

BROODINGS...

N° 29: April 2006

brood: to ponder morbidly or persistently [Collins Dictionary]

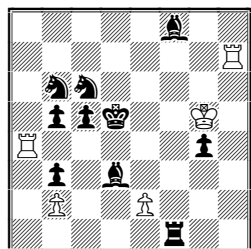
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Practical matters: First, the new layout above leaves a little more room for text, and the change of font makes things easier for e-mail recipients. I hope nobody misses the question-mark too much. Next, it is time to reiterate a regular request to readers. Would those of you who have not been in touch recently (in the last year, say) please let me know whether you are still interested in receiving *Broodings*? Thank you.

There is nothing very novel this time, just a familiar old helpmate mixture, with anticipatory effects, tempo play, there-and-back manoeuvres, and the odd function exchange or bit of dual avoidance. The longer problems will make little sense unless they are solved. Grasshoppers, neutrals and Circe are surely too well known to need definition, but the kangaroos (K^s) may be less familiar. Whether moving or capturing, they hop on queen-lines to the next square beyond any two pieces of either colour. Thus in **11**, perhaps my favourite among these problems, K^sa7-f2 or K^sd3-f3 would be possible moves if it were White's turn to play.

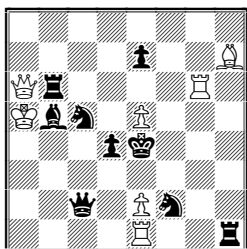
Best wishes to all, as always.

1.



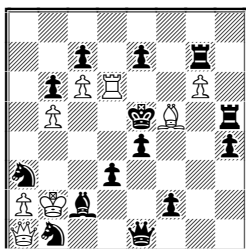
h#2 b) ♖h7>h5 c) & ♙c5>f3 d) & ♙b2>f2

2.



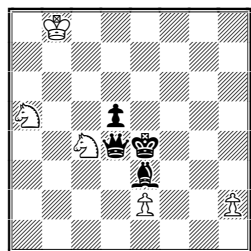
h#2 2 solutions

3.



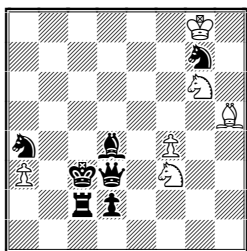
h#2½ b) ♙e7>g4

4.



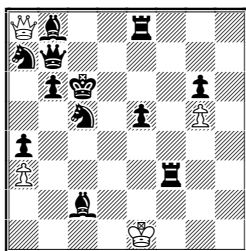
h#3 2 solutions

5.



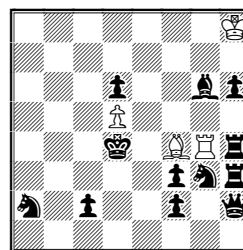
h#3 b) ♙a3>b3

6.



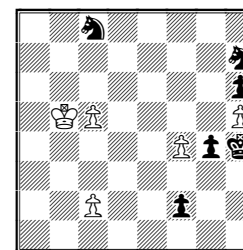
h#3 2 solutions

7.



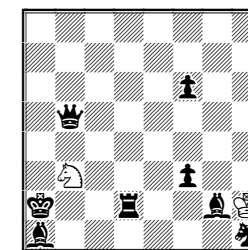
h#3 b) ♙f2>e5 c) & ♙c2>b5 d) & ♙b5>e2

8.



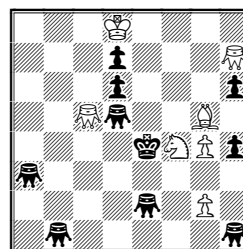
h#4½

9.



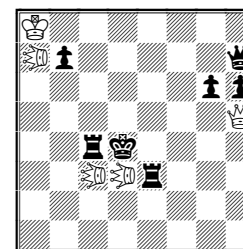
h#5

10.



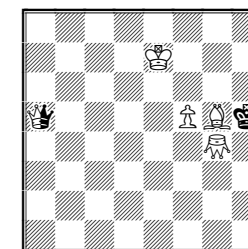
h#2½ b) ♙h7>e8

11.



h#3 2 solutions
Kangaroos

12.



sh#8 Circe (set mate)
Neutral G a5

SOLUTIONS:

1 a) 1.Sb4 Rd7 2.Kc4 exd3# b) 1.Bf5 Kf6 2.Bd6 e4# c) 1.Sc4 Kf4 2.Kd4 e3# d) 1.Sd4 Kxg4 2.Ke4 exf3# ASPs with unusual albino mates 2 1.Bxe2 Qxe2 2.Kf5 Qf3# & 1.Rxg6 Qxg6 2.Ke3 Qg5# 3 a) 1... Rxd3 2.Bxd3 Kb3 3.Kd6 Qd4# b) 1... Bxe4 2.Qxe4 Kc1 3.Kf5 Qf6# Tempo sacrifices 4 1.Qg7 Sb7 (Sc6?) 2.Qg3 hxg3 3.Bd4 Sbd6# & 1.Bf2 Sc6 (Sb7?) 2.Bg3 hxg3 3.Qe3 Sd6# Tempo again! 5 a) 1.Qxg6 Sxd2 2.Qd3 Bf7 3.Sb2 Sb1# b) 1.Qxf3 Se7 2.Qd3 Bd1 3.Rb2 Sd5# BQ switchbacks, with Zilahi 6 1.Kb5 Kd2 (Ke2?) 2.Qa6 Qe4 3.Ka5 Qb4# & 1.Kd6 Ke2 (Kd2?) 2.Qd7 Qxf3 3.Ke7 Qf6# Tempo with dual avoidance and black battery-building; the f3 capture seems unavoidable, alas. 7 a) 1.h5 Bh6 2.Ke5 Rd4 3.Bf5 Bg7# b) 1.Se2 Bg3 2.Kc3 Rb4 3.Bd3 Be1# c) 1.Be4 Rg7 2.Kc5 Ra7 3.Kb6 Be3# d) 1.Se4 Bxe5 2.Ke3 Rg1 3.Kf2 Bd4# 8 1... Kc6 (K~/?Pc4?/Pc6?/Pf5? – really the only point) 2.Sb6 cxb6 3.f1Q b7 4.Qxf4 b8Q 5.Qg5 Qh2# 9 1.Bc3 Sd4 2.Ka1 Sxf3 3.Ra2 Sd2 4.Qb1 Kxg2 5.Bb2 Sb3# White must find a tempo. 10 a) 1... Sg6 2.Gf5 Se7 (Sxh4?) 3.Gd3 Sf5# b) 1... Be7 2.Ge5 Bf6 (Bxd6?) 3.Ge3 Be5# Hopper-specific strategy. 11 1.Qc7 K^sd7 2.Rxc3 K^sd8 3.Qd6 Qd5# & 1.Qf7 K^sg7 2.Rxd3 K^sh8 3.Qf6 Qe5# Odd pinmates 12 1...f6#. 1.NGxg5 2.NGd8 3.NGf6 4.NGf4 5.NGh4 6.Kxh4 7.NGh3 8.NGxf5 Bg5# Both set and actual mates are strongly Circe.