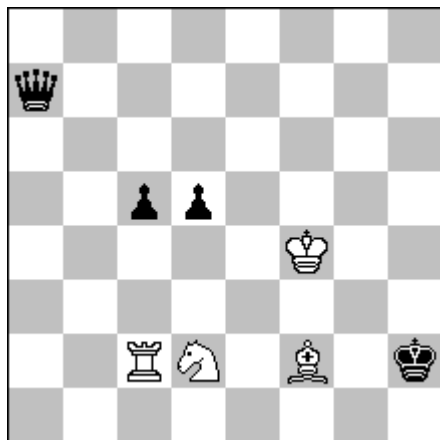


Study of the Year 2007

Selected last week in Yurmala (Latvia) annual congress for chess composition
Please reprint! (Yochanan Afek)

Mario Matouš (Czech Republic)

1st Prize, Polášek and Vlasák 50 JT 2007



White wins

1.Nf3+ Kh1!

1.Kh3 2.Ng5+ Kg2 3.Bxc5+.

2.Bd4!!

With a mate threat. This spectacular move cannot be replaced by 2.Bxc5? Qa4+ 3.Nd4 Qxd4+! 4.Bxd4 stalemate.

2...Qf7+!

After 2...Qc7+? White's material advantage decides, for example 3.Ne5 Qc8 (3...Qb8 4.Rb2! Qf8+ 5.Kg3 Qg7+ 6.Ng4 Qc7+ 7.Be5 Qh7 8.Rd2) 4.Kg3 Qg8+ 5.Ng4 Qb8+ 6.Kh3 Qb3+ 7.Rc3 Qb1 8.Nf2+ Kg1 9.Ne4+ cxd4 10.Rg3+ Kf1 11.Nd2+. Bad is 2...Qb8+? 3.Be5 Qf8+ 4.Ke3 Qh6+ 5.Kf2 c4 6.Ra2 Qb6+ 7.Bd4 Qb1 8.Ra1.

3.Ke3!!

3.Kg3? Qg6+ costs the rook.

3...cxd4+ 4.Kf2! Qf4

Very bad is: 5.Re2? Qe3+ and other attacking rook moves lead to a perpetual check: 5.Ra2? Qc1 6.Kg3! (6.Ra8 Qc2+ 7.Kg3 Qg6+ 8.Kf2 Qc2+) 6...Qc7+ 7.Kf2 Qc1 or 5.Rc8? Qe3+ 6.Kg3 Qh6 7.Kf2 Qe3+ 8.Kg3 Qh6.

5.Rc6!!

Reciprocal zugzwang, as the queen has surprisingly no good squares. Thus a pawn has to move and obstruct the important diagonal b1-h7 in two echo lines:

A) 5...d3 6.Rc8!! Qh6 7.Rb8! wins.

B) 5...Qe3+ 6.Kg3

Another reciprocal zugzwang.

6...d3 7.Ra6! Qc1 8.Ra7! wins.