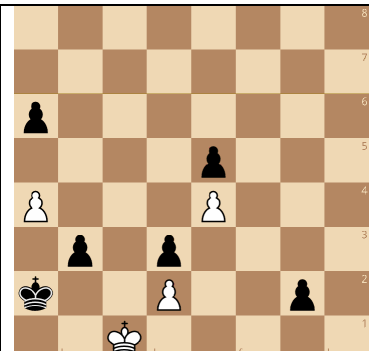


Results of the Help-Study Tourney – by Jonathan Mestel

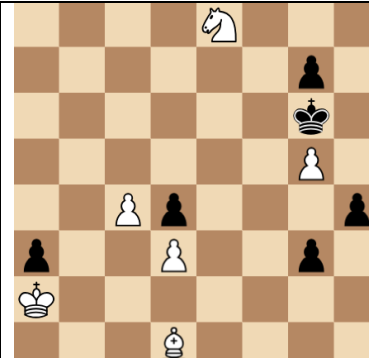
This tourney was an experiment, inspired in part by the growing popularity of help-selfmates. Could the practical elements of studies be meshed with the flexibility of help-play? One difficulty in help-win problems, is that during the help-play Black can give away all their pieces, which limits the possibilities somewhat.

I allowed composers a choice of how much emphasis to put on the help-play and on the study. Indeed, the entry from Stefan Harnagea has a help-play of 0.5 moves, while Ofer Comay submitted a study of 0.5 moves, which was really a very nice help-self-stalemate. Unfortunately, this turned out to be cooked.

I received 9 entries, which were judged anonymously – many thanks to David Hodge for his help with this. I offered composers who submitted cooked problems an opportunity to correct their work. I have awarded one prize and some Honorary Mentions.

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|  | <p>Help-win in 3 Boris Tummes</p> <p>Prize</p> |
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This composition links the help-play and study portions in a simple and elegant manner. To have any chance of winning White must promote a pawn while blockading the b-pawn. Hence **1 a5 Ka3 2 Kb1 g1=B! 3 Ka1 Bb6**. The study play commences with **4 axb6 b2+ 5 Kb1 a5 6 b7 a4** and now only **7 b8=B! Kb3 8 Bxe5 a3 9 Bxb2 axb2 10 e5** and wins. The play is not so sophisticated, but has echo bishop underpromotions and sacrifices. It is a good fit with the tourney theme.

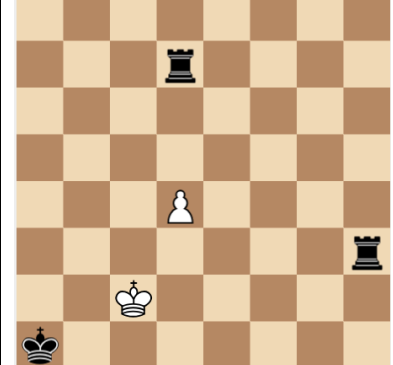
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|  | <p>Help win in 0.5 moves</p> <p>Stefan Harnagea</p> <p>1st Honorary Mention</p> |
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This is really a nice original study, introduced by a single, suicidal Black move. The only move to lose for Black is **1...Kf5!** after which the study begins **2 Nxg7+** with two variations, as after **2...Kxg5 3 Ne6+** there is no good square for the Black king.

Firstly, **2...Ke5 3 Nf5! Kxf5 4 Bg4+! Kxg4** (else Bh3) **5 g6 g2 6 g7 Kh3! 7 g8=R! Kh2 8 c5 g1=Q 9 Rxg1 Kxg1 10 c6 h3 11 c7 h2 12 c8=Q/R h1=Q 13 Qc1+ Kg2 14. Qxh1+ Kxh1 15. Kxa3 Kg2 16. Kb4 Kf3 17. Kc5! Ke3 18. Kc4** and wins

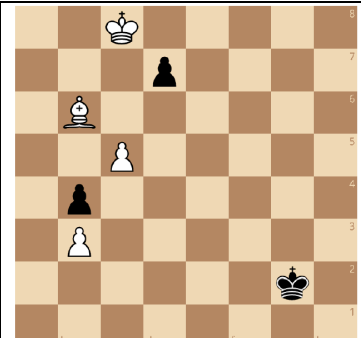
Secondly, **2...Kf4 3 Bf3!** (3 Nf5? g2 4 Nxd4 h3 and Black wins) **Kxf3 4 Nf5 h3 5 Nxg3 Kxg3 6 g6 h2 7 g7 h1=Q 8 g8=Q+ Kf4 9 Qe6** or **8..Kf2 9 Qd5** with a technical win. A pity the end is not clearer

Some subtle sacrificial play with an underpromotion. However, I didn't think the link with the help-play sufficient to justify a prize.

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|  | <p>Help-win in 2 Vlaicu Crişan and Eric Huber</p> <p>After Saavedra.</p> <p>2nd Honorary Mention</p> |
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A simple example of the genre, with a pleasing emphasis on rook-play, with a mixed Phoenix underpromotion.

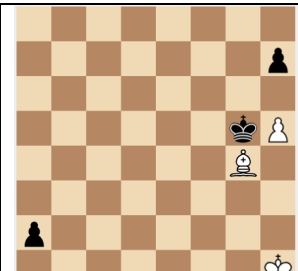
After **1 d5 Rd3; 2 d6 Rc7+**; we reach the famous Saavedra position. The study concludes **3 dxc7 Rd4! 4 c8=R! Ra4 5 Kb3**. Note that 1..Rb3 2 d6 Rc7+ in the help play is not a cook as 3...Rb2+ would draw.

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|  | <p>Help-draw in 2 Vlaicu Crişan and Eric Huber</p> <p>After Ulrichsen J, 4th Commendation Hoch-50 JT 1999</p> <p>3rd Honorary Mention</p> |
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To avoid winning, White must sacrifice material with **1 c6 dxc6 2 Bg1 Kxg1**, reaching a study by Ulrichsen. Now White must not block his c-pawn or allow the b-pawn to promote with check **3 Kb7 c5 4 Ka6! c4 5 bxc4 b3 6 c5 b2 7 c6 b1=Q 8 c7** drawing. Note the try **3 Kd7? c5 4 Ke6 c4 5 bxc4 b3 6 c5 b2 7 c6 b1=Q 8 c7 Qh7!!** and **9... Qh3**. While also loses after **2 Bf2?**

Thank you to everyone who took part in the tourney, whether or not their efforts brought fruit!

In conclusion, in appreciation of the Tourney, Martin Minski composed this miniature after the event. Although it is not part of the tourney, it adds an amusing postscript.

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|  | <p>Martin Minski</p> <p>Help-win in 1.5.</p> <p>Solution: 1...a1=B; 2 h6 Bg7 and now 3 hxg7 Kh6 4 g8=N+</p> |
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