

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Helpmates - 2014

Judge: Antonio Garofalo, Italy

This was a high-quality tourney, with an entry of 44 problems by 34 authors. Certain problems had slight defects: Var. 2502 BPe7 unnecessary, BQc1 under-used; Var. 2505 The B2 moves are not homogeneous; Var. 2506 Rd4 is repeated; Var. 2508 A TF-helpmate but with nothing special about it; Var. 2509 3.Re5 is not only an interference but also a selfblock, while 3.Sf6 is purely an Interference; Var. 2512 Non-matching solutions; Var. 2570 Three twinned lines but without homogeneity; Var. 2604 Double function of e3 (obstruction and control of d4) single function of c4 (obstruction only); Var. 2614 The double check maneuvers are effects which have already been thoroughly worked. I propose ranking the problems as follows:

1st Prize: Var. 2612 Ofer Comay

Various well-matched motivations (control of the mating square, interference with the movement of the mating piece, occupation of the square where the black queen must hide, capture of the mating piece etc.) enable a multiple dual avoidance system. This outstanding achievement amply excuses the use of two black queens: after all in chess the pawn is entitled to achieve promotion!

1. ♖g5! ♙xg5 (1... ♖e7?) 2. ♗xg4 ♖e7 3. ♗xd4! ♖xe1#

1. ♙e7/xd8? prevents W1 1. ♙xg7? prevents W2 1. ♙xd4? prevents B3

1. ♙e5? prevents W3 1. ♙h4? prevents mate.

1. ♖c7! ♖xc7 (1... ♙e7?) 2. ♗xb3 ♙e7 3. ♗xd5! ♙xa3#

1. ♖e7/f7/xg7? prevents W1 1. ♖xd8? prevents W2 1. ♖xd5? prevents B3

1. ♖d6? prevents W3 1. ♖b7/a7? prevents mate.

2nd Prize: Var. 2603 Kenan Velikhanov

A double interchange of white moves, a fine achievement. We can also arrange the solutions differently: ABCD – DCBA 1. ♖cd3 ♙c5+ **A** 2. ♗e4 f3 **B** # 1. ♖d3 f3 **B** 2. ♙c4 ♙xc5 **A** #

1. ♗c4 bxc3 **C** 2. ♖d3 ♖xc5 **D** # 1. ♖fd3 ♖xc5 **D** 2. ♗e4 bxc3 **C** #

3rd Prize: Var. 2615 Christopher J.A. Jones

Direct self-unpins, reciprocal batteries and black sacrifices. Well-matching solutions in the author's Familiar style.

a) 1... ♗g8! 2. ♖c8! ♖c6+ 3. ♗b5 ♖c4+ 4. ♖c6 ♙xc6#

b) 1... ♗h7! 2. ♗h1! ♙c6 3. ♗b6 ♙xa8+ 4. ♗c6 ♖xc6#

1st Honorable Mention: Var. 2609 Luis Miguel Martin

An interesting idea, Black must move the Sg2 to establish the bishop's guard on e4, but in move it he must sacrifice it, and since its available moves are both check it is necessary for a black piece to capture it. The earliest tempo S-sacrifice setting may be PO523394 in the pdb.

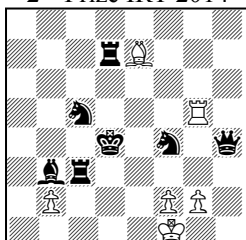
1. ♖f8 ♖f4+ 2. ♖fx4 ♖b2# 1. ♙g3 ♖e1 2. ♙xe1 ♖e5#

2nd Honorable Mention: Var. 2504 Shaul Shamir

By preventing one or other of the mates the B1 tempo moves determine how the solutions continue.

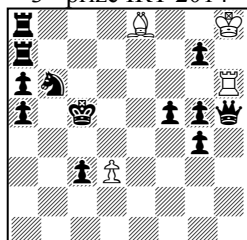
1. ♖b3 ♖e4 2. ♗xe4 ♙b7# 1. ♖c3 ♖xg4 2. ♗xg4 ♖d1#

Kenan Velikhanov
2nd Prize IRT 2014



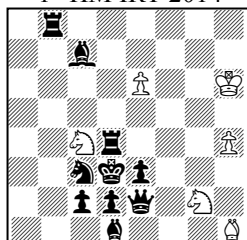
H#2 4.1.1.1 6+7

Christopher Jones
3rd prize IRT 2014



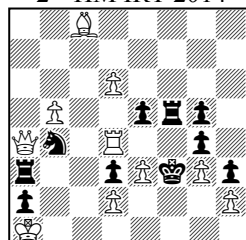
H#3.5 b) ♙b6→b5 4+12

Luis Miguel Martin
1st HM IRT 2014



H#2 2.1.1.1 6+10

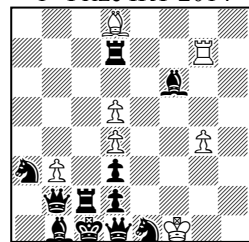
Shaul Shamir
2nd HM IRT 2014



H#2 2.1.1.1 10+10

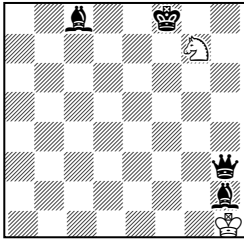
Ofer Comay

1st Prize IRT 2014



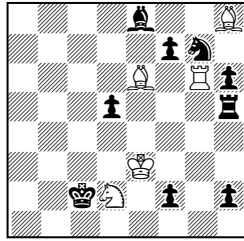
H#3 2.1.1.1 7+11

Mecislovas Rimkus
3rd HM IRT 2014



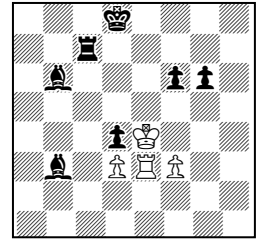
H#7 b) ♖g7→h8 3+3

Shaul Shamir
4th HM IRT 2014



H#2 2.1.1.1 5+9

Valery Barsukov
5th HM IRT 2014



H#3 b) ♖d8→d1 4+7

3rd Honorable Mention: Var. 2517 Mechislovas Rimkus

Chameleon echo, ideal mates and the usual king-march.

- a) 1. ♖h7 ♖g2 2. ♗f5 ♖f3 3. ♗g6 ♖f5 4. ♗e5 ♖e3 5. ♖g7 ♖g4 6. ♖h6 ♖h4 7. ♗g7 ♖g4#
 b) 1. ♗e5+ ♖g1 2. ♗e6 ♖f2 3. ♗g8 ♖f7 4. ♖h8 ♖f3 5. ♖g7 ♖g4 6. ♖h7 ♖h5 7. ♗g7 ♖g5#

4th Honorable Mention: Var. 2559 Shaul Shamir

Hideaway sacrifices and black Umnov effects with a WB/WR function exchange. Very pleasant.

1. ♗c6 ♗g4 2. ♖e8 ♖xc6# 1. ♖f5 ♖g1 2. ♖h5 ♗xf5#

5th Honorable Mention: Var. 2511 Valery Barsukov

Two interferences to allow the white king to cross lines.

- a) 1. ♖c4 ♖d5 2. ♗c5 ♖c6 3. ♖c8 ♖e8# b) 1. ♖c5 ♖xd4 2. ♗c4 ♖c3 3. ♖c1 ♖e1#

6th Honorable Mention: Var. 2503 Menachem Witztum

Indirect unpin play is followed by interferences. The idea is not new but I liked it.

1. ♖d5 ♖e4 2. ♗e5 ♖f5# 1. ♗b8 ♖g6 2. ♖e5 ♖g3#

7th Honorable Mention: Var. 2562 Menachem Witztum

An interesting double setting of masked halfpins (which look like thirdpins). Inevitably the position is a very heavy one.

- a) 1. ♖c5 dxc5 2. d4 ♖a6# b) 1. ♖a6 b5 2. cxb5 ♗h7#

Commendations in order of publication:

Var. 2507 Yoav Ben-Zvi

Tempo moves.

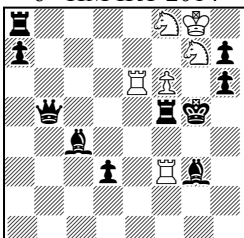
1. ♖c4? ♖d4 2.?? ♖d5# 1. ♖d4? ♗b4 2.?? ♖xe4#
 1. ♖a4 ♖d4 2. ♖c4 ♖d5# 1. ♖c4 ♗b4 2. ♖d4 ♖xe4#

Var. 2513 Christopher J.A. Jones

Tempo play with an interchange of white arrival squares on the first and second moves.

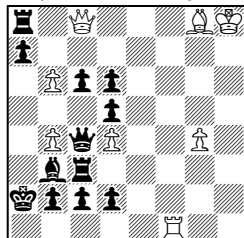
1. e5 ♖d4 2. e4 ♖b4 3. exd3 ♖e4# 1. ♖d4 ♖b4 2. ♖b3 ♖d4 3. ♖fd2 ♖a4#

Menachem Witztum
6th HM IRT 2014



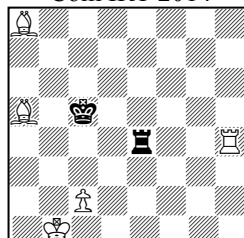
H#2 2.1.1.1 6+10

Menachem Witztum
Ded. to Evgeni Bourd
7th HM IRT 2014



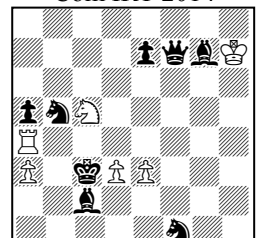
H#2 b) ♖a2→c2 8+12

Yoav Ben-Zvi
Com IRT 2014



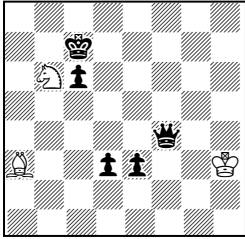
H#2 2.1.1.1 5+2

Christopher Jones
Com IRT 2014



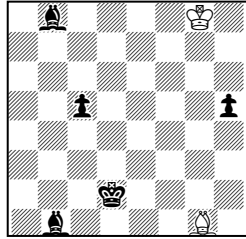
H#3 2.1.1.1 6+8

Semion Shifrin
Com IRT 2014



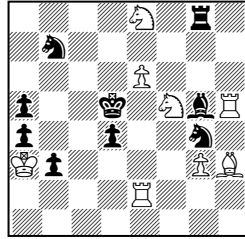
H#4 3+5

Adrian Storisteanu
Paz Einat
Com IRT 2014



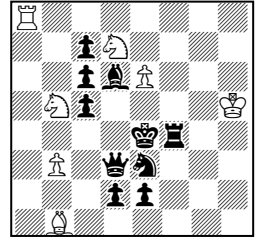
H#5 2+5

Vitaly Medintsev
Com IRT 2014



H#2 2.1.1.1 8+9

Yoel Aloni
Emanuel Navon
Com IRT 2014



H#2 2.1.1.1 7+10

Var. 2514 Semion Shifrin

A splendid sacrifice on Black's first move. 1. ♖f6 ♖b2 2. ♜d6 ♘d7 3. ♜d5 ♙g4 4. ♜e4 ♗xf6#

Var. 2515 Adrian Storisteanu & Paz Einat

A fine maneuver by the Bg1 in miniature setting.

1. ♖g6 ♖h2 2. ♜e3 ♖g1+ 3. ♜f4 ♖h2+ 4. ♜g5 ♖xb8 5. ♜h6 ♖f4#

Var. 2560 Vitaly Medintsev

A small imbalance: Sfg7 is also an interference, but Se7 is not.

1. ♖e3 ♖g2+ 2. ♜e5 ♗f7# 1. ♘e5 ♖h7 2. ♜xe6 ♘e7#

Var. 2563 Yoel Aloni & Emanuel Navon

Moves along the pinline by the black queen, and battery mates in which indirect pins are created.

1. ♜f5 ♖a5 2. ♜e4 ♘d4# 1. ♜c2 ♖d8 2. ♜d3 ♗xc5#

Var. 2566 Christer Jonsson

Three queen sacrifices. a) 1... ♜xd6! 2. ♜xd6 ♖f6 3. ♜e5 ♘g4#

b) 1... ♜xd5! 2. ♜xd5 ♘g7 3. ♜e5 ♖f5# c) 1... ♜xd4! 2. ♜xd4 ♖g3 3. ♘c5 ♖g7#

Var. 2568 Semion Shifrin

Echo mates. 1. ♗xg3 ♜b3 2. ♜f4 ♖a2 3. ♘e3 ♖f2# 1. ♘d4 ♖d3 2. ♜e5 ♖c1 3. ♘d6 ♖c5#

Var. 2605 Vitaly Medintsev

This problem would have had a higher place, but 1.Kc5 unpins only the thematic knight, whereas 1.Kc6 unpins both the knight and the rook, with only the unpin of the rook being thematic. A pity.

1. ♜c5 ♜e5 2. ♗xb6 ♜c3# 1. ♜c6 ♖d3 2. ♖xd6 ♖e4#

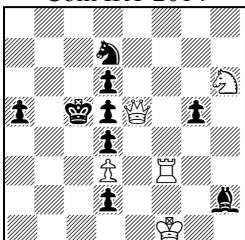
Special Commendation: Var. 2516 Sergei Sagatelian & Edouard Kuloyan

An amusing performance with five black knights. a) 1. ♘f7 f5 2. ♜g7 f6 + 3. ♜h7 fxe7

4. ♘g7 e8=♘ 5. ♘h8 ♘f6# b) 1. ♘h4 f5 2. ♜g5 f6 3. ♘g7 fxg7 4. ♜h5 g8=♘ 5. ♘g5 ♘f6#

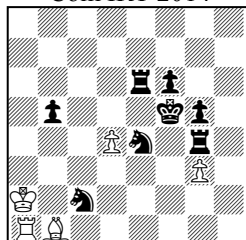
I thank Chris Feather for the translation

Christer Jonsson
Com IRT 2014



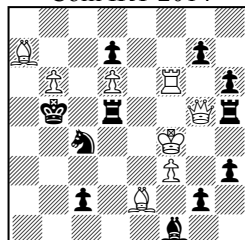
H#2.5 b) ♘h6→h5 5+9
c) ♘h6=♖

Semion Shifrin
Com IRT 2014



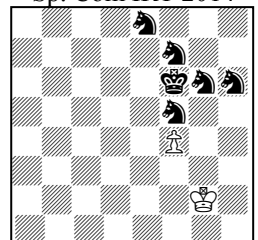
H#3 2.1.1.1 5+8

Vitaly Medintsev
(after Uri Avner)
Com IRT 2014



H#2 2.1.1.1 8+11

Sergei Sagatelian
Edouard Kuloyan
Sp. Com IRT 2014



H#5 b) ♜g2→c8 2+6