

Moderný šach 2009 C 30. 9. 2009 **Final award of the international endgame study tourney**

“Moderný šach” (Modern Chess) is a new chess magazine published in the Chess Club Prievidza, Slovakia. In the name of all endgame study lovers I thank to its manager Ing Huba for a prize fund and publications of results. My thanks belong also to Jan Lerch for valuable discussions about several entries.

The sending phase was clean, all participants have used e-mail. That is to say, paper post is becoming a history in endgame study tournaments. To keep flexibility, I have moved the supporting web to my pages <http://www.vlasak.biz/ms2009.htm>. Every author could find his entry here almost immediately after sending.

I have checked in total 36 entries and after elimination of cooks 27 good pieces remain. The quality of the tournament proved for a long time as a standard, but the harvest of two last weeks made it greatly higher. That's why this award contains a good amount of studies.

Computer supported production can be met last time frequently. Maybe, several such works are not studies at all. Starting a computer, their solution can be instantly traced following the highest score for both sides. But differences are often only in order of tenths. That's why such studies are usually sound, or at least it is impossible to prove reverse. But classical solvers surely sink in a jungle of lines, subjectively being almost equal. Yes, manual solvers need some leading idea, but it is not here, only tenths of evaluation points. Creators of such products definitely lose a feeling of reality, charmed by a computer. Maybe they should be locked in cells and forced to solve each other their production using only chess set. This feeling is reflecting in my several evaluations.

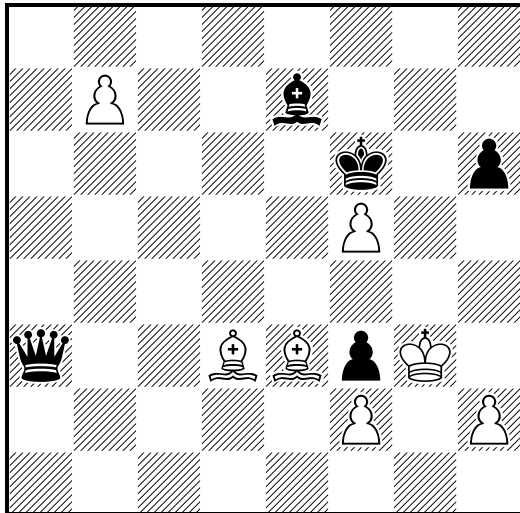
The provisional award has been published on November 25th on the web given above. I have received the only serious protest. Harold van der Heijden informs, the first prize winner (Pospíšil f7e5) already appeared as an original in Problem Forum no. 30, June 2007, as diagram no.76; attested by PDF file. It was a big surprise for the author. In the year 2006 he sent this study to Manfred Seidel as original for Europa-Rochade, but he never got any message about it. So – after a markedly longer delay than given in the Codex – he used the study another way. Later we discovered Mr. Seidel had died on February 28th 2008 on leukaemia. However, the Pospíšil's study has to be excluded. As the prize category markedly exceeds honourable mentions in originality, the studies are not shifted up, I have only adapted the prizes.

Daniel Keith and Jaroslav Polášek have sent small replenishments to older mentioned studies, both are included in the following text.

I have ordered the entries this way:

- 1st –2nd Prize 40 EUR Günter Amann, Austria
- 1st –2nd Prize 40 EUR Michal Hlinka and Ľuboš Kekely, Slovakia
- Special Prize 35 EUR Jaroslav Pospíšil, Czech Republic
- 1st Honourable mention Daniel Keith, France
- 2nd Honourable mention Sergej Diduch, Ukraine
- 3rd Honourable mention David Gurgenzidze, Georgia
- 4th Honourable mention Jaroslav Polášek, Czech Republic
- 5th Honourable mention Günter Amann, Austria
- 6th Honourable mention Michal Hlinka and Ľuboš Kekely, Slovakia

- 7th Honourable mention Gerhard Josten, Germany
 Special Honourable mention Luis Miguel Gonzáles, Spain
 1st Commendation Jaroslav Polášek, Czech Republic
 2nd Commendation Jaroslav Pospíšil, Czech Republic
 3rd Commendation Iuri Akobia, Georgia
 4th Commendation Alain Pallier, France
 5th Commendation János Mikitovics, Hungary
 6th Commendation Gerhard Josten, Germany
 7th Commendation Ilham Aliev, Azerbaijan
 Special Commendation Richard Becker, USA
 Special Commendation David Gurgeniđze and Velimir Kalandadze, Georgia

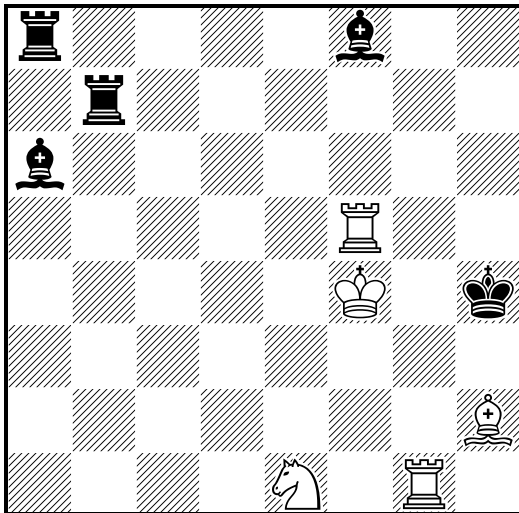


Günter Amann
 Austria
Moderný šach 2009
1st – 2nd Prize

White wins

Günter Amann is a relatively new name in the study world. The author (born 1968) is a strong o.t.b. player with ELO 2293, publishing his first study in the year 2001. He uses a computer, but the same time he keeps a good sense for the Beauty. Recently he has won the Matouš JT and I also like his style with bold ideas. The play is running logically without distractive side-lines, allowing an easy solution without a computer. And an unexpected climax (5...Bg3!! 6.Bb2!!) looks very impressively.

The promotion is always bad for Bd6+, so White has the only chance: two bishops and matting threats. **1.Bd4+! Kg5** 1...Kf7? 2.Bc4+ Kf8 3.b8Q+. **2.h4+! Kh5 3.b8Q!** Victory or defeat – the edge is very sharp. **3...Be4?!** is refuted by 3...Qd6+ 4.Kh3 Qf4!. **3...Bd6+ 4.Kh3 Bxb8 5.Be4!!** This nice quiet move with a discreet threat 6.Bc6 crowns the white attack. But if you have finished your solution here, an important feature has been missed. **5...Bg3!!** Beautiful! Capturing the bishop would give saving tempos to White, for example **6.Kxg3?!** Qd6+ 7.Kh3 Qf4 or **6.fxg3?!** f2!. The execution of the direct threat **6.Bc6?!** would be slow here: 6...Bxh4! 7.Be3! Qxe3! – because of the square g5 for black king – 8.fxe3 f2 9.Be8+ Kg5 10.Bb5 Kxf5. Dark-colour bishop's moves are more clever. But an endgame after **6.Be3?!** Qxe3! 7.fxe3 Bxh4 8.Bxf3+ Kg5 9.f6 Be1! 10.f7 Bb4 is drawn and **6.Bf6?!** Bxh4 7.Bxh4 Qd3! ends with stalemate. All? **6.Bb2!!** A nice and unexpected point! After **6...Qb3 7.Bc6! Bxh4 8.Bc1!** Black can no longer sacrifice his queen for the bishop and it decides this exciting battle. **8...Bxf2 9.Be8+ 9.Bf4? Qe3! 9...Qf7 10.Bxf7 mate.**

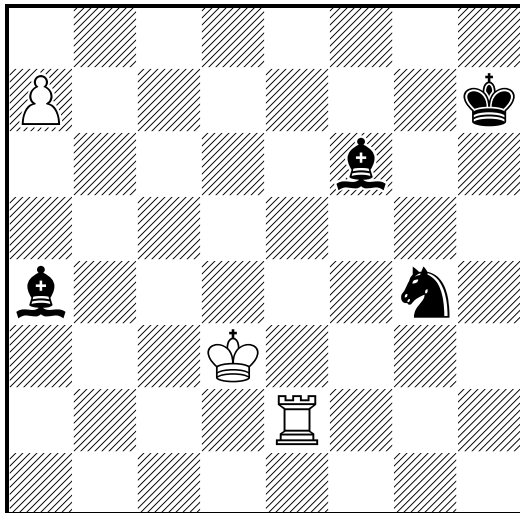


Michal Hlinka and Ľuboš Kekely
Slovakia
Moderný šach 2009
1st –2nd Prize

Black to play, draw

Michal Hlinka works last time systematically with pin stalemates. It is an impressive, but same time difficult and thankless theme, because such unlikely finishes need strong measures. That is why the current study is a little phenomenon. Almost all pieces are playing and the only exchange has a sacrifice nature. White king goes to a corner from far away and the battle finishes with two two-pins stalemates after analogous rook sacrifices. In addition there is a try with similar stalemates. Unfortunately the white play is mostly too forced.

1...Bh6+! The bishop on d6 would be vulnerable – **1...Bd6+ 2.Ke4 Rb4+ 3.Kd5 Rb5+ 4.Kc6**, bad is also **1...Rb4+ 2.Ke3 Re8+ 3.Kd2 Rd4+ 4.Kc3 Rc4+ 5.Kb2 Rb4+ 6.Kc2 Rc8+ 7.Kd2 Bh6+ 8.Bf4 Bxf4+ 9.Rxf4+ Rxf4 10.Ng2+**. **2.Kf3!** White king can take a breather only in the corner h1: **2...Ke5?** Rb5+ 3.Ke4 Bb7+ or **2...Ke4?** Rb4+ 3.Kf3 (3.Ke5 Rb5+ 4.Kf6 Rf8+) 3...Bb7+. **2...Rb3+ 3.Kg2 Rg8+** Interesting lines like **3...Bb7+ 4.Kf1 Ra1 5.Rg6 Bd2** (5...Ba6+ 6.Rxa6 Rxa6 7.Rf2) 6.Be5 Rxe1+ 7.Kf2 end with sufficient white counter-play, for example 7...Rf3+ 8.Rxf3 Rxe5 9.Rf7 Be3+ 10.Kf1 Kh5 11.Rg3. **4.Kh1** But not **4...Kf2?** Rb2+ 5.Kf3 Bb7+. **4...Bb7+ 5.Ng2+! Rxe2** I have spent some time analysing positions after **5...Kg4**. It seems, White holds after 6.Rf7 Rg7 7.Rxb7! (7.Rxe7+? Bxe7 8.Rd1 Kh3 9.Kg1 Bxe2+) 7...Rgxb7 8.Ne3+ Kf3 9.Nf5. **6.Rxe2 Rb1+ 6...Rb2 7.Bg3+ Kg4 8.Rff2 Rxf2 9.Bxf2+ EGTB. 7.Bg1 Be3 8.Rf4+!!** A point, insufficient was **8...Kh2?** Bxe1+ 9.Rxe1 (9.Kh1 Bf2+ 10.Kh2 Bg3+ 11.Rxe3 Rh1 mate) 9...Rb2+ 10.Rg2 Rxe2+ 11.Kh1 Rg5+. And now two pin stalemates will arise: **8...Bxf4 model stalemate** or **8...Kh3 9.Rf3+! Bxf3 stalemate**. Thematic try **5.Rg2?! Rb1 6.Bg1 Rxe1 7.Rf4+!** is refuted by **7...Kh5! 8.Rf5+ Rg5 9.Rfxg5+ Bxe5**, but not **7...Bxf4?** stalemate or **7...Kh3?** 8.Rf3+ Kh4 (8...Bxf3 stalemate) 9.Rh3+ Kxh3 stalemate.



Jaroslav Pospíšil
Czech Republic
Moderný šach 2009
Special Prize

White wins

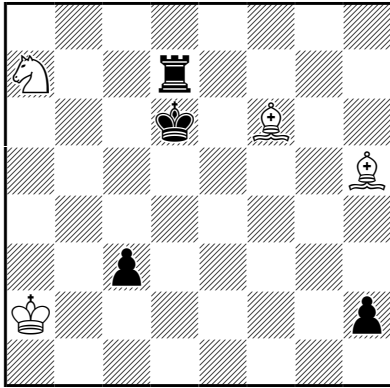
The well-known composer from Prague deals many years with synthesis of positional draws. In the year 1955 he won the 1st Prize (Československý šach) for synthesis of Karstedt draw (BNxQ) and Lolli draw (BBxQ). And in the year 1967 he has succeeded to add the third Lolli draw (BxRP); this study won in the Československý šach the highest Prize again being often published worldwide. Unfortunately both studies were killed by EGTBs. A principal problem was the Lolli draw (Kg7 Bg6 Bf6 vs Q), which cannot be shifted, as it was considered in pre-computer times (Československý šach 8 and 11/1995).

Finally Pospíšil (*1934) in higher age learned computer and using it, he finally finds a sound form of his ideas. Although he “only” cut-off a part of the 1967 study, changing colours and stipulation, the result is extremely impressive. The study is also understandable for human; even the point 7.Qe4!! could be explained possibly in the pub.

So I am granting the special Prize with the congratulation to the 75th author’s birthday.

1.Rh2+! Starting with a surprise. The immediate promotion **1.a8Q?** leads to the Karstedt draw: 1...Bb5+ 2.Kd2 Bxe2 3.Kxe2 Ne5, alike as **1.Re6?** Bc6! 2.Rxc6 Ne5+ 3.Ke4 Nxc6 4.a8Q Ne5. **1...Nxb2 2.a8Q** EBTGs are starting here, but according to the new Codex it is no longer problem. **2...Bb5+!** A key for understanding this study is the line **2...Ng4!?** 3.Qe4+!! . This way White prevents both positional draws. His movable queen beats black minor pieces also in lines like **2...Bb3** 3.Qb7+ Bg7 4.Qe4+! (4.Qxb3 Ng4) **4...Kg8** 5.Qe8+ Kh7 (5...Bf8 6.Qh5 Nf1 7.Qe2 Ng3 (7...Ba4 8.Qa2+) 8.Qg4+ Bg7 9.Qxg3) 6.Qh5+ Kg8 7.Qxh2 or **4...Kh6** 5.Qh4+. The clever text move gives a good practical chances. **3.Ke4?** Ng4! and there is not Qe4+ or **3.Ke3?** Ng4 (check!). A little study in study arises after **3.Kd2!?** **Be8!!** 4. Qxe8 Nf3+, but not **3...Nf1+?** 4.Ke1 Bd3 5.Qb7+ Kg6 6.Qc6!. **3...Kh6!** Retreating from the check Qe4+, that plays a key role in many lines. Another moves are clearly bad: **3...Ng4** 4.Qe4+, **3...Bg7** 4.Qh1 Be5 5.Qe4+ or finally **3...Kg6** 4.Qg2+. **4.Qf8+!** But not **4.Qh1!?** Be8!! (or 4...Ba4+ 5.Kb1 Be8!!) 5.Qxh2+ Kg7 and the Lolli draw is unavoidable. Bad was also **4.Qb8!?** Nf3!, but not here 4...Ng4? 5.Qxb5 Ne5 6.Qb6!. **4...Kg6!** **4...Bg7?** 5.Qd6+ with 6.Qxh2, **4...Kg5?** 5.Qc5+ and 6.Qxb5. **5.Qg8+ Kh6!** Or 5...Bg7 6.Qe6+ Bf6 7.Qe4+ Kh6 8.Qf4+ Kg7 9.Qc7+ (9.Qg3+) 9...Kg6 10.Qxh2 (10.Qg3+). **6.Qe6!** **Kg7!** **6...Kg6** 7.Qe4+ Kh6 8.Qf4+. Black has cleverly passed through a mined area and suddenly it is not clear how to continue the attack. **7.Qe4!!** A beautiful climax! The queen keeps under control the two key-squares e8 and f3, preventing same time both positional draws. And abruptly Black has no good move here. **7...Nf3!** The best chance, quite bad are both **7...Bf1** 8.Qf4 and **7...Bd7** 8.Qb7. **8.Qb7+!!** A last delicacy, we have already

seen the pictures after **8.Qxf3??** Be8!. **8...Kg6** **9.Qxf3** and Black is unable to assemble some “true” Lolli draw.



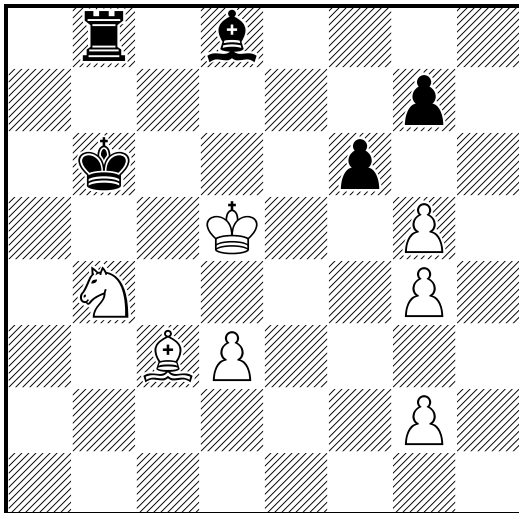
J. Pospíšil

Československý šach 1967, 1st Prize
draw?

1.Nb5+ **Kc5** 2.Bf3 Kxb5 3.Be5! Kb4 4.Bxh2
Rd2+ 5.Kb1 Rxh2 6.Be4! Lolli? -+.

1..Ke6 2.Bxc3 see the new study 2...Ra7+! 3.Nxa7
h1Q 4.Bg6!! Qg2+ 5.Bb2 **Qxg6**. 6.Nb5 Kd7 7.Nc3
Karstedt.

5..Qd5+ 6.Ka3 Qf3+ 7.Ka2 Qg2 8.Bb1 Qb7
9.Ka1 Qxa7+ 10.Ba2+ Lolli? -+.



Daniel Keith
 France
 dedicated to André Miedel
Moderný šach 2009
1st honourable mention

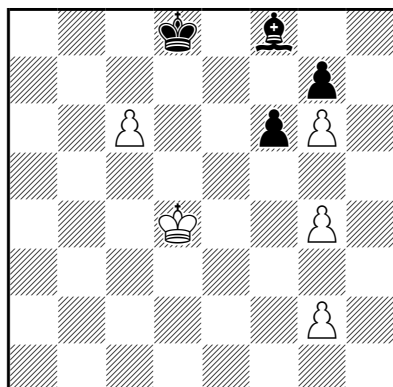
White wins

I like this construction with immured bishop. I like the helplessness of top engines in the situation, where an intermediate chessplayer uses immediately the key squares theory. The study should get a Prize if it were not for Grin, although his version is more modest and cooked. In addition, the author probably didn't use all possibilities of this scheme.

The positional **1.g6?** Ra8! is not enough to win because of Black's extra exchange. For example **2.Ke6** Kc5 3.g5! (3.Nd5 Ra6+) 3...Ra7 4.gxf6 Bxf6 5.Bxf6 Kxb4 6.Be5 Kc5 7.d4+ Kb5 8.d5 Ra2 9.d6 (9.g3 Re2 10.d6 Kc6 11.g4 Re1 12.Kf5 Rf1+ 13.Kg5 Rd1 14.Bxg7 Kxd6 2.g5 EGTB) 9...Kc6 10.d7 Rd2 11.Bxg7 Rd6+ 12.Kf7 Rxd7+ 13.Kg8 EGTB or **2.g5** Ra5+ 3.Ke6 Rxc5 4.Kf7 Rxc2 5.Kxc7 Kb5 6.Nd5 Rg3 7.Kf7 Rxd3 EGTB.

So White goes straightforwardly after the rook. **1.Nc6! Ra8** Or **1...Rb7** 2.Nxd8! Rd7+ 3.Ke6 Rxd8 4.Bxf6!. **2.Ba5+! Rxa5** + 2...Kb7 3.Bxd8 Rc8 4.Bxf6. **3.Nxa5 Kxa5 4.g6!** We have reached a centre of the composition. At a glance Black has no problem because of possible bishop's transfer to h6. But White has prepared a surprise. **4...f5** White succeeds move by move: 5.gxf5 Bf6 6.Ke6 Kb4 7.g4 Kc3 8.Kf7 Kd4 9.g5 Bxg5 10.Kxc7 Ke5 11.Kf7 Bf6 12.d4+ Kxf5 13.d5 Be5 14.d6. **5.Ke6 Be3 6.d4! Kb6** 6...Kb5 7.d5. **7.Kf7 Bh6 8.g5!! fxc5 9.g4!** And it is the Point! **9...Kc6 10.Ke6 Kc7 11.d5 Kd8 12.Kd6 Ke8 13.Kc7 Ke7 14.d6+ Kf6 15.d7**. Premature is **6.Kf7?! Bh6 7.g5** fxc5 8.g4 Kb4! or **7.d4** Kb5! 8.d5 Kc5 9.Ke6 Bf4 10.d6 Bxd6 11.Kf7 Be5 12.Kxc7 f5+ 13.Kf7 fxc4 14.g7 Bxg7 15.Kxc7 Kd4 16.Kf6 Ke3 17.Kf5 Kf2.

There is also an interesting defence **4...Bc7!?**. It usually transposes to the main solution, but White can also switch moves 5.Ke6 (5.d4) or use several extra options (5.d4 Bf4?! 6.Kc6!?). Specialized sense has here 5.d4 (5.Ke6) Kb5 6.Ke6 (6.d4) Bf4, where White has to find the only move 7.g3!!.. Unfortunately the author didn't succeed to integrate this moment adequately into his composition.



A. Grin

Chervoni Girnik 1988

1st honourable mention

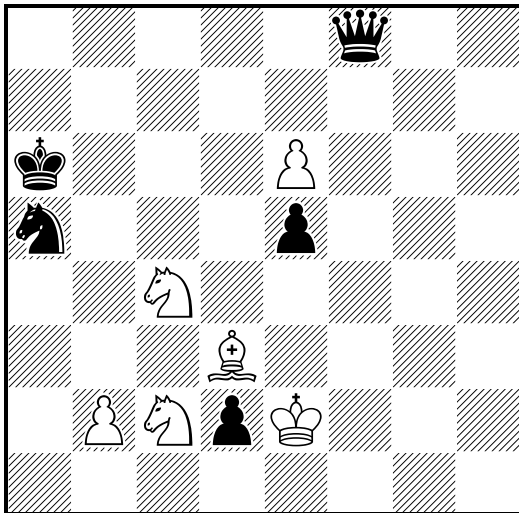
draw

1.Kd5 Ba3 2.Ke6 Bc1 3.Kf7 Bh6 4.g5

(unfortunately also 4.Ke6!) 4...fxg5 5.g4 Kc7 6.Ke7

Kxc6 7.Ke6.

Daniel Keith corrected this study moving wPg2 to g3.

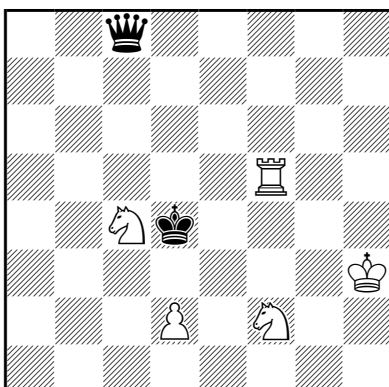


Sergej Diduch
Ukraine
Moderný šach 2009
2nd honourable mention

White wins

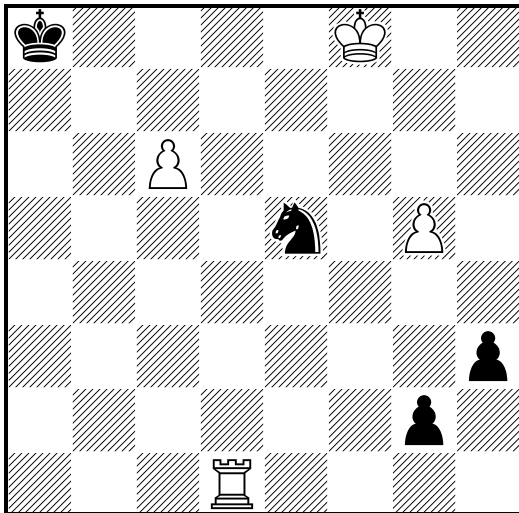
The known author illustrates his excellent composition technique. But the theme of repeated queen sacrifice is not new; Korolkov and Chekhover published similar studies in the fiftieths.

The introduction **1.e7!** alluring the queen into a fork, is rather visible. It is not possible to swap moves because of the queen's activation: **1.Nd6+?** Ka7 2.e7 Qf3+ 3.Kxf3 d1Q+ 4.Ke3 Qg1+ 5.Kd2 Qg2+ 6.Be2 (6.Kc3 Qc6+) 6...Nc4+! 7.Nxc4 Qg5+ 8.N2e3 Qxe7. **1...Qxe7** And here queen's attacks are insufficient: **1...d1Q+**, 2.Kxd1 Qf3+ 3.Kd2 Qg2+ 4.Kc3 or **1...Qf1+**, 2.Kxf1 d1Q+ 3.Ne1 Qh5 4.e8Q Qxe8 5.Nd6+. **2.Nd6+ Nc4!** Certainly the only move, after 2...Kb6? 3.Nc8+ Black could resign immediately. **3.Bxc4+** I rate this moment as a small weakness of the study. Any human solver rejects namely the vulgar text move preferring the more attractive **3.Nb4+?!** with interesting NNxP constellations. For example 3...Kb6! 4.Nc8+ Kc5 5.Nxe7 **d1Q+** 6.Kxd1 Nxb2+ 7.Kc2 Nxd3 8.Nxd3+ Kb5! draw. But the dry **5...Nxb2!** 6.Kxd2 Kxb4 draws without difficulties. **3...Ka5 4.b4+ Ka4 5.Ne4!!** This nice quiet continuation of the attack is hard to find because of stalemates. But White is not afraid of chimeras. **5...d1Q+** **6.Kxd1 Qd7+** **7.Kc1!** 7.Ke1? Qd1+. **7...Qd1+** **8.Kb2!! Qc1+** **9.Kc3 Qb2+** **10.Kd3!!** 10.Kd2 loses time only 10...Qc1+ 11.Kc3. **10...Qc3+** **11.Nxc3 mate.**



V. Chekhover
Niva 1956
White wins

1.Ne3 Qh8+ 2.Kg2 Qh2+ 3.Kf1 Qg1+ 4.Ke2 Qe1+ 5.Kf3 Qe2+ 6.Kg3 Qxd2 7.Rf4+ Kxe3 8.Re4 mate.

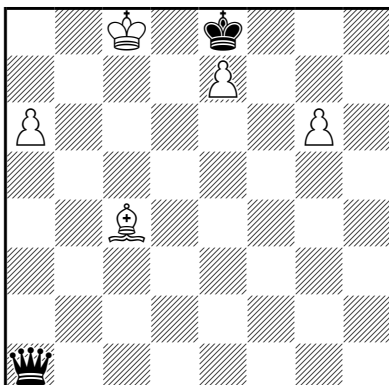


David Gurgenzidze
Georgia
Moderný šach 2009
3rd honourable mention

draw

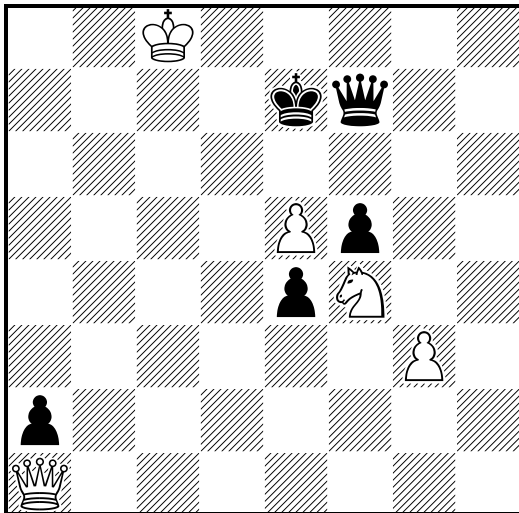
Gurgenzidze is known as maestro of light constructions and this study could be a star of every solver contest. But the final is worn out. It was discovered by Troitzky in the year 1889 and used by the Czech composers Hašek in the year 1936. The most interesting versions are Keres 1955 with no capture of black bishop and Korolkov 1962 with surprising sacrifice of the white bishop. The current study is a little improved by a try with other position of black king, but is it not enough for a Prize.

1.Rd8+ Ka7 2.c7 Nd7+! 3.Rxd7 Kb7 4.Rd1 h2 5.Rc1! Kc8 6.g6 g1Q 7.Rxg1 hxg1Q 8.g7
In this position the block K+P replaces the board edge, creating known stalemate motives. Black cannot win. **8...Qc5+ 9.Ke8 Qc6+ 10.Kf8 Qf6+ 11.Ke8 Qxg7 stalemate.** Thematic try **5.g6?!** is refuted by 5...g1Q 6.Rxg1 hxg1Q 7.g7 Qc5+ 8.Ke8 Qc6+ 9.Kf8 Qd6+ 10.Ke8 Qe6+ 11.Kf8 Qc8+!! wins.



V. Korolkov
Shakhmaty v SSSR 1962
draw

1.g7 Qxg7 2.a7 Qg4+ 3.Be6! Qa4 4.Bd7+!
Qxd7+ 5.Kb8 Qd6+ 6.Kc8 Qc6+ 7.Kb8
Qb6+ 8.Kc8 Qxa7 stalemate.



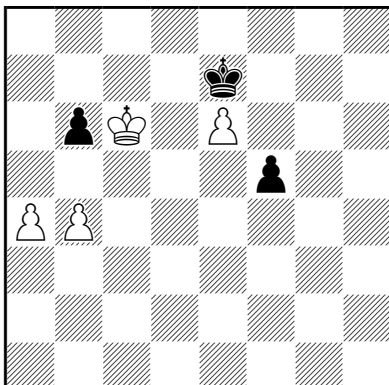
Jaroslav Polášek
Czech Republic
Moderný šach 2009
4th honourable mention

White wins

Jaroslav Polášek succeeded to improve a known combination (a queen sacrifice followed by a promotion and a skewer, see Kok) adding a nice mate picture. Surprisingly I cannot find a similar mate in such economic form in Harold van der Heijden's database.

1.e6! 1.Qd4? Qg8+ 2.Kc7 (2.Kb7 Qb3+) 2...a1Q 3.Qxa1 Qc4+ 4.Kb6 Qb4+ 5.Ka6 Qc4+ 6.Ka5 Qc5+. **1...Qg8+ 2.Kc7 Qxg3 3.Qe5! Qxf4!** Or **3...a1Q** 4.Qd6+ Kf6 5.Nd5+! Kg7 6.Qxg3+. **4.Qxf4 a1Q 5.Qd6+ Kf6 6.e7+ Kf7 7.Qe6+!! Kxe6 8.e8Q+ Kd5 8...Kf6 9.Qh8+. 9.Qc6+ Ke5 9...Kd4 10.Qf6+. 10.Qd6 mate.**

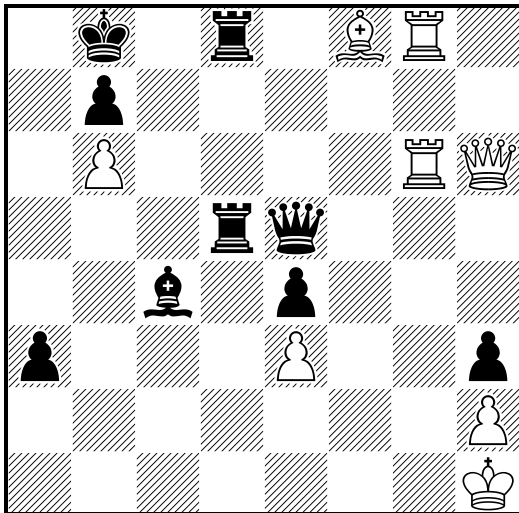
The following difficult side-line spoils a little the impression of this study: **1...De(g)8+ 2.Kc7 Qd8+ 3.Kb7 Qa5**. Even several top engines have problem to demonstrate a win here, because it is necessary to see in depth of 33 halfmoves: 4.Qg7+ Kd6 5.Qd4+ Ke7 6.Nd5+ Qxd5+ (6...Kxe6 7.Qf6+ Kxd5 8.Qxf5+) 7.Qxd5 a1Q 8.Qd7+ Kf6 9.Qf7+ Kg5 10.Qg8+ Kh5 11.e7 Qb2+ 12.Kc6 Qc2+ 13.Kd6 Qd3+ 14.Qd5 Qa6+ 15.Qc6 Qd3+ 16.Ke6 Qb3+ 17.Kf6 Qb2+ 18.Kxf5 Qf2+ 19.Ke6 Qa2+ 20.Qd5+.



T. Kok
Pionneneindspelen 1992
White wins

1.a5 bxa5 2.b5 a4 3.b6 a3 4.b7 a2 5.b8Q a1Q
6.Qd6+ Kf6 7.e7+ Kf7 8.Qe6+! Kxe6
9.e8Q+ Kf6 10.Qh8+.

Jaroslav Polášek: but 1...Kg7!!.

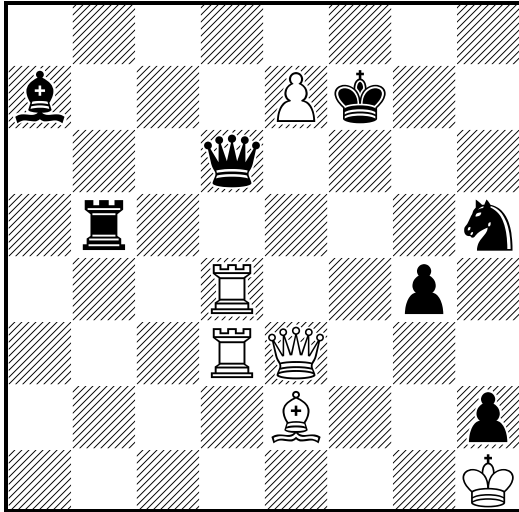


Günter Amann
Austria
Moderný šach 2009
5th honourable mention

draw

The second Amann's study has also an expressive theme. But comparing to the Prize this study seems to be too brutal.

1.Bd6+! R5xd6 2.Rxd6 Rxc8 3.Qg7!! The first point. White queen covers several threats and same time prepares a stalemate defence Qxb7+, which will really happen after amazing rook's manoeuvres. **3...Qc5! 4.Rc6!!** A nice add-in to the previous move. Bad is **4.Rd7? Bf7!**, for example 5.Rc7 Qb4 6.Rxb7+ Kxb7 7.Qxf7+ Ka6 8.Qb7+ Ka5 9.Qa7+ (9.Qd5+ Qb5 10.Qd2+ Ka6) 9...Kb5 10.Qd7+ Kc4 11.Qd4+ Kb3 12.Qd5+ Qc4. **4...Qf5 5.Rf6!!** Guarding f1. **5...Qc8 6.Rc6!** The rook exhibition continues. After **6.Rf8?** Rxf8 7.Qe5+ Ka8 8.Qa5+ Ba6! Black wins. **6...a2!** Black's last try. **6...Qd8** 7.Qe5+ Ka8 8.Rc8+ Qxc8 9.Qb8+ gives nothing and the computer move **6...Ba6!?** has several refutations: 7.Rxc8+ (or 7.Rc7 a2 8.Rxb7+) 7...Rxc8 8.Qg3+ Ka8 9.Qg8 Kb8 10.Qg3+ Ka8 11.Qg8 Rb8 12.Qb3 Rf8 13.Qg8. **7.Rxc4!** It is still easy to through away a halfpoint, for example **7.Rxc8+?** Rxc8 8.Qe5+ Ka8 9.Qa5+ Ba6 10.Qa3 Rd8! (with the idea 11.Qa4/Qc1 Rf8!) 11.Kg1 Rd1+ 12.Kf2 Rf1+ 13.Kg3 a1Q. Or **7.Qe5+** Ka8 8.Qa5+ Ba6 9.Qxa2 Rg1+ 10.Kxg1 Qg4+ 11.Kf2 Qh4+ 12.Kg1 Qe1 mate. **7...Qxc4 8.Qxb7+!** But not careless **8.Qxg8+?** Qc8! 9.Qg1 Qf8 10.Qg3+ Ka8 11.Qxh3 a1Q+. **8...Kxb7 stalemate.**

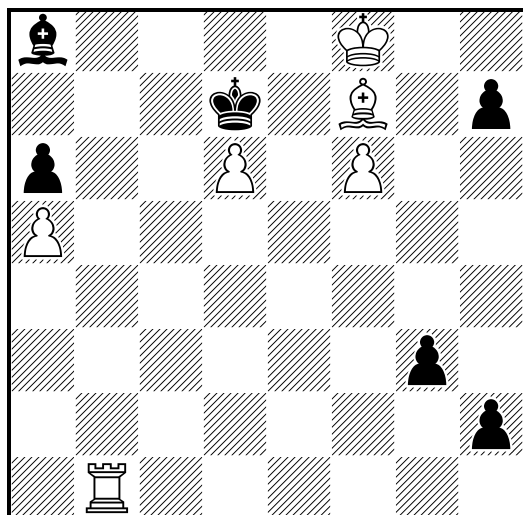


Michal Hlinka and Ľuboš Kekely
Slovakia
Moderný šach 2009
6th honourable mention

Black to move, draw

The study has a similar theme as the Prize of same authors, even with an interesting white play. But the whole composition is not so pleasant and the a7-g1 pin is to deduce from the setting.

1...Ng3+! White has no problem after **1...Rb1+** 2.Rd1 Rxd1+ 3.Bxd1 Ng3+ 4.Kxh2 Nf1+ 5.Kg1 Nxe3 6.Rxd6 Nxd1+ 7.Kf1 Ne3+ 8.Ke2 Kxe7 9.Rg6. **2.Kxh2!** After **2...Qxg3?** Rb1+ white queen stays unguarded and Black wins on material: 3.Bd1 (3.Kxh2 Qh6+ 4.Kg2 Qh1+) 3...Rxd1+ 4.Rxd1 Qxg3. **2...Nf1+** **3.Kg1!** But not 3.Kg2? Nxe3+ (check!) 4.Rxe3 Qc6+ 5.Rde4 Rb8. **3...Qh2+!** 3...Nxe3 4.Rxd6 Nf5+ 5.Kg2 Nxd6 6.Rxd6. **4.Kxf1 Qh1+** **5.Kf2!** **5.Qg1?** loses easily: 5...Rf5+ 6.Bf3 Rxf3+ 7.Rxf3+ Qxf3+ 8.Ke1 (8.Qf2 Bxd4) 8...Qc3+ 9.Ke2 Qxd4. **5...Rf5+** **6.Bf3 Rxf3+** **7.Qxf3+ gxf3** The rook is pinned, time to resign? No! **8.e8Q+!** **Kxe8** **9.Re3+!** Switching the pinned rook for the unpinned one allows White to continue. **9...Kf8** **10.Rd8+** **Kf7** **11.Rd7+** **Kf6** **12.Rd6+!** 12.Rxa7? Qg2+ 13.Ke1 f2+. **12...Kg5** **13.Rd5+** **Kh4** And we are in the finish. The seemingly terrible bishop is suddenly powerless. **14.Rd4+!** **Bxd4** stalemate or **14...Kh3** **15.Rh4+!** **Kxh4** stalemate. Or – naturally – a perpetual.

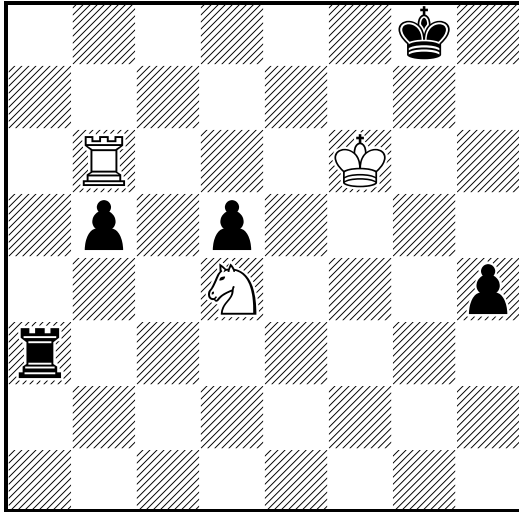


Gerhard Josten
 Germany
Moderný šach 2009
 7th honourable mention

draw

The study is based on a fine switch 6.Kf7! instead of the more “logical” 6.Kf8?. But too many ammunition is used after this point and solvers need a computer to find all that.

White position seems to be lost, but a saving is possible. **1.Rb6! h1Q 2.Be8+ Kc8!** 2...Ke6? 3.d7+ Kf5 4.d8Q even wins. **3.d7+ Kc7 4.Rb8!** 4.Rd6 Kd8 5.Rb6 Bb7. **4...Qh6+ 4...Qd5 5.Rc8+ 5.Ke7! 5...Kf7.. Qh5+ 6.Ke7 Qe5+ 7.Kf7 Bd5+.** **5...Qe3+ 6.Kf7!!** The most interesting moment in the study. After **6...Kf8?** Qc5+ 7.Kg7 Qg5+! Black wins easily. So White obstructs the fifth rank apart from the fact that black bishop gets a nice central square even with tempo. **6...Bd5+ 7.Kf8 Qc5+ 8.Kg7 Kxb8 8...Qd6 9.Rc8+ Kb7 10.d8Q Qxd8 11.Rxd8. 9.d8Q+ Kb7 9...Ka7 10.f7. 10.f7 g2 11.Qd7+ Kb8 12.Qd8+ Ka7 12...Kb7 13.Qd7+ Kb8 14.Qd8+. 13.Qb6+ Qxb6 14.axb6+ Kxb6 15.f8Q g1Q+ 16.Kxh7.**



Luis Miguel Gonzáles
 Spain
Moderný šach 2009
Special honourable mention

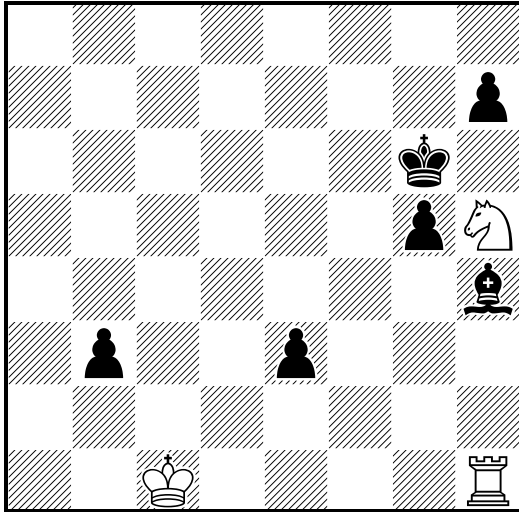
White wins

We are facing to a typical analytical study with a very difficult solution and no artificial element to humanize it. Its value for chess lies in understanding such positions have a winning potential plus in learning methods how to win them. Unfortunately no method is shown by the author.

I couldn't find a win replaying lines and also engines are helpless in the usual interactive regime. What to do? A strong chessplayer, having abstract positional thinking, is probably able to reach following outcome: This position needs white rook on e7 to raise a pressure with Ne6 and Kg6. The rest is relatively easy, however a black defence with Rb8 is necessary to find and eliminate. Top chess engines using a quick hardware with gigabyte hash tables are able to find a win by means of brute force method after some time.

A most interesting and effective method was demonstrated by Jan Lerch. If you keep on the board only one back pawn, three EGTB positions arise with similar ideas. Studying them, the winning plan can be quickly discovered. Maybe it is also the way how this study was composed.

I give only main lines here, the supporting database contains a lot of details. **1.Rb8+ Kh7 2.Rb7+ Kg8 Kh8 4.Re7!** It was commented in the introduction. **4...Ra8 5.Ne6! Kg8 6.Rg7+! Kh8 7.Rb7!!** And it is the second reef to be overcome. **7.Rd7?** Kg8 8.Kg6 allows the defence **8...Rb8!** 9.Re7 h3. For the same reason **6.Kg6?** Rb8! was bad, for example **7.Rg7+ Kh8 8.Kh6 Rb6 9.Re7 Kg8 10.Kg6 Rb8** and positional draw. **7...Ra6** A difference in the rook's placing is visible in the following line **7...Kg8!?** 8.Kg6 h3. White wins here an important tempo attacking the rook: **9.Nc7! Rd8 10.Nxd5 Rd6+ 11.Nf6+ Rxf6+ 12.Kxf6 h2 13.Kg6**. The rest is less interesting. White can liquidate pawns same time keeping a pressure. **8.Re7 h3 9.Kg6 Ra8 10.Ng5! Ra6+ 11.Kf7 Ra8 12.Re6! Ra7+ 13.Kg6 Ra8 14.Nxh3 Rg8+ 15.Kh6 Ra8 16.Ng5! Kg8 17.Kg6 Kf8 18.Nh7+ Kg8 19.Rd6 Rb8 20.Nf6+ Kf8 21.Rd7.**

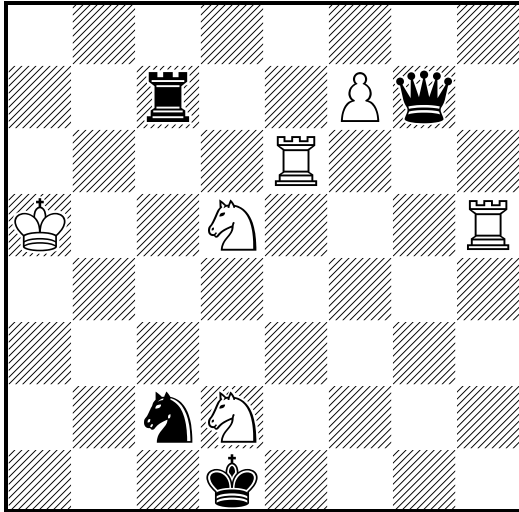


Jaroslav Pospíšil
Czech Republic
Moderný šach 2009
2nd Commendation

draw

I have checked this interesting positional study several times over before to accept the result. But the position lacks more excitement.

Inviting spectacular shoots give nothing, for example **1.Nf4+?** gxf4 2.Rxh4 b2+ 3.Kc2 b1Q+! 4.Kxb1 e2 5.Rh1 f3 or **1.Rxh4?** gxh4 2.Nf4+ Kg5!. The whole study is a pure positional matter. **1.Kd1! Kxh5 2.Ke2 g4** To keep the important b-pawn. **3.Kxe3 b2 4.Kf4! 4.Ke4?** Kg6 5.Kf4 Bg5+. **4...h6!** White seems to be out-temped and he has to release a pin. But for all that there is a good defence. **5.Rf1!!** After seemingly similar **5.Rd1?** Bg5+ 6.Kg3 Bd2!! white rook cannot reach the important fifth rank. **5...Bg5+ 6.Kg3 Bc1** An interesting try **6...Bf6!?** with the idea **7.Rf5+?** Kg6 8.Rb5 h5 is insufficient for **7.Kf4!**. **7.Rf5+ Kg6 8.Rb5 h5**. Finally Black keeps his pawns, but surprisingly he has no way to advance. For example 9.Kh4 Kf6 10.Kg3 Ke6 11.Kh4 Kd6 12.Kg3 Kc6 13.Rb3 Kc5 14.Rb8 Kc4 15.Rb7 Kc3 16.Rc7+ Kd3 17.Rd7+ Kc2 18.Rc7+ Kb3 19.Rb7+ Ka2 20.Ra7+ Kb1 21.Rh7 positional draw.

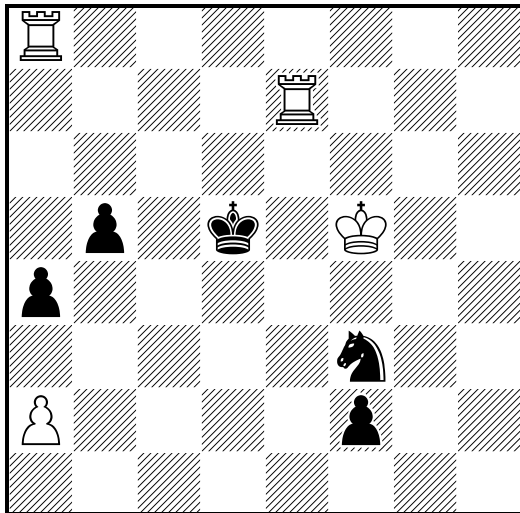


Iuri Akobia
 Georgia
Moderný šach 2009
3rd Commendation

White wins

I tried to solve this study of a known author without a computer. I succeeded only partly after I – not easily – uncovered a nice idea of mined square b7 for white king in the line A. The analysis of the line B was broken after 4...Qf2 5.Rh7 because it is no human's matter. A classical endgame maestro could undoubtedly eliminate such a line getting a better evaluation from me.

Lines like **1.Nxc7??** Qxf7 2.Rc5 Kxd2 3.Rd6+ Kc1 4.Rdc6 Qb3 give nothing, so White prepares a matting net. **1.Nb3!** Black can no longer beat the pawn, for example **1...Qxf7** 2.Rh1+ Ne1 3.Rhxe1+ Kc2 4.Nd4+ Kd2 5.R6e2+ Kd3 6.Nb4+ Kc4 7.Rc1+ Kxd4 8.Rd1+ Kc4 9.Rc2+ Kb3 10.Rd3+. So he sacrifices his rook for a promising queen's activity. **1...Ra7+ 2.Kb6** 2.Kb5 Rb7+ 3.Nb6 Na3+ 4.Kb4 Nc2+. **2...Rb7+!** **3.Kxb7 Qxf7+** And here after the natural move **4.Re7??!** Qf3! we have got an interesting position where the black queen controls situation. It is a good clue for solvers to discover a correct idea about a mined square b7. **4.Kb8!!** with two points: **4...Qf8+ 5.Kc7!!** Qf7+ **6.Re7!** Qf3 **7.Rh1+!** Qxh1 **7...Ne1** 8.Rexe1+ Kc2 9.Nd4+. **8.Nc3** mate or **4...Qxe6 5.Rh1+!** Qe1 **6.Nc3** mate. The author gives the second thematic line B **2...Qg1+ 3.Ne3+ Nxe3 4.Kxa7 Qf2 5.Rh7 Nd5+** After **5...Nc4+** 6.Kb7 Qf4 the best move seems to be 7.Rc6!. **6.Kb7 Qf4 7.Re5!** 7.Kc6 Nb4+ 8.Kb5 Nd3 9.Rb6 Qb4+ 10.Ka6 Qf8 probably gives nothing. **7...Qb4+ 8.Kc6 Ne7+ 9.Kd7 Qb7+ 10.Ke6 Ng6 11.Rd5+ Ke2 12.Rh2+ Ke3 13.Rh3+ Kf2 14.Rd2+ Kg1 15.Rg3+ Kf1 16.Rxg6.**

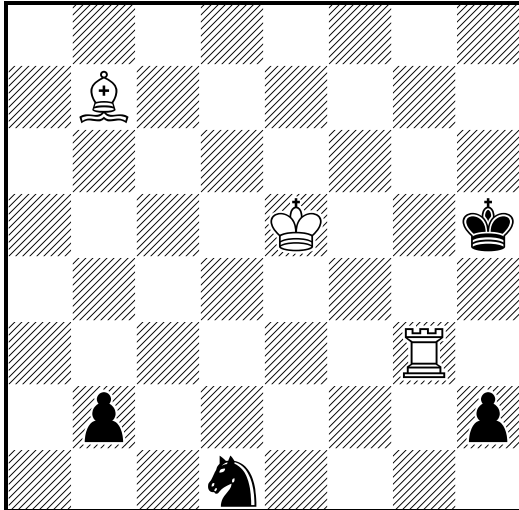


Alain Pallier
France
Moderný šach 2009
4th Commendation

White wins

This study is based on a small motif of king's activation instead of guarding his pawn. The author self shows a similar idea was used in his study in Kalyagin 55JT.

1.Rd8+ Kc5! 1...Kc4? 2.Rc7+ Kb4 3.a3+ Ka5 4.Rd6 Nd4+ 5.Ke4 b4 6.Kxd4 f1Q 7.Ra7+ Kb5 8.Rb7+ Ka5 9.axb4 mate. **2.Rd1!** But not **2.Rc8+?** Kd6! 3.Re6+ Kd5! 4.Rd8+ Kc5 5.Rd1 Nd4+ 6.Kf6 Nxe6 7.Kxe6 b4 8.Rf1 b3. **2...Nd2 2...Ne1?** 3.Rxe1 fxe1R 4.Rxe1. **3.Rc7+!** The rook cannot win with paws in lines like **3.Re2?** f1Q+ 4.Rxf1 Nxf1 5.Kf4 Kb4 6.Rf2 Ka3 7.Rxf1 Kxa2 and **3.Re5+?** Kb4 4.Re4+ Ka3 5.Re3+!? (5.Rf4 f1Q 6.Rxf1 Nxf1 7.Rxf1 Kxa2) 5...Kb4 6.Kf4 f1Q+ 7.Rxf1 Nxf1 8.Rd3 Nh2 9.Kg3 Kc4 10.Rd8 b4 11.Kxh2 b3. **3...Kb4 4.Rcc1 f1Q+ 5.Rxf1 Nxf1 6.Rxf1 Ka3 7.Ke4!** The point; surprisingly White cannot guard his pawn instead: **7.Rf2** b4 8.Ke4 b3 9.axb3 Kxb3. **7...Kxa2 8.Kd3! Kb2 9.Rf2+!** wins, for example 9...Kb3 10.Kd2 Kb2 11.Kd1+ Kb1 12.Rf5 b4 13.Rf4.



János Mikitovics
 Hungary
Moderný šach 2009
5th Commendation

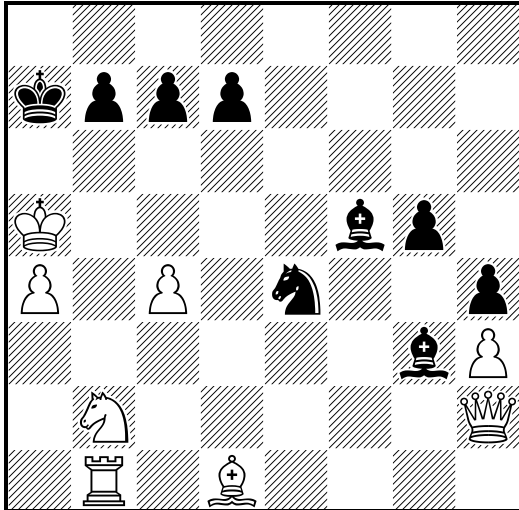
White wins
 B Rg3>g6, White to move, Black draws

This miniature is based on a nice quiet move 3.Rb8!! . But the study is too analytical. Especially the twin B is a pure analysis; my evaluation of the alone position A would be the same.

1.Rb3! Thematic try 1..Bf3+!? Kh4 2.Rg4+ Kh3 3.Rb4 Nf2 4.Rb3! Kg3! 5.Bb7+ Kg4 6.Bf3+ Kg3! ends with a positional draw. **1...Kg5!** After 1...Kg4 2.Bf3+ Kg5 Black has lost a tempo compare to the main line, so it is sufficient for example 3.Rb4(5.6..) Nf2 4.Rb8. **2.Bf3! Nf2** **3.Rb8!!** This quiet move is the main point of this study. White rook surprisingly catches all tasks in the line 3...h1Q 4.Bxh1 Nxh1 5.Rg8+ Kh4 6.Rh8+ Kg3 7.Rxh1. **3...Nd3+** The second main line is 3...Nd1 4.Rg8+ Kh6 (4...Kh4 5.Kf4!) 5.Rh8+ Kg5 (5...Kg7 6.Rb8) 6.Rh5+ Kg6 7.Rxh2 b1Q 8.Be4+. **4.Ke4!** 4.Kd4? Kf4! 5.Bg2 Nf2. **4...Nf2+ 5.Ke3 Nd1+ 6.Kd2!** 6.Kd3? Kf4!. **6...Nf2** According to the author, another main line is 6...Kf4 7.Ba8(c6) (7.Bg2?) 7...Nf2 8.Rb4+! Kg3 9.Rxb2 h1Q 10.Bxh1 Nxh1 11.Ke3. **7.Ke2** 7.Ke3? Nd1+ 8.Kd3 Kf4. **7...h1Q 8.Bxh1 Nxh1 9.Kf3 wins.**

Position B

After **1.Rb6 Kg4!** White lacks a tempo 2.Bf3+ and it is a decisive difference. **2.Rb4+** 2.Rb3 Nf2! 3.Bf3+ Kg3! (3...Kg5? 4.Rb8 see A) 4.Bc6+ Kg4 5.Bf3+ Kg3 positional draw. **2...Kg3!** **3.Kd4 Kh3!! 4.Rb6 Kg4! 5.Rb4 Kh3! 6.Rb3+ Kg4! 6...Kh4? 7.Ke5 Kg5 (7...Kg4 8.Bf3+) 8.Bf3 Nf2 9.Rb8 Nd1 10.Rg8+ Kh6 11.Rh8+ Kg5 12.Rh5+ Kg6 13.Rxh2. **7.Ke5 Nf2! 8.Bf3+ Kg3 9.Ba8+ Kg4** 9...Kh4? 10.Kf4 Nd3+ 11.Ke3. **10.Bf3+ Kg3 positional draw.****

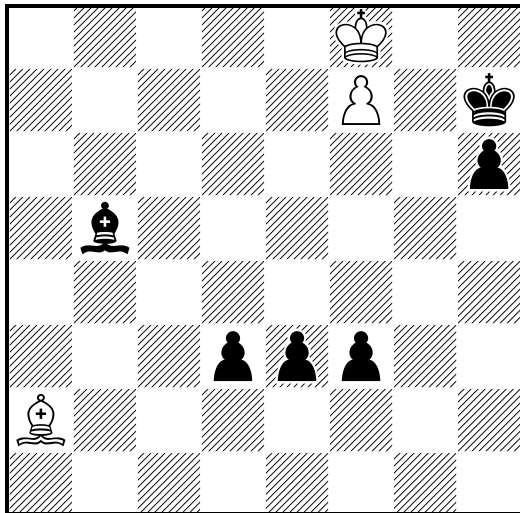


Gerhard Josten
Germany
Moderný šach 2009
6th Commendation

White wins

This study begins as a romantic charade with a lot of sacrifices to prevent mates and continues to an opposite colour bishop endgame. But despite many interesting motives it lacks a connecting idea and some worthy climax.

1.Qh1! 1.Bg4? Bxh2 2.Bxf5 Nd6 3.Kb4 Nxf5 4.Nd3 Ne3 5.Rb2 Bg3 6.Re2 Nf5 7.Re4 or **1.Qxg3?** Nxg3 **2.Rc1** c5! 3.Bf3 (3.Kb5 d6 4.Bg4 Bxg4 5.hxg4 Ne2; 3.Nd3 Bxd3 4.Kb5 d6 5.a5 Bf5 6.Ka4 Bxh3) 3...Ne2 4.Bxe2 b6+ 5.Kb5 Be4, **2.Nd3!?** Bxd3 3.Rb5 b6+ 4.Kb4 c5+ 5.Kc3 Bf1 6.Bg4 Ne4+ 7.Kc2 Bxc4 8.Rb1 d5 and finally **1.Qg1+?** c5 2.Kb5 b6 3.Qxc5 bxc5 4.Rc1 Bf2. **1...c5** Or **1...Bd6** 2.c5 Bxc5 3.Nc4 b6+ 4.Nxb6 cxb6+ 5.Rxb6 Bxb6+ 6.Kb5. **2.Nd3!** **2.Kb5?** b6 3.Qxe4 (3.a5 Nc3) 3...Bxe4 4.a5 Bc6 mate or **2.Qxe4?** b6+ 3.Kb5 Bxe4. **2...Bc7+** 2...b6+ 3.Rxb6. **3.Kb5 d6** **3...Nd6+** 4.Kxc5, **3...b6** 4.Nxc5 bxc5 5.Rb3. **4.Nxc5 dxc5** **5.Qxe4!** **5.Bg4?** Bb6! 6.Qxe4 Bxe4 7.Bd7 Bxb1. **5...Bxe4** **6.Rb3!** Guarding the square f3. **6...Bd6** **7.Bf3 Bf5** 7...Bc2 8.Re3. **8.Bg4 Be4** **9.Bd7 g4!** The best counter-play. **10.hxg4 Bg2** Or **10...Bf4** 11.Kxc5 Bg2 12.Be6 h3 13.Bd5. **11.g5 h3** **12.Rxh3 Bxh3** **13.Bxh3** with a winning endgame, for example 13...b6 14.Kc6 Bf4 15.g6 Bh6 16.Kd5 Ka6 17.Bd7 Ka5 18.Ke6 Kb4 19.Bb5 Bg7 20.Kf7.



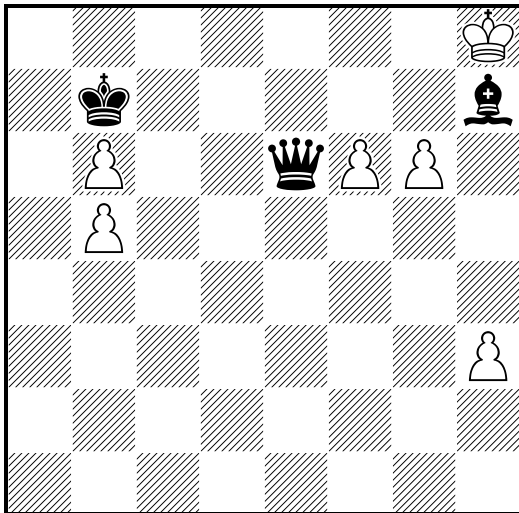
Ilham Aliev
Azerbaijan
Moderný šach 2009
7th Commendation

draw

A short joke based on surprising move 2.Kf6!! . This study is fitting for beginners solving contests.

1.Ke7 e2 2.Kf6!! e1Q 3.f8N+ Kh8 4.Ng6+ Kh7 5.Nf8+ Kh8 6.Ng6+.

After my first examination the following two studies aspirated on top Prizes. Unfortunately I have quickly traced they are not original studies, but rather small improvements of long-ago known schemas. I am in the conviction that authors should quote anticipators instead of testing judge's historic knowledge. It is also questionable to compare such pieces with original studies. However both studies have a certain value, so I am granting special commendations.

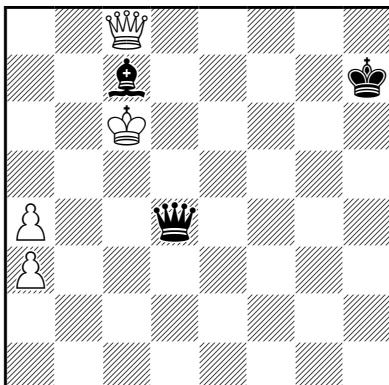


Richard Becker
USA
Moderný šach 2009
Special Commendation

draw

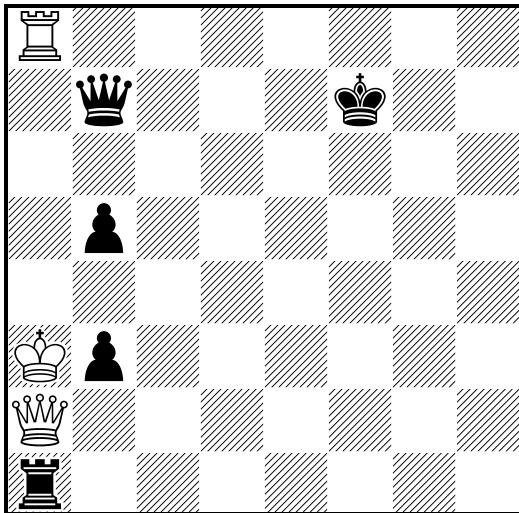
It would be a small wonder to discover something quite new in the QBxQ ending. A basic scheme used here was found by Mann 1913 and even Becker self has a version from the year 1982. Vandiest – who else with such a material – has added a final stalemate. A certain value of this study is the third white move.

1.f7! Bxg6! The only chance. In the lines like **1...Qe7?** 2.Kxh7 Qf8 3.h4 Black lacks too many tempos to succeed. **2.f8Q Bf7** At first sight no danger for White is visible here. But the following line illustrates it excellently: **3..Qg7??** Qxh3+ 4.Qh7 Qc3+ 5.Qg7 Qc8+ 6.Kh7 Qf5+ 7.Kh8 Qh5+ 8.Qh7 Qe5+ 9.Qg7 Qe8+ 10.Kh7 Qe4+ 11.Kh8 Qh4+ 12.Qh7 Qd8+ 13.Kg7 Qe7!! White is helpless in this zugzwang-like position, for example **14.Qh8** Be8+ 15.Kh6 Qe3+ 16.Kg7 (16.Kh7 Qe4+ 17.Kg8 Qe6+) 16...Qe5+ 17.Kh7 Qh5+ 18.Kg7 Qg6+ or **14.Qh2** Be8+ 15.Kh6 Qf6+ 16.Kh7 Bg6+ 17.Kh6 Be4+ 18.Kh5 Bf3 mate and finally **14.Qh6** Be6+ 15.Kg6 Qf7+ 16.Kg5 Qf5+ 17.Kh4 Qg4 mate. Bad is also **3..Kh7?** **Qf6!** **4.Qg7** Qf5+ 5.Kh8 Qxh3+, **4.Qh6** Bg8+ or **4.h4** Bg6+ 5.Kg8 Bh7+. Surprisingly White can hold after **3.Kg7!!** Indeed Black can execute the known manoeuvre again, he doesn't catch to beat white h-pawn. And it will act out a key role. **3...Qg6+** **4.Kh8 Qe6** **5.Kg7 Qg6+** **6.Kh8 Qf6+** **7.Qg7 Qh4+** **8.Qh7 Qd8+** **9.Kg7 Qe7** **10.h4 Kxb6** **11.h5 Kb7** **12.b6 Ka8** **13.b7+ Kb8** It seems the h-pawn only delayed an inevitable death, but he doesn't. **14.Qf5!!** Be6+ **15.Kh6 Bxf5** stalemate.



Bacque and Vandiest
Mihoc MT 1993
2nd honourable mention
Black to move, draw

1...Qd6+ 2.Kb7 Qb6+ 3.Ka8 Qc6+ 4.Qb7 Qxa4+ 5.Qa7 Qe8+ 6.Kb7 Qd7 7.a4 Kh6 8.a5 Kh7 9.Qc5 Bd6+ 10.Ka6 Bxc5 stalemate.

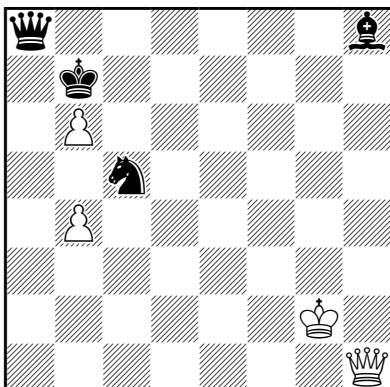


**David Gurgenidze and
Velimir Kalandadze**
Georgia
Moderný šach 2009
Special Commendation

draw

This nice scheme was discovered by Cumpe in *České slovo* 1932. Kalandadze himself has published several versions and that one with Grechishnikov contains even the fineness Kf7/Kf8. In the new study this difference is shown more markedly, but a penalty is a strange starting position not fitting with endgame nature of this scheme.

Thematic try **1.Qxa1?!** Qxa8+ 2.Kb2 Qh8+ 3.Kb1 Qh7+ 4.Kb2 Qc2+ 5.Ka3 b2! **6.Qe1** b4+! (6...b1Q 7.Qe7+) 7.Qxb4 b1N+! or **6.Qf1** Ke7 7.Qe1+ (7.Qxb5 b1N+! 8.Kb4 Qc3+ 9.Ka4 Qa3 mate) 7...Kd7 8.Qb4 Kc6!. A rook sacrifice will allure the king to an adjacent square and it will cost Black a half-point. **1.Rf8+! Kxf8 2.Qxa1 Qa7+ 3.Kb2 Qd4+ 4.Kb1 Qd3+ 5.Kb2 Qc2+ 6.Ka3 b2! 7.Qe1!!** That is to say after 7...b4+ 8.Qxb4 is check here. 7...Kf7 7...b1Q 8.Qe7+, 7...b1N+ 8.Qxb1. **8.Qb4 b1N+ 9.Qxb1 Qxb1 stalemate.**



Grechishnikov and Kalandadze
Shakhmaty v SSSR 1985

1.Kf2+!! Ne4+! 2.Qxe4+ Kb8 3.Qf4+! Kb7
4.Qf3+! Kb8 5.Qg3+ Kb7 6.Qg2+ Kb8
7.Qh2+ Kb7 8.Qh1+ Kb8 9.Qxh8+ Kb7
10.Qh1+! Kb8 11.Qh2+ Kb7 12.Qc7+ etc.
But not 1.Kf1+?.

Ústí nad Labem, January 30th 2010
Emil Vlasák, judge