

Section H: Retros

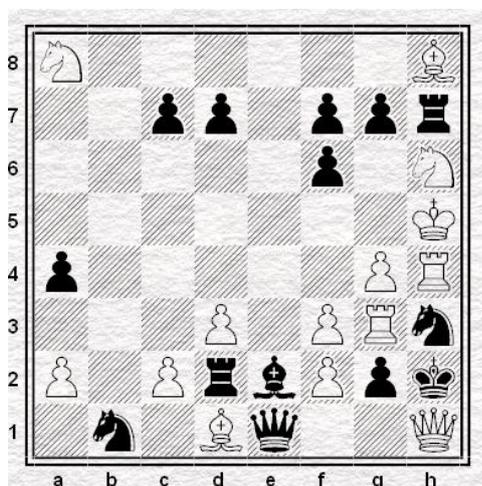
Entries from Andrey Frolkin (Kiev, Ukraine)

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1.

7th FIDE World Cup in Composing

1st Prize



14+14 Release the position

The balances are closed; the cage is released through e7xf6; the black dark-squared bishop was captured by the white b-pawn, which was promoted on a8.

First we retract -1.Qf1-h1+.

Then we present the main plan.

-1...b2-b1=S -2.a7-a8=S b3-b2 -3.a6-a7 b4-b3 -4.a5-a6 b5-b4 -6.b4xBa5 Bb6-a5 -7.b3-b4 Bc5-b6 (or -6...b6-b5 -7.b3-b4 Bb4-a5 -8.b2-b3 Bf8-b4, but this dual is unessential) -8.b2-b3 Bf8-c5 and at this point -9.Kg5-h5 would release the position, but this retromove fails in view of illegal double check – the black Sh3 provides an extra guard of the g5-square (obstacle).

The obstacle is removed with the help of a foreplan.

Retract: -1...Sc3-b1 -2.Sb6-a8 Se4-c3 -3.Sd5-b6 Sd6-e4 -4.Sf4-d5 Sg5-h3 (-4...Sg1-h3? -5.Sh3-f4+ Sf5-d6 -6.Sg8-h6 Sh6-f5 -7.Se7-g8 Kh1-h2 – no black piece is available for unpromotion on b1) -5.Sh3-f4+ Sf5-d6 -6.Sg8-h6 Sh6-f5+ -7.Se7-g8 Se4-g5 -8.Sd5-e7 Sc3-e4 -9.Sb6-d5 Sb1-c3 -10.Sa8-b6 and now the main plan works: -10...b2-b1=S -11.a7-a8=S b3-b2 -12.a6-a7 b4-b3 -13.a5-a6 b5-b4 -14.b4xBa5 Bb6-a5 -15.b3-b4 Bc5-b6 -16.b2-b3 Bf8-c5 and finally -17.Kg5-h5 e7xB/Sf6+.

There are not enough moves for Sh3 to get to h6 or for Sh6 to get to h3; the promoted knights are replaced with original ones (pseudo-anti-Pronkin theme).

Most likely, this is the first-ever cage-based retro with “logical play” (a clear main plan and a clear foreplan).

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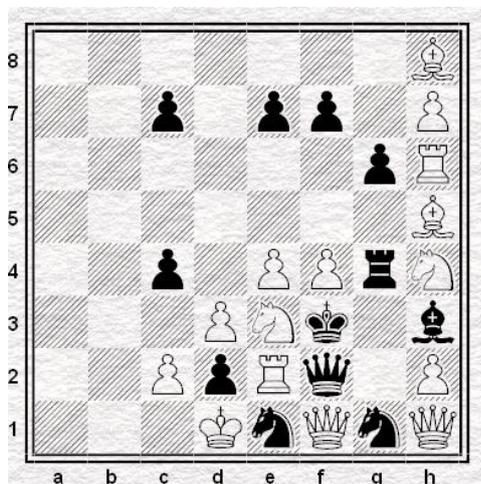
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2.

5th FIDE World Cup in Composing

3rd Prize



15+12 First move by the black a-pawn?

White balance: $15 + 1 (bxc) = 16$.

Black balance: $12 + 3 (e2xd3, dxe, gxPh) + 1$ (either $axb>b8$ and $a7>a1$ or capture of bPa on its original file followed by $a2>a8$; in both cases, also $b2>b8$) = 16.

On we go. It appears that the cage can only be released through $g7-g6$; this must be preceded by the return of the black dark-squared bishop to $f8$; the bishop can only be uncaptured on the b -file; hence the white a -pawn was promoted on $b8$ and its black counterpart on $a1$ (Kislyak theme).

Retract: $-1.Sg2-h4++$ and now there are two ways for Black to continue.

$-1...Rg5-g4 -2.Sg4-e3+ Ra5-g5 -3.Bb2-h8 Ra4-a5 -4.Bc1-b2 Ra1-a4 -5.Ba3-c1 a2-a1=R+ -6.Bc5-a3 a3-a2 -7.Ba7-c5 a4-a3 -8.Bb8-a7 a5-a4 -9.b7-b8=B a6-a5 -10.b6-b7 a7-a6!$ ($c5-c4?$) The black $Pc4$ cannot be retracted to $c6$ because the white dark-squared bishop was captured through $b6xBc5$. $-11.a5xBb6 Bd4-b6 -12.a4-a5 Bg7-d4 -13.a3-a4 Bf8-g7 -14.a2-a3$ (or $e3-e4$) $-14...g7-g6 -15.Bg6-h5$ and the position is released – in particular $-15...Q~f2 -16.Sf2-g4+$ is possible.

$-1...c5-c4 -2.Bd4-h8 c6-c5 -3.Sc4-e3 Qh4-f2 -4.Bf2-d4+ Qf6-h4 -5.Sa5-c4 Qe5-f6 -6.Sb3-a5 Qb2-e5 -7.Sc1-b3! Qa1-b2 -8.Sb3-c1 a2-a1=Q+ -9.Sc5-b3 a3-a2 -10.Sa6-c5 a4-a3 -11.Sb8-a6 a5-a4 -12.b7-b8=S a6-a5 -13.b6-b7 a7-a6! -14.a5xBb6 Bd4-b6 -15.a4-a5 Bg7-d4 -16.a3-a4 Bf8-g7 -17.a2-a3 (e3-e4) g7-g6 -18.Bg6-h5$ and the cage is released.

Two lines of play (so-called variation retroanalysis), two different shieldings by promoted pieces on $c1$ against checks by promoted pieces (such doubling has never been presented before), AUW, and one answer to the question in the stipulation: the last move by the bPa was $a7-a6$.

WCCI 2016-2018

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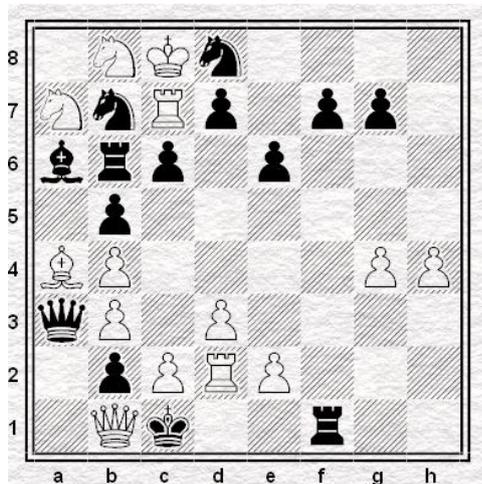
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3.

StrateGems 2016 1st Prize

SG74 April-June 2016 R0253

Correction: SG 82, page 61



14 + 14 What were the captures?

Each of the sides made one capture with a pawn on the queenside. The story of the wPf and the bPh is unclear. If wPf6xe7>e8, then bPhxg>g1. Alternatively, both these pawns could have been captured on their files. Another alternative consists in bPhxwPg, wPfxbPg.

In any case, the upper cage requires the home-coming of the black dark-squared bishop (to f8) for release. The bottom cage requires a shield on b1 to be released if its unlocking precedes that of the upper cage.

Retract: -1.Qa2-b1+ R~ -2.g3-g4 R~ -3.f2xBg3 Bd6-g3 -4.h3-h4 Bf8-d6 -5.h2-h3 e7-e6 –
retrostalemate for White.

-1...Rg1-f1 -2.h3-h4 g2-g1=R -3.h2-h3 h3xQ/Sg2 ... -7...h7-h6 -8.e7-e8=Q/S –
retrostalemate for Black.

**-3...h3xSg2 -4.Se3(f4)-g2 h4-h3 -5.Sd5-e3(f4) h5-h4 -6.Sc3-d5 h6-h5 -7.Sb1-c3 h7-h6 -8.Qa1-a2
Qa2-a3 -9.g3-g4! a3xBb2 -10.B~-b2+ Qb2-a2** and the bottom cage is released.

Later: a3xBb4, e7-e8=S, f6xRe7, Re7>g8(h8), B>f8, e7-e6 and the upper cage is released.

Successive release of two cages with the same key piece (white knight): first it helps unlock the bottom cage by acting as a shield and then it helps dismantle the upper cage due to unpromotion and uncapture; it should be noted that the piece that is eventually uncaptured by the white f-pawn on e7 is not the black dark-squared bishop as in the try based on 3.f2xBg3, but the black queenside rook (change of crucial uncapture by the same key piece between try and solution).

Extra try: -1.Qa2-b1+ R~ -2.f3xSg4? Se3-g4 -3.f2-f3 Sd5-e3 -4.h3-h4 Sc3-d5 -5.h2-h3 Sb1-c3 -
6.Qa1-a2 Qa2-a3 -7.a3xBb4?? – illegal cluster in the bottom left corner; White now misses the
decisive tempo.

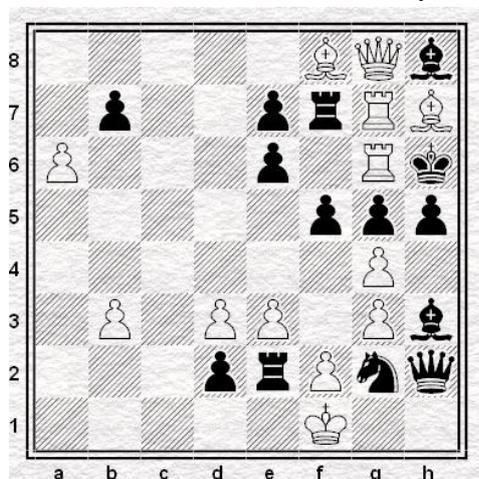
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4.

Die Schwalbe Heft 289 February 2018 page 407 No. 17033V



13+14 Sequence of uncaptures?

Black balance: $14 + 2$ (hxg, Rxg6+) = 16.

White balance: 13 (pieces on the board) + 3 (a3xb2>b1, c3xd2, d7xe6) = 16.

Retract: 1.Rf6xSg6# Se5-g6 (Sf4-g6 is also possible) 2.Bg6-h7+ Sc4-e5 3.a5-a6 Sa3-c4 4.a4-a5 Sb1-a3 5.a3-a4 b2-b1=S 6.a2-a3 a3xSb2 (5...a3xQ/Rb2? ... 8.c7-c8=Q/R results in retrostalemate for Black) 7.Sc4-b2 a4-a3 8.Se5-c4 a5-a4 9.Sf3-e5 a6/a7-a5 10.Sg1-f3 Qh1-h2 11.h2xSg3 Se4-g3+ 12.g3-g4 Bg4-h3 13.b2-b3 Sf4-g2 14.Sh3-g1 Qf3-h1+; then Re2>a8(b8), Sh3>c8, c7-c8=S, Bg4>c8, **d7xSe6**; then the white rooks are retracted to the 1st rank; finally, c2-c4 and **c3xSd2**.
Sequence of uncaptures: Rf6xSg6#; a3xSb2; h2xSg3; d7xSe6; c3xSd2.

At the expense of a series of unique retromoves at the beginning of retroplay, a sequence of 5 uncaptures of knights is achieved; two of the knights are promoted ones.

WCCI 2016-2018

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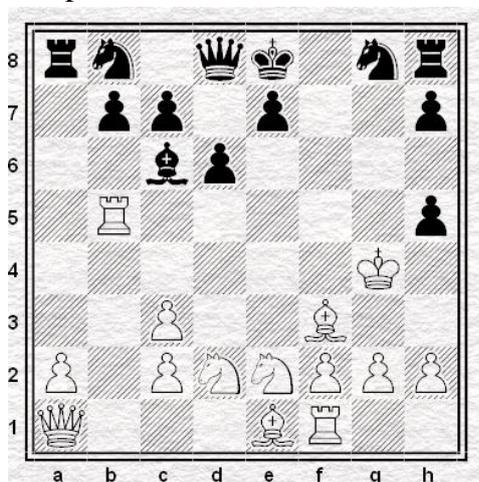
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5.

WCCT-10, Section H

11th place



14+13 SPG in 20.0 moves C+

1.e4 d6 2.e5 Qd7 3.e6 Kd8 4.exf7 Qe8 5.fxe8=B a5 6.Bh5 g6 7.Ke2 Bg7 8.Kf3 Bc3 9.dxc3 a4
10.Bd2 a3 11.Be1 axb2 12.Sd2 b1=Q 13.Be2 Qb5 14.Rb1 Qe8 15.Rb5 Bd7 16.Qa1 Bc6+ 17.Kg4
Kd7 18.Bf3 Qd8 19.Se2 Ke8 20.Rf1 gxh5+

Moving counterclockwise in the d8-d7-e8 triangle, the black king exchanges places first with the original black queen and then with a promoted one. The last move of the solution eliminates a promoted bishop. In the diagram position nothing hints at the previous black king-and-queen ‘waltzing.’

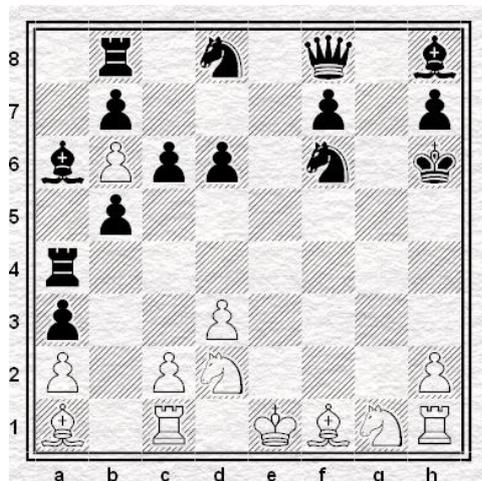
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6.

Die Schwalbe Heft 281 October 2016 page 618 No. 16860



12+15 SPG in 23.5 moves C+

- 1.Pf2-f4 Pa7-a5 2.Pf4-f5 Pa5-a4 3.Pf5-f6 Pa4-a3
- 4.Pf6xg7 Sg8-f6 5.Pg7-g8=Q Ra8-a4 6.Qg8-g3 Bf8-g7
- 7.Qg3-d6 O-O 8.Pg2-g4 Bg7-h8 9.Pg4-g5 Kg8-g7
- 10.Pg5-g6 Kg7-h6 11.Pg6-g7 Pe7xd6 12.Pg7-g8=Q Qd8-e7
- 13.Qg8-g2 Rf8-d8 14.Qg2-c6 Pd7xc6 15.Pb2-b4 Bc8-g4
- 16.Pb4-b5 Bg4xe2 17.Pb5-b6 Be2-a6 18.Qd1-e2 Qe7-f8
- 19.Qe2-b5 Pc6xb5 20.Bc1-b2 Sb8-c6 21.Pd2-d3 Rd8-b8
- 22.Sb1-d2 Sc6-d8 23.Ra1-c1 Pc7-c6 24.Bb2-a1

WCCT-10 theme. The black Rh8 exchanges places consecutively with three black pieces: bishop, queen, and knight; this is accompanied by capture of two white promoted queens. Also, the white Ra1 exchanges places with the wBc1.