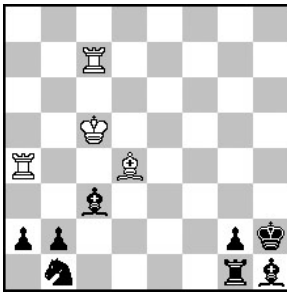


## Award Tehtäväniekka Endgame Studies 2025

The annual tournament was attended by 23 authors from 14 countries, who submitted 23 studies. They were of various styles. I paid particular attention to how well the authors expressed their ideas and technically executed them, as well as the dynamics of the pieces and the presence of black's counterplay. I would like to thank all the participants who sent their works to the tournament.

The following distribution of distinctions is proposed.

**Michael Pasman**  
1st Prize



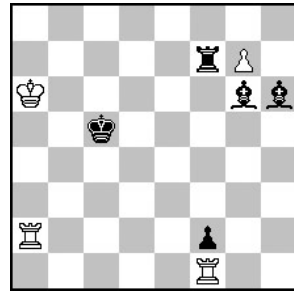
Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+8

**1st Prize Michael Pasman (ISR)** (5982, *TN* 4/2025)

**1.Bf2!** Threatening mate **1...Bd4+!**  
**2.Kxd4** (2.Bxd4? Rc1+ -+; 2.Rxd4? Rc1+ -+) **2...Rd1+ 3.Ke3!** (3.Ke5? g1Q -+) **3...Re1+** (3...g1Q?? 4.Rh7+; 3...g1N 4.Rh7+! Nh3 5.Rxh3+! Kxh3 6.Rh4+ Kg2 7.Rg4+ Kh3 8.Rh4+ perpetual check) **4.Kd3! g1Q** (4...g1N 5.Bxg1+! as main) **5.Bxg1+ Kxg1 6.Rxa2! Re2!** (6...Rd1+ 7.Kc2! Rd2+ 8.Kxb1 Be4+ 9.Rc2 Rxc2 10.Rxb2 =; 6...Be4+ 7.Kd4 =) **7.Rc2!** (Logical try: 7.Kxe2? Nc3+ 8.Rxc3 b1Q 9.Ral Qxal 10.Rc1+ Qxc1 Position X1 no stalemate) **7...Be4+ 8.Kxe2 Nc3+! 9.Rxc3 b1Q 10.Ra1! Qxal 11.Rc1+! Qxc1** Position X2 stalemate.

The idea in the best study of the competition is realised by the author in a disguised form. The final stalemate, known, for example, from the study by M. Matouš, Timman JT, com, 2001, is created during the game when all the pieces reach their desired positions. The move 7.Rc2! in response to 6...Re2! is particularly memorable. It is remarkable and completely unexpected.

**Bogusz Piliczewski**  
2nd Prize



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+5

**2nd Prize Bogusz Piliczewski (POL)** (5932, *TN* 3/2025)

**1.Ra5+!** (1.g8Q? Bd3+ 2.Ka5 Ra7#)  
**1...Kc6 2.Rf5!** (2.Rg5? Bd3+! -+ ((2...Bxg5? 3.g8Q Bd3+ 4.Ka5 Ra7+ 5.Kb4 Be7+ 6.Kc3 Bxf1 7.Qe8+ =)); 2.g8Q? Bd3+ 3.Rb5 Bxb5+ 4.Ka5 Bd2#) **2...Be3!** (2...Bxf5 3.g8Q Bd3+ 4.Ka5 Bd2+ 5.Ka4 Rf4+ 6.Kb3! ((6.Ka3? Bxf1 -+)) 6...Bxf1 7.Qe6+! =) **3.Rf6+!** (3.Rxf7? Bxf7 -+; 3.g8Q? Ra7#; 3.Rc1+? Bxc1 4.g8Q Bxf5 -+) **3...Rxf6 4.Rxf2!** (4.g8Q? Bd3+ -+) **4...Rf7!** (4...Bxf2 5.g8Q Kc5+ 6.Kb7 =; 4...Rxf2 5.g8Q Bd3+ 6.Ka5 Bd2+ 7.Ka4 Be2+ 8.Ka3 Bc1+ 9.Kb4 Bd2+ 10.Ka3 positional draw; 4...Bd3+ 5.Ka5 Rg6 6.Rf6+! Rxf6 7.g8Q =) **5.Rf6+! Rxf6 6.g8Q Kc5+!** (6...Kc7+ 7.Kb5! ((7.Ka5? Bd2+ 8.Kb5 Rf5+ 9.Ka4 Rf4+ 10.Kb5 Bd3+ -+)) 7...Rf5+

8.Ka6! ((8.Kb4? Bd2+ 9.Ka3 Rf3+ 10.Kb2 Bc3+ 11.Ka3 Bg7+! -+)) 8...Rf6+ 9.Kb5! positional draw 7.Kb7! 7.Ka5? Bd2+ -+; 7.Ka7? Bd4 8.Qb3 Kc6+ 9.Ka6 Kc7+ -+)

**A) 7...Rb6+ 8.Ka7! Bd4! 9.Qc8+!**

(9.Qf8+? Kc4! 10.Qf1+ Bd3 11.Qc1+ Kd5! -+) **9...Kd5 10.Qg4!** (10.Qg8+? Ke4 11.Qa8+ Ke3 -+) **10...Rb3+ 11.Ka8!** (11.Ka6? Bd3+ 12.Ka5 Ra3+ 13.Kb4 Bc5#)

**11...Be4 12.Qxe4+! Kxe4 stalemate**

**B) 7...Be4+ 8.Kc7!** (8.Kc8? Bf4! zz

with WTM 9.Qg7 ((9.Qg1+ Kc6 10.Qg8 Bf5+ 11.Kd8 Re6! -+; 9.Qb3 Rf8+ 10.Kd7 Bf5+ 11.Ke7 Bd6#; 9.Kd8 Bg6! etc. as after 9.Kd8?; 9.Kd7 Bd6! etc. as after 9.Kd7?)) 9...Bf5+ 10.Kb7 ((10.Kd8 Rd6+ 11.Ke8 Bg6+ -+)) 10...Rb6+ 11.Ka8 Be4+ 12.Ka7 Bb8#; 8.Kb8? Rb6+! 9.Ka7 Rb5 10.Qg3 Rb3 11.Qc7+ Bc6 -+) **8...Bf4!** (8...Bd5 9.Qg4=) **9.Kc8!** zz with BTM (9.Kd7? Bd6! 10.Qg5+ ((10.Qg1+ Kb5 11.Kd8 Kc6 12.Qc1+ Bc5 -+)) 10...Bf5+ 11.Ke8 Rf8#; 9.Kd8? Bg6! 10.Ke7 ((10.Qg7 Rd6+ 11.Ke7 Bg5+ 12.Kf8 Rd8#)) 10...Bg5! 11.Kd7 Rf7+ 12.Ke6 Re7#

**B1) 9...Bd6** (9...Bf5+ 10.Kb7! Rb6+

11.Ka7!= ((11.Ka8? Be4+ -+)); 9...Be5 10.Qg1+ ((10.Qg5? Bf5+ 11.Kb7 Rf7+ +-)) 10...Kc6 11.Qc1+ =) **10.Qg5+!** (10.Qg1+? Kc6 11.Qc1+ Bc5 -+) **10...Bf5+ 11.Kb7! Rf7+ 12.Ka6!** = (12.Ka8? Kb5! -+).

**B2) 9...Bg6 10.Kb7! Rf7+ 11.Kc8!**

(11.Ka8? Be4#) **11...Rf6 12.Kb7! Rb6+ 13.Ka7!** =

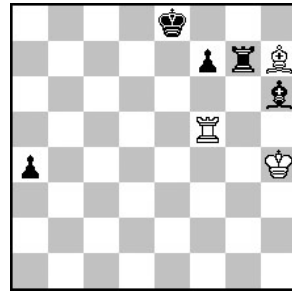
A brilliant opening after effective sacrifices on one square (3.Rf6+! and 5.Rf6+) leads to a final confrontation between Q=R+B+B, where subtle manoeuvring with the king secures the draw for White.

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Any claims against this award should be submitted within three months to the originals editor of studies.

## Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely

3rd Prize



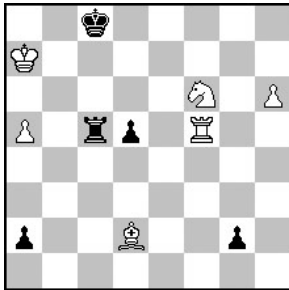
Tasapeli / Draw (=) 3+5

### 3rd Prize Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely (SVK) (5848, TN 1/2025)

**1.Re5+ Kf8 2.Bd3** (2.Bc2? a3 3.Ra5 Rg2! 4.Bb3 Bc1 5.Rf5 ((5.Ra7 Rf2 -+)) 5...Rg7 -+ for example 6.Ra5 Rg6 7.Ra8+ Kg7 8.Ra7 Rf6 -+) **2...Bd2** (2...a3 3.Ra5 Bg5+ 4.Kh3 Bc1 5.Ra8+ as main) **3.Re4 Bg5+!** (3...a3 4.Ra4 Bg5+ 5.Kh3 as main) **4.Kh3!** (4.Kg4? a3 -+ for example 5.Ra4 Be7+ 6.Kf3 Rg1 -+; 4.Kh5? a3 -+ for example 5.Ra4 Bd8! 6.Rxa3 ((6.Ra8 Rg5+ 7.Kh6 Ra5! -+)) 6...Rg5+ 7.Kh6 Rg3 8.Kh5 Kg7 -+) **4...a3** (4...Rh7+ 5.Kg3 a3 6.Ra4 =) **5.Ra4 Bc1 6.Ra8+ Ke7 7.Ra7+! Kf6** (7...Ke6 8.Bc4+ Kf6 9.Kh4! Bg5+ 10.Kh3 Bc1 11.Kh4! positional draw) **8.Kh4!** (8.Bc4? for example 8...Kg6 9.Bd3+ Kh6 10.Ra6+ Kg5 11.Ra5+ Kf6 -+; 8.Bb1? Rg8 9.Ba2 Rf8 -+ 8...Rg8 8...Ke5 9.Bc4 Rh7+ 10.Kg3 =) **9.Bc4 Rh8+ 10.Kg4!** (10.Kg3? Rf8 11.Ba2 Kg6 -+ for example 12.Bb1+ Kg5 13.Ra5+ Kh6 14.Ra6+ f6 -+) **10...Rf8!** (10...Rg8+ for example 11.Kh5 Rg7 12.Bb3 =) **11.Kh5** (11.Kh4? Kg6 -+) **11...Rh8+ 12.Kg4 Rf8 13.Kh5** positional draw.

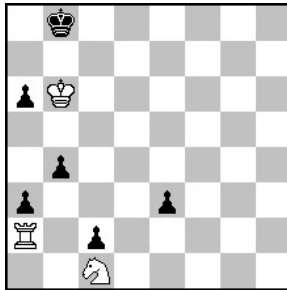
Precise play by the white pieces neutralises White's material disadvantage. A nice study without captures and an original positional draw.

**Arkadij Vorovich**  
Sp. Prize



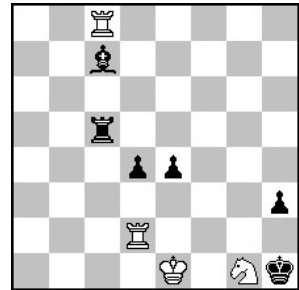
Tasapeli / Draw (=) 6+5

**Yochanan Afek**  
1st Hon. Mention



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 3+6  
musta alkaa / BTM

**Volker Hergert &  
Martin Minski**  
2nd Hon. Mention



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+6  
musta alkaa / BTM

**Special Prize Arkadij Vorovich (UKR)**  
(5936, *TN* 3/2025)

**1.h7 Rc7+** (1...Rxa5+ 2.Bxa5 g1Q+ 3.Ka6 Qg7 4.Bc3! Qb7+ 5.Ka5 Qc7+ 6.Kb4 Qc4+ 7.Ka3 Qxc3+ 8.Kxa2 =) **2.Ka6!** (2.Ka8? Rxh7 3.Nxh7 g1Q -+) **2...Ra7+** (2...Rxh7 3.Rg5! Ra7+ ((3...a1Q? 4.Rg8+ Kc7 5.Bf4+ +-)) 4.Kb6 Rb7+ 5.Ka6 =) **3.Kxa7 g1Q+ 4.Ka6 Qg7! 5.h8Q+! Qxh8 6.Nxd5!** (Try: 6.Bc3? Qg7! 7.Kb5 Qb7+ 8.Ka4 Qc6+ 9.Kb3 Qc4+ 10.Kb2 a1Q+ 11.Kxa1 Qxc3+ -+) **6...a1Q 7.Bc3! Qaxc3** (7...Qh6+ 8.Nb6+ Qxb6+ 9.Kxb6 Qxc3 ((9... Qb1+ 10.Rb5 Qg6+ 11.Kc5 =)) 10.Rc5+ =) **8.Nxc3 Qxc3 9.Rc5+! Qxc5** stalemate.

A large-scale study featuring white pieces against two queens that appear during the game. Pointe 6.Nxd5! The solution at the end of the problem leads to a nice sacrifice and stalemate.

**1st Hon. Mention Yochanan Afek (ISR)**  
(5933, *TN* 3/2025)

**1...e2!** Deflecting the knight. **2.Nxe2 b3! 3.Rxc2!** (3.Rxa3?? b2 -+) **3...a2!** (3...bxc2 4.Nc1 =) **4.Rb2! a1Q 5.Rxb3 a5** (main line B: 5...Qe5 6.Nd4!! Qxd4+ 7.Kc6+! Ka7 8.Rb7+ Ka8 9.Rb8+! Ka7

10.Rb7+ Ka8 11.Rb8+! perpetual check or stalemate) **6.Kc5+! Ka8!** (6...Kc8 7.Rc3 Qe1 8.Kd4+ =) **7.Kc4!** (7.Nd4? is met by 7... a4 8.Rb4 Qc3+ -+. But not 8...a3? 9.Nc6! =) **7...a4 8.Rb4! Qa2+ 9.Kd3 Qa3+ 10.Kc4** positional draw.

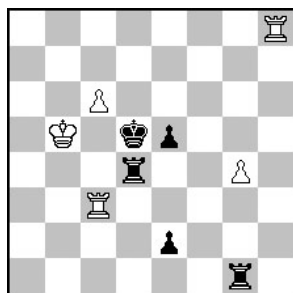
In all other side variations Black's last pawn is either trapped or blocked after which draw is either agreed or forced by the 50 moves rule. Consequently we have witnessed all possible draw forms in a single study (author).

**2nd Hon. Mention Volker Hergert & Martin Minski (SUI - GER)** (5886, *TN* 2/2025)

**1...Bg3+ 2.Ke2** (2.Kd1? Rxc8 -+) **2... h2!** (2...Rxc8 3.Nxh3 Rc4 4.Ng5 =) **3.Rh8 Kg2!** (3...Kxg1 4.Rxd4 =) **4.Rxh2+ Bxh2 5.Rxd4 Re5 6.Nh3!** (Try: 6.Ke3? Bxg1+ 7.Kf4 Bxd4 -+ no stalemate) **6...Kxh3 7.Ke3! Bg1+ 8.Kf4 Bh2+ 9.Ke3 Bg1+ 10.Kf4 Bxd4** stalemate.

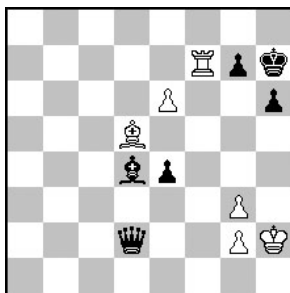
The unexpected sacrifice 6.Nh3! is the key to White's salvation in this stalemate study, known, for example, from the study by E. Pogogyants, *Revista Română de șah*, 1964.

**David Gurgenzidze**  
3rd Hon. Mention



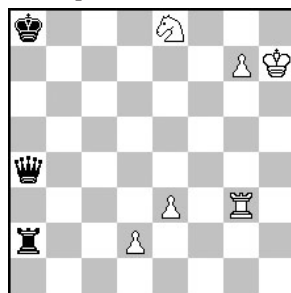
Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+5

**Peter Boll & Guido Jansen**  
4th Hon. Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 6+6

**Amatzia Avni**  
Sp. Hon. Mention



Voitto / Win (+) 6+3

### 3rd Hon. Mention David Gurgenzidze (GEO) (5935, TN 3/2025)

**1.Rc5+!** (1.Rd8+? Ke4 -+) **1...Ke4!** (1...Kd6 2.Rh6+ Kc7 3.Rh7+ Kc8 4.c7 Rdxg4 5.Rh8+ Rg8 6.Rxg8+ Rxg8 7.Rxe5 ((7.Rc1? Rg4! 8.Rel Kxc7 9.Rxe2 Kd6 -+) 7...Rg5! 8.Rxg5 e1Q 9.Rc5! =) **2.c7 e1Q 3.Rxe5+!** (3.c8Q? Qf1+! 4.Kb6 Rb4+ 5.Kc7 Qf7+ 6.Qd7 Rb7+! 7.Kxb7 Qxd7+ +-) **3...Kxe5 4.Re8+ Kd6 5.Rxe1 Rgxe4 6.c8N+!** (6.c8Q? Rb4+ 7.Ka6 Ra4+ 8.Kb7 Rgb4#) **6...Kc7 7.Rc1+ Kb7 8.Nb6!** (8.Ne7? Rd7 9.Rel Rg7! 10.Nf5 Rd5+ +-) **8...Rb4+ 9.Ka5 Rxb6 10.Rc7+! Kxc7** stalemate.

A new four-rook study by the author with the development of the stalemate idea from the study by M. Matouš, *Molodoy Leninets*, 1st Prize, 1988.

### 4th Hon. Mention Peter Boll & Guido Jansen (NLD) (5887, TN 2/2025)

**1.e7 Bg1+!** (1...Qe1 2.e8Q Qg1+ 3.Kh3 Qh1+ 4.Kg4 Qd1+ 5.Rf3!+-) **2.Kxg1** (2.Kh3? Qxd5 3.e8Q Qh5#) **2...Qd4+** (2...Qd1+ 3.Rf1! ((3.Kh2? Qh5+ =)) 3...Qd4+ 4.Kh2 Qe5 5.Bg8+! Kh8 6.Be6 Qh5+ 7.Bh3 +-) **3.Rf2!** (Try: 3.Kh2? Qe5 4.Bc6 Qh5+ 5.Kg1 Qc5+ 6.Kh2 Qh5+ positional draw) **3...Qa1+ 4.Kh2!** (4.Rf1? Qa7+ 5.Kh2 Qxe7 -+) **4...Qe5 5.Bg8+! Kh8!** (5...Kxg8 6.Rf8+ Kh7 7.e8Q +-) **6.Be6! Qxe6 7.Rf8+ Kh7 8.e8Q** win.

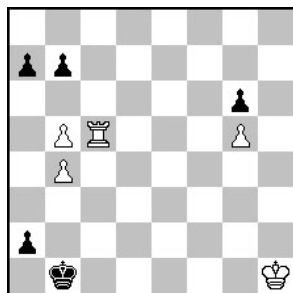
A study of a game plan on the theme of promoting a pawn to a queen with mutual sacrifices of bishops.

### Special Hon. Mention Amatzia Avni (ISR) (5978, TN 4/2025)

**1.Rg6** In addition to the threat to promote, the text intends 2.Ra6+ Qxa6 3.Nc7+ (not at once 1.g8Q? Qh4+ 2.Kg7 Qxg3+ =) **1...Qa7** (defends against both threats 1...Qh4+ 2.Rh6 Qe7 3.Kh8 Qxe8+ 4.g8Q +-; 1...Qd7 2.Nf6 Qh3+ 3.Rh6 Qf5+ 4.Kh8 +-) **2.Kh8** (2.Kh6?? Rxd2 3.g8Q Rh2+ 4.Kg5 Qxe3+; 2.Rc6? Qd7 =) **2...Rxd2 3.Nc7+!** (3.g8Q?? Rh2+ -+; 3.Ra6? Rh2+ 4.Kg8 Qxa6 5.Nc7+ Kb7 6.Nxa6 Kxa6 =) **3...Qxc7** (3...Kb7 4.g8Q Rh2+ 5.Kg7 Qa1+ ((5...Kxc7 6.Qf7+ Kb8 7.Qxa7+ +-)) 6.Kf7 ((6.Kf8? Rh8)) 6...Kxc7 7.Rg7! battery 7...Rh6 8.Ke8+ Kc6 9.Qc4+ +-) **4.g8Q+ Ka7** (4...Rd8 5.Qxd8+ Qxd8+ 6.Rg8 Qxg8+ 7.Kxg8 liquidation nr. 1 to a winning pawn endgame) **5.Rg7 Rh2+ 6.Qh7!** (6.Rh7? Kb6! 7.Qe6+ Kc5 8.Qf5+ Kc6 9.Qe4+ ((9.Rxh2 Qxh2+ 10.Kg7 Qc7+ 11.Kf6 (((11.Kg6 Qg3+ =))) 11...Qd8+ =)) 9...Kb5 =) **6...Qxg7+ 7.Kxg7 Rxh7+ 8.Kxh7** win. Liquidation nr. 2.

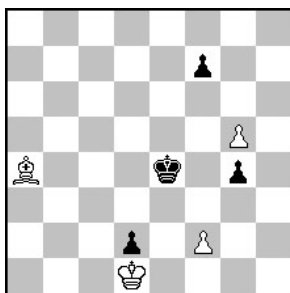
The white pieces are in no hurry to promote the pawn to a queen (3.Nc7+!), and the game ends with an entertaining opposition between both kings.

**Ihham Aliev & Misratdin Iskandarov**  
Comm.



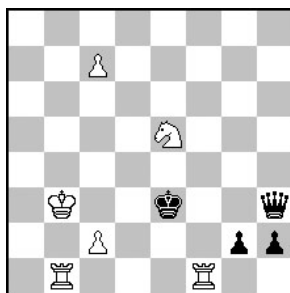
Tasapeli / Draw (=) 5+5

**Volodymyr Samilo**  
Comm.  
Dedicated to  
Pauli Perkonoja



Voitto / Win (+) 4+4

**Daniele Gatti & Mario Micaloni**  
Comm.



Voitto / Win (+) 6+4

**Comm. Ihham Aliev & Misratdin Iskandarov (AZE)** (5934, *TN* 3/2025)

**1.Re5!** Thematic try: 1.Rd5? but 1...Kc2! (1...a1Q 2.Rd1+ see main line) 2.Rc5+ Kd2 3.Rd5+ Ke2 4.Re5+ Kf2 –+ **1...a1Q 2.Re1+ Kb2 3.Rxa1 Kxa1 4.Kg2 Kb2 5.Kf3 Kc3 6.Ke4!** Thematic try: 6.Kf4? Kd4!–+ (6...Kxb4? 7.Ke5 see main line) **6...Kxb4 7.Ke5 Kxb5** (7...a5 8.bxa6! bxa6 9.Kf6 a5 10.Kxg6 =) **8.Kf6 a5 9.Kxg6 a4 10.Kf5!** (10.Kf7? a3 11.g6 a2 12.g7 a1Q 13.g8Q Qa2+ –+; 10.Kf6? a3 11.g6 a2 12.g7 a1Q+ –+) **10...a3 11.g6 a2 12.g7 a1Q 13.g8Q Qf1+ 14.Ke5!** draw. GM Misratdin Iskandarov (FIDE rating 2555). 14.Ke6? Qc4+ –+; 14.Kg6? Qg2+ –+.

White's salvation lies in choosing the rook on the first move and playing the king accurately in the pawn endgame.

**Comm. Volodymyr Samilo (UKR)** (5847, *TN* 1/2025)

**1.g6!** Try: 1.Ke2? Kf5! (1...Kf4? 2.g6 fxc6 - see solution) 2.g6 Kxg6 =; Try: 1.Bc6+? Kf4 (1...Kf5 2.Kxd2 Kxg5 3.Ke3 +–) 2.Bg2 Kxg5! = (2...g3? 3.f3 Ke3 4.Bh1! Kf2 5.f4 +–) **1...fxg6 2.Ke2 Kf4** (2...g3 3.fxc3! +–, 3.f3+? Kd4! =) **3.Bd1!** - pointe **3...g3** (3...g5 4.Kf1 g3 5.f3 +–) **4.f3 Ke5! 5.Kf1 Kd4 6.Kg2 Kc3 7.Kxg3** (7.f4? Kb2 8.Kxg3 Kc1 9.Ba4 d1Q 10.Bxd1 Kxd1

11.Kg4 Kd2 12.Kg5 Ke3 =) **7...Kb2 8.Kf2! Kc1 9.Ke2** win.

White skilfully delays the pass on the right flank, and then consolidates its forces and the second pawn.

**Comm. Daniele Gatti & Mario Micaloni (ITA)** (5980, *TN* 4/2025)

**1.Rf3+ Qxf3 2.Re1+** (2.Nxf3? h1Q! 3.Rxh1 gxh1Q! 4.c8Q Qb1+! 5.Kc3 Qa1+! 6.Kb3 Qb1+! =) **2...Qe2 3.Rxe2+** (3.Ng4+? Kf4! 4.Rxe2 h1Q! 5.Rf2+ Ke4! 6.Nf6+ Ke3! 7.Rxg2 Qb1+! 8.Kc4 Qa2+! 9.Kb5 Qb2+! =) **3...Kxe2 4.c8Q g1Q 5.Qc4+ Kd1 6.Qd3+** (6.Qd5+? Kc1! 7.Nc4 Qg3+! 8.c3 Qb8+! =) **6...Kc1 7.Nc4! Qe1** (7...h1Q 8.Qd2+! Kbl 9.Na3+! Kal 10.Qc3#) **8.Qd4! Qg3+** (8...h1Q 9.Qa1#) **9.Ka2!! Qg5 10.Qe4!** zz **10...Qh6 11.c3! Qa6+** (11...h1Q 12.Qb1#) **12.Na3 Kd2 13.Qc2+ Ke3 14.Qxh2** win.

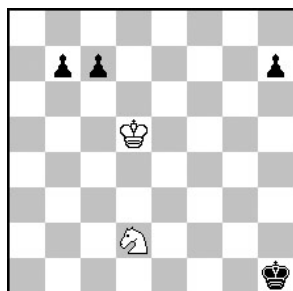
At the cost of two rooks, White takes care of Black's queen and then, with a series of subtle moves, gains a material advantage.

**Comm. Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (NOR)** (5975, *TN* 4/2025)

**1.Ne4 Kg2 2.Nf6 h6** Now the pawn in the h-file is under control and White can approach with his king. **3.Ke4 b5 Af-**

### Jarl Henning Ulrichsen

Comm.



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 2+4

### Daniil Yakimovich

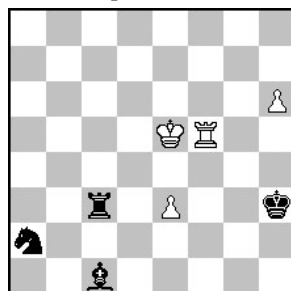
Sp. comm.



Voitto / Win (+) 8+9

### Arkadij Vorovich

Sp. comm.



Tasapeli / Draw (=) 4+4

ter 3...c5 there are many ways to draw, the simplest being 4.Nd7 c4 5.Nb6 c3 6.Nd5 c2 7.Ne3+ =. And 3...Kf1 can be met by 4.Ne8 c6 5.Nd6 b5 6.Nf5 h5 7.Ng3+ Ke1 8.Nxh5 =. **4.Kf4!** The alternatives lose; e.g. 4.Kd4? Kf3 5.Kc5 c6 6.Kxc6 b4 7.Kd5 b3 8.Ne4 Ke3 -+; 4.Ke3? c5 5.Ke2 c4 6.Nh5 b4 -+; 4.Nd5? (or 4.Nh5?) 4...c5 5.Nf4+ Kg3 6.Ne2+ Kf2 -+ **4...c5** (4...Kf2 5.Nd5= 5.Ke3 (wKe3 / bKg2 is a position of reciprocal zugzwang. White to move loses, black to move only draws. By playing 4.Kf4! White has transferred the move to Black.) **5...c4 6.Ke2! Kg3** (6...c3 7.Nd5 c2 8.Ne3+ draws.; 6...b4 7.Nd5 b3 8.Ne3+ draws.) **7.Ne4+ Kg2** After 7...Kf4 8.Nd6 (or 8.Nc3) White wins one of the pawns. **8.Nf6!** (8.Nd6? h5 9.Nxb5 h4 and the black pawn will promote.) **8...Kh3 9.Ne4!** It is premature to play 9.Kf3? c3 10.Nd5 c2 11.Nf4+ Kh2 (h4) 12.Nd3 b4 13.Ncl Kgl -+ **9...b4** White draws at once after 9...Kg4 10.Nd6= **10.Kf3!** preventing the black king from leaving the h-file. **10...c3 11.Nc5** draw.

The black king is incarcerated, and the white knight takes care of the black pawns (author).

**Special comm. Daniil Yakimovich (USA)**  
(5937, TN 3/2025)

**1.Nbc4+!** White sacrifices Knight to dismantle Black battery p+B 1.d7? Nxe6 2.Nxd5+ Kc6 3.Nf6 Qxb2 4.Rc8+ Kd6

5.Bh2+ Ke7 =; 1.e7?? Ka6! -+ **1...Bxc4 2.e7** Without Black battery the White's main plan might work out. **2...h2** (2...Bf7 3.d7 Nxd7 4.Rxb7+ +-) **3.Rxb7+!** Now White sacrifices his Rook to fire his own battery N+B (3.Bxh2? Qxe3 =) **3...Nxb7 4.Nxc4+ Ka6** (4...Kc6 5.e8Q+ +-) **5.e8N! Knight Phoenix** 5.e8Q?? Nd8! -+ **5...Qxc4 6.Nc7+ Qxc7 7.dxc7 h1B!** Bishop Phoenix (7...hxg1Q Queen Phoenix 8.c8Q Kb6 ((8... Qb1 9.Qc6+ Qb6 10.Qc4+ Qb5 11.Qxb5#)) 9.Qxb7+ Kc5 10.Qxa7+ +-) **8.c8R!** win.

Rook Phoenix and mate in two moves. Four phoenixes of four different pieces, including three underpromotions. 8.c8Q? stalemate (author). Reworking of the study by A. Sochnev, *Schakend Nederland*, 1988.

**Special comm. Arkadij Vorovich (UKR)**  
(5885, TN 2/2025)

**1.h7 Rc8 2.Rh5+ Kg4** (2...Kg3 3.Rg5+! Kf3 4.Rg8 =) **3.Rh2!** (3.h8Q? Rxh8 4.Rxh8 Bb2+ 5.Ke4 Bxh8 -+ Position A with Na2 - no stalemate) **3...Nb4 4.h8Q** (4.Rg2+? Kf3! 5.Rg8 Bb2+ 6.Kf5 Nc6 7.Ke6 Rd8! zz -+) **4...Rxh8 5.Rxh8 Bb2+ 6.Ke4! Bxh8** Position A with Nb4 - stalemate.

A simple and attractive study on a stalemate.

January 24, 2026

Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine)  
International Judge