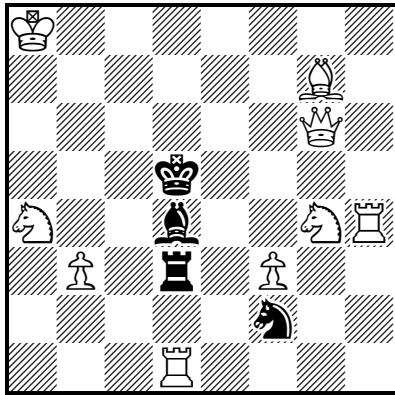


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Leg 2, Round 2, April 2022

Solutions, Comments and Results

1) John F Ling Chess, 1942



1. ♗e5! (5)
(2. ♖d6#)

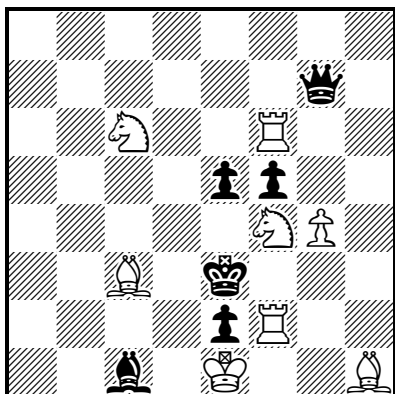
1... ♗xe5	2. ♗e3#
1... ♗c5	2. ♗c3#
1... ♖xb3, ♖xf3	2. ♖xd4#
1... ♗e4	2. fxe4#

Mate in 2

“1...Bf6 must be prevented, so either 1.Be5 or 1.Se5. 1...Bxe5! Leaves no mate.” (Hugh Gilbert)
 “Nice pin-mates after B defences.” (Chris Blanden) “Black B moves and self-pins bR and interferes with bK escape.” (Gerry Enslin) “Quite elegant, though it is a pity there are no pin-mates following any move of the bR.” (Matthew Reisz) If there had been defences by the bR leading to mates taking advantage of the then pinned bB, then the problem would have shown the Half-pin theme.

John Ling (b. 1927) was editor of *The Problemist* from 1964 to 1972. Subsequently he created and then edited *Problem Observer* from 1972 to early this year, clocking up nearly fifty years at the helm. John Rice and Paul Bissicks have guaranteed to produce two more issues of that magazine to ensure it will run for the full fifty years. After that its future is not sure and a new editor is sought.

2) Roman F Zalokotsky & Sergey Shedey 3rd HM., *Probleemblad*, 1982



1. ♗d5? (2. ♖f3# **A**)
 1... e4 **a** 2. ♗d4# **B**
 1... ♖xg4!

1. ♖e6! (5)
(2. ♗d4# **B**)

1... e4 a	2. ♖f3# A
1... ♖d7, ♖a7	2. ♖xe5#
1... ♗d2+, ♗b2	2. ♗(x)d2#

Mate in 2

“The centrality of the pin on the black e-pawn comes as a nice surprise!” (Matthew Reisz) “Rf6 currently out of play. Threat and one mate use pin on e-pawn.” (David Whisstock) “The try 1.Bd5? threatens 2.Rf3 and 2.Bd4 follows 1...e4. In the actual play following 1.Re6! the roles of those two white moves are reversed!” (Rhodes Peele) After last round’s Pseudo Le Grand, I thought I’d set a real Le Grand theme problem, the definition of which is as explained by Rhodes above. This time the thematic black defence is the same in try and key.

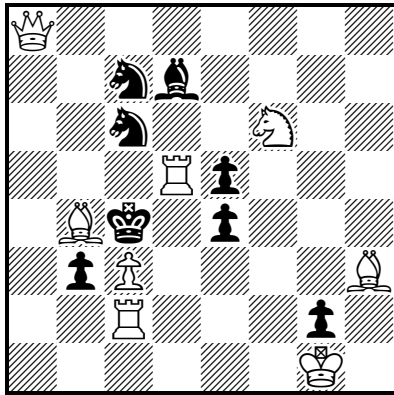
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Leg 2, Round 2, April 2022

Solutions, Comments and Results

3) Francis C Collins

English Mechanic and World of Science, 1873



1. ♖g4! (5)
(2. ♗e3#)

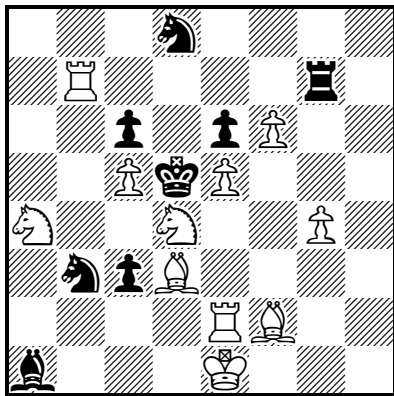
1... ♗xg4	2. ♖xc6#
1... ♗xd5	2. ♖a6#
1... bxc2, b2	2. ♖a2#
1... ♗d4	2. ♗xe5#
1... ♖xd5	2. ♗e3#

Mate in 2

“Classic flight-giving ... with discovered protection of e6.” (Tim Sheldon) “Nice but 1...Sd4 gave the game away quickly.” (Hugh Gilbert) “A good old-fashioned problem with a nice range of pretty mates.” (Matthew Reisz) “Nice key that abandons wR on d5, only to return with mate on c3. Good how defences allow wQ mates on light-squared diagonals.” (Gerry Enslin) “A way must be found to include the bishop on h3 in the solution, since there is no possible role for it as a cook-stopper. After noting that the near-try 1.Bg4? is refuted by 1...Sd4 or 1...Sxb4, we are led to the excellent key 1.Sg4.” (Rhodes Peele)

4) Zoltan Labai

1st Prize, *Pravda* (Bratislava), 1971-1972



1. ♗xc6? (2. ♗b4#)

1... ♖xc6	2. ♗e4#
1... ♗xg4	2. ♗e7#
1... ♗xc6	2. ♗b6#
1... ♗xb7!	

1. ♗xe6! (5)
(2. ♗f4#)

1... ♖xe6	2. ♗c4#
1... ♗xg4	2. ♗c7#
1... ♗xe6	2. ♗b6#

Mate in 2

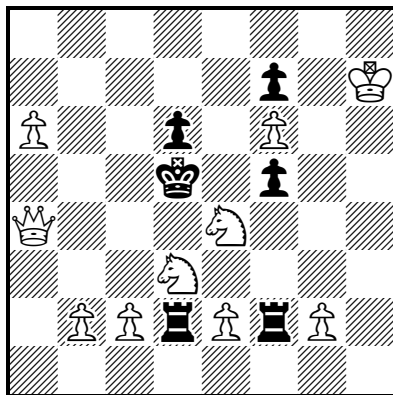
“Easy enough to solve, but not to understand what the composer is trying to do.” (Chris Blanden) “wBf2 suggests a move of Sd4, but not 1.Sxc6? Rxb7!” (David Whisstock) “The actual play literally mirrors the virtual, the d-file being the mirror.” (Rhodes Peele) “It is a pity that the refutation of the try 1.Sxc6 is so obvious.” (Matthew Reisz) Indeed. 1...Rxb7! is s strong and unprovided move in the diagram.

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Leg 2, Round 2, April 2022

Solutions, Comments and Results

5) Miroslav Havel & Zdenek Mach Zlata Praha, 1900



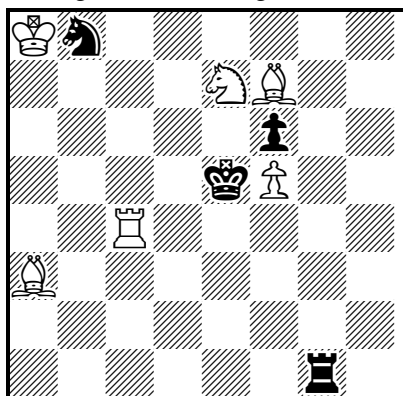
- 1.e3!**
(2.♘b4+ @ ♖c4 3.b3#
 ♜×e4, ♜e5, ♜e6 3.♜e8#)
- 1...♜e6** **2.♘ec5+ @** ♖d5 3.c4#
 ♜×f6 3.♜h4#
 dxc5 3.♜c6#
- 1...♞×d3** **2.c4+ @** ♜e4, ♜e5, ♜e6 3.♜e8#
- 1...♞×g2** **2.♘f4+ @** ♜e5 3.♜e8#
- 1...f×e4** **2.♜b3+ @** ♖c6 3.♜b7#
- 1...f4** **2.♘g5 @** & 3.♜b5, ♜e4, c4, e4#

Mate in 3

@ 1/0.5, 2/1, 3/2, 4/3, 5/4, 6/5

“Excellent 3-mover, not easy, with surprisingly complex play.” (Time Sheldon) “An impressive number of variations.” (Hugh Gilbert) “A most pleasing problem. The key move is fairly obvious, but dealing with the various black defences took me some effort and there are several attractive mates.” (Chris Shephard) “After 1...fxe4, wPa6’s role becomes apparent.” (Dave Whisstock) “A very ingenious problem with a maze of attractive variations.” (Matthew Riesz) “I found this one tough and spent some time to solve.” (Gerry Enslin) Miroslav Havel (1881-1958) and Zdenek Mach (1877-1954) were two leading exponents of the Bohemian School of chess composition, in which model mates were a major aim. Model mates are those where every square is guarded by only one white piece and all the white pieces on the board (not including kings or pawns) are used in the mate. Most of the mates in this problem are models.

6) Ralf Krätschmer Stuttgarter Zeitung, 2000



- 1.♙d5!** (2.♞e4#)
- 1...♞e1** **2.♙e6** (3.♘g6#)
 ♞g1 **3.♙b2+** ♜d6 4.♘c8# (5)

Mate in 4

“I guess the point is the echo between the second threat and the final mate (and the way the bR is forced away and then lured back to g1), though it is a pity that 3.Bb2+ is also a threat after 2.Be6.” (Matthew Riesz) “The first two moves reproduce the starting position but with the wB on e6, with a mate in 2.” (David Whisstock) “This must be one of the easiest 4-movers I’ve ever seen, because both White’s first and second moves threaten mate in one, and in each case force Black’s reply, after which White has an obvious mate in two.” (Chris Shephard) “A nice little feint.” (Hugh Gilbert) “Need to decoy bR from the g-file in order to play Be6.” (Tim Sheldon)

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Leg 2, Round 2, April 2022

Solutions, Comments and Results

Facebook Chess Solving Ladder, Leg 02, 2022

Name	Ascents	Leg 01	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Leg Total	Total
Hugh Gilbert	0	160.0	28.5	30.0					58.5	218.5
Rhodes Peele	0	153.5	30.0	23.0					53.0	206.5
Geoff Brown	0	158.5	25.0	20.0					45.0	203.5
Ene Florian	0	135.5	25.0	26.0					51.0	186.5
Chris Shephard	0	109.0	30.0	30.0					60.0	169.0
Ioannis Garoufalidis	0	80.0	20.0	-					20.0	100.0
David Whisstock	0	30.0	30.0	30.0					60.0	90.0
Chris Carew	0	30.0	30.0	29.0					59.0	89.0
Chris Worthington	0	29.0	30.0	30.0					60.0	89.0
Matthew Reisz	0	25.0	30.0	30.0					60.0	85.0
Joe Franks	0	30.0	25.0	29.0					54.0	84.0
Gerry Enslin	0	30.0	25.0	25.0					50.0	80.0
Geoff Haddow	0	19.0	30.0	30.0					60.0	79.0
Colin Thiodet	0	62.5	-	15.0					15.0	77.5
Harry Scott	0	24.0	20.0	28.0					48.0	72.0
Dennis Chivers	0	14.0	27.0	22.0					49.0	63.0
Tim Sheldon	0	0.0	30.0	30.0					60.0	60.0
Chris Blanden	0	14.0	25.0	20.0					45.0	59.0
Dafydd Johnston	0	0.0	30.0	29.0					59.0	59.0
Stephen Orton	0	0.0	30.0	28.0					58.0	58.0
Whole Hog (Malmsbury)	0	0.0	22.5	30.0					52.5	52.5
Adrian Tottenham	0	0.0	25.0	23.0					48.0	48.0
Alan Bradnam	0	15.0	25.0	5.0					30.0	45.0
Erik Baurdoux	0	0.0	25.0	20.0					45.0	45.0
Steven Dowd	0	45.0	-	-					0.0	45.0
James, Brown	0	10.0	25.0	-					25.0	35.0
Nigel Pilkington	0	10.0	15.0	10.0					25.0	35.0
Christian Westrapp	0	30.0	-	-					0.0	30.0
Alex King	0	29.0	-	-					0.0	29.0
Stanislas Loiret	0	29.0	-	-					0.0	29.0
Gordon Ironside	0	0.0	22.5	-					22.5	22.5
Paul Davies	0	0.0	5.0	-					5.0	5.0