MACLEOD WHISKY TOURNEY, 2008

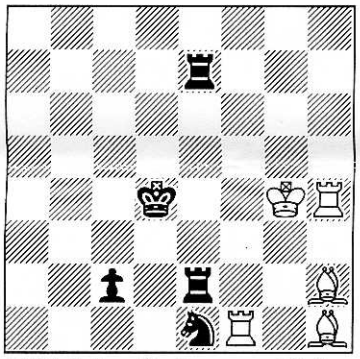
There were 26 entries for this tourney, in which, as ever, the award was made on the basis of 4 sets of marks, based on assessments of quality by 2 judges (Michael McDowell and John Rice) and on the time taken to solve by 2 solvers (Colin McNab and John Nunn).

The specified theme – twinning by interchanging the wK (the front piece of a battery) with another white unit – provoked many interesting ideas, and impressively varied strategy, and thanks go to the 30 composers who made the judging and solving so interesting! As you will gather, there were a number of joint compositions, and the 3 prize-winners all came from composing duos. The winners of the 2nd and 3rd Prizes jointly scored highest for artistic merit; both show well-matched strategy with batter openings. However, the 1st Prize-winner overtook them because neither of the solvers could find both solutions in the allocated 20 minutes. So congratulations to the Ukrainian, Israeli and Belarussian duos on their success!

As a footnote, John Nunn's attempt to solve the winning problem caused him to think of the appended version, in which there is closer thematic correspondence between the solutions. (But of course a version like this might have been less difficult to solve and so less successful!)

Christopher Jones

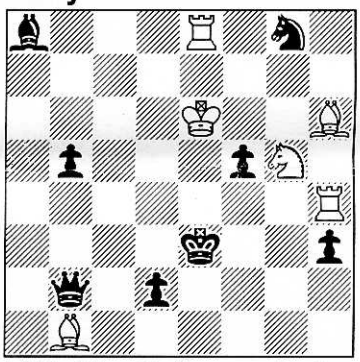
1st Prize
Aleksandr & Valery Semenenko



H#2 (b) wKg4 <-> wBh1 (5 + 5)

(a) 1.R2e6 Kg3+ 2.Ke5 Kh3#
(b) 1.R2e5 Rf3 2.Rc5 Be6#

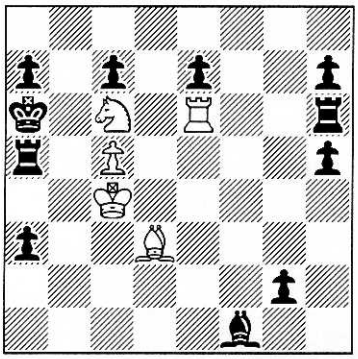
2nd Prize
Gady Costeff & Ofer Comay



H#2 (b) wKe6 <-> wSg5 (6 + 8)

(a) 1.Be4 Rc8 2.Kd4 Sf3#
(b) 1.Qc2 Bg7 2.Kd3 Sc5#

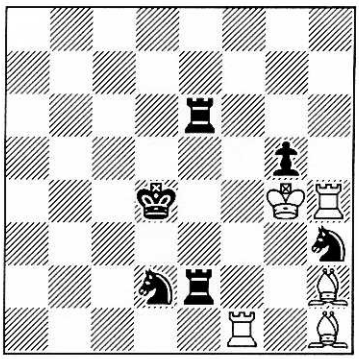
3rd Prize
Viktor Zaitsev & Aleksandr Bulavka



H#2 (b) wKc4 <->wSc6 (5+11)

(a) 1.Rxe6 Sa5 2.Re2 Kb4#
(b) 1.Bxd3 Sxa3 2.Bg6 Kxc7#

A. & V. Semenenko, v. J. Nunn



H#2 (b) wKg4 <-> wBh1 (5 + 6)

(a) 1.Re1 Kg3+ 2.Ke5 Kxh3#
(b) 1.Ke4 Bf3+ 2.Kf5 Be4#