

Chess Informant - 50 jubilee tourney

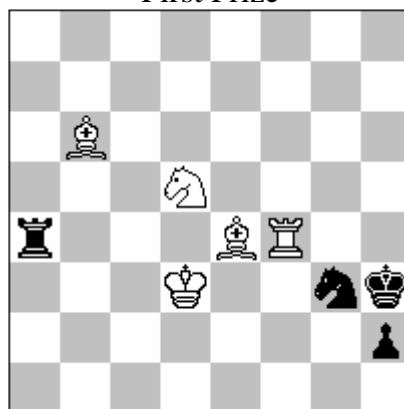
Provisional award by Yochanan Afek

The world famous chess periodical Sahovski Informator, founded in 1966, celebrates its 50th anniversary by organizing an International composing tourney for endgame studies. Privileged to act as its judge I received 36 anonymous entries from the tourney director **Gady Costeff**, to whom I am grateful for his invaluable assistance in checking the candidate entries for soundness and originality.

The general standard of the field was very good. I gave some priority to players' friendly entries i.e. those with "digestible" settings as well as comprehensive ideas and solutions. Most of the entries luckily did match these unwritten requests. Personally I am not particularly fond of artificial efforts to stretch a sufficiently lengthy solution by either multiple piece exchanges (in this case on the very same square) or unnecessary BTM stipulation. Two of the more serious candidates suffering from these flaws I decided to allow a second chance in another tourney instead of ranking them low. Two other entries improved on prize-winners from previous major events which I had judged. I hesitated before deciding to award each of them a deserved special honourable mention. Here is my ranking:

M. Hlinka & L. Kekely, Slovakia

First Prize

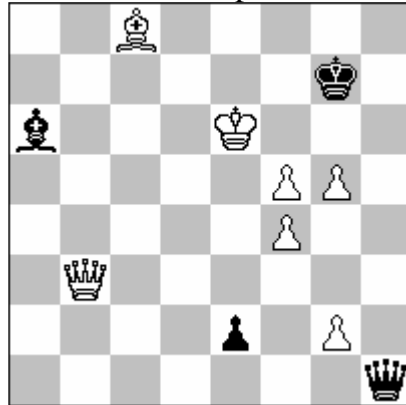


Win

Following the reciprocal Zugzwang after the quiet 8. Ka3! White's rook and bishop create a second battery. By exchanging roles as the front and the rear pieces of the newly formed battery the thematic pieces change also the targeted half of the royal couple! Surprisingly In the final move even two batteries are activated with the rook as the rear piece and this time both bishops are the front ones! All this occurs with no need for extra material! A genuine chess miracle!

1. Bf3 Ra3+ [1...h1Q 2.Bxh1 Ra3+ 3.Kc4 Nxh1 4.Rf8+-] **2.Nc3 Rxc3+**! preparing the following fork **3.Kxc3 Ne2+**! **4. Bxe2** [4.Kd2? Nxf4 5.Bh1 Nh5! 6.Bc7 Ng3=] **4...h1Q** black has a new queen, but... **5.Bf1+ Kg3 6.Bc7!** ZZ. Battery against the king. **6...Qh8+** [6...Qb7 7.Rf7+ Kg4 8.Rg7+ Kh5 9.Rh7+ Kg4 10.Bh3+ Kf3 11.Rf7+ Ke2 12.Bg4+-] **7.Kb3!** [7.Kc2? Qh7+=] **7...Qh1 8.Ka3! Qb7 9.Rf7+** battery towards the queen **9...Kg4 10.Rg7+ Kh5** [10...Kf5 11.Bh3+ Kf6 12.Be5+-] **11.Rh7+ Kg4** [11...Kg6 12.Bd3+-] **12.Bh3+ Kf3 13.Rf7+ Ke2 14.Bf1+ Kd1 15.Rd7+ Kc2 16.Bd3+** with two batteries unleashed after: **16...Kc1** [or 16...Kd1 17.Be4+ /Ba6+] **17.Bf4+ 1-0**

M. Minski, Germany
Second prize

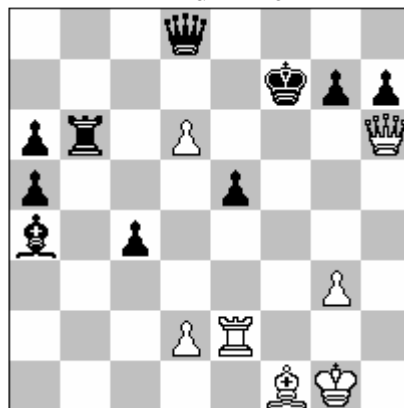


Win

In the heat of the battle each side promotes a second queen; however the side that sacrifices both his queens is the one to emerge the eventual winner against the remaining enemy queen. A breathtaking battle with plenty of quiet moves and subtle finesses.

1.f6+ [1.Qc3+? Kg8 2.Kd6 e1Q 3.Be6+ Qxe6+ 4.Kxe6 (4.fxe6 Qxg2=) 4...Qxg2 5.Qc7 Qa8 6.Qf7+ Kh8=] **1...Kh8 2.g6! e1Q+** [2...Bc4+! 3. Qxc4 e1Q+ 4.Kf7+- see main line] **3.Kf7 Bc4+** [3...Qh5 4.Qb8+-] **4. Qxc4 Qe8+**! [4...Qh5 5.Be6! +-] **5.Kxe8 Qe1+ 6.Qe2!!** [6.Qe6? Qxe6+! 7. Bxe6 stalemate; 6.Be6? Qxe6+! 7. Qxe6 stalemate; 6.Kf7? Qe8+ /Qe7+! 7. Kxe8 stalemate] **6...Qxe2+ 7.Kf8 Qxg2 8.g7+ Kh7 9.Bb7!** [9.Bf5+? Kh6 10.g8Q Qa8+ 11.Ke7! Qa3+! = (11...Qxg8? 12. f7+-)] **9...Qg1** [9...Qg6 10.Be4! Qxe4 11.g8Q+-; 9...Qg4 10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc8+ 12.Ke7! +- see main line] **10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc5+ 12.Ke8** [12.Kf7? Qc4+! 13.Ke7 Qxe4+= (13...Qxg8? 14. f7+-)] **12...Qc8+ 13.Ke7!!** [13.Kf7? Qd7+ /Qc4+=] **13...Qxg8** [13...Qc7+ 14.Ke6 Qc4+ 15.Bd5+-] **14.f7 Qg7 15.Ke8+- 1-0**

M. Minski, Germany & O. Pervakov, Russia
Third Prize



Win

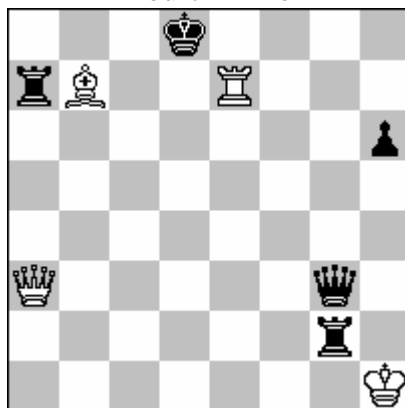
Materially black seems to do fine, yet white's bishop and advanced pawn eventually make the difference. A game-like heroic sacrificial battle decided by a subtle pawn move. The mutual quiet queen sacrifices are eye catching.

1. Rf2+ Kg8 2.Qg6!! (Threat 3.Qf7+) [2.Bxc4+? Kh8 3.Qg6?! Rxd6!+-] **2...Rb8!** [2...hxc6 3.Bxc4+ Kh7 4.Rh2+ Qh4 5.Rxh4# model mate; 2...Kh8 3.Rh2 h6 4.Rxh6+! gxh6 5.Qxh6+ Kg8 6.Bxc4# model mate; 2...Rb7 3.Qe4! Rb4 4.Qd5+ Kh8 5.Qxa5! Rb8 6.Qxa4+-] **3.Bxc4+ Kh8 4.Bd3!** [4.Rh2? Qb6+!+-] **4...Qh4!!** [4...hxc6 5.Rh2+ Kg8 6.Bc4+ Kf8 7.Rh8#] **5. Qf5!** [5.gxh4?

hxg6=] 5...Qxg3+ 6.Kf1 Qxd3+! 7. Qxd3 Bb5 8.Qxb5! axb5 9.d4!! exd4 10.Rc2 [10.d7? d3!-+] 10...Rf8+ [10...d3 11.Rc7 Rf8+ 12.Ke1 Rd8 13.d7 Kg8 14.Rc8+-] 11.Ke1! Kg8 [11...Rd8 12.d7 Rxd7 13.Rc8+ Rd8 14.Rxd8# model mate] 12.d7 Rd8 13.Rc8+- 1-0

S. Hor necker & M. Minski, Germany

Fourth Prize



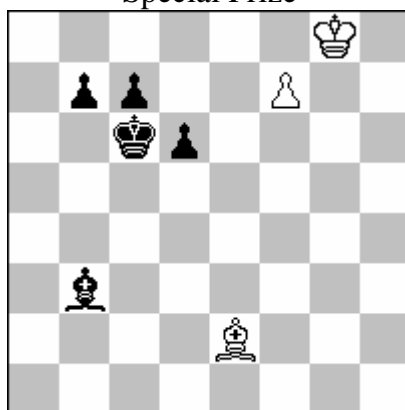
Draw

The aim of white's sacrificial play is obviously to turn his remaining queen to a crazy one. Following a mutual rook sacrifice, an original systematic manoeuvre of the WB & BK prepares the ground by the quiet and powerful 7. Qe3!!

1. Re8+! [Thematic try: 1.Rd7+?! Kxd7 2.Bc6+! (2.Bc8+! Ke8! 3. Bd7+! Kf7! 4.Be6+! Kg6!-+ position X with bRa7) 2...Ke6! 3. Bd7+! (3.Bd5+! Ke5!-+) 3...Kf7! 4.Be6+! Kg6!-+ position X with bRa7; 1.Qxg3? Rxc3-+] 1...Kxe8 2.Bc6+ Rd7 [2...Kd8 3.Qf8+ Kc7 4.Qe7+ Kb6 5.Qb4+ Kc7 6.Qe7+ Kb6 7.Qb4+=] 3.Bxd7+ Kf7! 4.Be6+! [4.Be8+? Kg8! 5.Bf7+ Kh7! 6.Bg6+ Qxg6 7.Qe7+ Qg7 8.Qe4+ Rg6-+] 4...Kg6! position X without bRa7 5.Bf5+! [5.Bf7+? Kh7!-+] 5...Kh5! 6.Bg4+! [6.Bg6+?! Kh4! 7.Qe7+ Qg5 8.Qe4+ Rg4 9.Qe1+ Rg3 10.Qe4+ Qg4 11.Qe7+ Kh3-+] 6...Qxg4 [6...Kh4 7.Qe7+=] 7.Qe3!! (8.Qxh6+/Qg5+ with stalemate) [7.Qc5+? Qg5 8.Qf2! Rg4!-+] 7...Rg3 8.Qxg3! Qxg3 stalemate 1/2-1/2

P.Arestov, Russia & V.Tarasiuk, Ukraine

Special Prize



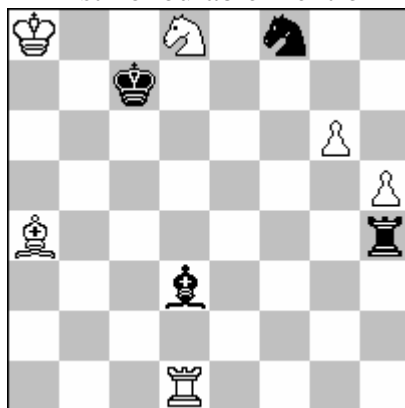
Draw

A surprising discovery is behind this logical study based on a crystal clear reciprocal zugzwang. The special prize is also for the best theoretical contribution.

1. Bf3+! [1.Kg7? Bxf7 2.Kxf7 Kc5-+; 1.Bd1? Bxf7+ 2.Kxf7 Kd5! 3.Bf3+ Ke5 4.Bxb7 c5 5.Ba6 d5-+] 1...Kb6! 2.Bd1!! [Thematic try 2.Kg7? Bxf7 3.Kxf7 c6! 4. Ke6 Kc5 5.Kd7 d5! 6. Kc7 b5! zz 7.Kb7 b4-+] 2...Be6 [2...Bxf7+ 3.Kxf7 - main line.] 3. Kg7! [3.Bg4? Bxf7+ 4.Kxf7 d5-+ e.g.

5.Ke6 Kc5 6.Ke5 b5 7.Bh5 c6 8.Be2 b4 9.Bf1 b3 10.Bd3 b2 11.Bb1 Kb4 (c4) →.] **3...Bxf7 4.Kxf7 d5! 5. Ke6 Kc5 6.Kd7! c6 7.Kc8!!** [Thematic try 7.Kc7? b6! zz 8.Kc8 (8.Kb7 b5 9.Be2 b4→) 8...d4 9.Be2 Kb4! 10.Kc7 c5 11.Kxb6 c4 12.Kc6 d3→] **7...b6! 8. Kc7! zz 8...b5 9.Kb7! A)** [Thematic try 9.Kd7? d4! 10. Be2 b4 11.Ke6 d3! 12. Bxd3 Kd4 13.Bc2 c5 14.Kd6 c4→] **9...b4 [B] 9...d4 10.Be2! b4 11.Ka6! (11.Bd3? b3! 12. Ka6 Kb4→) 11...b3 12.Ka5 b2 13.Bd3=] 10.Bb3! Kb5 11.Kc7 c5! 12. Bxd5** [12.Kd6? c4 13.Bd1 d4 14.Kd5 b3 15.Kxd4 Kb4→] **12...c4 13.Kd6 b3 14.Ke5! b2 15.Be4= 1/2-1/2**

S. Nielsen, Denmark
First honourable mention

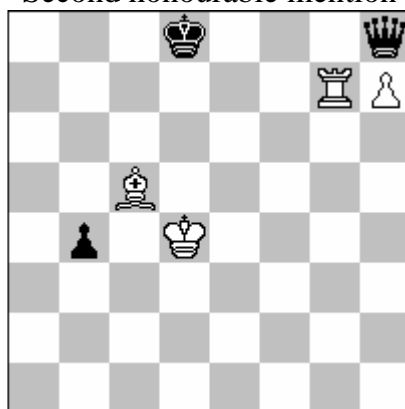


Win

All three white pieces are sacrificed in the course of a fierce struggle to keep the seventh rank closed in order to secure promotion.

1. Be8! [1.g7?? Rxa4#, 1.Bb3? Be4+ (1...Rxb5 transposes) 2.Ka7 Rxb5 3.Rc1+ Kxd8 4.g7 Rh7 5.Rc7 Rxb7 =; 1.Rc1+? 1...Kxd8 2.g7 Rxa4+ 3.Kb7 Rb4+ 4.Kc6 Be4+ 5.Kd6 Rb6+ 6.Ke5 Re6+ 7.Kd4 Re8! =] **1...Be4+** [1...Rh3 2.Rc1+ Kxd8 3.g7 Nd7 4.Rc8+ Kxc8 5.Bxd7+] **2.Ka7 Rxb5 3.Nb7!** [Try: 3.Rc1+? Kxd8 4.g7 Rh7 with no bishop on b7 this move secures Black a draw] **3...Bxb7 4.Rc1+ Bc6!** Clears the 7th rank **5.Rxc6+ Kd8 6.g7** [Try 6.Rc8+? Kxc8 7.g7 Nd7! 8.Bxd7+ (8.Bxb5 Nf6 =) 8...Kc7 =] **6...Rh7 7.Rc8+! Kxc8 8.Bd7+! Nxd7 9.g8Q+ Nf8+ 10.Ka8!** [10.Kb6? Rh6+ 11.Kc5 Rf6=] **1-0**

M. Miljanic, Serbia
Second honourable mention



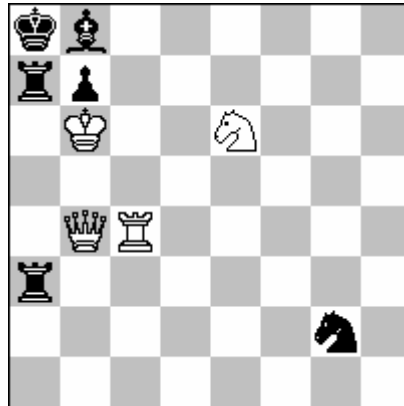
Win

: A very attractive logical miniature displaying an original reciprocal zugzwang.

1. Bf8 Ke8 2.Ke4! [2.Kd3? Kxf8 3.Rc7 b3! = zz] **2...Kxf8 3.Rc7!!** [3.Rb7? b3 4.Kd3 b2 5.Kc2

b1Q+ 6.Kxb1 Qe5! =; 3.Ra7? b3= EGTB(3...Qc3=)] 3...b3 4.Kd3! zz 4...b2 5.Kc2 b1Q+ 6.Kxb1 Qe5 7.Rc8+- 1-0

A. Ruzs, Hungary
Third honourable mention

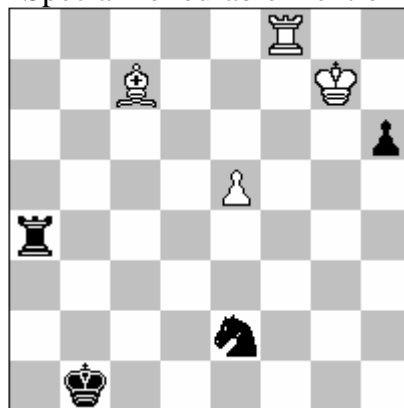


Win

The surprising capture refusal 6. Kb6!! allows the single tempo required for dominating the black knight. A pleasant discovery!

1. Nc7+ [1.Rc8? R3a6+! 2. Kb5 Rxe6 3.Qf8 Re5+ 4.Kb4 Re4+ 5.Kc3 Re3+ 6.Kc2! Re2+ (6...Ra2+? 7. Kb1+-) 7.Kd1 Re1+ 8.Kc2 Re2+ 9.Kd3 Re3+ 10.Kc2 Re2+=] 1...Bxc7+ 2.Kxc7 b5+ 3.Kc6! [3.Kc8? Rh3! 4.Qb2 Ne3! 5. Rc7 Nd5 6.Rxa7+ Kxa7 7.Qa2+ Kb6 8.Qxd5 Rh8+= TB] 3...R7a6+ [3...bxc4 4.Qf8#; 3...R3a6+ 4.Kxb5 Rb7+ 5.Kxa6 Rxb4 6.Rxb4+-] 4.Kxb5 R3a5+ 5.Qxa5 Rxa5+ 6.Kb6!! [6.Kxa5? Kb7 7.Kb5 (7.Re4 Kc6 8.Kb4 Kd5=) 7...Ne3 8.Rf4 (8.Rd4 Kc7 9.Kc5 Nf5=) 8...Nd5 9.Rf7+ Nc7+ 10.Kc5 Kc8 11.Kc6 Ne8 12.Ra7 Kd8 13.Rf7 Kc8=] 6...Kb8 7.Re4! Ra6+ 8.Kxa6 Kc7 9.Kb5 Kd6 10.Kc4 1-0

J. Polasek, Czech Republic
Special honourable mention



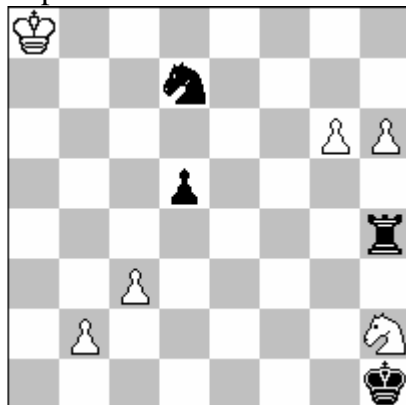
Win

A fine improvement on H. van der Heijden, 4th Prize Olympic tourney Dresden 2008 in which I acted as the judge. Here we witness two additional logical tries, upgrading the original version that should naturally still be regarded as a partial anticipation.

1. e6! [1.Rf1+? Kc2 2.e6 Nd4 3.e7 Ne6+ 4.Kg6 Nxc7=; 1.Bd6? Rg4+ 2.Kf6 (2.Kxh6= TB7) 2...Nd4 3.Bc5 Rf4+ 4.Kg6 Rg4+ 5.Kxh6 Ne6= TB7] 1...Ra7! [1...Nd4 2.e7 Ne6+ 3.Kh8 quickest 3...Nxc7 4.Rc8 Rc4 5.Rxc7 Rxc7 6.e8Q+-] 2. Rf1+!! Foresight. The black king must be moved to

the 'c' file. [Logical try: 2.Rf7? Nd4 3.e7 Ne6+ 4.Kxh6 Nxc7 5.e8Q Ra6+=; 2.Rc8? Nd4 3.e7 Rxc7 4.Rxc7 Ne6+] **2...Kc2 3.Rf7 Nd4 4.e7 Ne6+ 5.Kg6! Nxc7 6.Rf8 Ra6+ 7.Kf7 Ra7** [7...Nb5 8.Rc8+! (8.e8Q? Nd6+) 8...Kb3 (8...Kd3 9.Rd8+) 9.Rb8+-] **8.Rc8 Kd3** [main 8...Kb3 9.Kg6 Ra6+ 10.Kg7 Ra7 11.Kh8! (11.Kxh6? compare with the main line 8...Kd3 11...Ra6+ 12.Kg7 Rc6 13.Kh8 Rh6+ 14.Kg8 Nd5 15.e8Q Nf6+=) 11...h5 12.Rxc7 Rxc7 13.e8Q+-] **9.Kg6 Ra6+ 10.Kg7 Ra7** [10...Rc6 11.Kh8!+-] **11.Kxh6!** [Logical try: 11.Kh8? compare with the main line 8...Kb3. 11...Ne8= 12.Rxe8 Ke4 13.Kg7 h5] **11...Ra6+ 12.Kg7** [12.Kh7? Nd5 13.Rd8 Ra7 14.Rxd5+ Ke4=] **12...Ra7** [12...Rc6 13.Kg8 Nd5 (13...Rg6+ 14.Kf7 Rc6 15.e8Q Nxe8 16.Rxc6+-) 14.Rd8! +-] **13.Kh8! 1-0**

V. Tarasiuk, Ukraine
Special honourable mention

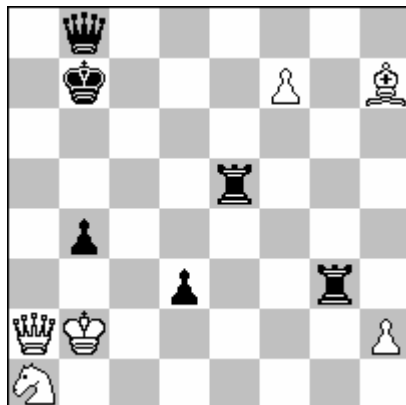


Win

Another significant improvement on an earlier study by L.Tarasiuk, 4th prize, FIDE Cup 2015, in which I acted as the judge.

1. Ng4! [Try 1.h7? Nf6 2.Nf3 Rh6! 3.Ng5 Nxh7! 4.gxh7 Kg2 5.b4 Kg3 6.b5 Kg4! 7.b6 Kxg5 8.b7 Ra6+ 9.Kb8 Rh6 10.Ka8 Ra6+=] **1...Rxc4 2.h7 Ra4+! 3. Kb7 Rh4 4.g7 Rxh7 5.g8Q Nf6+!**
6. Qxh7+ Nxh7 7.Kc7!! [Thematic try 7.Kc6? Nf6 ZZ 8.b4 Ne4 9.b5 Nxc3 10.b6 d4 11.b7 d3 12.b8Q d2 13.Qh8+ Kg2! =] **7...Nf6! 8.Kc6! ZZ 8...Kg2** [8...Kg1 9.b4 Ne4 10.b5 Nxc3 11.b6 d4 12.b7 d3 13.b8Q d2 14.Qg3+! +-] **9.b4 Ne4 10.b5 Nxc3 11.b6 d4 12.b7 d3 13.b8Q d2 14.Qb2! 1-0**

P. Arestov, Russia
First commendation



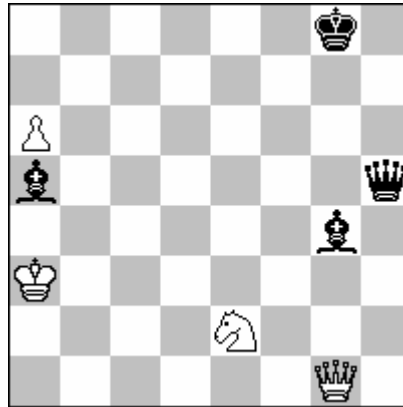
Draw

The final pin stalemate is not new (Kasparyan, 1st Pr. Revista Romana de Sah 1938); however the

tactical play leading to it is well constructed.

1. Be4+! Rxe4 [1...Kb6 2.Qc4! Rxe4 3.Qxe4 main line] **2.Qd5+ Kb6!** **3.Qxe4 Qh8+** **4.Ka2! Qxh2+** **5.Kb3 d2+** **6.Kxb4 Rb3+!!** [6...d1Q 7.Qe6+ Kc7 8.Qe5+=] **7. Nxb3 Qd6+** **8.Ka4! d1Q** [8...Qd7+ 9.Ka3=] **9.f8Q!** [9.Qe3+? Kb7 10.f8Q Qg4+!-+] **9...Qxf8 10.Qe3+! Kb7 11.Qb6+! Kc8 12.Qc5+! Qxc5** - stalemate! 1/2-1/2

S. Nielsen, Denmark
Second commendation

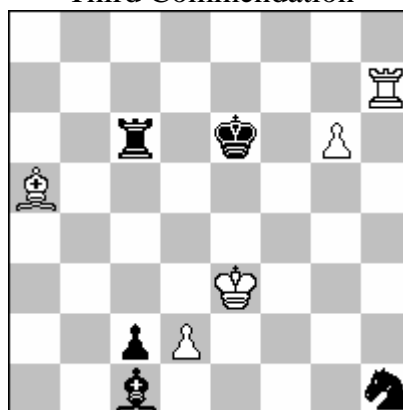


Win

Two Black Q+ B batteries, unleashed against the white monarch, are unable to tame the advanced pawn owing to white's accurate play.

1. a7 Qh3+ **2.Ng3 Bf3 3.Ne4+ Bg2+** [3...Bg4+ 4.Ka4+-] **4.Kb2 Bc3+** **5.Kc1!** [5.Kc2? Qc8 6.Qxg2+ Bg7+] **5...Qc8** [5...Qh6+ 6.Kb1+-] **6.Qxg2+ Bg7+** **7.Qc2 Bh6+** **8.Nd2!** [8.Kb2? Bg7+ 9.Nc3 (9.Kc1 loss of time) 9...Qc6 (9...Qa6) 10.Qb3+ Kh7 =] **8...Bxd2+** **9.Kb2! Qb7+** [9...Qa6 10.Qb3+ Kg7 11.Qg3+ White will check his way to the a8 square, for instance 11...Kh7 12.Qh4+ Bh6 13.Qe4+; 9...Qa8 10.Qb3+ Kg7 11.Qb8+-; 9...Bc3+ 10.Qxc3 Qb7+ 11.Qb3+] **10.Qb3+ 1-0**

M. Croitor, Moldova
Third Commendation



Win

A king chasing a bishop along a short diagonal has been demonstrated in various settings but here it is accompanied by a good logical try. Capturing the inactive black knight is perhaps necessary but still somewhat annoying.

1. Rh6! [Thematic try 1.g7? Kf7 2.Rh8 Kxg7 3.Rxh1 Ba3 4.Bc3+ Kf7 5.Kd3 c1Q 6.Rxc1 Bxc1

7.Kc2 Ba3 8.Kb3 Be7--+] **1...Rc5 2.g7+** [Thematic try 2.Rxh1? Bb2 3.Bc3 c1Q 4.Rxc1 Bxc1--+]
2...Kf7 3.Rh8! Kxg7 4.Rxh1 Ba3 5.Bc3+ Kf7 6.Kd3 c1Q 7.Rxc1 Bxc1 8.Kc2 Ba3 9.Kb3 Bc1
10.Kc2 Positional draw.

To conclude I would like to thank the Informant editorial for sponsoring this event and all participants for turning it to a successful one. The award remains open to appeals for the usual 3 months period.

Yochanan Afek, International Arbiter

Amsterdam, September 2016