

Provisional Award in SuperProblem 2023 Informal Tourney – Helpmates in two moves

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I would like to thank the editor for sending me the participating problems in a uniform database. He also reported several similar problems and anticipations during the publication of the originals, and this simplified my analysis.

37 helpmates in two took part the tournament: the general level is average.

List of participating problems: E1256, E1257, E1261, E1263, E1267, E1273, E1277, E1278, E1282, E1284, E1284a, E1286, E1287, E1288, E1289, E1292, E1293, E1293a, E1295, E1297, E1300, E1303, E1305, E1307, E1307a, E1309, E1310, E1311, E1312, E1318, E1320, E1325, E1326, E1330, E1331, E1334, E1338.

Considerations on some of the excluded:

E1263 – The crosses in king and rook movements were already achieved several times. See for example P0504011, P0503256, P0503280 on the Chess Problem Database Server. Solutions in c) and d) are symmetrical.

E1267 – Lacks homogeneity.

E1273 – Can be compared to P0521609.

E1278 – Can be compared to P1293351.

E1284, E1284a – A well thought out problem, but the content is simple.

E1287 – It is sound even without continue twins. They have no strategic purpose, but only to eliminate the useless units.

E1293 – Moves B2 and W2 are repeated in twins b) and d). In the version 1293a the Sh1 does nothing in one solution.

E1295 – Well-known idea: see P0528446, P0537249.

E1310 – Zilahi but simple black strategy.

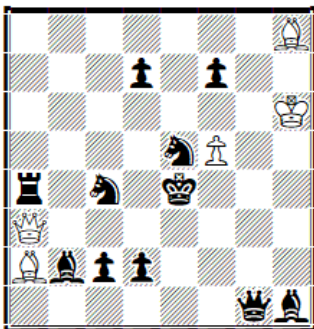
E1311 – There are similarities with Anatoly SKRIPNIK, 11th-12th HM S. Milewski - 80 Jubilee, which also has an extra solution. I think that 1311 at least deserved publication, presenting the W1s by the same piece.

E1312 – The pinning of the wQ is superfluous. For example: 7K/2pQ3b/2P3q1/1p4p1/2k5/3r3r/4P1P1/5B2.

E1326 – Nice, but well-known anticipatory self-pins. See for example P0547721.

E1338 – It would have convinced me more with homogeneous W1.

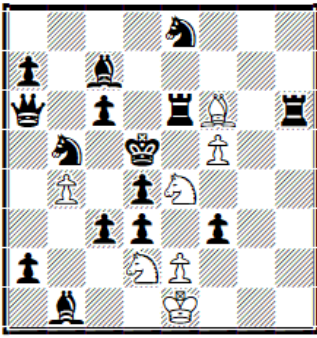
1° Prize – E1297 Kenan Velikhanov (Azerbaijan)



H# 2 4.1.1.1 5+11

A well thought out HOTF. Four pin mates by the wQ, which is supported by one of the bishops, while the other pins a black piece. In each pair, the mating move of one solution and the W1 of the other are played nicely on the same square. It is remarkable the exchange of functions of the two black knights. One is self-pinned by the bK movements, the other is captured, once at W1 and once at the mating move.

2° Prize – E1334 Pavel Murashev (Russia)

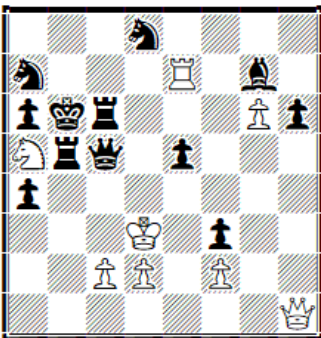


H#2 4.1.1.1 7+15

The idea of combining four B1 moves on the same square with the Albino theme is ambitious and worthy of consideration, but it has already been developed. See for example P1250220.

It must be said that the move Se8-d6, unlike the others, does not involve a self-block, because the bS will move again to sacrifice itself on c4, in harmony with the solution 1.Rd6. In such solutions there is the Zilahi, but this causes further disharmony, because in one solution the wPe2 moves at W2, while in the other three it moves at W1.

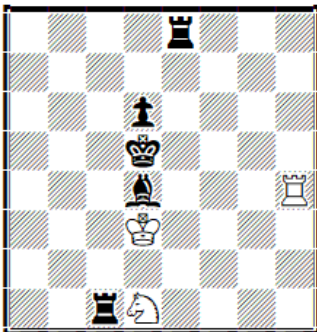
3° Prize – E1305 Anatoly Skripnik (Russia)



H#2 2.1.1.1 b) wBe7 8+12

Four pin mates. Two times the wQ pins the black piece which had annihilate a wP, with next Pelle movement by black to occupy the square adjacent to the bK. Two times the wQ mates exploiting the pin of the bQ by the piece that changes into the twin mechanism. The correspondence is not perfect, but the construction difficulties were overcome with skill.

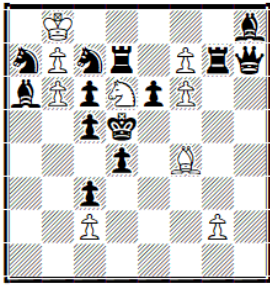
4° Prize – E1309 Miguel Uris (Spain)



H#2 4.1.1.1 3+5

Surprising fourfold W1/W2 cycle with two pairs of echo-mates in an economical position.

1st H.M. – E1257 Janos Csak (Hungary)

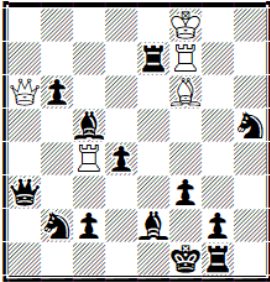


H#2 7.1.1.1 9+13

Seven-folder task with black sacrifices at B1 and B2 to allow the movements of white pawns. In five solutions the first sacrifice precedes a white promotion and the second abandons a guard for the mating move by the promoted piece. The other two solutions were added to create the task, but they are out of the box, since a white promotion is missing and wPc2 is useless in the solutions with promotion.

2nd H.M. – E1292 Vitaly Medintsev (Russia)

(ded.to A. Skripnik – 65)

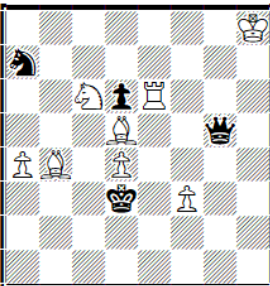


H#2 2.1.1.1 5+13

There are two white direct masked batteries. In turn, one is destroyed capturing the front piece, the other fires to pin. A bi-valve movement at B2 allows the rear unit of the first battery to give mate, with function exchanges of all battery units.

3rd H.M. – E1282 Vitaly Medintsev (Russia)

(ded.to I. Antipin – 70)



H#2 4.1.1.1 8+4

Four pleasant solutions in HOTF form. In a pair one of two black pieces moves in turn twice to selfblock. In the other the same pieces capture in turn a white unit to create a flight for the black king.

1st Commended – E1307 Valey Gurov (Russia)

Dual avoidance in the headways by the bQ, model pin-mates, Zilahi.

2nd Commended – E1286 Vidadi Zamanov (Azerbaijan)

Two couples with Zilahi, but one lacks homogeneity.

3rd Commended – E1318 Aleksandr Pankratiev (Russia)

A problem with cyclical Zilahi.

4th Commended – E1277 Valey Gurov (Russia) (ded. To B. Shorokhov-55)

In the first pair white abandons b4 and e3. In the second one, black clears the same squares by captures. Identical mates in the two couples.

5th Commended – E1331 Dimitris Liakos (Greece)

AUW through progressive elimination of black material in twins. In c) is not necessary to remove the bPd4 but it becomes so in twin d).

6th Commended – E1256 Janos Csák (Hungary)

Würzburg - Plachutta combined with black battery dismantling to specify the order of black moves.

7th Commended – 1325 Alexey Ivunin (Russia) – A miniature with only six pieces where the solutions are paired in their strategies.

8th Commended – E1330 Antonio Garofalo (Italy)

Three selfblocks on the same square with line opening for a second selfblock. A cyclical strategy would have raised the quality of this problem.

9th Commended – E1273 Gábor Tar (Hungary)

Progressive elimination of white pawns starting in each twin by the previous mating position without the mating pawn. Play in twin b), c), d) is rather similar.

10th Commended – E1261 Anatoly Skripnik (Russia)

Preventive anti-checking interference, self-pin, battery mate.

11th Commended – E1288 Dmitri Zhilko(+) (Belarus)

Zilahi. The Phénix theme in one solution is a good found.

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