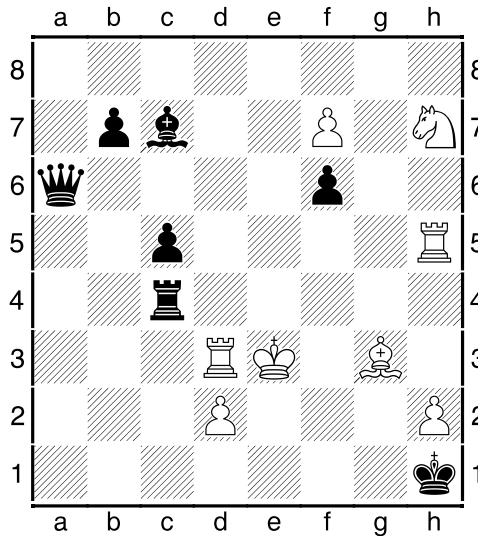


Amatzia Avni avniam@zahav.net.il
Springaren N. 144, 2017 (no award yet)



wKe3,Nh7,Bg3,Rd3,h5,Pd2,f7,h2/bKh1,Qa6,Bc7,Rc4,Pb7,c5,f6

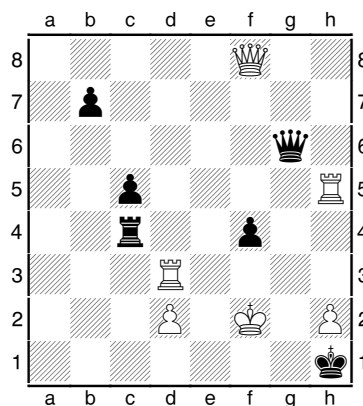
(8+7) White to play and win

1.Ng5!! [1.f8Q Qe6+ 2.Kf2 Qe4! and black draws: 3.Rc3 (3.Rh4 Q:d3 4.R:c4 Q:d2+=) Qg2+ 4.Ke1 Qe4+ 5.Kd1 Rxc3 6.dxc3 Qd3+=; 1.Bxc7 Qc6 2.Rdd5 Qxc7 3.Rhf5 Q:f7+; 1.Kf2 Rc1]

1...Bf4+!

1...f:g5 2.f8=Q Rf4 (now 2...Qe6+ 3.Kf2 Qe4 fails to 4.Qf3+; 2...Bf4+ goes into main variation after 3.B:f4, but not 3.Kf2? Qc6!! 4.Rf3 B:d2) 3.Qg8; 1...Qa8 2.Nf3 Qf8 (2...B:g3+ 3.h:g3+ Kg2 4.Rh2+ Kg3 5.Rh1) 3.Rd7 B:g3+ 4.h:g3+ Kg2 5.Nh4+ R:h4 6.g:h4; 1...Rd4 2.R:d4 c:d4+ 3.Kf2 Qa5 4.Nf3! Q:h5 5.f8=Q.

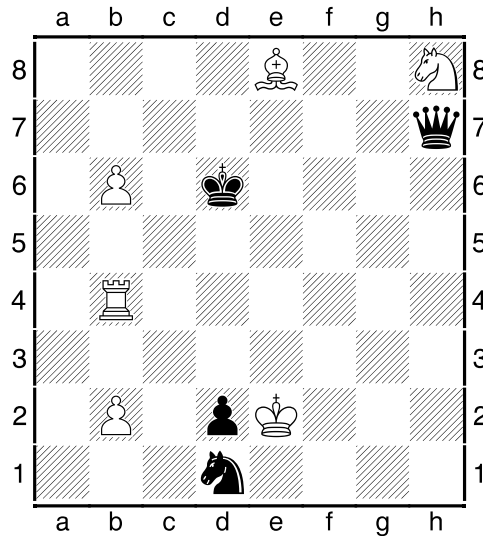
2.Bxf4 (2.Kf2? Rc1) **fxg5** 2...Rc1 3.Ke2 Qc6 4.Rg3 **3.f8Q gxf4+ 4.Kf2 Qg6!** Threatens 5...Qg2+ 6.Ke1 Rc1# and also forking both white rooks.



5.Qg8!! Qxg8 6.Rg3! f:g3+ 7.h:g3+ with mate.

Themes: delay of promotion, double-attack, line-opening, deflection, Q&R sacrifices, back-rank weakness.

Amatzia Avni
1st prize, Kondratyuk MT 2018



wKe2,Nh8,Be8,Rb4,Pb2,b6/bKd6,Qh7,Nd1,Pd2

(6+4) White to play and win

1.b7 (1.K:d1 Qh1+=) **Nc3+!** **2.Kxd2** [2.bxc3? even loses to 2...d1Q+! 3.Kxd1 Qd3+ 4.Ke1 Qxc3+ with 5...Q:b4]

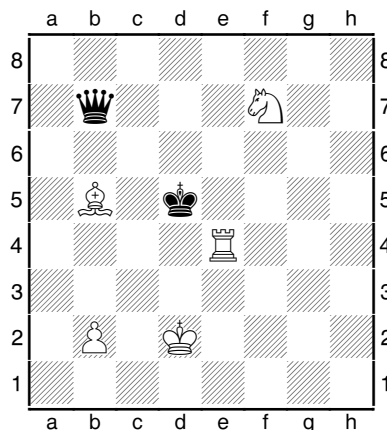
2...Ne4+ [2...Nb1+? 3.Kc1 Qh1+ 4.Kc2] **3.Rxe4**

[3.Kc2? Nc5+ with 4...N:b7; 3.Kd1 Qh1+ 4.Kc2 Qg2+ 5.Kb1 Nd2+ 6. Kc2 Ne4+ 7. Kb1 Nd2+ 8. Kc1 Nb3+!! 9.R:b3 Qf1+= white cannot find a shelter to his king]

4...Qxb7 4...Kc7 5.Ng6 with a technical win. **4.Nf7+ Kd5**

If white could hold to his material advantage, he would win. The problem is that his pieces are not organized and lack harmony: 5.b4? Qb6 6.Rf4 Qb8=; or 5.Kc3? Qc8+=.

5.Bb5!! 1:0



The only road to victory is by this aesthetic move, hanging all his pieces:

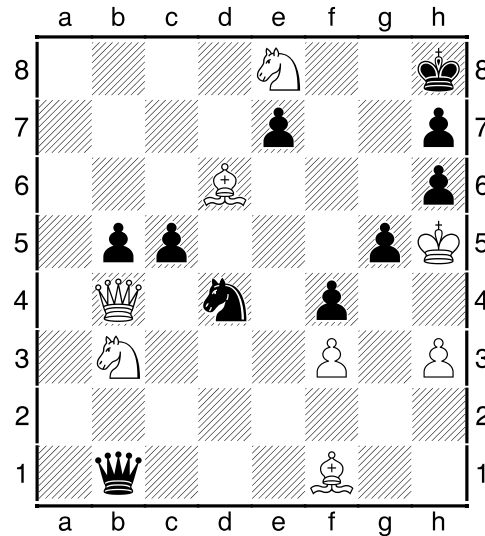
* 5...Q:b5 6.Re5+

* 5...Q:f7 6.Bc4+

* 5...K:e4 6.Nd6+

Themes: Pieces *en prise* defend each other indirectly, averting perpetual check.

Amatzia Avni
 "Chess" 6/2017 (no tourney in this magazine)



wKh5,Qb4,Nb3,e8,Bd6,f1,Pf3,h3/bKh8,Qb1,Nd4,Pb5,c5,e7,f4,g5,h6,h7

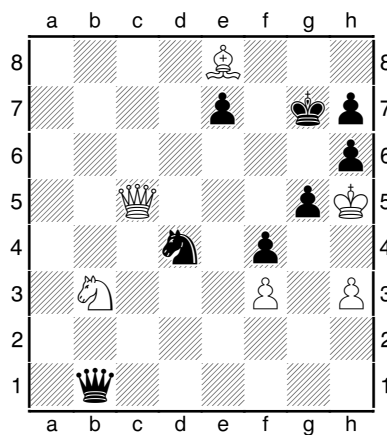
(8+10) White to play and draw

1.Be5+ (White must defend against 1...Qg6+ 2.Kh5 h5#) **Kg8 2.Bc4+ Kf8** [2...b:c4
 3.Q:c4+; 2...e6 3.Nf6+ Kf7 4.Bxe6+ Nxe6 5.Qe4]

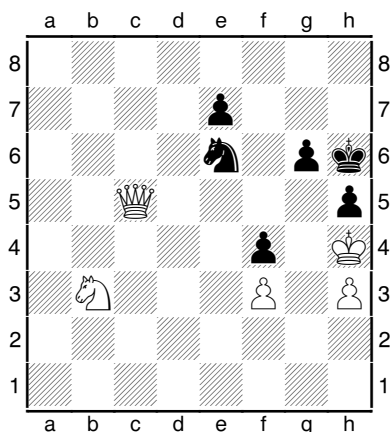
3.Bg7+ Kxe8 4.Bxb5+ Kf7 [4...Nxb5 5.Qxb5+ Kf7 6.Bxh6 Qg6+ 7.Kg4 Qxh6 8.Nxc5]

5.Be8+! [5.Bc4+ Kxg7 6.Qb6 Qg6+ 7.Qxg6+ hxg6+ 8.Kg4 Nf5 9.h4 Ne3+ 10.Kh3
 Nxc4 11.Nxc5 Kf6 -+]

5...Kxg7 6.Qxc5 [6.Qb7? Qe1; 6.Qb6? Qxb3 7.Qxh6+ Kg8 8.Qxg5+ Kf8-+]



6...Qg6+! 7.Bxg6 hxg6+ 8.Kg4 h5+ 9.Kxg5 Ne6+ 10.Kh4 Kh6!! (10...N:c5? 11.N:c5).



The critical position. Tries:

A) 11.Q:e7 g5+ 12.Q:g5+ N:g5 13.Nd4 Kg6! reciprocal ZZ -+;

B) 11.Q:h5+ g:h5 12.Nd4 Ng7! -+;

C) 11.Qg5+ N:g5 12.Nd4 Ne4! -+

11.Nd4!! Nxc5 12.Nf5+ Kh7 (12...g:f5 stalemate)

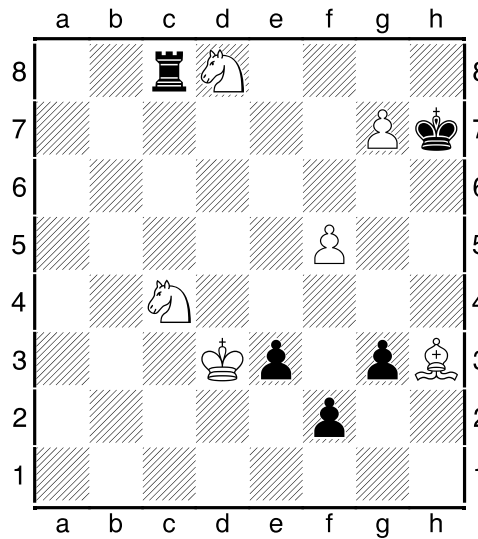
13.Nxe7 Ne4! (13...Ne6 14.N:g6=) **14.fxe4** (14.Nd5?? Kh6) **Kh6 15.Ng8+** [15.Nxg6?

Kxg6 16.e5 Kf5; 15.Nf5+? gxf5 16.exf5 Kg7 -+]

15...Kg7 16.Ne7 Kh6 17.Ng8+ =

Themes: Mate, stalemate, Zugzwang, fork, sacrifices, avoidance of capture, anti-stalemate, positional draw by repetition.

Amatzia Avni
Magyar Sakkvilag 5/2018 (no award yet)

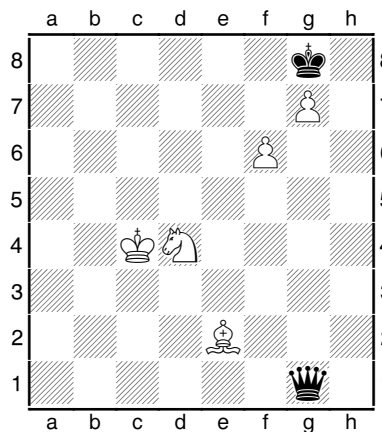


wKd3,Nc4,d8,Bh3,Pf5,g7/bKh7,Rc8,Pe3,f2,g3

(6+5) White to play and win

White will have to exploit his attacking chances against the black king, while neutralizing the black advanced pawns.

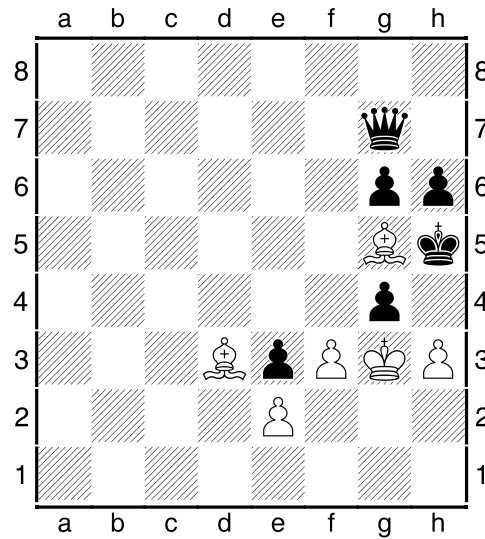
1. Ne6 R:c4 [1...e2 2.K:e2 R:c4 3.f6 Re4+ (3...Kg8 4.Nd4!) 4.Kd2! Re5 5.f7+ K:f7 6.Ng5+].
2.f6 Kg8 3.Nd4! (3.Ng5? Rg4) **f1Q(B)+ 4.Bxf1 e2 5.Bxe2** [5.Nxe2 Rc6=; 5.Bg2 Rxd4+ 6.Kxd4 Kf7 7.Bd5+ K:f6 8.g8=Q e1=Q=] **5...g2 6.Kxc4 g1Q**



7.Kb4!! Kf7 [7...Q:d4+ 8.Bc4+; 7...Qb1+ 7.Kc5; 7...Qg6 8.Bc4+ Kh7 9.Nf5]
8.Bc4+ Kxf6 9.g8Q Qxd4 10.Qh8+ 1:0

Themes: Race for promotion, fork, deflection, paradoxical king-move, skewer.

Amatzia Avni

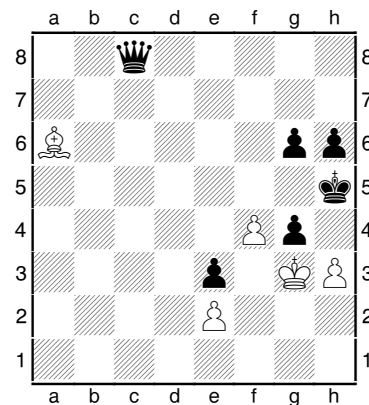
1st honor mention, section draw Batumi 2018

wKg3,Bd3,g5,Pe2,f3,h3/bKh5,Qg7,Pe3,g4,g6,h6
(6+6) White to play and draw

1.Bf6! Qc7+ [1...Qxf6 2.fxg4+ with 3.h4#, self-block on f6.]

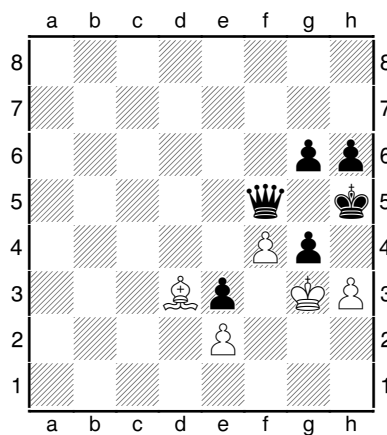
2.Be5! [2.f4? gxh3 →] **2...Qxe5+ 3.f4** Now play splits to two echo-variations.

A) 3...Qe6 4.Bc4! Qd7 5.Bb5! Qc8 6.Ba6!

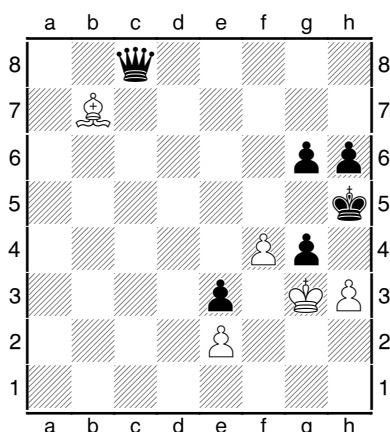


6...Qf5 7.Bd3 draw 7...gxh3 8.Bxf5 gxf5 9.Kxh3 =

B) 3...Qf5



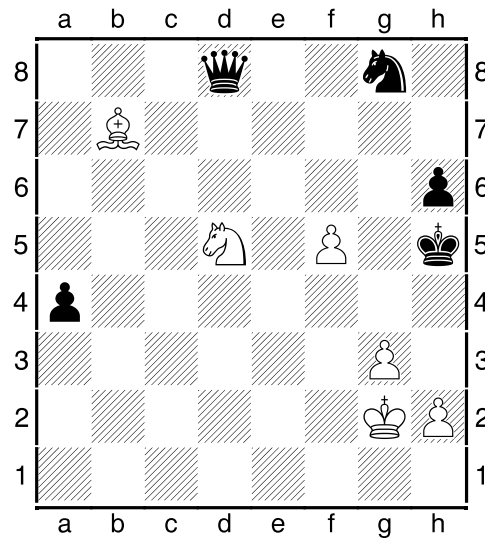
4.Be4!! [a waiting move, preserving the threat to the queen and the mating rejoinder if black captures h3. 4.Bxf5 gxf5 →] **4...Qe6** [4...Qxe4 5.hxg4#; 4...gxh3 5.Bf3+]
5.Bd5! Qd7 6.Bc6! Qe6 7.Bd5! Qc8 8.Bb7!



Draw. 1/2:1/2

Themes: Decoy, self-block, overloaded queen, waiting move, echo systematic maneuvers on parallel diagonals.

Amatzia Avni

1st honor mention, The Problemist 2016-2017

wKg2,Nd5,Bb7,Pf5,g3,h2/bKh5,Qd8,Ng8,Pa4,h6
(6+5) White to play, draw

1.h4 Qd7 (1...a3? 2.Kh3!; 1...Kg4? 2.Ne3+)

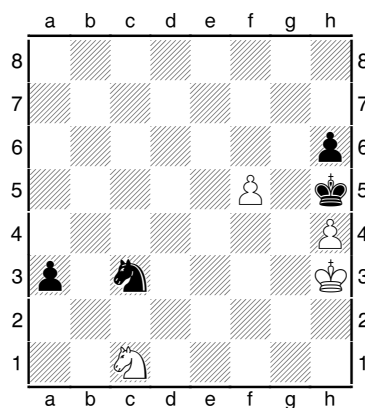
2.Bc6! Qxc6 [2...Qc8? 3.B:a4! Qc1 4.Ne3! and white even wins; 2...Q:f5? 3.Be8+]

3.Kh3 Qc4 4.Ne3 defends f1, attacks the queen and threatens g4+

4...Qe4 5.g4+ Qxg4+ 6.Nxg4 a3 By tactical means white had achieved material equilibrium, but now comes a second phase, where he must deal with the advanced a-pawn.

7.Ne5(f2) [7.Ne3? Ne7 8.f6 Ng6 9.Nc2 a2 10.f7 Nf4+ 11.Kg3 Ne6 12.Na1 Nf8 13.Nb3 Kg6 14.Kf4 Kxf7 and black wins (Lomonosov).]

7...Nf6 8.Nd3 Nd5 9.Nc1 Nc3 (9...Nb4?? 10.Ne2)



10.Nd3!

White forces the draw by playing on both wings, combining defence against the advanced a-pawn with mating threats against the black king.

10...Ne2 11.Nb4 Nf4+ 12.Kg3 Ne2+ 13.Kh3 [13.Kf3? Nc3 14.Nc2 a2 15.Ke3 Kxh4]

13...Nc3 14.Nd3 Nd5 15.Nc1=

Themes: Self-pin, decoy of queen, knight alternate switch of directions.