



THE PROBLEMIST

BRITISH CHESS PROBLEM SOCIETY

Vol 29 No 9

MAY 2024

SOLVING IN HAGEN AT THE ECSC

By Audrey Kueh

This was my first European Chess Solving Championship (ECSC), so I was very excited. The feeling was slightly dampened by the fact that I had to take a 4am bus to the airport, followed by a flight, a skytrain, two more trains and finally two buses before I finally reached FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany. The excited feeling returned when I united with the British contingent of David Hodge, Jonathan Mestel, Kamila Hryshchenko, Brian Cook and Brian Stephenson. It was a blur of new faces as I met with many pillars in the solving community.

And soon it was time for the Open Solving tournament! The first half unfortunately didn't go well for me. I spent too much of my time on the S#3 trying to get the set play to work when the key in fact used a different configuration (see A). I managed to improve in the second half by getting half of the difficult S#6 and tied for 44th place. David, Jonathan and Kamila did better, ending tied for 8th place, 18th place and 26th place respectively. Piotr Murdzia from Poland won the tournament, only dropping 4.5 points in the entire event.

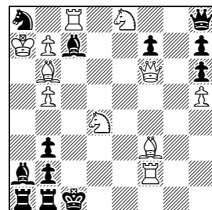
After a good night's sleep and a good breakfast in an excellent nearby hotel, it was time for Day 1 of the ECSC! Unfortunately, the British team came a cropper in the #2, dropping ten points in the team event. I was culpable in this, having imagined that 1.Rxd5 Se5 2.Sf4 was mate in the first problem (see B). I learnt later that I was in good company because 19 other solvers gave Rxd5 as their answer! We also did badly in the studies, only scoring 13 points in the team event. This meant we were 9th going at the end of Day 1. Poland ended Day 1 in a commanding lead, having only dropped 9 points in the entire day, with Kacper Piorun having a perfect Day 1.

I did not participate in the fairy event since I had enough trouble with normal pieces, not to say Grasshoppers, Locusts, Chameleons as well as stipulations such as Circe, Patrol, Madras, PWC. However, the dazzling array of twelve problems selected by Juraj Lörinc meant that there was probably a problem which could catch your eye to try. The problem which seemed to be discussed most after the event was the series-helpstalemate in 17 (see C). Thomas Maeder from Switzerland solved the better part of six problems and won the event.

I however participated in the retro event because I had always enjoyed proof games and retro analysis. The retro part didn't go so well – the problem which involved 13 moves defeated me! I had more success in the proof games, where you had to get the specific position after 14.5 moves (see D). It was satisfying to see how all the moves ended up being logically unique. The 6 problems chosen by Thomas Brand were amazing, and I managed to solve 4 of them to tie for second place. Michel Caillaud from France solved 5 problems very quickly but had trouble with the Proca Retractor, but this performance was easily enough to win the event.

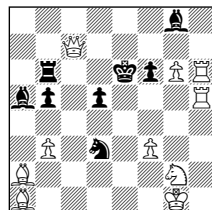
Continued on p.347, solutions of problems are on p.387

A Milan Velimirović
12 PI WCCT-2 1981-83



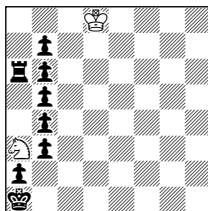
S#3

B Yitzhak Nevo & Evgeni Bourd
Variantim 2013



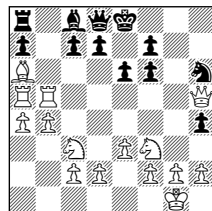
#2

C Alexey Gasparyan & Sergey Sagatelyan
StrateGems 2014



Ser-H=17

D Andrey Frolkin & Mikhailo Kozulya
3 C Die Schwalbe 2000



PG 14.5

Here is a packed issue with, we hope, something to appeal to all sections of our readership. We are very pleased to welcome as a contributor Audrey Kueh, whose first-hand account of the recent ECSC conveys to those of us who weren't in Hagen a more vivid impression of the event than can be gleaned from the final tables.

The Committee of the British Chess Problem Society has been busy, and in our next issue we should have details of our 2023 AGM, and news of a re-established BCPS lecture (via Zoom). We do value feedback from readers – don't hesitate to email me (or one of my colleagues) with any comments.

New joiners: We are delighted to welcome **Robert Bua** (USA), **Blanka Ejsymont** (Poland), **Piotr Górski** (Poland), **Michał Koziarowicz** (Poland) and **Eddy van Beers** (Belgium), who has gone directly to Fellow.

JOHN BEASLEY (15.02.1940 - 3.03.2024)

It was a great sadness to learn of the death on 2nd March, at the age of 84, of John Beasley. For many years Librarian of the British Chess Problem Society (and many will have happy memories of 'Library Days', when John and Sue opened up their home in Harpenden to chess-minded visitors for tea, browsing and conversation), John also had long stints as studies editor and as problems editor for *British Chess Magazine*. Amongst many other accomplishments he was studies editor for *diagrammes*, a founder member and active contributor to the British Chess Variants Society, as well as an enthusiastic commentator on other cerebral games and recreational maths. In all of these areas he had an unsurpassed skill as a lucid, rigorous and reader- (and solver-) friendly writer and expositor. As recently as January 2024 we published two glowing reviews of his final publication, 'A Book of Bedtime Pawn Endings', a book written in a valedictory tone, and yet with so undiminished an approachable and instructive style that one greatly regrets that we shall not have the pleasure of reading further such works. *Two of John's studies can be found in Yochanan Afek's tribute on p.361.*

Jorge Kapros Memorial Tourney 2024-25

Entries to the tournament director Mario Guido Garcia, email: mariogarcia@gmail.com. Closing date: 30th November 2024. There are three sections, with free theme:

Twomovers (#2) Judge: Miguel Uris.

Helpmates (h#2) Judge: Ricardo de Mattos Vieira. Helpmates (h#3) Judge: Jorge Joaquín Lois.

The Macedonian Problemist (TMP) announces:

Aleksandar Popovski MT for #2 or #3 with *Popovski* theme i.e. reappearance of mates from the set play as: (i) a multiple or dual threat in another phase; or (ii) single threats of 3-n or 2 phases. Judge: Hubert Gockel.

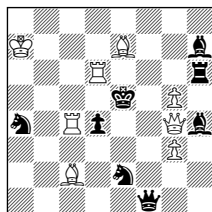
Entries to zoran.gavrilovski@gmail.com until 30.08.2024.

Solutions of example problems:

1 1...Qe5 2.Qxe3 A; 1...d5 2.e5 B, 1...Sxc3 2.dxe3 C. **1.Re5!** (>2.Qxe3 A, 2.e5 B, 2.dxe3 C) 1...Bc4 2.Qxe3 A; 1...Rxd2 2.e5 B; 1...Qg5 2.dxe3 C. Three thematic W2 moves (A, B, C) and Fleck theme.

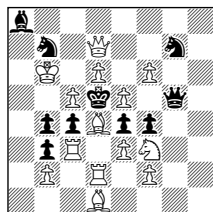
2 1...Bg6 x 2.Qe6 A; 1...Rg6 y 2.Qe4 B. 1.Rg6? (>2.Qe6 A, Qe4 B) 1...Bxg6! x. 1.Bg6? (>2.Qe6 A, 2.Qe4 B) 1...Rxxg6! y. **1.g6!** (>2.Qe6 A, 2.Qe4 B) 1...Bxg6 2.Qe6 A; 1...Rxxg6 2.Qe4 B; 1...Sc5 2.Rxc5; 1...Sxg3 2.Qxd4; 1...Sf4(Qf5) 2.Q(x)f5

2 Zoran Gavrilovski
The Macedonian
Problemist 2023
In memory of A.Popovski



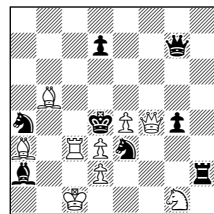
#2* vv

3 Zoran Gavrilovski
The Macedonian
Problemist 2023
In memory of A.Popovski



#2* vvvv

1 Aleksandar Popovski
2 Pr Novi temi 1974-75



#2*

Two thematic W2 moves (A, B), Nowotny at the W1 move and Dombro-Hannelius between the set play and the tries.

3 1...Sxc5 2.Bxc5 A; 1...Qxe5 2.Bxe5 B; 1...fxe3 2.Bxe3 C; 1...bxc3 2.Bxc3 D. 1.c6? (>2.Bc5 A) 1...Se6! x. 1.e6? (>2.Be5 B) 1...Sf5! y. 1.exf4? (>2.Be3 C) 1...e3! 1.Rxb3? (>2.Bc3 D) 1...c3! z. **1.Re1!** (>2.Bc3 D) 1...Sxc5 2.Bxc5 A; 1...Qxe5 2.Bxe5 B; 1...fxe3 2.Bxe3 C; 1...Se6 x 2.Qe6; 1...Sf5 x 2.Qf7; 1...c3 z 2.Bxb3 E; 1...exf3 2.Bxf3. Four thematic W2 moves (A, B, C, D) and wB-star.

SOLVING IN HAGEN AT THE ECSC (continued from front cover)

Then, after another good night’s sleep and a good breakfast, it was time for Day 2 of the ECSC! Having nothing to lose after such a bad Day 1, the British team finally came good and only dropped 6.25 points in the first 8 problems. One of the blemishes was one which Kacper Piorun himself also made, where it was imagined that a black knight was pinned against a white king. This did not impede his procession to the title, though it might have been closer than he would have liked! The ninth problem, a helpmate in 5 with 2 solutions, stumped most of the participants (see E, solution on p.387). Only Jakob Leck from Germany got full marks from this question.

When all the dust settled, it transpired that because I managed to solve the first 8 problems of Day 2, I had improved my individual ranking to 32nd place and scored my first WFM norm. David came 16th, Jonathan snagged 24th place and Kamila tied for 53rd place. We improved our team ranking to 5th behind Poland, Serbia, Lithuania and Germany. Kacper won the individual title and Bojan Vučković from Serbia was second. Jakub Marcinišzyn from Poland was third, which also nudged his rating over the 2450 mark which he needs for his IM title.

The organisation of the weekend was excellent. Axel Steinbrink and Luc Palmans were the judges for the Open and ECSC with Marko Klasinc selecting the problems, Torsten Linß judged the fairy and Thomas Brand judged the retro. I am sure there are also plenty of other people behind the scenes who I have not named who helped in big and small ways to make the event a success. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the medals ceremony because of an early flight, but the photos indicate that it was an excellent celebration.

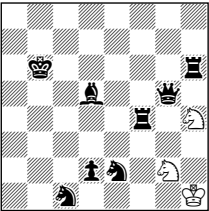
ECSC 2024 Individual Results

Solver		Points
1. Kacper Piorun	POL	83.75
2. Bojan Vučković	SRB	83.5
3. Jakub Marcinišzyn	POL	82
4. Mihnea Costachi	ROU	79.5
5. Piotr Murdzia	POL	79
6. Vladimir Podinić	SRB	78.5
7. Nikos Sidiropoulos	GRE	77.5
8. Marjan Kovačević	SRB	76
9. Ilija Serafimović	SRB	74.5
10. Martynas Limontas	LTU	73.75

ECSC Open 2024 Results

Solver		Points
1. Piotr Murdzia	POL	50.5
2. Kacper Piorun	POL	49
3. Kari Karhunen	FIN	48
4. Vladimir Podinić	SRB	46
5. Arno Zude	GER	45
6. Vidmantas Satkus	LTU	44
7. Miodrag Mladenović	SRB	42.5
8-9. David Hodge	GBR	42.5
8-9. Martynas Limontas	LTU	42.5
10. Bojan Vučković	SRB	40.5

E Ljubomir Ugren
Original for ECSC 2024



H#5 2 solutions

ECSC 2024 Team Results

1. Poland	246
2. Serbia	239
3. Lithuania	224.25
4. Germany	210
5. Great Britain	200.25
6. Netherlands	198.5
7. Greece	197.5
8. Switzerland	191
9. Romania	188
10. Slovakia	178

WINTON BRITISH CHESS SOLVING
CHAMPIONSHIP 2024-2025

The starter problem for this championship, again sponsored by **Winton**, is shown at right. White, playing up the board, is to play and force mate in two moves against any black defence.

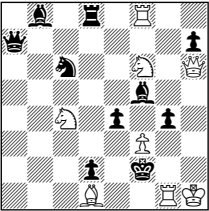
There is no entry fee, and the competition is open to British residents only. Competitors need send only White’s first move, known as the key-move.

Postal entries should be sent to: **Nigel Dennis, Boundary House, 230 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1QY** or email: winton@theproblemist.org

All entries should be postmarked or dated no later than **31st July 2024** and must give the entrant’s name and home address. Juniors under the age of 18 on 31st August 2023 must give their date of birth. *Please mention that you saw the starter problem in The Problemist.*

Receipt of the solution to the starter will only be acknowledged after the closing date, when all competitors will receive the answer, and those who get it right will also receive the postal round, which will contain 8 more difficult and varied problems. In due course the best competitors and the best juniors from the postal round will be invited to the final due to be held in February 2025. The ultimate winner of the final will win the right to represent Great Britain at the World Chess Solving Championships later in 2025.

WBCSC STARTER



#2

the more complex helpmate **E** the white line-pieces must be doubled in order to secure the mating line, while the bQ must clear this line before discovering the mating check while eliminating the wS which could intercept it. (a) 1.Bc6 Qxf3 2.Qa8 Qxf6#; (b) 1.Qh6 Qxh4 2.Rh8 Qxf6#.

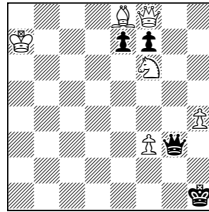
Forced mates are inevitably harder to achieve than assisted ones, with the most effective method being to move the opposing king into a *double* check. **F** is a simple 2-mover featuring a wS with wPs and showing four such mates (including the threat). 1.Kd4! (>2.Kc3) 1...b3,Sb6 2.Kc4; 1...b4 2.Kc5; 1...Sc3,Sc5 2.Ke4. Note that the responses to these defences will also work after 1.Kd5?, but this move carries no threat and may be met by 1...wK~!. Although this problem is a directmate, it somehow gives the impression that the bK rather than the white force is in charge! The next two problems, which are moremovers with play consisting mainly of a series of checks similar to those in many All-in problems, give this impression even more strongly. In **G**, the bK appears to chase the wR around the houses in order to force the mate. 1.Kc6+? Rd1 etc gets nowhere, so play goes 1.Kd5+! Rc6 2.Kd6+ Rc7! (2...R elsewhere 3.Kc7#) 3.Kc6+ Ra7! (3...R elsewhere 4.Kc7#) 4.Kb7+ (4.Kc7+? b7!) R~ 5.Ka7. In **H**, the bK has three dispersed wPs to control in order to set up a mate, concentrating on forcing one through to promotion, but diverting his efforts at the right moments to get the other two into suitable positions. The play includes a single non-checking bK move that forces the next wP advance. 1.Kf4+! (1.Kd5+? c5 2.Kd6+ gets nowhere after the P promotes) g4 2.Kf5+ g5 3.Kg6+! h6 4.Kf7! c5 5.Kf6+ g6 6.Kf7+ g7 7.Kf8+ g8! (...g8B? 8.Kf7#) 8.Ke7+ Sf6 9.Kd6+ c6 10.Kd7.

Our final Half-in problem **I** is a reflexmate in which the bK uses two wBs for a new purpose: as mobile stepping-stones allowing the king to make a slow zigzag crossing of the board. The solution begins 1.Kg7+ Ba3 2.Kg6+ Bg8 3.Kf7+ Bh7 4.Ke7+ Bb2 5.Kf6+ Ba3 6.Kf5+ Bg8 7.Ke6+ Bh7 8.Kd6+ Bb2 9.Ke5+ Ba3 10.Ke4+ Bg8 11.Kd5+ Bh7 12.Kc5+ Bb2 13.Kd4+ Ba3 14.Kd3+ Bg8 15.Kc4+ Bh7 16.Kb4+ Bb2 17.Ka3+ B~ – and now the bK is in the right position for White to play the non-checking 18.Ka2!, after which reflex rules force Black to respond 18...wKc2#.

All the above problems are relatively simple in terms of the force used. More complex ones would doubtless be possible, but we have chosen to obtain increased complexity by changing the rules to allow a greater choice of moves (though still less than that in All-in), so producing a second new condition that we name **Mainly-in Chess**. In it, the **side to play may move pieces of either colour, except that no piece may move twice in succession**. (This would apply to a newly-promoted pawn, and to both king and rook immediately after castling.) Thus a piece which has just moved can be described as being **paused** and may not make the next half-move, but will retain its normal checking power as well as its other powers. This last point is not strictly necessary, since a paused checking piece would be free to make the notional king capture on its next move; however, the possibility of arguing that an otherwise illegal move into self-check might be legal if the checking piece was paused would introduce complications (including the presence of kings on adjacent squares) that we prefer to avoid.

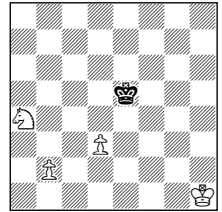
The relationship between our two new conditions is complicated by the fact that a playable Half-in move cannot possibly be made with the piece that has just moved, and should therefore be a playable Mainly-in move also. This raises the possibility of a problem being sound under both conditions (such a situation actually applying to four of our above problems, only the helpmates **D** and **E** failing by allowing variations in the move-order with a Mainly-in stipulation). We resolve this dual stipulation issue by following the principle that a simple condition takes precedence over a more complex one, and restrict the designation 'Mainly-in' to problems with move sequences impossible in Half-in. In the simple helpmate **J**, which shows mates by a lone wB, only the third solution requires Mainly-in rules (with the B1-W1 move-order determined by the need to

E Chris Tylor
Original



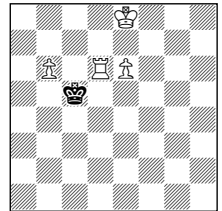
H#2 (b) ♖e8
Half-In Chess

F Chris Tylor
Original



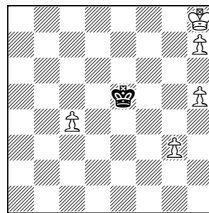
#2 Half-In Chess

G Chris Tylor
Original



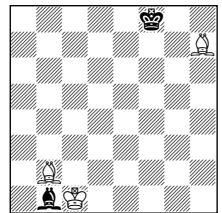
#5 Half-In Chess

**H Chris Tylor &
S.N. Ravi Shankar**
Original



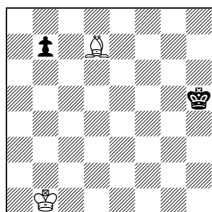
#10 Half-In Chess

I S.N. Ravi Shankar
Original



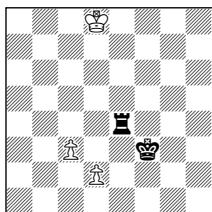
R#18 Half-In Chess

J Chris Tylor
Original



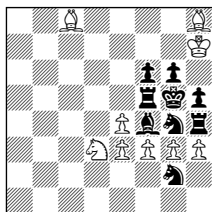
H#2 3 solutions
Mainly-In Chess

K Chris Tylor
Original



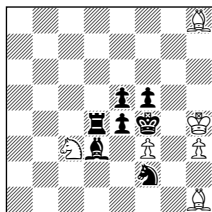
H#2 2 solutions
Mainly-In Chess

L Chris Tylor
Original



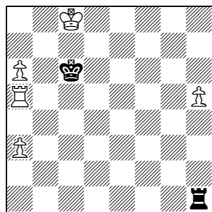
#2 Mainly-In Chess

**M Chris Tylor &
S.N. Ravi Shankar**
Original



#2 Mainly-In Chess

O S.N. Ravi Shankar
Original



R#10 Mainly-In Chess

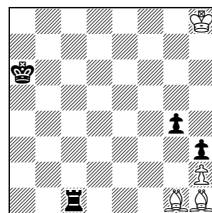
avoid the bishop moving twice in succession). In this problem, both the first two and the last two solutions form echoed pairs. 1.Bc6 Kg4 2.Bh1 Kf3#; 1.Be6 Kg6 2.Ba2 Kf7#; 1.Bf5 Ka2 2.Bb1 Kg6#. Helpmate **K**, which shows bR sacrifices allowing different wP mates, has Mainly-in play throughout, in this condition's rules determining the W1-B2 move-order in the first solution. 1.Re3 Ke4 2.dxe3 Kd4#; 1.Rd4+ cxd4 2.d3 Ke4#.

An important feature of the Mainly-in condition is that it allows two quite different types of mate. **J** and **K** had king-into-check mates like those shown in our Half-in problems, with the mated king's flight-squares not needing to be controlled since the king had just moved and so could not immediately move again. However, mate can also be given by direct check from an opposing piece or by indirect check from a move by a piece of either colour, and in these cases the mated king's flight-squares must be guarded or blocked as in normal chess. Our next two problems are 2-movers showing reversed relationships between these types of mate in threat and variations. **L** has the sacrificial key 1.Se5! threatening the direct-check mate 2.Sf7, with the four captures of the key piece unblocking squares for king-move mates. 1...fxe5 2.Kf6; 1...Rxe5 2.Kf5; 1...Bxe5 2.Kf4; 1...Sxe5 2.Kg4. The position is heavy, but all the wPs are necessary; thus without wPe3 the threat fails to 1...Bxg3!, and without wPf3 it fails to 1...hxg4!. In other play, 1.Sc5? (>2.Se6) fails to 1...Kg8! or 1...Be6!, and 1.Bb8? etc fails to 1...Sgf4!.

In contrast to **L**, **M** has the unblocking key 1.e3! threatening the king-move mate 2.Ke4, and four defences re-block this mating square. Two of these defences are met by direct-check mates on unguarded squares: 1...Re4 2.Sd5; 1...Be4 2.Se2. The other two defences are unblocking or unguarding moves allowing new king-move mates; they also close a black royal battery (opened by the key) and so in a sense unpin the bK: 1...e5-e4 2.Ke5; 1...Sfe4 2.Kxf3. (A possible defect of the key is that it takes the flight-square e3 – though this hardly seems serious, since flights are irrelevant to the threat mate.)

As with All-in and Half-in, Mainly-in also lends itself to longer checking problems. **N** is a directmate example in which White walks the bK and bR down a wB staircase that leads to a king-move mate. 1.Kb7+! (1.Kb6+? Rxg1!) Rc6 2.Kb6+ Rc5 3.Kc6+ Rd5 4.Kc5+ Rd4 5.Kd5+ Re4 6.Kd4+ Re3 7.Ke4+ Rf3 8.Ke3+ Rf2 9.Kf3+ Rg2 10.Kf2+! (10.Kg3+? mates 1 move late after...Rxb2 11.Kf2+ Bxb2 12.Kg2,Kf3) 10...Rxb2 11.Kg3. Our final problem **O** is a reflexmate in which, as in the All-in problem **A**, a king (this time the white one) captures a pawn to clear a mating line before being brought back to its original square for the mate. 1.Kd5+ Ra4 2.Ke4+ Ra5 3.Kf5+ Ra4 4.Kg4+ Ra5 5.Kxh5+ Ra4 6.Kg4+ Ra5 7.Kf5+ Ra4 8.Ke4+ Ra5 9.Kd5+ Ra4 – and now 10.Kc6! forces 10...Rh8#. This problem is a sort of hybrid in that nearly all the moves work under Half-in rules, with only the final mate requiring the Mainly-in condition.

N S.N. Ravi Shankar
Original



#11 Mainly-In Chess

released in March and is a major revision with many new features. We also thank N. Shankar Ram for his assistance in testing our problems with the modified program, and in some cases suggesting suitable corrections. As a result of their efforts, we can state that problems **I**, **N** and **O** have passed partial computer testing, while our other new problems are C+ by WinChloe. We hope that readers have appreciated our two new conditions and enjoyed our problems – and we hope further that some composers may be inspired to produce Half-in and/or Mainly-in originals of their own!

Tailpiece

P is an oddity which may or may not illuminate the relationships of the Half-in and Mainly-in conditions to one another and to normal chess. It is a Mainly-in helpmate twin in which the same moves are played by opposite sides in the two parts; further, (a) is sound in normal chess and (b) is sound in Half-in Chess! (a) 1.Kh3 Rh8 2.Kxh4 Rxh6#; (b) 1.Rh8 Kh3 2.Rxh6 Kxh4#.

CYCLIC DISTANT BATTERIES AND ANTI-BATTERIES (Part II), by Petko A. Petkov

[Part I in the March issue had some definitions. In a *Cyclic Distant Battery (CDB)*, at least three pieces of the same colour cyclically change their roles as the front and rear pieces of batteries, with this occurring on different squares. A *Cyclic Distant Anti-Battery* is similar, except that the front piece is a hurdle and the rear piece is a hopping type of piece. Some useful terminology is as follows: the phases are called Cyc-p1, Cyc-p2 & Cyc-p3; the thematic pieces are called A, B & C; the squares on which the front battery pieces arrive are called x1, x2 & x3; and the thematic piece that is not part of a battery in that phase is called the assisting piece.]

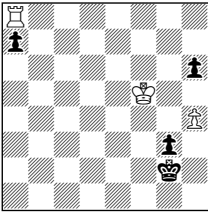
12 is the only known problem where the theme has been implemented using Double Grasshoppers, which make two consecutive moves like a Grasshopper as part of a single move. The first G-move must be to a vacant square. Change of direction, including switchback, is allowed. This exotic piece, which will be the subject of a future article, offers huge possibilities. Of particular note here are the active sacrifices of the assisting DGs, which lead to the activation of Lh2, as well as the active sacrifices of the white knight/bishop on White's first move, which activate Lg2. There are a total of 6 different sacrifices of white pieces on the g- and h-files, allowing Black to control the squares h2 and g2. The model mates are a pleasant and surprising addition to this difficult complex. [The B1 moves provide the second hurdle required for the W2 moves, which is another excellent feature – Ed.] (a) 1.Sg4 LOxg4-g5 2.DGf1-h4 (hurdles f5,g5) LOxh4-h5 3.DGb1-e4+ (hurdle f5) Rxd1# (DGb1 closes DGd1 on e4, active sacrifice by DGf1, Cyc-p1=AB). (b) 1.Sg6 LOxg6-g7 2.DGb1-h7 (hurdles b6,g7) LOxh7-h8 3.DGd1-d4+ (hurdles f1,e3) Rxf1# (DGd1 closes DGf1 on d4, active sacrifice by DGb1, Cyc-p2=BC). (c) 1.Bg3 LOxg3-g4 2.DGd1-h5 (hurdles e2,g4) LOxh5-h6 3.DGf1-b2+ (hurdles f5,c3) Rxb1# (DGf1 closes DGb1 on b2, active sacrifice by DGd1, Cyc-p3= CA).

13 is an extremely complex and interesting problem, in which the idea of a double CDB is presented for the first time with successive closing of two thematic pieces in each phase of the cycle and with good additional strategy. Here, the first closing of a white piece leads to the formation of an anti-battery with a check to the black king. Black eliminates it and a second closing of the other white piece follows, with the formation of another anti-battery and mate. If A=VAd5, B=PAb1, C=PAh6 we have: 1.Qf8 VAb3 2.Bg2 VAd1+ 3.Qf1 VAh5# (A closes B on d1, A closes C on h5, Cyc-p1=AB+AC). 1.Be8 PAb3 2.Rg1 PAbh3+ 3.Bh5 PAF3# (B closes C on h3, B closes A on f3, Cyc-p2= BC+BA). 1.Ra2 PAF6 2.Qh2 PAF3+ 3.Rg2 PAff1# (C closes A on f3, C closes B on f1, Cyc-p3=CA+CB).

We can present this idea in a table as below. The table clearly shows not only the complexity of the idea, but also a serious weakness in its implementation. The thematic square f3 unpleasantly repeats itself in the second and third phases of the cycle, so the total number of thematic squares is 5, not 6 as it ideally must be. In such situations the author could try a correction by working with twins, a possibility that I hope readers will examine with interest.

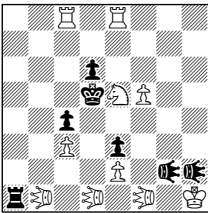
Cycle phase	1st thematic square	2nd thematic square	Front piece	1st rear piece with check	2nd rear piece with mate
Cyc-p1	d1	h5	VAd5	PAb1	PAh6
Cyc-p2	h3	f3	PAb1	PAh6	VAd5
Cyc-p3	f3	f1	PAh6	VAd5	PAb1

P Chris Tylor
Original



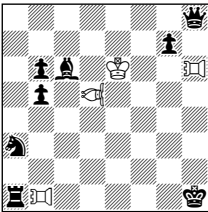
H#2 (b) Kf5>g6
Mainly-In Chess

12 Petko A. Petkov
in memory of my mother
Danka
2 Pr idee & form 2008-09



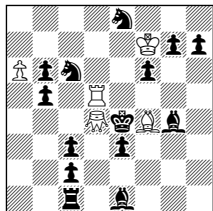
HS#3
(b) Pf5>b6 (c) ♖e5
♜ Locust ♝ Double G

13 Peter Wong
2 Pr The Problemist 2000



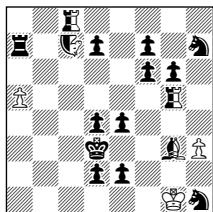
H#3 3 solutions
♞ Pao ♞ Vao

**14 Themis Argirakopoulos
& Pierre Tritten**
C *Springaren* 2012



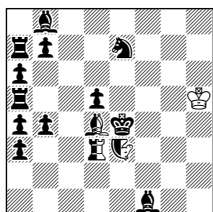
H#2 3 solutions
Take&Make ♔♚ G

**15 Michael Barth &
Franz Pachtl**
6 Pr *StrateGems* 2015



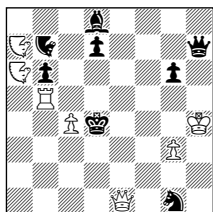
H#2 Take&Make
(b) Pd4>e3 (c) Pe4>e3
♚ neutral Nightrider

16 Petko A. Petkov
1 Pr *StrateGems* 2008



H#2 3 solutions
AntiSuperCirce
♚ neutral Nightrider

17 Petko A. Petkov
4 Pr *StrateGems* 2017



HS#2½ (b/c) Sg1>h2/e4
Couscous AntiCirce
♚♚ Nightrider

The final seven examples use fairy conditions. The legendary Take&Make works very actively in this theme, but with one remark – it is most often used to create direct batteries. [In *Take&Make*, a unit (Ks included) upon capturing must make a further non-capturing step in the manner of the captured unit as part of the same move. Such a movement must be possible, otherwise the capture may not be made. However, checks are normal.]

14 is a rather instructive case where even a Grasshopper can function as the rear piece of a direct battery. Note, however, that this piece needs an “assistant hurdle” in order to fulfil the role. This problem uses an almost unbelievable trio of thematic pieces: rook, bishop and Grasshopper. The black king, in the role of a capturing piece, flies in three completely different directions. Although this is a familiar trick in the genre for the realisation of Zilahi and Cyclic Zilahi, here the idea of forming the direct batteries seems fresh and instructive. A=Bf4, B=Rd5, C=Gd4, x1=d3, x2=c5, x3=g5. **1.Se5+ Bxe5-d3+ 2.Kxd4-d2 Bf1#** (A closes B on d3, C is captured, Cyc-p1=AB). **1.Kxf4-b8 Rc5 2.Ka7 Rxc6-d8#** (B closes C on c5, A is captured, Cyc-p2=BC). **1.Kxd5-h5 Gxg7-g5 2.Kh6 Gxe3-e2#** (C closes A on g5, B is captured, Cyc-p3=CA).

In my opinion, **15** is one of the most interesting and beautiful problems using Take&Make with neutral pieces. The neutral R/B/N trio works brilliantly, with the assisting piece being captured, thus determining the route of the capturing piece. From a technical point of view, the problem looks flawless, although the construction contains a total of 10 pawns (2 white and 8 black). A=nRg5, B=nBg3, C=nNc7, x1=b5, x2=f4, x3=d5. (a) **1.nRb5 nBxc7-a6 2.Sg5 nRxc5-f3#** (A closes B on b5, C is captured, Cyc-p1=AB). (b) **1.nNd5 nRxc3-d6 2.Rac7 nNxc7-c1#** (C closes A on d5, B is captured, Cyc-p3=CA). (c) **1.nBf4+ nNxc5-h5 2.Sg3 nBxc3-f5#** (B closes C on f4, A is captured, Cyc-p2=BC).

In AntiSuperCirce, a unit (Ks included) that makes a capture is immediately reborn on any vacant square. This becomes quite a challenge if we want to create batteries in combination with the Cyclic Zilahi theme. In this regard, working with neutral pieces offers rich possibilities, but the path to success is not at all easy, since a huge number of positions and options have to be analysed. For example, while composing **16** I tried more than 100 versions. Here there is maximum economy of white and neutral pieces. The B1 moves free a square for the black king while blocking another one. The W1 moves have an anti-dual motif, in which White must choose the type of front battery piece, and similar motifs also exist for the W2 moves. A=nNe3, B=nRd3, C=nBd4, x1=c3, x2=b6, x3=c4. **1.a2 nNxa5-c3+ [1...nBxa7-c3?] 2.Kxd4-a3 nNxd5-c4#** (A closes B on c3, C is captured, Cyc-p1=AB). **1.Ra8 nRxa3-b6 [1...nNxa5-b6?] 2.Kxc3-a7 nRxb7-d7#** (B closes C on b6, A is captured, Cyc-p2=BC). **1.Rb5 nBxa7-c4 [1...nRxa3-c4?] 2.Kxd3-a5 nBxf1-d8# [2...nBxd5-f8?? self-check]** (C closes A on c4, B is captured, Cyc-p3=CA).

17 is the only problem published so far in which the Couscous AntiCirce condition is used in building the batteries. It seems to me that in this arena it works better than the standard AntiCirce. In *Couscous AntiCirce*, a unit (Ks included) that makes a capture is immediately reborn on the Circe rebirth square of the captured unit. The rebirth square must be vacant, otherwise the capture is not legal. According to the definition, in the initial position the white king is not in check because his Circe rebirth square of e1 is occupied by the wQ.

In each solution there are two closings of black pieces – from White on move W1 with self-pin effect and from Black on move B2 with battery formation. Vacation of the e1 square by the wQ leaves the wK susceptible to check, and the wQ's checks force Black to capture the wQ. This also leads to threefold guarding of squares next to the wK by the reborn piece on the d1 square. I consider this method of implementation to be very fruitful. A=Qh7, B=Nb7, C=Bd8, x1=f5, x2=e7, x3=h6. (a) **1...Qf7 2.Rg5 Qf5 3.Qe4+ Qxe4-d1#** (A closes B on f5, C is closed on g5 with self-pin, Cyc-p1=AB). (b) **1...Na5 2.Rh5 Ne7 3.Qc3+ Nxc3-d1#** (B closes C on e7, A is closed on h5 with self-pin, Cyc-p2=BC). (c) **1...Bg5 2.Rf5 Bh6 3.Qe3+ Bxe3-d1#** (C closes A on h6, B is closed on f5 with self-pin, Cyc-p3=CA).

18 uses the *Anti-Andernach* condition, in which a unit (not K) when moving without capturing, changes colour. This promises very interesting battery constructions after changing the colour of the thematic pieces. This problem could probably be a useful tutorial on how to achieve this goal. Here the battery pieces change their colour, but the third (assisting) piece retains its colour, capturing a black pawn and giving check to the black king. Black's strategy is also rich and instructive: an active bK unpin of the bQ which, changing its colour, guards squares around the bK, opening a line for the wRc7. A=Ba2, B=Qa3, C=Nd4, x1=b1, x2=c3, x3=c2. (a) **1.Bb1=b Kh6 2.Qa1=b Qh4=w 3.Nxf5+ Bxf5#** (A closes B on b1, C captures and gives check, Cyc-p1=AB). (b) **1.Qc3=b Kg8 2.Nb5=b Qf6=w 3.Bxc4+ Qxc4#** (B closes C on c3, A captures and gives check, Cyc-p2=BC). (c) **1.Nc2=b Kf8 2.Bb3=b Qe6=w 3.Qxb4+ Nxb4#** (C closes A on c2, B captures and gives check, Cyc-p3=CA).

Mars Circe is a very strange and difficult to implement fairy condition that allows surprising battery effects. [In *Mars Circe*, units move normally, but in order to capture they (Ks included) must first be reborn on their Circe rebirth square, which must be vacant, and then make the capture from there, all as one move.] Václav Kotěšovec has been working very fruitfully in this area for a long time. Pay special attention to a very interesting moment in **19** – the black king has two free squares, c7 and e7. They can be blocked not only by a black piece, but also by a white one, since in this position the black king cannot capture enemy pieces (its Circe rebirth square of e8 is blocked). A=NHh1, B=Gf4, C=Gb3, x1=e7, x2=c7, x3=f7. **1.Gge5 d4 2.Gc7 NHe7#** (A closes B on e7 [B gives check from its Circe rebirth square of f8], C pins Gb8 [3.Gf8?? is an illegal self-check by C from its Circe rebirth square of b8], Cyc-p1=AB). **1.Ga3 NHe7+ 2.Gf8 Gc7#** (B closes C on c7, A blocks e7, Cyc-p2=BC). **1.Ge1 Gc7 2.Ge7 Gf7#** (C closes A on f7 [A gives check from its Circe rebirth square of h8], B blocks c7, Cyc-p3=CA).

In the *Lortap* condition, a unit (inc. Ks) may only capture or check when *not* observed by a friendly unit. In the databases, the theme of **20** is defined as anti-battery. The curious thing is that here the effects are obtained with 3 thematic pieces that are typical representatives of the Riders family. In the diagram position the Nf3/Bg5/Rf4 have a mutual cyclic control, which is eliminated by wonderful cyclic distance interferences on the squares g5, f4 and f3. There is no cyclical element in the black strategy, but it is also subject to the fairy condition – the black queen gives mate only after being uncontrolled when another black piece makes the mating move. The white king is controlled by the wRa5 and cannot capture the black queen. Therefore, the king is pinned by the wR and the mates are specific pin-mates. But perhaps you can already see the small but unpleasant minus in this task – the mutual control by Ka4/Ra5 makes the mate in the third solution (with bQ on b5) a double pin. A=Nf3, B=Bg5, C=Rf4, x1=g5, x2=f4, x3=f3. **1.Bh6 Qb4 2.Ng5+ Ng4#** (A closes B on g5, C is activated, Cyc-p1=AB). **1.Rf6 Qb3 2.Bf4+ Sdxf3#** (B closes C on f4, A is activated, Cyc-p2=BC). **1.Ne1 Qb5 2.Rf3+ Nxg5#** (C closes A on f3, B is activated, Cyc-p3=CA).

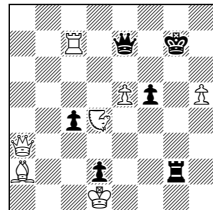
IV. Future Work

My recommendations are the result of concrete research and practical experiments, which I always carry out at a preliminary stage in my creative activity on any theme that interests me. As a result of this “reconnaissance” I create a “work file” on the topic, including detailed information about it and no fewer than 5-6 working schemes for future implementation. These positions have only a few thematic pieces and at least one “ready-made” experimental thematic variation or solution. However, here I will limit myself to general advice in the most concise form. My specific recommendations are the following:

(a) In the H# and HS# genres, it is promising to work with neutral and half-neutral pieces, using the extremely dynamic fairy conditions SuperCirce and AntiSuperCirce, which are full of possibilities. They are an even more powerful tool for building batteries than Take&Make, but working with them is significantly more complicated. For this reason, the number of moves should not exceed 3. Regarding Take&Make, I recommend combining it with Disparate or with Disparate Py, especially in cases where you want to build batteries or anti-batteries with only neutral pieces.

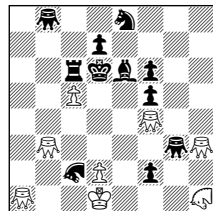
(b) You will certainly find fresh ideas for implementation if you try working with pieces and/or conditions in which the colour of the thematic units changes during the play. In this regard, in the H# and HS# genres, the

18 Petko A. Petkov
in memoriam Andon Petkov
1 Pr Pat a Mat 2011



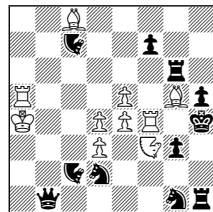
HS#3 ♘ Nightrider
Anti-Andernach
(b) Ph5>d6 (c) Pf5>b4

19 Václav Kotěšovec
1 HM Thema Danicum
2002



H#2 3 solutions
Mars Circe ♘♙♚ G
♘♙ Nightriderhopper

20 Hans Uitenbroek & Gerard Smits
3 PI Nunspeet TT 2012



HS#2 3 solutions
Lortap ♘♙ Nightrider

best chances exist using the conditions Andernach, Anti-Andernach, Masand, Volage and the new condition Anda chess (testing is possible with WinChloe). With Anda, a significant metamorphosis of the original piece material is possible if checks to both kings are used in a problem of at least 4 moves. Pieces that give similar chances are: Half-neutrals, Anda pieces, and Andernach Grasshopper.

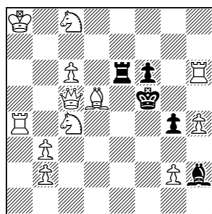
(c) Very good chances arise by working with pieces and conditions in which the nature of the piece or the rules for its movement are changed during the play. Try the conditions Einstein, Chameleon chess, Protean chess and KobulKings. Many interesting and surprising possibilities are also offered by the conditions of the newer Bolero family. The pieces from the Chameleon family can of course also be a good choice, especially if used as front pieces of neutral or half-neutral batteries.

(d) The large group of fairy conditions related to the observation of pieces is so far represented very weakly in the aspect we are interested in, as even examples with the traditionally preferred Madrasi and Isardam are missing. With few exceptions Patrol chess and Lortap are also unknown here. I was surprised to discover that with each type of observation there are also paradoxical opportunities for realisation in the reflexmate genre.

LIBRARY BROWSE, By Michael McDowell

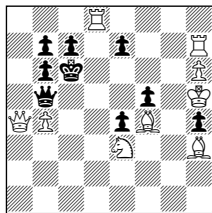
Posthume hulde. 60 schaakproblemen van Mr. J.Albarda, selected and annotated by Dr. M.Niemeijer. 30 pp, 60 + 3 diagrams. Broek in Waterland 1986.

A Johannes Albarda
1 Pr NBvP 100th TT
1956 (v)



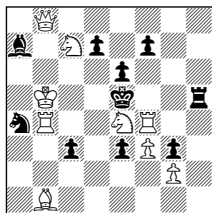
#2

B Johannes Albarda
2 HM Israel Ring Ty
1958-II



#2

D Johannes Albarda
1 Pr Probleemblad 1968



#3

A slim volume which was the last of Dr. Meindert Niemeijer's many contributions to problem literature. Johannes Albarda (17th January 1905 – 9th October 1982) followed a career in the legal profession, holding many posts with a civilian or military function (the Mr is a title meaning Master of Law). Having composed a few problems in the 1930s, Albarda resumed composition in earnest in 1946, and Niemeijer suggests that his relatively late start explains the maturity of his work. He composed mostly two and three-movers, and liked to compose for thematic tourneys and matches. While he was not prolific, composing fewer than 200 problems in total, his output is of a high standard.

A Set 1...Be5 2.Se3; 1...Re5 2.Sd4; 1...Kf4 2.Qf2. 1.Se5 (>2.Rh5) 1...Bxe5 2.Qc2; 1...Rxe5 2.Sd6; 1...Kxe5 2.Bf3; 1...fxe5 2.Bxe6; 1...Bf4 2.Be4. The set Grimshaw is replaced after the sacrificial give-and-take key by a Nowotny. The original setting omitted the wPb2, which is necessary to eliminate the cook 1.Be4+ Kxe4 2.Sb2; 1...Kf4 2.Qe3.

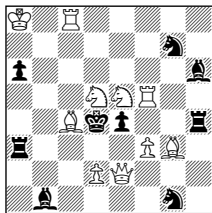
B 1.Bxf5? (-) 1...Qxa4 2.Bd7; 1...e5 2.Bxe4; 1...e6 2.Rxc7; 1...h3! 1.Sxf5! (-) 1...Qxa4 2.Sd4; 1...e5 2.Se7; 1...e6 2.Rxc7; 1...e3 2.Bg2. Self-pinning try and key, followed by changed withdrawal and interference unpins.

C 1.Sd3? (>2.Be5) 1...Bf4 2.Qxe4; 1...Rf4 2.Qe3; 1...Sxf3! 1.Sf4! (>2.Sc6) 1...Rd3 2.Qxe4; 1...Bd3 2.Qe3; 1...Sxf5 2.Se6; 1...Sxe2 2.Sxe2. Different Grimshaws, but the same mates. An intriguing idea.

D Set 1...Kxf4+ 2.Sd5+ Kf5 3.Se7. 1.Qd8? (>2.Qf6#) 1...Kxf4+ Sg5+ Ke5 3.Sxf7; 2...Bd4 3.Qf6; 1...f5 2.Qf6+ Kxf4 3.Sc5; 1...Rh6 2.Rxf7 >3.f4,Qg5; 2...Rf6 3.Qxf6; 1...Rf5!; 1.Qf8! (>2.Qd6#) 1...Kxf4+ 2.Sc5+ Ke5 3.Sxd7; 2...Kg5 3.Qg7; 1...Be5 2.Qg7+ Kxf4 3.Sxc5; 2...f6 3.Qxf6. Self-pinning cross-checks followed by unpins, spread over three phases.

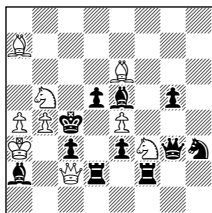
E 1.Se1 (>2.Bd4 >3.Bxd5,Qxc3) 1...e2 2.Bxd5+ Rxd5 3.Qxa2; 1...Sf4 2.Qxc3+ Bxc3 3.Sd6; 1...Rf5 2.Bxd5+,Qxd2. Nowotny threat and matching variations where two guards on a mating square are neutralised, the rear guard by self-interference then the front guard by decoy.

C Johannes Albarda
2 Pr Probleemblad 125th
TT 1969-70



#2

E Johannes Albarda
1 C Probleemblad 1975

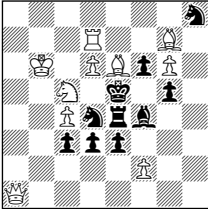


#3

F 1.Sf6 (>2.Bd7 >3.Re8) 1...Sd7 2.Sxd7 f~ 3.exf6(ep); 1...Rd7 2.cxd7 c6 3.Bxc5. Defences on the threat square by the half-pinned pieces, inviting stalemate. White's continuations are cleverly distinguished.

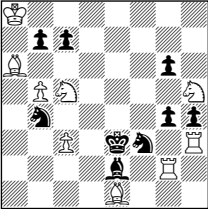
G (a) 1.Qh1 (>2.Qxe4#) Sf3 2.Qxh8 (>3.Bxf6#) Kd4 3.Qa8 (>4.Qd5,Qxe4) c2 4.Qa1; 2...B~ 3.Bxf6+ Kf4 4.Sxd3. (b) 1.Qa8 (>2.Qd5,Qxe4#) Sc6 2.Qxh8 (>3.Bxf6#) Kd4 3.Qh1 (>4.Qxe4) c2 4.Qa1; 2...Bh2 3.Bxf6+ Kf4 4.Qxh2; 2...Bg3 3.Bxf6+ Kf4 4.Sxd3. A minimal change reverses the rundlauf. Niemeijer described this as "a technical masterpiece".

G Johannes Albarda
Pr NBvP 108TT 1960-62



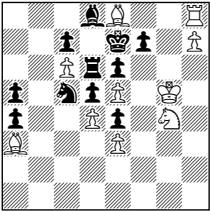
#4 (b) Pf2>e2

H Johannes Albarda
4 HM Probleemblad 1959



#7

F Johannes Albarda
2 PI Netherlands v
Greece 1975-76



#3

H 1.Rxg4 (>2.Re4#) Bd3 2.Rg2 (>3.Bd2#) Be2 3.Rxg6 (>4.Re6#) Bc4 4.Rg2 (>5.Bd2#) Be2 5.Rg8 (>6.Re8#) Bxb5 6.Rg2 (>7.Bd2) Be2 7.Rxe2. A simple idea, but amusing.

BRITISH OPEN ONLINE MASTERS (BOOM): LATEST NEWS, by Brian Cook

41 solvers (3 solving in both categories) from 14 nations solved in our Easter GP in which we were delighted to welcome first-timer Swati Mohota (IND and otb WFM).

Category 1 provided another great day for Martynas, ahead of Eddy and David. Given an extra 5 seconds for the H# round it would have been even better, Martynas having not quite enough time to enter the last few moves of the third solution. Robert finally achieved the coveted 65 point maximum in Category 2 for a dominant win over David and Rens.

Full results and problems/solutions can be found on the WFCC website via the STM Solving Calendar and at www.netchex.club.

Unusually, Peter Gvozđjak's 2-mover [diagram 1 below] proved to be the second toughest problem of the show. The only original used in the Category 1 event was diagram 2 (which proved to be the toughest). Solutions of these problems are on p.386.

With this, the final GrandPrix of the 2023-24 season, we congratulate Eddy on taking the category 1 crown ahead of Vidmantas and Vlaicu. Congratulations in category 2 go to Robert, whose strong finishing run edged him just past David.

The next BOOM event, the first of the 2024/25 series, is our Summer GrandPrix on Saturday 1st June at 12:30 Local Time which will again use the standard WBCSC format of 6 rounds (13 problems). Registration is optional. The tournament email address is boosm21@btinternet.com and the links for the Tourney pages are: <http://www.ihandicap.mobi/bcsc/bc240601.htm> and <http://www.ihandicap.mobi/bcsc/bc240602.htm> for the 'fixed' & 'flexible' schedules respectively.

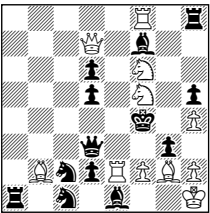
The back-up link will be <http://www.ihandicap.mobi/bcsc/bc240603.htm> which also provides an extra Tourney page for those who enjoy solving both Categories.

	Category 1	Pts	Category 2	Pts
1	Martynas Limontas	63.3	Robert Włodarczyk	65
2	Eddy van Beers	62.3	David Whisstock	55
3	David Hodge	62	Rens ter Veen	48.5

FINAL GrandPrix Classification (top 8)

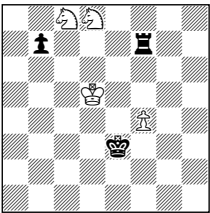
Category 1	Pts	Category 2	Pts
Eddy van Beers	88	Robert Włodarczyk	114
Vidmantas Satkus	69	David Whisstock	111
Vlaicu Crişan	66	Tim Sheldon	48
David Hodge	61	Brennan Price	46
Martynas Limontas	60	Helmut Locher	35
John Nunn	59	Britta Leib	35
Nikos Sidiropoulos	31	Iancu-Ioan Sandea	34
Anatoly Mukoseev	26	Zuzana Kovacova	30

1 Peter Gvozđjak
3 Pr Pat a Mat 2014



#2

2 Brian Cook
Original for BOOM 2024



H#4 3 solutions

CHAMPIONSHIP ORIGINALS

TWOMOVERS: Kabe Moen, 5483 Park Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 35406, USA

(<kabemoen@gmail.com>)

THREE- and MOREMOVERS: Jim Grevatt, Lazybed, Headley Fields, Headley, Hants, GU35 8PS

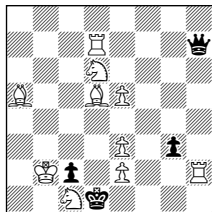
(<jim.grevatt@btinternet.com>)

Solutions to: Geoff Hicks, 6 Garstons Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 4EG

(<g.hicks@woodhicks.co.uk>) by 31st October 2024. Send comments by 15th September.

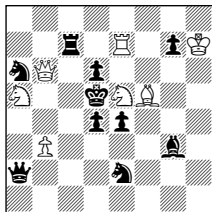
Judges for 2024: #2 Miguel Uris #3 Martin Hoffmann #n John Nunn

C12138 Andreas Witt
(Germany)



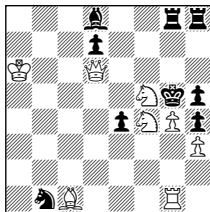
#2 vv (2 solutions)

C12139 Alexey Gasparyan
(Armenia)



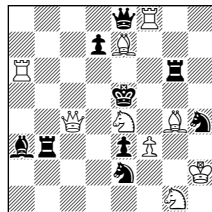
#2 (v)v

C12140 Charles Ouellet
(Canada)
after Max Klein



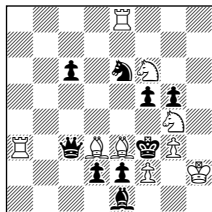
#2* v

C12141 C.G.S.Narayanan
(India)



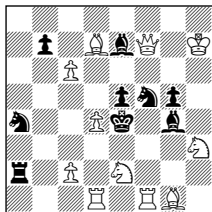
#2 vv

C12142 Daniil Yakimovich
(USA)



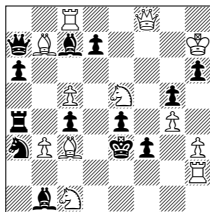
#2* vv

C12143 Rainer Paslack
(Germany)



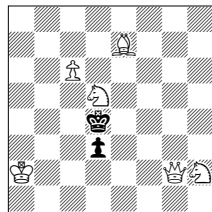
#2 vv

C12144 Zoltán Labai
(Slovakia)



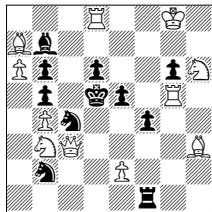
#3*

C12145 Petrašin
Petrašinović
(Serbia)



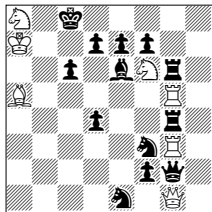
#3

C12146 L.Lyubashevsky
& Leonid Makaronev
(Israel)



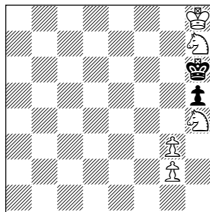
#3

C12147 Ralf Krätschmer
(Germany)



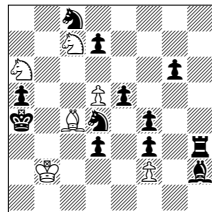
#7

C12148 Udo Marks
(Germany)



#11

C12149 Olivier Schmitt
(France)



#14

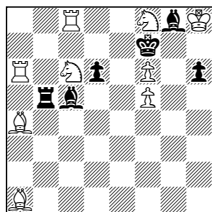
Twomovers: There are some interesting ideas in this set of originals. Andreas starts with one of his untraditional problems. I suspect solvers will not miss the two tries and two solutions. What follows is some interesting pattern play and reversal effects. There are several tries in **C12139** and keep an eye out for the changes in **C12140**. The following two problems exhibit sophisticated modern themes that I'm sure you will enjoy. Lastly, **C12143** presents multiple themes that should pose a challenge for solvers to decipher. Thank you to all composers who have contributed originals.

Three- and moremovers: Labai's solution features move transfer, but the set play also deserves attention. Petrašinović features mates on the same square by different pieces. The joint composition allows 2 unprovided flights, but the play is most complex. For Ralf (not Rauf!) you have to unravel the column on the g-file. Marks invites you to stop the bK from reaching the g-file! Olivier Schmitt (welcome back!) has found an improvement to his #14 published in *StrateGems* 2016.

SOLUTIONS (November)

C12100 (McShane) 1.Qb7! (-) Kd6 2.Sc4; 1...Kd4 2.Sg4; 1...Kf4 2.Bh2; 1...Kf6 2.Qg7. A near miniature with bK star-flights and nice variety. Shouldn't be too taxing on solvers (KM). Pleasant star-flight near miniature with a key that gives more than it takes. The wBg1 plays a very full part covering c5, d6, d4, e5, f4 and g3 in the course of the solution. A very promising debut by Luke! (D J Shire). Nicely done (Spiros Pantos). A pretty starter (G K Hicks).

C12101



#2

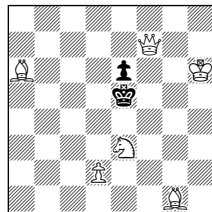
C12101 (Paslack) 1.Sd7? (>2.Rf8) d5 2.Sc5 but 1...Rb8! 1.Se6? (>2.Rf8) Rb8 2.Sc8 but 1...d5! **1.Sg6!** (>2.Rf8) d5 2.Sc5; 1...Rb8 2.Sd8. The problem shows anti-Levman effects on doubly masked lines. It's very neat but I wish it had more play (KM). How to threaten 2.Rf8! Here is excellent strategy presented with perfect clarity (DJS). Very clever (SP). As White vacates f8 to threaten 2.Rf8, he has to choose the arrival square carefully to avoid interfering again on the set masked lines. A no-frills yet beautiful presentation of the idea (GKH).

C12102 (Shire) 1.Sg5? (>2.Se3) Sf5 2.Bg2, but 1...Bd4! 1.Se5? (>2.Sc7) Bxe5 2.Rxe5; 1...Sa6 2.Rd8; but 1...Bxe6! **1.Sa5!** (>2.Sc7) Be5 2.Rxe5; 1...Sa6 2.Rd8; 1...Bxe6 2.Bxe6. The set 1...Sc6 2.Sc7 signals the key threat. The solver must figure out which wS must make the line-closing threat. My favourite part is how the wK is used to avoid cooks: 1.Se3+? Ke4 2.Sg5?? and 1.Sc7+? Kc6 2.Sa5?? (KM). What a beauty! Lots of calculations to make here (SP). Closing the lines of wRe1 and wBh3 fail (Hironori Oikawa). Thanks to Kabe for making me look at the role of the wK and enjoying the excellent cook-avoidance strategy from wS checks on c7 and e3. Some solvers considered that 1.f5? (>2.Sf4) Bxe6! was also one of the thematic tries (Solutions Editor).

C12103 (Dyachuk) 1.Raxf7? (>2.R7f6) Bxe5 2.R5f6; 1...Bxf5 2.Qxf5; 1...Bxc6 2.Rxg5; but 1...Rb7! 1.Ra5? (>2.Rf6) Bxe5 2.Raxe5; 1...Bxf5 2.Qc4; 1...Bd5 2.Bxd5; but 1...Rb5! **1.Qg3!** (>2.Rf6) Bxe5 2.Qxe5; 1...Bxf5 2.Bd5; 1...Kxf5 2.Bg4. An excellent Zagoruiko. The key was a real surprise to me because the battery was so integral in the first two phases. Nice flight gift (KM). A memorable Zagoruiko – the key dismantles a battery and yields a flight. The excellent wK placement guards g6 and permits a pinning defence (DJS). Interesting change of mates (Romuald Łazowski). A lovely 3x2 Zag with prominent black defences and pleasing differentiation of white mates and made prizeworthy by the withdrawal key, unpicking a strong battery and giving a flight (GKH).

C12104 (Pereira) 1.Rd3? (>2.Se3) Sxc2 2.Bxc4; 1...Qc1 2.Sc3; but 1...Qd2! **1.Rb5!** (>2.Kc7) Sxb5 2.Bxc4; 1...bxa5 2.Rxc5; 1...Ra8 2.bxa8=Q; 1...exf5 2.Qg8; 1...Qh4 2.Sb4. The try and key are very strong, pinning two black pieces, but these pins are used in the threat and variation mates. It's a pity that the wQ could not be worked into the try (KM). Exciting to solve (SP). The double-pinning try and key are too strong for comfort. Further, it appears that the wQ and the royal battery it serves take no part in the try (GKH). DJS shows in the diagram at far right that the core thematic play can be achieved at a saving of six units. 1.Rd3? (>2.Se3) Qc1 2.Sc3; but 1...Qd2! 1.Rb5! (>2.Kc7) Qh4 2.Sb4 (S Ed).

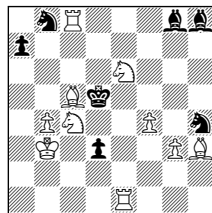
C12100



#2

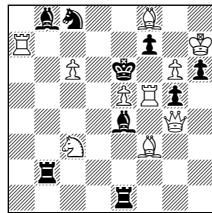
How to threaten 2.Rf8! Here is excellent strategy presented with perfect clarity (DJS). Very clever (SP). As White vacates f8 to threaten 2.Rf8, he has to choose the arrival square carefully to avoid interfering again on the set masked lines. A no-frills yet beautiful presentation of the idea (GKH).

C12102



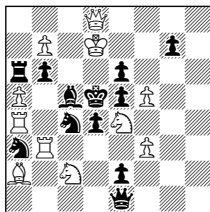
#2

C12103



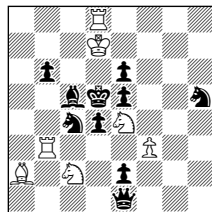
#2

C12104



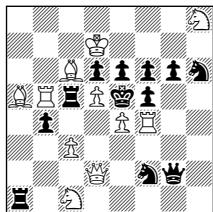
#2

C12104 version DJS



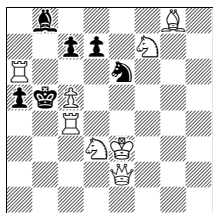
#2

C12105



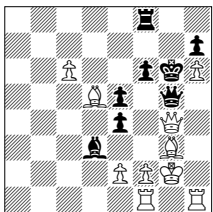
#2

C12106



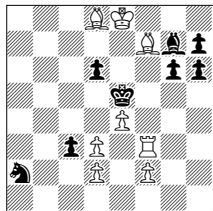
#3

C12108



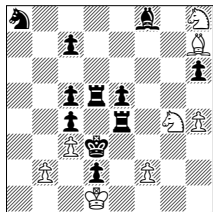
#4

C12109



#8

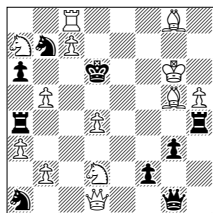
C12111



#14

C12105 (Svítek) 1.Bc7? (>2.Bxd6) Rxc6 2.dxc6; 1...Sf7 2.Sxf7; 1...Sxe4 2.Sd3; but 1...Ra7! 1.exf5? (>2.Qd4) Se4 2.Sd3; 1...Qe4 2.Sxg6; 1...Sxf5 2.Sf7; 1...Sd3 2.Sxd3; 1...Qxd5 2.Sxg6; but 1...Rc4! **1.dxe6!** (>2.Qxd6) d5 2.Bc7; 1...Rd5 2.Rxd5; 1...Sf7 2.Sxf7; 1...Sxe4 2.Sd3. The WCCT11 theme where Black defends by moving to a square just vacated by White. Here it is shown on two different squares – this was a rarity in problems that featured in the award (KM). As far as I can see, with the exception of 1.dxe6! d5 (line opening) 2.Bc7 all the mates in the two major phases are unguards (DJS). Perhaps also 1.exf5 (line opening) (>2.Qd4) but generally there is a considerable absence of strategic content (GKH). No solver claims to have noticed that this setting doubly fulfils the WCCT11 theme – so perhaps we should not be too critical! (S Ed).

C12107



#3

C12106 (Makaronez & Aliovsadzade) 1.Ra4 (>2.Sb2+ Kxc5 3.Qc4) Kxa4 2.Qb2 3.Qb4. 1...Kxa6 2.Sb4+ 3.Qa6. 1...d5 2.R4xa5+ Kc4 3.Qc2. 1...Sd4(f4) 2.R6xa5+ Kc6 3.Sd8. A bK star spread over moves 1 & 2, give-and-take key (JGG). Nicely done (SP) With no set mate for 1...Kxc4, the key takes more than it gives (GKH).

C12107 (Samilo) 1.b6 (>2.Rd8+ Sxd8 3.cxd8Q) Raxd4 2.Sc4+ Kd7/Kc5 3.Qa4/b4. 1...Rhxd4 2.Se4+ Kd7/Ke5 3.Qg4/Re8. Two nicely matched variations, but the unprovided flight signposts the key (JGG). Interesting play throughout (SP). There's an unprovided flight but surprisingly the bK is granted further liberty by the captures on d4 and continuations have partial reflected similarity. There is also an under-promotion mate - 1...Sc5 2.Rd8+ Sd7 3.c8S (GKH).

C12108 (Nesek) 1.Qd7 (>2.Qg7+ Kf5 3.Be6+ Kxe6 4.Qd7) Qxh6 2.Rxh6+ Kxh6 3.Qg4 4.Rh1. 1...e3 2.Qg7+ Kf5 3.fxe3+ Qf4/Kg4 4.Rh5/Rh4. The bQ takes advantage of the unpinning, but 1...Qxg4 cannot be allowed (JGG). Interesting; black and white queens facing off (SP) Switchbacks by the wQ (RL). Key unpins bQ. Interesting that after the defence 1...e3 two pin-mates on the h file follow (GKH).

C12109 (Dowd & Echেমendia) 1.Bd5 (>2.Bb6 3.d4#) cxd2 2.d4+ Kxd4 3.Bb6+ Ke5 4.Rf7 (>5.f4#) Bf6 5.Be3 (6.f4#) Bg5 6.Re7+ Bxe7 7.f4+ Kf6 8.Bd4. 5...g5 6.Rxf6 Kxf6 7.Bd4+ Kg6 8.Bf7. The key piece returns to its starting point for a model mate (JGG). The procedure for checkmate with switchback is good (HO). I liked the build-up of White's play to force bPg5 and complete the mating net and then a bonus model mate to end with. Good stuff (GKH).

C12110 (Yarmonov) 1.Bb4+ Kd4 2.Rd8+ Bd5 3.Bc3+ Kc5 4.Rc8+ Bc6 5.Sxe4+ Kd5 6.Sf6+ Kc5 7.Bb4+ Kd4 8.Rd8+ Bd5 9.Sg5 (>10.Sf3#) Rf1 10.Bc3+ Kc5 11.Rc8+ Bc6 12.Sge4. 9...Ke5 10.Sd7+ Kf4 11.Bd6+ e5 12.Bxe5. Repeated checks to allow the S to mate, with the bK in his original position (JGG). A slight shame that a checking key is necessary but the repetition of White's visits to b4, d8, c3, c8 and e4 and the bK's return to c5 are pleasing (GKH).

C12111 (Mihalčo) 1.Sf6 Rd4 2.Sf7 Bd6 3.Sd7 Rd5 4.h5 Sb6 5.Sxd6 cxd6 6.Sxb6 Rd4 7.Sd7 Rd5 8.Sf6 Rd4 9.Sg4 Rd5 10.Sh2 Rd4 11.Sf3 Rd5 12.Sxd2 Rd4 13.Sf3 Rd5 14.Se1. The finale removes d2 and enables a pinmate (JGG). For me, two points made this tricky – 4.h5 is an important waiting move that forces the elimination of the bS and then the removal of the bPd2 to allow the final mate (GKH).

RETROS, Edited by Richard Dunn

11 Edinburgh Crescent, Kirton, Boston, Lincs. PE20 1JT

email: <richardjdunn2@gmail.com>

Judge for 2023-24: **Thomas Brand**

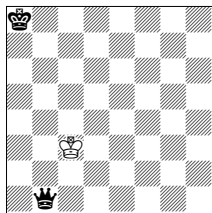
Originals: Deductive (top-down) reasoning is first required before you count the moves in Michel's PG. I think you will find R626 fairly easy and fun to solve. R627 is more of a challenge but well worth the effort.

Definitions: See *A Glossary of Fairy Chess Definitions* for an explanation of Proof Game (PG n) and Proca Retractor. Fuddled Men: A unit may not make two moves in succession. Circe Assassin: Like Circe, but when the rebirth square is occupied, the occupant is replaced ("assassinated") by the captured unit.

Difficulty ratings: R625: 3.5; R626: 3.5; R627: 4.5.

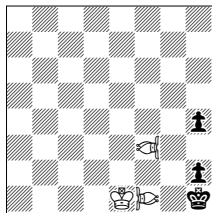
RETROGRADE ANALYSIS FOR NEWCOMERS

RQ27 Frédéric Lazard
Die Schwalbe 1929



Black retracts a move
then H#2

R617



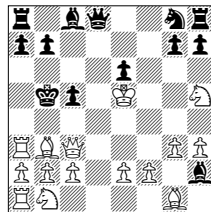
-1 & #2 Shatranj
♞ Fers ♞ Alfíl

than a threat (CCL). Took a while to realise that a black Alfíl from its starting position could never reach f1 (J.de Boer).

R618 (Kerhuel & Dupin): (a). Add wPs on e4, f4 and g3, bK on g5 and a bR on h5. The last move was f2(or f3)-f4+ which is illegal since the royal pawn on g4 is not mated. When the e2 pawn is removed, the position becomes legal because f2-f4+ is met by royal gxf3 ep. When any other piece (not a K) is removed, there is no mate. (b). Add wPs on e4, f3 and f5, bK on h3 and a bR on h5. The move f2-f3+ is illegal for the same reason as in (a). When any piece (not a K) is removed, there is no mate and the position is legal.

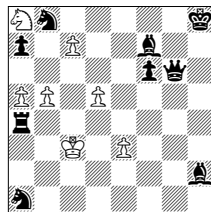
An interesting take on legality. Maryan has composed several illegal clusters incorporating the fairy condition; this is his first collaboration with Jacques in the IC field (RD).

R625 Michel Caillaud
(France)



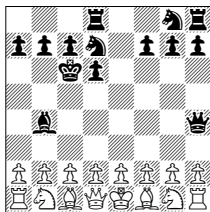
PG 22.5 (15+13) C+

R627 Paul Răican & Vlaicu Crisan
(Romania)



-5 & #1 Proca Retractor
Circe Assassin

R626 Timothy Y. Chow & Noam Elkies
(USA)



PG 9.5 (16+14)
Fuddled Men

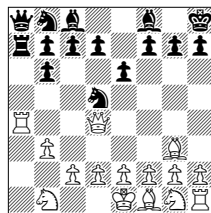
SOLUTIONS (November)

R616 (Comay): 1.a4 e6 2.Ra3 Be7 3.Rb3 Bh4 4.Rb6 axb6 5.b3 Ra5 6.Ba3 Rh5 7.a5 Qg5 8.a6 Se7 9.a7 0-0 10.a8=R Kh8 11.Ra4 Qa5 12.Qc1 Qa8 13.Qb2 Ra5 14.Qd4 Sd5 15.Bxf8 Ra7 16.Bd6 Be7 17.Bg3 Bf8. Lovely combination of Frolkin R (not obvious in diagram) with extended TURTON theme by bQ and bR, switchback by bB from the only square where he is out of the way, and exquisite timing throughout. Thank you Ofer! (C.C.Lytton).

R617 (Vokál): Back 1.ALd3-f1? & fwd Ke1-f2? 1...h4-h3! Back 1.ALh3xAlf1? impossible move since a black Alfíl from c8 could not reach the square f1. Back 1.ALh3xSf1? & fwd 1.Ke1-f2? 1...Sf1-e3! **Back 1.ALh3xFEf1! & fwd 1.Ke1-f2!** FEf1-e2 (1...FEf1-g2) 2.FEf3-g2# (fwd 1.Ke1xf1? stalemate).

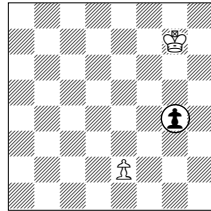
Can only safely uncapture a Fers, original black Alfíl was confined to the even ranks and we cannot promote to another one. If uncapture a bS, 1...Se3 would defend. Piquant that we have zugzwang rather

R616



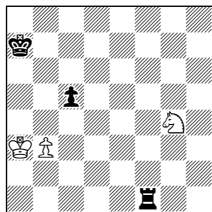
PG 17.0 (15+15)

R618



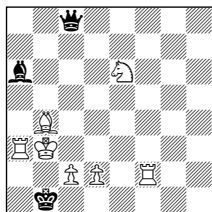
Royal Pg4 Rex Multiplex
(a) add 5 pieces: 3 wPs, a bK and a bR to obtain an illegal cluster
(b) as above, but with a royal bishop on g4

**E1407 Rainer Staudte &
Michael Schlosser**
(Germany)



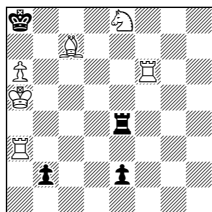
Draw

E 1408 Vladislav Tarasiuk
(Ukraine)



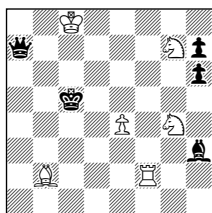
Win

E1409 Yochanan Afek
(Israel)
*Dedicated to
Don van den Bergh*



Win

**E1410 Michal Hlinka &
Luboš Kekely**
(Slovakia)



Draw

STUDIES, edited by Yochanan Afek

Jacob van Lennepstraat 49, 1053 HC Amsterdam, Netherlands

email: afekchess@gmail.com

Judge for 2024: Harold Van der Heijden

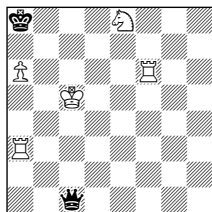
Originals: E1407 is a precise joint superminiature. **1.Se5!** 1.Se3? loses to 1...Rf2! e.g. 2.Sc4 Ka6 3.b4 – knight moves are not better. 3...Kb5! 4.Sd6+ Kc6! 5.bxc5 (5.Se4 cxb4+ Wins.) 5...Rf4! winning e.g. 6.Kb3 Kxc5 7.Sb7+ Kc6 8.Sa5+ Kb5 9.Sb7 Rd4 trapping the knight. **1...Ka6** Following the pawn exchanges 1...Kb6 2.b4! Re1 3.bxc5+ Kb5 4.Sd7 Kc6 5.Sb6 Kxc5 6.Sa4+ it's a draw. **2.b4 Re1** 2...Ra1+ 3.Kb2! Re1 4.Sd3! Re2+ 5.Kc3 draws; or 2...Rf5 3.Sc4! draws. **3.Sc4!**

A: 3...Kb5 4.Sd6+! Kc6 5.bxc5 Kxc5 6.Sb7+! Kb5 7.Sd6+ Kc5 8.Sb7+ Kc6 9.Sa5+ Kb5 10.Sb3 draws.

B: 3...Ra1+ 4.Kb3! Whereas 4.Kb2? fails to 4...Ra4! 5.Kb3 Rxb4+ winning. **4...Rb1+ 5.Sb2! cxb4** 5...c4+ is met by 6.Kc2 (But not 6.Ka2? Rc1). **6.Ka4! Rxb2** Ideal stalemate!

The Ukrainian composer of E1408 is back with a sacrificial struggle to avoid various drawing pitfalls: **1.Sc7!** Deflection! Following 1.Sc5? Qg8+! 2.Ka4 (Or 2.c4 Qxc4+! 3.Ka4 Qb5+ 4.Kb3 Qc4+ with perpetual check only as 6.Bc3 is not a check!) 2...Qe8+ 3.Kb3 Qg8+ – it's perpetual check again; 1.Ra1+? is premature owing to 1...Kxa1 2.d3 Bxd3! 3.cxd3 Qxe6+ draws. **1...Qxc7 2.Ra1+!** Try: 2.d3? is premature too in view of 2...Bc4+! (2...Bxd3? 3.Ra1+! Kxa1 4.cxd3 – see main line) 3.dxc4 Qg3+ 4.Bc3 Qb8+ 5.Bb4 Qg3+ with perpetual check. **2...Kxa1 3.d3 Bxd3!** 3...Bc4+ 4.dxc4 Qg3+ 5.Bc3+ With a winning cross check. **4.cxd3 Qc1 5.Bc3+ Kb1 6.Rd2!** [6.Rb2+?? is met by 6...Qxb2+! 7.Bxb2 – stalemate. **6...Qc2+!** Since 6...Qh1 allows a skewer after 7.Rb2+ Kc1 8.Bd2+ Kd1 9.Rb1+ and wins. **7.Kb4!** 7.Rxc2? is still a stalemate. **7...Qc1 8.Rb2+ Qxb2+ 9.Bxb2** Finally winning as it is not a stalemate anymore.

E1409 position after 6...Qc1+



Win

E1409 is dedicated to a Dutch chess player on the occasion of his Ph.D. promotion. Indeed, we have here a fierce sacrificial struggle for promotion: **1.Bg3 e1Q+!** 1...Re5+ loses to 2.Bxe5 e1Q+ 3.Bc3 Qxe8 4.Rb3 and wins. **2.Bxe1 Re5+ 3.Ka4 Re4+** 3...b1Q loses to 4.Sc7+ Ka7 (4...Kb8 5.Rb3+) 5.Bf2+ wins. **4.Bb4! Rxb4+!** The black rook is sacrificed first since 4...b1Q allows 5.Sc7+ Kb8 6.a7+! Kxa7 7.Kb5+ Kb7 8.Sd5! winning. **5.Kxb4** 5.Ka5? b1Q 6.Sc7+ Ka7 7.Rf7 Kb8 is just a draw. **5...b1Q+ 6.Kc5!** Whereas 6.Ka5? Qe1+ 7.Kb6 Qxe8 draws. **6...Qe1+** [see diagram] Or 6...Qc2+ 7.Kb6 Qb2+ 8.Kc6! Qc2+ 9.Kd7! wins. **7.Kb6!!** One rook is sacrificed... **7...Qxa3 8.Sc7+ Kb8 9.Rf8+!!** ...and then the second one! **9...Qxf8 10.a7+ Kc8 11.a8R+!!** To be reborn with no delay (The Phoenix theme)! Not 11.a8Q+? Kd7 12.Qxf8 Stalemate! **11...Kd7 12.Rxf8** and wins.

In the Slovak co-production (E1410), saving the day requires a great deal of material and utmost accuracy: **1.Bd4+!** The alternatives fail: 1.Rf5+? Kc4 2.Rf4 Qe3 3.Be5 h5 4.Sxh5 Bxg4+ 5.Rxg4 Qh3 6.Sf6 h5 winning; 1.Rf4? Bxg4+ 2.Rxg4 Kc6 mating. **1...Kxd4 2.Se6+ Kd3! 3.Rf3+!** Whereas 3.Sf4+? loses to 3...Kxe4 4.Sxh3 Qa6+ 5.Kc7 Qc4+ 6.Kd6 Qd3+ 7.Ke7 Qxh3 wins. **3...Kxe4 4.Rf4+!** 4.Rxh3? is met by 4...Kf5 5.Rxh6 Kxg4 wins. **4...Kd5 5.Sc7+ Kc6 6.Rf6+ Kc5 7.Rf5+ Kc4** Or 7...Kb4 8.Rf4+ Ka5 9.Rf5+ Kb6 10.Rf6+ Kc5 11.Rf5+ Kc4! 12.Rf4+ draws as in the mainline. **8.Rf4+ Switchback 8...Qd4 9.Rxd4+ Kxd4 10.Se6+** A switchback, unpinning Sg4. **10...Kc4! 11.Sxh6 Kd5!** Or 11...Bxe6+ 12.Kc7 Kd5 13.Kd8 draws. **12.Kd7 Bxe6+ 13.Ke8** (/d8). Not 13.Ke7? Ke5! zugzwang 14.Kf8 Kf6 and wins. **13...Ke5 14.Ke7!** zugzwang – draw, for example, **14...Bb3 15.Sg4+ Kf5 16.Sf6 h6 17.Sh5** draw.

We are glad to introduce, for the first time here, an original from Japan (E1411). Its composer, a 53-year-old professor of economics and game theory from Hokkaido, has already published in the *TP supplement* several problems in other genres. **1.Qd1 e2!** (1...a1Q 2.Qxa1 Bxa1 3.Rxe4 Rf5 4.Rxe3 Rxd5 5.Re7+ Kg8 6.Rc7 is good enough for a draw.) **2.Qxe2 a1Q 3.Sc4! Rf2 4.Sd6!! Rxe2** (4...e3 5.Re7+ Kh6 6.Qxf2! is similar to the main line.) **5.Re7+ Kh6 6.Sf7+ Kg7** Not 6...Kh5?? 7.g4# **7.Sd6+! Kf8 8.Re8+ Kg7 9.Re7+ Kf6 10.Re6+ Kg7** (10...Kg5 11.Sf7+ Kf5 (11...Kh5? 12.g4#) 12.Sd6+ (12.Sh6+) 12...Kg5 13.Sf7+.) **11.Re7+ Kf6 12.Re6+** Draw by perpetual check.

An endgame study with all 16 pawns is perhaps a unique vision. The contents in E1412 are rather surprising too: **1.Bg6 f5+ 2.Ke5!** Approaching the queenside through pawns, though, seems more sensible, but proves hopeless following 2.Kd3? h5 3.h4 Rh6 4.g4 Rxb6 5.g5 Ke8! (5...e5? 6.fxe5 Re6 7.f4) 6.Kc2 Kd8 7.Kb3 Kc8 8.Ka4 Kb7 9.Kb5 e5 10.fxe5 Re6 11.f4 Re8 12.Ka4 Ra8+ 13.Kb3 Kc6 14.Bc1 Ra5 15.Bxa3 b5 and Black prevails. **2...h5 3.h4 Rh6 4.g4!! Rxb6 5.g5 Kf7 6.Bc1!** Tempo! Logical try: 6.Be3? Rf6 7.Bxc5 bxc5 8.f3 Kg6 and White is in zugzwang! 9.gxf6 gxf6#; 6.f3? fails to 6...Rf6 7.Be3 Kg6 8.Bf2 Rf8 9.Bxc5 Rc8 winning. **6...Rf6 7.Be3!** As 7.Bxa3? allows 7...Kg6 8.Bc1 Rf8 smoothly invading via the queenside. **7...Kg6 8.Bxc5!!** 8.f3? is met by 8...Rf8 9.Bxc5 Rc8 winning **8...bxc5 9.f3** Now Black is in zugzwang! **9...Kf7 10.g6+** Followed by an immediate stalemate!

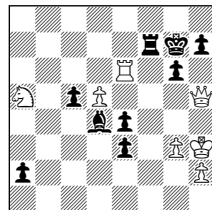
Our small community has recently lost two of its active promoters. **John Derek Beasley** (England 15.2.1940 – 3.3.2024) created some 50 endgame studies besides problems in other genres. He wrote monographs on the studies of Arthur Mandler and Richard Réti, co-authored the books *Endgame Magic* and *Endgame Wizardry*, and produced the periodical *British Endgame Study News*. Shortly before his death he published his lovely *A Book of Bedtime Pawn Endings*. JDB advocated minimalism in art as demonstrated in **A. 1.Rh4+!! Qxh4 2.Rg8! Qh3+ 3.Kb4! Qh4+ 4.Kb5! Qh5+ 5.Kb6 Qh6+ 6.Kb7** wins.

B is John's only study in his *Bedtime* book. The impulse is to play 1.e6? expecting the exchange on that square and a quick march to gobble up the black c-pawn, when the bK is just short of gaining the opposition. However, 1...Kf8! ensures that the opposition is Black's. More promising is 1.Ke4, but Black plays 1...Kg6!, ready to take the e-Pawn when the c-Pawn is captured, whereupon both sides promote. The right move is **1.Kf4!** If now **1...Kg6 2.Ke4** it is Black to play. If he plays **2...Kg5** still hoping for 3-4 Kxc5 Kxe5, White plays **3.e6!** and after **3...fxe6 4.Ke5** Black's king is on just the wrong square (he could draw if it were on g6 or g4). Other attempts using the f-pawn fail. A delightful, completely natural, zugzwang idea.

Jonathan Mestel and David Friedgood from the BCPS attended the John Beasley memorial.

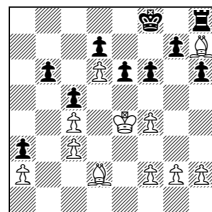
Sarah (Siegfried) **Hornecker** (Germany, 19.3.1986 - 22.3.2024) composed some 320 studies, nearly 40 of them jointly with Martin Minski. In recent years he wrote regularly in the quarterly *EG* and *Chessbase* website to popularise our art. **C** is a Valladao task study, displaying the three odd chess moves: Castling, En passant and Pawn Promotion. It additionally contains 2 underpromotions. **1.0-0!** Not 1.Rf1? f5 2.gxf6 Qc8! 3.f7 Qxe6+! **1...f5** The pawn ending after 1...Qe7 2.Rxf7 Qxe6 3.Rf6+ Qxf6 4.gxf6 Kxf6 5.Kf2 is hopeless for Black. **2.gxf6** Not 2.Rd1? f4 3.Rd7 Qe8 4.Rf7 Qxe6 5.Rf6+ Qxf6 6.gxf6 Kxf6 7.Kf2 Kf5 8.Kf3 Ke5 draws. **2...Qc8** 2...Qc7 is met by 3.f7 Qe5 4.f8R! (4.f8Q? fails to 4...Qxh2+ 5.Kxh2 stalemate!); 2...Qa8 loses to 3.f7 Qxa2 4.Rf6+! Kxf6 5.f8Q+ wins. **3.f7 Qxe6 4.f8S+!** 4.f8Q? Qg4+ 5.Kf2 Qe2+ 6.Kg3 Qg2+ 7.Kxg2 Stalemate!; whereas 4.f8R? Qg4+ 5.Kh1 Qe4+ 6.R8f3 (6.R1f3 Qb1+ 7.Kg2 Qxa2+ 8.Kg3 Qa1) 6...Kxh6 7.a3 Qxh4 8.Rf6+ Kg7 9.R6f4 Qe7 just draws too. **4...Kxh6 5.Sxe6** wins.

E1411 Toshiji Kawagoe
(Japan)



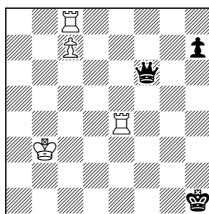
Draw

E1412 Beat Neuenschwander
(Switzerland)



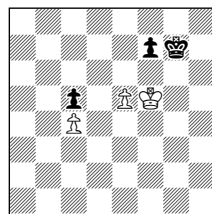
Draw

A John D.Beasley
3 HM *The Problemist*
1972



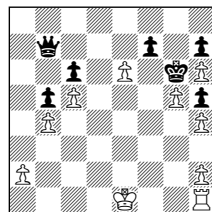
Win

B John D.Beasley
diagrammes 1998



Win

C Sarah (Siegfried)
Hornecker
1 Pr *König & Turm* 2007



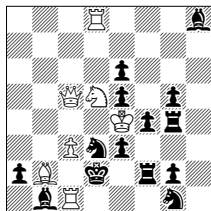
Win

SELFMAATES AND REFLEXMATES, Edited by Stephen Taylor

Greenways, Cooling St., Cliffe, Rochester, ME3 7UB (email: sgjt@btinternet.com)

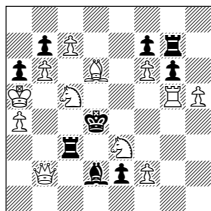
Judge for 2024: Zoran Gavrilovski

S2991 Daniel Papack
(Germany)



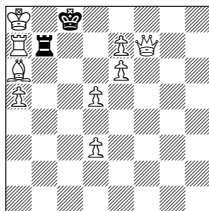
S#2 (b) Rg4>e2

S2992 Camillo Gamnitzer
(Austria)



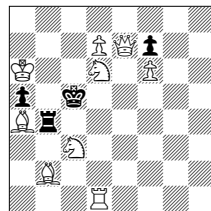
S#5

S2993 Gunter Jordan
(Germany)



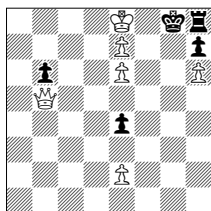
S#7 (b) Kc8>c7

S2994 John Bowden



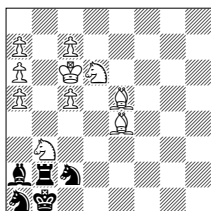
S#8 (2 solutions)

**S2995 John Bowden &
Stephen Taylor**



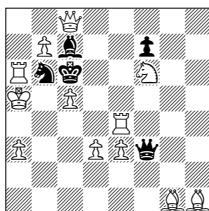
S#12 (b) Pe2>e3

S2996R Cedric Lytton



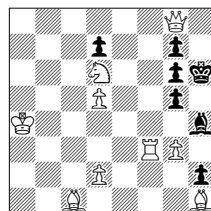
R#2

S2997R Stephen Taylor



R#2

S2998 Alexey Gasparyan
(Armenia)

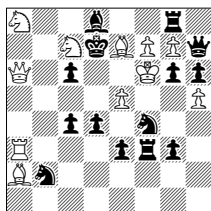


S#16

Originals: Daniel's intriguing concept of "reciprocal graduation" was discussed by David Shire in his January 2024 article. Now, the very welcome **S2991** shows a selfmate embodiment. For solvers liking a gentle start, perhaps two straightforward reflexmates will be next? The remaining ladder problems also fall naturally into pairs: typical challenges from Camillo and John, and two twinned positions – **S2993** & **S2995**, whose twins, if not identical, are (as one might infer from their pointedly subtle changes) certainly close. These latter problems require you to find more moves than usual, especially as I don't often allot ladder points to a S#12. However, with such constrained black pieces, I fancy they'll both yield to solving persistence – and prove enjoyable too. There are **ladder points** for **S2991-S2997R**, all C+.

As promised, here's the solution to S2498v2 (diagram at right), last time's 'solving bonus': 1.a8R+ Kb4 2.a3+ Kxc4 3.e4+ Kd4 4.Sf3+ Kxe4 5.Sc3+ Kf4 6.d3+ Kg4 7.Se5+ Kh4 8.g3+ Qxg3+ 9.hxg3+ Kxg3 10.Qg4+ fxg4 11.Rxf8 c4 12.Bd2 cxd3 13.Rf3+ gxf3 14.Rd1 f2#. I'm particularly pleased that Alexey seems to have cured this problem (fingers crossed!) as it was very kindly dedicated to me. Last but not least, I'm sure that readers will find his *non-ladder* partially-tested **S2998** equally interesting. As ever, please do share your comments. Happy solving!

S2968

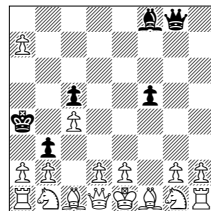


S#2

SOLUTIONS (November)

S2968 (Chamberlain) 1.Rd3! (> 2.Rxd4+ Sd5#) 1...Qh8 2.f8S+ Rxf8#; 1...Sbxd3/cxd3/c5/Bxc7 2.e6/Be6/Qe6/e6+ Sxe6#. Some extraordinary combinations here! (Spiros Pantos) Brian's exploration of occupation of the same square by different white pieces continues to good purpose, albeit White's out-of-play rook pinpoints the key... (Cedric Lytton) Good double-pin mate, 2...Rxf8 (Romuald Łazowski).

S2498v2



S#14

S2969 (Samilo) 1.h8S+! 1...Kf6 2.Rf8+ Ke7 3.Ba3+ b4#; 1...Ke7 2.Rg7+ Kf6 3.Bb2+ c3#. Black clearly mates by b4/c3 so long as 1...Sxg2 isn't allowed to give the bK plenty of escape routes on the g-file. This can only be achieved by successive checks (Alan Bradnam). A beauty! Symmetries abound and the bK net is built by 2 white rooks and bishop while the queen just holds her pin on the black knight (SP). Unusual to find a checking key for a S#3, but justified here (Brian Chamberlain). Attractive forced cross-check mates with echoed bK and wR positions; essential to promote with check as 1...a3 destroys both bishop checks, while 1...Sg6 is also a strong defence (CL). Many will prefer the symmetry, regular structure and temporal economy of S2969, where the wQ has a very minor virtual role – 1...Ke7 2.Ba3+? Kf6 3.Qa1+? Sd4(e5)! However, for the curious, here's a bifurcating S#4 tweak that avoids employing the wQ as merely another rook: 1.Q6/2p1k1Ps/1pP5/rp1K4/p1p1P3/1b3s2/6R1/2B2R2 [1.g8S+! Kf7 2.Sh6+ Kf6/Ke7 3.Qh8/Rg7+ etc.].

S2970 (Tkachenko, Frolkin & Lyubashevsky) 1.Sc8! (>2.Qb6+ Ke5 3.Qxe3+ Sxe3#) 1...bxa4 2.Qxb4+ Ke5 3.Qf4+ Sxf4#; 1...Bc6 2.Qf4+ Kc5 3.Qxb4+ Sxb4#; 1...Rf6 2.Qxf6+ Kc5 3.Qb6+ Sxb6#; 1...Rxc8 2.Qb6+ ~ 3.Qf6+ Sxf6#; 1...Qc3 2.dxc3+ Kxc3 3.Qxb4+ Sxb4#. Two pairs of variations showing interchange of White's 2nd & 3rd moves; active sacrifices, battery play and a related by-play variation (Composers). Good white sacrifices and pin-mate (RL). Varied play with bS freed to five squares for discovered mates. The star variation induces a bR self-block (CL). Tough to see (SP). The 2×2 structure is cleverly done without recourse to blatant symmetry (SJGT).

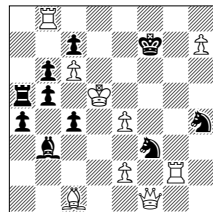
S2971 (Taylor) Set: 1...g4 2.Se3 gxf3 3.Sf1 Ke4 4.Bd5+ Ke5 5.~ f2#; 1...f4! 2.?? 1.Rf6! 1...f4 2.Kf1 fxg3 3.Re1+ Kd4 4.Rf4+ gxf4 5.Bb5 g2#; 1...g4 2.Qg6 gxf3 2 (...f4? 3.Sxf4! gxf3 4.Bf1 f2#) 3.Rxf5+ Ke4 4.Re5+ Kxe5 5.Bf1 f2#. Instead of PS4006's set half-pin yielding symmetric pins that are essential to its echoed mates, I used Cedric's matrix to show these pins themselves then being released – once by Black & once by White – before 2 key-piece sacrifices immobilise the unpinned pawns to force the same zugzwang mates (Composer). Adds difficulty to my simple matrix by having the bK move around (CL). Neat model mates with chameleon-echo (RL).

S2972 (Fica) Sbd6! 1...g5 2.Rf8 Kc6 3.Rxf5 Kd7 4.Rb5+ Kc6 5.Bd8 b6 6.Rc5+ bxc5#; 1...Kc6 2.Be6+ Rc5 3.Bd7+ Kd5 4.Qg5+ Kd4 5.a6 bxa6 6.Ba7 a5# - Alexander's slight regret was not finding a second model mate for the 1...Kc6 line. But, as remarked in November, a couple of previewers failed to locate one too. A memorable cornucopia of mixed effects – 2 mates by the b7 pawn after one capture in each direction, mutual rook play on or across c5, bK & bR stepping together out of one pin into another (chameleon) one... (SJGT) Alexander should be proud to have produced this impressive work, one of whose excellent lines finishes in a model mate (BC).

S2973 (Bowden & Taylor) 1.Sb5 axb5 2.Qa1 a6 3.Be5 fxe5 4.Qc1 e4 5.Re5 e3 6.Re7 e2 7.Qh6+ gxh6 8.g7+ Kh7 9.g8R+ Bxe7#; & 1.Rf2 f5 2.Se8 f4 3.Sc7 f3 4.Qb5 axb5 5.Rfxf3 a6 6.Rf7 Kg8 7.Rf8+ Kxf8 8.Bc5+ Be7 9.Bd6 Bxd6#. Model mates by the bB from 2 locations along e7-b4 after release from its h-file pin in different fashions, bP interference or bK escape; facilitated by White sacrificing different units on b5 (Composers).

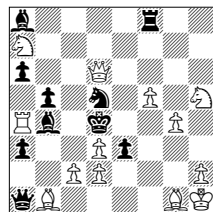
S2974 (Novomesky) 1.b8B Ke1 2.Ba7 Kf1 3.Bg1 Ke1 4.Bh2 Kf1 5.Rf2+ Ke1 6.Kg2 f3+ 7.Kh1 Kxf2 8.Re8 Kf1 9.Bh3+ Kf2 10.Bg2 fxg2#. Miniature bP minimal with bishop underpromotion key, bK switchbacks and model mate (Composer). A nice miniature! (RL) White's superbly-crafted manoeuvres are S2974's undoubted highlight – with every unit actively employed; yet the close-quarter bK play is not without its features: a 2-cycle pendulum plus f-file switchback, linked together by a rundlauf that takes in every square visited by the king (SJGT).

S2969



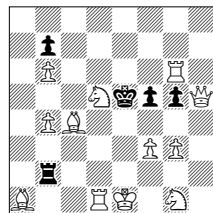
S#3

S2970



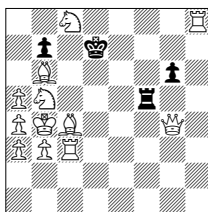
S#3

S2971



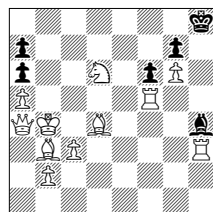
S#5

S2972



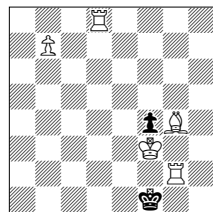
S#6

S2973



S#9 (2 solutions)

S2974

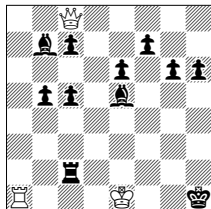


S#10

HELPMATES, edited by Christopher Jones

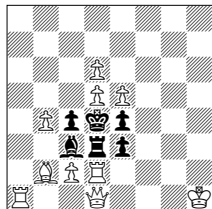
11 Severn Grange, Ison Hill Road, Bristol BS10 7QA (email: cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk)

H4794 Jozef Ložek & Miroslav Svítek
(Slovakia / Czech Republic)



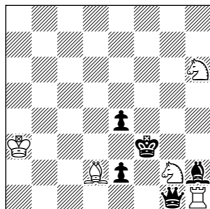
H#2 (b) Ra1<>Kh1

H4795 Misha Shapiro
(Israel)



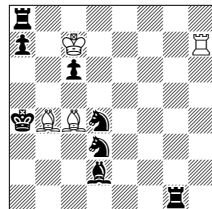
H#2 (b) ♞c4

H4796 Mykola Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Galma
(Ukraine)



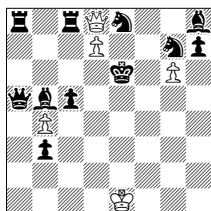
H#2 4 solutions

H4797 Mykola Vasyuchko, Mykhailo Galma & V.Yuzyuk
(Ukraine)



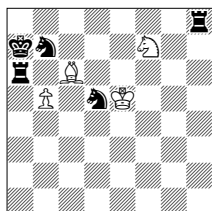
H#2 6 solutions

H4798 Fadil Abdurahmanović
(Bosnia & Herzegovina)



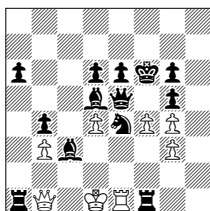
H#2 6 solutions
in memoriam bernd ellinghoven

H4799 Andrew Kalotay
(USA)



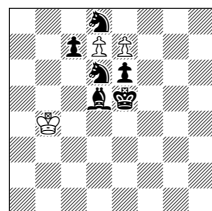
H#2½ (b) Sb7>c8

H4800 Jorge Lois
(Argentina)



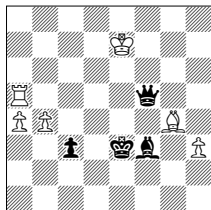
H#2½ (b) Pg3>h3

H4801 Zoltán Labai
(Slovakia)



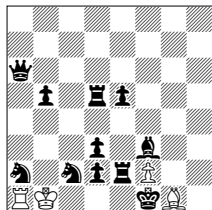
H#2½ 4 solutions

H4802 Kivanç Çefle
(Türkiye)



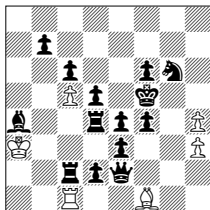
H#3 2 solutions

H4803 Sergei I. Tkachenko & Andrey Frolikin
(Ukraine)



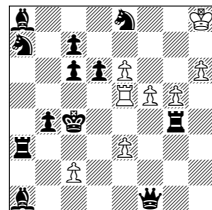
H#3 (b) Pd3>(x)e2

H4804 Kenneth Solja & Evgeny Gavryliv
(Finland / Ukraine)



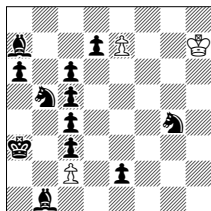
H#3 (b) Pf6<>Sg6

H4805 Ljubomir Ugren
(Slovenia)



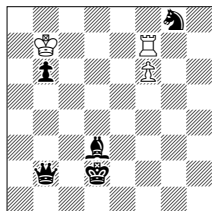
H#3 (b) Pe6>f3

H4806 Rolf Wiehagen & Gerold Schaffner
(Germany / Switzerland)



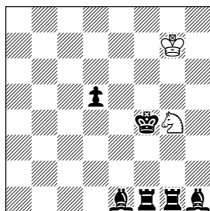
H#3 (b) bKh5 (c) bKa8
(d) bKa5 & Sg4>a4

H4807 Marcos Roland
(Brazil)



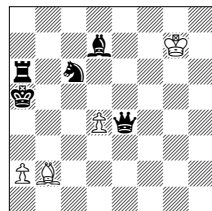
H#3½ 3 solutions

H4808 Ken Cameron

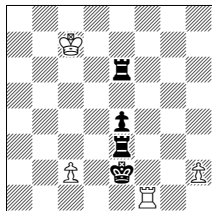


H#4 (b) see text

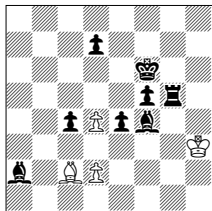
H4809 Geoff Foster
(Australia)



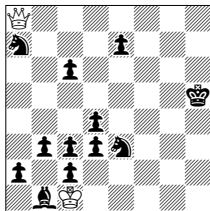
H#4 (b) Kg7>h6

H4810 Henry Tanner
(Finland)

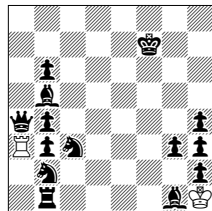
H#4 4 solutions

H4811 Stephen Taylor

H#4½ 2 solutions

H4812 Yuri Bilokin
(Ukraine)

H#5 2 solutions

H4813 Eckart Kummer & Achim Schoeneberg
(Germany)

H#6½

Judges for 2024: H#2: **Ricardo Vieira** H#2½-3½: **Harry Fougiaxis** H#n: **Jonathan Mestel**

Firstly, an apology: in the section of the March issue presenting comments on September 2023's H4723 I referred to a possible version of its idea without diagramming it and without mentioning the important fact that in this version the position of the wK has been changed. Here is the diagram; comments on it are as per the March issue. (a) 1.e3 Rc6 2.Se4 fxe4+ 3.Kd4 Rc4#. (b) 1.Sxf3 Sd3 2.Se5 fxe5 3.Bc4 Rd6#. (c) 1.Rb6 Rc6 2.Se6 Rc4 3.Rd6 fxe4#.

I think that you will find our twenty originals this month (in which promotions frequently feature) very palatable. In **H4808** (a very welcome first contribution from Ken Cameron), you reach part (b) by moving the pieces at e1/f1/g1/h1 up a rank, to e2/f2/g2/h2. Otherwise, twinnings are quite straightforward, though it may be worth noting that in **H4803** moving the d3P to the previously-occupied e2 square brings the piece count down from (4+10) to (4+9). If there is anything else about which you are unclear don't hesitate to contact me.

SOLUTIONS (November)

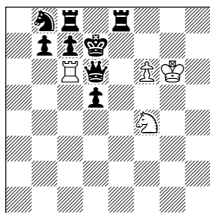
H4734 (Bilokin) 1.Rcd8 Sxd5 2.Kc8 Sb6#. 1.Re5 Sd3 2.Ke6 Sc5#. 1.Qc5 Rxc5 2.Sc6 Rxd5#. A charmingly idiosyncratic trio of mates where the potentially disruptive bQ is evaded by different means: her active sacrifice, static interference, and pinning (S.J.G.Taylor). Nicely done. Fun to solve (S.Pantos).

H4735 (Taylor) (a) 1.f1=B Se6 2.Bd3 Sxe3#. (b) 1.Scd4 Sxe3 2.Rc6 Sd7#. (c) 1.Qc4 Sd7 2.Sbd4 Sf4#. (d) 1.Se5 Sf4 2.Rc4 Se6#. Cyclic pattern of white moves: AB/BC/CD/DA (C.R.Blanden, surprisingly the only solver to comment on this strong feature). Attractive task, with 2 wSs tackling the bK on a square of squares (C.M.B.Taylor).

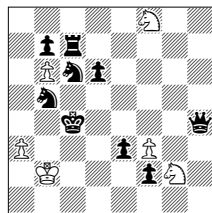
H4736 (Salai, Klemenič, Packa and Dragoun) 1.Sxd4 Qxa7 2.Be2 Qxd4#. 1.Sxe4 Qe8 2.Rf2 Qxe4#. 1.Sd3 Qf8 (Qxa7?) 2.Kxd4 Qc5#. 1.Sf4 Qg8 (Qe8?) 2.Kxe4 Qe6#. Four varied mates by the wQ (S.Jacob). A super twinless HOTF; two self-block replacements allow wPs d4 & e4 to be annihilated for wQ mates thereon, or the same set self-blocks perform anticipatory self-pins for the bK to be mated at d4 & e4 instead; again by the wQ in an appealing construction (SJGT).

H4737

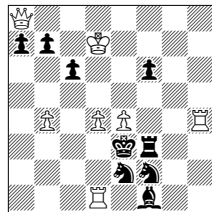
H#2½ 3 solutions

H4734

H#2 3 solutions

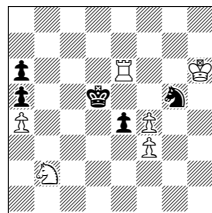
H4735

H#2 (b-d) bK>c5/d5/d4

H4736

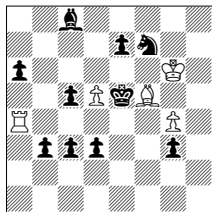
H#2 4 solutions

H4737 (Klemenič) 1...Qd1 2.Bxc2 Kb5 3.Kd3 Qf3#. 1...Qh2 2.Bxc3 Kb6 3.Kd4 Qf4#. 1...Qh3 2.Rxc4 Kb7 3.Kd5 Qf5#. Triply matched play in which both Ks advance for wQ mates (CMBT). Matched P captures free mating square and allow wK to move on to the b-file (CRB).

H4723v Christopher Jones & Stephen Taylor

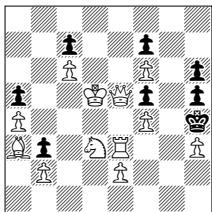
H#3 (b) ♖a6 (c) ♜a6

H4738



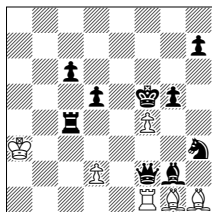
H#2½ 3 solutions

H4739



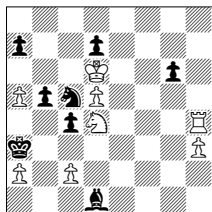
H#2½ 3 solutions

H4740



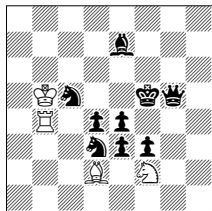
H#3 2 solutions

H4741



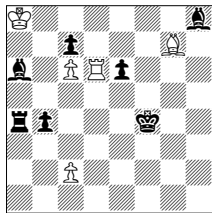
H#3 2 solutions

H4742

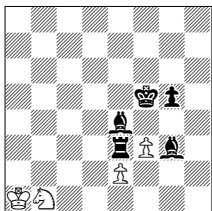


H#3 3 solutions

H4744

H#3½ 2 solutions
(b) Pe6>e5

H4743



H#3½ (b) Ka1>a5

H4738 (Gavryliv) 1...Be4 2.Kf4 Rc4 3.Kxg4 Bg2#. 1...Rf4 2.Kxd5 Be4+ 3.Kc4 Bc6#. 1...Kh7 2.Kf6 Rf4 3.Bxf5+ Rxf5#. Remarkable that Evgeny manages to set up three R/B batteries so economically and without twinning! That one of the batteries is then deployed in a different fashion makes it quite a solving challenge too (SJGT). 2 similar discovered mates and an odd sacrificial 3rd solution. Not easy to solve (CRB).

H4739 (Kaproš † and Lois) tempo-tries: 1...Bb4 2.?? Be1#; 1...Se1 2.?? Sg2#; and 1...Qc3 2.?? Qe1#. Solutions: 1...Qe4 2.fxe4 Bb4 3.exd3 Be1#; 1...Bd6 2.cxd6 Se1 3.dxe5 Sg2#; and 1...Sb4 2.axb4 Qc3 3.bxa3 Qe1#. Extraordinary play; White must sacrifice to avoid stalemate, the actual mates being incidental! A fitting final offering from Jorge Kapros; what could possibly follow it? (CMBT). A superb complete functional cycle by the wQ/wS/wB – active sacrifice, passive sacrifice, mating unit (hence, extended Zilahi) (SJGT); neat motivation for the cyclic Zilahi (L.S.Blackstock). Feels like a direct-mate with stalemate avoidance (Bd6 solution works as a #3) (CRB).

H4740 (Gavryliv) 1.Be4 Bf3 2.Kxf4 Rxf2 3.Bf5 Bh2#. 1.Qxf4 Rf3 2.Ke4 Bxg2 3.Qe5 d3#. A fine ‘magnetised Grimshaw’! The Chumakov theme by the critically-moving black magnet pair makes for a super combination, while the wP/wB mate/static guard function exchange is a nice touch too (SJGT).

H4741 (Jones) 1.Sa4 Sb3 2.cxb3 Rb4 3.bxa2 Rb3#. 1.Sb3 axb3 2.Kb4 bxc4 3.Kxc4 Se2#. Brilliant! S sacrifice on b3 and P moves (reversed) repeated with opposite colours (chameleon?). Excellent mid-board discovered mate (CRB, who adds that he found this and H4740 the most difficult of the problems he solved). Novel and witty; mutual long-range captures by the a2/c4 pawns are facilitated by chameleon sacrifices on b3. Great fun to solve! Its amazing asymmetric unity is exemplified by the dissimilar 2-step paths of the wR and bK both using b4 as their intermediate square (SJGT). This problem was used in the 2023 Belgian Solving Championships, where, as Controller Luc Palmans says, it wreaked “havoc”: none of the solvers in a strong field found both solutions, and only a handful found one – so it has been interesting to see how more leisurely solvers fared (CJAJ).

H4742 (Cherniavskiy) 1.Kf4 Bxe3+ 2.Kxe3 Rb2 3.Qf4 Sd1#. 1.Se5 Sxe4 2.Kxe4 Bc3 3.Qf5 Rxd4#. 1.Ke5 Rxd4 2.Kxd4 Sd1 3.Qd5 Bc3#. Another cyclic Zilahi (S.Jacob) via a threefold Kniest theme and adroitly combined with different 3rd-move bQ self-blocks (SJGT, who suggests a slightly more economical setting – 16/p7/Ks2kq2/R1pp4/2spp3/2B1S3/8).

H4743 (Foster) (a) 1...Sa3 2.Kf4 Sc2 3.Bf5 Se1 4.Re5 Sg2#. (b) 1...Sd2 2.Be5 Sf1 3.Kf4 Sg3 4.Bf5 Sh5#. Very clever – (a) and (b) show two clever ways to spin the wS into mating position – the two parts defined by the position of the wK (SP); for my own taste I’d rather set the wK at c1, but the twinned presentation defining which unit can self-block d5 has its attractions – not least as a big solving clue! (SJGT) A 2-solution problem with wK at e.g. a7 is possible, but I like how the wS must look ahead to what piece will self-block e5 before deciding on its route. Also, it’s good for the wK to have a use (Composer).

H4744 (Taylor) (a) 1...Rd3 2.Ke4 Rc3 3.Kd5 Rc5+ 4.Kd6 Bf8#. 1...Bb2 e5 c3 3.e4 Rf6+ 4.Ke5 c4#. (b) 1...Bf8 2.Bf6 Rxf6+ 3.Ke3 Rf2 4.e4 Bc5#. 1...c4 2.e4 Ba1 3.Bb2 Rf6+ 4.Ke5 Bxb2#. Interesting problem (R.Lazowski); the R + B mating pattern exploited to the fullest (LSB). Thematically the mating moves in (a) are the opening moves in (b); there are other repetitions of components, but these moves are effectual in different ways, and embellished with some particularly elegant elements (such as the 2...Ba1 3.Bb2 ‘magnetism’) (CJAJ).

H4745 (Taylor) (a) 1...Bxg5 2.Qe4 dxe4+ 3.Ke6 Rd7 4.Sd6 Re7#. 1...Bc3 2.Ke6 Re1+ 3.Kf5 Re4 4.Bg6 g4#. (b) 1...Be4 2.Qc3 dxc3+ 3.Kc5 Rd6 4.Rb5 Rc6#. 1...g4 2.Ke5 Re1+ 3.Kf4 Re3 4.Bxg4 g3#. The mates are echoed, even after the abrupt twinning. Impressive (LSB). Stephen presents also an interesting variant on this (see diagram), with an extra solution in each part, which is acceptable if you're prepared to stretch the orthodoxy on unacceptable duals. The two solutions of H4745 remain, supplemented now by (a) 1...Be3 2.Qe6 Rd2 3.Kd5 Rxc2 4.Sd6 Rc5# and (b) 1...Bc4 2.f1(~) Rxfl 3.Ke5 Rf4 4.Sd6 d4#. It's a shame about that resoundingly anti-Schnoebelen f1(~). It doesn't seem possible to show these third solutions without it. What do readers think?

H4746 (Ylijoki and Wiehagen) 1.b1=S Rf1 2.Sxc3 Ra1 3.Sb1 Bc3+ 4.Kd1 Rxb1#. Cunning under-promotion which took ages to spot! (LSB) Nice switchback by the promote S (SJ). The most difficult problem to solve this month. The inspired Klasinc-Maslar theme by a promoted black unit is distinctly non-obvious; and it needs an expert piece of construction to get sound too! (SJGT)

H4747 (Cook) set 1...Kb4 2.e3 fxe3 3.f2 e4+ 4.Kd4 Bxf2#. Solution 1.e3 fxe3 2.f2 Kb6 3.f1=B Kc7 4.Bc4 e4#. Pleasant and surprisingly diverse mates after two sequences that share 3 half-moves! It was also unexpectedly tricky to solve for a position with only 8 men and 2 officers (SJGT).

H4748 (Foster) 1.Sg5 Sf6 2.Kf4 Kb2 3.Bf5 Ka2 4.Be5 Sh5#. 1.Qe6 Sc7 2.Kf6 f4 3.Bg6 e4 4.Be7 Se8#. Nice model mates in a curiously diverse combination. The arresting wK hideaway with tempo move is well worth showing though (SJGT). In both solutions W1 unguards a square for bK. Excellent interaction in both solutions (Composer).

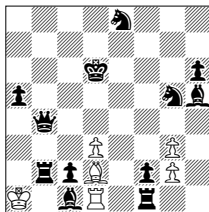
H4749 (Bilokin) 1.d1=B Be3 2.d2 Kf5 3.Kc1 Bh6 4.Bc2+ Kg5 5.d1=B Kh5# (Incredible solution with 4 bBs!; B1=B5 – CRB). 1.Sxg3 Bxb2 2.Rf1+ Kxg3 3.Rf7 exf7 4.d1=R f8=Q 5.Kd2 Qf2#. One of my favourite problems this month: a clever technical achievement, and very challenging to solve – especially the queen mate. Each model mate relies on a d1 under-promotion self-block after a matching unit has already traversed the same square, with or without stopping thereon (SJGT). More brilliant under-promotions. A nice touch that B on d1 guards g4, ensuring a unique solution (LSB).

H4750 (Kummer and Wiehagen) (dedicated to M.Ylijoki) 1...Qxc6 (Qxa6?; Qxh8?) 2.Kb4 Qxa6 3.Kc5 Qc8+ 4.Kb6 Qxh8 5.Kb7 Qc3 6.Ka8 Qa8#. Two successive triangular Rundlaufs centred on c8! (CRB) A lovely lucid and economical presentation of double wQ Rundlauf (SJGT). Marko Ylijoki writes to express his great appreciation of this problem and of its dedication.

H4751 (Degenkolbe and Abdurhamanović) The 'try' 1...Bh4?, with the idea 2.Kg5, etc., takes too long; so 1...Bxa5 2.b6 Kf4 3.0-0-0 Ke5 4.b5 Bxd8 5.Kb7 Kd6 6.Ka6 Kc7 7.Ka5 Kb7#. Another tricky helpmate that required precise play and a rook battery mate (SJ). Mating square and castling are fairly obvious but the moves of the b-pawn are not. Neatly done (CRB). A very interesting Klasinc that permits black castling after a temporary interference of its switchback, which itself delivers a Kniest theme on a5 ... Bravo! (SJGT)

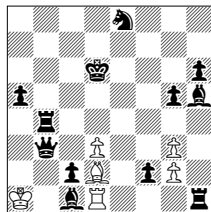
continued on p.387

H4745



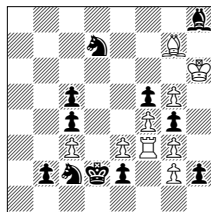
H#3½ 2 solutions
(b) Bd2<>Pd3

H4745v



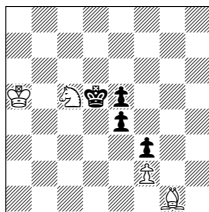
H#3½ 3 solutions
(b) Bd2<>Pd3

H4746



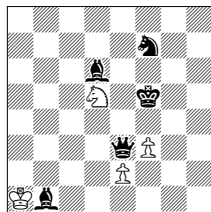
H#4

H4747



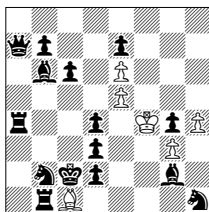
H#4 set play

H4748



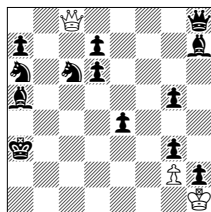
H#4 2 solutions

H4749



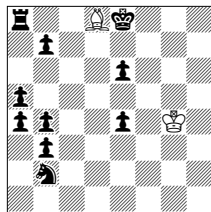
H#5 2 solutions

H4750



H#5½

H4751



H#6½

FAIRIES, Edited by K.Seetharaman

11 (old no.21), Minor Trustpura First street, Choolaimedu, Chennai, PIN 600094 India

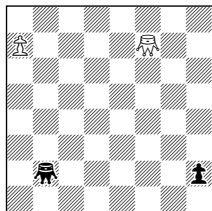
(email: seetharamankalyan@gmail.com)

Judge for 2024: Paz Einat

F3866 K.Seetharaman

(India)

Dedicated to Neal Turner

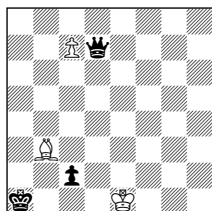


HS#2 2 solutions

SAT ♖♜ Royal G

F3867 S.Manikumar

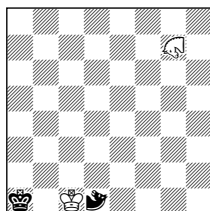
(India)



H#2 2 solutions

Functionary chess

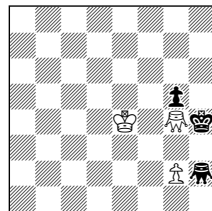
F3868 George Jelliss



Ser-H#4 (b) Zebra d1

♘ Lancer ♘ Giraffe

F3869 John Rice

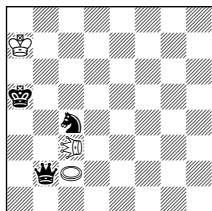


H#3 ♖♜ G (b) Ke4>f5

(c) replace both G by G2
(d) = (c) & Pg5>g3

F3870 Hiroaki Maeshima

(Japan)

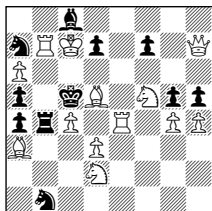


H#2 2 solutions

♘ Lion ○ Orphan

F3871 Hubert Gockel

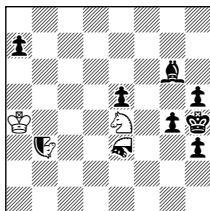
(Germany)



#2 vv Breton Adverse

F3872 Franz Pachl

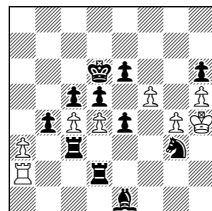
(Germany)



H#2 (b) ♘g6

Circe ♘ N ♘ Rose
Symmetry Anticirce

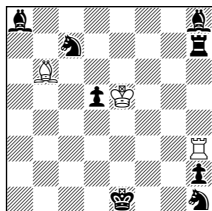
F3873 Christopher Jones



HS#4 (b) + ♖f3

F3874 Rolf Kohring

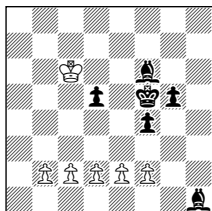
(Germany)



HS#3 (b) Pd5<>Ke5

Mars Circe

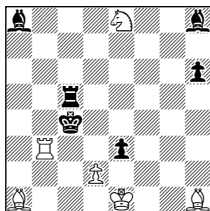
F3875 Brian Chamberlain



Ser-S#18

F3876 Kjell Widlert

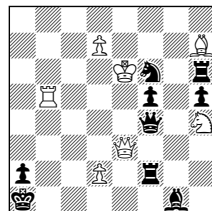
(Sweden)



Pser-S#8 Anticirce

F3877 Tibor Érsek

(Hungary)



Ser-H=10 Madradi

There are many home grown originals this issue (two from India and four from England). Mine is a simple demonstration for new solvers of Neal Turner's favourite genre SAT, in which a side is in check if its king (or royal unit) has a flight. When this happens the side in check must either block that flight or else move the royal unit to a square from where it has no flights. Capture of a royal unit is not allowed and the usual attack of the royal unit is ignored, although it is useful since the original square is now observed. In the diagram only the pawns can move and the task is to force Black to give the white royal G a flight it cannot negate.

In *Functionary Chess* (**F3867**) a unit (inc. Ks) may only move, capture or check when observed by an enemy unit. In the diagram position only the pawns (observed by bQ and wB) can move. However the square a2 is guarded by the wB, because a bK on a2 would observe the wB which would then be able to move. In George's **F3868**, the *Lancer*, *Giraffe* and *Zebra* are (2,4), (1,4) and (2,3) leapers respectively. These first three problems should be very easy to solve.

John surprises with the variety of play from an apparently simple position. In parts (c) and (d) of **F3869** both units on g4 and h2 are *Grasshopper-2*, i.e. they move like Grasshoppers but jump two squares after the hurdle. Another welcome contribution (**F3870**) from Japan uses the well-known Lion and the *Orphan*, which takes the power(s) of any enemy unit that observes it. In the diagram, Oc2 will move like a queen and on moving to d2 it will have the combined powers of both queen and knight. The two solutions are of course related.

In **F3871** Hubert shows the modern theme of threat correction among two tries and the key. In *Breton Adverse* every capture is a double capture with another unit of the same kind, if available, being removed (with the capturing side making the choice if more than two are on the board). Despite being short, **F3872** is quite complex. It uses both Circe and Symmetry Anticirce. In the latter, a capturing unit is reborn on the square that is symmetrically opposite the square where the capture takes place, the symmetry being calculated with reference to the centre of the board. For instance, the neutral Rose capturing on g4 will reappear on b5. If it captures on f5 it will reappear on c4. If the rebirth square is occupied then the capture is not permitted (in accordance with Anticirce rules). The Rose moves in a circular path like a Nightrider. It can move to c8 via c4-b6 and to g8 via d5-e7. If on d4 it will double-check the black king via two routes – f3 or f5!

In *Mars Circe*, units move normally, but in order to capture they (Ks included) must first be reborn on their Circe rebirth square (which must be vacant), and make the capture from there, all as one move. In the diagram position of **F3874**, neither rook can make any capture since their rebirth squares of h1 and a8 are occupied. Sh1 and Ke1 are both pinned as 1...Sh~?? 2.Rh3-h1xe1 and 1...K~?? 2.Ke5-e1xK. If Ba8 moves then the black rook will attack anything on the a-file or 8th rank since its home-square is vacant. The white king is not in check in either part because the bBh8 makes captures from f8, the bSc7 makes captures from b8 and the bBa8 makes captures from g8.

In **F3876** (parry-series) White makes a series of moves but can check Black before the end of the series – when this happens Black must make a move to parry the check, then the series resumes. For instance, White can at any time play Sd6+ and Black can then move his king to either b4 or d3 since a1 and h1 (the rebirth squares of Rb3) are occupied. **F3877** is computer tested and the task is to control the four free black men!

SOLUTIONS (November)

F3830 (Jelliss) 1.Qd6 EQb5 2.Qc5 EQd5 3.Qg1 EQf3#. 1.Qc4 EQd1 2.Qd4 EQb1 3.Qg1 EQb1#. Orthogonal/diagonal mates. Pin and anti-pin (KS). English Equihoppers take time in mating, effectively a pin-mate along the rank and a hot-spot mate along the diagonal (C.C.Lytton). The bQ shepherds both wEQs before self-blocking (Shankar Ram). Pure geometry (T.Maraffai).

F3831 (Loustau) Cook-tries 1.Qe6+? A VAXe6! 1.Rf4+? B PAXf4! 1.Qf6+? C VAXf6! 1.Sg3+? D PAXg3! Set: 1...VAXh1 x 2.Rf4 B; 1...Sd1 y 2.Qf6 C; 1...d2 z 2.Sg3 D; 1...hxg5 2.Qxg5 X.

1.PAc4? (>2.Qe6 A) (2.Rf4+? B VAXf4!) 1...MAAd6~ a 2.Rf4 B; 1...d4 p 2.Qf6 C; 1...dxc4!

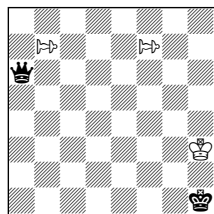
1.LEd4? (>2.Rf4 B) (2.Qf6+? C PAXf6!) 1...MAAd6~ a 2.Qf6 C; 1...VAef3 q 2.Sg3 D; 1...hxg5 2.Rxg5 Y changed; 1...VAXh1! x

1.PAc3? (>2.Qf6 C) (2.Sg3+? D PAXg3!) 1...MAAd6~ a 2.Sg3 D; 1...Sc4 r 2.Qe6 A; 1...Sd1! y

1.LEb3! (>2.Sg3 D) (2.Qe6+? A PAXe6!) 1...MAAd6~ a 2.Qe6 A; 1...VAXh1 s (=x) 2.Rf4 B; 1...d2 z 2.LEh3 Z changed.

4 fold cyclic Sushkov: 2.A(B?), 2.B(C?), 2.C(D?), 2.D(A?) with reappearance of the avoided threats in variations. This combination is extremely rare. 4-fold cyclic Le Grand (threat and mate after variation 1...MAAd6~). In each Sushkov phase, one of the thematic mates occurs after an additional variation (p, q, r, s), so there is an unusual 4x3 cyclic pseudo-Le Grand pattern: >2.A(B?) C, >2.B(C?) D, >2.C(D?) A, >2.D(A?) B. Incidentally ("mechanically") there are also several 2x2 or 3x2 pseudo-Le Grand patterns. Three-fold Dombrovskis: defence 1...VAXh1! x in relation to 2.Rf4 B (phases 1.LEd4? and set or actual play); defence 1...Sd1 y in relation to 2.Qf6 C (phases set-play and 1.PAc3?); defence 1...d2 z in relation to 2.Sg3 D (phases set-play and actual play 1.LEd4!). Several transferred mates and 2 changed mates (1...d2/1...hxg5, aside from the Le

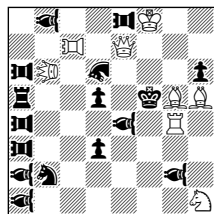
F3830



H#3 2 solutions

↳ English Equihopper

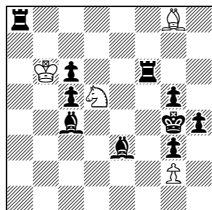
F3831



#2 ♔ Leo ♚ Pao
♙ Vao ♜ Mao

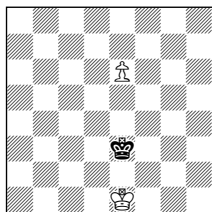
Grand variations), Black Organ Pipes with 4 Chinese pseudo-Nowotnys. No white pawns, and a relatively light position for this thematic content. More specifically the following two patterns deserve to be mentioned: 2.A C, 2.C A and 2.B D, 2.D B (Composer). Kaleidoscope of Chinese effects after tries and key (CCL). The white Leo and Pao create cyclic double threats on the “Chinese Organ Pipes” b3-c3-c4-d4. A second mate is avoided by line opening for bPAa6 and bVAAb8, which then returns after the MAD6 moves away. In addition, the composer has woven in several other effects to create a complex masterpiece (SR).

F3832



HS#3 2 solutions

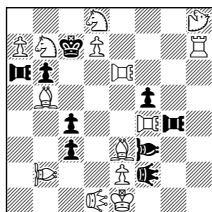
F3834



H#3 Circe

- (a) Vertical cylinder
(b) Horizontal cylinder

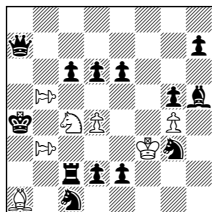
F3835



#2 2 solutions

- ♞♞♞♞♞ R/B-Lion
♞ Rose-Lion
♞♞ Quintessence-Lion

F3837



H#2 (b) Sg3>g2

SeriesCapture

- ♞ English Equihopper

F3832 (Krätschmer) 1.Bf7 Bf4 2.Kxc5 Ra4 3.Se3+ Bxe3#. 1.Bh7 Rf4 2.Kxc6 Ra7 3.Sf6+ Rxf6#. Self-block and switchback mates. Fairly simple strategy (KS). The bK has 3 flights. One is blocked by bB/bR, another is guarded by wB and the third is guarded by the checking wS, which has to choose the square vacated by the bB/bR. Annihilation of bP and switchback mates. Good unity (S.K.Bala).

F3833 (Salai jr., Klemenič, Packa & Dragoun) 1...Rc6 2.Bg3 EQe4 3.Qxc3+ Rxc3#. 1...EQc6 2.Qxe3 Ne4 3.Ra4+ EQxa4#. 1...Nc6 2.Re2 Re4 3.Be7+ Nxe7#. Cyclic function exchange of three black pieces Rc4/EQg4/Ng8 – battery mate with guard of e3/e2/g3, hurdle and guard of e3/e2/g3, guard of e4. The remaining free square is blocked by White, with function exchange of Bh4/Qc1/Ra2 as blocking and checking piece (Composers). Excellent cycle of black battery formation, but one white piece (QRB) is superfluous in each solution. Despite this seemingly unavoidable weakness, a top-class achievement (KS). Cyclical play by black R/EQ/N. Cyclic removal of flights g3/e3/e2 and cyclic play by white BQR. This is my favourite Fairy of 2023 (B.E.Chamberlain).

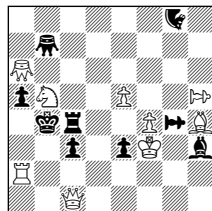
F3834 (Mintz & Gruber) (a) 1.Kd3 e7 2.Kc2 e8Q 3.Kc1 Qc2#. (b) 1.Kf4 e7 2.Kg5 e8Q 3.Kh6 Qg6# (4.Kxg6[wQd1]??). Should have been easy to solve since Circe & cylinder property is used only for the mating move! This inspired (as a challenge?) F3862 in the March issue (KS). Too simple and two repeated white moves (SKB).

F3835 (Quah) 1.QLd6! A (>2.Bxb6 B) 1...RLe4 a 2.BLe5 C; 1...RLd4 b 2.RLf7 D; 1...RLc6 c 2.a8S E (theme A defence). Other play: 1...QLxd8 2.RLf7; 1...QLe5 2.BLxe5.RLf7. 1.BLe5! C (>2.RLf7 D) 1...RLe4 a 2.a8S E; 1...RLd4 b 2.QLd6 A; 1...RLc6 c 2.Bxb6 B. Other play: 1...QLxb5 2.QLd6; 1...QLc6 2.QLd6.Bxb6. Five-fold Djurašević, distance 2! ABCDE – CDEAB – The QL(f2) defends on f7 via either e4-g5-f7 or g4-e5-f7. It also defends against the anti-battery A/C with 2...QL(f2)-g4xe5. The two necessary conditions for 2.a8S are the opening of the line RN(h8)-g6-e5-c6-b8 and closing of line BL(f3)-a8 (Composer). Another complex task of the rare Djurašević cycle from James who specialises in the theme (KS).

F3836 (Bell & Mestel) 1...Kb2 2.Kb7+ d5+ 3.e5 dxe6ep##. 1...Bc6 2.e5 dxe5 3.Kd7+ e6##. Black moves his king into attack on different squares. This is an interesting stipulation and is legitimate though it may appear illogical since moving into self-check (or ignoring self-check) on the last move is the only way to achieve the double-mate goal (KS). Under Jörg Kuhlmann's classification of double mates, the goal in both solutions would be called “Beidmatt”. And, the first solution's goal alone would also be called “Doppelmatt”. Definitions of both are available in the Fairy Chess Classification Project at *Julia's Fairies!* The combination of two complicated fairy elements makes this problem even more inscrutable! (SR).

F3837 (Maeshima) (a) 1.Kxb3xc4-d3 EQxh7-h3 2.Qxd4-c4 Kxg3-f3#. (b) 1.Kxb5xc4-d5 EQh1 2.Rc4 Kxg2-f3#. Zilahi. Anti-battery K-switchbacks on the mating lines in orthogonal/diagonal correspondence. W1/W2 cannot be reversed, as 2.Qxd4-c4 and 2.Rc4 would be self-check by EQb5/EQb3, respectively. B1/B2

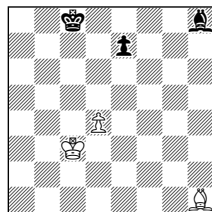
F3833



HS#2½ 3 solutions

- ♞♞ Equihopper
♞♞ G ♞ Nightrider

F3836

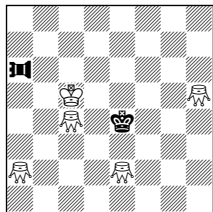
H#2½ 2 solutions
Vogtlaender

cannot be reversed, as bK could not reach d3/d5 (Composer). wS4 must be eliminated and c4 self-blocked differently! (KS).

F3838 (Prentos) (a) 1...Bc8 2.Rxc4 Bf5 3.b4 Bd6 4.Rc6+ Bd3#. (b) 1...Rf6 2.Rb4 Rc6 3.Sb3 Sf6 4.Bxc4+ Rxc4#. Two black batteries point to the wK. The rear piece of one battery moves into the line of the other battery, in between the rear and front piece, transforming it into a half-battery. This allows the front piece of the half-battery to move out of the line on the next move. Reciprocal battery creation with the rear piece of one battery as the front piece of the other battery (Composer). Excellent diagonal/orthogonal correspondence. In each solution the rear piece of one battery becomes the firing piece of another battery! Excellent unity of black play (KS). Tzuica 2023 theme. One of the two black original batteries is dismantled with the rear piece moving to the other battery forming a half battery. The previous front battery piece moves and the newly-formed battery fires. Perfectly matched black moves, but white moves lack unity (SKB).

F3839 (Tar) (a) 1.Rxe4-h1 Rd7 2.Rg1 Qh7 3.Rg8+ Qxg8-d8= (Sxg8??). (b) 1.Rxb4-a1 Rd8! 2.Rb1 Sd7 3.Rb8+ Rxb8-h8= (Sxb8??). The different rebirths of the wR are very interesting as are the different moves to d7 (though the motivation is not similar). The solutions are slightly unbalanced since in (a) the wPa7 cannot capture on b8 due to self-check while in (b) it is simply blocked by the bK (KS). Dual avoidance on B3. Under-used fairy condition (SKB).

F3840



HS#8 3 solutions

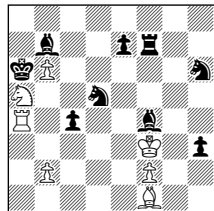
♔ Eagle ♘ Grasshopper

F3840 (Kotěšovec) 1.Ga7 EAd5 2.Kd6 EAc6 3.Gf7 EAf4 4.Ge5 Kf5 5.Ke7 Kg6+ 6.Kf8 Kh7 7.Ge8 Kh8 8.Gg7+ Eaf6#. 1.Kb5 EAc6 2.Ga5 Ke5 3.Gd5 Kd6 4.Ge6 Kc7 5.Ka6 Kb8 6.Gb6 EAc4 7.Gb5 Ka8 8.Gb7+ EAc6#. 1.Ghb5 EAb2+ 2.Kb4 EAe1 3.Ga4 Kd3 4.Gf2 Kc2 5.Gb2 Kb1 6.Gb3+ Ka1 7.Ka3 EAe3 8.Gd4+ EAc3#. Triple exact echo (Composer). The exact mate positions are echoed on the a8, h8 and a1 corners (KS). Fantastic! Three identical echo-mates in 8 moves without duals, without repeated moves must be a Herculean task. Is a fourth one possible? This composer has done it many times! (SKB). A very interesting selfmate – is it the only one possible with this material? In the mate the wG that is used as the hurdle has a possible move, but it is illegal as the bEA would still give check, but from a different direction (G.Foster).

F3841 (Stucker) 1.Bxg2=S! 2.Sxe3=P! (2.Sxh4? isolates the Pg5) 3.Pxf2=R! 4.Rxf3=B! (4.Rxh2=B? isolates the Pg3) 5.Bxd1!! (5.Bxg4=S? is too early) 6.Bxg4=S! 7.Sxe5! 8.Sxc4! 9.Sxd6=P! 10.Pxc5=P! 11.Rxd5=S! 12.Sxe7=P! (12.Sxf6=P? is too early) 13.Pxf6 14.Pxg5 15.Pxh4=S 16.Sxf5=P! 17.Pxe4 18.Pxd3 19.Pxc2=R 20.Rxc3=P! (20.Rxd2=B? is too early) 21.Pxd2=B! 22.Bxc1!! (22.Bxh6? is too early) 23.Bxh6! 24.Bxg7=R 25.Rxg6=B! (25.Rxf7=P? is too early) 26.Bxh5!! (26.Bxf7=P? is too early) 27.Bxf7=P 28.Pxe6=B 29.Bxh3!! (29.Bxd7=P? is too early) 30.Bxd7=P 31.Pxc6=B 32.Bxh1!! (32.Bxb7? is too early) 33.Bxb7 34.Bxc8!! (34.Bxa6=P? is too early) 35.Bxa6=P 36.Pxb5=B 37.Bxe8!! (37.Bxa4=P? is too early) 38.Bxa4=P 39.Pxb3=B 40.Bxg8!! (40.Bxa2=P? is too early) 41.Bxa2=P! 42.Pxb1=B 43.Bxh7=R 44.Rxc7=B! (44.Rxh2=B? is too early) 45.Bxg3=P! (45.Bxb8=R? is too early) 46.Pxh2=B 47.Bxb8=R 48.Rxa8!! (48.Rxd8=B? is too early) 49.Rxa7=P! 50.Pxb6=B 51.Bxd8!! (51.Bxa5=P? is too early) 52.Bxa5=P 53.Pxb4=B 54.Bxf8!! (54.Bxa3=P? is too early) 55.Bxa3=P 56.Pxb2=B 57.Bxh8!! (57.Bxa1? is too early) 58.Bxa1. Only 3 pieces (a8, b2 and h8) attack the king directly or indirectly, i.e. they are potential pieces to take the king. The solution leads across the board in all directions. Surprisingly the key piece is the Bh8, which is the furthest piece away (Composer). There are alternative routes after most of the moves. The composer gives the reason for not choosing some other captures. Not sure if this is testable by computer (KS).

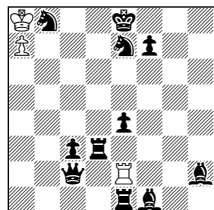
Correction: In the March 1995 issue (page 32) Jonathan Levitt published a Ser-H#30 in the article *Four Corner Round Trips*. A cook was later reported in the PDB. Gerold Schaffner (Switzerland) has proposed a correction of moving the wKb5 to e8 and it is now sound with the same solution. Here is the new position and solution for the record. 4.Kxe5 5.Kf6 10.e1B 11.Bxh4 13.Bxh6 15.Kh8 16.Bg7 21.h1B 22.Bxd5 23.Bg8 28.d1R 30.Rh7 Sg6#.

F3838

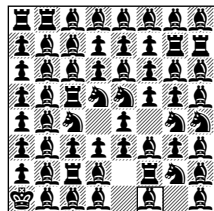


HS#3½ (b) Sh6>g3

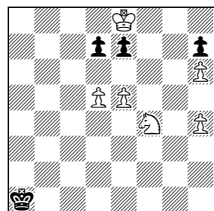
F3839

HS=3 (b) Ka8<>Ke8
Anticircle Cheylan

F3841

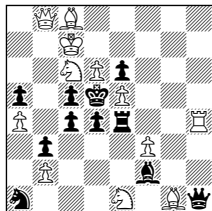
No more kings
Starting piece f1

Jonathan Levitt
The Problemist 1995
correction Gerold Schaffner



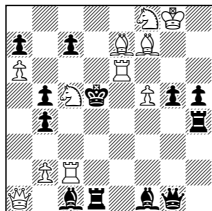
Ser-H#30

382a Piet le Grand
2 HM Mat 1986



#3 1.Qb5!

382b Mikhail Kuznetsov
1 Pr Selskaya zhizn
50 JT 1973



#3 1.Qa5!

SYNTHETICS

edited by Zoran Gavrilovski

P. fah 137 (Poshta 2), Skopje MK-1001,
North Macedonia

<zoran.gavrilovski@gmail.com>

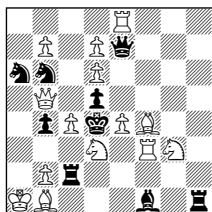
Synthetic 385: #2, Set play: 1...Sa2/Sc6/Sd5
2.Qe6#. Solution: 1.Qf8! (>2.Bb2#), 1...Sa2 2.Qc5#,
1...Sc6 2.Rb5#, 1...Sd5 2.Re6#, 1...Bf5 2.Qxg7#,
1...Kd4 2.Bb2#.

Synthetic 382a, 382b: No improvement.

SELECTED PROBLEMS

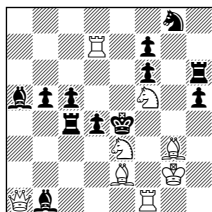
TWOMOVERS, by Kabe Moen

A1 Klaus Förster
2 Pr Die Schwalbe 2019



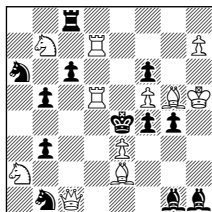
#2

A2 Klaus Baumann
1 Pr Die Schwalbe 2015



#2

A3 Vasil Dyachuk
1 Pr Problemist Ukrainy
2022



#2

We start with a couple of past prize winners from *Die Schwalbe*. Klaus Förster secured the top two prizes in the 2019 tournament, but I was drawn to his second place entry **A1**. The masked white lines of wBb1 and wRe8 control d3 and e4 respectively. The wPb7 is an add-on piece that leads to the initial attempt 1.b8S? (>2.Sc6). The thematic defences are 1...Rxc4, opening the guard to d3 for 2.Be3, and 1...Qxd6, opening the guard to e4 for 2.Sf5. We also have 1...Qxd7, followed by 2.Be5, and 1...Sxb8, leading to Qc5. However, the less-than-ideal 1...Rxb2! refutes this try. The key move is a delight: it opens one masked line and closes another along with several other effects. **1.Se5!** (>2.Sc6), changing all of these mates. Moreover, the first two defences have reciprocal changed mates: 1...Rxc4 results in 2.Sf5 while 1...Qxd6 results in 2.Be3. An additional changed mate occurs with 1...Sb8 leading to 2.Qxb6, with the key piece now holding onto c4. In the subsequent by-play 1...Qxe5 sees the return of 2.Bxe5. While I am generally not fond of adding a pawn for a promotion try, here I believe it works well to validate the set play.

A2 took top honours in 2015, and I found it to be delectable. It is a modern chess problem showcasing the cyclic Le Grand theme, also known as the Ukrainian cycle. Interestingly, it features a bare-bones presentation with almost no by-play, yet it is this elegance and simplicity that I enjoy. The initial try seems promising enough with 1.Rd5? (>2.Rf4) dxe3 2.Bf3, but 1...Bc7! refutes. In the second attempt, we see the role of the wQ and the reason why the first try did not work. 1.Rd1? (>2.Bf3) dxe3 2.Sd6, and now 1...Bd2 leads to 2.Qa8. The first try failed because it closed the long diagonal preventing this wQ mate. However, 1...Rc2! is a subtle refutation, pinning the wB. The key move is **1.Rf3!** (>2.Sd6) dxe3 2.Rf4, and 1...Bc7 leads to 2.Qa8. Once again, the line effects are pleasing, with the thematic defence 1...dxe3 opening the guard to three different squares: d3, d5, and e5. I appreciate the bBa5's role throughout the solution providing a refutation and additional defences. A well-deserved prize winner.

The Dombrovskis paradox always draws interest and **A3** is a fine example. There are set mates 1...Bf3 2.Bd3 and 1...Bxe3 2.Qxb1. The initial try makes a double threat of two thematic mates 1.Sb4? (>2.Sd6,Re7) Sxb4 2.Sc5 but the strong move 1...cxd5! defeats this double threat by granting flights at e5 and f5. The try and key place guard on f3 and e3, thus threatening the set mates. They also guard f5 and e5, allowing the previous double threats to return. 1.Kxg4? (>2.Bd3) with 1...cxd5 2.Re7 and 1...Bf3+ 2.Bxf3. The refutation is 1...Sd2! cutting the wQ's line to e3. The key is **1.Bxf4!** (>2.Qxb1) cxd5 2.Sd6 and 1...Bxe3 2.Qxe3. The by-play is 1...Sb~ 2.Sc3, 1...Sc5 2.Sxc5, 1...bxa2 2.Qc2. A double threat Dombrovskis with additional changed mates.

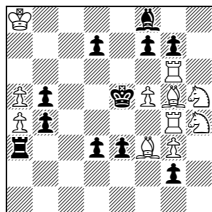
We conclude with a beautiful 16-piece Zagoruiko that won first prize in a recent Jubilee tourney. **A4** is filled to the brim with interesting chess that should bring a smile to any connoisseur of chess problems. Let's dive in. There are relevant set mates, starting with 1...Qxc5+ 2.Rxc5 and 1...Qxd5 2.Qxd5, along

with other recaptures of the bQ. The first try 1.Sc6? (>2.Re5) puts the wB on ice but introduces changes 1...Qxc5 2.Qd3 and 1...Qxd5 2.Qe2. 1...Qd4 2.Rxd4 is a relevant mate for later. We also have the wRb3 springing into action after 1...c2 2.Qf3. However, 1...Qe2! thwarts this try because the wQ must keep guard of d5. The surprising key is **1.Sd3!** (>2.Qe2). At first, I thought this would render the wRb3 useless, something very uncharacteristic for this composer. *Au contraire*, the wR provides the beautiful pin mate 1...Qxd5 2.Rb4. Who could see that mate coming from the set position? We have a third response to 1...Qxc5+ 2.Sxc5, completing the Zagoruiko. Another changed mate happens after 1...Qd4 which sees the previous threat 2.Re5 return. In contrast with **A2**, there is ample by-play to savour: 1...Qxd3/f3/Sg3 2.Qxd3/Qe1/Sf2. An absolute tour de force.

THREEMOVERS, by James Quah

B1 has its key 1.Bc5! (>2.Rh4 (>3.Bd6,Re4)) found almost by default, and though 3.Bd6 is unstoppable, the second threat prevents 1...c1Q! from refuting. Rh8 has no other role. White could also consider three tries that fail: 2.e4?/e3?/exd3? Bxd5!/Sxe3!/c1Q! Of these, 1.e4? is the only Dresden try. These of course succeed when Black loses these defences and replaces them with weak new ones, as follows. 1...Sb3 2.e4 (>3.Sc6 A) Sd4 3.Bd6 B 1...Sf2 2.e3 (>3.Bd6 B) Se4 3.f4 C 1...Se3 2.exd3 (>3.f4 C) Sxd5 3.Sc6 A In all cases, White guards a square so it will not be lost on the mating threat, then Black attacks the mating square while self-blocking on another. This is a cyclic pseudo le Grand theme.

B2 Aleksandr Kuzovkov
1 Pr Die Schwalbe 2022



#3

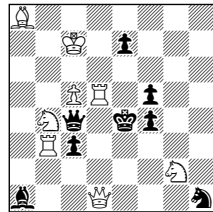
B2 by the same composer also needs a double mating threat. It is rich in traditionally pleasing variations. 1.Ra6! is an anti-critical move threatening 2.Sf6 (>3.Sxd7,Re4) with the variation 2...gxf6 3.Bxf6. This double threat prevents 1...d2 2...Rd3! from defending. A pawn-Grimshaw occurs on d6, with anti-critical W2 moves. 1...d6 allows 2.Rxb4 (>3.Bf4 A) Bxb4? and 1...Bd6 prevents 2...d5?? so White plays 2.Bb7 (>3.Re4 B). These invincible mating moves are brought forward in the other pair of variations, this time as second move checks that are now interferences. They work because of distant self-blocks. We have 1...Rc3 2.Bf4+ A Kd4 3.Bd6 (3...Kc3??) and 1...Bc5 2.Re4+ B Kd5 3.Sf4 (3...Kc5??). Finally, 1...Be7 2.Bxe7 (>3.Bd6) rounds off the play, and 1.Rb6? is defeated by 1...Rxa4! (>2...Rxa5+!).

B3 needs careful study. Its content looks familiar, but has the air of something novel. Logical tries 1.Rd4? A (>2.Rd5#) 1...Rh5! and 1.Sd4? B (>2.Se6#) 1...f5! should be noted, though the key 1.Be1! guarding a5 for 2.Sa4+ Kd5/Kb5 3.Rd4 A/Sd4 B (3...Kxa5??) seems easily spotted. Black guards d4 in advance, and White paradoxically plays to d4 successfully because a strong defence has been replaced with a weak one. We have the Dresden variations 1...e5 2.Rd4 A (>3.Rd5) exd4 3.Qxd6 and 1...Be5 2.Sd4 B (>3.Se6) Bxd4 3.Qc7 (also weakens 2...f5 to allow 3.Qxe5). All these new mates are by the queen on ungarded squares on the c7-e5 diagonal. There is an easily seen Keller paradox. I'd add a wPh5 to prevent the black dual 1...Rh4 2.Sd4 3.Se6 as this is distracting, though 1...Bf4 2.Qxf4 (four threats) cannot be helped.

Keller with Dresden is rare, and **B4** also shows this combination. Tries 1.Rd2? (>2.Qxd3#) and 1.Bxg6? (>2.Bxf5#) are defeated by rook defences 1...Ra3!/Rf8! Now 1.Rb6! (>2.Sd2+ Ke5 3.Sxg6) decoys the bishops into guarding d2 against 2.Sd2+ or g6 against 3.Sxg6. These interfere with the defensive lines the rooks would have used, and capturing the attacker results in losing control of mating squares. We have 1...Bc3 2.Rd2 (>3.Qxd3) Bxd2 3.Qxd4 and 1...Bf7 2.Bxg6 (>3.Bxf5) Be6,Bxg6 3.R(x)e6. By-play is 1...f4 2.Bxg6+ 3.Ke3 3.Qxd3.

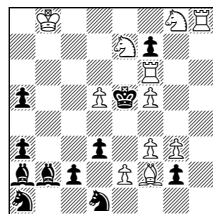
Thus we have two examples of Keller combined with Dresden, and I ought to differentiate their content. What exactly is the Keller theme anyway? Simply, White paradoxically plays to a square just guarded by Black. But significantly it is loose enough not to specify the motive behind the defence. (It is also Keller even if the guard was not the defence motive, but that is for another time.) Now, looking back at **B3**, we see that in the threat Black prevented a mate by guarding

A4 Marjan Kovačević
1 Pr Degener-64 &
Degenkolbe-60 JT 2024



#2

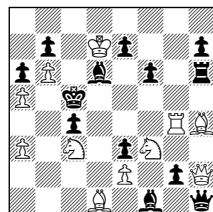
B1 Aleksandr Kuzovkov
1 Pr FRME 9th Ty 2023



#3

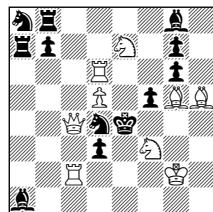
with anti-critical W2 moves. 1...d6 allows 2.Rxb4 (>3.Bf4 A) Bxb4? and 1...Bd6 prevents 2...d5?? so White plays 2.Bb7 (>3.Re4 B). These invincible mating moves are brought forward in the other pair of variations, this time as second move checks that are now interferences. They work because of distant self-blocks. We have 1...Rc3 2.Bf4+ A Kd4 3.Bd6 (3...Kc3??) and 1...Bc5 2.Re4+ B Kd5 3.Sf4 (3...Kc5??). Finally, 1...Be7 2.Bxe7 (>3.Bd6) rounds off the play, and 1.Rb6? is defeated by 1...Rxa4! (>2...Rxa5+!).

B3 Valery Shavyrin
2 Pr Die Schwalbe 2022



#3

B4 Andreas Schönholzer
2 PI Swiss Championship
1993-94

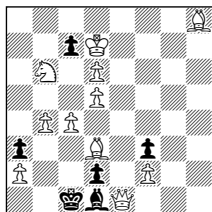


#3

the mating square, but White brought forward the mating move. This is the Rudenko paradox, and the motivation behind the defences is the whole point of using two white bishops that displeasingly function only in the threat. In **B4**, the difference is that the defender guards a square that white unit A threatens to occupy, but then white unit B plays there, and there is no Rudenko paradox.

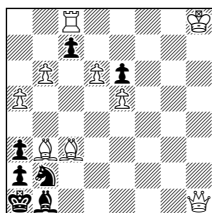
MOREMOVERS, by Jörg Kuhlmann

C1 Sergey Abramenko
4 C Kubbel-130 MT 2021



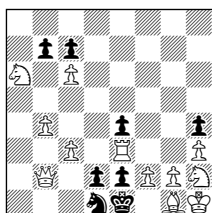
#4 (11+6)

C2 Pierre Bansac
1 Pr Union of French
Problemists 1945



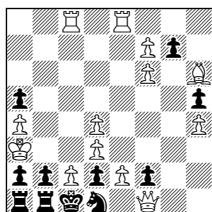
#4 (9+7)

C3 Aleksandr Sygurov
1 Pr *StrateGems* 2015



#4 (12+8)

C4 Bernard Delobel
1 Pr *StrateGems* 2005



#4 (13+11)

I'd like to use a recently awarded fourmover for a digression on the *Pickaninny* theme (4 variations showing all 4 possible moves of a black 7th-rank pawn) in combination with zugzwang (= zz) and, what is more, *continued zugzwang* (= czz). **C1** (1st-2nd Prize *ex aequo* by Khachaturov reported in March 2023) has the interesting, though non-thematic try 1.Qe5? (>2.Qa1#) 1...Ba4+! 2.Sxa4 d1Q? 3.Qa1+ Kd2 4.Qc3# or 3.Qc3+ Qc2 4.Qxc2#, but 2...d1S!! 3.Qa1+ Kd2! or 3.Qf4+/Qg5+ Se3 4.Qxe3+ Kd1! The better way to use the long diagonal is 1.Qg1! (zz) 1...c6 2.Qg7! (>3.Qa1#) 2...Bc2 (2...Ba4?) 3.Qa1+ Bb1 4.Qxb1#; 1...c5 2.Sa4! (czz; doesn't threaten 3.Sxc5? stalemate!) 2...cxb4 (2...Bxa4??) 3.Sc5! (>4.Sb3#) 3...b3 4.Sxb3#; 1...cxb6 2.Bh7! (czz) 2...b5 3.Qg6! (>4.Qb1#, also after 3...Ba4?) 3...Bc2 4.Qxc2#; 1...cxd6 (>stalemate) 2.Bb1! (czz) 2...Kxb1 3.Qxd1+ Kxa2 4.Qc2#. Threefold (not after 1...c6) continued zugzwang in view of W1 and W2! The star variation is 1...cxb6 2.Bh7 with *anticritical play* beyond the *critical square* g6 for a *Turton doubling*. Nice features are the wide and 'echoing' queen moves from g1 via g7/g6 to a1/b1 (1...c6/cxb6); the visit to square b1 by both the wQ (1...c6) and a wB (1...cxd6); the knight's dance around Pc5; and last but not least the *Hineinziehungsopfer* 1...cxd6 2.Bb1 with Bh8's final guard of a1. The key would be subtle if not fleeing from the devastating set capture 1...dxe1Q.

The two doubling manoeuvres of wQ and wB reminded me of **C2**. 1.Qd1! (zz) 1...c6 2.Bc4! (czz; doesn't threaten 3.Qb3? c5! 4.??) 2...c5 3.Qb3! (czz) 3...B~ 4.Qxa2#; 1...c5 2.Qe1!! (czz; doesn't threaten 3.Bd1? c4! 4.??) 2.Qg1? ... 3...Bd3! 2...c4 3.Bd1! (czz; 3.Bc2? stalemate!) 3...B~/Bd3 4.Bc2#; 1...cxb6 2.Bxb2+! axb2 3.Bxa2! (>4.Qxb1#) 3...Kxa2 4.Qa4#, 2...Kxb2 3.Bxe6! (>4.Qd4#, also after 3...Ka1) 3...B~ 4.Qc1#, 3...Bc2 4.Rxc2#; 1...cxd6 2.Qxd6 (>3.Qxa3) 2...Bc2 3.Qxa3 (>4.Qxa2/Qxb2#) 3...Bxb3/Kb1 4.Qxb2#. Only the 1...c6 and 1...c5 variations show continued zugzwang, though expanding into W3 and embellished by mutual square vacation, Bb3 for Qd1 (1...c6) and vice versa (1...c5), the latter leading into an *Anderssen interference*. 1...cxb6 shows the *Hineinziehungsopfer* 2.Bxb2+, and if rejected by 2...axb2, just another one, 3.Bxa2!

C3 shows continued zugzwang in three variations (not after 1...bxa6), once expanding into W3 (1...b6). 1.Qa1! (zz) 1...b6 2.f3! (czz; 2.f4? b5! 3.Sc5? exf3 e.p.??, but stalemate!) 2...exf3 3.Rxf3 (>4.Bf2#) 3...b5 4.Bf2#, 2...b5 3.Sc5! (czz) 3...exf3 4.Sd3#; 1...b5 (>stalemate) 2.Sg4! (czz) 2...Kf1 3.Qxd1+ exd1Q 4.Sh2#; 1...bxa6 2.Rxe2+! Kxe2 3.Qxa6+ Ke1 4.Qf1#; 1...bxc6 2.Rxe4! (czz; doesn't threaten 3.Sc5? stalemate!) 2...c5 3.Sxc5 (>4.Sd3#) 3...c6 4.Sd3#. The key is far from being inconspicuous; not only does the wQ flee from a set capture but also pins the only active officer to put Black in zugzwang. Nice features are a *mating switchback* (1...b5) and a *Hineinziehungsopfer* (1...bxa6), the latter followed by long queen strides.

C4's key comes up with a surprising underpromotion. 1.f8B! (zz) 1...g6 2.Be3! (czz; 2.Bf4?) 2...g5 3.Bh6! (czz) 3...g~ (reopens h6-d2) 4.Bxd2#; 1...g5 2.Bd6! (czz) 2...g~ 3.Bd4! (>4.Bxd2#) 3...g3/h3 4.Bxd2#; 1...gxf6 2.Bxd2+! Kxd2 3.Bh6+ Se3 4.Bxe3#; 1...gxh6 (>stalemate) 2.Be5! (czz) 2...Kxc2 3.Bb4+ Sc3 4.Rxc3#. The last variation provides the reason for the key; with a queen as front piece you wouldn't get an *Anderssen interference*. We twice witness the doubling of bishops, once with the new bishop behind the old one (1...g6), once vice versa (1...g5). Again we come across a *Hineinziehungsopfer* (1...gxf6) and three times continued zugzwang (not after 1...gxf6), once expanding into W3 (1...g6). The position misses illegality by a hair's breadth. Pa2/b2 came from b7/c7 (two captures), Pd2 from e7 via e3 (the third capture); Pd4 came from b2, capturing the eighth black pawn on d4 (two captures), and Pf6/f7 came from f2/g2, both via the g-file (three captures).

STUDIES, by John Nunn

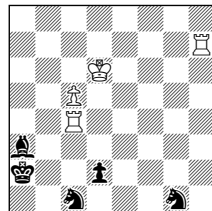
It's back to normal this month, with a selection of studies from recent tourneys. We start with two compositions from the very strong *Magyar Sakkvilág* tourney.

In **D1** White's first task is to dispose of Black's dangerous d-pawn. Many lines in this study lead to an ending with 2R v B+2S. This material balance is generally drawn but if Black's king is trapped in the corner and his pieces are badly placed, as is the case here, there may well be a win for the rooks. **1.Rc2+ Ka1!** (1...Kb1 2.Rxd2 Bxc5+ 3.Kd5! is typical: Black cannot meet White's attack after, for example, 3...Ba3 4.Rb7+ Ka1 5.Ra7 or 3...Be3 4.Rb7+ Ka1 5.Rc2 Sge2 6.Rc8 Bd2 7.Kc4 Sc3 8.Rcb8 Be1 9.Rb2 S1e2 10.R2b3 Bg3 11.Ra8+ Sa2 12.Rba3 and a minor piece falls) **2.Rxd2 Bxc5+!** (2...Sf3 3.Ra7 Kb1 4.Rxa3 Sxd2 5.Ra4! is a neat winning line in which the knights are completely helpless against the c-pawn) **3.Kd5!** (3.Kxc5? Sb3+ is an immediate draw) **3...Sge2** (Black also loses after 3...Be3 4.Rc2 and now 4...Kb1 5.Rc3 Bd2 6.Rb7+ Ka1 7.Ra3+ Sa2 8.Rba7 or 4...Sge2 5.Rb7 Bd4 6.Rxc1+ Sxc1 7.Kxd4 Ka2 8.Kc3 Se2+ 9.Kc2 Sd4+ 10.Kd3 with a typical R vs S win in which the defending king is trapped on the edge of the board) **4.Rh1!** (Black has better chances than after 1...Kb1 because there is no check on the seventh rank; now White must play very precisely to win) **4...Sc3+!** (4...Bg1 5.Kc4 Kb1 6.Rh7 Sd4 7.Rb7+ Ka1 8.Rxd4 Bxd4 9.Kxd4 wins as in the note to Black's third move) **5.Kc4!** (by contrast, 5.Kxc5? Se4+ 6.Kd4 Sxd2 7.Rxc1+ Kb2 is a drawn R vs S position) **5...Sb1** (Black can no longer avoid the loss of a piece, so he resorts to an ingenious tactical defence) **6.Rxc1 Be3** (it seems that Black will manage to reach a drawn R vs minor piece position, but White has a remarkable winning idea) **7.Kb3!** (7.Rdd1? Bxc1 8.Rxc1 Kb2 is drawn) **7...Bxd2 8.Rc2!** (Black is doomed by his bad king position) **8...Bg5** (8...Sc3 9.Rxd2 mates in a few moves) **9.Ra2#**. It's a great finish, but there are rather a lot of lines in which the result is not obvious without the use of a tablebase.

In **D2** White is a piece down so his only chance is to exploit the position of Black's king. **1.Qh8+ Bh6+ 2.f4!** (the first queen sacrifice, which must be declined as White is threatening Bd1#) **2...Sxf4** (2...Qxh8 3.Bd1#) **3.Bd1+** (3.Qe8+? Kg4! 4.Bd1+ Kxf5 5.Bc2+ Kg4 only leads to perpetual check, while 3.Qxd8?? Se6+ even loses) **3...Se2+ 4.f4!** (the only move to maintain the threat of mate) **4...Qxd7+** (4...Qxh8 still loses to Bxe2#) **5.Kxe2** (White threatens Ke1+ and the only real defence is to try to promote the h-pawn) **5...h2 6.Qe8+** (6.Ke1+?? Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 h1Q+ wins for Black, but this second queen sacrifice looks very strong) **6...Kg4** (6...Qxe8+ 7.Kd2+ mates next move) **7.Qxd7 h1Q** (White's material deficit has been reduced to a pawn, but if he is to win he must continue his attack against the enemy king) **8.Kf2+!** (not 8.Ke3+?? Kg3 and White doesn't even have a check) **8...Kxf4** (8...Kh3 9.f6+ Kh2 10.Qg4 leads to a quick mate) **9.Qd6+** (White must continue precisely; 9.Qc7+? Kxf5 10.Bc2+ Kf6 11.Qd6+ Kf7 is only a draw) **9...Kg5** (9...Kxf5 loses quickly to 10.Bc2+ Kg4 11.Qe6+ Kg5 12.Qf5#) **10.Bf3!** (a surprising twist leaving the black queen without a good square; the lines 10.Qg6+ Kf4 11.Qd6+ and 10.Qe7+ Kf4 11.Qd6+ just waste time) **10...Qa1** (Black loses his queen after 10...Qh3 11.Qe7+ Kf4 12.Qe3+ Kxf5 13.Be4+ Kg4 14.Bf5+, 10...Qc1 11.Qg6+ Kf4 12.Qxh6+ or 10...Qb1 11.Qg6+ Kf4 12.Qxh6+ Kxf5 13.Qh7+) **11.Qg6+ Kf4 12.Qxh6+** (chasing the king round the f-pawn by 12.Qg4+ Ke5 13.Qe4+ Kf6 14.Qe6+ Kg5 15.Qg6+ is again a waste of time) **12...Kxf5 13.Qh7+! Ke6** (13...Kg5 14.Qh5+ also leads to a lethal skewer after 14...Kf6 15.Qh8+ or 14...Kf4 15.Qg4+ Ke5 16.Qg7+) **14.Bg4+ Kd6** (14...Kd5 loses after, for example, 15.Qb7+ Kc4 16.Be2+ followed by 17. Qg7+) **15.Qd7+ Ke5 16.Qg7+** and Black finally loses his queen.

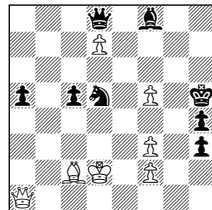
D3 did not gain a high place in the Hlinka-70 award but shows a neat touch of humour. In this double-edged position, White's main hope lies with his passed h-pawn. **1.Re3+!** (White must force the king to block the f6-square; instead, both 1.h7? Sf6+ and 1.Rb6+? Ke5 2.h7 Sf6+ 3.Ke7 Sxh7 allow Black to eliminate the h-pawn) **1...Kf6 2.h7** (threatening to promote on h8 or g8) **2...Kg7** (after 2...Qb5+ 3.Kf8 Qb8+ 4.Be8 Black runs out of checks) **3.h8Q+!** (3.Bb2+? Sf6+ 4.Ke7 d4! 5.Bxd4 Kxg6 6.h8Q Sd5+ 7.Kd6 Sxe3 is a clear draw while 3.hxg8Q+? Kxg8 leads to the theoretically drawn material balance of R+2B v Q) **3...Kxh8 4.Bb2+ Sf6+** (4...d4 5.Bxd4+ Sf6+ 6.Kf8 transposes) **5.Kf8!** (5.Kf7? d4! 6.Bxd4 Qc4+ 7.Kxf6 Qxd4+ 8.Re5 is only a draw) **5...d4!** (White threatened to mate by 6.Rh3+ so Black's only chance is to play for stalemate) **6.Bxd4 Qf3!** (blocking the rook's path to h3 and threatening a check on a8) **7.Be4!** (in a neat echo of Black's previous move, White plays to block the queen's path to a8; 7.Re4? Qa3+ 8.Kf7 Qf8+! 9.Kxf8 is stalemate, while 7.Bb2? is a good try but fails to 7...Qa8+ 8.Re8 {8.Be8 Qg2! 9.Bxf6+ Kh7 10.Re5 Qg7+ 11.Bxg7 stalemate} 8...Qc6! 9.Ba1 Qe6!

D1 Pavel Arestov
2 Pr *Magyar Sakkvilág*
2023



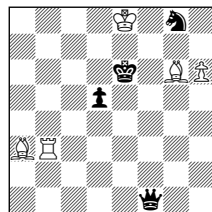
Win

D2 Steffen Nielsen
1 Pr *Magyar Sakkvilág*
2023



Win

D3 Martin Minski & Jan Sprenger
1-2 C M.Hlinka-70 JT
2023



Win

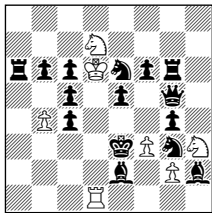
10.Bb2 Qc6 with a positional draw or stalemate, since so long as Black's queen attacks the rook White cannot make progress) 7...**Qf5** (White threatened Bxf3 so the queen had to move, but there is no way to both guard f6 and stop the rook moving to h3) 8.**Rh3+!** (8.Bxf5? stalemate is a final trap) 8...**Qxh3** 9.**Bxf6#**.

HELPMATES, by Silvio Baier

This issue marks my second year as editor for the helpmates in this column. I hope you have enjoyed and been interested in my contributions so far. I would like to remind you of my offer for more interaction with readers. Please ask questions or let me know which themes you would like me to present here.

I would also be happy to discuss other or contrary opinions of readers (email: silvio.baier@gmx.de). After longer helpmates were discussed in the last issues, I'm returning to two-movers here. Dual avoidance is a theme that is often discussed controversially, especially in helpmates. Again and again, I see that even very respected authors interpret dual avoidance in their problems, even if there is obviously none. In one of the following issues, I plan to discuss some examples. In this issue, I would like to show four problems with three solutions each showing different aspects and methods of representing dual or triple avoidance. I would be particularly interested to see to what extent readers agree or disagree with my views on this theme.

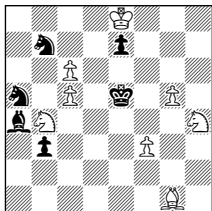
**E1 Raúl Jordan &
Daniel Papack**
1 Pr *Gaudium* 2019-20



H#2 3 solutions

For me, true dual (triple...) avoidance always involves at least one joint positive effect for all thematic moves or move sequences and one negative effect for all moves/move sequences except one. I would like to start the discussion with **E1**. The wSd7 should give mate on the squares c4, d5 and g4. In each case he has two paths from which to choose. To be able to mate on c4, Black must remove the guard from c4, but still block e2. This is only possible with 1.Bf1 Sxb6/Sxe5 2.Se2. The two wS moves both have the positive effect of targeting the square c4, but in addition Sxe5 has the disadvantage that the knight accidentally pins itself there, which is why it can only reach its goal via b6 – i.e. 1.Bf1 Sxb6 (not Sxe5) 2.Se2 Sxc4#. The other two solutions show analogous effects. Mate on d5 seems possible with 1.cxb4 Sxf6/Sxb6 2.c5 Sd5#. However, the knight on b6 would pin itself, so only 1...Sxf6 is correct. And in the third solution 1.Qh6 Sxe5/Sxf6 2.Sg5 Sxd4# only works one way, since Sxf6 again means self-pinning. For me, this problem is an excellent example of real dual avoidance. There is a clear joint positive effect of the respective knight moves and a single additional negative effect of each knight move, namely just the pin. This occurs accidentally, as Black is forced to open a masked line unintentionally in order to help White mate. The effects of the dual avoidance are uniform, the white moves or attempts form a tripartite cycle. The black play uniformly shows a follow-my-leader effect. The motives of the other moves are different, but I consider this to be of secondary importance in such a complicated strategy.

**E2 Ladislav Salai jr. &
Emil Klemenič**
1-2 Pr *Pat a Mat* 2018



H#2 3 solutions

E2 is somewhat different. The white officers guard the squares d5, d4 and f5. If these were blocked by Black, the mates Sd3, Bh2 and Sg6 would each be possible by guarding the flight square f4 if the white king takes control of the square e6 on the first move. The squares d7, e7 and f7 are available to him for this. In my opinion, it is very important for an exact dual avoidance that there be (virtual) tries. So if one could move a dummy to d5 in two moves, 1.Du~ Kd7/Kxe7/Kf7 2.Dud5 Sd3# is indeed possible. Similarly, 1.Du~ Kd7/Kxe7/Kf7 2.Dud4 Bh2# and 1.Du~ Kd7/Kxe7/Kf7 2.Duf5 Sg6# also work. Thus, there are no additional effects that differentiate the king's moves in any other way. Achieving this Zweckreinheit (purity of aim) is a fine art. There are no dummies, but black officers – and these have an influence on the uniqueness of the move sequences. 1.Bxc6+ guards d7 so that the king cannot enter that square. 1...Kf7 doesn't work either, since 2.Bd5 unintentionally gives check. Therefore only 1.Bxc6+ Kxe7 2.Bd5 Sd3# works. 1.Sxc6 guards e7, 1...Kd7 fails again due to the unwanted check after 2.Sd4+, therefore 1.Sxc6 Kf7 2.Sd4 Bh2#. And finally, after 1.Sd6+ the square f7 is guarded, 1...Kxe7 again fails due to the check after 2.Sf5+, hence 1.Sd6+ Kd7 2.Sf5 Sg6#. This is therefore cyclic triple avoidance, as only one of three possible white king moves works. The avoidance of one move by direct guard is quite simple, because the corresponding king move is simply illegal, the other avoidance by a check on the second black move is much cleverer, because here White has a real choice and must act with foresight as in **E1**.

In **E3** there are initially three set plays, namely 1...Bh5 2.Qe2 Be8#, 1...Sd5 2.Se3 Sb4# and 1...Rb7 2.Rb8 Rc7# with unique black tempo moves including follow-my-leader effects. Black has no waiting moves with which the set plays can be maintained, as the possible black first moves eliminate a white piece. However, on the second move Black can block the resulting flight square to compensate. The other two mating sequences should then still be possible. However, this is not the case. After 1.Qxe2 Sd5 2.Qb5 the queen guards b4 as a side effect, so Sb4 is not mate. Therefore only 1.Qxe2 Rb7 2.Qb5 Rc7# is possible. After 1.Sxe3 Rb7 2.Sd5

Rc7 is not mate, since Sd5 guards c7. Therefore only 1.Sxe3 Bh5 2.Sd5 Be8# works. And thirdly: 1.Rxb8 Bh5 2.Rb7 Be8 is not mate, since 3.Rd7 is possible. Therefore only 1.Rxb8 Sd5 2.Rb7 Sb4# works. Clearly, as in E1 there is cyclic dual avoidance. But is it also triple avoidance? One could argue that the first black moves happen to capture a white piece, which would be a (rather drastic, but) unique negative effect. In my view, however, this is only the case with 1.Qxe2. Suppose black queen and white bishop can occupy the same square and Be8 would not guard b5. Then 1...Bh5 2.Qb5 Be8 would still work. In the case of Sxe3, however, the black knight from d5 would guard the square b4 and thus prevent mate, as would the black rook from b7 prevent mate on c7. I therefore “only” see the cyclic dual avoidance. On a constructional point, wSc8 instead of bPd6 prevents 2.Rd..g8 in the set play after 1...Rb7.

Finally, something very special follows with E4. The author’s name already suggests this. The white rook is to mate on the h-file, for which paths via the third, fourth and fifth ranks are possible. To do this, Bb6 must first give way and then Pd5, Pe4 or Sd3. The latter only has the square c5 at its disposal, as from f4 it prevents all three mates. The (virtual) tries are 1.B~ (i.e. take the bishop off the board or play 1.Ba7 without Ra7) Rb3/Rb4/Rb5 2.Sc5/e3/d4 Rh3/Rh4/Rh5. 1.Bc5 blocks (only) the fifth rank, so that 1...Rb5 does not work. In addition, it blocks the c5 square, so that the knight cannot move there, which is exactly the reason why 1...Rb3 does not work. Therefore 1.Bc5 Rb4 2.e3 Rh4# must be played. The other two solutions are analogous. 1.Bd4 blocks the fourth rank – so not 1...Rb4 – and blocks the d4 square for Pd5 – so not 1...Rb5. Only 1.Bd4 Rb3 2.Sc5 Rh3# is possible. And thirdly: 1.Be3 blocks the third rank – so not 1...Rb3 – and blocks the square e3 for the Pe4 – therefore not 1...Rb4, but only 1.Be3 Rb5 2.d4 Rh5#. This is real triple avoidance. In contrast to E2, all three of White’s first moves are legally possible here. The fact that two of them do not work is therefore due to deeper reasons, with Bb6 blocking a rank in advance and blocking a square of the piece that wants to open another rank. For reasons I do not understand, this outstandingly unified, complex and highly original presentation was originally awarded a lower commendation by the judge, whereupon the author withdrew the problem from the informal tournament.

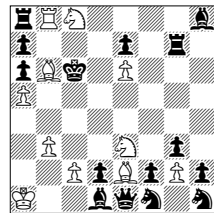
True cyclic dual avoidance and triple avoidance are difficult to realise and certainly still offer potential for composers who like challenges.

SELFMAATES, by Zoran Gavrilovski

This time I pay tribute to the anniversaries of two German composers: Mirko Degenkolbe and Udo Degener. Their joint ventures mostly involve helpmates in 3-n moves, but they have also composed some lightweight selfmates. F1 is an entertaining but simple problem in which it is obvious that the royal battery will mate the white king. The withdrawal key 1.Ra8! (zuzugwang) releases a square for promotion to wQ after sacrifice of the “resident” queen (Phoenix): 1...Bg7 2.Qg6+! fxc6 3.d8Q+ Kf7 4.Qe8+ Kf6 5.Qxg6+ Kxe5 6.Qd6+ Kxd6#. The other variation already exists in the set play: 1...Kg7 2.Rf5 f6 3.Rf8 Kxf8 4.Qe8+ Kg7 5.Rxf6 Kxf6 6.Qe7+ Kxe7# (note the echo positions of the wQ and the bK). The anniversaries (MD-60 & UD-64) were celebrated by a joint jubilee tourney in six sections, with MD and UD as judges. The selfmate section attracted 58 entries, of which the top three were logical moremovers with quiet and sharp sequences of white moves and back-and-forth black play.

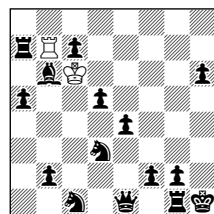
F2 has a well-hidden main plan with arrival of the white knight to Sg7 to force decoy of the bRf2 by means of Sg7-f5+ Rf2-f5 (because after Qc4-xe2+ Rf2-xe2+ the wK escapes to f1), but this can work only after adding another white guard of f4. The only white piece capable of covering this square is the wBa1 by its arrival on d6 after removing the white rooks from a3 and b4, with the latter pieces subsequently returning to their original positions (Klasinc theme). The white rooks exchange their roles of pinning the bSc3 and threatening on e2 in an impressive manner. 1.Rb2! (>2.Rxe2+ Rxe2+ 3.Qxe2+ Rxe2#) Rf5(f4,f3) 2.Rbb3 (>3.Qxe2+ Rxe2#) 2...Rff2 3.Ra2 (>4.Rxe2+) 3...Rf5(f4,f3) 4.Bb2 (>5.Qxe2+) 4...Rff2 5.Ba3 Rf5(f4,f3) 6.Ra1 Rff2 7.Bd6 (>8.Bf4+ Rxf4 9.Qxe2+ Rxe2#) 7...g5 8.Ra2 Rf5(f4,f3) 9.Raa3 Rff2 10.Rb2 Rf5(f4,f3) 11.Rb4 Rff2 and now (with wBd6’s guard of f4) the main plan works: 12.Sg7 ~/Qh7 13.Sf5+

E3 Viktor Chepizhny
Pr Shakhmatnaya
Kompozitsiya 2011



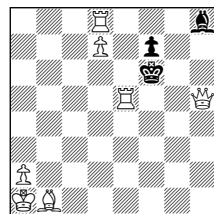
H#2*** 3 solutions

E4 Daniel Papack
Die Schwalbe 2018



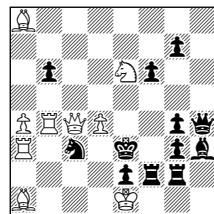
H#2 3 solutions

F1 Udo Degener &
Mirko Degenkolbe
Schach in Schleswig-
Holstein 2022



S#6

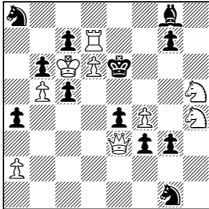
F2 Michael Schreckenbach
1 Pr Degenkolbe-60 &
Degener-64 JT 2024



S#14

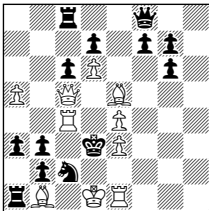
Rxf5/Qxf5 (this move acquires control of f1, thus a rook from f2 can mate) **14.Qxe2+ R[g]xe2#/R[f]xe2#**. The judges described this problem as an “extremely profound” example of the New German school, a “selfmate of a special class” and a “phenomenal task, gigantic and spectacular!!”

F3 Frank Richter
2 Pr Degenkolbe-60 &
Degener-64 JT 2024



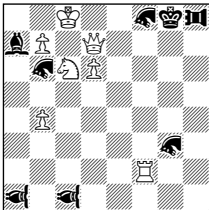
S#13

F4 Anatoly Stepochkin
3 Pr Degenkolbe-60 &
Degener-64 JT 2024



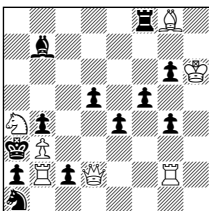
S#13

G1 Juraj Lörcinc
2 Pr (section A)
Pat a Mat 2020



#2 Take&Make
R/B/N Lion

G2 Hubert Gockel
1 HM *Pat a Mat* 2022



#2 Breton Adverse

The main plan of **F3** is to force opening of the black bishop's line through a pawn check on f5, but initially this does not work because the bK can escape to c4: 1.f5+? Ke5 2.Qf4+ Kd4 3.Qd2+ Kc4!. Therefore, White ensures black self-blocking of this square as a line-interfering defence against the threat Qa4-xe4+ after completion of the “long, hidden march by the white queen” (wQd2-c2-d1-xa4), but her Majesty's way to this square goes through a foreplan that is initially refuted by a bP defence: 1.Qd2? (>2.f5+ Ke5 3.Qd5+ Bxd5#) 1...g6!. Therefore, White by another foreplan must eliminate the bPg7: **1.Sxg7+! Kf6 2.Sh5+ Ke6**. Now the quiet foreplan works: **3.Qd2 (>4.f5+)** **3...Bh7 4.Qc2 (>5.Qxe4+)** **4...Bg8 5.Qd1 (>6.f5+)** **5...Bh7 6.Qxa4 (>7.Qxe4+)** **6...c4**. This defence makes possible the main plan, but only after the wQ returns to her diagram position: **7.Qc2 Bg8 8.Qd2 Bh7 9.Qc3 Bg8 10.f5+ Ke5 11.Qf4+ Kd6 12.Qd2+ Ke5 [12...Kc4??] 13.Qd5+ Bxd5#**. The judges commented that this problem demonstrates “New German logic with magnificent implementation”.

The judges described **F4** as a fine selfmate in which “[a]n exciting duel ensues around the c2 square in a mechanism similar to that of the winning problem”, though “not so spectacular as the 1st prize”. After a pendulum manoeuvre by the wBe5 (Bc3-xg7-c3-f6), the wQ becomes a rear battery piece after a nice (including pendulum) manoeuvre (Qc5-g5-g2-xg6-f5 and then White resorts to battery play in order to reach the threat-square c2. **1.Ra4!** (>2.Qxc2+ bxc2#) **1...Ra2 2.Bc3 (>3.Bxc2+)** **Ra1 3.Bxg7 (>4.Qxc2+)** **3...Ra2 4.Bc3 Ra1 5.Bf6 Ra2 6.Qg5 Ra1 7.Qg2 Ra2 8.Qxg6 Ra1 9.Qf5 (>10.e5+ Kc3 11.e6+ Sd4 12.Qc2+ bxc2#) 9...Qd8(e7,g7,h6,h8) 10.e5+ Kc3 11.e6+ Qxf6 12.Qc5+ Kd3 13.Qxc2+ bxc2#**. Reiterating the judges' comment that the unusual sequence of moves of this problem sticks in one's memory, I hope that this assessment of this logical moreover will be confirmed by the passage of time as the ultimate “judge”.

FAIRIES, by Geoff Foster

G1 uses the fairy condition Take&Make and there are three types of *Lion*, which move over a hurdle of either colour to any square beyond. However, the absence of suitable hurdles means that Black's only move is 1...Bb8, for which there is no set mate. White's plan is to promote on b8, so that after 1...Bxb8 the bishop will have to “make” to squares from where a mate exists. 1.b8-B? (-) gives 1...Bxb8-c7 2.dxc7-d8=RL, but 1...Bxb8-a7! refutes. Promotions to the three types of *Lion* lead to varied black moves. 1.b8=RL? actually has three threats (2.RLe8,RLd8,Kb7), although these never occur. Instead there is 1...Bxb8-e8 2.Qxe8-g6; 1...Bxb8-d8 2.Sxd8-f6; but 1...Bxb8-b5! (the wPb4 is there to ensure a unique refutation). 1.b8=NL? (-) gives four possible black moves: 1...Bxb8-e2 2.Rxe2-g4; 1...Bxb8-d4 2.Sxd4-f6; 1...Bxb8-f6 2.Rxf6-g5; 1...Bxb8-h5! The key is **1.b8=BL!** (-) Bxb8-f4 2.Rxf4-g5; 1...Bxb8-e5 2.Sxe5-f6. There is an unusual kind of mate transference in which the starting and finishing squares are the same but with captures on different squares – the mate by wS on f6 occurs after captures on d8, d4 and e5, while the mate by wR on g5 occurs after captures on f6 and f4. The play has a great deal of interest from a light position with such limited black options.

The fairy condition *Breton Adverse* has already been seen in the January issue. Under this condition, when a unit is captured, another unit of the same kind belonging to the captured side must also disappear (if one exists). If there is more than one such unit then the capturing side decides which one to remove. In **G2** White's plan is 1.Rxg4 followed by 2.Qxb4[-Pe4], with removal of bPe4 resulting in the wRg4 guarding wQb4. However, White must decide which other black pawn to remove after 1.Rxg4. The first try is 1.Rxg4[-Pf5]?, with removal of bPf5 ensuring that fxg4 can never occur. 1...d4 defends by adding another bP to the 4th rank, but opens the wBg8's line to b3 and allows 2.Rxa2[-Pc2]. 1...c1Q defends by pinning the wQ, but opens the wQ's line to a2 for 2.Rxa2[-Pd5]. In these variations the roles of bPd5 and bPc2 are switched, with one moving away and the other being removed after 1.Rxa2. This try is refuted by 1...Rf4!

The next try is 1.Rxg4[-Pc2]?, with removal of bPc2 opening the wQ's line to a2. Now 1...d4 2.Rxa2[-Pf5], with removal of bPf5 preventing 2...fxg4[-Ra2]??, in which Black defends against a check from one wR by capturing the other! Similarly 1...f4 2.Rxa2[-Pd5], with wBg8 guarding b3. As well as this pair of variations, there is 1...fxg4[-Rb2] 2.Qb2. This try is refuted by 1...Sc2! The key is **1.Rxg4[-Pd5]!**, with removal of bPd5 opening the wBg8's line to b3. 1...f4 2.Rxa2[-Pc2], and 1...c1Q 2.Rxa2[-Pf5]. The defences 1...d4, 1...f4 and 1...c1Q thus have a changed mate in the phases in which they are possible, with each mate also being transferred. Another changed mate post-key is 1...fxg4[-Rb2] 2.Qc1.

G3 uses the fairy condition *Ultra-Patrol*, in which units (including Ks) may only move, capture or check when observed by a friendly unit. Initially the white Bc5, Re7 and Ng7 are all able to move, as they observe each other cyclically. The thematic moves are Bxd4, Rxe5 and Nxf5, but in order to give check *two* of these moves must be played, so that one of the units will observe the other (a wB on d4 would observe a wR on e5, which would observe a wN on f5, which would observe a wB on d4). In fact, this is the same cycle of observations as in the diagram, but compacted.

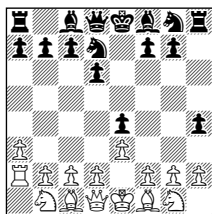
The try 1.Bxd4? threatens 2.Nxf5, which is a single-check mate by wBd4 (wNf5 observes wBd4 but does not give check itself). It is mate because 2.Kxd4?? is illegal as bKe3 is not observed by a friendly unit. 1...Nxc4 defends by observing the bK, but this allows 2.Sxc4, which is legal because wSb2 is observed by wBd4. This try is refuted by 1...c5! (2.Nxf5+ cxd4!). The next try 1.Nxf5? threatens 2.Rxe5, which is a single-check mate by wNf5. If 1...Re6 then 2.Rf7 observes wNf5 in a different way, with 2...Rf6?? being illegal as bRe6 is no longer observed by bRg8. This try is refuted by the startling 1...Rb8!, observing bNb7 which now attacks wNf5. The key **1.Rxe5!** threatens 2.Bxd4 (single-check mate by wRe5). Black has two defences that work by observing bKe3 (2.Bxd4+? Kxd4!). 1...Nxc4 removes the black observation of bPc7, so that the wB can safely observe wRe5 in a different way with 2.Bd6. Even more surprising is 1...f4 2.Bf8, observing wNg7 which mates as the square f5 has been vacated. The problem has a cycle of white key moves and threats. This is possible because Ultra-Patrol makes one of the thematic threats illegal in each phase, so that the white first move and threat of one phase never occurs reciprocally in another.

PROOF GAMES AND RETROS, by Andrey Frolkin

This month's selection highlights the bizarre side of modern retrograde analysis. No cages to be released, no retrostalemate traps. Far from the traditional "detective story image" of RA, but still highly remarkable and fascinating.

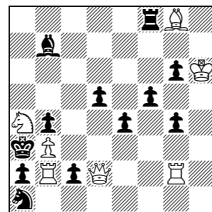
The 2022-2023 Israeli Ring Tourney (of which I happened to be the judge) had just 11 entries, but two of them were truly outstanding. In **H1** (a Meredith!), the Sentinels condition is used in a most ingenious way to produce a stunning repetitive effect with high aesthetic appeal. 1.h4 b5 2.h5 b4 3.h6 b3 4.hxg7 bxc2 5.gxh8=S exb1=S 6.Sxf7 Sxd2 7.Sxd8 [+wPf7]+ Kxd8 8.fxg8=S Sxf1 [+bPd2]+ 9.Kxf1 dxc1=S 10.Sxe7 Sxe2 11.Sxc8 [+wPe7]+ Kxc8 12.exf8=S Sxg1 [+bPe2]+ 13.Kxg1 exd1=S 14.Sxd7 Sxf2 15.Sxb8 [+wPd7]+ Kxb8 16.Rf1 Sxh1 [+bPf2]+ 17.Kxh1. Systematic movement of pieces is typically associated with endgame studies. The clockwork shifting pattern seen here involves the capture of six promoted knights and four "instant phoenix" cases. The enchantment is enhanced by the fake castling position arising on the 16th move.

H2 Michel Caillaud
2 Pr Israeli Ring Tourney
2022-23



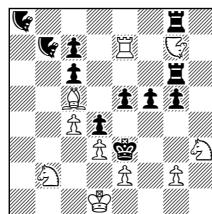
PG in 17.5 moves
White & Black must
capture (if possible)

G2 repeated diagram



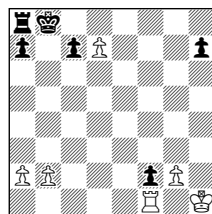
#2 Breton Adverse

**G3 Michael Barth &
Hubert Gockel**
1 HM Pat a Mat 2018



#2 Ultra-Patrol
Nightrider

**H1 Paul Răican &
Michel Caillaud**
1 Pr Israeli Ring Tourney
2022-23

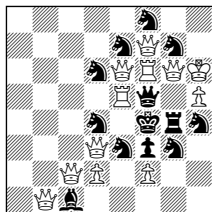


PG in 16.5 moves
Sentinels

Unlike Losing Chess, the stipulation "White & Black must capture" used in **H2** does not deprive the kings of their royal status or of the castling right. 1.Sh3 h5 2.e3 h4 3.Bd3 e6 4.0-0 d6 5.Re1 Bd7 6.Re2 Rh5 7.Kh1 Sh6 8.Bh7 Bb5 9.Qg1 Bxe2 10.a3 Bb5 11.Ra2 Bd7 12.Bd3 Sg8 13.Qd1 Rh8 14.Kg1 Bc8 15.Kf1 Sd7 16.Ke1 e5 17.Bf1 e4 18.Sg1. Somehow, the content of this fairy PG reminded me of the "principle" observed by creatures like the black widow spider: "To love you is to kill you". Here, the killer lover's part is played by the black Bc8 and the victim's part by the white kingside rook. Seven pieces leave their home squares to make that "act of love" happen on e2 – and then the protagonist bishop and the six "supporting actors" "get back to where they once belonged" (reminding me of the famous Beatles song, which was released exactly 55 years ago).

H3 is one of the most unusual retros I have ever seen, with heavy reliance on forward play. Most remarkably, it cannot be classified as a fairy retro because the Dead Reckoning rule on which it is based is an orthodox one. After retracting his last move, White must start a mandatory cascade of checking captures in which moves can be swapped in many ways but stalemate at the end must be inexorable. Then the entire series of moves after the triggering check will be regarded as illegal and the game will be deemed terminated immediately. At no stage of the ensuing play can a king be provided with an opportunity to flee. However if a wR is on f5, and some other wQs are gone, the bK may be able to flee, e.g.: 1.Qd3xf5+ S~xf5+ (any) 2.Qc2xf5+ S~xf5+ 3.Qb1xf5+ S~xf5+ 4.Qe6xf5+ S~xf5+ 5.Re5xf5+ Ke4. To avoid this, White has to retract -1.Qd5-e6 or -1.Qd5xe6. Now in the forward play, Re5xf5+ must be played while Qd5 is still guarding e4. But the difficulties are not yet over. If after the retraction -1.Qd5-e6 or -1.Qd5xe6 White proceeds as above, then 4.Re5xf5+ S~xf5+ 5.Qd5xf5+ S~xf5+ 6.Rf6xf5+ and now Ke4 again can be played. The only way to avoid this is to get rid of wRf6 at the very start of the sequence. So the forward move in the solution must be 1.Rf6xf5+! White's retraction -1.Qd5-e6 cannot be an uncapture: xSe6 is illegal on account of too many captures; xQ/Re6 can pin wRf6 or wQg6, so in the end White is mated; and xB/Pe6 enables the uncaptured B/P to capture on f5 without check, breaking the chain. Calculation shows that there are 2,116,800 possible sequences of virtual forward play all ending with 8...Kf4xf5= stalemate. For more detailed analysis, see *Problemas* 46, April 2024, pp. 1534-1535.

H3 Guus Rol &
Andrew Buchanan
Problemas 2024

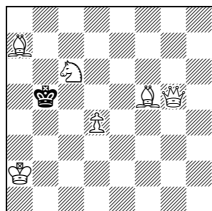


White retracts a move,
then draws in 1

LIBRARY BROWSE (II), By Michael McDowell

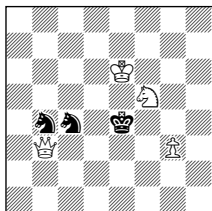
Minijature Jugoslovenskih Problemista by Marjan Kovačević. Published by Šahovski klub "Bor", Bor 1984. A fine collection of 166 miniature compositions by 81 Yugoslav composers (though some date from long before the formation of Yugoslavia). Retros and studies are included, but not fairy's.

A Svetislav Janičijević
Politika expres 1966



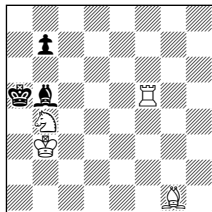
#2

B Marjan Kovačević
2 C Championship of
Yugoslavia 1972-74



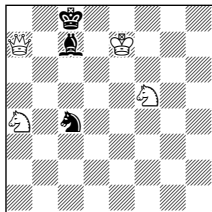
#2

C Tode Iljičević
British Chess Mag. 1977



#3

D Nenad Petrović
problem 1980 (v)



#3

E Set 1...Sf6+ 2.Kf7 g8S#. 1.Kf7 e8R 2.?? Rf8#;
1.Kf7 ?? 2.Kxg8 e8Q#; 1.Kf7 e8B+ 2.Kxg8 Rh8#.
AUW spread over set, actual and two tries which fail
because of a lack of a black or white tempo move.

F Set 1...0-0-0+ 2.Ke2 Rd2; 1.Kc2 Ra2+ 2.Kc1
0-0. Double castling, with the Ps at f2 and f3
operating in both parts.

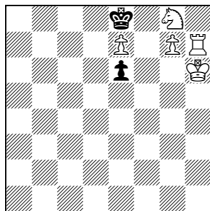
A Set 1...Ka6 2.Bc8; 1...Ka4 2.Bc2. 1.Qd8? (-)
1...Ka6 2.Qb6; 1...Ka4 2.Qa5; 1...Kxc6 2.Qd7;
1...Kc4! 1.Qe7! (-) 1...Ka6 2.Bd3; 1...Ka4 2.Qb4;
1...Kxc6 2.Qd7; 1...Kc4 2.Qc5. Star-flights and a
3x2 Zagoruike.

B Set 1...Sc~ 2.Q(x)e3; 1...Sd3 2.Qb7. 1.Qd1 (-)
1...Sc~ 2.Qe2; 1...Se3 2.Sd6; 1...Sb ~ 2.Q(x)d5;
1...Sd3 2.Qh1. Black correction doubled, with
changed play, from a promising 14-year-old.

C 1.Rc5 (-) 1...Kb6 2.Rc6+ Ka5 3.Bb6; 1...b6
2.Bh2 bxc5 3.Bc7. Nicely keyed.

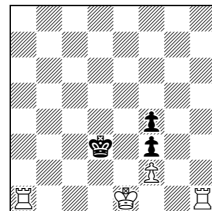
D Set 1...Bd6+ 2.Sxd6+ Sxd6 3.Sb6; 1...Sd6
2.Sb6+ Bxb6 3.Sxd6. 1.Ke8 (>2.Se7#) 1...Bd6
2.Sb6+ Sxb6 3.Sxd6; 1...Sd6+ 2.Sxd6+ Bxd6 3.Sb6
(1...Bd8 2.Sb6+,Sc5). A unique miniature. The Tura
theme (reciprocal change of continuations with
interchange of White's second and third moves)
shown without twinning.

E Fadil Abdurahmanović
3 Pr problem 1958



H#2 (set)

F Zdravko Maslar
problem 1960

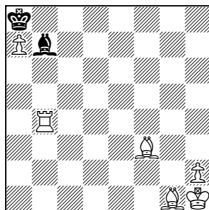


H#2 (set)

G 1.Rb1? works after 1...Bd5? 2.Be4 Bc6 3.Bd5 Bb7 4.Bc6 Bxc6# but after 1...Be4! White is in zugzwang. White loses a tempo by a 5-move sequence involving the R. 1.Rh4! Bc6 or Bd5 2.Rh7 Be4 3.Rc7 Bd5 4.Be4 Bc6 5.Bd5 Bb7 6.Rc1 Bc6 7.Rb1 Bb7 8.Bc6 Bxc6#. I give the source as it appears in WinChloe.

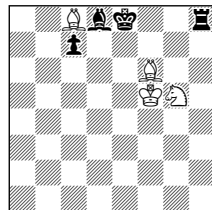
H White retracts Pb7xBc8B and mates in 2 by 1.bxc8Q. The piece captured must be a B to prove that Black's last move was Kd7-e8+, otherwise 0-0 would defeat the promotion to Q. Alert readers will note that **G** and **H** are a little overweight by the standard definition of a miniature, but they are certainly worth quoting!

G Ivan Kos
Shakhmaty vestnik 1886



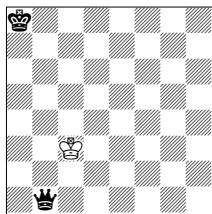
S#8

H Branko Pavlović
problem 1964



White retracts his last move then mates in 2

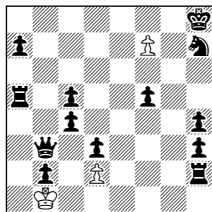
RQ27 Frédéric Lazard
Die Schwalbe 1929



Black retracts a move then H#2

1...Sh3 2.ABC; 1...Bxb4 2.AB; 1...Sf7 2.AC; 1...Bb2 2.BC; 1...Bc1 2.A; 1...Sf3 2.B; 1...Se6 2.C. This just leaves moves of bRf5 to consider. Its moves vacate f5, thus preventing the three primary threats, but the 'random' move 1...Rf6 is met by three *secondary* threats 2.Qd5/Sdc5/Sf6 DEF, which also undergo combinative separation! 1...Rf8 2.DE; 1...Rd5 2.DF; 1...Rc5 2.EF; 1...Rxf4 2.D; 1...Rf7 2.E; 1...Re5 2.F. Some good tries are 1.Sc2? Se6! (2.Sd2??) and 1.Sf3? Sxf3! (2.Re3+ Kd4!).

2 Marko Ylijoki &
Mikael Grönroos
1 Pr Degener-64 &
Degenkolbe-60 JT 2024



H#6½ 3 solutions

vacant. The *Dragon* moves as a knight or pawn, but cannot promote. This unusual combination of fairy pieces was chosen because their abbreviations are the same as the jubilarians' initials (Siren = MD because is the marine Dame in German).

In 3 the main plan is 1.Qd1+ uDRxd1 2.Rc3+ (check from the SI on c1, which threatens to hop over the bK) uDRc3+. The uDR attacks the wK and also guards f2 and g2, but this is not mate because of 3.Kg1! Therefore 1.Re1+! Kd3 2.Slc5-e3 (pinning uDRc3) Kd2 3.Slg1+ Kd3 4.Re3+ Kd2, and with g1 now blocked the main plan works: 5.Qd1+ uDRxd1 6.Rc3+ uDRc3#.

SOLUTION TO RETROGRADE ANALYSIS FOR NEWCOMERS (p.359)

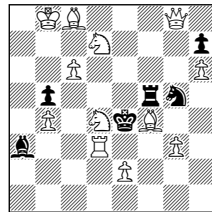
RQ27 (at left) Retract 1.Pa2xQb1=Q then forward 1.a1=R Qf5 2.Ra7 Qc8#

UDO DEGENER-64 & MIRKO DEGENKOLBE-60 JT 2024

The UD-64 & MD-60 jubilee tourney had six sections (#2, #3, #n, h#, s#, faires). Preliminary awards are available at www.schach-udo.de. Some of the prizewinners are quoted in this issue: the 1st Prize in the #2 section is on p.373, and the top three Prizes in the selfmates section are on pp.377-378.

The entries were provided to the judges in anonymous form, but the author of 1 is self-evident! The first achievement is combinative separation of three threats: 1.Sb3! (>2.Rd4/Re3/Sd2 ABC)

1 Gerhard Maleika
9 Pr Degener-64 &
Degenkolbe-60 JT 2024

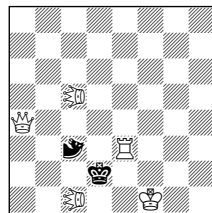


#2

The helpmate tourney had 111 entries, so it was divided into two sections. 2 was the top problem in the section for 8 or more units. 1...f8S 2.c3 Sd7 3.Qg8 Sf8 4.c2+ Kxb2 5.c1B+ Kc3 6.Bb2+ Kxd3 7.Bg7 Sg6#. 1...f8B 2.Re2 Bh6 3.Re3 dxe3 4.h2 e4 5.h1B exf5 6.Bd5 f6 7.Bg8 Bg7#. 1...f8R+ 2.Kg7 Rh8 3.Sf6 Rxh4 4.Sh5 Rxh3 5.Kh8 Rf3 6.Sg7 Rxf5 7.Rh7 Rf8#. The judges wrote: "You probably won't believe it even if you play it all the way through five times. What the authors have conjured up here is a modern masterpiece. Helpmate art. In a relatively open, relaxed position we see three white underpromotions, each of which leads to a model mate. While the white rook is making a round trip, the other two promoted white pieces must each make a tempo move."

The fairy tourney required use of the fairy pieces Siren and uncapturable Dragon. The *Siren* is the marine queen, which makes non-capturing moves as a Q, but captures by hopping over the unit to be captured to the next square beyond, which must be

3 Stephan Dietrich
3 Pr Degener-64 &
Degenkolbe-60 JT 2024



S#6 ♔ Siren

♜ Uncapturable Dragon

AWARD: SEETHARAMAN-75 JUBILEE TOURNEY 2024

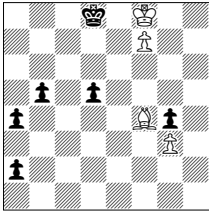
Section A – Gravures (problems with 10 or fewer units)

My Jubilee tourney announced in the November 2023 issue of *The Problemist* had a closing date of 31st March 2024. I was very gratified and thrilled to receive 80 anonymous entries (including some versions) from the Director N.Shankar Ram. He reported that 32 composers from 14 countries had participated. I have divided the award into Gravures (39 entries) and others. The tourney was for hybrid twins with one of the phases being Superguards [Definition: a unit (including K) cannot be captured if it is observed by a unit of its own colour]. The majority of the entries (70) had just two phases. Here is the first section of my award. I have been partial to entries showing a specific theme. With so many excellent originals I have awarded 13 Honourable Mentions and 15 Commendations in addition to the three Prizes. The authors and their problem numbers are as follows:

S.K.Balasubramanian & Vlaicu Crişan 1, 38, 58. Vlaicu Crişan & S.K.Balasubramanian 2, 13. Geoff Foster 4, 5, 6, 17, 18. Vlaicu Crişan 7, 8. Kenneth Solja 9, 19, 20. Stephan Dietrich 10, 12. Manfred Rittirsch 15. Joost Michielsen 23. Ralf Krättschmer & Hubert Gockel 30, 31. Misha Shapiro 32. Ralf Krättschmer 40. Velko Alexandrov 41. S.K.Balasubramanian 42. Jacques Rotenberg 49, 51, 63. Hubert Gockel 55, 57. Manikumar S & Anirudh Daga 59. Manikumar S 60, 61, 67. Dieter Werner 69, 73. Dieter Werner & Norbert Geissler 70, 71. Pietro Pitton 74.

Here are comments on some of the entries that were not included in the award: No.8. S#5 Ks h1/h3: Flight-taking key in both phases. No.10 H#2½ Ks e4/e6: Capture of black queen on W1 move and knight capture for mate in one phase is unfortunate. No.19 H#3 Ks a7/e7: Many repetitions. Solutions of (a) and (b) are almost the same. No.30 is a version of No.31 which is in the award. No.40 H#2 Ks d3/e1. Interesting Einstein phase, but wSb2 is idle in the Superguards phase. No.41 H#2 Ks g6/e5: Both pieces being captured in the Superguards phase seems mechanical.

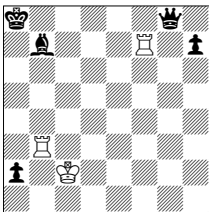
**Vlaicu Crişan &
S.K.Balasubramanian**
1 Pr Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



HS#5 (a) Superguards
(b) Kobul Kings

and mating moves by the different rooks. There is total change in phase (b) with intricate play of the knight and mating moves being made by the different rooks with exchange of functions. The only unity between the phases is the play of the white rooks, but that is enough to make it the best example in this category.

Manikumar S
2-3 Pr Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



H#2 2 solutions
(a) Superguards
(b) Koeko (c) Imitator f4

the unguard, while in the Superguards phase White has to close the other line. However one can't help but feel that what we get is an unfinishable #2 scheme!

1st Prize no.2 Vlaicu Crişan & S.K.Balasubramanian (a) 1.Bb8! (Bc7?) Kd7 2.Ke8+ Ke6 3.f8R a1B 4.Rf5 Bf6 5.Re5+ Ke7# (6.R/Kxe7??) Try: 1.Bc7? ... 6.Kd8! (b) 1.Bd6! (Be5?) Kc8 2.Ke8 a1Q 3.f8S Qg7 4.Sg6 Qb7 5.Se7+ Qxe7[e8=S]# (6.Bxe7[e8=rQ]??) Try: 1.Be5? ... 3...Qg7??. Many other entries showed AUW, but this one has excellent play with subtle dual avoidance and different mates on the same square too. One for the anthologies.

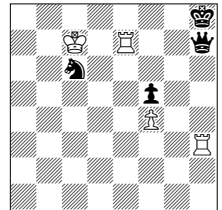
2-3 Prize no.59 Manikumar S & Anirudh Daga

(a) 1.Qg8 Rd3 2.Qc8 Rd8#. 1.Qg7 Rh7 2.Qc3 Rg7#. (b) 1.Sb4[Ic5] Rg3[Ib5] 2.Sa2[Ia3] Rg8[Ia8]#. 1.Se5[Ilf6] Re8[Ilf7] 2.Sg4[Ih6]+ Ra3[Ia6]#. This is a classic. The play in the Superguards phase is excellent with subtle hideaways by the black queen and mating moves by the different rooks. There is total change in phase (b) with intricate play of the knight and mating moves being made by the different rooks with exchange of functions. The only unity between the phases is the play of the white rooks, but that is enough to make it the best example in this category.

2-3 Prize no.60 Manikumar S (a) 1.Bd5 Rb8 2.a1B! Rfb7#. 1.Bc8 Ra7+ 2.Qd5 Rbb7#. (b) 1.Kb8 Ra3 2.Kc8 Ra8#. 1.Qe8 Rf8 2.Qb8 Ra3#. (c) 1.Bc6[Ig3] Ra3[Ilf3] 2.Be8[Ih5] Rf3[Ih1]#. 1.Ka7[Ilf3] Rc7[Ic3] 2.Ba8[Ib4] Rh3[Ih4]#. Another excellent task with three phases and six different mates by the white rooks. The different pieces playing to d5 in phase (a) is a surprise. One small regret is that Rb3 gives both mates in phase (b). Excellent deflection of the Imitator in phase (c) with the black bishop unable to interpose. Kudos.

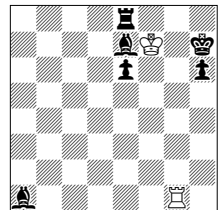
1st Honourable Mention no.51 Jacques Rotenberg (a) 1.e5 Kg7# A. 1.Bf8 Kg8# B. (b) 1.e5 Kg8# B. 1.Bf8 Kg7# A. A unique idea for reciprocal change. In both phases the black moves shut off a black line. In phase (a) White can immediately use

**Manikumar S &
Anirudh Daga**
2-3 Pr Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



H#2 2 solutions
(a) Superguards
(b) Imitator d7

Jacques Rotenberg
1 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



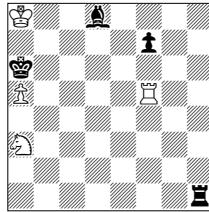
H#1 2 solutions
(a) Anticirce
(b) Superguards

2nd Honourable Mention no.55 Hubert Gockel

(a) 1.Sb5 Rh8 2.Sc7+ Bxc7#. (b) 1.Rxf7 Rh7 2.Ra7+ Rxa7#. (c) 1.Sc2 Bb6 2.Sb4+ Ka7#. (d) 1.Sb5 Rh8+ 2.Sc7+ Bxc7#. There is humour in the apparently identical solution of (a) and (d)!

Hubert Gockel

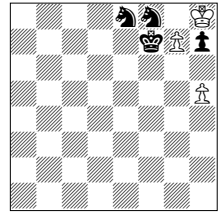
2 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



HS#2 (b) Bd8>d6
(c) Superguards
(d) = (c) & Bd8>d6

S.K.Balasubramanian &**Vlaicu Crişan**

3 HM Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



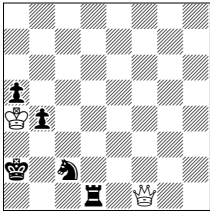
HS#2½ (a) Superguards
(b) Madras RI

3rd Honourable Mention no.1**S.K.Balasubramanian & Vlaicu Crişan** (a)

1...Kg6 2.g8Q Kh6 3.Qg6+ Kg7#. (b) 1...Sd6 2.gxf8R+ Kg7 3.Rf7+ Sxf7#. Two different promotions and thematic mates.

Joost Michielsen

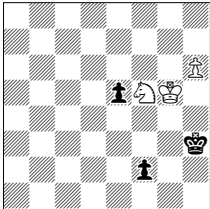
4 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



HS#2½ (b) Superguards

Manikumar S

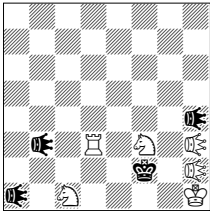
6 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



H#2 (a) Antircirce
(b) Superguards (2 sols)

Stephan Dietrich

8 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



HS#3 ♔♚ Double-G
(b) PWC
(c) Superguards
(d) Volage

4th Honourable**Mention no.23 Joost****Michielsen** (a) 1...Ra1

2.Qc1 Sd4 3.Qb2+ Kxb2# (1...Sd4 2.Qc1??). (b) 1...Rd4

2.Qd3 Sa1 3.Ka3+ b3/Kb3# (1...Sa1 2.Qd3 Rd4??). There is a nice exchange of positions between R and S (a1/d4) and neat dual avoidances. As claimed by the composer the dual mate in the Superguards phase is probably acceptable, though a weakness. I tried unsuccessfully to improve it!

5th Honourable Mention no.15 Manfred**Rittirsch** (a) 1.g1R f8S 2.Rg3 Sg6#. (b) 1.g1B f8Q

2.Ba7! Qf2#. Excellent AUW with the surprising hideaway Ba7!

6th Honourable Mention no.61 Manikumar S

(a) 1.f1B h7 2.Bg2 h8Q# (=R?). (b) 1.f1S Se3 2.Sh2 Kg4#. 1.f1R Kh4+ 2.Rf3 Kg3#. Another excellent AUW. A nice point is that 2...h8R in Antircirce is not mate as it is defeated by 3.Bh1! The two different mates in Superguards with subtle underpromotions are very interesting. It is a pity that wPh6 is necessary in one phase only.

7th Honourable Mention no.70 Dieter Werner**& Norbert Geissler** (a) 1.e1B d7 2.Bf2 d8Q 3.Bb6

Qd3#. (b) 1.e1R d7 2.Re7 d8S 3.Ka7+ Kb7#. An AUW in Tanagra. The play in Superguards is excellent. Ideal & model mates.

8th Honourable Mention no.12 Stephan**Dietrich** (a) 1.Se1 DGa1-f1 2.Se2 DGB3-g1 3.Rf3+

DGf1xf3#. (b) 1.Rxb3(DGD3) Kf1 2.Sxd3(DGc1) DGA1-g1 3.Sde1 Kf2#. (c) 1.Sg5 DGH4-f1 2.Sf3 DGB3-c3 3.DGH3-g3+ Kg1#. (d) *Volage*: Units (not kings) change their colour the first time they move to a square of a different colour. 1.DGH3-c3=b DGA1-g4=w 2.Se1=b DGC3-g1 3.Rf3+ Sxf3#. An ambitious project with four phases and varied play but with no specific theme. Deserves to be honoured just for the effort.

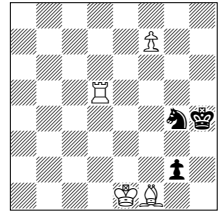
9th Honourable Mention no.20 Kenneth Solja

(a) 1.Se7 Sb6 2.Sc6 rLlb7 3.Sd8+ Sd6#. (b)

1.rLlxh7-d3 rLLa8 2.rLlxd5-h1 Bg3 3.Sxg3-c7+ Sxc7-g3#. (c) 1.Sg3 e1Li 2.Se2 Lle4 3.Sf4+ Llb7#. The Superguards phase and use of Royal Lions has some similarity to No.9 (Commended), but the two Antircirce phases add variety.

Manfred Rittirsch

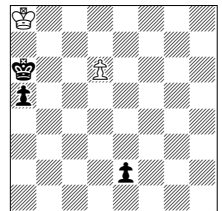
5 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



H#2 (b) Superguards

Dieter Werner &**Norbert Geissler**

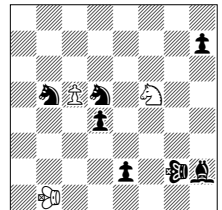
7 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



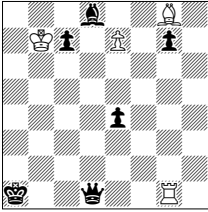
H#3 (b) Superguards

Kenneth Solja

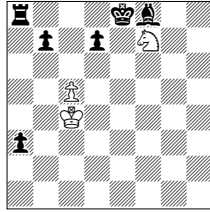
9 HM Seetharaman-75 JT
2024 (section A)



HS#3 ♔♚ Royal Lion
(a) Superguards
(b) Antipodean Antircirce
(c) Symmetry Antircirce

Manikumar S10 HM Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)

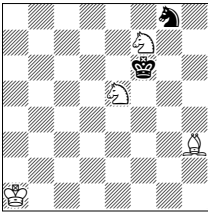
H#2 2 solutions

(a) Superguards
(b) Andernach chess**Jacques Rotenberg**11 HM Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)

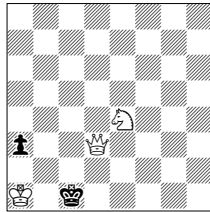
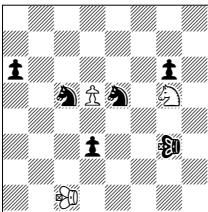
H#3 (b) Superguards

12th Honourable Mention no.57 Hubert Gockel “The Spoon for the Birthday Soup” – Composer. (a) 1.Rc4 a dxc4+ A 2.Kxc6 b c8Q# B. 1.Re4 c dxe4+ C 2.Kxe6 d e8Q# D. (b) 1.Kxc6 b c8Q+ B 2.Rc4 a dxc4# A. 1.Kxe6 d e8Q+ D 2.Re4 c dxe4# C. Despite the symmetry a good find that both black and white move orders are interchanged when the Superguards condition is applied!

13th Honourable Mention no.73 Dieter Werner (a) 1.Kb2 Rc4 2.Ka2 Rxc7-h2#. 1.Qd6 Kf5 2.Kxd4-h4 Qxd6-h2#. (b) 1.Qg3 Qd2 2.Kd3 Kxg3#. 1.Qf4 Rd3+ 2.Kd2 Kxf4#. Mates on same square (h2) in phase (a) and echo-mates in phase (b). This is a good achievement, despite all the mates being captures of the black queen.

Geoff FosterComm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)

H#3 (b) Superguards

Vlaicu CrişanComm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)S#5 (a) Superguards
(b) Anticirce**Kenneth Solja**Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)

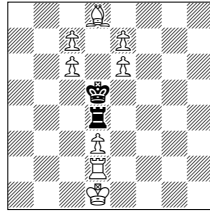
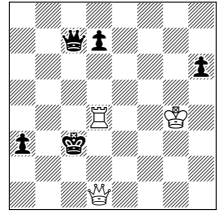
HS#3 2 solutions

 (a) Parrain Circe
(b) Superguards
10th Honourable Mention no.67 Manikumar S

(a) 1.Qa4 exd8Q 2.Qd4 Qxd4#. 1.Qd4 e8Q 2.Qe5 Qxe5#. (b) 1.Qc1 Rg5 2.Qxg5=w Qc1#. 1.Qf1 Rg2 2.Qxg2=w Qa2#. Nice play of the black queen self-pinning itself in one phase and Pelle moves before unpinning by White in the other phase.

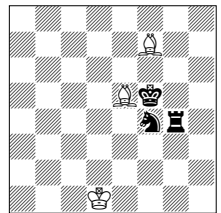
11th Honourable Mention no.49 Jacques Rotenberg

(a) 1.Ra5 c6 2.Re5 c7 3.Re7 Sd6#. (b) 1.d5+ cxd6 e.p. 2.0-0-0 d7 3.Re8 d8Q#. Good exchange of functions between wP and wSf7 (guarding/mating). The orthodox phase is simple, but the Superguards phase contains an excellent Valladao.

Hubert Gockel12 HM Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)H#2 2 solutions
(b) Superguards**Dieter Werner**13 HM Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)H#2 2 solutions
(a) Take&Make chess
(b) Superguards**Commended without ranking**

No.5 Geoff Foster (a) 1.Ke7 Sg5 2.Kd8 Bd7 3.Se7 Se6#. (b) 1.Sh6 Sf3 2.Kg6 S7e5+ 3.Kh5 Bg4#. Active self-block and simple mates. It is a pity that the white king is not needed. Another version with similar mate for phase (b) has been received but I prefer this.

No. 7 Vlaicu Crişan (a) 1.Qb1+! Kb2 2.Qa2 Kc1 3.Sc3 Kb2 4.Sb1 Kc1 5.Qd2+ Kb2#. (b) 1.Sg5! (>2.Sf3 a2 3.Se1 Kb2# unforced threat) 1...a2 2.Qd4 Kc2 3.Sf3 Kb3 4.Se1 Ka3 5.Qc4 Kb2#; 3...Kc1? 4.Se1! Kb1# (short variation). Interesting contrast of play. Would have ranked higher but for the checking key in the Superguards phase.

Vlaicu Crişan & S.K.BalasubramanianComm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)H#2½ (a) Superguards
(b) Equipollent Anticirce

No.9 Kenneth Solja (a) 1.rLIf6 rLIb8 2.Sf7 Sxf7+ 3 rLIIf6(Sd7)+ Sxd7#. 1.Se6 rLIId6 2.Sxc5 rLIb4(Sa3) 3.Sxd3+ Sxd3#. (b) 1.rLIh6 d2 2.rLIIf6 Sg4+ 3.Se4+ Sxe4#. 1.Sf7 Sc6 2.Sd6 rLIC7 3.Se8+ Se6#. An ambitious scheme to show 2+2 solutions, but not so successful. In the second solution of (a) the capture on c5 is unnecessary; in the first solution of (b) the Superguards condition is barely used.

No.13 Vlaicu Crişan & S.K.Balasubramanian (a) 1...Kd2 2.Sd3 (S~?) Ke3 3.Re4+ Kf4#. (b) 1...Be6 2.Se2 Kxe2-f3 3.Kg5 Kxg4-h5#. Two surprising king mates. 2.Sd3 and the self-block 3.Re4+ are both nice thematic moves in the Superguards phase.

No.17 Geoff Foster (a) 1...Kg7 2.Rd5 Kf8 3.Rd7 Se6#. (b) 1...Kxf5 2.Rc6 Ke6 3.Rd6 Kd7#. Despite the capture of the black rook I like this Tanagra. As the composer mentions, in one phase Rf5 makes two moves to self-block while in the other phase Rc8 makes two moves to hideaway!

No.18 Geoff Foster (a) 1.Rh8 Kd2! 2.Kg1+ Ke1 3.Rh1 Sf3#. (b) 1.Rg6 Sxg6 2.Re8 Sf4 3.Ke1+ Ke2#. Two simple mates unified by check to the white king. 2.Re8 is both a help-move and a hideaway!

No.31 Ralf Krättschmer & Hubert Gockel (a) 1.Sc3 Ba5 2.Sa2 Bc3#. (b) 1.Sa7=P Kc1! 2.a5 (a6?) Bxa5=R#. This is a version of No.30 [which had wB on h4 and added a bPf6, but is not in the award]. This setting is obviously better, even though No.30 had one more Einstein effect.

No.32 Misha Shapiro (a) 1.Ka2 fxc8R 2.b1B Rxa8#. (b) 1.Kxa1 f8Q 2.b1S Qa3#. Another AUW, but in the Superguards phase both black rooks are unnecessary. In the orthodox phase they are needed to avoid cooks.

No.38 S.K.Balasubramanian & Vlaicu Crişan (a) 1...Kg4 2.Kh6 Se6 3.Bh4! Kg5#. (b) [Antiguards: Only units that are observed by a friendly unit can be captured. Unobserved units including kings are immune.] 1...Sh7 2.Kh8 g7 3.Ba1! g8R#. A good demonstration of my new fairy condition Antiguards. Typical bishop moves 3.Bh4 (blocking the promoting pawn) and 3.Ba1 (ensuring continued guard of bK). 3...b8Q must be avoided because the black king will then have a flight on h7!

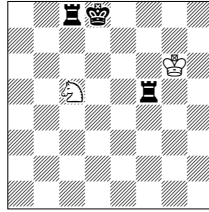
No.42 S.K.Balasubramanian (a) 1...Kc5 2.Qg5 Kd6 3.g6 Ke7#. (b) 1...f7 2.Qd6 Kc6 3.Bg6 f8Q#. Another good demonstration of my new fairy condition Antiguards. There are two different plays to g6 (once as a shut-off and in the other phase for permanent guard!). Subtle moves of the black queen make it interesting.

No.58 S.K.Balasubramanian & Vlaicu Crişan (a) 1.Rd6 f8S 2.Kh6+ Kg6#. (b) 1.Rd8 Kf6 2.Rh8 Kg7#. (c) [Single Combat (also known as Duel): If they can, Black and White must move the piece they played on their previous move.] 1.Be6 f8Q 2.Bg8 Qh6#. The two king mates in the first two phases are nice. The Single Combat phase shows a queen promotion but the condition is needed only to avoid cooks.

No.63 Jacques Rotenberg (a) 1.Rd4 Rf7+ 2.Rd7 Kf6#. (b) 1.Rf4 Kf6+ 2.Kf8 Kf7#. Excellent variety with just 4 units! Two different king mates!

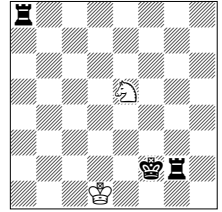
No.69 Dieter Werner [diagram on next page] (a) 1.Sf6 Bf1 2.Se8 Kd1#. (b) 1.Se3 c3+ 2.Sc2 Kxc2#. Nice play of the black knight, which occupies the rebirth square in one phase and is actively sacrificed in the other.

Geoff Foster
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



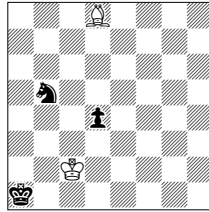
H#2½ (b) Superguards

Geoff Foster
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



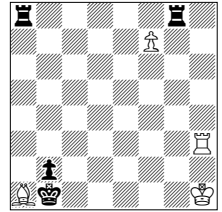
H#3 (b) Superguards

Ralf Krättschmer & Hubert Gockel
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



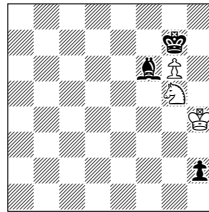
H#2 (a) Superguards
(b) Einstein chess

Misha Shapiro
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



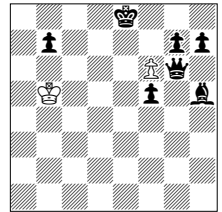
H#2 (b) Superguards

S.K.Balasubramanian & Vlaicu Crişan
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



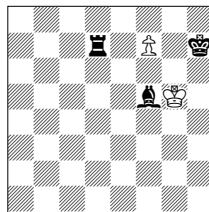
H#2½ (a) Superguards
(b) Antiguards

S.K.Balasubramanian
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



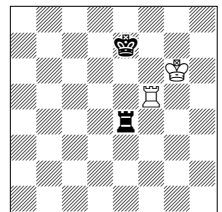
H#2½ (a) Superguards
(b) Antiguards

S.K.Balasubramanian & Vlaicu Crişan
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



H#2 (a) Superguards
(b) Antiguards
(c) Single Combat (Duel)

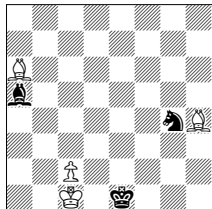
Jacques Rotenberg
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



H#2 (a) Isardam
(b) Superguards

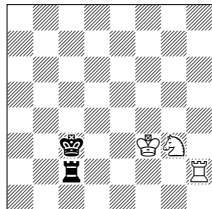
No.71 Dieter Werner & Norbert Geissler (a) 1.Kd3 Se4 2.Rc4 Rd2#. (b) 1.Kc4! Rxc2+ 2.Kd4 Ke4#. (c) 1.Re2 Sxe2-d2 2.Kxd2-fl Rh1#. A variety of mates. The tempo play in the Superguards phase is interesting.

Dieter Werner
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



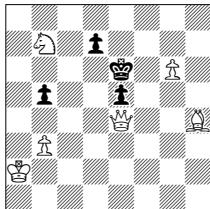
H#2 (a) Anticirce Cheylan
(b) Superguards

Dieter Werner & Norbert Geissler
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



H#2 (b) Superguards
(c) Take&Make

Pietro Pitton
Comm Seetharaman-75
JT 2024 (section A)



#2 (b) Superguards
(c) Imitator d4

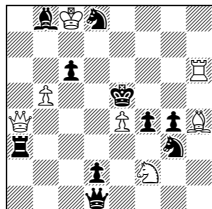
No.74 Pietro Pitton
(a) **1.Qf3!** (>2.Qf7) 1...e4 2.Qxe4. (b) **1.b4!** (-) 1...d6 2.Sc5; 1.d5 2.Qg4. (c) **1.Qe1[Id1]!** Kd6[Id1] 2.Bf6[Id3]. Simple play in all three phases. One of the few direct mates.

K.Seetharaman
April 2024

BRITISH CHESS MAGAZINE AWARD 2022-23

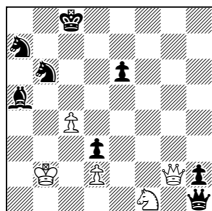
BCM continues to publish four original problems per month, all of them in orthodox genres. This was reflected in the recent award by Hans Gruber who, gratifyingly, found six problems worthy of Prizes – one mate in 2, two mates in 3 and three helpmates. (No selfmates were published in 2022-23, an omission that the *BCM* columnist would like to rectify in 2024-25!) Here is a sample of the prize-winners:

A David Shire
3 Pr *British Chess Magazine* 2022-23



#2

C Christer Jonsson
4 Pr *British Chess Magazine* 2022-23



H#3 2 solutions

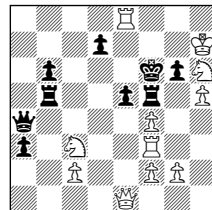
As Hans says, **A** is “a masterful concept with intriguing tries, in which reciprocal black blocks and white guards by the queen enable the mate 2.Bf6”. Try 1.Qb4? (>2.Qc5) Se6 2.Bf6, 1...Bd6 2.Qxd6, but 1...Sb7! Try 1.Qc4? (>2.Qc5) Bd6 2.Bf6, 1...Se6 2.Rxe6, but 1...Ba7! Key **1.Kd7!**, which, guarding d6 and e6, threatens 2.Bf6, and now 1...Rd3+ 2.Sxd3; 1...Sh5 2.Rxh5; 1...Sxe4 2.Qxe4; 1...f3 2.Bxg3.

BCM has been able to publish a succession of fine 3-movers by the distinguished composers of **B** that include quiet and subtle play that will both tantalize the solver and delight the armchair reader. Although the key 1.Qe4, looks strong, it might take a solver a while to satisfy himself that the follow-up 2.Rg3, threatening 3.Rxg6, would be unanswerable. After 1...Qa7 the solver must find 2.Kg8! – as Hans says, “the star move...which is only possible when the bQ cannot any longer reach b3” – the threat is 3.Sg4 and we have 2...exf4 3.Qe7, 2...Rxf4 3.Qxg6, 2...Rg5 3.fxe5, 2...gxh5 3.Qxf5. It’s wonderful, too, that after 1...Qxc2, the move 2.Qa8 unanswerably threatens 3.Qd8. Note also 1...d6 2.Qb7, and many other unique variations: 1...Qb3 2.Qc6+; and after 1...Qc4/Qb4/Qa8 captures of the bQ.

Hans comments that Zilaxis with a free wQ in more than 2 moves are rare – it’s not clear that the theme has previously been shown in more than 2½ moves, and even if it has C’s “light and surprising presentation is a great achievement”. 1.Qxg2 Sg3 2.Kb7 Se4 3.Ka6 Sc5#; 1.Qxf1 c5 2.Qf7 cxb6 3.Qd7 Qa8#.

As well as the 6 Prizes there were 6 HMs and 8 Commendations – Christopher Jones would be happy to send a pdf of the award to any interested reader.

B Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez
2 Pr *British Chess Magazine* 2022-23



#3

Solutions to BOOM problems (p.355)

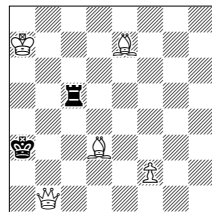
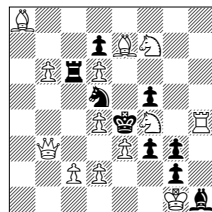
1 1.Se3! (>2.Qxd6,hxg3) Qxe3 2.Sxd5; 1...Qd4 2.Qf5. 1.Sd4? (>2.Qxd6,Sxd5) Qe3 2.Qf5; 1...Qxd4 2.hxg3; 1...Qe4! 1.Sxd6? (>2.Be5) Sxe2! 1.Sh6? (>2.Qxd6,Sxh5) Rxh6! 1.Se7,Sg7? (>2.Qxd6) Ra6!

2 1.Kf3 Kd4 2.Kg4 Ke3 3.Kf5 Kf3 4.Rf6 Se7#. 1.Re7 Kd6 2.Re4 Kd7 3.Kd4 Se6+ 4.Kd5 Sb6#. 1.Rg7 Ke6 2.Rg4 Kf7 3.Ke4 Se6 4.Kf5 Sd6#.

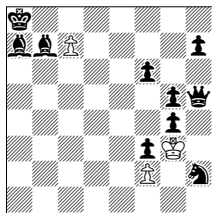
SELFMATE SOLUTIONS (continued from p.363)

S2975R (Linß) 1.Ka6 Ka4 2.Qa2+ Kb4 3.Qc4+ Ka3 4.Qb5 Ka2 5.Qb1+ Ka3 6.f4 Ka4 7.Qa2+ etc....11.f5... 16.f6... 21.f7... 26.f8R!... 31.Bg6! Ka4 32.Qa2+ Kb4 33.Rb8+ Kc3 34.Qb2+ Kc4 35.Qb3+ Kd4 36.Bf6+ Re5 37.Rb4+ Kc5 38.Be7+ Kc6 (38...Rxe7? 39.Ka5 Ra7#) 39.Be8+ Kc7 40.Ka7 Ra5#. Four-move tempo-gain manoeuvre repeated six times (Composer). Concluding with a switchback of White's king key after an interval of 39 moves creates a lasting impression too! (SJGT) A lack of comments isn't a total surprise, albeit I trust defeated solvers now enjoy playing through this astute composition (it's more than just the neat tempo manoeuvre!). It's also a good place to remind folk that I'm perfectly happy to use a few extra comments on some problems after publication of their solutions; there's no rush, so just send any remarks/thoughts/critiques on what caught your attention with your next ladder solutions!

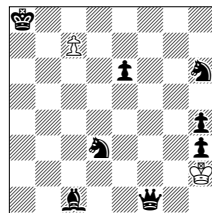
S2976 (Chamberlain) 1.Rh8! 1...Rc8/Rc7/Rc5/Rc4/Rc3/Rxc2/Rxb6/Rxd6 2.Rxc8/bxc7/dxc5/Qxc4/Qxc3/Qb1/Qxb6/Bxd6 f2#; 1...Sxb6/Sc7/Sxe7/Sf6/Sxf4/Sxe3/Sc3/Sb4 2.Qxb6/bxc7/Re8/Bxf6/Rh4/dxe3/Qxc3/Qxb4 f2#. Half-pin and grab ditheme with nice 2.Rh4 switchback. In S2943, pins of the moving piece follow four defences to a threat; here they follow three particular moves in a double-block (CL) – notable for inclusion of a complete knight wheel (SJGT). My first thought was 1.Sxd5+; but the consequent flight at f5 can't be covered. Then I saw that Rc8 was the only flight where the rook isn't en prise, hence 1.Rh8! (AB). A challenge to ensure a dual-free legal position; also frustrating to not achieve bS pins on lines a4-e4 & e1-e4 (Composer).

S2975R**R#40****S2976****S#2****HELPMATE SOLUTIONS** (continued from p.367)

H4752 (Ylijoki) (a) 1...c8=Q+ 2.Ka7 Qh8 3.Qf3 Kg1 4.Qc6 Kf1 5.Kb6 Ke2 6.Kc5 Kxd3 7.Kd5 Qd4#. (b) 1...c8=R+ 2.Kb7 Rh8 3.Qf7 Kxh3 4.Sg8 Kg4 5.Qc7 Kf5 6.Kc8 Ke6 7.Kd8 Rxg8#. Very different wK marches produce same-length solutions. Remarkable (and difficult!) (LSB). A gorgeous and intriguing pair of variations showing diverse escape routes for the wK after checking promotions on c8. The R/Q distinction is pointedly alluring as are their common retreats to h8 and Marko's twinning mechanism (SJGT).

H4753**H#6½ 2 solutions**

H4753 (Ylijoki) 1...c8=B 2.Bxf2+ Kxf2 3.g3+ Ke3 4.Sg4+ Kd4 5.Se5 Kc5 6.Sc6 Kb6 7.Sb8 Bxb7#. 1...c8=Q+ 2.Bb8+ Qc7 3.Qh6 Qd6 4.Sf1+ Kxg4 5.Ba6 Kf5 6.Kb7 Ke6 7.Kc8 Qd7#. More same-length brilliance and masterly control of move order (e.g., the necessary 6.Sc6) (LSB). Two more masterful variations from Marko showcasing very different mates after subtly differentiated promotions; the cross-checking bishop interposition on b8 is an inspired constructional device to control the 3-move wQ path from c8 to d7 (SJGT).

H4752**H#6½ (b) –Pe6****Solutions to SOLVING IN HAGEN AT THE ECSC** (front cover and p.347)

A Set 1...Qxe8 2.Qxh6+ Qe3 3.Sxb3+ Bxb3#; 1...Qf8 2.Qe6+ Qc5 3.Sxb3+ Bxb3#. **1.Ka6!** (-) Qxe8 2.Qc6+ Qxc6 3.Sxb3+ Bxb3#; 1...Qf8 2.Qxh6+ Qxh6 3.Sxb3# Bxb3#; 1...Qg7 2.Sxg7 Sxb6 3.Sxb3+ Bxb3#; 1...Qg8 2.Ba7 ~ 3.Sxb3+ Bxb3#. 1.Rh2? Qg8! 2.Rh1+ Kd2!

B 1.g7? (>2.Rxf6) Bc3! 1.b4? (>2.Bxd5) Rd6! 1.Rxd5? (>2.Qd7) Kxd5 2.b4; 1...Se5! 1.Bxf6? (>2.Qe7) Kxf6 2.g7; 1...Bb4! **1.f4!** (>2.f5) Sxf4 2.Sxf4; 1...d4 2.b4; 1...f5 2.g7.

C 1.Kb2 2.a1=B 3.Ka2 4.Bd4 5.b2 6.Kb3 7.Ka4 8.b3 9.b4 10.b5 11.Rc6 12.Rc7 13.Bb6 14.Ba5 15.b6 16.Rc1 17.Rb1 Sxb1=

D 1.e3 h5 2.Ba6 h4 3.Qh5 b5 4.Sf3 b4 5. 0-0 b3 6.axb3 e6 7.Ra5 Ba3 8.bxa3 Sh6 9.Bb2 Rg8 10.Bf6 gxf6 11.Sc3 Rg4 12.Rb1 Ra4 13.bxa4 Sc6 14.Rbb5 Sb4 15.axb4.

E 1.Re4 Se1 2.Qf4 Kg2 3.Kc5 Sg6 4.Kd4 Se5 5.Ke3 Sc2#. 1.Bc4 Se3 2.Ka5 Sd5 3.Ra6 Sf5 4.Bb5 Sd6 5.Ra4 Sb7#.

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