

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Helpmates - 2013

Judge: Kenneth Solja, In Espoo, Finland

I like to thank Paz Einat and Variantim magazine for giving me this opportunity to act as a judge in the helpmate section.

I. H#2 section

There were 22 helpmates in 2. I must say that the standard of the problems was very good. Here is my ranking and the award:

1st Prize: Var. 2454 Emil Klemanic

In the first pair of solutions black is blocking d3 and d4, where from white is mating in the second pair of solutions. In the second pair black makes a distant block in advance. bQ and bS are however something which I don't like although they seems to be needed. However excellent play!

1..♙c4 ♖d6 2..♙d3 ♜f4# 1..♙c3 ♖d7 2..♙d4 ♜f5#

1..♙e6 ♜g4 2.♜f5 ♖d3# 1..♙g3 ♘e1 2.♜f4 ♖d4#

2nd Prize: Var. 2452 Almiro Zarur & Ricardo de Mattos Vieira

Very good quality of a problem. Analogical moves from start to finish.

Brazilian excellence! Everyone should to get know this.

1.♖c7 ♖c3 2.♜e5 ♖c6# 1.♜f6 ♙c3 2.♜c6 ♙e5#

1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2457 Abdelaziz Onkoud

Black and white are pinning together bQ after which wL makes rather common mate. bK moves and mating moves are too symmetrical to my taste comparing to other part of the problem.

1.♜xc5 ♜xc6 2.♜xc3 ♙a5# 1.♜xe4 ♖xe5 2.♜xe3 ♙g5#

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2343 Valerio Agostini

Three analogical unpins, but white's play is bit different in some of the solutions. White is mating from the square black pieces originally guarded, still good problem. a) 1.♘c2 ♘f7 2.♘e1 ♜b3# b) 1..♙a5 ♘b5 2..♙e1 ♜xd4#

c) 1.♘f3 ♜f1 2.♘e1 ♜f5#

3rd Honorable Mention: Var. 2390 Ricardo de Mattos Vieira

Again here two analogical solutions without any doubt. However I don't like this black static rook which is only taking e5 –cooks away, but after all criticism I find this still to be worth of quite high placing in the award. 1.♘d4 ♖xd4 2.♘e2 ♙c8# 1.♘d5 ♙xd5 2.♘c7 ♖f2#

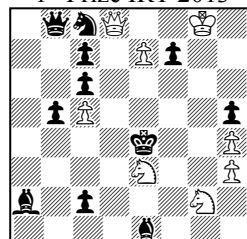
Commendations are without order (order of appearance)

Var. 2342 Semion Shifrin

Black's play is analogical, but white's play is not so good in terms of analogy. Also the twins are not in balance. What good is here? Combined quality, use of the pieces and good economy.

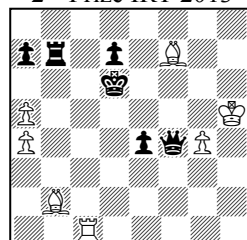
a) 1.♘xa5 ♘f5 2.♘c4 ♘c5# b) 1..♙xe6 ♖e5 2..♙c4 ♙f5# c) 1.♜xg4 ♙f5 2.♜c4 ♖f3#

Emil Klemanic
1st Prize IRT 2013



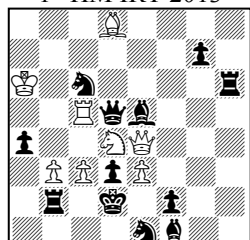
H#2 4.1.1.1 8+11

Almiro Zarur
Ricardo de M. Vieira
2nd Prize IRT 2013



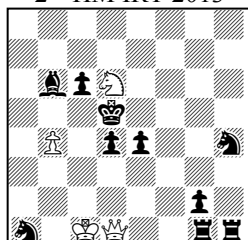
H#2 2.1.1.1 7+6

Abdelaziz Onkoud
1st HM IRT 2013



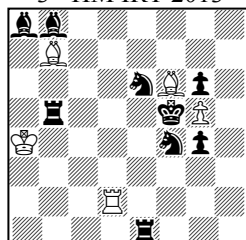
H#2 2.1.1.1 8+12

Valerio Agostini
2nd HM IRT 2013



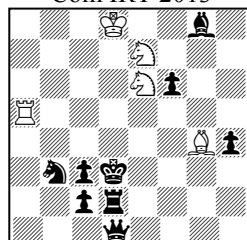
H#2 b) ♖b4→f5 4+10
c) ♖b4→c5

Ricardo de M. Vieira
3rd HM IRT 2013



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+9

Semion Shifrin
Com IRT 2013



H#2 b) ♘e7→c6 5+9
c) ♘e7→c3

Var. 2345 Dmitri Grinchenko

Nice three solutions which should be analogical, but they are not. Cyclic performance would be on the top of award, but here is lacking something. In first solution W1/W2 is L/T, in the second L/S and in the third T/T. Should be in order L/T,T/S,S/L for example. Black's play is again very nice, but I would want a fourth solution to complete it for this to get a higher place.

1.axb5 ♖f4 2.b4 ♖a1# 1.bxc5 ♖e3 2.c4 ♖c7# 1.fxg5 ♖f1 2.g4 ♖f8#

Var. 2455 Andrei Dikusarov

An albino! We have seen these quite a many. All solutions work nicely, but there nothing else in common in them except that black pieces want to sacrifice themselves in certain squares. BSb8 could also be a pawn in c7 and L-promotion seems to be bit lonely in this problem. Two promotions would have been better than one if those must be. Composer hasn't finished his problem before publishing.

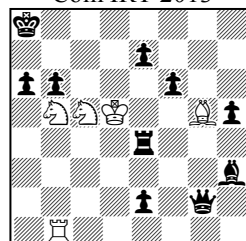
1.♖c6 e3 2.♖xd4 exd4# 1.bxc2 e4 2..♖d5 exd5#

1.♖b1 cxb3 2..♖d3 exd3# 1.h1=♖+ ♖g1 2..♖f3 exf3#

Var. 2456 Zivko Janevski

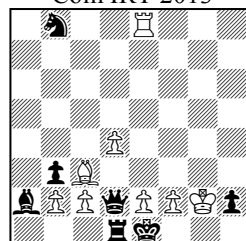
Two analogical solutions in simple idea, but somehow these mates are too familiar. However the economy of this problem tells that behind the problem is experienced composer. 1.♖e6 ♖b5 2..♖d6 ♖c4# 1.♖d6 ♖h1 2.♖e6 ♖d1#

Dmitri Grinchenko Com IRT 2013



H#2 3.1.1.1 5+10

Andrei Dikusarov Com IRT 2013



H#2 4.1.1.1 8+7

II. H#2.5 & H#3 section

There were 8 helpmates in 2,5-3 moves. I must say that the standard of the problems was good. I decided place four them in the award.

Prize: Var. 2395 Francesco Simoni

Two beautiful and analogical solutions with dual-avoidance with good economy. Every piece is needed in this prizewinner.

1.♖a5 ♖h2 2.♖e5 ♖g3 3..♖d5 (♖d5?) ♖f2# 1.♖d8 ♖g1 2.♖d4 ♖f2 3.♖d5 (♖d5?) ♖g3#

1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2347 Christopher Jones

Analogical solutions in the two forms. I like this kind of twin, a kind of Striptease theme. The problem has very good economy.

a) 1.♖d3 exd3 2.exd3 ♖e2 3.♖e4 ♖b7# b) 1.♖d4 exd4 2.exd4 ♖f2 3.♖e5 ♖xf5#

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2461 Gennady Chumakov & Eugene Fomichev

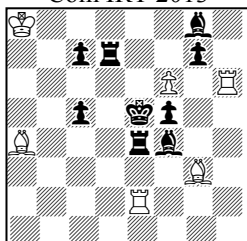
Triple "royal" Bristol in three forms. The twins in this problem are not to my taste. I'd like to see the version where are all three solutions in one. Great idea, however, and beautifully made.

a) 1.♖d3! (♖a3?, ♖g3?) ♖a8 2.♖d5 ♖b6+ 3.♖d4 ♖c2#

b) 1.♖a3! (♖g3?, ♖d3?) ♖d1 2.♖c5 ♖b2 3.♖b4 ♖a6#

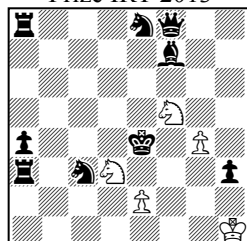
c) 1.♖g3! (♖d3?, ♖a3?) ♖g5 2.♖e5 ♖f7+ 3.♖f4 ♖xd5#

Zivko Janevski Com IRT 2013



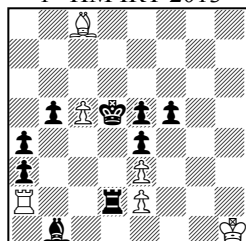
H#2 2.1.1.1 6+9

Francesco Simoni Prize IRT 2013



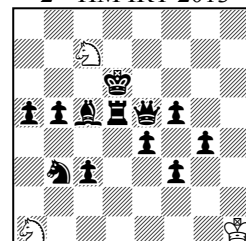
H#3 2.1.1.1 5+9

Christopher Jones 1st HM IRT 2013



H#3 b) -♖e2 6+9

G. Chumakov E. Fomichev 2nd HM IRT 2013



H#3 b) ♖a1→f2 3+12
c) ♖a1→h7

Special commendation: Var. 2348 Yoav Ben-Zvi

Two Turtons! Very classical theme. I decided to give this version (originally published 1975 in Chess Life & Review) a special commendation. Black blocks in the end with his theme pieces. It would be even more beautiful if BT would start from b4 and BL from d3.

1.♖b8 ♖b7 2.♙d5 ♖b3 3.♖b4 ♖c3# 1.♙g6 ♙f5 2.♙b4 ♙b1 3.♙d3 ♙a2#

Yoav Ben-Zvi
Sp. Com IRT 2013

H#3 2.1.1.1 6+13

III. H#>3 section

There were 8 helpmates in 3,5 and more moves. I must say that the standard of the problems was fair and because of this I decided not to give any prizes. Top problems have earned their places.

1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2465 Milomir Babic

Mirror echomate. I like the way the composer has used black interruptions vertically and diagonally. Small minus is repeating the white K-moves, but because of that this isn't 1st Prize but 1st Hon Mention.

1.b2 ♙a4 2.♖b3 ♖g2 3.♙d3 ♖f3 4.♙a6 ♖e4 5.♙d8 ♖d5 6.♖b8 ♖xd6 7.♙b7 ♙d7#

1.♖g5 ♙g4 2.♖d8 ♖g2 3.♖e8 ♖f3 4.♖f5 ♖e4 5.♖f8 ♖d5 6.♙d8 ♖xd6 7.♙f7 ♙d7#

Milomir Babic
1st HM IRT 2013

H#7 2.1.1.1 2+7

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2349 Krzysztof Draskowski

Nice and harmonious play between the solutions. WS's are changing functions between the set and the solution.

1.♙e4 dxe4 2.♖xe4 ♙g6 3.♙g3 ♙xg3# 1...♙f2! 2.♙xd3+ ♙xd3 3.♖e4 ♙xf7 4.♙d6 ♙xd6#

3rd Honorable Mention: Var. 2350 Joose Norri

In this single solution happens quite a lot. BT sacrifices himself and allows wP promote to WS. Black's blocking play is also nice and cream of cake is double-mate with white's pieces.

1...♙a2 2.♖h5 ♙g8 3.♖h7 gxh7 4.♖d4 h8=♙ 5.♖d3 ♙f7 6.♖c4 ♙e5#

Commendation: Var. 2351 Semion Shifrin

Here black pieces are nicely placed for one lovely solution, but everything goes once you have found the moves. A bit similar is my own problem (K Solja, Springaren 2012 nr 12565, H#6), but I feel that keeping knights in order, this problem is showing a bit of originality.

1.♙g5 f3 ! 2.♖h8 f4 3.♙h7 f5 4.♙f4 fxe6 5.♙h5 exf7 6.♙g7 f8=♙ 7.♙g8 ♙g6#

Commendation: Var. 2398 Mecislovas Rimkus

Four echomates, but unfortunately some black's and white's moves are repeated, so in short helpmate that is not good. BLh2 is only taking cooks and BS is needed only in two last solutions.

1...♙f4 2.e5 ♖c5 3.♖d4 ♖c3 4.e4 ♙e5# 1...♖b5 2.♖d3 ♖xe6 3.♖c4 ♖b4 4.♖c5 ♙d6#

1...♖d4 2.♖f5 ♖h4 3.♖g5 ♖xe6 4.♙g6 ♙f6# 1...♖d7 2.♖f5 ♙d6 3.♖f6 ♖g5 4.♙f7 ♙e7#

Krzysztof Draskowski
2nd HM IRT 2013

H#3.5* 4+12

Joose Norri
3rd HM IRT 2013

H#5.5 3+13

Semion Shifrin
Com IRT 2013

H#2 2.1.1.1 8+12

Mecislovas Rimkus
Com IRT 2013

H#3.5 4.1.1... 3+6