## In this issue and in general

A lot has happened since the previous Conflictio issue. Among the events perhaps the most significant one is the gradual suppression of COVID-19 in Slovakia and the neighbouring countries. Some innovative ideas (like in situ solving tournaments) can stick also in the better times, even if they can be no longer strictly necessary. Anyway, the relaxation of the anti-pandemic measures allowed us to distribute two PAT A MAT issues at once - delayed March issue 111 and the fresh issue 112. The selections from those form the main articles of this Conflictio issue.

Then we have a bit of standard content: one original and reminders of Conflictio tourneys.
There are two other recent topics I would like to briefly mention. Firstly, I have received a lot of interesting reactions to the article "Repelling or what?" I would like to thank for all of them. While the views aren't uniform, it seems the term involving the root "repel" is generally acceptable, with one important reservation. In view of many it is not a noun, therefore it should not be used in a similar way as a pin or a battery. Therefore a few people have suggested to use the verb „repel" directly as a (slightly neologistic) noun „repel" or "repell" (to distinguish from the verb). Personally, I am not fully convinced yet, my idea was to use the verb gerund „repelling" in a usual noun function, but as I am not a native English speaker, I can be thinking wrong. If you have any view on this particular issue, please, let me know, I plan to summarize the discussion in the next issue.

Secondly, I have experienced the hardest personal computer crash in my history in May. My system drive had to be replaced, so I have lost whatever was there. As I have most data on separate data drive and I make data backups in some frequency, it was not fatal. Still, the most recent WinChloe databases are gone, with all research remarks and I will have to reconstruct slowly over time whatever I need. The biggest loss are a few originals and sketches that I had not noted anywhere else, but well - I can imagine being like a painter experiencing fire in his house. Please, be patient with me if I miss something or do something wrong due to missing information.

Stay safe and enjoy Conflictio!
Juraj Lörinc

## Published not so recently:

 PAT A MAT 111Issue No 111 of Slovak magazine appeared in March. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic measures it was not possible to distribute it in timely manner to all subscribers. Therefore, the Slovak organization has decided to exceptionally publish the issue as a whole on its website. The content includes:

- obituary of L'. Lačný,
- annoucement of L’. Lačný MT,
- two articles on helpmates by Ladislav Packa and Jozef Ložek,
- final award of L'. Kekely 60 JT,
- preliminary awards of PaM tourneys:
- 2019 -h\#,
- 2018-2019 studies,
- originals
- regular Selections.

7 problems from the issue are reprinted here - 4 of them originals of various genres and 3 are chosen from the Selections (called "Okienko do sveta" = "Window into the world)".

581 is a non-standard rendering of the Lačný cycle by Bogusz Piliczewski from Poland, who is better known as a solver. I am quite sure many eyebrows would be raised during the solving competition if 581 was proposed there.

581 - Bogusz Piliczewski
PAT A MAT 2020

1.Sf8? [2.Se6\#] Ke5!
1.Bd7? [2.Se6\#] R×d7!
1.Re3? [2.Se6\#] Kd4!
1.Kf4? [2.Rd2\#] Rf6+!
1.f4? [2.Rd2\#] Rb3+!
1.Bb3+?
1...Kd4 a 2.Re2\# A
1...Kc5 b 2.Q×d6\# B
1...Ke5 c 2.Se6\# C
1...R×b3 2.Q×d6\#
1...Kc6!
1.Se7+!
1...Kd4 a 2.Q×d6\# B
1...Kc5 b 2.Se6\# C
1...Ke5 c 2.Re2\# A

Five promoted white pieces? Checking key? It is all there. Yet, it is important to realize that the cycle of mates follows three moves of the bK that is not moving diagonally, but horizontally and vertically. Nothing like that in orthodox twomover in any Cyclone book. Do you think this can be shown with less drastic measures?

1...Sd2 a $2 . Q \times d 2$ A [3.Q×c3\#] cxd2 x 3.B×d2\# B
1...f4 b 2.Q×d5 C [3.Q×c5\#] R×d5 y 3.R×d5\# D
1.Q×g2! [2.b4+ Ka4 3.Qc2\#]
$1 . . . S d 2$ a $2 . B \times d 2$ B [3.B×c3\#] cxd 2 x 3.Q×d2\# A
1...f4 b 2.R×d5 D [3.R×c5\#] R×d5 y 3.Q×d5\# C
1...Rg7 2.Q×g7 [3.Q×c7\#] Rb5 3.R×b5\#
1...a2 2.Q×a2+ Sa3 3.Q×a3\#

In two set variations $w Q$ attacks on d2 and d5 with Rh5 and Bh6 in important supporting roles. The key makes potential defence 2...Rg7 lethal and thus the attacks must be now started by Rh5 and Bh6, while wQ serves as a substitute after captures.

As a result of this clear strategy we get two changed continuations with simultaneous inversion of the $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ white moves, when one compares set play and solution.

583 - Jozef Havran
PAT A MAT 2020 (v)

1...f×g5 2.Sfg2+ R×g2\#
1.Q×f6? [2.Ra3+ Bd3\#]
1...Q×f6 2.Sfg2+ R×g2\#
1...Qf8!
1.Qf5? [2.R×e4+B×e4\#, 2.Q×e4+B×e4\#]
1...g×f5 2.Sfg2+ R×g2\#
1...Scd6!
1.Qe5! [2.Ra3+ Bd3\#, 2.Q×e4+ B×e4\#]
1...f×e5 2.Sfg2+ R×g2\#

No matter whether wQ stands at g5, f6, f5 or e5, her presence at these squares prevents continuation $2 . S f g 2+\mathrm{R} \times \mathrm{g} 2 \#$. Thus this attacks works only when wQ is captured. In this way, 583 shows the transference of $2.5 f g 2+$ in four phases!

583 adds wPd5 to the position published in the magazine. This is the intended position as Jozef has confirmed to me somehow the pawn got lost on the way.

584 - Stephen Taylor
PAT A MAT 2020

1.e8=E+!
1...Kd7 2.Eae4!
[3.E4d6\# A, E4f6\# B, E4e7\# C, E4e5\# D]
2...Be6 3.E4d6\# A
2...Qc5 3.E4f6\# B
2...Qd4 3.E4e7\# C
2...Kc6 3.E4e5\# D
2...Qe3 3.E4d6\# A, E4f6\# B
2...Bb2 3.E4d6\# A, E4e7\# C
2...Bg5 3.E4d6\# A, E4e5\# D
2...Bf4 3.E4f6\# B, E4e7\# C
2...Ba3 3.E4f6\# B, E4e5\# D
2...Rg6 3.E4e7\# C, E4e5\# D
2...Rg5 3.E4d6\# A, E4f6\# B, E4e7\# C
2...R×g7 3.E4d6\# A, E4f6\# B, E4e5\# D
2...R×f3 3.E4d6\# A, E4e7\# C, E4e5\# D
2...Qd1 3.E4f6\# B, E4e7\# C, E4e5\# D
1...Kc6 2.Ee7+ Kb5 3.Eea7\#
2...Kd6 3.Eae4\#

Another unusual rendering of known theme. The checking promoting key brings into action the second white empress. The quiet second move 2.Eae4! then introduces combinatorial separation of 4 threats. Only the total defence is missing. One can ask whether the introductory check is worth it, but personally I like the fairy promotion as the
key to this theme - rather original approach.

1.Sd6! [2.Sb7\#] Kb4 2.Se4+ Ka5 3.Bf6 [4.Bc3\#] Sd1 4.Bh4 [5.Be1+ Sc3 6.B×c3\#] Sf2 5.Bd8+ Kb4 6.Be7+ Ka5 7.Sd6 [8.Sb7,Sc4\#] Kb4 8.Sb5+ Ka5 9.S×a3 [10.Sc4\#] b2 10.Sc2 [11.Bb4,Bd8\#] b1=Q 11.Bd8+ Qb6+ 12.B×b6\#

White material KBB is able to hold bK in the cage, therefore it is first wS's turn to act swiftly (using checks and immediate mating threats). But dark-squared wB has to help, by forcing bS to move from b2 to f2. White pieces return and then wS can enter a3 with strong threat. The combination is concluded by wB. Great cooperation!

Fairy piece ubi-ubi appearing in 586 is not widely known. It can be defined as rider making any number of knight jumps in any directions with the only restriction that capture can be done only in the final jump of the move. Usually, ubi-ubi can go almost anywhere in one move. In the
diagram position of 586 this means that all black UUs are pinned by both white UUs and UUc1 is pinned by all black UUs. Not so UUb3 - it is free to move in the diagram position...

## 586 - Frank Fiedler

Europa Rochade 2012

... but the key moves wK from a2 to a1 and thus changes roles of white UUs UUb3 is then pinned and UUc1 is free to move.

What about variations? Unguards by bB and bP, but then there is (negative) cooperation between $b Q$ and $b S$, as well as well pointed multi-guarding by bQ, where each of four moves retains 3 guards out of four. No UU can move due to double pin. Simply, the black position is ingeniously constructed.

The key thus changes eight mates. The position screams EIGHT at the first sight, with eight black UUs just one hop from the bK, but otherwise one can hardly guess the theme without analysis. True find in my view.

587 is another fairy problem with strong visual theme: striptease of white pawns prepared for promotion on the $7^{\text {th }}$ rank.
1...B~2.UUb×g4\#
1...h~2.UUb×g6\#
1...Se4 2.UUb×f3\#
1...Se6 2.UUb×f7\#
1...Qd4 2.UUb×c6\#
1...Qd6 2.UUb×c4\#
1...Qe4 2.UUb×d7\#
1...Qe6 2.UUb×d3\#
1.Ka1! zz
1...B~ 2.UUc×g4\#
1...h~ 2.UUc×g6\#
1...Se4 2.UUc×f3\#
1...Se6 2.UUc×f7\#
1...Qd4 2.UUc×c6\#
1...Qd6 2.UUc×c4\#
1...Qe4 2.UUc×d7\#
1...Qe6 2.UUc×d3\#

587 - Gerhard Maleika
The Problemist Supplement 2014

b) -8 c 7
c) $=$ b) -8 d 7
d) $=$ c) -8 e 7
e) $=\mathrm{d})-8 \mathrm{f} 7$
a) $1 . c 8=Q$ ! $z z$
1...Sc2 2.S×c2=
1...Sb3 2.Qb7=
b) 1.d8=Q! zz
1...Sc2 2.Qdd3=
1...Sb3 2.Qb6=
c) $1 . \mathrm{e} 8=\mathrm{Q}$ ! zz
1...Sc2 2.Qe4=
1...Sb3 2.Qb5=
d) 1.f8=Q! zz
1...Sc2 2.Qf5=
1...Sb3 2.Qfb4=
e) $1 . g 8=B!z z$
1...Sc2 2.Bh7=
1...Sb3 2.B×b3=

In all positions there is almost the same scenario: the pawn nearest to the wK promotes and then pins bS on vertical or diagonal line. But there are important
details spicing the whole mix: Qc8 is unable to pin Sc2, but allows knight capture, while in the last position Sb3 must be captured and thus bishop promotion is forced. Having Zagorujko $5 \times 2$ in this form is more than respectable!

Juraj Lörinc

## Published recently: PAT A MAT 112

Issue No 112 of Slovak magazine appeared in June. You can download selection from it on the dedicated webpage. The selection includes 24 pages out of 36 and contains:

- photos,
- originals,
- two preliminary awards,
- announcements.

Other content can be found only in the printed magazine:

- information about $11^{\text {th }}$ WCCT announcement,
- article by Gerhard Maleika about $=2$ renderings of currently popular reciprocal change spread over 4 phases,
- regular Selections („Okienko do sveta").

The diagrams below are reprinted from Maleika's article, originals, selections and especially from the Sovik 75 award.

We start with 588 that doubles reciprocal change spread over 4 phases, yielding heavy-weight change.

1.Re1? [2.Qc4=]
1...Sa4 a $2 . \mathrm{Q} \times \mathrm{a} 4=\mathrm{A}$
1...Se2 x 2.Q×e2=X
1...Se4!
1.Qc4? [2.Re1=]

1 ...Ba4 b $2 . \mathrm{B} \times \mathrm{a} 4=\mathrm{B}$
1...Be2 y $2 . R \times e 2=Y$
1...Bb3!
1.Qf1? [2.Rc8=]
1...Sa4 a $2 . \mathrm{B} \times \mathrm{a} 4=\mathrm{B}$
$1 . . . S e 2 \times 2 . R \times e 2=Y$
1...S×d5!
1.Rc8! [2.Qf1=]
1...Ba4 b 2.Q×a4= A
1...Be2 y $2 . Q \times e 2=X$
1...Bc2 2.R×c3=
1...Bb3 2.Q×b3=
1...Bf3 2.g×f3=
1...Bg4 2.B×g4=
1...Bh5 2.K×h5=

Two black pieces have to be immobilized - one of them is pinned by keys, the other is captured in variations. Altogether we
get two separate reciprocal changes split over 4 phases with formula Z-42-44.

1.Qd1? [2.Se2\# A]
1...Kc3 a $2 . R \times c 4 \#$ B
1...Sc3 b 2.Qg1\# D
1...g1=S!
1.Kf4? [2.R×c4\# B]
1...Kc3 a 2.R×d3\# C
1...Sc3 b 2.Sf5\# E
1...S×d6!
1.S×c4! [2.R×d3\# C]
1...Kc3 a 2.Se2\# A
1...Sc3 b 2.Sb3\# F

The threats and variations after $1 \ldots \mathrm{Kc} 3$ form Ukrainian cycle from the Cyclone system. The mechanism with diagonal move of bK and pins is well known, but here it is improved by presence of the other variation with changed mate over three phases: $1 \ldots \mathrm{Sc} 3$ defends all three mates and allows new mates thanks to selfblock.

590 - Michael Barth \& Frank Richter
PAT A MAT 2020

1.Rb5~? [2.Sb5+A c×b5\#]
1...c4!
1.R×b6? [2.R×c6+B B×c6\#]
1...c×b6 2.Sb5+ A c×b5\#
1...S×e5 2.fxe5+ Q×e5\#
1...Sd8!
1.Rb×c5! [2.Rd5+C c×d5\#]
$1 . . . d \times c 32 . R \times c 6+B B \times c 6 \#$
1...b×c5 2.Sb5+ A c×b5\#

Great s\#2 showing a theme known from twomovers - tertiary threat correction - in a very specific mechanism. Square vacation by Rb5 threats activation of diagonal battery. Two white corrections neutralize the threat by attack on the battery line. Both captures of black pawns seem to threat $2 . R \times c 6+$, but capture on c5 has further neutralization motif by clearing the line of Rc3. It is important that neutralized threats reappear in the relevant phases following some Black defences.

591 - Gunter Jordan
PAT A MAT 2020

1.c4 Sb6 2.Kb2+ Sa4+ 3.Q×a4+ Kb6 4.Ka1 Kc5 5.Qa7+ Kb4 6.Qa5+ Kb3 7.c5 d×c5 8.Bf5 c4 9.Bb1 c3 10.Rb2+ c×b2\#

A selfmate that might be an interesting puzzle for solvers. The initial position hints that White could try to force Sa8-b6c4 in some way, perhaps with echange of places $\mathrm{Qb} 3 \leftrightarrow \mathrm{Ra} 2$. It is not a try in standard sense, rather a strong illusion, luring solver into swamp of lost time and gloom. In fact, White quickly captures bS and forces checkmate by Pd6 at b2. Just an idea for further development: would it be possible to make the illusion more real? Either by making it a try (even with some strong Black refutation, like capture of White, or checking key or whatever it would make playable, but something better then 1.~? Sb 6 2.Sc4+S×c4+ 3. $\mathrm{Q} \times \mathrm{c} 4$ ) or - and this is tall order, I know - as a set play?

592 - David L. Brown
PAT A MAT 2020

1.g×h6? zz, 1..g×h6!
1.c×d6? [2.Re7\#], 1...c×d6!
1.R×g7? zz, 1...h×g5!
$1 . R \times c 7$ ? [2.c×d6 [3.Re7\#]], 1...d×c5!
1.Rd7! zz
1...h×g5 2.O×g5 [3.S×g7\# (O×g7??)]
$1 . . . d \times c 52 . O b 5[3 . S \times c 7 \#(O \times c 7 ? ?)]$
Orphans are rather high among my beloved fairy pieces, so I was extremely happy to receive 592 for originals column from their inventor, who returned to chess composition after some break.

Both sides are rather limited in their movements, most importantly no orphan can move in the diagram position. But White has to be patient: multiple moves fail to unique answers (solving tries) and captures by wS on c7 a and g7 cannot be executed due to long self-check chains. The key $1 . \mathrm{Rd} 7$ is a pure waiting move and after the destruction of the chains White can threat knight mates, taking into account new virtual orphan chains aimed at bK: Rd7-Og7-Og6-Ke6, Rd7-Oc7-Oc6-Ke6.

593 - Dragan Stojnić
1st Prize
103rd TT SuperProblem 2014

1...Rf6 2.B×d4\#
1...Re6 2.Q×d4\#
1...Q×b3 2.cxd4\#
1...c×d6 2.Sb×d4\#
1...d×c3 2.d4\#
1.Sexd4! [2.Rc6\#]
1...Rf6 2.Se6\#
1...Re6 2.Rd5\#
1...Q×b3 2.S×b3\#
1...cxd6 2.Sc7\#
1...S×d6 2.Q×c7\#

Five set defences are answered by five checkmates played to the same square d4. The key occupies d4 and thus the mates are changed - well, four of them as defence $1 \ldots \mathrm{~d} \times \mathrm{c} 3$ does not exist anymore.

594 - Alexandr Sygurov
\& Alexandr Fedorov
1st Prize SuperProblem 2019

1.Ka8! [2.Qc5+ K×e6 3.d8=S\#
2...Sd5 3.Q×d5\#]
1...g×f3 2.Qc5+ Kf4 3.d×e3\#
2...Sd5 3.d4\#
1...Sc7+ 2.Q×c7+Kd4 3.d×c3\#
2...K×e6 3.d8=S\#
1...Kd4 2.Qb6+ Ke5 3.d4\#
2...K×c4 3.d3\#
2...Qc5 3.Q×c5\#
1...S×f6 2.Qd6+ K×e4 3.d3\#
1...R×d7 2.S×d7+Kd4 3.d×c3\#

The theme of 594 is not entirely clear, even if some its elements strike the eye immediately:

- four 2nd moves of bQ form a cross, -there are all four moves of Pd2 among mating moves.
Still, it requires some sorting (see moves in bod) to find out that actually there is shown clean blend of a queen's cross (W2) and Albino (W3) here.


## 595-Zoran Gavrilovski

1st Prize
The Macedonian Problemist 2014

1.Kf5? [2.Se4\#], 1...b4!
1.Kf3! [2.Se4\#] Rh3+ 2.Ke2 [3.Se4,R×e6\#] f3+ 3.Kd3 [4.Se4,R×e6\#] Ra3+ 4.Ke4 [5.R×e6\#] Rh6 5.Kf5 [6.Se4\#] Sc6,Sd7 6.R(x)d7\#

White holds bK in the mating net formed by Rf7, Bb 7 and Pd 4 , with e6 being well protected and moves of Sb8 provided for by looming Rd7\#. White's mating threat is Se4\#, hindered just by wK. Immediate move 1.Kf5? is however hidden selfpin of Sd4 exploited by Black to refute. So wK walks into fireworks of checks and makes round trip that leaves Black weakened after its 4th move by Ra5 shifted to a3. No hidden selfpin anymore, 5.Kf5! now works. Excellent!

596 is a rare occurrence of Andrej's s\# not winning on home soil, yet still it is an excellent work, confirming high level of competition.

1.Se8! [2.Rb6+ Kf5 3.Sd6+ Ke6 4.Se4+ Kf5 5.Sg3+ S×g3\#]
1...Q×c2 2.Rf8+ Ke6 3.Bf7+ Kf5 4.Bc4+ Kg6 5.Bd3+ Q×d3\#
1...Q×b3 2.Rh6+ Kf5 3.Bg6+ Ke6 4.Bd3+ Kf7 5.Bc4+ Q×c4\#

The threat and two variations show a very unified strategy. In W2 White rook checks from diagonal battery and sets up itself as a rear piece of some future battery (Zabunov \& Indian starting). Then white piece (SBB) interferes, inviting bK onto the battery. Battery fires (Zabunov \& Indian done, Siers starting) and then the selfmate is forced by the final Siers check. The impression is greatly improved by extremely airy position.

In 597 we again see orphans - only $1+1$, no long chains, but they still have the most important impact on the play.

597 - Ayako Okaya
Problem Paradise 2013

1.Sf5! [2.Sf2\#]
1...c×d1=R 2.Re2\#
1...c×d1=S 2.Bb1\#
1...cxd1=O 2.Od3\#
1...c×d1=B 2.Qd5\#
1...cxd1=Q 2.Qe6\#

This list of variations doesn't make a justice to the strategy hidden behind the curtains. Let's analyse:

- Dummy promotion on d1 allow two mates: Re2\# and Bb1\#.
- Thus, rook and knight promotions form in fact dual avoidance pair by guarding of mating lines.
- Other promotions, O, B, Q defend both those mates, yielding black correction. there is an additional motivation for two defences: Od1 makes possible Od3\# (chain Qd7-d1-b3), Bd1 makes d5 guarded via b3.
- Then the Q promotion seems to allow everything, but also directly guards everything, giving the additional degree of correction.

Fantastic super-AUW twomover!

598 has won the biannual tourney of the magazine.

## 598 - Michal Dragoun

 \& Ladislav Salai jr. 1st Prize PAT A MAT 2018-2019
1.Be7! [2.B×f6+ Q×f6/S×f6 3.d×e3\#/d×c3\#]
1...B×f5 2.Sb5+ Kc4/Ke5 3.d3\#/d4\#
1...S×d6 2.d×c3+Kc4 3.Qd3\#
1...Q×f5 2.d×e3+Ke5 3.Sc4\#

The key introduces threat in which White is able to force unguard of c3 and e3 for pawn mates. Strong defence capturing wQ gives flight e5, White adds another by checking to unguarded b5, but then is able to checkmate by pawn moves to d3 and d4. Albino in two variations.

Other pair of variations is important as well. Pawn captures on c3 and e3 are played immediately after unguards and pieces captured in defences $S \times d 6$ and checkmate in reciprocal manner - Zilahi known from helpmates.

This blend of themes hints the authors have some experience in h\#s...

Now we move on to some prizewinners from the recent JT. Štefan Sovík is one of
the best Slovak composers, he is very popular here, so the tourney was strongly supported by Slovaks.

599 - Peter Gvozdják
1st Prize
Štefan Sovík 75 JT C 29.12.2019

1.Rc6? [2.Sd×b5\# A, Sf5\# B, Sc×b5\# C, Se2\# D], 1...S×f4!
1.f8=Q? [2.Sd×b5\# A, Sf5\# B]
1...b×c5+ a 2.Sc×b5\# C
1...R×c5 b 2.Se2\# D
1...Sg3 c 2.Sd×b5\# A
1...c6 d 2.Sf5\# B
1...Be7!
1.Bd3! [2.Sc×b5\# C, Se2\# D]
1...b×c5+ a 2.Sd×b5\# A
1...R×c5 b 2.Sf5\# B
1...Sg3 c 2.Sc×b5\# C
1...c6 d 2.Se2\# D
1...Sc4 2.R×c4\#
1...Q×c3 2.Q×c3\#
$1 . . \mathrm{K} \times \mathrm{c} 52 . \mathrm{B} \times \mathrm{e} 3 \#$

Odessa theme with separating defences includes yields doubled reciprocal change in a mechanism often employed by Peter (he calls it "wild horses" and it
was subject of one of his Marianka lectures a few years ago).

## 600 - Miroslav Kasár \& Miroslav Svítek

1st Prize
Štefan Sovík 75 JT C 29.12.2019

1.Bc6? [2.Sf1+A K×c4 3.Se3\#]
1...R×a3 a 2.Sb1+ B K×c4 3.S×a3\#
1...Qd4 b 2.Sb3+C K×c4 3.S×a5\#
1...Rg3 c 2.Sf3+ D K×c4 3.S×e5\#
1...Qd5!
1.B×e6! [2.Sb1+ B K×e4 3.Sc3\#]
1...R×a3 a 2.Sb3+C K×e4 3.S×c5\#
1...Qd4 b 2.Sf3+ D K×e4 3.Sf×g5\#
$1 . . . R g 3$ c $2 . S f 1+A K \times e 43 . S \times g 3 \#$
1...Sf3+ 2.Q×f3+ Kc2 3.Qc3\#
2...K×d2 3.Qd1\#
1...B×e6 2.R×d8+ Bd5 3.R×d5\#
2...Bd7 3.R×d7\#

4 -fold Shedey cycle is a respectable achievement, even if the mechanism was shown earlier. Actually, the first of authors have got a commendation in the local tourney 20 years ago for it, as you can find in Cyclone 2 - see problem 2036 there. Its problem was double refutation. It is now resolved!

## 601 - Oto Mihalčo

1st Prize
Štefan Sovik 75 JT C 29.12.2019

1.Sc3! [2.Sb1\#] Kb4 2.S×e4+ Ka3 3.Sc3 [4.Sb1\#] Kb4 4.Sca4+ Ka3 5.fxg4! zz Se5 $6 . \mathrm{S} \times \mathrm{b} 6$ [6...f4 7.c5 f3 8.Sd5 [9.Bb4\#] Sd3 9.Bb4+ S×b4 10.Sc4+ Ka4 11.Sc3\#] 6...Sd3 7.S×d3 [8.Bb4\#] b2+ 8.Kb1 Kb3 9.Sc5+ Ka3 10.Sd5 [11.Bb4\#] 5...f4 6.Sc3 Kb4 7.Se4+ Ka3 8.Bc3 [9.Sd2 [10.Sb1\#]]

Sa4 is the key player here. Having no guard duty allows him to move around free and produce threats, create batteries and finally mate in the main variation. The mix of threats and zugzwang after $5 . \mathrm{f} \times \mathrm{g} 4$ ! reminds solver (or person playing through the solution) that material on both sides is rather limited.

Note the well hidden, but important hesitation round trip $4 . S c a 4+$, $6.5 \times b 6$, 8.Sd5, 11.Sc3\#.

602 - Juraj Lörinc
2nd Prize
Štefan Sovík 75 JT C 29.12.2019

1.h3! [2.Sb5+ Ke4 3.Sd6+ Kf4 4.e3+ Kg5 5.Sf7\#]
1...Be8 2.Sb1+ Ke4 3.Sd2+ Kf4 4.e3+ Kg5 5.Sf3\#
1...Bf8 2.Sd5+ Ke4 3.S×f6+ Kf4 4.e3+ Kg5 5.Sh7\#

There are points to be criticized in this moremover. Especially Rh8 is extremely expensive resource to make the problem correct as it parries otherwise lethal defence 1...Sd8. Also the black coal heap on the rectangle e4-h6 does not look well. Still, my research has hinted that this was of prolonging the vector of Siers battery jumps seems to be original and the judge did not disagree. The white economy is not that bad after all.

By the way, I would be grateful if someone with better orthodox moremover technique could improve the construction...

603 - Zoltán Labai \& Miroslav Svítek 3rd Prize
Štefan Sovík 75 JT C 29.12.2019

1.Sa5? [2.Q×f3\#]
1...Bd1 a 2.d8=Q A [3.Qe4+ f×e4 4.Qf6\#, 3.Qf6 [4.Qe4\#]]
1...Rf1! b
1.Se7? [2.Q×f3\#]
1...Rf1 b 2.Q×h8 B [3.S×g6+ f×g6 4.Rh4\#, 3...h×g6 4.Rh4\#]
1...Bd1! a

## 1.Sd8! [2.Q×f3\#]

1...Bd1 a 2.Qe4+ C fxe4 3.a8=Q [4.Q×e4\#] f5 4.S×e6\# 1...Rf1 b 2.S×e6+ D fxe6 3.d8=S [4.S×e6\#] Sf8 4.Rh4\#
1...S×e5 2.Qb8 [3.Rh4\#, 3.Q×e5\#] Shg6 3.Rh4+ S×h4 4.Q×e5\#

Two black defences $1 \ldots \mathrm{Bd} 1$ a and $1 . . \mathrm{Rf} 1 \mathrm{~b}$ appear prominently in all three phases introduced by wS jumps (with threat $2 . Q \times f 3 \#$ in all cases, keeping black linemovers on the short leash). The answers to them are changed twice and they also refute tries. The solutions is undoubtedly the best phase, showing besides changes also Phénix theme
(promotion to piece that was captured earlier). Perhaps this third prize was even better than previous two prizes?

Juraj Lörinc

## Fresh clash 4

This time there is one new original N008.

1.Qe8! [2.Q×e7\#]
1...RAcb4 2.S×d4\# A
2.R×d6+? F K×d6!
1...RAdb4 2.R×e5\# B
2.S×d4+? A R×d4!
1...RAde3 2.Sf4\# C
2.R×e5+?? B impossible!
1...RAfe3 2.RAe2\# D
2.Sf4+? C Kf5!
1...RAfc2 2.Sc5\# E
2.RAe2+? D PA×e2!
1...RAcc2 2.R×d6\# F
2.Sc5+? E PA×c5!

The comment by the author:

## 6-fold cyclic chain of dual avoidances.

In fact, each variation can be seen as secondary of the previous one (sharing 1 primary harmful effect), so there is a 6fold cyclic chain of 2nd degree black corrections. It seems to be the 2nd achievement of this thematic content.

As a theoretical remark, it could be noticed that each variation has 2 harmful effects: 1 is a departure effect (opening a white line or deactivating a black Chinese line), 1 is an arrival effect (closing a black line); the 6 anti-dual (useful) effects are also departure or arrival effects, and if a mate is allowed by a departure effect, the avoidance of this mate is an arrival effect, and reciprocally if the mate is allowed by an arrival effect then the avoidance of the mate is a departure effect. All this architecture of effects is consistently organized.

Dance of raos: 2 cycles of changes of functions hurdle/control of the threat square (e7):

1st cycle:
1... RAcb4: RAc6 $(X)$ jumps over RAd5 ( $Y$ )
1... RAde3: RAd5 ( $Y$ ) jumps over RAf5 ( $Z$ )
1... RAfc2: RAf5 (Z) jumps over RAc6 ( $X$ ) 2nd cycle:
1... RAcc2: RAc6 ( $X$ ) jumps over RAf5 ( $Z$ )
1... RAfe3: RAf5 (Z) jumps over RAd5 ( $Y$ )
1... RAdb4: RAd5 ( $Y$ ) jumps over RAc6 ( $X$ )

Even if this twomover is single-phase, it is very cyclical!

## Annual tourney Conflictio 2020

All kinds of antagonistic problems will be accepted for Originals column (orthodox and fairy direct, self-, reflex mates and other aims of any length, any fairy elements), the main criteria for publication being antagonistic stipulation and sufficient quality. Possible originals from other articles will be included in the competition as well. The tourney will be judged by Kjell Widlert (Sweden), multiple sections might be created based on the quality and quantity of entries. Please, send the originals to Juraj Lörinc (address below).

## 2nd TT Conflictio C 10.10.2020

TT for fairy twomovers showing themes of changes of play and move functions. They were analysed and described in the series Explaining MOV \& PAD symbols (for its eight parts, see issues 13-17, 19-21). The tourney will be judged by Juraj Brabec (Slovakia). Please, send the originals to Juraj Lörinc (address below).

## 3rd TT Conflictio C 12.12.2020

TT for fairy problems showing Jacobs theme and/or other closely related themes, as described in two articles in Conflictio 18 and 24. The tourney will be judged by Narayan Shankar Ram (India). Please, send the originals to Juraj Lörinc (address below).

Conflictio is an e-zine dedicated to chess problems with antagonistic stipulations
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