



& 67th WCCC 48th WCSC

5 – 12 July 2025
Alba Iulia, Romania



WFCC FUJAIRAH
GRAND PRIX
2025-2026



Quick Composing Tourney, Group A

Theme: #2 with Cyclic Zilahi.

Zilahi: a unit that gives mate in a variation/phase is captured in another variation/phase.

Fairy pieces and conditions are not allowed.

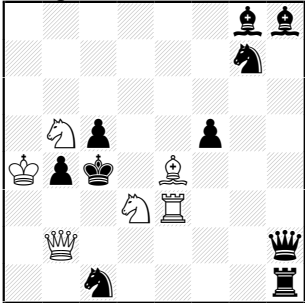
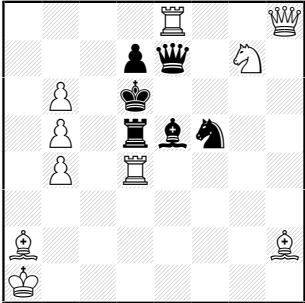
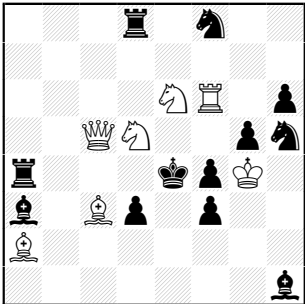
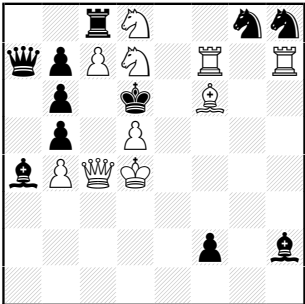
Deadline: Sunday 6 July, 18:00 hrs.

Judge: Klaus Wenda

Director: Ovidiu Crăciun ovidiu@hexasoft.ro

The tourney is open worldwide, but trophies to congress participants only.

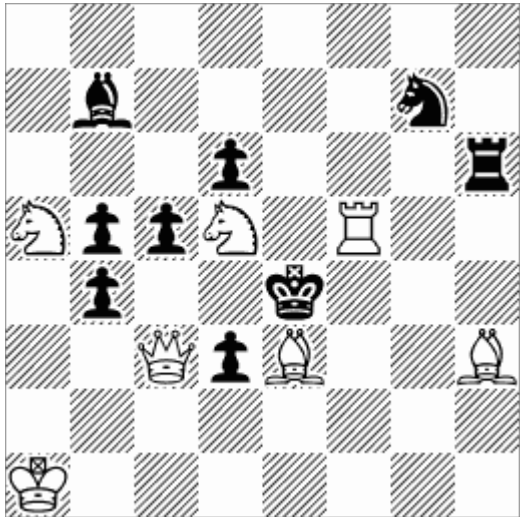
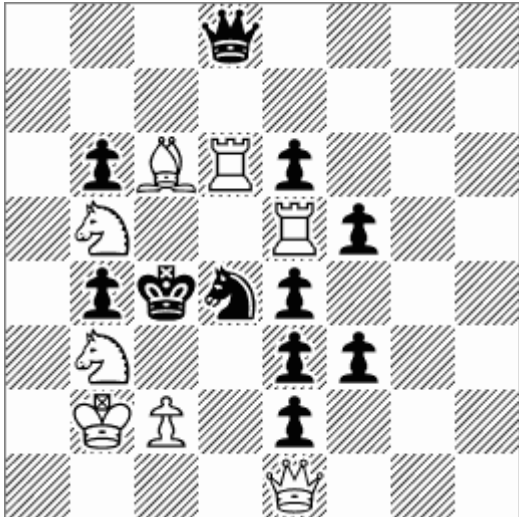
Examples

1. Cyclic Zilahi with 3 chains (QSB) Herbert Moller The Good Companion Chess Problem Club 1919  #2 (6+10) 1.Qg2! [2.Sb2+] 1...Q×g2 (Qe5) 2.S(×)e5+ 1...S×d3 2.B×d3+ 1...f×e4 2.Q×e4+ (1...Sh5,Se8 2.Q×g8+;1...Se6 2.Bd5+)	2. Cyclic Zilahi with 4 chains (QBRs) Yosi Retter, after Jean ROCHE Thèmes-64 1980  #2 (10+6) 1.Qf8! block 1...Q×f8 2.B×e5+ 1...B×h2 (Bg3) 2.R×d5+ 1...R×d4 2.S×f5+ 1...S×g7(S~) 2.Q×e7+ (1...Bf4 2.B×f4,R×d5+)
3. Cyclic Zilahi with 5 chains (QSRsB) Gerhard Maleika Sachová Skladba 2007  #2 (7+12) 1.Bc4! [2.Qd4+] 1...B×c5 2.S×c5+ 1...S×e6 2.R×e6+ 1...S×f6+ 2.S×f6+ 1...R×d5 2.B×d5+ 1...R×c4 2.Q×c4+	4. Cyclic Zilahi with 6 chains (QsBRsP) Alfreds Dombrovskis & Lev I. Loshinsky Sinfonie Scacchistiche 1971  #2 (10+11) 1.Se5! [2.Rd7+] 1...b×c4 2.S×c4+ 1...B×e5+ 2.B×e5+ 1...S×f6 2.R×f6+ 1...S×f7 2.Sd×f7+ 1...R×d8 2.c×d8=Q+ 1...R×c7 2.Q×c7+ (1...Se7 2.B×e7+)

Award

List of participants: Udo Degener (A1), Abdelaziz Onkoud (A2, A4) Ștefan Harnagea (A3), Marco Guida (A5*), Paz Einat (A5*), Ralf Krätschmer (A6), Benjamin Defromont (A7), Vasyl Dyachuk (A8), Mordechay Chovnik (A9), Alexandr Veksler (A10), Jorma Paavilainen (A11), Daniel Dumitrescu (A12), Taras Rudenko (A13), Peter Gvozdjak (A14), Srećko Radović (A15), Anatoly Slesarenko (A16), Mihail Croitor (A17, A18).

The theme of the #2-tourney was a Zilahi in form of closed chains. I received 18 entries on anonymous diagrams and have selected 5 problems.

Anatoly Slesarenko 1st Place Quick Composing – A  (7 + 9) #2 1.Sc4! ~ 2.Sd2#, 1...Sxf5 2.Bg2#, 1...Rxb3 2.Sxd6#, 1...bxc4 2.Qxc4#, 1...bxc3 2.Sxc3#, 1...Bxd5 2.Rf4#	Abdelaziz Onkoud 2nd Place Quick Composing – A  (8 + 11) #2 1.Qd2! ~ 2.Qxd4#, 1...Sxc2 2.Qxc2#, 1...Sxb3 2.cxb3#, 1...exd2 2.Sxd2# (1° Zilahi cyclic), 1...Sxb5 2.Bxb5#, 1...Sxc6 2.Rxc6#, 1...Qxd6 2.Sxd6# (2° Zilahi cyclic)
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1st Place – Anatoly Slesarenko

The theme is presented in a 5 link chain: Black captures R/B/S1/Q/S2, White mates with B/S1/Q/S2/R

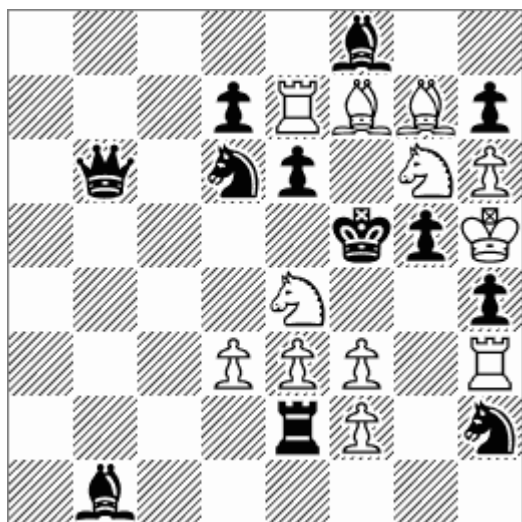
Elegant light setting. White has only one extra wB in addition to the 5 thematic pieces. The 3 black officers play an active role each.

Author: Cyclic Zilahi with 5 chains RBS1QS2

2nd Place – Abdelaziz Onkoud

Here one sees even 6 thematic units showing the theme in 2 parallel 3 link chains P/S1/Q and S2/B/R. Good construction. White needs besides from the 5 officers just one pawn more.

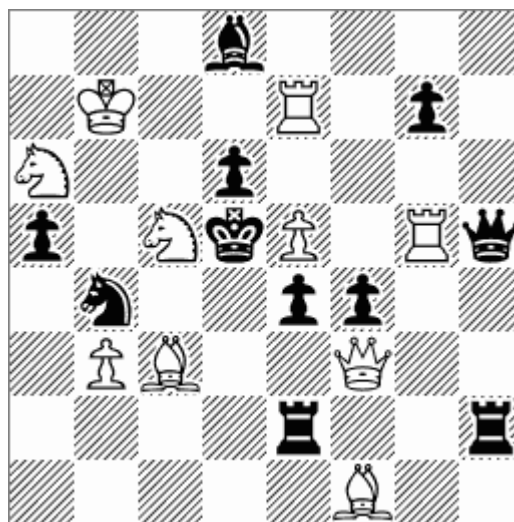
Abdelaziz Onkoud
3rd Place Quick Composing – A



(12 + 12) #2

1.Rg3! ~ 2.Rxg5#, 1...Sxf3 2.Rxf3#, 1...Sxe4 2.fxe4#, 1...hxc3 2.Sxc3# (1° Zilahi cyclic), 1...Sxf7 2.Rxf7#, 1...Bxe7 2.Sxe7#, 1...hxc6+ 2.Bxc6# (2° Zilahi cyclic), 1...Qxe3 2.Sxd6#, 1...g4 2.Sxh4#, 1...Sg4 2.fxg4#

Paz Einat & Marco Guida
4th Place Quick Composing – A



(10 + 11) #2

Set play: 1...dxe5 [a] 2.Rd7# [A], 1...Qxf3 [b] 2.e6# [B]; **1.Sxe4!** ~ 2.Sf6#, 1...dxe5 [a] 2.Rxe5# [C] P-R, 1...Bxe7 2.Sc7# R-S, **1...Sxa6** 2.Qd3# S-Q, 1...Qxf3 [b] 2.exd6# [D] Q-P, 1...Rxe4 2.Bc4#

3rd Place – Abdelaziz Onkoud

As well 2 parallel 3 link chains P/S/R1 and B/R2/S2. However the heavy setting and the lack of economy detract.

4th Place – Paz Einat & Marco Guida

A 4 link chain P/R/S/Q only but enriched with a nice changed mate in set/play in 2 variations. Set: ...PxP Rd7# ...QxQ e6# Play 1...PxP Rxe5# 1...QxQ exd6#

Author: Highlights, 4-fold Zilahi, 2 changed mates vs Setplay

#2

Klaus Wenda

Quick Composing Tourney, Group B

Theme: In $h\#n$ ($n \geq 3$) a white Pawn promotes and is captured on its promotion square without moving.

Problems with one phase are accepted as well as problems with two or more phases (see examples).

Fairy pieces and conditions are not allowed.

Deadline: Sunday 6 July, 18:00 hrs.

Judge: Kostas Prentos

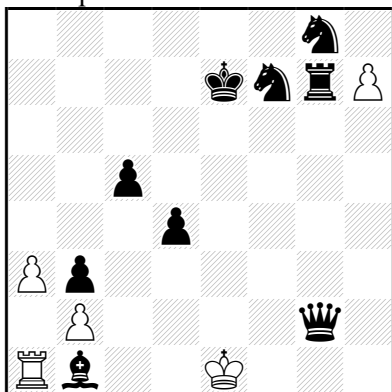
Director: Ovidiu Crăciun ovidiu@hexasoft.ro

The tourney is open worldwide, but trophies to congress participants only.

Examples:

1. One phase, promotion with capture

Sergy I. Tkachenko
Y. Belyakin-100 Memorial Tourney 2021
Special Commendation



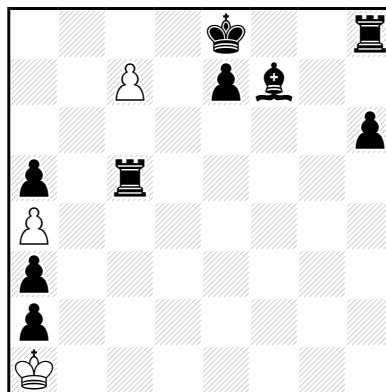
h±3.5

(5+9)

1...h×g8=B 2.Bh7 0-0-0 3.Kf8 Re1 4.K×g8 Re8†

2. One phase, promotion without capture

Christopher J.A. Jones
Schach 2010
2nd Prize



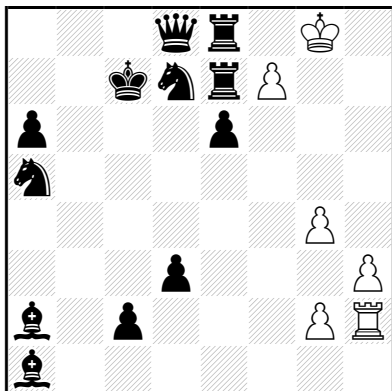
h±4.5

(3+9)

1...c8=S 2.Rb5 a×b5 3.Kd7 b6 4.R×c8 b7 5.Ke8 b×c8=Q†

3. Two phases with twinning

Gábor Cseh
Mat Plus 1998-99
1st Commendation



h†3.5

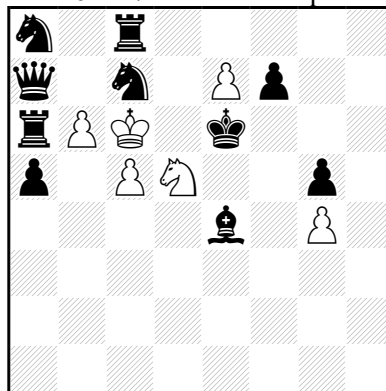
(6+12)

b) h2

a) 1...f×e8=B 2.Qc8 g3 3.Kd8 R×c2 4.K×e8 R×c8†
b) 1...f×e8=R 2.Se5 g5 3.Kd7 Sg4 4.K×e8 Sf6‡

4. Two phases without twinning

Marjan Kovacevic
11th WCCT 2021-22
16th-17th Place ex aequo



h†3.5

(6+10)

2.1.1...

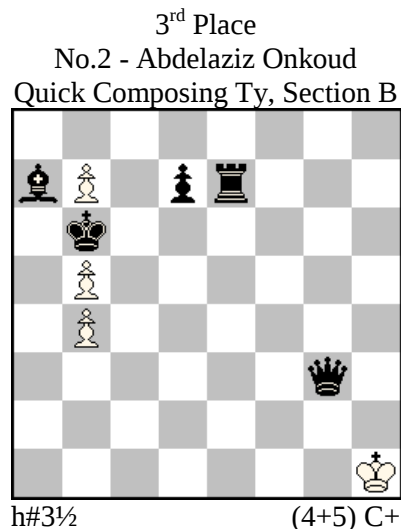
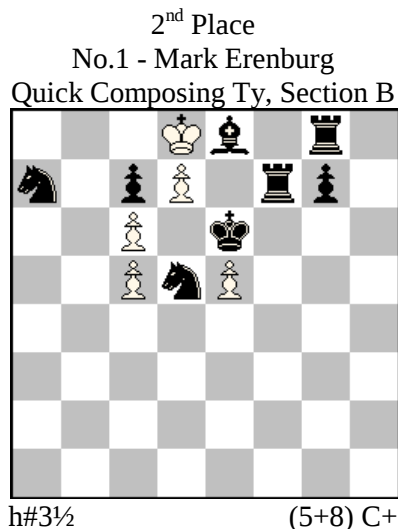
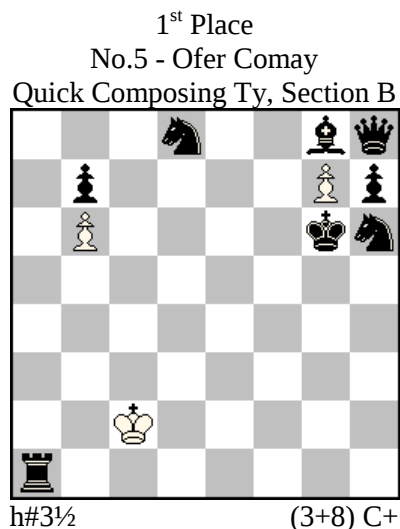
1...e8=B 2.Bg6 S×c7+ 3.Kf6 Kd6 4.R×e8 S×e8‡
1...e8=S 2.Sb5+ K×b5 3.Kd7 b7 4.K×e8 b×c8=Q‡

67th WCCC, Alba Iulia 2025
Quick Composing Tourney, Section B
Award by Kostas Prentos (Greece)

The tourney asked for orthodox helpmates in 3 or more moves, with the requirement that a white Pawn promotes and is captured on its promotion square without ever moving. This is the Schnoebelen theme, named after Philippe Schnoebelen from France, who introduced it in the dawn of the proof game revolution of the 1990s. Without fairy conditions, the only way to determine the exact type of promotion is by eliminating all other possibilities, using the opposite King's moves as a tool. This theme gained popularity over time and in recent years it has appeared quite prominently in helpmates, as well. A search in WinChloe revealed a few Schnoebelen helpmates from the previous century, the earliest being published in the late 1950s.

It goes without saying that this is a difficult theme to achieve in a helpmate, but it becomes even harder when the mating side promotes to a Schnoebelen piece. With a white pawn near promotion and more supporting white force around the corner, the struggle with cooks is real. Another matter of concern is how to avoid the same patterns as in previous problems. Having such a theme in a quick composing tourney borders on cruelty. That said, when I found out about the theme on Sunday morning, I was filled with anticipation to see how the composers would overcome this enormous challenge.

As expected, the number of entries I received for judging was very low: only six, in anonymous diagrams. No.4 was not thematic; leaving just five problems for consideration. All of them had a single thematic solution, with more or less similar content, that made their ranking difficult. Although my expectations were not met, I included every single one of these five entries in the award, to compensate the authors for the hard time they had composing for this tourney. It is my hope that those who had more ambitious ideas, but could not finish them in the allotted time, will be successful with more time at their disposal.



1st Place (No.5) Ofer Comay (Israel):

1...gxh8=R 2.Ra7 bxa7 3.Kg7 a8=Q 4.Kxh8 Qa1#

This is the only entry with a real choice of play on W1: The capture of the bQ on h8, prepares the square on which the bK will be mated, eventually (Kniest theme). Some additional features are also appealing, e.g. the relation between the type of captured and promoted pieces (wPxQ=R & wPxR=Q), a long corner-to-corner move by the promoted Queen, resulting in a long-range model mate.

2nd Place (No.1) Mark Erenburg (Israel):

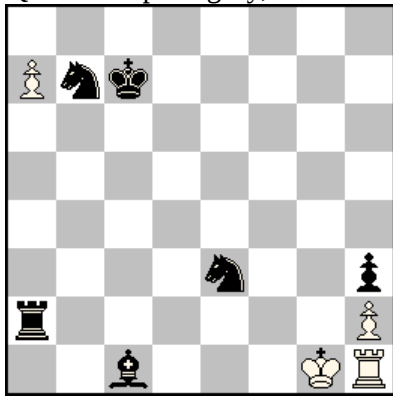
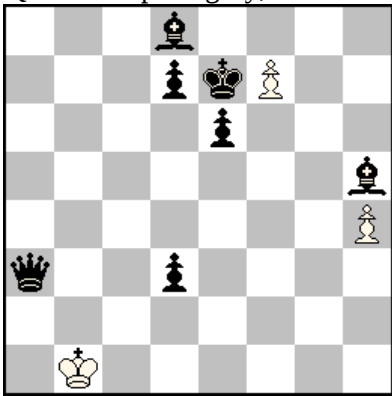
1...dxe8=S 2.Rd7+ cxd7 3.Kf7 c6 4.Rxe8+ dxe8=Q#

White is severely cramped, even after the promotion of the wPd7, so Black has to provide enough oxygen to keep White going. Two active sacrifices of the black Rooks, on top of the thematic sacrifice of the white Schnoebelen piece, white pawn tempo, consecutive Umnov by the white pawns; overall, a solid entry.

3rd Place (No.2) Abdelaziz Onkoud (France):

1...b8=S 2.Kc7 b6+ 3.Kd8 bxa7 4.Qxb8 axb8=Q#

This is the most economical problem of the group, although WID 902056, with only 8 pieces, holds the absolute record for a helpmate showing a white Schnoebelen. The promotion on W1 is for tempo, but of course, this effect is diminished by the fact that White has no other available moves.

4th Place No.6 - Anton Nasyrov Quick Composing Ty, Section B  h#3½ b) ♔c1→e1 (4+6) C+	5th Place No.3 - Menachem Witztum & Ricardo de Mattos Vieira Quick Composing Ty, Section B  h#4½ (3+7) C+
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4th Place (No.6) Anton Nasyrov (FIDE):

a) 1...a8=B 2.Ra7 Kf2 3.Kb8 Rxc1 4.Kxa8 Rc8#

b) 1...a8=Q 2.Rxh2 Rxh2 3.Kb6 Qxb7+ 4.Ka5 Ra2#

Although I accepted this problem to the competition, I did not consider the second, non-thematic solution for its ranking. The thematic phase is a simplified version of the first example from the announcement. The main difference is that the thematic promotion in this problem is a tempo move: If White could pass, the solution would be the same. However, White does not have any other available moves for W1.

5th Place (No.3) Menachem Witztum (Israel) & Ricardo de Mattos Vieira (Brazil):

1...f8=S 2.Bg6 h5 3.Bc7 hxg6 4.Kd8 g7 5.Qxf8 gxf8=Q#

Essentially the same play as in the second example from the announcement, without the Klasinc, but with different minor effects, like the distant self-block, mixed Phoenix (wPxbQ=wQ), etc.

5 DAYS COMPOSING TOURNEY

Announced on 4th July

The tourney requests orthodox twomovers featuring the Anti-Ianovcic theme.
Fairy pieces and conditions are not allowed.

Maximum 3 problems per author.

Deadline: Tuesday 8 July, 22:00 (Alba Iulia time).

Send your problems to Ovidiu Crăciun ovidiu@hexasoft.ro

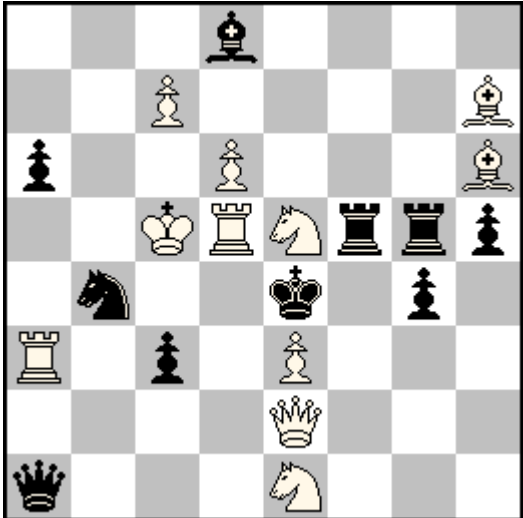
Judge: Bogusz Piliczewski.

Definition of the Anti-Ianovcic theme:

White piece threatens mate along the pin-line.

In one variation Black defends by unpin of his pinning piece, and in the other he opens a line for direct guard of a threat square.

We present below the most frequently quoted example.

<i>François Michel & Georges Mirand Prize, T.T. The Problemist 1976</i>  #2 (11+10) C+	Tries: 1.S1f3? [2.Rd4#] but 1...Qd1! 1.S5f3? [2.Re5#] but 1...Bf6! 1.Sd7! [2.Re5#] White threatens mate by wRd5 along the pin line 1st thematic variation: Black defends by unpin of his pinning Rf5 1...Rg6 2.Qc4# 2nd thematic variation: Black opens a line for direct guard of the threat square e5 (opened diagonal a1-e5) 1...c2 2.Qg2# Other variations: 1...Sc6,S×d5,Sd3+ 2.Q(×)d3# 1...Bf6 2.S×f6#
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WCCC 2025 - 5 Days Tourney

Preliminary award

Judge: Bogusz Piliczewski

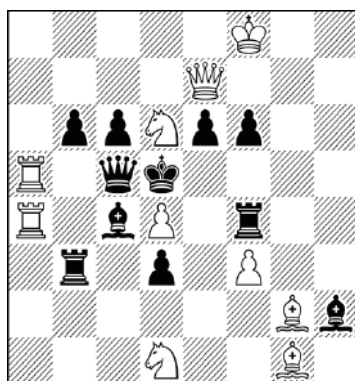
Theme: Anti-Ianovcic

List of participants: Ștefan Harnagea – România (AI 01), Daniel Dumitrescu – România (AI 02), Paz Einat – Israel (AI 03), Marius-Ștefan Sandu – România (AI 04), Emanuel Navon – Israel (AI 05, AI 15*, AI 28*), Pavel Murashev – Rusia (AI 06), Abdelaziz Onkoud – France (AI 07, AI 17), Ralf Krätschmer – Germany (AI 08, AI 11, AI 14), Daniil Yakimovich – USA (AI 09, AI 12), Anatoly Slesarenko – Rusia (AI 10), Maryan Kerhuel – France (AI 13), Menachem Witztum – Israel (AI 15*, AI 28*), Anatoly Vasylenko – Ukraine (AI 16), Srećko Radović – Serbia (AI 18, AI 22), Mordechay Chovnik - Israel (AI 19), Marco Guida – Italy (AI 20, AI 28*), Vasil Markovcij – Czechia (AI 21*), Miroslav Voraček – Czechia (AI 21*), Vasil Ďačuk – Slovakia (AI 23), Mikael Grönroos – Finland (AI 24*), Jorma Paavilainen – Finland (AI 24*), Zoran Gavrilovski – North Macedonia (AI 25), Andrii Sergiienko – Ukraine (AI 26, AI 29), Mark Erenburg – Israel (AI 27).

I received 29 anonymous twomovers. I decided to distinguish the following problems.

1st Prize

SREĆKO RADOVIĆ (SERBIA)



#2

10+11

1st Prize - SREĆKO RADOVIĆ (SERBIA)

Triple Anti-Ianovcic theme with eight thematic variations (3+5). There is a lot of content in addition to that. Option and white correction with three thematic tries. Furthermore we have black correction, black-white duel and rook cross. Moreover the author used Somov B1, B2 and Umnov themes. In my opinion, the best composition in the competition.

1.Sc8? ~ 2.Qd6♠ but 1...Rxd4!

1.Sxc4? ~ 2.Sce3♠, 2.Qd6♠, 1...Rxd4 2.Sde3♠, but 1...Rb4!

1.Se4? ~ 2.Qd6♠, 1...Rxf6 2.Sxf6♠, 1...Rg4 2.Sxf6♠, 1...Rh4 2.Sxf6♠, but 1...Rf5!

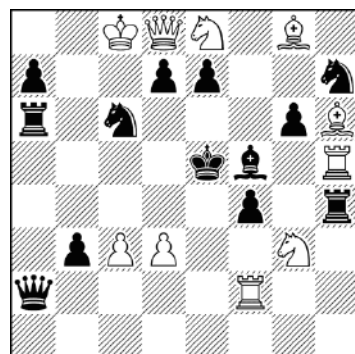
1.Sf7! ~ 2.Qd6♠, 1...Bb5 2.Se3♠, 1...Rb5 2.Sc3♠, 1...b5 2.Qxc5♠, 1...bxa5 2.Qxc5♠, 1...Rxf3 2.Bxf3♠, 1...Rxd4 2.Se3♠, 1...Re4 2.fxe4♠, 1...Rg4 2.fxg4♠, 1...Rh4 2.f4♠, 1...Rf5 2.f4♠

Author: Triple presentation of the theme. Self-pinning and white correction key

FEN: 5K2/4Q3/1ppNpp2/R1qk4/R1bP1r2/1r1p1P2/6Bb/3N2B1

2nd Prize

ANDRII SERGIENKO (UKRAINE)



#2

10+13

2nd Prize - ANDRII SERGIENKO (UKRAINE)

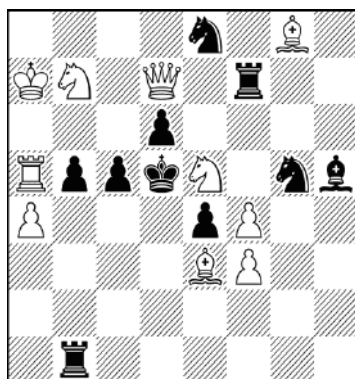
Triple Anti-Ianovcic theme with six thematic variations (3+3) and black correction.

1.Qxd7! ~ 2.Qe6♠, 1...Sg5 2.Bg7♠, 1...Rhx5 2.Bxf4♠, 1...g5/gxh5 2.Qxf5♠, 1...Sc~ 2.d4♠, 1...Sd4 2.cxd4♠, 1...b2 2.Re2♠, 1...Sf8 2.Bg7♠

FEN: 2KQN1B1/p2pp2n/r1n3pB/4kb1R/5p1r/1pPP2N1/q4R2/8

3rd Prize

ANATOLY SLESARENKO
(RUSSIA)



#2

10+10

3rd Prize - ANATOLY SLESARENKO (RUSSIA)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme with two thematic variations, a thematic try, three changed mates, Bartolovic and Heathcote themes.

1...Se6 2.Qc6 $\dagger$, 1...bxa4 2.Rxc5 $\dagger$, 1...Sc7 2.Qxd6 $\dagger$

1.Sd8? ~ 2.Qb7 $\dagger$, 1...bxa4 2.Rxc5 $\dagger$, 1...Sc7 2.Qc6 $\dagger$, but 1...Se6!

1.Sxc5! ~ 2.Qb7 $\dagger$, 1...Se6 2.fxe4 $\dagger$, 1...bxa4 2.Sb3 $\dagger$,

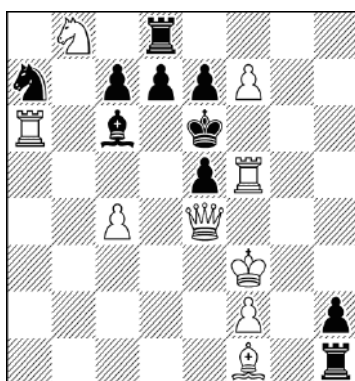
1...Sc7 2.Qc6 $\dagger$

Author: Anti-Ianovcic theme plus changed mates.

FEN: 4n1B1/KN1Q1r2/3p4/RppkN1nb/P3pP2/4BP2/8/1r6

4th Prize

VASIL ĎAČUK (SLOVAKIA)



#2

9+10

4th Prize - VASIL ĎAČUK (SLOVAKIA)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme with two thematic variations, two tries, reversal theme and changed mates after both thematic variations.

1...d5 2.Qxe5 $\dagger$, 1...Kd6 2.Qd5 $\dagger$

1.Bd3? ~ 2.Qd5 $\dagger$, 1...d5 2.Qxe5 $\dagger$, but 1...d6!

1.Bh3? ~ 2.Qd5 $\dagger$, 1...d6 2.Rf4 $\dagger$, 1...d5 2.Qxe5 $\dagger$, but 1...Rd1!

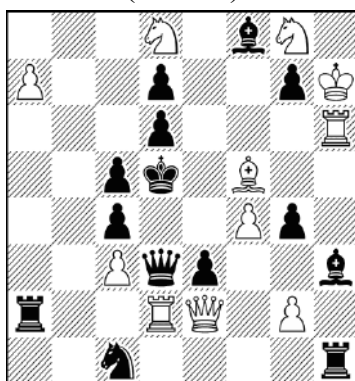
1.Rf4! ~ 2.Qd5 $\dagger$, 1...d6 2.Bh3 $\dagger$, 1...d5 2.Qg6 $\dagger$

Author: 2x Anti-Ianovcic theme, Salazar, change of mates

FEN: 1N1r4/n1pppP2/R1b1k3/4pR2/2P1Q3/5K2/5P1p/5B1r

1st HM

ANATOLY VASYLENKO
(UKRAINE)



#2

11+14

1st HM - ANATOLY VASYLENKO (UKRAINE)

Double Anti-Ianovcic theme with four thematic variations (2+2) in the solution. Both line-opening variations uses the pin of the black queen. In addition to that we have a threat-reversal theme. The second try is nice but not thematic, because the threat is not a Pelle move.

1.Qxe3? ~ 2.Be4 $\dagger$ /2.Qe4 $\dagger$, 1...Rxd2 2.a8=Q $\dagger$, but 1...Bxg2!

1.Bg6? ~ 2.Rh5 $\dagger$, 1...gxf6 2.Sf6 $\dagger$, but 1...exd2!

1.Rh5! ~ 2.Bg6 $\dagger$, 1...Rxd2 2.a8=Q $\dagger$, 1...exd2 2.Be4 $\dagger$, 1...Bxg2

2.Qxg2 $\dagger$, 1...g3 2.Qf3 $\dagger$, 1...g5 2.Sf6 $\dagger$, 1...Be7 2.Sxe7 $\dagger$

Author: Double "Anti-Ianovcic" theme with a thematic dual avoidance. (in total – three moves along the pin-line: first, threat, mate; original combination of thematic functions of Bh3 as a line-opening piece and as a piece for which a line is opened).

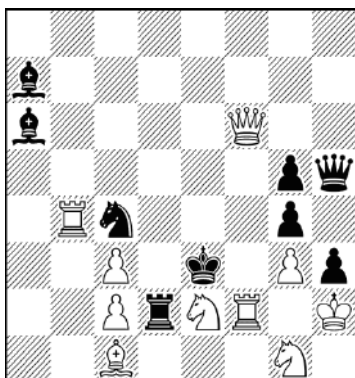
Add.: "Reversal 2" theme (AB) with changed defense (C).

FEN:

3N1bN1/P2p2pK/3p3R/2pk1B2/2p2Pp1/2Pqp2b/r2RQ1P1/2n4r

2nd HM

ANDRII SERGIENKO (UKRAINE)



#2

10+9

2nd HM - ANDRII SERGIENKO (UKRAINE)

Anti-Ianovcic theme with a very good flight giving key, two king variations, black correction and Kharkiv theme. An elegant twomover. Unfortunately the king capture on f2 is not thematic, because the white rook disappears.

1.Sd4? ~ 2.Re2♠ but 1...S~!/ Ke4!

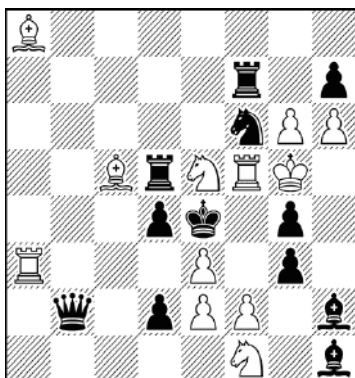
1.Sf4! ~ 2.Re2♠, 1...Ke4 2.Qe6♠, 1...S~ 2.Sd5♠, 1...Sb6 2.Qd4♠, 1...Kxf2 2.Sg2♠

Author: Anti-Ianovcic theme (×2), flight give key, black correction, Kharkiv-Rotterdam theme

FEN: 8/b7/b4Q2/6pq/1Rn3p1/2P1k1Pp/2PrNR1K/2B3N1

3rd HM

ABDELAZIZ ONKOU (FRANCE)



#2

12+12

3rd HM - ABDELAZIZ ONKOU (FRANCE)

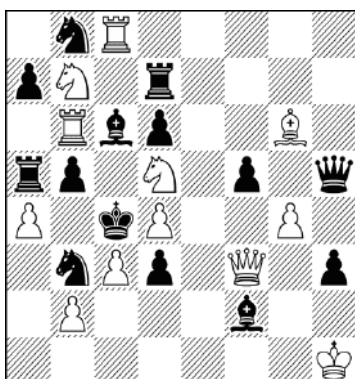
Double Anti-Ianovcic theme with six thematic variations (2+4) and reciprocal captures.

1.Sxg4! ~ 2.Re5♠, 1...Qb7 2.Sxd2♠, 1...Rb7 2.Sxf6♠, 1...g2 2.f3♠, 1...gxf2 2.Sxf2♠, 1...d3 2.exd3♠, 1...dxe3 2.Rxe3♠, 1...Sxg4 2.Bxd5♠, 1...Sd7 2.Bxd5♠, 1...Re7 2.Sxf6♠, 1...Qb8 2.Sxd2♠

FEN: B7/5r1p/5nPP/2BrNRK1/3pk1p1/R3P1p1/1q1pPP1b/5N1b

4th HM

ABDELAZIZ ONKOU (FRANCE)



#2

12+14

4th HM - ABDELAZIZ ONKOU (FRANCE)

Double Anti-Ianovcic theme with four thematic variations (2+2) and the thematic try. Moreover we have Heathcote and Umnov themes.

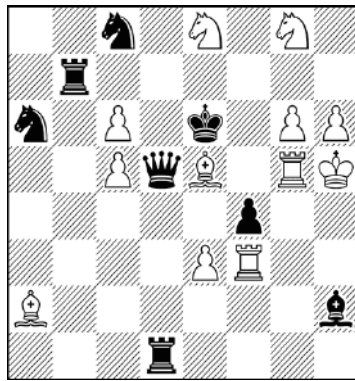
1.Sb4? ~ 2.Qd5♠, 1...f4 2.Bxd3♠, but 1...bxa4!

1.Sf4! ~ 2.Qd5♠, 1...Sc5 2.Sxa5♠, 1...Rc7 2.Sxd6♠, 1...b4 2.Rxb4♠, 1...bxa4 2.Rb4♠, 1...fxg4 2.Bxd3♠, 1...d5 2.Qxd3♠

FEN:

1nR5/pN1r4/1Rbp2B1/rp1N1p1q/P1kP2P1/1nPp1Q1p/1P3b2/7K

5th HM
RALF KRÄTSCHMER
 (GERMANY)



#2

12+8

5th HM - RALF KRÄTSCHMER (GERMANY)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme with two thematic variations, option. There are nine tries without changed mates and bishop star.

1.Ba1? ~ 2.Re5♠, 1...Rb3 2.Sg7♠, 1...fxe3 2.Rf6♠, 1...Rxa1 2.Bxd5♠, 1...Rb2 2.Sg7♠, but 1...Rd4!

1.Bb2? ~ 2.Re5♠, but 1...Rd4!

1.Bc3? ~ 2.Re5♠, but 1...Rd4!

1.Bd4? ~ 2.Bxd5♠/ 2.Re5♠, but 1...Rxd4!

1.Bxf4? ~ 2.Re5♠, but 1...Bxf4!

1.Bd6? ~ 2.Re5♠, but 1...Sxd6!

1.Bc7? ~ 2.Sg7♠/2.Re5♠, but 1...Rxc7!

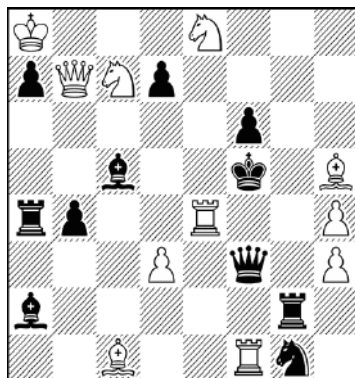
1.Bf6? ~ 2.Re5♠, 1...Rb3 2.Sg7♠, but 1...fxe3!

1.Bg7? ~ 2.Re5♠, 1...Rxc7 2.Sxg7♠, 1...fxe3 2.Rf6♠, but 1...Rb3!

1.Bh8! ~ 2.Re5♠, 1...Rb3 2.Sg7♠, 1...fxe3 2.Rf6♠, 1...Rg7 2.Sxg7♠

FEN: 2n1N1N1/1r6/n1P1k1PP/2PqB1RK/5p2/4PR2/B6b/3r4

Comm.
DANIEL DUMITRESCU
 (ROMANIA)



#2

11+11

Comm. - DANIEL DUMITRESCU (ROMANIA)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme with three thematic variations and three tries.

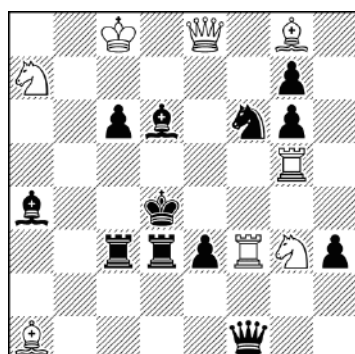
1.Ree1? ~2.Qe4♠, but 1...Re2!

1.Re6? ~ 2.Qe4♠, but 1...d5!

1.Re7! ~ 2.Qe4♠, 1...Bf2 2.Sd6♠, 1...Rf2 2.Sg7♠, 1...b3 2.Qd5♠, 1...Bd5 2.Qxd5♠, 1...Re2 2.Sg7♠, 1...Rg4 2.hxg4♠, 1...d5 2.Qc8♠

FEN: K3N3/pQNp4/5p2/2b2k1B/rp2R2P/3P1q1P/b5r1/2B2Rn1

Comm.
PAZ EINAT (ISRAEL)



#2

8+12

Comm. - PAZ EINAT (ISRAEL)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme with two thematic variations and four changed mates (one thematic).

1...Rd1/Rd2 2.Qxe3♠, 1...Sxg8 2.Qe4♠, 1...Bb3 2.Sxc6♠, 1...Bc5 2.Qe5♠

1.Qxc6! ~ 2.Qc4♠, 1...Qxa1 2.Se2♠, 1...Rd1/Rd2 2.Qxc3♠,

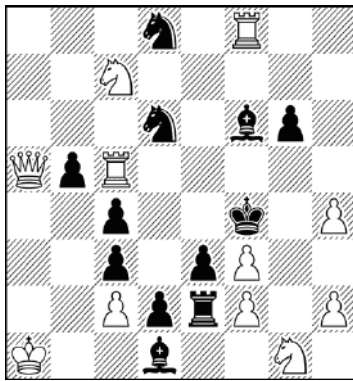
1...Sxg8 2.Rd5♠, 1...Bb3 2.Sb5♠, 1...Bc5 2.Qxc5♠, 1...Bb5 2.Sxb5♠, 1...Bxc6 2.Sxc6♠, 1...Sd5 2.Rxd5♠

Author: Four mate changes, one mate transfer, thematic key

FEN: 2K1Q1B1/N5p1/2pb1np1/6R1/b2k4/2rrpRNp/8/B4q2

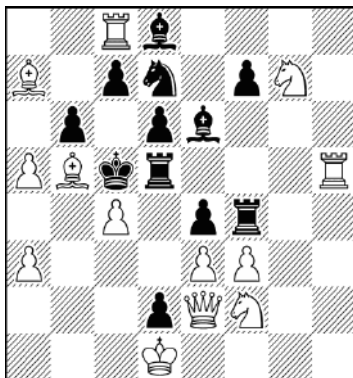
Comm.

DANIIL YAKIMOVICH (USA)



#2

11+12

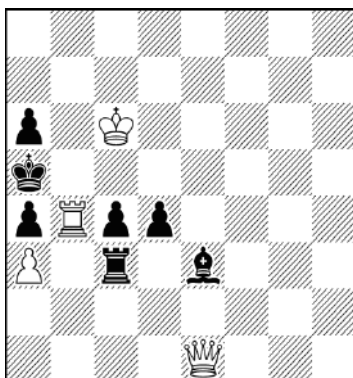
Comm.EMANUEL NAVON (ISRAEL) &
MENACHEM WITZTUM (ISRAEL)
& MARCO GUIDA (ITALY)

#2

13+12

Special Comm.

DANIIL YAKIMOVICH (USA)



#2

4+7

Comm. - DANIIL YAKIMOVICH (USA)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme with four thematic variations (3+1), Dombrovskis and Somov B2.

1.Rg5? ~ 2.Sd5♠, but 1...Sf5!

1.Qa8? ~ 2.Sh3♠, 1...Se4 2.Qxe4♠, 1...S6b7 2.Rxf6♠, 1...Sc6 2.Se6♠, 1...S8b7 2.Se6♠, but 1...exf2!

1.Qxc3! ~ 2.Qe5♠, 1...Sf5 2.Sd5♠, 1...exf2 2.Sh3♠, 1...S8f7 2.Se6♠, 1...S6f7 2.Qxf6♠, 1...Sc6 2.Se6♠

Author: Anti-Ianovcic (a, b), Dombrovskis ([A]a!-[B]b!-aAbB)

FEN:

3n1R2/2N5/3n1bp1/QpR5/2p2k1P/2p1pP2/2PprP1P/K2b2N1

Comm. - EMANUEL NAVON (ISRAEL) & MENACHEM WITZTUM (ISRAEL) & MARCO GUIDA (ITALY)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme with six thematic variations (5+1) and defences on the same square.

1.Qd3? ~ 2.Qd4♠, 1...exd3 2.Sxd3♠, but 1...exf3!

1.Qxd2! ~ 2.Qd4♠, 1...Se5 2.Bxb6♠, 1...Bf5 2.Qxd5♠, 1...Bg5 2.Rxc7♠, 1...Rff5 2.Sxe4♠, 1...f5 2.Sxe6♠, 1...exf3 2.Sd3♠, 1...Bf6 2.Rxc7♠

Author: 6 thematic variations, of which 5 un-pinning variations. Somehow thematic key, which self-pins the white Queen. The prevention of the try is performed by the thematic. Of line opening, and transfer mate in the solution

FEN:

2Rb4/B1pn1pN1/1p1pb3/PBkr3R/2P1pr2/P3PP2/3pQN2/3K4

Special Comm. - DANIIL YAKIMOVICH (USA)

Single Anti-Ianovcic theme in a Meredith.

1.Rb1? Blocus, 1...B~ 2.Qe5♠, 1...d3 2.Qxc3♠, but 1...Bf4!

1.Rxc4! ~ 2.Rc5♠, 1...Bd2 2.Qe5♠, 1...d3 2.Qxc3♠

Author: The smallest Anti-Ianovcic?

FEN: 8/8/p1K5/k7/pRpp4/P1r1b3/8/4Q3

I would like to thank all the composers who took part in the tourney and congratulate the winners.

Alba Iulia, July 11, 2025

Bogusz Piliczewski
International Judge of the FIDE for Chess Compositions
International Solving Master of the FIDE

INTERNET COMPOSING TOURNEY

Announced on 6th June

The tourney requests direct mates or selfmates in three moves featuring the Schiffmann theme.
Fairy pieces and conditions are not allowed.

Maximum 3 problems per author.

Deadline: Monday 7 July, 22:00 (Alba Iulia time).

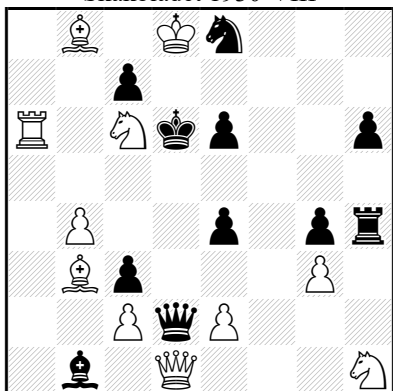
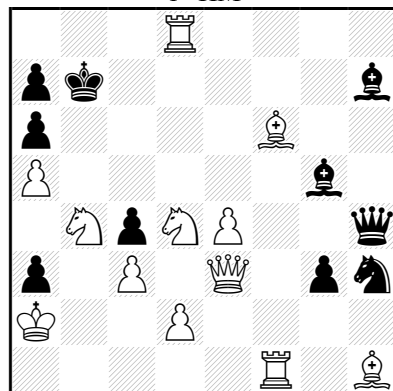
Send your problems to Mihail Croitor mcroitor@gmail.com

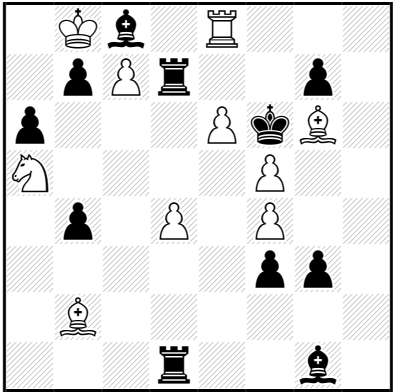
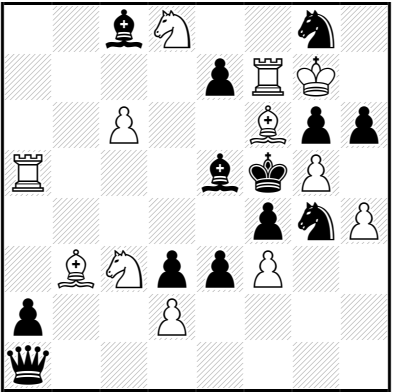
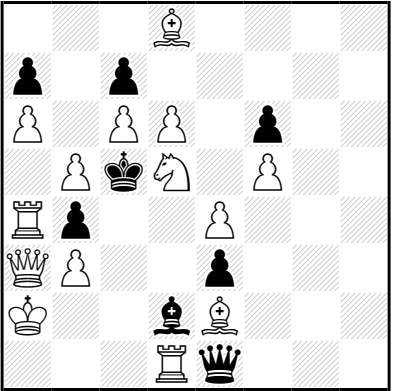
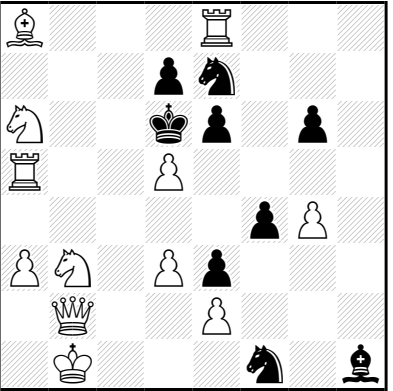
Judge: Hans Gruber.

Definition of the Schiffmann theme:

A black piece selfpins or makes a Pelle move because the threat would unpin that black piece indirectly. White uses this pinning in mate.

We present below several examples: Pelle moves by a black piece (A1, A2), Schiffmann achieved three times on the same square (B1, B2), black King moving to the pin line (C1, C2) and Schiffmann in s#3.

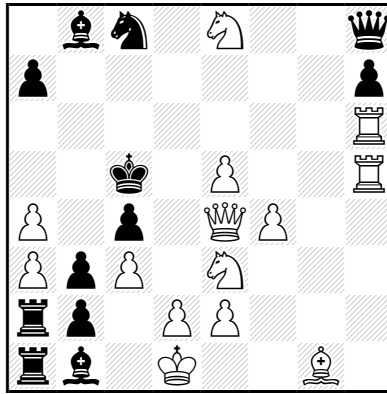
A1. Pelle moves by the same black piece	A2. Pelle moves by different black pieces
Rafael M. Kofman in memoriam I. A. SCHIFFMANN Skakbladet 1930-VIII  #3 (11+11) 1.Sf2? [2.Sxe4#] but 1...Bxc2! 1.Ba7? [2.Bc5#] but 1...Rh5! 1.e3! [2.Sd4+ Ke5 3.Rxe6#] 1...Qd5 2.Ba7 [3.Bc5#] e5 3.Qxd5# 1...Qd3 2.Sf2 [3.Sxe4#] Sf6 3.Bxc7#	Evgeny I. Kubbel Tijdschrift van den Nederlandschen Schaakbond 1929 1st HM  #3 (12+10) 1.Rb1! [2.Sd5#] 1...Bxe4 2.d3 [3.Sd5#] 2...Bc6 3.Qe7# or 2...Kc7 3.Sxa6# 1...Qxe4! 2.Qd3 [3.Sd5#] 2...Qc6,Qxh1 3.Qxh7# or 2...Kc7 3.Sxa6#

B1. Schiffmann theme three times on the same square Heinz Lies Die Schwalbe 1932 (v)  #3 (10+11) 1.Sc4! [2.Se5 [3.Sg4#]] 1...Bxd4 2.Se3 [3.Sg4#] 1...R1xd4 2.Sd2 [3.Se4#] 1...R7xd4 2.Sb6 [3.Sd5#] Bxe6 3.Rxe6# 1...Re7 2.Rf8+ Rf7 3.Rxf7# 1...Be3 2.Sxe3 [3.Sg4#]	B2. Schiffmann theme three times on the same square Ferenc Fleck I. Telkes Memorial Tourney 1948-49, 1st Prize  #3 (12+13) 1.Rf8! [2.Bf7 [3.Bxg6#]] 1...exf6 2.Sb5 [3.Sd6#] Qd4 3.Sxd4# 1...S8xf6 2.Sd5 [3.Sxe7#] 1...S4xf6 2.Bd5 [3.Be4#] 1...e6 2.Sf7 [3.Sd6#]
C1. bK moves twice on the same pin line Zoran Gavrilovski The Macedonian Problemist 2011  #3 (14+8) 1...Kd4 2.Qxb4+ Ke5 3.Bxf6# 1.Sxb4! [2.Sd3+ Kxb5, Kb6 3.Qc5#] 1...Kd4 2.Sd5+ Ke5 3.Bxf6# 1...Kxd6 2.Sc2+ Ke5 3.Bxc7# 1...Bxb4 2.Rd5+ Kb6 3.Bxc7# 1...cxd6 2.Sc2+ Bb4 3.Rd5#	C2. bK moves to different pin lines Robert Burger & Robin C.O. Matthews R. McWilliam MT The Problemist 1999-2001 1st Prize  #3 (12+9) 1.Sd4? [2.Qb8, Sb5#] but 1...Sd2+! 1.Sbc5? [2.Qb8, Sb7#] but 1...Sd2+! 1.Ka1! [2.Sd2 [3.Qb8, Sc4#] exd5 3.Qf6#] 1...Sxd5 2.Sd4 [3.Sb5#] Ke5/Sc7/Sc3 3.Sf5/Qb4/Qb8, Qb4# 1...Sc6 2.Sbc5 [3.Sb7#] Kxd5/Sd4, Sxa5, Sd8 3.Se4/Qb8# (1...e5 2.Sbc5 [3.Qb8, Sb7#] Sxd5 3.Qxe5# 1...Bxd5 2.Sd4 [3.Qb8, Sb5#] Bb7 3.Qb4# 1...Sc8 2.Qc3, Sd4, Sbc5)

D. s#3 with Schiffmann theme

Andrey Lobusov
Die Schwalbe 1984

1st HM



s#3

(14+12)

1.Qg2! [2.Sxc4+ Kxc4 3.Qe4+ Bxe4#]

1...Bxe5 2.Sf5+ Bd4 3.Sfg7+ Bf5#

1...Qxe5 2.Sd5+ Qe3,Qd4 3.Sdc7+ Bf5#

1...Sd6 2.Sd5+ Kc6 3.Sb6+ Be4#

Internet Composing Tourney 67th WCCC Alba Iulia 2025

Award by Hans Gruber (Germany), International Judge of the FIDE

The tourney requested direct mates or selfmates in three moves featuring the Schiffmann theme. It was announced June 6th, 2025, and submission deadline was July 7th, 2025. Tourney Director Mihail Croitor quickly provided neutral diagrams without author names.

Israel Abraham Schiffmann was one of the greatest Romanian composers, in his short life (1903-1930) he published an outstanding oeuvre of thematical dense, extraordinarily elegant and highly innovative chess problems. Odette Vollenweider, the long-standing Swiss delegate at the WCCC meetings, published in 1963 a collection of Schiffmann's compositions in her book *Faszinierendes Schachproblem*, using the pseudonym Gabriel Baumgartner.

I applaud the Romanian Chess Federation for the decision to celebrate its centenary jubilee 2025 by announcing this tournament as part of the activities of the 67th WCCC. Israel Abraham Schiffmann investigated the theme later named after him and published a number of excellent two-movers in the years 1927 and 1928. The theme is sophisticated: There is a white threat (in the original two-move version this is a discovered check), and the thematic black defence self-pins a black piece. The defence is effective, because White would unpin that piece indirectly if the threat would be played. Instead, White plays a different continuation that uses this pin. A number of different forms were defined, either direct self-pin by capturing the front piece of a battery, or a Pelle move of an already pinned piece along the pin line, or a move by the black king that self-pins a piece.

In the three-mover several patterns are possible, self-pin in the first black move with immediate use of the pin in White's second move, or with use of the pin only in White's third move, or self-pin in the second black move, or combinations. The three-move Schiffmann theme has only rarely been investigated, and the collection of problems in the announcement showed that some of the greatest masters in our field had to express their expertise to present the theme. Thus, it was a challenging idea by the organisers to set this theme in a short-term tourney.

We did not expect a large number of entries but hoped for some exciting problems. I consider the tourney as quite successful, both in terms of quantity (eleven submissions, seven #3 and four S#3) and in terms of quality. I awarded six problems and hope that no anticipation will be found. It was quite an achievement to compose sound entries within one month, so it was challenging to add contents to the Schiffmann theme and/or to aim for the elegance that is so characteristic of Israel Abraham Schiffmann's compositions.

No. 1 (#3, 13+11, Ka8/Kf4) showed an Adabashev synthesis, but the pairs of variations are rather bland, including the Schiffmann variations. No. 2 (#3, 12+6, Kg7/Kd6) is not thematic, because after the defence, the threat cannot be played any longer, and thus there is no thematic unpin if the threat is played. No. 5 (#3, 9+11, Ka7/Kd4) is not thematic, because after the defences, the threat does not need the unpin effect, because Black defends by 2.- Rd3! No. 8 (S#3, 12+7, Kf1/Ke3) shows rather simple Schiffmann variations, and the scheme is not selfmate specific, but uses only orthodox (direct-mate) effects. No. 10 (S#3, 7+11, Ke1/Kc5) suffers from the double refutation after the dual avoidance in one variation: 1.- Rxd5 2.Qc7+? Kd4 3.Sf5+ exf5! and Rxf5!

List of participants (provided by the Tourney Director after completion of the award)

Aleksandr Feoktivistov (No. 1), Stefan Harnagea (No. 2), Srećko Radović (No. 3, No. 4, No. 5), Ralf Krätschmer (No. 6), Zoran Gavrilovski (No. 7, No. 8, No. 11), Mark Erenburg (No. 9), Andrey Selivanov & Abdelaziz Onkoud (No. 10).

1st Prize: No. 11 (Zoran Gavrilovski)

1.Bg3! [2.Be5 3.Bd4+ Sxd4#]

1.- cxd5 2.Rxe6! (2.Be5? d4+ 3.Bxd4#??) 3.Qb4+ Sxb4#

1.- exd5 2.Re4! (2.Be5? d4+ 3.Bxd4#??) 3.Rc4+ Sxc4#

The most innovative combination of the Schiffmann theme: The defences are effective, because Black can force White to mate if the threat is played! The author calls this a selfmate modification of the Berlin

theme, but I disagree, because an essential part of the Berlin theme is that in a logical structure the „wrong“ mates are downgraded to harmless checks, and such a downgrading is not present here. But the idea to force White to mate is splendid nevertheless, and it is very remarkable that all second white moves are quiet. These strengths help to accept the remote key piece, and the problem is the clear tourney winner.

2nd Prize: No. 7 (Zoran Gavrilovski)

1.Sf×e4! [2.Sd6+ Re4,Se4 3.S×f5#]

1.– Q×d5 2.S×c3+ Re4,Se4 3.Sb5#

1.– B×d5,Rf7,Be6 2.Sg5+ Re4,Se4 3.S(×)e6#

1.– S×d5 2.Sf2+ Re4 3.e3#

1.– R×e4 2.S×f3+ S×f3 3.B×c3#

1.– S×e4 2.Bf7+ Qd5 3.R×d5#

A quite complex problem, that gains considerable depth through the two additional variations with extra self-pins (although no Schiffmann defences), initiated by the second black moves from the Schiffmann variations. They are not differentiated there, but the variations differ. Unfortunately, the self-pin of the black queen is not used, and I deplore that two unthematic defences (1.– Rf7, 1.– Be6) provoke the same continuation as the thematic 1.– B×d5. This does not affect soundness, but thematic clarity.

3rd Prize: No. 4 (Srećko Radović)

1.Qc5! [2.Se3+ Kf4 3.Sg2#]

1.– Q×e4,Q×h2,Qh3,Qe7 2.S(×)e7+ Kf4 3.Sg6#

1.– B×e4 2.Sb4+ Kf4 3.Sd3#

1.– S3×e4 2.Sc3+ Kf4 3.Se2#

1.– S5×e4 2.Sc7+ Kf4 3.S×e6#

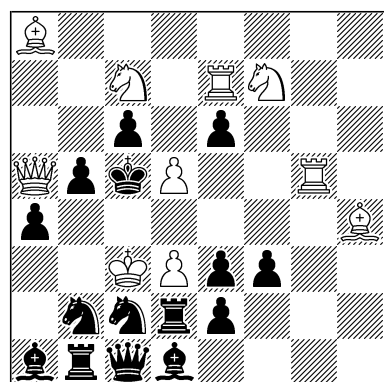
1.– e×d5 2.Q×d5+ Kf4 3.Qd6#

1.– f5 2.Qd4+ Kd6 3.e5#

1.– Qd7 2.Se7+ Kf4,Qd5 3.Sg6#

Four Schiffmann defences on the same square and very rich Siers-type style variations by the white battery. It is impressive that new pins emerge in the queen and bishop variations (but not in the knight variations). Again I deplore that three unthematic defences (1.– Q×h2, 1.– Qh3, 1.– Qe7) provoke the same continuation as the thematic 1.– Q×e4. The by-play is excellent, and the setting is light.

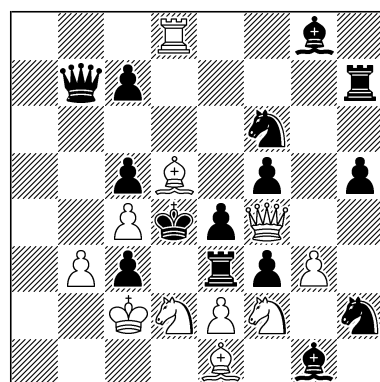
1st Prize: No. 11 Zoran Gavrilovski



S#3

C+ 10+15

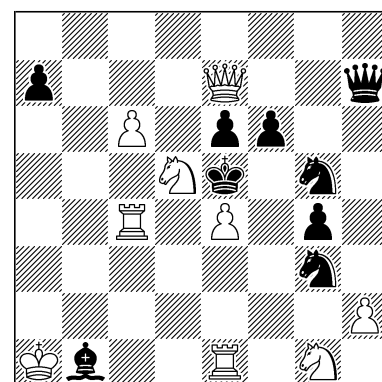
2nd Prize: No. 7 Zoran Gavrilovski



#3

C+ 11+15

3rd Prize: No. 4 Srećko Radović



#3

C+ 9+9

Honourable Mention: No. 9 (Mark Erenburg)

1.Rb8! [2.S×d5+ Kd3 3.Q×f3+ B×f3#]

1.– S3×d4 2.Bc2 3.Se2+ f×e2#

1.– S5×d4 2.Qf5 3.Se2+ f×e2#

A presentation that may be interpreted as a selfmate specific extension of the Schiffmann theme: In the

thematic variations, when the threat is tried, the unpins result from Black's second moves, not from the white moves. The spirit of the theme „Black self-pins in expectation of an unpin when the threat is played“ is clearly met! It is selfmate-specific that the damage of the black defences is that they *guard* a potential flight square of the white king. The variations are quite simple, and some white pieces are idle in some variations (e.g. Rb8, Ba4), but the concept is original.

1st Commendation: No. 3 (Srećko Radović)

1.Ra4? [2.Re4#] Sd2 2.c4+ Rc3 3.Bxc3#, but 1.– Re3!

1.Ra7? [2.Re7#] Bh4!

1.Bc6! [2.Sd4+ Kxd6 3.Sgf5#]

1.– Sxc3 2.Sa7+ Kxd6 3.Ba3#

1.– Bxc3 2.Ra7 3.Re7#

1.– Rxc3 2.Ra4 [3.Re4#] Sd2/f5 3.Bxc3/Re6#

1.– Sa3 2.Bxa3 [3.Sa7,Sc7,Sd4#] Bf2/Bxc3/Rxc3/Rd3 3.Sd4/Sxc3/Sxc3/Sd4#

Three traditional Schiffmann defences with fine logical tries that make use of two of the three self-pins and are successful when played as second white moves. The setup is extremely economical which is an achievement on its own with the difficult theme.

2nd Commendation: No. 6 (Ralf Krätschmer)

1.Ra8? [2.Ra4#] Qxa8!

1.Qe3? [2.Qd3#] Rxh3!

1.Qf4! [2.d5+ Kc5 3.Qb4#]

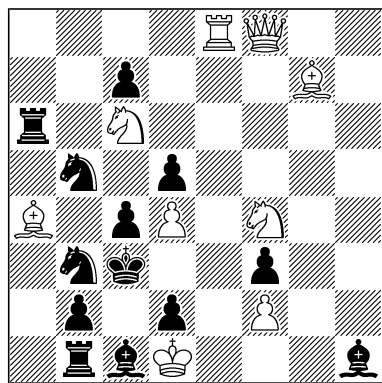
1.– Rcxe6 2.Rxc7+ Qc6 3.Rxc6#

1.– Rhxe6 2.Qe3 3.Qd3#

1.– Qxe6 2.Ra8 3.Ra4#

The same theme as in the 1st Commendation (three thematic variations, two logical tries), but the play is rather bland, and the refutation 1.– Qxa8! of the first try is very coarse.

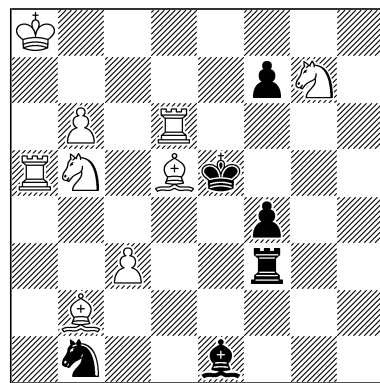
Honourable Mention: No. 9 Mark Erenburg



S#3

C+ 9+13

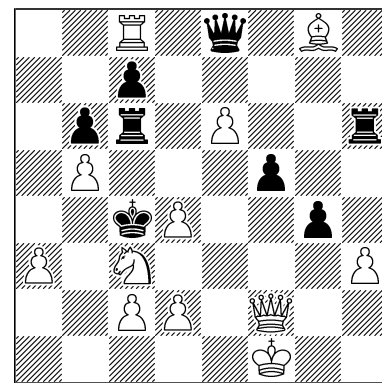
1st Commendation: No. 3 Srećko Radović



#3

C+ 9+6

2nd Commendation: No. 6 Ralf Krätschmer



#3

C+ 12+8

11th Azemmour Tourney
Alba Iulia 2025
In Memory of Najat Onkoud
16.01.1963 – 10.05.2025

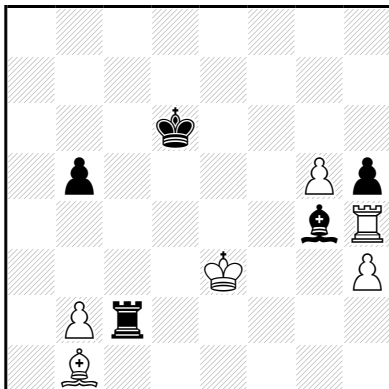


Thème imposé en aidés H‡ 2-3:

En position initiale , le Roi Noir dispose de 8 cases de fuites.
 “In the initial position the black king has 8 flights available.”

Abdelaziz Onkoud
 dédié à Najat Onkoud
 StrateGems 2002
 4° Mention d'Honneur

1. ♖e6 ♜c4 2. ♔e5 ♜xç2 3. ♔f5 ♜c5‡
 1. ♜ç5 ♜f5 2. ♔d5 ♜xg4 3. ♔ç4 ♜e6‡



h‡3 2 solutions (6+5) C+



Stipulation: h‡ 2-3

Judge: Abdelaziz Onkoud

Please send your problems to :

onkoud1972@gmail.com

The tourney is **open** to everyone.

Deadline: 09 July 2025

Prizes: dates.

À la mémoire de ma grande sœur Najat

Je voudrais remercier tous les participants. C'était un beau concours avec une participation massive et la qualité y était aussi. Il faut dire que l'idée proposée était très attractive. Il fallait juger rapidement les 92 entrées dans un laps de temps très court. Du coup, je n'ai pas pu partager de nombreuses idées auxquelles j'avais accordé des mentions honorables et des recommandés à égalité.

Ce 11ème concours d'Azemmour était à la mémoire de ma grande sœur Najat, disparue subitement le 10 mai 2025 à l'âge de 62 ans, après une hospitalisation qui n'avait duré à peine 24 heures. Ma grande sœur y était pour quelque chose dans mes premiers pas aux échecs. Mon premier échiquier et une ancienne revue d'Europe Échecs m'avaient été procurés par ma grande sœur.

Dans cet Europe Échecs d'octobre 1984, il y avait un appréciable article de trois pages sur Comins Mansfield qui contenait une sélection de 12 beaux problèmes en 2 coups.

L'idée du 11° concours d'Azemmour proposait que le Roi Noir devait disposer, en position initiale, de 8 cases de fuites. Mon souhait est que ma grande sœur dispose des 8 portes d'entrée au Paradis. Qu'Allah accueille ma grande sœur dans ses vastes paradis.

Stains 18.07.2025

Participants :

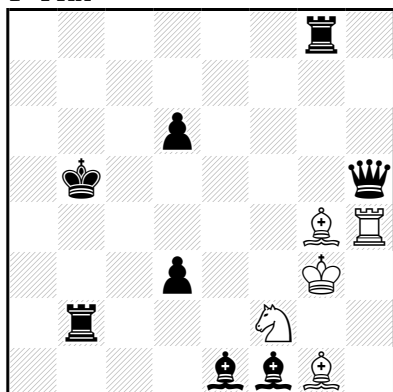
Alexandrov Velko : 78,79 ; Aunver Indrek : 69,71,72 ; Borst Dirk : 91 ; Caillaud Michel : 5,17***
Cioflanca Mihaiu : 44 ; Comay Ofer : 87** ; Costeff Gady : 87** ; Craciun Ovidiu : 7,8
Crisan Vlaicu : 17***,56*,74*,75* ; De Mattos Vieira Ricardo : 38*,83* ; Drazkowski Krzysztof :
47 ; Dyachuk Vasil V. : 90 ; Einat Paz : 73 ; Enemark Bjørn : 9,25,29,66 ; Erenburg Mark : 88,89
Estonian youth Chess : 70 ; Garofalo Antonio : 13 ; Gavriliv Evgeny : 18,19,20,21,22,23
Gavrilovski Zoran : 92 ; Guida Marco : 46** ; Harnagea Stefan-Constantin : 15,16
Huber Éric : 17***,56*,74*,75* ; Hudak Stanislav : 67,82 ; Kohring Rolf : 80,81
Kolesnik Mikola I. : 48,49,50 ; Kraetschmer Ralf : 1,3,41 ; Kuhn Rainer : 57
Lind Ingemar : 59,60,61,62 ; Lois Jorge J. : 51,52 ; Luce Sébastien : 28,40 ; Lutt Michael : 84,85 ;
Maeshima Hiroaki : 14 ; McDowell Michael : 76 ; Medintsev Vitaly V. : 45
Mestel Jonathan : 87** ; Muller Dieter : 10*,12* ; Murashyov Pavel A. : 42,43
Natsis Christos : 77 ; Navon Emanuel : 34*,53,54,55 ; Parrinello Mario : 30,31,32,33,46**
Pitton Pietro : 68 ; Prentos Kostas : 27 ; Rittirsch Manfred : 58 ; Sandu Stefan Marius : 63,64,65
Sergienko Andry : 86 ; Simoni Francesco : 46** ; Tritten Pierre : 2 ; Trommler Sven : 10*,11,12*
Vasilenko Anatoly G. : 4,6 ; Velikhanov Kenan : 24,26 ; Witztum Menachem :
34*,35,36,37,38*,39,83*

61 - Ingemar LIND (WinChloe ID 179499 , Dragutin Biscan , 22° TT Problem Echo 2004)

90 - Vasil Dyachuk (WinChloe ID 235761 , A.Zarur & R.Vieira , concours moscovite 2006)

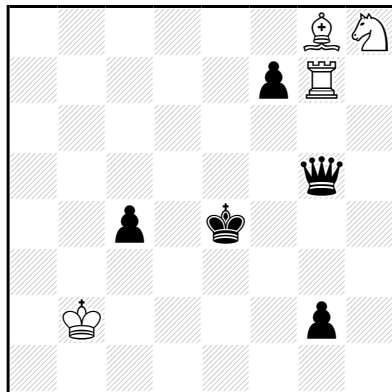
Mon jugement
Abdelaziz Onkoud
Alba Iulia 11.07.2025

49 - Mikola Kolesnik
11° Azemmour 2025
1° Prix



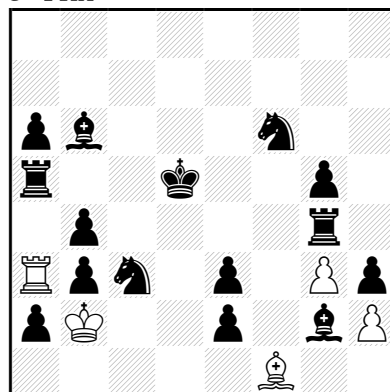
h♯2,5 2 solutions (5+8) C+

5 - Michel Caillaud
11° Azemmour 2025
2° Prix



h♯3 2 solutions (4+5) C+

83 - Menachem Witztum &
Ricardo Vieira
11° Azemmour 2025
3° Prix



h♯3 2 solutions (5+15) C+

49 - Mikola Kolesnik : 1° Prix

Déclouages introductifs du Roi Blanc du couple ♖g4/♜f2.

Cependant, une pièce de ce couple blanc sera reclouée sur un axe différent.

Après ce changement de clouage. Les noirs doivent déclouer directement cette pièce blanche reclouée par l'un du couple ♜h5/♜b2 tout en effectuant un blocage sur la case évacuée par le Roi Noir.

Il n'y a pas le choix de blocage de la case b5 par le ♜h5 après ♜c5 ce qui enlève à l'idée un élément qui aurait rehaussé encore son intérêt. Ceci dit, l'idée est excellentement orchestrée.

Les mats sont par échec double.

1... ♜h2 2. ♜c5 ♜f3 3. ♜b5 ♜×d3♯

1... ♜f3 2. ♜c4 ♜d1 3. ♜b5 ♜e6♯

5 - Michel Caillaud : 2° Prix.

Position très économique en seulement 9 pièces qui associe les idées d'Azemmour 6 et 11.

Échange de fonction des couples :

♜g7/♜g8 (coup critique avec capture/garde active avec échec)

♜g5/♜f7 (ouverture + blocage / ouverture + blocage).

Thème Azemmour 6 bicolore où dans chaque solution, les 6 coups blancs et noirs sont effectués par une pièce de nature différente. (♜/♜/♜/♜/♜/♜ + ♜/♜/♜/♜/♜/♜)

Les mats sont modèles et sont effectués par le ♜h8 qui scelle la présence du thème Brésilien.

1. ♜é3 ♜×g2 2. ♜f5 ♜d5+ 3. ♜f4 ♜g6♯

1. ♜f6 ♜×c4 2. ♜f5 ♜g4+ 3. ♜é5 ♜f7♯

83 - Menachem Witztum & Ricardo Vieira : 3° Prix

Une construction qui montre des ouvertures de lignes blanches par les couples ♜a5/♜b6 et

♜g2/♜g4. Le jeu noir est initié par des ouvertures du couple ♜a5/♜g2 avec blocages lointains. Cela permettra au couple ♜a3/♜f1 de se placer en embuscade du couple ♜b6/♜g4 qui ouvre et bloque en d4.

Échange de fonction des couples :

♜a5/♜g2 (ouverture + blocage/capturé)

♜g4/♜b6 (fermeture passive/ouverture + blocage en d4).

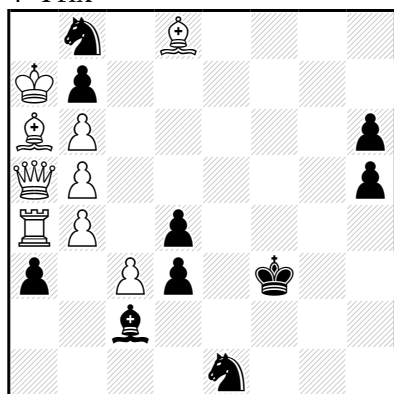
♜a3/♜f1 (capture + garde active + échec/mat)

L'ensemble est en écho diagonal-orthogonal. Les mats sont modèles.

1. ♜f3 ♜×h3 2. ♜d4 ♜×a5+ 3. ♜é4 ♜f5♯

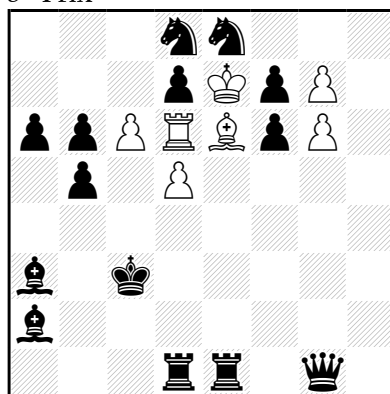
1. ♜b5 ♜×a6 2. ♜d4 ♜×g2+ 3. ♜c5 ♜c6♯

52 - Jorge Lois
11° Azemmour 2025
4° Prix



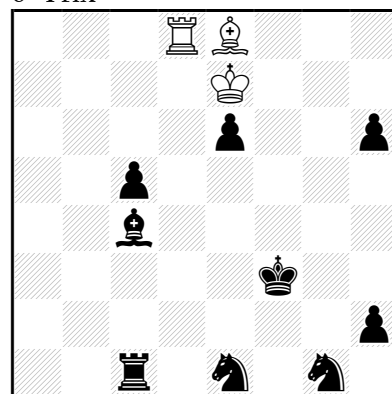
h#3 2 solutions (9+10) C+

33 - Mario Parrinello
11° Azemmour 2025
5° Prix



h#3 b) ♖g7→c7 (7+14) C+

92 - Zoran Gavrilovski
11° Azemmour 2025
6° Prix



h#2,5 b) ♜h6→e5 (3+9) C+
c) ♜h6→c2 ; d) ♜h2→g7

52 - Jorge Lois : 4° Prix

Les captures du couple ♖a4/♙a6 par le couple ♜c2/♞b8 ne sont qu'une première étape de la combinaison noire. Les noirs convoitent plutôt le couple de pions blancs ♖b4/♖b5 qui gênent la Dame blanche. En attendant, cette libération, le ♜d8 opère des gardes actives. Une fois la Dame est en place avec la ♖a4 ou le ♜a6. Les pions noirs ♜d4/♜d3 ouvrent les lignes pour le couple ♜b5/♜a6 ou le couple ♜b4/♖a4 qui administrent deux mats modèles. Une autre façon de faire est montrée par Sven Trommler au MT Jorge Kapros 2024-25 (5MH).

1. ♜×a6 ♜h4 2. ♜×b4 ♜×b4 3. d×c3 ♜é4†

1. ♜×a4 ♜c7 2. ♜×b5 ♜×b5 3. d2 ♜é2†

33 - Mario Parrinello: 5° Prix

Annihilations introductives du pion d5 par le couple ♜d1/♜a2 qui permettra l'ouverture des deux lignes blanches du couple ♜d6/♜e6. Les ouvertures sont accompagnées de déclouages d'une pièce du couple ♜d6/♜a2 qui effectuera une arrivée sur les cases évacuées initialement par la pièce noire qui effectue l'annihilation, les ouvertures et le déclouage. Les mats sont effectués par une dame blanche promue qui réalise deux Bristols avec le couple ♜d6/♜e6. Une idée grandiose.

a) 1. ♜×d5 g8=♜ 2. ♜é4 ♜a2 3. f×g6 ♜b3†

b) 1. ♜×d5 c×d8=♜ 2. ♜c5 ♜d1 3. d×c6 ♜d2†

92 - Zoran Gavrilovski : 6° Prix

Une combinaison très intelligente qui montre la formation de quatre batteries blanches, dont deux batteries royales associées à une grande étoile du Roi noir. Dommage que le coup ♜c6 soit répété

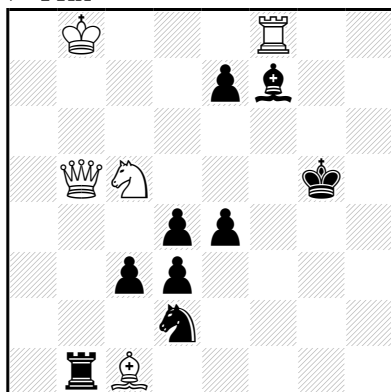
a) 1... ♜f7 2. ♜g4 ♜d4+ 3. ♜h5 ♜f6†

b) 1... ♜d7 2. ♜é4 ♜g6+ 3. ♜d5 ♜c7†

c) 1... ♜c6+ 2. ♜é2 ♜d5 3. ♜d1 ♜f3†

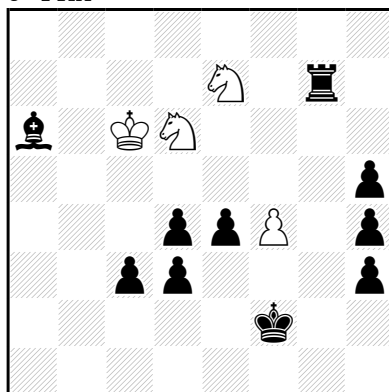
d) 1... ♜d5 2. ♜g2 ♜c6 3. ♜h1 ♜h5†

46 - Marco Guida
 Mario Parrinello
 Francesco Simoni
 11° Azemmour 2025
 7° Prix



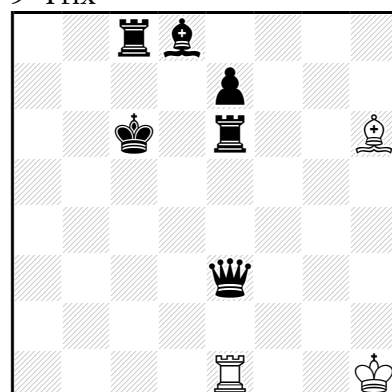
h2+ b) ♔g5→f2 (5+9) C+

50 - Mikola Kolesnik
 11° Azemmour 2025
 8° Prix



h3 2 solutions (4+10) C+

59 - Ingemar Lind
 11° Azemmour 2025
 9° Prix



h3 2 solutions (3+6) C+

46 - Marco Guida , Mario Parrinello & Francesco Simoni : 7° Prix

Le Roi noir décloue une pièce noire A et cloue une pièce B. Et inversement dans la deuxième solution. Pendant que la Dame blanche effectue des mouvements, Pelle. La pièce noire déclouée par le Roi noir décloue la dame blanche sur la même case b3.

- a) 1. ♔f5 ♕b6 2. ♜b3 ♕e6+
 b) 1. ♔e3 ♕b7 2. ♜b3 ♕xé4+

50 - Mikola Kolesnik : 8° Prix

Coups introductifs du couple ♜g7/♜a6 avec blocages, sous peine que leurs lignes soient fermées par le couple ♜e7/♜d6. Échange de fonction du couple ♜e6/♜d6 (sacrifice actif/mat sur la même case f5) qui réalise le thème Zilahi.

Double Kniest du ♔f2.

Les mats sont modèles.

1. ♜c4 ♜b5 2. ♔e3 ♜x d4 3. ♔x d4 ♜f5+
 1. ♜g4 ♜g6 2. ♔g3 ♜x h4 3. ♔x h4 ♜f5+

59 - Ingemar Lind : 9° Prix

Position très économique qui montre la formation de deux batteries réciproques, en embuscade, par le couple ♜e1/♜h6 après ouvertures de la ♕e3 qui effectue des blocages.

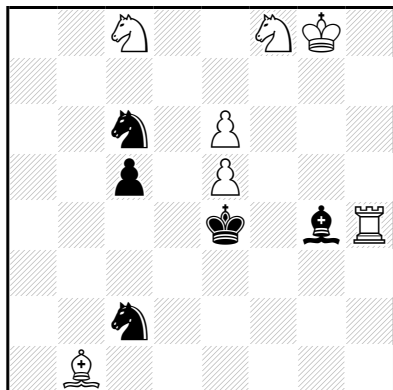
Le couple ♜e6/♜c8 effectue des blocages sur la case évacuée par le ♔c6.

Les mats sont modèles et par échec double.

À regretter la répétition du ♜f4.

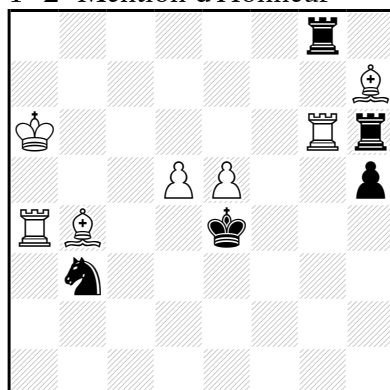
1. ♕c5 ♜d2 2. ♕d6 ♜d1 3. ♜c6 ♜f4+
 1. ♕b6 ♜e5 2. ♕c7 ♜f4 3. ♜c6 ♜xé7+

14 - Hiroaki Maeshima
11° Azemmour 2025
1°-2° Mention d'Honneur



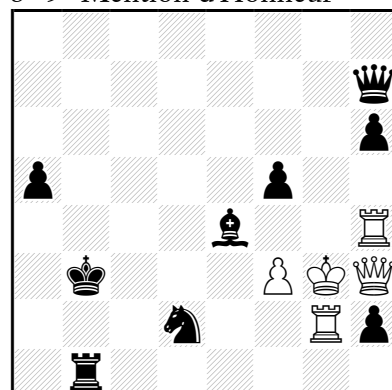
h♯2 2 solutions (7+5) C+

17 - Michel Caillaud
Vlaicu Crisan & Éric Huber
11° Azemmour 2025
1°-2° Mention d'Honneur



h♯2 2 solutions (7+5) C+

18 - Evgeny Gavriliv
11° Azemmour 2025
3°-9° Mention d'Honneur



h♯2 2 solutions (5+9) C+

14 - Hiroaki Maeshima : 1°-2° Mention d'Honneur

Meredith où on assiste à des déclouages introductifs du Roi Blanc au profit du couple ♖g4/♘c2.

Les noirs vont exploiter un seul déclouage.

Échange de fonction des couples :

♖h4/♙b1 (garde active/garde passive après ouverture noire)

♘c8/♘f8 (garde passive/mat)

Ouvertures et blocages du couple ♖g4/♘c2.

Les mats sont modèles.

1. ♙d5 ♖h5 2. ♘2d4 ♘b6♯

1. ♙×é5 ♙a2 2. ♙f5 ♘d7♯

17 - Michel Caillaud : 1°-2° Mention d'Honneur

Meredith où on assiste à des annihilations des pions blancs (♙d5/♙e5) par le Roi noir qui effectue tous les coups noirs. Les batteries blanches directes en position initiale deviennent des batteries indirectes après les coups du Roi noir.

Échange de fonction des couples :

♖a4/♙h7 (garde passive/mat)

♖g6/♙b4 (fermeture passive/garde active en d6)

L'ensemble est en écho diagonal-orthogonal.

1. ♙×d5 ♖d6+ 2. ♙c4 ♙d3♯

1. ♙×é5 ♙d6+ 2. ♙f5 ♖f4♯

18 - Evgeny Gavriliv : 3°-10° Mention d'Honneur

Annihilations du ♗f3 et sacrifices du couple ♙e4/♘d2. Les sacrifices du couple noir sont effectués sur les cases évacuées par le couple ♖h4/♖g2. Thème Umnov.

Échange de fonction des couples :

♖h4/♖g2 (ouverture par les noirs + garde passive/capture + garde active)

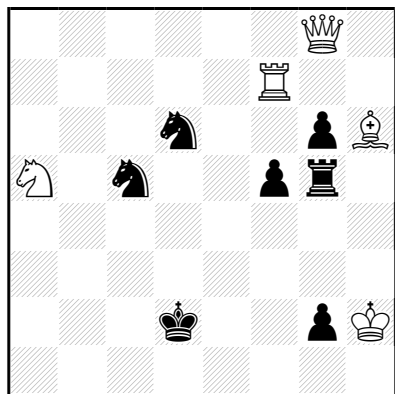
♘d2/♙e4 (capture passive/capture + ouvertures + sacrifice)

Les mats sont modèles et par batteries royales.

1. ♘×f3 ♖×é4 2. ♘h4 ♙×h4♯

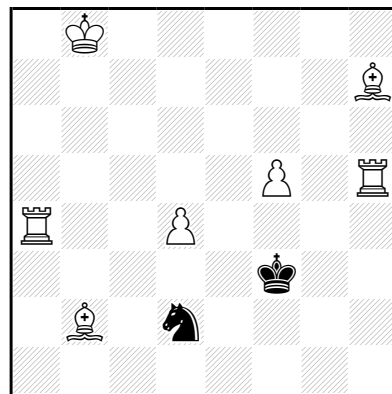
1. ♙×f3 ♖×d2 2. ♙g2 ♙×g2♯

31 - Mario Parrinello
11° Azemmour 2025
3°-9° Mention d'Honneur



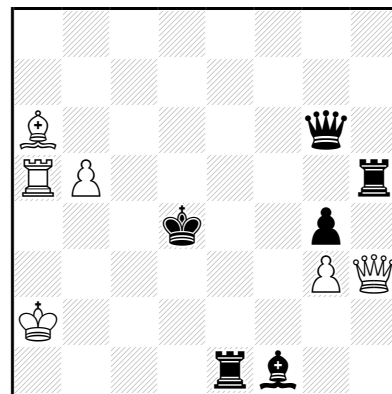
h#2 2 solutions (5+7) C+

45 - Vitaly Medintsev
11° Azemmour 2025
3°-9° Mention d'Honneur



h#2 b) ♖d2 (7+2) C+

48 - Mikola Kolesnik
11° Azemmour 2025
3°-9° Mention d'Honneur



h#2 2 solutions (6+6) C+

31 - Mario Parrinello : 3°-9° Mention d'Honneur

Meredith qui associe les idées d'Azemmour 11 et 5 (le thème des brochettes).

En réponse aux ouvertures et clouages du ♖f7. Après les déclouages royaux, la ♔g5 propose aussi des ouvertures mais avec un anti-dual de garde. Les mats sont modèles et par clouage.

1. ♖c2 ♖c7 2. ♔g4 (♔g3?) ♕b3#

1. ♖d3 ♖d7 2. ♔g3 (♔g4?) ♕c4#

45 - Vitaly Medintsev : 3°-9° Mention d'Honneur

En seulement 9 pièces.

Échange de fonction des couples :

♖a4/♙h7 (garde passive/mat après ouverture de pion)

♖h5/♙b2 (garde active/garde après ouverture de pion)

Blocages du ♘d2/♙d2 : jumeau Forsberg.

a) 1. ♖e4 ♙c1 2. ♘f3 f6#

b) 1. ♙g5 ♖h3+ 2. ♖f4 d5#

48 - Mikola Kolesnik : 3°-9° Mention d'Honneur

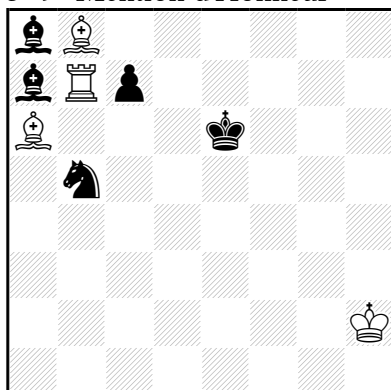
Meredith qui montre deux annihilations des pions b5 par le couple ♖h5/♙f1, puis ouvertures des lignes du couple ♖a5/♙a6 et fermetures des lignes du couple ♕g6/♖e1. Échange de fonction du couple ♖h5/♙f1 (annihilation du ♙b5 + ouvertures + fermeture/capture par la ♕h3).

L'ensemble est en écho diagonal-orthogonal.

1. ♙x b5 ♕x h5 2. ♙e2 ♕e5#

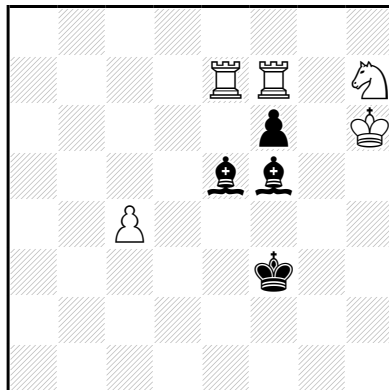
1. ♖x b5 ♕x f1 2. ♖f5 ♕d3#

51 - Jorge Lois
11° Azemmour 2025
3°-9° Mention d'Honneur



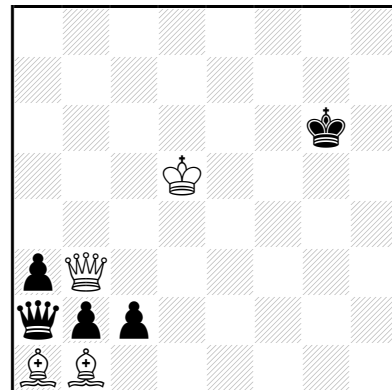
h♯2 b) ♖e6→c3 (4+5) C+

54 - Emanuel Navon
11° Azemmour 2025
3°-9° Mention d'Honneur



h♯2,5 2 solutions (5+4) C+

58 - Manfred Rittirsch
11° Azemmour 2025
3°-9° Mention d'Honneur



h♯2 2 solutions (4+5) C+

51 - Jorge Lois : 3°-9° Mention d'Honneur

Ouvertures des lignes de la tripléte ♖b7/♗b8/♕a6 par le couple ♘b5/♙c7.

Fermetures des lignes du couple ♗a8/♕a7 par le ♙c7.

Échange de fonction du couple ♗b8/♕a6 (garde passive/mat)

Les mats sont modèles et en écho caméléon.

Le tout en 9 pièces seulement.

a) 1. ♘c6 (♘5?) ♖f7 2. ♘d4 (Cb5~?) ♗c4♯

b) 1. ♙a3 (Cb5~?) ♖b2 2. ♘c5 (♘6?) ♗e5♯

54 - Emanuel Navon : 3°-9° Mention d'Honneur

En seulement 9 pièces. Coups blancs introductifs sur la même case f6 qui font oublier que les deux tableaux de mats sont identiques.

Échange de fonction des couples :

♗e5/♕e4 (blocage/clouage)

♖e7/♖f7 (clouage/mat)

Les mats sont modèles et par clouage.

1... ♘×f6 2. ♗d3 ♘d5+ 3. ♖é4 ♖f4♯

1... ♖×f6 2. ♗g3 ♘g5+ 3. ♖f4 ♖é4♯

58 - Manfred Rittirsch : 3°-9° Mention d'Honneur

Déclouages introductifs de la ♔a2 avec capture à tour de rôle du couple ♗a1/♗b1.

Doublément de la ♖b3, après captures des pions noirs, avec l'un des fous non capturés.

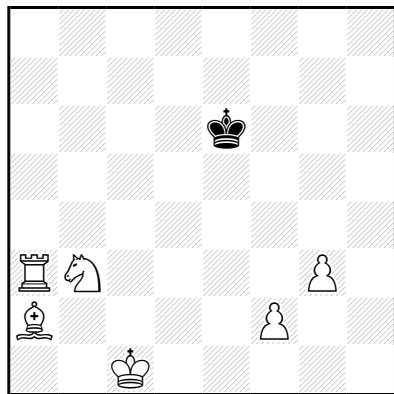
Les mats sont modèles et en écho caméléon.

Le tout en 9 pièces seulement.

1. ♔×a1 ♖×c2+ 2. ♗h6 ♖g6♯

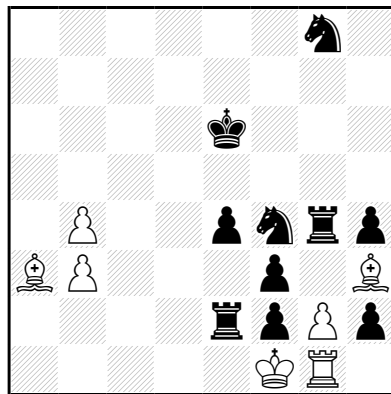
1. ♔×b1 ♖×b2 2. ♗h7 ♖g7♯

40 - Sébastien Luce
11° Azemmour 2025
10° Mention d'Honneur



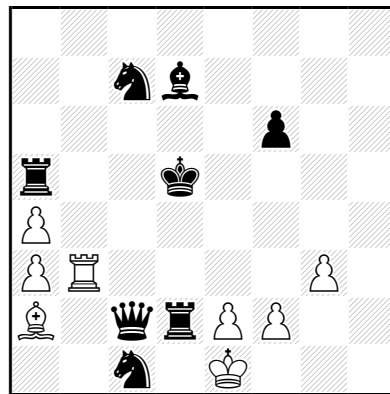
h♯2,5 3 solutions (6+1) C+

24 - Kenan Velikhanov
11° Azemmour 2025
11°-15° Mention d'Honneur



h♯3 2 solutions (7+10) C+

26 - Kenan Velikhanov
11° Azemmour 2025
11°-15° Mention d'Honneur



h♯2 4 solutions (8+8) C+

40 - Sébastien Luce : 10° Mention d'Honneur

Dans chaque variante de cette miniature Rex solus noir, la batterie Fou/Cavalier des blancs se déclenche au départ, batterie de Siers dans les deux premières variantes. Après la fuite du Roi noir, chacun des trois officiers blancs donnera le mat tour à tour, deux en e6, sur la case initiale du Roi noir. (Auteur)

- 1... ♖d2+ 2. ♔f5 ♜a5+ 3. ♔g4 ♙é6♯
- 1... ♖d4+ 2. ♔é7 ♘f5+ 3. ♔f8 ♜a8♯
- 1... ♖c5+ 2. ♔é5 ♜é3+ 3. ♔d4 ♘é6♯

24 - Kenan Velikhanov : 11°-15° Mention d'Honneur

Déclouages introductifs de la ♝g4.

Ouvertures des lignes du couple ♜g1/♙a3 par le couple ♗g2/♗b4.

Les mats modèles sont effectués par le couple ♜g1/♙a3 après sacrifices du couple ♝g4/♝e2.

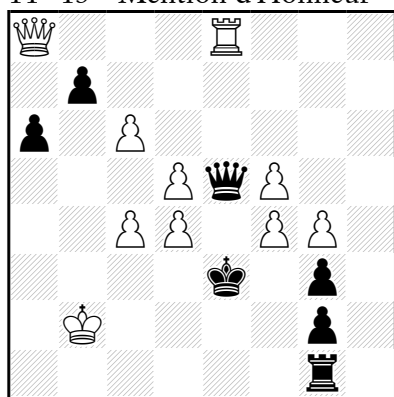
1. ♙d5 b5 2. ♝g2 ♙c5 3. ♝g5 ♜xg5♯
1. ♙f6 gxf3 2. ♝g7 ♜xg7 3. ♝b2 ♙xb2♯

26 - Kenan Velikhanov : 11°-15° Mention d'Honneur

Étoile du Roi noir associée à une batterie blanche.

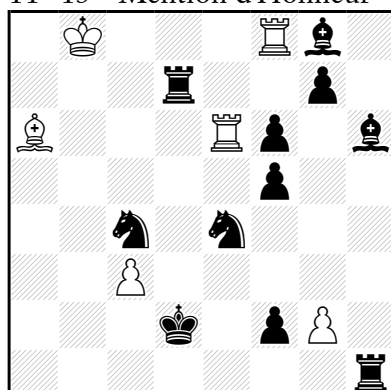
1. ♝c5 a5 2. ♙c6 ♜b6♯
1. ♝c5 ♙xd2 2. ♙c4 ♜b4♯
1. ♙é4 ♜f3 2. ♝é5 ♜f4♯
1. ♙é6 g4 2. ♝d6 ♜é3♯

30 - Mario Parrinello
11° Azemmour 2025
11°-15° Mention d'Honneur



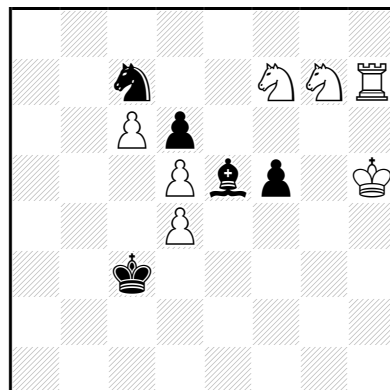
h♯2 4 solutions (10+7) C+

53 - Emanuel Navon
11° Azemmour 2025
11°-15° Mention d'Honneur



h♯2,5 b) ♖f8 (6+11) C+

87 - Ofer Comay
Gady Costeff
& Jonathan Mestel
11° Azemmour 2025
11°-15° Mention d'Honneur



h♯3 b) - ♙e5 (7+5) C+

30 - Mario Parrinello : 11°-15° Mention d'Honneur

Une étoile du Roi noir qui décroche la ♔e5 à quatre reprises.

Sacrifices de la ♔e5, capturée par le ♔a8 qui effectue tous les coups blancs.

Présence de l'idée de mon jubilé Onkoud 50.

1. ♙d2 ♔a7 2. ♔×d4+ ♔×d4♯

1. ♙f2 ♔b8 2. ♔×f4 ♔×f4♯

1. ♙×d4 ♔d8 2. ♔×d5 ♔×d5♯

1. ♙×f4 ♔c8 2. ♔×f5 ♔×f5♯

53 - Emanuel Navon : 11°-15° Mention d'Honneur

Échange de fonction des couples :

♖e6/♙a6 (clouage /garde + amélioration)

♜c4/♞e4 (clouage/bivalve bicolore)

Les mats sont modèles et par clouage.

a) 1... ♖f8 2. ♜g5 ♖é2+ 3. ♙d3 ♖8é3♯

b) 1... ♙a3 2. ♜cd6 ♙f1 3. ♔é3 ♙c1♯

87 - Ofer Comay , Gady Costeff & Jonathan Mestel : 11°-15° Mention d'Honneur

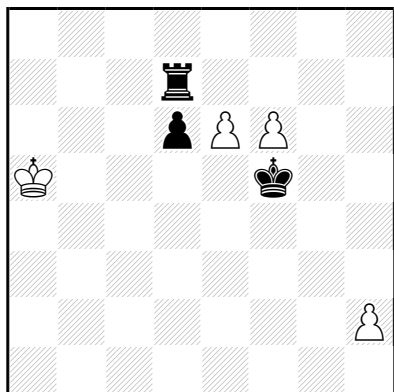
Meredith où on assiste à un échange de fonctions du couple ♜f7/♜g7 (sacrifice/garde active).

Thème Kniest du Roi noir. Mats de la ♖h7.

a) 1. ♙×d4 ♜×d6 2. ♙c5 ♜é6+ 3. ♙×d6 ♖d7♯

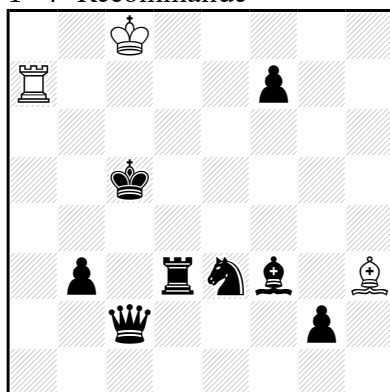
b) 1. ♙d3 ♜×f5 2. ♙é4 ♜g5+ 3. ♙×f5 ♖f7♯

28 - Sébastien Luce
11° Azemmour 2025
1°-4° Recommandé



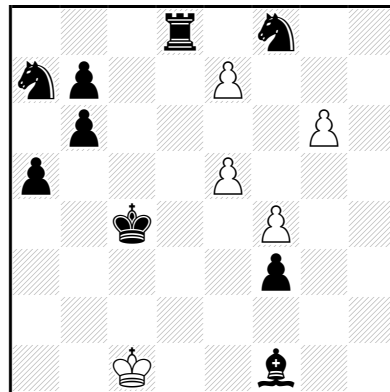
h♠3 4 solutions (4+3) C+

43 - Pavel Murashyov
11° Azemmour 2025
1°-4° Recommandé



h♠3 4 solutions (3+8) C+

68 - Pietro Pitton
11° Azemmour 2025
1°-4° Recommandé



h♠2 4 solutions (5+9) C+

28 - Sébastien Luce : 1°-4° Recommandé

Dans cette miniature, le Roi noir est maté de quatre façons différentes (en d7, h3, h7 et d8) par une Dame de promotion : guéridon en A, mat du couloir en D, "baiser de la mort" en B et C, en echo. Mats modèles. Sacrifice de la Tour noire dans les variantes B et C. Dans la quatrième, une surprise survient avec la participation du Roi blanc. (Auteur)

1. ♖c7 é7 2. ♕é6 f7 3. ♕d7 é8=♕♠
1. ♖f7 é×f7 2. ♕g6 f8=♕ 3. ♕h7 ♕g7♠
1. ♖g7 f×g7 2. ♕g4 g8=♕ + 3. ♕h3 ♕g3♠
1. ♕×é6 f7 2. ♕é7 ♕b6 3. ♕d8 f8=♕♠

43 - Pavel Murashyov : 1°-4° Recommandé

Meredith avec 4 tableaux de mats effectués par la Ta7.

1. ♜d5 ♜é6 2. ♜b4 ♜c7 3. ♜d4 ♜a5♠
1. ♜c6 ♜f5 2. ♜b6 ♜×d3 3. ♜c5 ♜a6♠
1. ♜d5 ♜b7 2. ♜d6 ♜b6 3. ♜é5 ♜d7♠
1. ♜b4+ ♜b8 2. ♜c5 ♜d7 3. ♜c3 ♜a4♠

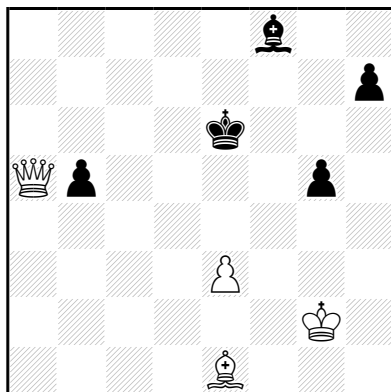
68 - Pietro Pitton : 1°-4° Recommandé

Association des idées d'Azemmour 11 et 11 (Thème du Monopole).

Grande étoile de Roi noir.

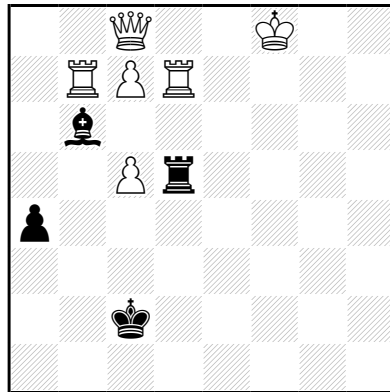
1. ♜b3 é8=♕ 2. ♜a2 ♜a4♠
1. ♜d3 é×d8=♕ + 2. ♜é2 ♜d2♠
1. ♜b5 é8=♜ 2. ♜a6 ♜c7♠
1. ♜d5 é×f8=♕ 2. ♜é6 ♜f7♠

84 - Michael Lutt
11° Azemmour 2025
1°-4° Recommandé



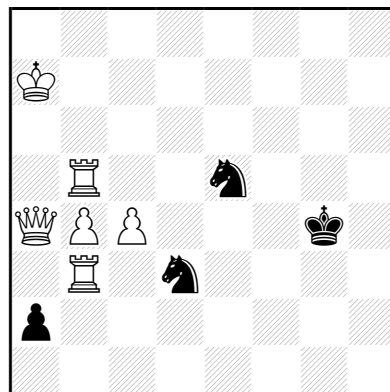
h#2 4 solutions (4+5) C+

20 - Evgeny Gavriliv
11° Azemmour 2025
5°-6° Recommandé



h#2 3 solutions (6+4) C+

21 - Evgeny Gavriliv
11° Azemmour 2025
5°-6° Recommandé



h#2 3 solutions (6+4) C+

84 - Michael Lutt : 1°-4° Recommandé

Grande étoile du Roi noir en seulement 9 pièces.

- 1. ♔d5 é4+ 2. ♔ç4 ♕ç3‡
- 1. ♔f5 ♕a8 2. ♔g4 ♕f3‡
- 1. ♔d7 ♖g3 2. ♔ç8 ♕ç7‡
- 1. ♔f7 ♖ç3 2. ♔g8 ♕a2‡

20 - Evgeny Gavriliv : 5°-6° Recommandé

Meredith qui associe les idées d'Azemmour 11 et 8. .

Tous les mats sont modèles et par batterie.

Le tout en 10 pièces seulement

- 1. ♖×ç7 **A** ♖×d5 2. ♖d6+ ç×d6‡
- 1. ♗×ç5 **B** ♖×b6 2. ♗×ç7 ♕×ç7‡
- 1. ♖×ç7 **A** ♕×ç7 2. ♗×ç5 **B** ♕×ç5‡

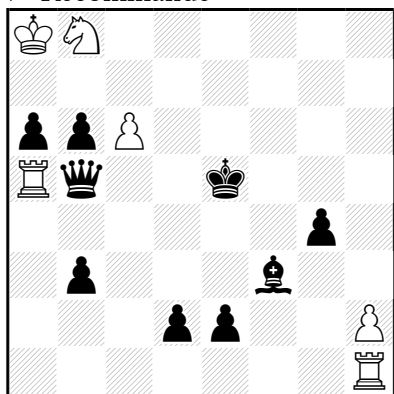
21 - Evgeny Gavriliv : 5°-6° Recommandé

Dans ce second exemple , l'auteur fait appel aux cavaliers noirs.

Nouveau Meredith qui associe les idées d'Azemmour 11 et 8. Cette fois , présence d'un cycle de capture. Tous les mats sont modèles et par batterie.

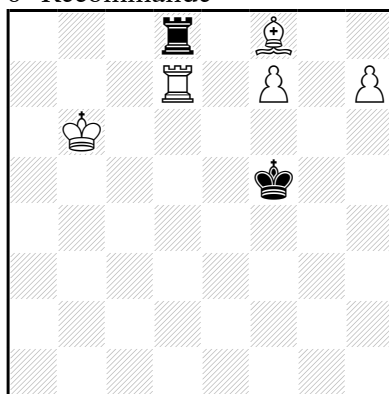
- 1. ♘×b4 **A** ♖×é5 2. ♘d5 ç×d5‡
- 1. ♘×ç4 **B** ♖×d3 2. ♘a5 b×a5‡
- 1. ♘×b4 **A** ♕×b4 2. ♘×ç4 **B** ♕×ç4‡

34 - Menachem Witztum
Emanuel Navon
11° Azemmour 2025
7° Recommandé



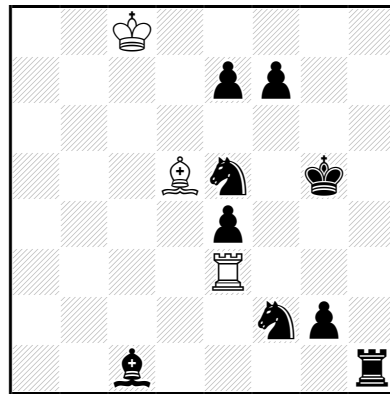
h3 3 2 solutions (6+9) C+

76 - Michael McDowell
11° Azemmour 2025
8° Recommandé



h2 2 2 solutions (5+2) C+

27 - Kostas Prentos
11° Azemmour 2025
9° Recommandé



h3 3 2 solutions (3+9) C+

34 - Menachem Witztum & Emanuel Navon : 7° Recommandé

Echange de fonction du couple ♖a5/♘b8 (garde active/mat)

Gardes actives de la ♜h1.

1. ♜×c6+ A ♘×c6+ B 2. ♜é4 ♜f1 3. ♜d3 C ♜é5† D

1. ♜d4 ♜c1 2. ♜d3 C ♜é5 D 3. ♜×c6+ A ♘×c6† B

76 - Michael McDowell : 8° Recommandé

Minuature qui montre un Zilahi à mats modèles.

Tous les coups noirs sont effectués par le Roi noir.

1. ♜é6 h8=♜ 2. ♜×d7 ♜h3†

1. ♜g6 ♜d6+ 2. ♜×h7 ♜h6†

27 - Kostas Prentos : 9° Recommandé

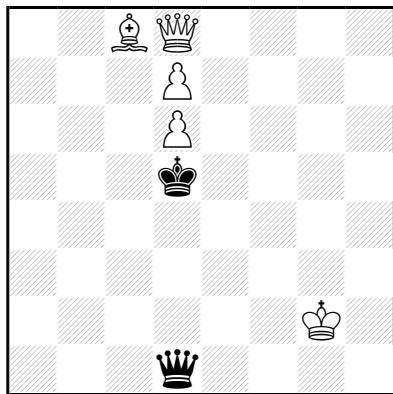
Coups critiques du couple ♜e3/♘d5 avec formations de batteries réciproques sur la même case b3.

Thème Indien à mats modèles en seulement 9 pièces.

1. ♜g4 ♜a3 2. ♜f4 ♘b3 3. ♜f3 ♘d1†

1.f5 ♘a2 2. ♜f6 ♜b3 3. ♜é6 ♜b6†

89 - Mark Erenburg
 11° Azemmour 2025
 10° Recommandé



h♯2 2 solutions (5+2) C+

89 - Mark Erenburg : 10° Recommandé

Miniature avec deux mats par échec double issue de pièces de promotion. À noter le déblocage de la case de promotion d8 à deux reprises.

1. ♔×d6 ♕♙7+ 2. ♔é7 d8=♕♙♯

1. ♔é6 ♕g5 2. ♕×d6 d8=♘♯



The 22nd Japanese Sake Tourney

Theme: H#2 with Invisible Pieces. No other fairy conditions or pieces are allowed.

This tourney is dedicated to the memory of the great Invisible lover, René J. Millour.

Judge: Tadashi Wakashima

Deadline: 09/07/2025 (Wed.) P.M. 12:00

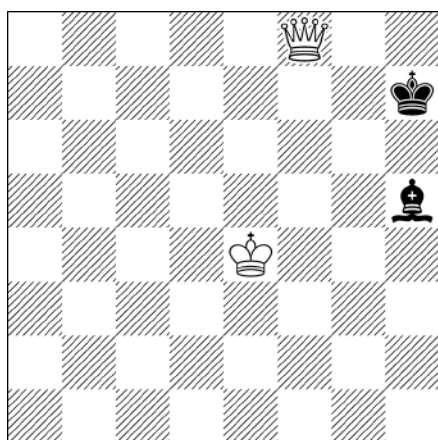
Only congress participants can receive bottles.

Send to Tadashi Wakashima by e-mail (wakashimatadashi@gmail.com)

Definition

Invisible Piece (Pawn, Knight ...): Invisible whose color and type are given. When its location is revealed, it becomes an ordinary piece. For further details, see <https://juliasfairies.com/problems/no-1572/>. Invisible Pawn, Knight ... are denoted as IP, IS and so on.

Examples

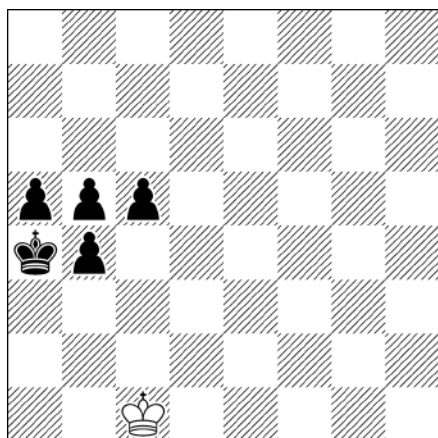


H#1 2 solutions

Invisible Piece: wIS

1.Kh8 (ISg8) Sf6#

1.Bg6 Qg7#(ISf5)



Tadashi Wakashima

Original

H#2 b) Pa5→a6

Invisible Pieces: wRB

a) 1.c4 Kb2 2.cxb3 (IRb3 because IBb3 is illegal)
Ixb3 (=B)#

b) 1.b3 I--- 2.cxb4 (IBb4 because IRb4 is illegal)
Ixa6 (=R)#

Invisible Zilahi.

The 22nd Japanese Sake Tourney Award

Theme: H#2 with Invisible Pieces. No other fairy conditions or pieces are allowed.

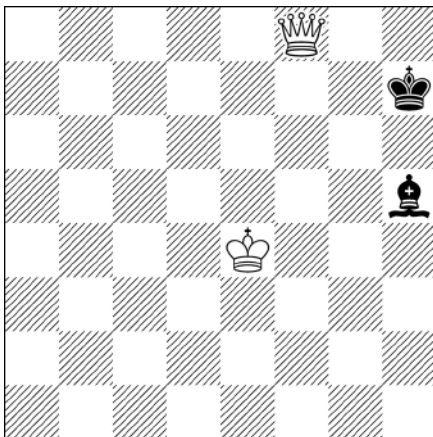
Judge: Tadashi Wakashima

This tourney is dedicated to the memory of the great Invisible lover, René J. Millour.

Definition

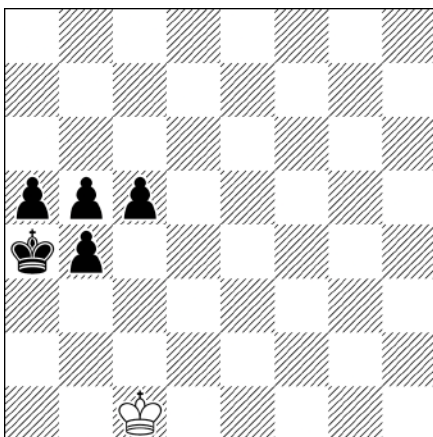
Invisible Piece (Pawn, Knight ...): Invisible whose color and type are given. When its location is revealed, it becomes an ordinary piece. For further details, see <https://juliasfairies.com/problems/no-1572/>. Invisible Pawn, Knight ... are denoted as IP, IS and so on.

Examples



H#1 2 solutions
Invisible Piece: wS

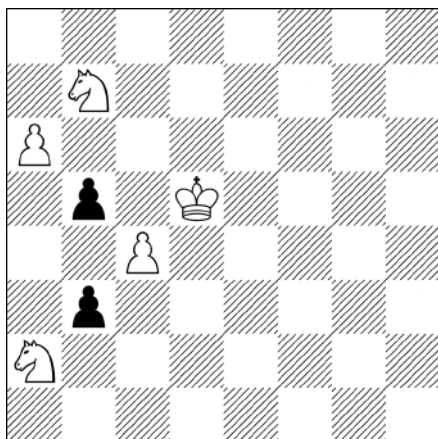
1.Kh8 (ISg8) Sf6#
1.Bg6 Qg7#(ISf5)



Tadashi Wakashima
Original
H#2 b) Pa5→a6
Invisible Pieces: wRB

a) 1.c4 Kb2 2.cxb3 (IRb3 because IBb3 is illegal)
Ixb3 (=B)#
b) 1.b3 I--- 2.cxb4 (IBb4 because IRb4 is illegal)
Ixa6 (=R)#
Invisible Zilahi.

I received 12 problems. Unfortunately, I could not find any problems worthy of a prize. Commendations are without order.



Andreas Rein

2025 Sake 1st HM

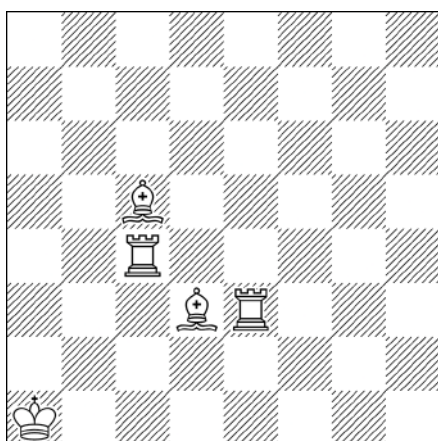
H#2

Invisible Pieces: wBB, bKR

1.Ixa6 Kc6 2.Ixc4 IBxb5#

(We have two cases: wBb5b6, bKc4Ra6 or wBb5c5, bKa6Rc4. In both cases, bK is checkmated.)

As far as I know, this is a first sound realization of what I call the "Schrödinger's cat" theme specific to the Invisible-system.



Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber

2025 Sake 2nd HM

H#2 b/c/d) wKa1→c8/h1/e1

Invisible pieces: bKS

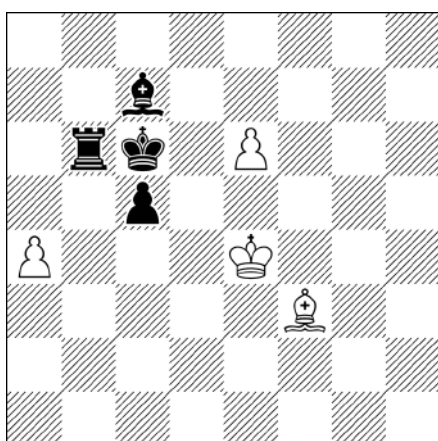
a)1.Ixd3(=S) Ba3 2.Ixa3(=K) Rxd3#

b)1.Ixc4(=S) Re8 2.Ixe8(=K) Bg6#

c)1.Ixc5(=S) Bf1 2.Ixf1(=K) Rf4#

d)1.Ixe3(=S) Rc1 2.Ixc1(=K) Ba3#

An exemplary expression of Cyclic Zilahi with complete cycle of exchange of functions for 4 white pieces.



Joachim Hambros

2025 Sake 3rd HM

H#2 2 solutions

Invisible pieces: wSP, bP

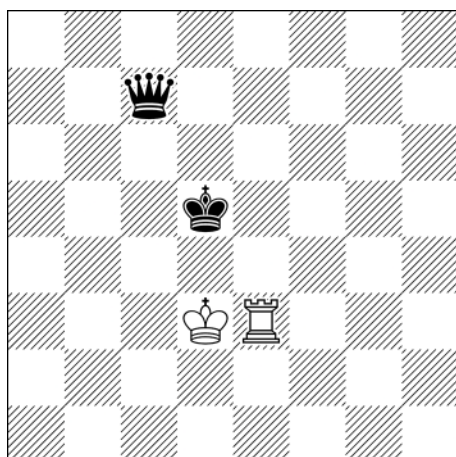
1.Rb4 Kf4 2.I--- I---#

(wSc4, last two moves 2.d7-d5 e5xd6 e.p.#)

1.IP--- Ke5 2.I--- Bd5#

(1.d1=Q/R and 2.Q/R(x)d5+)

Very interesting motivation of en passant capture in the Invisible-system which I have never seen. The second solution is not the perfect fit with the first solution.



Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber

2025 Sake Comm

H#2 3 solutions

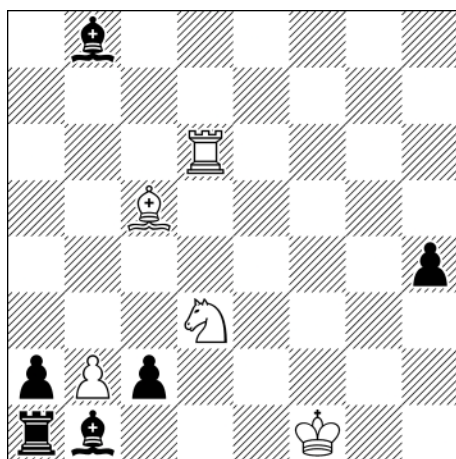
Invisible piece: wS

1.Qc5 Kc3 (ISc4) 2.Qc6 Re5#

1.Qd6 Rf3 2.Ke5 Rf5# (ISd4)

1.Kc6 Kc4 2.Kd6 Re6# (ISc5)

Three exact echo mates in Wenigsteiner.



Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber

2025 Sake Comm

H#2 b/c) wPb2→a7/h3

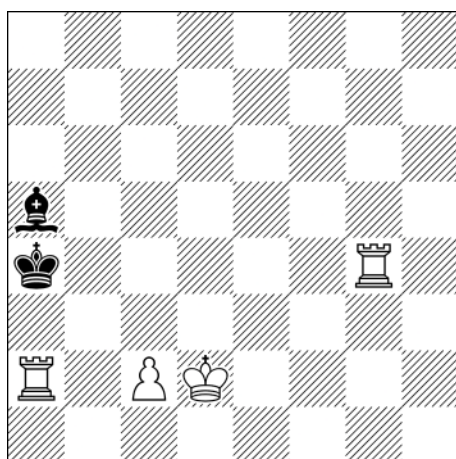
Invisible pieces: bKQ

a) 1.Ixd3(=Q) Rxd3 2.Ixb2(=K) Ba3#

b) 1.Ixc5(=Q) Sxc5 2.Ixa7(=K) Ra6#

c) 1.Ixd6(=Q) Bxd6 2.Ixh3(=K) Sf2#

Again, Cyclic Zilahi with cyclic exchange of functions for 3 white pieces.



Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber

2025 Sake Comm

H#2 b) +bPc4

Invisible pieces: wSP, bR

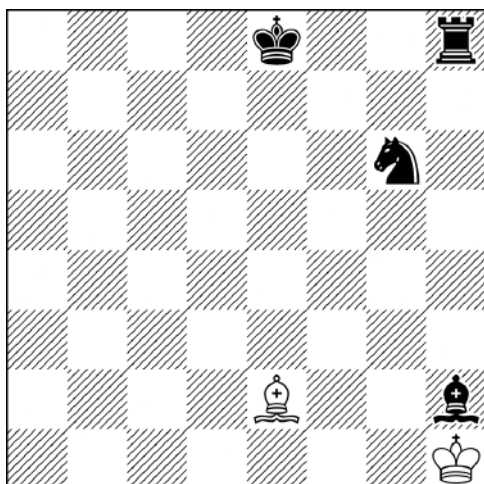
a) 1.I--- I--- 2.Kb4 Rc4#

(1.Rc3-c4/Rb4-c4+ b2-b4 2.Kxb4 (wISa3) Rxc4#)

b) 1.I--- I--- 2.cxb3 I---#

(1.Rc3-a3+ b2-b4 2.cxb3 ep Se4-c3#)

5 Invisible moves in 2 solutions with an en passant capture.



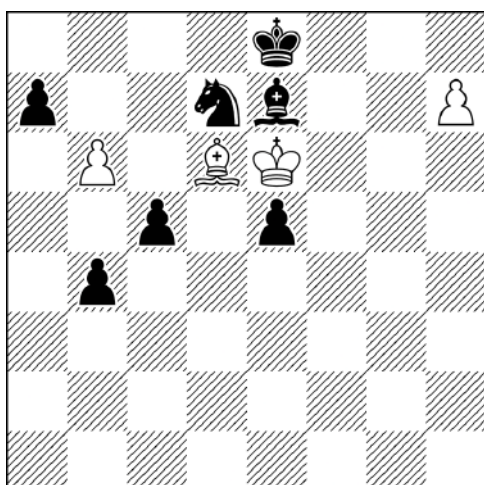
Theodoros Giakatis & Kostas Prentos
2025 Sake Comm

H#2 2 solutions

Invisible pieces: wR, bR

1.Kc8(=0-0-0) Ba6 2.Bb8 (wIRb7) + Rxh7#
 1.Kg8 (=0-0) Bc4 2.Sh8 (wIRe5) Rg5#

An economical rendering of long and short castlings.



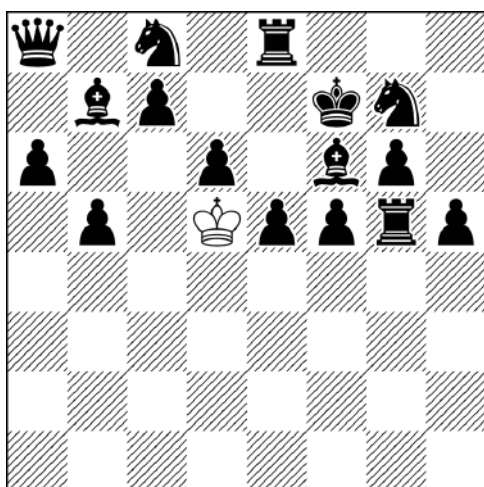
Theodoros Giakatis & Kostas Prentos
2025 Sake Comm

H#2 b)wBd6→c5

Invisible pieces: wP, bRS

a)1.a5! Ixa5 (wIPa6) 2.Kc8 (0-0-0) b7#
 b)1.Ixh7 I--- 2.Kg8 (0-0) (bISh7) Ixe7(=S)#
 (1...wIPc7-c8=S)

Valladao in two phases.



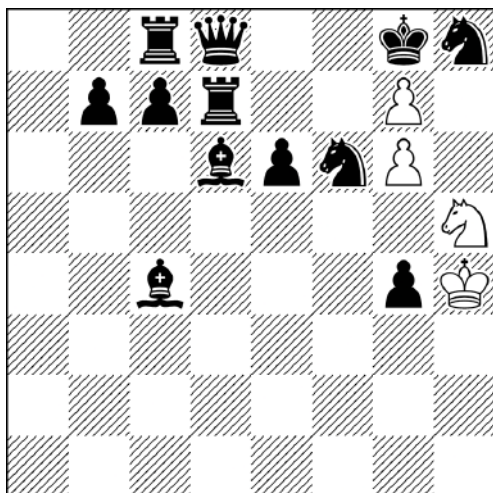
Andy Ooms
2025 Sake Comm

H#2 b) -bBb7

Invisible pieces: wQRBS

A)1.Kf8 Ixg7 2.Ke7 (wIBg7) Ixc7(=Q)#
 (Only wQ can capture Pc7. wIR stands on c6.)
 B)1.Ke7 Ixe8 2.Kd7 (wIRe8) Ixf6(=S)#
 (Only wS can capture Bf6. wIQ(B) stands on b7.)

Each of wIQRBS moves only once in two phases, thus forming AUW-like revealings specific to the Invisible-system.



Andy Ooms

2025 Sake Comm

H#2 2 solutions

Invisible pieces: wP

1.e5 I--- 2.Re7 Ixf6(=S)#

(1...e7-e8=S)

1.Sf7 I--- 2.Be7 Ixf7(=B)#

(1...e7-e8=B)

Underpromotions by wIP on the same square with black Grimshaw.

67th WORLD CONGRESS OF CHESS COMPOSITION
Alba Iulia **5th-12th July 2025**

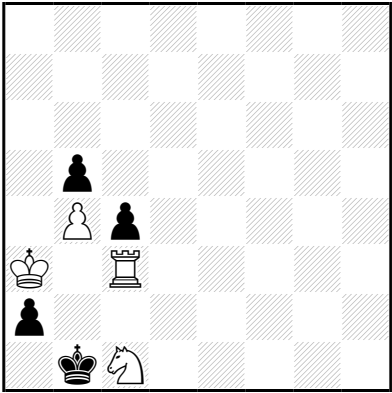
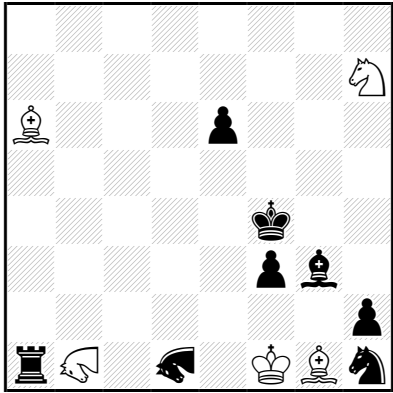
23rd Romanian Tzuica Tourney
Judges: Vlaicu Crişan & Eric Huber (Romania)

Theme: Helpself compositions (**hs#n/hs=n**) with **at least 2 solutions showing one Perpetuum Mobile**.

Please take in consideration the following **definitions**:

- 1.** In a **help-selfmate** problem in 'n' moves (denoted **hs#n**), White starts and Black collaborates with White in order to reach a position of **s#1** (selfmate in one move) at move 'n' (the last move). Helpselfstalemates are also accepted.
- 2. Perpetuum mobile:** A peculiar kind of twinning. The key move leads to a new position with the same stipulation but different solution. The twinning is reversible: the new position is solved by retraction of the key and restoration of the diagram position (Perpetuum Mobile!)

All fairy pieces and conditions are accepted, provided that the problem is checked by a known solving program.

Example 1 for Orthodox section	Example 2 for Fairy Section
Alexey Oganesian Julia's Fairies 2015  hs#2* b) ♖c1→d3 (4+4) a) 1...a1=R+ 2.Sa2 Rxa2# 1.Sd3 a1=B 2.Sb2 Bxb2# b) 1...a1=B 2.Sb2 Bxb2# 1.Sc1 a1=R+ 2.Sa2 Rxa2#	Francesco Simoni Sinfonie Scacchistiche 2013  hs#2.5* b) after the key (5+8) ♙♜=Gnu a) 1. Bc8 e5 2.GNc3+ GNxc3# 1...Ke5 2.Bb7 Bf4 3.GNc4+ GNxc4# b) 1.Bb7 Bf4 2.GNc4+ GNxc4# 1...Kf4 2.Bc8 e5 3.GNc3+ GNxc3# Gnu= (1,2)+(1,3)Leaper

Prizes - bottles of Tzuica.
The tourney is open worldwide.

Deadline: Wednesday, July 9th, 8 p.m
Send to: Eric Huber by e-mail at hubereric@yahoo.fr

Participants:

Dieter Werner 18*, 19*; Dimitris Liakos 26, 27, 28; Dmitry Turevski 22*, 23*; Emanuel Navon 20*; Francesco Simoni 16*; Gábor Tar 1, 2, 3, 15; Georgy Evseev 22*, 23*; Hans Uitenbroek 25; Henry Tanner 29, 30; Hiroaki Maeshima 11; János Csák 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13; Joost Michielsen 36; Marco Guida 16*; Mario Parrinello 14, 16*; Menachem Witztum 20*, 32*, 33*, 34*, 35*; Neal Turner 24; Nikola Petkovic 31; Norbert Geissler 19*; Ofer Comay 21; Ralf Krätschmer 18*, Ricardo de Mattos Vieira 20*, 32*, 33*, 34*, 35*; Themis Argirakopoulos 10, 17, 37; Torsten Linss 9.

INTRODUCTION

Our choice was inspired by one of the themes discovered by the Romanian composer Wolfgang Pauly – Perpetuum mobile. We were aware this theme poses some real challenges and did not expect to receive too many entries, secretly hoping to get enough time to fulfil other obligations in Alba Iulia, such as running the Retro Solving and Fairy Solving tourneys. The participation exceeded our expectations: 37 problems by 23 composers from 11 countries.

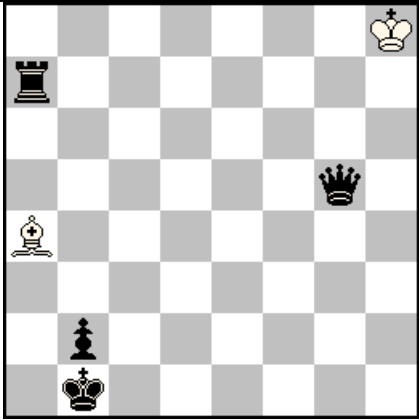
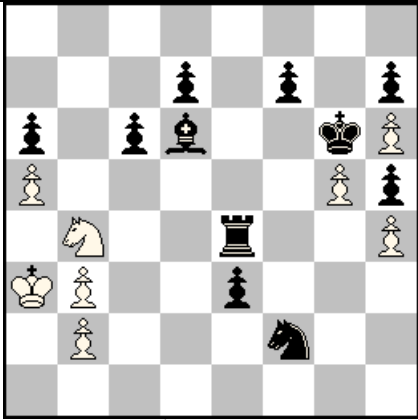
The most pleasant and difficult choice was to set some criteria when ranking the entries. In the orthodox section all compositions had two phases, so quantitative criteria were clearly out of the question. We were focused instead on the quality of the works, particularly emphasizing the active usage of all pieces in both phases, the strategic effects and analogy between the phases.

In the fairy section, some composers managed to surprise us by realizing the theme in more than two phases. Others tried to present it without having set play – a paradoxical idea which made us smile. Only mathematicians can think of such weird effects... Yes, Tzuica tournaments seem to particularly inspire them more than any other physical activity, so we can be proud of ourselves.



ORTHODOX SECTION

Seventy percent of the received entries were orthodox (26 entries out of 37). The overall quality is good, with the prize being particularly impressive.

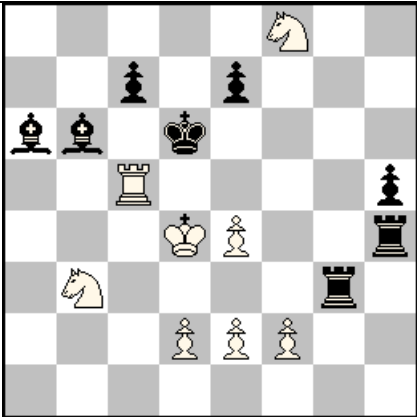
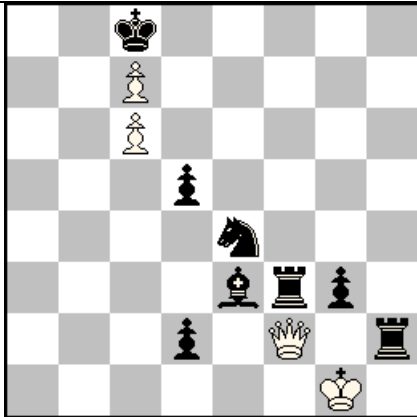
Torsten LINSS Prize Orthodox Section Tzuica 2025	Ofer COMAY 1st Honorable Mention Orthodox Section Tzuica 2025
 hs#8* b) ♖a4→d1 (2 + 4) a) 1...Ra8+ 2.Kh7 Qc1 3.Kg6 Ka2 4.Kf5 b1=R 5.Ke4 Ra1 6.Kd3 Qa3+ 7.Kc2 Rd8 8.Bb3+ Qxb3# 1.Bd1 Qc1 2.Kg8 Ra1 3.Kf7 Ka2 4.Ke6 b1=S 5.Kd5 Sc3+ 6.Kc4 Kb1 7.Kb3 Sd5 8.Bc2+ Qxc2# b) 1...Qc1 2.Kg8 Ra1 3.Kf7 Ka2 4.Ke6 b1=S 5.Kd5 Sc3+ 6.Kc4 Kb1 7.Kb3 Sd5 8.Bc2+ Qxc2# 1.Ba4 Ra8+ 2.Kh7 Qc1 3.Kg6 Ka2 4.Kf5 b1=R 5.Ke4 Ra1 6.Kd3 Qa3+ 7.Kc2 Rd8 8.Bb3+ Qxb3#	 hs#5* b) ♖a3→a4 (8 + 11) a) 1...Be5 2.Sd5 Bd4 3.Kb4 Bf6+ 4.Kc5 Rb4 5.Se7+ Bxe7# 1.Ka4 Re5 2.Sd3 Rc5 3.Kb4 Rf5+ 4.Kc4 Bb4 5.Sf4+ Rxf4# b) 1...Re5 2.Sd3 Rc5 3.Kb4 Rf5+ 4.Kc4 Bb4 5.Sf4+ Rxf4# 1.Ka3 Be5 2.Sd5 Bd4 3.Kb4 Bf6+ 4.Kc5 Rb4 5.Se7+ Bxe7#

Prize: Torsten LINSS (Germany)

This was by far the best entry from the orthodox section! All pieces move in both phases. It seems unbelievable White has no tempo to preserve the set play and must change the idea to get in the mating net. White play may seem rather monotonous, with wK approaching the bK, but the long Black moves, the different promotions and the delicate timing are impressive. An outstanding achievement in a splendid miniature setting, which turns this thematic tournament into a successful one!

1st Honorable Mention: Ofer COMAY (Israel)

A clever way to show the perpetual mobile was to place a white piece on a pin line and to use a wK move changing the pin-line as the key. What happens afterwards shows excellent composing mastery: after the unpin of the wS, the created black battery fires and enables the wK's access to the field where it will eventually get mated. The rear battery piece occupies b4, while the front piece will capture the wS. The astonishing unity of both phases is slightly marred by the bSf2 being needed in only one phase. Without this (unavoidable?) flaw, the problem would receive a prize.

Menachem WITZTUM & Ricardo DE MATTOS VIEIRA 2nd Honorable Mention Orthodox Section Tzuica 2025	Hans UITENBROEK 3rd Honorable Mention Orthodox Section Tzuica 2025
 hs#3* b) ♖b3→a5 (8 + 8) a) 1... Rg5 2.Ke3 Bxe2 3.e5+ Rxe5# 1.Sa5 Bb7 2.Kc4 Rb3 3.Rd5+ Bxd5# b) 1...Bb7 2.Kc4 Rb3 3.Rd5+ Bxd5# 1.Sb3 Rg5 2.Ke3 Bxe2 3.e5+ Rxe5#	 hs#3* b) ♜g1→f1 (4 + 8) a) 1...Ba7 2.Qb6 Sc5 3.Qb7+ Sxb7# 1.Kf1 Rf8 2.Qf7 Sf6 3.Qd7+ Sxd7# b) 1...Rf8 2.Qf7 Sf6 3.Qd7+ Sxd7# 1.Kg1 Ba7 2.Qb6 Sc5 3.Qb7+ Sxb7#

2nd Honorable Mention: Menachem WITZTUM & Ricardo DE MATTOS VIEIRA (Israel & Brazil)

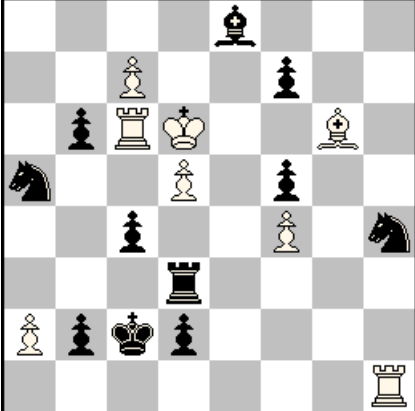
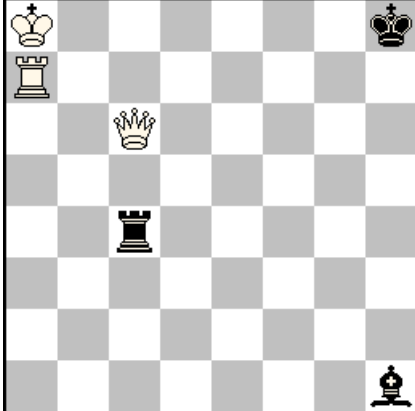
Two white pieces are initially pinned: wRc5 by bBb6 and wPe4 by bRh4. B1 allows wK to access the field where it will be mated, hence unpinning one piece, while the other remains pinned. In the end, three pairs of pieces mutually change their functions – that’s the Romanian Tzuica 2011 theme. We like very much how the wS guard of c5/c6 changes the play – a splendid conception!

3rd Honorable Mention: Hans UITENBROEK (Netherlands)

Here the theme is using the same trick seen in the 1st HM: the wQ gets pinned on two different lines. The Loshinski magnet allows the wQ unpin by the bS followed by its sacrifice – that’s Romanian Tzuica 2006 theme (Dentist). Some purists might deplore the presence of wRh2 used to guard two flights. We invite the readers to improve the construction, if they can. Nevertheless, we are quite satisfied with the result – this short and articulated Meredith deserves a high recognition.



Commendations without order

Ricardo DE MATTOS VIEIRA, Emanuel NAVON & Menachem WITZTUM Commendation Orthodox Section Tzuica 2025	Henry TANNER Commendation Orthodox Section Tzuica 2025
 hs#2.5* b) ♖d3→c3 (8 + 11) a) 1.Bxf5 Sg6 2.Rxc4+ Sxc4# 1...Rc3 2.Rxc4 Sc6 2.Bxf5+ Sxf5# b) 1.Rxc4 Sc6 2.Bxf5+ Sxf5# 1...Rd3 2.Bxf5 Sg6 3.Rxc4+ Sxc4#	 hs#2* b) ♖c6→b7 (3 + 3) a) 1...Re4 2.Qe8+ Rxe8# 1.Qb7 Rc6 2.Qc8+ Rxc8# b) 1...Rc6 2.Qc8+ Rxc8# 1.Qc6 Re4 2.Qe8+ Rxe8#

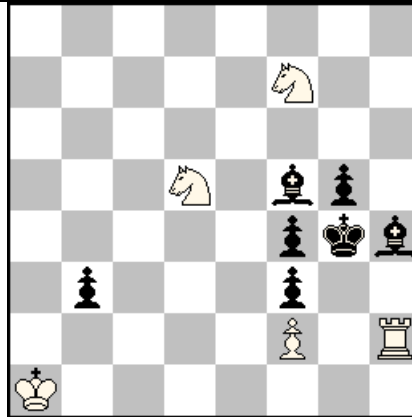
Commendation: Ricardo DE MATTOS VIEIRA, Emanuel NAVON & Menachem WITZTUM (Brazil & Israel)

Here only two pairs of pieces mutually change their functions: bSh4/bSa5 (guard wK flights vs mate) and wRc6/wBg6 (active sacrifice vs active pin of bR). Our feeling is that the mechanism can be easily turned into a 2 solutions composition by placing the bR somewhere else on the 3rd rank. This fictitious rendering of the set theme slightly degrades the overall impression.

Commendation: Henry TANNER (Finland)

This was one of the most economic presentations of the set theme both in terms of material (6 pieces) and time (2 moves). The aristocratic setting features strategic content – wQ unpin – which makes it better than its direct competitor with a similar idea (TZ05).

Nikola PETKOVIC
Commendation
Orthodox Section Tzuica 2025



hs#2.5* b) ♖h4→g3 (5 + 7)

- a) 1. Sxg5 Bxg5 2.Sf6+ Bxf6#
 1...Bg3 2.Sxf4 Bxf4 2.Se5+ Bxe5#
 b) 1.Sxf4 Bxf4 2.Se5+ Bxe5#
 1...Bh4 2.Sxg5 Bxg5 3.Sf6+ Bxf6#

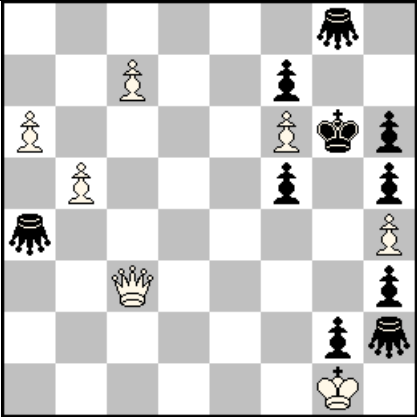
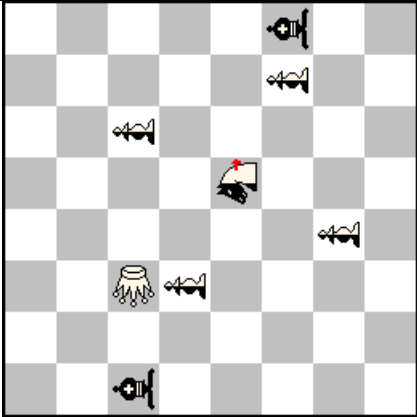
Commendation: Nikola PETKOVIC (Serbia)

This Meredith slightly suffers from symmetry, but we think the author did ultimately a great job in showing the change of functions between wSs, who are both actively sacrificed in reverse order. For us this setting has solving appeal and that's more than enough to retain it in the final award.



FAIRY SECTION

There were only 11 problems in the fairy section, but all received entries had something special. We eventually eliminated 4 for the only reason we thought they would probably fare better in normal tournaments.

Georgy EVSEEV & Dmitri TUREVSKI Prize Fairy Section Tzuica 2025	Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS Very Special Prize Fairy Section Tzuica 2025
	
hs#2.5* b,c) ♠a4→a7,d7 (7 + 10) ♠=Grasshopper a) 1.Qb3 Gc2 3.Qxf7+ Kxf7# 1...Ga7 2.Qe3 Gaf2 2.Qxh6+ Kxh6# b) 1.Qe3 Gaf2 2.Qxh6+ Kxh6# 1...Gd7 2.Qd3 Gd2 2.Qxf5+ Kxf5# c) 1.Qd3 Gd2 2.Qxf5+ Kxf5# 1...Ga4 2.Qb3 Gc2 3.Qxf7+ Kxf7#	hs#2* b,c,d) ♠c3→c7,g7,g3 (1 + 2 + 5) Black Reflex ' =Royal Piece ; ♠=Grasshopper; ♠=Capturing Knight; ♠=Capturing Pawn ♠=Capturing Bishop a) 1...nrCSxg4 2.Ge3 nrCSxe3# 1.Gc7 nrCSxd3 2.Gc5 nrCSxc5# b) 1...nrCSxd3 2.Gc5 nrCSxc5# 1.Gg7 nrCSxc6 2.Ge7 nrCSxe7# c) 1...nrCSxc6 2.Ge7 nrCSxe7# 1.Gg3 nrCSxf7 2.Gg5 nrCSxg5# d) 1...nrCSxf7 2.Gg5 nrCSxg5# 1.Gc3 nrCSxg4 2.Ge3 nrCSxe3#

Prize: Georgy EVSEEV & Dmitri TUREVSKI (Russia)

The cyclic play of the black Grasshopper playing in the triangle a7-d7-a4 ensures that the set play can't be reversed. The same authors sent another composition featuring the same idea, but this one is better with only one type of fairy piece. The bG must arrive on the 2nd rank to guard h2, which dictates the square on which the wQ must sacrifice opening the bGg8 line.

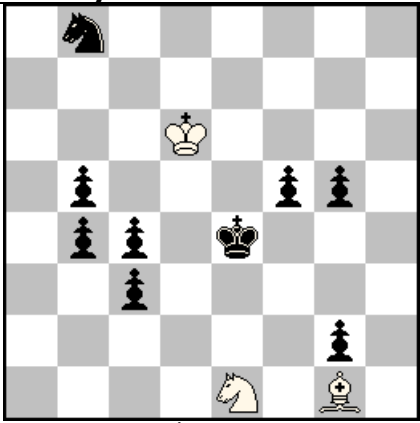
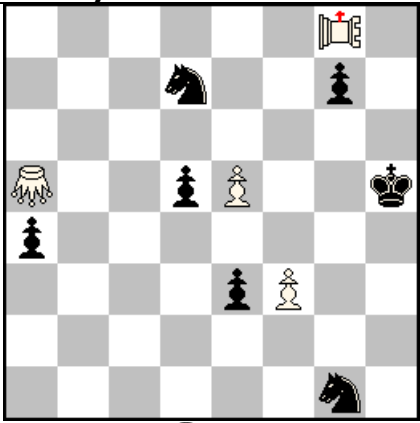
A crystal-clear rendering, worth winning the top place!

Very Special Prize: Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS (Greece)

The only composition from the whole tournament daring to quadruple the theme! As in the previous problem, the author plays a wG in the corners of the square c3-c7-g7-g3. This non-standard interpretation requires quite a bunch of fairy elements: a neutral royal Capturing Knight captures the white Grasshopper on fields guarded by the black capturing Bishops. Despite the obvious symmetry, we praise the author's out-of-the-box interpretation!



Commendations without order

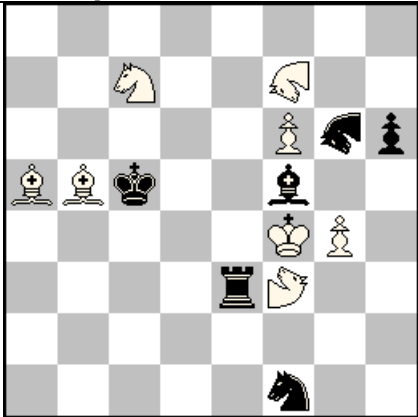
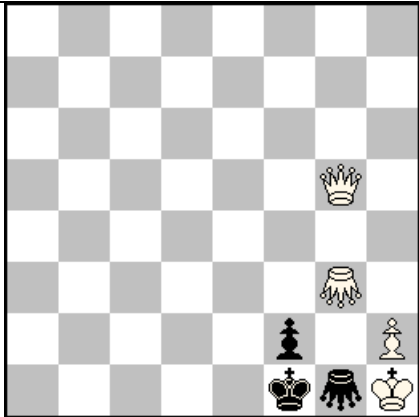
Joost MICHELSSEN Commendation Fairy Section Tzuica 2025	Mario PARRINELLO Commendation Fairy Section Tzuica 2025
 hs#4* b) ♔g1→h2 (3 + 9) Anda a) 1...Kf4 2.Kc5 Sd7=nS+ 3.Kd4 nSf6 4.Bh2=nB+ nBg1=bB# 1.Bh2 g1=Q 2.Sd3 Qa7 3.Sc5=nS+ Kd4 4.Bg1=nB+ nBh2=bB# b) 1...g1=Q 2.Sd3 Qa7 3.Sc5=nS+ Kd4 4.Bg1=nB+ nBh2=bB# 1.Bg1 Kf4 2.Kc5 Sd7=nS+ 3.Kd4 nSf6 4.Bh2=nB+ nBg1=bB#	 hs#3* b) ♔a5→a3 (4 + 7) Anti-Functionary ♔=Royal Piece ; ♖=Grasshopper; ♜=RookHopper a) 1...Sxe5 2.Gxe5 g6 3.rRHg5+ Sxf3# 1.Ga3 Sxf3 2.Gxf3 g5 3.rRHg4+ Sxe5# b) 1...Sxf3 2.Gxf3 g5 3.rRHg4+ Sxe5# 1.Ga5 Sxe5 2.Gxe5 g6 3.rRHg5+ Sxf3#

Commendation: Joost MICHELSSEN (Netherlands)

Humorously, the author was inspired by a [discovered cook](#) to create this composition featuring a switchback (Romanian Tzuica 2013) changing the wB into a bB. We were impressed by the demolition as a creative impulse and hope other composers will get inspired by this unorthodox approach. A small gem and a happy composer at the prizegiving ceremony! We had to buy additional gifts in Alba Iulia on Friday morning, once we realized the four traditional Tzuica bottles were not enough.

Commendation: Mario PARRINELLO (Italy)

The strategy is quite simple, but nevertheless attractive. The author skillfully mixed the set theme with Zilahi (Romanian Tzuica Tourney 2016) and diagonal-orthogonal correspondence (Romanian Tzuica 2008).

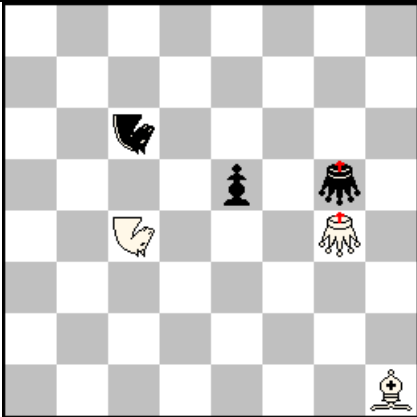
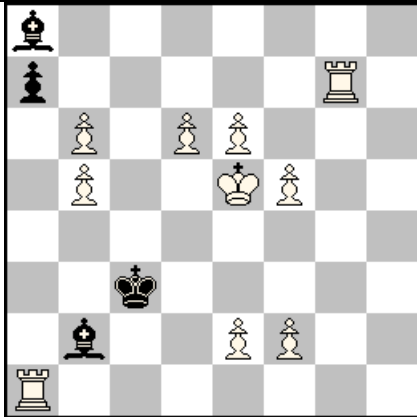
Francesco SIMONI, Marco GUIDA & Mario PARRINELLO Commendation Fairy Section Tzuica 2025	Dieter WERNER & Norbert GEISSLER Commendation Fairy Section Tzuica 2025
 hs#2.5* b) ♖e3→e6 (8 + 6) ♙♜=Moa ; ♘♞=Mao a) 1.MO d8 Kd4 2.MO e6+ Bxe6# 1...Re6 2.MAd2 Kd6 3.MAe4+ Bxe4# b) 1.MAd2 Kd6 2.MAe4+ Bxe4# 1...Re3 2.MOd8 Kd4 3.MO e6+ Bxe6#	 hs#2.5* b) ♜g1→e1 (4 + 3) ♜♞=Grasshopper a) 1.Ge1 fxe1=G 2.Qh5 Kf2# 1...Ge1 2.Qd2 Gc3 3.Qa2 Gh3# b) 1.Qd2 Gc3 2.Qa2 Gh3# 1...Gg1 2.Ge1 fxe1=G 3.Qh5 Kf2#

Commendation: Francesco SIMONI, Marco GUIDA & Mario PARRINELLO (Italy)

The black Rook's anticipatory selfpin enables the black King's access to a square where White can attack it and force the black battery mate. There is only one simple change of functions between the white Moa and Mao. Although this entry also suffers from fictitious strategy – placing bR on e1 would ensure the two solutions – we liked the strategy.

Commendation: Dieter WERNER & Norbert GEISSLER (Switzerland & Germany)

The only miniature from the tournament where Black mates thanks to zugzwang (Romanian Tzuica 2007)! Short and witty, but excellent use of Grasshopper play.

Neal TURNER Commendation Fairy Section Tzuica 2025	Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS Commendation Fairy Section Tzuica 2025
 hs#2.5* b) ♞c6→a5 (3 + 3) =Royal Piece ; ♠♠=Grasshopper; ♞♞=Nightrider a) 1.Ng2 rGd5 2.Nh4+ e4# 1...Na5 2.Bd5 rGxd5 3.Ne3+ Nxe3# b) 1.Bd5 rGxd5 2.Ne3+ Nxe3# 1...Nc6 2.Ng2 rGd5 3.Nh4+ e4#	 hs#3.5 b) ♞a8→h1 (10 + 4) ConditionsUntilPly=2 Maximum a) 1...Bh1 2.Rg2 Kd2+ 3.Ke4 Kxe2 4.f4+ Bxg2# b) 1...Ba8 2.Rb7 Kb4+ 3.Kd5 Kxb5 4.bxa7+ Bxb7#

Commendation: Neal TURNER (Finland)

Our first reaction upon seeing this composition was: “What, no SAT?!”

The royal Grasshoppers are still there, so we were not too worried. The content is not homogeneous: we loved the battery cross-checks but disliked the crude captures of white pieces despite the Black battery dismantling and repeated move of rG on d5. However, we appreciated the author’s loyalty towards his pet royal figures.

Commendation: Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS (Greece)

The author submitted two compositions in which there is no set play, but the twin starts with the position obtained after placing the key piece on the arrival square. We liked more this composition, in which the very limited applicability of Maximum hinders the conservation of the set play. Although the obvious symmetry mars the overall impression, we have to recognize the bold idea and reward it.

Hiroaki MAESHIMA
Commendation
Fairy Section Tzuica 2025

hs#2 b) ♔a1→c1 (4 + 7)
 Black Sting (Atout noir)

a) 1.Qc1 +bQa6 2.Ra3+ Qxa3#
 b) 1.Qa1 +bQb3 2.Rc4+ Qxc4#

Commendation: Hiroaki MAESHIMA (Japan)

Here the lack of the set play is easily explained by the fairy condition: in the absence of any previous white move, Black can't drop the black Sting. In the actual play, White plays a Queen move, which allows dropping the black Sting.

The solutions are dictated by the pinned bS. Fairy simplicity at its best.



Vlaicu Crişan & Eric Huber
 July 19th 2025, Cluj-Napoca & Bucharest



FAIRY DEFINITIONS

Anda: A non neutral piece (except a King) that gives a direct check becomes neutral. A neutral piece (except a King) that gives a direct check takes the colour of the side that moved it.

Anti-Functionary: A piece can't move if it is threatened.

Atout: see **Sting**

Black reflex: If he can, Black must play a move allowing him to reach the aim

Capturing Bishop: a Bishop which moves only to capture.

Capturing Knight: a Knight which moves only to capture.

Capturing Pawn: a Pawn which moves only to capture.

Grasshopper: Moves along Q-lines over another unit of either colour to the square immediately beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Mao: Decomposed Leaper(0,1 ; 1,1) Knight with a decomposed walk : a Mao makes first an orthogonal step (to a square which must be empty), then a diagonal step.

Moa: Has a fixed 2-step move consisting of a (1,1) step followed by a (0,1) step to reach a square a knight's move away (e.g. a1-b2-c2); the intermediate square must be vacant.

Nightrider: (1,2) Rider. Operates along straight lines with squares lying a Knight's move away from each other.

RookHopper: Moves like a Grasshopper, but only on Rook lines.

Royal unit: The side that has this piece is in check if it is threatened.

Sting: (Atout in French, see RIFACE 2025) combination of White Sting and Black Sting

- **White Sting:** If they have not already done so, White can parachute onto an empty square a white piece of the same type as the last black piece to move. A pawn cannot be dropped onto the first and last ranks.

- **Black Sting:** If they have not already done so, Black can parachute onto an empty square a black piece of the same type as the last white piece to move. A pawn cannot be dropped onto the first and last ranks.



ANNEXES

None this time.



Allba lulia 2025

28th SABRA Composing Tourney

An orthodox H#2 is required with the following theme:

A white piece is actively sacrificed on an empty square (without capturing a black piece) combined with any additional element such as self-block, line closure, pin etc.

Judge: Menachem Witztum

Prize: 1 bottle of **SABRA** – the liqueur of Israel for your enjoyment and 2 bottles of selected Israeli liquers.

Entries should be submitted to **Paz Einat** by email to: pazeinat@gmail.com
Until 9/7/25 at 19:00.

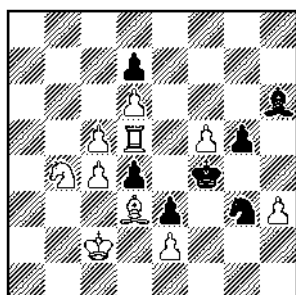
Open to all composers but those not participating in the congress are limited to one problem only, and only congress participants can receive prizes.

Examples :

Menachem Witztum IL

No. 3392

Polish chess Federation 2025



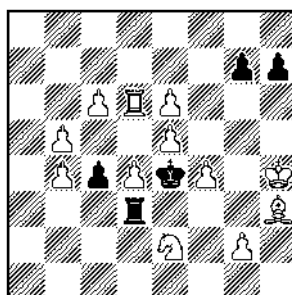
H#2 b) b**♖**h6 (C+) (10+7)

- a) 1. **♗**g7 **♜**e5 2. **♕**x e5 **♜**d5#
b) 1. **♜**e6 **♕**e4 2. **♜**x e4 **♜**d3#

Menachem Witztum IL

No. 3398

Polish chess Federation 2025



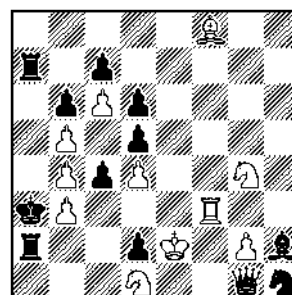
H#2 b) b**♜**d3 (C+) (12+5)

- a) 1. **♜**x d4 **♜**d5 2. **♜**x d5 **♜**c3#
b) 1. **♜**x f4 **♕**f5+ 2. **♜**x f5 **♜**g3#

Menachem Witztum IL

E1475

Super Problem 13/5/25



H#2 b) **♜**d6→e3 (C+) (11+12)

- a) 1. **♜**a5 **♜**e5 2. dxe5 bxa5#
b) 1. **♜**a4 **♜**f2 2. exf2 bxc4#

28th Sabra Composing Tourney – 67th WCCC, Alba-Iulia 2025

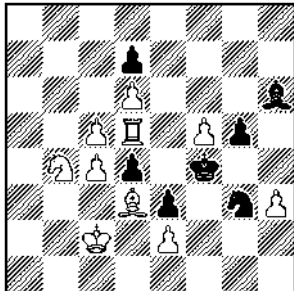
An orthodox H#2 is required with the following theme::

A white piece is actively sacrificed on an empty square (without capturing a black piece) combined with any additional element such as self-block, line closure, pin etc.

Judge: Menachem Witztum

Examples:

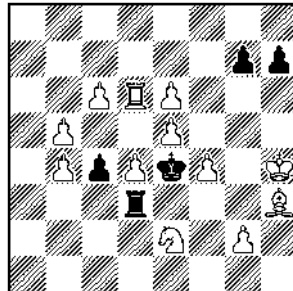
**Menachem Witztum IL
No. 3392
Polish chess Federation 2025**



H#2 b) b) b1h6 (C+) (10+7)

- a) 1. Qg7 Re5 2. Qxe5 Qd5#
b) 1. Re6 Qe4 2. Re4 Qd3#

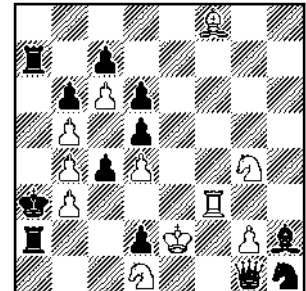
**Menachem Witztum IL
No. 3397
Polish chess Federation 2025**



H#2 b) b) b1d3 (C+) (12+5)

- a) 1. Rxd4 Rd5 2. Qxd5 Qc3#
b) 1. Qxf4 Qf5+ 2. Qxf5 Qg3#

**Menachem Witztum IL
E1475
Super Problem 13/5/25**



H#2 b) b) Qd6→e3 (C+) (11+12)

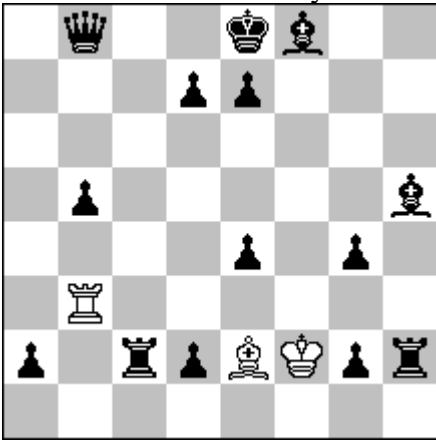
- a) 1. Ra5 Qe5 2. dxe5 bxa5#
b) 1. Ra4 Qf2 2. exf2 bxc4#

A total of 51 problems took part in the competition – I received them anonymously from the tourney director, **Paz Einat**. Anticipation search was done on all problems that were prize candidates. The overall level was high.

Participants list:

Pierre Tritten, János Csák, Kenan Velikhanov, Gábor Tar, Ofer Comay, Peter Zabiorkhin, Kostas Prentos, Pavel Murashev, Ovidiu Craciun, Vitaly Medintsev, Marco Guida, Emanuel Navon, Maryan Kerhuel, Paz Einat, Francesco Simoni, Johan de Boer, Hannu Harkola, Anatoly Stepanov, Dieter Mueller, Sven Trommler, Anatoly Vasylenko, Evgeny Gavryliv, Michael Barth, Franz Pachl, Vlaicu Crisan, Éric Huber, Stefan Parzuch, Chris Natsis, Dimitris Liakos, Ralf Danck, Pietro Pitton, Gennady Chumakov, Nikola Petkovic, Ricardo de Mattos Vieira, Marcos Roland, Marko Klasinc, Fadil Abdurahmanovic, Mario Parrinello, Anton Nasyrov, Zoran Gavrilovski, Manikumar S, Michel Caillaud, Vasil Dacuk, Jorma Paavilainen, Mark Erenburg, Ralf Krätschmer

Peter Zabiorkhin
1st Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



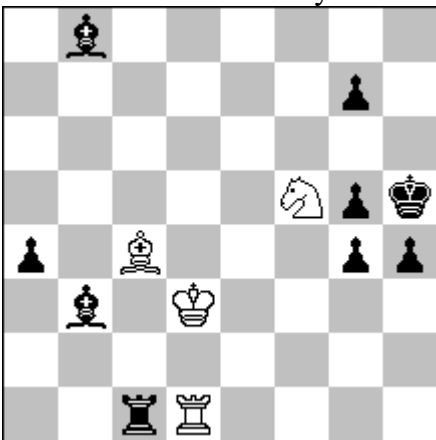
H#2 2.1.1.1 3+14

Harmonious sacrifice and mating play by the wB and wR. The tries emphasize the need for the sacrifices. The bR has an option for an additional try using a bR instead of the bQ on b8 (see version in the annex)

1.Qd8 Rh3! (1...Bxg4? 2. ? Bxh5?) 2.gxh3 Bxh5#

1.Bf7 Bc4! (1...Rxb5? 2. ? Rxb8?) 2.bxc4 Rxb8#

Dieter Mueller & Sven Trommler
2nd Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



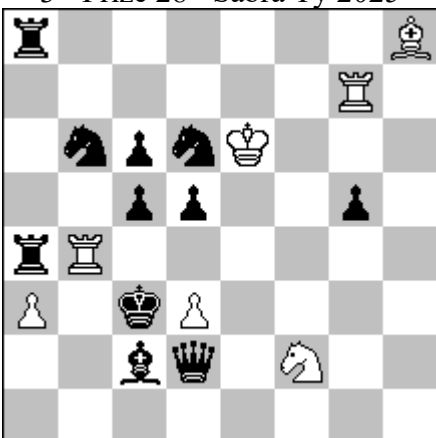
H#2 b) bPg7→g6 4+9

In the spirit of the theme, black captures a white piece on its first move. A harmonious and pleasant problem.

a) 1.Bb3*d1 Sf5-h6 2.g7*h6 Bc4-f7 #

b) 1.Rc1*c4 Sf5-g3 + 2.h4*g3 Rd1-h1 #

Stefan Parzuch
3rd Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



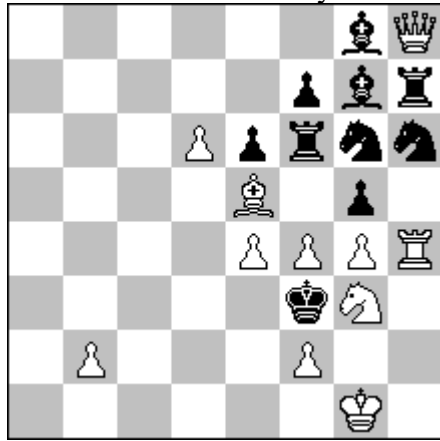
H#2 2.1.1.1 7+11

Black's first move performs an interference of the bR with a bS. White's sacrifices enable the opening of the "b" and "D" columns, respectively, enabling the wR battery mating move to guard squares along these lines. A complex realization of the theme.

1.Sbc8 Rc4+ (Se4?) 2.dxc4 Rb7#

1.Sdc8 Se4+ (Rc4?) 2.dxe4 Rd7#

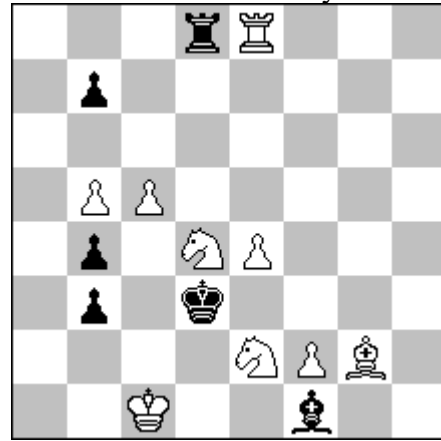
Marco Guida
4th Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 2.1.1.1 11+10

1.Sh6*g4! (Sf5?) Rh4-h1 2.Rh7*h1 + Qh8*h1 #
1.Rf6*f4! (Rf5?) Be5-c3 2.Bg7*c3 Qh8*c3 #

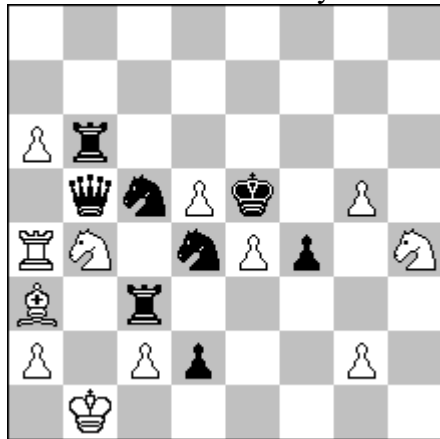
Franz Pachl
5th Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) wKc1→b4 9 + 6

a) 1.Rd8*d4 Se2-c3 2.b4*c3 Bg2*f1 #
b) 1.Bf1*e2 Sd4-c2 2.b3*c2 Re8*d8 #

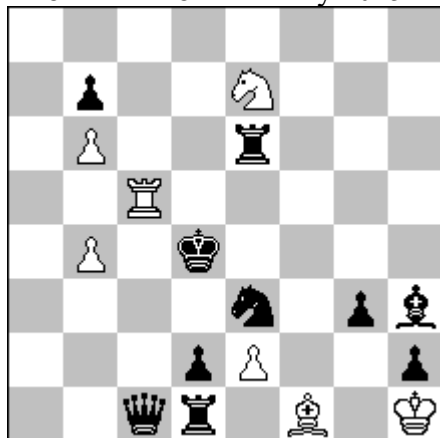
Ricardo de Mattos Vieira
6th Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 2.1.1.1 12 + 8

1.Sdb3 Sd3+ (Sc6+?) 2.Sxd3 Sf3#
1.Scb3 Sc6+ (Sd3+?) 2.Sxc6 Sg6#

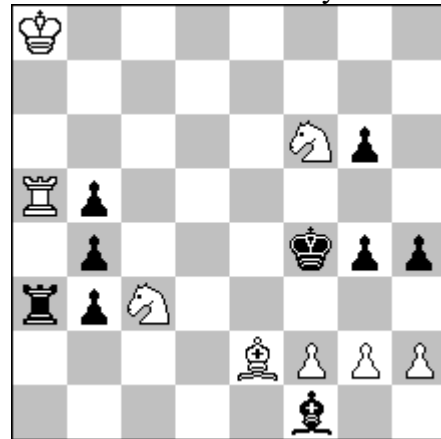
Ricardo de Mattos Vieira
8th Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) wPb4→f4 7 + 10

a) 1.Se3-g4 e2-e4 2.Re6*e4 Se7-f5 #
b) 1.Se3-c2 e2-e3 + 2.Re6*e3 Rc5-c4 #

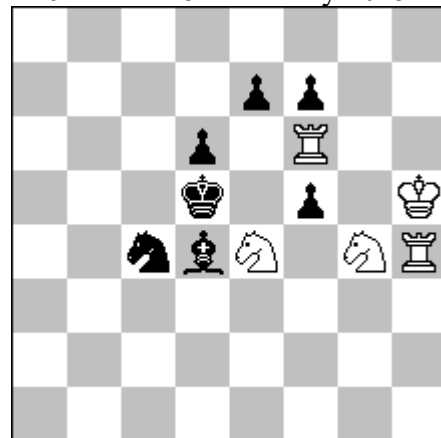
Maryan Kerhuel
7th Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 2.1.1.1 8 + 9

1.h4-h3 Sc3-a4 2.b5*a4 g2-g3 #
1.g6-g5 Be2-c4 2.b5*c4 Sf6-h5 #

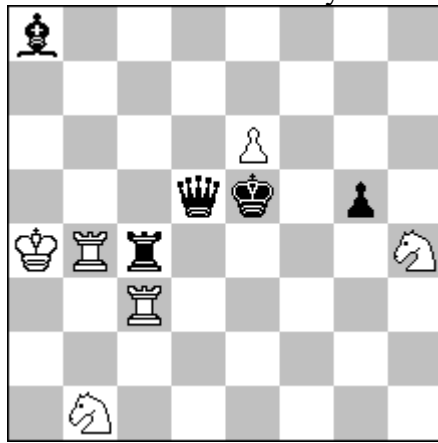
Zoran Gavrilovski
9th Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) bSc4→b1 5 + 7

c) wRh4→a6
a) 1.Bd4-c5 Sg4-e5 2.d6*e5 Se4-c3 #
b) 1.Bd4-e5 Se4-c5 2.d6*c5 Sg4-e3 #
c) 1.e7-e5 Rf6-e6 2.f7*e6 Sg4-f6 #

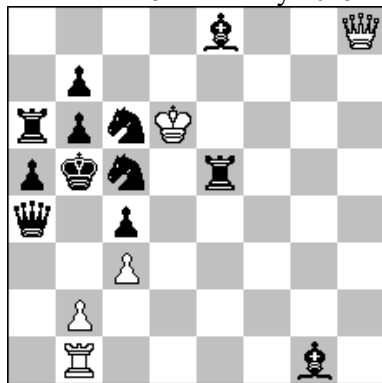
Mark Erenburg
10th Prize 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) Sb1→c2 6 + 5
c) Sb1→d6

- a) 1.Re4 Rd4 2.Kxd4 Sf3#
b) 1.Rf4 Re4+ 2.Kxe4 Re3#
c) 1.Rg4 Rf4 2.Kxf4 Sg6#

Francesco Simoni
Marco Guida
1st HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025

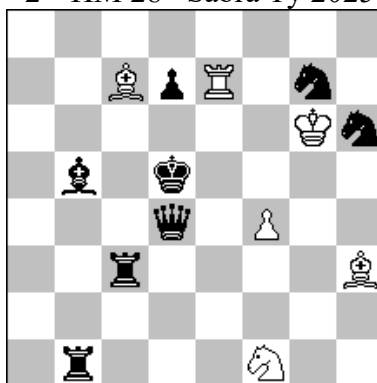


H#2 2.1.1.1 5+12

**See suggested improvement
in the annex**

- 1.Sc6-d4 b2-b3 2.Sc5*b3
Qh8*e5 #
1.Sc5-e6 b2-b4 2.Sc6*b4
Qh8*e8 #

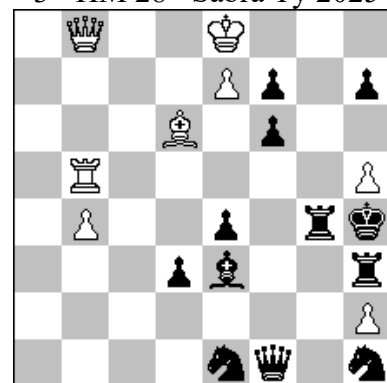
Ofer Comay
2nd HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) Sf1→a6 6+8

- a)
Try: 1.Rd3? Re7~ 2.Ke4 Bg2#?
3.Rf3!
Sol: 1.Bd3+! Re4! 2.Kxe4 Bg2#
b)
Try: 1.Bc6? Bc7~ 2.Kd6
Rxd7#? 3.Bxd7!
Sol: 1.Rc6+! Bd6! 2.Kxd6
Rxd7#

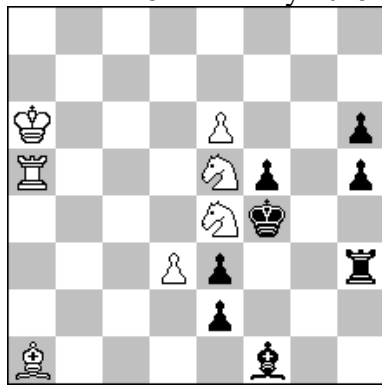
Emanuel Navon
3rd HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) Ph2→g5 8+12

- a)
1.Bf2(Rf4?) Bf4(Bc5?) 2.Rxf4
Qxf4#
Try (Non thematic): 1. Bh6 Bc5
2. Kg5 Bf2#? (3.Pf5!)
b)
1.Sg2(Rh2?) Bh2(Bc5?)
2.Rxh2 Qxh2#

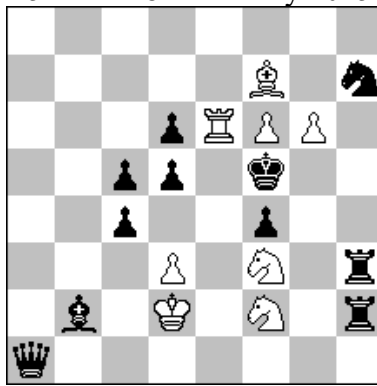
Anatoly Stepochkin
4th HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 2.1.1.1 7+8

1.Rh3-f3 Se5-g4 2.h5*g4
Ba1-e5 #
1.Rh3-g3 Se4-g5 2.h6*g5
Ra5-a4 #

Sven Trommler, Michael
Barth, Franz Pachl
5th HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025

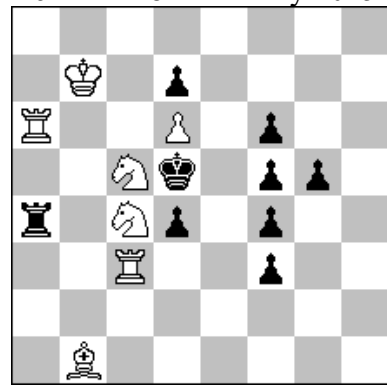


H#2 b) +wPc3 8+11

c) +wPd4

a) 1.Bb2*f6 Re6-e4 2.d5*e4
d3*e4 #
b) 1.Sh7-g5 d3-d4 2.c5*d4
Sf3*d4 #
c) 1.Sh7*f6 Sf3-e5 2.d6*e5
Re6*e5 #

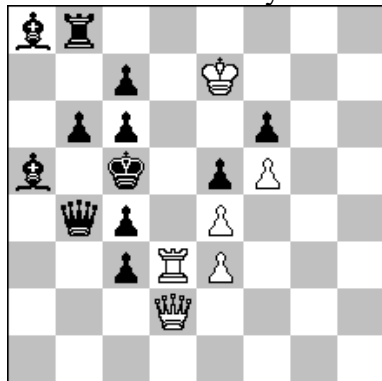
Dimitris Liakos
6th HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 2.1.1.1 7+9

1.Ra4-a2 Sc4-e5 2.f6*e5
Bb1*a2 #
1.Ra4-a5 Sc5-e6 2.d7*e6
Ra6*a5 #

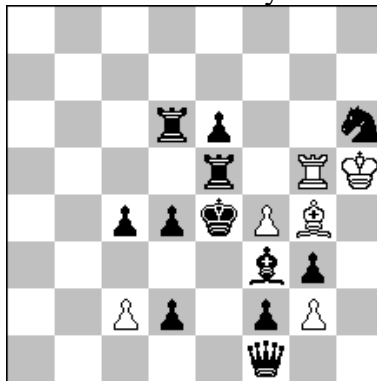
Jorma Paavilainen
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 3.1.1.1 6+12

1.b6-b5 Rd3-d4 2.e5*d4
Qd2*d4 #
1.Rb8-b7 Rd3-d5 + 2.c6*d5
Qd2*d5 #
1.Qb4-b5 Rd3-d6 2.c7*d6
Qd2*d6 #

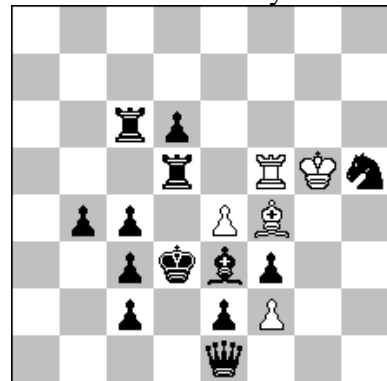
Kenan Velikhanov
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) bKe4→e1 6+12

a)
1.Re5-c5 Rg5-d5 2.Ke4*d5
Bg4*f3 #
b)
1.Bf3-d1 Bg4-e2 2.Ke1*e2
Rg5*e5 #

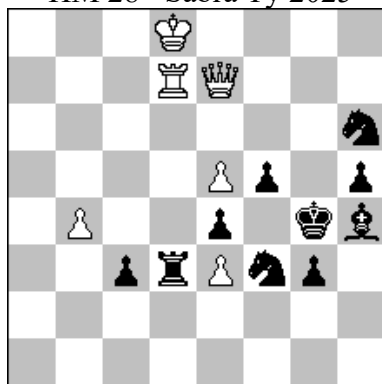
Vitaly Medintsev
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) bKd3→b6 5+13

a)
1.Be3-c1 Bf4-d2 2.Kd3*d2
Rf5*d5 # MM
b)
1.Rd5-b5 Rf5-c5 2.Kb6*c5
Bf4*e3 # MM

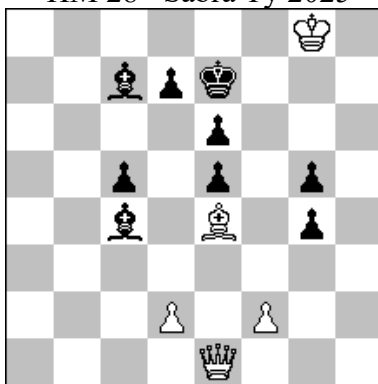
Marko Klasinc
Fadil Abdurahmanovic
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) bKg4→e3 6+10

- a)
1.Sf3-d4 Qe7-g5 + 2.Kg4*g5
Rd7-g7#
b)
1.Sf3-g5 Rd7-d4 2.Ke3*d4 Qe7-
c5 #

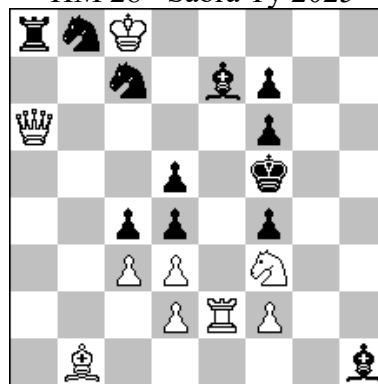
Anton Nasyrov
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 3.1.1.1 5+9

- 1.Bd8 Bd5 2.exd5 Qxe5 # MM
1.Kd6 d4 2.cxd4 Qb4 # MM
1.Kf6 f4 2.gxf4 Qh4 # MM

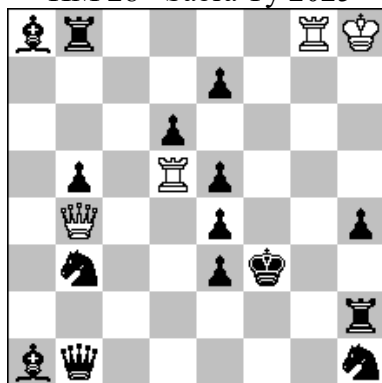
Ralf Danck
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) bPd4→b5 9+12
c) wBb1→b8

- a)
1.c4*d3 Re2-e4 2.Kf5*e4
Qa6*d3 #
b)
1.Bh1*f3 Re2-e5 + 2.Kf5*e5
d3-d4 #
c)
1.Sc7*a6 Re2-e6 2.Kf5*e6
Sf3*d4 #

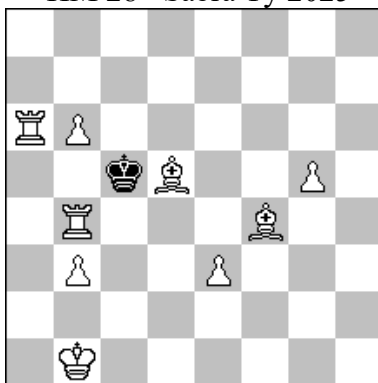
Gennady Chumakov
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 2.1.1.1 4+15

- 1.Rh2-e2 Qb4-d4 2.e5*d4 Rd5-
f5 # MM
1.Rh2-f2 Rd5-d3 2.e4*d3 Qb4-
g4 # MM

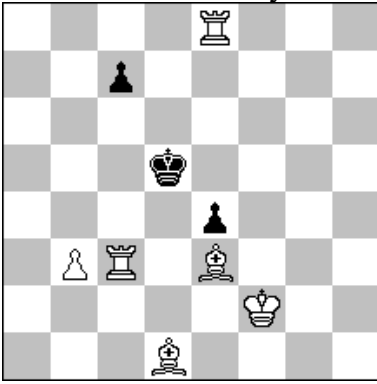
János Csák
HM 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) wKb1→e7 9+1

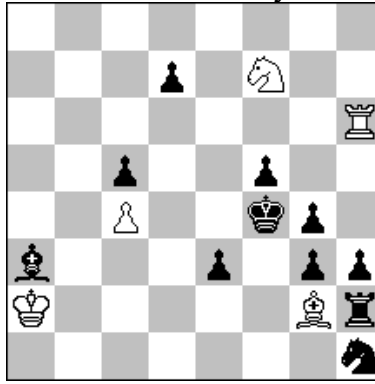
- a)
1.Kc5*b4 Ra6-a3 2.Kb4*a3
Bf4-d6 #
b)
1.Kc5*d5 Bf4-e5 2.Kd5*e5
Ra6-a5 #

Gábor Tar
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



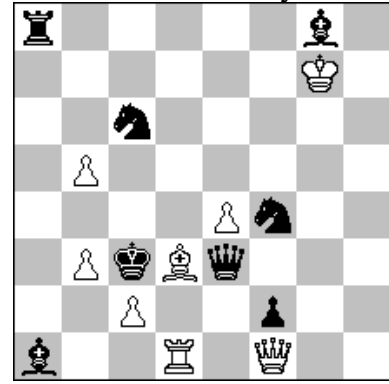
H#2 b) bPc7→d7 6+3
a)
1.c7-c6 Bd1-f3 2.e4*f3 Rc3-d3 #
b)
1.d7-d6 Rc3-d3 + 2.e4*d3 Bd1-f3 #

Paz Einat
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



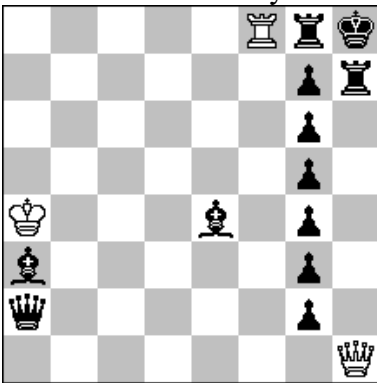
H#2 2.1.1.1 5+11
1.Sh1-f2 Bg2-e4 (Bf3?)
2.f5*e4 Rh6-f6 #
1.Ba3-b2 Bg2-f3 (Be4?)
2.g4*f3 Rh6-h4 #

Johan de Boer
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



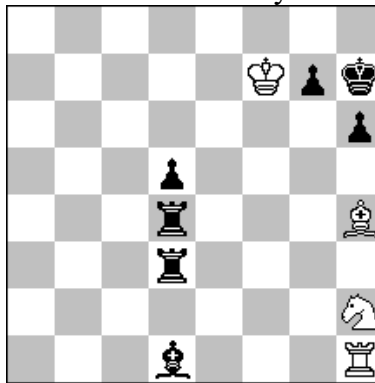
H#2 b) bBa1→d2 8+8
a) 1.Ba1-b2 Bd3-c4 2.Bg8*c4
Qf1*c4#
b) 1.Sc6-b4 Rd1-a1 2.Ra8*a1
Qf1*a1#

Anatoly Vasylenko
Evgeny Gavryliv
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



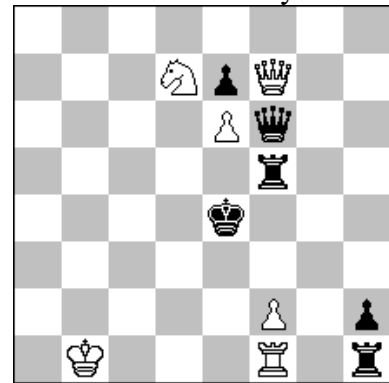
H#2 5.1.1.1 3+12
1.Rh2 Rf2 2.gxf2 Qxh2# (MM)
1.Rh3 Rf3 2.gxf3 Qxh3# (MM)
1.Rh4 Rf4 2.gxf4 Qxh4# (MM)
1.Rh5 Rf5 2.gxf5 Qxh5# (MM)
1.Rh6 Rf6 2.gxf6 Qxh6# (MM)

Vlaicu Crisan
Éric Huber
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



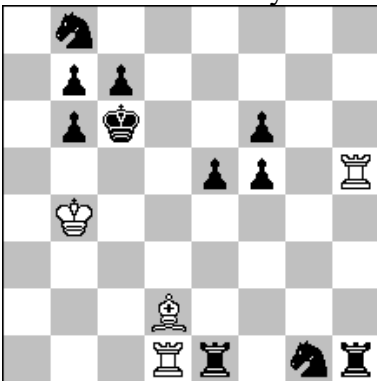
H#2 b) bRd4→d2 4+7
a)
1.h6-h5 Sh2-g4 2.h5*g4 Bh4-g3 #
b)
1.Bd1-e2 Bh4-g5 2.h6*g5 Sh2-f3 #

Nikola Petkovic
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



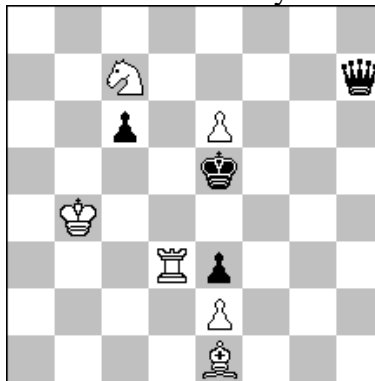
H#2 b) wSd7→b2 6+6
a)
1.Qf6-d4 f2-f3 + 2.Rf5*f3 Qf7*f3 #
b)
1.Rf5-d5 f2-f4 2.Qf6*f4 Qf7*f4 #

Ricardo de Mattos Vieira
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 b) wBh5 4+11
a)
1.Sg1-h3 Bd2-g5 2.f6*g5 Rh5-h6 #
b)
1.Sg1-e2 Bd2-f4 2.e5*f4 Bh5-f3 #

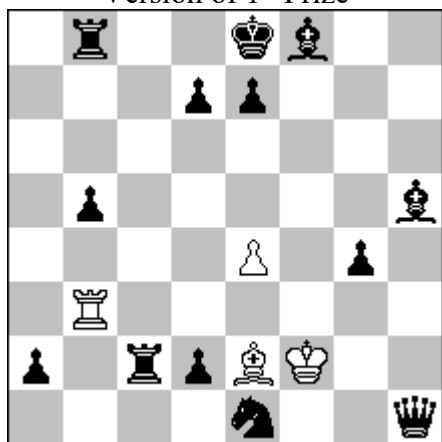
Mark Erenburg
Com. 28th Sabra Ty 2025



H#2 2.1.1.1 6+4
1.Qe4+ Rd4 2.Kxd4 Bc3 #
1.Qe7+ Rd6 2.Kxd6 Bg3 #

Annex

Version of 1st Prize



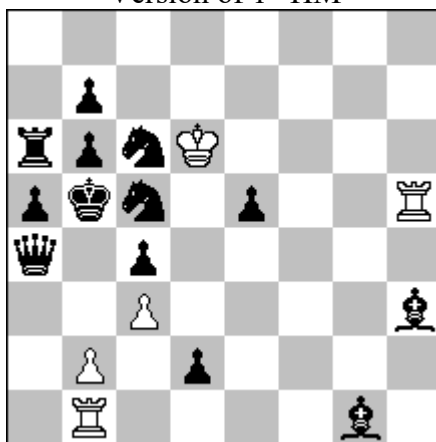
H#2

2.1.1.1

4+13

1.Bh5-f7 Be2-c4 2.b5*c4 Rb3*b8 #
1.Rb8-d8 Rb3-h3 2.g4*h3 Be2*h5 #

Version of 1st HM



H#2

b) wBh5

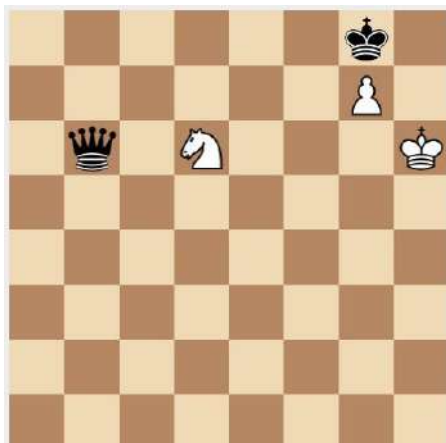
5 + 13

a) 1.Sc6-d4 b2-b3 2.Sc5*b3 Rh5*e5 #
b) 1.Sc5-e6 b2-b4 2.Sc6*b4 Bh5-e8 #

Help-Study Tourney

Entries are invited for a tourney of Help-wins and Help-draws. These consist of help-play for a specified number of moves, resulting in a study.

Examples:



Help-win in 1

Solution: 1 Kg6 Qa5 and now 2 Ne8!



Help-draw in 4.5

Solution: 1...f5 2 Kxf5 d1=N 3 Kxe4 d5+ 4 Kxd3 Nb2+ 5 Kxc3 d4+ and now 7 Kxb2 Kb7 8 Kxb3 Kb6 9 Kb4! =

Notes:

1. The study part may be original or may already be published, in which case please cite the original. Entries with known/original studies may be judged separately.
2. The help-play and study must each be at least 0.5 moves long. All moves of the help-play and all White moves in the study should be unique.
3. In a help-draw, solutions for which the help-play leads to a **winning** position are **not** considered as cooks. Thus **W:** Kh8 Pc6 **B:** Ka5 Ph5 is a help-draw in 0.5 (1..Ka6 reaching Reti, 1921) even though 1..Ka4, for example, loses.
4. Only participants in the WCCC are eligible for prizes, though other entries will be considered.

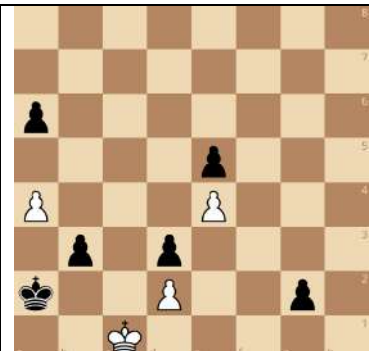
Entries to Jonathan Mestel (UK), j.mestel@ic.ac.uk by 23:59 (Romania time!) on Wednesday 9th July.

Results of the Help-Study Tourney – by Jonathan Mestel

This tourney was an experiment, inspired in part by the growing popularity of help-selfmates. Could the practical elements of studies be meshed with the flexibility of help-play? One difficulty in help-win problems, is that during the help-play Black can give away all their pieces, which limits the possibilities somewhat.

I allowed composers a choice of how much emphasis to put on the help-play and on the study. Indeed, the entry from Stefan Harnagea has a help-play of 0.5 moves, while Ofer Comay submitted a study of 0.5 moves, which was really a very nice help-self-stalemate. Unfortunately, this turned out to be cooked.

I received 9 entries, which were judged anonymously – many thanks to David Hodge for his help with this. I offered composers who submitted cooked problems an opportunity to correct their work. I have awarded one prize and some Honorary Mentions.

	Help-win in 3 Boris Tummes Prize
--	---

This composition links the help-play and study portions in a simple and elegant manner. To have any chance of winning White must promote a pawn while blockading the b-pawn. Hence **1 a5 Ka3 2 Kb1 g1=B! 3 Ka1 Bb6**. The study play commences with **4 axb6 b2+ 5 Kb1 a5 6 b7 a4** and now only **7 b8=B! Kb3 8 Bxe5 a3 9 Bxb2 axb2 10 e5** and wins. The play is not so sophisticated, but has echo bishop underpromotions and sacrifices. It is a good fit with the tourney theme.

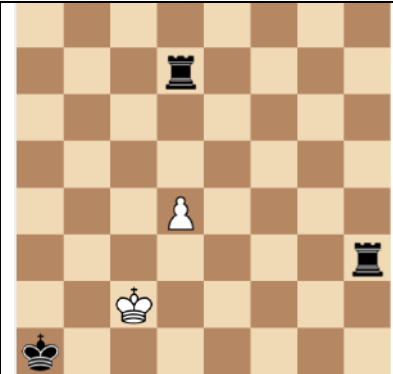
	Help win in 0.5 moves Stefan Harnagea 1st Honorary Mention
---	---

This is really a nice original study, introduced by a single, suicidal Black move. The only move to lose for Black is **1...Kf5!** after which the study begins **2 Nxg7+** with two variations, as after **2...Kxg5 3 Ne6+** there is no good square for the Black king.

Firstly, **2...Ke5 3 Nf5! Kxf5 4 Bg4+! Kxg4** (else Bh3) **5 g6 g2 6 g7 Kh3! 7 g8=R! Kh2 8 c5 g1=Q 9 Rxg1 Kxg1 10 c6 h3 11 c7 h2 12 c8=Q/R h1=Q 13 Qc1+ Kg2 14. Qxh1+ Kxh1 15. Kxa3 Kg2 16. Kb4 Kf3 17. Kc5! Ke3 18. Kc4** and wins

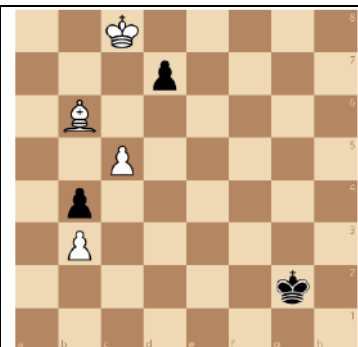
Secondly, **2...Kf4 3 Bf3!** (3 Nf5? g2 4 Nxd4 h3 and Black wins) **Kxf3 4 Nf5 h3 5 Nxg3 Kxg3 6 g6 h2 7 g7 h1=Q 8 g8=Q+ Kf4 9 Qe6** or **8..Kf2 9 Qd5** with a technical win. A pity the end is not clearer

Some subtle sacrificial play with an underpromotion. However, I didn't think the link with the help-play sufficient to justify a prize.

	Help-win in 2 Vlaicu Crişan and Eric Huber After Saavedra. 2nd Honorary Mention
---	--

A simple example of the genre, with a pleasing emphasis on rook-play, with a mixed Phoenix underpromotion.

After **1 d5 Rd3; 2 d6 Rc7+**; we reach the famous Saavedra position. The study concludes **3 dxc7 Rd4! 4 c8=R! Ra4 5 Kb3**. Note that 1..Rb3 2 d6 Rc7+ in the help play is not a cook as 3...Rb2+ would draw.

	Help-draw in 2 Vlaicu Crişan and Eric Huber After Ulrichsen J, 4th Commendation Hoch-50 JT 1999 3rd Honorary Mention
---	---

To avoid winning, White must sacrifice material with **1 c6 dxc6 2 Bg1 Kxg1**, reaching a study by Ulrichsen. Now White must not block his c-pawn or allow the b-pawn to promote with check **3 Kb7 c5 4 Ka6! c4 5 bxc4 b3 6 c5 b2 7 c6 b1=Q 8 c7** drawing. Note the try **3 Kd7? c5 4 Ke6 c4 5 bxc4 b3 6 c5 b2 7 c6 b1=Q 8 c7 Qh7!!** and **9... Qh3**. While also loses after **2 Bf2?**

Thank you to everyone who took part in the tourney, whether or not their efforts brought fruit!

In conclusion, in appreciation of the Tourney, Martin Minski composed this miniature after the event. Although it is not part of the tourney, it adds an amusing postscript.

	Martin Minski Help-win in 1.5. Solution: 1...a1=B; 2 h6 Bg7 and now 3 hxg7 Kh6 4 g8=N+
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67 WORLD CONGRESS OF CHESS COMPOSITION

Alba Iulia (Romania) July 5th - 12th, 2025

Murfatlar TT8

For the **8th edition of Murfatlar TT**, the condition required is **Masand** but it is possible to add a second condition (not fairy units).

Definition: A piece which directly threatens the opposite King, after it moves, changes the color of the pieces it controls or attacks, except the Kings. Pieces that gives check without having moved themselves (e.g. discovered check) do not cause a Masand effect.

The condition Masand can be tested by Jacobi.

This Tourney is in the memory of the late Gani Ganapati.

(b.1929 – d.2022)

Examples:

1) Sol: 1.g3 f5 2.Bh3 f4 3.Bxd7+(Bc8=wB) Sxd7 4.Bxb7 e6 5.Bg2 Bb4 **6.Bf1** Bxd2+(bBc1, wPf4) 7.Qxd2 Bxb2 8.Qc1 Bc3+(bRa1, wPg7) 9.Sd2 Bb4 **10.gxh8=B! Bf8** 11.Bb2 Rxc1+(bPc2) **12.Bxc1.** Impostor wBf1 & bBf8, Phoenix-Pronkin Bc1.
Not classified by the judge (?!)

2) Sol: 1.e3 b6 2.Ke2 Bb7 3.Kd3 Be4 [h7,a8=w][g2=b]+ 4.Kc4 Bxa8 5.hxg8=S Sc6 6.Sf6 [d7=w]#[-f6][-d7] Qd3 [f1,c2,d2,e3=b]#[-d3]+ 7.Se2 cxb1=Q 8.Qb3 Qd3 [d2,e3=w][e2,b3=b]#[-b3][-d3] 9.Kb5 Sc3 [a2=b]# [-f1][-c3]

Deadline: July 7, 2025.

Judge: P. Răican, quarpaz1@yahoo.fr

Prize: **Selection of fairy ser-h=**

(a Quartz supplement, with dedication)

3) K. Prentos

1HM, Julias fairies 2017-18



11+10

PG 11

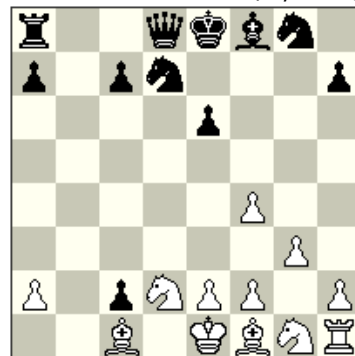
Masand

3) 1.d3 e5 2.Kd2 Qg5 [e5,g7=w][g2=b]+ 3.Ke1 h5 4.Bf4 Rh6 5.gxf8=Q [h6,f7,g8=w]+ + Kxf8 6.e3 gxf1=Q [g1,f2,d3=b]+ + 7.Kxf1 d6 8.Rxg1 fxg1=Q [g5=w][h2,e3=b]+ 9.Qxg1 hxg1=Q [e3=w][g8=b]+ 10.Kxg1 Bg4 11.fxg8=Q [g4=w][a2=b]+ Kxg8

Five checking Schnoebelen Queens, causing a host of colour changes before they disappear; what a spectacle!
(judge: Dirk Borst)

1) P. Răican & Gani Ganapati (†)

Problem Paradise 71/2015



12+11

PG 11.5

Masand

2) P. Răican

The Problemist 2023



9+13

PG 9

Masand #remove

Award of Murfatlar TT for Proof Games - 8th edition

Theme: Proof games with **Masand** (*) condition, possibly with one fairy condition added (without fairy units). This edition is dedicated to the late Indian composer Gani Ganapati (b.1929 – d.2022).

17 PGs received from 11 authors:

M. Caillaud (2+2*), Eric Pichouron (2*), K. Prentos (5), I. Vereshchagin (1), V. Crisan (1*), St. Harnagea (1*), Hiroaki Maeshima (1), J. Michielsen (2), P. Tritten (1), Ralf Krätschmer (1), H. Uitenbroek (1) This last one uses too little the Masand effect.

(*) invented by Zdravko Maslar

The level of the tournament was satisfying and it gave me a lot of pleasure. I congratulate the participants for their contribution, especially since this condition has proven to be difficult to handle.

My ranking is here from Commendations to Prizes.

Comm – Hiroachi Maeshima: Two captured Schnoebelen Queens. Impostor Rh8.

1.h4 e5 2.h5 Se7 3.h6 Sg6 4.hxg7 Be7 **5.gxh8=Q [e5,h7=w]+** Sxh8 6.e6 Sg6 **7.h8=Q [h1,b2=b]+** Rxh8 8.exf7+ Kxf7. (Jacobi+)

Honorable Mentions (without order):

M. Caillaud & E. Pichouron: There is an apparent capture by black Pawn e5 and only white Pawn h2 is missing, which is impossible in orthodox chess.

A sophisticated manoeuvre by Rook h1 is needed :

1.h4 f6 2.Rh3 Kf7 3.Rg3 Ke6 4.Rg6 Ke5! Tempo 5.Rh6! Kf5 6.Rh5+(wPh7,bPh4) Kg6 7.a4 h3 8.a5 h2 9.a6 h1=R 10.Rh6+(wRh1,bPh7) Kf7 11.R6h5 Ké8 12.Ré5 f×é5

Black King circuit with tempo. Impostor wRh1. [authors]

M. Caillaud: The French composer sent me this version with 2 units, but I prefer the version with all pieces visible, because it is easier to solve (see the Appendix) Septuple check, the maximum possible in Masand: 1.Sa3! e5! 2.Sc4 Qg5 3.S×e5 Q×g2 4.Sd3 Qe4 5.Bh3 b5 6.B×d7+(wBc8,wPb5) S×d7 7.Sf3 Se5 8.Rf1 Q×e2++++++(wSe5,bQd1,bRf1,bSd3,bSf3,bPd2,bPf2)#

Hiroachi Maeshima
Commendation, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



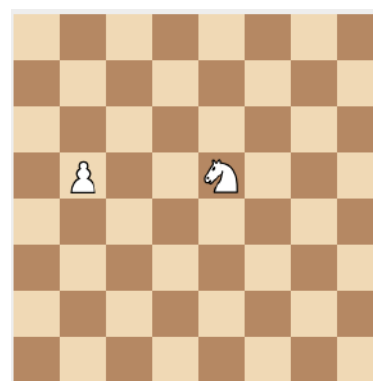
13+13 Masand PG8

M. Caillaud & E. Pichouron
HM, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



15+16 Masand PG12

M. Caillaud
HM, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



2+0 Masand Add
units for a SPG 8 Masand ending
with a septuplet check and mate.

E.Pichouron & M. Caillaud: Castling is a special move in Masand, considered as a King move, so that the pieces attacked by the checking Rook don't change colour (Jacobi, Popeye, Winchloé). We didn't find an interesting exploitation in pure Masand...

wRh1 can play only after Qh4-a4, so that Re3 will come with check. An orthodox game has many solutions because of white free moves. A Masand game has no solution, because Pe2 will be black in the end.

Sol: 1.d4 a6 2.d5 a5 3.d6 e×d6 4.Kd2! Qh4 5.Kd3! Qa4 6.h4 Be7 7.Rh3 Bd8 **8.O-O-O!** (without check) Se7 9.Re6 f×e6 10.Ke3 Kf7 11.Kd2 Kg6 12.Ke1.

St. Harnagea & V. Crisan : The authors were inspired to add the **#remove** condition. Thus, they achieved a beautiful paradox: 2x checkmate with promoted Knights.

Sol: 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Ke2 Qe4#(b7,e7,h7=w; c2,g2=b) (-Qe4) 4.Ke1 Bxe7 5.Se2 **g1=S** 6.bxc8=B **Sf3#(d2, h2=b) (-d2) (-Sf3)** 7.Rg1 **hgx1=S** 8.Bd2 **Sf3#(d2=b)# (-Bd2) (-Sf3)** 9.Qd8#(c7, e7=w; c8=b)(-Qd8)

I. Vereshchagin: 1.d4 Sc6 2.Bh6 Sxd4 3.e3 Sxc2 [a1,e3=b]+ 4.Qxc2 gxh6 5.Qxc7 Bg7 6.Bc4 Bxb2 7.Se2 Bc3+[a1,h8=w] 8.Sbxc3 e5 **9.O-O-O** Qh4 10.Qxe5+[e3=w][h2,c3,h8=b] Se7 11.Rd6 **O-O** 12.Qg7 [c3,h6,f7,h7,f8=w][g2=b]#

Two castlings with Rooks that change color. Checkmate with five units.

E.Pichouron & M. Caillaud
HM, Murfatlar Alba Julia
2025



14+16 Masand PG11.5
Rokagogo

St. Harnagea & V. Crisan
HM, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



11+10 Masand PG8.5
#r

I. Vereshchagin
HM, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



14+10 Masand PG11.5

J. Michielsens
HM, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



16+13 Masand #c PG8

J. Michielsens: Sol: 1.g4 e5 2.g5 e4 3.g6 e3 4.fxe3 **Qh4#** [h7=w][h2=b] [h4=w] 5.Qd8 [c7,d7,c8=w] [d7,d8=b] **Qh4** [h2=w][h7=b] [h4=w] 6.Qd8 [d7=w][c7,c8=b]++ Kxd8 7.Kf2 Kxd7 8.Kg3 Ke8 Jacobi+

- Repeated switchback to d8; motivated by the fact that with wPc7 the move Qh4-d8 is not mate anymore, and as such wQd8 and wPd7 are not colored black again;

- Short roundtrip by bK.

Humoristic work!

P. Tritten

HM, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



25+1 Masand PG9.5

K. Prentos

HM, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



16+12 Masand PG11.5

M. Caillaud

6Pr, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



14+15 Masand PG10
Mars Circe

P. Tritten: 1.e3 f6 2.Qg4 Kf7 3.Q×g7+ Ke6 4.Q×g2 Kd6 5.Q×b7 Kc5 6.Q×c7+ Kd5 7.Q×h2 Ke6 8.Qg2 Kf5 9.Q×a8 Kg4 10.f×e7

After a good placement of the black King, wQ gives check with the sole purpose of exchanging all black pieces for white pieces. Only a few black pieces disappear through orthodox capture.

K. Prentos: 1.e4 f5 2.Qh5 [f5,h7=w][h2=b]+ g6 **3.hxg8=Q** Rh7 4.Qh8 Kf7 5.f3 Bh6 6.Kf2 hxg1=Q [f1,h1,g2=b]+ 7.Kg3 Bf4 [c7=w][d2=b]+ 8.Kg4 **d1=Q** 9.Sd2 Qb6 10.Sb3 Qdd6 11.Qg8 [g6,h7,d8=w]+++ Qxg6 [b6=w][f5,h5,h7,g8=b]+++ 12.Qxg6 [f5,h5,h7,g8=w]+++ (#)

C+ Jacobi v0.7.5 Time: 102859 sec

Three consecutive triple checks.

Prizes

6th Prize – M. Caillaud: I received this interesting PG few hours before the deadline. Author's comments: *How can wPb disappear? It cannot be captured on b file. The solution in pure MarsCircé is to capture on a3, c3 and then be captured on a6, c6 by bSb8. The capture on a3, c3 implies the promotion of bPh, so that a game is possible but it would be too long.*

1.d3 h6 2.B×h6 R×h6 **3.h3!** (tempo) Re6 4.h4 f6 5.h5 Kf7 6.h6 Kg6 7.h7 Kg5 **8.h8=B+(bPb2!)** Kg6 9.B×b2 Kf7 10.Bc1 Ke8 Pronkin. Black King circuit.

Winchloé plays the solution correctly but Jacobi plays **8.h8=B+(wPg7?)**; a bug

F. Labelle says that he should try to fix this bug in the future.

J. Michielsen

5Pr, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



15+11 Masand PG10.5
#c

K. Prentos

4Pr, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



13+13 Masand PG12

K. Prentos

3Pr, Murfatlar
Alba Julia 2025



13+17 Masand PG13

5th Prize – J. Michielsen: 1.g4 e6 2.g5 Be7 3.g6 Bh4 4.gxh7 Qe7 5.hxg8=Q [f7,g7,h8=w] [f7,g8=b] Qgf8 6.Rg8 Kd8 7.gxf8=Q [e7,f7=w][g8=b] [e7,f8=b] Qfe8 8.fxe8=Q [d7,e7,g8=w] [e7,e8=b] c5 9.dxe8=Q [e7=w][g8=b] [e7,e8=b] Qa4 10.b3 Ke8 11.bxa4

a) Four queen promotions with mate; b) Three times, the promoted queen is recolored and captured by a white pawn that was recolored too, leading to a new mate and subsequent recoloring;

c) Finally, the fourth promoted queen is captured in Ceriani-Frolkin style on a4.

Joost used successfully #color as added condition.

4th Prize – K. Prentos: 1.e3 f5 2.Qg4 Kf7 3.Qxg7 [h7,f8,g8,h8=w][b2,g2=b]+ Ke6 4.Kd1 bxa1=R 5.Qb2 Kd5 6.c3 gxf1=Q [g1,f2=b]+ 7.Kc2 Qd3 [f5=w][d2,c3,e3=b]+ 8.Kxd3 Sh3 9.Qxb7 [a7,c7,a8,b8,c8=w] [b1=b]+ Ke5 10.Qf3 d1=Q [c1,h1,f3=b]+ 11.Kc4 Sg1 12.cxd8=Q f1=B+ Partially tested with Jacobi v0.7.5:

- The first 9.5 moves: C+; 47199 sec
- The 8.5 moves following 2...Kf7 (2.0-10.5): C+; 21832 sec
- The 8.0 moves following 3...Ke6 (3.0-11.0): C+; 86878 sec
- The last 8.0 moves (4.0-12.0): C+; 54615 sec

Belfort theme, facilitated by the condition. An elaborate work!

3rd Prize – Kostas Prentos: 1.f3 e6 2.Kf2 Qh4 [h7=w][h2=b]+ 3.Ke3 Qf2 [f1,g1,e2,g2,f3=b]+ 4.Kd3 Qb6 5.Qe1 Qb3 [e6,b7=w][a2,b2,c2=b]+ 6.Kd4 Qa3 7.Qg3 Bc5 [a3,a7=w]+ 8.Kxc5 Ke7 9.Kd4+ Kf6 10.e7 f2 11.Qgd6 [h2,c7,d7=w][a3,e7=b]+ Kf5 12.Qf6 [e7,f7,g7=w]+ Kg4 13.Qa6 Sf3 [d2,h2=b]+ Partially tested with Jacobi v0.7.5. Apparent exchange of places by white and black Pawns, of course only with Masand effect.

K. Prentos

2Pr, Murfatlar

Alba Julia 2025



13+13 Masand PG10

1st Prize – K. Prentos:

1.e3 c5 2.Qg4 Qa5 3.Kd1 b6 4.Qxd7 [a7,e7,c8=w][d2=b]+ Sxd7
5.exf8=R [f7,g8=w]+ Kxf8 6.Se2 **dxg1=R [b1,c2=b]++** 7.Kxc1
 Rxc8 8.fxc8=R [g7=w]++ Kxc8 9.Rxb1 **cxg1=R [b2=b]++**
 10.Kxb1 Sf8 11.gxf8=R [f2,c8=b]+ Kxf8 12.Sc1 **bxc1=R [c5=w]**
[f1=b]+ 13.Kxc1

C+ Jacobi v0.7.5 Time: 205602 sec

Six Rooks Schnoebelen (RRRrrr) are captured by the two Kings,
 with matching play for White and Black. [author]

Schnoebelen theme is one of the author's favorite conditions.

Masterfully done.

2nd Prize – K. Prentos:

1.f4 Sf6 2.Kf2 Se4 [d2=b]+ 3.Ke3 **dxg1=B [b2=b]+** 4.Kd4 Sc5 5.e4
 f5 6.exf5 e5 [f4=b]+ 7.fxe6 e.p. Bd6 8.Qxc1 O-O 9.e7 Kh8
10.exf8=R [f4,d8=w]+ Bxf8.

HC+ Jacobi v0.7.5

Patchwork testing: I tested every first move separately, using three
 different computers. Total time ~242 hours. Unless a test was set
 up wrong, the problem can be considered C+.

Valladão with two Schnoebelen pieces (bR).

A watchmaker's work.

K. Prentos

1Pr, Murfatlar

Alba Julia 2025



8+8 Masand PG12.5

Appendix

M.Caillaud

HM, Murfatlar 2025

version



10+17 PG8

Masand

Paul Răican, International Judge of FIDE

Tulcea, July 2025

67 WORLD CONGRESS OF CHESS COMPOSITION

Alba Iulia (Romania) July 5th - 12th, 2025

Mario Garcia Memorial Tourney

The well known composer and judge **Mario Garcia** passed away last year (b. June 22, 1948 – d. July 12, 2024) The news of Mario García's death has shocked chess players and chess composers all over the world. He was the editor of *Estudios Artísticos de Ajedrez*, a magazine dedicated to studies from Argentina. He began in the late 1990s with composition, dedicated until 1996 to direct work mates and in the last 20 years the artistic endgame studies.

His current production includes 230 direct mates and more than 500 endgame studies.



Here, Mario Guido Garcia in 2024

Integrates the team of editors of the magazine EG being responsible for the analysis and technical controls, of the studies that are published in international tournaments.

He was International Judge of the FIDE for Chess Compositions and very active one.

In his memory, Quartz launches a thematic tournament at WCCC Alba Iulia 2025.

The requirement is: in direct play, ***the checkmate is given with at least one black pinned piece.***

The Tournament has two sections:

A) Moremovers - see example 1)

Solution: **1.Bc7+ Kb7 2.Bxe5+ Kb6 3.Bc7+ (3.Bf6? Ka5!) 4.Bd8+ Kb8 5.Be7 Kb7 6.Bxb4+ Kb6 7.Be7 Kb7 (7... Ka5 8.Bd8+, #10) 8.Bd6+ Kb6 9.Bc7+ Kb7 10.Be5+ Kb6 11.Bf6 a5 (11... Ka5 12.Bd8+ Rb6 13.Rh5+) 12.Bd8+ Ka6 13. Rc5 Rb6 14.Rxa5+ Kxa5 15.Rxa7#** Here, the pinned unit is bRb6.

1) Ralf Krätschmer

1 Prize, M. Zucker MT 2017



6+11

#15

2) Sergey Borodavkin

1 Comm, Jenever TT 2010

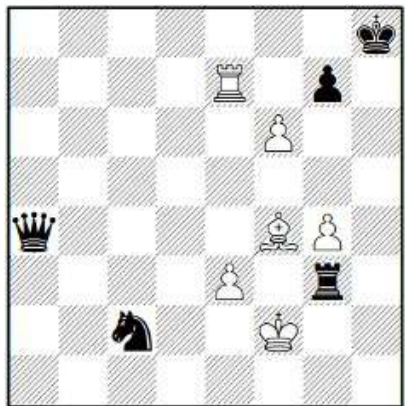


8+5

win

3) A.Maksimovskikh & V.Shupletsov

2 HM Suomen Shakki, 1985



6+5

win

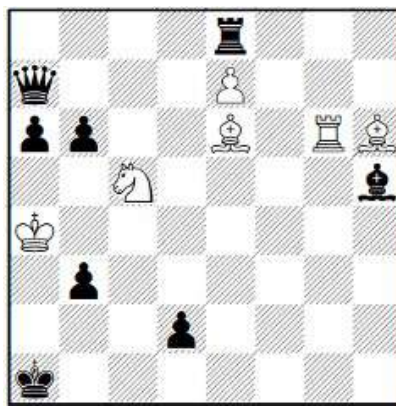
B) Studies (see examples 2, 3 and 4)

2) 1.**R5a6** Sxe7 2.g4+ Bxg4 3.Rh6+ Kg5 4.h4+ Kf4 5.Rhf6+ Sf5 6.Ra4+ Qd4+ 7.**e3#**

Here, two black units are pinned.

3) 1.**f7** Rg2+ 2.Kxg2 Sxe3+ [2... Qa8+ 3.Kg3 Kh7 4.Re8] 3.Kg3 Sf1+ [3...Sf5+ 4.gxf5 Qa3+ 5.Re3 Qf8 6.Re8] 4.Kh4 Qxf4 5.Re8+ Kh7 6.**f8S+** Kh6 7.Re6+ Qf6+ 8.**g5#**

4) N.Rezvov - Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsia, 1993 (v)



6+8

win

4) 1.**Rg1+** d1Q 2.Ka3 Qxe7 3.Bg7+ Kb1 [3...b2 4.Bxb2+ Kb1 5.Bf5+ Qe4 6.Sxe4 Kc2 7.Sf6+ Kd2 8.Rxd1+ Bxd1 9.Sxe8] 4.Bf5+ Kc1 5.Bh6+ Qe3 6.Sxb3#

This study is a correction by **Mario Garcia** and Peter Krug, Estudios Artisticos de Ajedrez, 2015

(a black Pawn b3 was added)

Deadline: July 5, 2025.

Judge: P. Răican, quarpaz1@yahoo.fr

Prize: **Studies of Emilian Dobrescu**

Award of M. Garcia MT, Alba Julia, July 2025

Theme (for Studies and Moremovers): in direct play, the checkmate is given **with at least one black pinned piece**.

18 studies and 4 moremovers received from 18 composers. I am honored with the participation of: M.Hlinka and Ľuboš Kekely (Slovakia), Volker Hergert (Germany), Ralf Krätschmer (Germany), Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine), Michael Pasman (Israel), Beat Neuenschwander (Switzerland), M. Gromov & O. Pervakov (Russia), V. Kalashnikov & S. Osintsev (Russia), Pavel Arestov (Russia), Oto Mihalčo (Slovakia), José Garzon (Spain), St. Harnagea (Romania), D. Hlebec and B. Djurasevic (Serbia), A. Jasik (Poland). The level of the tournament was high and I congratulate all the participants for their contribution.

Studies

12 studies out of 18 were classified. My ranking is here from Commendations to Prizes

P. Arestov
Comm, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



4+3 BTM win

V. Hergert
Sp. Comm, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



7+7 win

V. Kalashnikov
4HM, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



4+5 win

Comm – P. Arestov:

Here, the pinned unit is the black Rook in two variants.

1...Rg2+ 1...Sxe7 2.Bd4+ Kb1 3.Bxg7;

1...Rg8 2.Kd2! Ka2 3.Ra4+ Kb3 4.Rb4+ Ka2 5.Kc1! Rh8 6.Rb2+ Ka1 7.Rh2! Rc8 8.Rc2 Rh8 9.Bg1

2. Kd1! 2.Kf3? Rg8 =; 2.Kd3? Sxe7 =

2...Sxe7 2...Rg8 3.Kc2 Rg2+ 4.Kc1 **3.Kc1!** with 2 lines:

A) 3...Sf5 4.Ra4+ Ra2 5.Ba3! ~ **6.Bb2#**

B) 3...Ka2 4.Rc3! Ka1 5.Ra3+ Ra2 **6.Bd4#**

Sp. Comm – V. Hergert: 1.c4! 1.cxd3? Rxe1 2.Rf5+ Be5 **1...Rxc4 2.Qa5+ Rc5**

(2... Bc5 3.Rd2) **3.Qa2+** (3.Rf5+ Be5 4.Qa2+ Rec4 5.Rd2 Rc7+ 6.Ke8 Rc8+ =)

3... Qc4 (3... Rc4 4.Rf5+ Re5 5.Bg2+) **4.Rf5+ Be5** (4... Rf5 5.Bg2+ Se4 6.Bxe4+ Kxe4 7.Sd2+)

5. Rd2+ Rd4 6.Bg2+ Sf3 7.Bxf3#

(if 6... Se4 7.Se3#) The four pins don't matter in checkmate position

4th HM – V. Kalashnikov: 1.Bc7+ (1.Rxh5? g1Q 2.Rxh4+ Kg3=) **1...e5!**

(1...Kh1 2.Rxh5) **2.Bxe5+ Kh1 3.Bd4 Bf3+** 4.Kd6 g1Q 5.Bxg1 Kxg1 6.Ke5 h3 7.Kf4 h2 **8.Kg3!** Bg2 9.Rc1+ Bf1 10.Nc3 h1Q **11.Ne2#** ideal mate

A Meredith with clear solution.

S. Osintsev
3HM, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



6+7 BTM win

Beat Neuenschwander
2HM, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



9+9 win

2nd HM – Beat Neuenschwander:

1. S5d6+! (1. Rxc5? Re3+ 2. Kf2 Rxe2+ 3. Kf3 Re3+ =)
1. . . exd6 2. Rf7+ Ke6 3. Sd8+ Kd5 4. c4+! dxc3 e.p. 5. Rd1+ Qd4 (or, 2nd main line, 5. . . Rd4 6. Kf2+ (6. Kg4+? f3+) 6. . . Qe4 7. Rf5#) **6. Rf5+ Re5 7. e4+!** (7. Kg4+? f3+) **7. . . fxe3 e.p. 8. Ke2#** Two en-passant captures prelude mate with two pinned pieces.

L.Kekely & M.Hlinka
1HM, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



8+6 win

1st HM – L.Kekely & M.Hlinka:

1. Rh5+! (1. Be7? Rxf3=)
1... gxf5 2. Be7+ Rg5 3. Kh2 Qc2 4. c7 f6 5. Bxf6!
(5. c8=Q? Qxc8 6. Bxf6 Qc2)
5... h6 (5 ... Qf2 6. Bxg5+ Kxg5 7. c8=Q)
6. c8=R! (6. c8=Q? Qxg2+ 7. Bxg2=, 6. c8=S? Qf2=)
6... Qxc8 7. g3#

The authors introduced an attractive artistic element, stalemate avoidance.

[Solution of 3HM (Osintsev), see p.9]

Prizes

P. Arestov
5Prize, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



5+5 win

5th Prize – P. Arestov:

1. Qd4! Sxd2+ 1...g1Q 2. Qa1+ Kb7 3. Qa7+ Kc6 4. Qc7#.
2. Ka4! Kb7! 3. Bd5+ Ka6
3...Kb8 4. Qh8+ ; 3...Kc8 4. b7+ 4. b7 Qd8!
4...g1=Q 5. b8=S#
5. Bc4+ switchback
5. Qd3+? Ka7
5...Sxc4 5...Kxb7 6. Qxd8 g1=Q 7. Bd5+ Ka7 8. Qc7+ 6. Qxd8 g1=Q Phenix 7. Qa8+! 7. b8Q? Nb6+ = 7...Qa7 8. Kb4! 8. b8Q? Sb6+! 9. Qxb6 Kxb6 = 8... Sb6 9. b8=S#

Checkmate with Knight promotion in a rather long solution is always pleasant.

V. Tarasiuk

Sp.Pr, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



7+7

win

Sp. Prize – V. Tarasiuk:

- 1.f7! Rd5+
(1... Sxf7 2.Rc4+ Kf3 3.Bc6+)
2.Ke2 Bd3+ 3.Kf2 Sxf7
4.Re6+
a) 4... Be5 5. Sg3#
b) 4... Se5 5. Bg6#
c) 4... Re5 5. Bc6#

The study has three final checkmates with pinned knight, bishop and rook.

P. Arestov

4Pr, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



6+5

win

4th Prize – P. Arestov:

- 1.Ra2! [1.Kc5? Qg5+ 2.d5 Qe7+ 3.Kc6 Qxa3 4.Ra8+ Kb4 5.Rb8+ Ka5]
1...Qxd3+ 2.Kd5! [Try: 2.Kc5? Qxd4+! 3.Kxd4 d1Q+ 4.Kc5 Qh5+ 5.Kd4 Qd1+ 6.Ke5 Qh5+ 2...Qxd4+! [2...d1=Q? 3.Sc4#] 3.Ke6! [the point; 3.Kxd4? d1=Q+ see try; 3.Kc6? Qf6+=]
3...Qd5+! [3...Qb6+ 4.Rxb6 Kxb6 5.Nc4+ Kc5 6.Nxd2]
4. Kxd5 d1=Q+ [Phenix]
5. Kc6! [5.Kc5? Qh5+ 6.Kd4 Qd1+=; 5.Ke6? Qg4+=]
5...Qa4+ [5...f1Q 6.Nc4#]
6.Kc5! [6.Kd5? Qd7+=]
6...f1=Q [6...Ka6 7.Rb6+ Ka7 8.Nb5+] 7.Ra8+ Qa6 8.Sc4#
checkmate with pinned Qa4 and Qa6.

V. Hergert

3Pr, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



7+4

win

M. Pasman

2Pr, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



8+6

BTM

win

M. Gromov & O. Pervakov

1Pr, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



10+10

win

Solutions see p.9 and p.10

Solution:

1.....Rd7+! 2.Kc8!

2.Kxd7? Qf5+ 3.Kc7 Ne6+

2...Rc7+! 3.Kxc7 Qh7+

3...Rh7+ 4.Ne7+ hxc2 5.Rxc2 Nd5+ 6.Kc8 Nxe7+ 7.Qxe7

Rxe7 8.Ra2+ Ra7 9.Nb6#

non-thematic mate.

4.Ne7+ hxc2 5.Nb6+ Rxb6!

5...Ka7 6.Nbc8+ Ka6/a8 7.Qxf4+-

6.Qxh7 Nd5+! 7.Nxd5! 7.Kd8? Rb8+=

7...Rb7+ 8.Kc8! Rxh7 8...Rb8+ 9.Kd7+-

9.Rc4!

Bishop's sacrifices on three squares: b2, c3, d4!

9.Rc2? Bb2! 10.Rxb2 Rh8+ =;

9.Rc5? Bc3! 10.Rxc3 Rh8+ =;

9.Rc6? Ka7! 10.Nb4 Ka8! 11.Nd5 Ka7 positional draw

9...Bd4 10.Ra4+ 10.Rxd4? Rh8+ 11.Kc7 Rh7+ 12.Kc8 Rh8+=

10...Ba7 11.Nb6#! Model mate with pin of Bishop.

10...Ra7 11.Nc7#! Model mate with pin of Rook

9...g1Q 10.Ra4+ Qa7 11.Nb6#! Model mate with pin of Queen.



Solution:

1.Kb8!

1.Rd2+? Ke7; 1.Rb7? Sb6+ 2.Rbxb6 Qxg2+ 3.Kb8

Qxg3=; 1.Rf8+? Re8 2.Bf6+ Kd7! 3.Rb7+ Kc6 4.Rxe8

Sd6! 5.Re6 Qxg2 6.Kb8 Qd5 7.Rc7+ Kb6 8.Bd8 Kb5

9.Re1 Ka4! 10.Ra1+ (10.Rb1 Sb5=) 10... Kb3 11.Rb1+

Ka2 12.Rb6 Sb5 13.Rc8 (13.Rc2+ Kb3!) 13... Qd3!

14.Bc7 Qd7! 15.Ra6+ Kb3 16.Bf4 Qxg4=

1...Qxg3 (2... Re8 3.Rd2+ Ke7 4.Kc7) 2.Sf4 Qxg4

(2...Re8 3.Rb7)

3.Rf8+ Re8 4.Bf6+ (4.Rd2+? Sd6) 4... Sf7 5.Rd2+

Qd7 6.Se6#

Solution:

1... Se5+ 2.Kg2
 2.Ke2? Sg3+
2... Qg7+ 3.Qg4 Sxg4 4.Bd3+ Kh6
 4... Kg8 5.Ra8+
5.Ra6+ Sgf6+
 5... Shf6 6.Bxb5
6.Sg6+ Rg5+
 6... Kh7 7.Rxb5
7.Sg4+ Sxg4 8.Se5+ Shf6
 8... Sgf6+ 9.Sg4#
9.Rh1+ Bh5 10.Sxg4#
 Model mate with 3 selfpins and one selfblock



**M. Gromov &
 O. Pervakov**
 1Pr, Garcia MT
 Alba Julia 2025



Solution:

1.Qb8+
 1.0-0? g5 2.Nxe6+ Qxe6 3.Qxa2 g4 4.Ba3 Qxd7=
1...Nd8 2.Bb2!
 Logical try-1: 2.Qxd8+? Bxd8 3.Ba3+ Qe7+! 4.Ne6+ Bxe6 5.0-0+ Bf7 6.Ng5 Bb6+ 7.d4 Bxd4+ 8.Rf2 Bxf2= [8.Kh2 Rh8+ 9.Kg3 Qxa3+! with check]
2...c3
 2...Qd6 3.Ng6+ Bxg6 4.Rf1+! Bf7 5.Ng5 Rh8 (5...Qxd7 6.Rxf7+ Ke8 7.Ba3! Bxa3 8.Rxd7 Kxd7 9.Qb5+) 6.Rxf7+ Kg8 7.Rxg7+ Kf8 8.Qxd6 Bxd6 9.Bf6 Nb4 10.Nh7+ Rxh7 11.Rxh7; 2...Bd6 3.Bxf6 Bxb8 4.Bxd8

3.Qxd8+ Bxd8 4.Ba3+ Nb4

4...Qe7+ 5.Ne6+ Bxe6 6.0-0+! Bf7 7.Ng5! (7.Nf4? Bb6+=) 7...Bb6+ 8.d4 Bxd4+ (8...Qxa3 9.Rxf7#) 9.Kh2 Rh8+ 10.Kg3 Be5+ 11.Kg4 Kg8 12.Bxe7 Bh5+ 13.Kf5+-.

5.Bxb4+ Qe7+ 6.Ne6+

6.Bxe7+? Kxe7 7.dxc3 Kxd7=.

6...Bxe6 7.0-0+! Bf7 8.Nf4!

Logical try-2: 8.Ng5? Bb6+! 9.d4 Bxd4+ 10.Kh2 Rh8+ 11.Kg3 Be5+ 12.Kg4 Qxb4+!-+ with check.

8...Bb6+ 9.d4 g5

Main 9...Qxb4 10.Ng6#! Model mate with one pin; 9...Bxd4+ 10.Kh2 Rh8+ 11.Kg3 Kg8

12.Bxe7 Bb6 13.dxc3

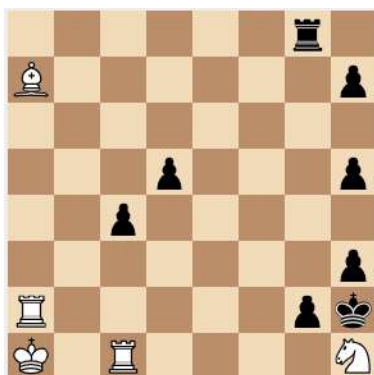
10.Ne6# Model mate with two pins. Change solution and try — Nf4/Ng5

Moremovers

2 moremovers out of 4 are classified:

Oto Mihalčo

Prize, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



5+8

#7

Ralf Krätschmer

HM, Garcia MT
Alba Julia 2025



10+10

#5

HM – Ralf Krätschmer:

1.Sg8-f6 ? threat: 2.Sf6-e8 # but
1...Be2-h5 !

1.Sg8-e7 ? threat: 2.Se7xf5 #

1...Rc5-c6 2.Se7xf5 + Kd6-d5

3.Ra3-a5 + Qd3-b5 4.Ra2-d2 + Bd3

5.c3-c4 #

but 1...Be2-g4 !

1.Sg8-h6 ! threat: 2.Sh6xf5 # &

2.Sh6-f7 #

1...Rc5-c6 2.Se7xf5 + Kd6-d5

3.Ra3-a5 + Qd3-b5 4.Ra2-d2 + Bd3

5.c3-c4#

Prize – Oto Mihalčo:

Not 1.Bc5 ? Rg6!, 1.Bd4 ? Rg3!

1.Bb6! h4

(1. ...Rg7 2.Bg1+ Kxh1 3.Ra3 c3 4.Rxc3 h2 5.Rh3 Ra7+
6.Bxa7+ g1=Q 7.Rxg1# Ph2 pinned)

**2.Bc7+ Rg3 3.Sf2! h5 4.Rac2 c3 5.Sd3! D4 6.Se5 and
7.Sf3#**

4.....d4 5.Se4! d3 4 6.Sg5 and 7.Sf3#

Rg3 is pinned this time. The solution is enriched with two
tries.

Conclusion

For the three studies which earned 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize, I appreciate the precise and long try beginning with 1.Rf8+ (Hergert), the checkmate with 3x pinned units (Pasman) and the try O-O and precise play (Gromov & Pervakov).

The tourney was a success and I'm sure that the participants had great satisfaction generating these exceptional works. The results remain final three months after publication.

Must say that the same theme was required at the 3rd WCCT (1984-1988) (I was not aware of it) There, two famous Romanian composers – V. Nestorescu and P. Joitsa - earned the twelfth place, see P1389774 on PDB.

Editorial

*Apparently, the **WCCC of Alba Iulia** was a success. But the organizers, in this case Costachi family, Senior and Junior, made an unfortunate decision out of stupidity or frustration: they asked the Romanian players for a participation fee. Including the 16-year-old Stefan Harnagea. For this, the Costachi family remains in my disgrace.*

Some photos added:



Here is the guest room where Cotizo, my friend from Alba, offered me a breakfast on the first day of the Congress. It is also Cotizo who multiplied the brochures offered as prizes at Murfatlar TT and Garcia MT.

Champagne Tourney Alba Iulia 2025

The Tourney is opened worldwide.

It is divided in 2 sections (with separate awards) :

A . ProofGames B. Any other kind of Retro problems

Starting from this edition, the Director and the Judge are

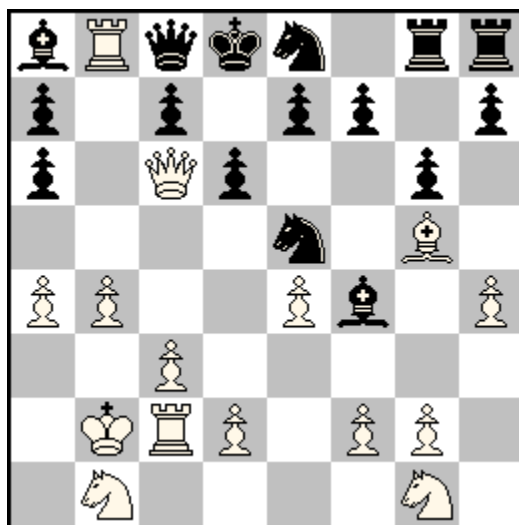
exchanging the fonctions they had in previous years.

This gave the idea for the 2025 theme :

Exchange of places of two pieces.

Example for Section A :

Éric PICHOURON, Michel CAILLAUD, Nicolas DUPONT
2° Prix, Probleemblad 2021-22



SPG 19,0

(15+16) C+

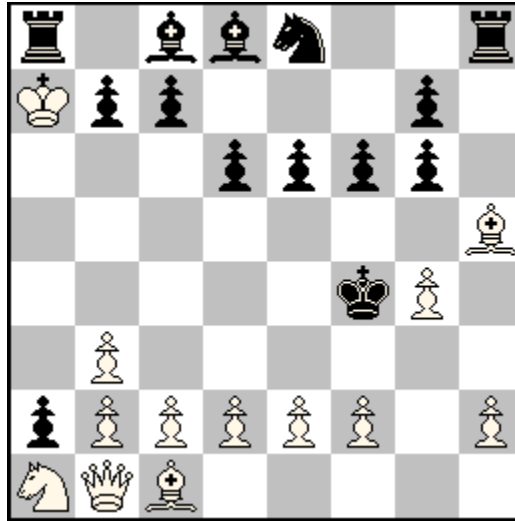
bRqks1rr/p1p1pp1p/p1Qp2p1/4s1B1/PP2Pb1P/2P5/1KRP1PP1/1S4S1

1.é4 Cç6 2.Fa6 b×a6 3.h4 Fb7 4.Th3 **Tç8** 5.Tb3 **Fa8**
6.Tb8 d6 7.b4 Dd7 8.Fb2 **Td8** 9.Ff6 **Dç8** 10.ç3 Rd7
11.Da4 **Té8** 12.Rd1 **Rd8** 13.Rç1 Cé5 14.Dç6 g6 15.a4 Fh6
16.Ta2 Ff4 17.Fg5 Cf6 18.Tç2 **Tég8** 19.Rb2 **Cé8**

Exchanges of places bRa8-bBç8, bRç8-bQd8, bRd8-bKé8, bRé8-bSg8

Example for Section B :

Thomas VOLET, dedicated to Mannis CHAROSH
2° Rec., The Problemist 1979-80



Origin of bRa8 and bRh8 ? (13+14)

r1bbs2r/Kpp3p1/3pppp1/7B/5kP1/1P6/pPPPPP1P/SQB5

Last moves : -1.Rb8×Sa8+ Sb6-a8

Letting white King out of north cage requires driving bRb8 past f8, bBd8 to f8 and retracting e7-é6; then wK can escape through é6. Rh8-h6 and h7×Rg6 also have to be retracted for letting a bR back to a8. Black Rooks cannot exchange place in the corridor a8-d8-d7-f7-f8-h8-h6. bRa8 and bRh8 have exchanged their places from Initial Game Array!

Fairy conditions are allowed in both sections.
(fairy pieces allowed only when integrated in a fairy condition,
such as Chinese Chess, Berolina Chess, Knightmate...)

Maximum 2 entries per composer per section (collaboration counts for 1 full entry).

Maximum 1 non computer tested entry per composer in section A

Entries to the director Michel Caillaud, by Monday 7th July 20:00 PM

e-mail : caillaud1957@gmail.com

who will transmit problems to the judge Éric Pichouron in anonymous form.

Prizes in each section :

subscription (pdf) to Phénix 2025 for the first place,

Winchloé light for the second place

Thanks to Laurent Riguet and Christian Poisson for providing the Prizes!

Phénix, created by Denis Blondel, now edited by Laurent, is the french problem magazine, with retro section run by Thierry Le Gleuher, and regularly published retro articles.

<http://www.phenix-echeecs.fr/>

also on Facebook...

Winchloé light, developped by Christian, is a problem database, updated every month (now 963386 problems and studies).

The most complete database for Proofgames (now 9670 of them).

<http://winchloe.free.fr/>

CHAMPAGNE 2025

directeur : Michel Caillaud
juge : Éric Pichouron

Pour cette édition Champagne 2025, le choix du thème n'a pas été très original. Les échanges de pièces ont déjà été souvent travaillés, mais avec Michel on trouvait que le thème s'accordait bien au changement de fonction directeur/juge par rapport à l'édition précédente.

J'ai pu ainsi me rendre compte de la difficulté de juger un tel concours dans un délai aussi court. Résoudre le plus de problèmes possible, établir un classement et rédiger le jugement n'est pas une mince affaire. Bravo à Michel pour avoir réalisé cette tâche avec brio lors des éditions précédentes.

Le plaisir éprouvé lors de la recherche de la solution a eu une part importante dans mon jugement, peut-être plus que les contenus thématiques, j'espère que les auteurs comprendront cette approche.

Dans ce contexte, j'ai décidé de garder tous les problèmes.

Merci à Michel pour m'avoir fait confiance, à Laurent Riguet et Christian Poisson, sponsors de ce concours, et à tous les auteurs

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SECTION A

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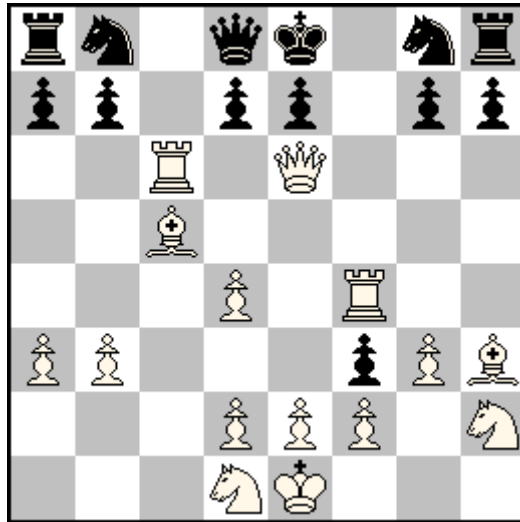
J'ai pu résoudre quasiment tous les problèmes, sauf les A19 et A22 que je réservais pour la fin, mais j'ai finalement manqué de temps, et j'ai buté sur le a/ du A9. Je pensais que chercher les problèmes légitimait le jugement, mais c'est aussi une source d'une plus grande subjectivité et de plus de doute dans le classement final. J'ai souvent modifié l'ordre des problèmes en les solutionnant puis en les rejouant plusieurs fois

Michel m'a fait part de certaines anticipations, plus ou moins marquées, mais le thème choisi encourageait un peu cela. Je n'ai pas éliminé ces problèmes

1er prix

A2 - Joost Michielsens (Netherlands)

rs1qk1sr/pp1pp1pp/2R1Q3/2B5/3P1R2/PP3pPB/3PPP1S/3SK3
PG 21.0 (15+13) C+



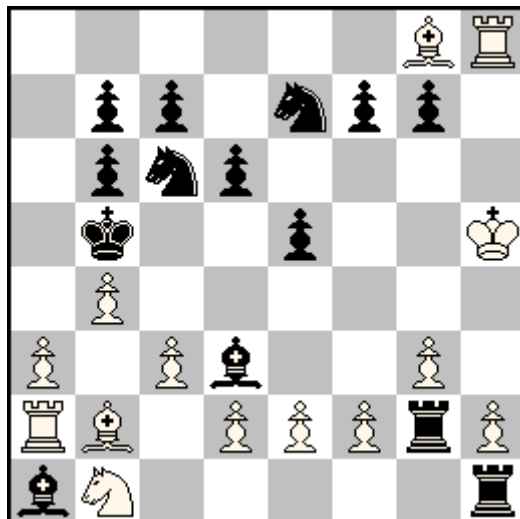
1.c3 c5 2.Qb3 Qb6 3.Qe6 c4 4.b3 Qd4 5.cxd4 c3 6.Ba3 c2 7.Sc3 c1=Q+ 8.Sd1 Qc7 9.Rc1 Qd8
10.Rxc8 f5 11.Rc6 Qc7 12.Sf3 Qxh2 13.g3 Qh5 14.Rh4 f4 15.Sh2 f3 16.Rf4 Kd8 17.Rxf8+ Qe8
18.Rf4 Qh5 19.Bh3 Qa5 20.Bc5 Ke8 21.a3 Qd8

Première réalisation du thème Lois incluant une pièce Pronkin, ici une Dame Pronkin et le roi. Un contenu riche et original, et un problème plaisant à résoudre

2ème prix

A22 - Rustam Ubaidullaev (Russia)

6BR/1pp1spp1/1psp4/1k2p2K/1P6/P1Pb2P1/RB1PPPrP/bS5r
PG 29.0 (14+14)



1.c3 e5 2.Qb3 Ba3 3.Qb6 axb6 4.b4 Bb2 5.g3 Ra3 6.Bh3 Rb3 7.Kf1 Ba3 8.Kg2 Rb2 9.Kf3 Rc2
10.Bb2 Rc1 11.Kg4 Rxc1 12.Kh5 Rg2 13.Rc1 d6 14.Rc2 Bf5 15.Bc1 Kd7 16.Rb2 Kc6 17.Rb3 Bb2
18.Ra3 Kb5 19.Ra8 Sc6 20.Rxd8 Sge7 21.Rd7 Ra8 22.Rd8 Ra3 23.Rh8 Rb3 24.a3 Bd3 25.Ra2 Ba1
26.Bf5 Rb2 27.Bxh7 Rc2 28.Bb2 Rc1 29.Bg8 Rh1

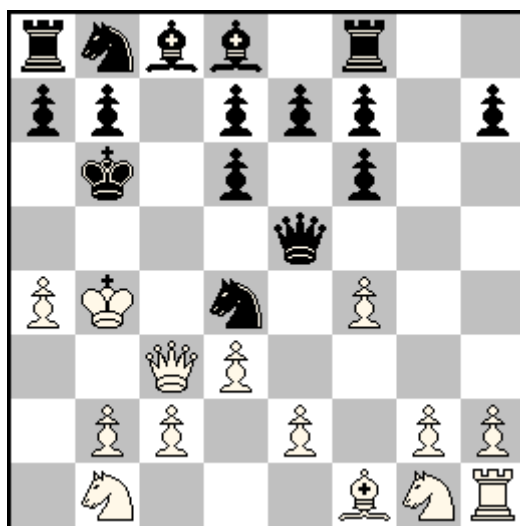
Un problème long et difficile à résoudre. De nos jours un cas rare de partie non C+. Je n'ai pas trouvé de démolitions.

L'échange des tours h1 et h8, implique de passer par un trou de souris, ce qui nécessite de nombreux échanges de place entre les Tours et les Fous sur a3/b2/c1, ainsi que des échanges de place entre les tours sur le chemin

3ème prix

A13 - Jorge Lois - Roberto Osorio (Argentina)

rsbb1r2/pp1ppp1p/1k1p1p2/4q3/PK1s1P2/2QP4/1PP1P1PP/1S3BSR
PG 16.5 (14+16) C+



1.a4 Sh6 2.Ra3 Sf5 3.Rf3 Sd4 4.Rf6 gxf6 5.d3 Bh6 6.Bf4 Rf8 7.Bd6 cxd6 8.Qd2 Qa5 9.Kd1 Qe5
10.Qe1 Bd2 11.f4 Ba5 12.Qb4 Kd8 13.Kd2 Kc7 14.Kc3 Kc6 15.Kc4 Bd8 16.Qc3 Kb6 17.Kb4

Un doublé échange R/D, une 1ère fois sur leur case d'origine, une seconde fois sur les cases c3/b4.

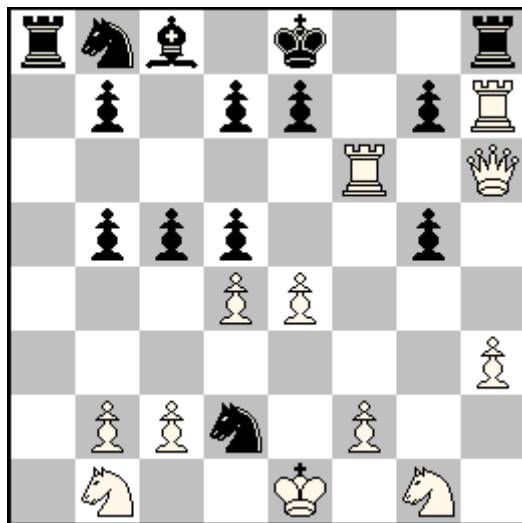
Même si cette combinaison me semble peut-être plus facile à réaliser qu'un double échange pour revenir sur les cases initiales, l'originalité et le plaisir de la résolution ont motivé le classement de ce problème.

4ème prix

A17 - Joost Michielsen (Netherlands)

rsb1k2r/1p1pp1pR/5R1Q/1ppp2p1/3PP3/7P/1PPs1P2/1S2K1S1

PG 23.5 (12+14) C+

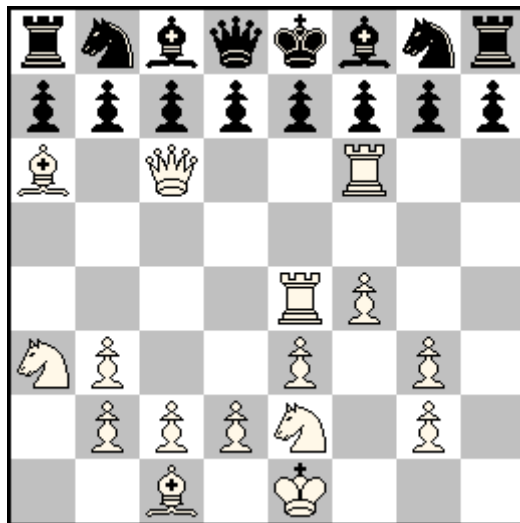


1.d4 h6 2.Bg5 hxg5 3.a4 Rh3 4.a5 Ra3 5.h4 Sf6 6.h5 Se4 7.h6 Sd2 8.e4 a6 9.Bb5 axb5 10.h7 Ra6
11.h8=R Rh6 12.a6 c5 13.a7 Qb6 14.a8=S Kd8 15.Sc7 Ra8 16.Ra6 Qg6 17.Re6 fxe6 18.Rxf8+ Qe8
19.Rf6 Rh8 20.Rh7 Qh5 21.Sd5 Qh3 22.Qh5 exd5 23.Qh6 Ke8 24.gxh3

Un très bon problème et une énigme difficile à résoudre pour le solutionniste, car si l'échange des tours se "devine" assez vite pour permettre aux pions blancs d'aller à promotion, l'échange roi/dame est bien caché par le switchback du roi noir et la capture de la dame en h3.

1ère mention d'honneur
A15 - Mario Parrinello (Italy)

rsbqkbsr/pppppppp/B1Q2R2/8/4RP2/SP2P1P1/1PPPS1P1/2B1K3
PG 12.0 Circé Echange (16+16)

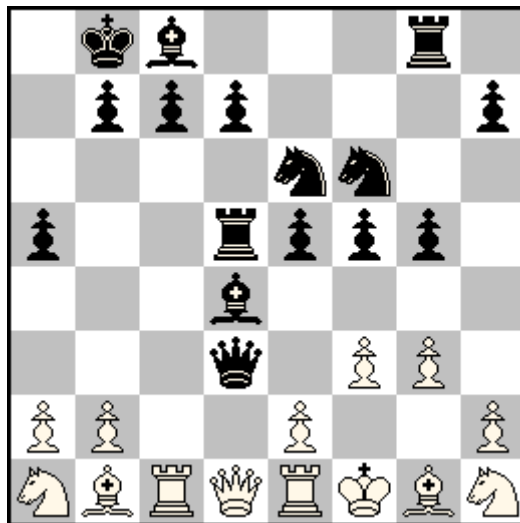


1.e3 Sa6 2.Bxa6 [+bSf1] Sg3 3.hxg3 [+bSh2] Sg4 4.Rh6 S8xh6 [+wRg8] 5.f4 Sf5 6.Qf3 Sd4 7.Se2 Sb3 8.axb3 [+bSa2] Sb4 9.Ra4 Sc6 10.Sa3 Sb8 11.Qc6 Sf6 12.Re4 Sxg8 [+wRf6]

Un problème C-, j'ai donc longtemps cherché une démolition, et certains essais échouaient de très peu. Je suis finalement tombé sur la solution en resserrant les boulons. Les blancs ont besoin d'aide pour 1 seul coup de trop au diagramme. Et j'ai trouvé très spirituel que les cavaliers échangent leur place, mais aussi leur fonction autour de la tour h1. Le cavalier g8 emprisonne cette tour en sortant, le cavalier b8 la libère en rentrant.

2ème mention d'honneur A19 - Per Olin (Finland)

1kb3r1/1ppp3p/4ss2/p2rppp1/3b4/3q1PP1/PP2P2P/SBRQRKBS
PG 15.5 Chess960 (14+16) C+



position de départ :

rkbnnrqb/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RKBNNRQB

1.g3 a5 2.Be4 Ra6 3.f3 Rc6 4.Sf2 Rxc2 5.Sh1 Rxd2 6.Sc2 Rd5 7.Qd4 g5 8.Be3 Qg6 9.O-O Rg8
10.Qd1 Bd4 11.Rc1 e5 12.Sa1 Se6 13.Bb1 Qd3 14.Re1 f5 15.Kf1 Sf6 16.Bg1

Un problème qui requiert une analyse de la position finale pour trouver la position initiale, un peu à la frontière de la section B

Chess960 implique

- des tours de part et d'autre du roi
- des fous de couleurs opposées
- la même position pour chaque camp

Sans même capturer les pions blancs c et d, les noirs ont besoin d'au minimum 12 coups pour parvenir à la position, on a donc Ra8, Kb8 et Bc8.

En essayant de placer les cavaliers au plus "court" possible, on obtient Sd8 et Se8, ce qui permet aux blancs de placer leurs cavaliers en 4 coups, et les blancs ont besoin de 16 coups pour atteindre la position. Leurs pions manquants sont capturés sur place.

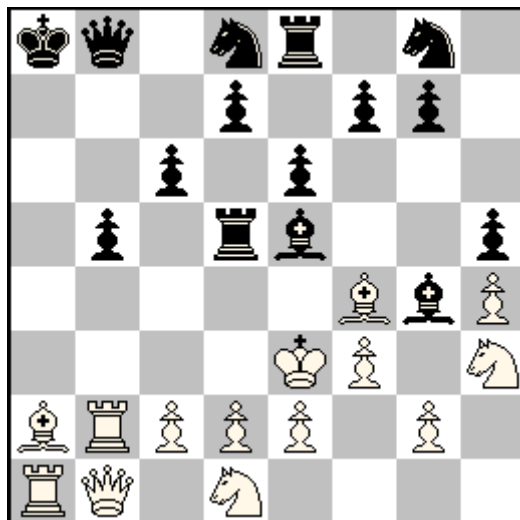
En tatonnant un peu on retrouve l'emplacement des pièces restantes au départ (Rf8, Qg8 et Bh8)

En dehors de cette première analyse plaisante, la solution montre un échange cyclique de pièce sur la première rangée

Ra1 remplacé par Se1, Se1->Rf1, Rf1->Kb1, Kb1->Bh1, Bh1->Sd1, Sd1->Qg1, Qg1->Bc1 et Bc1->Ra1

3ème mention d'honneur
A12 - Jorge Lois (Argentina)

kq1sr1s1/3p1pp1/2p1p3/1p1rb2p/5BbP/4KP1S/BRPPP1P1/RQ1S4
PG 24.5 (14+15) C+

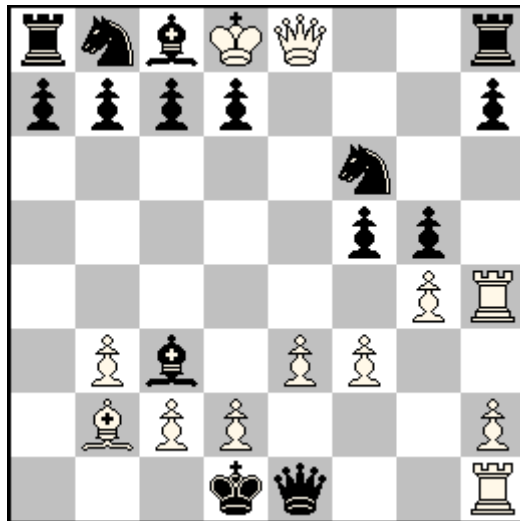


1.b4 h5 2.b5 Rh6 3.b6 Rd6 4.bxa7 b5 5.a4 Bb7 6.a5 Bf3 7.a6 Bg4 8.f3 e6 9.Kf2 Qh4+ 10.Ke3 Qe1
11.h4 Sc6 12.Sh3 O-O-O 13.a8=B Re8 14.a7 Sd8 15.Bd5 c6 16.a8=R+ Kb7 17.R8a2 Qxf1 18.Ba3
Qxh1 19.Rb2 Qh2 20.Ba2 Rd5 21.Sc3 Qb8 22.Bd6 Ka8 23.Bf4 Bd6 24.Qb1 Be5 25.Sd1

Outre les 3 échanges visibles au diagramme, l'auteur échange les places des pions a2 et b2 après promotion. Dommage que l'on voit bien que le fou a2 est promu, l'indice met trop sur la voie, mais le problème reste plaisant à résoudre.

4ème mention d'honneur
A8 - Ofer Comay (Israel)

rsbKQ2r/pppp3p/5s2/5pp1/6PR/1Pb1PP2/1BPP3P/3kq2R
PG 18.0 (12+15) C+



1.e3 g5 2.Ke2 Bg7 3.Kf3 Bc3 4.Kg4 f5+ 5.Kh5 Sf6+ 6.Kh6 Kf7 7.Qh5+ Ke6 8.Kg7 Ke5 9.Kf7
Qg8+ 10.Kxe7 Qxa2 11.b3 Qxb1 12.Bb2 Qxf1 13.Ra4 Qxg1 14.Rh4 Qe1 15.g4 Ke4 16.Qe8 Kf3
17.Kd8 Ke2 18.f3 Kd1

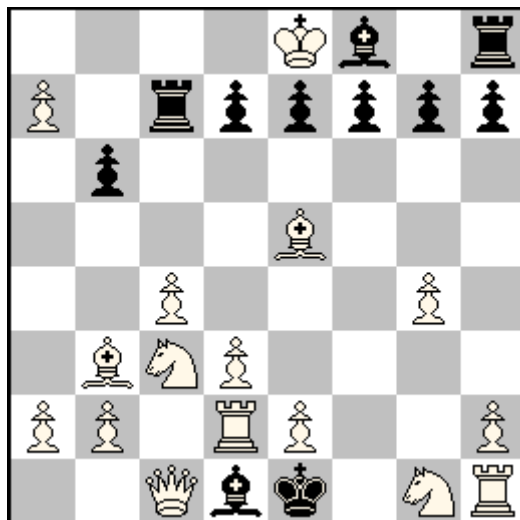
Un problème qui m'a fait perdre quelques cheveux, car j'ai mis du temps à voir que le roi capturait le pion e sur sa case d'origine. En dehors de ce détail, je connaissais l'échange dame pour dame et roi pour roi, ici, ça m'a semblé nouveau, l'échange est roi pour dame de chaque côté.

5ème mention d'honneur

A21 - Rustam Ubaidullaev (Russia)

4Kb1r/P1rppppp/1p6/4B3/2P3P1/1BSP4/PP1RP2P/2Qbk1SR

PG 26.0 (16+11) C+



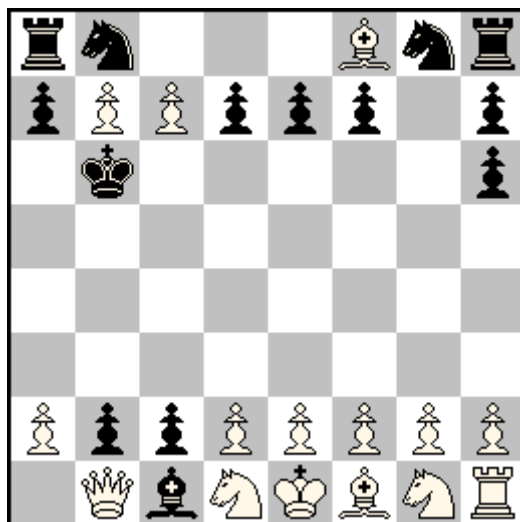
1.g4 Sh6 2.Bg2 Sf5 3.Bd5 Se3 4.fxe3 Sc6 5.Kf2 Sd4 6.exd4 c5 7.dxc5 Qb6 8.cxb6 Kd8 9.bxa7 Kc7 10.Ke3 Kb6 11.Kd4 Ka5 12.Kc5 Ka4 13.Kb6 Kb4 14.Kc7 b6 15.Bb3 Bb7 16.c4 Be4 17.Sc3 Bc2 18.d3 Kc5 19.Bf4 Kd4 20.Be5+ Ke3 21.Qd2+ Kf2 22.Rd1 Rb8 23.Qc1 Rb7+ 24.Kd8 Rc7 25.Rd2 Bd1 26.Ke8 Ke1

Un problème difficile à juger. Visuellement, il n'y a que l'échange des rois. 26 coups pour obtenir "juste" ça m'ont paru un peu long, d'autant que le problème en lui-même n'est pas très énigmatique pour le solutionniste. Puis j'ai réalisé qu'il y avait des échanges de place des rois, en cours de solution, par exemple f2/d8, f2/c7, etc.

Au départ cependant, ces échanges me paraissaient plus être la conséquence : il fallait qu'ils existent pour obtenir l'échange final. Mais en rejouant la partie, plusieurs fois (pour lister tous les échanges), j'ai bien apprécié l'attente du roi blanc, une 1ère fois sur f2, et ensuite sur c7, pour permettre à son homologue de d'atteindre les cases conjuguées dans les temps et "valider" le thème plusieurs fois.

6ème mention d'honneur A20 - Per Olin (Finland)

rs3Bsr/pPPppp1p/1k5p/8/8/PppPPPPP/1QbSKBSR
PG 18.5 (15+14) C+

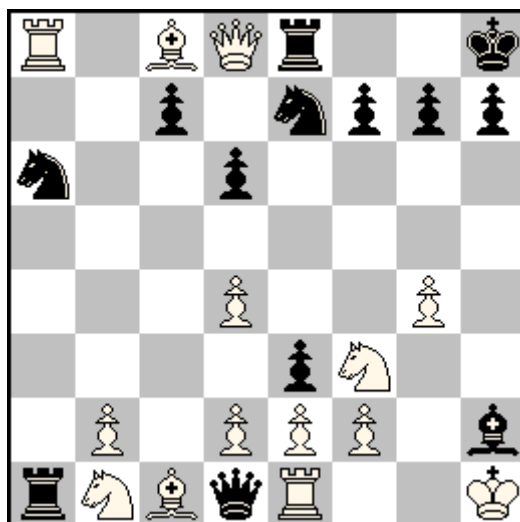


1.c4 b5 2.c5 Bb7 3.c6 Qc8 4.cxb7 c5 5.b4 c4 6.Ba3 Qc5 7.bxc5 c3 8.c6 c2 9.Sc3 Kd8 10.Rb1 Kc7
11.Rb4 Kb6 12.Rh4 b4 13.Rh6 gxh6 14.Qb1 Bg7 15.Sd1 Bb2 16.c7 Bc1 17.Bb2 b3 18.Bg7 b2
19.Bf8

L'échange des deux paires de pion prend du temps et nécessite une belle mécanique pour le justifier. Les autres échanges, plus anecdotiques, enrichissent le problème.

7ème mention d'honneur A14 - Igor Vereshchagin (Russia) (dedicated to Rustam Ubaidullaev)

R1BQr2k/2p1sppp/s2p4/8/3P2P1/4pS2/1P1PPP1b/rSBqR2K
PG 17.5 (14+13) C+



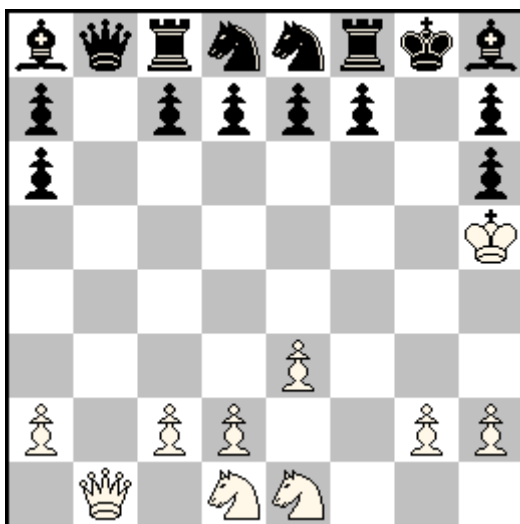
1.g4 e5 2.Bg2 Bd6 3.Bxb7 e4 4.Sf3 e3 5.O-O Bxh2+ 6.Kh1 d6 7.Re1 Bf5 8.Bc8 Bd3 9.cxd3 Se7
 10.d4 O-O 11.Qa4 Kh8 12.Qe8 Qd7 13.a4 Qxa4 14.Qd8 Qd1 15.Rxa7 Re8 16.Rb7 Ra1 17.Ra7 Sa6
 18.Ra8

Un problème plaisant avec des échanges symétriques donnant une position finale jolie. On peut juste regretter l'absence d'un fou noir en f1 (ou la présence du fou c8). En plus de cela, comme pour le problème précédent, un échange a eu lieu sur le chemin. Je laisse le soin aux solutionnistes de le trouver.

1er recommandé

A6 - Alexandre Leroux (Canada)

bqrssrkb/p1pppp1p/p6p/7K/8/4P3/P1PP2PP/1Q1SS3
 PG 17.0 (10+16) C+

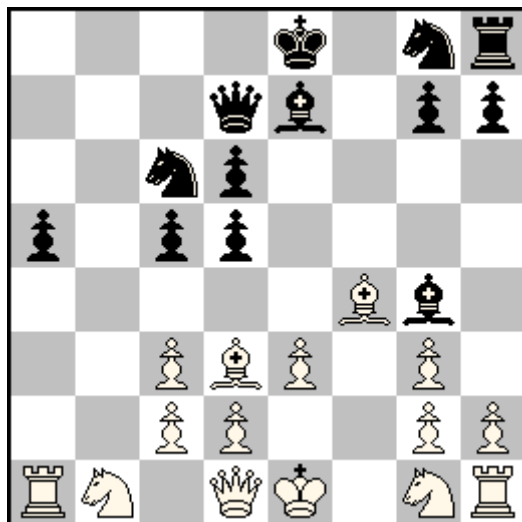


1.e3 Sc6 2.Ba6 bxa6 3.Sf3 Bb7 4.O-O Qb8 5.Se1 Sd8 6.f3 Bxf3 7.Kf2 Qxb2 8.Kg3 Rc8 9.Kh4 Ba8
 10.Rf6 Qb8 11.Rh6 gxh6 12.Bb2 Bg7 13.Bf6 Sxf6 14.Sc3 O-O 15.Qb1 Se8 16.Sd1 Bxa1 17.Kh5
 Bh8

Une très belle position noire. Je regrette que le roi blanc soit en h5 au lieu de g1 casse l'harmonie

2ème recommandé A4v2 - Ofer Comay (Israel)

4k1sr/3qb1pp/2sp4/p1pp4/5Bb1/2PBP1P1/2PP2PP/RS1QK1SR
PG 18.5 (15+13) C+

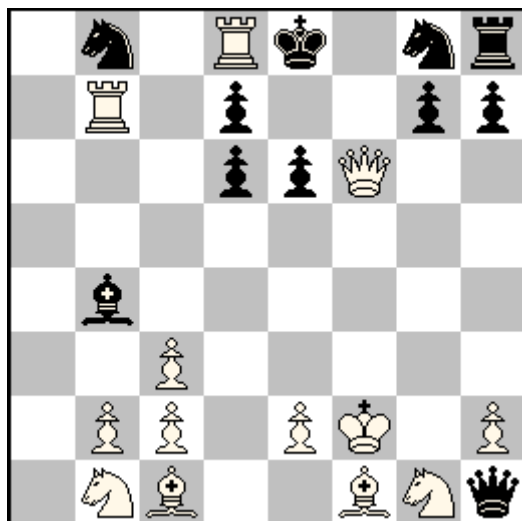


1.a4 f5 2.a5 f4 3.a6 f3 4.axb7 a5 5.e3 Ra6 6.Bd3 Rg6 7.Qe2 Rg3 8.fxg3 f2+ 9.Kd1 f1=Q+ 10.Qe1 Qf6 11.Qe2 Qc3 12.bxc3 d5 13.Ba3 Bg4 14.Bd6 c5 15.Bf4 Sc6 16.b8=B Qd7 17.Bbd6 exd6 18.Ke1 Be7 19.Qd1

Le thème Lois sur le couple royal blanc. J'ai eu une impression de déjà-vu.

3ème recommandé A7v1 - Alexandre Leroux (Canada)

1s1Rk1sr/1R1p2pp/3ppQ2/8/1b6/2P5/1PP1PK1P/1SB2BSq
PG 16.5 (13+11) C+



1.a4 f5 2.a5 f4 3.a6 f3 4.axb7 fxg2 5.f4 e6 6.f5 Bb4 7.f6 Qe7 8.f7+ Kd8 9.f8=Q+ Qe8 10.Qf6+ Qe7 11.Rxa7 Ke8 12.bxc8=R+ Qd8 13.Rb7 Ra3 14.Kf2 Rc3 15.dxc3 gxh1=Q 16.Qd6 cxd6 17.Rxd8#

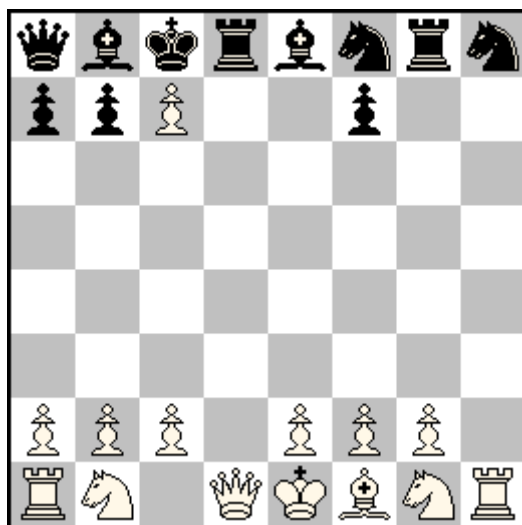
Une impression de déjà-vu disais-je ?

Ce problème est arrivé quasiment en même temps que le précédent, et ça a sans doute émoussé mon enthousiasme. Visuellement, on a l'impression que la tour h1 et la dame d8 ont échangé leur place. Un tour de passe-passe assez drôle pour "effacer" les pièces de promotion qui restaient encore au diagramme

4ème recommandé

A10 - Andy Ooms (Belgium)

qbkrbsrs/ppP2p2/8/8/8/8/PPP1PPP1/RS1QKBSR
PG 15.0 (14+11) C+



1.d4 c5 2.Bg5 Qc7 3.Bxe7 Sxe7 4.dxc5 Sg6 5.Qxd7+ Sxd7 6.h4 Bd6 7.h5 Sdf8 8.h6 Bd7 9.hxg7 O-O 10.g8=Q Qb8 11.Qxh7 Rg8 12.c6 Sh8 13.Qd3 Qa8 14.Qd1 Bb8 15.c7 Be8

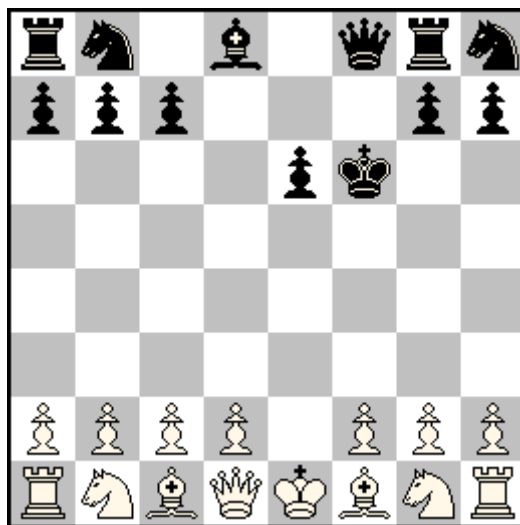
4 échanges sur la 8ème et un Pronkin pour agrémenter le tout

5ème recommandé

A23 - Andrii Sergiienko (Ukraine)

rs1b1qrs/ppp3pp/4pk2/8/8/PPPP1PPP/RSBQKBSR

PG 10.5 (15+13) C+



1.e3 Sh6 2.Bc4 Rg8 3.Bxf7+ Sxf7 4.e4 Sh8 5.e5 Kf7 6.e6+ Kf6 7.exd7 e6 8.dxc8=B Be7 9.Bd7 Qf8 10.Bb5 Bd8 11.Bf1

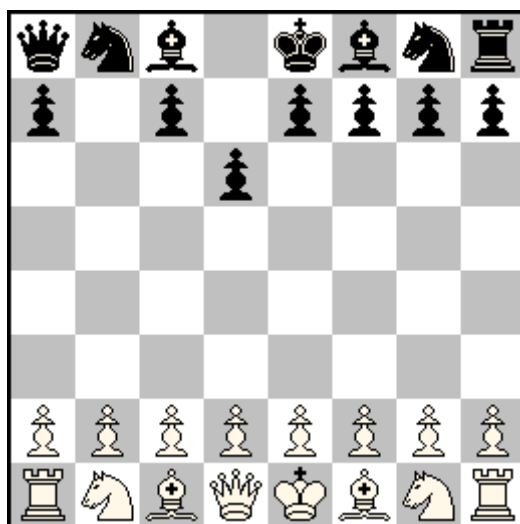
*2 échanges, un tempo du pion e, et un fou Pronkin
Une belle énigme pour un concours de solution*

6ème recommandé

A16 - Paul Raican (Romania)

qsb1kbsr/p1p1pppp/3p4/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RSBQKBSR

PG 5.0 AntiCircé & FaceToFace (16+14) C+



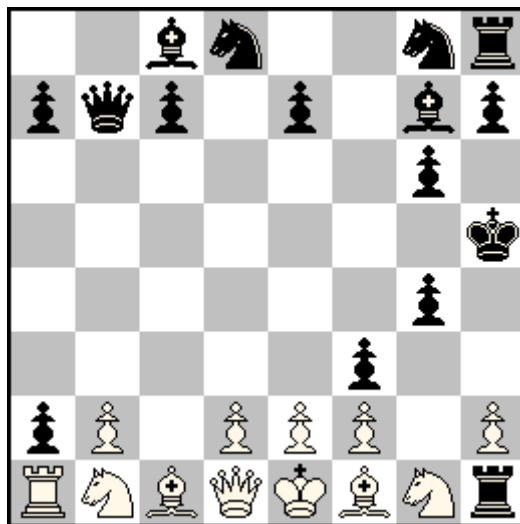
1.Sf3 d5 2.Sd4 dc3 3.Sxc3 [wSc3->g1] Qd5 4.Sb6 bd6 5.Sxa8 [wSa8->b1] Qa8

Une chouette amusette, la condition AntiCircé permet sans doute un échange de cavalier plus rapide encore, mais le mix avec le FaceToFace ajoute une part de mystère. Là aussi une énigme sympa pour le solutionniste

7ème recommandé

A5 - Allan Bell (Ireland)

2bs2sr/pqp1p1bp/6p1/7k/6p1/5p2/pP1PPP1P/RSBQKBSr
PG 12.5 Masand (12+16) C?



1.g4 f5 2.Bg2 Kf7 3.Bd5 [b7=w][h1,a2=b]+ Kg6 4.bxc8=B f4 5.Bxa8 Sc6 6.Bxd7 Qb8 7.Bb7 Sd8
8.Bbc8 Qb7 9.Bf5 [c2,g4,c8=b]+ Kh5 10.Bxc2 g6 11.Be4 Bg7 12.Bg2 f3 13.Bf1

Un bon problème. Le Masand est toujours énigmatique, et c'est difficile de déterminer la couleur d'origine des pièces. Ici, le Fc8 est le Ff1 à l'origine, et le Ff1 est le pion b7, passé par promotion en c8. L'échange de place est validé, j'ai bien aimé là aussi l'échange de fonction lors du changement de couleur.

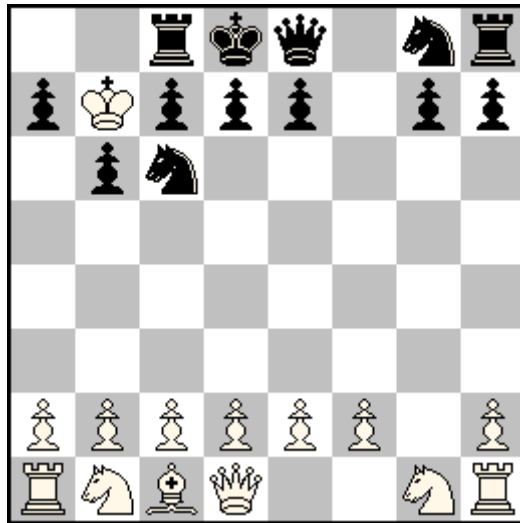
Échange aussi sur les cases b8/d8

8ème recommandé

A18 - Paul Raican (Romania)

2rkq1sr/pKppp1pp/1ps5/8/8/PPPPPP1P/RSBQ2SR

PG 11.0 AllIn & kk (14+13) C+



1.b6 Bb7 2.Bxg2 Bxf1 3.Kxf1 Kg2 4.Kf3 Ke4 5.Kd5 Kc6++ 6.Kb7 Sc6 7.Rc8 Kb8 [Kb8<->Ke8]+
8.Kxf7 Kxf8+ 9.Kf7 Qf8 [Kf7<->Kb8]++ 10.Kb7 Ke8 11.Kd8 Qe8

Un nouveau mix de condition surprenant qui permet un double échange de rois, même si celui-ci est induit par les conditions utilisées, ainsi qu'un échange roi/dame

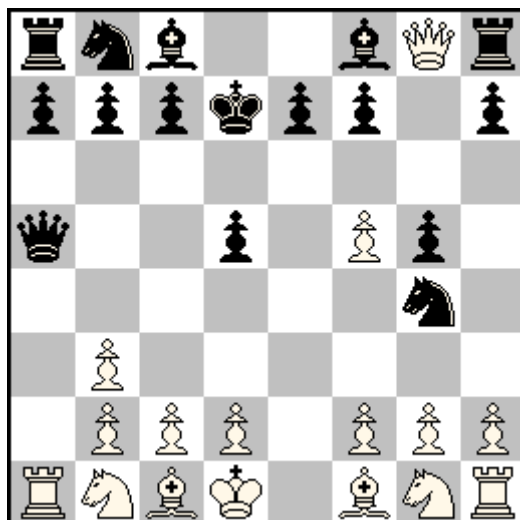
9ème recommandé

A9 - Kostas Prentos (Greece)

Circé Parrain C+

a/ rsb2bQr/pppkpp1p/8/q2p1Pp1/6s1/1P6/1PPP1PPP/RSBK1BSR

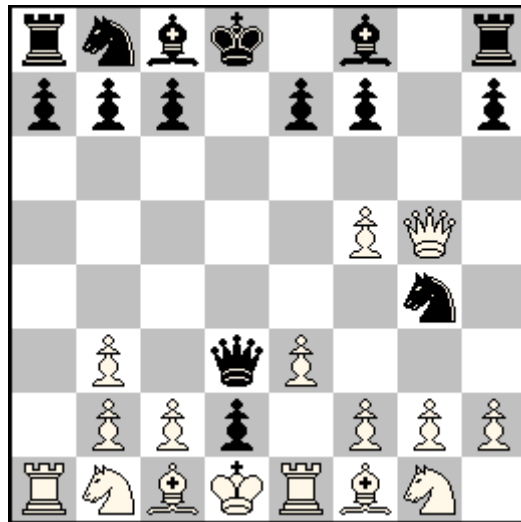
PG 7.0



1.e4 d5 2.Qg4 Bf5 3.Qxg7 Qd6 [+bPg5] 4.Kd1 Kd7 5.Qxf8 Qa6 [+bBc8] 6.Qxg8 Qxa2 [+bSg4] 7.exf5 [+wPb3] Qa5 [+bBf8]

b/ rsbk1b1r/ppp1pp1p/8/5PQ1/6s1/1P1qP3/1PPp1PPP/RSBKRBS1

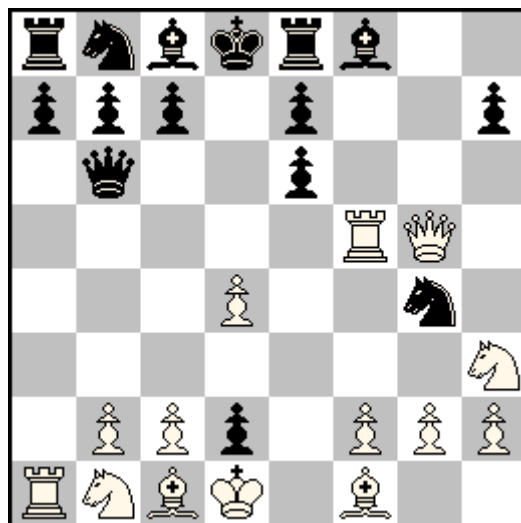
a/ -> b/ en 5.5



8.Bc4 Qxd2+ 9.Bxd2 [+wPe3] Kd8 [+bQd3] 10.Se2 dxc4 11.Qxg5 [+wBc1] c3 12.Re1 cxd2 13.Sg1 [+wBf1]

c/ rsbkrb2/ppp1p2p/1q2p3/5RQ1/3P2s1/7S/1PPp1PPP/RSBK1B2

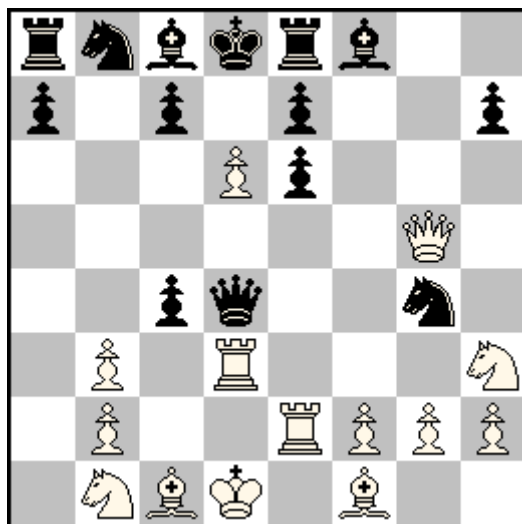
b/ -> c/ en 5.5



13.--- Bxf5 14.Sh3 [+wPg7] Qxe3 15.gxf8=S [+wPd4] Qxb3 [+bBc8] 16.Se6+ fxe6 17.Re5 Re8 18.Rxf5 Qb6 [+bBf8]

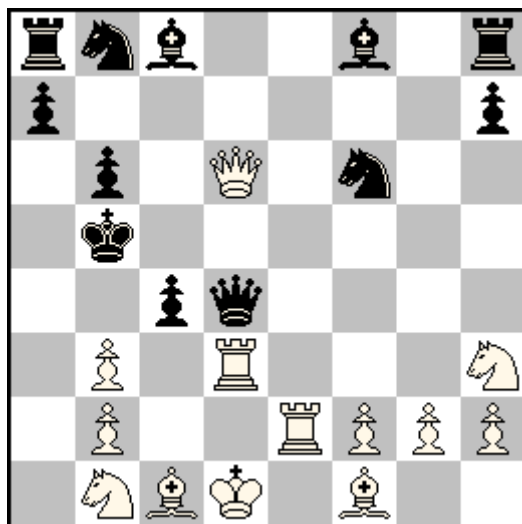
d/ rsbkrb2/p1p1p2p/3Pp3/6Q1/2pq2s1/1P1R3S/1P2RPPP/1SBK1B2

c/ -> d/ en 5.5



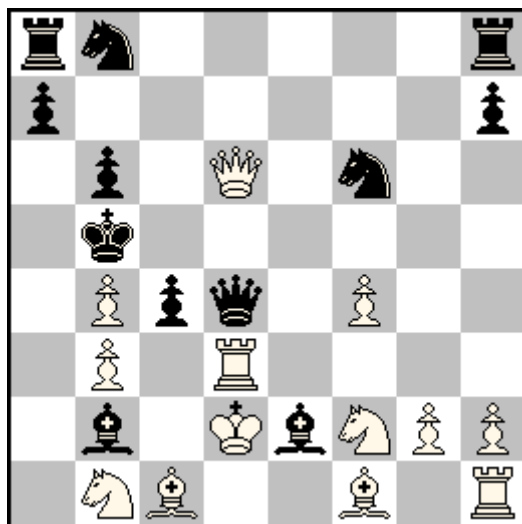
19.Bc4 Qxd4 20.Ra3 [+wPd6] dxc1=S+ 21.Rd3 [+wBf1] Sb3 22.cxb3 b5 23.Re5 bxc4 24.Re2 [+wBc1]

e/ rsb2b1r/p6p/1p1Q1s2/1k6/2pq4/1P1R3S/1P2RPPP/1SBK1B2
d/ -> e/ en 5.5



24.--- Kd7 25.Qxe7+ Kc6 26.Qxe6 Bxd6 27.Qxc8 Rh8 [+bBf8] 28.Qxc7+ Kb5 [+bPb6] 29.Qxd6 Sf6 [+bBc8]

f/ rs5r/p6p/1p1Q1s2/1k6/1Ppq1P2/1P1R4/1b1KbSPP/1SB2B1R
e/ -> f/ en 5.5



30.Re1 Bh6 31.Be2 Bxc1 32.Rh1 [+wBf1] Bxb2 33.f4 [+wPb4] Bg4 34.Kd2 Bxe2 35.Sf2 [+wBc1]

Difficile de juger un tel problème

Une fois qu'on a a/, on b/ etc.

j'aurais préféré avoir des couples a/b/ pour les fous, c/d/ pour les cavaliers e/f/ pour les tours

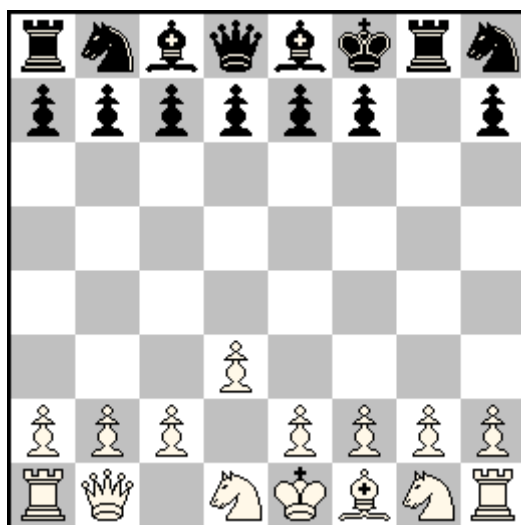
La résolution difficile a été déterminante dans l'appréciation finale du problème

10ème recommandé

A3 - Pierre Tritten (France)

rsbqbkrsp/8/8/8/3P4/PPP1PPPP/RQ1SKBSR

PG 6.0 Echecs Boléro (15+15) C+



1.d3 Sf6 2.Bh6 Rg8 3.Bxg7 Bxg7 4.Sd2 Kf8 5.Qb1 Be8 6.Sd1 Sh8

Un problème très simple, mais trois fois le thème 6 coups méritait bien de figurer au classement

SECTION B

Traditionnellement, cette section est moins fournie que la section A. Mais j'ai tout de même eu droit à des problèmes complexes

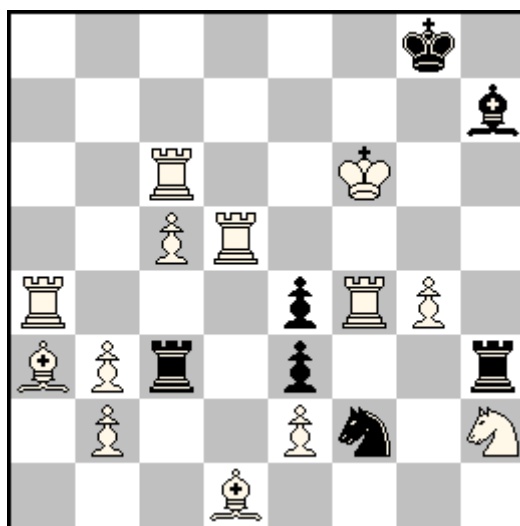
Traditionnellement, je me "contente" d'étudier longuement les solutions des auteurs, après une recherche souvent infructueuse. J'ai laissé les commentaires et les explications des auteurs

1er prix

B3 - Bojan Basic (Serbia)

6k1/7b/2R2K2/2PR4/R3pRP1/BPr1p2r/1P2Ps1S/3B4

-(3w+2b) & =1 Auto-Tag Chess (13+7)



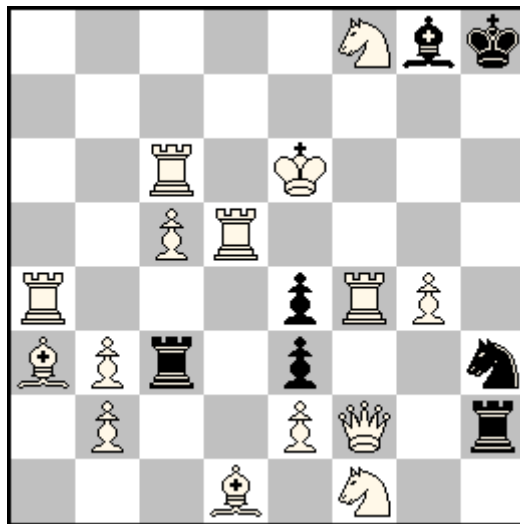
Définition de la condition donnée par l'auteur :

Auto-Tag Chess: A piece may make a move (a 'tag') to a square occupied by another piece of the same colour, remaining on the square while the tagged piece makes its own move as part of the same turn of play. The move by a tagged piece may be another tag, thus producing a chain of tags; the chain may end in a capture, so that check can be threatened through such a chain. Pawns tag by diagonally forward moves. In the solutions, tags are not distinguished from the final move in a chain; all are bracketed together by '{ }'. Introduced in Chessics

-1.Cf1-h2 Rh8-g8 {Fg8×Ch7} -2.Cf8-h7 Th2-h3 {Ch3×Df2} -3.Ré6-f6

Position après rétraction

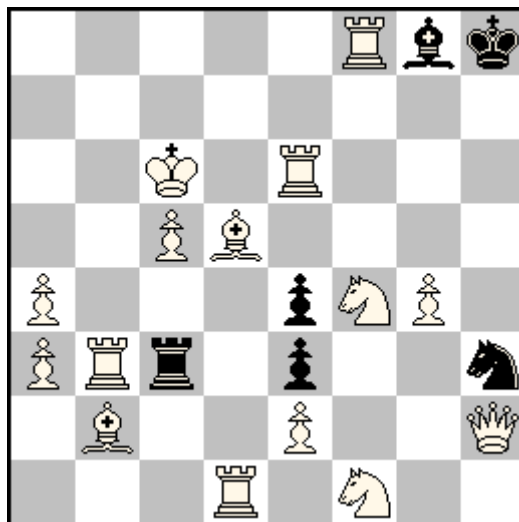
5Sbk/8/2R1K3/2PR4/R3pRP1/Bpr1p2s/1P2PQ1r/3B1S2



& 1.Df2-f4 {Tf8, Cé6, Rd5, Td1, Fb3, Pa4, Ta3, Fb2, Pa3, Tb3, Fd5, Rc6, Té6, Cf4, D×h2}=

Position finale :

5Rbk/8/2K1R3/2PB4/P3pSP1/PRr1p2s/1B2P2Q/3R1S2



5 paires de pièces échangent leur places en un seul coup!

2 échanges cycliques

- (Re6,Td5,Fd1)↔(Rd5,Td1,Fe6)
- (Rc6,Fd5,Te6)↔(Rd5,Fe6,Tc6)

• 1.... Kh8-g7?? 2.Sf4-e6 {Rc6, Kd5, Be6, Sxg7}.

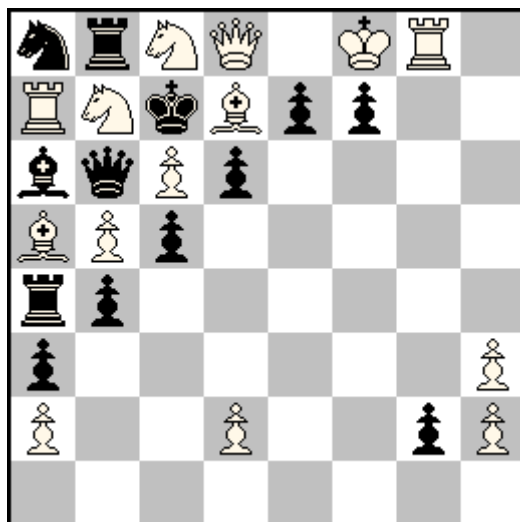
• 1.... Kh8-h7?? 2.Qh2-f4 {Se6, Rc6, Kd5, Be6, Sf8, Rf4, Qf8, Sxh7}.

Un problème stupéfiant qui m'aura coûté quasiment autant de temps que toute la rubrique A

2ème prix

B1 - Andrii Frolkin (Ukraine)

srSQ1KR1/RSkBpp2/bqPp4/BPp5/rp6/p6P/P2P2pP/8
Résoudre la position (14+13)



Une des pièces noires manquantes est le Fou sur cases noires, ce qui exclut la prise en croix b5×c6, c4×b5.

Les captures blanches sont e6×Cd7, f×Fg sur case noire et g2×Ph3. Les captures noires forment la prise en croix c5×b4, b6×c5.

La cage Nord-Ouest est libérée par la rétraction de d7-d6 qui doit être précédée par une dépromotion sur d8 et la reprise de e6×Cd7.

La seule pièce disponible pour une promotion sur d8 est la TBg8.

La tentative de dépromouvoir d'abord sur d8 échoue :

-1.Dé8-d8† g3-g2 -2.Rg7-f8 g4-g3 -3.Rh8-g7 g5-g4 -4.Df8-é8 g6-g5 -5.g2×Ph3 h4-h3 -6.Dg7-f8 h5-h4 -7.Td8-g8 h6-h5 -8.Fg4-d7 h7-h6 -9.d7-d8=T ?? – rétropat noir.

Comme les 2 captures noires ont été effectuées sur cases noires, le FBd7 est le FBf1 d'origine et ne peut être dépromu sur g8.

Solution : La DB doit être dépromue sur g8 pour éviter le rétropat noir.

-1.Dé8-d8† g3-g2 -2.Th8-g8 g4-g3 -3.Rg7-f8 g5-g4 -4.Dg8-é8 g6-g5 -5.g2×Ph3 h4-h3 -6.Rh7-g7 h5-h4 -7.g7-g8=D h6-h5 -8.f6×Fg7 Ff8-g7 -9.Fg4-d7 Fg7-f8 -10.Td8-h8 Ff8-g7 -11.d7-d8=T Fg7-f8 -12.e6×Cd7 Cé5-d7 -13.~ d7-d6 et la position se libère.

Dans le jeu en avant, le PBé est promu en T sur d8 et le PBf en D sur g8; puis ces pièces échangent leur places.

Le type de problème que j'aime chercher. Il me manquait un peu de temps pour aller beaucoup plus loin que l'analyse préliminaire et la relative simplicité de la solution contraste avec la complexité de la position initiale. Même si cette remarque s'applique souvent à ce genre de problème quand j'essaye de les résoudre

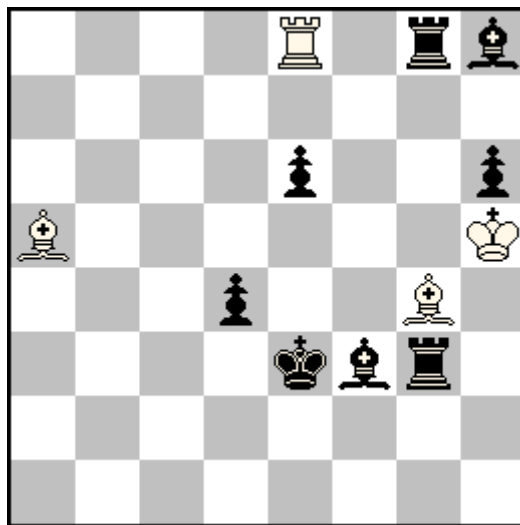
3ème prix

B4 - Vlaicu Crisan (Romania) - Klaus Wenda (Austria)

4R1rb/8/4p2p/B6K/3p2B1/4kbr1/8/8

-20 & 1# Rétractor Pacifique

Rétractor Pacifique : pas de capture dans les rétro-coups



Plan principal :

-1.Fé1-a5 & 1.T×é6±?? mais 1... Fé5! (a) 1... Fé4! (b) 1... Rd3! (c) and 1... Rf4! (d)

Avant-plan préparatoire:

-1.Rg6-h5 Tf8-g8+! -2.Ff5-g4 Th3-g3+! (1ère occurrence).

Le Fb5 garde d3 – l'obstacle (c) est levé.

Les 2 paires de pièces sont dans leur position de départ thématique (Tf8/Fh8, Ff3/Th3).

1er avant-plan :

-3.Rf7-g6 Tg8-f8+ -4.Rg6-f7 Tf8-g8+ (2ème occurrence) -5.Rf7-g6 Tg8-f8+ -6.Rg6-f7 Fg7-h8+ (forcé; 1ère occurrence)

-7.Rf6-g6 Ff8-g7+ -8.Rg6-f6 Fg7-f6+ (2ème occurrence) -9.Rf6-g6 Ff8-g7+ -10.Rg6-f6 Th8-g8+ (forcé).

Le FN sur cases noires ne garde plus é5 – l'obstacle (a) est levé.

2ème avant-plan :

-11.Rg5-g6 h7-h6+ (1ère occurrence) -12.Rh4-g5 Tg3-h3+ -13.Rg5-h4 Th3-g3+ (2ème occurrence)

-14.Rh4-g5 Tg3-h3+ -15.Rg5-h4 Fg4-f3+ (forcé; 1ère occurrence) -16.Rh5-g5 Fh3-g4+ -17.Rg5-h5 Fg4-h3+ (2ème occurrence) -18.Rh5-g5 Fh3-g4+ -19.Rg5-h5 Tf3-g3+ (forcé).

Le FN sur cases blanches ne garde plus é4 – l'obstacle (b) est levé.

Le RB garde f4 – l'obstacle (d) est levé.

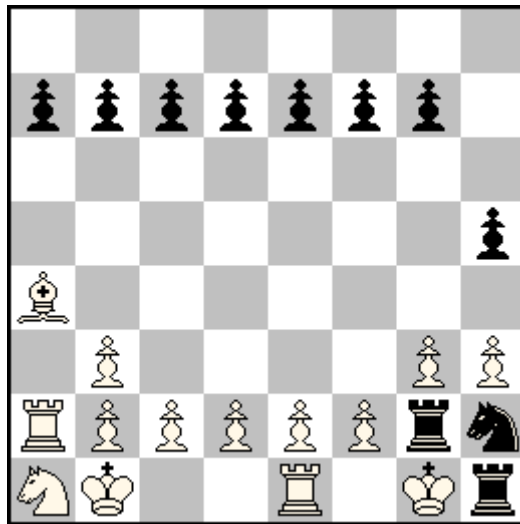
Plan principal : -20.Fé1-a5 & 1.T×é6±

Double échange de place de figures noires.

1ère mention d'honneur

B2 - Alexandre Leroux (Canada)

Origine des Rois blancs? Knightmate (14+11)



Le dernier coup a été -1.Rf1-g1+.

Les FBç1, FNç8 et FNf8 ont été capturés sans jouer.

Les TNg2 et h1 ne peuvent atteindre ces cases en passant par a1, donc les PBg2 et h2 ont capturé en croix 2 pièces noires.

Avant que Pa2×b3 soit joué, le Cavalier royal doit occuper a1, ce qui nécessite au préalable d'avoir joué les TBa1 et RBb1, et encore avant d'avoir capturé le FBç1.

Aucune pièce noire ne peut capturer le FBç1 tant que le FBf1 est à domicile.

Pg2×h3+ force CRg4-h2, et doit donc être joué après Ph2×g3.

Les TBa1, RBb1 et DB n'ont jamais pu quitter la 1ère rangée, car le passage par g2 aurait mis le Cavalier royal h2 en échec.

Le RBb1 doit toujours rester à droite de la TBa1 et se trouve donc en g1 au diagramme.

Le RBb1 vient de g1. Le RBg1 vient de b1.

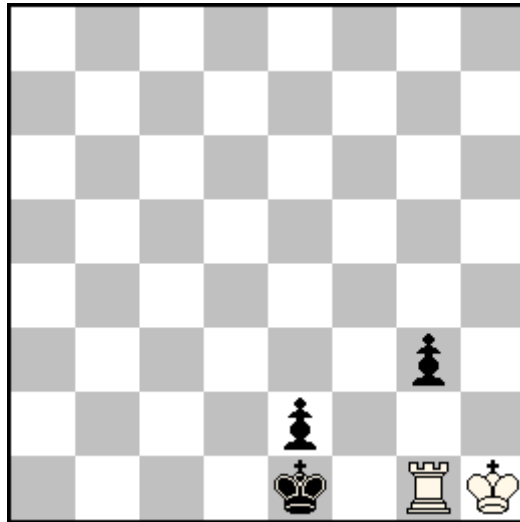
Le seul problème de la section que j'ai pu totalement résoudre, sans doute grâce à mon appétance pour la condition Knightmate, ou alors grâce à l'énoncé qui aide beaucoup tout de même,

1er recommandé

B5 - Igor Vereshchagin (Russia)

8/8/8/8/6p1/4p3/4k1RK

-1 coup blanc et h#2,5 (2+3)



-1.Tg2×Fg1 & 1...Th2 2.Fé3 Rg2 3.Fd2 Th1‡

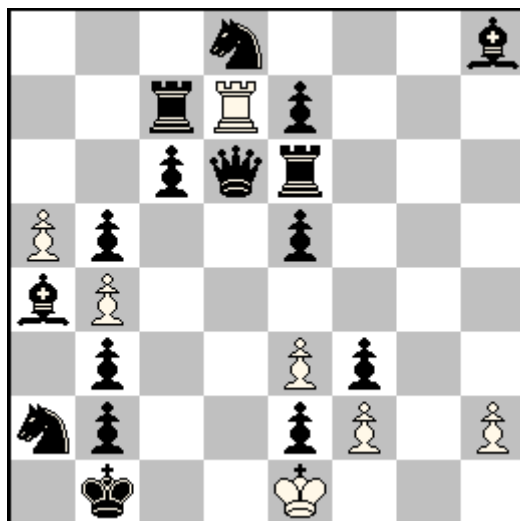
Échange de place Tg2-Rh1

2ème recommandé

B6 - Pavel Murashev - Igor Vereshchagin (Russia)

3s3b/2rRp3/2pqr3/Pp2p3/bP6/1p2Pp2/sp2pP1P/1k2K3

h#4 (7+16) C+



1.D×b4+ Td2 2.Da3 T×é2 3.Cb4 Rd2 4.Da2 Té1‡

Echanges Td2-Ré1 et Db4-Ca2

dernier coup Rd2-é1