



White to move and win

Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

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[FEN "3NQ3/2kB4/2pr4/8/K2p4/8/4Nq2/3n4 w - - 0 1"]

This study won first prize in this year's edition of the traditional Arves Jenever Tournament that is held each year at the World Congress of Chess Composition. I was particularly pleased with this result as I managed to keep two grandmasters of chess composition, Oleg Pervakov and Yochanan Afek, behind me in the standings.

In this composing tournament, the "Umnov theme" was required. This means that White during the solution must move to a square that has just been vacated by a black piece (not a pawn). Ideally there should be a try where White one move earlier captures the black piece on that same square, but fails to win.

During the first moves of the solution White will force Black's king onto the mating square c5.

1. Ne6+ Rxe6 2. Qc8+ Kb6

2...Kd6 3. Qxc6 +- White will quickly win the pawn on d4, leaving him with the theoretically winning material of QBN vs QN.

3. Qb8+ Kc5 4. Bxe6

Not 4. Qb4+? Kd5 5. Qb3+ Ke4 6. Qxe6 Kd3=. White threatens mate on b4 forcing Black's hand.

4... Nc3+ 5. Ka5

5. Nxc3? Qc2+ and the mating net falls apart.

5. Kb3? Nb5/Nd5=

5... Nd5

Or 5...Nb5? 6. Qe5#



6. Nc3!

The Umnov move. The knight moves to the square that Nd5 has just vacated.

6. Qd2

6...Nxc3 7. Qb4#

6...dxc3 7. Qa7+

6...Qe1 7. Qf8+ Kc4 8. Qb4+ Kd3 9. Lf5+ Ke3 10. Nxd5+

6...Kc4 7. Qb4+ Kd3 8. Bf5+ Qxf5 (8...Ke3 9. Nd1) 9. Qb1+

7. Qb4+ Nxb4 8. Ne4#

The award can be read here:

<http://didok.ru/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Jenever-2017.pdf>

The awarded studies can be played through here:

<http://arves.org/arves/index.php/en/awards/awards-replayable/1016-10th-arves-jenever-ty-2017>