

## **Israel Ring Tourney: Studies 2019**

### **Judge: Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen, Denmark, February 2020**

I want to thank Gady Costeff for asking me to judge one of the best informal tournaments around as well as for his assistance with correction and anticipation checking. I feel the level of the tournament was average with a fair number of interesting ideas.

I want to begin by making some comments about unfortunate trends I've spotted in the studies in this tournament as well as in other recent tourneys. The first trend concerns studies ending in mate or stalemate. It seems some composers desperately search for a way to round off their products by a mating or stalemating finale. If the basic play is without surprises or artistic merits, nothing is changed by the sudden appearance of a mate. Especially if several superfluous pawns are spread around the board in the wake of the battle.

Good economy and precise play cannot save a study either. Without clear, artistic ideas and some quantity of surprise, studies are not distinguishable from regular endgames played every day by top players.

Below are some remarks about the studies not featured in the award.

Var. 3215 - The theme of double pin stalemate has been thoroughly explored. The author mentions a "synthesis of three stalemates", but the stalemates are in reality identical with the same pinned pieces on the same squares. Only the way b8 is covered is new in one of the stalemates. In the introduction, the idea of 4.e8N+ preparing for 5.Nd8+ is pleasing.

Var. 3216 - The sacrifices of two pawns to open the second rank for the rook is not new, and though the introduction is fine, I see nothing to merit a distinction.

Var. 3258 - The shock move 4...e3 deserves a more natural setting and better play following it. Perhaps a White counter stroke somehow?

Var. 3255 - A game like position and some precise play ending with a skewer. But where is the artistic idea behind this work?

Var. 3256 - A malyutka with five pieces. The recent malyutka tournament in Azerbaijan, Jirtdan 2018, showed that spectacular stuff can still be discovered with this material. But most often things tend to become highly technical. Here as well. Where is the surprise? One may say that it is surprising that White has only this narrow path to victory, but such precision is not a study.

Var. 3259 - One long promotion combination, but with too many captures along the way.

Var. 3261 - Despite being a rook up, White must fight for at draw. From the second move it is clear that he tries to achieve this by stalemate. When Black avoids this, White is saved in an uneventful pawn ending.

Var. 3319 - Black has all 8 pawns and we are reminded of those coffee house odds games where the weaker side is allowed to begin the game with eight extra pawns. The play has little interest, the exchanges on f2 and g2 are unfortunate and when the stalemate comes, there is still plenty of dead, black wood on the board.

Var. 3320 - Precise, uneventful play and a stalemate is insufficient content in a study.

Var. 3322 - I don't understand what this study is about? The study features four consecutive captures. Normally composers would jump through hoops to avoid a single exchange, but here there are two consecutive exchanges for no apparent reason.

On to the awarded prizes. The game annotations are by the composers.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Var. 3254 Amatzia Avni

Is one move enough to win a tournament? Sure it is, if the move is shocking enough. Here 6.f4!! introduces a new theme. A queen which is already under threat is threatened once again, seemingly allowing it to flea capture all together. So why is that escape not possible after all? Because the second threat to the queen simultaneously sets up a stalemate threat. I think this study more than anything shows that there are plenty of new themes to explore out there. The introduction is good, play is sharp and pointed. This study is for the books

Dedicated to Netanya Chess Festival

**1. ♖g5+!** (1... ♖d5+ ♜f5 2. ♖e3+ ♖xe3 3. ♖xe3 g1=Q 4. h4 ♖g4 5. ♖g5 ♖xg5! 6. hxg5 h4 7. ♜f7 h3 8. ♖xg6 ♖xg5! 9. ♖e5 ♜f4! -+) **1... ♖xg5** (1... ♖e5 2. Nxcg6+ ♖d6 3. h3 g1=Q 4. hxg4 =) **2. ♖h7+ ♖h6** (2... ♖f4 3. ♖xg6+ ♖e4 4. ♖g5+ =) (2... ♖h4 3. ♖xg6+ =) **3. h4!! g1=♜** **4. ♖g5** (4. ♖h8 ♖a1+) **4... ♖f6+** (4... ♖e5 5. ♖h8) (4... ♖xf2 5. ♖f7+ ♖xf7+ 6. ♖xf7 =) **5. ♖h8 ♖xg5 6. f4!!** (6. hxg5+ ♖xg5 7. f4+ ♖g4 8. ♖xg6 ♖d5 -+) **6... ♖d5** the same rejoinder will come after other queen moves. **7. ♖f5+** and stalemate.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Var. 3213 Pavel Arestov & Daniel Keith

A fine study for solving with Black counter-play 3... Ng8 and 4... d2+ for stalemate. The highlight is 5. Kc2 predicting the knight promotion and Black's potentially saving check on a5.

**1. ♖h8+ ♖d8** 1... ♖b7 2. ♖b8+ ♖c6 3. ♖xb6+ ♖xc5 4. ♖g1 **2. g7 ♖f6 3. c6!** 3. ♖f8 ♖e7 4. ♖xf6 ♖xg7 **3... ♖g8!** 3... ♖e7 4. c7 ♖xc7+ 5. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 6. ♖f8 **4. ♖xg8** 4. c7? ♖g5 5. ♖xg8+ ♖e8+ **4... d2+!** **5. ♖c2!** 5. ♖xd2 ♖e8 6. ♖f8 ♖xf8 7. gxf8=♖ ♖c7 8. ♖g1 ♖a5+ 9. ♖d3 ♖c7= **5... d1=♜+** **6. ♖xd1 ♖e8!** **7. ♖f8!** 7. ♖h8? ♖xh8 8. gxf8=♖ ♖c7 9. ♖g1 ♖a5! 10. ♖g6 ♖c7 **7... ♖xf8 8. gxf8=♖!** 8. gxf8=♜ stalemate or 8. gxf8=♖ ♖e7! 9. ♖d6 ♖xf8 10. ♖xf8 ♖c7= **8... ♖c7 9. ♖g1 ♖a5 10. ♖e6!** wins

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Var. 3217 Pavel Arestov

A natural position leads to fascinating play. With 3... Qg7+ Black tries to build a bridge for his king to h8. But White does not cooperate. Instead, winning the queen can be postponed. Even the final trip to stop the b-pawn has a nice detour via e4. A good study for solving.

**1. ♖c8+ ♜f7 2. ♖c7+!** 2. ♖xg8 ♖xg8 3. ♖d4 ♖h7 **2... ♜f8** 2... ♖e8 3. h7 ♖h8+ 4. ♖e4 ♖f8 5. ♖d3 b4 6. ♖c2+- **3. h7 ♖g7+** 3... ♖h8+ 4. ♖d5 b4 5. ♖e4 **4. ♖e6!!** 4. ♖xg7 ♖xg7= **4... ♖h8** 4... ♖xc7 5. h8=♜# or 4... ♖h6 5. ♖f6 ♖h1 6. ♖c8# **5. ♖d5 b4 6. ♖e4** 6. ♖c4 ♖c3+ 7. ♖b5 ♖e5+ 8. ♖a4 ♖xc7 9. h8=♜+ ♖e7 10. ♖g7+ ♖d6= **6... b3 7. ♖d3 b2 8. ♖c2 b1=♜+** **9. ♖xb1 ♖d4** 9... ♖e8 10. ♖c8+ **10. ♖c8+ ♜f7 11. h8=♜** wins

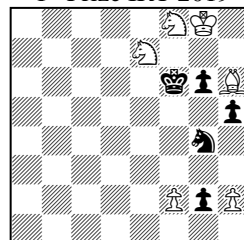
### 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 3324 E. Egorov & P. Kiryakov

This ambitious study was very hard to evaluate for me. At move 3 or 5, White has to make a waiting move with his king. The choice is between Kg7, Kh7 and Kh8. After the first two moves Black has a disturbing check on either g1 or b1 much later. At the moment of foresightful move Kg8-h8 it is not at all obvious that king safety is more important than king activity, and this makes the move very surprising and attractive. The rest of the play I find less interesting. In the position with Q and R vs Q and P there are numerous alternatives that are very difficult to evaluate without computer assistance.

**1. ♖b1 d4 2. cxd4 c3 3. ♖f1!** 3. ♖h7? ♖d5 4. ♖f1 c2 5. ♖c1 ♖c4 6. ♖xc2+ ♖d3 7. ♖c1 ♖xe3 8. d5 ♖d2 9. ♖h1 e3 10. d6 e2 11. d7 e1=Q Black will have ♖b1+ 12. d8=Q+ ♖e2 13. ♖e7+ ♖d2 14. ♖d6+ ♖e2 15. ♖e5+ ♖d2 16. ♖d4+ ♖e2! 17. ♖h2 ♖b1+! 18. ♖h6 ♖f5 = **3. ♖g7?** ♖d5 4. ♖f1 c2 5. ♖c1

### Amatzia Avni

1<sup>st</sup> Prize IRT 2019

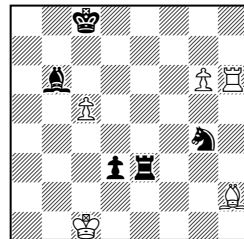


Draw 6+5

### Pavel Arestov

Daniel Keith

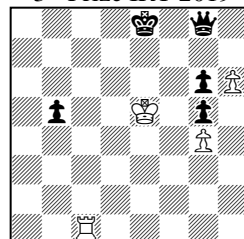
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize IRT 2019



Win 5+5

### Pavel Arestov

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize IRT 2019

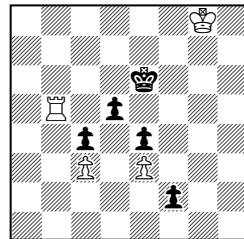


Win 4+5

### E. Egorov

Pyotr Kiryakov

1<sup>st</sup> HM IRT 2019



Win 4+5

♖c4 6.♙xc2+ ♕d3 7.♙c1 ♖xe3 8.d5 ♕d2 9.♙h1 e3 10.d6 e2 11.d7 e1=Q = 3.♙c1? ♕d5 4.♙f1 c2 or 3.♖h8 c2 4.♙c1 ( 4.♙f1 ♕d6 5.♙c1 ♕d5! see 4.♙c1 ) 4...♕d5! **3...c2 4.♙c1!** 4.♖h8? ♕d6! 5.♙c1 ♕d5! Mutual zugzwang with white to play! **4...♕d5** Black is forced to play ♕d5, if 4...♕d6 then at least 5.♖f7 with easy win - white king goes to e4 pawn **5.♖h8!!** Mutual ZZ is in White's favor now! **5...♖c4** 5...♖e6 the white king goes to Pe4, for example 6.♖g7 ♕d5 7.♖f6 ♖c4 8.♙xc2+ ♕d3 9.♙xf2 **6.♙xc2+ ♕d3 7.♙c1!** 7.♙xf2 ♖xe3 = **7...♖xe3 8.d5 ♕d2 9.♙h1!** Try 9.♙a1 e3 10.d6 e2 11.d7 e1=Q 12.d8=Q+ ♖e2 13.♖e8+ ( 13.♙a2+ ♖f1! ) 13...♖f1 14.♖e5 ♖xa1! ) **9...e3 10.d6 e2 11.d7 e1=Q 11...f1=Q 12.d8=Q+** with a quick win, for example 12...♖c2 13.♖c7+ ♕d3 14.♕d6+ ♖e3 15.♖e5+ ♖f3 16.♖f5+ **12.d8=Q+ ♖e2 13.♖e7+ ♕d2 14.♕d6+ ♖e2 15.♖e5+ ♕d2 16.♕d4+ ♖c2 16...♖e2 17.♙h3 17.♙h2!** wins.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 3323 Branislav Djurasevic

This study features a fascinating situation where Black's Nh1 is able to sit unharmed covering g3. White's bishop has to play especially one star move 3 Bc8! to stay out of harms way and secure the win. In the other mainline another star move, 4.Bf3! occurs.

**1.♙h3!** 1.h6? ♖xf1 2.h7 ♕d7! 3.h8=♖ g3+ 4.♖xh1 ♕c6# 1.♙g2? ♕xh5! 2.♖xh1 ♖f2! + **1...g3+!** 1...gxh3 2.h6! ♕g6 3.♖xh1 ♖f2 4.♖h2 ♕f5 5.h7 = 1...♕xh5 2.♙xg4! = 1...♖f2 2.h6! ♕g6 3.♙g2 = **2.♖g1!** 2.♖g2? ♕xh5! + Thematic try: 2.♖xh1? ♖f2! 3.♙g2 ♕xh5! 4.♕d5 ♕f3+ 5.♙xf3 ♖xf3 + Position A. Mutual zz, WTM. **2...♕f2!**

Main line B: 2...♕xh5 3.♙g2! ♕f2 4.♙f3!! ( 4.♕c6? ♕g6! 5.♖g2 ♕e4+ 6.♖g1 ♕h3# ( 6...♙xc6? = ) ) 4...♕g6 ( 4...♙xf3 = stalemate ) 5.♖g2! ♕h1 6.♖g1! ♕f2 7.♖g2 ♕e4 8.♖xg3! **3.♙c8!!** 3.♙f5? ♕xh5! 4.♖g2 ♕h1! 5.♕e4 ♖e2 6.♖g1 ♕f2! + 3.♕e6? ♕d3! 4.♙g2 ♕f4+ + 3.♙g2? ♖e2 4.♙b7 ♖e3! 5.♖g2 ♖f4! + **3...♕xh5** 3...♕c6 4.♙f5! ( 4.h6? ♕e4! + ) 4...♕d1 5.h6! ♕c3 6.♙g4 = **4.♖g2!** 4.♙b7? ♕g6! 5.♙f3 ( 5.♖g2 ♕e4+ + ) 5...♕e4! 6.♖g2 ♙xf3+ + **4...♕h1 5.♙b7!** ( 5.♖g1? ♕g6! ( 5...♙f3? 6.♙b7! ♕xb7 = ) 6.♙b7 ♕f2 + ) **5...♖e2 6.♖g1! ♕f2 7.♖g2! ♕h1 8.♖g1 ♕f3 9.♙xf3+! ♙xf3 10.♖xh1** draw. Position A. Mutual zz, BTM

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 3214 D. Gurgennidze & M. Minski

The final part beginning with 5.h7 shows smooth, attractive play leading to mate, but the introduction leaves rather a messy impression, with difficult sidelines (though the idea of sacrificing on d6 is good).

**1.♕c4 ♕c7** 1...♕d4 2.♙b4 ♙xa7 3.♕d6 ♕c5 4.♖g4 ♕d5+ 5.♖xd5 ♕xd6 6.♖e6 ♕c5 7.♖g8# **2.♕d6 ♕xd6** 2...♕d8 3.♕b5 **3.♖g4 ♕d5+!** 4.♖xd5 ♙xa7 **5.h7** 5.♖g8+ ♖xf7 6.♖g7+ ♖f6 7.♙xa7 ♕f8 8.h7 ♕g7 **5...♕e5!** 5...♙a5+ 6.♖e6 ♕e5+ 7.♖f6 ♙h5 8.♖g8# **6.♖xe5** 6.♖g8+ ♖xf7 7.♖xe5 ♙a5+ 8.♖e4 ♙a4+ **6...♕f3+ 7.♖e4!** ( 7.♕d6 ♙a6+ 8.♖c7 ♙h6 ) ( 7.♕d5 ♙a5+ 8.♖e6 ♙a6+ ) **7...♖e7+ 8.♖d3!** 8.♕d5 ♕e5+ 9.♕d6 ♙h5 **8...♕e5+ 9.♖d4!** 9.♖c3 ♖c7+ 10.♕d4 ♕xf7 or 9.♕d2 ♕d7+ 10.♖e2 ♕xf7 **9...♕xf7 9...♕xg4 10.h8=♖+ ♖xf7 11.♖h5+ 10.♖g8#**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Commendation: Var. 3260 M. Pasman & Y. Afek

If played in a game the move 3.g4 and the plan behind it would have been praised to the skies. The idea of hiding the king for this particular stalemate is not new, however. Still I think the castling and the general elegance of the play is enough to merit a commendation. The study

would be excellent calculation practise for strong players.

**1.O-O+!** ( 1.♖f2 ♙a3 2.♙a1 g4 + ) ( 1.♕d2 ♙a3 2.♙a1 ♙xg3 + ) **1...♖e7 2.♙a1 ♙a3 3.g4!** ♕d7 **4.♖h2!** ♖c6 **5.g3!** ♙a8 **6.♖g2** ( also 6.♖h3 ) **6...♖b5 7.c6 ♖c4 8.c7 ♖b3 9.♖e1! ♖c8 10.♖e3+ ♖b4 11.♖e4+ ♖b5 12.♖e1 ♖xc7 13.♙a1 ♙a7 14.♖h3 ♖c4 15.♙xa2! ♙xa2** Stalemate.

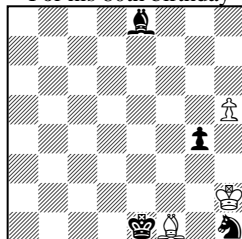
## Branislav Djurasevic

2<sup>nd</sup> HM IRT 2019

Dedicated to Fadil

Abdurahmanovic

For his 80th birthday



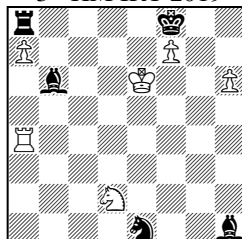
Draw

3+4

## David Gurgennidze

Martin Minski

3<sup>rd</sup> HM IRT 2019



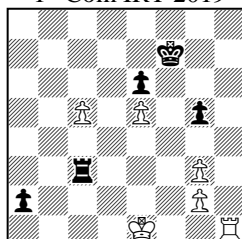
Win

6+5

## Michael Pasman

Yochanan Afek

1<sup>st</sup> Com IRT 2019



Draw

6+5

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation: Var. 3257 Daniele Gatti

An ambitious study of long foresight. The starting position is close to grotesque. On his second move White foresees a 15 moves long rambling rook sequence ending up with his king needing the b4 square. Therefore a rook sacrifice unblocking b4 is necessary before capturing on d7. The whole thing is rather forced however, and I think the position is simply too heavy to merit a higher ranking.

**1. ♖f8!** (1. ♖g8 ♖xg2 2. ♖f8 ♖xg6 3. ♜xb5 (3. ♖e1 ♖d8+ 4. ♖e7 ♖dg8 5. ♜c2 ♖b8 6. ♖xb5 (6. ♖b3 R6g7+ 7. ♖xd6 ♖d8+ 8. ♖c5 ♖c8+ 9. ♖xb5 ♖xc2)) 3... ♖h6 4. ♖xa2+ ♖b8) (1. ♜e5 dxe5 2. dxe5 ♖xg2 3. ♜xb5 ♖d8+ 4. ♖h7 ♖d7+ 5. ♖h6 ♖d8 6. ♖xa2+ ♖b8 7. ♖h7 ♖d7+ 8. ♖h8 ♖d8+) **1... ♖xg2**

**2. ♖a4+!!** (Thematic try: 2. ♜xd7? ♖g8+ 3. ♖h7 ♖g7+ 4. ♖h6 ♖g6+ 5. ♖h5 ♖g5+ 6. ♖h4 ♖g4+ 7. ♖h3 ♖g3+ 8. ♖h2 ♖g2+ 9. ♖h1 ♖h2+ 10. ♖g1 ♖g2+ 11. ♖f1 ♖f2+ 12. ♖e1 ♖e2+ 13. ♖d1 ♖d2+ 14. ♖c1 ♖d1+ 15. ♖c2 ♖d2+ 16. ♖c3 (16. ♖b3 ♖xb2+ 17. ♖c3 ♖c2+ 18. ♖d3 ♖c3+ 19. ♖e2 ♖e3+ 20. ♖f2 ♖f3+ 21. ♖g2 ♖g3+ 22. ♖h1 ♖h3+ 23. ♖g1 ♖g3+ 24. ♖f1 ♖f3+ 25. ♖e1 ♖e3+ 26. ♖d1 ♖d3+ 27. ♖c1 ♖c3+ 28. ♖b2 ♖c2+ 29. ♖b3 ♖b2+ 30. ♖c3 ♖c2+ 31. ♜xc2 Stalemate) 16... ♖d3+ 17. ♖xd3 Stalemate) (2. ♜e6 ♖e7 3. ♜c7+ ♖b8 4. ♖b3 ♖e4 5. ♖h3 ♖f4 6. ♜e6 ♖f6 7. ♖e1 a1=Q 8. ♖xa1 ♖xe6 9. ♖f1 ♖e8+ 10. ♖h7 ♖e7+ 11. ♖h6 ♖e6+ 12. ♖h5 ♖e8) **2... bxa4** **3. ♜xd7 ♖g8+ 4. ♖h7 ♖g7+ 5. ♖h6 ♖g6+ 6. ♖h5 ♖g5+ 7. ♖h4 ♖g4+ 8. ♖h3 ♖g3+ 9. ♖h2 ♖g2+ 10. ♖h1 ♖h2+ 11. ♖g1 ♖g2+ 12. ♖f1 ♖f2+ 13. ♖e1 ♖e2+ 14. ♖d1 ♖d2+ 15. ♖c1 ♖d1+ 16. ♖c2 ♖d2+ 17. ♖c3 ♖d3+ 18. ♖b4 ♖b3+ 19. ♖a5** (19. ♖xa4 ♖b4+ 20. ♖a5 ♖b5+ 21. ♜xb5 Stalemate) **19... ♖b5+ 20. ♜xb5** wins.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation: Var. 3325 Yochanan Afek & Janos Mikitovics

A technical study for a text book on practical endgames. The stalemate is well known. The sidelines are good and clean and help lift the study.

**1. d4+!** 1. ♖xc4+ \$2 ♖b5 **1... ♖d5** 1... ♖xd4 2. ♖xc4+ ♖d3 3. ♖xb4 = 1... ♖b5 2. bxc4+ ♖a4 3. ♖b2 b3 4. ♖c3 b2 5. ♖xb2 = 1... ♖b6 2. bxc4 ♖e6 3. ♖b3 = **2. bxc4+** 2. ♖xc4 \$2 ♖a7+ 3. ♖b2 ♖b7 4. ♖c5+ ♖e4 5. ♖e5+ ♖f4 → **2... ♖xd4** **3. ♖b3 ♖b7 4. ♖d1+** 4. c5 \$2 ♖e6+ → **4... ♖e3** 4... ♖d3 5. c5 \$1 ♖b5 6. c6 = 4... ♖e4 5. ♖d6 ♖h7 6. ♖a6 ♖d4 7. ♖a4 ♖g8 8. ♖xb4 = transposes to main line **5. ♖d6** 5. ♖d5 ♖d7 6. c5 ♖e6 pin → **5... ♖h7** 5... ♖e4 6. c5 = **6. ♖a6** 6. ♖d8 ♖g6 7. ♖d5 ♖f7 → 6. ♖d5 ♖g8 **6... ♖g8** 7. ♖a4 7. ♖a8 \$2 ♖e6 8. ♖a4 ♖d4 9. ♖xb4 ♖xc4+ 10. ♖a3 loss of time **7... ♖d4** **8. ♖xb4 ♖xc4+** **9. ♖a3 ♖a7+** **10. ♖a4** 10. ♖b2 ♖d3 11. ♖b8 ♖a2+ → **10... ♖f7** **11. ♖b4 ♖f3+** **12. ♖a4** (12. ♖b2 ♖h3 13. ♖b8 ♖h2+ 14. ♖a3 ♖a2+ 15. ♖b4 ♖b2+ → **12... ♖f2** **13. ♖a5 ♖c5** **14. ♖b5+** ♖xb5 stalemate.

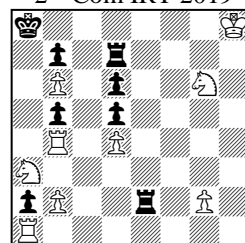
## 4<sup>th</sup> Commendation: Var. 3212 Amazia Avni & Martin Minski

The final part of this study: 7... Kxf2 8. Rf4# is highly artificial, when every chess player would prefer the fighting chance 7... Qg1 8. Qh3 Qg8. Also, the bishop on a8 is unnecessary in the mating picture.

**1. ♖b8!** 1. g8=♖ ♜xg8 2. ♖b8 ♖d1 **1... ♖d3** 1... ♖c1 2. ♖b2 ♖c6+ 3. ♖g1 ♖g6+ ♖h2 + 1... ♖d1 2. ♖g1 ♜e5 3. a8=♖ ♖e2+ (3... ♜f3+ 4. ♖g2 ♜xh4+ 5. ♖h3 ♖d3+ 6. ♖xh4 ♖h7+ 7. ♖g3 ♖xg7+ (7... ♜f5+ 8. ♖f4 ♖h4+ 9. ♖e5 ♖d4+ 10. ♖e6 ♜xg7+ 11. ♖f7) 8. ♖h2 ♖h6+ 9. ♖g1 ♖g6+ 10. ♖g2) 4. ♖h2 ♜f3+ 5. ♖xf3+ ♖xf3 6. ♖f8+ ♖e2 7. ♖e4+ ♖f1 8. ♖xe7 ♖d6+ (8... ♖f3 9. ♖e1+ (9. ♖xf3 stalemate)) 9. ♖h3 ♖h2+ 10. ♖g4! (10. ♖xh2 stalemate) **2. g8=♖** also g8=♖ **2... ♜xg8** **3. ♖e8+** ♜e7! play for stalemate **4. ♖xe7+** ♜e5! **5. ♖xe5+** ♖f1 **6. a8=♖!** 6. a8=♖ ♖f3+! 7. ♖xf3 stalemate or 6. ♖e1+ ♖xe1 7. a8=♖ ♖f1+ 8. ♖h2 ♖xf2+ 9. ♖h3 ♖e3+ 10. ♖g4 ♖d4+ 11. ♖h3 ♖e3+ perpetual check **6... ♖g6** **7. ♖h2 ♖xf2** 7... ♖g1+ 8. ♖h3 wins technically. **8. ♖f4#**

## Daniele Gatti

2<sup>nd</sup> Com IRT 2019

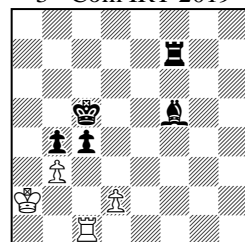


Win 9+9

## Yochanan Afek

Janos Mikitovics

3<sup>rd</sup> Com IRT 2019

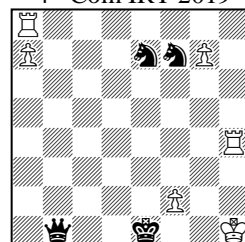


Draw 4+5

## Amazia Avni

Martin Minski

4<sup>th</sup> Com IRT 2019



Win 6+4

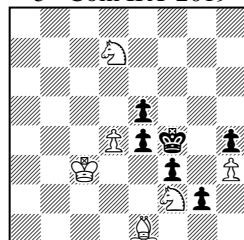
## 5<sup>th</sup> Commendation: Var. 3321 Vladislav Tarasiuk

In general, I am no fan of the battle between white minor pieces and an avalanche of black pawns. Even though the Black king is skillfully lured to his cage on h1 and despite the good logical try, I think this study has insufficient artistic content to merit more than a commendation.

**1. ♖d3+! exd3 2. ♙f2 exd4+ 3. ♜d2!!** Logical try-1: 3. ♜xd3? g1=Q 4. ♙xg1 ♜g3 5. ♖c5 ♜xh3! 6. ♖e4 ( no moves 6. ♖d3) 6... ♜g2 7. ♙f2 h3 = **3...g1=♜**  
**4. ♙xg1 ♜g3 5. ♖c5!** Try: 5. ♖e5? f2 6. ♙xf2+ ♜xf2 = **5...♜xh3!** ( 5...f2 6. ♖e4+ ♜xh3 7. ♙xf2 +- ) ( 5... ♜g2 6. ♙xd4 f2 7. ♙xf2 ♜xf2 8. ♖e4+ ♜g2 9. ♖g5 ♜g3 10. ♜xd3 ♜f4 Position arises from a study by L. Kubbel 11. ♖e4 ♜f3 12. ♜d4 ♜f4 13. ♜d5! ♜f5 14. ♖c3! ♜f4 15. ♖e2+ ♜f3 16. ♖g1+ ♜g2 17. ♜e4! ♜xg1 18. ♜f3 ♜h2 19. ♜g4 +- ) **6. ♖xd3 ♜g2 7. ♙f2!!** Logical try-2: 7. ♙xd4? f2! ( 7...h3? 8. ♖e1+ ♜h1 9. ♖xf3 h2 10. ♖e5! +- ) 8. ♙xf2 h3 9. ♜e2 h2 10. ♖f4+ ♜h1 11. ♜f1 stalemate **7...h3 8. ♜e1 h2 9. ♖f4+ ♜h1 10. ♜f1 d3 11. ♖h5!** 11. ♖xd3? stalemate ) **11...d2 12. ♖g3#**

Editor: We thank Steffen for his deeply considered and quick award. If no comments are received the award will become final in three months.

Vladislav Tarasiuk  
5<sup>th</sup> Com IRT 2019



Win

6+6

## To the rescue – Paz Einat

We often encounter problems from the pre-computer testing time, which were found to be incorrect. This can mean that they were either cooked, insoluble or had major duals. There are many attempts to correct such problems but often we do not see these corrections. I believe it is nice, and important, to allocate some space to the publication of corrections of this type.

I recently encountered in a Facebook post (by ChessBaseIndia) a problem by Julius Buchwald (1909-1970). Julius was born in Vienna and published his first problem when he was 16. When Hitler moved toward the Anschluss, he left Austria finally arriving to the USA at the age of 25. He was also a composer of music and a prolific painter. Julius composed ~3,000 problems winning hundreds of prizes and honors. He had 29 points in FIDE Albums.

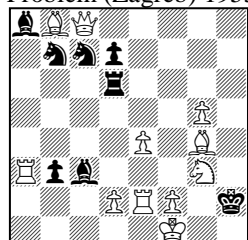
In (A) following the key **1. ♜f8 !** [2. ♜f3 ~ 3. ♜h1, g2#] the idea is that opening the a3-g3 and b8-g3 lines will be followed by activation of the ♖e2/♙f2 battery with dual avoidance. The variation 1...b2 2. ♜h8 + ♙xh8 3. f4# (2... ♖h6 3. ♜xh6#) works fine, but 1... ♖d5 doesn't work as white can continue with the threat 2. ♜f3 since 2... ♖e3+ has 3. fxe3#

The author tried to correct this by (B) with the same key **1. ♜f8 !** attempting the quiet [2. ♜xf5 ~ 3. ♖f3#]. Apart from the fact that 2. ♖f3+ ♜h3 3. ♜xf5# also works, the thematic defense by ♖c7 has 4 replies 1... ♖c5 2. ♙xd6, ♜e8, ♜f7, ♜h6+

I found that some combination of the two versions can produce a sound problem showing the author's idea to the full extent (C). **1. ♜f8 !** [2. ♜f3 ~ 3. ♜h1, g2#] Now the two thematic variations work well: 1...b2 2. ♜h8 + ♙xh8 3. f4# 2... ♖h6 3. ♜xh6# 1... ♖c6 2. ♜h6+ ♖xh6 3. f3# The Grimshaw is straightforward with the same replies: 1... ♙f6 2. ♜h6+ ♙h4 3. ♜xh4# 1... ♖f6 2. ♜h8+ ♖h6 3. ♜xh6# and there is also 1... ♖d5 2. ♜h6+ ♖h5 3. ♜xh5#

### A. Julius Buchwald

Problem (Zagreb) 1953

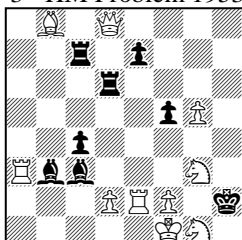


#3

11+8

### B. Julius Buchwald

3<sup>rd</sup> HM Problem 1953

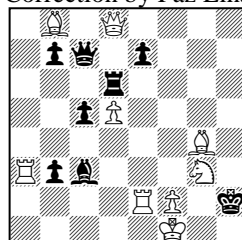


#3

10+8

### C. Julius Buchwald

Correction by Paz Einat



#3

9+8