

## “Tel Aviv 100” award

I received 64 (counting twins) anonymous studies. The level was excellent and it was a pleasure to see how composers keep pushing forward the boundaries of our art in all of its styles, the classical, romantic, logical and binary.

I thank director Amatzia Avni for his professional direction and quality control. A special thanks to Yochanan Afek, who conceived the idea for the tourney and then made it a reality.

Gady Costeff  
San Francisco, Nov 25, 2009

**1st prize** (11) S. Didukh, Ukraine & M. Croitor, Moldova

White promotes two rooks and two bishops in an almost classic setting. Clear and interesting play by both sides. Lommer (Le Temps 1934) achieved the same task, but the current study is a great artistic step forward.

**2nd prize** (13) W. Bruch, M. Minski & G. Sonntag, Germany

The Banny theme is uncommon in studies but far more important than the thematic framework is the artistic content. Here we have two perfectly harmonious black variations, each showcasing an Indian maneuver made up of a rook critical move, an underpromotion (B/N) and a move by the newly promoted piece to block the thematic rook and lift a stalemate.

The white moves Nf4/Ng5 and their reciprocal relationship to black's two variations are what make the Banny theme. It took me an hour to unravel how the composers got this to work.

A work of great imagination and technical mastery.

**3rd prize** (15) J. Mikitovics, Hungary & I. Akobia, Georgia

A modest idea is polished to a shining pearl through an “airy” starting position, natural and capture-free play and peerless economy. The finale too provides some piquancy with a white bishop “hideaway” underpinning a positional draw.

**4th prize** (34) O. Pervakov, Russia

A logical study with a capture-avoidance key, excellent thematic try, underpromotion, mutual zugzwang and an uncommon stalemate.

**5th prize** (60) Y. Bazlov, Russia

An elegant miniature, capture-free play and mate with two active self-blocks. I was sure there would be many predecessors to this matrix, but I found only two, with the new entry the best by far.

**6th prize** (23) M. Prusikin, Russia

The white king heads on a subtle ambush-defying maneuver. A pretty and difficult miniature with the sort of game-like position I would lose every time.

**7th Prize** (55) A. Sochnev, Russia

Black is unable to cover all the critical squares following a nifty white triangulation.

**8th prize** (10) A. Jasic, Poland

The composer arranged a spectacular mating picture with three active self blocks. However, the play is extremely forcing and all three blocks require captures.

**Honor Mentions** (no order)

51 J. Mikitovics, Hungary. A fine final point 9.Nf4!!

59 Y. Bazlov, Russia. The R-BBN class has been explored before (Pogosiants, 3/5 prize, Szachy 1979) with the identical stalemate being a typical example. With the computer's aid, a knight promotion is added. There is also, apparently, a mutual zugzwang, though without a thematic try. As it were, it is beyond the judge's comprehension.

27 S. Didukh, Ukraine. A logical study with an attractive critical zugzwang position. However, to achieve a thematic try, the author traded elegance for an oppressive starting position and many captures. Even the try itself, a pawn move, is less "natural" than the promotion key.

56 Y. Afek, Netherlands & Israel, and J. Aagaard, Scotland. Black sets the tempo in this smooth flowing study. No single move is spectacular but the overall flowing effect is pleasing.

### **Commendations** (no order)

9 A. Jasic, Poland. Three queen sacrifices.

21 M. Prusikin, Russia. A study for the analyst.

24 M. Prusikin, Russia. The black king charges down the board to promote his pawn, only to find himself mated. Lively play.

25 G. Amann, Austria. The fortress is not new here but the queen sacrifice is nice and the spirit of Simhovitch is always welcome.

30 A. Pallier, France. A modest pawn study with an accurate move (5.Kc4!) and a concluding perpetual administered from three corners.

36 J.M. Loustau, France. This study is a good illustration of the strengths and weaknesses of "database" studies.

On the one hand, there is accuracy and subtlety galore, much like looking through a microscope for the first time and discovering that the world operates at a finer granularity than one normally experiences.

On the other hand, the reasoning of the moves is mostly opaque. A different move loses, but only the computer can explain why.

41 C. Poisson, France. White plays a dozen forced moves to extricate his rooks. The positional draw in the 9.Rc1/Rc2 variation is a benefit. Unusual and pleasing clarity for a "database" study.

43 C. Poisson, France. Presumably this is the longest BB-NN "database" study. It takes 13 moves to capture one knight. It is another matter that a further 70 moves will be required after that.

49 V. Kalandadze, Georgia. The composer adds a king march to a well know underpromotion mechanism. Nadariashvilli, (sp C Schach, 1985) is a more compelling treatment.

\*\*\* Some comments about notable studies not in the award:

(39: Miljanic, Kg4/Kf2) The outstanding predecessor study by Sochnev is at a completely different level. The additional capture in this study (6.Nxe3) is not sufficient on its own.

A. Sochnev, 2/4.p Krikheli MT Merani, 1989

wKa4,Rc6,Pa2,b2,b3,b5,g6/bKe1,Rf5,Pb6,d7,g2,h7

1.gxh7 dxc6 2.h8Q cxb5+ 3.Ka3 g1Q 4.Qc3+ Kd1 5.Qd3+ Kc1 6.Qc3+ Kb1 7.Qd3+ Ka1

8.Qxf5 Qc5+ 9.b4 Qe3+ 10.Qd3 Qxd3+ 11.b3 draw

(58: Bazlov, Kb4/Ka8) This improves on Kasparyan 1st HM Tidskrift for Schack, 1959. However, for myself, the unnecessary knight captures and a diagram check ruin the impression. I hope that by keeping this out of the award so the composer can find the best setting for this idea.

G. Kasparyan, 1.hm Tidskrift för Schack, 1959  
wKe2,Nd7,Be8,Pb5/bKa8,Bb8,Pa2,c7

1.Nc5 a1Q 2.Bc6+ Ka7 3.Kd3! Qa3+ 4.Kc4 Qc1+ 5.Kb4 Qd2+ 6.Kc4! Qf4+ 7.Kc3 Qe3+ 8.Kc4 Kb6 9.Nb3 Qe1 10.Kd3! Qb4 11.Kc2 Qa3 12.Kc3 draw

Other studies:

(18: Buyannemekh, Kg1/Kh8) cook 8..Rg6+ 9.Kh2 Kg8

(47: Becker, Kh7/Kh2) cook: 23...Qd8

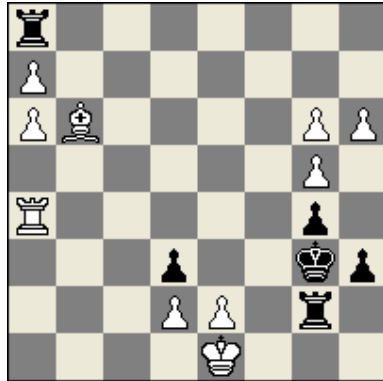
(52: Akobia, Kc5/Ke3) Does not add meaningfully to Rusinek, Nardone MT Sinfonie Scacchistiche, 1975

(53: Pallier, Kh3/Kh6) cook 5..Rd1

(62: Amiryan, Kf6/Kh4) cook 2...Kg4! 3.Nf1 h1Q 4.f3+ Kh5 5.Ng3+ Kh6 6.Nxh1 Nd5+ 7.Ke5 Nxe3

### 1st prize

S. Didukh, Ukraine & M. Croitor, Moldova



White to play and win 10+5

**1.Bc7+ Kh4 2.g7!**

2.exd3? Kxg5 3.g7 Kxh6 4.Be5 h2 5.Bxh2 g3=; 2.h7? Rxe2+ 3.Kf1 Rae8 4.Ra1 Rf8+ draw.

**2...Re8!** Black keeps the white pawn alive. The capture leaves no chances: 2...Rxe2+ 3.Kf1! Rae8 (3...h2 4.Bxh2 Rc8 5.Ra1 Rxh2 6.h7 Kg3 7.h8Q Rcxh8 8.gxh8Q Rxh8 9.Kg1) 4.Ra1 h2 (4...g3 5.Ra4+) 5.Bxh2 g3 6.a8Q Rxa8 7.h7 win. 2...Rxa7? 3.Bf4! Rxe2+ 4.Kd1! Re8 5.Kc1 wins.

**3.e3 h2 4.Bxh2 Rc8 5.Ra1 Rxh2 5...Re2+ 6.Kf1 Rxh2 7.h7 Kg3 8.h8R! Rf8+ 9.gxf8B!(N!)**

**6.h7 Kg3 7.h8R!**

Avoiding the trap which Black started to build on his second move: 7.h8Q? Rc1+ 8.Rxc1 Rh1+ 9.Qxh1 stalemate.

**7...Rcxh8 8.gxh8R! Rxh8 9.a8B! Rxa8 10.a7 Rh8**

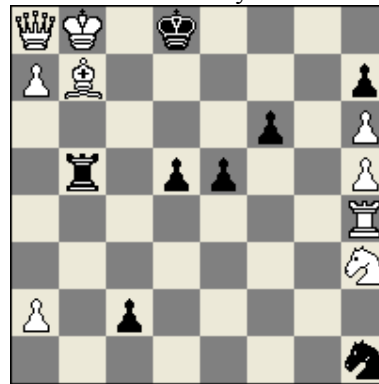
10...Kh2 11.g6 g3 12.g7 g2 13.Kf2.

**11.a8B!**

...And the fourth successive under-promotion brings white victory.

### 2nd prize

W. Bruch, M. Minski & G. Sonntag, Germany



White to play and draw 9+8

1. Nf4? c1Q! (not 1...exf4? 2. Rxh1!+-) 2. Ne6+ Kd7 3. Nf8+ Kd6-+

1. Ng5? c1Q! (not 1...fxg5? 2. Rxh1!+-) 2. Ne6+ Kd7 3. Nf8+ Kd6-+

1. a4? c1Q!-+ (not 1...Rb2/Rb1? 2. Rc4! dxc4 3. Nf4/Ng5! = [See solution])

1.Rg4? c1Q 2.Rg8+ Kd7! 3.Rg7+ Kd6-+

**1. Rc4! dxc4** (introduction)

*thematic try A:* 2. Nf4? exf4 [2...c1Q? 3. Ne6+ Kd7 4. Nc5+! (4. Nf8+? Ke7 5. Kc7 Qd2! 6. Qe8+ Kxe8 7. a8Q+ Ke7 8. Qa3+ Kf7 -+) 4...Kd8 5. Ne6+ Kd7 6. Nc5+ Ke7 7. Kc7 Qd2 8. Kc6! =]

3. a4 Rb1!! (3...Rb2? 4. a5 c1N 5. a6 Nb3

6. Be4! = see mainline I) 4. a5 c1B! 5. a6 Bb2 6. Be4 Be5#

*Thematic try B:* 2. Ng5? fxg5 (2...c1Q? 3. Ne6+ Kd7 4. Nc5+! Ke7 5. Kc7 Qd2 6. Kc6 =)

3. a4 Rb2!! (3...Rb1? 4.a5 c1B 5.a6 =, because 5...Bb2? 6. Be4 Be5??)

4. a5 c1N! 5. a6 Nb3 6. Be4 (6. Bxh1 Nc5+ 7. Qb7 Nxa6+ 8. Ka8 Nc7+ 9. Kb8

Rxb7+ 10. Kxb7 g4! →)  
6...Nc5+ 7. Qb7 Nxa6+! 8. Ka8 Nc7+ 9.  
Kb8 Rxb7+ 10. Kxb7 Nf2! 11. Bxh7 Ng4  
12. Bg8 Nxb6 13. Bxc4 e4! →

**2. a4! with two variations:**

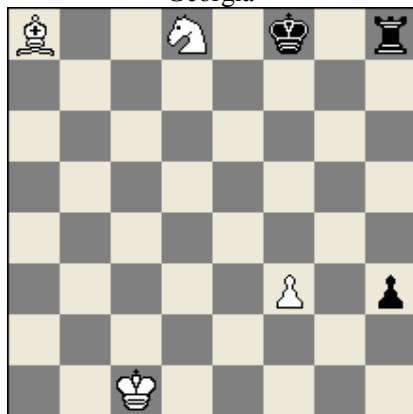
**2...Rb2!? 3. Nf4!** (not 3. Ng5? fxe4 4. a5 c1N! etc. →) **3...exf4 4. a5 c1N** (4...Rb1? 5. a6 c1B - stalemate; 4...c1B? 5. a6 Bb2??) **5. a6 Nb3 6. Be4!** (6. Bxh1? Nc5+ 7. Qb7 Nxa6+ 8. Ka8 Nc7+ 9. Kb8 Rxb7+ 10. Kxb7 f5! →) **6...Nc5+ 7. Qb7 Nxa6+ 8. Ka8 Nc7+ 9. Kb8 Rxb7+ 10. Kxb7 Nf2 11. Bxh7 Ng4 12. Bg8** (or 12. Bd3) **12...Nxb6 13. Bxc4 =**

**2...Rb1!? 3. Ng5!** (not 3. Nf4? exf4 4. a5 c1B! etc. →) **3...fxg5 4. a5 c1B** (4...Rb2? 5. a6 c1N - stalemate; 4...c1N? 5. a6 Nb3? 6. Le4! →) **5. a6 =** (5...Bb2? 6. Be4 Be5?? →)

After a short introduction two alternative black Indians with two different under-promotions disprove the thematic tries. Therefore, 2.a4! forces black to decide first on one of both Indians which white can defuse by choice of the right move of knight.

**3rd prize**

J. Mikitovics, Hungary & I. Akobia, Georgia



White to play and draw 4+3

**1.Be4!**

1.f4? Ke7 2.Nc6+ Kd6→; 1.Ne6+? Ke7→; 1.Bb7? Ke7→

**1...Ke7 2.Nc6+ Kd6 3.Kd2!**

3.f4!? Rc8→ (3...Rf8? 4.Kd2 Rxf4 5.Bh1! Rf1 6.Be4 Rf4 7.Bh1 positional draw.) ; 3.Nd4? Ke5 4.Nc6+ (4.Ne2 h2→) 4...Kf4→

+

**3...Re8!**

3...h2 4.f4=

**4.Nd4! h2**

4...Rxe4 5.fxe4 h2 6.Nf5+ Ke5 7.Ng3=

**5.Nf5+! Ke5**

5...Kc5 6.Ng3 Rg8 7.Nh1 Kd4 8.Ke2=

**6.Ng3**

6.Kd3? Kf4→

**6...Rg8! 7.Nh1 Kf4**

7...Rg1 8.Ke3! (8.Nf2? Kf4 9.Nd3+ Kg3 10.f4 Rg2+→) 8...Re1+ 9.Kf2=

**8.Ke2! Rg5!**

8...Rg2+ 9.Kf1=;

8...Rg1 9.Kf2=

**9.Kf2!**

Thematic try 9.Bh7!? Rg2+! (9...Rg7?

10.Be4 Rg8 11.Kf2 Rg1 12.Bh7= main

line; 9...Rg1? 10.Kf2 Ke5 11.Be4 Kf4

12.Bh7= main line) 10.Kf1 Rg7! 11.Be4

Ke3! #3

**9...Rg1 10.Bh7!!**

10.Bd5(Bd3,Bc6,Bb7;Ba8)? 10...Rxb1

11.Kg2 Rd1 (Re1;Rc1;Rb1;Ra1)→

**10...Kg5 11.Be4!**

11.Bg8!? Kh4! 12.Bh7 Rxb1 13.Kg2 Rd1!!

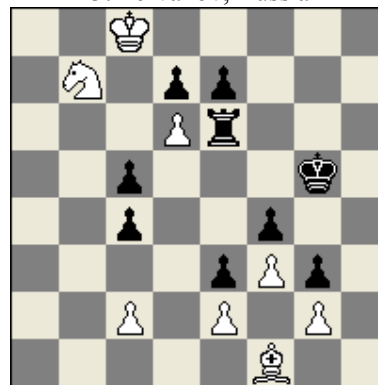
14.Kxb2 Rd2+! 15.Kg1 Kg3 16.Kf1 Kxf3.

**11...Kf4 11...Kh4 12.f4=**

**12.Bh7** positional draw.

**4th prize**

O. Pervakov, Russia



White to play and draw (8+9)

**1.Nd8!!**

Thematic try: 1.Nxc5?! Rxd6! (1...Re5?

2.Nxd7 Re6 3.Nc5 Rxd6 4.Ne4+ Kf5

5.Nxd6+ exd6 6.Kc7!)=) 2.Ne4+ Kf5

3.Nxd6+ exd6 4.Kxd7 (or 4.Kc7 Ke5 5.c3

d5 6.Kb6 d4 7.Kc5 dxc3 8.Kxc4 c2 9.Kd3

c1N+! 10.Kc2 Na2 11.Kb3 Kd4! 12.Kxa2

Kc3 13.Kb1 Kd2→) 4...Ke5 5.c3 Kd5!

6.Ke7 (6.Kc7 Kc5!—+ — c5-square is not occupied by black pawn) 6...Kc6! 7.Kf6! (the struggle for mutual zz) 7...Kb5! (7...d5? 8.Ke6! — mutual zz — 8...Kc5 9.Ke5=) 8.Kf5 d5! (but not 8...Ka4 9.Kxf4 Kb3 10.Kxe3 Kxc3 11.Ke4 Kd2 12.e3 c3 13.Bd3 — bishop suddenly is free — 13...d5+ 14.Kd4+-) 9.Kxf4 (9.Ke5 Kc5!—+ mutual zz!) 9...d4 10.cxd4 c3 11.Kxe3 Kb4 12.d5 Kb3 13.d6 c2 14.d7 c1Q+—+; 1.Kxd7? Kf6!—+.

**1...Rxd6**

1...Kf5 2.Nxe6 Kxe6 3.dxe7 Kxe7 4.Kc7=.

**2.Nf7+ Kf5 3.Nxd6+ exd6 4.Kxd7!**

Not 4.Kc7? Ke5 5.c3 d5 6.Kb6 d4 7.Kxc5 dxc3 8.Kxc4 c2 9.Kd3 c1N+! 10.Kc2 Na2 11.Kb3 Kd4! 12.Kxa2 Kc3 13.Kb1 Kd2—+.

**4...Ke5 5.c3 d5.** 5...Kd5 6.Kc7!= — now c5-square is occupied by a black pawn.

**6.Kc6 d4 7.Kxc5 dxc3 8.Kxc4 c2 9.Kd3! c1N+ 10.Kc3!!**

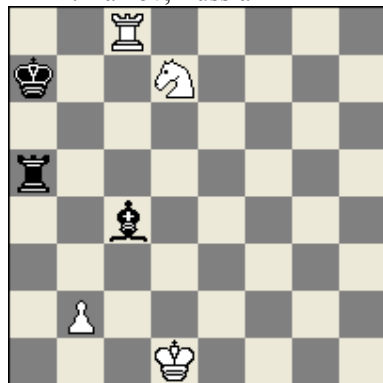
Not 10.Kc4?! Na2!—+ — another mutual zz!; 10.Kc2? Na2 11.Kb3 Kd4! 12.Kxa2 Kc3 13.Kb1 Kd2—+.

**10...Na2+ 11.Kc4! (mutual zz) 11...Nc1 12.Kc3 Kd5**

(or positional draw after 12...Na2+ 13.Kc4=) **13.Kb2! Kc4 14.Kxc1 Kc3**

**15.Kd1 Kb2 16.Ke1 Kc1** — White's king came to his home square, where he is stalemated.

**5th prize**  
Y. Bazlov, Russia



White to play and win 4+3

**1.Rc7+ Ka6**

1...Ka8 2.Nb6+ +-

**2.Nb8+ Kb5 3.Rb7+ Ka4**

3...Kc5 4.b4+ +-

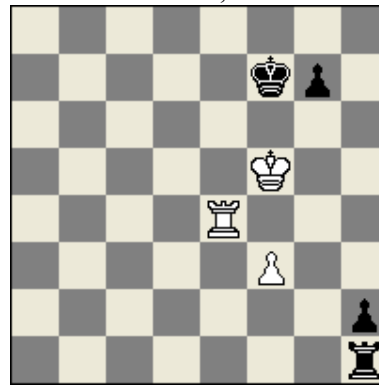
**4.Nc6 Rd5+**

4...Re5 5.Rb4 # ; 4...Rb5 5.Ra8+ Kb3

6.Nd4+ Kxb2 7.Nxb5 Bxb5 8.Rb8 +-

**5.Kc1 Bb5 6.Ra7+ Kb3 7.Ra3+ Kc4 8.Rc3 #**

**6th prize**  
M. Prusikin, Russia



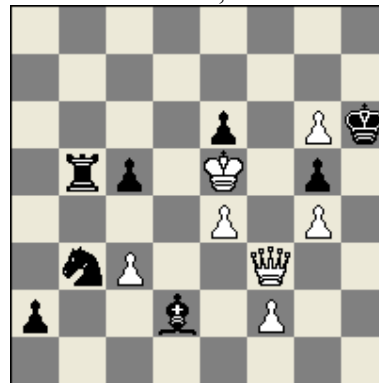
White to play and draw 3+4

**1.Re2!** [1.Rh4 g6+! 2.Kf4 g5+!—+] **1...g5!**

**2.Rf2!!** [2.Rd2? Ke7‡—+; 2.Rg2? Ke8!! 3.Kf6 (3.Rd2 Ke7—+) 3...g4!—+]

**2...Ke8 3.Kf6! Kd7 4.Rd2+! Kc6 5.Kg6! Kc5 6.Kh5 Kc4 7.f4!! gxf4 8.Kh4 Kc3 9.Ra2=**

**7th Prize**  
A. Sochnev, Russia



White to play and win (7+8)

**1.Kf6! Bxc3+ 2.e5**

[2.Kf7? Rb7+—+]

**2...Bxe5+ 3.Kf7 Rb7+!**

[3...Bg3 4.Qh1+ Bh4 5.Qa8 Rb7+ 6.Qxb7 a1Q 7.Kg8+—]

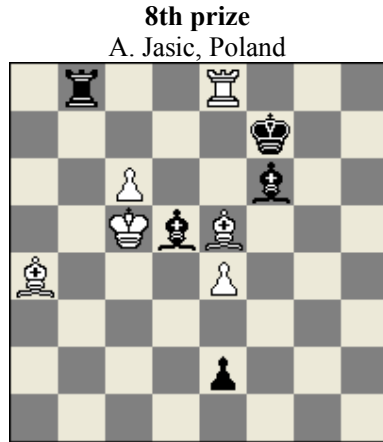
**4.Qxb7 a1Q 5.g7!**

[5.Kg8? Bg7 6.Qf3 Qa7+ —+]

**5...Bxg7 6.Kg8! Nd2! 7.Qb8! Qh1!**

[7...Qg1 8.Qc7! Qa1 9.Qh2+ Kg6 10.Qh7+ Kf6 11.Qxg7#; 7...Nf1 8.Qe8! Ng3 9.fxg3+-; 7...Kg6 8.Qe8+ Kf6 9.Qf7+ Ke5 10.Qxg7+—]

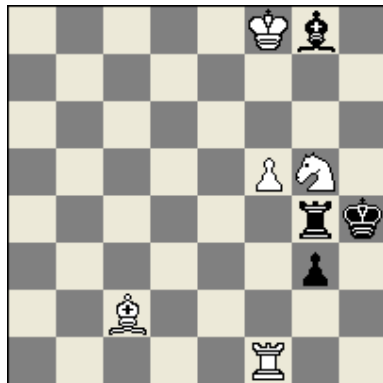
8.Qa7 Qa1 9.Qb7! Z 9...c4 10.Qb8 Qh1  
 11.Qa7 Qa1 12.Qb7! Z 12...Nf3  
 [12...Kg6 13.Qf7+ Kh6 14.Qh5#; 12...Qb2  
 13.Qh1+ Kg6 14.Qh7+ Kf6 15.Qxg7#;  
 12...c3 13.Qxg7#; 12...Bd4 13.Qh7#]  
 13.Qe4 +-



White to play and win 6+5

**1.c7! Rc8!** (1...B:e5 2.c:b8=Q B:b8  
 3.e:d5+-)  
**2.R:c8 Bb7** (2...e1=Q 3.Rf8+ K:f8  
 4.c8=Q+ +-; 2...Be6 3.Be8+ Kg7 4.Bg3  
 B:c8 5.Bb5 +-) **3.Bb3+**  
 (3.Rb8? B:e5 4.R:b7 B:c7 5.R:c7 Ke6  
 6.Bb3+ Ke5=; 3.Bg3? B:c8 4.Be1 Ke6  
 5.Bb5 Ke5=)  
**3...Ke7** (3...Kg6 4.Rg8+ Kh7 5.Bg3 +-)  
**4.Bd6+ Kd7 5.e5! e1=Q** (5...K:c8  
 6.Be6X; 5...B:c8 6.e6+ Ke8 7.Ba4+ Bd7  
 8.B:d7X)  
**6.Rd8+! B:d8 7.c8=Q+! B:c8** (7...K:c8  
 8.Be6X) **8.e6+ Q:e6** (8...Ke8 9.Ba4+ Bd7  
 10.B:d7X) **9.Ba4X**

**HM**  
 J. Mikitovics, Hungary



White to play and win 5+4

**1**

**1.Nf3+!**

1.Ne4? g2 2.Rg1 Ba2 3.f6 (3.Ke7 Rg7+  
 4.Kf6 Rg8=) 3...Rg8+ 4.Ke7 Kh3=; 1.Ne6?  
 g2=.

**1...Kh3 2.Rh1+!**

2.f6? g2 3.Ra1 (3.Ng1+ Kh2 4.Re1 Bc4)  
 3...Kg3 4.Ng1 (4.Ne5 Rf4) 4...Bc4 5.Ra3+  
 (5.Ke7 Rf4) 5...Kh2 6.Nf3+ Kg3 7.Ne1+  
 Kf4 8.Rf3+ Ke5 9.Ke7 Bd5 10.Rf5+ Kd4  
 11.Nxg2 Rxd2=; 2.Bd1? g2 3.Re1 Kg3  
 4.Ng1 Rg5=.

**2...Kg2 3.Rh4!**

3.Ne5? Kxh1 4.Nxg4 Bd5 5.Ne3 g2  
 6.Nxg2 Kxg2=; 3.Ra1? Bc4 4.Ne5 Rf4  
 5.Ng6 Rd4 6.Rd1 Rxd1 7.Bxd1 Kf1 8.Nf4  
 g2=.

**3...Rxb4**

3...Kxf3 4.Bd1+-.

**4.Nxh4+ Kh3 5.Ng6!**

5.Ng2? Bh7! = (5...Kxg2? 6.Be4+-;  
 5...Bd5? 6.Nf4+-); 5.Kxg8? Kxh4 6.Be4  
 (6.f6 g2=) 6...Kg5=; 5.Be4? Kxh4  
 (5...Bh7? 6.Ng6+-) 6.Kxg8 Kg5=.

**5...Kg4!** 5...Bd5 6.Nf4+- (6.f6? Kg4=)

**6.Be4** 6.Kxg8? g2=; 6.Ne5+? Kf4=.

**6...Ba2 7.f6 Bb1! 8.Kg7!**

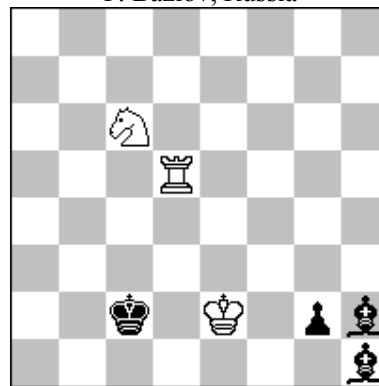
Thematic try 8.Ne5+? Kf4 9.Ke7 Ba2=  
 (9...Kxe4? 10.f7 g2 Thematic move ->  
 11.Nf3!!+-)

**8...Bxe4** Thematic move -> **9.Nf4!!** wins.

9.f7? g2 10.f8Q g1Q 11.Qf4+ Kh3=.

**HM**

Y. Bazlov, Russia



White to play and draw 3+4

**1.Nd4+**

1.Rd2+? Kc3 2.Rd3+ Kc4; 1.Rc5+? Kb3

2.Nd4+ Kb4 =

**1...Kc3 2.Nf3 g1N+**

2...g1Q 3.Rd3+ K~ 4.Nxg1=

**3.Kf2 Bxf3**

3...Nxf3 4.Rh5 and 5.Rxh2 Nxf2 6.Kg1=;  
3...Nh3+ 4.Ke3 =

**4.Ra5**

4.Rg5? Nh3+; 4.Rf5? Bg4

5.Rf7 Nh3+; 4.Rd7? Be4; 5.Rd8? Bb7

6.Rh8 Be5 +-)

**4...Kb2 5.Rc5 zz**

I.

**5...Ba8 6.Rb5+ Kc2 7.Rc5+ Kd3**

7...Kd3 8.Rh5 Nf3 9.Ra5 Ba~ 10.Ra3+ =

**8.Rh5 Nf3 9.Rh3 Bg1+ 10.Kf1 Bh2**

10...Bc5 11.Rxf3 Bxf3 stalemate

**11.Kf2 Bg1+ 12.Kf1 = ;**

II.

**5...Kb1 6.Ke3 Bd1 7.Rd5 Kc1 8.Rc5+ Kb2 9.Rd5 Bc2 10.Rb5+ Kc1**

10...Ka3 11.Ra5+ Kb3 12.Rb5+ Kc4

13.Rb2 Kc3 14.Rxc2+ Kxc2 15.Kf2

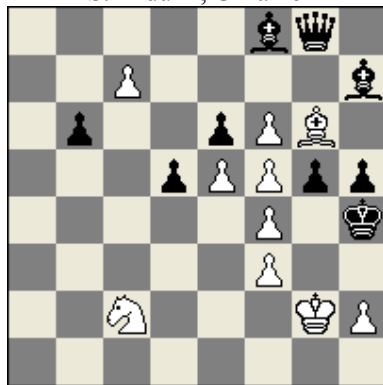
and 16.Kg2 =

**11.Kf2 Be4 12.Ke3 Bc2 13.Kf2 Be4**

**14.Ke3 =**

**HM**

S. Didukh, Ukraine



White to play and win 10+9

Thematic try: 1.f7? Qg7 2.c8Q (2.Bxh7 gxf4+! 3.Kf1 Qxh7 4.Nd4 Qxf7 5.c8Q Bc5 6.Qxe6 Qa7 7.Ne2 Kh3 8.Nxf4+ Kxh2 draw.) 2...Bxg6 3.fxg6 Qxg6 4.f5 Qxf5 5.Nd4 (5.Qc3 Qh3+ 6.Kg1 g4! 7.Nd4 gxf3 8.Qxf3 Qxf3 9.Nxf3+ Kg4=) 5...Qh3+ 6.Kg1 Bc5 7.Qxc5 bxc5 zz 8.f8Q – too early! – 8...cxd4, and black wins because it's white to move.

1.Bxh7? Qxh7 2.c8Q Qxf5! (but not 2...Bc5? 3.Qxe6 gxf4 4.Ne1 Qh6 5.Qg8 Qg5+ 6.Qxg5+ wins.) 3.Nd4 Qh3+ 4.Kg1 Bc5 5.Qxc5 bxc5 6.f7 cxd4 7.f8Q Qxf3, black wins (or draws after 7...d3) thanks to the presence of white's f4.

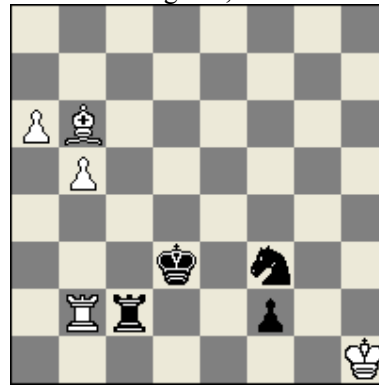
**1.c8=Q! Bxg6 2.fxg6 Qxg6 3.f5! Qxf5 4.Nd4 Qh3+!**

4...Qb1 5.Qc2 Qxc2+ 6.Nxc2 Bc5 7.f7 b5 8.Nd4 wins; 4...Qd3 5.Qc1 g4 6.Qe1+ Kg5 7.Nxe6+ Kf5 8.Nxf8 gxf3+ 9.Kf2 Qd4+ 10.Qe3 wins.

**5.Kg1 Bc5 6.Qxc5 bxc5 7.f7!** – Black in zugzwang – 7...cxd4 **8.f8Q d3 9.Qb4+! g4 10.Qe7#.**

**HM**

Y. Afek, Netherlands & Israel,  
and J. Aagaard, Scotland



White to play and win 5+4

**1.Rb3+ Ke4 2.Rb4+!** [2.Kg2? f1Q+! 3.Kxf1 Nd2+--+; 2.Re3+? Kf4 3.Kg2 Nh4+ 4.Kf1 Nf5--+]

**2...Kd3** [2...Ke5 3.Kg2! Ne1+ 4.Kf1 Nd3 5.Rb1+~] **3.Kg2 f1Q+! 4.Kxf1 Nh2+**

**5.Ke1 Nf3+ 6.Kd1 Ra2** [6...Rd2+ 7.Kc1 Rc2+ 8.Kb1 Nd2+ 9.Ka1 Kc3 10.a7 Nb3+ 11.Rxb3+ Kxb3 12.Kb1+-]

**7.Kc1** [7.Rb3+? Kc4 8.Rxf3 Kxb5=]

**7...Kc3 8.Kb1! Re2!** The only square [8...Rh2 9.a7 Nd2+ 10.Ka1 Nb3+ 11.Rxb3+ Kxb3 12.a8Q+-]

**9.Ba5!** [9.a7? Nd2+ 10.Ka2 Nc4+ 11.Ka1 Nxb6=] **9...Nd2+ 10.Ka1 Nb3+**

**11.Rxb3++ Kxb3 12.Kb1 Ra2 13.Bc7!!**

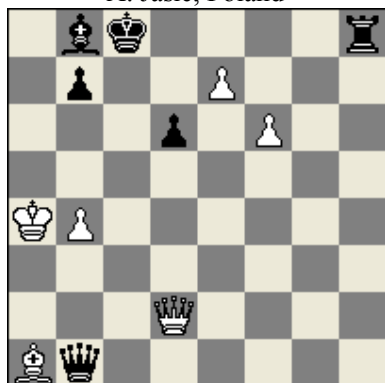
[13.b6? Rxa5 14.b7 Rb5!! 15.a7 Kc3+ 16.Ka2 Ra5+ 17.Kb1 Rb5+ 18.Kc1 Rh5! 19.Kd1 Kd3 20.Ke1 Ke3 21.Kf1 Kf3 22.Kg1 Rg5+ 23.Kh1 Rh5+ 24.Kg1 Rg5+ 25.Kf1 Rh5=]

**13...Rf2 14.Kc1 Rc2+ 15.Kd1 Rxc7 16.b6 1-0**

On move 13, besides the discovery 13.Bc7, in the solution and the main thematic try 13.b6? - the white king is traveling from h1 to a1 and back.

### Commendation

A. Jasic, Poland



White to play and draw 6+6

**1.Bc3!** (1.Qc3+? Kd7 2.f7 Qa2+ 3.Qa3 Q:a3+ 4.K:a3 Rh3+ 5.Ka4 K:e7-+; 1.Bd4? b5+ 2.K:b5 Qe4 3.Ka4 Rh3-+; 2.Ka3 Rh3+ 3.Bc3 Qg6-+)

**1...Qf5** (1...b5+ 2.Ka3 Qe4 3.f7 Q:e7 4.B:h8=)

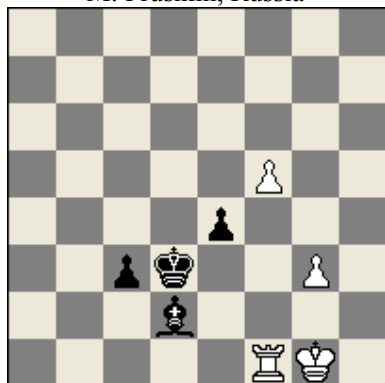
**2.f7** (2.Ka3? Re8 3.Qg2 Kd7 4.Q:b7 Ke6-+; 2.Qg2? Re8 3.Kb3 Kd7-+)

**2...Q:f7 3.B:h8 Qe8+ 4.b5 Q:h8 5.Qc3+! Q:c3 6.e8=Q+ Kc7 7.Qe7+ Kb6 8.Q:d6+! Ka7**

(8...B:d6 stalemate.) **9.Qa6+!!** (9.Qb6+? Ka8-+) **9...b:a6 10.b6+ Ka8 11.b7+ K:b7 Stalemate.**

### Commendation

M. Prusikin, Russia



White to play and draw 4+4

**1.f6 c2 2.f7 Bb4** [2...Bh6? 3.Kg2=] **3.Kg2!** [3.Re1? Bxe1 4.f8Q c1Q-+]

**3...Kd2** [3...e3 4.Re1!! --> 3...Kd2]

**4.Rf2+! Kc3 5.Rf1** [5.f8Q Bxf8 6.Rxf8 c1Q 7.Rc8+ Kd2 8.Rxc1 Kxc1 9.g4 e3-+]

**5...e3** [5...Kd3 6.g4! e3 7.Re1!! Bxe1 8.f8Q c1Q 9.Qf5+=]

**6.Re1! Kd2** [6...Kd3 7.Kf3! Bxe1 8.f8Q c1Q 9.Qf5+=; 6...Kb2 7.Kf3!! Bxe1 8.f8Q c1Q 9.Qg7+=] **7.Kf1! Kd3 8.Kg2!!** [8.g4? e2+ 9.Kg2 Kd2-+; 8.Ra1? e2+-+] **8...Bxe1** [8...e2 9.Kf3=] **9.f8Q c1Q 10.Qf5+! Kd2! 11.Qd5+!**

[11.Qd7+? Kc2 12.Qa4+ Kb1 13.Kf3 Bd2 14.Qb3+ Qb2 15.Qd1+ Bc1 16.Qd3+ Qc2 17.Qb5+ Ka2 18.Qd5+ Qb3-+]

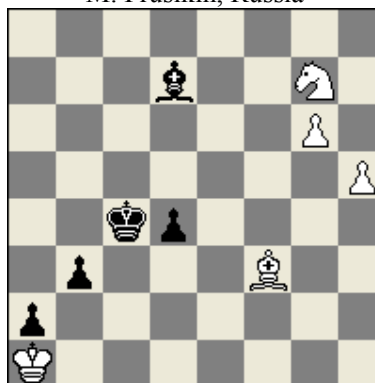
**11...Kc2 12.Kf3!! Bd2**

[12...Bf2 13.Qc4+=]

**13.Qc4+! Kb2! 14.Qb5+! Ka1 15.Qa6+! Kb1 16.Qd3+! Qc2 17.Ke2!! Qxd3+ 18.Kxd3 Kc1 19.Ke2! Kc2 20.g4 Kc3 21.g5=**

### Commendation

M. Prusikin, Russia



White to play and win 5+5

**1.Kb2** [1.Bd1? Kc3 2.Bxb3 Kxb3 3.h6 d3 4.Nf5 Bxf5 5.g7 Bh7 6.g8Q+ Bxg8 7.h7 Bxh7=; 1.Ne6? Bxe6 2.Kb2 Bf5-+; 1.h6 Kc3 2.Bd5 b2+ 3.Kxa2 Ba4] **1...d3!** **2.Ne6!!** [2.h6 a1Q+ 3.Kxa1 Kc3 4.Bd1 b2+ 5.Ka2 Bg4!! 6.h7 Bxd1 7.h8Q Bb3+ 8.Ka3 b1N#!; 2.Bd1 a1Q+ 3.Kxa1 Kc3 4.h6 b2+ 5.Ka2 Bg4!!-+]

**2...Bxe6 3.h6 a1Q+ 4.Kxa1 Kc3 5.h7 b2+ 6.Kb1 Ba2+ 7.Kxa2 Kc2 8.Bd1+ Kc1 9.h8Q** [9.Ka3] **9...b1Q+ 10.Ka3 d2**

[10...Kxd1 11.Qh1+ Kc2 12.Qxb1+ Kxb1 13.g7 d2 14.g8Q d1Q 15.Qa2+ Kc1 16.Qb2#]

**11.Be2!!** [11.Bb3 Qxb3+=; 11.Ba4 Qd3+=; 11.Bh5 Qd3+=; 11.Qh5 Qd3+=] **11...d1Q**

[11...d1N 12.Qd4!+-]

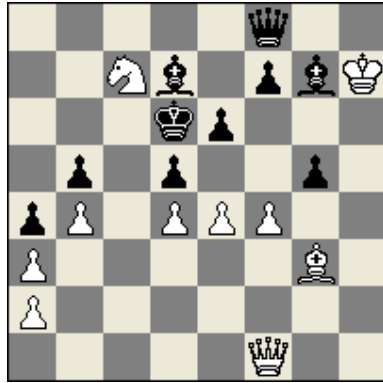
**12.Qc3+! Qdc2**

[12...Qbc2 13.Qa1+]

**13.Qe1+ -**



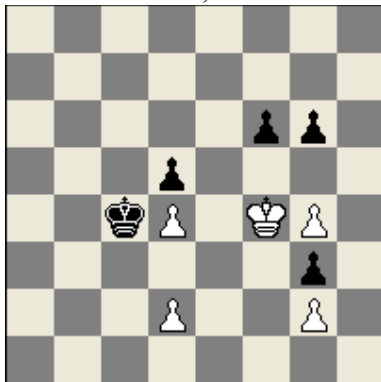
**Commendation**  
G. Amann, Austria



White to play and draw 10+10

**1.Ne8+! Bxe8 2.fxg5+**  
2.f5+? Ke7 3.f6+ Bxf6 4.Qxf6+ Kxf6  
5.Be5+ Ke7 6.Bd6+ Kd7!  
**2...Ke7 3.Qf6+!! Bxf6 4.gxf6+ Kd8 5.e5**  
**Bd7 6.Bf4 Kc7 7.Bh6! Qc8 8.Bf8! Kb7**  
(8...Q:f8=) **9.Bc5 Ka6 10.Kg7 positional**  
**draw.**

**Commendation**  
A. Pallier, France



White to play and draw (5+5)

**1.g5!** 1.Ke3? g5 2.d3+ Kc3 3.Ke2 Kc2  
4.Ke3 Kd1!-+; 1.Kxg3 ? Kxd4 2.Kf2 (2.g5  
fxg5 3.Kg4 Kd3 -+) 2...Kd3 3.Ke1 Kc2  
4.Ke2 d4 5.g5 fxg5 6.g4 Kc1! 7.Kd3 Kd1  
8.Kxd4 Kxd2 -+ **1...fxg5+**  
1...f5 2.Kxg3! Kxd4 3.Kf4 Kd3 4.Ke5 d4  
5.Kd5 Kxd2 6.Kxd4 = **2.Ke5! g4!**  
2...Kd3 3.Kxd5 Ke2 4.Kc4 Kf2 5.d5  
Kxg2 6.d6 Kh3 7.d7 Kg2 8.d8=Q g1=Q  
9.Qh8+ Kg3 10.Qe5+ =  
**3.d3+! Kxd3 4.Kxd5 Ke3 5.Kc4!!**  
This move allows wQ to make full use of  
diagonals a8/h1 and a1/h8.

5.Ke5? ...10.Qh8+ Kg3! and wK occupies  
the square needed by the Queen.

**5...Kf2 6.d5 Kxg2 7.d6 Kh3!**

White easily draws after the other K-  
moves.

**8.d7 g2 9.d8=Q g1=Q 10.Qh8+!**

10.Qd3+? Qg3! 11.Qxg6 Qe5!! -+ because  
wK cannot head for a6-square (but not  
11...Qf4 12.Kb5!! g3 13.Qh5+ Kg2  
14.Ka6! =)

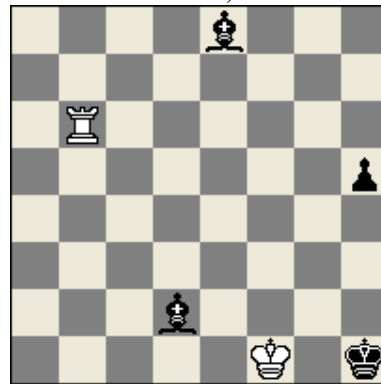
**10...Kg2!** Now 10...Kg3 11.Qe5+(Qb8+)  
= compare 5.Ke5 ? thematic try **11.Qa8+!**

11.Qb2+ ? Qf2! 12.Qb7+ Kh2 13.Qb8+ g3  
-+

**11... Kf1! 12.Qa1+! Kg2 13.Qa8+**  
**Kh2(3) 14.Qh8+ positional draw**

**Commendation**

J.M. Loustau, France



White to play and draw (2+4)

**1 Rb3!** (1) Bd7 (1...Kh2?? 2 Rb2!) **2 Kf2!**  
(2) Ba5 (3) **3 Rb7** (4) Bg4 (5) **4 Kg3** (6)  
**Be1+** 5 Kf4 Bd2+ 6 Kg3 Be1+ 7 Kf4  
*Perpetual Check* Bh4 (7) **8 Rb2** (8) **Kg1 9**  
**Rc2!! Tempo** (9) **Bf2** (10) **10 Kg5!** (11)  
**Kg2 11 Rc6!!** (12) **Kg3 12 Rc3+ Kg2 13**  
**Rc6 Kh3 14 Rc3+ Kg2 15 Rc6 Positional**  
*Draw:*

15... Be3+ 16 Kh4 Bf2+ 17 Kg5 Be3+ 18  
Kh4 echoed Perpetual Check Bd4 19 Rh6!  
(13) Bf2+ 20 Kg5 Be3+ 21 Kh4 Bxh6  
Stalemate.

15... Kh3 16 Rc3+ Bg3 17 Rc1 Bf3 18  
Rc3 Be2 19 Rc2 Bd1 20 Rc1 Bf3 21 Rc3  
Bg4 22 Rc1 Positional Draw.

Two echoed perpetual checks, with  
diagonal shifting (e1-g3 → f2-h4) ended  
by a stalemate, and two positional draws.

(1) Threats 2 Rh3#  
 1 Kf2? Kh2 2 Re6 Bf7 3 Rf6 Bc4! (guards e2 : if 3... Bg8? 4 Ke2!! Bc1 5 Kd1!! Be3 6 Ke2 Positional draw Bg1 7 Rh6! Bf7 8 Rh7 Be8 9 Rh8 Bf7 10 Rh7 Bg6 11 Rh6 Be8 12 Rh8 Positional draw) 4 Rc6 Bg8!! 5 Rg6 Bh7 6 Rg7 Bf5 7 Rg2+ Kh3 8 Rg3+ Kh4 and for example : 9 Ra3 Bh6 10 Ra5 Bg4 11 Ra6 Bf4 12 Ra4 Kg5 13 Ra5+ Kg6 14 Ra6+ Kf5 15 Ra5+ Be5 etc.

(2) Threats 3 Rd3 (not: 2 Rd3? Bb5!)

(3) 2... Kh2? 3 Rd3!

(4) 3 Kg3? Be1+! 4 Kf4 Kg2/Kh2 5 Rb2+ Kh3 6 Kg5 h4! 7 Rb3+ Bg3

(5) If 3... Bc6 4 Rh7! Bb6+ 5 Kg3 Be8 6 Rh8 Bf7 7 Rh7 etc.

(6) With echo-threat 5 Rb1+

(7) Prevents 8 Kg5. If 7... Kg2 8 Kg5 Bd2+ 9 Kh4 Be1+ 10 Kg5 Kh3 11 Rb3+ Bg3 12 Rb1 Bf3 13 Rb3 Bd1 14 Rb1 Bf3 15 Rb3 Bg4 16 Rb1 positional draw.

(8) An interesting try here: 8 Rg7? Be2! (not: 8... Bd1? 9 Rd7! Bg4 or Be2 10 Rd2! Kg1 11 Rc2 etc.) 9 Ke3 (or 9 Rg6 Kh2 etc.) Bd1! 10 Kf4 Kh2 11 Rd7 Bg4! 12 Rd2+ Kh3 13 Rd3+ Kg2 14 Rd2+ Bf2! 15 Kg5 Bf3! 16 Kf4 h4 17 Rd8 Be1 18 Rg8+ Bg3+! 19 Ke3 h3 etc.

(9) 9 Ra2? Bf2! 10 Kg5 Kg2 11 Ra6 Be3+ 12 Kh4 Bc5!! 13 Ra2+ Kf3 14 Kg5 h4 and if 15 Kxh4 Be7#! Or: 9 Rd2? Bf2! 10 Rd8 Kg2 11 Rg8 Kh3 etc.

(10) If 9... Kf1 10 Rh2! Bf2 11 Kg5 Draw.

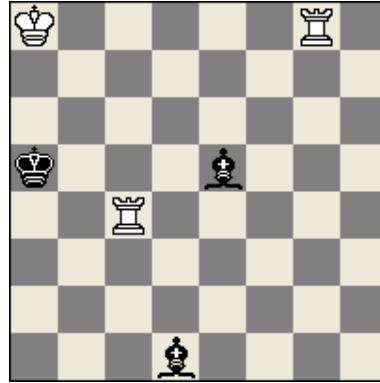
(11) A 3rd try with some thematic value: 10 Rc6? Be2!! 11 Kf1!! 12 Rc1 Kg2 13 Rc2 Bf3 14 Rc3 Bg3+ 15 Ke3 Be1 16 Bf2+ 17 Kf4 h4 etc.  
 Also: 10 Rc7? Kg2! 11 Kg5 Be3+ (see below)

(12) Not: 11 Rc7? Be3+ 12 Kh4 Bb6 13 Rc2+ Bf2+ 14 Kg5 Bf3 15 Kf4 h4 etc.

(13) If 13 Rd6? Bc5!! 14 Rd2+ Bf2+ 15 Kg5 Bf3 16 Kf4 h4 etc.

### Commendation

C. Poisson, France

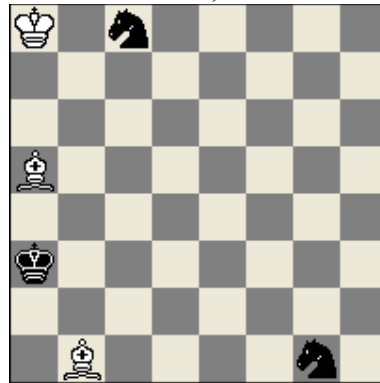


Black to move, white wins (3+3)

**1...Bb3 2.Rc5+ Kb4 3.Rgc8 Be6 4.R8c6 Bd7 5.Rc4+ Kb3 6.R6c5 Bd6 7.Rc3+ Kb4 8.R5c4+ Kb5 9.Rh4 Bc6+ 9...Kb6 10.Rb3+ Ka6 11.Rc4 +- 10.Ka7 Bc5+ 11.Kb8 Bd6+ 12.Kc8 +-**

### Commendation

C. Poisson, France

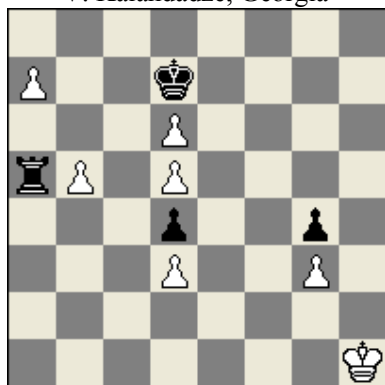


White to play and win + (3+3)

**1.Bc7 Ne7 (1...Kb2 2.Bf5 Ne7 3.Bg4 ) 2.Bd6+ Kb2 3.Be4 Ng8 4.Be5+ (4.Bd5? Nh6 => Ka3 5.Bg7 (5.Bd4? Ne2 => Ka4 6.Kb7 (6.Bc6+? Ka5 7.Kb7 Ne2 8.Bd5 Ne7 => Ne2 7.Ka6 7.Kb6? Ne7 =. 7...Nf4 8.Be5 (8.Bf8? Kb3 9.Bd6 Nf6 => Ne6 9.Bd6 (9.Bd5? Nc5+ => Nd4 10.Bc5 Nf6 11.Bg6 Nb3 12.Be7 Nd7 13.Be8 +-**

### Commendation

V. Kalandadze, Georgia



White to play and win (7+4)

**1.b6 Ra1+ 2.Kg2 Ra2+ 3.Kf1 Ra1+**  
**4.Ke2 Ra2+ 5.Kd1 Ra1+ 6.Kc2 Ra6!**  
**7.b7 Ra2+ 8.Kb3! R:a7 9.b8=R!!**  
9.b8=Q? Ra3+ 10.Kc4 Rc3+ 11.Kd4  
Rd3+!=.  
**9...K:d6 10.Kc4 Ra4+ 11.Rb4 and wins.**