

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Selfmates – 2015-16

Judge: Mark Erenburg

17 problems were published in the Selfmate section in six 2015-2016 issues of VARIANTIM. The level, unfortunately, was not more than average. Two-movers did not express any interesting theme and most of long-movers represented only one variant without any specific idea. And not a single three-mover?! Too often I ask myself: what was the reason behind the conception of this problem?? Why the problemist composed it? – and didn't find the answer. Several necessary comments:

Var. 2660 was candidate for prize but is cooked in 9 moves: 1. Rd8! Kb6 2. Qb1- and further as in the solution.

Var. 2808 very typical scheme with two Popandopulo batteries is simply redone to s# by adding black battery on the first line.

Var. 2710 I don't know how the author tested his problem, but even if everything is correct, the beauty and the sense of such compositions escape from me. My apologies, simply no luck with the judge.

I propose the following ranking:

1st Prize: Var. 2807- Eugene Fomichev

Initial white battery attacks as a predator from an ambush: three times its front piece (knight) throws the black king away from the 8th line, and the rear one (queen) makes an exact decisive blow, preventing further escape of the king to the 5th line. Excellent key. Nice problem!

1. ♖g8! zz 1...c6 2. ♖f6+! ♖c7 3. ♖xd5+ ♖d6 4. ♖b8+! ♖xb8#

1...c5 2. ♖d6+! ♖c7 3. ♖b5+ ♖c6 4. ♖e8+! ♖xe8#

1...dxc4 2. ♖xc7+ ♖xc7 3. ♖xc4+ ♖d6 4. ♖d8+ ♖xd8#

2nd Prize: Var. 2809 Jozef Holubec

Neuman twins- relatively rare for the genre, but a promising direction. Here two echo-mates are realized in a light form. A good impression is enhanced by a complete analogy of the final maneuver with the quiet obstruction of a black bishop.

1. ♖f6+ ♖h6 2. ♖h7 ♖h5 3. ♖d3 ♖h6 4. ♖f8+ ♖h5 5. ♖e3 ♖g4 6. ♖f5+ ♖g3 7. ♖f2+ ♖g4 8. ♖e2+ ♖g3 9. ♖g5 ♖xg5#

1. ♖e7 ♖h6 2. ♖e5 ♖h5 3. ♖g7 ♖h6 4. ♖f5+ ♖h5 5. ♖g3+ ♖h6 6. ♖d7 ♖g5 7. ♖g8+ ♖h6 8. ♖e6+ ♖g5 9. ♖d5 ♖xg3#

1st Honourable Mention: Var. 2806 Alexandr Pankratiev

Pretty black correction with reciprocal change of mates in two variants.

1. ♖c2! zz 1...♖b4~ 2. ♖e7+ ♖gxe7# 1...♖c6! 2. ♖f7+ ♖bxf7, ♖gxf7#

1...♖c4~ 2. ♖f7 ♖gxf7# 1...♖d6! 2. ♖e7+ ♖gxe7#

2nd Honourable Mention: Var. 2856 Anatoly Styopochkin

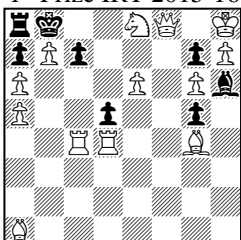
"Fata morgana" with rather original readjustment of white and black pieces.

1...f4 2. ♖g7 f3#

1. ♖d6! f4 2. ♖e6+ ♖d4 3. ♖e5+ ♖c4 4. ♖b1 f3+ 5. ♖e1+ e2 6. ♖c5+ ♖d3 7. ♖d1+ ♖e4 8. ♖d4+ ♖e3 9. ♖h3 f2#

Eugene Fomichev

1st Prize IRT 2015-16

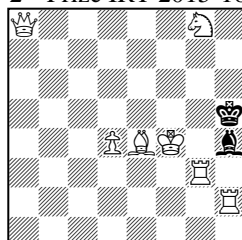


S#4

13+8

Jozef Holubec

2nd Prize IRT 2015-16

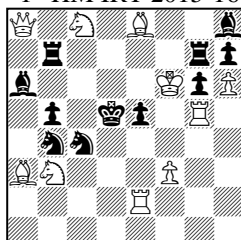


S#9

2.1.1.. 7+2

Alexandr Pankratiev

1st HM IRT 2015-16

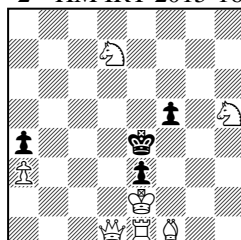


S#2

10+11

Anatoly Stiopachkin

2nd HM IRT 2015-16



S#9*

7+4

3rd Honourable Mention: Var. 2903 Semion Shifrin

Here we have a full-length try and play-change in one of the variants, but without some kind of unifying idea.

1. ♖d6? [2. ♜xb5+ ♜xb5 3. ♖c4+ ♜xc4 4. ♖c2 bxc2#]
 1... ♜xd6 2. ♜xd6+ ♖xc8 3. ♖xb3+ ♖xb3 4. ♖c2 ♖xc2#
 1... ♖g4 2. ♖d5+ ♜xd5 3. ♖e4+ ♖xe4 4. ♖e1 ♖xe1# but 1... ♜c7!
1. ♖b6! [2. ♖a4+ bxa4 3. ♖c4+ ♜xc4 4. ♖c2 bxc2#]
 1... ♜d6 2. ♜xd6+ ♖xc8 3. ♖xb3+ ♖xb3 4. ♖c2 ♖xc2#
 1... ♖g4 2. ♖ed5+ ♜xd5 3. ♖xb3+ ♖xb3 4. ♖xb2 ♖xb2#

4th Honourable Mention: Var. 2902 Roy Ehrlich and Evgeni Bourd

This problem unexpectedly put the judge in face of a dilemma: on one hand, a very nice piece of popular style with elegant black bishop catching, but on the other hand, the annoying negligence of the authors, who for some reason put a white bishop on g5 instead of a quite possible pawn and thus violated the principle of material economy. After heavy reflection, I decided not to scratch out the work of composers, but the place in the award could have been much higher...

- 1. ♖b3!** [2. ♖a1+ ♖c2 3. ♖f2+ f5 4. ♖b2+ ♜xb2#]
 1... f5 2. ♖e1+ ♖c2 3. ♖a1+ ♜xa1 4. ♖b2! ♜xb2# 1... fxg5 2. ♖f4+ ♖c4 3. ♖d5+ ♜d4 4. ♖b4! axb4#

1st Commendation: Var. 2755 Evgeni Bourd

The same mates for the different black moves, however without any specific theme.

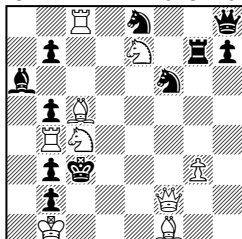
1. ♖g6? [2. ♜xe5+ ♜xe5, ♖xe5#] but 1... ♖d8!
 1. ♖g5? [2. ♜xe4+ ♖xe4#] 1... ♜f5, ♖g8 2. ♜xe5+ ♜xe5, ♖xe5# 1... f3 2. ♖b4+ ♜xb4# but 1... ♖h8!
1. ♖xf4! [2. ♖b4+ ♜xb4#] 1... ♜xf4 2. ♜xe4+ ♖xe4# 1... exf4 2. ♖e5+ ♜xe5, ♖xe5#

2nd Commendation: Var. 2658 Ivan Soroka

One more simple exercise on the theme "how to drag promoted black pieces to the mating squares".

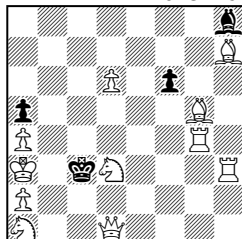
1. ♖g6! zz 1... h1=♜ 2. ♜c6 ♜g3 3. ♖f4+ ♖e3 4. ♖h3+ ♖d3 5. ♜e4+ ♜xe4 6. ♖f2+ ♜xf2#
 1... h1=♜ 2. ♖d6+ ♜d5 3. ♖f4+ ♖e3 4. ♖b6+ ♖d3 5. ♖a3 ♖c3 6. ♖f3+ ♜xf3#

Semion Shifrin
3rd HM IRT 2015-16



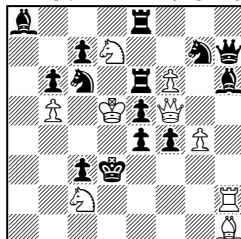
S#4 9+1

R. Ehrlich E. Bourd
4th HM IRT 2015-16



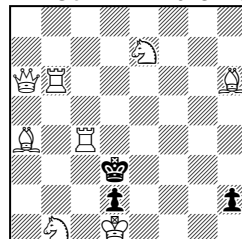
S#4 11+4

Evgeni Bourd
1st Com IRT 2015-16



S#2 9+14

Ivan Soroka
2nd Com IRT 2015-16



S#6 8+3