

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Selfmates – 2013-14

Judge: Paz Einat

As the intended judge was unable to produce the award, I took it upon myself to judge this tourney. During this period 25 good quality selfmates were published, dominated by longer problems.

1st Prize: Var. 2353 Zoltan Labai

The principle looks somewhat simple: the S's unguard a square on which the WQ can sacrifice itself to activate the black royal battery. In the threat, only Sc5 can do the work & after 2.Sbxd3 Rxd3 the BR guards d5. This changes after 1...Bd4, blocking the WQ line to e4 but also the BR line to d5, enabling now 2.Sbxd3. The other two variations provide a unified Umnov: both defenses interfere with the royal battery and the replies cause the black pieces to return, reopen the battery and enable the WQ sacrifices. Excellent quartet.

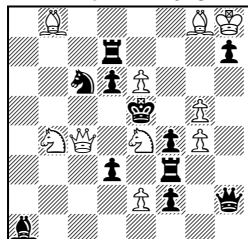
1. ♖c5! [2. ♖cxd3+ (♖bd3?) ♖xd3 3. ♖e4+ ♖xe4#]

1... ♗d4 2. ♖bxd3+ (♖cd3?) ♖xd3 3. ♖d5+ ♖xd5#

1... ♖g7 2. ♖d7+ ♖xd7 3. ♖e4+ ♖xe4# 1... ♖d4 2. ♖c6+ ♖xc6 3. ♖d5+ ♖xd5#

Zoltan Labai

1st Prize IRT 2013-14



S#3

10+11

2nd Prize: Var. 2618 Andrey Selivanov

The problem show two variations with buildup of B/S batteries leading to check on h3. These variations are basically the same as in the Degener predecessor (see at the end). However, the threat is now full-length and, importantly, it activates the R/B battery again with the bishop moving to a third square. This leads to higher unity and better overall impression.

1. ♗d3? [2. ♖e4+ ♖f5 3. ♖f2+ ♖g5 4. ♖xh3+ ♗xh3#] 1... ♖f6 2. ♖a5+ ♖d5 3. ♖e4+ ♖f5 4. ♖f2+ ♖g5 5. ♖xh3 ♗xh3# but 1... ♖xd6!

1. ♖a5! [2. ♖g4+ ♖xh5 3. ♗xe2+ ♗g5 4. ♖h4+ ♖xg6 5. ♗d3 ♗xd3#]

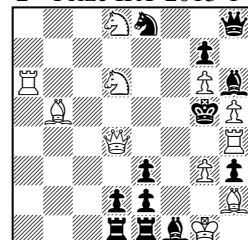
1... ♖xd6 2. ♖e6+ ♖f5 3. ♗d7+ ♖b5 4. ♖f4+ ♖g5 5. ♖xh3 ♗xh3#

1... ♖f8 2. ♖e4+ ♖f5 3. ♗d3+ ♖c5 4. ♖f2+ ♖g5 5. ♖xh3 ♗xh3#

Andrey Selivanov

after Udo Degener

2nd Prize IRT 2013-14



S#5v

11+12

3rd Prize: Var. 2619 Gennadi Koziura & Valery Kopyl

Unique chameleon-echo mates achieved in two varied variations. While the black knight is immediately self-pinned in the 1...Sxg6 variation, white must actively pin this knight in the other variation.

1. ♖g4! zz 1... ♗xg6 2. ♖h5 ♖e5 3. ♖g5+ ♖e6 4. ♗f8+ ♖d6 5. ♗d8+ ♖e5 6. ♗d5+ ♖f6 7. ♖g5+ ♖xg5# (3... ♖d6 4. ♗c5+ ♖e6 5. ♗f8+ ♖f6 6. ♖g5 ♖xg5#)

1... ♗f7 2. ♗d4+ ♖e6 3. ♗g8+ ♖f5 4. ♗d7+ ♖e5 5. ♖h5+ ♗g5 6. ♖e7+ ♖f5 7. ♗g4+ ♖xg4#

1st HM: Var. 2468 Torsten Linß

Miniature AUW with nice twinning. I like the way the BK is precisely controlled in the final position leading to the mate.

a) 1. e8=♖+ ♖d7 2. ♗d3+ ♖c6 3. ♖e6+ ♖c5 4. ♗d6+ ♖c6/ ♖b6 5. ♗b4+ ♖c7 6. ♗a5+ ♖b6/ ♖c8 7. f8=♗ ♖c6+ ♖c8/ ♖c7 8. ♖c6+ / f8=♗ ♖c6 9. ♖a6+ ♖a6#

b) 1. f8=♖+ ♖c7, ♖d7 2. ♗d8+ ♖c6 3. e8=♗+ ♖d7 4. ♗d4 ♖b5 5. ♖c8 ♖a5 6. ♖8c5+ ♖a6 7. ♖f6+ ♖d6 8. ♖a3+ ♖b6 9. ♗d8+ ♖d8#

2nd HM: Var. 2620 Gennadi Koziura

A very nice chameleon-echo with good dual avoidance and nice play by the WR's. We accept as natural when some white pieces are inactive in variation play, but here I find the situation more like two solutions and, thus, I regard as a flaw the fact that the WB is active in only one variation and the WS only the other. 1. ♗b6! 1...hg 2. ♖e5(♖a5?) g5 3. ♖a4 g4 4. ♗c5 g3 5. Dd1+ ♖b2 6. ♖e2+ ♖c3 7. Dc1+ ♖xc1# 1...h6 2. ♖f5(♖b5?) h5 3. ♖b4 h4 4. ♗f1 h3 5. ♖e1+ ♖c2 6. ♖f2+ ♖d3 7. ♗d1+ ♖xd1#

3rd HM: Var. 2518 Aleksandr Azhusin

Mating the WK on d3 requires one WQ move while doing it on h3 requires two WQ moves. This separates the two BP moves and lead to the two tries. Very nice.

1. ♖e3?A a5! a 1. ♖g2? ♗ a6! b 1. ♖g8! zz 1...a6 b 2. ♖e3!A a5 3. ♖e2 a4 4. ♖d3 a3 5. ♗d5+ ♖e5 6. ♗e2zz ♖xd5# 1...a5 a 2. ♖g2!B a4 3. ♖h3 a3 4. ♖h7+ ♖g6 5. ♖h5+ ♖g5 6. ♗g2zz ♖xh5#

4th HM: Var. 2521 Steve B.Dowd

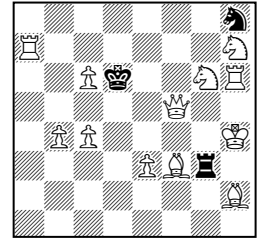
The move 1.Bb1 is a defensive move causing 1...b3 & 2...b3 to lead to shorter selfmates. After 3...a2 is played the bishop can return to its starting position. In the 3...b3 sub-variation we see a different strategy and another minor promotion.

1... ♗b1! a4! (1...b3? 2.e8=♗+ and s#6) 2.f8=♖ a3! (3...b3? s#7) 3. ♖c7 a2 4. ♗f5 b3 5. ♖g8+ ♖f7 6. ♗h6+ ♖xf6 7. ♖c3+ ♖xe7 8. ♖e5+ ♗xe5# 3...b3 4.e8=♗+ ♖xf8 5. ♖c5+ ♖f7 6. ♗h6+ ♖e6 7. ♗c7+ ♖f6 8. ♖e7 ♖xe7#

Gennadi Koziura

Valery Kopyl

3rd Prize IRT 2013-14

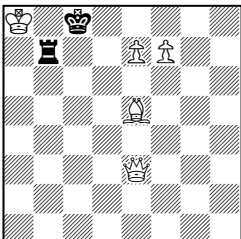


S#7

12+3

Torsten Linß

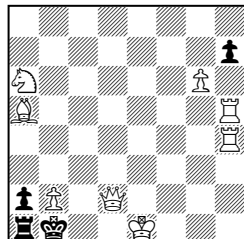
1st HM IRT 2013-14



S#9 b) - ♗e5 5+2

Gennadi Koziura

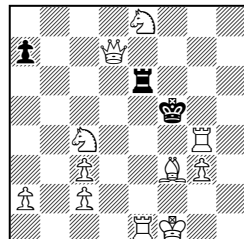
2nd HM IRT 2013-14



S#7 8+4

Aleksandr Azhusin

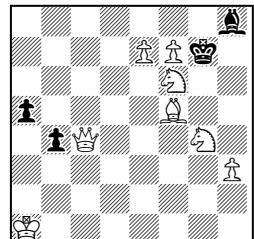
3rd HM IRT 2013-14



S#6vv 11+3

Steve B.Dowd

4th HM IRT 2013-14



S#8 8+4

5th HM: Var. 2522 Torsten Linß

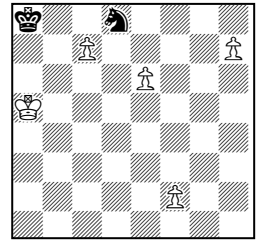
The Excelsior and 4 promotions leave a good impression. It is impossible, of course, to guess where the WK will be mated.

1.c8=♙+ ♖a7 2.♗a6+ ♜b8 3.h8=♖ ♜c7 4.♗b6+ ♜c8 5.e7 ♜d7 6.e8=♗+ ♜c8 7.♗bc6+ ♜b8 8.♖h4 ♖a7 9.♗e3+ ♜b8 10.♖b4+ ♜b7+ 11.♖a4 ♖a8 12.f4 ♜b8 13.f5 ♖a8 14.f6 ♜b8 15.f7 ♖a8 16.f8=♜ ♜b8 17.♜d7+ ♖a8 18.♗a3 ♖a7 19.♗c7 ♖a6, ♖a8 20.♗c8+ ♖a7 21.♗b8+ ♖a6 22.♜c5+ ♜xc5#

Commendations without order

Torsten Linß

5th HM IRT 2013-14



S#22

5+2

Var. 2356 Yaaqov Mintz

Four promotions are needed to take the BK for a walk and “spin” it a bit around its initial location in the up left corner. In both variations it involves 4 promotions: 4WQ’s in one and 3WQ+1WB in the other. 1.d8=♙ ♖a7 2.♗b6 ♖a8 3.♗a6 ♜b8 4.e8=♗ ♜c7 5.♗a5 ♜b7!* 6.♗aa8 ♜c7 7.♗ec8 ♜d6 8.f8=♗ ♜e5 9.♗c3 ♜e6 10.g8=♗ ♜d7 11.♗fe8 ♜d6 12.♗b4 ♜c7 13.♗aa5 ♜b7 14.♗c6 ♗xc6# [*5...♜d6? 6.f8=♗ 7.♖a4 ♜c4 (♜d4 8.♜d2 9.♗e6 ♜d5 10.♗ff4 11.♗fd4 ♗xd4 12.♗b4 ♗xb4#) 8.♗e2 9.♗f4 ♜e4 10.g8=♗/♗ ♗xf4 11.♗b6 12.♗b4 ♗xb4#] 1...♜b7 2.♗b6 ♜c8 3.f8=♗ ♜d7 4.e8=♗ ♜c8 5.♗h5 ♜d7 6.♗fd6 ♜c8 7.♗bd8 ♜b7 8.♗8c7 ♖a8 9.♗a5 ♜b7 10.♗db6 ♜c8 11.g8=♗ ♜d7 12.♗g4 ♜e7 13.♗gb4 ♜d7 14.♗c6 ♗xc6#

Var. 2401 Steven B. Dowd

To enforce the set mate white needs to regain a position with tempo move. The accurate key and precise maneuver are pleasing. 1...dxe5 2.♗d6 e4# 1.♖g7! dxe5 2.♗d7+ ♜f6 3.♗e7+ ♜f5 4.♖f7+ ♜g6 5.♗f6+ ♜h5 6.♗h8+ ♜g6 7.Tg7+ ♜f5! 8.♗h3+ ♜f6 9.♗h6+ ♜f5 10.♖g3! e4#

Var. 2466 Raffi Ruppin

The difference between self & reflex mates is shown by the need to promote queens in the self-mate, to force the mates, while WB & WR must be promoted in the reflex-mate to evade mates by White.

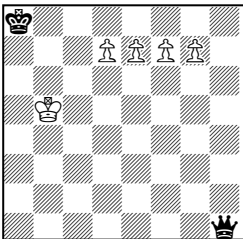
a) 1.d7!zz 1...a3 2.b8=♗ ~ 3.♗xe5+ ♗xe5# 1...gxh2 2.d8=♗ ~ 3.♗d5+ exd5#

b) 1.d7! zz 1...a3 2.b8=♗ (2.b8=♗?) 3.♗xe5 ♗xe5# 1...gxh2 2.d8=♗ (2.d8=♗?) 3.♗d5 exd5#

Var. 2467 Steven B. Dowd

The quiet move sequence, especially at W7, make this interesting. Also, the short variation after 1...Kh4, using Sg6 move earlier, is nice. 1.♗d2! ♗xg4! (1...♗xg6#??; 1...♖h4? 2.♖h6 ♜h3 3.♜f8 ♜h4 4.♜g6+ ♜h3 5.♗f1+ ♜g4 6.♗d3! and s#7) 2.♖h6+ ♗h5 3.♜f8 ♜h4 4.♗d1 ♜h3 5.♗e2 ♜h4 6.♗d3 ♜g4 7.♜g6 ♗xg6 8.♗e4+ ♗xe4#

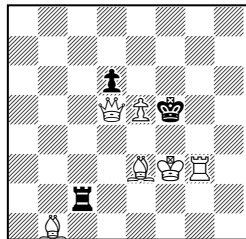
Yaaqov Mintz
Com IRT 2013-14



S#14

5+2

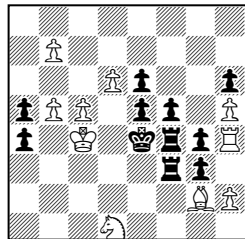
Steven B. Dowd
Com IRT 2013-14



S#10*

6+3

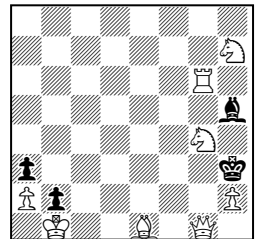
Raffi Ruppin
Com IRT 2013-14



S#3

b) R#3 10+11

Steven B. Dowd
Com IRT 2013-14



S#8

8+4

Var. 2519 Milomir Babic

Minor promotions with mates by the BR on d5 and c4. Moving the BP to b5 in the 1st solution is nice.

A) 1.e8=♖ ♖e4 2.♖f3 ♖e5 3.♖d6 ♖e6 4.d8=♖ ♖e5 5.♖b5 cxb5 6.♖c6 ♖e6 7.♖d5 ♖xd5#

b) 1.e8=♗ ♖e4 2.♖e6 ♖d3 3.♗eg6 ♖e4 4.♗e5 ♖e3 5.♖e2 ♖d3 6.♗d6 ♖c3 7.♖c4 ♖xc4#

Var. 2574 Zoltan Labai

A very nice maneuver ending with an unexpected white battery formation and cross-check-mate.

1.♖d5? A zz 1...f6 a 2.♖g1 B f5 3.♗h3 f4 4.♗g2+ f3 5.♖e1 fxg2 6.♖b1 b3 7.♖d4+ c2# but 1...f5!

1.♖g1! B zz 1...f6 a 2.♖d5 A f5 3.♗h3 f4 4.♗g2+ f3 5.♖e1 fxg2 6.♖b1 b3 7.♖d4+ c2#

Udo Degener (predecessor to 2nd Prize)

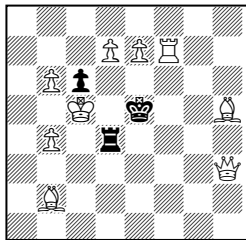
1.♗b5 ! [2.♖f7 + ♖xf5 3.♖e4 ~ 4.♖h3 +♖xh3#

1...c2 2.♖e4 + ♖xf5 3.♗d3 + ♗e5 4.♖f2 + ♖g5 5.♖h3 + ♖xh3#

1...♗xd6 2.♖e6 + ♖xf5 3.♗d7 + ♗c5/♗e5 4.♖f4 + ♖g5 5.♖h3 + ♖xh3#

Milomir Babic

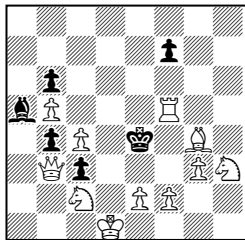
Com IRT 2013-14



S#7 b)♖f7→f2 9+3

Zoltan Labai

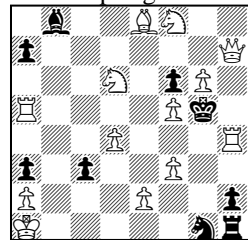
Com IRT 2013-14



S#7v 11+6

Udo Degener

1st HM Springaren 1997



S#5 13+9