



The Royal Moroccan Chess Federation (FRME)

6TH COMPOSING TOURNEY 2020, HELPMATES IN 3.5 AND LONGER

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

Final Award

Participants:

János Csák(C1,C2,C14,C15);Anton Bidlen(C3,C4,C5,C29,C30);Karol Mlynka(C6);Christer Jonsson(C7,C8);Vidadi Zamanov(C7,C8);Christopher Jones(C9);Vladimir Evseev(C10);Ognian Dimitrov(C11,C12);Eugene Fomichev(C13);Nikita Kravtsov(C16);Claude BEAUBESTRE(C17);Marcos Roland(C18);Kostas Prentos(C19,C20);Aleksandr Pankratiev(C21,C22);Evgeny Gavryliv(C21,C22);Diatlov Oleg(C23);Mykola Vasyuchko(C24);Mykhailo Halma(C24);Ivunin Alexey + Pankratyev Alexander(C25,C26,C27,C28);Gennagy CHUMAKOV(C31);Valery. Barsukov(C32,C43);Viktor Yuzyuk(C33);Marcin Banaszek(C34);Mykola Kolesnik(C35,C36);Gábor Tar(C37,C38);Bosko Miloseski(C39);Ljubomir Ugren(C40,C41,C42);Torsten Linß(C44,C46);Onkoud AbdelAziz(C45);Steven B. Dowd and Mirko Degenkolbe (C47,C48,C49,C50);Zlatko Mihajloski(C51).

Award :

From the tournament director, Jamal M. Elbaz, I received a total of 54 submissions on anonymous diagrams. All were computer tested and correct, but in C4 the dual a) 6.a1=Q,a1=R (which obviously was accepted by the author) has to be considered a serious flaw. Thanks to Ulrich Ring and Manfred Rittirsch with whom I discussed a couple of issues concerning the entries. I remember well how difficult it was in the 1970ies and 1980ies to compose correct long helpmates. Nowadays obviously the computer programs contribute a lot to increase the numbers. Accordingly, the quality of helpmate moremovers dramatically has been increasing in recent years. Many excellent composers extended the level considerably, and „just correct“ H#n therefore are not competitive, not even if they show two-phase presentations. In this award, both modern, contemporary problems and rather old-fashioned problems can be found – each of the awarded problems is original (hopefully!) and well constructed.

1st Prize: no. C54 Zlatko Mihajloski

1.– Bh7+ 2.Kf6 Bc2 3.Rce7 Kc8 4.Ke6 Kb8 5.Kd7 Ka7 6.Kc8+ Ka6 7.Ra7+ Kb5 8.Kb7 Kb4 9.Ka6 Ba4 10.Rfb7 Bb5#

The Bristol manoeuvre of the rooks (c7-a7, f7-b7) is obvious, because there is only one possible final position. It is most paradox that an Anti-Bristol (c7-e7!!) has to be played before – in a helpmate! The intricate manoeuvre of the bishop with a Herlin (h7-c2!-a4-b5) instead of the paths via d7 or e8 completes the fine strategy.

2nd Prize: no. C19 Kostas Prentos

1.– Rxd3 2.Bg2 Rf3 3.Bf1 Bg2 (tempo) 4.Bc4 Re3#

1.– Re3 2.Kc4 Bf3 3.Bc6 Bh5 4.Kd5 Bf7#

1.– Rf2/Rg3? 2.f4 Rg3 3.Bf5 -??- (tempo?) 4.Ke4 Re2#

An interesting strategic composition. The extremely strong white battery is controlled with provocative elegance (almost all black flights are already blocked!). The mixed-colour pattern of Klasinc gateopenings (WR/BB, BK/BB) provides coherence and makes the play lively. Fine tempo play is presented in the try and in the first solution

3rd Prize: no. C34 Marcin Banaszek

1.Rb2 Bg8 2.Bb3 Kb4 3.Ba2+ Kxc3 4.Rb3++ Kxc4 5.Be5 Bd5#

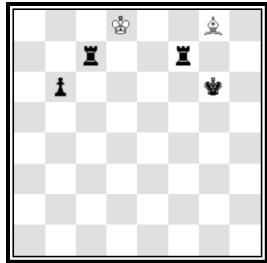
Both BR and BB consecutively clear the square b3 in order to be interfered by the respective other piece (reciprocal Grimshaw) – just in order to let the WK pass who opens the black diagonal (1.Rb2!, not 1.Rb1?) and finds its place on square c4. Both black pieces return to their diagram positions.

4th Prize: no. C44 Torsten Linß

1.– Bb8+ 2.Qf4 Ba7 3.Rd5 Ke7 4.Qb4+ Ke8 (4.– Kf7?) 5.Kf4 Kf7 6.Ke5 Ke8 7.Kd6 Kd8 8.Rc4 Bb8+ 9.Kc5+ Kc7 10.b5 Ba7#

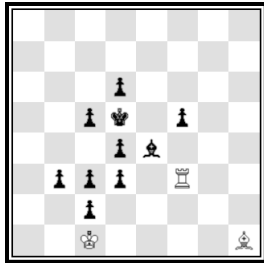
Two switchbacks each of the WB and of the WK (the WK plays pendula to two different squares) are at the core of this fine problem that pleases by the good order of moves and by the king's shielding for its opponent to arrange the mate in the middle of the board.

1st Prize: C54 Zlatko Mihajloski
FRME 2020 6th Composing



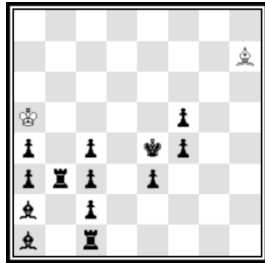
H#9.5 C+ 2+4

2nd Prize: C19 Kostas Prentos
FRME 2020 6th Composing



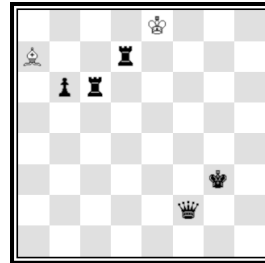
H#3.5 2 sol C+ 3+10

3rd Prize: C34 Marcin Banaszek
FRME 2020 6th Composing



H#5 C+ 2+13

4rd Prize: C44 Torsten Linß
FRME 2020 6th Composing



H#9.5 C+ 2+5

1st Honourable Mention: no. C47 * Steven B. Dowd(USA) & Mirko Degenkolbe (GER)

1.– 2.Sc1 Ba2 3.Sxb3 Sxb3 4.Kf3 Sd4+ 5.Ke3 Bd5 6.f4 Sf5#

1.– Ke2 2.Sc1+ Ke3 3.Sxb3 cxb3 4.Kf1 Bd3+ 5.Ke1 Be2 6.c2 (tempo) Sxc2#

An awfully difficult problem, in particular the set-play. (I wonder how solvers at the World Championship would have mastered the problem.) The open mating position with WBd5 and WSf5 after the crazy blocking move f5-f4 is terrific! Despite the loose position, the set-play cannot be maintained, thus the kings have to change places, and paradoxically there is a tempo move at the end. A very unusual cage-style problem.

2nd Honourable Mention: no. C24 Mykola Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Halma

1.Sbc5 Rxb6 2.0-0-0 Ra6 3.Rb8 Rb6 (tempo) 4.Sb7 Rc6#

Klasinc theme with two gate-openers on the b line (BS and WR for BR). The step-by-step walk of the white rook is entertaining, with an annihilation while running forward and a tempo move while running back.

3rd Honourable Mention: no. C35 Mykola Kolesnik (Ukraine)

1.– Be2 2.Sxb3 Bxc4 3.Sxc1 Bxc1 4.e2 Bf7#

1.– Ra3 2.Sxb2 Ra6 3.Sxd1 Rxd1 4.b5 Rd5#

Captures of white officers have been fashionable for a long time (the legendary helpmate patron John Niemann once spontaneously called it „bystander theme“.) Here an extended Zilahi is presented with two white rooks and two white bishops as thematic pieces. A massive wall of pawns is needed to control those pieces. It is a bit deplorable that there is an extra capture (2.– Bxc4) in the first solution and an extra line-opening (a3-a6) in the second one.

4th Honourable Mention: no. C31 Gennagy CHUMAKOV(Russie)

* 1.– Sxc3 2.d1=S Sa4+ 3.S1c3 Sb2 4.Se4 Sd3#

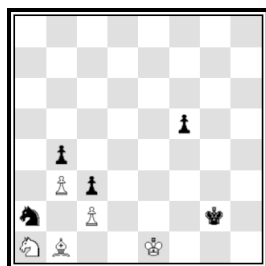
1.Sf4 Sb2 2.cxb2 c3 3.b1=B Kxh2 4.Be4 c4#

Two diagonal battery mates, delivered by different front pieces. The set-play is charming, and it is nice that the actual play with the sacrifice is even better than the good set-play.

1st HM: C47

Steven B. Dowd(USA) & Mirko Degenkolbe (GER)

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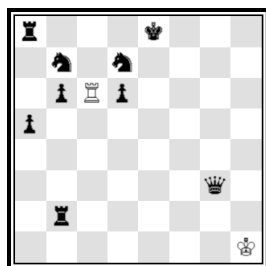


H#5.5 C+ 5+5

2nd HM: C24

Mykola Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Halma

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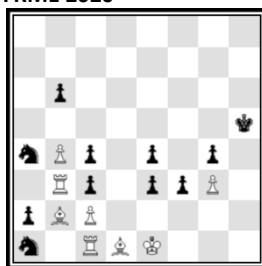


H#6 2 sol C+ 2+9

3rd HM: C35

Mykola Kolesnik (Ukraine)

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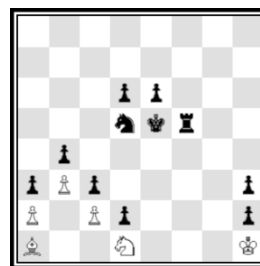


H#3.5 C+ 8+11

4th HM: C31

Gennagy CHUMAKOV (Russie)

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H#4* C+ 6+11

1st Commendation: no. C30 Anton Bidleň, Slovakia

* 1.– Bg2 2.Ke6 Bxe4 3.f5 Bd3 4.Kd5 Ba6 5.Ke4 Bb7#

1.Ke6 Ke1 2.f5 Kd2 3.f4 exf4 4.Kd5 c4+ 5.Kd4 e3#

Fiddly, old-fashioned, and vivid with two contrasting phases. Set-play settings are unusual in cage-style problems

2nd Commendation: no. C39 Bosko Miloseski (Macedonia)

1.Rb6 Bh4 2.Ra1+ Kxb6 3.Sg3 Kc5 4.Kf2 Kd4 5.Ke1 Ke3 6.Rd1 Bxg3#

Maslar theme as miniature with three excellent introductory moves, an anticipatory sacrifice, a critical move and a patient move.

3rd Commendation: no. C15 János Csák (Hongrie)

1.– Bf4 2.Kd5 Bxe5 3.Ke4 Rb4+ 4.Ke3 Bf4#

1.– Bg5 2.Qe4 Bxh4 3.Ke5 Rb5+ 4.Kf4 Bg5#

1.– Rb4 2.Qb5 Rxg4 3.Kc5 Bf4 4.Kb4 Bd6#

1.– Rb5 2.Qd4 Rh5 3.Rc4 Bg5 4.Kc5 Be7#

Ambitious, but with a coarse construction. Twice the bishop mates with single checks (including a switchback), twice it mates as a battery front piece with double checks. Long BK paths. Many repeated white moves diminish the impression although they are played at different move numbers (3./4.Kc5, 1./3.Bf4, 1./3.Bg5, 1./3.Rb4, 1./3.Rb5; switchbacks are not listed here).

4th Commendation: no. C2 János Csák (Hongrie)

1.g2 Bf2 2.Bg3 Bxb6 3.Bf4 Ba5 4.Rd6 Bc3#

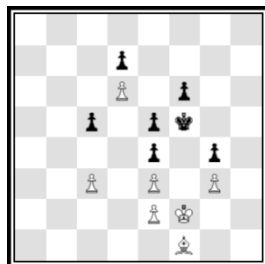
1.a3 Bxd2 2.Ra4 Bxg5 3.Rd4 Bd8 4.Bf6 Bc7#

Old-fashioned. The bishop mates on both diagonals, the black pieces block after harmonious but little exciting play.

1st Comm : C30

Anton Bidleň,
Slovakia

FRME 2020

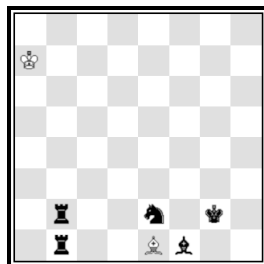


H#5* C+ 7+7

2nd Comm : C39

Bosko Miloseski
[Macedonia]

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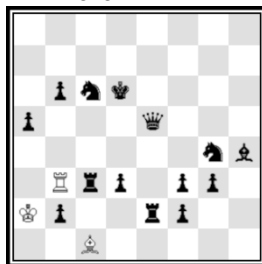


H#6 C+ 2+5

3rd Comm : C15

János Csák
Hongrie

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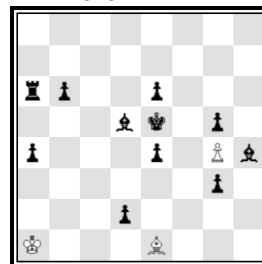


H#3.5 4Sol 3+14

4st Comm : C2

János Csák
Hongrie

FRME 2020



H#4 2Sol 3+11



Commission de la Composition
Marocaine des Echecs

CCME



FÉDÉRATION ROYALE MAROCAINE DES ECHECS