

Veredicto del Memorial Jorge Marcelo Kapros, 2024-2025 (sección #2)

Imanol Zurutuza

Tras el inesperado fallecimiento, el pasado 7 de octubre, del amigo Miguel Uris, nombrado inicialmente juez de este torneo, asumí —con gran pesar, pero, al mismo tiempo, con el deseo de rendirle homenaje— la tarea de juzgar en su lugar este torneo en memoria del eminente compositor argentino Jorge M. Kapros (6/11/1955-27/8/2023), quien mantuvo estrechos lazos con los miembros de la Sociedad Española de Problemistas de Ajedrez (SEPA). Quiero agradecer a Jorge J. Lois, quien a su vez hubo de asumir las tareas de director del torneo tras el fallecimiento de Mario Guido García, la confianza deposita en mí y su buen hacer, así como a todos los concursantes su participación.

El plazo de presentación de originales finalizó el 30 de noviembre de 2024. Han participado 20 autores, con un total de 32 problemas [Germán Bielefeldt, 7 (3*); José Miguel Abad, 3 (2*); Alberto Maltz, 3; Antonio Tarnawiecki, 3 (1*); Vasil Dyachuk, 2; Luis Gómez Palazón, 2 (1*); Zoltán Labai, 2 (1*); Francesco Simoni, 2; Miroslav Svítek, 2; José Luis Velasco, 2; Elmar Abdullayev, 1; Mykola Chernyavsky, 1 (1*); José Antonio Coello, 1 (1*); Gérard Doukhan, 1; Alexander Fica, 1 (1*); José A. Garzón, 1; Jan Lipka, 1; Charles Ouellet, 1 (v); Daniil Yakimovich, 1 (1*); Vidadi Zamanov, 1].

Los siguientes problemas han sido descartados por estar anticipados:

(1) [Rf1-Rd5]: Anticipado por Arthur P. Silvera, *Bahn Frei* (antes de 1890), WinChloe ID 578739, Albrecht ID 159838 [8/4rP2/3b2R1/1Bpk1p2/8/4p3/2K1N3/Q7].

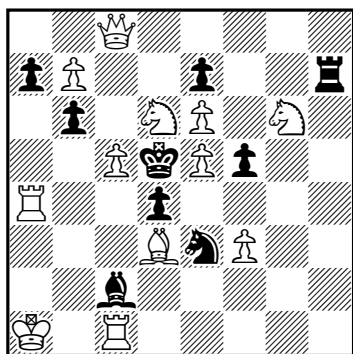
(16) [Rh6-Rf6]: Anticipado por N. Wolff, *Deutsches Wochenschach* (antes de 1904), WinChloe ID 798925 [8/6B1/QP2p3/5k1K/4pp2/2n1R3/8/8].

(21) [Ra1-Re5]: Anticipado por Fritz Hoffmann, *Berliner Zeitung*, 1972 —WinChloe ID 491148, Albrecht ID 70321, yacpdb ID 172717 [2K1R3/1B6/3k2p1/6B1/2RP1np1/6q1/8/6b1]— y Santiago Larraín, *The Problemist*, 1979 —WinChloe ID 569471, Albrecht ID 187354, yacpdb ID 172113 [B7/2p5/8/B6N/2K2Rp1/4k1p1/R7/6n1].

Este es mi veredicto provisional, que será definitivo transcurridos tres meses desde su publicación, si no se presentan reclamaciones:

Gérard Doukhan

1^{er} premio



1^{er} premio. Gérard Doukhan (32)

[2Q5/pP2p2r/1p1NP1N1/2PkPp2/R2p4/3BnP2/2b5/K1R5]

El autor combina magistralmente tres temas: a) el *Reversal* 2, o inversión de clave y amenaza, entre dos fases —1.A (2.B#); 1.B (2.A#)—, que se da entre el tercer y quinto ensayos (AC-CA); b) el *Reversal* 1 o Secuencia reversible (Salazar) —inversión de clave y mate, a la misma defensa, entre dos fases: 1.A? 1...a 2.B#; 1.B! 1...a 2.A#—, que se da entre el cuarto y quinto ensayos (BaC-CaB), y c) la Corrección blanca, entre el cuarto ensayo y el juego real, a la jugada 1... ♖h4.

Se realiza, además, el tema Urania —la jugada blanca ♔d7 es la clave en el quinto ensayo, la amenaza en el tercero y jugada de mate en el cuarto ensayo y en el juego real, a distintas defensas (transferido)—.

Finalmente, el mate que sigue a la defensa 1... ♙xa4 en el primer ensayo resulta cambiado en las últimas tres fases.

1.cxb6? [2. ♖a5#] 1... ♙xa4 a 2. ♖c5#, 1...a×b6!

1. ♖c4? [2. ♖f4#] 1... ♖h4 b 2. ♖×e7#, 1... ♖g2!

1. ♖e4? A [2. ♔d7# C] 1...f×e4 2.f×e4#, 1... ♙xa4! a

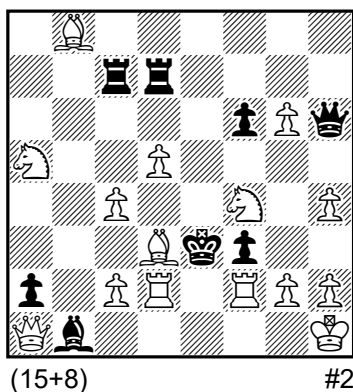
1. ♖b5? B [2. ♖×d4#] 1... ♙xa4 a 2. ♔d7# C, 1... ♖h4! b

1. ♔d7? C [2. ♖e4# A] 1... ♙xa4 a 2. ♖b5# B, 1...e×d6 2. ♔×d6#, 1... ♙×c5 2. ♔b5#, 1... ♖c4!

1. ♖×f5! [2. ♖×d4#] 1... ♙xa4 a 2. ♙e4#, 1... ♖h4 b 2. ♖f×e7#, 1...b×c5 2. ♔d7# C,

1... ♖c4, ♖×f5 2. ♙(×)c4#

Miroslav Svítek
2º premio



2º premio. Miroslav Svítek (26)

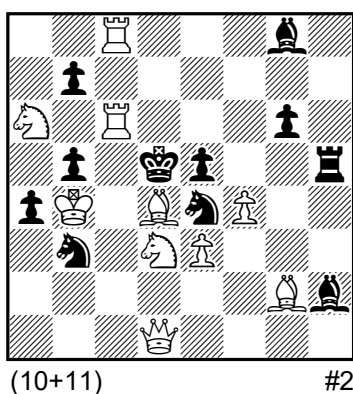
[1B6/2rr4/5pPq/N2P4/2P2N1P/3Bkp2/p1PR1RPP/Qb5K]

Entre el segundo ensayo y el juego real, el problema realiza una Combinación Lender, síntesis del tema de la Secuencia reversible o *Reversal* 1 (AaC-CaA) y del tema Le Grand —inversión de amenazas y mates, a la misma defensa, entre dos fases— (BbD-DbB).

Al mismo tiempo, entre las tres fases se presenta el tema Barnes (BD-B-D) —las dos amenazas de un ensayo son, alternativamente, las amenazas de las otras dos fases—, junto con el tema Rudenko (BD-bD-bB) —dos amenazas de una fase aparecen como mates en las variantes de fases posteriores—.

1. ♖b3? [2. ♜×f3# B, ♜d4# D] 1... ♜×f4! a
1. ♜c3? A [2. ♜×f3# B]
1... ♜×f4 a 2. ♙f5# C, 1... ♙×f4 b 2. ♜d4# D, 1... ♜h5!
1. ♙f5! C [2. ♜d4# D]
1... ♜×f4 a 2. ♜c3# A, 1... ♙×f4 b 2. ♜×f3# B,
1... ♜×c4 2. ♙×c4#, 1... ♜×d5 2. ♙×d5#, 1... f×g2+ 2. ♙×g2#

Vasyl Dyachuk
3º premio



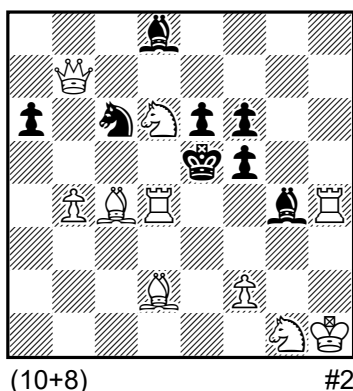
3º premio. Vasyl Dyachuk (23)

[2R3b1/1p6/N1R3p1/1p1kp2r/pK1BnP2/1n1NP3/6Bb/3Q4]

El problema presenta, en su conjunto, el tema Zagoruiko 3x2 —tres fases con dos mates cambiados tras dos defensas— (aEbF-aAbD-aBbC), junto con el *Reversal* 1 o Secuencia reversible, entre el segundo ensayo y el juego real (CbD-DbC). Se realizan sendas Paradojas Dombrovskis, entre el primer ensayo, con doble amenaza, y el segundo ensayo (AaE-aA) y el juego real (BaE-aB), lo que da lugar al tema Dombro-Zagoruiko —Zagoruiko que incluye al menos una Paradoja Dombrovskis—, y el tema Rudenko, entre las tres fases (AB-aA-aB).

1. ♜c2? [2. ♜d8# A, ♙c7# B]
1... b×c6 a 2. ♜×c6# E, 1... ♙bc5 b 2. ♜×c5# F, 1... ♜h7!
1. ♙dc5? C [2. ♙×e4#]
1... b×c6 a 2. ♜d8# A, 1... ♙b×c5 b 2. ♙×c5# D, 1... ♙bd2!
1. ♙c5! D [2. ♜d6#]
1... b×c6 a 2. ♙c7# B, 1... ♙b×c5 b 2. ♙d×c5# C

Luis Gómez Palazón
4º premio



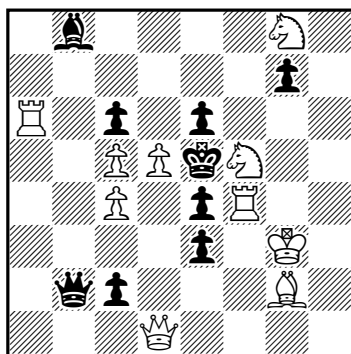
4º premio. Luis Gómez Palazón (15)

[3b4/1Q6/p1nNpp2/4kp2/1PBR2bR/8/3B1P2/6NK]

El autor reúne varios temas, con destreza: el tema Le Grand —inversión de amenazas y mates, a la misma defensa, entre dos fases—, que se realiza entre el tercer ensayo y el juego real (BaA-AaB); una curiosa variante del tema Dombrovskis, con efectos del tema Rudenko, entre el segundo ensayo con doble amenaza y las restantes dos fases (ABa!-aA-aB), y, entre esas mismas tres últimas fases, el Kharkov 2 doblado —dos movimiento negros son refutación en una fase y defensa en otras dos, con los mates cambiados— (bCa!-aAb!-aBbD), así como el tema Barnes —las dos amenazas de un ensayo son, alternativamente, las amenazas de las otras dos fases— (AB-B-A).

- *1... ♙×d4 2. ♙f7#, 1... ♙×d4 2. ♙f3#
1. ♙e3? [2. ♙f7# A, f4# B] 1... f4! b
1. ♙c3? [2. ♙f7# A, f4# B] 1... f4 b 2. ♜d5# C, 1... ♙×d4! a
1. ♜d3? [2. f4# B] 1... ♙d4 a 2. ♙f7# A, 1... f4! b
1. ♜d7! [2. ♙f7# A] 1... ♙×d4 a 2. f4# B, 1... f4 b 2. ♜e4# D,
1... ♙h5 2. ♜×e6#, 1... ♙f3+ 2. ♙×f3#, 1... ♙×d4 2. ♙f3#

Miroslav Svátek
5º premio



(10+9)

#2

5º premio. Miroslav Svátek (25)

[1b4N1/6p1/R1p1p3/2PPkN2/2P1pR2/4p1K1/1qp3B1/3Q4]

Elegante configuración del tema Zagoruiko 3x2 distribuido en cuatro fases (aD-bE-aBbF-aA-bC), combinado con el *Reversal* 1 o Secuencia reversible, entre el segundo ensayo y el juego real (AaB-BaA), junto con un cambio de función de la jugada X.

* 1... ♖d4 a 2. ♖×d4# D

1. ♖×c6? [2. ♖×e6# X]

1...e×d5 b 2. ♖×d5# E, 1... ♖a6 2. ♖d4#, 1... ♔d6!

1. ♖h5? A [2. ♖×e4#]

1... ♖d4 a 2. ♘×g7# B, 1...e×d5 b 2. ♖e8# F,

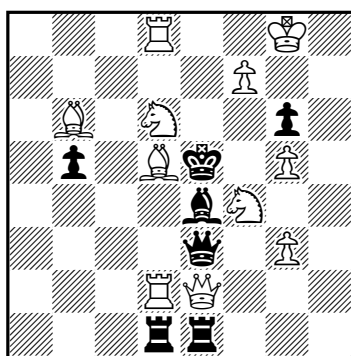
1...g5 2. ♖×h8#, 1...c×d5!

1. ♘×g7! B [2. ♖×e4#]

1... ♖d4 a 2. ♖h5# A, 1...e×d5 b 2. ♖f5# C,

1...c×d5 2. ♖×e6# X

Daniil Yakimovich
Mykola Cherniavskyi
1ª mención de honor



(11+7)

#2

1ª mención de honor. Daniil Yakimovich, Mykola Cherniavskyi (10)

[3R2K1/5P2/1B1N2p1/1p1Bk1P1/4bN2/4q1P1/3RQ3/3rr3]

El problema presenta diversos mates cambiados (aAbB-aCcD-aBbAcB), entre los que destaca el Cambio recíproco (aAbB-aBbA) —intercambio de los mates que siguen a dos defensas, en dos fases—, que se da entre primer ensayo y el juego real: los mates por abandono de guardia del ensayo, intercambiados, son posibles en el juego real por las clavadas de las piezas de la semiclavada negra que surgen tras las defensas.

Las refutaciones de ambos ensayos son defensas en las otras dos fases (bc!-cb!-bc) —cambio de función—.

1. ♖g4? [2. ♖e6#]

1... ♔×d5 a 2. ♘×g6# A, 1... ♖×g3 b 2. ♔d4# B, 1... ♔f5! c

1. ♖×b5? [2. ♖e8#]

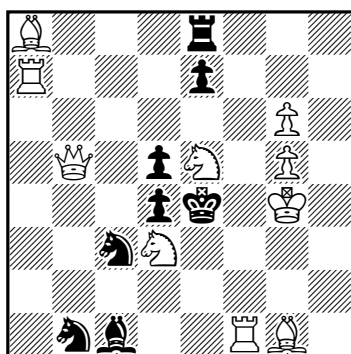
1... ♔×d5 a 2. ♖×d5# C, 1... ♔f5 c 2. ♘c4# D, 1... ♖×g3! b

1. ♔c5! [2. ♖e8#]

1... ♔×d5 a 2. ♔d4# B, 1... ♖×g3 b 2. ♘×g6# A,

1... ♔f5 c 2. ♔d4# B, 1... ♖×c5 2. ♘×g6#

Francesco Simoni
2ª mención de honor



(10+8)

#2

b) ♔a8→g8

c) ♖a7→h7

d) ♖f1→f8

2ª mención de honor. Francesco Simoni (29)

[B3r3/R3p3/6P1/1Q1pN1P1/3pk1K1/2nN4/8/1nb2RB1]

Mediante cuatro gemelos, el autor realiza un atractivo ciclo de claves y ensayos (ABCD//BCDA//CDAB//DABC). La clave de la posición del diagrama, convertida en ensayo en los gemelos, se refuta, sucesivamente, mediante las tres refutaciones de los ensayos del juego real.

a) 1. ♘c6? A [2. ♘c5#] 1... ♘a4! a

1. ♘d7? B [2. ♘3c5, ♘7c5#] 1... ♖c8! b

1. ♘f3? C [2. ♘c5#] 1... ♔a3! c

1. ♘f7! D [2. ♘c5#]

1... ♔a3 2. ♖f4#, 1... ♘a4 2. ♔×d5#, 1... ♖c8 2. ♖×e7#

b) 1. ♘d7? B [2. ♘3c5, ♘7c5#] 1... ♖c8!

1. ♘f3? C [2. ♘c5#] 1... ♔a3!

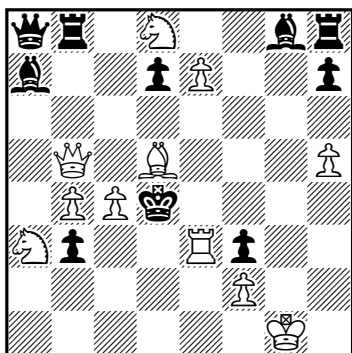
1. ♘f7? D [2. ♘c5#] 1... ♘a4! a

1. ♘c6! A [2. ♘c5#]

1... ♘a4 2. ♔×d5#, 1... ♔a3 2. ♖f4#

- c) 1. ♖f3? C [2. ♖c5#] 1... ♙a3!
 1. ♖f7? D [2. ♖c5#] 1... ♜c8! b
 1. ♖c6? A [2. ♖c5#] 1... ♖a4!
 1. ♖d7! B [2. ♖3c5, ♖7c5#] 1... ♖a4 2. ♙×d5#, 1... ♙a3 2. ♜f4#, 1... ♜c8 2. ♜×e7#
- d) 1. ♖f7? D [2. ♖c5#] 1... ♙a3! c
 1. ♖c6? A [2. ♖c5#] 1... ♖a4!
 1. ♖d7? B [2. ♖3c5, ♖7c5#] 1... ♜c8!
 1. ♖f3! C [2. ♖c5#] 1... ♖a4 2. ♙×d5#, 1... ♙a3 2. ♜f4#, 1... ♜c8 2. ♜×e7#

Vasyl Dyachuk
 3ª mención de honor



(11+10) #2

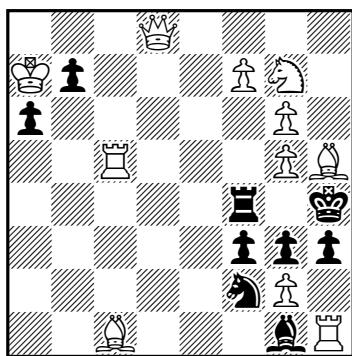
3ª mención de honor. Vasyl Dyachuk (22)

[qr1N2br/b2pP2p/8/1Q1B3P/1PPk4/Np2Rp2/5P2/6K1]

El tema del Carrusel —ciclo de defensas y mates— (aAbB-aCcB-bCcA), que involucra las tres fases, se combina con dos defensas Nietvelt, en el primer ensayo —las negras se autoclavan, porque la amenaza las desclavaría, pero las blancas aprovechan la clavada para dar mate—, y tema del 11th WCCT, entre el segundo ensayo y el juego real —en uno o varios ensayos y en la solución una pieza blanca desocupa una casilla que, en el juego de variantes defensivas o en las refutaciones será ocupada por al menos dos piezas negras—.

1. ♜×d7? [2. ♜g4#] 1... ♜×d5 a 2. ♖c6# A (2. ♜g4? ♜e4!),
 1... ♙×d5 b 2. ♖e6# B (2. ♜g4? Ae4!), 1... ♜×b4!
 1. ♙f7? [2. ♜e5#] 1... ♜d5 a 2. ♜×d5# C, 1...d5 c 2. ♖e6# B,
 1... ♜×b5 2. ♖×b5#, 1... ♙c5 2. ♜×c5#, 1... ♜e4!
 1. ♙b7! [2. ♜e5#] 1... ♙d5 b 2. ♜×d5# C, 1...d5 c 2. ♖c6# A,
 1... ♙c5 2. ♜×c5#, 1...d6 2. ♖c6#

José Luis Velasco
 4ª mención de honor



(11+9) b) ♜c5→d4 #2

4ª mención de honor. José Luis Velasco (27)

[3Q4/Kp3PN1/p5P1/2R3PB/5r1k/5ppp/5nP1/2B3bR]

El autor consigue una realización convincente del siempre difícil tema Djurasevic —alternancia cíclica de tres jugadas blancas, en dos fases, como clave, amenaza y mate, a la misma defensa— (ABaC-BCaA), que en un problema de mate en dos jugadas ortodoxo únicamente puede conseguirse en posiciones gemelas.

- a) 1. ♜h8! A [2. ♙×f3# B]
 1... ♜g4 a 2. ♖f5# C, 1... ♖g4 2. ♜×h3#
 b) 1. ♙×f3! B [2. ♖f5# C]
 1... ♜g4 a 2. ♜h8# A, 1... ♖e4, ♖g4 2. ♜×h3#

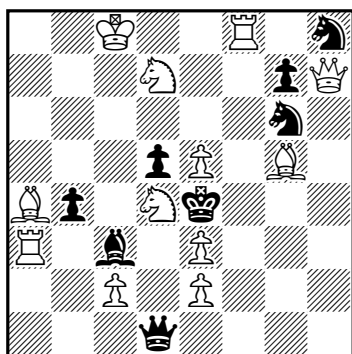
5ª mención de honor. Francesco Simoni (30)

[2K2R1n/3N2pQ/6n1/3pP1B1/Bp1Nk3/R1b1P3/2P1P3/3q4]

Estamos ante otro problema que, al igual que el problema merecedor de la 3ª mención de honor, presenta el tema del 11th WCCT —véase arriba la definición—, mediante la Opción del ♖d4, que en dos fases libera al ♖d7 de la guardia del peón e5, creando la amenaza común 2. ♖(d)c5#, mientras que en las otras dos fases amenaza con dar mate él mismo, en la misma casilla c5. Tras las refutaciones de los ensayos, no son posibles los mates del juego real, por los perjuicios causados a las propias piezas. De este modo, las defensas y las refutaciones se reproducen de forma cíclica (abc!-bca!-cab!-abc).

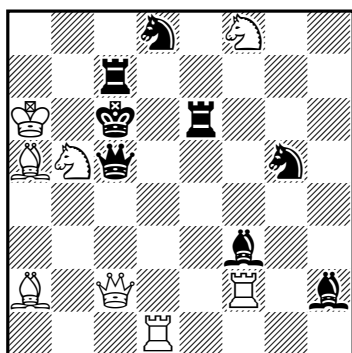
1. ♖c6? [2. ♖c5#] 1... ♙d4 a 2. ♜f4#, 1... ♜d4 b 2. ♜h1#, 1...d4! c
 1. ♖b3? [2. ♖bc5#] 1... ♜d4 b 2. ♜h1#, 1...d4 c 2. ♙c6#, 1... ♙d4! a
 1. ♖f3? [2. ♖c5#] 1...d4 c 2. ♙c6#, 1... ♙d4 a 2. ♜f4#, 1... ♜d4! b
 1. ♖e6! [2. ♖ec5#] 1... ♙d4 a 2. ♜f4#, 1... ♜d4 b 2. ♜h1#,
 1...d4 c 2. ♙c6#, 1... ♖f7 2. ♜×g6#

Francesco Simoni
 5ª mención de honor



(12+8) #2

José Antonio Coello
Luis Gómez Palazón
 1^{er} recomendado



(8+8) #2

1^{er} recomendado. José Antonio Coello, Luis Gómez (14)

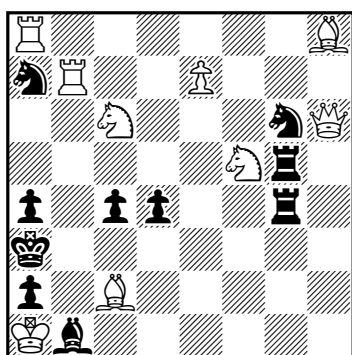
[3n1N2/2r5/K1k1r3/BNq3n1/8/5b2/B1Q2R1b/3R4]

Los autores presentan un bello problema aristocrático —sin peones en la posición del diagrama, y presencia de las restantes dieciséis piezas—, con un rico juego defensivo, que reúne el tema Balbo¹ —al menos tres defensas efectuadas por piezas de diferente naturaleza son seguidas por jugadas de piezas de la misma naturaleza—, el tema de la Caza² —una misma pieza negra juega al menos a tres casillas distintas, en las que es capturada—, el Somov B2³ —el control de una casilla del campo real negro por una pieza blanca es suprimido por la jugada de mate, que no es efectuada por dicha pieza; esto es posible porque la jugada negra precedente ha obstruido esa casilla—, y tres mates por clavada en la columna d⁴.

1. ♖b6! [2. ♜×c5#]

1... ♜e4 2. ♖d5#⁴, 1... ♜b7 2. ♜a7#¹, 1... ♖d6 2. ♜d4#^{3,4},
 1... ♜e5 2. ♜d6#^{1,4}, 1... ♜a7+ 2. ♜×a7#, 1... ♜×c2 2. ♜×c2#²,
 1... ♜c3 2. ♜×c3#^{1,2}, 1... ♜c4 2. ♜×c4#^{1,2}

Alberto Maltz
 2^o recomendado



(9+10) #2

2^o recomendado. Alberto Maltz (18)

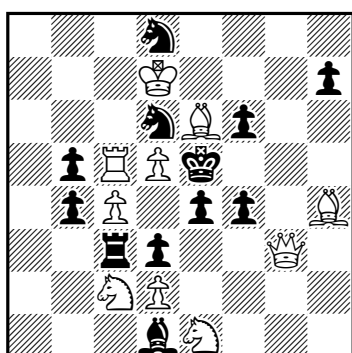
[R6B/nR2P3/2N3nQ/5N1/p1pp2r1/k7/p1B5/Kb6]

Los cuatro ensayos, dos a cargo de cada uno de los caballos blancos, crean una amenaza común, refutada por las negras, sucesivamente, aprovechando los autoperjuicios blancos. En el primer ensayo, el ♜g6 puede defender la amenaza pese a abrir la línea h6-d6, al no poder la dama blanca ocupar la casilla d6 para dar mate; en el segundo ensayo, la ♜g5 defiende la amenaza, pese a abrir la línea h6-c1, dado que esta ha sido cerrada previamente por las blancas; en el tercer ensayo, el ♜a7 defiende gracias a que el cierre de la línea a8-a4 por la jugada blanca impide el mate 2. ♜×a4, y, finalmente, en el cuarto ensayo, el peón d defiende, abriendo la línea g4-c4 a la torre negra, pese a abrir al mismo tiempo la línea h8-b2, previamente cerrada por las blancas, que no puede aprovechar la alfil de h8 para dar mate. La refutación del cuarto ensayo no tiene reflejo en el juego real

1. ♜d6? [2. ♜×c4#] 1... ♜e5! (2. ♜d6??)
 1. ♜e3? [2. ♜×c4#] 1... ♜c5! (2. ♜c1??)
 1. ♜a5? [2. ♜×c4#] 1... ♜b5! (2. ♜×a4??)
 1. ♜e5? [2. ♜×c4#] 1... d3! (2. ♖b2??)

1. ♖e5! [2. ♖d6#]
 1... ♜×e5 2. ♜d6#
 1... ♜b5 2. ♜×a4#
 1... ♜×f5 2. ♜c1#
 1... ♜×c6, ♜c8 2. ♜×a4#

Alexander Fica
Zoltán Labai
 3^{er} recomendado



(10+12) #2

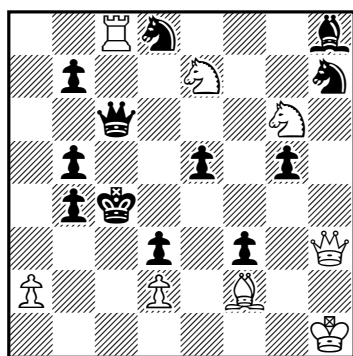
3^{er} recomendado. Alexander Fica, Zoltán Labai (11)

[3n4/3K3p/3nBp2/1pRPk3/1pP1pp1B/2rp2Q1/2NP4/3bN3]

La solución contiene dos grupos de defensas bien diferenciados: las tres primeras defensas capturan el caballo de c2 —defensas en la misma casilla, captura múltiple de una pieza blanca—, dejando a la dama blanca sin el apoyo necesario para realizar la amenaza, y sobrevienen distintos mates por clavada del peón e4; las siguientes tres defensas permiten otros tantos mates indirectos a cargo del peón d5 de la batería blanca de peón y torre.

1. ♜e3! [2. ♜d4#]
 1... ♖×c2 2. ♜f3#, 1... ♜×c2 2. ♜×d3#, 1... d×c2 2. d4#,
 1... ♜×e6 2. d×e6#, 1... ♜f5 2. d6#, 1... ♜c6 2. d×c6#,
 1... f×e3, f3 2. ♖g3#, 1... ♜×c4 2. ♜×d3#

José A. Garzón
4º recomendado



(8+12)

#2

4º recomendado. José A. Garzón (31)

[2Rn3b/1p2N2n/2q3N1/1p2p1p1/1pk5/3p1p1Q/P2P1B2/7K]

La Opción de la dama presenta un ensayo secundario con dos refutaciones [1. ♕f1? [2. ♕c1#] 1...b3! a, e4! b], que se separan en los siguientes ensayos (a!b!-a!-b!).

En las tres fases principales del juego, se realiza el tema Barnes —las dos amenazas de un ensayo son, alternativamente, las amenazas de las otras dos fases— (AB-A-B). En el primer ensayo, ambas amenazas son movimientos Pelle a cargo de la dama blanca autoclavada. Se complementa con una Paradoja Dombrovskis (Aa!-aA), entre el primer ensayo y el juego real.

A mi entender, la jugada *1...b3 del juego aparente desvirtúa el ensayo 1. ♕d7?, refutado por esa misma jugada, al conceder al rey negro una fuga que debe ser prevista por las blancas.

1. ♕×f3? [2. ♕d5# A, ♕e4# B] 1...e4! a

1. ♕d7? [2. ♕d5# A] 1...b3!

1. ♕f5! [2. ♕e4# B] 1...e4 a 2. ♕d5# A,

1... ♖f6 2. ♗×e5#, 1... ♗e6 2. ♕×e6#

5º recomendado. José Luis Velasco (28)

[bq6/2Q1b3/1N1pp3/p1n1P2R/4k1P1/K5P1/4P1n1/BR3N2]

El autor realiza un interesante Ciclo Brabec —cambio cíclico de motivos defensivos en tres o más fases—, (ab-bc-ca): a) interferencia de la línea de la pieza-amenaza; b) guardia directa de la casilla de la amenaza; c) creación de fuga por interferencia de línea.

Lamentablemente, la jugada *1... ♕×b6 2.?? del juego aparente —demolición preexistente del segundo ensayo—, evidencia que la clave debe prever la guardia de la casilla d5 —resulta una clave débil, de aproximación—.

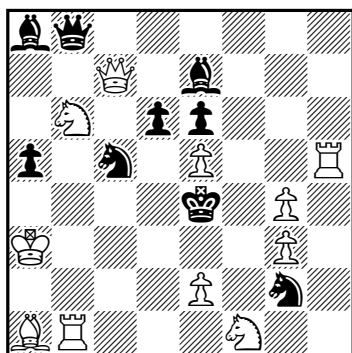
1.e×d6? [2. ♖e5#] 1... ♗g5 a 2. ♕h7#, 1... ♗d3 b 2. ♕c4#, 1... ♕h8!

1. ♖b3? [2. ♗d2#] 1... ♗g5 b 2. ♕h7#, 1... ♗d3 c 2. ♕c4#, 1... ♕×b6!

1. ♖d1! [2. ♖d4#] 1... ♗g5 c 2. ♕h7#, 1... ♗d3 a 2. ♕c4#,

1... ♗b3 2. ♕c2#, 1...d×e5 2. ♖×e5#

José Luis Velasco
5º recomendado



(11+9)

#2

Buruaga, 10 de enero de 2025.

Memorial Tourney JORGE KAPROS 2024-2025

SECTION H # 2

Fifty-three entries took part in the H # 2 section of the Jorge Kapros Memorial Tourney:

Anton Bidlen – No.1 (Ka3/Ke5), No.2 (Kh8/Kd5); Christer Jonsson & Vidadi Zamanov – No.3 (Kd8/Kc2); Valery Kopyl & Vidadi Zamanov – No.4 (Kh7/Kh2); Alberto Armeni – No.5 (Kh3/Kf6), No.6 (Kd1/Kh4), No.7 (Kd7/Kf5); János Csák – No.8 (Ka5/Kg2), No.9 (Kd1/Ke4), No.10 (Kh6/Kd3); Menachem Witztum – No.11 (Kh1/Ke5); Menachem Witztum & Emanuel Navon – No.12 (Ke7/Kd4); Antonio Garofalo e Fabio Maggini – No.13 (Kf4/Kh6); Vlaicu Crisan – No.14 (Kb6/Kf5); Antonio Garofalo – No.15 (Ka6/Kh6); Alexander Fica & Zoltán Labai – No.16 (Kc6/Kf5); Jan Lipka – No.17 (Ke1/Kf4), No.18 (Kh8/Kh6); Zoltan Labai – No.19 (Kg1/Kd6); Zoltan Labai & Miroslav Svitek – No.20 (Kd1/Ke3); Maryan Kerhuel – No.21 (Ka8/Kd5); Kenneth Solja & Evgeny Gavryliv – No.22 (Kf1/Kf7); Anatoly Vasylenko & Evgeny Gavryliv – No.23 (Kd1/Kf1); Michal Dragoun – No.24 (Kh6/Kd5); Misha Shapiro – No.25 (Kh6/Kf4), No.26 (Ka8/Kf3), No.27 (Kg8/Kd8), No.28 (Kg1/Kd3); Antanas Vilkauskas – No.29 (Ka4/Kf5), No.30 (Ka2/Ke4), No.31 (Kb8/Kd5); Francesco Simoni – No.32 (Ka6/Ke4), No.33 (Kd1/Ke4); Miguel Uris & José Antonio Garzón – No.34 (Kh1/Kc4); Krzysztof Drzycowski – No.35 (Ka1/Kf5); Rolf Wiehagen – No.36 (Kh2/Kf3), No.37 (Kh1/Ke8), No.38 (Kc2/Kf5); Ashot Yeghiazaryan – No.39 (Ka2/Kf4), No.40 (Kc8/Ke2); Alexey Gasparyan – No.41 (Ka4/Kh8); Béla Majoros – No.42 (Kg4/Ke4), No.43 (Ke4/Kc3); Evgeny Gavryliv – No.44 (Kc6/Kd2); Nikolai Kolesnik – No.45 (Kh1/Kd2); Sven Trommler – No.46 (Ka1/Ka5), No.47 (Kd6/Ka3); Valery Gurov & Georgy Evseev – No.48 (Ke5/Kc6); Valery Gurov – No.49 (Ke8/Ke2); Victor Yuzyuk – No.50 (Kb5/Ke6), No.51 (Kb8/Kc5), No.52 (Kc8/Kb3); Mykola Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Galma – No.53 (Kg3/Kf5).

RICARDO VIEIRA'S AWARD

The first thing I want to state here is my deepest sadness when I was informed about Kapros passing away. He had told me he was under medical care, but he never mentioned how serious his health situation was.

I first met Kapros during the WCCC 2009 in Brazil. Our Argentine friends Kapros and Lois came to Rio de Janeiro and I was lucky to be in touch with them. We went to tourist attractions in the city and also talked about chess problems, of course. During the following ten years I went to Buenos Aires at least five times and I always were welcome in a very special way by him and Lois. We had nice meetings at the Club Argentino de Ajedrez (Argentine Chess Club), followed by unforgettable dinners, sometimes with the presence of Roberto Osorio.

Needless to say that I felt very much honored when I was invited by Jorge Lois to judge the H#2 section of this memorial tourney organized by UAPA.

Some comments before the award follow:

- useless white officers (nos. 1, 22) and useless effects (no. 34 – pin of wQ and consequently pin of bB – wRc7, bBc6, bPc7 may be replaced by wPh2; wKh1-g1; wQg2-h1) were not accepted;
- no. 17 presents dual in the order of white moves in (d) and is incorrect;
- no. 23 – quantity prevailed over quality (I'd rather present a three-solution helpmate with just one of the four similar solutions, what can easily be done);
- no. 25 – bBd8 and bPb7 are useless in (b) and (c), respectively, and this means that a double twinning exists and that the correct twinning description is: b) –bBd8, bKf4-d8; c) –bPb7, bKf4-b7.
- no. 51 – P0507290 shows almost the same solutions and is a superior presentation of AUW + bK-star because, although it uses twins, there are four different pieces blocking the bK's initial square.
- some drawbacks downgraded the entries or even avoided them from being awarded: a white pawn that moves or even mates but is useless in other solutions (nos. 4, 5, 13, 15, 21, 31), lack of harmony (nos. 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 29, 31, 32, 38), weak black/white play (nos. 5, 6, 13, 15, 20, 29, 32, 42), non-ideal construction (nos. 12, 39), double checkmates (nos. 7, 10, 14, 26); some symmetry (nos. 7, 19, 30, 36, 52); two moves by the same black piece (nos. 11, 36, 42, 47); two different groups of black pieces (nos. 13, 15, 26, 37, 52); quantity overcoming quality (nos. 23, 28, 31); twinning with two modifications (no. 25); solutions that look like cooks (nos. 31, 40); repetition of moves (no. 43); solution that differs from the others (nos. 43, 53).

I decided on the following ranking:

1st Prize

Michal DRAGOUN

Czech Republic



h#2

(8+10) C+

2.1.1.1.

b) wRf1=wBf1

2nd Prize

Francesco SIMONI

Italy



h#2

(6+11) C+

2.1.1.1.

1st Prize: Michal Dragoun (Czech Republic) No. 24

a) I. 1.Kc5 Sxe7 A (Sxb6?) 2.Qc1+ Rxc1# B

II. 1.Rf6 Rc1 B 2.Rxe6 Sxb6# (Sxe7?) C

b) I. 1.Kxe6 Sxb6 C (Sxe7?) 2.Rh3+ Bxh3# D

II. 1.Qc2 Bh3 D 2.Qc5 Sxe7# (Sxb6?) A

Two pairs of solutions that are connected by squares c5 and e6, each twinning position presenting one solution of each pair. In the first pair, c5 and e6 are blocked (bR/bQ), the white piece at f1 (wR/wB – Forsberg twins) guards flights and wSc8 mates. In the second pair, bK moves to the mentioned squares, wSc8 guards the original square of bK (d5) and the white piece at f1 (wR/wB) repeats the move of the first pair and mates after black active sacrifice and crosscheck (which determines the order of black moves). It is very pleasant to analyze wSc8 play: either mating or guarding d5, White must choose between squares e7 and b6 to move to. Negative effects (creation of flights by White and guard of mating squares by Black) are responsible for the right choices, which change not only in the same pair but also in the same twin position, occurring at W1 and at W2. These dual avoidances are the icing on the cake.

2nd Prize: Francesco Simoni (Italy) No. 33

1.Sge5 Sdf4 (Sg1? Sb4?) 2.Sf3 Sc3#

1.Sde5 Sg1 (Sdf4? Sd4?) 2.Sd3 Sc3#

This helpmate presents indirect pins and unpins of wSs and reciprocal white play. A superficial analysis of the solutions may lead to the (wrong) conclusion that wR/bRc4 (and the consequent pin) are weasels: they seem to have been included just for the presentation of pin mates. Examining the moves and their motivations bring the correct understanding. Both bSs move to e5 in turn on their way to the final blocking square, pinning one of the wSs and avoiding the first dual possibility (which wS moves first?). However a second doubt appears: where the moving wS must go to guard a flight – f4 or b4 and g1 or d4? The presence of the pinned bR is the key for the answer, since the wrong choice unpins this bR, avoiding the mate. An unusual presentation of passive pin: fortunately it plays a very important role for the solutions. Great!

3rd Prize

Nikolai KOLESNIK

Ukraine



h#2

(6+9) C+

2.1.1.1.

4th Prize

János CSÁK

Hungary



h#2

(8+12) C+

2.1.1.1.

b) Sf3→g3

3rd Prize: Nikolai Kolesnik (Ukraine) No. 45

1.Sxe5! Bg6 2.Ke3 Bh6#

Try (1.Sh6? Be4 2.Ke3 Bxh6 ?? 3.Qg5!)

1.Bxf5! Re6 2.Kd3 Rd7#

Try (1.Bd7? Re4 2.Kd3 Rxd7 ?? 3.Qd5!)

A harmonic setting in which wB and wR either are captured to give a square to the bK or give they nice steps back in a bicolor bivalve procedure. Two pairs of white pieces present reciprocal play. The (at first possible) choices (1.Sh6 Be4 and 1.Be7 Re4– active sacrifice followed by white Grimshaw) fail due to a negative effect (line opening) introduced at W2. However, in the correct sequence of moves, this negative effect is not by-passed as it should be in case of dual avoidance, but eliminated by a positive one (W1 closes anticipatorily bQ's line). Those who like to analyze helpmates beyond the real solutions do appreciate this virtual play.

4th Prize: János Csák (Hungary) No. 8

a) 1.Sxg1 Qxd4 2.Kf3 Qd5#

1.Rxf4 Sxf3 2.Kxf3 Qd5#

b) 1.Sxh1 Rxh6 2.Kg3 Rg6#

1.Bxf4 Sxg3 2.Kxg3 Rg6#

In two pairs of connected solutions, bK must move to the square already occupied by a bS. Similar (but not equal) mates will be achieved depending on the way Black and White cooperate: (i) black hideaway by anticipatory self-pin + elimination of the bS by wS combined with active sacrifice or (ii) square vacation with reciprocal capture by bS to eliminate guard over the vacated square + elimination of the black piece that controls the mating square (the same that got self-pinned in the other pair) by the very mating white piece.

1st Honourable Mention

Krzysztof DRAZCOWSKIUL

Poland



h#2

(5+11) C+

4.1.1.1.

2nd Honourable Mention

V. GUROV & G. EVSEEV

Russia



h#2

(6+12) C+

2.1.1.1.

1st Honourable Mention: Krzysztof Drazcowskiul (Poland) No. 35

1.d1=B Rf6+ 2.Kg5 Qc1#
 1.d1=S Bf6 2.Kg6 Qxc2#
 1.Re1 Qd1 2.Re5 Qf3#
 1.Rf1 Qe1 2.Rf4 Qe6#

Four mates by wQ connect two pairs of solutions. In one pair, black direct unpins of wQ are shown. In the other, two minor promotions are motivated once by direct unpin (arrival effect) and once by anticipatory line opening (departure effect) with accidental interference (arrival effect), both followed by white Grimshaw. A pleasant setting despite the small imbalance.

2nd Honourable Mention: Valery Gurov & Georgy Evseev (Russia) No. 48

1.Rxd1 Sd5 2.exd5 Rf6#
 1.Rxf1 Sc4 2.bxc4 Ba4#

In order to direct unpin wSe3, the mating pieces are captured in turn (leading to a passive Zilahi), following active sacrifices of this very wS to open the mating lines.

3rd Honourable Mention

Evgeny GAVRYLIV

Ukraine



h#2 (7+14) C+
 3.1.1.1.

4th Honourable Mention

Valery GUROV

Russia



h#2 (7+11) C+
 4.1.1.1.

3rd Honourable Mention: Evgeny Gavryliv (Ukraine) No. 44

1.Qe3 Kxd6 2.Rf2 Qxe3#
 1.Sc2 Kxb5 2.Ba2 Qxc2#
 1.Sc3 Kxb6 2.Bc1 Qxc3#

Three pairs of black pieces, each guarding a square wQ will mate from, show delayed active sacrifices (which enable three different moves by bK) and hideaways.

4th Honourable Mention: Valery Gurov (Russia) No. 49

1.Kf3 Rxh6 2.Kg4 Sf6#

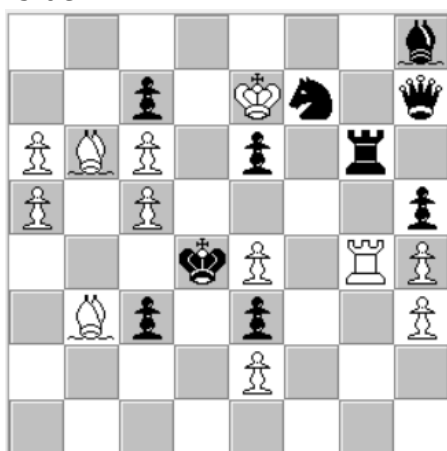
1.Kd3 Qxa3 2.Kc4 Sxb6#
 1.Rxc3 fxe5 2.Bxe3 Sxc3#
 1.Bxf4 c4 2.Rxe3 Sxf4#

Two pairs of solutions connected by indirect batteries and mates by wS. The first pair shows reciprocal play (wP/wP, bR/bB), delayed active sacrifices and line opening for blocks at e3. The reciprocal play in the second pair refers to wQ / wR. Considering the two pairs, bR and bB are involved in passive and active sacrifices.

5th Honourable Mention

M. WITZTUM & E. NAVON

Israel



h#2 (12+10) C+
 b) -bRg6 c) -wBb6 d) -wRg4

1st Commendation

Alexey GASPARYAN

Armenia



h#2 (6+9) C+
 b) Rb3→c2 c) Ra5→c2

5th Honourable Mention: Menachem Witztum & Emanuel Navon (Israel) No. 12

a) 1.e5 Ba7 2.Rd6 cxd6#
 b) 1.Qf5 Rf4 2.Se5 exf5#
 c) 1.Kxc5 Rg5+ 2.Kxc6 Ba4#
 d) 1.Kxe4 Bxc7 2.Kf5 Bc2#

The first pair of solutions (positions (a) and (b)) shows blocks at e5 and active sacrifices to enable battery mates preceded by steps (back or forward) by the rear piece of the battery to escape from black control (unfortunately, the motivations for the order of the black moves are not the same and, in (b), wR moves to escape from bP and also from bSe5). Each solution of the second pair appears after removing the rear piece of the white batteries (positions (c) and (d)), twinning device that are clearly part of the idea and construction of the helpmate. I'd rather (i) present just one reason for W1 in the first pair and (ii) show (a) with two solutions; (b) and (c) with one solution each. (bRg6 → h6; -bPh5; +bSf8 – twins: b) -wBb6 c) -wRg4)

1st Commendation: Alexey Gasparyan (Armenia) No. 41

a) 1.Bxa6 Rh3 2.Bd3! Ra8#
 b) 1.Sxc6 Rh5 2.Se5! Rc8#

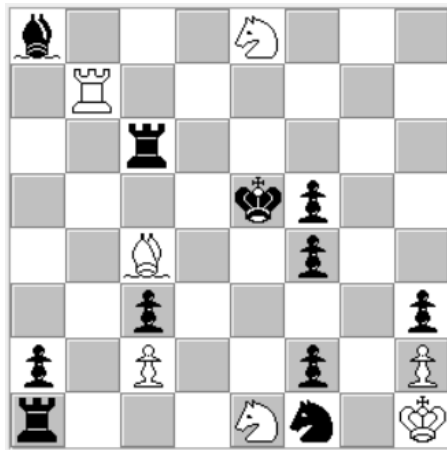
c) 1.Bxb6 Rh2 2.Bf2! Rb8#

Black must carefully choose which piece to move, the cause it must open the lines of two wRs at B1 and B2. An entry that shows the twinning device as part of idea and of the construction of the helpmate. Nice.

2nd Commendation

Menachem WITZTUM

Israel



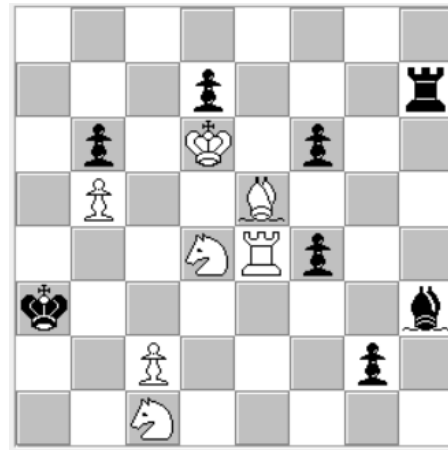
h#2 (7+11) C+

2.1.1.1.

3rd Commendation

Sven TROMMLER

Germany



h#2 (7+8) C+

2.1.1.1.

2nd Commendation: Menachem Witztum (Israel) No. 11

1.Sd2 Rb1 2.Se4 Sf3#

1.Rd6 Sg2 2.Rd4 Re7#

Reciprocal play between wR and wSe1. B1 indirectly pins the mating piece (paradoxical departure effect), following indirect unpin at W1. I expected something more interesting than two moves to block a flight and I am sure the author could easily improve this.

3rd Commendation: Sven Trommler (Germany) No. 47

1.Bf5 Rxf4 2.Bxc2 Sxc2#

1.Rh5 Bxf6 2.Rxb5 Sxb5#

Black ambushes are followed by steps back by the rear pieces of white indirect batteries, ending in black active sacrifices. I think this setting would be much improved if other strategic effects were included, considering a H#2.5 or H#3.

4th Commendation

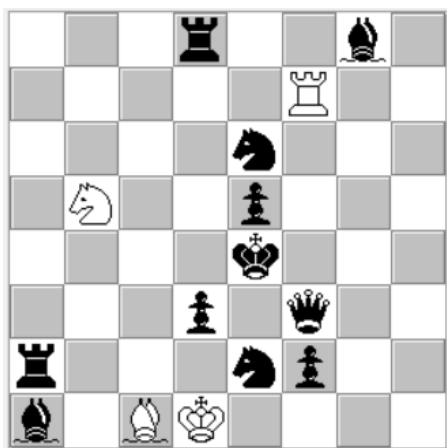
János CSÁK

Hungary

5th Commendation

Sven TROMMLER

Germany



h#2 (4+11) C+
2.1.1.1.



h#2 (5+9) C+
2.1.1.1.

4th Commendation: János Csák (Hungary) No. 9

1.S6d4 Rd7 2.Bd5 Sd6#
1.Qe3 Bb2 2.S2d4 Sc3#

Interesting white self-interferences are downgraded by different reasons for the order of the black moves.

5th Commendation: Sven Trommler (Germany) No. 46

1.f1=S Ba4 2.bxa4 Sc4#
1.e5 c4 2.bxc4 Ra4#

Interesting exchange of mating squares and active sacrifice squares. I think a move by a unique black piece at B1 would improve this setting.

Ricardo de Mattos Vieira
Rio de Janeiro Brazil
March 28th, 2025

Memorial Tourney JORGE KAPROS 2024-2025

AWARD

Section: h#3

Introduction

I received 63 entries h#3 from the tourney director Luis García, editor and director of web page Unión Argentina de Problemistas de Ajedrez (UAPA), son of remembered Mario G. García.

I solved all the problems received to have a better evaluation of the themes and strategies used.

In my opinion, there are three fundamental criteria to evaluate a problem: first the thematic and strategic idea, second the way these thematic and strategy is implemented and third the construction of these idea.

The level of the works was more than acceptable, as may be seen from the number of distinctions conferred.

I have tried to be as objective as possible in making this award and I ask for understanding from who may not be in agree with the verdict offered here.

I thank all the participants and I congratulate those named in the award.

Participants

[37 composers from 17 countries with 63 entries]

Argentina (P. Ricardi 9)

Armenia (A. Gasparyan 36) (A. Yeghiazaryan 62, 63)

Azerbaijan (V. Zamanov 3*, 4*)

Brazil (R. de Mattos Vieira 10*, 11*, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61)

Czech Republic (M. Bily 13) (A. Fica 14*)

Finland (H. Tanner 50)

France (M. Kerhuel 16) (A. Onkoud 44)

Germany (R. Wiehagen 35) (S. Trommler 45, 46)

Italy (F. Simoni 34)

Hungary (J. Csák 5, 6, 7, 8) (B. Majoros 38) (G. Tar 47, 48)

Israel (M. Witztum 10*, 11*, 18, 19) (M. Shapiro 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29)

(L. Lyubashevsky 37**)

Morocco (M. Jamal Elbaz 30)

Romania (O. Craciun 41)

Russia (G. Chumakov 12) (Y. Arefiev 31, 32, 33) (V. Nefyodov 39, 40) (V. Gurov 51)

Slovakia (A. Bidlen 1, 2) (Z. Labai 14*, 15)

Sweden (C. Jonsson 3*)

Ukraine (V. Kopyl 4*) (E. Gavryliv 17) (A. Frolkin 37**) (S. Tkachenko 37**) (N.

Kolesnik 42*, 43*) (V. Semenenko 42*, 43*) (A. Semenenko 49) (V. Yuzyuk

52, 53, 54) (M. Vasyuchko 55*) (M. Galma 55*)

1st-2nd Prize**N. KOLESNIK & V. SEMENENKO****Ukraine**

h#3 (11+8) C+
 2.1.1.1.1.1.

1st-2nd Prize**Aleksandr SEMENENKO****Ukraine**

h#3 (3+15) C+
 2.1.1.1.1.1. b) Sb1→e5

1st-2nd Prize: Nikolai Kolesnik & Valery Semenko (Ukraine) No. 42

1.Bxf4! e7 2.Bxh6 Qxh6 3.Qxd2+ Qxd2#

1.Bxe6! f5 2.Bxg8 Qxg8 3.Rxb3 Qxb3#

Annihilation of two white pieces for line-opening, direct line-opening by white pawns and re-capture of white queens for mate by capture.

Annihilation of white knights for self-block (Chumakov theme).

Reciprocal function-exchange of five pairs of pieces: Bh6/Bg8 – captured, passive guard; Sd2/Sb3 – captured, passive guard; Pf4/Pe6 – captured, line opening; Bh2/Bh3 – active sacrifice + line opening, passive; Rb1/Qc1 – active sacrifice, passive self-block.

The set of strategic effects is very attractive. This excellent problem merits the shared top place in the award.

1st-2nd Prize: Aleksandr Semenko No. 49

a) 1.Kd3! Sc3 2.Kc2 Sd1 3.Kb1 Se3#

1.Kf3! Sd2+ 2.Kg2 Sf1 3.Kh1 Se3#

b) 1.Kd5! Sxc6 2.Kxc6 Rd1 3.Kb6 Rd6#

1.Kf5! Sxg6 2.Kxg6 Rf1 3.Kh6 Rf6#

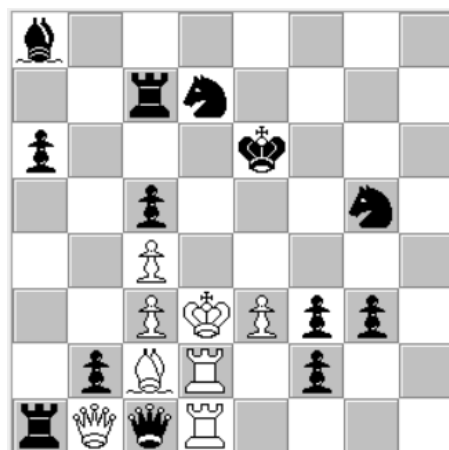
TF-helpmate. In the first pair self-interference/unguard of bK flight, white battery creation by bK move and battery mates, in the second pair active white sacrifice by wS, annihilation capture and extended Kniest theme.

Extended star bK and four model mates. A great work!

3rd Prize**Abdelaziz ONKOUD****France****4th Prize****Valery GUROV****Russia**



h#3 (8+15) C+
2.1.1.1.1.1.



h#3 (8+13) C+
2.1.1.1.1.1.

3rd Prize: Abdelaziz Onkoud (France) No. 44

1.Qxe5+ Bxe5 2.Rc4 Bd6 3.Kxd4 Be5#

1.Rxe5+ Rxe5 2.Qf3 Rf5 3.Kxe4 Re5#

White battery transformation with capture of their front pieces. Sacrifices of black pieces with white re-captures for later formation of batteries.

Reciprocal function-exchange of three pairs of pieces: Bg6/Rd7 – passive guard, rear piece of mating battery; Bh2/Rb5 – mating battery firing, passive guard; Qg3/Rc5 – active sacrifice + line opening, self-block + line opening. Self-blocks B2 with the Chumakov theme, switchback W2/W3 with batteries-mates. A good achievement!

4th Prize: Valery Gurov (Russia) No. 51

1.Kf5 (Qxd2+?) Rh1 2.Qxd2+ Kxd2+ 3.Kg4 Bf5#

1.Kd6 (Qxc2+?) Qxb2 2.Qxc2+ Kxc2+ 3.Kc6 Rd6#

Sacrifices of black queen with captures of wRd2/wBc2 allow line-openings of the same pieces, but alternately.

Reciprocal function-exchange of two pairs of white pieces: Bc2/Rd2 – captured, mate; Qb1/Rd1 – guard, passive guard. Black king is mated on the square previous their arrived. Umnov mate. Zilahi. Well done!

5th Prize

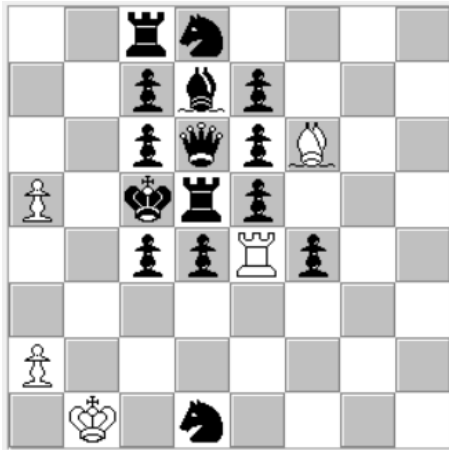
János CSÁK

Hungary

6th Prize

Francesco SIMONI

Italy



h#3 (5+15) C+
2.1.1.1.1.1.



h#3 (7+11) C+
b) Pd7→f3

5th Prize: János Csák (Hungary) No. 8

Try

1.Kb5 Rxe5 2.Qb4+?? a4+ 3.Kc5 Bxe7?
1.Kb4 Bxe7 2.Rb5 a3+ 3.Kc5+?? Rxe5?

Solutions

1.d3 a4 2.Rd4 Rxe5+ 3.Qd5 Bxe7#
1.Be8 a3 2.Qd7 Bxe7+ 3.Rd6 Rxe5#

Consecutive triple black Umnov in each solution. Single and double-step of white pawn. Reciprocal function-exchange of white pieces: Re4/Bf6 – mate, pin. Pin-mate. Two model mates.

The tries increase this place in the award. Very interesting work.

6th Prize: Francesco Simoni (Italy) No. 34

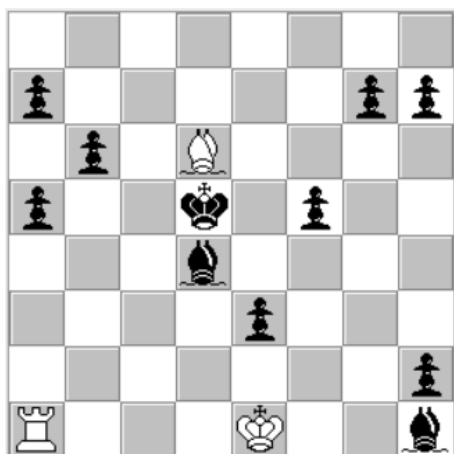
a) 1.Sd4 f4 2.Sb3 c4 3.Ke6 Sd8#
b) 1.Ba3 fxg3 2.Bc1 Bxa2 3.Ke4 Sd6#

A black piece moves twice to unpin the unit that will move at W2.

Reciprocal function-exchange of two pairs of pieces: Sc6/Sc8 – mate, passive guard; Bc5/Se6 – interfering, passive. Very nice problem.

Special Prize -ex aequo-
Rolf WIEHAGEN
Germany

Special Prize -ex aequo-
Vladislav NEFYODOV
Russia



h#3 (3+11) C+
4.1.1.1.1.1.



h#3 (4+7) C+

Special Prize -ex aequo-: Rolf Wiehagen (Germany) No. 35

1.Kc4 0-0-0 2.Kb3 Rd3 3.Ka2 Ra3#
1.Ke4 Ra3 2.Kf3 Rxe3 3.Kg2 Rg3#
1.Kc6 Rb1 2.Kb7 Rxb6 3. Ka8 Rb8#
1.Ke6 Rxa5 2.Kf7 Rxf5 3.Kg8 Rf8#

Extended star (3-step bK-star). This thematic has antecedents (see P0577898 and P1094836). The novelty is that the moves of all solutions are made by a single rook, considering long castling as a complementary rook-move. Therefore, all white and black moves were made by two pieces sK/wR. Four model mates. An attractive problem.

Special Prize -ex aequo-: Vladislav Nefyodov (Russia) No. 40

1.0-0-0!
1. ... Sxc6 2.Kb7 Sxd8+ 3.Ka8 Rc8#
1. ... Sxe6 2.Rd7 Rd4 3.Rb7 Rd8#

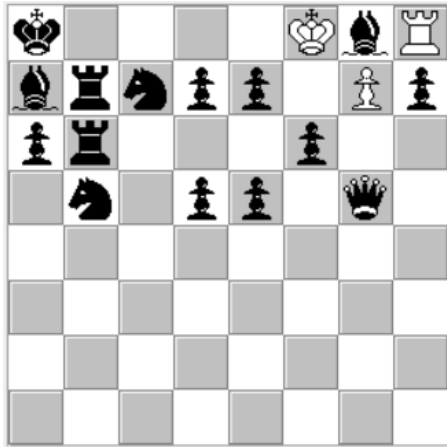
The first black move occupies the thematic squares c8/d8. On moves 2 and 3, black leaves these squares c8/d8 and then the white checkmate from same squares c8 and d8 without capturing. Black long-castling and delayed Umnov. Model mate. Meredith. A unique solution (Onitiu solution) with white variants gives this entry a special place in the award. An original problem.

1st Honourable Mention

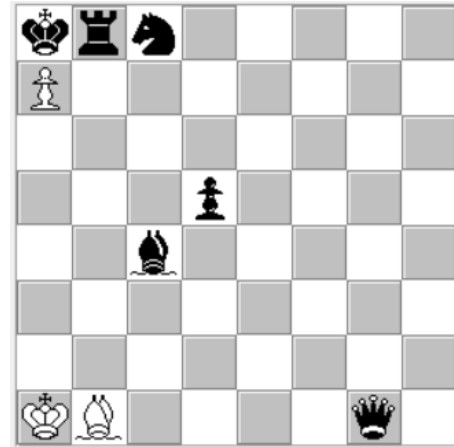
**A. FROLKIN & L. LYUBASHEVSKY
& S. TKACHENKO**
Ukraine/Israel/Ukraine

2nd Honourable Mention

Pablo RICARDI
Argentina



h#3 (3+15) C+
b) Sb5↔Bg8



h#3 (3+6) C+
3.1.1.1.1.1.

1st Honourable Mention: Andriy Frolkin & Leonid Lyubashevsky & Sergiy Tkachenko (Ukraine/Israel/Ukraine) No. 37

- a) 1.Bf7 g8=S! (g8=B? Kxf7+?) 2.Kb8 Kxf7 (Kxe7?) 3.Kc8 Sxe7#
b) 1.Sh6 g8=B! (g8=S? Kxe7+?) 2.Rd6 Kxe7 (Kf7?) 3.Rbb6 Bxd5#

Transformation of a royal masked battery into a direct battery-W2 through successive moves –direct royal battery-B1 and direct royal half-battery W1– on the same line. Dual avoidances. Underpromotions. Batteries mates.

2nd Honourable Mention: Pablo Ricardi (Argentina) No. 9

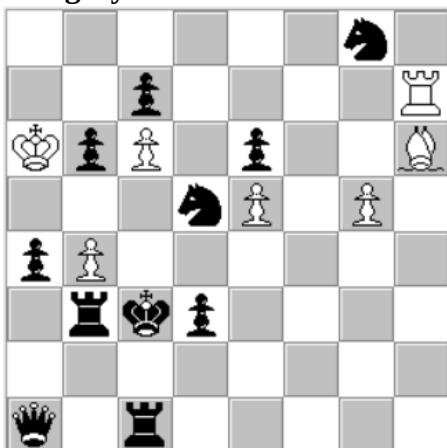
- 1.Kb7 a8=S 2.Qa7+ Ba2 3.Ba6 Bxd5#
1.Qc5 Bg6 2.Kb7 axb8=Q 3.Kc6 Be8#
1.Qb6 axb8=R 2.Ka7 Be4 3.d4 Ra8#

Three withdrawal unpins of the black queen with self-blocks. Three white underpromotions. Mates on three different squares. Meredith.

3rd Honourable Mention

János CSÁK

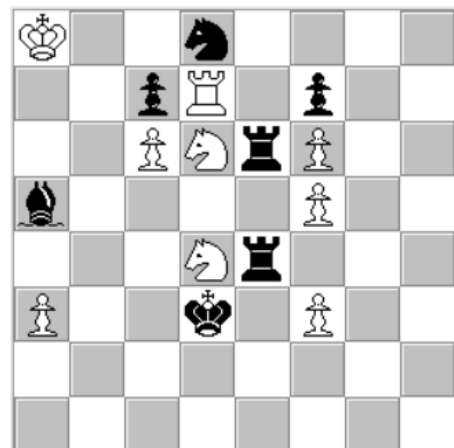
Hungary



4th Honourable Mention

Ricardo de MATTOS VIEIRA

Brazil



h#3
2.1.1.1.1.1.

(7+11) C+

h#3
b) Re4→g4

(9+7) C+

3rd Honourable Mention: János Csák (Hungary) No. 5

1.Kxb4 Rxc7 2.Rxc6 Bf8+ 3.Rd6! (Rc5?) Bxd6#
1.Kc4 Bg7 2.Qxe5 Rh4+ 3.Qe4! (Qd5?) Rxe4#

Annihilation of the white pawns for line-opening. White ambush. Active sacrifice of black pieces. White/white bi-valve with interference on the check-line for later mate. Dual avoidance. Reciprocal function-exchange of two pairs of pieces: Rh7/Bh6 – active guard, mate; Qa1/Rc1 – active sacrifice + line opening, passive.

4th Honourable Mention: Ricardo de Mattos Vieira (Brazil) No. 59

a) 1.Re2 Sc4 2.Rxc6 Se3 3.Rc3 Sdc2#
b) 1.Re2 Sc2 2.Rc4 Se3 3.Rc3 Sdc4#

Exchange of self-blocks by the black rooks on two same squares (c3/e2); reciprocal function-exchange of white pieces: Sd4/Sd6 – guard, mate.

5th Honourable Mention

Sven TROMMLER

Germany



h#3
2.1.1.1.1.1. (9+11) C+

6th Honourable Mention

Misha SHAPIRO

Israel



h#3
b) Qc6→d6 (7+11) C+

5th Honourable Mention: Sven Trommler (Germany) No. 45

1.Sxa3+ Kf2 2.Sxb5 Qb5 3.Rf7 Qe5#
1.bxa5+ b6 2.axb4 Qxb4 3.Bf5 Qe7#

Annihilation of two white units by sacrifice of a black piece allowing line opening for mate. Reciprocal function-exchange of three pairs of pieces: Rf8/Bh3 – passive, self-block; Sb1/Pb6 – passive, sacrificed; Ra5/Ba3 – captured, passive guard.

6th Honourable Mention: Misha SHAPIRO (Israel) No. 28

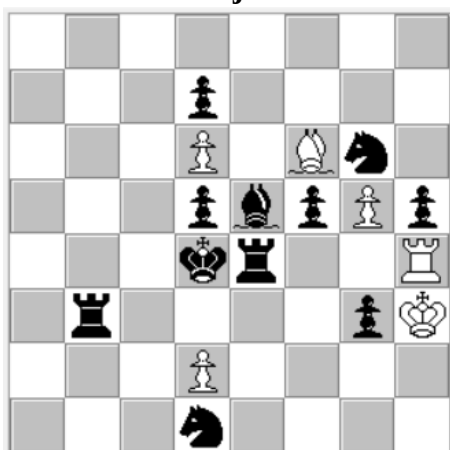
1.Kxg2 Qd6 2.Kxf3 Kc6 3.Ke4 Qd5#
 1.Ke2 Qc6 2.Kd3 Kd6 3.Kd4 Qd5#

Place exchange between the white king and the white queen. Consecutive white/white
 Umnov theme. Alternative paths of the black king to their square-mate.

Commendations without order

Commendation

V. KOPYL & V. ZAMANOV
 Ukraine/Azerbaijan



h#3 (6+11) C+
 b) –Bf6

Commendation

Menachem WITZTUM
 Israel



h#3 (8+9) C+
 b) Rd8→h4

Commendation: Valery Kopyl & Vidadi Zamanov No. 4

a) 1.Rf4 Rg4 2.Ke4 Rxc3 3.Bc3 d3#
 b) 1.Bxd6 Rxh5 2.Re6 Rh4+ 3.Ke5 d4#

Commendation: Menachem Witztum (Israel) No. 19

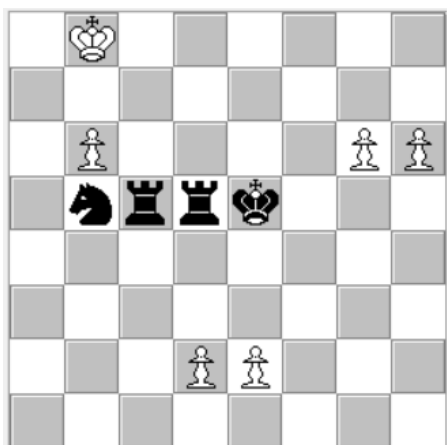
a) 1.Ra2 Rxc5 2.Re2 Rf5 3.Rxc4 Sxc4#
 b) 1.Rf6 Sxb3 2.Rf2 Sc1 3.Rxd3 Rxd3#

Commendation

Béla MAJOROS
 Hungary

Commendation

Gábor TAR
 Hungary



h#3 (6+4) C+
3.1.1.1.1.1.



h#3 (7+10) C+
b) Pc2→b4

Commendation: Béla Majoros (Hungary) No. 38

1.Sa7 bxa7 2.Kd4 a8=Q 3.Kc4 Qa4#

1.Ke4 g7 2.Re5 g8=Q 3.Rcd5 Qg4#

1.Kf4 h7 2.Rf5 h8=Q 3.Rce5 Qh4#

Commendation: Gábor Tar (Hungary) No. 47

a) 1.Qxd3 Rxc2 2.Qc3 Sc6+ 3.Kc4 Rxc3#

b) 1.Qxc6 Ba6 2.Qb5 Se6+ 3.Kc4 Bxb5#

Commendation

Ricardo de MATTOS VIEIRA

Brazil

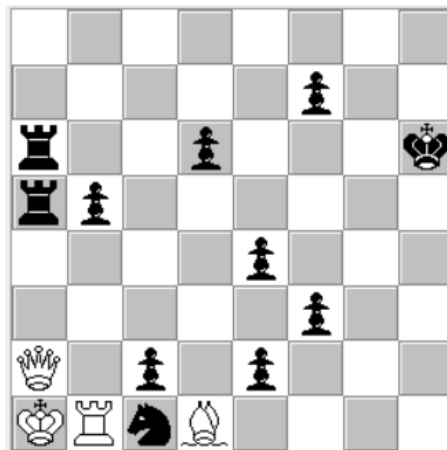


h#3 (8+11) C+
2.1.1.1.1.1.

Commendation

Ashot YEGHIAZARYAN

Armenia



h#3 (4+11) C+
2.1.1.1.1.1.

Commendation: Ricardo de Mattos Vieira (Brazil) No. 61

1.Sxf4 Sd3 2.Sd5 Bf4 3.Sge3 Sc5#

1.Sxf6 Shf3 2.Sd5 Bc5 3.Sge3 Sd4#

Commendation: Ashot Yeghiazaryan (Armenia) No. 63

1.cxd1=B Rxc1 2.Ba4 Rg1 3.e1=S Qh2#
1.cxb1=S Bc2 2.Sa3 Qxf7 3.e3 Qg6#

Jorge Joaquín Lois
Buenos Aires, Argentina
April 14th, 2025