

Israel Ring Tourney - Selfmates 2009 - Award

Judge: Diyan Kostadinov, International Judge

I received from Paz Einat 23 anonymous diagrams and solutions of the Israel Ring Tourney selfmates 2009. Actually for the first time in my judging experience I have to judge an informal tourney with anonymous entries, which is rather unusual.

The level of the awarded problems is good, but in my opinion the selfmate genre is in deep crisis in recent years. It is very difficult to be presented with original ideas or mechanisms and almost all problems just repeat some old examples. In all tourneys one can find many single line selfmates, but many of them are boring and schematic. Still, nowadays with help of the strong computers some interesting possibilities were found. I hope, and highly recommend, that authors will take a more serious look into strategic-logical style problems.

Some words about problems which are not included into the award:

Vm. 2027 – good passive annihilation variations (which was the theme of 8th WCCT), but some similar compositions are known (even in 5 variations - see example No.26 on <http://www.sci.fi/~stniekat/pccc/self.pdf>)

Vm.2028 – sometimes promotions to Rook/Queen is not accepted as a dual, but here it is done by both sides, which is too much for me...

I propose the following ranking:

1st Prize: Vm.1913 Leonid Makaronetz & Leonid Ljubashevski

The dentist theme with sacrifices by the wQ on the thematic line for unpins of wS are not new idea, but the combination with change of functions by wBc7 and wQ into the other variations leaves a good impression of Selfmate of the future, form 3x2.

1.e5 ! [2.♘d6 +e, ♘xd6 3.♖b6 + axb6#]

1...♗xe3 2.♖xe3+ ♖xe3 3.♘b6+ axb6# 1...♗xd5 2.♖c3+ ♗xc3 3.♗e4+ ♗xe4#

1...d6 2.♖b5 + ♗xb5 3.♘b6+ axb6# 1...♗b8 2.♖b4+ ♗xb4 3.♗b3+ ♗xb3#

2nd Prize: Vm.1915 Camilo Gamnitzer & Hans Peter Rehm

An excellent key, difficult solution and thematic complex which includes creation of two white batteries, sacrifices and different abductions of black Queen. Very good puzzle! Of course, the capture of bQ in the threat is a weakness, but the pluses above are compensating...

1.♘b6! [2.♗e4+ fxe4 3.♖f8+ ♖e7 4.♗f5+ ♖e5 5.♖xe7+ ♖f4 6.♗d4+ ♖e3

7.♖f3+ ♗xf3#] 1...axb6 2.♗a6 [3.♖d8+ ♖c6 4.♖c7+ ♖xc7 5.♖f3+ ♗xf3#]

2...b5 3.♗f7+ ♖e6 4.♗c5+ ♖xc5 5.♖e5+ ♖xe5 6.♗h6+ ♖d6 7.♗xf5+ ♖xf5#

Hon. mention: Vm.1975 Yosi Retter

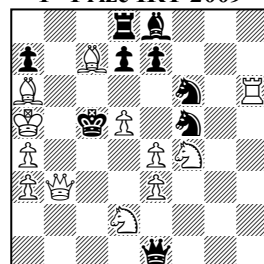
This is the better version of problem No.1912 which is very similar, but here the realization is clearer. The dual avoidance in white second moves is nice and I also like the quiet threat.

1.♖h6 ! [2.♖h1 ~ 3.♖g1 + ♖f2#

1...♗xc5 2.♗xf4 + (♗fxd4 +?) ♗ce6,e4 3.♗g2 + ♖xg2#

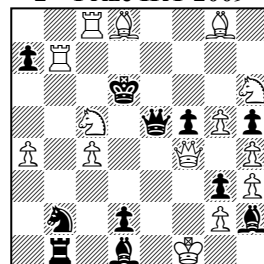
1...♖xg5 2.♗fxd4 + (♗xf4 +?) ♖xe7,e5 3.♗c2 + ♖xc2#

**Leonid Makaronetz
Leonid Ljubashevski
1st Prize IRT 2009**



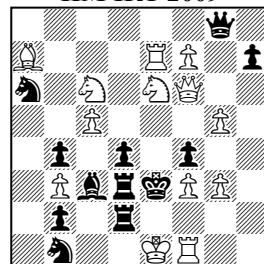
S#3 12+9

**Camilo Gamnitzer
Hans Peter Rehm
2nd Prize IRT 2009**

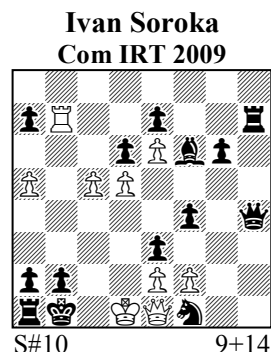
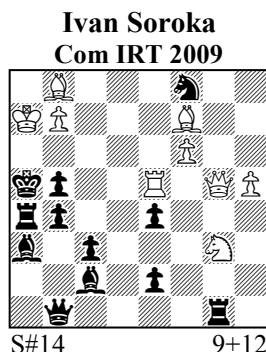
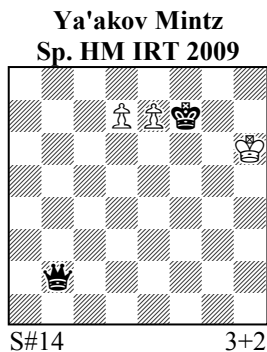
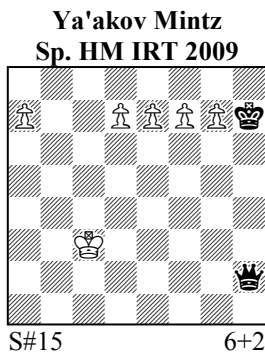


S#7 14+11

**Yosi Retter
HM IRT 2009**



S#3 13+12



Special Hon. mention: Vm.2030 Ya'akov Mintz

Promotions of 5 Queens in a white pawns only and black minimal position looks impressive! I hope that the problem is correct...

1.g8=♚+ ♖h6 2.f8=♚ ♖h5 3.e8=♚+ ♖h4 4.d8=♚+ ♖h3 5.♚e3+ ♚g3 6.♚fh6+ ♚g2 7.a8=♚+ ♖f1 8.♚ah1+ ♚g1 9.♚b3! ♚xh1 10.♚dd1+ ♖g2 11.♚g4+ ♖f1 12.♚hf4+ ♖f3 13.♚fc4+ ♖e2 14.♚gf3+ ♖e1 15.♚d2+ ♚xd2#

Special Hon. mention: Vm.1978 Ya'akov Mintz

Another white pawns only and black Q minimal problem. This year the whole series of this kind of problems were published in this tourney (I guess they are by the same author). In No.1978, probably for the first time, two promotions in a five-piece position are realized.

1.e8=♚+ ♖f6 2.d8=♚+ ♖f5 3.♚d3+ ♖f4! (3...♚g4? 4.♚h5_ etc, S#13; 3...♚f6? 4.♚g6+ ♖e5! 5.♚ge4+ ♖f6 6.♚d6+ ♖f7 7.♚c4+ ♖e8 8.♚c8+ ♖f7 9.♚dd7+ ♖f6 10.♚f5+ ♖e7 11.♚c7+ ♖e8 12.♚h5+ ♖f8 13.♚g7+ ♚xg7#) 4.♚ee3+ ♖g4 5.♚h3+ ♖f4 6.♚h4+ ♖e5 7.♚g5+ ♖e6 8.♚c4+ ♖d7! 9.♚f5+ ♖d6! 10.♚fc5+ ♖d7 11.♚f7+ ♖d8 12.♚fc7+ ♖e8 13.♚h5+ ♖f8 14.♚g7+ ♚xg7# C+ WinChloe

Commendation: Vm.2029 Ivan Soroka

A clear logical problem where the "g" file should be closed before the main plan can be executed.

Main plan: 1.♚f5? (2.♚xb5+ ♖xb5#) 1...♚d3 2.♚xb5+ ♚xb5 3.♚e3 ♚d3 4.♚c4+ ♚xc4 5.♚c7+ Q;c7 6.♚xb5+ ♖xb5# but 3...♚xg5!

1.♚e3! (2.♚xb5+ ♖xb5#) 1...♚d3 2.♚c5 ♚c2 3.♚d5 ♚d3 4.♚e6 ♚c2 5.♚e3 ♚d3 6.♚g5 ♚c2 7.♚f5 ♚d3 8.♚g4 ♚c2 9.♚f5! ♚d3 10.♚xb5+ ♚xb5 11.♚e3! ♚d3 12.♚c4+ ♚xc4 13.♚c7+ ♚xc7 14.♚xb5+ ♖xb5#

Commendation: Vm.1918 Ivan Soroka

When I saw this problem for the first time it reminded me of something I know. I checked so many selfmates to find some similar problems, but to my surprise I found that the problem I thought about was not selfmate – it was the Olympic tourney 2010 3rd Prize winner moreover by Marjan Kovacevic. Both problems are with a very nice maneuver by the white Queen.

1.♚xb2+? ♚xb2 2.♚b4 ♚f6! 1.♚b4! [2.♚xb2+] ♚g5 2.♚a4! ♚f6 3.♚b5 ♚g5 4.♚e8! ♚f6 5.♚b8 ♚g5 6.♚xd6 ♚f6 7.♚b8 ♚g5 8.♚e5 [9.♚f5+] 9.♚xb2+ ♚xb2+ 10.♚xb2+ ♖xb2#