



Julia's Fairies • Tournament JF 2021/I • Award

Ofer Comay, Tel Aviv, 22.12.2021

45 problems were published in the first half of 2021, including versions. I divided the award into a non-fairy section which includes problems with orthodox chess rules, board, and pieces. Such problems are HS, Reflex, Serials, reciprocal Helpmates and reciprocal HS.

Non-fairy section

János Csák (Hungary)

1st Prize



hs#4

b) Sc4<->Pe4

(8+9)

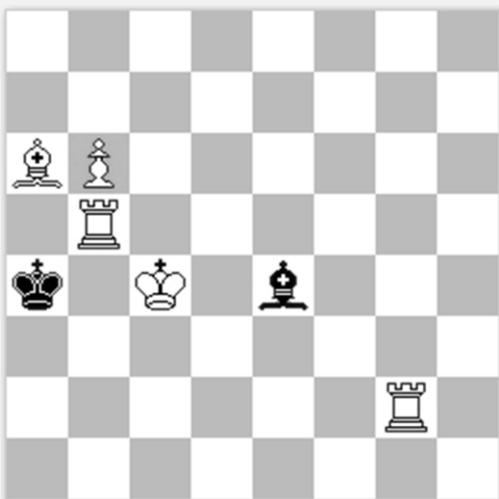
1st Prize, No. 1585, János Csák: a rich strategy with exchange of functions between two pairs of pieces. The white king journeys which dictate the black move order are very appealing.

- a) 1.Kd8 Sa3 2.Kc7 Bc4 3.Kc6 Rc2 4.dxe6+ Bd5#
- b) 1.Kxf7 Sf2 2.Kxe6 Re4 3.Kf5 Bb1 4.e6+ Re5#

Torsten Linß (Germany)

dedicated to Vlaicu Crişan

2nd Prize



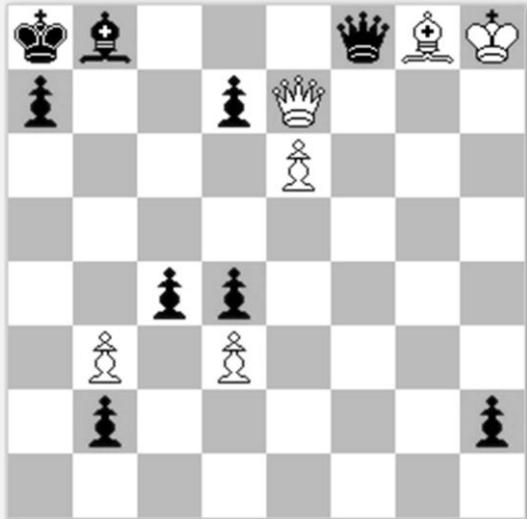
reci-hs#9

(5+2)

2nd Prize, No. 1611, Torsten Linß: a very interesting and rich line combination. It includes white Turton, bi-color Turton, two white switchbacks, a black switchback and a tempo move. The two Turton maneuvers are followed by a switchback which emphasize the purity of the first Turton move. All those in a very light position.

- 1.Rh5 (critical move, clearance and Klasinc opening type 1 and 2) Bf5 (interference after critical move and Klasinc-opening type 1) 2.Bb7 Ka5 3.Bf3 (critical move) Ka6 4.Rg5 Be4 (switchback, interference after critical move, Klasinc-closure) 5.Ra5+ Kb7 6.Kb5 Kc8! (Tempo) 7.Ka6 Ba8 (Bristol) 8.Bb7+ (switchback) Kb8 9.Rh8#
- 9.Rb5 (Klasinc-closing) Bxb7#

Aleksey Oganesjan (Russia)
3rd-4th Prize



hs#3.5 b) bKa8<-->wKh8 (6+9)

3rd-4th Prize, no. 1596, Aleksey Oganesjan: a very aesthetic problem. I liked the twin mechanism and the beautiful long moves.

- a) 1...b1=B 2.dxc4 Bh7 3.exd7 h1=R 4.Qe4+ Bxe4#
- b) 1...b1=R 2.bxc4 Rb7 3.Qxd7 h1=B 4.Qh7+ Rxh7#

Vitaly Medintsev (Russia)
3rd-4th Prize

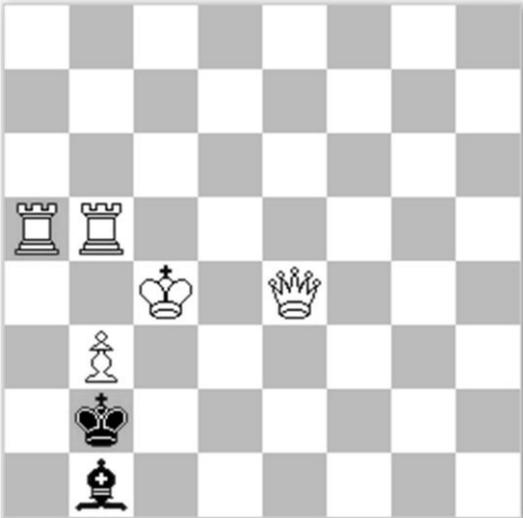


hs#4 b) Kb5-->h3 8+6

3rd-4th Prize, no. 1600, Vitaly Medintsev: accurate strategy with white sacrifices, under promotions and dual avoidance.

- a) 1.Rf1 (Sd1?) exf1=S 2.Ke5 Se3 3.Sf4 Rd6
4.Qc4+ Sxc4#
- b) 1.Sd1 (Rf1?) exd1=B 2.Ke6 Be2 3.Sf6 Rd7
4.Qg4+ Bxg4#

Torsten Linß (Germany)
1st Honorable Mention



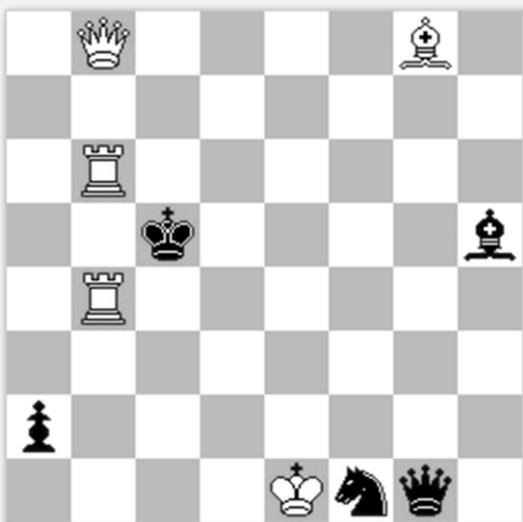
hs#10

(5+2)

1st HM, no. 1625, Torsten Linß: the switchbacks of the white rooks are very neat. The choice of the first move 1.Rd5 is nice. And the tracks of the black king and the black bishop are also appealing.

1.Rd5 Bc2 2.Rc5 Ka3 3.b4 Ka4 4.b5 Ka5 5.b6+ Ka6
 6.Ra5+ Kb7 7.Kb5 Kb8 8.Ka6 Bd1 9.Rb5 Bf3 10.Qb7+
 Bxb7#

Aleksey Ogenesjan & Sergey Shumeiko
(Russia)
2nd Honorable Mention



hs#2

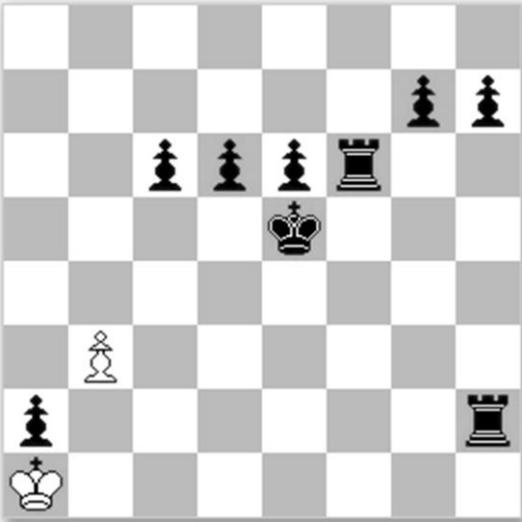
4 solutions

(5+5)

2nd Honorable mention, no. 1622.1, Aleksey Ogenesjan & Sergey Shumeiko: 4 queen sacrifices after 4 promotions on the same square. I agree that Alain White's problem (<https://yacpdb.org/#262521>) is a partial anticipation which shows a similar idea in a more challenging stipulation. But still, the problem is very clean and beautiful, and the scheme is obviously different than White's scheme.

1.Qh2 a1=S 2.Qc2+ Sxc2#
 1.Qg3 a1=B 2.Qc3+ Bxc3#
 1.Qf4 a1=R+ 2.Qc1+ Rxc1#
 1.Rb1 a1=Q 2.Qe5+ Qxe5#

János Csák & Gábor Tar (Hungary)
3rd Honorable Mention



hs=5

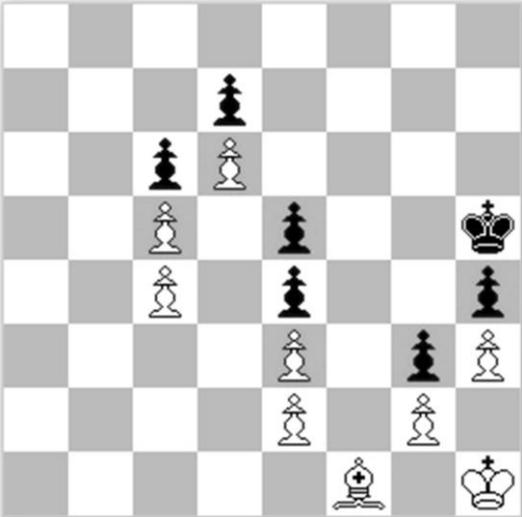
(2+9)

b) Pb3-->g3 ; c) Pb3-->h3

3rd Honorable Mention, no. 1609, János Csák & Gábor Tar:
3 accurate solutions which end with different promotion squares.

- a) 1.b4 c5! 2.bxc5 Rf7 (bR block) 3.cxd6 Kf6
4.d7 Ke7 5.d8=Q+ Kxd8=
b) 1.g4 h6! 2.g5 Kf5 3.gxf6 Kg6 (passive bR sacrifice)
4.fxg7 Kh7 5.g8=Q+ Kxg8=
c) 1.h4 Rf8! (active sacrifice) 2.h5 Kf6 3.h6 Kf7
4.hxg7 Kg8 5.gxf8=Q+ Kxf8=

Gunter Jordan (Germany)
1st Commendation



hs=18

(9+7)

1st Commendation, no. 1582, Gunter Jordan.

- 1.Kg1 Kg6 2.Kh1 Kf7 3.Kg1 Ke8 4.Kh1 Kd8 5.Kg1 Kc8
6.Kh1 Kb7 7.Kg1 Ka6 8.Kh1 Ka5 9.Kg1 Kb4 10.Kh1 Kc3
11.Kg1 Kd2 12.Kh1 Kxe3 13.Kg1 Kf4 14.e3+ Kg5
15.Be2 Kf5 16.Bf3 exf3 17.Kh1 f2 18.e4+ Kxe4= (K~)



2nd Commendation, no. 1621, James Malcom.

1.g6! a3 2.Be8 Kg8 3.Bd7 Kh8 4.Bc8 Kg8 5.Ba6 Kh8 6.Bb7 Kg8 7.Bc8 Kh8 8.Bd7 Kg8 9.Be8 Kh8 10.Bf7 a5 11.Be8 Kg8 12.Bd7 Kh8 13.Bc8 Kg8 14.Ba6 Kh8 15.Bb7 Kg8 16.Bc8 Kh8 17.Bd7 Kg8 18.Be8 Kh8 19.Bf7 a4 20.Be8 Kg8 21.Bd7 Kh8 22.Bc8 Kg8 23.Ba6 Kh8 24.Bb7 Kg8 25.Bc8 Kh8 26.Bd7 Kg8 27.Be8 Kh8 28.Bf7 f5 29.Be8 Kg8 30.Bd7 Kh8 31.Bc8 Kg8 32.Ba6 Kh8 33.Bb7 Kg8 34.Bc8 Kh8 35.Bd7 Kg8 36.Be8 Kh8 37.Bf7 f4 38.Be8 Kg8 39.Bd7 Kh8 40.Bc8 Kg8 41.Ba6 Kh8 42.Bb7 Kg8 43.Bc8 Kh8 44.Bd7 Kg8 45.Be8 Kh8 46.Bf7 f3 47.Be8 Kg8 48.Bd7 Kh8 49.Bc8 Kg8 50.Ba6 Kh8 51.Bb7 Kg8 52.Bc8 Kh8 53.Bd7 Kg8 54.Be8 Kh8 55.Bf7 h5 56.Be8 Kg8 57.Bd7 Kh8 58.Bc8 Kg8 59.Ba6 Kh8 60.Bb7 Kg8 61.Bc8 Kh8 62.Bd7 Kg8 63.Be8 Kh8 64.Bf7 h4 65.Be8 Kg8 66.Bd7 Kh8 67.Bc8 Kg8 68.Ba6 Kh8 69.Bb7 Kg8 70.Bc8 Kh8 71.Bd7 Kg8 72.Be8 Kh8 73.Bf7 h3 74.Bg8 Kxg8=

Some problems were left out of the award. No. 1604 demonstrates a well-known idea in helpmates which combines en-passant with castling. The simplest setting (white: Ke1, Rh1, Pg4; Black: Kf4, Sg5, Ph5, Ph4, Ph3, Pf3; H#3) has a thematic try (1.hxg3 e.p. Rf1?) which doesn't appear in 1604. No. 1610 and no. 1610.1 didn't have enough appealing content.

Fairy section



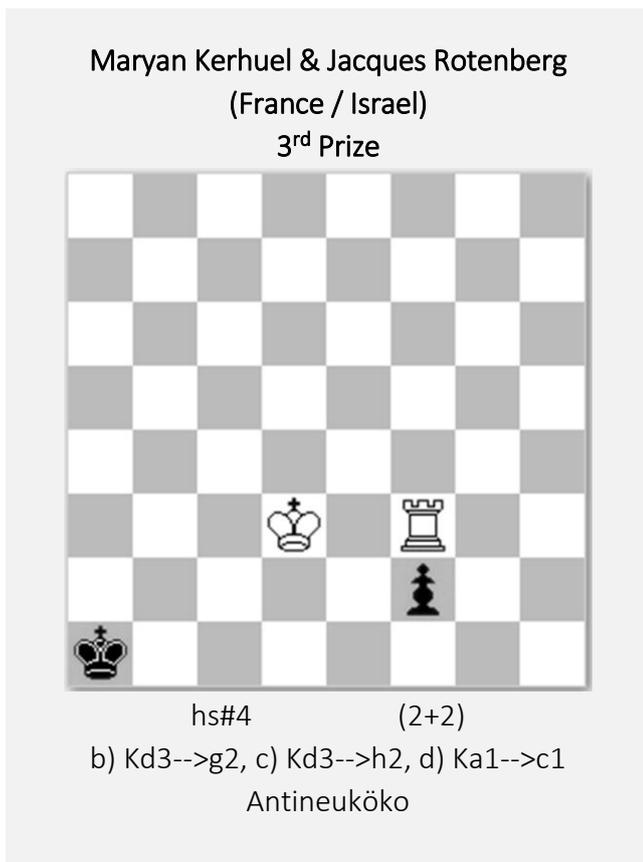
1st Prize, no. 1578.1, Daniel Papack & Sven Trommler: an extraordinary problem. The 3-fold cycle of the 2nd white moves demonstrates a paradox which is a kind of Keller effect: black's 1st move guards a rebirth square and white's reply threatens to use this square. The additional circe tries (1.Sxa5/Sxc5) are spectacular.

1.Sxa5 (Sa5→g1)? Sb2!
1.Sxc5 (Sc5→g1)? b5!
1.Sxd6 (Sd6→g1)! ~ 2.Kg7+ (A)
2...Re1 3.g5# (B)
2...Be1 3.Rf5# (C)
1...Bd4 2.g5+ (B)
2...Bf2 3.Rf5# (C)
2...Rf2 3.Kg7# (A)
1...Ra2 2.Rf5+ (C)
2...Ba1 3.Kg7# (A)
2...Ra1 3.g5# (B)



2nd Prize, no. 1602, Thomas Maeder: beautiful reciprocal changes that emphasize the beauty of the Breton condition.

- 1.Qh3? ~ 2.Sf8#
 1...Qxe6 [-c8] 2.c8=Q#
 1...Rxe6 [-c8] 2.c8=R#
 1...Rf8 2.Sxf8 [-e5]#
 1...Qf8!
- 1.a8=S! ~ 2.Sxb6 [-c7]#
 1...Qxe6 [-c8] 2.c8=R#
 1...Rxe6 [-c8] 2.c8=Q#
 1...b5 2.Rexb5 [-c7]#



3rd Prize, no. 1618, Maryan Kerhuel & Jacques Rotenberg: an amazing discovery of an AUW with 4 pieces, and with clever fairy ideas which motivate the non-obvious moves 3.Re3-a3 in a), 2...Bf1-h3 in b), 3...Qh1-c6 in c) and 4.Rb3-b8 in d). It is very rare to find so much richness and harmony in such a very light position.

- a) 1.Ke3 f1=S+ 2.Kd2 Sg3 3.Ra3 Se2 4.Kc1 Kb2#
 b) 1.Kh1 f1=B 2.Rf2 Bh3 3.Rh2 Bf1 4.Rh3 Bg2#
 c) 1.Kg3 f1=Q 2.Kh2 Qh1+ 3.Rh3 Qc6 4.Kh1 Qg2#
 d) 1.Ke4 f1=R 2.Kd5 Rf2 3.Rb3 Kc2 4.Rb8 Rd2#

Ilija Serafimović (Serbia)

4th Prize



#2 Try (10+5)
Masand

4th Prize, no. 1623, Ilija Serafimović: another problem that demonstrates reciprocal changes motivated by the fairy condition. The differentiation between the try and the solution is also motivated by the masand condition. Very nice!

1.Ka8? ~ 2.Qa7 [a5=b]#
 1...Qxe6 2.Qxe5 [e6=w][e4,a5=b]#
 1...Qd5 [e5=w][e4,a5,e6=b]+ 2.Sc6 [a5=w][b4=b]#
 1...Qxb4 2.Bxc3 [b4=w][d2=b]#
 1...Bd8 2.Qg1 [a1=b]#
 1...Be7 2.Qg1 [a1=b]#
 1...Qc4!

1.Ka6! ~ 2.Qa7#

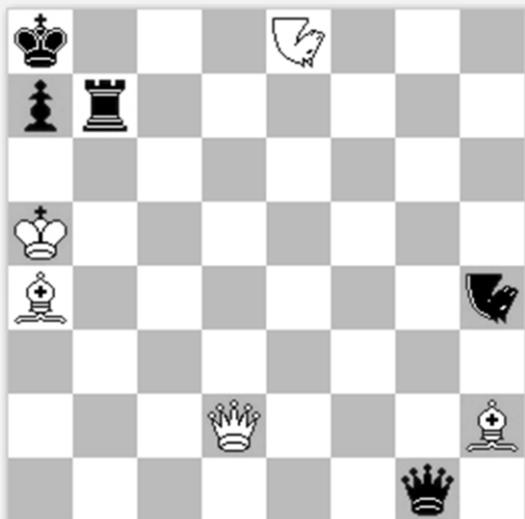
1...Bd8 2.Qg1 [a1=b]#
 1...Be7 2.Qg1 [a1=b]#

1...Qxe6 [e5=w]+ 2.Sc6 [b4,a5=b]#
 1...Qc4 [c3=w][b4,e6=b]+ 2.Sb5#

1...Qd5 2.Qxe5 [d5=w][e4,e6=b]#
 1...Qxb4 2.Bxc3 [b4=w][d2=b]#

Marjan Kovačević (Serbia)

5th Prize



hs#2.5 b) Rb7-->b6 (5+5)
Nightrider e8, h4

5th Prize, no. 1616, Marjan Kovačević: The first black move closes a line that will appear effectively later. This hesitating move is the main idea, and the white reverse of order adds to the overall harmony. The basic idea doesn't need necessarily fairy pieces, but the long queen and nightrider moves use all the board and make the problem very appealing and beautiful.

a)
 1... ~ ?
 1... ...
 2.Qd5 Nf5 (or ~) 3.Nc4+ Qb6+ 4.Nxb6!
 2.Qd5 Ng2+ 3.Nc4+ Nxc4!

1...Qe3! 2.Qd5 Ng2 3.Nc4+ Qb6#

b)
 1... ~ ?
 1... ...
 2.Nc4 Qe3 (or ~) 3.Qd5+ Nb7+ 4.Qxb7!
 2.Nc4 Qg5+ 3.Qd5+ Qxd5!

1...Nf5! 2.Nc4 Qg5 3.Qd5+ Nb7#

Manfred Nieroba & Daniel Papack
(Germany)
6th Prize



h#2 2 solutions (5+16)
Madrası

6th Prize, no. 1579, Manfred Nieroba & Daniel Papack: an amazingly rich madrası problem in which almost all the content lies in the dual avoidance. Just follow the lines d2-a2, g1-g3, d8-g5, a7-d4 and notice how they control the madrası solutions.

1.Sce3 Sd5 (Sg4?/Sfd5?) 2.Sd7 Qg4#
1... Sg4? 2.Scd7 Qd5 3.Qa2!
1... Sfd5? 2.Sed7 Qg4 3.Qg5 (Qh4)!

1.Sge3 Sg4 (Sc4?/Sbd5?) 2.Sd7 Qd5#
1... Sc4? 2.Scd7 Qd5 3.Qc5 (Qd4)!
1... Sbd5? Sed7 Qg4 3.Qxg3!

Armin Geister & Daniel Papack
(Germany)
7th Prize

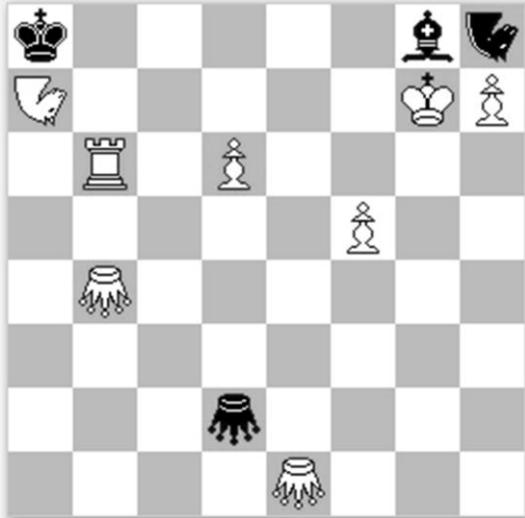


h#2.5 (13+16)
Mars Circe

7th Prize, no. 1599, Armin Geister & Daniel Papack: a complex and interesting strategy which was achieved in a heavy position with many pieces that are used only to force the white moves.

1...Se2 2.Sh8 [Rg6?] Sf4 3.Qxe7+ (via d8) Q-d1xb1#
1...Sf3 2.Rg6 [Sh8?] Sh4 3.Bxe7+ (via f8) Q-d1xg1#

Michal Dragoun (Czech Republic)
1st Honorable Mention



hs#4 2 solutions (8+4)
 Grasshopper b4, e1, d2
 Nightrider a7,h8

1st HM, no. 1586, Michal Dragoun: a very nice combination with nightriders and grasshoppers. I do not understand why the author preferred this version, which has one unused grasshopper in each solution, over Joost's suggestion to move a7 to a3 and remove e1. This suggested version not only removes the blemish of an unused officer, but it also improves the harmony because the same grasshopper (a3) has similar tasks in each solution. Furthermore, in both solutions in Joost's version a piece moves to e1 in the first move, in one solution a nightrider and a grasshopper in the other, and this is also nice.

1.Nb5 Ne2 2.Ge3 Gf4 3.Kh8 Bf7 4.Nc7+ Gxc7#

1.Nc3 Bc4 2.Gd4 Gd5 3.Kg8 Ng6 4.Ng5+ Gxg5#

Julia Vysotska (Latvia)
6 & 4 for Marjan's Birthday!
2nd Honorable Mention



hs#2 2 solutions (6+6)
 Masand

2nd HM, no. 1601, Julia Vysotska: masand dual avoidance.

1.Sf5 (Sf1? 2...[g4=w] 3.BxQ!) Ba7 (Bb6? 2.[b6=w] 3.Kc5!) 2.Se2+ Qe6 [e2,f5=b]#
 (Qxe2/e4 +? [f3=w] ->self-check!)

1.Sf1 (Sf5? 3.Sxd4!) Bb6 (Ba7? 2...[a7=w] 3.Bxd4!)
 2.Sd5 [b6=w][b4=b]+ Qd4 [d5,b6=b]#
 (Qxd5/e5 +? [f3=w] ->self-check!)

Borisas Gelpernas (Lithuania)
5th Commendation

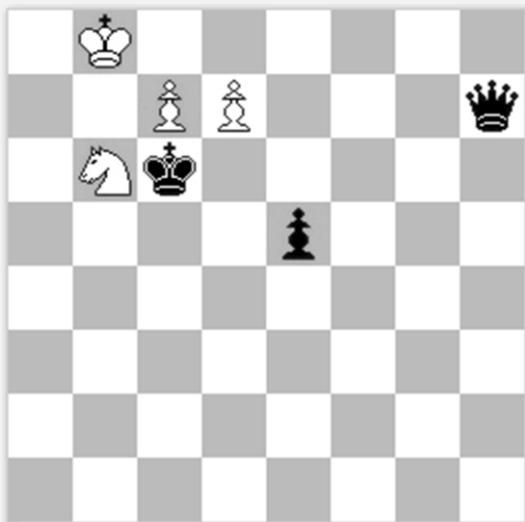


h#2 b) bSd5 bSe5 4+9
Breton Adverse

5 Comm, no. 1584, Borisas Gelpernas.

- a)
1.Rd4 Sg5 2.e4 Sxe4 [-d5]#
(1.d4? Sg5 2.e4 S:e4(-Pd4)??)
- b)
1.Rc3 Bg5 2.Se7 Bxe7 [-e5]#
(1.Re-? Bg5 2.Se7 B:e7(-Se5)??)

S.N. Ravi Shankar (India)
After K. Seetharaman
6th Commendation

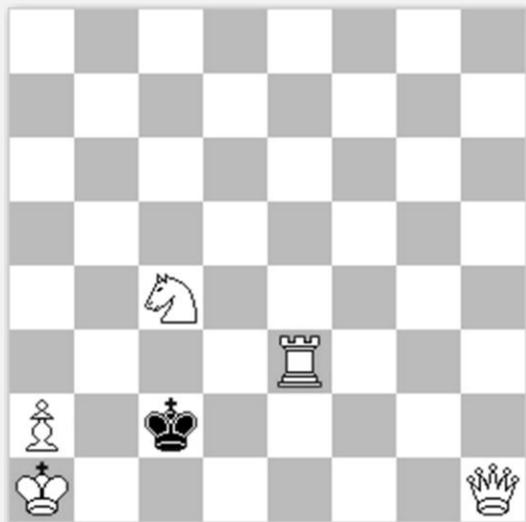


h#2 b) Pd7-->e7 4+3
Madrasi

6 Comm, no. 1613, S.N. Ravi Shankar.

- a)
1.Qb1 d8=Q 2.Qb5 c8=R#
- b)
1.Qc2 c8=S 2.Qc5 e8=B#

Oleg Paradzinskij (Ukraine)
9th Commendation



s#4

b) Pa2-->b2

(5+1)

Masand

9 Comm, no. 1606, Oleg Paradzinskij.

a)

1.Qd5! Kc1 2.Qd4 Kc2 3.Sa3+ Kc1
4.Rc3 [a3=b]+ Sc2 [d4=b]#

b)

1.Qh7+! Kc1 /d1 2.Ka2 ~ 3.Kb3 ~
4.Qc2 [b2,c4=b]+ b1=Q [c2=b]#

Some problems didn't reach into the award. I regret that no. 1620, 1624 had an unlucky anticipation.

22/12/2021, Ofer Comay, Tel Aviv, Israel.