WFCC-70JT: Section D (Chess Studies)

A total of 35 studies were entered in the competition.

D01 Minski, Martin; D02 Gatti, Daniele; D03 Jasik, Andrzej;
D04 Hlebec, Darko; D05 Samilo, Volodymyr; D06 Zamanov, Vidadi;
D07 Vardi, Ilan; D08 Arestov, Pavel; D09 Neuenschwander, Beat;
D10 Pastalaka, Mikhail; D11 Pervakov, Oleg; D12 Kekely, Ľuboš;
D13 Hlinka, Michal; D14 Pasman, Michael; D15 González, Luis Miguel;
D16 Tarasiuk, Vladislav; D17 Kalashnikov, Valery; D18 Dimitrov, Ognian;
D19 Osintsev, Sergey; D20 Rewitz, Poul; D21 Aliev, Ilham;
D22 Migunov, Sergei; D23 Gasparyan, Aleksey; D24 Bondar, Ivan;
D25 Matjushin, Gennady; D26 Eilazyan, Eduard; D27 Niessen, Thomas;
D28 Harnagea, Stefan-Constantin; D29 Nielsen, Steffen Slumstrup;
D30 Mūzis, Renārs; D31 Djurašević, Branislav; D32 Rudenko, Taras;
D33 Miljanić, Mirko; D34 Shang Riye; D35 Wadhwa, Aayush

The overall standard of the submitted studies was exceptionally high. Only one study, No. 8, was excluded from the competition after it was found to have been anticipated by an earlier composition.

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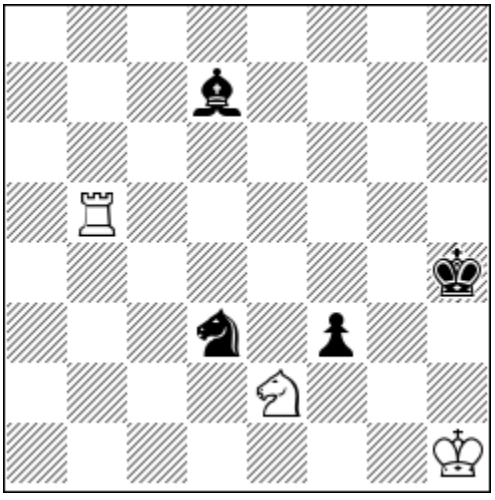

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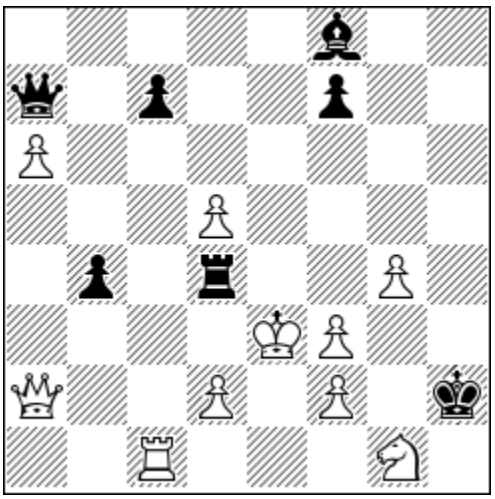
1.♘d4! f2 2.♖b1!♘e1 3.♘f3+! ♔h3 4.♖xe1! ♗c6 5.♖e4! f1♕+ 6.♘g1+ ♔g3 ½-½

The Final Results of the Competition

1st Prize – Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

The composer has discovered an astonishing mechanism. This is a true *study-performance*—a miniature theatrical production in chess—and requires no further comment.



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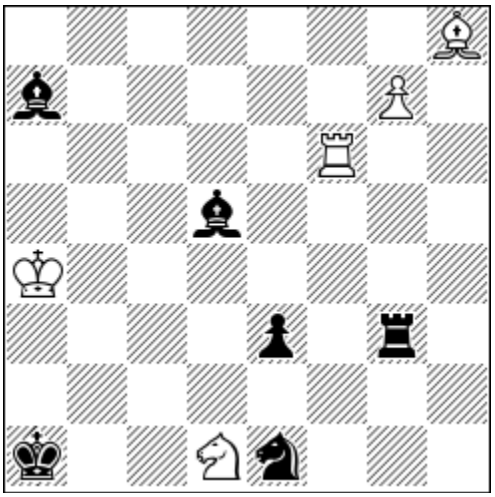
1.♘e2 ♗h6+ 2.g5!! [Logical try 2.f4? ♖xf4+ 3.d4 ♖xd4+ 4.f4 *(4.g5* (too late) *4...♖xd5+ 5.♔e4 ♖xg5=)* 4...♖xf4+ 5.♘d4+ ♖f2+ 6.♔xf2 ♕xd4+ 7.♔f3+ ♗d2 8.♖h1+ ♔xh1 9.♕b1+ ♔h2 10.♕h7+ ♔g1 (the g−file is closed) 11.♕b1+=]
2...♗xg5+ 3.f4 ♖xf4+ 4.d4 ♖xd4+ 5.f4 ♖xf4+ 6.♘d4+ ♖f2+ 7.♔xf2 ♕xd4+ 8.♔f3+! [8.♔e1+ ♔g1= *(8...♔h1=)*]
8...♗d2 9.♖h1+ ♔xh1 10.♕b1+ ♔h2 [10...♕g1 11.♕xg1++-] **11.♕h7+ ♔g1 12.♕g8+!** [The g−file is open.] **12...♔f1 13.♕g2++-**

2nd Prize – Michael Pasman

An exceptionally dynamic two-sided struggle for control of the diagonal. In the confrontation between the White and Black pieces, the final word once again belongs to the White bishop, whose participation in the play was initially prevented by the Black pieces. An outstanding composition.



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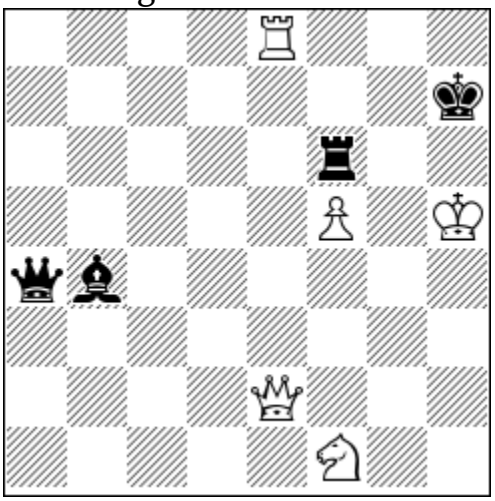
1.♖g6! [Opening a1-h8 diagonal from battery, releasing f6 square.]
1...♗b3+! [trying to force white king to move to more appropriate for black position]
[Thematic line: 1...♗g8 2.♖xg3 ♘c2 3.♘c3 ♔b2 4.♘e2 ♘d4 Position X1 5.♖xe3+-; 1...♖xg6 2.g8♕++-]
2.♔xb3! [allowing e2+]
[Logical try 2.♔a5? only now 2...♗g8! 3.♖xg3 ♘c2 4.♘c3 ♔b2 5.♘e2 ♘d4 Position X2 6.♖xe3 (6.♘f4 ♔c2 7.♔a6 *(7.♘g2 e2 8.♔a6 ♗c5 9.♖e3 ♔d2=)* 7...♗b8 8.♖xe3 ♗xf4=) 6...♘c6+ /b3+ check; Logical try 2.♔b5? ♗g8! 3.♖xg3 ♘c2 4.♘c3 *(4.♘xe3 ♗xe3 5.♔a4 ♔b2 6.♖f3* is draw, because the only plan for white is to exchange g7 pawn for bishop and it is draw, e.g. *6...♔c3 7.♖f8 ♗b3+ 8.♔a5 ♔d3 9.g8♕ ♗xg8 10.♖xg8=)* 4...♔b2 5.♘e2 ♘d4+ Position X3 with check 6.♔a6 ♘xe2=]
2...e2+ 3.♘e3! [Alternate 3.♘c3 is putting interference on a1-h8 diagonal 3...♖xg6=; 3.♔c4 exd1♕ 4.g8♕+ ♔b1=; 3.♖xg3?? exd1♕+-+]
3...♖xe3+ 4.♔c4! [Logical try : 4.♔a4? ♖e4+! 5.♔b5 Position Y1, white king on b5 5...♖e5+! a1-h8 diagonal is closed from e5, so white will not have winning move Re6 6.♔a6 *(6.♔c6=)* 6...♘d3 7.g8♕ e1♕ 8.♔xa7 ♕c3! additional interference of a1-h8 diagonal, e.g. 9.♖a6+ *(9.♗xe5 ♘xe5 10.♖g1+ ♔b2 11.♖g2+ ♔c1 12.♖g1+ ♔b2; 9.♖b6 ♕c7+)* 9...♔b1 10.♗xe5 *(10.♖b6+ ♔c1)* 10...♘xe5 11.♖b6+ ♔c1 12.♕g1+ ♔d2=]
4...♖e4+ 5.♔d5! [Position Y2, white king on d5] [5.♔b5? Position Y1 − see previous comments 5...♖e5+!]

5...♖d4+! 6.♔c6! ♘f3! 7.♖e6! ♘e5+! 8.♖xe5 [battery, but black is forced to remove his rook from a1-h8 diagonal]
8...♖g4 9.♖e4!
[Thematic try 9.♖g5 ♖c4+! 10.♔b7 e1♕! 11.g8♕+ ♔b1 12.♕xc4 *(12.♖b5+ ♖b4=)* 12...♕e7+ 13.♔a6 ♕xg5 14.♕b3+ ♔c1 15.♗b2+ ♔d2=; Thematic try: 9.♖a5+ ♔b1 10.♖a1+ *(10.♖xa7* e.g. *10...♔c1)* 10...♔c2!; 9.♖xe2 ♗d4=]
9...♖g6+! 10.♔b7! [10.♔d5 ♖g5+! 11.♔c4 ♔b1! =;]
10...♗d4! 11.♖xd4! e1♕ 12.♖a4+
[12.♖d1+? with same idea does not work because black queen is moving from e1]
12...♔b1 13.♖a1+! ♔xa1 14.g8♕+ ♔b1 15.♕b3+! 15...♔c1 16.♗b2+ ♔d2 17.♗c3+ [the final blow, final stop for the bishop is the remaining c3 square]

3rd Prize – Martin Minski

This study is also distinguished by its two-sided combination of tactical motifs, unfolding in a scenario that leaves a particularly pleasing impression.



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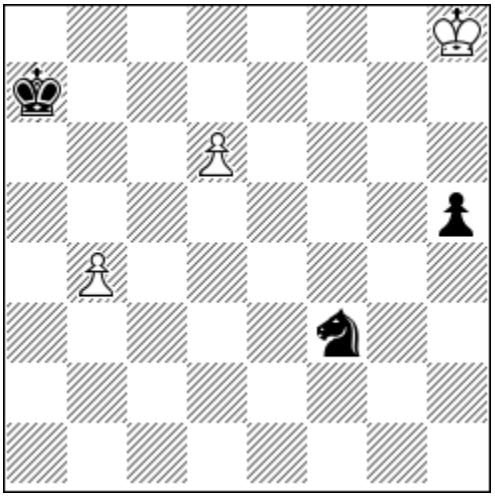
1.♔g5! [1.♖e7+? ♔h8! =]
1...♔g7 [1...♖f8 2.♕h5+ ♔g8 3.♕g6++-; 1...♕c6 2.♕h5+ ♔g7 *(2...♖h6 3.♕f7#)* 3.♕h8+ ♔f7 4.♕g8#]
2.♘g3! [2.♕h5? ♗f8!=; 2.♖e7+? ♗xe7 3.♕xe7+ ♖f7=]
2...♗d2+! 3.♕xd2 ♖g6+! 4.fxg6 ♕a5+! 5.♕d5!! [main A:]
[5.♘f5+? ♕xf5+ 6.♔xf5 ideal stalemate; 5.♕xa5? stalemate]
5...♕d2+! [main B: 5...♕d8+! 6.♖e7+! echo rook sacrifice *(6.♕xd8?* /Rxd8? stalemate*)* 6...♕xe7+ 7.♔h5+-; 5...♕xd5+ 6.♘f5+ ♕xf5+ 7.♔xf5+- no stalemate]
6.♖e3! [6.♕xd2? stalemate] **6...♕xd5+** [6...♕xe3+ 7.♔f5 /Kg4+-]

7.♘f5+ ♔f8 [7...♔g8 8.♖e8#] **8.g7+ ♔f7 9.♖e7+ ♔g8 10.♖e8+ ♔h7 11.♖h8#**

Special Prize − Ilan Vardi
A unique Réti study, enriched with fresh and original ideas.



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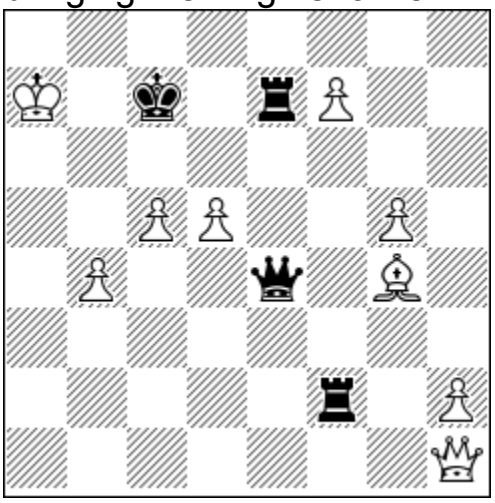
1.♔g7! [Following the Reti study, white both approaches the black pawn and his own advanced pawn.]
[1.d7? It is tempting to advance the pawn immediately because it produces a white knight, but this fails because the white knight is reined in by the black knight. 1...♘e5! 2.d8♘ *(2.d8♕♘f7+! 3.♔g7 ♘xd8!-+)* 2...h4! 3.♘e6 The only knight move can't stop the black pawn. 3...h3-+]
1...h4 [Black can also try Nd4 or moving his king to b6, b7, b8 to which white can also reply 2. Kf6 which draws. 1... h4 is the most thematic attempt at a win and is also the only black move which forces white to play the single correct reply.]
2.♔f6! [Continuing to follow the Reti study. White's king is still far away from the black pawn but now d7 is threatened and black must respond.]
[2.d7? This still fails. 2...♘d4! 3.d8♘ h3-+]
2...♘d4 [2...h3 3.d7! h2! 4.d8♕! h1♕! 5.♕c7+! Simple perpetual check.]
3.b5! [The only move, it threatens to play d7 and queen the pawn.]
[White can no longer follow the original Reti study and must give up on the Reti maneuver for now. 3.♔e5? h3 4.♔xd4 *(4.b5 ♔b6 5.♔d5 h2 6.d7 h1♕+!* Queens with check.*)* 4...h2! 5.d7 h1♕ 6.d8♕ ♕d1+! Skewers the white queen.; 3.d7? ♘c6! 4.b5 ♘d8! 5.♔e7 ♘b7!-+]

3...♔b8 4.d7! ♔c7! 5.♔e7 ♘f5+! 6.♔e6! ♔d8! [Black can draw by continuing knight checks, but this forces white to play the only good move as well as tempting white to capture the knight.] [6...h3?? 7.b6+! ♔d8 8.b7!+- White queens his pawn and wins.]
7.b6! ♘e7! 8.♔d6! [8.b7? ♘c6! 9.♔d6 ♘b8!-+]
8...♘c8+!! [8...h3?? 9.b7! ♘f5+ 10.♔e5+- White queens his pawn and wins.]
9.♔e5!! [The knight is untouchable 9.dxc8♕+? ♔xc8-+; 9.♔d5?? ♘xb6+ 10.♔e4 ♘d5! Similar moves also win. 11.♔f3 h3 12.♔g3 ♘f4!-+; Black safely queens his pawn.]
9...♔xd7!
[9...h3? This natural move loses. 10.b7!! With this amazing move, white refuses to capture the knight and instead attacks it twice, which queens his pawn first and wins $1 This seems to be a completely original situation.; 9...♘e7 This also draws. White can repeat moves or force a draw. 10.b7 ♔xd7 11.b8♕ ♘c6+! 12.♔f4 ♘xb8 13.♔g4 White captures the pawn.]
10.b7!! [10.♔f4? This natural move loses $1 10...♘e7! *(10...♘d6!)* 11.♔g4 ♘g6 12.b7 ♔c7!-+]
10...♔c7 11.bxc8♕+! [11.♔f4? ♘d6! *(11...♘e7!)* 12.♔g4 ♘f5!-+] **11...♔xc8 12.♔f4** =

1st Honorable Mention − Daniele Gatti
A study in which White defends against Black's intriguing counterplay by bringing the knights to life.



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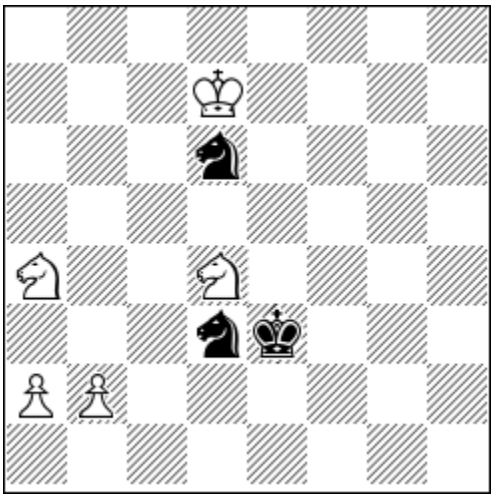
1.d6+ ♔c6+ [1...♔d8+ 2.dxe7+! ♔c7 3.e8♘+!]
2.dxe7 ♖a2+ 3.♔b8 ♖a8+ 4.♔xa8 ♔c7+ 5.c6
[5.♔a7? ♕a8+!! And stalemate.]

5...♕xh1 [5...♕xb4 6.e8♘+! avoids mate in b8 +-]
6.e8♘+ ♔b6 7.b5 ♕a1+ [7...♕d5 8.♔b8 ! ♕xf7 9.c7! ♕xe8+ 10.c8♕! ♕e5+ 11.♔a8! Pawn in b5 stops the deadly check Qa5+ with following mate. 11...♕a1+ 12.♕a6+! +-]
8.♔b8 ♕a7+ 9.♔c8 ♕xf7 10.♗d7 [! Knight cannot be moved so it must be protected.]
10...♕a2 11.♔d8 ♕xh2 [11...♕a8+ 12.♔e7! Escapes. -+]
12.c7 [!] **♕h4 13.c8♘+ 1-0**
[The final blow. One of the two remaining pawns is going to promote (supposedly to a Queen,13.c8♕? ♕xg5+ ! 14.♘f6 ♕xf6+! And draw.]

2nd Honorable Mention − Sergei Migunov
A rare material balance for a study, with an elegant finale.



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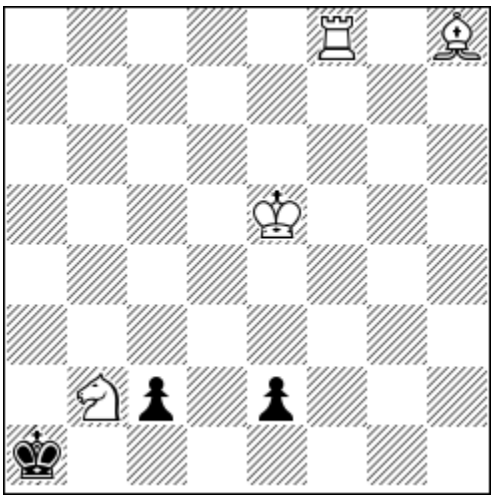
1.♘c2+ [1.♔xd6? ♔xd4 2.a3 ♔c4 3.♔c6 ♘e5+ 4.♔b7 ♔b3 5.♘c5+ ♔xb2 6.a4 ♘c4=]
1...♔d2 2.♘e1! [2.♔xd6? ♔xc2 3.a3 *(3.♔c7 ♔b1 4.a3 ♔a2!=)* 3...♔b3 4.♘c5+ ♔xb2 5.a4 ♘b4=]
2...♘xb2! 3.♘xb2 ♘e4! 4.♘a4! [Switchback. Preventing Ne4-c3.]
[4.♔c6? ♘c3 5.a3 ♔xe1=; 4.♘bd3? ♘c3 5.a3 ♘a4=; 4.♘ed3? ♘c3 5.a3 ♔c2=]
4...♔xe1 5.♔c6 ♔d2 [5...♔e2 6.♔d5 ♔e3 7.♔e5 ♘d2 8.♘b2 ♘f3+ 9.♔d5 ♘d4 10.a4 ♘b3 11.♔c4 ♘a5+ 12.♔b5 ♘b3 13.♔b4 ♘d4 14.♔c4+-]
6.♘c5 ♘c3 7.♘e4+! [Umnov Theme.]
7...♘xe4 8.a4+- 1-0

3rd Honorable Mention − Valery Kalashnikov
A miniature enriched by the White king's precise maneuvers and final domination.



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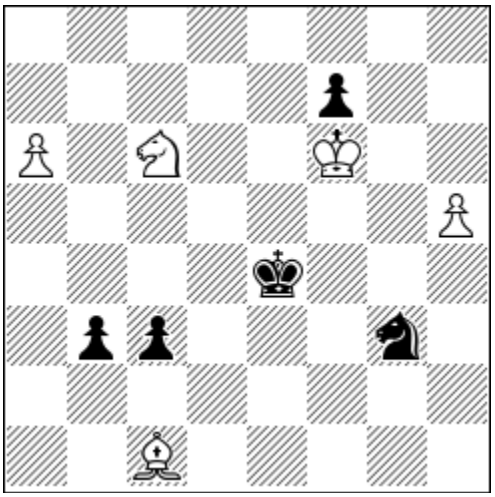
1.♘d3 [1.♖a8+? ♔b1! 2.♘d3 c1♕ 3.♖b8+ ♔c2 4.♖c8+ ♔xd3 5.♖xc1 ♔d2=; 1.♔d5? e1♕ 2.♘d3+ ♔a2 3.♘xe1 c1♕ 4.♖a8+ ♔b3=]
1...e1♕+! 2.♘xe1 c1♕ [After the short introduction white figures play against Queen.]
3.♖a8+ ♔b1 [3...♔b2 4.♘d3+ fork No1]
4.♔d5!! [4.♔f5? ♕c5+ 5.♗e5 ♕f2+ 6.♔e6 ♕b6+=]
4...♕d2+ [4...♕d1+ 5.♔c6! ♕xe1 6.♖a1++-]
5.♗d4 [5.♔c6? ♕h6+=]
5...♕g5+ [5...♔c1 6.♖a1# model mate with blocking; 5...♕b4 6.♖a1# model mate]
6.♗e5 [6.♔c4? ♕c1+ 7.♗c3 ♕f4+=]
6...♕d2+ [6...♔c1 7.♖a1+ ♔d2 8.♘f3+ fork No2]
7.♔c6! ♕h6+ 8.♔b5! ♔c1 [and after a sacrifice]
9.♗f4+! ♕xf4 10.♘d3+ 1-0

4th Honorable Mention − Mirko Miljanić
A study that won my admiration with its very first move.



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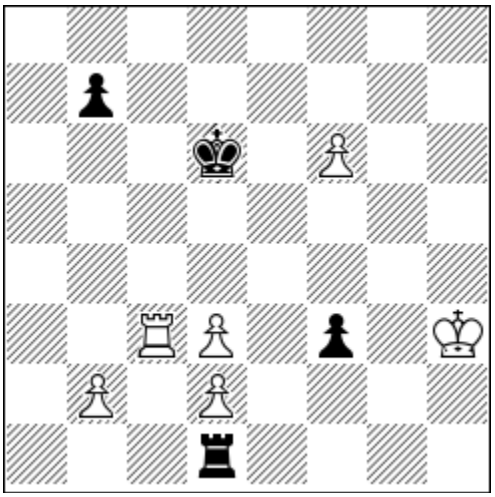
1.♘a7!! [1.a7? b2 2.♗xb2 cxb2 3.a8♕ ♘xh5+! *(3...b1♕? 4.♘e5+!+-)* 4.♔g5 b1♕=]
1...♘xh5+! 2.♔xf7! [2.♔e7? Thematic try 2...b2 3.♗xb2 cxb2 4.♘b5!? ♔d5 5.a7 b1♕ 6.a8♕+ ♔c5!= 7.Qf8? there is no check]
2...b2 3.♗xb2 cxb2 4.♘b5! ♔d5 [4...b1♕? 5.♘c3+ ♔e5 6.♘xb1+-]
5.a7 b1♕ 6.a8♕+! [6.♘c3+? ♔c6 7.a8♕+ ♕b7+!=]
6...♔c5 [6...♔e5 7.♕b8+!+-]
7.♕f8+! ♔b6 8.♕d8+! ♔a6 9.♕a8+! ♔b6 10.♕a7+! [Theme for 4.YCCC from 2019:"During the solution White plays a piece to a square immediately in front of one of his pawns, without capturing. Later on, the piece moves away and the pawn promotes (on the same line)."]
1-0

5th Honorable Mention − Branislav Djurašević
Rook studies have fascinated me since my youth. White's fourth move is particularly effective.



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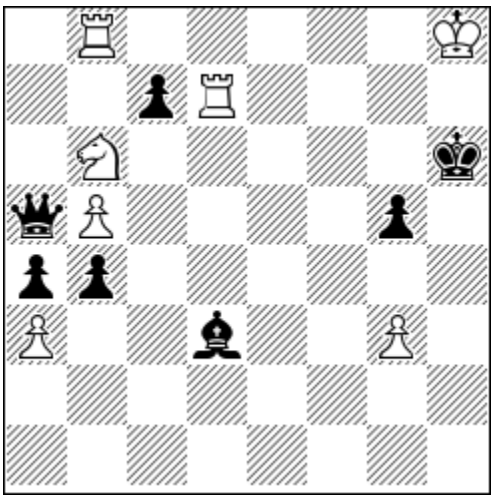
1.Kg3! [1.f7? Ke7 2.Kg3 f2! 3.Kxf2 Rxd2+ 4.Ke3 Rxb2 5.Rc7+ Kf8 6.d4 Rb1! 7.d5 Rd1! 8.Ke4 b5! 9.Ke5 b4 10.d6 b3 11.d7 b2!=]
1...f2! [1...Rxd2 2.f7! Ke7 3.Rb3! f2 4.Rxb7+ Kf8 5.Kg2 Rxd3 6.Kxf2+-]
2.Kxf2 Rxd2+ 3.Kg3!!
[Paradoxically, the White king rejects the most obvious path−centralizing to support his d−pawn and attack the enemy rook with tempo. Instead, he executes a switchback!] [3.Ke3? Thematic try 3...Rxb2 4.Rc7!? Rb1! 5.f7 Rf1 6.Rxb7 [#] Black to move, draw. This sideline is of independent value, effectively creating a study within a study. 6...Kd5! An original reciprocal zugzwang! Whichever side is to move loses the advantage. The following lines illustrate why: 7.Rc7 Kd6! 8.Ra7!? The best square for the white rook on the 7th rank is exactly on a7, so it would not be attacked by the black king. 8...Ke5!! (8...Kd5? 9.d4! [#] Position A1, Black to move, mutual zugzwang. Ideally, he would pass, but any movement of his rook along the f−file causes irreparable damage. *(9.Ke2 Rf4 10.Ke3 Rf1* Waste of time*)* 9...Rf6 10.Ra5+ Ke6 *(10...Kc4 11.Rc5+ Kb4 12.Rc7!+-)* 11.Ke4! Kxf7 *(11...Rf1 12.Re5+!+-)* 12.Rf5! Ke6 13.Rxf6+ Kxf6 14.Kd5+-) 9.d4+ Kd5 [#] Position A, White to move, mutual zugzwang. Ideally, he would pass, but if his rook moves along the seventh rank, the black king immediately attacks it, forcing a draw. 10.Kd3 Rf3+ 11.Ke2 Rf6 12.Ke3 Rf1! The best square for the black rook along the f file is exactly on f1. 13.Rb7 Kc6! 14.Re7 Kd6! 15.Ra7 Kd5!= *(15...Ke6? 16.Ke4+-)* ; 3.Kf3? Thematic try 3...Rxb2 4.Rc7!? Rb1! 5.f7 Rf1+ 6.Ke2 (6.Kg2!? Rf6 or 6...Rf5 *(6...Rf4? 7.Kg3!+-)* 7.Rxb7 Ke6! 8.Kg3 Rxf7 9.Rxf7 Kxf7 Position B 10.Kf3 *(10.Kf4 Kf6!=)* 10...Ke7! 11.Ke3 Kd7!=) 6...Rf6 or 6.... Rf4 *(6...Rf5? 7.Rxb7 Ke6 8.Ke3! Rf1 9.Ke4+-)*

7.Rxb7 Kd5! *(7...Ke5 8.Ke3 Rf1 9.d4+!+-)* 8.Ke3 Rf1!= Transposed position, as in the thematic try 3.Ke3?]
3...Rxb2 4.Rc7! Rb1! [4...Kxc7 5.f7 Rb3 6.f8Q+- EGTB]
5.f7! [5.Kg2? Rb5! 6.f7 Rf5 7.Rxb7 Ke6! 8.Kg3 Rxf7 9.Rxf7 Kxf7= Position B]
5...Rf1 6.Rxb7 Ke6 7.Kg4! Rxf7 8.Rxf7 Kxf7 9.Kf5! [The thematic try 3. Ke3? creates a mutual zugzwang motif that will delight endgame theorists and study composers alike.]

6th Honorable Mention - Aleksey Gasparyan



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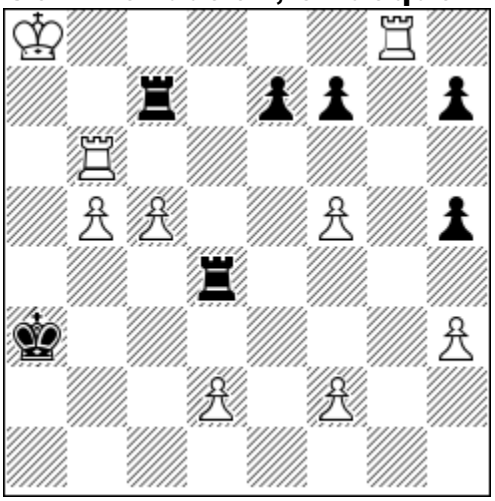
1.g4!!
Not 1.Rxc7? Ba! 2.Rc6+ Kh5 etc. −+; Qr 1.Rxd3? Qxb5 and black wins.
1...Qxb5
After 1...ba 2.Rxd3! a2 3.Rh3+ Kg6 4.Rg8+ Kf6 5.Rh6+ draws.
2.Re7! ba!
2...Qc6 3.Nd7! ba 4.Rf8! a2 5.Re1! =.
3.Nd7!!
And 3...Qxb8+ 4.Nxb8 a2 5.Re6+ ; 3...Qc6 4.Rf8! and white draws.
3...Qxd7! 4.Rxd7 a2!
And now not 5.Rb6+? cb 6.Rd6+ Bg6 7.Rd1 b5 etc. −+; 5.Rb2?! a1Q 6.Rh7+ Kg6 −+.
5.Rh7+! Bxh7 6.Rb2! a1R! (6...a1Q - stalemate).
7.Rh2+ Kg6 8.Rh1! Ra2 9.Rh2! Ra310.Rh3! Bg8! 11.Rxa3 Bb312.Ra1! (Not 12.Ra2? c5! −+.)

12...c5! 13.Rc1! c4 14.Rxc4! Bxc4 stalemate. Sequential synthesis of two stalemates.

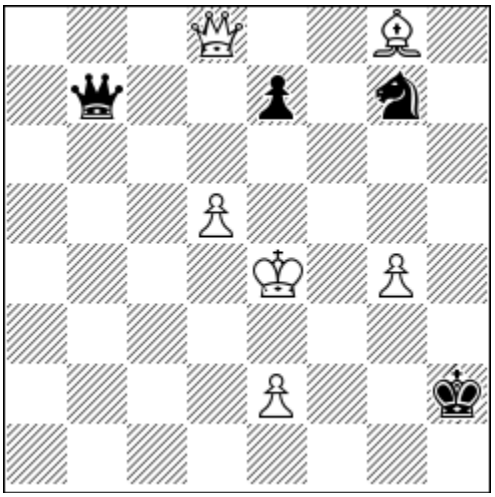
Commendation, ex aequo − Mikhail Pastalaka



+

1.♖xg2 [1.c6 ♖g4 2.hxg4 g1♕ 3.♖b7 ♕h2=; 1.♖g3+ ♔b4 2.c6 ♔c5 3.♖b7 ♖c8+ 4.♖b8 ♖c7=]
1...♖d8+ [1...♔b4 2.♔b8 ♖xc5 3.♖g1 ♖xf5 4.♖b1+ ♔c4 5.♖c6+ ♔d5 6.♔c7+-]
2.♖b8 ♖dd7 3.♖b7 [3.b6 ♖xc5 4.♖b7 ♖d8+ 5.♖b8 ♖d7 6.♖f8 ♖b5=]
3...♖xb7 4.c6 ♖xb5 5.cxd7 ♖d5 6.♖g7 ♖xd2 [6...♖xd7 7.♖xf7 ♖xd2 8.♖xe7 ♖xf2 9.♖e5+-]
7.f6 [7.♖xf7 ♖xd7 8.♖xh7 ♖d5 9.♖xh5 ♔b4 10.♔b7 ♔c4 11.♔c7 ♔d4 12.f6 ♖xh5=]
7...♖xd7 8.♖g3+ [8.♖xf7 ♖d8+ 9.♔b7 exf6=]
8...♔b2 9.♖d3 ♖xd3 [9...♖c7 10.♔b8 ♖c4 11.fxe7 ♖e4 12.♖e3+-; 9...♖d6 10.fxe7 ♖e6 11.♖e3+-]
10.fxe7 ♖a3+ 11.♔b7 ♖b3+ 12.♔c7 ♖c3+ 13.♔d7 ♖d3+ 14.♔e8 ♖d4 15.♔f8 ♖e416.e8♕ ♖xe8+ 17.♔xe8 ♔c3 18.♔xf7 ♔d3 19.♔g7 ♔e4 20.♔xh7 ♔f3 21.♔h6 h4 22.♔h5
1-0

Commendation, ex aequo - Oleg Pervakov



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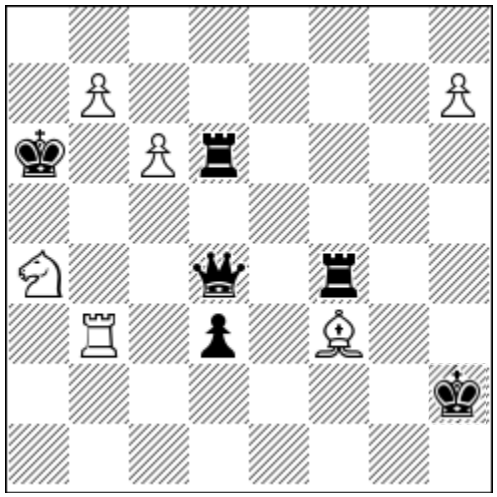
1.♔f4! [The main aim − knight g7!]
[1.♕f8? ♕b1+! 2.♔e3 ♕c1+! 3.♔d4 ♕d2+ 4.♔c5 ♕a5+ 5.♔c6 ♕a6+ 6.♔c7 ♕d6+ 7.♔b7 ♕b4+ 8.♔c6 ♘e8!=]
1...♕b4+ 2.♔g5 ♔h3! [2...♔g3 3.♕c7++-]
3.♕f8! [Try 3.♕c8? ♕b2! *(3...♕d4? 4.♕f8!+-)* 4.♕c6 *(4.♕f8 ♕xe2 5.♕xg7 ♕xg4+ 6.♔h6 ♕h4+ 7.♔g6 ♕e4+!=; 4.♔g6 ♕f6+ 5.♔h7 ♕h4+ 6.♔xg7 ♕f6+=)* 4...♕e5+ *(4...♕xe2? 5.♕c3++-)* 5.♔h6 *(5.♔g6 ♔xg4 6.♗e6+ ♔g3!=)* 5...♔xg4 6.♕g6+ ♔h4 7.♗e6 ♕f4+! *(7...♘xe6? 8.♕xe6+-)* 8.♔xg7 *(8.♔h7 ♘h5=)* 8...♕f8+! 9.♔h7 ♕h8+! 10.♔xh8= Stalemate]
3...♕xg4+ 4.♔h6 ♘f5+ 5.♕xf5 ♕xf5 6.♗e6 ♕g4 [Main A]
[Main B 6...♔g4 7.e4! *(*Thematic try *7.e3? ♕xe6+ 8.dxe6 ♔f5 9.♔g7 ♔xe6=)* 7...♕xe6+ 8.dxe6 ♔f4 9.♔g6 (g7) 9...♔e5 10.♔f7 ♔d6 11.e5+!+-]
7.e3! [Thematic try 7.e4? ♔g3 8.♗xg4 ♔xg4 9.♔g6 *(9.e5 ♔f5=)* 9...♔f4 10.♔f7 ♔xe4 11.♔e6 ♔d4=; 7.♗xg4+? ♔xg4 8.♔g6 ♔f4 9.♔f7 ♔e5=]
7...♔g3 8.♗xg4 ♔xg4 9.♔g6 [9.♔g7? ♔f5! 10.♔f7 ♔e5=]
9...♔f3 10.♔f7 ♔e4! 11.♔e6! [zz Change solutions and tries (7. e3, 7.e4). The correct transition to the pawn endgame.]
1-0

Commendation, ex aequo - Poul Rewitz



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1.♘c5+! [1.♖b6+? ♔a5-+; 1.b8♘+? ♔a5-+ *(1...♔a7? 2.♖b7+ ♔a8 3.♘b6+ ♕xb6 4.♖xb6+-)*]

1...♕xc5 [1...♔a5? 2.♖a3++-]

2.♖a3+! ♕xa3 3.h8♕ ♖h6+! [3...♕a2+? 4.♗g2 ♖g6 *(4...♖h4+ 5.♕xh4+-)* 5.♕a8++-; 3...♖xf3? 4.♕a8++-]

4.♕xh6 ♖xf3 5.♔g2! [5.c7+? ♔xb7 6.c8♕+ *(6.♕c6+ ♔xc6-+)* 6...♔xc8 7.♕c6+ ♔d8 *(or 7...♔b8 8.♕b6+ ♔a8 9.♕c6+ ♔a7 10.♕xf3 ♕b2+ 11.♔g3 d2 12.♕d3 ♕c1-+)* 8.♕xf3 ♕d6+ 9.♔h1 ♕d4! 10.♕f2 ♕d5+ 11.♔g1 d2-+; 5.b8♕? ♕a2+-+]

5...♖g3+! [5...♕f8 6.c7+! *(6.b8♕? ♖f2+ 7.♔g3 ♕f3+-+)* 6...♕xh6 7.c8♕ ♖f8 8.b8♕+♖xc8 9.♕xc8+=; 5...♖f8 6.b8♕ ♕a2+7.♔h3 ♖f3+ 8.♕g3 ♖xg3+ 9.♔xg3 d2 10.c7+=]

6.♔xg3 d2+ 7.♔f2 [Maineline A:]

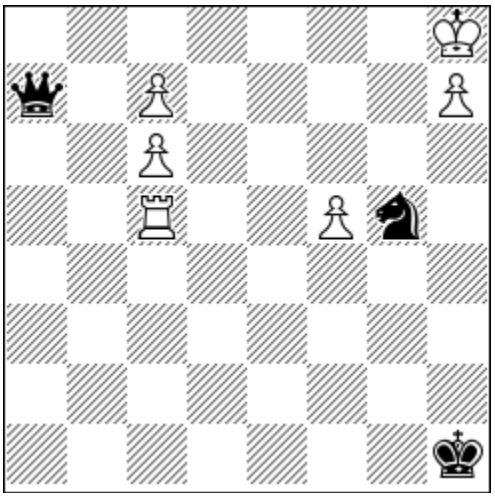
7...d1♖ [8.c7+ ♔xb7 (8...♔a5 9.♕g5+= *(*or *9.♕b6+=)*) 9.c8♕+ ♔xc8 10.♕h3+! ♕xh3 stalemate]

8.b8♘+! [8.c7+? ♔xb7 9.c8♕+ ♔xc8 10.♕c6+ ♔d8-+ (10...♔b8 11.♕b6+ ♔a8 12.♕c6+ ♔a7? 13.♕c7+ ♔a6 14.♕c6+ ♔a5 15.♕a8+ ♔b4 16.♕f8+ ♔b3 17.♕f3+=)

8...♔b6 9.♕e3+ [or 9.♘d7+ ♔a7 before 10.♕e3+ ♕xe3+ 11.♔xe3=]

9...♕xe3+ 10.♔xe3=

Commendation, ex aequo - Sergey Osintsev



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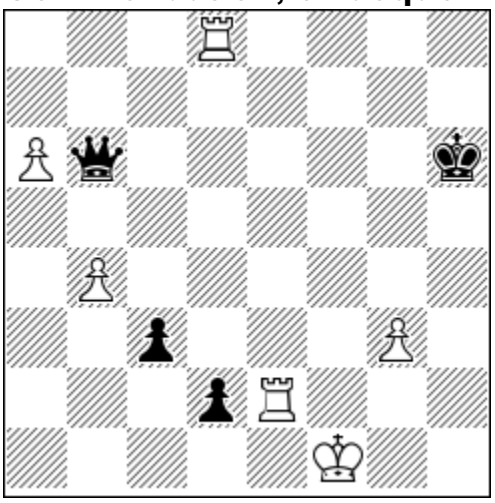
1.♖c4! [Tries 1.♔g8? ♕a2+! 2.♔g7 ♕f7+ 3.♔h6 ♕f6+ 4.♔h5 ♘xh7 5.c8♕ ♕g5#; 1.♖c1+? ♔g2 2.♖c2+ ♔g3 3.♔g8 ♕xc7 4.h8♕ ♕f7#]
1...♘f7+ [1...♕xc7 2.♖h4+ ♔g2 3.♖g4+ ♔f3 4.♖xg5 ♕d8+ 5.♖g8 ♕f6+ 6.♖g7=; 1...♕a1+ 2.♔g8 ♕a8+ 3.♔g7 ♘xh7=]
2.♔g8! [Thematic try 2.♔g7? ♕xc7 3.h8♕+♘xh8+ 4.♔xh8 ♕e5+! 5.♔g8 ♕xf5 6.♖c1+ ♔g2 7.c7 ♕g5+-+]
2...♕xc7 3.♖h4+! [Logical try 3.h8♕+? ♘xh8 4.♖h4+ ♔g1!! 5.♖xh8 ♕c8+!6.♔f7! ♕xf5+ 7.♔e7 ♕e5+ 8.♔d7 ♕g7+ *(8...♕d4+)* 9.♔c8! ♕xh8+ 10.♔b7 Position A1 with bKg1 − there is a move 10...Qh1 10...♕h1!-+; 3.f6? ♘h6+ 4.♔f8 ♕f7#]
[Main line]
3...♔g2! [Main line 3...♔g1 4.f6! Change of try and solution
a) Logical try 4.h8♕? ♘xh8 5.♖xh8 ♕c8+! 6.♔f7 ♕xf5+ 7.♔e7 ♕e5+ 8.♔d7 ♕g7+ 9.♔c8 ♕xh8+ 10.♔b7 Position A1 with bKg1 − there is a move 10...Qh1 10...♕h1!-+;
b) 4.♖g4+? ♔f2 5.♖g6 ♘e5! 6.♖f6 ♕d8+ 7.♔g7 ♕e7+ 8.♔g8 ♕xf6 9.h8♕ ♕f7#;
4...♘d6! 5.♖g4+! ♔f2 Position B with bKf2 − there is a move 6.Rf4+ 6.♖f4+ ♔e3 7.f7 ♘xf7 8.♖xf7=]
4.h8♕ [Change of try and solution]
[Thematic try 4.f6? ♘d6! *(4...♘e5? 5.h8♘! ♕d8+ 6.♔g7 ♕c7+ 7.♔g8 ♕c8+ 8.♔g7 ♕xc6 9.f7 ♘d7 10.♖f4 ♕c3+ 11.♔h7 ♕h3+ 12.♔g7 ♕g3+ 13.♘g6=)* 5.♖g4+ *(5.♖h2+ ♔g3 6.♖h3+ ♔g4 7.♖h4+ ♔f5 8.♖h5+ ♔e6-+)* 5...♔f3-+ Position B1 with bKf3 − no move 6.Rf4+]

4...♘xh8 5.♖xh8 ♕e5! [or 5...♕c8+ 6.♔f7; 5...♕xc6 6.♔g7! ♕c7+ 7.♔g6 ♕g3+ 8.♔f7 ♕c7+ 9.♔g6= positional draw.]
6.♔f7!! [Thematic try 6.♖h5? ♔g3!7.c7 ♕e8+! 8.♔g7 ♔g4! 9.♖h8 ♕d7+ -+; 6.♖h7? ♕xf5 7.♖g7+ ♔h3 8.♖h7+ ♔g4 9.♖g7+ ♔h5 10.♖h7+ ♔g6 11.♖g7+ ♔h6-+; 6.c7?! ♕xf5!-+]
6...♕xf5+ [main line 6...♕xh8 7.f6! ♔f3 8.♔e7 ♔e4 9.f7! ♕e5+ 10.♔d7 ♕f5+ 11.♔e7 ♕c5+ 12.♔d7 ♕d5+ 13.♔e7 ♕e5+ 14.♔d7= positional draw]
7.♔e7! ♕e5+ 8.♔d7 ♕g7+ 9.♔c8!! ♕xh8+ 10.♔b7 [Position A with bKg2 − no move 10...Qh1]
10...♕b2+ 11.♔c8! ♕h8+ 12.♔b7 ♕b2+ 13.♔c8 [positional draw] **13...♕b5 14.c7 ♔f3 15.♔d8=**

Commendation, ex aequo − Shang Riye



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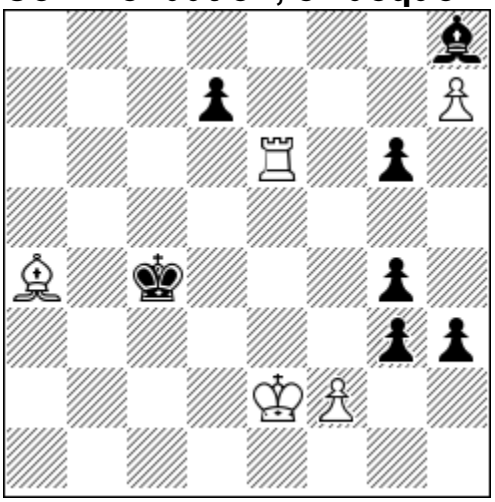
1.♖h2+! [Logical try: 1.♖dxd2? cxd2 2.♖xd2 ♕xa6+ 3.b5 ♕xb5+ 4.♔g2 ♕c6+ 5.♔h2 ♕f3 6.♔g1 ♕xg3+ no pin]
1...♔g7! [1...♔g5 2.♖d5+! ♔g4 3.♔g2]
2.♖d7+! [Logical try: 2.♖hxd2? ♕xa6+! *(2...cxd2? 3.♖xd2 ♕xa6+ 4.♔g1!* the bK is 1 move too far against White's fortress*)* 3.b5 *(3.♖2d3 c2; 3.♖e2 ♕f6+ 4.♔g2 ♕xd8; 3.♔g1 ♕b6+! 4.♖f2 ♕xd8)* 3...♕xb5+ 4.♔g2 cxd2 5.♖xd2 ♕c6+ 6.♔h2 ♕h6+ fork]
2...♔g6 3.♖hxd2 [3.♖dxd2? ♕xa6+]
3...cxd2 4.♖xd2 ♕xa6+ 5.b5! [Logical try: 5.♔g2? ♕c6+ 6.♔h2 ♕f3 7.♔g1 ♔h5 8.♖h2+ ♔g4 9.♖h4+ ♔xg3 10.♖h3+ ♔xh3 no stalemate]
5...♕xb5+ [5...♕a1+ 6.♔g2 ♕a8+ 7.♔h2! ♕f3 8.b6 ♕e3 9.♖b2 *(9.♖c2? ♕xb6 10.♔g2 ♕b7+ 11.♔g1 ♕b1+)* 9...♕d4 10.♖e2 ♕xb6 11.♔g2 ♕b7+ 12.♔g1!

the bK is close enough but White has got rid of the Pawn on the b file and moved the Rook to e2 *(12.♔h2? ♕f3 13.♔g1 ♕xe2)* 12...♔g5 13.♖f2 ♔g4 14.♔h2 ♕h7+ 15.♔g2 ♕h3+ 16.♔g1 Theme: to build fortress, White must firstly give up its material! But it is forced. 16...♔g5 *(16...♕xg3+ 17.♖g2; 16...♔xg3 17.♖f3+)* 17.♖h2! future fortress]
6.♔g2! [Thematic try: 6.♔g1? ♕b1+! *(6...♔g5? 7.♖f2 ♔g4 8.♔h2 ♕h5+ 9.♔g2 ♕h3+ 10.♔g1)* 7.♔g2 ♕e4+ breaking into the e file so that after 8.Kh2 Black can stop White building fortress 8.♔g1 ♕e1+ 9.♔g2 ♕xd2+]
6...♕c6+ 7.♔h2 [no fork]
[Thematic try: 7.♔g1? ♕c1+ *(7...♔g5? 8.♖f2 ♔g4 9.♔h2 ♕h6+ 10.♔g2 ♕h3+ 11.♔g1)* 8.♔g2 ♕xd2+]
7...♕f3 [7...♕c5 8.♔g2 Black is unable to stop White's Rf2 in this way 8...♔g5 9.♖f2 ♔g4 10.♖f4+ fortress]
8.♔g1! ♔h5! 9.♖h2+! ♔g4 10.♖h4+ ♔g5 [10...♔xg3 11.♖h3+ ♔xh3 stalemate]
11.♖h2! .♕e3+ 12.♔g2 [12.♖f2? ♔g4 13.♔g2 ♕xg3+]
12...♕e2+ 13.♔g1 ♕f3 14.♖f2! ♕e3 15.♔g2 ♕e1 16.♖f4 [fortress] ½-½

Commendation, ex aequo − Eduard Eilazyan



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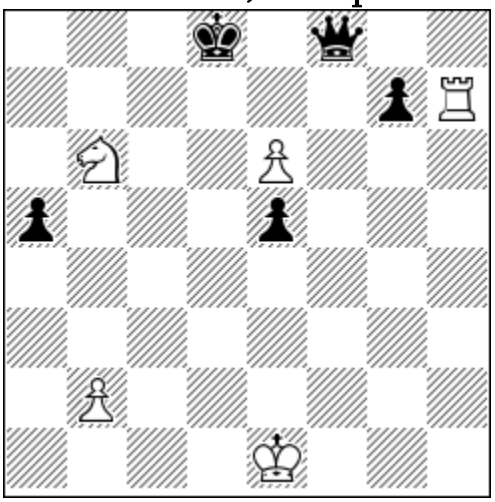
1.♖e8! [Two false attempts are connected by the theme of "change of refutation":]
[Try-1: 1.♖xg6? h2! 2.♖xg4+ ♔c5 3.♖h4 g2!-+; Try−2: 1.♗xd7? g2! 2.♖c6+ ♔b4 3.♖c1 h2-+]
1...h2! 2.♖xh8 h1♕ 3.♖c8+ ♔d4 [3...♔d5 4.h8♕ ♕xh8 5.♖xh8 g2 6.♗c6+ ♔xc6 7.♖c8+ ♔d5 8.♖c1+-]

4.h8♕+ ♕xh8 5.♖xh8 g2 6.♗c6! g1♕ 7.♖h1! ♕xh1 8.♗xh1 ♔e5 9.♔f1! [Activating the bishop misses out on a win: 9.♗b7? ♔f4! 10.♔f1 g3! 11.f3 g5 12.♔g2 g4=]
9...♔f4 10.♔g2! d5 11.♔h2 d4 [The bishop can hold the d−pawn only along the diagonal d1-a4.]
12.♗c6 [(èëè 12.Bd5)] **12...d3 13.♔g2 d2 14.♗a4+-1-0**

Commendation, ex aequo - Ľuboš Kekely



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1.Nd5 Qg8 2.Rh6! e4
[2...gxh6 3.e7+ Kc8 4.Nf6 Qg1+ 5.Ke2! Qh2+ 6.Kd1! Qg1+ 7.Ke2 pos. draw; 2...a4 3.Rf6 gxf6 4.e7+ Kc8 5.Nxf6 Qg1+ 6.Ke2! Qh2+ 7.Kd1! Qg1+ 8.Ke2 pos. draw]
3.e7+ Kd7 4.Rh5 Qb8 5.Rf5! Qg3+ 6.Kd2 Qd3+
[6...e3+ 7.Nxe3 Kxe7 8.Rxa5 Qf2+ 9.Kd3 Qxb2 10.Rd5=; 6...Qb3 7.Ke1 Qg3+ 8.Kd2 as main]
7.Kc1 e3 8.Re5 Qc4+
[8...Qf1+ 9.Kc2 Qc4+ 10.Nc3 Ke8 11.Rxe3=]
9.Nc3! Ke8 10.Rxe3 Qd4
[10...g5 11.Re4 Qd3 12.Re5 Qd6 13.Re4 pos. draw]
11.Re4! [11.Re1? Qf4+ 12.Kc2 g5 13.Kd3 Qd6+ 14.Kc4 g4 15.Nd5 g3 16.Rg1 Qg6 17.Kd4 g2 18.Ne3 Qd6+ 19.Kc3 Qxe7-+]
11...Qf2 12.Nd5 [12.Nd1? Qf5 13.Nc3 g5-+]
12...Qh2 [12...Qc5+ 13.Nc3 Qf214.Nd5 pos. draw]
13.Nc3 g5 14.Nd5 Qd6 15.Nc3 [15.Ne3? Qc6+ 16.Rc4 Qf3 17.Kd2 Kxe7-+]
15...Qd3 [15...Qd7 16.Re5 Qc7 17.Re4 pos. draw]
16.Re5 Qh7 [16...g4 17.Nd5 Qc4+ 18.Kb1=]

17.Rxa5! [17.Rxg5? Qh6 18.Ne4 Qh1+-+]
17...Qxe7 18.Ra4! [try 18.Ra8+? Kf7 19.Ra4 Qd7 20.Ra3! Qd3! 21.Nd1 Qf1!-+] **½-½**

David Gurgenidze
Competition Judge, International Arbiter for Chess Composition
17.11.2026