



## 6<sup>th</sup> Composing Tourney of FRME,2020

### Section - Endgame Studies

#### Final award

**Organizers:** The Royal Moroccan Chess Federation (FRME).

**Tournament director:** Vidadi Zamanov (Goychay,Azerbaijan).

**Judge:** Yochanan Afek ( Amsterdam,Netherlands).

**Award publication:** <http://frme.fr.nf>

73 study from 30 authors 16 countries: **Austria** -Peter Krug (№4\*, №27\*), **Argentina** -Mario G. García (№4\*, №27\*) **Bulgaria**- Ognian Dimitrov (№17, №18, №19, №20), **Czech Republic**- Stanislav Nosek (№24), **Denmark**- Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (№3), Poul Rewitz (№69), **France**-Daniel Keith ( №10\*, №34\*),Marcel Dore (№46), **Germany** -Martin Minski (№5\*), **Hungary** -János Mikitovics (№12),**Israel**- Amatzia Avni ( №5\*, №42, №65\*), Michael Pisman (№35), **Italy**-Daniele Gatti ( №9\*, №21, №22, №23, №25, №31, №32, №33, №45, №47, №48, №49, №50, №51, №52, №57, №58, №59, №60, №61, №62, №63, №64), Marco Campioli (№8, №9\*,№11, №13, №14, №15, №16, №39, №40, №41, №43, №44), Franco Bertoli ( №54, №55, №56), Jan Sprenger (№72, №73), **Norway**- Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (№37, №38), **Russia** -Valery Kalashnikov (№6, №7), Pavel Arestov (№10\*, №29\*, №34\*, Vladimir Bulanov (№28), Alexey Popov (№70), Petr Kiryakov (№29\*), Yuri Bazlov (№67), **Slovakia** -Lubos Kekely (№1\*,№2\*, №71\*), Michal Hlinka ( №1\*, №2\*, №71\*), **Spain**- Luis Miguel González (№66), **Ukraine** -Vladislav Tarasiuk (№30, №36, №65\*), Sergiy Didukh (№68), USA-Christopher Yoo (№26), Richard Becker (№53)

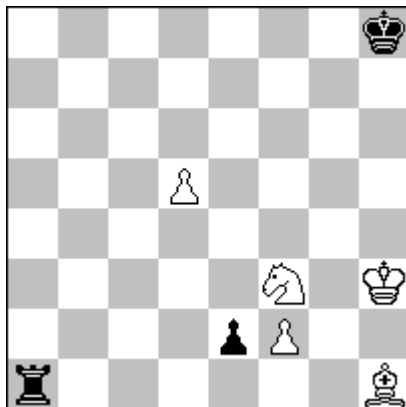
I received from tourney director **Vidadi Zamanov** 73 study entries on anonymous diagrams. I thank all participants for their well appreciated artistic efforts. Following a preliminary selection, I was left with 26 candidates on which I consulted **Gady Costeff** for their soundness and originality. I am grateful for his kind assistance.

Though the average level of the entire field was not very high,I find the award still presenting a fine and varied selection. The prize winners, as well as a number of other awardees, introduce quite an unusually fresh variety of vivid and daring concepts. Here are my suggested rankings to the final 16 qualifiers:

### 3. Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



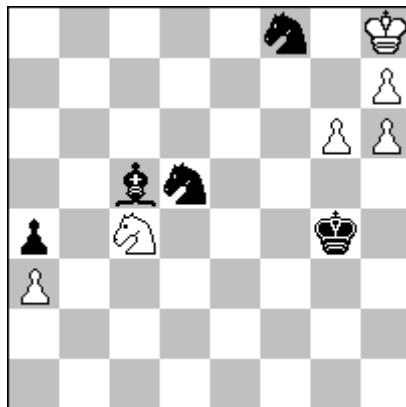
Draw

(5+3)

### 34. P.Arestov & D.Keith

6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize



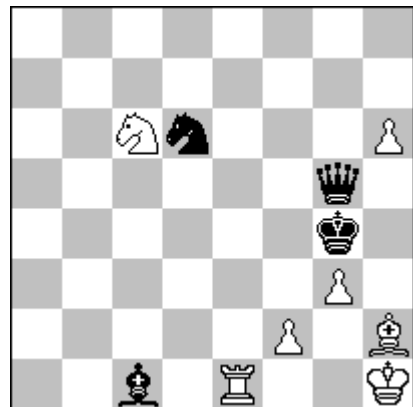
Win

(6+5)

### 65. A.Avni & V.Tarasiuk

6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize



Draw

(7+4)

### №3. Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark) 1<sup>st</sup> Prize.

**1.Kg2!** Blocking in the bishop. Black was threatening both 1...Rxf1 and 1...Ra3. Ideally White would like to play Kh2, Bg2 and Bh3 slowly freeing his forces, but the following line shows why Kh2 fails. [Thematic try: 1.Kh2? Rf1 2.Bg2 (2.Kg2 Kg7-+) 2...Rxf2 3.Ne1 Rf1 4.Nd3 Rd1 5.Kg3 Rxd3+ 6.Kf2 Rg3!! 7.Be4 Re3-+ (7...e1Q+-+) ] **1...Rd1 2.d6!!** [Thematic Try: 2.Kh2? Rf1! 3.Bg2 (3.Kg2 Kg7-+) 3...Rxf2 4.Ne1 Rf1 5.Nd3 Rd1 6.Kg3 Rxd3+ 7.Kf2 Rg3!!-+] **2...Rxd6** White has lost the pawn on d5 for no obvious compensation. **3.Kh2!** [3.Ne1? Rd1 4.Nf3 Rf1-+; 3.Kg1? Rd3 4.Ne1 Rd1-+] **3...Rd3 4.Ne1 Rd1 5.Nf3 Rf1 6.Bg2! Rxf2 7.Ne1 Rf1 8.Nd3 Rd1 9.Kg3! Rxd3+ 10.Kf2 Re3 11.Ke1=** ½-½. The deepest and most original and crystal-clear concept in the entire field! To gain a draw White must predict a black rook sacrifice on g3 on move 10 and find a way to defend against it. The crucial decision must be taken already on the first move however the entire process still should be handled with utmost precision. A super logical study!

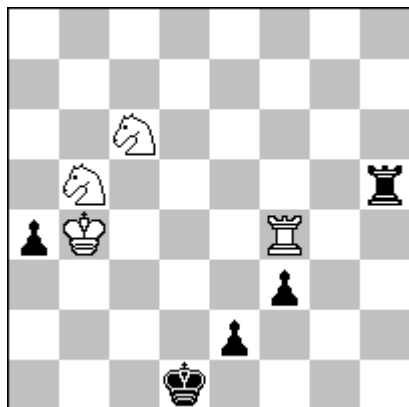
### №34. Pavel Arestov & Daniel Keith (Russia/France) 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize.

**1.Ne5+!** No.1 [1.g7? Bd4 2.Kg8 Nxf7 3.Kxh7 Kh5! 4.g8Q Nf6+=] **1...Kf5 2.g7 Ng6+! 3.Nxg6 Bd4! 4.Ne5!** No.2 [4.Kg8? Kxg6 5.h8N+ Kxh6 6.Nf7+ Kg6 7.Nh8+ Kf5 8.Kf7 Bxg7 9.Kxg7 Nb6-+] **4...Bxe5 5.Kg8 Kg6 6.h8N+!** [6.h8Q? Nf6+ 7.Kf8 Bd6#] **6...Kf6** [6...Kxh6 7.Nf7+-] **7.Nf7 Bb2** [7...Ne7+ 8.Kf8 Bf4 9.g8N+! (9.g8Q? Bxh6+! 10.Nxh6 Nxg8 11.Nxg8+ Ke5=) 9...Nxg8 10.h7!+-] **8.Kh7 Ke6!** [8...Ne7 9.g8Q+-] **9.Ne5!!** No.3 **9...Kxe5** [9...Bxe5 10.g8Q+-] **10.Kg6 Ne7+ 11.Kf7 Nf5 12.h7 1-0.** Same piece same square: Along the main line a white knight moves 3 times to e5 and twice it is sacrificed there: First luring the enemy Bishop to allow a future promoted knight a tempo to attack the Bishop. The newborn knight is then given away on the very same square to shut off the diagonal and secure a final decisive promotion. An original and neat presentation of the Phoenix theme with the thematic moves being the only captures along the main line. The counter play by the black knights and the appearance of an even third white knight after 7...Ne7+ turns this study to a fascinating cavalry celebration.

### №65. Amatzia Avni & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Israel/Ukraine) 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize.

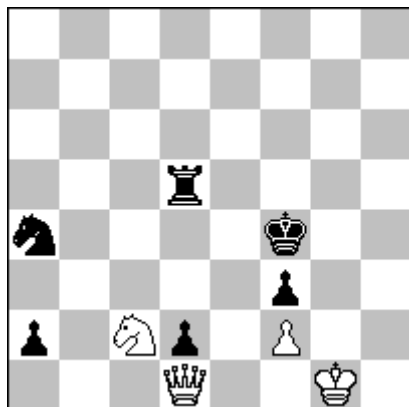
**1.f3+** [1.Ne5+ Kh3 2.h7 Qh5-+] **1...Kh3** [1...Kxf3 2.Ne5+ Kf2 3.Nd3+ Kf3 4.Ne5+=] **2.Re5 Nf5** [2...Qxh6 3.Nd4! Be3 4.Ne2 Nc4 5.Rxe3 Qxe3 6.Ng1+=] **3.h7 Nxg3+ 4.Bxg3 Qf6 5.Bf4!!** [5.Rf5? Qh6 6.Be1 Qxh7-+; 5.Rh5+ Kxg3 6.h8Q Qxf3+-+] **5...Qh4! 6.Ne7! Qxh7 7.Ng6!! Bxf4** [7...Qxg6 8.Rg5 Qf7 9.Rg3+ Kh4 10.Rg4+ Kh5 11.Rg5+ Kh4 12.Rg4+ Kh3 13.Rg3+ Kh4 14.Rg4+ Perpetual check] **8.Rh5+! Qxh5 9.Nxf4+-** ½-½. In a seemingly hopeless initial position, both materially and positionally, heroic battle of quiet tactical blows and stunning neat sacrifices out of nowhere, eventually rescues White, by a hair, from the mighty royal couple. High tension is maintained all the way through.

### 71. L.Kekely & M.Hlinka 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Prize



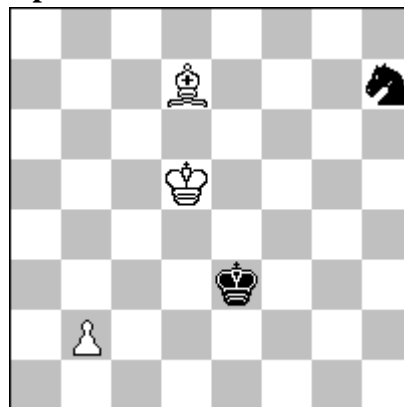
Draw (4+5)

### 68. Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 5<sup>th</sup> Prize



Draw (4+6)

### 30. Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 Special Prize



Win (3+2)

### №71. Lubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka (Slovakia) 4<sup>th</sup> Prize.

**1.Nc3+ Kc1! 2.Re4 Rh4! 3.Rxh4 e1Q 4.Rh2!** [4.Rf4? a3! 5.Rxf3 a2-+] **4...f2** [4...Qg1 5.Na2+ Kd1 6.Nc3+ Ke1 7.Ne5 Qd4+ 8.Nc4 f2 9.Rh1+ f1Q 10.Rxf1+ Kxf1 11.Nxa4=] **5.Nd4!** [5.Rxf2? Qxf2 6.Nxa4 Qd2+ 7.Kb5 Qd3+ 8.Kb4 Qb1+ 9.Kc4 Qc2+ 10.Kb5 Qb3+ 11.Nb4 Kd2] **5...Qe3** [5...a3 6.Kb3 Qxc3+ 7.Kxc3 f1Q 8.Nb3+ Kd1 9.Ra2=] **6.Rh1+**

**Qe1 7.Rh2!** Switchback [7.Rxe1+ fxe1Q 8.Kxa4 Qe8+—+] **7...Qe7+ 8.Kxa4** [8.Ka5? Qa7+—+] **8...Qa7+ 9.Kb3 Qb8+ 10.Ka3 Qb2+** [10...Qxh2 11.Nce2+ Kd2 12.Nf3+ Kxe2 13.Nxh2=] **11.Ka4 f1Q 12.Rxb2 Kxb2 13.Nce2!** [13.Ncb5? Qe1 14.Nf5 Qd1+ 15.Ka5 Qd2+ 16.Ka6 Kb3—+] **13...Qf7** [13...Qg2] **14.Kb5!** [14.Kb4? Qd5 ZZ 15.Nb5 Kc2 16.Nec3 Qb3+—+] **14...Qd5+** [14...Qg8 15.Kc5!]=] **15.Kb4!** ZZ **15...Qe5 16.Kc4 Qa5 17.Kd3** [17.Nb5? Qa4+ 18.Kc5 Qc2+ 19.Nbc3 Qh7—+]  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ . A rook and a knight pair encounter an advanced pawn pair by letting them both to promote. This somewhat unusual scenario ends up in a positional draw where the knights hold their own against a queen, maintaining the fortress by only King moves, comprehensive to the human mind too.

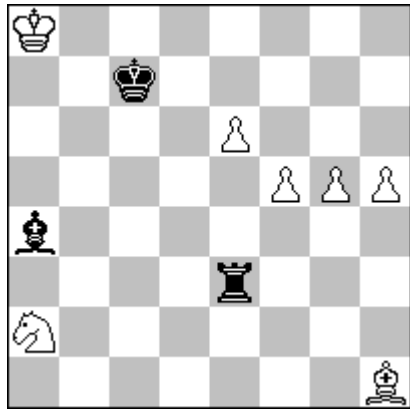
**№68. Sergiy Didukh (Ukraine) 5<sup>th</sup>Prize.**

**1.Ne3 Rg5+ 2.Ng2+!!** [2.Kh2? Nc3 3.Qxd2 Rh5+ 4.Kg1 Ne2+!—+ (4...a1Q+? 5.Nf1+ Ke5 6.Qd5+ Kxd5 Stalemate!)] **2...Rxc2+ 3.Kf1!** [3.Kh1? Rxf2!—+ (3...a1Q? 4.Qxa1 Nc3 5.Qa4+! Nxa4 Stalemate!)] **3...a1Q! 4.Qxa1 Rxf2+** [4...Nc3 5.Qa4+! Nxa4 Stalemate!] **5.Kg1!!** [5.Kxf2? Nc3 ZZ 6.Qxc3 (6.Qh1 Ne4+) 6...d1N+—+] **5...Nc3 6.Kxf2 ZZ 6...d1Q 7.Qc1+! Kg4 8.Qf4+! Kxf4** Stalemate!  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ . A daring sacrificial encounter for and against stalemate highlighted by the capture refusal on the fifth move owing to reciprocal Zugzwang.

**№30. Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine) Special Prize.**

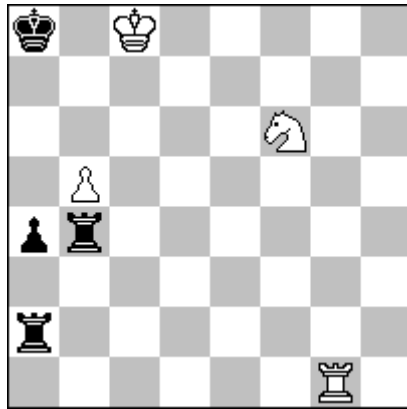
**1.b4** [1.Bc6? Ng5! 2.b4 Ne4 3.Kc4 Nd2+ 4.Kc3 Nb1+ 5.Kc2 Nd2! 6.Kc3 Nb1+=] **1...Nf6+ 2.Kc6 Kd4 3.Bh3!!** [3.Be6? Ne4 4.b5 Nc5 5.Bg8 Na4 6.Bb3 Nc5 7.Bd1 Kc4 8.Be2+ Kb4=] **3...Nd5** [3...Ke5 4.b5 Nd5 5.Bg2] **4.b5 Ne7+ 5.Kd6 Nd5 6.Bf5!!** [Thematic try: 6.Bg4? Kc4 7.Be2+ Kd4 ZZ WTM 8.Bf1 Nb6 9.Kc6 Na4 10.Be2 Kc3 11.Bd1 Nb2! positional draw.] **6...Kc4 7.Bd3+! Kd4 8.Be2!** zzbtm [Thematic try: 8.Bf1? Nb6 9.Kc6 Na4 see the afore-mentioned thematic try.] **8...Nb6 9.Kc6 Na4!** [9...Nd5 10.Bf3 Ne7+ 11.Kc7+—] **10.Bd1 Nb2** Position x with bk on d4 **11.Bb3!** [11.b6? Nc4 12.b7 Na5+=] **11...Kc3 12.b6!+- 1–0**. A well-constructed Maljutka (Russian for a 5-piece baby-study) in classical style displaying a subtle struggle to secure promotion eventually decided by reciprocal Zugzwang. The only “real conservative” study among the prize-winners is special.

**70. Alexey Popov (Russia) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention**



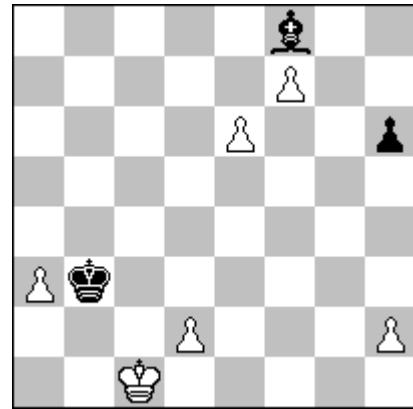
**Win (7+3)**

**53. Richard Becker (USA) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention**



**Draw (4+4)**

**25. Daniele Gatti (Italy) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention**



**Win (6+3)**

**№70. Alexey Popov(Russia) 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention.**

**1.Nb4 Bc6+! 2.Nxc6 Ra3+ 3.Na7 Rb3 4.Bb7! Rxb7 5.Nc6! Kxc6 6.f6 Kc7 7.e7 Rb5! 8.e8N+! Kd7 9.g6! Kxe8 10.h6 Kd7 11.Ka7 Kc7 12.Ka6+- 1–0**. The white galloping quartet on the Kingside is ready to march on however the immediate dangerous counter assault on the other side of the board should not be ignored. The Phoenix theme is employed here once again to decide a sharp and bloody battle.

**№53. Richard Becker (USA) 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention.**

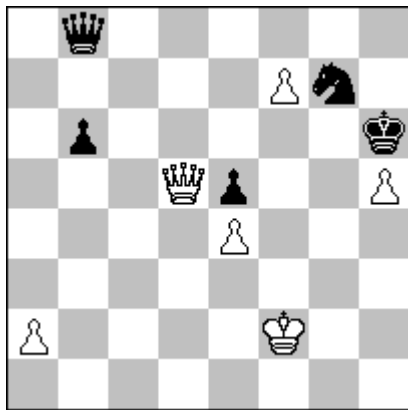
**1.Nd5** [1.Ne8? Ka7=] **1...Rg4** [1...Rc4+ 2.Nc7+ Ka7 3.Rh6=] **2.Rh6** [2.Rc1? Rd2—+; 2.Kc7? Rc2+ 3.Kb6 Rg6+ 4.Ka5 a3—+] **2...Rg8+ 3.Kd7!** [3.Kc7? Rc2+ 4.Kb6 a3 5.Rh7 Rg6+—+] **3...Rg7+** [3...Rd2 4.Ra6+ Kb7 5.Rb6+=] **4.Kc6 Rc2+ 5.Kb6 Rb7+ 6.Ka6!** [6.Ka5? a3 7.Rh8+ Rb8 8.Rh7 a2 9.Nb6+ Rxb6 10.Kxb6 a1Q—+] **6...Ra7+ 7.Kb6 Rc8 8.Rh3! a3 9.Nc7+! Raxc7** [9...Kb8 10.Na6+=] **10.Rxa3+ Kb8 11.Ra7! Rxa7** Stalemate! [11...Rc1 12.Rb7+ Ka8 13.Ra7+=]  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$

White, an exchange down, saves the day by creating sharp threats against the cornered enemy king. The highlight of the battle is a knight sacrifice after which Black, by now a rook ahead, is faced with a choice between either perpetual check or stalemate.

**№25. Daniele Gatti (Italy) 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention.**

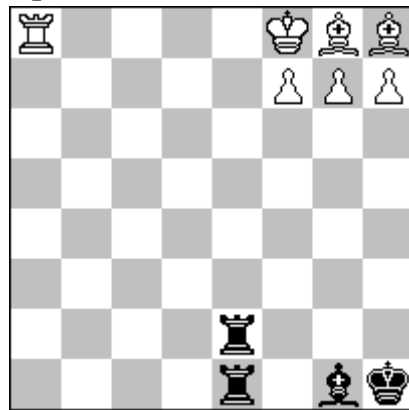
**1.a4!** [1.Kd1? Bxa3! 2.Ke2 Kc4! 3.Ke3 Kd5! 4.Kf4 Kxe6=] **1...Kxa4 2.Kc2 h5! 3.h4!** [3.Kd3? h4! 4.Ke4 Kb4! 5.d4 Kb5 6.Ke5 Kc6! 7.d5+ Kc5! 8.d6 Bg7+! (8...Bxd6+? 9.Kf6! Bf8 10.e7+-) 9.Kf5 Kxd6 10.Kg6 Bf8=] **3...Kb4 4.Kd3 Kc5 5.Ke4 Kd6 6.Kf5 Ke7 7.d3!! ZZ** [7.d4? Bg7 8.Kg6 Bf8 9.Kxh5 Kf6 10.d5 Kf5! ZZ] **7...Bg7** [7...Kd6 8.Kf6 Be7+ 9.Kg7 Kxe6 10.f8Q Bxf8+ 11.Kxf8 Kd5 12.Kf7 Kd4 13.Kg6 Kxd3 14.Kxh5 Ke4 15.Kg6 Kf4 16.h5+-] **8.Kg6 Bf8 9.Kxh5 Kf6 10.d4! Kf5 11.d5! ZZ 11...Be7** [11...Kf6 12.Kg4+-] **12.Kh6 Bf8+ 13.Kh7+- 1-0** A fine manifestation of a Festina Lente motivated by reciprocal Zugzwang which makes the difference between a long try and a tempo longer solution.

**66. Luis Miguel González (Spain) 4<sup>th</sup> Honorable Mention**



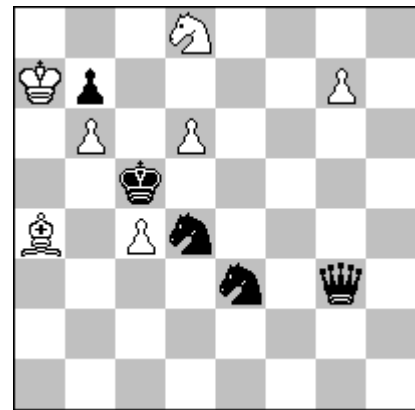
**Win (6+5)**

**48. Daniele Gatti (Italy) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 Special Honorable Mention**



**Draw (7+4)**

**35. Michael Pasman (Israel) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Commendation**



**Draw (7+5)**

**№66. Luis Miguel González (Spain) 4<sup>th</sup> Honorable Mention.**

**1.Qc6+ Kxh5 2.Qf6 Qf8 3.Kf1!!** White must retreat his King to win! [3.Ke2? Kg4 4.Qg6+ Kh4 5.Kf1 b5 6.Qh7+ Nh5! 7.Qg8 Qd6 8.f8Q Qd1+ 9.Kf2 Qd4+ 10.Kf3 Qd1+! 11.Kg2 Nf4+=] **3...b5!** [3...Kg4 4.a4! Nh5 5.Qg6+ Kh4 6.Qg8 Qd6 7.f8Q Qd1+ 8.Kf2 Qd4+ 9.Ke1 Qa1+ 10.Kd2 Qb2+ 11.Kd3 Nf4+ 12.Kc4 b5+ 13.Kc5! Ne6+ 14.Qxe6 Qa3+ 15.Kd5 Qxf8 16.axb5+-; 3...Ne8 4.Qxe5+ Kg6 5.Qxe8 Qxf7+ 6.Qxf7+ Kxf7 7.Ke2] **4.a3!** Controlling the critical square b4 **4...Kg4 5.Ke1!! ZZ** with two main lines: a) [5.Ke2? Nh5! 6.Qg6+ Kh4=; 5.Qg6+ Kf3!=] **5...b4** [b) 5...Kh5 6.Ke2! (6.Kd1? b4! 7.axb4 Kg4 8.Kc2 Qc8+ 9.Kb2 Ne6 10.Qf5+ Kg3 11.Qxe5+ Kg4 12.Qxe6+ Qxe6 13.f8Q Qxe4=) ] **6.Ke2! bxa3 7.Qg6+ Kf4** [7...Kh4 8.Kf3! Qc8 9.Qh6+ Nh5 10.f8Q+-] **8.Qh7! Qxf7** [8...Kg3 9.Qg8 Qc5 10.Qxg7+ Kh2 11.Qh6+ Kg2 12.Qg5+ Kh1 13.Kf3! Qc3+ 14.Kg4 Qc8+ 15.Qf5+-] **9.Qh4#! 1-0**. The white King must avoid the 3rd rank to stop the black Queen from coming back into action with perpetual check. The key to success is the prophylactic king retreat followed by a deadly zugzwang rounded up by a surprising model mate net.

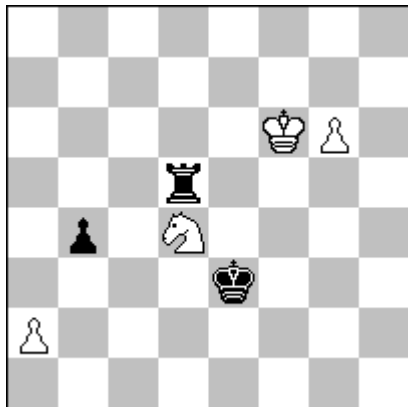
**№48. Daniele Gatti (Italy) Special Honorable Mention.**

**1.Ra5! Rb1** [1...Rd1 2.Rh5+ Kg2 3.Rh2+ Kxh2=; 1...Bh2 2.Ra6! Ra2 3.Re6! Rxe6=] **2.Re5 Bc5+ 3.Ke8! Rxe5+ 4.Kd7 Rd1+ 5.Kc7!** [5.Kc8? Rc1! 6.f8Q Bxf8+ 7.Kb7 Re7+ 8.Kb6 Rxc7 9.Bxc7 Bxc7+-; 5.Kc6? Rd6+! 6.Kc7 Re7+ 7.Kc8 Rc6+ 8.Kd8 Ra6 9.f8Q Ra8#] **5...Bd6+ 6.Kb6** [6.Kb7? Rb5+ 7.Kc6 Rc5+ 8.Kd7 Bf8+ 9.Ke8 Rc8#] **6...Rc5 7.f8Q Rb1+ 8.Bb3!!** [8.Ka6? Rc6+! 9.Ka7 Bc5+ 10.Qxc5 Rxc5 11.Ka6 Rc3 12.Bd5+ Kh2 13.Bb3 Rxc3 14.g8Q Ra3#] **8...Rxb3+ 9.Ka6= ½-½**. I find this (semi) grotesque entry deserving a distinction thanks to the precise key and 3 neat sacrifices: 2 in the main lines and an additional one after 1...Bh2.

### №35. Michael Pasma (Israel) 1<sup>st</sup> Commendation.

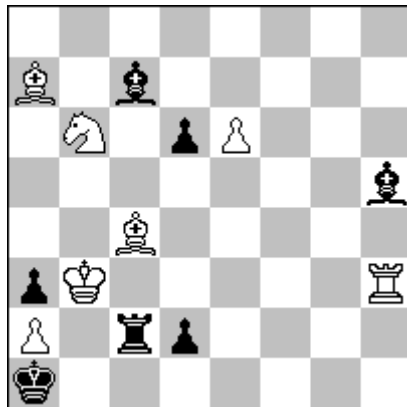
**1.Nxb7+** [1.d7? Kb4 2.Nc6+ Nxc6+ 3.Bxc6 Qg5! 4.Be4 Ng4! 5.Bd5 Nh6—+] **1...Kb4!** [1...Kxc4 2.d7 Ne6 3.Nd6+ Qxd6 4.g8Q Nd5 5.Qxe6 Qxe6 6.d8Q=] **2.Nc5!!** Knight starting on d8 is clearing the way for the white pawns. [2.d7? Kxa4—+] **2...Kxc5 3.b7!** [3.d7 Qg5! 4.b7 Nc6+! 5.Bxc6 Kxc6 6.b8Q (6.g8Q Qa5+ 7.Kb8 Qc7+ 8.Ka8 Qxb7#) 6...Qa5#] **3...Qxg7 4.d7! Nc6+ 5.Bxc6 Kxc6 6.d8N+!** Phoenix: The knight starting on d8 is reborn on the same square. **6...Kd6 7.Nf7+!!** Sacrificed again. **7...Kc6 8.Nd8+! Kd6 9.Nf7+! Qxf7 10.Ka8! Qf3!?** With an extra queen and knight no win for Black! **11.Ka7 Qf7 12.Ka8! Qf3 13.Ka7 Kc6 14.b8Q Qf7+ 15.Ka8 Nxc4 16.Qc8+ Kb6 17.Qb8+ Ka6 18.Qc8+= ½–½.** Another Phoenix though not as ambitious as the topper. The white knight on d8 is sacrificed to give room to a second knight to be promoted on that same square and consequently to be sacrificed as well. Pity are the capturing key and the idle remaining Black knight.

### 10. P.Arestov & D.Keith 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation



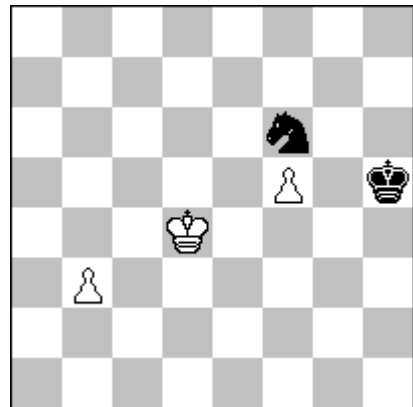
Win (4+3)

### 2. M.Hlinka & L.Kekely 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation



Draw (7+7)

### 46. Marcel Dore (France) 6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Commendation



Win (3+2)

### №10. Pavel Arestov & Daniel Keith (Russia/France) 2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation.

**1.g7** [1.Nc2+ Kd2 (1...Kf4 2.g7 Rd6+ 3.Kf7 Rd7+=) ] **1...Rd8 2.Nc2+** [2.Nc6? Ra8 3.Kf7 b3! 4.axb3 Kd3 5.Nb4+ Kc3 6.Nd5+ Kxb3 7.Nc7 Rb8 8.Ne8 Rb7+=] **2...Kd3** [Echo variation 2...Kd2 3.Nxb4 Kc3 4.Nc6 Ra8 5.Kf7 Kb2 6.a4 Kb3 7.a5 Ka4 8.a6! Kb5 9.Nb4! Kxb4 10.g8Q+-] **3.Nxb4+ Kc4 4.Nc6!** [4.Nc2? Kc3 5.Ne3 Kb4=] **4...Ra8 5.Kf7 Kc5** [5...Kc3 6.g8Q Rxc8 7.Kxc8 Kb2 8.a4+-] **6.Ne5!** [6.Ne7? Kb4 7.Nd5+ Ka3=] **6...Ra7+ 7.Kf6! Ra6+ 8.Ke7 Ra8 9.Nd3+ Kb5** [9...Kc4 10.Nc1! Kb4 11.Kf7 Ra7+ 12.Kg6 Ra8 13.Kh7 Ka3 14.g8Q Rxc8 15.Kxc8+-] **10.Nb2!** [10.Kf7? Ra7+ 11.Kg6 Rxa2 12.g8Q Rg2+=] **10...Kb4 11.a4! Kb3 12.Kf7 Ra7+ 13.Kg6 Ra6+ 14.Kh7 Ra7 15.Kh8+- 1–0.** The main motif of a Knight defending a pawn from behind has naturally been shown more than once. Here it is nicely displayed at the end of the main line and also in an echo variation two ranks higher after 2...Kd2.

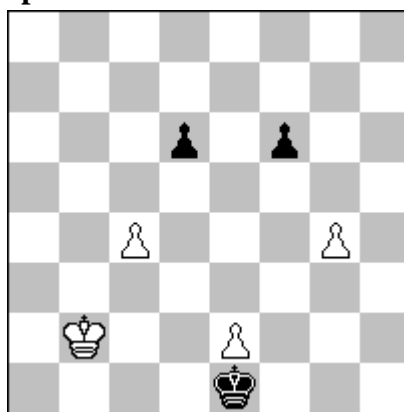
### №2. Michal Hlinka & Lubos Kekely (Slovakia) 3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation.

**1.Rd3 d1Q 2.Rxd1+ Bxd1 3.e7** [3.Kb4? Rb2+ 4.Ka5 Bd8—+] **3...Re2+ 4.Kxa3 d5!** [4...Rxe7 5.Nd5 Re4 6.Bb3! Bxb3 7.axb3 Bd8 8.b4 Rh4 9.Kb3=] **5.Nxd5** [5.Bb3? Bd6+ 6.Ka4 Bxb3+ 7.axb3 Rxe7 8.Nc8 Re4+ 9.Kb5 Bh2 10.Bf2 Kb1] **5...Bd6+ 6.Nb4 Rxe7 7.Bd4+ Kb1 8.Bd3+ Kc1 9.Be3+ Rxe3** Ideal double pin mate ½–½. Another version of an eye-catching yet well-trodden motif: Fluent play leads to an ideal double pin stalemate. Starting the solution on move 3 might also be an option.

### №46. Marcel Dore (France) 4<sup>th</sup> Commendation.

**1.Ke5!** A) [1.b4? Kh6! 2.Ke5 Kg7=] **1...Nd7+** [main B) 1...Kg5 2.b4 Nd7+ 3.Kd6 Nb6 4.Ke6 Kh6 5.f6 (5.Kf7? Nd5! 6.b5 Kg5 7.Ke6 Nc7+=) 5...Kh7 6.Kf7 Nd5 7.b5 Kh6 8.Ke6! Nc7+ 9.Kd7 Nxb5 10.f7 Kg7 11.Ke7 Nd6 12.f8Q++-; 1...Ne8 2.b4! Nc7 3.Kd6 Nb5+ 4.Ke7 Nd4 5.f6 Kg6 6.b5!+-] **2.Kd6** [2.Ke6? Nf8+ 3.Ke7 Kg5=] **2...Nf6 3.b4 Ne4+ 4.Ke5 Nc3 5.f6! Kh6 6.Kd6** [6.Ke6? Kg6! ZZ] **6...Kg6 7.Ke6 ZZ 7...Kh7 8.Kf7! Nd5 9.b5 Kh6 10.Ke6 Nb6 11.Ke7 Nd5+ 12.Kd6 Nxf6 13.b6+- 1–0.** An accurate Maluytka displaying 2 straightforward yet luck-warm lines of a knight coping with a pair of passers.

**72. Jan Sprenger (Italy)**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Tourney FRME, 2020**  
**Special Commendation**



**Win** (4+3)

**№72. Jan Sprenger (Italy) Special Commendation.**

**1.e4!** [1.Kc3? Kxe2 2.Kd4 Kf3 3.Kd5 Kxg4 4.Kxd6 f5 5.c5 f4=] **1...Kd2 2.Kb1!!** The van der Heijden move. [2.Kb3? Kd3! 3.e5 dxe5! 4.c5 e4 5.c6 e3 6.c7 e2 7.c8Q e1Q=] **2...Kd1** Now White wins with a double sacrifice: **3.g5!** [3.e5? fxe5! 4.g5 e4 5.g6 e3 6.g7 e2 7.g8Q e1Q=] **3...fxg5 4.e5! dxe5 5.c5 g4** [5...e4 6.c6 e3 7.c7 e2 8.c8Q e1Q 9.Qc2#] **6.c6 g3 7.c7 g2 8.c8Q g1Q 9.Qc1+ Ke2 10.Qxg1+- 1-0.** This is an elaboration on a famous study by Harold van der Heijden (Algemeen Dagblad 2003). Adding another pawn pair where the same thematic breakthroughs apply, one needs a double sacrifice, and one obtains a second main line where white wins with a skewer instead of a direct mate.

**International Judge of FIDE:** Yochanan Afek (Amsterdam,Netherlands).