

Section B.1.: Studies – Win

I received 32 studies from 26 composers. All the studies seem to be sound, but there are two studies where the current presentation is misleading:

In no. 24 (g1-a4) hite has a choice between three winning moves on move 6. In addition to 6.Ke3 Rd1 7.Ke2 Rd4, White can also play 6.Kf3 Rd3+ 7.Ke2 Rd4 or 6.Kf1 Rd1+ 7.Ke2 Rd4, all leading to the same position. These duals do not make the study unsound, but they should be mentioned.

In no. 10 (h3-h5) the composers comment that the final position is a mate with three self-blocks. This is not correct. There are two self-blocks, while the pawn on h6 has been there from the initial position. Of course, this does not make the study unsound, but the comment may give thereader a wrong impression of the study.

None of the studies have complete anticipations, but no. 12 (h3-b7), no. 22 (g1-g3) and no. 25 (c1-f7) have too close anticipations to be included in the award.

Among the other studies, I chose the following ten for the award.

Peter S. Krug
1st Prize



M. Ilic & B. Djurasevic
2nd Prize



(13) Peter S. Krug (Austria)

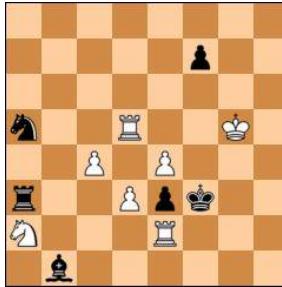
1.Nf3! h1Q 2.Nd4+ Kd3 3.Bxh1 Kxd4 4.Kc7 Nf7 5.Kd7 Ke5 6.Ba8! Switchback [6.Ke7? Nh6 7.Kf8 Nf5 8.g4 Ng3 9.Bg2 Kf4 10.Kf7 (10.Kg7 Kg5=) 10...Kg5 11.Kg7 Ne2!=; 6.Bc6? Nd6 7.g4 Nf5 8.gxf5 (8.Ke8 Nd4=) 8...Kxf5 9.Ke7 Kg6 10.Be4+ Kg7=] 6...Nd6 [6...Ng5 7.h4+-; 6...Nh6 7.Ke8 Kf6 8.Be4+-] 7.g4 Nf5 8.Ke8! [8.gxf5? Kxf5 9.Ke7 Kg6!=] 8...Nh4 9.Kf7 /e7 9...Kf4 10.Kf6 Kg3 11.Kg5 Kxh3 12.Be4! [12.Kh5? Ng6=] 12...Kg3 13.Kh5 Kh3 14.g5 Kg3 15.Bc6 /b7 15...Kh3 16.Bb5 Kg3 17.Bf1 ZZ 17...Nf5 18.g6+-

The corner-to-corner switchback 6.Bh1-a8!! is an excellent discovery in an ending with bishop, g- and h-pawn against knight, a type of ending that apparently has not been explored much. This is the highlight of the study, but after this it is still needed to play precisely to win by zugzwang later. The duals 9.Kf7/9.Ke7 and 15.Bc6/15.Bb7 are unfortunate, and some may argue that the study should end after 8.Ke8! because of that. However, I think the rest of the study justifies the duals, and for a human, it is necessary to see the zugzwang after 17.Bf1 in order to understand why White is winning.

(31) Miloje Ilic & Branislav Djurasevic (Serbia)

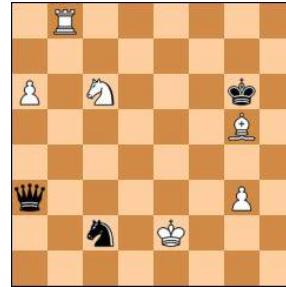
1.g3+ Kg5 [1...Kh5 2.axb6! (2.a6? Bf4! Thematic move by black. 3.Be1 Be5=; 2.Be5? bxa5! 3.Bb8 a4 4.Kc2 Be3=) 2...axb6 3.Be5! Kg6 4.Bc7 Kf5 5.Ke2! (5.Bxb6? Bf4!=) 5...Ke6 6.Bxb6 Bf4 7.Kf2 Bd6 8.Ba5 Be5 9.Bd2 Kd7 10.Bf4 Bd4+ 11.Ke2 Bg1 12.Be3! Bxh2 13.Bf2+- (13.Kf2+-)] 2.a6! [2.axb6? axb6 3.Be5 Kf5! 4.Bc7 Ke4 5.Ke2 (5.Bxb6 Bf4!=) 5...Kd4=; 2.Bd2+? Kg6 3.Bxh6 Kxh6=] 2...Kf5 3.Ba5! Thematic move by white. 3...Bf4! Thematic move, also. 4.Bxb6 Bxg3 5.Bxc5! [5.Bxa7? Bd6! 6.b6 g3+-] 5...Bxh2 [5...Bc7 6.Bf2! (6.b6? Bxb6 7.Bxb6 g3 8.Bg1 Ke4! 9.Ke2 gxh2! 10.Bxh2 Kd4=) 6...g3!? (6...Ke6 7.b6 Bxb6 8.Bxb6 g3 9.Bg1!+-) 7.Bxg3 Bxg3 8.b6! Bf2 9.b7 Bg3 10.hxg3 h2 11.b8Q h1Q+ 12.Kd2+-; 5...Bb8 6.Bf2! Ke6 7.c5! Kd5 8.b6! Kc6 9.Bg3 Kxc5 10.Bxb8 Kxb6 11.Ke2+-] 6.b6! [6.Bxa7? Bd6!! (6...Bc7? 7.Bg1 Bb6 8.Bh2 Ke4 9.Kc2! Kf3 10.Bc7 h2 11.Bxh2 g3 12.Bxg3 Kxg3 13.Kb3 Kf4 14.Kb4+-) 7.Bg1 Bc5 8.Bh2 Ke4! 9.Kc2 Kf3 (9...Kd4? 10.Kb3+-) 10.Bd6 h2 11.Bxh2 g3 12.Bxg3 Kxg3 13.Kb3! Kf4! 14.Ka4 Ke5 15.Ka5 Kd6 16.b6 Kc6! 17.a7 Bxb6+ (17...Kb7? 18.Kb5 Bxb6 19.a8Q+++) 18.Ka6 Bxa7 study in study] 6...Bb8 7.Bd6! [7.bxa7? Bxa7=] 7...g3 8.Bxg3 h2 9.Bxh2+- An apparently simple bishop ending turns out to contain a surprising amount of tactical ideas, with both bishops putting them selves en prise several times. Only after the fifth bishop sacrifice, 7.Bd6!, the win is clear. The refutation of 6.Bxa7? is also impressive, with new bishop sacrifices (7...Bc5, and 10.Bc7 as there **futation** of 6...Bc7).

M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
1st Honorable Mention



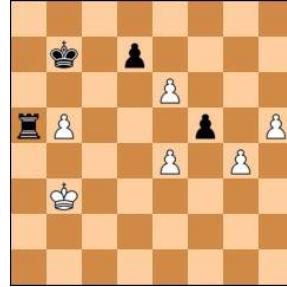
Win

Pavel Areystov
2nd Honorable Mention



Win

P. Areystov & P. Kiryakov
3rd Honorable Mention



Win

M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
4th Honorable Mention



Win

(11) Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)

1.Nc1 [1.Re1? f6+ 2.Kxf6 Bxd3 3.Nc1 Bxc4 4.Rf5+ Kxe4=] 1...f6+ [1...Nxc4 2.Rf5+ Kg3 3.dxc4=+]
2.Kxf6 [2.Kg6? Bxd3 3.Rf5+ Kxe4 4.Rh2 e2 5.Nxe2 Nxc4 6.Kxf6 Ke3 7.Rff2 Ra2=] 2...Bxd3 3.Rf5+=
[3.Rh2? Bxe4! 4.Rh3+ Kf2 5.Re5 Bf3 6.Rf5 e2 7.Rh2+ Kg3 8.Rxe2 Nxc4! 9.Ra2 Rxa2=] 3...Kxe4
4.Re5+ [4.Rh2? Kd4 5.Rd5+ Kxc4 6.Rd8 e2 7.Nxe2 Bxe2=] 4...Kd4 [4...Kf4 5.R2xe3+-] 5.R2xe3
[5.Nxd3? Nxc4!=] 5...Nxc4 [5...Ne6 6.Rxd3+ Rxd3 7.Rd5++-] 6.Rxd3+! [6.Ne2+? Bxe2 7.R5e4+ Kd5=]
6...Rxd3 7.Ne2# ideal central mate with 2 active blockings. All pieces in final position moved.

White starts with a material advantage, but Black has strong counterplay with 1...f6+ and 2...Bxd3!, when it turns out White will soon run out of pawns. In the end, the only way for White to win is by sacrificing the extra material, leading to a beautiful ideal mate in the middle of the board.

(3) Pavel Arrestov (Russia)

1.a7 Nd4+ [1...Qa6+ 2.Kd2+-] 2.Nxd4 [2.Kd2? Nf3+ 3.Kc2 Nd4+! 4.Nxd4 Qxa7 5.Rg8+ Kh5= h7/f7 pos. X with wKc2.] 2...Qxa7 3.Rg8+ [3.Nc6? Qa6+=; 3.Bf4? Qxd4=] 3...Kh5! [3...Kf7 /h7 4.Rd8+-] 4.g4+! [4.Rd8? Kxg5=] 4...Kxg4 5.Be3+! white battery R+B 5...Kh3 [5...Kh5 6.Rg5+ Kh6 7.Ra5++- white battery B + R] 6.Rh8+ with two lines : A) 6...Kg4 [6...Kg2 7.Rh2+! (7.Rg8+? Kh3 8.Rh8+ Kg2 loos of time) 7...Kxh2 8.Nf3+ white battery N+B 8...Kg3 9.Bxa7+-] 7.Rh4+! [7.Rg8+? Kh3 8.Rh8+ Kg4 loos of time] 7...Kxh4 8.Nf3+ white battery N+B [8.Nf5+? Kg4 9.Nh6+ Kh5=] 8...Kg3 9.Bxa7+- After a forcing introduction, it looks like the accurate 3...Kh5 saves the day for Black because White cannot hold on to all his pieces. However, White solves this elegantly by sacrificing first the pawn and then the rook.

(16) Pavel Arrestov & Petr Kiryakov (Russia)

1.e7! [1.exf5? dxe6 2.h6 exf5 3.h7 Ra8 4.g5 f4! 5.g6 f3 6.g7 f2 7.g8Q Rxg8!=; 1.exd7? Kc7 2.Kb4 Ra8=] 1...Rxb5+ [1...Ra8 2.exf5+-] 2.Kc3!! [Try : 2.Kc4? Re5 3.exf5 Rxe7 pos. X with wKc4 4.g5 Rh7! (4...Rf7? 5.f6 Kc6 6.Kd3+- see solution) 5.h6 (5.g6 Rxh5 6.g7 Rg5! (6...Rxf5? 7.g8Q Rf6 8.Qd8!+-) 7.f6 Kc7! 8.Kd4 Rf5 (8...Rg6? 9.Ke5+-) 9.g8Q Rxf6=) 5...Kc6 6.g6 Rxh6 7.g7 Rh4+ 8.Kd3 Rg4 9.f6 Kc7!! 10.Ke3 Rg6! 11.Ke4 Rxf6=] 2...Re5 3.exf5 Rxe7 4.g5 Rf7! [4...Rh7 5.h6! Kc7 6.g6 Rxh6 7.g7 Rf6 8.g8Q+-; 4...Re5 5.h6! Rxf5 6.h7 Rxg5 7.h8Q Rg6 8.Qd8+-] 5.f6! Kc6 6.Kd3! [6.Kd4? Kd6! 7.g6 Rxf6 8.g7 Rf4+ 9.Ke3 Rg4 10.h6 Kc7!! 11.h7 Rxg7 12.h8Q Rg6 /e7= theoretical draw] 6...Kd6! [6...Kd5 7.g6 Rxf6 8.g7 Rf3+ 9.Ke2 Rg3 10.h6+-] 7.g6 Rxf6 [7...Ke6 8.g7! (8.gxf7? Kxf7=) 8...Rxg7 9.fxg7 Kf7 10.h6+-] 8.g7 Rf3+ 9.Ke4 Rg3 10.h6 Kc7! Play for theoretical draw [10...Ke6 11.h7 Rxg7 12.h8Q+-] 11.Kf5!+- [11.h7? Rxg7 12.h8Q Rg6 /e7=]

The counter-intuitive 2.Kc3! and 6.Kd3! instead of 2.Kc4 and 6.Kd4 are the highlights of this study. White's pawns are stronger than Black's rook, but White's king must take a surprising path in order to avoid a fortress with queen against rook and pawn.

(1) Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (Slovakia)

1.a8Q! [1.c7? Bxc7 2.Be2 Qxh6 3.Nd6+ Kc6 4.a8Q+ Kxd6 5.Qxg2 Qc1+=] 1...Qxa8 2.c7 [2.Be2? Bf3 3.Bxf3 Kxc4 4.Be2+ Kd4+-] 2...Bxc7 [2...e6 3.Rh5+ Bd5 4.c8Q Qxc8 5.Rxd5+ Kxa6 (5...exd5 6.Bxc8+-) 6.Ra5+ Kb7 7.Bf3+-] 3.Be2 to battery 3...e6! [3...Bd6 4.Nxd6+ Kc6 5.Nb5+! Kd7 6.Bg4+ e6 7.Rxe6+-; 3...Bc6 4.Ne3+ Kb6 5.Nd5+ Ka7 6.Nxc7+- cause black has not Qh8] 4.Rxe6 Be6 5.Rxc6! [5.Ne5+? Kb6 6.Nxc6 Qxc6 7.Rxc6+ Kxc6 8.b5+ Kb6=; 5.Ne3+? Kb6 6.Nd5+ Ka7 7.Nxc7 Qh8 8.Rxc6 Qa1+=] 5...Qxc6 [5...Kxc6 6.Bf3+-] 6.Nd6+ from battery 6...Kb6 7.Ne8# model mate with 2 active self-blocks. After an introduction with mutual pawn sacrifices, White sacrifices an exchange in order to give a model mate. An elegant study, the only down side being that the pawn son a6 and b4 do not move into the mating position.

János Mikitovics
1st Commendation



Win

Peter S. Krug
2nd Commendation



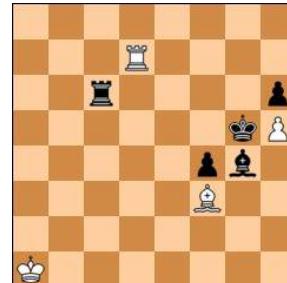
Win

Andrzej Jasik
3rd Commendation



Win

Amatzia Avni
4th Commendation



Win

(18) János Mikitovics (Hungary)

1.c7! Rh8+! [1...Qa8 2.cxb8Q+ Qxb8 3.dxe7+-] **2.Kxh8 Nxg6+** [2...Qf4 3.Kh7 (3.c8N+? Kc5=; 3.dxe7? Qh6+ 4.Kg8 Qxg6+=) 3...Qxd6 4.c8N++-; 2...Qd4+ 3.g7! Qxd6 4.c8N++-] **3.Kh7! Qe4!** [3...Nf8+ 4.Kg8! Qxb3+ 5.Kxf8 Nb5 6.d8Q! (6.c8Q? Qf3+ 7.Kg7 Qg3+ 8.Kh7 Qd3+ 9.Kh8 Qd4+! 10.Kg8 Qd5+=) 6...Qf3+ 7.Ke7!! (7.Ke8? Qe3+ 8.Kd7 Qxh3+) 7...Qe3+ 8.Be6!+-; 3...Qf4 4.d8Q!+- (4.c8Q? Nf8+=)] **4.d8Q!** [4.c8Q? Ng+ =] **4...Ne7+!** **5.Kg7!** [5.Kh8? Qd4+ 6.Kh7 Qe4+ 7.Kg7 loss of time] **5...Qg6+ 6.Kf8 Nc8!** [6...Qg8+ 7.Kxe7 Nd5+ 8.Kd7 Qf7+ 9.Kc8 Ka7 10.Qh8!! Qf4 11.Qa1++- (11.Kd7? Nb6+ 12.Ke7 Qh4+ 13.Kf7 Qxh3=)] **7.Bxc8!!** [7.d7? Qh6+ 8.Kg8 Qg6+ 9.Kh8 Qh6+ 10.Kg8 Qg6+ pp. check] **7...Ne4!** [7...Nb5 8.Be6+-] **8.Be6!!** [8.Bh3? Qxd6+= (8...Qh6+? 9.Kf7 Qh7+ 10.Ke6!+-)] **8...Qh6+ 9.Kf7!** [9.Ke7? Qf6+! (9...Qg7+ 10.Ke8 Qg6+ (10...Nf6+ 11.Qxf6 Qxf6 12.c8Q+-) 11.Bf7+- main) 10.Kd7 Nc5+ 11.Ke8 Qxe6+=] **9...Qh7+** [9...Ng5+ 10.Qxg5 Qxg5 11.c8Q+-] **10.Ke8!** [10.Kf8? Qh6+ 11.Kf7 loss of time] **10...Qg6+ 11.Bf7!** [11.Kf8? Qh6+ 12.Kf7 loss of time; 11.Ke7? Qf6+ (11...Qg7+? 12.Ke8 Nf6+ 13.Qxf6 Qxf6 14.c8Q+-) 12.Kd7 Nc5+ 13.Ke8 Qxe6+=] **11...Nxd6+** **12.Qxd6+!** [12.Kd7? Qxf7+= (12...Nxf7? 13.Qb8+!!+-)] **12...Qxd6 13.c8N+!!** [13.c8Q? Qe5+ /h4=] **13...Kc6 14.Nxd6 Kxd6 15.Bxh5+-** [15.Bg6? h4=]

An interesting battle with several surprising moves (6...Nc8!, 8.Be6!). In the end, White wins with a knight sacrifice to gain decisive material.

(9) Peter S. Krug (Austria)

1.Be4+! Kb8 2.Rh8+ Kc7 3.Nd5+ Kb7 [3...Kc6 4.b4 Kb5 5.Rc8 Ka4 6.Rc3+; 3...Kd7 4.Nb6+ Ke6 5.Rh6++-] **4.Rh7+!** [4.b4? Nc6 5.a4 Qe5 6.a6+ Ka7 7.Rh7+ Kb8 8.Rb7+ Kc8 9.Nb6+ Kd8 10.Rd7+ Ke8 11.Bxc6 Qe3+=] **4...Kb8** [4...Kc6 5.a6! Qc5+ 6.Kg2 Qd4 7.Nc3+ Kc5 8.a7 Qd2+ 9.Kf1 Ng4 10.Rc7+ Kd6 11.Rc6+ Ke7 (11...Ke5 12.Rc5+ Kf6 (12...Kf4 13.Ne2++-) 13.Rf5+ Ke6 14.Nd5 Qc1+ 15.Kg2 Qxb2+ 16.Kg3 Qa3+ 17.Kxg4 Qxa7 18.Nf4++) 12.Nd5+ Kf7 13.Rc7+ Ke6 14.Re7+ Kd6 15.Rf7 Nh2+ 16.Kg1 Qe1+ 17.Kxh2 Qh4+ 18.Kg1 Qe1+ 19.Rf1 Qg3+ 20.Bg2+; 4...Ka6 5.b4 Kb5 6.a6 Kxa6 (6...Ng4 7.Kg2 Qe5 8.Re7 Qh2+ 9.Kf3 Ne5+ 10.Rxe5 Qxe5 11.a7 Qh5+ 12.Ke3+) 7.a4 Nd7 8.Kf2+-] **5.a6 Qxa6** **6.Rh8+ Ka7 7.Ra8+ Kxa8 8.Nc7+ /b4 8...Ka7 9.Nxa6 Kxa6 10.Bg2!** [10.Kf2? Ka5 11.Ke2 Nc4 12.b3 Nd6!=] **10...Ka5 11.Bf1 Nd7 12.Be2!** [12.Kf2? Nb6! 13.Ke3 Na4!=] **12...Kb4** [12...Nb6 13.a3 Ka4 14.Bd1++-] **13.Bd1 Ne5** [13...Kc4 14.Kf2 /f1 14...Kd3 15.Ke1!=] **14.a3+ Kb5 15.Kg2!** [15.Kf1? Kc4 16.Ke2 Nd3 17.b3+ (17.Bb3+ Kd4=) 17...Kc3=] **15...Kc4** reziproker Zugzwang **16.Kf1 Nd3** [16...Kd3 17.Ke1!+-] **17.Be2+**

The Bg2-f1-e2-d1 manoeuvre is another surprising discovery in an endgame with bishop and two pawns against knight. I am not convinced that the introduction justifies the dual 8.Nc7+/8.Nb4+, but the 6-piece endgame alone is enough for a distinction.

(5) Andrzej Jasik (Poland)

1.f8Q Rc3 2.Qf5 Rc8+ 3.Qxc8+ Nxc8 4.d7 Nd6+ 5.Ke7 Nc8+ [5...Nc4 6.Re6 Rc7 7.Ke8 Rxd7 8.Kxd7+-] 6.Ke6 Ra6+ 7.Kf7 [7.Kf5? Nd6+=] 7...Nd6+ [7...Ra7 8.Rxa5! Nd6+ 9.Ke7 Nb7 10.Rb5! zz 10...Rxa2 11.Rxb7+-] **8.Ke7 Nb7 9.Rb5! Ra7 10.a4! zz [10.a3? a4! zz 11.Rb6 Nc5=] **10...Ra6 11.Rxb7! Kxb7 12.d8Q+****

After careful manoeuvring, White ends up on the right side of a mutual zugzwang position.

(21) Amatzia Avni (Israel)

1.Rg7+ [1.Bxc6? Bxd7=; 1.Rd5+?? Kh4+-] 1...Rg6!! [1...Kf6? 2.Rg6+] **2.Rxg6+ [2.hxg6? Bxf3=]** **2...Kxh5 3.Be4** [3.Rxg4?= stalemate] **3...f3** the move contains a concrete threat: 4...Bf5! **4.Bb1!!** a remarkable winning move [4.Rf6 Kg5 tempo 5.Rf8 h5 6.Kb2 h4 7.Kc3 h3=; 4.Rg8 Kh4= as the h-pawn is no longer under attack] **4...Bh3** [4...Bf5 5.Rf6 Bxb1 6.Kxb1 the point: the WB is defended by WK. In the resulting position the King arrives in time to eliminate the black pawns] **5.Rf6 Kg4 6.Kb2!** precise after the text white wins, e.g. [6.Bf5+? Kg5; 6.Be4? Bg2 7.Rxh6 (or 7.Kb2 h5 8.Kc3 h4 9.Kd2 h3=) 7...Bf1! 8.Rf6 Be2=] **6...Bg2 7.Kc3 Kg3 8.Kd2 Kf2 9.Rxh6 Kg1 10.Be4 f2 11.Bxg2 Kxg2 12.Rg6+ Kf3 13.Rf6+ Kg2 14.Ke2+-**

This study gets a distinction for the remarkable move 4.Bb1!!, apparently moving away from the action.

Norway April 7, 2020

Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoë
Judge