

Israel Ring Journey: Selfmates Award 2007

Judge: Miodrag Mladenović (Serbia)

From the IRT director I got twenty selfmates published during this time period. The quality of problems was very good and after reviewing them very carefully I decided on the following ranking:

1st Prize: Vm 1709, Yosi Retter

Fantastic key move gives two flights to the bK and at the same time selfpins two white pieces and allows two black checks. There is a threat and five variations ending with pin-mate. Several battery transformations. Excellent selfmate with very rich play.

1.B:g4! [2.Qg5+ K:e4 3.Qf4+ K:Q#] 1...R:g4+ 2.Qg5+ K:e4 3.R:d4+ K:d4# 1...e5 2.Q:e5+ K:g4 3.Qf4+ K:Q# 1...K:g4 2.Qf5+ Kh4+ 3.Qg5+ R:Q# 1...K:e4 2.Qd5+ Kf4+ 3.Qf5+ B:Q# 1...B:e4+ 2.Qf5+ B:Q#.



S#3 (9+14)



S#5 vvv (13+9)



S#4 vv (8+7)



S#3* (10+14)

2nd Prize: Vm 1622, Camillo Gamnitzer (Austria)

There are couple of tries where White attempts to force bPa5-a4 (to guard b3). As soon as b3 is guarded White has B:d4+!. However, in the solution White has to do a radical change in idea and instead of trying to force bPa5-a4 it blocks this square! This unexpected key leads to very nice play.

1.R:h8? [2.S-] e:f4! 1.Sh5! g3? 2.R:h8 g2 3.Rg8 g1 4.R:g1 a4 5.B:d4+ e:d4# 1...Bf6? 2.S:f6 g3 3.Rg8 g2 4.R:g2 a4 5.B:d4+ e:d4# 1...Bg7! 2.S:g7 g3! 1.a4!! [2.Se6+ K:d5 3.Sf4++ Kc5 4.Bb3! ~ 5.B:d4+ e:d4#] 1...e:f4 2.Rb3 [3.B:d4+ B:d4#] f:e3 3.Qe7+ Kb6 4.Qc5+!! K:c5 5.R:c6+ S:c6#.

1st Honorable Mention: Vm 1621, Valery Kopyl & Gennady Koziura (Ukraine)

Very nice echo-play in this S#4. Two good tries complete the content of this problem.

1.Ke3/Sf7? g4/b4! 1.Qe7! zz 1...b4 2.Ra5+ Bb5+ 3.Ke3 g4 4.Qg5+ B:g5# 1...g4 2.Rh5+ Bg5 3.Rb6 b4 4.Rb5+ B:b5#.

2nd Honorable Mention: Vm 1661, Ivan Soroka (Ukraine)

A very good problem with 4-fold cycle of white second and third moves. However, there are plenty of other examples showing this theme, and even the matrix is not completely original. Several problems already exist, where black battery transformation is exploited to achieve a cycle of moves.

1...Rd~ 2.Q:g6+ h:g6 3.B:d5+ B:d5# 1...Rf7 2.Q:e8+ Re7 3.B:d5+ B:d5# 1.Qf6! [2.B:d5+(A) R:d5 3.Qd4+(B) R:d4#] 1...S:e2 2.Qd4+(B) S:d4+ 3.d3+(C) Q:d3# 1...Q:e2+ 2.d3+(C) S:d3 3.Qf4+(D) S:f4# 1...Rf7 2.Qf4+(D) R:f4 3.B:d5+(A) B:d5# 1...Q:f2 2.Sc3+ b:c3 3.Qd4+ Q:d4#.

3rd Honorable Mention: Vm 1618, Yoel Aloni & Paul Vatarescu

A good twomover-selfmate with nice tries and good variations in solution.

1.Re3? [2.B:c4+ b:c4#] c:d2! 1.e3? [2.B:c4+ b:c4#] Rh4! 1.Rf7? [2.e4+ f:e4#] f:e2! 1.Rg7! [2.e4+ f:e4#] 1...Rh4 2.Qd4+ R:d4# 1...f:e2 2.Q:f5+ Q:f5# 1...R:e2/f4 2.B:c4+ b:c4#.

1st Commendation: Vm 1659, Uri Avner

Hidden white half-pin play. In both variations the white half-pin is visible after the black defenses.

1.d4! zz 1...R:a4 2.Rc5+ Q:c5 3.d5+ Q:d5# 1...Q:a4 2.Se5+ Kd6 3.c5+ S:c5# 1...b2 2.Sd8+ Kd6 3.Rf6+ S:f6#.

2nd Commendation: Vm 1620, Živko Janevski (Macedonia)

Three white variations with a second move on the same square. White has to open the black B/R battery.

1.Rf7! [2.Rf5 ~ 3.Rg5+ R:g5#] 1...c4 2.Bf5+ K:f7 3.g8Q+ R:g8# 1...Sc1 2.f5+ Kg5 3.B:c1+ Rd2#.



S#2 vvv (10+9)



S#3 (12+6)

Dedicated to the memory of Shlomo Seider



S#3 (11+8)