

Hillel Aloni Memorial Tourney

Israel Ring Tourney Studies 2017

Judge: Ofer Comay

When the tourney was announced, it was supposed to be Hillel's 80 Jubilee tourney, but sadly it became Hillel's memorial tourney during 2017. Hillel was my mentor to the area of studies, almost 50 years ago (!). About this tourney, my original plan was to make the difficult task of judging, and then consult with him and receive his final touch about the award. This did not happen.

I received 25 studies, and the level of the tournament was high. This award reflects my taste and it is not supposed to define which study is better by any objective criteria.

By the way, the last three studies in the award are masterpieces, so I suggest reading to the end...

1st Prize: Var. 2928 Steffen Nielsen & Martin Minski

A brilliant combination, in the spirit of the famous Adams-Torre game, of mate threats on the 8th row. The sequence starts with 2...Qxc5!! 3.Ra5!!! and continues with several sacrifices by both sides. The combination is more "balanced" than the original Adams-Torre game – here both sides make sacrifices on almost every move.

1. ♖f5 1.h6? ♖c4 2.hxg7+ ♜xg7 3. ♖h7+ ♜g8 4. ♖f5 ♖a1+ 5. ♖b1 ♖xb1+ 6. ♖xb1 d3 1... ♖c4 1... ♖c6 2.h6 (2. ♖f4 ♖e7) 2... ♖a1+ 3. ♖b1 ♖xb1+ 4. ♖xb1 ♖a1 5.hxg7+ ♜xg7 6. ♖h7+ ♜g8 7. ♖xa1 ♖xa1 8. ♖xc7 wins; 1... ♖b3 2. ♖xb3 ♖xc5 3. ♖e4 ♖d5 4. ♖b1 wins 2. ♖f4 2.h6? 2... ♖a1+ 3. ♖b1 ♖xb1+ 4. ♖xb1 ♖a1 5.hxg7+ ♜xg7 6. ♖h7+ ♜g8 7. ♖xa1 ♖xa1 8. ♖xc7 d3 =; 2. ♖b1? 2... ♖a2 (2... ♖e3) 3.h6 ♖xg2+; 2... ♖xc5!! 3. ♖a5!! 3. ♖xc5? ♖a1+; 3. ♖xc5? ♖a1+; 3... ♖e8 3... ♖xa5 4. ♖xc5; 3... ♖xa5 4. ♖xc5; 3... ♖xa5 4. ♖f8+; 3... ♖xa5 4. ♖f8+ (4. ♖c8+); 4. ♖e4! 4. ♖e4? ♖b8 (4... ♖f8); 4. ♖xc5? ♖e1#; 4. ♖xc5? ♖e1#; 4... ♖c6! 4... ♖xe4 5. ♖a8+ 5. ♖e7! 5. ♖af5? ♖b4 6. ♖f8+ ♖xf8 7. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 8. ♖xc6 ♖b8 9. ♖e4 ♖d2; 5. ♖xc6? ♖e1#; 5. ♖f8+? ♖xf8 6. ♖xc6 ♖xa5 (6... ♖xa5); 5... ♖b4 5... ♖xe7 6. ♖f8#; 5... ♖g8 6.h6 (6. ♖f8); 5... ♖g8 6. ♖f7+ (6. ♖af5) 6. ♖xb4 ♖d6 6... ♖d6 7. ♖a1 7. ♖e4 ♖xb4 8. ♖xe8+ wins

2nd Prize: Var. 71p.5 Gady Costeff

The black queen has two choices, and in each choice white succeeds to build the well-known fortress on a different corner. A fantastic accomplishment!

A. 1... ♖xa1+ 2. ♖f2 ♖a7+ 3. ♖g2 ♖xd7 4.cxd7 ♖b7+ 5. ♖g1! a subtle retreat 5... ♖xd7 6. ♖g3! ♖xd6 7. ♖e4! The Karstedt fortress on the kingside. Draw.

B. 1... ♖xh1+ 2. ♖d2 ♖h6+ 3. ♖c2 ♖xd7 4.cxd7 ♖g6+ 5. ♖c1! a subtle retreat 5... ♖xd6 6. ♖d4! ♖xd7 7. ♖b1! The Karstedt fortress on the queenside. Draw.

3-5th Prize: Var. 3022 Pavel Arestov

The study starts with an interesting knight sacrifice, continues with a tricky move (f4!) and ended with a queen sacrifice and stalemate.

1... ♖d3+ 2. ♖e1 ♖g2+! 3. ♖xg2 ♖d2+ 4. ♖f1 e2+ 5. ♖g1 e1=♖+ 6. ♖xe1+ ♖xe1+ 7. ♖h2 ♖e5+ 8.f4! 8. ♖h3 ♖h5+ 9. ♖g3 ♖g5+ 10. ♖h3 ♖xg2+ 11. ♖xg2 ♖d7 8... ♖xf4+ 9. ♖h3 ♖f5+ 10. ♖h4 a1=♖ 11.c8=♖+! ♖xc8 12. ♖g8+ ♖d7 13. ♖d5+ ♖c7 14. ♖e5+! ♖xe5 stalemate.

Steffen Nielsen Martin Minski

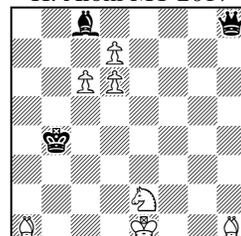
1st Prize
H. Aloni MT 2017



Win 9+9

Gady Costeff

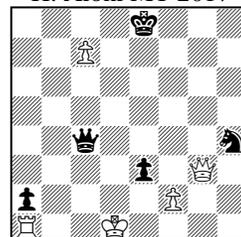
2nd Prize
H. Aloni MT 2017



Draw 7+3

Pavel Arestov

3-5th Prize
H. Aloni MT 2017



Draw B→ 5+5

5th Honourable Mention: Var. 2926 Pavel Arestov

The final knight capture and the mate are known, but the lay that leads to this position flows very well with accurate moves and good introduction.

- 1.♔d5+ ♕f4 2.♖f5+! ♕xf5 3.♙d3+ ♕f4 4.♙xc2 h4 4...g4 5.♗g3 h4
6.♗h5+ ♗g5 7.♗g7 5.♕g1! g4 6.♗f2 g3 7.♗h3+ ♕g4 8.♙d3! ♕xh3
8...♖h5 lasts another 41 moves 9.♙f5#

Commendation: Var. 2929 David Gurgenidze & Martin Minski

- 1.♖b2! ♖xb7 2.♗c4+ 2...♙b3? ♖b4! 3.♙d5+ ♖c5 = 2...♕a4 3.♙e8+ ♖b5
4.♗c2! 4.a3? ♙a5! = 4...♙a5 4...g2 5.♖b4# "pin pin" mate 5.♖xb5 5.♖b3?
♙c3! 6.♖c1 ♖f4+ = 5...♖xb5+ 6.♗b2#

Commendation: Var. 2975 Jan Timman

- 1.♙f4! ♙xf4 1...♖e4 2.♙xe5+ ♖xe5 3.♖xf2 ♖d5+ 4.♖e7 ♖e4+ 5.♗d6 ♖d3+ 6.♖c7 ♖xg8 7.♖c5
♖c4 8.♖c6 wins 2.♖c2! 2.♗f6 ♖c3 = 2...f1=♖ 2...♖c1 3.g6 ♖xc2 4.g7+ ♖h7 5.♗f6+ ♖h6 6.g5+
♖xg5 7.g8=♖+ ♖f5 8.♖g6+ ♖e5 9.♖xc2 f1=♖ 10.♖c5#; 2...♖d2 3.♖h7+ ♖xh7 4.g6+ ♖h8 5.g7+
♖h7 6.♗f6+ ♖h6 7.g5+ ♙xg5 (7...♖xg5 8.g8=♖+ ♖f5 9.♖g4+ ♖e5 10.♖e6+ ♖d4 11.♖d5+)
8.g8=♗#; 2...♖a1 3.♗f6 wins 3.♖h7+! ♖xh7 4.g6+ ♖h8 5.g7+ ♖h7 6.♗f6+ ♖h6 7.g5+!
♖xg5 7...♙xg5 8.g8=♗# 8.g8=♖+ ♖f5 9.♖c8+ ♖e5 10.♖c5#

Commendation: Var. 3024 Pavel Arestov & Daniel Keith

- 1.♙g5! 1.♖c8+? ♖g8 2.b7 (2.♖h3+ ♖h7 3.♖c3+ ♖g7) 2...♖xb5+ 3.♖xc2 ♖xb7! 4.♖xb7 ♖g6+!
5.♗d2 (5.♖b3 ♖f7+) 5...♖g5+! 6.♗d1 ♖g1+ 7.♖e2 ♖xc1=; 1.b7? ♖xb7 2.♖h3+ ♖g8 3.♖b3+
♖h7 4.♖xc2+ ♖g8 5.♖g6+ ♖h8! =; 1.bxc7? ♖g7+ 2.♖b3 ♖xc7 3.♙b2+ ♖g8=; 1.♖f6+? ♖h7=;
1.♖f6+? ♖g7= 1...♖xb5+! 1...c1=♖+ 2.♖xc1 ♖f1+ 3.♗d2 ♖a2+ 4.♖c3 ♖a1+ (4...♖e1+ 5.♖b3)
5.♖c4 ♖a4+ 6.♗d5 ♖d4+ (6...♖d4+ 7.♖e6) 7.♖c6 ♖d6+ 8.♖xc7 wins 2.♖xb5 c1=♖+! 3.♙xc1!
3.♖xc1? ♖g1+ 4.♖c2 ♖xf2+ 5.♙d2 cxb6= 3...♖xf2+ 4.♖a1! 4.♖b1? ♖xb6= 4...♖xb6 4...cxb6
5.♙b2+ ♖g8 6.♖e8+ ♖h7 7.♖h5+ ♖g8 8.♖g6+ ♖f8 9.♙a3+ wins 5.♙b2+ ♖h7 6.♖h5+ ♖g8
7.♖e8+ ♖h7 8.♖f7+ ♖h6 9.♙c1+ wins.

The last three studies in this award are beautiful masterpieces, which could receive prizes in any decent tourney. However, all of them have significant anticipations, and in all of them the anticipations were composed by the composers themselves. The last one fixes a cook in a previous version. I decided to give them Special Mentions. And to the readers I just recommend to read and enjoy those beautiful studies.

Special Mention: Var. 2973 Yochanan Afek & Martin Minski

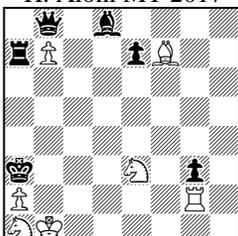
- 1.♖h2+! 1.♖f3+? ♖h6! 2.♖h3+ ♖g7=; 1.♗f7? ♖a6+! 2.♗d2 ♖d3+ 3.♖e1 (3.♖c1 ♖d1+ 4.♖b2
♖b1+ =) 3...♖c3+ 4.♖f2 ♖c5+ 5.♖g2 ♙e4+! 6.♖xe4 ♖f2+! { /♖g1+! } 7.♖xf2 { model stalemate }
) 1...♖g4 1...♖g5 2.♗f7+ wins 2.♖g2+ ♖h4 2...♖h5 3.♖h3+ wins 3.♗g6+! ♙xg6 4.h8=Q+!
♙h5+! 4...♖xh8 5.♖h2+ { /♖h1+ } 5...♖g5 6.♖xh8 wins 5.♖g4+!! 5.♖f2? ♖e1+! (5...♖xh8?
6.♖g3# model mate with block on h5) 6.♖xe1 pin model stalemate 5...♖xg4 6.♖xa1 wins

David Gurgenidze

Martin Minski

Com

H. Aloni MT 2017



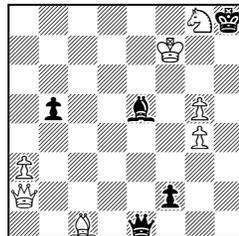
Win

7+6

Jan Timman

Com

H. Aloni MT 2017



Win

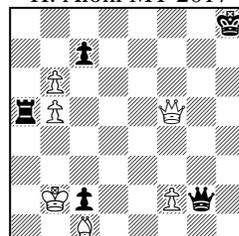
7+5

Pavel Arestov

Daniel Keith

Com

H. Aloni MT 2017



Win

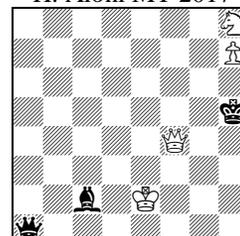
6+5

Yochanan Afek

Martin Minski

Sp.Mention

H. Aloni MT 2017



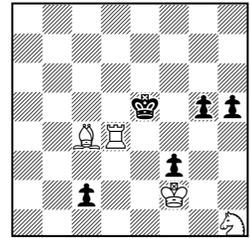
Win

4+3

Pavel Arestov

5th HM

H. Aloni MT 2017



Win

4+5

Special Mention: Var. 3025 Anatoly Skripnik

1...♖e5 1...♖c5 2.♖a8 ♖g7 3.♖xc7+ ♖xc7 4.dxc5= 2.♖xe5 ♖e7+ 3.♖g3!
 3.♖xc4? dxe5 4.♖a6+ ♖h7 5.♖xc4 ♖xd4+ 6.♖h5 ♖g7! zz 7.♖a4 ♖b4 zz
 8.♖e8 ♖h4# 3...♖d3+ 4.♖xc4 dxe5 5.♖a6+ ♖g7 5...♖h7 6.♖g6+ ♖xc6
 stalemate 6.♖xc4 ♖xd4+ 7.♖h5 zz 7...♖f4 7...♖xc4 stalemate 8.♖e4 ♖xe4
 stalemate

Special Mention: Var. 3028 Yochanan Afek

1.♖e6 ♖b6 2.♖a6 bxa6 3.♖c7+ ♖xc7+ 4.♖xc7 ♖a5+ 5.♖c8 e1=♖
 5...e1=♖ 6.d8=♖ ♖xe8 stalemate 6.d8=♖ ♖c1+ 7.♖c6+ ♖xc6+ 8.♖d7+
 ♖xd8 9.♖xc6=

Partial anticipations

Torre: Adams-Torre 1921

1.♖g4! ♖b5 2.♖c4!! ♖d7 3.♖c7!! ♖b5 4.a4! (4.♖xb7? ♖xe2!) 4...♖xa4
 5.♖e4! ♖b5 6.♖xb7! wins.

Yochanan Afek 2nd Prize Milesco MT, 2012

1.♖h5+! ♖xc6 2.♖g8+! ♖xh5 3.h7 ♖xc6+ 4.♖e6 5.♖xd5 ♖c5+ 6.♖e4
 ♖xe5+! 7.♖d3 ♖e3+! 8.♖xe3 a1=Q 9.h8=Q+ ♖h6+ 10.♖g5+! ♖xc5
 11.♖xa1 wins

Sergei Didukh & Anatoly Skripnik 2nd Prize Kudesnik 2009

1.♖c4! ♖xf5+ 2.♖xf5 ♖e5 3.♖h5+! 3...♖xe5? fxe5+ 4.♖xc4 ♖d4+ 5.♖h5
 ♖g7! (5...♖xc4?) 6.♖a4 ♖b4! 7.♖e8 ♖h4# 3...♖g7 4.♖xe5 fxe5+ 5.♖xc4
 ♖d4+ 6.♖h5! ♖f4? ♖e4! ♖xe4 stalemate

Yochanan Afek Cheron MT, 1982

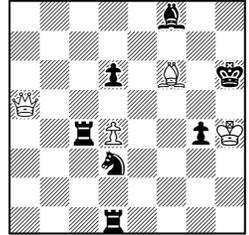
1.♖b6! 1.d6? ♖a5 1...axb6 2.d6! ♖g3 2...♖h4 3.a7+ ♖xa7 4.♖c7 3.d7 ♖h4
 4.a7+! ♖xa7 5.♖c7 ♖g3+ 6.♖c8 e1=♖ 6...e1=♖ 7.b8=♖+! (7.d8=♖?
 ♖e8) 7...♖xb8 8.d8=♖ ♖c1+ 9.♖d7 ♖d1+ 10.♖c6! ♖xd8 stalemate 7.d8=♖!
 ♖e8 8.b8=♖+! ♖xb8 stalemate.

Yochanan Afek Roycroft JT, 1978

1.cxd6 f3 2.♖h4+ ♖f13.d7 fxe2 4.d8=♖ cook: 4.d8=♖ e1=♖ 5.♖f6+ ♖f3+
 6.♖xf3+ ♖xf3 7.♖f6! ♖e1 8.h4 ♖d3 9.♖d4; 4...e1=♖ 5.♖f8+ wins

Anatoly Skripnik

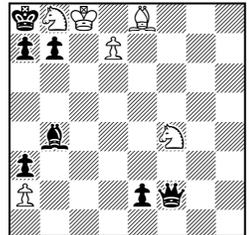
Sp.Mention
 H. Aloni MT 2017



Draw B→ 4+7

Yochanan Afek

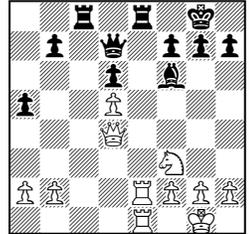
Sp.Mention
 H. Aloni MT 2017



Draw 6+7

Torre

Adams-Torre 1921

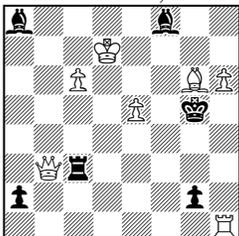


Win 11+11

Yochanan Afek

2nd Prize

Milesco MT, 2012

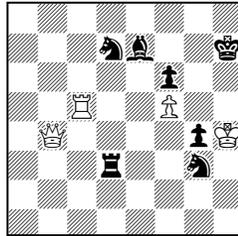


Win 7+6

S. Didukh A. Skripnik

2nd Prize

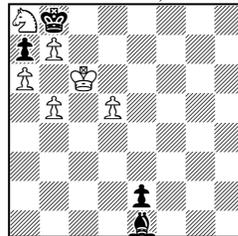
Kudesnik 2009



Draw 4+7

Yochanan Afek

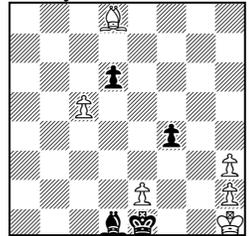
Cheron MT, 1982



Win 6+4

Yochanan Afek

Roycroft JT, 1978



Win 6+4

I want to thank Gady Costeff for his search for anticipations, and all the composers who composed to the honor of Hillel Aloni. It's a pity he could not enjoy the studies that were composed for this event.

Tel Aviv, June 2018.