

## **Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT – Endgame Study Tournament Final Award**

The tournament with a closing date 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007 received 47 entries from 26 authors from 18 countries. Many thanks to all participants – congratulators. As all entries cannot appear in the award, below find a list of all them sorted alphabetically.

Y. Afek (ISR/NLD), J. Akobija (GEO), I. Alijev (AZE), R. Becker (USA), M. Campioli (ITA), G. Costeff, (ISR/USA), S. Diduch (RUS), M. Doré (FRA), L. Gonzáles (ESP), D. Gurgenidze (GEO), M. Hlinka (SVK), A. Jasik (POL), G. Josten (DEU), L. Kekely (SVK), J. Lerch (CZE), M. Matouš (CZE), E. Melničenko (NZL), J. Mikitovics (HUN), S. Nosek (CZE), A. Ornstein (SWE), A. Pallier (FRA), J. Pospíšil (CZE), P. Rossi (ITA), G. Slepjan (BLR), K. Velikanov (AZE), N. Vujič (BIH).

Our thanks to Michal Hlinka for boring work as Tournament Director and for opportunity to test an interesting solving experiment (see below).

Enormous thanks go also to official sponsors Československý šach magazine and Chess Association TJ Pankrác for his generous grant made into the tournament prize funds. In addition Československý šach printed the Award in 5 and 6/2007 issues.

35 years long experience in the field of endgame studies led us to conclusion, that the solver's aspect of endgame studies is often underestimated. If a judge replays the author's solution only or if he checks correctness using computer, then his evaluation isn't fully adequate and the quality of testing may be not very high. Therefore we internally tested an unusual evaluation experiment, using in the first stage a diagram only, solving it "by head". In the following stages computers are involved, then both judges confront their experience and finally with author's documentation compared.

Such interesting method is probably applicable only informally, but surely it contributed to deeper understanding of some entries. Outwards we kept usual non-anonymous status for quick and flexible communication with authors – it appeared to be useful in some cases.

An originality of entries was tested by an innovative CQL tool in Harold van der Heijden's database. More details about CQL see e.g. <http://www.vlasak.biz/vcql.htm>.

A high quality of entries was a very pleasant surprise for us. It appeared again an objective ranking of entries is practically impossible. Both judges had own „favorites“ and after final discussion different points of view have been taken into consideration. Distinguish prizes are nondescript comparable entries of various genre. Finally we increased the prize fund a little and introduced a special Romantic Section, defined quite clearly by initial position.

The so-called “database compositions” create last years a considerable problem for judges. All won 6 men (and less) positions and even several 7 men ones were generated with a computer and saved in special databases (EGTB). Using chess software one can

get the correct evaluation of every such a position, the quickest way to win and it's uniqueness.

Using EGTBs composing endgame studies is challenged for two reasons. First extracting data from a database doesn't need skills of traditional composing such as the talent. In addition the data mining could be automated as in the "Wilhelm" software. So it's unfair from a sport view. Secondly the originality of such a works is threatened – especially in case of popular zugzwangs, which are even listed in papers. More details see EG135 page10 and EG166 page 177, no offered solution seems to be satisfactory.

Even both judges of this tournament have not the same view. Unquestionably until the study community will find some agreement the possible abasement of database studies has to be announced before the tournament. We did not something like, conversely we have agreed to evaluate such studies as a normal one.

We used usual standards as a tout ensemble, an originality and strength of the idea, a purity of a style, a linkage of the introductory play with the theme and an adequate difficulty.

We are sure this method was correct – otherwise all nice Prizes should to be demoted.

Even the kernel of the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of Matouš, working quintessentially without a computer, could be found in a database after removing the technical d5 pawn.

Judges and composers, pay attention to the Becker's Prize. If the database studies should be penalized some way, first you have to decide if this study belongs to this category.

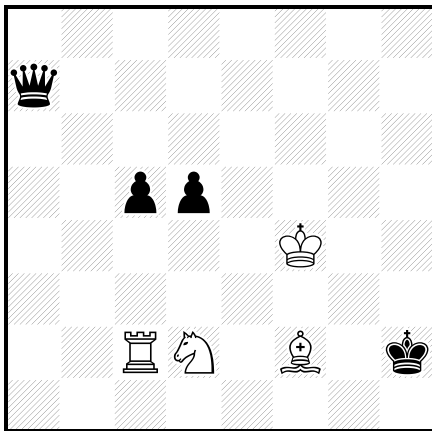
The Preliminary Award dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007 was published in Československý šach magazine 5 and 6/2007 and on the web [www.vlasak.biz/pv50.htm](http://www.vlasak.biz/pv50.htm). Here you can find several standard formats (PGN, CBV, PDF – Czech and English versions). You can here also directly replay all studies without any special software.

Protests was possible till 31<sup>th</sup> July 2007 to [emil@vlasak.biz](mailto:emil@vlasak.biz) with CC to [jaroslav.polasek@brouzdej.net](mailto:jaroslav.polasek@brouzdej.net) or by mail to Emil Vlasák, Stavbařů 3, 400 11 Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic. In the confirmation period we have got only one remark. L. Gonzáles noticed out our wrong comment of one subline in his study, which is corrected now.

So the preliminary award is the final one.

Jaroslav Polášek a Emil Vlasák, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2007

## The Main Section



**Mario Matouš, CZE**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize

Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

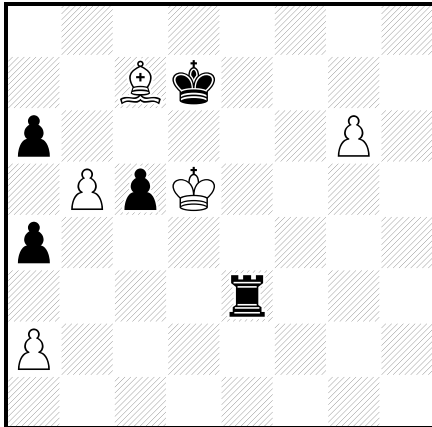
white wins

Undoubtedly the best study in the tournament. An introductory play - spectacular and attractive for solvers – culminates in a RxQ duel, a typical Matouš' theme. A rook has to execute several surprising quiet moves, based on mutual zugzwangs and line obstructing.

**1.Nf3+ Kh1!** 1...Kh3 2.Ng5+ Kg2 3.Bxc5+. **2.Bd4!!** With a mate threat. This spectacular move cannot be replaced by 2.Bxc5? Qa4+ 3.Nd4 Qxd4+! 4.Bxd4 stalemate. **2...Qf7+!** After 2...Qc7+? the white's material advantage will decide, for example 3.Ne5 Qc8 (3...Qb8 4.Rb2! Qf8+ 5.Kg3 Qg7+ 6.Ng4 Qc7+ 7.Be5 Qh7 8.Rd2) 4.Kg3 Qg8+ 5.Ng4 Qb8+ 6.Kh3 Qb3+ 7.Rc3 Qb1 8.Nf2+ Kg1 9.Ne4+ cxd4 10.Rg3+ Kf1 11.Nd2+. Bad is 2...Qb8+? 3.Be5 Qf8+ 4.Ke3 Qh6+ 5.Kf2 c4 6.Ra2 Qb6+ 7.Bd4 Qb1 8.Ra1. **3.Ke3!!** A logical supplement to the previous move. The weak 3.Kg3? Qg6+ costs a rook c2. **3...cxd4+ 4.Kf2! Qf4** Now is very bad 5.Re2? Qe3+ and other attacking rook-moves lead to a perpetual: 5.Ra2? Qc1 6.Kg3!? (6.Ra8 Qc2+ 7.Kg3 Qg6+ 8.Kf2 Qc2+) 6...Qc7+ 7.Kf2 Qc1 or 5.Rc8? Qe3+ 6.Kg3 Qh6 7.Kf2 Qe3+ 8.Kg3 Qh6. **5.Rc6!!** Mutual zugzwang, the queen has surprisingly no good moves. So a pawn has to move obstructed the important diagonal b1-h7 in two echo lines:

**A) 5...d3 6.Rc8!! Qh6 7.Rb8! wins.**

**B) 5...Qe3+ 6.Kg3** Another mutual zugzwang. **6...d3 7.Ra6! Qc1 8.Ra7! wins.**



## Richard Becker, USA

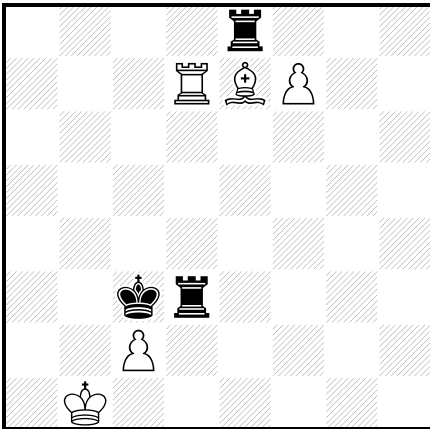
2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> Prize ex aequo  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

An incredibly rich study with an excellent finish, probably mined from databases, but not being a database position. The author is known through a very complicated introduction, but in this case he keeps a respectable bound. The introduction here is logically connected with a finish and so it deepens it. You can fully understand the content without a computer, but it takes some days.

What about to drive back the rook with a tempo? A “study” move *1.g7? Re8! 2.b6* (*2..Bd6 Rg8 3.bxa6 Kc8 4.Be5 Rxc7=*) slows for *2...c4 3..Be5 c3 4.Bxc3 Kc8 5.Bb4* (*5.Kc6 Re6+*) *5...Rg8 6.Bf8 Kb7 7.Kc5 a3!* and white is in zugzwang. Positions with queens give also nothing – *3..Bd6 c3 4.Bf8 c2 5.g8Q c1Q 6.Qf7+ Kd8* or *3..Bf4 c3 4.b7 c2 5.b8Q Rxb8 6.Bxb8 c1Q*. The first mystery of the study – the rook has to stay in his “active” position! **1.b6!** Suddenly Black is in troubles. A simple bishop retreat is an important threat, for example *1...Re8 2.Bf4 c4 3.b7 c3 4.b8Q Rxb8 5.Bxb8 c2 6.Bf4*. The 7<sup>th</sup> rank defense also fails for a typical motive *1...Re7 2.Be5 Kc8 3.g7 Re8 4.Kc6 Re6+ 5.Bd6*. **1...Rd3+! 2.Kxc5 Rc3+!** Interesting is *2...Rh3 3.g7 Rh5+ 4.Kd4! Rg5 5.Bf4 Rxc7 6.b7 Rg8 7.Kc5 Rg5+ 8.Kb6*. **3.Kd5!** White king starts a transfer to help his g-pawn. The whole way has to be made precisely – *3.Kd4? Rc6! 4.g7 Rg6=*. **3...Rd3+** Of course not *3...Rc6? 4.b7 Kxc7 5.b8Q+!*. Insufficient is also *3...Rc2 4.Bg3 Rd2+ 5.Kc5 Rc2+ 6.Kd4 Kc6 7.g7 Rd2+ 8.Ke5 Rd8 9.Bf2 Rg8 10.Kf6*. **4.Ke5!** To understand the whole mechanism we have to demonstrate an important line with a seemingly insignificant tempo loss *4..Ke4? Rd1 5.Kf3* (*5.g7 Rg1 =*) *5...Rf1+ 6.Kg4 Rf8 7.Kg5 Rg8 8.Kf6 Rf8+ 9.Kg7 Rf1 10.Kg8*. Now after *10...Kc6!!* white cannot succeed, as in the line *11.g7 Ve(d)1!* he can never play the key move *Bd8*. For example *12.Kf7 Rf1+*. **4...Rd1! 5.g7!** After *5.Kf5? Kc6!* the defense is similar as in *4.Ke4?* line. **5...Rg1 6.Kf6!** The culmination of this difficult phase. Yes, Black has also an extra tempo here, but he cannot take advantage from it: *6...Kc6? 7.Bd8! Kb7 8.Kf7 Kc8 9.Bf6 Kb7 10.Bd4*. **6...Rf1+ 7.Kg6 Rg1+ 8.Kf7 Rf1+ 9.Kg8** The final phase is beginning. As we will see later Black has problem to move. But first he can push his pawns to delay the matter. **9...a5 10.Kh7!** Too hasty is *10.a3? Kc6 11.Bd8 Rd1 12.Bg5 Rg1 13.Be3 Rg3 14.Bd4 Rxa3*. **10...Rh1+ 11.Kg6 Rg1+ 12.Kf7 Rf1+ 13.Kg8** Using this encirclement maneuver White can reach this position again and again. **13...a3 14.Kh7 Rh1+ 15.Kg6 Rg1+**

**16.Kf7 Rf1+ 17.Kg8 a4 18.Kh7 Rh1+ 19.Kg6 Rg1+ 20.Kf7 Rf1+ 21.Kg8** After all the finish is coming! Bad is *21...Rg1* 22. Bh2! Rg2 23. b7, so the King has to move taking an inconvenient square. The move *21...Kc8* allows a future check: 22.Kh7 Rh1+ 23.Kg6 Rg1+ 24.Kf6 Rf1+ 25.Bf4 Rxf4+ 26.Kg5 Rf1 27.g8Q+. The best defense **21...Kc6** requires to find a non obvious bishop's maneuver **22.Bd8! Rd1 23.Bg5! Rg1 24.Be3! Rg3 25.Bd4 Rf3 25...Rg4 26.Kf7 Rf4+ 27.Bf6. 26.Kh7 Rh3+ 27.Kg6 Rg3+ 28.Kf7 Rf3+ 29.Bf6!! Rg3 30.Bd8! Rf3+ 31.Kg6 Rg3+ 32.Bg5! wins.**



## David Gurgenzidze, GEO

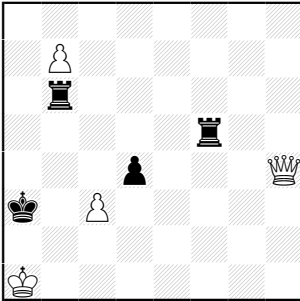
2<sup>nd</sup> –4<sup>th</sup> Prize ex aequo  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

black to move, white wins

It's known from several endgame studies, a queen with a pawn can in a center of board beat a connected rook pair. The Gurgenzidze's work exceeds all them dramatically. A rich game, pure side-lines, quiet hard to find moves, shifted pawn forks and the final mate with active blocks. With an excellent introduction this study is a remarkable piece.

**1...Rb8+ 2.Bb4+ 2.Rb7? Rxb7+ 3.Kc1 Rxe7 4.f8Q Re1 mate. 2...Rxb4+ 3.Kc1 Rf3 3...Rxd7 4.f8Q Rd5 leads to a main. 4.Rd3+! Rxd3 5.f8Q Rd5!** The only good defense, for example *5...Rdd4 6.Qf3+ Kc4 7.Qc6 mate*. The next quiet moves are a fine delicacy for solvers. Bad is *6.Qf3+? Kc4* or *6.Qc8+? Rc4*. **6.Qf6+! Kc4 6...Rbd4 7.Qc6+ Kb4 8.c3+ 7.c3!** A point of the attack! **7...Rbb5 8.Kc2!** The last difficult move crowns a matter. **8...Kc5 8...Re5 9.Qf4+ Kd5 10.c4+, 8...Ra5 9.Qc6+ Rdc5 10.Qe4+ Kb5 11.Qb7+ Kc4 12.Qb3 mate. 9.c4 Kxc4 10.Qc3 mate or 9...Rb6 10.Qf2+ Rd4 11.Kc3 Rbd6 12.Qf5+ Kc6 13.Qc8+ Kb6 14.c5+ wins.**

Enclosed studies are not direct anticipators; they could illustrate the theme development in a wider continuity.



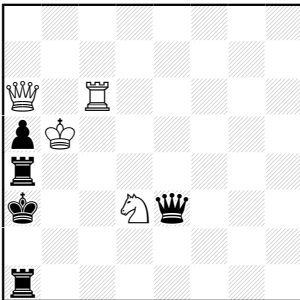
### D. Gurgenidze

The Problemist, 2000

white wins

**1.Qe7+ Kb3 2.Qe6+ Rxe6 3.b8Q+ Kc4 4.Qc8+ Kd5 5.Qd7+ Ke5 6.Qxd4 mat.**

The previous author's work.



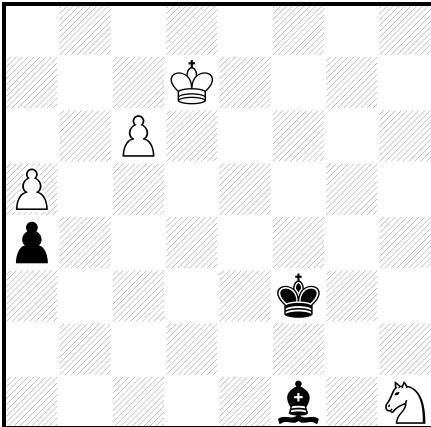
### V. Tarasjuk

Magadan Kudesnik 1991

white wins

**1.Rc3+ Ka2 2.Nc1+ Qxc1 3.Rxc1 Rb4+ 4.Kxa5 Rbb1 5.Qc4+ Kb2+ 6.Kb4 Rxc1 7.Qb3 mat.**

The similar mate as in the honored study, but on the board edge.



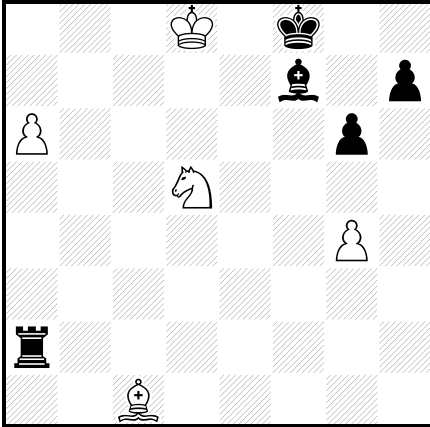
## Mario Matouš, CZE

2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> Prize ex aequo  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw

To fully enjoy this miniature delicacy, we warmly recommend an individual solving. You have to crack two mixed problems. First how to find a missing tempo and secondly how to dispose of a superfluous knight.

**1.Nf2! 2.c7 Ba6** 2...Kxf2 3.Kc8! leads to the main. **3.Nd3! Bxd3!** Or 3...a2 4.Ne1+ Ke2 5.Nc2 Kd2 6.Na1 Kc3 7.c8Q+ Bxc8+ 8.Kxc8 Kb2 9.a6 Kxa1 10.a7. The first goal is reached and now the main point **4.Kc8!! a2 5.Kb8! Ba6 6.Ka7 Bc8 7.Kb8 Bf5 8.a6 a1Q 9.c8Q! Bxc8 10.a7!**. With an extra knight h1 White should lose this position. Bad is also 1.Ng3? Bh3+ 2.Kc7 a3 3.Nf1!? Ke2!.



## Yochanan Afek, ISR/NED

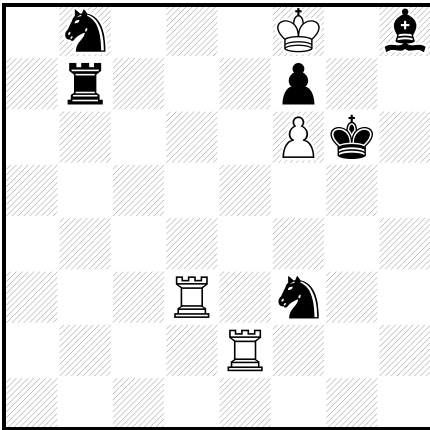
1<sup>st</sup> honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

The study is based on an unexpected king's move – White doesn't take a piece and conversely he sacrifices his knight to draw back rook in a fatal square.

**1.Bh6+ Kg8 2.Nf6+ Kh8 3.Ke7 Rxa6** Here after the usual play 4.Kxf7? Ra7+ 5.Kf8 g5! (5...Rb7? 6.Ne8 Ra7 7.Bg7+ Rxg7 8.Nxg7 h5 9.Nxh5) 6.Bxg5 (6.Nd5 Rf7+! 7.Ke8 Ra7 8.Ne7 Ra6 9.Nf5 Re6+ 10.Kf7 Rxh6 11.Nxh6 stalemate) 6...Ra8+! 7.Kf7 (7.Ne8 h5 8.gxh5 Ra5 9.Bf6+ Kh7 10.Ng7 Rxh5 11.Nxh5 Kg6) 7...Ra7+ 8.Ke6 Kg7! you will not find any win. A Columbus egg is a spectacular **4.Kf8!! Ra8+ 5.Ne8! Rxe8+ 6.Kxf7 Rg8 7.g5!** Mutual zugzwang, **White wins.**





## Juri Akobija, GEO Richard Becker, USA

2<sup>nd</sup> honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

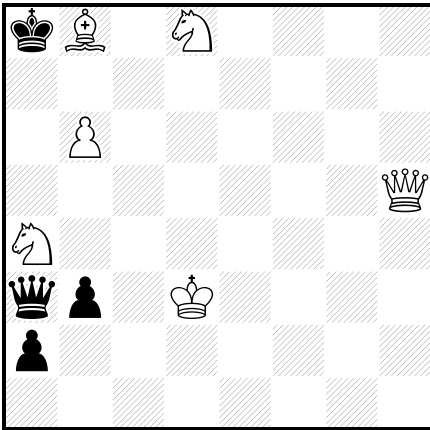
draw

This dense database mined study is interesting for an endgame theory. The authors highlight parallel stalemates in both lines, we also like the geometrical motives in RxB battle in line A. As usually for Becker, you need a good armed computer to fully understand all that.

**1.Re7!** The only possibility, 1.Rxf3? Nd7+ 2.Ke8 Nxf6+. **1...Nd7+ 2.Rdxd7!** After 2.Rexd7? Rb8+ 3.Rd8 Rxd8+ 4.Rxd8 Bxf6 5.Rd6 we have a very similar position as in the main line. However in such a modification Black wins without big problems after 5...Ng5!, for example 6.Rb6 Ne6+ 7.Ke8 Bd4 8.Ra6 Kg7! 9.Ke7 Nf4 or 7.Kg8 Bd4 8.Ra6 Kf6 9.Rd6 Ke7. After the text move we have two main lines.

**A) 2...Rxd7 3.Rxd7 Ng5!** The second possibility 3...Ne5 is not good in this line. After 4.Rd6 Bxf6 5.Ra6 Black cannot free from the 6<sup>th</sup> rank pin, for example 5...Nf3 6.Rb6 Ng5 7.Kg8! Kf5 8.Rb7 Ke6 9.Rb6+. **4.Kg8!** White has to play very precisely here, for 4.Ra7? Bxf6 5.Ra6 Ne6+ see the line 2.Rexd7?. Premature is 4.Rd5?! Nh7+! 5.Kg8 Nxf6+. **4...Bxf6 5.Rd5!** The only move again – 5.Rd1? Be5 6.Rd5 f6 or 5.Rd6? Kf5 6.Rd7 Ke6 7.Ra7 Be5. After the main move we are facing to the complex positional draw. Black will test the opponent's alertness first: **5...Ne6 6.Rd7! Nd8 7.Rd6! Ne6 8.Rd7 Ng5 9.Rd5!** No result, so there is next chance to unfreeze. **9...Be7! 10.Rd7 Kf6** He doesn't hurry with 10...Bc5? 11.Rxf7! Nxf7 stalemate. **11.Rd1!** Now the fine geometric motives in RxB battle come in useful. **11...Bc5** After 11...Ba3 12.Rg1! Black hasn't 12...Bc1. After 11...Bb4 12.Rd5! Black hasn't 12...Bd2, for example 12...Nf3 13.Rb5 Bd6 14.Rb6. **12.Rf1+!** Demonstrating the hidden defect of 11...Bc5, when 12...Ke7? so 13.Rf5!. **12...Ke6 13.Re1+ Kd6 14.Rf1 Ke6 15.Re1+ Kf6 16.Rf1+ Kg6** The last try. **17.Rxf7 Nxf7 stalemate.**

**B)** The defense in line A is based on the key move 4.Kg8. So Black can try **2...Rb8+! 3.Re8 Rxe8+ 4.Kxe8** getting the same position, but with white king on e8 instead of f8. The matters are curiously swapped here. Weak is now 4...Ng5? 5.Rd4(1) Bxf6 6.Rg4! Kg7 7.Rg1 and Black cannot free from the g-file pin. Not enough is also the more aggressive 5...Kxf6 6.Rg4 Ne6 7.Rg1 Ng7+ (7...Nc7+ 8.Kf8 Bg7+ 9.Kg8 Ne6 10.Rf1+) 8.Kf8 Nf5 (8...Ne6+ 9.Kg8) 9.Kg8 Bg7 10.Rf1. Vice versa, the second knight's move is here a serious try **4...Ne5! 5.Rd1(2) Bxf6 6.Re1!** Preventing a king's release, bad was 6.Kf8? Bg5. **6...Bg7 7.Rg1+ Kf6** Nothing gives 7...Kh7 8.Rf1. **8.Rf1+ Ke6 9.Rxf7 Nxf7 stalemate.**



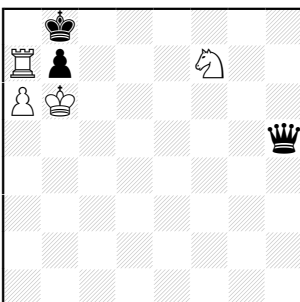
## Mario Matouš, CZE

3<sup>rd</sup> honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins, black to move

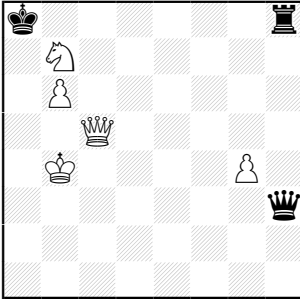
The surprising finish with a win of alone knight plus pawn against a queen through a quiet move hasn't had a satisfactory setting. For the two known studies see below. Matouš, working completely without a computer, succeeded to expand this difficult theme. In his introductory play he composed a very fine difference between Kc4/Kb4 with a nice refutation of the second one through a stalemate. But the introductory play is too complicated and some side-lines have dual solutions.

**1...b2+ 2.Ke2** Not 2.Kd2? Qb4+ 3.Nc3 Qd4+ 4.Kc2 b1Q+ 5.Nxb1 Qe4+. **2...Qd3!**  
2...Qe7+ 3.Be5, 2...Qxa4 3.b7+ Kxb8 4.Qe5+. **3.Kxd3! b1Q+ 4.Kd2!** The thematic try  
4.Kc4 Qe4+ 5.Kb3! (5.Kb5 a1Q 6.b7+ Kxb8 7.Qh2+ Qae5+) 5...Qxa4+ 6.Kxa4 a1Q+  
7.Kb5! Qe5+! – for more details see 8.Kb4?. **4...Qb4+ 5.Nc3 Qb2+** Not 5...Qd4+ 6.Ke2  
Qxb6 7.Qd5+ Kxb8 8.Nxa2. **6.Kd3 Qxc3+ 7.Kxc3 a1Q+ 8.Kc4!** The only move! After  
the seemingly better 8.Kb4? Qd4+ 9.Kb5 Black can save the game through a stalemate  
9...Qe5+!! 10.Kc6 (10.Ka6 Qa1+! 11.Qa5 Qf1+) 10...Qc7+!! 11.Kd5 Qxb6 draw.  
**8...Qa4+ 9.Kc5 Qa5+** 9...Qc2+ 10.Kd5 (10.Kd6? Qc7+) 10...Qd3+ 11.Kc6 Qc4+  
12.Qc5 Qa4+ see later. **10.Kc6 Qxh5** After 10...Qa4+ 11.Qb5 Qc2+ 12.Kd6 Qc7+ a  
nice picture follows 13.Ke6 Qxb6+! 14.Qc6+!!, but unfortunately also 11.Kd6, for  
example 11...Qb4+ 12.Qc5 Qf4+ 13.Ke6 Qh6+ 14.Kd7 Qh7+ 15.Kc6 Qc7+ 16.Kb5  
Qxd8 17.Qa3+. **11.b7+ Kxb8 12.Kb6! wins.**



**G. Sonntag**  
Schach 1968  
white wins

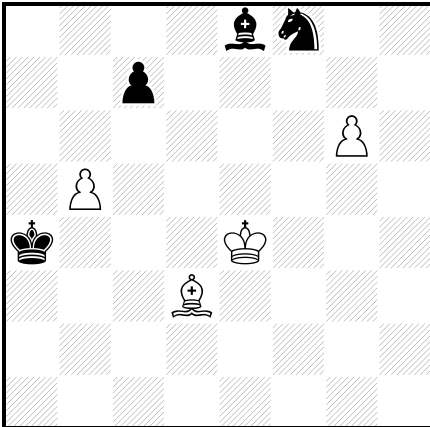
**1.Ra8+! Kxa8 2.axb7+ Kb8 3.Nd8.**



**L. Mitrofanov and A. Bor**  
Sacharov JT 1989, 5<sup>th</sup> Prize  
white wins

**1.Nd8! Qxg4+ 2.Ka5 Rh5 3.b7+ Kb8 4.Qxh5!  
Qxh5+ 5.Kb6.**

Unfortunately also **1.Qc4!**, for example 1...Qh2  
2.Nc5 Qb2+ 3.Ka5 Qa3+ 4.Kb5 Qb2+ 5.Nb3  
Qe5+ 6.Ka6 Kb8 7.Na5 Rc8 8.Qd3 Qf4 9.g5  
Qe5 10.g6 Qf4 11.g7 Qe5 12.Nc6+ Rxc6  
13.g8Q+.



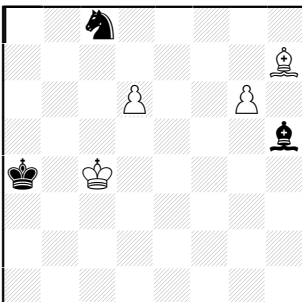
## Stanislav Nosek, CZE

4<sup>th</sup> honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

A pleasant position with an unexpected pawn sac should be also very attractive for solution contests. At the first look it seems to be a typesetter's mistake.

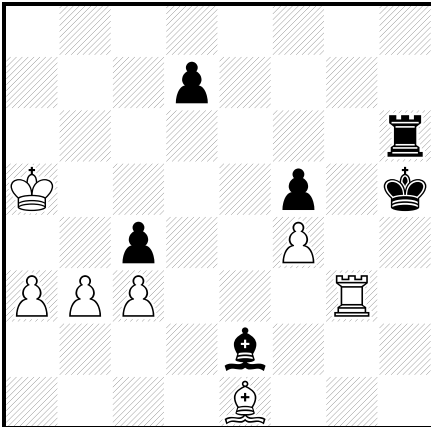
**1.g7 Nd7** 1...Nh7? 2.Ke5 Bf7 3.Bxh7 Kxb5 4.Kf6 Ba2 5.Bg6 Bg8 6.Bf7 Bh7 7.Kg5.  
**2.b6!!** A point! Bad is 2..Bc4?! Bg6+! (2...Nf6+ 3.Kf5) 3.Kf4 Bh7 4.Kg5 Kb4 5.Be6 Nc5  
 6.Bd5 Nd7! 7.Be6 Nc5 with a repetition. Or 2..Kf4? Bf7 3.Bg6 Bg8 4.Be8 Nb6. **2...cxb6**  
**3.Kf4!** This difficult "move to nowhere" is a logical supplement of the previous  
 sacrifice. Neither 3..Kd4? Nf6 4.Bc4 Bg6 5.Ke5 Ng4+ 6.Kf4 Bh7 7.Kxg4 b5 nor 3..Kf5?  
 Bf7 was good. **3...Bf7** Now the purpose of 3.Kf4! is clearly visible. White didn't close  
 the important diagonal for his bishops and the same time is ready to cope with a knight –  
 3...Nf6 4.Kg5 Ng8 5.Bc4 Ne7 6.Kf6 Bg6 7.Kxe7 Bh7 8.Kf8. **4.Bg6! Bg8 5.Be8! Kb4**  
**6.Bxd7 Kc5 7.Ke5 wins.**



## Jan Ševčík

Thèmes-64 1973  
white wins

The second part is known from Jan Ševčík: **1.d7!**  
**Nb6+ 2.Kd4 Nxd7 3.g7 Bf7! 4.Bg6 Bg8 5.Be8.**  
 But it's cooked **1.g7! Nxd6+ 2.Kc5 Nb7+ 3.Kb6**  
**Bf7 4.Kxb7** and there isn't a nice pawn sac .



## Michal Hlinka, SVK

5<sup>th</sup> honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw, black to move

Hlinka's typical work is very close related by o.t.b. game and has an accent to all run. The finish prepared by unexpected king's move is interesting. Unfortunately such a concepts bring a difficult side-lines, lowering impression.

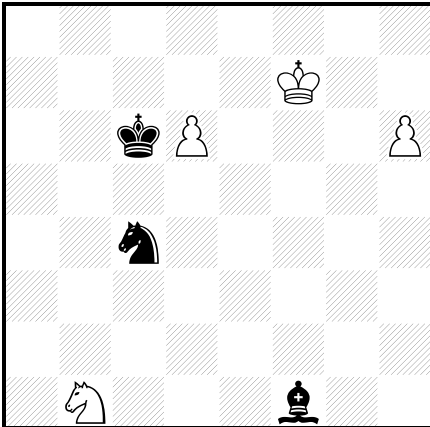
The main line runs **1...Ra6+ 2.Kxa6 cxb3+ 3.c4 Bxc4+ 4.Ka7! Point. 4...b2 5.Rh3+ Kg6 6.Rg3+ Kf7 7.Rg7+ Ke8 8.Bb4 b1Q 9.Re7+ Kd8 10.Re1** with a double threat Rxb1 and Ba5+!

However a careful solver has to examine a lot of a rubbish.

For example 2.Kb5!? cxb3+ 3.c4 Rxa3 (3...Rc6 4.Ka5) 4.Rg5+ Kh6 5.Bc3 b2 6.Bg7+ Kh7 7.Bxb2 Rb3+ 8.Kc5 Rxb2 9.Rxf5 Kg6 10.Rd5 Rb7 with a difficult win.

3.Ka5?! b2 4.Rg5+ Kh6 5.Rg2 b1Q 6.Rxe2 Qb3. Black wins, for example 7.Re5 Qxa3+ 8.Kb5 Qc1 9.c4 Qxf4 10.Bc3 Qg3 11.Bd4 f4 12.Rd5 Qb3+ 13.Kc5 Qa4 14.Rd6+ Kg5 15.Kd5 f3. In a supporting database you can find a lot of lines, but to give a final proof is tough.

5...Kg4!? 6.Rg3+ Kxf4 7.Rg1 Bd3 A critical position. 8.Bd2+ Ke4 White is very bad, but the author gives a conclusive draw 9.Re1+ Kd4 10.Be3+ Kc4 11.Kb6 b1Q+ 12.Rxb1 Bxb1 13.a4 d5 14.a5 d4 15.Bf4 Be4 16.Kc7 d3 17.Kd6 Kc3 18.Ke5 d2 19.Bxd2+ Kxd2 20.Kf4! Kd3 21.a6 Kd4 22.a7 Kc5 23.a8Q.



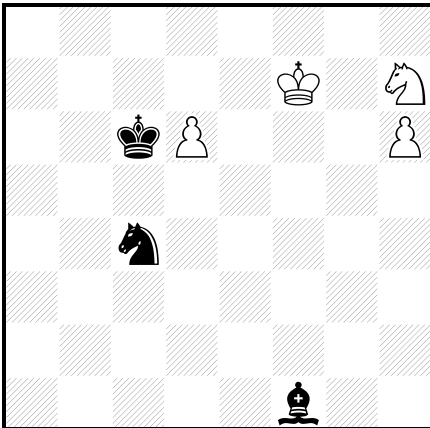
## János Mikitovics, HUN

6<sup>th</sup> honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins  
twin B: Nb1 → h7

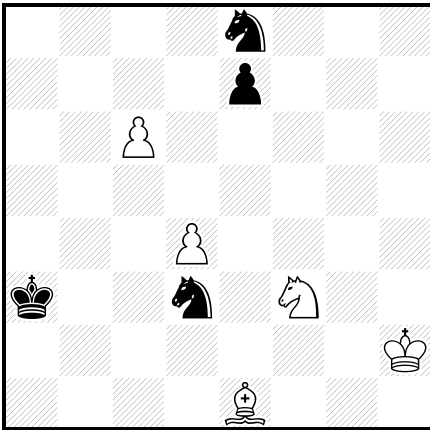
We like the solvers' attractive A position with a fine choice between Kf6/Kg7 and Ne2-f3/Nc3-d5. The B position is rather analysis and the evaluation should be unchanged without it.

**1.h7 Ne5+ 2.Kg7!** After *2...Kf6?! Ng6 3.Nd2* there is a nice win *3...Bd3? 4.Nf3!* but Black has *3...Be2! 4.Ne4 Nh8!* (*4...Bd3? 5.d7 Kc7 6.Nc5*) *5.Ke7 Ng6+ 6.Kf7 Nh8+ 7.Kg7 Bd3 8.d7 Kc7! 9.Nc5 Bxh7 10.Kxh7 Nf7*. Or *3...Nc3 Nh8!*. In both lines the defense is based on Nh8! and this is key to the correct solution. **2...Ng6 3.Nc3! Bd3 3...Nh8** is bad here for the simple *4.Kxh8 Bd3 5.Nb5!*. **4.Nd5! Kxd6** The threat was Nb4+. **5.Nf4!** A point of the knight's maneuver! **5...Nh8 6.Nxd3 wins**. There is an interesting addendum – after *6...Ke7!?* White cannot play *7.Kxh8?? Kf7!*, the quickest way to win is *7.Ne5! Ke8 8.Ng6 Nf7 9.Kf6*.



### Position B with wNh7

**1.Nf8** heading to the g6 square. Bad are both *1..d7.Ne5+ 2.Kg7 Nxd7* and *1..Ke7.Nxd6*. **1...Nxd6+ 2.Kf6 2.Kg7 Nf5+**. **2...Ne4+** Or *2...Bd3 3.Ng6 Ne8+ 4.Kg5 Nd6 5.h7 Nf7+ 6.Kf6*. **3.Kg7!** *3.Kf5? Bd3 4.Ng6 Nc5+!* *5.Kf6 Bxg6 6.Kxg6 Ne6 7.Kf6 Nf8 8.Kf7 Nh7 9.Kg7 Ng5*. **3...Ng5 4.Kg6!** *4.Kf6 Ne4+ 5.Kg7 Ng5*. **4...Nf3 5.Kf6 Bd3 6.Ng6 wins**.



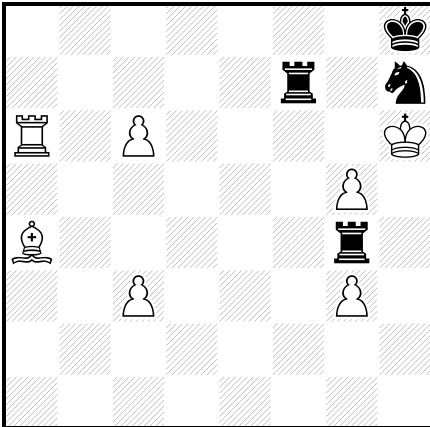
## Juri Akobija, GEO

1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> commendation  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

A jewel mined from databases with an unexpected king's move! Unfortunately the author didn't find a way to highlight the mutual zugzwang 7.Kh1, for example in a try with the reverse move order.

**1.Bg3!** wins a minor piece. The worst *1..Ba5?! Nb4 2.c7* allows *2...Nd6!*. In view of active black pieces two extra pawns are here usually not enough to win. For example *1..Bh4?! Nb4 2.Bxe7 Ka4 3.Ne5 Kb5 4.Bxb4 Kxb4 5.Kg3 Kc3 6.Nf3 (6.d5 Kd4 7.c7 Nxc7 8.d6 Ne6) 6...Kc4 7.Kf4 Kd5. 1...e5!* Contrariwise an extra piece wins without big troubles: *1...Kb4 2.c7 Nxc7 3.Bxc7 Kc4 4.Bd8 e6 5.Kg3 Kd5 6.Bf6 Ke4 7.Bg7 Nb4 8.Nd2+ Kd3 9.Nb3 Kc3 10.Nc5 Kc4 11.Nxe6 Nc6 12.Kf3 Kd5 13.Nf4+ Kc4 14.Ne2 or 1...Nb4 2.c7 Nxc7 3.Bxc7 Kb3 4.Kg3 Kc4 5.Be5 Nd3 6.Kg4 e6 7.Bh8 Kd5 8.Bg7 Ke4 9.Ng5+ Kd5 10.Kf3. 2.Nxe5!* A draw after *2..Bxe5? Nxe5 3.Nxe5.Kb4* we already know. And after *2..dxe5?! Nc5!* we are meeting the insufficient two pawn advantage again: *3.Nd4 Kb4 4.e6 (4.Kg2 Kc4 5.Bf2 Kd5) 4...Na6 5.e7 Kc5 6.Bf2 Nac7 7.Kg3 Nd5. 2...Nb4!* Black cannot save his minor piece, but he prepares an interesting defense. Bad was *2...Nxe5? 3.Bxe5 Kb4 4.c7 Nxc7 5.Bxc7 Kc4 6.Be5. 3.Nc4+! Kb3! 4.Na5+ Ka4 5.c7 Nxc7 6.Bxc7 Kb5!* The central position, White has problems to move. First after *7..Bd8?* the d6 square is unguarded and Black has an easy draw *7...Nc2 8.d5 Kc5*. And what about king's moves? In most cases the king entangles to some future check. *7.K(g2)h3? Nd5 8.Bd8 Nf4+ with Ne6 and Nxd4, 7.Kg3? Nc2 8.d5 Ne3 9.d6 Nf5+ 10.Kf4 Nxd6 11.Bxd6 Kxa5, 7.Kg1? Nd5 8.Bd8 Nf4*. Yes, the only paradoxical move remains **7.Kh1!!**. Now White enforces his advantage, for example *7...Nd5 8.Bd8 Ne3 8...Nf4 9.Nb7 Kc6 10.Nc5 Kd5 11.Bf6 Ne2 12.Nb3 Kc4 13.Nd2+ Kd5 14.Nf3 Ke4 15.Kg2. 9.Nb7 Kc4 10.Bf6* Attention! Now it's clear the position after 7.Kh1 is a mutual zugzwang. Standing wKh2, Black should make a draw with *10...Ng4+* here. **10...Nc2 11.Na5+!** A small switchback, but not *11.Nd6+? Kd5 12.Nb5 Kc4 13.Nd6+ Kd5 14.Nf5 Ke6. 11...Kd5 12.Nb3 Kc4 13.Nd2+ Kd3 14.Nf3 Ke4 15.Kg2 Ne3+ 16.Kg3* wins.



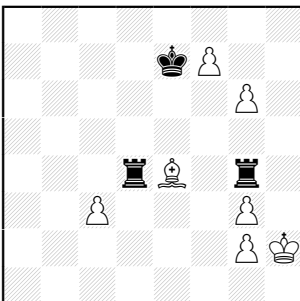
## Axel Ornstein, SWE

1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> commendation  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw

A well constructed perpetual attack of two rooks with alone bishop. Author gives the Simkhovitch 1940 as his inspiration source.

**1.g6!** The other moves are not enough against a Black's material advantage: *1..Bh3?* Rf2 2.Ra8+ Nf8 3.Kh5 Rxc3 4.Kh4 Rxc3 or *1..Bc2?* Rxc3 2.Bxh7 (2.Bg6 Rh3+ 3.Bh5 Nf8 4.g6 Rg7 5.c7 Rxc7 6.Ra8 Kg8) 2...Rxh7+ 3.Kg6 Rg7+ 4.Kf6 R3xg5 5.Ra8+ (5.c7 Rc5 6.Ra8+ Rg8) 5...Kh7 6.Ke6 R5g6+ 7.Kd5 Rc7 or *1..Ra8+?* Nf8 2.Kh5 Rxc3 3.Kh4 Rxc3. **1...Rf1(2)!** The best move, 1...Rf6?! gives White besides main *2..Ra8+* an extra possibility *2..Bc2!* Rxc3 3.Ra8+ Rf8 4.Rxf8+ Nxf8 5.Bf5. **2.Ra8+!** Not 2.Ra5? Rh2+ 3.Rh5 Rxh5+ 4.Kxh5 Nf6+ 5.Kh6 Rxa4. **2...Nf8!** After 2...Rf8 3.Ra7 or even 3.Rxf8+ Nxf8 4.c7. **3.Rxf8+!** Another moves lose easily. **3...Rxf8 4.c7 Rg8!** Or 4...Rxc3 5.Bd7. After the text move White position is critical. **5.c8Q!!** A surprise! 5.Bd7? R4xg6+ 6.Kh5 R6g7 ends with mate. **5...Rxc8 6.Bd7! Rcc4 7.Be6! Rce4 8.Bf5! Ra4** After 8...Kg8 9.Kh5!, but unfortunately also 9.g7! Kf7 10.Kh5!. **9.Bd7! Kg8!?** The only chance to avoid the white-square perpetual attack. **10.c4! Raxc4 11.Be6+ Kf8 12.g7+ draw.**

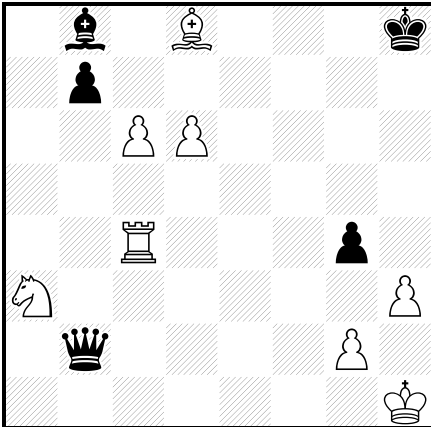


## F. Simkhovitch

Turkmenskaja Iskra, 1940  
draw

**1.Bf5! Rc4 2.Be6! Kf8! 3.Kh3! Rge4 4.Bd5!  
Kg7 5.Kh2! Ra4 6.Bc6! Rec4 7.Bb5! Rg4  
8.Bd7! Rae4 9.Bf5!**





## Michal Hlinka, SVK

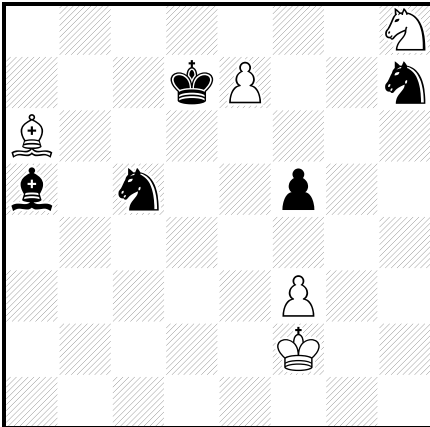
3<sup>rd</sup> commendation

Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw

An interesting game culminates with a remarkable move Qxd8! refuted by a perpetual check.

**1.c7!** *1...Nc2??* Qc1+ 2.Kh2 Bxd6+ 3.g3 Qd2+, *1...Bg5??* Qf2. **1...Qa1+!** **2.Nb1!** A well-known motive – white queen has to be decoyed out of black squares: 2.Kh2? Qe5+ 3.Kh1 Qe1+ or 3.g3 Qe2+ 4.Kg1 Ba7+. **2...Qxb1+** 2...Bxc7 3.Rxc7 Qxb1+ 4.Kh2 g3+ 5.Kxg3 Qg6+ 6.Kf2 Qxd6 7.Rc8 Kg7 8.Bg5 b5 9.Rd8. **3.Kh2 g3+!** **4.Kxg3 Qd3+** **5.Kh2!!** Looks like a setup, but neither *5...Kf4??* Qxc4+ 6.Ke5 Ba7 nor *5...Kf2??* Ba7+ 6.Ke1 Qxc4 saves. **5...Qxd6+** **6.Kh1!** *6...Kg1??* Ba7+ 7.Kh1 Qd1+ 8.Kh2 Bg1+ 9.Kg3 Qd3+, *6...g3??* Qd2+ 7.Kh1 Qd1+ 8.Kh2 Qe2+ 9.Kh1 Bxc7 10.Rh4+ Kg7 11.Bxc7 Qd1+ 12.Kg2 Qc2+. **6...Qd1+** **7.Kh2 Qxd8!!** A nice point, but White has counted deeper. **8.Rh4+!** **Kg7** 8...Qxh4? 9.cxb8Q+. **9.Rg4+ Kh6** An alternative is blocking the diagonal 9...Kf6 10.Rf4+ .Ke7 11.cxd8Q+ Kxd8 12.Kg3 b5 13.Kf3 Bxf4 14.Kxf4 b4 15.Ke3. **10.Rh4+ Kg5** **11.Rg4+ Kh5** **12.Rh4+!** **Kg5** Another block means 12...Kxh4?? 13.g3+. **13.Rg4+ Kh5** 13...Kf5? 14.Rf4+!. **14.Rh4+** draw.



## Pietro Rossi, ITA

4<sup>th</sup> commendation

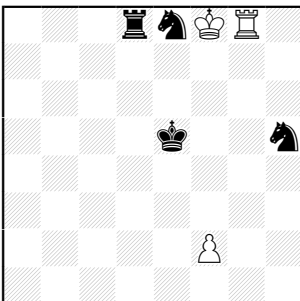
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw

After a pleasant lively introduction we are facing a NNxP position with Pf4 blocked by the king. It's necessary for a win to swap blockers allowing the pawn's advance. A resulting position type with knight-blocked Pf5 is well-known to the theory – White holds only if he can occupy squares close to the h8 corner. A spirit of this rule affects also the starting Pf4 position.

We are familiar with this fineness because of Polášek+Vlasák study, Magyar Sakkélet 1989. Rossi's king is more distant from a saving corner, but his finish is uncertain and it's hard to determine author's main line.

**1.Bc8+ Kxe7 2.Bxf5 2.Ng6+ Kf6 3.Nh4 f4. 2...Nf8 3.Ng6+!** We have tested an "promising" move 3.Bb1 Kf6 4.Ba2, but there are several ways to win. For example **4...Nfe6 5.f4 Nd3+ 6.Ke3 Ndx4 7.Ke4 Bc7! 8.Bc4 (8.Bxe6 Nxe6 9.Kd5 Nf4+ 10.Kc6 Be5) 8...Kg7 9.Kf5 Nd8! or 4...Nce6 5.f4 Bc7 6.Kf3 Bxf4 7.Kg4 Bc1 8.Kh5 Nf4+ 9.Kh4 N8e6 10.Bxe6 (10.Kg4 Kg7 11.Kf5 Nd4+ 12.Ke4 Nb5 13.Nf7 Nc3+) 10...Nxe6 11.Kh5 Nf8 12.Kg4 Bh6 13.Kh5 Bg7. 3...Kf6 4.Nh4** Not 4.Nxf8 Kxf5 5.Ke3 Bb6. **4...Kg5 5.Kg3 Be1+ 6.Kh3 Bxh4 7.f4+ Kxf5 8.Kxh4 Nce6!?** The author's 8...Nb3?! seems to us a little illogical – after some moves the knight ends anyway on e6. But Black has to wait and we will end in the same positions with another move numbering. **9.Kh5!** 9.Kh3 Nd8 10.Kh4 Nf7 11.Kh5 Nd7 12.Kh4 Nf6. **9...Ng6** The second main line we considered 9...Nd7 10.Kh6 Nf6. Black succeed to cut-off white king from the saving corner, but the position is a stalemate. **10.Kh6 Ne7 11.Kh7!** 11.Kh5? Ng8! **11...Kf6! 12.f5 Nf8+ 13.Kh6!**. But not the "thematic" 13.Kh8?? Kf7 14.f6 Neg6 mate.

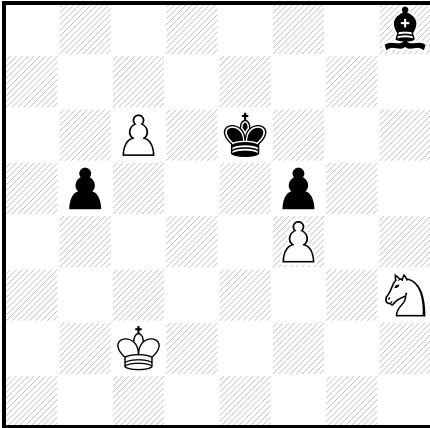


## J. Polášek and E. Vlasák

Magyar Sakkélet 1989

draw

**1.Ke7 Rd7+! 2.Kxd7 Nef6+ 3.Kd8!! Nxg8 4.f4+ Ke4!?** **5.Kd7 Kf5 6.Ke8 zz 6...Nh6 7.Kf8 zz, 6...Ngf6+ 7.Kf7 zz, 6...Kg4 7.Kf8! Ngf6 8.Ke7! Kf5 9.Kf7 zz.**



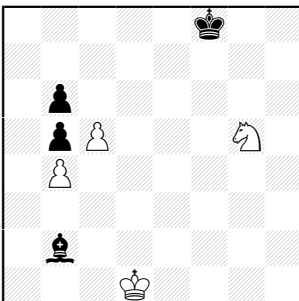
## Jan Lerch, CZE

5<sup>th</sup> commendation  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

A well-known motive of fork-knight's domination. Pogosianc has a very nice setting. But Jan Lerch has discovered a new interesting aspect of this theme where the known method 3.Kb1?! fails because of a positional draw.

**1.Ng5+ Ke7 2.Nf7!** The try 2.c7? Kd7 3.Nf7 Ba1! is insufficient as will be clear soon.  
**2...Ba1!** The other retreats should be meet by a well known fork mechanism, for example 2...Bg7 3.c7 Kd7 4.Nd6. **3.Kb3!!** A special surprise, only for experts! If White would play "by heart" 3.Kb1? Bd4 4.c7 Kd7 5.Nd6, so after 5...Kxc7 6.Nxb5+ Kc6 7.Nxd4+ Kd5 8.Ne2 Ke4 9.Kc2 Ke3 Black holds. **3...b4!** Or 3...Ke6 4.Kb4 Bb2 5.Kxb5 Bc1 6.Ne5 Kd6 7.Kb6. **4.Kxb4 Bb2** The bishop is saved but a great solo of knight will finish.  
**5.Nh6!** Not 5.Ne5? Kd8! draw, for example 6.Kc5 Bc1 7.Ng6 Kc7 8.Kd5 Bd2 9.Nf8 Kc8 10.Ne6 Bc3! 11.Kd6 Bb2! 12.Kd5 Bc3! 13.Kc5 Bb2 (13...Bd2? 14.Kd4) 14.Kb6 Bc1 15.c7 Be3+ 16.Kc6 Bxf4!. **5...Bc1 6.Nxf5+ Kd8** After 6...Ke6 7.Nd4+ Kd6 8.f5 White keeps a decisive advantage of two pawns. **7.Nd4** We have no problem with a small organic dual 7.Ng7. **7...Bxf4 8.Ne6+ wins**, the black king is cut-off form an important c7 square.



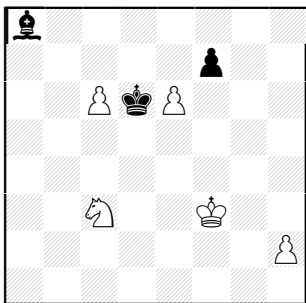
## C. Dorasil

Deutsche Schachzeitung 1921

white wins

**1.c6 Ke7 2.Nf7! Ba1! 3.Kc2! Ke8 4.Kb1 Bc3 5.c7 Kd7 6.Nd6.**

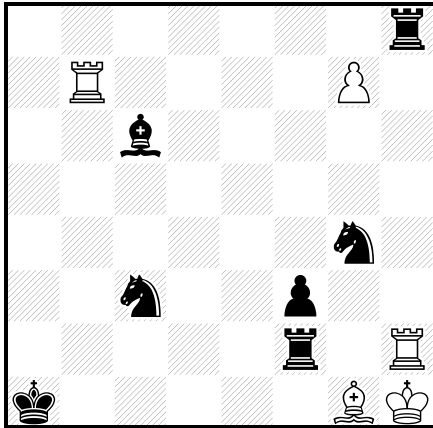
A classic work, but cooked. It's known after **2...Bg7!** or **2...Bd4!** Black draws as in Lerch's study.



**E. Pogosjants**  
Shakhmaty 1976  
white wins

**1.Nb5 Kxc6 2.exf7 Kd7 3.Kf2! Ke7 4.Nc7!**  
**Bh1! 5.Kg1! Bb7 6.Ne6.**  
One of the best treatment.

## The Romantic Section



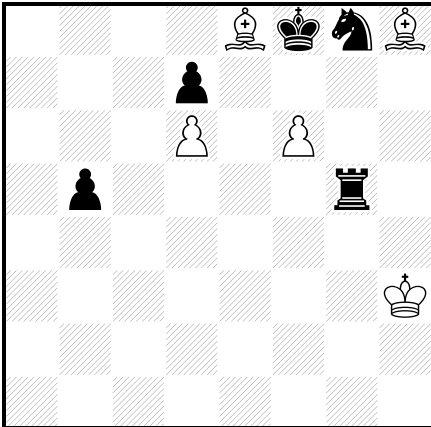
### Gregori Slepian, BLR

Special Prize for Romantic  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

The position is saturated by discovered checks, mates, stalemates and underpromotions. Finally White saves the game against a same-color-bishops pair using an original sacrifice combination.

After replaying the line *1.gxh8Q? Rxh2+ 2.Qxh2 f2+ 3.Qg2 f1Q 4.Qxc6 Qh3+* the experienced hand will immediately find an additional rook to promote. But first the board-rook has to be saved. Black would win too many wood after *1.gxh8R?! Rxh2+ 2.Rxh2 f2+ 3.Rg2 Bxb7!* For example *4.Bxf2 Ne2 5.Bd4+ Kb1 6.Be5 Nxe5 7.Kh2 Nf3+ 8.Kh3 Nf4+ 1.Ra7+! Kb1!* Not allowing a future second-rank pin. **2.gxh8R! Rxh2+ 3.Rxh2 f2+ 4.Rg2 f1B!** Other moves end in a drawish RxBNN constellation: *4...f1N?! 5.Bd4 Ng3+ 6.Kg1 Nce2+ 7.Rxe2 Nxe2+ 8.Kf1* or *4...Ne4! 5.Bxf2 Nexf2+ 6.Kg1 Nh3+ 7.Kf1 Ne3+ 8.Ke2 Nxe2*. The second anti-stalemate underpromotion is a little routine, too. But the final saving combination isn't. **5.Ra1+!! Kxa1 6.Bd4! Bfxg2+ 7.Kg1 Kb2 8.Bxc3+ Kxc3 stalemate.** And *8...Kc2* with a same-color-bishops twin is a clear draw.



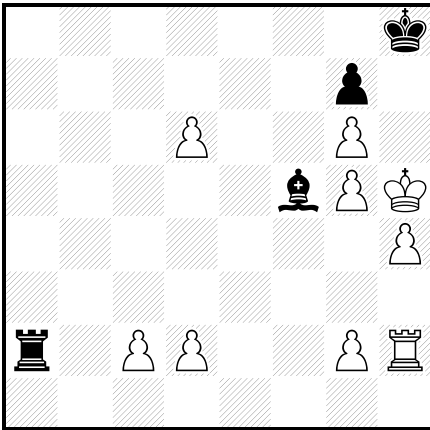
## Andrej Jasik, POL

1<sup>st</sup> Special honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw

The Black's try 1..Rg7!! is probably a most paradoxical move in the tournament. But a next play is a little schematic. We don't also like a strange balance of this study: Black is very active the whole run and as "repayment" he is finally almost lost.

**1.Kh4!** Else a minor piece get lost - *1.Bxd7?* Rh5+ 2.Kg4 Rxd8 or *1.f7?!* Rh5+ 2.Kg3 Rxd8 3.fxd8Q+ Rxd8+. **1...Rg7!!** A very nice move!! White has no problems after *1...Rg1* 2.Bxd7! Rh1+ 3.Bh3! b4 4.d7 Rd1 5.Be6 or *1...Kxe8* 2.Kxg5 Kf7 3.Kf5 b4 4.Ke4 Nxf6+ 5.Kd4 Ke6 6.Kc4 Nd5 7.Kc5, *2...Nh6* 3.Bg7 Nf7+ 4.Kf5 b4 5.Ke4 Nxd6+ 6.Kd5 Kf7 7.Bh6 b3 8.Bc1. **2.fxg7+!!** An adequate response – White king isn't in a quadrant now! After the normal move *2.Bxg7+?* Kxe8 3.Kg5 Kf7 4.Kf4 Nxf6! Black's idea is suddenly clear. He has won a tempo and this is enough to consolidate: 5.Bh8 Ke6 6.Ke3 Nd5+ 7.Kd4 Kxd6. **2...Kxe8** **3.Kg5** If you cannot stop a pawn, look for a stalemate in endgame study! **3...b4** **4.Kg6** **b3** **5.Kh7** **b2!** Or 5...Kf7 stalemate. **6.Kxg8** **b1R!** A little risky try, but 6...b1Q is an another stalemate. **7.Kh7** **Rh1+** **8.Kg6** But not 8.Kg8? Rg1 9.Kh7 Kf7. **8...Rg1+** **9.Kf6!** **Rg2** **10.g8Q+!** The only, but also good move. **Rxg8** **11.Bg7** It seems Black has problems now. **11...Rf8+!** **12.Bxf8** **Kxf8** draw, but not 11...Kd8? 12.Kf7 Re8 13.Bf6+.



## Gady Costeff, ISR/USA

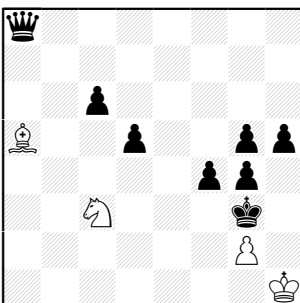
2<sup>nd</sup> Special honorable mention  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw

A nice adventure with a self imprisonment of king, a tempo lose, an unexpected positional draw and underpromotions. Unfortunately the intended second thematic line is only technical because of dual and it costs a Prize.

**1.g4!** White has to free his rook despite a life imprisonment of king. It gives a study a romantic nature. Bad is 1.c4 Rxd2 2.g4 Rxh2 3.gxf5 Rd2 4.f6 Rd4 5.f7 Rxh4+ 6.Kxh4 stalemate. **1...Bxc2!** *1...Bd7* is a clearly technical win, for example 2.Rf2 Ra8 3.Rf7 Rd8 (3...Be6 4.Re7 Bg8 5.Rf7 Rd8 6.d7) 4.c4 Be6 5.c5. But *1...Be6!?* is more interesting being originally considered by author as a second thematic line. The play is surely nice: 2.Re2 Bg8 3.d7 Ra8 **4.Re7!** Bd5 (4...Rd8 5.Rf7! Rf8 6.c4!) 5.Re8+ Bg8 6.Rc8! Rxc8 **7.dxc8N!**, but not *7.dxc8B?! Be6 8.Bb7 Bd5 9.Ba6 Bc4* with a positional draw. An inviting move *4.Re8?* actually loses an important tempo: 4...Rd8! 5.Re7 Bd5! 6.d4 Bc6! 7.c4 Bxd7. Unfortunately the white's position is too strong and the technical *3.d3!?* wins too, for example 3...Ra8 4.c4 Rd8 5.c5 Bd5 6.Re5 Ba8 7.d4 Kg8 8.d5 Kf8 9.Rf5+ Kg8 (9...Ke8 10.Rf7 Rd7 11.c6 Rxd6 12.Rxg7) 10.c6 Rxd6 11.c7 Bb7 12.Rf4 Rxd5 13.Rb4.

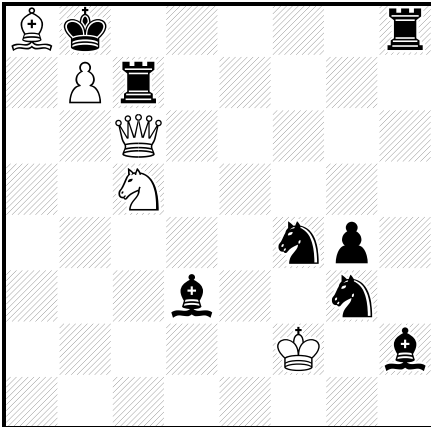
**2.d3!!** A goal of this move is a pure time los – compare to the 2.d4?. But this correct move could be find also using wrong speculation about a threat Bxg6+; this is a little flaw. Because of a pin Black has to trade now. **2...Bb3 3.Rxa2 Bxa2 4.d7 Bg8! 5.d4!** Mutual zugzwang. **5...Be6** This extraordinary position was proposed to several strong o.t.b. players to solve. The first surprise, after the queening an extra pawn, spared by a smart move 2.d3, cannot help White to win. It cannot simply cross a d5. And every try to prepare Qf7 ends with a stalemate Bxf7 and g6+!. According Gady this idea is taken from Lazard 1905. A long time the solvers try to win with a promoted knight, but without any success. The solution is hidden, but simple. **6.d8R+!! Bg8 7.Rd6(7) Bc4 8.d5 wins.**



## F. Lazard

De Barbieri MT 1946, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
draw

**1.Ne4+! Kh4 2.Ng3!! Qf8 3.Be1! fxc3 4.Bf2!!**  
**d4 5.Bxd4 c5 6.Bxc5 Qf1+ 7.Bg1 Qf2 8.Bxf2**  
**gxf2 9.g3+ Kxg3**



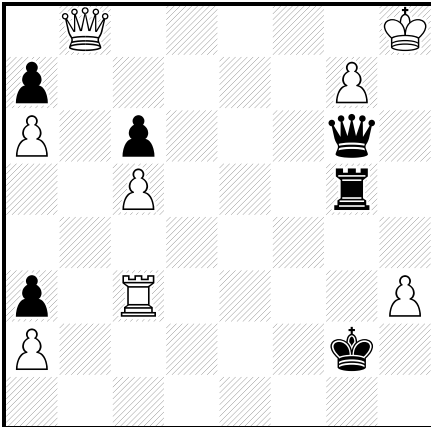
## Sergej Didukh, RUS

1<sup>st</sup> Special commendation  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

draw

One stalemate to each celebrating judge. **1.Na6+ Ka7** The first one after 1...Bxa6  
**2.Qe8+!** Rxe8 stalemate. **2.b8Q+!** Else Black has a decisive attack. 2.Nxc7? Ne4+ 3.Ke3  
 Rh3+ 4.Kd4 Ne2+ 5.Kd5 Rh5+ 6.Ke6 Nd4+ or 2.Qxc7? Ne4+ 3.Ke3 Rh3+ 4.Kd4 Ne6+.  
**2...Rxb8 3.Qxc7+ Kxa6 4.Qxb8 Nh1+!** 4...Ne4+ 5.Bxe4 Nh3+ 6.Kg2 Bxb8 7.Bxd3+  
 Ka5 8.Bf5. **5.Bxh1 Nh3+ 6.Kg2 Bxb8 stalemate.**





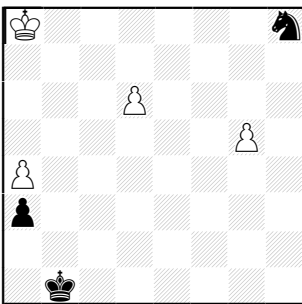
## Ľuboš Kekely, SVK

2<sup>nd</sup> Special commendation  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

Author corrected his cooked study from Šachová skladba 1990. The nice key is now perfectly sound and there is a new pawn ending with a precise White's move. A hidden stalemate defense is refuted by underpromotion. The stalemate is just uneconomical and the pawns' interlacement on a-file is a little unnatural.

**1.Qg3+!** Very nice key. The natural continuation *1..Rg3+?! Kh1! 2.Rxg5 (2.Qb1+ Qxb1 3.Rxg5 Qxa2) 2...Qxg7+ 3.Kxg7* ends with stalemate. And after *1..Qf8? Rh5+ 2.Kg8 Qe6+ 3.Qf7 Qc8+ 4.Qf8 Qe6* Black has perpetual check. **1...Rxb3 2.Rxb3+ Qxb3 3.g8R!!** kills the stalemate hope *3..g8Q? Kh1! 4.Qxg3. 3...Kxh3 4.Rxg3+ Kxg3 5.Kg7 Kf4 6.Kf6 Ke4 7.Ke6 Kd4 8.Kd6 Kc3 9.Kxc6 Kb2 10.Kb5!* The accuracy to the whole end, *10.Kb7? Kxa2 11.c6 Kb3 12.c7 a2 13.c8Q a1Q 14.Kxa7* with an EGTB tested draw. **10...Kxa2 11.c6 Kb1 12.c7 a2 13.c8Q a1Q 14.Qf5+** Exchanging queens **White wins** easily, for example *14...Ka2 15.Qc2+ Ka3 16.Qa4+*.



## G. Nadareishvili

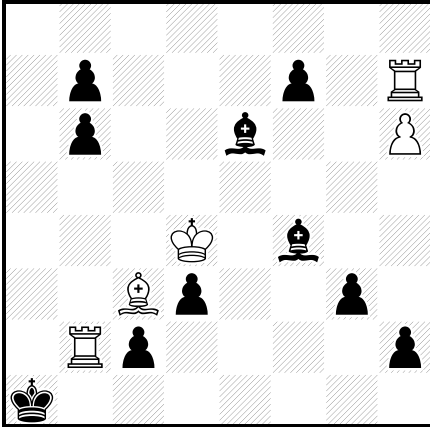
Kommunist 1962

white wins

A very economical version from classic.

**1.d7 Nf7 2.g6 a2 3.gxf7 a1Q 4.d8Q Qxa4+ 5.Kb7 Qb3+ 6.Qb6 Ka1 7.f8R.**

But Kekely's stalemate defense is more tricky – it comes only after a bad promotion in a queen.



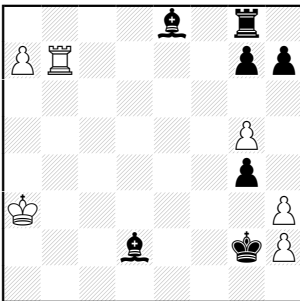
## Luis Miguel Gonzáles, ESP

3<sup>rd</sup> Special commendation  
Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007

white wins

A logical study with a romantic setting. But the similar constructions are known.

**1.Rh8! Be3+!** Black is very close to a perpetual check, but White can break this defense throwing away his h6 pawn. **2.Ke5 2.Kxd3? Bf5+ 3.Ke2 Bg4+** with another system of perpetual. **2...Bf4+ 3.Kf6 Bg5+ 4.Kg7 Bxh6+ 5.Kf6 Bg5+ 6.Ke5 Bf4+ 7.Kd4!** Premature is **7.Ke4? Bb8!**. **7...Be3+ 8.Ke4! 8.Kxd3? Bf5+ 9.Kc4 Be6+ 10.Kb5 Bd7+ 11.Kb4 Bc5+ 12.Kb3 Ba4+ 13.Kxa4 c1Q. 8...h1Q+ 8...Bc8 9.Rxc2+ Kb1 10.Rb2+ Kc1 11.Kxe3 9.Rxh1+ c1Q 10.Rd2+! 10.Rc2+ Kb1 11.Rcxc1+ Bxc1 12.Bd2 Kc2 13.Bxc1 d2. 10...Kb1 11.Rxc1+ Kxc1 12.Kxe3 wins.**

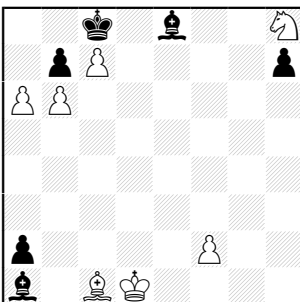


## A. Vysokosov

Josten 65 JT 2002, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

white wins

**1.a8Q Bc1+ 2.Kb4 Bd2+ 3.Kc5 Be3+ 4.Kd6 Bf4+ 5.Ke7 Bxg5+ 6.Kd6 Bf4+ 7.Kc5 Be3+ 8.Kb4 Bd2+ 9.Ka3 Bc1+ 10.Rb2+ Kxh3 11.Qg2+ Kh4 12.Qf2+ Kg5 13.Qc5+.**



## J. Roslov

USSR - World 1989, 11<sup>th</sup> Place

white wins

**1.a7 Ba4+ 2.Ke2 Bb5+ 3.Kf3 Bc6+ 4.Kg4 Bd7+ 5.Kh5 Be8+ 6.Ng6 hxg6+ 7.Kg4 Bd7+ 8.Kf3 Bc6+ 9.Ke2 Bb5+ 10.Kd1 Ba4+ 11.Kd2 Bc3+ 12.Ke3 Bd4+ 13.Kf4 Be5+ 14.Kg5 Bf6+ 15.Kh6 Bg7+ 16.Kh7.**