

BROODINGS...

N° 33: December 2006

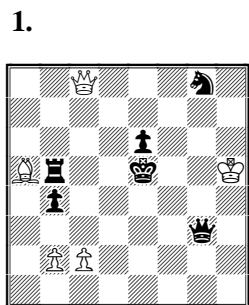
brood: to ponder morbidly or persistently [Collins Dictionary]

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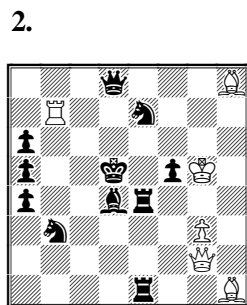
Somewhat to my surprise, and with just a few days of December remaining, I am able to bring the complement of 2006 issues up to a respectable six. Is it inappropriate to wish readers a Happy New Year for the second time in a month or so?

Two references back to the November *Broodings* are necessary. First, problem 9 of that issue suggested the present 5 to my Russian collaborator Boris Shorokhov, whom I am delighted to welcome here and whom I thank for his interesting contribution. The second point concerns the h#4 in the same issue. Various readers pointed out the illegality of part b), which I had rather brightly seen and then promptly forgotten... Fortunately several people suggested a remedy, so if anyone is kind enough to quote that problem (B32/6) or insert it into a database, I should be grateful if an **extra WPa3** could be included, please.

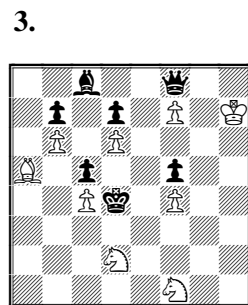
Fortunately (for space is limited) this issue's originals need little comment. A rash of helpmates in 4½ has broken out; however if you yearn for normality there is always the set line in 8, which is of course an ordinary h#4. For correctness the equihoppers in 9 and 12 must be the usual English kind, not the non-stop leaping variety. By virtue of Circe and neutrality in combination, the one in 12 makes an unexpected round trip. *Best wishes to all!*



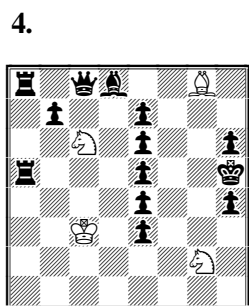
1. h#2 3 solutions



2. h#2 2 solutions



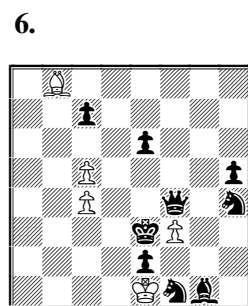
3. h#2½ 3 solutions



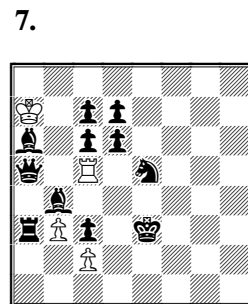
4. h#3 2 solutions



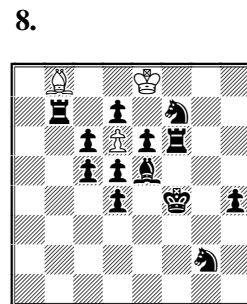
5. Б.Б.Шорохов h#4½ 2 solutions



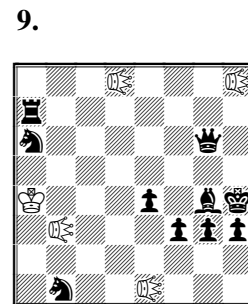
6. h#4½



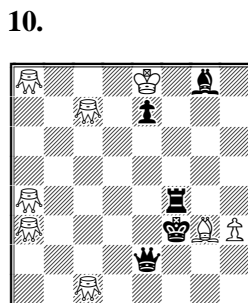
7. h#4½



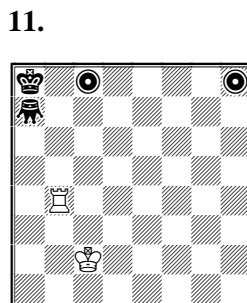
8. h#4½ *



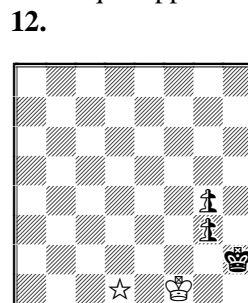
9. h#2 2 solutions
4 equihoppers



10. h#2½ b) f4=> ♘
grasshoppers



11. seriesh#10 *
neutral grasshoppers
c8 & h8



12. seriesh#16 Circe
2 neutral pawns
neutral equihopper d1

SOLUTIONS:

1 1.Rb6 Qxe6+ 2.Kd4 Bxb6#, 1.Rb7 Bc7+ 2.Kf6 Qf8# & 1.Rb8 c4 2.Kd6 Qc7# BR hideaways 2 1.Kc4 Bxd4 2.Rxd4 Qc2# & 1.Kd6 Rxe7 2.Rxe7 Qc6# 3 1... Kg6 2.Qe7 f8Q 3.Qxd6+ Qxd6#, 1... Se4 2.Qg8+ fxg8Q 3.fxe4 Qd5# & 1... Bb4 2.Qe8 fxe8Q 3.cxb4 Qe3# White provides Black with a tempo. 4 1.Qd7 Sxe5 (Sxe7?) 2.Rxe5 Bxe6 3.Rg5 Sf4# & 1.Qb8 Sxe7 (Sxe5?) 2.Bxe7 Sxe3 3.Bg5 Bf7# 5 1... a3 2.Rc6 a4 3.b6 a5 4.Kb7 a6+ 5.Kxa6 a8Q# & 1... a4 2.Kxa7 a5 3.Kb8 a6 4.Kc7 axb7 5.Kc6 bxc8Q# Fortunately I described my setting as "minimalist", because this one is truly minimal! 6 1... Bxc7 2.Qxc7 c6 3.Qf4 c7 4.Qxc4 c8Q 5.Qf4 Qc3# 7 1... Rxe5+ 2.Kd4 Re3 3.Kc5 Rxc3+ 4.Kb5 Rc5+ 5.dxc5 c4# Admittedly crude, but it is not easy to set this idea soundly with a WR as thematic piece. 8 Set is 2.Rc7 dxc7 3.Bd6 c8Q 4.Ke5 Bxd6+ 5.Kxd6 Qb8#, which the solution changes to 1... Ba7 2.Rc7 dxc7 3.Bd6 c8S 4.Ke5 Sxd6 5.Kxd6 Bb8# with a different sacrifice on d6, a WB switchback and a round trip by the P/S before sacrificing. 9 1.Rf7 Eh5 2.Qxh5 Eh6# & 1.Rg7 Eg5 2.Qxg5 Ef6# Tempo E-sacrifices, and pinmates 10 a) 1...Gg5 2.Bd5 G3f8+ 3.Re4 Gf4# b) 1... Gg4 2.Bb3 G8f8+ 3.Be3 Gf4# The BB crosses the mating line so as to pin itself, and different Gs mate on the same just-vacated square. 11 1... Rb8# 1.NGc1 2.NGc3 3.NGb2 4.NGd4 5.Ge3 6.NGf3 7.Gc5 8.NGa4 9.NGc4 10.NGc6 Rb7# 12 1.NEh1 2.NEh3 3.NPxb3 (NEh8) 4.Kxh3 (NPh2) 5.h1NS 6.Kh2 7.NSf2 8.NPxf2(NSg1) 9.Kh1 10.NPxb1 12.NBg7 13.NEh6 14.NBxf6(NEf8) 15.NBe7 16.NEd6 NBxd6(NEd1)# Double NE square-colour change. I quite like this one!