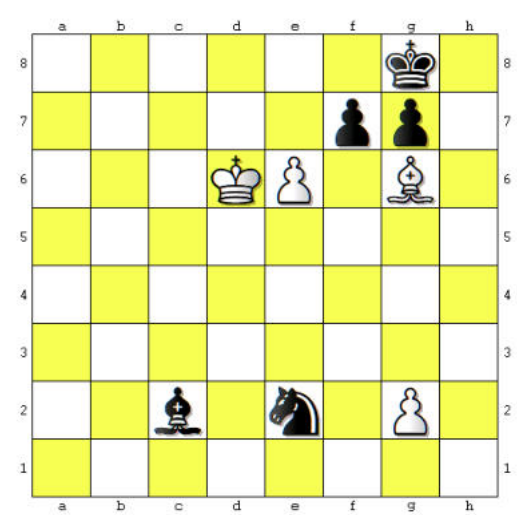




Stanislav Nosek

White to move and win

5th Commendation

At first sight this study appears to be a rather modest promotion ending, but it gradually reveals a surprisingly elegant strategic core.

After the initial splendid keymove, White's play is guided by the quiet manoeuvre 4. Bd3!, which prepares the final mating net while carefully restricting Black's defensive

possibilities. The subsequent play is economical and logical, yet far from obvious. In particular, the subtle distinction between 5. g3 and the premature 5. g4? shows that the position still contains hidden resources.

The final position after 6. Ke6 is especially pleasing. Black is placed in a state of complete paralysis, unable to prevent mate on both wings simultaneously: either Bb5# or Bg6# will follow. The resulting dual mating threat creates an attractive and memorable conclusion.

While the study does not aim for the extreme complexity or originality found elsewhere in this tournament, its clarity, economy and elegant finish make it a worthy addition to the award.

Solution: 1. Bh7+!

(1. e7 1. .. Ba4 {! -+})

(1. exf7+ {?} Kf8 {! = =})

1. .. Kf8

(1. .. Kxh7 2. exf7 {! +-})

2. e7+ Ke8 3. Bxc2 Nc3 4. Bd3 {!} g6 5. g3 !

5. g4 {?} g5 {!} Draw)

5. .. f5

(5. .. g5 6. g4 {!})

6. Ke6 1-0