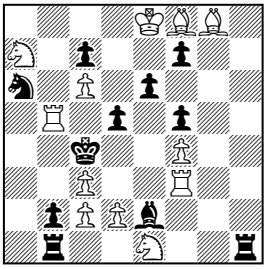
Israel Ring Tourney Award: Threemovers Variantim 2009-11

Judge: Jörg Kuhlmann, Cologne (Germany)

I had to judge 27 originals for solving (Variantim 50-55), a further original from an article in 2009 (Variantim 51, p.8, no.8) and a correction from 2008, i.e. a total of 29 threemovers. The general level was entertaining, though not outstanding except one masterpiece. The intended 2nd Prize (Var. 1941) had to be cancelled because of full anticipation (see below).

1st Prize (Var. 2045): Michael Keller

Michael Keller
1st Prize IRT 2009-11



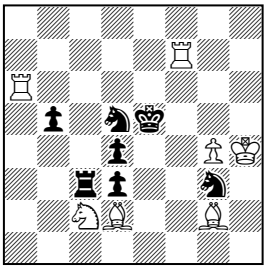
#3vvv 12+11

This is a true masterpiece and not only a Prize, but a 1st Prize. After the key piece has left f8-c5, three different Pawn moves close g7-c3, but open g8-c4. This matrix and its thematic play are highly aesthetic. We witness a *cyclic Banny* between the tries 1.Sg2/Rd3/Sd3? d4/e5/f6! (logically prepared by the key threat) and the solution 1...d4/e5/f6 2.Rd3/Sd3/Sg2! Moreover, there is *cyclic dual avoidance* in the solution: 1...d4/e5/f6 2.Rd3!(Sd3?) / Sd3!(Sg2?) / Sg2!(Rd3?) plus a cycle of Black's 1st and 2nd moves: 1...&2...d4&e5 / e5&f6 / f6&d4. In the by-play we find an attractive *mating switchback* and *threat enhancement*.

1.♘g2? [2.♘e3#] but: 1...d4!; 1.♖d3? [2.♖d4#] ♗xd3? 2.cxd3#, but 1...e5!;
1.♘d3? [2.♘e5#] ♗xd3? 2.cxd3#, but 1...f6!; (1.d3+? ♔xc3! or 1...♗xd3 2.cxd3+ ♔xc3!)
1.♗g7! [2.d3+ ♗xd3 3.cxd3#]
1...d4 2.♖d3! (2.♘d3? f6? 3.♗xe6#!, 2... ♘c5? 3.♖xc5#! [3.♘e5+? ♔d5!!], but 2...dxc3! 3.♘e5+ ♔d4!!) 2...e5 3.♗xf7#;
1...e5 2.♘d3! (2.♘g2? d4? 3.♗xf7#!, but 2...exf4! 3.♘e3+ fxe3!) 2...f6 3.♗xd5#;
1...f6 2.♘g2! (2.♖d3? e5? 3.♗xd5#!, but 2...♗h5+!) 2...d4 3.♗xe6#;
1...♘b4 2.♖xb4+ ♔c5 3.♗f8#!;
1...♖d1 2.♘d3! f6/b1=♕ 3.♘xb2/♘e5#, 2...♗xd3 3.cxd3#

Honorable Mention (Var. 2046): Evgeny Bourd & Arieh Grinblat

Evgeny Bourd
Arieh Grinblat
HM IRT 2009-11



#3 7+7

We see the captures 2.B/Sxd5 (post-key threat and after 1...Rb3) and the capture-free mates 3.B/Sd5 (after 1...Sb6 and 1...Se3) at different stages of the solution, the latter twice forming a *delayed Umnov I* with different pin-mates on the same square d5. Furthermore we get the mates 3.Bf4/Re7 (double threat after 1...Rb3) and the checks 2.Bf4/Re7 (after 1...Sb6 and 1...Se3). This would be a perfect thematic amalgam but for the fact that the post-key threat carries a third mate beside the two thematic ones. If you want dual mates to become thematic you shouldn't employ triple mates – therefore sadly no prize.

1.♘b4! [2.♗xd5 ~ 3.♗f4/♖e7/♖e6#, 2...♖c6/♘f5+ 3.♗f4/♖xf5#
1...♖b3 2.♘xd5! [3.♗f4/♖e7#] (2.♗xd5? ♖xb4!) 2...♘e4 3.♖f5#;
1...♘b6 2.♗f4+ ♔e6 3.♗d5#; 1...♘e3 2.♖e7+ ♔f4 3.♘d5#;
1...♖c6 2.♖xc6 [3.♘xd3#] 2...♘f4 3.♗xf4#, 2...♘f5+ 3.♖xf5#

1st Commendation (Var. 2003): Valery Barsukov

The set flight is not provided for. The sacrificial key, however, gives another flight. Not every *model mate* is a beauty, but these three really are. The threat branches into two different mates on move 3 which recur as checks on move 2 in the variations: *Pseudo-Rudenko* (no Rudenko-Paradox because the defences don't aim at the respective mating squares from the threat). This gives the old-fashioned model show a topical touch.

1.♘d4! [(1...d1=♕) 2.♖e6+ ♔xd4 3.♕b4#, 2...♔f4 3.♕xc7#]
1...♔xd4 2.♕b4+ ♔e5 3.♕c3# (model), 2...♔e3 3.♕c5# (model);
1...exf6 2.♕xc7+ ♔xd4 3.♕c3#; 1...♔xf6 2.♕h8+ ♔g6 3.♗h5# (model), 2...♔f7 3.♗h5#

2nd Commendation (Var. 1944): Efren Petite

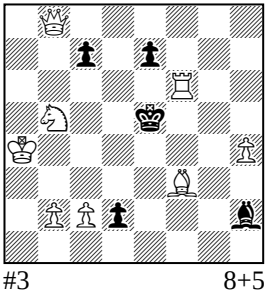
An individual style I like. All main line threats carry mating 'duals', which make them look altogether thematic. The nicely sweeping Q-moves g2-c2-e4, g2-b2-f6 and g2-h3-d7 are interfered with by the gR tries: *threat reduction*. The defenses 1...d3/Bc3 give distant flights; 1...g3 guards e6 (not d7 because one threatened mate would still remain).

1.♖d5? axb6? 2.♗xb6! [3.♖d6#], but 1...♗c3! 2.♕c2 axb6/♕d1! 3.♕e4? no check!;
1.♖e5? d3! 2.♕b2 ♗b4? ♘xb4#!, but 2...a6! (3.♕f6??); 1.♖f5? g3! 2.♕xh3? no threat! –
1.♖h5! [2.♖h6+ ♔xc5 3.♘a4/♘d7#] 1...♗c3 2.♕c2! [3.♕a4/♕e4#] 2...axb6/♕d1 3.♕e4#
1...d3 2.♕b2! [3.♕b5/♕f6#] 2...a6 3.♕f6#; 1...g3 2.♕xh3! [3.♕e6/♕d7#] 2...♖e3 3.♕d7#

The Borovkov predecessor to Var. 1941 is not only 6.5 years earlier, but also better. (1) It saves a wP and a bR. (2) The key exposes the wK to check, is pure in purpose and obeys economy of motivation because the 4th rank is open from the very beginning and not opened by the key. (3) The side variation adds c4 to e4 and f4 as a third mating square on the same rank, which gives more harmony than a mate elsewhere.

1.♘e7! [2.♘f5+ ♖xf5 3.♕e4#, 2...♗xf5 3.♕f4#] 1...♗xd3 2.♕e4+ ♗xe4 3.♗d2#;
1...♖xf3 2.♕f4+ ♖xf4 3.♖xe2#; 1...♕xd5+ 2.♘xd5+ ♔xd3 3.♕c4#

Valery Barsukov
1st Com IRT 2009-11



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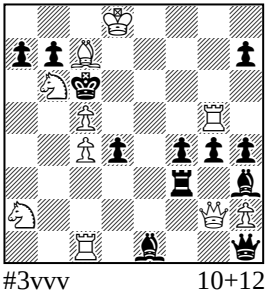
Efren Petite
2nd Com IRT 2009-11



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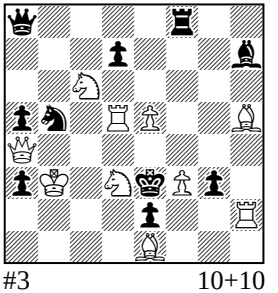
A. S. Borovkov
Schach-Aktiv 2003



#3 10+10