

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Helpmates - 2012

Judges: Evgeni Bourd

A decent number of 29 helpmates participated in the tourney of this year. The average level was somewhat low but many problems were still found to be interesting.

My award:

I. H#2 section

1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2294 Misha Shapiro

Two black half pins, combined with check avoidance. Economical white forces but the somewhat disharmonic effects in the problem denied the problem from a prize.

a) 1. ♖g5 ♜xc2 2. f5 ♜c5#

b) 1. ♗f4 ♜xb2 2. ♗c5 ♜e5#

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2296 Emanuel Navon

Interesting tries with good line play in a highly economical open position.

1... ♖b3(♖e6?) 2. ♖e2 ♗xd3?#

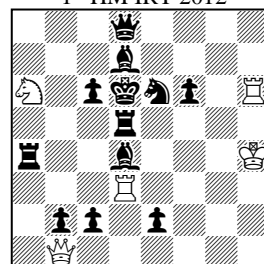
1... ♗a4(♗d3?) 2. ♗g6 ♖e6?#

1. ♖b6 ♖e6 2. ♖e2 ♗d3#

1. ♜b5 ♗d3 2. ♗g6 ♖e6#

Misha Shapiro

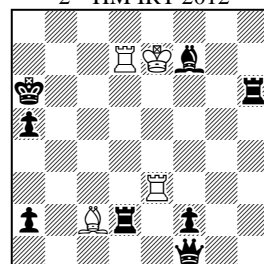
1st HM IRT 2012



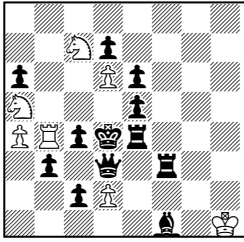
H#2 b) ♗a6→f3 5+12

Emanuel Navon

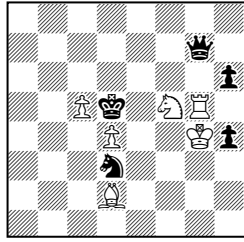
2nd HM IRT 2012



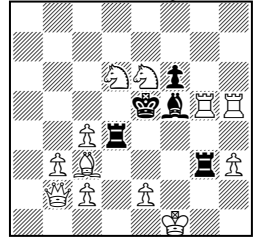
H#2 2.1.1.1 4+8

Menachem Witztum3rd HM IRT 2012

H#2 2.1.1.1 7+12

Shaul Shamir & Paz Einat4th HM IRT 2012

H#2 b) ♖d2→d8 6+5

Shaul Shamir
5th HM IRT 2012
(After Jean Haymann)

H#2 2.1.1.1 12+5

3rd Honorable Mention: Var. 2249 Menachem Witztum

Grimshaw on a vacated black square, Interesting. I would prefer a more interesting white first move, or at least some kind of a try by another piece trying to reach c3 or an additional free square for the black queen for example.

1. ♖e3 ♖h2 2. ♖d3 ♖xb3# 1. ♖e2 ♖g1 2. ♖d3 ♖xc4#

4th Honorable Mention: Var. 2204 Shaul Shamir & Paz Einat

Anticipatory line closing in a light position. Nice reciprocal white moves but the twin is a little heavy. a) 1. ♖e4 d5 2. ♖d4 ♖d6# b) 1. ♖e6 ♖d6 2. ♖d7 d5#

5th Honorable Mention: Var. 2292 Shaul Shamir (After Jean Haymann)

A nice addition of Zilahi to the original scheme, although not clear if this makes the problem better. 1. ♖xc3 ♖g3 2. ♖xd6 ♖e3# 1. ♖xg5 ♖e1 2. ♖xe6 ♖g3#

Commendations without order:**Var. 2205: Stefan Parzuch**

Simple but nice white sacrifices with dual avoidance.

1. ♖e4 ♖c5 2. dxc5 ♖xf3# 1. ♖e4 ♖e5 2. dxe5 ♖e6#

Var. 2247: Israel Han

Well matched line play between the white queen and rook. Shame that many black pieces participate only in one of the solutions.

1. ♖c5 ♖e8 2. ♖xd6 ♖xd6# 1. ♖f4 ♖h2 2. ♖xf5 ♖xf5#

Var. 2250: Semion Shifrin

Selfpins on a masked line combined with black sacrifices.

1. ♖xf2 ♖xb7 2. ♖g5 ♖cxg5# 1. ♖xf2 ♖xa5 2. ♖c1 ♖xc1#

Var. 2295: Paz Einat (Dedicated to Menachem Witztum)

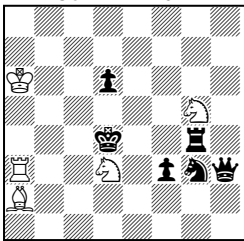
Four phases showing line opening and an unpin, amusing but very mechanical.

a) 1. ♖xe4 ♖e2 2. ♖g2 ♖e8# b) 1. dxe4 ♖d2 2. ♖e2 ♖d8#

c) 1. ♖xc5 ♖xc2 2. ♖f2 ♖c8# d) 1. bxc5 ♖b2 2. ♖d2 ♖b8#

Stefan Parzuch

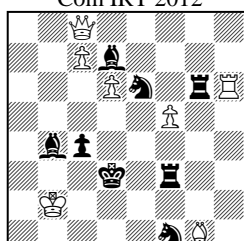
Com IRT 2012



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+6

Israel Han

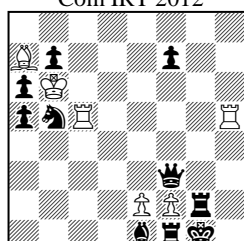
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H#2 2.1.1.1 7+8

Semion Shifrin

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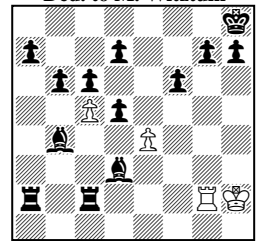


H#2 2.1.1.1 6+10

Paz Einat

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Ded. to M. Witztum



H#2 b) ♖d7→e6 4+13

c) b+ ♖c6→d7

d) c+ ♖c2→c1

II. H#>2 section

Prize: Var. 2210 Christopher Jones

Pretty walks by the white king, which are made after a line closing of a black bishop and immediately followed by the sacrifice of the same bishop. A tiny twin that changes the direction of the walk from right to left. Even the thematic pawns participate in the mating positions.

- a) 1...g4! 2.♖d3 ♜xf5 3.♙xg4+ ♜xg4 4.♜e4 ♞e2#
 b) 1...c5! 2.♜e4 ♜xd6 3.♙xc5+ ♜xc5 4.♜e5 ♞e1#

Honorable Mention: Var. 2300

A sacrifice of the white knight in order to allow the black king to reach the target. Pretty walks by the king, unfortunately to the same square in both solutions.

- a) 1...♖d7 2.♜b5 c4+ 3.♜c6 cxd5+ 4.♜xd7 d6 5.♜e8 d7+ 6.♜f8 d8=♚#
 b) 1...♖e6 2.d4 cxd4 3.♜d5 dxc5 4.♜xe6 c6 5.♜e7 c7 6.♜f8 cxd8=♚#

Commendations without order:

Var. 2207 Alexander Pankratyev

Good ODT play with a crude twin

- a) 1.♜d5 ♞xe6 2.♖b5 axb5 3. ♖d4 ♞e5#
 b) 1.♜f6 ♙xd6 2.♚g4 hxg4 3. ♙g5 ♙e5#

Var. 2208 Zoran Nikolic

Nice play with the white knights.

- 1.♞f4 ♖ec3 2.♜e5 ♖f6 3.♙e6 ♖ce4# 1.♞g5 ♖dc3 2.♜f6 ♖f4 3.♙f7 ♖cd5#

Var. 2254 Christopher Jones

Selfblock on the same square by a promoted rook and knight, the play is somewhat too simple.

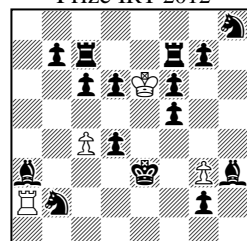
- a) 1.fxe2 f4 2.e1=♖ f5 3.♖f3 f6 4.♖g5 f7 5.♖h7 ♖g6#
 b) 1.exf2 e4 2.f1=♞ e5 3.♞f7 e6 4.♙xf8+ e7 5.♞h7 exf8=♚#

Var. 2252 R. Doronin & A. Mitjushyn

Pawn double step shown by both black and white in a familiar setting

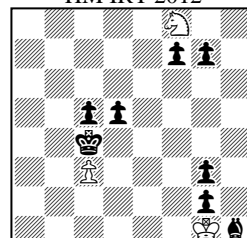
- a) 1.♞b4 d4 2.d6 dxc5 3.♜xc5 fxe4 4.♞b5 ♙e3#
 b) 1.♞b3 d3 2.d5 dxc4 3.♜xc4 ♜e3 4.♞b4 ♙f1#

Christopher Jones Prize IRT 2012



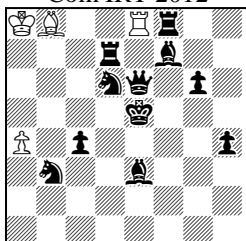
H#3.5 b) ♞a2→a1 4+15

Christopher Jones HM IRT 2012



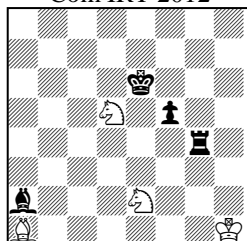
H#5.5 b) ♞d8 3+8

A. Pankratyev Com IRT 2012



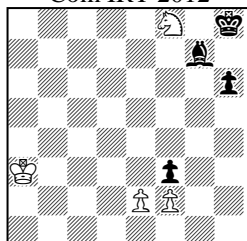
H#3 b) ♞a4→h3 4+11

Zoran Nikolic Com IRT 2012



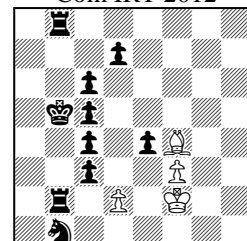
H#3.5 2.1.1... 4+4

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H#5 b) ♞f3→e3 4+4

R. Doronin A. Mitjushyn Com IRT 2012



H#4 b) ♙f4→g2 4+10