

Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT – Endgame Study Tournament

Preliminary Award

First of all, we thank all the congratulators who have contributed to our jubilee tournament. In total, there were 46 studies from 36 authors from 20 countries:

Günter Amann (AUT), Pavel Arestov (RUS), Amatzia Avni (ISR), Yuri Bazlov (RUS), Richard Becker (USA), Marco Campioli (ITA), Gady Costeff (USA/ISR), Marcel Doré (FRA), Mario García (ARG), Alexey Gasparyan (ARM), Luis Miguel González (ESP), David Gurgendidze (GEO), Harold van der Heijden (NLD), Darko Hlebec (SRB), Michal Hlinka (SVK), Valery Kalashnikov (RUS), Ľuboš Kekely (SVK), Lubomír Koblížek (CZE), Vitaly Kovalenko (RUS), Peter Krug (AUT), Vasily Lebedev (RUS), János Mikitovics (HUN), Martin Minski (GER), Vladimir Neistadt (RUS), Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (DNK), Stanislav Nosek (CZE), Oleg Pervakov (RUS), Alexey Popov (RUS), Árpád Ruzs (ROU), Vladimir Samilo (UKR), Anatoly Skripnik (RUS), Alexey Sochnev (RUS), Karen Sumbatjan (RUS), Vladislav Tarasiuk (UKR), Jan Timman (NLD), Aleksandr Zhukov (RUS).

Another thanks to our sponsors: The Czech Chess Association and the Československý šach magazine.

The quality of most entries was very high. We have therefore increased the prize money and, in order to keep the judgment at an acceptable size, we have had to discard some rather interesting studies, which may still be successful in other future competitions. Preliminary award was first published in Československý šach magazine in two parts. Ukrainian composer Didukh criticized the first part on his blog in his typical brash manner. We would like to remind you that a study is also a work of art and judges have the right to sort them according to their tastes. This is especially true for jubilee birthday tournament.

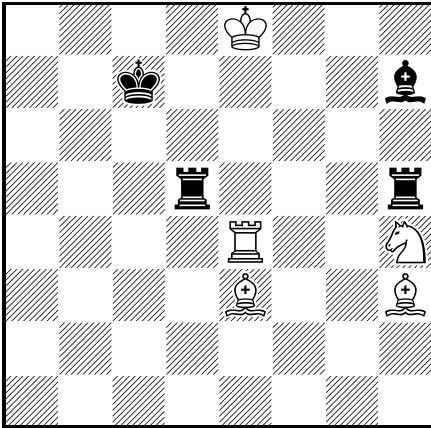
One of the judges devoted quite a bit of time attempting to solve studies on a magnetic chessboard without a computer. It has not always been possible to finish it, but we can confirm that such a process will contribute to a deeper understanding of the compositions and their atmosphere.

The originality of entries was tested in Harold van der Heijden's database HHdbV using the brand new CQL5 searching engine. For more details about CQL5 see e.g. www.vlasak.biz/vcql5.htm.

The judgment in standard formats PGN+PDF can be found in www.vlasak.biz/pv60.htm. You can here also directly replay all studies without need any special software.

Protests till 30th September 2017 to emil@vlasak.biz with CC to jaroslav.polasek@brouzdej.net.

Jaroslav Polášek a Emil Vlasák (both international judges FIDE), 18th June 2017



Yuri Bazlov, RUS

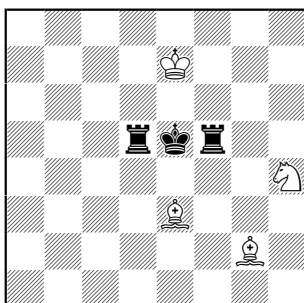
1st Prize

Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

White wins

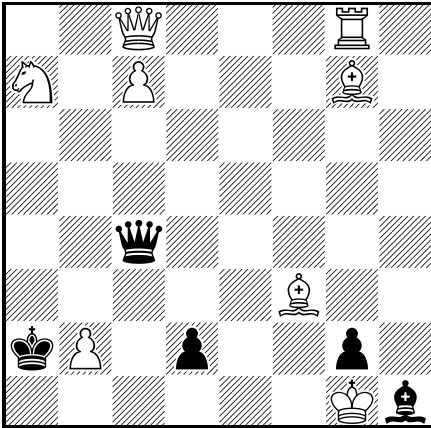
Typical Bazlov – a technically perfect construction leads to original mate final. After 6.Ke7! Black to move, with a small material advance, and with centralized pieces, is unable to defend. The composition is based on the computer knowledge of winning two minor pieces against one in the presence of rooks. But with this information, the study is soluble and understandable without a computer.

1.Re7+ Kc6! After 1...Kd6 2.Re6+ Kc7 3.Bf4+ Kb7 4.Bg2 Bg8 5.Bxd5+ the matter finishes immediately. **2.Bg2 Bf5!** A key defence based on pieces exchange. After 2...Rxf4 or 2...Bb1 White would win easily by 3.Re6+ followed by 4.Bxd5. **3.Rf7!** After 3.Bxd5+? Kxd5 Black trades rooks, for example 4.Bf2 Rh8+ 5.Kf7 Rh7+. **3...Kd6 4.Rf6+** But not 4.Bxd5? Rh8+ or 4.Bf4+? Re5+! 5.Bxe5+ Kxe5 6.Nf3+ Kd6 7.Rf6+ Be6 and Black trades pieces again. **4...Ke5 5.Rxf5+! Rxf5 6.Ke7!** Bad is 6.Bxd5? Kxd5 7.Nxf5 Ke4 or 6.Nxf5? Rd3 7.Bh3 Ke4. **6...Rd6** The only defense against Ng6 mate; after 6...Rh5 7.Ng6+ Kf5 8.Bxd5 Kxg6 9.Bf7+ Black loses his rook. **7.Bd4+! Rxd4 8.Ng6 mate.**



After **6.Ke7!**

Black is unable to defend.



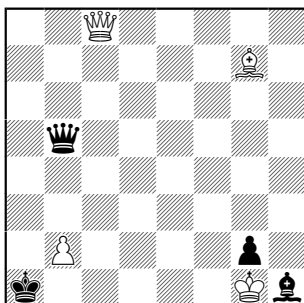
David Gurgенidze, GEO
Martin Minski, GER

2nd Prize
 Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

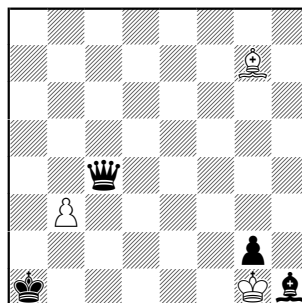
White wins

Modern, excellently done synthesis of several interesting and spectacular motives. Almost every move will surprise and delight a solver.

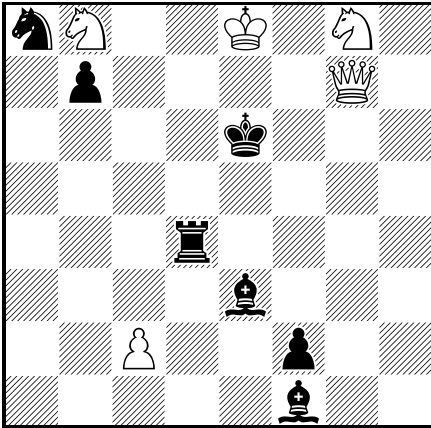
1.Qa6+!! Normal ways are insufficient to win: 1...Qg4? Qc1+ 2.Kh2 Qxc7+ 3.Kg1 Qc1+ 4.Bd1 Qxd1+! 5.Qxd1 stalemate or 1...Bc3? Qc5+ 2.Kh2 Qd6+ 3.Be5! Qxe5+ 4.Kh3 Qf6! 5.Qg4 g1N+! 6.Qxg1 Qxf3+ with perpetual. **1...Qxa6** **2.Nb5!** **d1Q+!** Distracting the bishop from the square e4, where it would triumph after 2...Qxb5? 3.Ra8+ Kb1 4.Be4+ or 2...Qb6+ 3.Bd4 Qxb5 4.Ra8+ Kb1 5.Be4+. **3.Bxd1 Qxb5** **4.Ra8+ Kb1** **5.Bc2+!** **Kxc2** **6.c8Q+** The first Phoenix theme. **6...Kb1** **7.Ra1+!** **Kxa1** **8.Qc4!!** The kernel of study. Premature would be 8.b3+? Kb1! 9.Qc4 because of 9...Qf5! **8...Qxc4** 8...Qf5 sticks on 9.b4+ Kb1 10.Qb3+ with mate. **9.b3+** The white-pawn-excelsior begins here. **9...Qc3!** Preparing stalemate defence **10.Bxc3+ Ka2** **11.b4 Kb3** **12.b5 Kc4** **13.b6 Kb5** **14.b7 Ka6**, which would work after 15.b8Q? stalemate, but an another Phoenix follows: **15.b8R!** wins.



8.Qc4!!



9...Qc3!



Juri Bazlov, RUS
Vitaly Kovalenko, RUS

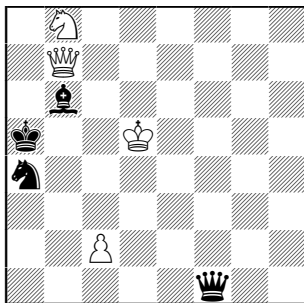
3rd Prize
 Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

White wins

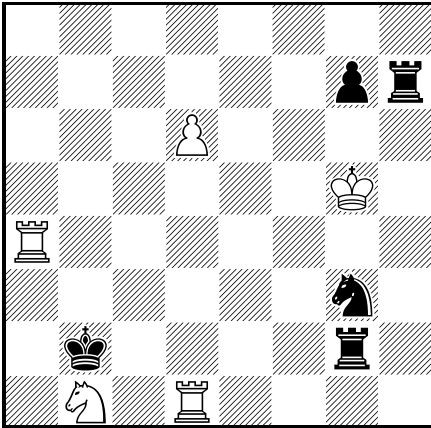
The final mating picture with three active blockings is entirely built in the process of game.

1.Qf6+ Kd5 2.Ne7+ Kc4 3.Qe6+ Kb5/b4 4.Qb3+ Ka5 5.Qxb7 A little difficult introduction is gone and from this moment the study presents a solving delicacy. **5...Rd8+! 6.Kxd8 Bb6+ 7.Kd7 Bh3+ 8.Kd6!** The immediate **8.Kc6?** Bg2+ 9.Nd5 Bxd5+ 10.Kxd5 f1Q is draw. Therefore, White first distracts Black bishop from the column b, which is released for a future queen mission. In the next play Black cannot promote several times because of a quick mate. **8...Bc7+ 8...f1Q?** 9.Qxa8+ Kb4 10.Nd5+ Kb5 11.Qa6 mate. **9.Kc6 9.Kc5?** Bb6+ 10.Kd6 loses time only. **9...Bg2+ 9...f1Q** 10.Qxa8+ Kb4 11.Nd5+ Kc4 12.Qa4 mate. **10.Nd5 Bxd5+ 11.Kxd5 Nb6+!** Again, **11...f1Q** 12.Nc6+ Ka4 13.Qb3 mate. **12.Kc5 Na4+ 13.Kd4 13.Kd5?** Nb6+ 14.Kd6 loses time. **13...Bb6+ 14.Kd5 f1Q** Finally Black can promote. He is OK or isn't he? **15.Qa6+!! Qxa6 16.Nc6+ Kb5 17.c4 mate.**

Perhaps it was worthwhile to start the study with the move three avoiding lines like **2...Kc5 3.Qe5+ Kb4 4.Nbc6+ bxc6 5.Nxc6+ Kc4 6.Qxe3 Nc7+ 7.Kf8 Rd6 8.Ne5+ Kd5 9.Nf7.** The authors apparently preferred the King's travelling over half of the board.



15. Qa6+!!



Árpád Rusz, ROU

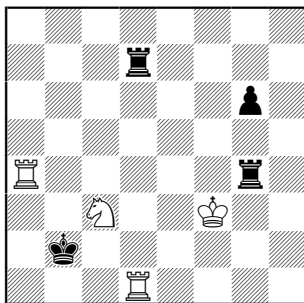
4th Prize

Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

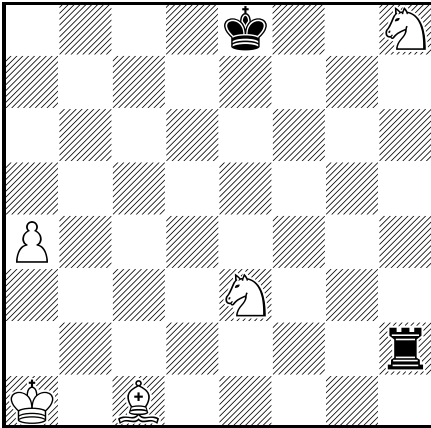
White wins

1.d7 Ne4+! Sophisticated counter-play. **2.Kf5! 2...Kf4?** Rh4+ 3.Ke5 Rg5+. **2...g6+!** **3.Kxe4** 3.Ke5? Re7+=. **3...Rg4+!** **4.Kf3 Rxd7!** It seems that Black rescues – after taking one of the Black rooks, the White one is lost. **5.Nc3!!** An unexpected point! Black must not take any White rook and therefore he faces a fatal double attack. **5...Kxc3 6.Ra3+ Kb2 7.Rxd7 wins.**

One of the jubilants is author of the so-called grip theme, so we were pleased with its innovative work-out. The final position is not only original enough but the same time the reaching of position with mutual attacked rooks is designed very naturally. The seemingly simple move **3...Rxd7?** is namely bad because of 4.Rxd4 Rg4+ 5.Kd3 Rxa4 6.Rb7+ Kc1 7.Nc3! and White wins.



5.Nc3!!



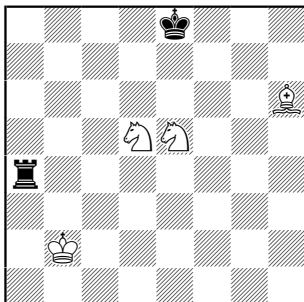
Michal Hlinka, SVK
Ľuboš Kekely, SVK

5th Prize
 Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

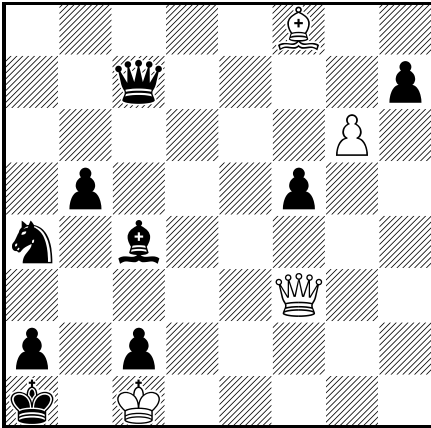
White wins

Positions found in EGTB are usually rather tedious, but this study has been exceptionally successful. White pawn is lost and hard to believe that the free Black rook cannot find some secure defence.

1.Ng6 The pawn is lost even after 1..Bb2? Rh4. **1...Rh6 2.Ne5 Ra6 3.Nd5!** Transposition is not possible: 3..Kb1? Ra5! **3...Rxa4+ 3...Ra5** here is bad: 4.Nf6+ Kf8 5.Bh6+ Ke7 6.Nc6+. **4.Kb1!!** White sacrifices still a tempo; after 4..Kb2? Kf8! 5.Bh6+ Ke8 he has not a suitable waiting move. **4...Kf8 4...Kd8** 5.Nf7+ shortens solution and other moves lose the rook quickly: 4...Ra5/a7 5.Nf6+ Kf8 6.Bh6+ Ke7 7.Nc6+, 4...Rh4 5.Nc7+ Kd8 6.Bg5+ or 4...Rd4 5.Nc7+ Ke7/d8 6.Nc6+. **5.Bh6+ Ke8** After 5...Kg8 6.Nf6+ Kh8 the model mate 7.Ng6 follows. **6.Kb2!** Mutual zugzwang. 6.Bc1 Kf8 7.Bh6+ loses time only. **6...Kd8 7.Nf7+** 7.Nc6+ a 7.Bg5+ are harmless wastes of time. **7...Ke8 8.Nd6+ Kd8 9.Bg5+** 9.Nb7+ or 9.Nf7+ lose time again. **9...Kd7 10.Nb6+** wins.



Mutual zugzwang,
 Black to move loses



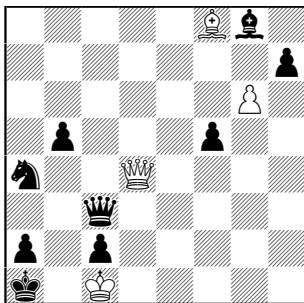
Gady Costeff, USA/ISR

Special Prize for spectacular idea
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

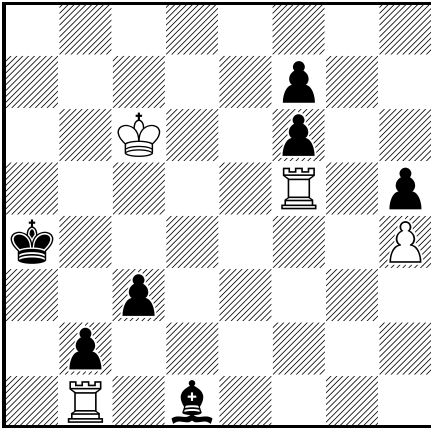
White wins

If you solve this short study yourself without a computer, there is nothing to explain.

1.Qe3 Bg8! Guarding the pawn, after **1...Bd5** **2.gxh7** White wins easily. **2.Qd4+** The judge spent a lot of time to search a win after **2...Qg1?!** Yes it would be nice **2...Qc3** **3.Bg7!** **Qxg7** **4.Kxc2** mate but after **2...Nc3!** **3.Kxc2+ Nb1+** **4.Bc5 b4!** **5.Qd4+ Nc3** **6.Qxb4 Qh2+** Black holds. **2...Qc3** **3.Qh8!!** A bolt from the blue! Officially it is the Loyd-Turton theme but the main feature of the song is undoubtedly the line **3...Qxh8** **4.g7**. **3...b4** **4.Bg7** Doubling “weaker first” has brought the desired effect. **4...hxc6** **5.Bxc3+ Nxc3** **6.Kxc2 wins**, although the technical problems are still considerable. For example **6...Bd5** **7.Qd4 Be4+** **8.Kb3 Bd5+** **9.Kxb4 Kb1** **10.Qd3+ Kb2** **11.Qxc3+ Kb1** **12.Qd3+ Kb2** **13.Qxd5 a1Q** **14.Qd2+ Kb1** **15.Kb3**.



3.Qh8!! wins



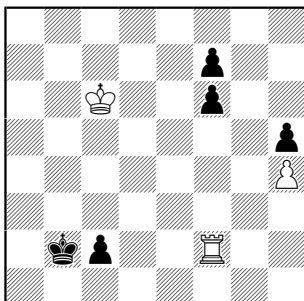
Jan Timman, NLD

Special Prize for study from a game
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

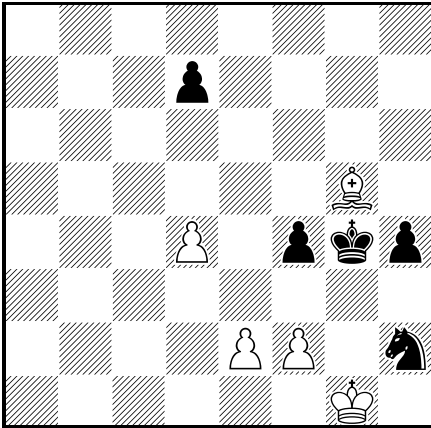
draw

It seems White is facing a lost pawn ending, for example 1.Rc5 Bc2 2.Re1 Kb4 3.Kb6 b1Q 4.Rxb1+Bxb1 5.Rb5+ Ka3 6.Rxb1 c2 or 1.Rxd1 c2 2.Rff1 cxd1Q 3.Rxd1 Kb3 4.Kd5 Kc2 5.Rf1 b1Q 6.Rxb1 Kxb1 7.Ke4 Kc2 8.Kf5 Kd3 9.Kxf6 Ke4 10.Kxf7 (10.Kg5 f5) 10...Kf5!. And **1.Rf2** does not change something, or does it? **1...Bc2!** 1...Kb3 2.Rxd1 c2 3.Rd3+. **2.Rxc2 Kb3 3.Rf2!** Formally it is the switchback theme, but it's hard to make any other move. **3...c2 4.Rxb2+ Kxb2 5.Kb7!!** A bomb! After 5.Kd5 Kb1 6.Rf1+ c1Q 7.Rxc1+ Kxc1 8.Ke4 Kd2 9.Kf5 Ke3 10.Kxf6 Kf4 11.Kxf7 Kg4 White is lacking one tempo. **5...f5** After 5...Kb1 White draws using a well-known perpetual 6.Rxf6 c1Q 7.Rb6+ Ka2 8.Ra6+. It is not all, the game continues in this spirit. **6.Kb6! f4 6...Kb1** 7.Rxf5! **7.Kb5! f3 7...Kb1** 8.Rxf4! **8.Kc4!** Here an analogous move 8.Kb4? does not come out because of 8...Kb1 9.Rxf3 c1Q 10.Rb3+ Ka2 and the queen guards a3. But White has gained one tempo because he will take the pawn on f3 or f1. **8...Kb1 9.Rf1+ c1Q+ 10.Rxc1+ Kxc1 11.Kd3 f2** Or 11...Kd1 12.Ke3 Ke1 13.Kxf3 f6 14.Ke3 Kf1 15.Kf3 Kg1 16.Kg3 Kh1 17.Kh3. **12.Ke2 f1Q+ 13.Kxf1 Kd2 14.Kf2 Kd3 15.Kf3 Kd4 16.Kf4 f6 17.Kf5 Ke3 18.Kxf6 Kf4 19.Ke6! Kg4 20.Ke5 Kxh4 21.Kf4 draw.**

Paradoxical move 5.Kb7!!, in a position heading for a pawn ending, is such a wonderful finding that perhaps the study should begin directly here. Yes, it is customary to mask idea with an introduction. But in exceptional cases – as the classical study of the Sarychev brothers of 1928 – textbooks have just taken a simple version.



5.Kb7!!



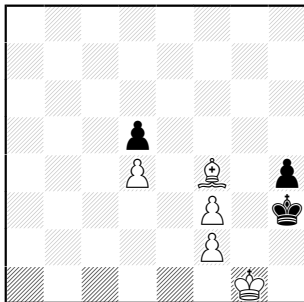
Oleg Pervakov, RUS

1st honourable mention
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

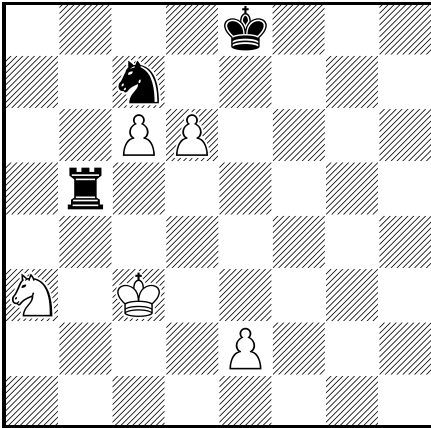
White wins

A masterful development of classic pawn study.

1.Bh6! Keeping the f4 pawn under control, but the matter will not be so easy. **1...Kh3!**
1...Kh5 2.Bxf4. **2.Bxf4** The judge has long been analyzing 2...d5?, but after 2...Ng4! 3.Bxf4
 Nf6! 4.d6 Ne4 White cannot win - 5.f3 Nxd6 6.Bxd6 stalemate. **2...Nf3+!** The Black
 defence is based on this motive. **3.exf3 d5!** With a stalemate? But not! **4.Bg3!! hxg3**
5.Kf1!! Thematic try 5...f4? gxf2+ 6.Kxf2 Kg4 7.Ke3 Kh5! 8.Kf3 Kh4! 9.Kf2 Kg4 10.Ke3 Kh5
 11.Kf3 Kh4 leads only to a positional draw. **5...Kh2** **6.fxg3 Kxg3** **7.Ke2 Kh4!** Easier for
 White is 7...Kf4 8.Kf2 or 7...Kh3 8.Kf2 Kh4 9.Kg2 Kg5 10.Kg3. **8.Kd3/d2 Kh3** **9.Kd2/d3 Kh4**
9...Kq3 10.Ke3. **10.Ke2! Kg5** We are facing the Klinga and Horwitz study from the year
 1855. **11.Kf1! Kf5** **12.Kg2 Kf4** **13.Kf2 Kg5** **14.Kg3 Kf5** **15.f4 Ke4** **16.Kg4 Kxd4** **17.f5 Ke5**
18.Kg5 d4 **19.f6 Ke6** **20.Kg6 d3** **21.f7 d2** **22.f8Q d1Q** **23.Qe8+ Kd6** **24.Qd8+** wins.



4.Bg3!! hxg3 **5.Kf1!!**



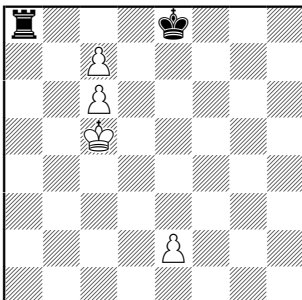
Vladislav Tarasyuk, UKR

2nd honourable mention
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

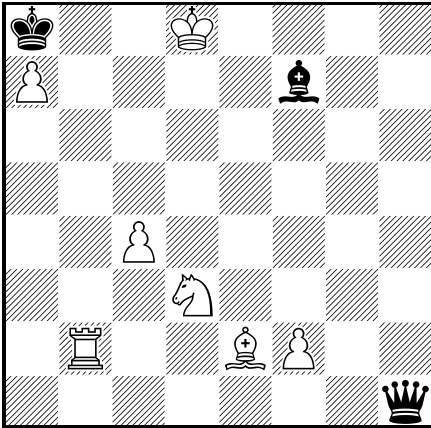
White wins

An interesting logical motive in the endgame pawns against rook.

1.Kc4! Rb6! 1...Rb8 2.dxc7 Rc8 3.Nb5. 2.Kc5 Na8 3.Nb5 Ra6! After 3...Rb8 besides 4.Nc7+ also 4.c7 wins. **4.Nc7+ Nxc7 5.dxc7 Ra8** The key position. Thematic try 6.Kb6 Ke7 7.e4 (7.Kb7 Kd6!) 7...Kd6! 8.Kb7 Ra7+! 9.Kb6 Ra8! finishes with a positional draw. It leads to the idea of moving e-pawn first. **6.Kd6! Rc8 7.e3! Less is more! 7.e4?** Ra8 8.e5 Rc8 9.e6 Ra8 would lead to improper synchronization. **7...Ra8 8.e4 Rc8 9.e5 Ra8 10.Kc5!** In this position Pc7 is not under fire and White can implement his original plan of the king's moving to b7. **10 Ke7 11.Kb6 Ke6 12.Kb7 wins.**



6.Kd6! Rc8 7.e3!



David Gurgенidze, GEO
Martin Minski, GER

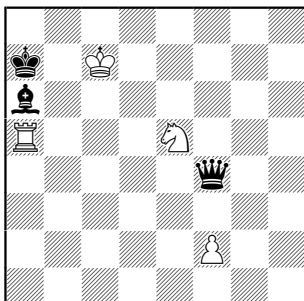
3rd honourable mention
 Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

draw

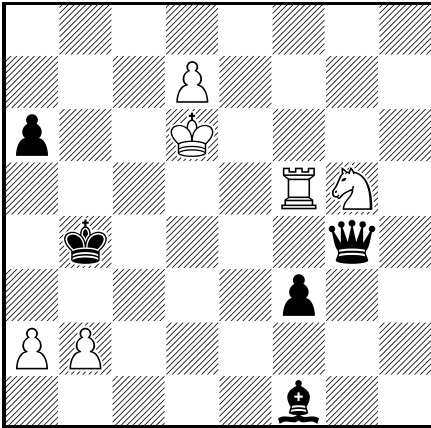
Interesting positional draw with unexpected tempo lost 4.Rb1!!

1.Kc7! Qe4! Or 1...Bxc4 2.Ne5! **2.Bf3! Qxf3** **3.Rb8+ Kxa7** **4.Rb1!!** Thematic try 4...Rb5?
 Bxc4 5.Ne5 Qf4 6.Ra5+ Ba6 leads after 7.Rd5 (7.Rc5 Qxf2) 7...Qh2! to White's zugzwang:
 8.Ra5 Qh7+! **4...Bxc4** 4...Qf6 5.Rb7+ Ka6?? 8.Nc5+ Ka5 9.Rb5 mate. **5.Ne5 Qf4** Or
5...Qxf2 6.Nc6+ Ka6 7.Ra1+ Ba2 8.Rxa2+! Qxa2 9.Nb4+. **6.Ra1+ Ba6** **7.Ra5! Qh2** **8.Rd5!**
 Now Black is to move and 8...Qh7+ is refuted by 9.Rd7. **8...Ka8** **9.Rd8+ Ka7** **10.Rd5 Bf1**
11.Ra5+ Ba6 **12.Rd5 Qf4** **13.Ra5 positional draw.**

The study is a little spoiled by complex analysis of the move 2...Kb6?!! not given by authors: 2...Qe6+! (2...Bxc4? 3.Nc5 Qg6+ 4.Ka5 Qc6 5.Kb4 Qb6+ 6.Kxc4 Qxb2 7.Bf3+ Kxa7 8.Nd3 =) 3.Ka5 Qxc4 4.Nb4 Qc5+! 5.Ka4 Qc3! 6.Rb1 Bg6! 7.Rg1 Bc2+ 8.Kb5 Bb3! And White loses material, for example 9.Nc6 Bd5 10.Na5 Qb2+ 11.Kc5 Qa2 with Black's win.



Mutual zugzwang,
 Black to move cannot win

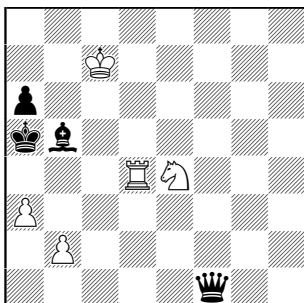


Günter Amann, AUT

4th honourable mention
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

draw

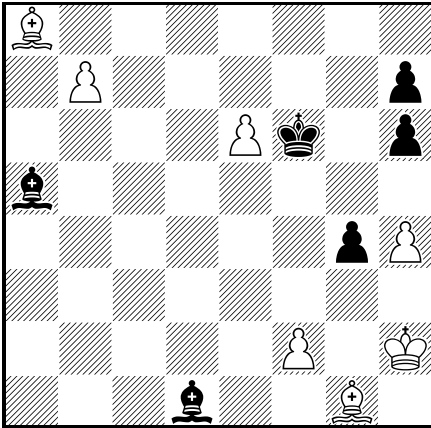
1.Rd5! Bad is surprisingly 1...a3+? Ka4! 2.b3+ Kxa3 3.Ra5+ Kxb3 4.d8Q Bb5! **1...Qxd7+!** For a human solver, it is difficult to see this move as the best defense. He analyzes rather difficult non-thematic variants of the type 1...Qf4+ 2.Ke7 Qe3+ 3.Ne6 Bh3 4.Rd4+ Kb5 5.a4+ Kc6 6.d8N+! (author's mark, but 6.Rd6+ is good enough) 6...Kb6 7.Rb4+ Ka7 8.Nc6+ Ka8 9.Rb8 mate or 1...Qg3+ 2.Re5! f2 3.d8Q Qd3+ 4.Rd5 Qxd5+ 5.Kxd5 Bg2+ 6.Kd4 f1Q 7.Qd6+ Ka5 8.Qc5+ Qb5 9.b3! wins. **2.Kxd7 f2 3.a3+** Not 3...Nf3? Bh3+ 4.Kc6 f1Q 5.Kb6 Qb5+! **3...Ka4!** Other retreats are weaker: 3...Kc4 4.Rf5 or 3...Kb3 4.Ne4! Bh3+ 5.Kc7 f1Q 6.Nd2+. **4.Rd4+!** 4.Ne4? Bc4! **4...Ka5 5.Ne4! Bb5+** After 5...Bh3+ the simplest way is 6.Kc7 f1Q 7.Rd5+ Ka4 8.Kb6 Kb3 9.Nd2+. **6.Kc7 f1Q** Everything grew – a bit complicated way – to the final finery. **7.Ra4+!! Bxa4** 7...Kxa4 8.Nc5+ Ka5 9.b4 mate. **8.b4+ Kb5 9.Nd6 mate.** According to our opinion the study is a bit spoiled by the heavy introduction.



7.Ra4+!!

7...Bxa4 7.Ra4+!! Bxa4 8.b4+ Kb5 9.Nd6 mate

7...Kxa4 8.Nc5+ Ka5 9.b4 mate



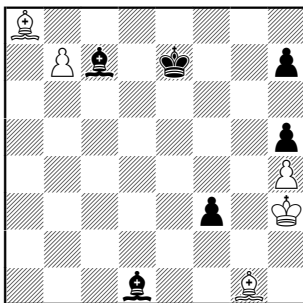
Oleg Pervakov, RUS
Karen Sumbatyan, RUS

5th honourable mention
 Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

draw

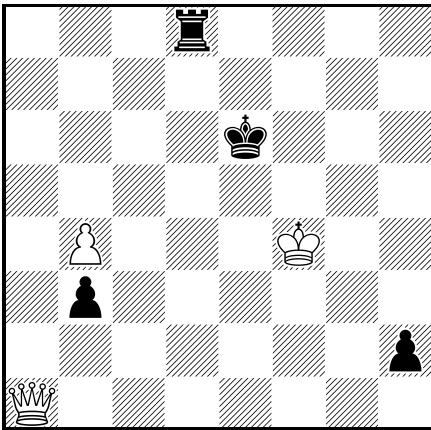
A difficult theme of repeated systematic movement of two bishop pairs, acts unfortunately somewhat schematically.

1...Bc7+ 2.f4! After 2...Kg2? Bf3+! 3.Kf1 Kxe6 4.Ke1 Bf4! White is completely paralyzed. 5.b8Q does not help because of 5...Bxb8 6.Bxf3 gxf3 7.Kd2 Kf5 8.Ke3 Kg4. **2...gxf3+** White has no problem after 2...Bxf4+ 3.Kg2 Bf3+ 4.Kf2 Bb8 5.Bh2! Bxh2 6.b8Q Bxb8 7.Bxf3 gxf3 8.Kxf3=. **3.Kh3!** A tragic position would have arisen after 3...Kh1? Bb8! 4.Be3 h5 5.Kg1 Kxe6 6.Kf2 Kf5 7.Ke1 Be2 8.Bf2 Kg4 9.Kd2 Kh3 10.Ke1 h6 11.Kd2 Kg2 12.Ke1 Be5! **3...h5! 4.e7!** Preparing stalemate defense. Bad is 4...Bh2? f2 5.Kg2 f1Q+ 6.Kxf1 Bxh2 or 4...Bd4+? Kxe6 5.Bb6 Bb8 6.Ba7 Be2! 7.Bxb8 f2. Insufficient is also 4...Bb6? Bb8 5.e7 Ba4! **4...Kxe7** After 4...Ba4 White has 5.b8N! or the similar motive 5.Bd4+ Kxe7 6.Bc5+ Kf7 7.b8N! **5.Bb6!** The first systematic movement starts here. **5...Be5 6.Bd4 Bb8!** Black helps a little, after 6...Bf4 7.Be3 Bb8 White has both 8.Ba7 and 8.Bf4 Bxf4 (8...f2 9.Bg5+!) 9.b8Q as in the main line. **7.Ba7!** 7.Be5? f2 8.Kg2 Bxe5 9.b8Q Bxb8 10.Kxf2 Bg4 11.Kg2 Kf6 and Black wins: captures Ph4, drives K to h1, advances P to h3, moves King to f2 and finally plays Bg2+. **7...Bxa7 8.b8Q Bxb8 9.Bxf3!** The second pursuit, this time with a stalemate motive. **9 Bc2 10.Be4 Bb3 11.Bd5 Ba4 12.Bc6! Bxc6 stalemate.**



5.Bb6! Be5 6.Bd4! Bb8! 7.Ba7!
Bxa7 8.b8Q Bxb8 9.Bxf3!

We have granted two special honourable mentions for comprehensive studies that are practically insoluble without the first aid of EGTB, but then with commentary they are already understandable and beautiful in its own way.



Pavel Arestov, RUS

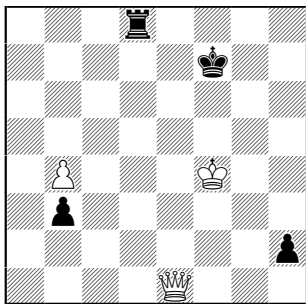
Special honourable mention
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

White wins

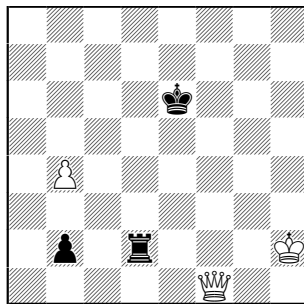
A study with many interesting moments: unexpected plan of capturing Ph2, surprising triangulating and quiet move 11.Qf8!! . It aspired to a Prize, but it is hard to digest for solvers without a computer.

White can win the Ph2 after a serial of checks, but it leads to nothing. For example 1.Qa6+? Kd7! 2.Qd3+ Kc8 3.Qh3+ Rd7 4.Qxh2 Rd4+ 5.Ke5 Rxb4. White has to prepare the pawn capture by the King. **1.Qe1+! Kf7!** Bad is 1...Kd5 2.Qe4+! Kd6 3.Kg3! b2 4.Kxh2. The following interesting staircase variation is not given by the author: 1...Kd7 2.Kg3! Rh8 3.Qd2+ Ke6 4.Qe3+ Kf5 5.Qf4+ Kg6 6.Qe4+ Kf7 7.Qf5+ Kg7 8.Qe5+ Kg8 9.Qd5+ Kf8 10.Qd8+ Kg7 11.Qd4+ Kg8 12.Qc4+ Kf8 13.Qc8+ Kg7 14.Qc3+ and after 14...Kg8 White wins first the Pb3 with a check and then the pawn endgame after QxR. **2.Qf1!** A nice unexpected move! Bad is 2.Kg3? Rd2! 3.b5 b2 4.b6 Rd3+ 5.Kxh2 Rb3. **2...b2 3.Kg3+ Ke6 4.Kxh2 Rd2+ 5.Kh3!!** After 5.Kg3 Kd5 6.b5 Kc5 White is in mutual zugzwang: The f-file has to stay free for the queen. White also has no time to play with his King to the right. And finally 7.Qf5+ Kc4 8.Qb1 Rd3+ is only draw. **5...Kd5 6.b5 Kc5 7.Kg3** Now Black is to move! **7...Kb6 8.Qf5 Ka5 9.b6+ Kxb6 10.Kf3** 10.Qe5 loses time only. **10...Rd4 11.Qf8!!** The final icing on the cake. White prevents Rb4, Black has no defense. **11...Kb7** Or 11...Rd3+ 12.Ke4 Rb3 13.Qb8+. **12.Qf7+! Kc6 13.Qb3! wins.**

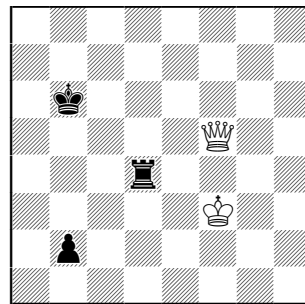
The author does not give a strong Black defense **6...Kd4!?** with a tempo-lost-battle point 7.Kg3? Kc5! White has to play **7.Kg4/h4! Kc5 8.Kg3!** When solving the study without EGTB you surely try **7.Kg4 Kc3!?** with the idea **8.b6 Rd4+ 9.Kf3 Rb4**. And what now? White has a nice way **10.Qe1+! Kc4 11.Qxb4+! Kxb4 12.b7 b1Q 13.b8Q+** winning the newborn queen. It enriches the study, but the author using EGTB apparently did not noticed it. EGTB namely gives three winning moves 7.Kg4, 7.Kh4 and 7.Qg1+. But 7.Kh4/g4 is only small organic dual (the same solution continues) and 7.Qg1+? loses time after 7...Kc4 8.Qf1+ Kd4.



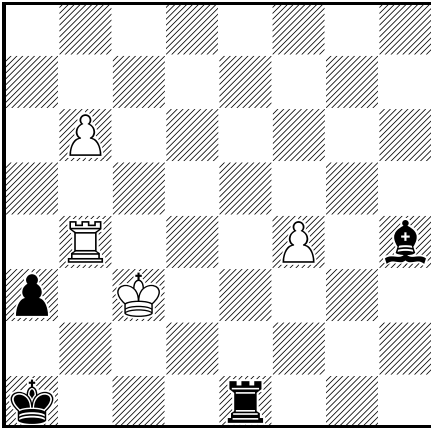
2.Qf1!



5.Kh3!!



11.Qf8!!



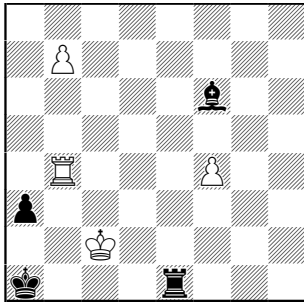
Luis Miguel González, ESP

Special honourable mention
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

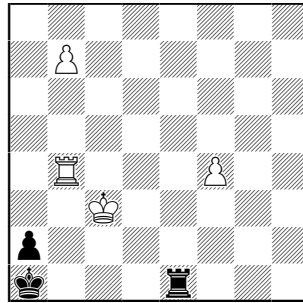
White wins

A remarkable study – White tames the desperado rook only after a hard long battle using a underpromotion and two carousel manoeuvres.

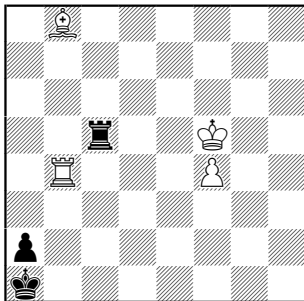
1.b7 Bf6+ Preparing stalemate defense. After 1...Re8 2.b8Q Rxb8 3.Rxb8 Bg3 4.Kb3! Bxf4 5.Rc8! Kb1 6.Kxa3 White wins easily. **2.Kd2!** The natural move 2...Kc2? is refuted by the evil move 2...Be5!!, which blocks the important square e5. White is unable then to avoid perpetual check: 3.fxe5 a2! 4.b8Q Rc1+ 5.Kb3 (5.Kd3 Rc3+ 6.Ke4 Re3+ 7.Kf5 Rf3+ 8.Rf4 Rxf4+) 5...Rc3+ 6.Ka4 Ra3+ 7.Kb5 Ra5+ with perpetual carousel around the rook 8.Kc4 Rc5+ 9.Kb3 Rc3+ 10.Ka4 Ra3+ or around the pawn 8.Kc6 Rc5+ 9.Kd6 Rd5+ 10.Ke6 Rd6+ 11.Kf5 Rf6+ 12.Ke4 Rf4+ 13.Kd5 Rd4+. **2...Bc3+** A necessary sac. **3.Kxc3 a2! 4.b8B!** The Black strategy would triumph after 4.b8Q? Re3+ 5.Kc4 Rc3+! 6.Kd4 Rd3+ 7.Ke4 Rd4+! 8.Kf5/f3 Rxf4+! **4...Re8!** With stalemate threat Rxb8. 4...Re3+ shortens the solution. **5.Kb3!** The bishop has to stay on b8. After 5.Bd6/c7? it will be taken by Black rook after several checks. **5...Re3+ 6.Kc4!** 6.Ka4? Ra3+! 7.Kb5 Ra5+ 8.Kc4 Rc5+ 9.Kd4 Rb5!=. **6...Rc3+ 7.Kd5!** 7.Kd4 Rb3! loses time. **7...Rc5+!** 7...Rd3+ 8.Ke4 Re3+ 9.Kf5 shortens solution. **8.Ke6!** After 8.Ke4? Rb5! 9.Bd6 Rd5! the bishop is not guarded and Black wins by perpetual threats: 10.Bc7 Rc5 11.Bb8 Rb5! or 11.Bb6 Re5+! with perpetual check: 12.Kd3 Re3+ 13.Kc4 Rc3+ 14.Kb5 Rc5+. **8...Rc6+!** After 8...Rb5 White has to demonstrate several precise moves: 9.Bd6! Ra5 10.Rb6! (10.Rb8? Ra6!) 10...Rb5 11.Rb8! Rb6 12.Rg8/h8 Kb2 13.Ke7! Rxd6 14.Rg2+ Kb3 15.Rxa2 or 9...Rb6 10.Re4! Kb2 11.Ke7! Rxd6 (11...Rb5 12.Re2+ Kb3 13.Re1 with Be5) 12.Re2+ Kb3 13.Rxa2. **9.Kf5! Rc5/f6+ 10.Kg4! Rg5/g6+** After 10...Rb5 11.Bd6! Rd5 the quickest way is spectacular 12.Rd4 Rxd4 13.Be5. **11.Kf3 Rg3+ 12.Ke4 Re3+ 13.Kf5!** The first carousel ends, Black has no checks: 13...Re5+? 14.Bxe5 mate. **13...Re8 14.Bd6!** 14.Bc7? Re7 15.Bd6 Rf7+ loses time. **14...Rf8+ 15.Kg4! Rg8+ 16.Kf3 Rg3+ 17.Ke4 Re3+ 18.Kf5!** The second carousel and again Black has no check. **18...Re6 19.Rd4! Kb2 20.Rd2+ Kb3 21.Rxa2 wins.**



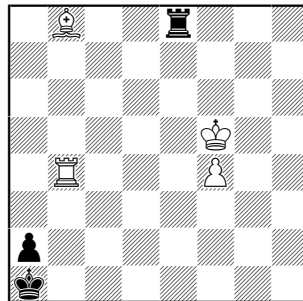
2... Be5!! draw



4. b8B!

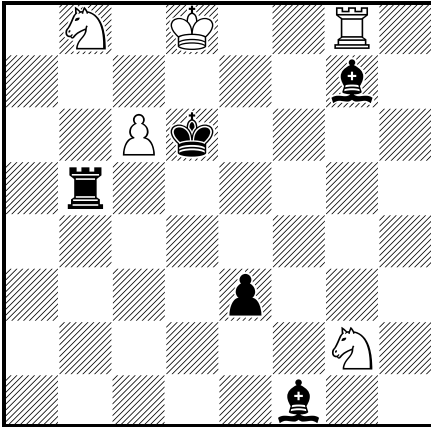


**10.Kg4! Rg5+ 11.Kf3
Rg3+ 12.Ke4 Re3+
13.Kf5!**



**14.Bd6! Rf8+ 15.Kg4!
Rg8+ 16.Kf3 Rg3+
17.Ke4 Re3+ 18.Kf5!
Re6 19.Rd4!**

Original purpose of a study was to please, entertain or teach the human solver. Today's purpose of a study is to take the highest placement in composer competitions. The gap between these purposes is getting wider as themes are getting exhausted. Tournament Prizes are often so complex and complicated that they are not suitable for a human solver anymore. Commendations are not so original and perfect, but right here man reaches for materials for training or solving competition. We believe that you will choose here...



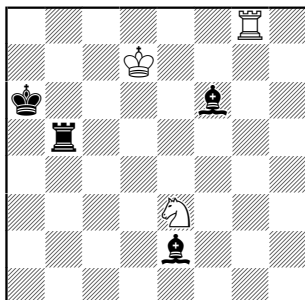
Yuri Bazlov, RUS

1st Commendation

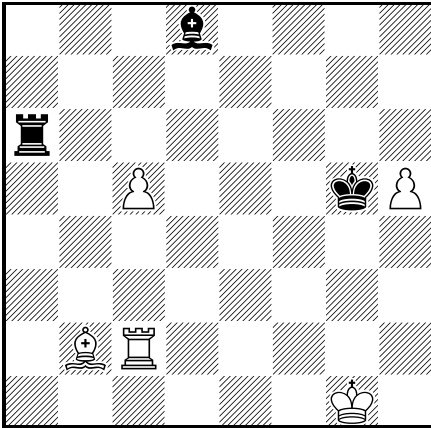
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

Draw

Do not be fooled by the material balance. White faces mate, bishop pair and even his pawn is lost after **1.c7 Bf6+**! due to variation **2.Kc8? Rc5!** Therefore, it is necessary **2.Ke8 Kxc7 3.Nxe3!** But not **3.Na6+?** Kb7 **4.Nxe3 Bd3 5.Kf7 Be5 6.Rd8 Be2. 3...Be2!** After **3...Bd3** White need not to go to the lost line of the previous note moving **4.Na6+?**, the saving move is called **4.Nd7!**. Bad is also **3...Re5+** **4.Kf7** or **3...Rxb8+** **4.Kf7 Rxc8 5.Kxc8** threatening **6.Nd5+**. **4.Na6+** **4.Nd7? Bh5+!** **4...Kb7** White has prepared a study rescue with sacrifices **5.Kd7! Kxa6 6.Nd5!!** Bad is now **6...Rb7+** **7.Kc6 Bf3 8.Ra8+ Ra7 9.Rf8!**, therefore, it is necessary to beat the insolent knight. **6...Rxd5+** **7.Ke6!** A point, Black cannot consolidate his forces. **7...Rd8 7...Rg5 8.Ra8+ Kb7 9.Kxf6 8.Rg6! Bh4 9.Rh6 Bg5 10.Rg6** Positional draw, the bishop has always to guard his rook.



6.Nd5!!



Árpád Rusz, ROU

2nd Commendation

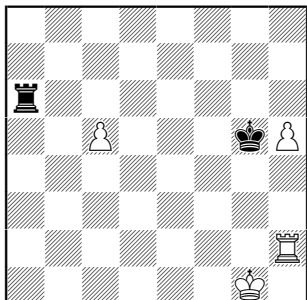
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

White wins

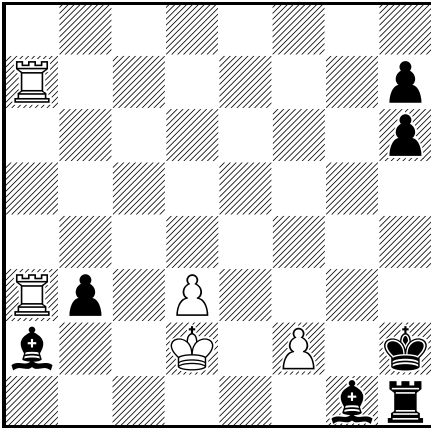
A tempting **1.Rd2?!?** would win after **1....Bc7?** **2.Rd5+ Kg4 3.Bg7 Bf4 4.Kf1! Kf3 5.Rd3+ Ke4 6.Rd4+ Kf3 7.Rxf4+!** (exchange sac) **7. . .Kxf4 8.h6 Ke4 9.h7 Ra8 10.h8Q Rxh8 11.Bxh8 Kd5 12.Bd4!** (bishop sac).

But Black improves by **1....Be7!** **2.Rd5+ Kg4!** (but not **2. . .Kh4? 3.Bg7 Bg5 4.h6 Bxh6 5.Bxh6 Rxh6 6.Kf2**) **3.Bg7 Bg5!** and the analogical sac **4.Rxg5+** does not help **4. . .Kxg5 5.h6 Kg6.**

Correct is **1.Rh2! Kh6!** The seemingly illogical move is hiding a strong defence idea. Your judge analysed **1....Bc7!?**, but after **2.Rh1! Ra2 3.Bd4 Kg4** White plays the cool **4.h6!** and there is no way for Black to use his activity. **2.Bc1+ Bg5 3.Bxg5+ Kxg5** And now after the automatic **4.h6?** **Ra1+!** **5.Kg2 Ra2+ 6.Kg3 Ra3+ 7.Kf2 Ra2+ 8.Kg3 Ra3+** Black has perpetual. **4.Rh1!!** Fantastic move! **4...Ra2 5.h6 5.c6? Kh6. 5...Kg4 6.c6! 6.h7?** is bad again: **6...Ra1+ 7.Kg2 Ra2+ 8.Kf1 Ra1+ 9.Kg2 Ra2+** - perpetual and chameleon echo to **4.h6? . 6...Kg3 7.Kf1 Ra1+ 8.Ke2 Rxh1 9.c7 Rc1 10.h7.**



4.Rh1!!

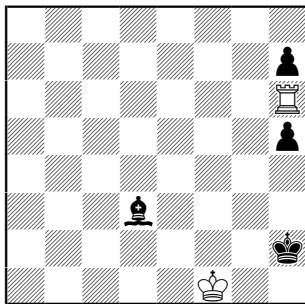


Pavel Arestov, RUS
Anatoly Skripnik, RUS

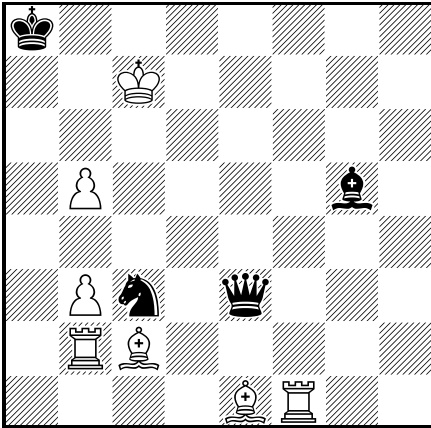
3rd Commendation
 Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

Draw

1.Ke2! Else Black king escapes: 1.R3a6? Kg2 2.Rg7+ Kf1. **1...b2** 1...Kh3 2.Rxh7 – the simplest – 2...Rh2 3.Rxh6+ Kg2 4.Rb6. **2.R3a6!** But not 2.R3a5? Be6! 3.Rh5+ Bh3 4.Rb7 Bxf2 5.Kxf2 (5.Rxb2 Kg3) 5...b1Q 6.Rxb1 Rxb1 7.Rxh6 Rb7. **2...Bxf2** **3.Kxf2!** 3.Rxh6+? Kg2 4.Rxh1 Bxa7. **3...h5** 3...Rf1+ leads to repetitions 4.Ke3! Re1+ 5.Kf2. After the mainline move White is facing the strong threat Rf1+. He has three defences. Bad is 4.Rxh7? Rf1+! 5.Ke3 Re1+! 6.Kf2 Re5. The try 4.Rb6?! b1Q 5.Rxb1 Bxb1 6.Rxh7 does not help because of 6...Rf1+! 7.Kxf1 (7.Ke3 Rf5) 7...Bxd3+. So **4.Rb7!** **b1Q** **5.Rxb1 Bxb1** **6.Rh6 Rf1+!** **7.Kxf1!** **Bxd3+** Now after the usual 8.Kf2? Bg6! Black captures the rook and wins 9.Kf3 Kh3 10.Kf4 Kh4. But the last trump is White **8.Ke1!!** **Bg6!** **9.Kf2** and Black is in zugzwang. A thrilling fight until the last patron!



8.Ke1!! Bg6! 9.Kf2

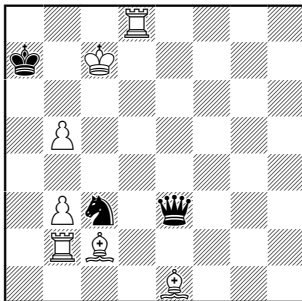


**Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen,
DNK
Martin Minski, GER**

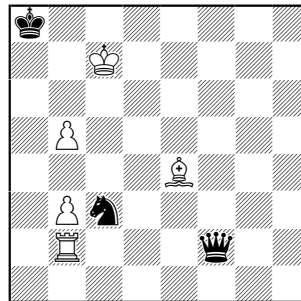
4th Commendation
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

White wins

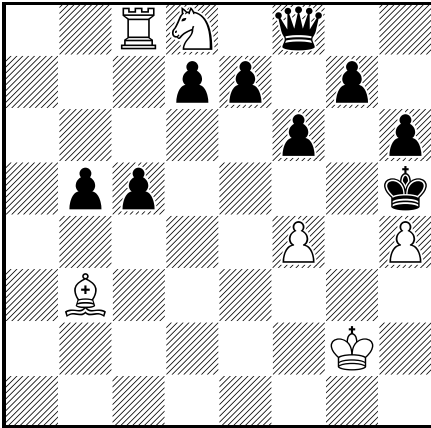
A delicacy for solvers, a sacrifice pursues another one. **1.Rf8+ Bd8+!** **2.Rxd8+** After **2...Kxd8?** Kb7 3.Bxc3 Qxc3 4.Be4 Kb6 5.Rbf2 Qc7+ 6.Ke8 Qe5+ 7.Kd7 Qxe4 Black surprisingly holds. **2...Ka7** **3.Bf2! Qxf2** **4.Ra8+! Kxa8** **5.Be4+! Nd5+!** 5...Nxe4 6.Rxf2 Nxf2 7.b6. **6.Bxd5+ Ka7** **7.Ra2+!** 7.Rxf2? stalemate. **7...Qxa2** **8.b6+ Ka6** **9.Bc4+ Ka5** **10.b4+ Kxb4** **11.Bxa2.**



3.Bf2! Qxf2 **4.Ra8+!**
Kxa8 **5.Be4+!**



5...Nd5+! **6.Bxd5+ Ka7**
7.Ra2+!



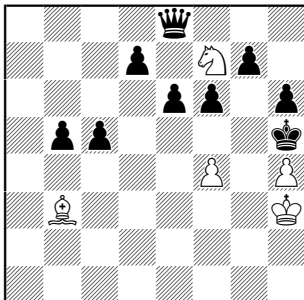
Amatzia Avni, ISR

5th Commendation

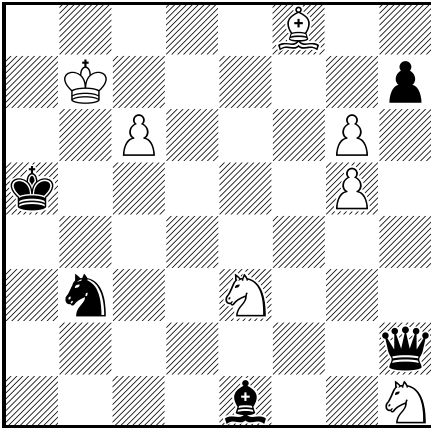
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

White wins

1.Kh3! 1...Kg3? should give Black future options Qb8+. **1...e6!** A back way is closed:
1...Kg6 2.Nc6! Qxc8 3.Nxe7+. And 1...c4 allows a spectacular finish 2.Ne6! Qxc8 3.f5!
2.Nf7 Qe7! After 2...Qxf7 the pin 3.f5 decides. And 2...Qxc8 shortens the matter. **3.Re8!!**
 But not thematic 3.Nh8? Qd6! and Black is free. **3...Qxe8** **4.Nh8!!** A point. **4...Qxh8** **5.f5!**
exf5 **6.Bf7+** **g6** **7.Bb3!** with mate, but not 7...Bd5? Qa8! 8.Bxa8 g5.



4.Nh8!!



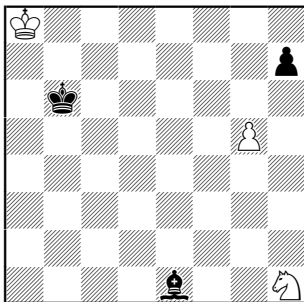
Pavel Arestov, RUS

6th Commendation

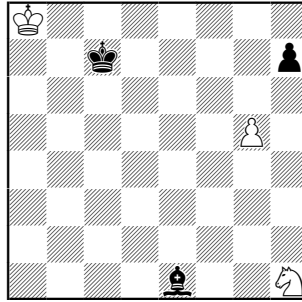
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

Draw

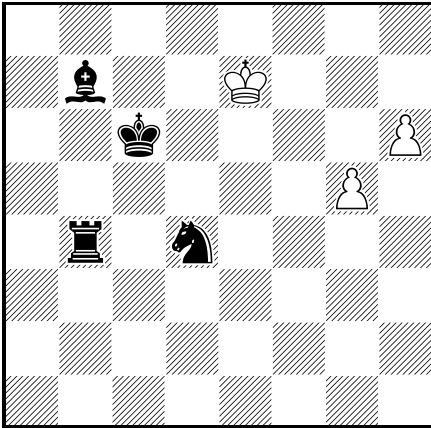
A hint for solves: find two echo stalemates. **1.g7 Sc5+** Clearing ways for a Queen expedition. **2.Bxc5 Qb2+** **3.Ka8** After **3...Kc8?** Qxg7 4.c7 Black has won time to 4...Ka6, for example 5.Sc4 Qg8+ 6.Kd7 Qf7+ 7.Be7 Qf5+ 8.Kd8 Qd3+ 9.Sd6 Ba5 wins. **3...Qxg7** A little complicated introduction leads to an interesting echo kernel. **4.c7 Qxc7 5.Bb6+** with
a) 5...Qxb6 6.Sc4+ Ka6 7.Sxb6 Kxb6 8.Sg3! But not 8.g6? hxg6 9.Ng3 Kc6. **8...Bxg3 9.g6 hxg6 stalemate;**
b) 5...Kxb6 6.Sd5+ Kc6 7.Sxc7 Kxc7 8.Sf2! but not 8.g6? hxg6 9.Bf2 g5 **8...Bxf2 9.g6 hxg6 stalemate.**



8. Ng3!



8.Nf2!



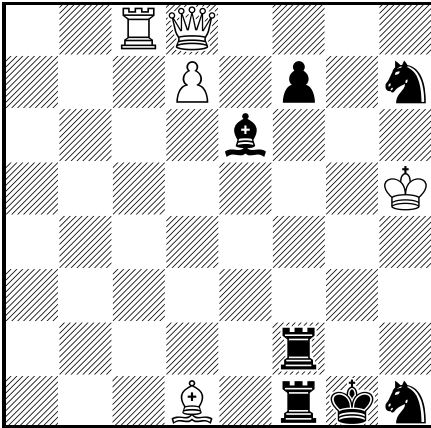
Valery Kalashnikov, RUS

7th Commendation

Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

Draw

1.h7 Nf5+ 2.Kf6 Rh4 3.g6 Bc8 4.g7 Rh6+! 5.Kg5 Rxh7 6.g8Q Rg7+ 7.Kh5 Ng3+ 7...Rxb8 stalemate. 8.Kh4 Rxb8 stalemate. Nice little thing.



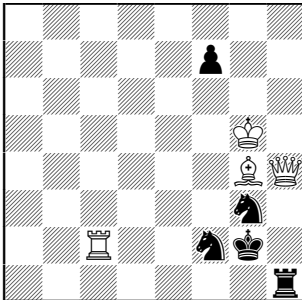
Alexey Gasparyan, ARM

8th Commendation

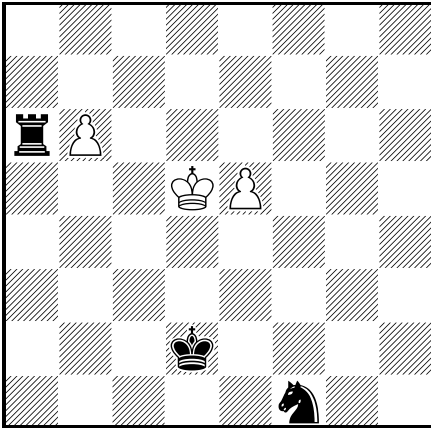
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

Draw

1.Qg8+ Several heavy side-lines burden the study: 1..Qb6? Nf6+ 2.Kh4 Bxd7 3.Rc2 Rxd1 4.Rxf2 Nxf2 5.Qxf6 Be6! or 1..Kh6? Nf6 2.Bf3 Bxd7 3.Qxf6 Bxc8 4.Qg5+ Kh2 5.Qh4+ Bh3 6.Bg4 Rf6+ 7.Kh7 Nf2 8.Qxf6 Nxf4. **1...Rg2 2.Qxg2+ Kxg2** Maybe it would be better to start here? **3.Rc2+** White has no time for promotion 3..d8Q Ng3+ 4.Kh6 Rh1+ 5.Kg7 Nf5+ 6.Kg8 f6+ 7.Kh8 Ng5+. **3...Nf2 4.d8Q Rh1+ 5.Qh4 Nf6+** After 5...Rxf4+ 6.Kxf4 Nf6 it seems to be enough for White to give his bishop for the last pawn. But EGTB 8 will have the last word in several years. **6.Kg5 Nh7+ 7.Kh5 Bg4+!** Cutting the Queen from e4. **8.Bxg4 Nf6+ 9.Kg5 N6e4+ 10.Kh5 Ng3+ 11.Kg5 f6+! 12.Kf4!** 12..Kxf6? Rxh4 and mate in 91. But White has stalemate defence. **12...Rxh4 13.Rxf2+ Kxf2 stalemate.**



11... f6+! 12.Kf4! Rxh4
13.Rxf2+! Kxf2 stalemate.



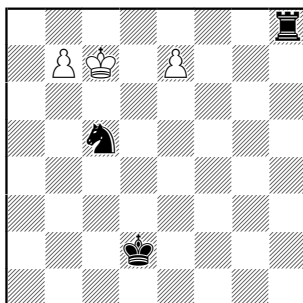
Alexey Sochnev, RUS

Special Commendation
Polášek and Vlasák 60 JT 2017

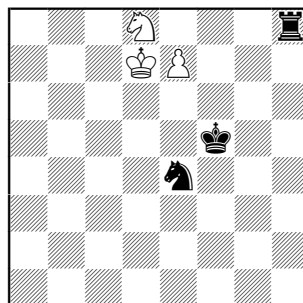
Draw

1.Kc6 Ne3 2.e6 Nf5 3.Kc7 Ng7 4.e7 Ne8+ 5.Kb7! 5...Kd8? Ra8+ 6.Kd7 Nf6+ 7.Ke6 Ne4.
5...Ra3! Black plans Ne8-d6-e4 and needs free space for transfer rook to the K-side.
Therefore it is bad 5...Ra4? and after 5...Ra1? the future check on d-file would be missing.
6.Kc8 Rc3+ 7.Kd8 Nd6 8.Kd7 Ne4 9.Kd8 Rd3+ 10.Kc8 10.Kc7? Nf6 11.b7 Nd5+
12.Kd7 Nxe7+ 13.Kc7 Rc3+. **10...Rh3!** This long move is the only winning way, see 15.Kd7.
And 10...Nd6+ 11.Kc7 Ne8+ 12.Kc8 Rc3+ 13.Kd8 gives nothing. **11.b7 Rh8+ 12.Kc7 Nc5 13.b8N Ne4 14.Nc6 Ke3!? 14...Nf6 15.Kd6 Ke3 16.Nd8 Kd4 17.Ne6+ Ke4 18.Ng7 Kf4 19.Ke6 Kg5 20.Kf7 Rh7 21.Kf8 Rh8+ 22.Kf7 or 14...Kd3 15.Nd8! Kd4 16.Ne6+ Ke5 17.Nf8 Nf6 18.Ng6+ Ke6 19.Nxh8 – author mentions the knight way: b8-c6-d8-e6-f8-g6-h8. 17.Kd7 Kd4 wins. **15.Nd8!** 15.Kd7? Nf6+ 16.Ke6 Ne8 17.Nd8 Kd4 18.Nb7 Rh7 19.Kd7 Nf6+ 20.Kd6 Rh8. If Black played 10...Rg3 with 11...Rg8+, 15.Kd7! would draw because of 15...Nf6+ 16.Ke6 Ne8 17.Kf7 tempo – 17...Vh8 18.Je5 (but not here 15.Nd8? Nf6 16.Kd6 Ne8+). **15...Kf4** After 15...Nf6 16.Kd6 Ne8+ 17.Kd7 Kd4 White has a drawing tempo 18.Nf7! **16.Kd7 Kf5 17.e8N Rh7+ 18.Kc6 Rh8 19.Kd7.****

Finding a double knight underpromotion in EGTB 6 is a remarkable output and interesting curiosity. But special honourable mentions with similar EGTB concept are much more impressive. The second part of this study – 14th move – is very analytical and fragmented and a solver is difficult to orientate here even with EGTB.



13.b8N!



17.e8N!