

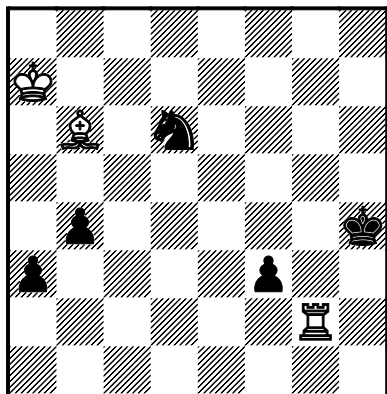
**Prizewinners
explained**

POSTPONING SATISFACTION

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The three selected masterpieces this time show seemingly different types of battles but they have a lot in common: they all won top honours in leading Russian competitions, they all seek merely a draw but, above all, they all display original concepts of pure logic based on a long range consideration which sets up the tiny looking yet decisive difference between the virtual play and the real one.

A.1 L. Katsnelson & A. Sochnev
1st prize *Zadachi i Etiudy* 2007



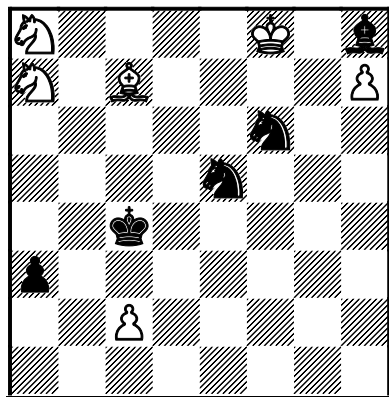
a7h4 0113.03 3/5 Draw

White's material advantage is clearly outweighed by the pair of connected passed pawns in view of the remoteness of the white king. Vigorous action is urgently required. **1.Bf2+ Kh5 2.Rh2+ Kg5 3.Bc5! Sb5+ 4.Kb8!!** This is a great concept of anticipating the future! In the later stage of the battle White will have to leave his king as far as possible in order not to obstruct the complete domination of his rook over the black monarch along the entire board. Why then not play immediately **4.Ka8** and help reach that goal with no delay? The reason is that, on the seventh move, a reciprocal zugzwang position will arise in which White badly needs a good

waiting move and then any attempt for a neutral one would spoil the eventual domination set-up as demonstrated by the main thematic try: **4.Ka8? b3 5.Bxa3 Sxa3 6.Rb2 (Rf2 Kf4!;) Kg4! 7.Kb8 Sc2 8.Rxb3 f2 9.Rb1 Se1 10.Rb4+ Kg5 11.Rb5+ Kg6 12.Rb6+ Kg7 13.Rb7+ Kf8** wins. White therefore wisely chooses "to postpone satisfaction" and go to the corner at that critical moment yet to come. And why not use the other square for the very same purpose? The secondary thematic try shows that such an attempt spoils the zugzwang: **4.Kb7? b3 5.Bxa3 Sxa3 6.Rb2 Sc4! 7.Rxb3 Sa5** wins. **4...b3 5.Bxa3 Sxa3 6.Rb2 Kg4** This is the critical moment where either side would gladly pass over the move to his counterpart and White's wise patience pays off! **7.Ka8!! Sc2 8.Rxb3 f2 9.Rb1 Se1** And now with the white king in the corner, the board has been cleared up in perfect timing for the perfect domination and consequently a positional draw by repetition. **10.Rb4+ Kg5 11.Rb5+ Kg6 12.Rb6+ Kg7 13.Rb7+ Kf8 14.Rb8+ Ke7 15.Rb7+ Ke6 16.Rb6+ Ke5 17.Rb5+ Ke4 18.Rb4+ Ke3 19.Rb3+ Kd2 20.Rb2+ Sc2 21.Rb1 Se1 22.Rb2+ draw.**

(A.2) Stopping the black pawn is about to cost White both his knights and then Black will have the sufficient material advantage of a bishop and two knights vs. bishop to secure a rather easy win. White's only chance to survive is to swap bishops but that would be feasible in one circumstance: he should first get rid of his own "c" pawn to avoid a Troitzky win and to leave his counterpart with a useless pair of knights. Let us follow the course of events one by one:

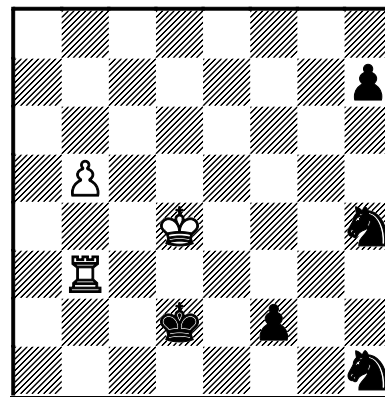
A.2 S. Osintsev
1st prize 64 2006



f8c4 0048.21 6/5 Draw

1.Sb6+ Capturing the knight proves futile:
1.Bxe5? Sxh7+ 2.Kg8 Bxe5 3.Sb6+ Kb4
4.Sc6+ Kb5 5.Sxe5 Sf6+ 6.Kf7 a2 etc. **1...Kc5**
2.Sa4+ Kb4 3.Sc3! Sed7+ 4.Ke7!! White faces a very difficult choice which is demonstrated with a long thematic try: 4.Kf7? Kxc3 5.Sb5+ Kb4 6.Sxa3 Kxa3 7.Bd6+ Ka4 8.c4 Ka5 9.c5 Kb5, reciprocal zugzwang followed and explained by an immediate second one. 10.Bf4 (10.c6? Kxc6 11.Bf4 Kd5 12.Bh6 Se5+ 13.Kf8 Ke6 and now 14.Bg7 is met by a mate in one.) 10...Kc6 This is the second decisive reciprocal zugzwang that prevents White of sacrificing his "c" pawn. If the white bishop tries "to wait", for example with 11.Bc1, then Se5+ and Seg4 would hinder his initial plan to trade the bishops. 11.Bh6 Se5+ (Sh5; Kg8) 12.Kf8 Kd7! 13.Bg7 (c6+? Ke6!;) Sxh7+ 14.Kg8 Sf6+ 15.Kf8 Bxg7+! 16.Kxg7 Se8+ 17.Kf8 Sc6! with a Troitzky win. **4...Kxc3 5.Sb5+ Kb4 6.Sxa3 Kxa3 7.Bd6+ Ka4 8.c4 Ka5 9.c5 Kb5 10.Kf7!! zz 10...Kc6 11.Bf4 zz** Vive la petite difference! An incredible domination again! Now Black lacks a proper waiting move and the only movable piece-his majesty- unleashes the white pawn! **11...Kd5 12.c6! Kxc6 13.Bh6 Se5+ 14.Kf8 Kd6 15.Bg7 Sxh7+ 16.Kg8 Sf6+ 17.Kf8 Sfd7+ 18.Kg8 Sf6+ 19.Kf8!** Positional draw!

A.3 S. Didukh
1st prize *Shakhmatnaya Poezia* 2007-2008



d4d2 0106.12 3/5 Draw

Last but not least is a brilliant first prize-winner by my successor in *The Problemist*, which is not only the most economical piece in terms of matter but requires almost no words to explain the logical process as here for a change no reciprocal zugzwang is involved. **1.Rb2+!** (1.Rb1? Sf3+ 2.Ke4 Se1 3.Rb2+ Kc3 4.Rxf2 Sxf2+ wins) **1...Kc1 2.Ra2!!** As early as that pops up the thematic try. Why not 2.Rxf2? will become apparent in the most crystal-clear manner "just" 15 moves further! So patience, dear readers, and you won't regret it! **2...Kb1 3.Rxf2 Sxf2 4.Ke3!!** And not immediately 4.b6? Sf5+! 5.Ke5 Se7 6.Kf6 Sc6 7.Kg5 Se4+ 8.Kh6 Sf6 9.Kg7 h5 10.Kxf6 h4 wins. **4...Sh3 5.b6 Sf5+ 6.Kf3 Sd6** Or 6...Sd4+ 7.Kg4 Sf2+ 8.Kg5 Se4+ 9.Kh6 Sf6 10.Kg7 h5 11.Kxf6 h4 12.Ke5 with a Réti-like double weakness. 12...h3. **7.Kg4 Sf2+ 8.Kh5! Sfe4 9.Kh6 Sf6 10.Kg7 Sde8+ 11.Kh6 Sd6 12.Kg7 h5 13.Kxf6 h4 14.Ke5 h3 15.Kxd6 h2 16.b7 h1Q 17.b8Q+ Check!** If, much earlier, White had hastily played 2.Rxf2? the black king would now be on c1 and the non-check promotion would allow the skewer 17...Qh2+! It's all about postponing satisfaction, isn't it?