

PROBLEMAZ 2007
HELPMATES AWARD
By Harry Fougiaxis

73 compositions participated in this tourney (29 twomovers, 26 threemovers and 18 moremovers). The average quality, even if not particularly high, was satisfactory. The prizewinners were picked up easily. I tried to provide comments to most of the participating problems, as almost none was given in the solutions.

Anticipations or compositions of limited originality:

43 is anticipated by *Avner Bar-Nir*, *Shahmat* 1977 (PDB P0526387, WID 237938), while 46 by *Jorge M. Kapros*, *MH idee & form-10 JT* 1994-96 (WID 202985).

47, 51, 53 and 57 have been already published as *5303 diagrammes* 149 April 2004 (WID 193186), *1573 Orbit* 27 July 2005 (WID 206757), *4422 Phénix* 124 December 2003 (WID 188445) and *5174 diagrammes* 147 October 2003 (WID 177873) respectively.

49 is substantially anticipated by *Fadil Abdurahmanović*, *Magyar Sakkélet* 1979 (PDB P0559869, WID 59129), even if the composer's trick to use a white pawn for one of the mates in order to get models is smart and adds variety.

60 is anticipated by *Garen Yacoubian*, *2° Prix The Problemist* 1973-74 (615 FIDE Album 1974-76, WID 23242), *Viktor Chepizhny*, *Kudesnik* 2004 (WID 245445) and *Aleksandr Pankratiev & Vadim Vinokurov*, *2°-3° Prix Rabochy Kraï* 2005 (WID 260599).

67 is anticipated by *Julius Bebesi*, *Magyar Sakkvilág* 1936 (PDB P0565066, WID 7011), *Henry Tanner*, *MH Ideal-Mate Review* 1994 (PDB P0501158, WID 7013) and *Luigi Vitale*, *Thema Danicum* 1999 (PDB P0577776, WID 209034).

145 shows anticipatory self-pins of three black pieces along the same line, which have already been blended with a cycle of white moves in *Chris. Feather*, *2° MH The British Chess Magazine* 1972 (PDB P0504456, WID 119248).

152 is anticipated by *Viktor Bene*, *5° MH Probleemblad* 1998 (PDB P0576708, WID 116387). 210 shows cyclic Zilahi with prolonged Y-flights, a combination that has already been achieved in miniature and in 3 solutions form (yet, at the cost of a repeated white move) by *Zvonimir HERNITZ*, *1° Prix 13° TT Problem-Echo* 1995-96 (E34 Album FIDE 1995-97, WID 9774).

215 is actually a version of the same composer's *6° MH Problem-Forum* 2005 (quoted together with the solution) showing interferences on two black lines and having a visually more attractive setup, alas at the cost of twinning. By the way, Jones's composition of 2005 fully anticipates a later problem by *Abdelaziz Onkoud* in *Chess Leopoldis* 2010 (WID 418190).

223 is anticipated by *Norbert Geissler*, *feenschach* 1993 (PDB P0556338, WID 3765), which furthermore avoids the unnecessary black pawn.

Constructional defects:

There is idle white material in the set line of 52, and repeated moves in 56 and 150. 146 is strangely to our days cooked. The awkward capture $R \times h1$ in 159 should have been avoided.

Thin content or not of any particular interest:

42, 44 (Chumakov theme with ideal mates, but too dry to my taste), 58 (twins (c) and (d) are symmetric), 59 (rather simple Zilahi), 140 (self-pin hideaways with unbalanced B1 moves), 142, 143, 144 (minimalistic Zilahi with pawns), 149 (just a scheme), 151 (ideal mates without any strategy), 161 (too many repetitions), 162 (ordinary single-liner), 212 (very familiar reciprocal black self-unpins), 214 (merely a pair of mutual captures), 216 (only two black switchbacks packed with a lot of ordinary moves), 221, 222, 224.

Thematically not profound enough to be included in the award:

64 (the WCCT-8 theme with two pairs of analogous solutions in HOTF style; unfortunately the twinning is excessive),

66 (two switchbacks of the WB, but unbalanced solutions),

68 (a puzzle for solvers, but the quoted "try" is not so convincing; it would have been more interesting if it could not work because of lack of a tempo, for instance),

69 (tricky solving, but not to my taste),

70 (nice and probably novel hiding manoeuvre by the WK that involves a tempo, but there are many earlier problems showing even an AUW),

141 (charming and well-constructed, yet the W1 moves are commonplace),

153 (black sacrifices for gate-openings, but the rest of the play is mediocre), 154 (witty twinning for castling, but thin from strategic point of view and with pin-mate only in one solution),

155 (hackneyed reciprocal white batteries),

156 (unbalanced white play with tempo only in one solution),

158 (not particularly interesting),

208 (a HOTF with dual-avoidance square blocks in the first pair of solutions and critical Grimshaw interferences in the second, but excessive twinning and the move $B \times c3$ is very weak).

The single-double step moves of the same white pawn in 211 working as sacrifices that vacate the mate square are interesting, but the practically inexistent black play leaves no room for a distinction.

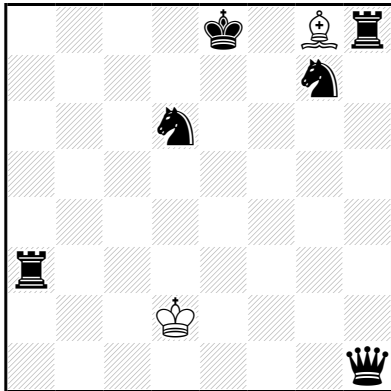
Awkward captures of black pieces in 213 without any meaningful strategy except for the mutual vacation of mate squares between the white pieces.

The captures of BB in 218 are very unattractive.

Familiar Kniest and Zilahi play in 219 with the WR and WB breaking the wall of the black pawns and the WS carrying out dissimilar manoeuvres.

Nice line clearances with white sacrifices in 220, but the repeated moves are not appealing.

160 - Udo DEGENER
 Mirko DEGENKOLBE
 Problemaz 2007
 1st-2nd Prize



h‡5,5 2 solutions 2+6

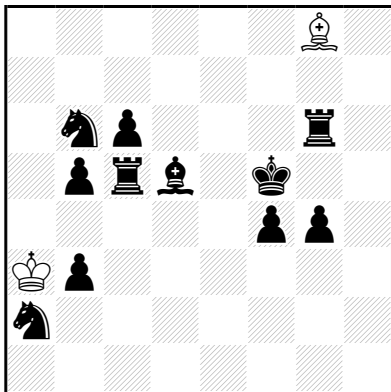
1st-2nd Prize 160 Degener & Degenkolbe:

A lovely Minimal with two distinct manoeuvres leading to the same finale; in one solution the WB has to carry out a critical move to allow the black castling and in the other he should move away from the diagonal (without obstructing the route of BR with the move Be8) to allow the BK reach to the mate square.

1... ♖f7+ 2. ♔f8 ♘h5 3. ♜a8 ♚é3 4. ♔g8 ♚f4
 5. ♚h7 ♚g5 6. ♜g8 ♘g6‡

1... ♘b3 2. ♗f7 ♚é3 3.0-0 ♚f4 4. ♛h8 ♘×f7+
 5. ♚h7 ♚g5 6. ♜g8 ♘g6‡

164-F. ABDURAHMANOVIC
 & B. ELLINGHOVEN
 Problemaz 2007
 1st-2nd Prize



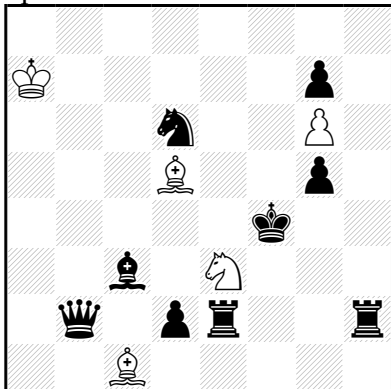
h‡6 2+11

1st-2nd Prize 164 Abdurahmanović & ellinghoven:

Again a WB Minimal, this time a superb strategic single-liner showing black and white Indians with lively and very enjoyable play.

1. ♘f7 ♘h7 2. ♚é6 ♚×b3 3. ♜f6 ♘b1 4. ♜g5 ♚ç2
 5. ♚f5 ♚d3 6. ♘é6 ♚d4‡

61 - János MIKITOVICS
 Problemaz 2007
 Special Prize



h‡3 2 solutions 5+9

Special Prize 61 Mikitovics:

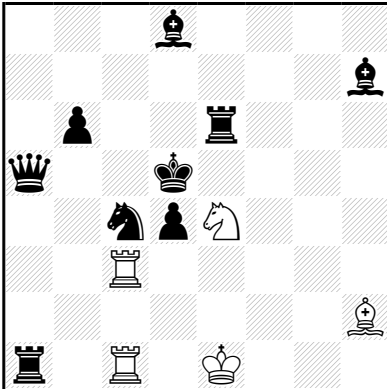
Mixed AUW with pure black interferences and delayed FML mates after black sacrifices. It is surprising that White does not promote to a knight, but to a bishop. BRh2 and BSd6 could be replaced by a BBg8, which renders the delayed FML play not entirely convincing, hence the special distinction.

1. ♜h7 g×h7 2.d1=♗ h8=♛ 3. ♗f2 ♛h2‡
 1. ♗f7 g×f7 2.d1=♜ f8=♘ 3. ♜d4 ♘d6‡

148-F. ABDURAHMANOVIC 1st Hon. Mention 148 Abdurahmanović:

Problemaz 2007

1st Hon. Mention



h‡2 2 solutions 5+9

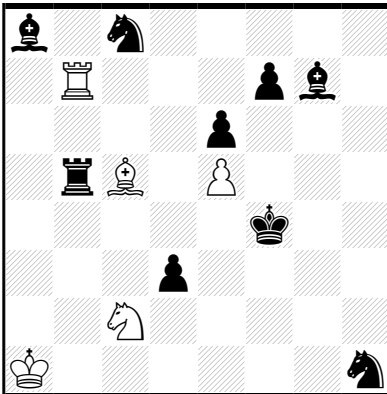
Indirect unpins followed by pure mutual self-unpins (Rc6? and S~? would not work) and interferences. The construction is exemplary.

1. ♖d2 ♜é3 2. ♜é7 ♘f6‡
 1. ♘é3 ♘d2 2. b5 ♜ç5‡

62 - Abdelaziz ONKOU

Problemaz 2007 (v)

2nd Hon. Mention



h‡3 2 solutions 5+9

2nd Hon. Mention 62 Onkoud:

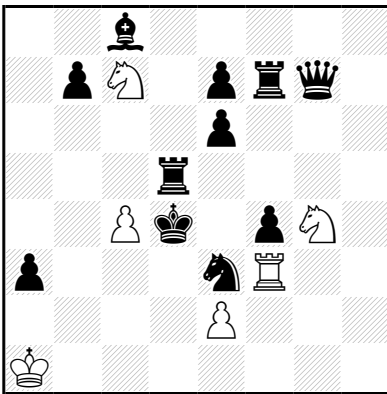
Cyclic occupation of the d5, e4 and e5 squares by the black pieces, gate-openings, exchange of W1/W2 moves and mates on the BK initial square.

1. ♔×é5 ♜×f7 2. ♙é4 ♙é3 3. ♜d5 ♙f4‡
 1. ♔é4 ♙é3 2. ♜×é5 ♜×f7 3. ♙d5 ♜f4‡

55-Andreas SCHONHOLZER

Problemaz 2007

3rd Hon. Mention



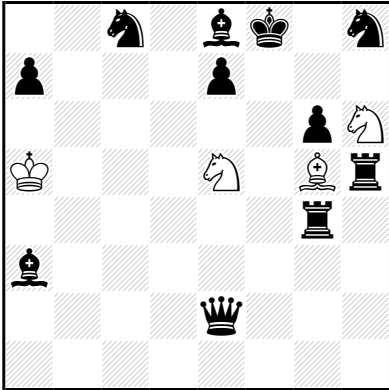
h‡2 b) ♙e2→e4 6+11

3rd Hon. Mention 55 Schönholzer:

Square vacation B1 moves followed by line-interferences with the black and white pieces exchanging their roles.

- a) 1. ♜ç5 ♘d5 2. ♘f5 ♜×f4‡
 b) 1. ♘×ç4 ♜é3 2. ♜d7 ♘×é6‡

139 - Abdelaziz ONKOU
 Problemaz 2007
 4th Hon. Mention



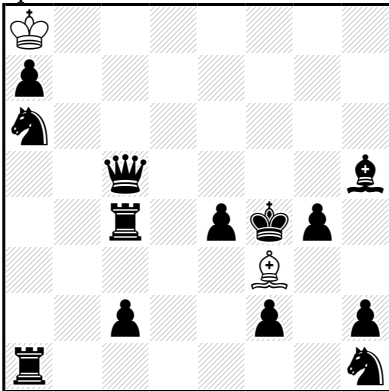
h‡2 b) ♞h8→g7 4+11

4th Hon. Mention 139 Onkoud:

The FML play (involving the mate moves!) based on this specific white half-pin is known from same composer's *StrateGems 2000* (PDB P0583733, WID 65799); the novel feature here are the interferences in the B1 moves.

- a) 1. ♞f7 ♜f6 2.g5 ♞g6‡
- b) 1. ♞d6 ♞c6 2.é5 ♜é7‡

163 - Milomir BABIC
 Problemaz 2007
 Special Hon. Mention



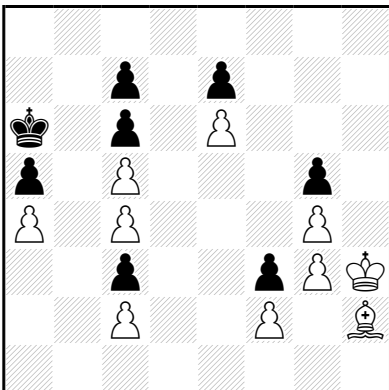
h‡6 3 solutions 2+13

Special Hon. Mention 163 Babić:

Three solutions in a h‡6 is a difficult achievement, even if they are not of an equal value: the BQ hideaway, the precise timing between the BRc4 and WK and the Kniest-capture manoeuvre are praiseworthy, but the repeated WK moves and the captures of BRc4 and BBh5 decrease the overall impression.

- 1. ♞f8+ ♜×a7 2. ♞é3 ♜b6 3. ♞d2 ♜b5 4. ♞ç1 ♜×ç4
- 5. ♜b1 ♜b3 6.ç1=♜ ♜×é4‡
- 1.g3 ♜×h1 2.g2 ♜b7 3.g1=♜ ♜×é4 4. ♞g3 ♜g6
- 5. ♞g2 ♜×h5 6. ♞h1 ♜f3‡
- 1. ♞g5 ♜×a7 2. ♞f5 ♜b6 3. ♞ç6+ ♜b5 4. ♞f6 ♞ç4
- 5.ç1=♜ ♞d5 6. ♜f4 ♜×é4‡

71 - Steven B. DOWD
 Problemaz 2007
 1st Commendation



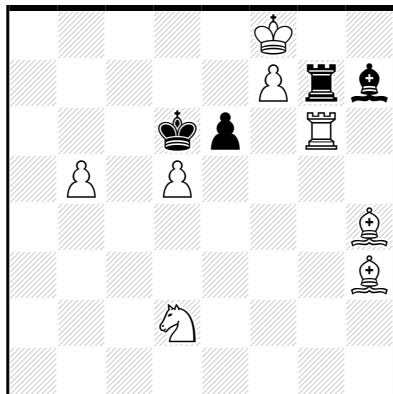
h‡16 10+8

1st Commendation 71 Dowd:

Two long king-marches with a surprising “hideaway” black promotion.

- 1. ♞b7 ♜g1 2. ♞c8 ♞h2 3. ♞d8 ♞h1 4. ♞e8 ♜h2 5. ♞f8
- ♞g1 6. ♞g7 ♞f1 7. ♞f6 ♞e1 8. ♞e6 ♞d1 9. e5 ♞c1 10. d4
- ♞b1 11. e5 ♞a2 12. e4 ♞b3 13. e3 fxe3+ 14. ♞c5 e4 15. f2
- e5 16. f1=♜ ♜g1‡

48 - Abdelaziz ONKOU
 Problemaz 2007 (v)
 2nd Commendation



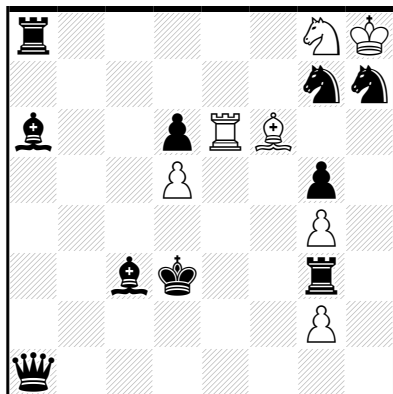
h‡2 b) ♖b5→c4 8+4

2nd Commendation 48 Onkoud:

Black indirect self-unpins (with dual-avoidance) by capturing a white piece are followed by square blocks by the unpinned pawn. Exchange of white roles.

- a) 1. ♗×g6 (1. ♖×g6 ?) ♘b3 2. é×d5 ♗g3‡
 b) 1. ♖×g6 (1. ♗×g6 ?) ♗d8 2. é5 ♘é4‡

217 - Abdelaziz ONKOU
 Problemaz 2007 (v)
 3^o Commendation



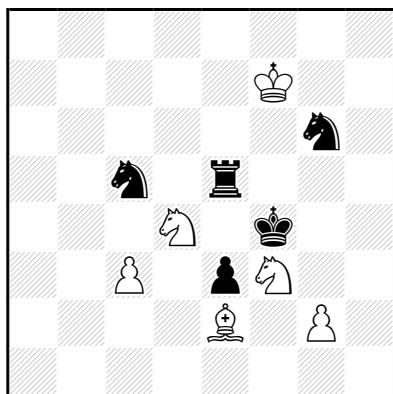
h‡3 b) ♘g8→f8 7+10

3rd Commendation 217 Onkoud:

A well-mixed blend of a white Grimshaw, self-unpins by the WK and square-blocks. The twinning is weak as it shifts the mating piece.

- a) 1. ♖é3 ♗é5 2. ♖é4 ♖×h7 3. ♗d3 ♘f6‡
 b) 1. ♗ç4 ♖é5 2. ♖d4 ♖×g7 3. ♖d3 ♘é6‡

209 - Zivko JANEVSKI
 Problemaz 2007
 4th Commendation



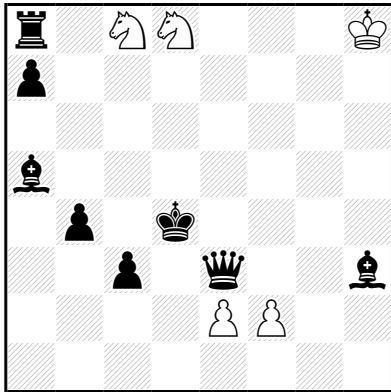
h‡2 3 solutions 6+5

4th Commendation 209 Janevski:

Cyclic square vacation among the white pieces in Meredith.

1. ♘é4 ♘é6+ 2. ♖f5 ♘fd4‡
 1. ♖g5 ♗d3 2. ♖g4 ♘é2‡
 1. ♖é4 ♘é1 2. ♘f4 ♗f3‡

157 - Christer JONSSON
 Problemaz 2007
 5th Commendation



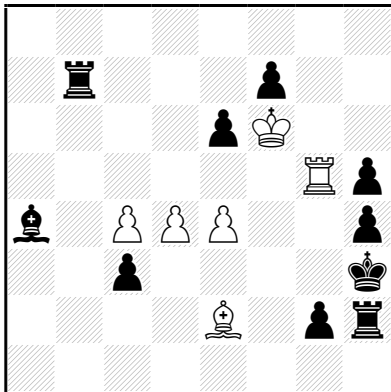
h‡3 b) ♔d4→e4 5+8

5th Commendation 157 Jonsson:

Familiar FML manoeuvres based on a white half-pin with model mates.

- a) 1. ♖b6 f3 2. ♖c5 ♘b6 3. ♖c8 ♘c6‡
 b) 1. ♖e6 f4 2. ♖d5 ♘e6 3. ♖d8 ♘d6‡

147 - Ion MURARASU
 Vlaicu CRISAN
 Problemaz 2007
 6th Commendation



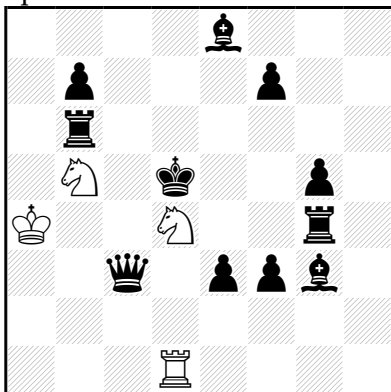
h‡2 b) ♖c4→c5 6+10

6th Commendation 147 Murarasu & Crisan:

Lovely diagonal-orthogonal echo play with well-matched line / gate-openings and a Grimshaw after critical moves.

- a) 1. ♗c2 ♖a5 2. ♖b5 ♖a3‡
 b) 1. ♖e5 ♖a6 2. ♖b5 ♖c8‡

50 - Ivan SOROKA
 Roman ZALOKOTSKY
 Problemaz 2007
 Special Commendation



h‡2 3 solutions 4+11

Special Commendation 50 Soroka & Zalokotsky:

This is actually an extension to three solutions of *Khristofor Animitsa*, 1^o MH Revista de Sah 1970 (PDB P0532361, WID 225517), an instructive lesson that sometimes it is so easy a composer to miss an opportunity even if he is so close. In the later *Leonid Makaronez*, e4e5 2008 (WID 300104) the same content is presented in Meredith by dropping the pin of the second knight!

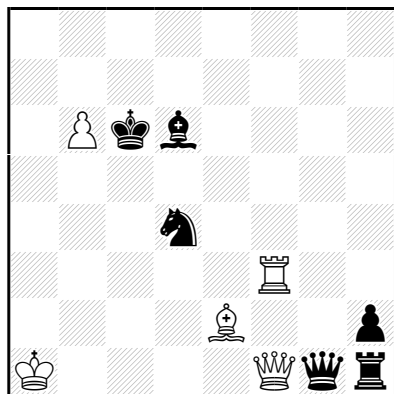
1. ♖f4 ♘e6+ 2. ♖c6 ♘a7‡
 1. ♖e4 ♘c6 2. ♖f4 ♘d6‡
 1. ♖c4 ♘b3 2. ♖c6 ♘a3‡

Commendations without order

45 - Christer JONSSON

Problemaz 2007

Commendation



h‡2 b) ♖c6→e7 5+6

Commendation 45 Jonsson:

An appealing gem with white Bristol moves and interference unpins by the black knight after capturing the superfluous white piece.

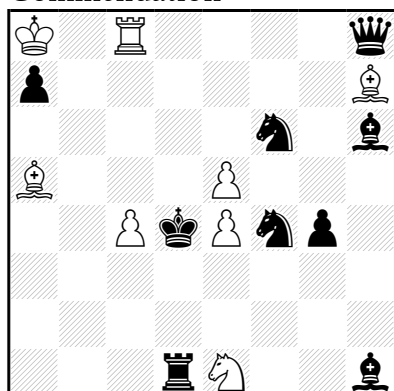
a) 1. ♖×f3 ♙a6 2. ♖é1 ♚b5‡

b) 1. ♖×é2 ♜f8 2. ♖ç1 ♚f7‡

54 - Christer JONSSON

Problemaz 2007

Commendation



h‡2 2 solutions 8+9

Commendation 54 Jonsson:

White line and black gate-openings after sacrifices to white pawns with alternate guard/self-block on the e3 and e5 squares. Model mates.

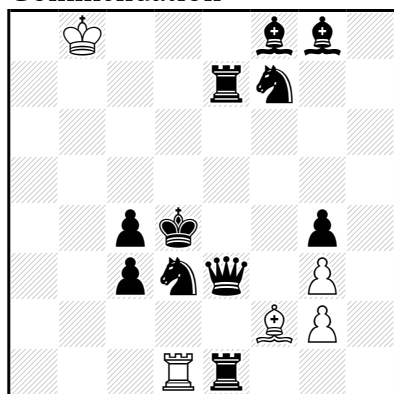
1. ♖4d5 ç×d5 2. ♙é3 ♙ç3‡

1. ♖6d5 é×d5 2. ♚×é5 ♖ç2‡

63 - János CSAK

Problemaz 2007

Commendation



h‡3 2 solutions 5+11

Commendation 63 Csák:

The core idea (direct unpins by White, black sacrifices, switchback pin-mates) and the supplementary gate-openings are known from *Aleksandr Pankratiev & Mikhail Gershinsky, Shakhmatnaya Kompozitsiya 2006* (WID 260630), but this problem is clearly superior in terms of unity and construction and deserves a place in the award.

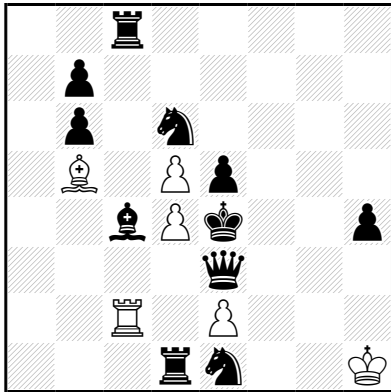
1. ♖fé5 ♙×é1 2. ♚f3 g×f3 3. ♙d5 ♙f2‡

1. ♜é4 ♜×é1 2. ♖f4 g×f4 3. ♙ç5 ♜d1‡

65 - Christopher J.A. JONES

Problemaz 2007

Commendation



h‡3 b) ♖d4=♜d4 6+11

Commendation 65 Jones:

Black sacrifices to allow the white pawns open the gates for black pieces that need to block squares. The interplay is interesting, as usual with this composer, but sadly it seems quite hard to work out a more appropriate motif for the very weak W2 moves.

a) 1. ♜c5 d×c5 2. ♜×d5 c×d6 3. ♔d4 ♜×c4‡

b) 1. ♜c6 d×c6 2. ♙e6 c×b7 3. ♔d5 ♙c6‡

Athens, 9 February 2013
Harry Fougiaxis
FIDE International Judge