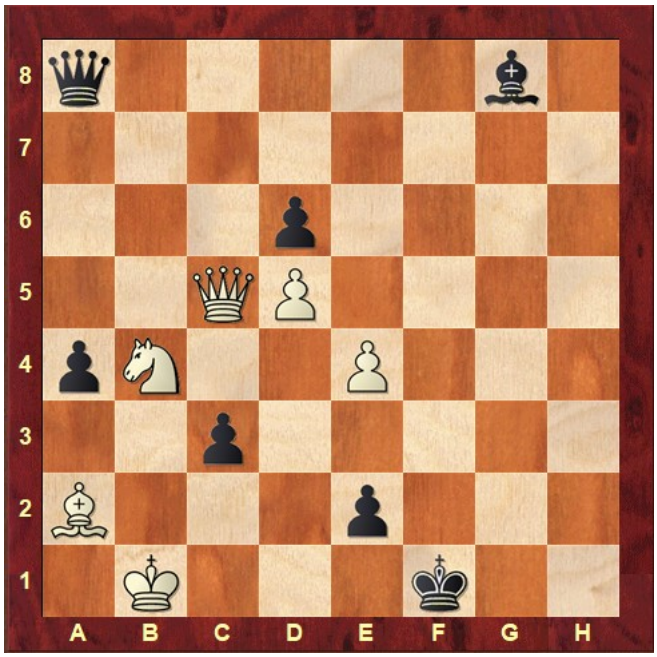
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen, stjeffen@gmail.com Flakholmen 16 3, 2720 Vanløse DK-Denmark

No. 1

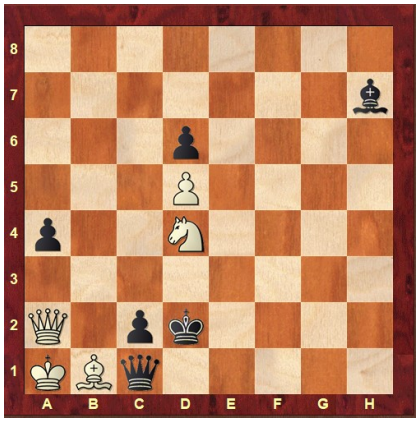


Draw
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
Lev Lepkyi 130
1st prize
(Award published in June 2018: http://didok.ru/PGN/Lev%20Lepky−130.pdf)

White is on the defensive, his biggest worry being the pawn on e2. It is not yet time for active counterplay.
1.♕b5! [1.♕c4? loses after 1...♗h7 or 1...♕e8. The c4 square is needed for the bishop.]
1...♕e8! [White is not given time for 2. ♗c4]
[1...♗h7 2.♗c4=; 1...♕a7 2.♗c4=]
2.♕d3 [Necessary retreat, the first of many.]
[2.♕xe8? e1♕+ 3.♔c2 ♕d2+-+]
2...♕xe4! [There is no time to rest for White.]
[2...♔f2 3.♕d4+=]
3.♕xe4 ♗h7 [The point. White must retreat, keeping an eye on the pawn.]

4.♕d3 [4.♕xh7? e1♕+ 5.♔c2 ♕d2+ mating]
4...♔f2 [Unpinning the pawn. White must take one further step into his cave.]
[4...♗xd3+ 5.♘xd3+-; 4...♔g1 5.♔c1 e1♕+ 6.♕d1=]
5.♕c2 ♔e3 [Now the promotion cannot be stopped. Time to go on the counter−offensive for White?]
[5...♗xc2+?? 6.♘xc2 *(6.♔xc2)*]

6.♔a1! [Well, not exactly.]
[6.♔c1? e1♕+ 7.♕d1 ♕d2+ *(7...♕f2)* ; 6.♕xh7]
6...e1♕+ 7.♗b1 [Luckily for White Qc2 is still immune, as Black has placed his king and queen conveniently within forking distance]
7...♕d2! 8.♕a2! [Perhaps not the active counterplay White had been hoping for. But the only way to cover b2.]
[8.♕xd2+ cxd2 leaves no hope; 8.♕xh7 ♕b2#]
8...♕c1 [Fighting for the c2 square.]
9.♘c2+!
[Burying Bb1 and Qa2 even further.]
9... ♔d2! [When White now saves his knight, Black will play c3-c2 and have a win after the general exchange]
10.♘d4+ [Finally time to break out. 10.♕a3? ♗xc2-+]
10...c2



11.♘b3+
[Not too late to go wrong: After the fancy 11.♕xc2+? ♗xc2 12.♘b3+, Black wins with 12...♔d1! (12...♗xb3; 12...axb3=) 13.♘xc1 ♔xc1 14.♗a2 ♔d2 15.♔b2 *(15.♗c4 ♗d3)* 15...♔d3 16.♔a3 ♔c3 and White is in zugzwang; Also 11.♘xc2? ♗xc2 12.♕xc2+ ♕xc2 13.♗xc2 ♔xc2-+ fails]
11...axb3 [11...♔c3 12.♘xc1=]
12.♕a5+ ♔d1 13.♕e1+ ♔xe1 stalemate
½-½

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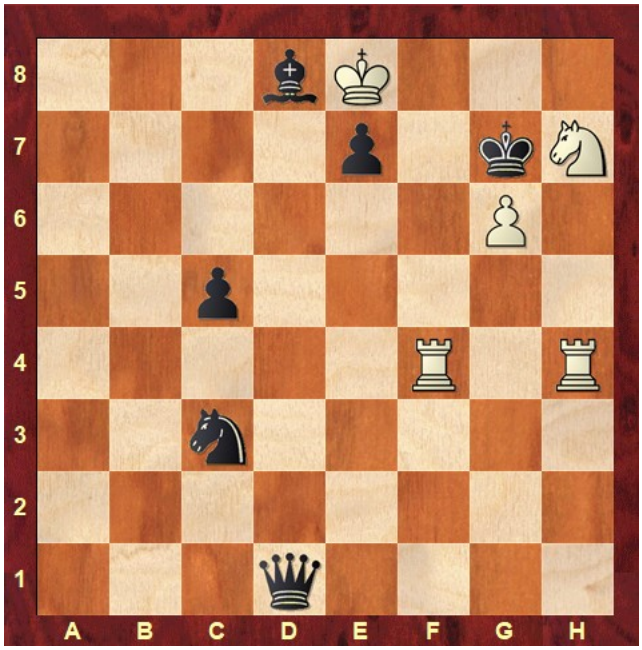
No. 2



Win
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
Schach 5/2018
No *award yet*

White must keep the pawn on g6 to create threats.
1.♘f8 **♘d5** [1...♘b5 2.♖h7+ ♔g8 3.♖h8+ ♔xh8 4.♘e6 with a deadly double threat.; After 1...♕d6 White has a long forced win: 2.♖f7+ ♔g8 3.g7 ♕c6+ 4.♘d7 ♕xd7+ 5.♔xd7 ♔xf7 6.♖g4 ♔g8 7.♔xd8 e5 8.♔e7 e4 9.♔f6 e3 10.♔g6 e2 11.♖f4 *(or 11.♖h4)* and mate on the next move. ; 1...♘e4 2.♘e6+ *(or 2.♖xe4)* ♔xg6 3.♖xe4 ♗a5 4.♔xe7]
2.♖h7+ **♔g8** **3.♖h8+!** **♔xh8** [3...♔g7 4.♘e6+ ♔xg6 *(4...♔xh8 5.♖f8#)* 5.♖g8+ ♔h7 6.♖g7+ ♔h6 7.♖h4++-]
4.♔f7 [Threat 5. g7#]
4...♕h5 [pin] **5.♖h4** [and counter pin]
5...♘f6 [5...♘f4 6.♘e6 ♗a5 7.♘xf4 ♕xh4 8.g7+ ♔h7 9.g8♕+ ♔h6 10.♕g6# *(10.♕g7#)*]

[The charged key position. White has to find the right plan. He wants to play ♘f8-d7 at the correct time. Now is too early, as Black responds 6. ♘d7 ♕xh4 7. g7+ ♔h7 8. ♘xf6 ♕xf6+]
6.♖h1! [Threatening 7. ♘d7 ♕xh1 8. g7+ ♔h7 9. ♘xf6+ ♔h6 10. g8=♕ and inescapable mate.]
[6.♖h2? Threatening 7. ♘d7 ♕xh2 8. g7+ ♔h7 9. ♘xf6+ ♔h6 10. ♘g4+ winning. Black defends with a surprising manoeuvre 6...♗c7 7.♖h1 ♗f4 8.♘d7 ♗h6 !;
6.♖h3 ? No threat. Black defends by 6...♗c7 *(6...♗b6; 6...♗a5)*]

6...e6! [Subtle defense, opening the line b7-f7 (but closing b3-f7)]
[6...e5 7.♖h2 with a quicker white win.]
7.♖h3! [White now threatens 8. ♘d7 ♕xh3 9. g7+ ♔h7 10. ♘xf6+ ♔h6 11. g8=♕, as Black has no check on b3.]
[7.♘d7? ♕xh1 8.g7+ ♔h7 9.♘xf6+ ♔h6 10.g8♕ ♕b7+! This was the point of 6...e6!]
7...e5! [Opening the line b3-f7 (but closing c7-h2)]
8.♖h2!
[8.♘d7? 8...♕xh3 9.g7+ ♔h7 10.♘xf6+ ♔h6 11.g8♕ ♕b3+]
8...e4 [8...♗a5 9.♘d7 ♕xh2 10.g7+ ♔h7 11.♘xf6+ ♔h6 12.♘g4+! *(12.g8♕?? ♕a2+);*8...♗c7 9.♘d7 e4 transfers; *)*]
9.♘d7 ♗c7 10.♖h1 [! Now this is (again) the right square, as Black will not have ♕b7+.]
[10.♖h3 ? 10...♕xh3 11.g7+ ♔h7 12.♘xf6+ ♔h6 13.g8♕ ♕b3+; 10.♘xf6? ♗xh2 11.♘xh5 ♗e5=]
10...♕xh1 11.g7+ ♔h7 12.♘xf6+ ♔h6 13.g8♕ [+- There is no defence against mate on g6 or g7.]
1-0

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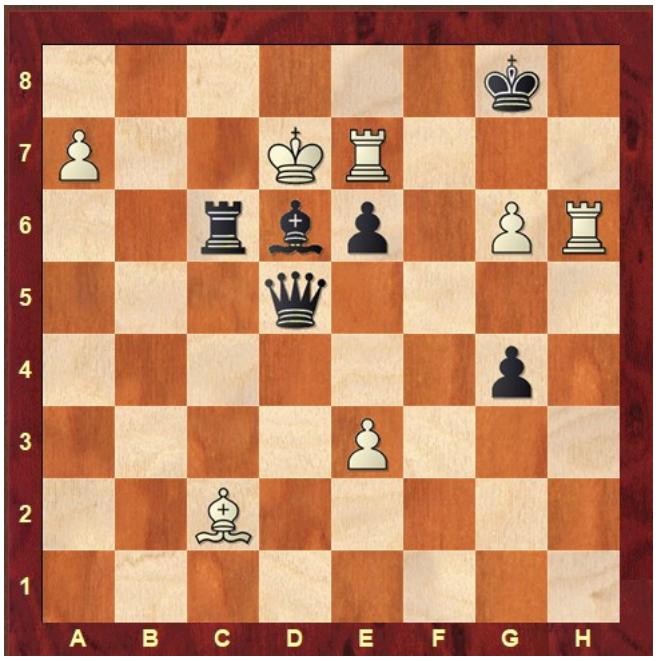
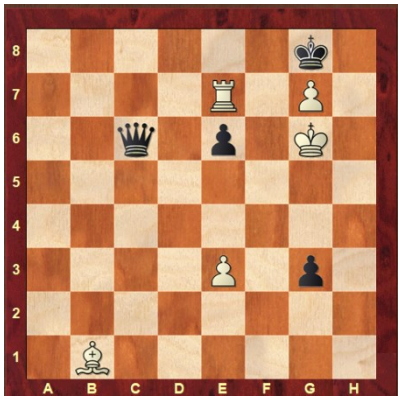
No. 3

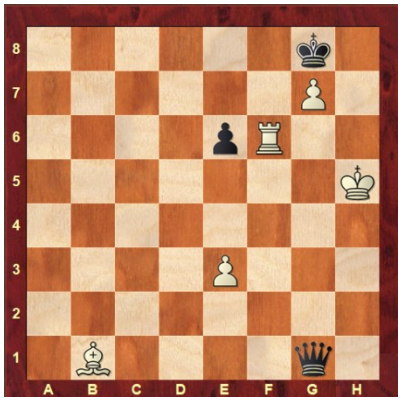


Win
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
Shakhmatnaya Kompositzia 2016
1st prize

[Initially all action is on the 8th rank. 9 out of the first 10 half moves are made there.]
1.♖h8+ [1.a8♕+ ? ♗b8+ 2.♔e8 ♖c8#. White must free f7 for his king]
1...♔xh8 2.a8♕+ ♗b8+ 3.♔e8 ♖c8+ [3...e5 4.g7+ ♔g8 5.♕b7]
4.♔f7 ♖f8+ [4...♕xa8 5.g7#]
5.♔xf8 ♕d8+ 6.♔f7 [6.♖e8 ♕f6#]
6...♕g8+ 7.♔f6 ♗e5+ [7...♕f8+ 8.♔xe6]
8.♔xe5 ♕xa8 [The Merry−go−round comes to a standstill. Time for a breath. White's advanced pawn gives him chances.]
9.g7+ ♔g8 10.♔f6 [White has various plans, for instance 11. ♖f7 followed by 12. ♖f8+ winning.]
10...♕f3+ [10...g3 11.♗e4! 11...♕d8 12.♗g6 g2 (12...♕xe7+ 13.♔xe7 g2 14.♔f6 g1♕ 15.♗f7+ ♔h7 16.g8♕+ ♕xg8 17.♗xg8++-) 13.♗f7+ ♔h7 14.g8♕+ ♕xg8 15.♗xg8+ ♔xg8 16.♖g7+; 10...♕c6 11.♗e4! *(11.♗b1 ♕b5! 12.♗e4 ♕h5)*]
11.♔g6 ♕c6 12.♗b1! [12. ♗e4? is not possible as Black takes with check. This was the point of 10...♕f3+.] [12.♗d3? e5+= White has no check on the a2-g8 diagonal.] [12. ♔h6? ♕h1+]
12...g3 [12...e5+ 13.♔g5 ♕a6 14.♗f5 *(or 14.♗c2 ♕b6 15.♗f5)* 14...g3 15.♗e6+ ♕xe6 16.♖xe6 g2 17.♔f6 g1♕ 18.♖e8++-; 12...♕b5 is now ineffective as White controls h5. White wins by for instance 13.♔h6]



13.♖f7! [Walking into the pin.]
13...♕e8 [13...e5+ 14.♖f6+-]
14.♔h6! [And abandoning the rook.]
14...g2 [14...♕xf7 15.♗h7#; 14...♔xf7 15.♗g6+ ♔g8 16.♗xe8 g2 17.♗d7 *(17.♗g6)*]
15.♖f6! [A precise choice of squares, foreseeing the sacrifices on h7 and g8.]
[15.♖f3?; 15.♖f4?; 15.♖f2?; 15.♖e7?; 15.♖d7?; 15.♖c7?; 15.♖b7?; 15.♖a7? are all met by 15...♕h5+]
15...♕h5+ [15...g1♕ 16.♗h7#]
16. ♔xh5 g1♕ [Finally everything becomes clear. Black is about to give that perpetual he has been hoping for.]



17.♗h7+! ♔xh7 18.g8♕+! ♕xg8 [18...♔xg8 19.♖g6+ ♕xg6+ 20.♔xg6+-]
19.♖h6+ ♔g7 20.♖g6+ ♔f7 21.♖xg8 ♔xg8 22.♔g6 ♔f8 23.♔f6 ♔e8 24.♔xe6 24. e4?? e5!=]
1-0

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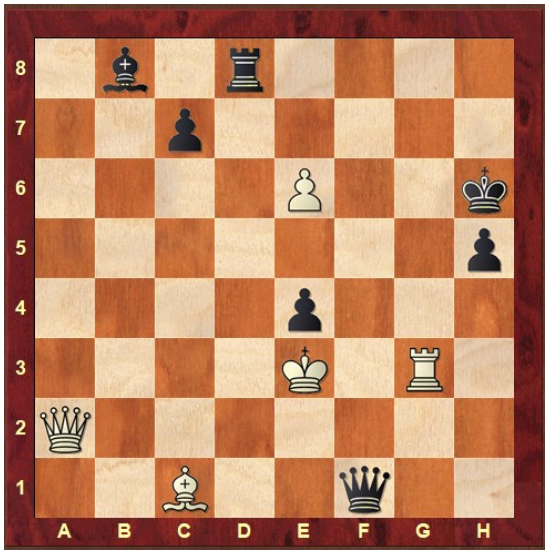
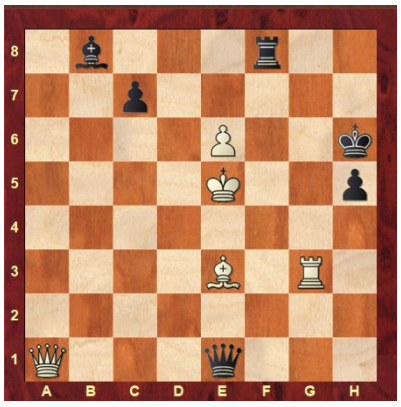
No. 4



Draw
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
Chessstar 2018
1st prize

At first some precision. White needs to find the right square for the queen, covering Bc1 as well as creating threats against the black king.
1.♕a1! [1.♕c2? ♕e1+ 2.♔f4 c6+! 3.♔f5+ ♔h7 4.♖g7+ ♔xg7 5.♕b2+ ♔g8 6.♔g6 ♕g3+ 7.♗g5 ♗e5 8.♕b7 ♗c7 9.♕b2 ♖d7 10.exd7 ♕d6+ 11.♔xh5 ♕xd7 12.♕f6 ♕f7+ 13.♕g6+ ♕xg6+ 14.♔xg6 ♗b6!-+ and Black keeps both his pawns.; 1.♕b2? ♕e1+ 2.♔f4 ♖f8+ 3.♔e5+ e3 4.♗xe3+ *(4.♖xe3 ♕a5+ 5.♔d4 ♗a7+)* 4...♔h7 5.♕c2+ ♔h8 6.♖h3 c6+ 7.♔e4 ♖f4+ 8.♔d3 ♕f1+ 9.♔d2 ♕g2+ 10.♔d3 ♕xh3-+; 1.♕a3? c5 2.♔xe4+ ♔h7 3.♕xc5 ♕e1+ 4.♖e3 ♕h1+ 5.♖f3 ♕h4+ 6.♖f4 ♕e1+ 7.♕e3 ♕b4+ 8.♔f3 ♗xf4]
[After 1. ♕a1 White is almost winning, but a non standard combination tips the scale in Black's favour.]
1...♕e1+ 2.♔f4 ♖f8+ 3.♔e5+ e3! [3...♔h7 4.♖g7+ ♔xg7 5.♗h6+ ♔xh6 6.♕xe1+- This variation shows why 1. ♕a1! was better than 1. ♕b2?]
4.♗xe3+ [4.♖xe3? c6+ 5.♔e4 ♖f4+ *(5...♕h1+)* 6.♔d3 ♕d1+]



4...♖f4!! 5.♕b2! [Try 5.♔xf4? ♕xa1 6.e7 ♕a4+ and White gets no time for 7. ♖g8.; 5.♕xe1? c6#; 5.♕a8? ♕a5+ *(5...♕a1+)* 6.♔xf4 ♕xa8 7.e7 ♕a4+]
5...♕c3+ 6.♔xf4 ♕xb2 7.e7 [Now, compared to the try 5. ♔xf4?, Black has no winning check on a4.]
[7.♔f5+? ♔h7−+]

7...♕h8 8.♔f5+ [Logical try 8.♔e4+? ♔h7 9.♖g7+ ♔xg7 *(9...♕xg7? 10.e8♕ ♕g6+ 11.♕xg6+ ♔xg6 12.♗f4!=)* 10.♗d4+ ♔f7 11.♗xh8 c6! and Black ends up with two extra pawns as White has not the possibility to play the king the g5.]
8...♔h7

9.♖g7+! ♔xg7 [9...♕xg7 10.e8♕=]
10.♗d4+ ♔f7 11.♗xh8 c5 [11...c6 12.♔g5= *(*or *12.e8♕+ ♔xe8 13.♔g5=)*]
12.♗f6 [12.♔g5? ♔xe7 13.♔xh5 ♔e6 14.♔g4 (14.♗c3 ♗e5 *(14...♔f5)*) 14...♗e5-+]
12...♗d6 [12...♗g3 eg 13.♗g5]
13.♔e4! ♗xe7

[In the end, White is saved by Black having the wrong bishop for the h1 square]
14.♗d4! cxd4 [14...c4 15.♔d5 h4 16.♔xc4 h3 17.♗g1 *(17.♗e5? ♔e6 18.♗h2 ♗d6-+)* 17...♔e6 (17...♔f6 18.♔d3 ♔g5 *(18...♗d6)*) 18.♔d3=]
15.♔xd4 h4 16.♔e3! [16.♔e4? h3 17.♔f3 ♗h4-+]
16...h3 17.♔f2 h2 18.♔g2=
½-½

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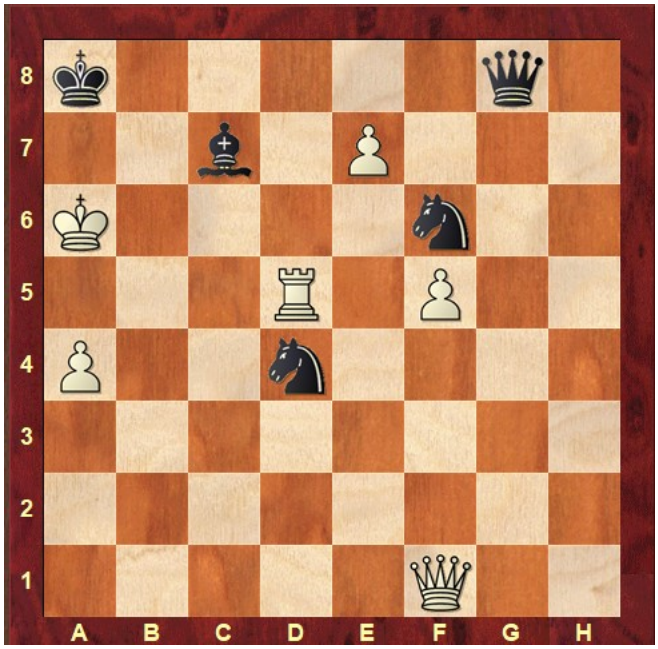
No. 5

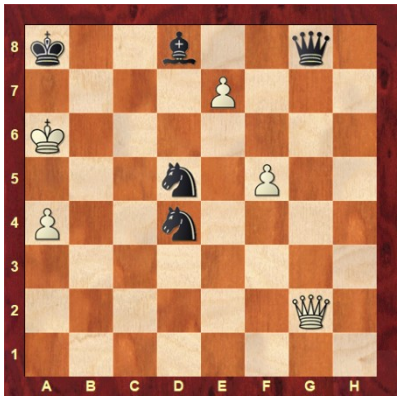


Draw
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
WCCT 10
6th Place

1.♖d8+ [1.♖xd4? ♕c8+ 2.♔b5 ♕b7+ 3.♔c4 ♕a6+]

1...♗xd8 2.♕h1+!!

[Not all queen sacrifices has to be played. Thematic try 2.♕g2+? ♘d5!



A position of mutual zugzwang. White is forced to create a disadvantageous block: 3.a5 (3. ♕xg8 ♘b4#; 3. f6 ♕e6#) ♔b8 4.exd8♕+ ♕xd8 5.♕b2+ ♔c7 6.♕xd4 ♘b4+ 7.♕xb4 ♕a8+ 8.♔b5 ♕c6# POSITION A]

2...♘d5 3.♕g2!

[But this queen sacrifice is correct. We have the same zugzwang position with Black to move.]

3...♔b8 [3...♕xg2 4.exd8♕#; 3...♗xe7 4.♕xg8+; 3...♘b3/3...♘c6 4.♕xg8]

4.exd8♕+ ♕xd8 5.♕b2+ ♔c7 6.♕xd4 ♘b4+ 7.♕xb4 ♕a8+ 8.♔b5 ♕c6+ [POSITION B] **9.♔a5 ½-½**

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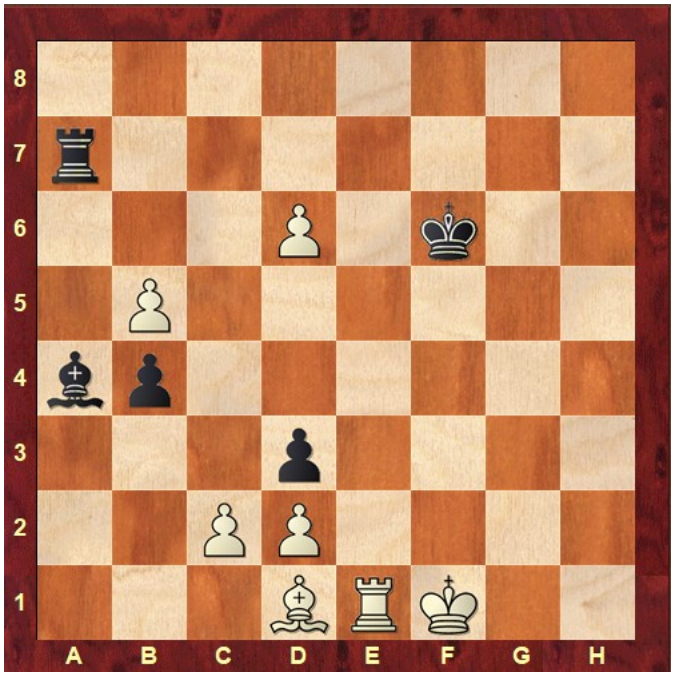
No. 6



Win
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen
Problemist of Ukraine, №4(54) 2017
No award yet
‘

At first, White needs to keep his material advantage.
1.c4 [Creating three dangerous passed pawns, forcing Black‘s answer.]
[1.c3? 1...♗xd1 2.♖xd1 ♔e6 3.♖b1 (3.cxb4 ♖a2 4.♔f2 ♖b2 5.♔e3 ♖xb4 6.♖h1 ♖xb5) 3...bxc3 4.dxc3 ♔xd6 = EGTB;
1.cxd3? ♗xb5]
1...bxc3 ep [1...♗xd1 2.♖xd1+−]
2.b6 Using the fact that the rook needs to cover the bishop. [After 2.♗xa4 Black draws by exchanging everything: 2...cxd2 [2...♖xa4? 3.dxc3] 3.♖e3 ♖xa4 4.♖xd3 ♖a1+ 5.♔e2 d1♕+! 6.♖xd1 ♖xd1 7.♔xd1 ♔e6=; 2.dxc3? d2]
2...♖h7! Black must go on the offensive.
3.b7!
[Too slow is 3.♗xa4? ♖h1+ 4.♔f2 ♖xe1 and a draw, as 5.♔xe1?? loses to 5...c2;
3.d7? with the same idea is met by 3...♗xd7;
3...cxd2!
[Threatening 4...Rh1+. After 3...♖xb7 White stabilizes like this: 4.♗xa4 cxd2 5.♖d1 ♖b4 6.♗e8 and 7. d7]
4.♖e7!
[4.♖e6+? allows Black to slip away narrowly. 4...♔xe6 5.♗g4+ ♔d5 6.♗f3+ ♔c4 7.b8♕ ♖f7 8.♕c8+ ♔b4 9.♕g4+ (9.♔g1 ♖xf3 10.♕g4+ ♔c3 11.♕xf3 d1♕+ =) 9...♔c3 10.♕xa4 (10.♔g2 ♖xf3 11.♕xf3 d1♕ 12.♕xd1 ♗xd1 13.d7 d2) 10...♖xf3+ 11.♔g2 ♖f7 (11...♖f4 =) ;
4.♖e8? 4...♖xb7=;
4.b8♕?? ♖h1+−+]
4...♗xd1
[4...♖h1+ 5.♔f2 +−; 4...♖h8 5.♗xa4 +−]
5.b8♕ ♗b3! It appears that White's threats to the Black king is not so serious. [5...♗e2+ 6.♔f2 d1♕ 7.♕f8+ (7.♕b2+)] 6.♕xb3 [6.♕f8+ ♗f7 (6...♔g6 =) ;
6.♖f7+!? ♗xf7 7.♕b2+ ♔e6 8.♕xd2 ♗g6 and Black holds the balance.]
6...d1♕+ 7.♕xd1 ♖h1+ 8.♔g2! [A key move, anticipating a Black knight promotion. After the

natural 8.♔f2? ♖xd1 9.♖e4 (or 9.♖e5 d2 with similar lines) 9...d2 10.♖d4 ♖a1 (10...♖b1; 10...♖h1) 11.d7 d1♘+! =]
8...♖xd1

9.♖e5! [This move secures that the black king is one move too late to support his pawn. [Try 9.♖e4? d2 (9...♖a1 10.d7 ♖a8 11.♖e8) 10.♖d4 ♔e5! 11.d7 ♔xd4 12.d8♕+ ♔c3 != In the resulting position, White's queen is unable to push the king off the pawn.
Another natural move 9.♖e3? is met by 9...♖d2+ 10.♔g3 ♖e2! 11.♖xd3 ♖e8=; and 9. ♖e8 by 9. d2 10. d7 ♖g1+=]
9...♔xe5
[9...d2 10.♖d5 ♖b1 11.d7 d1♕ 12.d8♕+; 9...♖b1 10.d7 ♖b8 11.♖e8; 9...♖d2+ 10.♔f3 (10.♔g3) 10...♔xe5 11.d7+−]
10.d7 ♔e4
[10...d2 11.d8♕+− The pawn will quickly drop.]
11.d8♕+− 1−0