



**WORLD FEDERATION  
FOR CHESS COMPOSITION**

**12<sup>th</sup> WORLD CHESS  
COMPOSITION TOURNAMENT**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**May 2025**

## Invitation

The World Chess Composition Tournament is a long-established team event enabling composers from all over the world to compete at international level with new chess problems and studies on set themes. Inspiring themes and joint work have been the highlights of each WCCT. Eleven such tournaments have been held to date, with enthusiastic worldwide participation. The 12<sup>th</sup> WCCT is now announced, and I have pleasure in inviting all countries\* affiliated to FIDE to register for this competition and leave their marks in the edition 2025-2027.

\*In March 2022 WFCC decided to exclude the teams of Russia and Belarus from its tournaments in response to the hostilities in Ukraine and the Official Statements of FIDE Executive Council.

Marjan Kovačević  
President of the WFCC

## Introduction by the WCCT Committee

Earlier attempts at initiation of a 12<sup>th</sup> WCCT tourney were unsuccessful, but a new start in early 2025 proved very successful. Spurred on by tournament director Valery Kopyl, the committee managed to gather a reasonable number of theme proposals, and to select one theme among them for each section in a fairly quick process. We do hope that the chosen themes will prove to be useful, allowing most countries to produce something worthwhile and allowing many different settings with few anticipations.

So now it's time to bring out your composing chessboards! We wish all competing countries and the tournament director good luck.

For the WCCT Committee  
Kjell Widlert  
Thomas Maeder

## Foreword by the WCCT Director

The tournament director is **Valery Kopyl**. Registrations for the 12<sup>th</sup> WCCT should be submitted to him by **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**, including the name, email and postal address of the country's team leader.

Questions about the themes should be forwarded to the director (by the team leaders only). The director will consult the WCCT Committee and then provide answers. All team captains, please make sure that you and your country's composers are aware of the 12<sup>th</sup> WCCT rules.

The closing date for entries in all sections is **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**.

Valery Kopyl's email address is [12wcct@gmail.com](mailto:12wcct@gmail.com)

Valery Kopyl  
Director of the 12<sup>th</sup> WCCT  
April 2025

## WCCT General Rules

The General Rules were accepted at Pula in September 1972 by the Permanent Commission of the FIDE for Chess Composition (PCCC) and modified and added to in September 1978 in Canterbury, in August 1984 in Sarajevo, in September 1990 in Benidorm, in August 1991 in Rotterdam and in August/September 1993 in Bratislava. Further amendments have been made in the light of changes approved at Pula 2000, Wageningen 2001, Eretria 2005, Crete 2010, and Bern 2014 (by the World Federation for Chess Composition, the follow-up organisation of the PCCC).

1. The WCCT (World Chess Composition Tournament) is organised with the authority of the WFCC.
2. The WCCT is open to all member federations of the FIDE (hereinafter called "participating countries"). The member federations of the FIDE are to be given adequate opportunity to notify in advance their intention to participate.
3. The WCCT includes the following sections: A) Twomovers, B) Threemovers, C) Moremovers, D) Endgame studies, E) Helpmates, F) Selfmates, G) Fairies, H) Retros.
4. The WFCC regulates the procedure for proposing and selecting themes, approves the procedure to be used for judging and appoints the Tournament Director (hereinafter called "Director"). The final choice of themes and of countries to be asked to judge each section (hereinafter called "judging countries") lies with the WFCC.
5. Constructional tasks and any theme stipulating a limit to the number of pieces should be avoided. Compositions in twin or duplex form and/or with more than one solution are acceptable only if so specified in the definitions of the prescribed themes. In sections A-F promoted pieces in the diagram position are allowed only if they are substitutes for captured pieces of the same type. It should be noted that a King's Bishop cannot be a substitute for a Queen's Bishop or *vice versa*. In section G, fairy pieces or fairy conditions which do not exactly correspond with the theme definitions will not be accepted.
6. A dated announcement of the WCCT will be made, setting out the rules and providing theme definitions with diagrammed illustrations. There should be at least 10 months between the date of the announcement and the closing date for entries. The closing date is to be stated precisely in the announcement and cannot be changed.
7. The official documents (announcement and award) are to be written in at least one of the official languages of the FIDE.
8. Each participating country appoints a team leader. The Director cannot act as a team leader.
9. The organising country may participate in the WCCT provided that its entries are sent in a sealed form by the team leader to the appointed WFCC Presidium member two weeks before the closing date.
10. Three compositions in each of the eight sections are allowed from each participating country. Any one composer may participate with three compositions in each section. Joint compositions are permitted.
11. Entries are to be submitted on uniform diagrams with the section, the composer's name and country, and the full solution all clearly written on the same page. Algebraic notation is to be used.

12. The entries are to be acknowledged by the Director, who will compile them into a document with diagrams and full solutions, but without composers' names or countries. Each diagram will bear a number for reference purposes. The document will be sent to the team leaders for checking, and the Director must be informed within three months about any misprints or claims of anticipation or unsoundness.
13. The Director will inform all judging countries and team leaders of any misprints, any entries claimed to be unsound, and any claims of anticipation, so that six weeks may be given for checking these claims. Claims are provided without mentioning their source.
14. Using a scale of 0 to 4 with the step of 0.2 points, each judging country will allocate points to all compositions in the section which it has agreed to judge, except for the entries of the judging country itself. Compositions which are sound, thematic and not anticipated should receive at least 0.2 points. The judging countries must explain their reason(s) for giving a score of 0 points to any composition. Comments on all compositions are welcome and are strongly recommended in the case of those with a score of 2.6 points or more.
15. If a judging country does not make its award by the date prescribed in the Tournament schedule, or in the case of other irregularities, the Director may appoint some other judging country, making use in the first instance of the list of reserves drawn up by the WCCT Committee. The WFCC Presidium shall be informed.
16. The Director will calculate the total points gained by each composition. If a composition has been judged by five judging countries, the Director discards the highest and the lowest marks and sums the remaining three. In calculating the score of the entries of judging countries in the section(s) that the countries are judging, the highest and lowest marks will be discarded and the score will be 1.5 times the sum of the two middle marks. If a composition has received a zero mark from two or more judging countries, it is excluded from the tournament and receives no points.
17. The Director will order the entries in each section on the basis of their score. In each section, only the two highest-placed entries from each participating country will be taken into consideration in calculating the country's tournament score. The overall winner of the Tournament is the country with the highest total score from seven best sections out of eight for this country.
18. In each section the twenty highest-placed problems (hereinafter called the "top 20") will be printed on diagrams with full solutions in the final awards document. If several entries are ranked equally and share the 20<sup>th</sup> place, all of them will be printed on diagrams. If the third-placed entry of any country belongs to the "top 20" list, it will be printed in the final awards document, even though it does not contribute to that country's score.
19. In each section the entries scoring points for a participating country, but not belonging to the "top 20" list, will be mentioned in the final awards document only by means of their reference number, composer and country names, score and place. These compositions are to be considered as published. Any unpublished entries will be available to their composers for publication elsewhere, once the final awards document has appeared.
20. The final awards document will be made available to every participating country and composer.

21. The three countries with the highest total scores and the composers of the three highest-placed entries in each section will be awarded certificates of honour.

## **Annex to WCCT General Rules**

This annex aims to provide clarification of some of the WCCT General Rules and, for the current WCCT in particular, is to be considered as an integral part of those Rules. The paragraph numbering corresponds to that used in the General Rules.

Paragraph 5: In section G (Fairies), no limitation is imposed on the number of orthodox or fairy pieces. This number has no connection with the number of pawns and no proof game is needed.

Paragraph 7: The announcement and the award will be written in the English language. Team leaders and judging countries are kindly asked also to use only English, including any comments to the problems. The Director keeps the right to translate the country's comments into English (including automatic translation means, like Google translator) to ensure anonymity of entries. Communication between the Director, team leaders and judging countries will be via email.

Paragraph 9: The team leader of the organising country will send the entries to a neutral person (e.g. the WFCC President or the WCCT committee spokesman) in a password-protected ZIP archive. The Director will ask the team leader for the password upon receipt of the file with the entries.

Paragraph 10: Even though the submission of versions is not encouraged, it is not forbidden. Similar problems by different countries are all legitimate; they are not considered to be versions and are not subject to the procedure described below. The procedure for versions in the current tournament is as in the previous WCCT:

- a) Every participating country must inform the Director if it submits groups of 2 or 3 problems which are versions of each other.
- b) The judging countries do not receive this information. They allocate points to all the entries as if there were no versions.
- c) Among versions submitted by the same country only the highest-graded one is kept in the award and may score points for that country.
- d) After the judging countries have submitted their marks, the Director informs them of seemingly undeclared versions which he has detected among the entries submitted by any country.
- e) The judging countries in the relevant section must then state whether they consider these entries to be versions of each other. If there is a majority decision that an entry is a version, action is taken according paragraph (c). If there is a tie, the Director must exercise a casting vote and inform the judging countries of his decision.

Paragraph 11: The team leaders will submit the entries in electronic form. Acceptable file formats are: WinChloe, Fancy CCV, Problemiste PBM, Microsoft Word DOC and DOCX, OpenOffice ODT, Rich text format RTF and Adobe Acrobat PDF. For section D (Endgame studies) in particular, the entries must be submitted in PGN format. If the entries are submitted in DOC, DOCX, ODT or RTF format, team leaders must also include in these documents, or in separate plain text files, the positions in standard FEN (preferably) or algebraic notation. If the entries are submitted in PDF

format, team leaders must provide the positions in separate plain text files. Acceptable notations are: FEN (KQRBNP), English (KQRBSP), French (RDTFCP), German (KDTLSB) and FIDE (KDTLSP).

Paragraph 12: The document including all the entries will be made available by the Director in PDF format. The WCCT Committee considers that no printed booklet is necessary.

Paragraphs 12 and 13: Claims of unsoundness and/or anticipation should be concise. A short description of the claim is recommended (like, for example: cook, dual, double refutation, etc.) and the confirming variations only. For possible anticipations a “compare to” description should be used. No further comments are allowed. Claims for thematic contents or technical issues are not accepted. Replies to claims will generally be accepted “as is”, but the Director has the right to discard the parts which have no connection to the claim. The judging countries should consider the claims and replies as the personal opinion of the claimant. They should evaluate the validity and severity of such claims.

Paragraph 14: Each judging country is free to determine its own judging method, whether it uses one, two or more judges. To reach the best result, it is recommended that a country's judges work in consultation with each other. The country should itself resolve any dispute among the judges; for example an appointed person in charge may make the final decision. It is not required for judges to be international FIDE judges. The judging countries are trusted to appoint their best experts to carry out the work and they are not obliged to provide the names of the persons who have made the award.

Guidelines for the allocation of points:

Points	Description
4.0	An outstanding problem: an accurate and intensive rendering of the set theme, without blemishes in any of the main lines, and showing originality and flair. Perfect construction and economy.
3.0	<i>Either:</i> a very good problem showing the theme clearly but perhaps not intensively or very originally <i>Or:</i> a task rendering of the theme which does not reach the highest artistic standard. In either case, good construction and economy.
2.0	A good problem, very likely worth an honourable mention or commendation in a reasonably strong tourney, but not a very intensive rendering of the theme, and perhaps not very original. Adequate to good construction and economy.
1.0	A very ordinary piece of work, typical of many average columns but hardly up to award standard. Adequate construction and economy.
0.0	Unsound, unthematic or fully anticipated.

Paragraph 18: The final awards document will be made available by the Director in PDF format and as a printed booklet.

## **Timetable**

<b>May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>	Announcement
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>	Registration
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026</b>	Deadline for submitting entries
<b>September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026</b>	Document with entries
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026</b>	Claims
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>	Distribution of claims
<b>March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>	Replies to claims
<b>April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>	Distribution of replies to claims
<b>June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>	Judging completed
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>	Results announced
<b>October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>	Award booklet
<b>WFCC Meeting, 2027</b>	Celebration of the winners

## SECTION A: TWOMOVERS

**Judging countries:** Czech Republic, France, Georgia, India, Slovakia

**Reserve:** United States

**Theme (proposed by Serbia):** Double Mate Correction with the solution and the thematic try starting by moves of different white pieces.

Double Mate Correction (DMC) is a new thematic combination, involving changed mates (at least 3x1) and changed defenses (at least 3x1) in set-play, try (or tries), and solution:

	a	b	c
set	X	~	~
try	A	X	~
solution	B	~	X

The empty squares with the sign “~” after black moves b/c may be:

- 1) any mate other than X (in any phase), other than A in the try, and other than B in the solution;
- 2) no mate (either black moves b/c don't prevent the threat or they refute the try).

No thematic variation should repeat between the phases, even if the concrete black move doesn't defend against the threat in the try or solution. In other words, no thematic variation (defence+mate) should work in another thematic phase.

Different DMC forms may be found in the Jurmala IT 2024 Announcement

(<https://wccc2024.wfcc.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Jurmala-WCCC-2024-Internet-Tourney.pdf>)

and in the award of the same tourney

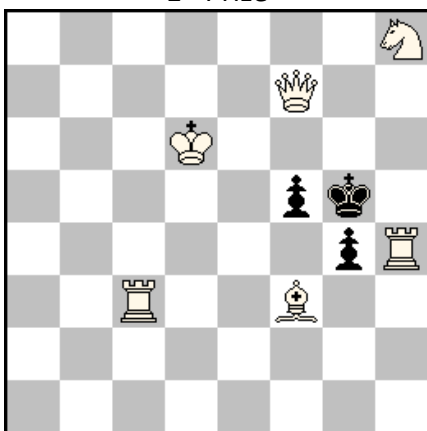
(<https://wccc2024.wfcc.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Jurmala-IT-2024-Award.pdf>).

These two documents include 34 more DMC examples that are not thematic for 12<sup>th</sup> WCCT only because the solution and the thematic try start by moves of the same white piece.

**Semen Veselenchuk**

Nauka i suspilstvo 1971-72

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



#2

6+3

### Example A1

set play:

**1...f4 2.Rh5#** 1...g3/gxf3 2.Qe7# 1...Kf4 2.Rxg4#

1.Sg6? zz

**1...f4 2.Rc5#** **1...g3 2.Rh5#** but: 1...gxf3!

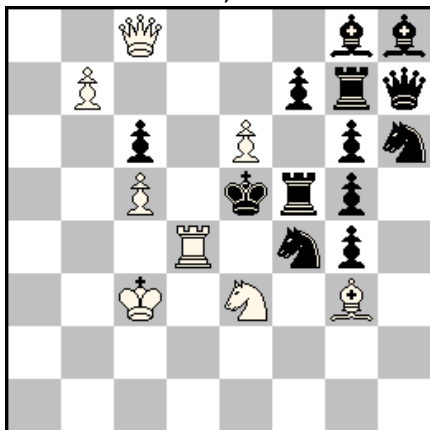
1.Bxg4! zz

**1...f4 2.Qe7#** **1...fxg4 2.Rh5#** 1...Kf4 2.Qxf5#

1...Kxh4 2.Qh5#



**Miroslav Svitek**  
Pravda, 1982



#2

8+13

**Example A2**

set play:

**1...f6 2.Sc4# 1...Rf6 2.b8Q#**

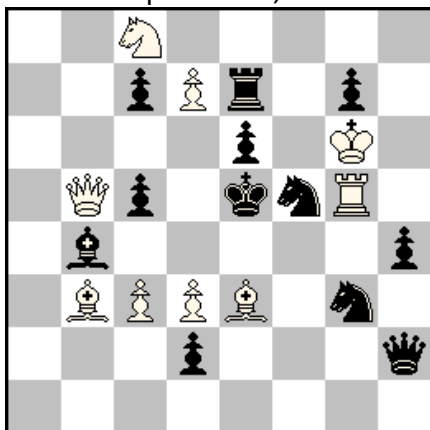
1.e7? zz

**1...f6 2.b8Q# 1...Rf6 2.Sc4# but 1...Kf6!**

1.Qd8! zz

**1...f6/Kxe6/Rf6 2.Qd6# 1...fxe6 2.Sc4#**

**Visvaldis Veders**  
Europe Échecs, 1995



#2

9+12

**Example A3**

set play:

**1...Se4 2.d4#**

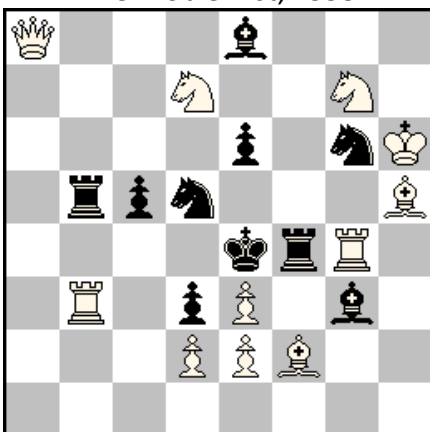
1.Rg4? (2.Bf4#)

**1...Sg~/Se4 2.Re4# 1...Sxe3 2.d4# but 1...Qf2!**

1.Qc6! (2.Qxc7#)

**1...Se4 2.Qxe4# 1...c4 2.d4#**

**Visvaldis Veders**  
The Problemist, 1995



#2

11+10

**Example A4**

set play:

**1...Se5/e5 2.Sf6#**

1.Rg5? (2.exd3#)

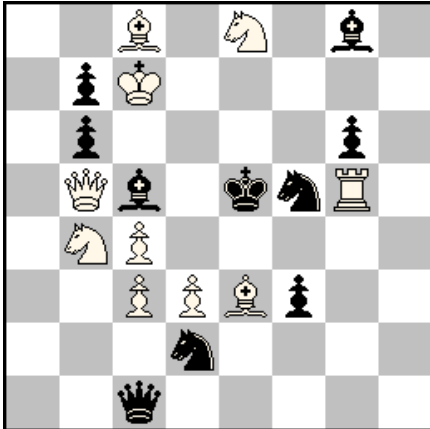
**1...Se5 2.Rxe5# 1...Rg4 2.Sf6#**

but 1...c4!

1.Qa1! (2.Qh1#)

**1...Se5/Sh4 2.Qe5# 1...Sxe3 2.Sf6#**

**Visvaldis Veders**  
Probleemblad 1995



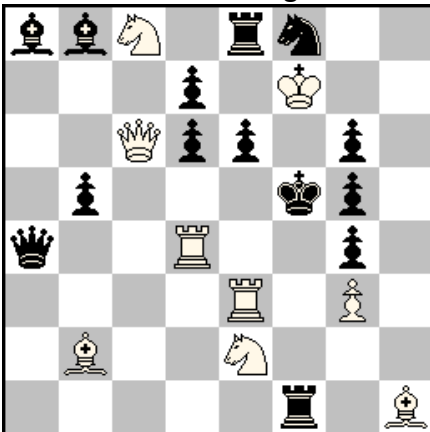
#2 10+10

**Example A5**

set play:

**1...Se4 2.d4#**  
1.Rg4? (2.Bf4#)  
**1...Sd~/Se4 2.Rxe4# 1...Se3 2. d4#** but 1...Qc3!/g5!  
1.Qc6! (2.Qf6#)  
**1...Se4 2.Qxe4# 1...Be7 2.d4#**  
(unintended double refutation of the try could be avoided, f.i. +bPc2)

**Janis Lukasevics**  
Sächsische Zeitung 1997



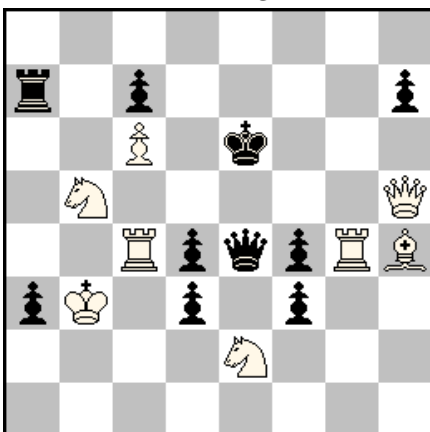
#2 9+14

**Example A6**

set play:

**1...e5 2.Be4#**  
1.Rxd6? (2.Re5#)  
**1...e5 2.Rf6#**  
**1...Qe4 2.Bxe4#** but 1...Qf4!  
1.Qxd6! (2.Re5#)  
**1...e5 2.Qf6#**  
**1...Be4 2.Bxe4#**

**Alex Casa**  
StrateGems 2004  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize



#2 8+10

**Example A7**

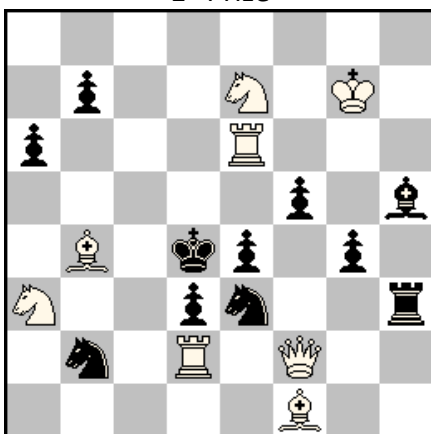
set play:

**1...Qd5 2.Sxf4#**  
1.Rxd4? (2.Rxe4#)  
**1...Qd5+/Qg6/Qxe2/Qe3 2.Qd5# 1...Qxc6 2.Sxf4#**  
**1...Qf5 2.Qe8# 1...Qxd4 2.Sexd4#** but: 1...Qe5!  
1.Rxf4! (2.Rxe4#)  
**1...Qd5 2.Qe8# 1...Qxf4 2.Sxf4#**  
1...Qg6 2.Sexd4# 1...Qxc6/Qf5/Qxe2/Qe3 2.Qf5#  
Non-thematic (for WCCT-12) tries: 1.Rc5? Ra8! & 1.Rg7?  
Qf5!

### Evgeny Bogdanov

Pod Wieza 2005

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



#2

8+11

#### Example A8

set play:

**1...Sc4 2.Sc2#**

1.Rc2? (2.Bc5#)

**1...Sc4/Sa4 2.Rxc4# 1...dxc2 2.Sxc2#** but: 1...b6!

1.Qf4! (2.Qe5#)

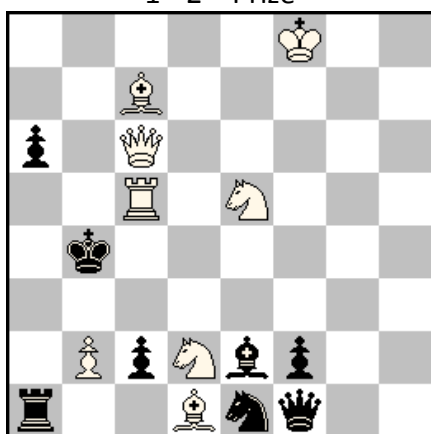
**1...Sbc4 2.Rxd3# 1...Sec4 2.Sc2#**

1...Se~/Sd5 2.Rd6#/Sxf5#

### Marjan Kovačević

"64" 2024

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize



#2

8+8

#### Example A9

set play:

**1...Sd3 2.Rc4#** 1...Ra5 2.Bxa5#

1.Bd6? (2.Rd5#)

**1...Sd3 2.Qe4# 1...Ra5 2.Rc4#**

1...c1=Q/c1=R 2.Rb5# but: 1...Bb5!

1.Qd6! (2.Ra5#)

**1...Sd3 2.Qd4# 1...Bb5 2.Rc4#**

1...c1=Q/c1=R 2.Sc6#

## SECTION B: THREEMOVERS

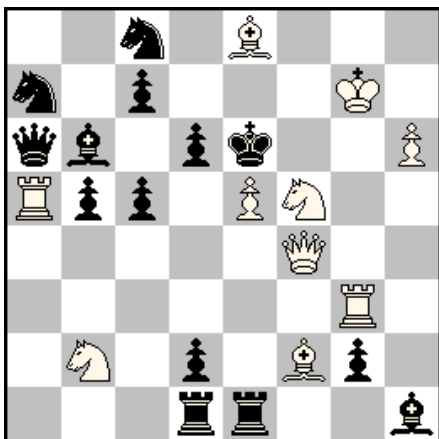
**Judging countries:** France, India, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia

**Reserve:** United States

**Theme (proposed by Israel):** A black halfpin is created after Black's first move and/or White's 2<sup>nd</sup> move. This halfpin must be fully exploited by the mates, namely, there will be at least one move by each of the two half-pinned black pieces followed by a mate exploiting the pin of the other piece.

**Vilmos Schneider**

Federation Hongroise des  
Echecs 1965  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize



#3

12+9

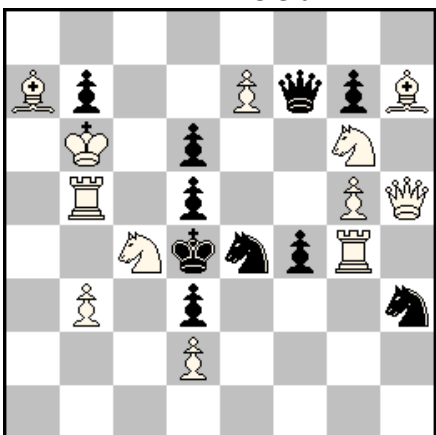
**Example B1**

1.Qg4! [2.Se7+,Se3+]  
1...Kd5 2.Kf6 [3.Rd3#] c4/b4 3. Qxc4/Qd4#  
1...Kxe5 2.Bf7 [3.Sd3#] c4/b4 3.Sxc4/Bd4#

**Lev Loshinsky**

**Evgeny Umnov**

Shakhmaty v SSSR 1940-I  
1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize e.a.



#3

12+10

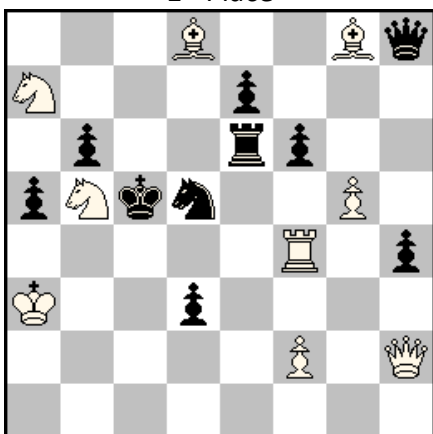
**Example B2**

1.Sxf4! [2.Se6+ Qxe6 3.Kxb7#]  
1...Qxf4 2.Qf7 [3.Rxd5,Qxd5#] Sxd2/Qxf7 3.Qxg7/Kxb7#  
1...Sxf4 2.Qh3 [3.Qe3#] Sxh3/Sxd2 3.Kxb7/Qxd3#

**Aleksandr Grin**

Moscow - Leningrad 1933

1<sup>st</sup> Place



#3

9+10

**Example B3**

1.Rf5! [2.Qc7+ Rc6 3.Qxc6#]

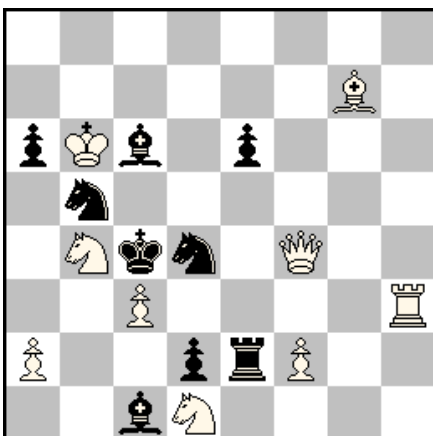
1...Re5 2.Qf4 [3.Qd4#] Re4/Sxf4 3.Qc7/Bxe7#

1...Kc4 2.Qh1 [3.Qxd5#] Sb4/Re4 3.Qe4/Qc1#

**Valentin Rudenko**

The Problemist 1978

2<sup>nd</sup> HM



#3

9+9

**Example B4**

1.Rh4! [2.Qxd4+ Sxd4 3.Rxd4#]

1...Re4 2.Qf3 [3.Qd3#] Re3/Sxf3 3.Qxc6/Se3#

1...Be4 2.Qe5 [3.Qc5#] Sb3/Bd5 3.Qxe6/Qxe2#

**Arturs Keirans**

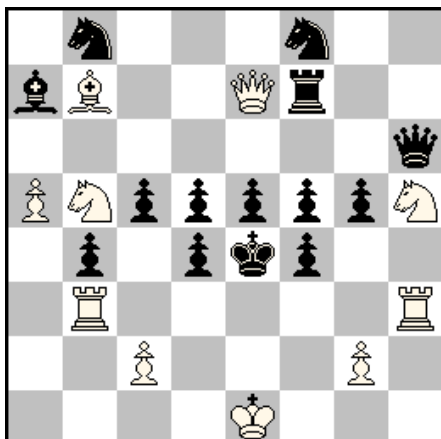
**Eduards Valcins**

Tijdschrift van den

Koninklijken

Nederlandschen Schaakbond

1939



#3

10+14

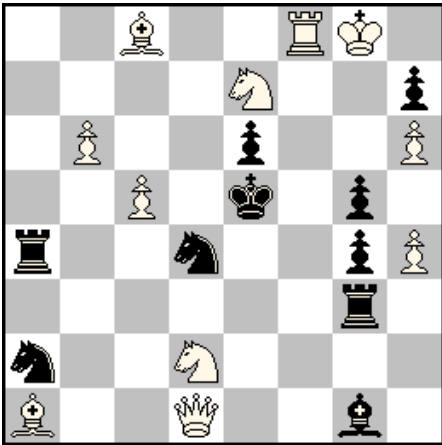
**Example B5**

1.Kf1! [2.Rb1 [3.Re1#] Qxh5 3.Sd6#]

1...c4 2.Qxb4 [3.Qe1#] c3/d3 3.Sxc3/cxd3#

1...g4 2.Qh4 [3.Qe1#] f3/g3 3.gxf3/Sxg3#

**Frederik Nanning**  
Skakbladet 1934  
1<sup>st</sup> HM



#3

11+10

**Example B6**

1.Bb7! [2.Kxh7 [3.Sg6#]]

1...Sc3 2.Qxa4 [3.Sc4#] Sd~/Sd5 3.Qe4/Sc6#

1...Rc3 2.Qxg4 [3.Qe4#] Re3/Sd~ 3.Qxg5/Sf3#

## SECTION C: MOREMOVERS

**Judging countries:** Finland, Germany, Israel, North Macedonia, Switzerland

**Reserve:**

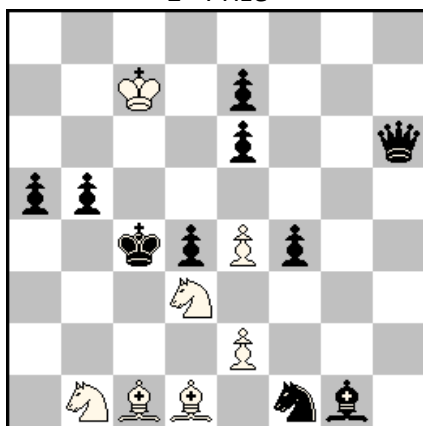
**Theme (proposed by Germany):** A black pawn refutes a try by leaving square X. This pawn is captured by a white piece on square X in the foreplan. This white piece leaves square X afterwards and the black king moves to square X (black Kniest).

**Hans Peter Rehm**

**Silvio Baier**

Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsiya 2014

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



#15

7+10

### Example C1

Try: 1.Bb2? [2.Sa3#] **b4!** (thematic square X=b5)

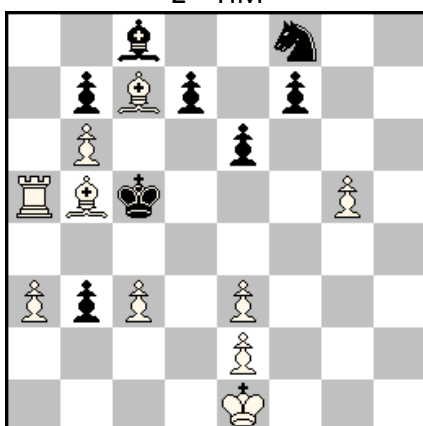
1.Sa3+ Kc3 **2.S:b5+** (captures b5) Kc4 **3.Sa3+** (leaves b5) Kc3 4.Sb1+ Kc4 5.Bb2 (6.Sa3#) **Kb5** (black king moves to b5) 6.Kb7 (7.Sa3#) a4 7.Sa3+ Ka5 8.Se5 (9.Sc6#) Kb4 9.Kb6 (10.Sc6, Sd3#; 9.Ka6? Qh3! or 9... Kc5 10.Sb5 Qh3!) d3+ 10.e3 (11.Sc6, S:d3#) B:e3+ 11.Ka6 (12.S:d3#) Kc5 12.Sb5 (13.Ba3#) Bd2 13.Bd4+ Kb4 14.Sc6+ Kc4 15.Sa3#

**Hans Peter Rehm**

**Silvio Baier**

Rochade Europa 2014

2<sup>nd</sup> HM



#6

10+8

### Example C2

Try: 1.Bd3+? Kc6 2.Re5 (3.Bb5#) **d5!** (thematic square X=d7)

1.B:d7+? Kc4 2.Bb5+ Kc(d)5 (2...K:c3 3.Be5+ Kc2 4.Bd3+ Kc1 5.Rc5#) 3.Bd3+ Kc6 4.Re5 Kd7! 5. Bb5+ Ke7

1.Kd2! (2.Kd3 ~ 3.Ba4, B:d7#, also 2.Ba4+ Kc4 3.Bd6 followed by 4.Rc5#) e5 **2.B:d7+** (captures d7) Kc4 **3.Bb5+** (leaves d7) Kc(d)5 4.Bd3+ Kc(e)6 5.Re5(+) **Kd7** (king moves to d7) 6.Bb5#

## SECTION D: ENDGAME STUDIES

---

**Judging countries:** Azerbaijan, Great Britain, Hungary, Norway, Spain

**Reserve:** Armenia

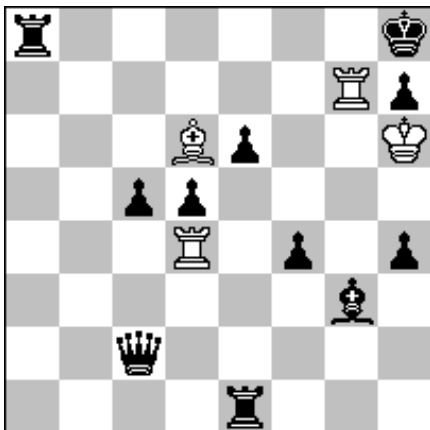
**Theme (proposed by Israel):** A white sacrifice appears in a try, and it is refuted by a black sacrifice, instead of accepting the sacrifice. Therefore, White does something else, and instead of the failed try, White sacrifices the same piece - either immediately on a different square, or later on the same or a different square.

- Black can accept the sacrifice in the try only after he makes his own sacrifice.
- The sacrifice in the try may appear immediately when the try starts, or after a few moves.
- Definition of “sacrifice”: a sacrifice is a move by a piece X such that the other side can immediately capture the sacrificed piece X with piece Y in such a way that piece Y cannot be immediately captured. The sacrifice move can be a capture only if the captured piece is a pawn. Piece X cannot be a pawn.

### Sergiy Didukh

Humor Tourney, 2004

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



= (position after 6<sup>th</sup> move) 4+11

#### Example D1

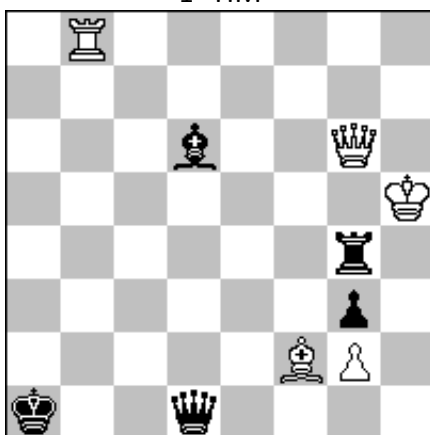
Try: 7.Ra4? Rf8! 8.Ra8 Qf5! 9.Be5!? Qh5+!

Solution: 7.Rd3! Qb2 8.Rc3 Qb1 9.Rc2 Qa1 10.Rb2 Qxb2  
11.Be5! Rxe5 12.Rg8+ =

### Martin Minski

Sahmat Bestesciliyi-15 JT, 2018

1<sup>st</sup> HM



= 5+5

#### Example D2

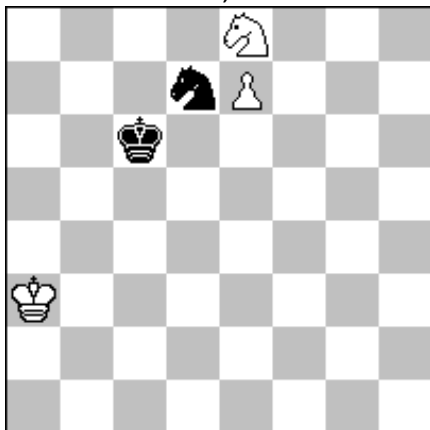
Try: 1.Qb1+? Qxb1 2.Rxb1+ Kxb1 3.Bc5!? Rg6!

Solution: 1.Rb1+ Qxb1 2.Qf6+! Qb2 3.Qxb2+ Kxb2 4.Bc5!  
Rg6!? 5.Bd4+ K~ 6.Kxg6=



**Volodymyr Samilo**

Phenix, 2018



+ (position after 5<sup>th</sup> move) 3+2

**Example D3**

Try: 6.Kb4? Sc5 7.Sc7! Sa6+!

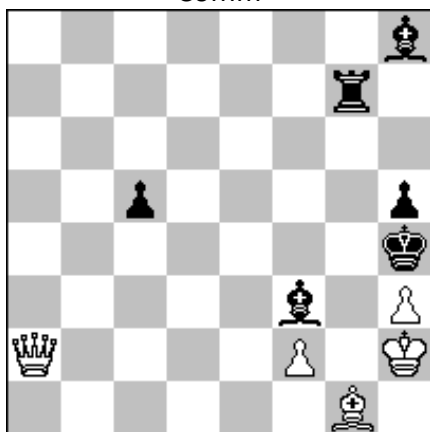
Solution: 6.Ka2! Kc5 7.Sd6! Sf6 8.Se4+! +- . Or: 6.-Kb6 7.Sc7! Sf6 8.Sd5+! +-

**Amatzia Avni**

Z.Birnov MT

Sport-Reviu Povolzhya, 2013

Comm



= (position after 4<sup>th</sup> move) 5+6

**Example D4**

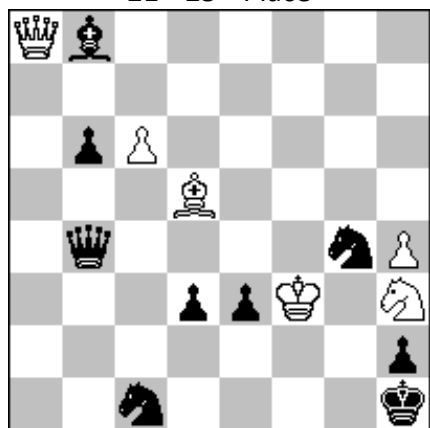
Try: 5.Qc4+? Rg4 6.Qf4!? Be5! +-.

Solution: 5.Qg8! Rg5 6.Qg7! Rxf1 7.Qe7+ Rg5 8.Qf6! Bxf6=

**Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen**

9<sup>th</sup> WCCT, 2013

21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Place



+ 6+9

**Example D5**

Try: 1.Qa3? d2 2.Qd3 Qc4!

Solution: 1.c7! Bxc7 2.Qa3! d2 3.Qd3! Qc4 4.Ba8 b5 5.h5 b4 6.h6 b3 7.h7 b2 8.h8=Q b1=Q 9.Qhd4 Qba2 10.Be4.

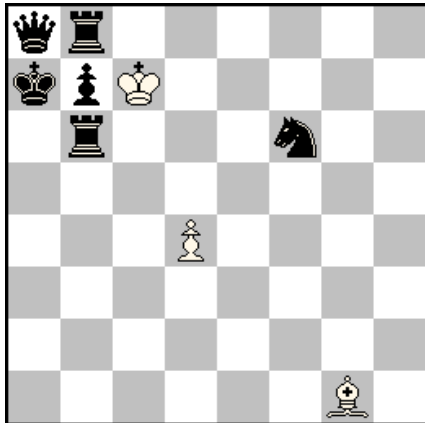
## SECTION E: HELPMATES

**Judging countries:** Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia

**Reserve:**

**Theme (proposed by Germany):** In a H#3.5-n, a pinned piece is unpinned, makes at least one move and is pinned again. The piece may be pinned in the diagram already or become pinned in the solution before being unpinned and then pinned again. Twins, set play, multi-solution are allowed, but not zero positions. All phases must be thematic.

**Charles Masson Fox**  
Aftonbladet 1927



H#4

3+6

**Example E1**

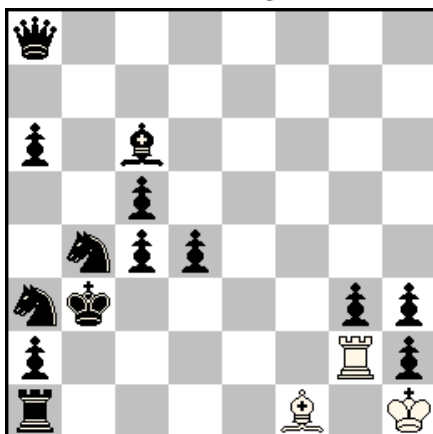
1.Rb4 Kd6 2.Rxd4+ Kc5 3.Rd6 Kb5+ 4.Rb6+ Bxb6#

**Jorge Kapros**

**Jorge Lois**

idee & form 1996

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize



H#4

b) Kb3<->c5

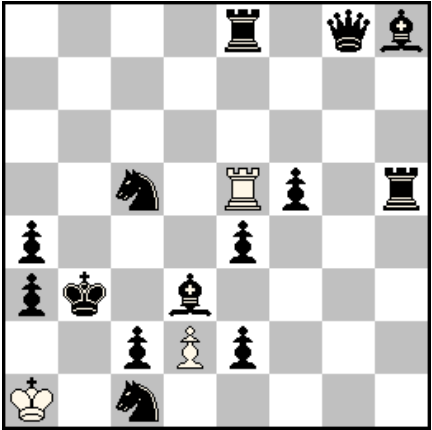
3+14

**Example E2**

a) 1.Sd5 Rxa2 2.Sc3+ Rg2 3.Scb1 Be2 4.Ka2 Bxc4#

b) 1.Sb1 Bxc4 2.Sc3+ Bf1 3.Scd5 Re2 4.Kc4 Rc2#

**Guy Sobrecases**  
idee & form 2011  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize



H#5

3+14

**Example E3**

1.Bb5 d3 2.Kc3 Rd5 3.Rc8 Rxc5+ 4.Kb3+ Re5 5.Rc3 Rxb5#

## SECTION F: SELFMATES

---

**Judging countries:** Germany, Israel, North Macedonia, Poland, Slovakia

**Reserve:**

**Theme (proposed by Serbia):** S#3-n. In at least 3 variations the 1<sup>st</sup> black move closes a line of a black piece and at the same time opens a line of another black piece, which later checkmates the white king.

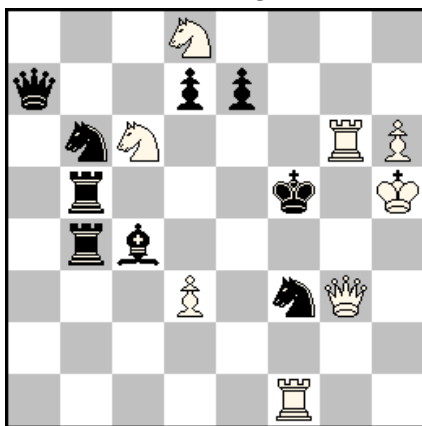
**Aleksandr Azhusin**

**Nikolai Pletenyov**

**Andrei Selivanov**

Zadachi i Etyudy 2003

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



S#3

8+9

### Example F1

- 1.Re6 [2.Qg6+ Kf4+ 3.Qg5+ R×g5#]
- 1...d5 2.S×e7+ Q×e7 3.Qg5+ Q×g5#
- 1...Bd5 2.Re5+ Kf6 3.Qh4+ R×h4#
- 1...Sd5 2.Sd4+ Q×d4 3.Qg4+ Q×g4#

## SECTION G: FAIRIES

**Judging countries:** Finland, India, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland

**Reserve:**

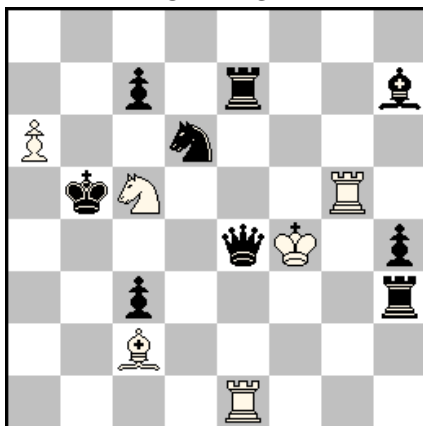
**Theme (proposed by Israel):** Required are HS#2-5 problems with the fairy condition **Isardam**. No other fairy conditions or fairy pieces are allowed. The mate must be fairy mate, meaning that the position is not mate or is illegal in normal chess, or the final move is illegal in normal chess.

**Isardam:** Any move, including capture of the king, is Isardam illegal if a Madrasi-type paralysis would result from it (not including kings).

**Ricardo Vieira**

6<sup>th</sup> Tzuica, Jurmala 2008

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize



HS#3

2.1.1...

6+9

Isardam

**Example G1**

1.Rb1+ Kc6 2.Rb4 Qg6 3.Be4+ Qxe4#

1.Ba4+ Kc4 2.Bc6 Qe6 3.Re4+ Qxe4#

**Explanations:**

the wK is not in check because Qe4xf4 is illegal because Bc2 observes Bh7, and Re1 observes Re7.

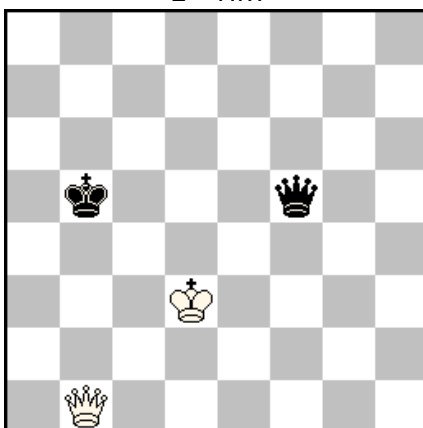
The final move is mate because in a) Rb4 cannot take Qe4 because Re7 observes Re4. In b) Bc6 cannot take Qe4 because Bh7 observes Be4.

**Eric Huber**

**Vlaicu Crisan**

Problem Online 2007

2<sup>nd</sup> HM



HS#3

3.1.1...

2+2

Isardam

**Example G2**

1.Qc2 Kb4 2.Qc3+ Qa5 3.Kc4+ Qc5#

1.Kc2 Kc4 2.Qb3+ Qd5 3.Kc3+ Qd3#

1.Ke4 Kc4 2.Qd3+ Qb5 3.Kd4+ Qd5#

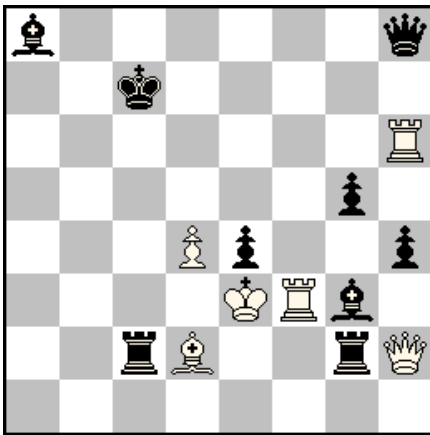
**Explanations:**

the wK is not in check because Qf5xd3 is illegal because Qb1 observes Qd3.

In the first solution, the move 3.Kc4+ is legal because the Madrasi doesn't include kings. This is a check because 4.Kxb4 is a legal move.

3...Qc5# is mate because the bK threatens wK and the latter cannot move because Qc5 will observe Qc3.

**Mario Parrinello**  
 StrateGems 2009  
 2<sup>nd</sup> comm



HS#3      b) Qh2->c1      6+9  
 Isardam

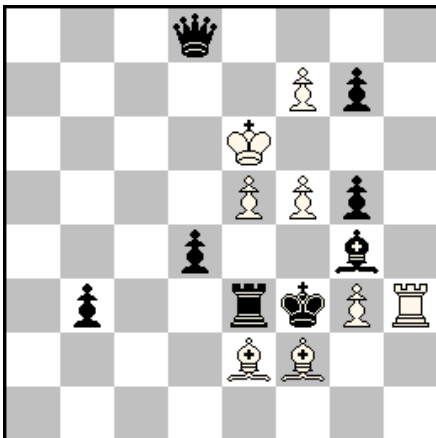
**Example G3**

- a) 1.Rf7 Bf4 2.Qxf4+ Qb8 3.Bc3+ Rxc3#
- b) 1.Ba5 Rc3 2.Qxc3+ Qc8 3.Rf4+ Bxf4#

**Explanations:**

the mating position is thematic because in normal chess the mating position is illegal (bK is in check).

**Mario Parrinello**  
 Tournoi de Noël  
 France-Echecs 2011  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

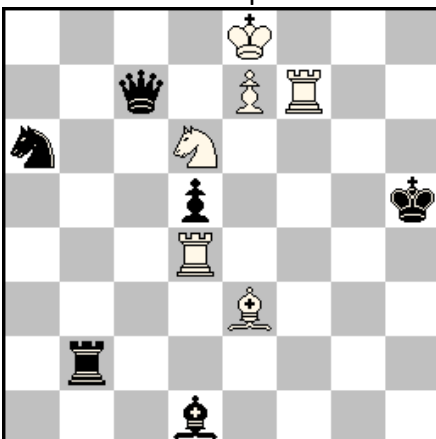


HS#4      2.1.1...      8+8  
 Isardam

**Example G4**

- 1.Rh6 Rxe5 2.Be3 Rc5 3.Rh2 Rc3 4.Rf2+ Rxe3#
- 1.Bc4 Bxf5 2.g4 Bg6 3.Bf1 Bh5 4.Bg2+ Bxg4#

**Luis Miguel Martin**  
 18<sup>th</sup> Tzuica 2020  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize special



HS#3      b) Kh5->e2      6+6  
 Isardam

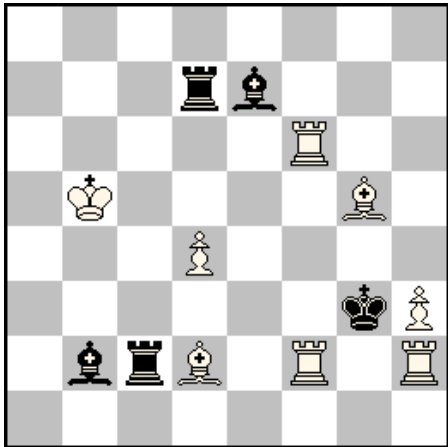
**Example G5**

- a) 1.Rf3 Qb8+ 2.Kd7 Ba4+ 3.e8=B+ Qxe8#
- b) 1.Bd2 Qc6+ 2.Kd8 Rb8+ 3.e8=R+ Qxe8#

**Explanations:**

the final move Qxe8 is illegal in normal chess because wK is already in check.

Vlaicu Crisan  
 S.K. Balasubramanian  
 Quartz 2010-15  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize



HS#4                      2.1.1...                      8+5  
 Isardam

**Example G6**

- 1.Kb4 Rc3+ 2.Kxc3 Bb4 3.Rg6 Rxd4 4.Bf6+ Rd3#
- 1.Kc6 Bd6+ 2.Kxd6 Rc6 3.Be1 Bxd4 4.Rd2+ Be5#

## SECTION H: RETROS

**Judging countries:** Argentina, Germany, Greece, Romania, Switzerland

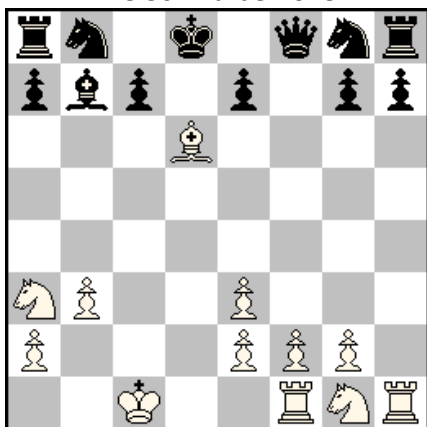
**Reserve:** Canada

**Theme (proposed by France):** PGs: a piece performs a circuit (including its linear form): the piece leaves and returns to some square; later it is captured on that square or anywhere else. After the capture (but not before it!) the capturing piece performs a circuit too. The length of each circuit must be no less than three moves. Within the framework of the theme, a pawn and the piece to which it promotes are regarded as the same piece.

**Olexandr Semenenko**

**Andriy Frolkin**

Die Schwalbe 2019



PG14.5

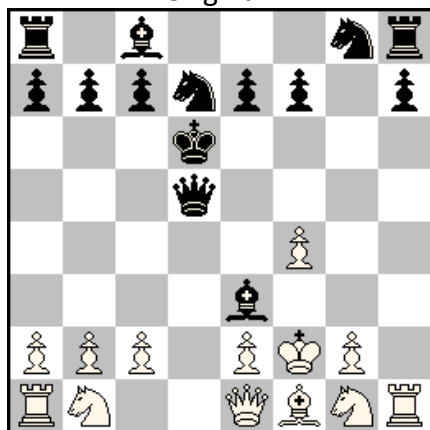
12+12

**Example H1**

1.c3 d5 2.**Qb3** d4 3.**Qxf7+** Kd7 4.**Qxf8** dxc3 5.**Qf3** Qf8  
6.**Qxb7** Kd8 7.**Qb3** Bb7 8.**Qd1** c2 9.b3 **cxd1=S** 10.Ba3 Se3  
11.Bd6 **Sxf1** 12.Sa3 **Sxh2** 13.0-0-0 **Sg4** 14.Rf1 **Se3** 15.dxe3

**Michel Caillaud**

Original



PG10.0

13+14

**Example H2**

1.h4 d5 2.h5 d4 3.h6 Qd5 4.**hxg7** Kd7 5.**gxf8=B** Kd6  
6.**Bh6** Sd7 7.Be3 **dxe3** 8.f4 **exd2+** 9.Kf2 **dxc1=B**  
10.Qe1 **Be3+**

Editors of chess magazines are asked not to publish originals with themes of this tournament before the closing date of submission to WCCT