

Christmas Gallery Contest 2023: RESULTS

Group A

Placement	Problem No.	Points
1	A10-32	133
2	A11-36	125
3	A6-22	113
4	A1-2	110
5	A7-26	108
6	A5-21	106
7	A9-31	88
8	A3-8	81
9	A8-29	66
10	A12-42	63
11	A4-19	60
12	A2-6	30

Group B

Placement	Problem No.	Points
1	B2-4	114
2	B15-39	104.5
3	B11-27	103.5
4	B12-33	101
5	B9-20	100.5
6	B3-7	89
7	B16-43	89
8	B8-18	83
9	B1-3	81
10	B7-15	80.5
11	B14-38	71
12	B6-14	67
13	B5-13	57.5
14	B10-24	56.5
15	B4-12	42.5
16	B13-35	31

Group C

Placement	Problem No.	Points
1	C6-16	124
2	C7-23	121
3	C8-25	116
4	C12-41	115.5
5	C11-40	115
6	C1-1	112
7	C9-28	102.5
8	C3-9	96
9	C2-5	65.5
10	C5-11	59
11	C4-10	58.5
12	C10-37	52



The last tournament of 2023 was the friendly [WFCC Christmas Gallery Contest](#), announced on 09.12. In less than 2 weeks it attracted 34 authors from 17 countries, with 43 compositions. They were all published in our [Christmas post](#), and the solutions with comments followed there on 27.12.

Till 29.12 we got 37 awards in Sections: A (14 awards), B (9), and C (14). The suggested system of collective judging worked well thanks to CGC director Kenneth Solja, WFCC webmaster Julia Vysotska and the next 23 judges from 15 countries:

Hauke Reddmann (Section A), Vlaicu Crisan (A&C), Ralf Kraetschmer (C), Andrey Frokin (B&C), Udo Degener (A), Kenneth Solja (A), Mario Parrinello (B&C), Srećko Radović (B&C), Wilfried Neef (A&C), Mikhail Shalashov (B&C), Aleksandr Feoktistov (A&C), Bela Majoros (B&C), Nikola Petković (A), Janos Csak (C), Živan Šušulić (B), Alexey Gasparyan (A&C), Piotr Gorski (A, B & C), Zlatko Mihajloski (A), Jorma Paavilainen (A&C), Henry Tanner (A&B), Menachem Witztum (C), Brennan Price (A), and Viktoras Paliulionis (A&B).

Altogether, the CGC 2023 engaged 36 contributors (composers + judges) from 19 countries, and inspired 43 Christmas compositions.

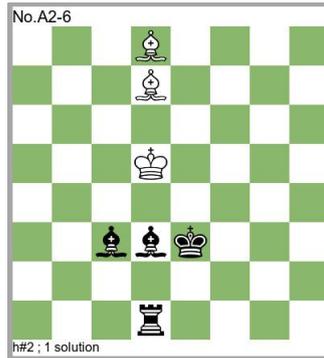
Christmas Gallery Contest 2023: Authors, Problems & Solutions

Group A



A1-2 / Janos Csak, h#2, 4 solutions

1 Rd6 Bxc6 2 Rf6 Rde4# 1 Kxd4 Kd2 2 Kc4+ Bd3# (MM) 1 Rf6 Bxg6 2 Rd6 Rfe4# 1 Kxf4 Kf2 2 Kg4+ Bf3# (MM)
Mates on the same square, cross-check, JT Onkoud 50 theme (double)



A2-6 / Anton Bidlen, h#2, 1 solution

1 Be1 Bg4 2 Bf2 Bg5# (MM)



A3-8 / Ralf Krätschmer, h#2, 2 solutions

1 Ba6 axb4 2 Rb5 c4# 1 Rxf3 Rxf3 2 Qf5+ Rxf5#



A4-19 / Bela Majoros, h#2, 2 solutions

1 c5 Ke4 2 Kc6 Rb6# (MM) 1 Kc5 Ke4 2 Qd6 d4#



A5-21 / Andrey Frolkin, h#2, 1 solution with retro play

What was the last move by White? Kd1-e1, preceded by d3xc2+? No, that would be a capture in "the wrong direction," necessitating two extra captures that cannot be explained. h4xRg5? Again two additional – inexplicable – captures by Black would be required: hxg, gxh.

Try: 1 cxd3 e.p.?! bxc3 2 Bf3 exd3#? No, the last move could not have been d2-d4, since the original wBc1 could not leave its home square to be captured by a black pawn.

1 gxf3 e.p.! dxc5 2 Bf1 exf3#

Choice between two e.p. captures is one of the traditional retro themes. Tradition and Christmas tree are the links to the holiday.



A6-22 / Andrey Frolkin, h#2, Retro play, b) a1=b1

A) Try: 1 fxe3 e.p.?! gxf3 2 dxc5 Re4# White's last move could not have been e2-e4, for that would leave the original wBf1 unaccounted for.

1 bxc3 e.p.! exf5 2 Bc1 dxc3#

B) try: 1 cxd3 e.p.?! fxg5 2 Bd1 exd3#? No, this time the retraction d2-d4 would be illegal, making the wBc1 unaccounted for.

1 gxf3 e.p.! hxg3 2 exd5 Rf4#



A7-26 / Mario Parrinello, Marco Guida, Francesco Simoni, Antonio Garofalo, h#2, b) bKb8->c4, c) bKb8->f7

A 1 Bd6 Qa1 2 Kc7 Qa7# (MM) B 1 Be2 Qd1 2 Kd3 Qb3#(MM) C 1 Qh5 Qh3 2 Kg6 Qe6#(MM)

In the initial position of each phase the black pieces depict the letter T that stands for tree (Christmas tree);

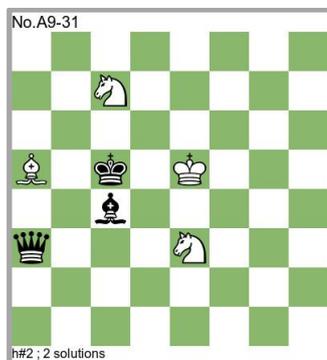
in the mating position, the same group of black pieces depicts the letter C that stands for Christmas in each phase
3 Echo-Chameleon Model mates. White Minimal



A8-29 / Mikael Grönroos, h#1.5, 1 solution

1 – f4+ 2 Kd4 Be3# (IM)

Christmas tree in the initial and final position, Ideal mate.



A9-31 / Srećko Radović, h#2, 2 solutions

1 Bd3 Kf4 2 Kd4 Se6# (MM) 1 Qa4 Sed5 2 Qc6 Bb4#

Christmas bell



A10-32 / Menachem Witztum & Emanuel Navon, h#2, 4 solutions

1 Qb5 Bxb3 2 Rc4 Rxd3# 1 Re4 Rxd3 2 Qd4 Bxb3# 1 b2 Rxd3 2 Qb3 Bxb3# 1 d2 Bxb3 2 Rd3 Rxd3#

A11-36 / Živan Šušulić, h#2, 3 solutions

1 cxb1B Bh4 2 Be4 Bg5# (MM) 1 gxh1B Sd2 2 Be4 Sf1# (MM) 1 Bxf5 Be1 2 Be4 Bd2# (MM)

3 bBs on e4 , 3 model mates

A12-42 / Mihail Shalashov, h#1,5, b) c3->h8

1 -Se8 2 f5 Re2# (MM) 1 - Kg7 2 Kf5 Rh5# (MM)

In the finals positions: Christmas tree before and after New Year

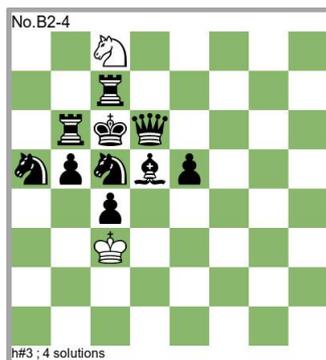


Group B



B1-3 / Wilfried Neef, h#3, 2 solutions

1 d2 Kxf6 2 d1S Ke5 3 Se3 Sh2# (MM) 1 h2 Bxd3 2 h1B Bc2 3 Bg2 Bd1#



B2-4 / Udo Degener, h#3, 4 solutions

1 Kb7 Sxd6+ 2 Ka6 Se4 3 Ra7 Sxc5# (MM) 1 Qd7 Sd6 2 Sab7 Sxc4 3 Sd6 Sa5# (MM)

1 e4 Kd4 2 Qd7 Ke5 3 Sab7 Sa7# 1 Ra6 Sb6 2 Sab7 Sd7 3 Rb6 Sb8# (MM)

4 different mates with wS minimal, 3 Models



B3-7 / Ralf Krätschmer, h#3, 2 solutions

1 Rd2 exd5 2 Bd3 Bxg3 3 Qe4 Bf2# 1 Kd3 Rf8 2 Kc4 Rb8 3 Rd3 Rb4#



B4-12 / Hauke Reddmann, h#3, 1 solution

1 Kh2 Be1 2 Kg1 Se2+ 3 Kf1 Se3# (IM)

Smallest Xmas tree in the final position



B5-13 / Nikola Petković, h#3, 2 solutions

1 Sd5 Kd3 2 Kf5 Bg4+ 3 Ke5 exd4# (IM) 1 Sf5 Kf3 2 Kd5 Bc4+ 3 Ke5 exf4# (IM)



B6-14 / Kenneth Solja, h#2,5, 2 solutions

1 – Kd7 2 Rd3 Kc6 3 Rd4 Sfe3# 1 – Sg7 2 Kd4 Kf5 3 Bc4 Se6# (MM)

B7-15 / Zlatko Mihajloski, h#3, b) Qe4<->Sg4

A 1 Qd5 Sh1 2 Ke4+ Ke2 3 Rf4 Sg3# (MM) B 1 Qh5 Sxe4 2 Kg4+ Kg2 3 Bf4 Sf2#
Grimshaw on f4

B8-18 / Gabor Tar, h#2,5, 2 solutions

1 – Rde1 2 Rg4 hxg4 3Sc2 gxf5# (MM) 1 – Rfe1 2 Rc4+ bxc4 3Sg2 cxd5# (MM)
Echo Pin Model mates, Black sacrifices

**B9-20 / Aleksandr Feoktistov, h#2,5, 2 solutions**

1 – Rxf4 2 Kxf4 Sf2 3 Qe4 Sh3# (MM) 1 – Sxe3 2 Kxe3 Rf2 3 Re4 Rf3#
Zilahi

B10-24 / Janos Koczian, h#3, duplex

A Black starts: 1 Rh7 Rf5 2 Rd7 Sb5 3 Se7 Rf8# (MM) B White starts: 1 Rd5 Sf4 2 Rd2 Rb5 3 Sc2 Rb1# (MM)

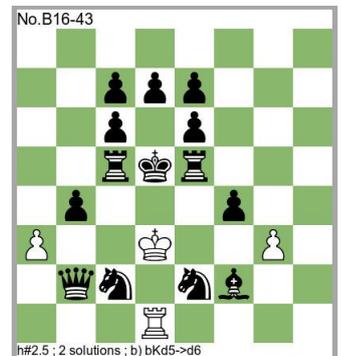
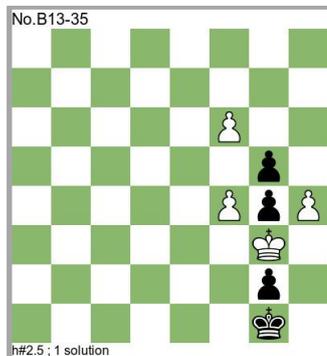
B11-27 / Alexey Gasparyan, h#3, a) 2 sol b) Re4->Se4 c)= b)+ h1=a8

A 1 Kg6 Rxf4 2 Kh6 Rxf4 3 Rg6 Rxh4# (MM), 1 Bg6 e6 2 Sdxe6 Rd4 3 Se4 Rd5# (MM)
B 1 Bd5 exf6 2 Ke6 fxe7 3 Qf5 e8Q#(MM) C 1 Rb8+ Kxb8 2 Kb5 dxc5 3 Ka6 Sc7# (MM)

In twin c) the Christmas tree was upside down, but I wanted to get the 4th Modelmate, and for Ph4 to also play some role.

B12-33 / Menachem Witztum & Emanuel Navon, h#3, 2 solutions

1 Re6 Rh1 2 Sf6 Rh5 3 Re4 Rxf5# 1 R4f5 Bb4 2 Se6+ Kc6 3 Bd4 Bxd6#

**B13-35 / Kalyan Seetharaman, h#2,5, 1 solution**

1 – f7 2 Kh1 f8Q 3 g1B Qa8#

B14-38 / Vlaicu Crisan, Last move? h#3, 1 solution, In memoriam T. R. Dawson

1 Rd8 exd8Q 2 Kd3 Qa5 3 e4 Qxc3#

The last move was clearly 0...f2-f4, so Black could capture the white pawn en passant.

However due to the Christmas spirit Black doesn't capture but sacrifice its own Rook and Knight.

B15-39 / Jorma Paavilainen, h#3, b) wBe7 c) wSe7

A 1 Kd4 Ra7 2Kc3 Ra1 3 Qd4 Rc1# (MM)

B 1 Qd1+ Kxe3 2 Qg4 Kf2 3Kf4 Bxd6#

C 1 Bg6 Sg8 2Kf5 Kxe3 3 Qe5 Sh6#

B16 – 43 /Janos Csak, h#2.5, 2 solutions, b) Kd5->d6

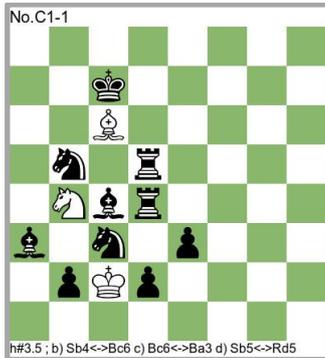
a) 1 – Rc1 2 Ne3 Rc4 3 Nc3 Rd4# 1 – Re1 2 Nc3 Re4 3 Ne3 Rd4#

Christmas tree in the initial and final positions, Bi-valve

b) 1 – axb4 2 Rcd5+ Kc4 3 Bc5 bxc5# 1 – gxf4 2 Red5+ Ke4 3 Qe5+ fxe5#

Echo Pin mates, JT Onkoud 50 theme (double)

Group C

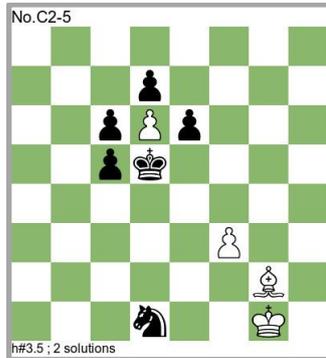


C1-1 / Kenneth Solja, h#3,5 b) Sb4->Bc6, c) Bc6->Ba3, d) Sb5->Rd5

A 1 – Bxd5 2 Kb6 Bxc4 3 Ka5 Sc6+ 4 Ka4 Bb3# (MM) B 1 – Bxc3 2 Kb6 Sb4 3 Ka5 Sxd5+ 4 Ka4 Sb6# (MM)

C 1 – Kxb2 2 Rd8 Sd5+ 3 Kc8 Bd6 4 Bb7 Sb6# (MM) D 1 – Bxb5 2 Kb6 Bxc4 3 Ka5 Kb3 4 Sb6 Sc6#

Solja-theme I



C2-5 / Anton Bidlen, h#3,5, 2 solutions

1 – Kf1 2 Kxd6 Ke2 3 Kd5 Kd3 4 d6 f4# 1 – Bh3 2 e5 Be6+ 3 dxe6 d7 4 Kd6 d8Q# (MM)

Christmas tree and presents under it

C3-9 / Kenan Velikhanov, h#3,5 1 solution

1 – Sxc3 2 Bc6 Sb1 3 Qe6 Sxd2 4 Kd5 Rxd3# (MM)

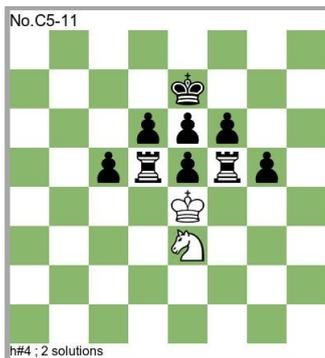
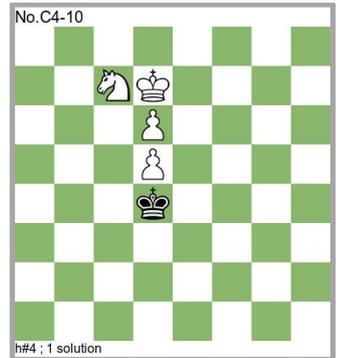
Long-trip, Switchback, Model mate

Christmas tree in the mating position

C4-10 / Hauke Reddmann, h#4, 1 solution

1 Ke5 Kc6 2 Kf6 d7 3 Ke7 d6+ 4 Kd8 Se6#

Smallest Xmas tree in the final position



C5-11 / Nikola Petkovic, h#4, 2 solutions

1 Kd7 Sxf5 2 Kc6 Ke3 3 Rd3+ Kxd3 4 Kd5 Se7# (MM)

1 Kf7 Sxd5 2 Kg6 Ke3 3 Rf3+ Kxf3 4 Kf5 Se7# (MM)



C6-16 / Zlatko Mihajloski, h#3,5,1 solution

1 – d6 2 Re7dxe7 3Sf8exf8Q 4 Kd4Qd6# (MM)

2 Model mates with symbolic initial and final positions



C7-23 / Janos Koczian, h#4, 2 solutions

1 Sxc3 Kxb4 2 Kb2 Sa3 3 Ka1 Kxb3 4 Sb1 Sc2# (MM)

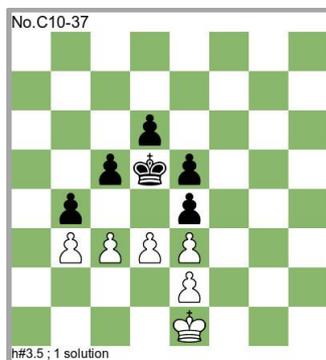
1 Kc1 Sd2 2 Bd1 Kxa2 3 Rb2+ Ka1 4 Rc2 Sb3# (MM)



C8-25 / Henry Tanner, h#5,5, 1 solution

1 – Kd6 2 c1B Kc5 3 Bxd2 Bxd2+ 4 Kxf2 Ba5 5 Ke3 Kb4 6 Kxd4 Bb6#

Black pawns f3 & g2 are not needed in the solution, but they are needed in the symmetrical "try"



C9-28 / Udo Degener, h#4, a) 1 solution b) wSf4->wP4, 2 solutions

A 1 Rf5 Kg3 2 Kf6 Sd3 3 Kg5 Se5 4 Sf6 Sf7# (MM)

B1 1 Re7 f5 2 Rd6 fxc6+ 3 Ke8 g7 4 Rdd7 g8Q# (MM) B2 1 Kg8 f5 2 Rf7 f6 3 Rh7 f7+ 4 Kh8 f8Q# (MM)

C10-37 / Živan Šušulić, h#3,5, 1 solution

1 – Kf2 2 exd3 Kf3 3 bxc3 e4+ 4 Kd4 e3# (MM)

No. 4 for 2024

C11-40 / Viktoras Paliulionis, h#5, 1 solution

1 Sc5 Rf2+ 2 Ke3 Be5 3 Sf3 Kf7 4 Sd3 Ke6 5 Ke4 Re2#

Christmas tree in the mating position.

C12-41 / Viktoras Paliulionis, h#5,5, 1 solution

1...Sxe4 (Sxg4?) 2 h2 Sc5 3 Kg5 e4 4 h1=S+ Ke3 5 Sxg3 Kd4 6 Kf4 Se6# (MM)

Symmetrical position, but asymmetrical solution. bPd3 is not used in the solution but it is needed for the try. Many tempo-tries, such as: 1... Sxg4? 2 h2 Sf6 3 h1=R Sxe4 4 Kg4 ?? 5 Kh3 Kxf3 6 Rh2 Sg5# etc...

Group D



D1-17 / Bela Majoros, 4x h#2 in the diagram

1) h#2 (3+2) b) bPa6<-->wSc6 1R6/1K6/p1N5/1k6/8/8/8/8

a) 1 a5 Kc7+ 2.Ka6 Rb6# b) 1 Ka5 Kxc6 2.Kxa6 Ra8# (IM)

2) h#2 (2+3) +b) wPh6 6k1/6p1/5n1R/6K1/8/8/8/8

a) 1 g6 Kxf6 2.Kf8 Rh8# (MM) b) 1.Kh8 Kg6 2.Sg8 hxg7# (IM)

3) h#2 (4+1) b) wRg1<-->wSg3 8/8/8/8/6B1/6N1/5k1K/6R1

a) 1 Ke3 Re1+ 2.Kf2 Re2# b) 1 Ke1 Sh3 2.Kf1 Rg1#

4) h#2 (3+2) b) bKb4<-->wRc2 8/8/8/8/1k6/1r6/K1R5/1N6

a) 1 Ka4 Rc5 2.Rb4 Sc3# b) 1 Rd3 Rb3 2.Rd1 Rc3#

4x2 twins

D2 - 30 / Bjorn Enemark, h#2,5, b) Ge1<-->Gc4

A 1 – Gdf3 2 Ge2 Gd1 3 e5Ge6# B 1 – Kd6 2 Ge5 Gxe6+ 3 Ge3 Gc6#

D3 – 34 Bjorn Enemark, h#4, 1 solution

1 nKf2 nKg3 2 nKh4+nKh5 3 nBxd6 nBxe6 4 nBg3 nPxg4#