

ChessStar-2023

Helpmates preliminary award

Many thanks to Ferhat Karmil for inviting me to judge this informal tourney. A surprisingly high number of 160 originals were published, but unfortunately the overall quality was weak to modest. Before turning to the award, let me point out some remarks on a few unsuccessful compositions:

3250 (4/2023, Pankratiev & Gorbatenko): Already published as a joint composition by Pankratiev and Gavriliv, <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1367439>

3255 (4/2023, Pankratiev & Ivunin): Practically anticipated by the superior <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1398974> which features in each solution two (!) gate openings after pawn annihilation with switchback.

3298 (6/2023, Zhilko): Substantially anticipated by <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P0559957>

3303 (6/2023, Gurgui): Anticipated by <https://yacpdb.org/#44948>

3304 (6/2023, Gurgui): Anticipated by <https://yacpdb.org/#402360>

3442 (8/2023, Gurgui): But for the weak captures of the black knight, I would have included it in the award.

3463 (8/2023, Pankratiev): This material has been used more efficiently in <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1365793> or <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1335176> or <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1388126>

3464 & 3465 (8/2023, Pankratiev): Anticipated by <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P0517523> or <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1358585> or <https://yacpdb.org/#437274> or <https://yacpdb.org/#537984> or <https://yacpdb.org/#539209> or <https://yacpdb.org/#562591> or <https://yacpdb.org/#430460>

3504 (9/2023, Ivunin & Pankratiev): Inferior than <https://yacpdb.org/#383511>

3545 (10/2023, Ivunin & Pankratiev): Substantially anticipated by <https://yacpdb.org/#397751>

3561 (10/2023, Ivunin & Pankratiev): Even if slightly improved, it is actually anticipated by <https://yacpdb.org/#421863>

3617 (12/2023, Pankratiev): Anticipated by <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1002044>

I found 10 entries worthy of a distinction. I propose the following ranking:

3833 (1/2023)

Kenan Velikhanov

Prize



H#3

6+14

4 sol.

1. d6 Bxg8 2. Qd4 Rf7 3. Kd5 Re7#

1. Re8 Rf8 2. Re5 Bf7 3. Kf5 Bd5#

1. Kxf3 Bd5+ 2. Ke2 Bxh1 3. Kd1 Bf3#

1. Kd4 Rf6 2. Kxc4 axb3+ 3. Kxb5 Rb6#

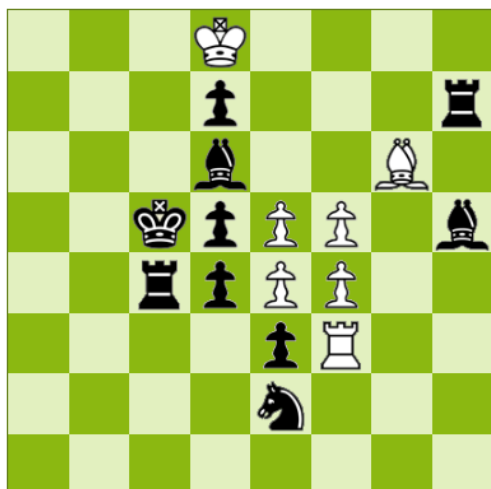
A TF-helpmate with familiar reciprocal white Indians in the first pair of solutions and Zilahi combined with bK self-traps in the other. I did not find a predecessor in WinChloe.

The thematically closest is Fadil Abdurahmanović, 2 Prize A. Selivanov-55 JT 2022 (WinChloe ID 881075), but this is a h#2,5 and a different problem.

3119 (2/2023)

Aleksandr Pankratiev & Yury Gorbatenko

1st HM



H#3

7+9

2.1.1...

1. Bxf3 exd5 2. Kxd5 Bh5 3. Bc5 Bxf3#

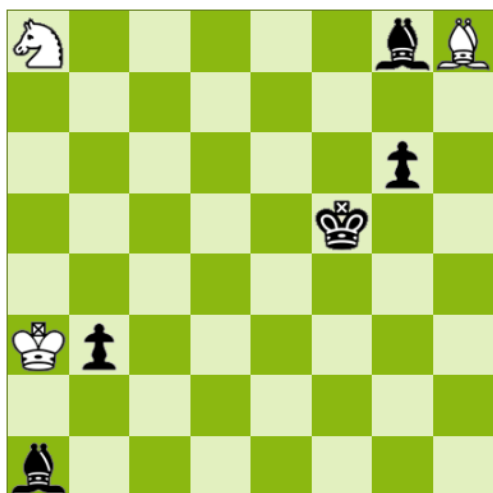
1. Bxg6 exd6 2. Kxd6 Rg3 3. Rc5 Rxg6#

A nice complex: B1 moves capture a white piece standing on the mate square to make it eventually available to the other white piece, W1 are Kniest captures and B3 are blocks on the bK's initial square.

3232 (3/2023)

Zlatko Mihajloski

2nd HM



H#4.5

3+5

1... Nc7 2. Kg5 Ne6+ 3. Kh6 Bg7+ 4. Kh7 Bf8 5. Bh8 Ng5#

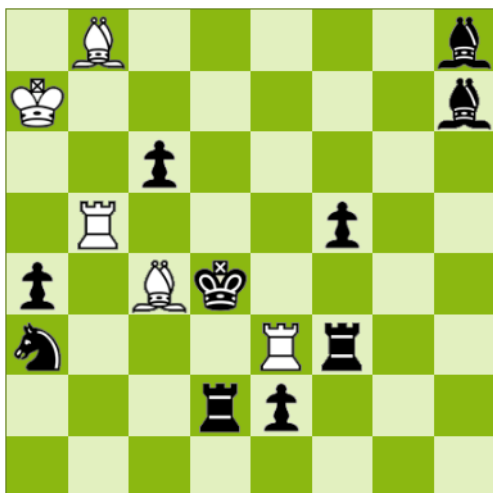
1... Bxa1 2. b2 Nb6 3. Kf6 Nd7+ 4. Kg7 Nf8 5. Kh8 Bxb2#

Two solutions with varied content united by the corner-to-corner diagonal moves of the black and white bishops.

3525 (10/2023)

Aleksey Ivunin & Aleksandr Pankratiev

3rd HM



H#2

5+10

4 Sol.

1. Be5 Bd3 2. Kc3 Bxe5#
1. Rxe3 Rxf5 2. Ke4 Rf4#
1. Kxe3 Rb2 2. Rd4 Rxe2#
1. Kxc4 Bd6 2. Rd5 Rb4#

Varied tactics in a fine setting with the black king mated on four different squares.

3528 (10/2023)

Pavel Murashev & Anatoly Skripnik

Special HM



H#2

7+11

6.1.1.1

1. Rd4 Ne4 2. Qd6 Nc3#

1. Qd4 Ne8 2. Rd6 Nxc7#

1. Kd4+ Kb2 2. Bd5 c3#

1. Kxd6+ c4 2. Nd5 c5#

1. Qxd6 Kxa3 2. Bd4 c4#

1. Nc4 Bc6+ 2. Kd4 Nb5#

Impressively resourceful play focused on the d4 and d6 squares which are visited by 4 respectively 3 black pieces. We also have mates by the knights in three solutions and by the pawn on adjacent squares in the other three. I could excuse the ugly capture Kxa3 and award a prize, but in the solution 1.Kd4+ the wSd6 is lazy and this defect diminishes the value.

3258 (4/2023)

Zlatko Mihajloski

1st Com



H#5

3+8

2 res.

1. Be3 Kg2 2. f1N Bd6 3. Nxc3 Bxb4 4. Ke5 Be1

5. Kf4 Bxc3#

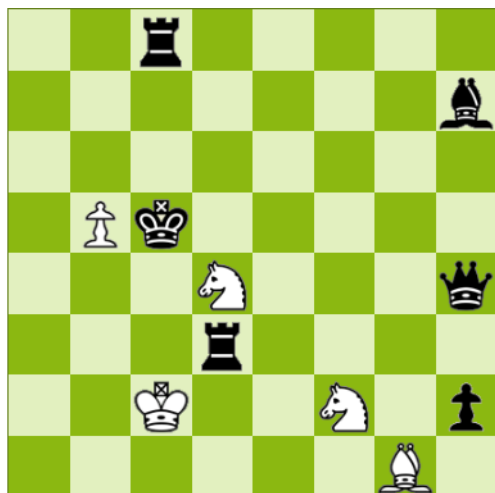
1. gxf4 gxf4 2. Rh5 f5 3. Kg7 f6+ 4. Kh8 f7 5. Rh7 f8Q#

A well-crafted bishop-pawn Zilahi, in which motivation of the capturing black moves is to make available a square for the other white unit.

3228 (3/2023)

Pavel Murashev

2nd Com



H#2.5

5+6

2.1.1...

1... Ne2 2. Qc4+ Nc3 3. Rd6+ Nd3#

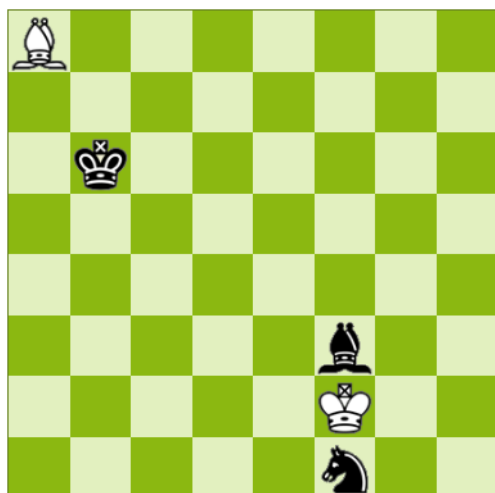
1... Nf5 2. Qb4 Nd6 3. Rd5+ Nfe4#

Cute Meredith with nice cross-check battery model mate: its simplicity.

3516 (9/2023)

Aleksandr Pankratiev

3rd Com



H#7

2+3

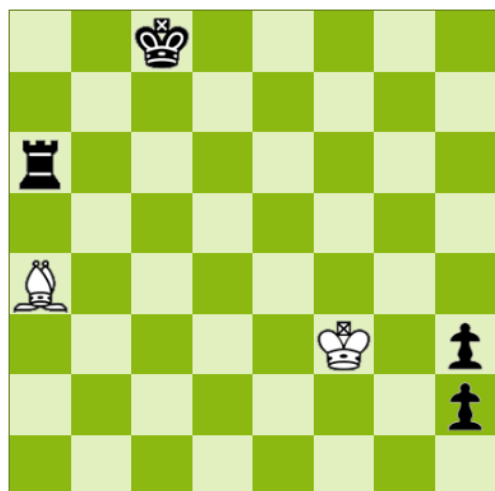
1. Kc5 Kxf3 2. Kd4 Kg4 3. Ke3 Bg2! 4. Kf2 Bh3 5. Kg1 Kf3 6. Kh1 Kf2 7. Nh2 Bg2#

A good single-liner showing a white K/B Klasinc, a wK Rundlauf and a wB switchback. Black play is restricted to a king-march towards the mate square.

3236 (3/2023)

Zlatko Mihajloski

4th Com



H#7.5

2+4

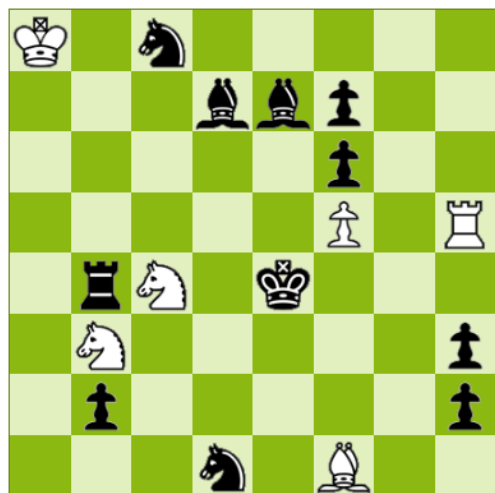
1... Bb5! 2. Ra4! Ba6+ 3. Kd7 Kg3 4. Ke6 Kxh3
5. Kf5 Kg2 6. Kg4 Kf2 7. Kh3 Kf3 8. Rh4 Bf1#

The wK makes a Kniest capture and then performs a Rundlauf while the wB hides on a6 so that it does not interfere with the bK march. The exchange of places on a4 and a6 is accidental, but it adds spice.

3272 (5/2023)

Aleksandr Pankratiev & Yury Gorbatenko

5th Com



H#2

6+11

b) -Rh5; c) -Bf1; d) -f5

- a) 1. Rb5 Nd4 2. Rd5 Rh4#
- b) 1. Kxf5 Bg2 2. Ke6 Nd4#
- c) 1. Kd3 Rxh3+ 2. Kc2 Na3#
- d) 1. f5 Be2 2. f4 Re5#

Twins with removal of a white unit featuring square blocks on a) & d) and bK self-traps in b) and c).
Model mates in 3 out of the 4 parts.

Harry Fougiaxis, FIDE International Judge
Athens, February 2024