



The 10th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section D – Studies

Final award by

Ilham Aliev

MMXXII

Participants

D01 Minski M. (GER)	D20 Muljadi P. (USA)
D02 Avni A. (ISR)	D21 Koch J.-R. (FRA)
D03 Zamanov V. (AZE)	D22 Tarasiuk V. (UKR)
D04 Gasparyan A. (ARM)	D23 Smolkin B. (CAN)
D05 Arestov P.	D24 Didukh S. (UKR)
D06 Gomez Palazon L. (ESP)	D25 Syzonenko V. (UKR)
D07 Delobel B. (FRA)	D26 Murashov V.
D08 Barikbin K. (IRN)	D27 Kuzmichev V.
D09 Topko L. (UKR)	D28 Bazlov Y.
D10 Tkachenko S. N. (UKR)	D29 Osintsev S.
D11 González L. M. (ESP)	D30 Nielsen S. (DEN)
D12 Dimitrov O. (BUL)	D31 Pasman M. (ISR)
D13 Kopylov E.	D32 Sprenger J. (Italy)
D14 Pervakov O.	D33 Afek Y. (NLD)
D15 Gatti D. (ITA)	D34 Djurašević B. (SRB)
D16 Shpakovsky A.	D35 Hlebec D. (CRO)
D17 Samilo V. (UKR)	D36 Meunier-Pion J. (FRA)
D18 Becker R. (USA)	D37 Neistadt V.
D19 Stavrietsky A.	

I have received 37 anonymous studies from Director.

First, I would like to make a small remark to some authors who are happy to put many exclamation marks in the solution of the study, trying to attract the attention of the judge.

In 2008 in Antalya (Turkey), the European Chess Solving Championship was held, where the chief referee was the late Milan Velimirovic (Serbia), and I was his assistant. When writing answers to tasks, Agshin Masimov (Azerbaijan) put two or even three exclamation marks for many moves. Milan reprimanded him, warning that he would give 0 points if he continued in the same spirit. Although A. Masimov did not do it anymore, he can't break this "tradition" in Azerbaijan championships...

In this Cup, there were enough such "heroes" whose exclamation marks I had to clean.

Attracting the attention of lovers of exclamation marks with this humor, I would like to explain: these marks, to my great regret, except for the annoyance of the judges, do not add beauty to the studies (but just really beautiful studies are undoubtedly an adornment of any competition).

Traditionally, let's start with some studies that were not included in the award:

1) Cooks:

D7 (+, ♖c6-♖h8, 7+5). The dual 10.♙:g7+! ♖:g7 11.♙e6 ♖a7 12.♙d6 ♖a6+ 13.♙c5 ♖a5+ 14.♙b4 ♖g5 15.♙:a3+ and many duals in moves of White King and Rook.

D16 (+, ♖d3-♖d5, 4+7). The dual 7.♙c2! ♖f1 (7...h2 8.♙a6+ ♙e5 9.f4+ ♙f5 10.♙c8+ ♙:f4 11.♙c7+ ♙f5 12.♙:h2 ♖d5 13.♙h3+ ♙f6 14.♙f1+ ♙f5 15.♙:b5 +) 8.♙f7 ♖g1 (8...g5 9.♙f6+ ♙d7 10.♙f5+ ♙c6 11.♙e6+ ♙c7 12.♙e2 ♖a1 13.♙:b5 h2 14.♙:c5+ ♙d7 15.♙d5+ ♙c7 16.♙e5+) 9.♙f8+ ♙d5 10.♙d8+ ♙e6 11.♙c8+ ♙d6 12.♙:h3 +.

2) Anticipations:

D3 (=, ♙e5-♙h5, 3+6) – best version of this scheme: V. Zamanov & L. M. Gonzalez, ChessStar 2021, 3rd prize, 7b/4pp2/3pk1n1/1P6/3pKP2/8/8/3B4

D12 (+, ♙f8-♙h8, 5+4). H. Aloni and Y. Aloni, 1st Prize Israel Ring TY Haproblemai, 1977 (4QKNk/4P3/8/2q4p/5n1P/8/8/8).

D33 (+, ♙d7-♙f7, 6+3) – V. Kovalenko. 2.c Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia, 1997 (8/6k1/3K3R/8/8/2R5/N4P2/q7) and O. Sakharov, Shakhmaty v SSSR, 1988 (K7/8/2p4k/8/1R4R1/8/2q2P2/8)

3) Another reasons:

D6 (+, ♖f5-♖g2, 3+5) – cute Rook study but maybe too simple for such tourney. A play must be complete on 12th move (author completed on 14th) because there are many duals further.

D8 (=, ♖h5-♖b8, 7+7) – the idea is processed repeatedly. Also: a play must be complete on 11th move (author completed on 16th) because there are many duals in moves of White King.

D9 (+, ♖h3-♖g1, 5+4) – unlucky introduction with capture of passive Queen and a changing of pieces.

D21 (=, ♖a1-♖a5, 4+6) – rude introduction is added to a final that is well-known (A. Mouterde, La Strategie, 1916, 8/3B4/8/8/8/1k6/pr6/K7; D. Djaja, 1966, 8/8/8/1B6/N7/1k6/p6r/K7) and is processed by many authors earlier.

D25 (=, ♖f7-♖f5, 5+3) – pretty but in such little-pieces-position a capture of passive Queen is a big shortcoming.

D26 (+, ♖d8-♖e6, 9+15) – a grotesque with foresight but with non-interesting and rude play.

D28 (+, ♖g3-♖h6, 9+5) – two promotions in Khight but captures of two passive pieces spoils a play. The play must be complete on 9th move because there is a dual 10. ♗g7+.

D30 (+, ♖h8-♖f7, 8+9) – bad first move.

D34 (+, ♖g1-♖d8, 3+8) – in comparison to short study of L. Kubbel (150 Endspielstudien, 1925), active sacrifice of Queen is replaced with passive the one but instead of it 19-moves-manuevers of Queen all over the board were added. In any other tourney, I maybe would give a distinction for this study but in the Cup I wanted more originality. Moreover, I did not like the moves of White Queen on h7 with duals but some judges don't consider such moves as duals.

D36 (+, ♖a1-♖h4, 9+6) – passive White Knight, many technical pieces... This is more a scheme than a study.

D37 (=, ♖g2-♖b8, 8+6) – The idea of drawing the black queen into a trap is interesting, but it did not make a good introduction.

4) Studies that can give distinctions in another tourneys:

D4 (=, ♖h6-♖d3, 6+7)

D17 (=, ♖h5-♖c7, 4+5)

D19 (+, ♖h1-♖h8, 8+10)

D20 (+, ♖b6-♖c4, 6+2)

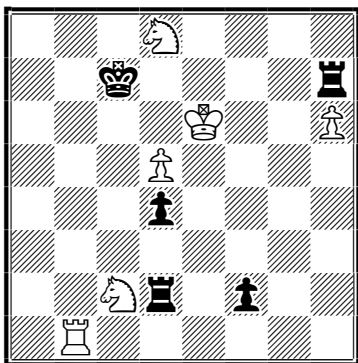
D22 (=, ♖d4-♖a1, 6+10)

D23 (+, ♖e5-♖f7, 6+6)

D27 (=, ♖d1-♖b6, 3+4).

I congratulate prizewinners and wish new creative successes!

D31 – 1st Prize, Gold medal
 MICHAEL PASMAN
 Israel



= 6+5

1.d6+!

Logical try: 1. ♖f7? ♜e2+ 2. ♜f6 d3 3.d6+ ♜d7! *Position X1 with king on d7.* [3... ♜c8? and everything as in the main line: 4. ♖e3 ♜e1 5. ♜b8+ ♜:b8 6.d7 ♜:h6+ 7. ♜g5 ♜h8 8. ♖:h8 ♜g1+ 9. ♜f4 ♜c7 10. ♖f1 d2 11. ♖:d2 ♜d1 12. ♖f1 ♜:f1 13. ♜e3 ♜h1 14. ♖f7 f1♖+ 15. ♜f2 ♜:d7 16. ♖e5+ ♜e6 17. ♖f3 ♜f5 18. ♜g2=) 4. ♖e3 ♜:f7+ (4... ♜:e3 so check on c1 as in main line) 5. ♜:f7 ♜:e3+]

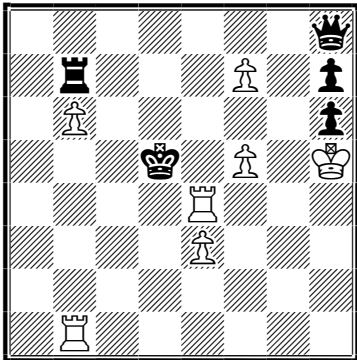
1... ♜c8 2. ♖f7! (2. ♜d5? ♜:h6 3. ♖b4 ♜b2 +) **2... ♜e2+ 3. ♜f6 d3.** *Position X2 with king on c8.* **4. ♖e3! ♜e1!** (4... ♜:e3 5. ♜c1+! ♜b7 6.d7 ♜:f7+ 7. ♜:f7 ♜e1 8. ♜:e1 f:e1♖ 9.d8♖=; 4... ♜:f7+ 5. ♜:f7 ♜:e3) **5. ♜b8+!! ♜:b8 6.d7 ♜:h6+!** (6... ♜:f7+ 7. ♜:f7 ♜c7 8.h7 f1♖+ 9. ♖:f1 ♜:f1+ 10. ♜e7/e8=; 6... f1♖+ 7. ♖:f1 ♜:f1+ 8. ♜g6=;

6... ♜h8 7. ♖:h8 ♜c7 8. ♖f7!)= **7. ♜g5!** (7. ♖:h6? ♜c7+; 7. ♜g7? ♜d6! 8. ♖:d6 ♜c7 9. ♖f7 ♜:d7 10. ♖e5+ ♜e6 11. ♖:d3 ♜:e3 12. ♖:f2 ♜g3+)=) **7... ♜h8!** (7... ♜d6 8. ♖:d6 ♜c7 9. ♖f7 ♜:d7 10. ♖e5+ ♜e6 11. ♖:d3 ♜:e3 12. ♖:f2=) **8. ♖:h8 ♜g1+** (8... ♜c7 9. ♖f7 ♜:d7 10. ♖e5+ ♜e6 11. ♖:d3 ♜:e3 12. ♖:f2=) **9. ♜f4 ♜c7 10. ♖f1!** (10. ♖f7? f1♖+ 11. ♖:f1 ♜:f1+ 12. ♜e3 ♜:f7) **10... d2!** (10... ♜:f1 11. ♖f7! ♜:d7 12. ♖e5+ ♜e6 13. ♖:d3=) **11. ♖:d2 ♜d1! 12. ♖f1! ♜:f1 13. ♜e3!** (13. ♜g3? ♜g1+ 14. ♜:f2 ♜g7) **13... ♜h1** (13... ♜:d7 14. ♖g6! ♜e6 15. ♖f4+=) **14. ♖f7! f1♖+!** (14... f1♖ 15.d8♖+) **15. ♜f2 ♜:d7.** Position of E. Pogoyants, 1976. **16. ♖e5+ ♜e6 17. ♖f3! ♜f5** (17... ♖h2 18. ♜g2) **18. ♜g2=.**

Tactical study with logical elements in the introduction. Before putting a Knight (that is under attack) into play, the White via intermediate check do not allow Black King to block wPd6 (position X1 and position X2).

After 15-moves-combinational introduction, a position-scheme of E. Pogoyants (1976) appears. In contradistinction to “anticipation”, here the Black Knight is promoted. We can say that a simple three-mover-scheme has been turned into a beautiful study, like an ugly duckling – into a nice swan.

D14 – 2nd Prize, Silver medal
OLEG PERVAKOV



= 7+5

1. **♖e8** (1. **♖d4**? **♗e5!** 2. **♖b5**+ **♗f6**+)
1... ♗g7 (1... **♗f6** 2. **♖d1**+ **♗c4**
 3. **♖c8**+ **♗b3** 4. **♖d3**+ **♗a4** 5. **♖a3**+!
♗b5 6. **♖b3**+)=) **2. ♖d1+** **♗c6!**
3. ♖c8+ **♖c7!** (3... **♗:b6** 4. **♖b1**+ **♗a7**
 5. **♖a1**+! **♗:a1** 6. **f8**♗ **♗h1**+ 7. **♗g4**
♗g2+ 8. **♗f4**=) **4. ♖:c7+** **♗:b6** **5. ♖g1!**
 (5. **♖d6**+? **♗:c7** 6. **♖:h6** **♗:f7**+)+)
5... ♗:g1 **6. ♖b7**+!!

Logical try: 6. **♗:h6**? **♗h2**+!
 7. **♗g7** (7. **♗g5** **♗g3**+ 8. **♗h5** **♗g7!**
 9. **♖e7** **♗b5**+)+) 7... **♗:c7** 8. **f6** **♗c5!**
 9. **e4** **♗d4!** 10. **♗g8** **♗g3**+ 11. **♗h8**
♗b8+ 12. **♗g7** **♗e5!** 13. **f8**♗ **♗:f8**+
 14. **♗:f8** **♗:f6**+)

6... ♗:b7 **7. ♗:h6** **♗h2**+! (7... **♗:e3**+
 8. **♗:h7**) **8. ♗g7** **♗e5**+ **9. ♗g8!**
 (9. **♗:h7**? **♗:f5**+)+) **9... ♗g3**+ **10. ♗h8!**
 (10. **♗:h7**? **♗h4**+ 11. **♗g7** **♗g5**+)+)
10... ♗b8+ **11. ♗g7!** **♗c7** **12. f6!**

Thematic try: 12. **♗g8**? **♗c4** 13. **e4**
 (13. **♗g7** **♗g4**+ 14. **♗f6** **♗h4**+!
 15. **♗g7** **♗g5**+)+) 13... **h5!** 14. **♗g7**
♗c7 15. **♗g8** **♗g3**+ 16. **♗h7** **♗b8**

17. **♗g7** **h4** 18. **f8**♗ **♗:f8**+ 19. **♗:f8**
h3 20. **f6** **h2** 21. **f7** **h1**♗-+. Or 12. **e4**?
h5! 13. **f6** **h4**+).

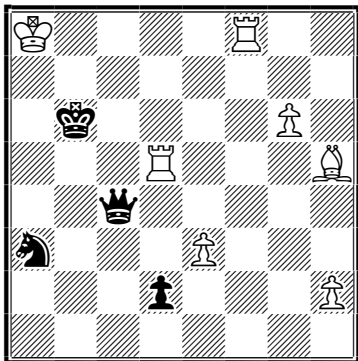
12... ♗c6 (12... **h5** 13. **♗g8** **♗c4**
 14. **♗g7**=) **13. e4!**

Logical try-2: 13. **♗g8**? **♗g3**+
 14. **♗h8** **♗d6!** 15. **♗g7** (15. **♗g8**
♗d5 16. **♗g7** **♗g5**+)+) 15... **♗d7!**
 16. **e4** **♗d6** 17. **♗g8** **♗g4**+! 18. **♗h8**
♗c8+ 19. **♗g7** **♗e6** 20. **f8**♗ **♗:f8**+
 21. **♗:f8** **♗:f6**+).

13... ♗d6 [13... **h5** 14. **e5**=;
 13... **♗g3**+ 14. **♗h8** **♗b8**+ 15. **♗g7**
♗a7 16. **e5!** (16. **♗g8**? **♗g1**+!
 17. **♗h8** **♗c5** 18. **♗g7** **♗g5**+ -)
 16... **♗d5** 17. **♗g8** **♗g1**+ 18. **♗:h7**=
 (18. **♗h8**? **♗c5** 19. **♗g7** **♗:e5**
 20. **f8**♗ **♗:f8**+ 21. **♗:f8** **♗:f6** -)]
14. ♗g8 **♗c4** **15. ♗g7** **♗c7** **16. ♗g8**=
 (positional draw)

Logical study with sacrifices of three Rooks, two of which (Rc7 and Rb7+) are especially stand out for the beauty. Via the sacrifices of Rook on 6th move, the White forces a Black King to move on b7 and achieves a draw (because with bKb6 Black wins). After nice introduction, the play smoothly transitions to the second part with a positional draw and a constant refusal to capture the black h7-pawn.

D32 – 3rd Prize, Bronze medal
 JAN SPRENGER
Italy



+ 7+4

1. ♖b8+ (1. ♖f6+? ♘c7 2. ♖f7+ ♘c8=) 1... ♘a6 (1... ♘c7 2. ♖b7+ ♘c8 3. ♖a5+) 2. ♜e2! (2. ♖d6+? ♘a5 3. g7 d1♖! 4. ♜:d1 ♖e4+ 5. ♖b7 ♖e8+ 6. ♘a7 ♖:e3+ 7. ♖db6 ♖b5+ 8. ♘a8 ♖e8+ =, perpetual check) 2... ♖:e2 3. g7 ♖b5! (3... d1♖ 4. g8♖+) 4. ♖d:b5 (4. ♖b:b5? ♖g2 5. ♖a5+ ♘b6=) 4... ♖g2+! (4... ♖f3+ 5. ♖8b7! d1♖ 6. ♖5b6+! (6. g8♖? ♖:b7+ 7. ♖:b7 ♖d8+! 8. ♖b8 ♖d5+! 9. ♖:d5=, pat) 6... ♘a5 7. g8♖+) 5. ♖5b7 (5. ♖8b7?? d1♖ -) 5... d1♖ 6. g8♖!! Try: 6. g8♖? ♖:b7+! 7. ♖:b7 ♖d8+! 8. ♖b8 (8. ♖:d8 pat) 8... ♖d5+! 9. ♖:d5 pat. 6... ♖gf3

[Main: 6... ♖c6 7. ♖g6! (1st sacrifice) 7... ♖:g6 8. ♖a7#]

[Main: 6... ♖gd5 7. ♖g6+ ♘a5 8. ♖g5! (2nd sacrifice) 8... ♖:g5 9. ♖a7#]

7. ♖gf8 ♖e4

[Main: 7... ♖fd5 8. ♖f6+ ♘a5 9. ♖f5! {3rd sacrifice} 9... ♖:f5 10. ♖a7#]

[Main: 7... ♖g2 8. ♖f6+ ♘a5 9. ♖f2! (4th sacrifice) 9... ♖:f2 10. ♖a7#]

8. ♖fe8!

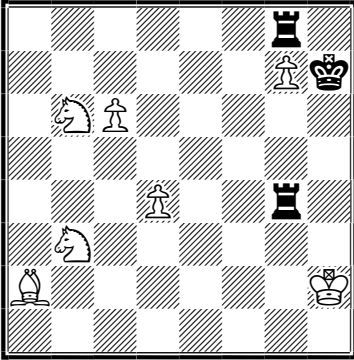
Try: 8. ♖f4?? (with the idea 8... ♖c6 9. ♖f6 ♖:f6 10. ♖a7#) 8... ♖:b7+! 9. ♖:b7 ♖d8+ 10. ♖b8 ♖d5+ 11. ♖b7 ♖:b7#

Try: 8. ♖f6+? ♘a5 9. ♖f5+ ♘a6=

8... ♖c6 9. ♖e6! (5th sacrifice) 9... ♖:e6 10. ♖a7#.

Black counter-play on pat is refuted by promotion in Rook, after that three Rooks fight against two Queens with the pursuit of Black Queen and five different sacrifices of Rook (Re6, Rf2, Rf5, Rg6, Rg5).

D1 – 4th Prize
 MARTIN MINSKI
 Germany



+ 7+3

1.c7 (1. ♖c5? ♜8:g7=) **1... ♜h4+**!
 [1... ♜4:g7 2.c8♖ ♜g2+ 3.♗h3!
 (3.♗h1? ♜:c8 4.♙b1+ ♜cc2 5.♙a1
 ♜h2+ 6.♗g1 ♜hg2+ 7.♗f1 ♜gf2+
 8.♗e1 ♜fe2+ 9.♗d1 ♜ed2+=)
 3... ♜:c8 4.♙b1+! ♜cc2 5.♙a1! +]
2.♗g3 (2.♗g2 ♜:g7+ =) **2... ♜:d4!**
 (2... ♜:g7+ 3.♗:h4+-) **3.♙b1+**!
 (3.♙:d4? ♜:g7+ 4.♗f4 ♜:c7=;
 3.c8♖? ♜:c8 4.♙:c8 ♜d3+ 5.♗f4
 ♗:g7=) **3... ♗h6!** (3... ♗:g7 4.♙:d4+-
) **4.c8♖** (4.c8♜? ♜:g7+; 4.♙:d4?
 ♜:g7+ 5.♗f4 ♜:c7=) **4... ♜:c8**
5.♙:c8 (5.♙:d4? ♜c3+ 6.♗f4
 ♗:g7=)

A) 5... ♜d1 6.g8♙+! (6.g8♖?
 ♜g1+ 7.♗f2 ♜:g8=) **6... ♗g7 7.♙c2**
♜g1+ **8.♗f2** (8.♗h2? ♜e1=)
8... ♜h1 9.♙e4 (9.♗g2? ♜e1
 10.♗f2 ♜h1) **9... ♜h3/h4** (9... ♜h2+
 10.♗g3 ♜e2 11.♙d5 ♜e5
 12.♙ge7+-) **10.♙d5 ♜h5**
11.♙ge7+-.

Loss of time 11. ♙e6 ♜e5 12. ♙c4
 ♜e4 13. ♙d5 ♜e5 14. ♙ge7 or
 11. ♙ce7? ♜:d5 12. ♙:d5 ♗:g8=;

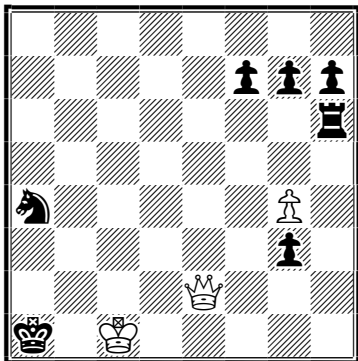
B) 5... ♜c4 6.g8♜! (6.g8♖? ♜g4+!
 7.♗f3 (7.♗(♖):g4 pat) 7... ♜:g8=)
6... ♜g4+ 7. ♜:g4+-);

C) 5... ♜b4 6.g8♙! [6.g8♖? ♜g4+!
 7.♗f3 (7.♗(♖):g4 pat) 7... ♜:g8=;
 6.g8♜? ♜:b3+ 7.♗f4 ♜:b1=;
 6.g8♙+ ♗g7=] **6... ♜g4+**
 (6... ♜:b3+ 7.♙:b3+-; 6... ♗g7
 7.♙e6) **7.♗:g4+-.**

[5... ♜d8 6.♙d4! ♜:c8 (6... ♗:g7
 7.♙e6+; 6... ♜:d4 7.♙e7 ♗:g7
 8.♙f5+) 7.♙f5+ ♗g5 8.♙e7+-]

Allumwandlung. Author realized
 the idea with few pieces. Pity that
 ♙b3 is immobile.

D18 – Special Prize
 RICHARD BECKER
 USA



+ 3+7

1. ♖c4! (1. ♖b5? ♜h1+ 2. ♔c2 ♜h2+=; 1. ♖e5+? ♔a2 2. ♖d5+ ♔a3=; 1. ♖e4? ♛c3 2. ♖d4 ♜c6=) 1... ♜h1+ 2. ♔c2 ♜h2+ 3. ♔b3 ♜b2+ 4. ♔a3! (4. ♔a4? g2 5. ♖d4 ♔a2=) 4...g2 5. ♖c1+!

Thematic try: 5. ♖d4? f6! (5...h6 6.g5! main line) 6. ♖d1+ ♜b1 7. ♖d2 ♜b2 8. ♖d4 g6 9. ♖d1+ ♜b1 10. ♖d2 ♜b2 11. ♖d4 h5 12.g:h5 g:h5 13. ♖g1+ ♜b1 14. ♖:g2 ♛c3=.

5... ♜b1 6. ♖d2 ♜b2 (6... ♛b2 7. ♖d5+-) 7. ♖d1+ ♜b1 8. ♖d4+ (8. ♖:a4?? g1♖+-) 8... ♜b2 (8... ♛b2 9. ♖d5!+-) 9.g5! f6 (9...h6 10.g:h6 g:h6 11. ♖g1+ ♜b1 12. ♖:g2 ♛c3 13. ♖g7!) 10.g6! (10.g:f6? g:f6 11. ♖d1+ ♜b1 12. ♖d2 ♜b2 13. ♖d4 h5 14. ♖g1+ ♜b1 15. ♖:g2 ♛c3=) 10...h:g6 (10...h5 11. ♖g1+ ♜b1 12. ♖:g2+-) 11. ♖d1+ ♜b1 12. ♖d2 ♜b2 13. ♖d4 f5 14. ♖d1+

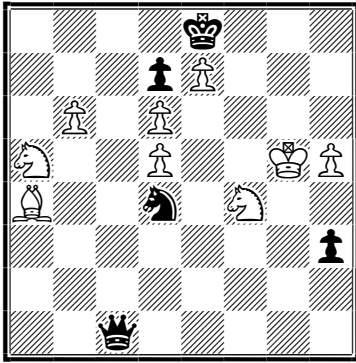
♜b1 15. ♖d2 ♜b2 16. ♖d4 f4 17. ♖d1+ ♜b1 18. ♖d2 ♜b2 19. ♖d4 f3 20. ♖d1+ ♜b1 21. ♖d2 ♜b2 22. ♖d4 g5 23. ♖d1+ ♜b1 24. ♖d2 ♜b2 25. ♖d4 g4 26. ♖d1+ ♜b1 27. ♖d2 ♜b2 28. ♖d4 g3 29. ♖d1+ ♜b1 30. ♖d2 ♜b2 31. ♖d4 g6 32. ♖d1+ ♜b1 33. ♖d2 ♜b2 34. ♖d4 g5 35. ♖d1+ ♜b1 36. ♖d2 ♜b2 37. ♖d4 g4 38. ♖d1+ ♜b1 39. ♖d2 ♜b2 40. ♖d4 f2 41. ♖d1+ ♜b1 42. ♖:a4! g1♖ 43. ♖d4+ ♜b2 44. ♖:b2#.

11-fold mechanism for a passing turn to opponent goes together with an activation of White Pawn that via self-sacrifice brings Black Pawn on the right line.

The mechanism runs until Black runs out of Pawn moves, and he is forced to advance his Pawn to the lethal f2-square, after which the d4-square is blocked, from where the White Queen delivers a fatal blow.

An author ends a solution by 22...f2 but I lengthened it by 18 moves and “unfrozen” Pawns g6 and g7.

D13 – 1st Honorable Mention
 EVGENY KOPYLOV



+ 9+5

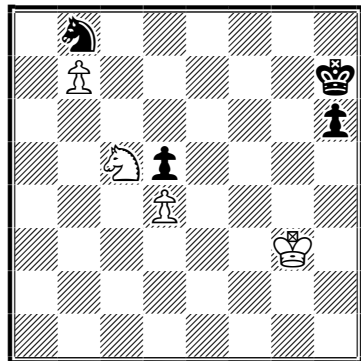
1.b7 ♖b1! (1...♙g1+ 2.♗f6+-; 1...♗f3+ 2.♗g6! ♖g1+ 3.♗h7! ♗g5+ 4.♗g8! ♗e4+ 5.♗g6 ♗f6+ 6.♗g7! ♗h5+ 7.♗h6 ♖b6 8.♗d7+! ♗d7 9.♗e5+ ♗e8 10.b8♙+ ♖b8 11.d7+ ♗e7 12.♗ac6+ ♗d6 13.♗b8+-) 2.♗g6! (2.♗b3? ♖f5+; 2.♗c2? ♗c2+-) 2...h2 (2...♖b6 3.♗c4 ♖b7 4.♗ge5 h2 5.♗d7+ ♖d7 6.♗d7 ♗d7 7.♗e5+ ♗d6 8.e8♙ h1♙ 9.♖b8+ ♗c5 10.♖a7+ ♗d5 11.♖b7+ +-) 3.♗b3! (3.♗b3? ♖c1+ 4.♗f4 ♗f3+ 5.♗g6 ♖g1+ 6.♗h6 ♗f7+-) 3...♖f5+ 4.♗h6 ♖h5+! 5.♗g7! (5.♗h5? h1♙+ 6.♗g4 ♖f3+ 7.♗h4 ♖e4+=) 5...♖h7+! 6.♗h7 (6.♗f6? ♖f7+ 7.♗e5 ♗f3+ 8.♗e4 ♖g6+-) 6...h1♙+ 7.♗g7 (7.♗g8? ♖d5+) 7...♗e6+! (7...♗f5+ 8.♗f6+-) 8.♗g8! (8.d:e6? ♖h7+ 9.♗h7 pat) 8...♖d5 9.♗d7+! (9.b8♙+? ♗d8+ 10.♗g7 ♖f7+! 11.♗h6 ♖g6+! 12.♗g6 pat) 9...♗d7 10.b8♗+!

(10.e8♙+? ♗e8 11.b8♙+ ♗d8+ 12.♗g7 ♖b7+=) 10...♗d6 (10...♗c8 11.e8♙+ ♗d8+ 12.♗g7 ♖d6 13.♗c6! ♖c6 14.♗e7+ +-; 10...♗e8 11.d7+ ♖d7 12.♗d7 ♗d7 13.♗c5+ ♗c5 14.♗f7+-) 11.e8♗#!

After closing a b-file, the Black Queen is ready to sacrifice himself to save Black king from checkmate. Rejection of the sacrifice of Queen and Knight, Phoenix theme, two stalemate traps with a pin of Pawn and Knight. Having avoided stalemate traps, White strikes the last blow with the sacrifice of Bishop and with two promotions in Knights.

Model mate by four knights with two self-blocks.

D29 – 2nd Honorable Mention
 SERGEY OSINTSEV



+ 4+4

1. ♖f4 h5 (1... ♗g6 2. ♜e5! h5
3. ♗d6 h4 4. ♛d3 ♖f5 5. ♜c7 ♚a6+
6. ♗b6+-) 2. ♗g5 h4! 3. ♜:h4 ♗h6
4. ♗h3!!

Thematic try: 4. ♗g4? ♗g6 zz
5. ♖f4 ♖f6 zz 6. ♜e3 ♜e7! zz 7. ♖f3
♖f7! zz 8. ♗g3 ♗g7 zz 9. ♗h3 ♖f7!
zz 10. ♗h2! ♖f8! zz 11. ♗h3
(11. ♗g2 ♗g8! zz 12. ♖f1! ♖f7
13. ♖f2 ♖f8! zz 14. ♜e2 ♜e8!
15. ♗d3 ♗d8 16. ♜c3 ♜c7=)
11... ♖f7 zz 12. ♗h4 ♖f6! zz
13. ♗h5 ♖f5 zz 14. ♗h6 ♖f6 zz
15. ♗h7 ♖f7 zz 16. ♗h8 ♖f8 zz
17. ♗h7 ♖f7 18. ♗h6 ♖f6 19. ♗h5
♖f5 20. ♗h4 ♖f6!= (positional
draw).

4... ♗h7 (4... ♗g5 5. ♗g3 ♖f5
6. ♖f3+-) 5. ♗h2!! ♗h8! (5... ♗g6
6. ♗g2! ♖f6 7. ♖f2 ♜e7 8. ♜e3 ♗d6
9. ♖f4 ♜c7 10. ♜e5 ♜c6 11. ♜e6
♜c7 12. ♜:d5 ♚c6 13. ♜e4! +-;
5... ♗g7 6. ♗g3! zz ♖f7 7. ♖f3 ♗g7
8. ♜e3+-) 6. ♚e6!

Thematic try: 6. ♗h1? ♗g7!
7. ♗g1 ♖f7! 8. ♗h2 ♖f8! zz

6... ♗g8 7. ♗h3! (7. ♗g2? ♖f7
8. ♚c5 ♗g8! zz; 7. ♗g3? ♖f7 8. ♚c5
♗g7! zz) 7... ♖f7 8. ♚c5 zz ♗g7
9. ♗g3! ♖f7 10. ♖f3 ♗g7 (10... ♜e7
11. ♗g4! ♗d6 12. ♖f4+- zz)
11. ♜e3/e2 ♖f7 12. ♗d3/d2
12... ♜e7 (12... ♜e8 13. ♜c3 ♜e7
14. ♗b4 ♗d6 15. ♜a4! (15. ♗b5?
♜c7 zz 16. ♜a5 ♜c6 zz 17. ♗b4
♗b6 18. ♜a4 ♚c6!=) 15... ♜c6
16. ♜a5 zz ♜c7 17. ♗b5 zz ♚c6
18. ♜a6 ♚b4+ 19. ♜a7 ♚c6+

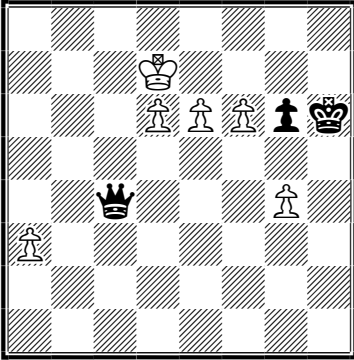
20. ♜a8+-) 13. ♜c3 ♗d6 14. ♗b4
♚c6+ (14... ♜c6 15. ♜a5!+-) 15. ♗b5
♚:d4+ 16. ♗b6 (16. ♜a6? ♚c6!
17. ♗b6 ♚b8 18. ♜a7 ♚c6+ 19. ♗b6
♚b8 20. ♚a6 ♚d7+ 21. ♜a7 d4!=)
16... ♚c6 17. ♚d3! (17. ♚e6?! ♚b8
18. ♜a7 ♚c6+ 19. ♗b6 ♚b8 20. ♚d4
♚d7+=; 17. ♚b3? ♚b8 18. ♚c5
d4! =; 17. ♚a6? d4! 18. ♚b4 ♚b8
19. ♜a7 ♚d7 20. ♚d3 ♗d5! =)
17... ♚b8

[Main 17...d4 18. ♚e5! ♚b8
19. ♜a7 ♜c7 20. ♚d3 ♚c6+
21. ♜a8+-]

18. ♜a7 ♚d7 (18... ♚c6+ 19. ♜a8
d4 20. ♚b4! +-) 19. ♚b2 (19. ♜a8?
d4! 20. ♜a7 ♗d5! 21. ♜a8 ♗d6! = or
loss of time 19. ♚f2 ♜e5 20. ♚d3+
♗d6) 19...d4 20. ♚a4 d3 21. ♚b2!
(21. ♚b6? ♜e6 22. ♚:d7 d2=)
21...d2 22. ♚c4+ ♜c7 23. ♚:d2+ +-.

In the first part of Knight
endgame, there is an amusing
struggle between Kings for the
corresponding squares, with
numerous positions of mutual
zugzwang. After getting an
opposition, White King manages to
break through a Black defense and
reach his passed Pawn b7. After
that, the baton passes to White
Knight, which, having destroyed
the dangerous Black Pawn, puts
an end to the game. White King
visited three corners of the
chessboard in solution and
attempts.

D11 – 3rd Honorable Mention
 LUIS MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ
 Spain



+ 6+3

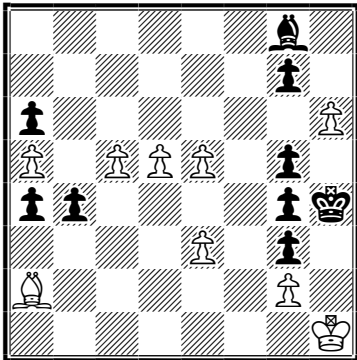
1. ♖e7! ♜c8! (1... ♗d4 2.f7! ♗a7+ 3.d7 ♗:a3+ 4. ♖e8 ♖g7 5.d8♗+-) **2.g5!** (2.a4? ♖h7! 3.d7 ♗c5+ 4. ♖e8 ♗c6 5.e7 ♗:f6 6.d8♗ ♗c6+ 7. ♖f7 ♗f3+ 8. ♖e6 ♗e4+ 9. ♖d6 ♗d4+ 10. ♖c7 ♗a7+ 11. ♖c6 ♗:a4+=; 2.d7? ♗c5+ 3. ♖e8 ♗c6 4.e7 g5! 5.f7 ♖g6 6.f8♗ ♗a8+ 7.d8♗ ♗a4+ 8. ♗c6 ♗:c6+=) **2... ♖h7!** (2... ♖:g5 3.f7 ♖f5 4.d7! ♗c5+ 5. ♖e8 ♖:e6 6.d8♗+-) **3.d7 ♗c5+** (3... ♗a6 4.a4! ♗b7 5.a5! ♗b3 6.a6 ♗b6 7.f7 ♗b4+ 8. ♖e8 ♖g7 9.d8♗ ♗b5+ 10. ♖e7 ♗:g5+ 11. ♖d7 ♗d5+ 12. ♖c8! ♗:e6+ 13. ♖b7+-) **4. ♖e8! ♗c6 5.e7** (loss of time: 5. ♖e7 ♗c5+ 6. ♖e8) **5... ♗a4 6.f7!** (6. ♖f8? ♗:d7 7.e8♗ ♗g7+! 8.f:g7 pat) **6... ♗b5 7.f8♗!** (7.f8♗? ♗:d7+ 8. ♖:d7 pat) **7... ♖g7 8. ♗f7+!**

Thematic try: 8. ♗f6? ♗:g5!
 9. ♗c6 ♗d5! 10.d8♗! g5! 11. ♗e6+ ♖g8!=

8... ♖g8 9. ♗f6 ♖g7 10. ♗e6!
 (10. ♗d6? ♗b8+ 11.d8♗ ♗b5+ 12. ♗d7 ♗b3 13. ♗b7 ♗a4+!
 14. ♗d7 ♗b3=) **10... ♗:g5 11.d8♗!**
 (11.d8♗? ♗b5+ 12. ♗d7 ♗b8+ 13. ♗d8 ♗b5+=) **11... ♗b5+ 12. ♗c6!**
♗d5 (12... ♗a4 13. ♖d7 ♗a7+ 14. ♗c7 ♗a4+ 15. ♗c6 ♗d1+ 16. ♖c8+-) **13. ♗b6!** (13.a4? g5!
 14. ♗c5 ♗d6! 15.a5 g4 16. ♗c6 ♗d5!
 17.a6 g3 18.a7 g2 19.a8♗ g1♗
 20. ♗a6 ♗g4! 21. ♗e6+ ♖g8 22. ♗d6 ♗b3!
 23. ♗c8 ♗ba4+ 24. ♖d8 ♖f7 25. ♗d7 ♗a5+ 26. ♗c7 ♗ag5!
 27. ♗a6 ♗:d7+! 28. ♖:d7 ♗:e7+ =) **13... ♗a5 14. ♗e6+ ♖g8 15. ♗c7!**
 (15. ♖d7? ♗a4+! 16. ♗c6 ♗d1+!
 17. ♗d6 ♗a4+ 18. ♖d8 ♗a8+=) **15... ♗:b6 16. ♖d7 ♗d4+ 17. ♖c8 ♗g4+ 18. ♖b8! ♗d7 19.e8♗+ ♗:e8+ 20. ♗:e8+**

White Pawns, in the fight against Black queen, moving forward in turn and preventing stalemate traps, win with two underpromotions. Thanks to the interaction of promoted pieces with the King, White still manages to promote one of the pawns to Queen. Difficult technical variations spoil the impression a bit.

D15 – 4th Honorable Mention
 DANIELE GATTI
Italy



+ 9+9

1.h7! (1.♙c4? g:h6! 2.e6 b3! 3.e7 b2 4.♙d3 ♙h7 5.♙:h7 a3! 6.♙b1 a2! 7.♙:a2 b1♙+ 8.♙:b1 h5! pat) 1...♙:h7 2.♙c4 b3 3.c6 b2 4.♙a2 b1♙+ 5.♙:b1 ♙:b1 6.e4!

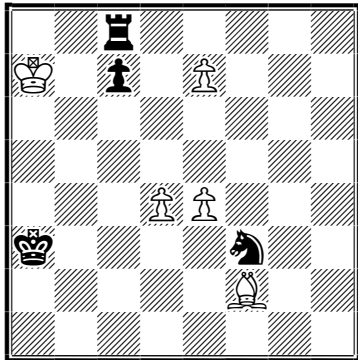
Logical try: 6.c7? ♙g6! 7.c8♙ ♙h5! 8.♙c1 a3! 9.♙:a3 g6! pat

6...♙:e4 (6...a3 7.c7 a2 8.c8♙ a1♙ 9.♙h8# – white Pe4 blocks the counter checkmate 9...♙h7#)

7.c7 ♙g6 8.c8♙ ♙h5 9.♙c1! a3 10.♙:a3 g6 11.♙:g3+! +-

The Black are saved two times by self-incarceration, but the White prevents third attempt by sacrifice of Queen. Logical sacrifice of Pawn on 6th move for clearance of horizontal for unstalemating. Well-known motifs with simple and beautiful solution.

D2 – 1st Commendation
 AMATZIA AVNI
Israel



= 5+4

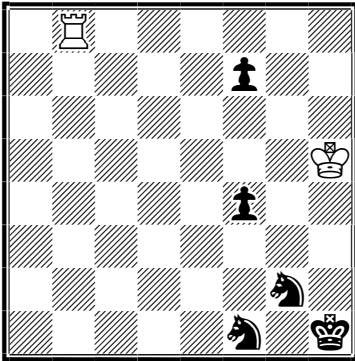
1.d5 [1.♙b7? ♙e8 2.d5 (2.♙:c7 ♙:e7+ +-) 2...♙b4 3.♙:c7 (3.♙c6 ♙e5+) 3...♙:e7+ +-] 1...♙b4 (1...♙e8 2.♙c5+ ♙a4 3.♙b7 ♙b5 4.♙:c7/♙a3 ♙:c5 5.♙d7=) 2.e5! ♙:e5 (2...♙e8 3.d6 ♙:e5 (3...c:d6 4.e:d6 ♙b5 5.♙b7=) 4.d:c7 ♙g6 5.♙b7/b6 ♙:e7 6.♙h4 ♙c8 7.♙d8=) 3.♙g3

A) 3...♙f7 4.♙b7 ♙e8 5.♙h4! ♙c5 6.♙:c7 ♙:d5 (6...♙d6 7.♙d7=; 6...♙e5 7.d6=) 7.♙d7 ♙b8! 8.♙g3! (8.e8♙? ♙b7+ 9.♙c8 ♙d6+ 10.♙d8 ♙b8+ 11.♙d7 ♙:e8! (11...♙:e8? 12.♙e7=) or 8.e8♙? ♙e5+ +-) 8...♙b7+ 9.♙c7 ♙d6 10.♙d8 ♙a7 11.♙:d6 ♙:d6 12.e8♙+! (12.e8♙? ♙a8#) 12...♙c6 (12...♙e6 13.♙c7+) 13.♙f6 ♙f7 14.♙e8! ♙d7+ 15.♙c8 ♙a7 16.♙d8=;

B) 3...♙c4 4.♙b7 ♙e8 5.♙c6! ♙:e7 6.♙d6+! ♙:d6/c:d6 pat.

Classic promotion in Knight and stalemate variation that gives value to the study.

D5 – 2nd Commendation
PAVEL ARESTOV



= 2+5

- 1. ♖b1!**
(1. ♜g4? ♜fe3+ 2. ♜f3 ♜f5! 3. ♖f8 ♜fh4+ 4. ♜f2 f5-+)
- 1... ♜ge3**
(1... ♜g1 2. ♜g4 ♜f2 3. ♖b2=+)
- 2. ♜g5 f3 3. ♜f6!**
(3. ♜f4? ♜g2 4. ♖b2+ f2 -+)
- 3... f2**
(3... ♜g2 4. ♖b2+ ♜g1 5. ♜:f7=)
- 4. ♜:f7**
(4. ♖b2? ♜d2-+)
- 4... ♜g1!**
(4... ♜g2 5. ♖b2=)
- 5. ♜g8!!**
(5. ♜e6? ♜c2/g2 6. ♜f7 ♜e1 7. ♖b2 ♜d2 8. ♖:d2 f1 ♖++)
- 5... ♜d5!**
(5... ♜f5 6. ♖b4 ♜d2 7. ♖f4=; 5... ♜c4 6. ♖b8! ♜fe3 7. ♖f8=)
- 6. ♜g7!**
(6. ♖b8? ♜f6+ 7. ♜g7 ♜d2-+; 6. ♜h7? ♜f6+ 7. ♜g6 ♜d7! 8. ♜f5 ♜c5-+)
- 6... ♜e7 7. ♖b4!**

(7. ♖b6? ♜f5+ -+; 7. ♖b8? ♜f5+-+;
7. ♖b5? ♜d2-+; 7. ♖b2? ♜d2-+)

7... ♜d5 8. ♖b1!

(8. ♖b8? ♜f4! 9. ♖f8 ♜e6+-+;
8. ♖b7? ♜f4! 9. ♖f7 ♜g3! 10. ♖:f4 ♜h5+ 11. ♜h6 ♜:f4 -+)

8... ♜f4

(8... ♜e7 9. ♖b4 =, positional draw-1)

9. ♜h6!

(9. ♜h7? ♜e6! 10. ♜h6 ♜d4-+)

9... ♜e6

(9... ♜d3 10. ♖b8! ♜g3 11. ♖f8=)

10. ♖b7!

(10. ♖b4? ♜d2-+; 10. ♖b5? ♜d4-+)

10... ♜d8 11. ♖b6!

(11. ♖g7+? ♜h1! 12. ♖a7 ♜d2-+;
11. ♖b5? ♜f7+ 12. ♜g7 ♜e5!
13. ♖:e5 ♜g3-+; 11. ♖b4? ♜f7+
12. ♜g7 ♜g5! 13. ♖f4 ♜e6+ -+)

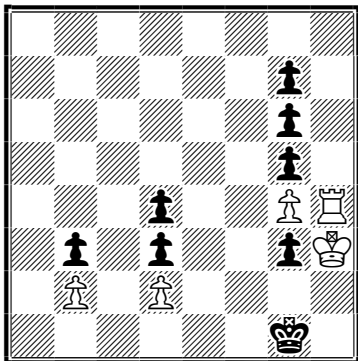
11... ♜e3

(11... ♜f7+ 12. ♜g7 ♜g5 13. ♖f6=)

12. ♖b1+! ♜f1 **13. ♖b6 ♜h2**
14. ♖b1+ =, positional draw-2.

Miniature with interesting King's maneuver (Kh5-g5-f6-f7-g8-g7-h6) and two positional draws.

D24 – 3rd Commendation
 SERHIY DIDUKH
 Ukraine



+ 5+8

1. ♖h7!! Thematic try: 1. ♖h8? g2 zz 2. ♜g3 ♜f1 3. ♖f8+ ♜g1! zz 4. ♖c8 (4. ♖f2 ♜h1 5. ♖:g2 pat) 4... ♜f1 5. ♖c1+ (5. ♜f3 g1 ♖+) 5... ♜e2 6. ♜:g2 ♜:d2 7. ♖c8 ♜d1 8. ♜f3 d2 9. ♜f2 d3 10. ♜e3 (10. ♖c7 pat) 10... ♜e1 11. ♖h8 d1 ♖+=

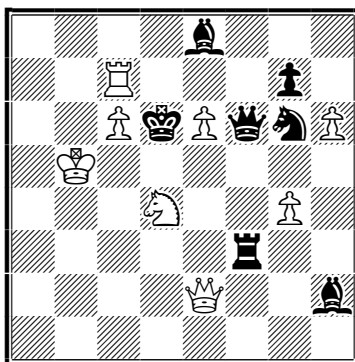
1...g2 2. ♖h8 zz ♜f2 3. ♖f8+ ♜e2 (3... ♜g1 4. ♜g3 zz ♜h1 5. ♖h8+ ♜g1 6. ♖h2+-) 4. ♜:g2 ♜:d2 5. ♜f2/f1 5... ♜d1 6. ♖d8! ♜c2 7. ♖c8+! (7. ♖:d4? ♜:b2 8. ♜e3 ♜c2 9. ♖c4+ ♜d1 10. ♜:d3 b2 11. ♖b4 ♜c1=) 7... ♜:b2 (7... ♜d1 8. ♖c4!) 8. ♜e1 ♜b1 9. ♜d2 b2 10. ♜:d3 ♜a2 11. ♖a8+

A) 11... ♜b3 12. ♖b8+ ♜a2 13. ♜c2! d3+ 14. ♜c3 b1 ♖ (14... b1 ♖+ 15. ♜:d3+-) 15. ♖a8#

B) 11... ♜b1 12. ♜:d4 ♜c2 13. ♖c8+! ♜d2 14. ♖b8 ♜c2 15. ♜e5 b1 ♖ 16. ♖:b1 ♜:b1 17. ♜e6 ♜c2 18. ♜f7 ♜d3 19. ♜:g7 ♜e4 20. ♜:g6 ♜f4 21. ♜h5+- zz.

By choice of square for Rook on 1st move with a passing turn to opponent and by mutual zugzwangs, White knocks out Black King from three stalemate “nests” (h1, d1 и b1).

D35 – 4th Commendation
 DARKO HLEBEC
 Croatia

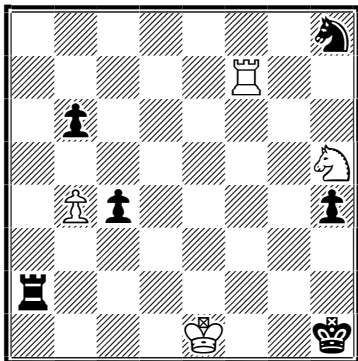


+ 8+7

1. ♖d7+! (1. ♖:h2+? ♖f4=) 1... ♜:d7 2.c:d7 ♖f4 3. ♖f5+ ♖:f5+ 4.g:f5 ♜e7! [4... ♖:f5+ 5. ♜a6! ♜e7 (5... ♖f6 6. ♖d3+ ♜:e6 7.d8 ♖+-) 6.d8 ♖+! (6.h:g7? ♜c7!)=) 6... ♜:d8 7.h:g7! ♜e7 8. ♖d2+ ♜e8 9. ♖d7#] 5.h:g7 (5. ♖:h2? ♖:f5+=) 5... ♖:f5+ (5... ♖:g7 6. ♖:h2 ♖e5+ 7. ♖:e5 ♜:e5 8.f6+!+-) 6. ♜c6! (6. ♜a6? ♜c7!)=) 6... ♜e5+ 7. ♖:e5! ♜:e5 (7... ♖:e5 8.d8 ♖+! ♜:d8 9.g8 ♖+ ♜e7 10. ♖f7+-) 8.g8 ♖+! ♜:e6 (8... ♜d8 9.e7#, model mate) 9.d8 ♖# (ideal mate)

Sacrifices and two promotions in Knight. Ideal mate. But too many captures: during the solution, 6 officers and 3 Pawns are removed.

D10 – 5th Commendation
 SERGEY N. TKACHENKO
 Ukraine



= 4+6

1. **h7** (1. **f4?** **g6** 2. **b:c4** **g1**
 3. **c6** **e5** 4. **b:b6** **h3** 5. **h6** **h2**
 6. **g3** **g2**) 1... **g6** (1... **c3** 2. **f4**
a1+ 3. **f2**) 2. **f4!** (2. **h6?** **c3**
 3. **g6** **a1+** 4. **f2** **c2** 5. **g4**
f1+ 6. **f1** **c1** **+** 7. **e2** **c2+**
 8. **f3** **c3+** 9. **f4** **b4+**++)
 2... **f4** (2... **e5** 3. **h4+**) 3. **h4+**
h3! (3... **g2** 4. **f4** **b5** 5. **f5!** **c3**
 6. **d1**) 4. **h3+** **g2** 5. **c3!**

Try: 5. **h6?** **b5!** 6. **h5** **f3!**
 7. **e5** **f4** 8. **b:b5** **e4!** 9. **d1** **c3!**
 10. **b8** **d3!** 11. **d8+** **c4**
 12. **c8+** **b3!** “Umbrella”.
 (12... **g:b4?** 13. **b8+=**) 13. **b5**
d2+!+-; 5. **e3?** **b2** 6. **d1** **b:b4**
 7. **c3** **f2** 8. **c2** **a4!**)

5... **b5** 6. **e3!** (6. **d1?** **a1+!**
 7. **d2** **f2!** 8. **h3** **b1** 9. **c2**
b:b4 10. **a3** **a4** 11. **a4** **b:a4**
 12. **c3** **a3+**) 6... **a1+!** (6... **b2**
 7. **d1!** **b1+** 8. **d2!** **f2** 9. **h3!**)

7. **e2!** (7. **d2?** **b1+**) 7... **b1**
 8. **d2!** **f2** 9. **h3!** **b:b4** 10. **c2**
a4 11. **h5** **b4** (11... **b4** 12. **h4**
b3+ 13. **c3** **e2** 14. **h2+** **e3**
 15. **h4**) 12. **h3** **e2** 13. **g3** **f1**
 14. **f3+!** **g1** 15. **g3+** **h2**
 16. **f3!** **g2** 17. **e3** **a4** 18. **e5**
b4 19. **e3!**=.

Mutual zugzwangs with a positional draw. The critical moment of the study occurs on the 5th move. Which pawn White Rook should attack: vertically to c4 or horizontally to b6? If b6, then Black King wins, using an “umbrella” and hiding behind the opponent's Pawn from opponent's Rook.

In the final position, Black King cannot enter the game and Rook is unable to escape from the Pawn “confinement”! This Rook study is useful for practitioners.

Ilham Aliev,
 August 22, 2022