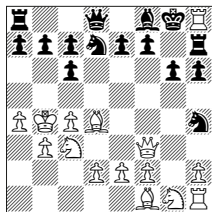


H3 Michel Caillaud  
Pr 5th Retroblog TT 2020



PG 23.5  
Fuddled Men

sufficient to open the cage in the North-East. Releasing the position only succeeds after both rooks perform a roundtrip (and the black rook nearly completes a second one!). The thematic white rook is promoted, but it is not obtrusive, because it replaces the captured white rook from a1 (Phoenix theme). The complex route of the black king is also impressive. Solution: 1.a4 Sh6 2.Ra3 Rg8 3.g4 Sf5 4.Rc3 h6 5.g5 Sh4 6.Rc6 dxc6 7.c4 Bf5 8.Qb3 Kd7 9.Kd1 Bh7 10.g6 Ke6 11.Kc2 Sd7 12.gxh7 g6 13.Kc3 Rg7 14.h8=R Kf6 15.Kb4 Rh7 16.Qf3 Kg7 17.Rg8 Rh8 18.b3+ Kh7 19.Rg7 Rg8 20.Bb2+ Kh8 21.Rh7+ Rg7 22.Bd4+ Kg8 23.Rh8 Rh7 24.Sc3#.

When John Beasley saw the award, he wrote to me: “Yes, very nice. Just like Ronald Turnbull and Paul Bissicks did, Michel has captured the curious flavour of Fuddled Men, and has done things with them which I would not even have thought to attempt. Please pass this comment on to him” — which, of course, I did!

## BCPS AWARD: STUDIES 2018/19

By John Nunn

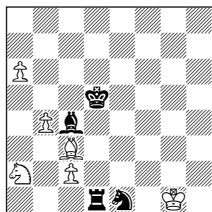
[In the solutions below just the main line has been given. Readers wanting a full analysis will find this in the issue of original publication. In order to assist in this, the page number and issue are given in the text. – Ed.]

53 studies were entered for this tourney. E1222 was disqualified, leaving 52 for consideration by the judge. First, a couple of comments about studies which did not appear in the award. E1245, E1265 and E1271 were found to be unsound and could not be corrected by the composers. E1232 and E1272 were also found to be unsound, but in these cases the composers were able to rescue the studies. E1259 was based on a missed draw from an otb game, but this draw was already analysed in depth in *Nunn's Chess Endings* (Volume 2) and the addition of an admittedly attractive first move was not enough to propel it into the award. The play in E1233 resembles that in a study by Kovalenko (11762 in the HHdbV database) and that study also had a neat underpromotion for a second stalemate avoidance. E1253 adds a preliminary sacrifice to an earlier Wotawa study, but 32930 in HHdbV (by Kuznetsov) does very much the same thing.

There were some unusual features in this tourney. Firstly, the standard was exceptionally high and both editor Yochanan Afek and the composers deserve congratulations on a marvellous set of studies. Quite often I can rule a fair number of studies out of contention for the award early on, but that was not possible this time since every study had something worthwhile to contribute. The award is lengthy, but I feel that reflects the quality of the entry. Secondly, an unusual number of studies were extensions, corrections or enhancements of previously published studies. Judges often deal with such cases by awarding a ‘Special Honourable Mention’ or something similar and I have not broken with this tradition. However, I would like to direct readers to the special awards as they are really noteworthy.

Ranking many excellent studies is extremely difficult and I accept that another judge might have produced a totally different award. I tend to rank studies higher if I can understand them without using a computer. Sadly, switching on the machine seems to be more common with me these days, although whether that is due to the increasing complexity of studies or my own advancing years is hard to say. A few studies had long-winded main lines which lacked interest, but additional moves do not necessarily improve a study and I tended to prefer those that came to the point in a reasonable time. Some studies made a greater artistic impression on me, while others had more thematic content. I have tried to balance these in the award, and a fair number of both types

Sergiy Didukh  
1 Pr *The Problemist*  
2018/19



Win

appear amongst the Prizes. Some studies were 6- or 7-man tablebase positions and while I have nothing special against this, I think that a long series of accurate moves by itself does not make a prize-winning study and there should be either something spectacular or some clear thematic content. Finally, I would like to thank Gady Costeff for his help in checking for anticipations. On to the award.

**1st Prize E1251** (p.56, March 2019) **Sergiy Didukh**. 1.a7 Sxc2+ 2.Kh2 Rh1+! 3.Kg2!! Ke6 4.a8Q Bd5+ 5.Qxd5+ Kxd5 6.Kxh1 Kc4 7.Bd2 Kb3 8.b5 Kxa2 9.Bc3! Se3 10.b6 wins; 7...Kd3 8.b5 Kxd2 9.b6 Sd4 10.Sb4! wins. (Logical try: 3.Kxh1? Ke6! 4.a8Q Bd5+ 5.Qxd5+ Kxd5 zugzwang 6.Bd2 Kc4 zugzwang 7.Kg1 Kd3 8.b5 Kxd2 9.b6 Sd4 10.Sb4 Sf3+! draws).

A relatively natural position leads to a perfect thematic try study based on a reciprocal zugzwang. The rook sacrifice refusal is truly surprising, but the feature which propelled this study to the top of the award is the refutation of the white

king moves in the try. Each king move allows a future knight check which Black exploits by running after one or other white minor piece. In the main line Black lacks a check, which means that the minor piece Black doesn't capture is able to prevent Black's knight making it back to stop the pawn. The symmetry between the two lines provides the study with an additional content which studies of this type often lack.

**2nd Prize E1263** (p.188, Sept. 2019) **Árpád Ruzs.** 1.Rc1+! Qf1+! 2.Rxf1+ Kg2 3.Rh1!! Kxh1 4.a8Q+ Kg1 5.Qg8+ Rg2 6.Qh8! wins. (1...Kg2 2.a8Q+ Qf3+ 3.Qxf3+ Kxf3 4.Rc3+ Ke2 5.Ra3 Kd1 6.a6 Kc1 7.a7 Rh8 8.Rxa2 wins).

It's only six moves long, but what moves! The star move is undoubtedly the incredible 3.Rh1! which, coupled with the attractive long-range play and Black's queen sacrifice, creates a superb artistic impression. It's the perfect study to show to oth players or to use in a solving competition. On this basis I showed it to my wife, who surprised me by solving it in a few minutes. Perhaps it's easier than I imagined...

**3rd Prize E1274** (p.231, Nov. 2019) **Axel Ornstein.** 1.Sb6 Sg3+ 2.Ke1 d2+ 3.Kd1 Sf5! 4.e6+! Kxe6 5.Bg7!! Bg5 6.Bf6! Bf4 7.Be5! Se3+ 8.Kxd2 Sc4+ 9.Kd3! Sxe5+ 10.Ke4 Sc6 11.Kxf4 Kd6 12.Kg3! Ke7 13.Sd5+ Kb8 14.f4 Ka7 15.f5 h4+ 16.Kxh4 Kxa6 17.f6 Kb5 18.Sxb4 Se5 19.Sd5 (not 19.Sc2?) 19...Sd7 20.Kg5 h6+ 21.Kf5! h5 22.f7 wins.

The repeated sacrifices by the white bishop on g7, f6 and e5 form the highlight of the study. This systematic manoeuvre is quite unusual and takes a bit of puzzling out; for example, readers may like to work out why Black can't just play 6...Bh6 after the second sacrifice. I would like to clarify one point about this study. The finish should start 15...h4+ (as given above) and not as given in the magazine. The final knight sacrifice on move 18 forms an attractive counterpoint to the earlier bishop sacrifices on the other side of the board. The only real flaw with this study is that the part between moves 8 and 15 is somewhat lacking in interest.

**4th Prize E1229** (p.314, March 2018) **Martin Minski.** 1.Ke8! Qxe3+ 2.Be4+!! Qxe4+ 3.Kd8 Qe7+! 4.Kxe7 e1Q+ 5.Re2!! Qxe2+ 6.Kd8 Ke6 7.f8Q wins.

Only seven moves, but all of them are filled with action. The battle centres on whether Black can check along the e-file with his queen on a dark square. White initially sacrifices his bishop on the checking line to draw the queen from e3 to e4, but Black retaliates by sacrificing his queen to gain a new one on the dark square e1. A second white sacrifice on e2 echoes the first. This study should be another oth player favourite since it's easy to understand and has no complex sidelines.

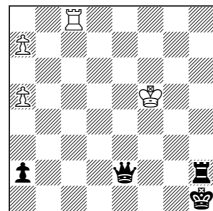
**5th Prize E1246** (p.18, Jan. 2019) **Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen.** 1.d7 Sb7 2.Sd4 f4! 3.Bd5 Sd8 4.Se6 Bf5 5.Be4! Bxe4 6.Sxd8 h3 7.Se6 h2 8.d8Q h1Q 9.Qxe7+ Kg6 10.Qg7+ Kf5 11.Sd4#.

A study in the classical style. Some interesting play with the minor pieces (5.Be4! being a neat twist) leads to both sides promoting and an eventual mate. The mid-board model mate with two self-blocks is attractive and all the pieces except the white king display good mobility throughout. In the old days, some exciting play ending with a pretty mate were considered enough and such studies still hold a considerable appeal.

**6th Prize E1267** (p.230, Nov. 2019) **Vladimir Kuzmichev.** 1.Bh3+!! Kf2! 2.h7 Ke3 3.Kg7! Qa1+ 4.Kg8 Qa8+ 5.Kg7! Qb7+ 6.Bd7!! Qb2+ 7.Kg8 Qg2+ 8.Kf8! Qh2 9.Kg8! Qg3+ 10.Bg4!! Qb8+ 11.Bc8!! Qb3+ 12.Be6!! positional draw.

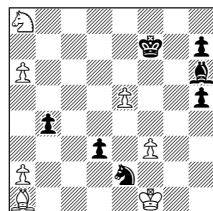
The success or failure of ultra-miniatures often depends on originality, but I could identify no direct anticipation of this study. Bishop sacrifices to reach the standard Q vs. Ph7 draw are known, but this study intensifies the idea with multiple sacrifices along the same diagonal.

**Árpád Ruzs**  
2 Pr *The Problemist*  
2018/19



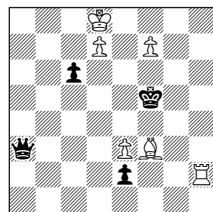
Win

**Axel Ornstein**  
3 Pr *The Problemist*  
2018/19



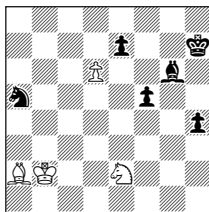
Win

**Martin Minski**  
4 Pr *The Problemist*  
2018/19



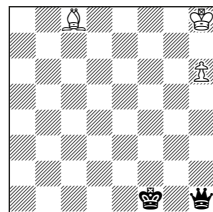
Win

**Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen**  
5 Pr *The Problemist*  
2018/19



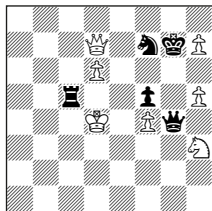
Win

**Vladimir Kuzmichev**  
6 Pr *The Problemist*  
2018/19



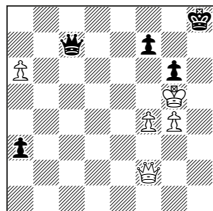
Draw

**Peter Krug & Mario Garcia**  
7 Pr *The Problemist*  
2018/19



Win

**Vlaicu Crișan & Árpád Rusz**  
1 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19



Draw

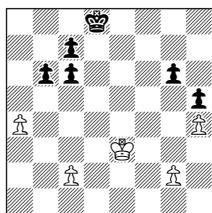
**7th Prize E1224** (p.272, Jan. 2018) **Peter Krug & Mario Garcia.** 1.h6+! Kxh6 2.Qe6+! Kg7 3.Qxf7+ Kxf7 4.h8Q Rd5+! 5.Kxd5 Qf3+ 6.Kd4! Qxf4+ 7.Kc5! Qc1+ 8.Kb6! Ke6 9.Sf4+! Kd7 10.Qg7+! Kxd6 11.Qf6+ Kd7 12.Qf7+! Kd6 13.Qe6#.

Black tries to force stalemate by multiple sacrifices, but White's accurate king moves thwart Black and lead to a mid-board mate. The mate itself is rather mundane, but the preceding active play by both sides makes for an entertaining study.

**1st HM E1255** (p.108, May 2019) **Vlaicu Crișan and Árpád Rusz.** 1.f5! Qd8+ 2.f6 Qa5+ 3.Kh6 Qxa6 4.Qa7!! Qxa7 5.g5! a2 stalemate.

The sacrificial deflection in the main line is the key point of the composition, leading to a position in which Black is unable to relieve stalemate despite being a queen ahead. The natural initial position and interesting sidelines, which include further queen offers, enhance this game-like study.

**Franjo Vrabec & Harold van der Heijden**  
2 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19

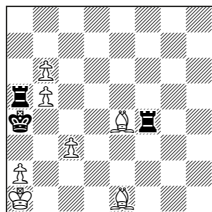


Draw

**2nd HM E1240** (p.448, Sept. 2018) **Franjo Vrabec & Harold van der Heijden.** 1.c4! c5! 2.Kf2!! Ke8 3.Ke2 Ke7 4.Ke3 Ke6 5.Ke4 Kd6 6.Kf4 Kd7 7.Kf3 Kd6 8.Kf4 c6 9.Ke4! Kd7 10.Ke3 Ke8 11.Kf2!! Kf8 12.Ke2! Ke7 13.Kf3 Kd8 14.Ke2 Kc8 15.Kd2 Kc7 16.Kd3 Kb7 17.Kc3 (or 17.Kc2) 17...Ka6 18.Kb3 (or 18.Kb2) 18...Ka5 19.Ka3 b5 20.Kb3! b4 21.g3! draws.

Corresponding squares are a familiar feature of pawn endings, but all the classical examples involve completely blocked pawns. The possibilities that may arise when there are still mobile pawns have not been much explored, although I made a small effort with, for example, 15339 in the HHdBV database. This study is quite subtle, as there are two networks of corresponding squares depending on whether Black has played ...c6. White's king appears relatively free to move, but the necessity of coping with the switch of network in case Black plays ...c6 imposes severe constraints. The initial retreat to f2 at move two is quite unexpected and is echoed by a similar retreat in the other network at move 11. An intricate study which, despite the lack of pieces, presents quite a puzzle.

**Vladislav Tarasyuk**  
3 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19



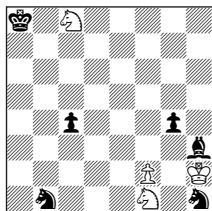
Win

**3rd HM E1252** (p.56, March 2019) **Vladislav Tarasyuk.** 1.Bc6! Ka3! 2.b7 Rxb5+! 3.Bxb5 Re4! 4.Be2!! Rxe2 5.Bd2!! Rxd2 6.b8Q Rd1+ 7.Qb1 zugzwang 7...Rxb1+ 8.Kxb1 wins.

Both sides make sacrifices in the route to the finale, with White carefully avoiding various stalemate possibilities along the way. The actual stalemate is not original, but that takes little away from an appealing composition.

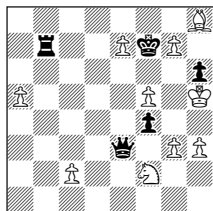
**4th HM E1270** (p.230, Nov. 2019) **Petr Kiryakov & Aleksandr Zhukov.** 1.Sb6+! Kb7 2.Sxc4 Bxf1 3.Se3 Sd2 4.Sxf1 Sxf1+ 5.Kg2!! Kc6! 6.Kxf1! Sg3+! 7.fxg3 Kd5 8.Ke1! Ke5! 9.Kd1! Kd4 10.Kd2! Ke4 11.Ke2! draws.

**Petr Kiryakov & A.Zhukov**  
4 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19



Draw

**Martin Minski & P.Murdzia**  
5 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19



Draw

It's all in the spectacular 5.Kg2!, ignoring the knight in the corner to set up an unusual king fork. The introductory play is rather mechanical.

**5th HM E1236** (p.408 July 2018) **Martin Minski & Piotr Murdzia.** 1.Sg4 Qe2! 2.Kh4! Qxe7+ 3.f6 Qd8 4.Sxh6+ Ke6 5.g8Q+ Qxg8 6.Sxg8 f3! 7.f7! Kxf7 8.Sh6+! Kg6 9.a6 Rd7! 10.a7! Rxa7 11.Bd4 Ra4 12.c4! Rxc4 13.Sg4 Rxd4 stalemate.

Some entertaining introductory play leads to a neat pin stalemate. The thematic try 8.Bd4? fails as it leaves a crucial white pawn on the board.

**6th HM E1264** (p.188, Sept. 2019) **Richard Becker.** 1.Bb3! Bxb3 2.Kc3! Rc5+ (2...Bxa2 3.Rd1#) 3.Kxb3 Rb5+ 4.Kc3 Rc5+ 5.Kb4 Rc7 6.Rdb2+ Kc1 7.Re2! Kb1 8.Rab2+ Kc1 9.Ka3! Bc5+ 10.Kb3! Rb7+ 11.Kc3 Bd4+ 12.Kd3 Bxb2 13.Re1#.

A neat first move leads to echo mates, which are achieved without apparent effort and with limited material. The overall effect is attractive, but the fact that one mate occurs at move 3 while the other is delayed until move 13 diminishes the impact. Moreover, some of the side variations are hard to understand without computer assistance.

**7th HM E1260** (p.148, July 2019) **János Mítkovics.** 1.d7! Bb6 2.Rb1! Kxf7 3.Kg3! d3 4.Se3!! Rxe3+! 5.Kxf2!! Bc5! 6.d8S+!! Kf6! 7.Sb7! Bd4 8.Rd1! Ke5! 9.Sa5! Ke4 10.Sc4! Re2+ 11.Kg3! Bf2+! 12.Kg4! Be1 13.Sd6+! Kd4 14.Sf5+! Kc3! 15.Kf3! Rf2+! 16.Ke4! d2 17.Ra1! Re2+ 18.Kf3! Rf2+ 19.Ke4! Kb2 20.Rd1 Kc2 21.Se3+ draw.

There is a lot of content here, but the main excitement is already over by move six, and the remaining lengthy variation is rather an anti-climax.

**8th HM E1272** (p.231, Nov. 2019, version) **János Mítkovics.** 1.Rxe2 f5! 2.Bxf5 Qxb6+ 3.Kg5 Qf6+ 4.Kh5! Qf7+ 5.Rg6 e3!! 6.Re1!! Kf4!! 7.Rf1+! Ke5 8.Bd3! Qd7 9.Rg5+! Kd4 10.Be2! Qh3+ 11.Kg6 Qe6+ 12.Rf6! Qe8+ 13.Rf7! Kc3! 14.Kg7!! Qe6 15.Ra7! Kd2! 16.Bg4!! Qd6! 17.Ra2+! Kc3 18.Rga5! Qd4+ 19.Kh6 Qxg4 20.R5a3+ Kb4 21.Ra4+ wins.

This study is a corrected version of the one which appeared in the magazine. Like the preceding study, it has much content, but the very lengthy solution includes many moves which I could not understand without using a computer.

**Special HM E1241** (p.448, Sept. 2018) **Jan Timman.** 1.g8S+! Ke6 2.Ra6+ Kf7 3.Ra7+ Kg6 4.Se7+ Kf6 5.Sg8+ Bxg8 6.Bc3+! bxc3 7.h8Q+! Qxh8 8.Rh7!! Qg7 9.Rxg7 Kxg7 10.Kxc2 theoretical draw.

The Dutch grandmaster has produced a much-improved version of a study by Van den Ende from 1968, adding some interesting introductory play, including an underpromotion.

**1st Comm E1227** (p.314, March 2018) **Mirko Miljanić, Branislav Djurašević & Zvezdan Marjanović.** 1.g5 Sf7 2.Be7! Kd7! 3.Kf2 Ke6 4.Kxf3 Se5+ 5.Sxe5 Kxe5 6.Bf6+!! gxf6 7.g6 Ke6 8.Kf4 Ke7 9.Kxf5 Ke8 10.Ke6! wins.

This positional draw has occurred several times in oth play; for example, it was handled accurately in Tunik – Daniliuk, St Petersburg 1993. Amusingly, in Majella – Lioe, Wotulo Memorial Jakarta 2001 Black reached the positional draw but then resigned! Nevertheless, the addition of the exceptional winning idea with Bf6+ is a worthwhile discovery.

[The remaining problems in the award are listed below. These will appear with diagrams, solutions and judge's comments next issue – Ed.]

**2nd Comm E1231** (p.360, May 2018) **Amatzia Avni.**

**3rd Comm E1230** (p.360, May 2018) **Michal Hlinka and Ľuboš Kekely.**

**4th Comm E1226** (p.314, March 2018) **Michal Hlinka & Ľuboš Kekely.**

**5th Comm E1244** (p.488, Nov. 2018) **Amatzia Avni.**

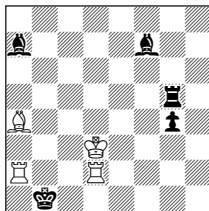
**6th Comm E1257** (p.108, May 2019) **Marjan Kovačević & Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen.**

**7th Comm E1237** (p.408, July 2018) **Peter Krug.**

**Special Comm E1261** (p.148, July 2019) **Paul Michelet.**

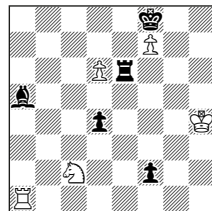
[Many thanks to GM John Nunn for his expert award. The award is provisional and remains open for 3 months; any claims should be addressed to Yochanan Afek in the first instance.]

**Richard Becker**  
6 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19



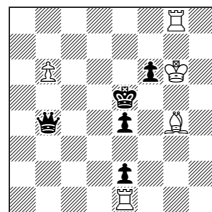
Win

**János Mítkovics**  
7 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19



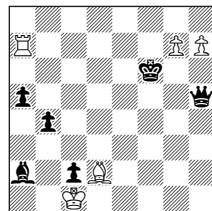
Draw

**János Mítkovics**  
8 HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19 (v)



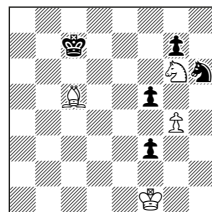
Win

**Jan Timman**  
(after J. Van den Ende)  
Sp HM *The Problemist*  
2018/19



Draw

**Mirko Miljanić, Branislav Djurašević & Z. Marjanović**  
1 C *The Problemist*  
2018/19



Win