

## Award *Tehtäväniekka* Studies 2022

First of all, I would like to thank Jorma Paavilainen, the editor-in-chief of *Tehtäväniekka*, for trusting me to be the editor of the study section. It was important and very honorable for me...

It was very difficult for me to judge the year 2022. Last year, we had a full-scale war in Ukraine. Almost a year has passed, and misfortune continues to knock on Ukrainian families – every day people who lived on their land and on whom there is no blame are dying and suffering. From now on, all Ukrainians have a common plan: one for all. We want to end the war with victory, mourn the dead and breathe peace again...

In the annual competition *Tehtäväniekka* – 2022, 17 composers, representing 11

countries, participated. The composers sent in 19 studies. It is generally agreed that the creative attitudes and tastes of the judges are reflected in its awarding, one way or another. Works in which there was an element of novelty were eligible for honours. The degree of originality was decisive in determining the final rank. And then, the way the idea of the study is expressed, that is, how deeply the possibilities of the position are opened, regardless of the material used. In general, I am close to studies with simple and natural constructions (without forced exchange). The solution should not be too simple and must necessarily contain pointe movements...

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen



Voitto / Win (+) 5+6

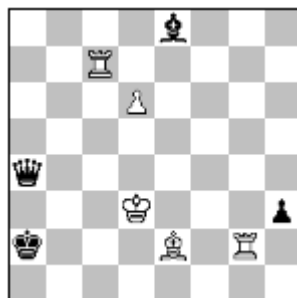
### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (DEN) (8, TN 1/2022)

**1.Rd8** 1.g7? Rc8=. **1...Bd5** 2.g7 a2  
**3.g8Q a1Q** 4.Kg5+! 4.Ke7+? e5! 5.Bxe5+  
Kc2! (5...Kd2? 6.Qg5+! Kc2 7.Bxa1+-)  
6.Bxa1 Bxg8=. **4...e5!** 5.Bxe5+ **Kd2!** 5...  
Kc2 6.Rxd5+-, 6.d4!! 6.Rxd5? Qa2!=. **6...  
Bxg8** 7.dxc5+ **Ke2** 8.Bxa1 win.

In the best study of the contest, the way to White's victory is through an unexpected pawn move of rare beauty: refusing to take the queen, White, on the contrary, overlaps

his bishop with a pawn (6.d4!), in order to achieve his goal in a couple of moments. New and elegant!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Jan Sprenger



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+4

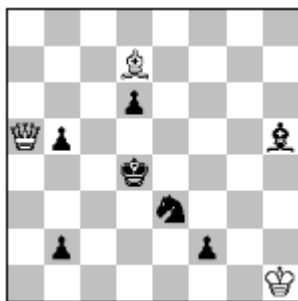
### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Jan Sprenger (GER/ITA) (5360, TN 3/2022)

**1.Rf2!** Thematic try 1.Rh2? Bg6+  
2.Kc3 Ka3! threatening both Qb4# and  
Qc2+/Qd2+ etc. 3.Bc4!/? Qb4+ 4.Kd4  
Qxd6+ and Black takes the Rh2 without  
any white counterplay, e.g., 5.Bd5 Qxh2  
**1...Bg6+** 2.Kc3 **Qa3+**! main 2...Ka3 3.Bc4!

Qb4+ 4.Kd4 Qxd6+ 5.Bd5! (compare the try 1. Rh2) 5...Qxc7 6.Ra2+ Kb4 7.Rb2+ Ka5 8.Ra2+ Kb6 9.Rb2+ Ka7 10.Ra2+ Kb6 (10...Kb8?? 11.Ra8#) 11.Rb2+=. **3.Kc4 Qb3+ 4.Kd4 Qb6+ 5.Rc5 Qxd6+ 6.Kc3!!** Thematic try: 6.Rd5? Qb6+ 7.Rc5 Qd8+ 8.Kc3 Qh8+! 9.Kb4 Qb2+ 10.Ka5 Qd2+ 11.Kb6 Qd6+ 12.Kb5 h2! 13.Bc4+ Ka1 14.Rf1+ Kb2 15.Rf2+ Kc3-+. 6...Qxc5+ 6...Qg3+? 7.Bd3+ cross check echo 7...Qxf2 8.Ra5# **7.Bc4+ Ka1! 8.Ra2+! Kb1 9.Rb2+ Kc1 10.Rc2+! Kd1 10...Bxc2 stalemate. 11.Rd2+ Ke1 12.Re2+ Kf1!? 13.Re5+ Qxc4+ 14.Kxc4 h2 15.Ra5! h1Q 16.Ra1+** draw.

Organic introduction with the choice on the first move, playing connection of two flanks (pointe 6.Kc3!!), based on catching the black queen – are realized in the etude freshly and harmoniously. Successful development of stalemate idea from G. Nadeishvili (HHdbVI#46229) and V. Kozirev (HHdbVI#24316).

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
Serhiy Didukh



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 3+7

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Serhiy Didukh (UKR) (5403, TN 5/2022)

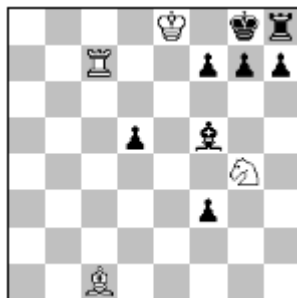
**1.Qd2+ Ke4 1...Kc4 2.Bxb5+ 2.Qb4+!** 2.Bc6+? d5 3.Qb4+ Nc4 4.Kg2 Kd4 5.Bxb5 (5.Kxf2 Bg6 6.Qxb5 Be4!-+) 5...f1Q+! 6.Kxf1 b1Q+ 7.Qxb1 Nd2+-+. **2... Kf3 3.Bc6+!!** Logical try: 3.Bxb5? b1Q+!

4.Qxb1 Kg3 5.Be2 Bf3+! (5...Bf7 6.Bc4!; 5...Bxe2 6.Qg6+) 6.Bxf3 Kxf3 7.Qf1 d5! zz 8.Qh3+ Ke2 9.Qh2 (9.Qh5+ Ke1) 9...Ke1 10.Qh4 d4 11.Qg3 Ke2-+; Logical try: 3.Bh3? Bg4! 4.Bxg4+ Nxg4 5.Qxb5 (5.Qc3+ Ne3 6.Qf6+ Ke4 7.Qe6+ Kd4 8.Qxd6+ Nd5) 5...b1Q+! 6.Qxb1 Ne3 7.Qf1 d5! zz -+. **3...d5 4.Bxb5 b1Q+ 5.Qxb1 Kg3 6.Be2! Bf3+ 6...Bxe2 7.Qb8+ Kg4 8.Qg3+ 7.Bxf3 Kxf3 8.Qf1! zz 8.Kh2? f1Q 9.Qf5+ Ke2!-+ 8...d4 8...Nxf1 stalemate. 9.Qh3+ Ke2 10.Qh5+ Ke1 11.Qa5+!** draw.

Logical study on mutual zugzwang with white bishop pointe (3.Bc6+!!). An interesting detail: the study ends with the return of the white queen to its original square.

4<sup>th</sup> Prize

Taras Rudenko & Volodymyr Samilo



Voitto / Win (+) 4+8

4<sup>th</sup> Prize Taras Rudenko & Volodymyr Samilo (UKR) (5319, TN 2/2022)

**1.Nf6+!** Logical try: 1.Nh6+? gxh6 2.Bxh6 f2 3.Rc1 Bh3 4.Rc3 Bg4 5.Rg3?! f5 6.Ra3 f1Q 7.Ra8 Qe1(e2+) Position A without pf7 8.Kd7+ Kf7-+. **1...gxf6 2.Bh6 f2 3.Rc1 Bh3 4.Rc3 Bg4!** 4...f1Q 5.Rg3+-+. **5.Rg3 f5 6.Ra3!** Try: 6.Rb3? f1Q 7.Rb8 Qf4! 8.Bxf4 Kg7+ 9.Ke7 Rxb8-+. **6...f1Q 7.Ra8 Qe1+** Position A with pf7 **8.Kd7+** win.

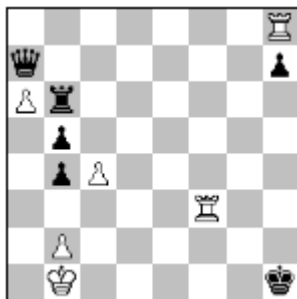
From the first move the game branches into the main line and a logical try.

1<sup>st</sup> Hon. Mention  
Michael Pasman



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+6

2<sup>nd</sup> Hon. Mention  
David Gurgenzidze



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 6+6

3<sup>rd</sup> Hon. Mention  
Amatzia Avni &  
Martin Minski



Voitto / Win (+) 7+8

The meaning of the correct check 1.Nf6+! (blocking pawn f7) is clarified only at the end. A nice bonus is the choice on the sixth move (with the sacrifice of the black queen in an attempt 6.Rb3?).

1<sup>st</sup> Hon. Mention Michael Pasman (ISR)  
(5317, TN 2/2022)

1.**Rf5!** to force d4. 1.Rxf3? exf3–+; 1.Rf7? Bc3! 2.Rd7 (2.Rf5 d4 3.exd4 e3) 2... d4–+. 1...d4 2.**Rxf3!** d3! 2...exf3 3.exd4 Bxd4 stalemate. 3.**Rg3!** 3.Rf4? d2–+. 3... **Be5** 3...Bc3 4.Rg6! d2 5.Rg1! Be5 (5...Bd4 6.Kf2+=) 6.Kf2+ Kc2 7.Ke2 Bxh2 8.Rd1=. 4.**Rg5!** **Bc3** 5.**Rg6!** 5.Rg8? Kc2 6.Rd8 Kd2–+. 5...Kd2 5...Kc2 6.Rd6! Be5 (6... Kd2 7.Kf2 Be5) 7.Rc6+ Kd2 8.Re6!+=; 5... d2 6.Rg1! Be5 7.Kf2+ Kc2 8.Ke2 Bxh2 9.Rd1=. 6.**Kf2** **Bd4!** 7.**Re6!** 7.Rg3? Bf6! 8.Rg4 Kc2! 9.Rxe4 d2–+. 7...**Bxe3**+ 8.**Kf1** **Kc2** 9.**Rc6+**! **Kd1** 10.**Ra6!** **Bg1!** 10... Bc1 11.Re6! e3 12.Rxe3! Bxe3 stalemate. 11.**Re6!** **Kc2** 11...e3 12.Rxe3! Bxe3 stalemate; 11...d2 12.Rxe4 Kc2 13.Re2 Be3 14.Rxd2+! Kxd2 stalemate 12.**Rxe4** **d2** 13.**Re2** **Be3** 14.**Rxd2**+ **Kxd2** stalemate.

A subtle duel between the white rook and the black bishop. The final stalemate is unexpected.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hon. Mention David Gurgenzidze  
(GEO) (5320, TN 2/2022)

1.**Rh3**+ **Kg2** 2.**R3xh7** **Qxa6** 3.**Rg7**+!  
3.Rg8+? Kf3! 4.Rf7+ Ke4 5.Re8+  
Kd3(d4)–+. 3...**Kf3** 3...Rg6 4.Rh6!+=.  
4.**Rf8**+ **Ke4** 4...Rf6 5.Rg6!+=. 5.**Re7**+  
**Kd4** 5...Re6 6.Rf6! 6.**Rd8**+ **Kc5** 6...Rd6  
7.Re6!+=; 6...Kxc4 7.Rc7+ Kb3 8.Rd3+ Ka4  
9.b3+ Ka5 10.Rc2=. 7.**Rc7**+ **Rc6** 8.**Rd5**+  
**Kxc4** 9.**Rd6!** draw.

The conception with the opposition of heavy long-range figures (five 'Maltese' crosses in the solution) with motifs of systematic movement makes a good impression. Compare L. Prokes (HHdbVI#68398) and D. Gurgenzidze (HHdbVI#43124).

3<sup>rd</sup> Hon. Mention Amatzia Avni & Martin Minski (ISR-GER) (5361, TN 3/2022)

1.**Bb5** 1.f7? Rxe2+ 2.Kf1 Qh1+=. 1...  
**Nc6!** 2.**Rxc6** 2.f7 Ra8–+. 2...**Ne3**+ diversion 3.**Rxe3** **Ra8** 4.**Re8**+! 4.Ra3? Rf8!+=.  
4...**Rxe8** 5.f7

A) 5...**Rf8** 6.**Rc8!** **Rxc8** 7.**Be8** switch-back, win.

B) 5...**Qe3** 6.**Re6!** win. 6.Rc3?? Qe4+–+.

The most combinative study of the contest with rook echo-sacrifice on the 6<sup>th</sup> move in two variations.

4<sup>th</sup> Hon. Mention

**Michal Hlinka &  
Lubos Kekely**

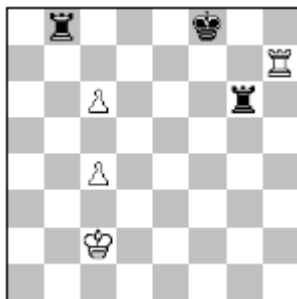


Voitto / Win (+)

5+4

Sp. Hon. Mention

**Yochanan Afek**



Tasapeli / Draw (=)

4+3

Comm.

**Ilham Aliev**



Voitto / Win (+)

6+7

**4<sup>th</sup> Hon. Mention Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (SVK) (5315, TN 2/2022)**

**1.Rb1+ 1.Nd4+? Kb2 2.Rh1 Rh5=.** **1...Ka4 2.Rb6 Nf5 2...Rd5+ 3.Ke2 Ka5 4.Ne3! Rd2+ 5.Kxd2 Kxb6 6.Nd5+ Kc5 7.Nxf6+-.** **3.Ra6+!** 3.h5? Nh6 4.Rxf6 Rxh5=; 3.Rxf6? Nxh4 4.Ra6+ Ra5=. **3...Kb5 4.Rxf6 Nxh4 5.Nd4+ Kb4 6.Rb6+!** switchback 6.Rh6? Ng2 7.f5 Nf4+ 8.Ke4 Nd5 9.Rd6 Kc4=. **6...Ka4 7.Rh6 Ng2 8.f5 Nf4+ 9.Ke4 Nd5 10.Rd6 Nc3+** 10...Ne7 11.f6 Ng6 12.f7 Rc7 13.Rf6 Nf8 14.Ke5 Kb4 15.Rf4 Ka5 16.Kf6+-. **11.Kd3 Nd5 11...Rd5 12.Rc6 Nb5 13.Rc4+ Ka5 14.Ke4+-.** **12.Ne6 Ra5(b5) 12...Nb4+ 13.Ke4 Rc4+ 14.Rd4 Rc6 15.Ke5+-.** **13.Nc5+! Rxc5 14.Kd4** win.

Painstaking work by White (3.Ra6+ and 6.Rb6+!) to save his passed pawn. The spectacular sacrifice of the knight at the end seems to be original.

**Sp. Hon. Mention Yochanan Afek (ISR) (5358, TN 3/2022)**

**1.c7 1.Rh8+? Rg8+-.** **1...Rc8 2.Kc3!**

2.Kd3? Rd6+-+. **2...Ke8 2...Rg7 3.Rh8+ Rg8 4.Rh7! Rg7 5.Rh8+ positional draw.** **3.Kd4!** Try: 3.Kb4? Rc6 4.Rh8+ Kd7 5.Rh7+ Kd6 6.c5+ Kd5(e5, e6)-+. **3...Rc6 4.Rh8+ Kd7 5.Rh7+ Kd6 6.c5+!** 6.Rh6+? Kxc7-+. **6...Ke6 7.Rh6+ Kd7 8.Rh7+ Ke8 9.Rh8+**, positional draw.

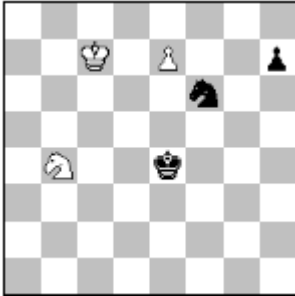
Correction (miniature) and development of an idea from the author's incorrect study (HHdbVI#8580).

**Comm. Ilham Aliev (AZE) (5362, TN 3/2022)**

**1.Kg3 Rh5 2.f4 Ka5 2...Kb7 3.a5 Ka7 4.Rb1 Ka6 5.Ra1+-.** **3.Ra1 zz 3...Ka6 zz 4.a5!** zz 4.c3? Kb7 5.a5 Ka6 6.c4 Kb7 7.a6+ Ka7=. **4...Kb7 zz 5.a6+ zz 5.c4? Ka6=.** **5...Ka7 zz 6.c3!** zz Try: 6.c4? Kb8 7.a7+ Ka8=. **6...Kb8 zz 7.a7+ zz 7.c4? Ka7! =.** **7...Ka8 zz 8.c4 zz win.**

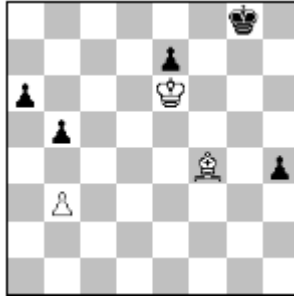
An uncomplicated study on domination, in which White must precisely play a pawn on the sixth move to win.

Comm.  
Peter Krug



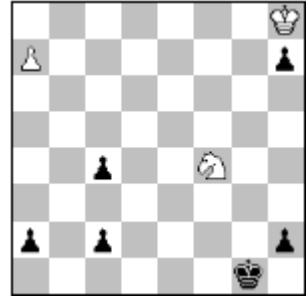
Voitto / Win (+) 3+3

Comm.  
Ivan Maly



Voitto / Win (+) 3+5

Comm.  
Mario Garcia



Voitto / Win (+) 3+6

**Comm. Peter Krug (AUT) (5357, TN 3/2022)**

**1.Kd6!** 1.Kd8? h5–+. **1...h5** 2.Nd5  
2.Ke6? Ne8 3.Nd5 Kd4!=. **2...Ne8+**  
**3.Kd7** Ng7 4.Nc7 h4 **5.Ne6** Nh5 **6.Ke8**  
Nf6+ **7.Kf7** Ke5 **8.Nf4!** Kf5 **9.Nd5** Ne4!  
**10.Ne3+** Kg5 **11.Kf8** Nf6! 11...Nd6  
12.Nc4+-. **12.Nd5 h3!** **13.Nxf6** h2 **14.e8Q**  
**h1Q** **15.Qe5+** Kg6 **16.Nd5** Qh6+ **17.Ke8**  
**Qg5** 17...Kh7 18.Ne7! Qf6 19.Qh2+ Kg7  
20.Qg3+ Kh7 21.Qg4 zz 21...Qg7 22.Qe4+  
Kh8 23.Qh4+ Qh7 24.Qf4 Qh5+ (24...  
Qg7 25.Kd7 Kh7 26.Qh4+ Qh6 27.Qe4+  
Kh8 28.Qa8+ Kh7 29.Qg8#) 25.Kf8 Kh7  
26.Qe4+ Kh6 27.Qe6+ Kg5 28.Qf5+ Kh4  
29.Ng6++-. **18.Nf4+** Kh6 **19.Qh8#**

Accurate play of both sides, but seems to be a bit dry.

**Comm. Ivan Maly (UKR) (5404, TN 5/2022)**

**1.b4!** Kf8 **2.Bg5** Ke8 **3.Bxe7** 3.Bxh4?  
Kd8=. **3...h3** **4.Bd6** Kd8 **5.Kd5** Kd7 5...  
Kc8 6.Kc6!+-. **6.Kc5** a5 **7.bxa5** b4 **8.a6** b3  
**9.a7** b2 **10.a8Q** b1Q **11.Qa7+!** 11.Qc6+?  
Ke6 12.Qd5+ Kf6=. **11...Ke6** **12.Qe7+** Kf5  
**13.Qh7+** win.

The struggle with passed pawns ends with winning the converted queen on the diagonal.

**Comm. Mario Garcia (ARG) (5401, TN 5/2022)**

**1.a8Q!** 1.Nh3+? Kg2 2.a8Q+ Kxh3  
3.Qf3+ Kh4 4.Qf4+ Kh3 5.Qf1+ Kg3=;  
1.Ne2+? Kf2 2.a8Q Kxe2=. **1...h1Q** 1...Kf2  
2.Qh1(g2)+-. **2.Ne2+** Kf2 main 1: 2...Kh2  
3.Qb8+ Kg2 (3...Kh3 4.Qg3#) 4.Qb7+ Kh2  
5.Qc7+ Kg2 6.Qe6+ Kh2 (6...Kf2 7.Qxh1  
Kxe2 8.Qc1 as line of the solution) 7.Qd6+  
Kg2 8.Qd5+ Kh2 9.Qe5+ Kg2 10.Qe4+  
Kh2 11.Qh4+ Kg2 12.Nf4+ Kg1 13.Qe1+  
Kh2 14.Qf2+ Qg2 15.Qxg2# **3.Qxh1** Kxe2  
**4.Qc1!** Kd3 main 2: 4...a1Q+ 5.Qxa1 Kd2  
6.Qd4+! (6.Qa5+? c3! 7.Qg5+ Kd1 8.Qg1+  
Kd2 9.Qd4+ Kc1! 10.Kg7 h5 11.Kf6 h4  
12.Kf5 h3 13.Ke4 h2=) 6...Kc1 7.Kg7! h5  
8.Kf6 h4 9.Qe3+ Kd1 (9...Kb1 10.Qb6+ Kc1  
11.Ke5 h3 12.Qb7 h2 13.Kd4 h1Q 14.Qxh1+  
Kd2 15.Qh2+ Kd1 16.Qh5+ Kd2 17.Qa5+  
Kd1 18.Qa4 Kd2 19.Qa2 Kd1 20.Kxc4  
c1Q+ 21.Kd3+-) 10.Qg1+ Kd2 11.Qg5+  
Kd1 12.Qd5+ Kc1 13.Ke5 h3 14.Kd4!  
Kb2 15.Qb5+ Ka1 16.Qa4+ Kb1 17.Qb4+  
Ka1 18.Qe1+ Kb2 19.Qe2 Kb1 20.Kxc4  
h2 21.Kc3 c1Q+ 22.Kb3 h1Q 23.Qa2#  
**5.Kg7!** 5.Kxh7? a1Q 6.Qxal Kd2=. **5...  
h5** **6.Kf6(g6)** – the king goes to square  
f4 **6...h4** **7.Kf5(g5)** h3 **8.Kf4!** Kc3 8...h2  
9.Qe3#; 8...c3 9.Kf3! (9.Kg3? a1Q 10.Qxal  
Kd2 11.Qa2 h2 12.Kxh2 Kd1=) 9...h2  
10.Kf2 Kc4 11.Qal! Kd3 12.Qf1(h1) 12...

Kd2 13.Qe1+ Kd3 14.Qe2+ Kd4 15.Qf1+-.  
**9.Ke3!** 9.Qa3+? Kd2 10.Qxa2 Kd1 11.Qa4  
 h2=. **9...h2** 9...Kb3 10.Kd2 c3+ 11.Kd3=.  
**10.Qa3#**

The final mates by the queen.

Sp. Comm.  
**Paavo Tikka**



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+3

**Sp. Comm. Paavo Tikka (Espoo) (5405, TN 5/2022)**

**1.d4! Bxd4 2.c5! Bxc5** 2...h2 3.Kb8!  
 Be5+ 4.Kb7 h1Q+ 5.c6=. **3.Nd3 h2** 3...Bxa7  
 4.Kxa7 h2 5.Nf2 Ke6 6.Kb6 Kf5 7.Kc5  
 Kf4 8.Kd4 Kf3 9.Nh1 Kg2 10.Ke3 Kxh1  
 11.Kf2=. **4.Nxc5 h1Q+ 5.Kb8!** 5.Nb7? Ke7  
 6.Kb8 Qh8+ 7.Kc7 Qa8 8.Kb6 Kd7 9.Ne5+  
 Kc8-+. **5...Qh8+ 6.Kb7 Qb2+ 7.Kc8(c7)**  
 7.Nb3? Qg2+! 8.Kb8 Qg3+ 9.Kb7 Qf3+  
 10.Kb8 Qf4+ 11.Kb7 Qe4+ 12.Kb8 Qe5+  
 13.Kb7 Qb5+ 14.Kc7 Qa6 15.Kb8 Qb6+  
 16.Ka8 Qc7 17.Nc5 Qc8# **7...Qh8+ 8.Kb7**  
**Qh1+ 9.Kb8 Qh2+ 10.Kb7(c8) Qg2+**  
**11.Kb8 Qg3+ 12.Kb7 Qf3+ 13.Kb8 Qf4+**  
**14.Kb7 Qb4+ 15.Kc7 Qxc5+ 16.Kb7**  
 draw.

The way to White's salvation in two sacrifices of pawns and accurate choice of play on the fifth move.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the participants in the competition, congratulate the winners and wish everyone new creative finds and sporting success.

In the coming year 2023 I will once again be the judge of the annual competition in *Tentäväniekka* magazine. I await from you new and interesting studies.

Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine).  
 January 2023

Many thanks to Vladislav for the award, which was timely produced and well prepared! Any claims should be addressed to the editor-in-chief within three months from the publication date of this issue.