

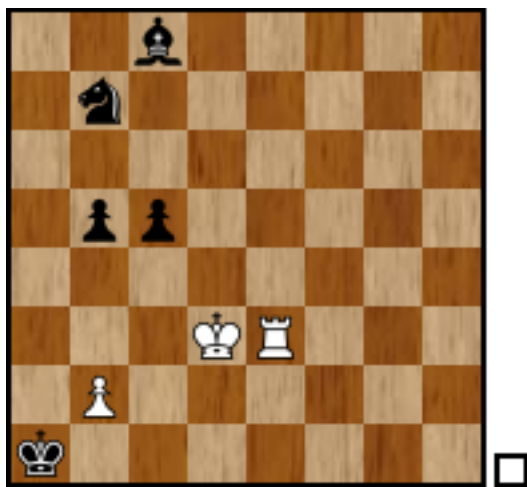
Section B – studies

15 studies took part and one more was disqualified due to incorrectness. The quality was good and the annual improvement is gratifying.

Judges: Steffen Nielsen and Gady Costeff.

1st Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Renārs Mūzis



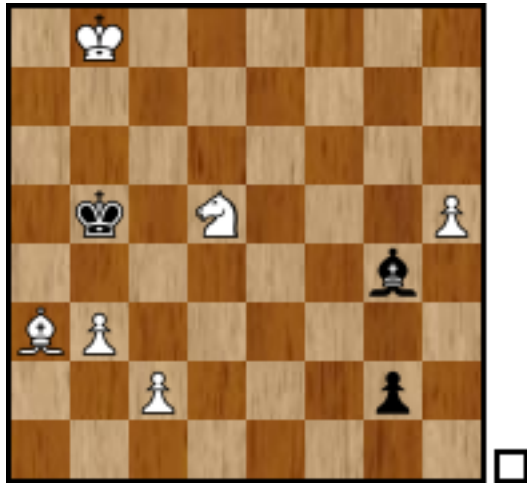
Draw

1. ♔c2 ♙f5+ 2. ♔c1 ♙b1 3. b4! cxb4 4. ♖b3 ♙d3!!
4... ♙g6 5. ♖xb4 ♘d6 6. ♖d4 ♘c4 7. ♖d5 ♘a3 8. ♖d4 ♘c4 9. ♖d5=
5. ♖xd3 ♘c5 6. ♔c2!! 6. ♖d1 b3 7. ♔d2+ ♙a2 8. ♔c3 b2 9. ♔b4 ♘e4
10. ♖e1 ♘d6-- 6... ♘xd3 6... ♔a2 7. ♖e3 b3+ 8. ♔c3 b2 9. ♖e2 ♘e4+
10. ♔b4 ♘d6 11. ♔c3 ♘e4+ 12. ♔b4= 7. ♔b3 ♔b1 stalemate.

A wonderful study. The drawing position after 7. Kb3 is not new, but the composer has created a memorable introduction with three spectacular moves: 3. b4!!, 4...Bd3!! and 6. Kc2!! The play is truly worthy of the final, spectacular draw, where the king, knight, and two pawns are unable to beat a single king. The economy is excellent. There are some difficult sidelines, but they all seem humanly understandable.

2nd-3rd Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Ben Smolkin



Win

1. ♖b7

1.c4+ ♔c6 2. ♘e7+ ♔b6 3. ♙c1 g1=♚ 4. ♙e3+ ♚xe3 5. ♘d5+ ♔c5
6. ♘xe3 ♙xh5

1... ♙c8+! 2. ♔xc8 g1=♚ 3. ♖b7 ♚g7+

3... ♚d4 4.c4+ ♔a5 5. ♙b4#

4. ♙e7 ♔a5 5.h6 ♚h7!

tempo

5... ♚f7 6.c4

6.c3!!

6.c4 ♚f7 zugzwang wtm 7. ♔a7 ♚f2+

6... ♚f7 7.c4 zugzwang btm

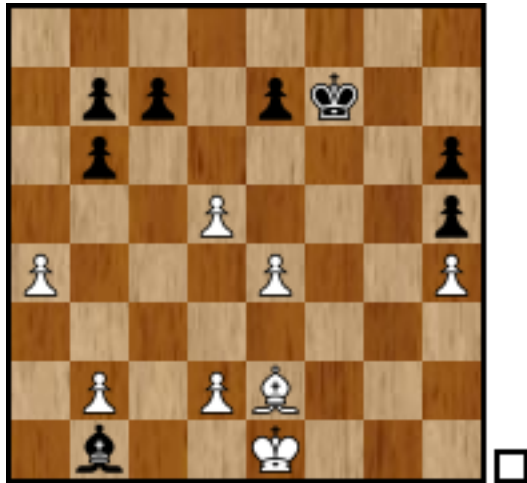
7... ♚h7 8. ♔a7 ♚f7 9.b4+ ♔a4 10.b5 ♔b3 11.b6 ♔xc4 12.b7 ♔xd5

13.b8=♚ ♚xe7+ 14. ♚b7+ ♚xb7+ 15. ♔xb7 ♔e6 16.h7 wins.

Good, clear, pointed play, where White combines the attack with 6.c3!! to win the subtle tempo play. Even the final part of the study has a point in 14. Qb7.

2nd-3rd Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Lao Cutian



Win

1.d6! 1.d3 ♖c2 or 1. ♖b5 ♖xe4 1...exd6 2. ♖c4+ ♔f6 3.d3 c6!

3...d5 4.exd5 ♖c2 5.b3 b5 6.axb5 see main line too

4. ♔d1!

A: 4.b3 "B" 4...d5 but Black counters with "b" 5.exd5 cxd5 6. ♖xd5 ♖xd3 so White considers "C"

B: 4. ♔d2 "C" 4... ♔e5 5.b3! ♔d4 but Black counters with "c" 6.b4 b5 7.axb5 cxb5 8. ♖xb5 ♖a2 so White considers "D"

C: 4. ♔e2 "D" 4... ♔e5 5. ♔d2 ♔f4! but Black counters with "d" 6.b3! ♔g4 (Kg3) 7. ♔c1 ♖xd3 8. ♖xd3 ♔xh4 so White plays text move

4... ♔e5

A: 4...b5 "a" but Black's king is one rank too low 5.axb5 cxb5 6. ♖xb5

B: 4...d5 "b" but White's king is one move too close 5.exd5 cxd5 6. ♖b5 ♖a2 7. ♔c2 d4 8.b3

5.b3!

5. ♔c1 "A" 5...b5 but Black counters with "a" 6.axb5 cxb5 7. ♖xb5 ♖a2

8. ♔c2 ♖f7! 9. ♔c3 ♔f4 so White considers "B"

5... ♔d4 "c" but White has lost a tempo

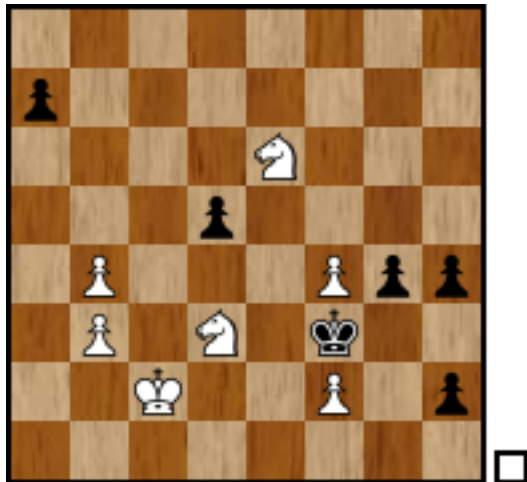
5... ♔f4 "d" but Black has lost a tempo 6. ♔c1

6. ♔d2 zugzwang 6...b5 6...c5 7. ♖b5 zugzwang 6...d5 7.exd5 cxd5 8. ♖b5 zugzwang 7.axb5 cxb5 8. ♗xb5 zugzwang - White wins.

Can White incarcerate and capture Bb1? A battle of plans, counterplans, and zugzwangs. Everything here is about logic, and the interest comes from the subtle relationship between the variations. A mature study with real endgame subtlety.

Maxim Nyrkov

4th-7th Place 10th YCCC, 2026



Win

1.f5 h1=♔ 2.f6 ♔h2 3.f7 ♔d6 4.f8=♔+ ♔xf8 5. ♖xf8 h3 6. ♖g6! 6. ♖d7 h2
7. ♖7e5+ ♔e4 8.f3+ ♔f5! 9.fxg4+ ♔e6! 10. ♖f2 ♔xe5 11. ♔d3 ♔f4! 12. ♔e2
d4! 13.b5 ♔g3! 14.g5 d3+! 15. ♔e3 d2 16. ♖h1+ ♔g4 17. ♔xd2 ♔xg5 6...h2
7. ♖h4+! ♔e4 7...♔e2 8. ♖f5 h1=♔ 9. ♖g3+ ♔f3 10. ♖xh1
8. ♔d2! h1=♔ 9.f3+ ♔xf3 10. ♖c5+! ♔f4 11. ♖e6+! ♔g3 11...♔e5 12. ♖xf3+
gxf3 13. ♖c5 ♔d4 14. ♖d3 12. ♖xf3 gxf3 13.b5!! f2 14. ♔e2 d4!
15. ♔f1! d3 16. ♖c5 d2 17. ♖e4+ ♔f3 18. ♖xd2+ ♔e3 19. ♖c4+ ♔d4
20. ♔xf2 ♔c5 21. ♔e3 ♔xb5 22. ♔d3 ♔b4 23. ♔c2 wins.

An epic study, with several interesting moments (6. Ng6+, 9. f3 and 13. b5) and clear play all the way through to the end. Following the introduction White must stop the passed pawns. The choice 6.Ng6! (6.Nd7) is especially valuable. The study is good training material but lacks perhaps a common thread throughout the solution.

4th-7th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Ural Khasanov



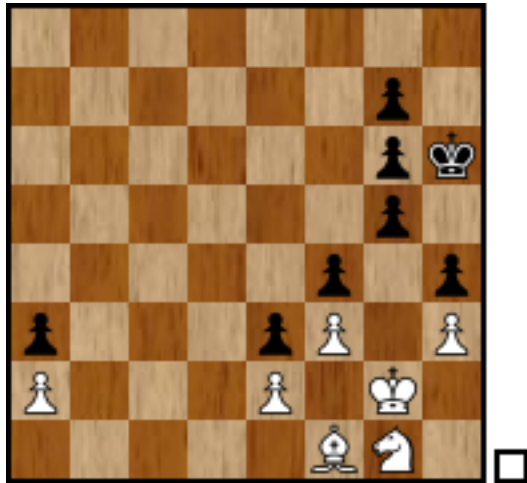
Draw

1. ♔e7! ♔xe7 2. ♘g2+ ♙xg2 3. ♖xe7 d4 4. ♗e2 d3 5. ♕h1 dxe2 6. ♖xe2 ♗d3 7. ♖xg2 ♗e1 8. ♖5xg3+! fxg3 9. ♖h2+ gxh2 10.f4! and Black can't lift the stalemate.

Five white sacrifices followed by the quiet 10.f4, after which Black cannot relieve the stalemate. The play is forced and the traffic jam on the kingside is not inviting. The winner of the 8th YCCC tourney is an almost ideal example of the same idea. The composer deserves praise for keeping it interesting and avoiding too many exchanges, though it is a shame that the black king and rook are already in their "prison" in the starting position.

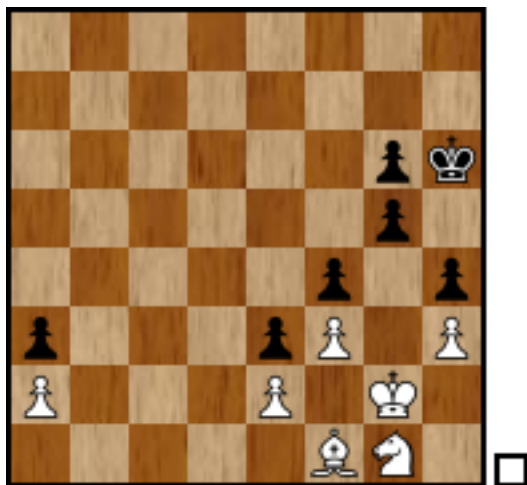
4th-7th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Eldar Aghajanov



Win b) -Pg7

1. ♖h2! 1. ♖h1 ♗h7 2. ♘g2 ♗g8 3. ♖h2 ♗f7 4. ♘h1 ♗e6 5. ♗g2 ♗e5
6. ♗f1 ♗d4 7. ♗e1 ♗c3 8. ♗d1 ♗b2 = 1... ♗h7 2. ♘g2 ♗g8 3. ♘h1 ♗f7
4. ♗g2 ♗e6 5. ♗f1 ♗d5 6. ♗e1 ♗c4 7. ♗d1 ♗c3 8. ♗c1 ♗b4 9. ♗c2
9... ♗c4 10. ♘g2! 10... ♗d4 10... ♗b4 11. ♗d3 11. ♗b3 wins.

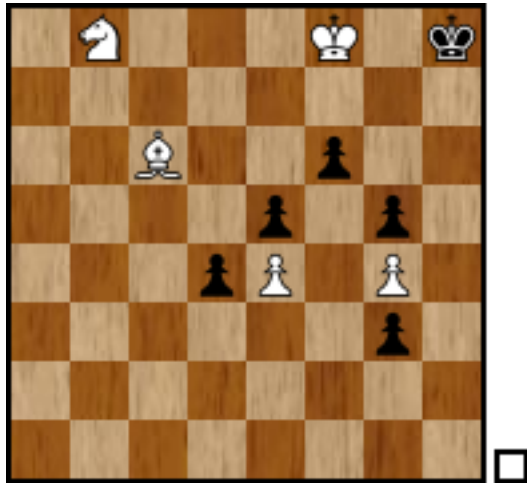


Draw - twin

1. ♖h2! 1. ♖h1 ♗g7 2. ♘g2 ♗f6 3. ♖h2 ♗e5 4. ♘h1 ♗d4 5. ♗g2 ♗c3
6. ♗f1 ♗b2 7. ♗e1 ♗xa2-+ 1... ♗g7 2. ♘g2 ♗f6 3. ♘h1 ♗e5 4. ♗g2 ♗d4
5. ♗f1 ♗c3 6. ♗e1 ♗c2 6... ♗b2 7. ♗d1 ♗b1 8. ♘g2 ♗xa2 9. ♗c2
7. ♘g2! ♗b2 8. ♗d1 ♗xa2 9. ♗c2 ½-½

4th-7th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Denys Farkash



Win

1. ♖d7 g2

1...d3 2. ♗c6 d2 3. ♗d8 d1=♚ 4. ♗f7+ ♔h7 5. ♗f5#

2. ♗c6 g1=♚ 3. ♗d8 ♚f1 4. ♗f7+ ♔h7 5. ♗d6!!

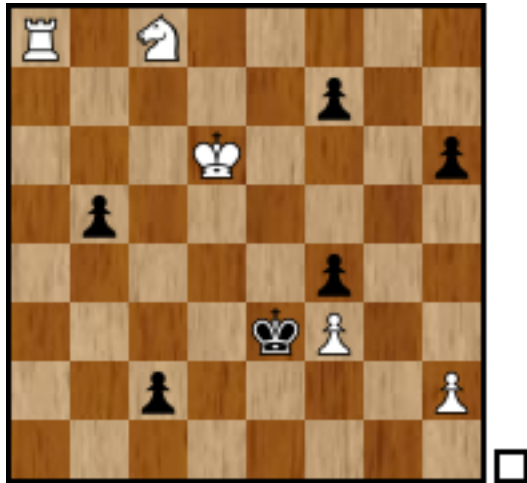
5. ♗f5+ ♚xf5 6. exf5 d3

5...d3 6. ♗f5+ ♚xf5 7. ♗xf5 d2 8. ♗e3 wins.

1.Bd7! clearing c6 for the knight is good technique and 5.Nd6!! Is surprising.
However, the study ends abruptly, so lengthening the mating threat battle would increase the tension and improve the study.

8th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Aayush Wadhwa



Win

1. ♖a1 b4 2. ♘b6 b3 3.h4!!

The key of this move is keeping flexibility with the knight, allowing it to head to either a4 or c4, meanwhile making a very useful improvement move.

3. ♘c4+ Thematic try 3... ♖d3 4. ♖d5

4. ♖c5 ♖c3 5.h4 h5!=

4... ♖c3 5. ♖c5 h5!

5...f6 6.h3! zz 6...h5 7.h4 f5 8. ♖d5 b2 9. ♖a3+ ♖b4 10. ♘xb2 ♖xa3

11. ♘d3 ♖b3 12. ♖d4+- zz

6.h4 f6! 7. ♖d5 b2 8. ♖a3+ ♖b4 9. ♘xb2 ♖xa3 10. ♘d3 ♖b3 11. ♖d4 f5!

zz 12. ♘c1+ ♖b2 13. ♘e2 c1=♔ 14. ♘xc1 ♖xc1 15. ♖e5 ♖d2 16. ♖xf4

♖e2 17. ♖xf5 ♖xf3 18. ♖g5 ♖e4 19. ♖xh5 ♖f5=

3... ♖xf3

3... ♖d2 4. ♘a4! now the knight has to go to a4 instead of c4, making use of the flexibility provided by the third move. 4. ♘c4+? ♖c3 5. ♖c5 h5!=

4...c1=♔ 5. ♖xc1 ♖xc1 6. ♖e5 ♖d2 7. ♖xf4 ♖e2 8.h5! the h-pawn push

on the third move proves useful. 8. ♘c5 b2 9. ♘a4 b1=♘ != 8... ♖d2 9. ♖e4!

♖e2 10.f4! ♖f1! 11. ♖e5 ♖e2 12. ♖f6 ♖d3 13. ♖g7! ♖c4 14. ♖xh6 ♖b4

15. ♘b2+-

4. ♖c4! ♗e2 5. ♜c1 f3 6. ♖a5 f2 7. ♖xb3 f1=♚ 8. ♖d4+! ♗f2 9. ♜xf1+ ♗xf1 10. ♖xc2 ♗f2 11. ♖d4 11... ♗g3

11...h5 12. ♖f5 ♗f3 13. ♗e5! zz 13... ♗g4 14. ♗f6+- zz

12. ♖f5+ ♗h3! 12... ♗g4 13. ♗e5! zz 13. ♗d5!

13. ♗e5 Thematic try 13... ♗g4! zz 14. ♗f6 h5 zz 15. ♗e5 ♗f3 zz 16. ♖h6 ♗g3 17. ♖f5+ ♗f3!

17... ♗g4? 18. ♗f6+- zz

18. ♗f6 ♗g4 positional draw.

13... ♗g4 14. ♗e5! zz 14...h5 14... ♗h5 15. ♗f4 other moves are only a waste of time. For example: 15...f6 16. ♗f3 ♗g6 17. ♖g3 ♗f7 18. ♗f4 ♗e6 19.h5+-

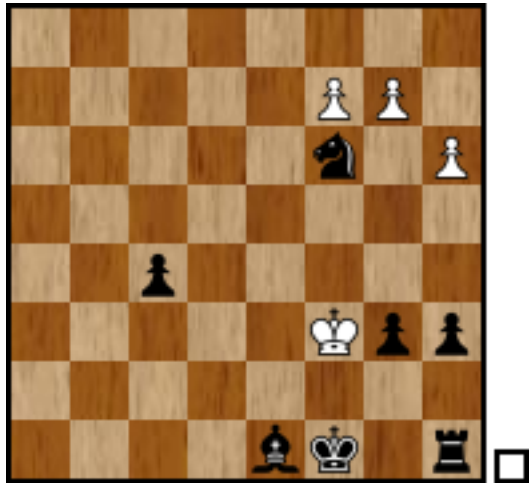
15. ♗f6 zz 15... ♗f4 16. ♖h6! other moves are only a waste of time.

16... ♗g3 17. ♗g5 f6+ 18. ♗xh5 wins.

A zugzwang battle in the introduction followed by a zugzwang battle in the 2nd phase. 3.h4!! Keeps white's options open. A solid and mature study, that flows naturally but contains no real surprises.

9th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Ilija Serafimović



Draw

1.f8=♔ ♖h2 2.♔c5 ♜f2+ 3.♔xf2+ ♝xf2
3...gxf2 4.h7

4.g8=♔

4.h7 h2 5.h8=♔ g2 6.g8=♔ g1=♞+ 7.♔f4 ♞xg8 8.♔xh2 c3 9.♔h8 c2
10.♔a1+ ♞e1 11.♔a6+ ♔f2 12.♔b6+ ♔e2 13.♔e6+ ♔d1 14.♔d5+
♞d2+

4...♞xg8 5.h7 h2 6.h8=♔ g2 7.♔a1+ ♞e1 8.♔a2
8.♔b2 g1=♞+

8...g1=♞+ 9.♔e3 h1=♔

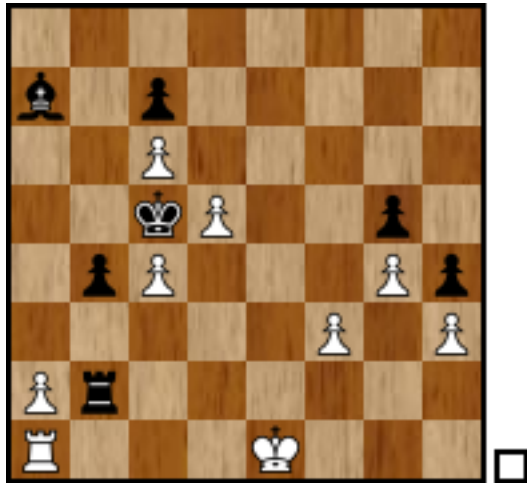
A: 9...h1=♜ 10.♔xc4+

B: 9...♞f6 10.♔xc4+

10.♔e2+ ♞xe2 stalemate.

The stalemate comes as a fine surprise in this study, and the play leading up to it is good as well. It is a shame that knight-g8 is a spectator to the stalemate. Compare with the outstanding 2nd prize Nielsen 45.

10th-12th Place 10th YCCC, 2026
Stefan-Constantin Harnagea



Win

1.d6!

1.O-O-O ♖e2

1... ♔xd6

1... ♔xc6 2.O-O-O ♖xa2 3. ♔b1

2.O-O-O+ ♕d4! 3. ♖xd4+ ♔c5 4. ♖d2!!

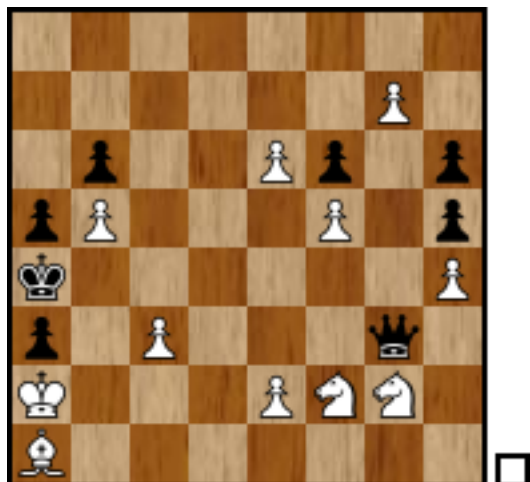
4. ♔xb2 ♕xd4 5. ♔b3 ♔c5

4... ♖xd2 5. ♔xd2 ♔xc4 6. ♔e3 ♔c5 7.f4 gxf4+ 8. ♔xf4 wins.

This is a good study where blow follows upon blow, making every move relevant and meaningful. In the end, White forces a won pawn endgame by the calm 4. Rd2.

10th-12th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

William Dolmer



Win

1.e7 1.g8= ♔ ♔xg8 2. ♘e3 ♔d8 3. ♘e4

3. ♘d3 ♔d6 4.c4 ♔d4 5. ♙b2 5. ♙xd4 stalemate

5... ♔xe3 6. ♙xa3 ♔xd3 7.exd3 stalemate

3... ♔d6 4.c4

4. ♘xd6 stalemate

4... ♔b4 5. ♙d4 ♔b3+ 6. ♔a1 a2 7. ♘d2 ♔c2 8. ♘xc2 stalemate

1... ♔xf2 2.e8= ♔ 2.e8= ♔ ♔xe2+ 3. ♔xe2 stalemate!

2... ♔xg2 3.g8= ♔ 3.g8= ♔ ♔d5+ 4. ♔xd5 stalemate!

3... ♔g4 4. ♙b3+ 4. ♙d5 ♔c4+ 5. ♙xc4 stalemate!

4... ♔xb5 5.c4+ ♔b4 6. ♔e6 6. ♙xf6 a4 7. ♙e7+ ♔c3

6...b5 7.cxb5 a4!

7... ♔xf5 8. ♔d6 ♔f1 9. ♔d4+ ♔xb5 10. ♙c4+ ♔c5 11. ♙d3 wins

8. ♙d5 ♔xf5 9. ♔e4+ ♔xb5 10. ♙c4+ ♔b6 11. ♙d3 ♔d5+ 12. ♔c4 wins.

In a tense starting position, Black's king is already stalemated, making the White underpromotions less surprising, though the opening play is still nice. The capture of both immobile white knights is unfortunate, Ba1 never moves, and the second phase of the study is less interesting.

10th-12th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Pranav Surapaneni



Draw

1. ♖f7! seemingly a free knight, but it deflects the knight from the c1-h6 diagonal for the dark-squared bishop

1... ♜xf7

A: 1... ♜xh7 2. ♔xb3 a1=♚ 3. ♜xa1 ♔xa1

4. ♙c2 ♜xf8=

B: 1...bxc2 2. ♙xc2+ ♔xc2 3.h8=♚ a1=♚ 4. ♚h2+ ♔b1 5. ♚h1+ ♔a2

6. ♚a8+ ♔b1 7. ♚h1+=

2.h8=♚!

luring the knight to allow the bishop to go to h6

2... ♜xh8 3. ♔xb3 a1=♚ 4. ♜xa1 ♔xa1

A: 4...bxa1=♚ 5. ♙c2+ ♔c1 6. ♙h6# proving the purpose of deflecting the knight

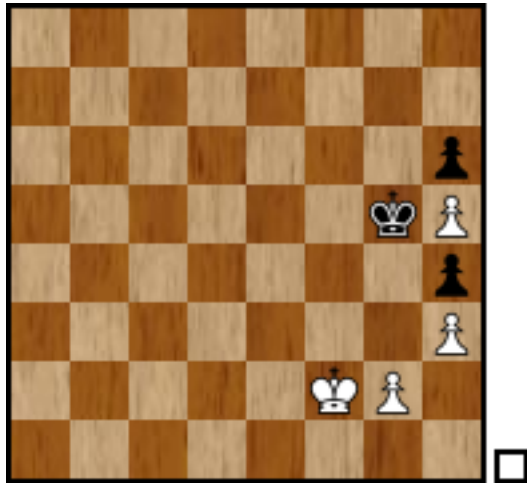
B: 4...bxa1= ♜ + 5. ♔c3 ♜g6 6. ♙g7 ♔a2

5. ♙c2 draw.

A tactical study with a clear idea. Two sacrifices give the bishop access to h6. The starting position is somewhat unnatural, and I am sure the composer would have preferred to make it a win study (somehow) instead of ending it with the prosaic 5. Bc2=. A promising idea that requires more work.

13th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Maksym Kryshafor



Win

1. ♔e3 ♕f5 2. ♕f3 ♕g5

2... ♕e5 3. ♕g4 ♕e4 4. ♕xh4 ♕f4 5.g4!

5.g3+ ♕f3 6.g4 ♕f4 7.g5 hxg5#

3. ♕e4 ♕xh5 4. ♕f4 ♕g6 5. ♕g4 h5+ 6. ♕xh4 ♕h6 7. ♕g3 ♕g5 8. ♕f2

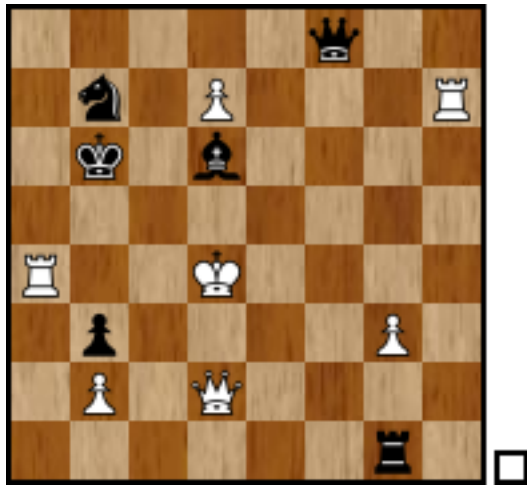
8. ♕f3 ♕h4! 9. ♕f2 ♕g5!

8...h4 9. ♕e3 ♕f5 10. ♕f3 ♕g5 11. ♕e4 wins

This pawn study is a little technical, with only one surprising move, the seemingly passive 8. Kf2.

14th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Oleksandr Veksler



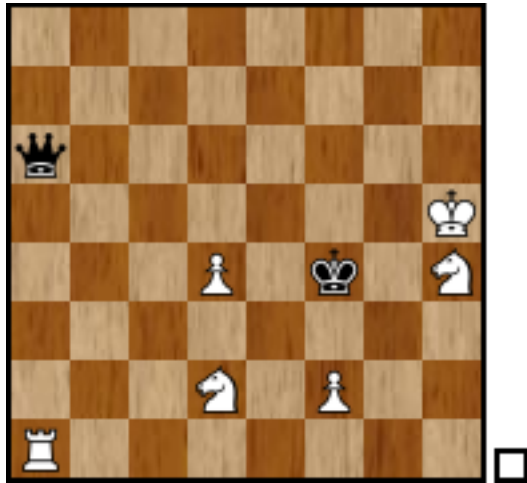
Draw

1. ♖f7 ♔xf7 2. ♖b4+ ♚xb4 3. ♕xb4+ ♔c7 4. ♕xb7+ ♚xb7 5. d8= ♘+ ♔b6
6. ♘xf7 ♔b5 7. ♘e5 **draw.**

1.Rf7! is a fine deflection but 4. Qxb7+! is possible even without a capture and 2...Bxb4 3.Qxb4 are mechanical captures. The final position with knight vs rook is also a little unsatisfactory, since it is not altogether clear (to me) why it is a draw.

15th Place 10th YCCC, 2026

Taras Rudenko



Win

1. ♖e1! 1. ♖xa6 stalemate

1. ♘g6+ ♔f5 2. ♘e7+

2. ♖xa6 stalemate

2... ♔f4 3. ♘d5+

3. ♖xa6 stalemate

3... ♔f5 4. ♘e3+

4. ♖xa6 stalemate

4... ♔f4 5. ♘g2+

5. ♖xa6 stalemate

5... ♔f5 6. ♘h4+ ♔f4 return, full Knights' wheel

1... ♔a5+ 2. ♖e5 ♔xd2 3. ♖f5+ ♔e4 4.d5!! ♔c3! 5.f3+! ♔e3 A better

conclusion is the unique: 5... ♔d3 6. ♘g6 wins

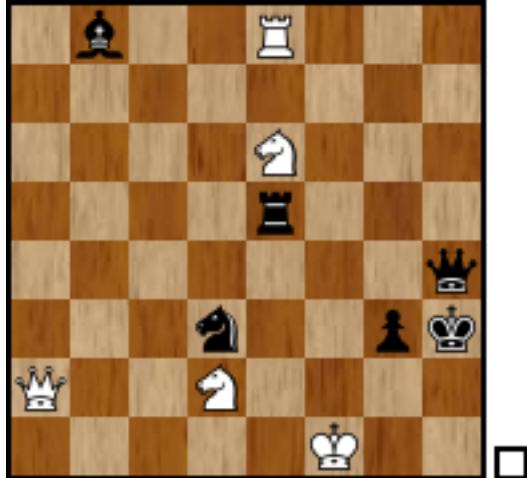
6. ♔g6?? 6. ♘g6+- or 6. ♔g5+-

The knight's wheel should have been the main point of the study, as in the study by Kaminer. The main line is not as interesting and the end of it requires the main line modification 5...Kd3 6.Ng6

Studies mentioned in the notes:

U. Khasanov

1.pl 8th Youth Comp. Challenge 2024

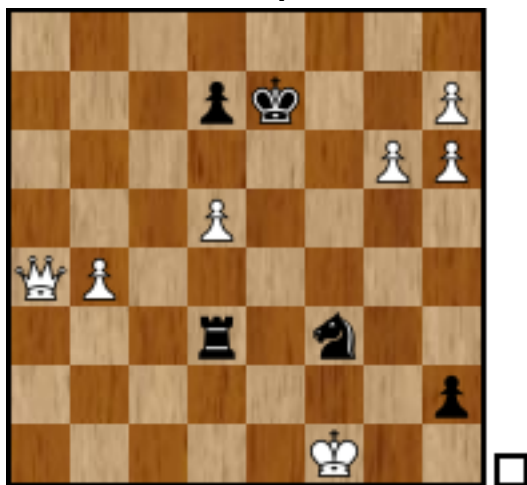


Draw

1. ♖f3 ♜e1+ 2. ♖xe1 ♚f6+ 3. ♖f4+ ♚xf4+ 4. ♚g1 ♚d4+ 5. ♚f1 ♚f6+
6. ♚g1 ♖xe1 7. ♜h8+ ♚xh8 8. ♚h2+ gxh2+ 9. ♚h1 ♖c2 1/2-1/2

A. Avni & M. Minski

2nd Prize Slumstrup Nielsen-45 JT 2020



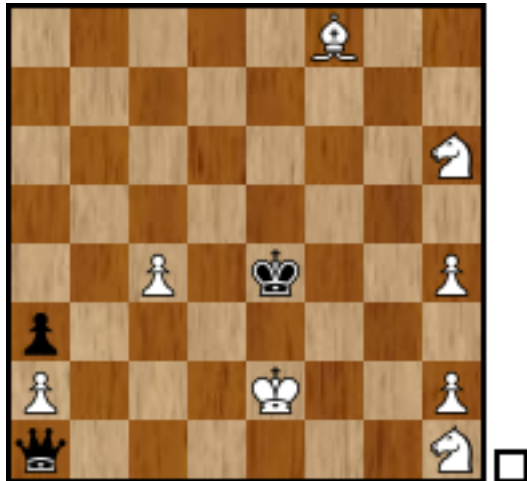
Draw

1. ♚g2! h1=♚+! 2. ♚xh1 ♜d2! 3. d6+! ♚xd6 4. ♚a6+ ♚e7 5. ♚f6+!
5... ♚xf6 6. h8=♚+ ♚g5 7. ♚e5+! ♖xe5 8. g7 ♖f3 9. g8=♚+ ♚h4 10. ♚g1!
♖xg1 11. h7 ♖f3 12. h8=♚+ ♚g3 13. ♚g7+ ♚f2 14. ♚a1! ♚g3 15. ♚g7+

♔f2 16. ♚a1 d5 17. b5 d4 18. ♚c1! ♜e2 19. b6 ♔g3 20. ♚c7+ ♔f2 21. ♚c1 d3 22. b7 d2 23. ♚g1+! ♞xg1 24. b8=♚ d1=♚ 25. ♚g3+! ♔xg3 stalemate.

S. Kaminer

3rd Prize Shakhmaty II/1926



Win

1. ♞g3+! ♔e5! 2. ♜g7+ ♔f4! 3. ♞h5+ 3. ♞xa1? 3... ♔e4 4. ♞f6 4. ♞xa1?
4... ♔f4 5. ♞d5+ ♔e4 6. ♞c3+ 6. ♞xa1? 6... ♔f4 7. ♔f2! ♚h1! 8. ♞e2+ ♔e4
9. ♞g3+ ♔f4 10. ♞xh1 wins.