

## Prizewinners explained

## IDEAL FINAL PICTURES

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To celebrate the 70th staging of the Corus tournament, the world's most prestigious chess festival, the organizing committee sought a series of special accompanying events to decorate the rich competitive program in an original and stimulating manner. Since players of all levels occasionally enjoy the fine art of chess composition and often even find it instrumental for active training, it seemed natural to organize an international tourney for composing endgame studies with a decent prize-fund. It was a unique opportunity to introduce the best of our art to its most natural 'market' – the general chess public. Harold van der Heijden acted as the tournament director, checking all entries for soundness and originality with his customary efficiency and competence, while yours truly acted as the judge but was also in charge of coordinating and promoting the entire project.

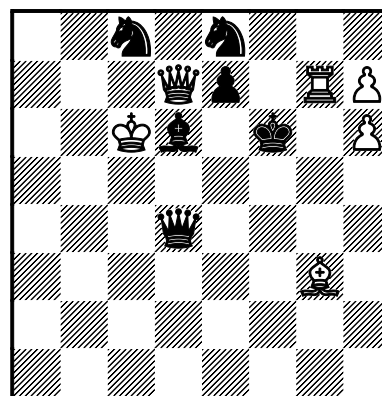
The response was tremendous. The postmen in Deventer, Harold's home town, are very busy all year long since he is regularly the man behind a big number of similar projects; however this one was massive. No fewer than 151 entries by 90 composers from 29 countries were submitted before the closing date. There have been just a handful of precedents of an event that exceeded a turnout of 100 entries, which makes this tourney one of the biggest ever.

Fortunately quantity remarkably yielded high quality and those studies that survived the correctness check displayed plenty of surprisingly original ideas, masterfully presented. This persuaded us to establish a whole new category of special prizes courtesy of the Corus board. The judging process thus proved especially tough and was accompanied by a

considerable inner struggle. It was hard to decide the fate of the top honours which were eventually shared by the following superb accomplishments:

### A.1 Yuri Bazlov

1st/2nd prize Corus ty 2008



c6f6 4146.21 6/6 Win

This is a highly charged position where both kings are exposed to immediate sharp threats. Consequently there is no time for greed: 1.Qxc8? Qa4+ 2.Kd5 Sc7+ 3.Qxc7 Qd1+ 4.Kc6 Qc2+ 5.Kb5 Qb3+ 6.Ka6 Bxc7 etc. Vigorous and forceful sacrificial play is therefore called for. Nevertheless precision is required in selecting the right order of actions as black has sufficient defensive resources following: 1.Rf7+? Kxf7 2.Qf5+ Sf6 3.h8S+ Kf8 4.Qxc8+ Se8 5.Sg6+ Kf7 6.Qf5+ Qf6 which leads nowhere.

**1.Bh4+! Qxh4 2.Rf7+! Kxf7 3.Qf5+ Qf6**  
3...Sf6 4.h8S+ Kf8 5.Sg6+.

**4.Qxf6+ exf6**

Creating the first active self-block.

The alternative 4...Sxf6 5.h8Q Bf4 6.Qg7+ Ke6 7.h7 Sxh7 8.Qxh7 Sd6 9.Qg6+ Ke5 10.Kd7 wins rather prosaically.

**5.h8Q Bf8!**

Clever counter-play, yet at the same time a second active self-block.

5...Bf4 6.h7 Se7+ 7.Kd7 Sg7 8.Qd8 is winning all the same.

## 6.h7

Not 6.Qh7+? Bg7 7.hxg7 Sxg7 8.Qe4 Se7+ and White emerges empty handed.

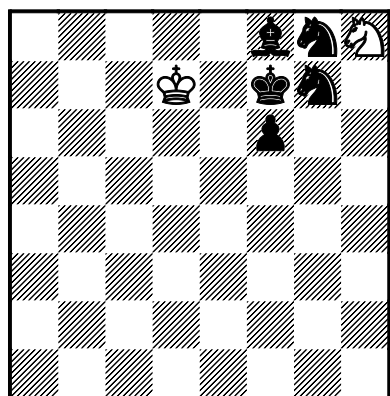
**6...Se7+ 7.Kd7 Sg7** the third active self-block and finally...

**8.Qg8+!! Sxg8** A fourth active self-block that enables the astounding...

## 9.h8S mate!

## A.2 Bazlov

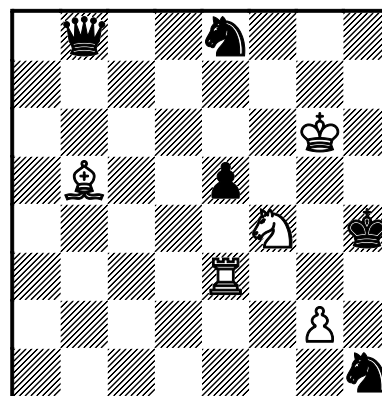
### Final position



We are witnessing an ideal mate where all units take part and every square around the mated king is covered just once. The mate is enabled by no less than four active self blocks and is inflicted by the last white pawn promoted to ... a knight! The successful Yuri Bazlov improves here on his recent Study of the Year task adding the underpromotion to the four-fold smothered mate. Yuri also won third prize with another superb study and owing to his remarkable recent achievements he will be invited next January as a guest of honour to the 71st staging of the Corus tournament. It will be a rare opportunity to meet this fine composer in person (HH: who lives in Vladivostok!).

### A.3 Sergey Rumentsev

1st/2nd prize Corus ty 2008



g6h4 3117.11 5/5 Draw

Quite amazingly the presence of an unleashed queen in the open cannot prevent White from committing a whole sequence of quiet moves which are difficult to spot and even more difficult to meet. The final ideal pin stalemate comes as a complete surprise. Highly original!

Here again both kings are in danger. White's main concern is the opponent's unleashed queen. His main efforts will therefore be directed at restraining the monster.

**1.Kh6!!** creating the mate threat 2.Sg6+ Kg4 3.Bd7 mate.

**1...Kg4!**

The king can defend himself, while a little friendly help would prove a bear hug: 1...Qxb5 2.Sg6+ Kg4 3.Rxe5! or 1...exf4 2.Rh3+ Kg4 3.Bd7 mate are a pair of lovely side-lines.

## 2.Sg6 Sg3!

The only effective defence against the double mate threat by the Bishop since 2...Qxb5 is again well met by 3.Rxe5!

**3.Bd7+ Sf5+ 4.Bxf5+ Kxf5 5.Rxe5+ Kf6**

This vigorous king-hunt is the only way to keep the queen away. Beware: 5...Kg4 6.Rg5 mate.

**6.g4! Kf7!**

6...Qa8 7.Re1! leads to the main line in a different order of moves.

**7.g5! Kg8! 8.Se7+ Kf8 9.Sg6+ Kf7!** The triangulation king manoeuvre passes the move to White who in his turn should look for the only waiting move that also covers a deadly check on h2. The careless 10.Re7+? Kg8 11.Re2 would enable the desired liberating move 11...Sg7. Therefore...

**10.Re2! Qa8!**

The queen is tamed in the open! 10...Qd8 allows 11.Re5 Kg8 12.Rf5! while 10...Kg8 is replied by 11.Rf2! in either case the mate threat costs black his queen.

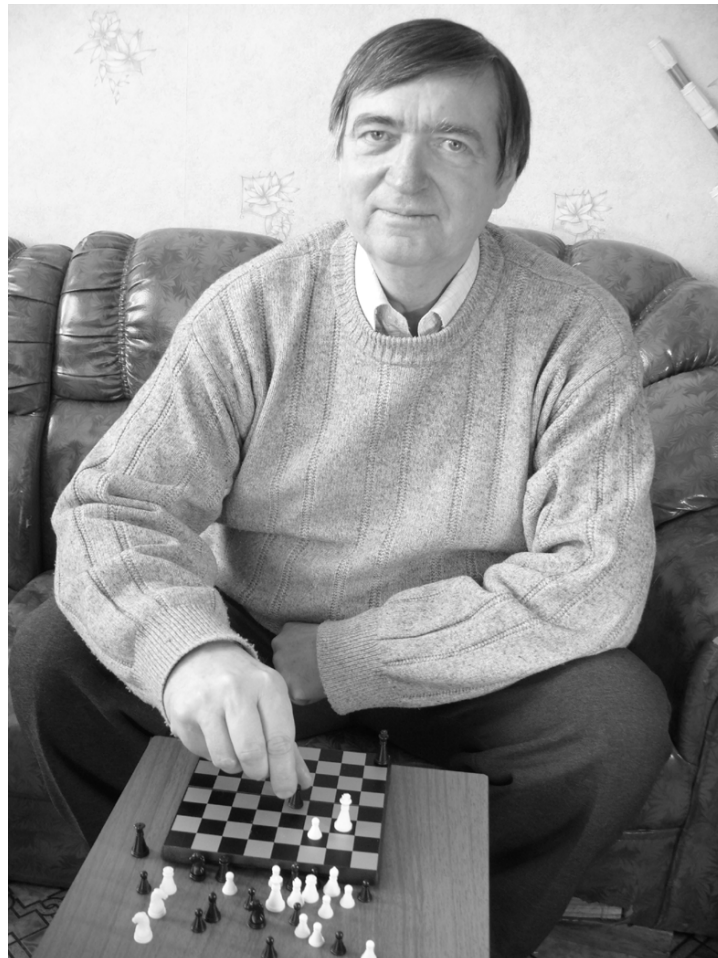
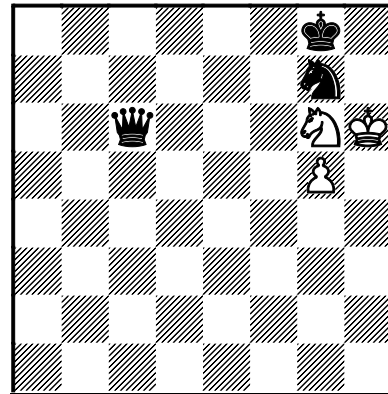
**11. Re1! Qc6!**

What else? 11...Qb8 12.Re2 (but also 12.Re5), or 11...Qc8 12.Re7+ (but also 12.Re3) 12...Kg8 13.Rg7+ Sxg7 14.Se7+. Leaving the eighth rank without watching the

knight allows 12.Re7+ Kg8 13.Rxe8+ however Black's last move pins the knight which enables the final surprising finale!

**12.Re7+ Kg8 13.Rg7+! Sxg7** An ideal stalemate! All units take part in the final model picture.

**A.4 Rumyantsev**  
Final position



*Yuri Bazlov*