

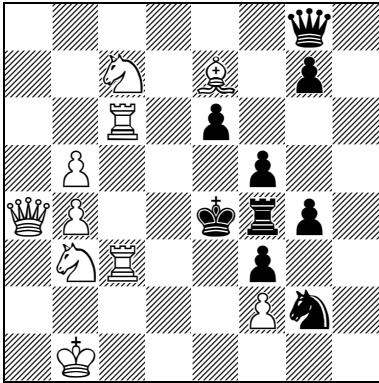


# 57th World Congress of Chess Composition August 23-30, 2014 in Berne

## Official 5 days composing tourney - WCCC 2014

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

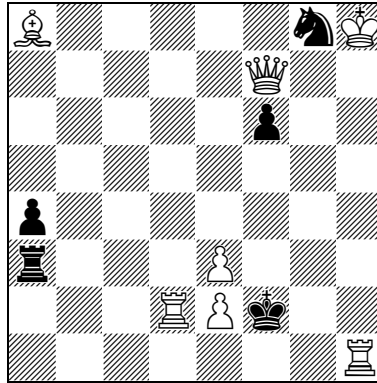
Aleksandr Feoktistov (RUS)



≠2    b) ♖e7→f1    10+9

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

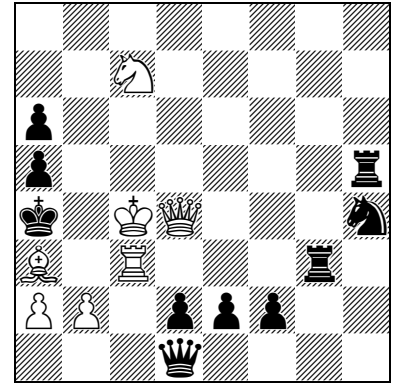
Eugene Fomichev (RUS)



≠2    b) ♖a8→b8    7+5

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

John Rice (GB)



≠2    b) ♖a3→e4    7+10

The example showed the le Grand theme, whose inventors, Henk and Piet le Grand, *are* twins, and - as twins often do - they look alike. Unfortunately in some of the entries the twins didn't show much similarity at all.

Actually it seemed more difficult than we expected to give some 'deeper' sense (strategic or aesthetical) to the stipulated twinning, consisting of moving a white bishop from a light to a dark square or vice versa.

We received 11 applications by 8 composers from 7 countries, including one retro piece that we didn't take into consideration because it was not comparable with the other entries.

We came to the following ranking:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Interesting battery play. The Dombrovskis mentioned by the author seems of minor interest to us, especially since its tries are rather rough. The main interest, however, lies in the correspondence of the twinning bishop and the key moves of the white queen. In one solution a direct battery is the threat and an indirect one comes in the variation. After the twinning it's the other way round.

a) 1.Bd6? (2.R6c4 **A**≠) 1.-e5 **a!** (1.-Se3 2.R:e3≠) – **1.Qa8!** (2.R:e6≠ direct battery; 2.R6c5+? Q:a8!) 1.-Ke5 2.R6c5≠ indirect battery; 2.R:e6+? Q:e6! 1.-e5 **a** 2.R6c4 **A**≠ Selfblock + Dombrovskis – b) 1.B:g2? (2.Re3 **B**≠) 1.-Ke5 **b!** – **1.Qa1!** (2.R3c4≠ indirect battery; 2.Re3+? S:e3!) 1.-Ke5 **b** 2.Re3 **B**≠ direct battery; Dombrovskis 2.R3c4+? Rd4! 1.-e5 2.Bd3≠ selfblock (1.-Qd8 2.R:e6≠ 1.-Se3 2.R:e3≠).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Well balanced twinning in a beautiful Meredith setting. Reciprocal change between try and solution. One Dombrovskis element.

a) 1.Qc7? (2.Qf4 **A**≠) 1.-R:e3 2.Qh2≠; 1.-K:e3 **a!** – **1.Qd5!** (2.Qf3≠) 1.-R:e3 2.Qg2≠ 1.-K:e3 2.Qd4≠ – b) 1.Qd5? (2.Qf3≠) 1.-K:e3 2.Qd4≠; 1.-R:e3! – **1.Qc7!** (2.Qg3≠) 1.-K:e3 **a** 2.Qf4 **A**≠ Dombrovskis 1.-R:e3 2.Qh2≠. Two white doublings, changed mates for 1.-K:e3, R:e3 (defense, refutation).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** This twomover shows some very interesting elements but some weak points as well. The nice try 1.Bd3? in the twin unfortunately finds no equivalent match in the diagram position. – An additional bP on g6 would eliminate the dual after Rg6, Rg7 in a).

a) 1.Sd5? (2.Sb6, Kc5‡) 1.-R:c3+ 2.S:c3‡ 1.-Qb3+ 2.a:b3‡; 1.-R:d5! – **1.Bc5!** (2.Qd7‡) 1.-R:c5+ 2.K:c5‡ 1.-Rh7, Rh6 2.Kd5‡ 1.-Rg4 2.Ra3‡ 1.-Qh1 2.b3‡ (1.-Rg6, Rg7 2.Ra3 & Kd3‡ =dual!) – b) 1.Bd3? (2.Ra3‡) 1.-R:d3 2.K:d3‡ 1.-Qc2 2.B:c2‡; 1.-Qc1! – **1.Bd5!** (2.Kc5‡) 1.-Sf3 (Rg4) 2.Ra3 1.-Sf5 2.Bc6‡ 1.-R:c3+ 2.K:c3‡ 1.-Qb3+ 2.a:b3‡ 1.-Rd3 2.K:d3‡ 1.-R:d5 2.K:d5‡.

*Chris Handloser, Martin Hoffmann (Switzerland)*