

Composition tournament 2009-2010

Preliminary award

I would characterize this international endgame study tournament as almost scoreless – a high number of compositions having good quality. It is almost impossible to bring a quite new idea today. I did not expect such a miracle among 39 original studies from 19 authors from 9 countries. Several nice ideas or syntheses with a maximal economy appeared here; 31 studies having 9 or less pieces. Also constructional improvements or enhancing older ideas increased the tournament level (Polášek's themes 10/2009, 1/2010).

I have solved the most pieces to impenetrate them and my comments should reflect it. It was very difficult to rank studies almost equivalent quality. So besides the idea and construction my taste also decided the matter. Hard to find some medicine against a subjective view. I have honoured the following 17 studies hoping they will not fly away.

Also the super miniature Nr. 8 J. Pospíšil (1/2010) deserves attention through a super-key 1.h4!! following a logical remote opposition play. The database composition Nr. 47 M. Dore a A. Pallier (7/2010) has more bright play, but there is not a bolder difference compare to the study of the same authors already honoured in Nestorescu 80 JT 2010. In the study Nr. 29 I. Akobia (4/2009) the nice key and the exact finish (12.Rh1!!) are too distant. It could be an instructive material for o.t.b. players and the same about a heavy-load article by J. Polášek about QRxQR material with a lot of interesting zugzwangs and difficult proof lines.



draw

1st Prize – J. Polášek (Czech Republic, Praha) and M. Hlinka (Slovakia, Košice)

(5/2010/36, 12/2010)

(parentheses data explained: original published in 5/2010 as Nr. 36, solution published in 12/2010)

1.Rg8+ (1.Rg1? exd6+ 2.Kd4 Bg4 -+) **1...Kd7 2.dxe7 Bg6!** To keep winning chances black needs to block the b5-pawn with the king. (2...Kxe7 3.Rg1 Bg4 4.Kd4 d1Q 5.Rxd1 Bxd1 6.Kxd3 =). **3.e8Q+ Bxe8 4.Rg7+!!** A key move slacking up the black king. Insufficient is 4.Rg1!? Bh5 5.Kd4 d1Q 6.Rxd1 Bxd1 7.Kxd3 Bb3! 8.Kc3 Kc7! 9.Kb4 Kb6 zugzwang -+. **4... Kc8!** (4...Ke6 5.Rg1 Bh5 6.b6 Bf3 7.b7 Bxb7 8.Rd1 =) **5.Rg1 Bh5 6.Kd4(c4) d1Q 7.Rxd1 Bxd1 8.Kxd3 Kb7** Black has reached with a small delay the planned goal. **9.Kd4!!** A fantastic saving move. Else white would be blown off with the zugzwangs' twister. (9.Kc4?! Kb6! MZ 10.Kb4 Bb3 MZ 11.Ka3 Ka5; 9.Kc3?! Bb3! 10.Kb4 Kb6 MZ; 9.Kd2? Bb3! 10.Kc3 Kc7! 11.Kb4 Kb6 -+). **9...Kb6 10.Kc4!** MZ. The wind slowly hauls. **10...Bc2! 11.Kc3!** Preparing another zugzwang. **11...Bd1.** This forced move leads to a repetition. Again 11...Bb3 12.Kb4 = MZ. **12.Kc4!** (12.Kb4? Bb3! -+) **12...Ka5 13.Kc5 Be2 14.b6 Bf3** White is finally trapped? **15.b7!** No, the pawn's sac crowns the precise defence. (15.Kc4? Kxb6 16.Kb4 Bd1 17.Ka3 Bb3! -+). **15...Bxb7 16.Kc4!** The bishop doesn't control d1, time to transfer the king to the stalemate corner. **16...Bd5+!** A last try (16...Bc8 17.b4+!). **17.Kxd5 Kb4 18.Kc6!** And black's win is definitely only a illusion (but not 18.Kd4? Kb3 19.Kc5 Kxb2 -+). **Kb3 19.Kb5** draw. The study is dedicated to Marco Campioli. A memorable study for zugzwang lovers, but also for all chess-players.



win

2nd Prize – Alain Pallier (France)

(7/2010/48, 12/2010)

1.Nc5! (1.Qxa7? Rxa4+ 2.Kb6 Nc4 mate) **1...Rxc5** (1...dxc5? 2.Kb6!; 1...Kc7? 2.Na6+! +-) **2.Qxc5!!** The only move. It seems good is 2.Kb4!? Bxa4 3.h7 Rb5+ 4.Ka3 Nc4+ 5.Kxa4 Nxe3 6.h8Q+ Kc7 7.Qd4 but black has 7...Nc8!!, bad is also 2.axb5? Rxb5+ 3.Ka6 Nc4 4.Qe8+ Kc7 -, or 2.Qe8+? Kc7 3.Qa8 Bxe2+ 4.Kb4 Nc8 5.Kb3 Nc4 -. **2...dxc5** **3.Kb6!** The king needs some air else he will collapse. (3.axb5? Kb7!! 4.bxc6+ dxc6 5.h7 Nb5 6.h8Q Na3 -+). **3...Nxa4** **4.Kxa7** 4.Ka5? Kb7! would be a ticket to the same coffin. **4...Kc7!** **5.c4!!** The point of white defence – he opens the diagonal a1-h8 (5.h7?! Nb6! 6.h8Q Nc8+ 7.Ka8 Ba6 -+). **5...Bxc4** Black has no time to play 5...Nb6? 6.cxb5 Nc8+ 7.Ka6 Ne7 8.b6+ Kb8 9.f5! +- . **6.h7 Nb6** **7.h8Q Nc8+** **8.Ka8 Ba6** **9.Qb2!** = (but not 9.Qe5+? Nd6! 10.Ka7 Bb7! 11.f5 f6 -+). A magical study! White sacrificed the queen and another pawn sac opens the diagonal, giving the king a refuge at a corner. A lot of material and passive pieces fit in a romantic context of this solvers' attractive study.



win

3rd Prize – Ľuboš Kekely (Slovakia, Snežnica), Ladislav Salai (Slovakia, Martin), Matej Vyparina (Slovakia, Žilina), Ján Hlas (Slovakia, Žilina)

(12/2009/93, 12/2009)

1.b6 (1.g3? cxb5+ 2.Kc5 Kxa7 =) **1...g3** (1...Bg2? 2.Bxg4 Kb7 3.Kc5 Bh1 4.Bc8+ +-) **2.Bh3 c5!** Black bishop needs immediately some space 2...Bd5+? 3.Kc5 Be4 4.Kd6 c5 5.Bd7!! Bxg2 6.Bc6+ Bxc6 7.Kxc6 g2 8.Kc7 g1Q 9.b7+ Kxa7 10.b8Q+ Ka6 11.b6 mate. **3.Kb5!** A tempo battle begins 3.Kxc5? Kb7! 4.Kd4 Bc6 =. **3...Bb7!** Bad is 3...Kb7? 4.Kxc5! Ka8 5.Kd4 Bc6 6.Ke3! Kb7 7.Bg4 Kxb6 8.Bf3 +- . **4.Kxc5** (4.Bd7? c4! 5.Kc5 Bxg2) **4...Bc8!** The battle is moved to another diagonal (4...Be4? 5.Kd4 +-). **5.Kc6!** (5.Bxc8? stalemate, after 5.Kd6? Bxh3! 6.gxh3 g2 7.Kc7 g1Q 8.b7+ Ka7 9.b8Q+ Ka6 = the critical square b6 is guarded. **5...Bb7+** **6.Kd6!!** Controlling central squares e6 and e5 and this way limiting the bishop's movement. (JP: 6.Kc7 Be4 7.Kd6! Bc6 8.Kc5! transposes to the main). **6...Bc6!** (6...Bc8? 7.Be6!, 6...Be4? 7.Ke5! +-) **7.Kc5!** Tempo! **7...Bb7** **8.Kd4** **Bc8** **9.Ke3!** +- . The authors won a maximum form a simple same-colour bishop ending. A nice study for o.t.b. players!



win

4th – 5th Prize – Emil Vlasák, (Czech Republic, Ústí nad Labem)

(5/2009/38, 2/2010)

1.b6 b2 2.Rb4! (1.Rd2 Kb3 +-) **2...Nd5!** introduction to a strong stalemate counter play. (2...Ne4? 3.Ra8 Nd6+ 4.Kd7 +-). **3.Rxb2+!** (3.Rb5? Nxb6 4.R5xb6 b1Q 5.Rxb1 stalemate) **3...Kxb2!** (3...axb2 4.Ra8+ Kb3 5.b7 Nc7+ 6.Kd7 Nxa8 7.b8Q+ +-) **4.b7 Nc7+!** Closing the c-file with a tempo. (4...a2? 5.Rc8! +-). **5.Ke7!!** (5.Kd7/Kf7? a2 6.Ra8 Nxa8 7.b8Q+ Nb6 =) **5...a2 6.Ra8! Nxa8 7.b8Q+! Nb6 8.Qe5+ Kb3 9.Qe3+ Kb2 10.Qd4+ Kb3!** The threat is Nc4-a3-c2. **11.Kd6! Nc4+** (11...Na4 12.Qa1 Ka3 13.Kd5 +-) **12.Kc5!** This way white catches to create matting net. **12...Na3** Too late. After 5.Kf7? the king would stay on d5 and black would keeps this way. **13.Qb4+ Kc2 14.Qxa3 +-.** White's win seems to be optically questionable in the setting. The king is moving in a real-time and chessboard is not curved space but for all that he reaches in time. Einstein would like this study, too.



win

4th – 5th Prize – Michal Hlinka (Slovakia, Košice)

(8/2009/65, 4/2010)

1.Nf6+! A direct knight manoeuvre would be not enough to win 1.Nb8? Rxh2 2.Nc6 Ra2 3.Kb6 Rb2+! =. **1...Kxe7 2.Nd5+ Kd7!** The king cannot approach h2 pawn (2...Ke6? 3.Nf4+) so he temporizes on the ideal square. **3.a7!** (3.Nb6+? Ke6! =) **3...Rh8!** The centralized knight prevents here a defence from the b-file (3...Ra3 4.Kb6 Rb3+ 5.Ka6 Ra3+ 6.Kb7 Rb3+ 7.Nb6+ +-). **4.Kb6** (4.Nb6+? Ke6! 5.a8Q Rxa8 6.Nxa8 Kf5! =) **4...Ke6 5.Nb4!!** Only his move surprisingly saves the h2 pawn. (5.Nc7+? Kf5 6.Na6 Ra8 7.Kb7 Rxa7+ =). **5...Kf5 6.Nc6** This knight has got wings! **6...Re8! 7.Nb8! 7.Kc7!?** loses time 7...Kg5 8.Nb8 Re7+ 9.Nd7 Re8 10.Kc6! Kf5 11.Kb7 transposing to the main after 10.Kb7. **7...Re6+ 8.Kc7 Re7+ 9.Nd7 Re8 10.Kb7!** Game over. The knight has g4 under control indirectly. **10...Kg5** (10...Kg4 11.Nf6+! +-) **11.a8Q Rxa8 12.Kxa8 Kh4 13.Ne5 Kh3 14.Nf3 +-** (14...Kg4 15.h4 or 15.Ng1). Beautiful positional miniature! The knight controls the whole board being 8 times on correct squares.



draw

Special Prize – Daniel Keith (France)

(4/2009/31, 1/2010)

1.Bh5+! (1.Bf5+? Kg5! -+) **1...Qxh5 2.Rg7+!** In both following lines white rooks will make only moves (2.Ra4+? Kh3 3.b8Q Rc1+ 4.Kf2 Qc5+ 5.Kxf3 Qd5+! 6.Kf4 Rf1+7.Ke3 Re1+ -+). **A) 2...Kh4!? 3.Ra4+ Kh3 4.Rg3+!** White must not allow a living up the black queen through the square c5 (4.b8Q? Rc1+ 5.Kf2 Qc5+ 6.Kxf3 Rf1+! -+). **4...Kxg3 5.b8Q+ Kh3 6.Rd4!!** The above mentioned threat cannot be guarded by the queen: 6.Qb6!? Qg5!! 7.Qe6+ Kh2! 8.Qd6+ Kh1 -+. **6...Qh6! 7.Qd6!** Keeping black queen passive: 7.Qd8? Qa6+ 8.Rd3 Qa1+ 9.Rd1 Qe5! 10.Qd7+ Kg3 -+. **7...Qxd6 8.Rxd6 Kg3 9.Rg6+ =, B) 2...Kh3!? 3.Rh7!!** It is necessary to forget the previous line 3.Rg3+!? Kh2!! 4.b8Q Rc1+ 5.Kf2 Qc5+ 6.Re3 Qc2+ 7.Kxf3 Qf5+ 8.Qf4 Rf1+ 9.Ke2 Rxf4! -+. **3...Qxh7 4.b8Q Rc1+ 5.Kf2 Qc2+ 6.Kxf3!** The point of rook's sac. **6...Rf1+! 7.Ke3 Qc1+ 8.Ke2+ check! draw.**

An ode to white rooks. Both lines (with the passive and the active queen) create a harmonious entirety with excellent mastering of heavy pieces. But the first line is a copy from Keith's study from Olympic tournament Dresden 2008.



draw

1st hm – Ľuboš Kekely (Slovakia, Snežnica)

(4/2009/27, 4/2009)

1.Rg5 g1Q 2.Rxg1 Bxg1 3.Kd6! This way the second white knight will be centralized (3.Kd8? Bd4! 4.g8Q Rh8 5.Qxh8 Bxh8 6.Kc8 b2 7.b7 b1Q 8.b8N+ Ka5 9.Nc6+ Kb5 -+; 3.Ke8? Rxg7 5.Nxg7 b2 5.Nc3 Bd4 6.Nb1 Bxg7 -+). **3...Rxg7 4.Nxg7 Bd4! 5.Ne6! b2 6.Nc3!! Bxc3 7.Nxc5+! Ka5** there is no other move (7...Kxb6? 8.Na4+ =) **8.dxc3!** The point of white defence is now visible (8.b7? Be5+! 9.Kxe5 b1Q -+). **8...b1Q 9.b7 Qb6+ 10.Kd5!** The battle dangles around the b5 (10.Kd7? Kb5 -+). **10...Qd8+ 11.Kc6!** (11.Kc4? Qd6 12.Nd7 Qa6+ -+) **11...Qb6+ 12.Kd5 Qc7 13.c4!** Positional draw – knight's forks a6 and d7 paralyze the black king. The impressive defence 6.Nc3!! leads to a surprising entertaining positional draw. The black monarch cannot make any step (else he will fall) and the queen halfway hobbles – like in a hospital. Such a successful study should start with 1.Kd6! saving some material.



draw

2nd hm – Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic, Praha), Michal Hlinka (Slovakia, Košice) and M. Campioli (Italy)

(2/2010/16, 6/2010)

1.c6! (1.Kc3?! Ne3! 2.Kd4 Nf5+ 3.Ke5 Nxe6! 4.c6 Nf5! 5.c7 Ne7 -+) **1...Ne3+ 2.Kd4!** Now white will perpetually chase a knight finally winning it (2.Kc5?! Nf5 3.c7 Ne7 -+). **2...Nf5+ 3.Ke5! Ne7!** After the correct white key black cannot play 3...Nxe6?? 4.c7 +- . **4.Kd6! Nc8+ 5.Kc7 Na7 6.Kb6 Nc8+ 7.Kc7 Ne7 8.Kd6 Nxc6 9.Kxc6 Kxe6 10.Kd5!!** White has to avoid zugzwang positions and the same time control the h-pawn. That is why not 10.Kd6? h4! 11.Ke5 Kg6! mutual zugzwang 12.Ke4 Kf6! 13.Ke3 Ke5! 14.Kf3 Kf5! 15.Ke3 Kg4! 16.Kf2 h3 -+ . **10...Kg6! 11.Ke6!** (11.Ke5? h4! MZ; 11.Ke4? Kf6 12.Kf3 Ke5 13.Ke3 Kf5 14.Kf3 h4 MZ -+) **11...h4 12.Ke5** And the finish is already known from Pospíšil study. **12...Kh5 13.Kf5 g4 14.Ke4!** (14.Kf4? g3 MZ 15.Kf3 Kg5 16.Ke2 h3 17.gxe3 Kh4 18.Kf1 Kxe3 19.Kg1 g2 -+) **14... Kg5** (14...g3 15.Kf4!) **15.Ke3 g3 16.Kf3!** (16.Ke2? h3! 17.gxe3 Kh4 18.Kf1 Kxe3 19.Kg1 g2 -+) **16...Kf5** (16...Kh5 17.Kf4! zugzwang) **17.Ke2! Kg4 18.Kf1 h3 19.Kg1 h2+ 20.Kh1 =** . A successful enhancing the unsound study J. Pospíšil, Čs. šach 1957. After the precise key the study culminates with a text-book move 10.Kd5!! and after echo move 11.Ke6! we have a position from the original old study. It is a pity the original author did not participate in this correction; so I cannot evaluate the study as a whole.



draw

3rd hm – I. Aliev (Azerbaijan) and R. Allajov (Azerbaijan)

(11/2010/77, 11/2010)

1.a6! An introductory fineness (1.Kg4? Re8 2.Rb4 Ra8 -+). **1...Rxb6 2.a7 Rb3+ 3.Kg4!** Forcing the next move (3.Kg2? Re2+ 4.Kf1 Ra2 -+). **3...h5+!** (3...Re4+ 4.Rxe4 h5+ 5.Kf4 Rxa3 6.Rb4 Rxa7 7.Rb6+ =) **4.Kf4 Rxa7 5.Rxa7 Rh3!** It seems white has to resign here. **6.Ra6+! Kg7 7.Ra4!!** A beautiful refutation of 3...h5+!, white pawn is guarded indirectly. Insufficient is 7.Kg5? Rg3+ 8.Kf4 Rg4+ 9.Ke5 Rxe4 10.a4 Rh1 11.Kf4 Rf1+ 12.Kg3 Rg1+ 13.Kh2 Rc1 -+ . **7...Kf6** (7...Kh6 8.Ke5 =) **8.Ra6+ Kg7 9.Ra4!** a positional draw or **9...Rxe4+ 10.Kg5 Rxe4** stalemate. A very nice funny rook! The damned idea of J. Vladimirov (Magyar Sakkélet 1976) is finally demonstrated in a sound manner and at the first attempt. J. Polášek (č. 79, Čs. šach 11/2010) was not successful, maybe he outraged Caissa with his sentence “don’t trust computers blindly” (see Čs. šach 1/2011, page 17, nr. 7).



draw

4th hm – I. Akobia (Georgia) and M. Hlinka (Slovakia, Košice)

(12/2009/92, 12/2009)

1.Nb7+ Kd7 2.c6+! Kxc6 3.Na5+ Kd7 Entering central moves would be a suicide 3...Kd6/Kd5??
4.Nbc4+/Bb7+ +-. **4.Bb5+ Kc8 5.Ba6+ Kd7 6.Bb5+ c6!** Else perpetual or 6...Kd8? 7.Nc6+ Kc8 8.Ba6+ Kd7
 9.Ne5+. **7.Bxc6+ Kc8 8.Bb7+ Kc7 9.Bb8+ Kb6 10.Ba7+!** White has to keep activity, for example 10.Nc6? Qe1
 11.Ra6+ Kb5 12.Bh2 Rb3 13.Nd4+ Kb4 14.Rb6+ Kc5 15.Rxb3 Bxb7+ 16.Kb8 Kxd4 17.Bg3 Qe2 18.Bxf2+
 Qxf2 19.Rb4+ Kd5 20.Rb5+ Kc6 21.Rxb7 Qxf7 22.Rc7+ Kd5 -. **10...Kc7** Or 10...Kb5 11.Bc6+ Kb4 12.Bd4!!
 Qd1 13.Nxd1 Rxa2 14.Bxf3 =. **11.Bb8+ Kd7!** Avoiding perpetual again. **12.Bc6+ Kd8 13.Nb7+ Kc8** Finally
 after long manoeuvres black king is safe. **14.Na4!!** An introduction to a surprising finish! **14...Rxa2 15.f8Q+!**
Rxf8 16.Bd7+ Kxd7 stalemate. Mastering such a difficult theme (three pin stalemate) needs a lot of material and
 constructional compromises. All pieces moved in this study creating an impressive aesthetic finish. A successful
 correction of an older Akobia study from the year 1979!



win

5th hm – Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic, Praha)

(8/2009/66, 4/2010)

1.Bb3+ d5! A mating threat is eliminated this way (1...Kh8? 2.Bf4 Re2 3.b7 Re8 4.b8Q Rxb8 5.Be5+! +-) and
 the same time white is lured into a future pin. **2.Bxd5+** (2.Bf4? Rb2 3.Ka4 Bf2 4.b7 Ba7 =) **2...Kh8 3.Bf4 Bg3!**
4.Bxg3 Rh5 Black reached a maximum, the game seems to be a sure draw. **5.b7 Rxd5+ 6.Kb6 Rd8 7.Be5+!!** It
 is not a misery check! **7...Kg8 8.Bc7!** (8.Kc7? Rf8 =) **8...Rf8** (or 8...Re8) **9.Kc6!** The back-rank is too short for
 the black rook. Would be played directly 7.Bc7? Rf8 8.Kc6, black holds after 8...h5! 9.Kd7 Rg8! =. **9...Kf7**
10.Kd7 Kg6 11.Bd8! Rf7+ 12.Be7 +-. The active black defence 1...d5! is refuted by the tricky check. A
 likeable well constructed idea with the destructive pawn h7!

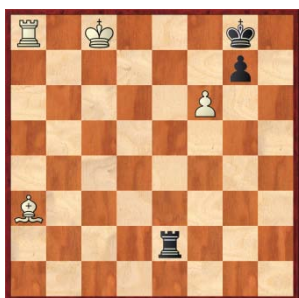


win

Special hm – János Mikitovics (Hungary)

(8/2009/62, 3/2010)

1.Nd3!! This shocking computer key ignores a promotion (1.Ng2+?! Kg3 2.Ne3 Bc8! 3.Rf1 h2 4.Rh1 Bd7! 5.Ke7 Bc6 6.d7 Bxh1 7.d8Q Be4!! =). **1...Kg3 2.Kf6(g6)** The king evidently points to g5 where he will be able to form a correct opposition (2.Rf1? Bf5! 3.Nxf2 Kg2 4.Rc1 Kxf2 5.Kf6 Bd7!! =). **2...Kg2** (Other moves lose time 2...Bc8? 3.Rf1 Bd7 4.Kg5 h2 5.Nxf2 Kg2 6.Rh1 or 2...Bd7 3.Rf1!! Bb5! 4.Nxf2 Bxf1 5.Nh1+!! +-). **3.Nxf2! Kxf2 4.Kg5!** The key is decoded. The overloaded queen is replaced by active king while the Pf2 is vanished. White needs only the little – nothing to blunder. **4...Bd7 5.Kh4!** (5.Kf4? Kg2 6.Rc1 h2 7.Rc2+ Kh3! =) **5...Kg2 6.Rc1!** Taking c6 under control: 6.Rb1? h2 7.Rb2+ Kg1 8.Kg3 h1N+! 9.Kf4 Nf2! =. **6...Ba4 7.Ra1 h2 8.Ra2+ Kg1 9.Kg3 h1N+ 10.Kf4!** +- (10.Kf3/h3? Bc6/d7+ =). A good key, surprising side-lines on both sides and the fine finish! A highly tactical study, but with strong computer taste!



win

Commendation – Michal Hlinka (Slovakia, Košice) and Emil Vlasák (Czech Republic, Ústí nad Labem)

(10/2010/72, 10/2010)

1.Kd7+ Kf7 2.Rf8+ Kg6 3.f7 Kf6! Other moves speed-up the solution 3...Rd2+ 4.Ke8! Re2+ 5.Be7 Rf2 6.Bd6 Rf1 7.Ke7 Re1+ 8.Kd7 Rf1 9.Ke6 or 3...Rf2 4.Ke8! Re2+ 5.Be7. **4.Bb4!** The first phase of white's plan is the displacement of the black rook from e-file following with winning the e6 square for his king. **4...Re3!** (4...Re4? 5.Bc3+ Kg6 6.Re8) **5.Bc5! Rb3** The e-file is no longer defensible (5...Re4? 6.Re8; 5...Re2? 6.Bd4+ Kg6 7.Re8). **6.Bd4+!** (6.Be7+ is a significant time wasting) **6...Kg6 7.Ke6 Rb7** In the phase 2 black rook will be displaced also from the 7th rank. **8.Bc5!** A critical position the solution has to go through. The rook is out-temped. **8...Rc7** After 8. . .Rb1 9.Re8! white king will hide on f8 (9. . .Re1+ 10.Kd7 Rc1+ 11.Ke7 Re1+ 12.Kf8). **9.Be7! Rc1 10.Bd6! Re1+ 11.Be5 Rf1 12.Bxg7! Re1+** (12...Kxg7 13.Rg8+) **13.Be5** +-. An exemplary dishonour of black rook in a pure construction! The finish delicacy 9.Be7! forcing an awkward rook's return increases the value.



win

Commendation – Ľ. Kekely (Slovakia, Sněžnica) and Martin Minski (Germany)

(12/2010/87)

1.e7 Rg2+ (1...Kg3 2.Nc3 +-) **2.Kh1!** (2.Kf1? Rf2+ 3.Ke1 Re2+ 4.Kd1 Rxe5 =) **2...Rg8 3.Nc7!** A logical move. The crucial square will be d5 and not f5. (3.Nd6?! Rh8+ 4.Kg1 Rg8+ 5.Kf1 Rh8 6.Ke1 Ke3 7.Nf5+ Kf4 8.Ng7 Kxe5 9.e8Q+ Rxe8 10.Nxe8 Kd5 winning the b-pawn). **3...Rh8+** (3...Ke4 4.e6! +-) **4.Kg1 Rg8+ 5.Kf1 Rh8 6.Ke1 Ke3 7.Kd1!** (7.Nd5+?! solves meanwhile nothing 7...Kd4 8.Nf6 Kxe5 =) **7...Kd3 8.Kc1 Kc3 9.Nd5+ Kd4 10.Nf6 Kc3!** Black has a problem. The white king – after knight's luring away– catch to save his pawn (10. . . Kxe5 11.e8Q+ Rxe8 12.Nxe8 Kd4 13.Kb2 Kc4 14.Ka3 +-). **11.Kd1!** The mission is fulfilled, white knight has taken g8 under control. Time to return! **11...Kd3 12.Ke1 Ke3 13.Kf1 Kf3 14.Kg1 Kf4 15.e6!** Paralyzing last black's hopes (15.e8Q?! Rxe8 16.Nxe8 Kxe5 17.Nc7 Kd4! 18.Na6 Kc4 19.Kf2 Kb5 = or 15.b5? Kxe5 16.e8Q+ Rxe8 17.Nxe8 Kd5! 18.Nc7+ Kc5 19.Kf2 Kb6 =). **15...Kf5 16.e8Q Rxe8 17.Nxe8 Kxe6** And this square is too far. **18.Nc7+ +-.** The knight's manoeuvre Nc7-d5-f6 – keeping control under g8 – seems yo be logical. But for a correct timing the king hat to travel – with a two-way ticket – as far away as to square c1. A nice agile miniature with an exact finale!



draw

Commendation – Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic, Praha)

(10/2009/8, 10/2009)

1.Kf6! Allowing to grasp rooks on the 7th rank. **1...Rbb7 2.Bf5+! Kh4!** (2...Kg3? 3.Bc8! Rbc7 4.Be6 or 2...Kg2? 3.Be6! gives white an extra tempo) **3.Bc8!** The rook e7 must not unbind (3.Be6? Rec7 -+). **3...Rbc7 4.Be6!** A funny position, Re7 has no any good move (4...Rh7 5.Kg6! threatening 6.Bf2 mate; 4...Re8 5.Bf2+! =). **4...Kh5 5.Be5!** The bishops' teamwork dominates here (5.Bb6? Rxe6+ 6.Kxe6 Rc6+ +-). **5...Rb7 6.Bd5!** 6.Bc8? would be bad now for 6...Rf7+ 7.Ke6 Rbe7+ +-). **6...Rbd7** The first attempt to free rooks – a strange position! **7.Be6! Ra7** The second try. **8.Bb8!** (8.Bd4? Rab7! 9.Bd5 Rbd7! 10.Be6 Rxe6+ +). **8...Rab7 9.Bd5 Rbd7 10.Be6** Positional draw. This treatment of theme “bishops resist rooks” soothes the eye. Although black has found the strongest 2...Kh4! he cannot release his rooks. In the setting white king has to be in check else some extra pieces would be necessary.



win

Commendation – Jaroslav Pospíšil (Czech Republic, Praha)

(3/2010/21, 6/2010)

1.c4! White must not trap the knight 1.Rf2? Kxe4 2.Kd7 Kd4 3.Kc6 Kc3 =. **1...Nc2!** (1...Kxc4 2.Kf7! Kd4 3.Re8! Nb3 4.e4 c4 5.e6 +-) **2.Kd7 Na3 3.Ra8!** (3.Re8? Nxc4 4.Kc6 Ne5+ =; 3.Rf4? Ke5 =) **3...Nxc4 4.Ra4 Kxe4!** Else white passer would be quick (4...Kc3 5.Kc6 Nb2 6.e5! Nxa4 7.e6! +-) **5.Rxc4+ Kd5** The present runs out and suddenly we are finding us in a history facing the famous Réti study. **6.Rc3(c2)!!** Maybe the most discussed endgame study key with a lot of advocates and opponents. Réti knew about this dual. If he would correct it, the study would be surely not so famous. **6...c4 7.Rc1! Kc5 8.Kc7** +-. Full marks to the author of the introduction! A nice idea with a dynamic play in a miniature design!



draw

Special commendation – Jaroslav Pospíšil (Czech Republic, Praha)

(11/2010/76)

1.Ke4!! A quiet key, other tries would lose: 1.Qh1+? Ke2; 1.Bc3+? Ke2; 1.Bh4+? Ke2 with a won endgame. **1...Qc4+ 2.Kxe3!** The dangerous pawn cannot be taken 2.Kxf3? Qf4+ 3.Kg2 Qf2+ 4.Kh1 Qg1 mate. **2...f2** (2...Qe2+ 3.Kd4 f2 4.Bh4 =) **3.Qh4 Qe2+ 4.Kf4!** (4.Kd4? Kd1) **4...Kd1 5.Kg3!!** A surprise, two black queens cannot avoid a perpetual check. **5...f1Q 6.Qa4+** (6.Qd4+? Qd3) **6...Qc2 7.Qa1+ Ke2** Or 7...Qc1 8.Qa4(d4)+ Ke2 9.Qg4(b5)+ Ke1 10.Qe4(b4)+ Qfe2 11.Qh1+ =. **8.Qe5+ Kd1 9.Qa1+**. Quiet moves of white king are some compensation for killing a passive piece on the start. An inspired play based on control of dark squares, unfortunately without any move of the white key bishop. The author surely tested a possibility of introductory play but probably did not a satisfactory setting.

Stanislav Nosek, judge

Dačice, Czech Republic, January 16th 2011

Translation Emil Vlasák www.vlasak.biz

Protests send till May 31st 2011 to

hlinkamichal55@gmail.com or Michal Hlinka, Heydukova 1, 040 01 Košice do 31.5.2011.