

Theme

#2. In the try a white piece X captures a black piece Y, threatening mate A. Black has at least two defenses: capture of the white piece X, followed by mate B or flight of the black King followed by mate C. In the real play, after the key the mates B and C should appear after random or correction moves of black piece Y.

Example

**Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Virgil
NESTORESCU (Romania)**

Buletin Problemistic 1999

1st Prize



v #2

(8+11)

Try: **1.Rxe3?** [2.Qe5(A)#]

Thematical variations:

1...Rxe3/Bxe3 2.Qd6(B)# - capture of piece X

1...Kxe3 2.Sxf5(C)# - flight

1...Sxe3 2.Sb5(D)#

but **1...f4!**

Key: **1. Re6!** [2.Qe5(A)#]

1...Se3~ 2.Qd6(B)# - random move of piece X

1...Sd5! 2.Sxf5(C)# - correction move of piece X

1...Sc4! 2.Sb5(D)#

(**1...Bg7/Bf4 2.Qf4#?** **1...f4 2.Re4#**)

Thematic pieces: X=Re5, Y=Se3.

Judge's comment

We received 5 problems, one of them not fulfilling theme requirements. We propose the following classification which takes into account the difficulties of achieving the theme under such limited time constraints (3 hours).

Valery KOPYL (Ukraine)

Prize

Rio de Janeiro 2009



v #2

(8+9)

Michel CAILLAUD (France)

1st Honourable Mention

Rio de Janeiro 2009



v #2

(10+8)

Marjan KOVACEVIĆ (Serbia)

2nd Honourable Mention

Rio de Janeiro 2009



v #2

(8+11)

Prize: Valery KOPYL (Ukraine)

1.Bxe6? [2.Qf5(A)#] but 1...f5(a)!
1...Qxe6 2.Qf4(B)#; 1...Kxe6 2.Rxe3(C)#
(1...fxe6 2.Sg6(D)#)
1.Bh3! [2.Qf5(A)#]
1...S~ 2.Qf4(B)#; 1...Sxd4! 2.Rxe3(C)#
(1...f5(a) 2.Sg6(D)#; 1...g6 2.Qf6#)

The best and only problem from the competition without any blemishes. At first glance the key and threat seem to be inspired from the example, as the thematic pair of pieces is wBf5 – bSe6. But, after thorough consideration, we discovered the rest of the play is entirely original. Moreover, the author skillfully managed to enhance the theme by adding an extra transferred mate to the theme requirements. A clear winner!

1st Honourable Mention: Michel CAILLAUD (France)

1.bxc7? [2.cxb8=Q(A)#] but 1...Rxf8!
1...Sxc7 2.Sd6(B)#; 1...Kxc7 2.Be5(C)#
1...Sxf8 2.cxd8=Q#
1.Kg3! [2.Bxe6#]
1...c~+ 2.Sd6(B)#; 1...cxb6+! 2.Be5(C)#

The thematic pair of pieces is composed by two pawns: wPb6 – bPc7. This achievement is sadly marred by some serious constructional defects: obsolete wPa5, useless wBh3 in the try and rather underused wQ. However the construction seems to be original, with an interesting double pin-mate after black correction move.

2nd Honourable Mention: Marjan KOVACEVIĆ (Serbia)

1.Bxf4? [2.Rxd4(A)#] but 1...Bf7!
1...gxf4 2.Qd3(B)#; 1...Kxf4 2.Qxg4(C)#
1.Qe2! [2.Bxd4#]
1...f~(xe3) 2.Qxg4(B)#; 1...f3! 2.Qd3(C)#
1...Bxe3 2.Rc4#

Again a black pawn affair (thematic pair wBe3 – bPf4), but with a debatable presentation of black correction, since there is just one possible random move of the pawn, although the presence of bPh3 intentionally creates the impression of a random pawn move. However the skillful construction featuring a good try with a second transfer of one thematic mate 1.Bc1? [2.Qd3(A)#] 1...Be3! deserves recognition. The only problem from the competition where the key of the try is really better than that of the real play!

Uri AVNER (Israel)
 3rd Honourable Mention
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



v #2

(12+7)

3rd Honourable Mention: Uri AVNER (Israel)

1.bxc5? [2.Qd6(A)#] but 1...Bb8!
 1...Bxc5 2.e4(B)#; 1...Kxc5 2.Rf5(C)#
1.Kxg2! zugzwang
 1...S~ 2.e4(B)#; 1...Se4! 2.Rf5(C)#
 1...Bb6/Bb8 2.Sxb6#

The theme requirements (thematic pair wPb4 – bSc5) could be shown also in a zugzwang! The author highlights the attempts: 1.e4+? Sxe4! (2.Rf5??) and 1.Rd2+? Sd3! (2.e4??) which underline the masked white half-pin. However the weak key, useless wS in the try and underused wQ hinder a better classification.