

## **Israel Ring Tourney Award: Selfmates 2011-12**

***Judge: Evgeny Bourd, Israel (March 2015)***

There were 29 selfmates published in the period. The overall quality was good, having most problems showing some interesting content. I decided to split the award into two sections according to length—S#2-3 and S#>3.

Few words on some problems not present in the award:

2121 ( Givi Mosashvili ) – Although the content is nice, the problem is transform from #2 without real added selfmate value.

2174 ( Andrey Dikusarov ) – Cooked

## Section I – Selfmates in 2 or 3 moves

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Var. 2074 Eugene Fomichev.** Five pretty battery variations with great variety. It is important to note the different defensive motivations, which are used every time by white to enable the new mate – ♖b1 – pin of white queen, ♖b2 – direct guard of e2, ♘xf5 – withdrawal of ♘ from g4-e2 to f5-d3, ♖xf5 – black ♖/♘ battery creation. Excellent.

**1. ♖c4!** [2. ♖e3+ ♜xe3 3. ♜e2+ ♘xe2#] 1... ♖b1 2. ♖e1+ ♖xd1 3. ♘g2+ hxg2# 1... ♖b2 2. ♖ee4+ ♖e2 3. ♘g2+ hxg2# 1... ♘f5 2. ♖d2+ ♜e3 3. ♖d3+ ♘d3# 1... ♖xf5 2. ♖f2+ ♜e3 3. ♜e2+ ♘e2#

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Var. 2301 Alexander Pankratiev.** Good presentation of 4-fold cycle of white moves. The mechanism is really interesting with nice geometry between the black knight, queen and pawn moves.

1... ♜xe6 2. ♘e3+ ♜xe3 3. ♖d4+ ♖xd4# **1. ♘g5!** [2. ♘e3+ **A** ♜xe3 3. ♖d4+ **B** ♖xd4#] 1... ♘e6 2. ♖d4+ **B** ♘d4 3. ♖xb5+ **C** ♘xb5# 1... ♖xd7 2. ♖xb5+ **C** ♖xb5 3. ♖c4+ **D** ♖xc4 # 1... dxe2 2. ♖c4+ **D** bxc4 3. ♘e3+ **A** ♜xe3#

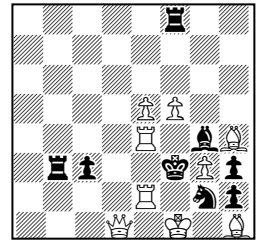
### Commendations without order:

**Var. 2122 Eugeniusz Iwanow.** Two nice variations with white line closure and black line openings by the black king. 1... e5 2. ♖d6+ exd6 3. ♖c5 dxc5# **1. ♘g3!** [2. ♖d6+ exd6 3. ♖c5 dxc5#] 1... ♘b3 2. ♖c5+ ♖d3 3. ♖c3 ♖xc3# 1... ♘e4 2. ♖c3+ ♖d5 3. ♖c5 ♘xc5# (1... ♘d3 2. ♖xd3+ ♖xd3 3. ♖c3 ♖xc3#)

**Var. 2255 Frank Richter** (Version Evgeny Bourd). Selfmates in two with some strategic play are becoming very rare. The problem has its obvious flaws but still an interesting battery play in three variations.

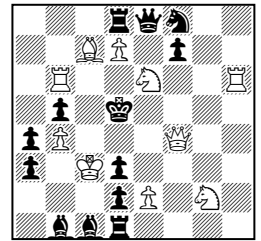
1. ♖f4! [2. ♖xg7 Bxg7#] 1... ♘g6 2. ♘d6 ♖f7# 1... fxg5 2. ♘e5 ♖f7# 1... ♘xg5 2. ♘xg5 ♖f7#

**Eugene Fomichev**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
IRT 2011-12



S#3 9+8

**A. Pankratiev**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
IRT 2011-12

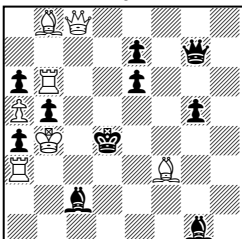


S#3 10+13

## Section II – Selfmates in more than 3 moves

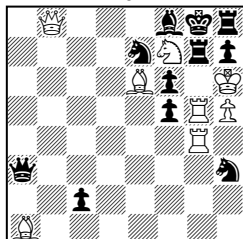
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Var. 2258 Ivan Soroka.** A problem starting with the familiar single/double attack on a square. It is hard to imagine the strategy required for solving this problem – blocking both f7 and d7 in order to advance with the king to e6 and all of that in order to unguard d4 for the black king. Despite a somewhat limited black play the idea is very pleasing. **1. ♘c8!** [2. ♖xd5+ ♜xd5#] ♘g2 2. ♘e6 [3. ♖/♘d5+ ♖xd5 4. ♘/♖xd5+ ♖xd5#] ♘f1 3. ♘d7 [2. ♖xd5+ ♖xd5#] ♘g2 4. ♘c6 [5. ♘d5+ ♖xd5 6. ♖xd5+ ♖xd5#] ♘f1 5. ♘e8 [6. ♖xd5+ ♖xd5#] ♘g2 6. ♘f7 [7. ♖/♘d5+ ♖xd5 8. B/♖xd5+ ♖xd5#] ♘f1 7. ♖b7 [8. ♘d5+ ♖xd5#] ♘g2 8. ♖d7 [9. ♖/♘d5+ ♖xd5 10. ♘/♖xd5+ ♖xd5#] ♘f1 9. ♜e6!! [10. ♖xd5+ ♖xd5#] ♘g2 10. f5! ~ 11. ♖c6+ ♖xd4 12. ♖xd5+ ♘d5#

**Eugeniusz Iwanow**  
Com  
IRT 2011-12



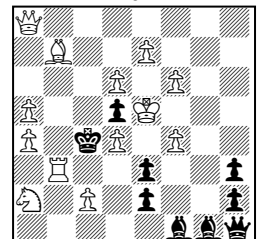
S#3\* 7+10

**Frank Richter**  
Com (v. E. Bourd)  
IRT 2011-12



S#2 8+11

**Ivan Soroka**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
IRT 2011-12



S#12 13+9

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Var. 2123 Ivan Soroka.** Again a similar problem to the first prize, this one a little less surprising but very interesting as well. White needs to eliminate one of the pieces guarding e4 but on what square?

Qd3, Qe4 and Qe2 do not work each for its own reasons. The plan which works rather slowly is making the b6 pawn advance and sacrificing the queen on c5 square. A very well executed idea. 1. ♖aa3! [2. ♖xe4+ ♖xe4# ] 1... ♗h7 2. ♖b4! [3. ♖xe4+ ♗xe4 4. Txe4+ ♖xe4# ] ♗g8 3. ♖b3! ♗h7 4. ♖a4 ♗g8 5. ♖a7! ♗h7 6. c6+ b6 7. ♖a4 ♗g8 8. ♖b3 ♗h7 9. ♖c4! ♗g8 10. ♖c5+! bxc5 11. ♖xe4+ ♖xe4#

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Var. 2259 Ya'akov Mintz.** Six white Promotions with a nice forced solution. Although not too clear from the solver's point, a good thematic and technical achievement. I hope it is correct! 1. d8=♔ 2. ♖a5 3. c7 ♖b7 4. c8=♔ 5. g8=♔ 6. ♖d5 ♖b6/♖a6 7. ♖b8/♖fa8 8. ♖bb5/♖ac6 9. ♖a4 ♖b6 10. ♖da5 11. ♖5b5 12. d7 13. e8=♗ 14. ♖b6 15. d8=♗! 16. e7 17. ♖bb3 ♗e6 18. ♗d6 19. e8=♔ 20. ♖f3 ♖xd6 21. ♖aa3 22. ♗g5 23. ♖fd3 24. ♗h6 25. ♖h8 26. ♖f5 ♗xf5#

**1<sup>st</sup> HM: Var. 2078 Torsten Linß.** Interesting Fata Morgana in an open position but the lack of black play is a little distracting. 1... ♖d3 2. ♗c8 ♖c2 3. ♗b6 ♖d3 4. ♖a1 ♖c2 5. ♖d2+ ♖b3 6. ♗b1 c3 7. ♖c2+ cxb2# **1. ♗c1** ♖d3 2. ♖b1 ♖d4 3. ♗a3 ♖d3 4. ♖c1 ♖d4 5. ♖d1 ♖d3 6. ♗cb5 c3 7. ♗c1 c2#

**2<sup>nd</sup> HM: Var. 2079 Ivan Soroka.** Another nice Fata Morgana with a little less cleaner play but this time two different variations. In one white captures the knight on e4 and forces the black king into f4 while in the other the black king walks all the way back to a8 in order for the pin of e4 to take effect. Very interesting!

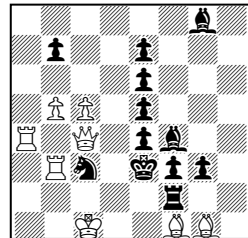
1... ♗f2# **1. ♖b3+!** ♖xd4 2. ♖xe4+ ♖c5 3. ♖b4+ ♖d5 4. ♖h4+! ♖e5 5. ♖e7+ ♖f5 6. ♗g4+ ♖g6 ! 7. ♖f7+ ♖g5 8. ♖g7+ ♖f4 9. ♖e7 ♗f2# (6... ♖f4 7. ♗c6, ♗b7, ♗f7 ♗f2#)

1... ♖d6 2. ♖e6+ ♖c7 3. ♖h7+ ♖b8 ! 4. ♖b3+ ♖c8 5. ♖b7+ ♖xd8 6. ♖e7+ ♖c8 7. ♖d7+ ♖b8 8. ♖c7+ ♖a8 9. ♖h4 ♗f2# (3... ♖xd8 4. ♖e7+ ♖c8 5. ♖d7+ ♖b8 6. ♖c7+ ♖a8 7. ♖h4 ♗f2# )

**3<sup>rd</sup> HM: Var. 2173 Ya'akov Mintz.** Another heavy with promotions problem, four white queens and a knight. Although unique and interesting, the play is very forced. 1. a8=♖+ ♖b6 2. c8=♗ ♖c6, c7 3. b8=♖+ ♖d7 4. ♖d6+ ♖e8 5. ♖d8+ ♖f7 6. g8=♖+ ♖f6 7. e8=♖+ ♖f5 8. ♖ee6+ ♖f4 9. ♖d2+ ♖e3 10. ♖a4 ♖xd2 11. ♖f6+ ♖e3 12. ♖ff3 ♖d4 13. ♖ae4+ ♖c5 14. ♖b4+ ♖xb4#

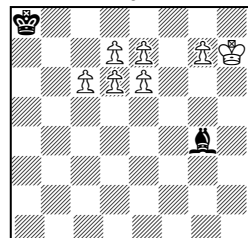
**4<sup>th</sup> HM: Var. 2125 Ya'akov Mintz.** Similar to the previous problem but with a different touch. A solution starting with 3 white queen promotions and then 12 unique white moves while having those three white queens on the board, very impressive! 1. f8=♖+ ♖e6 2. g8=♖+ ♖e5 3. h8=♖+ ♖e4 4. ♖g6 ♖e3 5. ♖e5+ ♖d2 6. ♖b4+ ♖d1 7. ♖g1+ ♖c2 8. ♖eh2+ ♖d3 9. ♖g6+ ♖e3 10. ♖b6+ ♖f3 11. ♖hh5+ ♖f4 12. ♖gh6+ ♖e4/♖g3 13. ♖h7/♖g7+ ♖f4 14. ♖7c7+ Ke4 15. ♖d5+ ♖xd5#

**Ivan Soroka**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
IRT 2011-12



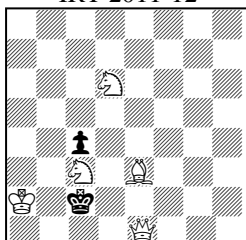
S#11 8+12

**Ya'akov Mintz**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
IRT 2011-12



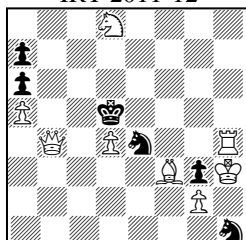
S#26 7+2

**Torsten Linß**  
**1<sup>st</sup> HM**  
IRT 2011-12



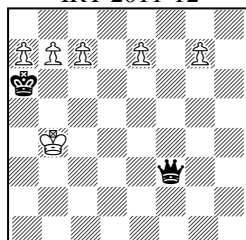
S#7 5+2

**Ivan Soroka**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> HM**  
IRT 2011-12



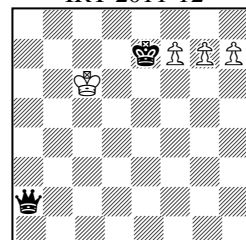
S#9 8+6

**Ya'akov Mintz**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> HM**  
IRT 2011-12



S#14 6+2

**Ya'akov Mintz**  
**4<sup>th</sup> HM**  
IRT 2011-12



S#15 4+2

**5<sup>th</sup> HM: Var. 2212 Anatoly Styopochkin.** Interesting two solutions problem. It is unfortunate that the solutions are not too different, where white just tries to force the black king into position. I wish there was a Zilahi between the solutions, but the pawn on c4 is not captured. The repeated Qd7 also detracts a bit. 1...exf3# **1.fxe4!** ♖xe4 2.♗d7 ♜f4 3.♙d2 ♖e4 4.♞e1 ♜f4 5.♘d1 + ♖e4 6.♗d3 + cxd3# **1.♞c1!** :exf3 + 2.♖d1 ♖e4 3.♗d7 ♜f4 4.♘d5 + ♖e4 5.♗e6 + ♖d3 6.♗e2 + fxe2#  
**Commendations without order:**

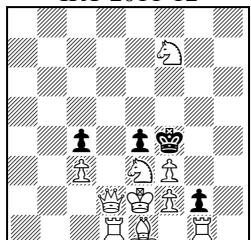
**Var. 2080 & 2081 Ya'akov Mintz.** Similar to some previous problems in the award. The unique solutions are good but the content itself is not strategic or logical.

2080: **1.g8=♖+** ♖h6 2.f8=♙+ ♖h5 3.e8=♖+ ♖h4 4.♗e4! ♜h5 5.♗eg6+ ♖h4 6.♗h6+ ♙h5 7.♜h1 ♜h3 8.♙c5 ♖h4 9.♙g1 ♜h3 10.♖c4 ♜g3 11.♗hf4+ ♜h3 12.♗f3+ ♙xf3#

2081: **1.b8=♖+** ♙d8 2.c7 ♖d7 3.c8=♖+ ♖e8 4.f7+ ♖e7 5.♖c5+ ♖e6! (5...♖d7 ? 6.f8=♘+ ke8 7.♘h7 ♖d7 8.♖bc8+ , ♖bd6+ etc, S#14 ) 6.♖b3+ ♖d7 7.f8=♘+ ♖e8 8.♖e6+ ♙e7 9.♘h7 ♖d8 10.♖cb6+ ♖e8 11.♖bc6+ ♖d8 12.♖g8+! ♙f8+ 13.♜h8 ♖e7 14.♖g5+ ♖f7 15.♖g7 + ♙xg7#

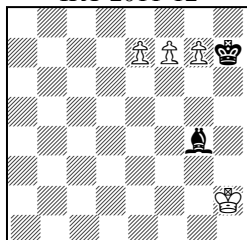
**Var. 2303 Anatoly Styopochkin.** Nice Fata Morgana, but simple compared to the previous ones. 1...axb3# **1.♞b2+** ♖xa3 2.♞a2+! ♖xa2 3.♖b1 ♖a3 4. ♖b4+ ♖a2 5. c4 a3 6.c5 bxc5 7.♖c3 c4 8.♖c1 cxd3 9.♖b2 axb2#

**Anatoly Styopochkin**  
5<sup>th</sup> HM  
IRT 2011-12



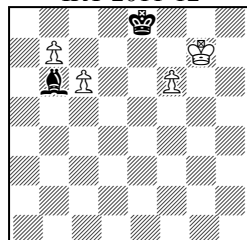
S#6\* 2.1.1... 10+3

**Ya'akov Mintz**  
Com  
IRT 2011-12



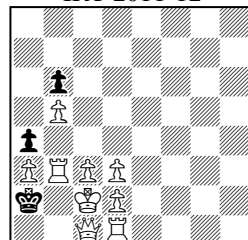
S#12 4+2

**Ya'akov Mintz**  
Com  
IRT 2011-12



S#15 4+2

**Anatoly Styopochkin**  
Com  
IRT 2011-12



S#9\* 9+3