

Theme

H#2 with Invisibles. Any other fairy conditions and/or pieces are not allowed.

Definition

A new fairy piece Invisible is a piece which stands somewhere on the board, but whose identity and whereabouts is not known.

The real identity of Invisible is any ordinary piece (including K if there is no K on the board).

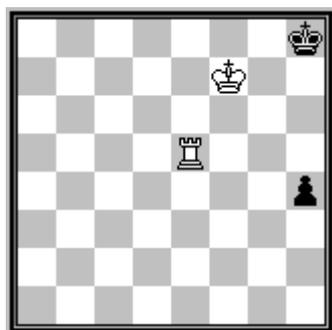
It is assumed that the initial position and the sequence of moves must be legal after the true identity of every Invisible is revealed.

After the true identity and whereabouts of Invisible is revealed, it becomes *visible* and turns into an ordinary piece.

We denote an Invisible move simply by 1.I-- (we don't know which Invisible moved to what square) and a capture by Invisible by 1.Ixd2 for example (in this case we know at least Invisible moved to what square). A capture of Invisible can be done only when the capture can be proved if the move is playable.

"Check" is ascertained only when the move is check in an ordinary sense in every possible configuration of Invisibles. Similarly, "checkmate" is ascertained only when the move is checkmate in an ordinary sense in every possible configuration of Invisibles.

We can easily grasp the notion of Invisible above by taking a look at the following diagram.



(2+2+1bI)

Black Invisible

Black has Invisible somewhere on the board. Let's see what happens when White plays 1.Rh5.

1.Rh5 may not be check because there is a possibility that bI stands on h6 or h7.

Black has four choices here.

- (1) 1...h3 (i.e. bI stands on h6 or h7.)
- (2) 1...I-- (i.e. bI interferes on h6 or h7.)
- (3) 1...Ixd5 (i.e. bI captures wR.)
- (4) 1...Kh7 (i.e. bI stands on h6.)

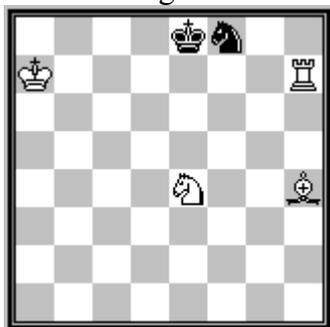
Let's assume Black replies 1...h3 and see how White continues.

If White plays 2.Rh6, then the move may not be a capture if bI stands on h7. White cannot claim checkmate by 2.Rxh6#.

If White plays 2.Rh7, the move must be a capture of bI (please remind that we assume the move is playable). Therefore, the move is actually 2.Rxh7+.

Examples

Tadashi WAKASHIMA (Japan) Original



H#1.5 (4+2+1bI)
b) Ka7→a5
1 Black Invisible

1...Sd6#?? Black still has 2.Ixd6! or 2.Kd7! (bI stands on e7-g7) or 2.Kd8! (bI stands on e7-g5).

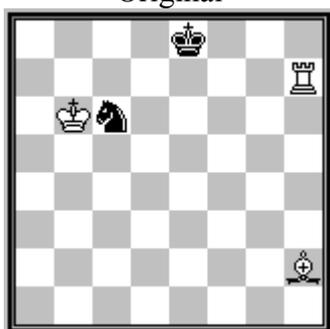
a) 1...Rd7! 2.Ixd7! Sd6#

2...Sd6 proves that bI is not Q or R, and so the move is actually a checkmate.

b) 1...Bd8! 2.Ixd8! Sf6#

In the similar vein, 2...Sf6 proves that bI is not Q or B.

Tadashi WAKASHIMA (Japan) Original



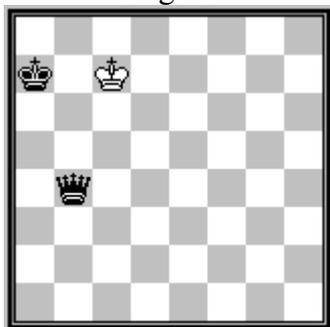
H#2 (3+2+2bI)
2 Black Invisibles

1.0-0-0! (one of bIs turns out to be Ra8) Bb8! 2.Ixb8! Rc7#

Black's second move 2.Ixb8 is made by the other bI. If it is B, then it must come from a7 and the initial position is illegal. The only possibility is I=S. Thus the final move 2...Rc7 is checkmate.

Please note that 2.Sxb8? Rc7#?? fails because of 3.Ixc7!

Kohey YAMADA (Japan) Original



H#2 (1+2+1wI)
White Invisible

1. Qa5! I--!! 2.Ka8 Ixa5#

The amazing move 1...I--!! proves that it is actually 1...Ib6 (otherwise selfcheck). And it cannot be B (if it is so, B gives check to bK in the initial position and 1.Qa5 is illegal). White's second move 2.Ixa5 reveals the true identity of wI (I=Q) and it gives checkmate.

Judge's comment

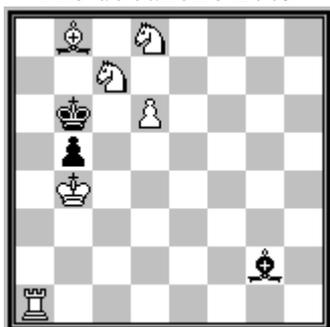
We received 36 entries, out of which only 20 survivors remain. The quality of awarded problems assures us that the Sake tourney this year was a huge success.

Before we start, perhaps it is necessary to clear up the confusions about the definition. The concept of Invisibles can be most clearly understood when you just imagine what happens on the board if some of the pieces are invisible. Let us take the case of en passant capture. When a double-stepping pawn disappears, you cannot tell whether it is en passant capture or not. You must prove en passant capture somehow by the moves after the capture and there are several ways to do this. Another significant point in the definition is that once the identity and the whereabouts of an Invisible is completely revealed, it loses the ability of being invisible and becomes visible (i.e. an ordinary piece). For example, when you castle with an Invisible R, that R becomes visible and is simply denoted as R (not I) in the solution afterwards.

Ricardo de Mattos VIEIRA
(Brazil)

1st Prize

Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (6+3)

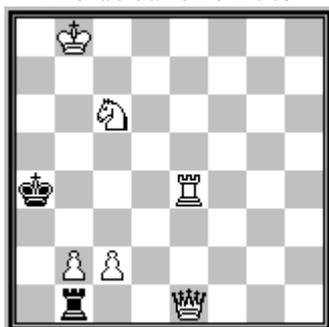
0+3 invisibles

Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Eric HUBER
(Romania), Kostas PRENTOS

(Greece)

2nd Prize

Rio de Janeiro 2009



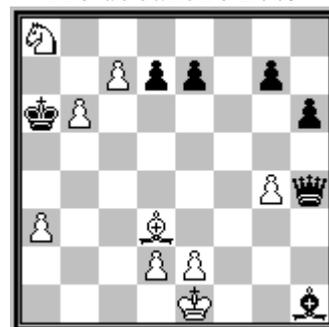
H#2 2 sol (6+2)

0+3 invisibles

René J. MILLOUR (France)

Special Prize

Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 (9+7)

2+8 invisibles

1st Prize: Ricardo de Mattos VIEIRA (Brazil)

1.Bh1! Ra7! 2.Ba8 Sxa8#

1.Bb7! Ra8! 2.Bc8 Ba7#

The most interesting thing about this superb problem is that you know almost nothing about three bIs even after the solutions. Thematic tries 1.Ba8? Sxa8#?? and 1...Ba7#?? don't work because in the first one, 2.Ixa8! defends (bI=Qh1/Qa2 and 2.Qxa8), and in the second one, 2.Ixa7! is also possible (bI=Qa2/Qa8/Qb7 and 2.Qxa7 or bI=Sc8 and 2.Sxa7). The solutions cancel out all those secret resources from bIs by crossing and occupation. Another try 1.Bh3? Ra8 2.Bc8 Ba7#?? fails because there still remains a possibility that bIQ stands on b7. And please note the fact bIS cannot come to the rescue from c6. The third bI prevents cooks: 1.I--- d7 2.Ixa1 dxc8=S# and 1.I--- dxe7 2.Ixe7 Ra6#, in both cases two bIs are exhausted. Marvelous anti-Invisible strategy throughout, and especially pleasing are the corner-to-corner bB and wR moves.

2nd Prize: Vlaicu CRIȘAN (Romania), Eric HUBER (Romania), Kostas PRENTOS (Greece)

1.Ixc2 b4 2.Ixb4 Qa5#!

(Invisibles at c2, bPb3, and the last one at c4/d4 pinned by wR)

1.Ixe1 c4 2.Ixc3 Rxb4#

(Invisibles at e1, bPc3 and the last one is captured by wR)

A daring attempt to realize Invisible half-pin and en-passant captures. Both of White's second moves pass through the squares where the captures take place (b4 and c4), thus prove that Black's second moves are actually en passant captures. We admire the authors' skill and labor to make this difficult problem sound (so far, at least).

Special Prize: René J. MILLOUR (France)

1.Ixg4! Kc1! 2.Qa4! b8=S#

Because it is Black to play, there is a wI or a bI between Qh4 and Ke1. The key 1.Ixg4 proves there is also a wI or a bI between Bd3 and Ka6, but 2.Qa4 shows this I cannot be on c4, thus we have an Ib5! The special move 2.Qa4 also shows g4 is not occupied after 1.Ixg4. This proves 1.Ixg4 is in fact 1.fxg3e.p. and a bI is P on f4, becoming visible on g3. This means the I between Qh4 and Ke1 cannot be on g3, thus we have an If2!

The last move was 0...g2-g4. Consequently, [Bf1] is still on f1 or died on f1, Bd3 and Bh1 are promoted Ps! Promoting on h1 and bringing another bP on f4 means 5 white pieces captured by [Pc7+Pf7]. As 9 visible + 2 invisible + 5 captured = 16 pieces and because [Bf1] could not escape, we are sure a wI is B on f1!

Bd3 is the promotion of [Pf2] by fxe/g8! As 7 visible + 8 invisible + 1 captured = 16 pieces and because [Bf8] could not escape, we are sure a bI is B on f8. This means [Rh8] was locked on h8-h7-g8 by Ph6, Pg7 and [Bf8], implying that Bd3 was born on g8 (finally not on e8!), because [Rh8] could not escape to be captured elsewhere!

The sole case where the wK jumps from e1 to c1 is castling. White in fact plays 1...0-0-0 and a wI is R on a1, becoming visible on d1. As 9 visible + 5 captured by Ps + 2 Is on f1 and d1 = 16 white pieces, Ib5 and If2 are black. A bSf2 would prevent 1...0-0-0, thus a bI is R on f2!

The sole P that can promote on b8 is Pc7. This proves 2...b8S is in fact 2...cxb8S, capturing a bI! As [Bc8] cannot access b8 and because a bR was taken at g8 and a bR is revealed on f2 and a bB on f8, a bI is S on b8!

We know that all the pieces that are not on the board were captured far from a and b. In other words the Ps on a and b could not capture at all and, as wPa is on a3 and wPb on b6, neither bPa nor bPb could promote. This means a bI is P on b7 and, because in this case [Bc8] could not escape, a bI is B on c8, and now that the B is at c8 and because a bR was taken at g8 and a bR is revealed on f2, a bI is S on b5! Black plays the specific move 2.Qa4 to prove that [Pa7] is not on a4! We proved that the bI captured by 2...cxb8S is not [Ra8]. Therefore, [Pa7] is not at a7: locked on a8-b8 by [Bc8], [Pb7] and [Pa7], [Ra8] could not escape! In fact, to join f2, this R got out via a6, because the last bI is P on a5!

Now that b7 and a5 are blocked, 2...b8S, more exactly 2...cxb8S#, is possible.

As for the specific 1st white move, some explanations are perhaps welcome. If If2 could be a bS, [Ra8] could be on b8 for 2...cxb8S. No solution in this case, because [Ra8] does not need to escape, allowing [Pa7] on a7 and a5 not blocked! In other words, White plays 1...0-0-0 to prove If2 is R!

But why not simply 1...Kd1? At first sight, this also reveals a bR on f2, and an I is now needed between Qa4 and Kd1. In case for example of bRf2 bSb8 and wRb3, 2...cxb8S# works. Actually no solution, because wRf2 bSb3 and bRb8 (allowing bPa7) is also possible!

Then why not 1...b4 (more exactly 1...axb4, capturing a bI and guarding a5) and 2.Qc4 (proving that the I between Bd3 and Ka6 is not on c4, but on b5)? In case for example of wRf2 bSb4 bSb5 bRb8 bPa4, 2...cxb8S# really works! But with bSf2 and wRb5, Black answers 3.Kxb5!

The position before 2....cxb8=S#



(10+15)

Without Pg3, nothing works because no e.p. capture ; without Rf2 and Sb5, Ks in check in the given position; without Bf8, a R, in fact [Ra8], can be on b8 and Pa5 can be on a7 ; without Bc8, [Ra8] can escape via c8 and Pa5 can be on a7 ; without Sb8 or Pb7 or Pa5, no mate. In all these cases, no solution. Without 0-0-0 and Rd1, no solution because a R, in fact [Ra8], can be on b8 and Pa5 can be on a7! Bf1 can be taken at home and is not needed provided that only 1 wI is stipulated, but nevertheless its presence is natural.

10 INVISIBLES are COMPLETELY revealed!

The 4 moves of the solution are SPECIFIC of the Invisible system!

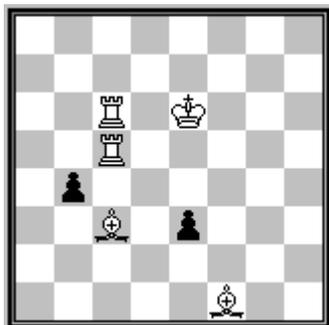
A lot of ECHOS:

- at first sight, bK and wK in check!
- black and white B-promotions!
- black and white Bs locked at home, on f1 f8 and c8!
- precautions needed to free [Ra8], and not to free [Rh8]!

fxg3e.p. + 0-0-0 + cxb8S = VALLADAO ! (Author)

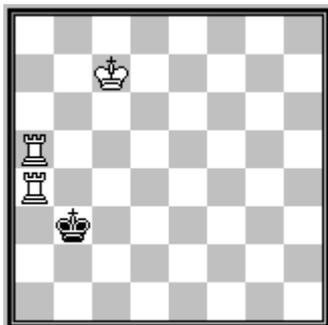
Author's words explain all about this stunning achievement with rich retro contents. Hat off to René!

Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Eric HUBER
(Romania)
 1st Honourable Mention
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



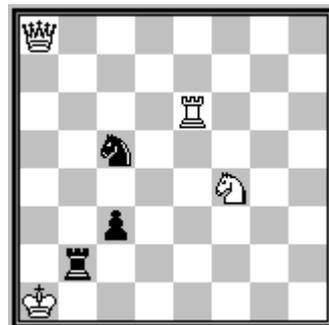
H#2 3 sol (5+2)
 0+2 invisibles

Michel CAILLAUD, Axel GILBERT (France)
 2nd Honourable Mention
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (3+1)
 1+0 invisibles

Atsuo HARA (Japan)
 3rd Honourable Mention
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 3 sol (4+3)
 0+1 invisibles

1st Honourable Mention: Vlaicu CRIȘAN (Romania), Eric HUBER (Romania)

1.Ixc3 Ra5 2.Ixa5 Ra6# (Ia5=bK!)

[bK cannot be at c3 because he would be in check after 2.Ixa5.]

1.Ixc6 Ke5 2.Ixc5 Bd4# (Ic5=bK!)

[The fact that White moves 2...Bd4 is the proof that wK is not in check, therefore the Invisible at c5 is not the Invisible that captured wRc6. This implies that it is the second Invisible, bK. And with bKc5, it is mate. The presence of wKe5 forbids the existence of an invisible bS at c6.]

1.Ixc6 Bd4 2.Ixd4 Rc4# (Id4=bK!)

Cyclic Zilahi + double captures.

(Authors)

The best cyclic Zilahi in this tourney. The placement of wK is just perfect. This scheme certainly calls for the fourth solution with captures of two Bs, but that would be a task for the future.

2nd Honourable Mention: Michel CAILLAUD, Axel GILBERT (France)

1. Kc4 I---(+) 2.Kc5 (wI=Pb5) b6#

1. Kb2! Rb5 2.Ka2! (wI=Pa3/Sa3) I---#! (wI=S and any S move will do)

An original and interesting idea – mate by Invisible move without capture! In the second solution, 2...I--- rules out a possibility that Ia3 may be P. Compare the solution with tries: 1.Ka2? Rb5 2.Ka1 I---#?? (wI can be Ba3 and 2.Bb4+) and 1.Kb2 Rb4? 2.Ka2 I---#?? (wI can be Pa3 and 2.a4). It is a pity that in the first solution, after Black's second move, wI has already become visible.

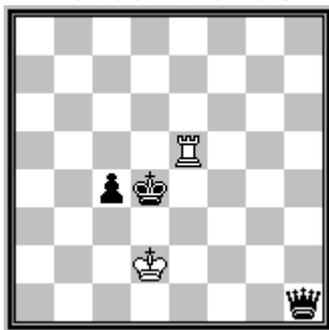
3rd Honourable Mention: Atsuo HARA (Japan)

1.Rb5 Rb6 2.IKxb6 Sd5#
1.Rc2 Sd3 2.IKxd3 Qd5#
1.Rh2 Qh1 2.IKxh1 Rd1#

Cyclic Zilahi in miniature if we disregard bI. Perfectly done.

**Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Eric HUBER
(Romania)**

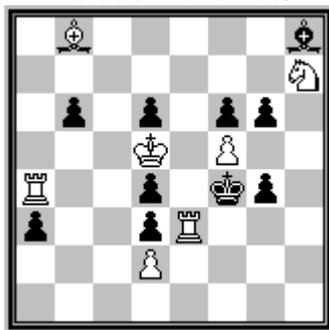
4st Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 4 sol (2+3)
1+0 invisibles

**Ricardo de Mattos VIEIRA
(Brazil)**

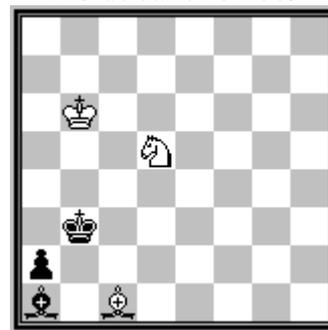
5nd Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (7+10)
0+2 invisibles

Michel CAILLAUD (France)

1st Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 (3+3)
1+0 invisibles

4th Honourable Mention: Vlaicu CRIȘAN (Romania), Eric HUBER (Romania)

1.Qa1 Ixa1 2.c3 Ixc3# (wI=Q)
1.Qe4 Ke2 (wI stands on e3) 2.c3 Ixe4# (wI=R)
1.Kc5 (wI stands on d5) Ixh1+ (wI=B) 2.Kd4 Rd5#
1.Qd5 Rf5 2.Ke4 Rf4 (wI=Sd3)#

To borrow from authors' word, "AllUmInvisiblung." A absolute must for any Tanagra collections.

5rd Honourable Mention: Ricardo de Mattos VIEIRA (Brazil)

1.Ixf5 Kxd6 (bIf5=Q/R/B) 2.Ixa4 Kd5 (bIf5=B)#
1.Ixf5 Kxd4 (bIf5=Q/R/B) 2.Ixb8 Kxd3 (bIf5=R)#

Good Zilahi with Invisible-specific refutation of tries: 1.Ixa4? Kxd6 2.Ixf5 Kd5#?? and 1.Ixb8? Kxd4 2.Ixf5 Kxd3#??, in both case bIf5 can be S and 3.Sd6/Sd4!

1st Commendation: Michel CAILLAUD (France)

(Set) 1...Ixa1 (wI is not R) 2.Ka4 Ixa2 (wI=Q)#
1. Bh8! Kb5 2.Ba1 Ixa1 (wI=S)

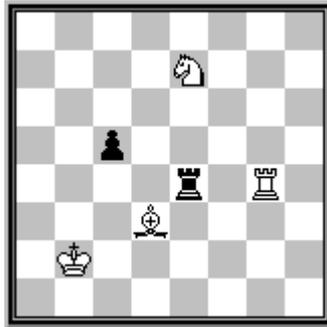
The same idea with first-prize winner. This time, it is presented as different Invisible captures between set and play.

Michel CAILLAUD (France)
 2nd Commendation
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



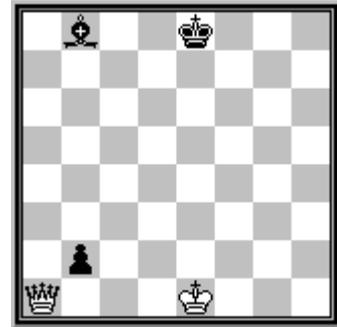
H#2 (3+1)
 2+0 invisibles

Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Eric HUBER (Romania)
 3rd Commendation
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 (4+2)
 b) Kb2→c7
 c) Re4→g8
 0+1 invisibles

Michel CAILLAUD (France), Indrek AUNVER (Estonia)
 4th Commendation
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (2+3)
 1+1 invisibles

2nd Commendation: Michel CAILLAUD (France)

1. Kc5 (wI stands on c4) Qf3! 2.Kd5 (wI=Sc4 and Re4) Qf5#

A beautiful “castle in the air” in Black Solus Rex.

3rd Commendation: Vlaicu CRIȘAN (Romania), Eric HUBER (Romania)

1.Ra4 Rb4 2.IKxb4 Sc6#

1.Re5 Sd5 2.IKxd5 Bc4#

1.Rg7 Bh7 2.IKxh7 Rh4#

Cyclic Zilahi in miniature. Compared with Atuo’s HM winner, this is inferior because of its awkward twinning.

4th Commendation: Michel CAILLAUD (France), Indrek AUNVER (Estonia)

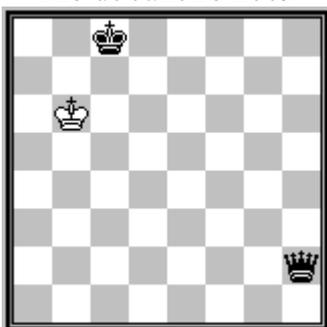
1. Ba7 Qa6 2.0-0-0 (bI=Rd8, wI=Rb7) Qc6#

1. b1=S Qf6 2.0-0 (bI=Rh8, wI=Sf7) Qg6#

Almost every participant tried castles to both sides, but this is the simplest.

Christian POISSON (France)

5th Commendation
 Rio de Janeiro 2009



H#2 2 sol (1+2)
 1+0 invisibles

5th Commendation: Christian POISSON (France)

1.Qd6 I--- 2.Qc7+ Ixc7 (wI=Q)#

1.Qb8 Kc6 2.Qa8 Ixa8 (wI=Q/R)#

The first solution is almost the same with Kohey Yamada's example in the announcement, but much interest lies in the try in the second solution: 1.Qa2? Kc6 2.Qa8 Ixa8#?? wI=Sc7 and 2...Sxa8!