

## 54th World Congress of Chess Composition

BY HAROLD VAN DER HEIJDEN

In Jesi, Italy, the 54th meeting of the World Federation for Chess Composition took place from 20vii2011 to 27vii2011. Marco Bonavoglia and his team (e.g. endgame study composer Enzo Minerva) did an excellent job. Luckily, the 4 star hotel was air conditioned, because even the Italians were suffering from the extreme outside temperatures (35-40°C) as we saw on RAI Uno. The advice was to eat gelati, so we did when we risked a mission in downtown Jesi.

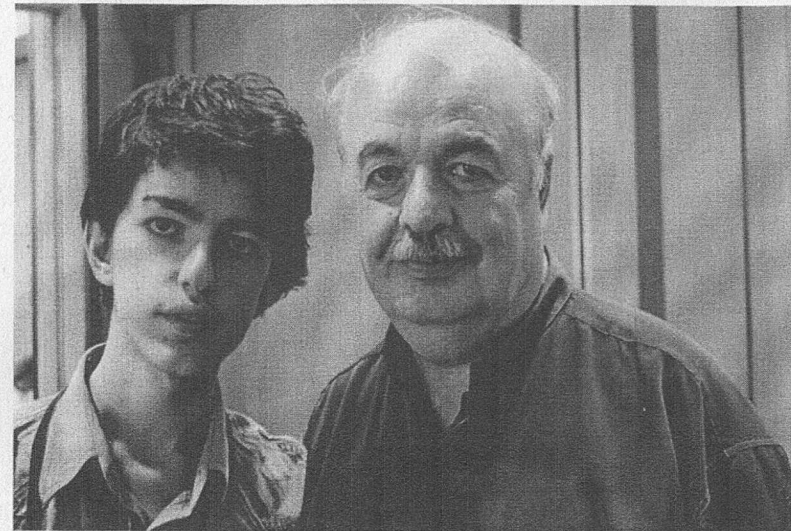
On the WFCC website [www.sci.fi/~stniekat/pccc/dec11.htm](http://www.sci.fi/~stniekat/pccc/dec11.htm) numerous details about the conference can be found, including the decisions. This report deals with endgame study related topics only. Among the newly awarded composition titles, there were quite a few endgame study composers: International Master: Yuri Bazlov (Russia), Andrey Vysokosov (Russia), FIDE Master: Grigory Slepian (Belarus), Karen Sumbatyan (Russia), Sergiy Ivanovich Tkachenko (Russia) and Igor Yarmov (Ukraine). No titles were awarded for endgame study judges.

The world championship solving was won by Poland, in front of Great Britain and Serbia. Junior IM Kacper Piorun (Poland) defeated all the GMs and was crowned world champion. Earlier during the meeting he had also won the open championship. Arbiter Milan Velimirovic (Serbia) did an excellent job (all studies were correct...), but still in two cases official protests were forwarded to the appeal committee, in which I "voluntarily" had been appointed as the endgame study expert. One of the appeals was about an endgame study in which several composers had a different main line than intended by Velimirovic, ending in an echo stalemate. After examining the case I came to the conclusion that this study has two main lines. This was confirmed when I looked

at the solution published in EG (#8952) via internet. As a consequence only the solvers that had written down both lines would get full points. Only four (Piorun, Murdzia, Mestel and Wakashima) of 83 participants had both lines, while another 28 solvers wrote down one of the two main lines. A very difficult study!

The endgame study subcommittee consisted of Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan), David Gurgenzidze (Georgia), Marcel Van Herck (Belgium), Oleg Pervakov (Russia) and Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands). I was appointed as spokesman of the committee. Unfortunately, for a reason unclear to me, Oleg Pervakov was unable to attend the committee's meeting. David's son Tato was very helpful to act as translator.

My proposal was to improve the presentation of endgame studies. The current practice is that thematic lines (main line, thematic tries) are mixed up with analytical variations. An endgame study submission to a tourney or magazine should have: diagram (name and stipulation), a thematic solution section, and an analysis section. The latter will be used to convince the judge that the study is sound, while only the thematic part will be published in the award or magazine. Of course, the analysis could be made available otherwise (internet) to those who are interested. Apart from the improved presentation, this also helps to avoid unsoundness claims like second solutions in analytical lines. The thematic solution, of course, should be sound (e.g. a try is only a thematic try when there is a unique black refutation). The members generally liked the proposal. I will write an article about the proposal in a future EG, giving some examples.



Tato and David Gurgenzidze.  
(Photo Harold van der Heijden)

I also proposed that the subcommittee should coordinate a group of experts to produce a handbook on endgame study themes, since such a handbook is nonexistent, would be useful, and is too big a project for a single person. This will also be announced in EG.

David suggested that it would be interesting to promote endgame studies by regularly publishing (e.g. in EG) a page with one of the classics accompanied with a picture of its famous composer. Another good idea!

Finally, the subcommittee almost unanimously selected the Study of the Year 2010 (see elsewhere in this issue).

I also joined the computer subcommittee. Thomas Maeder (Switzerland) stepped down as spokesman and was replaced by Roberto Stelling (Brazil). The most important topic discussed was the fact that the software for electronic submission of problems that has been under development for some years by

one of its members, Ilja Ketris (Latvia), is now ready for testing. A group of experts (e.g. FIDE Album section directors, judges, composers) and non-experts (other composers) will be asked for testing. The tools have primarily been developed for FA submissions, but can be used for other tournaments as well.

Finally, the FIDE Album subcommittee also saw the chairman being replaced: Kjell Widdert (Sweden) was succeeded by Harry Fougiaxis (Greece). The subcommittee also discussed some endgame study related topics, e.g. WCCI judging and FA judging, the fact that some people entered all the studies they composed instead of only their best, the status of the FA 04-06 Album (currently being edited; the endgame study section index still has to be prepared by me as section director). For the 2010-2012 FA that will be announced next WFCC meeting, probably electronic submission will be possible in the endgame study section.