

Match Italy - Argentina 2009

An multi-genre composition match was held between Italy and Argentina. The results were published in *Best Problems* no. 55, 2010. Italy won the match by 40-35; in the study section Italy won by a clearer margin (13-2).

Iuri Akobia (Georgia) judged the endgame study section. Marco Campioli kindly provided an English translation for EG.

No 18225 E. Minerva
1st place



a3c3 0411.23 6/5 BTM, Win

No 18225 Enzo Minerva (Italy). 1...b2 2.Ka2 bxa1Q+ 3.Kxa1, and:

– Rg1+ 4.Ka2 Rg2+ 5.Ka3 Rg1 6.Rc4+ bxc4 7.Bxc4 Kxc4 8.c7 Ra1+ 9.Kb2 wins, or:

– Kb3 4.Rb4+ Kxb4 5.Bxb5 Kb3 6.Ba4+ Ka3 7.Kb1 e3 8.Kc2 Kxa4 9.c7 e2 10.Kd2 Rxb6 11.c8Q Rb2+ 12.Ke1 wins.

“The strength of two passed connected pawns on the sixth rank against the rook can be exploited thanks to a twofold thematic sacrifice, repeated in both main lines on different squares”.

No 18226 Pietro Rossi (Italy). 1...b2 2.Bxf6+ Bxf6 3.Rh5+ Bg5/i 4.Rxg5+ Kf6 5.Rf5+ Kxf5 6.Se3+ Kf4 7.Be4 Kxe4 8.Sf1, and:

– Se6 9.Sd2+ Ke3 10.Sb1 Sd4 11.Kxb4 Kd3 12.Sa3 Sc2+ 13.Kb3 draws,

– Sd7 (Sg6) 9.Sd2+ Ke3 10.Sb1 Se5+ 11.Kxb4 Kd3 12.Kb3 draws, or:

– Kf3 9.Sd2+ Ke2 10.Kb3 Kxd2 11.Kxb2 Kd3 12.Kb3 draws.

No 18226 P. Rossi
2nd place



c4e5 0154.03 5/6 BTM, Draw

i) Ke4 4.Se1+ Ke3 5.Sd3 b1Q 6.Rh3+ Kd2 7.Rh2+ Ke3 8.Rh3+ draws.

“White realizes the theme of the 8th WCCT”.

No 18227 E. Minerva
3rd place



f1h1 0710.22 5/5 Draw

No 18227 Enzo Minerva (Minerva). 1.f6 Rxc5 2.f7 g3 3.Rh6+/i Rxh6 4.Bb7+/ii g2+ 5.Bxc2+ Rxc2 6.f8Q Rhh2 7.Qf3/iii c3 8.Ke1 c2 9.Qf1+ Rg1 10.Qxc1+ Kxc1 stalemate.

i) 3.Bb7+? g2+ 4.Bxc2+ Rxc2 5.Rh6+ Rh2 6.Rg6 R2h7 7.Rg1+ Kh2 8.Rg2+ Kh3 9.Kg1 Rxf7 10.Rh2+ Kg3 11.Rxh8 Rc7 wins.

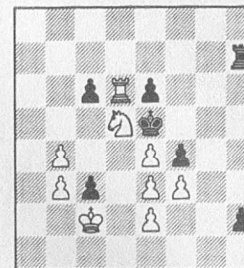
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ii) 4.f8Q? g2+ 5.Ke2 Re5+ 6.Kd2 c3+ 7.Ke2 Re2+ 8.Kd3 Rd6+ 9.Kxe2 Rd2+ 10.Kf3 g1Q wins.

iii) 7.Qc5? c3 8.Ke1 c2 9.Qf2 c1Q+ wins, but not 9...Rxf2? stalemate.

“White must sacrifice all his material in the correct order (including a promoted queen) in order to obtain an original stalemate position”.

No 18228 E. Diaz
4th place



c2e5 0401.65 9/7 Win

No 18228 Walter Alejandro Diaz (Argentina). 1.Rd7 Rxd7/i 2.exf4+ Kd6/ii 3.e5+ Kxd5 4.Kxc3 c5 5.b5 c4 6.b4 h1Q 7.e4 mate.

i) h1Q 2.exf4+ Kd4 3.e3 mate.

ii) Kd4 3.e3 mate.

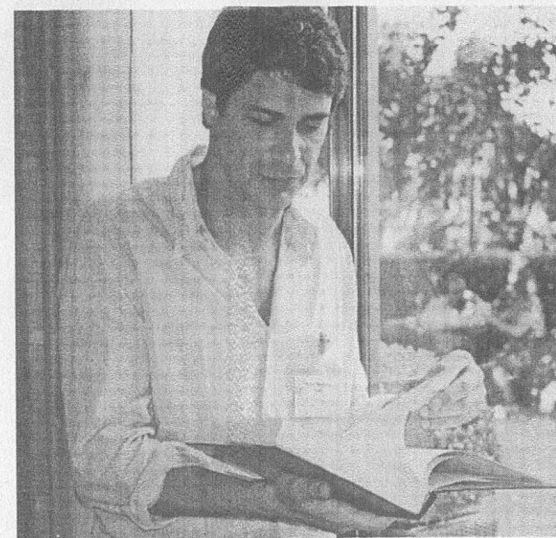
No 18229 A. Garofalo
5th place



e6b8 0404.20 5/3 Win

No 18229 Antonio Garofalo (Italy). 1.Ke5 Rxe4+ 2.Kxe4 Sf2+ 3.Kd4 Sxd1 4.f5 Kc7 5.f6 Kd7 6.c5 Sb2 7.c6+ Kxc6 8.f7 Kd7 9.f8Q wins.

“After being confronted with a ‘petite combinaison’ by Black, the wK controls the b5 and the isolated pawns win by advancing precisely. Moreover, White needs a clever sacrifice to win”.



Enzo Minerva