

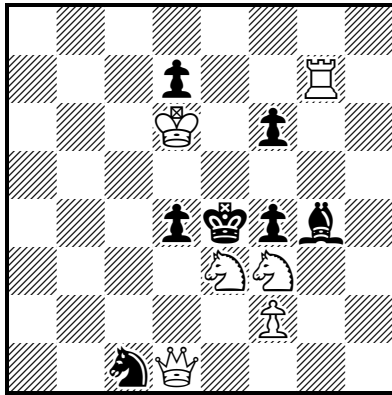
Facebook: Chess Endgame Studies and Compositions Solving Ladder

Leg 1, Round 5, October 2021

Solutions, Comments and Results

1) Colin Albert Harry Russ

The Observer, 1957



<p>1. ♖e1!</p> <p>1...dxe3 1...d3 1...fxe3 1...f3 1...f5 1...♙e2, ♙h5, ♙xd1 1...♙h3, ♙f5, ♙e6 1...♙f3 1...♙ any</p>	<p>0</p> <p>(5)</p> <p>2. ♜d5 # 2. ♜a4 # 2. ♜xg4 # 2. ♞xg4 # 2. ♞e7 # 2. ♞e7 # 2. ♜f3 # 2. ♞e7, ♜xf3 # 2. ♜(x)d3 #</p>
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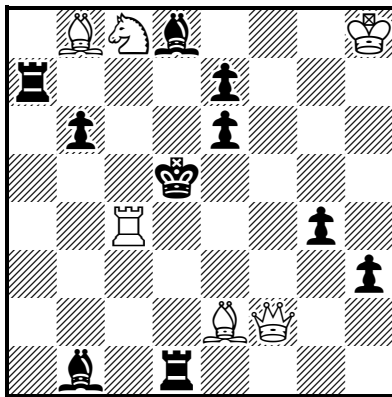
Mate in 2

“A problem with a marvellous waiting move which sacrifices white queen.” (Ioannis Garoufalidis)
 “The sacrificial key completes a nearly dual-free block position ...” (Rhodes Peele)
 “Passive queen sac., nice mates, but for some reason I don’t like it.” (Steven Dowd)
 The point of the problem is probably the defences and mates after the four moves by the black pawns d4 an f4.

Colin Russ (1930-2021) was a stalwart of the British Chess Problem Society. Long-time committee member and long-time secretary. He was also president for two years. He was publishing his compositions right up to this year.

2) Harri Heikki Veikko Hurme

3rd Comm., Rotterdam TT, 1991



<p>1. ♜f4!</p> <p>1...♞d3 1...♞d3 1...♞c7 1...♞c7</p>	<p>(2. ♜e5 #)</p> <p>2. ♜e4 # 2. ♜d4 # 2. ♘xb6 # 2. ♘xe7 #</p>
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Mate in 2

“I think I’m right is describing this as a double Grimshaw, with c7 and d3 as the key squares.” (Chris Shephard). A **Grimshaw** (named after British composer Walter Grimshaw who lived from 1832 to 1890) is defined as mutual interference between black pieces. Here the thematic pieces are black bishops and rooks. 1.Qe3? is defeated by 1...Bc7! and 1...Rc7! and White can’t re-guard d6 in mating.

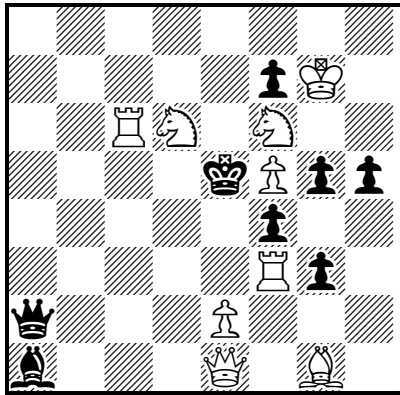
Harri Hurme (1945-2019) was a Finnish composer and solver who was a fixture in the Finnish solving team for many years.

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3) Mark Borisovich Basisty *SuperProblem, 2019*



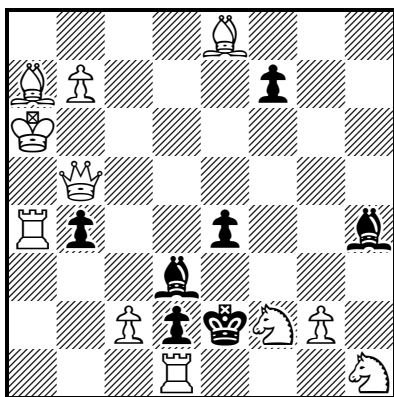
Mate in 2

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1.♖d1? | (2.♗d7#) |
| 1...♗a7 | 2.♖d5# |
| 1...♖d2! | |
| 1.e4? | (2.♗d7#) |
| 1...♗a7 | 2.♗c4# |
| 1...fxe4 ep | 2.♖xe3# |
| 1...♖f2! | |
| 1.♞d3! | (5) |
| | (2.♗d7#) |
| 1...♗a7 | 2.♞d5# |
| 1...f3 | 2.♖xg3# |
| 1...♖e6 | 2.♖xa1# |
| 1...♗d4 | 2.♗xd4# |

“The try 1.e4? allows an *en passant* capture and a well-hidden and thematic refutation 1...Qf2! The actual solution changes the mate for 1...Qa7 ...” (Rhodes Peele) Indeed. 1.e4? just has to be tried. It, along with the key, and the other, less obvious try 1.Qd1, all guard d5 to enable a threat of 2.Nd7#. The defence 1...Qa7 appears in all phases, each time followed by a different mate. A problem that may be easier for an experienced two-mover judge to appreciate than a solver. A problem showing at least two changed mates in at least three phases is termed a **Zagoruyko**. I know of no name for a problem like this where the number of changed mates is fewer than 2.

Mark Basisty (1957-2021) was a Ukrainian composer whom I had only recently heard of.

4) Yves Cheylan *Schach-Echo, 1972*



Mate in 2

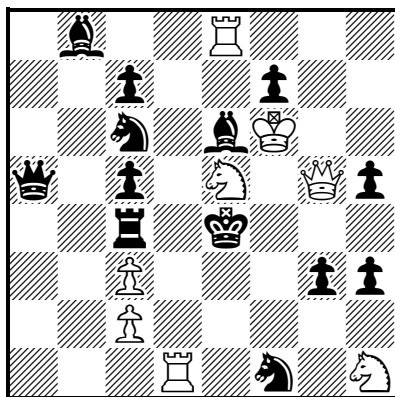
- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1.c4! | (5) |
| | (2.♖h5#) |
| 1...♗xc4 | 2.♖xc4# |
| 1...bxc4 ep | 2.♞xe4# |
| 1...♗g5 | 2.♗g3# |
| 1...f5 | 2.♗h5# |

“After 1...Bxf2 White must mate from d1-h5 diagonal to support Rd1. So White must unpin its Queen” (Ioannis Garoufalidis) Good solving tip from Ioannis. 1...Bxf2 takes the guard off d1, so how can White mate and guard that square? Clearly only by Queen or bishop along the d1-h5 diagonal. 1.Bxf7? (2.Bh5#) is refuted by 1...Bxb5+! and 1.Bd7? (2.Bg4#) by 1...f5! Unpinning the queen by moving the king leads to 1...Bd8+! Therefore 1.c4! must be key, and, as Ioannis also points out, the mate that follows the ep capture answers another question that a solver should be asking themselves: “What is the white rook on a4 doing?”

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Yves Cheylan (1938-2021) was one of France's best composers.

5) Felix V Rossomakho *Zadachi i Etyudi*, 2018



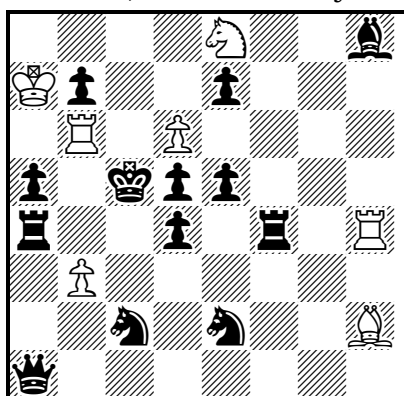
1. R_{d3}! (2. N_{xg3}+ @ N_{xg3} 3. ♖_{e3} #)
 1... R_{d4} 2. N_{c4} @ (3. ♗_{f5} #)
 1... N_{d4} 2. N_{c6} @ (3. ♗_{(x)e5} #)
 1... h4 2. ♗_{xh4}+ @ (3. ♗_{h4} #)
 (3. ♗_{d2}, ♗_xe3 #)
 (3. ♗_{e5} #)
 (3. ♗_{(x)f5} #)
 (3. ♗_xe3 #)
 (3. ♗_{h4}, ♗_{f5} #)
 (3. ♗_xg4 #)

Mate in 3 @ 1->1.5; 2->2.5; 3->3.5; 4->5

“A neat problem with a theme of unblocking and re-blocking two key squares, c4 and c6. I don't know whether there is a more specific terminology for this. The key move of 1.Rd3 is relatively easy to find, because white has to cater for black's threat of 1...Nxe5 and 2...Kf3 escaping. Now after 1.Rd3 black can try for an escape square on d5 by 1...Rd4, which unblocks the c5 pawn, or 1...Nd4, which unblocks the c7 pawn, and in each case white must re-block the c pawn in question.” (Chris Shephard) This problem illustrates the **Umnov** theme, where a piece (other than a pawn) plays to a square just vacated by an enemy piece, which keeps control of the square it left.

Felix Vulfovich Rossomakho (1937-2021) was a famed Russian composer.

6) György Bakcsi 3rd HM., East Germany-25 JT, 1980



1. N_{c7}! (2. N_{e6} #)
 1... ♗_{f6} 2. ♗_xb7 (3. N_{a6} #)
 ♗_{b4} 3. ♗_xe5 (4. ♗_{b5} #) (5)
 ♗_{c3} 4. ♗_xd4 #

Mate in 4

“Black's pawn on d4 is effectively defended 8 times, and yet in the main line white's bishop will capture on that square to deliver mate.” (Chris Shephard)

Grandmaster György Bakcsi (1933-2019) was an Hungarian composer of enormous skill and versatility.

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Leg 1, Round 5, October 2021

Solutions, Comments and Results

Facebook Chess Solving Ladder, Leg 05, 2021

	Ascents	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Leg Total	Cumulative Total
Hugh Gilbert	0	30.0	25.0	25.0	30.0	25.0		135.0	135.0
Geoff Brown	0	30.0	23.5	20.0	30.0	30.0		133.5	133.5
Rhodes Peele	0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	23.5		123.5	123.5
Ene Florian	0	28.0	15.0	30.0	21.0	21.5		115.5	115.5
Chris Shephard	0	-	-	24.0	30.0	30.0		84.0	84.0
Ioannis Garoufalidis	0	-	-	30.0	-	25.0		55.0	55.0
Steven Dowd	0	-	-	-	30.0	15.0		45.0	45.0
Colin Thiodet	0	-	-	-	26.0	16.5		42.5	42.5
Christian Westrapp	0	30.0	-	-	-	-		30.0	30.0
Alex King	0	29.0	-	-	-	-		29.0	29.0
Stanislas Loiret	0	29.0	-	-	-	-		29.0	29.0