



**10<sup>th</sup> Composing Tourney of FRME,2024**

**Section - Endgame Studies**

**Final award**

**Organizers:** The Royal Moroccan Chess Federation (FRME).

**Tournament director:** Vidadi Zamanov (Azerbaijan).

**Judge:** Marek Halski (Poland).

**Award publication:** <http://frme.fr.nf>

29 study from 20 authors 11 countries: **Austria**-Peter Krug, **Azerbaijan**-Vidadi Zamanov, **Bulgaria**-Ognian Dimitrov, Petromir Panayotov, **France**-Marcel Dore, Alain Pallier, **Georgia**- David Gurgendidze, **Germany** -Martin Minski, Rainer Staudte, Michael Schlosser, **Israel**- Amatzia Avni, Michael Pasman, Yochanan Afek, **New Zealand** - Emil Melnichenko, **Russia** - Pavel Arestov, Ivan Belonozhko, **Slovakia**-Lubos Kekely, Michal Hlinka, **Ukraine** -Vladislav Tarasiuk, Ivan Malyi.

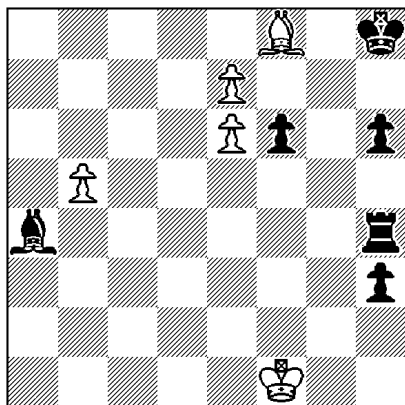
I have received 29 anonymous, uniformly printed entries from the Tournament's Director Vidadi Zamanov. The level of the works sent for the tournament was very varied; alongside the works of good quality, there were a number of unsatisfactory works. After initial review, I've discarded 15 works which have not presented the reasonable quality level: either they lacked an interesting idea or showed low technical level of its presentation (unnecessary or uneconomically used material, unjustified heavy construction, or too forceful play).

From the remaining 14 studies, after the thorough examination, I eliminated further 7:

- **No4** (Kd5/Kc8) – the central idea of the study is the stalemate with 4 pins; However, the extremely heavy construction of the study (19 pieces, some of them just dummies, not used in the final stalemate) hardly justifies the effect; what is even worse, the play lacks even a shadow of subtlety – all White moves are primitive short mate threats, and all Black defenses that avert these mates are pinning moves. Maybe some chess lovers like this kind of tasks, but in my opinion it has no artistic value, especially that there are already much better examples in this area, e.g. D.Hlebec, 2017 (no 68964 in S.Didukh database) who in more economic setting produced model stalemate with 5(!) active pins.
- **No12** (Kf4/Kh4) – a simple but elegant idea of Black queen capture with the help of only knight and 2 pawns is spoiled by the brutal and forceful foreplay (4 captures); the author should reconsider the improvement of the initial play.
- **No14** (Kg1/Ka8) – the idea that two light figures and a far advanced pawn can defeat the black queen ends insidiously in the White king's escape from checks.
- **No15** (Kd4/Kh7) – The study presents an interesting idea of a perpetual check in the form of a circular movement of the White king and the Black bishop. However, this “work” is completely anticipated (both in setting and in play) by F.Prokop study from 1925 (e.g. no.301 w „Galerei Szachmatnych etiudistow” or no 47784 in S.Didukh database) [FEN=8/3N1Ppk/7q/1b6/3K4/8/B2b4/8]; Not only Prokop's study was composed almost 100 years earlier, but it is also much more economic (uses 5 pieces less than No.15).
- **No21** (Ka5/Ke1) – the idea of underpromotion into rook to avoid stalemate in simple queen ending has more analytical than artistic value; what is more, the idea of underpromotion into rook in such endings is not quite new – see e.g. Nos142 & 143 in Averbakh “Shahmatnye Okonchanya (Ferzevye)”
- **No28** (Kd2/Kf7) – An interesting though simple play with domination of White rook over Black bishop (7. Ra3), and its further sacrifice for the Black knight, is spoiled by rough initial play with 4 captures; I have the same advise as to the author of No.12
- Finally **No26** (Kd7/Kg3) – An outstanding, rich in contents study that ends in an original positional draw, where White expertly avoid an exchange of queens by interposing their rook; Additionally, in the solution and tries, Black defend themselves by interpositions of their queens – a very original idea. Clearly the best study of the tourney, to which I initially intended to award 1-st prize! Unluckily, in the last moment, I had to disqualify the study due to the major dual - after: 13. Rd1+?! Kh2! 14. Rd2+ Kh3 15. Qxf3 Qxf3 the author claimed the Black's win; however, after 16. Nd5!! Qf8 17. Ra2! Qb8 18. Ra5! Kg3 19. Ne7! Qb4 20. Nc6! we have draw. As a result of this mishap, I decided to not award the 1-st prize.

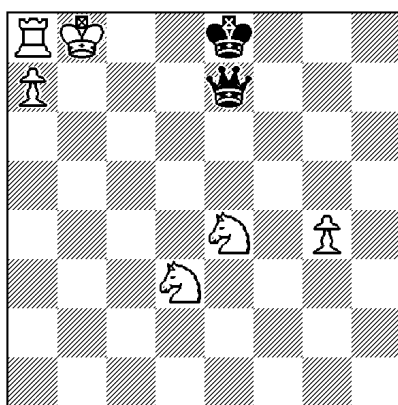
After publishing the provisional award I received one protest regarding the originality of the study **No20**. I accepted the existence of partial anticipation and accordingly shifted this study a few positions down the award.

**The final order of awarded works is as follows:**

**13. David Gurgенidze (Georgia)**10<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 20242<sup>nd</sup> Prize

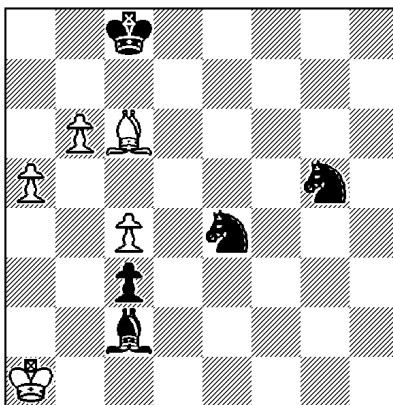
Win

5+6

**6. P.Arestov & P.Krug**10<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 20243<sup>rd</sup> Prize

Win

6+2

**24. Michael Pasman (Israel)**10<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 20241<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention

Win

5+5

**№13. David Gurgенidze (Georgia) 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize.**

**1.e8Q Bxb5+(1...h2 2.Be7+ Kg7 3.Qf7+ and win) 2.Qxb5 h2 3.Bg7+ Kh7** [3... Kg8 4. Qb8+ Kh7 5. Qxh2 Rxx2 6. e7 etc as in solution, 3...Kxg7 4.Qd7+ Kg6 (4... Kh8 5. Qe8+ Kg7 6. Qf7+ Kh8 7. Qxf6+ \$18) 5.Qd3+ Kg5 (5... f5 6. Qg3+ Rg4 7. Qxh2 Re4 8. Qd6 \$18) 6.Qg3+ Kh5 7.Qxh4+ Kxh4 8.Kg2 and win] **4.Qb1+ Kg8 5.Qb8+ Kh7 6.Qxh2 Rxx2 7.e7 Rh1+ 8.Kf2** White king has to follow f-vertical 8.Ke2? Rg1 9.e8Q Rxx7= ; 8.Kg2? Re1=, **8...Rh2+ 9.Kf3 Rh3+ 10.Kf4 Rh4+ 11.Kf5 Rh5+ 12.Kxf6 Rg5 13.Bxxh6!** (13.e8? Rxx7; 13.Bf8? Rg1 14.e8Q Rf1+ 15.Ke7 Re1+=) **13...Rg6+ 14.Kf5** (14.Ke5? Rg8 15.Bf8 Rg1 =) **14...Rg8 15.Bf8 Bxxf8+ 16.exf8R!** and White win (16.exf8Q? stalemate). Lively foreplay (mutual sacrifices of Black bishop and White queen) leads after the 6-th move to an ending B+p vs R+2p and the final underpromotion into rook (stalemate avoidance); Light, natural initial position. The only drawback is the existence of other, perhaps even more interesting works with the same material and analogous play, for example the study by A.Hildebrand, 1965 (no 82360 in S.Didukh database (which BTW is correct)) [FEN=8/1p1B1kp1/7P/8/8/1r6/6K1]

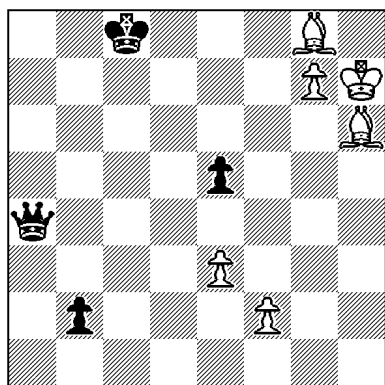
**№6. Pavel Arestov & Peter Krug (Russia/Austria) 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize.**

**1.Ne5!** (1.Ndc5? Kd8 2.Ne6+! Kd7! 3.N4c5+ Kc6 =) **1...Qxe5+** (1...Kd8? 2.Nc6+ +-) **2.Kb7+ Kf7** (2...Kd7 4.Rd8+! Ke7 5.Re8+! Kxe8 6.a8Q+ Kf7/Ke7 7.Qa4 +-) **3.Rf8+! Kg7!** (3...Kxf8 4.a8Q+ Kg7 5.Qa4 +-) **4.Rg8+!** (4.a8Q? Qxe4+ - perpetual check) **4...Kf7**(4...Kh7 5.Ng5+! Kxxg8 6.a8Q+ - main line) **5.Ng5+!** with 2 lines: **A) 5...Kxxg8 6.a8Q+ Kg7 7.Qh8+!! Kxxh8 8.Nf7+ Kg7 9.Nxe5** – echo-win. and **B) 5...Ke7 6.Re8+!** (6.a8Q? Qb5+ 7.Kc7 Qc5 8.Qb6+ Kxb6-stalemate) **6...Kxe8 7.a8Q+ Ke7 8.Qd8+!! Kxd8 9.Nf7+ Ke7 10.Nxe5** – echo-win. The main idea of the study is 2 echo variations with sacrifice of White freshly-promoted queen and subsequent knight fork to capture the opponent's queen; this motif is well-known and was used in many studies, but presenting it in 2 echo variations is always an achievement. Good lively foreplay with interesting sacrifices of White knight and rook is achieved in a very economic construction! An interesting find.

**№24. Michael Pasman (Israel) 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention.**

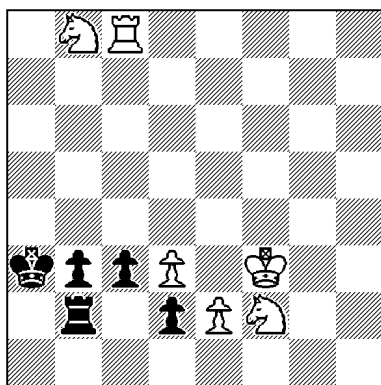
**1.a6 Ba4! 2.Bxa4** [2.Bb7+ Kd7 =; 2.Bd5 c2 =] **2...c2** [2...Nc5 3.a7 Kb7 4.Bc6+] **3.Kb2** [3.Bxc2 Nc5 4.Bf5+ Kb8 5.a7+ Ka8 6.Ka2 Na4 7.c5 Nxc5=] **3...Nc5 4.Bb5** [4.a7? Nxa4+; 4.Bc6 Nxa6] **4...Nb3!** (4... Nge6 5. a7 Kb7 6. Bc6+! +-) **5.Bd7+!** {unexpected sacrifice!} [5.Kxc2? Nd4+ 6.Kd3 Nxb5 7.cxb5 =] **5...Kxd7 6.Kxc2 Na1+!** [6...Nd4+ 7.Kd3! Kc6 8.a7 Kb7 9.Kxd4+-] **7.Kd3!** [7.Kc3? Kc6=; 7.Kb2? Kc6 8. c5 Ne4! 9. b7 Kc7 10. c6 Kb8! =] **7...Kc6** [7...Kc8 8.a7 Kb7 the same] **8.a7 Kb7 9.c5 Nf7** [9...Nb3 10.c6+ Ka8 11.c7; 9...Ka8 10.c6 Nf7! 11.Kc4! (11.c7? Nd6) 11...Nd6+ 12.Kd5 Nb3 13.Kxd6 Na5 14.b7+! Nxb7+ 15.Kd5 Kxa7 16.c7] **10.c6+ Ka8 11.Kc4!** [Main A:] **11...Nd6+ [Main B: 11...Nc2 12.Kc5 Ne3** (12...Nd8 13.c7) **13.c7 Nd6 14.Kc6!** (try: 14.Kxd6 Nc4+ 15.Kc5 Nxb6 16.Kxb6 stalemate) **14...Nd5 15.b7+!**+- (15.Kxd5? Nc8! 16.Kc6 Nxb6=) ] **12.Kd5!** [Thematic try : 12.Kc5 Nf5! 13.c7 Nb3+ 14.Kc6 Na5+ 15.Kd7 Nd6! 16.Kxd6 Position X2, white pawn on c7 16...Nc4+ 17.Kc6 Nxb6=] **12...Nb3 13.Kxd6 Na5** [Position X1, white pawn on c6] **14.b7+! Nxb7+ 15.Kd5!** (15. Ke7? Na5 !16. c7 Nc6+ =) **Kxa7 16.c7** {and Black cannot prevent the lonely White pawn from promotion; their own knight stands in the way} **1–0**. An interesting and lively foreplay with mutual sacrifices (1...Ba4!, 5. Bd7+!) leads to an ending 3p vs 2N with 2 main variations; Especially the main A variation is interesting and enriched with thematic try; in the final, White lonely pawn secures them the win, because Black knight obstructs its own king! The deficiency of this study is B variation, which does not match the quality of variation A; it is much less interesting and have little in common.

**2. A.Avni & M.Minski**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2024**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention**



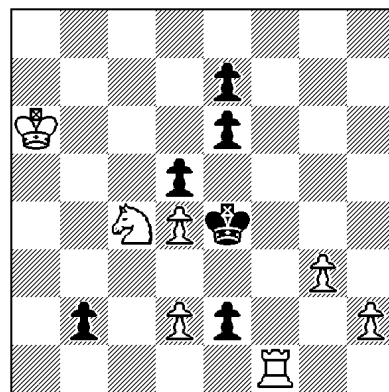
**Win** **6+4**

**20. Petromir Panayotov**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention**



**Win** **6+5**

**1. M.Hlinka & E.Kekely**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Commendation**



**Draw** **7+6**

**№2. Amatzia Avni & Martin Minski (Israel/Germany) 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention.**

**1.Be6+ Kc7** [1...Kb7 2.Bf5 e4 3.g8Q b1Q 4.Bc8+ Kb6 (4...Ka7 5.Qf7+ Ka8 6.Be6+-) 5.Qd8+ Ka7 6.Qc7+ Ka8 7.Bd7+-] **2.Bf5 Qd7!** **3.Bxd7 b1Q+** **4.Bf5!!** [swichback] [logical try 4.Kh8? Qg6 5.g8Q Qxh6+ 6.Qh7 Qf8+ 7.Qg8 Qh6+ perpetual check - position X with the wBd7; 4.Kg8? Qg6 (4...Qh1? 5.Bh3! Qxh3 6.Kh7 Qf5+ 7.Kh8 Qf6 8.Bg5!+- see main) 5.Bf5! Qxh6!= (5...Qxf5? 6.Kh8 Qf6 7.Bg5!+- see main) ] **4...Qxf5+** **5.Kh8 Qf6** **6.Bg5! Qxg5** **7.g8Q Qh6+** [7...Qf6+ 8.Qg7+-] **8.Qh7+-** position X without the wBd7 - check and win!

The main idea of the study is self-anihilation of White bishop (move 4.Bd7-f5!) with the aim of opening 7<sup>th</sup> horizontal. The play of both sides is ingenious and entertaining; it is enriched with nice sacrifices. Simple but elegant.

**№20. Petromir Panayotov (Bulgaria) 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention.**

**1.Ke3! Rc2 2.Nc6! Rc1 3.Nd4! b2 4.Nb5+ Ka4!**[4...Kb3 5.Nxc3 Rxc3 6.Rxc3+ Kxc3 7.Nd1+ +-] **5.Nxc3+ Rxc3 6.Ra8+ Kb3 7.Nd1!**[7.Kxd2? Rc1 8.Rb8+ Ka3! 9.Rxb2 Kxb2 10.Nd1+ Kb1 11.Nc3+ Kb2 = pos. draw] **7...b1Q 8.Rb8+ Kc2 9.Rxb1 Ra3!** Setting a zugzwang trap. **10.Rb4!** [Thematic try: 10.Rb2+? Kxd1 11.Rxd2+ Kc1 (mutual zugzwang with White move) -+ ] **10...Kxd1** [10...Ra8 11.Nf2 Re8+ 12.Re4 win; Justifying 10.Rb4!, but not 10.R on b5, b6, b7 or b8.] **11.Rb2 Kc1 12.Rxd2** (mutual zugzwang with Black move) **12... Ra8 13. d4 +- White win.** Good study on the theme of the mutual zugzwang. An initial play with a few subtleties (7.Nd1!, 9...Ra3!) leads to the key move 10. Rb4! and the position of mutual zugzwang with Black move (won for White); thematic try 10. Rb2? leads to the same position of mutual zugzwang but with White move (draw). The study was initially awarded the prize, but its originality was contested (A.Avni, The Problemist 2024/03 no E1402 and V.Neidze, Sinfonie Scacchistiche 1968), and due to its partial anticipation, I was forced to downgrade it!

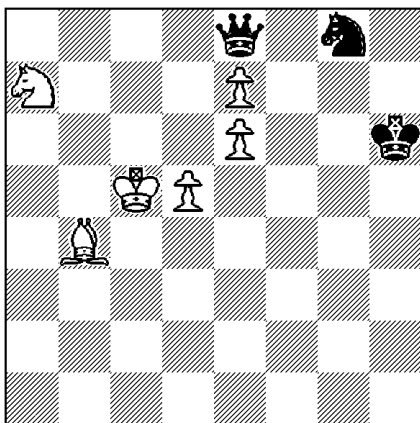
**№1. Michal Hlinka & Ľuboš Kekely (Slovakia) 1<sup>st</sup> Commendation.**

**1.Rf4+!** (try 1.d3+? Kxd4 2.Rg1 dxc4 3.dxc4 Kxc4 4.g4 Kc3 or Kd3 5.g5 Kd2! 6.g6 e1Q 7.Rxe1 Kxe1 8.g7 b1Q 9.g8Q Qd3+! 10.Ka5 e5 with won queen ending) **1...Kd3 2.Nxb2+ Kc2!** (...Kxd2? 3.Rf2+-) **3.Nd3!** (3.Na4? e1Q 4.Nc5 e5 5.dxe5 Qxd2+-) **3...Kxd3 4.Rf3+ Kxd2** (4...Kc2? 5. Re3 +-) **5.Rf2** pin **5...e5!** **6.h4 exd4 7.h5 d3 8.h6 Ke3** {the best} **9.Rf5 d2** (9... Ke4? 10. Rf4+) **10.h7 d1Q** (10...e1Q 11.h8Q d1Q 12.Qe5+ Kd2 13.Qxd5+ Kc1 14.Qc6+ = with perpetual check) **11.Re5+** (but not: 11. h8=Q? Qd3+ 12. Kb6 Qxf5 13. Qc3+ Kf2 Black win) **Main-A 11...Kd4** (11...Kf2 12.h8Q e1Q 13.Qh2+ Kf3 14.Rxe1 Qxe1 15.Qh5+ Ke4 16.g4=) **12.h8Q** excelsior, battery **12...Qa4+** **13.Kb6!** (13.Kb7? Qd7+ 14.Ka8 Qc6+ 15.Kb8 Qd6+ 16.Kb7 Qxe5+-) **13...Qb4+** **14.Ka7!** (14.Ka6? Qd6+-) **14...Qc5+** **15.Kb7! Qb5+** **16.Kc7! Qc5+** **17.Kb7 Qb5+** **18.Kc7** positional draw **Main-B 11...Kd3 12.Rxd5** (12. h8=Q? Qa1+! 13. Kb7 e1Q 14. Qh7+ Qe4 15. Rxe4 dxe4 Black win) **12... Kc4 13.Rxd1 exd1Q 14.h8Q Qd6+** **15.Kb7** (15.Ka5? Qc7+ 16.Ka6 e5/Qxg3 +-) **15...Qxg3** (after: 15... e5 16. Qc8+ Kd4 17. Qc2! (17.Qg4+? Ke3! -+) 17... Qb4+ 18. Kc6! draw) **16.Qc8+! Kd4 17.Qd7+! Qd6 18.Qg4+!** draw. After avoiding false try leading to the lost queen ending, White conduct a fight against Black's sly attempts to win. After the key move 11.Re5+ we receive 2<sup>nd</sup> variations: in the 1<sup>st</sup> variation, White exploit the strength of their battery to deny the Black the 2<sup>nd</sup> promotion to queen; the game ends in perpetual check by Black queen. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> variation, White draw by perpetual check with their queen. The general impression is spoilt by the analytical character of many side variations.

### 3. Amatzia Avni (Israel)

10<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation



Draw

6+3

### №3. Amatzia Avni (Israel) 2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation.

**1.d6** [1.Kc4? Nxe7--+] **1...Nxe7** **2.d7** [2.dxe7? Qxe7+--+] **2...Qa8** **3.Kd6** [3.Kb6? Nd5+ 4.Kc5 Nf4! (4...Nxb4? 5.Kxb4=) 5.Nc6 Nxe6+--+] **3...Kg7!** [provides an indirect defence for his knight and threatens 3...Qb8+; 3...Nf5+ 4.Ke5 Ng7 5.Nc6 (5.Nb5) 5...Nxe6 6.Kxe6 Qxc6+ 7.Bd6=] **4.Nc6!!** [4.Kxe7?? Qf8#; 4.Bc3+? Kf8--+; 4.Nc8? Nxc8+--+] **4...Nxc6** [4...Qxc6+ 5.Kxe7=] **5.Bc3+** [split; 5.e7? Nxe7 6.Kxe7 Qf8+--+] **5...Kg6** [**B**] **5...Kf8** **6.Bf6** **Qa6** **7.Kc5!**=] **6.e7** [another split] **6...Qa3+** [**C**] **6...Nxe7** **7.Kxe7** **Qe4+** **8.Kd6** **Qh4** **9.Ke6!** positional draw; black cannot advance his position] **7.Kxc6** **Qxe7** [7...Qxc3+ 8.Kb7 Qb4+ 9.Kc8! Qc5+ 10.Kd8=] **8.Be5!** (8. Bb4? Qe4+ -+) **8...Kf7** **9.Bd6** (it would be wrong: 9. Bc7? Qe4+! 10. Kc5 Qc2+ 11. Kb6 (11. Kd6 Qd3+ 12. Kc6 Qc4+) 11... Qb3+ 12. Kc5 Qc3+ 13. Kb6 Qb4+ 14. Kc6 Qc4+ 15. Kb7 Qd5+! 16. Kc8 Qa8+ 17. Bb8 Qa6+ 18. Kc7 Qc4+ 19. Kd6 Qf4+ 20. Kc6 Qxb8 Black win) **9... Qd8** [9...Qh4 10.Kc7=] **10.Bc7** **Qa8+** [10...Qf6+ 11.Kb7=] **11.Kb6!** draw.

short but dynamic play ends in 2 positions of educational ending B+p vs Q (A & C variations) of which A is more interesting.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the participants in the tournament and congratulate the laureates.

**Judge:** Marek Halski (Poland). 11.12.2024