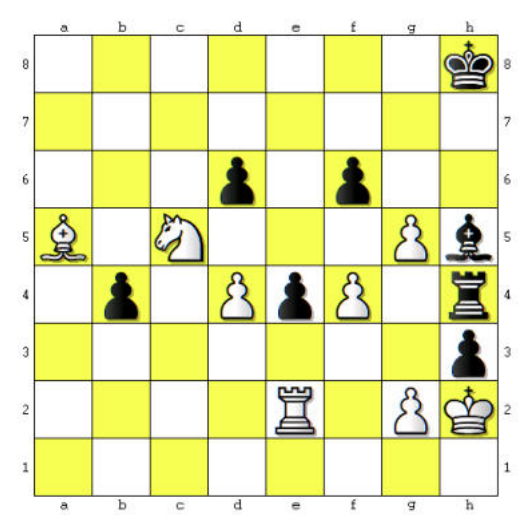




Aayush Wadhwa

White to move and win

11th Commendation

The study combines several thematic elements into a coherent whole. An initial Novotny interference not only decides the immediate tactical battle but also determines the strategic course of the entire solution. Particularly attractive is the double Bishop rundlauf: both white and black Bishops complete closed

circuits and eventually return to their original squares, while their journeys are linked by two echo pinning motifs on different lines.

The thematic construction is original and well organized, with the various ideas supporting one another rather than appearing as isolated effects. At the same time, some of the intermediate play inevitably serves the needs of the mechanism, and the final phase merely confirms an advantage that has already become apparent.

Also, minor technical constructional flaws (as the many captures in the introduction) are unpleasant. Despite these minor reservations, the study presents a distinctive thematic conception executed with considerable skill.

Solution: **1. g4!** {Novotny.}

(1. Rxe4? hxg2+ 2. Kxg2 {Black gains equality now due to the Rook's vision being open along the fourth rank.} dxc5 (2. .. Rg4+ {[or]} 3. Kh3 dxc5 4. dxc5 fxg5 {= White cannot recapture due to the pin.}) 3. dxc5 fxg5 {White cannot recapture due to the pin.})

1. .. Bxg4

{First move of the rundlauf of Black's Bishop.}

(1. .. Rxg4 {The attack on the White Rook is blocked, White emerges a piece up.}

2. Rxe4 dxc5 3. gxf6 Kg8 4. f5! {A Pin on the Black Bishop only possible due to White's first move, forcing the Black Bishop to interfere with the Black Rook.}

4. ... Kf7

(4. .. cxd4 5. Rxd4 Kf7 6. Rd7+ Kxf6 7. Bd8+ Kxf5 8. Bxh4 +-)

5. Bd8! {First move of the rundlauf of White's bishop.}

(5. dxc5? Kxf6 6. c6 Kxf5 =)

5. .. cxd4

(5. .. b3 6. Re7+ Kf8 7. Bb6! Rh5 (7. .. Rh6 8. Bxc5 Rxf6 9. Re4+ Kf7 10. Rxc4 b2 11. Rg1 +-) 8. Bxc5 {or Rg7 first.} Rxf5 9. Rg7+ Rxc5 10. dxc5 Bf3 11. Rd7! b2 12. Rd8+ Kf7 13. Rb8 +-) (5. .. Rh8 6. Re7+ Kxf6 7. Re8+ Kg7 8. f6+ Kh7 9. f7 +-)

6. Re7+ Kf8 7. Rg7! Bxf5 {Second move of the rundlauf of Black's Bishop.}

8. Be7+ {Second move of the rundlauf of White's Bishop.} **Ke8 9. Bxb4!** {Third move of the rundlauf of White's Bishop.}

(9. Bc5? Bg6! =)

9. .. Bg6! {Third move of the rundlauf of Black's Bishop.} **10. Re7+!**

(10. Rxc6? Kf7 =)

10. .. Kd8 11. Ba5+! {Final move of the rundlauf of White's Bishop.} **Kc8 12. Rc7+!**

Kb8 13. Rg7! Bh5 {Final move of the rundlauf of Black's Bishop. Both

White and Black bishops have returned to their starting squares after

completing a rundlauf.}

(13. .. Be8 14. Rg8 +-)

14. Rh7! {Echo-pin; compare to Move 4: the Black Bishop, previously pinned to the Rook on the fourth rank, is now pinned to the rook on the h-file. Black cannot prevent a loss of material.}

14. ... Rf4 15. Bc7+ {+- The White Bishop makes one more move than its Black counterpart and it proves decisive! Theme: rundlaufs of both

White and Black bishops on "echo-squares" of a5 and h5. The study is also

connected by the echo-pins (Moves 4 and 14).} **1-0**