

Preliminary award ChessStar-2017 (twomovers)

51 twomovers by 17 composers from 6 countries participated in the tourney, among them 12 miniatures. I have divided the competition to two groups: miniatures and other. Overall level was good, especially among awarded problems. I have decided as follows.

1st Prize V Shanshin



2#

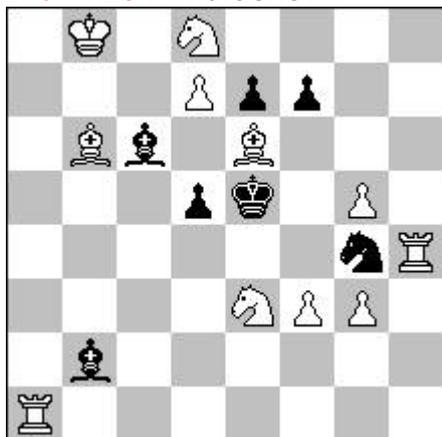
(12+9)

1.Db5 ? 1...Vc6!

1.c6 !

The try and the solution include thematic double threat. If we compare solution with try, the first move (A) with threat (B) make Reversal 2, the other threat (C) and the checkmate after 1...Qd6 create le Grand theme. The synthesis of two yields very rare Zhuravlev combination. It is a very difficult theme and very few problems show it, so the problem has deserved the highest distinction.

2nd Prize P.Murashev



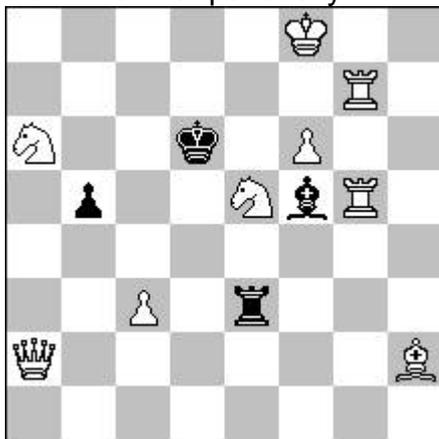
2#

(11+7)

1.Sf5 ? 1...Jxe3 !
 1.Jf5 ? 1...fxe6 !
 1.Vd1 ? 1...Sa3 !
 1.Va5 ? 1...Sb5 !
 1.Ve1 !

Very complicated and rich problem, showing multiple themes: le Grand (B-C), Hannelius (aB-bA), threat paradox (c-C), cyclic pseudo le Grand (AB-BC-CA), threefold change of mate as well as white rook option. I have to highlight the construction that is very good for such a complicated problem.

3rd Prize A.Shpakovsky

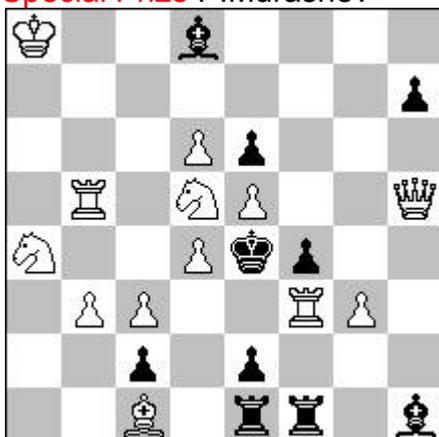


2# (9+4)

1.Jc7 ? 2.Dd5# 1...Sd7,Se6,Se4,Vd3,Kc5 !
 1.Jb4 ! 2.Dd5#

The try threats 2.Qd5# and has a quintuple refutation. In the solution, the same threat leads to the same moves as five defenses, with beautiful battery mates. The theme is shown very clearly and with 5 defenses what I consider as a task.

Special Prize P.Murashev

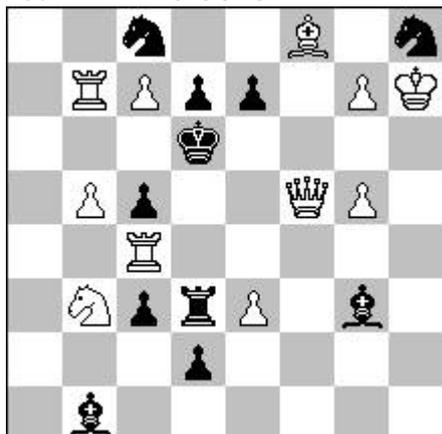


2# (13+10)

1.gxf4 1...Sg5 !
 1.Je3 ? 1...Sb6 !
 1.Vd3 !

Another very rich problem by an excellent Russian composer. The problem shows complete cyclic pseudo le Grand (ABC - BCA - CAB), le Grand (BC-CB) and Sheday (A). The present problem is a version of 3rd Prize MT Ovechkin-110, that is why only a Special Prize.

1st HM P.Murashev

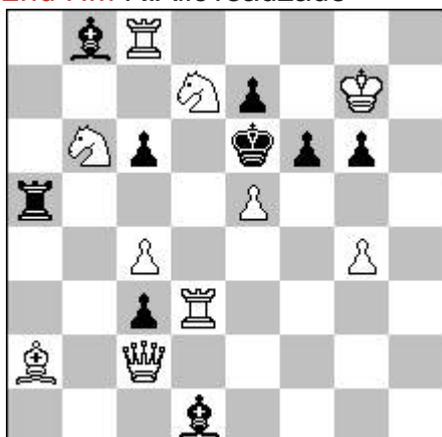


2# (11+11)

1.g8D ? 2.Df6#,Dxc5# 1...Se5 !,Vd4 !
 1.Jxc5 ? 1...Vd5 !
 1.Vxc5 ? 1...Vd4 !
 1.e4 ? 1...Se5 !
 1.Ve4 !

The twomover satisfies 10th WCCT theme, as in tries 1.g8Q? and 1.Rxc5? white queen cannot checkmate due to pin. In the solution the mates are possible as the key has closed line b1-h7. Additionally, there are also other theme present, such as Barnes (AB), Dombrovskis (aA), Kharkov and changes.

2nd HM R.Aliovsadzade



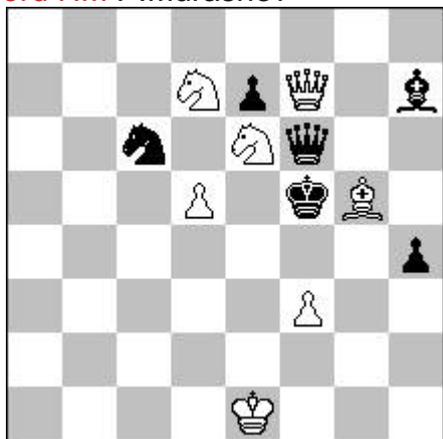
2# (10+9)

1...Sxe5,fxe5,Vxe5 2.Jf8#

1.Ve3 ! 2.Jf8#

Luukkonen theme as three defenses 1...Bxe5,1...Rxe5 and fxe5 are met by 2.Sf8# in the set play, while after the key this mate is threatened and there are three new mates after thematic defenses.

3rd HM P.Murashev



2#

(7+6)

1.Se1 ?,Sd2 ?,Se3 ?, Sh6 ? 2.Jg7# 1...Df7 !

1.Dh5 ! 2.Sxf6#

Tries by Bg5 are refuted by 1...Qxf7! In the solution white queen unpins black queen and thus allows her defenses. Very nice duel between black queen and white bishop in which white bishop gives 4 different battery mates.

1st Commendation N.Skomoroshenko



2#

(9+7)

1.Sf3 ? 1...hxg4 !

1.Df3 ? 1...h4 !

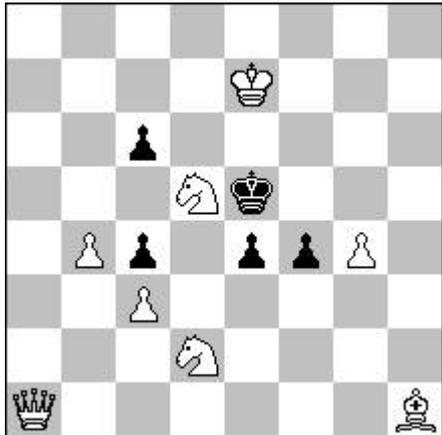
1.Dc4 ? 1...Jf8 !

1.Db5 ? 1...a6 !

1.Da6 !

Problem with five phases starring white queen. The checkmate are very simple.

2nd Commendation R.Aliovsadzade, M.Chernyavskyy



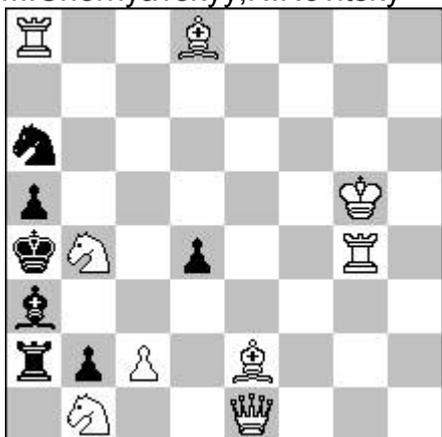
2#

(8+5)

- 1.Jf3+ 1...exf3 !
- 1.Jc4+ ? 1...Kxd5 !
- 1.Da5 ? 1...c5 !
- 1.Dd1 ? 1...cxd5 !
- 1.De1 !

Two-mover with interesting motivation. Unfortunately the try 1.Qa5? is meaningless as the defense 1...cxd5 actually does not defend the threat.

3rd Commendation R.Aliovsadzade,
M.Chernyavskyy,N.Novitsky



2#

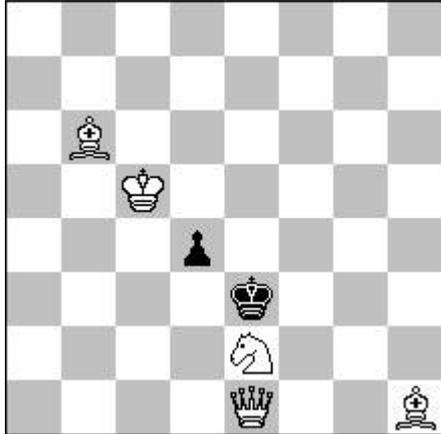
(9+7)

- 1.Sd1 ? 1...Kb5 !
- 1.Dd1 ? 1...Jc5 !
- 1.Dc3 !

Manifold combined change with Sushkov theme. Unfortunately, Sb4 is underused..

Miniatures

Prize R.Aliovsadzade, M.Chernyavskyy



2#

(5+2)

A = diagram 1.Sa5 !

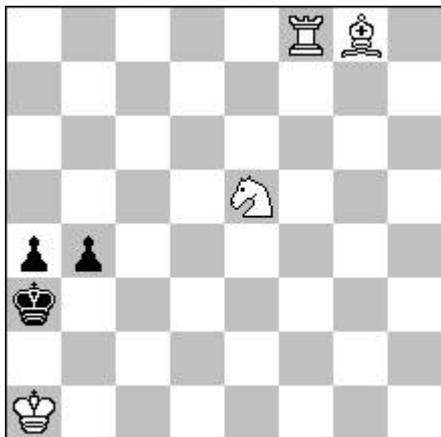
B = Sh1 → Sg4 ! 1.Dd1 !

C = Sh1 → Sf1 ! 1.Kd5 !

D – De1 → Dd5 ! 1.Sa5 !

Quartet with combined change. Especially A position is rich, besides change also Baltic theme can be found there.

HM R.Aliovsadzade



2#

(4+3)

1.Jc4+ ? 1...Kb3 !~

1.Sa2 ? 1...b3 !

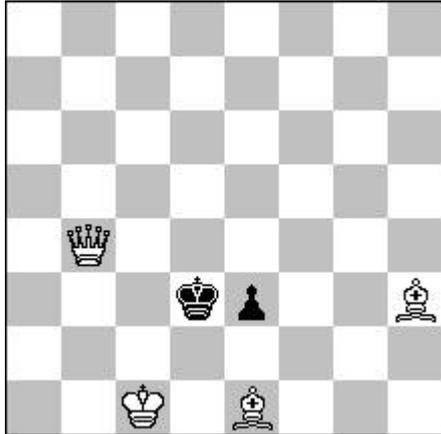
1.Sh7 ? 1...b3 !

1.Sb3 ? 1...Kxb3 !

1.Vb8 !

Good problem with Urania theme. threat paradox and radical change, but in the solution there is only one defense.

Commendation S.Abdullayev



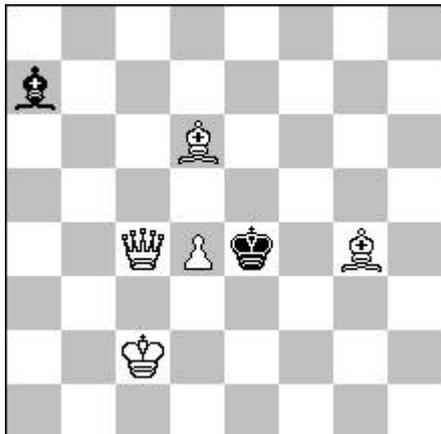
2#

(4+2)

- 1.Da4 ? 1...e2 !
- 1.Sc3 ? 1...Ke2 !
- 1.Df4 !

Change of two mates distributed over two phases.

Commendation R.Aliovsadzade



2#

(5+2)

- 1.De2+ ? 1...Kd5 !
- 1.d5+ ? 1...Sd4 !
- 1.Kd2 ? 1...Sb6 !
- 1.Kc3 !

Radical change with two checking tries.

Judge: **Zoltán Labai** (International judge of the FIDE) Veľký Kýr, Slovakia, April 2018
(English translation by Juraj Lörinc)

