

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Twomovers – 2014

Judge: *Evgeni Bourd, Ashdod*

12 problems participated in this year's tourney. Not a big number but the quality of some problems was rather high. My award is the followings:

1st Prize: Var. 2542 Valery Shanshin

An excellent white correction problem. If white just moves the knight threatening Qe3 and Se2, black can defend by taking one of his flights e5 or c3 by opening Qd8 and Ra4. When white tries to correct on either c1 or e1, creating a mate on one of the flights while the other flight remains for black to refute. The solution is the most paradoxal one, creating an additional flight on c5 and not threatening Se2. The threat from the tries now comes back as Dombrovskis paradox after Ke5 and Kc3. A new mate follows exf2 which also paradoxally was the one allowing Se2 in the set play. All in all a very impressive composition, incidentally showing the theme of the incoming WCCT, but I assume the composer some more of those for the tourney...

1...exf2 2.♖e2 A # 1.♗d~? - 2.Dxe3, ♖e2 A # but 1...♙c3 a, ♙e5 b !
1.♗c1!? [2.Dxe3, ♖fe2 A #] 1...♙c3 a 2.♗ce2#, 1...♙e5 b !
1.♗e1!? - 2.Dxe3, ♖e2 A # 1...♙e5 b 2.♗f3#, 1...♙c3 a !
1.♗b4!! [2.Dxe3# (2.♗e2?)] 1...♙c3 a 2.♗e2 A # 1...♙e5 b 2.♗e2 A #
1...♙c5 2.♗xe6# 1...exf2 2.♗xe6#

2nd Prize: Var. 2543 Givi Mosiashvili

As in many of this author's problems, a mix of ideas and combinations happens all over the board. Here we can see many interesting battles – Bd2 and Sd1 after promotions of the b pawn, switchbacks of the key pieces after checking defenses which are also changed mates compared to the set play and in the last act we see the set mates return after rook defenses on f4 and f3. All of the above somehow slightly connected to make a whole composition.

1...♖h7 2.♙f3# & 2.♙f4# 1...♗f6 2.♙f3# & 2.♙f4#
1.♗f3? [2.♗d1#] 1...b1=♙(♖) 2.♗d2# 1...♖h7+ 2.♗h5# 1...♖f3 2.♙f3# 1...♖f4+ 2.Df4#,
1...♗c3 2.♙f2# but 1...♗c4! **1.♗f3!** [2.♗d2#] 1...b1=♗ 2.♗d1# 1...♗f6+ 2.♗g5# 1...♖f3 2.♙f3#
1...♖f4+ 2.♙f4# 1...♗e4 2.♖e4# 1...♗c3 2.♙f2#

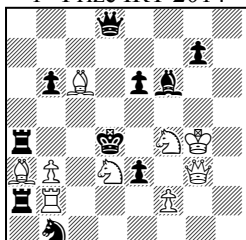
Special Prize: Var. 2488 Andrew Buchanan & Joaquim Crusats

A really unusual composition. In fact, we see four different phases with a big variety of variations. Although some symmetry exists, together with other defects, the problem is original, amusing and shows a well composed idea.

There is no legal last move for Black: Black is in zugzwang.

0...♙xd4 1.♗d5 zz 1...♙xd3 2.O-O-O# 1...♙xd5 2.♙d6#
0...♙xf4 1.♗f5 zz 1...♙xf3 2.O-O-O# 1...♙g5 2.♙h6#
0...♙xd3 1.♗d1 zz 1...♙xd4 2.♙d6# 1...♙c2 2.♙g6#
0...♙xf3 1.♗f1 zz 1...♙xf4 2.♙f6# 1...♙g2 2.♙xb7#

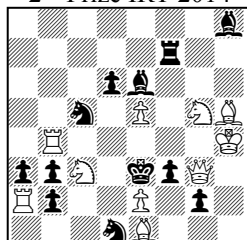
Valery Shanshin
1st Prize IRT 2014



#2*vvv

9+10

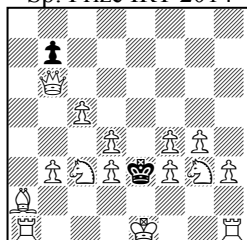
Givi Mosiashvili
2nd Prize IRT 2014



#2*v

10+12

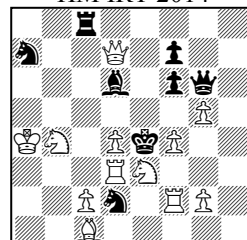
Andrew Buchanan
Joaquim Crusats
Sp. Prize IRT 2014



#2

15+2

Zoltan Labai
HM IRT 2014



#2v

12+8

Honorable Mention: Var. 2544 Zoltan Labai

Reversal combined with three mate changes and flight giving key. Although similar composition exist, the achievement impressive with a decent construction.

1.♠e5? A 2.♖e2 B # 1...♗h5 2.♜xf6# 1...♜c4 2.♜c3# 1...♞xf4 2.♞xf4# but 1...♜f1!
 1.♖e2! B 2.♜e5 A # 1...♗h5 2.♗f5# 1...♜c4 2.♜xc4# 1...♞xf4 2.♗d5# 1...♜f1/♞xf4 2.♜xf1/♗g4#

Commendations (without order):

Var. 2486 Semion Shifrin

Three phases where a threat and a variation happen on the same square. I would expect the defense Rxd7 to be the same thematic defense in all phases.

1.♠d4? [2.♞c6 A #] 1...♞xd7 2.♗c6 A # but 1...♞xe5!
 1.♖e1 ? [2.d3 B #] 1...♞xd7 2.♗d3 B # but 1...♜f2!
 1.♖c1 ! [2.♖c4 C #] 1...♞xe5 2.♗c4 C # 1...♞xd7 2.♗d3 B # 1...♜f2 2.♞c6 A #

Var. 2487 Petr Novickiy

Some changed mates with decent amount of interesting play.

1...exf6 [a] 2.♞xf6# 1.♗f8? [2.♗g7#] but 1...gxf5!
 1.♗h2? [2.♞xh7#] 1...Sgxf6 [b] 2.♗b8# but 1...♜h6 [c]!
 1.♠d8? [2.♜xf7#] 1...Sgxf6 [b] 2.♜e6# but 1...exf6 [a]!
 1.♜f8! [2.♞xh7#] 1...Sgxf6 [b] 2.♜e6# 1...♜h6 [c] 2.♜xg6#

Var. 2589 Semion Shifrin

White correction with 3 tries, interesting refutations but very familiar.

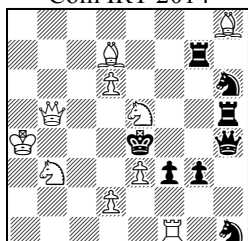
1.♞~ ? [2.♜b7#] 1...♞g2 ! 1.♞c6 ? [2.♜b7#] 1...♞e7 2.♗d5# 1...♜fd6 2.♗f2# but 1...♜ed6 !
 1.♞d5 ? [2.♜b7#] 1...♜fd6 2.♗f2# 1...♜ed6 2.♗c7# but 1...♞e7 !
 1.♞f3 ? [2.♜b7#] 1...♜ed6 2.♗c7# 1...♞e7 2.♗d5# but 1...♜fd6 !
 1.♞e4 ! [2.♜b7#] 1...♞e7 2.♗d5# 1...♜ed6 2.♗c7# 1...♜fd6 2.♗f2#

Var. 2590 David Shtern

Two mate changes with some pretty mates

1...♞f7 a 2.♜f5 A # 1...♞d6 b 2.♗b4 B #
 1.♗f5! [2.♗e6#] 1...♞f7 a 2.♗xd7 C # 1...♞d6 b 2.♜c4 D # 1...♞f7 2.d6# 1...♞g7/f4 2.♗xf6#

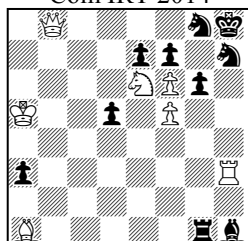
Semion Shifrin
Com IRT 2014



#2vv

10+8

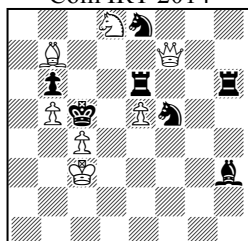
Petr Novickiy
Com IRT 2014



#2*vvv

7+10

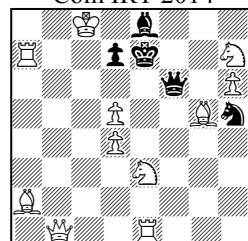
Semion Shifrin
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#2vvvv

7+7

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#2*

11+5