GENS UNA SUMUS

The 11ᵗʰ FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section E – Helpmates

Preliminary award by

János Csák

MMXXIII

A leksey Oganesjan sent me a well-prepared and clear file. I received 53 problems without the names of the authors. The quality of the entries is good. Some problems have full or partial anticipations. I either excluded these problems from the competition or took its into account when ranking.

E2 (h#3.5, ♔g1-♚c6, 4+12) – P1408378

E11 (h#2, ♔b3-♚f4, 9+10) – yacpdb/599308

E12 (h#3, ♔a1-♚e5, 4+8) – yacpdb/421562

E13 (h#6, ♔e1-♚d6, 2+5) – yacpdb/398162

E17 (h#5.5, ♔g4-♚e2, 4+4) – P1406157

E21 (h#5.5, ♔h1-♚b5, 3+13) – P1088072

E22 (h#2, ♔f8-♚d3, 9+10) – P1189863

E29 (h#9, ♔b1-♚b4, 5+10) – yacpdb/539119

E30 (h#4, ♔e3-♚d5, 2+5) – yacpdb/412674

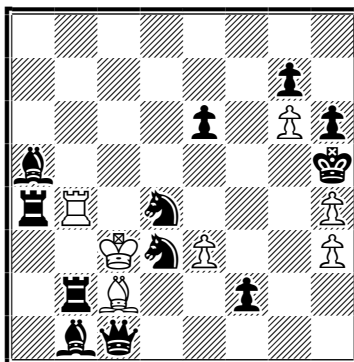**E39 (h#2, ♔d2-♚c5, 6+7)** – yacpdb/376018, P0505826, P0521636, P0521853

E50 (h#3, ♔h5-♚d2, 6+15) – P1257122

E52 (h#3, ♔a3-♚e3, 12+10) – P1071795

E53 (h#2.5, ♔g3-♚c5, 7+12) – P1369880

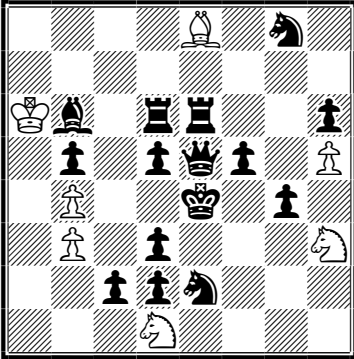My decision is as follows:

E16 – 1ˢᵗ Prize

h#3   2 sol.   7+12

1.♗b6 ♖xd4 2.♘e5 ♖d5
3.♖xh4 ♖xe5#

1.♕f1 ♗xd3 2.♘f3 ♗e2
3.♗xg6 ♗xf3#

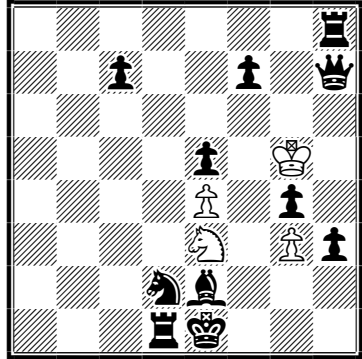Unpinning hideaway key moves, bivalve, harmonic concatenation of function exchanges.

h#2.5   3 sol.   7+15   h#4   b) ♜d1→f1   4+11

1...♞f4 2.♞d4 ♞xd5 3.♔xd5 ♞c3#
1...♞e3 2.♞f6 ♞xf5 3.♔xf5 ♗g6#
1...♗xb5 2.d4 ♗xd3+ 3.♔xd3 ♞hf2#

Triple cyclic Zilahi theme with active sacrifices. Kniest theme (3x), three model mates in complete harmony.

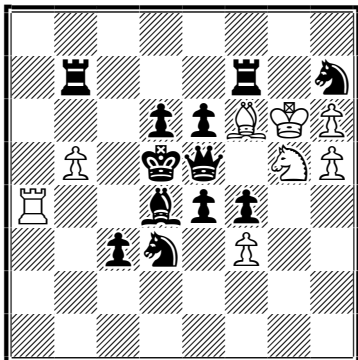a) **1.♞f3+ ♔xg4 2.♞h4+ ♔xh3**
3.♞f3+ ♔g2 4.♞d2 ♞c2#

b) **1.♜c8 ♞d5 2.♔d1 ♞xc7**
3.♜e1 ♞d5 4.♜c1 ♞e3#

Black and White annihilation. Twofold switchbacks of Black and White Knights. Crusader theme.
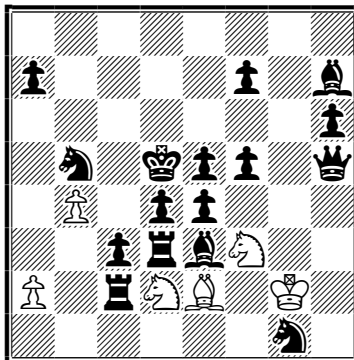
E26 – Special Prize

h#2   2 sol.   8+12

1.♘c5 ♘xe6 2.♕~?? ♘xf4#
1.♘c5 ♘xe6 2.♕xe6 ♖xd4#
1.♗c5 ♘xe4 2.♕~?? ♘xc3#
1.♗c5 ♘xe4 2.♕xe4 fxe4#

It is very interesting that in addition to the two actual plays, two tries are given as intentions, which are equivalent to the two solutions. Active sacrifices, Chumakov and Onkoud 50 JT theme.
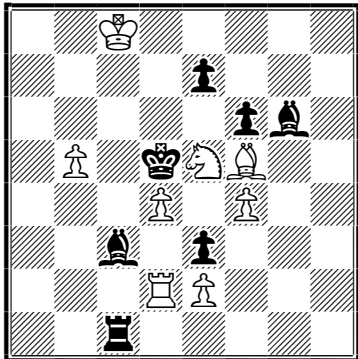
E9 – 1ˢᵗ Honorable mention

h#3   3 sol.   6+16

**1.♘xf3! a3 2.♘xd2 ♗xh5
3.♔c4 ♗xf7#**

**1.♗xd2! ♔f2 2.♔c4 ♗xd3+
3.♔xd3 ♘xe5#**

**1.♘h3! ♘xe4 2.♔xe4 ♔g3
3.♕xf3+ ♗xf3#**

3x2 White passive, active sacrifices, mixed Zilahi, Kniest and Chumakov theme, triple destruction of half-pin, model mates.
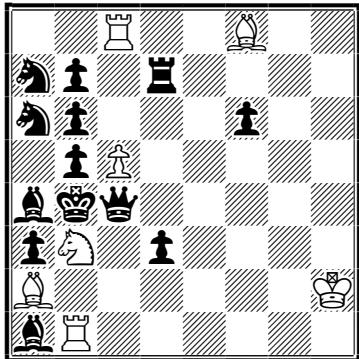
E45 – 2ⁿᵈ Honorable mention   E24 – 3ʳᵈ Honorable mention

h#2   4 sol.   8+7

1.♗xd4+ ♘c6 2.♖c5 ♖xd4#
1.exd2 e4+ 2.♔d6 ♘c4#
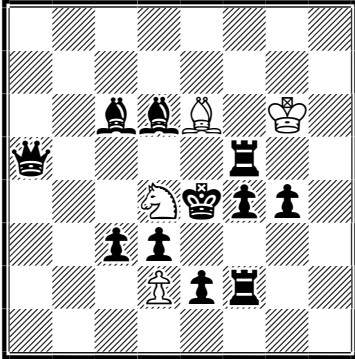1.fxe5 ♔d7 2.e4 ♗e6#
1.♗xf5+ ♔c7 2.♔e6 d5#

h#2   b) ♟d3→b2   7+13

a) 1.♛xb3 ♗h6 2.♛b2+ ♗d2#

b) 1.♛xc5 ♖f1 2.♛d6+ ♖f4#

Annihilation, crosscheck, function change, bivalve, Pelle moves, pin mate.

Quadruple cyclic passive Zilahi theme, Onkoud 50 JT theme and Bukovina theme but not harmonic enough presentation.

h#2   4 sol.   4+11

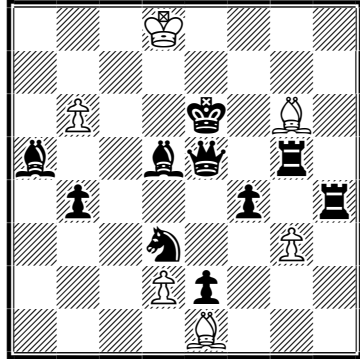h#3   3 sol.   6+10

1.♖d5 ♗f5+ (a) 2.♔e5 ♘xc6# (b)
1.♗d5 ♘c6 (b) 2.♖f3 ♗xf5# (a)
1.♘b5 ♘xf5 (A) 2.♔f3 ♗d5# (B)
1.cxd2 ♗d5+ (B) 2.♔e3 ♘xf5# (A)

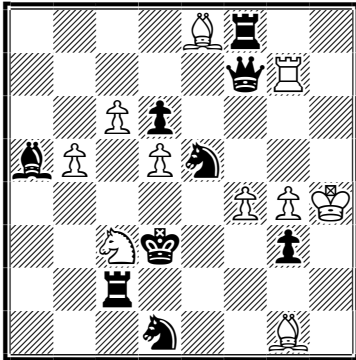Multiple play on the same squares, function exchange and place exchange.

1.♕a1 ♗f2 2.♔e5 ♔e7 3.♘b2 d4#
1.♕g7 gxf4 2.♖e5 f5+ 3.♔f6 ♗xh4#
1.♔d6 ♗xd3 2.♔c5 ♔d7 3.♕b8 ♗f2#

Hiding the Black Queen three times with line opening and line closing moves. Cheney-Loyd theme, change of blocking piece. The three solutions are not uniform enough.
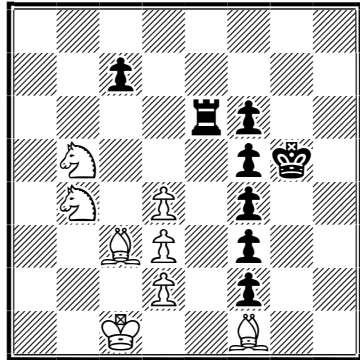
E41 – 1ˢᵗ Commendation

h#3   2 sol.   10+9

**1.♕xd5 ♖c7 2.♕xc6 ♗xc6
3.♖d2 ♗e4#**

**1.♕xf4 ♗h5 2.♕xg4+ ♖xg4
3.♘xc3 ♖d4#**

Annihilations and sacrifices of
the Black Queen are line openings
directly and in advance in full
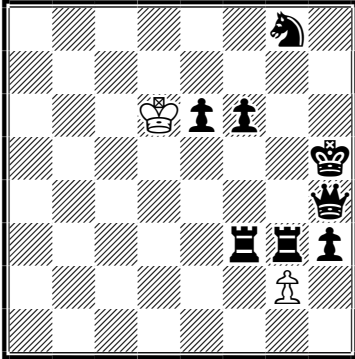harmony. Model mates.

E47 – 2ⁿᵈ Commendation

h#3.5   2 sol.   8+8

**1...♘d5 2.♖e3 ♘xf4 3.♔xf4 dxe3+
4.♔xe3 ♗d2#**

**1...♘d6 2.♖e4 ♘xf5 3.♔xf5 dxe4+
4.♔xe4 ♗d3#**

Echo-chameleon mates, active
White and Black (delayed)
sacrifices, harmonious presentation
of multiple function exchanges.

h#5   2 sol.   2+8
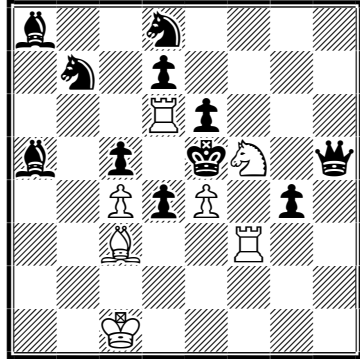
h#2   4 sol.   7+11

1. ♖e3 ♔c5 **2.** ♕d4+ ♔xd4 **3.** ♖g5
♔xe3 **4.** ♘h4 ♔f4 **5.** ♖h5 g3#
1. ♖g7 g4+ **2.** ♔g6 g5 **3.** ♘h6 gxh6
4. ♔f7 hxg7 **5.** ♔e8 g8♕#

1. exf5 ♗e1 **2.** fxe4 ♗g3#
1. dxc3 ♖dd3 **2.** ♔xe4 ♖de3#
1. ♘xd6 ♘xd4 **2.** ♗xe4 ♘c6#
1. ♕xf5 ♖xd4 **2.** ♕xe4 ♖d5#

2x2 active sacrifices, mixed color Bristol, Helledie theme and excelsior.

Annihilation, passive Zilahi cycle, play on same squares: e4 (4x), d4 (2x). Battery mate (2x).

János Csák,
July 25, 2023