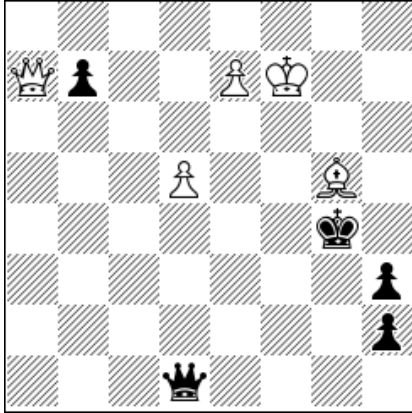


5) Iuri Akobia – Checkmate studies

Preliminary Results

1st Prize

Martin Minski, Jan Sprenger -(Germany)



+

1. ♔g6! h1♚ 2. e8♞ ♞hxd5 3. ♞c8+ ♔g3 [position X]

4. ♕h4+

[logical try: 4. ♞e3+? ♞5f3! 5. ♞g4+?? ♔xg4 no mate possible because of the wB;
thematic try: 4. ♕f4+? ♔g2!= (4... ♔xf4? 5. ♞f2+ ♔e4 6. ♞e8+ ♔d3 7. ♞ee3+ ♔c4
8. ♞a2+ ♔b5 9. ♞b2+ ♔c4 10. ♞ec3# mate with self-block on d5)]

4... ♔h2 5. ♕g3+! ♔xg3 6. ♞e3+

I) 6... ♞5f3 7. ♞g4+!! ♔xg4 8. ♞g5#

II) 6... ♞1f3 7. ♞c7+ ♔g4

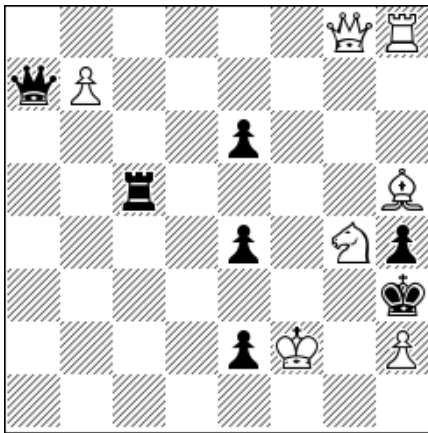
(7... ♔g2 8. ♞c2+ ♔g3 9. ♞cf2+ ♔g4 10. ♞xf3+ ♞xf3 11. ♞g5# with thematic mate)

8. ♞c4+!! echo queen sacrifice 8... ♞xc4 9. ♞g5#

German composers successfully employ Queen sacrifice to seamlessly reflect and connect to the study's plot.

2nd Prize

Amatzia Avni (Israel), Sergei Osintsev (Russia)



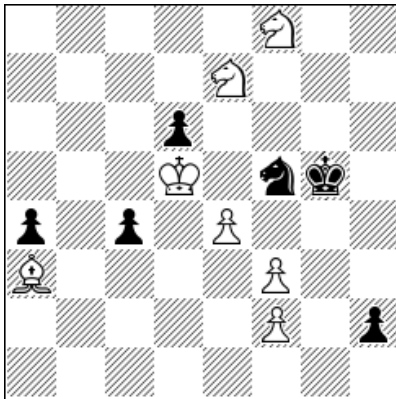
+

1. ♖xe6! e1♖+! 2. ♔xe1 ♖a5+ 3. ♔e2 ♖b5+ 4. ♔f2 ♖f5+ 5. ♖xf5 ♖xf5+ 6. ♔g1 e3
7. ♗xe3! ♖xh5! 8. b8♖ ♖xh8! 9. ♖b3! ♖g8+! 10. ♗g4+! ♖xb3 11. ♗f2#

Very powerful study where both sides try to outplay each other that ends in a delightful checkmate manoeuvre.

3rd Prize

Sergei Didukh (Ukraine)



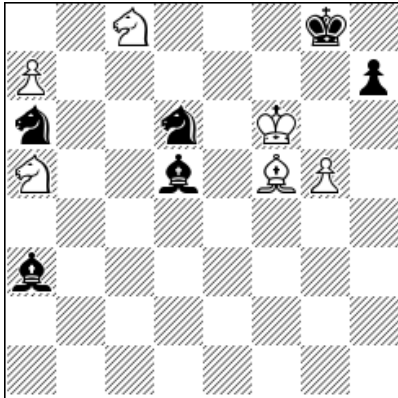
+

1. ♗h7+! [Try 1. ♗e6+? ♔f6 2. ♗xf5 h1♖ 3. ♗xd6 ♖a1! (3... ♖h5+? 4. ♗f5 ♖f7 5. ♗fd4 ♖b7+ 6. ♔xc4 ♖b1 7. f4 ♖xe4 8. ♔b4+-) 4. ♗xc4 ♖e5+! 5. ♗xe5 model stalemate with 5 white pieces KBNNP.] 1... ♔f4 2. ♗xf5 h1♖ 3. ♗d4 ♖h5+ 4. e5! ♖xe5+ 5. ♔xc4 ♖d5+!
6. ♔d3! [6. ♔xd5? stalemate.] 6... ♔e5 7. f4+ ♔xf4 8. ♗c1+ ♔e5 9. f4#

Gripping clash of both sides, wherein White's try to avoid stalemate leads to a lovely checkmate in center of the board.

4th Prize

Michael Pasman (Israel)

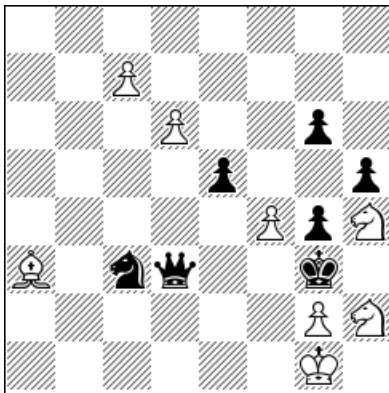


+

1. ♘e6+!! [Thematic try : 1. ♗e7+ ♖f8 2. ♗xd5 ♙b2+! 3. ♖e6 ♗c8! 4. a8♚? (4. ♗xh7 ♗xa7 5. ♗c4 ♗c5+ 6. ♖d6 ♙d4= draw; 4. ♗b4 ♗c7+ 5. ♖d7 ♗xa7 6. ♖xc7 ♙c3 7. ♗bc6 ♗xc6 8. ♗xc6 ♙d2=) 4... ♗c5# 1... ♗xe6 2. ♗e7+! ♖f8 3. ♗g6+!! hxg6 4. a8♚+ ♗e8+ 5. ♖xg6! ♙f7+ 6. ♖h7! ♗ac7 7. ♚f3! ♙e7! 8. ♗c6! ♗e6 9. ♚xf7+!! ♖xf7 10. ♗e5+ ♖f8 11. ♗d7+ ♖f7 12. g6#

5th Prize

Michael Pasman (Israel)



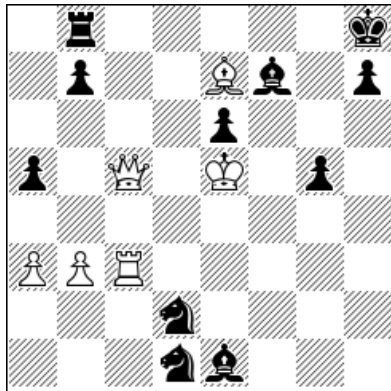
+

1. ♗f5+!! ♚xf5 [1... ♖xf4 2. ♙c1+ ♖xf5 3. c8♚+ ♖f6 4. ♚f8+ ♖e6 5. ♚e7+ ♖d5 6. d7 ♚d4+ 7. ♖h1 ♚d1+ 8. ♗f1 ♚xf1+ 9. ♖h2 g3+ 10. ♖xg3 ♗e2+ 11. ♖h4 ♚h1+ 12. ♖g5 ♚xc1+ 13. ♖f6+-) 2. ♗f1+ ♖h4 3. d7! ♗e2+ 4. ♖h1 ♗g3+! 5. ♗xg3 ♚xd7 6. c8♚!! ♚xc8 7. ♖h2!! exf4 8. ♙e7+ g5 9. ♙d6!! ♚c5! 10. ♗f5+!! ♚xf5 11. g3+ fxg3+ 12. ♙xg3#

Very best checkmates are the ones that are preceded by aggressive actions from both sides to outsmart each other. And that is accurately demonstrated in both of studies from Michael Pasma.

Special Prize

Jan Timman - (Nederland)



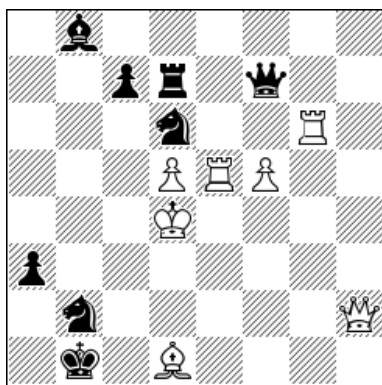
+

1. ♖f6! ♙g8 2. ♘d6 ♜e8 3. ♚e5 ♙h4 4. ♜h3! ♞e4+! 5. ♚xe4 ♞f2 6. ♚a4!! b5
7. ♚d4! ♞xh3 8. ♚xh4! ♙gxh4 9. ♘e5 b4 10. a4 ♞f2 11. ♖g5#

Dutch Grandmaster handily developed and expanded Nikitin's 1977 chess study.

Special Prize

Oleg Pervakov- (Russia)



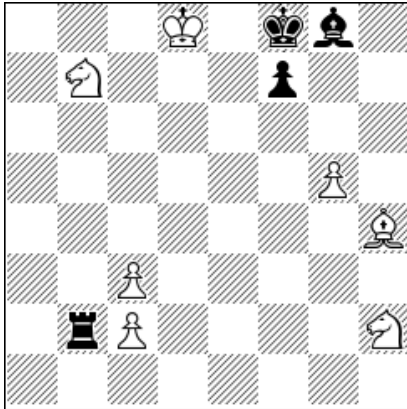
+

1. ♚c2+ ♔a1 2. ♚c1+ ♔a2 3. ♚c5 ♞xf5+ 4. ♜xf5 ♘a7 5. ♘b3+ ♔xb3 6. ♜g3+ ♞d3
7. ♜xd3+ ♔b2 8. ♚xa7 ♜xd5+ 9. ♜xd5 c5+ 10. ♔c4 [10. ♚xc5 ♚f4#]10... ♚xa7 11. ♜d2+
♔c1 12. ♜d1+ ♔b2 13. ♜5d2#

In a very rare design Black wins in false try while White ends up victorious in main line. It's a unfortunate knock against the study that Black's actions to checkmate White end up more alluring than the main one.

Honourable Mention

Yochanan Afek (Israel)

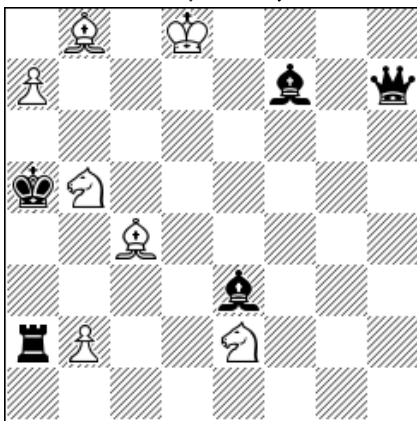


+

1. ♖c5! ♜xc2 2. ♙g3 [2. ♗g4? ♜xc3 3. ♙f2 ♜c4 4. ♗e5 ♜c2 5. ♙d4 ♗g7=; 2. ♗d7+? ♗g7 3. ♙g3 ♗g6 4. ♙e5 ♗xg5 5. ♗f3+ ♗g4 6. ♗d4 ♜xc3 7. ♗f6+ ♗h3 8. ♗xg8= EGTB] 2...f6! 3.gxf6 ♜xc3 4. ♗g4!! ♜xg3 5. ♗h6! ♜g7! 6.f7!! [(Nowotny!)] 6...♜xf7 [main 6...♙xf7 7. ♗d7#] 7. ♗e6#

Honourable Mention

Yuri Bazlov- (Russia)

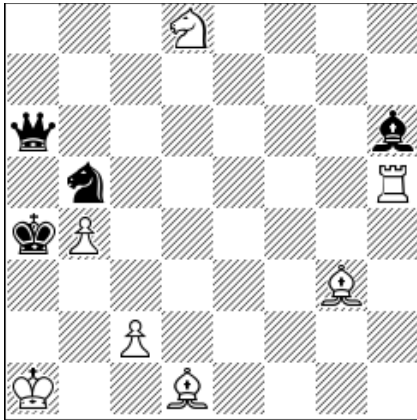


+

1.a8♚+ ♗b4 2. ♙xa2 ♙g5+ 3. ♗c8 ♚g8+ 4. ♗b7 ♙d5+ 5. ♗a7 ♙e3+ 6. ♗ed4 ♙xd4+ 7. ♗xd4 ♚g7+ 8. ♗a6 ♚g6+ 9. ♚c6 ♙xc6 10. ♙d6+ ♚xd6 11. ♗c2+ ♗c5 (11... ♗a4 12.b3#) 12.b4#]

Honourable Mention

Steffen Nielsen (Denmark)

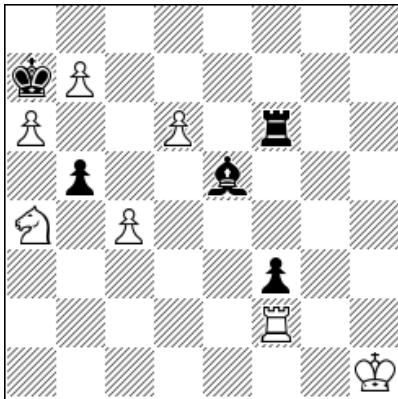


+

1. ♖b2 ♜c3 2. ♖xc3 ♙g7+ 3. ♙e5 ♚c8+ 4. ♖b2 ♚xd8 5. ♙d4! ♚xd4+ 6. c3+ ♚xd1
7. ♞a5#

Honourable Mention

Araz Almammadov, Kenan Velikhanov (Azerbaijan), Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine)

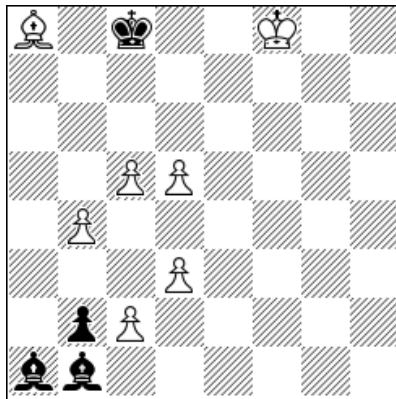


+

1. ♜b6 [1...cxb5 ♙xd6 2. ♖g1 ♙g3 3. ♞f1 ♞f5 4. ♜c3 ♙c7 5. ♖f2 ♙b6+ 6. ♖g3 ♞f2 7. ♖g4 ♞e5]

1... ♞h6+ 2. ♖g1 ♞g6+ 3. ♖f1 ♙xd6 4. ♜c8+ ♖xa6 5. ♜xd6 ♞xd6 6. ♞d2 ♞b6 7. c5 ♖xb7
8. ♞a2#

**Commendation
Leonard Katsnelson - (Russia)**

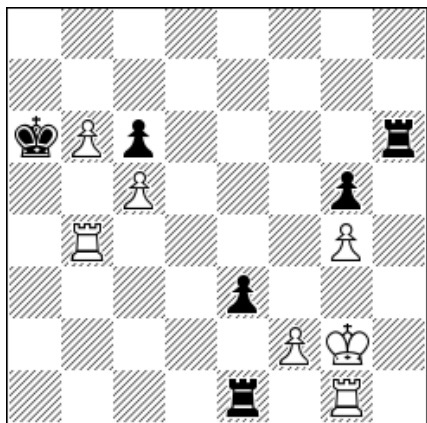


+

1. ♖e7 ♙xc2 2. d6 ♙a4 3. b5 [3. c6 ♙xc6 4. ♙xc6 b1♚ 5. d7+ ♔c7 6. d8♚+ ♔xc6 7. ♚c8+ ♔b5]

3... ♙xb5 4. c6 ♙xc6 5. ♙xc6 b1♚ 6. d7+ ♔c7 7. d8♚+ ♔xc6 8. ♚c8+ ♔d5 9. ♚c4+ ♔e5 10. ♚e4#

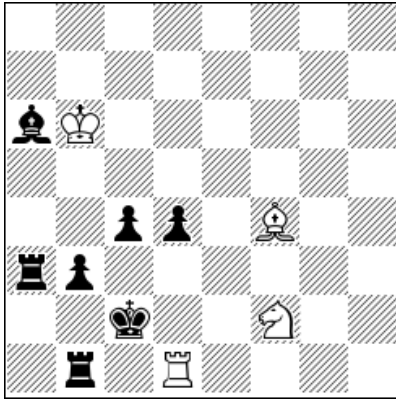
**Commendation
Darko Hlebec (Serbia)**



Black move +

1... ♜h2+ 2. ♔xh2 exf2 3. ♜f1 ♜xf1 4. b7 ♜h1+ 5. ♔g3 f1♚ 6. b8♘+ ♔a7 7. ♘xc6+ ♔a6 8. ♜b6#

Special Commendation
Ruzvelt Martsvlashvili (Georgia)



+

1. Rxd2+ Kc3 2. Ne4+ Kb4 3. Rd6+ Ka4 4. Nc5+ Kb4 5. Nxa6+ Ka4 6. Nc5+ Kb4
7. Nd3+ Ka4 8. Nb2+ Rxb2 9. Rxd4 Rxc2 10. Rd5 b2 11. Ra5+ Kb3 12. Rxa3#

Martsvlashvili has presented a remixed version of Akobia's study.