

8th Maroc Echecs Tourney 2018

Award section B (H2,5-3)

Christopher Jones

**Bristol
23 September 2018**

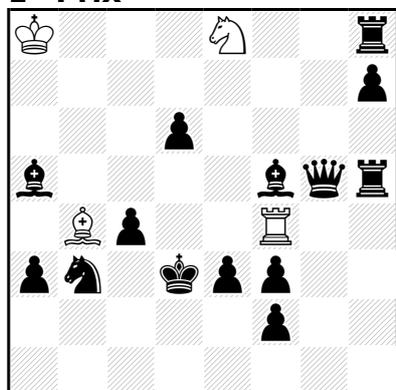


I was grateful to be asked by Abdelaziz to judge this tourney. Amongst the 37 anonymous diagrams I received were a number of attractive problems, of which I've decided to honour eight. Quite a few of the others could have appeared in the award, but the judge always has to draw the line somewhere!

Participants :

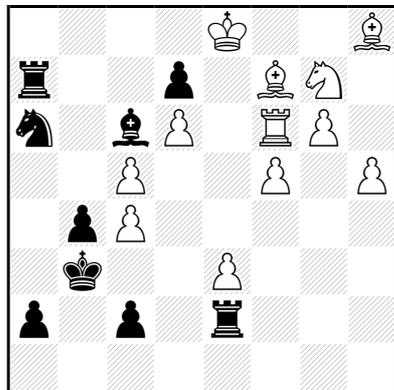
Bidlen Anton:9,10 ;Csak János:1,18 ;Fica Alexander:17 ;Gavrilov Evgeny:31 ;
Gershinsky Mikhail:11*,12* ;Ivunin Alexei :13*,14*,15* ;Jonsson Christer:7,8 ;
Kaproš Jorge :4* ;Kolesnik Mikola:33,34*,35 ;Krizhanivsky Vasil:19 ;
Labai Zoltán:5,6 ;Lois Jorge :4* ;Medintsev Vitaly :16 ;Muller Dieter:22,23,24,25,26 ;
Onkoud Abdelaziz:2,3,20,21,28,29,30 ;Pankratiev Alexandr:11*,12*,13*,14*,15* ;
Spitsyn Alexandre :27 ;Vasyuchko Nikolai:32 ;Yuzyuk Victor:36 & Zalokotsky
Roman:34*.

34 - Mikola Kolesnik & Roman Zalokotsky
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
1° Prix



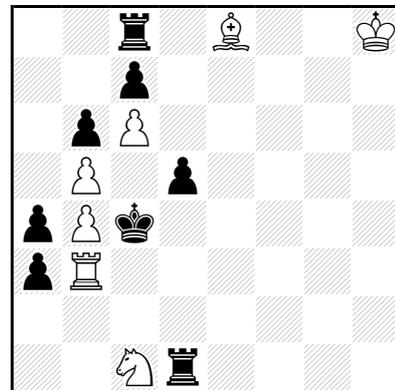
h#3 (4+14) C+
 2 solutions

19 - Vasil Krizhanivsky
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
2° Prix



h#3 (12+9) C+
 2 solutions

20 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
3° Prix



h#3 (7+8) C+
 2 solutions

1st Prize 34 (Ka8-Kd3)-Mikola Kolesnik & Roman Zalokotsky

1. Fc8 Fc3 (Te4?) 2. Rxc3 Cxd6 3. Rb4 Txc4#
 1. Fd8 Té4 (Fc3?) 2. Rxe4 Cf6+ 3. Rf4 Fxd6#

The geometric features of this construction are familiar but the execution of the (very attractive) play in two perfectly-matched solutions is exemplary. The wR and wB interchange functions, each sacrificing itself on an open square, the other delivering mate. (No wPs are needed to force these sacrifices; they are determined by the logic of the problem.) In each case the bK ends up on the square vacated by the sacrificed piece. There is also a very good interchange of functions between the two bBS, each unpinning the wS in one solution and blocking a flight square in the other.

2nd Prize 19 (Ke8-Kb3)-Vasil Krizhanivsky

1. Cxç5 Té6 2. Cxé6 Cxé6 3. Ta3 Cç5#
 1. Txé3+ Cé6 2. Txé6+ Txé6 3. Fa4 Té3#

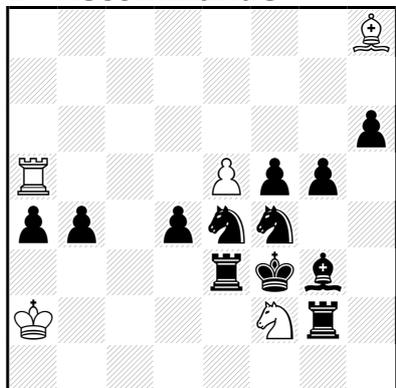
Again we have open-square sacrifices of white officers, and again the motive is hideaway – the diagonal of the h8B must be opened. In this case, wP plugs, understandably, are necessary – it requires skill to produce a sound setting of an idea that requires four white officers. There is a nice choice on White's first move – which of his two officers to sacrifice? – which is determined by which mate square has been made available by Black's first move. It is a nice touch that each mating move opens the f7-c4 line.

3rd Prize 20 (Kh8-Kc4)-Abdelaziz Onkoud

1. Tb8 Ca2 2. Tb7 çxb7 3. Td4 Tç3#
 1. Ta8 Cd3 2. Ta5 bxa5 3. d4 Ff7#

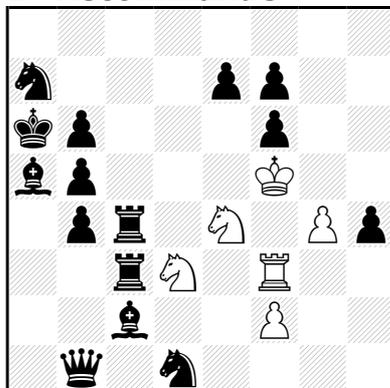
Another very clean construction, with, again, the composer showing great proficiency in handling a strong white force. This time the sacrifices are by Black, and serve to open lines of guard (e8-b5 and b3-b5). Once again there is a sense of familiarity about the matrix and the mates (when is that not the case in h#3 these days?!), and it is quickly apparent that the out-of-play (albeit pinning) c8R can only be there in order to be sacrificed, but still the play is very nice, with move-by-move correspondence between solutions (including differentiated blocks at d4) and excellent orthogonal-diagonal transformation between solutions.

33 - Mikola Kolesnik
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
1° Recommandé



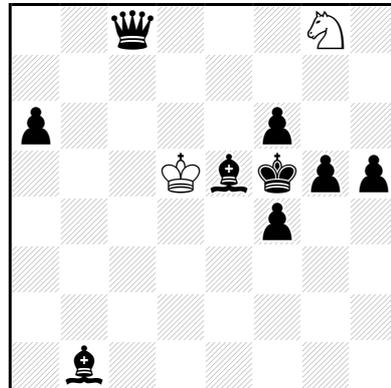
h#3 (5+12) C+
 2 solutions

32 - Nikolai Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Halma
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
2° Recommandé



h#3 (6+15) C+
 b) ♖f3→f4

27 - Alexandre Spitsyn
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
3° Recommandé



h#3 (2+9) C+
 2 solutions

1st Commendation 33 (Ka2-Kf3)-Mikola Kolesnik

1.Cd2 Cd3 2.T×é5 Cé1+ 3.Ré4 T×é5#

1.Cé2 Cg4 2.F×é5 Ch2+ 3.Rf4 F×é5#

Yet again, a very good exploration of familiar themes using three white officers. For the most part there is a good match between the two solutions, though there is inherently one difference: that one of the two self-sacrificial black officers (Re3) serves as a block in the other solution but the other (Bg3) doesn't.

2nd Commendation 32 (Kf5-Ka6)-Nikolai Vasyuchko & Mykhailo Halma

a) 1.T×d3 T×d3 2.Tç3 Td6 3.Td3 Cç5#

b) 1.T×é4 T×é4 2.Tç4 Té6 3.Té4 Cç5#

In both solutions of this very clever problem one bR must sacrifice itself in order to allow the wR to occupy a square initially occupied by a wS and then the other bR must occupy the same square when it has been vacated by the wR. The analogy between solutions is perfect, but so perfect that, perhaps unfairly, it seems to detract from the aesthetic appeal of the problem. In particular, there is a feeling of repetitiveness about the mating moves, even though this is not a formal defect as in each case it is a different wS that moves to c5 (indeed, a Zilahi!). A very interesting problem that another judge might well have placed higher.

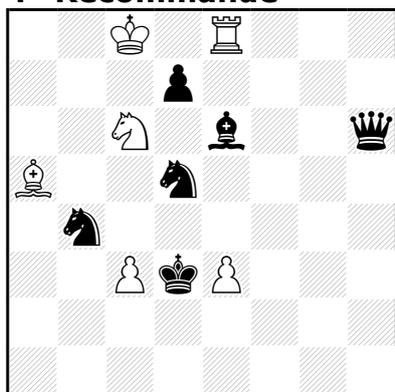
3rd Commendation 27 (Kd5-Kf5)-Alexandre Spitsyn

1.Rg4 Cé7 2.Fg6 Cg8 3.Rf5 Ch6#

1.Rg6 Ch6 2.Dg4 Cg8 3.Rf5 Cé7#

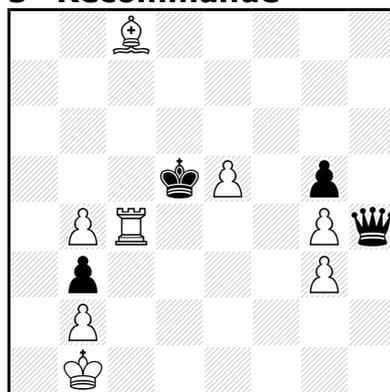
A very neat, simple problem. Nice geometry! I hope it hasn't been done before (I'm not aware of an anticipation).

28 - Abdelaziz Onkoud
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
4° Recommandé



h#3 (6+6) C+
 2 Solutions

16 - Vitaly Medintsev
8° Maroc Echecs 2018
5° Recommandé



h#3 (8+4) C+
 2 solutions

4th Commendation 28 (Kc8-Kd3)-Abdelaziz Onkoud

1.Cxç3 Fxb4 2.Cé2 Fé1 3.Fç4 Cb4#

1.Dxé3 T×é6 2.Dd2 Té1 3.Cç2 Cé5#

Another familiar matrix, used in this case to show anti-critical moves to e1 on initially doubly masked lines. I'd have placed it higher but for the fact that ...Sb4# has a nice Umnov effect but ...Se5# doesn't.

5th Commendation 16 (Kb1-Kd5)-Vitaly Medintsev

1.Dh7+ Té4 2.Df5 gxf5 3.g4 Fb7#

1.Dxg3 Ff5 2.Dç3 b×ç3 3.b2 Tç5#

There have been a number of H#3s recently using this sort of play in this sort of matrix but I don't know of a complete anticipation, and the play of course is appealing.

Many thanks to the composers, and again to Abdelaziz, for giving me this enjoyable task.

Christopher Jones
Bristol
23 September 2018