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Annan condition in Proof Games

Annan Chess: If two pieces of the same color are standing close to each other in N-S direction, the front piece moves only like the rear piece as long as the contact exists. Pawns may enter the rank of their own officers; there they cannot move, but still give their power to a front piece. Officers, making a double step with the power of a Pawn, cannot be captured en-passant; Pawns can only be captured en-passant, when they make a double step with the power of a Pawn, but not if they make a double step with the power of another piece (e.g. Rook or Queen). Officers with the power of a Pawn may capture en-passant. If three or more pieces are in orthogonal contact, each piece moves only like the piece that is directly behind. Example: $wPe2$, $wRe3$, $wBe4$; $wPe2$ moves like a $wPe2$, $wRe3$ moves like a $wPe3$, $wBe4$ moves like a $wRe4$.

This condition - also called **Southern Chess** - is implemented in **Jacobi** program, but it is difficult to handle. That is why we will not find many examples of Annan games.

P. Răican

The Problemist 2009

Comm



14+13

Annan

PG 8

1.c2xh7 d7xd2+ 2.Sxd2 Qd4 3.Sd2-h6 f7-d5 4.h7xf8=S Rxh6 5.Sh7! (5.Fg5? Td6 6.Cg6 e7-f6 7.Cg6-b1 Ff5 8.Fc1 Ff5-f4, but 6.Cg6 is check!) 5. ...Rd6 6.Bh6 e7-f6 7.Sh7-b1 Bf5 8.Bc1 Bf5-f4

Le petit filou (Pc2) a mangé tout le pot de confiture (Ff8) et pour ne pas être pris, il s'est transformé en Cheval (h7xf8=C) et s'est caché dans le paddock (Cb1). De plus, le pot de confiture vide (Fou de cases blanches) s'est rempli comme par miracle (Fou de cases noires) (it's a funny story in French language)

Jacobi+ (~21h40min)

Gregor Werner

StrateGems 2015

2 Comm



16+15

Annan

PG 9.5

1.d2-b4 fe6 2.Qd5 e6-e5 3.Qxg8 d3 4.Qb3 e6 5.b4-d2 Bb4 6.ba4 bd6 7.Qb2 Sc6 8.Qd1 Rb8 9.Sa3 Rb5 10.a4-b2.
Q circuit, switchbacks of Pawns.

I was amazed to see that a wP had to move in order to solve this puzzle. A rigorous demonstration convinces the solver that a wP must move! (judge: **Thierry le Gleuher**)

1.d2-d6 f7xa2 2.dxc7 **axb1=Q** 3.**cx b8=S** Qxc1 4.Sxd7 Qf4!
5.Qd6+ Kf7 6.Sd7-g4 g7-f5 7.O-O-O fxg4+ 8.Kb1 Qc1+
9.Rxc1.

SQ-Ceriani-Frolkin

Prior to being captured the promoted Queen performs a switchback. This spectacular amplification of the Ceriani-Frolkin idea (Donati-50 in a broad sense - switchback and capture do not take place on the promotion square) was motivated very subtle and annan specific by a temporary "degradation" of the Q to enable the long castling and seamlessly liaised with a Ceriani-Frolkin knight performing a Queen's move.

In my eyes the delightfully integral presentation deserves a high distinction, even if the short sequence with a high quota of captures is lacking a little profundity in the end.

(judge: **Manfred Rittirsch**)

P. Răican

Kobul Chess 2012

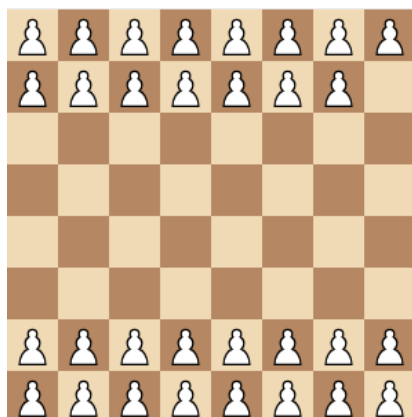
1HM



12+12 Annan PG 8.5

G. Werner

The Problemist Jan.2019



PG 5.5 and #1

Annan

This is an interesting *Tacu's Enigma* with 31 undefined units. Replace the Pawns with pieces in such a way we obtain a position in 5.5 moves followed by checkmate in one: 1.fb6 hh3 2.Kf2 Rh4 3.de1 hc3 4.Sd2 Rh8 5.cb1 c2 6.bxa7 then **cx d1=S#**

It's not good 6.bxc7, because after cxd1=S+ White has Kf2-b6 !

Jacobi was able to check this complicated game in 28 hours and 36 min, with this code:

cond annan

stip dia 5.5

forsyth xxxxxxxx/xxxxxxx1/8/8/8/8/xxxxxxx/xxxxxxx

colorthePieces

stip #1

P. Răican

Best Problems 2025



12+13 parryhser-dia 20
Annan

A proof game in which Black moves only to parry check has the simplified stipulation phser-dia N, introduced by the late Dan Meinking in 2012.

1.aa4 2.Ra3 3.Rg3 4.ef3 5.Bc4 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.cg6+ Ka2
8.bc4+ (check from wPd2!) Kxb1 9.da2 10.Bf4+ **dx d1=S**
11.Bf5+ gxf5 12.g7 **13.gxh8=B** 14.Bc3 **15.cxg8=Q** 16.Qb3+
Sb2 17.Qa3 **18.ae8=B** 19.Bb5 20.Bf1. B Phoenix-Pronkin

N. Dupont

1 HM, Julias fairies 2019



12+12 Annan PG 8.5

1.e2-f3 a4 2.Ba6 d7-d3 3.d2-a5 Qd4 4.Ba7 Bd7 5.Bxb8 b5
6.Ba7 **O-O-O** 7.Bd2 e5 8.Bd2-e2 Ba3 **9.Bf1** Qb4 10.Be3 Bd4
11.b2-c4 Rd7 12.a2-b2 Ba2 **13.Bc1**

A proof game with no obvious trace of what happened: the white Bishops actually exchanged their places! The main theme is further enhanced by a second related theme: *the black Bishops also changed their colours*. This is the first time when the theme is shown using Annan Chess. The white pieces at home and just one single capture significantly enhance the presentation value.

(judge: **V. Crisan**)

An original proof game is published in this issue. It is my attempt to show **Qq Phoenix-Pronkin**, first time with Annan rules (see **R13**).

P. Răican

Checkmate with a battery in Selfmates (II)

In **Quartz 61**, a first article examined 7 selfmates – orthodox and fairy - in which the checkmate is given by a battery. Meanwhile, I found another problems of this kind.

This is a correction of a cooked problem by I. Murărasu, Best Problems 2005.

8) Sol: 1.Qc4+ Bd4 2.e8=Q+ Re7 3.Qg6+ Ke5 4.Rf5+ Ke4 5.Rg5+ Kf3 6.Qd5+ Re4 7.Qgf7+ Bf6 8.Qb3+ Re3 9.Qh5+ Ke4 10.Qe6+ Be5 11.Qh4+ Kf3 12.Qd5+ Re4 13.Qh3+ Bg3 14.Qb3+ Re3 15.Rf5+ Ke4 16.Qg4+ Bf4 17.Qc2+ Rd3# checkmate with a battery (here **B/R**).

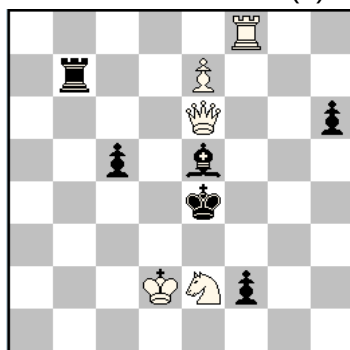
Sol:

9) 1. Sa3 Bxb2 2.Qh5+ Kc1 3.Rc2+ bxc2 4.Qh1+ Kd2 5.Qe1+ Kd3 6.Bh7+ Kd4 7.Qd2+ Kxe5 8.Qd6+ Kxd6#

1. ... Bb1 2.Re1+ Kxe1 3.Qe3+ Kd1 4.Rd2+ Kc1 5.Rd3+ Kxb2 6.Rxb3+ Ka2 7.Rb2+ Kxb2+ 8.Qc1+ Kxc1#

Two batteries **B/K**.

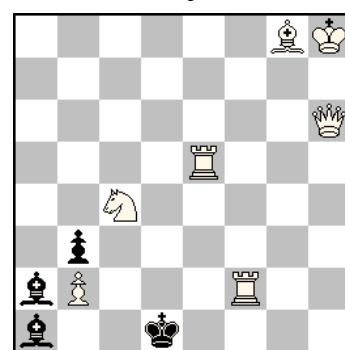
8) Ion Murărasu
Best Problems 2005 (v)



5+6

s#17

9) Ivan Soroka
Sachmatija 2010

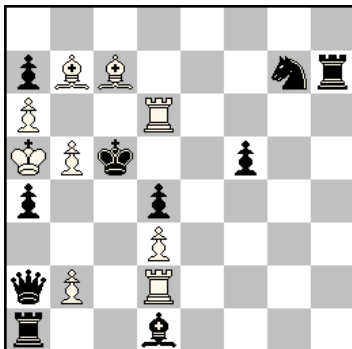


7+4

s#8

10) M. Barth

harmonie 2006



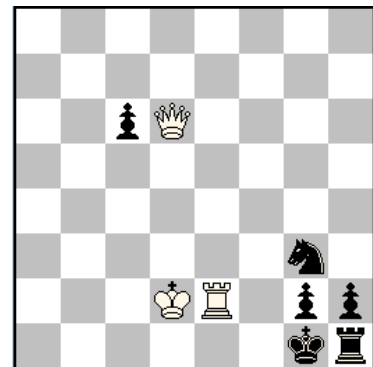
9+10

s#6

10) Solution: 1. Rc6+ Kd5 2. Rf6+ Kc5 3. Bc6 [4.Bb6+ axb6#] Se6 4.Rxf5+ Qd5 5. Rc2+ Bxc2 6. b4+ **axb3ep#** Gustav+ Interesting checkmate with *prise en passant*.

11) U. Auhagen & M. Zucker

harmonie 2006



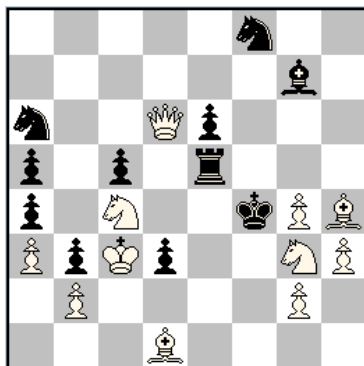
3+6

s#12

11) 1.Qd4+ Kf1 2.Qf4+ Kg1 3.Qe3+ Kf1 4. Rf2+ Kg1 5.Qe1+ Sf1 6. Kc1 c5 7. Re2 c4 8.Qd1 c3 9.Qd4+ Se3 10. Re1+ Kf2 11.Qf4+ Kxe1 12.Qf2+ Kxf2# battery R/K

12) M. Caillaud

3 Prize – TT13 harmonie 2006



11+11

s#11

12) Sol:

1. Sh5+? Ke4 2. Sd2+ Ke3 3. Qxc5+ Sxc5!

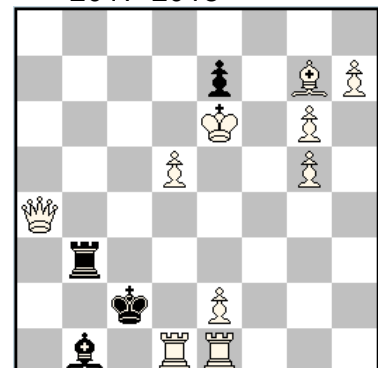
1. Bf3! [2. Se2+ dxe2 3. Qd2+ Re3#]

1. ... Bh6 2. Be4 [3. Sh5+ Kxe4 4. Qd4+ cxd4#] 2. ... Bg7 3. Bb7 Bh6 4.Bxa6 Bg7 5. Bb7 Bh6 6. Be4 Bg7 7. Bf3 Bh6 8. Bd1 Bg7 9. Sh5+ Ke4 10. Sd2+ Ke3 11. Qxc5+ Rxc5#

Battery **B/R**

13) G. Kozyura

3 Pr – G. Denkovski MT
2017-2018



10+4

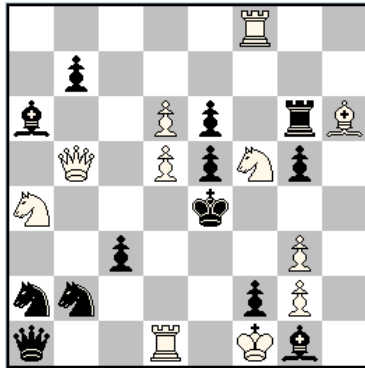
s#7

1.d6! (zz)
1...Ba2 2.d7 Bb1 **3.h8=R!** Ba2 4.Rf8 Bb1 5.Rf5 Ba2 6.Rc1+ Kd2 7.Qf4+ **Re3#**
1...exd6 2.Kd5 Ba2 **3.h8=S!** Bb1 4.Sf7 Ba2 5.Sd8 Bb1 6.Sc6 Ba2 7.Qe4+ **Rd3#**

Battery **B/R** in two variants, minor promotions.
Judge: M. Mladenovic.

14) A. Azhusin

4HM – G. Denkovski MT
2017-2018



11+13

s#3

14) Solution: 1. d7 [2.Sd6+ Ke3 3.Qe2+ Bxe2#]

1...g4 2.Qc4+ **Sxc4** 3.Sd6+ Sxd6#

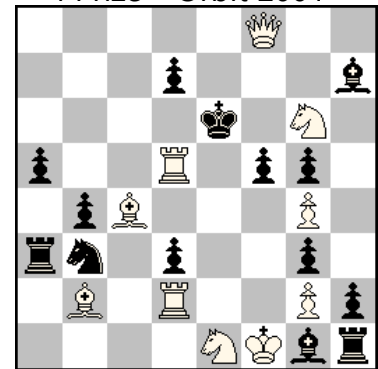
1...exd5 2.Qd3+ **Sxd3** 3.Sc5+ Sxc5#

1...Sc1 2.Qe2+ **Sxe2** 3.Sxc3+ Sxc3#

1...exf5 2.Sc5+ Ke3 3.Qe2+ Bxe2#

15) A. Azhusin & A. Selivanov

4 Prize – Orbit 2001



10+14

s#3

15) 1.Qc8 [2.Rb5+ Kd6 3.Rb6+ **Bxb6#**]

1...Bxg6 2.R5xd3+ Ke7 3.Re2+ **Be3#**

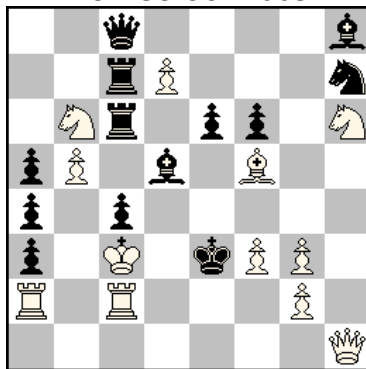
1...Sc5 2.Rxf5+ Kd6 3.Qxc5+ **Bxc5#**

1...Kf7 2.Rxd7+ Kxg6 3.Qa6+ **Bb6#**

1...Sd4 2.Qe8+ Kf6 3.Bxd4+ **Bxd4#** battery **R/B** five times activated. Magnificent! (judge: **Uri Avner**)

16) A. Azhusin & A. Selivanov

1 Prize – Serock 2005



12+13

s#3

16) Solution: 1.Qh4 [2.Qe4+ Bxe4 3.Sxc4+ Rxc4#]

1...exf5 2.Qxf6 [3.Qd4+ Bxd4#] **Sxf6** 3.Sxd5+ **Sxd5#**

2...Rxf6 3.Sxf5+ **Rxf5#**

1...Rxb6 2.Qxc4 [3.Qc5+ Rxc5#] **Bc6** 3.Qe4+ **Bxe4#**

2...Bxc4 3.Re2+ **Bxe2#**

Four batteries created at Black's move 2.

This article could go on, but the thematic problems could fit into a book.

These examples are also a plea for the beauty of selfmates problems.

Now, you can see what was created for the Thematic Tournament dedicated to selfmates using batteries.

Award of Quartz TT16

This TT was dedicated to selfmates in which *the checkmate is given by a battery*.
Five composers with 17 works participate, as follows:

1) Steven Dowd (with an impressive number of 12 works)

2) Alexey Gasparyan (3)

3)-4) Dieter Werner & K. Wenda (1)

5) Juraj Lörinc (1)

I am honored to receive these words from **Steve Dowd**: *This tourney has been a great experience for me ... I have had a lot of illnesses and hospital time, so the time spent looking for possible battery selfmates has been quite a good diversion for my mind. Thank you again, this has been great for me.*

Here is the award:

a) Orthodox selfmates

Alexey Gasparyan

1 Pr, Quartz TT16, 2025



9+4

s#13

1st Prize – Alexey Gasparyan

Solution: **1.Bc2+!** The paradoxical sacrifice of the bishop!

Try 1.Bf3+?! Kc2 2.Se3+ Kc3 3.Ra3+ Kd4 4.Sg6+ Kc5 5.Ra5+ Kd6 6.Qxh2+ Ke6 7.Re7+ Kf6 8.Bb2+ Rc3 9.Rg5 hgx5 10.Sd5+ Kf5 11.Sh4+ gxh4 and not 12.Qh3+? because Bf3 interferes the Rook (12...Rhx3?)

1...Kxc2 2.Se3+ Kc3 3.Ra3+ Kd4 4.Sg6+ Kc5 5.Ra5+ Kd6 6.Qxh2+ Ke6 7.Re7+ Kf6 8.Bb2+ Rc3 9.Rg5 hgx5 10.Sd5+ Kf5 11.Sh4+ gxh4 12.Qh3+ Rxh3 **13.g4+ hxg3 e.p.#**

The checkmate is spectacular, as in **10** by M. Barth. The play is this time complex and the construction is impeccable.

2nd Prize – Steven Dowd

1. Ba7! Be2 2. Ra4+ Bc4 3. Sd8 Ke5 4. Bb8+ Ke4 **5.Kc7** (Herlin) Ke5 6. Kc8+ Ke4 7. Rd7 Kf5 8. Qf4+ Kg6 9. Qg4+ Kh6 10. Ra6+ Bxa6# Gustav+

Battery **R/B** this one with Herlin type move (pericritical bishop move) [author]

In this selfmate the battery is difficult to predict.
Incarceration, good key move and good construction.

Steven Dowd

2 Pr, Quartz TT16, 2025



9+4

s#10

Steven Dowd

1HM, Quartz TT16, 2025



8+3

s#12

1st Honorable Mention – Steven Dowd

1. **f3!** Kh6 2. Rh2+ Kg7 3. Bd5 Kxg6 4. Qg2+ Kf5 5. Rh5+ Kf4 6.Qd2+ Kg3 7. Qg5+ Kf2 8. Rh2+

8. ... Ke1 9. Qe3+ Kf1! (9... Kd1 10.Rd2+ Kc1 11.Ba3+ Rxa3#)

10.Rf2+ Kg1 11. Ra2+ Kf1/h1 12. Qc1+ **Rxc1#**

8. ... Kf1 9. Qg2+ Ke1 10. Qf2+ Kd1 11. Qe2+ Kc1 12. Ba3+ **Rxa3#**

Gustav+

Long journey of bK, battery **B/R** in two variants

2nd Honorable Mention – Steven Dowd

1. ... b1Q/S#

Sol:

1. **Qc5+** Ka4 2. Qa7+ Kb5 3. Rd5+ Kc6 4. Qd7+ Kb6 5. Rb5+ Ka6 6. Qc6+ Ka7 7. Rb7+ Ka8 8. Rc7+ Kb8 9. Rc8+ Ka7 10.Qd7+ Ka6/b6 11. Rc6+ Ka5/b6 12. Qd5+ Ka4 13. Rc4+ Ka3 14.Qd3 b1Q/S#

Recovery of original mate with platzwechsel of Queen and Rook as blocking pieces. Battery **B/P**

Steven Dowd

2HM, Quartz TT16, 2025



4+5

s#14*

Steven Dowd

3HM, Quartz TT16, 2025



9+3

s#14*

3rd Honorable Mention – Steven Dowd

1. ... b1~#

1. **Se8!** Kh5 2. Sf6+ Kg6 3.Qf4 Kg7 4. Qg5+ Kf8! (4. ...Kh8 5.Qh5+ Kg7 6.Qf7+ Kh8 7.Qe8+ Kg7 8.Qg8+ Kh6 9.Qh8+ Kg6 10.h5+ Kg5 11.g3 b1~#) 5. Rd8+ Ke7 6. Se8+ Kf8 7. Qf6+ Kg8 8.Sd6+ Kh7 9. Rd7+ Kg8 10. Rg7+ Kh8 11. Rf7 Kg8 12. Rf8+ Kh7 13. Qh8+ Kg6 14. Rf4 b1~#

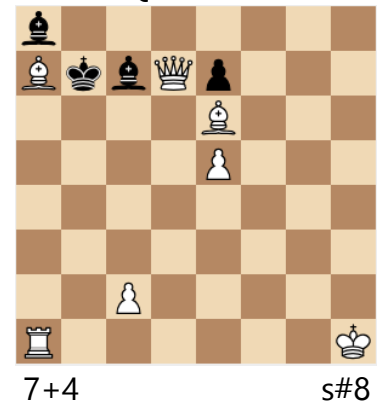
Fata Morgana in Moutecidis style, battery **B/P**

Commendations without order:

Comm – Alexey Gasparyan

1.Bf5 e6 2.c4! exf5 3.e6 f4 4.e7 f3 **5.e8=S!** f2 6.Qc8+ Kc6
7.Rf1 Bb7 8.Qd7+ Kxd7#
Minor promotion, battery **B/K**.

Alexey Gasparyan
Comm, Quartz TT16, 2025



7+4

s#8

Steven Dowd

Comm, Quartz TT16, 2025



8+6

s#10*

Comm – Steven Dowd

1. ... g4#

Sol:

1.Qe7 g4+ 2.Ke3 Kg5 3.Be4 Kh5 4.Qh7+ Kg5 5.Qf5+ Kh6 6.Dxg4
f5 7.Kf3+ f4 8.Qg8 Kh5 9.Qh8+ Kg5 10.Sg2 e1~# Gustav+

Conversion of Fata Morgana (with capture of original mating
piece) into battery mate **B/P**

Steven Dowd

Comm, Quartz TT16, 2025



7+4

s#11

Comm – Steven Dowd

Sol: **1.Sf7** h6 2.Qg6 Rh7 3.Rf6 Rh8 4.Re4 Rh7 5.Kg4 Rh8 6.Kf5 Rh7
7.Ke6 Rh8 8.Ke7 Rh7 9.Re4-e6 Rh8 10.Sd8 (switchback) Rh7

11.Qe8+ Bf8# Tested by Gustav

Battery **R/B**

8 out of 15 problems classified, so ~50% !

Steven Dowd had a consistent contribution. His un-classified works (6) remain at his disposal.

b) Fairy selfmates

Were much easier to classify, because we only received two works. Both impressed me, so both received Prizes:

1st Prize – Juraj Lörinc

1...c4 2.PAd7+ RO×d7#

Sol:

1.Be7! [2.Sd8+ Ke5 3.Sf7+ RO×f7#]

1...PA×f3 2.Sd4+ Ke5 3.S×f3+ RO×f3#

1...B×b3 2.Sb4+ Ke5 3.Sd3+ RO×d3#

1...Sc4 2.Sa5+ Ke5 3.S×c4+ RO×c4#

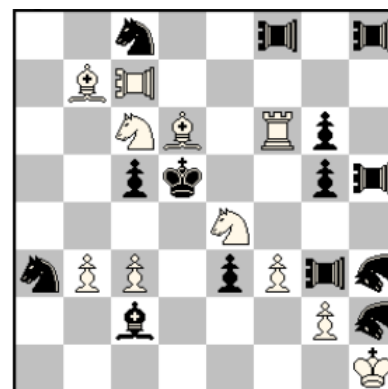
1...c4 2.Sb8+ Ke5 3.Sd7+ RO×d7#

Duel of batteries – white Siers battery against Chinese vertical battery on h-file.[author]

In my opinion, the best problem sent to this Tourney (for both sections) His originality and harmony between variants deserve first place.

Juraj Lörinc

1 Pr, Quartz TT16, 2025



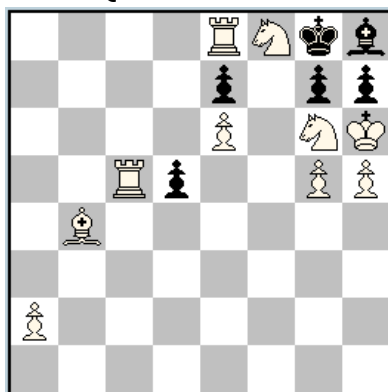
11+14

s#3

1+4 Pao, 0+2 Rose

D. Werner & K. Wenda

2 Pr, Quartz TT16, 2025



10+6

s#8

AntiCirce

2nd Prize – Dieter Werner & Klaus Wenda

Sol:

1.a3! d4 **2.Re5!** d3 (Not 2.Rc1? to reach e1)

3.Bxe7[wBe7→c1] d2 **4.Sd7+!** d2xc1=**B[sBc1→f8]**

5.Re1! (avoids Kxh7→e1 in the end) **Bxa3[sBa3→f8]**
(Therefore not 1.a4?)

6.Re7! Bf8xe7[sBe7→f8]

Not 6.Se7+? Bf8xe7[sBe7→f8] 7.Re7 g6+!

7.Se7+ Bxe7[sBe7→f8] 8.Sf6+ g7xf6[sPf6→f7] # (Popeye+)

Themes:

➤ Mate by a black bishop/pawn battery; the rear piece is not yet on the board in the starting position.

➤ 3-times anticirce typical black bishop returns

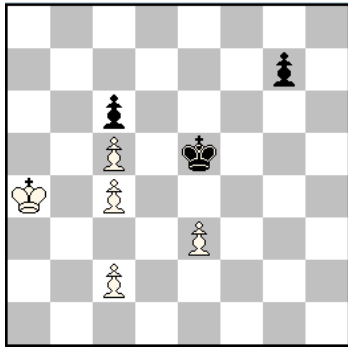
➤ With the key move, White provides a capturing object for the black bishop, so that Black is not stalemated after White's 5th move.

As a conclusion, this Tourney was a success. Congrats for all participants !

P. Răican – International Judge of the FIDE

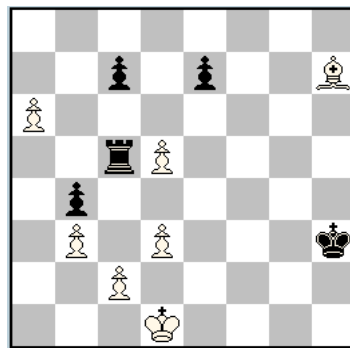
Original problems Studies

**E7) Michal Hlinka &
Lubos Kekely
Slovakia**



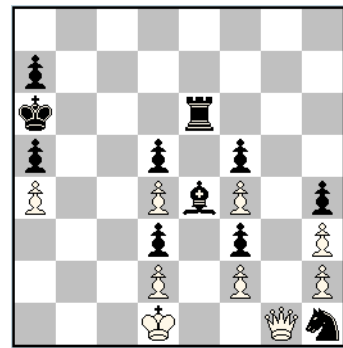
5+3 draw

**E8) Michal Hlinka &
Lubos Kekely
Slovakia**



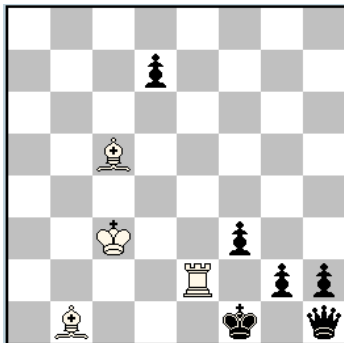
7+5 win

**E9) Daniele Gatti
Italy**



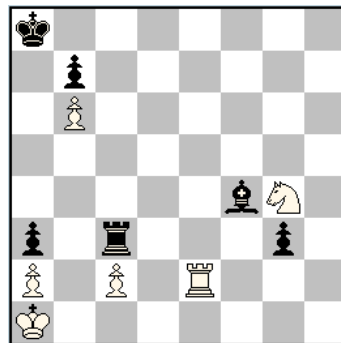
9+11 win

**E10) Daniele Gatti &
Martin Minski
(I&D)**



4+6 draw

**E11) Peter Boll
NED**



6+6 draw

Solutions are on the last pages.

Send please originals:

**Endgames to Vladislav
Tarasiuk**

<vladchess@ukr.net> and

**Proof games (fairy or
orthodox) to Joachim Hambros**

<joachim.hambros@hotmail.com>

The judge sor endgames 2024-2025-
2026: **Vlad Tarasiuk** and for Proof
games **Hans Gruber**

Proof Games

**R11) P. Răican &
V. Crisan (RO)**



15+13 PG30.5
Duel

**R12) Gianni Donati
(U.S.A)**



14+14 PG19.5

**R13) P. Răican
(RO)**



14+13 PG21.5
Annan

Proof Games

R14) B. Graefrath D



13+14 PG9.5
Fuddled Men

"What the herd hates most is a Man who thinks differently. It does not so much hate his opinion itself, but the temerity of that individual to have the courage to think for himself, to be different. Exactly what the herd does not know how to do..."

Arthur Schopenhauer

HC1) Jorge LOIS & Roberto OSORIO & Mario RICHTER

JT Paul Răican – 50, 2007 (v)
1° Prize



14+13 PG22

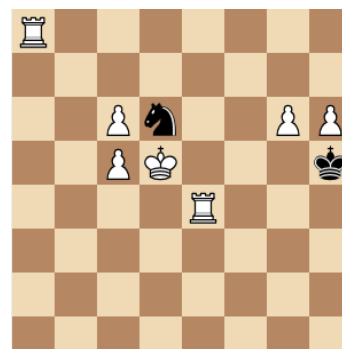
Hors Concours

HC2) M. Caillaud Best Problems, July 2024



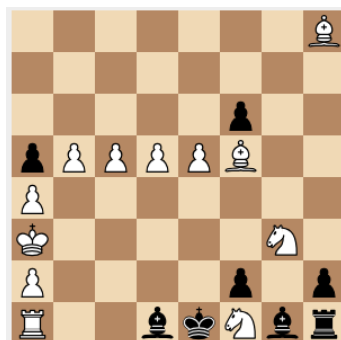
14+13 PG11

HC3) Ya'aqov Mintz & P. Răican



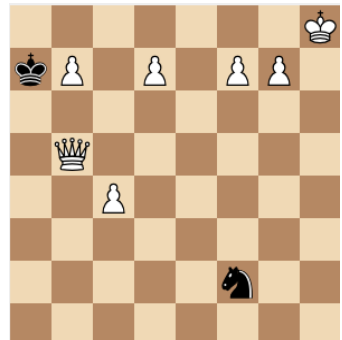
7+2 s#21
Glasgow Chess

HC4) Bernard Courthiau 1Pr, Thèmes-64 1980 (v) Correction 2025



12+8 s#10
Circe

HC5) George Sphicas f-204/2013



7+2 s#14

HC6) P. Răican original



6+3 s#14

Murfatlar TT8, WCCC Alba Iulia 2025

For the **8th edition of Murfatlar TT**, the condition required is **Masand** but it is possible to add a second condition (not fairy units).

Definition: A piece which directly threatens the opposite King, after it moves, changes the color of the pieces it controls or attacks, except the Kings. Pieces that gives check without having moved themselves (e.g. discovered check) do not cause a Masand effect.

The condition Masand can be tested by Jacobi.

This Tourney is in the memory of the late Gani Ganapati.

(b.1929 – d.2022)

Examples:

1) Sol: 1.g3 f5 2.Bh3 f4 3.Bxd7+(Bc8=wB) Sxd7 4.Bxb7 e6 5.Bg2 Bb4 **6.Bf1** Bxd2+(bBc1, wPf4) 7.Qxd2 Bxb2 8.Qc1 Bc3+(bRa1, wPg7) 9.Sd2 Bb4 **10.gxh8=B! Bf8** 11.Bb2 Rxc1+(bPc2) **12.Bxc1**. Impostor wBf1 & bBf8, Phoenix-Pronkin Bc1.

Not classified by the judge (?!)

2) Sol: 1.e3 b6 2.Ke2 Bb7 3.Kd3 Be4 [h7,a8=w][g2=b]+ 4.Kc4 Bxa8 5.hxg8=S Sc6 6.Sf6 [d7=w]#[-f6][-d7] Qd3 [f1,c2,d2,e3=b]#[-d3]+ 7.Se2 cxb1=Q 8.Qb3 Qd3 [d2,e3=w][e2,b3=b]#[-b3][-d3] 9.Kb5 Sc3 [a2=b]# [-f1][-c3]

Deadline: July 7, 2025.

Judge: P. Răican, quarpaz1@yahoo.fr

Prize: **Selection of fairy ser-h=**

(a Quartz supplement, with dedication)

3) K. Prentos

1HM, Julias fairies 2017-18



11+10

PG 11

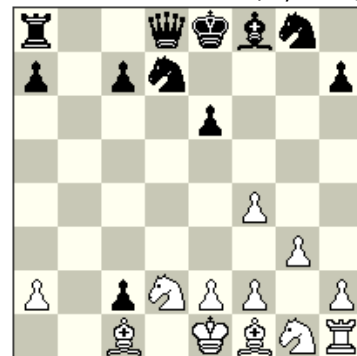
Masand

3) 1.d3 e5 2.Kd2 Qg5 [e5,g7=w][g2=b]+ 3.Ke1 h5 4.Bf4 Rh6 5.gxf8=Q [h6,f7,g8=w]+ + Kxf8 6.e3 gxf1=Q [g1,f2,d3=b]+ + 7.Kxf1 d6 8.Rxg1 fxg1=Q [g5=w][h2,e3=b]+ 9.Qxg1 hxg1=Q [e3=w][g8=b]+ 10.Kxg1 Bg4 11.fxg8=Q [g4=w][a2=b]+ Kxg8

Five checking Schnoebelen Queens, causing a host of colour changes before they disappear; what a spectacle! (judge: Dirk Borst)

1) P. Răican & Gani Ganapati (†)

Problem Paradise 71/2015



12+11

PG 11.5

Masand

2) P. Răican

The Problemist 2023



9+13

PG 9

Masand #remove

Mario Garcia Memorial Tourney, Alba Iulia 2025

The well known composer and judge **Mario Garcia** passed away last year (b. June 22, 1948 – d. July 12, 2024) The news of Mario García's death has shocked chess players and chess composers all over the world. He was the editor of *Estudios Artísticos de Ajedrez*, a magazine dedicated to studies from Argentina. He began in the late 1990s with composition, dedicated until 1996 to direct work mates and in the last 20 years the artistic endgame studies.

His current production includes 230 direct mates and more than 500 endgame studies.



Here, Mario Guido Garcia in 2024

Integrates the team of editors of the magazine EG being responsible for the analysis and technical controls, of the studies that are published in international tournaments.

He was International Judge of the FIDE for Chess Compositions and very active one.

In his memory, Quartz launches a thematic tournament at WCCC Alba Iulia 2025.

The requirement is: in direct play, **the checkmate is given with at least one black pinned piece.**

The Tournament has two sections:

A) Moremovers - see example 1)

Solution: **1.Bc7+ Kb7 2.Bxe5+ Kb6 3.Bc7+ (3..Bf6? Ka5!) 4.Bd8+ Kb8 5.Be7 Kb7 6.Bxb4+ Kb6 7.Be7 Kb7 (7... Ka5 8.Bd8+, #10) 8.Bd6+ Kb6 9.Bc7+ Kb7 10.Be5+ Kb6 11.Bf6 a5 (11... Ka5 12.Bd8+ Rb6 13.Rh5+) 12.Bd8+ Ka6 13. Rc5 Rb6 14.Rxa5+ Kxa5 15.Rxa7#** Here, the pinned unit is bRb6.

1) Ralf Krätschmer

1 Prize, M. Zucker MT 2017

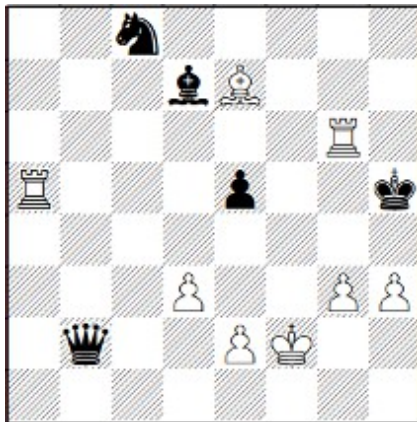


6+11

#15

2) Serghey Borodavkin

1 Comm, Jenever TT 2010

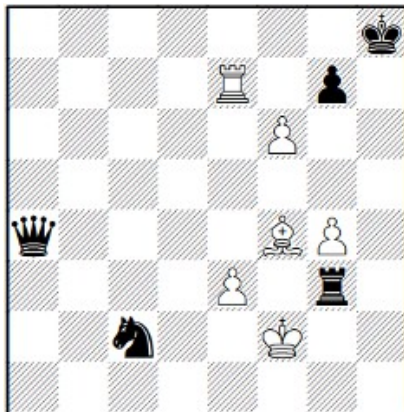


8+5

win

**3) A.Maksimovskikh &
V.Shupletsov**

2 HM Suomen Shakki, 1985



6+5

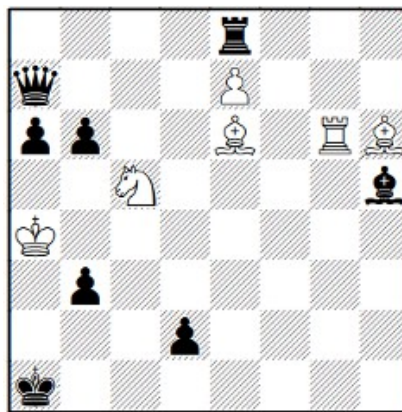
win

B) Studies (see examples 2, 3 and 4)

2) 1.R5a6 Sxe7 2.g4+ Bxg4 3.Rh6+ Kg5 4.h4+ Kf4
5.Rhf6+ Sf5 6.Ra4+ Qd4+ **7.e3#**
Here, two black units are pinned.

3) 1.f7 Rg2+ 2.Kxg2 Sxe3+ [2... Qa8+ 3.Kg3 Kh7 4.Re8]
3.Kg3 Sf1+ [3...Sf5+ 4.gxf5 Qa3+ 5.Re3 Qf8 6.Re8] 4.Kh4
Qxf4 5.Re8+ Kh7 **6.f8S+ Kh6** 7.Re6+ Qf6+ **8.g5#**

**4) N.Rezvov - Shakhmatnaya
Kompozitsia, 1993 (v)**



6+8

win

4) 1.Rg1+ d1Q 2.Ka3 Qxe7 3.Bg7+ Kb1 [3...b2 4.Bxb2+ Kb1 5.Bf5+ Qe4
6.Sxe4 Kc2 7.Sf6+ Kd2 8.Rxd1+ Bxd1 9.Sxe8] 4.Bf5+ Kc1 5.Bh6+ Qe3 6.Sxb3#

This study is a correction by **Mario Garcia** and Peter Krug, Estudios Artisticos de Ajedrez, 2015
(a black Pawn b3 was added)

► The next World Chess Composition Congress would be held in **Alba Iulia**, Romania (WCCC n°67), between July 5 and July 12.

► **George Spिकास** sent me a correction of his old selfmate, see (I) (in the original cooked position, bSf3 was at h3)
Sol: **1.b8=B+** Ka8 2. Qa6+ Kxb8 **3.f8=Q+** Kc7 4. Qa7+ Kc6 5.Qc8+ Kd6 6. Q8c5+ Ke6 **7.d8=S+** Kf6 8.Qa7-e7+ Kg6 **9.g8=R+** Kh6 10. Q5d6+ Kh5 **11.Qd1!** Kh6 12.Qg5+ Sxg5 13.Sf7+ Sxf7#

White **AUW**. See also (HC5), p.1027.

I found three more problems by George with same material, see (II), (III) and (IV):

(II) **1.h8=Q+**! Kg6 **2.e8=B+** Kf6 **3.g8=S+** Ke6 4. Qh3+ Kd6 **5.d8=R+** Kc7 6.Rd7+ Kc8 7.Ra7+ Kd8 8.Qh4+ Kc8 9. Se7+ Kd8 10. Sd5+ Kc8 11.Qbc4+ Sxc4 12.Sb6+ Sxb6#

(III) **1.b8=S+** Ke6 **2.g8=B+** Kf6 **3.h8=Q+** Kg6 4.Q8h5+ Kf6 5.Qd4+ Se5 6.Bh7 Ke6 7.Qe2 Kf6 8.Qg2 Ke6 9. e8=R+ Kf6 10.Bg8 Kf5 11.Qde4+ Kf6 12.Sd7+ Sxd7#

(IV) **1. h8=B+**! Kf8 **2. c8=Q+** Ke7 3. Qe8+ Kd6 **4.d8=R+** Kc7 5. Qd7+ Kb6 6.Rb8+ Ka6 7.Qe2 Ka5 8.Qa2+ Sa3 **9. f8=S** Ka6 10.Se6 Ka5 11. Qad2+ Ka6 12. Qb5+ Sxb5 13. Sc7+ Sxc7#

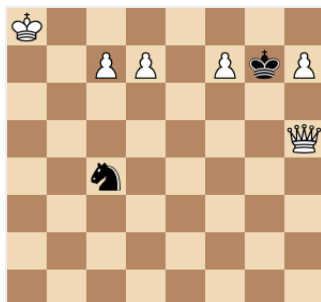
► **Ya'aqov Mintz** wants to publish his original (HC) in Quartz (even if we don't have a current tourney for helpmates)

Sol: a) 1.c1=B Ke1 2.Be3 fxe3 3.h1=S e4 4.Sf2 e5 5.Sd1 e6 6.b1=R e7 7.Rb7 e8=Q 8.Ra7 Qc6 #

b) 1.h1=S Ke1 2.Sgf3 fxxg3 3.c1=B g4 4.Bh6 g5 5.Kb3 gxh6 6.Kc2 h7 7.Kc1 h8=Q 8.b1=R Qc3 #

(IV) G. Spिकास

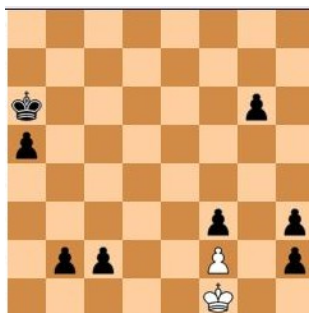
U.S. P. Bulletin, 1991 (v)
Special HM



6+2

s#13

(HC) Ya'aqov Mintz original



2+8

h#8

b) Ka6 → a4

(I) George Spिकास

feenschach 04-06/2003

Correction 2025

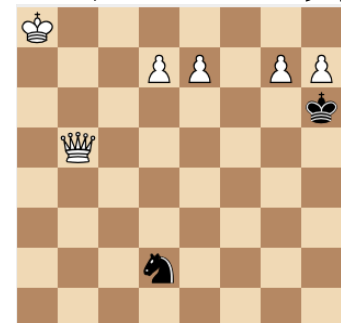


7+2

s#13

(II) G. Spिकास

1 Prize, Die Schwalbe 1989

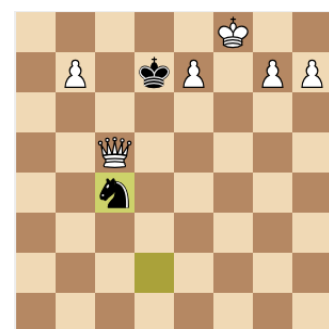


6+2

s#12

(III) G. Spिकास

Variantim 1991 (v)



6+2

s#12

Solutions

Studies

E7 (Hlinka & Kekely) **1.Ka5!** 1.Kb4? g5 2.Kc3 Ke4 3.Kd2 Kf3-- **1...Ke6!** 1...g5 2.Kb6 g4 3.Kxc6 g3 4.Kb7 g2 5.c6 g1Q 6.c7= **2.Kb4** 2.Kb6? Kd7-- **2...Kf5!** **3.Kc3!** **Ke4** **4.Kd2 Kf3** 4...g5 5.Ke2 g4 6.Kf2= **5.Kd3 g5** **6.e4 Kf4** **7.Kd4!** **g4** **8.Kd3** 8.e5? g3 **8...g3** **9.Ke2 Kxe4** **10.Kf1 Kf3** **11.Kg1** zz **11...g2** 11...Ke2 12.Kg2 Kd2 13.Kxg3 Kxc2 14.Kf2! Kd2 (14...Kd3 15.Ke1 Kxc4 16.Kd2 Kd4 17.Kc2 Kxc5 18.Kc3=) 15.Kf1 Ke3 16.Ke1 Kd3 17.Kd1= **12.c3** zz **12...Kg3** model stalemate. 12...Ke3 13.Kxg2

E8 (Hlinka & Kekely) **1.c3!** 1.Bf5+? Kg3 2.c3 bxc3 3.Kc2 Rxd5 4.Bc8 Ra5 5.Kxc3 c5= **1...bxc3** 1...Ra5 2.Bf5+ Kg3 3.Bc8 bxc3 4.Kc2 as main; 1...Rxd5 2.cxb4+- **2.Kc2!** 2.b4? c2+! 3.Kc1 Rc3 4.Bf5+ Kg3! 5.Be4 (5.d6!? exd6!=) 5...Ra3=; 2.d4? Rxd5=; 2.Bf5+? Kg3 3.b4 c2+ 4.Kc1 Rc3= **2...Ra5** 2...Rxd5 3.b4 Rd6 4.Bf5+ Kg3 5.b5 Rh6 6.Kxc3 Rh1 7.Be4 Ra1 8.Kd4+- **3.Bf5+ Kg3** **4.Bc8 Kf4** **5.Kxc3** 5.b4? Ra3!+- **5...Ke5** **6.Kb4** 6.Kc4? Kd6= **6...Ra1** **7.Kc5 Rc1+** 7...Ra5+ 8.Kc6+- **8.Kb5 Kd6** 8...Ra1 9.Kc6+- **9.a7** 9.Bb7? Ra1=; 9.b4? /9.d4? 9...Ra1= **9...Ra1** **10.Ba6** win.

E9 (Gatti) **1.Qg8!** Avoids to capture bSh1 **1...Rh6** 1...Sxf2+ Secondary Line 2.Ke1 Rc6 3.Qb8 Rc1+ 4.Kxf2 Rb1 5.Qc7! Rb2 6.Qc6+ Rb6 7.Qc8+ Rb7 8.Ke3! Only waiting move that prevents f3 pawn from being pushed. (8.Qd8? Too early! 8...Rb2! 9.Ke3 f2! 10.Kxf2 Rxd2+! Black Rook is active and allows a draw.) 8...Kb6 9.Qd8+ Kc6 10.Qxh4 White wins because black Rook is out of play. **2.Qb8!** Threatening 3. Qb5# 2.Qc8+? Logical try 2...Kb6! 3.Qb8+ Kc6! No way to make progress or double attack King and Rook. **2...Rb6** **3.Qc8+!** **Rb7** **4.Ke1!** Royal March begins **4...Kb6** **5.Qc5+ Ka6** **6.Qc6+ Rb6** **7.Qc8+ Rb7** **8.Kf1 Kb6** **9.Qc5+ Ka6** **10.Qc6+ Rb6** **11.Qc8+ Rb7** **12.Kg1 Kb6** **13.Qc5+ Ka6** **14.Qc6+ Rb6** **15.Qc8+ Rb7** **16.Kxh1** bSh1 is finally captured **16...Kb6** **17.Qc5+ Ka6** **18.Qc6+ Rb6** **19.Qc8+ Rb7** **20.Kg1 Kb6** **21.Qc5+ Ka6** **22.Qc6+ Rb6** **23.Qc8+ Rb7** **24.Kf1 Kb6** **25.Qc5+ Ka6** **26.Qc6+ Rb6** **27.Qc8+ Rb7** **28.Ke1 Kb6** **29.Qc5+ Ka6** **30.Qc6+ Rb6** **31.Qc8+ Rb7** **32.Kd1** Royal March with Switchback ends here **32...Kb6** **33.Qc5+ Ka6** **34.Qc6+ 34.Kc1?** Prematurely **34...Rc7!** **35.Qxc7** stalemate **34...Rb6** **35.Qc8+ Rb7** **36.Kc1 Kb6** **37.Kb2 Rc7** 37...a6 **38.Qc5#** **38.Qb8+ Rb7** **38...Ka6** **39.Qb5#** **39.Qd6#**

E10 (Gatti & Minsky) **1.Rf2+! Ke1** **2.Rc2!** Threatens 3.Rc1+ Ke2 4.Bd3# **2...f2!** **3.Bxf2+ Kf1** 3...Kd1 4.Rd2+ Kc1 5.Bc2+ and 6.Rd1+ **4.Ba2!** Logical try 4.Rd2? g1S! 5.Bd3+ Se2+ 6.Rxe2 Qc6+-+ position X with wBd3 **4...g1S!** 4...g1Q 5.Bc4+ Kg2 6.Bxg1+= **5.Bc4+ Se2+** **6.Rxe2 Qc6** position X with wBc4 6...Qf3+ 7.Re3+ Kxf2 8.Rxf3+= **7.Bc5!** switchback 7.Bb6? Qxc4+ 8.Kxc4 Kxe2-- **7...Qxc5** **8.Rxh2+ Kg1** **9.Rd2** draw

E11 (Peter Boll) **1.Re8+ Bb8** **2.Se3 g2** **3.Sxg2 Rxc2** **4.Kb1 Rxc2** **5.Re4!** Game of stalemate Try: 5.Re3? Rb2+ 6.Ka1 Rxb6 7.Rxa3+ Ba7-- **5...Rb2+** 5...Bd6 6.Re8+ Bb8 7.Re4 positional draw **6.Ka1!** **Rxb6** **7.Ra4+ Ba7** 7...Ra6 8.Rxa6+ bxa6 9.Kb1= **8.Rxa7+!** **Kxa7** stalemate.

Proof Games

R11 (Crisan & Raican) 1.h3 Sf6 2.h4 Sh5 3.f3 Sf4 4.c3 Se6 5.c4 Sc5 6.a3 Sb3 7.a4 Sa5 8.e3 Sc6 9.e4 Se5 10.g3 Sg4 11.b3 Se3 12.b4 Sg2+ 13.Bxg2 d6 14.Bh3 d5 15.Bd7+ Sxd7 16.d3 Sc5 17.d4 Se6 18.g4 Sg5 19.f4 Sf3+ 20.Sxf3 g6 21.Sg5 c6 22.Se6 c5 23.Sc7+ Kd7 24.Sxa8 Ke8 25.Sb6 f6 26.Sd7 f5 27.Sf6+ Kf7 28.Sd7 Ke8 29.Se5 e6 30.Sf3 e5 31.Sg1

8+4 hesitating Pawns, Sg1 circuit. Correction of **P1096723** (cooked by Gerd Wilts)

R12 (Donati) 1.g4 Sf6 2.Bg2 Rg8 3.Bxb7 Bxb7 4.b4 Be4 5.Bb2 Sd5 6.Bxg7 Bxg7 7.b5 Bd4 8.b6 Rg6 9.b7 Ra6 10.g5 Bb6 11.g6 c5 12.g7 Sc6 13.b8=B f6 14.Be5 Qc7 15.g8=B O-O-O 16.Be6 Rg8 17.Bh3 Rg3 18.Bf1 Rh3 19.Bb2 Qg3 20.Bc1 (Tested by Stelvio 2.5 in 20 seconds) Welcome back, Gianni!

Mark Kirtley confirmed the soundness of the proof game below, and I hope you will like it enough to publish it in Quartz. Incidentally, I have enjoyed looking through the Quartz magazines from the years I was away from composing. It is really a very enjoyable magazine! [author]

R13 (Răican) 1.dh6 **dx****d1=B** 2.ca4 Bxa4 3.Bf4 fb3 4.Sd2 ge6 5.Rd1 Bg7 6.Sxd8 Kf8 7.Rd7+ Be8 8.Sxc8 aa5 9.Sb6 Ra6 10.Sa8 ag5 11.fb6 g4 12.ge3 g3 13.hf2 g2 14.Sh3 **g1=Q** 15.Rh2 Qg7 16.Sh5 Bg6 17.hf7 Bg3 18.Sf6 Qe8 **19.fxh8=Q Qd8** 20.Sd5 Ke8 21.Qd4 Sf6 **22.Qd1**.

Qq Phoenix-Pronkin, bK switchback
Partially tested by Jacobi:

cond annan
stip dia 5

forsyth rsbqk1sr/ppp1p1bp/4p2P/8/b4B2/1p6/PP1SPPPP/3RKBSR
stip dia 6

forsyth Ss2bksr/1ppRp2p/rP2p2P/8/b4Bp1/1p6/PP2P1PP/4KBSR
stip dia 10.5

pieces white Ke1 Qd1 Rh2d7 Bf1f4 Sd5a8 Pa2b2e2f2e3b6 black Ke8 Qd8 Ra6 Bg3a4 Sf6b8
Pb3e6b7c7e7h7

constr Sb8(o..o) Pa2(o..o) Pb2(o..o) Pb7(o..o) Pc7(o..o) Pe7(o..o) Sg8>f6 Pe2(o..o) Ra8>a6 Bc1>f4
Rh1>h2

Time 13245 sec (~3h40min)

The following proof games do not participate in the current Tourney.

R14 (Graefrath) 1.a4 d5 2.Ra3 Qd6 3.a5 f5 4.Rh3 Qxh2 5.a6 f4 6.g3 Qxh1 7.axb7 a5 8.Bg2 Ra7 **9.bxc8=R** Qxg1 10.Rh1+; white Phoenix-Rook c8, white Impostor-Rook h1; C+ by Jacobi v0.7.5. The original wRa1 does not have the time to move to c8, and Black does not have the opportunity to capture it: so it moves to h1, replacing the captured wRh1 (which is captured by the black queen on her way to g1) Jacobi+

Hors Concours

HC1 (Jorge LOIS & Roberto OSORIO & Mario RICHTER) 1.Pb2-b3 Pd7-d5 2.Bc1-a3 Pd5-d4 3.Ba3xe7 Pd4-d3 4.Sb1-a3 Pd3xe2 5.Ke1xe2 **Bc8-d7** 6.Ke2-d3 Pb7-b5 7.Qd1-e2 Pb5-b4 8.Kd3-c4 **Sb8-c6** 9.Kc4-b5 Ph7-h5 10.Kb5-a6 Ph5-h4 11.Qe2-b5 Ph4-h3 12.**Bf1-e2** Ph3xg2 13.Sg1-h3 Rh8-h4 14.Rh1-e1 Rh4-c4 15.Be7-h4 Bf8-d6 16.Be2-f1+ **Qd8-e7** 17.Re1-e6 Ra8-d8 18.Ra1-e1 Sc6-b8+ 19.Ka6xa7 Bd6-f4 20.Re6-c6 Bd7-c8 21.Re1-e6 Rd8-d4 22.Re6-d6 Qe7-d8

Stelvio+ ~ 3 minutes

It was a huge surprise to receive this correction after 18 years!

It's a proof that when there's passion, nothing is lost in time. (See the original PG in Quartz 32/2007)

HC2 (Caillaud) 1.f4 d5 2.f5 Bd7 3.f6 Bb5 4.fxe7 Sc6 **5.exf8=S** Qf6 6.e4 Qc3 7.e5 Ke7 8.e6 Kf6 9.e7 **Rxf8** **10.exf8=S** Sd4 11.Sg6 **Kxg6**

The piece capturing a Schnoebelen piece is captured: the theme of the Jubilee tourney Vlaicu Crisan-50

HC3 (Mintz & Răican) **1.h7=Q+!** Kg5 **2.g7=R+** Kf6 3.Qh6+ Kf5 4.Qh5+ Kf6 5.Rg6+ Kf7 6.Re7+ Kxe7 7.Qh7+ Sf7 **8.c7=S** Kd7 9.Sb5 Ke7 10.Rga6 Kd7 11.c6+ Ke7 **12.c7=B** Kd7 13.Kc5 Ke7 14.Sd4 Kd7 15.Kb6 Ke7 16.Ka7 Kd7 17.Ba5 Ke7 18.Bb4+ Kd7 19.Qh3+ Kc7 20.Bd6+ Sxd6 21.Sb5+ Sxb5#

White **AUW**. It is a correction of P1098456, Mat Plus 2008.

HC4 (Courthiau) **1.Rc1!** (prevents the rebirth of white Bishop) f×e5(e2) 2.B×e5(e7) e6 3.Be4 e×d5(d2) 4.B×d5(d7) d6 5.Bd4 d×c5(c2) 6.B×c5(c7) c6 7.Bc4 c×b5(b2) 8.B×b5(b7) b6 9.c4 b×c5 10.b4 c×b4(b2)# or 10...a×b4(b2)#

Bernard sent me this correction. The original problem from Themes 64/1980 was demolished in Quartz 59/2024.

HC5 (Sphicas) **1.b8=B+** Ka8 2. Qa6+ Kxb8 **3.f8=Q+** Kc7 4. Qa7+ Kc6 5.Qc8+ Kd6 6. Q8c5+ Ke6 **7.d8=S+** Kf6 8.Qa7-e7+ Kg6 **9.g8=R+** Kh6 10. Q5d6+ Kh5 11.Qh2+ Sh3 12.Qhe2+ Kh6 13.Qg5+ Sxg5 14.Sf7+ Sxf7#

Hans Gruber just tell me that this correction was published in **feenschach 204/2013**. Thank you, Hans, for refreshing the memory.

HC6 (Răican) **1.g8=B+** Kh8 2.Qh6+ Kxg8 **3.a8=Q+** Kf7 4.Qd5+ Ke7 5.Qh4+ Kf8 **6.c8=Q+** Kg7 7.Qh4-h8+ Kg6 8.Qc2+ Bxc2 9.Qe6+ Kg5 **10.d8=Q+** Kf4 11.Qh8-h4+ Kf3 12.Qe6-g4+ Ke3 13.Qg1+ Kf3 14.Qd3+Bxd3# Promotions BQQQ