4th Honorable Mention: Evgeni Bourd (Israel)

The try 1.♔c2? introduce the three thematic mates by the W♕ on e3, f3 & g3 as threats and is nicely refuted by 1...♖a3! and not 1...♕a3. In the solution a random unpin of the W♕ leads to the three mates mentioned above. The actual defenses by the B♕ prevent two of the three mates in a unified way. In each of these three defenses one of the squares is directly guarded and another square is unguarded by an interference of a White piece. The B♕ defenses were nicely arranged by the composer and duals are prevented in a natural way.

1.♔c2? (2.♕e3 A,♕f3 B,♕g3 C# 1...♕a3 2.♘d5# but: 1...♖a3!
1.♖g3? (2.♘g2#) but: 1...♕c5!
1.♖g7! (2.♘g2#) 1...♕c6 2.♕e3 A# (♕f3 B?, ♕g3 C?)
1...♕g6 2.♕f3 B# (♕g3 C?, ♕e3A?)
1...♕c5 2.♕g3 C# (♕e3 A?,♕f3 B?) 1...♕d5/♕xd3+ 2.♘xd5/♘xd3#

Evgeni Bourd
4th HM
1st Israel Open Ty 2013

#2   12+9

Commendation: Emanuel Navon (Israel)

Cyclic dual avoidance that uses a variety of effects. The defense 1...♕b4 presents all three thematic mates which are separated by the thematic defenses. The mate-tries are convincing but there is a general lack of unity.

1.♘d5! [2.♘c3#]
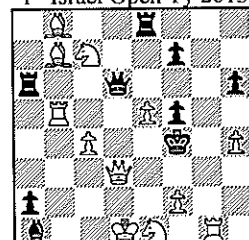1...♕b4 2.♘f6 A, ♘g3 B, ♖f4 C# 1...♘e5 2.♘f6 A# (♘g3 B?)
1...♕xd5 2.♘g3 B# (♖f4 C?) 1...♕f4 2.♖xf4 C# (♘f6 A?) #
1...d2 2.♕c2# 1...♘e2 2.f3# 1...♘c~ 2.♘f6#
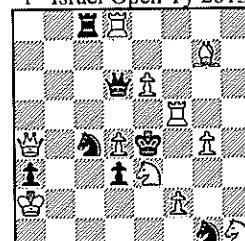

Emanuel Navon
Com
1st Israel Open Ty 2013

#2   11+7

Section 2: Help-mates in two moves. *Judge: Shaul Shamir*
Dedicated to Jean Haymann on the occasion of his 80's birthday

Theme: Required were help-mates in two moves with at least 2 solutions showing the theme of obstructions used as a dual avoidance mechanism. The definition is: During the solution a piece cannot move into a certain square since it is needed for the arrival of another piece which cannot capture it. Usually, the two pieces are of the same color, so we can have either black obstruction or white obstruction, but mixed white/black obstructions are also possible. Twins and duplex were allowed but not fairy pieces and conditions.

I received from the tourney director, Omer Friedland, 21 anonymous problems. The number of entries was somewhat disappointing, but the level was satisfactory and it was not easy to determine the ranking of the top problems. Apart from the normal criteria used to evaluate chess problems, my personal subjective taste no doubt had a major influence on the final award.

I thank the director, Omer Friedland, for preparing the problems for judgment, Jean Haymann for comments and enlightenment, Paz Einat on comments, the English translation and anticipation search (using WinChloe), and Zivko Janevski for anticipation search using his own database. I thank all participants for taking part in this tourney.

Participants:

Luis Miguel Martin, Spain (B1,B2); Menachem witztum, Israel (B3 – B8); Dmitri Turevski, Russia (B9,B10); Dmitry Zhilko, Belarus (B10); Emanuel Navon, Israel (B11-B13); Mario Parrinello, Italy (B14-B17); Borislav Gadjanski, Serbia (B18); Sven Trommler, Germany (B19); Maryan Kerhuel, France (B20,B21)

Two problems had to be eliminated due to clear anticipations: B8 is anticipated by problem A and B17 is anticipated by problem B, both can be found at the end of the award. In addition, I had to take out of the award Problem B10, originally the 2nd HM. Following the pre-publication of the award among the participants, and a note I received from one of them, I realized that one of the thematic obstructions is flawed.

1st Prize: Dmitri Turevski, Russia

Despite the relatively crowded position I found this to be the best problem in the section. To give mate both White and Black must assist the opening of the c and e files for the White rooks on c1 and e1. The Black Queen and the c4 Knight have one mutual hideaway square – d2. The other hideaway square is created by the White Knight and Bishop, respectively, by their sacrifice. Importantly, the problem contains an additional element that enhances the theme and brings the problem to a higher level: in one phase the Black Queen cannot escape to c2 due to the fact that while it opens the e-file it closes the c-file. Similarly, in the second phase the Black Knight cannot escape to e3 or e5 due to the fact that while it opens the c-file it closes the e-file. Wonderful!

1.♕d2 ♘xa5 (♘c~?) 2.♘xa5 (♘cd2??) ♗xf5#   1.♘d2 ♗xd3 (♗~?) 2.♕xd3 (♕d2??) ♘b8#

2nd Prize: Emanuel Navon, Israel

The problem present White obstructions but it contains additional enriching elements. The intended mates are by the White Bishop on d3 or d5 but the Black Knight guarding these squares must first be neutralized. For this, Black must interfere with the line of its own Bishop on c1 enabling the Knight to move away without checking. The move Rd2 makes the required interference but at the same time directly guards the potential mating square d3 and opens the BQ line guarding mating square d5 (an anti-Ziel element). This dictates square g2 as the escape place of Sf4, closing the Black line opened by Black. Importantly, White must guard c5 and can do this by the moves Sd3 or Rd5. However, Rd5 obstructs d5 and prevents the mate so only Sd3 works. All of this also happens in the second phase in which Sf5 performs the role played by Rg2 in the first phase. Beautiful!

1.♖d2 ♘d3 (♖d5?) 2.♘g2 (s~?) ♗d5#   1.♘e3 ♖d5 (♘d3?) 2.♘g6 (♘~?) ♗d3#

3rd Prize: Menachem Witztum, Israel

The theme is executed by both White and Black – the theme is doubled! The two White pieces that move during the solution are initially pinned and must be unpinned. It should be noted that while in the initial position the mating squares are not guarded by Black, the hideaway tries Qh4 and Rd3 fail since both moves guard the mating squares.

a) 1.♖f3 (♖g3?) ♗d6 (♗d4?) 2.♕g3 (♕f3??) ♘d4# b) 1.♕g3 (♕f3?) ♘d6 (♘d4?) 2.♖f3 (♖g3??) ♗d4#

1st Honorable Mention: Mario Parrinello, Italy

The problem combines White obstruction with nice additional elements in an aesthetic and light fashion. There is a choice of one or two square jump of the White pawn, Zilahi, opening of a White line and pin of the Black Queen.

1.♖xf1 e3 (e4?) 2.♖d1 ♗e4#   1.♖xb7 e4 (e3?) 2.♖b1 ♘e3#

Dmitri Turevski	Emanuel Navon	Menachem Witztum	Mario Parrinello
1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize	1st HM
1st Israel Open Ty 2013	1st Israel Open Ty 2013	1st Israel Open Ty 2013	1st Israel Open Ty 2013

H#2 2.1.1.1 6+16	H#2 2.1.1.1 8+14	H#2 b)♚b5→c5 7+9	H#2 2.1.1.1 7+6

5

2nd Honorable Mention: Menachem witztum, Israel

A pleasing combination of White obstructions with sophisticated dual avoidance. The tries intensify the effect of the obstructions.

Try: 1.♖e3 ♖d7 2.♖e4 ♘c4# ? Try: 1.♕h4 ♗c4 2.♕e4 ♘d7# ?
1.♖e3 ♗c4 2.♖e4 ♘d7# (♘c4#?)   1.♕h4 ♖d7 2.♕e4 ♘c4# (♘d7#?)

3rd Honorable Mention: Luis Miguel Martin, Spain

An aesthetic and economical construction presenting Umnov and half-pin as well as pleasing dual avoidance.

1.♗g1 (♘d3?) ♗f2 (♗xc3?) 2.♘d3 ♘xc3#   1.♘b1 (♘d5?) ♗c3 (♗xf2?) 2.♘d5 ♘xf2#

1st Commendation: Emanuel Navon, Israel

White and Black obstructions. Black's move order is determined in a way that adds to the theme: in the first phase the first move cannot be Sb5 as the BQ's way to a4 is blocked, while in the second phase the BQ must move first to evacuate a square for the BS.

1.♕a4 (♘a4?) ♘xc4 (♘f5?) 2.♘b5 (♘a4?) ♗f5#   1.♕xb7 (♘xb7?) ♘f5 (♘xc4?) 2.♘c6 (♘b7?) ♗xc4#

2nd Commendation: Menachem witztum, Israel

Nice Black obstructions incorporating an interesting "build-up" of pins of the black pieces (half-pins). The motivation for the movement of some of the Black pieces is different between the phases. Also here Black's move order is determined in a way that adds to the theme: in one phase a Black piece opens a line for the movement of the other Black pieces while in the second phase Sf6 cannot be played in the first move since it blocks the way of the Black Bishop to e7. The weakness in the problem is that in each phase a different set of Black pieces is active without a connection between them.

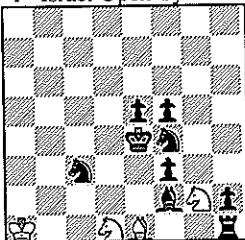1.♕b8 (♕f5?) ♖e8 2.♖f5 ♗xd4#   1.♗e7 (♗f6?) ♗xh6 2.♘f6 ♖g3#
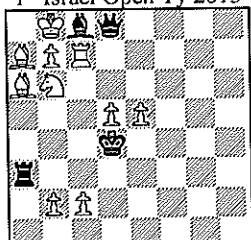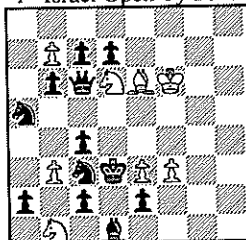
Menachem Witztum	Luis Miguel Martin	Emanuel Navon	Menachem Witztum
2nd HM	3rd HM	1st Com	2nd Com
1st Israel Open Ty 2013	1st Israel Open Ty 2013	1st Israel Open Ty 2013	1st Israel Open Ty 2013
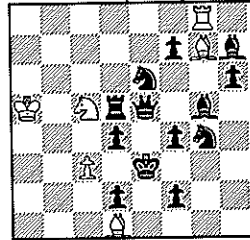
H#2 2.1.1.1 10+4	H#2 2.1.1.1 4+9	H#2 2.1.1.1 8+12	H#2 2.1.1.1 6+13

A. Felix Sonnenfeld	B. Mario Parrinello
3rd Prize UBP Ty. 1963	3rd Prize Springaren 1990
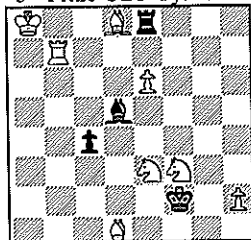
H#2 2.1.1.1 8+4	H#2 2.1.1.1 5+10

1.♗xe6 ♖b3 (♖e7?) 2.♗c8 (♖xe6?) ♗h4#
1.♖xe6 ♗g5 (♗b6?) 2.♖c6 (♗xe6?) ♖b2#

1.♗xe6 ♔c7 2.♗g8 ♗e8#
1.♘xg6 ♔d7 2.♘h8 ♘c7#