

VARIANTIM



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Original problems

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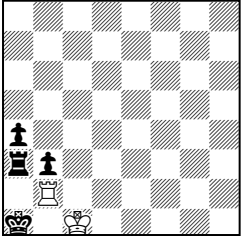
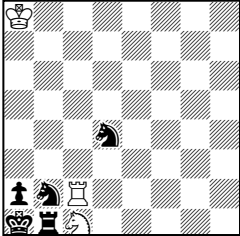
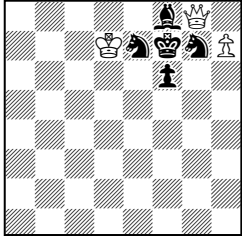
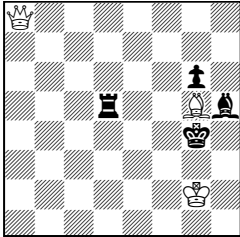
הנכד של עפר קומאי פותר מט לדעת בכוח הזרוע

Offer Comay's grandchild demonstrates a brute force solution of a selfmate problem

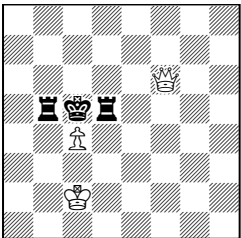
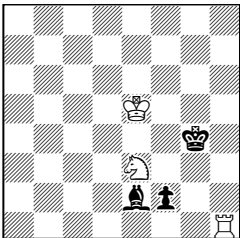
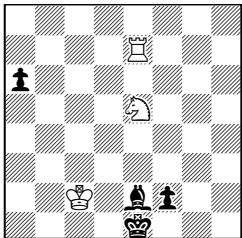
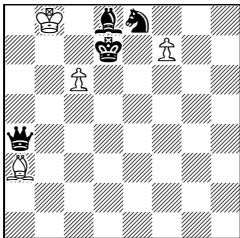
Helpmate in 1 – Gady Costeff

In Literature, cinema, or other arts that depicts conflict, the greater the difficulties the protagonist overcomes, the greater our appreciation and pleasure. Similarly, study composers attempt to realize their idea against the fiercest resistance by the black pieces. Unlike literature, however, a study must be analytically correct, so to achieve the artistic goal, sometimes the composer must lower black's resistance. When this happens, composer and audience may feel a tinge of disappointment.

Black's suboptimal resistance can happen on any move, from the introduction, see *Introducing the introduction, Variantim 73*, all the way to the end of the solution. A special case occurs on the last move of mating studies, when black selects the worst possible move, a helpmate in 1. Here are some examples:

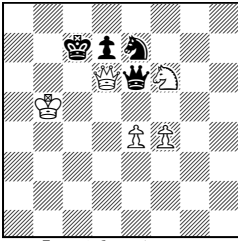
<p>1</p>  <p>1..♖a2 2.♜b1#</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>1..♞d4~ 2.♞b3# 1..♞b2~ 2.♜x a2# 1..♞x c1 2.♞x c1#</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>1..♞xg8 2.h8♞# 1..♙g6 2.♚xf8</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>1..♖xg5 2.♜e4# 1..♖a5 2.♚c8+ ♙xg5 3.♚d8+</p>
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The first two diagrams show mate following any black move, so there is no helpmate. In diagrams 3 and 4, the typical case for mating studies: black reestablishes critical material equality, and the helpmate is an unintended consequence, so the compromise between mating picture and black counterplay is minimal.

<p>5</p>  <p>1..♙xc4 2.♚c3# Main: 1..♜b6 2.♚f2+ ♞d4 3.♙c3 ♞d6 4.♚f5+ ♙c6 5.♚c8+ ♙b6 6.c5+ wins.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>1..♙f3 2.♞h3# 1..♙g3 2.♞a1 ♙f3 3.♙d4 ♞b5 4.♜b1 ♞a6 5.♜b6 ♞e2 6.♜f6+</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>1..f1♙ 2.♞d3# 1..a5 2.♞d3+ ♙f1 3.♙d2 ♞xd3 4.♙xd3 a4 5.♙e3 ♙e1 6.♙f3+ ♙d2 7.♙xf2 etc</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>1..♙xc6 2.f8♞# 1..♙e6 2.fxe♙+ requires 17 moves to reach a winning QP-Q position.</p>
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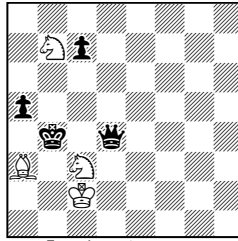
In 5 the composer turned the variation into a second main line. This deemphasizes the helpmate aspect, at the cost of two unrelated conclusions. In 6 the white moves in the variation are not unique, so the composer had to accept the helpmate move ..Kf3 which brings black no advantage whatsoever. In 7 1..a5 requires a dozen moves to win and 8 requires seventeen moves. In these four examples, the composer was aware of the compromise necessary to show the mating picture.

9



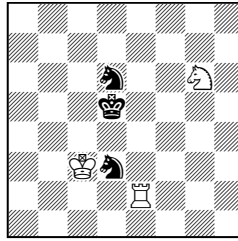
1..♖×d6 2.♘e8#
 1..♗×d6 2.♘e8+ ♖d8
 requires over 50
 moves.

10



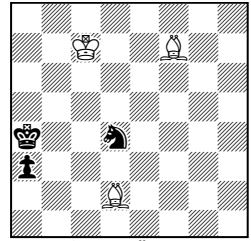
1..♖c4 2.♘a5#
 1..♖×a3 2.♘b5+ ♖b4
 3.♘d4 wins in 65.

11



1..♘c5 2.♘e7#
 1.♘f2 2.♘e7+ ♖c5
 4.♗e5+ ♖b6 5.♘d4
 ♘f2e4 wins in 67.

12



1..♘b3 2.♘e8#
 1..♖b5 wins in 82.

The technical conversion of the variations in examples 9-12 are beyond the capability of most humans. To a database, winning a two-hundred move ♗d-♘d position is the same as winning a ten move ♖♗-♖, but for humans it is not the same. In these four examples the composer valued the mating picture far more than black counterplay.

The examples above explore the helpmate dilemma composers face, and the range of solutions they choose. Each composer, and reader, will have a different reaction. Most cases are resolved happily, but there are cases where to realize the mate, black's resistance is compromised. In such cases the composer may be doing us a favor. Playing through dozens of boring moves in the name of resistance is rarely as pleasurable as immediate mate.

Israel Ring Tourney: Helpmates 2018 Judge: Ofer Comay, Tel Aviv, March 2024

I received the mission of judging the helpmate sections after the previous judge could not fulfill this task. The award is divided into 2 sections. One is the H#2 problems, and the other section contains all longer problems. Since there were very few long helpmate problems with good quality, I decided not to have a separate award for them.

I want to send my thanks to all participants.

A. Helpmates in 2 moves

22 H#2 problems were published in Variantim 2018. The level of this section was satisfactory and almost all the problems are included in the award.

The HOTF concept is quite popular in this award. I have to admit that if the pairs of variations are not connected to each other, I see that as a flaw. It is nice that each pair has two solutions that are connected, but I believe that the pairs should have a connection between them as well. The quality of this connection has an important role in my marks.

1st Prize: Var.3173 Vitaly Medintsev

A beautiful 2 pairs of solutions. In each solution the black king receives a flight square after the first move, either by capturing the white piece or by moving it. These two pairs are also connected by albino.

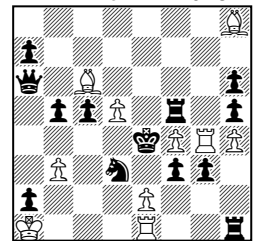
1.♗xc6 ♗g6 2.♗xd5 e4# 1.♗b7 ♘xb5 2.♗xd5 exd3#
 1.hxg4 d6 2.♗xf4 e3# 1.♗xh4 ♗xg3 2.♗hxf4 exf3#

2nd Prize: Var.3178 Emil Klemanic

Another HOTF, this time with capturing of white pieces. Bc5 and Re6 are captured twice, each time for a different reason.

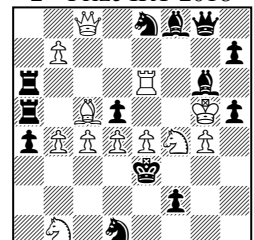
a) 1.♗xe6 gxh5 2.♗xe4 ♗h3# 1.♗xc5 ♗e7 2.♗xd4 ♗xc5#
 b) 1.♗xc5 cxd5 2.♗xd4 ♗c1# 1.♗xe6 ♘b6 2.♗xe4 ♗xe6#

Vitaly Medintsev
 1st Prize IRT 2018



H#2 4.1.1.1 10+13

Emil Klemanic
 2nd Prize IRT 2018



H#2 2.1.1.1 12+13

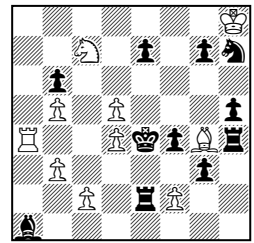
b) ♘b1→g1

3rd Prize: Var.3179 Paz Einat

An interesting presentation of the cyclic domino theme in short helpmate, probably for the first time. One element is the mating white piece, and the other element is the blocking black piece. These elements create the domino cycle over 6 solutions.

	<u>Black element</u>	<u>White element</u>
1.e6 Se8 2.exd5 Sd6 #	Self-block by BPe7 – a	Mate by WSc7 - A
1.e5 Ra8 2.exd4 Re8 #	Self-block by BPe7 – a	Mate by WRa5 – B
1.Rd2 Rxa1 2.Rxd4 Re1 #	Self-block by BRE2 – b	Mate by WRa5 - B
1.Re3 Bxh5 2.Rf3 Bg6 #	Self-block by BRE2 – b	Mate by WBg4 – C
1.Sg5 Bxe2 2.Sf3 Bd3 #	Self-block by BSh7 – c	Mate by WBg4 - C
1.Sf6 Se6 2.Sxd5 Sg5 #	Self-block by BSh7 – c	Mate by WSc7 - A

Paz Einat
3rd Prize IRT 2018



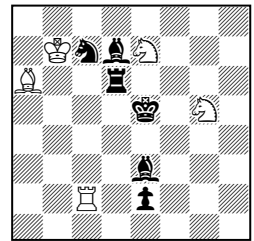
H#2 6.1.1.1 10+11

4th Prize: Var.3128 Zivko Janevski

The first black move presents two elements of foresight: it blocks a square for the black king which is not yet in his final destination (distant block), and, it blocks a square which is guarded, but later will not be guarded due to a white Grimshaw.

1.♠d3 ♖f7+ 2.♜d4 ♚c4# 1.♙c5 ♜c6+ 2.♜d5 ♙c4#

Zivko Janevski
4th Prize IRT 2018



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+6

5th Prize: Var.3081 Emanuel Navon

The Klasinc theme is performed with the white pieces in one solution, and with black pieces in the other solution.

1.♖5xd3 ♜a2 2.♖d5 ♜c4# 1.♖c2 ♜xe5 2.♖dd2 ♜d3#

6th Prize: Var.3124 Abdelaziz Onkoud

Like the first prize, another HOTF with albino.

1.♙f5 fxg5 2.♙e3 exf3# 1.♙d4 ♜c2 2.♙e3 exd3#
1.♜xb5 ♜xe6+ 2.♜d4 e3# 1.♜xf6 ♙c3 2.♜f5 e4#

1st Honorable Mention: Var.3172 Emanuel Navon:

Beautiful sacrifices, pins, and distant blocks.

a) Try: 1.♜d6(♜d5?) ♜xg5 ♜d3 ♜g4#? 1.♜d6 ♖d5 2.♜xd5 ♙d2#
b) Try: 1.♜g6(♜f5?) ♜b8 2.b5 ♙xc5#? 1.♜g6 ♖f5 2.♜xf5 ♙d4#

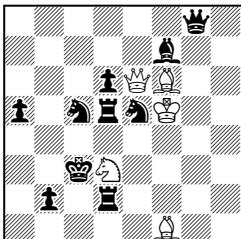
2nd Honorable Mention: Var.3174 Yosi Retter:

A neat idea: both white knights should be unpinned, and the order of these unpins decide the mating picture. The new thing here is that one of the black pinning pieces should go to f3, and it must be the second moving piece in order to allow the other black piece to move and unpin.

1.♖dg3 (♖df3?) ♙b4 2.♙f3 ♙d6# 1.♙e2 (♙f3?) ♙g7 2.♖f3 ♙xf6#

Emanuel Navon

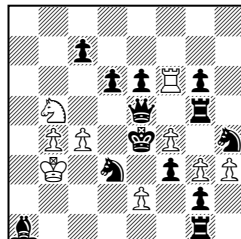
5th Prize IRT 2018



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+10

Abdelaziz Onkoud

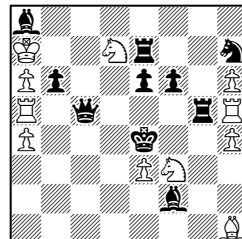
6th Prize IRT 2018



H#2 4.1.1.1 9+13

Emanuel Navon

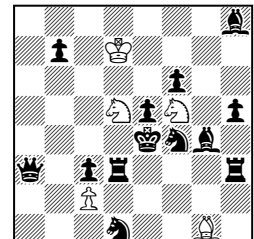
1st HM IRT 2018



H#2 11+10

Yosi Retter

2nd HM IRT 2018



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+13

b) ♙e6→g4

3rd Honorable Mention: Var.3077 Semion Shifrin

Amusing twinning which forms a cycle of Forsberg twins.

- a) 1. ♖h4 ♗c4 2. ♗f3 ♗f4# b) 1. ♖d1 ♗b2 2. ♗e1 ♖xd1#
 c) 1. ♗f3 ♖d3 2. ♗d2 ♖e3# d) 1. ♗e1 ♗f1 2. ♗f3 ♗g3#

4th Honorable Mention: Var.3176 H. Harkola & J. Paavilainen

A cycle of flight guarding pieces.

1. ♖xc6 ♗xh6 2. ♗e5 ♖xe2# 1. ♖xd3 ♗xe7 2. ♗d4 ♖xf4#
 1. ♗xg4 ♖d4 2. ♗e3 ♖f3#

5th Honorable Mention: Var.3177 Menachem Witztum

An interesting concept with rich content.

- a) 1. ♗f4 ♖d5+ 2. ♗xe5 ♖b3# 1. ♗b5 ♗c6 2. ♗d5 ♗d8#
 b) 1. ♗d6 ♖c5 2. ♗xc5 ♗d7# 1. ♗f5 ♖f4 2. ♗xf4 ♗g6#

6th Honorable Mention: Var.3122 Pierre Tritten

Harmonic play over two lines h6-c1 and c8-c1.

1. g5 ♖c7 2. ♖g4 ♖c4# 1. ♗c7 ♖g5 2. ♗f2 ♖d2#

1st Commendation: Var.3126 Christer Jonsson

1. ♖8f4 ♖f2+ 2. ♗g4 ♖f5# 1. ♖d4 ♗h5 2. ♗f4 ♖c7#
 1. ♖3f4 ♖f5 2. ♗h4 ♖f2#

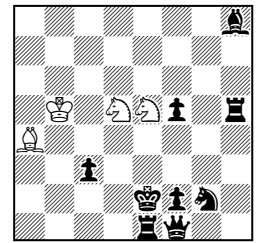
2nd Commendation: Var.3125 Christer Jonsson

- a) 1. ♖a2 ♖xh5 2. ♖b2 ♗h2# b) 1. ♖a1 ♖xh5 2. ♖b2 ♗e5#

3rd Commendation: Var.3127 Paz Einat.

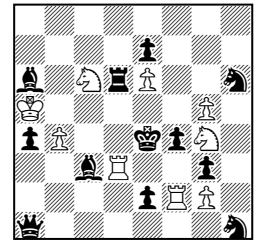
- a) 1. ♖d4 ♖f4 2. d5 ♖e2# Black: no BK move + Umnov self-block a
 White: pin after movement of B1 piece A
 b) 1. ♖b5 ♖f7 2. ♖b3 ♖f4# Black: no BK move + Umnov self-block a
 White: pin of stationary B1-piece B
 c) 1. ♗b5 ♖e8 2. c4 ♖xd5# Black: BK move + Umnov self-block b
 White: pin of stationary B1-piece B
 d) 1. ♖e5 fxe3 2. ♗d5 ♖f7# Black: BK move + Umnov self-block b
 White: pin after movement of B1 piece A

Semion Shifrin
 3rd HM IRT 2018



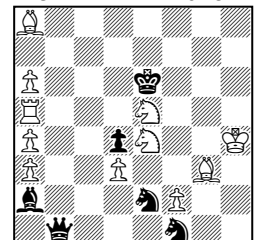
- H#2 4+9
 b) mate pos. of a) + ♗f4=♖
 c) mate pos. of b) + ♖d1=♖
 d) mate pos. of c) + ♖e3=♗

Hannu Harkola
Jorma Paavilainen
 4th HM IRT 2018



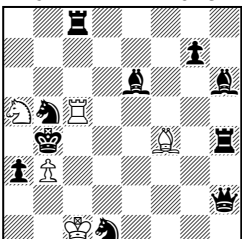
H#2 3.1.1.1 9+12

Menachem Witztum
 5th HM IRT 2018



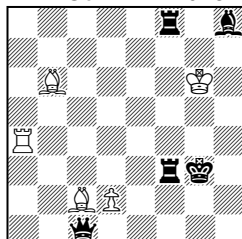
H#2 2.1.1.1 11+6
 b) -♗e4

Pierre Tritten
 6th HM IRT 2018



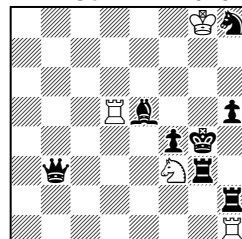
H#2 2.1.1.1 5+10

Christer Jonsson
 1st Com IRT 2018



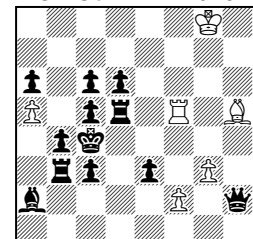
H#2 3.1.1.1 5+5

Christer Jonsson
 2nd Com IRT 2018



H#2 b) ♗b3→g1 4+8

Paz Einat
 3rd Com IRT 2018



H#2 b) ♗b4→d3 6+12
 c) ♗d6→a4 d) ♗c3→e4

4th Commendation: Var.2843 Paz Einat & Tomer Tal

a) 1.♠e5 c6 2.♙c8 ♗b8# b) 1.♠e7 e5 2.♙c6 ♗b7#

5th Commendation: Var.3079 Zoltan Labai

1.♠e3 ♘xc6 2.♠7d5 ♜f4# 1.♙d4 ♜xe7 2.♠e3 ♠f6#

6th Commendation: Var.3078 Zivko Janevski

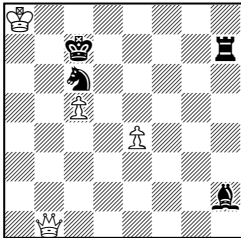
1.c4 ♜xd3 [A] 2.♙c5 ♠e4# 1.♙b1 ♙e6 2.♞c3 ♞e4# [B]
1.♙c3 ♞e4 [B] 2.♙d2 ♠d1# 1.♞c3+ ♙f6 2.♞c4 ♜xd3# [A]

7th Commendation: Var.3123 David Shtern & Evgeni Bourd

1.♙d3 ♜xd3 2.g3 f3# 1.♙e2 ♘xe2 2.♞d4 ♞e5# 1.♙b5 ♞dxb5 2.♙d4 ♞b4#

**Paz Einat
Tomer Tal**

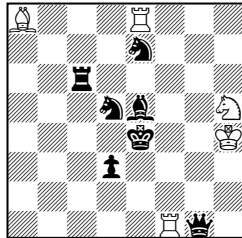
4th Com IRT 2018



H#2 b) ♠c5=♙ 4+4

Zoltan Labai

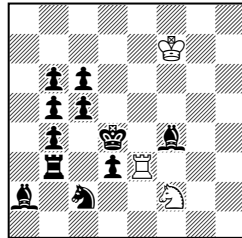
5th Com IRT 2018



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+7

Zivko Janevski

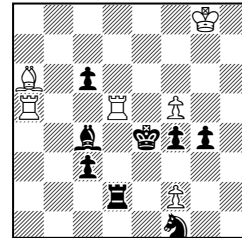
6th Com IRT 2018



H#2 4.1.1.1 3+11

**David Shtern
Evgeni Bourd**

7th Com IRT 2018



H#2 3.1.1.1 6+8

B. Longer Helpmates

21 problems participated in this section.

1st Prize: Var.3180 Menachem Witztum & Ricardo Vieira

A very rich problem, although it has only 2½ moves. The first move opens the half pin and closes a black line, allowing the black queen sacrifice that unlocks the pinned white piece. Then black performs a line interference of his R/B.

a) 1...♞d5 2.♙xb3+ ♙xb3 3.♞d2 ♠c3# b) 1...♠c3 2.♙xb4+ ♙xb4 3.♠e6 ♞d5#

2nd Prize: Var.3185 Francesco Simoni

A great idea, although the position is almost symmetric. After the first black move, white needs to choose between two plans. One plan fails due to closing a critical black line, and this becomes clear only in the last black move.

1.♙h4 ♠b2 (♠c5?) 2.♙h6 ♠c4 3.♙c6 ♞xe5# 1.♠f1 ♠c5 (♠b2?) 2.♙c1 ♠e6 3.♙c6 ♞xd4#

3rd Prize: Var.3181 Christer Jonsson

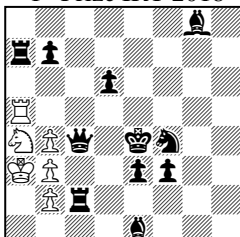
Dual avoidance in the first black move. I also liked the idea that the mate is defined in both solutions by the fact that white needs to avoid closing of a line. This is achieved by a critical white move in the first move in one solution and in the second move in the other.

1...♙xc3 2.♙g7 (♙h6?) ♞g4 3.♠e6 ♠e3# 1...♙h8 2.♙h6 (♙g7?) ♞h4 3.♞g6 ♠d4#

Menachem Witztum

Ricardo Vieira

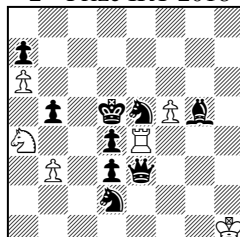
1st Prize IRT 2018



H#2.5 b) ♙e4→d4 6+11

Francesco Simoni

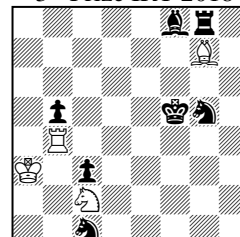
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H#3 2.1.1.1 6+9

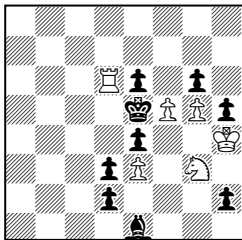
Christer Jonsson

3rd Prize IRT 2018



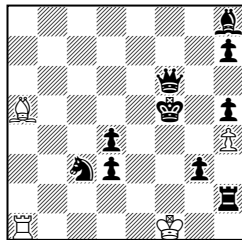
H#2.5 2.1.1.1 4+7

**Kenan Velikhanov
Menachem Witztum**
1st HM IRT 2018



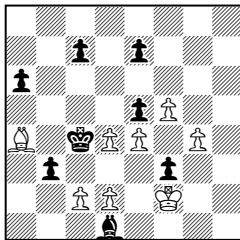
H#2.5 b) ♖d6=♖d6 6+9

Semion Shifrin
2nd HM IRT 2018



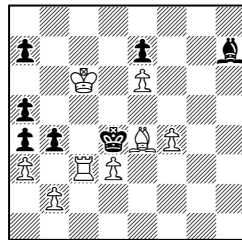
H#3 b) ♗a5→a6 4+10

Emanuel Navon
3rd HM IRT 2018



H#3 b) ♗f5→e3 8+8

Valery Kopyl
4th HM IRT 2018



H#3 2.1.1.1 8+7

1st Honorable Mention: Var.3082 Kenan Velikhanov & Menachem Witztum

Nice white switchbacks after underpromotions.

a) 1...♖xd3 2.d1=♖ ♖d6 3.♖d5 ♗xe6# b) 1...♗dxe4 2.h1=♗ ♗d6 3.♗d5 ♖f7#

2nd Honorable Mention: Var.3085, Semion Shifrin

The first queen move becomes an anticipatory self-pin after the black king reaches its final destination.

a) 1.♖g7 ♗b4 2.♖g6 ♗f8 3.♖h6 ♖a6# b) 1.♖xh4 ♖a5 2.♖g4 ♖xh5 3.♖h3 ♗c8#

3rd Honorable Mention: Var.3086, Emanuel Navon

All white moves are Umnov moves.

a) 1.♖xd4 c4 2.♖c5 d4 3.♖d6 c5# b) 1.bxc2 ♗b3 2.♖d3 ♗c4 3.♖xe4 d3#

4th Honorable Mention: Var.3186, Valery Kopyl.

1.♗xe4+ ♖b5 2.♖d5 dxe4+ 3.♖d6 ♖c6# 1.bxc3 ♖b7 2.♖c5 b4+ 3.♖b5 ♗c6#

1st Commendation: Var.3184, Janos Csak.

1.b4 ♗f2 2.♗b5 ♗e4 3.♖c4 d3# 1.♖e6 ♗c5 2.♖e5 ♗c2 3.♗d5 d4#

2nd Commendation: Var.3130, Yoel Aloni.

1.♗e6+ ♖xh8 2.♖f5+ ♗d4 3.♗d5 ♗e5# 1.♖d8+ ♖g7 2.♖b5+ ♖f6 3.♖d3 ♗a5#

3rd Commendation: Var.3129, Karol Mlynka.

1...♖c2 2.♖b8 ♖c6 3.♖a8 ♖a6# 1...♗c2 2.♖a8 ♗a4 3.♖b8 ♗c6#

1.b3 ♖c2! 2.♖b8 a ♖c6 3.♖a8 b ♖a6#

1.♖b8 ♗c2! 2.♖a8 b ♗a4 3.♖b8 a ♗c6#

4th Commendation: Var.3084, Antonio Garofalo (Dedicated to V.Agostini & D.Gatti)

1.♖f3 exf7 2.♖g2 f8=♖ 3.♖h1 ♖f1# 1.♖d3 e7 2.♖xd2 e8=♖ 3.♖c1 ♖e1#

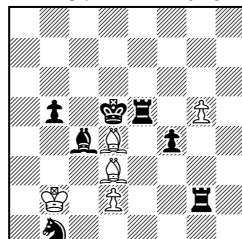
1.♖d5 exd7 2.♖c5 d8=♖ 3.♖b4 ♖b6# 1.♖f5 exf7 2.♖g6 fxg8=♖ 3.♖h5 ♖h7#

5th Commendation: Var.3131, Antonio Garofalo.

a) 1.♖c6 ♗f2 2.♖d5 ♖e3 3.♖d4 ♖e5# b) 1.♖g7 ♖e1 2.♖f8 ♗e3 3.♖e8 ♗c5#

Janos Csak

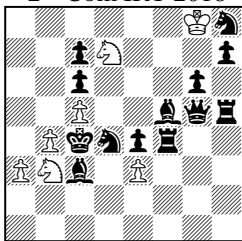
1st Com IRT 2018



H#3 2.1.1.1 5+7

Yoel Aloni

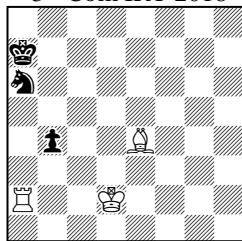
2nd Com IRT 2018



H#3 2.1.1.1 7+13

Karol Mlynka

3rd Com IRT 2018



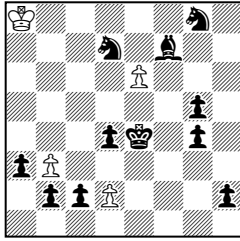
H#3 3+3

0.2.1.. + 2.1.1..

Antonio Garofalo

Ded. V.Agostini & D.Gatti

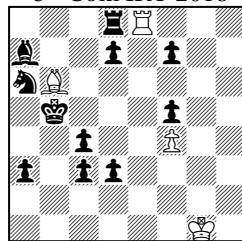
4th Com IRT 2018



H#3 4.1.1.1 4+11

Antonio Garofalo

5th Com IRT 2018



H#3 b) ♖b5→g6 4+11

Israel Ring Tourney: Proof Games 2022-23

Judge: Andrey Frolkin, Ukraine, March 2024

I am most grateful for the invitation to judge this relatively small (11 entries), but quite inspiring tourney.

1st Prize: Var.4200 Paul Răican & Michel Caillaud

Amazing echoed clockwork systematic shifting of pieces of both sides involving the capture of six promoted knights. The use of the fairy rule is perfectly justified, resulting in a remarkable problem with high aesthetic appeal. Adding to the enchantment is the fake castling position arising after White's 16th move. A considerably improved version of Var.4045.

1.h4 b5 2.h5 b4 3.h6 b3 4.hxg7 bxc2 5.gxh8=♖ cxb1=♖ 6.♖xf7 ♖xd2 7.♖xd8 [+wPf7]+ ♖xd8 8.fxg8=♖ ♖xf1 [+bPd2]+ 9.♖xf1 dxc1=♖ 10.♖xe7 ♖xe2 11.♖xc8 [+wPe7]+ ♖xc8 12.exf8=♖ ♖xg1 [+bPe2]+ 13.♖xg1 exd1=♖ 14.♖xd7 ♖xf2 15.♖xb8 [+wPd7]+ ♖xb8 16.♖f1 ♖xh1 [+bPf2]+ 17.♖xh1

2nd Prize: Var.4044 Michel Caillaud

Another fairy gem. The black rook and knight moves on the kingside (Rh8-h5, Sg8-h6) are needed to provide for a hideaway on h7 for the white light-squared bishop. The white Rh1 must be captured through Bxe2 with no white pieces coming under attack by the black bishop at that moment. After that decisive capture, 7 pieces perform switchback to their home squares. Highly impressive!

1.♖h3 h5 2.e3 h4 3.♖d3 e6 4.0-0 d6 5.♖e1 ♖d7 6.♖e2 ♖h5 7.♖h1 ♖h6 8.♖h7 ♖b5 9.♖g1 ♖xe2 10.a3 ♖b5 11.♖a2 ♖d7 12.♖d3 ♖g8 13.♖d1 ♖h8 14.♖g1 ♖c8 15.♖f1 ♖d7 16.♖e1 e5 17.♖f1 e4 18.♖g1

3rd Prize: Var.4041 Silvio Baier

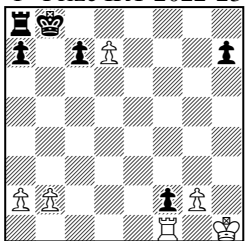
A high-level “proof game of the future” presenting black and white Pronkin pieces (knight and bishop, respectively) and black and white CF (again knight and bishop). Also worthy of mention is the black king's switchback. 1.h4 a5 2.h5 a4 3.♖h4 a3 4.♖a4 ♖f6 5.d4 ♖e4 6.♖h6 gxh6 7.g4 ♖g7 8.g5 ♖f6 9.g6 ♖h4 10.g7 f6 11.g8=♖ ♖f8 12.♖e6 dxe6 13.c4 ♖d5 14.c5 ♖f5 15.d5 ♖d7 16.d6 ♖b6 17.cxb6 c5 18.d7 c4 19.d8=♖ c3 20.♖c7 c2 21.♖f4 c1=♖ 22.♖d6 ♖b3 23.axb3 a2 24.♖a3 ♖e8 25.O-O-O a1=♖ 26.♖b1 ♖c2 27.♖c1 ♖b4 28.♖c6 ♖a6 29.♖c1 ♖b8

Special Prize: Var.4131 Ofer Comay

The theme of cyclic shift of rooks is not new of course; the record belongs to Göran Wicklund (see P1066789 in PDB – cyclic shift of 6 white rooks). Here, the exchange of places of two white & two black rooks ends in an attractive, eye-pleasing light position with just 17 pieces remaining on the board; an important role in the sequence of moves is the capture of both original wB's on their home squares. Highly unusual is the white queenside rook's route Ra1xa7xf7xf1-h1. The black king's triangulation ending in switchback also comes as a pleasant surprise. 1.a4 b5 2.axb5 c5 3.♖xa7 ♖c6 4.bxc6 ♖c7 5.cxd7+ ♖d8 6.dxc8=♖ ♖xh2 7.♖xe7 ♖xg1 8.♖xg8 ♖d6 9.♖xf7 ♖a1 10.♖a3 ♖xc1 11.♖xh7 ♖a1 12.♖b1 ♖xf2+ 13.♖d1 ♖xf1+ 14.♖xf1 ♖d7 15.♖h6 ♖a8 16.♖h1 ♖e8 17.♖h8+

P. Raican M. Caillaud

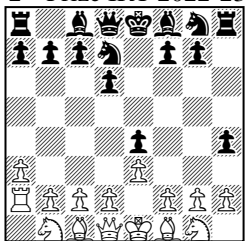
1st Prize IRT 2022-23



PG16.5 6+6
Sentinels

Michel Caillaud

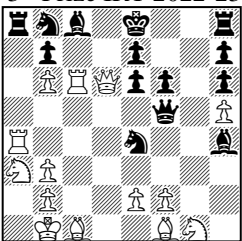
2nd Prize IRT 2022-23



PG17.5 15+16
W&B must capture

Silvio Baier

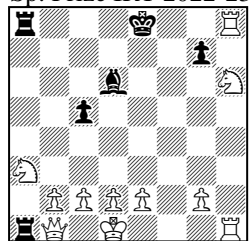
3rd Prize IRT 2022-23



PG29 14+14

Ofer Comay

Sp. Prize IRT 2022-23



PG16.5 11+6

1st Honorable Mention: Var.4039 Michel Caillaud

Elementary fake castling for both sides can be achieved in just 9.5 moves, as shown by Andrew Buchanan (see P1285213). Here, the fake castling positions arise after real castlings in the opposite direction.

- 1.b3 ♖c6 2.♙a3 ♘a5 3.♙d6 exd6 4.♙c1 ♙e7 5.♙b2 ♙g5 6.♙d4 ♖f6 7.♖c3 0-0 8.0-0 ♙e8 9.♙e1 ♙e3 10.♙d1 ♙f3 11.exf3 ♙f8 12.♙e5 ♘e4 13.♙c5 ♙e7 14.♙c6 bxc6 15.♖ge2 ♙a6 16.♖c1 ♖c4 17.♙e2 ♙e6 18.♙e1 ♙g4 19.♙xg4 ♙f8 20.♙f3 ♙e8 21.♙e2 ♙d8 22.♙f1 ♙c8 23.♙g1 ♙d8 24.♙f1

2nd Honorable Mention: Var.4038 Thierry Le Gleuher

First-ever PG in which the line of white officers is raised from the 1st to the 5th rank. As to the third black knight on the board – well, why should a judge care more about the use of “obtrusive force” in a PG as an “unrealistic,” “anti-esthetic” element on the diagram than about the widespread use of “totally unrealistic” fairy rules to implement the desired problem content?

- 1.a4 h5 2.♙a3 h4 3.♙b1 h3 4.♖xh3 ♙h6 5.♖g5 ♙d6 6.h4 g6 7.h5 ♙g7 8.h6 ♙c3 9.bxc3 f5 10.♙b5 ♖f6 11.♙a5 b5 12.♙h5 b4 13.♖b5 ♙b7 14.♙a3 ♙f3 15.gxf3 c6 16.♙h3 ♙b6 17.♙xf5 ♙e3 18.dxe3 b3 19.♙d5 b2 20.♙d2 b1=♖+ 21.♙d3 ♖d2 22.♙d4 ♖b3+ 23.♙e5 ♖d4 24.♙c5

3rd Honorable Mention: Var.4040 Paul Răican

A combination of the WCCT-11 theme (on d1) and the capture of two more CF bishops.

- 1.Pe4 Pg5 2.♙g4 ♙g7 3.♙e6 Pd7xe6 4.Pc4 ♙d7 5.Pc5 ♙a4 6.Pc6 ♖d7 7.Pc6xb7 Pc5 8.Pb7-b8=♙ Pc4 9.♙b3 Pc3 10.♙g1 Pc2 11.Pb4 Pc2xd1=B 12.Pb5 ♙h5 13.Pg4 ♙d4 14.Pg4xh5 Pg4 15.♙h3 Pg3 16.♙f5 Pg2 17.♖h3 Pg2-g1=B 18.Pf3 ♙e3 19.Pd2xe3 ♖f6 20.O-O ♙a5 21.Pb6 O-O-O 22.Pb7 ♖c7 23.Pb7-b8=♙ ♖b6 24.♙g3 ♙g8 25.Pe5 ♙xg3+

1st Commendation: Var.4043 Kostas Prentos

The Masand rule is wittily used for a 5-fold fairy Klasinc effect.

- 1.e3 d6 2.♙f3 ♙h3 3.♙c6 [d6,b7,c7=w] [c2,g2=b]+ ♙d7 4.♙xc2 ♙g4 5.d4 ♙d7 6.♙b5+ ♙e6 7.♙e8 ♖d7 8.♙d2 ♖df6 9.d7 ♙d8 10.♙c6 [g2=w][b7,c7,d7=b]+ ♙f5

2nd Commendation: Var.4042 Kevin Begley

A nice three-phase exercise for those who enjoy solving fairy PG shorties.

- a) 1.d3 h5 2.♙h6=♖ gxf6=♖ 3.h3 ♖g4=♙ 4.hxg4=♖ hxg4=♖ 5.♙h6=♙ S4f6=♙
 b) 1.d3 h6 2.♙xh6=♙ ♖f6=♙ 3.♙g6=♙ ♙xh2=♙ 4.♙f5=♖ ♙h8=♙ 5.♙h6=♙ gxf6=♙ 6.♖xh6=♙
 c) 1.d3 ♖f6=♙ 2.♙h6=♖ g5 3.h4 ♙xh6=♙ 4.hxg5=♖ O-O [f8=B] 5.♖xh7=♙+ ♙xh7=♙ 6.♙h6=♙ ♙h8=♙

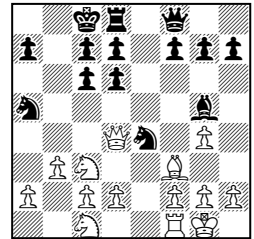
3rd Commendation: Var.4132ab Paul Răican

A two-phase problem in which half of the missing pieces are captured and the other half vanish as a result of the fairy “disappearing act.”

- a) 1.h4 g6 2.♙h3 g5 3.♙e3 gxh4 4.f3 h3 5.♙f2 h2 6.♙e1 h1=♖#[-h1]
 b) 7.♙g3 e5 8.♙g4 ♙h4+ 9.♙f5 d6#[-c8] 10.♙xh4 ♖d7 11.♙a4 O-O-O 12.♙xd7+ ♖b8 13.♙xd8#[-d8] ♙e7 14.♙e4 ♖h6#[-h6]

Michel Caillaud

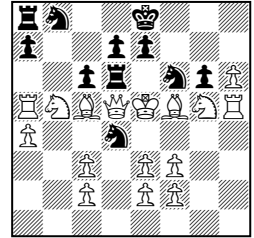
1st HM IRT 2022-23



PG23.5 14+14

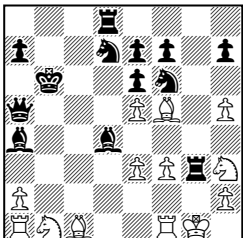
Thierry Le Gleuher

2nd HM IRT 2022-23



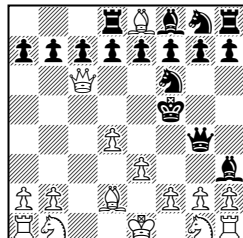
PG23.5 16+11

Paul Răican
3rd HM IRT 2022-23



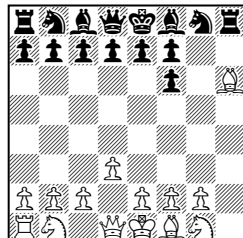
PG25 13+13

Kostas Prentos
1st Com IRT 2022-23



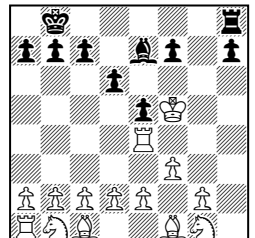
PG10 Masand 15+16

Kevin Begley
2nd Com IRT 2022-23



PG5 Einstein 14+15

Paul Raican
3rd Com IRT 2022-23



PG #remove 14+10

Israel Ring Tourney: Helpmates >3 2022

Judge: Silvio Baier, Germany, March 2024

In the tournament, 25 helpmates with more than three moves were published. Interestingly, the minimum move length of 3.5 was represented in about half of that number (12 problems). Original and complex ideas are very popular with me, but I can also be enthusiastic about perfectly constructed reworkings of familiar content in a new form (e.g. letzform). It's ideal when everything comes together.

I think I was able to understand all the authors' ideas. In my opinion, the level was above average; there were many solver-friendly problems. Especially with the 3.5-move problems, I had thought or hoped that the computer-assisted technique would allow the authors to expand or intensify interesting ideas from the threemovers. Unfortunately, most of the problems of this length turned out to be just mating picture exercises with rook and bishop, which have been shown many times before. Even with the longer multi-phase problems, I sometimes miss the interesting ideas or the strategic balance between the solutions. For example, I think the first solution of 3840 is quite interesting, but in my opinion the second falls well short. The overall award rate is therefore not so high.

Before presenting the awarded problems, I would like to comment on three others.

Var.3927 (Labai & Majoros): A very good idea to sacrifice both knights passively and actively. However, it seems to me that the idea could be improved regarding Black's fourth moves (e.g. dual-avoiding blocks). In the end, I couldn't bring myself to give it an award.

Var.3928 (Pankratiev & Gavryliv): This can be done more economically and above all without Pf2, e.g. Kf8 Re7 Bf7 Pc5g5; Kc2 Qd3 Rd4 Bb4f3 Pa6b3b5b6c4e4f4.

Var.4009 (Pankratiev & Gavryliv): The following version seems more harmonious and economical to me: Ka3 Re6 Bc2; Ke4 Qb1 Re5e8 Bb8d3 Pb5c3c4d4d5g4h4.

The authors can use these versions without my name if they want.

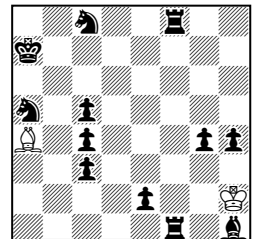
My ranking is as follows:

Prize: Var.3934 Zlatko Mihajlovski

For me, the most interesting problem of the tournament. The black pieces only need four moves, but to allow the white king to get through, they have to make intermediate stops. This leads to a reciprocal Indian with wonderfully wide movements of the theme pieces. Only one technical capture, minimal white material and the model mate leave little to be desired in terms of construction.

1. ♖1f7! ♜g1 2. ♗f3 ♜f2 3. ♗a8+! ♜e3 4. ♖b7 ♜e4 5. ♜a6 ♜d5 6. ♖a7+ ♜xc5
7. ♗b7 ♗b5#

Zlatko Mihajlovski
Prize IRT 2022



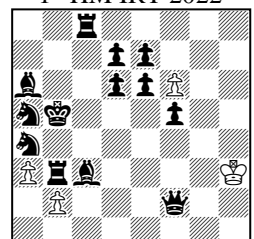
H#7 2+12

1st Honourable Mention: Var.4010 Ofer Comay

A well-known construction of black king, black rook and black bishop with king move and alternation of active and passive block. Here the whole is introduced by a knight move that obstructs a line, with the other black knight still passively blocking. The knight promotions go well with this. In contrast to the excellent black game, the white play is rather trivial and there is no interaction during the solution. Therefore, no prize is possible, but in my opinion the interesting combination is worthy of an honourable mention.

1...f7 2. ♗c5 f8=♗ 3. ♜a4 ♗xd7 4. ♗b5 ♗b6#
1...fxe7 2. ♗c6 e8=♗ 3. ♜a5 ♗xd6 4. ♖b5 ♗c4#

Ofer Comay
1st HM IRT 2022



H#3.5 2.1.1.. 4+13

2nd Honourable Mention: Var.4014 Marko Ylijoki

Not very thematic, but an interesting solving puzzle. Surprisingly, the white pawn is only there to lose four tempos. The witty idea, the difficult to see mate and the author's courage to compose far from familiar schemes should be appreciated.

1...b4 2.♖g5 b5 3.h3 b6 4.♗h4 b7 5.♜g3 ♜xg1+ 6.♞g2 ♞xf1 7.♞g1 ♞xg1#

1st Commendation: Var.3933 Sergey I. Tkachenko & Leonid Lyubashevsky

There are now several presentations of two black Schnoebelen promotions in helpmates. Here there is only one, but the presentation is spiced up with a line opening for the black queen, a white king switchback and ideal mate. Nice and pleasant to solve, but with less depth compared to the higher-placed problems.

1...♞a4 2.b1=♞! ♞a3 3.♞e5 ♞xa2 4.♞f2 ♞xb1 5.♞e3 ♞c1 6.♞d4 ♞d2 7.d5 c3#

2nd Commendation: Var.4013 Marcos Roland

It's a nice idea to let the white knight stand and capture just like that. The second one must then think carefully about which route to take, otherwise the black bishop will be blocked. This is also a good solving puzzle, but thematically less complex than the problems in the higher award categories.

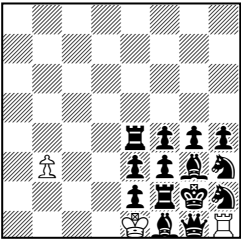
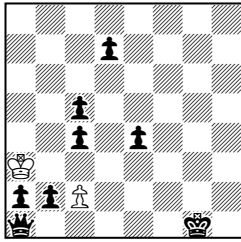
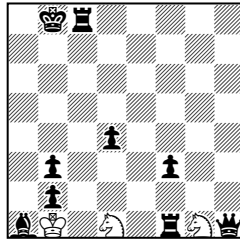
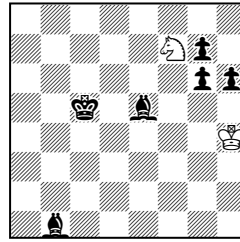
1.♞e1 ♖xf3 2.♞e7 ♖xd4 3.♞a8 ♖xb2 4.♞b7 ♖d3 5.♗xd4 ♖b4 6.♗a7 ♖a6#

3rd Commendation: Var.3841 Zlatko Mihajlovski

Not the most complex problem in terms of content, but one of the letztforms mentioned in the introduction. The white knight must move into the corner three times, once to eliminate a black pawn (Kniest), then it must give the black king access and finally mate. Nice timing by Black. The ideal mate shows the perfect construction.

1.♞d5 ♖h8 2.♞e6 ♖xg6 3.♞f6 ♖h8 4.♗h7 ♖f7 5.♞g6 ♞g4 6.♗f6 ♖h8#

I congratulate the authors of the awarded problems.

<p>Marko Ylijoki 2nd HM IRT 2022</p>  <p>H#6.5 3+14</p>	<p>Sergey I. Tkachenko Leonid Lyubashevsky 1st Com IRT 2022</p>  <p>H#6.5 2+8</p>	<p>Marcos Roland 2nd Com IRT 2022</p>  <p>H#6 3+9</p>	<p>Zlatko Mihajlovski 3rd Com IRT 2022</p>  <p>H#6 2+6</p>
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Avni-70 Composing Tourney

A formal contest for study composing is announced, open to all.

The theme is free with one exception – **no logical studies**.

Each composer may send up to 3 studies, including joint works.

There will be three money prizes – 250\$, 200\$ and 150\$. There will also be some book prizes, therefore all participants are requested to send their **postal address** along with the pgn file containing position and full solution.

Send your original studies by e-mail to the tourney director, **Gady Costeff**, at costeff@gmail.com

The closing date for receiving the works is 30/10/2024. The award is guaranteed to be sent to all participants on 17/12/2024 and is expected also to be published in Arves and Variantim.

The judge will be the jubilant, **Amatzia Avni**

Israel Ring Tourney: Studies 2023

Judge: Jan Sprenger, April 2024

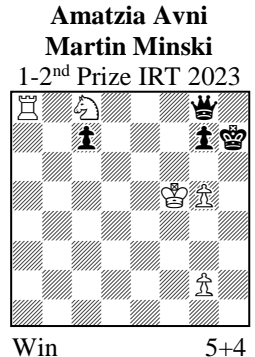
I received 25 studies from the editor. I would like to thank Gady Costeff for inviting me to judge this tourney and for his help with searching predecessors to the submitted studies. The general level was quite high and so I awarded 11 studies in total, corresponding to a percentage of 44%.

The studies in the award are, in my opinion, quite diverse. Especially the ranking of the three prize studies was not easy since they are quite different in style and content. As usual, I tried to reward clear and original ideas, thematic unity of the content, economic and fluent implementation, absence of analytic lines, and the general dramaturgy of the play.

1-2nd Prize: Var.4058 Amatzia Avni & Martin Minski

The mutual zugzwang theme often gives rise to rather analytic studies. Instead, here it is combined with a white battery on the 8th rank and a twofold triangulation maneuver of the white king in search of a safe haven.

The Black defensive plan consists not only forcing a perpetual with the queen, but in playing c7-c5 when the white king enters the h-line. While the first white king triangulation (Kf5-e5-f4) neutralizes the threat of perpetual, the second maneuver (Kf4-g4-g3) neutralizes the c7-c5 plan. Passing the move and establishing a zugzwang is used in order to enter the h-file without Black having the chance to play c7-c5. I have edited the study to highlight these defensive ideas and White's preventive measures. Probably the authors finished with the 7... Qf8?! line because they thought that purity of purpose of 4. Kg4! is diluted

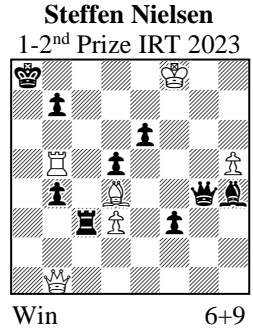


if not annihilated) by the fact that after 7. Kg1 c5, White can also play 8. Kf2. But this is just a minor dual not related to the reason why White played Kg4 instead of Kg3 (i.e., the king being in the square of the pawn): after the thematic 8... c4 White has to play 9. Nb6 and the play transposes to the main line. The study looks fresh, original and features intelligent play by both sides. The authors managed to implement this unusual idea with minimal material. Apart from the minor duals, the only weakness of the study is that the battery is set up from the start, but the richness and linearity of the play compensate for this minor drawback.

1.g6+ ♖h8 Let us pause a moment to consider this position. The black queen must stay on g8 because of ♜b6 [with or without check], unless she can check the white king. With the b♖g8, ♜b6 does not work due to c×b6. So the white plan is clear: to hide the king from the checks, ideally on g1, and to put Black in zugzwang. Paradoxically, White needs to take an indirect route to achieve this goal. 1... ♖h6 2. ♜b6 +- **2. ♖e5!** Moving the king into the wrong direction first. Otherwise, the Black queen can force a perpetual. 2. ♖f4? ♜c4+ 3. ♖g3 ♜c3+ = **2... ♖e8+ 3. ♖f4 ♖f8+** White wants to hide the king on g1, but he cannot take the direct route. 3... ♖g8 4. ♖g3 makes things easier for White. **4. ♖g4!** This small foreplan passes the move to Black before implementing the main plan. The logical try consists in the direct attempt 4. ♖g3? but after 4... ♖g8! White and not Black is in zugzwang since the king needs to choose a square while the black queen is placed ideally. 5. ♖h2 (5. ♖f2 ♖f8+ 6. ♖g1 ♜c5+ =) 5... c5! This defense is the main obstacle which White needs to remove. 6. ♜b6 ♜xa8 7. ♜xa8 c4 +- and the pawn cannot be stopped **4... ♖g8 4... ♜b4+ 5. ♖h3 ♜b3+ 6. ♖h2** transposes **5. ♖g3** Now it is Black to move, and since the white king is too close for c7-c5, the queen has to give a check. **5... ♜b3+ 5... c5 6. ♜b6 ♜xa8 7. ♜xa8 c4 8. ♖f2** and the king stops the pawn. **6. ♖h2** Now, the Black queen needs to return to g8 and so White has reached g1 without having to fear c7-c5. 6. ♖h4? ♜c4+ 7. g4 ♖g8 8. ♖g3 ♜b3+ = and the king can hide nowhere. **6... ♖g8 7. ♖g1! c5** The thematic defense, but compared to the try 4. ♖g3?, the king is closer. The authors continue with 7... ♖f8 8. ♜b6 but this is a rather nonsensical defense since after 8... ♜xa8 9. ♜xa8 c5 10. ♜b6 even the knight stops the pawn. **8. ♜b6 8. ♖f2 c4 9. ♜b6** transposes **8... ♜xa8 9. ♜xa8 c4 10. ♖f2/♖f1** and the white king can stop the pawn. 1-0

1-2nd Prize: Var.4066 Steffen Nielsen

A very uncommon middlegame study showing the X-ray check motif on the a-file, the h2-b8 diagonal and the c-file after black interference to the original check. As noted by the author, the checks on the diagonal act as a foreplan for the main plan based on the checks on the c-file by decoying the black bishop. Probably this is the most original study of the tournament. The idea of the study is very ambitious, and so it is not surprising that some aspects of the play suffer. The large number of checks mean that the play looks quite forced. Moreover, the concluding phase is quite long and contains a lot of exchanges. The abundance of pawns is a tolerable drawback given the middlegame nature of the position. It was also very hard to compare this study to Avni & Minski's since they are so different. In the end I decided to make them share first prize because I felt that both are excellent in their respective style.



1.♖a2+ 1.♖a1+? ♖a3 2.♖a5+ ♖b8 = 1.♖a5+? ♖b8 2.♖e5+ ♖c7 = 1...♖a3 1...♖b8 2.♖a7+ +- 2.♖a5+ ♖b8 2...♖a5 3.♖xa5+ +- 3.♖h2+! Logical try 3.♖e5+? ♖c8 4.♖c2+ ♖c3 5.♖c5+ ♖d8 and f6 is covered 6.♖c7+ ♖c8 7.♖g3+ ♖d8 8.♖c7+ = 3...♖g3 3...♖g3 4.♖e5+ +- 4.♖e5+ ♖c8 4...♖xe5 5.♖xe5+ ♖c8 6.♖c5+ +- 5.♖c2+ 5.♖c5+? ♖d8! (5...♖d7 6.♖c7+ ♖d8 7.♖xg3 +-) 6.♖xg3 ♖f5+ = 5...♖c3 6.♖c5+ 6.♖xc3 6...♖d8 6...♖d7 7.♖a4+ +- 7.♖f6+ Compared to 3.♖c2+, f6 is now available to the bishop. 7...♖d7 8.♖a4+ ♖d6 9.♖xc3 White won the rook but 9...♖f4 with a double threat on f6 and c3! 10.♖xb4+ 10.♖e8? ♖xf6 11.♖xb4+ ♖e5 = 10...♖xb4 11.♖e7+ ♖e5 11...♖d7 12.♖xb4 ♖e1 13.♖c7+ +- (13.♖c1 +-) 12.♖xb4 ♖e1 13.d4+! To open the way for the rook to f3 13.h6? f2 14.d4+ ♖e4! 13...♖xd4 13...♖e4 +- 14.♖e3+! +- 14.h6 14.♖xf3? ♖xb4+ = 14.♖d3+? ♖xd3 15.♖xe1 ♖e2 16.♖h4 d4 17.h6 d3 = (17...f2 =) 14...♖xc3 14...f2 15.♖f3 15.♖xc3+ ♖xc3 16.h7 f2 17.h8=♖+ +- 1-0

3rd Prize: Var.4218 Steffen Nielsen

A very enjoyable tactical study with several highlights, such as the hanging queens that remain suspended for almost the entire study. The white queen even follows her Black colleague (Qe4 with Umnov), with an interesting differentiation between the various available squares for the queen on the fourth rank. The position is as pleasantly open as one could hope for a dense tactical study like this one. The variations are clear and the symmetry of the material (excluding pawns) is another plus, and the finale is clear and concise.

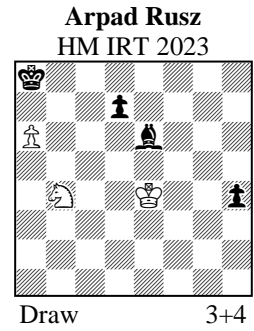


The repeated blocking and unblocking of the g3 square creates, however, a somewhat monotonic effect. Moreover, after 7... c1=Q we basically see a rehearsal of the first phase of the study with the black queen on f4 instead of g4. A minor drawback is that both queens are hanging in the initial position. Still, this is for me a clear prize level study.

1.♖b4+ 1.♖xe2?? ♖xb8 +- 1...♖e4+ 2.♖f3 ♖d6! Unblocking g3. A fight for that square will ensue. 2...♖xb4 3.♖h5# 3.♖g2 3.♖xe4+? ♖xe4 4.♖xe4 c2 = 3...♖g7+ 4.♖f2 ♖g4! 4...♖g3+? 5.♖f1 5.♖e4! Umnov 5.♖xg4?? ♖xb4 +- 5.♖xd6? ♖g1+ 6.♖e2 ♖g2+ and a perpetual 5.♖h5+? ♖xh5 6.♖xg4+ ♖xg4 7.♖xd6 c2= 5.♖c4? ♖g3+ 6.♖f1 ♖xc4+ 5.♖a4? ♖g3+ 6.♖f1 c2 = 5...♖g3+ Forcing the king to the back rank to promote with check. But blocking g3 once again. 6.♖f1 c2 6...b2 7.♖xg4 b1=♖+ 8.♖xb1 6...♖xe4 7.♖h5# 7.♖xg4 c1=♖+ 8.♖d1+ ♖f4+ 9.♖f3 ♖h2 The last attempt to make an escape square of g3. 9...♖xe4 10.♖h5# 9...♖g4 10.♖h7+ 10.♖e1+! ♖g3 10...♖g3 11.♖h5# 10...♖g3 eg 11.♖h5# 10...♖h3 11.♖h5+ 11.♖h5#

Honourable Mention: Var.4219 Arpad Rusz

Miniature with the theme of corresponding squares, but featuring king versus bishop instead of the usual king vs. king, knight vs. knight, or bishop vs. bishop. The study is rather complex since the mutual zugzwang can arise before and after black d7-d6, which makes it difficult to grasp the essence of the position, or to express it in few words. My attempt to render the study more understandable is given below. As usual, it is useful to begin the endgame with observations about some specific positions and then reason backwards to a defensive strategy. Let us first consider the position with the pawn already on d6.



1) The white king can only enter the a8-h1 diagonal when Kb5 is not a threat, i.e., when he can play a6-a7 without fearing a bishop check. 2) White must pay attention to Bc8. With the wK on the back rank, Bxa6 is a threat because Kh3 is not possible. And with wKg2, Kb5 is a threat (Black counters a7 with the check Bb7+ and Kxb4). Therefore, White must be able to play Kh2 after Bc8. 3) This means that after d6 and Bf5, White must play Kg1: Kg2 and Kh1 fail to Kb5 and Kh2 to Bc8, for the reasons explained above. 4) After Be6, should White play Kg2 or Kh1? It must be Kg2 because Kh1 allows for the nasty Bh3!, forcing White to enter one of the two above zugzwang positions Kg1/Bf5 or Kh2/Bc8. 5) From the preceding it follows that after Bh3 White must be able to play Kh1. 6) Black still has Bd7 and Bg4, apparently putting White into zugzwang. But then White has a tactical escape: Nd5+ and Nf6, winning a tempo and ultimately, either the d- or the h-pawn. So far, so good. But what should White do before the pawn moves to d6? He must avoid the above configurations because d7-d6 will pass the move to him. On the other hand, Bc8 is not yet a threat. With bBf5, Kg1 would lose to d7-d6 and Kg2 or Kh1 to Kb5 (a7 Be4+). This means that White must place his king on h2, and play Kg1 after d7-d6 (see above). Similarly, with Bh3, Kh1 would lose to d6 and Kh2 to Bf5, as we just argued. So only Kg1 remains. In the same vein, we can argue for the pairs Kg2/Bg4 and Kh1/Be6. I omit the details, but the type of reasoning should be clear. So the corresponding squares in the two phases of the study, before and after d7-d6, are actually changing.

The beauty of this study does not lie in the play, which looks somewhat sterile, but in the reverse deductive reasoning employed to find the solution. Unfortunately, the original comments do not highlight the idea behind White's defense play. With miniatures of this kind, good analysis and explanation of the idea is an indispensable part of the author's work.

1. ♖f3 ♕a7 2. ♖g2 ♕b6 3. ♖h1!! Mutual zugzwang! As we will see, from now on, the white king's moves are guided by the theory of corresponding squares. For all available squares for the bishop on the c8-h3 diagonal e6, f5, g4, and h3, there is a corresponding square in the lower right corner of the board. 3. ♖h2? ♕f5! zz 4. ♖g2 ♕b5! 5. a7 ♕e4+ 6. ♖h3 ♕xb4 -+ 3. ♖g1? ♕h3! zz 4. ♖h1 d6! zz 5. ♖g1 ♕f5! zz 6. ♖h2 ♕c8! zz 7. ♖g2 The king should stay close to the h-pawn and be ready to attack it if the bishop captures the white pawn. 7... ♕b5 8. a7 ♕b7+ 9. ♖h3 ♕xb4 -+ 3. ♖f3? ♕h3 4. ♖f4 ♕g2 5. ♖g4 h3 6. ♖g3 d6! (6... ♕b5? 7. ♕d3 ♖xa6 8. ♕c5+ -+) 7. ♖h2 ♕b5 -+ 3... ♕h3 4. ♖g1!! ♕g4 5. ♖g2! zz 5. ♖h1? ♕b5 6. a7 ♕f3+ 7. ♖h2 ♕xb4 -+ 5... ♕f5 6. ♖h2! zz 6... ♕e6 7. ♖h1 d6 Moving this pawn seems to be a very good idea as we can increase the number of squares available for the bishop on the diagonal from 4 to 6 squares. There is no way the white king can cope with that! 8. ♖g2! zz 8. ♖g1? ♕f5! zz 9. ♖h2 ♕c8! -+ zz 8... ♕f5 9. ♖g1! zz 9... ♕h3 10. ♖h1! zz 10... ♕c8 11. ♖h2! zz 11... ♕e6 11... ♕xa6 12. ♖h3 = 12. ♖g2 So far the white king managed to counter all bishop positions but we didn't use two of them yet: one new d7 and one old g4. 12... ♕d7 After this waiting move, all king moves should lose... The salvation comes from the knight. When black moved the pawn to d6, that had a surprising side effect: the pawn became more vulnerable to knight attacks! Although the knight needs 3 moves to attack it, we will see that it can gain the necessary tempos. 13. ♕d5+! One. 13. ♖h2? ♕c8! -+ zz 13. ♖g1? ♕f5! -+ zz 13. ♖h1? Bh3! -+ zz 13... ♖xa6 14. ♕f6! Two! 14... ♕c8 15. ♕e8! Here we are! 15... d5 16. ♕c7+ 1/2-1/2 So the d7 square was actually forbidden for the bishop. From f6, the knight attacks the g4 square too,

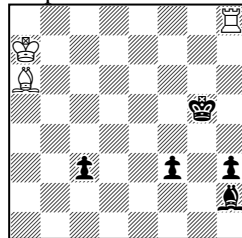
so a similar gain of tempo would have been possible if the bishop had moved there. That means we were again left with only 4 available squares for the bishop on that diagonal c8, e6, f5, and h3, and the previous play was again fully guided by a completely different set of corresponding squares between the Bishop and the King!

Sp. Honourable Mention: Var.4057 Michael Psman

An entertaining study showing good teamwork by the white rook and bishop in containing the black pawns. The final combination is known from several studies (minimal versions are C. de Feijter 1949, Deventer Dagblad, HHdb #67189 and V. Razumenko 1976, Kirovskii Rabochi, HHdb #45862), but here it is varied by the fight against several pawns at the same time and decorated with the bishop decoy sacrifice 8. Bc8+! While none of the elements of the study is particularly deep or original, the author combines them in a pleasant and technically skilled way. Note that the key 1. Ka8! is in the first place motivated by allowing for the skewer Bb7+, but later, the position of the king in the corner will be crucial for saving the day by means of stalemate.

1. ♖a8!! Logical try : 1. ♖b7 c2 2. ♖g8+ ♖f6 3. ♖f8+ ♖e6 4. ♖e8+ ♖d5! Position X1 5. ♖e1 f2 6. ♖c1 ♖f4 1. ♖xh3 c2 -+ **1...c2** 1... ♖f4 2. ♖xh3 c2 3. ♖h1 **2. ♖g8+ ♖f6** 2... ♖f4 3. ♖c8! 2... ♖h4 3. ♖h8+ ♖g4 4. ♖g8+! **3. ♖f8+** 3. ♖c8 ♖c7!! 4. ♖x7 h2 -+ **3...♖e6** **4. ♖e8+** **♖d7** 4... ♖d5 Position X2, White can defend with ♖b7, f.e. 5. ♖e1 f2 6. ♖c1 ♖f4 7. ♖x2 h2 8. ♖xf2 h1=♖ 9. ♖b7+ **5. ♖e1** 5. ♖b5+ ♖c7 6. ♖e1 ♖f4! (6...f2 7. ♖c1) **5...f2** 5... ♖f4 6. ♖d3! c1=♖ 7. ♖f5+ **6. ♖f1!** 6. ♖c1 ♖f4! 7. ♖x2 h2 -+ 6. ♖a1 ♖g1! 7. ♖c1 f.e.h2 8. ♖b7 ♖d6 -+ **6...♖g1** **7. ♖c8+!!** 7. ♖c1 h2 8. ♖b7 ♖d6 **King goes to d2** **7...♖xc8** **8. ♖xf2! c1=♖** 8...c1=♖ 9. ♖c2+ 9. ♖c2+! **♖d7!** **10. ♖xc1 h2** **11. ♖c7+!** ♖xc7 Model stalemate.

Michael Psman
Sp. HM IRT 2023

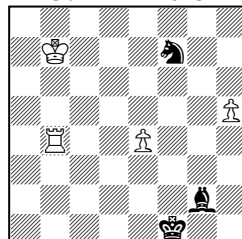


Draw 3+5

Commendation: Var.4060 Pavel Arestov & Michal Hlinka

The construction with the pawn sacrifice on e5 is remarkable. But the main effect of the study is supposed to come from 5. Kb6!!. This makes sense only if there is a thematic connection to the try. But in fact, in the try 5. Kd7? White tries a plan that is completely different from the solution: to go after the bishop, to allow for Ng7-f5xe7, and to catch the knight while he is away from the king. This fails due to the Nf4+ fork. The solution employs a completely different and rather slow plan, which would not make much sense in the 5. Kd7? try since Black always has Ba4+ or Bb5+ with check. Due to this lack of connection between the plans in the tries, the study is somewhat lacking in artistic content, even if it remains instructive.

P. Arestov M. Hlinka
Com IRT 2023



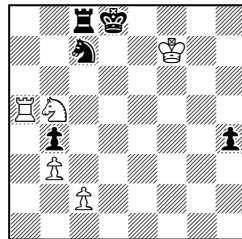
Win 4+3

1. ♖c7! ♖f3 1... ♖f2 2. ♖b6 ♖xe4 3. ♖f6+ +- **2.e5 ♖xh5** 2... ♖xe5 3.h6 **3.e6 ♖g5** **4.e7 ♖e6+** **5. ♖b6!!** Try 5. ♖d7? ♖g7 6. ♖b8 ♖e1!! 7. ♖g8 (7. ♖h8 ♖d1 8. ♖g8 ♖a4+ 9. ♖c7 ♖f5! =) 7... ♖f5 8. ♖g5 ♖xe7 9. ♖xh5 ♖g6 10. ♖e6 ♖f4+ = **5...♖g7** 5... ♖f2 6. ♖h4 ♖e8 7. ♖h8 ♖a4 **6. ♖h4 ♖d1** 6... ♖e8 7. ♖g4 ♖h5 8. ♖g8 +- ♖a4 9. ♖a8 ♖d7 10. ♖c7 ♖b5 11. ♖a5 **7. ♖c7! ♖e1** **8. ♖h7** 8. ♖h8? ♖a4! = **8...♖e8+** **9. ♖d8 ♖a4** **10. ♖h4** +- For example: 10... ♖b5 11. ♖b4 ♖c6 12. ♖g4 ♖e2 13. ♖g8 ♖d6 14. ♖g6

Commendation: Var.4156 Sergey Didukh

The key positions of this study emerge after the sixth move in each main line. With the black pawn on h4, White needs to play Na7+ to decoy the king and to collect the pawns h4 and b4 with the rook. With the pawn on h3, White first needs to sacrifice his knight on c3 so that the rook can collect both pawns on h3 and c3. While the content is unusual and the introduction is smooth, I do not find the scheme sufficiently attractive to go beyond a commendation. A clearer symmetry between both lines would be preferable.

Sergey Didukh
Com IRT 2023



Win 5+5

1. ♖a7 ♖a8 **2. ♖a1 h3**
2nd Main variation: 2... ♖d7 3. ♖d1+ ♖d5 4. ♖xd5+ ♖c7 5. ♖b5+ ♖c6 6. ♖h5 ♖d8 7. ♖a7+! Decoys the king away from the b-pawn. (7. ♖c3? bxc3 8. ♖xh4 ♖d7+! 9. ♖e6 (9. ♖e8 ♖d5 10. ♖c4+ ♖c5 =) 9... ♖d6+ 10. ♖e5 ♖d5+ 11. ♖e4 ♖d2 =) (7. ♖e6 ♖e8+ 8. ♖f6 ♖d8) (7. ♖e7? ♖d2 8. ♖a7+ ♖b7 =) 7... ♖b7 8. ♖xh4 ♖xa7 9. ♖xb4 +- **3. ♖d1+ ♖d5** **4. ♖b5!**

4.♖xd5+? ♖c7 5.♗b5+ ♖b6! 6.♖h5 (6.♗d4 ♖h8) (6.♗d6 ♖c6!) 6...♖a5 7.♖xh3 ♖xb5 = 4...♗d7
 4...♖c8 5.♖xd5 h2 6.♖h5! (6.♖d1? ♖a5 7.♗d6+ ♖c7=) 6...♖a5 7.♖h8+ ♖d7 8.♗d4 ♖d5 9.♗e2
 ♖f5+ (9...♖d2 10.♖xh2 ♖xc2 11.♖f6 ♖d6 12.♖f5 ♖b2 13.♖h6+ ♖c5 14.♗c1 +-) 10.♗g6 ♖f2
 11.♗d4 ♖d6 12.♖h5! ♖d2 13.♗f3 ♖f2 (13...♖xc2 14.♖xh2) 14.♗xh2 +- **5.♖xd5+ ♖c6 6.♖h5 ♖d8**
7.♗c3! Decoys the b-pawn away from the king and in the rook's path. **7...bxc3 8.♖xh3 ♖d2**
9.♖xc3+ 1-0

Commendation: Var.4157 Peter Krug & Pavel Arestov

This study reminded me of the UAPA-20 thematic tourney, where pieces had to move into the corner, and in particular the winning study by Serhiy Didukh which features the same material: a six-men position with bishop and two pawns versus a knight. Here, the theme is how White can avoid capture of the g-pawn and subsequent draw due to the “wrong bishop“.

Black’s main plan is Nc5-e6-d4-f5, followed by Kd4, Nxf3 and Kd4-e5-f6-g7-h8. White needs to counter this plan playing g3-g4 and attacking the knight with bishop and pawn in order to break the blockade. The justification of 4. Ba8!! is that the main alternative Bc6 loses a tempo early on because black Nc5-e6-d4 will force the bishop to b7. Later, Bb7-c8 is countered with Nf5-e7, winning a tempo and allowing Black to blockade the kingside. (The other alternative Bd5 prevents that plan, but fails to Nd3+ and Nf4) Ba8 gives up the tempo early on: White brings the king to g2 first and only then reactivates the bishop via the route a8-c6-d7. In both lines, the bishop has moved three times, but in the solution, he ends up on a better square. Thus, the paradoxical solution remains humanly understandable. However, there are a lot of sidelines that need to be analyzed and checked (including the final positions of some lines), diluting the presentation of the content. Moreover, the play leaves a somewhat dry and technical impression, even if it is intelligent by both sides. **1.♗d1 ♗c5 2.♗e1 ♗d4!** The point of this move is to provoke ♗f3, in order to play ♗e3 with tempo, regaining the tempo lost by ♗d4 and forcing White to place the bishop on a worse square. Specifically, Black wants to counter an attack on the knight later on with a counterattack on the bishop, which was not possible in the 2...♗e3 line. 2...♗e3 3.♖f1 ♗e4 4.♗g2 ♗d4 (4...♗xg3 5.♖xg3 ♗e4 6.♗g4 +-) 5.g4! ♗e3 6.♗g6! Now the knight cannot move and attack the bishop and so the blockade is broken, e.g. 6...♗c3 7.♗g3 ♗e2+ 8.♖h4+- **3.♗f3!** 3.♖f2? ♗e4+ 4.♖f3 ♗xg3 5.♖xg3 ♗e5 6.♗g4 ♖f6 = **3... ♗e3 3...♗e5 4.h4 +- 4.♗a8!!** 4.♗d5? ♗d3+! 5.♖f1 ♗f4! 6.♗g2 ♗h5 positional draw. Thematic try 4.♗c6? ♗e6 ♗b3 5.♖f1 ♗d4 6.♗b7 (It is too early to give up control over the diagonal: 6.♗d7 ♖f3=) 6...♗f5 7.♗g2 ♖d4! 8.g4 Otherwise Black plays ♗xg3 and ♖d4-e5-f6 with draw. 8...♗e5 9.♗c8 (9.♖f3 ♗h4+/♗d4+ 10.♗g3 ♗f5+! with positional draw) 9...♗e7/♗d6. Compare the line 2...♖d4. Now White must move the bishop and Black plays ♖f4 with positional draw. **4...♗e6 ♗b3** with transposition after 5...♗d4. **5.♖f1 ♗d4 6.♗g2 ♗f5 7.♗c6!** 7.♗b7? ♖d4! 8.g4 ♖e5! 9.♗c8 ♗e7/♗d6 and again, the bishop is attacked, and Black manages to set up the blockade. 10.♗d7 ♖f4 = **7...♗d4 7...♗xg3 8.♖xg3 +- 8.g4 ♖e5 9.♗d7!** Compare the line 2...♖d4? and the thematic tries: the bishop is now in the right distance and Black cannot win a tempo by attacking it. 9.gxf5? ♖xf5 = **9...♗h4+ 10.♗g3** White breaks the blockade and the two pawns will win. 1-0

Commendation: Var.4220 M. Prusikin & U. Sperber

The tactical point e Bd6!! leaves a good impression, but the implementation is heavy. From the standpoint of the punchline, Rg2 is basically dead material and waiting to be captured. It is also annoying that the introduction has so much extra material. In my opinion, this scheme has more potential than what the authors achieved in this version. I assume that the authors chose this version in order to differentiate between Nf4! and the more natural Ne3+?. This does not really convince me, though. First, the refutation of Ne3+? is completely forced and devoid of interesting Black resources. Second, the main difference between both lines is that after 5.Ne3+?, but not after 5. Nf4!, Black can respond to 6.

**Peter Krug
Pavel Arestov
Com IRT 2023**

Win 4+2

**M. Prusikin U. Sperber
Com IRT 2023**

Win 7+5

c6 with 6... Rg8 and defend the endgame. It is clear that White is winning in the solution (because sooner or later BNP vs. R will be obtained), but the refutation of the try involves non-thematic and not particularly interesting play. It would be better if the refutation of the try was more transparent and better connected to the main scheme. For this reason, I would also prefer to label 5. Ne3+ as “thematic try“ (the logic is not obvious and not central to this scheme anyway).

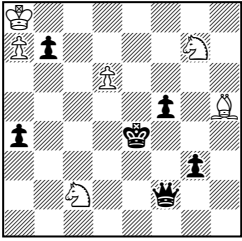
Personally, I would depart from the scheme given below, and try to find an introduction, or to modify the scheme in a way that allows for a good introduction. Replacing the rough R×g2 with a minor piece sacrifice is more in the spirit of the scheme. Also black g3-g2 is possible, too, and may be easier to connect to an introduction, but this pawn sacrifice looks a bit schematic and less original. Of course, this is just a point of departure for further development of the authors’ idea. Finally, I have not seen why 1. g7 is given as a logical try. What exactly is the obstacle removed by playing first 1. Nc3+ and then 2. g7?

1. ♖c3+ 1.g7? ♗d5 2. ♖c3+ ♜c6! 3. ♗xd5 ♞xg7+ 4. ♜f6 ♞xg2 5. ♗e7+ ♜c7! = 1... ♜c4 2.g7 ♗d5 2... ♞a8 3.c6! ♗xc6 4. ♗f8 ♜xc3 5.g8=♙ +- 3. ♗xd5 ♞xg7+ 4. ♜f6! 4. ♜h6 ♞xg2 = 4... ♞xg2 4... ♞a7 5. ♗e3+ +- 5. ♗f4!! thematic try 5. ♗e3+? ♜b5 6. ♗xg2 (6.c6? ♞g8 7.c7 f4 8. ♗g4 ♜c6 9. ♗c1 ♜xc7 =)6...h3 7. c6 h×g2 8. c7 g1=♙ 9. c8=♙ ♜xf2 = 5... ♜b5 5... ♞xf2 6.c6 ♜b5 7.c7 ♞c2 8. ♗d6 h3 9. ♗d5! +- 6.c6!! ♗xg2? transposes into 5. ♗e3+?. 6... ♜xc6 Here the ending after 6... ♞g8 would simply be winning for White because the Nf4 controls the h-pawn. 7. ♗xg2 h3 8. ♗d6!! h×g2 8... ♜xd6 9. ♗e3/♗h4 9... h2 10. ♗xf5+ ♜d5 11. ♗g3 +- 9. ♗h2 1-0

Commendation: Var.4155 Vladislav Tarasiuk

A paradoxical key move, refusing to capture a black pawn, is justified by foresight of stalemate avoidance later on. The play up to this point proceeds by a series of sacrifices, captures and counter-sacrifices. Very entertaining, but in the same way that a football match ending 4-4 is entertaining, regardless of who is playing.

Vladislav Tarasiuk
Com IRT 2023



The structure of this study reminded me of M. Minski’s 2nd prize at World Cup 2019 (HHdb #1077). In both cases, a white choice early in the play is followed by a tactical skirmish involving a large number of pieces, and a point revealing the reason behind the choice at the end. In both cases, however, I have serious concerns about the economy of the construction. For comparison, a foresight-based study with choice between capture and no capture, more economic implementation and dense play is P. Arestov’s 2nd prize of the Moscow Tournament 2018 (HHdb #2180).

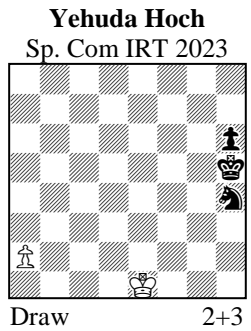
Moreover, I do not see what exactly is the point of the tries 6. Ne1 and 8. Ne3. With respect to pushing the d-pawn immediately, they just seem to lose a piece. The author mentions the 11th WCCT theme, but this presupposes a valid motivation for the knight sacrifice as opposed to the simple 6./8.d7.

1. ♜b8!! Logical try: 1. ♜xb7? ♜xa7+! (1...g2? 2.a8=♙ g1=♙ 3. ♜xa4+ ♜e5 4. ♜e8+ ♜f4 5. ♗e6+ ♜g3 6. ♗ed4! ♜b1+ 7. ♜c8 +-) 2. ♜xa7 g2 3. ♗f3+ ♜xf3 4. ♗e1+ ♜f2 5. ♗xg2 a3 6. ♗e3 ♜xe3 7. ♗xf5+ Position A without ♗b7 7... ♜d2! 8.d7 a2 9.d8=♙+ ♜c1! draw. **1... ♜xa7+!** 1...g2 2.a8=♙ g1=♙ 3. ♜xa4+ ♜e5 4. ♜e8+ +- 1... ♜b6 2.a8=♙ ♜xd6+ 3. ♜c8 ♜c6+ 4. ♜d8 g2 5. ♗f3+ ♜xf3 6. ♗d4+ ♜g4 7. ♗xc6 g1=♙ 8. ♜xb7 **2. ♜xa7 g2 3. ♗f3+!** 3.d7? g1=♙+ 4. ♜a8 ♜b6! 5. ♗e6 ♜a6+ 6. ♜b8 ♜d6+ 7. ♜a8 ♜a6+ positional draw. **3... ♜xf3 4. ♗e1+ ♜f2! 5. ♗xg2 a3 6. ♗e3!** Try: 6. ♗e1? ♜xe1 7.d7 a2 8.d8=♙ a1=♙+ = **6... ♜xe3 7. ♗xf5+** Position A with ♗b7 **7... ♜e4! 8. ♗d4!** Try: 8. ♗e3? ♜xe3 9.d7 a2 10.d8=♙ a1=♙+ +- **8... ♜xd4 9.d7 a2 10.d8=♙+ 1-0**

Sp. Commendation: Var.4213 Yehuda Hoch

An interesting malyutka which is partly anticipated by O. Carlsson, Ajedrez 1972, M. Miljanic, WCCT 2006, and D. Blundell, British Chess Problem Society 2012.

The core of the malyutka is a well-known mutual zugzwang (Kg1, Pa6---Kg3, Ph3, Nb5/c6). Black can try two different plans to force white into this zugzwang, either Nb5 with the idea to transfer the knight to f7, and Nc6 with the idea to create a barrier against the white king. Noticing his opponent's plans, White reacts with the active Ke2! to Nb5, attacking the knight directly, and with the seemingly passive Ke1! to Nc6, losing a tempo in order to avoid being in zugzwang later on. The Nb5 line is novel, but unfortunately less interesting than the Nc6 line, whose main ideas (including losing a tempo with the king by means of triangulation) also show up in the predecessors. The differentiation between two white plans, based on Black's choice, is new.



1.a4 ♖f3+ 2.♗d1! 2.♗f2? ♖d2 3.a5 ♖e4+ 4.♗e3 ♖c5 -+ 2...♖d4 3.a5 ♗g4 4.a6

With two variations:

- A) 4...♖c6 5.♗e1!!** logical try 5.♗e2? ♗g3 6.♗f1 h5 7.♗g1 h4 8.♗h1 h3 9.♗g1 h2+ check! 10.♗h1 ♖e5 11.a7 ♖d3 12.a8=♗ ♖f2# **5...♗g3** From this point onwards, the scheme is known. **5...♗f3 6.♗f1 ♗e4** for h6-h5, see the line 6.♗e2 h5 7.♗g2 ♖d5 8.♗h3 ♖c5 9.♗h4 ♖b6 10.♗h5 = and the black knight is too far away to protect the pawn, compare the try 5.Ke1 in main B **6.♗e2!** 6.♗f1? h5 7.♗g1 h4 -+ as in the try 5.♗e2? **6...h5** 6...♗g2 7.♖d3! ♖b4+ (7...h5 8.♖c4 h4 9.♖c5 = and ♗g2 blocks the diagonal) 8.♗e4 ♖a6 9.♗f5 = **7.♗f1 h4 8.♗g1 h3 9.♗h1** Now, 9...h2 is not check and so 10.a7 leads to stalemate while 9...♖e5 10.a7 ♖d3 11.a8=♗ ♖f2+ 12.♗g1 h2+ 13.♗f1 h1=♗+ allows 14.♗xh1 =
- B) 4...♖b5 5.♗e2!** 5.♗e1? ♗f3 6.♗f1 ♗e4! (6...h5? 7.♗g1 ♗g3 8.♗h1 h4 9.♗g1 h3 10.♗h1 =) 7.♗g2 ♖d5 8.♗h3 ♖c6 9.♗h4 ♖d6 10.♗h5 ♖f7 -+ shows the idea of ♖b5 **5...♗g3** 5...♗f4 6.♗f2 and White can avoid zugzwang later on **6.♗d3!** 6.♗f1? h5 -+ as in main A because White has not lost a tempo with ♗e1 6.♗e1? ♗f3 -+ wins as was seen before **6...h5 7.♗c4 ♖a7 8.♗c5 h4 9.♗b6 ♖c8+ 10.♗c7!** 10.♖b7 ♖d6+ 11.♖c6 h3 12.♖x d6 h2 -+ **10...♖a7 11.♗b6!** 11.♖b7? ♖b5 12.♖b6 h3 -+ **11...♖c8+ 12.♗c7** = positional draw.

Finally, some comments on the studies that are not in the award.

- 4056 (Afek)** I failed to see what the study adds to the combination from the game Aronian-Vidit by which it is inspired.
- 4065 (Hoch)** The construction of the mating net looks anything but subtle, and the exchanges add to the rather brutal impression that this study makes. Moreover, I did not understand why the author decided to start with Black to move; 1. Rg3 would be a perfectly acceptable key.
- 4059 (Avni)** The play is not particularly interesting and there are multiple sidelines, too.
- 4061 (Hlinka and Kekely)** The authors combine fork and domination motifs in the BN vs. Q endgame with a rather technical concluding phase with NP against PP. Each phase has some interesting moments, but I am missing overall coherence.
- 4062 (Kekely and Hlinka)** Bishop promotion for the sake of stalemate avoidance. But the justification is rather straightforward, the kings are passive, the introduction is rough and the play does not contain highlights.
- 4063 (Hlinka and Kekely)** I fail to see the artistic elements in this piece of endgame analysis.
- 4064 (Hoch)** This is how checkmate studies used to look like in the 1970s or so. All pieces are brought to their places and an ideal mate with two active self-block concludes. But the play is very straightforward and does not contain major surprises or aesthetically inspiring moments.
- 4152 (Hoch & Richardson)** The exchange of b4-b3! and b5-b6! is entertaining, but the play is completely forced. I would cut the first two moves.
- 4153 (Hoch)** The synthesis of different tactical ideas in this study does not leave a coherent impression and also the economy of means is questionable.

4154 (Hoch) Too forced and devoid of original and interesting elements.

4217 (Pasman) The author shows a threefold white rook sacrifice on c6. However, the first of these sacrifices is achieved at the price of adding two rooks to the scheme. This is a major cost in terms of economy of material. In the main scheme, I am unconvinced by the logic behind the white choice Rxc6?/Rc6! since the play is very linear and not particularly attractive.

4214, 4215, 4216 (Hoch) Essentially, 3 endgames with pawns vs. rook and pawn(s), but they remain at the level of analysis, without climbing artistic heights. The play is straightforward and without particular interest. The most interesting element in these studies is the try 6.h4? Rh6!! In 4216, sacrificing a tempo in order to decoy the white king, and doing so in a position where each tempo seems to be decisive. In a draw study, this brilliant move does not really come out well since 6. h3 seems a safe and natural way to make a draw. Perhaps the author can compose a win study with switched colors.

Israel Ring Tourney: Twomovers 2023

Judge: Marco Guida, April 2024

It has been not only an honor, but also a big pleasure to judge this year IRT, that has witnessed the participation of 20 problems and 18 authors (including joint compositions) from 11 countries. I have enjoyed a lot analyzing all the entries, which included some problems of high quality, with interesting and original content, that fully deserve entering this award .

After a first pass, I decided to exclude from the ranking a group of problems, for a variety of reasons:

- Thematic content either too simple or developed using well known mechanisms (Problems No. 4046, 4048, 4134, 4135, 4136, 4050, 4051, 4204)

- Lack of overall strategic coherence across phases, variations and/or themes, sometimes to the extent of making unclear the real composers' intention (Problems No.4046, 4134, 4049, 4050, 4202, 4204)

- Inaccurate construction (e.g. not optimized economy; defence duals involving thematic variations; unprovided flights that could easily be avoided; tries with the same refutation; white men idle, or solely with technical role, in the solution, not justified by the complexity and difficulty of the idea shown; etc.) (Problems No. 4136, 4046, 4049, 4050, 4051)

- Core thematic play already prepared in the set play, or variations reappearing several times across phases, therefore making the multi-phase setting less attractive or not justified enough (Problems No. 4051, 4134).

To decide among the others which ones were of sufficiently high standing to deserve a Prize or an Honorable Mention in an international tourney in 2023, I considered as key factors originality, complexity of the underlying idea, construction challenges and, last but not least, overall strategic coherence. As one could expect, besides objective quality criteria, also personal tastes and preferences have played a role in fine tuning the final ranking.

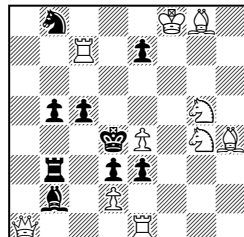
1st Prize: Var.4205 Peter Gvozdjak (Dedicated to Israeli friends).

Without any doubts the most original and interesting entry of the tourney. The problem shows a cycle involving, alternatively, keys and threats, on one side, and variation mates on the other. The cycle can be formalized as "A()B-(B)C-C()D-(D)A", looking to the 4 phases "horizontally" ... or, if you prefer, "A(B)C(D)-BCDA", looking to the 4 phases "vertically". But the formal pattern is only a part of the whole: to achieve it a very interesting and complex strategy has been deployed, combining self-blocks and line openings (according to schemas/matrixes sometimes used to show the Erokhin and Pseudo-Erokhin themes) in a smart, sophisticated and very harmonious way that provides an outstanding overall coherence. The wQ rather idle in the Solution is a totally negligible flaw in front of such an original and ambitious achievement that fully deserves the top honor.

1. ♖f2? **A** [2. ♘xe3#] 1...exf2 2. ♗f3# **B** 1...e6!
1. ♖xe7? [2. ♗f3# **B**] 1...c4 2. ♖a7# **C** 1...exd2! 1. ♖a7? **C** [2. ♖xc5#] 1...♖c3 2.dxe3# **D** 1...♘a3!
1. ♖c1! [2.dxe3# **D**] 1...e3~ 2. ♖f2# **A** 1...♗d7+ 2. ♖xd7#

Peter Gvozdjak

1st Prize IRT 2023



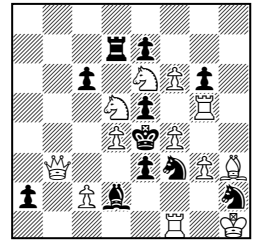
#2vvv

10+9

2nd Prize: Var.4133 Pavel Murashev

A 5-phases rather complex problem in which it is not at all easy to distil the core thematic content (and perhaps the original intention of the author) from what I would probably qualify as “collateral effects” or “by-products” of the main idea. As I see it, the qualifying thematic elements of this problem are encapsulated in the Pseudo Le Grand complex consisting of two pairs, for a total of four instances, of the Pseudo Le Grand theme, and a cyclic Pseudo Le Grand: definitely a notable achievement. The first Le Grand pair develops across the tries 1.Qc4? 1. Sb6? & 1.dxe5? and gives rise, with a focus on squares d5 & d4, to the first 2 instances (AB-BA/BA). The 2nd pair exploits the same two tries 1. Sb6? and 1.dxe5?, plus the solution 1.Bg2!, and gives rise, this time with a focus on square e5, to the other 2 instances (BC/BC-CB). Furthermore, thanks to the threat

Pavel Murashev
2nd Prize IRT 2023



#2v... 12+11

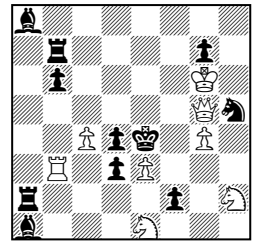
2.Sf6 (D), introduced by the initial try 1.fxe7?, and its reappearance as variation mate in the solution, the author has managed to nicely integrate not only the two pairs of Pseudo Le Grand, but also an additional cyclic Pseudo Le Grand across 1.fxe7? 1.Sb6?/dxe5? & 1.Bg2! (DB-BC-CD). I am generally not a fan of Pseudo-themes as such, but in this case I found the overall thematic blend both interesting and convincing. One could also note the presence of a Pseudo-Erokhin pattern (across tries 1.Qc4? & 1.dxe5?), and of a 1x Dombrovskis, but I would rather see them as less qualifying than the rest: the Pseudo form of the Erokhin theme is per se less interesting than its standard form, and the Dombrovskis exploits a well-known and not particularly interesting mechanism.

1.fxe7? [2.♟f6 D #] 1...cxd5 2.♟d3 B # 1...♟g4! 1.♟c4 X ? [2.♟c5 A #] 1...♟xd5 2.♟d3 B # 1...♟b4! 1.♟b6? [2.♟d3 B #] 1...♟xd4 2.♟c5 A # 1...♟e1 a 2.♟xe5 C # 1...♟c3! 1.dxe5? [2.♟d3 B #] 1...♟d4 2.♟c5 A # 1...♟xe5 2.♟xe5 C # 1...♟e1 a 2.♟c4 X # 1...♟c3 2.♟xc3# 1...♟xd5 b ! 1.♟g2! [2.♟xe5 C #] 1...♟xd5 b 2.♟d3 B # 1...exf6 2.♟xf6 D # 1...♟g4 2.♟xf3#

1st Honourable Mention Var.4047 Givi Mosiashvili

A modern problem combining a double-threat Dombrovskis with Zagoruiko. The play of the wQ threatening across the three phases 3 different mates on the 5th rank, as well as its very active role in all phases, contribute to a positive impression of great cohesion. However, the mechanisms used to separate the double-threat in the second try and in the solution and to change Knights' mates are both rather familiar (even if I have not found any direct predecessor). Additionally, the fact that 2 of the 3 mates after 1...Ra5 are both 2.Sd2# (two different Knights, but mating on the same arrival square) makes the mate change (and consequently the Zagoruiko) not fully convincing. 1.♟f1? [2.♟f5 B,♟d5 E #] 1...dxe3 b 2.♟xe3 D # 1...♟a5 a 2.♟hd2 C # but 1...♟f7!

Givi Mosiashvili
1st HM IRT 2023



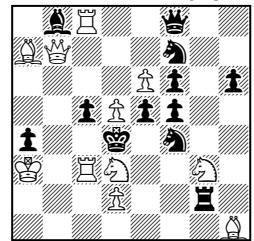
#2vv 8+11

1.♟xd3? [2.♟e5 A #] 1...dxe3 b 2.♟d5 E # 1...♟a5 a 2.♟xf2 F # 1...♟f4+ 2.♟xf4# but 1...♟c3!
1.♟ef3! [2.♟e5 A #] 1...dxe3 b 2.♟f5 B # 1...♟a5 a 2.♟ed2 C # 1...♟f4+/♟e7 2.♟xf4/♟e7#

2nd Honourable Mention Var.4139 Givi Mosiashvili

A fresh and interesting idea combining a Dombrovskis with the Le Grand theme. In the set position, the two mates following the generic move by bRg2 on the 2nd rank are effectively prevented by 1... Rxd2!. In the Try and in the Solution, in turn, one of the white moves is the threat and the other becomes the mate after 1...Rxd2 (Le Grand). A pity, however, that in the Set position 1...Rxg3 (that allows only one of the 2 thematic mates) makes the paradoxical effect of Dombrovskis not fully convincing. The author has also managed to integrate in the thematic blend three different mates after 1...Sd6, leveraging, however, on a rather familiar mechanism: in the Set position the mate is given directly by wBa7 with 2.Bxc5; in the Try and in the Solution two different white

Givi Mosiashvili
2nd HM IRT 2023



#2*v 11+12

pieces capture bPc5 forming a battery, so that the mates following 1...Sd6 become battery mates. A good result, even without a full Zagoruiko. 1...♟~ 2.♟f5, ♟b4#, but 1...♟xd2! 1...e4 2.♟f5# 1...♟d6 2.♟c5# 1.♟c5? [2.♟f5#] 1...♟d2 2.♟b4# 1...♟d6 2.♟b3# 1...♟c5 2.♟c5# but 1...e4! 1.♟8c5! [2.♟b4#] 1...♟d2 2.♟f5# 1...♟d6 2.♟c4# 1...♟c5 2.♟c5# 1...♟d3 2.♟1c4# 1...♟d5 2.♟d5#

3rd Honourable Mention Var.4201 Gerard Doukhan

The theme of Cyclic Sushkov and Cyclic Pseudo Le Grand has been quite extensively explored some 30-40 years ago, together with the variety of mechanisms that can be exploited to show it. The idea cannot be valued high in term of originality, even if it is still a difficult task and as such it deserves a place in this award. In this rendering the cyclic Sushkov is achieved via two line openings and one unpin by a wK move: even if the key by the wK provides a swift of originality to the setting, the choice of exploiting different effects across the three phases results in a certain lack of overall strategic coherence. Additionally, wBg5 and wRf2, even if needed, are idle in the Solution: despite that could be somehow considered a natural consequence of the line opening mechanism used, yet it is not ideal. 1.♔f6? [2.♖d4 A # (♗xe5 B ?)] 1...♗e5 2.♗xe5 B # 1...♔xf2 2.♗hxf2# but 1...♗d5! 1.♗d2? [2.♗d5 B # (♗xd4 C?)] 1...♗d4 2.♗xd4 C # 1...♗xg5 2.♗xg5# but 1...♗a2!

1.♗e6! [2.♗e5 C # (♗d5? B)] 1...♗c6 2.♗d5 B # 1...♗xc2 2.♗xc2# 1...♗xg5 2.♗xg5#

1st Commendation Var.4203 David Shtern & Ofer Comay

Each of the 2 mates 2.Bh5 and 2.Ba4 follow three different defences across the three phases. Additionally, also the mate 2.Rf8 is transferred. A good key that offers the wQ to multiple captures. Finally the Pseudo Le Grand across the second Try and the Solution is a nice cherry on the Pie. A very enjoyable problem under the solving perspective, even if with a simple and rather repetitive mechanism for the mate transfers. 1.♗xg3 ? [2.♗g6#] 1...♗g2 a 2.♗h5 A# 1...♗xg3 b 2.♗a4 B# 1...fxg3 c 2.♗f8 C# 1...♗xg3,g5,d6 d 2.♗d6 D# but 1...c3 ! 1.♗xf4 ? [2.♗f8 C#] 1...♗f2 r 2.♗h5 A# 1...♗f3 s 2.♗a4 B# 1...♗f6 u 2.♗d6 D# but 1...♗f1 !

1.♗e3 ! [2.♗d6 D# 1...♗e3 x 2.♗h5 A# 1...♗e3 y 2.♗a4 B# 1...fxe3 z 2.♗f8 C#

2nd Commendation Var.4140 Sergey Tkachenko

A nice five-phase problem combining the Banny theme (in a kind of “inverted” form: it leverages the set play instead of one of the main phases, whereby refutations to the thematic tries are variation defences in the set play) with threat correction and transfers of the two thematic mates. A pity that the position and the play that develops across the phases is rather symmetrical.

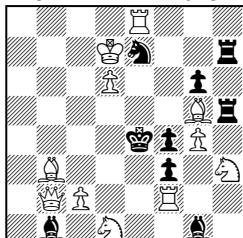
1...cxd3 a 2.♗b4 A# 1...exd3 b 2.♗f4 B# 1.♗b4 A? but 1...exd3 b ! 1.♗f4 B? but 1...cxd3 a ! 1.♗d3~ ? [2.♗c3#] but 1...b4! 1.♗xc4? [2.♗xd5# (♗c3?)] 1...♗xc4 c 2.♗b4 A# 1...bxc4 2.♗c3# but 1...♗f6! 1.♗xe4! [2.♗xd5# (2.♗c3#?)] 1...fxe4 2.♗c3# 1...♗xe4 d 2.♗f4 B# 1...♗f6 2.♗e5#

3rd Commendation var.4141 Luis Gomez Palazon

The idea to integrate Le Grand (BaC – CaB between 1.Rxg3? and 1.Qe3!) with a cyclic Pseudo Le Grand (across 1.Qd5?, 1.Rxg3? and 1.Qe3!) is nice, but not new. Here the two thematic components are well merged, but the mechanisms used have been partly exploited already by the author to develop the same thematic blend (see Best Problems, 2022, 2nd Prize). Additionally, in my opinion this rendering is not fully convincing: in the Le Grand component wQ have different departure squares in the two thematic phases, and the cyclic Pseudo Le Grand is shown in a “unconventional” form, where defence “a” (1... Sg6) appears twice across the pattern (i.e. AaB – BaC – CcA, instead of the “classical” AaB – BbC – CcA form). 1.♗d4? [2.♗h4#] 1...♗f4 2.♗xf4# 1...♗xe7+ 2.♗xe7# 1...♗h1! 1.♗d5? [2.♗xe6 A#] 1...♗g6 a 2.♗g7 B# 1...♗d7 b 2.♗g5 C# 1...♗xd6 2.♗xd6# 1...♗xe7+ 2.♗xe7# 1...♗h3! 1.♗xg3? [2.♗g7 B#] 1...♗g6 a 2.♗g5 C# 1...♗xe7+ 2.♗xe7# 1...♗g4!

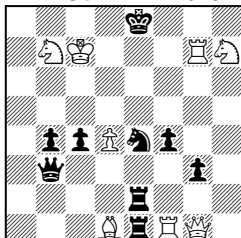
1.♗e3! [2.♗g5 C#] 1...♗f7 c 2.♗xe6 A# 1...♗g6 a 2.♗g7 B# 1...♗f4 2.♗xf4# 1...♗xe7+ 2.♗xe7#

Gerard Doukhan
3rd HM IRT 2023



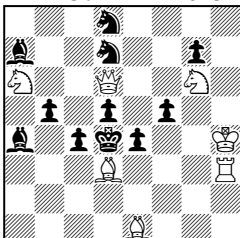
#2vv 11+9

D. Shtern O. Comay
1st Com IRT 2023



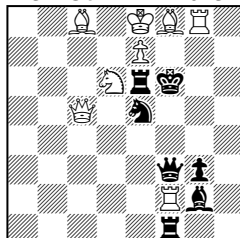
#2vv 8+9

Sergey I. Tkachenko
2nd Com IRT 2023



#2*v 7+11

Luis Gomez Palazon
3rd Com IRT 2023



#2vv 8+7

4th Commendation Var.4137 Antonio Tarnawiecki & Branislav Djurasevic
 A generic move by wBe4 fails due to self-interference of wRg8; other 4 correcting tries by the same wB fails due to self-obstructions or self-interferences. A well constructed and enjoyable option play, even if more interesting under the solving rather than the composing perspective.

1. ♖xd3 ? but 1... ♜f3 ! 1. ♜f3 ? but 1... ♖h4 ! 1. ♜g6 ? but 1... ♜g5 !
 1. ♜f5 ? but 1... ♜g5 ! 1. ♜xb7 ? but 1... ♜e8 ! 1. ♜c6 ? but 1... ♜xd6 !
 1. ♜d5 ? but 1... ♜g5 !

1. ♜h7 ! [2. ♜e4#] 1... ♖h4 2.f4# 1... ♜f3 2. ♜xd3# 1... ♜xd6 2. ♖c7# 1... ♜g5
 2. ♖xg5# 1... ♜xa4 + 2. ♜xa4# 1... ♜e8 2. ♜xb7#

5th Commendation Var.4138 Josef Burda

A single-phase specimen in cyclic threat separation: a four-fold threat is cyclically separated in pairs across 4 thematic variations (AB-BC-CD-DA). A nice problem, well constructed, but the idea is definitely not new and, beyond the mechanics of the cyclic duals, it lacks of other thematic or strategic elements of interest.

1.f6 ! [2. ♜e4 A, ♜e6 B, ♖xe5 C, ♖d4 D #]

1... ♜xd6 2. ♜e4 A, ♜e6 B #

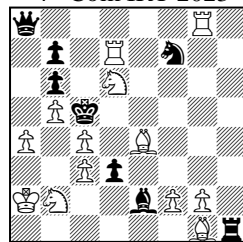
1... ♖xc4 2. ♜e6 B, ♖xe5 C #

1... ♜c5 2. ♖xe5 C, ♖d4 D #

1... ♖e8 2. ♖d4 D, ♜e4 A

**A. Tarnawiecki
 B. Djurasevic**

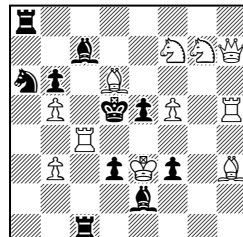
4th Com IRT 2023



#2v... 13+8

Josef Burda

5th Com IRT 2023



#2 11+10

The royal battery Zagoruiko – Paz Einat

In Asimov's short story "What if" the real life of a couple is compared to a virtual one in which a small changes was introduced. In a variety of chess problem genres, mainly in two movers, the virtual play (set play or try) is compared to the real one (the solution) and we follow the consequences of the changes introduced by the try or key on the interplay between black and white.

The Zagoruiko theme has at least two virtual phases, and the focus of this article are phases involving a royal battery (RB) firing to give mates. There are relatively few such problems in which the RB is a major player.

We'll start with problems in which the RB gives both thematic mates in one phase, move to involvement of the RB in two phases, continue with involvement in all three phases and end with all thematic mates by the RB.

As I cannot fit everything here, I am skipping some problems in the chronological order. In **A** the RB mates are ready in the set play but changed to wB battery mate in the try and to wS mates in the solution. Note the additional mate changes!

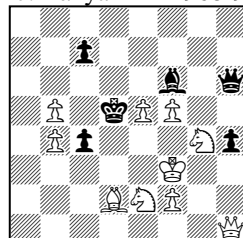
1... ♜e3+/♖f4+ 2. ♜xe3/♜xf4# 1. ♖d1! [2. ♜xh6,g5,f4,e3#] 1... ♜e3+/♖f4+ 2. ♜xe3/♜xf4# 1... ♖xd2/c3 2. ♖xd2/♖b3# but 1... ♜xe5! 1. ♖a1! [2. ♖d4#] 1... ♜e3+/♖f4+ 2. ♜xe3/♜xf4# 1... ♖xd2/c3 2. ♜xf6/♖a2#

B has a half battery involving the wK. The play is really delicate and the use of black correction is excellent. The 1.Qd7 try guarding d4 allows both wR mates, while the 1.Kd7 try, opening the half-battery, requires the wR to keep guarding d4 after 1...B~ and transfer of the Re5 mate after 1...Bxd4. In the solution, the wK can close the line of wBb8 after the bB random move, cannot do so after 1...Bxd4 due to the unguard of e5, but now can close the line of the rook on d8. The flaw of the repeated refutation is very small.

1. ♖d7? zz 1... ♜~/♜xd4 2. ♖e5/♖xd4# but 1...a5! 1. ♖d7? zz 1... ♜~/♜xd4 2. ♖d6/♖e5# but 1...a5! 1. ♖d8! zz 1... ♜~/♜xd4! 2. ♖c7/♖d7#

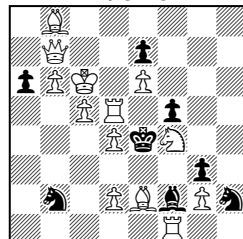
A. László Apró
 5th Prize

J. Bánai MT 1968-9



#2 10+6

B. Victor Melnichenko
 Com Vitoria-800 JT
 1981-8



#2 13+8

In the pleasing **C**, the Argentinian composer asks which white piece will unpin the bB. The reply 1...Bh3+ 2.Sxh3# leaving the bP for the refutation, and the good refutation on the wB try are nice points.

1.♠f2? zz 1...♙g4/♙xe4+ 2.♜xg4/♜xe4# but 1...g4! 1.♙f3? zz 1...♙xg4/♙e4 2.♙xg4/♙e4#but 1...♙d3! **1.♙f3!** zz 1...♙xg4+/♙e4+ 2.♙xg4/♙e4#

D follows an earlier problem by Petkov (Problemista 1964) but adds an important pin-line and actually shows a 3x3 Zagoruiko in 4 phases! The three RB mates in the solution are unique!

1.♜b4? zz 1...♙xd5/♙xd3 2.♜xd5/♜xd3# but 1...♙xf3! 1.♜e5? [2.fxe4#] 1...♙xf3/♙xd3 2.♞xf3/♜xd3# but 1...♙xd5! 1.♙c3? zz 1...♙xf3/♙xd3/♙xd5 2.♙xb3/♙xd3/♙xd5# but 1...bxc2! **1.♙xb3!** zz 1...♙xf3/♙xd3/♙xd5 2.♙c3/♙xd3/♙xd5#

Janevski's **E** is a gem! The wK tries interfere with either wB, unguarding b5 or b6, respectively, and driving the transfer of Qh1#. In the solution, the wK moves are the mates with the selfblocks allowing the self-interferences.

1.♙d3? zz 1...♞b6/♜b5 2.♙xb6/♙h1# but 1...b6! 1.♙d4? zz 1...♞b6/♜b5+ 2.♙h1/♙xb5# but 1...b5! **1.♙h1!** zz 1...♞b6/♜b5 2.♙d4/♙d3#

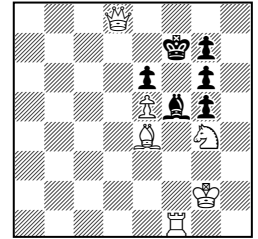
In the next set of problems the RB gives thematic mates in two of the three phases, one mate in each.

In **F** white needs to provide for 1...Kb4 but in doing so it provides the 2nd thematic flight on d5. While the 1st try has two wQ mates, the 2nd try forms an indirect battery that become direct after the bK move to b4, with a RB mate. The key form an indirect battery aiming at the other flight, and after the bK move to d5 the RB fires. The great Norwegian composer was not only the first to use this mechanism, but the only one to show it with different try refutations. 1.♙xg6? zz 1...♞b4/♙d5 2.♙b6/♙c6# but 1...e6! 1.♙b8? zz 1...♞b4/♙d5 2.♙c6/♙e5# (1...e5/e6 2.♙d6/♙d6#) but 1...g5! 1.♙a8! [2.♙a5#] 1...♞b4/♙d5 2.♙a3/♙b6#

Using set play, Cheylan (**G**) managed the idea with both flights provided. The 1st battery exists in the diagram position and the 2nd one is created by the key, with the try providing the other changes including a nice mate with the wR. Set: 1...♙c3/♙e4 2.♙d5/♙g4# 1.♙f8? [2.♙b4#] 1...♙c3/♙e4 2.♙c5/♙b4# but 1...e4! **1.♙b7!** [2.♙b4#] 1...♙c3/♙e4 2.♙b2/♙c5# (1...e4 2.♙b2#)

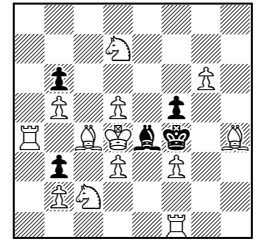
The important Italian composer of **H** found a very different matrix to show royal battery mates in two of the three phases. The set mates are abandoned by unguard of c5, and the differential guard of c4 or e4 determines the royal battery mates. 1...dxc3/dxe6 2.♜xc3/♜f6# 1.♜c5? zz 1...dxc3/dxe6 2.♙xc3/♙xe6# but 1...a5! **1.♜a5!** zz 1...dxc3/dxe6 2.♙e3/♙xc6#

C. Jorge M. Kapros
9th Com Argüelles-80
JT 1982-3



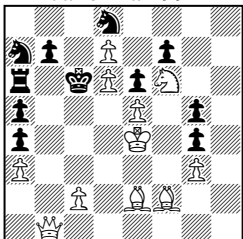
#2 6+6

D. Karol Mlynka
Schach-Aktiv 1988



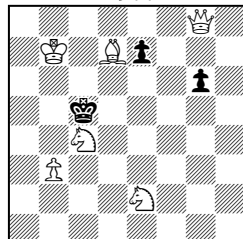
#2 13+5

E. Zivko Janevski
1st Place
Jahorina 1991



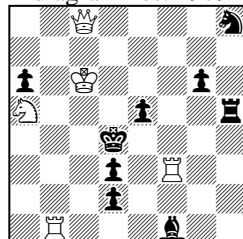
#2 11+11

F. Nils G.G. Van Dijk
Hamar Arbeiderblad
1977



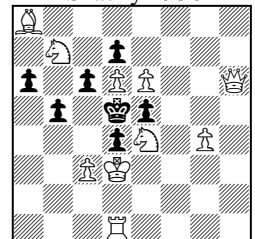
#2 6+3

G. Yves Cheylan
3rd HM
diagrammes. 1979



#2 5+9

H. Ottavio Stocchi
4th Prize
Szachy 1956



#2 10+7

Mlynka's I also has two phases with thematic RB mates and added twist of tries by the wK, using the half-battery configuration. The additional changes after 1.g7? & 1.Bc8? are of note, but they involve rather weak tries.

1.g7 ? zz 1...♙xc1 2.♖g6# but 1...♜e5 ! 1.♙c8 ? zz 1...♙xc1 2.♙xe6# but 1...♜e5! 1.♜c4 ? zz 1...♜e5 2.♙b7# but 1...♙d2 ! 1.♜c6 ? zz 1...♙xc1/♜e5 2.♙xe6/♙b3# but 1...♙d2 ! 1.♙b7 ? zz 1...♙xc1/♜e5 2.♙d6/♜c4# but 1...e5! 1.♙b3 ! zz 1...♙xc1/♜e5 2.♙xd4/♜c6#

We move now into mechanisms in which the RB provides mates in all three phases. I actually found only two mechanisms for this and we'll start with the one in which the RB provides one mate in each phase. In this mechanism the RB exists in the diagram position, but the wK has no free squares to move into. Three of these squares are occupied by white pieces, and in each of the three phases one of them moves away, freeing that square for the wK. Once the RB is free to give mate the wK will move into that square. The other mate is arranged by the try moves and the key.

J is the oldest I found. The wQ, wBf1 & wRe1 move to guard d5 & threat Se6#. In doing so, they both provide an escape for the wK after 1...Sxc7 that unguards the RB, and a mate on 1...Sd4. It is a nice feature that the two thematic defenses are by the same piece. The main issue of this mechanism is the minimal usage of white pieces in the solution, here the wQ & wB.

1.♖g5? [2.♙e6#] 1...♙xc7/♙d4 2.♜g3/♜xe7# but 1...e5! 1.♙c4? [2.♙e6#] 1...♙xc7/♙d4 2.♜e2/♙d3# but 1...axb3! 1.♙e5! [2.♙e6#] 1...♙xc7/♙d4 2.♜e1/d6#

RB's are favorites of John Rice and the core idea in K is in the two tries and key to d6, with all thematic white pieces active in the solution! Furthermore, a set mate on 1...d4 provides a fourth mate by the royal battery and there are additional changes on 1...fxg3, so we actually have a 4x2 Zagoruiko with further changes.

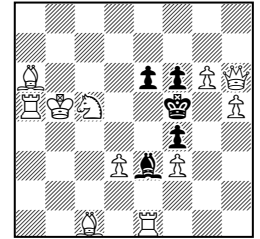
1.♙d8? zz 1...d4/fxg3 2.♜xd6/♙f8# but 1...dxc5! 1.c8=♖? zz 1...fxg3 2.♖f8# but 1...dxc5! 1.♙xd6? zz 1...d4/fxg3 2.♙c5/♜e2# but 1...♙h~! 1.♙xd6? zz 1...d4/fxg3 2.♜b5/♙f7# but 1...♙c~! 1.♙xd6! zz 1...d4/fxg3 2.♜d7/♙f6# (1...♙h~ 2.♖(x)f2# 1...♙c~(+) 2.♙(x)d4#)

In L tries and key are again to the same square with good changes on the bB defense and differentiated refutations, but with the static wRg3 & wSf2 in the solution.

1.♙d3? [2.♙de5#] 1...exd3/♙f6 2.♜f2/♙c5# but 1...♙d6! 1.♙d3? [2.♙e5#] 1...exd3/♙f6 2.♜g3/♙d6# but 1...♙xd8! 1.♙d3! [2.♙e5#] 1...exd3/♙f6 2.♜f1/♙d6#

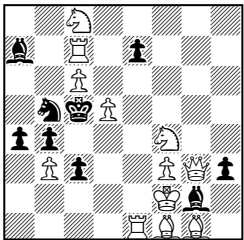
One of the composers of L came up an ideal rendition of the idea (M) with nice mates, different threats and good refutations. 1.♙c4? [2.♙d2#] 1...dxc4/♙f3 2.♜b6/♙f2# but 1...dxe3! 1.♙c4? [2.♙xd4#] 1...dxc4/♙f3 2.♜c5/♖b1# but 1...♙c2! 1.♙c4! [2.♙xd4#] 1...dxc4/♙f3 2.♜b5/♙d3#

I. Karol Mlynka
1st Prize
UV CSTV 1981



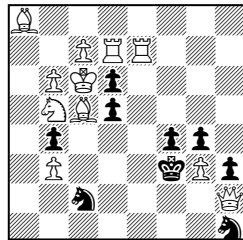
#2 11+5

J. L. D. Szwedowski
1-2nd Prize
Problemista 1971



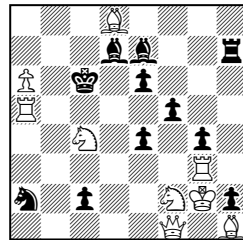
#2 12+9

K. John M. Rice
5th HM
The Problemist 1987



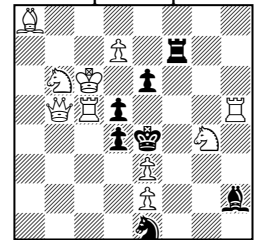
#2 11+9

L. Vasil V. Dyachuk
Valery V. Kopyl
4th HM Pat a Mat 2015



#2 9+11

M. Valery V. Kopyl
1st Place 17th Ukrainian
Championship 2014



#2 10+7

Article continues on page 34

Israeli Successes Abroad – Emanuel Navon

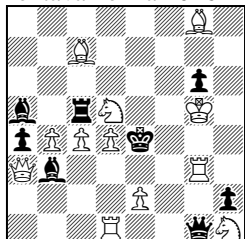
ישראלים מצטיינים בחו"ל – עמנואל נבון

המחברים מתבקשים לשלוח את הצלחותיהם האחרונות אל emanuel.navon@gmail.com

A.

Paz Einat
1st Prize

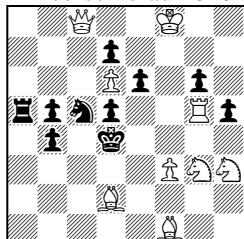
Tehtavaniekka 2016–19



#2 12+8

B. Leonid Makaronez
Leonid Ljubasjevski
1st Prize

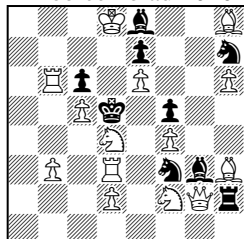
Probleemblad 2020



#3 9+10

C. Sergei Tkachenko
Leonid Ljubasjevski
2nd Prize

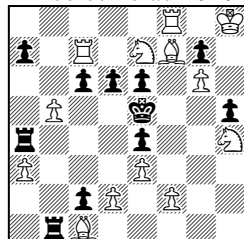
Probleemblad 2020



#3 14+9

D. Leonid Makaronez
Viktor Volchek
2nd Prize

Probleemblad 2020



#4 13+11

A is in 7th WCCT style with 4 pairs of variations, three of them showing the domino theme involving defensive motives. “I simply have to congratulate the composer, who has succeeded in finding a streamlined position with lots of content” (judge, Terho Marlo). [a=direct guard, b=unguard, c=flight provision]

1. ♖f7! [2. ♗xg6#] 1... ♖c6 a/♗xc4 b 2. ♗c3/♗f6# 1... ♗xc4 b/♗xd1 c 2. ♖d3/♗f3# 1... ♖xd1 c/♗f1 a 2. ♖g4/♖e3# 1... ♗xd5+/♗xg3+ 2. ♗xd5/♗xg3#

B: Judge Jörg Kuhlmann praised the rich 6 variations and noted the black correction play that include three corrections with the try-refutation as the fourth...”a great three-mover of the future”.

1. ♗f7? ♗b7! 1. ♗e7! [2. ♖h8+ e5 3. ♖xe5#] 1... ♗~ 2. ♖c2 ~ 3. ♗e2# 1... ♗a4 2. ♖c1 ~ 3. ♗e3# 1... ♗b3 2. ♗xb4 ♗e3/♗c5 2. ♖c3/♖xc5# 1... ♗e4 2. ♗xe4 ~ 3. ♖c5# 1... e5 2. ♖xg6 ~/e4 3. ♗f5/♖h8# 1... ♖a8 2. ♗xb5 ~ 3. ♗e2#

The judge liked the battery play of C in which interesting batteries are formed in the three main variations and used mainly after 2...Kxe6.

1.b4! [2. ♖xf3 + ♖c4 3. ♖c3#] 1... ♗g5, ♗f6 2. ♗xf3 + ♖c4/♖xe6 3. ♗e5/♗g5# 1... ♗h5 2. ♗xc6 + ♖c4/♖xe6 3. ♗a5/♗e5# 1... ♗xg2 2. ♗xf5 + ♖c4/♖xe6/♗d4 3. ♗e3/♗d6/♗e3# 1... ♖c4 2. ♖c3 + ♖d5 3. ♖xf3#

The highly complex D has 9 full variations, 4 with the same W2 move. Judge Jörg Kuhlmann was particularly surprised by the quiet 2.Kxg7 & 2.Sd5, and of the quiet W3 moves 3.Sd5. Set: 1...♗f6 2.f4 exf3 ep. 3. ♗xf3 ~ 4. ♗g8, ♗e8#

1. ♗g8! [2. d3 [3.f4 +, ♗xc6 + exf3 ep. 4. ♗xf3# & 3. ♗xc6 + ♖d5 4. ♖f5#] 2...d5 3. ♖xc6 ~ 4. ♖xe6# 3... ♖a6 4.d4# 1... ♖xb5, ♖bb4 2. ♗xc6 + ♖d5 3. ♗b4 + ♖xb4 4. ♖f5# 3... ♖xb4/♖e5 4. ♖f5/♖b2# 1... ♖b3 2. ♗xc6 + ♖d5 3. ♖f5 + ♖c4 4. ♗b4# 1... ♖xa3, ♖a6 2.d4+ exd3 ep. 3. ♗f3+ ♖e4 4. ♖f4# 1... ♖d4 2. ♖xg7 [3. ♖f5+ exf5 4. ♗xc6# & 3. ♖f6 ~ 4. ♖xe6# 2...d5 3. ♖xc6 ~ 4. ♖xe6# 1... ♖c4 2. ♗d5 [3. ♖e7 ~, Kxd5 4. ♖f5# & 3. ♖f5 + exf5 4. ♖e7#] 1...c5 2. ♖f5 + 2...exf5 3. ♗d5 ~ 4. ♖e7# 1...d5 2. ♖xc6 [3. ♖xe6#] 2... ♖a6 3. ♖xa6 ~ 4. ♖xe6#

E: “An essential realization of the Goethart theme, with elegant exchange of functions (direct/indirect) between the two white batteries” (Judge: Francesco Simoni)

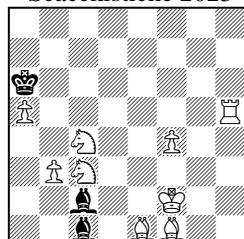
a) 1. ♗f5 ♗e4 (♗a4?) 2. ♖b5 ♗e5# b) 1. ♗g5 ♗e3+ (S4~?) 2. ♖xa5 ♗d5#

F: WFCC’s Christmas 2023 competition (H#2) required problems in the shape of a fir tree and was judged by the authors. 12 problems participated in this section, judged by 14 authors from all sections. In this problem, the game of sacrifice and pins of the black queen and rook is performed, with the reciprocal change of moves of the white knight and rook

1.b2 ♖xd3 2. ♖b3 ♗xb3# 1.d2 ♗xb3 2. ♖d3 ♖xd3#

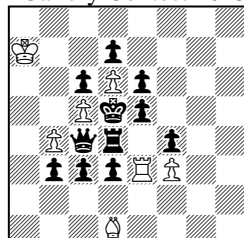
1. ♖e4 ♖xd3+ 2. ♖d4 ♗xb3# 1. ♖b5 ♗xb3+ 2. ♖c4 ♖xd3#

E. Jean Haymann
Prize, Sinfonie
Scacchistiche 2023



H#2 b) ♗f4→a4 9+3

F. Menachem Witztum
Emanuel Navon
1st Place WFCC Christmas
Gallery Contest 2023



H#2 4.1.1.1 7+11

G. Saul Shamir
3rd HM
The Problemist 2022

H#2 2.1.1.1 7+6

H. Saul Shamir
5th HM
"Ivan Antipin - 70" 2023

H#2 2.1.1.1 10+4

I. Menachem Witztum
Emanuel Navon
3rd HM 9th FRME 2023

H#2 2.1.1.1 9+13

J. Misha Shapiro
1st Prize 2 TC Konstanta
E. Gavriliva-2 2023

H#2.5 b) ♖f7→h8 6+6
c) ♗d2→c4 d) c+ ♖f7→e8

G: All squares around the black king are controlled. Black has to block in advance two squares guarded by White, because the checkmate will be made on a square that blocks the line of White's defense on them. In this harmonic problem, the author will claim a conceptual justification for the surplus white piece in the solution 1. ♗e3 ♖h4 2. ♖d3 ♖f3# 1. ♗d5 ♖e7 2. ♖e4 ♖c6# Self-block with subsequent interference of blocking piece, to allow Somov mate. Judge **H:** Theme: In the initial position, adjacent squares X and Y are inaccessible to the black king. In one phase, on the first move, Black makes square X available to the black king, and White makes square Y. On the second move, the black king moves to square Y, while square X remains available. In another phase it's the other way around. 1. ♗xe5 ♗h4 2. ♖xf4 ♖d5# 1. ♗xg5 ♖c5 2. ♖xe4 ♖c2# Change of functions w♖e5/w♗g5 and battery mats.

K. Leonid Makaronez
5th HM
Springaren 2013

S#5 7+10

I: Some authors do not like the interesting Goethard theme because of the surplus white piece in the solution. To add "sin for crime" two disharmonious themes are combined here (Goethard & Gamage). Despite the above, there is a connecting line between the two, when a black piece closes the line of a pinned black piece, which is unpinned in the mate move. ♖e7 does this in this problem, in both solutions and also opens a white line 1. ♖e5 ♗d5 2. ♗e6 ♖e4# - Goethard 1. ♗h5 ♗f3 2. ♖e3 ♖e1# - Gamage. A beautiful and non-standard combination of two themes: Goetgart and Gamage. Judge: Valery Gurov

L. Leonid Ljubasjevski
Leonid Makaronez
4th HM
Springaren 2013

S#11 12+9

The theme of **J**'s tourney: two pairs of identical black and identical white pieces (or two identical pairs of black and white pieces) play on the same move number on the same square. Captures black pieces on the thematic square by thematic white pieces not allowed.

a) 1...h7 2. ♖f5 h8=♖ 3. ♖b5 ♖c3# b) 1...g7 2. ♖f5 gxh8=♖ 3. ♖b5 ♖c3#
c) 1...e7 2. ♖f3 e8=♖ 3. ♖c3 ♖b5# d) 1...d7 2. ♖f3 dxe8=♖ 3. ♖c3 ♖b5# For the first time, despite the complex twins, the theme of doubles was embodied in the play on the 3rd move. The idea, which is difficult to implement, is embodied in a rather economical form, Meredith. Judge E. Gavrylov

Judge Kjell Widlert wrote on **K**: "A stunning main variation where the queen settles into a fight with no obvious gain..." 1. ♖h8! [2. ♗h7 + ♖xf7 3. ♖h8-e8+ ♖f6 4. ♖xe7 + ♖xe7# 1...g6 2. ♖f6 [3. ♖xe7 + ♖g7 4. f8=♖ + ♖xe7#] 2...exf6 3. ♖xg6 + ♖g7 4. ♖e5 + ♖f8 5. ♖d7 + ♖xd7# 1...g5 2. ♗h7 + ♖xf7 3. ♖g8 + ♖f6 4. ♖xg5 + ♖f7 5. ♖xe7 + ♖xe7# 1...e5 2. ♗h7 + ♖xf7 3. ♖e8 + ♖e6 4. ♗g8 + .♖f6 5. ♖xe7 + ♖xe7#

On **L** the judge wrote: "The content is ambitious: a long pendulum of ♖c2 eliminates s♗c6, after which a short pendulum can eliminate v♗e5." After the elimination of c6 & e5 the two knight return to their place, allowing the circular wQ maneuver e6-c4-c8-e6.
1. ♖c4 [2. ♖xe2+ ♖xe2#] 1...♖e4 2. d5+ ♖xf5 3. ♖d4+ ♖e4 4. ♖c6+ ♖f5 5. ♖d4+ ♖e4 6 ♖c2+! ♖f5 7. ♖e7+ ♖xe5 8. ♖g6+ Gtertdg) ♖f5 9. ♖c8+ ♖e4 10. ♖e6+♖f3, ♖d3 11. ♖xe2+ ♖xe2# (6...♖f3 7. ♖xe2+ ♖xe2# 4...♖e3, ♖f3 5. ♖xe2+ ♖xe2#)

Israeli Study Successes Abroad – Michael Pasman

Results from tournaments published in recent months:

Ceskoslovensky Sach 2023 – I won 1st prize (see below) and special HM, Yochanan Afek won the divided 4th - 5th Prize, Avni - special commendation.

Magyar Sakkvilag 2023: commendation for Amatzia Avni .

Polish Chess Federation 2023 tournament: Gady Costeff won 1st prize (see below), Pasman 3rd -4th prize + commendation, Avni - commendation.

Hlinka 70 JT 2023 – 2 sections: Pasman 1st - 3rd prize in both sections, Afek HM (see below), Amatzia Avni and Tarasiuk co-production: commendation.

Zadachy i Etudy 2022 Pasman 1st Prize (see below) + 3rd HM, Avni 3rd commendation

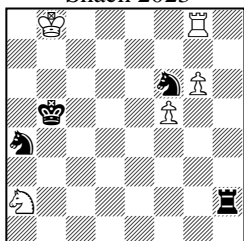
Macedonian Problemist 2022: Pasman 2nd Prize (see below)

I selected the following studies from these tournaments:

A Michael Pasman

1st Prize Ceskoslovensky

Shach 2023



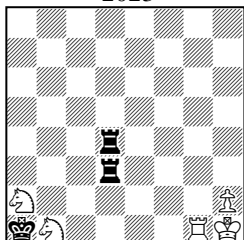
Draw 5+4

1.♙f8! [1.♙d8 ♜xa2 2.♙d6 ♖c5+] **1...♜d7+** [1...♙xa2 2.♙xf6=] **2.♜c8!** [2.♜c7 ♜xf8 3.g7 ♙h7!] **2...♜xf8 3.♜c3+!** [Thematic try : 3.g7 ♖b6+! 4.♜d8 (4.♜b7 ♙h7) 4...♜e6+! 5.fxe6 ♙xa2 6.g8=♙ ♙a8+ 7.♜e7 ♙xg8 8.♜f7 ♙c8! 9.e7 ♙c7 10.♜e6 ♙c6+] **3...♜xc3 4.g7 ♜g6! 5.f6!!** [5.fxg6 ♜d5+] **5...♜d5 6.f7 ♜d7+** [6...♙c2+ 7.♜b8 ♜e5 8.f8=Q!] **7.♜d7 ♙h7! 8.f8=♜** [8.g8=♜? ♜xg8] **8...♜xf8+ 9.gxf8=♜!!** [Phoenix] [9.gxf8=♜ ♜g6+] **9...♙g7 10.♜e6 ♙f7 11.♜e8 ♙h7 12.♜f8 1/2**

B Amatzia Avni

Com Magyar Sakkvilag,

2023



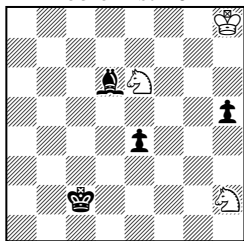
Win 5+3

1.♜c1 ♙h3 2.♜b3+! [2.♜e2 ♙dh4 3.♜d2+ ♜b2 4.♜f1 ♙f3 and white's forces are badly placed, his material advantage cannot be converted] **2...♙xb3 3.♜d2+ ♜a2** [liquidating to a winning rook endgame, white now has to choose the accurate path] **4.♙a1+!** [4.♜xb3? ♜xb3=] **4...♜b2 5.♙b1+ ♜c2 6.♙xb3** [6.♜xb3? ♙h4! 7.♙c1+ ♜xb3 8.♜g2 ♙h8! 9.♜g3 ♙g8+=] **6...♙d8** [a shrewd defence C)] [A] **6...♜xd2 7.♜g2+;** B) **6...♙xd2 7.♙f3!+-** (but not **7.♙e3? ♙d3=**) ; **6...♙h4 7.♜g2!** **7.h4!+-** [a different winning method has to be discovered] [A] **7.♜g2?? ♙xd2+;** B) **7.♙f3? ♜xd2=]** **7...♙d4 8.♙h3 1-0**

C Michael Pasman

2nd Prize Macedonian

Problemist 2022

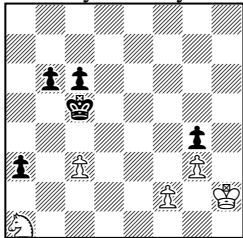


Draw 3+4

1.♜f3! [1.♜g5 ♜d3! 2.♜hf3 ♜e7! 3.♜e5+ ♜e3!] **1...♜d3 2.♜h4 e3 3.♜g2 e2 4.♜g5!** [4.♜h7 ♜e4! 5.♜g6 ♜f3! 6.♜e1+ ♜g4! 7.♜c2 h4 8.♜g5 ♜c5+] **4...♜e7 5.♜f4+ ♜d2** [5...♜e3 6.♜gh3 ♜d6 7.♜xe2] **6.♜e4+ ♜e3 7.♜xe2 h4! 8.♜4g3!** [8.N2g3 h3! 9.♜h7 ♜h4!; 8.N2c3 ♜b4 9.♜g7 ♜xc3+] **8...♜f2! 9.♜f5!** [9.♜h7 ♜d6! 10.♜g6 ♜xg3] **9...h3 10.♜eg3! ♜h4!** [10...♜d6 11.♜e4+! ♜f3 12.♜g5+] **11.♜h1+!** [11.♜xh4 ♜xg3+] **11...♜g1 12.♜xh4 ♜xh1 13.♜g6! h2 14.♜h4 1/2**

D Michael Pasman
1st Prize

Zadachy I Etiudy 2022



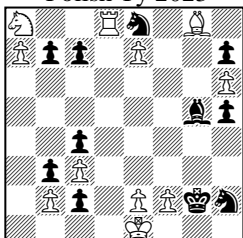
Win 5+5

1.f3! gxf3 2.g4 ♖d5 [2...♙c4 3.♙g3 ♙xc3 4.g5 ♙b2 5.g6 ♙xa1 6.g7 a2 7.g8=♙ ♙b2 8.♙g7+ /h8+ winning] **3.♗c2!** [3.♙g3 ♙e4] **3...a2** [Thematic (logical) line 3...♙e4 4.♗xa3 ♙f4 5.g5! (5.♙h3? b5=) 5...♙xg5 6.♙g3 ♙f5 7.♙xf3+- Position X3 with white knight on a3 instead of a2] **4.♗b4+ ♙e4 5.♗xa2 ♙f4 6.♙h3!** [Look the difference from thematic line] [Logical try : 6.g5? (the move which is correct in thematic line with the knight on a3) 6...♙xg5 7.♙g3 ♙f5 8.♙xf3 ♙e5= Position X1 with knight on a2, but without b5] **6...b5** [6...f2 7.♙g2 ♙xg4 8.♙xf2+-] **7.g5 ♙xg5 8.♙g3 f2 9.♙xf2** [Main A] **9...♙f5** [Main B 9...♙f4 10.♗b4! c5 11.♗c2! zz Reciprocal zugzwang. In Main B the white knight is placed on c2 instead of a2 (11.♗d3+ ♙e4 12.♗xc5+ ♙d5 13.♗a6 ♙c4=) 11...♙e4 (11...♙e5 12.♙e3) 12.♙e2 zz Reciprocal zugzwang 12...♙d5 13.♙d3+- Position Y3 with knight on c2 and

E Gady Costeff

1-2nd Prize

Polish Ty 2023



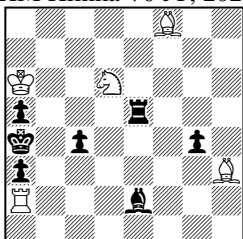
Draw 11+11

The “Checkers theme” is realized in a paradoxical “inverted” form.

1.♖d1 ♗f1 [threatening ♖d2+] **2.♗d5+!** [2.e4? but Black plays 2...cxd1=♙+ 3.♙xd1 ♙xf2 4.♗b6 ♗e3+ 5.♙c1 ♗d5+ 6.♙d1 ♗xb6 and the a8 field is controlled.; 2.e3? cxd1=♙+ 3.♙xd1 ♙xf2 4.♗b6 ♗e3+ 5.♙c1 ♗d5+ 6.♙d1 ♗xb6 7.a8=♙ ♗xa8 no stalemate because of the ♖g8.] **2...♙g1 3.e3!** [3.♗b6? ♖d2+!] **3...cxd1=♙+ 4.♙xd1 ♙xf2 5.♗b6!** [5.♗xc7? ♗e3+ 6.♙c1 ♗xd5+ 7.♙d1 ♗b6! and no stalemate because the knight will stay on the board] **5...♗xe3+ 6.♙c1!** [6.♙d2? ♙f1 7.a8=♙ ♗g4+ 8.♙d1 ♗f2#] **6...♗xd5+ 7.♙d1 ♗xb6 8.a8=♙ ♗xa8** [stalemate.] 1/2

F Yochanan Afek

HM Hlinka-70 JT, 2023



Win 5+7

1.♗e4! ♖e6+ 2.♗d6 ♖xd6+! 3.♗xd6 ♗d3! 4.♗xg4 c3+ 5.♙b6 c2 6.♗b7! [6.♖a1? ♙b3 7.♗e6+ ♙b2=] **6...c1=♙ 7.♗c5+ ♙xc5+ [7...♙b4 8.♗xd3+-] 8.♙xc5 ♗c4! 9.♗d1+ [9.♙xc4? Stalemate!] 9...♗b3 10.♖c2!** [Threat 10. ♖c4# Pin mate] **10...a2 11.♖xa2#** [Pin mate.] 1-0



מקוריות Originals

IRT judges: #2: Not determined (2024); #3: Not determined (2024-25) #n: Not determined (2024-26); Studies: Daniele Gatti (2024); H#: Not determined (2024); S#: Not determined (2023-24); Fairies: Not determined (2024)

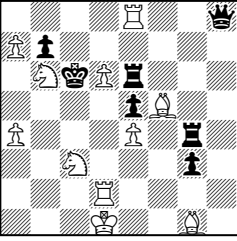
Editors:

Orthodox (#n,H#n,S#n): **Ofer Comay** ofercomay@gmail.com
 Studies: **Gady Costeff** costeff@gmail.com
 (Please send originals in pgn format)
 Fairies: **Michael Grushko** bargrushko@bezeqint.net

עורכים:
 בעיות רגילות: עופר קומאי
 סיומים: גדי קוסטף
 (נא לשלוח מקוריות בפורמט pgn)
 בעיות אגדתיות: מיכאל גרושקו

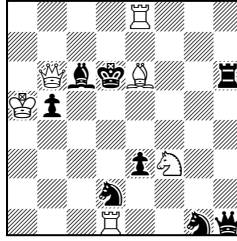
All fairy definitions can be found here: <http://www.variantim.org/FairyDefinitions.pdf>

4257
 Gerard Doukhan
 France



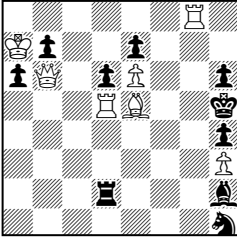
#2vvv 11+7

4258
 Alexander Pankratiev



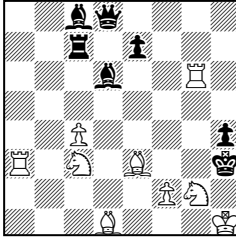
#2v 6+8

4259
 Jose Luis Velasco
 Spain



#2 7+10

4260
 Jose Luis Velasco
 Spain



#2 9+7

4261
 Sergey I. Tkachenko
 Ukraine



#2v 8+7

4262
 Antonio Tarnawiecki
 Peru



#2v 11+7

4263
 Zoltan Labai
 Miroslav Svitek
 Slovakia



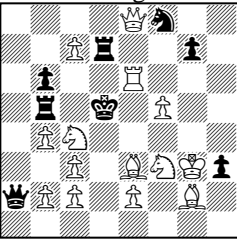
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4264
 Miroslav Svitek
 Slovakia



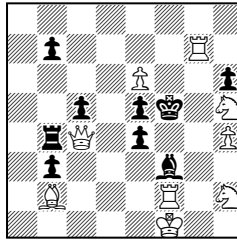
#2*vv 9+9

4265
 Givi Mosiashvili
 Georgia



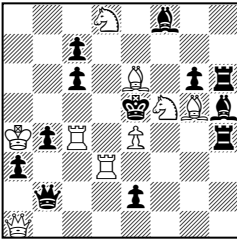
#2vv 14+8

4266
 Alexander Pankratiev



#2vv 9+9

4267
 Alexander Pankratiev



#2*v.. 9+12

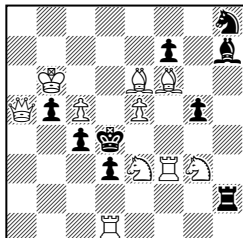
4268
 Bela Majoros
 Hungary



#2 zeroposition 7+4
 a) add ♠c4 b) add ♖b3

4269

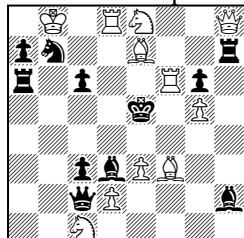
Paz Einat
Nes Ziona



#2vvv 10+9

4270

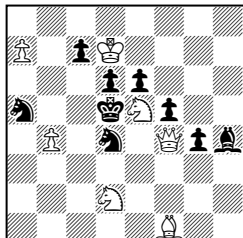
Ing. Josef Burda
Czech Rep.



#2 11+11

4271

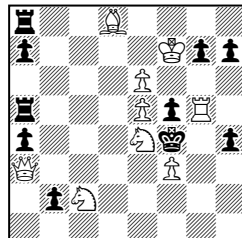
David Shtern
Petach Tikva



#2v.. 7+9

4272

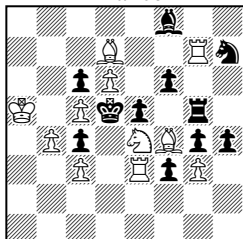
Alexander Pankratiev



#2*v.. 9+10

4273

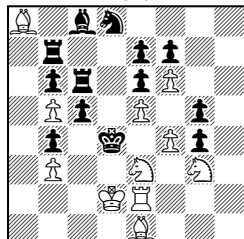
Gerard Doukhan
France



#3 11+11

4274

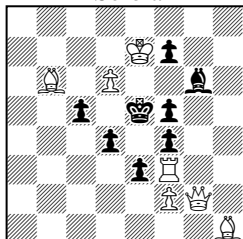
Antonio Tarnawiecki
Peru



#3 11+13

4275

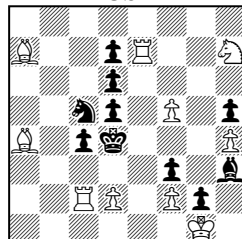
Petrasin Petrasinovic
Serbia



#3vvv 7+8

4276

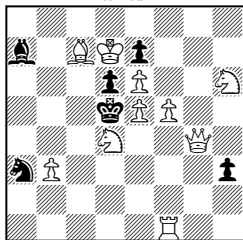
Rauf Aliovsadzade
USA



#3 10+10

4277

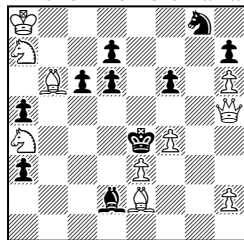
Leonid Makaronez
Viktor Volchek
Haifa/---



#3 10+6

4278

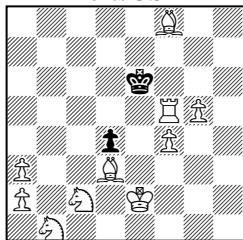
Leonid Lyubashevsky
Leonid Makaronez
Rishon Lezion/Haifa



#3 10+10

4279

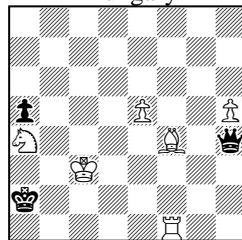
Antonio Tarnawiecki
Steven Dowd
Peru/USA



#4 10+2

4280

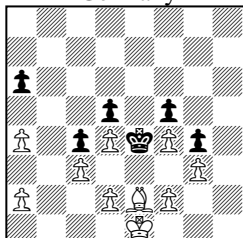
Bela Majoros
Hungary



#6 6+3

4281

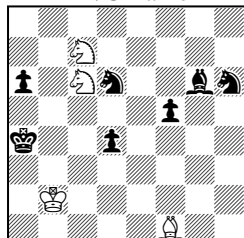
Kurt Keller
Germany



#6 10+6

4282

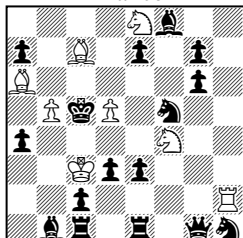
Valery Kirillov
Igor Yarmonov
---/Ukraine



#11 4+7

4283

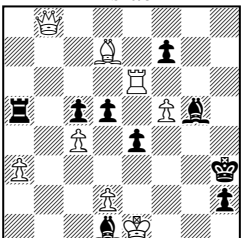
Olivier Schmitt
France



#13 8+16

4284

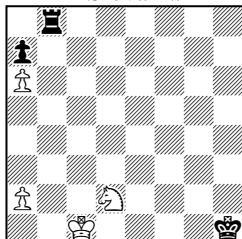
Amatzia Avni
Yochanan Afek
Israel



Draw 8+9

4285

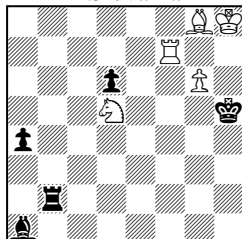
Michal Hlinka
Luboš Kekely
Slovakia



Draw 4+3

4286

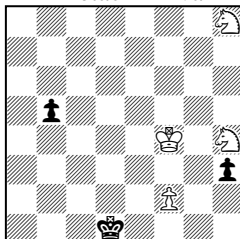
Michal Hlinka
Luboš Kekely
Slovakia



Draw B→ 5+5

4287

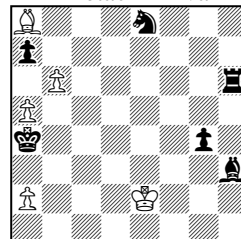
Yehuda Hoch
Itay Richardson
Petach Tikva



Win 4+3

4288

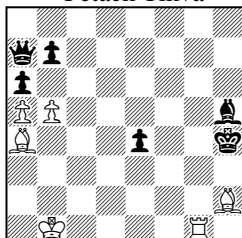
Yehuda Hoch
(after Pomogalov)
Petach Tikva



Draw 5+6

4289

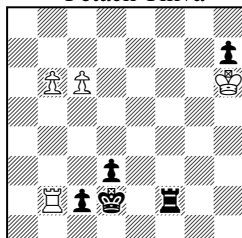
Yehuda Hoch
Petach Tikva



Win 6+6

4290

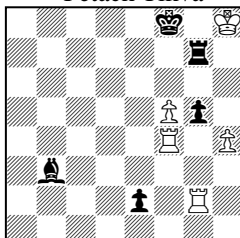
Yehuda Hoch
Petach Tikva



Draw 4+5

4291

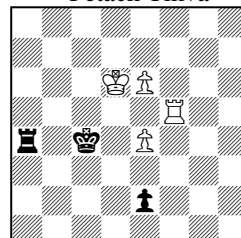
Yehuda Hoch
Petach Tikva



Draw 5+5

4292

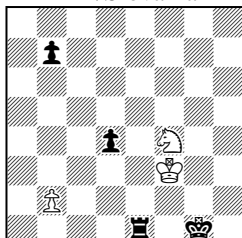
Yehuda Hoch
Petach Tikva



Draw 4+3

4293

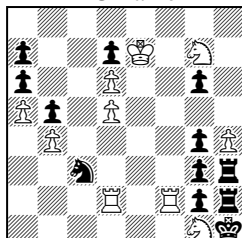
Pavel Arestov
Michal Hlinka
---/Slovakia



Draw 3+4

4294

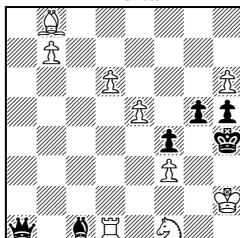
Vladislav Tarasiuk
Ukraine



Draw 10+12

4295

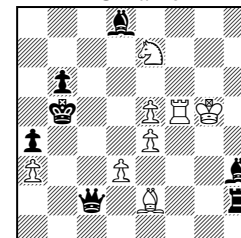
Michael Pasman
Meitar



Win 9+6

4296

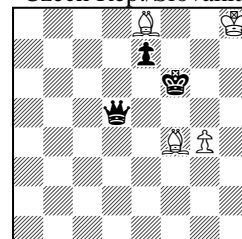
Mykola Vasuychko
Mykhailo Galma
Ukraine



H#2 2.1.1.1 8+7

4298

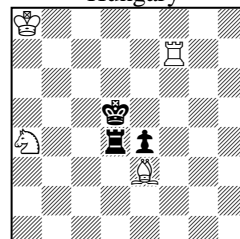
Alexander Fica
Zoltan Labai
Czech Rep./Slovakia



H#2 3.1.1.1 4+3

4299

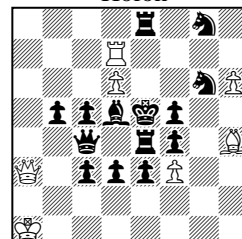
Bela Majoros
Hungary



H#2 b) ♔e4 4+3
c) b+ ♚d4

4297

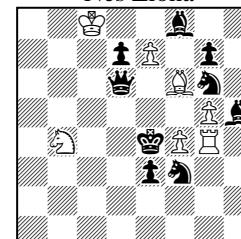
Emanuel Navon
Holon



H#2 b) ♚f4→e6 7+14

4300

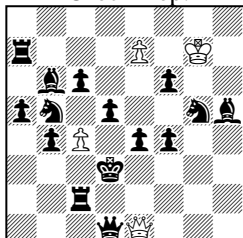
Paz Einat
Nes Ziona



H#2 2.1.1.1 7+9

4301

Michal Dragoun
Czech Rep.

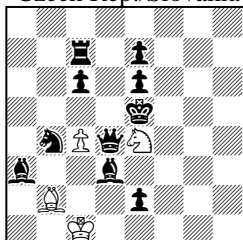


H#2 b) ♖e7 4+15
c) ♗e7 d) ♗e7

4305

Alexander Fica
Zoltan Labai

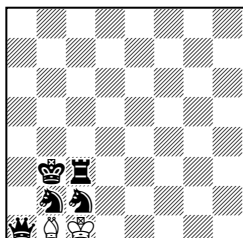
Czech Rep./Slovakia



H#3 3.1.1.. 4+10

4309

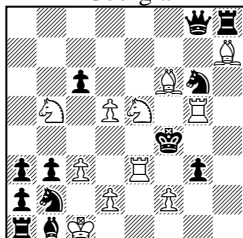
Alexander Pankratiev



H#4 2.1.1.. 2+5

4313

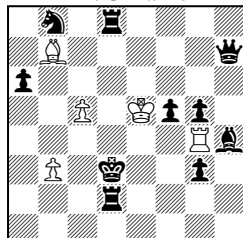
Givi Mosiashvili
Georgia



S#2vv 11+12

4302

Gennady Chumakov
Aleksandr Semenko
---/Ukraine

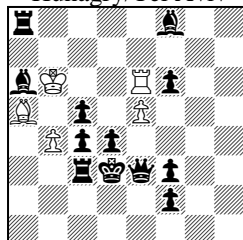


H#2.5 2.1.1.. 5+10
b) ♖b3→f2

4306

János Csák
Menachem Witztum

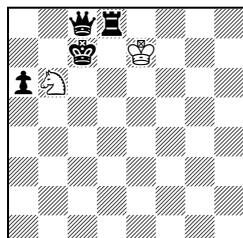
Hungary/Tel Aviv



H#3 2.1.1.. 5+12

4310

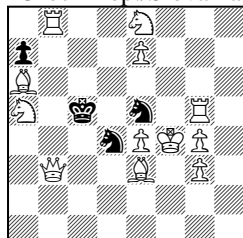
Alexander Pankratiev



H#4 2.1.1.. 2+4

4314

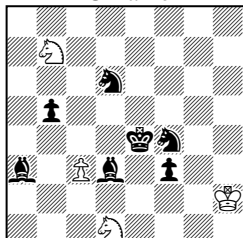
Alexander Fica
Zoltan Labai
Czech Rep./Slovakia



S#6 b) ♖f4→f8 12+4

4303

Mykola Vasyuchko
Mykhailo Galma
Ukraine

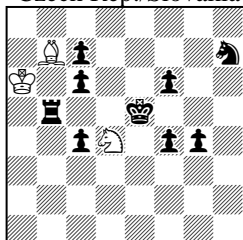


H#3 2.1.1.. 4+7

4307

Alexander Fica
Zoltan Labai

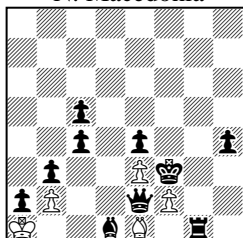
Czech Rep./Slovakia



H#3.5 4.1.1.. 3+9

4311

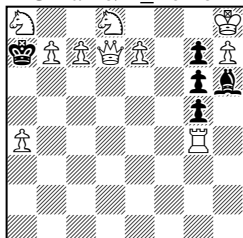
Zlatko Mihajlovski
N. Macedonia



H#5 b) ♖g1→f1 5+10

4315

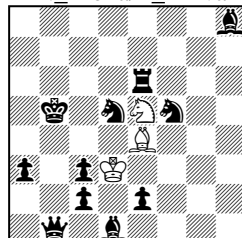
Sergey I. Tkachenko
Andrey Frolkin
Leonid Lyubashevsky
Ukraine/R_Lezion



S#7 10+5

4304

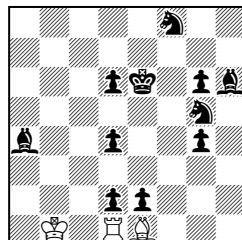
Paz Einat
David Shtern
N_Ziona/P_Tikva



H#3 b) ♖e6→b8 3+11

4308

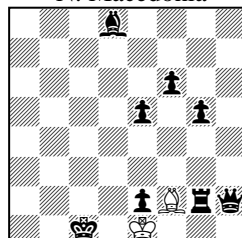
Alexander Pankratiev



H#3.5 2.1.1.. 3+11

4312

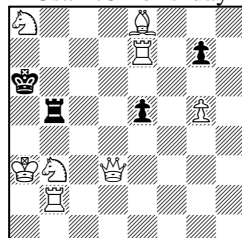
Zlatko Mihajlovski
N. Macedonia



H#6.5 2+8

4316

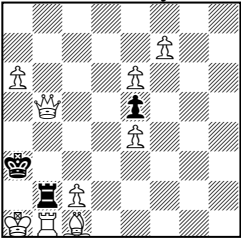
Bela Majoros
Hungary
Dedicated to Janos
Csak 75th birthday



S#7.5 8+4

4317

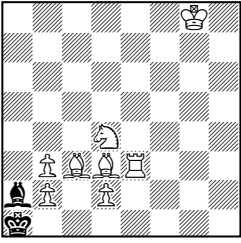
Gunter Jordan
Germany



S#9 9+3

4321

P. Einat & G. Costeff
N_Ziona/USA

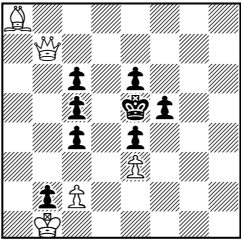


Ser-H#36 8+2

WhiteMinimumber

4325

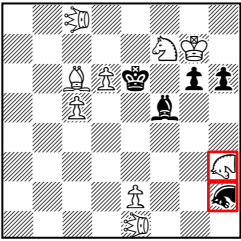
Paskale Piet
France



Pser-S=9 5+8

4329

Roméo Bedoni
Sébastien Luce
France



#2 4 sol. 9+5

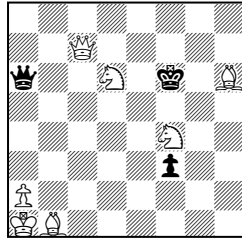
Equihopper

Auroch

Madradi piece

4318

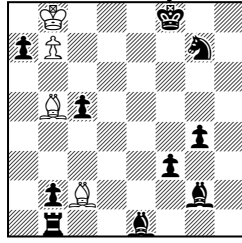
Jozef Holubec
Slovakia



S#10 b) ♖a6→f8 7+3

4322

Armin Geister
Germany

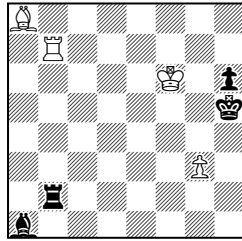


H#3 2.1.1.. 4+10

AntiCirce Cheylan

4326

Luboš Kekely
Slovakia

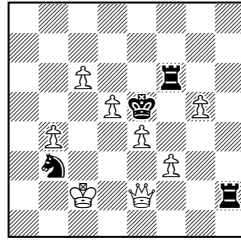


Ser-S#3 2.1.1.. 4+4

ChecklessChess

4319

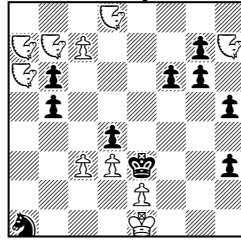
Christopher Jones
UK



HS#3.5 2.1.1.. 8+4

4323

Alberto Armeni
Italy

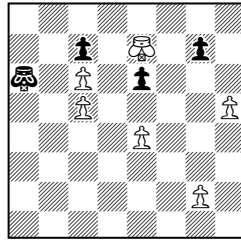


#2 10+10

Nightrider

4327

Luboš Kekely
Slovakia

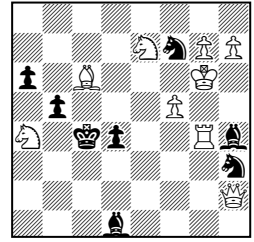


Ser-H#12 6+4

Poseidon

4320

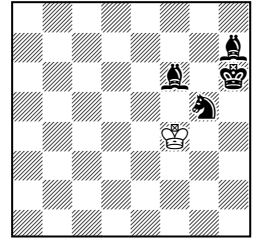
M. Vasyuchko M. Galma
Ukraine



HS#3 2.1.1.. 9+8

4324

Oleg Paradzinsky
Ukraine

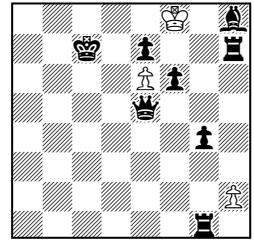


H#4 2.1.1.. 1+4

Masand

4328

Luboš Kekely
Slovakia

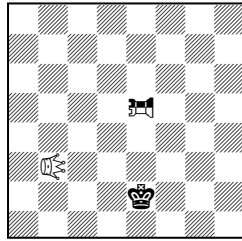


Ser-!=13 3+8

ChecklessChess

4330

Sébastien Luce
France



H#7 2.1.1.. 2+1

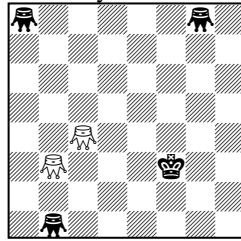
Circe contre-parrain

Neutral T piece

Locust

4331

Michael Grushko
Kiryat Bialik

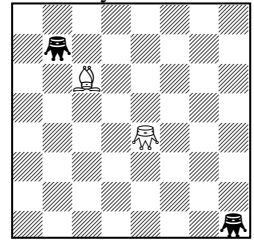


H#6 2.1.1.. 2+4

Andernach Grasshoppers

4332

Michael Grushko
Kiryat Bialik



H#4 KoeKo Circe 2+2

RepublicanChess

b)e4→d5 c)♘c6 both H#4.5

חצי גמר אליפות הארץ בפתרון בעיות שחמט והכרות שלב הגמר

אל שלב חצי הגמר עלו 99 פותרים (פירוט בפתרון שלב רבע הגמר בעמוד הבא) ו-50 פותרים הגישו פתרונם, מהם 15 פתרו נכון את כל הבעיות וקבלו את מלוא 30 הנקודות. שלב הגמר של אליפות הארץ יערך ב-30 ביוני בקמפוס יח"ד למחוננים, רעננה. זו תהיה אליפות הארץ ה-39 והאליפות הפתוחה ה-9 שתערך במקביל בעוד כמה מדינות.

אל התחרות מוזמנים 50 הפותרים הראשונים מחצי גמר אליפות הארץ. בנוסף, מוזמנים ישירות לגמר 5 הראשונים מאליפות השנה שעברה (תחרות ראשית), כל מי שהוא בעל תואר בין-לאומי בפתרון בעיות שחמט וכל מי שיש לו מד כושר של לפחות 2400 נקודות בפתרון בעיות שחמט. התארים ומד הכושר הם על ידי האיגוד העולמי לקומפוזיציה שחמטית.

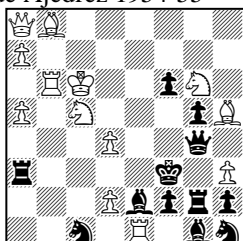
במקביל לתחרות הראשית תערך תחרות משנית קלה יותר, שתכלול 6 בעיות בכל סיבוב (כמו בתחרות הראשית), כאשר המשתתפים יוכלו לבחור באיזה תחרות הם משתתפים. בתחרות הראשית יהיו בכל סיבוב: מט ב-2, מט ב-3, רב מסעית, סיום, מט עזר ומט לדעת. בתחרות המשנית יהיו בסיבוב הראשון: 2 בעיות מט ב-2, בעיית מט ב-3, רב מסעית, סיום ומט לדעת.

בסיבוב השני: מט ב-2, 2 בעיות מט ב-3, רב מסעית, סיום ומט עזר. בפורמט הזה התחרות תחשב לצבירת נקודות דירוג.

ההרשמה לתחרות לזכאים היא עד ה- **10 ביוני 2024. דמי ההרשמה הם 120 ₪.** דמי ההרשמה לחברי האיגוד לקומפוזיציה, נוער וגמלאים הם **80 ₪.** פטורים מתשלום: הזוכים בשלושת המקומות הראשונים באליפות הראשית 2023 (עופר קומאי, אורי טייכמן, ועומר פרידלנד), והפעם גם שני הראשונים באליפות המשנית באותה שנה (אסף גוברמן ועדי מנחם) וכל מי שהוא בעל תואר רב אמן. **נערות ונשים פטורות גם הן מתשלום.** התשלום הוא בהעברה בנקאית לחשבון האיגוד: בנק הפועלים, סניף

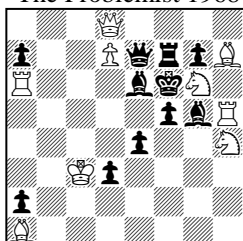
532 (שאול המלך תל אביב), מס' חשבון 179491. נא לדווח על פעולת ההעברה (או צילום של המסמך) אל פז עינת pazeinat@gmail.com ולציין שזה עבור השתתפות בגמר אליפות הארץ. לתשלום באמצעים אחרים יש לפנות אל פז עינת.

N. Edgar Holladay
6th HM T.T. Club Arg.
de Ajedrez 1954-55



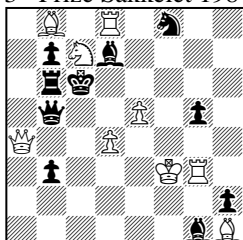
#2 13+12

O. Matti Myllyniemi
The Problemist 1968



#2 9+11

P. John M. Rice
3rd Prize Sakkélet 1987



#2 9+10

Einat – The royal battery Zagoruiko - Continuation from page 23

The second mechanism involves movement of the wK along the battery and is the only one with all thematic mates by the battery. This is done on a diagonal battery such that the adjacent diagonals of the same color are guarded by a bQ and bB. The defenses involve either moving them away or self-interferences on these lines. As we'll see, one of the adjacent diagonals of the other color can be used for additional mate changes.

Holladay's early problem (N) has the major elements used later by other composers, notably the wRe1/bBe2 configuration, the bQ pin and the opening of the wR line by the wK. The added change on 1...Rg3 is an integral part of the mechanism.

1...Sd3/f5 2.♖b5/♖d7# 1.♖b7? [2.♜xf6#] 1...♜d3/f5/♜g3 2.♖a6/♖c8/♖c7# but 1...♜b3!

1.♜d5! [2.♜xf6#] 1...♜d3/f5/♜g3 2.♖c4/♖e6/♖d6# (1...♜g3 2.♜xg4# 1...♜d3 2.♜e3#)

Myllyniemi's version (O) takes the mechanism into the mutant realm! There are "half changes" after the bP moves in the try (note how Ke3 in the try and Kd2 in the set play are prevented) and the refutation is natural. The by-play by the bB is nice with Bxh4 preventing a dual.

1...♜xh4/♜xd8 2.♖d2/♖b4# 1.♖d4? zz 1...♜xh4/♜xd8/e3/f4 2.♖e3/♖c5/♖xd3/♖xe4# but 1...d2! **1.♖b2!** zz 1...♜xh4/♜xd8/e3,f4 2.♖c1/♖a3/♖c1# 1...♜g~ 2.Rxf5# 1...♜f8 2.♖xe7# 1...d2 2.♖c2#

Finally, the rendition by John Rice (P) not only adds clarity to the overall construction through the use of the natural Qxa4 defense instead of a self-interference, but also an interesting mate change on Be3. There is a very close problem by Claude Wiedenhoff (Var Matin 1981-84) that is less successful in terms of construction and some other details.

1...♜e6/♜xa4 2.♖g4/♖e2# 1.♖g2? [2.♜c3#] 1...♜e6/♜xa4/♜e3 2.♖h3/♖f1/♖xh2# but 1...♜xd4! **1.♖e4!** [2.♜c3#] 1...♜e6/♜xa4/♜e3 2.♖f5/♖d3/♖xe3# 1...♜xd4 2.♖xd4# 1...♜e6 2.Rd6# 1...♜a6 2.Qxb5#

דבר המערכת

האירועים הביטחוניים עדיין לא מאחורינו ואנחנו עדיין מחכים להחזרתם בשלום של כל החטופים..

כותרתו של המדור של גדי (עמוד 2) היא "מט עזר ב-1" והוא עוסק במסע האחרון של הסיום, ספציפית מסע המט והאם הוא מהווה את האפשרות האופטימלית להמשך של השחור. הדוגמאות מסודרות לפי מספר המסעים הנדרשים להגיע לזכייה אם השחור בוחר במסע שאינו מוביל למט מייד.

בחוברת זו חמישה דוחות! הראשון המוצג הוא דוח מטי העזר בשיפוטו של עופר קומאי (עמ' 3). בין זוכי הפרסים במחלקת מט העזר ב-2 עמנואל נבון וכותב שורות אלה, כאשר ראוי לתזכור בעיית ציון הכבוד השני של יוסי רטר ז"ל. במחלקת הבעיות הארוכות יותר זכתה בפרס הראשון בעיה של מנחם ויצטום ושותפו ריקרדו ויירה הברזילאי. ברכות לזוכים!

הדוח הראשון אי פעם (ואולי האחרון) לבעיות מסוג "משחק הוכחה" בשיפוטו של המומחה האוקראיני לתחום, אנדרי פרולקין, מופיע בעמוד 8. הבעיות היו ברמה גבוהה וברכות לעופר על הפרס המיוחד.

הדוח למטי עזר ארוכים לשנת 2022 של השופט הגרמני סילביו באייר מופיע בעמוד 9. השופט נתן רק פרס אחד כאשר עופר זוכה במקום השני בדוח על ציון הכבוד הראשון.

כנהוג בשנים האחרונות, דוח הסיומים של השנה שעברה מופיע כבר ברבעון הראשון (עמוד 12). השופט הגרמני, יאן שפרנגר, נותן ניתוח יסודי של מרבית הסיומים בדוח ואת הסיבות למיקום, כמו גם את הסיבות לאי הכללתם של מספר סיומים בדוח. ברכות לאמציה אבני על הפרס הראשון-שני המשותף עם מרטין מינסקי, למיכאל פסמן על ציון הכבוד המיוחד וליהודה הוך, הממשיך בחזרתו לחיבור, על ציון השבח המיוחד.

דוח הדו-מסעיות לשנת 2023 נשפט גם הוא במהירות על ידי האיטלקי מרקו גוידה (עמ' 19). המומחה הסלובקי לעיגול דיאגרמות, פיטר גבוזדיאק, זכה בפרס הראשון, ובין הישראלים ניתן למצוא בעיה של דוד שטרן ועופר קומאי שזכתה בציון שבח ראשון.

במסך, מאמר שלי על שילוב נושאים מיוחד דו-מסעיות: נושא זאגורויקו עם סוללה מלכותית (עמ' 22).

במדור הישראלים המצטיינים מככבים הפעם לאוניד מקרונוץ ולאוניד לייובשבסקי גם בבעיות ישירות וגם המטי לדעת.

במדור של מיכאל פסמן עוד מגוון נאה של סיומים מצטיינים של מחברינו.

אינני זוכר מתי בפעם האחרונה היו 16 דו-מסעיות במדור המקוריות! לאלה מתווספות שש בעיות מט ב-3 וחמש רב מסעיות. שאר סוגי הבעיות בכמות רגילה ונקווה שגם באיכות הטובה הרגילה.

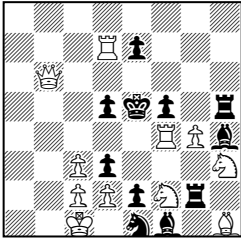
בעמוד 34 פרטים על תוצאות שלב חצי הגמר של אליפות הארץ בפתרון בעיות 2024 והכרזת שלב הגמר.

הכרזת תחרות יובל ה-70 של אמציה אבני לחיבור סיומים מופיעה בעמ' 11. הנושא חופשי למדי ומחברי הסיומים, וגם שאר המחברים, מוזמנים להשתתף!

פתרון שלב רבע הגמר אליפות הארץ בפתרון בעיות שחמט – 2024

Baruch Lender

9th Place Israel - Brasil 1969-71

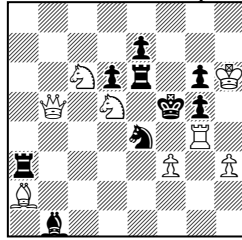


#2 11+11

1.Sg5? Rxc5! 1.g5? Bxc5!
1.Kb2! zz
1...Rg5/Bg5 2.Rxe7/Rxf5#
1...fxg4/S~ 2.Qe3/Sxd3#
1...Rg~/dxc2 2.Rxd5/d4#
1...e6/c4 2.Qd4/cxd4#

Baruch Lender (v. PE)

Scacchi e Scienze Ap. 1990



#2 8+9

1.♙f1 ! [2.fxex4#]
1...Re5/Rf6 2.Sd4/Sdxe7#
1...S~/Rxf3 2.Rxc5/Qxf3#

בשלב רבע הגמר השתתפו 119 פותרים. מתוכם 71 פתרו נכונה את הבעיה הראשונה, 91 פתרו נכונה את הבעיה השנייה, ו-64 פתרו נכון את שתי הבעיות.

עלו לשלב חצי הגמר 99 משתתפים שפתרו לפחות את אחת מהבעיות. משתתפי חצי הגמר קבלו 6 בעיות מסוגים שונים לפתרון (מט ב-2, מט ב-3, מט ב-5, סיום, מט עזר ומט לדעת). שלב זה הסתיים גם הוא ופרטים ניתן למצוא בעמוד הקודם.

בהגרת פרסי הספרים מבין הפותרים החזשים עלו: אלינה רוזנברג, וסיה הרעובה ורונית בטומיאשוילי.

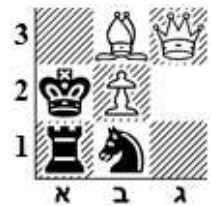
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סיומים: גדי קוסטף

אגדתיות: מיכאל גרושקו, ת.ד. 363, קרית ביאליק 27019

האיגוד לקומפוזיציה שחמטית בישראל הוא עמותה שמטרתה לקדם את תחום בעיות השחמט בישראל. העמותה עורכת תחרויות חיבור, תחרויות פתרונים, ומפרסמת פרסומים שונים. העמותה משתפת באירועים בין-לאומיים כוללים את אליפות העולם בפתרון בעיות שחמט, אליפות העולם בחיבור בעיות שחמט ואירועים נוספים.

חברות באיגוד לקומפוזיציה 2024

החברות באיגוד הקומפוזיציה פתוחה לכל חובבי השחמט ובעיות השחמט. דמי החבר כוללים קבלת חוברת וריאנטים ופרסומים נוספים והשתתפות במגוון אירועים. דמי חבר רגילים: 250 ש. דמי חבר לנוער, חיילים בחובה וגמלאים: 200 ש. דמי עמית: 300 ש. למצטרפים חדשים, או מי שלא היה חבר בשלוש השנים האחרונות, דמי החבר הם 100 ש. ניתן לשלם את דמי החבר בהעברה בנקאית, פרטים אצל העורך.

עמיתי האיגוד: אברהם בז'ה, יהודה הוך, פז עינת, עופר קומאי, דן שני



מנחם ויצטום בביקור בולנסיה עם מחברים מקומיים. משמאל: לואיס ג'. פלזון, מנחם, מיגואל אוריס, וחזרה א. גרזון, (צילום – נילי ויצטום)

Menachem Witztum with Spanish composers in Valencia. From the left: Luis Gómez Palazón, Menachem Witztum, Miguel Uris & José A. Garzón (photo – Nilly Witztum)