The 1st Israel Open Chess Problem Composition Tourney - Awards

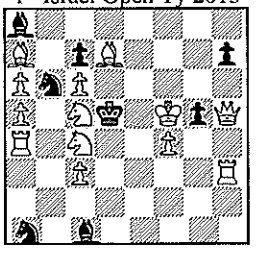
Section 1: Two-movers. *Judge: Paz Einat*

Dedicated to the memory of Yefim Rukhlis

A couple of months before the deadline of the tourney, I got word from the director, Omer Friedland, that he received only 4 two-movers. Thus, the 8 problems I received for judging, a low number by all means, turned out to be a nice surprise. The theme posed a serious challenge to composers, partly due to its complexity and the difficulty in achieving novel schemes. Still, those composers that participated attempted to show new and complex ideas and the level of the problems was adequate. Only one problem, A5, is left out of the award due to non-existent mate-tries in one phase and lack of variations in the solution.

1st Prize - Evgeni Bourd & Aaron Hirschenson (Israel)

Evgeni Bourd
Aaron Hirschenson
1st Prize
1st Israel Open Ty 2013



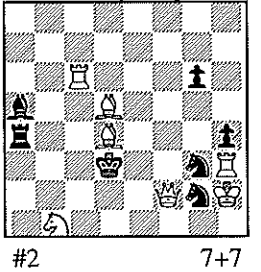
#2 13+8

A fantastic problem presenting two tiers of thematic effects: one by damages created by White tries and the other involving damages created by the black defenses. A random move by W♘c5 allows three threats: ♕f3, ♕f7, Rd3 but the actual moves to d3, e4 and e6 each prevents one of the mates by self-interferences or obstruction. The result is cyclic double threats with convincing mate tries. Each of the tries is refuted by a capture move by B♘b6 providing a flight that cannot be answered due to the damage created by the key. Importantly, these refutations are the thematic defenses in the solution! The key 1.♔xg5! takes care of the c5 flight through the Royal battery. Now, the defenses by B♘b6 come into play: a random move guard c5 by line opening and would enable all three mates featured in the W♘ tries. However, each defense provides a flight by capturing a white piece so only one of the three mates work. The thematic effects are shown with clarity and elegance, but this is not all! A further try, 1.♕xg5?, leads to two mate changes and the refutations to the W♘ tries show a kind of cyclic Hannelius (just a "kind of" since we have double threats). The weaknesses of the unprovided flight and multi-threats in the solution are very minor in light of the overall achievement!

1.♘d3? [2.♕f3 **A**, ♕f7 **B** (♖d3 **C**?) #] but: 1...♘xc4 c !
1.♘e4? [2.♕f7 **B**, ♖d3 **C** (♕f3 **A**?) #] but: 1...♘xd7 a !
1.♘e6? [2.♖d3 **C**, ♕f3 **A** (♕f7 **B**?) #] but: 1...♘xa4 b !
1.♕xg5? [2.♔f6,♔g4#] 1...♘xd7 a 2.♕g2 D# 1...♘xa4 b 2.♕g8 E# 1...♘xc4 c 2.♖d3 C# but: 1...h6!
1.♔xg5! (2.♔~#) 1...♘xd7 a 2.♕f3 A# (♕f7 **B?**, ♖d3 **C**?) 1...♘xa4 b 2.♕f7 B# (♖d3 **C?**,♕f3 **A**?)
1...♘xc4 c 2.♖d3 **C** # (♕f3 **A?**, ♕f7 **B**?) 1...♗xf4+ 2.♔xf4#

2nd Prize - Marjan Kovacevic (Serbia)

Marjan Kovacevic
2nd Prize
1st Israel Open Ty 2013



#2 7+7

Cyclic Sushkov certainly falls within the scope of the theme and it presents here interesting thematic effects yet in an elegant and lightweight manner. The try ♘c3? guard e4 and interferes with ♗a5. However, only ♗e4 is the threat since d2 is unguarded. After ♗c3? the interference of ♗a5 can be exploited but the guard of d4 cannot since c2 is unguarded (note that this was irrelevant in the previous try). In the solution ♖xh4! guards d4 and e4 but also unpins B♘g3 so only ♕c2 is the threat. Importantly, both ♗e4 and ♕d2 appear as mates after two defenses. The play in the solution is rich and entertaining completing a deserved prize winner

1.♘c3? [2.♗e4 **A** # (♕d2 **B** ?)] 1...♖xd4 2.♕e2# 1...♗xc3 2.♖xc3# 1...♘e3!
1.♗c3? [2.♕d2 **B** # (♕c2 **C** ?)] 1...♗xc3 2.♖xc3# 1...♖a2!
1.♖xh4! [2.♕c2 **C** # (♗e4 **A** ?)] 1...♘e4/♘e2 2.B(x)e4 **A** # 1...♗d2 2.♕xd2 **B** # 1...♘g2~
2.♕(x)e3# 1...♖xd4 2.♖xd4# 1...♗c3 2.♖xc3# 1...♘f1+ 2.♕xf1# 1...♖a2/♖c4 2.♗(x)c4#

1st Honorable Mention: Marco Guida (Italy)

Again cyclic Sushkov wherein in each of the three phases the key guards two squares, with a potential for two threats, but one of the threats is prevented. In the two tries it is prevented due to de-protection of a square and in the solution since the protection line is peri-critical to the possible threat. In each phase the third mate appears after a certain defense and, importantly, the refutations to the tries are thematic black moves showing Hannelius effects. The minor role of the W♕ in the problem reduces somewhat from it quality. The single cyclic Sushkov problem in WinChloe have some similarity to this problem (but not to the 2nd Prize) but is not an anticipation.

1.♗g3? [2.♘d4 **A** # (2.♘c5 **B** ?)] 1...♘f5 a 2.♗f7 **C** # 1...♘xc4/♘c2 2.♕xc4/c5# but: 1...♘e5 b !

1.♖h5? [2.♘c5 **B** # (2.♗f7 **C** ?)] 1...♗xd6 c 2.♘d4 **A** # but: 1...♘f5 a !

1.♕d3! [2.♗f7 **C** # (2.♘d4 **A** ?)] 1...♘e5 b 2.♘c5 **B** # 1...♖f8/e7 2.♖(x)e7# 1...♘h6 2.♕e4#

2nd Honorable Mention: Philippe Robert (France)

The problem uses a complex mechanism to present the Papack cycle. The attempt to guard the unprovided f4 by 1.♖g4 ? threats only 2.♘d4 and not 2.♗h3 due to self-interference. The handling of the B♘ defenses in the try, which pin the threatening W♘, is nicely done (but uses 5 ♝'s) to secure a unique refutation. The solution is a give & take move and the new flight determines the threat 2.♗h3 and not 2.♖g5. Now after 1...♘f4 the W♘ is not pinned and can exploit the self-block.

1.♖g4 ? [2.♘d4 **A** #(♗h3 **B**?)] 1...♘f4 a 2.♖g5 **C**# 1...♘xf6 2.♕xf6# but 1....♘e7 !

1.♖c4 ! [2.♗h3 **B** # (♖g5 **C**?)] 1....♘f4 a 2.♘d4 **A**# 1...♘xf6 2.♕xf6# 1...♕xg6 2.♕xc8#

3rd Honorable Mention: Philippe Robert (France)

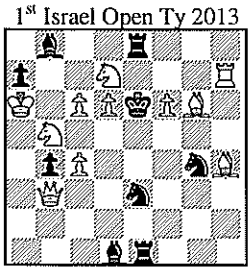
A brave attempt at a new theme that, unfortunately, falls short of a convincing presentation. The attempted scheme is: set: 1…a 2.A# (B?) 1…b 2.B# (C?) Sol: 1…a 2.B# (C?) 1…b 2.C# (A?) . To my knowledge, this was never shown before. Here, in the set play after 1… ♖xb3 the mate is 2.♕d3 but the claimed mate-try 2.♘a5? actually is not a mate-try since square d4 remains unguarded after the defense. For this reason the claimed scheme is actually not presented. The problem is still thematic since the solution presents a clear cycle of dual avoidance. Combined with the two mate changes the problem is certainly interesting and the attempted scheme remains a challenge to composers.

1...♖xb3 a 2.♕d3 **A** [2.♘a5 B?] ? 1....♔xb3 b 2.♘a5 **B** [2.♕c2 **C**?]

1.♘b5 ! [2.♖c3#] 1...♖xb3 a 2.♘a5 **B**# (♕c2 **C**? 2.♕d3 **A**?) ?

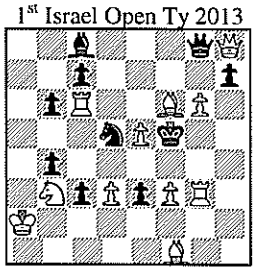
1...♔xb3 b 2.♕c2 **C**# (♕d3 **A**?,♘a5 **B**?) 1...♖xa4 2.♕d3 **A**#(♘a5 **B**?,♕c2 **C**?)

Marco Guida
1st HM
1st Israel Open Ty 2013



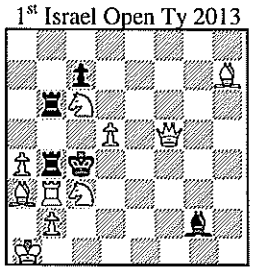
#2 11+9

Philippe Robert
2nd HM
1st Israel Open Ty 2013



#2 11+10

Philippe Robert
3rd HM
1st Israel Open Ty 2013



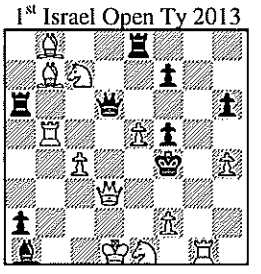
#2 10+5

4th Honorable Mention: Evgeni Bourd (Israel)

The try 1.♔c2? introduce the three thematic mates by the W♕ on e3, f3 & g3 as threats and is nicely refuted by 1...♖a3! and not 1...♕a3. In the solution a random unpin of the W♕ leads to the three mates mentioned above. The actual defenses by the B♕ prevent two of the three mates in a unified way. In each of these three defenses one of the squares is directly guarded and another square is unguarded by an interference of a White piece. The B♕ defenses were nicely arranged by the composer and duals are prevented in a natural way.

1.♔c2? (2.♕e3 **A**,♕f3 **B**,♕g3 **C**# 1...♕a3 2.♘d5# but: 1...♖a3!
1.♖g3? (2.♘g2#) but: 1...♕c5!
1.♖g7! (2.♘g2#) 1...♕c6 2.♕e3 **A**# (♕f3 **B**?, ♕g3 **C**?)
1...♕g6 2.♕f3 **B**# (♕g3 **C**?, ♕e3**A**?)
1...♕c5 2.♕g3 **C**# (♕e3 **A**?,♕f3 **B**?) 1...♕d5/♕xd3+ 2.♘xd5/♘xd3#

Evgeni Bourd
4th HM
1st Israel Open Ty 2013



#2 12+9

Commendation: Emanuel Navon (Israel)

Cyclic dual avoidance that uses a variety of effects. The defense 1...♕b4 presents all three thematic mates which are separated by the thematic defenses. The mate-tries are convincing but there is a general lack of unity.

1.♘d5! [2.♘c3#]
1...♕b4 2.♘f6 **A**, ♘g3 **B**, ♖f4 **C**# 1...♘e5 2.♘f6 **A**# (♘g3 **B**?)
1...♕xd5 2.♘g3 **B**# (♖f4 **C**?) 1...♕f4 2.♖xf4 **C**# (♘f6 **A**?) #
1...d2 2.♕c2# 1...♘e2 2.f3# 1...♘c~ 2.♘f6#

Emanuel Navon
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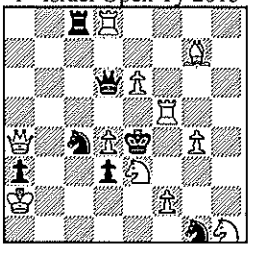
1st Israel Open Ty 2013



#2 11+7

Section 2: Help-mates in two moves. *Judge: Shaul Shamir*
Dedicated to Jean Haymann on the occasion of his 80's birthday

Theme: Required were help-mates in two moves with at least 2 solutions showing the theme of obstructions used as a dual avoidance mechanism. The definition is: During the solution a piece cannot move into a certain square since it is needed for the arrival of another piece which cannot capture it. Usually, the two pieces are of the same color, so we can have either black obstruction or white obstruction, but mixed white/black obstructions are also possible. Twins and duplex were allowed but not fairy pieces and conditions.

I received from the tourney director, Omer Friedland, 21 anonymous problems. The number of entries was somewhat disappointing, but the level was satisfactory and it was not easy to determine the ranking of the top problems. Apart from the normal criteria used to evaluate chess problems, my personal subjective taste no doubt had a major influence on the final award.

I thank the director, Omer Friedland, for preparing the problems for judgment, Jean Haymann for comments and enlightenment, Paz Einat on comments, the English translation and anticipation search (using WinChloe), and Zivko Janevski for anticipation search using his own database. I thank all participants for taking part in this tourney.

Participants:

Luis Miguel Martin, Spain (B1,B2); Menachem witztum, Israel (B3 – B8); Dmitri Turevski, Russia (B9,B10); Dmitry Zhilko, Belarus (B10); Emanuel Navon, Israel (B11-B13); Mario Parrinello, Italy (B14-B17); Borislav Gadjanski, Serbia (B18); Sven Trommler, Germany (B19); Maryan Kerhuel, France (B20,B21)