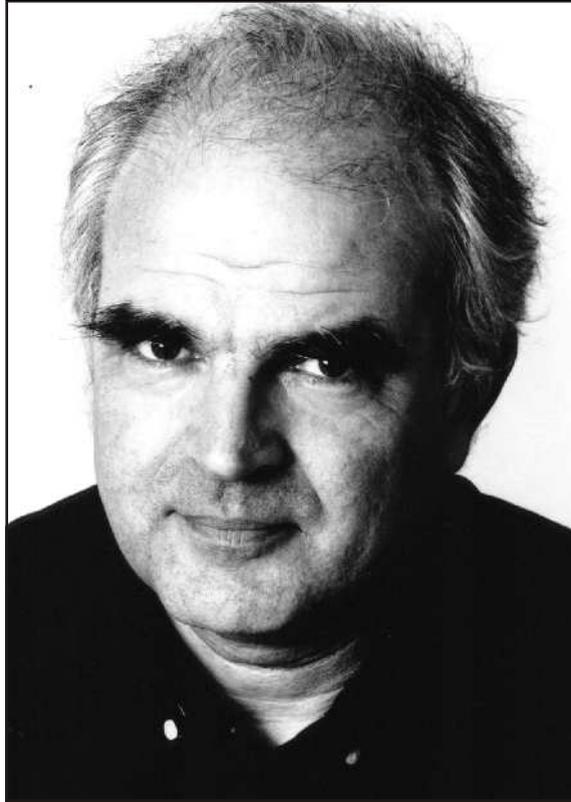


Provisional Award
Tim Krabbé 60
Jubilee Tourney



Endgame Studies

April 2003

PROVISIONAL AWARD TIM KRABBÉ-60 JUBILEE TOURNEY ENDGAME STUDIES

The jubilee man

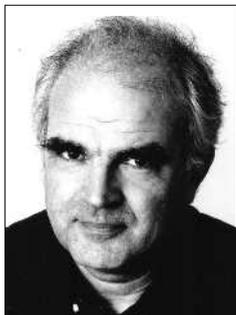


PHOTO: COURTESY BY TIM KRABBÉ

The co-judge



PHOTO: TIM KRABBÉ

The tourney director



PHOTO: HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

For my 60th anniversary Jubilee Tourney, 126 studies were submitted, by 81 composers from 29 countries. The average quality was high; over three quarters at least had something fresh, witty or deep – and many were simply beautiful.

At times, when I went over all those vastly different concoctions, I felt like a vaudeville impresario, judging hopeful fire-eaters, tap dancers, knife throwers, stand-up comedians, human cannonballs, unicyclists, all showing their acts, hoping to be in the show. Often, I was truly moved by the dazzling acts they had devised, their belief in them, the endless practising that had obviously gone into them – but mainly, I was just awed. Chess is inexhaustable, and the study composers' imagination and ingenuity are inexhaustable. I am grateful to them.

I also want to thank tourney director René Olthof and my co-judge Harold van der Heijden. For some twenty years, I have known both as kindred souls; lovers of the unusual, and especially the beautiful in chess.

Only when I saw the original manuscripts, some with solutions in hardly legible handwritten cyrillic; in enigmatic notations; without variations or with an almost

sickening plenitude of them, I knew how much work René had done – just to get all the studies uniformly and anonymously to Harold and me.

Harold, with his vast knowledge, his famous database and his eagle's eye as an analyst, hopefully kept us from awarding studies that are not entirely new or correct – but his artistic appreciation was what really mattered.

That endgame composition is a form of art, and therefore a matter of taste, was rather shockingly illustrated by the differences in our initial selections – when we showed each other our first top-9's, not a single study was in both of them. It was great fun, and very enlightening, to explain to each other, in lengthy e-mails, the merits and shortcomings of individual studies. Harold insisted that it was 'my' tourney and that therefore I had to speak the final word, but even if his own ranking would have been different in a few places, we both like the one that is presented here, and he influenced it greatly.

When René finally gave us the names, we discovered we had turned down quite a few celebrities, and had awarded two newcomers, Van Essen and Bichu,

Black from promoting. Both sides take part in the slugfest: Prokes-manoeuvre with double rook sacrifice on f4 by White; self-blocking bishop sacrifice on a promotion square and unguarded guard with Novotny by Black. The black king must undertake a Long March to f3 where his proud passed pawns only help in the tragicomical but beautiful way in which he is mated.

The initial position, light but not too elegant, has miraculously withstood all the computing power unleashed at it. In those side variations too, beautiful moves can be found.

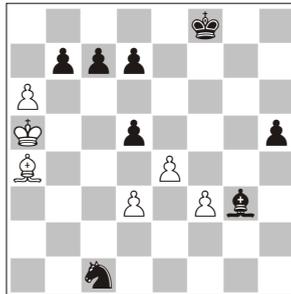
An amazing work of art for a new composer.



Martin van Essen
an amazing work of art

PHOTO: COURTESY BY MARTIN VAN ESSEN

Third Prize
Jarl Ulrichsen
(Norway)



White to play and draw

1.e6+ Not **1.♗d3 e1♙+ 2.♗xe1 f2**, or **1.♞e4 e1♙+ 2.♞xe1 ♗xe1+ 3.♖g5 bxa6 4.e6+ ♗xe6 5.♞b7+ ♖g8 6.♗xe6 ♗c3 (6...f2 7.♞g7+ ♖h8 8.♞f7) 7.♞d7 f2 8.♞d1 ♖f7 9.♗d8+ ♖g7** and the possibility of **♗f6+** ensures Black a draw; **10.♗c6 ♗e1 11.♞d7+** with a perpetual. **1...♗xe6 2.♞xb7+ ♖g6 3.f5+ ♖xf5** Or **3...♗xf5 4.♞b6+ ♖f7 5.♗d3! 4.♗e4 ♗d5!** Now Black loses after **4...e1♙+ 5.♗xe1 ♗xe1+ 6.♖h3 ♗xc4 7.♗xc4** and after **4...f2 5.♞c5+ ♖f6 6.♗f4 f(e)1♙ 7.♗h5+ ♖g6 8.♗d3+ ♖h6 9.♞xh7** mate, but he has the unlikely **4...♗e1+!** Blocking his own promotion square. **5.♗xe1 f2** Now it seems the other

pawn will promote. But: **6.♞f4+!** Not **6.♗g2+? ♖f3**, as b7 is blocked. Vacating it is worth a rook. **6...♖xf4 7.♞xb4+** The pawns' fate seems sealed now: **7...♖f5 8.♗d3+ ♖f6 9.♞f4+** or **7...♖e3 8.♗c2+ ♗d2 9.♞d4+**, followed by **♗xe2. 7...♗c4!** The last resort – an unguarded guard (also a Novotny) to close the diagonal a6-e2. **8.♞xc4+ ♖f5 9.♞f4+!** After two bishop sacrifices by Black, now a second rook sacrifice by White, to open the diagonal again. **9...♖xf4 10.♗g2+ ♖f3** To prevent **♗xe2**. But now: **11.♗b7** with a fairy tale mate in which, except for pawn h7, all remaining pieces cooperate.

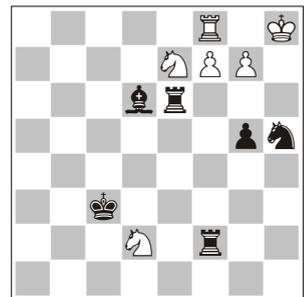


PHOTO: ARCHIVES HAROLD VAN DER HEIDEN

A crystal clear story
by Jarl Ulrichsen

♖e7 12.a8♙ ♗xa8 13.♖xa8 ♖e6 14.♖b7 ♖e5 15.♖c6 ♗d4 16.♖b5 ♗e5, Black wins. **5...♗xf4+ 6.e5! ♗xe5+ 7.♖xd7 ♗c5+ 8.♖c8** Again: **8.♗d8 ♗e6+ 9.♖c8 ♗c7** and Black wins. **8...♗xa4 9.♖xb7 ♗b6 10.♖xb6 ♗d4+ 11.♖xc6 ♗xa7** Finally, the dangerous pawn has been caught. **12.♖xd5** Suddenly, it is clear what White has been doing: with **5.f4** and **6.e5**, he used Black's clearing of the diagonal to b8, to clear the diagonal he needed to stop pawn h5.

Fourth Prize
Gady Costeff
(Israel / USA)



White to play and draw

Natural position; crystal clear story, governed by one theme: the prevention of promotions. With two unguarded guards, White uses Black's ingenious anti-promotion struggle for an even more ingenious anti-promotion manoeuvre of his own. The paradoxical journey of the white king from a5 by c8 to d5, to stop pawn h5, makes one think of Réti.

1.a7 Seems winning. **1...♗e1+ 2.♖b5 c6+ 3.♖c5 ♗xd3+ 3...♗f2+? 4.d4** and White wins. **4.♖d6 ♗g3+ 5.f4!** Mysterious, for the moment. After **5.♖xd7 ♗c5+ 6.♗d8 ♗e6+ 7.♖c8 ♗c7 8.♖xb7 dxe4 9.fxe4 c5 10.♗b5 h4 11.♗f1**

Brilliant final position with a triple-pin stalemate, after a baffling rook-promotion. Play, from an initial position that looks remarkably like the First Prize, somehow lacks unity – or perhaps we should ap-

plaud the composer for finding an acceptable introduction to his beautiful idea at all. The fork after 7...♙xg7+ 8.♗xg7 is a terrific joke, and it is amazing that after 7.♘g8, Black cannot reach a winning database endgame of rook and bishop vs. two knights.

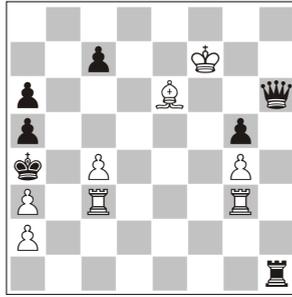
1.♖e4+ Other moves spoil the promotion's strength, e.g. 1.♖c8+ ♗xd2 2.f8♖ ♖h6+ 3.♗g8 ♘f6+ 4.♗f7 ♘h7+ 5.♗e8 ♖xf8+ 6.gxf8♖ ♘xf8 7.♘f5 ♖f6 8.♘xd6 ♖xd6 9.♗xf8 g4 etc. **1...♗d4 2.♘g5** Here, 2.♖e8 ♗xe4 3.f8♖ ♖h6+ 4.♗g8 ♘f6+ 5.♗f7 ♘h7+ 6.♘f5+ ♗xf5 7.♖h8 ♗g4+ 8.♗g8 ♘f6+ 9.♗f7 ♘xe8+ 10.♗xe8 ♖xh8+ 11.gxh8♖ ♖f8+ loses. **2...♖h6+ 3.♘h7 ♘f6** Or 3...♗e5 4.♖d8+ ♗e4 5.♗g8 ♙xg7 6.f8♖ ♙xf8 7.♘xf8 ♖g2+ 8.♘eg6 ♘f4 9.♖e8+ ♗d5 10.♗g7 drawing – 'at least until there is an 8-piece database,' as the composer drily remarks. **4.g8♖ ♘g8 5.fxg8♖! ♗e5+ 6.♖g7 ♖xf8+ 7.♘g8** and Black cannot win. With a queen on g7 something like 7...♖a8 8.♖xe5+ ♗xe5 9.♗g7 ♖b6 would win, but now all pinning rook moves are stalemate. After 7...♖f7 8.♘xh6 ♙xg7+ 9.♗g8 ♖a7 10.♘f5+ rescues, and after 7...♙xg7+ 8.♗xg7 the king's fork on the two rooks draws.



Gady Costeff
a triple-pin stalemate

PHOTO: HAROLD VAN DER HEIDEN

Special Prize
Dirk Borst
(The Netherlands)



White to play and win

Black creates an unusual Rambling Rook that can be captured without an immediate stalemate. With a logical and beautiful manoeuvre consisting of several phases, White silences this rook, and wins. A nice feature is that pawn c7's two moves each play their very different but crucial parts in the solution.



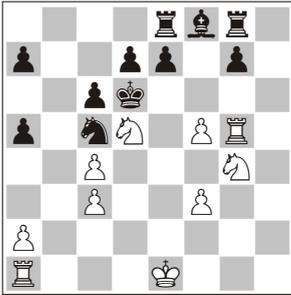
PHOTO: COURTESY BY DIRK BORST

Dirk Borst
an unusual Rambling Rook

1.♙f5 ♖h7+ 2.♙xh7 ♖xh7+ and after a future ♗x♖, there follows c5, and the stalemate cannot be lifted. To win, White must force c6+ and hide at b6. But this forcing can only be done *with* the black pawn on g5, and the hiding only makes sense *without* it. These considerations govern

White's manoeuvre, but there are many pitfalls. **3.♗g6!** g5 being taboo, only this will lure the Rambling Rook to the south of his king, which is necessary to force c6+. **3...♖h6+** 3...♖g7+ boils down to the same, but after 3...c5? 4.♖c2(1) White runs to c3 and wins much faster. **4.♗f5 ♖f6+** **5.♗e4 ♖e6+** After 5...♖f4+ 6.♗d5 White jumps to move 10. **6.♗d3 ♖d6+** **7.♗e2** Not 7.♗c2? ♖d2+ 8.♗b1 ♖b2+ 9.♗c1 c5 and the white king is boxed in. **7...♖d2+** **8.♗f3 ♖f2+** **9.♗e4 ♖f4+** **10.♗d5** The crucial position. Without pawn g5, Black could now play 10...♖f5+, and White couldn't make progress. **10...c6+** The only move. 10...♖d4+ 11.♗c5 c6 12.♖c1 loses immediately, and after 10...c5 11.♖c1 ♖d4+ 12.♗e5 White picks up g5, runs to c3 and wins; 12...♖e4+ 13.♗f5 ♖f4+ 14.♗g6 ♖f6+ 15.♗h5 ♖h6+ 16.♗xg5 ♖g6+ 17.♗f4 ♖f6+ 18.♗e3. **11.♗e5** White cannot use the new hiding place right away: after 11.♗c5? ♖f3! draws, as the next step in the winning manoeuvre, 12.♖c2, is refuted by 12...♖xg3 13.♗xc6 ♖c3! For this rook endgame to be won, pawn g5 must vanish. **11...♖e4+** **12.♗f5 ♖f4+** White has slower wins, Black slower losses. **13.♗g6 ♖f6+** **14.♗h5 ♖h6+** **15.♗xg5 ♖g6+** **16.♗f4** Again, White must force the rook to the south. **16...♖f6+** **17.♗e3 ♖e6+** **18.♗d2 ♖e2+** And now: to the hiding place. **19.♗d3 ♖d2+** **20.♗e4 ♖d4+** **21.♗e5 ♖e4+** **22.♗d6 ♖e6+** Or 22...♖d4+ 23.♗c5 ♖d3 (23...♖xg4 24.♖gd3 ♖g3 25.♗b6 c5 26.♖d5! ♖xc3 27.♖xc5 ♗xa3 28.♖xa5+ ♗b4 29.c5) 24.♖g2 ♖xc3 25.♗d4! ♖xa3 26.c5 and wins. **23.♗c5 ♖e3** Or 23...♖e5+ 24.♗b6 c5 (24...♖e3 25.♖b3) 25.♖c1 ♖e6+ 26.♗xc5 ♖e5+ 27.♗d4 ♖e4+ 28.♗c3. **24.♖g2 ♖xc3 25.♗d4!** (25.g5? ♖g3) **25...♖xa3 26.c5** and White's g4-pawn decides.

First Honourable Mention
Jan Timman
(The Netherlands)



White to play and win

A clear and wittily told adventure, in a natural position. By choosing the right way to put a rook on d1, and sacrificing it, White sets up a promotion fork. A second rook sacrifice on the same square leaves Black with the wrong check.

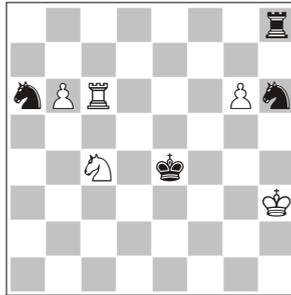


Jan Timman
a grandmaster at work

1.0-0-0! And not 1...d1. **1...cxd5** **2.♖xd5+** ♔c6 **3.♗xc5+** ♔xc5 **4.f6+** ♔c6 Not 4...♗c4 5.f7 e6 6.fxe8 ♗a3+ 7.♔c2 ♖xe8 8.♗e3 mate, nor 4...♗b6 5.c5+ followed by 6.f7. After 4...e5 5.f7 ♗d6 it becomes clear why the king had to go to c1 on move 1: 6.♗e5! – now the knight is not pinned. (6.♖xg7 ♖gf8 7.fxe8 ♖xe8 8.♗xd7 is insufficient in both cases) There fol-

lows 6...♖gf8 7.fxe8 ♖xe8 8.♗f7+ and the black bishop is lost: 8...♗c6 9.♖g6 ♖e6 10.♗d8+. **5.♗c5+**! To close the diagonal f8-a3. If immediately 5.f7 e6! draws. 6.♗e5+ (6.♗f6 gxf6 7.fxg8 ♖a3+ 8.♗c2 ♖xg8) 6...♗b7 7.♔c2 ♗e7 8.♖xg7 ♖gf8 9.fxe8 ♖xe8 10.♗g6 (10.♗xd7 ♗c8) 10...♗d6 11.♖xd7+ ♗c6 12.♖xa7 ♖g8 and Black should be able to hold. **5...♗xc5** **6.f7** and now, with the king on c5, Black must open the other diagonal: **6...g6** **7.fxg8** ♗h6+ Which has a drawback: **8.♗xh6** ♖xg8 **9.♗xg8** and White wins.

Second Honourable Mention
Eduard Eilazian
(Ukraine)



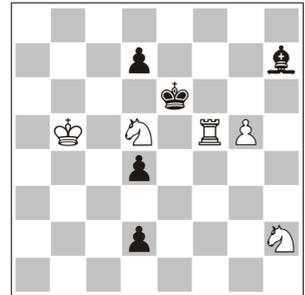
White to play and win

Elegant gamelike position where White, carefully avoiding knight's forks and an unguarded guard, eeks out a win. The rescue 9...♗d5 in the variation after 4.♗g3 is especially beautiful.

1.b7 ♗b8 **2.♗d6+** Not immediately 2.♖c8 because of 2...♖g8 3.♗h4 ♗f4 4.♗h5 ♗g4! 5.♖xg8 ♗f6+. **2...♗d5** Or 2...♗f3 3.♖c3+ ♗f4 4.♖c4+ ♗f3 5.♗h4 ♖d8 6.♗xh6 ♖xd6 7.♖h8 ♖xg6 8.♖f8+ ♗e4 9.♖xb8 and White wins, or 2...♗e5 3.♖c8 ♖g8 4.♗f7+ ♗d5 5.♗xh6 ♖xg6 6.♗f7 ♖b6 7.♖xb8 ♗c6 8.♗d8+ ♗d7 9.♖a8 ♗c7 10.♖c8+ ♗d7 11.b8 ♖ and wins. **3.♖c8** ♗g8+ (3...♖g8 4.♗f5!) **4.♗g2!** The only good square. After 4.♗g3?

♗xd6 5.♖xb8 ♗c7 6.♖f8 ♗xb7 7.♖f7+ ♗c6 8.♖h7 ♗e7 9.♖xh8 ♗d5! White loses the pawn. 4.♗g4 also doesn't win: 4...♗xd6 5.♖xb8 ♗h(f)6+. **4...♗xd6** **5.♖xb8** ♗c7 **6.♖d8!** After 6.♖f8? ♗xb7 7.♖f7+ ♗e7! 8.♖xe7+ ♗c6 9.♗f3 ♗d6 10.♖a7 ♗e5, Black draws. White needs that knight to be at g8. **6...♗xb7** **7.♖d7+** ♗c6 **8.♖h7** ♗e7 **9.♖xh8** ♗xg6 **10.♖h6** and White wins.

Third Honourable Mention
Philippe Bichu
(France)

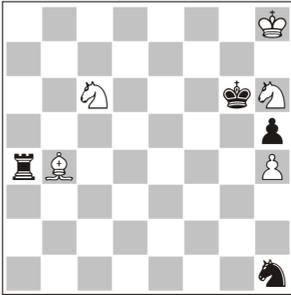


White to play and draw

With a square vacation and a quiet rook sacrifice, White meets a promotion threat – with Black to choose whether a surprising perpetual or a symmetrical queen's catch will do the job. A fine debut at 49 years of age!

1.g6! White needs g5 for his knight. **1...♗xg6** 1...d1 ♖ 2.gxh7 ♖b3+ 3.♗a6 ♖b8 4.♖h5 ♖h8 5.♗f4+ ♗f6 6.♗g4+ is not enough. **2.♗c4!** Threatening mate by 3.♖f6+ etc. **2...♗xf5** 2...♗xf5 3.♗f1 d1 ♖ 4.♗e3+ is a draw, as is 2...♗h5 3.♖f1 ♗e2+ 4.♗xd4 ♗xf1 5.♗e3. **3.♗f3** d1 ♖ After 3...♗d3+ 4.♗xd4 d1 ♖ 5.♗g5+! the new queen is lost: 5...♗f5 6.♗e3+ or 5...♗d6 6.♗f7+ ♗c6 7.♗d8+ ♗b5 8.♗c3+. But now **4.♗g5+** is a perpetual, e.g. **4...♗e5** **5.♗f7+** ♗e4 **6.♗g5+** ♗e5 **7.♗f7+** ♗e6 **8.♗g5+** ♗d6 **9.♗f7+** ♗c6 **10.♗d8+** ♗d6 **11.♗f7+** etc.

Fourth Honourable Mention
Mario Matous
(Czech Republic)

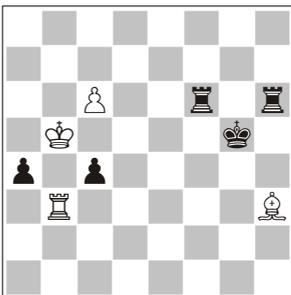


White to play and win

A Zugzwang duel between a bishop and a rook is decided when, for an original surprise effect, a black knight must cause a fatal interference.

1. ♖e5+ ♜f6 2. ♖d7+ ♜g6 3. ♙e7 ♜xh8 4. ♖f8 ♜g4 4... ♖a5 5. ♙f6 is mate, and after 4... ♖xh4 5. ♙xh4 the knight is lost. **5. ♙a3!** After 5. ♙c5 ♖e4 (or 5... ♜g3 6. ♙d4 ♖f2 7. ♙xf2 ♜g8+ drawing) 6. ♙a3 ♖e1 7. ♙b4 ♖e2 8. ♙c3 ♜g2, the wrong side must move. **5... ♜g1** Or 5... ♜c4 6. ♙b2 ♜c7 7. ♙f6 ♜h7+ 8. ♙g8. **6. ♙b4 ♜g2** (6... ♖d1 7. ♙c3) **7. ♙c3** and the black knight must spoil the defence.

Fifth Honourable Mention
Andrey Visokosov (Russia) and
Nikolay Mironenko (Ukraine)



White to play and draw

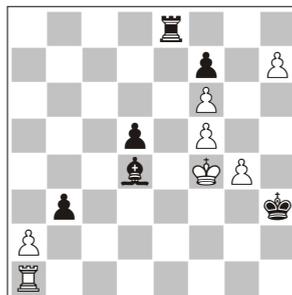
With a sharp introduction, White reaches an endgame of bishop against rook plus two pawns which he can miraculously draw with the paradoxical 7. ♙b4!



Andrey Visokosov
a miraculous draw

1.c7 ♜c6 2. ♖g3+ ♜h4 3. ♙d7 ♜xc7 4. ♖g4+ ♜h5 5. ♖g7 ♜hc6 This surprising interposition is the only way for Black to prolong the fight. **6. ♙xc6 ♜xg7 7. ♙b4!** Sparing both pawns. 7. ♙xa4 ♜c7 8. ♙e4 ♙g5 9. ♙b4 ♜f4 10. ♙g6 ♙e5 11. ♙c3 ♙d5 loses. **7...c3** Both after 7... ♜c7 8. ♙xa4 c3 9. ♙c2 ♙g4 10. ♙b3 ♜f4 11. ♙g6 ♙e3 12. ♙c2 and 7...a3 8. ♙xa3 ♜c7 9. ♙e4 ♙g5 10. ♙b2 ♜f4 11. ♙g2 ♙e5 12. ♙c3 ♙d6 13. ♙f1 White reaches a theoretical draw. **8. ♙e8+ ♙g5 9. ♙xc3** But not 9. ♙xa4 ♜c7 10. ♙c2 ♜f4 11. ♙b3 ♙e3 12. ♙g6 ♙d2 and Black wins. **9...a3 10. ♙b3 ♖a7 11. ♙a2** with a book draw.

Sixth Honourable Mention
Harrie Grondijs
(The Netherlands)

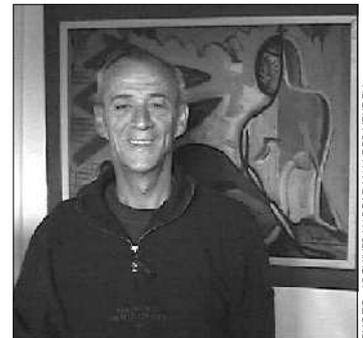


White to play and draw

After a rook's homerun, with two bases touched for captures, a last try by Black is refuted by the nice feat 8. ♙g5.

1.h8 ♖+ ♜xh8 2. ♖h1+ ♙g2 3. ♜xh8 bxa2 4. ♖a8 a1 ♖ 5. ♖xa1 Back to base. **5... ♙xa1 6.g5 ♙xf6! 7.gxf6 ♙h3 8. ♙g5!** The obvious 8. ♙e5 loses after 8... ♙g4 9. ♙xd5 ♙xf5 10. ♙d4 ♙xf6 etc. **8...d4 8... ♙g3 9. ♙h6 d4 10. ♙g7 d3 11. ♙xf7 d2 12. ♙g8 d1 ♖ 13.f7** is also a draw. **9. ♙f4 ♙h4 10. ♙e4 ♙g5 11. ♙xd4 ♙xf5 12. ♙e3 ♙xf6 13. ♙f4** This third switch-back ensures the opposition and a draw.

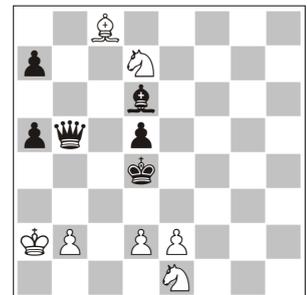
PHOTO: COURTESY BY ANDREY VISOKOSOV



Harrie Grondijs
a rook's homerun

PHOTO: ARCHIVES HAROLD VAN DER HEIDEN

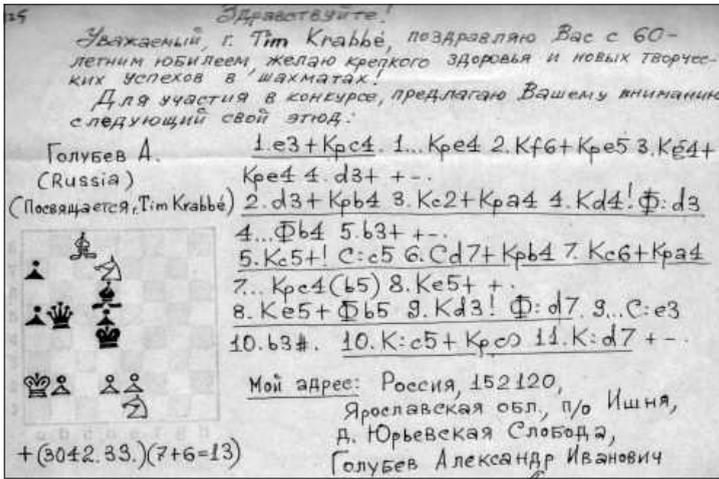
First Commended
Alexander Golubev
(Russia)



White to play and win

After a witty tour, a knight takes revenge for a colleague, repeating a family check on c5 with great benefit.

1.e3+ ♙c4 Or 1... ♙e4 2. ♖f6+ ♙e5 3. ♖g4+ ♙e4 4.d3+ winning the queen. **2.d3+ ♙b4 3. ♖c2+ ♙a4 4. ♖d4 ♖xd3 5. ♖c5+! ♙xc5 6. ♙d7+ ♙b4 7. ♖c6+ ♙a4**



Original entry by Alexander Golubev

A hard struggle for a back-rank mate, with the white pieces constantly occupying squares guarded by pawns. The highlight is the striking 6. ♖fd6.

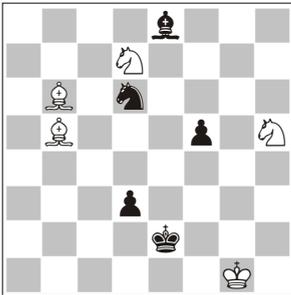
1. ♖xf6 1. ♖f7? ♜g4! but now 2. ♖f7 is a threat. 1... ♜g8 2. c7 ♖c6 Or 2... ♖a8 3. ♜xd6 and now 3... e(g)xf6 4. ♜c8! or 3... h2 4. ♜e4 ♖bb8 5. cxb8 ♖+ ♖xb8 6. ♖f1. 3. ♜xd6 ♖xc7 4. ♜e8 4. ♖f7 exd6 5. ♖xc7 d5+ 6. ♜g5 a2 will eventually be a draw. 4... ♖ac6 5. ♖d8 ♖c8 and now 6. ♖fd6! and mate soon, e.g. 6... ♖xd8 7. ♖f6+ exf6 8. ♖xd8 mate.

8. ♜e5+ ♖b5 9. ♜d3 ♖xd7 10. b3 mate was threatened too. But now a second family check on c5 decides: 10. ♜xc5+ and White wins.

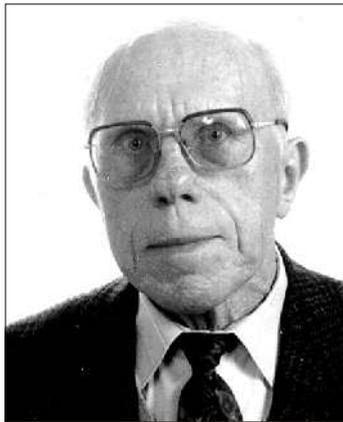
ately wins the piece back, but 7. ♜f7+! ♜e3 8. ♜h8! finally corners the bishop – White wins.

Fourth Commended
 Mario Matous
 (Czech Republic)

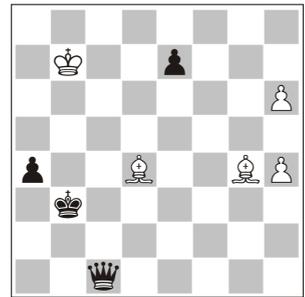
Second Commended
 Roger Missiaen
 (Belgium)



White to play and win



Roger Missiaen
 one of the 3 Flemish Musketeers



White to play and win

Avoiding two stalemate traps, White delivers a beautiful three bishop mate.

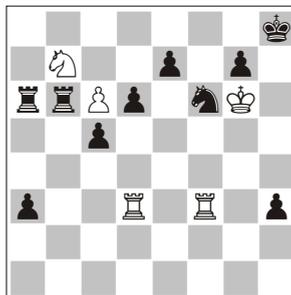


Mario Matous
 two studies in the award

A dominated bishop is finally silenced by a knight's corner move.

White is two pieces up, but two pieces are *en prise*. 1. ♜f4+ 1. ♜g3+ ♜f3 loses a piece. 1... ♜f3 2. ♜xd3! 2. ♖c6+ ♜xf4 3. ♖c7 d2 4. ♖xd6+ ♜e3 5. ♖c5+ ♜f4 is a draw. 2... ♜xb5 3. ♜f6 ♜d6 Or 3... ♖g6 4. ♖d8! followed by ♜e5 winning a piece. 3... ♜e2 4. ♜e5 ♜d6 5. ♖c7 ♜b5 6. ♖b8 also loses the bishop. 4. ♖c7 ♜b5 5. ♖b8 ♖g6 6. ♜e5+ ♜f4 Now after 7. ♜xg6+? ♜g5 Black immedi-

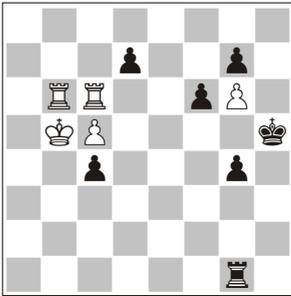
Third Commended
 Luis Miguel Gonzalez
 (Spain)



White to play and win

1.h7 Not 1.♙e6+ ♘a3 2.h7 ♖b1+ 1...♗h1+ 2.♚b6 ♗xh4 3.h8♗ ♗xg4 is a draw; White must save his ♙g4. 3.♙d1+ ♘c4 doesn't work, so: 3.♙e6+ ♘a3 4.h8♙! 4.h8♗? ♗xd4+ 5.♗xd4 is stalemate. Now, both 5.♙c5+ and 5.♙b2+ are threatened. 4...♗g5 5.♙b2+! Avoiding 5.♙c5+? ♗xc5+ 6.♚xc5 when Black would be stalemated after all. 5...♚b4 6.♙hc3 with a beautiful mate.

Fifth Commended
Iuri Akobia
(Georgia)

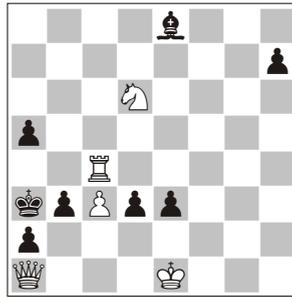


White to play and draw

Creating a hiding place for his king, White stops the passed pawns, and reaches a database draw where he seems to run in the wrong direction.

1.♙xf6! Other tries leave Black with a decisive material advantage, e.g. 1.♙c7 g3 2.c6 g2 3.cxd7 ♗d1 4.♙b8 ♙b1+ or 1.♙c8 g3 2.c6 g2 3.cxd7 ♗d1 4.d8♗ ♗xd8 5.♙xd8 g1♗ 6.♙c6 ♘xg6 or 1.♙d6 g3 2.♙d2 g2 3.♙xg2 ♗xg2 4.♚xc4 ♙c2+ 5.♚d5 ♘xg6 1...g3 2.c6 dxc6+ 3.♚xc6 c3 4.♙f5+ ♚h6 5.♙c5 g2 6.♙xc3 ♗h1 7.♙g3 g1♗ 8.♙xg1 ♗xg1 9.♚d5 ♗xg6 and now only 10.♙b1! draws. There could follow: 10...♙g4 11.♙h1+ ♚g6 12.♚e5 ♚g5 13.♚e6 g6 14.♚f7 ♗f4+ 15.♚g7 with a draw. With the rook on b2, 14...♙g1! would win because of 15.♚g7 ♚f4 16.♙f2+ ♚g3.

Sixth Commended
Yochanan Afek
(Israel)



Black to play, White draws



PHOTO: HEINE OUTHOF

Yochanan Afek
an improbable rook sacrifice

The improbable 5.♙a4+, a check-provoking rook sacrifice while Black threatens everything, is a true gem, and the resulting perpetual is nice.

1...d2+ If 1...b2, then 2.♙a4+! does the trick. Black wants to capture with check. 2.♚f1 e2+ 3.♚xe2 d1♗+ 4.♚xd1 After 4.♗xd1 ♙h5+ 5.♚d2 ♙xd1 6.♙c5 b2 7.♙xa5+ ♙a4 8.♙b5+ ♚b3 9.♙d4+ ♚c4 10.♙xa4+ ♚d5 11.♙xa2 b1♗ Black must win. 4...b2 5.♙a4+! Even now. 5...♙xa4+ 6.♚d2 bxa1♗ 7.♙c4+ ♚b3 8.♙xa5+ ♚b2 9.♙c4+ ♚b1 10.♙a3+ ♚b2 11.♙c4+ etc., drawing.