

StrateGems 2018 Studies Award

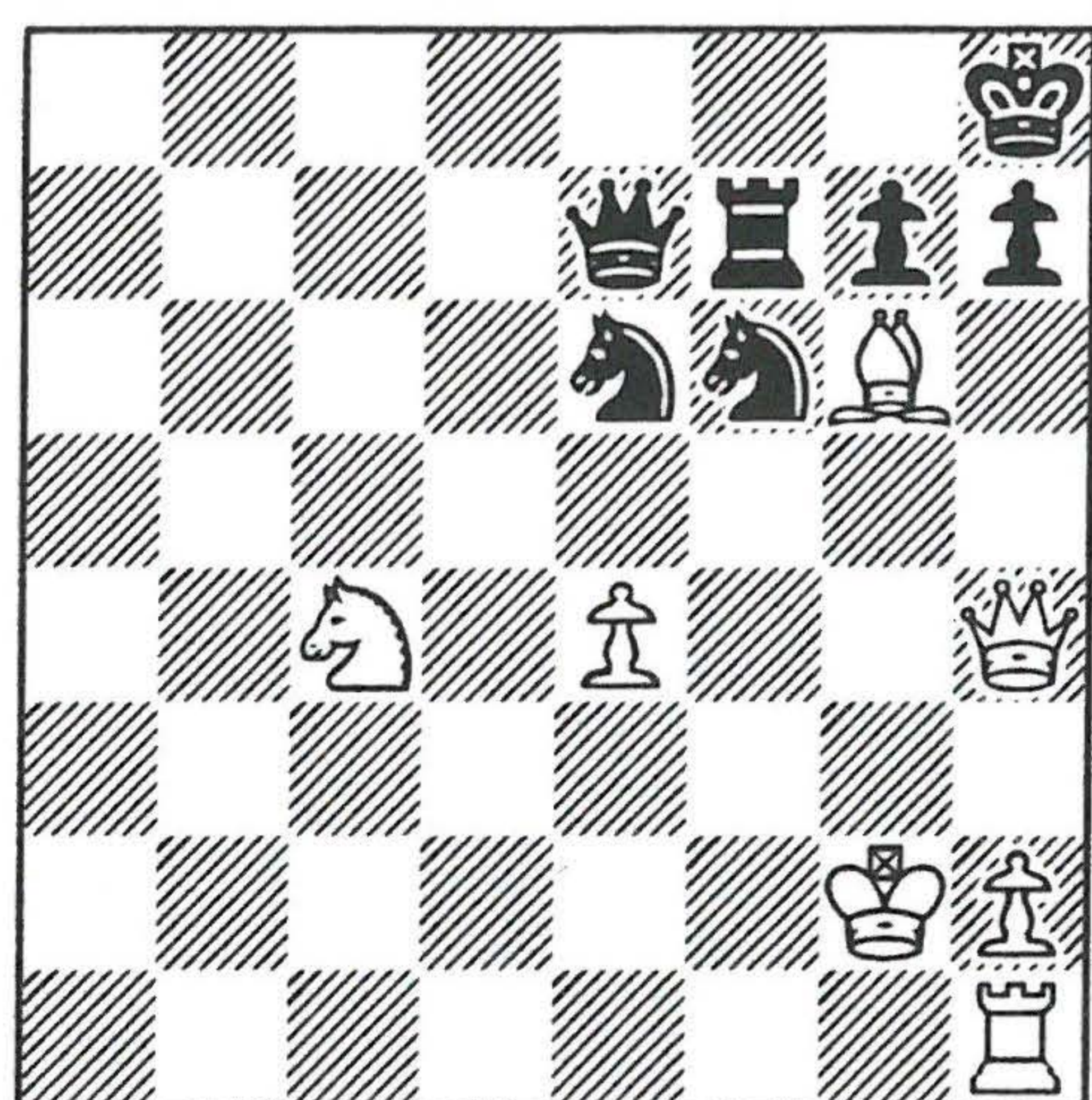
By Boško Milošeski

I reviewed 18 entries. The quality was high. The study E0350 was not awarded because of a dual 6.Kg8/Kg7.

Here is my ranking:

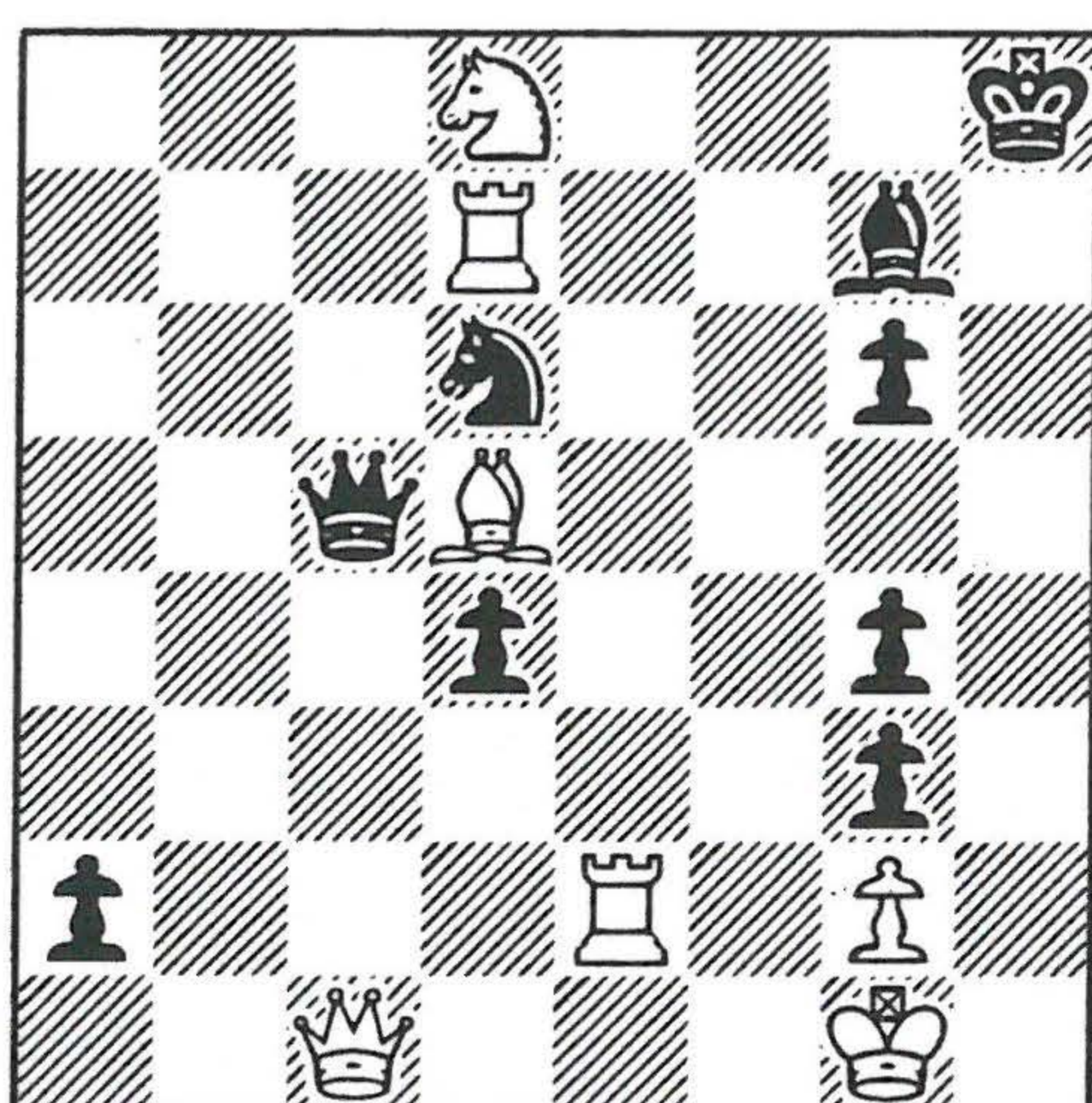
1st Prize

Martin Minski &
Niclas Huschenbeth



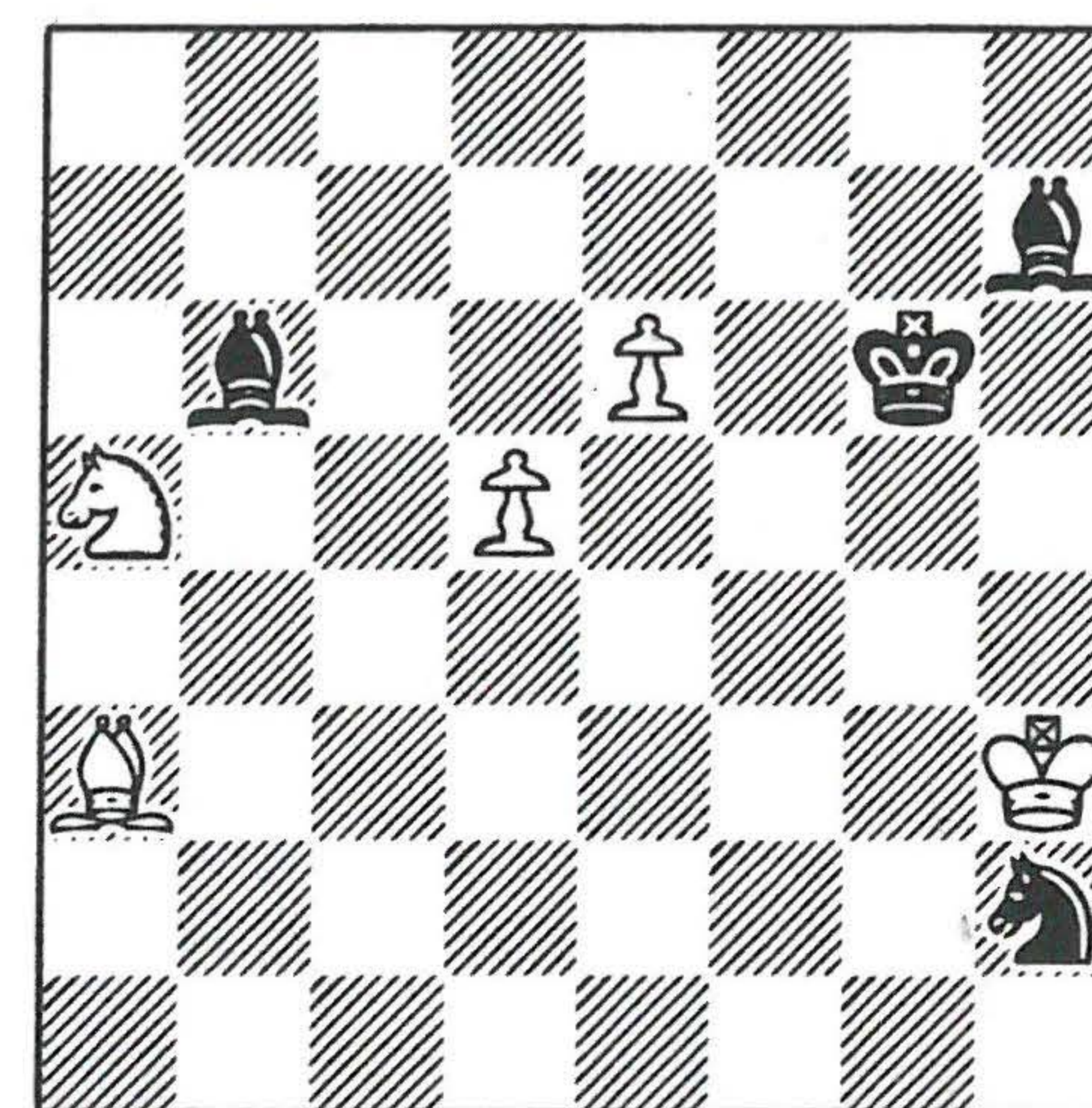
Win (7+7)

2nd Prize
Peter Krug



Win (7+9)

3rd Prize
Pavel Arestov



Win (5+4)

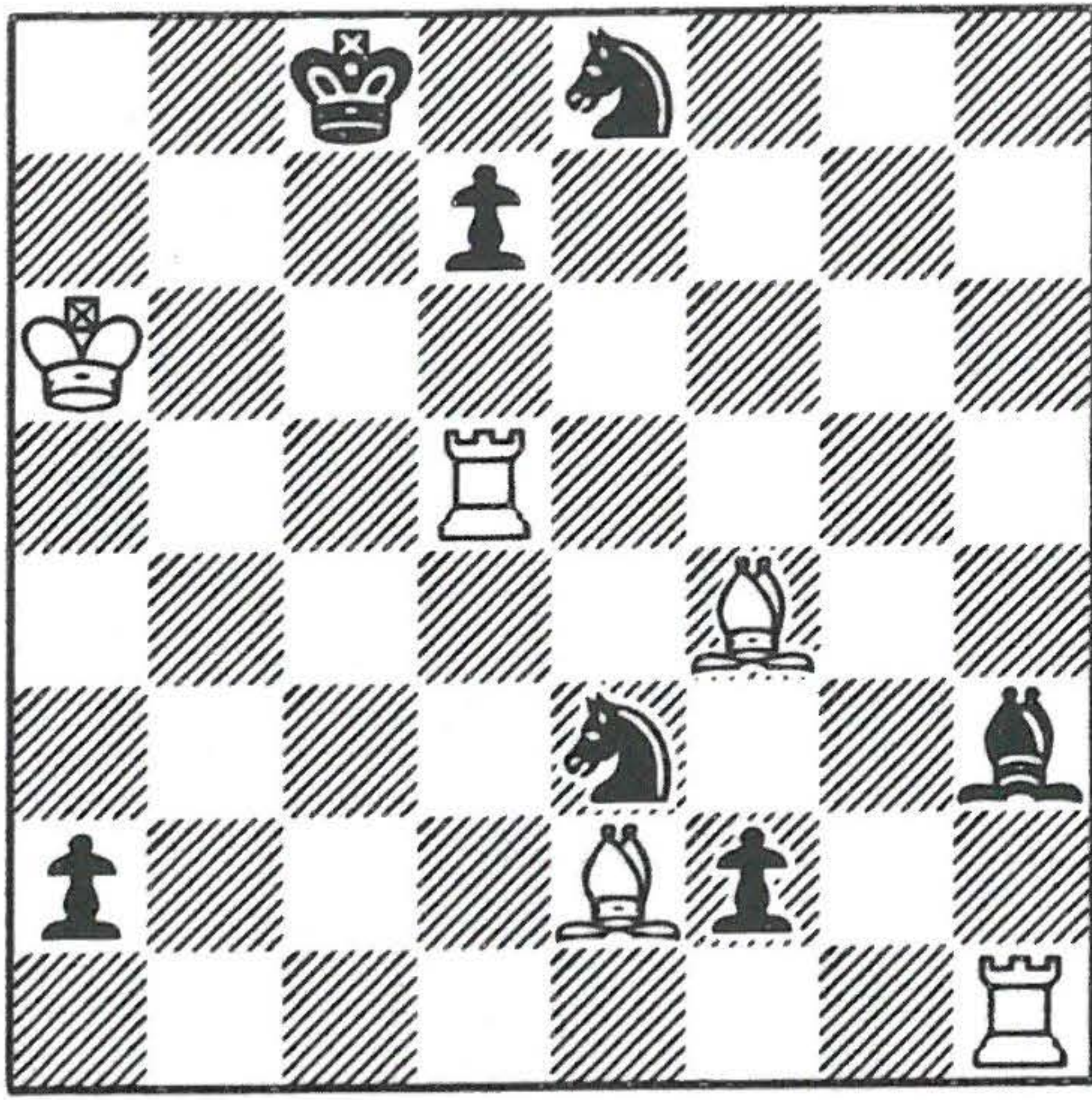
1st Prize - (Martin Minski & Niclas Huschenbeth - E0347) The authors used themes from chess problems: Umnov and Model mate. An unbelievable Queen sacrifice (4.Qg3!!) is followed by Knight sacrifice (5.Sg6!) in order to activate the masked R/P battery ending with Model mate. Solution: 1.Se5! (1.Bxf7? g5! 2.Qe1 Sf4+ 3.Kf1 Qxf7 =) 1...Rf8 [1...Sd8 2.Sxf7+ Sxf7 {e.g.} 3.Ra1 Sh6 (3...Qb7 4.Rf1 Sg5 5.Bf5 +-) 4.Ra8+ Shg8 5.Qf4! Qb7 6.Rb8 Qd7 7.Bf5 +-] 2.Bf7! (2.Bf5? Sf4+! 3.Qxf4 Sh5 =, or 2.Bxh7? g5! 3.Sg6+ Kg7 4.Sxe7 gxh4 =) 2...Sf4+! (2...g5 3.Sg6+ Kg7 4.Sxe7 gxh4 5.Bxe6 +-) 3.Qxf4 Sh5! (3...Rxf7 4.Sxf7+ Qxf7 {e.g.} 5.Rc1 +-) 4.Qg3!! (4.Qf5? g6 5.Sc6 Qxf7 6.Qxf7 Rxf7 =) 4...Sxg3 (4...Rxf7 5.Sxf7+ Qxf7 6.Qb8+ +-, or 4...g6 5.Qc3 +-, or 4...Rd8 5.Bxh5 +-) 5.Sg6+! hxg6 6.hxg3+ Qh4 7.Rxh4#.

2nd Prize - (Peter Krug - E0352) Complex and rich study with strategic elements on both sides in which White, with sacrifices of its Rooks and Queen, attains a winning position. Solution: 1.Re8+! Sxe8 2.Sf7+ Kg8! [2... Kh7 3.Qh6+! (3.Sg5+? Kh6) 3...Kg8 4.Qh8+! Bxh8 5.Sh6+ Kf8 6.Rf7 #] 3.Sg5+ Kh8 4.Qe1 d3+ 5.Kh1 a1Q 6.Qxa1 d2 (6...Qe3 7.Rxg7) 7.Qf1 Qa3! (7...Qc1 8.Bc4) 8.Bc4 Qc1 9.Be2 Qc5 10.Rxg7! Sxg7 11.Qf6 Qc8 (11...Qc1+ 12.Bf1 d1Q 13.Qf8#) 12.Bd1 Qe8 13.Qe5! Qxe5 14.Sf7+ Kh7 15.Sxe5 +-.

3rd Prize - (Pavel Arestov - E0349) With a subtle play, despite the fine counter play by Black, White mates with a promotion into a Knight. Solution: 1.Sc4! (1.e7? Kf7 2.Kxh2 Bxa5 =) 1...Bc7 (1...Bd4 2.Kxh2 Bg8 3.Kg3 Kf6 4.e7 +-) 2.d6 Bxd6 (2...Bd8 3.e7 +-) 3.Bxd6! (3.Sxd6? Kf6 =) 3...Sf3! (3...Kf6 4.e7 Bg6 5.Kxh2 +-) 4.Kg4! (4.e7? Kf7 =) 4...Sd4! (4...Kf6 5.e7 Sh2+ 6.Kh3 Kf7 7.Kxh2 +-, or 4...Sh2+ 5.Kg3! Sf1+ 6.Kg2 Kf6 7.e7 +-) 5.Se5+! (5.e7? Kf7 6.Se5+ Ke8 =) 5...Kf6 6.e7 Bf5+! (6...Bg6 7.Sxg6 +-) 7.Kh5!! (7.Kh4? Be6(Bd7,Bd6) 8.e8Q Sf5+ 9.K~ Sg7+ =, or 7.Kf4? Se6+ 8.Ke3 Sg7 =, or 7.Kg3? Bg6! 8.Sxg6 Sf5+ 9.Kf4 Sxd6 =) 7...Sd6! (7...Bg6+ 8.Sxg6 Sf5 9.Bc5 +-) 8.e8S # (8.e8Q? Sg7+ =)

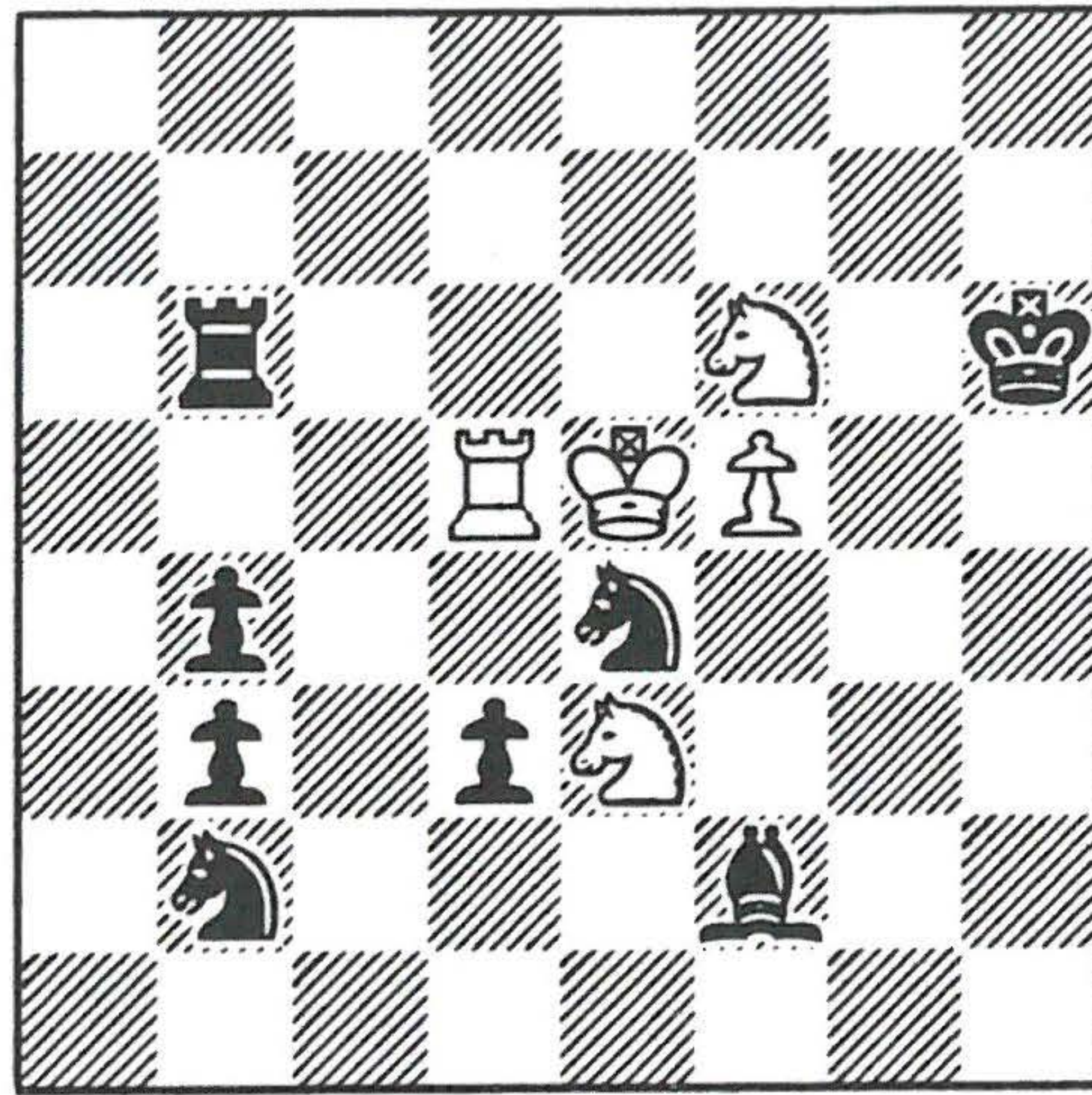
1st Honorable Mention - (Michal Hlinka & L'uboš Kekely - E0341) Despite the black Knight sacrifice and promotion to two Queens, White creates a R/B battery and then by self-pinning and sacrificing its Bishop (10.Bxd5+) achieves a stalemate with two of its pinned pieces. Solution: 1...Sc7+! (1...Sxd5 2.Be5 Sec7+ 3.Ka5 Sf4 4.Bf1 Bxf1 5.Rxf1 Sd3 6.Bd4 Se6 7.Bxf2 Sxf2 8.Ra1 =, or 1...f1Q 2.Rc5+ Sc7+ 3.Rxc7+ Kd8 4.Rxf1 Bxf1 5.Rc1 Bxe2+ 6.Ka5 =) 2.Bxc7 f1Q 3.Rxf1 Bxf1 4.Rc5! a1Q+ (phoenix) (4...Bxe2+ 5.Ka7 =, or 4...d6 5.Bxd6+ Kd7 6.Be5 Bxe2+ 7.Kb7 =) 5.Ba5+ Kb8 6.Rb5+ Kc8 7.Rc5+ Kb8 8.Rb5+ Ka8 (8...Kc8 9.Rc5+, positional draw) 9.Bf3+ d5 10.Bxd5+! Sxd5 =.

1st Honorable Mention
Michal Hlinka &
L'uboš Kekely



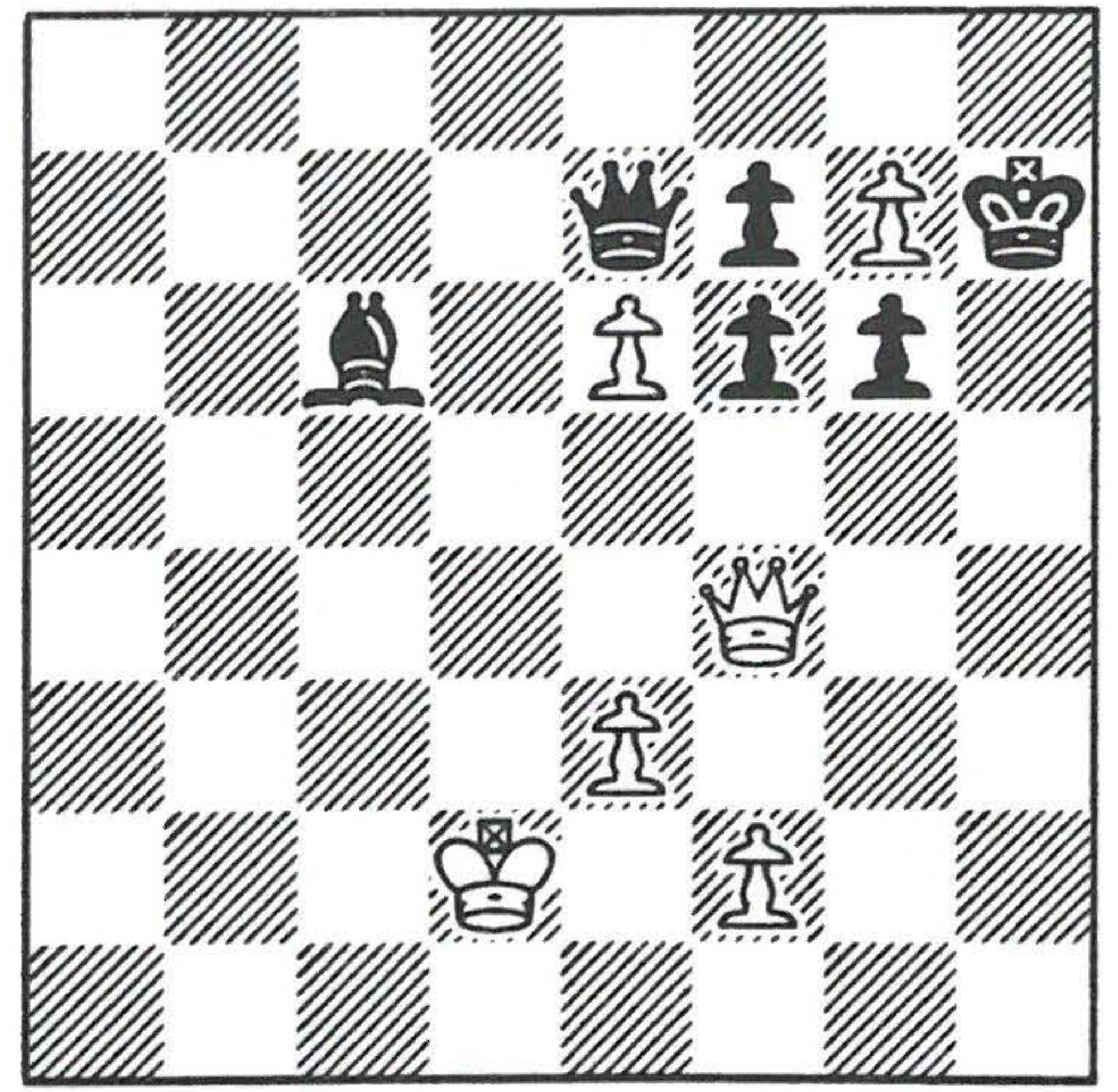
Draw Black to move (5+7)

2nd Honorable Mention
Mario Garcia &
Bizya Buyannemekh



Draw (5+8)

3rd Honorable Mention
Petr Kiryakov

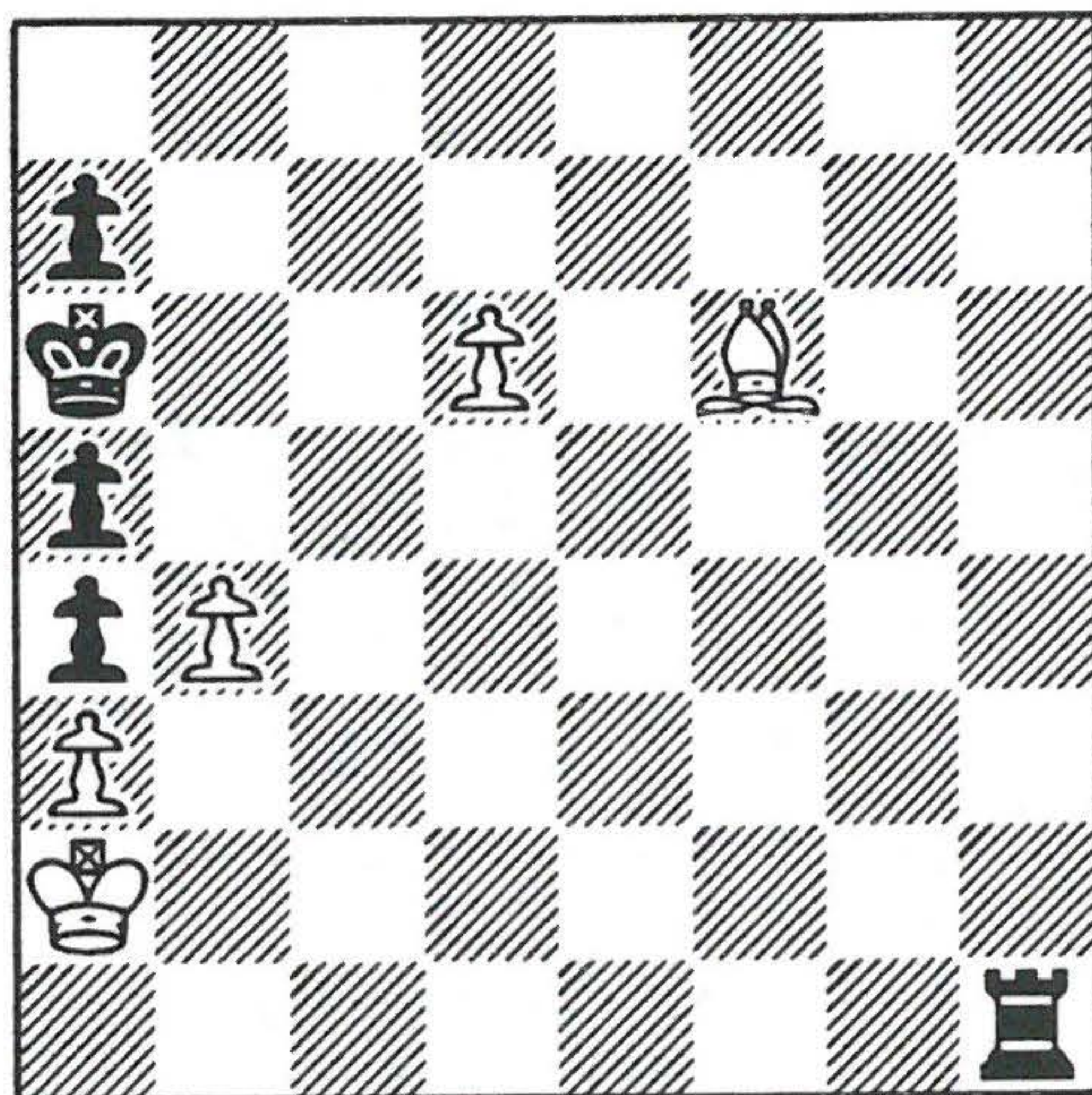


Draw (6+6)

2nd Honorable Mention - (Mario Garcia & Bizya Buyannemekh - E0346) A study rich with strategic elements. The Knight sacrifice (4.Sxd3!!) is especially pretty and leads to positional draw. Solution: 1.Seg4+! (1.Sxe4? Bxe3! -+) 1...Kg5 2.Sxe4+ (2.Kxe4? Sc4 3.Kxa3 b2 -+) 2...Kxg4 3.Sxf2+ Kg3! [3...Kf3 4.Sxd3 Sc4+ 5.Kd4 b2 6.Sxb2 Sxb2 7.f6 (7.Ra5? Sd1 -+) 7...Rxf6 8.Rf5+ Rxf5 stalemate] 4.Sxd3!! (trials: a) 4.Rxd3? Sxd3+ 5.Sxd3 Kf3 6.Kd4 Rc6 -+, b) 4.Se4+? Kf3 5.Kd4 Ke2 6.f6 Rb8! 7.Rh5 Rd8+ 8.Rd5 Rh8 9.Rg5 Sd1 10.f7 Rd8+ 11.Ke5 Rf8 12.Rg2+ Kf1 -+, c) 4.Sd1? Sc4+! 5.Ke4 b2 6.Rxd30 Kg4 7.Sxb2 Sxb2 8.Rb3 Sc4! 9.Kd5 Sa5! -+) 4...Sc4+ 5.Kd4 b2 6.Sxb2 Sxb2 7.Kc5! (7.Ra5? Sd1 8.Kc5 Rb8 9.Ra1 Sc3 10.Kc4 Se4 -+) 7...Rb8 (7...Sa4+ 8.Kc4 b3 9.Rd3+ =) 8.f6! (8.Rd2? Sa4+ 9.Kc4 Kg4 10.Kb3 Sc5+ 11.Kc4 b3 12.Rb2 Rc8 -+) 8...b3 [8...Sa4+ 9.Kd6 Sc3 10.Rd3+ Kg4 11.f7! (11.Kc7? Rf8 12.Rd4+ Kf5 13.Kd7 Sa2 14.Rd2 Rf7+ 15.Kc8 b3 16.Rb2 Sc1 17.Rb1 Rxf6 -+) =] 9.f7! Sa4+ 10.Kd6 b2 11.Rg5+ (11.Rd1? Rd8 -+) 11...Kf2 (11...Kh4 12.Rg1 Sc3 13.Ke7 =) 12.Rb5! =.

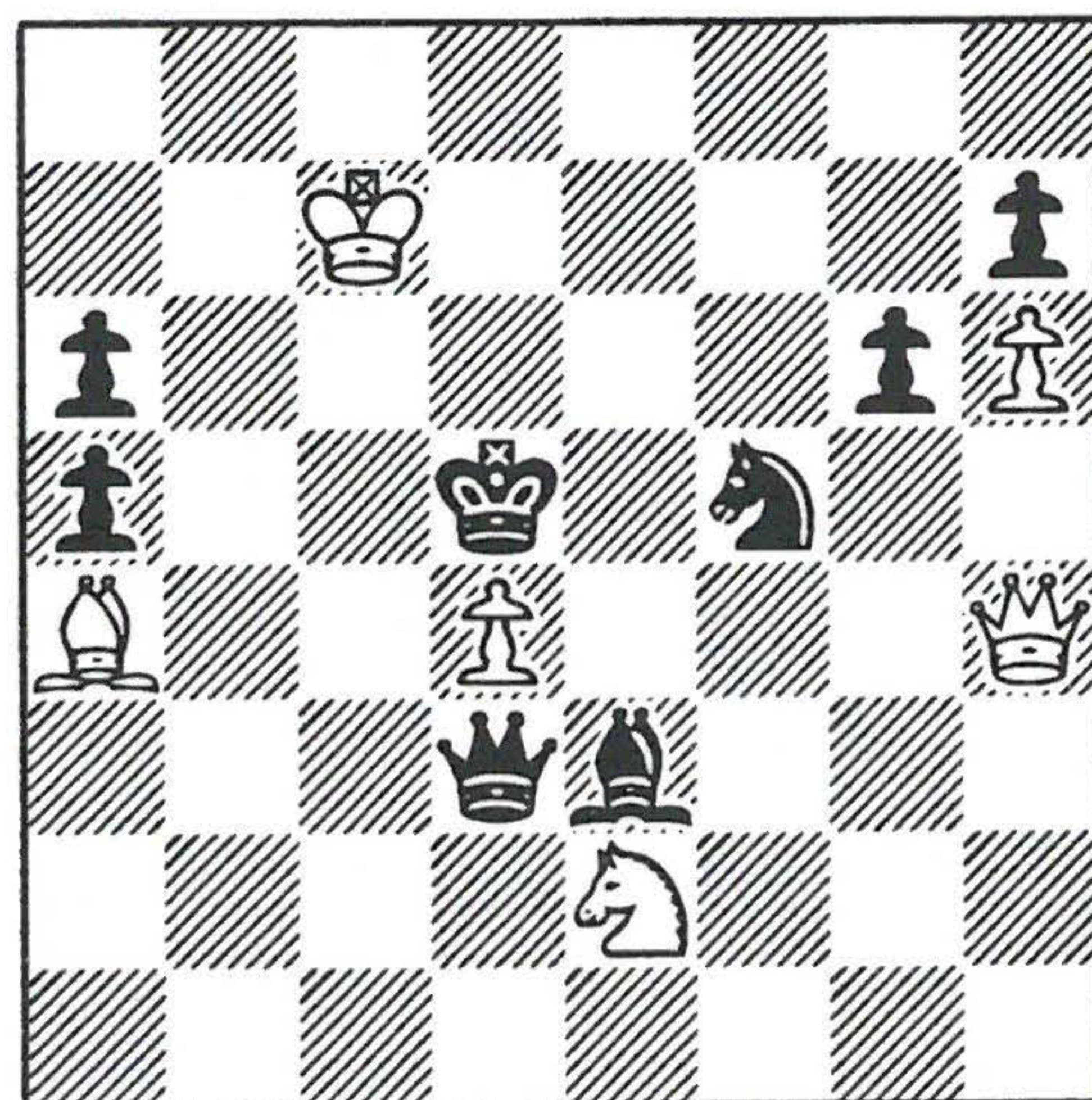
3rd Honorable Mention - (Petr Kiryakov - E0351) With a Queen sacrifice and promotion into a Knight, White achieves a draw. Solution: 1.Qh6+! Kxh6 2.g8S+ Kg7 3.Sxe7 Bb7 4.Sf5+! gxf5 5.e7 Bc6 6.f3! (6.f4? Kh6 7.Kd3 Kh5 8.Kd4 Kg4 -+, or 7.Ke2 Kh5 8.Kf2 Kh4 -+) 6...f4 7.e4! f5 8.e5! f6 10.e6! = (10...Kh6 11.Ke2 Kh5 12.Kf2 Kh4 13.Kg2 =).

Commendation
Vladislav Tarasyuk



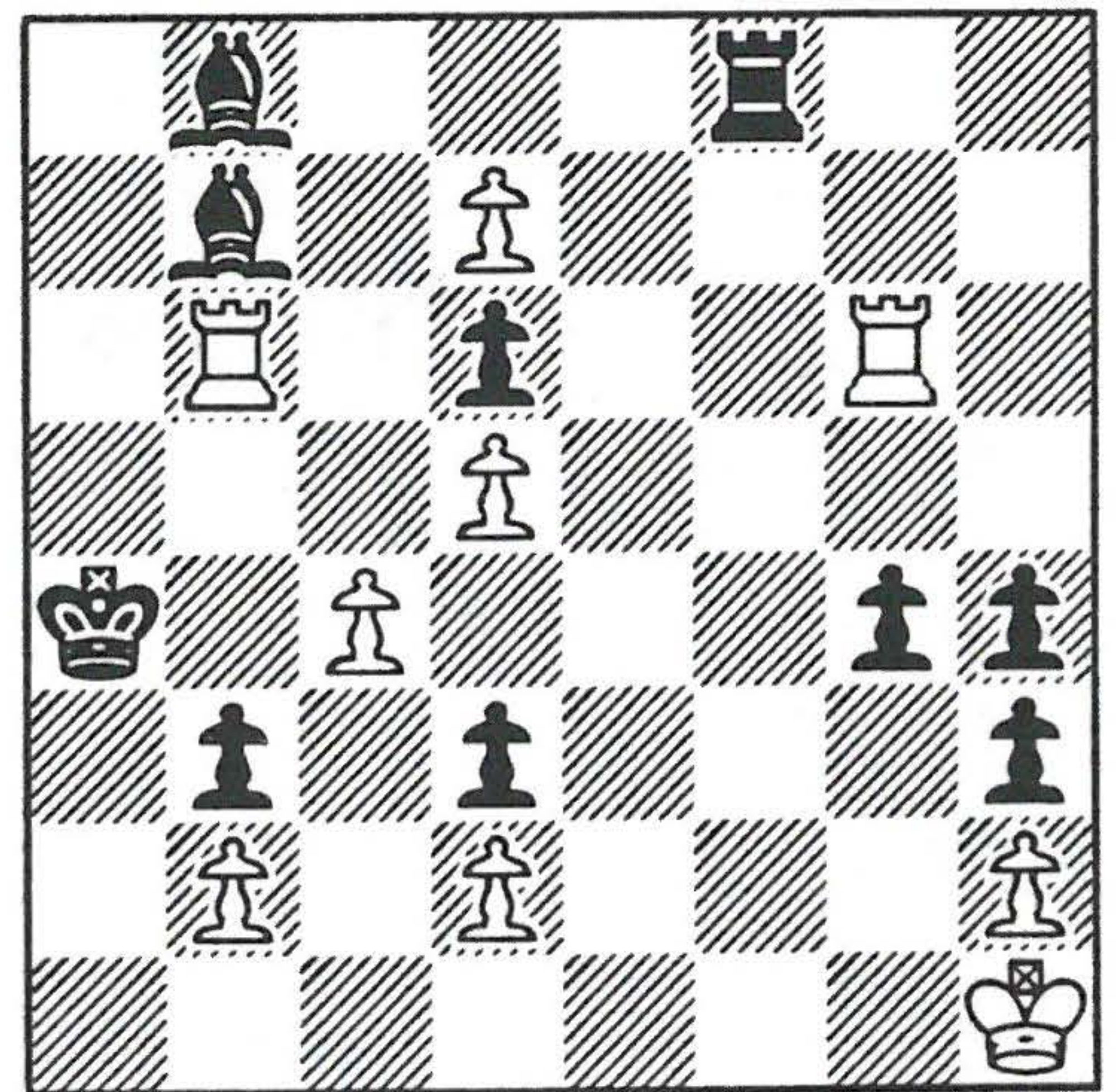
Win (5+5)

Commendation
Andrzej Jasik



Win (6+8)

Commendation
Daniele Gatti



Win (9+10)

Commendation - (Vladislav Tarasyuk - E0343) Solution: 1.d7 Rh2+! (1...Rd1 2.d8Q Rxd8 3.Bxd8 axb4 4.axb4 Kb5 5.Ka3 +-) 2.Ka1!! [Thematic try: 2.Kb1? Rd2 3.d8Q Rxd8 4.Bxd8 axb4 5.axb4 Kb5 6.Ba5 a3! zz 7.Ka1 Ka4 (7...Kc4? 8.Ka2) 8.Ka2 a6! 9.Ka1 Kb3 10.Kb1 a2+ 11.Ka1 Ka3 =] 2...Rd2 3.d8Q Rxd8 4.Bxd8 axb4 5.axb4 Kb5 6.Ba5 a3! 7.Kb1! (zz 7.Ka2? Ka4 =) 7...Ka4 8.Kc2! (8.Ka2? a6 9.Ka1 Kb3 see Try) 8...a2 (8...a6 9.Kc3 a2 10.Kb2 +-) 9.Kb2 a1Q+ 10.Kxa1 Ka3 11.Kb1 Kb3 12.Kc1 Kc3 13.Kd1 Kd3 14.Ke1! +-.

Commendation - (Andrzej Jasik - E0348) Solution: 1.Qe4+!! (1.Qh1+? Ke6 2.Qc6+ Kf7 =) 1...Kc4! (1...Qxe4 2.Bb3#, or 1...Kxe4 2.Bc6#) 2.Qb7! Bf4+! (2...Bxd4 3.Qxa6+ Kb4 3.Qxd3 +-) 3.Sxf4 Qg3! [3...Qe3 4.Qxa6+ Kxd4 5.Sxg6! Qg3+ 6.Kd7! Qd3 (6...Sxh6 7.Qf6+ Ke3 8.Se5 Sg8 9.Qd6 +-) 7.Qc6 Qd2 8.Qf6+ Kc5+ 9.Ke8 Sd6+ 10.Ke7 +-) 4.Qe4! g5! (4...Qe3 5.Qe5! Qxe5 6.dxe5 Sxh6 7.e6 Sg8 8.Kd6 +-) 5.Qd5+! (thematic try: 5.Qxf5? Qxf4! 6.Qxf4 gxf4 7.Bc2 Kxd4 =) 5...Kb4 (5...Kc3 6.Qc5+ Kd2 7.Qxa5+ Qc3+ 8.Qxc3 Kxc3 9.Se6! +-) 6.Qxf5! Qxf4+ [6...Kxa4 7.Qc2+ Kb4 8.Qxh7 gxf4 9.Qe7+ Kb3 10.Qf7+ Kb2 (10...Kc2 11.Qf5+ Kb2 12.h7 Qg7+ 13.Qd7 +-) 11.h7 +-) 7.Qxf4 gxf4 8.Bc2! (8.Bc6? a4 9.d5 a3 10.d6 a2 11.d7 a1Q 12.d8Q Qa5+ 13.Kc8 Qxd8+ 14.Kxd8 a5 15.Bf5 a4 16.Bxh7 a3 17.Bb1 f3 18.h7 a2! 19.Bxa2 f2 =) 8...a4 9.Bxh7 +-.

Commendation - (Daniele Gatti - E0353) Solution: 1.Rxg4! (1.Kg1? Ba7) 1...Rf1+ 2.Rg1 Bxd5+ 3.cxd5 Rxg1+ 4.Kxg1 Ba7 5.d8B!! (5.d8Q? Bxb6+ 6.Qxb6 stalemate) 5...Ka5 6.Kf2 Bxb6+ 7.Bxb6 Kxb6 8.Kf3 (8.Ke3? Kc5 9.Kxd3 Kxd5 =) 8...Kc5 9.Kg4 Kxd5 10.Kxh4! (10.Kxh3? Ke5 11.Kg2 d5 12.h3 d4 13.Kf2 Kf4 =) Ke4 11.Kg4 d5 12.Kg3 d4 13.Kg4 Ke5 14.Kxh3 Kf4 15.Kg2 +-.

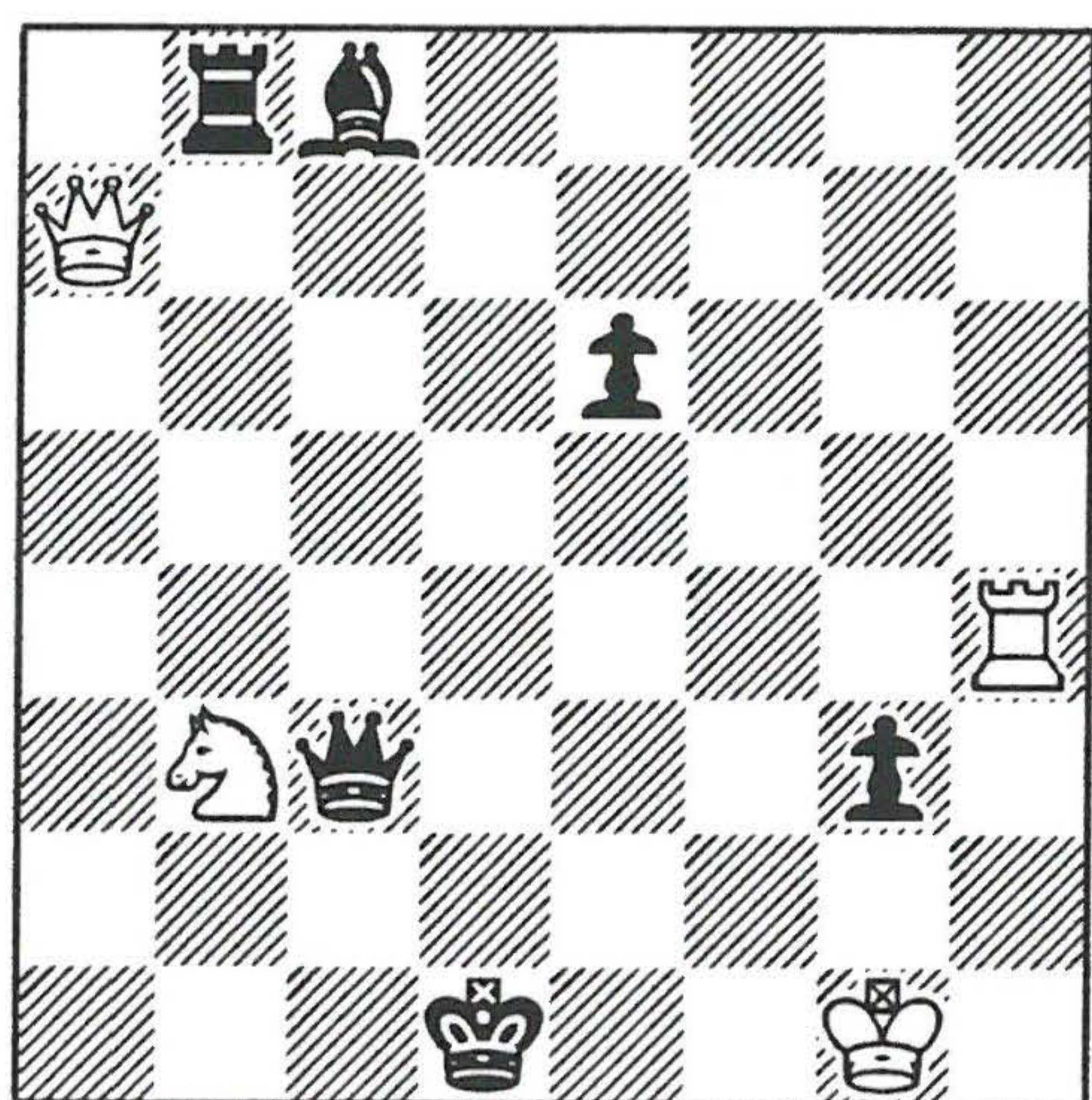
We thank Boško for this labor of love. He told me (Mike) recently that he lives on a farm, far from people, and grows his own food. I am jealous of him. This award stays open for 3 months. The comments should be sent to Franjo Vrabec.

StrateGems 2019 Studies Award

by L'uboš Kekely

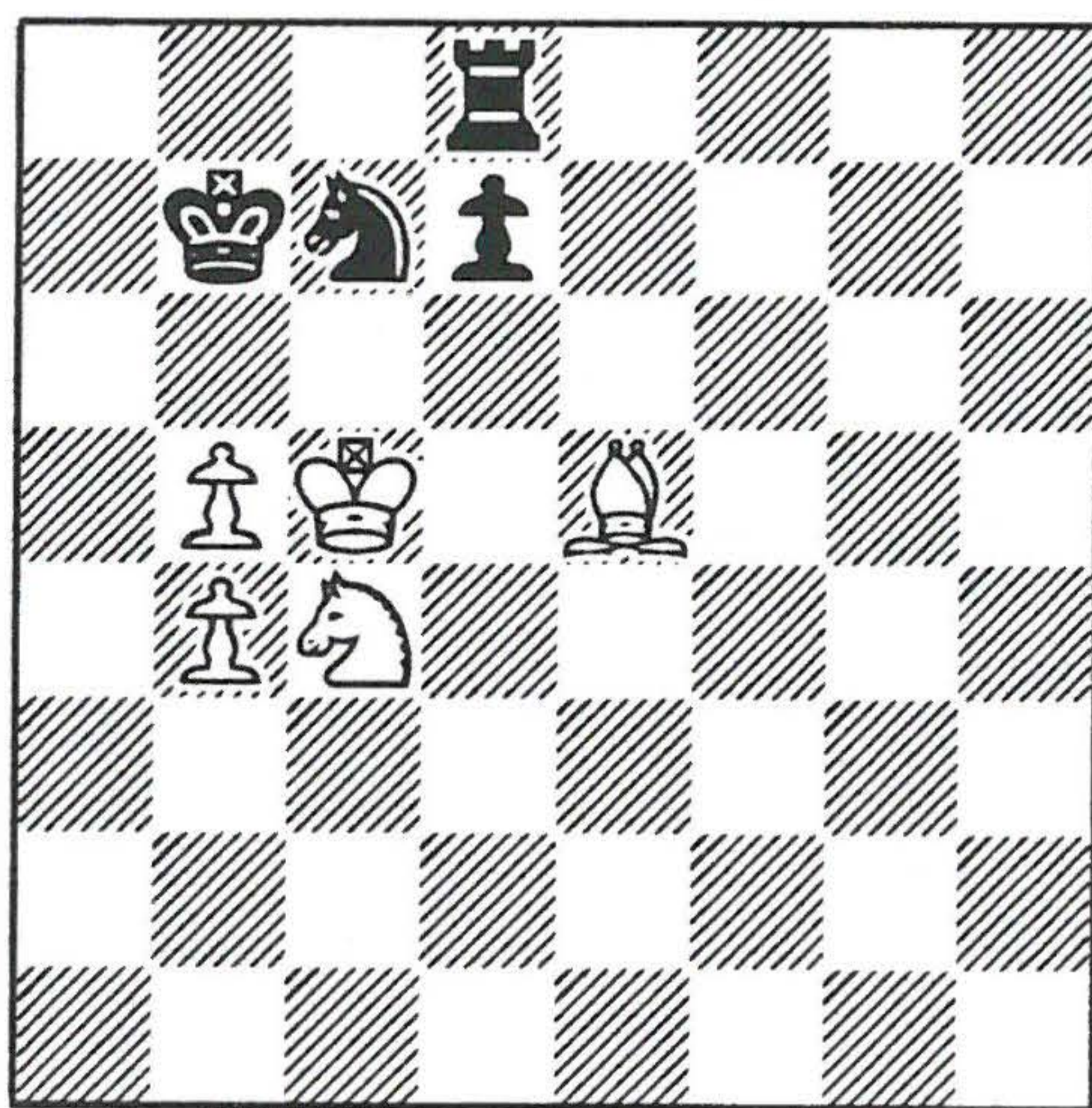
I thank Franjo Vrabec for asking me to judge this tourney. Fifteen studies from 13 authors from 11 countries were published in 2019. I checked the problems for anticipations and soundness. Here is my decision:

Prize
Steffen S. Nielsen



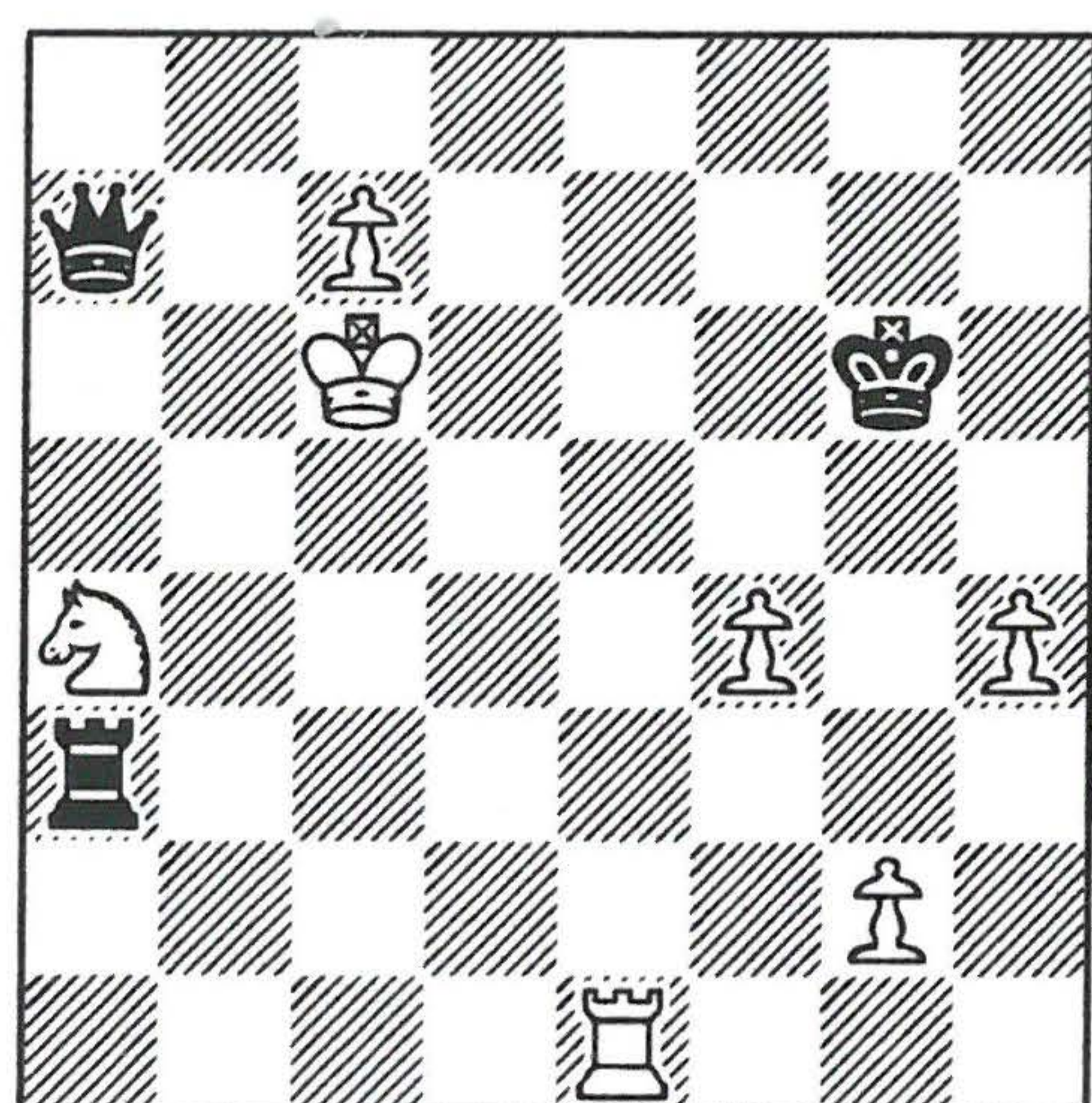
Win (4+6)

Honorable Mention
Petr Kiryakov



Win (5+4)

Honorable Mention
Peter S. Krug



Draw (7+3)

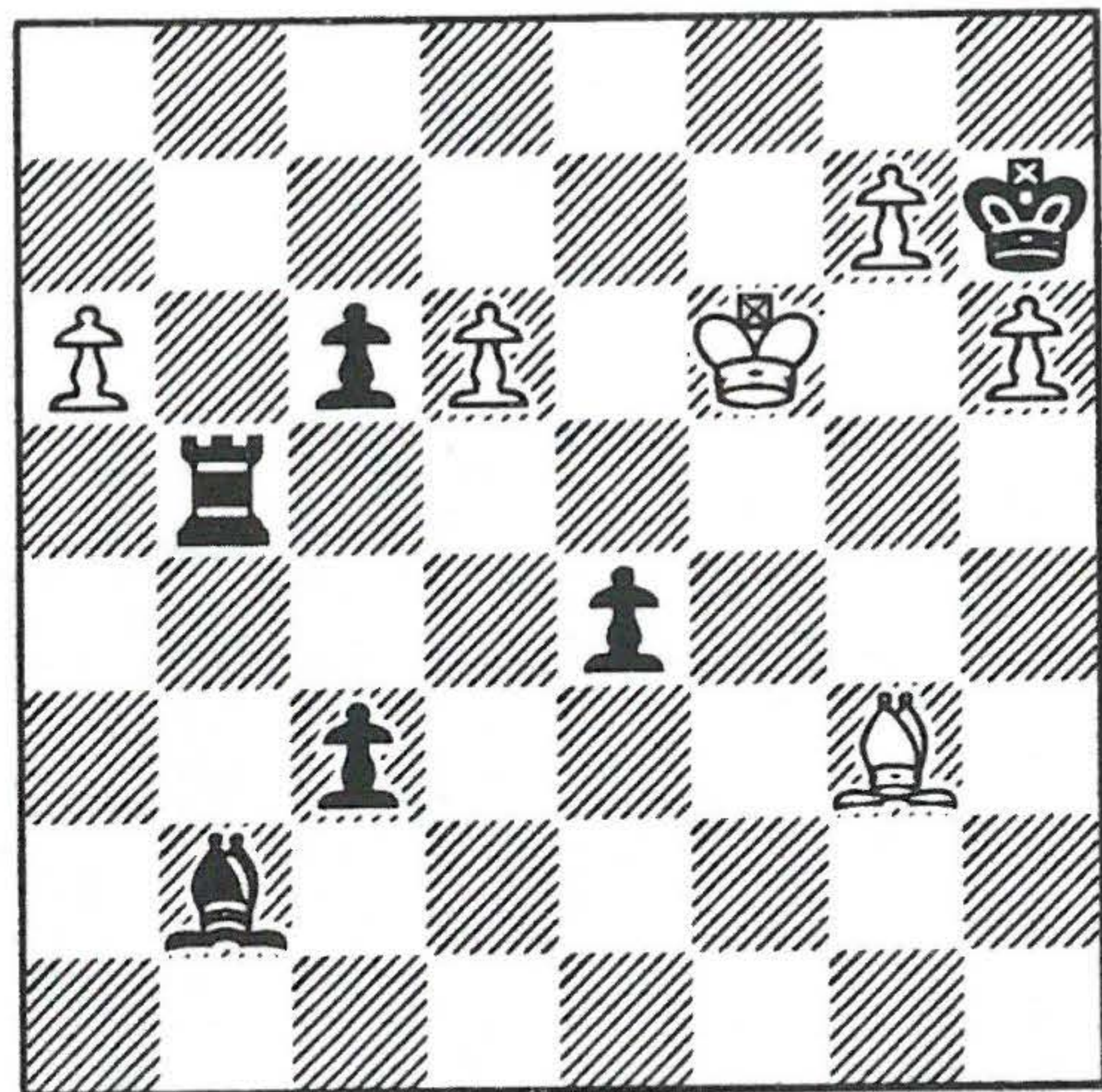
Prize - (Steffen S. Nielsen - E0371) A beautiful study with mate attack and sacrifices of queens and rooks on both sides. Which king survives we will know at the end. The switchback by the white queen (13.Qa7!) creates a R/Q battery and dashes all hopes of Black's counterplay. **Solution:** 1.Rd4+! (1.Qxb8? Qe1+! with a perpetual check) 1...Ke2 (1...Ke1 2.Re4+ Kd1 3.Qxb8) 2.Re4+ Kf3 3.Qg7 (3.Qh7? Qa1+ 4.Sxa1 Rb1+) 3...Qc5+! (3...Qxg7 4.Sd2#, or 3...e5 4.Qxe5 +-) 4.Rd4 (4.Sd4+? Qxd4+ 5.Qxd4 Rb1+, or 4.Sxc5? Rb1+ 5.Re1 Rxe1#, or 4.Qd4? Qxd4+) 4...Qf5! (4...Qh5 5.Sd2+ Ke2 6.Sf1 +-, or 4...Rxb3 5.Qg4+ Ke3 6.Qe4#) 5.Sd2+ (5.Rd1? Rxb3 6.Rf1+ Ke2 (6...Ke4) 7.Rxf5 exf5 =) 5...Ke3 [5...Ke2 6.Re4+ Kd1 (6...Qxe4 7.Sxe4 Rb1+ 8 Kg2 +-) 7.Qa1+ with a winning attack] 6.Sf1+ [6.Sc4+? Kf3 7.Rd3+ Qxd3 8.Se5+ Ke2 9.Sxd3 Rb1+ =, or 6.Re4+? Qxe4 7.Sxe4 Rb1+ = (7... Kxe4 =)] 6...Qxf1+ [6...Ke2 7.Sxg3+ (7.Rd2+)] 7.Kxf1 Rb1+ 8.Kg2 (8.Rd1? Rxd1+ =) 8...Bb7+ 9.Kh3 (9.Kxg3 Rg1+)

9...Rh1+ 10.Kg4 Bf3+ 11.Kg5 Rh5+ 12.Kg6 (12.Kf6 Kxd4 =) 12...g2 [12...Rd5 13.Rc4 (13.Rb4) (13.Ra4)] 13.Qa7! [13.Kf7? Rd5 14.Rxd5 (14.Ra4? Rd7+) 14...exd5 15.Qg3 Ke2 =] 13...Ra5 (13...g1Q+ 14.Rg4+ +-) 14.Qb6! [14.Qxa5? g1Q+ 15.Kf6 Be4 16.Qd2+ (16.Qc3+ Kf4 =) 16...Kf3] 14...Rb5 [14...Ra6 15.Rd3+ (15.Qc5 Ra5 16.Qc3+ +-)] 15.Rd3+ [15.Qxb5? g1Q+ 16.Kf6 Qe1 17.Qc5 (17.Qe5+ Kf2) 17...Ke2 =, or 15.Qa7 Ra5 16.Qb6 Rb5 17.Rd3+ waste of time] 15...Kxd3 16.Qxb5+ Ke3 17.Qc5+ (or 17.Qb6+ Ke2 18.Qg1 +-) 17...Ke2 18.Qg1 +-.

Honorable Mention - (Petr Kiryakov - E0370) Congratulations to the author for finding a novelty with Zugzwang. Solution: 1.Sa5+! (1.Sd6+? Ka8! =) 1...Kc8 2.b6 d6+! (2...Sa6+ 3.Kb5 +-) 3.Bxd6 Sa6+ [3...Rxd6 4.Kxd6 (4.b7+? Kd7 =) +-] 4.Kc6 Sb8+ (4...Rxd6+ 5.Kxd6 +- see main line after White's 8th move) 5.Kd5! (5.Bxb8? Kxb8 6.b7 Rd4! 7.b5 Ra4! 8.Kb6 Rxa5 9.Kxa5 Kxb7 =) 5...Rd7 (5...Rxd6 6.Kxd6 +-) 6.Kc5! [6.b7+? Rxb7 7.Sxb7 Sc6!! 8.b5 (8.Kxc6 stalemate, or 8.Sa5 Sxa5 9.bxa5 Kb7 =) 8...Sa7 9.Bc5 Sxb5 10.Kc6 Sa7+! (10...Sc7 +- mate in 50) 11.Kb6 (11.Bxa7 stalemate) 11...Sb5! (11...Kb8 +- mate in 75) =, or 6.b5? Rb7! 7.Sxb7 Kxb7 8.Bxb8 Kxb8 9.Kc6 Kc8 10.b7+ Kb8 = (mutual zz #1)] 6...Sa6+ 7.Kc6 Rxd6+ 8.Kxd6 Kb8! (8...Sxb4 9.b7+ Kb8 10.Kc5 +-) 9.b7! (9.b5? Sb4 10.Sc6+ Kb7 11.Sxb4 Kxb6 =) 9...Ka7 (9...Sxb4 10.Kc5! Sd3+ 11.Kb6! Sb4 12.Sc6+ +-) 10.Kd7! [10.b5? Sb4! (mutual zz #2) 11.Kc7 Sd5+ 12.Kc6 Sc3! =] 10...Kb8 (10...Sxb4 11.Kc8 Sa6 12.Sc6+ Kb6 13.Sb4 +-) 11.Kc6 Ka7 12.b5 Sb4+ 13.Kd6! (mutual zz #2) 13...Kb8 14.Kc5! (14.Sc6+? Kxb7 15.Sxb4 Kb6 =) 14...Sd3+ 15.Kb6 Sb4 16.Sc6+! Sxc6 17.Kxc6 (17.bxc6 stalemate, mutual zz #1) 17...Ka7 18.b8Q+ Kxb8 19.Kb6 +-.

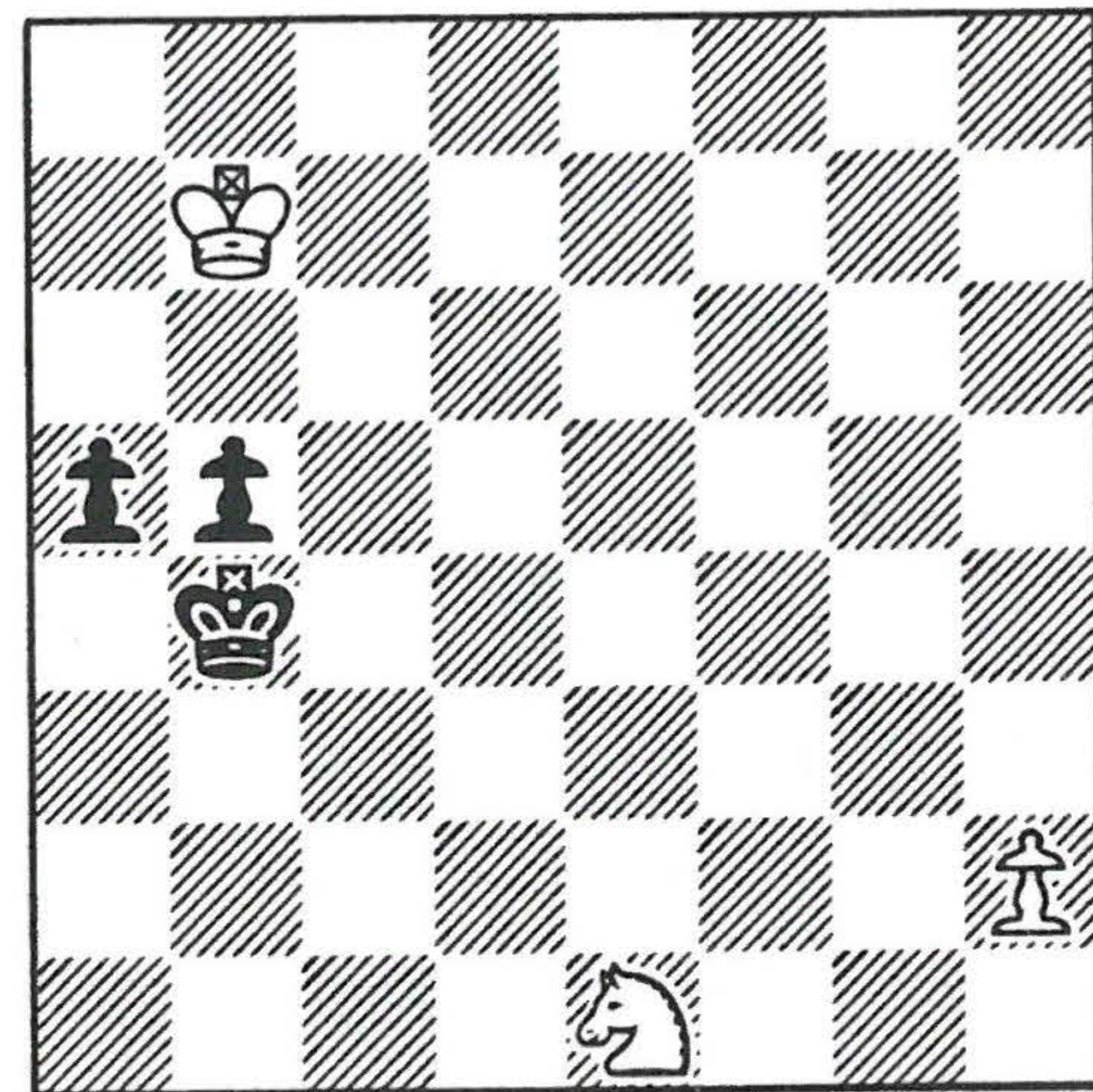
Honorable Mention - (Peter Krug - E0369) After good foreplay we get original ending position with surprising back moves 9.Ke3! and 10.Kf2!. Solution: 1.h5+! (1.Re6+? Kf7 2.Re7+ Kf6 3.Re6+ Kxe6 4.c8Q+ Ke7 5.Sc5 Qxc5+) 1...Kh6 2.Re6+ Kg7 3.Re7+ Kf6 4.Re6+ Kxe6 5.c8Q+ Ke7 6.Sc5 Qxc5+ 7.Kxc5 Rc3+ 8.Kd4 Rxc8 9.Ke3 Rc1 10.Kf2 Rc2+ 11.Kf3 Ke6 12.g4 =.

Honorable Mention
Martin Minski



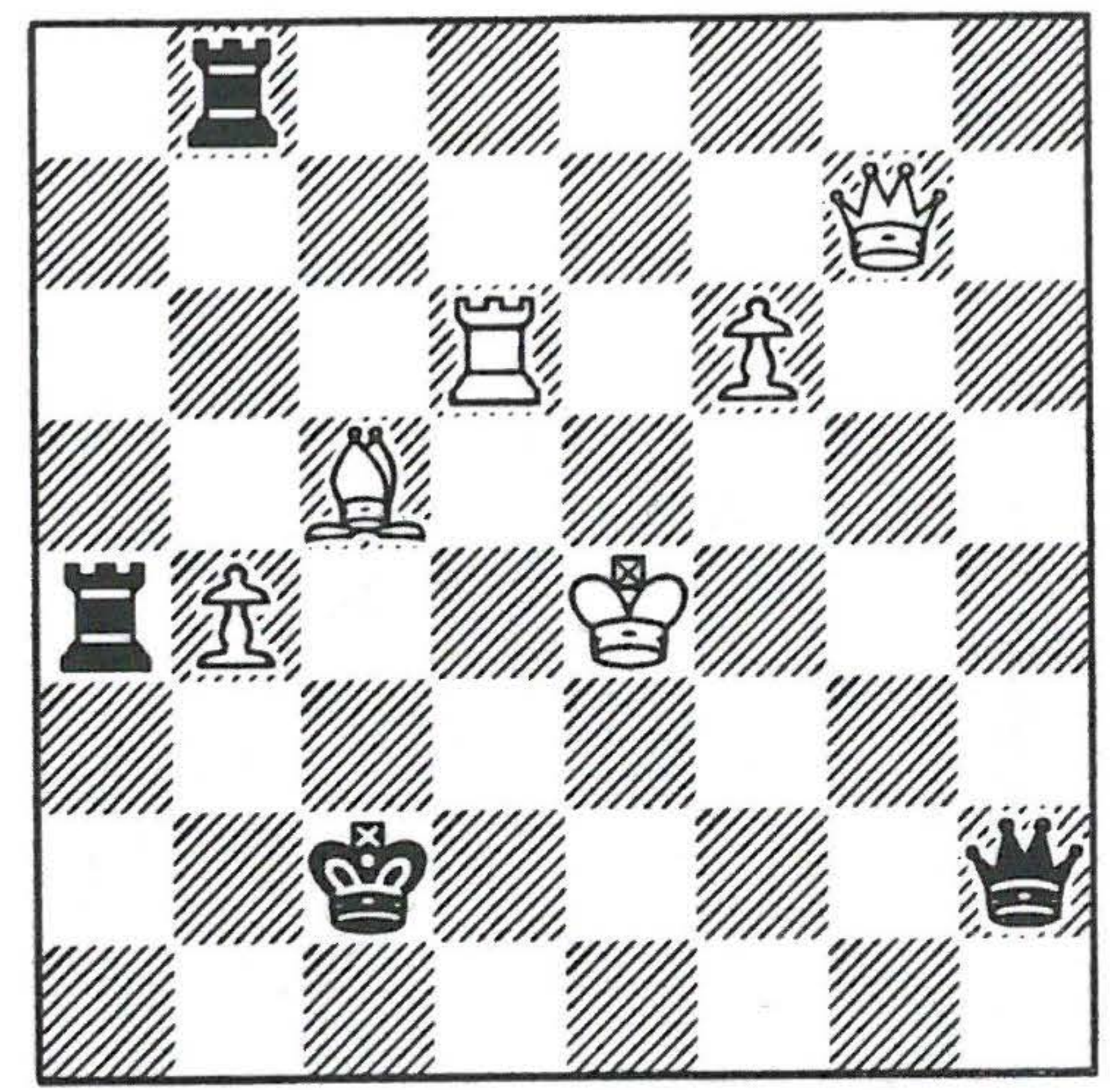
Win (6+6)

Honorable Mention
Yechiel Robinson



Win (3+3)

Honorable Mention
Árpád Ruzs



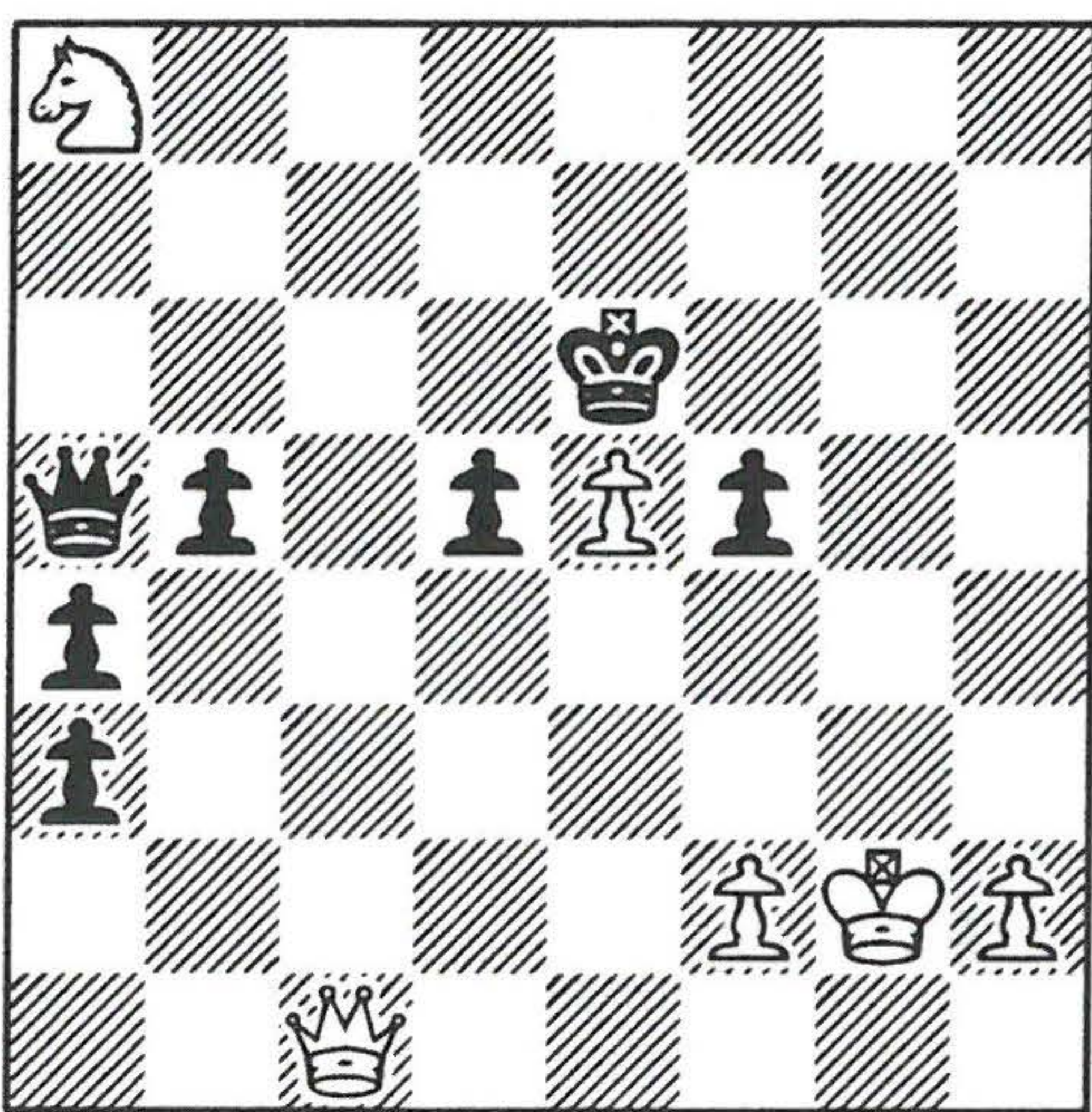
Win (6+4)

Honorable Mention - (Martin Minski - E0365) Funny study in which Black has a queen ahead but white passed pawns are stronger after a nice move 8.Be5!. Solution: 1.g8Q+! (1.Kf7? Rf5+ 2.Ke6 c2=, or 1.d7? c2+ 2.Kf7 Rf5+=) 1...Kxg8 2.Kg6! (2.a7? Kh7! 3.a8Q c2+ 4.Be5! Bxe5+ 5.Kf7 Rb7+! 6.Qxb7 c1Q=) 2...c2 3.a7! (3.d7? Rg5+! 4.Kxg5 c1Q+ 5.Kg6 Qd1 6.a7 Qg4#) 3...Rg5+! (3...Ra5 4.d7+-) 4.Kxg5 c1Q+ 5.Kg6 Qa1 6.d7 (6.h7+? Kf8 7.d7 Ke7+-) 6...Bf6 7.h7+ (7.Be5?! Qg1+! 8.Kxf6 Qf2+/Qf1+=) 7...Kh8 8.Be5!! Qg1+ 9.Kxf6 Qxa7 10.Kg6#.

Honorable Mention - (Yechiel Robinson - E0366) The tireless knight is fighting against dangerous pawns in a miniature. His demise leads to the original position, which is resolved by precise move 11.Qa8! – from one corner to another. Solution: 1.h4! Kc4 2.h5 b4 3.Sf3! Kd3! (3...b3 4.Sd2+!) 4.Sd4! (4.h6? b3!, or 4.Se5+? Kc3!, or 4.Se1+? Ke4!) 4...a4 (4...Kxd4 5.h6 b3 6.h7 b2 7.h8Q+) 5.h6 b3 6.Sb5 b2 7.Sa3 Kc3 8.h7 Kb3 9.Sb1! (9.h8Q? Kxa3 =) 9...Kc2 10.h8Q Kxb1 11.Qa8! Kc1 12.Qc8+! Kb1 (12...Kd2 13.Qd7+ or 13.Qf5 +-) 13.Qc4!! (13.Qg4? a3!) 13...a3 14.Qb3! a2 (14...Ka1 15.Qxa3+) 15.Qd1+

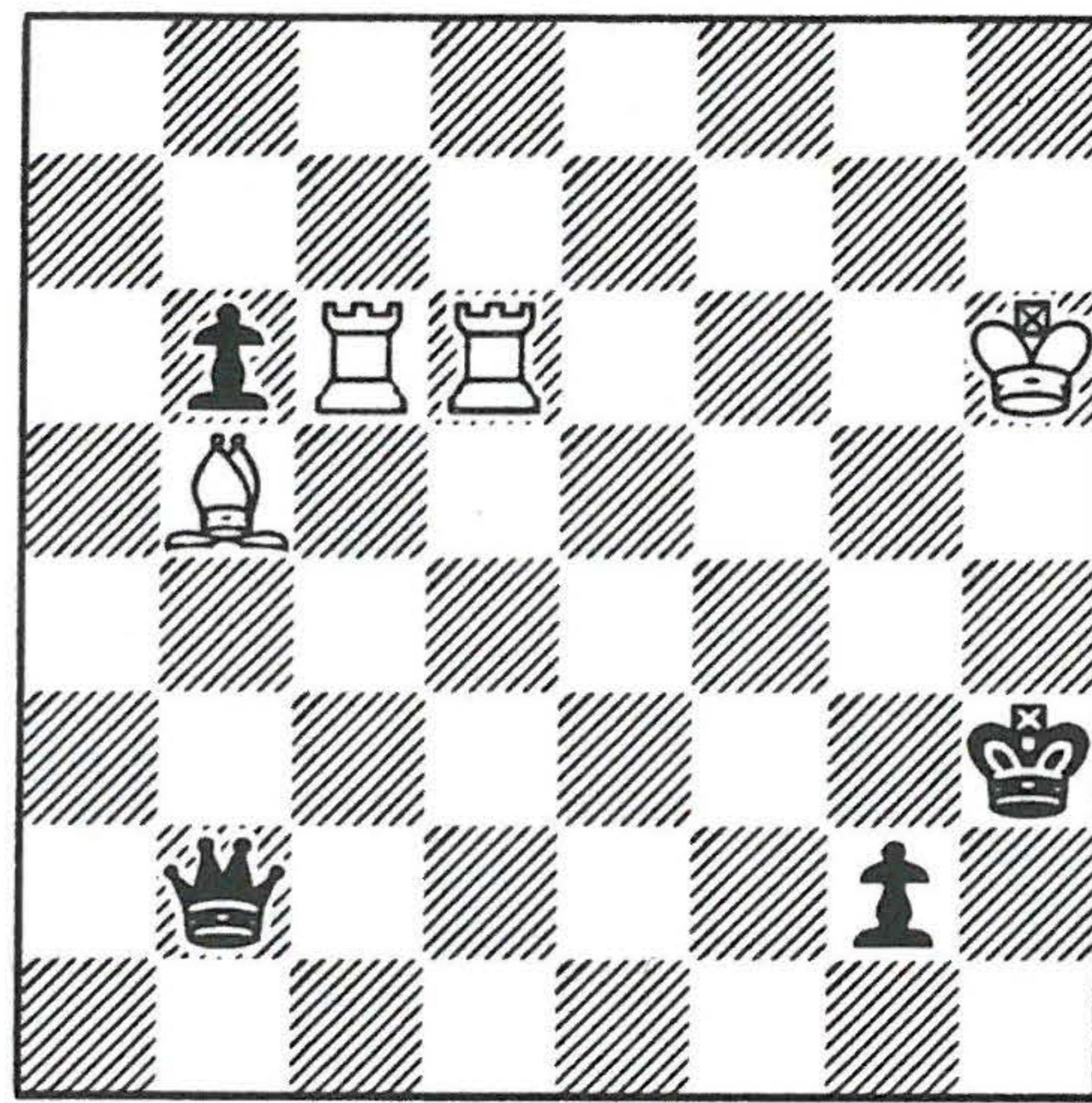
Honorable Mention - (Árpád Ruzs - E0367) A nice key creates the royal battery. What follows is a series of mutual Zugzwangs with White making sure that the f8-square is available for its King's escape!. Solution: 1.Qg6! Kb2 (1...Qe2+ 2.Kd5+ Kb2 3.Qe4 Qxe4+ 4.Kxe4 +-) 2.f7 Raxb4+! [2...Qe2+ 3.Kf5 Raxb4 4.Qf6+! (4.Bxb4? Rb5+! 5.Kf6? Qe5#) 4...Kc2 5.Bxb4 Rb5+ 6.Kg6 Qg4+ (6...Qh5+ 7.Kg7 +-) 7.Kh7 Rh5+ 8.Qh6 Rxh6+ 9.Kxh6! (9.Rxh6? Qxb4 =) 9...Qxb4 10.f8Q +-] 3.Bxb4 Qe2+! [3...Rxb4+ 4.Kf5! (4.Kd5? Qe2! = mutual zugzwang) 4...Qf4+ (4...Rf4+ 5.Ke6 Qe2+ 6.Kd7 +-; 6.Kd5? Rb4! = mutual zugzwang) 5.Ke6 Qe3+ 6.Kf6 Qc3+ 7.Ke7 Rb7+ 8.Rd7 Qe5+ 9.Qe6 Qg5+ 10.Qf6+ +-] 4.Kd4!! [Thematic try: 4.Kd5? Rxb4 mutual zugzwang 5.f8Q? Rb5+ 6.Kc6 (6.Kd4 Qe5+ 7.Kd3 Rb3+ 8.Kd2 Qe3+ 9.Kd1 Qc1+ 10.Ke2 Re3+ 11.Kf2 Qe1+ 12.Kg2 Re2+ 13.Kh3 Qh1+ 14.Kg4 Qg1+ 15.Kh4 Rh2#) 6...Qc4+ 7.Kd7 Rb7+ 8.Ke8 Qa4+ position X 9.Kd8 Qa8#] 4...Rxb4+ 5.Kd5! mutual zugzwang 5...Rb5+ (5...Qc4+ 6.Ke5 Qf4+ 7.Ke6 Qe3+ 8.Kf6 Qc3+ 9.Ke7 Rb7+ 10.Rd7 Qe5+ 11.Qe6 Qg5+ 12.Qf6+ +-) 6. Kc6 Qc4+ 7.Kd7 Rb7+ 8.Ke8 Qa4+ position X 9.Kf8! Qa8+10. Kg7 +-

Special H.M.
Peter Krug
& Mario Garcia



Win (6+7)

Commendation
Michal Hlinka
& Mario Garcia



Draw (4+4)

We thank L'uboš for a quick and comprehensive award. Please send comments to Franjo Vrabec by October 1st.

Special Honorable Mention - (Peter Krug & Mario Garcia - E0368) After knight sacrifice, the black king falls under mate threats. This special award is given because the end is known from an unsound study by Fiedler 1992. Solution: 1.Sc7+! [1.Sb6? Kxe5! 2.Qc5 (2.Qe3+ Kd6 =) 2...Qd2! 3.Qxa3 (3.Qe7+ Kd4 =) 3...Qg5+ 4.Kf1 Qh4 =] 1...Kxe5 (1...Kd7 2.e6 +-) 2.Qc5! (2.Qe3+? Kd6! =) 2...a2 (2...Qd2 3.Qe7 +-) 3.Qe7+! [3.Qxd5+? Kf6 4.Qc6+ Kg7! (4...Kg5? 5.h4+! +-) 5.Se8+ Kf8! 6.Sd6 Qc7 =] 3...Kd4 4.Se6+ Ke4 [4...Kd3 5.Qa3+ Qc3 6.Sf4+ Kc4 (6...Kc2 7.Qxa2+ Qb2 8.Qxd5 Qb3 9.Qxf5+ +-) 7.Qxa2+ Qb3 8.Qe2+ Kc3 9.Qd3+ Kb2 10.Qd2+ Ka3 11.h4 +-; 4...Kc4 5.Qc5+ Kb3 6.Sd4+ Kb2 7.Qc2+ Ka3 8.Qc1+ Kb4 9.Sc6 +-] 5.Sf4+! (5.Sc5+? Kd4 6.Se6+ Ke4 7.Sf4+ is loss of time) 5...Kxf4 [5...Kd4 6.Qe3+ Kc4 7.Qd3+ Kb4 (7...Kc5 8.Qxd5+ Kb6 9.Qd8 +-) 8.Qd2+ Ka3 9.Qxa5 a1Q 10.Sd3 Qd4 11.Qxb5 Qg4+ 12.Kf1 Qd1+ 13.Se1 +-] 6.Qe3+ Kg4 7.Qh6! (7.h3+? Kh5 =) 7...f4 8.Qg6+ Kh4 9.Qf6+ Kh5 10.h4 f3+ 11.Kh3! (11.Kg3? Qc7+ 12.Kxf3 Qc1! =) 11...Qd2 12.Qg7 Qh6 (12...a1Q 13.Qh7+ Qh6 14.Qf5 +-) 13.Qg4#.

Commendation - (Michal Hlinka & Mario Garcia - E0360) A collaboration between the rooks and bishop assures a draw in the fight against two black queens in two variations. Solution: 1.Kh7! [Try: 1.Rd3+? Kh2 2.Rd1 Qh8+! (2...g1Q? 3.Rxg1 Kxg1 4.Rxb6! Kf2 5.Kh7! = see solution, or 4...Qc1+ 5.Kg6 Qc5 6.Rb7 Kg2 7.Be8! Qc2+ 8.Kh6! =, or 2...Qxb5? 3.Rc2 Qe5 4.Rdd2 =) 3.Kg6 Qe5 4.Rd2 Qe4+ 5.Kg7 Qd4+ 6.Rxd4 g1Q+ 7.Kf7 Qxd4 -] 1...g1Q (1...Qxb5 2.Rh6+ =) 2.Rh6+ (2.Rd3+? Kg4 3.Rg6+ Kf4 4.Rxg1 Qh2+ -) 2...Kg2 3.Rcg6+! (3.Rhg6+? Kf3! 4.Rxg1 Qh2+ 5.Kg6 Qxg1+ -) 3...Kf2 4.Rxg1 Kxg1 5.Rg6+! [Thematic try 5.Rxb6 Kf2! zz 6.Kg6 Kg3! 7.Kf7 Qb3+! 8.Kg7 (8.Ke7 Qe3+ -) 8...Qc3+ 9.Rf6 Kg4! 10.Kg6 Qc2+ -] 5...Kf2 [main 5...Kh1 6.Bc6+! (6.Rh6+? Kg2 7.Rxb6 Kf2! 8.Kg6 Kg3 -+ similar to try) 6...Kh2 7.Rg2+ Qxg2 8.Bxg2 Kxg2 9.Kg6 Kf3 (9...b5 10.Kf5 b4 11.Ke4! =) 10.Kf5 Ke3 11.Ke5 Kd3 12.Kd5 b5 13.Kc5 =, or 5...Kh2 6.Rxb6 Kg3 7.Rg6+ =] 6.Rxb6 zz Qe5 7.Kg6 Qg3+ 8.Kh5! [8.Kf5? Qb3 9.Kf6 Kg3! 10.Ke7 (10.Kg7 Qc3+ similar to Try) 10...Qe3+ -] 8...Qf3+ 9.Kg6 Qb3 10.Rf6+! [10.Kf5? Qc2+ 11.Ke6 (11.Kf6 Qc5+ -) 11...Qg6+ -].