



GENS UNA SUMUS

The 7th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section H – Retros and Proofgames

Final award by

Andrey Frolkin

MMXIX

Participants

H01	J. Coakley (CAN)	H10	N. Dupont (FRA)
H02	H. Grudziński (POL)	H11	P. Răican (ROU)
H03	D-C. Gurgui (ROU)	H12	P. Olin (FIN)
H04	A. Vasilenko (UKR)	H13	A. Storisteanu (CAN)
H05	V. Semenenko (UKR)	H14	S. Vokál (SVK)
H06	V. Syzonenko (UKR)	H15	V. Crişan (ROU)
H07	A. Semenenko (UKR)	H16	L. Packa (SVK)
H08	O. Lysjanyi (UKR)	H17	M. Kozulya (UKR)
H09	B. Gräfrath (DEU)		

The retro section of the World Cup is usually the one with the fewest number of entries. However, the great variety of subtypes attributed to this section makes the judging process quite hard and prone to criticism.

A composer specializing in e.g. certain fairy retractors or short-solution retros on a fairy board may invest a lot of time and effort in his/her problem and eventually come up with a product of particularly high quality for its limited category; but it may be clear to the judge that the overall level of the entry is much lower than that of entries representing other retro categories. Contrary to ski aerials or diving events, specific degrees of difficulty have not been established in any of the chess composition sections; however, there certainly is a 'set' of approximate difficulty levels in the mind of any tournament judge. The assessment of an entry's level of difficulty, degree of originality, and artistic impression (AKA 'beauty' of a chess composition) underlies its overall estimate; a comparison against the other entries determines its place in the event.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, there has been a decline in the number of classical-style ('release-the-position') retros (CSRs). On the other hand, during that period some leading retroanalysts have composed CSRs of very high quality and broken a few old-time records. In this World Cup, quite

sadly, there is not a single CSR among the 17 entries received.

Five of the entries were cooked. Unfortunately, the problem that preliminarily was awarded the 2nd place, **H10**, was found to be cooked by Michel Caillaud, who tested it using François Labelle's testing program Jacobi: 11.♙a3 ♘f8 12.♙b5 c×b5(♙c1) 13.g4 ♙f5 14.b4 c×b4(g2) 15.g5 b×a3(♙f1) 16.g6 f×g6(b2) 17.b4 ♙d3.

Next is a list of the other cooks:

H03 - 4949 non-intended solutions, e.g. 1.e4 ♘f6 2.♙c4 ♘d5 3.e:d5 ♘c6 4.d:c6 e6 5.c:d7+ ♙e7 6.d:c8=♙ ♚e8 7.♙:a8 f6 8.♙:e8+ ♙f7 9.♙:e6 ♙g8 10.♙e7#; dual in the intended solution 2...e5;

H06 - one of many alternative solutions: 1.h4 c6 2.h5 ♚b6 3.a3 ♚e3 4.d:e3 e5 5.♙d2 ♙:a3 6.♙d3 ♘e7 7.♙e4 d5+ 8.♙:e5 ♙h3 9.♙:h3 ♙d6+ 10.♙:d6 ♘d7 11.♙a4 0-0-0 12.♙e4 d:e4 13.♙f3 e:f3 14.♙:e7 f:g2 15.♚:d7+ ♙:d7#;

H11 - a shorter solution: 1.♙dc3 ♙ef6 2.♚d5 ♙c5 3.♚:b7 ♙d5 4.♚:b8 ♙cb6 5.♙g5 ♙e4 6.♚f4 ♙f3 7.♙:f6 ♙df5 8.♙e4 ♙:f2# [f2=w] 9.♚:f3 ♚d2+ 10.♙:d2 ♙h6 11.♙e3 ♙g5 12.♙d4 ♙f4 13.♙e5 ♙a6 14.♙d4 ♙d7 15.♚h3 ♙:e2 16.♙:e2 ♘e7;

H17 - d6xe5+ is also possible.

Moreover, letters can be assigned to pieces in alternative ways, e.g.: 5s2/r5bb/5SSS/1S1SSKQb/7S/ksS1bb b1/1R2b3/r1R2b2.

Some sound entries were not included in the award:

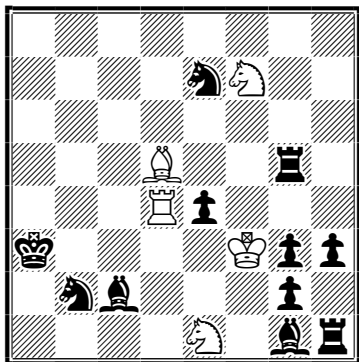
H04 - a double rendition of Schnoebelen theme can be achieved in 9 moves; 12 moves are too much for a record;

H08 - the content is too modest for a modern SPG;

H14 - minimal retro content (just one move is retracted for the sake of achieving a position in which #2 is possible); the forward play is not interesting in any way.

The award is as follows.

1st Prize – Gold medal
 VLAICU CRIȘAN
Romania



-27 Proca Retractor & #1 5+11
 Anti-Circe

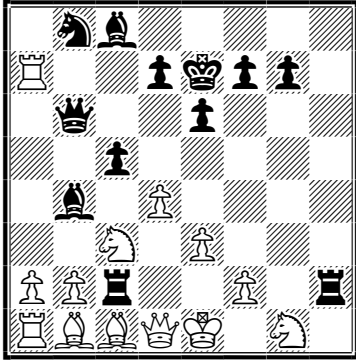
The main plan: 1. ♖xc2 (♖b1)#?? fails since Black occupies the crucial squares g1 and h1. White employs five consecutive foreplans based on draw pendulums to force black to unpromote ♗g1 and ♞h1 and thus make the main plan effective.

-1. ♖h6-f7! e5-e4+ (1st occurrence)
 -2. ♗g4-f3 ♞f5-g5+ -3. ♗f3-g4 ♞g5-

f5+ (2nd occurrence) -4. ♗g4-f3 ♞f5-g5+ -5. ♗f3-g4 ♞h5-f5+ (forced) -6. ♗f4-f3 e6-e5+ (1st occurrence) -7. ♗g5-f4 ♞h4-h5+ -8. ♗f4-g5 ♞h5-h4+ (2nd occurrence) -9. ♗g5-f4 ♞h4-h5+ -10. ♗f4-g5 g4-g3+ (forced; 1st occurrence) -11. ♗e3-f4 ♜h2-g1+ -12. ♗f4-e3 ♜g1-h2+ (2nd occurrence) -13. ♗e3-f4 ♜h2-g1+ -14. ♗f4-e3 g3-g2+ (forced) -15. ♗f3-f4 g5-g4+ -16. ♗f2-f3 g4-g3+ (1st occurrence) -17. ♗f1-f2! ♜g1-h2+ [not -17. ♗g3-f2? ♜g1-h2+ & FD: 1... ♜f2#] -18. ♗f2-f1 ♜h2-g1+ (2nd occurrence) -19. ♗f1-f2 ♜g1-h2+ -20. ♗f2-f1 g2-g1=♜+ (forced) -21. ♗g1-f2 ♞h2-h1+ -22. ♗f1-g1 g3-g2+ (1st occurrence) -23. ♗e2-f1 ♞h1-h2+ -24. ♗f1-e2 ♞h2-h1+ (2nd occurrence) -25. ♗e2-f1 ♞h2-h1+ -26. ♗f1-e2 h2-h1=♞+ (forced) -27. ♗e2-f1 & 1. ♖:c2(♖b1)#. An outstanding fairy retractor; the retroplay is perceived as “almost orthodox”.



2nd Prize – Silver medal
VALERY SEMENENKO
Ukraine



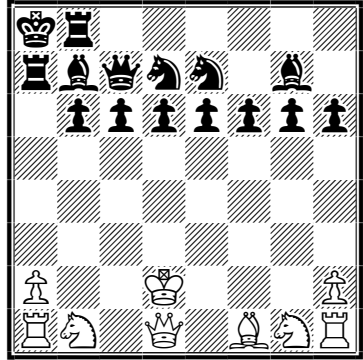
PG 13,0

13+12

1.e3 e6 2.♘d3 ♘b4 3.♘:h7 ♚e7
4.♘:g8 ♜:h2 5.♘h7 ♜:g2 6.♞h5
♞h2 7.♞a5 c5 8.♞:a7 ♖b6 9.♞:b7
♞a3 10.♞a7 ♞c3 11.d4 ♞:c2
12.♙c3 ♞d2 13.♘b1 ♞c2

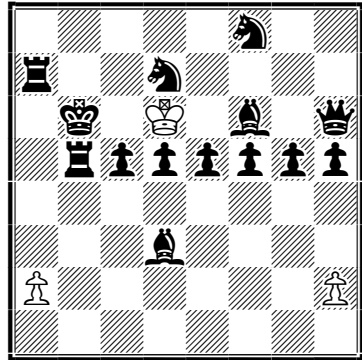
Fourfold cyclic Klasinc (w♘-b♞; b♞-w♞; w♞-b♞; b♞-w♘). A nice, record-breaking deviation from the currently predominant SPG themes involving promotions.

3rd Prize – Bronze medal
PER OLIN
Finland



A

9+15



B

3+14

a) PG 19.5 in A
b) A>B 16.5

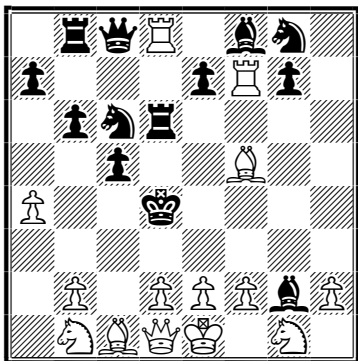
a) 1.d4 h6 2.♘:h6 g:h6 3.d5 ♘g7
4.d6 c:d6 5.c4 ♖c7 6.c5 ♚d8 7.c6
b:c6 8.e4 ♘b7 9.e5 ♚c8 10.e6 d:e6
11.b4 ♙d7 12.b5 ♚b8 13.b6 a:b6
14.f4 ♞a7 15.f5 ♚a8 16.f6 e:f6
17.g4 ♙e7 18.g5 ♞b8 19.g6 f:g6
20.♚d2
b) 1...h5 2.♖:h5 g:h5 3.♙c3 ♙g6

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4. ♖d5 ♗gf8 5. ♛c3 c:d5+ 6. ♛b4
 ♚c1 7. ♛b5 ♚h6 8. ♞c1 ♜a6+
 9. ♛c6 ♜d3 10. ♞c5 b:c5 11. ♜f3
 ♞b5 12. ♜e5 d:e5 13. ♛d6 ♛b7
 14. ♞g1 ♛b6 15. ♞g5 f:g5 16. ♜h3
 ♜f6 17. ♜f5 e:f5

A highly artistic “drama in two acts” featuring capture-based shifting of the black pawn chain, which loses one of its “infantrymen” in each of the phases.

1st Honourable Mention
 ALEKSANDR SEMENENKO
 Ukraine



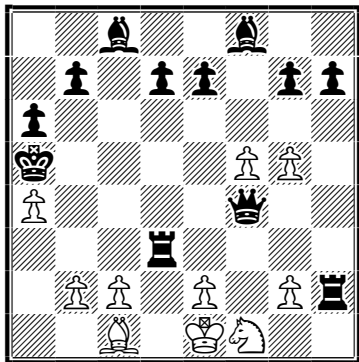
PG 15,0

14+13

1.a4 b6 2. ♞a3 ♜b7 3. ♞f3 ♚c8
 4. ♞:f7 ♜:g2 5. ♞f3 ♜:h1 6. ♜h3
 ♜g2 7. ♜f5 ♛f7 8.c4 ♛f6 9.c5 ♛e5
 10.c6 ♛d4 11.c:d7 ♜c5 12. ♜:h7
 ♜c6 13. ♞f7 ♞b8 14. ♜f5 ♞h6
 15.d8=♞+! ♞d6

Threefold cyclic Klasinc; the phoenix underpromotion on White’s final move adds a nice touch.

2nd Honourable Mention
 LADISLAV PACKA
 Slovakia



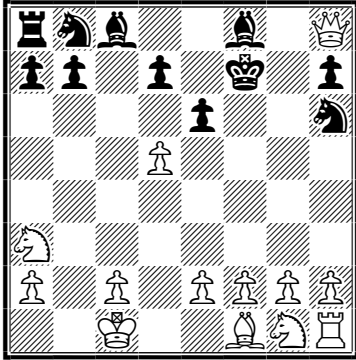
2 Sol. 10+12

Castling 3 moves earlier (retract
 3 b and w moves, then w forward
 castling), help retractor

-1... ♞h1-h2 -2. ♜d2-f1 h2-h1=♞+
 -3. ♜f3-d2 g3: ♞h2 -4. ♞h1-h2 &
 1.0-0;
 -1... ♞a3: ♞d3 -2. ♞d1-d3 ♞a1-a3
 -3. ♜e3-c1 a2-a1=♞ -4. ♞a1-d1 &
 1.0-0-0

The two black rooks are obviously promoted, as the original b♞s could not leave their ‘home boes’.since White had a chance to castle just three moves ago, this means that the black ♞s had to promote on a1 and h1. White balance: 10 (pieces on the board) + 4 (c:b:a>a1=♞, f:g:h>h1=♞) + 1 (♜f1) = 15; black balance: 12 + 1 (h:g) + 2 (♞a8, ♞h8) = 15. In the event of ♞a3:♞d3, the white d-pawn had to promote on b♜ through c7:♞b8. The only entry that is quite close to CSRs.

3rd Honourable Mention
BERND GRÄFRATH
Germany



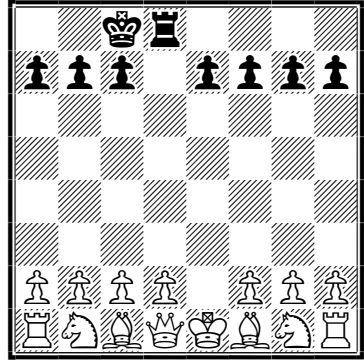
PG 9,5 13+11
Kings Exchange (Kk) Chess

In Kk Chess, play is completely normal except that it is not necessarily ended by mate or by any number of mates. Whenever either side mates, the two kings are interchanged; if a legal position results, play continues normally with the mated side making the next move.

1.d4 c5 2.d5 c4 3.♔d4 c3 4.♔:g7
c:b2 5.♔:h8 b:c1=♔# [♕e1♕e8]+
6.♕:f7 e6 7.♕a3 ♕h6# [♕f7♕e1]+
8.♕:c1 ♔g5 9.♕d1 ♔:c1+ 10.♕:c1

Two black queens are captured on c1: a Schnoebelen-♔ and an anti-Pronkin-♔. The w ♕ is mated twice. An eventful shortie.

1st Commendation
JEFF COAKLEY
Canada



PG 8,0 15+9

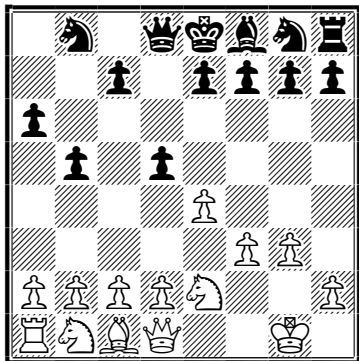
1.e4 d5 2.e:d5 ♕c6 3.d:c6 ♔d7
4.c:d7+ ♕d8 5.d:c8=♔+ ♕d7
6.♔:f8 ♔d8 7.♔:g8 ♕c8 8.♔:d8+
♔:d8

An even shorter PG with a rich content: “Scandinavian Defense” leads to white CF rook and two consecutive pseudo-post-castling positions arising after Black’s 7th and 8th moves, involving different black rooks. If Black’s last move were 0-0-0, the position could not arise earlier than after his 10th turn, e.g. 1.♕f3 ♕h6 2.♕e5 ♕f5 3.♕:d7 ♕g3 4.♕:f8 ♕d7 5.♕:d7 ♔f8 6.♕:f8 ♕e6 7.♕:e6 ♔d4 8.♕:d4 ♕:e2 9.♕f3 ♕g1 10.♕:g1 0-0-0

A PG that kept waiting for years “up in a chess composition cloud” to be discovered.



2nd Commendation
HENRYK GRUDZIŃSKI
Poland



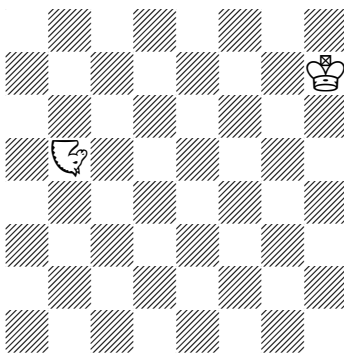
PG 8,0

14+14

Yet another pleasant shortie,
presenting double cross-capture by
pawns.

1.e4 a6 2.♙b5 a:b5 3.♘e2 ♖a3
4.0-0 ♖g3 5.f:g3 d5 6.♞f6 ♙g4
7.♞a6 ♙f3 8.g:f3 b:a6

3rd Commendation
ADRIAN STORISTEANU
Canada



-3w & !=1

2+0

b) w♙h7->h6
Anchor Ring
b5: Nightrider

The “weird” stipulation means
that White retracts three
consecutive moves to find himself
stalemated.

a) 1.♞h1:♞b5 2.♞b8:♙h1
3.c7:♞b8=♞ & 1.♙h7-g7!=
b) 1.♞d1:♙b5 2.♞f8:♞d1
3.e7:♙f8=♞ & 1.♙h6-a7!=

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The author provides a detailed
explanation: “Anticipatory w♙
self-pins. After a couple of
uncaptures, the w♞ unpromotes
itself into a ♘. This ♘ is
anticipatorily self-pinned for the
stalemate by a b♞ resurrected
earlier by that same w♞:

- b♞b5 in a (b♞b5 - c7 - .. - d1 - e3 - f5 - g7);
- b♞d1 in b (b♞d1 - .. - e7 - f5 - g3 - h1 - .. - a7).

(The cylinder board makes it possible for a ♞ to pin the ♠ to a ♔ located on the same rank.)”
A nice fairy retro exercise with just two pieces on the board.