

## Israel Ring Tourney: Selfmates Award 2002-03

Judge: Zoran Gavrilovski (Skopje, Macedonia)

I thank the gentlemen of the Israel Chess Composition Society for inviting me to judge the IRT 2002-03 informal tourney for Selfmates and I also thank the participants for their nice original problems. I received 30 problems from Mr Yoel Aloni on anonymous diagrams. The quality of the tourney is on an average level.

Zivko Janevski found an anticipation for Vm 1111 (by the same author – E. Fomichev), which has the same play in a more economical position (see right diagram). No direct anticipations were found for Shahmat 432 (Yoel Aloni) and Vm 1059 (Efren Petite), but they were not included in the award because the same thematic play has been shown before, even with thematic tries. Shahmat 384 (Reino Heiskanen & Jorma Pitkanen) is a nice achievement with two harmonious variations, but this problem and Shahmat 420 (Yoel Aloni & Paul Vatarescu) are actually modified stalemate schemes. Shahmat 444 (Paul Vatarescu & Yoel Aloni) has symmetrical variations. The play of Vm 1002 (Alessandro Cuppini) is rather mechanical and old-fashioned. The solutions in Vm 1003 (Andrey Dikusarov) and Vm 1065 (Ivan Brjuchanov) could have been shortened without affecting the most important parts of the play. Nearly a dozen other problems were also not suitable for inclusion in the award, but that does not mean that I did not enjoy studying them!

My award is as follows:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Vm 1113, Camillo Gamnitzer (Austria).

The most original and the most complicated problem in the tourney. It is obvious that the black S/R battery must be activated but 1.Rb3+? fails to the obvious 1...Kd2! Thus White aims to take control of d2 either directly by 1.Bf1? B:g2! or by placing his knight on f3. However the latter is possible only after neutralisation of the white S/B battery by decoy of the black queen: 1.g8~? Qd8 2.Qc7+ Q:c7 3.Sf3+ Q:e5 4.Rb3+ S:b3#, but 1...Ra7/Ra8!; 1.f5? (2.Sf3+ Qd4 3.Rb3+ S:b3#), 1...Qh5/Qd8 2.Sdc2+ Kd2 3.Bf4+ Kc3 4.Rb3+ S:b3#, 1...Q:h6 2.Q:h6 R:h6 3.Sdc2+ etc, but 1...Q:d4/Qg5! Annoying double refutations, but impeccable logic, completed by the thematically most interesting try 1.Bf6? (2.Sf3+ Q:f6 3.Rb3+ S:b3#) Qg4!, since the first move of this try appears as a second move in the solution. A splendid finale involving a bicolour Bristol and self-pin by the black queen!

**1.Qg6!** (2.Qc6+) Q:h6! (1...S:g6? 2.Sf3+ S:e5 3.Rb3+ S:b3#) 2.Bf6!! (3.Q:g3+ R/B:g3 4.Sf3+ Q:f6 5.Rb3+ S:b3#) Qh7! 3.Qc2+! Q:c2 4.Sf5+ Kd2 5.Sb3+ S:b3#.

To Vm 1111: E. Fomichev  
The Problemist Supplement 1998  
Also: Comm. Zadachi i Etudi 1999



S#3 (9+12)

1.Rh5! (2.Sc6+)

c:b3/c3/B:c2 2.Bd3/d3/Rd3

**Camillo Gamnitzer**  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize IRT 2002-3



S#5 (13+12)

**Miodrag Mladenović**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize IRT 2002-3



S#3 (9+14)

**Alexandr Azhusin**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize IRT 2002-3



S#6 (11+9)

**Frank Richter**  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize IRT 2002-3



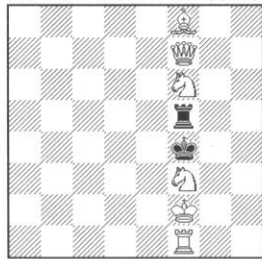
S#2 (11+14)

**Alexandr Azhusin & Andrey Selivanov**  
1<sup>st</sup> Hon. Men. IRT 2002-3



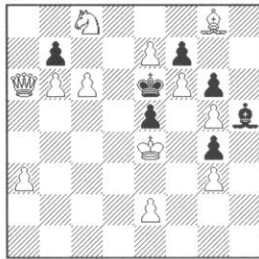
S#3 (8+14)

**Pavlos Moutecidis**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hon. Men. IRT 2002-3



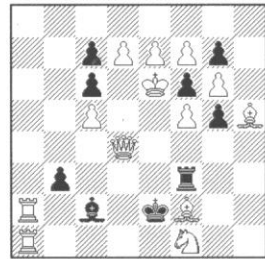
S#15 (6+2)

**Yoel Aloni & Ion Murarasu**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hon. Men. IRT 2002-3



S#4 (12+7)

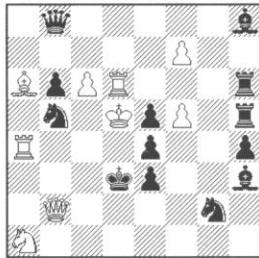
**Yosi Retter**  
1<sup>st</sup> Comm. IRT 2002-3



S#3 (13+9)

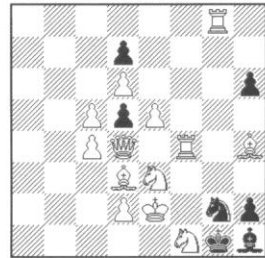
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Vm 1060, Miodrag Mladenović (USA).**  
An attractive combination of cyclic white moves and third-pin. The mechanism is not completely new, but there are refreshing details. The promotion of the pawn in the first move is inevitably obvious, but the author has managed to incorporate two tries by the same pawn. The construction and the by-play are rather good, although the repetition of 2.Sc4+ is not pleasant.  
1.g8B? c5!, 1.g8R? Rc8!, 1.g8S! (2.R:e4+[A] d:e4 3.Sd5+[B] c:d5#, 1...c5 2.S:d5+[B] Q:d5 3.Sc4+[C] Q:c4#, 1...Sc5 2.Sc4+[C] d:c4 3.R:e4+[A] S:e4#, (1...S:f6 2.Sg4+ S:g4 3.R:e2+ K:e2#, 1...B:f6 2.Sc4+ d:c4 3.R:e2+ K:e2#).

**Yosi Retter**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Comm. IRT 2002-3



S#2 (9+13)

**Alessandro Cuppini**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Comm. IRT 2002-3



S#4 (13+7)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Vm 1114, Alexandr Azhusin (Russia).**

A thematic critical key introduces "Siers" battery play in order to annihilate the bPg6 and decoy the black rook to a6. The variation 1...Bb6 completely matches the white play (even though some moves are necessarily repeated!) and ends in a diagonal mate by the other black line piece which also hides behind the b.Pg6 in the diagram position.  
1.Bh8? Bg8!, 1.Bg7! (2.Sce5+ [but not 2.Sde5+ because of 3...Kb6!]) Kd4 3.S:g6+ Kc4 4.Sge5+ Kd4 5.Sf3++ Kc4 6.Ba6+ R:a6#, 1...Bb6 2.Sde5+ [2.Sce5? 6...Ra6??] K:c5 3.S:g6+ Kc4 4.Sge5+ Kc5 5.Sd7+ Kc4 6.Rc2+ B:c2#.

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Vm 1057, Frank Richter (Germany).**

Nice and unusual example of the "A" theme with two thematic tries. Unlike the orthodox type, here Black interferes on the black line a1-e5, preventing the threatened interference on the second black line h8-e5 (due to loss of control of e5 by Black).

1.Sb3? c3!, 1.S:c2? Rd4!, 1.Sc6! (2.Sf6+ S:h4#), 1...c3 2.Q:g6+ h:g6#, 1...Rd4 2.B:e3+ S:e3#.

**1<sup>st</sup> Honourable Mention: Vm 1001, Alexandr Azhusin & Andrey Selivanov (RUS).**

Rich and thematically linked Siers battery play, but I could not place this rather orthodox mechanism any higher.  
1...c:b4 2.S:a3+ Kc5 3.d4+ R:d4#, 1.Qc8! (2.Sd4++ Kd6 3.Sf5+ R:f5#), 1...S5~ 2.S:a3+ Kd6 3.Sc4+ R:c4#, 1...Qg4 2.S:c3+ Kd6 3.Se4+ R:e4#, 1...e6 2.Se8+ Kd5 3.Sf6+ R:f6#, 1...Sh4 2.Se6+ Kd5 3.S:f4+ B:f4#.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable Mention: Vm 1005, Pavlos Moutecidis (Greece).**

An intriguing position with a nice dynamic solution. I especially like the play by the white rook and the battery creation on the 4<sup>th</sup> rank.

1.Bd6+! Re5 2.Rg1 Kf5 3.Rg5+ Kf4 4.Rg2! Kf5 5.Sh5+ Ke4 6.Qc4+ Kf5 7.Sd4+ Ke4 8.Sf6+ Kf4 9.Kg1 Ke3 10.Sc2+ Kf3 11.Rf2+ Kg3 12.Qd4 Kh3 13.Rh2+ Kg3 14.Sh5+ Kf3 15.Se1+ R:e1#.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Honourable Mention: Vm 1064, Yoel Aloni & Ion Murarasu (Israel/Romania).**

Differently motivated white continuations depending on the route of the black pawn. The minor promotions are the only means of controlling adjacent squares near the black King. The Banny theme looks rather "dry" in such a two-variation type of problem, but nevertheless it is a nice addition to the actual play.

1.e8B?[A] b:a6![x], 1.e8S?[B] b:c6![y], 1.e3! (zz), 1...b:a6[x] 2.e8S[B] a5 3.Se7 a4 4.S:g6 B:g6#, 1...b:c6[y] 2.e8B[A] c5 3.Qf1 c4 4.Qf5+ g:f5#.

**1<sup>st</sup> Commendation: Vm 1000, Yosi Retter.**

Beautiful orthogonal-diagonal correspondence, involving transfers of the pins and waiting strategy by White, typical of longer selfmates. There is a possibility for improvement: -wBf2, +bPf2, Ra1->d1; 1.Ra1!, 1.Rb1? b:a2! (try with a new refutation).

1.Bg1! (zz), 1...b2/b:a2 2.Qc4+ Bd3 3.Bg4 B:c4#, 1...g4 2.Qe4+ Re3 3.Rb2 R:e4#.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation: Shahmat 408, Yosi Retter.

A successful combination of Grimshaw and transferred continuations (well known in orthodox #2s), to which the suicidal checks by the white King add a typical selfmate flavour. The bPh4 and the bSg2 are perhaps placed to prevent the dual defences 1...Rh4 and 1...Bh3~, but then again, there is already a "black dual" 1...Be6+. The white knight can be saved at the cost of losing the non-thematic variation: -wSa1, -bPe3, +wPf2, bSg2=bPg2.

1...Bf6 2.Ke6+[A] Q:d6#, 1...Rf6 2.K:e5+[B] Q(R):d6#, **1.f6!** (2.Rd4+ e:d4#), 1...Rf5 2.Ke6+[A] Q:d6#, 1...Bf5 2.K:e5+[B] Q:d6#, 1...e2 2.Qd4+ e:d4#.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation: Vm 1063, Alessandro Cuppini (Italy).

The mating piece is obvious and the double check mates are not a big surprise. The White-Black correspondence actually occurs between the white pieces and the black pawns, whose play determines the position of the white king.

**1.Kf3!** (zz), 1...h5 2.Be2 (2.Qa1? d4! 3.Be2? d:e3!) d:c4 3.Qa1 c3 4.Sg3+ Se1#, 1...d:c4 2.Ke4 (2.Qa1?/2.Qc3? c3!/h5!) 3.c:d3 3.Kd5 h5 4.Sg4+ Se3#.

*I want to thank Petko Petkov for providing valuable expertise, and Zivko Janevski for checking the originality of the honoured entries and for his expert advice. [ZG]*