Award of the 5th YCCC – Section C

The most popular YCCC Section created a puzzle for the organizing team. How to rank 39 entries from different genres (#2, #3, #n, h#, endgames and 1 proof game), with very different contents? Luckily, not less than 10 experienced composers, experts in different genres, gladly accepted to mark top entries on the 1-10 scale.Besides, they all contributed to the search for anticipations, and commented some of the best entries (the comments given with their initials). We do hope that such a big number of judges brings average marks closer to more objective ranking:

The panel of judges: Michel Caillaud (MC), Ofer Comay (OC), Vlaicu Crisan (VC), Paz Einat (PE), Hans Gruber (HG), Marjan Kovačević (MK), Michael McDowell (MMD), Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (SSN), Andrey Selivanov (AS), and Tadashi Wakashima (TW).

Two entries had to be excluded. One endgame (Kd8/Ke6) had unintended solution after 10.Kd6, and h#3 (Kb6/Kd4) was already published by the same author. Some young composers don't know that once published problem couldn't be available for this competition. All remaining 37 entries are in the award.

Toshimasa Fujiwara

1st Place 5.YCCC Section C



1...Kd8 2.Bb7 axb7 3.b1B b8Q 4.Be4 Qc8# (MM)

1...Kd7 2.Rg7 hxg7 3.g1R g8S 4.Rg5 Sh6# (MM)

Phoenix to come back on the same square and mixed AUW. Model mates. (Author).

It is attractive that two different white pawns are used, and this allows the immediate sacrifice of the thematic black piece. Using two different black pawns as well allows a striking economy of time. Saying this, I nevertheless find it remarkable that the author found the very substantial introductory moves by the white king. They are not a waste of economy of time, but rather an elaboration of the overall concept in the best of taste. (HG)

The comparison problems use only 1 white Pawn and 1 black Pawn. The artistic impression is good. The best helpmate. (MC)

A complex idea and a good play. (AS)

I very much liked the author's imagination to add an extra move by the white King, dictating the solution - kind of subtle dual avoidance. (VC)

Originally, this was my top problem, but the 1975 Alaikov's problem has enough similarities to reduce this slightly in terms of originality. (PE)



a) 1.Rg5 Kc3 2.Rg6 hxg6 3.d1=R g7 4.Re1 g8=Q 5.Re5 Qa8# b) 1.Bf7 Kd3 2.Bg6+ hxg6 3.d1=B g7 4.Bg4 g8=S 5.Be6 Se7#

Benjamin Defromont

2nd Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.g8S! Rxg8 2.e8S! Bxe8 3.c8S! Sxc8 4.a8S! ~ 5.Sc7# 2...Rxe8 3.Ra5!~ 4.cxb6+ c5 5.Rxc5# 3...d6 4.cxd6+ c5 5.Rxc5# 3...Sc4/Sc8 4.Rxd7+ Sd6 5.Rxd6#

Four knight promotions in #5 have been shown before – not by accident by world-class composers. It is an ambitious theme, and here it is shown in an original way, with all promotions working without captures or checks, and the nice pattern of pawns (a7-c7-e7-g7) and promotions squares (a8-c8-e8-g8). (HG)

I only found two #5s with 4 consecutive promotions to S. Shinkman did it with all checks in 1881. The fact that all 4 promotions are on different squares seems to be a plus. How good the construction is would need some examination! (MMD)

Fantastic realization of a very difficult and beautiful idea. All the predecessors are not predecessors at all and all of them are much less interesting. (OC)

I found no anticipation for this "harmonious" presentation with quiet moves. (MC)

The most ambitious entry in this batch. (TW)



Itay Richardson

3rd Place

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+	Black to move						7+7		

1....Bg4+! (1...Ke7 2.a7 Bd1 3.Rb8 +-) 2.Kxg4 f5+ 3.Kxf5 (3.Kxg5?Bxg7 =)3...Bxg7 4.c6! dxc6 (4...Rxa6 5.c7 Rxa5+ 6.Kg4 Ra4+ 7.Kh5 Rc4 8.Rb8+ Ke7 9.c8Q Rxc8 10.Rxc8 +-) 5.Ke6 Bd4 (5...Kf8 6.a7 Re8+ (6...Be5 7.Kxe5 Kg7 8.Rb7+ Kxg6 9.Kd6 +-) 7.Kf5 Re5+ 8.Kg4 Rxa5 9.Rb8+ Ke7 10.a8Q Rxa8 11.Rxa8 +-) (5...Kd8 6.Rb7 Rxa6 7.Rxg7 +-) (5...O-O-O 6.a7 Kc7 7.a6 c5 8.Rb7+ Kc6 9.Rxg7 +-) 6.a7! (6.g7? O-O-O! =)(6.Rb8+?? Rxb8 7.g7 Bxg7 -+) 6....Bxa7 (6...Kd8 7.Rb8+ Kc7 8.Rxa8) 7.Rb8+! (7.g7? O-O-O =)7...Bxb8 8.g7 Kd8 (8...Bd6 9.g8Q+ Bf8 10.Qf7+ Kd8 11.Qd7#) 9.g8=Q+ Kc7 10.Qh7+ /f7/g7 with mate on d7 next move 1-0

A fascinating battle to prevent castling. A White sacrifice on b8 to prevent queenside castling is known from other studies. But here the paradox is doubled by first luring the Black bishop to a7 and then playing the sacrifice (Keller Paradox). I very much regret the Black to move-stipulation (though I understand why the composer was tempted to include the Bg4+ Kxg4 f5+ sequence). I would have begun with 1. c6!, anyway. (SN)

My opinion is that "black to play" doesn't reduce anything from a study quality. The move a6-a7 seems to be original. (OC)

A fierce struggle for promotion: White already threatens to promote, but Black cleverly manages to avoid the promotion through an active sacrifice. However, White eventually turns the tables in his own favor by another active sacrifice, preventing also black castling. Absolutely memorable! (VC)

Ben Smolkin

4th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.f7! Sxf7 (1...Rxf7 2.Rd6 +-) 2.b7+! (2.Ra8?? Rxa8 3.b7+ Kb8 4.bxa8Q+ Kxa8 =) (2.fxg6?? Nd8+ 3.Rxd8+ Kxd8 =) 2... Rxb7 3.Ra8+ Rb8 4.b6 Se5+! (4... Sd8+ 5.Rxd8+ Rxd8 6.b7#) (4... Rxa8 5.b7+ Kb8 6.bxa8Q+Kxa8 7.Kc7 +-) 5. Rxe5 Rxa8 (5... Rf6+ Re6 +-) 6. b7+ Kb8 7.bxa8+Q+ Kxa8 8.fxg6 Rf6+ 9.Kc7 Rxg6 10.Ra5+ Ra6 11.Rxa6#

An elegant study with blows and counterblows. The best move is actually the very first one as rook and knight mutually interfere on f7! The composer must also be praised for ending the study in the most economical fashion imaginable. (SN)

Romantic play in a modern interpretation: White has to get rid of 5 pieces in order to be able to mate with the only remaining figure! Surprisingly the play is not forced, as there are choices for both White and Black, which clearly enhances the endgame's value. (VC)

The key is nice but I couldn't find artistic value in the rest of the solution. (OC)

A good play, deserving a prize. (AS)



Nikita Ushakov

1.Kd5 Rxc6 2.Re5 Rxa63.Kc5 Rxa8 4.Rd5 Rc8#

1.Kf6 Rxa8 2.Ke7 Rxa63.Ke8 Rxc6 4.Re7 Rc8#

Same Rundlauf in reverse seems to have only been done with twinning (see below). (MMD)

Three captures by white Rook are rather rude, but the overall impression is satisfying. (MC)

There is no real predecessor in the examples. (OC)

This is so much better than the Dulbergs problem, even with the captures (that do not bother me), that it stands completely on its own. (PE)



a) 1.Kc7 Ra1 2.Kb8 Rh1 3.Ka7 Rh8 4.Ka6 Ra8# b) 1.Kb6 Rh8 2.Ka7 Rh1 3.Kb8 Ra1 4.Kc8 Ra8#

AnirudhDaga

6th Place 5.YCCC Section C



Proof Game in 9.0 such that there is mate in 1 and the white King has moved more than two times

Tries:

For White King moving exactly 2 times, we do reach the Diagrammed position with PG 9.0 and mate in 1 in many ways. Some of the such variations are

1.e3 a6 2.Bxa6 Nxa6 3.h4 Nc5 4.Ke2 Nd3 5.Kf1 Ne1 6.h5 b6 7.h6 e5 8.Qh5 e4 9.Qd5 Ke7

1.e3 b6 2.Ke2 e5 3.h4 Nc6 4.h5 Nce7 5.h6 Nxh6 6.Ke1 e4 7.Qh5 a5 8.Qxa5 Neg8 9.Qd5 Ke7

1.e3 b6 2.Ke2 e5 3.Ke1 e4 4.Qh5 a5 5.Qxa5 Nc6 6.h4 Ke7 7.Qd5 Nd4 8.h5 Nf5 9.h6 Nxe3

1.e3 e5 2.Qh5 a5 3.Ke2 e4 4.Ke1 Ke7 5.Qxa5 b6 6.Qd5 Nc6 7.h4 Nd4 8.h5 Nb3 9.h6 Nxa1

And at this Position White can mate with 10. Qe5#. But this doesn't satisfy the requirement of White King moving more than 2 times (i.e. 3 or more).

Many PG in 9.0 reach the Diagrammed position with White King moving more than 2 times (i.e. 3 or more) but then there is no mate in 1 to follow. Some of the tries are:

WK moves 3 times: 1.e4 d5 2.Qe2 Qd6 3.Qe3 Qxh2 4.Kd1 Qh6 5.Ke2 Kd8 6.Qxa7 Nd7 7.Qe3 b6 8.Ke1 Qh3 9.Qh6 Qe3+

WK moves 4 times: 1.e4 a6 2.Ke2 d5 3.Qe1 Qd6 4.Kf3 Qxh2 5.Ke2 b6 6.Ke3 Nd7 7.Bxa6 Kd8 8.Bb5 Qh5 9.Bf1 Qh6+ WK moves 5 times: 1.e4 a6 2.Ke2 d5 3.Qe1 Qd6 4.Kf3 Qxh2 5.Ke3 b6 6.Kf3 Nd7 7.Ke3 Kd8 8.Bxa6 Qd6 9.Bf1 Qh6+

Solution:

A piece being on e1 hints that the King must have come back to its original square after strolling for more than 2 moves – But that is not the case as the King did move more than 2 times (actually 7) to reach a8 and finally the Bishop delivers the checkmate!

1. e3 b6 2. Ke2 Bb7 3. Kd3 Be4+ 4. Kc4 d5+ 5. Kb5 Qd6 6. Qe1 Nd7 7. Ka6 O-O-O 8. Kxa7 Qxh2 9. Ka8 Qh6 (The Diagrammed Stipulation has been reached), And now 10. Ba6#

This is the diagram representation of the position reached after 9.0 (Author)

The problem is of the "puzzle" category, with a good level by the composer. The point is that white King is inside black position, but the surprise is slightly spoiled by the stipulation. In a tourney, the problem would be at the commendation level (with me as a judge). (MC)

IlijaSerafimović

7th Place 5.YCCC Section C

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h#5.5

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1...Sb3 2.Bb4 Sxc5 3.Bb3 Sd3(Se6+?) 4.Bg8 Sf4(Se5?) 5.Kf7 Sg6 6.Bf8 Sh8#

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A one-liner featuring a theme which was also tried by me during my youth (a corner-to-corner maneuver by the Knight). I was not able to show the theme in helpmate, so I had to use a selfmate. The accuracy of white moves is simply amazing.(VC)

A matter of taste, I prefer the Jonsson's problem with "only Knights" play, though (or maybe because?) the straightforward play. (MC)

The options the WS has playing from c5 makes this very interesting. Ideal mate. (PE)

The predecessor reduces a lot from this achievement. (OC)

2+6

It may be considered a strength that the black king is mobile, and the king move is well integrated into the bishops' movements. The position of the white king allows to save one pawn (compared to the Jonsson's problem). (HG)

Interesting nuances in the choice of wS path. (AS)



Christer Jonsson 2.Pr. Zigurds Pigits MT 1990



1...Sb3 2.Sg4 Sc5 3.Sh6 Sxd7 4.Sg8 Sf8 5.Sd7 Sg6 6.Sf8 Sh8#

Andrii Sergiienko

8th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.Nh2+!try 1.Ne5+? (1.Rxc4+? Qxc4 2.Ne5+ Kh4! 3.Ng6+ Kg4 4.Ne5+=*positional draw*) 1... Kh4! 2.Rxg7 Qxe5 3.Rxc4+ Bf4! 4.Bxf4 Qxg7 5.Be5+ Qg4! 6.Rxg4+ Kxg4!= (6...hg?) 1...Kh4 2.Rxg7 Qg1+! 2...a1Q 3.Nf3# 3.Kxg1 Be3+!4.Bxe3 a1Q+ 5.Rb1!try 5.Nf1? Qxf1+ 6.Kh2 Qh1+ 7.Kxh1= stalemate with pin5...Qxb1+ 5...Qxg7 6.Rd1!+.-6.Nf1 Qxf1+ 6...Bxf1 7.Bf2# 7.Kh2+.-7...Qf68.g3#

Sparkling play by both sides, with Black sacrificing the Queen and Bishop and White sacrificing the Rook and Knight. Only one sacrifice can be actually declined. The need to sacrifice wRb4 due to stalemate avoidance is excellent. (VC)

A sequence of black sacrifices is followed by a sequence of white sacrifices. (OC)

A tactical study with mate and stalemate avoidance. The motivation of the White sacrifices on the first rank are nice and clear. The play is a little too violent with 2.Rxg7 being the only quiet move. Also, the mating net of White king-h2 and Black king h4 is known from numerous other studies, taking some of the sting out of the idea. (SN)

Aleksei Abramenko

9th Place 5.YCCC Section C



Mikhail Efremov

10th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.Kh7!~2.Rg8#

1...Bb2 2.ef# 1...Qh5 2.gf# 1...Ra6 2.Qxf4# 1...Rc6 2.Bxf4#

Four different direct mates on the same square. I hope this regular YCCC participant will start publishing problems in other tourneys, too. (MK)

I don't see a task record here. 5 (not 4) direct mates on same square already exist, with 2 indirect mates added. (MC)

1.Kb3! (1.Kc3?) Kc5 2.Bg2 Kd5 3-8.Bf1-e2-d1-c2-b1-a2 Kd5 9.Kb4#

"White snake" with switchback in the last move. (MK)

A typical puzzle, which might attract any OTB player to chess composition. (VC)

I haven't seen the idea in a direct mate before (as opposed to a helpmate and study). (MMD).

There is only similar example I found, see bellow (MC)



1.Ba7! Kf5 2.Bb6 Ke5 3-9.Ba5-b4-a3-c1-e3-g1-h2 Kf5 10.g4#

Ural Khasanov

11th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.Se1 Kxc5 2.Kd2 Kd4 3.Ke2 Bd1+ 4.Kf1 Ke3 5.Bg2 Be2# 1.Kb2 Bd1! (Ba4?) 2.Ka2 Ba4! 3.Sb2 K:c5 4.Ra1 Kb4 5.Bb1 Bb3# Ideal Echo mates. (Author)

A very nice miniature difficult to solve. The strategy is based on black active self-blocks: two in the first solution and three in the second. (VC)

The 1.Kb2 solution is much more subtle than the other solution (play by the white bishop, waiting with the king). (HG)

How do you assess such a problem whose only point is the mates? There are many similar problems not needing the captured R. (MMD)

Some better problems with Echo mates are computer produced nowadays. Maybe "human" composers should not compose any longer such problems... The repeated Kxc5 is a drawback. (MC)

Samir Almammadov



1.Sc8 dxc8S 2.Bb4 Sd6 3.Rxc4 Sxc4# 1.Qc8 dxc8Q 2.Rf2 Qxf5 3.Rb2 Qc5# Mixed Phoenix, play on the same square. (Author)

A lovely idea: Black sacrifices a piece on the promotion square of a white Pawn, helping White promote into the same type of piece! This would have been graded better with a little bit more of interplay in the second and third moves. (VC)

No unifying link between the solutions except the mixed Phoenix (and Model mates). (MC)

I don't regard "mixed Phoenix" as a theme, and the captures on f5 and c4 are very crude. The bQ is stopping a cook. (MMD)

James Malcom

13th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1. Qa7! Nc6 2. dxc6 dxc6 3. Qb8+ Kd7 4. Qc7+ Ke6 5. d7 Kd5 6. Qf4 Kc5 7. d8Q Kb5 8. Qdd4 c5 9. Qa4#

With Black to move, it would be #1: 1...Kd8 2.Qxb8#. Probably a rare example of "Fata morgana" type with wQ on the board and so long solution. (MK)

No theme, just rounding up the K. (MMD)

The key is obvious and the play not very interesting, except 3.Qb8+! (MC)

Marko Ložajić

14th Place



1.Rg1!! zz 1...Qf4/Qe2/Qxd3 2.Qc5# 1...Qxd4 2.Rg5# 1...Qxd2/Qe4/Kf4 2.Qe4# 1...Qf3 2.Sxf3# 1...Kxd4 2.Bc3# 1.Rh1? but: 1...Kf4! 1.Rf1? but: 1...Qxd4!

The most spectacular key-move in this tournament. It gives complete freedom to the strongest black piece, without posting any threat. As a price to be paid for it, some variations end in multiple duals. (MK)

Bnaya Sharabi

15th Place 5.YCCC Section C



Anastasia Chekina

Daniyar Farzaleev





Tries: 1.d4? Rd1! 1.Kd4? Rxf3!

1.Re3! threat 2.Kxd4# 1...Rf4+ 2.Kxf4# Royal battery mates.

1...Sg6 2.Sd4# unpin

1...Qd7 2.cxd7# 1...Qd8 2.cxd8S#

1...Bxc7 2.Sxc7# 1...Sf6 2.Qxf6#

After an attractive key-move, that creates a royal battery, allows a new check to wK, and changes reply to 1...Bxf5+, there is a wealth of interesting play. (MK)

a) 1.Kb8 a6 2.Kc7 a7 3.Kc6 a8Q 4.Kb5 Qd8+ 5.Ka6 Qa4#
b) 1.Kb7 a6+ 2.Kc6 a7 3.Kc5 a8Q 4.Kb4 Qf8+ 5.Ka5 Qa3#

Two Chameleon-echo Model mates, with analogue round trips of bK. (MK)



1.Qg2 Sg4+ 2.Kxf3 Sh2#

1.Se4+ fxe4+ 2.Kxe3 exf5#

1.Sg4 fxg4 2.Kf3 g5#

Creation of new batteries (Author).

The first two solutions are very well matched, simultaneously opening one battery and creating another one. The whole impression would be much better without the third solution, that repeats 2.Kf3 and mate on the same diagonal. In this case less would be better. (MK)

Yana Lazareva 18th Place 5.YCCC Section C



Ratmir Nabiullin 19^{th-}20th Place

5.YCCC Section C



Kira Vyshinskaya 19^{th-}20th Place





1.Rf7! ~ 2.Qf6# Bristol 1...d4 2.Rf6! ~ 3.Qf5# Bristol 1...cxd2 2.Qf6+ Ke4 3.Re7#

The Bristol key clears path for Qf6 & Qf5, and there is a nice quiet continuation 2.Rf6, using the same f6 square for wR. (MK)

1.d1R Sxd4 2.Rxd4 Bf5#

1.d1B Bxf3+ 2.Bxf3 Sg3#

This combination of Zilahi and promotions would deserve a higher placement, if there were not predecessors with similar content and better constructions. See bellow (MK)



1.Qg6! ~ 2.Qd3#	ŧ
1Be4 2.Qg1#	(Bh1)
1dxc4 2.Qg1#	(Ba8)
1Sb2 2.c3#	(Ba1)
1Sf4 2.e6#	(Bh8)

This two-mover was obviously composed for the Section A. All four bishops have interesting roles, but the flight-taking key is crude. (MK)

Vera Gladtsinova

21st Place 5.YCCC Section C



a) 1.Be7! Kd7 2.Qb5+ Kc7/c8 3.Qb7# 2...Ke6 3.Qd5# b) 1.a7! Kd7 2.a8Q Ke6 3.Qc6#

The slight difference between twins produces interesting change of play and mates. (MK)

Some **general remarks** to the majority of remaining problems: 1) Authors shouldn't present incidental tries (mostly reported by computer), 2) Checking black king or depriving him from flight squares should be avoided in the tries, the same as in the solution, 3) Short threats in #3 usually spoil impression. (MK)

Ivan Shcherbakov

22nd Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.Qd4! Kh6 2.Qxf6 ~ 3.Qh8 # 2...Kh7 3.Qg7 # 2...g4 3.Qxh4 1...g4 2.Qxg4+ Kh6 3.Qxh4 #

Quite a lot of play in a very light block position. (MK)

Daria Motuz

23rd Place



1.Qc6! (-2.Qc3+ Kxd5 3.Qc5#) 1...Ke5 2.Qd6+ Kd4 3.dxe6#, 1...fxe4 2.Se2+ Kd3 3.Qc3#, 2...Ke5 3.Qx6 #

Out of several problems with mates on the same squares, this one has the most interesting pair of Queen and Pawn mating on e6. Checking tries (1.Qa4+? 1.Qh8+?) do not contribute. (MK)

Sergey Onufrienko 24th Place

5.YCCC Section C



1.Qb4! (-2.Qxe7#) 1...Kxe4 2.Qd2 (-3.Qe2#) Ke5, d3 3.Qf4# 1...de 2.Qc5+ Kf6 3.Qg5# 1...d3 2.Sc6+ Ke6 3.Qxe7# 1...e6 2.Sc6+ Kxe4 3.Qxd4#

Good key-move sacrifices piece and leads to four different mates. The mentioned tries 1.Qb5? d3! & 1.Qb3? d3! have insignificant value, because of duals and the same refutation. (MK)

VladislavSurikov

25th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.Qe8! 1...Kb7 2.Sc5# 1...Kd5 2.Qxe6# 1...e3 2.Bf3# 1...e5 2.Qa8#

There are two nice details: corner mate 2.Qa8# and battery mate 2.Sc5# (MK)

Anastasiya Bazhan

26th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.Bc1! (-2.Qd2#) opening line? 1...Kc2 2.Qd2+ Kb1 3.Qb2# 1...Kd4 2.Be6 Kd3 3.Qd2#, 2...e3 3.Qxe3#, 1...e3 2.Qf5+ Kd4 3.Bb2#

Bristol key, two different mates on b2 and self-block on e3. (MK)

Egor Azarov 27th Place 5.YCCC Section C



1.Qd8! (-2.Qxg5#)

1...Qc5+ 2.Sd5 (-3.Qxg5#) Qxd5+ 3.cxd5 (-4.Qxg5#) f6 4.Qe7 ~ 5.Qg7#

2...f6 3.Qe7 (-4.Qg7#) Qxe7 4.Sxe7 ~ 5.Sg8#

3...Qxd5+ 4.cxd5 ~ 5.Qg7#

1...f6 2.Qe7 (-3.Qg7#) Qc5+ 3.Sd5 (- 4.Qg7#) Qxd5+ 4.cxd5 ~ 5.Qg7# 3...Qxe7 4.Sxe7 ~ 5.Sg8#

One of very few moremovers in the tourney, missing surprises and black counter play. (MK)

Timofey Omelchenko

28th Place



1.Sbd3! (-2.Qf4#) 1...Kd2 2.Qb2+ Kd1 3.Qe2#, 2...Ke3 3.Qe2# 1...e5 2.Qxe5+ Kd2 3.Qe2#, 2...Kf3 3.Qe2#

The same mating move 3.Qe2# creates four different mating pictures. Checking try 1.Sd5+? cd5 shouldn't be mentioned. (MK)

Daniil Filyushin



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h#2 2 solutions 4+5

1.exf5 Sf4 2.Bd5 Sg6#

1.exd5 Sd4 2.Qf5 Sc6#

Symmetrical solutions with self-blocks and Zilahi effects. (MK)

Diana Utarova 30th Place **5.YCCC Section C**



1.Kxa6! Kb3 2.Ka5 Kc3 3.Qc2#, 2...Ka3 3.Qa2#, 2...c3 3.Qa2#, 1...Kb4 2.Qb2+ Ka4 3.Bc2#, 2...Kc5 3.Qa3#.

Four mates, two of them by different pieces on the same square c2. Capturing in the first move should be avoided. (MK)

Vera Fomina 31^{st-}34th Place

5.YCCC Section C



1. f8B! B- 2. Sf6 - 3. Bg7#

Minor promotion with only five pieces on the board. (MK)

Bogdan Muliukin 31^{st-}34th Place

5.YCCC Section C



1.Qd7! (-2.Qe6#) 1...b3+ 2.axb3+ Kb4 3.Qa4# 1...d3+ 2.exd3+ Kd4 3.Qg7# 1...Ba7 2.Qxd6 (-3.Qd5#) b3+ 3.axb3# 2...d3+ 3.exd3# 1...Bb6 2.Qe6+ Kc5 3.Qd5#

Straightforward play, and a nice switchback mate 3.Qg7# (MK)

Arina Shtang 31^{st-}34th Place

5.YCCC Section C

Nikita Matveev



1...Kxf5 2.Qf7#, 1.Qa1? - f2! 1.Qa7? - e3! **1.Qb2!** (-2.Qe5#) 1...Kxf5 2.Qf6#, 1...f2 2.Qxf2#, 1...e3 2.Qe5#

One changed mate and two appealing tries. (MK)



1.Kc7! (-2.Rd8#) 1...exd5 – opening wQ line- 2.Qc6+ Kf8 3.Qa8#, 1...fxg6 2.Bxg6+ Sf7 3.Rd8# - pin, 2...Kf8 3.Rd8#

A pin-mate and gate-opening for wQ. (MK)

The following three entries were placed lower because of more serious weaknesses:



1.Sc8+! Kf6 2.Bd4+ Ke6/Kg6 3.Sf4# 1...Bxc8 2.bxc8Q+ Kf6 3.Qf5# 2...Bc7 3.g8S# 1...Ke6 2.Sf4+ Ke5/Kf6 3.Bd4#

Checking key is usually not acceptable in #3, but mate with S promotion is surprising. (MK)

Alana Utarova 35th-37th Place 5.YCCC Section C

1.Bxf4! (-2.Qxe5, Rh6#) 1...Kf6 2.Qd8+ Ke6 3.Rh6#, 2...Kg6/g7 3.Qxg5#, 1...c5 2.Qd8 (-3.Rh6#) exf4 3.Re1#, 1...exf4, gxf4? 2.Rh6#

The first move, with capturing and two short threats, leaves no real option for Black to defend, and the try 1.Qd8? e4! isn't convincing. (MK)

Vyacheslav Tolpinsky 35th-37th Place

5.YCCC Section C



1.e8R! Kg6 2.Re7 Kg5 3.Rg7#

1...Kf7 2. Reg8 Ke7 3.Rg7/Rh7#

Pitty about the dualistic mating moves in one variation. (MK)