The 4th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section F – Selfmates

Preliminary award by

Sven Trommler

MMXV

Participants

F01	A. Fica (CZE)	F21	G. Popov (RUS)
F02	J. Holubec (SVK)	F22	T. Linss (GER)
F03	V. Plenkov (UKR)	F23	S. Abramenko (RUS)
F04	J. Burda (CZE)	F24	N. Belchikov (BLR)
F05	G. Jordan (GER)	F25	B. Majoros (HUN)
F06	J. Brzozowicz (POL)	F26	A. Azhusin (RUS)
F07	V. Zheglov (RUS)	F27	R. Fiebig (GER)
F08	Y. Paramonov (RUS)	F28	M. Erenburg (ISR)
F09	M. Mishko (UKR)	F29	J. Havran (SVK)
F10	K. Mlynka (SVK)	F30	A. Feoktistov (RUS)
F11	A. Selivanov (RUS)	F31	A. Pankratyev (RUS)
F12	A. Kuzovkov (RUS)	F32	R. Martsvalashvili (GEO)
F13	D. Novomesky (SVK)	F33	W. Tura (POL)
F14	J. Paavilainen (FIN)	F34	V. Zheltuhov (RUS)
F15	H. Grubert (GER)	F35	V. Volchek (BLR)
F16	D. Kostadinov (BGR)	F36	G. Hadzi-Vaskov (MKD)
F17	A. Kostyukov (RUS)	F37	I. Soroka (UKR)
F18	Z. Gavrilovski (MKD)	F38	R. Blagojević (SRB)
F19	A. Gasparyan (ARM)	F39	M. Babić (SRB)
F20	Z. Labai (SVK)		

From the director Aleksey Oganesjan I've received 39 selfmates on anonymous diagrams. The compositions were from 2 up to 15 moves (5 times). The following problems I had to exclude by different reasons:

- F14. The position of white and black pawns is illegal;
- F16. I'm not satisfied with the play after 1…♘c7 2.e8♕/e8♖;
- F24. 8 white pawns and 1 promoted white bishop = illegal position.

Problems excluded because of anticipation or similar realization:

- F20 – yacpdb/218141;
- F23 – pdb/P1103782;
- F27 – yacpdb/325550;
- F31. A fourfold cycle is a good achievement. But parts of realization are known and thus the originality is not high enough in this tourney – for example, pdb/P1181821.

I prefer compositions with a good strategy and/or logical problems with enough content. Therefore selfmates with "king hunt" on the board had less chances to enter the award.

My ranking is the following.

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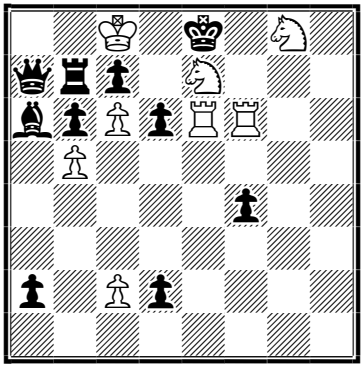
This is a wonderful logical selfmate and I believe the solver needs time in order to recognise all fantastic details.

The main plan 1.♘d5+? 2.♘c7+ is not successful because of the mate of the b♔. 1.♖e1? is wrong because of 1…d:e1♕! 2.♘d5+ ♕e6+!

1st Prize – The Cup winner

MARK ERENBURG

Israel

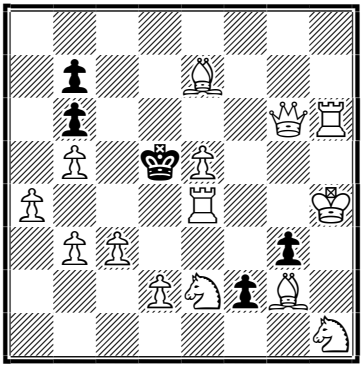


s#9 8+10

Another possibility is 1.♖e2? (2.♖f5! 3.♖e1). But black plays 1…d1♖! 2.♖e1 ♖d5!! (1.♖f5? is too slow because of 1…B:b5!). Therefore **1.♖e5! d5** at first. Then **2.♖e2** because square d5 is blocked. **2…a1♖!!** is a very good black defence! **3.♖f5 ♖d1!!** Now it is not possible to play 4.♖e1 because of 4…d:e1~ 5.♘d5+ ♖:d5! What is now? White plays **4.c3!!** in order to bring black in zugzwang and c3 is the only move to do that! **4…♖g1** doesn't give to the white the possibility to play 5.♖e1? ♖:g8 6.♘d5+ d:e1~ 7.♘:c7+ ♖:c7#. Therefore, white changes the maneuver **5.♘f6+ ♔f7/♔f8 6.♘h5+ ♔e8 7.♘g7+ ♖:g7** and now the main plan is successful **8.♘d5+ ♖e7 9.♘:c7+ ♖:c7#.**

That's the most substantial logical selfmate I've seen for the last years and I'm happy that it participates in this tournament!

2nd Prize
IVAN SOROKA
Ukraine



s#7 14+5

1.♔h5! f1♕ 2.♖d4+ ♔:e5 3.♕d6+ ♔f5 4.♖f4+ ♕:f4 5.♘:g3+ ♕:g3 6.♕e6+ ♔f4 7.♗g5+ ♕:g5#,

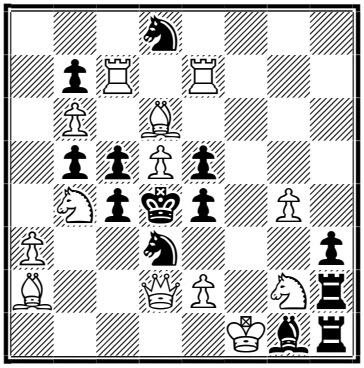
1...f1♖ 2.♕g8+ ♖f7 3.♖d6+ ♔c5 4.♖c6+ ♔d5 5.♖c7! ♔e6 6.♘f4+ ♔f5 7.♕h7+ ♖:h7#,

1...f1♗ 2.♖e3+ ♗:g2 3.♖d3+ ♔:e5 4.♗f6+ ♔e6 5.♗h4+ ♔e5 6.♕e8+ ♔f5 7.♖f3+ ♗:f3#,

1...f1♘ 2.♖h4+ ♔:e5 3.♕f5+! ♔:f5 4.♘d4+ ♔e5 5.♘c6+! b:c6 6.d4+ ♔f5 7.♘:g3+ ♘:g3#.

There are a couple of black AUWs. And the specialist of such a realization is Andrey Selivanov. But it is still a great performance nowadays, especially in S#7. Although, the first black move is zugzwang, it is a great achievement to realise the mate within exact 7 moves. An interesting detail is the distance between the white and black king. The bK must move in the direction of the wK, but the white play is very different!

3rd Prize
ALEKSANDR KUZOVKOV
Russia



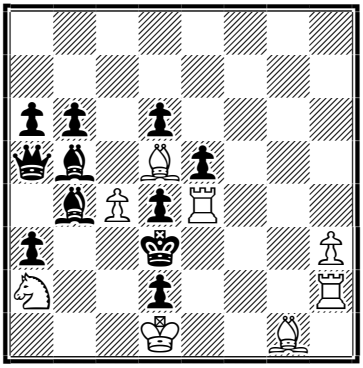
s#3 13+13

1.♖ed7? – 2.♗:e5+ (A) ♔:e5 3. ♕c3+ ♗d4#, 1...♘c6 2.♗:c5+!(B) ♔:c5 3.♕e3+ ♗:e3#, 1...♘e6 2.♘c2+ (C) ♔:d5 3.♘e3+ ♘:e3#, 1...♘f7!

1.♖cd7! – 2.♗:c5+ (B) ♔:c5 3.♕e3+ ♗:e3#, 1...♘c6 2.♘c2+ (C) ♔:d5 3.♘e3+ ♗:e3#, 1...♘e6 2.♗:e5+ (A) ♔:e5 3.♕c3+ ♗d4#.

There are not so many realizations of a Shedey cycle (Dombro-Lacny) in a selfmate. For just that reason the composition is noteworthy. Admittedly there are symmetric elements but it is difficult to find a concept which is selfmate-typical. It is interesting to feel out how the cycle works and why doesn't exist just a reciprocal change of continuation.

4th Prize
GUNTER JORDAN
Germany



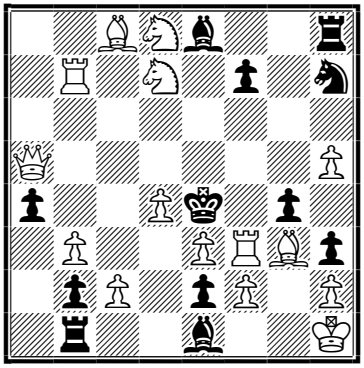
s#10 8+11

The main plan 1.♖e3+? ♔d4? 2.♖ee2+ ♔d3 3.♖:d2+ ♗:d2 4.♖:d2+ ♕:d2# is not successful because of 1...d:e3! Also 1.♗:d4? is too early because of 1...d:e3! Therefore the b♙e5 must be removed at first.

1.♖ee2! (2.♖:d2+ ♗:d2 3.♖:d2+ ♕:d2#) **1...♗c5 2.♖:e5** (3.♖:d2+ ♕:d2#) **2...♗b4 3.♖ee2** (4.♖:d2+ ♗:d2 5.♖:d2+ ♕:d2#) **3...♗c5 4.♖e4** (5.♖:d2+ ♕:d2#) **♗b4** Then **5.♗:d4!** (6.♘:b4+ ♕:b4 7.♖:d2+ ♕:d2#) removes the b♙d4 **5...♗c3! 6.♗g1!** (7.♖d4+ ♗:d4 8.♖:d2+ ♕:d2#) **♗b4!** And now the main plan **7.♖e3+ ♔d4 8.♖ee2+ ♔d3 9.♖:d2+ ♗:d2 10.♖:d2+ ♕:d2#** is successful.

A good logical selfmate with interesting switchbacks of ♖e4 and ♗g1 on the white side and ♗b4 and ♔d3 on the black side.

5th Prize
ANDREY SELIVANOV
Russia



s#5 15+12

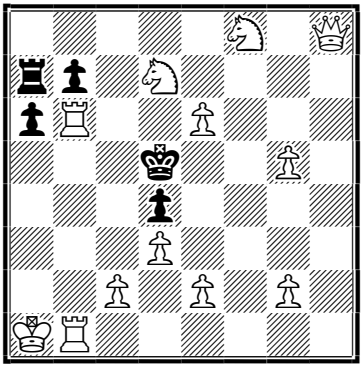
1.♕a8! – 2.♖f4+ ♔d5 (A) 3.♖f5+ ♔e4 (B) 4.♖a7+ ♔:f5 5.♖a5+ ♗:a5#;
1...♔:f3 2.♘e5+ ♔e4 (B) 3.♖e7+ ♗c6 (C) 4.♘d3+ ♔f3 5.♘:e1+ ♖:e1# (4...♔d5 5.♘b4+ ♗:b4#);
1...g:f3 2.♘c5+ ♔d5 3.♖b5+ ♗c6 4.♘:a4+ ♔e4 5.♘c3+ ♗:c3#;
1...♘f6 2.♘:f6+ ♔:f3 3.♖:f7+ ♗c6 4.♘d5+ ♔e4 5.♘c3+ ♗:c3#;
1...♗:d7 2.♖b4+ ♗c6 (C) 3.♖f4+ ♔d5 (A) 4.♖f5+ ♔e4 5.d5+ ♗:b4#.

The key creates a battery and gives the b♔ a free square. In all 4 variations we find the Zabunov theme but only three of them are homogeneous with the creation and play of a Siers battery.

In addition there is a cycle of the 2nd and 3rd black moves which seems to exist by chance.

Nevertheless it is a composition with rich strategy and virtuosic play of white batteries.

1st Honourable Mention
ALEKSANDR AZHUSIN
Russia

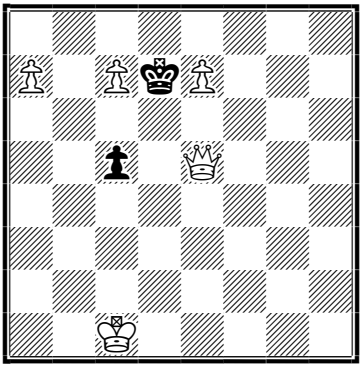


s#7 12+5

1.g3! (2.c4+ d:c3 e.p. 3.♕h1+ ♔d4 4.♕g1+ ♔d5 5.♘f6+ ♔e5 6.d4+ ♔f5 7.♖6b5+ a:b5#) **1...a5 2.♕h2!** (3.c4+ d:c3 4.♕g2+ ♔d4 5.♕f2+ ♔d5 6.♕f3+ ♔d4 7.♖6b4+ a:b4#) **2...a4 3.e7!** (4.e4+ d:e3 e.p. 5.♕g2+ ♔d4 6.♘e6+ ♔c3 7.♖6b3+ a:b3#) **3...a3! 4.e4+ d:e3 e.p. 5.c4+ ♔d4 6.♖d6+ ♔c3 7.♕b2+ a:b2#.**

Here we see a fine duel between the white "armada" and the black ♖/♙-battery. The b♙ moves step by step from a6 to a3 during the defences. The idea is not really new (for example, pdb/P1270464). But in this composition all threats finish on the 7th move. That's a great enhancement in comparison to former presentations.

2nd Honourable Mention
TORSTEN LINSS
Germany



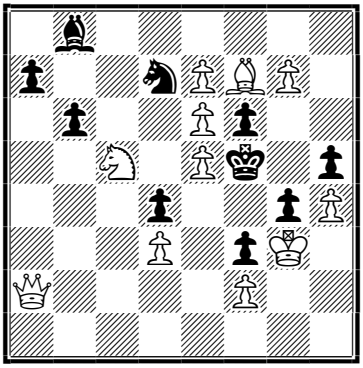
s#11 2 solutions 5+2

1.e8♗+! ♔c8 2.a8♖+ ♔b7 3.c8♕+ ♔b6 4.♕e4 c4 5.♕d8+ ♔c5 6.♖a5+ ♔b4 7.♗a4 ♔c3/♔a3 8.♗d1 ♔b4 9.♕b1+ ♔c3 10.♕dd3+ c:d3 11.♖a4 d2#,

1.a8♕! c4 2.♕a4+ ♔c8 3.e8♖+ ♔b7 4.c8♗+ ♔b6 5.♕b8+ ♔c5 6.♖e5+ ♔d4 7.♗f5 ♔c3 8.♗b1 ♔d4 9.♕d1+ ♔c3 10.♕bb3+ c:b3 11.♖e4 b2#.

The main content of this miniature is a cycle of white promotions and echo mates. There are not many realizations of this combination and maybe it is shown for the first time. But the beginning of the first solution is known because of yacpdb/382589. Moreover, the black play isn't really interesting because we see only moves after checks or zugzwang.

3rd Honourable Mention
JAROSLAW BRZOZOWICZ
Poland



s#3 11+10

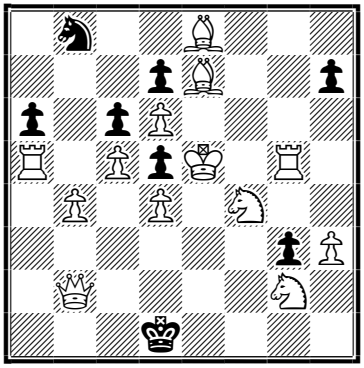
1...♘:e5 (a) 2.g8♗ (A) – 3.♗h7+ ♘g6# / 2.e8♗ (B) – 3.♗g6+ ♘g6#

1.♘b3? (C) – 2.♘:d4+ ♔:e5 3.♕d5+ ♔:d5#, 1...f:e5 (b) 2.g8♘ (D) – 3.♘:d4+ e:d4#, 1...♘:e5 (a) 2.g8♗ (A) (2.e8♗? (B)) – 3.♗h7+ ♘g6#, 1...♔:e5!

1.g8♘! (D) – 2.♘h6+ ♔:e5 3.♕d5+ ♔:d5#, 1...f:e5 (b) 2.♘b3 (C) – 3.♘:d4+ e:d4#, 1...♘:e5 (a) 2.e8♗ (B) – 3.♗g6+ ♘:g6#.

In the setplay exists 1…♘:e5 2.g8♗ and 2.e8♗. These mates are separated in the try and the solution (theme Makihovi). Furthermore there is a change of continuation after 1…fxe5 and the Reversal theme between try and solution. Unfortunately there are no black defences after the second white move.

4th Honourable Mention
MIKHAIL MISHKO
Ukraine



s#7vv 13+8

1.♗f7(A)? h6(a) 2.♖f5(C)! h5 3.♗g5! h4 4.♗e6 d:e6 5.♕e2+ ♔c1 6.♘:e6+ ♔b1 7.♗f4 ♘d7#, 1...h5(b)!

1.♗f6(B)? zz 1...h5(b) 2.♖f5(C)! h4 3.♖a2! a5 4.b:a5 ♘a6 5.♘e3+ ♔e1 6.♕b4+ ♘:b4 7. ♘d3 ♘:d3#, 1...h6(a)!

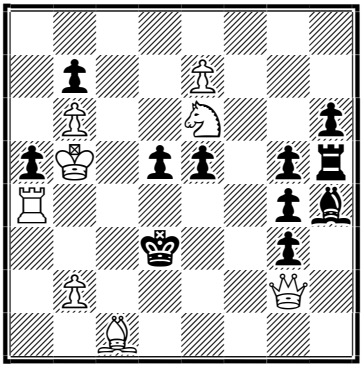
1.♖f5(C)! zz 1...h6(a) 2.♗f7(A)! h5 3.♗g5! h4 4.♗e6 d:e6 5.♕e2+ ♔c1 6.♘:e6+ ♔b1 7.♗f4 ♘d7#,

1...h5(b) 2.♗f6(B)! h4 3.♖a2! a5 4.b:a5 ♘a6 5.♘e3+ ♔e1 6.♕b4+ ♘:b4 7.♘d3+ ♘:d3#.

The author describes the content as “Hoffmann theme” but this term is not really common. In any case the matrix 1.A? b!, 1.B? a!, 1.Key! a, b 2.A, B shows the Banny theme.

The play after 1…h5 is more interesting because it is more virtuous.

Commendation
KAROL MLYNKA
Slovakia

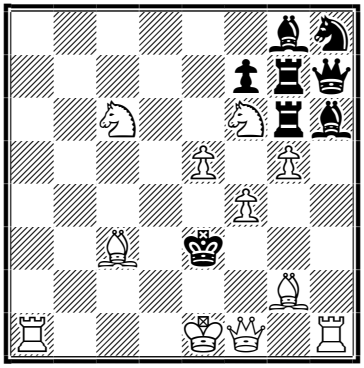


s#3 b) Pe7->f6 8+11

a) diagram:
1...d4 (a) 2.e8♘ (A) zz e4 3.♘f4+ g:f4#
1...e4 (b) 2.♘f4+ g:f4 3.♕g:e4+ d:e4#
1.e8♘? (A) d4! (a)
1.♔c5? zz d4 (a) 2.♔b5 (B) zz e4 3.♘f4+ g:f4#, 1...e4!
1.♘d8? zz d4 (a) 2.♘e6 (C) zz e4 3.♘f4+ g:f4#, 1...e4!
1.e8♕! zz d4 (a) 2.♕a8 (D) zz e4 3.♘f4+ g:f4#,
1...e4 2.♘f4+ g:f4 3.♕e:e4+ d:e4#;
b) Pe7->f6:
1...d4 (a) 2.f7 (E) zz e4 3.♘f4+ g:f4#
1.f7! (E) zz d4 a 2.f8♘ (F) zz e4 3.♘f4+ g:f4#,
1...e4 (b) 2.♘f4+ g:f4 3.♕:e4+ d:e4#.

We find in 6 phases a change of continuation with thirdbattery mates. In any case it has a theoretical value. But the repetition of the black play and repetition of mates are unpleasant.

Commendation
ALEKSANDR KOSTYUKOV
Russia

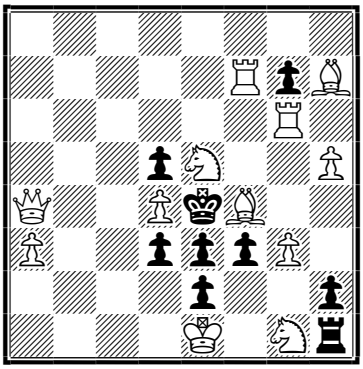


s#4 11+8

1.♕e2+? ♔:f4!; 1.♕f2+? ♔d3!
1.♖a4? 1...♙:g5 2.♖h3+ ♕:h3 3.♘g4+ ♕:g4 4.♕e2+ ♕:e2#, 1...♖:g5 2.♖e4+ ♕:e4 3.♘d5+ ♕:d5 4.♙d2+ ♕:d2#, 1...♖:f6!
1.♖d1? ♖:g5/♖:f6 2.♖d3+ ♕:d3 3.♙d2+ ♕:d2#, 1...♙:g5!
1.♙d5! ♙:g5 2.♕e2+ ♔:f4 3.0-0+ ♔g3 4.♕h2+ ♕:h2#,
1...♖:g5/♖:f6 2.♕f2+ ♔d3 3.0-0-0+ ♔:c3 4.♕c2+ ♕:c2#.

The play in the solution with two castling is known – for example, yacpdb/350836. But within this composition we find additional change of continuation between try and solution.

Commendation
ZORAN GAVRILOVSKI
Macedonia



s#4vv 12+9

1.♕a7? zz h:g1♗!

1.g4? zz h:g1♘!

1.♖f8! zz 1...h:g1♗ 2.♖e6+ g6 3.♘:d3+ ♔:d3 4.♖:e3+ ♗:e3#, 1...h:g1♘ 2.♖g4+ g6 3.♗:e3+ ♔:e3 4.♖:f3+ ♘:f3#.

We see two known minor promotions followed by Zabunov theme. The realisation of Zabunov theme in this configuration deserves the honour.

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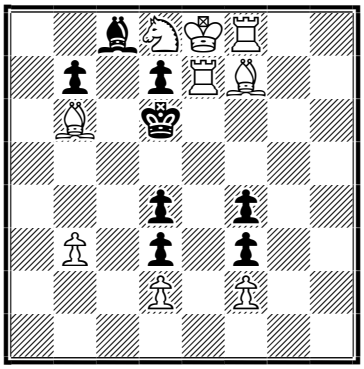
The main plan is 1.♖:d7+ ♗:d7#, but 1…♔e5! Therefore ♙d2 or ♙f2 must observe the square e5. For that reason two b♙ must be removed.

1.♗g6? ♔d5 2.♗e4+ ♔d6 3.♗:d3 ♔d5 4.♗c4+ ♔d6 5.♖e1 d3 6.♗:d3 ♔d5 7.♗e4+ ♔d6 8.d3 ♔e5 9.d4+ ♔d6 10.♗g6 ♔d5 11.♖e5+ ♔d6 12.♖e7 ♔d5 13.♗f7+ ♔d6 14.♖:d7+ ♗:d7# – only in 14 moves.

Commendation
GRIGORY POPOV
Russia



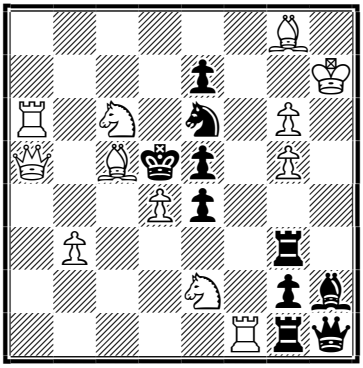
s#12 9+8

1.♗g6? ♔d5 2.♗e4+ ♔d6 3.♗:d3 ♔d5 4.♖f5+ ♔d6 5.♖:f4 ♔d5 6.♖f5+ ♔d6 7.♖:f3 ♔d5 8.♖f5+ ♔d6 9.♖f8 ♔d5 10.♗e4+ ♔d6 11.f4 d3 12.♗g6 ♔d5 13.♗f7+ ♔d6 14.♖:d7+ ♗:d7# – only in 14 moves too!

1.♗h5! ♔d5 2.♗:f3+ ♔d6 3.♗h1 f3 4.♖e1 ♔d5 5.♗:f3+ ♔d6 6.♗e4 ♔e5 7.f4+ ♔d6 8.♗g6 ♔d5 9.♖e5+ ♔d6 10.♖e7 ♔d5 11.♗f7+ ♔d6 12.♖:d7+ ♗:d7#.

Here we find one more logical selfmate. But this work is not so impressive as previously placed problems. The play of the white bishop is not really original.

Commendation
ALEKSANDR FEOKTISTOV
Russia



s#3 12+10

1...♖:b3 2.♗b4+! ♔c4 3.♘:e5+ ♗:e5#

1.♖f5? – 2.♘c3+! ♖:c3 3.♖:e5+ ♗:e5#, 1...♖:b3 2.♗b4+! ♔c4 3.♘:e5+ ♗:e5#, 1...e3 2.♘b4+ ♔e4 3.♘:g3+ ♗:g3#, 1...♖c1!

1.♕c7! – 2.♘c3+! (A) ♖:c3 3.♕:e5+ (B) ♗:e5#,

1...♖:b3 2.♕d7+! (B) ♔c4 3.♘:e5+ (C) ♗:e5#,

1...e3 2.♘b4+ (C) ♔e4 3.♘:g3+ (A) ♗:g3#,

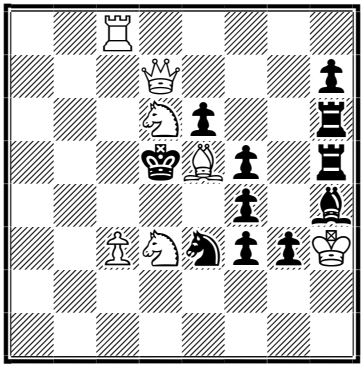
1...♖:g5 2.♕:e5+! ♖:e5 3.♘f4+ ♗:f4#,

1...e:d4 2.♕:g3! ~ (♔:c5) 3.♕e5+ ♗:e5#.

(w♘e2 = A, w♕c7 = ♗, w♘c6 = C.)

There is a cycle of the white pieces ♘e2, ♕c7 and ♘c6. Furthermore we find a change of continuation after 1...♖:b3 between setplay/try and solution.

Commendation
WALDEMAR TURA
Poland



s#3 7+11

1.♗f6? e5!

1.♗g7? ♖g5!

1.♗h8! – 2.♕b7+ ♔:d6 3.♖d8+ ♗:d8#,

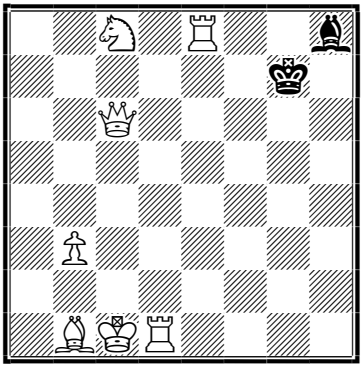
1...e5 2.♕c6+ ♔e6 3.♖e8+ ♗e7#,

1...♖g5 2.♘f7+ ♔e4 3.♘:g5+ ♗:g5#,

1...♖f6 2.♘e8+ ♔e4 3.♘:f6+ ♗:f6#.

There are two thematic pairs. In the threat and after 1....e5 the w♕ gives check followed by check of the w♖. After closing the bishop line by b♖♖ we see Siers batteries. The key option is an additional advantage.

Commendation
MILOMIR BABIĆ
Serbia



s#15 2 solutions 7+2

1.♖h1! ♔f7 2.♕d7+ ♔f6 3.♖e6+ ♔g5 4.♖g6+ ♔f4 5.♕f5+ ♔e3 6.♖e1+ ♔d4 7.♖g4+ ♔c3 8.♖c4+ ♔:b3 9.♕d3+ ♙c3 10.♘b6 ♔a3 11.♖a4+ ♔b3 12.♕b5+ ♙b4 13.♖d1 ♔c3 14.♖a3+ ♙:a3 15.♕b2+ ♙:b2#,

1.♖dd8! ♔f7 2.♖f8+ ♔g7 3.♔c2 ♔h7 4.♔d2+ ♔g7 5.♔d3 ♔h7 6.♔e3+ ♔g7 7.♔e4 ♔h7 8.♔f4+ ♔g7 9.♖f5 ♔h7 10.♖h5+ ♔g7 11.♔g5 ♔f7 12.♕c7+ ♔e6 13.♕c4+ ♔e5 14.♔h6+ ♔f6 15.♙h7 ♙g7#.

That's a fresh idea: in 1st solution the b♔ comes to the w♔ and in the 2nd solution the w♔ comes to the b♔. In addition, the mates are echo mates. But I don't like the black play without choices of moves.

Furthermore w♖ and w♘ are uninvolved in the mate position in one solution.

I'd like to thank all participants for their contributions to the tourney and also Aleksey Oganesjan for his very valuable and good work as a director.

Finally, I congratulate all authors of awarded compositions.

Sven Trommler
13-03-2015