Israel Ring Tourney Award: Twomovers 2011
Judge: Marco Guida, Milano (Italy)

First of all I would like to thank Paz for inviting me to act as referee of the 2011 Israel Ring Tourney. In the past I have seen many masterpieces awarded in this prestigious Tourney, and I am really honored to have been offered this opportunity.

Unfortunately, this time the average quality of the entries (18 in total, which I received in anonymous form) has been not very high. I have found all of them very enjoyable from the "solver's" viewpoint, but I consider this a necessary, yet not sufficient condition, for inclusion in the Award of a "composing" competition. Qualities such as originality, ambitious and challenging conception, depth of the strategic content, precision and clarity in rendering the composer's idea and, last but not least, economy and accuracy in construction make the difference between a nice, entertaining solving exercise and a piece of chess art and engineering.

Starting from this background, I have excluded from my final ranking a number of enjoyable problems that I felt were short in the above qualities, most notably originality, ambition and economy. Some compromises on construction good practices can be, in my view, acceptable in front of truly original and highly challenging concepts, but not in the case of simpler ones.

I included the remaining ones in the final ranking. Most notably, I have decided to award only one Prize, only one Honorable Mention and few Commendations. One could think that I have been too tough, and that perhaps I could have awarded higher recognition to some problem, and overall

included in the award more entries, evaluating them in "relative" terms vs. the average quality of the 2011 competitors. But I think that in doing so I would have not treated fairly those problems that are good in "absolute" terms, and I would have not respected the high-level tradition of this Tourney, that deserve high quality and high respect.

The Award will remain open for the usual 3 months, and here is my ranking.

Prize: Vm. 2090 Givi Mosiashvili

This problem is built around a well-known Dombrovskis matrix, that has been intelligently revitalized by introducing 2 nice additional Tries by the White Queen, accompanied by good refutations, that introduce changed mates after the 2 thematic defenses. It conveys an overall sense of coherence and unity, and the various thematic elements combines very naturally. The pattern of 2 Tries threatening mate A, other 2 Tries threatening mate B, both then returning as variation mates in the Solution, is the same as the one proposed for the 9th WCCT. Despite a bit short in originality and strategic content, I found this conception the most interesting of the Tourney.

Givi Mosiashvili
Prize IRT 2011

#2v…   12+11

1.♘c7? [2.♖d4 A #] 1...♘e2 2.♕xe2# but 1...♘b5 a ! 1.♘xb4? [2.♖c5 B #] but 1...♘d3 b ! 1.♕h3? [2.♖c5 B #] 1...♘d3 b 2.♕xd3# 1...bxc3 2.♕xc3# 1...f3 2.♕g4# but 1...♖f3! 1.♕e8? [2.♖d4 A #] 1...♘b5 a 2.♕xb5# but 1...♘e2! **1.♕f7!** [2.♕c7#] 1...♘b5 a 2.♖d4 A # 1...♘d3 b 2.♖c5 B #

Honorable Mention : Vm. 2143 Yosi Retter

A nice specimen in threat correction. The generic move of Se4 introduces the threat 2. f4; the 1st correction move gives a flight to the Black King by closing a white line, so that 2. f4 is no longer a valid threat, and introduces a new threat; the defense open a white line on the same flight square, therefore allowing the original threat to return as variation mate. The same happen with the Solution, with the key this time giving 2 flights to the Black King by cutting another white line. Good that the Kings' flights are followed by mates different from threatened ones! Overall an elegant problem, not particularly ambitious in content, but very elegant and with a crystal clear and homogeneous strategy across Tries and Solution.

Yosi Retter
HM IRT 2011

#2vv   12+10

1.♘e~? ~ [2.f4#] but 1...♖a4! 1.♘f2?! [2.♘xd3#] 1...♘b4 2.♕f6# 1...c4 2.f4# 1...♔d4 2.♘g4# but 1...♖a3!
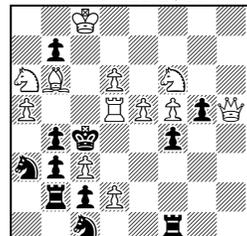**1.♘f6!** [2.♘xd7#] 1...♘b8 2.f4# 1...♔e6/d6 2.♘g4#

1st Commendation: Vm. 2148 Zoltan Labai

This form of realization of the Albino theme has been largely worked out in the last 50 years or more, and the mechanisms exploited here to achieve refutations and mates (including the "en-passant" capture in the Solution) have been already used several times. However I have not found any clear anticipation and I have therefore decided to include this entry in the Award, recognizing two merits: all keys introduce different threats (most often this form of Albino is achieved exploiting either "zugzwang" position, or one single threat introduced by all keys) and a good variation play in both the Tries and the Solution. As a result, this very enjoyable and entertaining problem seems to have also a little twist of originality.

Zoltan Labai
1st Com IRT 2011

#2*vvv   9+11

1...exd2 2.♕e4# 1.dxc3? 2.♘fxe3# but 1...♗c1! 1.dxe3? [2.e4#] 1...♘gf6 2.♘e7# but 1...♘hf6! 1.d3? [2.dxc4#] 1...cxd3 2.♕xd3# but 1...♖b4!
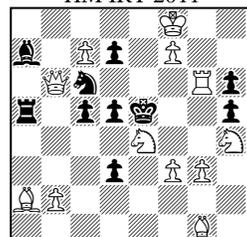**1.d4!** [2.♘gxe3#] 1...cxd4 2.♕xc4# 1...cxd3 e.p.2.♕xd3# 1...♗c1 2.♖xc5#

7
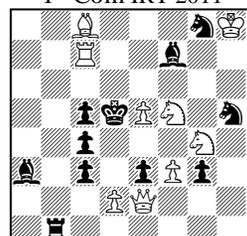
2nd Commendation: Vm. 2146 Aaron Hirschenson

A well construed Black Correction specimen, with changed mates after the thematic defenses between Try and Solution. The Try fails thanks to a correction move of the thematic Knight that increases the overall coherence of this problem. One should not overlook the by-play, which also contributes to create an effective connection between Try and Solution through mate 2. Sc3 transferred and one changed mate after 1… Sd4.
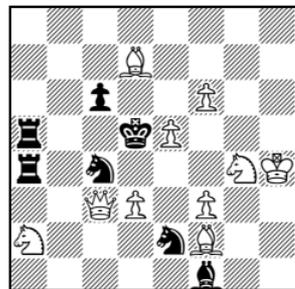
1.f7? [2.♘f6#] 1...♘c~ 2.♕xc6# 1...♘xe5! 2.♕xe5# 1...♘d4 2.♕xd4#
1...♘xc3 2.♘xc3# but 1...♘e3! **1.♕b4!** [2.dxc4#] 1...♘c~ 2.♕(x)d6#
1...♘xe5! 2.♘e3# 1...♖c5 2.♕xc5# 1...♖xb4 2.♘xb4# 1...♘d4 2.♘(x)c3#

Aaron Hirschenson
2nd Com IRT 2011

#2v   10+7

3rd Commendation: Vm. 2146 Paz Einat

This problem shows a pattern similar to the "Papack Cycle", i.e. a cyclic left-to-right shift of effective threat, un-effective threat and mate: A(B?)-C □ C(A?)-B (the "Papack Cycle" is actually slightly different, with a right-to-left shift: A(B?)-C □ B(C?)-A). The realization of these cyclic effects is all but easy, and therefore the efforts of the author have to be acknowledged. Nevertheless, this realization leaves an overall impression of incompleteness: in the Try, the ineffective threat becomes a mate after 1...Qa4, something that does not find a correspondence in the Solution and has caused this entry to be awarded commendation instead of higher recognition.

1.♕b6 ? 2.♗xd4 **A?** ♘d7 **B** # 1...♔f6 **a** 2.♖xf5 **C** # 1...♕a4 2.♗xd4 B #
but 1...♘c6 ! **1.♘g5!** 2.♘d7 **B ?** ♖xf5 **C** # 1...♔f6 **a** 2.♗xd4 **A** # 1...♔xf4
2.♕h2# 1...fxe4 2.♘g6#

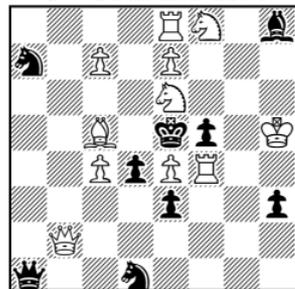**Paz Einat**
3rd Com IRT 2011

#2v   11+9