

BEST PROBLEMS

Rassegna dei migliori problemi

diretta da **Antonio Garofalo**

Col sostegno dell'API (Associazione Problemistica Italiana)

Anno XXVIII - n. 109

1°/2024 - January

Hanno collaborato a questo numero:

Hans Gruber, Laurent Riguet, Harry Fougiaxis. (Judges)

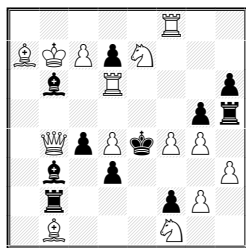
Awani Kumar, Gabor Tar, Janos Csak & Kenneth Solja (Wishes cards and other)

EDITORIALE

Welcome to Givi MOSIASHVILI, Luis ZARAGOZA and Theodoros GIAKATIS for their first publication on *Best Problems*.

In prima pagina un'affermazione del nostro M.I. esperto di $\neq 2$, e altre ne verranno nei prossimi fascicoli. In questo numero ben tre verdetti, un record ; ringrazio i giudici per il loro servizio.

Come sempre in gennaio, "cartoline" augurali di vario tipo allegati alla rivista.



← Marco Guida

1st Prize Quick TTY Batumi 2023, Section $\neq 2$

5R2/BKPPN3/1b1R3p/6pr/1QpPkPP1/1b1p3P/1r3pP1/1B3N2

$\neq 2$ (14+11) C+

1. ♜g6? A [2. $\text{♞e8}\neq$ D] 1... gxf4 a 2. $\text{♞xf4}\neq$ E

1... ♟xd4 b 2. $\text{♞xd4}\neq$ F but 1... c3! x

1. ♜f5? B [2. $\text{♜5g3}\neq$] 1... gxf4 a 2. $\text{♞e8}\neq$ D but 1... ♞xh3!

1. ♜d5? C [2. $\text{♜c3}\neq$, not 2. ♞e8? D 2. ♜g3? G]

1... ♟xd4 b 2. $\text{♜g3}\neq$ G (not 2. ♞e8? D) but 1... ♞c2!

1. ♞e8! D [2. $\text{♜g6}\neq$ A, not 2. ♜d5? C]

1... gxf4 a 2. $\text{♜f5}\neq$ B 1... c3 x 2. $\text{♜d5}\neq$ C 1... ♟xd4 b 2. $\text{♞xd4}\neq$ F

Thematic Highlights

-- White moves A, B, C, D change functions across the 4 phases:

• A is Key (Try1) and Threat (Solution) • B is Key (Try2) and Mate (Solution)

• C is Key (Try3) and Mate (Solution) • D is Key (Solution), Threat (Try1), Mate (Try 2), Non-Threat (dual Threat avoidance in Try3) and Non-Mate (dual avoidance in Try3).

-- "Extended" Urania, **possibly a Novelty**: the same white move 2. ♞e8 (D) acts not only as Key (Solution), Threat (Try1) and Mate (Try2), but also (Try3) as:

• Non-Threat (dual-threat avoidance): the Key controls f4 and opens the line of ♞f8 , therefore in principle allowing 2. ♞e8 (D), but it also closes the line of ♞d6 giving a flight to d4 to black King;

• Non-Mate (dual avoidance): the defence 1... ♟xd4 self-blocks square d4, therefore in principle allowing 2. ♞e8 (D) \neq , but at the same time it controls the mating line.

• Reversal Key-Mate (Try2-Solution: BaD-DaB)

• Reversal Key-Threat (Try1-Solution: AD-DA)

• White Correction and Threat Correction

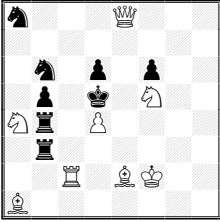
• Battery Play in Solution across the threat and 2 variation mates

• Change of Mates: 3 mates after 1... gxf4 (a) and 2 mates after 1... ♟xd4 (b)

• Flight-giving keys in Try2, Try3 and Solution, whereby the King's flight is not a valid defence against the threat.

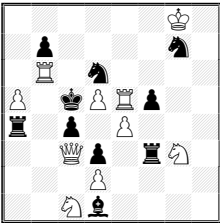
Inediti (Originals)

5818. A. Pereira
& L. Quaresma
Portogallo



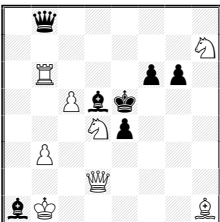
≠2 vvv (8+8) C+

5822. A. Fica &
Z. Labai - Rep. Ceca /
Slovacchia



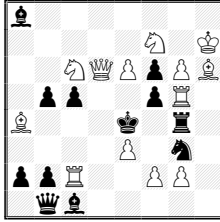
≠2 vv (10+10) C+

5826. L. Makaronez
& V. Volchek
Israele/Bielorussia



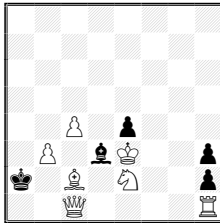
≠3 (8+7) C+

5819. G. Doukhan
Francia



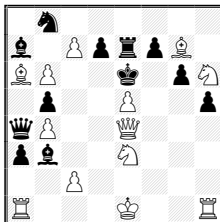
≠2* vvv (13+12) C+

5823. G. Maleika
Germania



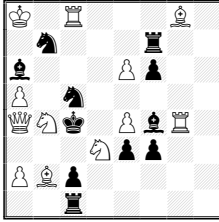
=2 vvv (7+5) C+

5827. J.A. Garzon, M.
Uris & L. Zaragoza
Spagna



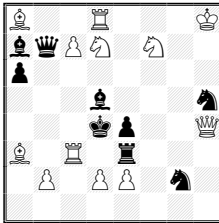
≠3* vvv (13+12) C+

5820. G. Mosiashvili
Georgia



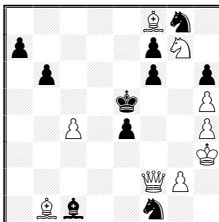
≠2* v (12+11) C+

5824. F. Magini
Italia



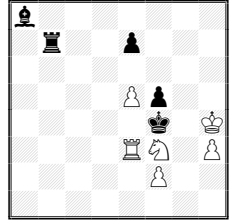
≠2 vv (12+9) C+

5828. A. Tarnawiecki
Perù



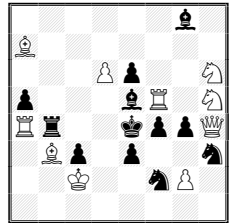
≠3 (9+10) C+

5821. L. Monti
Italia



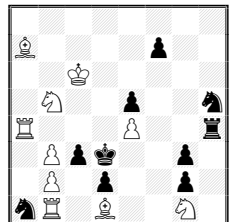
≠2 vv (6+5) C+

5825. G. Sardella
Italia



≠2* (10+12) C+

5829. G. Doukhan
Francia

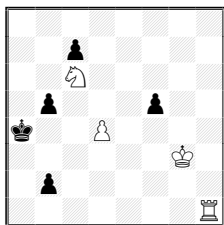


≠3 (10+10) C+

≠2, n. 5818-5825 (Judge 2024: NN)

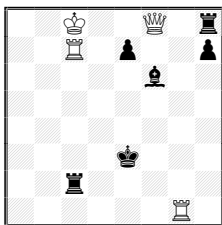
≠3, n. 5826-5829 (Judge 2024-2025: Antonio Garofalo).

5830. M. Uris
Spagna



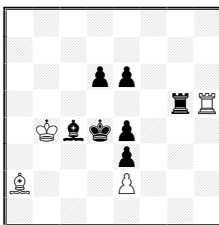
H≠2 (4+5) C+
b) ♖b2→c2
c) ♖b2→d2

5831. S. Luce
after R.F. Zalokotsky & P. Golovkov - Francia



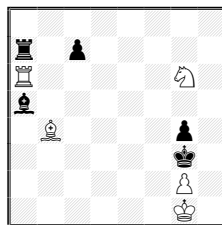
H≠2 (4+6) C+
2 sol.

5832. S. Luce
Francia



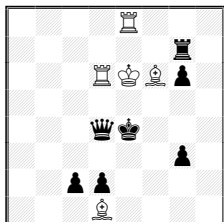
H=2 (4+7) C+
2 sol.

5833. A. Armeni
Italia



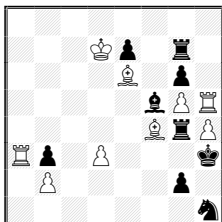
H=2 (5+5) C+
b) ♜c7→b3

5834. A. Pankratiev & I. Antipin - Russia



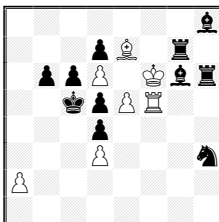
H≠2 (5+7) C+
2 sol.

5835. F. Magini
Italia



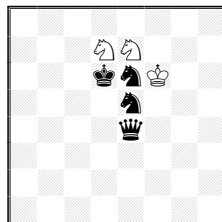
H≠2 (9+9) C+
2 sol.

5836. J.M. Kapros & J.J. Lois - Argentina



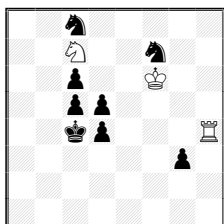
H≠2,5 (7+11) C+
b) ♜d5→e6

5837. A. Pankratiev
Russia



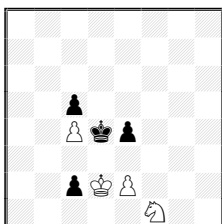
H≠3 (3+4) C+
2 sol.

5838. A. Pankratiev & I. Antipin
Russia



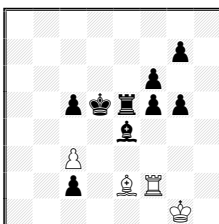
H≠3 (3+8) C+
2 sol.

5839. S. Luce
Francia



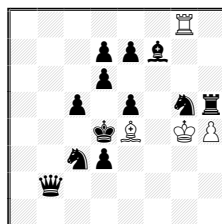
H≠3 (4+4) C+
b) H=3

5840. A.V. Ivunin & A. Pankratiev
Russia



H≠3 (4+9) C+
4 sol.

5841. A.V. Ivunin & A. Pankratiev
Russia

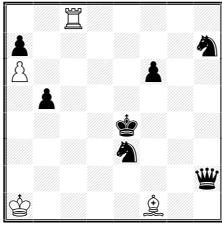


H≠3 (4+12) C+
3 sol.

H≠2, H=2, n. 5830-5835 (Judge 2024-2025: NN)

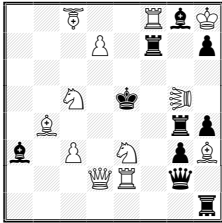
H≠2.5/H≠3, H=2.5/H=3, n. 5836-5841 (Judge 2024-2025: NN).

**5842. A.V. Ivunin
& A. Pankratiev**
Russia



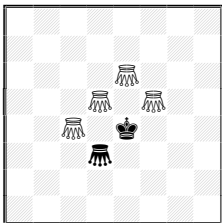
H≠3,5 (4+7) C+
4 sol.

**5846. L. Gomez
Palazon & M. Urís**
Spagna



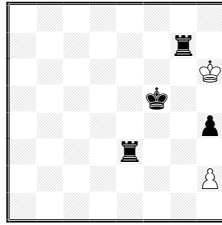
≠2 v (12+10) C+
♖=Rookhopper
♗=Bishopper, ♖=Fers

5850. S. Luce
Francia



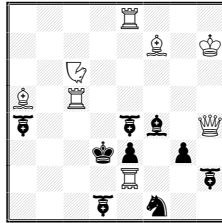
H≠7* (4+2) C+
Alphabetic Chess (ABC)
♖♗=Grasshoppers

5843. M. Bily
Rep. Ceca



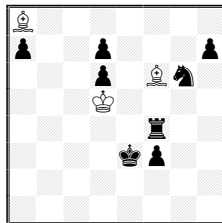
H≠5,5 (2+4) C+
b) ♖h4→h3

5847. M. Urís
Spagna



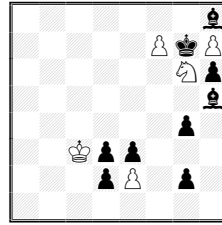
≠2 vvv (8+9) C+
♖=Rookhopper
♗=Bishopper
♘=Nightrider

**5851. T. Giakatis
& K. Prentos**
Grecia / USA



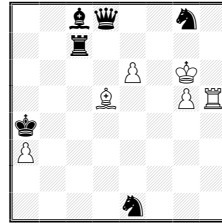
H≠3 (3+8) C+
2 sol.
Take & Make

5844. S. Luce
Francia



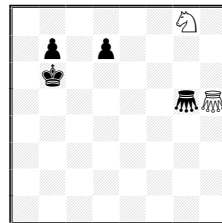
H=6 (5+9) C+
1 sol.

5848. G. Tar
Dedicated To Zoltán Tar
Ungheria



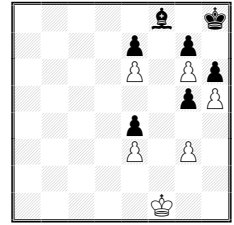
H≠2 (6+6) C+
2 sol.
Anticirce

5852. S. Luce
Francia



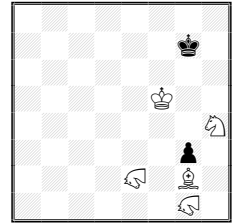
H≠5,5 (2+4) C+
2 sol.
♖♗=Grasshoppers

5845. G. Jordan
Germania



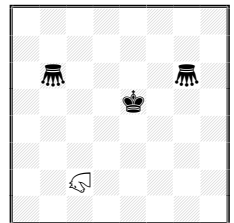
H≠10 (6+7) C+
1 sol.

5849. L. Kekely
Slovacchia



pser-H≠37 (5+2) C+
♘=(1,5)
Hopper (1,5)

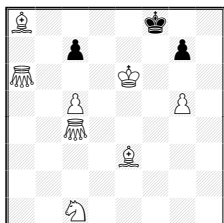
5853. S. Luce
Francia



H≠5 (1+3) C+ 2 sol.
PWC, ♖♗=Grasshoppers
♘=Hamster-Locust

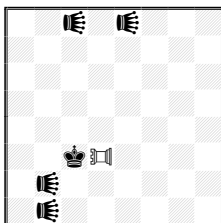
H≠n, n. 5842-5845 (Judge 2024-2025: Antonio Garofalo).

5854. L. Kekely
Slovacchia



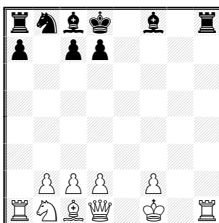
sh≠35 (8+3) C+
1 sol.
♞=Grasshopper-2

5855. V. Kotesovec
Rep. Ceca



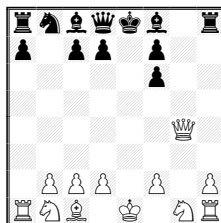
sh≠17 (1+5) C+
3 sol. ♞=Kangaroo
♞=Aigle (Eagle)

5856. H. Grudzinski
Polonia



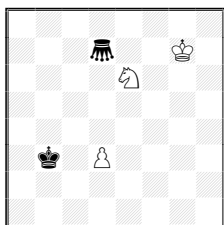
SPG 10,5 (10+9)
Einstein

5857. H. Grudzinski
Polonia



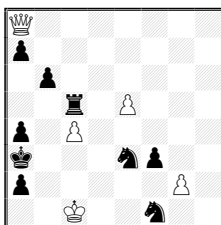
SPG 9,0 (12+12)
Provocateurs

5858. K. Solja
Finlandia



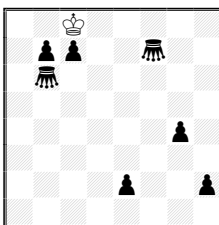
hs≠4,5 (3+2) C+
b) ♞e6, c) ♜b3→e3
d) =c) ♞e6; Köko
PWC ♞=Aigle °°
°° Eagle-hopper with change colour.

5859. A. Armeni
Italia



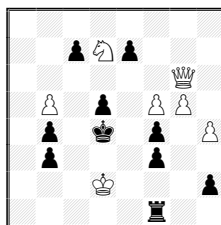
hs≠2,5 (5+9) C+

5860. S. Luce
Francia



hs≠9,5 (1+7)
♞=Grasshoppers

5861. A. Armeni
Italia



hs≠2,5 (7+10) C+

Fairies n. 5846-5861 (Judge 2024: (NN)).

Note agli inediti (Fairy elements)

sh = aiutatto a serie (Serie helpmate/helpstalemate).

hs = helpselfmate.

sd = diretti a serie (Serie direct)

ss = serie selfmate

• **Alphabetic Chess (Alphabétiques):** Each move of either side must be by the piece occupying the first square in the order of a1, a2, a3...b1, b2, b3...c1, c2, c3... etc., which is able to make a legal move. Castling is permitted if the King has the right to make a legal alphabetical move, provided the usual other rules for that move are obeyed.

• **Anticirce:** On making a capture, any unit (including K) is reborn on its game-array square (as determined according to **Circe** rules), and the captured unit disappears. Since rebirth is obligatory, a capture is legal only if the relevant rebirth-square is unoccupied. A capture may be made from a rebirth-square. Promotion with capture is legal provided the rebirth-square of the promoted unit is unoccupied. In **Anti-Circe type Calvet** capture on a rebirth-square is allowed (it is default type if type is omitted). In **Anti-Circe type Cheylan** capture on a rebirth-square is not allowed.

• **Einstein Chess:** Units "grow" when they capture ($\text{♔} \rightarrow \text{♕} \rightarrow \text{♖} \rightarrow \text{♗} \rightarrow \text{♘} \rightarrow \text{♙}$) and "shrink" when they move without capturing ($\text{♙} \rightarrow \text{♘} \rightarrow \text{♗} \rightarrow \text{♖} \rightarrow \text{♕} \rightarrow \text{♔}$...). Castling is permitted with reborn Rook but the Rook changes to a Bishop. If a white (black) Pawn on 7th (2nd) rank make a non-capturing move, fit does not change its status, i.e., remains a Pawn and loses its mobility.

• **Köko:** A move is legal only if at least one of the squares adjacent to the arrival square is occupied (i.e. a unit, having moved, must be in contact with another).

• **Provocateurs:** Une pièce ne peut capturer que si elle est menacée. [Un pezzo può catturare solo se è minacciato - A piece can only capture if it is threatened]

• **PWC = PlatzWechselCirce:** A captured unit is reborn, according to **Circe** rules, on the departure square of the capturing unit. (Quando viene fatta una cattura, l'unità catturata viene piazzata nella casa del pezzo che l'ha appena catturata, in pratica scambiandosi il posto con il pezzo catturante.)

• **Take & Make:** Having captured, a piece must immediately, as part of its move, play a non-capturing move in imitation of the captured unit from the capture square. If no such move is available, the capture is illegal.

• **Aigle (Eagle):** Se déplace comme une Sauterelle (**Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.**(0,1)+(1,1)), mais dévie de 90° (dans un sens ou dans l'autre) au-dessus du sautoir. La case d'arrivée est contiguë au sautoir. [Si muove come un Grasshopper ma devia di 90° in un senso o nell'altro appena dopo l'ostacolo. La casa d'arrivo è adiacente all'ostacolo. - Moves like a Grasshopper but deflects 90° in one sense or another just after the obstacle. The arrival square is adjacent to the obstacle.]

• **Bishopper:** A Grasshopper moving on Bishop-lines only.

• **Eagle-hopper:** When it skips an obstacle, this changes colour.

• **Fers:** 1:1 Leaper. [=a1 → b1, a1 → a2 etc.]

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

• **Grasshopper 2:** Moves like Grasshopper but two squares after the obstacle. [Muove come il Grasshopper ma cade due case dopo l'ostacolo.]

• **Hamster-Locust:** Join the properties of the Hamster and Locust. [**Hamster:** Se déplace comme une Sauterelle (**Errore. Il segnalibro non è definito.**(0,1)+(1,1)), mais dévie de 180° au-dessus du sautoir. **Locust:** moves on Queen-lines but only by capturing an enemy unit, arriving on the square immediately beyond that unit.

Locust - Moves like a Grasshopper, but the piece fit hops over must be adverse, and fit is captured (as in checkers). The Locust must arrive on an empty square.]

• **Kangaroo:** Moves along Queen-lines over two units of either colour to the square immediately beyond the further unit. A capture may be made on the arrival square, but the hurdles are not affected.

• **Nightrider:** A Rider along a straight line on squares lying a Knight's move away from each other, e.g. a1-b3-c5-d7.

• **Rookhopper:** A Grasshopper moving on Rook-lines only.

Soluzioni Inediti

Fascicolo n. 109

Commenti degli autori e del redattore.

5818. (≠2, Alvaro Faria Pereira & Luis Quaresma)

n3Q3/8/1n1p1p2/1p1k1N2/Nr1P4/1r6/2R1BK2/B7

1. ♖c5? [2. ♗e7‡ 2. ♜e4‡]

1... ♜e3 2. ♗xe3‡ 1... ♜f3+ 2. ♗xf3‡ 1... dxc5 2. ♜xc5‡ ma 1... ♜xd4!

1. ♜c3? [2. ♗f3‡] 1... ♜xc3 2. ♗xc3‡ 1... ♜d4 2. ♗e3‡ ma 1... ♜b2!

1. ♗c3? [2. ♗e3‡] 1... ♗c4 2. ♗f3‡ 1... ♜xc3 2. ♗xc3‡ ma 1... ♗d7!

1. ♗h5! [2. ♗f7‡] 1... ♗c7 2. ♗xb6‡ 1... ♜e3 2. ♗xe3‡ 1... ♜f3+ 2. ♗xf3‡

Comment by Authors: White Grimshaw, Sushkov, Pseudo Le Grand and transferred mates; Theme F refutation (1. ♗c3? ♗d7!)

5819. (≠2, Gérard Doukhan)

b7/5N1K/2NQPPb/1pp2pR1/B3k1r1/4P1n1/ppR2PP1/1qb5

1... f4 2. ♜d5‡ **A** 1... ♗xe3 2. f3‡ **F**

1. ♜d2? [2. ♜d5‡ **A**] (and not 2. ♜xd3+? **C** ♜xd3!)

1... ♜d3 2. ♜xd3‡ **C** 1... ♗xc6 2. ♜xc6‡ ma 1... ♗xd2!

1. ♜xf5? [2. ♜d5‡ **A**] (and not 2. f3+? **F** ♗xf5!)

1... ♗xf5 2. f3‡ **F** transferred; ma 1... ♗xc6!

1. ♜c3? [2. f3‡ **F**] (and not 2. ♜xd3+? **C** ♜xd3!)

1... ♜d3 2. ♜xd3‡ **C** ma 1... ♜f4!

1. ♗b4! [2. ♜d3‡ **C**] (and not 2. ♜xd5+? **A** ♗xd5!)

1... ♗d5 2. ♜xd5‡ **A** transferred

1... ♗xe3 2. f3‡ **F** 1... ♜xc2 2. ♗xc2‡ 1... c4, cxb4 2. ♜d4‡

Comment by Author:

- Complete Cyclic Sushkov with a new and homogeneous scheme (all white moves open line to black pieces !): this involves a cycle of threats dual avoidance linked with a cyclic Pseudo-Le Grand AF-FC-CA

In addition, • Sushkov theme after the moves 1. ♜d2? & 1. ♗b4? with a Pseudo-Le Grand AC-CA (surely the first realisation of the combination Sushkov - Cyclic Sushkov)

- Another Pseudo Le Grand FC-CF • 2 transferred mates

5820. (≠2, Givi Mosiashvili)

K1R3B1/1n3r2/b3Pp2/P1n5/QNk1PbR1/3Npp2/PBp5/2r5

1... ♗d6 **a** 2. ♜xc5‡ **A** 1... ♗b5 **b** 2. ♜b3‡ **B**

1.e7? **E** [2. ♗xf7‡] 1... ♗d6 **a** 2. ♜xc5‡ **A** ma 1... ♗c7! **x**

1.e5? **F** [2. ♜xf4‡] 1... ♗d6 **a** 2. ♜xc5‡ **A** 1... ♜d7 2. exd7‡ 1... fxe5 2. ♗xe5‡ ma 1... ♜c7! **y**

1. ♜c6! [2. ♜xa6‡]

1... ♗d6 **a** 2. ♜xc5‡ **C** 1... ♗b5 **b** 2. ♜d5‡ **D**

1... ♗c7 **x** 2. e5‡ **E** 1... ♜c7 **y** 2. e7‡ **F**

Matti cambiati, Banny

5821. (≠2, Luca Monti)

b7/1r2p3/8/4Pp2/5k1K/4RN1P/5P2/8

1. ♗g5? [2. ♗xe6‡] ma 1... ♜b6! 1. ♗g1? [2. ♗e2‡] ma 1... ♜b2!

1. ♗d4! [2. ♗e2‡ 2. ♗xe6‡] 1... ♜b6 2. ♗e2‡ 1... ♜b2 2. ♗xe6‡

5822. (≠2, Alexander Fica & Zoltán Labai)

6K1/1p4n1/1R1n4/P1kPRp2/r1p1P3/2Qp1rN1/3P4/2N64

1. ♖ce2? [2. ♖d4‡]

1... ♗b5 2.d6‡ 1... ♗e6 2.dxe6‡ 1... dxe2 2.d4‡ ma 1... ♙xe2!

1. ♗xf5? [2. ♖d4‡]

1... ♗b5 2.d6‡ 1... ♗dxf5 2.d6‡ 1... ♗e6 2.dxe6‡ 1... ♖xf5 2. ♗xd3‡ ma 1... ♗gxf5!

1. ♗ge2! [2. ♖d4‡]

1... ♗b5 2.d6‡ 1... ♗e6 2.dxe6‡ 1... ♙xe2 2. ♗b3‡ 1... dxe2 2.d4‡

5823. (=2, Gerhard Maleika)

8/8/8/2P1p3/1P1bK2p/k1B1N2p/2Q4R

1. ♗d4? tempo

1... ♙xc2 **a** 2. ♖xh2= **A** 1... ♙e2 **b** 2. ♗xe2= **B** ma 1... ♙f1!

1. ♙d1? tempo

1... ♙c2 **a** 2. ♙xc2= **C** 1... ♙xe2 **b** 2. ♖xh2= **A** ma 1... ♙b1!**1. ♖xh2!** tempo1... ♙xc2 **a** 2. ♗d4= **D** 1... ♙xe2 **b** 2. ♙d1= **E** 1... ♙xc4 2.bxc4=

1. ♗g3? tempo

1... ♙f1 2. ♗xf1= 1... ♙e2 2. ♗xe2= ma 1... ♙xc2!

Zilahi, Boros, Zagorouiko, Reversal (WinChloe)

5824. (≠2 Fabio Magini)

B2R3K/bqPN1N2/p7/3b3n/3kp2Q/B1R1r3/1P1PP1n1/8

1. ♗de5? [2. ♖c4‡]

1... ♖xc7 **a** 2. ♖xd5‡ **A** 1... ♖c6 **b** 2. ♗xc6‡ **B** 1... ♖xc3 **c** 2.bxc3‡ **C** ma 1... ♖b5!1. ♖g5? [2. ♖e5‡] 1... ♖xc7 **a** 2. ♖xd5‡ **D** ma 1... ♖xc3!**1. ♗c5!** [2. ♗e6‡]1... ♖c6 **b** 2. ♗b3‡ **E** 1... ♖xc3 **c** 2. ♖xe4‡ **F** 1... ♖b6 **d** 2. ♖xd5‡ **A**

1... ♗gf4 2.dxe3‡ 1... ♗hf4 2. ♖f6‡ 1... ♗g7 2. ♖f6‡ 1... ♙xc5 2. ♙xc5‡ 1... ♖c8 2. ♗b3‡

5825. (≠2, Giuseppe Sardella)

6b1/B7/3Pp2N/p3bR1N/Rr2kppQ/1Bp1p2n/2K2nP1/8

1... g3 2. ♗xg3‡ 1... f3 2.gxf3‡

1. ♖e7! [2. ♖b7‡] 1... ♙d4 2. ♙d5‡ 1... exf5 2. ♗f6‡ Tema Hirlap**5826. (≠3, Leonid Makaronez & Victor Volchek)**

1q6/7N/1R3pp1/2Pbk3/3Np3/1P6/3Q4/bK5B

1. ♖xf6! [2. ♗f3+ exf3 3. ♖f4‡]

1... ♙a8 2. ♗b5 [3. ♖g5‡] ♖xb5 3. ♖d6‡

2... ♖c8 3. ♖d6‡ 2... e3 3. ♖h2‡

1... ♙b7 2. ♗e6 [3. ♖g5‡] e3 3. ♖h2‡

1... ♖b4 2. ♗c6+ ♙xc6 3. ♖d6‡

1... e3 2. ♖xe3+ ♙e4+ 3. ♖xe4‡

1... ♖xb3+ 2. ♗xb ♙xb3 3. ♖d6‡ 2... ♙e6 3. ♖d6‡

5827. (≠3, José Antonio Garzon, Miguel Uris & Luis Zaragoza)

1n6/b1PprpB1/BP2k1pN/1p2P2p/qP2Q3/pb2N3/2P5/R3K2R

1... ♖xb4+ 2. ♖xb4 [3. ♖d6‡] 1... h4 2. ♖g4+ f5 3. ♖xg6‡

1. ♖f4? [2. ♖f6‡] ma 1... f5! 1. ♖d4? [2. ♖d6‡] ma 1... d5!

1.0-0-0? [2. ♖d6‡]

1... ♖xb4 2. ♖xb4 [3. ♖d6‡ 3. ♖d6‡] 1... d5 2.exd6 e.p.+ ♗d7 3.c8=♖‡ ma 1... ♖e8!

1.0-0! [2. ♖f6†]

1... ♖e8 2. ♖xf7 [3. ♖xg6†] ♙xc2 3. ♖d5†

1...d6 2. ♖f6+ ♗d7 3.c8=♖† 1...d5 2. ♖f6+ ♗d7 3.c8=♖† 1...f5 2.exf6 e.p.+ ♗d6 3.c8=♗†

Comments by Authors:

1... ♖xb4+ 2. ♖xb4 ~ 3. ♖d6≠ 1...h4 2. ♖g4+ f5 (a) 3. ♖xg6≠ (X)

1. ♖f4? [2. ♖f6≠] 1...f5! (a)

1. ♖d4? [2. ♖d6≠] 1...d5! (b)

1.O-O-O? [2. ♖d6≠]

1...d5 (b) 2.exd6 e.p.+ (A) ♗d7 3.c8=♖≠ 1...♖e8! (c)

1.O-O! [2. ♖f6≠]

1...f5 (a) 2.exf6 e.p.+ ♗d6 3.c8=♗≠

1...d5 (b) 2. ♖f6+ (B) ♗d7 3.c8=♖≠

1...♖e8 (c) 2. ♖xf7 [3. ♖xg6# (X)] ♙xc2 3. ♖d5≠

Valladao task double. Tries refutations reappear as defenses in actual play.

Different promotions in c8 (white Ropke?).

Kharkov 2 - Threat correction – Change of continuation

Authors' note: A double Valladao with two different castlings, captures en passant and promotions, perhaps shown here for the first time. The three special chess moves are made by the white pieces.**5828. (≠3, Antonio Tarnawiecki)**

5Bn1/p4pN1/1p3p1p/4k2P/2P1p2P/7K/5QP1/1Bb2n2

1. ♙b4! [2. ♖f5+ ♗d4 3. ♖xe4†]

1... ♗e3 2. ♖f4+ ♗d4 3. ♖xe4† 2... ♗xf4 3. ♙d6†

1... ♗g3 2. ♖xg3+ ♗d4 3. ♖c3† 2... ♙f4 3. ♖c3†

1... ♗d2 2. ♖g3+ ♗d4 3. ♖c3† 1... ♗e7 2. ♖xf6+ ♗xf6 3. ♙c3†

5829. /≠3, Gérard Doukhan)

8/B4p2/2K5/1N2p2n/R3P2r/1Ppk2p1/1P1p2p1/nR1B2N1

1. ♖c4![2. ♗d6 **A** [3. ♖xc3† **C**] cxb2 3. ♙e2† **D**]1... ♗f6 2. ♗a3 **B** [3. ♙e2† **D**] ♖xe4 3. ♖xc3† **C** *self-block, pseudo-Le Grand*1... ♗f4 2. ♖xc3+ **C** ♗xe4 3. ♗d6† **A** *distant self-block*1... ♗xb3 2. ♙e2+ **D** ♗c2 3. ♗a3† **B** *distant self-block*

Synthesis of Adabashev with two homogeneous pairs of variations.

• First (threat and first defence):

Pseudo-Le Grand theme with 2nd moves **A & B** and mates **C & D**

In the second pair, we have

• distant blocks

• same second moves **C & D** who make the threats and mates of the first pair

• flight of ♙

• mates are the second and the third moves of the threat **A & B**

This involves:

• Cycle of moves between the threat and the 3 defenses **AD DB BC CA**• Double exchange of second and third moves **AC-CA** and **BD-DB****5830. (H≠2, Miguel Uris)**

8/2p5/2N5/1p3p2/k2P4/6K1/1p6/7R

a) 1.b1=♖ ♗a5 2. ♖b4 ♖a1† b) 1.c1=♗ ♖h2 2. ♗b3 ♖a2† c) 1.d1=♙ ♖h8 2. ♙b3 ♖a8†

Comment by Author: Four corners. Underpromotion (x3) – Selfblock (x3)

Tema molto sfruttato, ma sempre simpatico. (NdR)

5831. (H≠2, Sébastien Luce)

after R.F. Zalokotsky & P. Golovkov

2K2Q1r/2R1p2p/5b2/8/8/4k3/2r5/6R1

1. ♖a1 ♜d1 2. ♜b2 ♜xe7‡ 1. ♜a2 ♜d7 2. ♖b2 ♜e1‡

Comment by Author: "Mise à l'écart" du Fou ou de la Tour noire, afin de permettre un mat des deux Tours. Original/correction (more economical of an old problem/see annex)

Annex: Roman F. ZALOKOTSKY, Petro GOLOVKOV

6° T.T. diagrammes 1982 - 1st HM

White : Kd8 Qg8 Rd6h1 Black : Kf3 Qa2 Rh8d2 Bg6 Pf7h5 - h‡2 (4+7) C- 2.1.1.1

1.Bb1 Ré1 2.Rç2 Rf6‡ 1.Rb2 Ré6 2.Bç2 Rf1‡ cooked : 1.Bé4 Ré1 2.Bd5 Rf6‡

5832. (H=2, Sébastien Luce)

8/8/3pp3/6rR/1Kbkp3/4p3/B3P3/8

1. ♖d5 ♖xd5 2.exd5 ♜xg5= 1. ♜e5 ♜xe5 2.dxe5 ♖xc4=

Comment by Author: Zilahi with black & white sacrifice. Bicolor Bristol.

5833. (H=2, Alberto Armeni)

8/r1p5/R5N1/b7/1B4p1/6k1/6P1/6K1

a) 1. ♜xa6 ♖xa5 2. ♜d6 ♖xc7= b) 1. ♖xb4 ♜xa7 2. ♖a3 ♜xa3=

Zilahi, Echo diagonal-orthogonal, Captures réciproques, Pats modèles (Winchloe)

5834. (H≠2, Alexandre Pankratiev & Ivan Antipin)

4R3/6r1/3RKBP1/8/3qk3/6p1/2pp4/3B4

1. ♜xd6+ ♖xd6+ 2. ♖d3 ♖e2‡ 1. ♜xf6+ ♖xf6+ 2. ♖f4 ♜d4‡

5835. (H≠2, Fabio Magini)

8/3Kp1r1/4B1p1/5bPR/5BrP/Rp1P3k/1P4p1/7n

1. ♖xd3 ♖xb3 2. ♜xh4 ♖e6‡ 1. ♜xg5 ♜h6 2. ♖g4 hxg5‡

5836. (H≠2.5, Jorge M. Kapros (+) & Jorge J. Lois)

7b/3pB1r1/1ppP1Kbr/2kpPR2/3p4/3P3n/P7/8

a) 1...a4 2. ♖xf5+ ♖xf5 3. ♜xd6 ♖xd6‡

b) 1...a3 2. ♜xe7+ ♖xe7 3. ♖xe5 ♜xe5‡

5837. (H≠3, Alexandre Pankratiev)

8/3NN3/3knK2/4n3/4q3/8/8/8

1. ♖c7 ♖c5 2. ♖d7+ ♖f7 3. ♜e5 ♖b7‡ 1. ♖c7 ♖f5 2. ♖c8 ♖e7 3. ♖c7 ♖d6‡

5838. (H≠3, Alexandre Pankratiev & Ivan Antipin)

2n5/2N2n2/2p2K2/2pp4/2kp3R/6p1/8/8

1. ♖fd6 ♖xd5 2. ♖xd5 ♜e4 3.c4 ♜e5‡ 1. ♖cd6 ♜e4 2.dxe4 ♖a8 3. ♖d5 ♖b6‡ Zilahi.

5839. (H≠3, Sébastien Luce)

8/8/8/2p5/2Pkp3/8/2pKP3/5N2

a) 1.c1=♖+ ♖e1 2. ♖f4 ♖g3 3. ♖e3 ♖f5‡

b) 1.e3+ ♖xe3 2.c1=♖ ♖g4 3. ♖d3 exd3=

Comment by Author: Under promotions and Chumakov theme: black pawn e4 and c pawn (promoted to Knight) captured in b) self-block in a)

5840. (H≠3, Alexei V. Ivunin & Alexandre Pankratiev)

8/6p1/5p2/2pkrpp1/4b3/2P5/2p1BR2/6K1

1.c1=♖ ♜xf5 2. ♖b3 ♜xf6 3. ♖d4 c4‡

1. ♖d3 ♜f4 2.gxf4 ♖f2 3. ♖e4 ♖f3‡

1. ♖c6 ♜xf5 2. ♖b6 ♜xf6+ 3. ♖a5 ♜a6‡

1. ♖e6 ♜h2 2. ♖f7 ♜h8 3. ♖g6 ♖h5‡

5841. (H≠3, Alexei V. Ivunin & Alexandre Pankratiev)

6R1/3ppb2/3p4/2p1p1nr/3kB1KP/2np4/1q6/8

1. ♖gxe4 ♜f3 2. ♜d5 ♜g4 3. ♚c3 ♜xe4‡

1. ♙xg8 ♙h7 2. ♜d5 hxg5 3. ♜e6 ♙xg8‡

1. ♚b4 ♜g6 2. ♙b3 ♜xd6+ 3. ♜c4 ♙xd3‡

Zilahi, Echo diagonal-orthogonal, Cycle de captures (WinChloe)

5842. (H≠3.5, Alexei V. Ivunin & Alexandre Pankratiev)

2R5/p6n/P4p2/1p6/4k3/4n3/7q/K4B2

1... ♙xb5 2. ♚d6 ♜c4+ 3. ♜e5 ♙c6 4. ♜f5 ♜e4‡

1... ♜c5 2. ♚f4 ♜b2 3. ♜g5 ♜c3 4. ♜f3 ♙d3‡

1... ♜c1 2. ♜f3 ♙e2+ 3. ♜g2 ♙d1 4. ♜h1 ♙f3‡

1... ♜b1 2. b4 ♙b5 3. ♜d4 ♜d8+ 4. ♜c3 ♜d3‡

5843. (H≠5.5, Miroslav Bily)

8/6r1/7K/5k2/7p/4r3/7P/8

a) 1... h3 2. ♜g4 ♜h7 3. ♜g5 ♜g7 4. ♜h5+ ♜f6 5. ♜e6+ ♜f5 6. ♜h6 hxg4‡

b) 1... ♜h5 2. ♜gg3 ♜h6 3. ♜g4 ♜g6 4. ♜h4+ ♜f5 5. ♜e5+ ♜f4 6. ♜h5 hxg3‡

5844. (H=6, Sébastien Luce)

7b/5Pkp/6Np/7b/6p1/2Kpp3/3pP1p1/8

1. g1=♜ f8=♜ 2. ♜f3 exf3 3. e2 fxg4 4. e1=♚ gxh5 5. ♚e6 ♜xd2 6. ♚g8 hxg8=♙=

Comment by Author.: Two white pawns are on the seven rank. But only a solution including a bicolor AUW allows to reach the goal. Tested by V. Kotesovec in 1h32mn. Thank you Vaclav.

5845. (H≠10, Gunter Jordan)

5b1k/4p1p1/4P1Pp/6pP/4p3/4P1P1/8/5K2

1. ♜g8 ♜g2 2. ♜h8 ♜h3 3. g4+ ♜xg4 4. ♜g8 ♜h3 5. ♜h8 g4 6. ♜g8 g5 7. hxg5 h6 8. gxh6 g7
9. ♜h7 gxh8=♚ 10. ♜g6 ♚f7‡

Comment by Author: PAS-Läufer-Hilfsmatt, Rückkehr wK, Fernblock (2x), Blockwechsel (bPg5,h6!), Umwandlung (D), Epaulettenmatt, Mustermatt

5846. (≠2, Luis Gomez Palazon & Miguel Uris)

1. ♚d3? [2. ♜c4# A, 2. ♜xg4# B]

1... ♜xg5 a 2. ♚d4# C

1... ♚xe2 2. ♚d5# D

ma 1... ♚e4! b

1. ♜e4! [2. ♚d4# C, 2. ♚d5# D]

1... ♜xg5 a 2. ♜c4# A

1... ♜xd7 2. ♜xg4# B

1... ♚xe4 b 2. ♚d6#

Comment by Authors: Odessa; Le Grand; Pseudo Le Grand; Rudenko.

5847. (≠2, Miguel Uris)

1. ♜c1? [2. ♙c4‡] A 1... ♜d2 2. ♜c3‡ B ma 1... ♜c2! a

1. ♙e1? [2. ♜c3‡] B 1... ♙e5 2. ♚xe4‡ C ma 1... ♜d2! b

1. ♚e7? [2. ♚xe4‡] C 1... ♜c2 2. ♙c4‡ A ma 1... ♙e5! c

1. ♜b8! [2. ♜b3‡] D

1... ♜c2 a 2. ♙c4‡ A 1... ♜d2 b 2. ♜c3‡ B 1... ♙e5 c 2. ♚xe4‡ C

1... ♜b7 2. ♙g6‡ 1... ♙xb8 2. ♚xe4‡

Comment by Author: Dombrovskis (3-fold); Cycle Pseudo Le Grand.

5848. (H≠2, Gábor Tar)*Dedicated To Zoltán Tar*

2bq2n1/2r5/4P1K1/3B2PR/k7/P7/8/4n3

1. ♖xg5(♔d8) ♚e5 2. ♜xe6(♙c8) ♜b3‡

1. ♜xe6(♙c8) ♜f7 2. ♖xg5(♔d8) ♚a5‡

5849. (pser-H≠37, L'ubos Kekely)

1. ♜f8 2. ♜e7 3. ♜d6 4. ♜c5 5. ♜d4 6. ♜e3 7. ♜f2 8. ♜xg1 9. ♜f2 10. ♜e3 11. ♜d4
 12. ♜c5 13. ♜d6 14. ♜e7 15. ♜f8 16. ♜g7 17. ♜h6 18. ♜h5 19. ♜xh4 20. ♜h5 21. ♜h6
 22. ♜g7 23. ♜f8 24. ♜e7 25. ♜d6 26. ♜c5 27. ♜d4 28. ♜e3 29. ♜f2 30. ♜xg2 31. ♜h1
 32. g2 33. g1=♔ 34. ♚c5+ ♜g4 35. ♚c8+ ♜d7 36. ♚g8+ ♜h3 37. ♚g1 ♜c2‡

Comment by Author:

1. Kg7-f8 2. Kf8-e7 3. Ke7-d6 4. Kd6-c5 5. Kc5-d4 6. Kd4-e3 7. Ke3-f2 8. Kf2*g1 and back
 9. Kg1-f2 10. Kf2-e3 11. Ke3-d4 12. Kd4-c5 13. Kc5-d6 14. Kd6-e7 15. Ke7-f8 16. Kf8-g7
 17. Kg7-h6 18. Kh6-h5 19. Kh5*h4 and back again 20. Kh4-h5 21. Kh5-h6 22. Kh6-g7 23. Kg7-f8
 24. Kf8-e7 25. Ke7-d6 26. Kd6-c5 27. Kc5-d4 28. Kd4-e3 29. Ke3-f2 30. Kf2*g2 31. Kg2-h1
 32. g3-g2 33. g2-g1=Q 34. Qg1-c5+ Kf5-g4 35. Qc5-c8+ ♜e2-d7 36. Qc8-g8+ Kg4-h3 37. Qg8-g1
 switchback ♜d7-c2 # Miniature. Very long walk of black king with returns. Ideal mate.

5850. (H≠7*, Sébastien Luce)

1... ♜f4 2. ♜d6 ♜d7 3. ♜g3 ♜c8 4. ♜e3 ♜e6 5. ♜f2 ♜c8 6. ♜g2 ♜e6 7. ♜h3 ♜g4‡

1. ♜b5 ♜a6 2. ♜f3 ♜f6 3. ♜e5 ♜g2 4. ♜e7 ♜e8 5. ♜g5 ♜f2 6. ♜g4 ♜f7 7. ♜h5 ♜g6‡

Comment by Author: All the pieces are well placed in the center! But with ABC effect, at the end, mates in echo will happen on the right side of the board.

5851. (H≠3, Theodoros Giakatis & Kostas Prentos)

B7/p2p3p/3p1Bn1/3K4/5r2/4kp2/8/8

1. ♚c4 ♜xc4(♜c7) 2. ♜e7 ♜e4 3. ♜xe4(♜a8) ♜xe7(♜d5)‡

1. ♜e5 ♜xe5(♜f7) 2. ♚e4 ♜d4+ 3. ♜xd4(♜h8) ♜xe4(♜d4)‡

Comment by Authors: Three active sacrifices transport the two Kings and a white Bishop to their distant positions for the final mate. Zilahi. Echo-Chameleon mates.

5852. (H≠5.5, Sébastien Luce)

1... ♜e7 2. ♜d8 ♜f5 3. ♜a5 ♜e5 4. ♜c7 ♜b8 5. ♜c8 ♜b6 6. ♜c7 ♜d6‡

1... ♜f6 2. ♜e7 ♜d5+ 3. ♜a7 ♜c5 4. ♜b8 ♜f8 5. ♜c8 ♜d6 6. ♜c7 ♜b6‡

Comment by Author: Black King is mated each time on the same square c8 but takes two different ways to reach it. Self-block in c7 by black Grasshopper.

White Knight and Grasshopper invert their places b6/d6 in the final position. Echo vertical mirror.

5853. (H≠5, Sébastien Luce)

1. ♜d6 HLxg6-f5(♜c2) 2. ♜c7 HLxc2-d3(♜f5) 3. ♜d8 HLxf5-e4(♜d3) 4. ♜b8 HLxd3-e4 5. ♜a8 HLxa8-b7(♜e4)‡

1. ♜d4 HLxg6-f5(♜c2) 2. ♜c3 HLxc2-d3(♜f5)+ 3. ♜b2 HLxf5-e4(♜d3) 4. ♜b1 HLxd3-e4 5. ♜c1 HLxb1-c2(♜e4)‡

Comment by Author: With the exception of the last one, all the moves of the Hamster-Locust are the same, but lead surprisingly to distinct mates in echo 180°.

5854. (Serie-H≠35, L'ubos Kekely)

1. ♜e8 2. ♜d8 3. ♜c8 4. ♜b8 5. ♜xa8 6. ♜b7 7. ♜c6 8. ♜b5 9. ♜xc4 10. ♜c3 11. ♜c2 12. ♜d1
 13. ♜e1 14. ♜f1 15. ♜g2 16. ♜f3 17. ♜xe3 18. ♜f4 19. ♜xg5 20. ♜h6 21. g5 22. g4 23. g3 24. g2
 25. g1=♚ 26. ♚xc1 27. ♚xc5 28. ♚h5 29. c5 30. c4 31. c3 32. c2 33. c1=♚ 34. ♚c7 35. ♚h7 ♜f6‡

Comment by Author: Meredith. Long walk of black king. Double excelsior. Promotions to rooks. Ideal mate.

5855. (Serie-H≠17, Václav Kotesovec)

1. ♖b4 2.KAb5 3.KAb6 4. ♖c5 5. ♖d6 6. ♖e7 7. ♖f8 8.KAg8 9.KAd8 10. ♖e7 11. ♖d7 12.KAa4
13. ♖c7 14.KAa5 15. ♖b7 16. ♖a6 17.KAa7 Alc6‡

1. ♖d4 2. ♖e4 3.KAf5 4.KAc2 5. ♖d4 6. ♖c3 7.KAc1 8. ♖d2 9.KAe2 10.KAf2 11. ♖e3 12.KAe1
13. ♖f4 14. ♖g3 15. ♖g2 16. ♖f1 17.KAg1 Alf3‡

1. ♖c2 2.KAe4 3. ♖d2 4. ♖e3 5.KAe2 6.KAe1 7. ♖d2 8.KAf2 9.KAc2 10.KAb2 11. ♖c3
12.KAc1 13. ♖b4 14. ♖a3 15. ♖a2 16. ♖b1 17.KAa1 Alb3‡

Comment by Author: Triple exact echo.

5856. (SPG 10.5, Henryk Grudzinski)

rnbk1b1r/p1pp4/8/8/8/1PPP1P2/RNBQ1K1R

1.a4 f5 2.a5 f4 3.a6 f3 4.axb7(♗) fxe2(♗) 5. ♗xd8(♙) ♗xg1(♙) 6. ♙xe7(♖)+ ♖d8
7. ♖xg7(♖) ♙xh2(♖) 8. ♖xg8 ♖xh1(♖) 9. ♖xh7 ♖xg2 10. ♖h1(♖) ♖xf1+ 11. ♖xf1

5857. (SPG 9.0, Henryk Grudzinski)

rnbqkb1r/p1pp1p2/5p2/8/6Q1/8/1PPP1P1P/RNB1K1NR

1.a4 h5 2.a5 h4 3.a6 h3 4.axb7 hxg2 5.bxc8=♗ gxf1=♙ 6. ♗xe7 ♙xe2 7. ♗xg8 ♙a6 8. ♖g4
♙c8 9. ♗f6+ gxf6

5858. (HS≠4.5, Kenneth Solja)

a) 1... ♖c2 2. ♖f6 ♖xd3(c2) 3.c3 ♖xc3(d7) 4. ♗d8 ♖g5 5. ♖e6 ♖c7(♗d8)‡

b) 1... ♖c3(♗d3) 2. ♖f6 ♖b2 3. ♖e5 ♖c4 4. ♗d6 ♖c5 5. ♗d4 ♖e3(♗d4)‡

c) 1... ♖xd3(♗e3) 2. ♗c7 ♖xe3(♗d7) 3.d8=♖+ ♖d4 4. ♖g8 ♖f8+ 5. ♖h8 ♖g7(♖g8)‡

d) 1... ♖e4 2. ♙f5+ ♖f4 3. ♙g6 ♖g5 4. ♙e8 ♖g8 5. ♖h6 ♖e7(♙e8)‡

Quattro matti AUW ottenuti col cambio di colore del pezzo saltato dall'Aquila.

5859. (HS≠2.5, Alberto Armeni)

Q7/p7/1p6/2r1P3/p1P5/k3np2/p5P1/2K2n2

1... fxg2 2. ♖xg2 ♗xc4 3. ♖b2+ ♗xb2‡

1... a5 2. ♖xa5 ♖xc4+ 3. ♖c3+ ♖xc3‡

5860. (HS≠9.5, Sébastien Luce)

1... e1=♙ 2. ♖xc7 ♙g3+ 3. ♖xb7 ♙c7+ 4. ♖c6 h1=♙+ 5. ♖c5 ♙a8 6. ♖d4 ♖b7 7. ♖e3 ♙h2
8. ♖f2 ♖g1 9. ♖f1 g3 10. ♖g2 ♖h1‡

Comment by Author: White Rex Solus with two promotions to Bishop. The King has to capture in the right order c7, then b7, then executes a royal march till g2.

During this time black realises an Indian theme with the couple Bishop (of promotion in h1) and Grasshopper going to b7 then h1. Partially tested.

5861. (HS≠2.5, Alberto Armeni)

8/2pNp3/6Q1/1P1p1PP1/1p1k1p1P/1p3p2/3K3p/5r2

1... e5 2. ♖c6 e4 3. ♖c3+ bxc3‡ 1... c5 2. ♖e6 c4 3. ♖e3+ fxe3‡

1... b2 2.f6 b1=♖ 3. ♖d3+ ♖xd3‡ 1... h1=♖ 2. ♖d6 ♖xh4 3. ♖xf4+ ♖xf4‡

I concorsi su *Best Problems*:

≠2/=2, (2023/2024): NN

≠3/=3, (2024-2025): Antonio Garofalo

S≠2/3-S=2/3 (2024-2025): Antonio Garofalo

H≠2/H=2, (2024-2025): NN

H≠2,5/3-H=2,5/3, (2024-2025): NN

H≠n/H=n, (2024-2025): Antonio Garofalo

Fairies (2024):

E-mail & web site: perseus@bestproblems.it <http://www.bestproblems.it>

Best Problems Informal Tournament Fairies 2023

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

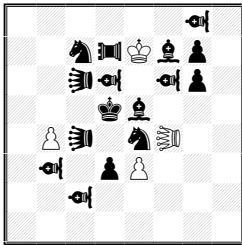
An enjoyable set of 53 participating problems was to be judged, with a broad collection of fairy conditions and fairy pieces. The level was quite good, so I could award three prizes, three honourable mentions and six commendations.

Issue 105 (I/2023) p. 561/Bonavoglia (SPG 17), 4886, 4887, 4888, 4889 (must be „Anticirce type Calvet“), 4890, 4891, 4892, 4893 [9]

Issue 106 (IV/2023) 4922-4929 [8]

Issue 107 (VII/2023) 4962-4973 [12]

Issue 108 (X/2023) 5006-5017, pp. 659 ff., nos. 1-12 [24]



← 1st Prize: 4926 (Michal Dragoun)

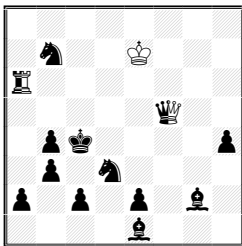
H≠2,5 (4+16) C+ ♠=Vao, ♞=Pao ♚♚=Leo

1...LExc4 2. ♚b5 LEC3 3.Vc4 LEB3‡

1...LExd6 2. ♚e6 LEC7 3.PAd6 LED7‡

1...LExf7 2. ♚e8 LEf8 3.Vf7 LEG8‡

The star of this problem is the black knight. It three times performs an anticipatory incarceration of a thematic black Chinese piece. This piece replaces a black hurdle after an unexpected exchange of places with the white leo. The presentation is impressive and original and full of humour – this compensates for the heavy construction with thematic black Chinese pieces that are idle in the other phases.



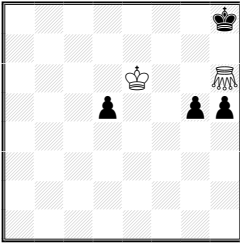
← 2nd Prize: 5010 (Armin Geister & Daniel Papack)

H≠2 (1+11+2) C+

1.n♚f5-d8-a8 n♞a6-h1-g1 2.♚g2-c8-g4 n♞xg4‡

1.n♞a6-a8-d8 n♚f5-d1-a1 2.a2-a7-a6 n♚xa6‡

In Antimarscirce, pieces really have trouble to move – and this is in particular true for the poor black king. Every check would mate him, because the white king prevents escape via e8 to every square close to e8. But only if the checking (neutral) piece cannot be moved away by Black! So its rebirth square must be blocked, and this is performed in a most fairy-specific way by the other neutral piece, so we get a change of functions of the neutral pieces. These are played by both White and Black, and the sacrificing pieces are specifically introduced in the solutions. The problem shows perfect analogy of the solutions and excellent mastery of the huge mobility of the neutral pieces. The neutral queen mates on the diagram square of the neutral rook, but of course the reverse effect is impossible.



← **3rd Prize: 4973 (Václav Kotesovec)**

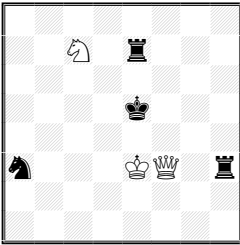
sd≠13 (2+4) C+ PWC, ♜=Grasshopper

1. ♜d6 2. ♘d7 3. ♜d8 4. ♘d6 5. ♜xd5(d8) 6. ♘e7 7. ♘xd8(e7) 8. ♘e8
9. ♘f7 10. ♜g8 11. ♘g6 12. ♜xg5(g8) 13. ♜d8‡

1. ♘f5 2. ♘xg5(f5) 3. ♘h4 4. ♘xh5(h4) 5. ♘g5 6. ♜h3 7. ♜h5
8. ♜xf5(h5) 9. ♘g6 10. ♜h7 11. ♘f7 12. ♜xh4(h7) 13. ♜h6‡

1. ♘f6 2. ♜e6 3. ♘f7 4. ♜g8 5. ♘g6 6. ♜xg5(g8) 7. ♜g7 8. ♘g5
9. ♘xh5(g5) 10. ♘g6 11. ♜xg5(g7) 12. ♜c5 13. ♜e5‡

A peppy and interesting problem, a set full of phantasy, with unexpectedly different outcomes, and with vivid play of the white pieces including a roundtrip of the grasshopper.



← **1st Honourable Mention: 4967 (Jorge J. Lois)**

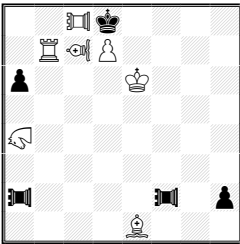
hs≠4 (3+4) C+ b) ♜a3-b2 c) ♜a3-b4

a) 1. ♘d3 ♘d6 2. ♘d4 ♜d7 3. ♜e4 ♜c3 4. ♘b5+ ♘xb5‡

b) 1. ♘a6 ♘e6 2. ♘e4 ♘a4 3. ♜f4 ♜d3 4. ♘c5+ ♘xc5‡

c) 1. ♜g3+ ♘f6+ 2. ♘f4 ♜f7 3. ♜g4 ♜c3 4. ♘d5+ ♘xd5‡

Elegant threefold echo without pawns with a good usage of the queen's pin and excellent twinnings.



← **2nd Honourable Mention: 5008 (Jean Marc Loustau)**

≠2 v... (7+5) C+ ♜=Nao, ♜=Vao, ♜=Pao

1. PAb8? [2.NAc8‡ A] PAfb2 2. ♘h4‡, but 1.- PAb2!

1. PAA8? [2.VAb8‡ B] (not 2.NAc8+? A PAXa8!) PAac2/PAfc2

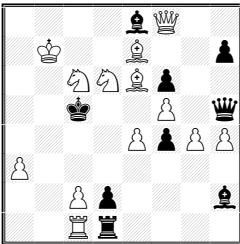
2.NAc8 A/♘h4‡, but 1.- h1=VA!

1.NAb6 D? [2.NAf4‡] (not 2.VAa5?? impossible!) PAF4!

1.VAb6? [2.PAc7‡ C] PAF6!

1.VAa5! [2.NAb6‡ D] (not 2.PAc7+? C PAXa5!) PAac2/PAfc2 /PAXa5 2.PAc7 C (changed)/♘h4 (transferred)/♘xa5‡

Two echoed complete Threat-Corrections are shown by successive removal moves of the rear piece of an anti-battery. All four thematic mates are anti-battery mates, including an exchange of front and rear pieces (PAc8/VAc7) after the same black move (1.- PAac2), thus with a changed mate. Lots of contents in an economical position.



← **3rd Honourable Mention: 5009 (Hubert Gockel)**

≠2 vv (13+9) C+ Breton adverse

1. ♜xf6(-h7)? [2. ♜e5‡ A 2. ♜d4‡ B 2. ♜c3‡ C] but 1... ♜h8!

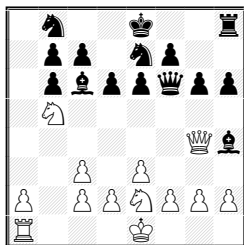
1. ♜xf6(-f4)? [2. ♜d4‡ B 2. ♜c3‡ C]

1... ♘xd6(-c6) 2. ♜e5‡ A 1... ♘e5 2. ♜xe5(-e8)‡ but 1... ♜xg4(-e4)! 1. ♜xf6(-d2)! [2. ♜c3‡ C]

1... ♜xd6(-c6) 2. ♜e5‡ A 1... ♜d4 2. ♜xd4‡ B 1... ♜d3 2.cxd3‡

This is an ingenious usage of the condition to show threat reduction and return (in variant play) with refutations by the same piece. The key issue is that the involuntary removals of a second black pawn procure black line opening.

Commendations without ranking (in order of publication)

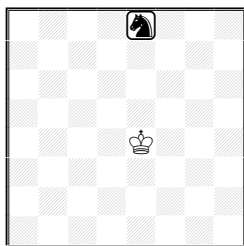


← Commendation: p. 561 (Marco Bonavoglia)

SPG 17.0 (13+15) C+

1.e3 e6 2.♔d3 ♕e7 3.♔g6 hxg6 4.♔g4 ♖h5 5.♘e2 ♗c5 6.0-0 ♗c3 7.bxc3 ♘h4 8.♔a3 ♗f6 9.♔d6 ♘e7 10.♔f4 d6 11.♘a3 ♔d7 12.♗fb1 ♕c6 13.♗b6 axb6 14.♘f1 ♗a5 15.♘e1 ♗h5 16.♘b5 ♗h8 17.♔h6 gxh6

Two pawn captures are visible, b2x♗c3 and a7xb6, but there must have been two more captures by pawns. The white rooks and the dark-squared white bishops could leave the first rank only after b2x♗c3, and then move to b6. So a7xb6 can only be played after b2x♗c3. Because the rook must have been sacrificed before, it cannot be the rook from a8, but it must be the rook from h8. Thus the black pawns g7 and h7 captured crosswise. The result is elegant: White cannot castle, because White already did so (to the king's side)! Black cannot castle, because the rook h8 moved already, and in fact it is an "impostor" rook, it is the original rook from a8. A nice proof-game with a disguised intention. Marco's legacy – he submitted this problem as "Happy New Year" greetings 2023, but unfortunately he passed away before the new year started (December 5th, 2022). We won't forget him!

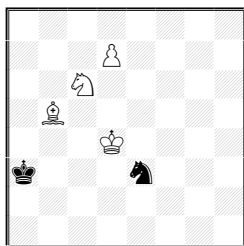


← Commendation: 4886 (Sébastien Luce)

hs≠4,5 (1+1) C+ ♞=Chameleon(Knight) Haan

1...CAf6(♘) 2.♘f3 CAh4(♖) 3.♘g3 CAh1(♗) 4.♘g4 CAh2(♘)+ 5.♘h3 CAf1(♘)‡
 1...CAc7(♘) 2.♘d5 CAh8(♖)+ 3.♘c6 CAa8(♗)+ 4.♘d7 CAh8(♘)+ 5.♘c8 CAa6(♘)‡

Do we have to consider the pattern of holes as well when judging whether a position is an echo? Here the chameleon (in the shape of a bishop) and the king are in 5:5 distance in the mates. Surprisingly different play from a symmetrical position, with good far distance play.

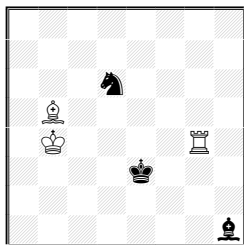


← Commendation: 4925 (Torsten Linß)

hs≠8,5 (4+2) C+

1...♘b2 2.♘b4 ♘c1 3.♘c3 ♘d1 4.♘b2 ♘e1! (tempo) 5.♘a1 ♘d2 6.d8=♖+ ♘c3 7.♖d1 ♘b3 8.♖b1+ ♘a3 9.♘c2+ ♘xc2‡

The fixed white move order navigates the black king onto a nice 8-move round trip including a tempo move.



← **Commendation: 4962 (Daniel Novomeský)**

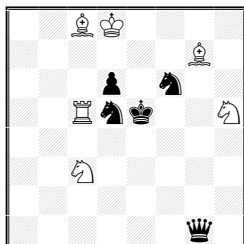
H#2 (3+3) C+ b) ♜e3-c6, c) ♞g4-f8 Point Reflection

a) 1. ♜c6 ♜e5 2. ♜d5 ♞d4‡ 1. ♞f1 ♞c3 2. ♜c8 ♞h3‡

b) 1. ♜e4 ♞a5 2. ♜c5 ♞d7‡ 1. ♜b7 ♞c4 2. ♜f3 ♞e6‡

c) 1. ♜e7 ♜d3 2. ♜d2 ♞f2‡ 1. ♜d1 ♞c3 2. ♜b7 ♞f1‡

Only rarely we see such an imbroglio of the board – a collection of solutions with six rook mates, an often inactive black bishop, a move repetition (1.–♜c3), a wide array of royal functions in the mating positions (including two orthodox mates), a different number of point reflection moves, one particularly interesting move (2.♜b7! – why nowhere else?). This problem was awarded because it provided so much fun and entertainment and vivid play, not because of harmony or deep contents.



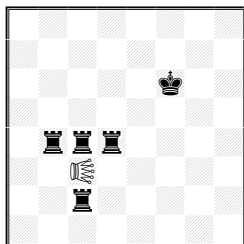
← **Commendation: 5007 (Franz Pachl)**

hs#3 (6+5) C+

1. ♞c6! (♞c4?) ♜c7 2. ♞xd6 ♞b6 3. ♞d5+ ♜xd5‡

1. ♜f8! (♜h6?) ♜e8 2. ♜e7 ♞g8 3. ♜f6+ ♜xf6‡

Black battery creation, the knight's switchback is forced because the pin of the other knight is used. Elegant and harmonic – a small gem, typical for the author's style.



← **Commendation: 5011 (Sébastien Luce)**

sd‡32 (1+5) C+ b) ♞c3↔♞b4 Circe equipollent

♞= Shooter Rookhopper

a) 1.GRxc4 [Rc5] 2.GRxd4 [Re4] 3.GRa4 4.GRc4 5.GRxe4 [Rg4] 6.GRh4 7.GRe7 8.GRg5 9.GRg3 10.GRxg4 [Rg5] 11.GRxg5 [Rg6] 12.GRb5 13.GRxc5 [Rd5] 14.GRc1 15.GRxc2 [Rc3] 16.GRxc3 [Rc4] 17.GRa5 18.GRxd5 [Rg5] 19.GRb3 20.GRxb4 [Rb5] 21.GRxc4 [Rd4] 22.GRxd4 [Re4] 23.GRg7 24.GRe5 25.GRe3 26.GRxe4 [Re5] 27.GRxe5 [Re6] 28.GRa5 29.GRxb5 [Rc5] 30.GRxc5 [Rd5] 31.GRxd5 [Re5] 32.GRf7‡

b) 1.GRd2 2.GRd5 3.GRb3 4.GRd1 5.GRxd4 [Rd7] 6.GRb2 7.GRxc2 [Rd2] 8.GRxd2 [Re2] 9.GRb4 10.GRxc4 [Rd4] 11.GRc2 12.GRxc3 [Rc4] 13.GRxc4 [Rc5] 14.GRxd4 [Re4] 15.GRg7 16.GRc7 17.GRxd7 [Re7] 18.GRxe7 [Rf7] 19.GRe3 20.GRxe4 [Re5] 21.GRe1 22.GRe3 23.GRxe5 [Re7] 24.GRb5 25.GRxc5 [Rd5] 26.GRxd5 [Re5] 27.GRxe5 [Rf5] 28.GRe1 29.GRxe2 [Re3] 30.GRxe3 [Re4] 31.GRxe4 [Re5] 32.GRg6‡ A whimsical echo after no less than 32 moves and umpteen captures. The layman is amazed, the expert is surprised.

November 2023, **Hans Gruber**

I miei più sinceri ringraziamenti a Hans Gruber per il suo qualificato verdetto, il quale diverrà definitivo passati 3 mesi dalla pubblicazione. Eventuali reclami vanno inviati al Redattore:

Antonio Garofalo, E-mail: perseus@bestproblems.it

[My most sincere thanks to Hans Gruber for his qualified award, which will become definitive 3 months after publication. Possible claims must be sent to the Editor:

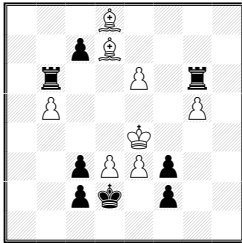
Antonio Garofalo, E-mail: perseus@bestproblems.it.]

Jugement Best Problems 2020 – Section Féeriques

[Award Best Problems Fairies 2020, by Laurent Riguet]

Je remercie Antonio Garofalo de m'avoir confié ce jugement des inédits féeriques de l'année 2020. J'ai trouvé les meilleures œuvres d'un bon niveau et intéressante à étudier mais je déplore que trop de compositeurs se contente d'utiliser les logiciels pour rendre des problèmes corrects, mais dépourvus d'idées thématiques novatrices.

Je tiens à m'excuser du retard cumulé pour la publication de ce jugement, la rédaction de la revue française Phénix occupant beaucoup de mon temps libre. Voici mon jugement:



← 1st Prize: Hubert Gockel (4478)

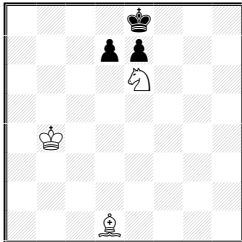
hs#3,5 (8+8) C+ [Breton adverse]

Un excellent problème complexe dans lequel les détails techniques sont nombreux. Les Tours noires doivent quitter le contrôle de la case b5 ou g5 pour permettre le mat sur l'autre case.

Le Roi noir doit capturer les Pions blancs d3 et e3 pour éliminer spécifiquement les Pions b5 et g5 qui permettront aux Fous blancs de jouer sur ces cases. Mais le Roi blanc doit aussi capturer dans le bon ordre car sinon le Roi blanc aura des cases de fuites (en f4 et en ç6).

1... ♖h6 2. ♔e5 ♕xd3(xb5) 3. ♜b5+ ♕xe3(xg5) 4. ♜g5+ ♜xb5(xg5) ‡

1... ♜a6 2. ♔d5 ♕xe3(xg5) 3. ♜g5+ ♕xd3(xb5) 4. ♜b5+ ♜xg5(xb5) ‡

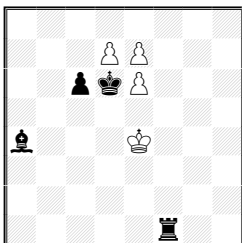


← 2nd Prize: Udo Degener (4311)

sh‡16 (3+3) C+ [PWC, Alphabetic Chess]

Une idée très simple et pourtant très belle : les Blancs pourraient mater en h5, mais le Fou ne peut pas jouer, car la priorité ABC est au Roi ; la manœuvre consiste donc à déplacer le Fou en b1, après avoir promu le Pion noir. A l'issue le Pion-Fou rentre sur sa case initiale ; on a donc une sorte d'avant-plan et un circuit du Pion noir. Dans les deux cas, le Roi noir ne peut se sauver après capture, la case e8 étant contrôlée par les pièces blanches promues.

1.dxe6(♘d7) 2.e5 3.e4 4.e3 5.e2 6.exd1=♙(♙e2) 7.♙c2 8.♙d3 9.♙xe2(♙d3) 10.♙d1 11.♙c2 12.♙b1 13.♙xd3(♙b1) 14.♙c4 15.♙e6 16.♙xd7(♘e6) ♙g6 ‡



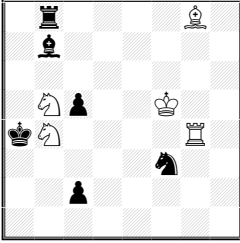
← 1st Hon. Mention: Michel Caillaud (4315)

sd#5 (4+4) C+ b) ♘e6 [Anticirce]

Création de batteries blanches spécifiquement anticircé, les deux pièces des batteries étant issues de promotions (les quatre solutions formant un Allumwandlung). À noter que les deux pièces formant les batteries des deux solutions sont pièces-avant dans une solution et pièces-arrière dans l'autre. Un ensemble subtil mais simple qui expose clairement la condition.

a) 1.d8=♙ 2. ♙b6 3. ♙g1 4.e8=♘ 5. ♙c5 ‡

b) 1.e8=♙ 2. ♙h8 3. ♙a1 4.d8=♙ 5. ♙e5 ‡

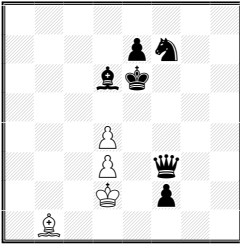


← 2nd Hon. Mention: Pierre Tritten (4471)

H≠2 (5+6) C+ [Take & Make]

Créations de batteries blanches réciproques, le Roi noir capturant un Cavalier blanc pour se mettre sous le feu de la batterie blanche créée. On peut regretter que les coups matants n'ont pas tout à fait des effets identiques puisque doit l'un doit fermer la ligne de la Tour noire et contrôler la case ç6 alors que l'autre doit contrôler les cases ç3 et é3. La qualité des mats (mais non modèles) est bonnes.

1. ♖g5 ♜xg5(♜f7) 2. ♘xb4(♘d5) ♜xb7(♜c8)‡
 1. ♙d5 ♙xd5(♙e4) 2. ♘xb5(♘d4) ♙xf3(♙d2)‡



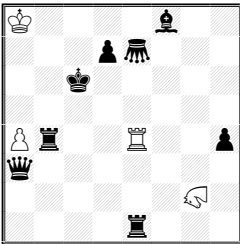
← 3rd Hon. Mention: Rolf Kohring (4414)

H≠8 (4+6) C+ [Alphabetic Chess]

Long parcours tortueux du Fou noir pour permettre au Roi blanc de jouer (sur les cases noires pour permettre de continuer la série d'échecs); une fois le Roi blanc placé en ç5, le Fou blanc peut jouer mais doit faire preuve de précision : 6...♙ç6?, et c'est le Roi qui reprend la main! De même, le Fou noir ne peut passer par d2 et g5 pour accéder à f6 pour d'évidentes raisons ABC.

1. ♙a3 ♙c2 2. ♙c1+ ♙c3 3. ♙b2+ ♙b4 4. ♙c3+ ♙c5 5. ♙a5 ♙a4
 6. ♙c7 ♙b5 7. ♙e5 ♙a6 8. ♙f6 ♙c8‡

Recommandés (sans ordre): [Commendations without order]

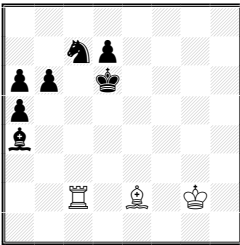


← Recommended: Sergeï Smotrov (4316)

H≠2 (4+8) C+ [♟=Grasshopper ♞=Rose]

Création de batteries Tour-Rose, utilisées selon deux lignes différentes (g2-h4-g6-é7-ç6 et g2-é1-ç2-b4-ç6). L'effet qui m'a plu est que les Noirs bloquent deux cases noires (ç7 et ç5 dans la solution I) et les Blancs contrôlent les deux autres cases noires par la Tour blanche (b6 et d6 dans la solution I); dans la solution II, c'est le contraire.

1. ♞c7 ♞xh4 2. ♙c5 ♞h6‡
 1. ♞b6 ♞xe1 2. ♞d6 ♞c1‡

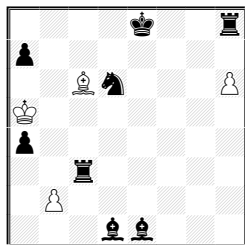


← Recommended: Velko Alexandrov (4416)

H≠3 (3+7) C+ [Circé contre-parrain]

Problèmes montrant de nombreux effets spécifiques (trois captures dans chaque solution) avec deux mats en écho et l'utilisation de batteries royales blanches.

1. ♙xc2 ♙f3(♞b1) 2. ♘c5 ♞xb6 3. ♘xb6(c5) ♘g1(♞b7)‡
 1. ♘d5 ♙xa6 2. ♘b4(c7) ♞xc7 3. ♘xc7(d6) ♘g1(♞c8)‡

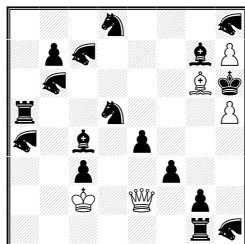


← **Recommandé: Peter Moldovyanu (4470)**

H≠14 (4+8) C+ [Alphabetic Chess]

L'auteur se fait une spécialité de ce thème spécifiquement ABC: la pièce qui effectue le mat est celle qui n'est pas prioritaire selon la règle ABC; le Roi blanc doit donc être paté pour permettre le jeu du Pion matant; la liberté relative du Roi blanc peut laisser croire à de potentielles démolitions, mais il n'en est rien, essayez et vous verrez!

1. ♖xc6+ b4 2.axb3 e.p.+ ♔a4 3.a5 ♕a3 4.a4 ♕b2 5.a3+ ♕xa3 6.b2 ♕xb2 7.♞c1 ♕xc1 8.♙f3 ♕c2 9.♘f7 ♕d3 10.♙c3 ♕e3 11.♙f6 ♕f4 12.0-0 ♕f5 13.♙g4+ ♕g6 14.♙h8 h7‡



← **Recommandé: Jorge M. Kapros (4473)**

H≠2 (5+17) C+ [♞=Chateau de la Nuit]

Le Cavalier noir peut jouer sur trois cases (pour ne pas donner échec au Roi blanc): f4, f6 et é7; sur chacune d'entre elles, il contrôle deux cases de mat g6 et g8 (en é7), g8 et h5 (en f6) et g6 et h5 (en f4). Ceci détermine la stratégie du camp blanc qui ira mater sur la case non contrôlée par le Cavalier noir. Bien mais manque un petit quelque chose de complexité pour faire de ce problème un problème mieux classé.

1. ♞f6 ♕xe4 2. ♞xg6 ♕xg6‡
 1. ♞f4 ♕xg2 2. ♙g8 hxg8=♘‡
 1. ♞e7 ♕xf3 2. ♞xh5 ♕xh5‡

November 2023, **Laurent Riguet**

I miei più sinceri ringraziamenti a Laurent Riguet per il suo qualificato verdetto, il quale diverrà definitivo passati 3 mesi dalla pubblicazione. Eventuali reclami vanno inviati al Redattore:

Antonio Garofalo, E-mail: perseus@bestproblems.it

[My most sincere thanks to Laurent Riguet for his qualified award, which will become definitive 3 months after publication. Possible claims must be sent to the Editor:

Antonio Garofalo, E-mail: perseus@bestproblems.it.]

Best Problems H≠2 / H=2 2022-2023 Award

by Harry Fougiaxis

54 helpmates and helpstalemates in 2 moves participated in this tourney; they were published as follows:

- BP 101 (January 2022): 4702-4707 [6]
- BP 102 (April 2022): 4744-4749, A p.506 [7]
- BP 103 (July 2022): 4783-4790 [8]
- BP 104 (October 2022): 4826-4836 [11]
- BP 105 (January 2023): 4865-4873 [9]
- BP 106 (April 2023): 4903-4907 [5]
- BP 107 (July 2023): 4944-4947 [4]
- BP 108 (October 2023): 4986-4989 [4]

4904 is not an original, as it was already published: 9114, Phénix 324 November 2021 (WID 850763).

Sadly, the average level was modest only. I selected 10 problems for the award and found only one worthy of a prize.

Some remarks on a few unsuccessful compositions:

4702: Fully symmetric and duplicate W1 move in one pair of the solutions.

4744: Both W1 and B2 moves are repeated in one pair of the solutions.

4785: Economic HOTF, but the repeated 2.♙d4 is unattractive.

4832: Anticipated by Thomas Pantalacci & Michel Caillaud (after Lennart Werner), Problemesis 2003 (WID 133249) and Michel Caillaud, 1st Prize Messigny TT 2008 (WID 286423) in 3 solutions (!) form.

4835: The repeated W1 move spoils the overall impression.

4906: Inferior than Valerio Agostini & Gabriele Brunori, 7th Hon. Mention Best Problems 2012-13 (v) (WID 469141) and Stefan Parzuch, Special Prize Zadachi I Etyudy 2020 (WID 804742).

4987: Thematically flawed as there is no b♖-star; compare to the accurate Živko Janevski, 3rd Place Liga Problemista 1983 (WID 9278).

I propose the following ranking:

• **Prize: 4748 BP 102 (April 2022)**

Aleksandr Pankratiev (RUS) & Evgeny Gavriliy (UKR)

1. ♙xe6 ♖f4+ a 2. ♖d5 c4♯ b 1. ♗d4 c4 b 2. ♗d3 ♙d5♯ c

1. ♗xf6 ♙d5+ c 2. ♖f4 hxg3♯ d 1. ♗d2 hxg3 d 2. ♗d3 ♖f4♯ a

A well-crafted fourfold cycle of white moves with the interesting feature that the white bishop and rook which deliver mate in the II and IV solutions, are captured in I and III so that the bK can get into the mating net.

• **1st Hon. Mention: 4707 BP 101 (January 2022)**

Mikola Vasyuchko (UKR) & Mikola Chernyavsky (UKR)

1. ♗1xf3 ♗db7 2. ♗xd4 ♙xe4♯ 1. ♗xg6 ♙xe3 2. ♗d6 fxe4♯

Extended Zilahi (Zilahi with an additional capture of another piece in each solution) and mates on the same square. The mechanism relies on self-block by Black or guard by White of the d4 and d6 squares; simple but effective. There is of course the drawback of the passive pin wRh5-bSg5, yet it seems this is the best compromise to avoid the fatal mate arrangement of wSf5 and fxe4#. Even if the trick is smart, I feel that it is a blemish and I decided not to award a prize.

• **2nd Hon. Mention: A p.506 BP 102 (April 2022) Francesco Simoni (ITA)**

1. ♗xb3 ♙xb3 2. ♗e3 ♗c5♯ 1. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 2. ♗e3 ♗c5♯

An economic Zilahi. In each solution, the bSc5 captures a knight to make that square accessible to a white piece, which moves to it and guards the d5 square. Then, the bQf4/Re2 move and block the e3 square, opening at the same time a white line of guard to the f3 square. The surviving knight can now deliver mate on the bS's initial square (delayed FML).

• **3rd Hon. Mention: 4706 BP 101 (January 2022) Yury Gorbatenko (RUS)**

a) 1. ♗e4 ♙xe6+ 2. ♖e5 ♗f7♯ (♗c4?) 1. ♗xf5 ♙b7+ 2. ♖e5 ♗c4♯ (♗f7?)

b) 1. b5 ♗e4 2. ♖c4 ♙xe6♯ 1. exf5 ♗c4 2. ♖e4 ♙b7♯

A cute Meredith with two pairs of solutions ending with 2 x knight and 2 x bishop model mates. Pity that there is only one pair of exchanged white moves.

● **4th Hon. Mention: 4833 BP 104 (October 2022) Vladimír Koci (CZE)**

1. ♖d5 ♜c3 2.e5 ♜e2† 1. ♙c3 ♜d2 2. ♜fd5 ♜f3† 1. ♜ae5 ♜xa3 2. ♙d5 ♜b5†

Three model echo mates delivered by the knight with three bK flights blocked or guarded (pity not in cyclic form).

● **Special Hon. Mention: 4907 BP 106 (April 2023)**

Yury Bilokin (RUS) & Evgeny Gavrilič (UKR)

1. ♜xe5 ♜g7 2. ♜exd5 ♜g4† 1. ♜xd5 ♙d7 2. ♜dx5 ♙f5†

The two black rooks annihilate the white pawns so that the set white batteries can be effective. White unpins them by interfering and the black rooks move away from the battery line and get self-pinned on the other battery line. I found in WinChloe several set-ups with such Anderssen-style masked batteries, but they all used different pieces. The bBh3 can be omitted.

● **1st Commendation: 4826 BP 104 (October 2022) Fabio Magini (ITA)**

1. ♜f5 ♜xe3 2. ♙g6 ♜h3† 1. ♜f4 ♜d7 2. ♜g4 ♜h7†

Anticipatory black interferences for check avoidance and horizontally mirrored echo side model mates in wQ minimal.

● **2nd Commendation: 4944 BP 107 (July 2023) Evgeny Gavrilič (UKR)**

a) 1. ♜f5 ♜xg4+ 2. ♜e3 ♜h6† b) 1. ♜c4 ♜xd5+ 2. ♜e3 ♜b6†

Transformation of the initial black pins to masked batteries and black self-pins on the set battery line. Lively, but slightly symmetric play.

● **3rd Commendation: 4947 BP 107 (July 2023)**

M. Witztum (ISR) & Ricardo de Mattos Vieira (BRA)

a) 1. ♜b3 c3 2. ♜f3 ♜xd4† b) 1. ♜d5 ♜e3 2. ♜b3 cxb3† 1. ♜f3 ♜e5 2. ♜b4 ♜c5†

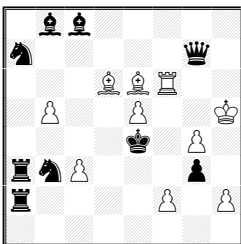
8th Azemmour 2022 theme: The B1/B2 moves of the solution in (a) appear as B2/B1 in the two solutions of part (b). Interference unpins with dual avoidance.

● **4th Commendation: 4829 BP 104 (October 2022) Anton Bidleň (SVK)**

1. ♜xb6 a8=♜+ 2. ♜c5 ♜d5† 1. ♜xb6 axb8=♙ 2. ♜c6 ♙a7† 1. ♜c7 ♜xc7+ 2. ♜xb6 a8=♜†

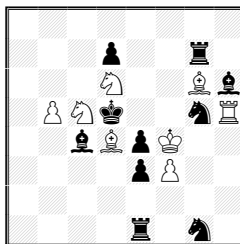
Three captures of the white bishop and three promotions (including Phoenix). The switchback mate of the promoted pawn is a nice touch.

Prize
4748. A. Pankratiev
& E. Gavrilič



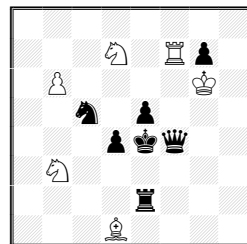
H≠2 (10+9) C+
4 sol.

1st Hon. Mention
4707. M. Vasyuchko
& M. Chernyavsky



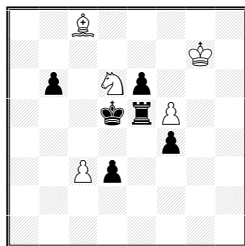
H≠2 (8+10) C+
2 sol.

2nd Hon. Mention
F. Simoni



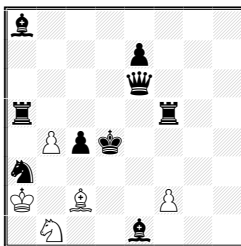
H≠2 (6+7) C+
2 sol.

3rd Hon. Mention
4706. Y. Gorbatenko



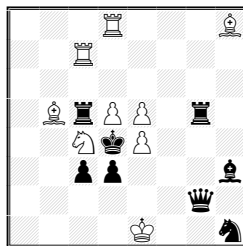
H≠2 (5+6) C+
2 sol. every twin
b) -♖e5

4th Hon. Mention
4833. V. Koci



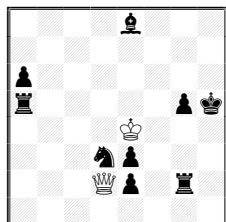
H≠2 (5+9) C+
3 sol.

Special Hon. Mention
4907. Y. Bilokin &
E. Gavriliv



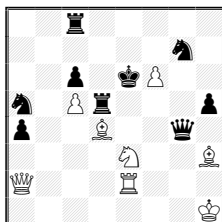
H≠2 (9+8) C+
2 sol.

1st Commendation
4826. F. Magini



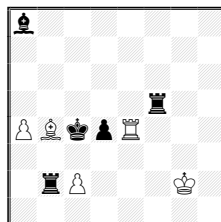
H≠2 (2+9) C+
2 sol.

2nd Commendation
4944. E. Gavriliv



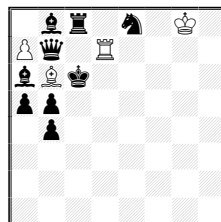
H≠2 (8+9) C+
b) ♖g4–f5

3rd Commendation
4947. M. Witztum
& R. Vieira



H≠2 (5+5) C+
b) ♖b4–f8 (1+2 sol.)

4th Commendation
4829. A. Bidlen



H≠2 (4+9) C+
3 sol.

Athens, 18 November 2023, Harry Fougiaxis, FIDE International Judge

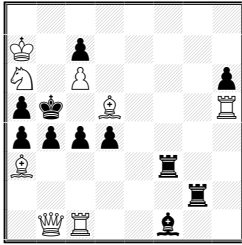
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Antonio Garofalo, E-mail: perseus@bestproblems.it.]

Ricostruzione



← Santi Pirrone - Ricostruzione 97, BP108

1° Premio *Dunajvárosi Hirlap* 1966 - #2 (8+11) C+
8/K1p5/N1P4p/pk1B3R/pppp4/B4r2/6r1/1QR2b2

1. ♖xb4? [2. ♘xc7♯]

1... ♗b2 2. ♙xf3♯ **A** 1... ♗b3 2. ♙xg2♯ **B**

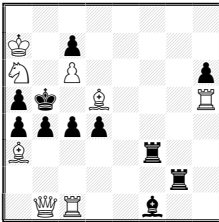
1... ♗g7 2. ♙c3♯ 1... ♗f7 2. ♙d2♯ 1... axb4 2. ♖xb4♯ ma 1... a3!

1. ♘xb4! [2. ♙xc4♯]

1... ♗c2 2. ♙xf3♯ **A** 1... ♗c3 2. ♙xg2♯ **B**

1... ♗g5 2. ♘d3♯ 1... ♗f5, c3 2. ♘c2♯ 1... axb4 2. ♖xb4♯

(1... ♙c5 2. ♘a6, ♘d3♯)



← Predrag Žuvcic, Miguel Uris, Hans Nieuwhart, J.A. Coello Alonso

Tutti i partecipanti hanno proposto l'identica posizione dell'originale. Complimenti a tutti, non era poi così facile.

Ricostruzione n. 98 - Ricostruire un problema #2 che abbia la seguente soluzione:

Setplay 1... ♘xb5 2. ♗d3♯ 1... ♗c4 2. ♖xc4♯ 1... fxe5 2. ♖xe5♯

Sol. 1. ♖xb7! [2. ♖xa7♯]

1... ♘xb5 2. ♖d5♯ 1... ♗c4 2. ♘e6♯ 1... fxe5 2. ♙e3♯

1... ♙c5 2. ♘c6♯ 1... ♙b6, ♙b8 2. ♖(x)b6♯

1... ♘xe2, ♘e4, ♘d5 2. ♖(x)d5♯

Inviare (send to): perseus@bestproblems.it

(last available day for to send: 10/03/2024)

A. Garfalo

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Allegati (Attachment) Wishes cards and other.



Happy New Year 2024

by Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

Enjoy! Rejoice!! Celebrate!!!

Let us celebrate and commemorate the New Year 2024 with some interesting tours of knight on 20x24 board. Readers of *Best Problems* are well aware of the millennium old ‘Tour of knight’ puzzle. The task is to move a knight over an empty board so that it visits all the cells only once. Figure 1 is a magic tour of knight on 20x24 board. Here all the consecutive numbers from 1 to 480 are at knight’s move. Sum of all the rows is 4810 and that of columns is 5772. It is an open tour and readers are urged to look for more challenging closed (or reentrant) magic tour.

1	478	3	244	235	476	7	472	233	250	11	470	229	466	15	256	225	464	17	258	4810
240	243	238	477	6	245	234	249	8	471	230	251	12	255	226	465	16	257	224	463	4810
479	2	241	4	475	236	247	232	473	10	469	228	253	14	467	20	461	222	259	18	4810
242	239	480	237	246	5	474	9	248	231	252	13	468	227	254	221	260	19	462	223	4810
213	36	267	446	215	34	265	448	217	30	263	452	219	26	261	456	21	460	203	278	4810
268	445	214	35	266	447	216	33	264	451	218	29	262	455	220	25	204	277	22	459	4810
37	212	443	270	39	210	441	272	449	208	31	274	453	206	27	276	457	24	279	202	4810
444	269	38	211	442	271	40	209	32	273	450	207	28	275	454	205	280	201	458	23	4810
43	432	57	426	41	440	55	424	49	438	283	298	189	194	281	200	287	292	183	198	4810
58	427	42	431	56	425	50	439	54	423	188	193	282	297	190	291	184	199	288	293	4810
433	44	429	60	435	46	421	52	437	48	299	284	191	186	195	286	295	290	197	182	4810
428	59	434	45	430	51	436	47	422	53	192	187	300	285	296	185	196	181	294	289	4810
63	412	77	406	61	420	75	404	69	418	169	318	171	304	175	306	177	310	163	312	4810
78	407	62	411	76	405	70	419	74	403	172	301	168	317	166	315	164	313	180	309	4810
413	64	409	80	415	66	401	72	417	68	319	170	303	174	305	176	307	178	311	162	4810
408	79	414	65	410	71	416	67	402	73	302	173	320	167	316	165	314	161	308	179	4810
83	392	97	386	81	400	95	384	89	398	149	338	151	324	155	326	157	330	143	332	4810
98	387	82	391	96	385	90	399	94	383	152	321	148	337	146	335	144	333	160	329	4810
393	84	389	100	395	86	381	92	397	88	339	150	323	154	325	156	327	158	331	142	4810
388	99	394	85	390	91	396	87	382	93	322	153	340	147	336	145	334	141	328	159	4810
105	372	107	378	101	380	113	118	361	366	355	124	359	128	341	140	343	134	349	136	4810
108	375	104	371	112	369	362	365	114	117	360	127	356	123	352	129	350	137	346	133	4810
373	106	377	110	379	102	119	116	367	364	121	354	125	358	139	342	131	344	135	348	4810
376	109	374	103	370	111	368	363	120	115	126	357	122	353	130	351	138	347	132	345	4810
5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772	5772

Fig.1. Magic tour of knight on 20x24 board

‘Figured tour’ is a rich field for mathematical art on chessboard. Figure 2a is monogram tour (knight moves delineating letters). Here the consecutive numbers from 1 to 480 are in knight’s path and line joining all the square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, \dots, 21^2$, namely, 1, 4, 9, ..., 441 delineate letters ‘H’, ‘N’ and ‘Y’, the first letters of Happy New Year. Figure 2b has square numbers delineating number 24 (which correlates with the year 2024). Readers may like to compose other letters and numbers related to the New Year 2024.

93	90	87	126	111	128	113	132	139	130	115	134	163	150	117	176	161	152	159	156
88	109	92	95	86	125	140	129	114	133	164	149	116	175	162	151	158	155	178	153
91	94	89	110	127	112	85	124	131	138	135	166	185	118	183	188	177	160	157	180
108	43	106	33	96	45	104	141	136	165	148	119	174	187	198	193	182	179	154	191
29	32	41	44	105	34	97	84	123	142	137	186	167	184	321	316	189	192	181	318
42	107	30	27	40	37	46	103	98	147	120	173	322	199	194	197	320	317	190	395
31	28	3	24	35	26	39	122	83	172	143	200	145	168	315	398	195	396	319	402
6	23	10	1	38	47	36	99	102	121	146	169	314	323	196	409	400	403	394	391
11	2	7	4	25	16	49	82	171	100	289	144	201	326	399	324	397	392	401	404
22	5	12	9	48	61	64	101	288	81	170	225	290	313	410	361	408	405	390	393
13	8	53	62	15	50	17	80	227	224	285	202	327	360	325	256	411	442	479	406
54	21	14	51	18	63	60	65	284	287	226	291	312	471	362	441	480	407	412	389
69	52	19	58	77	66	79	228	223	292	203	286	359	328	255	472	257	440	443	478
20	55	70	67	206	59	222	283	204	263	330	293	254	311	470	363	474	413	388	385
71	68	57	76	221	78	205	262	229	294	253	310	329	358	473	258	439	386	477	444
56	75	220	207	280	249	230	251	282	261	264	331	356	259	364	469	414	475	384	387
219	72	209	248	231	298	281	336	265	252	295	260	309	366	357	460	467	438	445	476
210	233	74	279	208	267	250	299	296	335	308	355	332	461	468	365	458	415	466	383
73	218	247	232	269	300	297	266	337	354	333	374	367	426	459	462	433	464	437	465
234	211	240	217	278	303	268	339	334	307	368	427	372	375	452	457	416	447	382	465
241	246	277	270	301	340	349	304	353	338	373	376	453	428	425	432	463	434	417	436
212	235	242	239	216	271	302	273	350	369	306	371	422	345	454	451	456	431	448	381
245	276	237	214	243	274	341	348	305	352	343	346	377	424	429	420	379	450	435	418
236	213	244	275	238	215	272	351	342	347	370	423	344	421	378	455	430	419	380	449

(a)

43	56	73	60	159	176	75	164	181	202	189	218	187	204	241	216	235	206	239	214
72	59	44	57	74	163	180	175	76	165	186	203	190	217	234	205	240	215	236	207
55	42	71	158	61	160	177	182	179	192	201	188	219	242	251	248	245	238	213	262
152	155	58	45	70	157	162	77	174	185	166	191	230	233	246	243	250	263	208	237
41	54	153	156	161	62	183	178	193	200	231	220	167	228	249	252	247	244	261	212
154	151	52	69	46	149	78	173	184	221	198	229	232	253	266	259	264	211	268	209
53	40	3	150	51	68	63	148	199	194	171	168	227	258	273	254	267	260	271	278
6	13	38	1	4	47	50	79	172	147	222	197	224	169	226	265	272	277	210	269
39	2	5	48	37	64	67	292	297	294	195	170	257	274	255	276	287	270	279	282
14	7	12	65	124	49	80	295	146	291	298	223	196	225	288	323	284	281	286	321
11	26	17	36	81	66	123	304	293	296	145	290	299	256	275	390	325	322	283	280
18	15	8	25	122	125	306	359	302	357	300	361	144	289	324	393	388	285	320	327
23	10	27	16	35	82	303	356	305	360	365	368	363	400	389	398	391	326	387	396
28	19	24	9	100	121	126	307	358	301	362	143	366	441	392	401	394	397	328	319
31	22	29	34	83	308	355	310	353	142	367	364	369	402	399	442	469	318	395	386
20	85	32	99	120	101	352	127	372	311	370	403	474	471	440	317	476	461	468	329
97	30	21	84	33	128	309	354	141	404	473	454	451	316	475	470	443	464	385	462
86	105	98	119	102	351	140	373	312	371	434	315	472	453	448	439	460	477	330	467
107	96	103	132	139	118	129	350	405	314	455	452	447	450	459	478	465	444	463	384
104	87	106	135	130	349	342	313	374	433	406	435	458	479	446	449	438	429	466	331
95	108	131	138	133	136	117	348	341	456	425	432	407	436	427	430	445	416	383	418
88	111	134	115	92	343	340	345	424	375	408	457	426	431	480	437	428	419	332	415
109	94	113	90	137	116	347	376	409	338	423	378	411	336	421	380	413	334	417	382
112	89	110	93	114	91	344	339	346	377	410	337	422	379	412	335	420	381	414	333

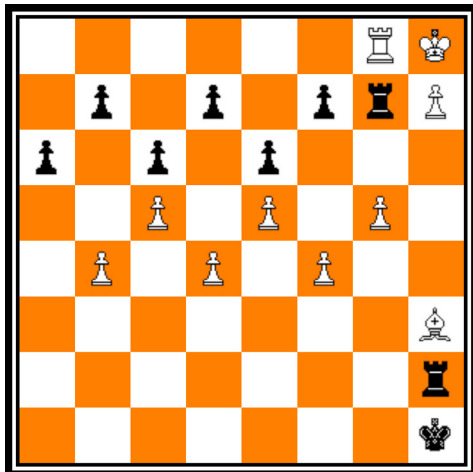
(b)

Fig.2. Figured tours (a) delineating letters ‘H’, ‘N’, ‘Y’ and (b) number ‘24’

The author wishes a very **Happy New Year 2024**. May it bring health, wealth and happiness to all. Amen.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024 !

János Csák and Gábor Tar, Hungary



h#2 (10+9)

b) -wPb4 +c) -wPc5 +d) -wPd4 +e) -wPe5 +f) -wPf4 +g) -wPg5
6RK/1p1p1prP/p1p1p3/2PIP1P1/1P1P1P2/7B/7r/7k

a)

1.a5 Ra8 2.axb4 Ra1# (MM)

b) -wPb4

1.b6 Rb8 2.bxc5 Rb1# (MM)

+c) -wPc5

1.c5 Rc8 2.cxd4 Rc1# (MM)

+d) -wPd4

1.d6 Rd8 2.dxe5 Rd1# (MM)

+e) -wPe5

1.e5 Re8 2.exf4 Re1# (MM)

+f) -wPf4

1.f6 Rf8 2.fxg5 Rf1# (MM)

+g) -wPg5

1.Rxg8+ hxg8=Q 2.Rg2 Qxg2# (MM)

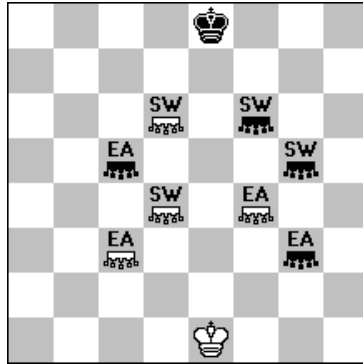
Striptease theme

Model mate × 7

<https://helpman.komtera.lt/?fen=6RK/1p1p1prP/p1p1p3/2PIP1P1/1P1P1P2/7B/7r/7k&moves=2&twins=Twin%20%20Remove%20b4%0ATwin%20%20Cont%20%20Remove%20c5%0ATwin%20%20Cont%20%20Remove%20d4%0ATwin%20%20Cont%20%20Remove%20e5%0ATwin%20%20Cont%20%20Remove%20f4%0ATwin%20%20Cont%20%20Remove%20g5%0A>

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Merry Xmas 2024 to all Chess Composers



H#2

5+5
 C+

Circe

Eagles c3, f4, c5, g3

Sparrows d4, d6, f6, g5

A) diagram, 2 solutions

B) wSWd6<->bSWf6 and bEAc5<->bSWg5, 3 solutions

A1) 1 EAxc3[+wEAc8] EAfe7 2 SWff7 SWdd7#

A2) 1 SWgxd4[+wSWd8] SWdf7 2 EAcc7 SWde7#

B1) 1 SWcxf4[+wSWf8] EAfc7 2 EAgg7 SWfe7#

B2) 1 EAgg7 SWff7 2 SWcxd4[+wSWd8] SWdc7#

B3) 1 Kf8 SWfg7 2 SWde8 SWdf7#