CONFLICTIO

No 34
17.10.2021

In this issue

And once again two articles in this issue. In the first article, Neal Turner introduces fairy element noteworthy for anyone looking for something simple and flexible at the same time and with big potential for further exploration: royal grasshopper. No SAT involved here unlike similar article in Conflictio 27. Royal grasshopper alone allows for very diverse set of motives

The second article returns once again to the Jacobs theme (after previous instalments in issues 18, 24 and 30). More returns can be expected in the future thanks to 11th WCCT (after some considerations we have decided to postpone talking about WCCT problem for now).

Finally, five originals by four authors use all fairy pieces in threemover and four selfmates. If you have any Conflictio-type original and you want it published in 2021, there will be surely an issue by the end of the year, so it would be welcome.

Stay safe and enjoy Conflictio!

Juraj Lörinc

‘Grasshoppers make me nervous’ – Marlon Brando[1]

We can all admire the blockbusters that we see on these pages, and marvel at the ambition and technique demonstrated by the authors, but sometimes, as both solvers and composers, we crave something in a lighter vein.

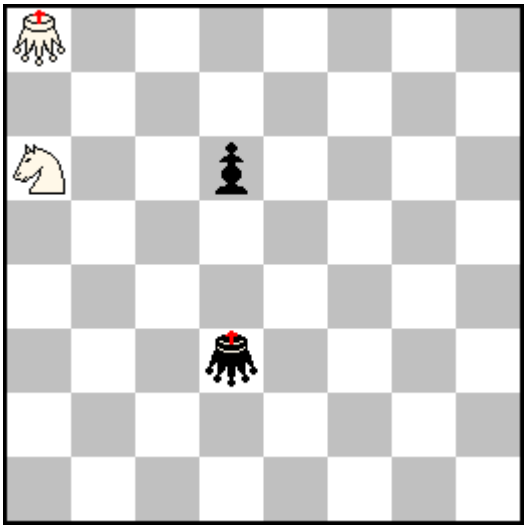
Here I put forward a case for the Royal Grasshopper. With the kings moving like grasshoppers, we're relieved of the burden of having to guard multiple flights. This leads to naturally lightweight positions while retaining the potential for interesting and unusual effects. By perusing the following, readers can judge whether or not I succeeded in realizing that potential - but I definitely will have succeeded if any are roused to produce their own examples!

So it must have been in 2004 that our member, Mr Timo Aitta, at one of our bi-weekly meetings in Helsinki presented some positions featuring the Royal Grasshopper. My interest was stoked, but it wasn’t until a few months later that I came up with my first effort.

[1] In his role as Terry Malloy in ‘On the Waterfront’ (1954)

He actually says ‘Crickets make me nervous’ – same difference.

763 - Neal Turner
dedicated to T. Aitta
Suomen Tehtäväniekat 2005



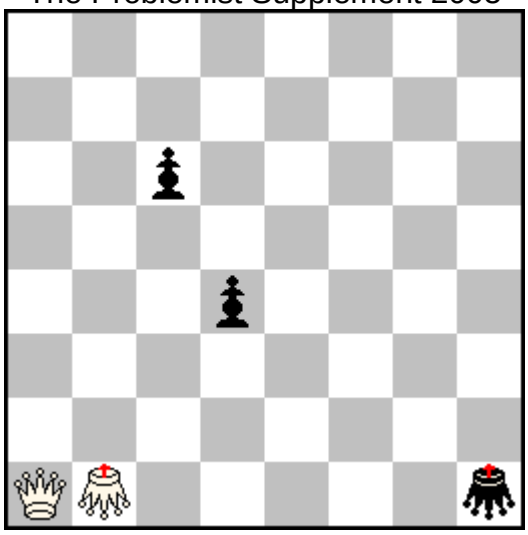
#3 (2+2) C+
♔♕ = royal grasshopper

1.rGa5! zz
1…d5 2.Sc7 d4/rGd6 3.rGd8/Sb5#
1…rGd7 2.rGa7 d5/rGd5 3.Sc5/Sc7#

Of course, I was happy with this first attempt, getting four mates with such sparse material. But at the same time it exposes a problem – it's too easy to mate a Royal Grasshopper! Another issue here is that we're not using the 'royal' attribute of the white Royal Grasshopper – it could just be a normal G. How to go forward?

It turns out that both these problems are resolved by employing the selfmate stipulation – the ease of mating now becomes an advantage, while of course both grasshoppers must be 'royal'. This thinking resulted in my first ever selfmate, which I'm still very pleased with.

764 - Neal Turner
The Problemist Supplement 2005

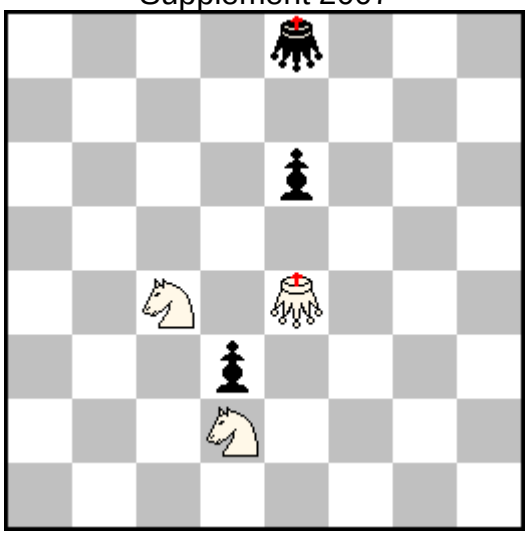


s#9 (2+3) C+
♔♕ = royal grasshopper

1.Qa8! d3 2.Qh8+ rGb7 3.Qh1 d2 4.Qh7+ rGd5 5.Qd7+ rGd1 6.Qd4 c5 7.Qc3 c4 8.Qa3 c3 9.Qa6 c2#

The next two also feature the pawn cascade, the first ending in a nice mate, while the second has radical change of play between set and solution.

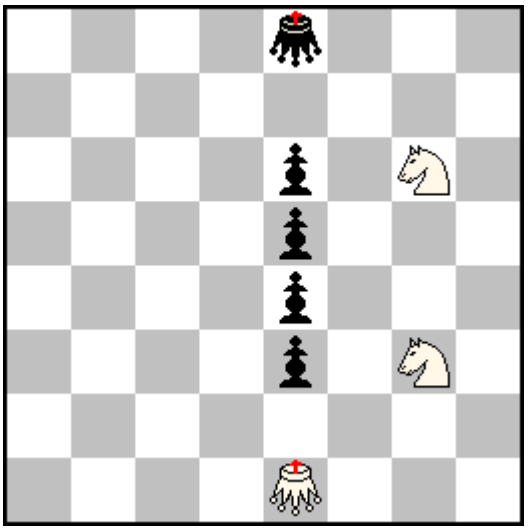
765 - Neal Turner
3rd Commendation The Problemist Supplement 2007



s#8 (3+3) C+
♔♕ = royal grasshopper

1.rGb4! e5 2.rGe1 e4 3.Sd6+ rGe3 4.Sf1+ rGc3 5.Sf5 e3 6.S1g3 e2 7.Sd4 rGe5+ 8.Se4 d2#

766 - Neal Turner
2nd Commendation
M. Caillaud 50 JT 2008-2014



s#6 (3+5) C+
♕♕ = royal grasshopper

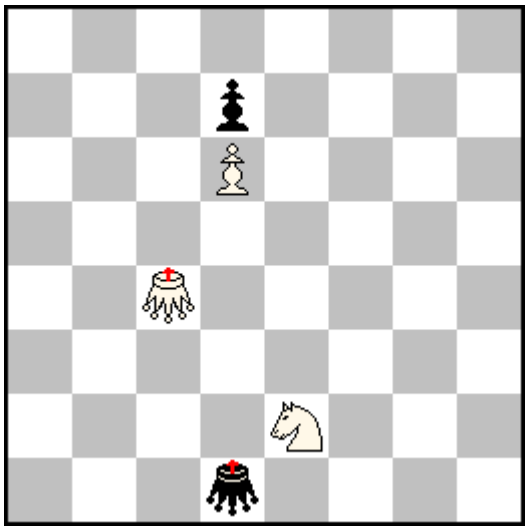
1…e2 2.Sh4 e3 3.Sf3 e4 4.S×e4 e5 5.Sc3 e4 6.Sd2 e×d2#

1.rG×e4! e2 2.S×e2 rGh5 3.Se7 rGd1 4.Sc6 rGf3 5.Sc3 rGb3 6.Sd5 e×d5#

The previous problem ended in (almost) echoed mates, the next two have true echoes. In the first the mate is mirrored, while in the second it's turned on its axis.

1.Qg4+!
1…rGc4 2.Qg8 rGf4 3.Qg5+ rGd4 4.Qd8 rGf4 5.Qf6+ S×f6#
1…rGe3 2.Qg1+ rGe5 3.Qg5+ rGc5 4.rGc6 rGc7 5.Qe7+ S×e7#

767 - Neal Turner
Commendation feenschach 2006

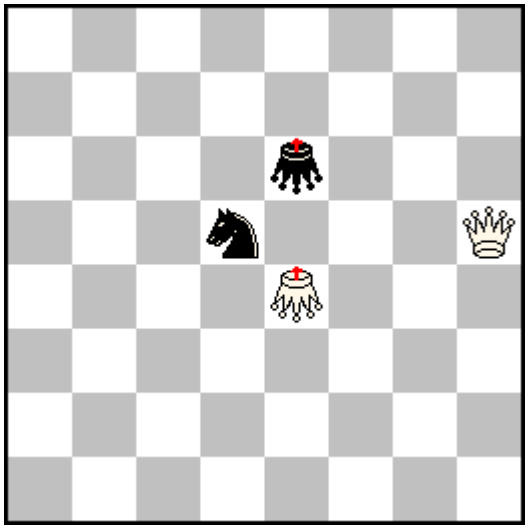


s#6 (3+2) C+
♕♕ = royal grasshopper

1…rGf3 2.Sf4 rGf5 3.rGg4 rGf3 4.Sg6 rGh5 5.Se5 rGd5 6.rGc8 rGf5#

1.Sc1! rGb1 2.Sb3 rGb4 3.rGa4 rGb2 4.Sd2 rGe2 5.rGe8 rGc2 6.Sb3 rGa4#

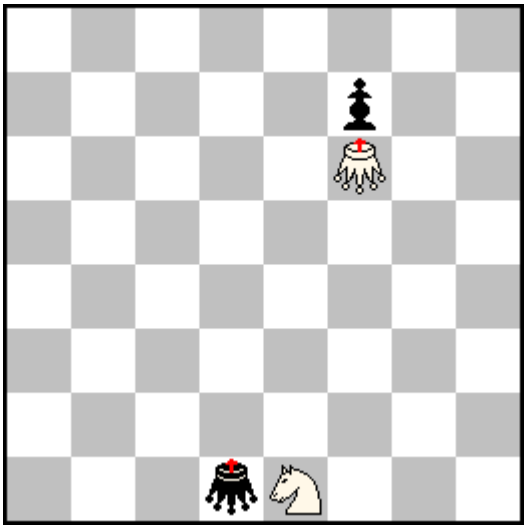
768 - Neal Turner
Commendation Phénix 2008



s#5 (2+2) C+
♕♕ = royal grasshopper

We see the knights playing a prominent role in many of these problems. There's certainly an affinity between the knight and the grasshopper, in the next problem they do a merry dance!

769 - Neal Turner
Phénix 2008

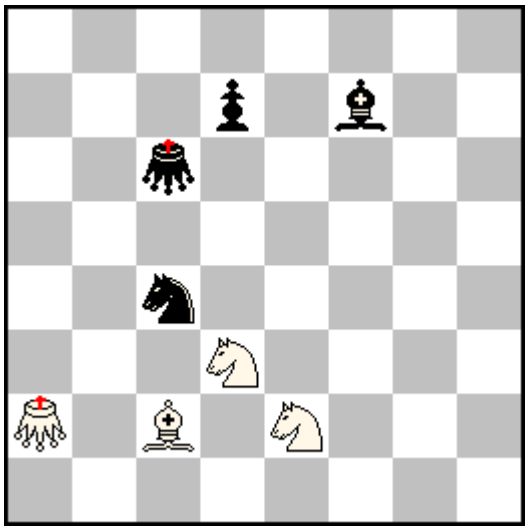


s#16 (2+2) C+
= royal grasshopper

1.Sf3! rGg4 2.Sd4 rGc4 3.Sf3 rGg8 4.Sg5 rGg4 5.Sf3 rGe2 6.Sd2 rGc2 7.Sb3 rGa4 8.Sd4 rGe4 9.Se2 rGe1 10.Sc3 rGb4 11.Se4 rGf4 12.Sg3 rGh2 13.Sh5 rGh6 14.Sf4 rGe3 15.Sg6 f×g6 16.rGh6 g5#

It's time we invited our old friends Mr Switchback and Mr Rundlauf to the party.

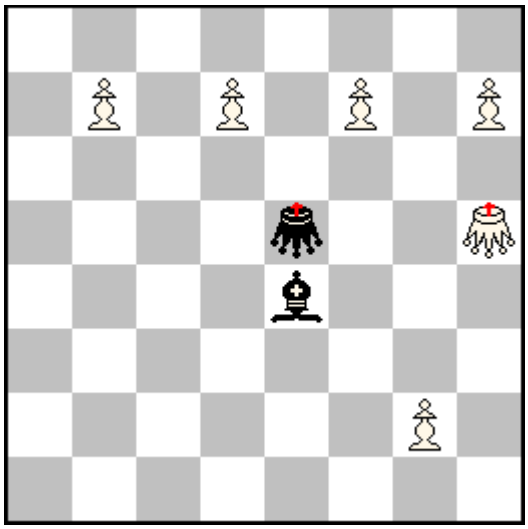
770 - Neal Turner
Probleemblad 2005



s#8 (4+4) C+
= royal grasshopper

1.Ba4+! rGe8 2.B×d7+ rGg6 3.Sef4+ rGc2 4.Ba4+ rGe4 5.Sf2+ rGb4 6.S2d3+ rGd4 7.Se2+ rGd2 8.Bc2+ Sb2#

771 - Neal Turner
Mat Plus 2007



s#8 (6+2) C+
= royal grasshopper

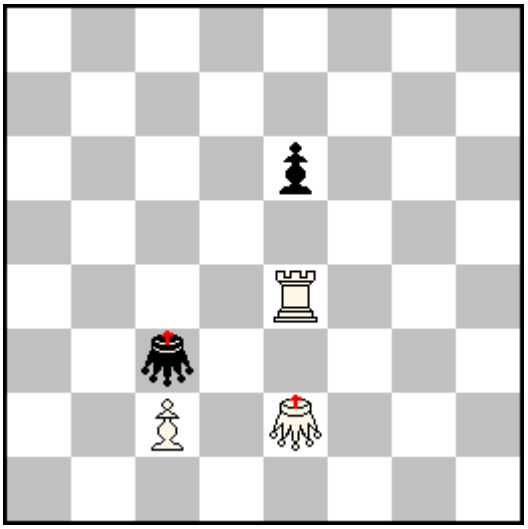
1.h8=Q+! rGe3 2.Qc3+ Bd3 3.f8=Q rG×c3 4.Qc5+ Bc4 5.b8=Q rG×c5 6.Qe5+ Bd5 7.d8=S rG×e5 8.Sf7+ B×f7#

(Yes, unfortunately we do need the WP on g2.)

What's that Mr Spock!? You want Logic? We have Logic!

In the next two examples, after the *probespiele* it's clear that we need white combinations, in the first to gain a tempo, in the second to thwart a black king flight.

772 - Neal Turner
Commendation Pat a Mat 2005

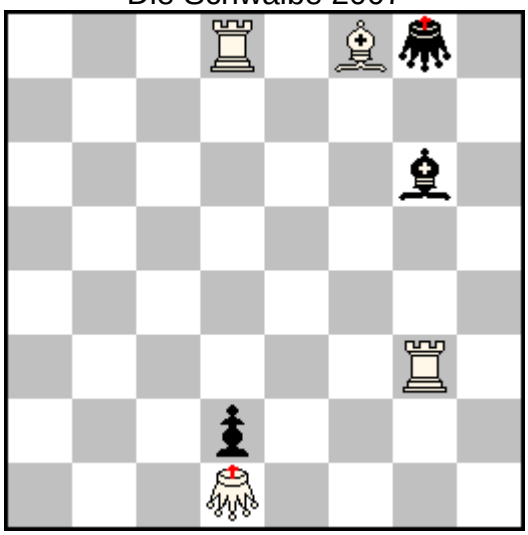


s#6 (3+2) C+
♔♕ = royal grasshopper

1.Rc4+? rGc1 2.rGe7 e5 3.Rc5 e4 4.rGb4 e3

1.Re3+! rGc1 2.Re5 rGc3 3.Rc5+ rGc1 4.rGe7 e5 5.rGb4 e4 6.rGf4 e3#

773 - Neal Turner
2nd Honourable Mention
Die Schwalbe 2007



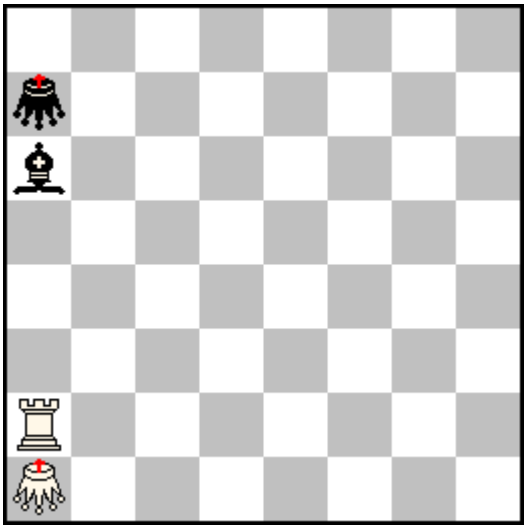
s#9 (4+3) C+
♔♕ = royal grasshopper

1.Rd6? rGe8 2.Re6+ rGh5!

1.Bg7+! Be8 2.Rgd3 rGg6 3.R3d6+ rGg8 4.Rd4 rGg6 5.Rg4+ rGg8 6.Bf8+ Bg6 7.Rd6 rGe8 8.Re6+ rGg8 9.Rg2 rGd5#

Being a long-range piece, the grasshopper is a good fit for the Maximummer condition. Below are a couple of amusing examples which might however give food for thought to those with serious intent.

774 - Neal Turner
on ocassion of Olli Heimo 60
Suomen Tehtäväniekat 2006

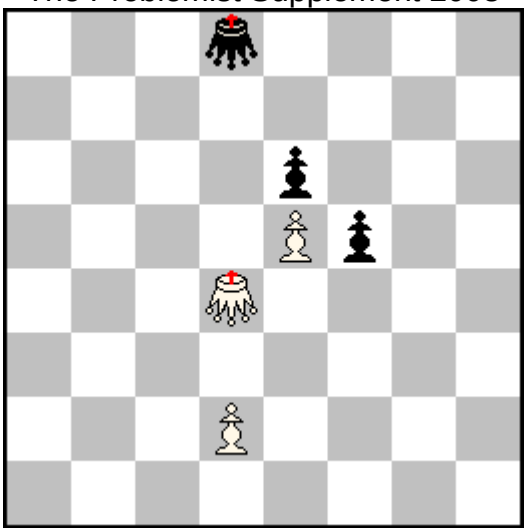


s#3 (2+2) C+
Maximummer
= royal grasshopper
2 solutions

1.Rf2+! rGg1 2.rGh1 Bf1 3.Rg2+ B×g2#

1.Rb2+! Bf1 2.rGa8 Ba6 3.Rb7+ B×b7#

775 - Neal Turner
The Problemist Supplement 2008

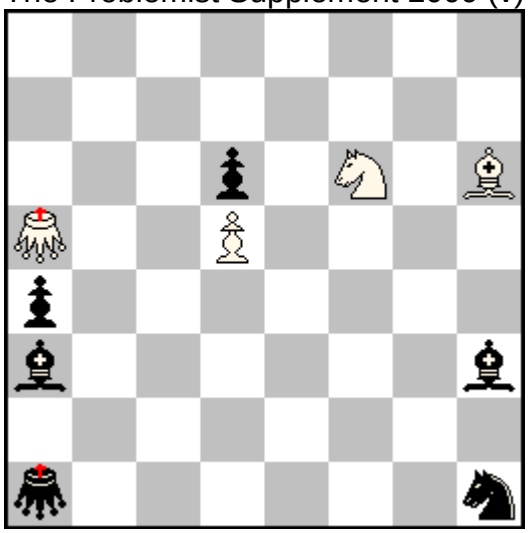


s#8 (3+3) C+
Maximummer
= royal grasshopper

1.rGf6! rGd1 2.d3 f4 3.rGf3 rGg4 4.rGc3 rGd7 5.rGf6 rGd2 6.rGd6+ rGg5 7.rGd2+ rGd5+ 8.rGg5+ rGd2#

All the above are in the typical 'bohemian' style where it's White calling the shots and Black passively following. In the last example we have Black coming up with defensive ideas of his own, which certainly adds a level of interest for both solvers and composers.

776 - Neal Turner
The Problemist Supplement 2009 (v)



s#7 (4+6) C+
= royal grasshopper

1.Se4!

With the key we open the long diagonal to threaten 2.Bg7+ Bb2#

1…Bf1

Black creates a flight on g1 for his king.

2.Be3

White puts a guard on g1, renewing the threat.

2…Ba6

Black turns his attention to the white king, creating a flight on a7 and even threatening to force it there with a check on the a-file.

3.Ba7

Now the flight is blocked and Black must decide what to do. Moving the bishop will lose immediately, but he comes up with a cunning plan.

3…Sf2! 4.Sxf2

The knight must be captured.

4…Bf1

With the knight interfering with his bishop, the black king again has a flight on g1. What's more Black has renewed the pressure the white king, this time threatening to send it to a8. White must give the check.

5.Bd4+ rGg1

And the black king has managed to escape - he's safe, yes? No! White has one more trick up his sleeve.

6.Se4+ rGe1 7.Sd2+

The white king, which has been a mere spectator, enters the fray with decisive effect.

7…Bb4#

It was a very limited selection, but it's from a very limited stock. Here we have a wide-open field with lots of gems just waiting to be found by those willing to explore.

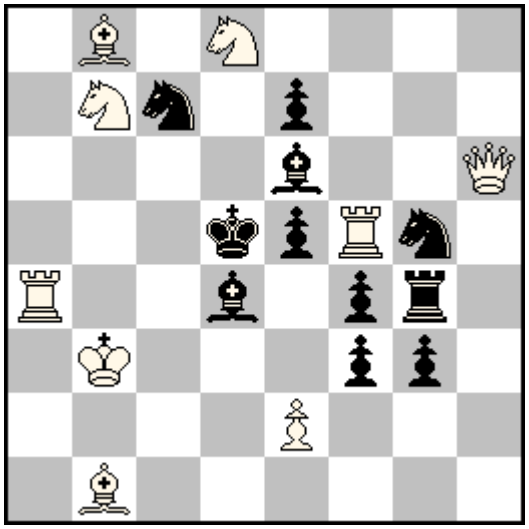
This being (thankfully) a helpmate-free zone, I have to whisper this: There's also a world of possibilities for Royal Grasshoppers with the helpselfmate stipulation.

Neal Turner

Jacobs theme – another addendum

The surveys of Jacobs theme appeared in Conflictio issues 18, 24 and 30. Narayan Shankar Ram is here again with some recent problems. The first is older and uncovered recently, the five following are really new. There were multiple Jacobes theme problems in the 11th WCCT, but after some consultation we have agreed to postpone reporting on them until the WCCT results are published. So stay tuned...

777 - Mukkur Parthasarathy
3rd Honourable Mention
The Problemist 1996



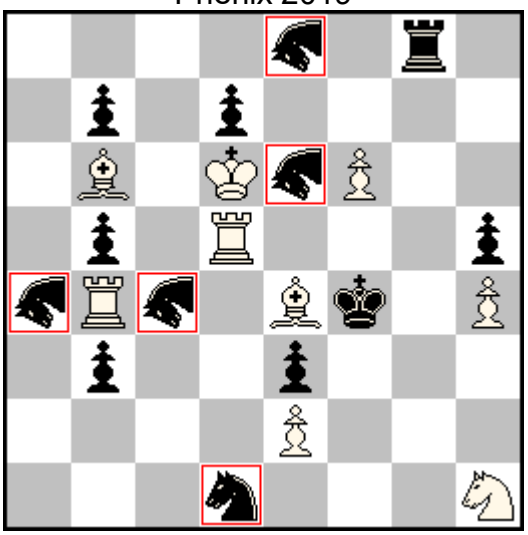
#3 (9+11) C+

1.Rc4! [2.Sc6 [3.Sb4#
3.S×e7#] Bc5 3.R×c5#]
1…Se4 2.R×e5+ K×e5 3.Q×e6#
2…B×e5 3.B×e4#
1…Sa6 2.Be4+ K×e4 3.R×e5#
2…S×e4 3.Q×e6#
1…Bc5 2.Q×e6+ Sg×e6 3.Be4#
2…Sc×e6 3.R×e5#

Similar to Nos. **251** and **252** by Matthews in the original article (Conflictio #18),

778 - Narayan Shankar Ram & Jacques Rotenberg

Phénix 2019



#3 (9+13) C+

Diagram Circe

□ = transparent unit

= camel

1.Re5! zz
1…tCAef3 2.Bd5+ tCAa×d5(Be4)/tCAe×d5(Be4) 3.Bd3/Bh7#
1…tCA6h7 2.Bb1+ tCAa×b1(Be4)/tCAc×b1(Be4) 3.Bd3/Bf3#
1…tCAed3 2.Bf5+ tCAc×f5(Be4)/tCAe×f5(Be4) 3.Bf3/Bh7#
1…tCAef5 2.Bd3+ tCAa×d3(Be4)/tCAe×d3(Be4) 3.Bd5/Bh7#
1…tCA8h7 2.Bb1+ tCAa×b1(Be4)/tCAc×b1(Be4) 3.Bd5/Bf5#
1…tCAed5 2.Bf3+ tCAc×f3(Be4)/tCAe×f3(Be4) 3.Bf5/Bh7#
1…tCAcf5 2.Bd3+ tCAa×d3(Be4)/tCAe×d3(Be4) 3.Bb1/Bf3#
1…tCAcf3 2.Bd5+ tCAa×d5(Be4)/tCAe×d5(Be4) 3.Bb1/Bf5#
1…tCAcb1 2.Bh7+ tCA6×h7(Be4)/tCA8×h7(Be4) 3.Bf3/Bf5#
1…tCAab1 2.Bh7+ tCA6×h7(Be4)/tCA8×h7(Be4) 3.Bd3/Bd5#
1…tCAad5 2.Bf3+ tCAc×f3(Be4)/tCAe×f3(Be4) 3.Bb1/Bd3#
1…tCAad3 2.Bf5+ tCAc×f5(Be4)/tCAe×f5(Be4) 3.Bb1/Bd5#
1…R~ 2.B×b7+ tCA~×b7(Be4) 3.Ba8#
1…tS~ 2.B×e3+ Kg4 3.Bg2#

One more example of ”Super Jacobs” which got missed out in the earlier update.

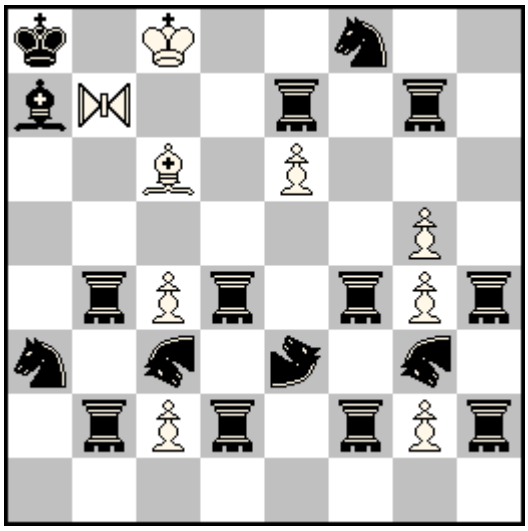
Unusual fairy elements from **779**:

Equileaper: Combination of all possible (m,n) leapers where m and n are both even. This piece can leap to any square that is a multiple of 2 squares distant both vertically and horizontally.

Right Zebra: Zebra that can only move/capture to the squares on its right side.

779 - Narayan Shankar Ram

Julia's Fairies 2021



#3 (9+17) C+

Diagram Circe

Black captures, if possible

= zebra, = right zebra

= wazir, = equileaper

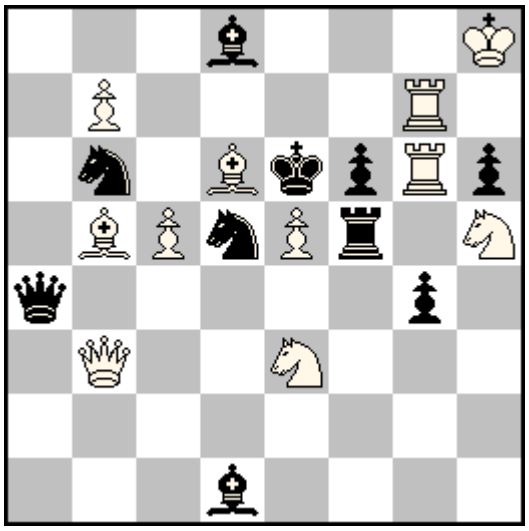
1.ELh1+? WA×h1(ELb7)!, RZ×h1(ELb7)!
1.ELf1+? WA×f1(ELb7)!, Z×f1(ELb7)!
1.ELh3+? WA2×h3(ELb7)!, WA4×h3(ELb7)!
1.ELf3+? WA2×f3(ELb7)!, WA4×f3(ELb7)!
1.ELd1+? Z×d1(ELb7)!, WA×d1(ELb7)!
1.ELh5+? WA×h5(ELb7)!, RZ×h5(ELb7)!
1.ELd3+? WA2×d3(ELb7)!, WA4×d3(ELb7)!
1.ELf5+? WA×f5(ELb7)!, Z×f5(ELb7)!
1.ELd5+? Z×d5(ELb7)!, WA×d5(ELb7)!
1.ELh7+? WA×h7(ELb7)!, S×h7(ELb7)!
1.ELb1+? WA×b1(ELb7)!, S×b1(ELb7)!

1.ELf7+? WAg×f7(ELb7)!, WAe×f7(ELb7)!
1.ELb3+? WA2×b3(ELb7)!, WA4×b3(ELb7)!
1.ELd7+? S×d7(ELb7)!, WA×d7(ELb7)!
1.ELb5+? WA×b5(ELb7)!, S×b5(ELb7)!

1.g6! zz
1…WAh×g2 2.ELh5+ WA×h5(ELb7) 3.ELh3#
2…RZ×h5(ELb7) 3.ELh1#
1…WAh×g4 2.ELh1+ WA×h1(ELb7) 3.ELh3#
2…RZ×h1(ELb7) 3.ELh5#
1…Zg×e6 2.ELd3+ WA2×d3(ELb7) 3.ELd1#
2…WA4×d3(ELb7) 3.ELd5#
1…WA×g6(g5) 2.ELd7+ S×d7(ELb7) 3.ELh7#
2…WA×d7(ELb7) 3.ELf7#
1…WAf×g2 2.ELf5+ WA×f5(ELb7) 3.ELf3#
2…Z×f5(ELb7) 3.ELf1#
1…WAf×g4 2.ELf1+ WA×f1(ELb7) 3.ELf3#
2…Z×f1(ELb7) 3.ELf5#
1…S×g6(g5) 2.ELf7+ WAg×f7(ELb7) 3.ELh7#
2…WAe×f7(ELb7) 3.ELd7#
1…S×e6 2.ELf7+ WAg×f7(ELb7) 3.ELh7#
2…WAe×f7(ELb7) 3.ELd7#
1…RZ×g6(g5) 2.ELh3+ WA2×h3(ELb7) 3.ELh1#
2…WA4×h3(ELb7) 3.ELh5#
1…WA×e6 2.ELh7+ WA×h7(ELb7) 3.ELf7#
2…S×h7(ELb7) 3.ELd7#
1…WAd×c2 2.ELd5+ Z×d5(ELb7) 3.ELd1#
2…WA×d5(ELb7) 3.ELd3#
1…WAd×c4 2.ELd1+ Z×d1(ELb7) 3.ELd5#
2…WA×d1(ELb7) 3.ELd3#
1…Zc×e6 2.ELf3+ WA2×f3(ELb7) 3.ELf1#
2…WA4×f3(ELb7) 3.ELf5#
1…WAb×c2 2.ELb5+ WA×b5(ELb7) 3.ELb3#
2…S×b5(ELb7) 3.ELb1#
1…WAb×c4 2.ELb1+ WA×b1(ELb7) 3.ELb3#
2…S×b1(ELb7) 3.ELb5#
1…S×c4 2.ELb3+ WA2×b3(ELb7) 3.ELb1#
2…WA4×b3(ELb7) 3.ELb5#
1…S×c2 2.ELb3+ WA2×b3(ELb7) 3.ELb1#
2…WA4×b3(ELb7) 3.ELb5#

Simple 3x2 quintupled, with 5 triplets of B pieces and 15 different mates.

780 - Viktor Sizonenko
1st Prize Y. Tallec MT 2021

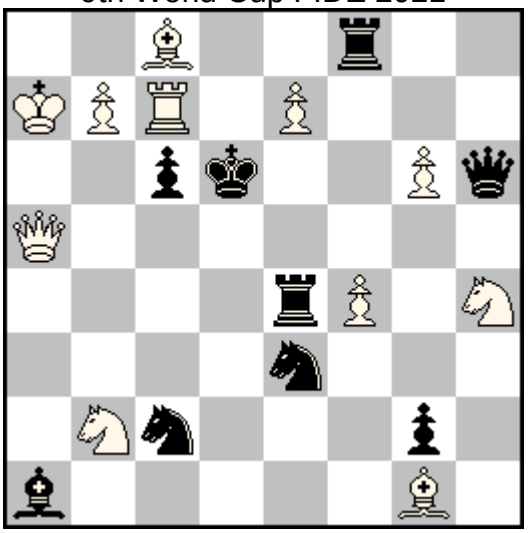


#3 (11+10) C+

1.e×f6! [2.f7+ Bf6 3.f8=S#
2…Rf6 3.f8=S#]
1…Sd7 2.Sf4+ R×f4 3.Q×d5#
2…Q×f4 3.B×d7#
1…R×f6 2.Bd7+ S×d7 3.Q×d5#
2…Q×d7 3.Sf4#
1…Qa8 2.Q×d5+ S×d5 3.Bd7#
2…R×d5 3.Sf4#
1…B×f6 2.R×f6+ R×f6 3.Re7#

Simple 3x2 with threat.

781 - Viktor Sizonenko
3rd Honourable Mention
9th World Cup FIDE 2021



#3 (11+9) C+

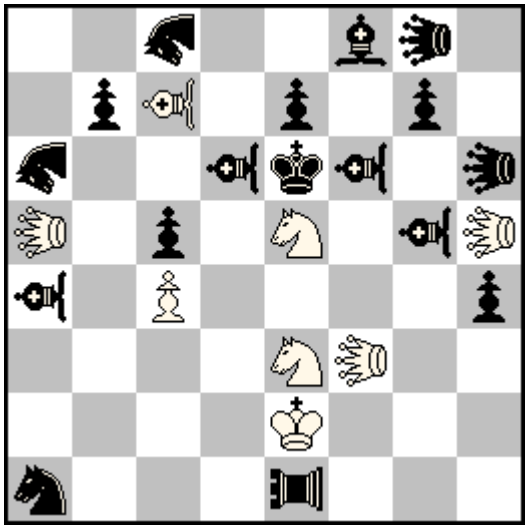
1.e8=S+?
1…Rexe8 2.Rd7+ Ke6 3.Qe5#
1…Rfxe8!

1.Sf5+?
1…Sxf5 2.Qc5+ Kxc7 3.b8=Q#
1…Rxf5!

1.Sc4+?
1…Sxc4 2.Qc5+ Kxc7 3.b8=Q#
1…Rxc4!

1.Bh2! [2.f5+ Rf4 3.Rd7#
2…Re5 3.B×e5#, Rd7#, Q×e5#
2…Qf4 3.Rd7#]
1…Sd5/f5 2.e8=S+ Re×e8 3.Sc4#
2…Rf×e8 3.Sf5#
1…Re×f4 2.Sf5+ S×f5 3.Sc4#
2…R×f5 3.e8=S#
1…Rf×f4 2.Sc4+ S×c4 3.Sf5#
2…R×c4 3.e8=S#
1…R×e7 2.Rd7+ Ke6 3.Qe5#
2…R×d7 3.Qe5#
1…Rf5 2.Sc4+ S×c4 3.S×f5#
2…R×c4 3.e8=S#
1…Q×f4 2.e×f8=Q+ Re7 3.B×f4#, Q×e7#

782 - Viktor Sizonenko
3rd Commendation 9th World Cup FIDE 2021



#3 (8+17) C+
= nightrider chinois, = pao
= vao, = leo

1.LEb5! [2.LEb3+ S×b3 3.LE×b3#]
1…LE×c4 2.LEe4+ NSc×e4 3.LEg6#
2…NSa×e4 3.LEbe8#
1…NSb6 2.LEbe8+ LE×e8 3.LEg6#
2…NS×e8 3.LEe4#
1…NSb4 2.LEg6+ LE×g6 3.LEe8#
2…NS×g6 3.LEe4#
1…PAd1 2.LEh3 [3.S3g4#
3.Sf5#] LE×e3 3.LE5g4#

Simple 3x2 with threat.

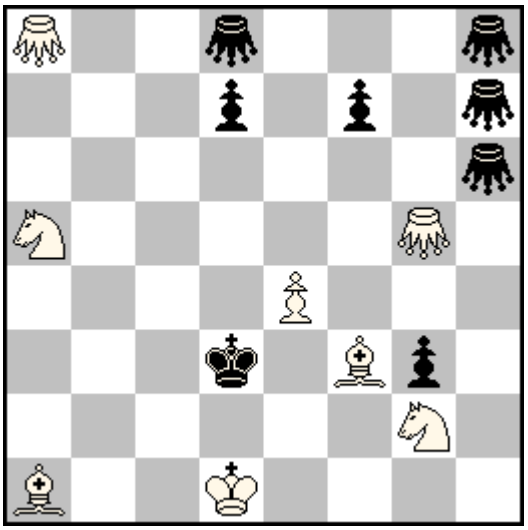
Narayan Shankar Ram
Juraj Lörinc

Fresh clash 11

Today we have five new originals for the 2021 competition **N019**-**N023**.

N019 is something for an easy start, using only grasshoppers.

N019 - Manfred Rittirsch



#3 (8+8) C+

= grasshopper

1.Se1+? Ke3!
1.Sf4+? G×f4!
1.Be2+? K×e4!

1.Ge8? [2.Se1#]
1…Ge7!

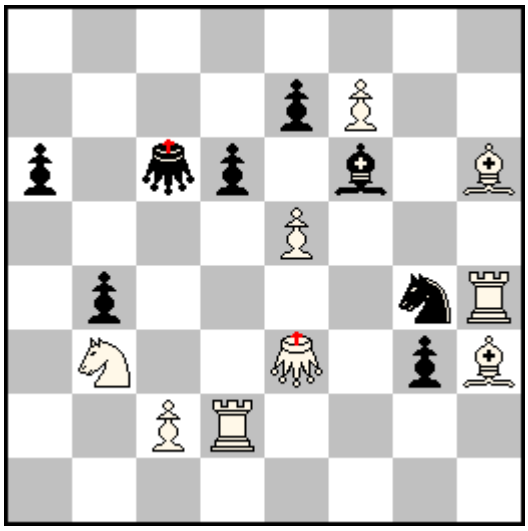
1.Ga4! [2.Gf4 [3.Se1#]]
1…f6 2.Ge8 [3.Se1#] **Ge6** 3.Sf4#
2…**Ge5** 3.Be2#

Author: *"2x Hamburger, introduced by the same single hurdle move."*

Specific type of condensed double Hamburger pair thanks to the minuscule pawn defending move 1...f6 changing completely the defending possibilities of grasshoppers.

For **N020** it is worth reminding that in SAT the side is checked if its king has legal move according to other rules.

N020 - Neal Turner



s#2 (9+8) C+

SAT

= royal grasshopper

1.Sc1! [2.c4+ b×c3 e.p.#]
1…S×e5 2.Re4+ Sf3#
(2.c4+ Sd3# 3.Re4+)
1…B×e5 2.Rd3+ rG×c1#
(2.c4+ b×c3 e.p.# 3.Rd3+)

The commentary is given by author:

"We notice the mutual guard of c1 by the kings which has the effect of leaving the c2 pawn pinned.

By putting a block on c1 the key releases the pawn.

It's amusing that when it does move, the pawn in turn pins the knight so preventing 3.Sb3 in the threat.

The black knight intends to nullify the check by arriving d3, however in doing so it will leave White in check on e8.

It's move also frees the h4 rook, which Black is relying on to close the e-file.

But the rook doesn't wait and jumps to e4 immediately, forcing the knight to block the check on f3, mating the white king on g3.

The bishop's capture on e5 puts a guard on c3 enabling the rook to close the line to b3.

White's response is to deflect the black king from its guard of e6.

By coming to d3 the rook gives a check on c1 while putting his own guard on c3. But why isn't this the threat?

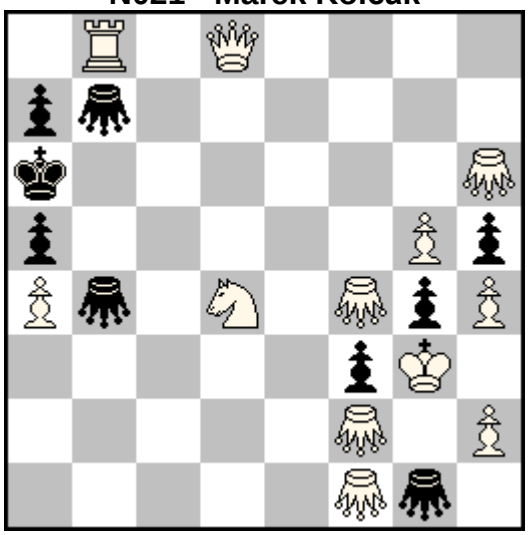
If we tried 2.Rd3+ as the threat we still get the check on e6 but White has 3.e6 changing the flight to e7 which is guarded by the bishop.

So Black's error here is removing the white pawn preventing this defence."

It should be noted that SAT with normal kings can be rather unwieldy and usually with substantial static force needed to make the mechanisms work. The limited mobility of royal grasshoppers allows getting rid of blocking stuff, while the possibility to change guards by moving hurdles around brings into action more flexibility. Thus one can say: only 2 variations and threat, but a lot of motives in action.

N021 used only grasshoppers but again contains more than one would expect from the initial position and even dry solution notation.

N021 - Marek Kolčák



s#3 (12+9) C+

♗♗ = grasshopper

b) ♘d4→a2

a) **1.Se6!** zz
1…G×b8+ 2.Sc7+ Kb6 3.Qd6+ G×d6#
1…Gb3+ 2.Qd3+ Gb5 3.Qb3+ G×b3#

b) **1.Qc7!** zz
1…G×b8 2.Qd6+ Gb6 3.Qb8+ G×b8#
1…Gb3+ 2.Sc3 [3.Rb5+ Gd3#]

Simple change of two variations only?

Let's consider the position without Sd4. It is actually a zugzwang position with two variations ready:
1…G×b8 2.Qd6+ Gb6 3.Qb8+ G×b8#
1…Gb3+ 2.Qd3+ Gb5 3.Qb3+ G×b3#
I.e. one variation from each phase.

So White actually solves the task how to get rid of the knight. It is not possible completely, so it is necessary to employ knight actively in some variations.

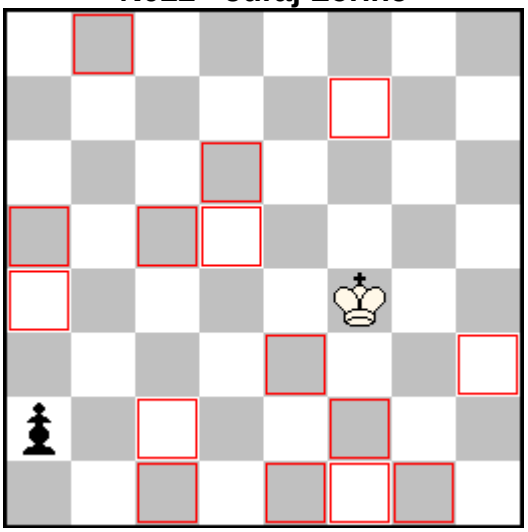
By the way, there is a threat 2.R×b7 [3.Rb8 Ge3#,Ge1#] in the position b), but as Black has to make one of two moves 1…G×b8, 1…Gb3, Marek considers the threat virtual and non-important.

N022 uses a lot of fairy elements.

In Chameleon chess, orthodox pieces QRBS are replaced by respective chameleons. Chameleon is a piece taking shape of one of four orthodox pieces QRBS and changing the shape in chain S→B→R→Q→S after every move. Orthodox pieces are fairy and promotions to them are only allowed in case of presence in diagram, pawns promote normally to chameleons.

While Maximummer is well known (Black is obliged to make the geometrically longest legal move measured by distance between centres of departure and arrival squares), Haan is less so: when a unit moves from the departure square, it leaves there a hole. Hole is the square that cannot be entered or crossed and some are already present in the diagram.

N022 - Juraj Lörinc



s#4 (1+1) C+

Chameleon chess
Maximummer
Haan
□ = hole

The idea of White is to wait for the black chameleon promotion and the prepare the mating net awaiting black chameleon mating on the 4th move. In the meantime, black chameleon is constrained in its movements by holes, those existing in the diagram position but also some newly appearing. The content consists of the try and solution

1.Kg4?
1…a1=CH(S) 2.Kg3 CHb3(B) 3.Kh2 CHc4(R) 4.Kh1 CHe4(Q)#
1…a1=CH(B) 2.Kh5 CHh8(R)+ 3.Kg5 CHc8(Q) 4.Kh4 CHf5(S)#
1…a1=CH(Q) 2.Kf3 CHh8(S) 3.Ke2 CHg6(B) 4.Kd1 CHd3(R)#
1…a1=CH(R)!

1.Kg3!
1…a1=CH(S) 2.Kh2 CHb3(B) 3.Kh1 CHc4(R) 4.Kg2 CHe4(Q)# *(changed)*
1…a1=CH(B) 2.Kg2 CHh8(R) 3.Kh1 CHc8(Q) 4.Kh2 CHg4(S)# *(changed)*
1…a1=CH(Q) 2.Kf3 CHh8(S) 3.Ke2 CHg6(B) 4.Kd1 CHd3(R)# *(retained)*
1…a1=CH(R) 2.Kg4 CHb1(Q) 3.Kh5 CHb7(S) 4.Kh4 CHd8(B)# *(new)*

Simply said, Black AUW in the solution is met by four different white actions. Moreover two lines of play are changed from the try, altogether there are six different ideal mates. All with only 2 pieces on the board, fully using the provided fairy elements.

The history of creation is perhaps interesting in view of the following problem. **N022** was from the beginning conceived as my submission for 9th FIDE World Cup. I was trying to create something unusual and as I was judging Wenigsteinerjahrespreis 2020 at that time, I devised a challenge to myself – selfmate with two pieces only (K vs P) showing AUW. After some time I have chosen the fairy elements (those in the diagram) and the main composing

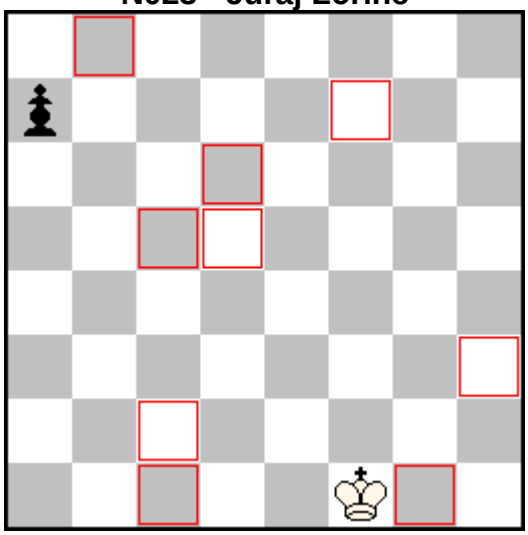
activity was in the putting appropriate holes onto the board. I constructed many mating sequences with various setups and lengths, but I kept failing in making 4 variations with different 2nd moves and different mates.[2] My original estimate of possible (2x AUW with four changes between two solutions) quickly became a dream with my limited constructional abilities and I concentrated on having at least solution in line with my expectations. At last **N022** was a correct setting, moreover with try providing two changes. Not bad in my view.

The judge of the World Cup was however not impressed and I do not blame him. When I look at the result, I can understand nobody can see what is behind the position.

On the other hand, I dared to show **N022** at regular Bratislava meeting. In spite of my worries, local solvers managed to find the solution – so I think now the problem is not so inaccessible as I was afraid.

Only after having **N022** ready and flying I have found that there is actually a way how to make it with less holes in the diagram position. It is possible to make it longer, with bP himself providing important holes on a5 and a4, while wK makes important holes on the other flank. **N023** is a version worth looking at even without changes. What is better in your view? Cleaner position or changes?

N023 - Juraj Lörinc



s#8 (1+1) C+

Chameleon chess
Maximummer
Haan
□ = hole

1.Ke1!

1…a5 2.Kf2 a4 3.Ke3 a3 4.Kf4 a2 5.Kg3

5...a1=CH(Q) 6.Kf3 CHh8(S) 7.Ke2 CHg6(B) 8.Kd1 CHd3(R)#

5…a1=CH(R) 6.Kg4 CHb1(Q) 7.Kh5 CHb7(S) 8.Kh4 CHd8(B)#

5…a1=CH(B) 6.Kg2 CHh8(R) 7.Kh1 CHc8(Q) 8.Kh2 CHg4(S)#

5…a1=CH(S) 6.Kh2 CHb3(B) 7.Kh1 CHc4(R) 8.Kg2 CHe4(Q)#

With six holes less, position of **N023** looks much more natural and enigmatic. It may look surprising that there is no other way for wK to construct appropriate mating nets, but one should take into account the fact that he still has to cope with four possible promotions of bP.

Excelsior of bP added for a good measure.

Juraj Lörinc

[2] Originally, I thought about preparing an article on this process, but the I reconsidered it as I would be only able to show failure positions, not all important intermediate steps.

Annual tourney Conflictio 2021

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 Paz Einat (Israel)**, multiple sections might be created based on the quality and quantity of entries. Please, send the originals to Juraj Lörinc (address below).

Conflictio is an e-zine dedicated to chess problems with antagonistic stipulations
Editor: Juraj Lörinc, juraj.lorinc+conflictio@gmail.com