

BCPS AWARD: STUDIES 2014-2015

By Harold van der Heijden

It was an honour to be invited to judge probably the most prestigious contemporary informal tourney. No less than 50 studies by 39 composers from 19 countries participated. Among the participants there were two composition GMs (Afek and Pervakov), but also 4 otb GMs: Nunn, Timman, Durarbayli, and Van Foreest – well, Jorden van Foreest became a GM in 2015 when his study was published in March 2014. Sub-editor Yochanan Afek is quite successful in his attempts to close the gap between otb play and endgame studies. Thus almost all of the best endgame study composers around the world took part!

Most of the studies were sound. The exceptions are: **E1147**: 6.Bf1 e5 7.dxe5 Ke6 8.Kg3 Kxg5 9.Kf3 Kd4 10.Ke2 c3 11.d3 also wins, and **E1152**: 8.Bxc6 also wins: 8...e5 9.Sf3 Sg5 (9...Sf8 10.Sxe5 Bf5 11.Bxa4 Se6 12.c6 Sd4 13.Bd1 h5 14.h4) 10.Sxe5 Ba6 11.Bd5 Sh3 12.Sg6 Sg1 13.Sf4 Se2+ 14.Sxe2 Bxe2, which looks drawish, but in fact is an easy win: 15.c6 Bg4 16.c7 Bf5 17.Bc6 a3 18.Be4 Bh3 19.Kc2 Be6 20.Kc3 Bc8 21.Kb3 Bh3 22.Kxa3 Bc8 23.Bd5 Kb1 24.Bxa2 wins. In **E1163** I have some doubts whether 8.Kb7/8.Kb6 is a minor dual: both moves do have the purpose to attack bSa7, but the draws that follow are different. Anyway, this study also suffers from a problem that I saw in a couple of studies: the (thematic) try has more than one refutation (in this case in 3.d8Q?, also 4...bxa1S draws – a major black dual in this underpromotion study). Also black duals were found in **E1129** (the composers supplied both lines!), **E1157** (after 1.Ra1? which is not literally called a thematic try, but adds the required extra to the study, also 1...Sxh4+ draws, as the wRa1 is unprotected: 1...Sxh4+ 2.Kxg4 Kg2 3.Bg8 h1Q 4.Rxh4 Bxe2+ 5.Sxe2 Qxa1. In some cases I spotted duals, which, sometimes after closer inspection, were minor duals (or waste of time).

I have serious doubts about the soundness of study **E1159** (the version with the 4 active self-blocks). Apart from 3.Bb6+!?, also 6.Qg6 Sf4 and now 7.Qf6!? Sd3 8.Bg1 Kc7 9.Bb6+ Kd6 10.Qd4+ Ke7 11.Qh4+ Kd6 12.Qf6 Bg2 13.Qd4+ Kc6 14.Qc4+ Kb7 15.Qc4+ Kb7 16.Qa6+ Kb8 17.Bh2. It could however well be that in one or the other sub-line, Black is able to force White back into the main mating line, as e.g. after 6.Qg6 Sf4 7.Qg5!? Sd3 8.Kb6. I decided to maintain the study in the award on the condition that the composer refutes the cook within the confirmation time.

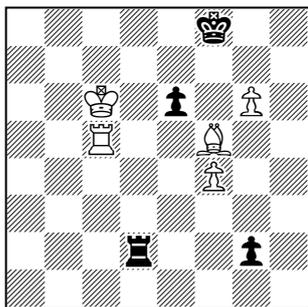
I am happy to be able to report that there were no 100% anticipations, but in the following cases the forerunners contributed to a (somewhat) lower score (the 5 digit numbers refer to my database HHdbV): **E1128** (Afek #32627 – in a draw study), **D** in January 2014 (Sivak #40755, Letzelter #18516, Kolikhmatov #27005), **E1136** (Doré #02656), **E1137** (Rusinek #06939), **E1138** (well-knowns, e.g. Didukh #07015, Kubbel #64374), **E1143** (Sehwers #76477, Hlinka #22899, and, especially, Halberstadt #59294), **E1144** (Hoch #35765), **E1151** (Averbakh #50835), **E1154** (Mandler #53490, Mandler #53831, and, especially Godes #30643), **E1156** (mate known from Whitehead #76861, Rinck #70927), **E1157** (4 unguarded guards: Bondar #08837, Aliev #14781, but the world record is Roche #17249 with 4, and later another 3 unguarded guards!), **E1159** (Hlebec #5603 with 3 active selfblocks and a wK/wB mate), **E1166** (Arestov #00474), **E1168** (the mate was shown in the unsound Dvizov# 34407/8), **E1169** (only example of a Loyd-Turton doubling: Hoeg #79057), **E1170** (Gelpernas #39047), **E1171** (Simkhovich #73873).

I rated all studies on the usual 0-4 scale. The overall level was quite high with not a single poor study (< 1) and only a couple of mediocre studies (< 2). On the other hand, there was no study that in my view deserved a score of 4 – i.e. there were no masterpieces. I am against the current practice of some judges to award almost all sound studies in a tourney. In **EG205** (July 2016) I expressed my opinion: “*In my view, for study tourneys up to 100 sound studies, the maximum number should be something like 5 prizes, 5 HM and 5 commendations,*

perhaps with some “specials” for special achievements (tasks, re-workings, very young composers, et cetera). For up to 50 studies, 3 prizes, 3 HMs and 3 commendations should normally be sufficient. Of course there may be exceptions, e.g. in the rare case when there are several masterpieces among the submissions, but then it is the duty of the judge to prove and explain this”.

Pavel Arestov

1 Pr *The Problemist*
2014-15



Although the attractive black combination was used by the author in some other studies published only a couple of months before the present study (Arestov#00852, Arestov#01650), the chameleon echo (thematic try: 7.Kc6? Kf6 8.Kd6 Re6+ 9.Kd5 Re5+! 10.fxe5+ Kxg5, and the main line 9.Kd6 (Kc6) Re6+ 10.fxe6+ Kxg6 11.e7) deserves the first prize.

2nd Prize: E1141 Branislav Djurasević 1.Se6+ Kd7 2.Sg5!! Thematic try: 2.Sxf4?! h4! 3.Kd2 h3 4.Sxh3 Bxh3 5.Ke2 f4! draws as the black bishop has been released. **2...Kc7! 3.Ba8 h4 4.Kd2! h3! 5.Sxh3 Bxh3 6.Ke1!! Bg2 7.Ke2!** White loses a crucial tempo (7.Kf2? Bh1! draws). **7...Bh1 8.Kf2 a6 9.c3!** and wins.

A very original idea with wB and bB dominated by the bK and wK in an almost symmetrical position. The study has an excellent introduction. The move 9.c3 is truly brilliant. At first sight it looks like it is just a tempo move, but then one finds out that 9.c4 would mean that the wB cannot escape from the corner. This would have been a masterpiece had the composer succeeded in forcing Black to play ...f6-f5 in the introduction.

3rd Prize: E1130 Jan Timman 1.Bd7! Kd6 1...Rxa6 2.Bg3+ Ke4 (2...Kf6 3.Bxc7 Ra7 4.Bd8+) 3.Bxc7 Ra7 4.Bc6+. 2.Bb5 c6 3.Be7+!! Kxe7 4.Bxc6 Rxa6 Or 4...Ra7 5.Bb7 positional draw. 5.Kb5 Ra7 6.Kb6 Trapping the rook.

A nice and quiet introduction to a solution which climaxes in the position after 2...c6. White is about to lose the important wPa6 and will then lose the technical ending. The highly original sacrifice 3.Be7+ secures the draw, as the wK/wB dominate the bR. No anticipation found.

1st Special Prize: E1169 Gady Costeff 1.Bd5+ Kh8 2.f7 Rxf7 3.Bxf7 Rf4 4.Qe7! Qd1+ 5.Qe1!! Qd8 5...Qxe1+ 6.Kxg2 costs the queen to prevent mate. **6.Re2! Rxf7 7.Re8+** and wins.

A Loyd-Turton doubling in an endgame study is very rare. In addition, the *anti-meta-critical move* (5.Qe1!) is an unguarded guard queen sacrifice. Gady is very fond of exceptional ideas. For instance his other study in the tourney (E1153) featured a Ruy Lopez solution (1.e4 e5 2.Sf3 Sc6 3.Bb5), but I disliked the fact that the knights do not play from g1 and b8.

2nd Special Prize: E1159v Darko Hlebec 1...Sd3+ 2.Ka5! fxe6 3.Sd4! Sxd4 4.Bb6+ Kd6 5.Bxd4 Rd7 6.Kb6! Bd5 7.Qe5+!! Sxe5 8.Bc5#.

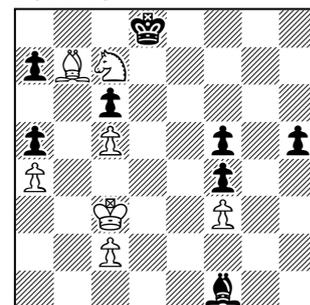
The first example of a mate by a single bishop with four active self-blocks (with the version the composer increased the number of selfblocks from 3 to 4). The very "airy" initial position and the fact that the solution does not have only checks and captures is an amazing achievement. Unfortunately, the study's soundness is questionable (see above). I decided to give the author the benefit of the doubt, but he must refute my cook within the confirmation time.

1st Honourable Mention: E1156 Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov 1.Qg5! a2+! 2.Ka1! Ke2+ 3.Kxa2 Ra3+! 4.Kxa3 Qc1+! 5.Ka2! Qxg5 6.Bb5+ Kd1 7.Sf2+ Kc2! 8.Ba4+ Kc3 9.Se4+ Kb4! 10.Sc6+! Kxa4 11.Sc3#!

Despite the tactical material, the study starts with a quiet key move (1.Qg5). Then we have a black pawn sacrifice, a refusal of capture (2.Ka1), a bR sacrifice (3...Ra3+), a bQ sacrifice forking wK and wQ (4...Qc1+) followed by an amazing refusal of capture avoiding a mirror stalemate (5.Qxc1?) which costs White his queen. But White still wins, in the meantime also refusing to capture the bQ (10.Sxg5?). A rumble in the jungle (which is a compliment), but not sufficiently elegant to win a prize.

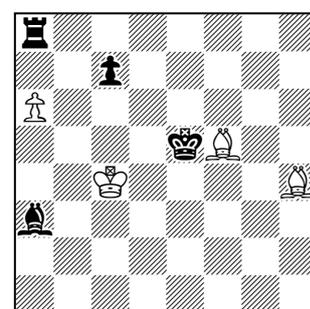
2nd Honourable Mention: E1160: Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe White must sacrifice both of his knights only to clear the long diagonal for the wK.

Branislav Djurasević
2 Pr *The Problemist*
2014-15



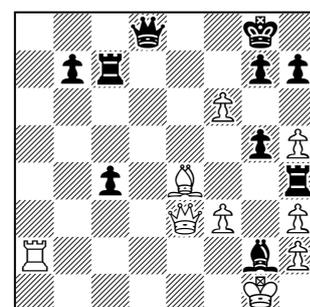
Win

Jan Timman
3 Pr *The Problemist*
2014-15



Draw

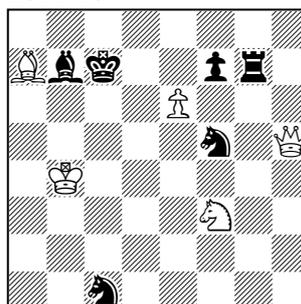
Gady Costeff
1 Sp Pr *The Problemist*
2014-15



Win

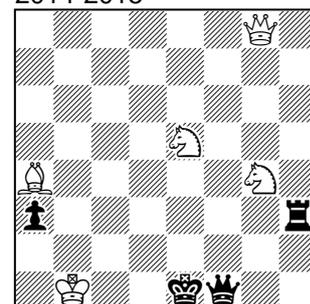
Dedicated to M.Kovačević

Darko Hlebec
2 Sp Pr *The Problemist*
2014-15



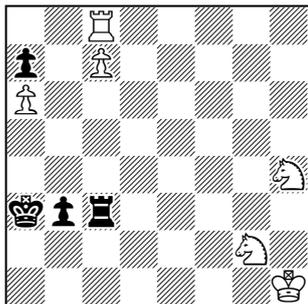
Win Black to move

Mikhail Gromov & Oleg Pervakov
1 HM *The Problemist*
2014-2015



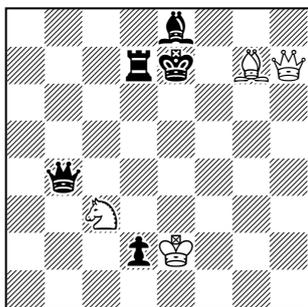
Win

Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe
2 HM *The Problemist*
2014-2015



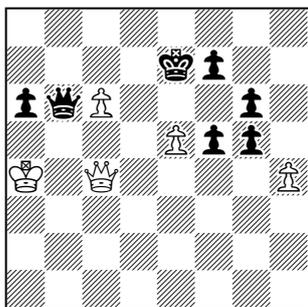
Win

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
3 HM *The Problemist*
2014-15



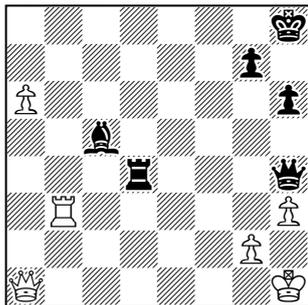
Draw

Ladislav Salai
4 HM *The Problemist*
2014-15



Draw

Vasif Durarbayli & Ilham Aliev
2 Sp HM *The Problemist*
2014-15



Draw

One can hardly imagine that this is the only way to win, but both tries (1.Rb8?, 2.Rb8?) are convincingly clear.

1.Sf3! Rxf3 2.Se3!! Rxe3 3.Rb8 Rc3 4.c8Q Rxc8 5.Rxc8 b2 6.Rb8 Ka2 7.Kg2! 7.b1Q 8.Rxb1 Kxb1 9.Kf3 Kc2 10.Ke4 Kc3 11.Kd5 Kb4 12.Kc6 Ka5 13.Kb7 and wins by a tempo.

3rd Honourable Mention: E1143 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen 1.Bf6+! Ke6 2.Qh3+ Kd6 3.Qd3+ Ke6 4.Qh3+ Kxf6 5.Qxd7! d1Q+ 6.Qxd1 Bh5+ 7.Kd3! Qd6+ 8.Ke3 Qg3+ 9.Kd2 Qg5+ 10.Kd3! Qg3+ 11.Kd2 Qf4+ 12.Kd3 Qd6+ 13.Ke3! and draws.

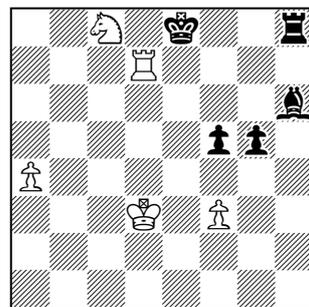
After an excellent introduction with a bishop sacrifice, we end up in a knight forking festival. First, White sacrifices his queen (5.Qxd7), but Black counters with 5...d1Q+, and White loses his queen (6...Bh5+). But before capturing the queen, Black must save his own queen from a knight fork. Despite several checks from various squares, the bQ cannot escape from the knight forks. The (partial) anticipation by Halberstadt prevented me from awarding a prize.

4th Honourable Mention: E1140 Ladislav Salai 1.h5!! gxh5 2.Qc3! Qb5+! 3.Ka3 a5! 4.Qc2! (4.c7? Qb4+ 5.Qxb4+ axb4+ 6.Kxb4 Kd7 wins) 4...Qb4+ 5.Ka2 a4 6.Qc1! Qb3+ 7.Ka1 a3 8.Qxg5+ Ke8 9.Qg8+ Ke7 10.Qg5+ Draw by perpetual check.

With an original systematic manoeuvre Black pushes the white pieces back. But thanks to the excellent key move (1.h5), White escapes by a perpetual check. This is slightly disappointing, and perhaps the composer could make a win study with this scheme, which could be quite a success in another tourney.

1st Special Honourable Mention: E1164 Vladimir Samilo & Yochanan Afek 1.Ra7! 0-0! 2.Se7+ Kf7 3.Sxf5+ Kg6 4.Ke4!! Rxf5 5.Ra6+! Rf6 6.Rxf6+ Kxf6 7.a5 Bf8 8.Kd5 g4!? 9.fxg4 Bh6 10.g5+!! Bxg5 11.Ke4! Bh4 12.Kf3 and wins.

Vladimir Samilo & Yochanan Afek
After H.Otten
1 Sp HM *The Problemist*
2014-15



Win

A great improvement over the famous classical study by Otten.

2nd Special Honourable Mention: E1171 Vasif Durarbayli & Ilham Aliev 1.a7 Bxa7 2.Qxa7 Qe1+ 3.Kh2 Qe5+ 4.Rg3! h5! 5.Kg1! Rd1+ 6.Kh2 Rd3 7.Qxg7+!! Qxg7 8.Rxd3 with a theoretical fortress draw.

From an apparently hopeless position White sacrifices his queen to escape into a fortress draw. One must only know!

1st Commendation: E1149 John Nunn 1.Sg8+! Bxg8 2.e7 Re4 3.e8Q Rxe8+ 4.Kxe8 Bh7! 5.d4 Se4 6.d5! Sf6+ 7.Kf7 Sxd5 8.g4! fxg4 9.hxg4 Sf4 10.Rxh5+! Sxh5 11.g5#.

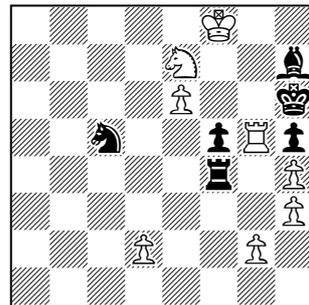
A nice mate by a pawn with two active selfblocks (no anticipations!).

2nd Commendation: E1161 Andrzej Jasik 1.g7! Qg6+ 2.b6 Qxg7 3.Bb2! Qe7! 4.b7+ Kb8 5.Be5+ d6 6.Rf7!! Qd8 7.Bg7! Sxd2 8.Rf8 Qxf8 9.Bxf8 Sc4 10.Be7! Zugzwang 10...Kc7 11.Ka7 and wins.

Good study with a narrow win (7.Bg7) by White.

3rd Commendation: E1173 Y.Afek 1.f7! Qh5+ 2.Bg5!! Qxf7 3.Re1+ Kg2 4.Rb2+ f2 5.Rxf2+!! Kxf2 6.Bh4+!! Rxh4 7.Sd3+ Kg2 8.Re2+ Kg3 9.Re3+ Kh2 10.Re2+ Kg1 11.Re1+ with perpetual check.

John Nunn
1 C *The Problemist*
2014-15



Win

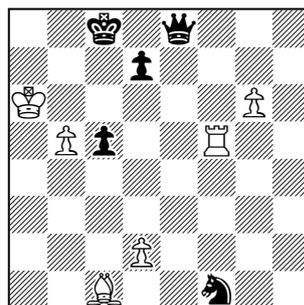
The bRh4 prevents the bK escaping from a perpetual check.

Because of the high average level of the tourney, several studies which would have easily made it into the award of a less prominent informal tourney, were unsuccessful here (e.g. E1127, E1131, E1155, E1162, E1166, E1172).

(Many thanks to Harold for his thorough and authoritative award.

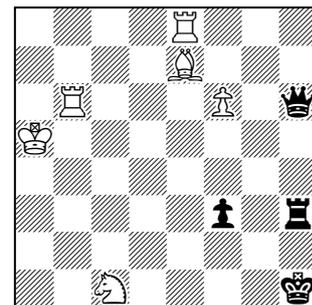
As usual, the award remains provisional for 3 months. Any claims should be sent to Yochanan Afek at <afekchess@gmail.com> – Ed.)

Andrzej Jasik
2 C *The Problemist*
2014-15



Win

Yochanan Afek
3 C *The Problemist*
2014-15



Draw

Dedicated to the Isle of Man tournament 2015

Announcement: Klaus Wenda 75th Jubilee Tourney

Our esteemed Honorary Life Member celebrated his 75th birthday this year and his friends at *Die Schwalbe* and *feenschach* have announced a tourney in his honour.

Required are problems with Double-Grasshopper, Double-Rookhopper and/or Double-Bishophopper. A **double-grasshopper** makes two consecutive Grasshopper leaps in a single move. The first one must not capture (not even the King: bKa1, bBb1, wDGh1 is NOT check!); if a DG has available no capture-free first leap, it cannot move at all. Both leaps may use the same hurdle, but zero moves are not allowed. **Double-rookhoppers** and **double-bishophoppers** move analogously on rook and bishop lines, respectively – see examples.

Additional fairy pieces and/or conditions are allowed, but *the problems have to be computer tested* (please mention the program). The following stipulations are allowed #n, s#n, r#n, semi-r#n, ser-s#n, pser-s#n and hs#n with any number of moves.

Judges are **Klaus Wenda** and **Hans Gruber**. A formidable prize fund will be awarded by the judges.

Closing date is **28 February 2017** (date of postmark or receipt of email). Entries should be sent to the Director, **Ulrich Ring**, Egerländer Straße 41, D-64380 Roßdorf, Germany; or the special email address: <wenda-75@rxng.de>.

Solutions:

1: 1.a8=DG! (-) (note that bQ is pinned by DGg1) 1...DG-b7-b5 (Black has a single legal move each time) 2.DG-a4-a6 DG-b2-b4 3.DG-f1-f3 DG-b7-b5 4.Kf4 DG-b2-b4 5.Qa1 DG-b7-b5 6.Rc3+ Kb4 7.DG-e3-b3+ (by DGh8-b2-b4) Qd4#, as 8.Bxd4?? is self-check by DG-f1-f4 and g5 is guarded by DGb5.

2: 1.0-0-0 a1=DG+ (via c3) 2.Bb1 DG-a5-a3 3.d4+ cxd3 e.p.[Pd2]# by DG-e3-c1.

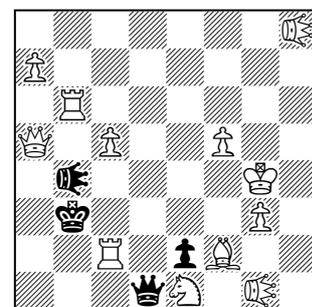
3: Tries: 1.Rc3+? (by DG-c4-g4) DG-e6-e4 (obstructs DGe8) 2.Rc7+ (by DG-c8-g4) DGe4-a8-c6! 1.Rc8-c7+? (by DG-c8-g4) DG-e4-e6 (obstructs DGe1) 2.Rc3+ (by DG-c4-g4) DG-a2-c4!

Solution: 1.Rc2! (>2.f2-f3+ Sxf3 3.g2xf3# [f3 and g3 protected respectively by DR and DG]) 1...DR-h7xh5 2.Rc3+ (by DG-c4-g4) DG-e6-e4 3.Rc7# (by DG-c8-g4, as Black can't interpose on e6);

1...DB-d1xh5 2.Rc7+ DG-e4-e6 3.Rc7-c3# (by DG-c4-g4, as Black can't interpose on e4 any longer).

We look forward to enjoying the results of this tourney. Certainly Double-x-hoppers afford much amusement! – Ed.

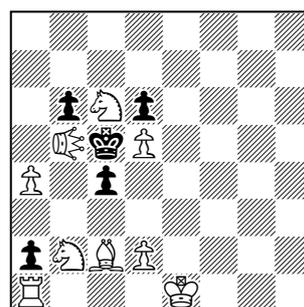
1 Klaus Wenda
C FIDE World Cup 2011



S#7

Double-grasshoppers

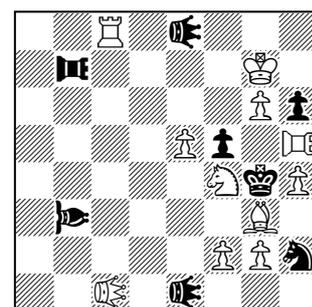
2 Erich Bartel
Problemkiste 2005



HS#3 Circe

Double-grasshopper

3 Hans Peter Rehm
1 Pr *feenschach* 2012



#3 Double-grasshoppers,
Double-rookhoppers, and
Double-bishophopper