

Pál Benkő Memorial Tourney – Section: Helpstalemates

Preliminary Award

Judge: Mike Prcic, International Judge FIDE

I was flattered to be a judge in such a prestigious tourney. Pál Benkő was not only one of the great chess players, but also excelled in chess composition.

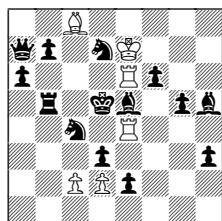
The number of entries sent to me by the director was staggering. The quality of entries was high and many deserving problems were left out of the award. Ninety-three is a large number when it comes to helpstalemates (h=). It shows that the genre offers great possibilities for ambitious composers. The four pillars of h=: Restraint, Capture, Pin and Cage-building, were represented well. Those composers who were able to combine these elements with other themes, scored well in the award category.

The entries ranged from h=2 to h=15. Obviously, the higher number of moves afforded a better chance of showing more strategy. This is reflected in the award. At the end it often comes to my personal preferences. The rankings may not please some composers, who have my apologies.

Here are the award winners. According to their authors, all of them have been computer-tested (mostly with Popeye in Intelligence mode).

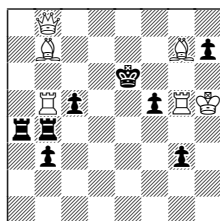
Prizes:

1st Prize
Valery Semenenko



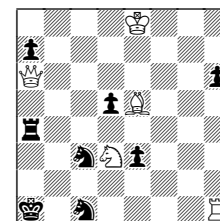
h=7.5 (6+14)

2nd Prize
Boris Shorokhov



h=3.5 2 solutions (6+18)

3rd Prize
Jorge Kapros



h=3.5 3 solutions (6+8)

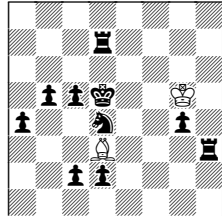
1st Prize - Valery Semenko, Ukraine An excellent triple ambush by white pieces which later capture their black victims (Maslar Theme) and pin the remaining three black pieces. Note how the black King enters into the triple pin after the white King's withdrawal move. All thematic white and black pieces play, including Kings. Solution: 1...Rxe2 2.Qe3 Rxa6 3.Sdb6 Bxh3 4.Bg4 Ke8 5.Ke6 Rxb6+ 6.Bd6 Bxg4+ 7.Rf5 Rxe3+ 8.Se5 c4=.

2nd Prize - Boris Shorokhov, Russia A beautiful double Bristol by black Rooks. In each solution, both Rooks and one black Pawn are pinned while the other two black Pawns are captured and restrained. The harmony is perfect with all thematic pieces dancing on the chess board, ending in a chameleon-echo model stalemate. Solution: 1...Qxg3 2.Rf4 Bb2 3.Rad4 Rg6+ 4.Ke5 Rh6=; 1...Bg2 2.Re4 Rb6+ 3.Kd5 Rh6 4.Rc4 Qxb3=.

3rd Prize - Jorge Kapros, Argentina A classic helpstalemate. It has three of the four elements of helpstalemates: Capture, Pinning and Restraint. Two black Pawns must be captured while the other two will be restrained. At the same time the three black thematic pieces must be pinned. An

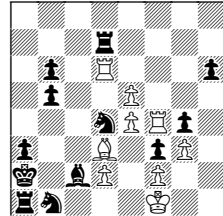
excellent cycle of black moves ABC-BCA-CAB with cyclic pin restoration. A piece pinned in the initial positions is pinned by another piece along a different line in the final position. In each solution, the white thematic piece makes all the moves, capturing two black Pawns and returning to the initial pin-line. Solution: 1...Bf4 2.Sb1[A] Bxe3 3.Sa2[B] Bxh6 4.Rd4[C] Bg7=; 1...Rxh6 2.S1a2[B] Rh3 3.Rd4[C] Rxe3 4.Sb1[A] Re1=; 1...Qxh6 2.Rd4[C] Qxe3 3.Sb1[A] Qh6 4.Sa2[B] Qa6=.

4th Prize
Fadil Abdurahmanović



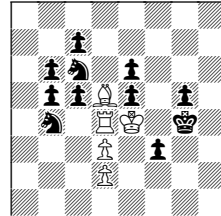
h=8 (2+10)

5th Prize
Valery Semenenko



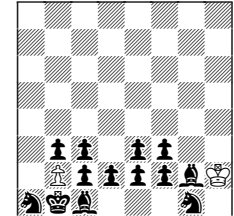
h=6 (9+12)

6th Prize
Jorge Kapros



h=6.5 (5+11)

Special Prize
Raúl Jordan



h=9 (2+13)

4th Prize – Fadil Abdurahmanović, Bosnia-Herzegovina Cage-building is combined with creation of white and black Indian batteries used for shielding. All thematic pieces are engaged. Dual avoidance. The best Indian entry. Solution: 1.Rb7 Bf1! (Bxb5?) 2.Ra3! (Sb3?) Kxg4 3.Sb3! Kf3 4.Sa1+ Ke2 5.Kc4 Kxd2+ 6.Kb3 Bxb5! 7.Ka2 Bc4+ 8.Rbb3 Kc1=.

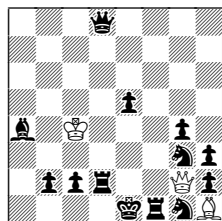
5th Prize - Valery Semenenko, Ukraine Both, White and Black, use ambush maneuvers (Rehm Theme, bB/wB and wR/bR) to open lines and capture pieces. Solution: 1.Bb3 Rxh6 2.Bd5 Rh8 3.Bxe4 Bxb1+ 4.Bxb1 Rd8 5.Sc2 Rb4 6.Rxd2 Rxd2=.

6th Prize - Jorge Kapros, Argentina Kings exchange places while the other four thematic pieces also exchange places. The best Platzwechsel problem. Solution: 1...Ke3+ 2.Kf5 Kxf3 3.c4 Kg3 4.cxd3 Rc4 5.Sd4 Bc6 6.Sd5 Rb4 7.Ke4 Kg4=.

Special Prize - Raúl Jordan, Germany Four consecutive promoted black Knights (on four adjacent squares) are captured on their promotion squares (Schnoebelen theme). A task difficult to achieve. This is also the best promotion problem. Solution: 1.f1S+ Kxg1 2.f2+ Kxg2 3.e1S+ Kxf1 4.e2+ Kxf2 5.d1S+ Kxe1 6.Bd2+ Kxe2 7.c1S+ Kxd1 8.c2+ Kxd2 9.Ka2 Kxc1=.

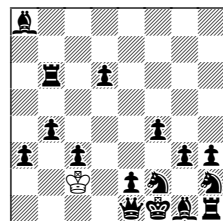
The problems that received honorable mentions were very close in quality. It was my personal preference that determined the order. Another judge might have acted differently.

1st Honorable Mention
Aleksandr Semenenko



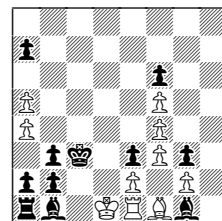
h=7 (3+13)

2nd Honorable Mention
Norbert Geissler



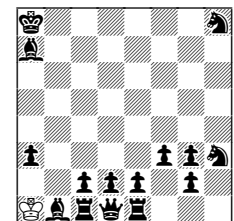
h=11 (1+16)

3rd Honorable Mention
Sergei I. Tkachenko
& Andrey Frolkin



h=12 (10+11)

4th Honorable Mention
Georgy Obyashevsky



h=14 (1+15)

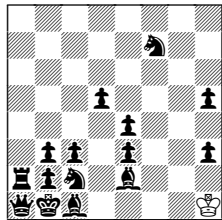
1st Honorable Mention - Aleksandr Semenenko, Ukraine The cage-building is facilitated by two Turton maneuvers on the same line. Beautifully done. Solution: 1.Rdf2 Qa8! 2.S3e2 Bb7! 3.Bc6 Kb3 4.Qd5+ Kxb2 5.Qh1 Kxc2 6.Bg2 Bf3 7.gxf3 Qe4=.

2nd Honorable Mention - Norbert Geissler, Germany A good cage builder with a triple Platzwechsel: S↔B, R↔S and K↔Q. The annihilation determination is quite good. Solution: 1.Sf3 Kb3 2.Rh2 Ka4 3.Sh1 Ka5 4.Kf2 (Qf2?) Kxb6 5.Qf1 Kc7 6.Ke1 Kxd6 7.Rf2 Kc5 8.Bh2 Kxb4 9.Sg1 Kxa3 10.Bg2 Kb3 11.f3 Kc2=.

3rd Honorable Mention - Sergei I. Tkachenko & Andrey Frolkin, Ukraine A good logical problem where White lacks a tempo move to execute the Main Plan. By capturing wPa5, Black provides White with an additional tempo move. Solution: The Main Plan: 1.Bf2 a6 2.Bxe1 Kxe1 3.Kc2? a5 4.Kc1 and now White lacks a tempo move to allow Be4. Thus: 1.Bf2 a6 2.Bxe1 Kxe1 3.Kb4! Kd1 4.Ka5 Ke1 5.Kxa6 Kd1 6.Ka5 Ke1 7.Kb4 Kd1 8.Kc3 Ke1 9.Kc2 a5 10.Kc1 a6 11.Be4 fxe4 12.Kb1 Kd1=.

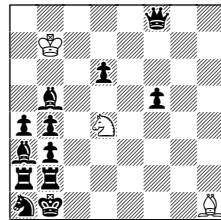
4th Honorable Mention - Georgy Oblyashevsky, Ukraine Beautifully conceived cage-builder. The white King's linear switchback on a long diagonal. In the diagrammed position, White is in stalemate (Anti-Fata Morgana). Nice shielding too. Solution: 1.a2 Kb2 2.Kb7 Kc3 3.Kb6 Kd4 4.Rg1 Ke5 5.Kc5 Kf6 6.Kd4 Kg7 7.Ke3 Kxh8 8.Kf2 Kg7 9.Kf1 Kf6 10.Bf2 Ke5 11.Be1 Kd4 12.Sf2 Kc3 13.Sh1 Kb2 14.f2 Ka1=.

5th Honorable Mention
Henry Tanner



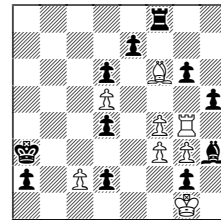
h=11 (1+15)

6th Honorable Mention
Anatoly Stepochkin



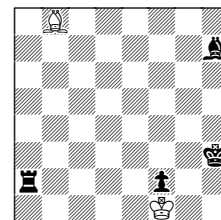
h=6 (3+12)

7th Honorable Mention
Aleksandr Semenko



h=6 (8+11)

Sp. Honorable Mention
Sébastien Luce



h=3½ b) Bb8→e4 (2+4)

5th Honorable Mention - Henry Tanner, Finland While black shuffles its pieces, the white King picks up the stragglers. Cage-building, annihilations, promotion and Platzwechsel with several Umnov moves by Black. Solution: 1.h4 Kh2 2.Bh5 Kxh3 3.e2 Kxh4 4.Be3 Kxh5 5.Kc1 Kg6 6.b1B Kxf7 7.Rb2 Ke6 8.Ba2 Kxd5 9.Qb1 Kxe4 10.Sa1+ Kxe3 11.c2 Kxe2=.

6th Honorable Mention - Anatoly Stepochkin, Russia Three Bristols, R/R, Q/R and R/R and one wS Rundlauf.

Solution: 1.Rh2 Sxf5 2.Rag2 Sxd6 3.Qf2 Sxb5 4.Qa2 Sd4 5.Rb2 Be4+ 6.Rhc2 Se2=.

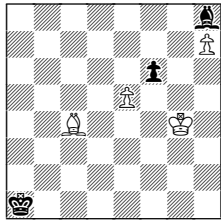
7th Honorable Mention - Aleksandr Semenenko, Ukraine A triple rendering of the popular Klasinc Theme: wB/bR, bR/wR, wR/wB. Solution: 1.g5 Bxe7 2.Rxf4 Bf6 3.Rxf3 Rxd4 4.Rf4 Rxd2 5.Rh4 Ba1 6.g4 Rd4=.

Special Honorable Mention - Sébastien Luce, France Inspired by Pál Benkő draw study (without bBh7), which won 1st Prize, Magyar Sakkélet 1967, this miniature ends with two

Chameleon-echo Ideal-stalemates. Solution: a) 1...Bg3 2.Re2 Kxe2 3.Be4 Kxf2 4.Bf3 Kxf3=; b) 1...Bxh7 2.Ra4 Kxf2 3.Re4 Bxe4 4.Kh2 Bg2=.

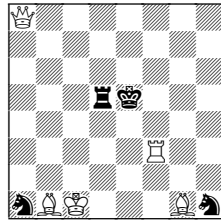
Commendations are not rated.

Commendation
Béla Majoros



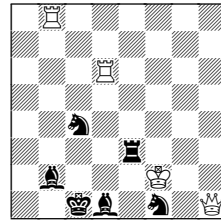
h=3 2 solutions (4+3)

Commendation
Boris Shorokhov



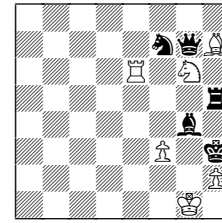
h=3 2 solutions (5+4)

Commendation
Anatoly Skripnik



h=3 (4+6)
a) Rd6→e5, b) Bb2→d2

Commendation
Eugene Fomichev



h=3 2 solutions (6+5)

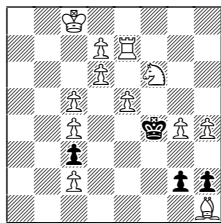
Commendation - Béla Majoros, Hungary Cute. Two promotions. Best miniature. Solution: 1.f5+ Kxf5 2.Bxe5 h8R 3.Bb8 Rxb8=; 1.Kb1 exf6 2.Bxf6 h8Q 3.Bc3 Qxc3=.

Commendation - Boris Shorokhov, Russia Four corners exchange of functions (black Sa1-Sh1 and white Bb1-Bg1). Solution: 1.Sc2 Qh8+ 2.Ke4 Qxh1 3.Rh5 Qxh5=; 1.Sf2 Rc3 2.Kd4 Qxa1 3.Ra5 Qxa5=.

Commendation - Anatoly Skripnik, Russia Triple chameleon-echo with 2 captures and 2 pins. Ideal-helpstalemates. The static white Queen detracts. Solution: a) 1.Bd4 Rxd4 2.Bc2 Rxc4 3.Re2+ Kxe2=; b) 1.Sa5 Rxa5 2.Sd2 Kxe3 3.Kb1 Kxd2=; c) 1.Bb3 Rxb3 2.Rc3 Rxc3+ 3.Kd1 Rxc4=.

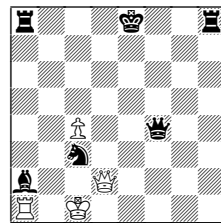
Commendation - Eugene Fomichev, Russia In one solution, Bishop captures three pieces and pins the fourth piece. In the second solution, Rook captures three pieces and pins the fourth. Zilahi as well since both white thematic pieces get captured. Solution: 1.Qg8 Bxg8 2.Bxe6 Bxf7 3.Rf5 Bxe6=; 1.Qf6 Rxf6 2.Rxh7 Rxf7 3.Bh5 Rxh7=.

Commendation
Leonid Jarosh



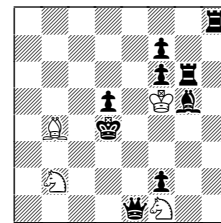
h=3 4 solutions (12+4)

Commendation
Alexandr Kostukov



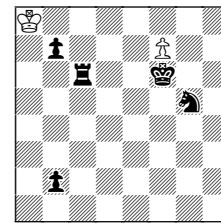
h=4 b) wBa1 (4+6)

Commendation
Tibor Érsek



h=4 2 solutions (4+9)

Commendation
Valery Barsukov



h=5 2 solutions (2+5)

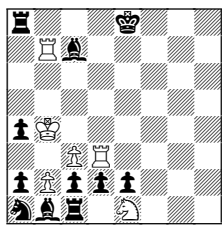
Commendation - Leonid Jarosh, Russia Babson task. Not a novelty. Solution: 1.g1Q d8Q 2.Qxg4+ Qd7 3.Qh3 Qxh3=; 1.g1S d8S 2.Sf3 Sd5+ 3.Ke4 Sc6=; 1.g1R d8R 2.Rxg4 Rg8 3.Kf5 Rxg4=; 1.g1B d8B 2.Bxc5 Bb6 3.Bf2 Bxf2=.

Commendation - Alexandr Kostukov, Russia Precise selection of the first black Queen's move with delayed capture. Model stalemates with pins. Solution: a) 1.Qc7! Qxc3 2.0-0-0 Qxh8 3.Kb7 Qxd8 4.Ka6 Qxc7=; b) 1.Qf3! Qxa2 2.0-0 Qxa8 3.Kh8 Qxf3 4.Rf7 Qxf7=.

Commendation - Tibor Érsek, Hungary A Grab Theme with Knight and Bishop Rundlaufs. Solution: 1.Be3 Sxe3 2.Rg4 Sxg4 3.Rh2 Sxh2 4.Qf1 Sxf1=; 1.Bd2 Bxd2 2.Rgh6 Bxh6 3.Rf8 Bxf8 4.Qb4 Bxb4=.

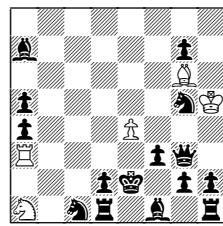
Commendation - Valery Barsukov, Russia Mirrored Ideal-stalemates in a miniature. Solution: 1.Kg6 f8Q 2.Rf6 Qxf6+ 3.Kh7 Qxb2 4.Sf7 Qxb7 5.Kh8 Qxf7=; 1.b1B Kxb7 2.Bh7 Kxc6 3.Bg8 fxg8Q 4.Ke7 Qxg5+ 5.Ke8 Qf6=.

Commendation
Ralf Krättschmer
& Dieter Werner



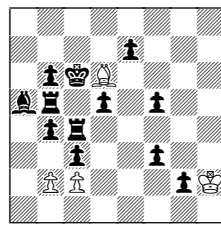
h=5 (6+11)

Commendation
Jorma Paavilainen



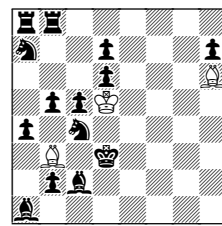
h=6 (5+15)

Commendation
Marko Klasinc



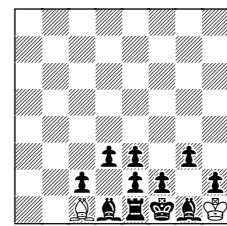
h=6.5 (4+12)

Commendation
Jorge Kapros



h=7.5 (3+14)

Commendation
Marko Klasinc



h=8.5 (2+11)

Commendation - Ralf Krättschmer, Germany & Dieter Werner, Switzerland Valladao task where each Valladao move is played by Black. Solution: 1.d1B Ka3 2.Bd6+ b4 3.axb3-e.p.+ Kb2 4.0-0-0 Rxd6 5.Rd7 Rxd7=.

Commendation - Jorma Paavilainen, Finland Triple Platzwechsel: bK-bR, wR-wS, wK-wB. Solution: 1.Re1 Sc2 2.Kd1 Ra1 3.Re2 Sa3 4.Qe1 Kxg5 5.Bg1 Bh5 6.f2 Kg6=.

Commendation - Marko Klasinc, Slovenia White Indian (Bh2-Kg3-Kf3) and Klasinc theme (wB-bK on d6). Solution: 1...Kh3 2.g1B Bh2 3.Bc5 Kg3 4.Kd6 b3 5.Ke5 Kxf3+ 6.Kd4 Bd6 7.exd6 Kf4=.

Commendation - Jorge Kapros, Argentina Two same Bishop Rundlaufs in opposite directions grabbing eight black pieces. Solution: 1...Bxa4 2.Bb3 Bxb5 3.Kc2 Bxc4 4.Kb1 Bxb3 5.c4 Bxc4 6.Sb5 Bxb5 7.Ra4 Bxa4 8.Rb3 Bxb3=.

Commendation - Marko Klasinc, Slovenia A good problem with an unexpected solution. Solution: 1...Bd2 2.c1R! Bxe1 3.Kxe1 Kg2 4.d2 Kf3 5.Kf1 Kxe3 6.e1Q+! Kd3 7.Qe4+ Kxd2 8.Qh1 Kxc1 9.g2 Kxd1=.