

1st Prize B38 Evgeny Gavryliv (Ukraine)

This excellent entry presents a fine HOTF with rich play in both pairs of solutions. In the first pair (which admittedly are completely symmetrical) bQb7/bBd7, capturing at c6, make that square available for the W2 move (and clear the way for guards of a6 and e6) in readiness for the mates before switching back, Maslar style, for mates in which the white rooks play complementary roles. Any worries about symmetry in the first pair of solutions are dispelled in the second – here the captures of the white rooks at d6/b6 also serve to make those squares available (this time for move W3); the wPc6 takes different routes to different promotions, leading to significantly different (but pleasing) mates. The recurrence of the moves Kxb5 and Kxd5 add to the sense of overall harmony among the four solutions. This problem has a greater sense of freshness than others in the tourney, and the combining of the two pairs of solutions has the feeling of a discovery rather than invention.

1br3r1/1qpb4/1RPR4/pP1Pp3/p1k1p3/8/8/7K

1.Qxc6 Rxb8 2.Qb7 Rc6+ 3.Kxb5 (A) Rxb7#

1.Bxc6 Rd8 2.Bd7 Rc6+ 3.Kxd5 (B) Rxd7#

1.cxd6 c7 2.Kxd5 (B) cxb8=Q 3.Rc4 Qxd6#

1.cxb6 cxb7 2.Kxb5 (A) bxc8=S 3.Ka6 Rxb6# (MM)

2nd Prize B94 Aleksandr Feoktistov(Russia)

A very satisfactory achievement of this task: extended star of the bK, and self-blocks on the squares vacated by the bK on move 2 (FML). With the need to plot unique 3-move journeys by the wS in every solution (with no repeated moves) (and with four model mates) this must have been a considerable constructional challenge.

8/K7/3p2rb/1PPp4/p3P2p/2N1k2n/1np1B1p1/qb5r

1.Kd2 Sd1 2.Kc1 Sxb2 3.Bd2 Sd3# (MM)

1.Kf2 Sxb1 2.Kg1 Sd2 3.Sf2 Sf3# (MM)

1.Kd4 Sa2 2.Kxc5 Sb4 3.d4 Sa6# (MM)

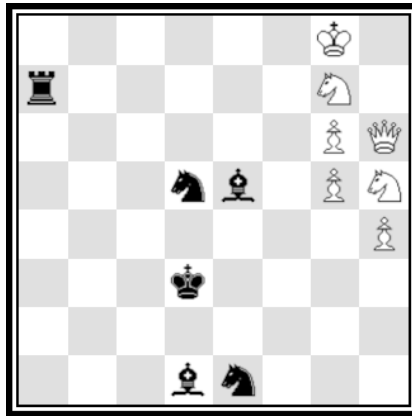
1.Kf4 Sxd5+ 2.Kg5 Sf6 3.Sf4 Sh7# (MM)

1st HM aequo= B53
Misha Shapiro(Israel)
10th FRME 2024



H#3 b)Sd1=>e1 (4+14)

1st HM aequo B95
Volodymyr Lastivka & Mykola Kolesnik (Ukraine)
10th FRME 2024



H#3 2Sols (7+6)

3rd HM B97
Francesco SIMONI(Italy)
10th FRME 2024



H#3 2Sols (4+8)

1st HM= B53 aequo Misha Shapiro(Israel)

Vertical stacks of black pawns such as we see in this diagram are not immediately appealing, and have quite often been used to motivate white sacrifices to 'deconstruct' them in such a way as to achieve mate. In this case they do not present a physical barrier to access to the black king, but they do cement in place the key guards of b6 (by the bBa5) and b5 (by the bQ), so White's sacrifices serve to provide b4 and b3 as escape routes for the bB and bQ. This seems to be a sufficiently new motivation for the W1 sacrifices (with the benefit of interchanged W2 and W3 moves, and Zilahi) to justify a high position in the award.

2b5/2k1p3/1p1pr3/bp6/qpB5/rp2B3/np6/3N3K

a)

1.Kd8 Sc3 2.b4*c3 B*b5(a) 3.Bb4 B*b6(b) #

b) Sd1=>e1

1.Kd7 Sc2 2.b3*c2 B*b6(b) 3.Qb3 B*b5(a) #

1st HM B95 aequo Volodymyr Lastivka & Mykola Kolesnik (Ukraine)

A very appealing geometric find, leading to the bK (initially surrounded by vacant squares) snared by similar attractive midboard model mates. As well as the reciprocity of roles of the wSs (captured; mating: i.e., Zilahi) there is the reciprocity of roles of the bBs (capturing and captured; moving to a 3rd -rank blocking square). An elegant construction, requiring only 13 units despite the challenging task of restricting the movement of the powerful wQ.

6K1/r5N1/6PQ/3nb1PN/7P/3k4/8/3bn3

1.B:h5 Q:h5 2.Bc3 Qe2+ 3.Kd4 Se6# (MM)

1.B:g7 Q:g7 2.Bf3 Qd4+ 3.Ke2 Sg3# (MM)

3rd HM B97 Francesco SIMONI(Italy)

A similar problem to B95, with the bK initially surrounded by vacant squares and then ensnared in attractively matched model mates with reciprocity of functions of wR and wB. There is a fine correlation of strategic elements, notably the FML effect on moves B1 and B2 before the square-blocks at d4 on B3. I rank it slightly lower than B95, because of the interest of the Zilahi element in B95 and because (although using fewer units, 12) there are slightly more units that in one or both solutions are bystanders in B97. But it is also a very fine, elegant and economical problem.

8/K1Np4/4p3/3n4/1n6/4k3/1rp3R1/4B1b1

1.Sd3 Sxe6 2.Rb4 Sg5 3.Rd4 Bd2‡

1.Sf4 Sb5 2.d5 Sc3 3.d4 Rg3‡

4th HM= B43

SHAUL SHAMIR(Israel)

10th FRME 2024



H#3 2Sols (8+12)

5th HM B103

Jakub Marciniszyn(Poland)

10th FRME 2024

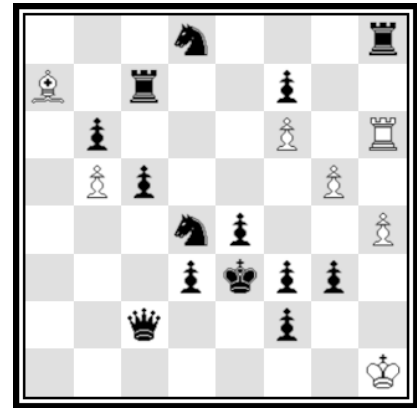


H#3 2Sols (6+12)

1st Comm B63

Emanuel Navon(Israel)

10th FRME 2024



H#3 b) wRa7 (7+14)

4th HM= B43 SHAUL SHAMIR(Israel)

A very familiar matrix, here put to good use. In principle it should be straightforward for the bQ to spend 2 moves getting to b4 or b3; but the routes it will take, via c5/e3, give an intermediate check, so White must on W1 provide a shelter for the wK to occupy on W2.

The strategy is further underlined by the fact that the bQ could on B1 take the alternative routes, via e3/c5,

but that would fail as White would have no response to these B1 checks other than capturing the bQ.

1b3B2/3n3r/2p1p3/2P3Kb/N3p1n1/k3P1R1/pN4P1/2q4r

1.Sxe3 Bd6 2.Qxc5+ Kf4 3.Qb4 Rxe3# (MM)

1.Sxc5 Rh3 2.Qxe3+ Kh4 3.Qb3 Bxc5# (MM)

5th HM B103 Jakub Marciniszyn(Poland)

As I said in my introduction, it is difficult these days to find wholly new ideas in the H#3. In B103, we have two very familiar motifs – the captures of wB/wR which enable the wK to release the surviving white officer; and the Kniest sacrifices alternately of the two wSs that allow the surviving wS to go to the square vacated by his companion with mate. This is a very well accomplished combination of these elements, with a satisfying move-by-move correspondence between the solutions.

5b2/8/2N1p3/2kp2pp/1N1p2pn/2rP2KR/4r2B/3n4

1.Rxh2 Sxd4 2.Kxd4 Kxh2 3.Bc5 Sc6# (MM)

1.gxh3 Sxd5 2.Kxd5 Kxh3 3.Rc5 Sb4# (MM)

1st Comm B63 Emanuel Navon(Israel)

Lines used on the mating move, b8-f4 and a4-e4, must be opened by bRc7/bSd4, and the very nice point is that the other purpose of the moves of these two black pieces is to make a sacrifice that must be accepted on W2, meaning that Black does not have time to play Qe2/Qd2 until move 3. A solver is likely not to see the need for the sacrifices at f6 and h4 for quite some time. The Forsberg twinning adds some further spice.

3n3r/B1r2p2/1p3P1R/1Pp3P1/3np2P/3pkpp1/2q2p2/7K

a)

1. Rc6 (Qe2?) Bb8 2. Rxf6 Rxf6 3. Qe2 Bf4#

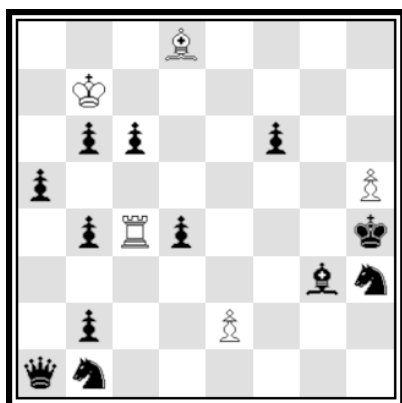
b) wRa7

1. Sf5(Qd2?) Ra4 2. Sxh4 Rxh4 3. Qd2 Rax4#

2nd Comm B57

Menachem Witztum & Ofer Comay(Israel)

10th FRME 2024



H#3

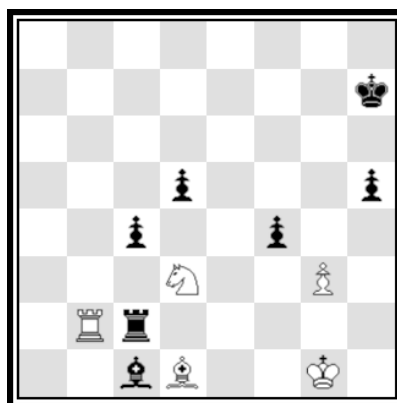
2Sols

(5+12)

3rd Comm B77

Pankratyev Alexander & Antipin Ivan (Russie)

10th FRME 2024



H#3

2Sols

(5+7)

2nd Comm B57 Menachem Witztum & Ofer Comay(Israel)

The nice point here is that the two possible routes of the bQ to h5 are differentiated by the need to avoid a transitory but fatal pin preventing in one case 2...Rxf6 and in the other 2...Bxd4 – an ingenious construction.

3B4/1K6/1pp2p2/p6P/1pRp3k/6bn/1p2P3/qn6

1.Qa3 Bxb6! 2.Qf3 Bxd4 3.Qxh5 Bxf6#

1.Qa4 Rxc6! 2.Qb5 Rxf6 3.Qxh5 Rf4#

3rd Comm B77 Pankratyev Alexander & Antipin Ivan (Russia)

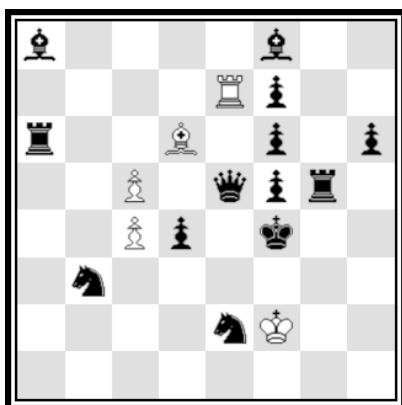
The motivations for capture of white officers are different (Bxb2 is merely incidental, cxd3 is to open a line) and there is a difference between the (attractive) creation of two batteries (one fires with check on W2 and the other with mate on W3), but there is a lot of rich play packed into this untwinned Meredith, with two blocking moves at g7 and two mating moves at f7, so a place in the award is definitely called for!

8/7k/8/3p3p/2p2p2/3N2P1/1Rr5/2bB2K1

1.Bxb2 Bxc2 2.Bg7 Se5+ 3.Kh6 Sf7# (MM)

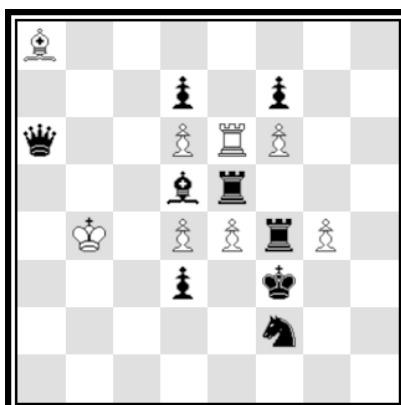
1.cxd3 Bxh5 2.Rc7 Rh2 3.Rg7 Bf7# (MM)

4th Comm= B49
Pavel Murashev(Russia)
10th FRME 2024



H#2.5 3Sols (5+13)

5th Comm B5
Anatoly Skripnik(Russia) & Kenan
Velikhanov (Azerbaijan)
10th FRME 2024



H#3 b) f3-->e3 (8+9)

5th Comm= B49 Pavel Murashev(Russia)

Three different battery mates, each by a switchback mating move, are most resourcefully shown here. This must have been difficult to achieve, and some of the incidental features (e.g., the colourless move 3.Bg7, and the fact that the move ...Ke2 captures a black officer) are, no doubt unavoidably, somewhat inelegant.

b4b2/4Rp2/r2B1p1p/2P1qpr1/2Pp1k2/1n6/4nK2/8

1...Rxe5 2.Bf3 c6 3.Bg4 Ree7#

1...Bxe5+ 2.Ke4 Kxe2 3.Bg7 Bd6#

1...Bb8 2.Qc7 Rxc7 3.Ke5 Rce7#`

6th Comm B5 Anatoly Skripnik(Russia) & Kenan Velikhabov(Azerbaijan)

An attractive problem, but this configuration of pieces has been extensively explored by composers and it is difficult to come up with new twists. The sacrifices of wR and wB on e4 have been seen before, and I believe that the nice feature that on the preceding move bR/bB have moved beyond e4 to e3/f3 is also not wholly new; but placing the wK at b4, so that ...Kc5/...Kc3 facilitate the mating moves, may well be a good new idea enabling these two well-matched strategic lines of play to be harmoniously linked.

B7/3p1p2/q2PRP2/3br3/1K1PPrP1/3p1k2/5n2/8

a)

1.Rxe4 Kc5 2.Re3 Re4 3.Kxe4 Bxd5# (MM)

b) bKf3-->e3

1.Bxe4 Kc3 2.Bf3 Be4 3.Kxe4 Rxe5#

It remains only to repeat my thanks for being invited to undertake this judging task and to add thanks to composers for making it such an enjoyable one.

Christopher Jones

Bristol, October 2024

Participants :

Kivanc Cefle(B1);János Csák(B2,B96);Anton Bidleň(B3);Vidadi Zamanov & Vlaicu Crisan(B4);Anatoly Skripnik & Kenan Velikhabov(B5),Ivan Antipin(B6),Miroslav SVÍTEK(B7,B8,B9);Miroslav Svítek & Jozef Ložek(B10);Stanislav Hudak (B11);Vidadi Zamanov & Rolf Wiehagen (B12);Jahangir Nifdaliyev B13);Alexander Fica(B14,B15,B106);Daniel Novomesky(B16);Miroslav Bílý(B17);Alexander Fica & Zoltan Labai(B18);Zoltan Labai(B19);János Kóczyán(B20,B21,B22,B23);Menachem Witztum(B24,B25);Jamal Elbaz (B26,B37,B46,B61,B64);Béla MAJOROS(B27);Yuri V.Arefiev(B28,B29);Ivan ANTIPIN (B30,B31,B32);Mihaiu Cioflanca (B33);Josef Burda(B34,B35);Salman Javadzade & Christer Jonsson(B36),Evgeny Gavryliv

(B38,B39,B60);Yuri Bilokin (B40,B41,B42);SHAUL SHAMIR(B43);irrii gorbatenko(B44,B45);Anton Nasyrov(B47);Anatoly Slesarenko (B48);Pavel Murashev(B49,B50);Misha Shapiro(B51,B52,B53,B54,B55);Vladislav V. NEFYODOV (B56);Jan Lipka(B70);Menachem Witztum & Ofer Comay(B57);Igor AGAPOV & Aleksandr PANKRATEV(B58);Yuri Bilokin & Evgeny Gavryliv(B59);Emanuel Navon(B62,B63);Gunter Jordan(B65);Ognian Dimitrov(B66,B67,B68,B69);Pankratiev Alexander & Antipin Ivan(B71,B72,B73,B74,B75,B76,B77,B78,B79,B80,B81,B82,B83);Ivunin Alexey & Pankratyev Alexander(B84,B85,B86);Krzysztof Drązkowski(B87);Dimitris Liakos(B88,B89);Stanislav Hudak(B90);Mykola Kolesnik(B91);Mykola Kolesnik & Valery Semenenko(B92);Abdelaziz Onkoud(B93,B99);Aleksandr Feoktistov(B94);Volodymyr Lastivka & Mykola Kolesnik (B95);Francesco SIMONI(B97,B98);Achim Schöneberg(B100);Bogusz Piliczewski(B101);Jakub Marcinişzyn(B102,B103);Viktor Yuzyuk(B104,B105);Jamal Elbaz & Mihaiu Cioflanca(B107).

Jamal Elbaz
FRME -Maroc

