

# BEST PROBLEMS

*Rassegna dei migliori problemi*

diretta da **Antonio Garofalo**

Col sostegno dell'API (Associazione Problemistica Italiana)

Anno XXVIII - n. 110

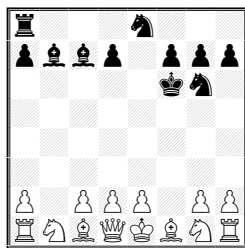
2°/2024 - April

**Hanno collaborato a questo numero:**

Thomas Brand, Mr. Veneziano, Awani Kumar.

## EDITORIALE

Welcome to Germán Bielefeldt, José Luis Velasco, Uberto Delprato for their first publication on Best Problems.



← **Kostas Prentos** - Original - Out competitions.

r3n3/pbbp1ppp/5kn1/8/8/8/P1PPP1PP/RNBQKBNR  
SPG 11.0 (14+11) C+

1.f4 ♖c6 2.f5 ♗e5 3.f6 ♗g6 4.fxe7 ♗f6 5.exd8=♗ ♔d6 6.b4 ♖e7  
7.b5 ♖xd8 8.b6 ♗e8 9.bxc7 ♖f6 10.cxd8=♗ ♔c7 11.♗xb7 ♔xb7

Comment by Author: *A Schnoebelen and a Prentos Knight promote on the same square (d8). A Rook captures the former and is captured by the latter. White homebase.*

## Memorial Tourney Jorge Marcelo Kapros 2024-2025

Kapros died in Moreno, Province of Buenos Aires, on August 27, 2023 at the age of 67. During his life, he resided in the city of El Palomar, Argentina. He had the title of International master of the FIDE for chess composition.

The Unión Argentina de Problemistas de Ajedrez (UAPA) organizes the Memorial Tourney Jorge Marcelo Kapros, containing three sections - **Theme free**:

Twomovers (≠2) Judge: **Miguel Uris** (Spain)

Helpmates (H≠2) Judge: **Ricardo de Mattos Vieira** (Brazil)

Helpmates (H≠3) Judge: **Jorge Joaquín Lois** (Argentina)

Please send your entry with diagram, full solution, name and address of author, to the tournament director: **Mario Guido García**, producer and editor the UAPA.

E-mail: [marioggarcia@gmail.com](mailto:marioggarcia@gmail.com) – All received problems will be presented to the judge in anonymous form.

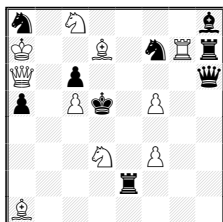
Prizes, Honourable Mentions, Commendations and Special Nominations will be awarded.

The preliminary and final award will be published in mid-2025 will be available in the website <https://www.problemistasajedrez.com.ar>, and will be sent to all participants by e-mail – **Closing date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

Please reprint

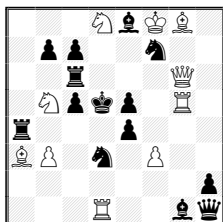
## Inediti (Originals)

5862. G. Sardella  
Italia



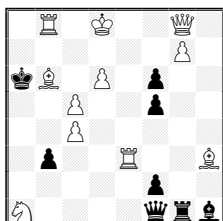
≠2\* (10+9) C+

5866. M. Uris  
Spagna



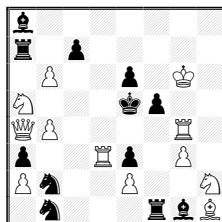
≠2 v... (10+14) C+

5870. D. Gatti  
Italia



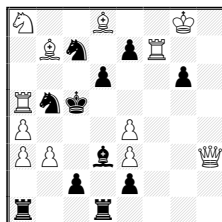
≠3 vvv (11+8) C+

5863. G. Bielefeldt  
Cile



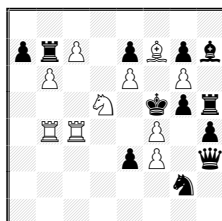
≠2 (12+12) C+

5867. J.A. Garzon &  
M. Uris - Spagna



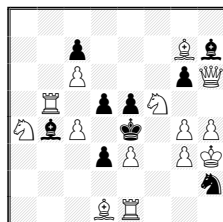
≠2 v (12+11) C+

5871. A. Pankratiev  
Russia



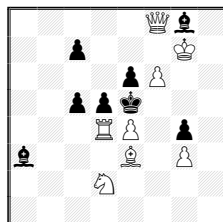
≠3 v (10+12) C+

5864. G. Bielefeldt  
Cile



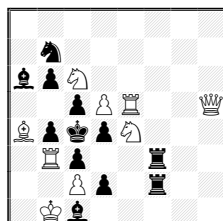
≠2 (14+9) C+

5868. J.L. Velasco  
Spagna



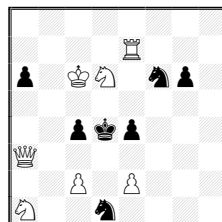
≠2 (8+8) C+

5872. A. Pankratiev  
& Y. Gorbatenko  
Russia



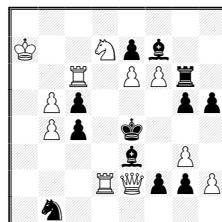
≠3 (9+12) C+

5865. F. Magini  
Italia



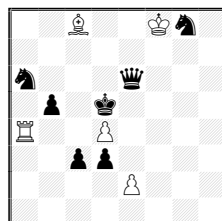
≠2 v (7+7) C+

5869. L. Lyubashevsky  
& L. Makaronez  
Israele



≠3\* (11+12) C+

5873. M. Uris  
Spagna

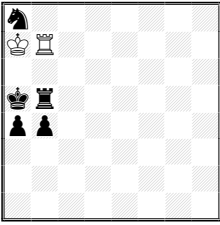


H≠2 (5+7) C+  
2 sol.

≠2, n. 5862-5868 (Judge 2024: NN

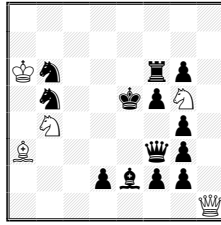
≠3, n. 5869-5872 (Judge 2024-2025: Antonio Garofalo).

5874. V. Liskovets  
Bielorussia



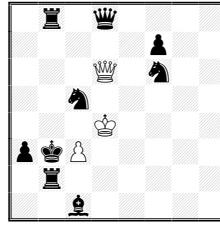
H≠1,5 (2+5) C+  
8 sol.

5875. J.J. Lois  
Argentina



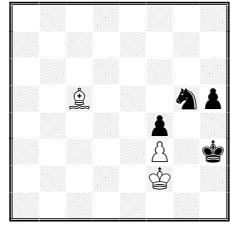
H≠2 (5+13) C+  
2 sol.

5876. L. Makaronez  
Israele



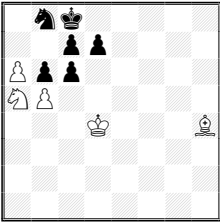
H≠2 (3+9) C+  
2 sol.

5877. E. Zimmer  
Polonia



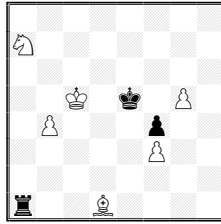
h=2\* (3+4) C+

5878. M. Vasyuchko  
& M.T. Galma  
Ucraina



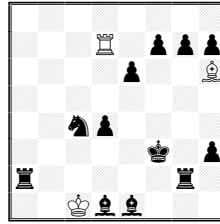
H≠2 (5+6) C+  
2 sol.

5879. A. Armeni  
Italia



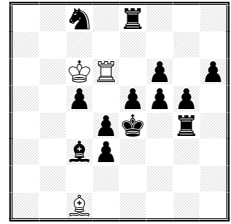
H=2 (6+3) C+  
2 sol.

5880. A.V. Ivunin  
& A. Pankratiev  
Russia



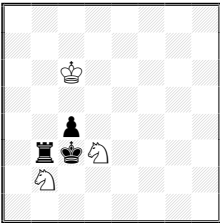
H≠3 (3+12) C+  
2 sol.

5881. A.V. Ivunin  
& A. Pankratiev  
Russia



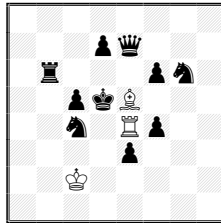
H≠3 (3+13) C+  
4 sol.

5882. A. Pankratiev  
Russia



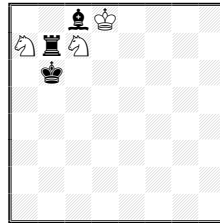
H≠3\* (3+3) C+

5883. A. Pankratiev  
& I. Antipin  
Russia



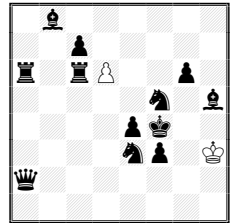
H≠3 (3+10) C+  
b) ♠f4→f5

5884. E. Zimmer  
Polonia



H≠3 (3+3) C+  
b) ♖d8→f8

5885. V. Koci  
Rep. Ceca

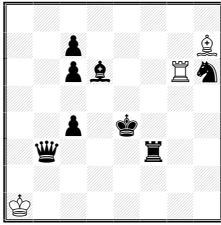


H≠3 (2+12) C+  
b) ♗d6→h6

H≠2, H=2, n. 5873-5879 (Judge 2024-2025: NN)

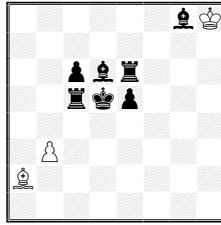
H≠2.5/H≠3, H=2.5/H=3, n. 5880-5885 (Judge 2024-2025: NN).

**5886. A.V. Ivunin  
& A. Pankratiev**  
Russia



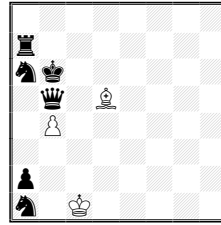
**H≠3,5 (3+8) C+**  
2 sol.

**5887. S. Hudak**  
Slovacchia



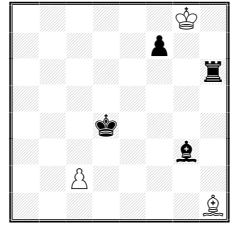
**H≠3,5 (3+7) C+**  
2 sol.

**5888. Z. Mihajloski**  
Macedonia del Nord



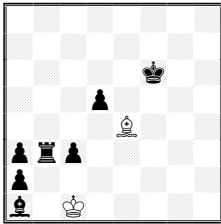
**H≠4 (3+6) C+**  
3 sol.

**5889. U. Delprato  
& R. Cassano**  
Italia



**H≠5 (3+4) C+**  
2 sol.

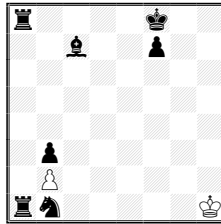
**5890. M. Degenkolbe  
& R. Wiehagen**  
Germania



**H≠5,5 (2+7) C+**  
b) ♖b3→b7

**5894. S. Luce**  
Francia

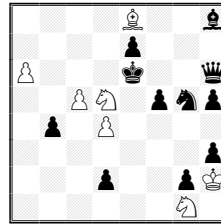
**5891. F. Magini**  
Italia



**H≠6 (2+7) C+**  
1 sol.

**5895. S. Luce**  
Francia

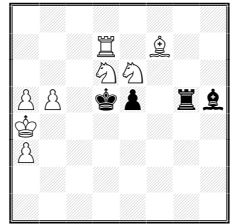
**5892. M. Vasyuchko  
& M.T. Galma**  
Ucraina



**hs≠3 (7+11) C+**  
b) ♜h8→c3

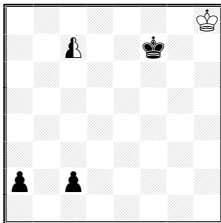
**5896. L. Kekely**  
Slovacchia

**5893. J.J. Lois**  
Argentina

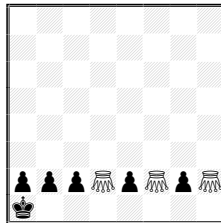


**hs≠3,5 (8+4) C+**  
2 sol.

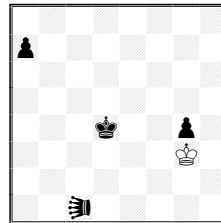
**5897. S. Luce**  
Francia



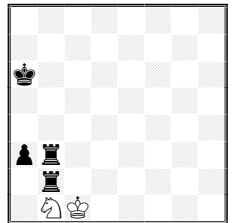
**hs≠3 (1+3+1) C+**  
b) ♜a2→e6  
Alphabetic Chess



**H=4 (3+6) C+**  
♟=Grasshoppers



**sh=8 (1+4) C+**  
b) ♜a7→b7  
Without check  
♘=Lion

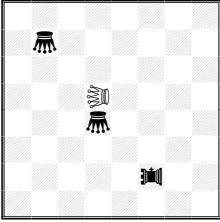


**H≠7,5 (2+4) C+**  
Alphabetic Chess

**H≠n, n. 5886-5891** (Judge 2024-2025: Antonio Garofalo).

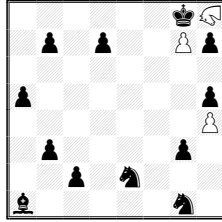
**hs≠2/n, n. 5892-5893** (Judge 2024-2025: NN).

**5898. S. Luce**  
Francia



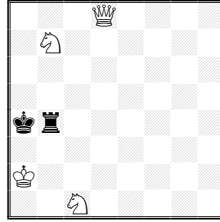
**H≠6 (1+3) C+**  
f2=Royal piece  
♟=Grasshopper  
♞=Multi-Vizir  
♠=Aigle (Eagle)

**5899. S. Luce**  
Francia



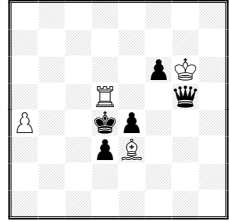
**sd=23 (3+12) C+**  
♞=Shooter  
♟=Grasshopper/Knight

**5900. I. Bryukhanov**  
Ucraina



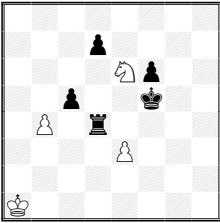
**S≠8 (4+2) C+**  
Circe

**5901. M. McDowell**  
Gran Bretagna



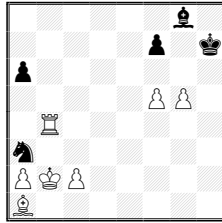
**H≠2 (4+5) C+**  
**2 sol.**  
Anti-Kings

**5902. H. Nieuwhart**  
Olanda



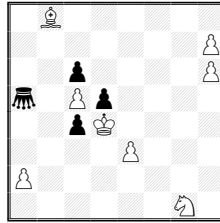
**H≠3 (4+5) C+**  
**2 sol.** PWC

**5903. L. Kekely**  
Slovacchia



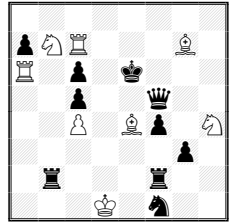
**ss≠14 (7+5) C+**  
C+ from Author

**5904. S. Luce**  
Francia



**hs≠5 (8+4) C+**  
♟=Grasshopper

**5905. G. Tar**  
Ungheria



**hs≠2,5 (8+10) C+**  
Zero-position:  
a) ♜a6→e2  
b) ♜f5→f8  
Anticirce

Fairies n. 5894-5905 (Judge 2024: (NN).

## Note agli inediti (Fairy elements)

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

hs = helpselfmate.

sd = diretta 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.
- **Anti-Kings:** A King is in check, if it is not attacked.
- **Circe:** When captured, a piece (other than King) is reborn on its game-array square. Rook, Bishop and Knight are reborn on the square that is the same color as the square of the capture, Pawns on the file of the capture. If the game-array square is occupied, the captured piece disappears, as in a normal capture. Castling is permitted with a reborn Rook. Fairy pieces are regarded as being the result of promotion and so are reborn on the promotion-square or the file of the capture.
- **Eagle=Aigle:** Se déplace comme une Sauterelle (Sauteur(0,1)+(1,1)), ma 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 contigua 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.]
- **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.
- **Lion:** Moves and captures like a **Grasshopper**, but its arrival square may be any number of squares beyond the hurdle, provided the line is clear.
- **Multi-Vizir:** Can play many consecutive moves of Vizir (0,1) till it captures.
- **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.)
- **Royal piece:** =Royal unit, a unit having the function but not the move of a King. A threat to capture it is check, and if this threat cannot be removed the position is one of checkmate.
- **Shooter Grasshopper/Knight:** Moves without capture like a Grasshopper and captures like a Knight.
- **Without check:** Sans échec: Un échec qui n'est pas un mat est illégal. [Uno scacco che non sia scaccomatto è illegale.]

## Soluzioni Inediti

Fascicolo n. 110

Commenti degli autori e del redattore.

### 5862. (≠2, Giuseppe Sardella)

n1N4b/K2B1nRr/Q1p4q/p1Pk1P2/8/3N1P2/4r3/B7

1... ♖d6 a 2. ♙xc6 † A 1... ♗e5 b 2. ♗e7 † B

1. ♜g4! [2. ♖c4 †]

1... ♗d6 a 2. ♖xc6 † C 1... ♗e5 b 2. ♜d4 † D

1... ♖f4 2. ♙xc6 † A 1... ♜xc2 2. ♗e7 † B

[ 1... ♗b6 2. ♗xb6 † 1... ♙d4 2. ♜xd4 † 1... ♜e4 2. fxe4 † ]

Rukhlis

**5863. (#2, Germán Bielefeldt)**

b7/r1p5/1P2p1K1/N3kp2/QP4R1/p2Rp1P1/Pn2P2N/1n3rbB

**1. ♖c6!** tempo

1... ♖a~ 2. ♖xc7‡ 1... ♗b7 2. ♖c5‡ 1... ♘b7 2. ♖xc7‡ 1... ♙1~ 2. ♖c3‡  
 1... ♙2~ 2. ♙c4‡ 1... ♚f~ 2. ♙f3‡ 1... ♛f2 2. ♙f3‡ 1... ♜f2 2. ♜xe3‡  
 1... ♞xh2 2. ♞xe3‡ 1... ♞xc6 2. ♞xc6‡ 1... ♟f4 2. gx f4‡ 1... f4 2. ♟g5‡  
 1... cxb6 2. ♖d6‡ 1... fxg4 2. ♙xg4‡

**5864. (#2, Germán Bielefeldt)**

8/2p3Bb/2P3pQ/1R1ppN2/NbP1k1PP/3pP1PK/7n/3BR3

**1. ♘d4!** tempo

1... exd4 2. ♖f4‡ 1... dxc4 2. ♗xe5‡ 1... d2 2. ♘c2‡ 1... ♙~ 2. ♘f3‡  
 1... ♘xe1 2. ♙c5‡ 1... ♘a3 2. ♙c3‡ 1... ♘g8 2. ♖xg6‡ 1... g5 2. ♖xh7‡

**5865. (#2, Fabio Magini)**

8/4R3/p1KN1np1/8/2pkp3/Q7/2P1P3/N2n4

**1. ♗e6?** tempo

1... ♙b2 2. e3‡ **A** 1... ♙e3 2. c3‡ **B** 1... ♙c3 2. ♖c5‡ **C** 1... c3 2. ♖c5‡ **D** ma 1... e3!

**1. ♖g3!** tempo

1... ♙b2 2. c3‡ **B** 1... ♙e3 2. ♖e5‡ **E** 1... ♙c3 2. e3‡ **A** 1... c3 2. ♙b3‡ **F** 1... e3 2. ♖e5‡  
 Feldmann 2, Somov B2, Rukhlis condensé (WinChloe)

**5866. (#2, Miguel Uris)**

3NbKB1/1pp2n2/2r3Q1/1Npkp1R1/r3p3/BP1n1P2/7p/3R2bq

1. ♖h5? [2. ♗xe5#] 1... ♗e6, **a** 1... ♗d4, **b** 1... ♘d4 **c**

1. ♖e6+? ma 1... ♗xe6! **a**

1. ♖f5? [2. ♖xe5‡] 1... ♘d4 2. ♖xe4‡ 1... ♗e6 2. ♖xe6‡ ma 1... ♗d4! **b**

1. f4? [2. ♖xe5‡] 1... ♗d4 2. ♙c3‡ 1... ♗e6 2. ♖xe6‡ ma 1... ♘d4! **c**

**1. ♘b2!** [2. ♖xe5‡]

1... ♗e6 **a** 2. ♖xe6‡ 1... ♗d4 **b** 2. ♙c3‡ 1... ♘d4 **c** 2. ♖xe4‡

Kharkov 1 – Separation of refutations – Defences on same square

**5867. (#2, José Antonio Garzon & Miguel Uris)**

N2B2K1/1Bn1pR2/3p2p1/Rnk5/P3P3/PP1bP2Q/2p1p3/r2r4

1. ♖c8? [2. ♖xc7‡] 1... ♘xe4 2. ♜xb5‡ ma 1... ♜xa3!

**1. ♖h8!** [2. ♖d4‡]

1... ♘xe4 2. ♖c3‡ 1... e5 2. ♖xc7‡ 1... d5 2. ♘xe7‡ 1... ♘c4 2. b4‡ 1... ♙e6 2. ♘b6‡

Comment by Authors:

1. ♖c8? [2. ♖xc7≠ (♗ pin - ♖ mate)] 1... ♘xe4 **a** 2. ♜xb5≠ **A** (♗ pin - ♗ mate) 1... ♜xa3!

**1. ♖h8!** [2. ♖d4≠ (♗ pin - ♖ mate)]

1... ♘xe4 **a** 2. ♖c3≠ **B** (♗ pin - ♖ mate)

1... e5 2. ♖xc7≠ (♗ pin - ♗ mate)

1... d5 2. Bxc7# (♗ pin - ♘ mate)

1... ♙e6 2. ♘b6≠ 1... Bc4 2. b4#

Exchange of functions (Pin/Mate); Pin-mate (x6); Changed mate.

**5868. (#2, José Luis Velasco)**

5Qb1/2p3K1/4pP2/2ppk3/3RP1p1/b3B1P1/3N4/8

1. ♖e8! [2. ♗xd5‡]

1... ♙d6 2. ♙c4‡ 1... c6 2. ♖b8‡ 1... cxd4 2. ♘f4‡ 1... dxe4 2. ♖h5‡

Comments by Author: Flight giving key, Selfblock – Pinning – Line opening.

**5869. (≠3, Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez)**

8/K2Npb2/2R1PPr1/1Pp3pp/1Pp1k3/4b1P1/3RQppP/1n6

1... ♖f5 2. ♗f3+ ♜f4 3. ♞d5‡ 1... ♙xe6 2. ♞xe6+ ♖f5 3. ♞e5‡

1. ♞d5! [2. ♞e5+ ♖d4 3. ♗xe3‡]

1... c3 2. ♗d3+ ♖f3 3. ♖e5‡

1... ♖xd5 2. ♗xe3 [3. ♖b6‡ 3. ♗e5‡]

1... cxb4+ 2. ♞d4+ ♖xd4 3. ♗xc4‡ 2... ♖f5 3. ♗c2‡

1... exf6 2. ♞cd6 [3. ♖xc5‡]

Comments by Authors: Changed mates, Active sacrifice.

**5870. (≠3, Daniele Gatti)**

1R1K2Q1/6P1/kB1P1p2/2P2p2/2P5/1p2R2B/5p2/N4qrb

1. ♞a8+? 1... ♙xa8!

1. ♗f7? [2. ♗a7‡] ma 1... ♞xg7!

1. ♖c2? [2. ♖b4‡] ma 1... ♗e1!

**1. ♙g2!** [2. ♞a8‡]

1... ♙xg2 2. ♗f7 [3. ♗a7‡] ♜b7 3. ♗xb7‡ 2... ♗xc4 3. ♗xc4‡

1... ♞xg2 2. ♞a8+ ♖b7 3. ♗d5‡

1... ♗xg2 2. ♖c2 [3. ♖b4‡] bxc2 3. ♞a3‡

After 3875. Daniele Gatti, *Best Problems* 2017, 5<sup>a</sup> Lode

1R3N2/8/kB6/2P2P1p/P1p5/4p2Q/KP3p1p/1BN2qrb - ≠3 (11+9) C+

1. ♖e6? [2. ♖c7‡] ma 1... ♞g7!

1. ♗f3? [2. ♞a8‡] 1... ♞g7 2. ♞a8+ ♞a7 3. ♞xa7‡ ma 1... ♙xf3!

1. ♗g2! [2. ♞a8‡]

1... ♙xg2 2. ♖e6 [3. ♖c7‡]

1... ♞xg2 2. ♞a8+ ♖b7 3. ♙e4‡

1... ♗xg2 2. ♖d3 [3. ♖b4‡] cxd3 3. ♙xd3‡

**5871. (≠3, Alexandre Pankratiev)**

8/prP1pBpb/1P2P1P1/3N1kpr/1RR2P1p/4pP1q/6n1/8

1. ♞b5? [2. ♖c3+ ♖f6 3. ♖e4‡]

1... ♞xb6 2. ♖xb6+ ♖f6 3. ♖d7‡ ma 1... a6!

**1. ♞c5!** [2. ♖c3+ ♖f6 3. ♖e4‡]

1... ♗xf3 2. ♖xe3+ ♖f6 3. ♞f5‡ 1... ♙xg6 2. ♖xe7+ ♖f6 3. ♖g8‡

1... ♖xf4 2. ♖xf4+ ♖f6 3. ♖xh5‡ 1... ♞xc7 2. ♖xc7+ ♖f6 3. ♖e8‡

1... axb6 2. ♖xb6+ ♖f6 3. ♖d7‡

Batterie de Siers, Mat (suite) changé(e) au moins 2 fois (WinChloe).

**5872. (≠3, Alexandre Pankratiev & Yuri Gorbatenko)**

8/1n6/bpN5/2pPR2Q/BpkpN3/1Rp2r2/2Pp1r2/1Kb5

**1. ♗g6!** [2. ♖a5+ ♖xa5 3. ♖d6‡ 2... bxa5 3. ♗xa6‡]

1... ♙b5 2. ♞xb4+ cxb4 3. ♙b3‡

1... ♞f6 2. ♖d6+ ♖xd6 3. ♗d3‡ 2... ♞xd6 3. ♗d3‡

1... d3 2. ♖xd2+ ♙xd2 3. ♗e4‡ 2... ♞xd2 3. ♗e4‡ 2... cxd2 3. ♗e4‡

Keller (paradoxe); (WinChloe).

**5873. (H≠2, Miguel Uris)**

2B2Kn1/8/n3q3/1p1k4/R2P4/2pp4/4P3/8

1. ♖b4 e3 2. ♖c4 ♙xe6‡

1. ♗d7 e4+ 2. ♖e6 ♞xa6‡



Comments by Author: Chumakov theme (b-s, simplified, 2, 2)  
 Exchange of functions (bSa6/bBe6, Captured/Pinned)  
 Exchange of functions (wRa4/wBc8, Mate/Passive pin)  
 Model mates (x2) - Anticipatory self-pin (x2) – Distant selfblock (x2)  
 Meredith

**5874. (H≠1.5, Valery Liskovets)**

n7/KR6/8/kr6/pp6/8/8/8

1... ♖c7 2. ♖e5 ♖xc5‡ 1... ♗d7 2. ♗d5 ♗xd5‡ 1... ♜e7 2. ♜e5 ♜xe5‡  
 1... ♜f7 2. ♜f5 ♜xf5‡ 1... ♞g7 2. ♞g5 ♞xg5‡ 1... ♞h7 2. ♞h5 ♞xh5‡  
 1... ♞b6 2.a3 (tempo) ♞a6‡ 1... ♚b8 2. ♚b6 ♞a7‡

Comments by Author:

h#1.5 miniature-task: 8 solutions in the Neumann form without repetitions.

8=6+1+1 (solutions are of 3 types).

8 sol. is the presumable record among 1.5- and 2-movers with 8 or less pieces excepting the absolute record-tanagra <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P0564727> by Mintz with 12 (trivial, uniform) solutions. Closest is the recent problem <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1400481> by Grinchenko (Problemist Ukrainy, 2022, h#1.5) with 9 pieces and 8 sol.

- Active sacrifice (black) × 6
- AntiZielElement (W1, self-pin)
- Hideaway (bR, sacrificial) × 6
- Hideaway (wK)
- Self-pin/unpin (white)
- Tempo move (bP, waiting)
- Model mate × 6
- Umnov.

(Apropos, in general, the PDB contains 300+ h#1.5-problems including 80+ miniatures without twins.)

**5875. (H≠2, Jorge J. Lois)**

8/8/Kn3rp1/1n2kpN1/1N4p1/B4qp1/3pbpp1/7Q

1. ♙f4 ♙h8 2. ♚d5+ ♚c6‡ 1. ♙d5 ♙e1 2. ♚d4+ ♚d3‡

Comments by Author:

Thematic content: • Self-block (bQf3) × 2 • Bi-valve (wSb4-wBa3-bBe2)

- Bi-valve (wSb4-wBa3-bRf6)
- Model mate × 2
- Pin-mate × 2

**5876. (H≠2, Leonid Makaronez)**

1r1q4/5p2/3Q1n2/2n5/3K4/pkP5/1r6/2b5

1. ♚c2 ♚c4 2. ♚cd7 ♙d3‡ 1. ♚a4 ♚d3 2. ♚d7 ♙d5‡

**5877. (H=2, Eligiusz Zimmer)**

8/8/8/2B3np/5p2/5P1k/5K2/8

1... ♙e7 2. ♚h4 ♚g2= 1. ♚xf3 ♚xf3 2.h4 ♙g1=

**5878. (H≠2, Mikola Vasyuchko & Mikhaïlo T. Galma)**

1nk5/2pp4/Ppp5/NP6/3K3B/8/8/8

1.bxa5 b6 2.a4 b7‡ 1.cxb5 ♚c6 2.b4 ♚a7‡

Comments by Authors: Exchange of functions (bPb6/bPc6, Active piece / Passive)

Exchange of functions (wSa5/wPb5, Captured / Mate)

JT Onkoud 50 theme

Tempo move (bP, waiting, type 1) × 3

Zilahi (passive, SP, 2)

Model mate × 2 [View in Helpmate Analyzer]

**5879. (H=2, Alberto Armeni)**

8/N7/8/2K1k1P1/1P3p2/5P2/8/r2B4

1. ♞xd1 ♚b5 2. ♞d4 ♚xd4= 1. ♞xa7 ♙a4 2. ♞d7 ♙xd7=

Zilahi, Sacrifice noir, Captures réciproques, Pats modèles (WinChloe)

**5880. (H≠3, Alexei V. Ivunin & Alexandre Pankratiev)**

8/3R1ppp/4p2B/8/2np4/5k1p/r5r1/2Kbb3

1. ♖h4 ♗xf7+ 2. ♖g3 ♗f1 3. ♖g4 ♖f4‡ 1. ♗g3 ♗xd4 2. ♗ag2 ♖d2 3. ♖e2 ♗f4‡

**5881. (H≠3, Alexei V. Ivunin & Alexandre Pankratiev)**

2n1r3/8/2KR1p1p/2p1ppp1/3pk1r1/2bp4/8/2B5

1.c4 ♗xd4+ 2. ♗xd4 ♖a3 3. ♗e4 ♖c5‡ 1. ♖b6 ♖f4 2.exf4 ♗d8 3. ♖e5 ♗xe8‡

1.f4 ♖e3 2. ♖f5 ♖xd4 3.e4 ♖xf6‡ 1. ♖f3 ♗xf6 2. ♖g3 ♖f4+ 3. ♖h4 ♖xh6‡

Comments by Authors: BK moves only, Chumakov theme (pp, 2), Helledie theme, Hideaway (bS) [View in Helpmate Analyzer]

**5882. (H≠3, Alexandre Pankratiev)**

8/8/2K5/8/2p5/1rkN4/1N6/8

1... ♖e1 2. ♖b4 ♖b6 3.c3 ♖c2‡ 1. ♗b5 ♖xb5 2. ♖b3 ♖c1+ 3. ♖a3 ♖xc4‡

Chumakov, ideal mate.

**5883. (H≠3, Alexandre Pankratiev & Ivan Antipin)**

8/3pq3/1r3pn1/2pkB3/2n1Rp2/4p3/2K5/8

a) 1. ♗e6 ♖d3 2. ♖d6 ♗c4 3. ♖xe5 ♗xc5‡ b) 1.fxe4 ♖g3 2. ♖d4 ♖e1 3.d5 ♖c3‡ Zilahi.

**5884. (H≠3, Eligiusz Zimmer)**

2bK4/NrN5/1k6/8/8/8/8/8

a) 1. ♖xa7 ♖d5 2. ♖a8 ♖xc8 3. ♗a7 ♖b6‡ b) 1. ♖xc7 ♖b5+ 2. ♖d8 ♖d4 3. ♗d7 ♖e6‡

**5885. (H≠3, Vladimír Koci)**

1b6/2p5/r1rP2p1/5n1b/4pk2/4np1K/q7/8

a) 1. ♗c4 d7 2.c6 d8=♖ 3. ♖e5 ♖e6‡ b) 1.g5 h7 2. ♖f7 h8=♖ 3. ♖e6 ♖g6‡

**5886. (H≠3.5, Alexei V. Ivunin & Alexandre Pankratiev)**

8/2p4B/2pb2Rn/8/2p1k3/1q3r2/8/K7

1... ♗g4+ 2. ♖e5 ♖e4 3. ♗f6 ♖xc6 4. ♖f5 ♗e4‡

1... ♗g7+ 2. ♖d5 ♗xc7 3.c5 ♗b7 4. ♖c6 ♖e4‡

Umnov différe, Mats modèles, Mats sur la case initiale du Roi adverse (WinChloe)

**5887. (H≠3.5, Stanislav Hudak)**

6bK/8/2pbr3/2rpk3/8/1P6/B7/8

1... ♖g7 2. ♗e7+ ♖g6 3. ♖e6 ♖b1 4. ♗d5 ♖f5‡

1... ♖b1 2. ♖c4 ♖d3 3. ♗d4 ♖a6 4.c5 ♖b7‡

**5888. (H≠4, Zlatko Mihajloski)**

8/r7/nk6/1q1B4/1P6/8/p7/n1K5

1. ♖xb4 ♖b2 2. ♖a5 ♖xa1 3. ♖a4 ♖b2 4. ♗a5 ♖b3‡

1. ♗b7 ♖b3 2. ♗c4+ ♖b2 3. ♖b5 ♖a3 4. ♗b6 ♖a4‡

1. ♗xd5 b5 2. ♖b7 b6 3. ♖c7 bxc7 4. ♖a8 c8=♗‡

Comments by Author: • Bukovina theme, • Consecutive Umnov (B-W, qPkP, 2) • Reciprocal capture (bS/wP), • Model mate × 3

**5889. (H≠5, Uberto Delprato & Roberto Cassano)**

6K1/5p2/7r/8/3k4/6b1/2P5/7B

1. ♖e5 ♖xf7 2. ♖f5 ♖e7 3. ♖g6 ♖e6 4. ♖h5+ ♖f5 5. ♖h4 ♖f3‡

1. ♖c5 c4 2. ♖b6 c5+ 3. ♖a7 c6 4. ♖b8 c7 5. ♗a6 c8=♖‡

**5890. (H≠5.5, Mirko Degenkolbe & Rolf Wiehagen)**

8/8/5k2/3p4/4B3/prp5/p7/b1K5

a) 1... ♖c2 2. ♖e5 ♖xb3 3. ♖d4 ♖xa2 4. ♖c4 ♖b1 5. ♖b3 ♖c1 6. ♖a2 ♖xd5‡

b) 1... ♖xd5 2. ♖e5 ♖xa2 3. ♖d4 ♖b1 4. ♖c4 ♖e4 5. ♖b3 ♖xb7 6. ♖a2 ♖d5‡

Comments by Authors:

- Kniest on the SAME square (a2), in a) by wK, in b) by wB.
- In a), Rundlauf of wK in 5 moves; in b), Rundlauf by wB in 4 moves (e4-->e4) & switchback wB (d5), and Kozhakin.
- Mating move of a) = Key move of b).
- Identical model mate. • Minimal and 9 pieces. • Identical black play.

Two pieces for comparing:

P1380021 - also Kniest on the SAME square (h3), but no Rundlauf neither of wK nor of wB.

P1394232 - also Rundlauf of wK ( in 4 moves, only), and Rundlauf of wB (d2-->d2); but Kniest on DIFFERENT squares (c5 & f4) and almost doubling the number of black pieces from 7 to 13.

### 5891. (H≠6, Fabio Magini)

r4k2/2b2p2/8/8/1p6/1P6/rn5K

1. ♖1a3 bxa3 2. ♜c3 a4 3. ♜b5 axb5 4. ♚e8 b6 5. ♚e7 bxc7 6. ♙e8 c8=♚♠‡

### 5892. (hs≠3, Mikola Vasyuchko & Mikhailo T. Galma)

4B2b/4p3/P3k2q/2PN1pnp/1p1P4/7p/3p2pK/6N1

a) 1. ♙xh5 ♙f6 2. ♙e8 ♚h4 3. ♜f4+ ♚xf4‡

b) 1. ♜xb4 ♚f6 2. ♜d5 ♙a5 3. ♜c7+ ♙xc7‡

Switchback di ♜ e ♙ per liberare una linea nera ostruita. Un lavoro interessante.

### 5893. (hs≠3.5, Jorge J. Lois)

8/3R1B2/3NN3/PP1kp1rb/K7/P7/8/8

1... ♙g4 2. ♚c7 ♚h5 3. ♚c1 ♚h4 4. ♚d1+ ♙xd1‡

1... ♚g2 2. ♙g6 ♚c2 3. ♙d3 ♙d1 4. ♙c4+ ♚xc4‡

Echo diagonal-orthogonal, Batteries réciproques (WinChloe)

Comments by Author: Thematic content: Dismantling a white direct battery and creation a black direct battery. [Un altro helpselfmate interessante.]

### 5894. (hs≠3, Sébastien Luce)

a) 1.c8=♙n a1=♚ 2. ♙ng4 ♚a5 3. ♙nh5+ ♚xh5‡

b) 1.c8=♜n c1=♚ 2. ♜nd6+ ♜nf5 3. ♜nh6+ ♚xh6‡

Comments by Author:

Unique example of AUW in hs≠n with ABC only. Neutral Bishop or Knight of promotion comes to give a check on the "h" file and black mating move is forced by an effect of the condition. Also note in b) that 2.Sne7? is not good as black Queen on c1 would have to play the next move.

### 5895. (H=4, Sébastien Luce)

1.g1=♚ ♚xe2 2. ♚e3 ♚e4 3. ♚c1 ♚g2 4.b1=♙ ♚h1=

1.b1=♙ ♚b2 2.e1=♜ ♚d2 3. ♜d3 ♚d4 4. ♜c1 ♚g1=

Comments by Author:

In a "very horizontal position" two pinned stalemates on the first rank.

One with a black Grasshopper pinned on c1, the second with a black Knight on the same square.

### 5896. (sh=8, L'ubos Kekely)

a) 1.a5 2.a4 3.a3 4.a2 5.a1=♜ 6. ♜c2 7.LIc5 8. ♜e3 ♙f2=

b) 1.b5 2.b4 3.b3 4.b2 5.b1=♙ 6. ♙c2 7.LIc4 8. ♙e4 ♙xg4=

Comments by Author: Tanagra. Double excelsior. Minor promotions. Analogies. Ideal stalemates.

### 5897. (H≠7.5, Sébastien Luce)

8/8/k7/8/8/pr6/1r6/1NK5

1... ♜c3 2.a2 ♙d1 3.a1=♙ ♜a2 4. ♙a5 ♜c1 5. ♙a4 ♜xb3 6. ♙a3 ♜c5 7. ♙a2 ♜a4 8. ♙b1

♜c3‡ Comments by Author: White Knight rundlauf and Kozhakin. Black has to promote to

Bishop to avoid a move by the piece of promotion.

**5898. (H≠6, Sébastien Luce)**

1.Se4 Af5 2.Sg1 AIg2 3.MVRf3 AIg4 4.Sh4 AIe4 5.MVRh1 AIh3 6.Sh2 AIg2‡  
 1.MVRb5 AIb4 2.MVRc3 AIb2 3.Sb1 AIb4 4.Sa4 AIId4 5.MVRa1 AIa3 6.Sa2 AIb2‡  
 1.MVRc6 AIId7 2.Se7 AIb7 3.Sa7 AIId7 4.Sd8 AIId5 5.MVRa8 AIe8 6.Sb8 AIb7‡

Comments by Author: Triple echo on the corners h1, a1 et a8. Despite its great power, the Multi-Vizir, incarcerated by the black Grasshoppers, is mated by the Eagle.

**5899. (sd=23, Sébastien Luce)**

1.TSCf8 2.TSCxd7 3.TSCa7 4.TSCc7 5.TSCc1 6.TSch1 7.TSCa8 8.TSCc6 9.TSCxa5 10.TSCxb7  
 11.TSCb2 12.TSCb4 13.TSCxc2 14.TSCxa1 15.TSCxb3 16.TSch3 17.TSCxg1 18.TSCxe2  
 19.TSCxg3 20.TSCxh5 21.TSch8 22.h5 23.h6=

Comments by Author: Long rundlauf with four corners theme by the shooter Grasshopper/Knight (TSC).

**5900. (S≠8, Ivan Bryukhanov)**

3Q4/1N6/8/8/kr6/8/K7/2N5

1.♙e8+! ♖b5 2.♙e4+ ♖b4 3.♙c6+ ♖b5 4.♙c4+ ♖b4 5.♙a1 ♙a3 6.♙a6+ ♖a4 7.♙d3+ ♙b4+ 8.♙a2+ ♖xa2(♙b1)‡

**5901. (H≠2, Michael McDowell)**

8/8/5pK1/3R2q1/P2kp3/3pB3/8/8

1.♙h5 ♙h6 2.♙e3 ♖g5‡ 1.♙h6 ♖h5 2.♙d5 ♙g5‡

**5902. (H≠3, Hans Nieuwhart)**

8/3p4/4Np2/2p2k2/1P1r4/4P3/8/K7

1.cxb4(c5) c6 2.dxc6(d7) d8=♙ 3.♖xd8(♙d4) ♙e4‡  
 1.♙g4 ♙xd4(♖e6) 2.♖e8 ♙e2 3.♖xe3(♙e8) ♙h5‡

**5903. (ss≠14, L'ubos Kekely)**

6b1/5p1k/p7/5PP1/1R6/n7/PK5/B7

1.c4 2.c5 3.c6 4.c7 5.c8=♙ 6.♙xa6 7.♙xa3 8.♙d3 9.a3 10.♙a2 11.♖b1 12.♙b2 13.♖a1  
 14.♙b1 f6‡ Comments by Author: Meredith. Excelsior. Zugzwang.

**5904. (hs≠5, Sébastien Luce)**

1B6/7P/2p4P/^q1Pp4/2pK4/4P3/P7/6N1

1.h8=♖ ♖a1 2.h7 ♖h1 3.♖c3 ♖h8 4.♙f3 ♖a8 5.♙e5 ♖a1‡

Comments by Author: Four corners theme by black Grasshopper with a surprising promotion to white Grasshopper at the beginning. White Knight f3 avoids the escape of Grasshopper c3.

**5905. (hs≠2.5, Gábor Tar)**

8/pNR3B1/R1p1k3/2p2q2/2P1Bp1N/6p1/1r3r2/3K1n2

a) 1... ♙g4 2. ♙h7+ ♙e3+ 3. ♙g8+ ♖f1‡  
 b) 1... ♙h2 2. ♙xc6(♙f1)+ ♙d6+ 3. ♙d8+ ♖b1‡

**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
- HS ≠2/3/n (Orthodox helpselfmate) 2024-2025: Antonio Garofalo
- Fairies (2024): NN

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# Marco Bonavoglia Memorial Tourney

Award by Thomas Brand

It was a very sad honour for me to be invited to judge this tourney: It's the second time I took over the judgement of an intended Jubelee and now a Memorial Tourney: The first one was the intended Wolfgang Dittmann 80 Tourney.

Both Wolfgang and Marco were very interested not only generally in retros, but liked the exploration of different fairy conditions in retrograde analysis: While Wolfgang since the new millennium focused on Antircirce in Proca defence retractors, in his younger years he often dealt with illegal clusters and last movers – including those based on fairy conditions. And both met a few times – at Andernach and during Wolfgang's business stay in Italy.

And I liked it very much to meet with both: Not only to discuss on problem chess and specifically retrograde analysis, but because both were very likeable dialogue partners in discussions on a wide range of topics.

So it was a great honour when tourney director Antonio Garofalo asked me to act as judge for the now rededicated memorial tournament, where the announced theme was “*Last move?*” *problems with any fairy conditions (Fairy pieces are not allowed unless the initial game array is clearly stated).*

Antonio sent me a file with 15 contributions (frankly, I had hoped for more participants) from the following authors (\* indicates co-productions):

Themis Argirakopoulos 9\*, 10\*; Allan Bell 6, 7; Dirk Borst 5; Michel Caillaud 14; Jacques Dupin 13\*; Theodoros Giakatis 9\*, 12; Maryan Kerhuel 13\*; Enzo Minerva 15; Ladislav Packa 11; Kostas Prentos 9\*, 10\*; Paul Raican 1, 2, 3, 4; Manfred Rittirsch 8.

Intensive checks – I am very grateful to Hans Gruber for his valuable support – resulted in the exclusion of a few problems:

**2:** (Kh8/Kb8, 12+4): *anticipated* by Plaksin & Kornilow *feenschach* 1988 (P0008680).

**6:** (Ke4/Kc6, 4+3): *cooked*, many other solutions like Pd5xS/Bc4.

**7:** (Ke1/Kg1, 4+11): *cooked*, for example a) Kd1xSe1#, b) Qe5xPf4.

**9:** (Kg8/Ke4, 9+2): *no solution*, since the intended e.p. capture recolours Pg7.

**10:** (Kg6/Kd5, 19+1) *no solution* according to our understanding of the “Masand Generalized” definition given together with 10:

See the diagram "Position before -1.Sd1-e3" (i.e. the position when exactly 1 single move is retracted - notabene, the solution move we are looking for). Then play the move forwards in the diagram: 1.Sd1-e3. After this move (obviously a check, so bQf5 and bPg4 are recoloured) the queen rebirth square is free, so all white queens check and recolour all the pieces they observe/cover, so all knights and bishops (thankfully queens don't observe each other ...)

So it is ALSO true: 1.Se3+ leads to the wQd4 (which now checks) – recolouring the wSe3! So there should be a BLACK Se3 in the diagram - but there isn't!

**12:** (Ke1/Ke5, 4+2): *no solution* in b): R 1.Rc3xPh3 [wRh1]+ is illegal because the resulting pawn constellation bPh3/wPh7 is illegal in Antircirce, and the additional Circe condition does not change this.

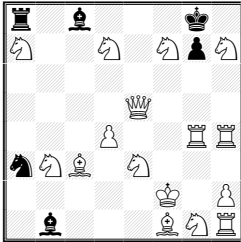
**15:** (Kg1/Kh3, 9+1): *cooked*, since for a “last move” problem to be correct the last move must be completely determined – including captures. This is not the case in b), where the black man captured might have been a Knight, a Rook, or a Queen.

The quality of the remaining problems seems me to be from “average” to “excellent”, so I decided to integrate six out of the eight now to be considered problems into the award. Brief remarks on the two not included:

1: (Kd4/Ke1, 4+9): Obvious last (checking) move; the only Rex Multiplex use is to fix the white Queen – so “too orthodox” in my mind.

4: (Se1,Sb7, 4+2): Indeed, Co+ with 488 proof games in 14.5 (no shorter one), all ending with 15.Rg1xQd1 – but do I overlook any specific “last move?” arguing? Note, the unique last move is only forced by the “proof game time pressure”, not by any retro arguments. (Compare 14)

Now let’s switch to the awarded problems:



### ← 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: 14) Michel Caillaud

r1b3k1/S2S1SpS/8/4Q3/3P2RR/sSB1S3/5K1P/1b3BSR

Last move? (16+6) - Einstein

1.e4 Sa6(P) 2.e5 a5 3.e6 a4 4.exf7(S) e6 5.c4 Bd6(S) 6.c5 Se7(P)  
7.c6 0-0(Bf8) 8.cxd7(S) c6 9.b4 c5 10.b5 c4 11.b6 c3 12.bxa7(S)  
Qb6(R) 13.Sxc3(B) Rb1(B) 14.g4 b6 15.g5 b5 16.g6 b4 17.gxh7(S)  
b3 18.axb3(S) e5 19.Rxa4(Q) e6 20.Qh4(R) e4 21.d4 e3 22.Bxe3(R)  
e5 23.Rxe5(Q) Se4(P) 24.Qg4(R) e3 25.fxe3(S) Ba3(S) 26.Ke1-f2!

«In Einstein Chess, any move of a unit except Kings and non capturing Pawns changes its nature. So that the total number of moves of a non capturing player (as is the case for Black in this problem) is limited, except for the King moves.

As Black didn't capture, there is only 1 explanation for some pieces : Dd8-b6(T)-b1(F) and Ff8-a3(C) (with Ff8 either original or issued from Th8-f8(F))

Some captures by white are clear: a×b3(C), b×a7(C), ç×d7(C), é×f7(C), f×é3(C), g×h7(C), C×ç3(F) and Dè5 comes from Fç1 after 2 captures F×é3(T)×é5(D) or F×g5(T)×é5(D).

The last 10th white capture accounts for Tg4,h4. Tg4 is the original Dd1 after Dg4(T), and Th4 is Ta1 after T×a4(D)-h4(T) or Tè1(F)×h4(T)

Only T×a4(D)-h4(T) accounts for capture of Cb8 captured as a Pawn on file a, ç or d.

Some sequences can be ordered. The critical one is : ç×d7(C), ç7 to ç3+ Db6(T), C×ç3(F), Tb1(F), a×b3(C), T×a4(D) and at last Fa3(C) When Ff8 leaved, f8 was controlled since long by Cd7.

So that black King was already in g8 (after 0-0(Ff8)). As h8 is controlled by Cf7 before original Ff8 moved, black King played only one move in the game! Now as black King is restricted the exact number of black moves (25) is known with 2 variations for the original Bf8 : Ff8-c5,d6(C)-é4(P)-é3 for Fç1×é3(T)×é5(D) or Ff8-é7(C)-g6(P)-g5 for Fç1×g5(T)×é5(D)

At the same time, minimal number of white moves can be determined to 26, so white played the last move, and the retroplay is under pressure as white has to make black moves available.

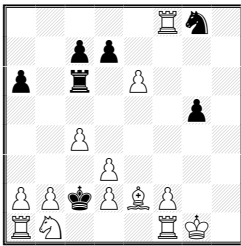
The try F×g5(T)×é5(D) fails :

26.Tg5×Pé5(D) 25.Ff8-a3(C) Ré1-f2 24.é6-é5 f2×é3(C) 23.é4-é3 Fç1×Pg5(T) 22.g5-g6 d2-d4 21.Cé7-g6(P) Dd1-g4(T) 20.é5-é4 Da4-h4(T) 19.???

So the last move is 26.Ré1-f2!!

It happens that time pressure makes all the moves determined until the initial position!! So that the stipulation could also be “Last 25,5 moves?” as well as “Proofgame in 25,5 moves” or simply “Proofgame?” as move number is superfluous.» Comment by Author.

With use of only one (of course well-chosen) fairy condition the author manages to create a truly “retro without words”: You may start with the initial game array and try to play to the diagram position, you will notice that this game is unique with 25.5 moves – or you might retract from the diagram, and you will reach the initial game array just 25.5 moves before with a unique retraction order. The technical clue is that the black King has only moved once (castling); the Knights on d7, f7, and h7 are not only there so that White has many moves and thus the order of White and Black is determined, but also and very importantly so that the black King is immobilised -- because the Einstein condition rule says that kings and non-capturing pawns would ruin everything. (And of course White has 16 pieces as a basic prerequisite for Black never being able to benefit from the Einstein capture upgrade). Clearly number one in this tourney!



### ← 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 5) Dirk Borst

Last move? (13+7)

5Rn1/2pp4/p1r1P3/6p1/2P5/3P4/PPkPBP2/RN3RK1

Zeroposition: a) +♠a5 b) +♞b8 c) ♠g5→h5

Monochromatic

Solutions:

a) 0-0

b) ♠g7x♞f8=♞

c) ♠f5xe6 e.p.

Valladao.

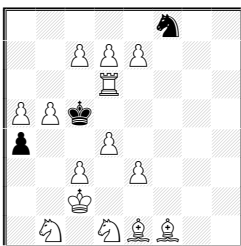
«In all three, Black has no legal last move, so White made the last move in each. White's retraction must enable Black to retract a legal move.

In a) not gxTf8=T? because wTf8 captured Sb8. After f5xe6 e.p.? the bD cannot get back home.

In b) not 0-0? because the wK captured the a-pawn. After f5xe6 e.p.? the bD cannot get back home. In c) not gxTf8=T? because wTf8 captured Sb8. Not 0-0? because the wK captured the a-pawn.» Comment by Author.

Using Monochromatic specifies the author manages to make two of three possible last moves "all being" special moves" forming the Valladao task– cyclically illegal in the three positions. Even the fact that Black has no last move, so White must start the retraction is motivated by the fairy condition used. It was much fun to figure out the detailed intelligent reasoning for the uniqueness of last move in the three positions – but the Zeroposition with quite unbalanced twinning is a drawback.

Sometimes it's not so easy to see that a Monochromatic position is legal, so the authors added three proof games to demonstrate legality.



### ← 1<sup>st</sup> Hon. Mention: 8) Manfred Rittirsch

Last move? - (14+3)

5n2/2PPP3/3R4/PPk5/p2P4/2P1P3/2K5/1N1NBB2

b) ♞d6→d2 c) ♞d6→b4 d) ♞d6→f4 Sentinelles

a) 1.Rd4xSd6[+wPd4] (Sc,e8-d6)

b) 1.Rd4xBd2[+wPd4] (Bc1-d2)

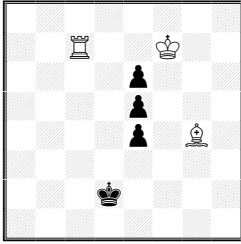
c) 1.Rd4xRb4[+wPd4] (Ra4-b4[+bPa4])

d) 1.Rd4xPf4[+wPd4] (e,f,g(x)f4)

«Large rook cross. 4 different types of uncaptured pieces.»

Comment by Author

Well-linked four solutions (uncapture of different black men on the same square by the “thematic” rook) with optimal “geometric” twinning. And it’s fun to figure out why other uncaptures don’t work. Very elegant, but of course not as deep as the Prize-winners.



← 2<sup>nd</sup> Hon. Mention: 13) Maryan Kerhuel and Jacques Dupin

Last move? - (3+4) b) ♖c7→c5 Make & Take

8/2R2K2/4p3/4p3/4p1B1/8/3k4/8

Double checks by White's rook and bishop.

a)

-1.Bd4×Xg4 illegal (black king in check)

-1.Bd5×Xg4 impossible

-1.Bd6×Ng4++!

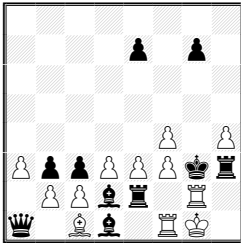
b)

-1.Re3×Xc5 illegal (black king in check)

-1.Rf4×Nc5++!

The question is “how to retract the double check via Rd7 (Rd5) and Bf4?” This is done by uncapturing a Knight (not so surprising due to the e-wall). As to be expected the doublecheck move is performed by the Bishop in one solution and in the other one by the Rook.

Fine twinning, as you might ask “what does it change?”



← Commendation: 3) Paul Raican

Last move? - (12+10)

8/4p1p1/8/8/5P1P/PppPPPkr/1PPbr1R1/q1Bb1RK1

Madrasi

Vertical Cylinder

«Sol: White King is in check from bQa1, then:

-1.Qa2-a1+! (-1.Qa2xSa1? or a2-a1=Q? are both illegal, too many white captures) **O-O-O-O!**

Extended castling, specific for vertical Cylinder (wK is now in e1 and wR in a1).

Thematic try:

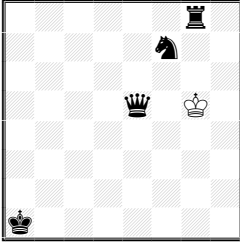
-1 ... O-O-O? and the cage South cannot be released.

-2.Kh2-g3! Now, a possible retro-play is the following:

-2 ...Rg5-g2 -3.a4xBb3! Re5-g5 -4.Rg2-e2. The **cage South** is released by: Rg2>a8, Rh3>h8, Bd1>c8, Qa2>d7>d8, Pa4>a7, Kh2>e8, e2>e3, Re5>h1, Be3xQd2, Be3>g1, d4xSc3, **g2-g1=B!** (bB is promoted because the Pawns e7-g7 are both at home) g3-g2, Pd4>d7, Bb3>f1, g2xSf3>b8, g4-g3, h5xSg4, bBf8 was captured from f8 by a Knight» Comment by Author

The answer to the question “What was the last move?” is extremely obvious, while the main topic of this problem is the penultimate move, the very specific and quite spectacular castling. The subsequent retraction is more or less purely (Madrasi-) technical.





### ← Commendation: 11) Ladislav Packa

Last move? - (1+4)

6r1/5n2/8/4q1K1/8/8/k7

Zeroposition

a) - ♔e5 b) - ♞f7 c) - ♖g8

Anticirce

a) - Qe5 1.Sh8-f7+ 1.Rb8-g8+

b) - Sf7 1.Rd8-g8+, 1.Qh8-e5+

c) - Rg8 1.Qb8-e5+, 1.Sd8-f7+

Black officers cycle. Cycle of departing squares.

Here the Zeroposition does not disturb: Removing one of the three black men results in a double check position which is resolved by mutual blocking of the Anticirce rebirth square automatically resulting in a cycle of departing squares. Very elegant, very easy to solve, an ideal Anticirce retro merchandizing problem.

Bornheim (Germany), December 2023

**Thomas Brand**

International Judge of the FIDE

I miei più sinceri ringraziamenti a Thomas Brand per il suo qualificato verdetto, il quale diverrà definitivo passati 3 mesi dalla pubblicazione. Eventuali reclami vanno inviati al Direttore del Concorso: Antonio Garofalo, E-mail: [perseus@bestproblems.it](mailto:perseus@bestproblems.it)

*[My most sincere thanks to Thomas Brand for his qualified award, which will become definitive 3 months after publication. Possible claims must be sent to the Director of the Competition: Antonio Garofalo, E-mail: [perseus@bestproblems.it](mailto:perseus@bestproblems.it).]*

**NUTS (48)** di Mr. Veneziano  
[mr.veneziano@yahoo.com](mailto:mr.veneziano@yahoo.com)

## Esame d'ammissione

Dal 1° marzo di quest'anno la FIDE ha apportato alcuni correttivi al rating per calcolare la forza dei giocatori, il noto sistema Elo, dal nome del fisico statunitense di origine ungherese che lo ideò. La novità più consistente è l'innalzamento della soglia minima da 1000 a 1400 punti e il conseguente incremento per tutti i giocatori sotto l'indice 2000 attraverso la formula:

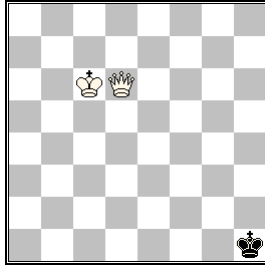
$$2000 - \text{rating} \times 0.4 = \text{incremento.}$$

Ad un presente iper-digitalizzato, caratterizzato da cavillose misurazioni in centesimi e millesimi, si contrappone un passato sicuramente più dozzinale, avvolto tuttavia da un allettante afflato romantico.

*"In Unione Sovietica avevamo due corsi differenziati di due ore a settimana sulla teoria - ricorda il GM Iosif Dorfman - e alla Domenica si giocavano tornei chiusi con 10 o 12 giocatori, separati per ogni categoria. Gli open non esistevano. Dovevi fare una prima norma e poi una seconda per passare alla categoria successiva, da quella principianti, alla 5ª, via via su fino alla 1ª categoria, che oggi varrebbe circa 2000 punti Elo. Potevi poi ambire al titolo di Candidato Maestro (circa 2200 odierni) e poi a Maestro (2400 o più)".*

Questa era la cosiddetta piramide sovietica che ogni ambizioso scacchista si proponeva di scalare! Una storiella che girava nei circoli scacchistici fino a qualche anno fa, raccontava che ogni alunno della scuola sovietica dovesse dimostrare di conoscere l'esatta risposta al quesito in diagramma, prima di poter accedere al torneo per principianti, una sorta di esame d'ammissione...

### DIAGRAMMA

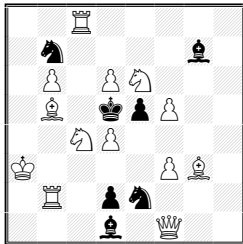


Può il Bianco, senza muovere il ♔c6, dare matto al ♚ del Nero?  
 [ Can White, without moving the ♔c6, give checkmate to the Black king? ]

Invitiamo i gentili lettori a sottoporsi all'esame, rinviandoli al prossimo numero di *Best Problems* per la soluzione!

Mr. Veneziano

## Affermazioni italiane (Italian award winners)



← **Marco Guida** - Prize, G. Mosiashvili-75 JT, *Kudesnik* 2023  
 2V5/1j4s1/1P1PJ3/1S1kpP2/2JP4/K4PS1/1V1pj3/3s1D2

≠2 (13+7) C+

1...e~ 2.♙c6♠ **A** but 1...♗xd4! **a**

1...e5~ 2.Cc7♠ **B** but 1...exd4! **b**

1.♙f2? ♙f2? (Cc7♠ C) but 1...♗xd4 **a**, exd4 **b**!

1.♙b4? [2.♙c6♠] **A**

1...♗xd4 **a** 2.Cc7♠ **C** 1...♗a5 2.♙c5♠ 1...♗d8 2.♙c5♠ but 1...♙a4!

1.♙c6? [2.♗e3♠] **B** 1...exd4 **b** 2.♗c7♠ **C** 1...♙h6!

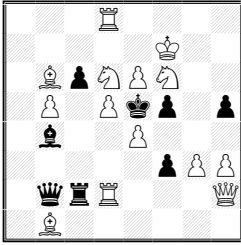
1.♙xd2! [2.♗c7♠] **C** 1...♗xd4 **a** 2.♙c6♠ **A** 1...exd4 **b** 2.♗e3♠ **B**

### Thematic Highlights

- 2x Le Grand (Try2-Solution: AaC-CaA; Try3-Solution: BbC-CbB)
- 2x Dombrovskis, Inverted Form (Setplay-Solution: Aa!/Bb!- aA/bB)
- 2x Dombrovskis using double-refutation (Try1-Try2-Try3: Ca!b!-aC-bC)
- Rukhlis distributed across 4 phases (Setplay-Try2-Try3-Solution)
  - 2x Transfer of Mate (A/B): Setplay (x/y-A/B); Solution (a/b-A/B)
  - 2x Change of Mate over three phases re. defenses a/b: Try2 (a-C), Try3 (b-C);

### Solution (a/b-A/B)

- 2x Kharkov theme (Try1-Try2-Solution: a!- aC- aA; Try1-Try3-Solution: b!-bC-bB).
- **NOTE:** Bpd2 added to avoid a spurious Try that would make the mechanism less precise and content less clear (partial duplication of Try1, with the same threat but only one refutation: 1. ♙xd1? (2. ♗c7 (C)#), ♗xd4 (a)!)



← **Marco Guida** - Prize G. Mosiashvili-75 JT, *Kudesnik* 2023  
3V4/5K2/1SpJPJ2/1P1Pkp1p/1s2P3/5pPP/1dvV3D/1S6

≠2 (14+8) C+

1. ♖c7? C [2. ♘c4 A, ♘d7≠ B]

1... ♗xd2 a 2. ♘xf5≠ D

1... ♗xd6 2. ♗xd6≠ but 1... ♗xd2! b

1. ♗e3? [2. ♗f4≠] 1

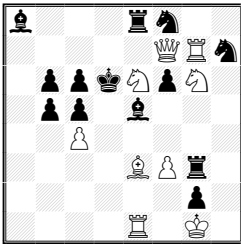
... ♗xd2 b 2. ♘c4≠ A but 1... ♗xd2! a

1. ♘xf5! D [2.g4≠ (NOT 2. ♘d7? B)]

1... ♗xd2 a 2. ♗c7≠ C 1... ♗xd2 b 2. ♘d7≠ B

**Thematic Highlights:**

- 2x Dombrovskis (Try 1: Ab - Try 2: bA; Try 1: Bb; Solution: bB)
- Key-Mate Reversal (Try 1: CaD; Solution: DaC)
- Pseudo-Erokhin (Try1: BaD; Solution: DbB)
- Threat Correction in Solution (a generic move of ♘d6 would make apparently possible 2. ♘d7 B, but this will not be possible since it will remove control on square e4; the key corrects by introducing a new threat). The non-threatened mate returns as variation mate in Solution.
  - It is interesting to see that thematic defences in the Tries defend indirectly by eliminating the control of Rd2 on square d4, while in the Solution they defend directly against the threat.
- Interchange of defences and refutations (Try 1: ab!; Try 2: ba!)
- 2x Change of mates after thematic defences



← **Marco Guida** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Mario Guido Garcia 75JT, 2023  
s3vj2/5DVj/1ppkJP1/1pp1s3/2P5/4SPv1/6p1/4V1K1

≠2 (9+13) C+

1... ♗f4 a 2. ♗xf4≠ A, ♗d1≠ B

1. ♗f4? A [2. ♗d1≠ B]

1... ♗xf4 a 2. ♗c7≠ C

1... ♘xe6 2. ♗d7≠ but 1... ♗xf3!

1. ♘gf4? [2. ♗c7≠ C]

1... ♗xf4 a 2. ♗xf4≠ A (NOT 2. ♗d1? B)

1... ♗c8/♗e7 2. ♗(x)e7≠

1... ♘d7/♘xe6 2. ♗(x)d7≠ but 1... ♗xg7!

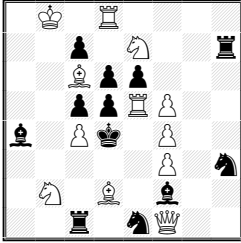
1. ♘ef4! [2. ♗c7≠ C]

1... ♗xf4 a 2. ♗d1≠ B (NOT 2. ♗xf4? A)

1... ♗c8/♗e7 2. ♗(x)e7≠ 1... ♘d7/♘e6 2. ♗(x)d7≠

**Thematic Highlights:**

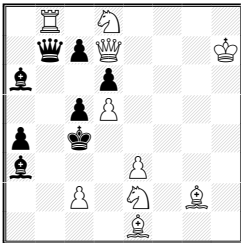
- Makihovi
- Dyatchuk combination: Erokhin (Try1-Try2: AaC-CaA) + Le Grand (Try1-Solution: BaC-CaB)
- Dual-avoidance
- All Keys on the same square
- All refutations by the same ♗g3



← **Marco Guida** - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, *The Macedonian Problemist League 2023*  
 1K1R4/2p1N2r/2Bpp3/2ppRP2/b1Pk1P2/5P1n/1N1B1b2/2r1nQ2  
 ≠2 (12+12) C+  
 1. ♖xd5? [2. ♜e4≠]  
 1...dxe5 a 2. ♗e7≠ A 1...♙c2 b 2. ♙c3≠ B  
 1...exd5 2. ♜xd5≠ 1...♗g5 2. ♜xf2≠ 1...♗xf3 2. ♜d3≠ but 1...exf5!  
 1.cxd5? [2. ♜e4≠]  
 1...dxe5 a 2.dxe6≠ C 1...♙c2 b 2. ♜c4≠ D 1...exf5 2. ♗xf5≠  
 1...exd5 2. ♜xd5≠ 1...♗g5 2. ♜xf2≠ 1...♗xf3 2. ♜d3≠ but 1...c4!  
 1. ♙xd5! [2. ♜e4≠]  
 1...dxe5 a 2. ♙c6≠ E 1...♙c2 b 2. ♗c6≠ F  
 1...exf5 2. ♗xf5≠ 1...exd5 2. ♜xd5≠ 1...♗g5 2. ♜xf2≠

**Thematic Highlights**

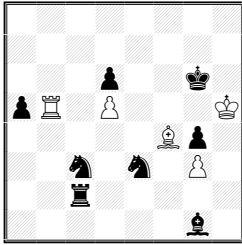
- Zagoruiko 3x2 with 3 Masked Battery variations.
- A novelty, whereby all three thematic mates following 1...dxe5 (a) are masked battery mates. Usually in Zagoruiko with masked battery mates the pattern is Set/Try/Solution, with, e.g., the set mate after 1...dxe5 (a) would be 2. ♜xd5, and only 2 thematic mates are masked battery mates (respectively in Try and Solution).



← **Marco Guida** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, *The Macedonian Problemist League 2023*  
 1R1N4/1qpQ3K/b2p4/2pP4/p1k5/b3P3/2P1N1B1/4B3  
 ≠2 (10+8) C+  
 1. ♗f4? B [2. ♙f1≠ A] 1...♜xd5 x 2. ♙xd5≠ but 1...♜b3! y  
 1. ♗c3? C [2. ♜g4≠, NOT 2. ♙f1≠ A]  
 1...♜c8 z 2. ♙f1≠ A  
 1...♜xd5 x 2. ♙xd5≠ (NOT 2. ♙f1? A)  
 1...♙b4 2. ♜xa4≠ but 1...c6!  
 1. ♙f1! A [2. ♗f4≠ B]  
 1...♜b3 y 2. ♗c3≠ C  
 1...♜xd5 x 2. ♗d4≠ D  
 1...♙xd5 2. ♜e6≠

**Thematic Highlights**

- “Extended” Urania, is a **Novelty**: the same white move ♙f1 (A) acts not only as Key (Solution), Threat (Try1) and Mate (Try2), but also as:
- Non-Threat (dual-threat avoidance) in Try2: the Key controls d5 and opens the line for ♙g2, therefore in principle allowing 2. ♙f1 (A), but it also closes the line of ♙e1 giving a flight to b4 to black King;
- Non-Mate (dual avoidance): the defence 1...♜xd5 (x) open the line of ♜b8 to square b4, therefore in principle allowing 2. ♙f1≠ (A), but at the same time it controls the mating line.
- Key-Threat Reversal (Try1-Solution) ; Pseudo-Salazar (Try2- Sol.: CzA-AyC)
- White Correction and Threat Correction,
- Battery Play in Solution across the threat and 2 variation mates
- Change of Mate after 1...♜xd5 (x)
- Flight-giving keys in Try2 and Solution, with different mates after King’s flight



← **Valerio Agostini & Antonio Garofalo**

Commendation, *Variantim* 2021

8/8/3p2k1/pR1P3K/5Bp1/2n1n1P1/2r5/6b1

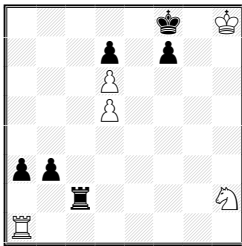
H≠2 (5+8) C+ - Ultra Patrol, (Ultra-Patrouille)

1. ♖exd5 ♙e5 2. ♖c7 (♘b6?) ♙xc3‡

1. ♖cxd5 ♙g5 2. ♖b6 (♘c7?) ♙xe3‡

[**Ultra-Patrol Chess:** A piece can move, capture or give check only if it is observed by a piece of its own side.]

*The activation of the white king as a mate piece requires the opening of the white rook line. This demands precise interplay between the black knights and the white bishop. (Judge Sven Trommler)*



← **Daniele Gatti** - Special Hon. Mention, *Chess Study Art* (2023)

5k1K/3p1p2/3P4/3P4/8/pp6/2r4N/R7

Draw = (5+6)

[English notation]

**Try:** 1. Sf3?

but 1. ... a2! 2. Rg1 Rg2! 3. Rxc2 a1=Q+ [-+]

**Solution:**

The rooks are going to the g-file soon that's why the knight should close it. 1. Sg4!

**First Main Line**

1...Rc3 2. Sf6 Rh3+ 3. Sh7+ Rxh7+ 4. Kxh7 b2 5. Rg1 (5. Rb1? Ke8! 6. Kg7 Kd8! 7. Kxf7 Kc8! 8. Ke7 a2! 9. Rxb2 a1=Q)

With two variations:

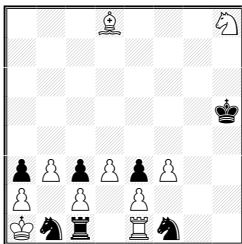
The f-pawn is a switch between two draws: 5. ... f5 6. Kg6 (6. Rg8+? Kf7 7. Rg7 Kf6 8. Rg6+ Ke5 [-+]) a2 7. Rh1 Kg8 8. Re1 Kf8 9. Rh1 Kg8 10. Re1 (= repetition of position)

5. ... f6 6. Rg8+ (6. Kg6? a2! 7. Rh1 b1=Q+ [-+]) Kf7 7. Rg7+ Ke8 8. Rg8+ Kf7 9. Rg7+ Ke8 10. Rg8+ (= perpetual check)

**Second Main Line**

1. ... a2 2. Rg1! Rg2 (now the white rook can leave the g-file) 3. Rc1 Rc2 4. Rg1 Rg2 5. Rc1 f5 6. Sh6 Rg8+ 7. Kh7 Rg7+ 8. Kh8 Rg8+ 9. Kh7 Rg7+ perpetual check to the white king. (Author)

*Each main line has two positional draws. They all are simple but the construction is great, each pawn is involved. Maybe that's the reason why at some moments I like this study more, but then I look at the draws and I like it less. This explains its special distinction. (Judge: Serhiy Didukh)*



← **Daniele Gatti** - 4<sup>th</sup> Hon. Mention, Unto Heinonen MT 2023.

3B3N/8/8/7k/8/pPpPpP2/P1P1P3/Knr1Rn2

sd≠7 (10+7) C+ Anticircue

1. ♖d1 2. ♗xb1(♙e1) 3. ♗xc1(♖a1) 4.0-0-0 5. ♖e1 6. ♗d1 7. ♗xf1(♖h1)≠

Comment by Author: "Serie-directmate in 7. (C+ - Tested with Popeye v4.55). - English notation.

*Solution:* 1.Rd1! 2.Kxb1 (>e1) 3.Rxc1 (>a1) King and Rook switched places, so now:4.0-0-0! 5.Re1!

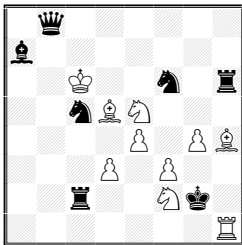
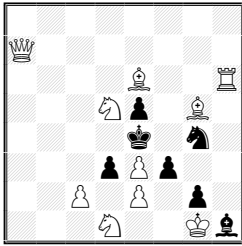
*First Try:* 5.Rxf1 (> h1)+ ? ... but Kg5! [Refutes], White Kings occupies the Bishop rebirth square!

*Second Try: 5.Kb1 6.Rxf1 (> h1)+ ? ... but Kg6!! [Refutes], White Kings occupies the Knight rebirth square!*

*Third Try: 5.Kb1 6.Ka1 7.Rxf1 (> h1)+ ? ... but Kh6!!! [Refutes], White Kings occupies the Rook rebirth square!*

*6. Kd1! White Kings occupies the Queen rebirth square, but the Queen is missing from the board, so it's the only safe place. And now is possible: 7.Rxf1 (>h1)≠"*

• Comment by Judge Hans Gruber: «After a funny (and violent) introduction in which king and rook switch places so that White can castle, a critical position is created. White intends to mate by Rxf1 [Rh1] but has to take care that the white king does not block a rebirth square of a white piece such that the black king is granted a flight. The only safe place is the queen's rebirth square d1, as the thematic tries show: 5.Rxf1 [Rh1]+? Kg5! (block of the bishop's rebirth square), 5.Kb1? 6.Rxf1 [Rh1]+? Kg6! (block of the knight's rebirth square), 5.Kb1? 6.Ka1 7.Rxf1 [Rh1]+? Kh6! (block of the rook's rebirth square). An excellent idea, but the construction with so many pawns is clumsy. The problem is sound both with the Calvet and the Cheylan type of Anticirce.»



### ← Daniele Gatti, Mario Parrinello, Marco Guida, Francesco

**Simoni** - Commendation, Csak-Majoros-Pasztor 2023

8/Q7/4B2R/3Np1B1/4k1n1/3pPp2/2P1P1p1/3N2Kb

S≠7 (10+7) C+ (Tested with Gustav 4.2a with Brute Force)

Comment by Authors: "Try: 1.Sf2+? but 1...Sxf2! 2.exd3+ Sxd3 3.Qa4+ Sb4 and not possible Queen sacrifice in d5.

Solution: 1.Sf6+! 1...Sxf6 2.Qb7+ (2.Qa8+? Sd5 3.Qa4+ Sb4 4.exd3! Knight is pinned) 2...Sd5 3.Qb4+ Sxb4 4.exd3+ (4.cxd3+? Sxd3 5.Sf2+ Sxf2 6.Rh4+ Sg4 7.Bh6 fxe2! And no mate) 4...Sxd3 5.Sf2+ Sxf2 6.Rh4+ Sg4 7.Bh6 [zugzwang] ... f2≠"

### ← Francesco Simoni - 1<sup>st</sup> Commendation, 7<sup>o</sup> FRME 2021

1q6/b7/2K2n1r/2nBN3/4P1PB/3P1P2/2r2Nk1/7R

H≠2 (10+7) C+

1. ♖xd3+ ♜c4 2. ♖c5 ♜f1‡

1. ♖xg4+ ♜e6 2. ♖f6 ♜h3‡

1. ♖fxe4+ ♖g6 (♖c4?) 2. ♖d6 ♖f4‡

1. ♖cxe4+ ♖c4 (♖g6?) 2. ♖c5 ♖e3‡

• Battery check (B1) x 4

• Annihilation (B1) x 4

• Direct white self-pin (W1) x 4

• Reciprocal Dual Avoidance for check (W1)

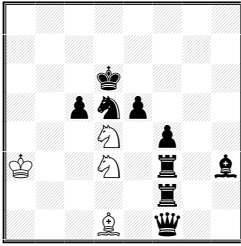
• Indirect white unpin (B2) x 4

• Bi-valve (bS-wB-bR) x 4

• Switchback (bS) x 3

• Exchange of functions (wSe5/wBd5, Passive guard / Mate) x 2.

Comment by Author: "Annichilazioni di pedoni bianchi per aprire le linee dell'Alfiere, che matta o controlla una casa, liberando da quel compito un altro pezzo bianco. Il giudice ha considerato un difetto l'assenza dello Switchback nella sol. 1. ♖fxe4. In realtà si era voluto che il cavallo nero giocasse in una casa differente."



← **Francesco Simoni** - 1<sup>st</sup> Comendation e.a. 7° FRME 2021  
8/8/3k4/2pnp3/3N1p2/K2N1r1b/5r2/3B1q2

H≠3 (4+9) C+

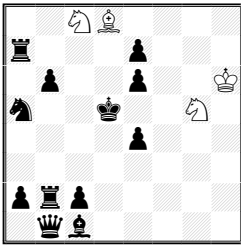
1. ♖e3 ♙g4 (♙a4?) 2. ♚ee2 ♜b4 3. ♞e7 ♞b5‡

1. ♖g3 ♙a4 (♙g4?) 2. ♚g4 ♜xf4 3. ♞c7 ♞f5‡

Comment by Author: "Schiodatura diretta bianca preceduta dal movimento del pezzo nero inchiodante sulla linea di inchiodatura. La mossa di schiodatura è precisata da un'interferenza nera. Antiduale per interferenza bianca."

«A pinning unit moves in B1 along the pin line, so that it can abandon the line in B2 to direct unpin. B2 is specified by the need to interfere a black piece. W1 guards two cross flights, with reciprocal dual avoidance for white interference in mates. The unpinned unit moves in W2 to guard the other two cross flights. Model mates.»

(Comment by Judge Christopher Jones)



← **Francesco Simoni** - 1<sup>st</sup> Comendation e.a. 7° FRME 2021  
2NB4/r3p3/1p2p2K/n2k2N1/4p3/8/prp5/1qb5

H≠3 (4+12) C+

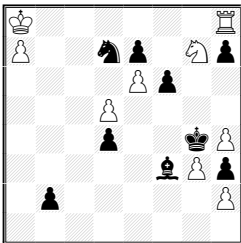
1. ♙d2 ♙xe7 (♙xb6?) 2. ♙b4 ♜f3 3. ♞c6 ♞xb6‡

1. ♙f4 ♙xb6 (♙xe7?) 2. ♙c7 ♜f7 3. ♞c4 ♞xe7‡

Comment by Author: "Schiodatura diretta bianca preceduta dal movimento del pezzo nero inchiodante sulla linea di inchiodatura. La mossa di schiodatura è precisata da un'interferenza nera. Antiduale per occupazione preventiva di una delle due case a disposizione del pezzo mattante."

«A pinning unit moves in B1 along the pin line, so that it can abandon the line in B2 to direct unpin. B2 is specified by the need to interfere a black piece. W1 guards two cross flights, with reciprocal dual avoidance for the block of the mating squares. The unpinned unit moves in W2 to guard the other two cross flights. Model mates.»

(Comment by Judge Christopher Jones)



← **Alberto Armeni** - Commendation, Variantim 2021  
K6R/P2np1Np/4Pp2/3P4/3p2kP/5bPp/1p5P/8

hs≠3,5 (9+9) C+

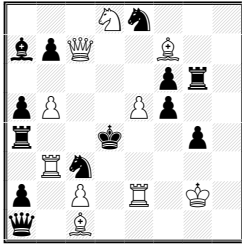
1...b1=♚ 2. ♚xh7 ♚b5 3. ♚h6 ♚xd5 4. ♚g6+ ♚g5‡

1...b1=♞ 2. ♚f8 ♞c3 3. ♚xf6 ♞xd5 4. ♚f4+ ♞xf4‡

The underpromoted black piece moves to d5 to allow battery mate. (Judge Sven Trommler)



# Ricostruzione



← **György Bakcsi** - Ricostruzione 98, BP109

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - T.T. Fédération Hongroise des Echecs 1970

3Nn3/bpQ2B2/5pr1/pP2Pp2/r2k2p1/1Rn5/p1P1R1K1/q1B5

≠2 (10+13) C+ [Winchloe ID 901095]

1... ♖xb5 2. ♜d3‡ 1... ♜c4 2. ♜xc4‡ 1... fxe5 2. ♚xe5‡

1. ♚xb7! [2. ♚xa7‡]

1... ♖xb5 2. ♚xd5‡ 1... ♜c4 2. ♖e6‡ 1... fxe5 2. ♜e3‡

1... ♜c5 2. ♖c6‡ 1... ♜b6, ♜b8 2. ♚(x)b6‡

1... ♖xe2 2. ♚(x)d5‡ 1... ♖e4 2. ♚(x)d5‡ 1... ♖d5 2. ♚(x)d5‡

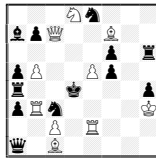
**Predrag Zuvic**



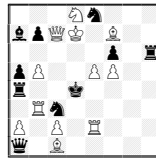
**José Luis Velasco**



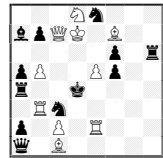
**Miguel Uris**



**José Antonio  
Coello Alonso**



**Valeriu Giurgean**



Benvenuti (welcome) a José Luis Velasco per la sua prima partecipazione a questa rubrica e bentornato invece (welcome back) a Valeriu Giurgean. Le ricostruzioni sono tutte buone. C'è una curiosità: nei primi 4 diagrammi il ♚ bianco è stato posto in 4 case diverse, h8, a1, h3, d7; solo Valeriu ha ripetuto la casa d7. Ciò ha comportato una diversa quantità di pezzi, rispettivamente: 10+13, 10+11, 10+13, 12+10, 10+12. Quindi il più "bravo" in economia è stato il nuovo arrivo, José Luis. Però questo gli è costato una chiave di cattura di un ♜ nero. Egli ha anche risparmiato la ♚a1 nera. Ma sembra che non si possa fare a meno di questa Regina.

**Ricostruzione n. 99** - Ricostruire un problema ≠2 che abbia la seguente soluzione:

1. ♚d7! [2. ♚h7‡]

1... ♖d2 2. ♜c3‡ 1... ♖d4 2. ♖c1‡ 1... ♖c5 2. ♚xd6‡ 1... ♜xc6 2. ♜xc6‡

1... ♚d4 2. ♖f4‡ 1... e5 2. ♜d5‡ 1... hxg2+ 2. ♜xg2‡

Inviare (send to): [perseus@bestproblems.it](mailto:perseus@bestproblems.it)

(last available day for to send: 10/06/2024)

**A. Garofalo**

## Contents

Inediti (Originals) . . . . .	p.	700
Note agli inediti (Fairy elements) . . . . .	p.	703
Soluzioni BP110 (Solutions BP110) . . . . .	p.	704
Award Marco Bonavoglia Memorial Tourney by <i>Thomas Brand</i> . . . . .	p.	711
Nuts (48) by <i>Mr. Veneziano</i> . . . . .	p.	715
Affermazioni italiane (Italian award winners) , , , , , . . . . .	p.	716
Ricostruzione n.98/99 by <i>Antonio Garofalo</i> . . . . .	p.	722
Attachment: Knight tour on 110 cell board by <i>Awani Kumar</i> . . . . .	p.	723



# Knight tour on 110 cell board

by Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

*Best Problems* has come out with its 110<sup>th</sup> issue and let's celebrate and commemorate this glorious achievement with interesting knight tours on 10x11 and 2x5x11 (=110) cell board. Figure 1 and Figure 2 are semi magic knight tours on 10x11 board. Sum of all the columns is 555. The two figures are almost identical – only the four digits, namely, 46, 47, 80 and 81 interchange places. Such 'twin tours' are very rare. Figure 3 has the numbers in multiples of 11 along the central row. Figure 4 has the consecutive square numbers 1<sup>2</sup>, 2<sup>2</sup>, 3<sup>2</sup>...10<sup>2</sup>, that is, 1, 4, 9... 100 along the central row. Figure 5 and Figure 6 have the consecutive square numbers along wazir and knight paths respectively.

97	16	93	12	91	10	101	8	<b>1</b>	108	105	642
94	13	96	19	100	21	90	109	106	7	4	659
17	98	15	92	11	102	9	2	5	104	107	562
14	95	18	99	20	89	22	103	<b>110</b>	3	6	579
33	84	75	86	31	24	73	88	67	58	69	688
76	29	32	25	74	87	66	23	70	41	56	579
83	34	85	30	65	72	49	40	57	68	59	642
28	77	26	<u>47</u>	<u>80</u>	39	62	71	42	55	52	579
35	82	79	<u>64</u>	<u>37</u>	48	45	50	53	60	43	596
78	27	36	<u>81</u>	<u>46</u>	63	38	61	44	51	54	579
555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555

97	16	93	12	91	10	101	8	<b>1</b>	108	105	642
94	13	96	19	100	21	90	109	106	7	4	659
17	98	15	92	11	102	9	2	5	104	107	562
14	95	18	99	20	89	22	103	<b>110</b>	3	6	579
33	84	75	86	31	24	73	88	67	58	69	688
76	29	32	25	74	87	66	23	70	41	56	579
83	34	85	30	65	72	49	40	57	68	59	642
28	77	26	<u>81</u>	<u>46</u>	39	62	71	42	55	52	579
35	82	79	<u>64</u>	<u>37</u>	48	45	50	53	60	43	596
78	27	36	<u>47</u>	<u>80</u>	63	38	61	44	51	54	579
555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555

1.

36	17	14	105	58	103	96	107	94	91
13	20	37	18	15	106	59	92	97	108
38	35	16	57	104	41	102	95	90	93
21	12	19	40	43	64	89	60	109	98
34	39	56	65	76	101	42	63	78	61
<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>110</b>
32	45	24	47	68	75	100	79	62	87
23	10	69	54	25	48	67	74	<b>1</b>	80
28	31	46	7	70	51	72	81	86	83
9	6	29	26	53	4	49	84	73	2
30	27	8	5	50	71	52	3	82	85

3.

32	23	94	27	30	21	96	11	6	19
93	28	31	22	95	2	5	20	97	12
38	33	24	29	26	15	10	3	18	7
51	92	37	40	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	17	8	13	98
34	39	50	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	14	99	106	103
91	52	41	<b>36</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>	105	102	77	72
42	35	80	<b>49</b>	<b>64</b>	83	78	73	104	107
53	90	63	82	79	68	101	108	71	76
46	43	48	87	84	65	74	69	58	109
89	54	45	62	67	56	85	60	75	70
44	47	88	55	86	61	66	57	110	59

5.

2.

40	19	22	45	110	43	108	103	70	73
21	6	39	42	67	46	69	72	77	102
18	41	20	23	44	109	104	107	74	71
5	38	7	66	105	68	47	76	101	78
8	17	24	37	48	65	106	79	88	75
<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>
10	15	26	3	50	63	80	87	92	89
27	2	51	62	35	86	93	90	99	82
14	11	32	29	52	61	98	57	94	81
31	28	13	34	85	54	59	96	83	56
12	33	30	53	60	97	84	55	58	95

4.

20	11	6	27	22	39	46	43	94	41
7	28	21	38	5	50	93	40	47	44
12	19	10	51	26	23	48	45	42	95
29	8	37	24	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>	99	92	107	110
18	13	52	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	108	3	96	91
53	30	17	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	79	98	109	106
14	73	58	<b>81</b>	<b>16</b>	101	2	65	90	97
31	54	15	74	35	80	63	78	105	86
72	59	82	57	62	75	102	87	66	89
55	32	61	70	83	34	77	68	85	104
60	71	56	33	76	69	84	103	88	67

6.

Figure 7 has the square numbers in wazir circuit. Figure 8 to Figure 10 have the square numbers in knight, giraffe {1,4} and penguin {1,6} path respectively. Figure 11 to Figure 15 have the square numbers in zigzag path of knight, zebra {2,3}, antelope {3,4}, {3,6}-leaper and rector {4,5} respectively. Figure 16 to Figure 18 is closed tour with the square numbers in zebra, giraffe and korsch {2,5} circuit respectively.

28	7	14	21	30	39	52	23	32	41
13	20	29	8	15	22	31	40	53	56
6	27	12	3	38	51	24	55	42	33
19	88	5	26	9	16	37	62	57	54
86	11	2	17	4	25	50	59	34	43
89	18	87	10	1	36	63	72	61	58
94	85	90	105	100	49	60	35	44	71
91	106	93	110	81	64	101	70	73	66
84	95	104	99	48	69	80	65	76	45
107	92	97	82	109	102	47	78	67	74
96	83	108	103	98	79	68	75	46	77

7.

31	28	21	52	55	88	23	84	57	86
20	53	32	29	22	83	56	87	90	47
27	30	51	54	33	24	89	46	85	58
8	19	26	43	50	45	82	59	48	91
1	42	9	18	25	34	49	92	81	72
10	7	2	35	44	17	80	71	60	65
41	4	95	16	79	36	93	64	73	100
110	11	6	3	94	15	70	99	68	61
5	40	107	96	37	78	63	76	101	74
12	109	38	105	14	69	98	103	62	67
39	106	13	108	97	104	77	68	75	102

8.

32	27	30	51	96	79	88	83	94	77
29	52	33	26	89	84	95	78	87	82
10	31	28	53	50	97	80	75	76	93
1	54	9	34	25	90	49	110	81	86
8	11	24	55	58	61	98	75	92	109
23	2	57	60	35	48	91	108	63	74
12	7	22	3	56	59	62	99	106	65
21	4	43	16	47	36	107	64	73	100
42	13	6	19	44	39	70	103	66	105
5	20	15	40	17	46	37	68	101	72
14	41	18	45	38	69	102	71	104	67

9.

8	23	26	47	50	89	80	87	78	91
1	20	9	22	25	46	49	90	81	86
10	7	24	27	48	51	88	79	92	77
19	2	21	52	45	28	93	72	85	82
6	11	18	29	94	71	98	83	76	73
3	30	5	44	53	102	105	74	99	84
12	17	54	95	104	97	70	101	106	75
31	4	43	16	55	36	103	64	69	100
42	13	40	35	96	63	66	109	60	107
39	32	15	56	37	34	61	58	65	68
14	41	38	33	62	57	110	67	108	59

10.

7	14	3	12	5	34	39	30	61	32
2	11	6	15	18	43	62	33	40	29
23	8	13	4	35	38	17	42	31	60
10	1	22	19	16	63	44	37	28	41
21	24	9	48	45	36	27	54	59	56
110	47	20	25	82	101	64	57	66	53
89	84	103	46	49	26	51	100	55	58
104	109	88	83	102	81	72	65	52	67
85	90	107	80	71	50	69	76	99	96
108	105	92	87	78	73	94	97	68	75
91	86	79	106	93	70	77	74	95	98

11.

19	6	3	12	15	110	97	106	95	92
2	11	18	7	4	13	90	93	98	105
23	20	5	14	109	16	107	96	91	94
10	1	22	17	8	89	36	67	104	99
21	24	9	50	37	108	87	64	35	68
52	47	38	25	88	75	66	69	100	103
39	26	51	82	49	86	63	102	65	34
46	53	48	85	76	81	74	61	70	101
27	40	83	56	43	62	77	80	33	60
54	45	42	29	84	73	58	31	78	71
41	28	55	44	57	30	79	72	59	32

12.

6	11	20	15	4	37	66	41	62	39
21	2	5	12	19	16	61	38	65	42
10	7	18	3	14	67	36	105	40	63
1	22	13	8	17	60	99	64	43	106
26	9	48	109	68	35	104	107	100	97
23	50	25	82	47	108	59	98	103	44
84	27	110	49	34	69	46	73	96	101
51	24	83	88	81	58	77	102	45	72
28	85	30	33	78	91	70	57	74	95
31	52	87	80	89	54	93	76	71	56
86	29	32	53	92	79	90	55	94	75

13.

91	22	29	8	1	24	27	10	51	74
30	7	92	23	28	9	86	75	26	11
93	90	31	2	85	76	25	52	73	50
20	31	6	89	58	87	82	49	12	53
5	94	3	84	77	60	57	54	81	72
32	19	96	59	88	83	80	13	48	55
95	4	37	78	15	98	61	56	71	110
18	33	16	97	62	79	14	47	106	67
41	38	63	36	101	44	99	68	109	70
34	17	40	43	64	103	46	107	66	105
39	42	35	102	45	100	65	104	69	108

14.

89	92	97	82	29	84	77	80	27	108
98	31	90	85	96	81	28	109	50	79
91	88	93	80	83	76	49	78	107	26
32	99	86	23	74	95	104	25	110	51
87	22	63	94	71	24	75	48	9	106
100	33	20	73	68	103	70	105	52	1
21	64	101	62	15	72	67	8	47	10
34	19	36	65	102	69	14	53	2	7
37	58	39	16	61	66	3	44	11	46
18	35	56	59	4	41	54	13	6	43
57	38	17	40	55	60	5	42	45	12

15.

4	19	6	11	22	33	16	13	24	27
7	10	3	20	17	12	23	26	31	14
2	5	18	9	34	21	32	15	28	25
41	8	1	98	39	76	35	30	37	52
106	99	40	87	108	97	38	51	74	29
85	42	107	110	77	88	75	36	53	56
100	105	86	67	90	109	96	55	50	73
43	84	91	104	95	78	89	72	57	54
92	101	66	81	68	63	70	47	60	29
83	44	103	94	65	46	79	62	71	58
102	93	82	45	80	69	64	59	48	61

16.

1	98	3	90	109	84	5	88	9	12
96	91	110	79	4	89	10	13	6	87
99	2	97	108	83	72	85	8	11	14
92	95	78	71	80	61	82	15	86	7
65	100	103	94	107	70	73	60	27	15
102	93	66	77	62	81	106	69	74	59
51	64	101	104	67	76	57	28	17	26
54	39	52	63	56	105	68	75	58	29
47	50	55	40	43	22	35	32	25	18
38	53	48	45	36	41	20	23	30	33
49	46	37	42	21	44	31	34	19	24

17.

45	50	47	92	43	24	101	20	41	22
48	93	44	71	100	103	42	23	26	19
51	46	49	96	91	72	25	102	21	40
94	97	52	99	70	65	104	73	18	27
53	4	95	90	67	2	69	64	39	74
82	89	98	3	110	105	66	75	28	17
5	54	81	84	79	68	1	38	63	76
88	83	6	55	36	109	106	77	16	29
7	56	35	80	85	78	37	108	13	62
34	87	58	9	32	107	60	11	30	15
57	8	33	86	59	10	31	14	61	12

18.

Figure 19 and Figure 20 are closed tours with square numbers in {3,6} leaper circuit and rector circuit respectively. Figure 21 has the multiples of 14 on the knight wheel round the initial cell. Magic squares have always been fascinating. Figure 22 has the first nine even numbers forming 3x3 magic square. Figure 23 has the first sixteen even numbers forming 4x4 magic square. Figure 24 has the multiples of 10 arranged in triangular shapes.

41	18	55	14	43	20	57	12	45	10
54	1	42	19	56	13	44	9	22	59
17	40	15	110	93	50	21	58	11	46
78	53	2	51	76	109	8	95	60	23
39	16	77	92	49	94	75	100	47	96
82	79	52	3	108	101	48	7	24	61
69	38	83	80	91	74	99	102	97	26
84	81	68	73	4	107	6	25	62	103
37	70	87	90	67	34	65	98	27	30
88	85	72	35	106	5	32	29	104	63
71	36	89	86	33	66	105	64	31	28

19. 20. 21.

87	80	31	52	103	94	33	98	105	92
30	51	88	79	32	99	104	93	34	97
81	86	53	102	89	78	95	100	91	106
50	29	82	17	8	101	90	77	96	35
83	54	85	6	3	18	9	36	107	76
28	49	16	13	10	7	4	109	20	37
55	84	11	2	5	14	19	38	75	108
48	27	44	15	12	1	74	69	110	21
43	56	47	62	59	70	39	66	73	68
26	45	58	41	24	63	60	71	22	65
57	42	25	46	61	40	23	64	67	72

22. 23. 24.

For over a millennium, knight tour was confined to 2-D boards and it was extended to 3-D board some 250 years ago. Figure 25 is a monogram tour on 2x5x11 board. Readers can visualize it by stacking two 5x11board in alphabetical order. The square numbers and cubic numbers  $1^3$ ,  $2^3$ ,  $3^3$  and  $4^3$ , namely 1, 8, 27 and 64 delineate letters 'B' and 'P', the first letters in *Best Problems*. Figure 26 delineates the numerals '1' and '0' which correlate with the issue number 110. Readers may like to compose more figured tours.

5	10	1	32	51	20	47	72	53	88	45
2	31	4	19	36	33	52	87	46	95	54
11	6	9	34	77	74	101	98	89	104	91
28	3	16	37	100	35	76	69	94	55	96
15	38	25	78	75	68	99	102	97	90	105

25. A B

13	18	7	38	1	76	65	84	103	68	51
6	39	2	17	4	71	110	69	66	55	104
19	12	5	96	9	80	77	72	85	52	67
40	95	10	3	16	93	70	79	54	73	56
11	20	41	94	97	78	107	92	57	86	53

26. A B