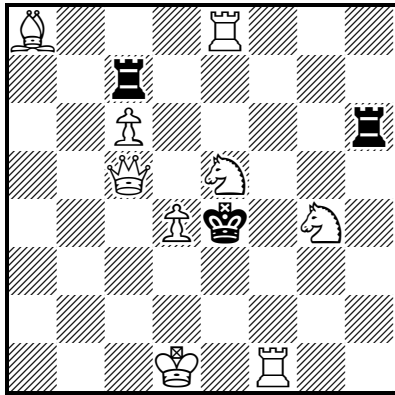


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Leg 2, Round 3, June 2022

Solutions, Comments and Results

1) Michael McDowell *The Problemist*, 1990

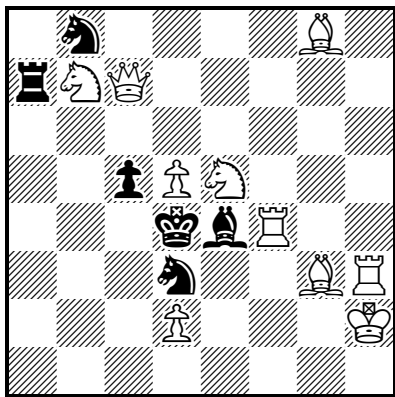


1. ♙c4! (5)
 (2.d5#)
 1... ♖hxc6 2. ♘d7#
 1... ♖cxc6 2. ♘g6#

Mate in 2

“WB pins after two defences and key must guard d3 after Se5 moves.” (David Whisstock) “Black’s only defences (either Rxc6) leaves the R pinned by the B.” (Chris Blanden) “This problem has a most pleasing symmetry; to prevent white’s initial threat either black R can capture on c6 but is then pinned, and White then uses the discovered check tactic to cut off the second R and deliver mate.” (Chris Shephard) “The solution felt a bit ‘quiet’, but still an elegant problem.” (Adrian Tottenham) “Appears to be a simple example of a Schiffmann defence with two thematic self-pins on c6.” (Dafydd Johnston) “Black defences involve capturing on c6 with each of his rooks. The capturing rook pins itself since the threat would unpin it; but then the R+S battery comes into play.” (Rhodes Peele) A very tidy (no extra force to stop cooks or duals and no by-play) example of Schiffmann defences, where Black voluntarily pins himself in the knowledge that if White were to carry out his threat he would be unpinned by interference.

2) Rainer Paslack *Freie Presse*, 1992



1. ♗h4? (2. ♖xd3)
 1... ♗~ a 2. ♗(x)f2# A
 1... ♗xe5 b 2. ♙xc5# B
 1... c4 2. ♗f3#
 1... ♖a3!
 1.d6! (5)
 (2. ♗f3#)
 1... ♗~ a 2. ♙xc5# B
 1... ♗xe5 b 2. ♗f2# A
 1... ♙xe5 2. ♙g7#

Mate in 2

“...with the threat of 2.Sf3. Key only way to guard c4 as 1.Sd6? is answered by 1...Kxe5!” (David Whisstock) “Wonderful flight-giving key combined with knight sacrifice and changed mates. A hard nut!” (Ioannis Garoufalidis) “The try Sd6 is defeated by 1...Kxe5 (2.Sb5?? Rxc7!). But now 1...Kxe5 is met by 2.Qg7, and 1...Se5 by 2.Bf2 making use of the Rh3 to guard d3.” (Tim Sheldon) “The problem I found easiest because of opening up the diagonal for the bishop.” (Adrian Tottenham) “...I am a bit underwhelmed by this problem.” (Matthew Reisz) Nobody noticed this example of virtual reciprocal change, perhaps because 1.Sd6? is a more believable try than 1.Bh4?, which fails to 1...Ra3!, which, though not a strong move in the diagram position, is a very obvious and non-weakening defence to the threat of 2.Rxd3.

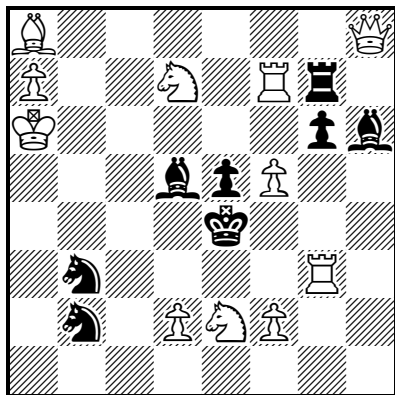
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Leg 2, Round 3, June 2022

Solutions, Comments and Results

3) Barry Jack da Costa Andrade

The Field, 1956



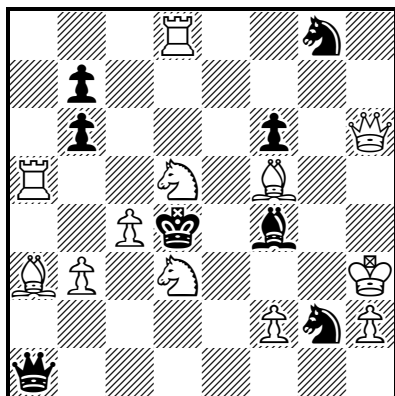
- 1.f4!** (5)
- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(2.♖e3#)</p> <p>1...♗b7+ 2.♗×b7#</p> <p>1...♘c5+,♘×d2 2.♘(x)c5#</p> <p>1...♖xf7 2.♖×e5#</p> <p>1...♗×a8 2.♖×a8#</p> <p>1...♗xf4 2.♖h1#</p> <p>1...exf4 2.♖e8#</p> <p>1...♗c6 2.♗xc6#</p> <p>1...♘d1,♘c4 2.d3#</p> | |
|--|--|

Mate in 2

“WPa7 would indicate a block (no 1.Ka7 waiting move).” (David Whisstock) “If it were Black’s move in the initial position then it would be zugzwang, but White has no waiting move to maintain this.” (Chris Shephard) “Also a hard nut!” (Ioannis Garoufalidis) “A complete block but nothing changes except for the introduction of 1...exf4 2.Qe8. But took me a long time to find the key. (1.fxg6? Rg6 with check.)” (Tim Sheldon) “2.Qe8 was too inviting, so had to be 1.d4 or 1.f4.” (Hugh Gilbert) “This is a block-threat, unusual in itself, but some of the set mates are lost and only one added. So I can’t get very excited by this problem, even though it called for quite a bit of head-scratching.” (Matthew Reisz) “The set position is a ‘block’ but White cannot maintain it although there are several tries. Therefore, he makes a threat (‘block-threat’ theme) and provides a mate for the previously unavailable defence 1...exf4.” (Rhodes Peele) Several solvers fell for the try 1.fxg6. In 1958 the composer published a version of this problem with a black queen substituted for the black bishop on d5. This enabled some of the mates to be pin-mates and for 1...Qc6 to be a check. Everything else though was the same. Some would consider the change to be breaking the conventions of economy.

4) Arnaldo Ellerman

El Diario, 1913



- 1.♗e5!** (5)
- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(2.♗f3#)</p> <p>1...♖c3+ 2.♗e3#</p> <p>1...♖×e5 2.♗×b6#</p> <p>1...♗×e5 2.♖d2#</p> <p>1...fxe5 2.♖×b6#</p> <p>1...♖d1 2.♗b2#</p> <p>1...♗e1,♗h4 2.♖×f4#</p> | |
|--|--|

Mate in 2

“This flight-giving key allows a check from a black piece, a hallmark of a good problem. Three-fold capture of Se5, two with self-blocks.” (David Whisstock) “Moving the d3 S looks wrong because of the need to defend 1...Qc3+.” (Chris Blanden) “Here a multiple guard on square e5 is always suspicious for suitable sacrifice.” (Ioannis Garoufalidis) “A lot of candidate moves, and for me the hardest of the mates in two.” (Adrian Tottenham) “Excellent sacrificial key with line-opening and cross-check. (Dafydd Johnston) “I really enjoyed the unexpected triple sacrifice key and ingenious cross-check.” (Matthew Reisz) “The variations 1...Bxe5 2.Qd2 and 1...fxe5 2.Qxb6 are my favourite ones, in that they involve two Black errors: line-opening and self-block.” (Rhodes Peele) “I wonder if there is a deliberate theme with this set of problems because this is the third in a row with a variation in which the white Q sweeps across the board to deliver mate on the diagonal!” (Chris Shephard) Not a conscious theme, no, but I do like such sweeping moves. The Argentinian composer (1893-1969) was one of the greatest two-move composers of the 20th century.

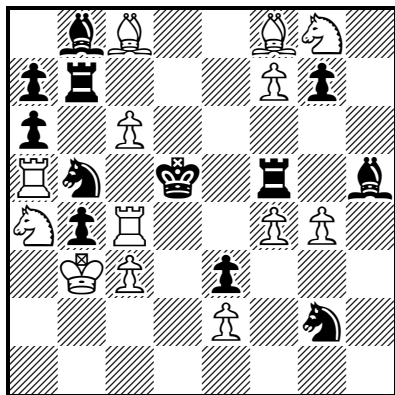
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Leg 2, Round 3, June 2022

Solutions, Comments and Results

5) Lars Larsen

1st Prize, Feigl Memorial Ty., 1948-1950



1.c7!

	(2.♖e7+ @	♖d6	3.♖c6#)
1...♖xf4	2.♖c5+@	♖e4	3.♖xb7#
1...♖xf7	2.♖xb7+ @	♖e6	3.♖c5#
1...♖xc7	2.♖d4+ @	♖c6	3.♖xa6#
1...♖xf7	2.♖xb7+ @	♖e6	3.c8♖,♖#
1...♖xf4	2.♖c5+ @	♖e4	3.♖xf5#
1...♖e5	2.♖d7 @		(3.♖d4#)
		bxc3	3.♖xc3#
		♖e4	3.♖c5#
1...♖b6	2.♖xf5 @		(3.♖c5#)
		bxc3	3.♖xc3#
		♖c6	3.♖d4#

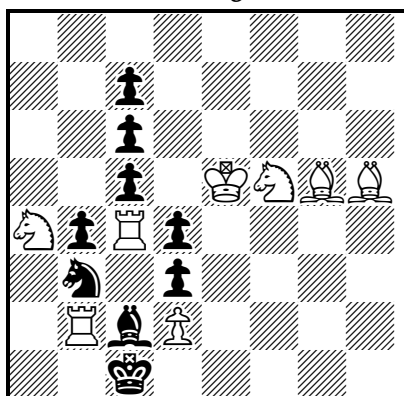
Mate in 3

@: 1/0.5; 2/1; 3/2; 4/2.5; 5/3; 6/4; 7/4.5; 8/5

“The key is indicated by the need to activate Sg8 but a lot of work is required to sort out the variations.” (David Whisstock) “The sort of cluttered position that seems daunting at first sight, but in this case 1.c7 seems almost the only plausible continuation available to White.” (Chris Shephard) “This problem has very rich content and White’s last moves are sometimes unexpected.” (Ioannis Garoufalidis) “The black defences either create an immediate block to a bK flight square, or induce a block to defeat the threat following White’s second move.” (Tim Sheldon) “I spent a lot of time on this, and the key move is one I examined almost last. Even after discovering the key move, some of the variations take a bit of ‘seeing’. And there are quite a few variations. So all in all I guess this is what makes a good problem.” (Adrian Tottenham) “The strong key leaps out as a possible Nowotny, though it doesn’t in fact function as such. I guess the point is the number of self-blocks by the two black rooks and the understated echoes between them, but it all feels a bit diffuse.” (Matthew Reisz) “Nice mating positions, usually involving induced self-blocks.” (Rhodes Peele) The first five variations show a black move to a square in the extended black king field. White then forces the black king next to that piece, which then acts as a self-block. Such Black errors are termed anticipatory self-blocks.

6) Duncan Pirnie

Western Morning News, 1923



1.♖e7!

1...♖xd2	2.♖xc6	b3	3.♖a5 @	c6	4.♖xb3#
1...♖a1	2.♖g6	♖b3	3.♖f4 @		(4.♖xd3#)
				♖xd2	4.♖g2#
		b3	3.♖f4 @	♖xd2	4.♖g2#

@: 1/2; 2/3.5; 3/5

Mate in 4

“It took little time to see that the Sf5 had to make the first move as all other pieces were required for guard duty, but it took hours to find the correct square for landing.” (David Whisstock) “Not too difficult, but I enjoyed this problem. White must be in a position to play 2.Sf4 to prevent stalemate when Black plays 1...Sa1 and 2...b3, and capturing one of the tripled pawns allows White to relieve the stalemate when Black plays 1...Sxd2 and 2...b3.” (Chris Shephard) “Delightful! How does someone compose one of these? Loved the ‘ah’ moment when the stalemate appeared.” (Hugh Gilbert) “The mate where the black king is allowed to escape to d2 and the white knight then mates on g2 is very pretty.” (Matthew Reisz) The British composer Duncan Pirnie (1885-1959) was perhaps best known for his collection of two-move chess problems written on cards and stored in about twenty Clarks’ Shoe Boxes, which now reside here in Sheffield and provide an excellent source for my Meson Chess Problem database.

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Leg 2, Round 3, June 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	29.5				88.0	248.0
Rhodes Peele	0	153.5	30.0	23.0	22.5				75.5	229.0
Geoff Brown	0	158.5	25.0	20.0	15.0				60.0	218.5
Ene Florian	0	135.5	25.0	26.0	29.0				80.0	215.5
Chris Shephard	0	109.0	30.0	30.0	30.0				90.0	199.0
Ioannis Garoufalidis	0	80.0	20.0	-	24.0				44.0	124.0
David Whisstock	0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0				90.0	120.0
Chris Carew	0	30.0	30.0	29.0	30.0				89.0	119.0
Chris Worthington	0	29.0	30.0	30.0	30.0				90.0	119.0
Matthew Reisz	0	25.0	30.0	30.0	29.5				89.5	114.5
Joe Franks	0	30.0	25.0	29.0	25.0				79.0	109.0
Geoff Haddow	0	19.0	30.0	30.0	29.5				89.5	108.5
Harry Scott	0	24.0	20.0	28.0	26.0				74.0	98.0
Tim Sheldon	0	0.0	30.0	30.0	29.5				89.5	89.5
Dafydd Johnston	0	0.0	30.0	29.0	29.5				88.5	88.5
Chris Blanden	0	14.0	25.0	20.0	25.0				70.0	84.0
Stephen Orton	0	0.0	30.0	28.0	23.0				81.0	81.0
Dennis Chivers	0	14.0	27.0	22.0	17.0				66.0	80.0
Gerry Enslin	0	30.0	25.0	25.0	-				50.0	80.0
Colin Thiodet	0	62.5	-	15.0	-				15.0	77.5
Erik Baurdoux	0	0.0	25.0	20.0	25.0				70.0	70.0
Adrian Tottenham	0	0.0	25.0	23.0	19.5				67.5	67.5
Alan Bradnam	0	15.0	25.0	5.0	10.0				40.0	55.0
Whole Hog (Malmsbury)	0	0.0	22.5	30.0	-				52.5	52.5
Steven Dowd	0	45.0	-	-	-				0.0	45.0
Nigel Pilkington	0	10.0	15.0	10.0	0.5				25.5	35.5
James, Brown	0	10.0	25.0	-	-				25.0	35.0
Christian Westrapp	0	30.0	-	-	-				0.0	30.0
Syd Jacob	0	0.0	-	-	29.5				29.5	29.5
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