The 8th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section E – Helpmates

Preliminary award by

Michal Dragoun

MMXX

Participants

E01	P. Muljadi (USA)		E42	A. Onkoud (FRA)
E02	D. Gatti (ITA)		E43	J. Ložek (SVK)
E03	D.-C. Gurgui (ROU)		E44	S. Hudák (SVK)
E04	A. Shpakovsky (RUS)		E45	B. Atanasov (BGR)
E05	P. Tritten (FRA)		E46	G. Nicolaescu (ROU)
E06	V. Zamanov (AZE)		E47	A. Bidleň (SVK)
E07	A. Kostyukov (RUS)		E48	V. Nefyodov (RUS)
E08	Y. Gorbatenko (RUS)		E49	E. Gavryliv (UKR)
E09	Z. Sibinović (SRB)		E50	V. Kopyl (UKR)
E10	R. Gafencu (ROU)		E51	S. Javadzade (AZE)
E11	A. Fedorova (RUS)		E52	K. Velikhanov (AZE)
E12	F. Abdurahmanović (BIH)		E53	M. Kolesnik (UKR)
E13	M. Witztum (ISR)		E54	V. Lastivka (UKR)
E14	A. Schönholzer (CHE)		E55	C. Yakubovsky (BLR)
E15	U. Sayman (TUR)		E56	G. Tar (HUN)
E16	Z. Janevski (MKD)		E57	M. Vasyuchko UKR)
E17	Z. Gavrilovski (MKD)		E58	J. Csák (HUN)
E18	M. Klasinc (SVN)		E59	V. Pankov (RUS)
E19	M. Cherniavskyi (UKR)		E60	A. Fica (CZE)
E20	J. Paavilainen (FIN)		E61	M. Gershinsky (UKR)
E21	V. Yuzyuk (UKR)		E62	V. Medintsev (RUS)
E22	Z. Labai (SVK)		E63	S. Trommler (DEU)
E23	A. Skripnik (RUS)		E64	B. Cook (GBR)
E24	A. Pankratiev (RUS)		E65	A. Varitski (BLR)
E25	R. Vieira (BRA)		E66	E. Zarubin (RUS)
E26	V. Semenenko (UKR)		E67	A. Gasparyan (ARM)
E27	K. Mlynka (SVK)		E68	Z. Mihajloski (MKD)
E28	R. Nabiullin (RUS)		E69	V. Zheglov (RUS)
E29	A. Feoktistov (RUS)		E70	O. Dimitrov (BGR)
E30	A. Antipov (RUS)		E71	Y. Trakhtman (UKR)
E31	R. Krätschmer (DEU)		E72	J. Mikitovics (HUN)
E32	A. Ghilea (ROU)		E73	A. Oganesjan (RUS)
E33	B. Shorokhov (RUS)		E74	M. Erenburg (ISR)
E34	S. Radović (SRB)		E75	A. Karamanits (UKR)
E35	E. Fomichev (RUS)		E76	K. Prentos (USA)
E36	M. Stojnic (SRB)		E77	S. Milewski (POL)
E37	A. Semenenko (UKR)		E78	V. Evseev (UKR)
E38	V. Gurov (RUS)		E79	T. Hernádi (SVK)
E39	K. Çefle (TUR)		E80	Vil. Satkus (LTU)
E40	M. Cioflâncă (ROU)		E81	H. Tanner (FIN)
E41	M. Halma (UKR)			

From the director Alexander Bulavka I received 81 anonymized entries. The overall quality of submitted problem was good. Some entries were for me ineligible because of symmetrical setting (E02, E19), eventually for white officers not used in all mates (E15, E36, E51). In E48 is symmetry partially masked, but number of repeated moves is too high (although it is part of the pattern), quite symmetrical is E67 as well.

Further I have specific remarks to following problems:

E06: The first pair of solutions with Zilahi is good. The second pair is interconnected by the use of first white moves as mates but black play is not satisfactory.

E09 - Maybe first twinless realization, but white economy is unacceptable.

E11 - With one different black promotion was realized much better by WinChloe 245394.

E12 - Similarly as in E06, the play in one pair is not homogenous: 1.hxg5 is self-block, while 1.♗a7 hideaway. Repetition of 2. ~ ♗f5 is disturbing too.

E20 - Usually is for similar check / direct selfpin/indirect unpin combination used one white piece for all solutions. To manage three different is certainly more difficult, but not enough for distinction.

E22 - Similar and in my opinion more homogenous is PDB P1315005.

E24 - Cycle of four white moves, with captures of two white pieces in two

solutions, but the play is very, very heterogenous.

E29 - Four times repeated ♔d6 is a serious flaw.

E30 - In threefold cyclic Zilahi there should be more unified play, the twins are weak as well.

E34 - Repetition of set-play in B and C is disturbing.

E37 - There are another similar functions cycle of three white pieces, differing only in motivation of B2, e.g. WinChloe 287784, 757020.

E39 - Basic pattern is similar to yacpdb 394370.

E42 - 2+2 solutions are rather interesting, but repetition of 3.♘f3 and 3.♘d3 is unpleasant, as well as different types of unguard in solutions 3 and 4.

E52 - I consider the solution with use of all white moves from the cycle more as flaw. The idea of cycle of the first and second white moves is spoiled and 1.♗h3 is not a hideaway, but it plans to block e6 as well. And three solutions with cycle are realized much better in PDB P0504539.

E54 - Interesting, but illegal – 8 black pawns and promoted ♗h1.

E61 - Solutions 1 and 3 are analogic, with self-blocks of the diagram square of black king. Solution 2 has some similarities, but it contains repeated move ♗d3 too.

E64 - Compare e.g. PDB P1267908, P1097352.

E65 - Some interesting (although not homogenous) motives in the first two solutions, but the third one is boring.

E66 - Compare PDB P0501115 – it has two solutions (out of five) with

the black king on the same square, but in a twinless setting. And PDB P0581631 can be compared when searching the record achievement.
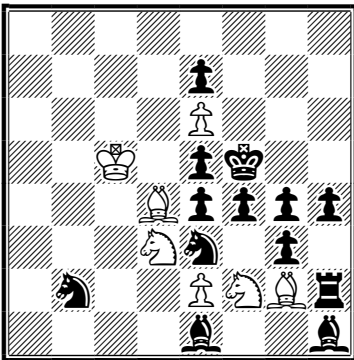
E75 - Number of repeated moves is too high and especially A and C are too similar.

E79 - Two consecutive round trips of the white knight, but the basic pattern is quite similar to yacpdb 395309.

E80 - Few halfmoves longer, but substantially similar to PDB P1310976.

My award is as follows:

1ˢᵗ Prize – Gold medal
MYKOLA KOLESNIK
Ukraine

h#3   3 sol.   7+13

1.g:f2 ♞:f4 (A) 2.♔:f4 ♗f1 3.♔g3 ♗:e5# (B)
1.e:d3 ♗:e5 (B) 2.♔:e5 ♗d5 3.♘f5 ♞:g4# (C)
1.e:d4 ♞:g4 (C) 2.♔:g4 ♗f3+ 3.♔h3 ♞:f4# (A)

Cyclic Zilahi with capture of two out of three pieces and cycle of the first and third white moves. Motivation for the capture in B1 is not homogenous, but welcomed bonus are three different moves of ♗g2 in the second white move.

2ⁿᵈ Prize – Silver medal
ANATOLY SKRIPNIK
Russian Federation
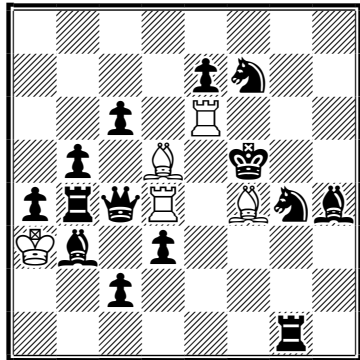
h#2   4 sol.   5+14

1.♛c3 ♖h6(♗h6?) 2.♖c4 ♗e6#
1.♛c5 ♗h6(♖h6?) 2.♗c4 ♖f4#
1.♗f6(♞f6?) ♗:c6 2.♔:e6 ♗d7#
1.♗g5(♞g5?) ♖:d3 2.♔:f4 ♖f3#

Two pairs of solutions with perfect analogy: in the first one hideaway of the black queen with dual avoidance based on created black battery and following Grimshaw; in the second pair mates on another squares of the same lines, with capturs of white pieces.

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1ˢᵗ Honourable Mention – Bronze medal
YURIY GORBATENKO
Russian Federation
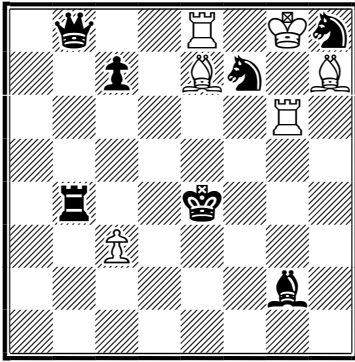
h#2   4 sol.   6+7

1.♔f5 ♗d8 2.♖f4 ♖g5#
1.♗f3 ♖g2+ 2.♔e3 ♗g5#
1.♔e5 ♖h6 2.♗d5 ♗d6#
1.♖c4 ♗b4+ 2.♔d3 ♖d6#

There are some problems using the same matrix of two white batteries – as far I know, the closest is WinChloe 226030 with the same geometry of black king's moves. However there are anough differences in determining of the moves order, use of two black blocking pieces and in mating moves on two squares (but without the predecessor E08 would receive a Prize).

2ⁿᵈ Honourable Mention
RICARDO DE MATTOS VIEIRA
Brazil
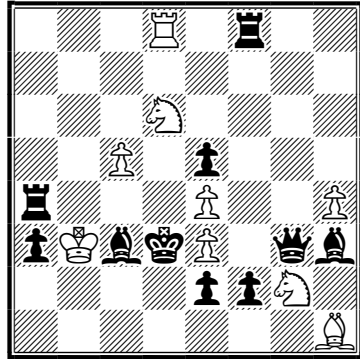
h#2   2 sol.   9+10

1.♗b4 ♘f4+(♘e1+?) 2.♖:f4 ♘f5#
1.♖f5 ♘e1+(♘f4+?) 2.♗:e1 ♘c4#

Line of the mating battery is attacked by four pieces (♖a4, ♗c3, ♖f8, ♗h3). One can be interfered by mating knight, two guards can be simultaneously removed by moves ♗b4 or ♖f5, so it seems that black has enough time – but it is necessary to renew guard of e4 by line-opening sacrifice of ♘g2, which determines remaining black move. Rich and perfectly matched strategic combination.

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3rd Honourable Mention
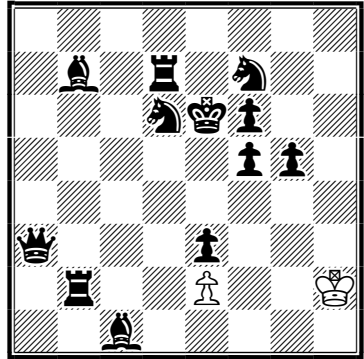### VITALY MEDINTSEV
Russian Federation
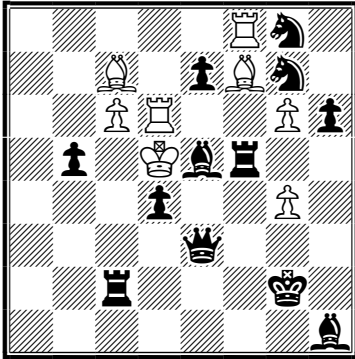
h#3,5   2 sol.   8+12

**1...♖e6 2.♖:f7 ♖:e5 3.♖f1(a) ♖h5
4.♖g1 ♖h2(b)#
1...♗e6 2.♗:d6+ ♗:f5 3.♗h2(b)
♗d3 4.♗g1 ♗f1(a)#**

Analogy in line-opening of two white indirect batteries and black selfblocks, but there is no interplay between Black and White and play of single white and black piece in each solution is rather monotonous.
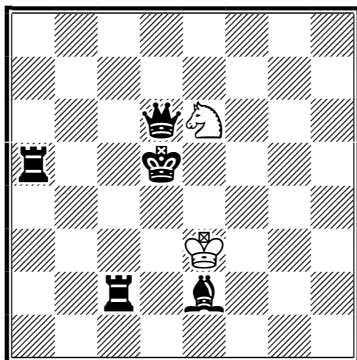
4th Honourable Mention
MARK ERENBURG
Israel

h#6   2+12

**1.♞e4 (1.♞c4? ♔g3 2.♛e7?) ♔g2
2.♛e7 ♔f3 3.♞d2+ ♔:e3 4.♗d5
♔d4 5.♞c4 (♞e4?) e4 6.♞cd6
e:d5#**

Round trip of the black knight motivated by intereference of both black bishops and black Klasinc.

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5th Honourable Mention
VICTOR ZHEGLOV
Russian Federation

6th Honourable Mention
VALERY SEMENENKO
Ukraine

h#5	4 sol.	2+5

h#2	6 sol.	6+14

1.♕b4 ♘d4 2.♖ac5 ♘b3 3.♗b5
♔f3 4.♔c4 ♔e4 5.♖2c3 ♘d2#
1.♖cc5 ♔d2 2.♗a6 ♔d1 3.♔c4+
♔c2 4.♔b5+ ♔b3 5.♕b6 ♘d4#
1.♖c6 ♘f8 2.♗c4 ♔f3 3.♕b4 ♔f4
4.♔c5 ♔e5 5.♖b5 ♘d7# 1.♖ac5
♔f2 2.♗b5+ ♔f3 3.♗c6 ♔e3
4.♖e2+ ♔d3 5.♖e5 ♘f4#

Four echoed ideal mates in twinless setting. Some repeated moves are probably unavoidable.

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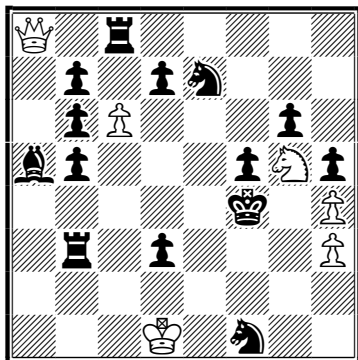
1.♗c3 ♕a2 2.♗e5 [block e5 (**A**)]
♕f2# [guard g3 (**B**), e3 (**C**)]
1.♗e1 ♕a1 2.♗g3 [block g3 (**B**)]
♕d4# [guard e3 (**C**), e5 (**A**)]
1.♗d2 ♕a3 2.♗e3 [block e3 (**C**)]
♕d6# [guard e5 (**A**), g3 (**B**)]
1.♔e5 (**A**) ♕:c8 2.♔f6 ♕h8#
1.♔g3 (**B**) ♕b8+ 2.♔:h4 ♕f4#
1.♔e3 (**C**) ♕:a5 2.f4 ♕:b6#

HOTFs with two triplets of solutions are quite seldom compared with three pairs. Here the first three solutions are homogenous, with line-opening for white queen and cycle of guarded and blocked squares. Moves by black king on one of the three free squares are logical addition, but selfblock of f4 hasn't analogy and sequence 1...♕xc8 2...♕h8# is rather crude.

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7th Honourable Mention
ZORAN GAVRILOVSKI
North Macedonia
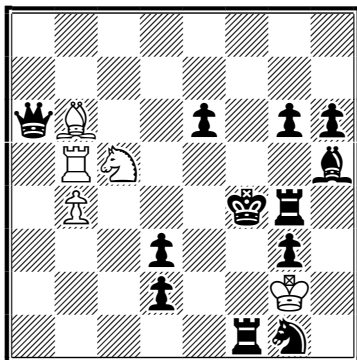
h#2   4 sol.   5+12

1.♔e3 ♘:e6+ (A) 2.♖d4 ♖e5#
1.♔g5 ♘:d3+ (B) 2.♖f5 ♗d8#
1.e5 ♖a5! (♗a7?) 2.e4 ♘e6# (A)
1.♖e1 ♗a7! (♖a5?) 2.♖e4 ♘:d3#
(B)

Use of white tempo moves by rook and bishop in this pattern is not new, but only HOTF form is in my opinion yacpdb 343795 with two moves of black king in the second pair. Thematically successful combination with PDB P1360360.

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8th Honourable Mention
EVGENY GAVRYLIV
Ukraine
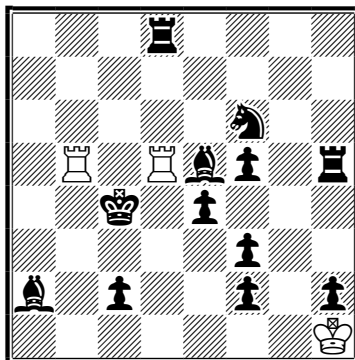
h#3   6 sol.   3+12

Tempo-tries
1.♖b8 ?? 2.♗b3 ♖a5 3.♖b4 ♖ac5#
1.f1=♗ ?? 2.♗d3 ♖:e5 3.♖d4
♖ec5#

1.♖b8 ♖a5 2.♖b4 ♖ab5 3.♗b3
♖bc5#
1.f1=♗ ♖:e5 2.♖d4 ♖ed5 3.♗d3
♖dc5#
1.c1=♖+ ♖d1 2.♖c3 ♖db1 3.♖d3
♖1b4#
1.♘d7 ♖d3 2.♘c5 ♖db3 3.♖d5
♖5b4#
1.♔c3 ♖d2 2.♖d3 ♖5b2 3.♗d4
♖d:c2#
1.♗d4 ♖d6 2.♘d5 ♖bb6 3.♔c5
♖dc6#

Six echoed mates, but in a slightly symmetrical position and with repetition of some black blocking moves.

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1ˢᵗ Commendation
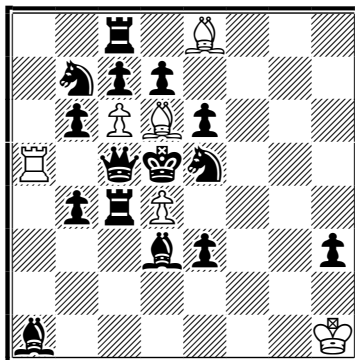**ALEKSANDR KOSTYUKOV**
Russian Federation
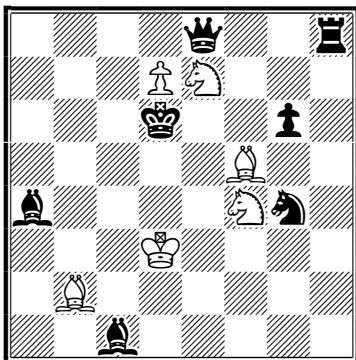
h#2   4 sol.   6+7

1.♗:f4 d8=♗ 2.♗e5 ♗a3#
1.♗:b2 d:e8=♘+ 2.♔e5 ♘e:g6#
1.♔:e7 d:e8=♖+ 2.♔f7 ♗:g6#
1.♕c8 d:c8=♕ 2.g:f5 ♘:f5#

Doubled Zilahi is unified by the white Allumwandlung, but the play is too heterogenous.

2ⁿᵈ Commendation
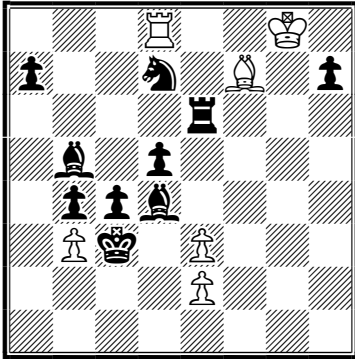**VALERY GUROV**
Russian Federation

h#2   b) ♗e8→f1   6+15
             c) e8=♖

a) 1.♔:d6 c:d7 2.♕:d4(♕~?)
d:c8=♘#
b) 1.♔:d4 ♗g2 2.♕:c6(♕~?) ♗:e5#
c) 1.♔:c6 ♖:e6 2.♕:d6(♕~?) d5#

Cyclic Zilahi with capture of two pieces out of three with hideaways of black queen. White play just creates the mating nets.
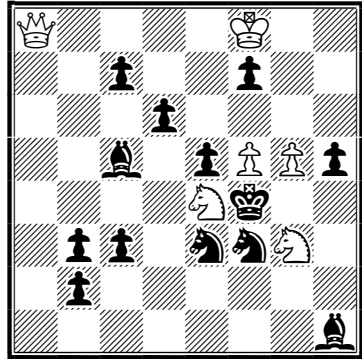
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h#3   b) ♙e2→f2   6+10

a) 1.♘c5 b:c4 2.♔:c4 ♗:e6 3.♗c3
♗:d5#
b) 1.♖e4 e:d4 2.♔:d4 ♖d7 3.c3
♖:d5#

Reciprocal function exchange of four pairs of pieces (two white and two black), but white pawn-sacrifices are quite known.

h#2   2 sol.   6+13
    b) −♟e3, ♟f3
    c) =b) −♞e4, ♞g3

a) 1.♘:f5 ♕c8 2.♗e3 ♕:f5#
    1.♘:g5 ♕d8 2.♗f3 ♕:g5#
b) 1.♔e3 ♕a5 2.♔d3 ♕:c3#
    1.♔f3 ♕a1 2.♔g2 ♕:h1#
c) 1.♔:g5 ♕g2+ 2.♔h6 ♕g7#
    1.♔:f5 ♕f3+ 2.♔e6 ♕:f7#

Author described the content as HOTF 3x2, but solutions of B and C are quite similar and the play of the same two pieces in both moves is simple.
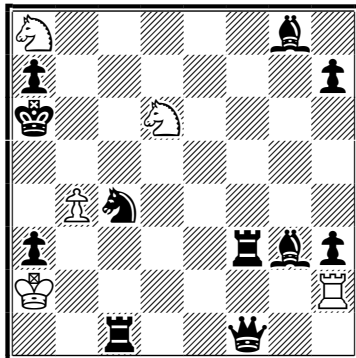
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5ᵗʰ Commendation
MARKO KLASINC
Slovenia
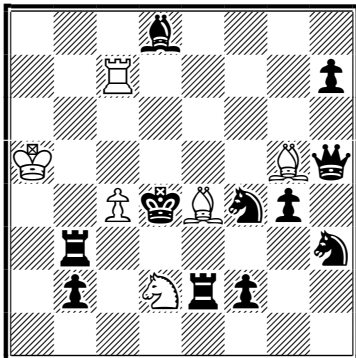
h#2   4 sol.   6+11

1.♖b6(♗~?) ♖d7+ 2.♔e3 ♖d3#
1.♘d5(♕~?) ♗e3+ 2.♔c3 ♘b1#
1.♗f6 ♖c6 2.♔e5 ♗:f6#
1.♗e7 ♖d7+ 2.♔c5 ♗:e7#

   Two complexes of unpin of white pieces are connected by star of the black king, but given tries in the first pair are unsatisfactory. Repetition of 1…♖d7+ is a minus too.

6ᵗʰ Commendation
MENACHEM WITZTUM
Israel
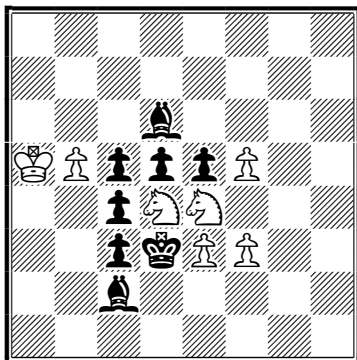

h#2   2 sol.   5+11

1.♖b3 ♖c2 2.♘b6 ♘c7#
1.♖f7 ♖e2 2.♘a5 b5#

   Check avoidance by black rook for future selfblocks by ♘c4 is combined with dual avoidance. However, I don't like too much use of white rook only for line-closings.
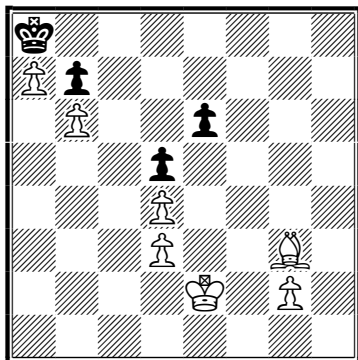
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7ᵗʰ Commendation
VALERY KOPYL
Ukraine

8ᵗʰ Commendation
ALEKSEY OGANESJAN
Russian Federation

h#3   2 sol.   7+8

h#5,5   2 sol.   7+4

1.c:d4 e:d4 2.♔:d4 ♘g5 3.♔c5 ♘e6#
1.d:e4 f:e4 2.♔:e4 ♘e2 3.♔d5 ♘:c3#

Two analogous solutions with Zilahi theme and pawn captures.

Random move of Bishop
1…♗~? 2.e5
2…d:e5 3.d4 e6 - pat (e7-e8♕/R#??)
2…g4 3.e4 g5 4.e3 g6 - pat (g7-g8♕/R#??)

shows that White does not have enough time to promote one of his pawns because one of Black pawns loses all her moves. That's why White must execute corrective moves by Bishop to sacrifice it "under" Black pawn in order to give additional moves for this pawn. But an attempt to do it on e3 and f4 are unsuccessful:
1…♗f4? 2.e5
2...d:e5 3.d4 ♗e3! 4.d:e3 e6 - pat (e7-e8♕/R#??)
2...g4 3.e:f4 g5 4.f3+! - White will checkmate (g6-g7-g8♕/R#), but... will be one move late! So White must sacrifice a Bishop on another squares - c3 and f2:
1…♗e1! 2.e5 d:e5 3.d4 ♗c3! 4.d:c3

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e6 5.c2 e7 6.c1=♗! e8=♕/R#
1...♗f2! 2.e5 g4 3.e4 g5 4.e3 g6
5.e:f2 g7 6.f1=♘! g8=♕/R#

A certain analogue of "White correction" in h#! Random move of Bishop is unsuccessful because Black gets in a pat. In order to prevent it, White must execute corrective moves by Bishop to sacrifice it "under" Black Pawn and so to get time for promotion own Pawn.

Certain logic to find good square for white bishop sacrifice is needed, but not quite deep, because black checks or stalemates can be seen at once. Unfortunately there are white promotions duals as well, on the other hand black promotions in the last move are nice.
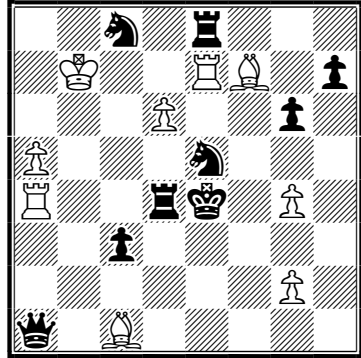
h#2   2 sol.   9+9
b) ♗f7→f1

a) 1.♘b6 ♗b3 2.♘d5 ♗c2#
1.♘:e7 ♖a2 2.♘d3 ♖e2#
b) 1.♕b1+ ♗b5 2.♕d3 ♗c6#
1.♕:a4 ♖f7 2.♖d5 ♖f4#

Two pairs of solutions, but pair with Zilahi is clearly better. Two-move blocking manoeuvre is rather simple. Award is for the use of the same black pieces in single twins.

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