

Theme

H#2. At least two solutions are required. In the first solution, one direct White battery is activated and delivers mate. In the other solution the white battery is destroyed. Twins and duplex are allowed, but no zero-positions.

Example

**Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Ion
MURARASU (Romania)**
TeleScacco 2004



H#2 4 sol (7+6)

First thematic pair of solutions:

1.Ra3 Kb2 2.Re3 dxc6# - Activation of white battery.
1.Rd7 Bf5 2.Kxd5 Rxd7# - Destruction of white battery.

Second thematic pair of solutions:

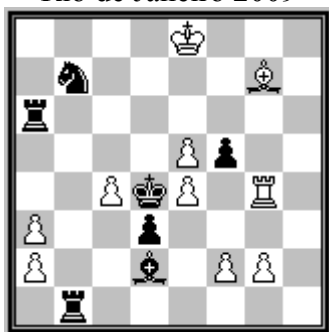
1.Ra4 Bxg6 2.Rc4 Sg4# - Activation of white battery.
1.Rg7 g3 2.Kxe5 Bxg7# - Destruction of white battery.

Thematic white batteries: Rd8 – Pd5 (first pair of solutions) and Bh8 – Se5 (second pair of solutions).

Judge's comment

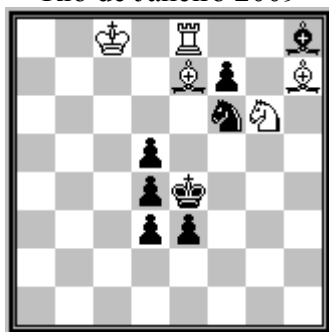
We received 15 correct problems from which we had to eliminate 3 unthematic entries and 3 for defects (repeated white moves, useless white pieces and lack of strategy and/or interplay). Unfortunately also a very ambitious problem (Mark Erenburg) turned out to be anticipated by V. Chepizhny – 2nd HM Helpmate of the Future 2001-03. For the remaining problems we propose the following classification.

Valery KOPYL (Ukraine)
1st Prize
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 4 sol (10+7)

**Jorge KAPROS (Argentina),
Ricardo de Mattos VIEIRA
(Brazil), Jorge LOIS
(Argentina)**
2nd Prize
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (5+8)

**Michael McDOWELL (Great
Britain)**
3rd Prize
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (5+8)

1st Prize: Valery KOPYL (Ukraine)

1.Rb3 axb3 2.Sc5 e6#
1.Rf6 Ke7 2.Kxe5 Bxf6#
1.Rb4 axb4 2.Bc3 exf5#
1.Bf4 g3 2.Kxe4 Rxf4#

The most ambitious entry in Helpmate Of The Future form as in the given example. Although the solutions are not quite perfectly matched compared to the 2nd Prize and the construction could be clearly improved (i.e. bRb1 could be saved by moving bRa6 one square to right) we highly appreciated the author's tremendous efforts to compete in both sections.

2nd Prize: Jorge KAPROS (Argentina), Ricardo de Mattos VIEIRA (Brazil), Jorge LOIS (Argentina)

1.Sxe8 Bd6(A) 2.Bf6 Sh4(B)#
1.Sxh7 Sh4(B) 2.f6 Bd6(A)#

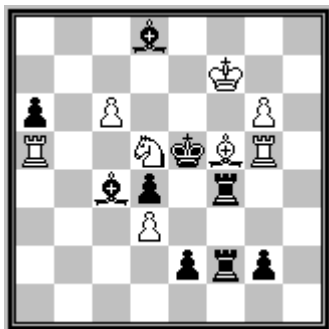
A real wealth of strategic effects displayed in this truly outstanding composition: Zilahi, Pickabish and exchange of W1 and W2. There are no less than three pairs of pieces which exchange their functions: wRe8 – wBh7, wBe7 – wSg6 and bBh8 – bPf7. A splendid piece of work, trademark of the top South American masters of the genre.

3rd Prize: Michael McDOWELL (Great Britain)

1.Bb3 exd6+ 2.Kc4 exf5#
1.fxe4 Rf5 2.dxe5 Bxe5#

Here the mutual captures between wPge5 – bPd6 and wPe4 – bPf5 immediately caught our eyes. As in the 2nd Prize the theme is doubled, but this time both batteries fire in the first solution and are destroyed in the second. We simply can not resist the temptation to quote entirely the author's comments on the diagram: *It may be possible to space the position out better by replacing g7 with a bB and moving left. Sorry – the computer battery failed before I could test!* Now that's what can happen during Quick Composing! The problem featured in the award is the improved version according to these requirements (the original one was shifted two columns to right and had a wPe6 instead of a bP).

Menachem WITZTUM (Israel)
1st Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (8+9)

Vladimir PODINIĆ (Serbia)
2nd Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (5+5)

Colin MCNAB,
Jonathan MESTEL (Great Britain)
1st Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (4+8)
b) Rh8→a1

1st Honorable Mention: Menachem WITZTUM (Israel)

1.Bxg5 dxc4 2.Kxf5 Sf6#
1.Bxa5 Ke7 2.Kxd5 Be4#

Full destruction of one white battery in each solution and double check mates. The Zilahi is nicely enhanced by white unpins; however there is still room to improve the position. As Menachem confessed, he would have need just one half an hour more in order to be able to do that – and he surely would have win a prize! An original achievement, in spite of certain resemblance to Valery Gurov's forerunner (PID = P1005052 in PDB).

2nd Honorable Mention: Vladimir PODINIĆ (Serbia)

1.Kc5 Ra6 2.Bc4 Bd6#
1.Be8 Rxh4 2.Bc6 Sc7#

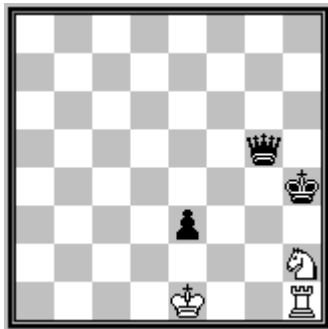
A similar matrix as in the previous problem, but with an entirely different outcome. Here white destroys his own battery for flight guarding purposes. We would have definitely preferred to replace wKh7 on h3 therefore saving bPh4 and eliminating the irritating capture. A nice composition of the young Serbian problemist, who managed to compose two sound and original problems for this tourney.

1st Commendation: Colin MCNAB, Jonathan MESTEL (Great Britain)

a) 1.Qh2 Be4+ 2.Sg2 Ke2#
b) 1.Sxb1 Rc2 2.Sa3 0-0-0#

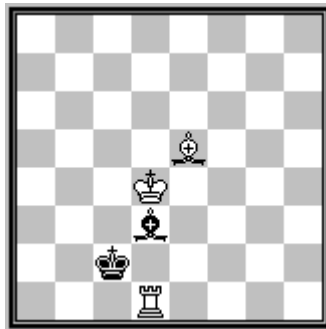
Long castling after an annihilation switchback. Although there is no connection between the solutions, the original and humorous twinning found by the OTB grand masters raised a smile on our tired faces after so many solving challenges.

Vladimir PODINIĆ (Serbia)
2nd Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (3+3)

Andreas REIN (Germany)
3rd Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (3+2)

2nd Commendation: Vladimir PODINIĆ (Serbia)

1.e2 Kf2 2.Qg4 Sf3#
1.Kg3 0-0 2.Qh4 Rf3#

The second entry featuring castling. We liked that both mates are delivered on the same field – a unified touch that gains this problem its place in the award.

3rd Commendation: Andreas REIN (Germany)

1.Kb2 Ra1 2.Bc2 Kc4#
1.Be2 Rc1+ 2.Kd2 Bf4#

The most economical entry from the tournament: just 5 pieces were enough in order to show the theme! One particular feature distinguishes this problem from all other entries: the initial indirect battery becomes a direct battery only after B1 in the first solution.