



2nd TT FRME, 2020
Section - Endgame Studies

Final award

Organizers: The Royal Moroccan Chess Federation (FRME).

Tournament director: Vidadi Zamanov (Azerbaijan).

Judge: Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark)

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

15 study from 16 authors 11 countries: **Austria** -Peter Krug (№5*), **Argentina** -Mario G. García (№5*), **France** - Daniel Keith (№1*, №7*), **Hungary**-János Mikitovics (№3, №4), **Israel**- Amatzia Avni (№12*), Yochanan Afek (№12*), Michael Pasman (№8), **Italy**- Marco Campioli (№6), **Norway**- Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (№9, №10) **Russia** - Valery Kalashnikov (№2), Pavel Arestov (№1*, №7*), **Slovakia** - Lubos Kekely (№11*), Michal Hlinka (№11*), **Spain**- Luis Miguel González (№13), **Ukraine** -Vladimir Samilo (№14) , Andrey Sergienko (№15)

Thank you to tournament director Vidadi Zamanov for his invitation to judge this tournament, which I was glad to accept. As a composer, I always enjoy taking part in theme tournaments. I am confident thematic restrictions nurture one's creativity. I received 15 studies from Vidadi Zamanov in anonymous form. A fair number for a theme tournament.

The theme was the following. **Double sacrifice. During the solution, a White minor piece (bishop or knight) moves to a square where it can be captured by at least two of the opponent's pieces.**

I felt this theme ought to attract both tactical studies and more traditional endgames and the awarded studies proved my right. Unfortunately the level was somewhat below average, and I was only able to award 3 works. One really memorable study is not a bad output from such a tournament, however. Below are a few words about the studies left out of the award. King positions are in brackets.

№1. Ka1/Kd2 -Play is excellent and precise. A study great for solving. Unfortunately the Ne5 sacrifice is anticipated by an (incorrect) study by Kaminer (Vaderland 1937, HHDBV #73073). To me the doubling of the theme does not bring much extra, considering the symmetrical nature of the two lines. The study is much better than the original, but the fact that the thematic sacrifice was already known prevented me from putting it in the award.

№2. Kb2/Kd8 - I don't like the introduction and everything is rather forced without difficult choices for White. I liked, however, the long domination of R, B, N vs queen, but in the end the lack of Black counterplay put the study just outside the award.

№3. Kd2/Kb1 - A wild mess. The thematic moves are at best controversial as the sacrificed piece is in both cases covered.

№4. Kb2/Ke2- I think the introduction is too difficult and computerish. It is very difficult for me to grasp in which lines the extra white pawn is sufficient to win and in which it is not. Also, the thematic sacrifice is made to a square which is covered by the white King.

№5. Ka8/Kf4- An expansion of a Wotawa study (Deutsche Schachzeitung 1965, HHDBV#48592) . The unnatural starting position of the white king I count as a flaw. All in all, I think there is not enough new content here, especially since the thematic sacrifice was already shown in the original study.

№6. **Kh8/Kg5**-After the early thematic sacrifice with potential captures of the sacrificed piece by 5(!) Black pieces, I see nothing of interest.

№7. **Kd5/Kf8**- Unfortunately anticipated by Fleck, 3rd prize, 32er 1996 (HHDBV #17865).

№8.**Kb3/Kh8** - There is too little novelty in the Novotny to force promotion.

№9.**Kd4-Kg7**- I am perhaps being too tough here. But is the beautiful 5. Ne7! not a move for a win study? It can be done. The composer might rightfully claim that this is a matter of taste.

№11.**Kg6/Kd5**-The thematic move leads to an uninteresting perpetual.

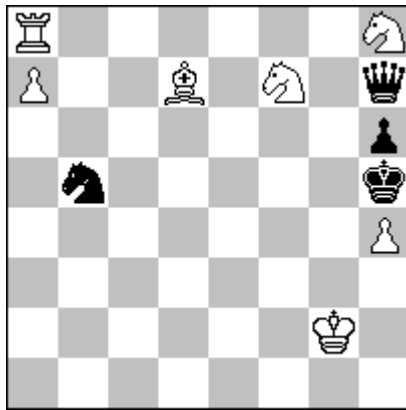
№13.**Kh2/Kf8**- 5. Nd8! is great and perfectly game like, but (like in study #9) I think it is wasted on a draw study. This is the kind of blow I would like to see met by a Black counterblow with further tactics to come.

№15.**Ka8/Kc8**- 9. Bf6 is good, but what is the necessity of the exchanges in the introduction? The additional thematic move 1. Bd7+ surely does not merit this.

On to the three awarded studies.

12. A.Avni & Y.Afek
2nd TT FRME, 2020

Prize

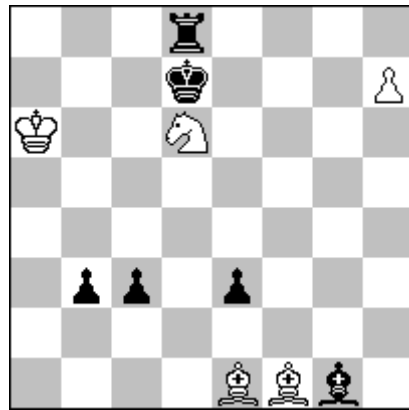


Win

(7+4)

10. Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe
2nd TT FRME, 2020

Honorable mention

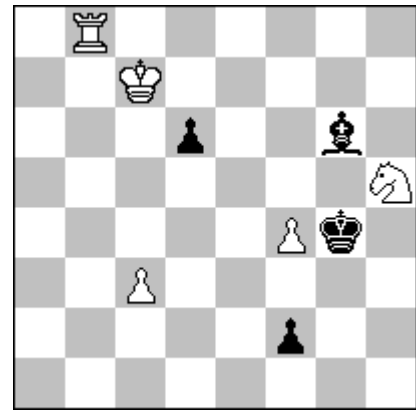


Win

(5+6)

14. Vladimir Samilo(Ukraine)
2nd TT FRME, 2020

Commendation



Draw

(5+4)

№12. Amatzia Avni & Yochanan Afek (Israel) Prize.

1. Bg4+ Kxg4 (1... Kxh4 2. Rc8 Nxa7 3. Rc4+-) **2. Ng6** (2. Rg8+? Qxg8 3. Nxf6+ Kxh4+ 4. Nxf8 Nxa7=) **2... Nxa7** 2... Kf5 3. Rf8 Qxg6+ 4. Ng5+ Kg4 5. a8=Q +-; 2... Kh5 3. Nfe5 (intending Rf8-f5+) Nd4 4. Kh3 Ne6 5. Kg3 Qc7 6. Rf8 Qc3+ 7. Nf3 Qc7+ 8. Nf4+ Nxf4 9. a8=Q Ne6+ 10. Kh3+-; 2... Qg7 3. Nfe5+ Kf5 4. Rf8+ Qxf8 5. Nxf8+-) **3. Rxa7** [3. Rh8? Qxh8 (3... Qg7=)] **3... Kh5** **4. Kh3** (4. Nf4+ Kxh4=) **4... Kxg6** **5. Ne5+ Kh5** **6. Ng6!!** (The thematic move) **6...Kxg6** (6... Qxg6 7. Ra5+; 6... Qxa7 7. Nf4#) **7. h5+ Kxh5** **8. Rxh7** 1-0. I am confident the composers of this study were marred by the difficulty of creating a natural introduction to their idea. Probably they noticed the possibility of adding an extra double knight sac on g6? But then no introduction is possible! Or at least I can't find one. Too bad. Instead, we have this artificial-looking starting position and an unpleasant exchange on a7. On the bright side, we have the moves 3...Kh5! 4. Kh3! and a pointed finish. All in all, I think the stunning final combination will be widely known (or "shared", as it is probably called now). It is the kind of thing where one wonders why no one found it before 2020.

№10. Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway) Honorable mention.

1. Ne8! The first thematic move **Ra8+** (1... Rxe8 2. Bb5+ Ke6 3. Bxe8 +-) **2. Kb7 Ra7+** **3. Kb8** (3. Kxa7?? e2+ +-) **3... Bh2+** (3... e2 4. Bh3+ +-) **4. Kxa7 Be5** **5. Bb5+ Ke7** [5...Ke6 6. Nc7+ Kf5 (6... Kf7 7. Bc4+ Kg7 8. Ne6+ Kxh7 9. Bxb3) 7. Bd3+ Kg5 (7...Kg4 8. Nd5) 8. Ne6+ Kg4 9. Nc5 +-] **6. Nf6!** The second thematic move **Bxf6** **7. Bh4** 1-0 This study shows a very nice doubling of a well known theme. The moves 1. Ne8 and 6. Nf6 are thematic. In both cases the sacrificed knight can be captured both by the king – resulting in immediate promotion – or by the rook or bishop. In the latter case the piece ends up on the same diagonal as the king, allowing a pin and skewer respectively. The play is elegant, though the need for three strong Black pawns is a little unpleasant to me.

№14. Vladimir Samilo (Ukraine) Commendation.

1. Nf6+ Kf3 (1... Kg3 2. Rg8 f1=Q 3. Rg7=) **2. f5** (Try 2. Ne4? Bxe4-+) **2... Bxf5 3. Ne4!! Kxe4** (3... Bxe4 4. Rf8+; 3...f1=Q 4. Nd2+) **4. Rb1 Ke3** (4... d5 5. Rf1 Ke3 6. Kd6) **5. Rf1** [5. Ra1? d5 6. Kd6 Be4 7. Kc5 Bg2 8. Rd1 (8. c4 d4) 8... Ke2 9. Ra1 Kd3-+] **5... d5 6. Kd6= 1/2-1/2**. The preparatory 2. f5! and the triple purpose 3. Ne4! are really pleasing. The study seems small at first glance but to me it is fully acceptable to make such a study in classical style without a long introduction.

Judge : Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) September 2020