

Many thanks for inviting me to judge this national composing tourney to the memory of Ilkka Sarén. Helpmate moremovers were required. A few days after the closing date of C 1.8.2023, I received 25 problems without composers' names, carefully prepared by the controller Neal Turner. Comments were included when sent by the composers.

The average level was satisfactory. I decided to include 10 problems in the award. First, let me comment shortly on the 15 unsuccessful entries.

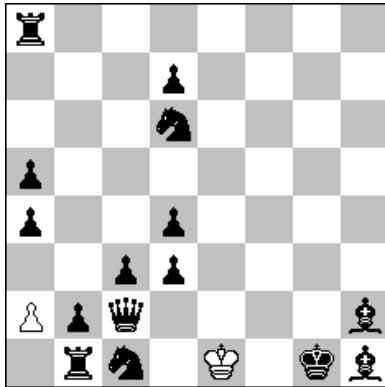
No. 1 is anticipated by Marcin Banaszek, harmonie-aktiv 2015 (WinChloe ID 602923, <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1311129>), which has better two solutions form. The capture Txf6 in No. 2 is awkward. BK and wL Rundlauf with matching strategy of square vacation in No. 4, but the bishop's path is linear only. No. 5, No. 17, No. 24 and No. 25 are not to my taste. No. 8 is not convincing. Check prevention by the two black knights in No. 11, but the play is unbalanced between the twins and 1.Se6 serves as a square block too. No. 12 suffers from too many repetitions, even if the moves are not played in the same order. No. 14 is substantially anticipated by the superior Aleksandr Semenenko, Special Prize, 3. FIDE World Cup 2013 (WinChloe ID 662686, <https://www.yacpdb.org/#425421>). Clever timing of the white moves in No. 19, but mechanical black play. The black Tf7 in No. 20 could be a humble pawn. Average strategy in No. 21 and unequal motivations of the captures on e5. I do not like the repeated 2.a1D+ in No. 23.

I propose the following ranking:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize No. 16

Marko Ylijoki

"65"



h#8,5

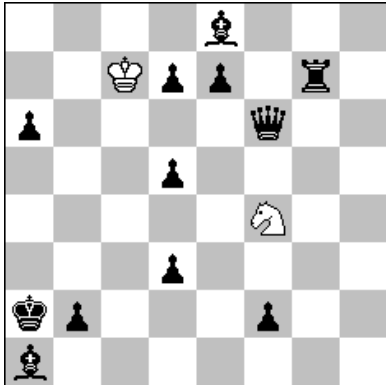
2+15 C+

*r7/3p4/3n4/p7/p2p4/2pp4/Ppq4b/1rn1K1kb*

1...a3 2.Dg2 Kd1 3.Db7 Ke1 4.Db4 axb4 5.Th8 bxa5 6.La8 a6 7.Sb7 a7 8.Lb8 axb8D 9.Th1 Dg3#

An amazing single-liner that combines deep strategy with exceptional beauty. After the forced introduction, Black has to release White from stalemate and sacrifice a unit to the white pawn. So, 2.Db3? is out of question; the bD should reach b4 via the longer path g2-b7-b4. Now, Black has to help the pawn promote to queen and give mate surprisingly from... g3! Easier to say than to do it! The bTa8 replaces the block on h1, Lh1 hides to a8 with interference by the knight, while Lh2 is sacrificed on the promotion square so that it gets out of the diagonal. In terms of terminology, we have black D/L Bristol, black T/L Platzwechsel, bL corner-to-corner move, Excelsior and Minimal. But there is more to admire! As the composer points out, the sum of the move lengths (1 + 4 + 1 + 7,07107 + 1 + 3 + 1,41421 + 7 + 1,41421 + 9,89949 + 1 + 2,23606 + 1 + 8,48528 + 1,41421 + 7 + 7,07107 = 65,0) celebrates the 65 years of Ilkka Sarén's membership in the SSK Chess Club from 1957 till his death in 2022. All in all, an unforgettable masterpiece!

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No. 15  
Jorma Paavilainen



h#4 2+12 C+

b) ♜b2→a3

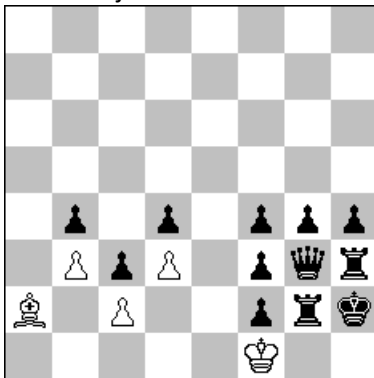
4b3/2Kpp1r1/p4q2/3p4/5N2/3p4/kp3p2/b7

a) 1.Df8 Sxd5 2.Lf7 Sxe7 3.Lb3 Sd5 4.Da3 Sc3#

b) 1.Tg2 Sxd3 2.Lg6 Sxf2 3.Lb1 Sd3 4.Tb2 Sc1#

A shorter wS Minimal with nice interplay featuring 2+2 black ambushes, annihilation of pawns for gate opening, 2 x Klasinc (wR-bL) and echo model mates. The composer mastered skillfully the correct order of the B1 and B2 moves.

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No. 9  
Marko Ylijoki



h#10 (5+12) C+

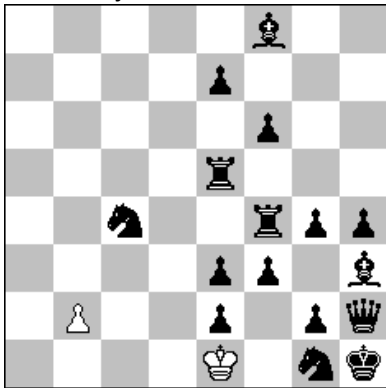
8/8/8/8/1p1p1ppp/1PpP1pqr/B1P2prk/5K2

1.Kh1 Lb1 2.Thh2 La2 3.h3 Lb1 4.Dh4 La2 5.Dh7 Lb1 6.Dxd3+ cxd3 7.Tg3 Lc2 8.Thg2 Ld1 9.h2 Lxf3 10.Th3 Lxg2#

A clever sliding block problem. Black has to unlock the cage for the queen so that she sacrifices and releases the white bishop. In doing so, the two black rooks have exchanged places!

4<sup>th</sup> Prize No. 3

Marko Ylijoki



h#6,5

2+16 C+

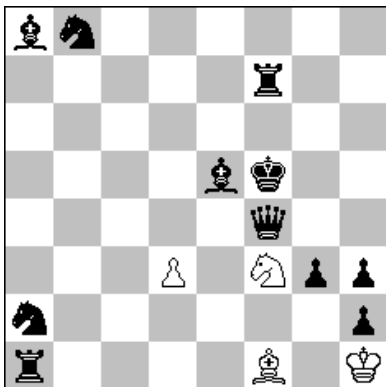
5b2/4p3/5p2/4r3/2n2rpp/4pp1b/1P2p1pq/4K1nk

1...b4 2.Tc5 bxc5 3.Sd6 cxd6 4.Tb4 dxe7 5.Db8 exf8D 6.Kh2 Dxb4 7.Kg3 Dxb8#

Another solid Excelsior single-liner featuring two black sacrifices that are used by the pawn at once and two other well-hidden sacrificial hideaways that are used by the pawn after it promotes to queen. It is interesting that even if the pawn could reach the mate square in only 5 moves, it eventually needs 7 to get there.

1<sup>st</sup> Hon. Mention No. 13

Jorma Paavilainen



h#4

4+11 C+

b) ♖d3→c4

bn6/5r2/8/4bk2/5q2/3P1Npp/n6p/r4B1K

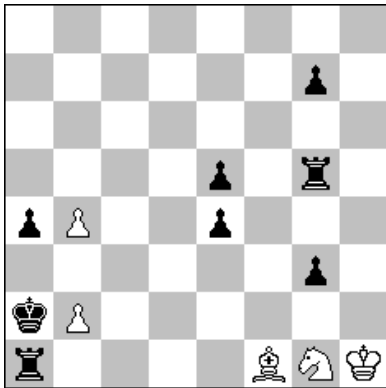
a) 1.Sc6 Rg1 2.De3 Le2 3.Kf4 Ld1 4.Tf5 Sxh3#

b) 1.Sc1 Lg2 2.Lf6 Se5 3.Ke6 Sc6 4.Dd6 Lxh3#

Interference unpins of the white pieces followed by exchanged self-unpins yield two pretty model mates on the same square. Straightforward black play with no sensational moments with good use of the material.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hon. Mention No. 10

Hannu Harkola



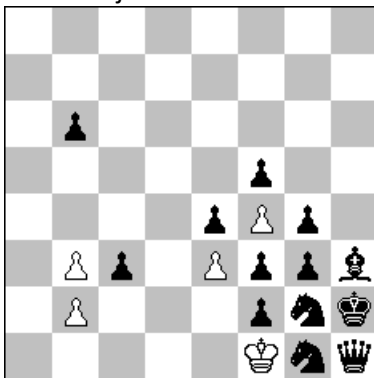
h#4      2.1.1...      5+8 C+  
 8/6p1/8/4p1r1/pP2p3/6p1/kP6/r4BNK

- 1.Tg6 Sh3 2.Tc6 Sf2 3.Tcc1 Sd1 4.Tcb1 Lc4#  
 1.Tf5 Le2 2.Tf2 Ld1 3.Txb2 Se2 4.a3 Sc3#

Exchanged self-unpins as before, but here the thematic pieces are initially half-pinned. The bT maneuvers for self-block are simple but well arranged, yet the lack of interplay rather detracts the overall impression. I found several earlier setups in which the half-pin utilizes two bishops or a rook and a bishop, but none using a bishop and a knight.

3<sup>rd</sup> Hon. Mention No. 7

Marko Ylijoki



h#12      (5+13) C+  
 8/8/1p6/5p2/4pPp1/1Pp1Pppb/1P3pnk/5Knq

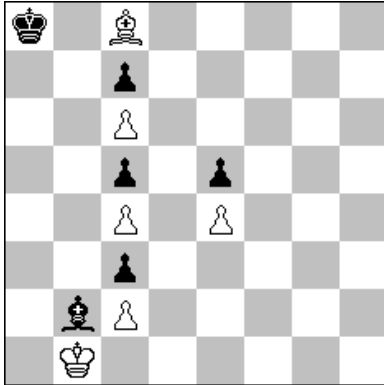
- 1.c2 b4 2.c1L b5 3.Lxe3 b4 4.Lc5 bxc5 5.bxc5 b6 6.c4 b7 7.c3 b8T 8.c2 Tb3 9.c1L Txf3 10.Se2+ Kxe2  
 11.Kg1 Txf2 12.Dh2 Tf1#

Interesting promotion play by the two pairs of white and black pawns on the queen side. The linear Rundlauf of wP[T] from b3 and back is easy to spot. The composer mentions a second 'Staffel-Rundlauf' (relayed Rundlauf), a recent innovation with a definition something like this: "The unit moves to square x, where it is captured by a unit of the opposite color (and possibly immediately re-captured). After the capture(s), this second unit arrives at the starting square of the first unit, but by a different route." Here the thematic pieces are bP[L] and bP and the route is c3–c2–c1–e3–c5xx–c4–c3 (–c2–c1, extended). Admittedly, a bit harder to fully grasp. WinChloe also identifies a [wP-wP] Klasinc maneuver and an Anti-Pronkin bishop on c1 (a piece moves on the promotion square of a piece of the same kind and color).

After the fifth move, Black only buys time which may seem boring to some, but I liked that in the end of the tempo sequence, a promotion to knight would fail.

4<sup>th</sup> Hon. Mention No. 22

Henry Tanner



h#6 6+6 C+

b) ♔b2→a3

*k1B5/2p5/2P5/2p1p3/2P1P3/2p5/1bP5/1K6*

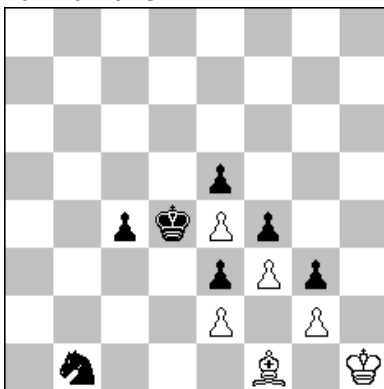
a) 1.La3 Ka2 2.Lb4 Kb3 3.La5 Ka4 4.Lb6 Kb5 5.La7 Ka6 6.Lb8 Lb7#

b) 1.Ka7 Ka2 2.Kb6 Kb3 3.Ka5 Kxc3 4.Lb2+ Kxb2 5.Kb4 c3+ 6.Kxc4 La6#

A small-scale change in the twin has drastic consequences: In a) the bL and wK go up the staircase, while in b) the bK goes down along the same path. In b), the first solution is impossible as Black cannot lose a tempo. These ZigZag maneuvers reminded me Zlatko Mihajloski, 6<sup>th</sup> Hon. Mention Die Schwalbe 2016 <https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1328336> or WinChloe ID 644719.

1<sup>st</sup> Commendation No. 18

Kari Karhunen



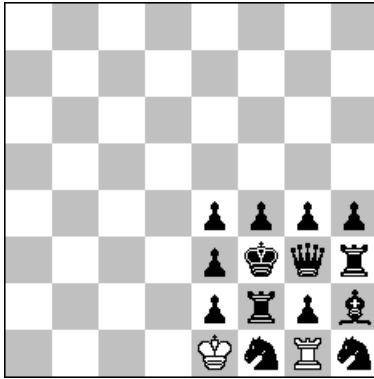
h#7 6+7 C+

*8/8/8/4p3/2pkPp2/4pPp1/4P1P1/1n3B1K*

1.Sc3 Kg1 2.Sxe2+ Kh1 3.Sg1 Lxc4 4.Sxf3 Lf7 5.Kxe4 gxf3+ 6.Kxf3 Kg1 7.e4 Lh5#

The black knight releases the white bishop from the cage and is later sacrificed with a Kniest capture.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation No. 6  
Marko Ylijoki



*h#5.5 2.1.1... 2+14 C+*  
*8/8/8/8/4pppp/4pkqr/4prpb/4KnRn*

1...T<sub>x</sub>h1 2.L<sub>g</sub>1 T<sub>x</sub>h3 3.S<sub>h</sub>2 T<sub>x</sub>h4 4.D<sub>h</sub>3 T<sub>x</sub>g4 5.D<sub>h</sub>4 T<sub>x</sub>h4 6.S<sub>g</sub>4 T<sub>h</sub>3#  
1...T<sub>x</sub>g2 2.L<sub>g</sub>1 T<sub>x</sub>g1 3.D<sub>h</sub>2 T<sub>x</sub>h1 4.K<sub>g</sub>3 T<sub>x</sub>h2 5.T<sub>f</sub>3 T<sub>h</sub>1 6.S<sub>h</sub>2 T<sub>g</sub>1#

A funny initial position that resembles a 4x4 sliding puzzle.

Harry Fougiaxis  
Athens, September 2023

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