

The competition can be considered a success given the large number of fascinating creations, and not only from among the prize-winning submissions.

Below, the list of winning submissions as voted upon by the expert committee of judges.

1 st place	D. Gurgenidze	Georgia
2 nd place	E. Eilazyan	Ukraine
3 rd place	M. Campioli	Italy
4 th place	S. Didukh	Ukraine
5 th place	G. Amann	Avstria
6 th place	A. Manvelyan	Armenia

Honorable Mention:

1.	Y. Bazlov	Russia
2.	I. Murarasu	Romania
3.	O. Pervokov	Russia
4.	Y. Timman	The Netherlands
5.	K. Sumbatyan	Russia

Of additional note:

A. Zhukov	Ukraine
A. Pallier	France
S. Chidemyan	Armenia
Z. Khorneker	Germany
M. Minski	Germany
A. Yasik	Poland

David Gurgenidze (Georgia)

First Prize

The initial position resembles an actual endgame position, and the first move, 1.Ka3! has a paradoxical element, as the king is unafraid of the pin arising from the move 1...Rg3. And then another surprise, as the king does not take the a2 pawn, and instead plays 2.Kb2!!, because if we were to swallow the bait, with 2.Kxa2? it would follow Rxd3 3.Kxa1 Rb3 4.Ka2 Rb5 5.Ka3 Kd2 6.Ka4 Rb1 7. Rd4+ Kc3 8.R:d5 Kc4 and mate or the loss of the rook would result. 2. ... Rxd3 3.Kxa1 Ra3 (3... Rb3 4.Rh1+ Kf2 5.Rh2+ Kg3 6.Rh5! Rb5 7.Rf5!!) 4.Rh1+ Kf2 5.Rh2+ Kg3 5.Rh5 d4 7.Rd5 Ra4 8.Rf5 d3 9.Rd5 Ra3 10.Rf5 and a positional draw will result, as the king is cut off in three different positions.

Eduard Eilazyan (Ukraine)

Second Prize

This composer has dedicated many years to the creation of studies with the theme of false trails. (see his article, “Etudes about changes”), published in “Chess studies” journal N82, N83, 2008. 1.Bb1! Be5 2.Bxe4 after which it is necessary to play 3.ab! (and not 3.a5? which is considered a false trail.) If after 1.Bb1! black responds with 1...Be3+! 2.Kg7! Bf4 3.Bxe4+ Kxe4, then in this case victory is possible after 4.a5! (and not 4.ab?). The principle theme in this study is that of false trails. From a technical standpoint, this is a simple puzzle, but whose logical elegance can be appreciated by the creative play by the two sides. The paradoxical nature of the theme can be highlighted by the fact that the events taking place on one edge of the board have decisive consequences on those taking place on the other side, in terms of move choice.

Marco Campioli (Italy)

Third Prize

After a few interesting moves, we get to a rook endgame in which there is the surprising move 5.Nb8!!, after which we arrive at the fascinating position where the white rook is competing with a strong passed pawn and follows the precise 7.Rd7!! and the strong continuation 10.Ka8!! It is necessary to also acknowledge the systematic moves 10...h6! 11. Rb6!. 11...h5! 12.Rb5! which allows for the neutralization of the “h” and “b” pawns.

Sergei Didukh (Ukraine)

Fourth Prize

The struggle of reborn pieces 2...Nc8! 3.g8-Q! 4.Kc5!, where black, in an even position, must part with the queen due to forks posed by white knights. Only at the end of the line does the subtlety of the move 4.Kc5! become visible. The white king arrives to aid the g2 and g3 pawns. The study is well done in terms of existing material and exceptional lines.

Guenter Amann (Austria)

Fifth Prize

The strength of this composer is obvious, as he has been able to demonstrate harmony between the rook and knight against queen, and in the face of mutual zugzwang, find clever escapes, such as 4.Ka8!!, 7.Ka7!, 10.Kb8!, moves which allow for the elimination of the c4 pawn and to not allow the escape of the queen.

Aleksandr Manvelyan (Armenia)

Sixth Place

It is a technical difficult problem to include all of black's pieces on their optimal squares, in a position that is arrived at through only moves, but whose draw in the final position is quite interesting, as is the false trail arising from 6.Bc8+?, instead of the move 6.Be6+.

Honorable Mention

In the study by Yuri Bazlov (Russia) there arises a position, where white sacrifices the bishop and apparently throws away all chances for a win. However, with some clever moves and creating mating threats, white wins the rook.

In the study by Ion Murarasu (Romania) there appears active counterplay possibilities by black, where stalemate possibilities exist, but through emphatic moves, white wins.

Black attempts to profit on the hopes of his strength of his passed pawn in the study by Jan Timman (The Netherlands), but even after the reappearance of the black queen, white uncorks the clever 4.Bd4!, thanks to which he saves the endgame.

The interesting and logical move 4.Qc3! is central to the study by Oleg Pervokov (Russia), which forces black to take the g2 pawn, thus freeing the square for the white queen.

Both the first move, 1.g5! is intriguing in the study by Karen Sumbatyan (Russia), where white sacrifices a pawn, as well as 7.c3!, where in the final position, white has created serious problems for the black queen.

Of Additional Note

And finally, due to the equivalent level and quality of interesting ideas demonstrated in the solutions and final positions of the five studies ("of additional note"), all were deemed equally impressive by the judges in their assessment of these five studies.

Chief Arbiter of the competition, V. Akopian
Arbiter – A. Gasparyan

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