



The 4th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section D – Endgame studies

Final award by

Yochanan Afek

MMXV

Participants

D01	A. Skripnik (RUS)	D26	P. Olin (FIN)
D02	M. Minski (GER)	D27	G. Fernández (ARG)
D03	R. Pye (IRN)	D28	E. Eilazyan (UKR)
D04	H. van der Heijden (NLD)	D29	M. Miljanic (SRB)
D05	M. Zinar (UKR)	D30	Y. Bazlov (RUS)
D06	L. Salai jr. (SVK)	D31	O. Pervakov (RUS)
D07	J. Burda (CZE)	D32	R. Martsvlashvili (GEO)
D08	A. Jasik (POL)	D33	N. Ryabinin (RUS)
D09	A. Vorovich (UKR)	D34	P. Panayotov (BGR)
D10	B. Akhaladze (GEO)	D35	L. M. González (ESP)
D11	D. Keith (FRA)	D36	I. Aliev (AZE)
D12	R. Becker (USA)	D37	V. Kuzmichev (RUS)
D13	A. Zhukov (RUS)	D38	V. Neishtadt (RUS)
D14	L. Kekely (SVK)	D39	S. Didukh (UKR)
D15	L. Topko (UKR)	D40	V. Samilo (UKR)
D16	A. Shpakovsky (RUS)	D41	V. Vlasenko (UKR)
D17	P. Ruszczynski (POL)	D42	K. Barikbin (IRN)
D18	V. Aberman (USA)	D43	Y. Zemljansky (RUS)
D19	A. Stavrietsky (RUS)	D44	A. Pallier (FRA)
D20	M. Campioli (ITA)	D45	V. Tarasiuk (UKR)
D21	M. Hlinka (SVK)	D46	A. Gasparyan (ARM)
D22	D. Hlebec (SRB)	D47	V. Kalashnikov (RUS)
D23	S. Nielsen (DNK)	D48	G. Sonntag (GER)
D24	P. Arestov (RUS)	D49	M. Doré (FRA)
D25	V. Zheltuhov (RUS)		

I received 49 anonymous diagrams in a PGN file from director Aleksey Oganessian.

The general level of the entries was very high with many interesting and original ideas and lots of fighting chess. Thanks due to Harold van der Heijden and Gady Costeff for their kind assistance in checking my candidates for soundness and anticipations. Unfortunately I had to eliminate a few serious candidates for high distinctions:

- D15. Dual 3. ♖e2 ♘d4+ 4. ♗f2 ♘d3+ 5. ♗g2 ♜:b1 6. ♖g8+ ♗b4 7. ♖:g5 ♜g1+ 8. ♗:g1 ♘f3+ 9. ♗f1 ♘:g5 10. b3 =;

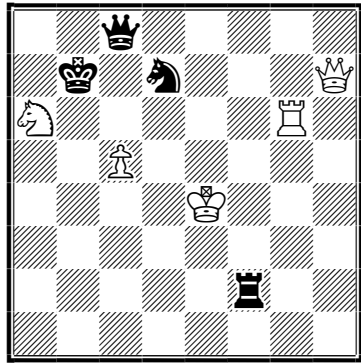
- D38. Duals 3. ♗h5/3. ♗h7;

- D42. A couple of lines are not sufficiently clarified, for instance: 6... ♗c6!? 7. ♘d2 b4 8. ♘:b4 ♗b5 9. ♘d6 ♗c4 10. ♘:f4 ♗:d4 etc.

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all participants for their sincere efforts to create a quality contest of high standard.

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1st Prize – The Cup winner
MIRKO MILJANIC
Serbia

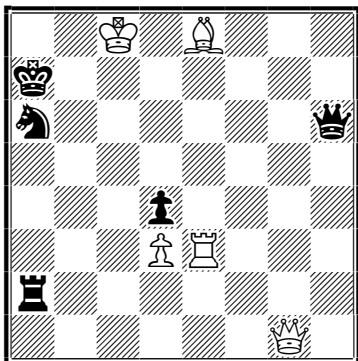


+ 5+4

1.c6+ ♖a8 2.♘c7+! [2.♖:d7? ♜e2+! 3. ♗f3 ♖f8+ 4.♗:e2 ♖f3+! 5.♗:f3 stalemate!] 2...♖:c7 3.♜g8+ ♜f8! [3...♘f8? 4. ♖:c7 +–; 3...♗a7 4.♖:d7 ♜f4+ 5.♗e3 ♜f7 6.♖d4+! +–] 4.♜:f8+ ♘b8 5.♖h6! ♖h7+! [5...♖e7+ 6.♗d5 ♖b4 7.♖c1 +–] 6.♜f5!! ♖:h6 7.♜a5+ ♘a6 8.♜:a6+ ♗b8 9.c7+ ♗:c7 10.♜:h6 +–.

Brilliant sacrificial anti-stalemate play on an open board, with the heavy cannons absolutely free. The battery Rook-pawn is created already in the first move to trap the black queen by checking her king should he move to the sixth rank. Following an amazing journey highlighted by 6.Rf5!! the very same rook eventually lands on the other side of the very same pinning line to complete the initial job by role exchanges with the pawn in regards to the enemy royal couple. A highly original concept presented in an exemplary setting. A remarkable achievement!

2nd Prize
MARTIN MINSKI
Germany

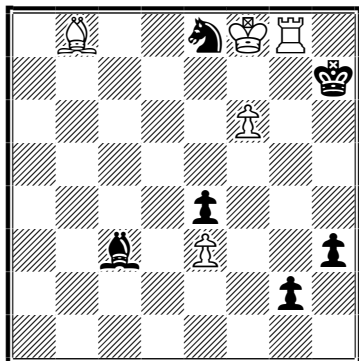


+ 5+5

1. ♖e7+ ♘a8 2. ♖b1! [2. ♖:d4? ♖c2+ 3. ♘d8 ♖c5! 4. ♖d5+ ♘b8] 2... ♖b4! 3. ♖:b4 ♖c2+ 4. ♘d8 [4. ♖c7? ♖e6+ 5. ♘d8 ♖d5+ 6. ♘c8 ♖e6+; 4. ♘d7?? ♖c6+ 5. ♘d8 ♖c8#] 4... ♖c8+! [4... ♖a6 5. ♖e1! +] 5. ♘:c8 ♖a6+ 6. ♘c7! [6. ♘d7? ♖c6+! 7. ♘:c6 stalemate; 6. ♖b7+? ♖:b7+ 7. ♖:b7 stalemate] 6... ♖c8+! [6... ♖a7+ 7. ♘d8! ♖b6+! 8. ♖c7! ♖:b4 9. ♖c6+ ♘b8 10. ♖c8+ (10. ♖b7+? ♖:b7 11. ♖:b7 ♘:b7) 10... ♘a7 11. ♖a8+ ♘b6 12. ♖b8++] 7. ♘d6! ♖a6+ 8. ♖b6!! [8. ♖c6+? ♖:c6+! 9. ♘:c6 stalemate; 8. ♘d5? ♖d6+! 9. ♘c4 ♖d5+! 10. ♘:d5 stalemate] 8... ♖:b6+ 9. ♖c6+ ♘b8 10. ♖e8+ [10. ♖b7+? ♖:b7 11. ♖:b7 ♘:b7 12. ♘d5 ♘c7 13. ♘:d4 ♘d6] 10... ♘a7 11. ♖a8#.

Another superb mutual sacrificial play to avoid mates and stalemates with the cherry on top – the formidable 8. ♖b6!! to allow a model mate. A genuine masterpiece in an excellent setting!

3rd Prize
OLEG PERVAKOV
Russia



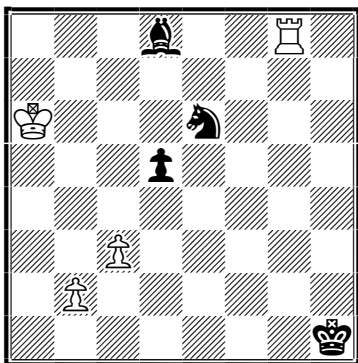
+ 5+6

1. ♘f7! [1. ♖g3? ♖e1! 2. f7 ♖f6 3. ♖:h3+ ♘g6 4. ♖h2 ♖b4+ +-; 1. f7? ♖g7! 2. ♖h2 ♖b4+ -+] 1... ♖:f6 [1... ♖:f6 2. ♖g3 ♘h6 (2...g1 ♖ 3. ♖:g1 ♘h6 4. ♖f4+ ♘h5 5. ♖g5+ ♘h4 6. ♘g6 +-) 3. ♖f4+ ♘h5 4. ♖:h3+ ♘g4 5. ♖g3+ ♘h4 6. ♖:g2 +-] 2. ♖g3! [2. ♖g6? ♖g7! 3. ♖h2 ♖h6! 4. ♖g1 (4. ♖g3 ♖d6+ 5. ♘f6 ♖c4 =) 4... ♖g7 5. ♖g3 h2! 6. ♖:h2 ♖f5 =] 2... ♘h6! [2... ♖h4 3. ♖g6 ♖f6 4. ♖h2 ♖c3 5. ♖g4 ♘h6 6. ♘:e8 +-] 3. ♖:h3+ ♖h4! 4. ♖:h4+ [4. ♖h2? ♘g5 5. ♘:e8 ♖f2! (5... ♘g4? 6. ♖:h4+! +-) 6. ♘e7 ♘g4 7. ♖h8 ♘f3 8. ♖g8 ♖:e3 =] 4... ♘g5 5. ♖h8!! [Logical try 5. ♖h3?! ♖d6+! (5...g1 ♖? 6. ♖g3+ ♖:g3 7. ♖:g3 ♖f6 8. ♖h4+! ♘:h4 9. ♘:f6 ♘g4 10. ♘e5 ♘f3 11. ♘d4 +-) 6. ♖:d6 g1 ♖ 7. ♖g3+ ♘f5! 8. ♖f4 ♖g2! 9. ♘e7 ♖g1= positional draw or stalemate 10. ♖g5+ ♖:g5+ 11. ♖:g5 ♘:g5 12. ♘e6 ♘g6!

13. ♖e5 ♜f7 14. ♖:e4 ♖e6 =]
 5... ♗g1 ♜ 6. ♙f4+! [6. ♖g8+? ♜g7!
 7. ♖:g7+ ♖f5 8. ♖:g1 stalemate]
 6... ♜g4! [6... ♖f5 7. ♖h5+ ♖g4
 8. ♖g5+ +-] 7. ♖g8+ (switchback)
 7... ♜g7! 8. ♖:g7+ ♖f5 9. ♙h6!!
 [9. ♖g3? ♜g2! 10. ♖e7 ♜g1
 positional draw] 9... ♜a1 10. ♖g5#.

A highly fierce struggle to avoid stalemate and positional draw in the best of classical style!

4th Prize
 VLADISLAV TARASIUK
 Ukraine
 (version)



+

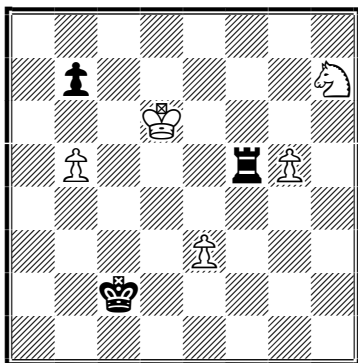
4+4

1. ♜b7 [1. ♜b5? d4 2. c:d4 ♜:d4+=; 1.b4? ♙f6 2. ♖c8 ♙e5 3.b5 d4 4.c:d4 ♙:d4=] 1... ♙f6!
 [1... ♙g5 2. ♖:g5 ♜:g5 3. ♜c6 +-; 1... d4 2. c:d4 (2. ♖h8+? ♜g2 3. c:d4 ♙f6 4. ♖g8+ ♖f3 5. d5 ♙f4 6. d6 ♙:b2=) 2... ♙f6 3. d5 +-] 2. ♖g6
 [2. ♜c6 d4! = (2... ♙f4? 3. ♖f8±)] 2... ♜c5+ 3. ♜c6! ♙e4 4. ♖h6+!!
 [4. ♖:f6? ♜:f6 5. b4 ♙e4 6. b5 ♜:c3 7. b6 d4 8. b7 d3 9. b8 ♜ d2 10. ♜h8+

♜g2!] 4... ♜g2 [4... ♜g1 5. ♖:f6 ♜:f6 6. b4 ♙e4 7. b5 ♜:c3 8. b6 d4 9. b7 d3 10. b8 ♜ d2 11. ♜g3+! +-] 5. ♖:f6!
 ♜:f6 6. b4 ♙e4 7. b5 ♜:c3 8. b6 d4 9. b7 d3 10. b8 ♜ d2 11. ♜b2! +-

A tiny intermediate check to the black king prior to the thematic exchange sacrifice makes a huge difference. A lovely logical study with a lively introduction!

Special Prize
 LUIS MIGUEL GONZALEZ
 Spain



+

5+3

1. b6! [1.e4? ♖:b5 2.e5 ♖b6+!
 3. ♜d7 ♖a6! 4. e6 b5 5.e7 ♖a7+ 6. ♜e6 ♖:e7+ 7. ♜:e7 b4; 1.g6? ♖:b5! 2.g7 ♖b6+ 3. ♜e7 ♖g6 4. ♜f7 ♖:g7+ 5. ♜:g7 ♜d3] 1... ♜d3!
 2. g6! [2.e4? ♖b5! 3. ♜c7 ♖e5 4.g6 ♖e6! 5. ♜:b7 ♖:g6] 2... ♖f3!
 [2... ♖b5 3. ♜c7 ♖e5 4. ♜:b7 ♖e6 5. ♜f8 ♖:e3 6. ♜a7; 2... ♖f1 3. ♜c7 ♖g1 4. ♜f8 ♜e4 5. ♜:b7] 3. e4!
 [3. ♜c7? ♖:e3! 4. ♜:b7 ♜c4 5. ♜c7

♖e7+ 6. ♘d6 ♖g7 7. ♗f8 ♘b5]
3... ♖g3 4.e5 ♖:g6+ 5.e6 ♘d4!
 [5... ♘c4 6. ♗f8 ♖f6 7. ♗d7 ♖h6
 8. ♘e5 ♖h5+ 9. ♘f6 ♖h6+ 10. ♘f7
 ♖h7+ 11. ♘e8 ♖h8+ 12. ♗f8 ♘c5
 13.e7] **6. ♗f8 ♖f6 7. ♗d7 ♖g6!**
 [7... ♖h6 8. ♗e5 ♘e4 9. ♗c6! b:c6
 10.b7] **8. ♗e5 ♖h6 9. ♗c6+! ♘e4**
 [9... b:c6 10.b7 ♖h8 11.e7 c5
 12. ♘d7] **10. ♗e7!** [10. ♘d7? ♘d5!]
10... ♖f6 [10... ♖h8 11. ♗g6 ♖g8
 12.e7 ♖:g6+ 13. ♘d7 ♖:b6
 14.e8 ♖+] **11. ♗d5!** [11. ♘d7? ♘e5
 12. ♗c6+ ♘d5! 13. ♗d8 ♖h6 14.e7
 ♖h7 15. ♗:b7 ♖:e7+! 16. ♘:e7
 ♘c6] **11... ♖g6 12. ♗c7 ♘d4**
13. ♗b5+! [13. ♘d7? ♘c5 14.e7 ♖g8
 15. ♗e6+ ♘:b6 16. ♗f8 ♖g7]
13... ♘c4 14. ♗a7 ♖:e6+ 15. ♘:e6
♘c5 16. ♗c8 +-.

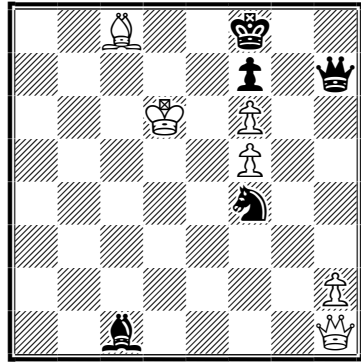
An amazing knight manoeuvre, in a most natural setting, with the unavoidable price of a somewhat limited counter-play.



1. ♖a8! ♗a3+! 2. ♖:a3 [2. ♘c6?
 ♘g8=] **2... ♖:h2** [2... ♖h3 3. ♖:h3 ♗:h3
 4. ♗b7 ♗g5 5.h4 ♗h7 6. ♘e5 ♘g8
 7.h5 ♗g5 8. ♘d6 ♘f8 9.h6 ♗h7
 10. ♘e5 ♘g8 11. ♗d5 ♗g5 12. ♘d6
 ♘f8 13. ♗f3 ♗h7 14. ♘e5 ♘g8
 15. ♗h5 ♗g5 16. ♗g6 ♘h8 17. ♘d6+ -]
3. ♗e6!!

[3. ♘d7+? ♘g8 4. ♖e7. There have been doubts here regarding the alternative line 4. ♖e3 ♘h7 here is the composer's analysis to verify its soundness:

1st Honourable Mention
 YURI BAZLOV
 Russia



+

6+5

I) 5. ♘e8 ♗h5 (5... ♖c2 6. ♗d7 6... ♖c4 7. ♘f8 ♗h5 8. ♖e7 ♘h6 etc. White can't make progress. Or 6. ♗e6 f:e6 7. ♖:f4 ♖c8(c6)+ => 6. ♖e7 ♖g3 (6... ♘h6 7. ♘:f7 ♖a2+ 8. ♘f8 (8. ♖e6 ♖a3 9. ♘e8 ♘g5 10. ♖g8+ ♘h4 11. ♖c4+ ♘g5=; 8. ♗e6 ♖b2 9. ♖f8+ ♘g5 10. ♖g8+ ♘h4 11. ♖g6(g7) ♖d4) 8... ♖b2 9. ♖e3+ ♘h7 10.f7 ♖h8+ 11. ♘e7 ♖f6+ =>

7. ♖:f7+ ♘h6 8. ♖e6 ♘g5 9.f7 ♗g7+ 10. ♘e7 ♗:e6 11.f:e6 ♖a3+ 12. ♘e8 ♖a4+ 13. ♗d7 ♖a8+ 14. ♘e7 ♖a3+ perpetual check;

II) 5. ♖e7 ♖a2 6. ♘e8 ♘h6 7. ♖:f7 ♖:f7+ 8. ♘:f7 ♘g5 =; 7. ♖e3 ♖c4 8. ♗d7 ♘g5 9. ♘f8 ♘g4 etc. White cannot to make progress;

III) 5. ♗b7 ♖h4 6. ♖e7 ♖h5 7. ♘e8 ♘h6 8. ♖:f7 ♖:f5 9. ♖g7+ ♘h5 10. ♗f3+ ♘h4 11. ♖d7 ♖e5+ 12. ♘:f7 ♘g3 13. ♖c6 ♗h3 =. White cannot to make progress.

IV) 5. ♖b3 ♘g8 6. ♘e8 (6. ♘e7 ♗g6+ 7.f:g6 ♖c7+ 8. ♗d7 ♖c5+ 9. ♘d8

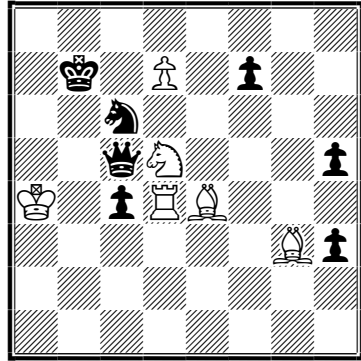
♖a5+ 10.♘c8 ♖a6+ 11.♘c7 ♖:f6 ⇒
 6... ♖e2+ 7.♙e6 ♗h5 8.♖b8 ♖e3
 9.♖b2 ♖e4 10.♘e7 ♖e3 11.♖g2+
 ♘h7 12.♖h2 ♖g5 =

Harold van der Heijden confirms that the study is correct: 3.♘d7+ ♘g8 4.♖e3 and now 4...♘h7! 5.♙b7 ♘h6 (probably also 4...♘h6 5.♙b7 ♘h7) 6.♙e4 (6.♙d5 ♘g5!) 6...♙h4! 7.♘e7 (otherwise 7...♖g5 and 8...♙h5) 7...♖g5! 8.♘:f7 ♗h5! 9.♖d4 ♖f4 (aiming for c7; also 9...♖g3 or 9...♖c1) 10.♘e6 ♖c7! 11.f7 (Black threatened mate; this is the only chance) 11...♙f4(g7)+ 12.♘f6 ♗h5+ 13.♘e6 ♙f4(g7)+ positional draw. Many unique black drawing moves here. I have no doubt (my computer shows a 0.00 score after 4...♘h7) 4...♖a2 5.♖e8+ ♘h7 6.♘e7 ♖e2+ 7.♘:f7 ♖h5+ 8.♘f8 ♖h6+ 9.♘e7 ♙d5+=]

3...♙:e6+ [3...♘g8 4.♘d7 (4.♘e7 ♙d5+ 5.♙:d5 ♖c7+ 6.♘e8 ♖c8+ 7.♘e7 ♖f8+) 4...♖g2 5.♙:f7+ +–] 4.♘d7+! [4.♘c6+? ♘g8 5.f:e6 ♖e5=] 4...♘g8 5.f:e6 ♖b8 [5...f:e6 6.♖e7 ♖d2+ 7.♘e8+–; 5...♖f4 6.♖a8+ ♘h7 7.e7+–; 5...♖e5 6.e:f7+ ♘:f7 7.♖e7+––] 6.♖f8+!! [6.e7? ♖b7+ 7.♘d6 ♖b6+ 8.♘d5 ♖e6+ 9.♘c5 ♖e5+ 10.♘c6 ♖e4+ 11.♘b6 ♖e6+ 12.♘b5 ♖d7+=; 6.♖a6? f:e6 7.♖:e6+ ♘h7=] 6...♖:f8 [6...♘:f8 7.e7+ ♘g8 8.e8♖+ ♖:e8+ 9.♘:e8+–] 7.e7 ♖h6 8.e8♖+ ♘h7 9.♖:f7+ ♘h8 10.♖e8+ ♘h7 11.♖e7+ ♘g6 12.f7 ♖h3+ [12...♖d2+ 13.♘e8+–] 13.♖e6+ ♖:e6+ 14.♘:e6 ♘g7 15.♘e7+–.

An excellent mutual battery play leads to the stunning 6.♖f8+!! which is hopefully still original.

2nd Honourable Mention
 GUNTER SONNTAG
 Germany



+

6+7

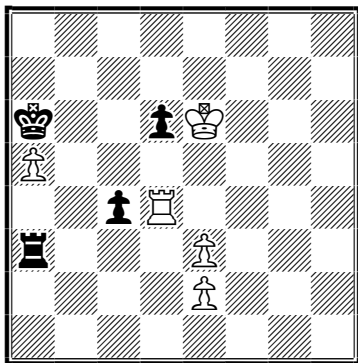
1.d8♙+! [1.d8♖? ♖a7+ 2.♘b5 ♖a6+ 3.♘c5 ♖a3+ 4.♘:c4 ♙:d8 5.♙e7+ ♙c6 6.♙d7+ ♘a6 7.♙:c6 ♖c1+ (7...♖:g3 ? 8.♙b4+ ♘a5 9.♙a7+ ♘b6 10.♙b7+ ♘a5 11.♙c6+ +) 8.♘b4 ♖b2+ 9.♘c4 ♖c1+ 10.♘d3 ♖a3+ 11.♘c4 ♖c1+ 12.♘d4 ♖g1+ 13.♘c4 ♖c1+ 14.♘d4 ♖d2+ =] 1...♙:d8 2.♙e7+ ♙c6 3.♙:c6 ♘b6 4.♙d5! ♖:c6+ 5.♘b4 ♖e8 [5...f5 6.♙f3 (6.♙h1) 6...♖e8 7.♙d6+ (7.♙f2+? ♘c7 8.♙c5+ ♘b8 9.♙b5+ ♘c8 10.♙c5+ ♘b8 11.♙g3+ f4 (11...♘a7 ? 12.♙b5 ♖e7+ 13.♘a4 +) 12.♙:f4+ ♘a7 =) 7...♘a7 8.♘a5 ♖c8 9.♙f2+ +–] 6.♙f2+ ♘c7 7.♙c5+ ♘b8 8.♙g3+ ♘a7 9.♙a5+ ♘b6 10.♙f2+ ♘c7 11.♙a7+ ♘d6 12.♙g3+ ♘e6 13.♙a6+ ♘e7 14.♙d6+ [14.♙h4+? f6 15.♙:f6 h2 16.♘c5 ♘d7 17.♙c6+ ♘c8 (17...♘c7? 18.♙:e8 h1♖ 19.♙f7+ ♘b8 20.♙g3+ ♘c8 21.♙d7+ +) 18.♙:e8 h1♖ 19.♙c6+ ♘b7 =]

14...♖f6 15.♙f4+! ♜e7 16.♙g5+ ♒6
 17.♖:f6! h2 18.♜c5 ♜d7 19.♙c6+
 [19.♖d6+? ♜c7 (19...♜c8? 20.♜b6
 +-) 20.♖c6+ ♜b8 21.♙f4+ ♜a7
 22.♖c7+ ♜a6 23.♖c6+ ♜a7 =]
 19...♜c8 20.♙:e8 h1♙ 21.♖c6+
 ♜b7 22.♖e6 ♙g1+ [22...♜c8
 23.♙c6 +-] 23.♙e3 ♙g7 [23...♙g8
 24.♙c6+ ♜c7 25.♖e7+ (25.♙f4+ +-)
 25...♜d8 26.♖e4 c3 27.♜b6 c2
 28.♙g5+ +-; 23...♙g4 24.♙c6+ ♜c7
 25.♖e7+ ♜d8 26.♖e8+ (26.♖e4 +-)
 26...♜c7 27.♙d4 +-; 23...♙g3
 24.♙c6+ ♜c7 25.♜b5 (25.♖e7+ +-)
 25...♜c8 26.♙b6 +-] 24.♙c6+ ♜a6
 25.♖e8 +-.

A well-orchestrated king-hunt by the white officers, with two enemy queens (one at a time) skilfully outplayed. A powerful display of high precision though without the touch of brilliance!

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3rd Honourable Mention
 HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN
 Netherlands



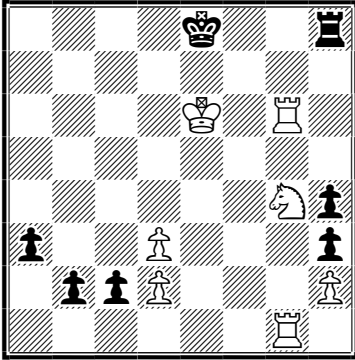
+

5+4

1.e4! [1.♖:d6+? e.g. 1...♜:a5
 2.e4 ♖e3; 1.♜:d6? e.g. 1...♖:e3;
 1.♖:c4? ♖:e3+] **1...c3** **2.♖c4** [2.♜:d6?
 ♜b5! 3.♖d5+ ♜b4] **2...♜b5** [2...♜:a5
 3.♜:d6 ♜b5 4.♜d5] **3.♜d5!** ♖:a5
4.e5! [4.♖:c3? ♜b4+ 5.♜d4 ♖c5!
 6.♖:c5 d:c5+ 7.♜d5 (7.♜d3 ♜b3
 8.♜d2 ♜b2 9.♜d3 ♜b3 10.e5 c4+
 11.♜d2 ♜b2 12.e6 c3+ 13.♜d3 c2
 14.e7 c1♙) 7...c4 8.e5 c3 9.e6 c2 10.e7
 c1♙; 4.e3? ♖a3 5.♖c8 (5.e5 d:e5
 6.e4?? (6.♖c8) 6...♖a5 zz reciprocal
 zugzwang, WTM. See main line!)
 5...c2! e.g. 6.e5 d:e5 7.e4 ♖d3+ 8.♜:e5
 ♖d2] **4...d:e5** **5.e4!** zz, reciprocal
 zugzwang, BTM **5...♖a3** **6.♖c8!**
6...♜b4 [6...♖a5 7.♜:e5 ♜b4+
 8.♜d4] **7.♖b8+** ♜a5 **8.♜c5!** ♜a4
9.♜c4! ♜a5 **10.♖a8+** ♜b6
11.♖:a3 +-.

A well-constructed Rook ending with an original reciprocal zugzwang mechanism and a fine play of capture refusals.

4th Honourable Mention
 PAVEL ARESTOV
Russia
(version)



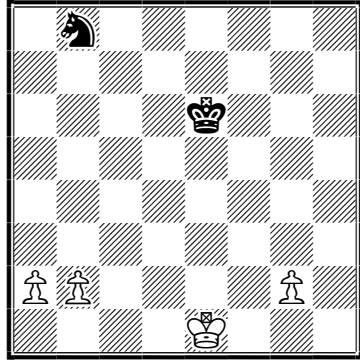
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7+7

1. ♖e5! [1. ♖f6+? ♜d8 2. ♞g8+ ♞:g8 3. ♞:g8+ ♜c7-+] 1... ♜d8
 2. ♜d6! ♜c8 3. ♞g8+! [3. ♖c6? c1♙
 4. ♞g8+ ♜b7!! -+] 3... ♞:g8 4. ♞:g8+
 ♜b7 5. ♖c6! b1♙! [5...c1♙ 6. ♞b8+
 ♜a6 7. ♞a8+ ♜b5 8. ♞b8+ ♜a6
 9. ♞a8+ positional draw] 6. ♞b8+
 ♜a6 7. ♞a8+ ♜b5! 8. ♜c7!! [8. ♞b8+?
 ♜a4! 9. ♞a8+ ♜b3 10. ♞b8+ ♜a2-
 +] 8... ♙b4! 9. ♞b8+ ♜c5 10. d4+!
 [10. ♞:b4? c1♙ 11. d4+ ♜d5
 12. ♞b5+ ♜e4 13. ♞e5+ ♜f4-+] 10... ♙:d4
 11. ♞b5+!! ♜:b5 12. ♖:d4+ ♜c4
 13. ♖:c2 a2 14. ♖a1! =.

A long and winding king chase, efficiently copes with the unstoppable black pawns.

Special Honourable Mention
 VICTOR ABERMAN
USA



+

4+2

1. ♜d2! ♖d7 2. ♜c3! Solution splits into two variations:

I) 2... ♖e5 3. ♜d4 ♜d6
 4. ♜e4! [4. b3? ♖d7! 5. ♜e4 ♖c5+!
 6. ♜f5 ♖d3! 7. a3 ♖e1! 8. g4 ♖c2!
 9. a4 ♖d4+ =] 4... ♖g4 [4... ♜e6
 5. b3! ♜d6 6. g3! (6. a3? ♖c6! 7. g4
 ♖a5! 8. b4 ♖c4! 9. a4 ♖b6! 10. a5
 ♖d5 =) 6... ♜e6 7. b4! +-, but not
 7. a3? ♜d6! Main zz WTM 8. ♜f4
 ♖c6! 9. b4 ♖d4! 10. a4 ♖e2! 11. ♜f3
 ♖c3 12. a5 ♜c6 =] 5. b3! ♖f2+
 6. ♜e3! ♖d1+ 7. ♜d4! ♖f2 8. a3!
 [8. ♜c4? ♖e4! zz WTM 9. a3 ♖d2+
 10. ♜c3 ♖b1+ 11. ♜b4 ♖d2 12. g4
 ♖e4 =] 8... ♖g4 9. ♜e4 ♖e5 10. g3!
 Main zz BTM. All three Pawns made a short move from the second row! 10... ♜e6 11. ♜f4 [11... ♜f6
 12. a4! ♖d3+ 13. ♜e3! ♖c5 14. a5!
 ♖:b3 15. a6 ♖a5 16. a7 ♖c6
 17. a8♙(♞) +-. A slow excelsior of pawn "a"! 12. ♜g5/♜g4 (light dual)

12... ♗c5 13.b4 ♗e4+ 14. ♖h4 ♗c3
 15.g4! ♖f6 16. ♖h5 ♖g7 17. ♖g5
 ♗d5 18.b5 ♗b6 19. ♖f5 ♗a4
 20. ♖e5 [20. ♖e6? ♗c3! 21.b6 ♗a4!
 22.b7 ♗c5+ =] 20... ♗c3! 21.b6
 ♗a4! 22.b7 ♗c5! 23.b8♗! +—.

Slow excelsior of the "b" pawn with underpromotion and echo of final play in variation II!

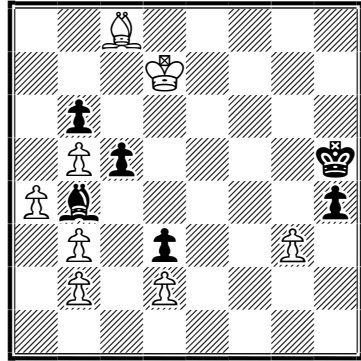
II) 2... ♖d6 3. ♖b4! (3. ♖c4? ♖c6! – positional draw) 3... ♗e5
 4. ♖b5 ♖c7 5.b3! (5.b4? ♖b7! 6.a3 ♗g4!
 7. ♖c5 ♗e3 8.g3 ♖c7 9.a4 ♗g4
 10. ♖d4 ♗f2! 11.b5 ♗h1! 12.g4 ♗f2!
 13.g5 ♗h3! 14.g6 ♗f4! 15.g7 ♗e6+ =
 echo of the finals!) 5... ♗g4 6. ♖a6 ♗e3
 7.g3 ♗c2! 8.a4 ♗b4+ 9. ♖b5! ♗c6
 10.g4! (10. ♖c5? ♗e5!
 11. ♖d5 ♗d7! zz WTM 12.a5 ♖b7
 13.b4 ♗f6! 14. ♖e5 ♗g4+ 15. ♖f4
 ♗f6! =) 10... ♗d4+ 11. ♖c4 ♗f3!
 12. ♖d5 ♗h2! 13.g5 ♗f3!
 14.g6 ♗h4! 15.g7 ♗f5! 16.g8♗! +—.

Slow excelsior of the "g" pawn with underpromotion and echo of the final play in variation I!

This product of modern technology introduces an amazing discovery: three times Festina Lente (a gradual pawn's starting move) combined with Excelsior that ends up in a minor promotion (with an echo-one in a side-line!). Curiously five of the six men are in their initial squares at such an advanced stage of the game.

A memorable super miniature!

1st Commendation
 LADISLAV SALAI JR.
 — Slovakia



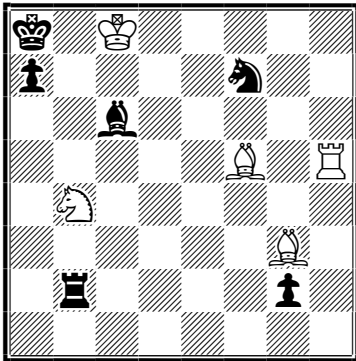
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8+6

1.a5!! [1.g:h4? ♗:d2 2. ♖c6 ♗a5
 3.b4 c:b4 4. ♗f5 d2 5. ♗c2 ♖:h4
 6. ♖d5 ♖g3 7. ♖c4 ♖f2 8. ♖b3
 ♖e1] 1... ♗:a5 [1...h:g3 2.a6 g2
 3.a7 g1♖ 4.a8♖ =] 2.g:h4 ♗:d2
 3. ♖c6 ♗a5 4. ♗f5 [4.b4? d2! 5. b:a5
 b:a5 6.b6 d1♖ 7.b7 ♖b3! 8. ♖c7
 ♖g3+] 4...d2 5. ♗c2 ♖:h4 6.b4!
 [6. ♖d5? ♖g3 7. ♖c4 (7.b4 ♗:b4)
 7... ♖f2 8. ♖d3 ♖e1] 6...c:b4 7. ♖d5
 ♖g3 8. ♖c4 ♖f2 9. ♖b3 ♖e1
 10. ♖a4! d1♖ [10...b3 11. ♗:b3!
 d1♖ 12. ♗:d1 ♖:d1?? 13.b4] 11. ♗:d1
 ♖:d1 12.b3 =.

A typical solvers' friendly study, displaying the incarceration motive, with an excellent thematic key.

2nd Commendation
ALEXEY GASPARYAN
Armenia

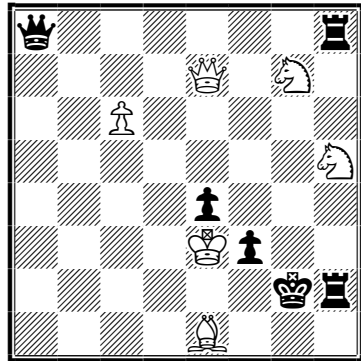


= 5+6

1. ♖e4! [1. ♖h2? ♜:b4 2. ♖g6 ♜b7 3. ♖:f7 ♜:f7 4. ♖g5 ♖b7+ 5. ♗d8 ♜f1 -+; 1. ♜:c6? ♗g1 ♖ 2. ♖e4 ♜b7 -+] 1... ♖:e4 2. ♜b5! a6 3. ♜b8+ ♗a7 4. ♜c6+ ♖:c6 5. ♜:b2! ♖d6+! [5... ♗g1 ♖? 6. ♖f2+ ♖:f2 7. ♜:f2 =] 6. ♗c7! [6. ♗d8? 6... ♗g1 ♖ -+] 6... ♖b5+ [6... ♗g1 ♖ 7. ♖f2+ =] 7. ♗:c6 ♗g1 ♖ [7... ♖d4+ 8. ♗c7 ♗g1 ♖ 9. ♜b7+ ♗a8 10. ♜b8+ =] 8. ♖f2+ ♖d4+! 9. ♖:d4+ [9. ♗d5? ♖h1+ 10. ♗:d4 ♗a8 -+] 9... ♖:d4 10. ♜b7+ ♗a8 11. ♜b8+ ♗:b8 stalemate!

A well-constructed stalemate play against a cornered King though the final position is a well-trodden one.

3rd Commendation
MICHAL HLINKA
Slovakia

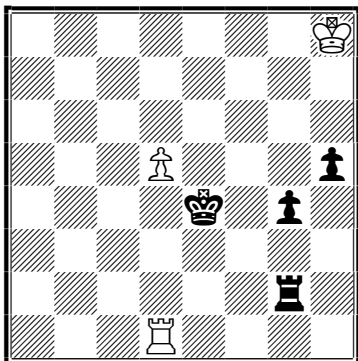


= 6+6

1. ♖f4+ [1. ♖c5? ♖a2 2. ♖d2 ♖b3+ 3. ♖c3 ♜h3! 4. ♖f4+ ♗h1 5. ♖:h3 ♜:h3 6. ♗f4 ♖2 7. ♖:f2 ♜f3+] 1... ♗h1 [1... ♗f1 2. ♖f5 ♜e8 3. ♖g3+ ♗g1 4. ♖g7 ♖a3+ 5. ♖c3 ♖c1+ 6. ♗d4 ♖d1+ 7. ♗c5] 2. ♖f5 [2. ♖gh5? ♜8:h5 3. ♖:h5 ♖a1 4. ♖g3+ ♗g2 5. ♖b4 ♖a7+ 6. ♗f4 ♜h4+! 7. ♗g5 ♗h3! 8. ♖f5 ♜g4+ 9. ♗f6 e3 10. ♖f8 ♖h7] 2... ♖:c6 [2... ♖a1 3. ♖g3+ ♗g1 4. ♖b4 ♖c1+ 5. ♗:e4 ♖:c6+ 6. ♗d4 ♖c1 7. ♖e3+ ♖:e3+ 8. ♗:e3] 3. ♖g3+! [3. ♖:e4? ♖:e4+ 4. ♗:e4 ♖2! (4... ♜e8+? 5. ♗:f3 ♜:e1 6. ♖g3+ ♗g1 7. ♖fe2+)] 3... ♗g1 4. ♖:e4! [4. ♖b4? ♖c1+ 5. ♗:e4 ♖c4+ 6. ♗e5 ♜c2 7. ♖e4 ♖c7+ 8. ♖:c7 ♜:c7 9. ♖d3 ♜d7 10. ♖c5+ ♗f1 11. ♖df2 ♜h4 12. ♗e6 ♜d8 13. ♖e7 ♜e8 14. ♗f7 ♜:e7+! 15. ♗:e7 ♗e2! 16. ♗e6 ♗e3 17. ♗f5 ♜h5+ 18. ♗g4 ♜h2! -+ egtb] 4... ♜e8 5. ♗:f3 ♜:e4 6. ♖h3+! ♜h3 7. ♖f2+ ♗h2 8. ♖g1+ ♗g1 stalemate!

A fine ideal pin stalemate with the entire heavy black artillery involved.

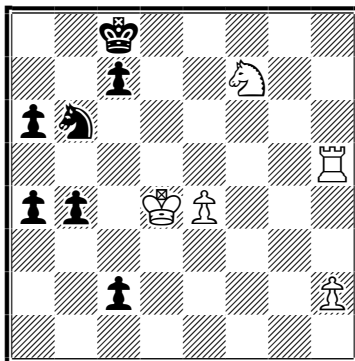
4th Commendation
 ILHAM ALIEV
 Azerbaijan
 (version)



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3+4

Special Commendation
 VALERY KALASHNIKOV
 Russia



=

5+7

1. d6 [1. ♖g7? g3 2. d6 (2. ♖f6 ♖f2+ 3. ♖g5 g2 4. d6 ♖f1) 2... ♖b2 3. d7 ♖b8! (3... ♖b7? 4. ♖h6 ♖: d7 5. ♖: d7 h4 6. ♖g7 ♖f3 7. ♖h5 h3 8. ♖h4 h2 9. ♖: g3+ ♖f2 10. ♖h3=) 4. d8 ♖ ♖: d8 5. ♖: d8 g2! 1. ♖h7 g3 2. d6 (2. ♖h6 ♖f2! 3. d6 g2 4. d7 ♖f8 5. ♖: h5 ♖f4+) 2... ♖a2 3. d7 ♖a8 4. d8 ♖ ♖: d8 5. ♖: d8 h4!] 1... ♖a2 2. d7 ♖a8+ 3. d8 ♖ ♖: d8+ 4. ♖: d8 g3 5. ♖d7!! [Thematic try: 5. ♖d6? ♖f3! 6. ♖f6+ ♖g4! 7. ♖g6+ ♖f4! 8. ♖f6+ ♖g5 9. ♖g7 h4 10. ♖g6+ ♖f4 11. ♖h6 ♖g4 12. ♖g6+ ♖f3! 13. ♖h6 g2 +] 5... h4 6. ♖h7 g2 7. ♖: h4+ ♖f3 8. ♖h3+ ♖f4 9. ♖h4+ ♖f5 10. ♖h5+ ♖f6 11. ♖h6+ ♖f5 12. ♖h5+ ♖f4 13. ♖h4+ ♖f3 14. ♖h3+ =.

An accurate encounter between a Rook and pawns.

1. ♖h8+ [1. ♖c5? b3 2. ♖d3 a3 -+] 1... ♖b7 2. ♖d8+ ♖a8 3. ♖c6+ ♖c8 4. ♖: c8+ [4. ♖d5? ♖b7 5. ♖a5+ ♖b6 6. ♖c4+ ♖a7 7. ♖: c8 c1 ♖ 8. ♖: c7+ ♖b8 -+] 4... ♖b7 5. ♖b8+ ♖: c6 6. ♖: b4 c1 ♖ 7. ♖c4+ ♖: c4+ 8. ♖: c4 ♖d6 9. h4 [9. ♖b4? ♖e5 10. ♖: a4 ♖: e4 11. ♖a5 c5 12. h4 ♖f5 -+] 9... ♖e5 10. h5 ♖f6 11. ♖b4 ♖g5 12. ♖: a4 ♖: h5 13. ♖a5 c5 14. e5! [14. ♖b6? c4 15. e5 c3 16. e6 ♖g6 17. ♖c7 c2 18. e7 c1 ♖+ -+] 14... ♖g6 15. e6 ♖f6 16. ♖b6! c4 17. ♖c5! c3 18. ♖d6 c2 19. e7 ♖f7 20. ♖d7 c1 ♖ 21. e8 ♖+ =.

A two sets scene to restrain a pair of passers on the same file, one at a time.

Yochanan Afek,
 06-04-2015