



The 10th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section E – Helpmates

Preliminary award by

Marko Klasinc

MMXXII

I received 59 helpmates from two to seven moves which already at the beginning means a difficulty how to distinguish them.

I hopefully found a balance in the award. I first made a preliminary selection and picked about 20 candidate-problems. Afterwards I tried to search in databases for possible similarities or even anticipations. I am not very familiar with databases but contrary to my expectations I was rather successful. Not in a respect of excluding problems but in learning what the searches within databases enable. On the other hand I didn't enjoy in finding a lot of problems which have affected the final result. It doesn't mean that involved problems from the WFC were all anticipated, some of them just ranked lower. Some of those consequently not included in the award still have a right of living for publication elsewhere; they just couldn't be awarded in such high class competition. Authors may decide themselves if quoted problems entirely anticipated their originals. My general approach to a problem for which a similar position or idea already exists is that it does not automatically lower its value. If a problem presents a good improvement in some elements it can also be high placed. On the other hand for problems which were seriously affected I tried to prove it since I don't like judge's comments like "I put a problem lower as I think I saw something like this earlier." I just hope that I didn't miss serious anticipations at the highest placed problems. With so

many problems (and the same number of composers) it cannot be expected the average of quality to be very high but I am satisfied with the quality of the highest placed problems.

Authors themselves may compare what I found for some problems in databases WinChloe (WC), Die Schwalbe PDB (P) and YACPDB (Y):

E5 (h#3, ♀h2-♀e6, 8+10), 4th HM: see the result of a JT which is not included in databases yet: http://magyarsakkszerzok.hu/kalot_ay_80_jt_award.pdf

E10 (h#4, ♀e2-♀a2, 5+15), 4th Pr.: WC703102, [P1358648](#), [Y497773](#)

E17 (h#4, ♀h8-♀d4, 3+10): WC161628, [P0577858](#)

E30 (h#3.5, ♀d8-♀c4, 6+10), 3rd Pr.: WC63022, [P0576246](#), [Y79234](#)

E34 (h#2, ♀d1-♀e4, 10+5): WC753518, [Y523829](#)

E38 (h#2, ♀c3-♀c5, 10+3): WC593610

E41 (h#4, ♀c5-♀f4, 4+16), Comm.: WC433062

E42 (h#3, ♀c1-♀f5, 7+12), 2nd Pr.: WC173091; [P1387250](#); [Y542331](#)

E43 (h#2, ♀c7-♀d5, 6+8), Sp. Pr.: WC287780, [Y380159](#)

E44 (h#3, ♀a7-♀b2, 3+13): WC846429

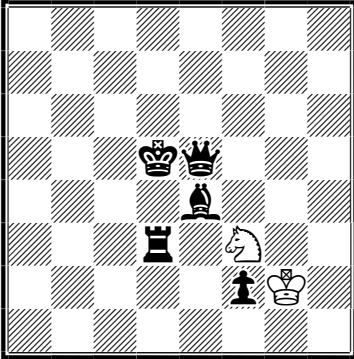
E45 (h#2, ♀e7-♀c4, 10+9), 2nd HM: WC346085; [P1102975](#)

E47 (h#2, ♀b8-♀e5, 8+10): WC9504; [P0501064](#); [Y43397](#)

E51 (h#3, ♀a8-♀e5, 7+5): WC185159; [P0569304](#)

E58 (h#5, ♀g2-♀d5, 2+5), 1st Pr.: WC620505, [P1385314](#), [Y465062](#)

E58 – 1st Prize



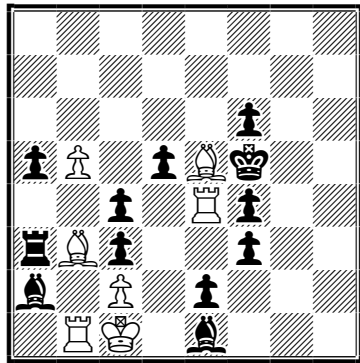
h#5 b) ♖e5→c4; c) ♖e5→d1 2+5
 d) ♜g2→h4; e=d) ♙e4→b6

- a) 1. ♙f5 ♜f1 2. ♜e4 ♜e2 3. f1 ♞
 ♔d4 4. ♞f4 ♔b5 5. ♞d4 ♔c3#
- b) 1. f1 ♖+ ♜g3 2. ♖f2+ ♜g4 3. ♖fc5
 ♔g1 4. ♜d4 ♜f4 5. ♙d5 ♔e2#
- c) 1. f1 ♔ ♜g1 2. ♔d2+ ♔e1 3. ♜d4
 ♜h2 4. ♜e3 ♜g3 5. ♖e2 ♔c2#
- d) 1. ♖b2 ♜g5 2. ♖e2 ♔d2 3. ♜d4
 ♜f6 4. ♜e3 ♜e5 5. ♙f3 ♔c4#
- e) 1. ♙e3 ♔d4 2. ♜e4 ♔b5 3. ♞d4
 ♜h3 4. f1 ♙+ ♜g4 5. ♙d3 ♔c3#

I generally appreciate strategic problems more than geometric ones and I prefer multi solutions to twins as well. But this problem convinced me otherwise. Five ideal mates in five moves is a good achievement in itself. It's amazing how the author managed to include a huge extra value, all four black promotions. A use of twins (with a not so nice the last one) is a price that has been more than paid for. Apart of AUW a black Pawn in one solution blocks without promotion. What a finding! I have found many

problems of this type in databases, mostly shorter, but even one in six moves (another one anticipated with identical position) presenting ideal mates in four solutions, but without AUW, of course.

E42 – 2nd Prize

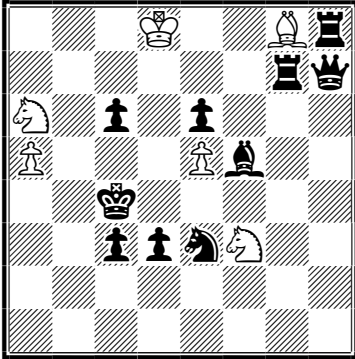


h#3 b) ♗d5→e6 7+12

- a) 1. ♙:b1 ♞:c4 2. ♙:c2 ♙d4
 3. ♜e4 ♙:c2#
- b) 1. ♞:b3 ♙:c3 2. ♞:b5 ♞d4
 3. ♜e5 ♞:b5#

A rich complex of passive Zilahi and white Grimshaw which is realized after critical moves by a Rook or a Bishop. An orthogonal-diagonal transformation in a good construction. Could it be realized with only one black capturing piece? In quoted h#3* active sacrifices are on the same square but Grimshaw is realized without critical moves. So I found just a minor similarity without affecting E42.

E30 – 3rd Prize

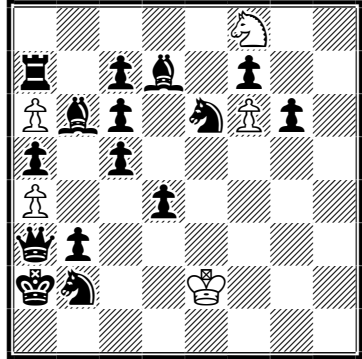


h#3.5 2 sol. 6+10

- 1... ♖d4! (♗g5?) 2. ♜g4 ♖d4:e6
 3. ♜e4 ♗g5! (♖d4?) 4. ♗d4 ♖f3#
 1... ♗c5! (♗c7?) 2. ♜b7 ♗c5:e6
 3. ♜b5 ♗c7! (♗c5?) 4. ♗c5 ♖a6#

S-Rundlaufs are always attractive. I found about 200 examples but only about 15 with double white S-Rundlaufs. Some of them presented openings of black lines as a motif for Rundlauf (see quoted problem) but none of them an opening of a white line as E30. Very fresh approach to an old idea in a dual avoidance form and a good construction.

E10 – 4th Prize

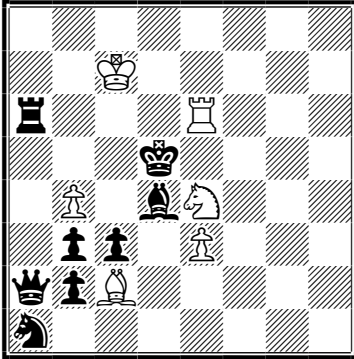


h#4 b) w ♖a7 5+15

- a) 1. ♜a8 ♗:e6 2. ♜h8 ♗:d4
 3. ♜h1 ♗b5 4. ♜a1 ♗c3#
 b) 1. ♗:f8 ♜a8 2. ♗e6 (♗h7?)
 ♜h8 3. ♗b4 ♜h1 4. ♗a3 ♜a1#

A nice idea that a Rook visits all corners, ones as black and the other time as white, in the same order of moves. The idea is not new as I found a lot of examples but all in three moves and, of course, without Corner-to-Corner play. Could it be realized in a bit lighter position?

E43 – Special Prize

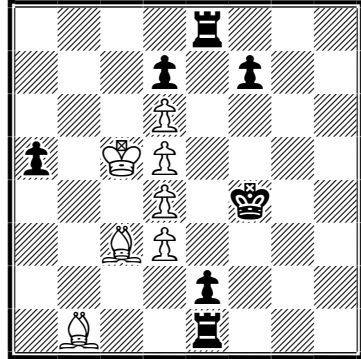


h#2 3 sol. 6+8

1. b:c2! ♖c5! (♜g5?) 2. ♔c4 e4#
 1. ♖:e6! ♜d6! (♜d2?) 2. ♙e5 ♙e4#
 1. ♙:e3! ♜f6! (♜c3?) 2. ♙d4 ♖e4#

Perfect cyclic Zilahi with mating moves to the same square which is occupied in the initial position with another white piece (w-w Umnov). The same mechanism was used in the quoted problem but in a heavier position with rough changes in twins. As E43 presents it without twins and with additional dual avoidances preventing checks convinced me that it is so big improvement in all respects that it deserves a special recognition.

E22 – 1st Honorable Mention

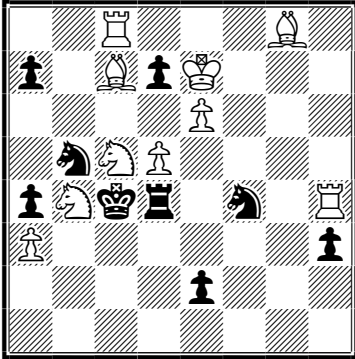


h#3 2 sol. 7+7
 b) b ♭ d3

- a) 1. ♙e3 ♙a2 2. ♙:d3 ♙:e1
 3. ♖e3 ♙b1#
 1. ♖e5 d:e5 2. f6 ♙d2+ 3. ♙:e5 d4#
- b) 1. ♙e4 ♙b6 2. ♙:d5 ♙c7
 3. ♖e4 ♙a2#
 1. ♖e6 d:e6 2. ♙f5 ♙:d3+ 3. ♙:e6 d5#

Very nice setting with two pairs of solutions ending with model mates. One pair uses black Rook for blockings, and another pair for enabling black King to reach the final squares. Other nice details are direct mates by Bb1, and other two mates by opening P-B batteries.

E45 – 2nd Honorable Mention

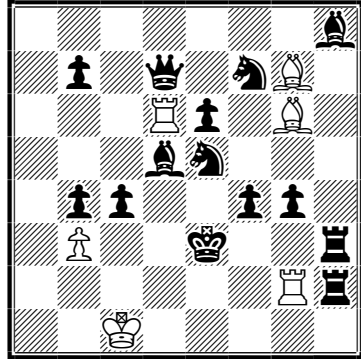


h#2 2 sol. 10+9

1. ♖:d5 ♜e5 2. ♖:c5 e:d7#
 1. ♜:e6 ♜:a4 2. ♜:c7 d6#

A rich complex of two white half-batteries and a black halfpin. Black from a halfpin captures one of white pieces from one half-battery and later selfpins by capturing on the line of the second half-battery. A battery mate follows. A problem uses a different pattern than quoted problem but in it both white moves close black lines as an extra feature.

E28 – 3rd Honorable Mention

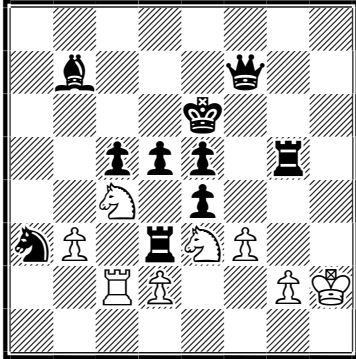


h#2 2 sol. 6+14

1. ♜c6! (♜~?) ♖dd2 2. ♜f3 ♖de2#
 1. ♜c6! (♜~?) ♜c3 2. ♜f3 ♜d2#
 1. ♜d4 ♖c2 2. ♖e3 ♖:c4#

In two solutions white lines are open for active play, in the last solution both lines remain closed followed by the mate on two pinned black pieces.

E5 – 4th Honorable Mention

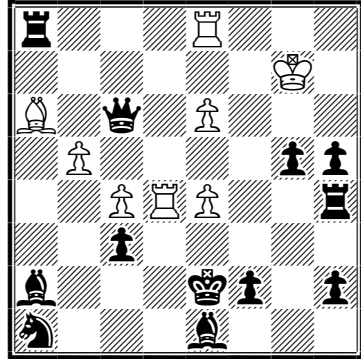


h#3 3 sol. 8+10

1. ♖:c2 ♗:e5 2. ♕:e5 f4+ 3. ♖d4 ♗:c2#
 1. ♜:d2 ♘:d5 2. ♖:d5 ♘a5 3. ♗e6 ♜:d2#
 1. ♜:e3 ♜c3 2. ♗f5 ♘d6+ 3. ♗f4 d:e3#

Cyclic Zilahi almost always deserves some recognition. This one accidentally appeared not long after the Kalotay JT award was published with many examples presenting the same idea but not the same combination of sacrificed/mating white officers enriched with additional sacrifices in two solutions.

E3 – Commendation

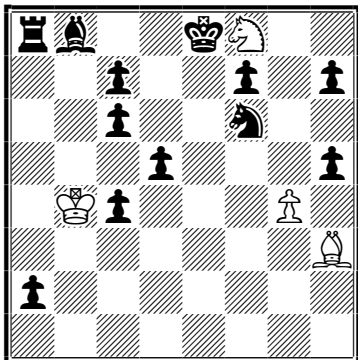


h#3 4 sol. 8+12

1. ♗:e4 (a) ♗b7 2. ♗:e6 (b) ♗g2 3. g4 (♜h3?) ♜:e6#
 1. ♗:c4 (c) ♜c8 2. ♗:b5 (d) ♜:c3 3. ♘b3 (♗b1?) ♗:b5#
 1. ♗:b5 (d) ♜b8 2. ♗:c4 (c) ♜b3 3. c2 ♗:c4#
 1. ♗:e6 (b) ♗c8 2. ♗:e4 (a) ♗g4+ 3. ♗e3 ♜:e4#

Black Queen clears the lines of white half-batteries in reciprocal order. Nice additional detail is w/b closing of black lines at b3 and g4 in the third move (although white should play there anyway).

E25 – Commendation



h#3 b) w ♖f8 4+12
 c) w ♗h3

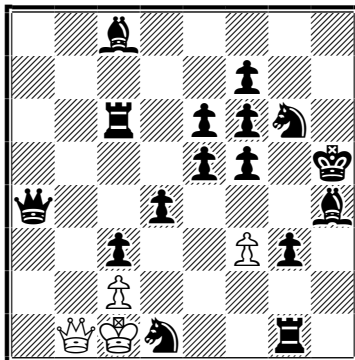
a) 1. ♗a7 ♗f1 2.0-0-0 ♗:c4 3. ♗b8 ♗a6#

b) 1. ♔d7 ♗e7 2. ♗e8 g5+ 3.f5 g:f6 e.p.#

c) 1.a1 ♗ ♗a3 2. ♗e1 ♗:a8 3. ♗e7 ♗:b8#

A timeless Valladao task is always interested, this time by using replacements of white pieces in twins.

E35 – Commendation



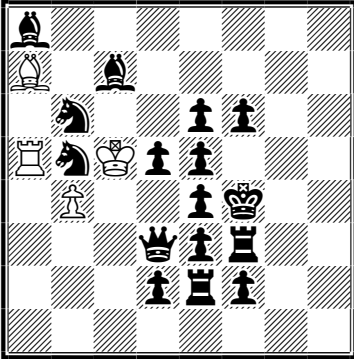
h#3 2 sol. 4+16

1.g2 ♗b4 2. ♗g3 ♗f8 3. ♔h4 ♗h6# (MM)

1. ♗b4 f4 2. ♗f8 ♗b5 3. ♗h6 ♗e2# (MM)

Another problem (like 4th Prize) presenting a play of black and white piece over the same squares, this time by Queens which are both present in a initial position.

E41 – Commendation



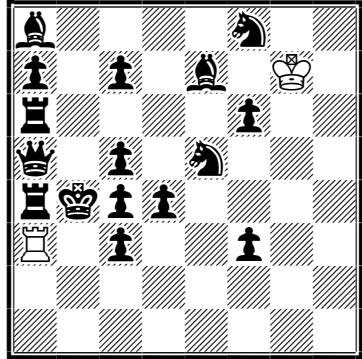
h#4 b) Δ d5→b3 4+16

a) 1. ♖a3!! ♙:b5 2. ♜c8 ♘:e3
3. ♙:e3 ♜b5-c5 4. ♞f4 ♞:a3#

b) 1. ♘b8!! ♙:b6 2. ♜d4 ♞:e5
3. ♙:e5 ♜b6-c5 4. ♞f5 ♘:b8#

Active sacrifices with Zilahi and white King's switchbacks. A quoted problem is enriched by hideaways but in less economic position and additional captures of black knights which I don't take as an improvement.

E48 – Commendation

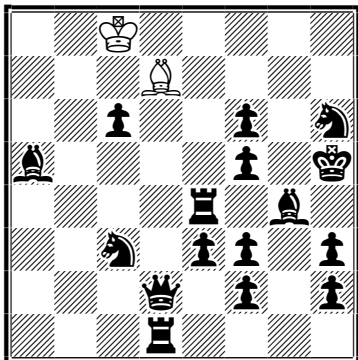


h#5 2+16

1. ♜fg6! (♜f~?) ♞a1 2. ♞a2!
(♞4~?) ♞h1 3. ♖a3 ♞h8 4. ♞a4
♞:a8 5. a5 ♞b8# (MM)

A combination of quadruple Bristol and white Corner-to-Corner maneuver.

E49 – Commendation



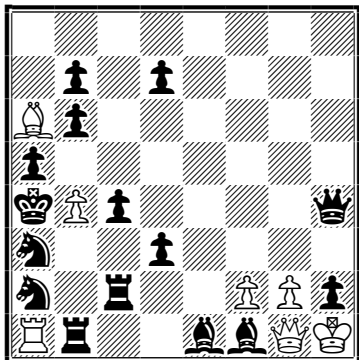
h#6

2+16

1. ♖d8! (♙a~?) ♕:f5! 2. ♞e6! ♖d3
 3. ♞e4+! ♜:d8 4. ♖e6! ♜e7 5. ♞h4
 ♜:f6 6. ♖g4! ♖g6#

Reciprocal interferences of Rook and Bishop (Grimshaw) on e6 in one line of play, once for unpinning white Bishop, and the second time for enabling white King to cross e-line, followed by return of both black pieces.

E55 – Commendation



h#2

7+15

1. c:b3 e. p. f4 2. ♖c3 ♔d4#

A fresh idea, as author describes it: In the initial position there are 10 obstacles for 2.Qd4#. Each black move in B1 and B2 liberates four and white two of them in W1.

Marko Klasinc,
 August 24, 2022