

Introduction

I have received 42 studies in anonymous form (29 composers of 18 countries), from director L. M. González more than the ones I have composed as it happens with D Joseph, A. J. Roycroft and probably someone else. Both, in terms of participation and quality, the contest has been a success, with many good studies, none demolished and only a few seriously (auto)anticipated: No. 8 f8d7 (A. Gasparyan, EG#12039, HHdbIV#67276), No. 11 g8b1 (P. Rossi, EG#16145, HHdbIV#71991), No. 12 c8e5 (V. Bron, 2nd hm Shakmaty v SSSR#38 1946, HHdbIV#21940), No. 28 h8a6 (I. Akobia & D. Gurgenidze, EG#17654, HHdbIV #75392).

I am really grateful to all the composers and especially to my friend the Tourney Director Luis Miguel González, the most prolific and the best Spanish composer ever. To run a contest of this kind implies a great deal of work, even more when you need to analyse and look for anticipations as in this case. Judging the tourney was not either an easy task, mainly due to doubts, worries and anxiety that you hold during months, even after the verdict emission.

I would also like to thank L. M. González for the wonderful study composed for this event and dedicated to me. It's in the head of the Prize List but of course out of competition.

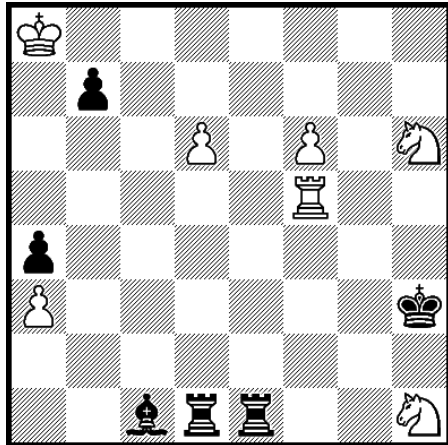
The Problemist May 2015 describes “**Vague studies**” characterized by difficult supporting variations which can raise more questions than answers. Sometimes even the composer does not fully understand the lines provided by the silicon aids. Some of our studies fit to that definition, like No. 4 (e7b5), 9 (e1c3), 11 (g8b1), 24 (c4a8) and 37 (d6a7).

Finally, I'd like to introduce a new group, “**Friendly studies**”, characterized by few, short and easy supporting variations, with a nice and surprising principal line, making them suitable for solving and easy to play.

The award has a three month confirmation time which ends 20.12.2015. The final award will also be communicated to all participants.

The Judge of the Tourney,

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán



Win

0732.32

Luis Miguel González, Spain

Dedicated to Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
Out of competition

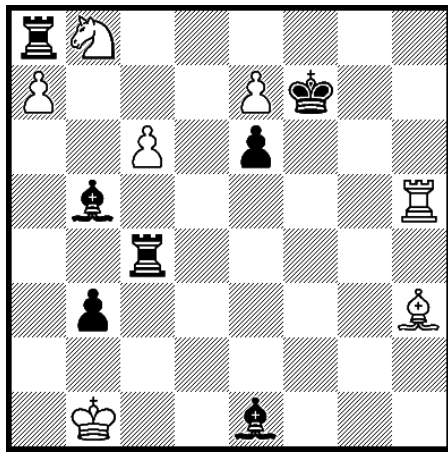
1.Nf2+ with:

a) 1...Kg3 [1...Kh4 2.Rf4+! Bxf4 3.Nf5+ Kg5 4.f7 Rxd6 5.f8Q Ra6+ 6.Kxb7 Rf6! (6...Ree6 7.Nh3+ Kg4 8.Nxf4 Reb6+ 9.Kc7 Rc6+ 10.Kd7 Rf6 11.Ne3+ Kf3 12.Qc5 Rf7+ 13.Ke8 Rxf4 14.Nd5 Ra8+ 15.Kd7 Rf7+ 16.Ke6 Raf8 17.Qc2+-) 7.Qg8+ Rg6 8.Qc8! Ree6 9.Nd4 Rb6+ 10.Ka7 Ra6+ 11.Qxa6 Rxa6+ 12.Kxa6+-] **2.Nxd1 Rxd1 3.Rf1!! Rxf1** [3...Rxd6 4.Nf5+ Kg2 5.Nxd6 Kxf1 6.f7 Bh6 7.Kxb7+-] **4.d7 Rd1 5.Nf5+ Kh3 6.f7 Bxa3 7.Nd6!** Novotny1 **7...Rxd6 8.f8Q Ra6+ 9.Kxb7!** [9.Kb8? Bxf8 10.d8Q Bh6 11.Kxb7 Rg6!]=] **9...Bxf8 10.d8Q** wins.

b) 1...Kg2 2.Nxd1 Rxd1 3.Rf2+!! [3.Nf7? Bxa3! 4.Kxb7 Bb2 5.Kc7 (5.Kc8 Bxf6 6.Rxf6 a3 7.d7 a2 8.Ra6 a1Q 9.Rxa1 Rxa1 10.d8Q Ra8+=) 5...a3 6.Ra5 Rc1+ 7.Kd7 Rf1 8.Kc8 Rc1+! 9.Kb7 Rd1 10.Kc6 Rc1+ 11.Kd5 Rd1+ 12.Ke6 Re1+ 13.Kf5 Rf1+ 14.Ke4 Re1+ 15.Kf4 Rf1+ 16.Kg4 Rd1 17.Kg5 Rf1= positional draw] **3...Kxf2** [3...Kg1 4.Nf5! Rxd6 5.Nxd6 Kxf2 6.f7 Bh6 7.Kxb7 Kf3 8.Kc7 Kf4 9.Kd7 Bf8 10.Nc8 Ke5 11.Ke8 Bg7 12.Nb6+-] **4.Ng4+ Ke2! 5.f7 Rf1 6.d7 Bg5 7.Nf6!** Novotny2 **7...Rxf6 8.d8Q Ra6+ 9.Kxb7!** [9.Kb8? Bxd8 10.f8Q Bg5 11.Kxb7 Ra5! 12.Qb4 Bd2=] **9...Bxd8 10.f8Q** wins.

A beautiful study that in the second move unfolds in two twins with Novotny as duplicated theme. Interesting play full of brilliant sacrifices without great complications, a genuine “Friendly study”.

Martin Minski, Germany
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 1st prize



Win

0771.23

No. 2: 1.Rh7+! [1.Rxb5? Kxe7 2.Rb7+ Kd6=; 1.Bxe6+? Kxe7 2.Bxc4 Bxc4 3.c7 Be6 4.Re5 Kd6 5.Rxe6+ Kxc7=] **1...Ke8 2.Bxe6** (3.Bd7#) **2...Rd4** [2...Rxa7 3.Bf7+! Kxe7 white battery 4.Bxc4+ Kd8 (4...Kd6 5.Rxa7 Bxc4 6.Rd7+-) 5.Rh8+! (5.Rxa7? Bxc4 6.c7+ Kc8=) 5...Kc7 6.Bxb5 Kb6 7.Na6! Bg3 (7...Kxb5 8.c7+-) 8.Rh5 Rxa6 (8...Re7 9.Nb4 Re5 10.Rxe5 Bxe5 11.Nd3+-) 9.Bxa6 Kxa6 10.Rh3 Bc7 11.Rxb3+-] **3.c7** [3.Bf5? Bd3+ 4.Bxd3 Rxd3=; 3.Bd7+? Rxd7 4.cxd7+ Bxd7 5.Nxd7 Bc3!]=] **3...Rd1+ 4.Kb2 Rd2+ 5.Kxb3 Ba4+!** [5...Rd3+ 6.Kb2 Rd2+ 7.Kc1+-] **6.Kxa4 Rxa7+ 7.Na6! Rxa6+** [7...Rd4+ 8.Kb5+-] **8.Kb5 Ra5+!** [8...Rc2 9.Bf7+ Kxe7 white battery 10.Bb3+ /Bg6+ 10...Kd6 11.Bxc2 Ra5+ 12.Kb6 Rc5 13.Rh6+-; 8...Ra8 9.Rh8+ Kxe7 10.Rxa8+-] **9.Kxa5** black battery **9...Rc2+** [9...Rd7+

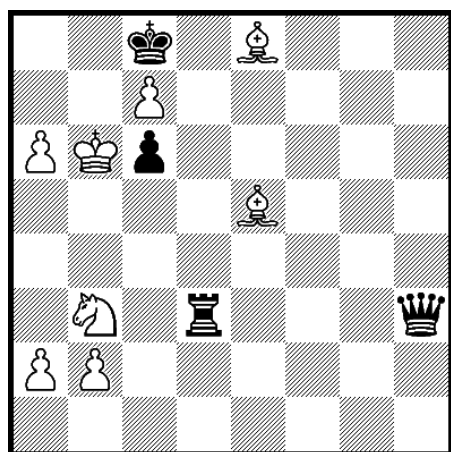
10.Kb6 Ba5+ 11.Kxa5 Rxc7 12.Kb4!+- zz] 10.Kb6 Ba5+! [10...Bf2+ 11.Kb7+-] **11.Kxa5 Rc5+!** [11...Rxc7 12.Kb4! zz] **12.Ka4!!** [thematic try 12.Kb4? Rxc7 zz 13.Rg7 (13.Kb5 Rc5+! 14.Kxc5 stalemate) 13...Rb7+ 14.Kc3 Rc7+ 15.Kd4 Rc6! 16.Bc4 Rd6+ 17.Kc5 (17.Ke5 Re6+! 18.Kf5 (18.Bxe6 /Kxe6 stalemate) 18...Rxe7=) 17...Rd7! 18.Be6 (18.Bb5 pin stalemate) 18...Rc7+ 19.Kd4 Rc6 20.Bf7+ Kxe7 white battery 21.Bd5+ Kf6! (21...Kf8? 22.Rg8+-) 22.Rf7+ Kg6=; 12.Kb6? Rb5+! 13.Kc6 Rc5+ 14.Kd6 Rd5+ 15.Kc6 Rc5+ 16.Kb6 Rb5+ 17.Ka6 Ra5+ 18.Kb7 Rb5+ 19.Kc8 Rb8+ 20.cxb8Q stalemate] **12...Rxc7 13.Kb4!** zz [13.Kb5? Rc5+! 14.Kxc5 stalemate] with:

a) **13...Rxe7 14.Rh8#** model mate with self-block

b) **13...Rb7+ 14.Kc3/c4/c5 14...Rc7+ 15.Kd4!** [15.Kd3? Rc3+! 16.Kd4 Rd3+ 17.Kc5 Re3! 18.Kd6 Rxe6+! 19.Kxe6 stalemate; 15.Kd2? Rc2+! 16.Kxc2 stalemate] **15...Rc6** [15...Rc4+ 16.Bxc4+-] **16.Bf7+** [16.Bc4? Rd6+ 17.Kc5 Rd7! 18.Be6 Rc7+ 19.Kd4 Rc6; 16.Bf5? Rd6+ 17.Ke5 Re6+! 18.Kf4 (18.Bxe6 /Kxe6 stalemate) 18...Rxe7 19.Rh8+ Kf7 20.Kg5 Kg7! 21.Rh7+ Kf8=] **16...Kxe7** white battery **17.Bd5+** wins

Difficult and complex, with batteries, sacrifices, stalemates and zugzwangs leading to a six men position which is a win after a stalemate avoidance.

Oleg Pervakov, Russia
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 2nd prize



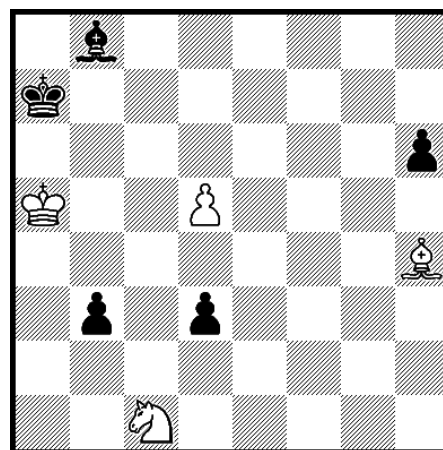
Win 3321.41

No. 40: 1.Bd7+!! [Try 1.Nc5? Qf1! 2.a4 (2.a7 Rb3+! 3.axb3? Qb5#) 2...Rb3+! 3.Nxb3 Qc4! 4.Nd4 Qc5+! 5.Kxc5= stalemate; 1.a7? Rxb3+] **1...Kxd7!** [1...Rxd7 2.a7 Qe3+ 3.Nc5+-; 1...Qxd7 2.a7 Rxb3+ 3.axb3+-] **2.Nc5+ Kc8** [2...Ke7 3.a7 Qc8 4.Nxd3+-] **3.Bc3!!** [Logical try 3.a7? Ra3! 4.bxa3 Qxa3 5.Na6 Qe3+! 6.Nc5 Qa3 7.a8Q+ or positional draw 7...Qxa8 8.a4 Qa5+! (8...Qa7+! also) 9.Kxa5= stalemate; 3.b3? Qf1!-+] **3...Rxc3** [3...Qg3 4.a7 Qxc7+ 5.Ka6+-] **4.a7 Ra3! 5.bxa3 Qxa3** [5...Qb3+ 6.Nxb3!+-] **6.a8Q+! Qxa8 7.a4!** wins

Meredith with clear variations including stalemates, surprising moves, two bishops sacrifices, refusal capture of a Rook, Queen journey with imprisonment and mutual zugzwang

for ending all. The most brilliant study of tourney.

Vladimir Samilo, Ukraine
Vladislav Tarasiuk, Ukraine
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 3rd prize



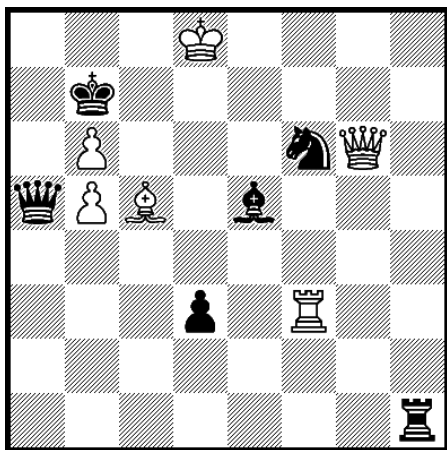
Win 0041.13

No. 30: 1.Bf2+! [1.Nxd3? Be5! 2.Kb4 b2 3.Nxb2 Bxb2=; 1.Nxb3? Bf4! 2.Bf2+ (2.Be1 h5 3.Kb5 h4 4.Bxh4 d2 5.Nxd2 Bxd2 6.d6 Bf4 7.d7 Bc7) 2...Kb8!= (2...Kb7? 3.Nc5+ Kc7 4.Nxd3+-; 2...Ka8? 3.Be1 h5 4.Kb5 h4 5.Bxh4 d2 6.Nxd2 Bxd2 7.d6 Bf4 8.d7 Bc7 9.Kc6 Ba5 10.Bf2+- as the solution)] **1...Ka8!** [1...Kb7 2.Nxb3 Bf4 3.Nc5+ Kc7 4.Nxd3+-] **2.Nxb3 Bf4! 3.Be1 h5 4.Kb5!!** [4.Kb6? h4! 5.Bxh4 d2 6.Nxd2 Bxd2 7.d6 Be3+! 8.Kc6 Ka7 9.d7 Bb6 10.Bf2 Ka6 11.Bxb6 stalemate; 4.Ka6? h4! 5.Bxh4 d2 6.Nxd2 Bxd2 7.d6 Bf4 8.d7 Bc7 9.Bg5 Kb8 10.Bf4 Ka8! 11.Bxc7 stalemate] **4...h4! 5.Bxh4 d2 6.Nxd2 Bxd2 7.d6 Bf4 8.d7 Bc7 9.Kc6 Ba5 10.Bf2!** [10.Bg3? Bd8! 11.Bc7 Bh4

12.Ba5 Ka7 13.Kc7 Ka6=] **10...Bd8**
11.Bb6 Bh4 12.Kc7 wins.

Very good, with two key moves, 1.Bf2+ (Nxb3?) and 4.Kb5 (Kb6?) refuted by interesting variations including two stalemates.

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen,
Denmark
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 4th prize



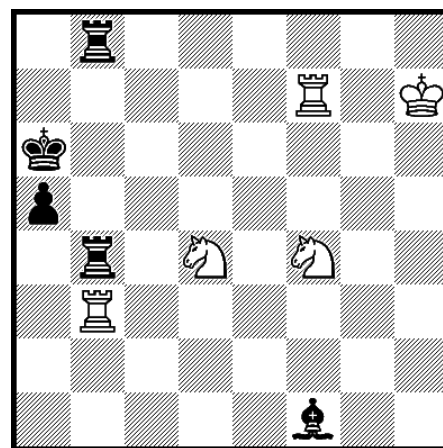
Win 4443.21

No. 5: 1.Qg7+! Kb8 [1...Ka8 2.Rxf6+-] **2.Bd4! Rh8+!** [2...Bxd4 3.Qc7+-; 2...Rh7 3.Bxe5+ Ka8 4.Qxf6+-] **3.Qxh8 Bxd4** [3...Bc7+ 4.Ke7+ +-] **4.Qh2+!** [4.Rxf6? Bxf6+ 5.Qxf6 Qxb5 6.Qd6+ Ka8 7.Qa3+ Kb7 8.Qa7+ Kc6 9.Qc7+ Kd5 10.b7 d2 =] **4...Ka8 5.Kc8** [5.Rxf6? Bxf6+ 6.Kc8 Qc3+ 7.Qc7 Qxc7+ 8.bxc7 d2 9.b6 d1Q 10.b7+ Ka7 11.b8Q+ Ka6=] **5...Qxb6** [5...Qc3+ 6.Qc7 Qxc7+ 7.bxc7 d2 8.Ra3+-] **6.Qa2+ Qa7 7.Rf2! Bxf2** [7...Bc5 8.Qxa7+ Kxa7 (8...Bxa7 9.Rxf6+-) 9.Rxf6+-] **8.b6**

Qxa2 [8...Bxb6 9.Qg2+ +-] **9.b7+ Ka7 10.b8Q+ Ka6 11.Qa8+** [11.Qb7+? 11...Ka5 12.Qa8+ Kb4 13.Qxa2 Ne4=] **11...Kb5 12.Qxa2** wins eg **12...Ne4 13.Qb3+ Kc5 14.Qxd3.**

Meredith combinative, amusing and clear, suitable for solving and nice to see, good example of “Friendly Study”. Very nice sacrifice 7. Rf2! to clear the big white diagonal.

Martin Minski, Germany
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 5th prize



Win 0832.01

No. 1: 1.Nfe6! [1.Rxb4? axb4 /Rxb4=; 1.Nd5? Rxb3=; 1.Rf6+? R8b6 2.Rxb6+ Rxb6=] **1...Rxb3** [1...Bc4 2.Nc5+ Kb6 3.Na4+! Ka6 4.Rf6+ Kb7 5.Nc5+ Ka8 6.Ra3+-] **2.Nc5+** [2.Nxb3? Bc4=] **2...Kb6 3.Nd7+ Ka6** [3...Ka7 4.Nc6+ Kb7 5.Ndxb8+ Kb6 6.Rxf1+-] **4.Nxb3 Bd3+** [4...Rxb3 5.Nc5+ Kb6 6.Nxb3 Bc4 7.Rf6+-] **5.Kg7** [5.Kh6? Rh8+=] **5...Rg8+!**

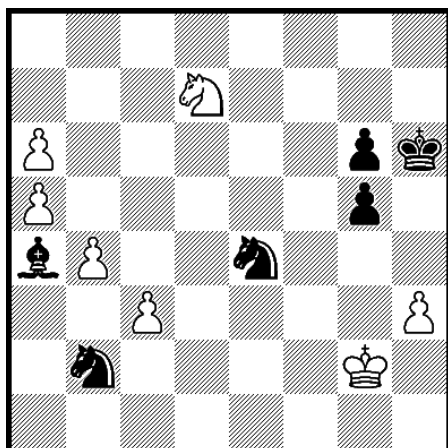
[5...Rd8 6.Nbc5+ Kb5 7.Nxd3+-]
6.Kxg8 Bc4 7.Ndc5+ [7.Nbc5+?
 Kb5!=; 7.Nd4? Bxf7+ 8.Kxf7 a4!=]
7...Kb5 [7...Kb6 8.Na4+! Kb5 9.Nbc5
 Bxf7+ 10.Kxf7+- win after Troitzky]
8.Ne6!! switchback **8...Bxb3** [8...Bxe6
 9.Nd4+-] **9.Rb7+** [9.Nd4+? Kb4
 /Ka4 10.Nxb3 Kxb3=] **9...Ka4 10.Kf7**
 wins.

Precise moves in an empty board.
 Worth to note the nice sacrifice
 5...Rg8+ and here the composer only
 considers 5.Kh6? Rh8+ draw, but after
 6.Kg5 there are several lines that lead
 to endings with R+2N vs R+B which
 are a general win e. g. 6...Rh7 7.Rf6+
 Kb5 8.Rb6+ Kc4 9.Nxa5 winning,
 although Black can improve with
 6...Kb5. When an 8-piece TB is
 available its soundness could be
 confirmed definitely.

Martin Minski, Germany

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

1st honourable mention



Win

0037.52

No. 3: 1.Ne5 [1.a7? Bc6=; 1.Nb6?
 Bc6=] **1...Bb3** [1...Nxc3 2.a7 Bb3
 (2...Bc2 3.a8Q Be4+ 4.Qxe4 Nxe4
 5.a6+-) 3.Ng4+ Kg7 4.Ne3+-] **2.c4!**
Nxc4 [2...Bxc4? 3.Nxc4+-] **3.a7**
 [3.Nf7+? Kg7! 4.a7 Ne3+!=; 3.Ng4+?
 Kg7 4.a7 Nb6 5.axb6 Bd5 6.Kg1
 Nd6=] **3...Nb6!** [3...Ne3+ 4.Kf3 Bd5
 5.Kxe3+-] **4.axb6** [4.Kf3? Bd5 5.axb6
 Kg7 6.Ke3 Kf6 7.Kd4 Ba8 8.b5 Nd6=]
4...Bd5 5.Nf7+! Kh5 [5...Kh7 6.Nd8
 Nd6+ 7.Kg3 Ba8 (7...Nc8 8.b7 Bxb7
 9.Nxb7 Nxa7 10.Nd6+-) 8.Ne6 Nc8
 9.Nc7 Nxb6 10.Nxa8 Nxa8 11.Kf3!
 Kg7 (11...Kh6 12.Ke4 Kh5 13.Kd5
 Kh4 14.Kc6 Kxh3 15.b5 g4 16.b6+-)
 12.Ke4 Kf6 13.Kd5 Ke7 14.Kc6+-;
 5...Kg7 6.Nd8 Nd6+ 7.Kg3 Ba8
 (7...Nc8 8.Ne6+! Kf6 9.Nc7+-)
 8.Ne6+ Kf6 9.Nc7+-] **6.Nd8** [6.Kh2?
 Ba8! 7.Nd8 Nd6 8.b7 Nxb7 9.Nf7 Kh4
 /g4=] **6...Nd6+ 7.Kg3 Ba8!** anticritical
 move [7...Nc8 8.b7 Bxb7 9.Nxb7
 Nxa7 10.Nd6 g4 (10...Kh6 11.b5+-)
 11.hxg4+ Kg5 12.Ne4+!+-; 7...Ne4+
 8.Kh2 Nd6 9.b7+-] **8.b7!** [8.Ne6? Nc4
 /Sc8 9.Nc7 Nxb6 10.Nxa8 Nxa8
 11.b5= (11.Kf3?? Kh4-+)] **8...Nxb7**
 Seeberger incarceration **9.Nf7!**
 switchback, zz [9.Ne6? Nd6=] **9...g4**
 [9...Nd8 10.Nxd8+-; 9...Nd6
 10.Nxd6+-; 9...Na5 10.bxa5+-; 9...Nc5
 10.bxc5+-] **10.hxg4#** model mate.

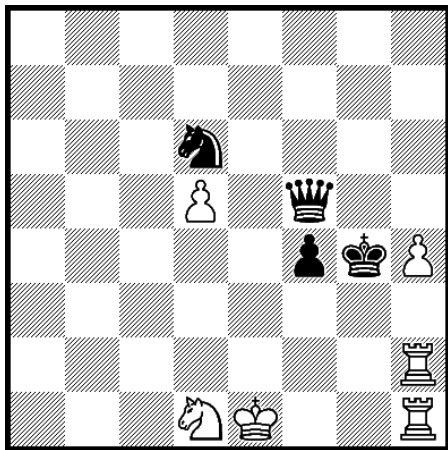
The mate is known from a 1860
 problem and the Seeberger
 incarceration has appeared before at
 least in two studies: R. Aleksandrov, 3^o
 P Shakhmaty v SSSR 1935 and
 V.Korolkov, 1^a HM Sverdlovsk Ty

Uralsky 1946. But here the introductory play is interesting and the final position is a delight for eye and mind.

Pavel Arestov, Russia

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

2nd honourable mention



Win

3204.21

No. 27: 1.Ne3+! [1.Rg1+? Kf3! 2.Rf2+ Ke4=; 1.Nf2+? Kh5=] 1...fxe3 2.Rg2+! [2.Rg1+? Kh5 3.Rg5+ Qxg5 4.hxg5+ Kxg5 5.Ke2 Kf4! 6.Rh4+ Ke5! 7.Rh5+ Kd4= (7...Ke4; 7...Kf4)] 2...Kh5 [2...Kf3 3.0-0+!+-] 3.Rg5+ Qxg5 4.hxg5+ Kxg5 5.0-0! [5.Ke2? Kf4! 6.Rh4+ Ke5!; 5.Rf1? Nf5! 6.Rf3 (6.Ke2 Ng3+=) 6...Kg4! 7.Rf1 (7.Ke2 Nd4+=) 7...Kg5! 8.Rf3 Kg4= positional draw] with:

a) 5...Kg4 6.Rf8! [6.Rf6? e2! 7.Kf2 (7.Re6 Kf3=) 7...Ne4+=] 6...e2 [6...Kg3 7.Kf1!+-] 7.Kf2 Ne4+ 8.Ke1! [8.Kxe2? Nc3+=] wins.

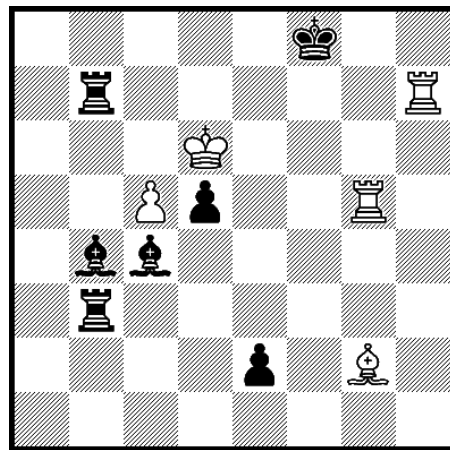
b) 5...Nf5 6.Rf3! Kg4 [6...e2 7.Kf2 Nd4 8.Rd3+-; 6...Kg6 7.Rf4 Kg5 8.Re4+-; 6...Kf6 7.d6 e2 8.Kf2 Ke6 9.Rxf5+-] 7.Rxe3! Nxe3 8.d6 Nc4 9.d7 Ne5 10.d8Q wins.

Sacrifices, precise elections (2.Rg2+ / Rg1?; 6.Rf8 / Rf6?), castling, refusal of capture, all in eight moves and packed in a natural position.

Pavel Arestov, Russia

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

3rd honourable mention



Draw

0870.12

No. 26: 1.Rf5+! [1.Rxb7? Bxc5+! 2.Kxc5 e1Q 3.Rf5+ Ke8-+] 1...Kg8! 2.Rxb7 Bxc5+! [2...e1Q 3.Rg5+ Kh8 4.Rh5+ Kg8 5.Rg5+ Kf8 6.Rf5+ positional draw] 3.Kxc5 e1Q [3...Rxb7 4.Re5 Kg7 (4...Rb1 5.Bxd5+=) 5.Bxd5=] 4.Bxd5+! Bxd5 5.Rg5+ Kh8 6.Rh5+ Kg8 7.Rg5+ Kf8 8.Rf5+ Ke8 [8...Bf7 9.Rbxf7+! Kg8 10.Rf8+ Kg7 11.R8f7+ Kg6 12.R7f6+=] 9.Rb8+! [9.Re5+? Qxe5 10.Rb8+ Qxb8-+] 9...Rxb8 [9...Ke7

10.Re5+ Qxe5 11.Re8+ Kxe8 stalemate; 9...Kd7 10.Rxd5+ Kc7 11.Rxb3=] **10.Re5+! Qxe5** stalemate.

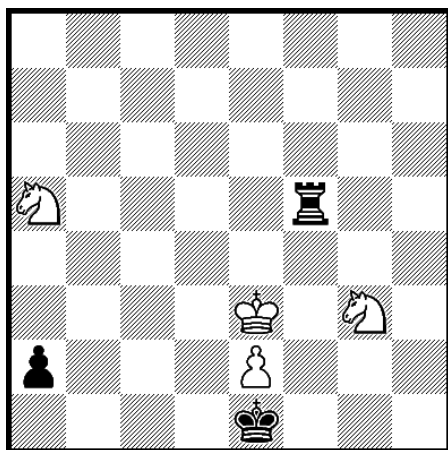
Twelve men, interesting play and a model stalemate with no piece standing in their initial place.

Vasily Levedev, *Russia*

After G. Zakhodyakin

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

4th honourable mention



Draw

0302.11

No. 10: 1.Nb3 [1.Nxf5? a1Q--+]
1...Rb5 [=1...Ra5 2.Ne4! Ra3 3.Nec5
 Kd1 4.Kd4 (4.Kd3? a1Q) 4...Kc2
 5.Kc4=] **2.Na1 Rb1 3.Ne4!** [3.Nc2+?
 Kd1 4.Kd3 Rb3+--+] **3...Rxa1 4.Nc3
 Kf1!** [=4...Rc1 5.Nxa2 Rc2 6.Nb4
 Rxe2+ 7.Kd3=] **5.Kf3** [=5.Kf4]
5...Kg1 6.Kg3 [=6.Kg4] **6...Kh1!**
7.Kh4!! [7.Kh3? Re1! 8.Nxa2 Rxe2
 9.Nb4 (9.Nc1 Rc2 10.Nd3 (b3)
 10...Rc3 (+); 9.Nc3 Re3+) 9...Re3+
 10.Kg4 Re4+--+] **7...Kg2** [7...Kh2
 8.e4=] **8.Kg4** [=8.Kg5] **8...Kf2 9.Kf5!**
 [9.Kf4? Rc1! 10.Nxa2 Rc2 11.Nb4

Rc4+--+] **9...Ke3** [=9...Ke1 10.Nxa2
 Rxa2 11.e4 Rf2+! 12.Ke6!]=] **10.Ke5!
 Kd2 11.Kd4 Kc2** [11...Ke1 12.Ke3!]=]
12.Kc4! [12.e4? Rd1+!] **12...Kb2
 13.Nxa2!** [13.e4? Rc1--+; 13.Kb4?
 Rc1--+] **13...Rxa2** [13...Kxa2 14.e4
 Re1 15.Kd5 Kb3 16.e5=] **14.e4! Ra4+
 15.Kd5 Kc3 16.e5 Ra5+ 17.Kd6 Kd4
 18.e6 Ra6+ 19.Kd7 Kd5 20.e7 Ra7+
 21.Kd8 Kd6 22.e8N+!** [22.e8Q?
 Ra8#] **22...Kc6** [22...Ke6 23.Nc7+]=]
23.Nf6 Rf7 24.Ne8!=

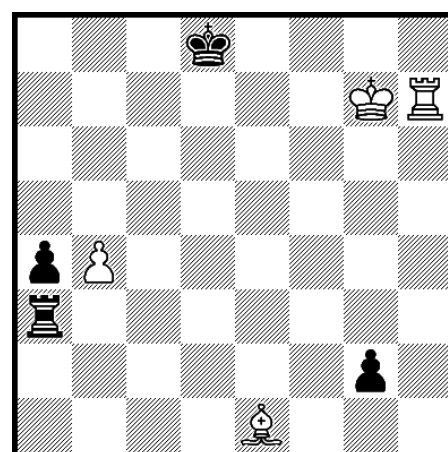
Zakhodyakin has a similar study (Shakhmaty v SSSR/12, 1982) cooked later. This one comes from that one but changing colours and stipulation, with a longer play that is neither in the original nor in its cooked. Duals are not important here.

Iuri Akobia, *Georgia*

Pavel Arestov, *Russia*

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

5th honourable mention



Draw

0410.12

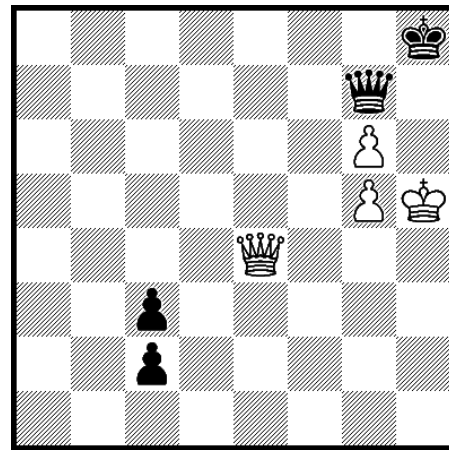
No. 25: 1.Bf2! [1.Bh4+? Kc8! (1...Ke8? 2.Rh8+ Kd7 3.Rd8+ Ke6 4.Rd1=) 2.Bf2 Rg3+ 3.Kh8 g1Q 4.Bxg1 Rxg1 5.Ra7 Ra1-+ (5...Rh1+-+)] 1...Rg3+! [1...g1Q+ 2.Bxg1 Rg3+ 3.Kf6= (3.Kf8=)] 2.Kh8! [2.Kf6? Rf3+-+] 2...g1Q 3.Bxg1 Rxg1 4.Ra7! with:

a) 4...Rh1+ 5.Kg8! Ra1 6.b5 a3 7.b6 Kc8 8.Rc7+! [8.Rg7? Kb8! zz 9.Ra7 a2=] 8...Kb8 9.Rg7! zz 9...Rd1 10.Ra7 Ra1 11.Rg7 zz 11...a2 12.Rg2 Kb7 13.Kg7 Kxb6 14.Kg6 Kc5 15.Kg5 Kd4 16.Kg4 Ke3 [16...Kc4 17.Kg5! Kd5 18.Kg4 Kc4 19.Kg5 positional draw] 17.Kg3 Kd3 18.Kg4 Ke3 19.Kg3 positional draw

b) 4...Ra1 5.b5 a3 6.b6 Kc8! [6...a2 7.Ra8+ Kd7 8.b7=] 7.Rc7+! [7.Rh7? Kb8! zz 8.Ra7 a2-+] 7...Kb8 8.Rh7! zz 8...Re1 9.Ra7 Ra1 10.Rh7 zz 10...a2 11.Rh2! Kb7 12.Kh7 Kxb6 13.Kh6 Kc5 14.Kh5 Kd4 15.Kh4 Ke3 [15...Kc4 16.Kh5! Kd5 17.Kh4 Kc4 18.Kh5 positional draw] 16.Kh3 Kf4 17.Rf2+! [17.Kh4? Rf1! 18.Rxa2 Rh1+-+] 17...Ke3 18.Rh2! Kf3 19.Kh4 Ke3 20.Kh3 echo positional draw.

Something almost new in the trodden field of Rooks and Pawns with a long and clear main line of six men full of zugzwangs and ending in a positional drawn. L.M. González did not find any anticipation.

Marco Campioli, Italy
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 6th honourable mention



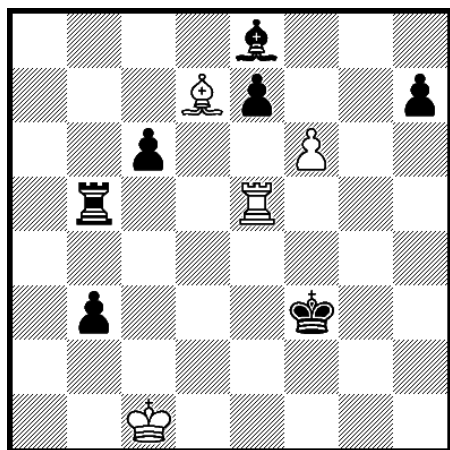
No. 22: 1.Qe8+ [1.Qa8+? Qg8 2.Qh1 c1Q 3.Qxc1 Qc4 4.Qe1 Qc7=] 1...Qg8 2.Qe5+ Qg7 3.Qb8+ Qg8 4.Qh2 Qg7 [4...Qe8 5.Kg4+ Kg7 6.Qh7+ Kf8 7.g7+-; 4...Qc8 5.Qe5+ Kg8 6.Qd5+ Kh8 7.Qf3 Qg8 8.Qxc3+ Qg7 9.Qxc2+-] 5.Kg4+! [5.Qxc2? Qd4 6.Qh2 Qd7 7.Qe5+ Kg8 8.Qxc3 Qd1+!]=] 5...Kg8 6.Qb8+ Qf8 7.Qc7! [7.Qa7?; 7.Qb7? Qf4+! 8.Kxf4 c1Q+ 9.Kf5 Qf1+=] 7...Qg7 [7...c1Q 8.Qh7#] 8.Qc4+ Kh8! [8...Kf8 9.Qc8+ Ke7 10.Qc7+ Kf8 11.Qd8#] 9.Qc8+ Qg8 10.Qxc3+ Qg7 11.Qh3+ [11.Qxc2 Qxg6 12.Qxg6 stalemate] 11...Kg8 12.Qb3+ Kh8! 13.Qb8+! Qg8 14.Qh2+ [14.Qe5+ Qg7 15.Qh2+ Kg8 16.Qxc2 Qd4+ 17.Kh5 Qh8+ 18.Kg4 Qd4+=] 14...Qh7 15.Qxh7# [15.gxh7? c1Q=].

Amusing Queen fight perfect for the solvers.

Emil Melnichenko, New Zealand

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

7th honourable mention



Win

0440.14

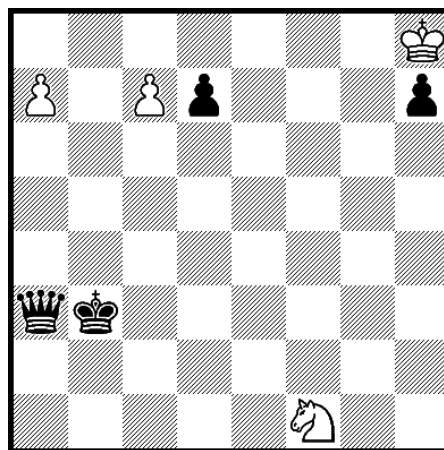
No. 16: 1.f7 b2+ 2.Kb1 Bxf7 3.Bxc6+ Rd5 4.Bxd5+ Kf4 5.Re4+ Kf3 6.Rd4+ Ke3 [6...Bxd5 7.Rxd5 Kg4 8.Rd8 h5 9.Rg8+ Kf3 10.Rh8 Kg4 11.Kxb2 h4 as the main line] 7.Rd1 Ke2 8.Bf3+ Kxf3 9.Rf1+ Kg3 10.Rxf7 h5 11.Rg7+ [11.Kxb2? h4=] 11...Kf3 12.Rh7 Kg4 13.Kxb2 h4 14.Kc2 [14.Kc3 /1 also] 14...h3 15.Kd2 Kg3 16.Ke3 [16.Ke2 /1? 16...h2=] 16...Kg2 17.Ke2 [17.Rg7+? Kf1 18.Rf7+ Kg2 wastes time] 17...h2 18.Rg7+ Kh3 19.Kf2 h1N+ 20.Kf3 wins.

Partly anticipated by Gurvich (HHdbIV #14290) but this one is better, with previous and posterior play. Clear solution and like previous one, a “Friendly Study”.

Vladislav Tarasiuk, Ukraine

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

1st commendation



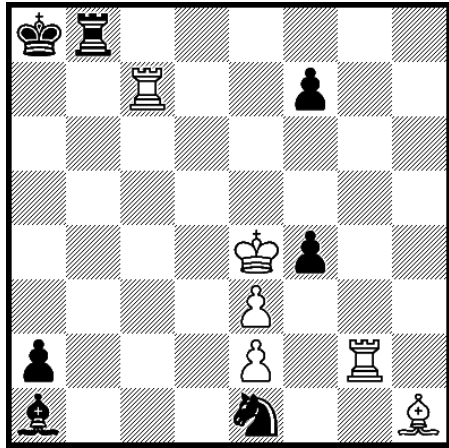
Win

3001.22

No. 29: 1.Nd2+ Kb4! [1...Ka2 2.c8Q Qxa7 3.Qc2+-] 2.c8Q Qa1+! 3.Kg8! [3.Kxh7? Qh1+! 4.Kg7 Qg2+ (4...Qg1+) 5.Kf7 Qf2+! 6.Ke8 Qxa7 7.Qc4+ Ka5 8.Qa2+ Kb6 9.Nc4+ Kb7 10.Nd6+ Kb8= (10...Ka8)] 3...Qg1+! [3...Qxa7 4.Qc4+ Ka5 5.Qa2+ Kb6 6.Nc4+ Kb7 7.Nd6+ Ka8! 8.Qd5+ Kb8 9.Qb3+ Ka8 10.Qf3+ Kb8 11.Qf8+ Kc7 12.Nb5+-] 4.Kf7! [4.Kf8? Qxa7 5.Qc4+ Ka5 6.Qa2+ Kb6 7.Nc4+ Kb7 8.Nd6+ Ka8! 9.Qd5+ Kb8 10.Qb3+ Ka8 11.Qf3+ Kb8 12.Qb3+ Ka8=] 4...Qxa7 5.Qc4+ Ka5 6.Qa2+ Kb6 7.Nc4+ Kb7 8.Nd6+ Ka8 9.Qg2+ wins.

Partly anticipated by C. Jonsson (1st hm Tidskrift för Schack, 1964), but this one has no duals.

Jan Timman, Netherlands
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 2nd commendation

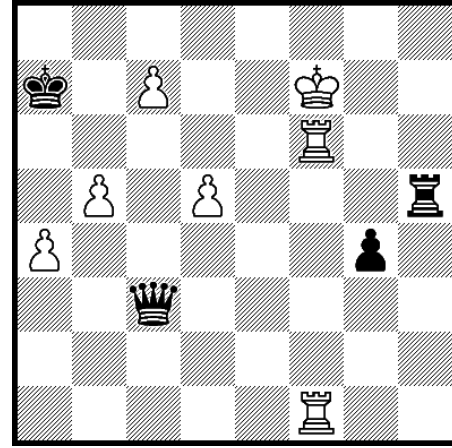


Win 0543.23

No. 35: 1.Rg6! [1.Rg5? Rb4+ 2.Kf5+ f3 3.Bxf3+ Nxf3 4.Rg8+ Rb8=; 1.Rg1? f3! 2.Bxf3 Bg7 3.Rxe1 Rb1=] **1...fxg6** [1...Rb4+ 2.Kf5+ f3 3.Ra6+ Kb8 4.Rxf7+-] **2.Kxf4+ Rb7 3.Rxb7 Be5+** [3...Nd3+ 4.exd3 Be5+ 5.Kg5! a1Q 6.Rb1+ Ka7 7.Rxa1+ Bxa1 8.d4 Kb6 9.Kf6+-] **4.Kxe5 a1Q+ 5.Ke6 Ng2** [5...Qa2+ 6.Ke7 Qg8 (6...Qa3+ 7.Kf7 Qa2+ 8.Kf8 Qa3+ 9.Kg8 Qa2+ 10.Kh7+-) 7.Rd7+ Kb8 8.Rd8+ Qxd8+ 9.Kxd8 Nc2 10.e4 Nd4 11.Bf3!+-] **6.Bxg2 Qg1 7.Bf3 Qxe3+** [7...Qg3 8.Kf7; 7...Qf2 8.Kd6! Qh2+ 9.Kc5! Qe5+ 10.Kc4 Qe6+ 11.Kd3+- (11.Kb4)] **8.Kf7! Qf2** [8...Qf4+ 9.Ke8+-] **9.Kg8!** [9.Ke8? Qxe2+! =] **9...g5 10.Bh1! Qh4 11.Rh7+** wins.

Three sacrifices to clear a line or empty a square, 1.Rg6; 3...Be5+; 5...Ng2; one battery repeated and precise wK moves that ending with the bQ capture.

Richard Becker, USA
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 3rd commendation



Draw 3500.41

No. 13: 1.b6+ [1.d6? g3 (Rh8)-+; 1.Kg6? Rxd5 (Rh8)-+] **1...Kb7 2.a5!** [2.R1f5? Rh7+ (Rh8)-+] **2...Qd3** [2...Qxa5 3.Rd6! Rxd5 4.Rd8! =; 2...Rxd5 3.a6+ Kxa6 4.c8Q+! (4.Ra1+? Ra5+-) 4...Qxc8 5.b7+! Kxb7 6.Rb1+ Ka7 7.Ra1+ Kb7 8.Rb1+=] **3.a6+ Qxa6 4.c8Q+!** [4.Rc1? Rh8 5.Rfc6 Rc8-+; 4.Kg6? Rh8! (4...Rxd5? 5.c8Q+! Kxc8 6.b7+ etc.) 5.Kg7 Rc8 6.d6 Qb5-+] **4...Kxc8 5.Kg6!** [5.Kg7? Rg5+! (5...Rxd5? 6.Rc1+ Kd8 7.Rf8+ Ke7 8.Rf7+ Kd6 9.b7 Rg5+ 10.Kh6 Qb5 11.b8Q+ Qxb8 12.Kxg5=) 6.Kh6 Rxd5 (Rg8)-+] **5...Rxd5** [5...Rh8 6.b7+! Qxb7 7.Rf8+ Rxf8 8.Rxf8+ Kc7 9.Rf7+ Kb6 10.Rxb7+ Kxb7 11.Kf6 (Kf7) 11...g3 12.d6=] **6.b7+!** [6.Rc1+? Kd8! (6...Kd7? 7.Rc7+ Ke8 8.b7 Qd3+ 9.Kg7 Rg5+ 10.Kh6 Rb5 11.Kg7 Qd4 12.Rc8+ Ke7 13.Rc7+ Kd8 14.Rc8+ Kd7 15.b8Q Rxb8 16.Rxb8=) 7.Rf8+

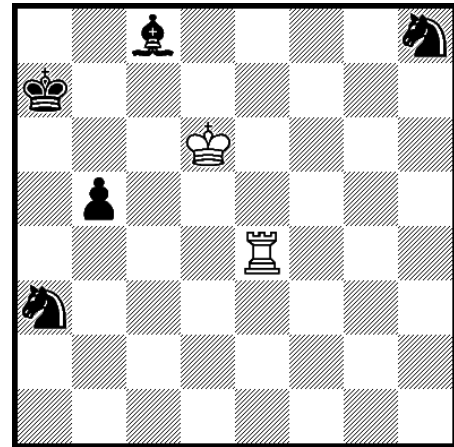
Ke7 (Kd7) 8.Rf7+ Ke8 9.Re1+ Kd8
 10.Rf8+ Kd7 11.Rf7+ Kd6 (Kc6)
 12.Rf6+ Kc5 13.Rc1+ Kb4 14.Rb1+
 Kc3—+] **6...Qxb7 7.Rf8+!** [7.Rc1+?
 Kb8 8.Rf8+ Ka7 9.Ra1+ Kb6 10.Rf6+
 Kc5 11.Rc1+ Kd4—+] **7...Kc7 8.Rc1+
 Kb6 9.Rf6+ Ka7 10.Ra1+ Kb8
 11.Rf8+ Kc7 12.Rc1+** with:

a) **12...Kb6 13.Rf6+ Ka7 14.Ra1+
 Kb8 15.Rf8+ Kc7 16.Rc1+** perpetual
 circuit around bQ.

b) **12...Kd6 13.Rf6+ Ke5 14.Rf5+
 Kd4** [14...Ke6 15.Rf6+ Ke5 16.Rf5+
 etc.; 14...Ke4 15.Re1+ Kd3 16.Rd1+
 Kc4 17.Rc1+ Kd4 18.Rd1+ etc.]
**15.Rd1+ Kc5 16.Rc1+ Kd6 17.Rf6+
 Ke5 18.Rf5+ Kd4 19.Rd1+ Kc5
 20.Rc1+ Kd6 21.Rf6+** perpetual
 circuit around bR.

Improvement of a V. Nestorescu'
 study (EG#04810, HHdbIV #45691)
 where the bK turns around her Queen.
 Here the theme is duplicated with
 another dance around the Rook adding
 an interesting previous play.

Richard Becker, USA
Iuri Akobia, Georgia
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 4th commendation



Draw

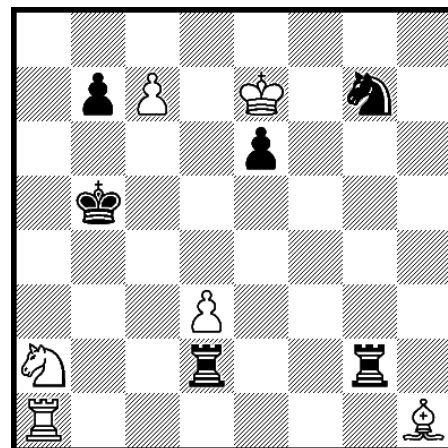
0136.01

No. 37: 1.Kc5 Ng6 2.Re3 Nc4 3.Rb3
 [3.Rg3? Ka6 4.Rxg6+ Ka5 5.Rg2
 Nb6—+] **3...Nd6 4.Rb4!** [4.Kxd6?
 Kb6! 5.Rb4 Nf8 (5...Bh3? 6.Re4 Bc8
 7.Rb4 loss of time; 5...Nh8? 6.Rf4 Bb7
 7.Rf6 b4 8.Rf4 Kb5 9.Rf5+ Kb6
 10.Rf4=) 6.Rh4 Bb7 7.Rh8 (7.Rf4
 Nh7—+) 7...Ng6 8.Rh6 Be4—+ (9.Kc5
 not possible); 4.Rd3? Ne4+ 5.Kxb5
 Ba6+—+] **4...Ka6** [4...Nf8 5.Rh4 Bb7
 (5...Ba6 6.Kxd6 Kb6 7.Rh6 (Rh8) =;
 5...Ne6+ 6.Kxd6 Kb6 7.Rh8=) 6.Rh8
 Ne6+ (6...Ka6 7.Kxd6 Ng6 8.Rh6 Be4
 9.Kc5!= possible with bK on a6;
 6...Ng6 7.Rd8 Ka6 (Ba6) 8.Rxd6+=)
 7.Kxd6 Nf4 8.Kc5 Ka6 9.Rb8 Nd3+
 10.Kd4 Nc1 (10...Nf2 11.Kc5 Ne4+
 12.Kb4=) 11.Kc5 Nb3+ 12.Kb4 Nd4
 13.Kc5=; 4...Ba6 5.Kxd6 Kb6 6.Re4
 (Rg4) =; 4...Bh3 5.Rd4 Ne7 6.Rxd6=]
5.Kxd6 Kb6 [5...Bf5 6.Kc5 Ne5
 7.Rxb5 Nd3+ 8.Kc4=] **6.Re4!** zz

[6.Rd4? Nf8! (6...Ka5? 7.Rd2 Kb6 8.Rd4 loss of time; 6...Bf5? 7.Rb4 Bh3 8.Re4 Bc8 9.Rd4 loss of time) 7.Rh4 Bb7 8.Rh8 Ng6 9.Rh6 Be4+] **6...Bh3** [6...Nf8 7.Re8=] **7.Rb4!** zz [7.Rd4? Nf8! 8.Rh4 (8.Ke7 Kc5 9.Rd3 Ng6+ 10.Kf6 Nf4 11.Rf3 Nd5+--+) 8...Bg2 9.Rf4 Nh7 10.Rf7 Be4+] **7...Bf5** [7...Nf8 8.Ke7 Ng6+ 9.Kf6 (Kd6) 9...Nf8 10.Ke7 Nh7 11.Rh4 Bf5 12.Rh5 Be4 13.Rh4 Bd3 14.Rh3 Bc2 15.Rh2 Bb1 16.Rh1 Bg6 17.Rh6=] **8.Rd4!** zz **8...Bc8** [8...Nf8 9.Rf4=] **9.Re4 Bb7 10.Rg4 Nh8 11.Rf4!** [11.Rg7? Bf3 12.Ke5 Kc5 13.Rc7+ Kb4+] **11...Ng6** [11...Bc6 12.Rf6=] **12.Rg4 Nf8 13.Rg7! Bc6 14.Rc7 Bh1 15.Rg7! Bc6 16.Rc7 Bg2 17.Rg7 Be4 18.Re7 Bg6 19.Rg7 Be4** [19...Bd3 20.Rg8 Ng6 (Nh7) 21.Rb8+ etc.] **20.Re7 Bd3 21.Re8 Ng6** (Nh7) **22.Rb8+ Ka5 23.Kc5** draws.

A 7-piece position and consequently a correct one as confirmed by TB although only the computers understand the initial moves; this is a good example of a “Vague study”. White can win a piece several times but only the 5th move really works what leads to a positional draw by chained zugzwangs.

Michal Hlinka, Slovakia
Ľuboš Kekely, Slovakia
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 5th commendation



Win, BTM 0136.01

No. 4: 1...Nf5+! **2.Kxe6** opening of e-column [2.Kf6? Rg8 3.Rb1+ Kc5 4.Nc3 Rc2 5.Ne4+ Kd5 6.Ng5+ Kd6 7.Rxb7 Rxg5 8.Kxg5 Rxc7=] **2...Ng7+!** switchback [2...Nd4+ 3.Kd5 Nc6 4.Bxg2 Rxg2 5.Rb1+ Ka6 6.Nc3 Ne7+ 7.Ke6 Nc8 8.Ra1+ Kb6 9.Nd5+ Kc6 10.Rc1+ Kb5 11.Kd7 Rg8 12.Ne7+-; 2...Rg8 3.Nc3+ Kb6 4.Nd5+ Kb5 5.Kxf5+-] **3.Ke7!** switchback [3.Kd5? Rg5+ 4.Kd4 Rc2 5.Nc3+ Rxc3 6.Rb1+ Ka5 7.Kxc3 Rc5+ 8.Kd2 Rxc7 9.Bxb7 Nf5=; 3.Kd7? Rxd3+ 4.Kc8 Rxa2 5.Rxa2 Ne6 6.Kxb7 Nxc7= EGTB] **3...Rge2+** [3...Nf5+ 4.Kf6 Nd6 5.Bxg2 Rxg2 6.Ke6 Nc8 7.Rb1+ Kc6 8.Rc1+ Kb6 9.Kd7 Na7 10.Nb4 Rg7+ 11.Ke8 Rg5 12.d4+-] **4.Be4 Rc2 5.Kd7** [5.Rc1? Rxc1 6.Nxc1 Rc2 7.Kd7 Rxc1=; 5.Rb1+? Ka4 6.Rxb7 Rc5! 7.Kd6 Rec2 8.Nb4 Rxc7! 9.Nxc2 Ne8+! 10.Ke5

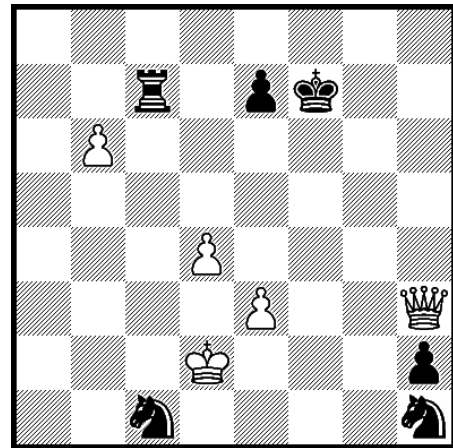
Rxc2 11.Rb8 Nc7=] **5...Ne8** [5...Nh5 6.c8Q+- as main line] **6.c8Q** [6.Rc1? Nxc7 7.Nc3+ Rxc3 8.Rxc3 Na6=] **6...Rxc8** [6...Nf6+ 7.Kd8+- as main line] **7.Kxc8 Nd6+ 8.Kb8!** [8.Kc7? Nxe4 9.dxe4 Kc4 10.Rc1+ Kd4 11.Nc3 Rb2 tempo 12.Na4 Rb4! 13.Nc5 b6 14.e5 bxc5= EGTB; 8.Kd7? Nxe4 9.dxe4 Kc4 10.Rc1+ Kd4 11.Nc3 Rh2=] **8...Nxe4 9.dxe4 Kc4 10.Rc1+ Kd4 11.Nc3 Rb2 12.Kc7!** tempo **12...Rb3 13.Nb1!** [13.Na4? Rb4= as after 8.Kc7?; 13.Rd1+? Kxc3= EGTB; 13.Kd6? Rb6+! EGTB] **13...Re3** [13...Rb2 14.Re1 Ke5 15.Kb8 tempo 15...Ke6 16.Nc3+-] **14.Nd2 Kd3 15.Rc5! Kxd2 16.e5 Kd3 17.Kd6!** [17.Rb5? Kc4!= EGTB] **17...b6** [17...Kd4 18.Rb5!+- EGTB] **18.Rb5! Kc4 19.Rxb6** wins.

Authors' comment: "Long precise fight in advantage position. Switchbacks. Reciprocal zugzwangs. Meredith". Yes, but very difficult and not very amusing.

Franco Bertoli, *Italy*

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

6th commendation



Draw, BTM

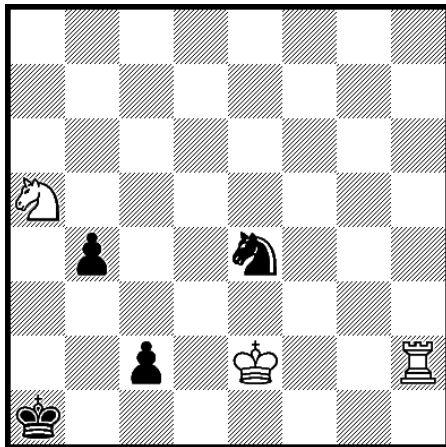
1306.32

No. 42: 1...Nb3+ [1...Rc6? 2.Qf3+-] **2.Ke2** [2.Ke1? Rc1+ 3.Ke2 Ng3+-+] **2...Rc2+** [2...Nxd4+ 3.exd4 Rc2+ 4.Ke1 Nf2 5.Qh5+ Kf6 6.b7 Nd3+ 7.Kd1 Rb2 8.Qxh2 Rxh2 9.b8Q Nb2+ 10.Ke1 Nd3+ 11.Kf1 Rf2+=; 2...Ng3+? 3.Kf3 Rb7 4.Kxg3+-] **3.Kf3** [3.Ke1? Rc1+ 4.Ke2 Ng3+-+; 3.Kf1? Ng3+-+] **3...Nxd4+** [3...Nd2+ 4.Kf4 e5+ 5.Kxe5 Nc4+=] **4.exd4 Rc3+** **5.Kg2** [5.Kg4? Nf2+-+] **5...Rhx3** [5...Rg3+? 6.Kxh2 Rxh3+ 7.Kxh3+-] **6.Kxh3 Nf2+** [6...Ng3? 7.Kxh2 Nf5 8.b7+-] **7.Kxh2 Ng4+** [7...Ne4? 8.b7+-] **8.Kg3** [8.Kh3? Nf6 9.b7 Nd7 10.Kg4 Kf6 11.Kh5 Kf5 12.Kh6 Ke4+-; 8.Kg2? Nf6 9.b7 Nd7 10.Kf3 Ke6 11.Ke4 Kd6+-] **8...Nf6 9.b7** [9.d5? Ne4+ 10.Kf4 Nd6 11.Kg5 Kg7+-] **9...Nd7 10.d5** [10.Kg4? Ke6 11.Kg5 Kd5 12.Kg6 Kxd4 13.Kf7 e5+-; 10.Kf4? Ke6 11.Kg5 Kd5+-] **10...Kg6** [10...Kg7 11.Kf3 Kf6 12.Kf4 Nb8

13.Ke4] **11.Kg4** [11.Kf4? Kf6 12.Ke4 Nc5+—+] **11...Nb8** [11...Kf6 12.Kf4 Nb8 13.Ke4 Kf7 14.Kf5=] **12.Kf4 Kf6 13.Ke4 Nd7 14.Kf4** draw.

Hard fight to obtain miraculously a drawn position with a knight down.

Valery Kalashnikov, Russia
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 7th commendation

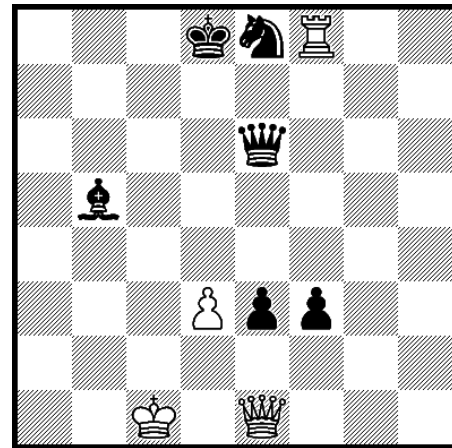


Win 0104.02

No. 36: 1.Kd3 c1Q 2.Nb3+ Kb1 3.Nxc1 Nc5+ 4.Kd2 [4.Kc4? Kxc1 5.Kxc5 b3 6.Kc4 b2 7.Kc3 b1N+=] **4...Ne4+ 5.Ke3 Ng3 6.Rh3** [or 6.Rg2] **6...Kxc1 7.Rxg3 b3 8.Kd3 b2 9.Rg1#**

Simple and interesting miniature ending in a perfect mate. The dual 6.Rh3(g2) has little importance.

Péter Gyarmati, Hungary
Eduard Eilazyan, Ukraine
Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT
 8th commendation



Draw 4133.12

No. 39: 1.Qa5+ Ke7 2.Qb4+ [2.Rf4? Nd6 3.Rxf3 e2 4.Qe1 Bc6 5.Rg3 Nb5 6.Kd2 Nd4 7.Re3 Nf3+ 8.Rxf3 Bxf3 and Black wins] **2...Nd6** [2...Qd6 3.Qxd6+ Kxd6 4.Rxf3 e2 5.Kd2=] **3.Rxf3 e2!** [3...Bxd3 4.Kd1 e2+ (4...Kd7 5.Rxe3 Qxe3 6.Qxd6+ Kxd6 stalemate) 5.Ke1 Bb5 (5...Qd5 6.Re3+ Kf7 7.Rxe2 Bxe2 8.Kxe2=) 6.Re3 Qxe3 7.Qxd6+ Kxd6 stalemate] **4.Qh4+** [But not 4.Qe1? Bc6 5.Rg3 Nf5 6.Rg4 Qa2 7.Qc3 Qa1+ 8.Qxa1 e1Q+ 9.Kb2 Qe2+ 10.Kc3 Qxg4—+] **4...Kd7** [4...Ke8 5.Kd2 Qa2+ 6.Ke1=] **5.Kd2 Qa2+ 6.Ke1 Qc2 7.Qh3+** [7.Kf2? Qd2!—+] **7...Kc7** [Or 7...Kc6 8.Re3 Qd1+ 9.Kf2 Bxd3 10.Qf3+ Ne4+ 11.Rxe4 Qf1+ 12.Kg3 Bxe4 13.Qxe4+=] **8.Re3 Qd1+** [Or 8...Bd7 9.Qg2 Qd1+ 10.Kf2 transposes to main line] **9.Kf2 Bd7** [9...Bxd3 10.Re7+ Kb6 11.Qe3+ Kb5 12.Qe5+

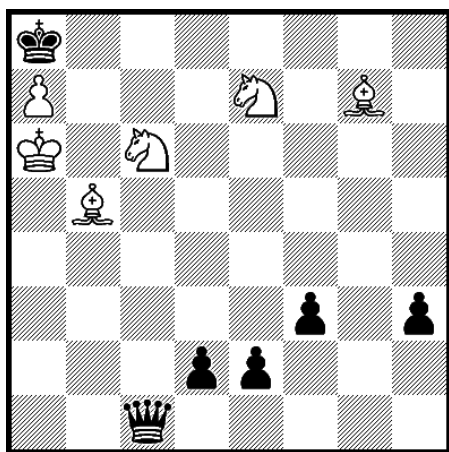
Ka4 13.Qxd6 Qf1+ 14.Kg3 e1Q+ 15.Rxe1 Qxe1+=] **10.Qg2 Bg4 11.Re7+ Kb6 12.Qg1** [12.Qxg4? e1Q+--+] **12...Nf5 13.Re8!** [But not 13.Re6+? Kb5! 14.Re5+ (14.Qg2 Bf3!) 14...Kc6! 15.Qg2+ Kb6! 16.Re6+ Ka7! 17.Re8 Bf3! 18.Qh3 Bh5! 19.Qxf5 Qf1+--+] **13...Nd4** [13...Bh5 14.Rb8+ Kc7 15.Rb1=] **14.Qe1!** (Rundlauf!) **14...Nc2 15.Rb8+ Ka6 16.Ra8+ Kb7 17.Ra7+ Kb8 18.Ra8+ Kxa8 19.Qa5+** (Rundlauf!) and draw by perpetual check.

Complex task with difficult variations. The effort deserves a commendation.

Marco Campioli, *Italy*

Javier Rodríguez Ibrán, 80 JT

9th commendation



Draw

0104.02

No. 21: 1.Nc8! [1.Nd5? Qa3+ 2.Na5 Qxa5+ 3.Kxa5 Kxa7--+] **1...Qc5!** [1...Qa3+? 2.Na5 Qxa5+ 3.Kxa5 d1Q (3...e1Q) 4.Bc6#] **2.Bd4!** [2.Bf8? Qg1! 3.Na5 Qxa7+ 4.Nxa7 d1Q!--+]

2...d1Q! [2...e1Q? 3.Bxc5 Qa1+ 4.Na5 Qxa5+ 5.Kxa5 d1Q 6.Bc6#] **3.Bxc5 Qa1+ 4.Na5 Qxa5+ 5.Kxa5 e1Q+ 6.Kb6!** [6.Ka6? Qa1+ 7.Kb6 Qf6+ 8.Nd6 Qd8+ 9.Ka6 Qc7 10.Bd3 Qc6+ 11.Bb6 h2 12.Be4 Qxe4--+] **6...Qb1! 7.Ne7!** [7.Nd6? f2! 8.Bxf2 h2 9.Ne8 Qg6+ 10.Bc6+ Qxc6+ 11.Kxc6 h1Q+--+] **7...Qb3!** [7...f2 8.Bxf2 h2 9.Nd5 Qg6+ 10.Bc6+ Qxc6+ 11.Kxc6 h1Q=; 7...h2? 8.Nd5 Qg6+ 9.Bc6+ Qxc6+ 10.Kxc6 h1Q 11.Nc7#] **8.Nf5 h2! 9.Ng3!** [9.Nd4? Qd5 10.Bc6+ Qxc6+ 11.Nxc6 h1Q--+] **9...f2 10.Bxf2 Qe6+** [10...Qxg3? 11.Bc6#] **11.Bc6+ Qxc6+ 12.Kxc6 h1Q+ 13.Nxh1** stalemate.

Curious draw searched by White but achieved by stalemate of Black.