

StrateGems 2012 Solving Championship

By Danny L. Dunn

Name	Total #2	Total #3	Total #n	Total E	Total S#	Total H#	Total C	Total Q	Total F#	Total R	Total Total R	Total PG	Total
Perfect Score	74	180	206	133	154	349	207	35	404	80	168	1990	
Lazowski R.	74	180	206	38	154	349	165	34	355	17	140	1712	
Tomašević R.	74	180	206	114	154	349	0	0	376.5	52	154	1659.5	
Nieuwjaert H.	72	153	152	0	55	348	168.5	12	251	21	133	1365.5	
Seehofer W.	64	117	199	5	154	349	128	0	271	10	0	1297	
Frankiss C.C.	0	0	0	0	140	348	200	35	372	25	143.5	1263.5	
Belscak L.	4	150	100	7	42	323	158	19	143	44	161	1151	
Gasparyan A.	72	177	192	7	63	335	94	0	16	0	0	956	
Moulton D.	74	130	27	7	26	276	142	7	94.5	11	52.5	847	
Keith B.	14	3	5	0	0	286.5	77.5	12	40.5	7	21	466.5	
v.d. Laan P.	36	53	55	0	20	150	42	7	0	0	0	363	
Bua B.	62	138	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	
Morse J.	68	0	0	0	0	49	110	7	0	0	0	234	
Balint G.	20	45	27	6	7	59.5	0	0	0	0	0	164.5	
Lee F.	26	3	0	0	0	89.5	11	4	0	0	0	133.5	
Casalino R.	34	3	0	0	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	86	
Ganapathi G.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	0	15	
Wenda K.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	
Dittmann W.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	

Romuald Lazowski has won the StrateGems 2012 Solving Championship. Romuald had perfect scores for #2, #3, #n, #s, and #H. Radovan M. Tomašević was second with perfect scores in #2, #3, #n, #s, and #H and was also first in E, F#, R, and PG! Hans Nieuwjaert was third. Wilfried Seehofer also had perfect scores in S# and H#. C. C. Frankiss was first in C and Q.

Once again, more points were earned for Helpmates (3360.5) than any other type of problem. Fairies (1930.5) were second, followed by ThreeMovers (1332), Series-Movers (1296), Moremoves (1212), Selfmates (815), Proof Games (805), TwoMovers (694), Retros (204), Statemates (184), and Studies (171). If anyone feels that their 2012 score is incorrect, please let me know and I will double check the results.

Milan Vukcevich 75 Jubilee Tourney Results

Introduction by Michelle Vukcevich

I just wanted to tell everyone how touched I am that you participated in Milan's Jubilee tourney. Milan always said that no one ever has a completely independent idea - that one always "stands on the shoulders" of thinkers that came before. He would be extremely pleased and proud to know that his life's work of problem composition might have inspired or even influenced another problemist. He would have enjoyed having brought composers together and would have enthusiastically participated in long discussions on how to find a better move, a tighter logic or a more beautiful flow of pieces. For Milan, the collaboration and exchange of ideas was as important as the goal of creating a spectacular problem. And for me and our family, it is an honor to know that his efforts and talents are remembered. Thank you.

#2 section, Judge: Vasyly Dyachuk

I received 39 entries without names. The level of competition was good thanks to the prize winners. I excluded from the award the following two entries:

- Stefan Feibler has two refutations after the try 1...e4? Sc6!

and Qe6! as well as duals after defenses 1...e4? Sc6!

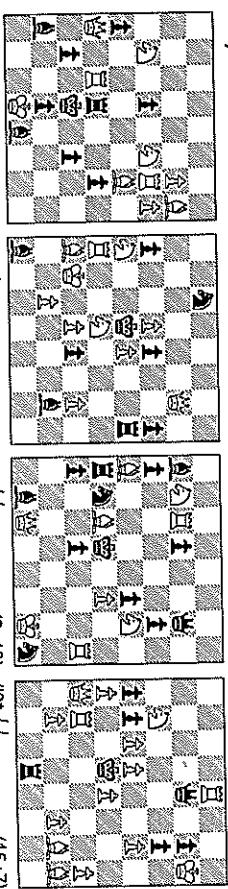
- Philippe Robert is anticipated by W.Bruch, *Rochade Europa* 2000, 3rd Prize (<http://www.yacpdb.org/?id=227350>)

I propose the following ranking:

1st Prize Marjan Kovacevic
2nd Prize Marco Guida
3rd Prize Wieland Bruch
4th Prize Dragan Stojnic



#2½√	((10+10))	#2½√	(11+9)	#2½√	(9+13)	#2½√	(15+7)
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1st Prize - (Marjan Kovacevic) A complex three-phase realization of changed and reciprocally changed mates. The threat from the first phase becomes the reply to different black defenses (Shchedry theme). Very successful, harmonious mechanism with interesting play and an excellent key-move. Solution: 1.Qc6? (2.Rc3#) 1...Rd5 2.Qxd5# 1...Re4 2.Qe4# 1...Rf4!, 1...Sxg4? (2.Rxd6#), 1...Rxc4 2.Qxc4#, 1...d5!, 1.Sd5? (2.Rxd4#), 1...Rxd5 2.Rxd6#.

1st Prize - (Marco Guida) Three-phase change and reciprocal change. The play is quite harmonious, based on control of two thematic squares. Solution: 1...Rxe5[a] 2.Qb7[A]#, 1...Bxd4[b] 2.Rc3# 1...Rxe4 2.Rxd6# 1...Rxe4 2.Qxc4#, 1...Bf2 2.Sxh2#, 1...Kxe4 2.Rd7#.

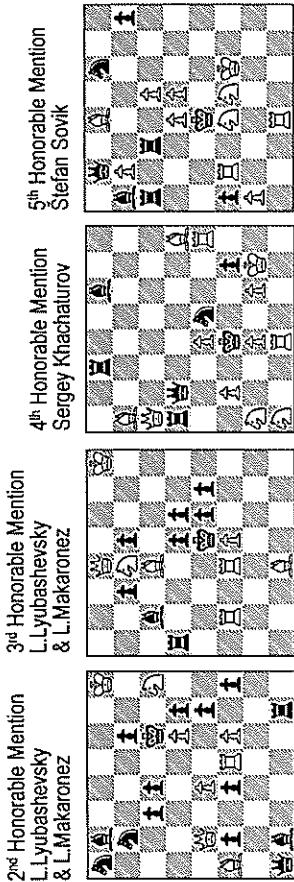
2nd Prize - (Marco Guida) Three-phase change and reciprocal change. The play is quite harmonious, based on control of two thematic squares. Solution: 1...Rxe5[a] 2.Qxd4[C]#, (1...Kxe5

2.c4[B]#, 1.Qg4? (2.Qxe6#), 1...Rxf4[b] 2.Qxd4[B]#, 1...Rf5; 1.Sc4! (2.Sxe3#), 1...Rxe5[D]#, 1...Bxd4[b] 2.Qb7[A]#, (1...Kxd4 2.Sb6#).

Series-movers and Statemates 2011 Award change. The 1st Prize winner was cooked by Mike Neumeyer: 1.e8B 2.Bd7 3.Bc8 4.Ke7 5.Ke8 6.Rxd2 7.Rd8 8.R8S 9.Sd7 10.Bc5 11.Bf8 12.e6 13.e7 14.b6 15.bxa7 16.a8R 17.Rb8 18.a7 19.a8B 20.hxg7+ Kg8#=. The author, George Sphicas, has informed me that he does not have a correction. Thus, the problem is removed from the award, and the order of the winners becomes: 1st Prize Israel Tzur, 2nd Prize Radovan M. Tomašević, 3rd Prize Dan Meinling & Peiko A. Pekov and the 4th Prize Radovan M. Tomašević. All the rest remains the same.

3rd Prize - Piotr Ruszczyński One might cavil that the flight at e6 gives away the key, yet the key not only allows crosschecks, but also gives two flights itself. There is an old-fashioned quality to this that Milan would have enjoyed. No cycle here, but the byplay after 1...g5 and the light construction shine through. Solution: 1.Sc7! (2.Bc5 & 3.Qb1#), 1...Kf6+ 2.Sg5! (3.Be3#) Rxg5+ 3.Be3#, 1...Ke4+ 2.Bg5! (3.Qb1#) Rxg5+ 3.Sxg5#, 1...Kxf4+ 2.Se5+ Kc4 3.Qb3#; 2...Kg5 3.Sf7#, 1...g5 2.Qb1+ Kf6 3.Be5#; 2...Kxf4 3.Sd5#.

1st Honorable Mention - Eugene Fomichev A new 'take' on the Nowotny: the key sets one up, yet only in the sense that the interferences lead to further variations after other Black defenses. Then, the set third mates after Black plays a set Grimshaw now become second move mates after the Nowotny moves! An original conception. Solution: 1...Rxf4 2.Qxe4+! Bxe4/Rxe4 3.Sg4# [Sf3#], 1.Bc4! (2.Sg6+ Kg6 3.Rf6#), 1...Qf2 2.cxd4+ Ke6 3.Qb3#, 1...Rf1 2.Qxd4+ Kc6 3.Qd5#, 1...Rxe4 2.Sg4+! Rg4# [Ke6 3.Qf5/Rf6#], 1...Bxe4 2.Sf3+! Bxf3/Kc6 3.Qf5/Rf6#, (1...Rh6 2.Bd5, 1...Rf4 2.gxh4+, 1...Ke6 2.Bd5+Rf6+).

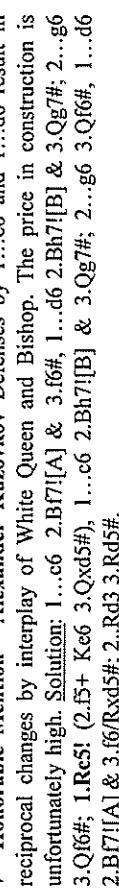
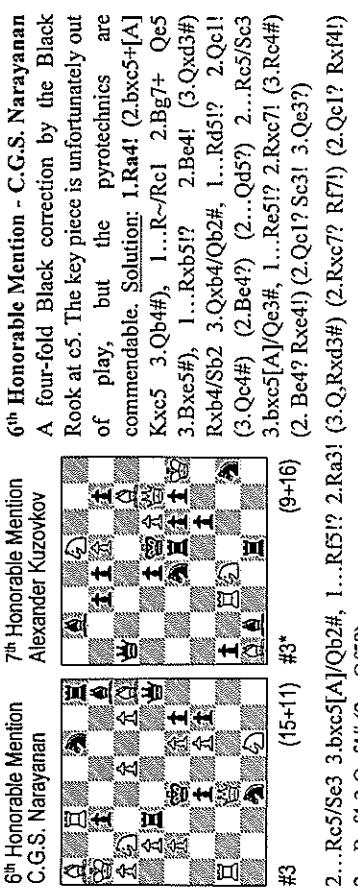


2nd Honorable Mention - L.Lyubashevsky & L.Makaronez Plausible tries are deflected by unguards. These tries return as second moves after a stunning key. The byplay occasioned by the Black Knights elevates this to memorable quality. Solution: 1.f5g4? (2.Sg8#) Rxg1!, 1.Re5? (2.Sg8#) Qxd4; 1.Qe1! (2.Rd6+ fxe6 3.Qe6#, 1...Sc7 2.Re5! (3.Sg8#) dxe5 3.Qe5#, 1...Sc5 2.Re7! & 3.Rxf7#, 1...Sd8 2.Qa5! c5 3.Qxd8#, 2...Sc7 3.Sg8#, 1...Rxe1 2.Rg4! & 3.Sg8#.

3rd Honorable Mention - Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez This graceful composition avoids the plausible Nowotny try 1.Bc5? Yet the key threatens a further Nowotny on this square. The return of 3.Sc5 in one of the main lines isn't matched by similar play in the other, but what can one expect? Solution: 1.Bxe5! (2.Sc5+ Rxg5/Bxg5 3.Qd4/Qd5#), 1...Rxe5 2.Qxc7! (3.Qxe5#) Bxc7 3.Rd4#, 2...Ra5 3.Qxf4#, 1...Bxe3 2.Rb4+ Kxd3 3.Sc5#; 2...Bd4 3.Rxd4#, 1...c6 2.Qxe7! (3.Sf6#) Ra8+ 3.Bb4# 1...e6 2.Bxc7! (3.Sf6#) Bd4+ 3.Rxd4#; 2...Bxc7 3.Rd4#, 1...Ra8 2.Qxa8+ c6 3.Qxc6#, 1.Bc5? (2.Sf6+), 1...Rxc5 2.Sxg5+ Bxc5 3.Qd5#, 1...Rxe3!

4th Honorable Mention - Sergey Khachaturov Grimshaws at c5 allow Gamache interferences and Queen mates, nicely separated. Solution: 1.Rf4! (2.Rf3+ Ke2 3.Rc#), 1...Rc5 2.Sb4+ Kxd4 3.Qf6# (3...Qe5?), 1...Bc5 2.Sc1+ Kxd4 3.Qd6# (3...Qd5?), 1...Sxd2/Sx1# (3...Qxg3#) (3...Qf3?).

5th Honorable Mention - Štefan Sovík A cycle of three mates follows the try and key by Bishop d8. Unfortunately, the set defenses which further this cycle are gratuitous. Solution: 1...Qd6 2.Sf2+ Kc5[f] 3.Sb4/Scl#, 1...Sx4#[A]; 2...Kxe5[b] 3.Sg4#[B], 1...Bc5 2.Sb2+ Kxe5 3.Sc4#, 1.Bc7? (2.Sf2+ Kxe5[b] 3.Sg4#[B]), 1...Ra4 2.Sb4+[C] Kc5 3.Sc6#, 1...Rc4 2.Sb2+[D] Kxe5 3.Sc6#, 1...h5!; 1.Bf6! (2.Sf2+ Kc5 3.Sc4#[A]), 1...Ra4 2.Sb2+[D] Kc5 3.Sxa4#, 1...Rc4 2.Sb4+[C] Kc5 3.Sxa6#

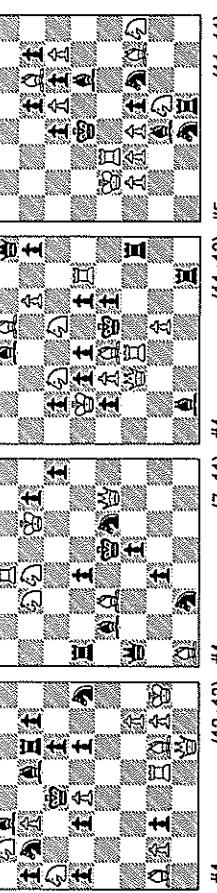
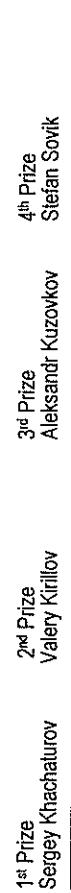


6th Honorable Mention - C.G.S. Narayanan A four-fold Black correction by the Black Rook at c5. The key piece is unfortunately out of play, but the pyrotechnics are commendable. Solution: 1.Ra4! (2.bxc5+[A] Kxc5 3.Qb4#), 1...R~Rc1 2.Bg7+ Qe5 3.Bx5#), 1...Rxf5? 2.Be4! (3.Qxd3#) Rxb4/Sb2 3.Qxb4/Qb2#, 1...Rd5? 2.Qc1! (3.Qc4#) (2.Be4?) (2...Qd5?) 2...Rc5/Sc3 3.bxc5[A]/Qc3#, 1...Re5? 2.Rxc7! (3.Rc4#) (9+16) (2...Be4? Rxe4!) (2.Qc1? Sc3! 3.Qe5!) 2...Rc3 3.bxc5[A]/Qb2#, 1...Rf5? 2.Ra3! (3.Q.Rxd3#) (2.Rxc7? Rf7!) (2.Qc1? Rxf4!) 2...Rx4 3.Qxf4# (2...Qf5?).

#n section, Judge: Richard Becker

7th Honorable Mention - Alexander Kuzovkov Defenses by 1...e6 and 1...d6 result in reciprocal changes by interplay of White Queen and Bishop. The price in construction is unfortunately high. Solution: 1...e6 2.Bf7![A] & 3.f6#, 1...d6 2.Bh7![B] & 3.Qg7#, 2...g6 3.Qf6#; 1.Rc5! (2.f5+ Kc6 3.Qxd5#), 1...c6 2.Bh7![B] & 3.Qg7#, 2...g6 3.Qf6#, 1...d6 2.Bf7![A] & 3.f6[Rxd5#], 2...Rd3 3.Rd5#.

The U.S. chess problem community owes its international counterparts full thanks for this tribute to our former friend and mentor. His geniality and humor were legendary. I recall one day confessing to him that the first thing I do on receiving a new problem magazine is to look for my name. "I do too," he replied at once; "I do too!"



#13 #4 (12+13) #4 (7+11) #4 (11+13) #5 (11+11)

1st Prize - (Sergey Khachaturov) Our champion moremover displays no fewer than four distinct Bristols. It is remarkable that no Bristol is already set in the starting position. (Allow me to speak of Bristols as if they were a type of battery.) All must be formed by moves of the wQ. Two thematic tries form Bristols with wQ as the rear piece, but Black defends by adding another guard to the targeted squares: 1.Qg1? c1Q!, 1.Qe1? Sf4!. Instead, the wQ heads for the intersection point of the clearance lines where she becomes the front piece in two new Bristols simultaneously. We happily note that the two Bristol threats can be differentiated by the defenses to the thematic tries. The thematic tries reappear on the second move as thematic variations along with some respectable by-play. An excellent idea in a well-executed problem!

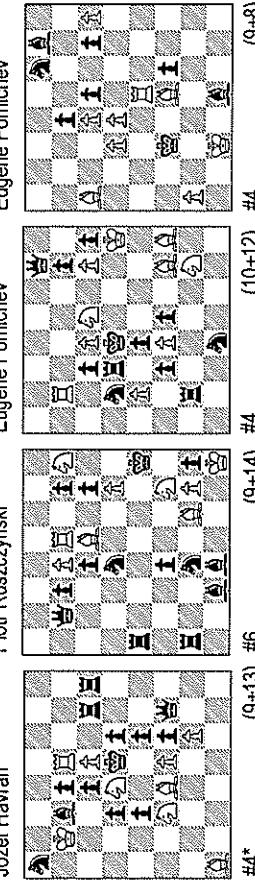
Solution: 1.Qc1! (2.Qe3 c1Q 3.Qe6+ Bx6 4.Rxe6#; 2...Sf4 3.Qxe5+ Sxc5 4.Bxc5#; 2...c4 3.Qa3+ Kxd5 4.Qd#), 1...c4 2.Qg1 (3.Bxc5+ Sxc5 4.Qxc#) Kxd5 4.Qd#; 2...Kxd5 3.Rd1+ K~ 4.Qe1#, 1...f4 2.Qe1 c4 3.Re6+ Bxe6 4.Qxe6#; 3...Kxd5 4.Qe4#.

2nd Prize - (Valery Kirillov) There is often a certain charm to problems with no white pawns. This problem is definitely a charmer. In response to two different moves by the bSc1, the wS's make Novotny interferences on c5. It is a nice point that both bS moves are self-blocks. The small White force is well utilized, particularly the wQ, who is able to deliver another mate in the additional variation 1...Bd6 2.Re8! Solution: 1.Se6! (2.Qxf4#), 1...Sd3 2.Sec5+ Bxc5 3.Sf6+ gxf6 4.Bxd5#; 2...Rxc5 3.Re8+ Se5+ 4.Rxe5#; 2...Bxc5 3.Re8+ Se6 4.Rxe6# (2.Sd5+? Sxc5!), 1...Se2 2.Sc6+ Rxc5 3.Sg5+ hgx5 4.Re8#; 2...Bxc5 3.Bxd5+ Kd3 4.Qf5#; (2.Se5+? Bxc5!), 1...Bd6 2.Re8 dxc4 3.Sc5+ Kd5 4.Qf3#.

3rd Prize - (Aleksandr Kuzovkov) This problem illustrates the broader definition of Bristol that Milan so successfully championed. The clearance moves are made not purely for their clearance effects, but also for another purpose, one that is intrinsic to some more complex theme. Here the clearances by the wR and wB create Plachutta interferences. The very ambitious theme necessitated a slightly heavy setting. Solution: 1.Bd7! (2.Sxc5+ bxc5 3.Bxf5#), 1...Bxg5 2.Rg3 Rgk3 3.Qf3+ Rxr3 4.Sxf5#; 2...Rhxg3 3.Sxg5+ Rxg5 4.Qf3#, 1...Rxe5 2.Bf6! Bxf6 3.Qe5+ Bxe5 4.Sxe5#; 2...Qxf6 3.Sxf5+ Qxf5 4.Qe5#.

4th Prize - (Stefan Sovík) After the fair key, the set replies to 1...Bxg3 and 1...Sxc3 are changed reciprocally. It isn't just White's second moves that see a reciprocal change. All of White's moves in both variations are cleanly switched around. The diagram is a little cluttered due to the need to plug a few squares. Solution: 1...Sxg3 2.Sf4+[A] Ke5 3.Sg2+ Kd5 4.Sxe3+ Bxe3 5.Sxc3#[B], 1...Bxe3+ 2.Sxe3+ [B] Sxc3 3.Sf4+[A] Ke5 4.Se2+ Kd5 5.Sxc3#; 1.Kb5! (2.Rc5+ dxc5 3.Qe4#), 1...Sxe3+ 2.Sxc3+[B] Bxc3 3.Sf4+[A] Ke5 4.Sc2+ Kd5 5.Sxc3#; 1...Bxc3 2.Sf4+[A] Ke5 3.Sg2+ Kd5 4.Sxe3+ Sxe3 5.Sxc3#[B], 1...Rxe2 2.Sf4+.

1st Honorable Mention Józef Havran **2nd Honorable Mention** Piotr Ruszczyński **3rd Honorable Mention** Eugene Fomichev **1st Commendation** Eugene Fomichev



1st Honorable Mention - (Józef Havran) The "delayed Siers battery" theme from 9th WCCT is shown here three times in the set play and three times in the actual play. Reciprocal change of White's second moves occurs between 1...fxe3 and 1...Qxf2. While the set variations all have the same "delay" moves 2...c3 3.Bxc3+, the actual variations are more interesting (as they should be) with different delaying moves in each. Solution: 1...fxe3 2.Sd1+ c3 3.Bxc3+ Kxd5 4.Sxe3#, 1...Qxf2 2.Sc2+ c3 3.Bxc3+ Kxd5 4.Sxf4#, 1...Sb6 2.Sb5+ c3 3.Bxc3+ Kxd5 4.Sxf7#;

1.Bxc4! (2.Sb1+ Ke4 3.Sd2#), 1...fxe3 2.Se2+ Ke4 3.exd7+ Re6 4.Sxg3#; 3...Qe5 4.Sdc3#, 1...Qx7 2.Sd1+ Qb2 3.Bxb2+ Ke4 4.Sf2#; 1...Ba2 5.Sb5+ Bc3 3.Bxc3+ Ke4 4.Sxd6#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Piotr Ruszczyński) A deep scheme with good unity of play. Only Black's first move 1...Qb2 (abandoning a line) and 1...Bf2 (cutting a line) show a difference in mechanisms. The rest of the line openings and closings correspond perfectly between the two variations. Solution: 1.Rf7! (2.Sf5+ Kg4/Kh5 3.Sxg7#), 1...Qb2 2.Se4+ Kh5 3.Rf4 4.Sg3+ Kh4 5.Se2+ Kh5 6.g4#, 1...Bb2 2.Se2+ Kh5 3.Rf3 Sx3 4.Sg3+ Kh4 5.Se4+ Kh5 6.g4#.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Eugene Fomichev) A nice problem with full length threat plus three solid variations. In the two main thematic variations, the wS's are annihilated on d5, Umnov style, to clear mating squares for the wBh3. The cross-check in the 1...Qe8 variation appears to be incidental, as White would not otherwise have a choice of mating continuations. Solution: 1.Re7! (2.Sc7+ Sx7 3.Re5+ Kxd6 4.bxc5#), 1...Qe8 2.Sef4+ Kxd6+ 3.Sd5+ Kxd5 4.Bef6#, 1...Rxb4 2.Sgf4+ Kxd6+ 3.Sd5+ Kxd5 4.Bg2#, 1...Re4 2.Sef4+ Kxd6 3.Rd7+ Ke5 4.Sd5#.

1st Commendation - (Eugene Fomichev) The bPe6 has set defenses for both of White's anti-critical threats. If White plays his anti-critical moves consecutively, secondary defenses become available to Black after his pawn vacates e6. White's foreplan is to disrupt Black's secondary defenses by decoying one of the two black pieces waiting on the eighth rank. A pity the key-move must be so powerful, particularly when the position is nearly a block.

Solution: 1.Bf1? exd5! 2.Ra4 Se6!, 1.Ra4? e5! 2.Bf1 Bxd5!; 1.h7! 2.Ra4 e5 3.Bf1 ~ 4.Bd4#, 1...Bxh7 2.Ra4+hxg8Q, 1...Sxh7 2.Bf1 exd5 3.Ra4 ~ 4.Bd4#, 1...Bxh7 2.Ra4 e5 3.Bf1 ~ 4.Rc4#.

2nd Commendation - (Leonid Makaronez) The foreplan involves a trip by the wK to c3 and back. The entertaining sacrifice 3.f6! is not a Roman decoy, but an annihilation move to clear the f5 square. Solution: 1.Sxe5? Bx5 2.Qxg5 Sg7!, 1.Kd2! Bh6+ 2.Kc3 Bg7+ 3.f6 Bxf6+ 4.Kd2 Bg5+ 5.Kd1 Be7 6.Sxc5+ Bxc5 7.Qxg5 Sd7 8.Bf5#.

#8 (7+11)

h# section, Judge: Jorge Marcelo Kapros

I am judging this tournament instead of Dan Meinking, who sadly died on 23rd November 2012, at the early age of 52. Dan had a great knowledge of themes and I ask for tolerance from those authors who had many expectations with entries that I left aside probably because I have not understood them as Dan would have done.

I received 57 problems on uniform and anonymous diagrams with the authors' comments. The general level of compositions was high. I propose the following ranking:

1st Prize	Boris Shorokhov	
2nd Prize	Menachem Witzum	
3rd Prize	N.Kolesik, A. & V. Semenenko	
4th Prize	Fadi Abdurahmanovic	

h#3½ 2 sols. (4+11) h#3 2 sols. (6+6) h#4 2 sols. (4+11) h#3½ 2 sols. (5+12)

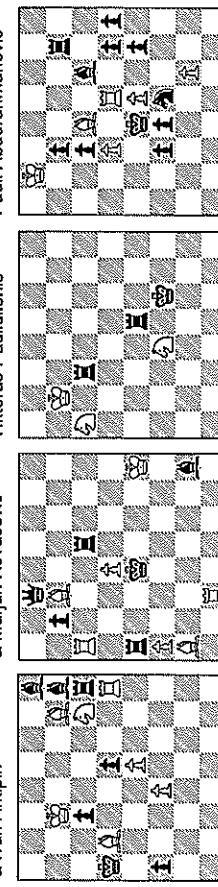
1st Prize - (Boris Shorokhov) The idea of adding a tempo move to the well-known sequence of Grimshaw forming a battery + tempo by the rear piece of the battery + battery mate is amazing, and the corege of the Bristol is a gem. Solution: 1...Rf3 2.Kd5 Bg2! 3.Rc4 Bh1! 4.Qd4 Rf1#, 1...Bf3 2.Kb3 Rg3! 3.Rb4 Rh3! 4.Qc4 Bd1#.

2nd Prize - (Menachem Witzum) The articulation of the Bristsols is a marvel. The concept is exceptional and the execution is masterful. Solution: 1.Ra3 (Rb3?) Sxf7 2.Qb3 (Q4#?) Rx b3 3.Bd6 Bxd6#, 1.Bb8 (Bc7?) Sxc6 2.Qc7 (Qf3?) Bxc7 3.Rc3 Rx c3#.

3rd Prize - (Nikolai Kolesnik, Aleksandr Semenenko & Valery Semenenko) An impressive mechanism due to accuracy of the sequence and strict attention to choice of moves. A great composition! Solution: 1.Qg5 Sf6! (Bf6?) 2.Bd1! (Sd2?) Sg4 3.f5! (Bf3?) Bf6 4.Bf3 Be5#, 1.Qf5 Bf6! (Sf6?) 2.Sd2! (Bd1?) Bd4 3.Bg5! (Sf3?) Sf6 4.Sf3 Sh5#.

4th Prize - (Fadil Abdurahmanović) The batteries are created intelligently and attractively. A good idea. Nice work. Solution: 1...d5+ 2.Kc2 Be3! 3.Kel exf5 4.Rf2 Bd2#, 1...exf5+ 2.Kf2 Re3! 3.Kg1 d5 4.Rah2 Rxg3#.

5th Prize Andrey Dikusarov & Ivan Antipin 1st Honorable Mention Fadil Abdurahmanović & Marijan Kovacević



h#2 2 sols. (7+7) h#2 2 sols. (7+6) h#4½ 3 sols. (3+3) h#3 2 sols. (6+1)

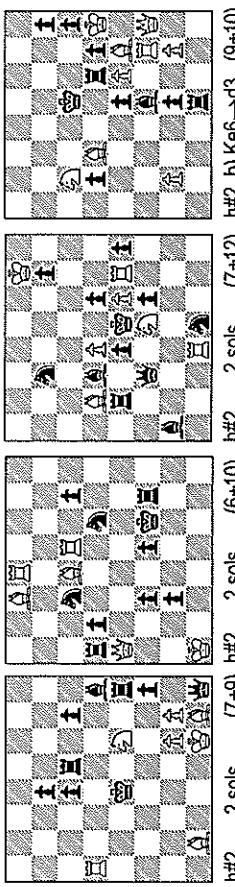
5th Prize - (Andrey Dikusarov & Ivan Antipin) I enjoyed the black Grimshaw. A delightful Zilahi. Solution: 1.Rxg6 Bxe5 2.Rf6 Bc3#, 1.Bxg7 Sxe5 2.Bf6 Sxc6#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Fadil Abdurahmanović & Marijan Kovacević) The three pairs of mutual interferences constitutes a jolly task that impresses me. Solution: 1.Bd6 Bc4 (Rb1!) 2.Kc5 Bb6#, 1.Rc5 Rc4+ (Bb1!) 2.Kxd5 Rd6#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Viktoras Pauliūnionis) A beautiful miniature featuring three echo ideal mates, a skillful performance. I hope there is no anticipation. Solution: 1...Sh2 2.Rc3 Sc4 3.Ke2 Ke6 4.Kd3 Kd5 5.Re2 Sb4#; 1...Sc7 2.Rcc4 Sc5 3.Kc3 Kc6 4.Kd4 Kd6 5.Re3 Sh5#, 1...Sdc5 2.Kf4 Sc7 3.Ke5 Kc8 4.Kd6 Kd8 5.Re5 Sb7#.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Fadil Abdurahmanović) An elegant and harmonious presentation of critical moves and Bristsols. Solution: 1.Sc4 Bf8 2.Be7 f4 3.Bc5 Bxc5#, 1.Sd5 Re8 2.Re7 f3 3.Rxe4 Rx e4#.

4th Honorable Mention Mikhail Gershinski 5th Honorable Mention Vitaly Medinsey



h#2 2 sols. (7+9) h#2 2 sols. (6+10) h#2 2 sols. (7+12) h#2 b) Ke6→d3 (9+10)

4th Honorable Mention - (Mikhail Gershinski) Nice mixture of themes showing entertaining solutions. A fine achievement. Solution: 1.Bg4 Sd5 2.Ke5 F4#; 1.Rg4 Sd3 2.Ke4 F3#.

5th Honorable Mention - (Vitaly Medinsey) The blend of black self-pins and white Grimshaw may not be unusual but as the whole, the problem is attractive. Solution: 1.Sfd4 Re5 2.Kf4 Rg8#, 1.Sb4 Be5 2.Ke4 Bb7#.

1st Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud) A pleasant combination of clearance with self-pin. Solution: 1.Qxe3 Bc4 2.Qxf4 Rx e1#, 1.Sxd5 Sc4 2.Sxf4 Bc6#.

3rd Commendation - Schönholzer Andreas

2nd Commendation - (Mark Erenburg) Bristol, pin and self-block joined quite well. Solution: a) 1.Bd4 Ra3 2.Bf6 Qb3#; b) 1.Rxc5 Bc8 2.Rc2 Qd7#.

3rd Commendation - (Schönholzer Andreas) Curious setting for familiar black play of interferences and critical moves. Solution: 1.Rc7 Ra4 2.Bef Rxb4#, 1.Bc2 Rxc6 2.Re4 Rg6#.

[Note: The entry by Marcin Banaszek, h#3, b) Kd7→f7, wKd1 Rb8 Bb7 (3), bKd7 Qa8 Bf8 Pe5-f5 (5) is anticipated by P1242155 in Chess Problem Database Server.]

s# section, Judge: Petko A. Petkov

Twenty-one entries were in competition. Unfortunately, their quality was not satisfactory for such a great occasion. Aesthetically speaking, most of the entries were far from Milan's brilliant style, which included his favorite themes. This may be partially to the severe depletion of themes and ideas in modern selfmate.

The following entries were not considered for the award:

Geoffrey Caveney (s#4, wKe1/bKc3) - A mechanical extension of a classical Babson task from three to four moves with a very weak key.

Harald Grubert (s#6, wKc2/bKd7) - A trivial mates without adequate strategy in a position with twin.

Gennady Koziura (s#7, wKc4/bKc4) - This idea is well-known and has been shown in many old problems by Ukrainian authors.

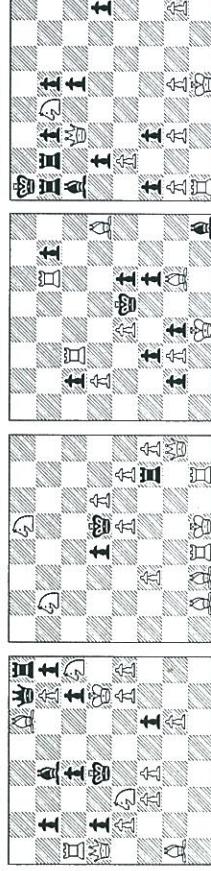
Gennady Koziura (s#7, wKe1/bKe3) - The so called "Dynamic echo" is presented in a mechanical shape with abundance of white material, bad key-move and repetition of move 0-0-0 in both variations, which is aesthetically unacceptable.

V. Klinachev (s#75, wKh5/bKc5) - I cannot understand the aesthetical value of this s#57 (C-) in which there are unusually large number of mechanical and uninteresting moves. **Zoltan Labai (s#3, wKc1/bKc5)** - Noted by the author as Ideal Rukhlis + Bristol (s#3). In reality such a synthesis does not exist here. Ideal Rukhlis is not executed, and after white move 2.Bg5(+) there is no Bristol.

Sven Trommler (s#3, wKb3/bKg5) - Good Bristol motives but too much non-thematic repetitions of white moves.

Gennady Koziura (s3#, wKb4/bKd4) - The four-fold play of the white King, as a forward battery-piece, is well-known. For example: A. Selivanov, *Orbit 2000*, 3rd Prize, etc. **Stephan Dietrich (s#6, sKb8/bKd6)** - Moremover with only one variation. **Alexey Gasparyan (s#9, wKe1/bKh6)** - Moremover with only one variation.

After careful consideration I propose the following ranking:



1st Prize - (Andrey Selivanov, Alexander Azhusin, Oleg Shalygin and Sergey Borodavkin) The best problem of the tourney. The authors called the entry a "Selfmate in the future type 2+2". In the threat and in the second variation (after 1...b6) we see interesting duel between the Queens. Both variations after 1...Qg7 and 1...Qxg8 demonstrate a fine black-white Bristol. Good additional motive, in all variations, is the play of the white SB battery. Solution: 1.Qc7! (2.Sxd4+ Ke5 3.Qc5+ Qd5 4.Qe3+ Qe4 5.Qf4#), 1.b6 2.Sa5+ Ke5 3.Sc6+ Bxe6 4.Qe7+ Qe6 5.Qf6#; 1...Qg7 2.Sb6+ Ke5 3.Sxd7+ Qxd7 4.Bg7+ Qxg7 5.Qe7+, 1.Qxg8 2.Sd2+ Ke5 3.Sxg3+ Qf3 4.Sf7+ Qxf7 5.f4+ Qxf4#.

2nd Prize - (Gennady Koziura) Chameleon-echo mates with pinned black Pawn. Good tries 1.Sbd6? d4! and 1.Sa5? dx4!. Unfortunately there are no thematic tries after 1.Kf1? d4!, and 1.Rf1? dx4! because the play has duals. Thus, the mentioned "Double Hoffmann theme" fails aesthetically. Solution: 1.Sbd6? d4!, 1.Sa5? dx4!, 1.Kf1? d4!, 1.Rf1? dx4!; 1.Sd8! (zz), 1...dx4 2.Kf1 c3 3.Sf7+ Kf4 4.Qf2+ Rf3 5.Rel Rx12#, 1...d4 2.c4 d3 3.Sc6+ Kxe4 4.Qe2+ Re3 5.Rf1 Rx2#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Ivan Soroka) A difficult logical solution in which White needs twelve moves to capture bPb6!. This long overture seems good, but only partially, because there is little active counter-play by black. Solution: Without bPb6 White could realize the main plan: 1.Re7+ Kd5(Kf5 2.Rc5+ Kd6 3.Rf7! Bg2/- 4.Rc6+ Kd5 5.Bxf3+ Bxf3#; 1.Bg6+! Kd5 2.Rf5+ Ke4 3.Rf6+! Kd5 4.Bf7+ Ke4 5.Rce6+ Kd6 6.Rxb6 Ke4, bPb6 is captured and now the three white pieces return to their original squares 7.Rbe6+ Kd5 8.Rc6+! (back) Ke4 9.Bg6+! Kd5 10.Rf5+ Ke4 11.Rf7+! (back) Kd5 12.Bh5! (back) Ke4 13.Re7+ Kd5(Kf5 14.Rc5+ kd6 15.Rf7! (another return) Bg2/- 16.Rc6+ (another return) Kd5 17.Bxf3+ Bxf3#

2nd Honorable Mention - (Stanislav Vokář) A typical problem for solvers! We cannot say that this opus is logical or strategic, although there are here some elements of both. The reason for the award is the difficult and unusual solution. Solution: 1.0-0-0! e5 2.Rd3! e4 3.Rxc3 e3 4.Rc5 h4 5.c3 h3 6.Kc2! e6 7.Kb3 e5 8.Kxa3 e4 and after this preparatory play our main goal can be realized, so follows 9.Rc4! bxc4 10.Ka4! Bb5#.

Commendation - (Torsten Linß) This is a typical "Computer-problem" which seems excellent with its aristocratic form and with the three phases (twins). But in such long moremoves, sufficient thematical identity in play is lacking and here the solutions are rather technical.

Solution: a) 1.Qe4+ Se3 2.Rc2 Kd1 3.Sf2+ Ke1 4.Rf5 Kf1 5.Qd3+ Ke1 6.Re2+ Kf1 7.Se4+ Sxf5 8.Rh2+ Ke1 9.Qd2+ Kf1 10.Sg3+ Sxg3#, b) 1.Rc3+ Be2 2.Qd3 Kf1 3.Rf3+ Ke1 4.Qc3+ Kd1 5.Rf1+ Bxf1 6.Rd2+ Ke1 7.Rd4+ Ke2 8.Qd2+ Kf3 9.Sg1+ Kg3 10.Qg2+ Bxg2#, c) 1.Qc3+ Rd2 2.Sg5 Kd1 3.Rg1+ Ke2 4.Qe4+ Rd3 5.Qa2+ Rd2 6.Qa6+ Rd3 7.Qc4 Kd2 8.Rf2+ Ke3 9.Qe4+ Kx12 10.Sh3+ Rxh3#.

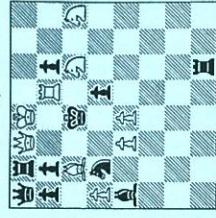
1st Honorable Mention Stanislav Vokář

Ivan Soroka

Gennady Koziura

Commendation - (Pavlos Moutecidis) Chameleon-echo mates after long and difficult play, but the finales are well known. Solution: 1.Qh1#! Rf3 2.Kg5 Kd3 3.Qf1+ Ke4 4.Qg2 Kd3 5.Rd2+ Ke4 6.Se7 Ke3 7.Rc3+ Ke4 8.Rxc6 Ke3 9.Sd5+ Ke4 10.Kh5 Kf5 11.Rf6+ Ke4 12.f5 Kxe5 13.Re6+ Kxf5 14.Qh3+ Rxh3#, 1.Rxc6! Kd5 2.Qb5+ Ke4 3.Rc4+ Rd4 4.Qb7+ Kd3 5.Qb3+ Ke4 6.Sd6+ Kd5 7.Rc7+ Rc4 8.Rd2+ Ke6 9.f5+ Kxe5 10.Qg3+ Rf4 11.Kh6 Kf6 12.Rf7+ Ke5 13.Re7+ Kf6 14.Qh4+ Rxh4#.

Commendation
Gennady Koziura
& Valery Kopyl



(9+10)

s#5 (14+10) s#5 \v\n (13+3) s#17 C- (8+9) s#10 (9+11)

(9+10)

(9+11)

Commendation - (Gennady Koziura & Valery Kopyl) White and black correction with nice addition of the try 1.Shg4!. Solution: 1.Sf~? exd4!, 1.Shg4? Sxd4!; 1.Sfg4! (2.Rd7+ Ke6 3.Rd5+ Rxg7#), 1...S~ 2.Bc7+ Kc6 7.Rc7+ Rxg7 3.Rxe6#.

Milan Velimirović (1952-2013)

(Edited excerpts from M.Kovačević announcement in Mat Plus)

The editors of StrateGems sincerely thank all the composers for honoring Dr. Milan Vulkevich by participating in this tourney. All prize winners will receive books while the rest of the awardees will receive one-year electronic subscriptions to StrateGems.

Milan Velimirović passed away on February 25th, 2013. He was sick for quite some time and he spent the last month bed-ridden. He checked into a hospital and died a day later. Milan was 60 years young.

Milan was born on April 21st 1952. He used to say that when he composed his first Lacy #2, while still in high school, it changed his life completely. As a teenager, he began working for a chess magazine, MAT, and at twenty-two took over the chess problem section. As the main editor, he made MAT a high-class problem chess magazine. During the period of 1974-85, he offered new, and much higher standards to the world.

Milan was the first international master of chess composition, and the first grandmaster solver in Serbia. He was the key solver regarding many medals won by the national team in World Solving Championships, including the gold medal in 1982.

As a grandmaster of chess composition, Milan aimed to achieve the highest goals and to develop crystal-clear mechanisms. This was crowned by the complex cyclic change, his Queen of the Themes.

His spirit lives transparently in the construction of the Mat Plus website, created for the pleasure and education of the problem chess world.

