

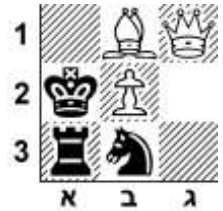
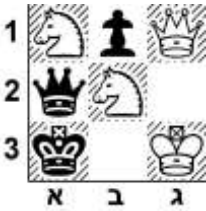
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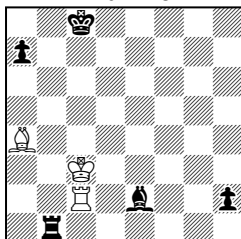
יוחנן אפק מקדיש את ספרו "יופי שחמטי פרקטי" לזכרו של הלל אלוני.
עם שרה אלוני, אלמנתו של הלל, יואל אלוני (משמאל) ופז עינת (מימין).

Yochanan Afek dedicating his book "Practical Chess Beauty" to the memory of Hillel Aloni.
With Sarah Aloni, Hillel's widow, Yoel Alone (left) and Paz Einat (right)

Historical Progress of an Endgame Study – Gady Costeff

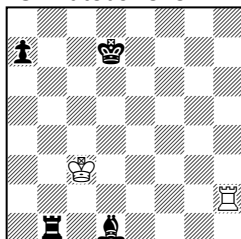
Historical progress requires the contribution of many people over time, each building partly on the work of their predecessors. This is the case in science, and it is also the case in chess composition.

41 Timman 2011



1. Qc6 Qd1!
 2. Qd7+!! ♝xd7
 3. ♝xh2 Timman added the fantastic 2. Qd7+!! and replaced a Matous capture with 1..Bd1!

25 Matous 1979

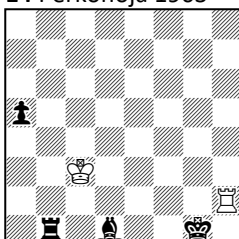


3..a5!
 Matous discovered the placement of Kd7 which corrects Perkonjoja's work and enables a perfect thematic program.

13

Von Holzhausen 1958

14 Perkonjoja 1963

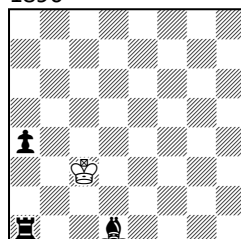


4. ♝a2! a4 5. ♝a1!!
 ♝xa1
 Von Holzhausen added the fantastic 5. ♝a1!! and Perkonjoja, in a cooked study, added the thematic 4..a4

1

Amelung/Troitzky

1896



6. ♞b2! draws.
 Amelung and Troitzky apparently discovered this position independently.

The diagrams above show the historical development of an idea. The number above square a8 is the ordinal number in the historical progression. For example, **1** above the Troitzky and Amelung study on the right indicates that this is the first study of 42 showing this theme.

Moving left, it took 12 more studies and 62 years for Von Holzhausen to introduce the brilliant rook sacrifice 5.Ra1!! In the very next study, composed five years later, a young Perkonjoja showed a possible improvement, albeit in a cooked study. Eleven studies and 16 years later, Matous perfected the thematic program and improved the presentation. Finally, 16 studies and 32 years (!) later, Timman added the finishing touches to what is currently the finest realization.

Over 116 years, 19 composers explored this theme in 42 studies. Six composers were responsible for all the progress. Of the six innovators, only Matous got a distinction, whereas the 36 less innovative studies received 8 distinction. The other motif example I considered for this article had overall 30 studies, only two of which showed meaningful progress, and overall 16 studies receiving honors. I would venture that these modest ratios are not unique to study composition.

Given Timman's excellent version, it is interesting to speculate how it could be improved. Even if that proves impossible, it closes only one avenue of progress. Other possible developments include *deepening* it through a logical avoidance/enabling of the drawing motif, *widening* by multiplying the motif, or *combining* it with other themes.

Raaphy Persitz MT 2019 – Studies Award

Judge: Amatzia Avni

Raaphy Persitz (1934 – 2009) was a dear friend. Bright, knowledgeable, versatile, kind, generous, always ready to assist and help. He excelled in three independent fields: chess, economy and linguistics.

In his obituary (*British chess magazine*) I wrote "ordinary people have a mixture of good qualities and bad ones... Raaphy Persitz was a distinct type: one sided, positive only; pure gold".

A study tourney to commemorate him drew 37 entries, of mixed level, which were delivered to me anonymously.

N. 13 by Kiryakov was already published in 1997 (Moscow-850 AT). Perhaps the composer was unaware of this. N. 1 and N. 25 (by Tarasiuk) are both anticipated; details were handed by the TD to the composer.

The theme required "clear, straightforward, easy to understand studies". A few respectable entries were disqualified because they didn't correspond to the theme. For example, N. 16 (by Hlinka, Buyannemekh & Garcia) presents an integration of three drawing lines - in two of them a proof of the DB, exceeding human understanding, was required.

Ofer Comay acted as the tourney director and Gady Costeff checked anticipations in Hvdh5. I thank them heartily for their dedicated efforts.

Here follows my ranking; I find the chosen entries enjoyable and of a very good quality.

1st Prize: Oleg Pervakov.

Beautiful combinative play on the theme of overloaded pieces. Active counter play and stalemate avoidance, culminate in reciprocal Zugzwang. All this in an economical setting. Flowing, impressive play.

1. ♖f7+! [1.c8=Q? ♖f4+/h3+ -+; 1.♙xe3? ♖f4+ 2.♖h5 ♖xd6! (2...♖xe3? 3.g7+! ♖h7 4.♖g5+ ♖xg7 5.♖f5+) 3.c8=Q ♖xg6+! 4.♖xg6= stalemate (or 4.♖h4 ♖h6+=)] **1... ♙xf7 2.c8=♖+ ♙g8 3.♙e4!!** [Accurate. ♖ot 3.♙e5? ♖f4+ 4.♙g5 ♙e6! 5.♖c3+ ♙f6! =; or 3.♙f6? ♙e6! 4.♖c3 ♖h3+ 5.♖g5 ♖g3+ 6.♖f5 ♖h3+ 7.♖f4 ♖h6+ 8.♖g5 (8.♖g4 ♖g7=) 8...♙xf6+ 9.♙xf6+ ♖g7=; 3.♙xe3? ♖xg6+ 4.♖xg6 stalemate=] **3... ♙xe4 4.♖f5!!** [4.♖c3+? only draws after 4...♙d4 5.♖xd4+ ♖xd4 6.♖xd4 ♙a2! 7.♖f5 ♖g8! 8.g7 ♖f7=] **4... ♖xg6+!** [4...♖xf5 5.g7#; 4...♖f4+ 5.♖xf4 ♙xf4 6.g7#; 4...♙f4 5.♖e5+] **5.♖xg6!** [5.♖xg6? ♙h7+=] **5... ♙e6 6.♖e5! zz** [6.♖h4? ♙f7! =] **6... ♙xg6+** [There is no salvation: 6...♙f7 7.♖xf7#] **7.♖xg6#**

2nd Prize: Yuri Bazlov.

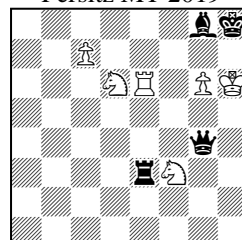
The double sacrifice of a rook, 6.Rd8 and 9.Re7, creates an amusing echo, as does black's defences 2.Kb4 Be7+! and 2.Kb5 Bf6!. Each of these motives have partial anticipation, but the elegance in which they are combined is admirable. During the solution white must take care to avoid stalemate traps. This work makes aesthetic impression, the central part is easy to follow and to grasp.

1... ♙c2+ [1...♖c8+ 2.♖d4] **2.♖b5!** [2.♖d3 ♖xf3+ 3.♖xc2 ♖e2+; 2.♖b4 ♙e7+! 3.♖xe7 ♙b2+ 4.♖c5 ♖c8+ 5.♖d6 (5.♖d4 ♖h8+ 6.♖d3 ♙b3+ 7.♖e4 ♙b4+ 8.♖e3 (8.♖f5 ♖h3+ 9.♖g6 ♙g4+!) =) ♙b3+ 9.♙d3 ♖h6+ 10.♖d4 ♖b6+) 5...♖a6+ 6.♖e5 (6.♖d7) 6...♙e2+ 7.♙xe2 ♖xe2+ 8.♖d6 ♖a6+! (not 8...♖xd1 9.♖e8+ ♖a7 10.♖d7+, winning) 9.♖d7 ♖c8+! with stalemate] **2... ♙f6!** [a strong shot. 2...♖b8 3.♙b1; 2...♙e7 3.♙a1+ ♖b8 4.♖xe7; 2...♙a2 3.♖f8+ ♖a7 4.♖f7+ ♖b8 5.♙b1 loses without a chance] **3.♖xf6** [3.♖f8+ ♖c8 4.♖xc8+ ♙xc8=] **3... ♖d7+** white loses his queen, but still wins **4.♖c6+ ♙xc6 5.dxc6 ♖e8 6.♙d8+! ♖a7** [6...♖xd8 7.c7+ ♖a7 8.cxd8=B (8.cxd8=N)] **7.♙d7+** (7.♙xe8? stalemate) **♖b8 8.♙b7+ ♖a8** [8...♖c8 9.♙g4+ ♖d8 10.♙b8+] 9.♙e7! ♖c8 [9...♖xe7 10.c7+ ♖a7 11.c8=N+] **10.♖b6! ♖b8** [10...♖b8+ 11.♖c5] **11.♙g4** (the shortest, but 11.♙e2 and even 11.♙e8 are good enough) **♖xg4 12.♙e8+ 1+0**

Oleg Pervakov

1st Prize

Persitz MT 2019

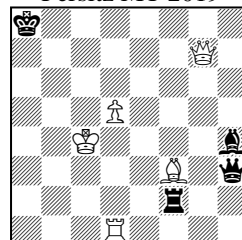


Win 6+4

Yuri Bazlov

2nd Prize

Persitz MT 2019



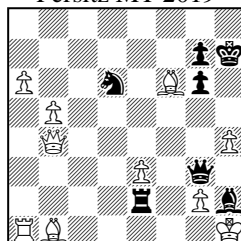
Win B→ 5+4

3rd Prize: Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen & Martin Minski.

Black's ingenious 2...Qh3!!, is parried by a counter Q-sacrifice 3.Qd6!!; and later on, by a minor promotion to escape stalemate. The heavy structure made the difference between this study and the former prizes.

1. ♖e4 ♗f5 [with a devious threat – see next move. 1...♙g4 2. ♖xg6+! ♗xg6 3. ♖g5 ♖e5 4.a7+-] **2. ♖g5** [after 2.h5? gxf6 white has several options but they are all insufficient for the full point=] **2...♙h3!! 3. ♗d6!!** [3.gxh3?? ♗g3#; 3. ♖xf5? ♗xg2#] **3...♗g3+** [3...♗xd6 4.gxh3 ♗xe4 5. ♖f4 ♖xf4 6.exf4+-; 3...♖xd6+ 4.gxh3 ♗g3+ 5. ♖g1 ♗xe4 6. ♖f4+-] **4. ♗xg3 ♗xg3 5.a7 ♖e1+ 6. ♖xe1 ♗xe1+ 7. ♖xh2 ♗a1 8.a8=♖!!+-** [8.a8=♗? ♗h1+ /♗g1+! 9. ♖x♗ stalemate.; 8. ♖c6? ♗xa7=; 8.b6?? ♖e5+ 9. ♖f4 ♗xe4+-] 1-0

**Steffen S. Nielsen
Martin Minski**
3rd Prize,
Persitz MT 2019



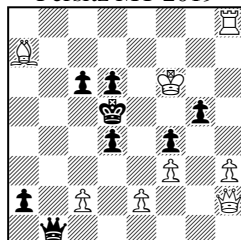
Win 10+7

Special Prize: Jan Timman.

The double pawn-sacrifice to force *en-passant* had been shown before (Dolukhanov & Korolkov, Ka2/Kf7 1937; Eucken, Ke7/Ke5 1948); but the motivation here behind this mechanism is fresh: it is designed to hide the mating square from both black queens. In addition, 3.Qg1!! is lovely.

1. ♖b8 [1. ♖xd4 a1=♗ 2. ♖xa1 ♗xa1+ 3. ♖xg5 ♗g7+=] **1...♗d1! 2. ♖b4!** [2. ♗g2 a1=♗ 3. ♖b4 d3+ 4. ♖d4 ♗xd4+ 5. ♖xd4+ ♗xd4 6. ♗f2+ ♖c3=] **2...a1=♗** [2...c5 3. ♗g2+-] **3. ♗g1!!** (3. ♗g2? d3+) **3...♗xg1** (3...d3+? ♗(♖) d4+ mates) **4.c4+! dxc3 5.e4+! fxe3 6. ♖d4#**

Jan Timman
Special Prize
Persitz MT 2019



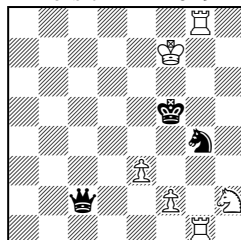
Win 8+8

1st Honorable Mention: Pavel Arestov & Alexander Zhukov.

Implementing the tactical devices of ambush and fork, white drags the royal couple to a position where they surrender against equal force.

1. ♖g5+!! [1.e4+? ♗xe4!=; winning material with 1.R1xg4? enables perpetual check by 1...♗c7+ 2. ♖f8 ♗c8+=] **1...♗xg5 2. ♗f3+!** [2. ♖xg4+? ♖h5=] **2...♖h5!** [2...♖f5 3. ♗d4+] **3. ♖h1+ ♗h2 4. ♖xh2+ ♖g4 5. ♗e5+ ♖f5!** [5...♗g5 6.f4+++] **6.e4+! ♗xe4!** [6...♗xe5 7.f4+++; 6...♗xe4 7.f3+++; 6...♗g5 7.f4+ (♖g2+) +] **7. ♖h5+ ♖f4 8. ♖f6!** [8. ♖h4+? ♗xe5=] **8...♗b1 9. ♖h4#**

**Pavel Arestov
Alexander Zhukov**
1st HM
Persitz MT 2019



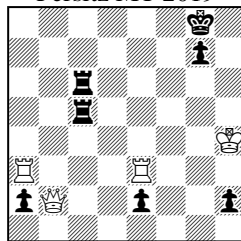
Win 6+3

2nd Honorable Mention: Vladimir Samilo

After black's strong shot 4...Rc2!, the immediate activation of WK fails. But following a series of checks the BK is drawn to the center, when 9.Kg3!! now saves the day. The tries 1.♖:a2+ and 1.♖b3+ are also of interest.

1. ♖b8+! [1. ♖xa2+ ? 1...♖c4+ 2. ♖g5 h1=♗ 3. ♖a8+ ♖h7 4. ♖h8+ ♖xh8 5. ♖a8+ ♖h7 6. ♖h3+! ♖h4! (6...♖xh3 ? 7. ♖h8+ ♖xh8 stalemate) ; 1. ♖b3+ ? 1...♖h7! (1...♖c4+ 2. ♖g5 R6c5+ 3. ♖g6 ♖c6+ 4. ♖g5=) 2. ♖h3 ♖g6! and white is lost despite his huge material advantage] **1...♖h7 2. ♖xh2 ♖h6+ 3. ♖g3 ♖xh2 4. ♖xh2** [4. ♖xa2 ? 4...e1=♖+ 5. ♖e1 ♖xa2] **4...♖c2!** [4...♖c3 ? 5. ♖axc3=] **5. ♖h3+!** [5. ♖g1? 5...♖c3! 6. ♖xa2 (6. ♖xe2 ♖xa3) 6...♖xe3; 5. ♖g3? 5...♖c3!] **5...♖g6 6. ♖hg3+ ♖f5 7. ♖gf3+ ♖e4 8. ♖fe3+ ♖d4 9. ♖g3!! ♖c3** [9...a1=♗ 10. ♖ed3+ ♖c4 11. ♖xa1 ♖xd3 12. ♖f2=] **10. ♖axc3 a1=♗ 11. ♖ed3+ ♖e5 12. ♖e3+ ♖f5 13. ♖c5+ ♖f6** [13...♖g6 14. ♖ce5=] **14. ♖c6+ ½-½**

Vladimir Samilo
2nd HM
Persitz MT 2019



Draw 4+7

3rd Honorable Mention: Pavel Arestov & Daniel Keith

A delicate miniature where decision is arrived by precise king moves and by placing the white knight twice in succession on an unguarded square: 6.Nf5!; 7.Ne3!

1.♔d6! [1.♙f5? ♞e3 2.e5 ♕f3 3.♘d8 g6+! 4.♙f6 ♗xe5 5.♞xe5 ♙f3=; 1.♙f4? ♘d3+ 2.♙f5 ♞e3 3.e5 g6+! (3...♗xe5? 4.♞xe5 g6 5.♘d6+- transposes to main line) 4.♙f6 ♗xe5 5.♞xe5 ♙f3 6.♘d6=; 1.♗c5? ♞e3= (1...♗f3+? 2.♙f4 ♞e2 3.h3! ♙f2 4.♗e6!+-)] 1...♙e3 [1...♗f3 2.e5 transposes] 2.e5 ♕f3 [2...♗c2? 3.♘d8 (a5) ♘d4 4.♗c6 ♖f5+ 5.♙d7 g5 6.e6+-] 3.♔d5! [3.e6? ♘d4 =; 3.♗c5? g5! 4.e6 ♘d4 5.♞e5 g4!=; 3.♘d8? ♞e4!=] 3...♗xe5! [3...♘d4 4.♘d6+-; an attractive side-line is 3...♘g5 4.h4 ♗h3 5.♗c5 ♖f4+ 6.♙d6 g6! 7.♘d3!! ♗g2 8.h5 gxf5 9.e6+-] 4.♗xe5 g6! [4...♙f3 5.♙f5 g6+ 6.♙g5+-] 5.♘d6 ♙f3 6.♗f5! [6.♙f6? ♙g4=] 6...g5! [6...♙g4 7.♗e3+/ ♗g3 ♞h3 8.♖f1+-] 7.♗e3! ♙xe3 [7...g4 8.♖f1+-] 8.♙f5 ♙f3 9.♙xg5 1-0

4th Honorable Mention: Mike Pastalaka

White seems to have a large advantage but in fact he has to play accurately, cross several obstacles and even execute a same color light-square bishop promotion, before he can bring home his superiority.

1.g7 [1.gxh7? ♜g6+=] ♔f7 2.♗xf3 ♜g8 [2...d6 3.♗e5+! dxe5 4.♞xe5 ♘b4 5.♙f6 ♜g8 6.♞e7 ♗xa2 (6...♞h5 7.♙f8 ♘d5 8.♞xg8 ♖f6+ 9.♙f8 ♞xh6 10.♙f7 ♙g5 11.♗e6+-) 7.d6 ♘b4 8.d7 ♗c6+ 9.♙f8 ♗a2 10.g8=♙+ ♜xg8 11.♞xg8 ♙g5 12.♞xh7 ♙f6 13.♙g8+-] 3.♗e5+ [3.♞e5? ♘b4 4.♙f6 ♗xa2 5.♞e7 ♙xf3 6.♙f8 ♗d5 7.g8=♙ ♜xg8 8.♞xg8 d5 9.♞xh7 d4 10.♙g6 d3 11.h7 d2 12.h8=♙ ♞e2 is only a draw] 3...♙g5 4.♗xd7 ♙xh6 5.♗c4! ♗c7 [5...♘b4 6.d6! ♜xc4 7.♘b8! ♘d3 8.♗a6!+-] 6.♗f6 [6.d6 ♗e8! 7.♜xg8 ♘d6+ 8.♞e5 ♞xg7=] 6...♗xd5+ [6...♞xg7 7.♘xg8 ♞xg8 8.d6+++] 7.♗xd5 ♗e8 [7...♘d5 8.g8=♗+ ♙g7 9.♗xd5+-] 8.g8=♗!! [just like that. 8.g8=♙ ♖f6+ 9.♗xf6=; 8.g8=♗+ ♙g7 9.♗e7 ♘d6+ 10.♙d4 ♗xc4 11.♞xc4 ♞h6! and black achieves a draw=] 8...♙g7 9.♗e7! [9.♗e6? ♖f6+=] 9...♙f8 10.♗f5 ♗f6+ 11.♙e5 ♗xg8 12.♙e6 and white wins, as the black knight is doomed; e.g. 12...h5 13.♗e2 h4 14.♗b5 h3 15.♗a4 h2 16.♗c6 1:0

5th Honorable Mention: Oleg Pervakov

A beautiful knight maneuver. The point 5.Nh1! to liquidate into a winning pawn ending, had been demonstrated by Kaila, Ke2/Kg1, 1934. Here the play is definitely better and more elegant. The composer notes that during the solution there are four 'Umnoy' but there are more than 200(!) examples of such a feat in the DB.

1.♘d1! [1.♗c4? ♞h1!=; 1.♙f4? gxf2+-] 1...f1=♙! 2.♗e3+ ♙h1! 3.♗xf1 g2 4.♗g3+ ♙xh2 5.♗h1! Note the knight's trip from b2 to d1-e3-f1-g3-h1. 5...g1=♙! [5...f5!? 6.♙h4+! (but not 6.gxf6?e.p. g5!=) 6...♙g1 7.e4+-] 6.♙h4+ ♙g2 7.♙g4+ ♙xh1 8.♙xg1+ ♙xg1 9.♙d4 ♙f2 10.♙e5 ♙e3! 11.♙f6 ♙f4 12.e3+! ♙e4 13.♙xf7 ♙f5 14.e4+ ♙xg5 15.e5 1-0

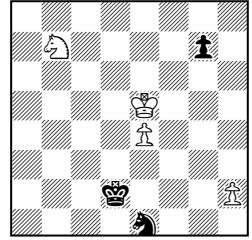
1st Com: Beat Neuenschwander

Refusal of immediate capture in order to choose a better capture-square had been performed many times before, as does a temporary withdrawal of a knight from the enemy's advanced pawn. Still, the present study is neat and makes a worthwhile contribution

1.♗d3+ The h-pawn and Black's material advantage will prevail after [1.c7 c1=♙ 2.♘b7 (2...♗d4 ♙xc7 3.♘xc7 ♙g5) 2...♙f4 3.♗b5 ♙f8+ 4.♘d8 (4.♙a7 ♞e5) 4...♙f5 5.♗e8 ♙a5 6.♞b7 ♙b3+] 1...♙xd3 [1...♙d3 2.♗c5+ ♞e3 3.♘xd3 ♞xd3 4.c7 c1=♙ 5.c8=♙] 2.♘b4+ ♙e4 3.♗a2! [3.♘xc2? (thematic try) 3...♙xc2 4.c7 ♙f5! 5.♘b7 (5.♞b7 ♙xc7+ 6.♞xc7 h5 7.♗c6

Pavel Arestov Daniel Keith 3rd HM

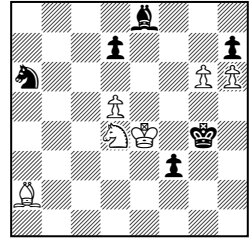
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Win 4+3

Mike Pastalaka 4th HM

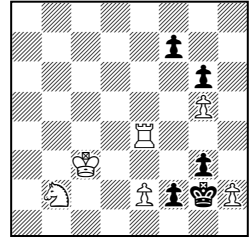
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Win 6+6

Oleg Pervakov 5th HM

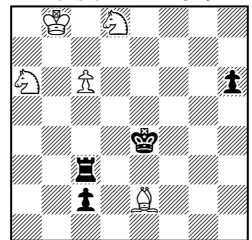
Persitz MT 2019



Win 6+5

B. Neuenschwander 1st Com

Persitz MT 2019



Draw 5+4

h4 8. ♖d4+ ♖g4; 5. ♖f7 h5 6. ♖d6+ ♖f4 7. ♖b5 h4 8. ♖d4 ♖xc7 9. ♖xc7 h3; 5. c8=♖+ ♖xc8+ 6. ♖xc8 h5 7. ♖c6 h4 8. ♖d4+ ♖g4) 5...h5 6. ♖a5 ♖f4! wins] **3...c1=♖ 4. ♖xc1 ♖xc1 5.c7 ♖f5** [5...h5 6. ♖e6 h4 7. ♖g5+ ♖f4 8. ♖h3+] **6. ♖b7 h5 7. ♖a5 ♖f4** [7...h4 8. ♖b3 ♖xc7 9. ♖xc7 h3 10. ♖d2 h2 11. ♖f1; Gurgendzde's save] **8. ♖b3** Attacking the Rook wins the important tempo. **8...♖xc7 9. ♖xc7 ♖e3 10. ♖a5! h4 11. ♖c4+ ♖f4** [11...♖e2 12. ♖e5 h3 13. ♖g4] **12. ♖d2 h3 13. ♖f1 draw.** The Gurgendzde study in the sideline is: W: ♖a2, ♖h7; ♖: ♖e7, b5, h6. 1. ♖a3! (♖b3?) ♖e6 2. ♖f8+ ♖f5 3. ♖d7 h5 4. ♖c5 h4 5. ♖b3 h3 6. ♖d2 h2 7. ♖f1=

2nd Com: Yochanan Afek.

Sacrifices which lead eventually to a fork of king and queen are known; e.g. Wotawa Ka2/Ka4 (flawed), 1936; Avni, Kg3/Kh5, EG 2017 N. 21353. Here we have a precise choice of white's first move and two active white sacrifices, the second one inviting check, to bring the BQ to its "forking position". One feels that the idea could be performed more economically.

1. ♖d1!! [The motive is not for the control of the central open file but rather to stay away from the f2 pawn. [1. ♖f1 / ♖e1? b1=♖ 2.h3!? (2.f4 ♖xf1+ (2...a1=♖? 3. ♖xb1 ♖xb1+ 4. ♖f2 ♖xe4 5.g3+ ♖h3 6.g8=♖+-) 3. ♖xf1 a1=♖+ 4. ♖f2 ♖xg7 5. ♖e5 ♖xg2+ 6. ♖xg2 stalemate=) 2...♖xf1+ 3. ♖h2 ♖xf2 4.g8=♖ ♖g1+! 5. ♖xg1 a1=♖+ 6. ♖f2 ♖g1+ 7. ♖xg1 stalemate] **1...b1=♖ 2.h3!!** [2. ♖c3? ♖xd1+ 3. ♖xd1 a1=♖ 4.f4 ♖xd1+ 5. ♖f2 ♖b3 6.f5=] **2...♖xd1+ 3. ♖h2 ♖g1/h1+!** [3...a1=♖? 4.g3+ ♖g5 5.g8=♖+ mating.] **4. ♖xg1/h1 a1=♖+ 5. ♖h2 ♖xg7 6. ♖d4!** gives away a knight... **6...♖xd4** [6...♖g5 7. ♖e6+] **7. ♖e5!** ...and now the other one with check! **7...♖xe5+** [7...♖g5 8. ♖f3+] **8.g3+ ♖g5 9.f4+ ♖xf4 10.gxf4+ ♖xf4 11.e5!** [11. ♖g2? h4 draws.] **11...♖xe5 12. ♖g3 ♖e4 13. ♖h4** winning by a single tempo. 1-0

Yochanan Afek
2nd Com
Persitz MT 2019

Win 10+5

Israel Ring Tourney: Studies 2018

Judge: Peter Gyarmati, Budapest, February 2019

A special thanks to the editors of *Variantim*, for appointing me judge of such an important event, and also to all participants of this tournament.

Most of the 21 studies were inspired pieces. In many cases, the authors undertook a big task showing interesting motifs. I think minor shortcomings can be forgiven: in some studies the harmony of parts of the work was not perfect. I preferred the large-scale works, the original, and the clean, classical-style studies.

1st Prize: Var. 3074 – Vladislav Tarasiuk & Mario G. Garcia

The introductory play is sharp, with an effective key move. Black is forced to sacrifice the Queen to eliminate the threats of white. After the simplification, the white knights and passed pawns fight with the black rooks. White must avoid many traps. The study is exciting and fun throughout. The end of the study cannot be suspected from the initial position. I like that all variations are food for thought, yet their solution is not too difficult.

1.c8=♖ + (1.d8=♖ ♖xb5 2. ♖b8+ ♖c4 3. ♖e5+ ♖xd5 4. ♖g8+ ♖xe5 5. ♖e6+ ♖f4) **1...♖c7** (1...♖c5 2.d8=♖ gxf6 3. ♖b6+ ♖b4 4.d6) **2.d8=♖+ ♖xd8 3.fxg7 ♖xe2 4.g8=♖+ ♖e8 5. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 6.dxc6** (6.bxc6 ♖d8 7.d6 ♖xf5 8.c7+ ♖d7) **6...♖xf5 7.b6** (7. ♖d6+ ♖d8 8. ♖xf5 ♖c7 9.b6+ ♖xb6 10. ♖a7 ♖xc6) **7...♖d5 8.c7** (Try: 8.b7 ♖xd2 9.c7 ♖xb7 10. ♖d6+ ♖xd6 11. ♖xb7 ♖d7) **8...♖xd2 9. ♖e5** (9.b7 ♖xb7 see Try) **9...♖d8** (main 9...♖c2 10. ♖d6+ ♖e7 11. ♖f5+ ♖e8 12. ♖d4 ♖c5 13. ♖dc6 (13. ♖ec6 ♖d7 14. ♖b7 ♖xb6+ 15. ♖xb6 ♖c1 16. ♖b7 ♖b1+)) **10.b7 ♖a1+ 11. ♖b8 ♖c1 12. ♖g4** (12. ♖f7 ♖xc7 13. ♖xc7 ♖d7+) **12...♖f1 13. ♖f6+** (Try: 13. ♖a7 ♖a1+ 14. ♖b6 ♖b1+ 15. ♖a5 ♖d5+ e.g. 16. ♖a4 ♖d4+ 17. ♖a3 ♖db4 18. ♖d6+ ♖e7 19.c8=♖ R1b3+ 20. ♖a2 ♖b2+ 21. ♖a3 R2b3+) **13...♖xf6 14. ♖a7** (14.cxd8=♖+ ♖xd8 15. ♖a7 ♖f7) **14...♖f7 15. ♖d6+ wins 1-0**

V.Tarasiuk
M.Garcia
1st Prize IRT 2018

Win 10+6

2nd Prize: Var. 3075 – Amatzia Avni

The introductory play is very good. The critical position is in the 4th move. There are two ways here: the main line and the logical try. The black knight closes the line of the white bishop on d5 and e4. Discovering the difference is an experience. Both lines need to be appreciated by strategic principles instead of analyzing concrete moves. Classic style, strategic work.

1.♖g5+! ♜e4 2.♖g4+ ♜d5 3.♖g5+ ♜xg5 (3...♜xd6 4.♖g6+ ♜e7 5.♜h4+ ♜f8 6.♖f6+ ♜g7 7.h6+ ♜h8 8.♖f8+ ♜h7 9.♜f5+ ♜xh6 10.♖h8+ ♜g7 11.♖h7+ ♜g8 12.♖h8+ ♜xh8 13.♜f6+ ♜g8 14.♜c2 draws as white achieves a fortress) **4.♜g2+** (logical try: 4.♜b2 c3+ 5.♜xc3 ♖a4+ 6.♜xa2 ♖xc3+ 7.♜b3 ♖e4! black wins: 8.♜g2 ♜d4 9.d7 ♖c5+ 10.♜a3 b6 11.♜h3 ♖b7 12.♜g2 ♖d8 13.♜b4 ♜e5 14.♜c4 ♖f7 15.♜h3 ♜d6 16.♜d3 ♖e5+ 17.♜e4 ♖xd7) **4...♜xd6 5.♜b2 c3+ 6.♜xc3 ♖a4+ 7.♜xa2 ♖xc3+ 8.♜b3 ♖d5** in comparison with the try, the knight-block must now be on d5 instead of e4, and this makes a difference **9.b6** positional draw. black is unable to improve his position, e.g. 9...♜d8 10.h6 ♜xb6 11.h7 ♜d4 12.♜c4 draw

3rd Prize: Var. 3072 – Lubos Kekely & Michal Hlinka

Beautiful, classical positional draw. White is in material disadvantage. He fights in several ways: attacks the black pieces, creates stalemate traps, and threatens mate. There is mutual zugzwang in the main line and in the try. The stalemate pictures are well-known, nevertheless this is an excellent study.

1.♖e1+ c1=♚ 2.♖xc1+ ♖xc1 3.♜xg3 ♖e4+ 4.♜c2 [thematic try: 4.♜xc1 ♖xg3 zz 5.♖d3 ♖e2+ 6.♜c2 ♖a8] **4...♖xg3 5.♜xc1 zz 5...♖f1** [5...♜a2 6.♖d2+ ♜a1 (6...♜b3 7.♖d3+) 7.♖d7] **6.♖d1** [6.♖d3 ♜a2 7.♖f3 ♖b8] **6...♖f8** [6...♖e3 7.♖d8 ♖xd8 stalemate] **7.♖d7** switchback [7.♖d3 ♜a2] **7...♖c8 8.♖d1** switchback **8...♖g3 9.♖d7** switchback **9...♖e2+ 10.♜c2 ♜a2 11.♖d8 ♖xd8** model stalemate. Meredith. Reciprocal zugzwangs. Stalemates. Switchbacks.

1st Honourable Mention: Var. 3164, Martin Minski

Black guides the play first, trying to reach a stalemate position. The culmination of the study is when white avoids the stalemate with an effective queen sacrifice. I've seen the same motifs before, also from the author. This study is a good balance between material and content.

1.♜f5+ ♜a1 2.f7 ♖h8+ play for stalemate [2...♖e3 3.♜f1+] **3.♜xh8 ♖h4+ 4.♜g8 ♖h8+ 5.♜xh8 ♜c3+ 6.♜e5!!** [6.g7 ♜xg7+ 7.♜xg7 model stalemate] **6...♜xe5+ 7.g7 ♜xf5 8.g8=♚ ♜h3+ 9.♜h7 ♜c8+ 10.♜g7 ♜g4+ 11.♜g6** wins

2nd Honourable Mention: Var. 3167 Pavel Arestov & Alexander Zhukov

This work is based on a glamorous queen sacrifice, which black must accept. White creates the mate threat immediately afterwards and wins material. The sidelines are also interesting, but 2.Qh6+ is very complicated.

1.♖e4+ [1.♖e4 ♜a4+ 2.♜b7 ♜b5+ 3.♜xc7 ♜a5+ 4.♜c6 ♜a6+ 5.♜c5 ♜a5+ 6.♜c4 ♖xe3+ 7.♜xd4 ♖xg4] **1...♜d6 2.♖xd4+** [2.♜h6+ ♖xh6 3.♖xd4+ ♜e7 4.♖xd7+ ♜xd7 5.♜b5 ♜d6 draw] **2...♖xd4 3.♖e4+** **♜c6** [3...♜e7 4.exd4 ♜xd4 5.♜b5] **4.exd4 ♜e6 5.♜h6!!** [5.♜a7 ♜a2+ 6.♜b8 ♜b3+ 7.♜c8 ♜e6+] **5...♜xh6 6.♖hf6 ♜xf6** [6...♜c1 7.d5#] **7.♖xf6 ♜d6 8.♜b7 c5 9.♖e4+ ♜d5 10.dxc5 f5 11.c6 fxe4 12.c7 e3 13.c8=♚** wins

Amatzia Avni
2nd Prize IRT 2018

Draw 7+6

Luboš Kekely
Michal Hlinka
3rd Prize IRT 2018

Draw 4+7

Martin Minski
1st HM IRT 2018

Win 5+4

Pavel Arestov
Alexander Zhukov
2nd HM IRT 2018

Win 6+6

3rd Honourable Mention: Var. 3170, Peter Krug

The culmination of the work is the difference between the main line and the try (6.Rg7! and 6.Rh8?). The key to the choice is that, after Rg7 the rook attacks black pawns on 7th rank. The proving variations are not simple.

1.♖d8+ ♕g7 [1...♖e7 2.♖g5+ f6 3.♖d5 ♖d6 4.♖h8 ♖c4 5.♖xh7+ ♖f8 6.♖a8#] **2.h6+ ♖xh6 3.♖g8 ♖e7 4.♖g5+ ♖xg5 5.fxg5+ ♖h5 6.♖g7!!** [6.♖h8? ♖xg3+ 7.♖xg3 ♖e4+ 8.♖f4 ♖f6 9.gxf6 h6 10.♖a8 a3 11.♖a4 c5 12.♖a7 c4 13.♖e3 ♖xh4 14.♖xf7 b3 15.♖c7 b2 16.♖xc4+ ♖h5 17.f7 b1=♖ 18.♖c5+ ♖g4 19.f8=♖ ♖e1+ 20.♖d3 ♖d1+] **6...♖xg3+ 7.♖xg3 ♖e4+ 8.♖f4 ♖f6 9.♖xf7** [9.gxf6 h6 10.♖xf7 b3 11.♖e7 b2 12.♖e1 a3 13.f7 a2 14.f8=♖ b1=♖ 15.♖e7 ♖f5+ 16.♖e3 ♖a5 17.♖a1 ♖c3+ 18.♖f4 g5+ 19.♖f5 ♖f3+] **9...♖d5+ 10.♖g3** wins

Peter Krug
3rd HM IRT 2018

Win 7+9

4th Honourable Mention: Var. 3076 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen

A fine opposite-colored bishops endgame. The key position is very artistic. 3.d4 is wrong instead of 3.a6 due the surprising 3.b5!! and one black pawn will promote with check on c1 or on g1. Unfortunately the 2.Kxh5 logical try is not clear, because 5..Bc2 is also a draw.

1.♖g6! [1.♖g7 f4 2.gxf4 h4 3.d4 (3.f5 ♖xf5 4.h7 ♖xh7 5.♖xh7 ♖e2 and Black will be in time to conquer both d2 and c3.) 3...h3 4.f5 h2 5.h7 h1=♖ 6.h8=♖ ♖xh8+ 7.♖xh8 ♖xf5 =] **1...f4+** [1...♖g4 The king moves too far away from pawn d2. 2.♖g7! f4 3.gxf4 h4 4.f5 h3 5.f5 ♖xf5 6.h7] **2.♖g5!** [Logical try: 2.♖xh5 fxc3 3.a6 bxa6 4.d4 cxd3 5.h7 d2 (also 5...♖c2 6.h8=♖ d2 7.♖a8+ ♖e4 8.♖d8 ♖e2 9.♖d4 d1=♖ 10.♖xe4+ ♖d2+ 11.♖h4 ♖xc3) 6.h8=♖ d1=♖] **2...fxg3** [2...♖xg3 3.♖b8] **3.a6!** [3.d4 b5!! echo line closing 4.axb6 (4.d5 b4 5.d6 bxc3 6.d7 c2 7.d8=♖ c1=♖+ and Black promotes with check and even wins.) 4...g2 5.b7 g1=♖+ and Black again promotes with check, winning] **3...bxa6 4.d4 cxd3** [4...♖e4 5.h7 g2 6.d5 wins] **5.h7 d2 6.h8=♖ d1=♖ 7.♖xh5+ ♖g2 8.♖xd1** wins

Steffen S. Nielsen
4th HM IRT 2018

Win 7+5

1st Commendation: Var. 3071 Pavel Arestov

The theme is mate with self-block. The two minor promotions are great. I feel that the real black counterplay is only 3.Qc8.

1.f7! ♖h8 2.♖f6+ ♖d5 [2...♖c5 3.♖xh8 ♖c8 4.♖e5] **3.♖xh8 ♖c8 4.♖b6 ♖xh8 5.♖a2+** [5.♖a4 ♖d6 6.♖c5 ♖b2+] **5...♖d6 6.♖c4+** [♖d7 6...♖e7 7.♖e5 ♖xe5 8.c8=♖] **7.♖e5+ ♖xe5** [7...♖d6 8.♖b7] **8.f8=♖+ ♖d6** [8...♖e7 9.♖g6+ or 8...♖c8 9.♖e6+] **9.c8=♖#**

Pavel Arestov
1st Com IRT 2018

Win 6+3

2nd Commendation: Var. 3117 Michal Hlinka & Mario Garcia

A lovely draw study with two main lines. The practical-like play is fine. White avoids several traps.

1.♖a7+ [1.♖b1 e2 2.♖a7+ ♖a4] **1...♖a4** [1...♖b3 2.♖b1 d1=♖ 3.♖xd1] **2.♖xa4+ ♖xa4** [main 1: 2...♖xa4 3.♖xb2 e2 4.♖xd2 (4.♖c2 e1=♖ 5.♖d6 ♖e3 6.♖xd2 ♖b3+ 7.♖c1 ♖a3 8.♖c2 ♖e3+ 9.♖d2 ♖b3 10.♖d1 ♖f3+) 4...e1=♖ 5.♖d4+ ♖b5 6.♖d6+ ♖c5 7.♖d3 ♖e2+ 8.♖c3] **3.♖d6 e2** [main 2: 3...♖b2 4.♖b1 (4.♖b5+ ♖b3 5.♖d4+ ♖c3 6.♖e2+ ♖c2 7.♖b1 d1=♖ 8.♖xd1 ♖xd1 9.♖d4+ ♖d3) 4...e2 5.♖b5+ ♖b4 6.♖d4 d1=♖ 7.♖xe2 ♖xe2 (7...♖d3 8.♖xb2+ ♖c4 9.♖c1) 8.♖xb2+] **4.♖b1 ♖c3 5.♖c4+ ♖a4 6.♖b6+ ♖a5 7.♖c4+ ♖a6 8.♖xd2 ♖xb1 9.♖f3 ♖d2 10.♖e1 ♖b5 11.♖b2!** [11.♖a2 ♖c4 12.♖b2 ♖d4 13.♖c2 ♖f1 14.♖g2 ♖e4] **11...♖c4 12.♖c2 ♖f1 13.♖f3 ♖d5 14.♖d3** draw

Michal Hlinka
Mario Garcia
2nd Com IRT 2018

Draw 4+5

3rd Commendation: Var. 3118 Bizya Buyannemekh & Mario Garcia

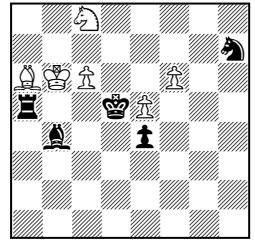
The theme is ideal mate with two self-blocks. An active game develops around the passed pawns. All figures are active. Finally, white forces the king and the knight to a wrong place. Here the bishop has two nice moves. Unfortunately a partial anticipation is V.Bron, 3rd prize, New Statesman, 1968.

1. ♖e7+ ♜e6 [1... ♜xe5 2.c7 ♜xf6 3. ♜c6+ (3.c8=♚ ♜xa6+ 4. ♜xa6 ♜xe7 positional draw) 3... ♜d6 4.c8=♚] 2.c7 ♜c5 3. ♜c6 ♜a5+ 4. ♜xc5 [4. ♜xa5 ♜xc7 5. ♜xc7 ♜xe5 6.f7 ♜f6 7. ♜c4 e3 8. ♜d7 e2] 4... ♜xc7 5. ♜c8+! ♜f7 6.e6+ ♜xf6 7.e7 ♜f7 8. ♜e6+ ♜e8 9. ♜f5 ♜f6 [9... ♜f8 10. ♜d5 ♜f7 (10...e3 11. ♜g4 ♜d7 12. ♜h5#) 11. ♜g4 ♜g6 12. ♜h5 or 9... ♜g5 10. ♜g6+ ♜f7 11. ♜d5 e3 12. ♜e6 e2 13. ♜xf7#] 10. ♜g6+ ♜d7 11.e8=♚+ ♜xe8 12. ♜f5# ideal mate with 2 self-blocks

Bizya Buyannemekh

Mario Garcia

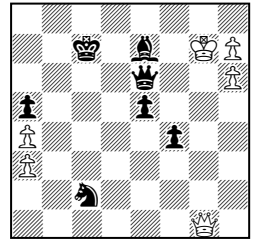
3rd Com IRT 2018



Win 6+5

Daniele Gatti

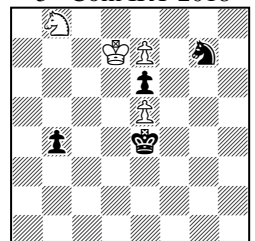
4th Com IRT 2018



Draw 6+7

Marcel Dore

5th Com IRT 2018



Win 4+4

4th Commendation: Var. 3119 Daniele Gatti

Positional draw or stalemate with a good try.

1. ♜g6 ♜f8+ 2. ♜h8 ♜d7 [2... ♜xg6 stalemate 3. ♜f7+ [3. ♜xc2 ♜d6 4. ♜g7 e4 5.h8=♚ ♜e5+] 3... ♜e7 4. ♜g7 [4. ♜g8 f3 5.h8=♚ f2 6. ♜g7 f1=♚ 7.h7 Qxf7+ 8. ♜xf7 ♜g4+ 9. ♜h8 ♜f4 10. ♜g8 ♜g5+ 11. ♜h8 ♜b4 removes the stalemate and wins] 4... ♜e3 5.h8=♚ ♜f5+ 6. ♜g8 ♜xh6+ 7. ♜xh6 ♜xh6 8. ♜xe7+ ♜c6 9. ♜xe5 ♜g6+ 10. ♜h8 positional draw

5th Commendation: Var. 3165 Marcel Dore

Nice knight endgame with simple motifs. The tries are also interesting.

1. ♜a6! [thematic try: 1. ♜c6 b3 2. ♜a5 b2 3. ♜c4 b1=♜] 1...b3 2. ♜c5+ ♜xe5 3. ♜xb3 ♜d5 4. ♜d2 [4. ♜a5 e5 5. ♜b7 e4 6. ♜d8 ♜c4 7. ♜e6 ♜h5 8. ♜d8 ♜f6 9. ♜f4 e3] 4...e5 5. ♜f3 e4 6. ♜g5 e3 7. ♜e6 ♜h5 8. ♜f4+ wins

Israel Ring Tourney: Fairies 2015

Judge: Vlaicu Crişan, Budapest, December 2017, Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

I would like to thank Michael Grushko for the invitation to judge the informal fairies tournament for 2015. He definitely managed to create a very interesting fairies section, which can be seen from the following award. I also thank Paz Einat for his generous and helpful comments of the solutions.

52 problems composed by 41 composers from 15 countries competed in the informal tournament. The level of the tournament enabled me to create two different sections. As a judge I always consider both the technical merit and the artistic impression of the composition.

One particularly challenging part in any fairy judgment is dealing with compositions sound in one program but unsound in another. How to deal in such debatable cases? I eventually decided to accept the convention(s) used by the authors, but mentioned below the theoretical questions in the award.

Section A – Problems having more than 8 pieces

30 compositions took part in this section – this number is due to the fact that I considered Imitator merely as a fairy condition. I have discarded 2727, which is actually a version of a previous problem (e.g. 2482 from Variantim 61/2013). The level of the published originals is quite high. The problems left out of the award were simply unlucky to compete against better problems. I suggest the following ranking.

1st Prize: Var. 2769 Michael Barth

An outstanding conception of cyclic captures of the neutral pieces on the same square (b3). Although the author showed the same idea in feenschach 2015 (see Annex A) using another neutral trio, I prefer this version for the more unified twinning mechanism. Although the mechanism has been successfully used afterwards by other German composers, we should praise the author for his outstanding conception and originality.

- a) 1. ♖d6-b3 A ♜h1xb3 [+ ♖b1] 2. ♖b1-d4 ♜f7xb3 B [+ ♜b1] #
 b) 1. ♜f7-b3 B ♖d6xb3 [+ ♜b1] 2. ♜b1-g1 ♜h1xb3 C [+ ♖b1] #
 c) 1. ♜h1-b3 C ♜f7xb3 [+ ♜b1] 2. ♜b1-d7 ♖d6xb3 A [+ ♜b1] #

2nd Prize: Var. 2720 Manfred Rittirsch & Boris Tummes

This superb work features a very subtle dual avoidance motivation in both Black and White choice of promotions. White wants to mate by promoting his pawn either into a Double-Grasshopper or a Kangaroo, but must cope against Black's flight on d7. So, white King must hide against the royal battery created by the key, in order to virtually guard this flight by specific Transmuted Kings effects. I think this composition shows a clear step in advance compared to Manfred's previous work (see Annex B). There is also a theoretical question: are the white pawns on 1st rank and/or black pawns on 8th rank immobile? Winchloé says "No", while Popeye says "Yes", hence the following cook: 1.Kc3 d8=DG+ 2.Ke8 d7 / gxf7# However, with the additional specification "Normal Pawn" this problem would be also C+ in Popeye.

- 1.b1=♖+ ♖b7 2.d1=♜ d8=♞ # (3.♞d7?) 1.d1=♖+ ♖h7 2.b1=♞ d8=♜ # (3.♞d7?)

3rd Prize: Var. 2770 Igor Kochulov

The triple capture of a neutral piece in hs#2 SuperCirce is an ambitious task which deserves a high recognition. Igor is undoubtedly one of the world's experts in this field, having shown this idea in several remarkable settings. This problem would have been placed even higher, would not have seen the magnificent version from the recent StrateGems 2015 judgment (see Annex C).

1. ♖h4 ♜xh4 (♖a6) 2. ♜xa6 (♖g2)+ ♜xg2(♖b6) #
 1. ♜f6 ♖xf6 (♜c8) 2. ♜xc8(♜d4) ♖xd4(♜c7)#

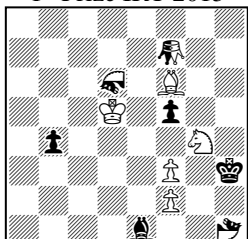
1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2756 Menachem Witztum

The three white pieces are unpinned in order to force a mate by the black Rook d8 on the 5th rank. This difficult cyclic exchange of functions required in the Romanian Tzuica 2012 tournament is enhanced by the initial choices of the pinning pieces (1... Qh2? / 1... Re3? / 1... Bf6?), though the reasons for failure are not quite matching. The three attractive double pin mates enhance the overall impression. 1... ♖h1 2. ♖e5 ♜f8 3. ♖f5 + ♜xf5# 1... ♜d3 2. ♖f7 ♜h8 3. ♖h5 + ♜xh5#

- 1... ♖g5 2. ♖f7 ♜e8 3. ♖e5 + ♜xe5#

Michael Barth

1st Prize IRT 2015



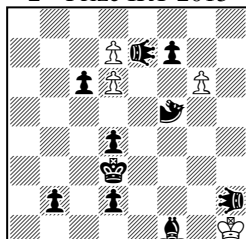
H#2 Circe 5+4+3

- b) ♖→h5 c) ♖→h7
 Neutral: zebrarider ♖
 camelrider ♞
 grasshopper-2 ♜

Manfred Rittirsch

Boris Tummes

2nd Prize IRT 2015

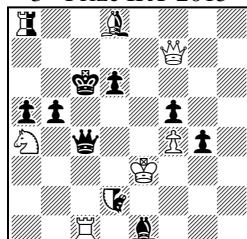


H#2 2.1.1.1 4+10

- TransmutedKings
 Lion ♖ Kangaroo ♞
 Double-Grasshopper ♜

Igor Kochulov

3rd Prize IRT 2015

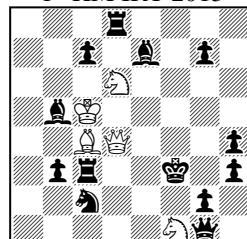


HS#2 2.1.1.1 8+8

- SuperCirce
 Neut: ♜ ♖ nightrider ♞

Menachem Witztum

1st HM IRT 2015

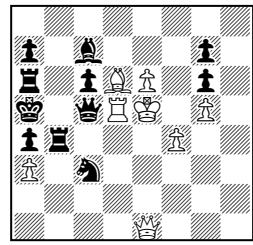


HS#2.5 3.1... 5+13

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2761 Paz Einat (v)

A neat combination of two themes – white tempo at second move and zugzwang mates – I have not seen before. The exchange of white first and third move – once capturing a black unit, once pinning it – gives a sense of unity. Of course, the presence of the cook-stopping bRa6 hindered a higher classification. 1.♙xc7+ ♚bb6 2.♙d8 ♚b5 3.♚c5 ♚xc5# 1.♚xc5+ ♘b5 2.♚c3 ♙b6 3.♙c7 ♙xc7#

Paz Einat (v) 2nd HM IRT 2015



HS#3 2.1... 8+13

3rd Honorable Mention: Var. 2673 Mark Erenburg

Another ambitious idea, shown for the first time: black creation of reciprocal batteries, with White and Black switchbacks in the background – the theme required in Romanian Tzuica 2013 tournament. The trade-offs required in order to achieve this task (e.g. the captures of bRa1 and bPb2) slightly diminish the otherwise artistically accomplished setting. I was quite highly impressed by the author's technical skills, in spite of the seemingly crowded position.

1.♙xa1 ♙c5 2.♙xb2 ♚b5 3.♙f1 + ♙f2# 1.♙xb2 ♚f4 2.♙xa1 ♙g3 3.♙a3 + ♙b4#

4th Honorable Mention: Var. 2667 Cornel Pacurar & Adrian Storisteanu

The Canadian duo shows their specialty – the retro-series. For the readers interested to find out more about this fascinating genre, I recommend the articles published in the Canadian Chess Problem Bulletin. This setting seems deceptively simple, but one must not overlook the possible cooks. For instance, wPf4 is ideally placed against the following cook in b)-1.Sd3xf2(f2, -bSf2) -2.Sc1-d3 -3.Bg3xf2(f2, -bBf2) -4.Bb8 & 1.axb8=R(Bf8)# The authors' humoristic comment of the content of their problem is also typical for Adrian's well-known style from the unequalled feenschach articles.

- a) - 1.♙c2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙c2 3.♙c2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙c2 & 1.♙d5#
 - 1.♙g2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙g2 3.♙g2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙g2 & 1.♙f5#
 b) - 1.♙d2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙d2 3.♙d2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙d2 & 1.♙e6#
 - 1.♙h2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙h2 3.♙h2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙h2 & 1.♙g6#

Commendations in order of publication

Var. 2663 Alexey Gasparyan

The surprising key blocks Black's main defender leading to an unexpected zugzwang. All the mates show interesting Circe motivations. Sadly enough, nowadays, this kind of typical solver's problems seldom find their way into any award. 1.♙b3?! (2.♙xh2, ♚xg2#) but 1...♙a2+! 1.♙a4 (♙b4)?! ♙g8! 1.♙b4 (♙a4) ?! ♙h8! **1.♙e8!** zz 1...♙d6 (d6, ♙e7) 2.♙xh2 (♙f8)# 1...♙a7 2.♙xg2 (♙a8)# 1...♙a2 2.♙xg1 (♙b8)#; 1...♙xe8 (♙d1) 2.♙xg1 (♙b8)#

Var. 2717 Mark Erenburg

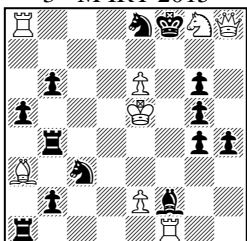
Another rendering of the Romanian Tzuica 2013 tournament! The economic problem displays again a neat orthogonal-diagonal correspondence. However, the rather light strategy and the repetition of the third black move prevent a higher classification.

1.♙d1 ♙e2 2.♙xf7 ♙d4 3.♙f8 ♙d3 4.♙f2 + ♙xf2# 1.♙a4 ♙d4 2.♙xe7 ♙e2 3.♙f8 ♙d3 4.♙c5 + ♙xc5#

Cornel Pacurar

Mark Erenburg

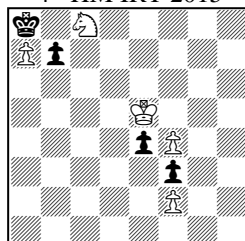
3rd M IRT 2015



HS#3 2.1.1.1 8+13

Adrian Storisteanu

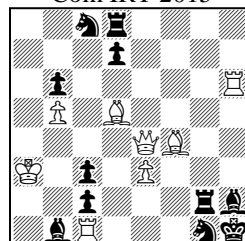
4th HM IRT 2015



-4b 2 sol. 5+4
 b)♙e5→f6
 circe assassin

Alexey Gasparyan

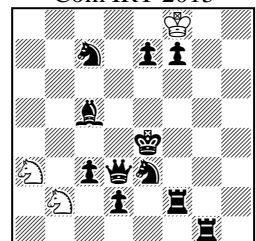
Com IRT 2015



#2vv Circe 8+11

Mark Erenburg

Com IRT 2015



HS#4 2.1.1.. 3+11

Var. 2719 Raffi Ruppin

The subtle key avoids the clash of rebirth on a1 square. I liked a lot the idea of anti-battery mates occurring as a consequence of black rebirths. The imaginative setting explores well all the possibilities in spite of the simple orthodox means during the play.

1.♖b5! [2.♗e5 + ♜xe5[b♖e5->e8] #] 1...♗g3 2.e3 + ♜xe3[b♖e3->e8] #
 1...c3 2.♗d3 + ♜xd3[b♗d3->e8] # 1...g3 2.♗f3 + ♗xf3[b♗f3->c8] #
 1...f4 2.♗e4 + ♜xe4[b♗e4->e8] # 1...e5 2.♗d5 + ♜xd5[b♗d5->e8] #

Var. 2760 Eugene Rosner

Here, we can admire four specific variations (including the threat) – perhaps a task in Alsatian Circe? Such problems should simply not go unnoticed, hence the distinction, in spite of the [typical] rather messy initial position.

1.♖h1! (2.♗c5#) (2...bxc5(♗g1)?) 1...♖a5 2.♖xe5(Pe7)# (2...fxe5(♖a1)?)
 1...♗f8 2.Pxg5# (♗f8?) 1...♗c8 2.Pxd3# (♗c8?)

Var. 2766 Pierre Tritten & Sébastien Luce

This rewards one of the first compositions ever published featuring the condition Couscous AntiCirce. The mixed AUW with specific mates should be just enough to attract the further exploration of this fairy condition from other composers.

a) 1.exf5(♖b1) ♖d8 2.♖b5 cxb5(♗a8)# b) 1.exd5(♗h1) ♗e3 2.♗d5 cxd5(♗c8)#

Section B – Miniatures

The high number of compositions (22) in this section shows a trend towards maximum economy. I had to exclude 2678 for a cook in 3 moves: 1.GN**b6** cxb6(>b7) 2.DR**f7** (dual 2.DR**g6**) b6 3.DR**f8** b5#. I propose the following ranking for the remaining problems

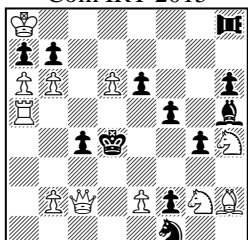
1st Prize: Var. 2726 Vaclav Kotesovec

A truly unbelievable setting: the old-fashioned four corners theme is presented in a twinless form! All pieces are used in each phase and both fairy elements (the Royal Grasshopper and Maximum condition) are essential for the soundness of the problem. I have absolutely no hesitation in awarding the highest possible reward to this remarkable composition, regardless how this might have been created.

1.♖e2 ♖e1 2.♗d3 ♖d2 3.♖e4 ♖f3 4.♖e5 + r♖f2 5.♖f5 ♖g6 6.♖g4 ♖g2 7.♖h3 ♖g7 8.♖h2 ♖g3 9.♖h1 ♖g2#
 1.♖c2 ♖c8 2.♖b3 ♖d8 3.♖c4 ♖c3 4.♖d5 r♖b2 5.♖e6 ♖f5 6.♖f7 ♖g6 7.♖g8 ♖h8 8.♖g7 ♖f6 + 9.♖h8 ♖g7#
 1.♖c1 ♖f5 2.♖c2 ♖g4 3.♖d3 ♖c2 + 4.♖c4 ♖b4 5.♖c5 ♖c6 6.♖d6 ♖e7 7.♖c7 ♖d5 8.♖b8 r♖b6 9.♖a8 ♖b7#
 1.♖e1 ♖f1 2.♖e2 ♖f7 3.♖f3 ♖g2 4.♖e3 ♖e2 5.♖d4 ♖d3 6.♖c3 ♖h2 7.♖b3 ♖a2 8.♖b2 ♖c2 + 9.♖a1 ♖b2 #

Raffi Ruppin

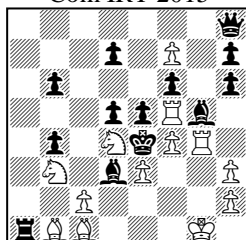
Com IRT 2015



S#2 AntiCirce 11+12
 Rook Lion ♖

Eugene Rosner

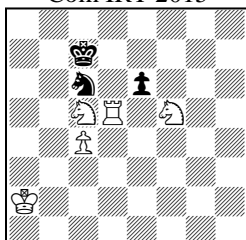
Com IRT 2015



#2 13+13
 Alsatian Circe

P. Tritten S. Luce

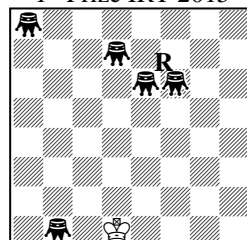
Com IRT 2015



H#2 b)♗c5=♖ 5+3
 Anticircé couscous

Vaclav Kotesovec

1st Prize IRT 2015



HS#9 4.1.1.. 1+5
 Maximum
 Grasshoppers ♖
 Royal Grasshopper ♖^R

2nd Prize: Var. 2725 Geoff Foster

The Bulgarian pool, as I use to call the combination of Take&Make and AntiTake&Make, can lead to very economic settings, as convincingly demonstrates the award of the 4th Bulgarian Wine Tournery. Geoff manages to show a tremendous density of captures in an amazing Wenigsteiner setting, with both Kings performing captures during the play and chameleon echo mates.

1... ♖c2+ 2. ♖xc2-d1[♖h7] ♖xh7-d3[♖g8] 3. ♖xf7-c7[n ♖f4] ♖xf4-a4[♖f1]#
 1... ♜d7 2. ♖xd7-g7[♜d2]+ ♖xg7-f8[♖b2] 3. ♖xb2-h8[♖c1] ♖xd2-d4[♖h2]#

1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2669 Geoff Foster

An exquisite presentation of Phantom Chess Rex Inclusive: with only three neutral pieces, the author shows two minor promotions and specific mates. Why not a prize then? Just because the author managed to show with the same material even three promotions in another really outstanding composition published in the same year (see Annex D), which earned a respectable 4th place in the prestigious Wenigsteiner of the Year 2015 tournament!

1. ♗e1=♗ ♗h3 2. ♖g7 ♖f1# 1. ♗e1=♗ ♖b3 2. ♖c5 ♖e2#

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2672 Michael Grushko

Both themes – the mutual captures between the neutral pawns and the promotions in neutral Rook – have been shown before by the author, but their synthesis here seems to me quite original. I like a lot the fairy conditions are quite well represented in both solutions. I therefore think this is actually the best published work from Variantim’s warm-hearted and innovative fairies editor.

1... n♗d4 2. ♖e3 n♗xd4[n♗d4→d2]+ 3. n♗d2-d1=n♖ [+n♗d3] n♖d2 + 4. ♖xd3[b♖d3→e8] n♖d7 [+n♗d8=n♖]# (5. ♖xd7? (♖d7 a8)+, (4... ♖d7[+pd8=♖ (♖d1!))

1... n♗c4 2. ♖d2 n♗xc4[n♗c4→c2] 3. n♗c2-c1=n♖ [+n♗c3] n♖c2 + 4. ♖xc3[b♖c3→e8] n♖c7 [+n♗c8=n♖]# ((5. ♖xc7 (♖c7 a8)+))

Commendations in order of publication

Var. 2675 Eric Huber

Unfortunately the sparkling solution of the first twin, with four consecutive checks, is not properly matched by the second solution, with only three consecutive checks. A black pawn g7 would lead to cooks, so a [technical] neutral pawn is required instead. In spite of these unbalances, the two Phantom effects in each phase ensure a place in the award for this interesting conception.

a) 1... ♗h1=n♖ 2. ♗b8=n♖+r ♖c3 3. n♖h1-h8-f6+ n♖e5+ 4. n♖e5-c1-b2 + r ♖e5#

b) 1... ♗h2-h1=n♖ 2. ♗b7-b8=n♖ n♖h1-d8-c8 3. n♖d8 n♖c3+ 4. r ♖h8+ n♖d5#

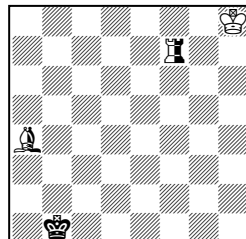
Var. 2721 Guy Sobrecases & Jacques Rotenberg

I liked a lot the echo mates, but the repetition of several moves is a serious drawback. Sometimes less is more, a setting without the cook-looking solution starting with 1.Rxd5 would have been preferable. 1. ♖xe3 + ♖b4 2. ♖e5[+wu ♖e3] ♖d6+ 3. ♖xd6 u ♖f5# 1. ♖e4 ♖f5 2. ♖xd5 ♖b3 3. ♖e6 ♖e7#

1. ♖xd5 ♖b4 2. ♖d5-d7[+wu ♖d5] u ♖e5+ 3. ♖d6 u ♖e6# 1. ♖e7 ♖d6 2. ♖xd6 ♖b4 3. ♖e7 ♖c4#

Geoff Foster

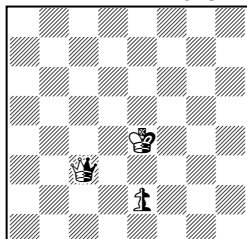
2nd Prize IRT 2015



H#2.5 2.1.1.. 1+1+2
 Take&MakeChess
 AntiTake&Make
 Neut.Rook Bishop ♜ ♖

Geoff Foster

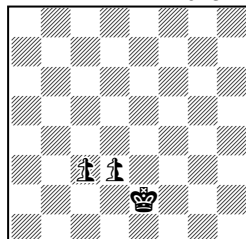
1st HM IRT 2015



H#2 2.1.1.1 0+0+3
 PhantomChess RexIncl.

Michael Grushko

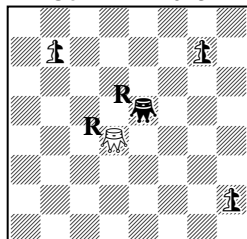
2nd HM IRT 2015



H#3.5 2.1.1.1 0+1+2
 Anticirce Parraincirce

Eric Huber

Com IRT 2015

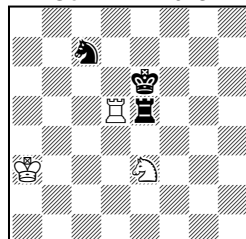


HS#3.5 1+1+3
 b) ♖e5→d6
 PhantomChess

Guy Sobrecases

Jacques Rotenberg

Com IRT 2015



H#3 4.1.1.. 3+3
 GhostChess

Var. 2723 Jaroslav Štůň

The combination of AntiAndernach and Parrain Circe seems to be fruitful mainly in serial problems. Here, the leading expert in the combination mixes them for the first time with neutral pieces, using an interesting systematic maneuver to get a proper arrangement before delivering the final blow. However, another interesting theoretical question: how should the neutral pieces change their color after a non-capturing move in Anti-Andernach? Winchloé says: a neutral piece moved by White becomes black. Popeye doesn't seem to care at all.

1. ♖f1(w) 2. g×f1=♙ 3. ♗d2(w;w♖e2) 4. ♙×e2 5. ♖a3(w♖e1) 6. ♙×d2 7. ♖a4(w♗d3) 8. ♖b3 9. ♙×e1 10. ♖a4(w♗d2) 11. ♖b3 12. ♙×d2 13. ♖a4(w♖c3) 14. ♙×d3 & 1. ♖a5(b;w♗b5)+ ♖a×b5#

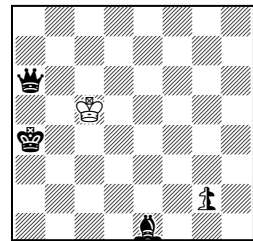
Var. 2763 Valerio Agostini

Probably the best amongst the single line compositions! The most economic rendering of the imposed theme of Arnold Beine 60 Jubilee Tournament certainly deserves recognition.

1. ♖g3 e1=♗ 2. ♗f3 ♗f2 3. ♖h3 ♗f1=♗ 4. ♗h2 ♗g2 5. ♖g1+ ♖g3#

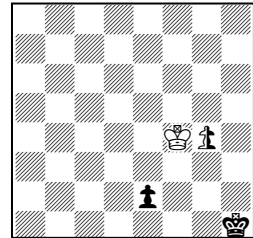
Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all participants for the many entertaining hours I spent studying their compositions.

Jaroslav Štůň Com IRT 2015



14N & ss#1 2+3
ParrainCirce
AntiAndernachChess
Neutral Pawn ♗

Valerio Agostini Com IRT 2015



HS#5 AnnanChess 2+2
Neutral pawn ♗

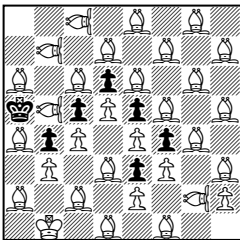
Errata

Ofer Comay sent a correction to his fairy helpmate from issue 76. Do not miss the beautiful tempo losing maneuvers by the BK.

3193 (v)

Ofer Comay

Tel Aviv



H#19.5 31+7

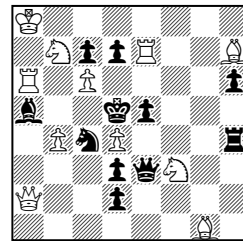
Bishop-Lion ♗

- 1... ♖a1!! 2. ♖b6 ♗cb1 3. ♖a7 ♗3c2 4. ♖a8!! ♗d3
5. ♖b8 ♗c6b5 6. ♖c7 ♗7c6 7. ♖d8 ♗e6d7 8. ♖e7
♗5e6 9. ♖f6 ♗4f5 10. ♖g5 ♗3g4 11. ♖h4 h3
12. ♖g3 h4 13. ♖h2 ♗h3 14. ♖h1!! ♗h5g4
15. ♖g1 h5 16. ♖f2 h6 17. ♖e1 ♗6h5 18. ♖d2
♗h7g6 19. ♖c3 h7 20. ♖d4 h8=♗#!

The two-mover by Paz Einat published in issue 76 "Israeli Success..." was found to be illegal. The composer sent a correction.

Paz Einat (v)

3rd HM The Problemist 2017



#2 11+11

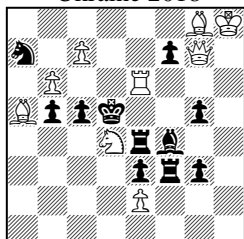
1. ♗c5 ? [2. ♗xd7#] 1...d6 a 2. ♗g8 A #
but 1... ♗b6 !
1. ♗xe5 ? [2. ♗xc4#] 1... ♗xd4 b 2. ♗xa5 B #
(1... ♗xe5 2. ♗xe5#) but 1... ♗xd4 !
1. ♗d8 ? [2. ♗xd7#] 1...d6 a 2. ♗xa5 B #
but 1... ♗xb4 !
1. ♗xd2 ! [2. ♗xc4#] 1... ♗xd4 b 2. ♗g8 A #
(1... ♗xd2 2. ♗xe5# 1... ♗xd4 2. ♗g8#)

Israeli Successes Abroad - Emanuel Navon

ישראלים מצטיינים בחורל – עמנואל נבון

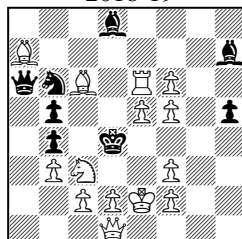
emanuel.navon@gmail.com המהברים מתבקשים לשלוח את הצלחותיהם האחרונות אל

A. L. Lubashevsky
L. Makaronz
3rd Prize Problemist
Ukraine 2018



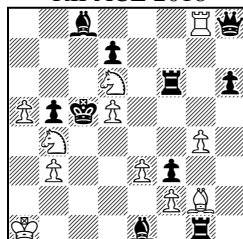
#3 9+11

B. Semion Shifrin
HM
JT Mario Garcia -70
2018-19



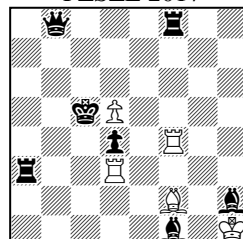
#3 14+8

C. Menachem Witztum
2nd Prize
Spetial Ecully
RIFACE 2018



H#2 2.1.1.1 11+10

D. Menachem Witztum
2nd HM
Improvement of
PZSZE 2017



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+7

In **A** the black rook & bishop pins and the white rook sacrifices are complemented by nice cross-checks.

1. ♖xf7! [2. ♖xe4+ ♜xe4 3. ♖d5#] 1... ♖xd4 2. ♖f5+ ♙e5+/♜c4 3. ♖f6/♖e4#
1... ♖xe6 2. ♖xe6+ ♜xd4 3. ♖d5# 1... ♖e5 2. ♖d7+ ♜c4/♜e4 3. ♖xe5/♙h7#
1... ♙xc7 2. ♖d6+ ♜xd6/♜e5 3. ♖xc7/♖d5# 1... ♙d6 2. ♖e5+ ♜xd4 3. ♖d5#
2... ♖xe5 3. ♙xf3# 1... ♙e5+ 2. ♖f6+ ♜xd4 3. ♖d5#

Entertaining WQ play in **B**, especially the unexpected variation 1... ♙xf6.

1... ♜c5 2. d4# 1. ♙e4? [2. c3+ bxc3 3. dxc3#] but: 1... ♖a2!
1. ♖h1! [2. ♖h4+ ♜c5 3. d4#] 1... ♙xf5 2. ♖d6+ ♜xe5 3. ♖h2# 2... ♜c5 3. d4#
1... ♙xf6 2. ♖a1! (3. ♙a4#) 2... bxc3/♜c5/♖xa1 3. ♖xc3/♙e4/♙xb6#
(1... ♜c5 2. ♖h4 (3. d2-d4#) 2... bxc3 3. b4#)

C's tourney asked for capture of white pieces by the two pieces of a black battery. Judge, Yves Tallec, wrote: "The work is crystal clear. Two active R-B & Q-R black batteries, Zilahi of the white knights captured on the 2nd move. The white pieces captured at the first moves take the guard of square d5 in the other solution." 1. ♖xg2 ♖g5 2. ♙xb4 ♙e4# 1. ♖xg8 ♙xf3 2. ♖xd6 ♙d3#

D is dominated by white strategies: the rooks open the way to the black bishops blocking the king, create a battery, and then return to the previous place for a battery interference mate.

1. ♖d6 ♖dxd4 2. ♙b5 ♖d3# 1. ♖b5 ♖fxd4 2. ♙d6 ♖f4#

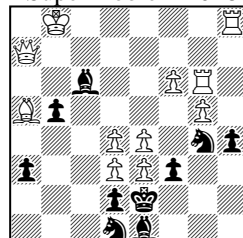
E & **F**'s theme asked for a tight square of 4 white pawns. On **E** the judge wrote: "Optimal loading of Pawn square and original scheme with non-standard reciprocal change of functions of w♖a7/w♙a5. On the whole the problem looks powerfully (the form) and interestingly (the content)!"

a) 1... ♖xh4 2. ♜xe3 d5+ 3. ♜f4 ♙c7# b) 1... ♖c8 2. ♜xd3 e5+ 3. ♜c4 ♖f7#

F shows subtle dual avoidance using a masked line on the 2nd row. White must beware of two-move sequences which would leave the mating unit pinned at W3. The problem also includes Zilahi, white switchbacks and model mates. Judge, Igor Agapov, commented on white's 1st move play that avoids the pinning of the mating Pawn, and commended the problem's originality.

a) 1. ♜xe2 ♖c4 (♖xc2?) 2. ♜xd3 ♖c3 3. ♜e4 d3# b) 1. ♜xd2 ♙f2 (♙xc2?) 2. ♜xe3 ♙d1 3. ♜d4 e3#

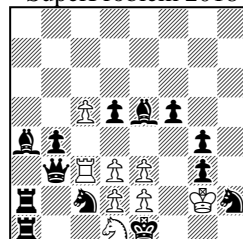
E. Emanuel Navon
2nd Prize TT-215,
SuperProblem 2018



H#2.5 11+10

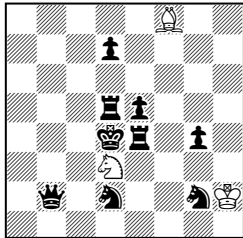
b) g6=♙

F. Emanuel Navon
1st HM TT-215,
SuperProblem 2018



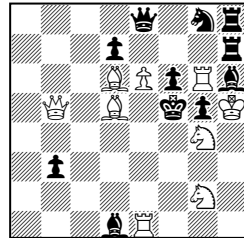
H#3 b) ♙c2→b2 8+13

G. Shaul Shamir
3rd HM
PAT A MAT 2017



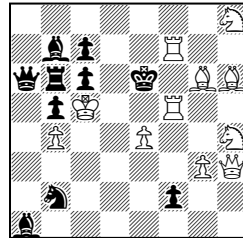
H#3 b) ♖b2→c2 3+9

H. Mark Erenburg
1-3rd Prize
Iwanov 85 2018



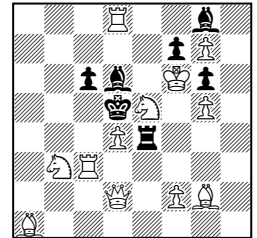
S#3 9+11

I. Mark Erenburg
2nd Prize
Selivanov 50 2017



S#5 11+10

J. Mark Erenburg
2nd Sp. Prize
Feoktistov 70 2018



S#7 12+7

G features a black half-battery in the last move for a cross-check mate. Judge, Valerij Kirillov, wrote: “the play of the black half-battery ends with the model mates in both solutions.” a) 1. ♖b3 ♖a3 2. ♖c5 ♖xe5 3. ♖e3+ ♖xb2#
b) 1. ♖f4 ♖e1 2. ♖d3 ♖b4 3. ♖c4+ ♖xc2#

Mark’s impressive selfmate successes continues. **H** is a “selfmate of the future” **1.e7!** [2. ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 3. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6#] Now we have a SOTF problem with two distinct pairs of variants. In the first pair, trying to defend, Black directly unpins white pieces: 1... ♖f8/♖f7 2. ♖e5+ ♖xe5 3. ♖xg5+ ♖xg5# 1... ♖c2 2. ♖h4+ ♖xh4 3. ♖e3+ ♖xe3# In the second pair Black, unintentionally, takes control on the 5th line, allowing to white Q/B battery to unpin their pieces with tempo: 1... ♖xe7 2. ♖f7+! ♖f3+? ♖e5 3. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6# 1... ♖xe7 2. ♖f3+! (♖f7+?) ♖d5 3. ♖xh6+ ♖xh6# These two pairs are joined by double unpinning of white thematic pieces; each of them makes two final checks on two different squares.

In **I** the rook of the initial battery makes a critical move four times. Afterwards, three white pieces form with this rook new batteries that play by Siers mechanism. The first realization of such a 4x3 complex.

1. ♖h7! [2. ♖xf2+ ♖e5 3. ♖f3+ ♖f6 4. ♖e1+ ♖e5 5. ♖d3+ ♖xd3#]
1... ♖d1 2. ♖f3+ ♖e5 3. ♖f4+ ♖f6 4. ♖e3+ ♖e5 5. ♖d4+ ♖xd4#
1... ♖c8 2. ♖f8+ ♖e5 3. ♖f7+ ♖f6 4. ♖d8+ ♖e5 5. ♖xc6+ ♖xc6#
1... ♖a3 2. ♖h5+ ♖f6 3. ♖g5+ ♖e5 4. ♖d2+ ♖f6 5. ♖c3+ ♖xc3#
(1... ♖f1=♖, ♖, ♖ 2. ♖xf1+ ♖e5 3. ♖f3+ ♖f6 4. ♖e1+ ♖e5 5. ♖d3+ ♖xd3#)

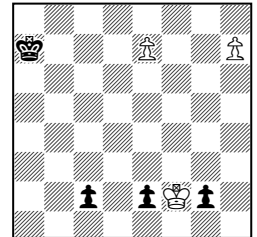
In **J** white skillfully unpins indirectly one of the black pieces in each variation with subtle changes in the play in the tries. 1. ♖a5? 1... ♖h7 2. ♖a2+ ♖xd4 3. ♖a4+ ♖d5 4. ♖axc6 ♖g8 5. ♖c5+ ♖xc5 6. ♖d7+ ♖d5 7. ♖e7+ ♖xe7# but 1...c5! 1. ♖d1? zz 1...c5 2. ♖xc5 ♖h7 3. ♖cd3 ♖xd4 4. ♖a4+ ♖d5 5. ♖d4+ ♖xd4 6. ♖f3+ ♖d5 7. ♖f4+ ♖xf4# 3... ♖g8 4. ♖h1 ♖h7 5. ♖xh7 ♖xd4 6. ♖f3+ ♖d5 7. ♖f4+ ♖xf4# but 1... ♖h7! **1. ♖a2!** zz 1... ♖h7 2. ♖a5+ ♖xd4 3. ♖a4+ ♖d5 4. ♖axc6 ♖g8 5. ♖c5+ ♖xc5 6. ♖d7+ ♖d5 7. ♖e7+ ♖xe7# 1...c5 2. ♖xc5+ ♖xd4 3. ♖a4+ ♖d5 4. ♖cd3 ♖h7 5. ♖d4+ ♖xd4 6. ♖f3+ ♖d5 7. ♖f4+ ♖xf4#

K is a very nice help-selfmate (white & black cooperate to reach a selfmate in 1) miniature, where all 5 pawns are promoted (AUW+1). 1. h8=♖ e1=♖ 2. ♖c8 ♖h1 3. e8=♖ g1=♖ 4. ♖e1 c1=♖ 5. ♖e3+ ♖xe3#

L has two neutral pieces (can be played by both sides) and two fairy conditions. In “Anti-SuperCirce”, on making a capture, any capturing unit (including the King) is reborn on any free field on the board. In “ParrainCirce” in the single move following a capture, the captured unit (except a King) accomplishes, from its capture square, an exact copy of that next move. Judge Petko Petkov praised the composer for skillfully combining two of the most difficult fairy conditions to demonstrate, with only 4 pieces, an interesting play ending with mates to the BK in two opposite corners. 1. ♖xe6[b♖e6→g8] ♖d4-e5[+♖f7] 2. ♖b2 ♖xb2[w♖b2→f6] 3. ♖xf7[b♖f7→h8] [+♖a1]+ ♖f6-f7[+♖f8] # 1. ♖xd4[♖d4→e5] ♖b3-a3[+♖c4] 2. ♖xe5[b♖e5→a1] ♖c4-f7[+♖h8] 3. ♖xf7[♖f7→b1]+ ♖b1-d2[+♖h8] #

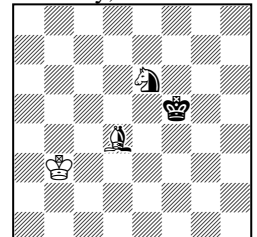
K. Yaakov Mintz
1st HM

Julia’s Fairies 2016/I



HS#5 3+4

L. Semion Shifrin
3rd HM FIDE Olympic
Tourney, Batumi 2018



H#3 2.1.1.. 1+1+2
AntiSuperCirce
ParrainCirce
Neutral pieces ♖ ♗

מקוריות Originals

IRT judges: #2: Valery Kopyl (2019) #3: Jiří Jelínek (2018-9) #n: Gerhard E. Schoen (2018-20)
 Studies: Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (2019) H#2-3: Ricardo Vieira; H#>3: Aleksandr Semenenko
 (2019); S#: Genady Kozyura (2019-20) Fairies: Hans Gruber (2019)

Editors:

Orthodox: **Ofer Comay**

Studies: **Gady Costeff**

(Please send originals in pgn format)

Fairies: **Michael Grushko**

ofercomay@gmail.com

costeff@gmail.com

bargrushko@bezeqint.net

עורכים:

בעיות רגילות: עופר קומאי

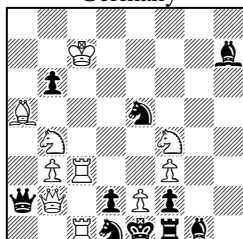
סיומים: גדי קוסטף

(נא לשלוח מקוריות בפורמט pgn)

בעיות אגדתיות: מיכאל גרושקו

3203

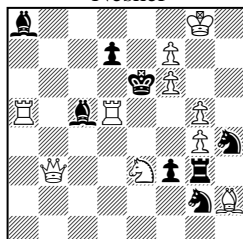
Daniel Papack
Germany



#2v 10+10

3204

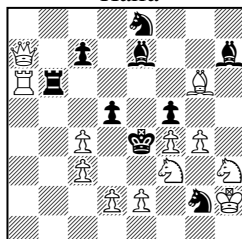
Semion Shifrin
Nesher



#2v 10+8

3205

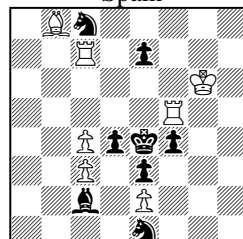
Israel Rosental
Haifa



#2 12+9

3206

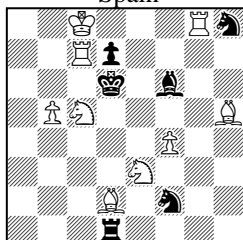
Miguel Uris
Spain



#2 7+8

3207

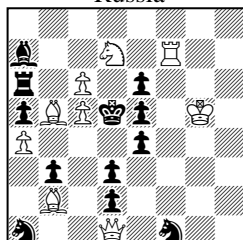
Miguel Uris
Spain



#2*v 9+6

3208

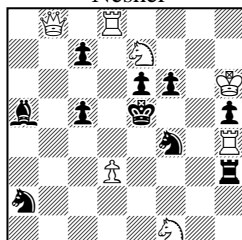
Alexandr Pankratiev
Russia



#3 9+12

3209

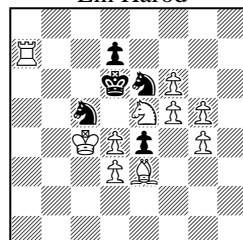
Semion Shifrin
Nesher



#3vv 7+10

3210

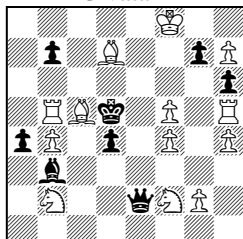
Izhak Nevo
Ein Harod



#3 10+5

3211

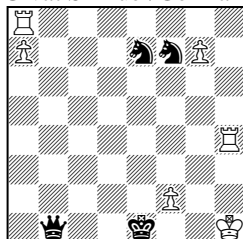
Evgeni Bourd
Givataim



#5 13+8

3212

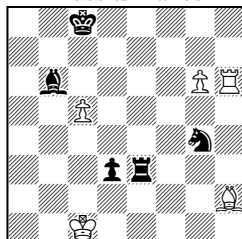
Amazia Avni
Martin Minski
Givat Shmuel/Germany



Win 6+4

3213

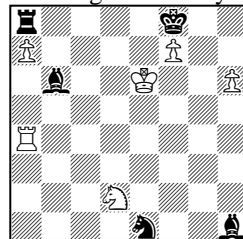
Pavel Arestov
Daniel Keith
Russia/France



Win 5+5

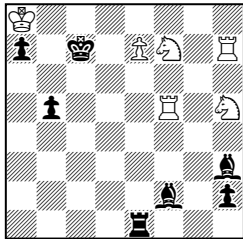
3214

David Gurgenzidze
Martin Minski
Georgia/Germany



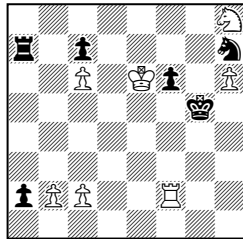
Win 6+5

3215
Michal Hlinka
Lubos Kekely
 Slovakia



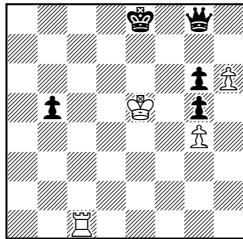
Draw 6+7

3216
Michal Hlinka
Lubos Kekely
 Slovakia



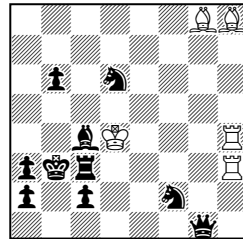
Draw 7+6

3217
Pavel Arestov
 Russia



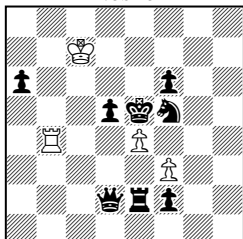
Win 4+5

3218
Ehud Goldberg
Paz Einat
 Zofit/Nes Ziona



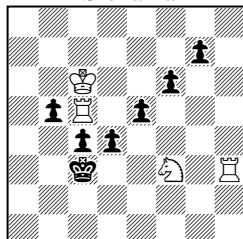
H#2 b) ♔g1→d7 5+10

3219
Semion Shifrin
 Nesher



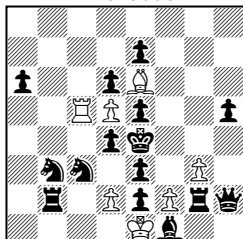
H#2 2.1.1.1 4+8

3220
Lubos Kekely
 Slovakia



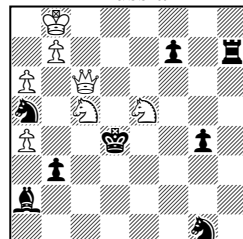
H#2 2.1.1.1 4+7

3221
Abdelaziz Onkoud
 Morocco



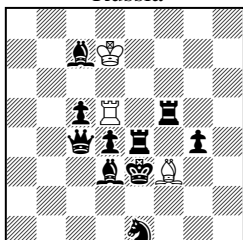
H#2 4.1.1.1 7+15

3222
Eugene Fomichev
 Russia



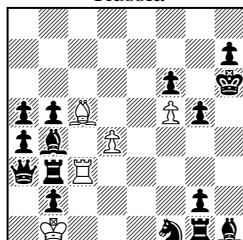
H#2 2.1.1.1 7+8

3223
Mikhail Gershinsky
Alexandr Pankratiev
 Russia



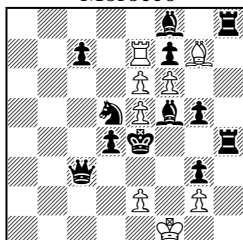
H#3 3.1.1.1 3+10

3224
Mikhail Gershinsky
Alexandr Pankratiev
 Russia



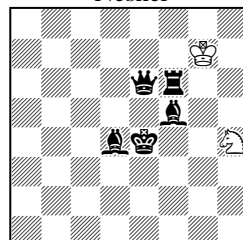
H#3 2.1.1.1 5+15

3225
Abdelaziz Onkoud
 Morocco



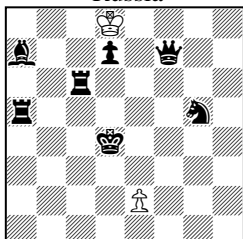
H#3 b) ♜f5→h5 8+12

3226
Semion Shifrin
 Nesher



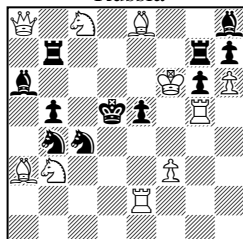
H#4 b) ♖g7→b7 2+5
 c) g7→g2

3227
Aleksey Ivunin
Alexandr Pankratiev
 Russia



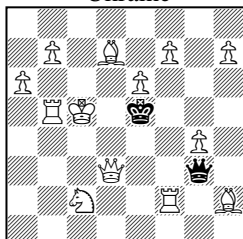
H#5 2.1.1.1 2+7

3228
Alexandr Pankratiev
 Russia



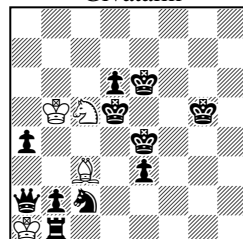
S#2 10+11

3229
Valery Kopyl
Gennadi Koziura
 Ukraine



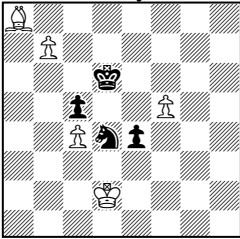
S#5vvv 13+2

3230
Evgeni Bourd
 Givataim



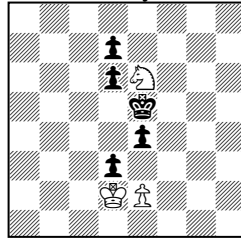
H#3.5 2.1.1.1 4+11
 RoyalDynasty

3231
Vito Rallo
 Italy



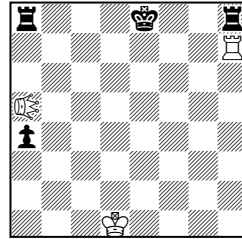
H#2 2.1.1.1 5+4
 Masand

3232
Vito Rallo
 Italy



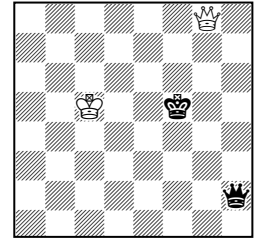
H#2.5 2.1.1.. 3+5
 ParrainCirce

3233
Anatoly Stepochkin
 Russia



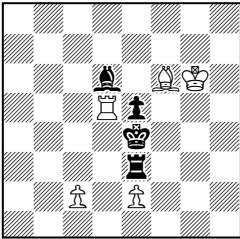
H#3 2.1.1.. 3+4
 MessignyChess Koeko
 Lion ♘

3234
Anatoly Stepochkin
 Russia



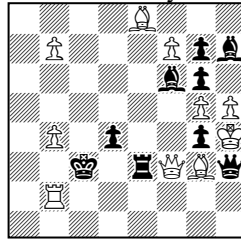
HS#5 4.1.1.. 2+2
 KoeKo GridChess

3235
Pierre Tritten
Jacques Rotenberg
 France/Jerusalem



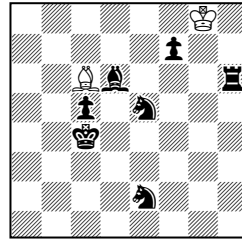
H#2 b)-b.♘d6 5+4
 Take&MakeChess

3236
Armin Geister
Daniel Papack
 Germany



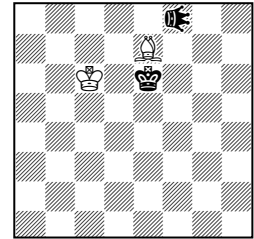
HS#3 2.1.1.. 10+9
 Marscirce

3237
Sébastien Luce
 France
 Ded. to Paz Einat



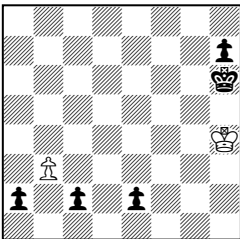
H#3 3.1.1.. 2+7
 Black&White KoBul

3238
Sébastien Luce
 France
 Ded. to Roméo Bedoni



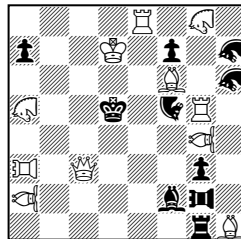
H==4.5 2.1.1.. 2+2
 PWC
 Locust ♘

3239
Sébastien Luce
Chris Feather
 France/UK
 Ded. Michael Grushko



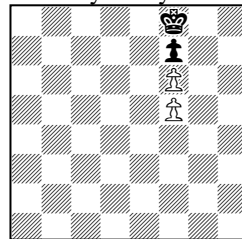
Ser-H#8 2+5
 AlphabeticChess
 Take&MakeChess

3240
Semion Shifrin
 Nesher



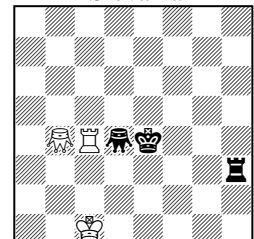
#2v.. AMU 11+10
 Pao ♘ Vao ♘ Nao ♘
 Nightrider ♞

3241
Michael Grushko
 Kiryat Beyerlik



Ser-H#14 2+2
 AlphabeticChess PWC

3242
Vaclav Kotesovec
 Slovakia



HS#6 3.1.1.. 3+3
 Grasshopper ♟

לידתה של בעיית שחמט – חלק 4 – Birth of a chess problem – Part 4

יבגני בורד Evgeni Bourd

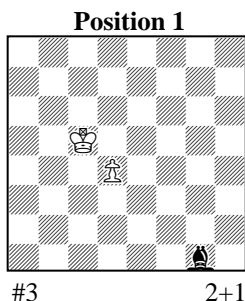
After exploring some self and reflex mate problems, we will go back to explore a more orthodox stipulation: the Three-mover.

This time I tried to simulate a rapid prototyping scheme, which focuses on understanding and choosing easier paths along the way in order to complete the problem. Such choices allow a better understanding of the position, but still keeping it simple enough to reach completion. Any deviation from this mind-set is very welcome, as it will produce different problems, usually with more effort.

Enough chit-chat... let's jump into the action.

The chosen theme for the problem is 'unpinning of white pieces by a white piece. This determines two of the moves in each thematic variation, the unpinning move and the mate by the unpinned move, which is pretty good. We should have enough moves which are a part of theme in order to have a clear path towards completion, but not too many as it might limit us.

Quantity of variations is much less important in long problems, as each variation contains many moves. Two variations is the absolute minimum for a three-mover, we will try to aim for that.



We have to decide what piece we want to unpin, and what line that would be. We should look for a piece that has multiple squares to mate, otherwise the mate will be the same. A knight is a prime candidate for such schemes, as it is easy to arrange two mates.

Position 2: We pinned the black pinning piece, so it would not be able to capture with check. It was possible to allow the capture and create a variation, but it should be slightly harder to arrange. In both cases we would "waste" a white

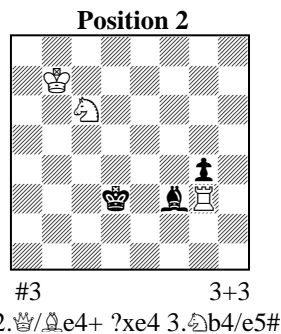
בחלקים הקודמים חקרנו בעיות מט לדעת ומט רפלקס. הפעם נחזור לתחום האורתודוקסי ונבחן את מהלך החיבור של בעיית מט ב-3 מסעים.

ניסיתי הפעם לעשות סימולציה לחיבור מהיר של סכמה בסיסית, עם דגש על הבנה ובחירה של מסלולים קלים שיביאו להשלמת הבעיה. בחירות כאלה מאפשרות הבנה טובה יותר של העמדה, אך גם להשאיר פשוטה מספיק על מנת להגיע לסוף הדרך. סטייה מדרך חשיבה זאת היא מבורכת כי היא תביא ליצירתה של בעיה אחרת, לרוב במאמץ גדול יותר.

מספיק עם הדיבורים... נעבור למעשים.

הנושא שבחרתי הוא התרה של כלים לבנים על ידי כלי לבן. נושא זה קובע שניים מהמסעים בווריאנטים התמאטיים: מסע ההתרה ומסע המט על ידי הכלי שהותר. צריכים להיות לנו מספיק מסעים המהווים חלק מהנושא על מנת שיהיה לנו מסלול ברור להבאת הבעיה לסיומה, אבל לא יותר מדי אחרת המגבלות יקשו עלינו.

כמות הווריאנטים הרבה פחות חשובה בבעיות ארוכות מאחר שכל וריאנט כולל הרבה מסעים. שני וריאנטים הם המינימום האבסולוטי לבעיית מט ב-3 ונגסה לכוון לזה.



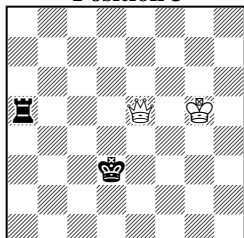
אנו צריכים להחליט איזה כלי אנחנו רוצים להתיר, ומה יהיה קו התרה. כדאי שנחפש כלי שיוכל לתת מט על כמה ערוגות אחרת המט יהיה תמיד זהה. מועמד מרכזי לסכמה כזאת הוא הפרש מאחר שקל לארגן שני מטים שונים.

עמדה 2: כפתנו את הכלי השחור שכופת את הכלי הלבן כך שאינו יכול להכות תוך התראת שח. יכולנו לאפשר את ההכאה אבל יהיה קשה יותר לארגן זאת. בשני המקרים "נבזבז" כלי לבן. אמנם קל יותר להמשיך עם כפיתת הכלי השחור, אבל מידת השימוש בצריח הלבן מוגבלת.

piece. While pinning is easier, it does make the rook look a little unused.

I decided to try and go with a queen as the pinned piece. It should be a pleasant piece too as it has multiple mating squares. Other options, such as a Bishop/Rook/Pawn, are possible and more difficult (But maybe more interesting!)

Position 3

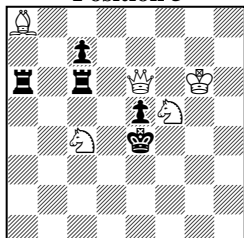


#3 2+2

Position 3: Now we have to decide how our variations will look – checks or quiet moves. Quiet continuations are always much more beautiful, but very hard to control. Let's go with checks. The checking piece will be captured, and the queen will mate, somehow...

Position 4: What are the motivations for the mate? How to differentiate between the knight checks? A simple solution is to unblock a square for the white queen, let's try!

Position 5



#3 5+5

2. ♖fd6+ cxd6 3. ♕f5#; 2. ♜cd6+ cxd6 3. ♖c4#

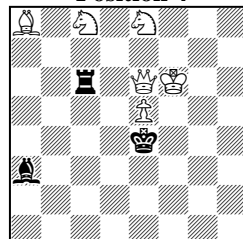
Position 5: This seems reasonable. The variations are logically fine: white unpins the queen and then the queen replaces the knight. We could of course look for other motivations, with a dual-avoidance mechanism. Although that should create a better problem, we are trying to make some easy decisions that would allow for easier composing.

We will try to fill the position and get a sense of our progress. As usual, we will work in 'post-key' mode, meaning that our composing process is post-key and we will worry about the key later on.

החלטתי לנסות להשתמש במלכה הלבנה ככלי הכפות. העובדה שיש לכלי זה ערוגות מט פוטנציאליות רבות הופכת אותו לנעים לשימוש. אופציות אחרות כמו רץ/צריח/רגלי אפשריות אך קשות יותר (אבל אולי מעניינות יותר!).

עמדה 3: עלינו להחליט עכשיו כצד יראו הווריאנטים – מסעים שקטים או שחים. מסעים שקטים תמיד יפים יותר אבל קשים יותר לשליטה. נמשיך עם שחים – הכלי שיתן שח יוכה ואז המלכה, באופן כלשהו, תיתן מט.

Position 4



#3 6+3

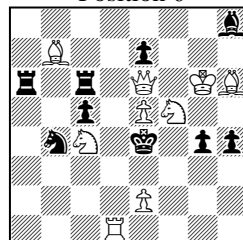
2.Sc/ed6+ ♕xd6 ♖~#

עמדה 4: מה יהיו המוטיבציות למט? כיצד נפריד בין השחים שיינתנו על ידי הפרשים? פתרון פשוט יחסית הוא פינוי ערוגה עבור המלכה המותרת, הבה ננסה!

עמדה 5: זה נראה סביר. הווריאנטים נראים טוב מבחינה לוגית: הלבן מתיר את המלכה ואז המלכה תופסת את מקומם של הפרשים. יכולנו כמובן לחפש מוטיבציות אחרות הכוללות מנגנון מניעת דואלים, אך למרות שזה יוביל לחיבורה של בעיה טובה יותר אנו מנסים לקבל החלטות שיובילו לתהליך חיבור פשוט יותר.

ננסה להוסיף כלים ולקבל תחושה לגבי ההתקדמות. כרגיל, נעבוד בפורמט של "אחרי המפתח", כלומר, תהליך חיבור הבעיה ימשיך כאילו מסע המפתח כבר נעשה ונגיע אליו רק אחר כך.

Position 6



#3 9+9

עמדה 6: יש מגוון של עניינים שעלינו לראות כאן, נפרט כמה קטנים וכמה גדולים: יש לנו וריאנטים אבל אין איום או הגנות... זה החור הגדול ביותר בשלב הזה – הלבן יכול פשוט לתת שח עם הפרשים על d6 ואחר כל מט. המלכה יכולה להגיע ל-4t. מסע המניעה האפשרי פד5 נראה די מטרד.

Position 6: There are many issues to be seen, let's list some small and big. Well, we have the variations but no threat or defenses... that is probably the largest hole at this point. White can just check twice with the knights on d6 and mate. The queen can jump to g4. The refutation Sd5 is really annoying.

I have a trick – that is not so great for the value of the problem, but it is much easier to go forward. One of the variations will be the threat, and the other a variation. This lowers the number of variations, and the symmetry between the thematic ones... but it will be easier to complete.

Position 7: This is a common trick where a black defense unguards a square near its king but opens a line for another piece. The issue of the knight mate on d6 is also solved, as e3 is now guarded by both knights, which means only one of them can leave.

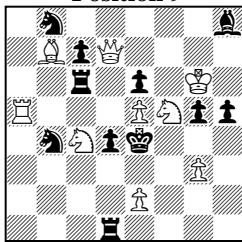
One main issue with the chosen path is that this defense determines the direction of the pawns, which means no lovely board rotations when we are stuck. It is a harsh limitation, and in general I would suggest not to determine the direction of the pawns as a part of the mechanism unless it is totally unavoidable.

We are pretty close, the next hard enemy is the refutation Sd5, for that we will have to be original.

Position 8: After some efforts trying to arrange a continuation, I noticed that it is not required to defend the rook with another rook. Changing this created a new weird variation, which is fine. In many cases there would be several very difficult defenses to deal with, and that will cost some pieces and beauty. But a less beautiful completed problem is better than no problem at all.

Well, that seems to work, it is time to search for a key.

Position 9

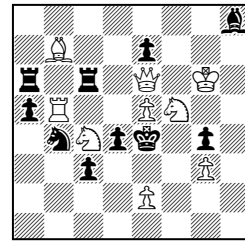


#3 9+10

Set Play: 1...exf5+ 2. ♖xc6+ ~ 3. ♖xf5#
 Solution: 1. ♖xe6! [2. ♖fd6+ cxd6 3. ♖f5#]
 1...d3 2. ♖cd6+ cxd6 3. ♖c4# 1...♖d5 2. ♖xc6

יש לי טריק – זה לא יהיה בעל ערך רב לאיכות הבעיה אבל יקל מאד על ההתקדמות. אחד הווריאנטים יהיה האיום והשני ישאר וריאנט לאחר מסע הגנה. זה מוריד את מספר הווריאנטים, ואת הסימטריה בין התמאטיים שבהם, אבל יהיה קל יותר להשלים את הבעיה.

Position 7



#3 9+10

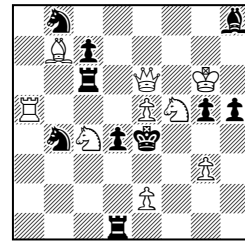
Set Play: [2. ♖fd6+ exd6 3. ♖f5#]
 1...d3 2. ♖cd6+ exd6 3. ♖c4# 1...♖d5!

עמדה 7: השימוש בהגנה בה השחור יוצר ערוגת מפלט פוטנציאלית ליד המלך השחור ופותח קו לכלי אחר הוא נפוץ למדי. עניין המט עם הפרש על d6 נפתר גם הוא מאחר ששני הפרשים שומרים עכשיו על ה3, ולכן רק אחד מהם יכול לעזוב שמירה זאת.

בעיה אחת עם המסלול שבחרנו היא שההגנה הזאת קובעת את כיוון הרגלים, מה שאומר שלא נוכל לסובב את הלוח כשאנחנו נתקעים. זו מגבלה חריפה ובאופן כללי אני ממליץ לא לקבוע את כיוון הרגלים כחלק מהמנגנון אלא אם זה לגמרי בלתי נמנע.

אנחנו די קרובים; האויב הקשה הבא הוא מסע המניעה פד5. לשם כך עלינו להיות מקוריים.

Position 8



#3 9+10

1...♖d5 2. ♖xc6 [3. ♖xd5, ♖xd5#]
 2...♖xc6 3. ♖xd5#

עמדה 8: לאחר מספר ניסיונות לארגן תשובה ל-פד5 שמתי לב שאין צורך להגן על צריח ג6 עם צריח אחר. שינוי זה יצר וריאנט מוזר חדש – דבר טוב. במקרים רבים יהיו כמה הגנות שיהיה קשה להתמודד איתן, מה שיגבה מחיר של כלים נוספים ויופי. אך בעיה פחות יפה, אבל גמורה, זה דבר טוב יותר מכלום.

טוב, נראה שכיוון החיבור הזה עובד ועכשיו הזמן לחפש מסע מפתח.

Position 9: One possibility is entering the pin line by capturing a black piece. We have to make sure there is no unanswered check in the set-play otherwise the problem is almost unsound. It is not so easy to find a pleasant solution here, as the white forces are very strong and very close around the black king.

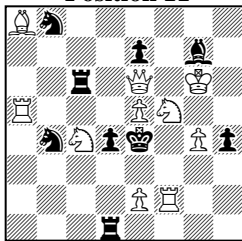
The situation is not terrible as we do have freedom, which is not always the case. Now that we have a complete problem it is, as always, time to review and improve.

Analysis should always be spent on the purity of the thematic play, as it is the dominant feature of the problem. Here, we can see one small impurity, the white knight on f5 does not have the option to sacrifice itself on g3, similarly to his counterpart that has this option on d2. This fact means that there is almost no real unpin in the threat, just an illusion as white does not have the option to sacrifice in a different way. Although it might seem a bizarre way of thinking, it is very important to allow 'tries' that actually show why the intended theme of the problem works. A quick way to verify all of this is simply moving the king away from the pin line - and indeed the threat is the same.

Back to post-play positions...

Position 10: A white rook was added - this is why we tried to be economic, just in case we will need more pieces to express our idea! And another set of small touches before looking for a key again...

Position 11



#3 10+9

1.? - 2. ♖fd6+ 1... ♗d5 2. ♗xc6 1... ♗d3 2. ♗cd6+

Position 11: Spreading the pieces around the board gives a slightly better impression. The white pawn on g4 looks better than the two black pawns. The f5 knight is somewhat over-attacked visually, but the change should be worth it. And now back to finding a key, let's try a different one.

Position 12: After searching for a while, I did not find really pleasant options. The key by the knight seems best, it does not capture pieces and is not under attack in the initial positions, very important flaws to avoid.

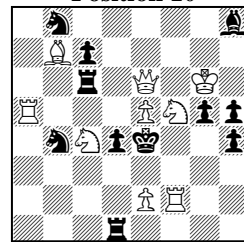
עמדה 9: אפשרות אחת היא להיכנס לקו הכפיתה על ידי הכאת כלי שחור. אנו חייבים לוודא שאין במעמד שח ללא תשובה שאחרת הבעיה למעשה לא תקינה. לא קל למצוא כאן פתרון טוב מאחר שללבן כוח רב המרוכז ברובו סביב המלך השחור.

המצב לא גורא מאחר שבשונה ממקרים רבים כאן יש לנו די חופש. כעת, כשיש לנו בעיה גמורה זה, כתמיד, זמן לבחון מה יש לנו ולנסות לשפר.

הבחינה חייבת להתמקד בטוהר של המשחק התמאטי מאחר שזה החלק הדומיננטי של הבעיה. פגם קטן אחד ניתן למצוא בכך שלפרש הלבן על ו5 אין אופציה להקריב את עצמו על ז3, בדומה ליכולתו של פג4 להקריב את עצמו על ד2. משמעותה של עובדה זו היא שההתרה באיום היא די אשליה כי ללבן אין אופציה להקרבה על ערוגה אחרת. למרות שזו אולי נראית דרך מחשבה משונה, חשוב מאד לאפשר "התעיות" המראות באופן מעשי למה הנושא המיועד של הבעיה באמת עובד. דרך מהירה לאמת זאת היא על ידי הזזת המלך הלבן מקו הכפיתה - ואכן, האיום עובד כמיקודם.

בחזרה אל העמדות שלפני המפתח...

Position 10

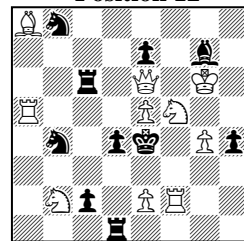


#3 9+11

עמדה 10: הוספנו צריח לבן - זו הסיבה לכך שהשתדלנו להיות חסכוניים - למקרה שיהיה צורך בכלים נוספים לבטא את הרעיון. וסט נוסף של נגיעות קטנות לפני שנחזור לחפש מסע המפתח...

עמדה 11: פיזור הכלים על הלוח נותן רושם מעט טוב יותר. הרגלי הלבן על ז2 עדיף על שני רגלים שחורים. פו5 נראה כמוגן בעודף, אבל נראה שהשינוי ראוי. ועכשיו בחזרה לחפש מפתח - ננסה משהו אחר.

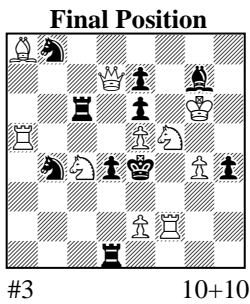
Position 12



#3 10+10

1. ♗c4! [2. ♖fd6+ (2. ♗g3?) 2... exd6 3. ♗f5#] 1... ♗d3 2. ♗cd6+ (2. ♗d2?) exd6 3. ♗c4#

One piece was added, seems fine. Is this better than capturing on e6? Hmmmmmm.....



Set: 1...exf5+ 2...Qxc6+ Qxc6 3.Qxf5#
 1.Qxe6! [2.Qfd6+ 2...exd6 3.Qf5#]
 1...d3 2.Qcd6+ exd6 3.Qc4# 1...Sd5 2.Qxc6

Final Position: I like the thematic motivation of the key slightly more, especially as the content of the problem is rather small. It is a somewhat brutal capture, together with a set-play check for black, but I find it better than the key with the knight on b2.

How to finally evaluate the problem? Well, it works... Not the best and greatest thematic content but we were able to systematically make easy decisions along the way. There were challenges along the composing process that required some technical solutions like the 1...Sd5 refutation or finding a threat.

The end result shows two nice variations, with a somewhat thematic key. Not the lightest position in history but 20 pieces is not so bad for a three-mover. And, as always, the dedicated reader can continue from any point, taking the harder decisions and reaching a better result!

1...Sd5 2.Qxc6

עמדה 12: אחרי אי אילו חיפושים לא מצאתי אופציות באמת נחמדות. המפתח עם הפרש נראה הטוב ביותר, הוא אינו מכה כלי ואינו מאוים בעמדה ההתחלתית, מגרעות שמוטב להימנע מהן. כלי אחד נוסף – נראה בסדר. האם זה טוב יותר מההכאה על ה6? המממממ.....

עמדה סופית: המוטיבציה התמאטית של המפתח מוצאת חן בעיני אפילו יותר, בעיקר לאור התוכן המועט של הבעיה. ההכאה על ידי המפתח מעט ברוטלית, בהתחשב במשחק המעמד בו השחור מאיים בשח, אך אני מוצא את המפתח הזה עדיף על פני זה עם הפרש הנמצא על ב2 בעמדה ההתחלתית.

לבסוף, כיצד נעריך בעיה זו? ובכן, היא עובדת... אין בה את התוכן התמאטי הטוב ביותר אבל יכולנו לקבל מספר החלטות באופן סיסטמטי לאורך הדרך. במהלך החיבור היו גם אתגרים שחייבו פתרונות טכניים, כמו תשובה על המסע 1...f5 ומציאה של איום.

התוצאה הסופית כוללת שני וריאנטים נחמדים עם מפתח די תמאטי. העמדה אינה מהקלילות בהיסטוריה אבל 20 כלים זה לא רע לבעיית מט ב-3.

כתמיד, הקורא המסור יכול להמשיך מכל נקודה בתהליך ולקבל החלטות נועזות יותר שאולי יובילו גם לתוצאה טובה יותר!

Jubilee tourney "Mark Erenburg 60"

The Israeli Chess Composition Society announces an international jubilee tourney on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Mark Erenburg. This tourney will be in two sections:

Section A: helpmates in 3 moves with white queen, at least one white rook and at least one white bishop in the initial position. Additional pieces without limitations.

Section B: selfmates in 3 or more moves. The number of moves is not limited, but the composer is asked to specify the type of solving program that was used for checking the problem.

Fairy pieces and conditions are not allowed.

Judge: Mark Erenburg. **Closing date:** 10/10/2019.

The entries should be sent by e-mail to the address: mgrubnere1@gmail.com

Prizes: in each section **1st Prize- 50 euro, 2nd Prize- 40 euro, 3rd Prize- 30 euro.**



תחרות הפתרונים הסימולטנית הבינלאומית ה-15, 2019.

בשורה הקדמית: האחים עדי והדר מנחם. מאחור, מימין לשמאל (מי שאינם מוסתרים): חיים טמס, עומר פרידלנד, מרדכי צ'ובניק, עופר קומאי, אריק פרידמן וישראל הירש.

The 15th international Solving Contest 2019 in Israel.

Front: the brothers Adi & Hadar Menachem. Back, right to left (not hidden): Chaim Temes, Omer Friedland, Mordechai Chovnik, Ofer Comay, Arik Friedman & Israel Hirsh.



האחים עילי והראל פסטר בפעולה. מאחוריהם חיים טמס, רועי ארליך והדר מנחם
Brothers Ily & Harel Fester in action.
Behind: Chaim Temes, Toy Ehrlich & Hadar Menachem



מימין לשמאל, בשורה הקדמית: אהוד גולדברג וחיים טמס; מאחור: מרק ארנבורג וישראל טל.
Right to left, in front: Ehud Goldberg & Chaim Temes; Behind: Mark Erenburg & Israel Tal.

התחרות הסימולטנית הבינלאומית ה-15 בפתרון בעיות שחמט

התחרות הבינלאומית ה-15 בפתרון בעיות שחמט התקיימה ביום ראשון, 27 בינואר 2019 בבית השחמט בקרית אונו בניהולו של פז עינת. התחרות נערכה במקביל ב-33 מדינות בהשתתפות 648 פותרים מ-49 מדינות. בקטגוריה הראשונה השתתפו 261 פותרים, בשנייה 151 פותרים ובשלישית (לפותרים בני 12 ומטה) 236 פותרים. אירוע מעניין נערך ב-פוג'אירה (איחוד האמירויות הערביות) בו השתתפו, בנוסף לכמה מהפותרים הטובים בעולם, פותרים ממדינות שלא השתתפו באירוע הזה בעבר כולל תימן, קובה, מצרים, אוזבקיסטן, הפיליפינים, סוריה, ארמניה, בחריין, עומן, אירן, כוויית וטורקמניסטן. אירוע זה נוהל על ידי יוליה ויסוצקה ומריאן קובצביץ' והזוכה במקום הראשון, פיטר מורדז'יה, זכה גם במקום הראשון הכללי עם מלוא 60 הנקודות האפשריות!

בתחרות הראשית אצלו השתתפו 10 פותרים ואת הבכורה לקח עופר קומאי. אחריו הגיעו במשותף עומר פרידלנד ואהוד גולדברג – הישג נהדר לאהוד לו זו תחרות הפתרונים הראשונה בה הוא משתתף! בתחרות המשנית (10 משתתפים) זכה אצלו דוד מעיין במקום הראשון ואחריו הגיעו דוד שטרן ודני הלוי. בקטגוריה השלישית לצעירים (עד גיל 12) השתתפו שני זוגות אחים. עדי מנחם הגיע למקום הראשון ואחריו האחים עילי והראל פסטר. לכל הארבעה זוהי תחרות הפתרונים הראשונה בה הם משתתפים וללא ספק הם יצליחו יותר בתחרויות הבאות.

Cat.	Last name	First Name	Tot.	Time	Place	Overall Place
1	Comay	Ofer	46.5	240	1	14
1	Friedland	Omer	33.5	240	2-3	52-55
1	Goldberg	Ehud	33.5	240	2-3	52-55
1	Chovnik	Mordechai	32.5	240	4	59-60
1	Erenburg	Mark	28.5	240	5	81-83
1	Ehrlich	Roy	25	235	6	101
1	Strasman	Nery	15	240	7	177-181
1	Temes	Chaim	12	240	8	204-209
1	Krochmalnik	Andrei	10	240	9-10	221-231
1	Nisim	Yonatan	10	240	9-10	221-231
2	Maayan	David	33.5	240	1	27
2	Shtern	David	31	240	2	33-34
2	Halevi	Danny	27	240	3	42-43
2	Salmon	Nadav	20	238	4	68
2	Shani	Dan	18	235	5	71-72
2	Eliav	Refael	16	240	6	82-88
2	Tal	Israel	11	240	7	96-99
2	Brenner	Chalom	10	240	8	101-107
2	Hirsh	Israel	5	240	9-10	125-131
2	Friedman	Arik	5	240	9-10	125-131
3	Menachem	Adi	15	55	1	74
3	Fester	Ily	6.5	44	2	134
3	Fester	Harel	6.5	45	3	135
3	Menachem	Hadar	5	63	4	142

דבר המערכת

אנו פותחים את שנת 2019 בשני דוחות של סיומים. הראשון הוא דוח התחרות לזכר רפי פרסיץ, שנפטר לפני עשור, שיוזם ושפט אמציה אבני. אמציה מצטט מדברים שכתב לזכרו (*British chess magazine*) "לאנשים רגילים יש תערובת של תכונות טובות ורעות... רפי פרסיץ היה אדם מסוג מיוחד, חד צדדי, רק חיובי; זהב טהור". הדוח מציג יצירות נהדרות רבות ושווה לעיין בו עד לסופו.

דוח הסיומים לשנת 2018 מתפרסם בעמוד 6 – השופט פיטר גיירמתי (הונגריה) העביר אלינו את הדוח במהירות שיא. גם כאן הרבה יצירות נהדרות וברכות לאמציה על הפרס השני.

גדי מדגים במדורו (עמוד 2) התפתחות היסטורית של סיום בה מעורבים מחברים רבים לאורך 115 (!) שנים, החל מהעמדה הסופית הבסיסית של טרויצקי ו-אמלונג מ-1896 ועד לסיום של טימן מ-2011 בו העמדה של טרויצקי/אמלונג מופיעה אחרי המסע החמישי.

דוח האגדתיות של ולאיקו קריסאן לשנת 2015 (עמוד 9) נשאר חבוי אצלנו למעלה משנה... השופט חילק את הדוח לשניים: מיניאטורות ובעיות עם שמונה כלים ומעלה. מחברינו מופיעים עם מגוון בעיות בציוני הכבוד וההשבה.

במדור של עמנואל מגוון הצלחות רגיל בבעיות מט ב-3 ובמטי עזר, אך דומני שהדגש הפעם הוא על המשך שרשרת ההצלחות של מרק במט לדעת.

במהדורה הרביעית של המדור "לידתה של בעיית שחמט" יבגני מוליך אותנו ברוי החיבור של בעיית מט ב-3. האתגר הפעם הוא להצליח לסיים את הבעיה יחסית מהר תוך ויתור על מורכבות יתרה. עיקר העניין הוא בשמירה על תקינות תמאטית, התלבטויות בין כיוונים שונים וקבלה של החלטות לאורך הדרך.

כנס הפרובלמאים השנתי יערך ב-22 באפריל, חול המועד פסח, במלון מטרופוליטן בתל אביב. כתמיד, יהיו בכנס תחרויות חיבור מהירות, תחרויות פתרונים, הצגת פעילות האיגוד בשנה האחרונה והרצאות מקצועיות. הכרזת תחרות החיבור "קדם כנס" פורסמה בין מחברינו (מסע אמבוש ואחריו פינוי קו על ידי כלי לבן וכלי שחור במגוון סוגי בעיות) והדוהו יפורסם בכנס.

אליפות הארץ בפתרון בעיות, שהיא האליפות הפתוחה ה-6, תתקיים ב-26 במאי בבית השחמט בקרית אונו. זכאים להשתתף בתחרות חמשת הזוכים במקומות הראשונים מאליפות השנה שעברה, כל מי שיש לו תואר בינלאומי או מד כושר של לפחות 2400 נקודות בפתרון בעיות שחמט וכל הזכאים משלב חצי הגמר.

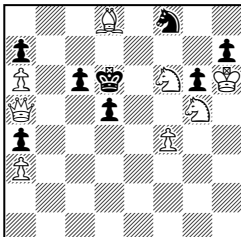
אליפות הארץ בפתרון בעיות שחמט – 2019 – פתרון שלב רבע הגמר

בשלב רבע הגמר השתתפו 158 פותרים, מהם 138 פתרו נכונה וזכאים להשתתף בשלב חצי הגמר.

ישראל א. שיפמן

פרט 1

The Western Morning
News 1929-II



לבן נוסע ונותן מט ב-2 מסעים

פתרון:

1. מהדד! כפאי
5ד...2 מה:5ד
4ד...2 מה:4ד
4ה...2 פה:4ה
4ה...2 פה:4ה
5ג...2 מה:4ב

משחק במעמד:

- 1...2 מהג:7 #
1...2 מהה:4 #
1...2 פה:8 #
1...2 פה:7 #

זוהי בעיית "מוטנט" (mutate): יש מטים מוכנים על כל מסעי השחור אבל ללבן אין מסע המתנה. הפתרון גורם לשינוי של המטים. כאן יש 4 שינויי מטים.

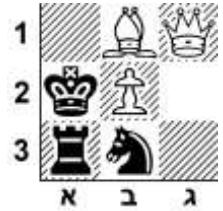
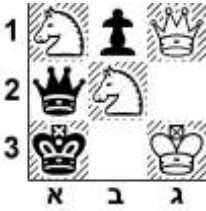
וּרְיָאנְטִים

ביטאון האיגוד לקומפוזיציה שחמטית בישראל

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מס' 77 – אפריל 2019



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סיומים: גדי קוסטף

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

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

חברות באיגוד לקומפוזיציה 2019

החברות באיגוד הקומפוזיציה פתוחה לכל חובבי השחמט ובעיות השחמט.

דמי החבר כוללים קבלת חוברת וריאנטים ופרסומים נוספים והשתתפות במגוון אירועים.

דמי חבר רגילים: 210 ש"ח. דמי חבר לנוער, חיילים בחובה וגמלאים: 160 ש"ח. דמי עמית: 260 ש"ח.

למצטרפים חדשים, או מי שלא היה חבר בשנתיים האחרונות, דמי החבר הם 100 ש"ח.

יש לשלוח את דמי החבר בהמחאה לכתובת הרשומה מעלה לפקודת: האיגוד לקומפוזיציה שחמטית בישראל



פגישה מפתיעה בתל אביב, מימין לשמאל: פיטר גבוזדז'אק, עופר קומאי ופז עינת

Unexpected meeting in Tel Aviv, right to left: Peter Gvozdzjak, Ofer Comay & Paz Einat.