

# WCCI 2019-2021

## Section H: Retros

Entries from Andrey Frolkin (Kiev, Ukraine)

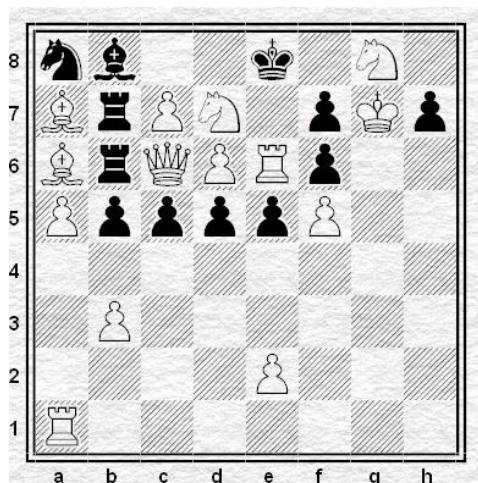
afretro@gmail.com

1.

8<sup>th</sup> FIDE World Cup in Composing, 2020

Section H: Retros and Proofgames

2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention



14+12 Release the position

If the last move was -1.Se7-g8+, Black has no preceding move. This means that the last move was a capture. -1.Se7xQg8+? results in illegal check to the white king. So, it was either -1.Se7xRg8+ or -1.Se7xSg8+. Now the balances can be counted.

Black balance: 12 (pieces on the board) + 2 (d6xc7, c5xd6 – both captures on dark squares) + 1 (Se7xg8+) + 1 (black light-squared bishop) = 16.

If the black a-pawn was captured on its file, it is impossible to explain what happened to the black light-squared bishop. Therefore, the a-pawn had to promote on b1.

White balance: 14 + 2 (g7xf6, a3xb2-b1=R/S) = 16.

Two white pawns promoted on g8: g2>g8 and hxg (capturing the black light-squared bishop) >g8.

The cage can only be released through g7xf6, but this must be preceded by two white unpromotions on g8. If the white rook does not unpromote before Black's unpromotion on b1, it won't have a chance to unpromote later. Suppose wK is retracted to a square where he will not be an obstacle to effective retroplay, e.g. h1; furthermore, Ra1>g1, Pa5>a2; retract: -n...b2-b1=R/S -n+1.~ a3xSb2 -n+2.Sd3-b2 a4-a3 -n+3.Sf4-d3 a5-a4 -n+4.Sg6-f4 ?? – retrostalemate for Black.

The white rook must unpromote before b2-b1, so that the white pawn resulting from the unpromotion will recapture the black light-squared bishop and Black will then have an unlimited number of waiting retromoves. In case of -1.Se7xRg8+ the attempt to unpromote the white rook will be as follows: bR>f8 (the only shield available) / wR>g8 – and again retrostalemate for Black.

**Retract: -1.Se7xSg8+! Sh6-g8 -2.f4-f5 Sg4-h6 -3.Kh6-g7 Se3-g4 + -4.Kh5-h6 Sf5-e3 -5.Rg1-a1 Sh4-f5 -6.a4-a5 Sg6-h4 -7.a2-a4 Sf8-g6! (shielding!) -8.Rg8-g1 Sg6-f8 (switchback) -9.g7-g8=R+ Sh4-g6 -10.Kg4-h5 Sf3-h4 -11.g6-g7 Sd2-f3 -12.h5xBg6 Sb1-d2 -13.Kg3-g4 b2-b1=S -14.Kf2-g3 a3xSb2! (a3xQ/R/Bb2?) -15.Sc4-b2 Bc2-g6 -16.Se3-c4 a4-a3 -17.Sg4-e3 a5-a4 -18.Sh6-g4 Bb1-c2 -19.Sg8-h6 Bc2-b1 -20.g7-g8=S Be4-c2 -21.g6-g7 g7xRf6 and the cage is released.**

**Thematic content:** Black Pronkin knight is captured on its Pronkin square (g8); the white knight on g8 on the diagram is an anti-Pronkin piece, in view of g7-g8=S and Sg8>b2, a3xSb2. Also: black promoted knight shields off his king to allow white unpromotion to rook on the same square g8. That rook later goes to a1 to become another Pronkin piece.

**Black pawn captures white promoted knight, promotes to knight and is also captured – as a Pronkin piece by an anti-Pronkin piece. WCCT-11 theme (expanded version) presented not in a SPG but in a classical-style retro.**

## WCCI 2019-2021

### Section H: Retros

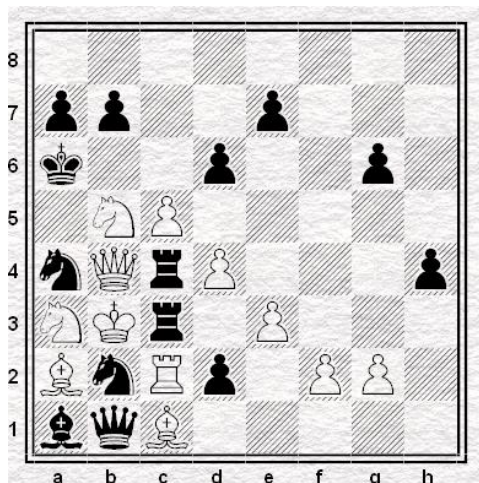
Entries from Andrey Frolkin (Kiev, Ukraine)

afretro@gmail.com

2.

*Die Schwalbe* Heft 306-1, December 2020,

page 755, No. 18428



12+14 Release the position

White balance: 12 (pieces on the board) + 2 (cxd, f3xe2>e1 or fxg; or fxexd) + 1 (Rxc3+) + 1 (wPa was captured on its home file) = 16.

Black balance: 14 + 1 (bxc) + 1 (hxg, with or without promotion on g8) = 16.

The cage can only be released through e2-e3. The retraction of d7-d6 requires the return of the original black queenside rook to a8 or b8 and of the black light-squared bishop to c8. White cannot uncapture both before the release of the cage. It can only uncapture b6xRc7 after c7-c8(=S) or h6xRg7 after g7-g8(=S).

Retract: -1...Rd3xSc3+ (the only unique last single move) -2.Sd5-c3 Sc3-a4+ (Sc3xPa4+?)

-3.Sf6-d5 and now try: -3...f7xBg6? -4.Bf5-g6 (Bh5-g6?) h5-h4 -5.Bg4-f5 h6-h5 -6.Be2-g4 h7-h6 -7.Bf1-e2 ?? – retrostalemate for Black.

Solution continued: -3...h5-h4 -4.Sg8-f6 h6-h5 -5.g7-g8=S h7-h6 -6.h6xQg7! (h6xSg7?) Qf8-g7 -7.h5-h6 Qd8-f8! (-7...Qf3-f8? -8.h4-h5 Qe2-f3 -9.?? – retrostalemate for White) -8.h4-h5 Qa5-d8 -9.Qa4-b4 Qd8xPa5+! -10.Qb4-a4 (b4xc5? – the only black piece missing now is his light-squared bishop) Qf8-d8 -11.Qa4-b4 Qf3-f8 -12.Qb4-a4 Qe2-f3 -13.Qa4-b4 Qe1-e2 -14.Qb4-a4 e2-e1=Q -15.Qa4-b4 (a4-a5) f3xBe2 -16.Bf1-e2 f4-f3 -17.e2-e3 Re3-d3 -18.d3-d4 and the cage is released.

Uncapture of two Ceriani-Frolkin pieces: wS and bQ. Uncapture of a wP which acts as a shield providing White with waiting retractions.

## WCCI 2019-2021

### Section H: Retros

Entries from Andrey Frolkin (Kiev, Ukraine)

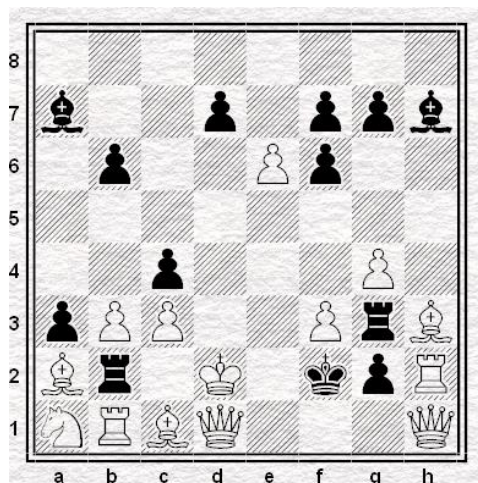
afretro@gmail.com

3.

9<sup>th</sup> World Cup in Composing, 2021

Section H: Retros and Proofgames

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize



14+13 Last 16 single moves?

White balance: 14 (pieces on the board) + 2 (e7xf6, hxg) = 16.

Black balance: 13 + 2 (a6xb7-b8, dxc>c8=B) = 15. The h-pawn could have promoted on h8. One black piece is unaccounted for. This means, in particular, that the possibility of h7xg8=B and d6xc7-c8 or dxe (with a white promotion on e8) cannot be discarded immediately.

The last move is **-1...Bc2-h7+** – and the resulting position features a retrocage in the bottom half of the board. An attempt to release the cage through e2xf3 necessitates 4 captures by White while 3 black pieces are missing. The cage can only be released by retracting the black king to f1 after the installation of two shields – on e1 and g1.

Retract further: **-2.e5-e6 (d5xe6?) Bb8-a7 -3.e4-e5 Bd6-b8 -4.e3-e4 Bf8-d6 -5.e2-e3 e7xSf6! -6.Sd5-f6 a4-a3 -7.Se3-d5 a5-a4 -8.Sf1-e3 a6-a5! -9.Se3xQf1** – the sequence of 16 unique single moves is over; now **-9...Qg1-f1 (a7-a6) -10.Sd5-e3 a7-a6 (Qg1-f1) -11.Sb4-d5 Qf1-g1 -12.Sa6-b4 Qg1-f1 -13.Sb8-a6 Qf1-g1 -14.b7-b8=S Qg1-f1 -15.a6xSb7 Sc5-b7 -16.a5-a6 Sd3-c5 -17.a4-a5 Se1-d3 -18.a3-a4 Kf1-f2 -19.f2-f3 R~g3 -20.g3-g4** and the cage is released.

**-8...a7-a5?** leads to retro-opposition between the black king and the uncaptured queen on f1 – the queen arrives there at the wrong moment and Black later has to waste a tempo; this eventually results in retrostalemate for White.

If the black c4-pawn is retracted to c5, it will be in the way of the uncaptured black knight as it heads for e1; if that pawn is retracted further, to c6, the black queenside rook won't be able to get back to its home square when the cage has been released.

The uncaptured white knight serves a dual purpose: to uncapture, in its turn, the black shielding queen and then, after unpromoting, to uncapture the second shielding black piece, a knight.

## WCCI 2019-2021

### Section H: Retros

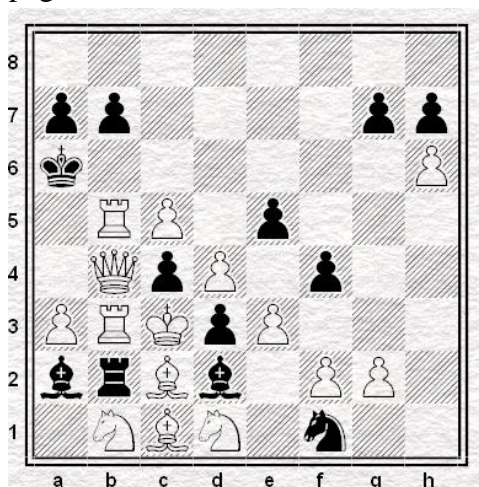
Entries from Andrey Frolkin (Kiev, Ukraine)

afretro@gmail.com

4.

*StrateGems* 92, October-December 2020,

page 194, No. R0333



15+13 Last 23 single moves without repetition?

White's only missing piece was captured on d2 on the last move. It could not be a pawn – with white pawns on d2 and f2, the black bishop on e1 would find itself in an illegal position.

The white pawns originating from b2, c2 and d2 had to make a total of three captures, so the black balance is closed.

The cage cannot be released through e2-e3, since this would have to be preceded by the return of Bc2, which is stuck inside the cage, to f1 in the retroplay.

To release the cage, a shield is required on a5. At present, only the black Sf1 is a possible candidate for shielding.

Try:

-1...Be1xXd2+ -2.h5-h6 Sg3-f1 -3.h4-h5 Sf5-g3 -4.h3-h4 Se7-f5 -5.h2-h3 Sc6-e7 -6.?? – the black knight is one move too late. The shielding will be performed by a different knight.

Solution:

Retract: -1...Be1xSd2+ -2.Se4-d2 Sd2-f1+ -3.Sd6-e4 f5-f4! (e6-e5?) -4.Sc8-d6 f6-f5 -5.c7-c8=S f7-f6 -6.b6xSc7 Se6-c7! (that is why e6 could not be blocked by a black pawn) -7.h5-h6 Sd8-c6 -8.h4-h5 Sc6-d8 -9.h3-h4 Sa5-c6 -10.Qa4-b4 e6-e5 -11.Rb4-b3 Bb3-a2 -12.h2-h3 (a2-a3?) Ra2-b2 (Ba2-b3?) and the cage is released.

If -2.Sf3-d2 Sd2-f1+ -3.h5-h6 e6-e5 -4.Se5-f3 f5-f4 -5.Sc6-e5 f6-f5 -6.Sa5-c6 f7-f6 -7.Qa4-b4 ?? – retrostalemate for Black.

If -1...Be1xQd2+, then -2.Qe2-d2 Sd2-f1+ -3.Qg4-e2 f5-f4? -4.Qc8-g4??

A classical-style release-the-position retro with a few tries and a relatively long unique retroplay. The cage is unlocked by means of a shielding and the shielding piece is uncaptured by a pawn resulting from unpromotion of an uncaptured piece.



WCCI 2019-2021

Section H: Retros

Entries from Andrey Frolkin (Kiev, Ukraine)

afretro@gmail.com

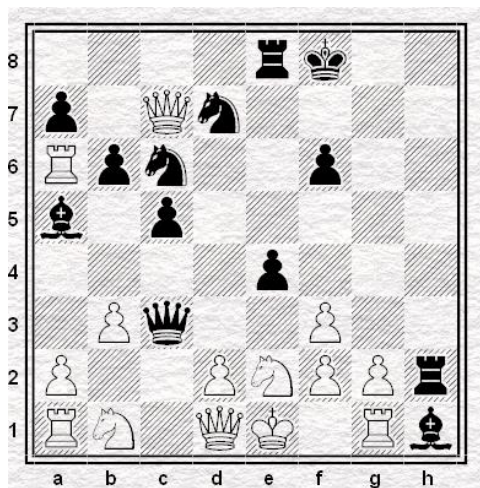
5.

Champagne Tourney 2020

(award in early 2021)

Section A – Proofgames

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



14+13 SPG in 22.0 moves C+

**1.h4 e5 2.h5 Bb4 3.h6 Ba5 4.hxg7 h5 5.b3 h4 6.Ba3 h3 7.Bf8 Se7 8.g8=R h2 9.Rg6 Kxf8 10.Ra6 b6 11.c4 Bb7 12.c5 Bf3 13.c6 e4 14.cxd7 c5 15.exf3 Sec6 16.Bc4 Qf6 17.Se2 Qc3 18.Rg1 f6 19.Bf7 h1=B 20.Be8 Rh2 21.d8=Q Sd7 22.Qc7 Rxe8**

The theme of the tourney (“capture in the air,” i.e. a checkless capture by an officer of a non-pinned officer that made at least one move) is doubled, with homogeneous motivation: both original white bishops act as shields and then are captured by bK and bR. The routes of the bishops are capture-free and pure of aim.

**WCCI 2019-2021**

**Section H: Retros**

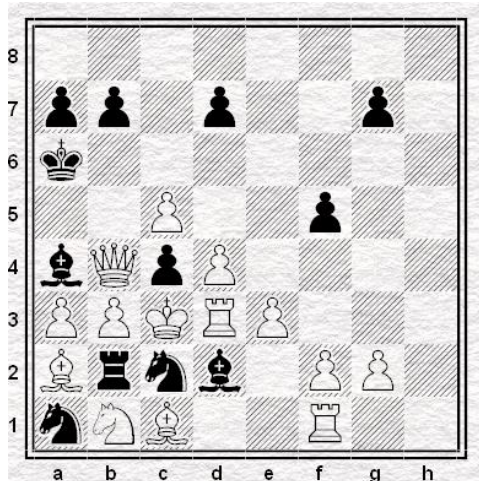
**Entries from Andrey Frolkin (Kiev, Ukraine)**

**afretro@gmail.com**

6.

*Phenix* 317-318, April-May 2021,

page 12448, No. 8999



14+12 First move of wPh2?

White balance:  $14 + 1 (Be1xd2+) + 1 (exd>d1=B) = 16$ .

Black balance:  $12 + 2 (cxd, d4xc5) + 1 (bPh \text{ was captured on its home file; } wPh \text{ was promoted on } h8) + 1 (Bc8) = 16$ .

Retract: **-1...Be1xSd2+! -2.Rh1-f1 Bc6-a4 -3.Rh8-h1 Bf3-c6 -4.h7-h8=R Bg4-f3 -5.h6-h7 Bf3-g4 -6.h5-h6 Bg4-f3 -7.h4-h5 Bf3-g4 -8.h3-h4! (h2-h4?) Bd1-f3 -9.Sf3-d2 d2-d1=B+ -10.Sh4-f3 f6-f5 -11.Sf5xPh4! f7-f6 -12.Se7-f5 h5-h4 -13.Sc6-e7 h6-h5 -14.Sa5-c6 h7-h6 -15.Qa4-b4 Sb4-c2 -16.h2-h3! Sc6-b4 -17.Kb4-c3** and the cage is released.