

BCPS AWARD: STUDIES 2022

By Gady Costeff

38 studies participated in the tourney. I enjoyed every one of them and I thank the composers for this experience. My thanks also to director Yochanan Afek for his tireless work in promoting our art.

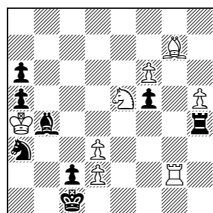
I tried to understand each study, research its predecessors, and select for the award those that I considered as a substantial improvement. My choices reflect my preferences rather than any “objective” evaluation. I hope my comments to the studies will clarify these preferences.

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

1st Prize E1328 Steffen S.Nielsen (January, p281): 1.Rg1+ Kb2 2.Sc4+ Sxc4 3.f7+ Se5 4.Bxe5+ Bc3+ 5.d4 Bb4 6.d5+ Bc3+ 7.d4 Bb4 8.d6 c1=Q! 9.Rxc1 Rh3! 10.Rc3!! Kxc3 11.f8=Q MAIN A: 11...Kb2 12.d5+ Ka2 13.Bb2! Kxb2 14.Qg7+ Ka2 15.Qg2+ wins. MAIN B: 11...Kd2 12.Bf4+ Kd1 13.Bc1! Kxc1 14.Qc8+ Kb2 15.Qxa6 wins.

Steffen S Nielsen

1 Pr *The Problemist* 2022



Win

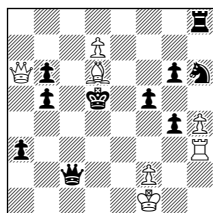
Almost every single move from 2.Sc4+ to 8.d6 opens one line and closes another, or has an otherwise arrival and departure effect, creating incredible thematic and emotional intensity. A second phase starts after 8...c1=Q! 9.Rxc1 Rh3! 10.Rc3!! Kxc3 11.f8=Q and then resolves in two perfectly matched variations with analogous bishop sacrifices.

The composer has produced at least 10 studies involving mutual pin/unpin combinations. For example, in the database **hhdbvi** 452 already uses a black pawn as one of the switching pieces, similar to the role of the d-pawn here, and 2044 already showed the black bishop repeatedly blocking the rook and guarding a promotion square. However, the author increased the intensity by adding a line opening and closing introduction with mutual knight sacrifices, doubled the core mechanism with a second d-pawn, and then added a brilliant concluding phase.

There are six clean sacrifices, only the necessary material is used, and with most moves entirely forced, there is little thinking to be done, other than to marvel at how the composer came up with this.

Serhiy Didukh

2 Pr *The Problemist* 2022



Win

2nd Prize E1346 Serhiy Didukh (Originally July, p409, but note that this version of the study was submitted to the director and the judge on 6.12.2022; only the introduction has been changed, so the main body of the annotations remain for the reader's use): 1.Qb7+! Kxd6 2.Qxb6+ Kxd7 3.Qd4+ Ke7 4.Re3+ Kf8! 5.Qd6+ Kg7 6.Qe5+ Kh7 7.Qe7+ Sf7 8.Qxf7+ Kh6 9.Re6 Qd1+ 10.Kg2 Qf3+ 11.Kg1 Qd1+ 12.Kh2 g3+ 13.Kg2 Qh5 14.f3! Ra8 15.Qf6 Rg8! 16.Qe7! Rc8 17.Qb4! Rg8 18.Re7 a2 19.Qf4+! g5 20.Qxf5 Rg7 21.Re6+ Rg6 22.Qf8+

The logical choice of 1.Qb7+ (1.Qxb5+?) is comprehensible only after 17.Qb4!!

With 5.Qd6+ 6.Qe5+ 7.Qe7+ the queen and rook chase the black king to h6. To stop mate, the black queen manoeuvres to h5, only to be incarcerated by 14.f3! The black defences seem solid until the subtle 15.Qf6! 16.Qe7 17.Qb4! defending h4 and eventually threatening 18.Qf4+ provides the decisive breakthrough. Since 17.Qb4! is necessary, the logic of avoiding 1.Qxb5+...16..Rb8! becomes apparent.

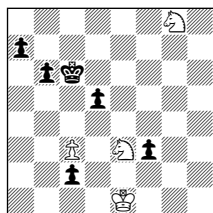
The play, covering the entire board, is rich, and requires real detective work to figure out why only the solution succeeds.

3rd Prize E1357 Michael Pasman (November, p500): 1.Kd2! f2 2.Se7+! Kc5 3.S7xd5 f1=Q 4.Sxf1 Kxd5 5.Kc1!! b5 6.Sd2! a6! 7.Kb2!! c1=Q+ 8.Kxc1 a5 9.Kc2! a4 10.Kb2! Kc5 11.Ka3 Kd5 12.Kb4 wins.

White wins the zugzwang battle with the capture avoidance moves 5.Kc1! 6.Sd2! 7.Kb2! The logical try 6.Kxc2 a6!! is extremely valuable because it uses the a-pawn's tempo-losing capability. The logical try 2.Sf6? refuted by 5..a6!! is rich and interesting, but less convincing, since the main line 2.Se7+ check! is obviously stronger than the try.

Michael Pasman

3 Pr *The Problemist* 2022

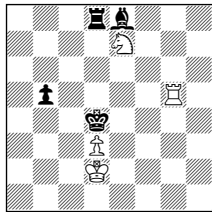


Win

E1334 Jan Rusinek & Piotr Rusczyński (March, p321): **1.Kd2! Be8 2.Sf5+ Kxe4 3.Se7! Rb6 4.exd3+ Kd4 5.Rf1! Rxb8 6.Rf5! Rd8 7.Rg5! Zugzwang 7...Rd7 8.Sc6#; 7...Bd7 8.Rd5# or 7...b4 8.Ra5! wins.**

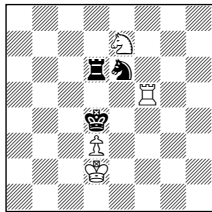
This is a correction of a 1979 prizewinner (41981), so it retains its original prize but is worth commenting on. When this study first appeared in 1979, it was only the fourth study to show a Grimshaw. The Grimshaw can be defined as a

Rusinek & Rusczyński
After 7.Rg5!



(Mutual) zugzwang:
7...Rd7 8.Sc6#;
7...Bd7 8.Rd5#;
7...b4 8.Ra5 wins

Bazlov & Kovalenko



8...Sc5 9.Rd5+ Rxd5
10.Sc6#
If e.g. 8...Sg7 9.Ra5 wins

Nowotny without the sacrifice, and is therefore much harder to show, sixteen times harder based on the statistics. By replacing a bishop with a pawn and some further refinements, the authors corrected the study and added a crisp mutual zugzwang.

Although they are completely different studies, the critical position following 7.Rg5! is fascinatingly similar to the position after 8.Rf5 in Bazlov & Kovalenko, 2 Pr Polish Chess Federation tourney (34912).

Honourable Mention E1358 Jan Timman (November, p501): **1.Bf4 1...Re1! 2.Rxe1 Qg3! 3.Bxg3 Bf6 4.Re7! Bxe7 5.Qc6! dxc6 6.Rxc6 Sd8 7.Rg6! Sf7 8.Be5! Sxe5 9.Rxg7+! Kxg7 Stalemate.**

Within a stalemate battle, Black sacrifices queen and rook and White responds by sacrificing his four officers. All the sacrifices close or open different lines. This is far more difficult to compose than reusing the same line as in the typical 37107, and it also avoids the monotony that repeated use of the same line may produce. An idea with scope for development.

Honourable Mention E1353 Árpád Ruzs (November, p500): **1.Kc6+ Kc8 2.Qg4+ Kb8 3.Qg8+ Ka7 4.Qg1+ Kb8 5.Qh2+ Ka8 6.Qh8+ Ka7 7.Qd4+ Ka8 8.Qd5! Qb4! 9.Qg8+ Ka7 10.Qg1+ Ka8 11.Qa1+ Kb8 12.Qe5+ Ka8 13.Qd5! Qe7 14.Kb6+ Kb8 15.Qg8+ wins.**

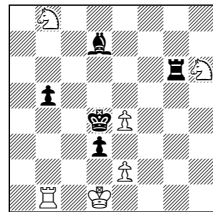
White plays a 5-move triangulation to pass the move to Black. A new discovery with long moves and ultimate economy. Van Vliet, 1888, (90724) is the classic artistic study with queen and knight's pawn versus queen, and this is a pretty addition to the genre.

Commendation E1323 Ludek Sedlak (January, 280): **1.Kd7! A: 1...Rd4+ 2.Kc7! Rc4+ 3.Kd7 Rb4 4.Kc6 Ke6 5.b6 Rc4+ 6.Kb5 Rc1 4.Kc6 Ke6 5.b6 Rc4+ 6.Kb5 Rc1 7.b7 Kd7 8.b8=S+! Kc7 9.Sa6+ draw; B: 1...Kd5 2.b6 Rf4 3.b7 Rf7+ 4.Kc8 Kc6 5.b8=S+! draw.**

Three knight promotions, one each in the two main lines, importantly with different knight placement so no duplication, and one in a try starting with 1.Kf7?, demonstrating the chessboard's asymmetry. This is done with economy and skill. On the other hand, such knight promotions are nothing new and Becker (65001) even shows a knight promotion of different pawns in three variations.

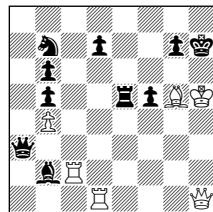
Commendation E1351 Daniele Gatti (September, 456): **1.Sf4! d3 2.Sxd3+ Kd4 3.Sc1 a1=S! 4.f4 Sc2 5.f5 Se1 6.f6 Sf3+ 7.Kf4 Se5 8.Se2+! Kd3 9.Sg1! Sf7 10.Sf3 Sh8 11.a4! c5 12.dxc6 dxc6 13.e5 dxe5+ 14.Sxe5+ Kd4 15.Sxc6+ Kc5 16.Se5 Kb4 17.Kg5 Kxa4 18.Kh6 Kb3 19.Kg7 a4 20.Kxh8 a3 21.Sd3 a2 22.Sc1+ wins**

Jan Rusinek & Piotr Rusczyński
Corr. 3 Pr Schakend
Nederland 1979



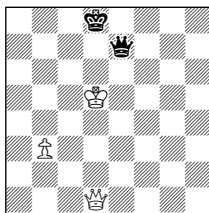
Win

Jan Timman
HM The Problemist 2022



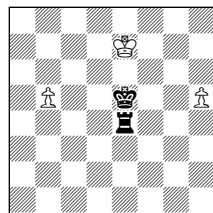
Draw

Árpád Ruzs
HM The Problemist 2022



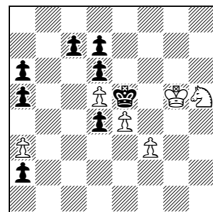
Win

Ludek Sedlak
C The Problemist 2022



Draw

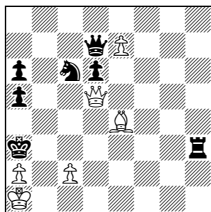
Daniele Gatti
C The Problemist 2022



Win

Michael Pasman

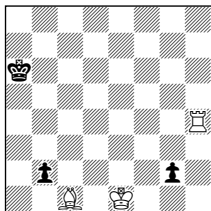
C The Problemist 2022



Win

Ludek Sedlak

C The Problemist 2022



Draw

A 22-move battle, during which the white knight travels across the board, twice occupying c1 to control the black a-pawns. At the same time the black knight switches diagonal corners, which has been done 7 times, but here the thematic knight is also promoted for the first time.

Commendation E1344 Michael Pasman (July, p408): 1.c3! Rxc3 2.Qd2! Kb4 3.a3+! Kb5 4.Qxc3 d5 5.Bd3+ Kb6 6.Bb5!! Kxb5 7.Qd3+! Ka4 8.Ka2! Sb4+! 9.axb4 Qxe7 10.b5! Qb4 11.bxa6 Qb6 12.Qb1! Qe3 13.Qb2! d4 14.a7 Qe6+ 15.Kb1 Qe1+ 16.Qc1 Qb4+ 17.Ka1! Qb7 18.Qc4+ Ka3 19.Qa2+ winning.

19 moves of various tactics including mating threats, promotion threats, sacrifices, and skewers. The composer chose the longest conclusion, but it is also possible to provide thematic unity by using the unmentioned conclusion 14...Qf3 15.a8Q Qxa8 16.Qb3 mate, showing a Pa2 Excelsior, enhanced by no double jumping, and overcoming three black units initially standing in its way. There are only three studies with these features.

Commendation E1354 Ludek Sedlak (November, p500): 1.Rh6+ Kb5 1...Kb7 2.Rh7+ Kc6 3.Rh6+ Kd5 4.Rh5+ Ke4 5.Re5+! **One!** (5.Rh4+? Kf3 6.Rh3+ [6.Rf4+? Kg3 loses] 6...Kg4 Black wins) 5...Kxe5 6.Bxb2+ Ke4 7.Kf2 draws **2.Rh5+ Kc4 3.Rh4+ Kd3** 3...Kb3 4.Rh3+ Kc2 (Or 4...Ka2 5.Ra3+! **Two!** 5...Kxa3 (5...Kb1 6.Be3 draws) 6.Bxb2+ Kxb2 7.Kf2 draws) 5.Rc3+! **Three!** 5...Kxc3 6.Bxb2+ Kxb2 7.Kf2 draws **4.Rd4+! Four!** 4...Kxd4 **5.Bxb2+ Ke3 6.Bd4+! Five!** 6...Kxd4 **7.Kf2** Draw. Four rook sacrifices and a bishop sacrifice.

The composer adds a fourth rook sacrifice compared with Matous (17208) with ideal economy.

We thank Gady for his interesting award, especially making use of CQL (the app he devised with Lewis Stiller) to extract relevant precursors and compile statistics. Claims should be directed to Yochanan Afek within three months, please.