GENS UNA SUMUS

The 7ᵗʰ FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section E – Helpmates

Final award by

Abdelaziz Onkoud

M M X I X

Participants

E01	G. Nicolaescu (ROU)	E34	V. Semenenko (UKR)
E02	S. Hudák (SVK)	E35	K. Mlynka (SVK)
E03	D. Novomesky (SVK)	E36	A. Almammadov (AZE)
E04	Z. Janevski (MKD)	E37	S. Milewski (POL)
E05	U. Sayman (TUR)	E38	V. Kopyl (UKR)
E06	V. Gurov (RUS)	E39	A. Bidleň (SVK)
E07	K. Drążkowski (POL)	E40	R. Phani Bhushan (IND)
E08	G. Hadzi-Vaskov (MKD)	E41	M. Gershinsky (UKR)
E09	A. Semenenko (UKR)	E42	V. Pankov (RUS)
E10	V. Yuzyuk (UKR)	E43	V. Syzonenko (UKR)
E11	B. Shorokhov (RUS)	E44	I. Serafimović (SRB)
E12	J. Nifdalıyev (AZE)	E45	V. Lastivka (UKR)
E13	V. Medintsev (RUS)	E46	D. Müller (DEU)
E14	V. Kryzhanivskyi (UKR)	E47	A. Feoktistov (RUS)
E15	J. Gorbatenko (RUS)	E48	S. Manikumar (IND)
E16	V. Dyachuk (UKR)	E49	I. Soroka UKR)
E17	E. Klemanič (SVK)	E50	D-C. Gurgui (ROU)
E18	A. Dashkovsky (UKR)	E51	M. Roland (BRA)
E19	A. Kostukov (RUS)	E52	V. Chepizhny (RUS)
E20	V. Nefyodov (RUS)	E53	A. Pankratiev (RUS)
E21	M. Witztum (ISR)	E54	E. Gavryliv (UKR)
E22	J. Kapros (ARG)	E55	J. Csák (HUN)
E23	V. Volchek (BLR)	E56	M. Kolesnik (UKR)
E24	J. Dučák (CZE)	E57	S. Trommler (DEU)
E25	Z. Labai (SVK)	E58	S. Vokál (SVK)
E26	J. Leck (DEU)	E59	J. Bilokin (UKR)
E27	S. Radović (SRB)	E60	K.Velikhanov (AZE)
E28	S. Baier (DEU)	E61	A. Gasparyan (ARM)
E29	V. Zamanov (AZE)	E62	K. Prentos (USA)
E30	E. Fomichev (RUS)	E63	V. Evseev (UKR)
E31	R. Vieira (BRA)	E64	L. Martin (ESP)
E32	M. Svitek (CZE)	E65	J. Štúň (SVK)
E33	J. Kovalič (SVK)	E66	Z. Mihajloski (MKD)

With the new formula of the World Cup of the International Chess Federation, the task has become even more difficult. However, I did not have too much difficulty in choosing to whom I should award the first prize among the 66 anonymous problems that were sent to be judged by me.

The first prize winner presents a monstrous idea that gave me a very strong impression and took a huge weight off my shoulders. But then, it was not so easy for me to decide among the other proposed ideas.

I was very confused with the 5th and the 6th prize winners that would have deserved a better position under some other circumstances, but it turns out that there are three anticipated compositions that present the same idea (B,C & D). I did not know what to do with them. I hesitated whether I should include them in the judgment or leave them for the reflection of another judge in some other competition. Finally, I decided to keep them in.

The second prize winner is something that I really liked. At the congress in Belgrad, I introduced a theory on the Compass theme. And now I was pleasantly surprised by the new development that the author suggested. It was less pretentious than what I had proposed (A).

The other ideas that I have held are helpmates in 2 to 4 moves, of which the second honorable mention is close the famous problem (E) that won the last edition of the FIDE World Cup. Unfortunately, none of the longer helpmates caught my attention. But anyway, there were only six compositions of the kind.

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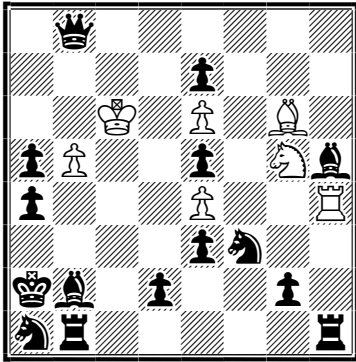
h#3,5   3 sol.   7+15

1…♖:h1 2.♗:g6 ♖:b1 3.♗:e4 ♘:e4
4.♗a3 ♘c3#
1…♘:f3 2.♖:h4 ♘:d2 3.♖:e4 ♗:e4
4.a3 ♗:b1#
1…♗:h5 2.♘:g5 ♗d1 3.♘:e4 ♖:e4
4.♔a3 ♖:a4#

A composition of very high quality. The symphony of a master! I am very happy to have come across it. In the first sequences, we see simple mutual reciprocal captures of the mixed duos: ♖h4>x<♜h1 , ♗g6>x<♟h5 et ♘g5>x<♞f3. The analysis becomes more difficult when we try to study the cycles of captures made possible after the third move.

♜h1 x ♖h4 - ♖h4 x ♞f3 - ♞f3 x ♘g5 - ♘g5 x ♟h5 - ♟h5 x ♗g6 - ♗g6 x ♜h1

♟h5 x ♗g6 - ♗g6 x ♜h1 - ♜h1 x ♖h4 - ♖h4 x ♞f3 - ♞f3 x ♘g5 - ♘g5 x ♟h5

♞f3 x ♘g5 - ♘g5 x ♟h5 - ♟h5 x ♗g6 - ♗g6 x ♜h1 - ♜h1 x ♖h4 - ♖h4 x ♞f3

♖h4 x ♞f3 - ♞f3 x ♘g5 - ♘g5 x ♟h5 - ♟h5 x ♗g6 - ♗g6 x ♜h1 - ♜h1 x ♖h4

♗g6 x ♜h1 - ♜h1 x ♘h4 - ♘h4 x ♞f3 - ♞f3 x ♘g5 - ♘g5 x ♟h5 - ♟h5 x ♗g6

♘g5 x ♟h5 - ♟h5 x ♗g6 - ♗g6 x ♜h1 - ♜h1 x ♖h4 - ♖h4 x ♞f3 - ♞f3 x ♘g5

The Zilahi cyclic theme, also linked to the captures, is logically imbricated in the matrix. Another particularity which makes the idea great is the play on the squares e4 and a3. A masterpiece!
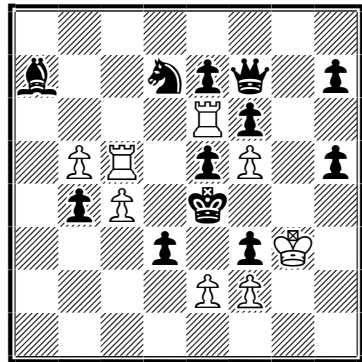
h#2   4 sol.   8+12

1.♗:c5 ♖:f6 2.♗d4 e:f3#
1.♕:e6 ♖d5 2.♕:f5 e:d3#
1.♔d4 e3+ 2.♔:c5 ♖c6#
1.♔:f5 e4+ 2.♔:e6 ♖c6#

4

It is not new. Here the author builds his construction on two white Rooks and notably on pawn e2 which achieves an Albino. In addition, there is a good Zilahi. The position is economical and more airy than the previous work as is shown in the difficult option developed by the A. Compass theme: North/South.

rd Prize – Bronze medal
IVAN SOROKA
Ukraine
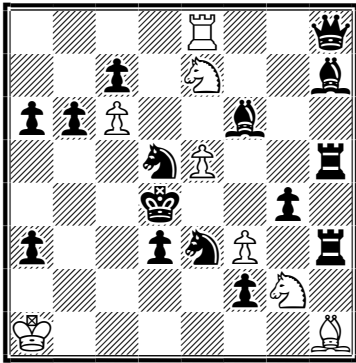
h#3   2 sol.   8+15

1.♘:g2! e:f6 2.♔e3 ♘:d5+ 3.♔:f3 ♖e3#
1.♘:e7! f4 2.♔d5 ♘:e3+ 3.♔e6 ♗d5#

The couple ♖e8/♗h1 is well hidden, a kind of indirect batteries masked twice. The play is centered on the vectors h1-d5 and e8-e3. We see many attempts to eliminate the pieces which occupy these two vectors.

1 - The evacuation of squares e3 and d5 to the benefit of the black king with the capture of the couple ♘g2/♘e7.
2 - The opening of the lines of the couple ♖e8/♗h1 by the couple e5/f3.
3 - The opening of the lines of the couple ♖e8/♗h1 by the couple ♘g2/♘e7 with the capture of the couple ♟e3/♟d5.

As a consequence, reciprocal captures between the couples ♘g2/♟e3 and ♘e7/♟d5. The result of this play is the formation of two white batteries which produce double checks which give mates on the squares left free by the black R. The Umnov theme is also achieved by the pin of the couple ♟e3/♟d5. The whole work is a diagonal-orthogonal echo. A well done idea.

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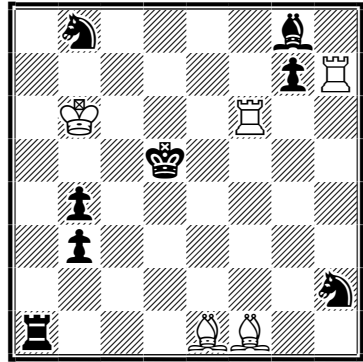4ᵗʰ Prize
VLADISLAV NEFYODOV
Russian Federation

5ᵗʰ Prize
VALERY GUROV
Russian Federation

h#2   6 sol.   9+12

h#2   4 sol.   5+8
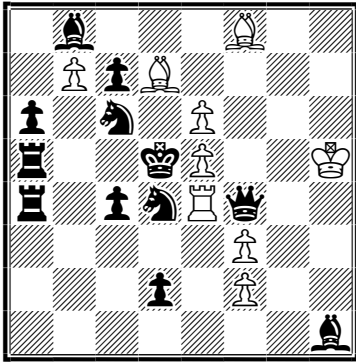
1.♞b4 ♗b5 2.♞dc6 ♗:c4#
1.♞b5 ♖:c4 2.♞cd4 ♖c5#
1.♛f6 e:f6 2.♞:e6 ♗:e6#
1.♛g3 f4 2.♞:e5 ♖:e5#
1.♛e3 f:e3 2.♞:e5 ♖:d4#
1.♗a7 b8=♞ 2.♞:e6 ♗:c6#

1.g:f6(h) ♗c4(b)+ 2.♔d6 ♗g3(c)(e)#
1.♗:h7(g) ♗g3(c) 2.♗e4
♖d6(d)(h)#
1.♞f1(f) ♖d6(d)+ 2.♔c4
♖h4(a)(g)#
1.♖:e1(e) ♖h4(a) 2.♖e5 ♗c4(b)(f)#

A very compact strategy in a mouse hole. The black ♔ has no flight square. The couple ♞d4/♞c6 makes bivalves and blocks (E1), sacrifices and passive selfblocks (E2), and active selfblocks and captures by the mating pieces (E3). The couple ♖e4/♗d7 is in triple exchange of function keep/mate. Some black moves (♞:e6 and ♞:e5) are repeated, but not for the same reason.

A great exercise in economy. But the idea has already been exploited. For antecedents see the (B,C & D). The capture of white pieces in the first moves and the mates in good order of the captured pieces lead logically to the Zilahi theme with four chains. The other strong point of the idea is the cycle of white moves (AB-BC-CD-DA). The white pieces concerned by this "tour de force": ♖/♖/♗/♗.

h#2   4 sol.   6+9

h#3   2 sol.   5+13
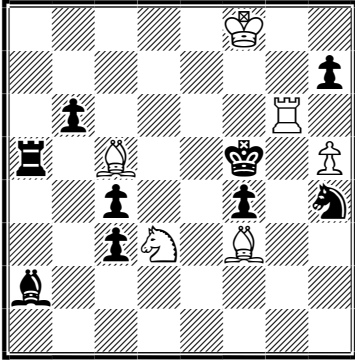
1.h:g6 ♗g4(A)+ 2.♔f6 ♗e7(B)#
1.c:d3 ♗e7(B) 2.♗e6 ♖g5(C)#
1.♘:f3 ♖g5(C)+ 2.♔e4 ♘f2(D)#
1.♖:c5 ♘f2(D) 2.♖e5 ♗g4(A)#

1.♔f3 ♖h2 2.♘g2 ♘:d4+ 3.♔f2
♗h4#
1.♔d5 ♗a3 2.♘b4 ♘c7+ 3.♔c5
♖c2#

The same idea as the 5th Prize. Cyclic Zilahi with 4 chains associated with a cycle of white moves. This time with the quadruple : ♖/♗/♗/♘. A difficult position in comparison to the previous problem.

Critical moves by ♖e2 and ♗e7, followed by square-guarding and checking moves by the white ♘. Model pin mates are given on the squares vacated by the two black ♟ (delayed Umnov).

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2ⁿᵈ Honourable Mention
VIKTOR SYZONENKO
Ukraine
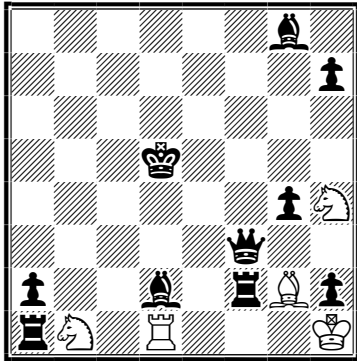
h#3   2 sol.   5+10

1.♔c4 ♘g6! 2.♗b4 ♖d5 3.♕b3
♘e5#
1.♔e5 ♘a3! 2.♕f6 ♗d5 3.♗f4
♘c4#

The black ♔ unpins ♕f3 and
♗d2 twice, allowing them to open
one line and selfblock one square.
♘b1 and ♘h4 interchange their
functions (guard/mate), so do ♖d1
and ♗g2 (occupation of d5/control
of d5), in diagonal/orthogonal
fashion. No white pawn on the
diagram. Initially, the black ♔ has
8 flight-squares available.

3ʳᵈ Honourable Mention
SILVIO BAIER
Germany
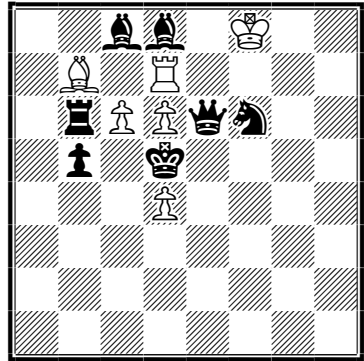
h#2,5   4 sol.   6+7

1…♗a8 2.♗b7 c:b7 3.♔c6 b8=♘#
1…♖:d8 2.♘e8 d7 3.♔d6 d:e8=♘#
1…♗:c8 2.♕e7+ d:e7+ 3.♔:c6
e:d8=♘#
1…♖e7 2.♕d7 c:d7+ 3.♔:d6
d:c8=♘#

The four mating moves are
played by pawns c6 or d6,
promoting to ♘, and the two first
ones are battery moves. In the
second pair of solutions, one of the
two pawns is captured (Zilahi).
Moves of the black ♔ are repeated,
with changed mates.

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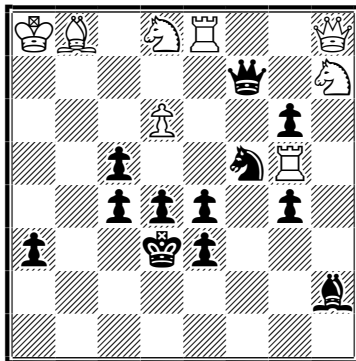
4th Honourable Mention
VITALY MEDINTSEV
Russian Federation
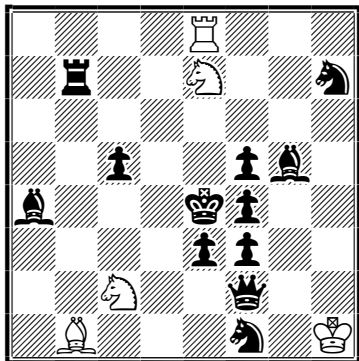
h#2   4 sol.   5+12

1.♖:b1 ♘b4(A) 2.♗h6 ♘ec6(B)#
1.♗:e8 ♘c6(B) 2.♕g3 ♘2b4(A)#
1.♘d2 ♘:e3(C)+ 2.♔:e3 ♘:f5(D)#
1.♘f6 ♘:f5(D)+ 2.♔:f5 ♘:e3(C)#

Helpmate of the future featuring an AB-BA cycle of white moves in each pair of solutions, plus Zilahi theme in the first pair.

5th Honourable Mention
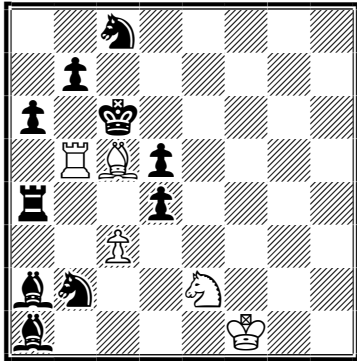### VALERY SEMENENKO
Ukraine

h#2,5   b) ♙d6↔♟f5   8+12

a) 1...♖:e4 2.♔:e4 ♘f6+ 3.♔e5 d7#
b) 1...♕:d4+ 2.♔:d4 ♘e6+ 3.♔e5 f6#

In each solution, White sacrifice one of their six pieces, which makes the five remaining ones useful.

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1st Commendation
Vidadi Zamanov
Azerbaijan

h#2,5   2 sol.   5+10
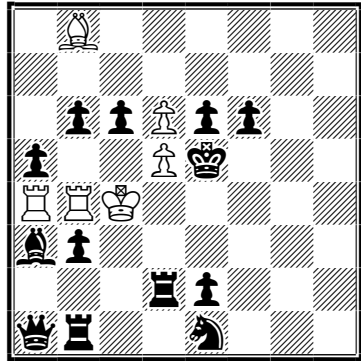
1…♖:b7! 2.♘c4! ♗b6 3.♔b5
♘:d4#
1…♗a7! 2.♗c4! ♖b6 3.♔c5 c:d4#

Critical moves by the pair ♖b5/♗c5 precede a mutual interference on b6. The black ♚ occupies the squares left by the white pieces. Model mates, given on the same square d4, follow a square-blocking and an interference (with dual avoidance) on c4. A very rich content.
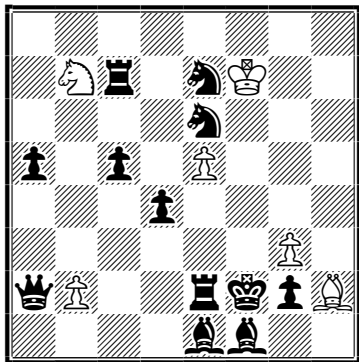
2nd Commendation
Ricardo de Mattos Vieira
Brazil

h#2,5   2 sol.   6+13

1…♖b5(A) 2.♖b2 ♔c3 3.♗:d6
d:c6(B)#
1…d:c6(B) 2.♗b2 ♔:b3 3.♖:d6
♖b5(A)#

High activity of ♜d2 and ♝a3, which exchange their functions. One of them cuts a line on b2, the other is self-pinned on d6 after a line-opening by a white piece. The white r opens the fourth rank for ♖a4. Diagonal-orthogonal echo. Pinmates.
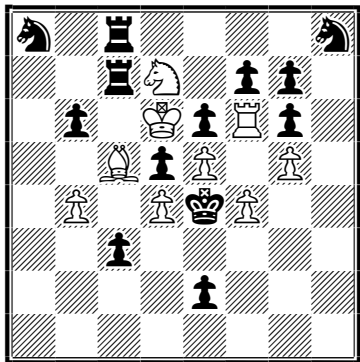
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h#3,5   2 sol.   6+12

h#4   2 sol.   9+13

1…♘:a5 2.♘f4+ ♘c4 3.♛a8 ♘e3
4.♛f3 ♘d1#
1…♘:c5 2.♘f5+ ♘d7 3.♜c3 ♘f6
4.♜f3 ♘g4#

1.e1=♘ ♗:b6! 2.♘f3 ♘c5+ 3.♚:d4
♘d3+ 4.♚de4 ♘df2#
1.e1=♜ ♜:f7! 2.♜e3 ♘f6+ 3.♚:f4
♘g4+ 4.♚fe4 ♘gf2#

On his way to the mate square,
♘b7 annihilates one black pawn,
allowing ♛a2 and ♜c7 to block f3
in two moves. The two batteries
formed initially by ♛a2/♟e6 and
♜c7/♟e7 are born again on the f
file. A well-conceived idea.

♜f6 and ♗c5 vacate their
square for the benefit of ♘d7. Two
Siers batteries are created. Each
promoted black piece blocks one of
the squares e3 or f3. After the
capture of pawns d4 and f4 by the
black ♚ and his switchback to e4,
one white line is opened and the
square which has not been blocked
is guarded. Mates take place on
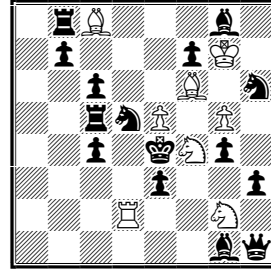the same square f2. The
construction proves difficult.

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APPENDIX

A – ABDELAZIZ ONKOUD
STRATEGEMS, 2016
1ST PRIZE
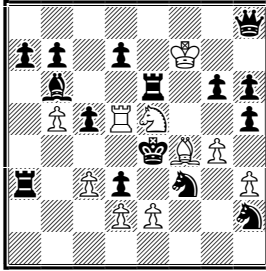
h#2   4 sol.   10+15

1.♖d6 ♗:h2 2.♖:d5 e:f3#
1.g5 ♖:c5 2.g:f4 e:d3#
1.♔:f4 e3+ 2.♔-g5 ♘:f3#
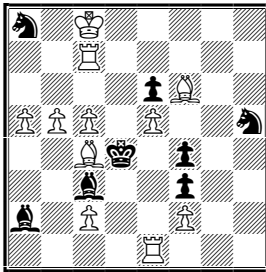1.♔:d5 e4+ 2.♔d6 ♘c4#

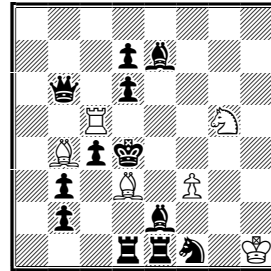**B –** ALEKSANDR SEMENENKO
5TH FIDE WORLD CUP, 2017
2ND PRIZE

h#2   4 sol.   11+8

1.♘:f6 ♗d3 2.♘d5 ♖e4#
1.♘:c7 ♖e4+ 2.♔:c5 ♗e7#
1.♗c4 ♗e7 2.♔d5 ♖d7#
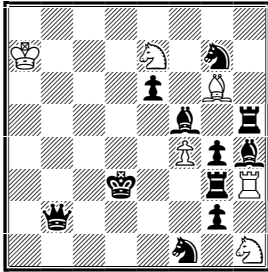1.♗:e1 ♖d7+ 2.♔e4 ♗d3#

C – VASYL KRYZHANIVSKYI
JT G. KOZYURA-60, 2015
1-2 PRIZE

h#2   4 sol.   8+15

1.♘:f4 ♘h4 2.♘f5+ ♗:f5#
1.♕g2 ♘e2 2.♕f3 ♖d4#
1.e:d2 ♘f5+ 2.♔d4 ♘e2#
1.♖:c8 ♖d4+ 2.♔f5 ♘h4#

D – ALEKSANDR SEMENENKO
MT E. MIGDAL 2015
1ST PRIZE

h#2   4 sol.   6+12

1.♕:b4 ♖d5+ 2.♔c3 ♘e4#
1.♗d3 ♘e4 2.♖e3 ♗c3#
1.♕c5 ♗c3+ 2.♔d5 ♗e4#
1.♗g5 ♗e4 2.♗e3 ♖d5#

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E — KENAN VELIKHANOV
6ᵀᴴ FIDE WORLD CUP, 2018
1ˢᵀ PRIZE

h#3   2 sol.   6+11

1.♔e2 ♘:f5 2.♖c3 ♖d3 3.♗e1 ♘d4#
1.♔d4 ♘:g3 2.♗c2 ♗d3 3.♖c5 ♘e2#