Champagne 2019 Award

Theme was Bristol.

In the announcement, I used the Winchloé definition :
A piece, white or black, (retro-)leaves square x.
Another piece of same color (retro-)plays in same direction, crossing square x.

It lacks some time indication in the execution of the two moves. Usually in "standard" Bristol, the second piece moves immediately after the first. The loose definition applied for this tourney allows "non standard" Bristols (that can be labelled "Vilnius Bristols"?).

The a2-a4+Ra1-a3, encountered in many existing proofgames, is a Bristol, so that if you search in Winchloe for proofgames with "Bristol" or "Bristol noir", you will find hundreds of examples...
I didn't color every Bristol in the award to underline those that were important (for the judge...).(the more importants in red).

Let me remind some reasons why this tourney is restricted to congress participants (with possible external collaborations) :
-I apply this rule since the congress of Wageningen 2006. It was a request of the organizers, with the idea that it is fairer that people making the effort to come have "their" tourneys. I subscribe to this idea.
-one of the goal of the tourney is to attract newcomers, and so not to have an award trusted only by "world heavy-weights". This year, the tourney attracted only a new participant, but notably this is the first woman participant in Champagne Tourney : welcome to Anna O'Donovan!
-last but not least, it is less work for the judge...

Section A (ProofGames)

24 entries by 19 composers ; 2 were cooked.
So this was a successful tourney (but this means also more work for the judge, specially for the non-computer-tested ones, so maybe the rules will be changed in the future...).

No less than 3 entries used the new condition introduced in Sake Tourney : Point Reflection! Fortunately, François Labelle could implement this condition in Jacobi, in time so that they could be tested. Thanks to him!!
2 were cooked and the other fully tested (that would not have been possible with Popeye).

The limit of participation was 3 problems per composer, that several composers used. However, given the high number of entries, I included only 2 problems per composer in the award. So, some good problems were excluded in order than more modest ones can enter the award...

There are two kinds of ambitious presentation of the theme that can be found in the problems on the top of the award :

1) more than 2 pieces using the same line and direction : 3-pieces Bristol, 4-pieces Bristol...
2) reciprocal Bristols : A "bristols" B, then B "bristols" A (ideally with switchbacks by A and B).

Some "quality" criteria that were used in evaluating the problems :
-consecutive thematical moves.
-thematical moves without capture.
-"density" (the idea is not diluted in many moves).
-"invisibility" (the idea cannot be guessed from the diagram).
-unifying strategy of the game (not just accumulating effects).
...

1st Prize
Hitoshi Yanami (Japan)
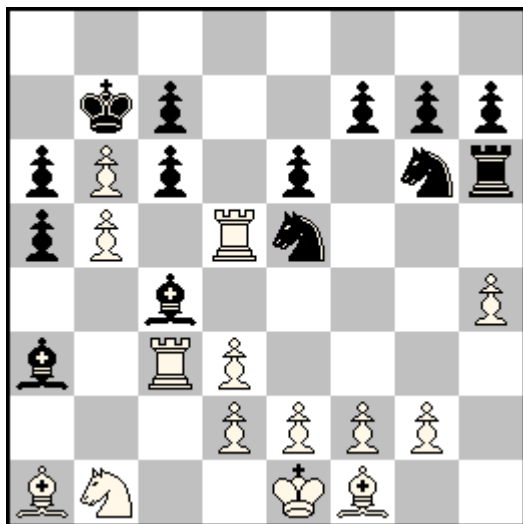
SPG 20,0   (14+14) C+

1.Sf3 Sç6 2.Sd4 Sé5 3.Sç6 d×ç6 4.h4 Lé6 5.**Th3** Lç4 6.Ta3 Dd3 7.ç×d3 0-0-0 8.Da4 Td6 9.**Da6** Th6 10.**Ta5** é6 11.**a4** Sé7 12.**Ta3** S7g6 13.Tç3 La3 14.b4 Td8 15.Lb2 Td5 16.La1 Tb5 17.a×b5 b×a6 18.b6 Kb7 19.Td5 a5 20.b5 a6

A 4-pieces invisible Bristol : one of the pieces is captured and the others quit thematical squares. The only "perfect" 4-pieces Bristol (see also 5th HM) but maybe this would have not been sufficient; fact that the problem baffled the judge as a solver took some part in the high place! Path of white Rooks looks obvious : Ta1-a5-d5 and Th1-h3-c3, of course...No! The path Th1-a3-a5-d5, with segment a3-a5 part of the thematical sequence is a stunning surprise. A bold conception that fascinated me...

2nd Prize
Ivan Denkovski (Macedonia)
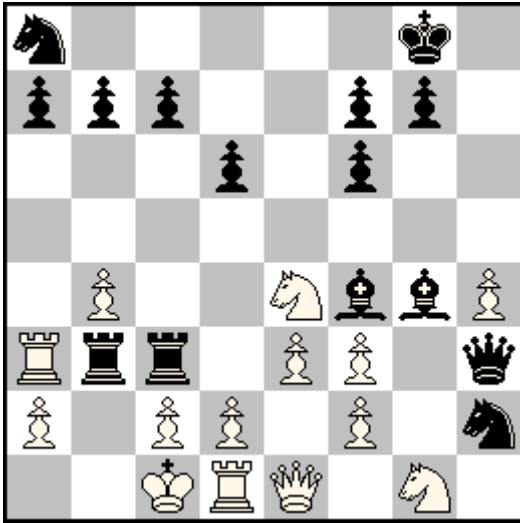
SPG 27,5   (14+15) C+

1.b4 h5 2.Lb2 Sh6 3.Lf6 é×f6 4.h4 Ld6 5.Th3 0-0 6.Ta3 Té8 7.Sf3 Té3 8.Sd4 Tf3 9.g×f3 Lf4
10.Lh3 d6 11.Lg4 h×g4 12.**Kf1** g3 13.Kg2 Sg4 14.Kh3 g2 15.**Dh1** g1=T 16.Sç3 Tb1 17.Kg2
Tb3 18.**Tg1** Dd7 19.Kf1 Sh2+ 20.**Ké1** Dh3 21.**Kd1** Lg4 22.**Kç1** Sd7 23.**Td1** Té8 24.**Dé1** Té3
25.Sé4 Téç3 26.é3 Sb6 27.Sé2 Sa8 28.Sg1

From the diagram, the solver can wait some Bristol by black Rooks, but no...
Reciprocal Bristols on first rank with white Queen and Rook a1 as the main actors.
Almost 3-pieces Bristols including white King (Ke1-f1 is a « Vilnius Bristol »).
Circuit by Sg1, switchback by Ke1, Phenix black Rook are additonal nice elements in this
excellent game.

3rd Prize
Marco Bonavoglia (Italy), Dirk Borst (Netherlands)
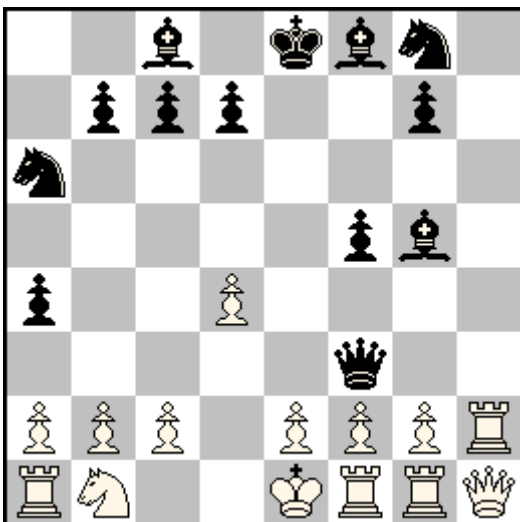
SPG 13,0 Andernach   (14+13) C?

1.d4 a5 2.Dd3 a4 3.D×h7(s) **D×h2(w)** 4.Sh3 **T×h3(w)** 5.**Th8** Ta5 6.**Dh7** Sa6 7.**Th6** Th5 8.Lg5 Th1 9.L×é7(s) T×f1(w) 10.**Thh1** Lg5 11.Thg1 Df6 12.**Dh1** Df3 13.**Th2** f5

3 reciprocal Bristols between Dd1 and Th8, the first executed as black pieces, the following as white pieces. The number of 3, not reached in the orthodox renderings, and the fact that the same pieces execute the manoeuver under different colors underline the clever utilisation of the fairy condition. White Th1 is also included in the white Bristols making 2 3-pieces Bristols. There is "Vilnius effect" on h1. Perfection (and a still better place) would have been ending with 11.Dh2 12.Th3 with exact switchbacks, but I imagine avoiding cooks with white Queen using g3 square was an issue.

4th Prize
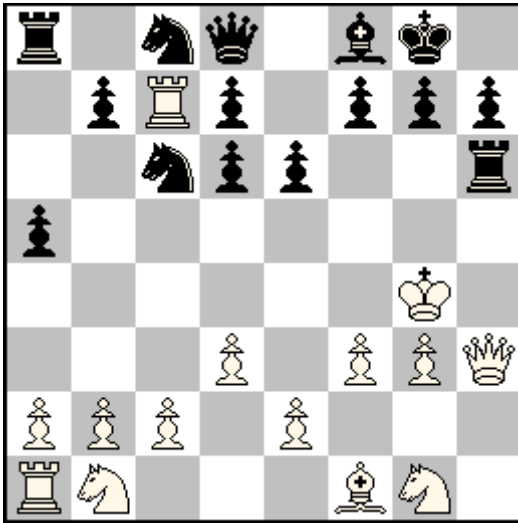Allan Bell (Ireland)
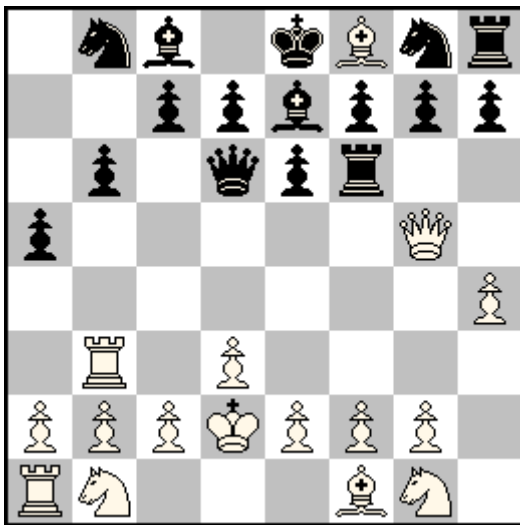
SPG 10,0   (16+16) C+

1.h4 a5 2.Th3 Ta6 3.Tb3 Tf6 4.d3 é6 5.Dd2 Dé7 6.Dg5 **Da3** 7.Lf4 **Lç5** 8.Ld6 b6 9.Lf8 **Lé7** 10.Kd2 **Dd6**

The most economical (« high density ») presentation of reciprocal Bristols.
A captureless game (economy in number of moves and of captures).

5th Prize
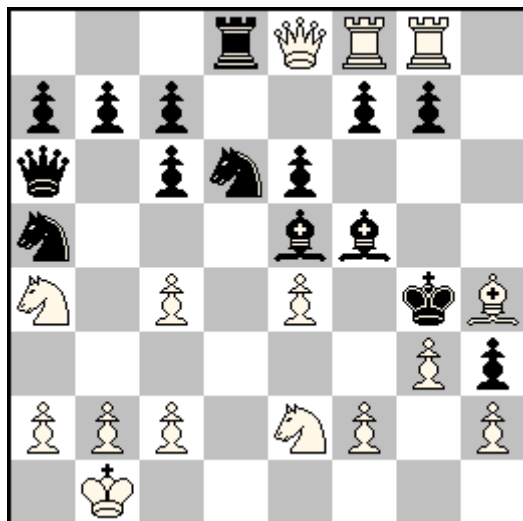Marek Kolcak (Slovakia)

SPG 16,0   (14+15) C+

1.h4 a5 2.Th3 Ta6 3.Tç3 Th6 4.f3 é6 5.Kf2 Lé7 6.Kg3 **L×h4+** 7.Kg4 **Df6** 8.d3 Sé7 9.Lf4 0-0
10.Ld6 ç×d6 11.T×ç8 Sbç6 12.Tç7 Ta8 13.Dé1 Sç8 14.Dg3 **Dd8** 15.Dh3 **Lé7** 16.g3 Lf8

Reciprocal Bristols with the "ideal" switchback moves, completed by switchback of black Bishop
on initial square. Capture on h4 is a blemish.

6th Prize
Hitoshi Yanami (Japan)

SPG 22,0   (15+15) C+

1.g3 Sç6 2.Lg2 Sa5 3.Lç6 d×ç6 4.Sç3 Dd3 5.Sa4 Da6 6.d3 h5 7.Lg5 h4 8.Dd2 h3 9.0-0-0 Th4
10.Kb1 Tç4 11.Lh4 Kd7 12.d×ç4+ Ké6 13.**Dd8** Kf5 14.é4+ Kg4 15.Sé2 Lf5 16.**Db8** é6
17.**Td8** Ld6 18.Td1 Sé7 19.**Tg8** Lé5 20.**Tdd8** Sç8 21.**Tdf8** Sd6 22.**Dé8** Td8

2 3-pieces Bristols. There is reciprocity (white Rooks follow white Queen, then white Queen
follows white Rooks) but not on the same line. Some Vilnius effects on d1 and d8.

Igor Vereschagin(Russia), Andrey Frolkin (Ukraine)
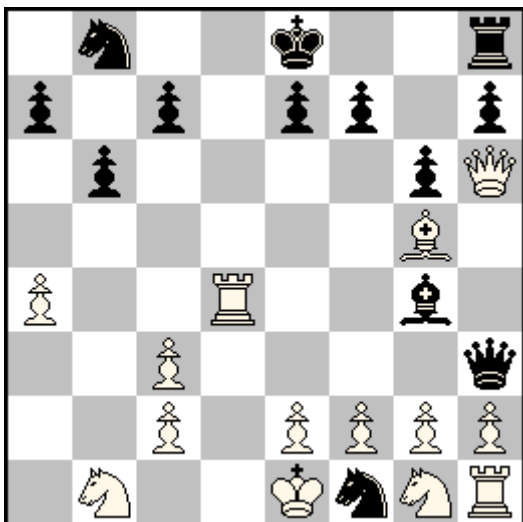
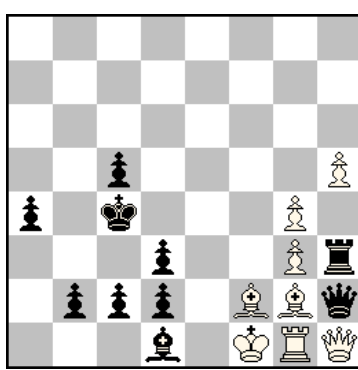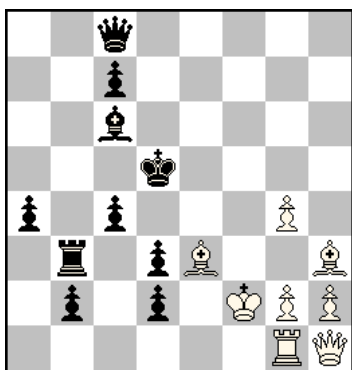SPG 11,5   (14+13) C+

1.a4 Sf6 2.Ta3 Sé4 3.Td3 S×d2 4.**T×d7** S×f1 5.**Dd5** b6 6.D×a8 g6 7.Dd5 Lg7 8.**Dd2** Lç3
9.**Td4** Dd7 10.b×ç3 **Dh3** 11.**Dh6 Fg4** 12.**Fg5**

Reciprocal Bristols with technical capture.

2nd HM
Per Olin (Finland)

A=>B 13,5   (8+10)   (8+10) C ?

1.**Ta1** Tç3 2.**Db1** Tç1 3.g3 ç3 4.Lg2+ Kç4 5.h4 Th1 6.h5 Th3 7.**Dh1** Lf3 8.**Tg1** Ld1 9.**La8** ç5
10.**Db7** Dç6 11.Kf1 Dh1 12.Lf2 Dh2 13.**Dh1** ç2 14.**Lg2**

Comparing orthodox proofgames, fairy proofgames and A=>B problems is always a delicate
affair.
Judging only from the content is not fair, as the contructionnal constraints are different.
Here 2 reciprocal Bristols of maximum length, 1 orthogonal and 1 diagonal, with white Dh1 as
a "pivoting" piece, are cleverly engineered.

3ⁿᵈ HM
Peter van den Heuvel (Netherlands)
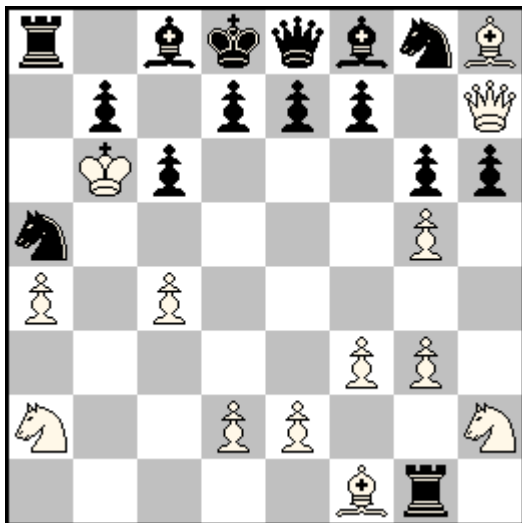
SPG 24,0   (13+15) C+

1.ç4 a5 2.Db3 a4 3.**Dh3** a3 4.Sç3 a×b2 5.a4 Sç6 6.Ta3 Sa5 7.Sa2 ç6 8.**Tg3** Dç7 9.Tg6 h×g6
10.g4 Th4 11.g5 Tg4 12.Sf3 Tg1 13.**Dh7** Dg3 14.h×g3 b1=D 15.**Th6** g×h6 16.Sh2 Lg7 17.f3
La1 18.Kf2 Db2 19.Ké3 **Dg7** 20.Lb2 Df8 21.Kd4 Kd8 22.Kç5 Dé8 23.Lh8 **Lg7** 24.Kb6 Lf8

A very nice game, with white Queen bristoling white Rook on 2 lines. Then black Phenix Queen
bristols black Bishop. The finishing manoeuver by black Bishop and Queen is similar to that in
the example, otherwise the problem would have been placed higher.

4ᵗʰ HM
Ivan Denkovski (Macedonia)
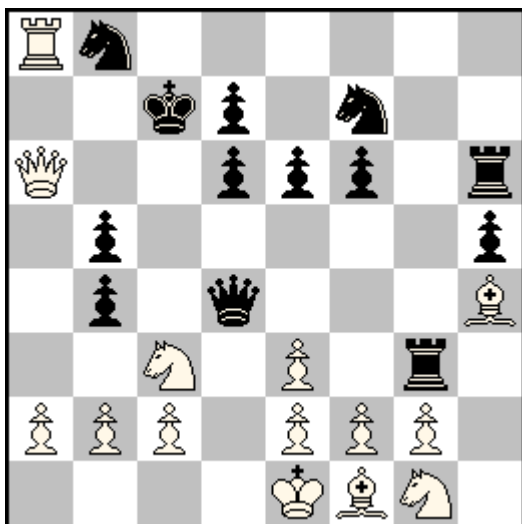


SPG 20,5   (14+13) C+

1.h4 a5 2.h5 Ta6 3.h6 Tg6 4.h×g7 h5 5.Th4 Sh6 6.g8=D **Tg3** 7.**Dg4** é6 8.**Da4** Lç5 9.**Tb4** Lé3
10.d×é3 a×b4 11.Dd6 ç×d6 12.Ld2 Db6 13.Lç3 Kd8 14.Lf6+ Kç7 15.Lh4 f6 16.Sç3 Sf7
17.Td1 Th6 18.Td5 Dd4 19.Ta5 b5 20.**Ta8** La6 21.**D×a6**

White Phenix Queen is implied in 3 Bristols with 3 Rooks on 3 lines. The first one is not thematic (bicolored Bristol wih a black Rook) but is of course important part of the content.

5th HM
Per Olin (Finland)
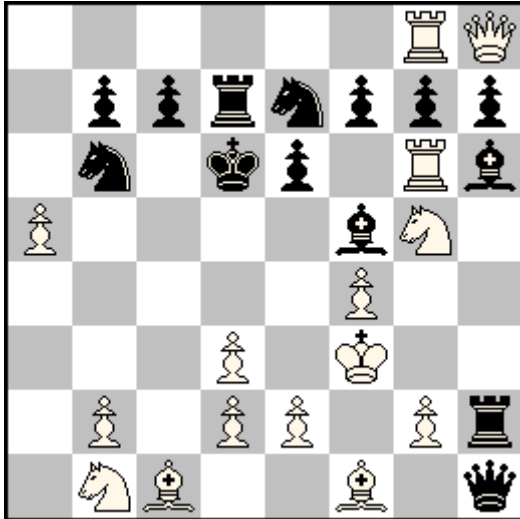
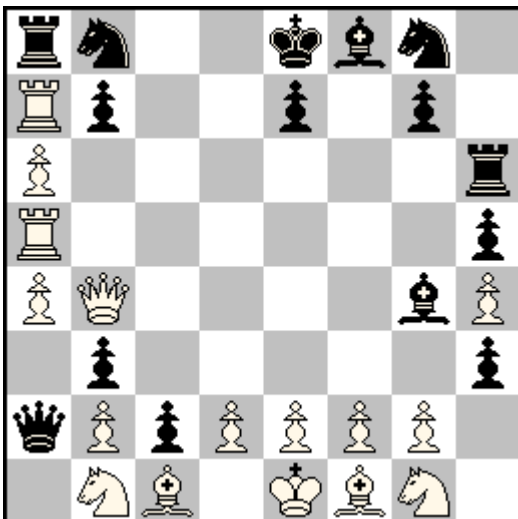SPG 20,0   (15+14) C+

1.h4 d5 2.Th3 d4 3.Ta3 d3 4.ç×d3 Kd7 5.Da4+ Kd6 6.**D×a7** Sd7 7.Db8 Ta5 8.Sh3 Th5 9.**Ta8** Sb6 10.**a4** Lf5 11.**a5** é6 12.**Ta4** Lé7 13.Tg4 **Fg5** 14.f4 Lh6 15.Kf2 **D×h4+** 16.Kf3 Sé7 17.Tg6 Td8 18.Sg5 Td7 19.**Dh8 Dh1** 20.**Tg8 Th2**

A second 4-pieces Bristol but with some blemishes (capture, discontinuity with Vilnius effect). Additionnal Bristols.

6th HM
Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber (Romania)
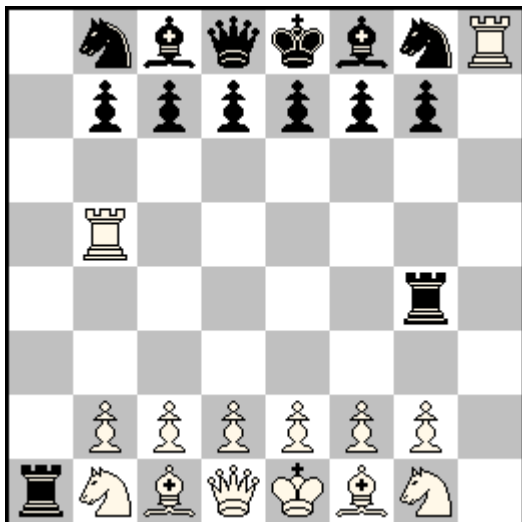

SPG 10,0 Annan   (16+15) C+

1.**hh4 hh5** 2.**Th3 Th6** 3.Ta3 **h3** 4.Ta4 **Lg4** 5.**T×a7** Dç8 6.**a6 ç3** 7.**Ta5 Dç4** 8.**ça4 Da2** 9.**Db3** ç2 10.Db4 **b3**

"Color" of the solution tells everything. 8 Bristols in 10 moves is a density that cannot be obtained with orthodox play.

Commendations without order
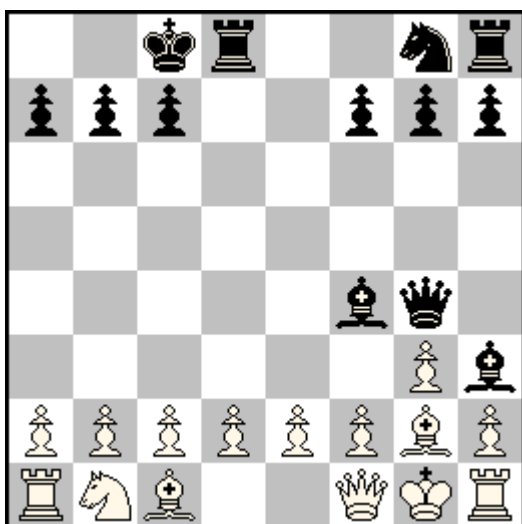
Anna O'Donovan (England)

SPG 8,0   (14+14) C+

1.**a4 h5** 2.**Ta3 Th6** 3.Th3 Ta6 4.**T×h5 T×a4** 5.**h4 a5** 6.T×a5 T×h4 7.Tb5 Tg4 8.**Th8 Ta1**

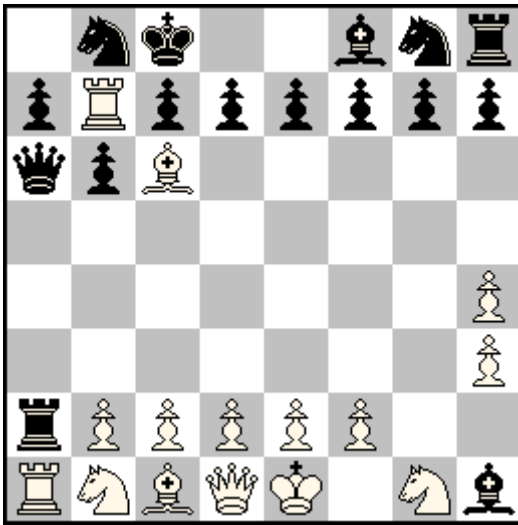A nice position with good density and 2 3-pieces Bristols.

Jonathan Mestel (England)

SPG 8,5   (15+13) C+

1.Sf3 é5 2.S×é5 Ld6 3.S×d7 Lf4 4.S×b8 Lh3 5.g3 **D×b8** 6.Lg2 **Dç8** 7.Kf1 Dg4 8.Kg1 **0-0-0** 9.Df1

2 Bristols in 1 move!! This paradoxical result is allowed by the Vilnius definition. Both black King and black Rook are "following" black Queen. Very witty.
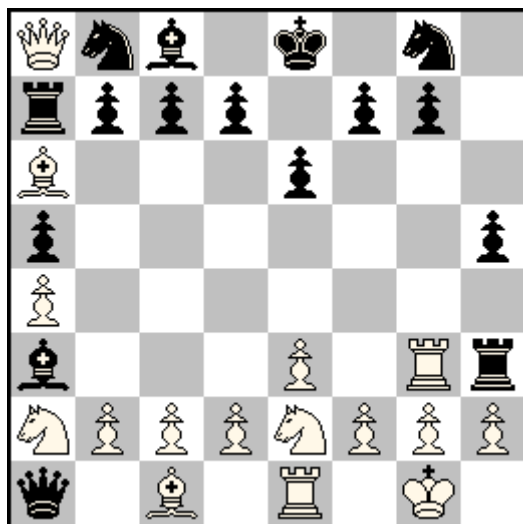
Allan Bell (Ireland)

SPG 8,5   Point Reflection (16+15) C+

1.h4 b6 2.Th3 Lb7 3.Td3 Dç8 4.gh3 **Lh1** 5.Lg2 **Td5** 6.Lé4 T×a2 7.Td5 Da6 8.**Tb7** Kç8 9.**Lç6**

The only surviving Point Reflection game. Rook following Bishop and Bishop following Rook : obviously, this cannot happen with orthodox play.
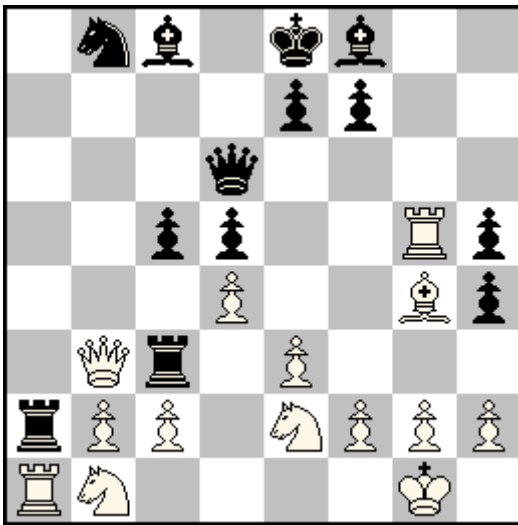
Anna O'Donovan (England)

SPG 13,0   (16+16) C+

1.**a4 a5** 2.**Ta3 Ta6** 3.Tg3 Th6 4.é3 **Th3** 5.Dé2 **h5** 6.**Da6 Th6** 7.Da8 Ta6 8.Sç3 Ta7 9.**La6** é6 10.Sgé2 Dé7 11.0-0 **Da3** 12.Té1 Da1 13.Sa2 **La3**

Good density, including a 3-pieces Bristol. Captureless game.
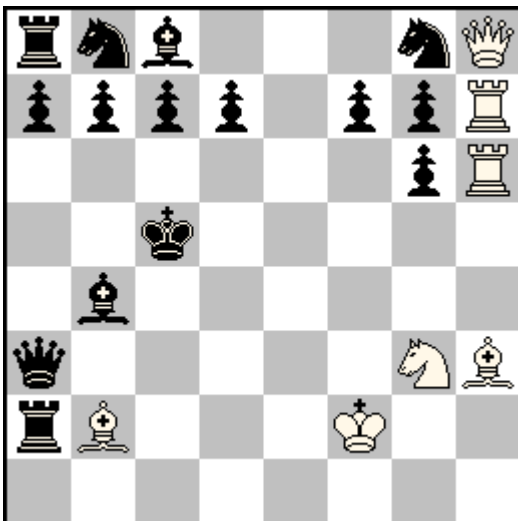
Bjorn Enemark (Danmark)

SPG 15,0   (14+13) C+

1.d4 Ch6 2.F×h6 g×h6 3.é3 **h5** 4.Fé2 **h4** 5.**Lg4 h5** 6.**Df3 Th6** 7.Cé2 Ta6 8.0-0 **T×a2** 9.Td1 **a5**
10.Td3 **Ta6** 11.Ta3 Tç6 12.T×a5 **Tç3** 13.Tg5 **ç5** 14.D×b7 **d5** 15.Db3 **Dd6**

Again good density. The only example with a Pawn-Pawn Bristol.

Marek Kolcak, Ladislav Packa, Emil Klemanic, Ladislav Salai Jr (Slovakia)

SPG 16,0   (7+15) C+

1.Cf3 é5 2.C×é5 Dé7 3.Cg6 h×g6 4.Cç3 T×h2 5.Cé4 T×g2 6.Cg3 T×f2 7.Fg2 T×é2+ 8.Rf1
T×d2 9.Dh5 T×ç2 10.**Dh8** T×b2 11.**Th7** T×a2 12.Fb2 **Da3** 13.Rf2 **Lb4** 14.Tah1 Ré7
15.**T1h6** Rd6 16.Fh3 Rç5

Visible Bristols.
Black Rook capturing line of 8 Pawns at home is interesting but out of the theme.
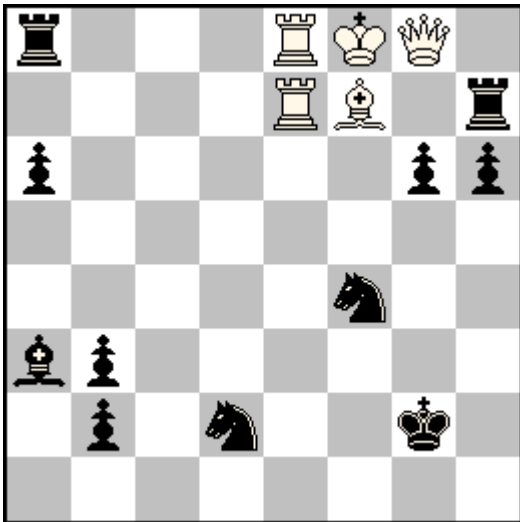
Section B (other kinds of Retros)

5 entries by 5 composers, all "professional" ones.

Comparing Retractors and classical retros is not obvious task.
Here the classical retros appear to me as not very original schemes with Bristols (cleverly) included.
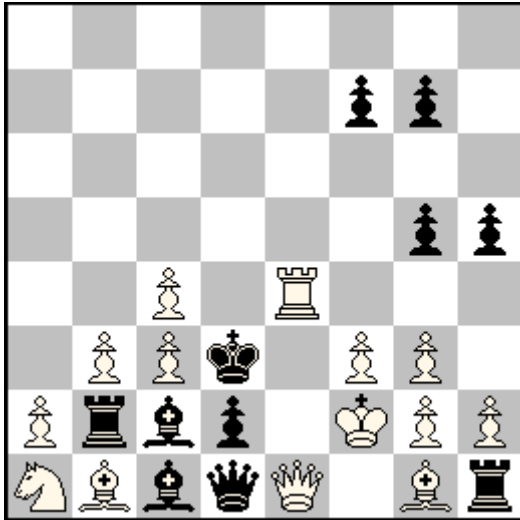
1st Prize
Vlaicu Crisan (Romania)

Pacific Retractor -7 & ‡1   (5+11)

-1.**Té1-é7** b4-b3+ -2.**Té3-é8** Ta7-a8+ -3.Kg7-f8 Th8-h7+ -4.**La2-f7** Ta8-a7+
-5.Kf8-g7 Ta7-a8+ -6.**Db3-g8** Th7-h8+ -7.**Th3-é3** & 1.**Dg3‡**

"Simply" a very elegant sequence of moves with 3 Bristols.

Joaquim Crusats (Spain), Andrey Frolkin (Ukraine),

Solve the position   (14+11)

Main plan: −1.Te2-e4 h6-h5 −2.Kf1-f2 h7-h6 −3.Tf2-e2 f6xSg5 −4.Se6-g5 ?? - retrostalemate.
Solution: −1.**Te8-e4!** (Bristol, pure of aim) −1...h6-h5 −2.**De7-e2** h7-h6 −3.Da3-e7
f6xSg5 −4.Db4xPa3 a4-a3 −5.De7xPb4 a5-a4 −6.**De1-e7** (Bristol) −6....a6-a5 −7.**Te2-e8** a7-a6
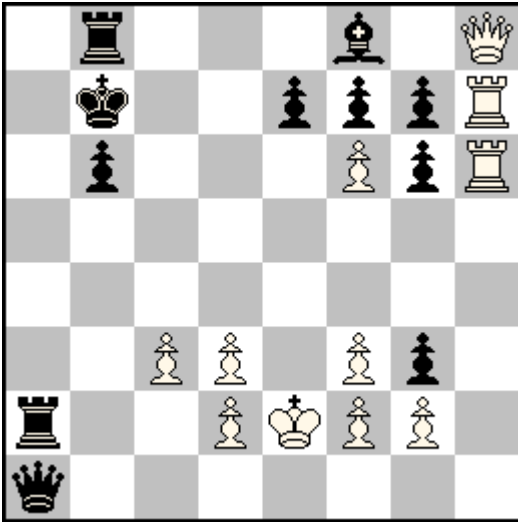-8.Kf1-f2 b5-b4 −9.Tf2-e2 b6-b5 −10.Se6-g5 b7-b6 −11.Sd4-e6 Ke3-d3 −12.Se2-d4+ L~-d2
−13.L~-b1 and so on.
(The order of uncaptures of the black pawns can be reversed).
Logical problem with a foreplan consisting of Bristol, so that the result is a reciprocal Bristol.
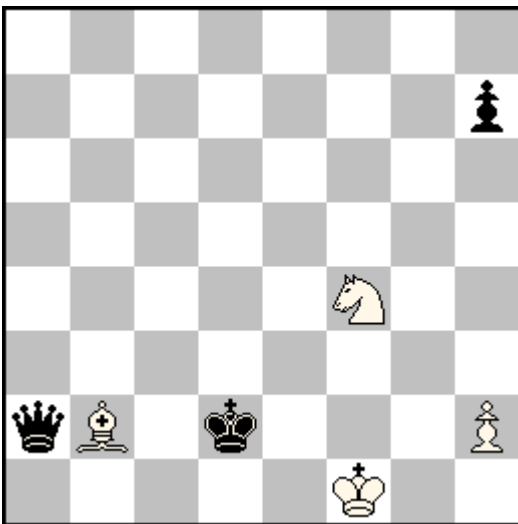
Igor Vereschagin(Russia), Andrey Frolkin (Ukraine)

Help Retractor -3 & ‡1   (11+11)

-1.**Th1-h2 Ta8-a2** -2.**Th2-h7 Da6-a1** -**Dh3-h8** & 1.Dd7‡

3-pieces white Bristol and 2-pieces black Bristol. Neat, but lacking interplay.
(capture balance prevents dual retractions D×a1 or D×h8).
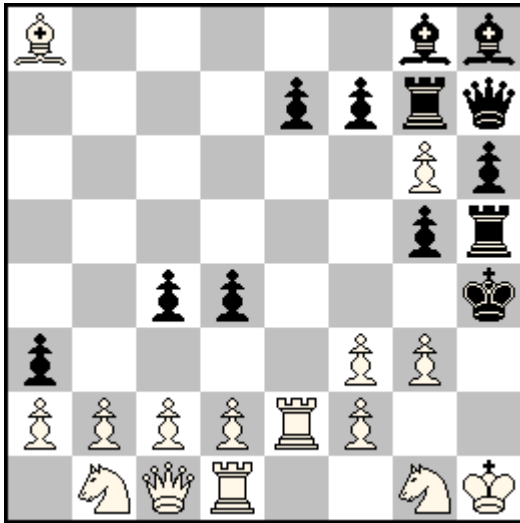

2nd HM
Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber (Romania)

Proca-Retractor -3 & s‡1   (4+3)
Circé Assassin

-1.**Lç2×Ph7**(-wLBh7,sPh7) Ké3-d2+ -2.**Ld3×Ph7**(-wLh7,sPh7) Kf3-é3+ -3.Lç1-b2
& 1.Ld1+ Dé2‡

Light and funny. One wonders if more similar Bristols (starting for example by black King on c1)
would be possible ?

Commended
Andrey Frolkin (Ukraine), Joaquim Crusats (Spain)

Solve the position   (15+13)

–1.g2-g3# a4-a3 –2.Sh3-g1 a5-a4 –3.**Tg1-d1** a6-a5 –4.**Df1-c1** a7-a6 –5.Te1-e2 d5-d4 –6.Tc1-e1 d6-d5 –7.**Dd1-f1** .d7-d6 –8.Ld5-a8 c5-c4 –9.Lb3-d5 c6-c5 –10.Lc4xPb3 c7-c6 –11.Tf1-g1 b4-b3 –12.Kg1-h1 b5-b4 –13.**0-0** b6-b5 –14.Lf1-c4 Kg4-h4 –15.e2xSf3+ S~-f3+ –16.~ Th4-h5 –17.h5xSg6 and the cage is released.

(Try: –5.Te3-e2 d5-d4 –6.De2-f1 d6-d5 –7.Tc1-g1 d7-d6 –8.Ld5-a8 c5-c4 –9.Lb3-d5 c6-c5 –10.Lc4xPb3 c7-c6 –11.Dd1-e2 b4-b3 –12.Kg1-h1 b5-b4 –13.Kf1-g1 b6-b5 –14.Ke1-f1 ?? - Black misses one tempo).

A well known motive : White must go home quickly to unlock the position before Black is out of tempi by pawns. Here, Bristols where white Queen features is rather a motive than the central theme. The second with castling (Vilnius Bristol) is rather funny.

Michel Caillaud
Vilnius, 23rd of August 2019.