

BROODINGS...

N° 41: January 2008

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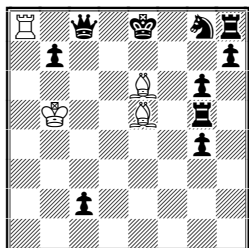
True is it that we have seen better days... (*As You Like It*, II vii)

Yes, the above address is still correct, disasters and delays having attended our attempts to move, at least for the present... but one side-effect is that this issue of *Broodings* appears rather earlier than planned – not a bad way to lose and neglect the creeping hours of time. And therefore sit you down in gentleness and take upon command what help-problems we have.

This time you may notice a determined attempt to avoid the kind of white bishop + white rook matrices which one sees used so often, especially in the helpmate in three. There are no funny animals either, so no need for definitions; instead there are some series problems for a change. In 8 the “v” is not an attempt to claim “tries”, but simply indicates that what actually happens is intended to be illuminated by the reasons why other first moves fail.

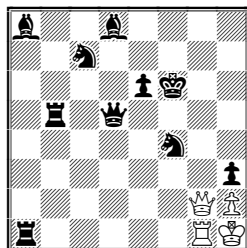
As always, best wishes to all readers.

1.



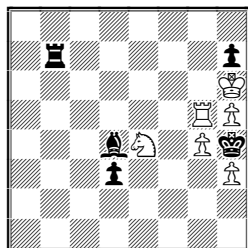
h#2 b) ♖a8<-> ♜h8

2.



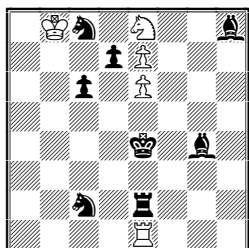
h#2 b) ♗e6>e7 c)>f7

3.



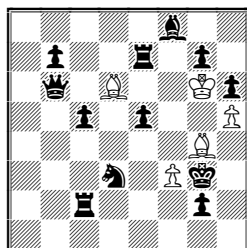
h#2½ 2 solutions

4.



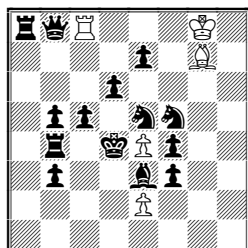
h#3 2 solutions

5.



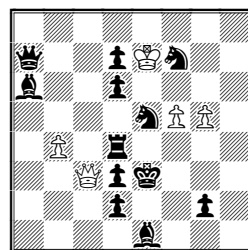
h#3 3 solutions

6.



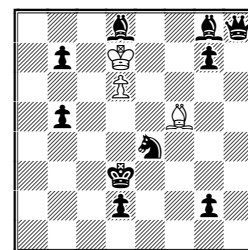
h#3 2 solutions

7.



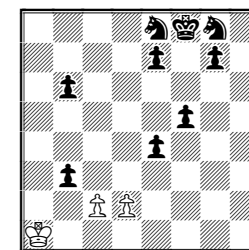
h#3 3 solutions

8.



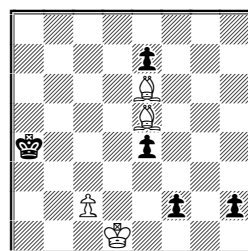
h#3½ v b) d2=> ♗

9.



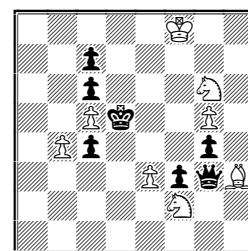
h#5½ 2 solutions

10.



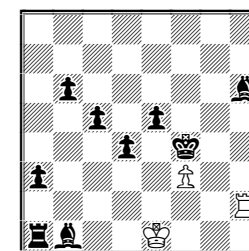
White plays once, then ser-h#5 2 solutions

11.



ser-h#6 3 solutions

12.



White plays once, then ser-h#8

SOLUTIONS:

1 a) 1.Se7 Bxc8 2.O-O Be6# b) 1.Qc3 Bxg8 2.O-O-O Be6# 2 a) 1.Qf5 Qb7 2.Sd5 Qg7# b) 1.Qe5 Qe4 2.Sd5 Qg6# c) 1.Qe6 Qd5 2.Rb7 Qg5# The tempo element may be novel in this context. 3 1...Rg8 2.Rg7 Sf2 3.Rxg4 Rxg4# & 1...Ra5 2.Rb5 Kxh7 3.Rxh5 Rxh5# 4 1.Kd5 Sd6 2.Rxe6 e8Q 3.Rf6 Qe5# & 1.Kf5 exd7 2.Rxe7 d8Q 3.Rg7 Qf6# 5 1.Qa7 Bxc5 2.Kf4 Bg1 3.Qe3 Bh2#, 1.Qc7 Bxe5 2.Kh4 Bxg7 3.Qg3 Bf6# & 1.Qd8 Bxe7 2.Sf2 Bd6 3.Qh4 Bxe5# 6 1.Kc4 Kh7 2.Sc6 Bd4 3.cxd4 Rxc6# & 1.Kxe4 Rd8 2.Sd3 Be5 3.dxe5 exd3# Difficult? 7 1.Rd5 Qxd2 2.Kd4 Qc1 3.Bc3 Qf4#, 1.Ke2 Qxd3 2.Kd1 Qe4 3.Be2 Qb1# & 1.d1R Qxd4 2.Kd2 Qa1 3.Qe3 Qb2# 8 a) 1...Bh7(tempo) 2.Be7 dxe7 3.g5 e8Q 4.Qc3 Qxe4# [1.Bg6? (block) 1.Ke8?(block) 1.Kc8?(move 4 check)] b) 1...Bg6(tempo) 2.Bc7 dxc7 3.Qh5 c8Q 4.Qe2 Qc3# [1.Bh7?(block) 1.Kc8?(block) 1.Ke8? (move 3 check)]. 9 1...d4 2.bxc2 d5 3.c1S d6 4.Sd3 d7 5.Se5 d8S 6.Sf7 Se6# & 1...c4 2.e3 c5 3.exd2 cxb6 4.d1B b7 5.Bh5 b8S 6.Bf7 Sd7# Possibly the first S/S promotion P-Zilahi with excelsiors. See my article in *ORBIT* 37 (January/08) 10 1.Bc3 then 1.f1S 2.h1Q 3.Qg1 4.Qc5 5.Qa3 Bd7# & 1.Bd6 then 1.f1B 2.h1R 3.Rh5 4.Ra5 5.Bb5 Bb3# Not an entirely new theme! 11 1.Qh4 4.g1B 6.Be5 7.Se7#, 1.Qxh3 4.g1R 6.Re5 7.Sf4# & 1.Qh2 4.g1S 6.Sd4 7.e4# 12 1.Ra2 then 1.Kg5 2.Kh5 3.Bc1 4.Bg6 5.Rb1 6.Rb2 8.Rg5 Rh2#