

Israel Ring Tourney: Threemovers 2016-17 – Yoel Aloni 80 Jubilee Tourney

Judge: Zoran Gavriloški, FIDE International judge, November 2019

I thank Paz Einat and the editorial board of *Variantim* for inviting me to judge the biennial tourney of this magazine. 28 problems composed by 18 authors from 4 countries were published in 2016 (issues 68, 69 and 70) and 2017 (issues 71, 72 and 73).

In addition to originality, my main criteria in judging were the strategic depth, harmony and beauty of the contents, as well as the quality of the construction. The overall quality of the tourney is very good and serves well to commemorate the late Yoel Aloni.

1st Prize: Var. 2921 – Aleksandr Kuzovkov

Fourfold Shedey after 1...~/Sc4/Kd5/Se4 and exchanged moves after 1...~/Kd5, shown in a good setting. The symmetry of the mechanism is unpleasant, but still acceptable in the context of the cyclic play. 1.♠f2? [2.fxe5+A ♖d5 3.♗xc5 C#] 1...♗c4 a 2.bxc5+ B ♖d5 3.♗b4# 1...♖d5 b 2.♗xc5+ C ♖d6 3.fxe5 A# 1...♗e4 c 2.♗xe5 D [3.♗xe4#] 2...♗e4~ 3.bxc5# 1...exf4 2.♗xf4 [3.bxc5#] 2...♗e6/cxb4,c4/♗e4 3.♗xe6/♗d7/♗xe4# but 1...e4!

1.♠b2! [2.bxc5+ B ♖d5 3.♗xe5 D#] 1...♗c4 a 2.♗xc5 C [3.♗xc4#] 2...♗c4~ 3.fxe5# 1...♖d5 b 2.♗xe5+ D ♖d6 3.bxc5 B# 1...♗e4 c 2.fxe5+ A ♖d5 3.♗f4#

2nd Prize: Var. 2873 – Felix Rossomakho

A popular combination of Grimshaw and Novotny is nicely combined with a black half-pin and play on the same square at B1 and W2 moves. Black duals at B2 moves are inherent, and the heavy position is necessary to show the strategic content. **1.♠d7!** [2.♗c5+ ♗xc5/♖d5 3.♗xc5/♗xb4#] 1...♗d4 2.♗d8! [3.♗xf7#] 2...exf5, ♗h8/e5 3.♖d5# 1...♗d4 2.♖d8! [3.e8=♗#] 2...♗c5/exf5, ♗xe7 3.♗xc5/♗e5# 1...exf5 2.♗d4 [3.♖d5, ♗e5#] 2...♗xd4/♗xd4/c5/♗c5 3.♗e5/♖d5/♗b6/♗xc5#

3rd Prize: Var. 3019 – Eugene Fomichev

Rich content with four changed continuations from set to actual play (admittedly with repeated W2 moves in the set play). I like the attractive white sacrifices in the first pair of variations and I dislike the rude captures of black pieces in the second pair. The elements of the mechanism are not new, but perhaps their combination justifies the prize.

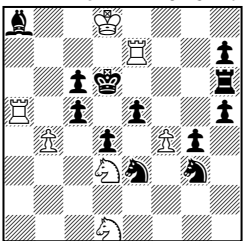
1...♗xf5 2.♗f3! ♗xf3 3.♗xf3# 1...♗xf5 2.♗e4! ♗xe4 3.♗xe4# 1...♗e4 2.♗xe4 1...♗xf3 2.♗xf3 1.♖d7! [2.♗f7(g7)] 1...♗xf5 2.♗xf6+! ♗xf6 3.♗e7# 1...♗xf5 2.♗xg6+! ♗xg6 3.♗g7# 1...♗e4 2.♗xe4+ ♗xf5 3.e7# 1...♗f3 2.♗xf3+ ♗xf5 3.e7# 1...♗xf5 2.e7+ ♗g5 3.♗g4#

4th Prize: Var. 2876 – Yosi Retter

The originality of this problem makes it prize-worthy, in spite of its inherently short threat. Tries by wSs are refuted by precise black play on the B1 moves (which are also defences in the solution) and B2 moves; and the first moves in 3 further tries become W2 moves in the thematic variations of the solution, determined in the actual phase by means of clever triple avoidance: **1.♠f1!**

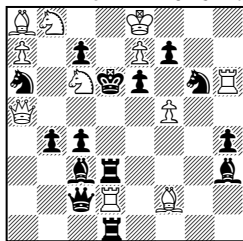
(2.♗e3#) 1...♗c6 2.♗e1! (2.♗xc3? ♗d4!, 2.♗b8? ♗xb8!) 1...♗xc4 2.♗xc3! (2.♗b8? ♗d6!, 2.♗e1? ♗e3!) 1...♗f3 2.♗b8! (2.♗e1? ♗xe1!, 2.♗xc3? ♗d4!). 1.♗db3? [2.♗d4#] 1...♗xc4 a! 2.♗xc3 A [3.♗xg4#] ♗e5? 3.♗d4# but 2...♗e3! 1.♗b7? [2.♗d6#] 1...♗f3 b! 2.♗b8 B! [3.♗xg4#] ♗e5? 3.♗d6# but 2...♗h2! 1.♗b8?! 1...cxd2! 1.♗xc3? 1...a1=♗! 1.♗e1? 1...c1=♗!

Aleksandr Kuzovkov
1st Prize IRT 2016-17



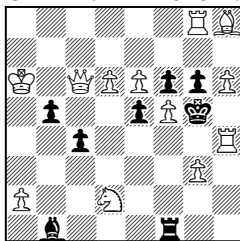
#3 7+12

Felix Rossomakho
2nd Prize IRT 2016-17



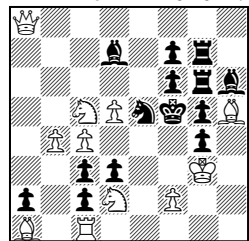
#3 11+14

Eugene Fomichev
3rd Prize IRT 2016-17



#3 12+8

Yosi Retter
4th Prize IRT 2016-17



#3 11+14

5th Prize: Var. 2922 – Paz Einat

Change of function of three white moves, of which two moves appear as sacrifices after 1...Bxg1/Sa7 and mates after 1...Kf4/Ba4, and the third move is shifted from the threat's 2nd move to a mate after 1...Kf4. The motifs for the white sacrifices in the second pair of variations differ, but the key and construction are good, so this problem deserves its high ranking in the award.

1. ♖a8! [2. ♖a1 C+ ♜f4 3. ♗d2#] 1... ♗xg1 2. ♖e4 A+ fxe4 3. f4#
 1... ♗a7 2. ♖d5 B+ exd5 3. ♗d6# 2... ♜f4 3. ♗d2# 1... ♜f4 2. ♗h3+ gxh3 3. ♖e4 A #
 2... ♜e5 3. ♖a1 C# 1... ♗a4 2. ♖xe6+ ♜xe6 3. ♖d5 B # 2... ♜f4 3. ♗d2#

Special Honourable Mention: Var. 2781 – Evgeny Bourd

Familiar cyclic sacrificial evacuations, connected with hopefully novel threat in which the mates are shifted to W2 moves in the actual variations. I believe that this novelty deserves special recognition. **1. ♗ce4!** [2. ♖d8+ ♗xd8, d6 ♖/♗d7 3. ♖c5/♗xf6/♗c4#] 1... ♗xg3 2. ♖c5+ ♗xc5 3. ♗c3# 1... ♗e2 2. ♗xf6+ ♖xf6 3. ♗e4# 1... ♖c1 2. ♗c4+ ♗xc4 3. ♖d3# 1... ♖xd3 2. ♖xd3+ ♜c4 3. ♖d4#

1st Honourable Mention: Var. 2918 – Felix Rossomakho

Vladimirov theme, nicely shown with a castling key (the move 1.Rd1?? does not work because of 2...Sf3+). 1. ♗b4 A? [2. ♗d3#] but 1... ♗e5 a! 1. ♗c7 B? [2. ♗e6#] but 1... ♗g5 b! **1.O-O-O!** [2. ♖e4 ~ 3. ♖d4, ♖b4, b4#] 2... cxd5/b4 3. ♖xd5/♖xb4#] 1... ♗e5 a 2. ♗b4 A! [3. ♗xd6#] 2... ♗f7/c4/d3+ 3. ♗(x)d3# 1... ♗g5 b 2. ♗c7 B! [3. ♗xd6#] 2... ♗f7/e4 3. ♗e6# 2... f3 3. b4#

2nd Honourable Mention: Var. 2970 – Eugene Fomichev

The problem shows a blend of anti-critical white moves aimed at avoiding to interfere on any of the white diagonal lines in one pair of variations and interference on the respective line in the other pair after a self-block by bBe2. However, the claimed wR-cross in W2 & W3 moves is completed only after a correction pretending to be a part of the random move 1...Be2~ (Bh5!) 2.Qb3 ~ (Bf7+) 3.Rf7#/Re6# (Rxf7#), while truly random moves 1...Bf3 and 1...Bg4 cannot separate the double threat, thereby affecting the claimed Black correction.

1...ef4 2. ♗g7! A ~ 3. ♖xf4 B# 1... ♖xf4 2. ♖xf4+ B gf4 3. ♗g7 A# **1. ♗g7!** [2. ♗f5! ~ 3. ♖g6#]
 1... ♗e~ (♗h5) 2. ♖b3! ♗f7+ 3. ♖xf7# 1... ♗c4! 2. ♖e6+ ♗d5 3. ♗e4# 1... ♗d3! 2. ♖f5+ ♜e4 3. ♖d5#

3rd Honourable Mention: Var. 2919 – Arieh Grinblat & Evgeny Bourd

The over-explored Umnov theme is here combined with additional sub-variations after K-flights, ending in delayed captures of the thematic black pieces. **1.f5!** [2. ♖e8+ ♜xf5 3. ♖e5#] 1... ♗xf5 2. ♖g4+ ♗xg4 3. ♖ff4# 2... ♜f3 3. ♖xf5# 1... ♖xc5 2. ♗c3+ ♖xc3 3. ♖xe3# 2... ♗d4 3. ♗xc5#

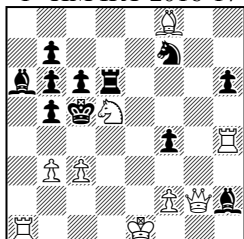
4th Honourable Mention: Var. 3016 – Sergey Khachaturov

The problem shows pseudo le Grand theme (not le Grand theme, as claimed by the author), thus the thematic exchange of threat and mate after different line opening B2 moves is not paradoxical. The variation 1...f3 allows change of functions of the moves by wSe6. The proposed improvement by Paz Einat (wPf6→f7, wBg7→d4, bBg3=bQg3, +wPf2) makes the key much better (1.Bf6? f3!, 1.Bg7!).

1.f7! [2. ♗c5+ dxc5 3. ♖e5#] 1... b6 2. ♗c7 X [3. ♖d5 A #] 2... ♗xc7 3. ♖f5 B #
 1... ♖d8 2. ♗d4 Y [3. ♖f5 B #] 2... ♗xd4 3. ♖d5 A # 1... f3 2. ♖xe3+ ♗d5 3. ♗c7 X # 2... ♖f5 3. ♗d4 Y #

Felix Rossomakho

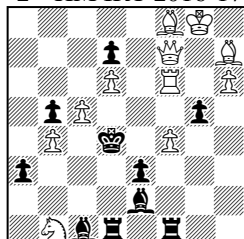
1st HM IRT 2016-17



#3 9+11

Eugene Fomichev

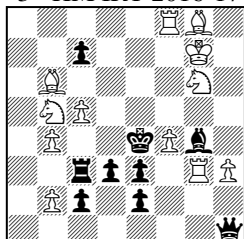
2nd HM IRT 2016-17



#3 11+10

A. Grinblat E. Bourd

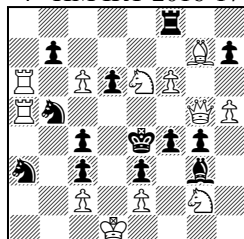
3rd HM IRT 2016-17



#3 12+9

Sergey Khachaturov

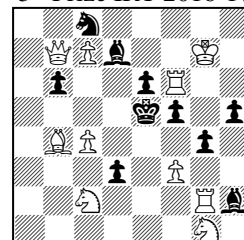
4th HM IRT 2016-17



#3 12+13

Paz Einat

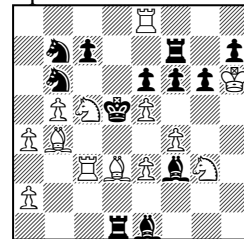
5th Prize IRT 2016-17



#3 10+10

Evgeny Bourd

Sp. Prize IRT 2016-17



#3 13+12

5th Honourable Mention: Var. 3020 – Emil Klemanič

Radical change with different black defences in the try and solution, but unified white Siers battery play in both phases. 1.♔g7? [2.♖e8+ ♜xe4 3.♗xd6#] 1...f3 2.♗h5+ ♜xe4 3.♗xg3#

1...♗xe4 2.♗xg4+ ♜xf5 3.♗h6# but 1...♗h4!

1.♜e8! [2.♗c7+ ♜d4 3.♗b5#] 1...d2 2.♗xf4+ ♜d4 3.♗xe2# 1...♗c3 2.♗d8+ ♜d4 3.♗c6#

1st Commendation: Var. 3018 – Yitzak Nevo, Evgeny Bourd

A good key and battery play, but this otherwise good problem leaves an impression that something more could be done with this matrix.

1.♗xc6! [2.♜c2+ ♜c4/♜xe6 3.b3/♗d8#] 1...♜h5 2.♗xe7+ ♗♭xe7 3.♗xf6/♖d6# 1...♜xe6+ 2.♗d4+ ♜d5 3.♖b5# 1...♖c8 2.♜e2+ ♜c4/♜xe6 3.♗xa5/♗d8#

2nd Commendation: Var. 2920 – Leonid Ljubashevsky, Leonid Makaronez

Two variations with sacrificial line opening are supplemented by two less harmonious variations in which W2 moves release a square for the bK.

1.♜e7! [2.♗g6+ ♜g4 3.♜g5#] 1...♜xf5 2.♗e2+ fx2 3.♗g3#

1...♜g4 2.♗d3+ exd3 3.♜e3# 1...♜h1 2.♜g5+ ♜xe5 3.f6#

1...♜h4 2.♗g6+ ♜g4 3.♜xh4#

3rd Commendation: Var. 2779 – Aleksandr Pankratiev

Incomplete cycle of white moves in a matrix similar to those used earlier for showing two pairs of exchanged moves.

1.♜g4! [2.♜xe6+ A ♜xe6 3.♗c4 B#] 1...♖xc6 2.♗c4+ B ♜xc4 3.♜xe4 C#

1...♗e3 2.♜xe4+ C ♜xe4 3.♗f6 D# 1...♗xc5 2.♗f6+ D ♜d6 3.♖d7 E#

4th Commendation: Var. 2829 – Arieh Grinblat

A good cycle of white moves with entertaining battery play.

1.♜a7! [2.♗xc7+ A ♜c5 3.♜c4 B# 1...♖g7 2.♜c4+ B ♜e4 3.♗xf5 C#

1...♗f7 2.♗xf5+ C ♜e6 3.♗xc7 A# 1...♗e6 2.♜f3+ ♜xd4 3.♖d3# 1...♜xh7 2.♜xf5+ ♜xd4 3.♖d3#

5th Commendation: Var. 3017 – Leonid Ljubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez

Interesting play in two phases without strong thematic link.

1.♗xg3? [2.♗xe3 + dxe3 3.♜h5# 2...♜e5 3.♖f5#]

1...♗f1 2.♜f3 + ♜c4 3.♗e5# 1...e2 2.♜xe2 ♗f3 3.♜e6 2...♗e4 3.♖f5#

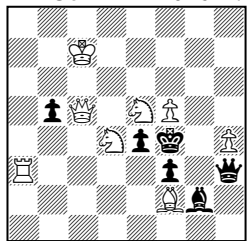
1...d3 2.♜h1 + ♗f3 3.♜xf3# 2...♗e4 3.♜xe4# but 1...♖f8!

1.d7! [2.♖d6+ ♜c4 3.♗e5#] 1...♗xe4 2.♗xe3 + ♜e5 3.♖f5#

1...♗c4 2.♗xc3 + ♖xc3 3.♜f3# 1...♗f3 2.♖d3 ~ 3.♖d6# 1...♜c4 2.♗d6 + ♜d5/♜d3 3.♖f5/♗e5#

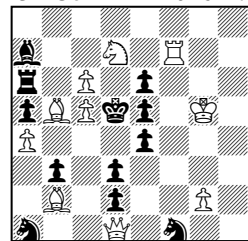
Leonid Ljubashevsky

Leonid Makaronez
2nd Com IRT 2016-17



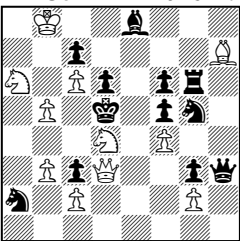
#3 8+6

Aleksandr Pankratiev
3rd Com IRT 2016-17



#3 10+12

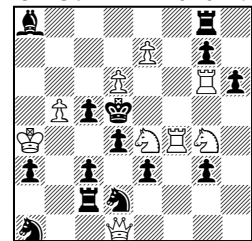
Arieh Grinblat
4th Com IRT 2016-17



#3 11+12

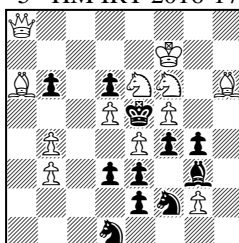
Leonid Ljubashevsky

Leonid Makaronez
5th Com IRT 2016-17



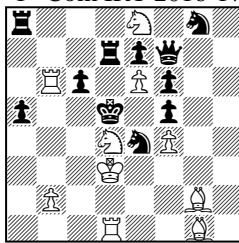
#3 9+14

Emil Klemanič
5th HM IRT 2016-17



#3 12+11

Y. Nevo E. Bourd
1st Com IRT 2016-17



#3 10+11