

Israel Ring Tourney: Studies 2018

Judge: Peter Gyarmati, Budapest, February 2019

A special thanks to the editors of *Variantim*, for appointing me judge of such an important event, and also to all participants of this tournament.

Most of the 21 studies were inspired pieces. In many cases, the authors undertook a big task showing interesting motifs. I think minor shortcomings can be forgiven: in some studies the harmony of parts of the work was not perfect. I preferred the large-scale works, the original, and the clean, classical-style studies.

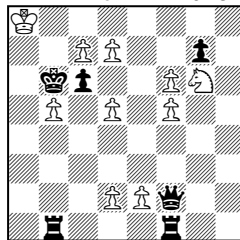
1st Prize: Var. 3074 – Vladislav Tarasiuk & Mario G. Garcia

The introductory play is sharp, with an effective key move. Black is forced to sacrifice the Queen to eliminate the threats of white. After the simplification, the white knights and passed pawns fight with the black rooks. White must avoid many traps. The study is exciting and fun throughout. The end of the study cannot be suspected from the initial position. I like that all variations are food for thought, yet their solution is not too difficult.

1.c8=♖ (1.d8=♖ ♖xb5 2.♖b8+ ♖c4 3.♖e5+ ♖xd5 4.♖g8+ ♖xe5 5.♖e6+ ♖f4) 1...♖c7 (1...♖c5 2.d8=♖ gxf6 3.♖b6+ ♖b4 4.d6) 2.d8=♖+ ♖xd8 3.fxg7 ♖xe2 4.g8=♖+ ♖e8 5.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 6.dxc6 (6.bxc6 ♖d8 7.d6 ♖xf5 8.c7+ ♖d7) 6...♖xf5 7.b6 (7.♖d6+ ♖d8 8.♖xf5 ♖c7 9.b6+ ♖xb6 10.♖a7 ♖xc6) 7...♖d5 8.c7 (Try: 8.b7 ♖xd2 9.c7 ♖xb7 10.♖d6+ ♖xd6 11.♖xb7 ♖d7) 8...♖xd2 9.♖e5 (9.b7 ♖xb7 see Try) 9...♖d8 (main 9...♖c2 10.♖d6+ ♖e7 11.♖f5+ ♖e8 12.♖d4 ♖c5 13.♖dc6 (13.♖ec6 ♖d7 14.♖b7 ♖xb6+ 15.♖xb6 ♖c1 16.♖b7 ♖b1+)) 10.b7 ♖a1+ 11.♖b8 ♖c1 12.♖g4 (12.♖f7 ♖xc7 13.♖xc7 ♖d7+) 12...♖f1 13.♖f6+ (Try: 13.♖a7 ♖a1+ 14.♖b6 ♖b1+ 15.♖a5 ♖d5+ e.g. 16.♖a4 ♖d4+ 17.♖a3 ♖db4 18.♖d6+ ♖e7 19.c8=♖ R1b3+ 20.♖a2 ♖b2+ 21.♖a3 R2b3+) 13...♖xf6 14.♖a7 (14.cxd8=♖+ ♖xd8 15.♖a7 ♖f7) 14...♖f7 15.♖d6+ wins 1-0

**V.Tarasiuk
M.Garcia**

1st Prize IRT 2018



Win

10+6

2nd Prize: Var. 3075 – Amatzia Avni

The introductory play is very good. The critical position is in the 4th move. There are two ways here: the main line and the logical try. The black knight closes the line of the white bishop on d5 and e4. Discovering the difference is an experience. Both lines need to be appreciated by strategic principles instead of analyzing concrete moves. Classic style, strategic work.

1.♔g5+! ♚e4 2.♔g4+ ♚d5 3.♔g5+ ♚xg5 (3...♚xd6 4.♔g6+ ♚e7 5.♔h4+ ♚f8 6.♔f6+ ♚g7 7.h6+ ♚h8 8.♔f8+ ♚h7 9.♔f5+ ♚xh6 10.♔h8+ ♚g7 11.♔h7+ ♚g8 12.♔h8+ ♚xh8 13.♔f6+ ♚g8 14.♚c2 draws as white achieves a fortress) 4.♔g2+ (logical try: 4.♚b2 c3+ 5.♔xc3 ♚a4+ 6.♚xa2 ♔xc3+ 7.♚b3 ♚e4! black wins: 8.♔g2 ♚d4 9.d7 ♔c5+ 10.♚a3 b6 11.♔h3 ♔b7 12.♔g2 ♔d8 13.♚b4 ♚e5 14.♚c4 ♔f7 15.♔h3 ♚d6 16.♔d3 ♚e5+ 17.♚e4 ♔xd7) 4...♚xd6 5.♚b2 c3+ 6.♔xc3 ♚a4+ 7.♚xa2 ♔xc3+ 8.♚b3 ♔d5 in comparison with the try, the knight-block must now be on d5 instead of e4, and this makes a difference **9.b6** positional draw. black is unable to improve his position, e.g. 9...♔d8 10.h6 ♔xb6 11.h7 ♔d4 12.♚c4 draw

3rd Prize: Var. 3072 – Lubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka

Beautiful, classical positional draw. White is in material disadvantage. He fights in several ways: attacks the black pieces, creates stalemate traps, and threatens mate. There is mutual zugzwang in the main line and in the try. The stalemate pictures are well-known, nevertheless this is an excellent study.

1.♙e1+ c1=♖ 2.♜xc1+ ♜xc1 3.♜xg3 ♜e4+ 4.♖c2 [thematic try:
4.♖xc1 ♜xg3 zz 5.♜d3 ♜e2+ 6.♖c2 ♙a8] 4...♜xg3 5.♖xc1 zz 5...♜f1
[5...♖a2 6.♜d2+ ♖a1 (6...♖b3 7.♜d3+) 7.♜d7] 6.♜d1 [6.♜d3 ♖a2 7.♜f3
♙b8] 6...♙f8 [6...♜e3 7.♜d8 ♜xd8 stalemate] 7.♜d7 switchback [7.♜d3
♖a2] 7...♙c8 8.♜d1 switchback 8...♜g3 9.♜d7 switchback 9...♜e2+
10.♖c2 ♖a2 11.♜d8 ♜xd8 model stalemate. Meredith. Reciprocal
zugzwangs. Stalemates. Switchbacks.

1st Honourable Mention: Var. 3164, Martin Minski

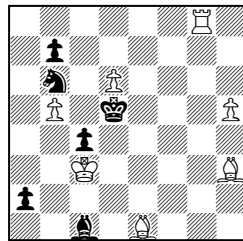
Black guides the play first, trying to reach a stalemate position. The culmination of the study is when white avoids the stalemate with an effective queen sacrifice. I've seen the same motifs before, also from the author. This study is a good balance between material and content.

1.♔f5+ ♚a1 2.f7 ♜h8+ play for stalemate [2...♞e3 3.♞f1+] 3.♜xh8 ♜h4+
4.♜g8 ♜h8+ 5.♜xh8 ♞c3+ 6.♞e5!! [6.g7 ♞xg7+ 7.♜xg7 model
stalemate] 6...♞xe5+ 7.g7 ♞xf5 8.g8=♞ ♞h3+ 9.♞h7 ♞c8+ 10.♜g7
♞g4+ 11.♞g6 wins

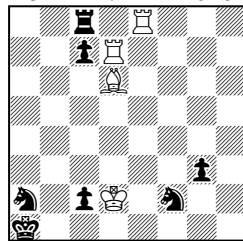
2nd Honourable Mention: Var. 3167 Pavel Arestov & Alexander Zhukov

This work is based on a glamorous queen sacrifice, which black must accept. White creates the mate threat immediately afterwards and wins material. The sidelines are also interesting, but 2.Qh6 + is very complicated.

1.♙e4+ [1.♟e4 ♖a4+ 2.♖b7 ♗b5+ 3.♜xc7 ♗a5+ 4.♜c6 ♗a6+ 5.♜c5 ♗a5+ 6.♜c4 ♜xe3+ 7.♜xd4 ♜xg4] 1...♜d6 2.♙xd4+ [2.♗h6+ ♜xh6 3.♙xd4+ ♜e7 4.♙xd7+ ♜xd7 5.♖b5 ♜d6 draw] 2...♜xd4 3.♟e4+ ♜c6 [3...♜e7 4.exd4 ♗xd4 5.♖b5] 4.exd4 ♗e6 5.♗h6!! [5.♗a7 ♗a2+ 6.♖b8 ♗b3+ 7.♜c8 ♗e6+] 5...♗xh6 6.♜hf6 ♗xf6 [6...♗c1 7.d5#] 7.♜xf6 ♜d6 8.♖b7 c5 9.♟e4+ ♜d5 10.dxc5 f5 11.c6 fxe4 12.c7 e3 13.c8=♗ wins

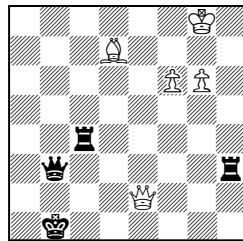
Amatzia Avni2nd Prize IRT 2018Draw $7+6$

Ľuboš Kekely
Michal Hlinka

3rd Prize IRT 2018

Draw 4+7

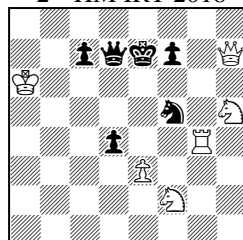
Martin Minski

1st HM IRT 2018

Win 5+4

Pavel Arestov

Alexander Zhukov

2nd HM IRT 2018

Win 6+6

3rd Honourable Mention: Var. 3170, Peter Krug

The culmination of the work is the difference between the main line and the try (6.Rg7! and 6.Rh8?). The key to the choice is that, after Rg7 the rook attacks black pawns on 7th rank. The proving variations are not simple.

1.♙d8+ ♖g7 [1...♗e7 2.♗g5+ f6 3.♗d5 ♙d6 4.♙h8 ♗c4 5.♙xh7+ ♖f8 6.♗a8#] 2.h6+ ♖xh6 3.♙g8 ♙e7 4.♗g5+ ♙xg5 5.fxg5+ ♖h5 6.♙g7!! [6.♙h8? ♗xg3+ 7.♗xg3 ♗e4+ 8.♖f4 ♗f6 9.gxf6 h6 10.♙a8 a3 11.♙a4 c5 12.♙a7 c4 13.♗e3 ♖xh4 14.♙xf7 b3 15.♙c7 b2 16.♙xc4+ ♖h5 17.f7 b1=♗ 18.♙c5+ ♖g4 19.f8=♗ ♗e1+ 20.♗d3 ♗d1+] 6...♗xg3+ 7.♗xg3 ♗e4+ 8.♖f4 ♗f6 9.♙xf7 [9.gxf6 h6 10.♙xf7 b3 11.♙e7 b2 12.♙e1 a3 13.f7 a2 14.f8=♗ b1=♗ 15.♗e7 ♗f5+ 16.♗e3 ♗a5 17.♙a1 ♗c3+ 18.♖f4 g5+ 19.♖f5 ♗f3+] 9...♗d5+ 10.♗g3 wins

4th Honourable Mention: Var. 3076 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

A fine opposite-colored bishops endgame. The key position is very artistic. 3.d4 is wrong instead of 3.a6 due the surprising 3.b5!! and one black pawn will promote with check on c1 or on g1. Unfortunately the 2.Kxh5 logical try is not clear, because 5..Bc2 is also a draw.

1.♔g6! [1.♔g7 f4 2.gxf4 h4 3.d4 (3.f5 ♖xf5 4.h7 ♖xh7 5.♔xh7 ♕e2 and Black will be in time to conquer both d2 and c3.) 3...h3 4.f5 h2 5.h7 h1=♖ 6.h8=♖ ♖xh8+ 7.♔xh8 ♖xf5 =] **1...f4+** [1...♔g4 The king moves too far away from pawn d2. 2.♔g7! f4 3.gxf4 h4 4.f5 h3 5.f5 ♖xf5 6.h7] **2.♔g5!** [Logical try: 2.♔xh5 fxf3 3.a6 bxa6 4.d4 cxd3 5.h7 d2 (also 5...♖c2 6.h8=♖ d2 7.♖a8+ ♖e4 8.♖d8 ♕e2 9.♖d4 d1=♖ 10.♖xe4+ ♕d2+ 11.♔h4 ♖xc3) 6.h8=♖ d1=♖] **2...fxg3** [2...♔xg3 3.♖b8] **3.a6!** [3.d4 b5!! echo line closing 4.axb6 (4.d5 b4 5.d6 bxc3 6.d7 c2 7.d8=♖ c1=♖+ and Black promotes with check and even wins.) 4...g2 5.b7 g1=♖+ and Black again promotes with check, winning] **3...bxa6 4.d4 cxd3** [4...♕e4 5.h7 g2 6.d5 wins] **5.h7 d2 6.h8=♖ d1=♖ 7.♖xh5+ ♔g2 8.♖xd1** wins

1st Commendation: Var. 3071 Pavel Arestov

The theme is mate with self-block. The two minor promotions are great. I feel that the real black counterplay is only 3.Qc8.

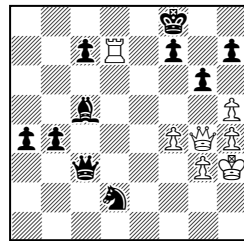
1.f7! ♖h8 2.♙f6+ ♘d5 [2...♙c5 3.♙xh8 ♖c8 4.♙e5] 3.♙xh8 ♖c8 4.♙b6 ♙xh8 5.♙a2+ [5.♙a4 ♘d6 6.♙c5 ♙b2+] 5...♙d6 6.♙c4+ [♙d7 6...♙e7 7.♙e5 ♙xe5 8.c8=♙] 7.♙e5+ ♙xe5 [7...♙d6 8.♙b7] 8.f8=♙+ ♙d6 [8...♙e7 9.♙g6+ or 8...♙c8 9.♙e6+] 9.c8=♙#

2nd Commendation: Var. 3117 Michal Hlinka & Mario Garcia

A lovely draw study with two main lines. The practical-like play is fine. White avoids several traps.

1.♔a7+ [1.♖b1 e2 2.♔a7+ ♔a4] 1...♔a4 [1...♖b3 2.♖b1 d1=♖ 3.♔xd1]
2.♔xa4+ ♔xa4 [main 1: 2...♔xa4 3.♖xb2 e2 4.♔xd2 (4.♖c2 e1=♖ 5.♔d6
♖e3 6.♔xd2 ♖b3+ 7.♖c1 ♖a3 8.♔c2 ♖e3+ 9.♔d2 ♖b3 10.♖d1 ♖f3+)
4...e1=♖ 5.♔d4+ ♖b5 6.♔d6+ ♖c5 7.♔d3 ♖e2+ 8.♖c3] 3.♔d6 e2 [main 2:
3...♔b2 4.♖b1 (4.♔b5+ ♖b3 5.♔d4+ ♖c3 6.♔e2+ ♖c2 7.♖b1 d1=♖ 8.♔xd1
♔xd1 9.♔d4+ ♖d3) 4...e2 5.♔b5+ ♖b4 6.♔d4 d1=♖ 7.♔xe2 ♖xe2 (7...♔d3
8.♔xb2+ ♖c4 9.♔c1) 8.♔xb2+] 4.♖b1 ♔c3 5.♔c4+ ♖a4 6.♔b6+ ♖a5
7.♔c4+ ♖a6 8.♔xd2 ♔xb1 9.♔f3 ♔d2 10.♔e1 ♖b5 11.♖b2! [11.♖a2
♖c4 12.♖b2 ♔d4 13.♖c2 ♔f1 14.♔g2 ♖e4] 11...♖c4 12.♖c2 ♔f1 13.♔f3
♔d5 14.♔d3 draw

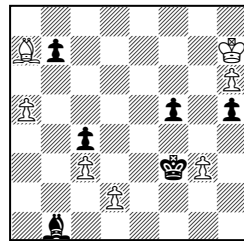
Peter Krug

3rd HM IRT 2018

Win

7+9

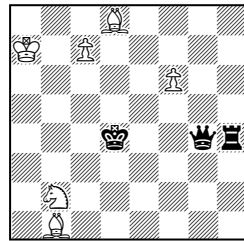
Steffen S. Nielsen

4th HM IRT 2018

Win

 $7+5$

Pavel Arestov

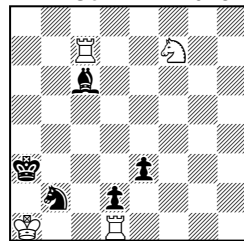
1st Com IRT 2018

Win

6+3

Michal Hlinka

Mario Garcia

2nd Com IRT 2018

Draw

4+5

3rd Commendation: Var. 3118 Bizya Buyannemekh & Mario Garcia

The theme is ideal mate with two self-blocks. An active game develops around the passed pawns. All figures are active. Finally, white forces the king and the knight to a wrong place. Here the bishop has two nice moves. Unfortunately a partial anticipation is V.Bron, 3rd prize, New Statesman, 1968.

1. ♖e7+ ♜e6 [1... ♜xe5 2.c7 ♜xf6 3. ♖c6+ (3.c8=♚ ♜xa6+ 4. ♜xa6 ♖xe7 positional draw) 3... ♖d6 4.c8=♚] 2.c7 ♜c5 3. ♖c6 ♖a5+ 4. ♜xc5 [4. ♖xa5 ♜xc7 5. ♜xc7 ♜xe5 6.f7 ♜f6 7. ♖c4 e3 8. ♖d7 e2] 4... ♖xc7 5. ♖c8+! ♜f7 6.e6+ ♜xf6 7.e7 ♜f7 8. ♖e6+ ♜e8 9. ♖f5 ♖f6 [9... ♖f8 10. ♖d5 ♜f7 (10...e3 11. ♖g4 ♖d7 12. ♖h5#) 11. ♖g4 ♖g6 12. ♖h5 or 9... ♖g5 10. ♖g6+ ♖f7 11. ♖d5 e3 12. ♜e6 e2 13. ♖xf7#] 10. ♖g6+ ♜d7 11.e8=♚+ ♖xe8 12. ♖f5# ideal mate with 2 self-blocks

4th Commendation: Var. 3119 Daniele Gatti

Positional draw or stalemate with a good try.

1. ♜g6 ♖f8+ 2. ♜h8 ♜d7 [2... ♜xg6 stalemate 3. ♜f7+ [3. ♜xc2 ♖d6 4. ♜g7 e4 5.h8=♚ ♖e5+] 3... ♖e7 4. ♜g7 [4. ♜g8 f3 5.h8=♚ f2 6. ♜g7 f1=♚ 7.h7 Qxf7+ 8. ♜xf7 ♜g4+ 9. ♜h8 ♜f4 10. ♜g8 ♜g5+ 11. ♜h8 ♖b4 removes the stalemate and wins] 4... ♖e3 5.h8=♚ ♖f5+ 6. ♜g8 ♖xh6+ 7. ♜xh6 ♜xh6 8. ♜xe7+ ♜c6 9. ♜xe5 ♜g6+ 10. ♜h8 positional draw

5th Commendation: Var. 3165 Marcel Dore

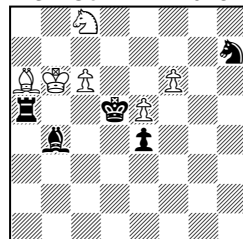
Nice knight endgame with simple motifs. The tries are also interesting.

1. ♖a6! [thematic try: 1. ♖c6 b3 2. ♖a5 b2 3. ♖c4 b1=♖] 1...b3 2. ♖c5+ ♜xe5 3. ♖xb3 ♜d5 4. ♖d2 [4. ♖a5 e5 5. ♖b7 e4 6. ♖d8 ♜c4 7. ♖e6 ♖h5 8. ♖d8 ♖f6 9. ♖f4 e3] 4...e5 5. ♖f3 e4 6. ♖g5 e3 7. ♖e6 ♖h5 8. ♖f4+ wins

Bizya Buyannemekh

Mario Garcia

3rd Com IRT 2018

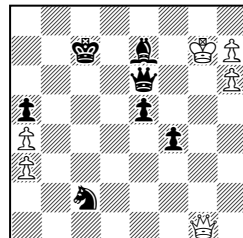


Win

6+5

Daniele Gatti

4th Com IRT 2018

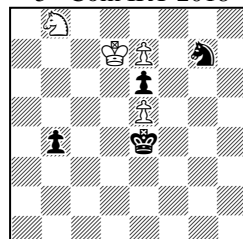


Draw

6+7

Marcel Dore

5th Com IRT 2018



Win

4+4