WFCC-70JT: Section B (Threemovers)

I received only 23 anonymous problems from the tournament director. The number of problems submitted is small, but in my opinion, the competition is quite worthy in terms of quality, and a number of compositions deserve inclusion in the FIDE Album. A strange trend has recently developed in three-movers, where problemists seek out ephemeral connections between variations and proudly call this an Adabashev synthesis. In reality, very often the variations lack any semantic or tactical meaning, and the problem appears eclectic and empty. We know that in an Adabashev synthesis, variations within a pair must be unified, and the pairs must be distinct from one another. But I believe there must also be some common thread that connects these pairs into a single narrative. Perhaps I'm setting the bar too high, but for high-quality problems there's no other way. Unfortunately, in many problems, the term "Adabashev synthesis" is used rather formally. For almost all problems, I provide comments from the authors for an objective picture. I ask the authors not to be offended by my individual criticisms. I do this to improve their workin the future.

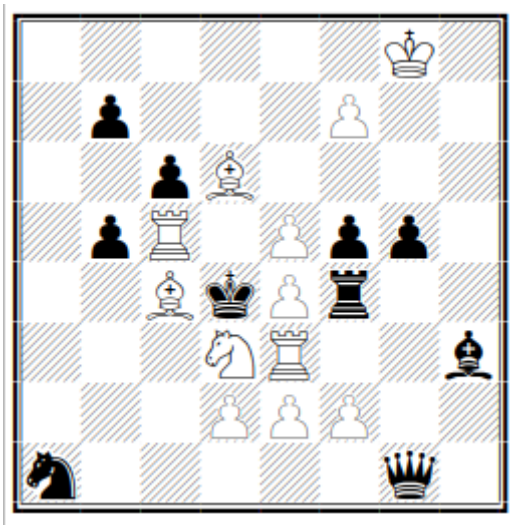
Participants:

B01 Shavyrin, Valery; B02 Dietrich, Stephan; B03 Zamanov, Vidadi; B04 Garzón, José; B05 Labai, Zoltán ; B06 Gvozdják, Peter; B07 Dimitrov, Ognian; B08 Feoktistov, Aleksandr; B09 Radović, Srećko; B10 Doukhan, Gérard; B11 Sygurov, Aleksandr; B12 Svítek, Miroslav ; B13 Khachaturov, Sergey; B14 Gavrilovski, Zoran; B15 Atayants, Grigory; B16 Volchek, Viktor; B17 Palazón, Luis Gómez; B18 Gasparyan, Aleksey; B19 Matjushin, Gennady; B20 Vasylenko, Anatoly; B21 Crăciun, Ovidiu; B22 Pankratiev, Aleksandr; B23 Nyrkov, Maksim

I wish all participants of the competition new creative successes.

A.S.Kuzovkov. 16.11.2026

1. Prize - B01 Valery Shavyrin



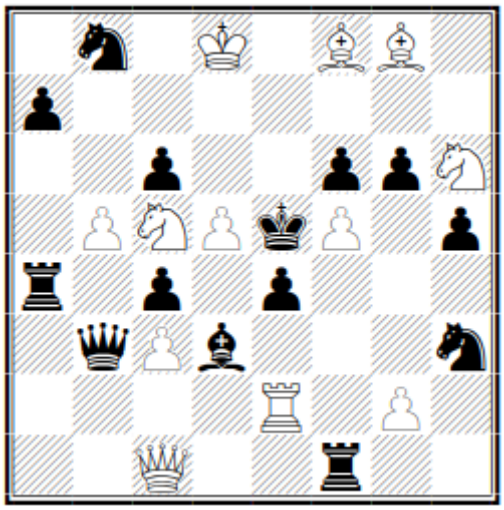
#3 **(12+10)**

*1...bc4 2.Rd5+cd5 3.Bc5#

Thematic Try:**1.f8=S? ~ 2.Se6# , 1...fxe4! 1.e6? ~ 2.Be5# 1...Rxe4!**
1.Bd5! ~
1st group
1...~.Rc4!+ bxc4 3.Bc5#
1...cxd5 2.Rxd5+ Kc4 3.Sb2# --- with play of Rc5
2nd group:
1...fxe4 2.e6 ! ~ 3.Be5# 2...Rf5 3.Rxe4# --- Hamburg 2...exd3 3.Rxd3# -- Dresden-Brunner
1...Rxe4 2.f8=S ! ~3.Se6# 2...Rxe5 3.Bxe5#-- Dresden-Brunner 2...f4 3.Rxe4# --- Hamburg - Elbe Theme
3rd group:
1...b6 2.Sb4! Qb1 3.Sc6#
1...Sb3 2.Se1! (2.Sb4? Qb1!) fe4 3.Sc2# -With quiet play of Sd3 and triple change for 2...fe4
1...Qc1 2.Sxf4! fxe4 3.Rxe4#

«Uncommon Adabashev Synthesis (a 2-fold Rook maneuver on c5 featuring virtual play + a 2-fold “Elbe” theme + a 2-fold quiet move by the Knight on d3, involving a Visserman change), incorporating the Complex New German "Elbe" theme (for the first time).» (Autor) . I've provided the author's solution and commentary, which I don't entirely agree with. The Elbe theme is quite complex and the two central variations are certainly quite good. Thematic attempts enhance the game. The white pieces are optimally loaded. These are all positive aspects, of course. However, the first and third pairs, in my opinion, appear very isolated from the second pair—something I mentioned in the introduction—and this detracts from the overall impression.

2.Prize - B13 Sergey Khachaturov

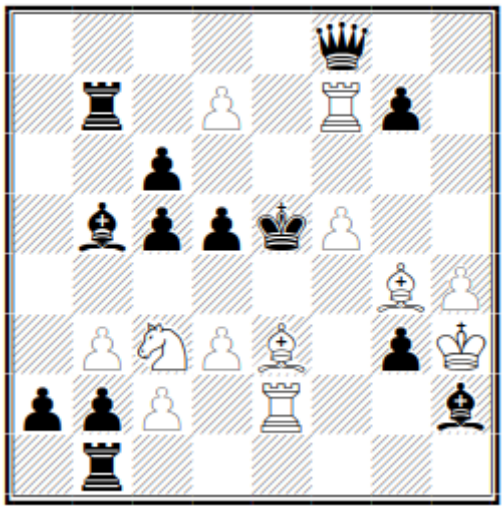


#3 **(12+14)**

1.Qe3! - 2. Qxe4+ Bxe4 3.Rxe4#
but does not threaten 2.Sb7? Qa3(b4) ! 2.Be6? Sg5 ! 2.g3? Qxc3!
1. ... Qc2 2.Sb7! - 3.Bd6# A (2. g3 ?)
1. ... Re1 2.Be6! - (3. Sf7 #) B 2…Sg5 3.Qg3#
1. ... Qb1 2. g3 ! - 3.Qd4# C (2.Sb7?)
1. ... cd 2.Bd6+ A Kxd6 3.Sf7# B
1. ... gf 2.Sf7+ B Kxd5 3.Qd4# C
1. ... Sg5 2.Qd4+ C Kf4 3.Bd6# A

«Adabashev Theme 3×3. Two systems. 1. A logical scheme with three false trails (false leads). 2. The cycle AB–BC–CD with triple square blocking. The mating moves from the first three variations form a cycle in the second set of three variations. Anti-duals. Change of functions of the moves». (Autor). The first move isn't entirely successful—the queen escapes the attack. The setup is heavy—26 pieces. But in this case, there's an ideological connection between the two trios of variations. Of course, if the author had managed to make thematic attempts in the initial position, the problem would have been significantly improved.

3.Prize - B08 Aleksandr Feoktistov

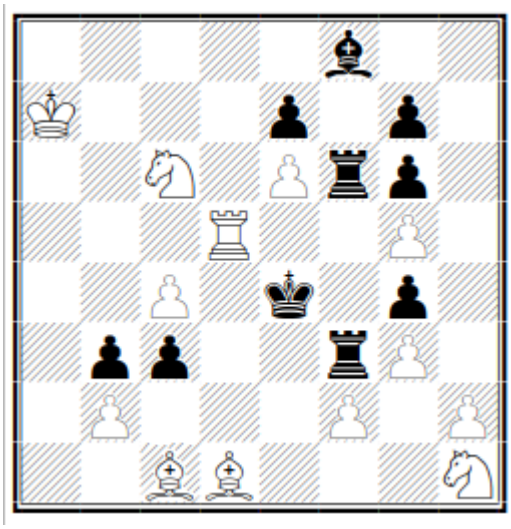


#3 **(12+13)**

1.Sd1! ~ 2.Bd2+! Kd6/Kd4 3.Bf4#(A)/3.Bc3#
1... Bxd3 2.Bd4+!(B) Kd6/Kf4/Kxd4 3.Be5#/3.Be5#/3.c3# - self-block on d3
1... d4 2.Bf4+!(A) Kxf4/Kd5 3.Re4#/3.Bf3# - self-block on d4
1... Bg1 2.Bf2+! Kd6/Kf4 3.Bxg3#/3.Bxg3#
1... Rxd1 2.Bc1+! Kd4/Kd6 3.Bxb2#/3.Bf4#
1... Qxf7 2.Bxc5+! Kf6/Kf4 3.Bd4#(B)/3.Bd6# - self-block on f7
1... g5 2.Bxg5+!(C) Kd6/Kd4 3.Bf4#/3.Bf6#
1... g2 2.Bg1+! Kf4/Kd6 3.Bxh2#/3.Bxh2#
1... c4 2.d4+! Ke4/Kd6 3.Sc3#/3.Bf4# - switchback
1... Qe7 2.Rxe7+ Kf6/Kd6 3.Bg5#(C)/3.Bf4#

«Three white bishop stars: two second-move stars and a checkmate star. A black king second-move star. Hartong theme on c3 (+FML+ switchback). Visserman changes: 4+4+5+2 (2... Kd4, 2... Kd6, 2... Kf4, 2... Kf6). Two crosses of the second and third moves of the white bishop around the d5 and f5 squares. Identical diagonal checks for the white bishop: Bb2-Bc3-Bd4-Be5-Bf6 & Bh2-Bg3-Bf4-Be5-Bd6. Changing the functions of moves A, B and C.» (Autor) A large-scale content, a good opening move and the return of the knight, lively battery-style play, but the mechanism has been used repeatedly. There is a similar matrix in the problem B142 FIDE Album 1995-1997. However, the thematic content differs significantly. The author has chosen the path of quantitatively increasing the number of variants.

4.Prize - B10 Gérard Doukhan

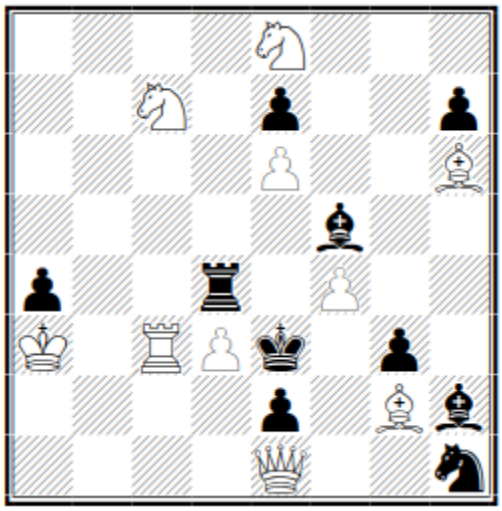


#3 **(13+10)**

1.Be2? B ~2.Re5# 1...R×e6!
1.h3! ~2.h×g4 A ~3.Rd4# C 2…Rd3 3.Re5# D self-block
1...R6f4 2.Be2 B ~3.Re5# D 2… Rf5 3.Rd4# C self-block, pseudo-Le Grand
1...R×e6 2.Rd4+ C Kf5 3.h×g4# A distant self-block
1...c2 2.Re5+ D Kd3 3.Be2# B distant self-block
1...g×h3 2.g4 ~3.Rd4# C 2… Rd3 3.Re5# D
1...Re3 2.B×g4 E ~3.Rd4# C 2… Rd3 3.Re5# D
1...R×f2 2.Rd4+ C Kf5 3.B×g4# E (h×g4?)
1...R3f4 2.g×f4 [3.Sg3#]

«Synthesis of Adabashev with three homogeneous pairs of variations. First (threat and first defence): Pseudo-Le Grand theme and mates C & D using block .In the second pair, we have distant blocks on c2 and e6 , same second moves C & D who make the threats and mates of the first pair , flight of BKe4 ,mates of the first pair A & B .Third pair present two different variations for which the second moves are to the g4 square, with the same initial threat as continuation C & D. We have also : a fourth pair, with 2 other defences of the BRf3 . Double Cycles of moves AD-DB-BC-CA and BC-CE-ED-DB . Triple exchanges of second and third moves AC-CA, BD-DB and EC-CE .Three 2nd moves on f4 ~> 2.gxf4, Bxf4 and f4 . Urania for the move B» (Autor). The content is rich and the execution is technically proficient. In my opinion, this is a prize-level task.

1. Honourable Mention - B14 Zoran Gavrilovski

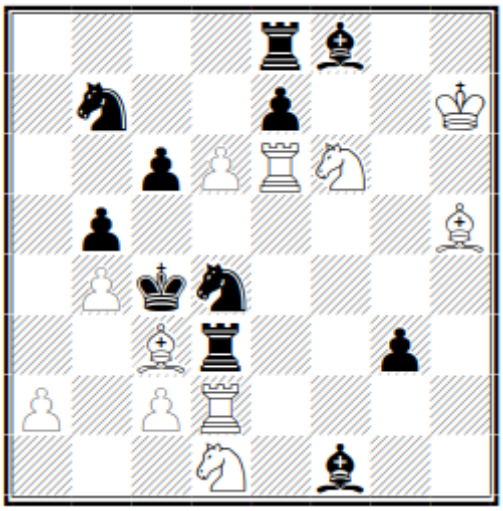


#3 **(10+10)**

1...Rxf4, Rxd3, Rb4, Rd5 2.S(x)d5+ Kd4 3.Bg7#
1.Sb5! (zugzwang)
1...Rd4~ 2.d4+ A Bd3 x 3.f5# B
1...Bf5~ 2.f5+ B Rf4 y 3.d4# A
1...Rxf4 y 2.Sec7 (3.Sd5#) Bxe6/Be4 3.d4# A/de4#
1...Bxd3 x 2.Sg7 (3.Sf5#) Rd5 3.f5# B
1...Bg1 2.Qxg1+ Kd2 3.Qc1#
1...Rxd3 2.Rxd3+ Kxd3/Bxf3 3.Qc3#/f5#
1...Rc4 2.bc4+ Bd3 3.f5#

«Adabashev synthesis: I) 1...R~/B~ 2.A/B 3.B#/A# with battery play II) self-pinning corrections 1...Rxf4/Bxd3, mates on the pinned piece in the threat, followed by battery mates III) captures of sacrificial pieces clearing a square for the bK and 2 mates by the wQ. The first two pairs of variations are linked via the Babouchka theme (2...x/y, 1...y/x) and battery play on the same squares (d4, f5), featuring Umnov moves in the first pair and delayed Umnov moves in the second pair. Change of play after 1...Rxf4/Rxd3/Rb4,Rd5. Correction of bRd4»(Autor) . An interesting and meaningful problem. However, the third pair is simply some arbitrary combination of variations. White roughly captures the black pieces on the second move, which I really don't like.

2.Honourable Mention - B20 Anatoly Vasylenko



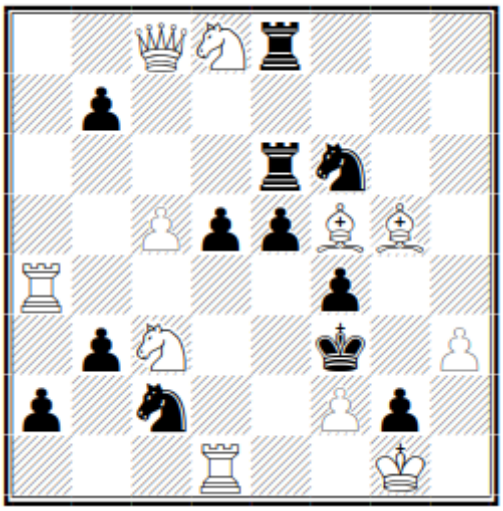
#3 **(11+11)**

1.Re4? A ~ 2.Rexd4+ Rxd4 3.Rxd4# C
1...e5 (W-B Bristol) 2.Bf7+ D Re6 (B-B Bristol) 3.Bxe6# B
1...Rxd2 a 2.Bxd2! ~ 3.Se3, Sb2# 2...exf6 3.Se3# 2...Bh6 3.Sb2# 1...c5!

1.Bf7! D ~ 2.Ree2+ Se6,e6 3.cxd3#
1...Rxd2 a 2.Re3+ Se6,e6 3.Sb2#
1...Sxc5 2.Re5+ Sce6,Sde6,e6 3.R(x)c5#.
1...exf6 2.Re4+ A Re6 3.Bxe6# B
1...Rxc3 2.Rxd4+ C Kxd4 3.Re4# A
1...Sxe6 2.Bxe6+ B Rd5 3.Rd4# C

B-W Bristol with self-pin. 4x Battery play. Cycle of 2nd and 3rd white moves. Changed play. Pin-mates.

3.Honourable Mention - B11 Aleksandr Sygurov

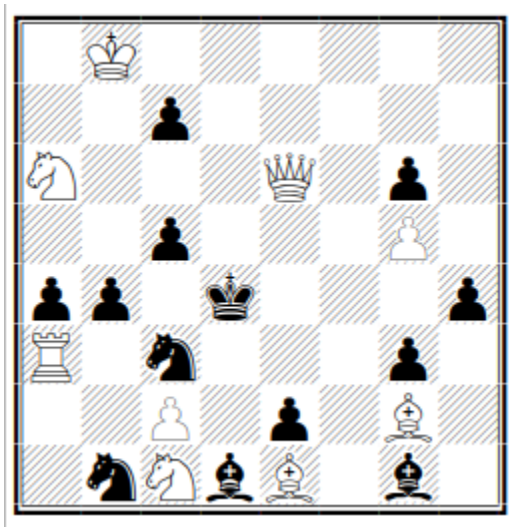


#3 **(11+12)**

1.Rd3+? Se3! 1.Bd3? Sd4!
1.Sc6! (1.Sf7? e4!) ~ 2.Sxe5+! Rxe5 3.Rxf4#
1...d4 2.Bxf6! Rg8 3.Be4#, 2...dc3 3.Bg4#
Elimination of the defender of the mating square:: Pe5->f4, Sf6->e4\g4
1...Sb4 2.Bd3! ~ 3.Be2#, 2...Sxd3 3.Rxd3#
1...e4 2.Rd3+! ed3 3.Rxf4#, 2...Se3 3.Sd4#
The Keller paradox involving white-piece moves on a single square, in a logical formulation, in response to the blocking of the fourth rank in first-move defences.
1...Rxc6 2.Bg4+! Sxg4 3.Qxg4#
1...bc6 2.Qa6! ~ 3.Qe2#, 2...Sd4 3.Q(R)d3#

Defending a single square on the first move, bringing the white queen into play along various lines A new, unconventional combination of three pairs of variations 2+2+2 .The problem defies the composers' traditional approach to establishing the identities of paired thematic variants; however, this is precisely why it is so well-suited for solving competitions (in each pair, one variant is "quiet" and the other "loud"—leaving you to figure out exactly how they should be played)..(Autor). This is precisely an example of what I wrote in the introduction. According to the author, there are three pairs of variations, but it all looks eclectic. Essentially, only the second pair, with its Keller Paradox, is of interest. The knight capture in the 1...d4 2.Bxf6 variation looks crude. In each pair, one variation is quiet, while the other is check, and the author considers this an advantage. However, in my opinion, this approach is unjustified and perceived as disharmonious.

4.Honourable Mention – B09 Srećko Radović

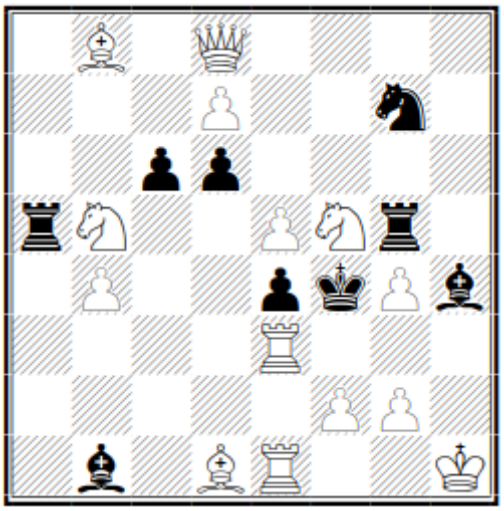


#3 **(9+13)**

1.Qc6!? Kc4!
1.Qd7+? Ke3!
1.Qg4+? Ke5!
1.Rb3!~ 2.Qc6!~ 3.Qxc5# 2...Ke5 3.Qf6# 2...Ke3 3.Qe4# 2...Kc4 3.Rxb4# 2...Se4 3.Qxe4# 2...Sd5 3.Qxd5#
1...Sd2 2.Qd7+! 2...Ke5 3.Sd3# 2...Ke3 3.Qxd2# 2...Kc4 3.Qd3# 2...Sd5 3.Qxd5#
1...h3 2.Qg4+! 2...Ke5 3.Bxg3# 2...Ke3 3.Qe4# 2...Se4 3.Qxe4#
1...Bxc2 2.Sxe2+ 2...Kd3 3.Qe4# 2...Sxe2 3.Qd5#

Three queen tries are refuted by the unique king flight. A hidden ambush key allows a quiet-move threat (from the first try) which gives a three BK flights! The 1...Sd2 defence allows a second queen attack (from the second try) with changed mates after all three flights. The 1...h3 defence allows a third queen attack (from the third try) with two king flights. The last defence 1...Bxc2 leads to do white continuation whith one BK flight. A tough nut for the solvers.» (Autor).
A non-standard problem involving the exchange of checkmates for king moves.

Special Honourable Mention – B06 Peter Gvozdják



#3 **(14+9)**

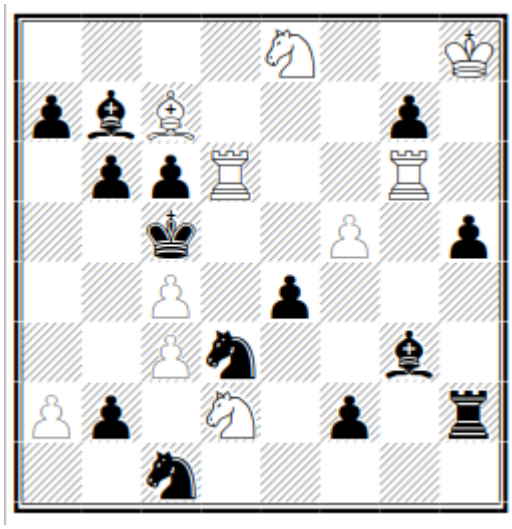
1...K×e5 a 2.B×d6+ B Ke6,Kd5 3.Bb3# (2.f4+? K×f4 3.B×d6#, 2...Ke6 3.Bb3+ d5!)
1...d×e5 b 2.g3+ A B×g3 3.f×g3#

1.Sf×d6? ~2.R×e4+ B×e4 3.R×e4#
1...K×e5 a 2.Sf5+ C Ke6,Kd5 3.Bb3# (2.f4+? K×f4 3.Sf5#, 2...Ke6 3.Bb3+ Rgd5!)
1...Rg×e5 c 2.g3+ A B×g3 3.f×g3# 1...B×f2!

1.Sb×d6! ~2.R×e4+ B×e4 3.R×e4#
1...K×e5 a 2.Sb5+ D Ke6,Kd5 3.Bb3# (2.f4+? K×f4 3.Sb5#, 2...Ke6 3.Bb3+ Rad5!)
1...Ra×e5 d 2.g3+ A B×g3 3.f×g3#

The Chepizhny theme with 3 White moves to d6 and 4 Black defences to e5. I have found a two-mover that acts as a conceptual predecessor to B06: https://www.yacpdb.org/#253143. The mechanism of the problem B06 is in essence a two-move problem, and in fact we are dealing with an extended two-move problem. This way of constructing three-move problems is, in principle, acceptable, but not entirely justified, as it violates the law of economy. When transitioning from two-move matrices to a three-move it's necessary to enrich the task's content compared to the two-move version.

1.Commendation - B15 Grigory Atayants

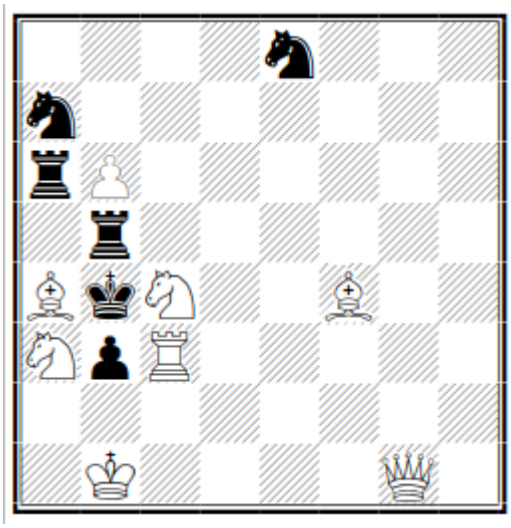


#3 **(10+14)**

1. Rd4? 2. Sxe4# 1. ... Rh4!
1. Bd8!~ 2. Be7(A) 3. Rd5(B), Rxc6(C) # 2. ... Bxd6 3. Bxd6#
1. ... Se5 2. Rd5+! (B) (Rxc6+?) cxd5 3. Be7#(A)
1. ... Sf4 2. Rxc6+! (C) (Rd5+?) Bxc6 3. Be7#(A)
1. ... Bh4 2. Rd4(D) 3. Sxe4#(E)
1. ... b5 2. Se4+(E) Kxc4 3. Rd4#(D)
1. ... Bxd6 2. Sxd6 Rh4 3. Sb7#

Synthesis of alternating moves with an anti-dual choice in a threat in 2 variants and simple alternating moves.

2.Commendation - B19 Gennady Matjushin



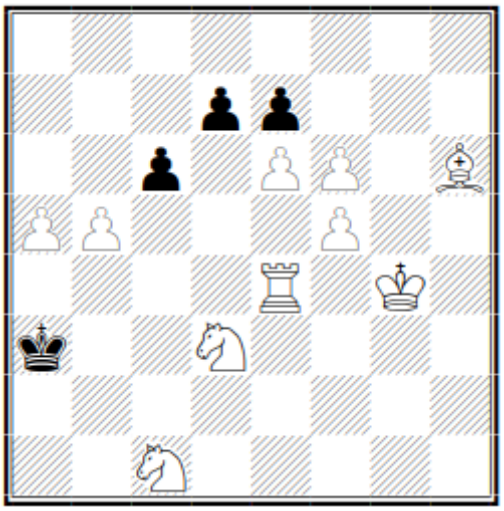
#3 **(8+6)**

Set play:
1...Kxc3 2.Bd2+ Kd3 3.Qe3#
1...b2 2.Sc2+ Kxc3 3.Qd4# 2...Kxa4 3.Ra3#

1.Sb2! ~ Rd5 2.Rxb3+ Ka5 3.Sac4#
1...Kxc3 2.Sxb5+ Kb4 3.Bd2# 2...Sxb5 3.Qc5#
1...Kxa3 2.Qc5+! Rxc5/Rb4 3.Rxb3#
1...Ka5 2.Sac4+ Kb4 3.Rxb3#
1...Rxa4 2.Rc4+ Kxa3/Ka5 3.Rxa4#
1...Raxb6 2.Sac4! ~ 3.Rxb3# 2...Kxc3 3.Bd2#
1...Sd6 2.Bxd6+ Kxc3 3.Qe3# 2...Ka5 3.Sac4# 2...Rc5 3.Qxc5#

A great first move and a lively, dynamic play.

3.Commendation - B12 Miroslav Svítek



#3 **(10+4)**

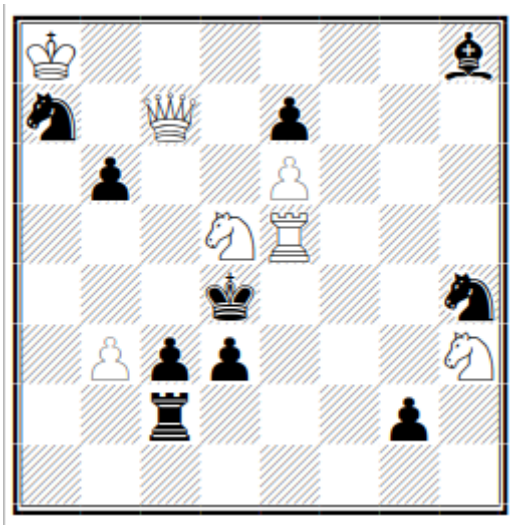
1.exd7? ~ 2.bxc6 zz. e7~ 3.Bf8#
1...exf6 (a) 2.Bf8+ c5 3.Bxc5#
1...cxb5 2.Re2 ~ 3.Ra2# but 1...c5!

1.Bf8? (A) zugzwang.
1...d5 (b) 2.Bxe7+ c5 3.Bxc5#
1...d6 (c) 2.bxc6 zz. d5 3.Bxe7# 2...exf6 3.Bxd6#
1...dxe6 (d) 2.Bxe7+ c5 3.Bxc5#
1...cxb5 2.Re2 ~3.Ra2# but 1...c5!

1.bxc6! ~ 2.c(e)xd7 zz. e7~ 3.Bf8# (virtual threat)
1...exf6 (a) 2.Bf8+ (A) d6 3.Bxd6#
1...d5 (b) 2.Rd4 zz. exf6 3.Bf8# (A)
1...d6 (c) 2.Bf8 (A) zz. 3.Bxe7# 2...exf6 3.Bxd6#
1...dxe6 (d) 2.fxe6 zz. exf6 3.Bf8# (A)
1...dxc6 2.Be3 ~ 3.Bc5#

«4x different mates on the line b4 – f8, Pickaninny change 2x4, change function move « (Autor). The problem develops a game that was previously partially found in yacpdb No. 654030. The first move with capture is unsuccessful.

4.Commendation - B7 Ognian Dimitrov



#3 **(7+10)**

Tries:
1.Sxe7? [2.Qd6#] 1...Bxe5!
1.Rh5? [2.Qc4#] 1...Sc6 2.Qxb6+ Ke4 3.Qe3# 1...Sf5!
1.Re3? [2.Qc4#] 1...Kxd5 2.Sf4+ Kd4 3.Qxb6# 1...b5 2.Qb6+ Kxd5 3.Sf4# 1...Sc6!

1.Sb4! [2.Re4+ Kxe4 3.Qf4#]
1...Sg6 2.Sg5 Sxe5 3.Qxb6# 2...Bxe5 3.Qxb6#
1...Bxe5 2.Qc4+ Ke3 3.Qxd3#
1...Re2 2.Rd5+ Ke3/Ke4 3.Qf4#
1...Rf2 2.Sxf2 Sc6 3.Sxc6# 2...Bxe5 3.Qxb6#

«In this entry used Auto-blocade theme, 3 tries, threat and 4 thematic variants.» (Autor)