

LOGICAL UNCASTLING

Thematic composing tourney for problems and studies

Theme. In diagram position, a main plan is refuted by black castling. Nevertheless, at the beginning of the solution the White execute the main plan forcing black castling. After that the White force the Black King to return back on e8 and Rook – to its initial corner. At the end of the solution the White execute the main plan **again**, and the Black cannot refute it due to illegality of the castling. Full announcement with examples is [here](#).

Tourney participants



Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe
(Norway)



Ralf Krättschmer
(Germany)



Aleksey Oganessian
(Russia)

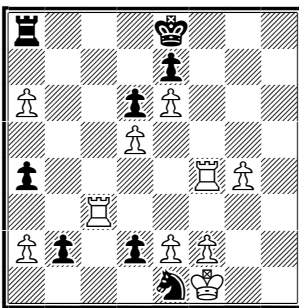
Tourney judge

A very symbolic TT deadline – of about 9 month! – was set not by chance. As a result of the tourney, in our composing family («Gens una sumus») there were born once more two children from mother-theme «Logical uncastling»: son-study and daughter-moreover.

Since the theme is new and very difficult, every thematic composition is of interest and value. That's why the judge has decided to include the both submitted entries in this award.

Geir Sune Tallaksen Østmoe (Norway) Prize

TT «Logical uncastling», 2017



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10+8

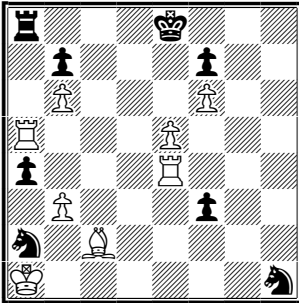
1. ♖h3! (main plan 2. ♜h8#) **1...0-0-0 2.a7**
(2. ♜b4? ♕f3! →) **2...♗b7** (2... ♗c7 3. ♜c3+!
♗b6 4. ♜b4+ ♗a5 5. ♜b8 ♜:b8 6.a:b8 ♖ d1 ♖
7. ♖c7+/ ♜c7 →) **3.a8 ♖+!** (3. ♜b4+? ♗a8! →)
3... ♜:a8 4. ♜b4+ ♗c7 (4... ♗a7/ ♗a6 5. ♜a3
d1 ♖ 6. ♜a:a4+ ♖:a4 7. ♜:a4+ ♗b6 8. ♜b4+!
♗c5 9. ♜:b2 ♗:d5 10. ♗:e1 →, but not 8. ♜:a8?
♗c7! ⇒) **5. ♜c3+ ♗d8 6. ♜f4 ♗e8.**

It is an initial position but without castling (and without wPa6). Now the main plan **7. ♖h3!** (8. ♜h8#) succeeds: **7... ♗d8 8. ♜c4 b1 ♖/d1 ♖ 9. ♜h8#.**

But if Black may castling, they would reach a draw (without wPa6): 7...0-0-0 8. ♜c3+ ♗b7 9. ♜b4+ ♗a6! 10. ♜c6+ (10. ♜a3? d1 ♖ 11. ♜a:a4+ ♖:a4 12. ♜:a4+ ♗b5! →) 10... ♗a7 11. ♜:a4+ ♗b7 12. ♜b4+ ♗a7 =.

A clear implementation of the theme including switchbacks of two white pieces (as it was done in the pioneer problem s#9). And this despite the fact that there are no other white officers, just Pawns. The play is quite subtle and double-edged: if White make a wrong move then they even risk losing. All these nuances coupled with the very fact of first realization of the theme in study genre are worthy of a Prize and a victory in this TT.

Ralf Krättschmer (Germany)
Special Commendation
TT «Logical uncastling», 2017



#6

8+8

Surprisingly, capture of black Rook doesn't reach the goal: 1. ♖:a8+? ♜d7:

- 2. ♜c4 (3. ♜f5#) ♜e6 3. ♜e8+ ♜d7 4. ♜f5+! ♜:e8 5. ♜c8#, but 2... ♙g3! 3. ♜a5 ♜e6! 4. ♜c7/♜d4 ♙f5!;

- 2. ♜a5 - 3. ♜d4+ ♜c6/♜e6 4. ♜d6#, 3... ♜e8/♜c8 4. ♜a8#, but 2... ♜c6! 3. ♜c4+/♜d4 ♜:b6!

The mate threat on another corner square by another Rook succeeds:

1. ♜h4! - (♜:a5) 2. ♜f5 - 3. ♜h8# (1... ♜d7 2. ♜d4+)

Main variation: **1...0-0-0 2. ♜c4+!** (2. ♜c5+? ♜b8!) **2... ♜d7 3. ♜f5+ ♜e8 4. ♜a8!! ♜:a8 5. ♜h4 - 6. ♜h8#, 4...f2/a:b3/♙c1/♙b4 5. ♜:d8+ ♜:d8 6. ♜c8#.**

Additional variation: **2... ♜b8 3. ♜c:a4! ♜d1+!** (3... ♜c8 4. ♜f5+ ~ 5. ♜a8#) **4. ♜:d1 ♜c8 5. ♜d4/♜d5 - 6. ♜a8#, 5... ♜b8 6. ♜d8#.**

Let's start with shortcomings:

- there is a lack of original features compared to #6 from the announcement;
- when Black King and Rook returned back on their initial squares, it turns out the following. The castling is impossible not only in view of King and Rook have been already moved but also in view of the square c8 is guarded by White Bishop now. I consider such violation of foreplan purity as a little drawback in this theme, though the conditions do not forbid it;

- compared to two compositions from the announcement and to study of Norwegian author, here the key does not contain any paradox – wRe4 hides behind wPe5 and closes a line for wBc2, that's why it's obvious that it is needed to activate the both: Rook and Bishop;

- there are no any switchback of at least one White piece – it is a feature that underlines the theme in three compositions mentioned above.

Nevertheless there are positive moments in this problem:

- as well as in Østmoe's study, here we see concerted actions of two White Rooks on neighbor ranks, and a subtlety of these actions is underline by dual-avoidance 2. ♜c4+! (2. ♜c5+?) in the main variation. If such dual-avoidance would be also in additional variation 2... ♜b8 then it would be excellent. But unfortunately, instead it we see, on the contrary, a dual 5. ♜d4/♜d5, that, however, can be considered as weak, «geometric»;

- I was pleasantly surprised by the courage of the author who placed wRa5 in an open confrontation with Black colleague a8. This fact, at least partially, compensates a weakness of the key – inexperienced solver will try to capture bRa8 first, and experienced solver will be surprised that it does not lead to the desired goal.

Despite the shortcomings mentioned above, I decided to give a Special Commendation for this problem. This distinction is primarily given for the fact that the author overcame all technical difficulties and brought to its logical conclusion (in all senses) his attempt to compose a problem for this complex theme in order to make his modest contribution to the theme history.

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The tourney theme requires at least 6 moves and can be shown only in genres with a struggle of sides. Therefore, at the present moment, after little more than a year of its existence, the theme is already embodied in all three possible genres – direct mates, selfmates and studies. In the future, it would be interesting to see a synthesis of this theme with another themes/ideas, for instance with downright obvious Vallodao task.

Many thanks to all who was at least trying to compose something for this TT. And, of course, special thanks to the two authors who succeeded! We will wait for new problems and studies on this new theme! Go for it, colleagues!

**Judge Aleksey Oganesjan (Russia),
30-04-2017**