

## Mario Matouš 60 JT

The final award of EG study tournament C 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008

**Emil Vlasák, tournament director:** For a long time I am in friendly relationships with Mario Matouš, a world-class chess composer. Management of his jubilee tournament was for me an honor and the same time a pleasant entertainment.

After the experience with Polášek+Vlasák 50JT I have found an almost ideal processing method. Carbon copy to the second independent e-mail address minimized the danger of losses and in addition every new entry appeared immediately on the special tournament web <http://www.vlasak.biz/matous60.htm>. My delay seldom overlapped 24 hours. Several authors misused it a little bombarding me with a lot of weaker studies – so for the next tournament I would be surely limit the number of author's entries.

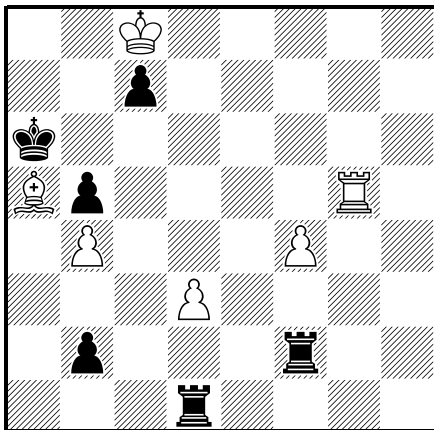
Thanks to all sponsors allowing us to give money prizes. It was several individual members of the Association of Czech Problemists and the Československý šach Magazine (IM Ivan Hausner).

Protests send till 2008-9-30 to the known e-mails and check the tournament web again. And now the celebrating man is speaking.

**Mario Matouš, judge:** First thanks to all authors and to the director Emil Vlasák for the entries processing. He provided analyses, anticipation checking, synoptic print-out and also technical comments in this judgment.

The tournament received 51 entries form 32 authors from 16 countries. A relatively high quality of entries was a very pleasant surprise for me; almost the third of them aspired being honored. I am afraid several authors – especially not mentioned ones – are not satisfied with the ranking. But remember the classic adage of Mr. Mlynář: One man's meat is another man's poison.

And now enjoy the studies.



### Günter Amann

Austria

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Matouš 60 JT

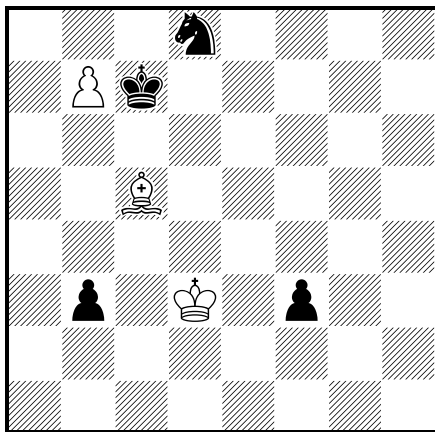
white wins

Spectacular more-fold sacrifices of both rooks prepared a stalemate defense with a newborn black queen. But after the precise white's play finally black falls into the zugzwang. A nicely worked-out "focus" theme.

**1.Kb8** Threading **2.Rg6+**. But not 1.Bxc7? **Rc2**. **1...Rxd3** Weak is **1...Rc1** **2.Rg6+ c6** **3.Rg7**. **2.Bxc7 Rd6!** The first sacrifice mentioned by judge. Bad is 2...Rfd2 **3.Rg6+ Rd6** **4.Bxd6 b1Q** **5.Rf6!** **Qf5** **6.Rxf5 Rxd6** **7.Rf8 Kb6** **8.f5 Kc6** **9.Rc8+ Kd7** **10.Rc5** or 9...Kb6 **10.Re8 Kc6**

11.Re6, but not 5.Rh6? Rg2! 6.f5 Qg1! (6...Qxf5? 7.Bg3+! Qg6 8.Rxg6 mate) 7.Bc5+ Rg6 8.Rxg6+ Qxg6 9.fxg6 stalemate. **3.Rg3!** It brings threats to a-file, 3.Bxd6 b1Q 4.Rg7 Rh2 gives nothing. **3...Rb6+!** The second sac, not good is 3...b1N 4.Bxd6 Kb6 (4...Rh2 5.Bf8) 5.Bc5+. **4.Bxb6** Tentokrát už musí bílý brát: 4.Ka8? b1N! 5.Bxb6 Kxb6 6.Kb8 Kc6 or 4.Kc8 Ka7 5.Ra3+ Ra6 6.Bb8+ Kb6 7.Bc7+ Kc6 8.Rxa6+ Kd5. **4...Rf3!** Černý obětuje i druhou věž. Po 4...b1Q? vyhrává 5.Bc5 i 5.Bd8. **5.Rg7!!** Přijmout oběť bílý nemůže: 5.Rxf3? b1Q 6.Bc5 Qb2 7.Rh3 Qe5+, nestačí ale ani 5.Rg6? b1Q 6.Rd6 Qxb4. **5...Rg3!** Další tématická oběť už viditelně připravuje stalemate. **6.Rd7!!** Ten by černému vyšel po 6.Rxg3? b1Q 7.Bd8 Qd3!. **6...Rg7!** Neuvěřitelná série pokračuje. Slabé by bylo místo toho 6...Rg8+ 7.Bd8 Rxd8+ 8.Rxd8 b1Q 9.Rd6 mat. **7.Rxg7 b1Q 8.Bd8!** Překrývá poslední řadu, smysl ukazuje varianta 8.Bc5? Qh7!. **8...Qh7 9.Re7!!** Tichý tah v typicky Matoušovském stylu. Nikoli 9.Rc7? Qd7 10.Be7 Qe8. **9...Qf7 10.f5!** Závěrečná jemnost, hrozba Re6+ je už nekrytelná. **10...Qxf5 11.Ra7** mat.

Pokračování 4...Rg2!? 5.Rxg2 b1Q vede do pozic podobných hlavní variantě, průběh je ale méně zajímavý: 6.Bd8! (6.Bc5? Qc2 7.Rg1 Qb1 8.Rg7 Qh7) 6...Qc2 7.Rg1! Qb1 8.Rg7 Qh7 9.Re7! Qf7 10.f5.



## Daniel Keith

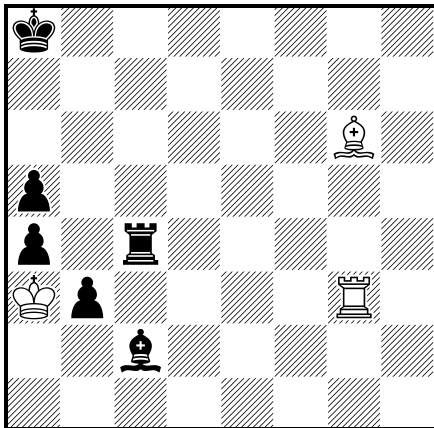
France

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Matouš 60 JT

draw

This author's discovery is a rare exception from the well-known rule about the advantage of a bishop in the open position. In this case it only powerlessly watches the horse maneuvers and finally saves his live escaping to the most outlying corner (5.Bh8!!). Symmetric positions in the solution and tries create an esthetic feeling.

**1.b8Q+!** Winning an important tempo. After 1.Kc3? Nxb7 the black king is too near to the main battlefield. Check the lines 1.Bd4? Kxb7 2.Ke3 Ne6 3.Bf6 Ng5 or 2.Kc3 Nc6 3.Bf2 Na5 – black wins with two extra pawns easily. **1...Kxb8 2.Kc3! Nb7 3.Bd4!** Preparation for king transfer to the f-pawn. 3.Bf2? Na5 is already known for us. **3...Na5 4.Kd2!** A very nice move, white looks on e1 square. After 4.Kd3 Nc4! the game is immediately over. **4...Nc6!** Now 4...Nc4+ is met with 5.Ke1!, after 5...Ne3!? 6.Kf2 Nf5 white has a tempo-check 7.Be5+!. So black tries a more ambitious plan. **5.Bh8!!** This beautiful idea brings the study undoubtedly its high ranking. Other bishop-moves allow the knight to prevent Ke3: 5.Bg7 Ne7! 6.Bh8 Nf5 or 5.Bb2 Nb4! 6.Ke3 f2 7.Ke2 Nd3. Also after 5.Ba1(f6) there is 5...Nb4. **5...Nd8** There is also another tempo win 5...Ne7 6.Ke3 Ng6!, but after 7.Bd4! Nh4 8.Kd2! white kills the c-pawn. **6.Ke3 Nf7! 7.Bd4! Ng5 8.Kd2!** So the black's switchback Nd8 is answered by white's one Kd2. **8...Ne6** Or 8...Ne4+ 9.Kc1! Kb7 10.Kb2 Nd2 11.Kc3 treating 12.Kxd2. **9.Be3!** But not 9.Bf2? Nf4 10.Kc3 b2. The text move wins one more tempo – 9...Nf4 10.Bxf4 check. And after 9...Nc7 the simplest way is 10.Kc1 Nd5 11.Bg1.



## Jaroslav Poláček

Czech republic

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Matouš 60 JT

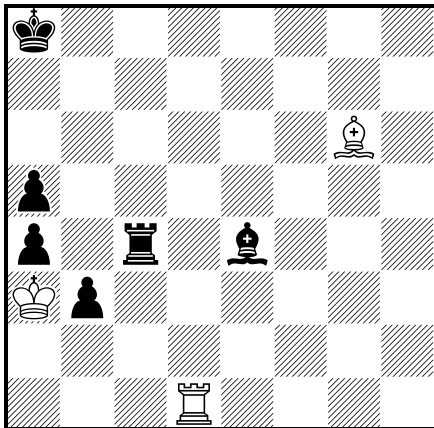
draw

twin – position A

This Poláček's twin is an illustration of a both-side foxy play. A main black's hero is surely the b-pawn unbreakably heading to a promotion. Because of stalemate it is ready to underpromote in rook, knight or even to wait (position B 6.Kxa5? Ba4/b3!). Clever rook's intermediate moves (A 2.Rg8! and B 3.Rd8+!) solve finally the result. A perfect synthesis with a logical nature.

**1.Be8 Rb4!** If you – like me – would be fascinated with lines like 1...Kb7!? 2.Bxa4? Rxa4+ 3.Kxa4 b2+ 4.Rb3+ Bxb3+ 5.Ka3 b1N+!, you could have a problem to solve this study. Actually white has here a prosaic 2.Rg1!!! killing pawns: 2...Be4 3.Bxa4 b2 4.Bb3 Rb4 5.Kxb2 Bd5 6.Rg3 a4 7.Rg7+ Kc6 8.Ka3 Rxb3+ 9.Kxa4. The black's text move is much stronger: 2.Bxa4? Rxa4+ 3.Kxa4 b2+ 4.Ka3 b1R! (another anti-stalemate move mentioned by judge; 4...b1Q? 5.Rg8+ Kb7 6.Rb8+!) 5.Rg8+ Ka7 6.Rg7+ Ka6! wins, because of missing check on g6. **2.Rg8!!** A hidden hard-to-find key to the study. Before Bxa4 the king is driven to another square. **2...Ka7!** The first important defensive idea is illustrated in the line 2...Kb7!? 3.Bxa4! Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Ka3 b1R! and now white can trade rooks 6.Rg2! Be4 7.Rb2+!. That is why black keeps his king always on a-file. **3.Bxa4!** The only correct moment: 3.Rg7+? Ka6! 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3 b1R!. **3...Rxa4+** After the technical move 3...Bd1! white has more ways to a draw, but for all that is it not easy: 4.Rg7+!? (4.Rg2? b2 5.Rxb2 Rxa4 mate, so the king has to first lured to b-file) 4...Kb6 (4...Ka6 5.Rg6+) 5.Rg2 and now for example 5...Rxa4+ 6.Kxa4 b2+ 7.Ka3 b1Q 8.Rb2+ or 5...Kc5 6.Be8 Bc2 7.Rg5+ (or 7.Bg6 Bxg6 8.Rg5+ Kc4 9.Rxg6) 7...Kb6 (7...Kc4 8.Bf7+ Kc3 9.Rg3+) 8.Bg6. Author gives also the second long way 6.Rd2 Bc2 (6...b2 7.Bc2!) 7.Rg2 Kc4 8.Rh2 (8.Bxb3+? Rxb3+ 9.Ka4 Be4 10.Rg4 Re3!) 8...Bd3 (8...Kc3 9.Bxb3! Rxb3+ 10.Ka4) 9.Rh5! b2 (9...Kc3 10.Bxb3 Rxb3+ 11.Ka4) 10.Bb5+ Kc3 11.Bxd3 Kxd3 12.Rh3+ Kc2 13.Rh2+ Kc3 14.Rh3+ Kc4 15.Rh4+ Kc5 16.Rxb4 axb4+ 17.Kxb2. **4.Kxa4 b2+** **5.Kxa5!** And this is the second pillar column of white's defense. After the king-decoy there is surprisingly one more stalemate. Bad is 5.Ka3? b1R! 6.Rg7+ Ka6! as we already know. **5...b1Q** **6.Rg7+ Ka8** **7.Ra7+ Kb8** **8.Rb7+ Qxb7/Kxb7 stalemate.**

The try 2.Bc6+!? with idea 2...Ka7? 3.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Kxa5! is met by 2...Kb8! 3.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Rb3+ Bxb3+ 6.Ka3 b1N+! (6...b1R? stalemate).



## Jaroslav Poláček

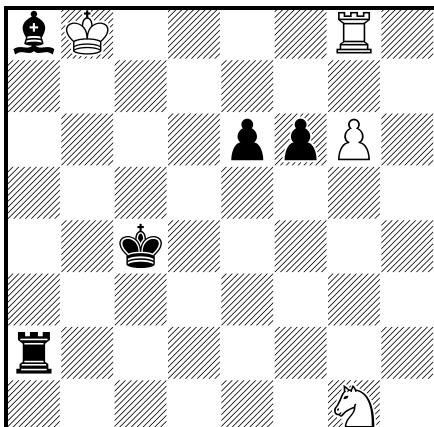
Czech republic

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Matouš 60 JT

draw

twin – position B

The lead-in is similar as in position A: **1.Be8** 1.Bxe4+ Rxe4 2.Rd5 Kb7 3.Rxa5 Kc6. **1...Rb4!** 1...Bc2 2.Rd5. **2.Rd2!** The only move! Premature 2..Rd8+? Kb7 3.Rd7+ Kb6 4.Rd2 gives an extra possibility 4...Bc6!. **2...Bc2!** **3.Rd8+!** Away from a mined square – 3..Bxa4? Rxa4+ 4.Kxa4 b2+ 5.Ka3 b1N+ forking. After 3..Bc6+?! there is 3...Kb8! with another forking of Rd2, but not 3...Ka7? 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ for already known 6.Kxa5!. **3...Ka7** Vstoupí-li král na b-sloupec vynutí bílý výměnu věží stejně jako v pozici A: 3...Kb7 4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3 b1R 7.Rd2!. **4.Bxa4 Rxa4+ 5.Kxa4 b2+ 6.Ka3!!** And this is the main reason why position B was added from the experienced author to the rich enough study A. The rook stands here on the d-file and the natural move 6..Kxa5?! is refuted by 6...Ba4/b3! with a comfortable future promotion. But all has his pros and cons – the 6<sup>th</sup> rank is now free to use! **6...b1R!** **7.Rd7+ Ka8 8.Rd8+ Ka7 9.Rd7+ Ka6 10.Rd6+** with a perpetual or known rooks change after **10...Kb5 11.Rd2!**. Or **11...Rb3+ 12.Ka2 Rc3 13.Kb2.**



## Sergej Diduch

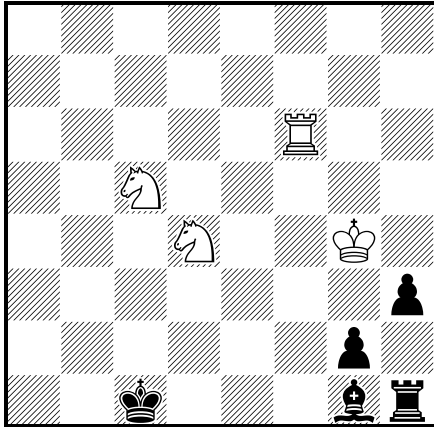
Ukraine

4<sup>th</sup> Prize Matouš 60 JT

white wins

After the bright black's defense (1...Bc6!) we are facing the king's battle for the dangerous g7 pawn. Although black wins this race, the model mate with three active blocks finally crowns matters. I like the light form with an easy-to-understand solution.

**1.Rc8+** 1.g7? Bc6 2.Vh(c)8 Ra8+ 3.Kc7 Ra7+ 4.Kxc6 Rxc7. **1...Bc6!** An imaginative defense, after 1...Kd4 2.g7 Rg2 3.g8Q Rxc7 4.Rxc6+ **2.Rxc6+ Kd5 3.Rc7!** But not 3..Rc1? Rg2 4.Nh3 e5 5.Rg1 Rxc7 6.Nxc7 Ke6. **3...Rg2 4.Nh3 e5** For beginners – it guards 5.Nf4+. **5.g7 f5** 5...Ke6 6.Kc8 f5 is only a transposition. **6.Kc8 Ke6 7.Kd8 Kf6 8.Ke8 Rxc7 9.Rc6** mate.



**Michal Hlinka**

**Emil Vlasák**

Slovakia and Czech republic

1<sup>st</sup> hon. mention Matouš 60 JT

draw

An elegant and rich study. Black promotes, but in an impressive finish the born queen is captured.

**1.Nd3+ Kd2!** *1...Kd1* 2.Rf2 the simplest move 2...Bxf2 (2...Bh2 3.Nf3) 3.Nxf2+ Ke1 (3...Kc1 4.Nxh3) 4.Nxh3. And after *1...Kb1??* 2.Rb6+ white has even a mating attack 2...Ka2 3.Rb2+ Ka3 4.Rb3+ Ka4 5.Nc5+ Ka5 6.Rb5. **2.Nf3+ 2.Ne2 Be3. 2...Kxd3 3.Ne1+**

#### line A

**3...Ke2!** For *3...Kd2!* see line B. Another moves are weaker: *3...Kc3* 4.Nxg2 Bd4 5.Rf3+, *3...Kc4* 4.Nxg2 Bd4 5.Ne3+ Bxe3 6.Rf3 h2 7.Kg3. **4.Nxg2! hxg2** 4...Bd4 5.Nf4+ Kf1 6.Rc6 h2? 7.Rc1+. **5.Kg3 Rh2 6.Rg6!** 6.Rf8? Be3. **6...Kf1!? 7.Rg4!** But not *7.Rg8?* Rh8!! . This mutual zugzwang is known from cooked study Hlinka, Tirmavia 1985.

#### line B

**3...Kd2! 4.Nxg2!** The *4.Nf3+!?* is analyzed in line C. **4...Bd4!** Preparing a pawn advance without beating – *4...hxg2?* 5.Kf3 Rh2 6.Rg6. **5.Ra6! h2! 6.Kh3!** But not *6.Ra2+?* Kc3 7.Kh3 Be5 8.Ne3 Re1 9.Nd5+ Kd4 10.Rd2+ Kc5 11.Rxh2 Bxh2 12.Kxh2 Kxd5. **6...Ra1!!** The point of black's plan, bad is *6...Be5* for *7.Nh4!* Rf1 8.Ra2+ Ke3 9.Rxh2. **7.Rxa1 Bg1! 8.Rd1+!** *8.Ra2+?* Kc3 9.Rc2+ Kb3. **8...Kc3 9.Rd3+! Kb4 10.Rd4+! Kc5** 10...Kb5 11.Rh4 h1Q+ 12.Kg3 or 11.Kg3 h1Q 12.Rh4. **11.Rh4** The finish is not wholly pure, there is also time loss 11.Rc4+ Kb5 12.Rh4/Kg3. **11...h1Q+ 12.Kg3 Bf2+ 13.Kxf2** drawing.

#### line C

The try **3...Kd2! 4.Nf3+!?**. We are facing to a study in study “Black plays and wins”.

**4...Kd1!!**. The move of logical nature.

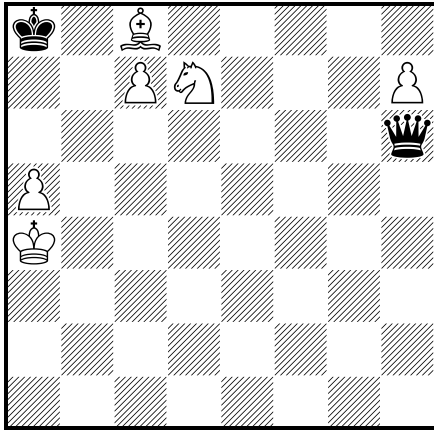
(a) *4...Kc1?* **5.Rh6!** Using the remote position of black's king. The difference is clear from a line *5...Bf2!* (*5...Be3* 6.Rxh3, *5...h2* 6.Kg3) 6.Rxh3 Kd1 **7.Rh5!!** It helps here, compare to *4...Kd1*. *7...Rxh5* (*7...Ke2* 8.Re5+ Kd3 9.Rd5+ Kc3 10.Rg5, *9...Kc4* 10.Rd2) 8.Kxh5 Ke2 9.Kg4 Be1 10.Ng1+ EGTB draw.

(b) *4...Ke2?* **5.Nxg1+** Tempo *5...Rxl* 6.Re6+! (6.Kxh3? Rf1) 6...Kf2 7.Rf6+ Ke2 8.Re6+ Kd3 9.Kxh3. Or *5...Ke1* 6.Kg3 h2 7.Nf3+ tempo. And after *5...Ke3!?* white has an important move **6.Rf3+!** Ke4 7.Rxh3.

(c) *4...Kd3?* allows white to correct his mistake. **5.Ne1+!** Ke2/Kd2 6.Nxg2 see lines A and B.

(d) *4...Ke3?* 5.Re6+ Kf2 (5...Kd3 6.Ne1+ Kc4 7.Nxg2 hxg2 8.Kf3 Rh2 9.Rg6) 6.Ra6! h2 (6...Bh2 7.Ra2+ Kf1 8.Ra1+ Ke2 9.Ra2+, 6...Ke2 7.Nxg1+ Ke3 8.Ra3+ Kd4 9.Rxh3) 7.Re6 Kf1 8.Re1+ Kf2 9.Re6.

**5.Rd6+!** The best try to save game: (a) 5.Rh6? Bf2 6.Rxh3 Ke2! – compare to 4...Kc1? black king is here too near. (b) 5.Nxg1 h2! 6.Rd6+ Kc2. (c) 5.Kg3 Bf2+ 6.Kxf2 Rf1+ 7.Kg3 Rxf3+. (d) 5.Ra6 Bf2 and white has only several harmless checks 6.Ra1+ Ke2 7.Ra2+ Ke3 8.Ra3+ Ke4. **5...Ke2!** **6.Nxg1+** 6.Re6+? Be3 7.Kg3 Rf1 8.Kxh3 Kxf3 9.Rf6+ Bf4. **6...Ke3!!** The point of logical maneuver. Compare to 4...Ke2? white has not here 5. Rf3+ and it is a fatal difference. **7.Kg3** 7.Nxh3 Rxh3 8.Re6+ Kd4 9.Re1 Rh1. **7...h2** wins.



## Harold van der Heijden Yochanan Afek

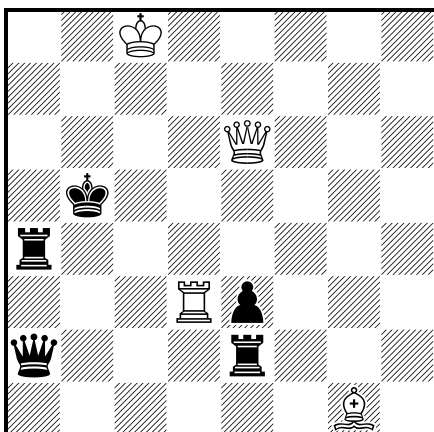
Netherlands and Israel/Netherlands

2<sup>nd</sup> hon. mention Matouš 60 JT

white wins

Two underpromotions in a brilliant setting surely satisfy solvers.

**1.Nb6+!** 1.Ba6 Qf4+ 2.Kb5 Qf1+ 3.Kc5 Qg1+ 4.Kd5 Qg2+ with a perpetual. **1...Qxb6!** Easy is 1...Ka7 2.Be6 Qf4+ 3.Bc4 Qd4 4.Nc8+ Kb7 5.Nd6+ Qxd6 6.c8Q+ Kxc8 7.h8Q+. **2.Bb7+!** A logical supplement to the key, 2.axb6? or 2.h8Q? Qd4+! 3.Qxd4 leads to stalemate. But in the last line not 2...Qc6+? 3.Kb4 Qb6+ 4.Kc4 Qc6+ 5.Kd4 Qd6+ 6.Ke4 or 4...Qxc7+ 5.Kb5 Ka7 6.Qd4+ Ka8 7.Be6. **2...Qxb7** **3.h8R+!!** Will be explain later. **3...Ka7** **4.c8N+!!** White cannot promote for another stalemate 4.c8Q? Qb4+ and the second rook would be too weak: 4.c8R? Qe4+ 5.Ka3 Qd3+ 6.Kb2 Qd2+. **4...Ka6** 4...Ka8 5.Nd6+. **5.Rh6+** wins. With a promoted queen on h8 (3.h8Q+? Ka7 4.c8N+) black would play here 4...Qxc8! and not enough is also 4.Qd4+ Ka8 5.Qd8+ Ka7 6.c8Q Qxc8 7.Qb6+ Ka8.



## Richard Becker Juri Akobia

U.S.A. and Georgia

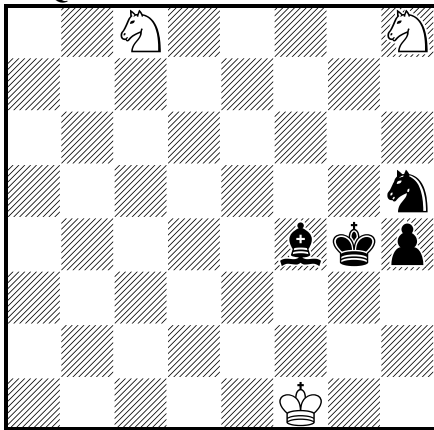
3<sup>rd</sup> hon. mention Matouš 60 JT

white wins

The nice position of mutual zugzwang arises both in a try and in a solution.

**1.Rb3+!** The natural attacking plan. There is a good try 1.Qe5+? Kb4 2.Qc3+ Kb5 3.Qe5+ Kb4 4.Rd4+ Ka3 5.Rd3+ Kb4 6.Rd4+ Ka3 7.Qc5+ Kb2 8.Qb5+ Qb3 9.Qxe2+ Ka3 10.Rd3 Rc4+! 11.Kd7 Rc3. **1...Rb4!** Else white wins quickly: 1...Kc5 2.Bxe3+ Rxe3 3.Qxe3+ or 1...Qxb3 2.Qxb3+ Rb4 3.Qd5. But the labile Rb4 position allows white to rise his activity.

**2.Qd7+!** 2.Qd5+? Ka4. **2...Kc5** Or 2...Ka5 3.Qa7+ Kb5 4.Qb7 or 2...Ka6 3.Qd3+ Ka5 4.Ra3+. **3.Qe7+** 3.Qf5+ is a time loss, for example 3...Kc6 4.Qf3+ Kd6 5.Qf6+ Kc5 6.Qe5+ Kc6 7.Qe8+ transposing to the main. **3...Kc6!** **4.Qe8+ Kc5!** The long, but easy line is 4...Kd5 5.Rd3+ Kc4 6.Qe4+ Kb5 7.Qb7+ Kc5 8.Qc7+ Kb5 9.Qd7+ Kc5 10.Qd6+ Kb5 11.Rd5+ Ka4 12.Qa6+ Kb3 13.Rd3+ Kc2 14.Qxa2+ Kxd3 15.Qa3 or 13...Kb2 14.Qf6+ Kb1 15.Qf1+ Kb2 16.Qxe2+. **5.Bxe3+ Rxe3 6.Qxe3+ Kb5** The key position. After the routine move 7.Qd3+? Ka4! white is suddenly in a mutual zugzwang, for example 8.Kd7 Rd4+. So white must switch the move order **7.Qe8+!! Ka5 8.Qd8+ Ka4 9.Qd3** Now black is to move. **9...Qxb3 10.Qa6 mate.**



## Yochanan Afek

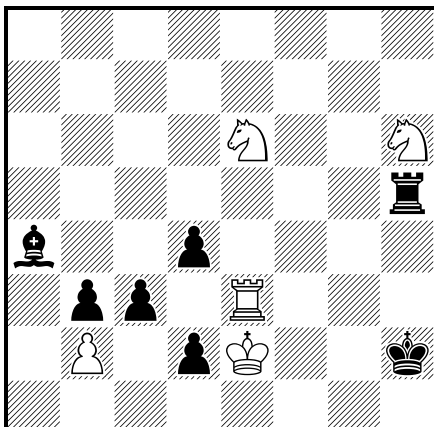
Israel/Netherlands

5<sup>th</sup> hon. mention Matouš 60 JT

draw

White conjures a model stalemate with minimal forces.

**1.Ng6!** In a labyrinth of another lines white has no draw: 1.Ne7? Ng3+ 2.Kg1 Ne2+! 3.Kf2 (3.Kh1 Kh3 4.Nf5 Ng3+) 3...h3 4.Nd5 Bg3+ 5.Kf1 Kf3 6.Nf7 Bh4 7.Ne5+ Kg3 or 2.Kg2 h3+ 3.Kg1 h2+ 4.Kxh2 Nf5+ 5.Kg2 Nxe7 6.Nf7 Bc7!. Or 1.Kg1 Kg3 2.Ne7 Be3+ 3.Kf1 (3.Kh1 Kh3 4.Nf5 Ng3+) 3...h3 4.Nf7 h2 5.Nf5+ Kh3. **1...Ng3+** 1...h3 2.Nxf4 draw. **2.Kg1!** The following battle is about h4-h3 with a tempo check. So bad is 2.Kg2? h3+! 3.Kh2 (3.Kg1 Bb8 4.Nce7 Ne4) 3...Bc7 4.Nce7 Ne4+ 5.Kg1 h2+ 6.Kg2 Nf2!. **2...Be3+ 3.Kh2!** Again the same song: 3.Kg2? h3+ 4.Kh2 Nf1+ 5.Kh1 h2 6.Kg2 Bg1 7.Ne5+ (7.Nd6 Ng3 8.Ne5+ Kh5) 7...Kf4 8.Ng6+ Kg5 9.Ne5 Ne3+! interesting moment 10.Kh1 Kf4 11.Nd3+ Kf3 12.Nd6 Nf1 13.Nf5 Ke4 14.Nc1 Kxf5 or 8.Nd3+ Ke4 9.Nb4 Ng3 10.Nd6+ Ke5 11.Nd3+ Kxd6 12.Nf2 Bxf2 13.Kxh2 Nf5. **3...Nf1+!** **4.Kg2** Because of 4.Kh1? Kh3!, black finally won the battle. But to his misfortune another factor will finally decide this war. **4...h3+ 5.Kxf1 Kg3!** **6.Nd6! h2 7.Ne4+ Kh3 8.Nf4+!** But not 8.Nf2+? Bxf2 9.Nf4+ Kg3 10.Ne2+ Kf3. **8...Bxf4 9.Nf2+ Kg3 10.Ne4+ Kf3 11.Nd2+!!** Again not 11.Nf2? Bg3! 12.Nh1 Bh4 13.Nf2 Kg3 14.Nh1+ Kh3 15.Ke2 Kg2. **11...Bxd2 stalemate.**



## Michal Hlinka

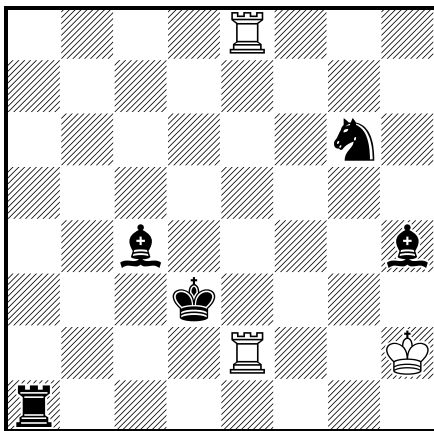
Slovakia

5<sup>th</sup> hon. mention Matouš 60 JT

draw

Also here we have a model stalemate even with two pins. But the play sounds a little static.

**1.Ng4+ Kg1!** To stop the avalanche white has to bring his knights closer and naturally black cannot give them tempos: *1...Kg2?* 2.Nf4+ Kh1 3.Nf2+ Kh2 4.Ng4+ or *1...Kh1?* 2.Nf2+ Kg1 3.Nxd4 cxb2 4.Nf3+ Kg2 5.Nxd2 Rd5 6.Nb1. **2.Nxd4!** *2...Rg3+?* Kh1 3.Rf3 Bb5+ 4.Kd1 Kg2 win easily. **2...cxb2** The check *2...Bb5+* is premature, because of the b3 pawn is not more guarded: *3.Kd1* cxb2 4.Rg3+ Kh1 5.Nf2+ Kh2 *6.Rxb3* Ba4 7.Kc2. **3.Nf3+ Kg2!** Again not giving tempo: *3...Kh1* 4.Nf2+ Kg2 5.Nxd2. **4.Nxd2** Both knights are in the battle and also the avalanche doesn't see so compact. But black has prepared a killing check **4...Bb5+!** with the idea *5.Ke1?* Rh1+ 6.Nf1 Rxf1+ 7.Kd2 b1N! mate. **5.Kd1! Rd5!** *5...Rh1+* would be met by 6.Re1!, so black uses the d-file pin. It leads to a sharp combat with an unexpected finish. **6.Rxb3! Ba4!** **7.Ne3+! Kf2!** Gripping the king, easy is *7...Kgl* 8.Nxd5! Bxb3+ 9.Ke2 Bxd5 10.Kd3. **8.Nc2!** After *8.Nxd5?* Bxb3+ we have something like half-mate forcing a promotion 9.Nxb3 b1Q+. **8...Bxb3 stalemate** with two pins.



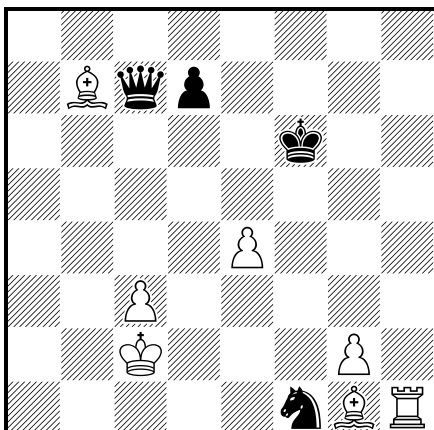
### Ilham Aliev

Azerbaijan

1<sup>st</sup> commendation Matouš 60 JT

draw

**1.R8e3+ 1.R2e3+?** Kd2. **1...Kd4 2.Re4+ Kd3 3.R4e3+!** In the thematic try *3...Rxc4?* Kxc4? white draws as in the main, but *3...Kxe2!* ruins his plan. **3...Kd4 4.Re4+ Kd5 5.Rxc4!** Now it is possible. **5...Kxc4 6.Re6!** Having in mind 7.Re4+ after knight's retreat. **6...Ra2+ 7.Kh1!** But not *7.Kgl?* Rg2+! or *7.Kh3?* Nf4+. **7...Ra1+ 8.Kh2 8.Kg2? Nf4+. **8...Ra2+ 9.Kh1 Rg2!** The last black's try. **10.Re4+ Kd3 11.Rxh4! Nxh4 stalemate.****



### Lutz-Dieter Gruber

Martin Minski

Germany

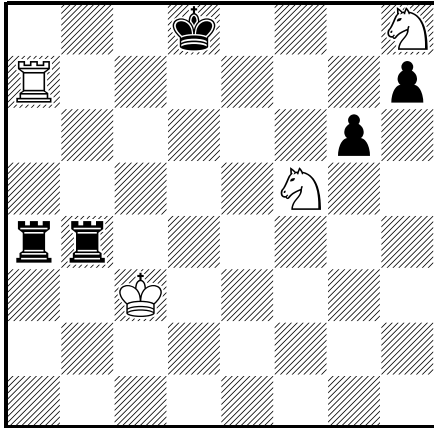
2<sup>nd</sup> commendation 60 JT

white wins

At a first look the stipulation doesn't seem realistic, but white bishops will become unexpectedly strong. **1.Ba6! Ng3 2.Bb6!! Qf4** In the whole solution black queen has problems to move. *2...Qxb6/Qc6* 3.Rh6+, *2...Qb8* 3.Rh8. And finally after *2...Qe5* 3.Bd4 Nxh1+4.Bc8 white wins this endgame, for example *4...d6* 5.Kd2 Ng3 6.Bxe5+ Kxe5 7.Bb7



Nf1+ 8.Ke2 Ng3+ 9.Kf3 Nf1 10.g4 Nd2+ 11.Kg3 Kf6 12.Kf4 Nb1 13.c4 Nd2 14.g5+ Kg6  
 15.Bd5 Nb3 16.Bc6 Nd2 17.Bb5 Kg7 18.e5 dxe5+ 19.Kxe5 Nf3+ 20.Kf4. **3.Rh4! Qb8**  
**3...Qxh4** 4.Bd8+. **4.Rh8! Qf4** 4...**Qxh8** 5.Bd4+. **5.Rf8+**.



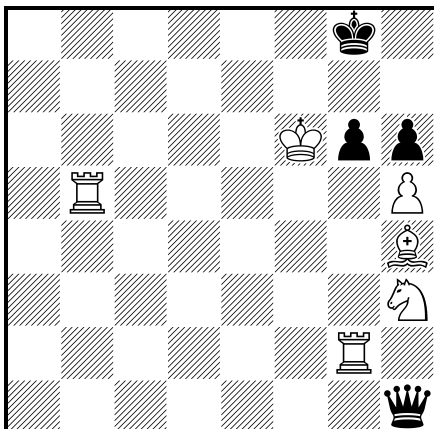
### Velimir Kalandadze

Georgia

3<sup>rd</sup> commendation Matouš 60 JT

white wins

White has no pawns, so a matting attack is expected. **1.Nf7+ Ke8** *1...Kc8* 2.Ne7+ Kb8 3.Nc6+ Kc8 4.Nd6 mate. **2.Ng7+ Kf8** 3.Ne6+ Kg8 *3...Ke8* 4.Nd6 mate. **4.Nh6+ Kh8** **5.Rg7!** After this quiet move white threats are unstoppable. **5...Rc4+ 6.Kd3** Also 6.Kd2. **6...Rd4+ 7.Ke3** Also 7.Ke2. **7...Re4+ 8.Kf3** Also 8.Kf2. **8...Rf4+ 9.Kg3!** *9.Kg2?* allows 9...Ra8!. **9...Rf8** Or *9...Rg4+* 10.Nxg4 Ra3+ 11.Kf2 Ra2+ 12.Ke3 Ra6 13.Re7. **10.Rg8+ Rxg8** **11.Nf7 mate.**



### Marek Kwiatkowski

Poland

4<sup>th</sup> commendation Matouš 60 JT

white wins, black to move

*1...Qxg2?* leads to mate: 2.Rb8+ Kh7 3.Ng5+ hxg5 4.hxg6+ Kh6 5.Rh8, so black wishes to beat with a check. **1...Qf1+ 2.Nf4!** Saving the rook. **2...Qxf4+ 2...Qxb5** 3.Rxg6+ Kh8 (3...Kf8 4.Ne6+) 4.Kf7. **3.Kxg6 Qe4+** Nebo *3...Qd6+* 4.Bf6 Qd3+ 5.Rf5. **4.Kxh6+ Qxg2 5.Rg5+ Kh8!** **6.Rg6!** The stalemate is foiled in Matouš's style, there is a small add-in. **6...Qd2+ 7.Bg5 Qf4!** Preventing a killing 8.Rd6. **8.Rg8+! Kxg8 9.Bxf4** wins.

Prague May 22<sup>th</sup> 2008 and October 3<sup>rd</sup>