.Rc8+? Kb6! (11...Kxc8? stalemate) 12.Rc6+ Kb5! 13.Kb7 Sxc6 14.a8Q Sde5 wins) **11...Kc6 12.Rxd7!** (12.Rc7+? Kb6! (12...Kxc7? stalemate) 13.Rxd7 Sc8 wins) **12...Sc8! (Kxd7; 13.Kb7) 13.Rc7+! Kxc7 stalemate**

JT: The 4 consecutive sacrifices are very pleasing. It is important that they are executed in the right order. You could actually consider this as a task study: how many sacrifices are needed to clear a rank?

Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine)
3rd special prize Timman-70 JT



Win

(In the initial position White can dream: if his king were on e5 and his rook on d8, then the bK could not escape from Rd4 mate) **1.g5!** (1.Kc7? Se6+ 2.Kd6 Sd4 (g5) 3.Rh5 Sf3, and: 4.Rc5+ Kb4 5.c3+ Ka4 6.g5 Sxd2 7.g6 e3 8.g7 Sc4+ 9.Kc7 e2 10.g8Q e1Q draws, or: 4.d3+ exd3 5.cxd3+ Kb4 draws) **1...Be8** (1...Ba4 2.g6 Bxc2 3.g7 wins) **2.Kc7!** (2.Kc8? Bg6 3.Rh6 e3 4.dxe3 Bxc2 draws) **2...Se6+** (2...Kd5 3.Kd8 Bg6 4.Rh6 Se6+ 5.Ke7 Sf4 6.Kf6 wins) **3.Kd6 Sxg5 4.Rg4 Sf7+ 5.Ke7 Sh6!** (5...Se5 6.Rxe4+ Kd5 7.Rxe5+! Kxe5 8.Kxe8 wins) **6.Rxe4+ Kd5 7.d3!** (Rb4? Bc6;) **7...Bc6!** (7...Bh5 8.c4+! Kc5 (Kc6; Re6+) 9.Re5+ wins, Black will soon lose the bishop or the knight) **8.c3!** (8.c4+? Kc5 9.Re5+ Kb4 10.Rh5 Sg4 11.Kd6 Ba8! 12.c5 Kc3 draws) **8...Sf5+ 9.Kf6 Sd6** (9...Sg3 10.Rd4+! Kc5 11.Ke5 Se2 12.Rb4 Bf3 13.d4+ wins) **10.Re5** mate!

Composer: dreams come true! The endgame study ends with the bB and bS blocking their king, which results in an unexpected mate in the centre of the board. The final position of these pieces echoes their configuration in the diagram position.

JT: The technique is impressive. White creates the final mate in a meticulous way and forces the self-blocks. I have just one objection: it is not easy to explain why White doesn't win if he plays differently on move 7 or 8.

Martin Minski (Germany)
1st Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Qe6! (1.Sxd3+? Qxd3 2.Qe6+ (Rh4 Bh3!;) Be2 3.Kb2 Qb5+ draws; 1.Qe8?? Qxe8 2.Bd2+ Ke2! wins - no fork) **1...Qxe6** (1...Bxh3 2.Sxd3+ Kf1 3.Se3+ wins) **2.Bd2+ Kf2** (2...Ke2 3.Sd4+ fork 3...Kf2 4.Sd1+ Kg2 (4...Kg1 5.Rg3+ Bg2 6.Sxe6 wins) 5.Sxe6 Kxh3 (Be2; 6.Sf4 6.Sf2+ Kg2 7.Sxh1 Kxh1 8.Sf4 Be2 9.Be3 wins) **3.Sd1+ Kg1** (Kg2; Rg3 mate) **4.Rg3+ Bg2 5.Sfe3!** (threatens 6.Rxg2 mate. 5.Sde3?? Kf2+ with check!; 5.Sh4?? Qe2 wins, switchback) **5...Qg6!** (Play for stalemate; 5...Qg4 6.Sxg4 wins, or 5...Qxe3 6.Bxe3+ Kf1 7.Kd2! wins) **6.Rg5!** (6.Rg4? Qg5! 7.Be1 Qxe3+! 8.Sxe3 d2+ 9.Kd1 (9.Kc2?? dxe1S+! 10.Kd1 Kf2 wins) 9...dxe1Q+ 10.Kxe1 stalemate; 6.Rxg6? stalemate; 6.Be1? d2+! 7.Kxd2 Qd3+ (Qd6+) 8.Kxd3 stalemate) **6...Qg7!** (6...Qxg5 7.Be1 d2+ 8.Kxd2 Qxe3+ 9.Sxe3 wins) **7.Rg6!** (7.Rxg7? stalemate; 7.Be1? d2+! 8.Kxd2 Qxc3+ 9.Kxc3 stalemate) **7...Qg8!** (7...Qxg6 8.Be1 d2+ 9.Kxd2 Qd6+ 10.Kc2! (Kc1? Qa3+;) Bxf3 11.Bf2 mate) **8.Rg7!** (c4? Qg7!;) **8...Qxg7 9.Be1 d2+ 10.Kxd2 Qd7+ 11.Kc1!** (Kc2? Qa4+;) **11...Bxf3 12.Bf2** model mate.

JT: A study with an immobile bR in the corner is in general a basis for pointed studies. Sharp and interesting play culminates in a beautiful fight between rook and queen. This idea of pushing the queen off a file comes from Korolkov.

Luis Miguel González (Spain)
2nd Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT

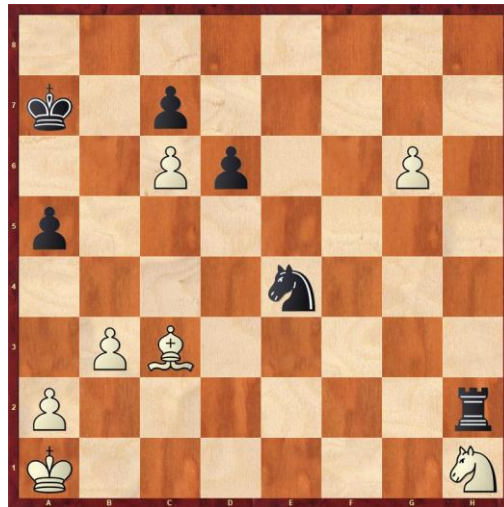


Win

1.Bf6+ Kg3 2.Rg8+ Kf3! 3.e8R! (3.e8Q? Ra1+! 4.Bxa1 Qe1+! 5.Qxe1 stalemate) **3...Re4!**
4.Bh4! (4.Rxe4? Qxe4 5.Rg2 Qh7+ 6.Kg1 Qb1+ perpetual check) **4...Rxe8!** (4...Qe2 5.Rxe4!
Qxe4 6.Rd2 Ke3+ 7.Rdg2! Qh7 8.R8g4 Qh5 9.Kh2! f3 10.R2g3 wins) **5.Rgxe8!** (5.Rdxe8?
Qe1+! 6.Bxe1 stalemate) **5...Qb6! 6.Rd2!** (6.Rd3+? Kg4 7.Rg8+ Kxh4 8.Kh2 Qe6 draws)
6...Qc6 7.Re7! (7.Rf2+? Kg4+ 8.Rg2+ Kh3! 9.Reg8 Qc1+ 10.Rg1 Qc6+ draws) **7...Kg4+**
(Qc1+; Be1!) **8.Kh2! Qh6** (8...Kxh4 9.Rg2 Qh6 10.Kh1! wins) **9.Rg7+!** (9.Rg2+? Kf3
10.Kh3 (10.Rf2+ Kg4 11.Rg7+ Kxh4 12.Rfg2 loss of time) 10...Qe6+! 11.Kh2 Qh3+!
12.Kxh3 stalemate) **9...Kxh4** (9...Kf3 10.Rf2+ Ke4 11.Rg4 wins) **10.Rdg2! f3 11.R2g4+ Kh5**
12.Kh3 f2 13.Rh4 mate

JT: The minor promotion is nothing special in itself. González has made more studies with this theme recently. The pointed play in the final part is excellent.

Ivan Bondar & Mikhail Khramtsevich (Belarus)
3rd Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT



Draw

1.Bd4+ Sc5 (1...Ka6 2.Sg3! Rg2 3.Sxe4 draws) **2.Sg3! Rg2! 3.Bf2! Rxf2 4.g7 Se4! 5.g8Q Sc3! 6.b4!** (6.Se2? Rxe2 7.Qg1+ Ka6! wins) **6...d5 7.Se2! Rxe2 8.Qg1+ Ka6 9.b5+! Kxb5 10.a4+! Ka6** (Kxa4; Qd4+) **11.Qa7+!** (11.Qf1? d4 12.Qf7 Ra2+ 13.Qxa2 Sxa2 wins) **11...Kxa7** stalemate.

Composers: Sharp initial mutual play, with the motif of distracting pieces, leads to a position with mate threats to the wK, which are parried by an unexpected stalemate.

JT: An excellent study from a technical point of view. Play is sharp and forcing. There are no real surprises though.

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark)
4th Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Qe6 (1.Qe2? Qe8, or 1.Qd3? Qxf8 wins) **1...Qc8** (1...b1Q 2.f7+ Kg7 3.Qf6+ Kxf8 4.Bc5 mate, or: 1...Sf3+ 2.Kg4 Sxg1 3.f7+ Kg7 4.Qf6+ Kxf8 5.e6 Se3+ 6.Kh5 (Kg5) Sf5 7.Qh8+ Ke7 8.Qxb8 wins) **2.Qxc8** (2.f7+? Qxe6 3.Sxe6 Sf3+ 4.Kh3, e.g. Sg5+ 5.Sxg5 Kxg5 6.f8Q b1Q draws, 2.Bh2? Sf3+ and Black wins) **2...Sf2!** (2...b1Q 3.Qg4 or 3.Qxc7 wins) **3.Qxb7!** (3.Bxf2? b1Q, and 4.Qh3 Qd1 or 4.Qg4 Qh1+ draws) **3...b1Q 4.Qc6 Qc1** (Qc2; Qg2) **5.Bh2** (Qg2? Qxg1;) **5...Qc4** The jealous queens must watch each other to protect their kings. **6.a3!** (6.f7+? Qxc6 or 6.Qd5? Qd4! 7.Qg2 (Qc6) f3+ and Black wins, or 6.a4? Qxa4 draws) **6...Qa4** (f3+; Qxc4) **7.Qa8 c6!** (c5; Qc6) **8.Qxc6 Qc4 9.a4! Qxa4 10.Qa8 Qb4** Black loses the staring contest. (10...Qc4 11.Se6! Qxe6 12.Qf8+ Kg6 13.Qg7+ Kf5 14.Qg5+ Ke4 15.Qxf4+ Kd3 16.Qxf2 wins) **11.Qb7** (11.Se6? Sd3 12.Sd4 Qxd4 13.Qf8+ Kg6 14.Qg7+ Kf5 15.f7 Qf2+ 16.Bg3 Sf3+ 17.Kh5 Qxg3 18.f8Q+ Ke4 19.Qxg3 fxg3 20.e6 Sf4+ 21.Kg4 Se5+ 22.Kxg3 Sxe6 draws, EGTB) **11...Qxb7** (11...Qxf8 12.Qg2 or 12.Bxf4+ win) **12.Bxf4** mate.

JT: The dance of the queens is sublime. It is similar to the famous studies of Kotov and L. Katsnelson, but here is more distance between the queens. I didn't rate the study higher since both kings and two knights don't move in the solution.

Vladislav Tarasiuk & Igor Yarmonov (Ukraine)
5th Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT

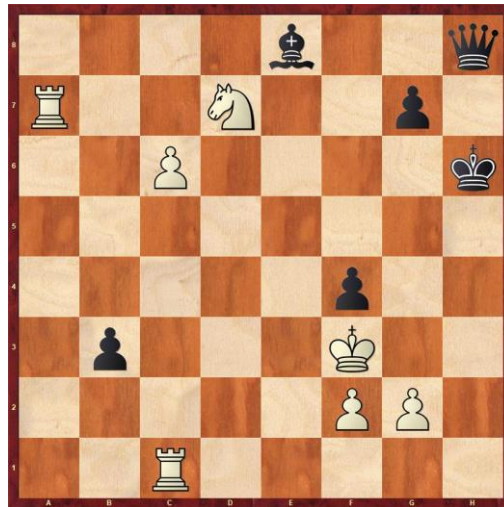


Draw

1.Rd6+! (Try: 1.Qd5+? Ke1! 2.Kd3 Bxc6 3.Qh5 Rd8+! 4.Kxe3 Rd2 wins) **1...exd6 2.Qd5+!** (2.Qxd6+? Kxc2 3.Qxh2+ Kb3 4.Kxe3 Rh8 5.Qh1 Kb2 6.Ke2 Rxh6 7.Qxh6 b4 wins) **2...Ke1 3.Kd3 Bg6+** (3...Bc6 4.Qh5 Rg2 - no moves 4...Rd8+ - 5.Bxe3 f5 6.Qh4+ Kf1 7.Qf4+ Ke1 8.Qh4+ Kd1 9.Qh5+ positional draw) **4.Kd4 Be4!** (4...b4 5.Qh1+ Kd2 6.Qxh2+ Kc1 7.Kxe3 Re8+ 8.Kf2+ Kxc2 9.Qxd6 draws) **5.Qxe4 Rg4! 6.Bf4!** (Try 6.Qxg4? h1Q 7.Qg3+ Kd1! 8.Qxe3 Sc6+ 9.Kxc3 Qe1+! 10.Qxe1+ Kxe1 wins) **6...Rxf4 7.Qxf4**, and:
 - **7...h1Q 8.Qxe3+ Kd1 9.Qf3+! Qxf3** stalemate no.1, or:
 - **7...Sc6+! 8.Kd3**, and now:
 -- **8...Se5+ 9.Kxe3 h1Q 10.Qh4+! Qxh4** stalemate no.2, or here:
 -- **8...h1Q 9.Qxe3+ Kd1 10.Qe2+ Kc1 11.Qe1+! Qxe1** stalemate no.3.

JT: Interesting play with mutual sacrifices leads to the stalemates.

Aleksey Popov (Russia)
6th Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT



Win

1.c7 Bh5+ 2.g4! fxg3+ 3.Kxg3 b2 4.Rc6+! g6 5.c8Q Qxc8 6.Rxc8 b1Q 7.Rh8+ Kg7 8.Rh7+! Kxh7 9.Sf6+ Kh6 10.Sg8+ Kg5 11.Ra5+ Qf5 12.f4 mate.

Composer: Natural play with en-passant theme in the introduction and a 6-move tactical combination in the end leads to an ideal pin mate with three active self-blocking. All white and black pieces move.

JT: The same as for the 3rd HM. The self-blocks are convincing, play is fluent, but no surprises.

David Gurgendidze (Georgia) & Martin Minski (Germany)
1st Special Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT

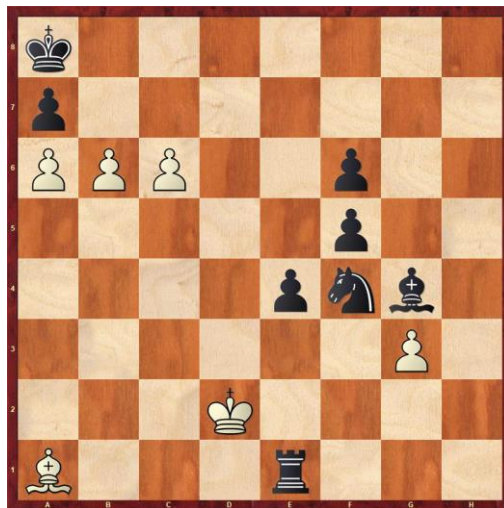


Draw

1.Rxh4 (1.Rxe3? Sxe3+ 2.Qxe3 Rg4-+, or 1.Rh1? Ka2 2.Rh2+ Sd2+ 3.Rxd2+ exd2 4.Qxd2+ b2 5.Qxg5 b1Q+ wins) **1...Sd2+** **2.Ke1** (Ke2? Bb5;) **2...Sf3+** **3.Kd1** (3.Ke2? Bb5 4.Rc4 Sd2 wins) **3...Bb5** (3...Sxh4 4.Qd4+ b2+ 5.Qxa4+ draws) **4.Rc4!** self-pin (4.Qc3+? Ka2 5.Rc4 b2! 6.Qa5+ Kb1 wins) **4...Rc5!** (4...b2 5.Qa3+ Kb1 6.Rc1+!, 4...e2+ 5.Kxe2, 4...Rg1+ 5.Ke2 b2 6.Ra4+! Bxa4 7.Qa3+ Kb1 8.Qxa4 Se1 9.Qd1+ Ka2 10.Qa4+, 4...Ka2 5.Rc2+! bxc2+ 6.Qxc2+ draws; 4...Rg2 5.Rc1+ Ka2 6.Ra1+! Kxa1 7.Qb1+! Kxb1 stalemate) **5.Qc3+** (Thematic try: 5.Rc2?! e2+! (5...bxc2+? 6.Kc1 Bxd3 stalemate) 6.Rxe2 Rc1+! (6...Bxd3? 7.Ra2+! Kb1 8.Rb2+ Ka1 9.Ra2+ bxa2 stalemate) 7.Kxc1 Bxd3 wins) **5...Ka2** **6.Ra4+** (6.Rxc5? e2+ 7.Kc1 e1Q+ 8.Qxe1 b2+! 9.Kc2 Sxe1+ wins) **6...Bxa4** **7.Qc2+!** the point (Qxc5? b2+;) **7...bxc2+** (7...Rxc2 stalemate; 7...b2 8.Qxa4+ draws, 7...Ka1 8.Qxc5 b2+ 9.Ke2 draws) **8.Kc1**, *Composers*: with stalemate on the next move.

JT: Stalemate that cannot be avoided is seen in many studies. Here the play leading to it is really nice. Especially White's and Black's 4th moves are beautiful.

Aleksandr Varitsky (Belarus)
2nd Special Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT

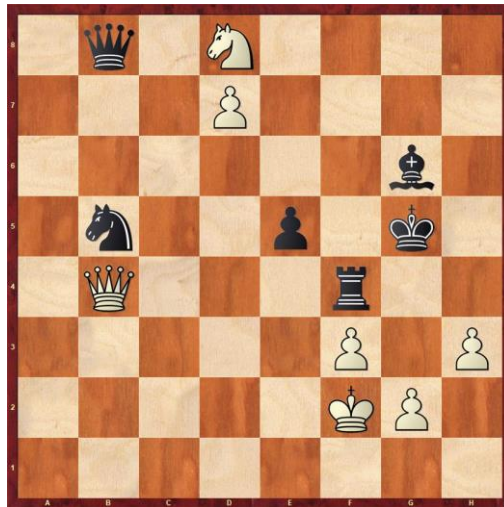


Win

1.c7! **Re2+** **2.Kc1** **Sd3+** **3.Kb1** **Re1+** **4.Ka2** **Sc1+!** **5.Ka3** (5.Kb2? Sd3+ 6.Ka2 Sc1+ repeats) **5...Re3+** **6.Ka4!** **Bd1+** **7.Kb4** **Rb3+** **8.Kc5!** **Rb5+!** (8...Sd3+ 9.Kd4! Rb4+ 10.Kc3 Rb3+ 11.Kd2 e3+ 12.Kxd1 wins) **9.Kd4** **Rb4+** **10.Ke3!** (10.Kc3? Rc4+ 11.Kxc4 Be2+ draws) **10...f4+** **11.Kxf4** **e3+** (11...Sd3+ 12.Kf5 Rb5+ 13.Be5!, and: Bg4+ 14.Kxg4 Sxe5+ 15.Kh3 Rxb6 16.c8Q+ Rb8 17.Qc7 wins, or Rxe5+ 14.Kg6! Rg5+ 15.Kxf6 wins) **12.Bd4!** **Sd3+** **13.Kf5** **Rb5+** **14.Be5!** **Bg4+** **15.Kxg4** **Sxe5+** **16.Kh3** **Rxb6** **17.c8Q+** **Rb8** **18.Qe6** wins.

JT: The Odyssey of the wK is impressive and the bishop sacs are quite nice.

Mario Guido García (Argentina)
1st Commendation Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Qe7+! (Try : 1.Se6+? Kf6! 2.Qa5 Kxe6 3.d8Q Qxd8 draws) **1...Kh5** (1...Kh6 2.Se6 Qb6+ 3.Kg3 Rxf3+ 4.Kh2 Rxh3+ 5.Kxh3 wins) **2.Se6!** (Try : 2.g4+? Kh6 3.Qh4+ Kg7 4.Se6+ Kf7 5.d8Q Qa7+ 6.Kg2 Kxe6 7.Qh6 Qa2+ 8.Kg3 Rxf3+ 9.Kxf3 Sd4+ 10.Qxd4 Qa8+! 11.Kg3 exd4 draws) **2...Qb6+ 3.Kg3 Rxf3+ 4.Kxf3!** (4.Kh2? Rxh3+ 5.Kxh3 Qe3+ 6.Kh2 Sd4 7.d8Q Sf3+!) **4...Qxe6** (4...Sd4+ 5.Sxd4, and: 5...Be4+ 6.Kxe4 Qxd4+ 7.Kf5, or Qxd4 6.g4+ Kh6 7.Qf8+! Kh7 8.d8Q wins) **5.Qh4+!** (Try : 5.g4+? Kh6 6.Qf8+ Kh7 7.d8Q Sd4+, and: 8.Kf2 Qa2+ 9.Kg1 Se2+ 10.Kf1 Sg3+ 11.Kg1 Se2+, or: 8.Kg3 8...Qb3+ 9.Kh4 Sf3+ draws) **5...Kxh4 6.d8Q+ Kh5 7.Qh8+** with two lines:
- **7...Kg5 8.h4+ Kf5 9.g4** ideal mate, or:
- **7...Bh7 8.Qxh7+ Kg5** (8...Qh6 9.g4+ Kg5 10.h4+ Kxh4 11.Qxh6 mate) **9.Qg7+ Kh4** (9...Qg6 10.h4+ Kf5 11.g4+ wins) **10.g3+ Kh5** (Kxh3; Qh7+) **11.g4+ Kh4 12.Qh7+ Kg5 13.h4+ Kf6 14.g5** mate

JT: The highlight of the study is the 5th move. The mating net is well constructed.

Amatzia Avni (Israel) & Yochanan Afek (Netherlands/Israel)
2nd Commendation Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Qd2! (1.Kd1? Qh5+! 2.Qxh5 Kb1 3.Sxc4 a1Q 4.e7 Bxe7 5.Qe2 Qc3 6.Sd2+ Ka2 7.Se4+ Qb2 8.Qxb2+ Kxb2 9.Bxe7 Kxb3 draws) **1...Bh6! 2.Qxh6 Rxb6** (2...cxb3 3.Qh2 Qc6+ 4.Sc4 wins) **3.Qd2!** switch-back on the h6-c1 diagonal. **3.Bxb6?** Qa8! **4.dxc4 Qe4**, or **4.bxc4 Qa3+** **5.Kd2 Qc3+** **6.Ke2 Kb1** draw) **3...c3 4.Qd1** (Qe1?? Rxe6;) **4...Qh5! 5.Qxh5** (5.Qf1? Qh2; 5.g4 Qh2; 5.Qg1? Qe2) **5...Rxe6 6.Qd1!** switch-back on the h5-d1 diagonal (Qh1? Re2;) **6...Re2! 7.Qxe2 c2 8.Qe3! dxe3 9.Bf6** mate.

Composers: Theme: rare echo royal switch-backs on neighbouring diagonals, with mutual neat Q-deflection-sacrifices.

JT: Well-constructed, but there are no real surprises. Black's deflections merely postpone the inevitable.

Michal Hlinka & L'uboš Kekely (Slovakia)
3rd Commendation Timman-70 JT



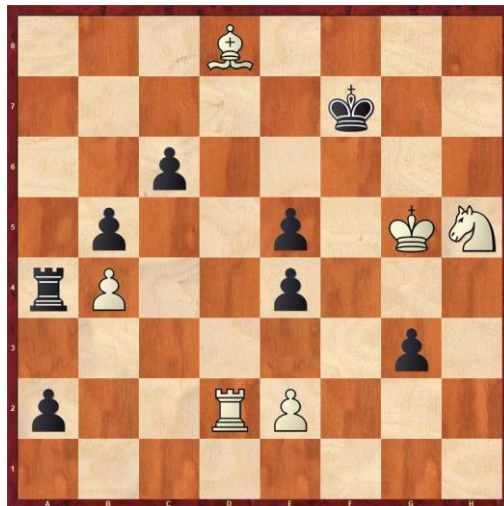
Draw

1.Kh2! (1.Rxb4? a2 2.Kh2 a1Q 3.Sg3+ Kg6 4.exf5+ Kf6 5.gxf3 Qe1 6.Se4+ Ke5 wins)
1...Bb8+ 2.e5! (2.Sg3+? Bxg3+ 3.fxg3 a2 4.gxf3 a1Q 5.fxg4+ fxg4 6.Kg2 Qe1 wins)
2...Bxe5+ (2...a2 3.Sg3+ Kg6 4.Bxf5+ Kf7 5.Rc1 Bd5 6.Ra1 Bxb3 7.Bb1! axb1Q 8.Rxb1
draws) **3.Sg3+ Bxg3+ 4.fxg3 a2 5.Bxf5!** (5.gxf3? gxf3 6.Bxf5 a1Q 7.Bg4+ Kg6 8.Bxf3 Qb2+
9.Bg2 Qxb3 wins) **5...a1Q 6.Rc6!** with mate threat **6...Qb1!** (6...Bxc6 7.Bg6+! Kxg6
stalemate; 6...Qh1+ 7.Kxh1 Bxc6 8.Kg1 Bd5 9.Kf2 Bxb3 10.Ke3 Bf7 11.Kd4 b3 12.Kc3
draws) **7.Rf6!** (7.Bxb1? Bxc6 8.Kg1 Bd5 9.Bc2 Bf7 10.Kf2 Bg6 11.Bd1 Bf5 12.Ke3 Kg6
13.Kd4 Kf6 14.Kc5 h5 wins) **7...Be4 8.Re6!** (8.Be6? Qc2 9.Bf7+ Bg6 10.Bxg6+ Qxg6
11.Rxg6 Kxg6 12.Kg1 h5 wins) **8...Bd5** (8...Qxb3 9.Rxe4 Qd5 10.Bxg4+ Kg6 11.Rxb4
draws) **9.Rf6!** (9.Bxb1? Bxe6 10.Bc2 Bf7 11.Kg1 Bg6 12.Bd1 Be4 wins) **9...Be4 10.Re6 Bd3**
11.Rd6! (Rb6? Qxb3); **11...Bc2 12.Rc6! Bd3 13.Rd6** positional draw, or: **13...Bxf5** (Be4;
Re6 3-fold repetition) **14.Rxh6+! Kxh6** stalemate.

Composers: Synthesis of positional draw and stalemates.

JT: The final part is excellent, but the introduction could be better.

Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway)
4th Commendation Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Kf5! Ra7! (1...a1Q 2.Rd7+ with a mating attack, e.g. 2...Kf8 3.Be7+ Kg8 4.Sf6+ Kh8
5.Kg6 Ra8 6.Bf8!) **2.Bc7!** Cutting off Black's rook. **2...a1Q** (2...Rxc7 3.Rxa2 g2 4.Ra1 with a
winning endgame) **3.Rd7+ Kf8 4.Bd6+ Kg8 5.Sf6+ Kh8 6.Bc7!** Cutting off the rook again.
6...Qf1+ (6...Qh1 7.Kg6 with a mating attack) **7.Kg6 Qxf6+ 8.Kxf6 g2** Otherwise White has
a winning endgame. **9.Rd8+ Kh7 10.Bb6 Ra1 11.Rd7+ Kh8** (Kg8; Rg7+) **12.Bg1! Rxg1**
13.Kg6 wins.

JT: The wB plays the main role, cutting off the rook twice and finally obstructing the g-pawn.
A pleasant study from a practical point of view.

Jaroslav Polášek & Emil Vlasák (Czech Republic)
4th Commendation Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Qb8+! (Try: 1.a8Q+? Sg8+ 2.Qxg8+ Kxg8, and: 3.Rc8+ Kf7 4.Qh5+ Ke6 5.Re8+ Kd6 6.Rxe4 Rxe4 draws (EGTB), or: 3.Qb8+ Qe8 4.Rc8 Re6+ 5.Kxg5 Re5+ perpetual check) **1...Sg8+ 2.Qxg8+ Kxg8 3.a8Q+ Qe8** (3...Kf7 4.Rc7+ Ke6, e.g. 5.Qc8+ Ke5 6.Re7+ Kd5 7.Rxe4 Rxe4 8.Qb7+ wins) **4.Rg6+!** (4.Rc8?! Re6+ 5.Kxg5 Re5+ perpetual check) **4...Kh8** (4...Kf8 5.Qf3+ Qf7 6.Qxe2) **5.Qa1+ Re5 6.Rf6!** (Pointe. This quiet move paradoxically unpins the rook. The threat is Qxe5) **6...Kg8 7.Qa2+ Kh8 8.Qb2! Kg8 9.Qb3+ Kh8 10.Qc3! Kg8 11.Qd3!** The next quiet move ends the battle, and:
- **11...Qe7 12.Qg6+ Kh8 13.Rf7** wins, or:
- **11...Re4** (11...Re7 12.Qd5+ Kh8 13.Qf5! Qg8 14.Rf8 Re6+ 15.Kh5) **12.Qd5+** (12.Rg6+? Kh8 13.Qc3+ Re5 14.Rf6 Kg8 loses time only) **12...Kh8 13.Qxe4 Qxe4 14.Rf8** mate.

JT: An interesting battle of heavy pieces. The 6th move is very subtle.

Michael Pasman (Israel)
6th Commendation Timman-70 JT



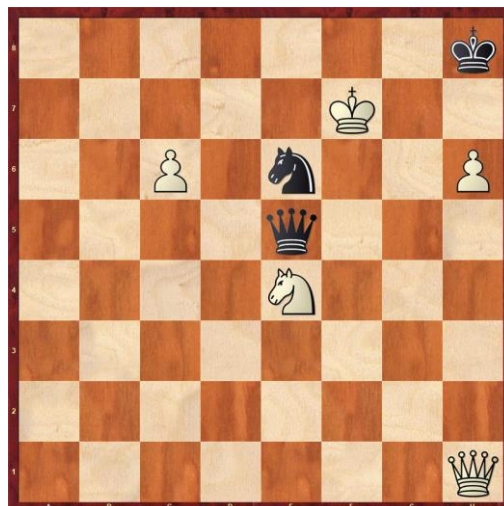
Win

1.Sc7+! (1.b7? Rxa4+! 2.Kxa4 Sc5+ 3.Kb4 Sxb7 draws) **1...Sxc7** **2.b7!** **Rxa4+!** **3.Kb3!**
(3.Kxa4? Sb6+ 4.Kb4 Kxa7 draws) **3...Rb4+!** (Sb6; b8Q) **4.Kxb4** **Sxa7** **5.b8S+!** **Kb6** **6.c5**
mate.

Composer: Ideal mate with two selfblocks. Also a Phoenix - wS "reborn".

JT: The same comment as for the 3rd and 6th HM.

Daniil Yakimovich (USA)
1st Special Commendation Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Qh4 (Defending both d8 and e4 and threatening 2.Qf6+) **1...Sg5+** (Kh7; Qe7) **2.Sxg5**
(2.Qxg5? Qxg5 3.Sxg5 stalemate) **2...Qf4+** **3.Kg6** (3.Qxf4? stalemate) **3...Qxh4** **4.c7** (4.Sf7+?)

Kg8 5.c7 Qg3+ draws) **4...Qg4 5.c8Q+** (5.h7? Qe6+ 6.Sxe6 stalemate) **5...Qxc8 6.Sf7+ Kg8 7.h7+ Kf8 8.h8R+** (8.h8Q+? Ke7 9.Qxc8 stalemate) **8...Ke7 9.Rxc8** wins.

JT: An elegant study, especially since there are so few pieces, almost a miniature.

Amatzia Avni (Israel) & Sergey Osintsev (Russia)
2nd Special Commendation Timman-70 JT



Win

1.Sg5 Qh4 (1...Qxh6 2.Qb5! Qh4 3.Qd5+ Kh8 4.Ke8! Qe1+ 5.Qe6 Qxe6+ 6.Sxe6 wins)
2.h7+ (Logical try: 2.Qe5? Rd4! 3.Kc8 Rc4+ 4.Kd8 Rd4, and: 5.Qxd4 Qxg5+! (5...Qxd4?
6.h7+ Kh8 7.Sf7 mate) 6.Kc8 Qc1+ 7.Kb7 Qb1+! 8.Qb6 (Ka8 Qa2+;) Qxb6+ 9.Kxb6 Be7
10.h7+ Kh8 draws, or here: 5.h7+ Kh8 6.Qg3!? - position with Rd4 - 6...Be7+ 7.Kxe7 Qxg5+
8.Qxg5 Rxd7+ 9.Kxd7 stalemate) **2...Kh8 3.Qg3!** (position with Rc4) **3...Be7+!** (3...Qxg5+
4.Qxg5 Be7+ 5.Kxe7! wins) **4.Kxe7 Rc7!** (Playing for stalemate. If 4...Re4+ 5.Kd8 Qxg5+
6.Qxg5 transforms to main line, while if: 5...Re7 6.Qb8! switchback! 6...Qxg5 7.Kc7+ wins)
5.Ke8! (5.Qxh4? Rxd7+ 6.Kf8 Rd8+ 7.Kf7 Rd7+ draws), and:
- **5...Qe4+ 6.Sxe4 Rxd7 7.Sf6!** wins, or:
- **5...Qxg5** (5...Rxd7 6.Qb8! switchback! 6...Qf4!? (Rb7; Sf7+!) 7.Kxd7+ Qxb8 8.Sf7 mate!)
6.Qxg5 Rxd7 7.Qf6! (Echo to 7.Sf6!) **7...Rd8+!? 8.Kxd8** (8.Qxd8? stalemate; 8.Ke7? Ra8
draws – fortress) wins.

JT: The theme "Stalemate avoidance" is implemented in a nice way.

Section: “Strong practical player”

Victor Mikhalevski & Alexander Mikhalevski (Israel)
prize Timman-70 JT – SPP



Draw

1.Sf6+! (The intermediate 1.gxf7+? doesn't work in view of 1...Kf8 2.Sxd2 Sf4+ 3.g6 (3.Kh7 Sxh3 4.g6 Sg5+ Black wins) e.g. 3...Rxc6+ 4.Kh7 Rg7+ 5.Kh6 Sxh3 wins. 1.Sxd2? leads to a checkmate after 1...Sf4 (Sg7)) **1...Kh8!** (1...Kf8?? would be a blunder due to 2.Sd7+ and White wins) **2.d4!** (A surprising quiet move being a whole rook down. White prepares the advance d4-d5. 2.gxf7? is strongly met by 2...Sf8! 3.d4 (c4 Rd6;) Rc6! Zugzwang. 4.Rh4 (d5 Rxd5;) 4...Rxc3 5.g6 Rg2 6.Sg4 Rc6! Wins) **2...Rbb2!** A clever defence against d5. 2...Rd6 doesn't stop d5. 3.d5!? (also Rh1) R2xd5 4.Sxd5 Rxd5 (Sg7?; Se7) 5.gxf7 Sf8 6.g6 Rd6 7.Rg3 a positional draw. The wR will wait on the g-file, while the bR will wait on the sixth rank. If 2...Rf2?? 3.d5 White wins) **3.Rh5!** (White renews the idea of d5. Now 3.d5? runs into 3...Rh2 4.Rh5 Rxh5+ 5.Sxh5 fxg6-+; 3.gxf7? Sf8 4.Rh5 Rb6 5.Rh4 Re6 6.c4 Rg2 7.d5 Re7 wins) **3...Rh2!** (Stopping d5 again. After 3...Rf2 4.d5! Rxf6 5.gxf6 Rg2! 6.gxf7! saves White. (6.dxe6?? Rxc6 mate;) 6...Sf8 7.Rg5 Rh2+ 8.Rh5 draws. After 3...Rb6 White can repeat moves by means of 4.Rh3 with repetition) **4.gxf7!** (White prepares an advance of the g-pawn. 4.d5? loses to 4...Rxh5+ (4...fxg6 also wins) 5.Sxh5 fxg6) **4...Sf8!** (Black stops an advance of the g-pawn. 4...Rxh5+ 5.Sxh5 Sf8 6.g6 Rb6 7.Sf4= doesn't promise Black any winning chances) **5.Rxh2!** (White forces an exchange of rooks. 5.g6? loses to 5...Rhg2! 6.Rg5 Rxg5 7.Kxg5 Rg2+. And 5.d5? runs into 5...Rhf2! Black stops g6 and prepares Rf5 - Rg2 and Rxf6! 5.c4? loses similar to 5.d5? after 5...Rhf2!) **5...Rxh2+ 6.Sh5 Rh4!** (Black forces 7.g6 in order to win both kingside pawns. 6...b6 is worse. 7.c4 Rh4 8.g6 Rxh5+ 9.Kxh5 Kg7 10.Kg5 Sxg6 11.f8Q+! Sxf8 12.Kf5 Kf7 13.Ke5 Ke7 14.Kd5 Kd7 15.c5 b5 16.c6+ Kc7 17.Kc5 and White wins the b-pawn. 6...b5 is even worse. 7.g6 Rxh5+ 8.Kxh5 Kg7 9.Kg5 Sxg6 10.f8Q+ Sxf8 11.Kf5 draws) **7.g6!** (7.d5? loses to 7...b6! 8.c4 Rg4! 9.Sf6 Rf4! 10.Sh5 Rxf7 11.g6 Rf3 12.g7+ Kg8 13.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 wins) **7...Rxh5+!** The only move. **8.Kxh5 Kg7 9.Kg5** (JT: 9.c4 is a minor dual) **9...Sxg6 10.f8Q+!** (Now White brings his king to the queenside, when Black won't be able to make progress. But 10.c4? Kxf7 11.Kf5 b6! turns out to be winning for

Black) **10...Sxf8 11.Kf5** (or 11.c4!? Kf7 12.Kf5! - see 11.Kf5) **11...Kf7 12.c4!** (White has to be precise to the end. 12.Ke5?? Ke7 13.c4 Kd7 14.Kd5 Se6! 15.Ke5 Sc7 16.Kf5 Kc6 17.Ke5 Sa6! and Black wins bringing his king via a5 to b4) **12...Ke7!** (or 12...Se6 13.Ke5 Ke7 14.c5! Kd7 15.c6+! bxc6 16.d5 draws) **13.c5!** The only move again. **13...Sd7 14.Ke4! Kd8** (Sf6+; 15.Ke5) **15.Kd5** The king goes to c4 in order to support the c5-pawn and prepare d4-d5 advance. *JT*: 15.Kd3 is also sufficient) **15...Kc7 16.Kc4! Sf6 17.d5!** with a positional draw.

JT: It is best to stop the solution at move 14 to avoid the dual 15.Kd3. There are 2 more minor duals, but the main content of the study is the first part. The 3rd move is superb”.

HH: Victor Mikhalevski (born 1972) is an o.t.b. GM (rating: 2559) and Alexander Mikhalevski (1958) is his brother o.t.b. IM (2418).

Alexander Mikhalevski (Israel)
1st Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT – SPP



Draw

1.Rxd4! (White is trying to set-up a mating net. 1.Sf2? Qh2+ 2.Bd6 Qxf2-- for example 3.fxe6 Qf5 4.Rxd4 Qxe6 5.Bf4 Kf8 wins. 1.Se5? exf5! 2.Rxd4 Kxe7 wins) **1...Qxd3!** (The only attempt to play for a win. 1...Qxf5 2.Bf6! Qxd3! 3.Rxd3 cxd3 4.Bc3; 1...Qg3+? loses to 2.Sf4! wins) **2.Rd8+!** (2.Rxd3? loses to 2...cxd3 3.Bb4 exf5! 4.Bd2 b5 5.Kxc6 b4 6.Bxb4 f4 wins. 2.Bf6? is bad due to 2...c5! 3.Rd8+ Qxd8+ 4.Bxd8 c3 5.Bf6 exf5! 6.Bxc3 f4 7.Kxb6 f3 8.Be1 c4 wins) **2...Qxd8+** (Kxe7??; 3.f6 mat) **3.Bxd8 exf5** Now it's not easy to catch up with all passed pawns. **4.g6! f6!** (Black prevents 5.Bg5, which would stop all the black pawns on its diagonal. 4...fxg6 is more prosaic. 5.Bg5! b5 6.Kxc6 b4 7.Kd5 b3 8.Bf6 Kf7 9.Bd4! f4 10.Kxc4 Ke6 11.Kxb3! draws) **5.Kd6!** White approaches a square of one of the passed pawns and creates an unexpected mating threat. See 5...f4. After 5.Bxf6? f4 the pawns are unstoppable. **5...Kf8** (After 5...f4? Black gets mated. 6.Be7! f3 7.Ke6 f2 8.g7 f1Q 9.g8Q mate; 5...c3 6.Bxf6 c2 7.Bg5 draws) **6.Bxb6!** (Bxf6 f4; **6...f4 7.Kc5!** The king comes closer to the square of the f-pawn. **7...c3** (f3; Kxc4) **8.Kd4** (8.Kc4 doesn't change anything) **8...c2 9.Bc5+!** Suddenly the bishop stops the c-pawn, while the king is in the square of the f-pawn. **9...Kg7 10.Ba3** draws.

JT: The introduction is quite heavy but this is compensated by the subtle final play.

Alexander Mikhalevski (Israel)
2nd Honourable Mention Timman-70 JT – SPP



Draw

The idea of the first half of the study has been taken from a study by Chuiko (HHdbVI56638). However, in his study a sacrifice of all pieces doesn't save White. Moreover, there are few ways to prove it. His study is given below... Black's last move could have been Sg1-h3.

1.Rb1! White has to sacrifice five pieces to avoid a checkmate. (1.Bf1? Rxf1+ 2.Kg2 Rg1+ 3.Kf3 Bg4+ 4.Ke3 Re1 mate) **1...Rxb1+ 2.Bc1!** (2.Qd1? Rxd1+ 3.Re1 Rxe1+ 4.Bf1 Rxf1+ 5.Kg2 Rg1+ 6.Kf3 Bg4+ 7.Ke4 Re1+ 8.Kd5 Sxf4+ 9.Kc5 Sd3+ 10.Kb5 Rb1+ 11.Bb2+ Rxb2+ 12.Kxa5 b6+ 13.Kxa4 Rxa2+ 14.Kb5 Bf3! 15.h8Q+ Kb3 wins) **2...Rxc1+ 3.Qd1! Rxd1+ 4.Re1! Rxe1+ 5.Bf1 Rxf1+ 6.Kg2 Rg1+ 7.Kf3 Bg4+ 8.Ke4** (Ke3 Re1 mate;) **8...Re1+ 9.Kd5 Sxf4+** (Bf3+; Kc5) **10.Kc5 Sd3+ 11.Kb5** (Kd5? Bf3 mate;) **11...Rb1+ 12.Kxa5!** Up to the moment everything was forced. Now Black has two options. **12...Kc4!** White avoided an immediate checkmate. Now the second part of the fight is starting. (12...b6+ is worse. 13.Kxa4 Bd1+ 14.Ka3! b5 15.h8Q+ Kc4 16.Se5+! Sxe5 17.Qg8+! Kc3 18.Qg3+ Sd3 19.Qg7+ draws) **13.a8Q!** (13.Se5+? Sxe5 14.h8Q Sc6+ 15.Kxa4 b5+ 16.Ka3 b4+ 17.Ka4 Bd1 mate) **13...Sc5! 14.Qxb7!** White has to give up another queen! (14.Se5+? Kc3 15.Qxb7 Sxb7+ 16.Ka6 Rb6+ 17.Ka7 Rh6! wins) **14...Sxb7+** (14...Rxb7 15.Se5+ Kd5 16.h8Q c6 17.Sxc6 Kxc6 18.Qf6+ Be6 19.Qf3+ draws) **15.Ka6!** (15.Kxa4? leads to a checkmate. 15...Sc5+ 16.Ka3 Re1! 17.h8Q Re3+ 18.Kb2 Sd3+! 19.Ka3 Sb4+! 20.Kb2 Re2+ 21.Kb1 Bf5+! 22.Kc1 Rc2+! 23.Kb1 Rxa2+! 24.Kc1 Rc2+! 25.Kb1 Rf2+ 26.Kc1 Sd3+! 27.Kb1 Kb3! wins) **15...Rb6+** (15...Sc5+ 16.Ka7 Rb7+ 17.Ka8 Bf5! 18.h8Q Be4! draws) **16.Ka7 Sa5! 17.Se5+!** White has to avoid a checkmate. **17...Kb5** Black is setting up a new mating net. **18.h8Q Bf3!** Surprisingly, White is in zugzwang. Any move leads to a loss of material. **19.Qh7!** The only defence. White gives up another new-born queen. (Other attempts don't work. 19.Qg8? This move doesn't save the queen. 19...Be4! Black saved the bishop and created an unstoppable threat of 19...Rb7 and 20...Ka6. 20.Qg1 Rb7+ 21.Ka8 Ka6! 22.Qf1+ Rb5+ 23.Sc6 Bxc6 mate. 19.Sfg6? is a worse version of 19.Qh7: 19...Ra6+ 20.Kb8 Ra8+ 21.Kxc7 Rxh8 22.Sxh8 Bd5 23.a3 Sc4 24.Sxc4 Kxc4 25.Kd6 Bg8! 26.Ke5 Kb3 27.Kd4 Kxa3

28.Kc3 Ka2 29.Sg6 a3 30.Kc2 Bh7 wins) **19...Ra6+ 20.Kb8 Ra8+ 21.Kxc7 Ra7+ 22.Kd6 Rxh7 23.Sxh7** After giving up three queens, two rooks and two bishops White managed to meet the immediate threats and now has to defend a worse endgame. **23...Sc4+!** (The best attempt to set problems. If 23...Be4 24.Sf6 Bb1 25.a3 Sc4+ 26.Sxc4 Kxc4 27.Sxh5 Kb3 28.Sf4 Kxa3 29.Kc5 Kb3 30.Sd5 a3 31.Sb4 draws) **24.Ke6!** The last difficult move. (24.Sxc4? loses to 24...Kxc4 25.Ke5 a3! 26.Sf6 Kc3 27.Se4+ Kb2 28.Sd2 Kxa2 wins) **24...Sxe5 25.Kxe5** draws, It turns out that in this position White achieves a draw. End of the study. Play might continue 25...Kc4 26.Sf6 a3 27.Kf4! Bd1 28.Ke3! Bb3! 29.Kd2! Bxa2 30.Kc2 draws.

JT: A lot of violence and partly anticipated, but still worthwhile.

Dmitry Zilberstein (Israel)
1st Commendation Timman-70 JT – SPP



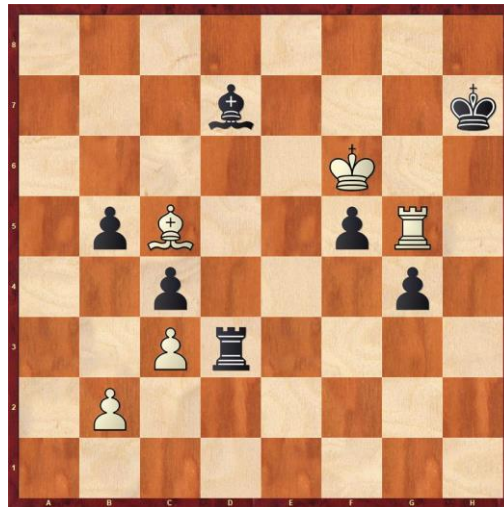
Draw

1.a7 (1.d6+ cxd6 2.Re2 f4 3.Kxb6 bxa6 4.Rxa6 Qf8 5.Kb5 Qe8+ 6.Kb4 Qc8 7.Ra5 Bc7 wins) **1...Bxa7 2.d6+!** (2.Rxa7? Bxd5 3.Ba3+ Ke8 4.Bc5 f4! 5.Re1 f3! 6.Ra2 g6! wins. The idea behind 6...g6 is to free the square g7 for the king) **2...Kxd6** (cxd6; Rxa7) **3.Rxa7 Bc6+** (3...Be4!? The most dangerous alternative to the main Line. All other black moves are weaker 4.Ba3+ Ke5!? 5.Rxb7 draws) **4.Sxc6 bxc6+ 5.Ka6 Sd5 6.e7!** (6.Re2? Surprisingly this a very serious alternative. Black has to play precisely to win 6...Qxc3 7.e7 Sxe7 8.Bf4+ Kd5 9.Rxc7 Qa1+! 10.Kb7 Sg6 11.Rd7+ Kc5 12.Bd6+ Kb5 13.Re6 Sxh4 14.Be7 g5 15.Rxc6 Qh1! 16.Rdd6 c3! wins) **6...Sxe7 7.Rxe7! Qxe7 8.Ba3+ c5 9.Bxc5+! Kxc5 10.Rxc7+! Kd6 11.Rxe7 Kxe7 12.Kb5 Ke6 13.Kxc4 Ke5 14.Kd3** Now most of Black's attempts to win end up in Queen vs h-pawn on 7th rank draw **14...Kd5** (14...Kf4 15.c4 Ke5 16.Ke3 g6 17.Kd3 draws) **15.c4+** (15.Ke3 Kc4 16.Kd2 f4 17.Ke2 Kxc3 18.Kf3 Kd3 19.Kxf4 Ke2 20.Kg5 transposition) **15...Kc5 16.Kc3 f4 17.Kd3 f3 18.Ke3 Kxc4 19.Kxf3 Kd3 20.Kf4 Ke2 21.Kg5 Kf2 22.Kxh5 Kg2 23.Kg6 Kxh2 24.Kxg7 Kg2 25.h5 h2 26.h6 h1Q 27.h7** draws.

JT: The foreplay is quite violent and complicated, but not bad. It all leads to a pawn ending that is just a draw.

HH: Dmitry Zilberstein (1979) is an o.t.b. IM (2370).

Karsten Müller (Germany)
2nd Commendation Timman-70 JT – SPP



Win

1.Rg7+ (1.Rh5+?! Kg8 2.Rg5+ Kh7 3.Rg7+ wins) **1...Kh8** (1...Kh6 2.Bf8 Kh5?! 3.Rh7 mate)
2.Bd4 Bc6 3.Rc7 (3.Rg5? Kh7 4.Be5 Rd5 5.Rh5+ Kg8 6.Ke6 Rxe5+ 7.Kxe5 Be4 8.Kf4 Kf7
9.Rh6 Ke7 10.Rb6 Kd7 11.Rxb5 Kc6 12.Rb4 Kc5 draws; 3.Kg6? Rxd4 4.cxd4 f4 5.Rc7 Be4+
6.Kh6 Kg8 7.Rg7+ Kf8 8.Rxg4 Bd3 9.Rxf4+ Ke7 draws) **3...Rxd4 4.cxd4 Be4 5.Re7!**
(5.Kg6? f4+ 6.Kh6 Kg8 7.Rg7+ Kf8 8.Rxg4 Bd3 9.Rxf4+ Ke7 draws) **5...g3** (5...Bd3 6.d5 g3
7.d6 g2 8.d7 g1Q 9.d8Q+ Qg8 10.Re8 wins) **6.Kg6 Bc6** (6...f4+ 7.Rxe4 g2 8.Re8 mate)
7.Rc7 Be8+ (7...Bd5 8.Rh7+ Kg8 9.Rd7 Kf8 10.Rxd5 g2 11.Rxf5+ Ke7 12.Rg5 wins) **8.Kh6**
f4 (8...Kg8 9.Rg7+ Kf8 10.Rxg3 wins) **9.Rc8 Kg8 10.Rxe8+ Kf7 11.Re4 f3 12.Rf4+ Ke6**
13.Rxf3 g2 14.Rg3 wins.

JT: A solid piece of endgame analysis by endgame connoisseur Müller.

HH: Karsten Müller (1970) is an o.t.b. GM (2352).