

StrateGems 2018 Studies Award

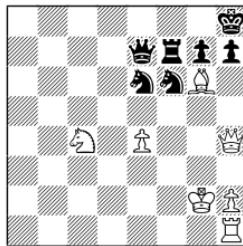
By Boško Milošeski

I reviewed 18 entries. The quality was high. The study E0350 was not awarded because of a dual 6.Kg8/Kg7.

Here is my ranking:

1st Prize

Martin Minski &
Niclas Huschenbeth

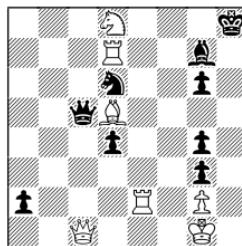


Win

(7+7)

2nd Prize

Peter Krug

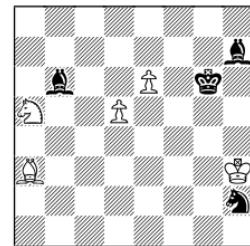


Win

(7+9)

3rd Prize

Pavel Areystov



Win

(5+4)

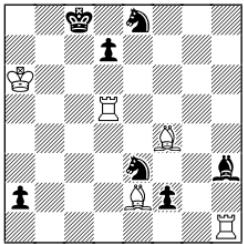
1st Prize - (Martin Minski & Niclas Huschenbeth - E0347) The authors used themes from chess problems: Umnov and Model mate. An unbelievable Queen sacrifice (4.Qg3!!) is followed by Knight sacrifice (5.Sg6!) in order to activate the masked R/P battery ending with Model mate. Solution: **1.Se5!** (1.Bxf7? g5! 2.Qe1 Sf4+ 3.Kf1 Qxf7 =) **1...Rf8** [1...Sd8 2.Sxf7+ Sxf7 {e.g.} 3.Ra1 Sh6 (3...Qb7 4.Rf1 Sg5 5.Bf5 +-) 4.Ra8+ Shg8 5.Qf4! Qb7 6.Rb8 Qd7 7.Bf5 +-] **2.Bf7!** (2.Bf5? Sf4+! 3.Qxf4 Sh5 =, or 2.Bxh7? g5! 3.Sg6+ Kg7 4.Sxe7 gxh4 =) **2...Sf4+!** (2...g5 3.Sg6+ Kg7 4.Sxe7 gxh4 5.Bxe6 +-) **3.Qxf4 Sh5!** (3...Rxf7 4.Sxf7+ Qxf7 {e.g.} 5.Rc1 +-) **4.Qg3!!** (4.Qf5? g6 5.Sc6 Qxf7 6.Qxf7 Rxf7 =) **4...Sxg3** (4...Rxf7 5.Sxf7+ Qxf7 6.Qb8+-, or 4...g6 5.Qc3 +-, or 4...Rd8 5.Bxh5 +-) **5.Sg6+! hxg6 6.hxg3+ Qh4 7.Rxh4#.**

2nd Prize - (Peter Krug - E0352) Complex and rich study with strategic elements on both sides in which White, with sacrifices of its Rooks and Queen, attains a winning position. Solution: **1.Re8+! Sxe8 2.Sf7+ Kg8!** [2... Kh7 3.Qh6+! (3.Sg5+? Kh6) 3...Kg8 4.Qh8+! Bxh8 5.Sh6+ Kf8 6.Rf7 #] **3.Sg5+ Kh8 4.Qe1 d3+ 5.Kh1 a1Q 6.Qxa1 d2** (6...Qe3 7.Rxg7) **7.Qf1 Qa3!** (7...Qc1 8.Bc4) **8.Bc4 Qc1 9.Be2 Qc5 10.Rxg7! Sxg7 11.Qf6 Qc8** (11...Qc1+ 12.Bf1 d1Q 13.Qf8#) **12.Bd1 Qe8 13.Qe5! Qxe5 14.Sf7+ Kh7 15.Sxe5+-.**

3rd Prize - (Pavel Areystov - E0349) With a subtle play, despite the fine counter play by Black, White mates with a promotion into a Knight. Solution: **1.Sc4!** (1.e7? Kf7 2.Kxh2 Bxa5 =) **1...Be7** (1...Bd4 2.Kxh2 Bg8 3.Kg3 Kf6 4.e7 +-) **2.d6 Bxd6** (2...Bd8 3.e7 +-) **3.Bxd6!** (3.Sxd6? Kf6 =) **3...Sf3!** (3...Kf6 4.e7 Bg6 5.Kxh2 +-) **4.Kg4!** (4.e7? Kf7 =) **4...Sd4!** (4...Kf6 5.e7 Sh2+ 6.Kh3 Kf7 7.Kxh2 +, or 4...Sh2+ 5.Kg3! Sf1+ 6.Kg2 Kf6 7.e7 +-) **5.Se5+!** (5.e7? Kf7 6.Se5+ Ke8 =) **5...Kf6 6.e7 Bf5+!** (6...Bg6 7.Sxg6 +-) **7.Kh5!!** (7.Kh4? Be6(Bd7,Bd6) 8.e8Q Sf5+ 9.K~ Sg7+ =, or 7.Kf4? Se6+ 8.Ke3 Sg7 =, or 7.Kg3? Bg6! 8.Sxg6 Sf5+ 9.Kf4 Sxd6 =) **7...Sd6!** (7...Bg6+ 8.Sxg6 Sf5 9.Bc5 +-) **8.e8S #** (8.e8Q? Sg7+ =)

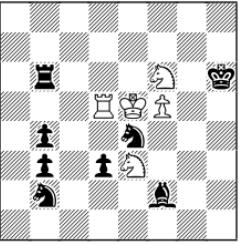
1st Honorable Mention - (Michal Hlinka & L'uboš Kekely - E0341) Despite the black Knight sacrifice and promotion to two Queens, White creates a R/B battery and then by self-pinning and sacrificing its Bishop (10.Bxd5+) achieves a stalemate with two of its pinned pieces. Solution: **1...Sc7+!** (1...Sxd5 2.Be5 Sec7+ 3.Ka5 Sf4 4.Bf1 Bxf1 5.Rxf1 Sd3 6.Bd4 Se6 7.Bxf2 Sxf2 8.Ra1 =, or 1...f1Q 2.Rc5+ Sc7+ 3.Rxc7+ Kd8 4.Rxf1 Bxf1 5.Rc1 Bxe2+ 6.Ka5 =) **2.Bxc7 f1Q 3.Rxf1 Bxf1 4.Rc5!** a1Q+ (phoenix) (4...Bxe2+ 5.Ka7 =, or 4...d6 5.Bxd6+ Kd7 6.Be5 Bxe2+ 7.Kb7 =) **5.Ba5+ Kb8 6.Rb5+ Kc8 7.Rc5+ Kb8 8.Rb5+ Ka8** (8...Kc8 9.Rc5+, positional draw) **9.Bf3+ d5 10.Bxd5+! Sxd5 =.**

1st Honorable Mention
Michal Hlinka &
L'uboš Kekely



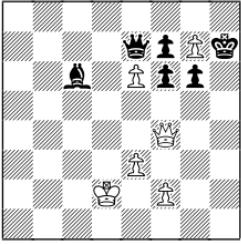
Draw Black to move (5+7)

2nd Honorable Mention
Mario Garcia &
Bizya Buyannemekh



Draw (5+8)

3rd Honorable Mention
Petr Kiryakov

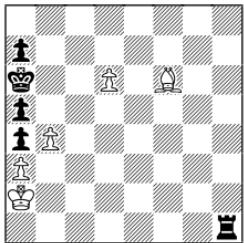


Draw (6+6)

2nd Honorable Mention - (Mario Garcia & Bizya Buyannemekh - E0346) A study rich with strategic elements. The Knight sacrifice (4.Sxd3!!) is especially pretty and leads to positional draw. Solution: 1.Seg4+! (1.Sxe4? Bxe3! -+) 1...Kg5 2.Sxe4+ (2.Kxe4? Sc4 3.Kxa3 b2 -+) 2...Kxg4 3.Sfx2+ Kg3! [3...Kf3 4.Sxd3 Sc4+ 5.Kd4 b2 6.Sxb2 Sxb2 7.f6 (7.Ra5? Sd1 -+) 7...Rxf6 8.Rf5+ Rxf5 stalemate] 4.Sxd3!! (trials: a) 4.Rxd3? Sxd3+ 5.Sxd3 Kf3 6.Kd4 Re6 -+, b) 4.Se4+? Kf3 5.Kd4 Ke2 6.f6 Rb8! 7.Rh5 Rd8+ 8.Rd5 Rh8 9.Rg5 Sd1 10.f7 Rd8+ 11.Ke5 Rf8 12.Rg2+ Kf1 -+, c) 4.Sd1? Sc4+! 5.Ke4 b2 6.Rxd30 Kg4 7.Sxb2 Sxb2 8.Rb3 Sc4! 9.Kd5 Sa5! -+) 4...Sc4+ 5.Kd4 b2 6.Sxb2 Sxb2 7.Kc5! (7.Ra5? Sd1 8.Kc5 Rb8 9.Ra1 Sc3 10.Kc4 Se4 -+) 7...Rb8 (7...Sa4+ 8.Kc4 b3 9.Rd3+ =) 8.f6! (8.Rd2? Sa4+ 9.Kc4 Kg4 10.Kb3 Sc5+ 11.Kc4 b3 12.Rb2 Rc8 -+) 8...b3 [8...Sa4+ 9.Kd6 Sc3 10.Rd3+ Kg4 11.f7! (11.Kc7? Rf8 12.Rd4+ Kf5 13.Kd7 Sa2 14.Rd2 Rf7+ 15.Kc8 b3 16.Rb2 Sc1 17.Rb1 Rxf6 -+) =] 9.f7! Sa4+ 10.Kd6 b2 11.Rg5+(11.Rd1? Rd8 -+) 11...Kf2 (11...Kh4 12.Rg1 Sc3 13.Ke7 =) 12.Rb5!=.

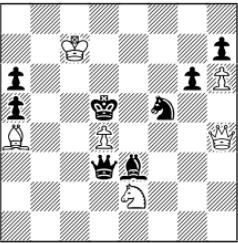
3rd Honorable Mention - (Petr Kiryakov - E0351) With a Queen sacrifice and promotion into a Knight, White achieves a draw. Solution: 1.Qh6+! Kxh6 2.g8S+ Kg7 3.Sxe7 Bb7 4.Sf5+! gxf5 5.e7 Bc6 6.f3! (6.f4? Kh6 7.Kd3 Kh5 8.Kd4 Kg4 -+, or 7.Ke2 Kh5 8.Kf2 Kh4 -+) 6...f4 7.e4! f5 8.e5! f6 10.e6!= (10...Kh6 11.Ke2 Kh5 12.Kf2 Kh4 13.Kg2 =).

Commendation
Vladislav Tarasyuk



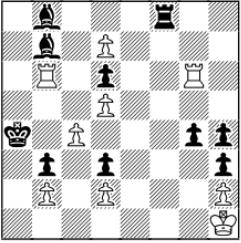
Win (5+5)

Commendation
Andrzej Jasik



Win (6+8)

Commendation
Daniele Gatti



Win (9+10)

Commendation - (Vladislav Tarasyuk - E0343) Solution: 1.d7 Rh2+! (1...Rd1 2.d8Q Rxd8 3.Bxd8 axb4 4.axb4 Kb5 5.Ka3 -+) 2.Ka1!! [Thematic try: 2.Kb1? Rd2 3.d8Q Rxd8 4.Bxd8 axb4 5.axb4 Kb5 6.Ba5 a3! zz 7.Ka1 Ka4 (7...Kc4? 8.Ka2) 8.Ka2 a6! 9.Ka1 Kb3 10.Kb1 a2+ 11.Ka1 Ka3 =] 2...Rd2 3.d8Q Rxd8 4.Bxd8 axb4 5.axb4 Kb5 6.Ba5 a3! 7.Kb1! (zz 7.Ka2? Ka4 =) 7...Ka4 8.Kc2! (8.Ka2? a6 9.Ka1 Kb3 see Try) 8...a2 (8...a6 9.Kc3 a2 10.Kb2 -+) 9.Kb2 a1Q+ 10.Kxa1 Ka3 11.Kb1 Kb3 12.Kc1 Kc3 13.Kd1 Kd3 14.Ke1! -+.

Commendation - (Andrzej Jasik - E0348) Solution: 1.Qe4+!! (1.Qh1+? Ke6 2.Qc6+ Kf7 =) 1...Kc4! (1...Qxe4 2.Bb3#, or 1...Kxe4 2.Bc6#) 2.Qb7! Bf4+! (2...Bxd4 3.Qxa6+ Kb4 3.Qxd3 +-) 3.Sxf4 Qg3! [3...Qe3 4.Qxa6+ Kxd4 5.Sxg6! Qg3+ 6.Kd7! Qd3 (6...Sxh6 7.Qf6+ Ke3 8.Se5 Sg8 9.Qd6 +-) 7.Qc6 Qd2 8.Qf6+ Kc5+ 9.Ke8 Sd6+ 10.Ke7 +-] 4.Qe4! g5! (4...Qe3 5.Qe5! Qxe5 6.dxe5 Sxh6 7.e6 Sg8 8.Kd6 +-) 5.Qd5+! (thematic try: 5.Qxf5? Qxf4! 6.Qxf4 gxf4 7.Bc2 Kxd4 =) 5...Kb4 (5...Kc3 6.Qc5+ Kd2 7.Qxa5+ Qc3+ 8.Qxc3 Kxc3 9.Se6! +-) 6.Qxf5! Qxf4+ [6...Kxa4 7.Qc2+ Kb4 8.Qxh7 gxf4 9.Qe7+ Kb3 10.Qf7+ Kb2 (10...Kc2 11.Qf5+ Kb2 12.h7 Qg7+ 13.Qd7 +-) 11.h7 +-] 7.Qxf4 gxf4 8.Bc2! (8.Bc6? a4 9.d5 a3 10.d6 a2 11.d7 a1Q 12.d8Q Qa5+ 13.Kc8 Qxd8+ 14.Kxd8 a5 15.Bf5 a4 16.Bxh7 a3 17.Bb1 f3 18.h7 a2! 19.Bxa2 f2 =) 8...a4 9.Bxh7 +-

Commendation - (Daniele Gatti - E0353) Solution: 1.Rxg4! (1.Kg1? Ba7) 1...Rf1+ 2.Rg1 Bxd5+ 3.cxd5 Rxg1+ 4.Kxg1 Ba7 5.d8B!! (5.d8Q? Bxb6+ 6.Qxb6 stalemate) 5...Ka5 6.Kf2 Bxb6+ 7.Bxb6 Kxb6 8.Kf3 (8.Ke3? Kc5 9.Kxd3 Kxd5 =) 8...Kc5 9.Kg4 Kxd5 10.Kxh4! (10.Kxh3? Ke5 11.Kg2 d5 12.h3 d4 13.Kf2 Kf4 =) Ke4 11.Kg4 d5 12.Kg3 d4 13.Kg4 Ke5 14.Kxh3 Kf4 15.Kg2 +-

We thank Boško for this labor of love. He told me (Mike) recently that he lives on a farm, far from people, and grows his own food. I am jealous of him. This award stays open for 3 months. The comments should be sent to Franjo Vrabec.