

Israel Ring Tourney: Studies Award 2002-3

Judge: Gady Costeff (Israel/USA)

22 studies participated in this tourney. Although the diagrams supplied by director H.Aloni were anonymous, I was familiar with some of the studies and therefore the most egregious personal biases should be assumed. The general level was mediocre. Three studies were cooked, two were database extracts with no artistic content, two contained checks in every white move with insufficient compensation, one (Y.Hoch, Variantim 32) was completely anticipated (see diagram A: 1.g3+ Kh5 2.Bf7+ 2...Kh6 3.Bd5 Qxd5 4.g8=S+ Kg5 5.f4+ Kg4 6.Sf6+ Kxg3 7.Sxd5), and one otherwise good study had, unnecessarily, two white queens in the starting position. Of the remaining 13 studies I decided on the following two honorable mentions and three commendations in no particular order:

Honorable Mention, Shahmat 2001v, Noam Elkies (Israel/USA). The mate is known from Pogosiants [diagram B: 1.a6+ Kxc8 2.b7+ Kb8 3.Se5 Sc5+ (no solution: 3...Sb6+!) 4.Kb5 Sxb7 5.Sc6+ Kc8 6.Sxa7+ Kb8 7.Sc6+ Kc8 8.Se7+ Kb8 9.a7+ Kxa7 10.Sc6#] but there is the critical move 5.Bg7! and a new bishop switchback.

1. Bg5+ Kg7 (1...Kh7 2.Sf6+ Kg7 3.h6+ Kf8 4.Bc1 Sf5+ 5.Kg5 Ke7 6.Ba3+ Ke6 7.Bf8) 2.h6+ Kf8 (2...Kg8 3.Bxe7) 3.Bf6 (switchback no.1) 3...Sf5+ (3...g5+ 4.Kxg5 Shg6 5.Bg7+ Ke8 6.h7 Sc8 7.Kf6 Kd7 8.Kxf7 Sce7 9.Sf6+ Kd6 10.Sg8) 4.Kg5 Kq8 (4...Sxh6 5.Kxh6 Kg8 6.Sg5) 5.Bg7!! (5.Bb2 f6+! 6.Sxf6+ Kf7=) 5...Sxg7 (5...f6+ 6.Sxf6+ Kf7 7.Bxh8 wins as the bishop is the right side of the critical square f6) 6.Sf6+ (6.h7+? Kf8) 6...Kf8 7.Sd7+! Kq8 (switchback no.2. If 7...Ke7 8.hxg7) 8.h7+ Kxh7 9.Sf6# switchback no.3.

Honorable Mention, Vm 2003, David Gurgenzidze (Georgia). The introduction flows nicely and the refutation of the try 14.Qh5 is based on a classic draw. Unfortunately, the try 14.Qh5 is neither paradoxical nor thematic since the two variations have nothing in common subsequently.

1.Qc3+ Kb1 2.Qc2+ Ka1 3.Qc1+ Ka2 4.Bb3+ Kxb3 5.Qxh1 Ra8+ 6.Kb7 Rab8+ 7.Kc7 Rbc8+ 8.Kxd6 Rcd8+ 9.Kc5 Rcb8+ 10.Kd4 Rcb4+ 11.Kd3 Rc3+ 12.Kd2 Rc2+ 13.Kd1 Kb2 (13...Ra8 14.Qf3+ transposes to the end of the main line) 14.Qh4! (14.Qh5? Ra8 15.Ke1 Ra1+ 16.Qd1 Rxd1+ 17.Kxd1 Kc3 18.g6 Kd3 19.h7 Rh2 20.Ke1 Ke3 21.Kf1 Kf3 22.Kg1 Rh6=) 14...Rc1+ 15.Kd2 Rc2+ 16.Kd3 Rc3+ 17.Kd4 Kb3 18.Qh5 Rc4+ 19.Kd3 Rc3+ 20.Kd2 Rc2+ 21.Kd1 Ra8 22.Qf3+ wins (22...Kb2? 23.Qf6+; 22...Rc3? 23.Qe2,etc.)

Commendation, Shahmat 2000v, Ariel Hadari (Beer Sheva). The tries are more interesting than the main line and point clearly to the possibilities for a new study.

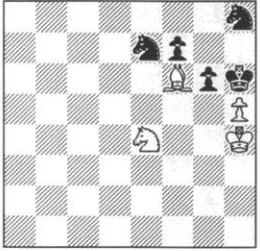
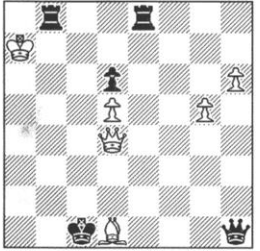
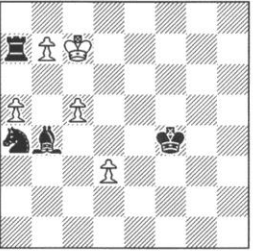
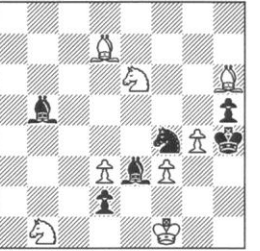
1.c6 Ke5 (1...Ke3 2.Kc8 Bxa5 3.Kb8 Ra6 4.c7 Bb4 5.Kc8 Rh6 6.Kd8 Rh8+ 7.Kd7 Sc5+ 8.Kc6 Rh6+ 9.Kd5 Sxb7 10.c8=Q Rh5+ 11.Kc6 Sa5+ 12.Kb6 or 1...Bxa5+ 2.Kb8 Bb6 3.Kc8 Ke5 4.b8=Q+ Kd5 5.Qxa7 Bxa7 6.Kb7 or 1...Kg5 2.d4! Kf6 3.Kc8 Bxa5 4.Kb8 Ra6 5.c7 Bb4 6.Kc8 Sb6+ 7.Kd8 Kf7 8.c8=S! [8.c8=Q Be7+ 9.Kc7 Sd5+ 10.Kd7 (10.Kb8 Bd6+) 10...Rd6#]. 8...Sd5 9.b8=Q Ba5+ 10.Sb6 Rxb6 11.Qa7+ Ke6 12.Qd7+ Kf6 13.Qg4 Rd6+ 14.Kc8 Se7+ 15.Kb7=) 2.Kc8 Bd6 3.c7 Bxc7 4.Kxc7 Sc5 5.a6 (5.d4+ Kxd4 6.a6 Kc4 7.Kb6 Rxa6+) 5...Kd5 6. d4 Kxd4 7.Kb6 (7.Kc6) 7...Rxa6+ 8.Kb5 Ra1 9.b8=Q Rb1+ 10.Ka5 Rxb8 – stalemate.

Commendation, Shahmat 2003, David Gurgenzidze, Iuri Akobia, Merab Gogberashvili (Georgia) & Hillel Aloni (Israel). The double mate mechanism is known but 5.f4! Bb5! are nice moves.

1.Bg5+ Kh3 (1...Kg3 2.Bxf4+ Bxf4 3.Sxd2 Bxd7 4.Sxf4 Kxf4 5.gxh5) 2.Sxf4+ (2.Sxd2 Bxd3+ 3.Ke1 Sg2+ 4.Kd1 Bxg5 5.Sxg5+ Kh4 6.Sf7 hxg4 7.fxg4 Se3+ 8.Kc1 Sxg4) 2...Bxf4 3.Sxd2 Bxd3+ 4.Kf2 Bxg5 5.f4! Bb5! (5...Bh4+ 6.Ke3 or 5...Bxf4 6.g5+ Kh2 7.Sf3+ Kh1 8.Bh3) 6.Bxb5 Bxf4 7.Sf3 Bg3+ (7...hxg4 8.Bf1# or 7...Kxg4 8. Bd7#) 8.Ke3 Kxg4 9.Bd7#.

Commendation, Shahmat 2003, Ariel Hadari (Beer Sheva). It may be impossible to improve on Liburkin's classic (diagram C: 1.Kg1 Sf4 2.Se3+ Kh3 3.Sxd1 Se2+ 4.Kf1 Sg3+ 5.Kf2 Sxh1+ 6.Kg1 Bf6 7.Kxh1 Bd4 8.Sf5 Bxh8 9.Sf2#) but this study adds a twist with the stalemate defense 5...Bf5+ and 6...Be4.

1.f7 Se6 2. Sxe6 Rb8 (2...Bf5+ 3.Kh4 Rb4+ 4.Shf4) 3.f8=Q+ Rxf8 4.Sxf8 Bf5+ 5.Kh4 Be4 6.Sg3 Bxa8 7.Sf5#.

<p>Noam Elkies Hon. Mention IRT 2002-3</p>  <p>Win</p>	<p>David Gurgenzidze Hon. Mention IRT 2002-3</p>  <p>Win</p>	<p>Ariel Hadari Comm. IRT 2002-3</p>  <p>Draw</p>	<p>D.Gurgenzidze, I.Akobia, M.Gogberashvili & H.Aloni Comm. IRT 2002-3</p>  <p>Win</p>
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Studies excluded for various reasons:

A.Hadari, H.Aloni (Shahmat 8/2002) – cook 1.Sf3+ Kg2 2.Rxh2+ Kg3 3.Scxe5 gxf3 4.Ke3 f2 5.Ke2 Kxh2 6.Kxf2 Kh1 7.Sg4 h2 8.Se3 g4 9.Sf5 g3+ 10.Sxg3#. **E.Bourd, H.Aloni (Shahmat 3/2003)** – dual 6.Sxe6! Kxe6 (6...b2 7.Kf2 Rg4 8.h3 Rxg7 9.Sxg7) 7.g8Q Rxg8 8.Bxg8 b2 9.Bh7 f5 10.Bg8+ Kf6 11.Ba2. **V.Kichgin, H.Aloni (Shahmat 12/2003)** – dual 5.Rg1+! Qxa1 6.Rxa1 Bxe4 7.Kf7 h2 8.Kf6 Kh7 9.Rc1 h5 10.Kg5 Bf3 11.Ra1 Kg7 12.Rf1 Kg8 13.Kg6. **I.Akobia (Shahmat 6/2002 and Variantim 33, 5/2003)** are 5 piece database positions of little interest. **A.Stavrietzky, H.Aloni (Shahmat 8/2002)** and **D.Zang & A.Van Tets (Shahmat 12/2003)** have a check in every white move without sufficient compensation. **Sh.Nahshoni (Shahmat 12/2003)** – the two queens in the starting position are unnecessary. I prefer that the author correct this as it is otherwise a good study.