

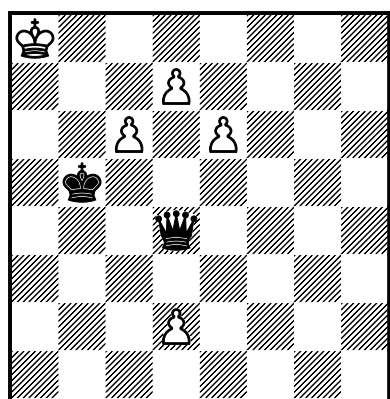
# Kings and pawns awaiting guests

**Prizewinners explained**

**YOCHANAN AFEK**

Displaying original multiple underpromotions is usually special, however doing it from a position of kings and pawns only might create even greater impression. The leading expert in this magic is Mikhail Zinar who would probably gladly approve of the following miniature:

**A.1. Richard Becker**  
special prize Chessstar 2010



a8b5 3000.40 5/2 Draw

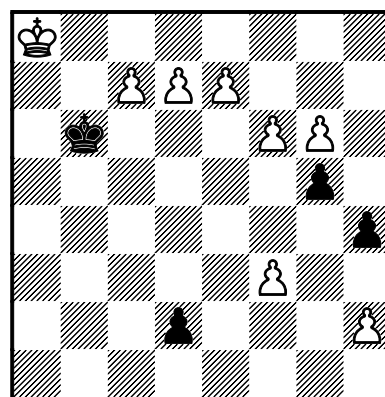
1.e7 (1.c7? Kb6 2.Kb8 Qb4 3.Kc8 Kc6 4.d4 (d8S+ Kb6;) Qd6 5.d5+ Qxd5 6.d8S+ Kb6 7.e7 Qb5 wins) **Qa1+ 2.Kb8 Qe5+ 3.c7 Kc6 4.d8S+! Kb6** (4...Kd7 leads to a unique EGTB draw: 5.e8Q+ Kxe8 6.d4 Qh2 7.Kc8) **5.e8S! Qxe8 6.c8S+! Kc5 7.d4+ Kd5 8.Kc7 Kxd4 9.Nb7 Qf7+ 10.Kc6 Qe6+ 11.Kc7 Kd5 12.Sb6+ Kd4 13.Sc8 Qc4+ 14.Kd7 Qb5+ 15.Kc7 Kd5 16.Sb6+ Kd4 17.Sc8 Qc4+ 18.Kd7 Qd5+ 19.Kc7 Qf7+ 20.Kc6 Qe8+ 21.Kc7 Kd5 22.Sb6+ draws.**

No fewer than three knights result from underpromotions of which the remaining two create a fortress.

Siegfried Hornecker is especially fond of king and pawn positions in all genres thus it is no wonder that his own first jubilee tourney

was partly dedicated to pawn endings. Here again the American prolific maestro showed his skill with a fourfold knight promotion:

**A.2. Richard Becker**  
3rd prize Hornecker-25 JT 2011



a8b6 0000.73 8/4 BTM, Draw

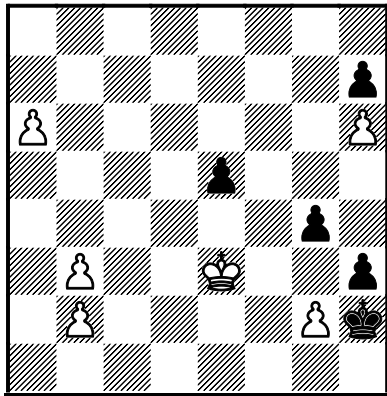
1...d1Q 2.c8S+! Ka6 3.d8S! Qxf3+ 4.Kb8 Qf4+ 5.Sd6! (Ka8? Qc7;) Qxd6+ 6.Kc8 Kb6 7.e8S! Qd3 8.f7 Qf5+ 9.Se6! Qxe6+ 10.Kd8 Kc6 11.f8S! Qa2 12.Ke7 Qa3+ 13.Kf7 Qa7+ 14.Kf6 Qf2+ 15.Ke7 Qc5+ 16.Kf7 Qd5+ 17.Ke7 g4 18.g7 g3 19.hxg3 hxg3 20.Sf6 draws.

The jubilant judge however considered this study as partly anticipated by the author's own previous one. In our opinion the systematic double knight sacrifice seems highly original and makes this one fully independent.

A different scenario appears in the special prize winner of the same event.

1.g3 Kxg3 2.a7 e4 (h2 3.a8B! Kh3 4.Kf2 g3+ 5.Kf1) 3.a8R! (3.a8Q? h2 4.Qxe4 h1Q 5.Qxh1 stalemate) Kh2 4.Ra7 Kg2 5.Kxe4 g3 6.Kf4 h2 7.Ra1 Kh3 (Kf2 8.Rh1 Kg2 9.Rc1! wins) 8.Kf3 g2 9.Ra5 g1S+ 10.Kf2 Sf3 11.Ra1 Se5! 12.Rd1! (to stop Sd3+) Sg4+

**A.3.** Yochanan Afek  
special prize Hornecker-25 JT 2010



e3h2 0000.54 6/5 Win

**13.Kf3 Sxh6 14.b4 Sg4 15.b5 Se5+ 16.Kf4 Sc4 17.b3!** wins.

In the course of the solution and the main sideline all four promoted pieces take an active part. Furthermore, the promoted rook and knight create a new phase. This could all be achieved by adding just a single pawn on b3 to an older study of yours truly published in Poland 38 years ago!

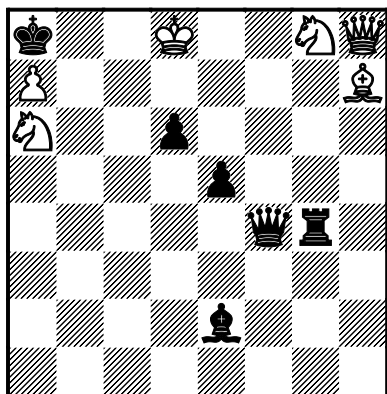
## Obituary

***Ion Murârasu (12xi1955 – 31xii2011)***

From the Romanian composition magazine *Quartz* we learn that the Romanian composer Ion Murârasu has passed away on the last day of 2011.

He was active in several composition sections. His best endgame study (EG#16097) probably is this one:

**P.4.** I. Murârasu  
3rd hon. mention *Die Schwalbe* 1999



d8a8 4342.12 6/6 Win

**1.Se7 Kxa7 2.Kc7 Qc1+ 3.Sc5 Qxc5+ 4.Sc6+ Ka6 5.Qa8+ Kb5 6.Qa5+ Kc4 7.Qa4+ Kd5 8.Qe4+ Rxe4 9.Bg8 mate.**

**i) 3.Sc6+? Kxa6 4.Qa8+ Kb5 5.Qa5+ Kc4 6.Qb4+ Kd5 7.Qxd6+ Kc4 8.Sxe5+ Kc3 9.Sxg4 Bxg4 draws.**

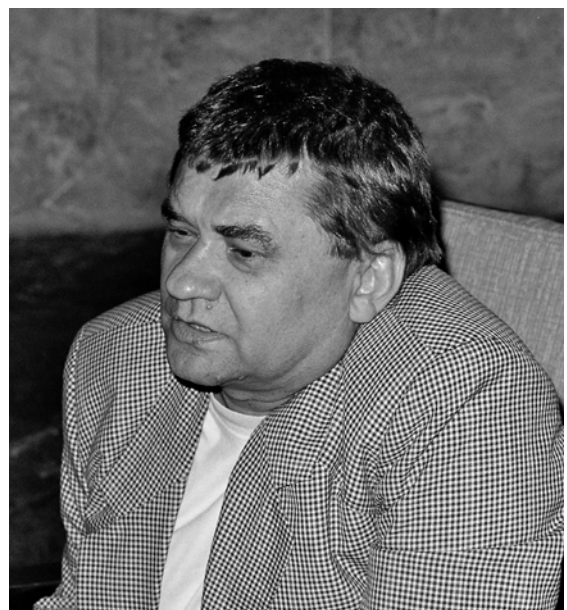


Photo kindly supplied for publication in EG by Bjørn Enemark (Denmark), taken in Halkidiki during the 2004 PCCC meeting.