

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Studies – 2015

Judge: Amatzia Avni

18 studies of fair level were handed to me by TD Ofer Comay. I chose 10 works as candidates for the award. Originality check by Gady Costeff revealed significant anticipations to two entries and they had to be disqualified: N. 2641 by Drake – see Ruzsyczynski, Kd8/d1, 1976; and N. 2739 by Hlinka & Kekely – see Becker, Ke4/d1, 2013.

Before presenting the results, I'd like to make two comments.

1) As many have pointed out before me, strong moves are not necessarily interesting. One entry started with a 6-pieces DB position and gave 24 supposedly best, unique moves (!) as the solution. However, play was technical and not interesting at all, thus the study was not included in the award.

2) Many works were composed in the style of the logical school. Now, when one sees for the first time a study which starts with, say, 1.g3 instead of 1.g4, when the difference between those two moves is revealed only 15 moves later, one is impressed and fascinated. However, after about 100 such studies, magic fades away; and after glancing at a zillion similar-constructed studies, upon the very appearance of words like "logical" and "thematic", one feels an urge to jump from the nearest cliff, just to put an end to the horror. Perhaps composers will kindly grant the "logical" trend some rest?

1st Prize: Var. 2740 Pavel Arestov

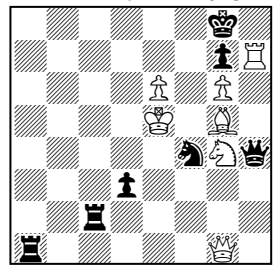
Lively play, captivating and imaginative from beginning to end. Tactical blows and counter-blows, a minor promotion in a try and a stalemate final. A pleasure. **1. ♖h6+!** 1. ♖xh4? ♖xg6+! 2. ♖d6 ♖xg1 -+; 1. ♖xg7+? ♖xg7 2. ♖xa1 ♖xg5+ -+; 1. ♖xa1? ♖xg5+ -+. **1... ♖g6** 1... ♖xh6 2. ♖xh6 ♖xg1 3. ♖xg7+ ♖h8 4. ♖h7+ ♖g8 5. ♖g7+ =. **2. ♖h8+!!** 2. ♖xh4? ♖xg1 -+. **2... ♖xh8** 3. ♖xa1 ♖e1+! 3... ♖a2? 4.e7! +- . **4. ♖xe1 ♖e2+ 5. ♖xe2 de 6. ♖f6+!** forcing the Black king to leave the square h8! Try: 6. ♖h4? ♖xg6+ 7. ♖f6 ♖xh4 8.e7 e1=♖!! (8...e1=♖? 9.e8=♖+ ♖xe8 - stalemate) 9.e8=♖+ ♖xe8 -+. **6... ♖g8** **7. ♖h4 ♖xg6+ 8. ♖f6! ♖xh4 8... ♖h7 9. ♖f2 =. 9.e7 e1=♖/♖** **10.e8=♖+ ♖xe8 - stalemate.**

2nd Prize: Var. 2741 János Mikitovics

Charming position appears on the board after white's fifth move. A lot of fine points, especially the clash illustrated by 13.Qb6+ Nd4+! 14.Kc4!!

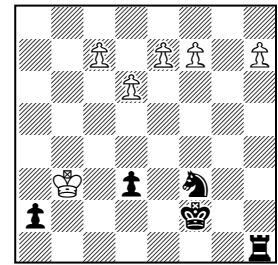
1.h8=♖! (A) 1. ♖xa2? (B) 1...d2 2.h8=♖ (A) 2...d1=♖ (2... ♖xh8? 3.e8=♖ d1=♖ 4.c8=♖ ♖d2+) 3. ♖b2+ ♖g3 4.e8=♖ ♖d5+=; 1.h8=R?? a1=♖+ (1... ♖xh8? 2. ♖xa2 main) **1... ♖xh8 2. ♖xa2! (B) 2... ♖a8+ 2...d2 3.e8=♖!** (3.f8=♖? d1=♖=) 3...d1=♖ (3... ♖h4 4.c8=♖ d1=♖ 5. ♖c3 ♖a4+ 6. ♖b2 ♖a1+ 7. ♖c2 ♖a2+ 8. ♖d3 ♖a3 9. ♖e2+ (e3+) 9... ♖g3 10. ♖xf3+ ♖xf3 11.f8=♖+++) 4.c8=♖! ♖h2 (4... ♖d2+ 5. ♖b3 ♖d4+ 6. ♖c4 ♖c2+ 7. ♖xd4 ♖h4+ 8. ♖d5 ♖b3+ 9. ♖c6 ♖c4+ 10. ♖d7+-) 5.f8=♖ ♖g3+ 6. ♖a3 ♖a1+ 7. ♖b4+- (7. ♖b3? ♖d4+ 8. ♖b4 ♖b2+ 9. ♖c4 ♖c2+ 10. ♖d5 ♖a5+ 11. ♖e4 ♖e2+ 12. ♖d3 ♖d2+ 13. ♖c4 ♖c2+=) **3. ♖b2! d2 4.c8=♖!** 4.e8=♖? (f8?) 4...d1=♖= **4... ♖xc8** 4...d1=♖ 5. ♖c2+- **5.d7!! ♖b8+** 5...d1=♖ 6.dxc8=♖ ♖d4+ 7. ♖c3 ♖b6+ 8. ♖c1 ♖h6+ 9. ♖b1 ♖b6+ (9... ♖g6+ 10. ♖c2+++) 10. ♖b2+++; 5... ♖d8 6.exd8=♖ a) 6.e8=♖? d1=♖=; b) 6.f8=♖? ♖xd7= (6... ♖xf8? 7.exf8=♖ d1=♖ 8.d8=♖+-); **6. ♖c2 ♖b2+! 7. ♖xb2 d1=♖ 8.d8=♖! ♖e2+ 9. ♖a3!** 9. ♖b3? ♖b5+ (9... ♖d2+? 10. ♖xd2+-) 10. ♖a3 ♖c5+ 11. ♖b3 ♖b5+= **9... ♖a6+ 10. ♖b4!** 10. ♖b2? ♖b5+= (10... ♖f6+? 11. ♖b3 ♖xf7+ 12. ♖a3!+-) **10... ♖b7+ 11. ♖a5 (c5) 11. ♖c4? ♖e5+! 12. ♖c5 ♖c6+= (12... ♖d3+? 13. ♖d4!+-) 11... ♖a7+ 12. ♖b5 ♖b7+ 13. ♖b6+! ♖d4+ 14. ♖c4!!** 14. ♖a4? ♖d7+! (14... ♖xb6? 15.f8=♖+ ♖f3 16.e8=♖+-) 15. ♖a5 (15. ♖a3? ♖xe7+=) 15... ♖d5+ 16. ♖a6 ♖a8+=; 14. ♖a5? ♖d5+ 15. ♖b4 ♖b3+ 16. ♖c5 ♖xf7 17. ♖d8 ♖e6+=; 14. ♖c5? ♖xe7+= **14... ♖xb6** 14... ♖xe7 15. ♖xd4++ **15.f8=♖+! ♖f3 16.e8=♖+-** [Phoenixes]

Pavel Arestov
1st Prize IRT 2015



draw 7+7

János Mikitovics,
2nd Prize IRT 2015



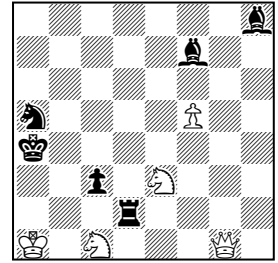
win 6+5

1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2643 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

Sacrificial play from both sides (4...Rc1+! 5.Ka2! Ra1+!) culminates in a stalemate.

1.f6 1.♖c2 ♖xc2 2.♖d1 ♖b3+ 3.♖xb3 ♖c1+ 4.♖xc1 (4.♖a2 ♖xd1) 4...c2+ 5.♖b2 ♖xb3 6.♖xh8 c1=Q#; 1.♖g4+ ♖a3.1...♖xf6 2.♖c2 2.♖f1 ♖a2+ 3.♖xa2 ♖b3+ 4.♖b1 ♖d2+ 2...♖xc2 (2...♖c4) 3.♖d1 ♖b3+ (3...♖b3 4.♖d7+) 4.♖xb3 ♖c1+ 4...♖d2 5.♖c5+ ♖b5 6.♖a4+ ♖xc5 7.♖a7+ ♖d6 8.♖xf7 {=} 5.♖a2 5.♖xc1+ c2+ 6.♖d4+ ♖xd4#; 5.♖xc1 c2+ 6.♖b2 ♖xb3 (6...♖xb2+) 5...♖a1+ 5...♖xd1 {stalemate} 5...♖e6 6.♖d4+ (6.♖xc1)6...♖xd4 6.♖xa1 6.♖xa1 c2+ {-?+} 6...♖xb3+ 7.♖b1+ ♖b4 (7...♖b5) 8.♖b2 cxb2 { stalemate} 1/2-1/2

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
1st HM IRT 2015



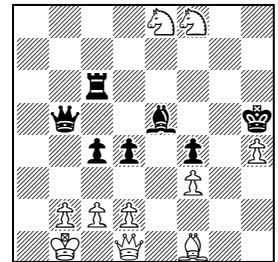
draw 5+6

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2692 Peter S. Krug & Mario G. Garcia

Black's inventive play, striving for stalemate, is cleverly neutralized; but play is forced.

1.d3! 1.♖d7? d3= 1...cxd3 1...♖b6 2.b3 ♖a4 (2...cxd3 3.♖g1 dxc2+ 4.♖c1 ♖h8 5.♖d6 ♖xd6 6.♖g4+ ♖h6 7.♖xf4+ ♖g7 8.♖xd6 ♖f1+ 9.♖xc2+-) 3.♖e1 cxd3 4.♖xe5+ ♖xh4 5.♖g6+ ♖g3 6.♖e1+ ♖h2 7.♖f2+ ♖h1 (7...♖h3? 8.♖xf4#) 8.♖f1+ ♖h2 9.♖xd3 ♖xe8 10.♖xf4 ♖b5 (10...♖e1+ 11.♖b2 ♖h6 12.♖e2+-) 11.♖h7+- 2.♖g1 dxc2+ 3.♖c1 ♖xb2+! 3...♖h8 4.♖d6! ♖xd6 5.♖g4+ ♖h6 6.♖xf4+ ♖h5 7.♖xd6 ♖f1+ 8.♖xc2 ♖c4+ (8...♖xf3 9.♖g6+ ♖xh4 10.♖h7+ ♖g4 11.♖g8+-) 9.♖b1 d3 10.♖g6+ ♖xh4 11.♖e4+ ♖xe4 12.fxe4+- 4.♖xb2 c1=♖+! 5.♖xc1 d3+ 6.♖b1 ♖a6 7.♖g7 ♖h6 8.♖f5+ ♖h5 9.♖b2! ♖xb2 10.♖xb2 ♖a2+ 11.♖c3 11.♖xa2? stalemate 11...♖c2 12.♖xd3 ♖xd2 13.♖e4 13.♖xd2? stalemate 13...♖e2+ 14.♖xf4 ♖e4+ 15.♖g3+-

Peter S. Krug
Mario G. Garcia
2nd HM IRT 2015



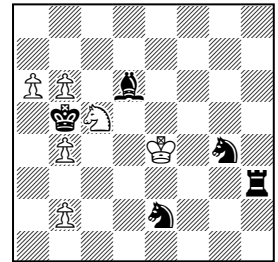
win 10+7

M.Garcia, I. Akobia
P. Krug
3rd HM IRT 2015

3rd Honorable Mention: Var. 2646 Mario G. Garcia, Iuri Akobia & Peter S. Krug

The concluding phase, a fight between R+N vs. pawns, has appeared in many studies, notably in the works of Sochnev. The introduction and the try on the fifth move are noteworthy.

1.a7! ♖f2+ 1...♖e3+ 2.♖f5! ♖e8 3.b7 ♖e3+ 4.♖f6! (4.♖g5? ♖g8+ 5.♖f6 time loss) 4...♖f8+ 5.♖e6! ♖c4 6.a8=♖ ♖d4+ (6...♖f4+ 7.♖d7 ♖b6+ 8.♖xd6 ♖xa8 9.♖d7=) 7.♖d5 ♖b6+ 8.♖xd6 ♖xa8 9.♖d7!= 1...♖f4 2.b7 ♖e3+ 3.♖f5 ♖h6+ 4.♖f6 ♖e7+ 5.♖g7 ♖f5+ 6.♖f7!= 1...♖xc5 2.bxc5= 2.♖d5 ♖xc5 3.bxc5 3.a8=Q? ♖f4+ 4.♖e5 N2d3+ 5.♖f5 ♖xb6+ 3...♖h5+ 4.♖e6 4.♖d6? ♖e4+!+ 4...♖e4 5.b4! Thematic Try: 5.a8=Q? ♖f4+ 6.♖d7 ♖h7+ 7.♖c8 ♖h8+ 8.♖b7 ♖xc5+ 9.♖a7 ♖xa8+ 10.♖xa8 ♖xb6 11.b4 (11.♖b8 ♖b3+- or 11...♖a6+ 12.♖c8 ♖b4+- in both cases the black won, by Troiski) 11...♖a6 12.b5 ♖d5 13.bxa6 ♖c7 14.♖a7 ♖e7 15.♖a8 ♖c8 16.a7 ♖b6# 5...♖f4+ 6.♖d7 ♖h7+ 7.♖c8 ♖d6+ 8.cxd6 ♖xb6 9.d7 ♖e6 10.a8=N+! 10.d8=Q+? ♖xd8 11.a8=♖ ♖c6!+ 10...♖c6 11.♖c7! Thematic Try: 11.b5+ ♖d6! (Not 11...♖xb5? 12.♖c7+ ♖c6 13.♖xe6 ♖xd7 14.♖d8+ ♖d6 15.♖b7+=) 12.♖c7 ♖h8+ (Not 12...♖xd7? 13.♖xe6 ♖xe6 14.b6! ♖d6 15.b7 ♖c7+ 16.♖b8 ♖c4 (16...♖c6 17.♖a8 ♖xb7 Stalemate) 17.♖a8 ♖a4+ 18.♖b8 ♖c6 19.♖c8 ♖g4 20.b8=♖+=) 13.♖e8+ ♖e7!+- and Black wins, because White played 7.b5+? allowing the b♖ to occupy the d6 square for move to e7! 11...♖h8+ 12.♖e8!= and draw, impossible b♖e7 with a win.

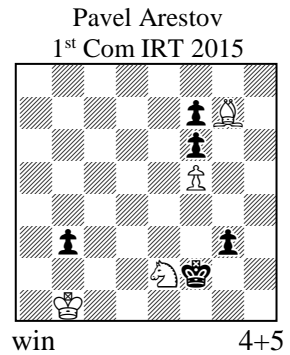


draw 6+5

1st Commendation: Pavel Arestov

Abstaining from capturing the f6-pawn on the second move makes all the difference. The clever try on white's 6th move and the mutual ZZ at the end are bonuses.

1. ♖c1! 1. ♖f4? g2(♗f3) 2. ♖xg2 ♖xg2 3. ♖xf6 ♗f3 4. ♖c3 f6! 4. ♖xf6 ♗e4 =. **1...g2 2. ♖f8!!** Logical try: 2. ♖xf6? g1=♗ 3. ♖d4+ ♗f1 4. ♖xg1 ♖xg1 5. ♖xb3 ♗f2! 6. ♖d4 ♗e3 7. ♖e6! ♗e4! 8. ♖g7 ♗e5 9. ♗c2 ♗f6 (no b.p. f6!) =. **2...♗f1 3. ♖c5 g1=♗ 4. ♖xg1 ♗xg1 5. ♖xb3 5. ♖e2+? ♗f2 6. ♖d4 ♗g3!!** (but not 6...♗e3? 7. ♖e6! ♗e4 8. ♖g7 ♗f4 9. ♗b2 ♗g5 10. ♖xb3 ♗h6 11. ♖f8 ♗g5 12. ♖d6 ♗f4 13. ♗c4 ♗e5 14. ♗c5 +-) 7. ♗b2 ♗f4 8. ♖xb3 ♗e4 9. ♗c3 ♗e5 10. ♗d3 ♗f4 =. **5...♗f2 6. ♖d4!** 6. ♗c2? ♗e3! 7. ♗c3 ♗e4(f4) 8. ♖d4 ♗e5 9. ♗c4 ♗e4! 10. ♗c5 ♗e5! 11. ♗c4 ♗e4 positional draw. And now: A) **6...♗e3 6...♗g3 7. ♗c2! ♗f4 8. ♗d3! ♗e5 9. ♗e3! +-.** 7. ♖e6! ♗e4 7...fe 8.fe +- 8. ♖g7! win. B) **6...♗g3 7. ♗c2!** 7. ♖e6? ♗g4! 8. ♖g7 ♗g5 9. ♗c2 ♗h6! 10. ♖e8 ♗g5 11. ♖d6 ♗f4! 12. ♗d3 ♗e5 =. **7...♗g4! 7...♗f4 8. ♗d3!** - main line. **8. ♗d2(c3)!** 8. ♗d3? ♗f4! zz, wtm 9. ♗c4 ♗e4(e5) 10. ♗c5 ♗e5(e4) =. **8...♗f4 9. ♗d3!** zz, btm **♗e5 10. ♗e3!** zz, btm, win.



2nd Commendation: Var. 2642 Martin Minski

Light structure and flowing play, but after several moves we are in DB territory; the point 10.Nh5!! is anticipated by Hooper, Ke4/g4 1975.

1. ♗f7! 1. ♗e7? ♗g6! = **1...♖f5 2. ♗f6 ♖g3 2...♖e3 3. ♖xg5 wins 3.e4 3. ♖d4? g4! 4.e3 ♗h5 5.e4 ♗h6! 6.e5 ♖h5+ 7. ♗f5 g3 8. ♗g4 g2 9. ♖e2 ♖g7 10. ♖xh3 (10. ♖e4 ♖e6 11. ♗g3 ♖d8! 12. ♖xh3 ♖f7 =) 10...♗g5 11. ♖c8 g1=Q 12. ♖xg1 ♗f4 = **3...h2 4.e5 h1=♗ 5. ♖xh1 ♖xh1 6. ♖g7!** 6. ♖xg5? ♖g3! 7. ♖f7+ (7.e6 ♖h5+ 8. ♗f5 ♖g7+ =) 7...♗h7! 8.e6 ♗g8 9.e7 ♖h5+ 10. ♗g6 (10. ♗e6 ♖g7+ 11. ♗f6 ♖h5+ 12. ♗g6 ♖f4+ 13. ♗f5 ♗xf7 =) 10...♖f4+ 11. ♗f5 ♗xf7 =; 6. ♖d4? ♖g3! 7. ♗f7 (7.e6 ♖h5+ 8. ♗f7 ♖g7 9.e7 g4 10. ♖e6 ♖f5 11.e8=♗ ♖d6+ =) 7...g4 8.e6 ♗g5 {/♖e4} 9.e7 ♖e4 = {10. ♖h5 impossible}**

6...♖g3 6...♖f2 7. ♖f5+ ♗h7 8.e6 ♖g4+ 9. ♖xg5 ♖f2 10.e7 ♖e4+ 11. ♗f4 ♖f6 12. ♗e5 wins 7. ♗f7! 7.e6? ♖e4+ 8. ♗f7 ♖d6+ = **7...g4 7...♖e4 8. ♖f5+ ♗h5 9.e6 g4 10.e7 wins 8. e6 ♗g5 8...♖e4 9.e7 g3 (9...♗g5 10. ♖h5!! {main}) 10. ♖f5+ wins 9.e7 ♖e4 10. ♖h5!! 10. ♖e6+? ♗h4! 11. ♖c5 ♖d6+! =; 10. ♗e6? ♖f6 = **10...♗xh5 10...♖d6+ 11. ♗e6 ♖e8 12. ♖d7 wins; 10...♗h4 11. ♗e6 wins 11. ♗e6 ♗g5 12.e8=♗ wins { excelsior} 1-0****

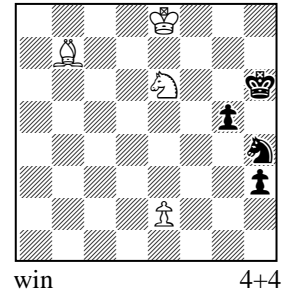
3rd Commendation: Var. 2645 Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely

We have seen before many knight-tours as in the introductory phase, but here there is a worthwhile continuation of the struggle.

1.gxh5! 1. ♖c7+? ♗b6 2. ♖d5+ ♗c6 3.gxh5 ♖xe4! 4. ♖c3 ♖h7 5. ♗d8 e4 black wins **1...♖xh5 1...♖xe4 2.h6! ♖h7 3. ♗c7 f6 4. ♗c6 {threat ♖c7#} ♖e4+ 5. ♗c7 ♖h7 6. ♗c6 draw {perpetual mate threat} 2. ♖c7+ ♗b6 3. ♖d5+! 3. ♗d7? ♖g6 4. ♖d5+ ♗b7 5. ♗d6 ♖xe4 6. ♖f6 ♖c2 7. ♗xe5 a5 8.bxa5 b4 9. ♗d4 ♗a6 10. ♖d5 ♗xa5 black wins {EGTB} 3...♗c6 3...♗a6? 4. ♗c7 white wins **4. ♖e7+ ♗d6 5. ♖f5+ ♗c6 6. ♖e7+ ♗d6 7. ♖f5+ ♗e6 8. ♖g7+ 8. ♖g3? ♖g6 9. ♗c7 ♖xe4 10. ♖xe4 f5 11. ♖c3 e4 12. ♗c6 a6 13. ♗b6 ♗e5 14. ♖xa6 f4 15. ♖xb5 f3 black wins {EGTB}****

8...♗f6 9. ♖xh5+ ♗g5 10. ♖g7! 10. ♖g3? ♗f4 11. ♖f5 ♗xe4 12. ♖h4 f5 black wins **10...♗f4 11. ♗b7!** 11. ♗d7? {or 11. ♗c7?} ♗xe4 12. ♗c6 a6 13. ♗d6 f6! 14. ♖h5 ♗f3! 15. ♖xf6 e4 16. ♖d7 e3 17. ♖c5 e2 18. ♖d3 ♗e3 19. ♖e1 ♗d4 20. ♗e6 ♗c4 21. ♗e5 ♗xb4 black wins {EGTB} **11...♗xe4 12. ♗a6!** 12. ♗c6? a6 black wins {as after 11. ♗d7?} **12...f5 12...♗d3 13. ♖xb5 e4 14. ♗a6 e3 15. ♖h5 f5 16. ♖xa7 draw {EGTB} 12...♗f4 13. ♖xb5 e4 14. ♗c4! e3 15. ♗d3 white wins 13. ♖xb5 f4 14. ♗c4! 14. ♖h5? ♗f5! 15. ♗c4 ♗g6 16. ♖xf4+ exf4 black wins {EGTB} 14...f3 15. ♖h5 f2 16. ♖g3+ ♗f3 17. ♖f1 draw 1/2-1/2**

Martin Minski, Germany
2nd Com IRT 2015



M.Hlinka & L.Kekely
3rd Com IRT 2015

