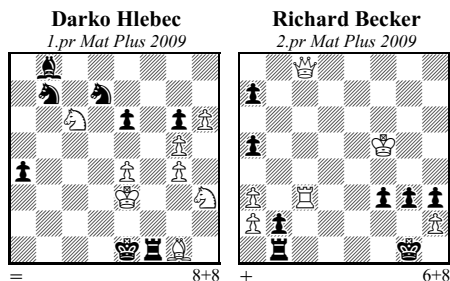


ENDGAMES 2009

by Mirko Miljanić (Serbia)

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the editorial team of Mat Plus for their confidence in me, especially because this is my maiden judging. I must stress that my job was made much easier because as far as the soundness and originality of entries is concerned I could rely on the knowledge and work of the column editor Iuri Akobia, as well as to the expertise of the magazine readers. In four issues of 2009, (Mat Plus 33-34, 35 and 36) there were 35 original endgames by 20 authors. I find that the overall level of the tourney was very satisfactory both in terms of quantity and quality. I decided to reward 17 works in the following order:



1st Prize: 1445 – Darko Hlebec (Serbia). A dynamic and sharp battle gradually builds intensity with a sacrifice of the black knight (4...Sd8!) and a counter-sacrifice of its white counterpart (5.Se5!) and gains in aesthetical quality, culminating in paradoxical and humorous minor promotions which cannot be realized: 8.e5!! but not 8.h8=Q? a1=B! and 8...a1=Q! but not 8...a1=B? 9.h8=S!!!. This allows White to carry out his stalemate intention.

1.Bf2+ Rxf2 2.Sxf2 Bf4+ 3.Kxf4 Kxf2 4.h7 Sd8 5.Se5 /i Sxe5 6.Kxe5 /ii a3 7.Kf6 a2 8.e5 /iii a1Q /iv 9.h8Q Qxe5+ 10.Kxg6 Qxh8=

i) 5.Sxd8? e5#; 5.h8Q? e5+ 6.Qxe5 (6.Sxe5 Se6#) 6...Sxe5 7.Sxe5 Se6#; ii) 6.h8Q? Sd3#; iii) 8.h8Q? a1B+ 9.e5 Bxe5+ 10.Kxe5 Sf7+ -+; iv) 8...a1B 9.h8S=.

2nd Prize: 1248 – Richard Becker (USA). A ground-stone of this endgame is the interesting mutual zugzwang which arises after 8.Kh4 (not counting the pawns on the a-file). On top of it is built a logical construction which utilizes all potentials of the basic idea and expresses it through a thematic try and solution. The conception and content is as impressive as in the first prize which, however, just prevailed from the aesthetic point of view.

1.Qc5+! /i Kxh2 /ii 2.Rxf3! /iii Rc1 3.Rf2+ g2 4.Qe5+ Kh1 5.Rxb2 Rf1+iv [6.Kg4 g1Q+ 7.Kxh3 Rf3+ 8.Kh4 a4 /v 9.Rd2! /vi a6 /vii 10.Rb2! a5 11.Re2! This move works only now that moves of the black a-pawns are exhausted. 11...Rf2 12.Qe4+ Kh2 13.Qf3 /viii Rxe2 14.Qh3#

i) Thematic try 1.Rxf3? g2! (1...Rc1? 2.Rxg3+ Kxh2 3.Rxh3+ Kxh3 4.Qh8+ +-) 2.Rb3 (2.Qc5+ Kh1 3.Qd5 Rc1 4.Rb3 b1Q+ 5.Rxb1 Rxb1 =) 2...Kh1! (2...a4? 3.Rxb2 Rxb2 4.Qc1+ Kxh2 5.Qxb2 Kh1 6.Qb7 Kh2 7.Qc7+ Kh1 8.Qc6 Kh2 9.Qc2 Kh1 10.Qe4 Kh2 11.Qe2 Kh1 12.Kg4 g1Q+ 13.Kxh3 +-; 2...Rc1? 3.Qb7 b1Q+ 4.Rxb1 Rxb1 5.Qxb1+ Kxh2 6.Qc2 etc.) 3.Qb7 a4! 4.Rb5 a6! (4...Kxh2? 5.Rxb2 Rxb2 6.Qxb2 etc.) 5.Rb4 (5.Rb6 Rf1+ 6.Kg4 Rf7 7.Qd5 Rd7 8.Qe4 Re7 9.Qf3 Rf7 =) 5...a5! 6.Rb5 Kxh2 (6...Rf1+? 7.Kg4 Rf7 8.Qa8 Rf8 9.Qe4 Re8 10.Qxe8 g1Q+ 11.Kxh3 Qxh2+ 12.Kg4 +-) 7.Rxb2 Rxb2 8.Qxb2 Kh1 9.Qb7 Kh2 10.Qc7+ Kh1 11.Qc6 Kh2 12.Qc2 Kh1 13.Qe4 Kh2 14.Qe2 Kh1 15.Kg4 g1Q+ 16.Kxh3 Qe3+ 17.Qxe3 stalemate. Moves of the black a-pawns echo the main line. ii) 1...Kh1 2.hxg3 Rg1 3.Rb3 b1Q+ 4.Rxb1 Rxb1 5.Qf2 (Qc2) +-;

iii) Thematic try 2.Rc2+? g2 3.Kg4 (3.Qf2 (Qe5+) 3...Kh1 4.Qg3 h2 =) 3...Re1! 4.Qd6+ (4.Rxb2 Kh1 5.Rxg2 Kxg2 6.Qc6 Re3 7.Kf4 Rxa3 8.Qg6+ Kf1 9.Kg3 f2+ =) 4...Kg1 5.Rxb2 f2 6.Qd4 Kh1 7.Rxf2 g1Q+ 8.Kxh3 Re5! 9.Qxe5 Qxf2 10.Qa1+ Qg1 =; iv) 5...g1Q 6.Qe4+ (6.Qd5+? Qg2 7.Rxg2 hxg2 =) 6...Qg2 7.Rxg2 hxg2 8.Qh4+ Kg1 9.Qd4+ Kh1 10.Qh8+ Kg1 11.Kg4 +-; v) 8...Rf2 9.Qe4+ (9.Qd5+? Rg2 10.Rb3 Qf1 11.Kh3 Kg1 12.Qd4+ Rf2+ 13.Kg3 Qg2+ 14.Kh4 Qf1 15.Rb2 Kg2 16.Qg7+ Kh1 17.Qb7+ Kh2 =) 9...Rg2 10.Rb1 +-; vi) Thematic try 9.Rc2? Rf2 10.Qe4+ Rg2 11.Rc3 Qf1 12.Kh3 Kg1 13.Qd4+ Kh1 14.Qd5 Kg1 =; Thematic try 9.Re2? a5 zz 10.Rb2 (10.Re1 Rf4+ 11.Kh3 Rf3+ 12.Kh4 Rf4+ 13.Kh5 Rf5+ 14.Qxf5 Qxe1 =) 10...Rh3+ 11.Kxh3 Qe3+ 12.Qxe3 stalemate; vii) 9...Rf2 10.Qd5+ (10.Qe4+? Rg2 11.Rd3 Qf1 12.Kh3 Kg1 13.Qd4+ Rf2+ 14.Kg3 Kh1 15.Qh4+ Kg1 16.Qd4 Kh1 17.Qxf2 Qxd3+ =) 10...Rg2 11.Rd1 +-; viii) 13.Qf4+? Kh1 14.Rxf2 Qxf2+ 15.Qxf2 stalemate.

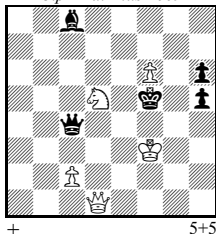
3rd Prize: 1440 – Borislav Ilinčić (Serbia).

Already on first glance this endgame attracts the solver's attention. White has a tempting try to win the queen with 1.Se3+?, but it fails to 1...Kg6!. On the other hand, there is the obvious black threat to win a queen with Qg4+. However, either of the above is an illusion which extends to the very end and both queens remain on the board, while the main role is usurped by the white king which uses a logical maneuver to un-ambush the dangerous black bishop. After that the black army has to surrender despite none of its soldiers being lost. The excellent harmony between form and content is slightly disrupted by a superfluous black pawn on h6.

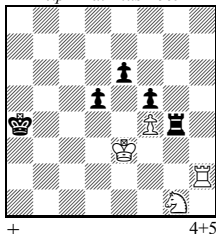
1.f7! /i Qg4+ /ii 2.Kf2! Qh4+ /iii 3.Kg2! Qg5+ 4.Kf1! /iv Ba6+ 5.Kf2 Qh4+ 6.Kg2! Qg5+ 7.Kh3+-

- i) 1.Se3+? Kg6! 2.Qg1+ Bg4+!=; ii) 1...Qc5 2.Qd3+ Ke6 3.Qg6+ Kxd5 (3...Kd7 4.Qf5+ +-) 4.Qe4+ +-; 1...Kg6 2.f8Q Bg4+ (2...Qg4+) 3.Kf2 Bxd1 4.Qg8+ Kf5 5.Se3+ +-; 1...Ke6 2.f8Q Qg4+ 3.Kf2 Qxd1 4.Qe7+ +-; iii) 2...Qxd1 3.f8Q+ Ke4 (3...Ke5 4.Qf6+; 3...Ke6 4.Qe7+) 4.Sc3+; iv) 4.Kh3? Kg6+!

Borislav Ilinčić
3.pr Mat Plus 2009



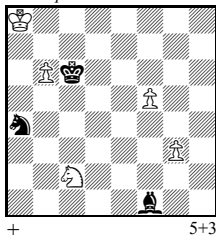
Mihail Croitor
4.pr Mat Plus 2009



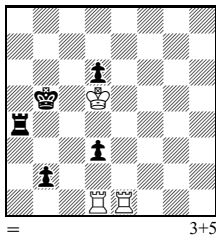
4th Prize: 1247 – Mihail Croitor (Moldova). An attractive initial position completely transforms itself in the course of the solution which ends with beautiful mating pictures. Pity that 9...Kd5 10.Sb4+ Ka7 11.Rb7# is not the main line.

- 1.Sf3 d4+! 2.Sxd4 e5 3.fxe5 Re4+ 4.Kd3 Rxe5 5.Kc4 Re3 /i 6.Rh6 Re5 /ii 7.Ra6+ Ra5 8.Rb6! Ra8 /iii 9.Rb4+ Ka3 /iv 10.Sb5+ Ka2 11.Sc3+ Ka1 12. Rb1#
i) 5...Ka3 6.Sb5+ +- or 5...Ka5 6.Sc6+ +-; ii) 6...Ka3 7.Sc2+ or 6...Ka5 7.Sb3+ +-; iii) 8...Ka3 9.Rb4 (9.Sb5+ +-); iv) 9...Ka5 10.Sb3+ (10.Sc6+ +-).

Siegfried Hornecker
János Mikitovics
5.pr Mat Plus 2009



Richard Becker
Iuri Akobia
1.hm Mat Plus 2009



5th Prize: 1437 – Siegfried Hornecker (Germany) and Janos Mikitovics (Hungary). The peak of this study is the tempting try 3.Se3? which is defeated by the paradoxical 3...Ba6!!

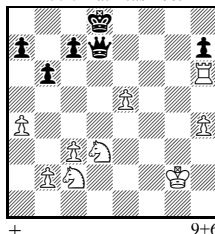
- 1.b7 Sb6+ 2.Ka7 Sd7 3.f6!! /i 3...Kd6 4.Se3 Bd3 5.Sd5!! Kxd5 (5...Be4 6.f7+-) 6.f7+-; 3...Bc4 4.Se3! /ii Bf7! 5.g4! /iii 5...Kc7 6.g5 Sb8 7.Sg2!! /iv Sc6+ 8.Ka8 /v Bd5 9.Sf4 Be4 (9...Bc4 10.g6+-) 10.Se6+ Kd6 11.f7!+ - /vi 5...Kd6 6.g5 Ke5 7.Sg4+ Ke6 8.Sh6+-; 7...Kf4 8.g6! /vii 8...Bxg6 9.f7! Bxf7 10.Sf6 wins.
i) 3.Se3! Ba6 4.Kxa6 Sc5+=; 3.Sd4+? Kd6 4.Se6 Bg2= (4...Be2? 5.Sf8!+-); ii) 4.g4? Kd6! = (4...Bf7? 5.Se3 Kd6 6.g5+- main line); iii) 5.Sf5? Kd5 6.Se7+ Ke6= (6...Ke5? 7.Sc8 Kxf6 8.Sb6 Se5 9.Kb8 Sc6+ 10.Kc7+-) 5.Sd1? Kc5 6.Sc3 Kd4=-; iv) 7.Sd1? Bd5! 8.Sc3 Bxb7 (8...Sc6+?

- 9.Ka8 Bf3 10.Sb5+ +-) 9.Sb5+ Kc8 10.Sd6+ (10.f7 Sd7 11.g6 Bd5 12.Sd6+ Kc7 13.g7 Bxf7 14.Sxf7 Sf6=) 10...Kc7 11.Se8+ Kc8 12.Sd6+ Kc7 13.Sb5+ Kc8 positional draw; v) 8.Ka6?? Bc4#; vi) 11.Sc5? Bg6 (11...Bf5? 12.b8Q+ Sxb8 13.Kxb8 Bg6 14.Kc8!+-) 12.Sa6 (12.Sa4 Bf7! = (12...Ke6? 13.Sc3 Bb5 14.Sb5 Bf3 15.Sc7+ Kd7 16.b8Q!+-)) 12...Be4=-; vii) 8.Sh6? Bd5 9.f7 Bxb7 10.g6 Bd5=-.

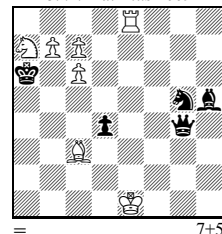
1st Honourable Mention: 1243 – Richard Becker (USA) and Iuri Akobia (Georgia). Most of the contents have already been shown in endgames by the same authors, e.g. 2nd Prize Gurgendize 55 JT 2008. Compared to that one a minimal addition of material introduces two variations starting with 2...Kb3 and 2...Kc3 with exchanged correct and incorrect continuations.

- 1.Rd2/i Kb4 2.Rb1 and:
A) 2...Kb3 3.Rdxb2+/ii Kc3 4.Rb3+ Kc2 5.R1b2+ Kc1 6.Rh2 d2 7.Rc3+ and White wins, or
B) 2...Kc3 3.Rbxb2 zz Ra8 (or 3...Ra1 4.Ke4 d5+ 5.Kf3 Rf1+ 6.Kg2 Rc1 7.Rf2 Rc2 8.Rb1 +-); 4.Ke4!/iii d5+! 5.Kf3 /iv Rf8+ 6.Kg2 Rg8+ 7.Kf1 Rf8+ 8.Ke1 Re8+ 9.Kd1 Rf8 10.Rf2 Rg8 11.Rg2 Rh8 12.Rh2 Rf8 13.Rbf2 Rg8 14.Rfg2 Rf8 15.Ke1 Re8+ 16.Kf1 Rf8+ 17.Kg1 Ra8 18.Rh3 Ra1+ 19.Kh2 win
i) 1.Rb1!? Rb4 2.Re3 Ka4 3.Rxd3 Rb3 4.Rd2 Ka3 5.Kc4 (5.Kxd6 Ka2=) 5...Rb8 6.Rxd6 Ka2=-; 1.Rxd3!?! Ra1=-; ii) Thematic try 3.Rbxb2+!?! Kc3 zz 4.Ke6 Ra1=-; iii) Thematic try 4.Rh2!?! Rh8 5.Rhg2 Rg8 6.Rgf2 Rf8 7.Rfd2 Re8 8.Ra2 Re5+ 9.Kc6 Re1 10.Kd5 (10.Rh2 Rc1 =) 10...Re5+ 11.Kxd6 Re8 zz 12.Kd7 Re4 zz 13.Kd8 Re5 zz 14.Kd7 Re4 15.Kd6 Re8 16.Kd5 Re7 zz 17.Rh2 (17.Rd1 d2 =) 17...Rd7+ 18.Kc5 (18.Ke4 d2 =) 18...Kb3 19.Rab2+ Kc3 20.Ra2 Kc3 21.Rhb2+ Kc3 22.Rd2 Rd8=-; iv) Thematic try 5.Kxd5!?! Re8 6.Ra2 Re7 zz and draw as in line 4.Rh2!?!.

Mihai Neghina
2.hm Mat Plus 2009



Mirko Marković
3.hm Mat Plus 2009



2nd Honourable Mention: 1354 – Mihai Neghina (Romania). Interesting domination of two white knights over the black queen, but a mass of pawns on the queen's side does not quite fit with the content.

- 1.Sd4 /i Qg7+ 2.Kh3 Qxh6 3.Sf4 Kd7 4.Sde6 (Completing the fortress) 4...Qxe6+ /ii 5.Sxe6 Kxe6 6.Kg4 Kxe6 7.Kg5 and the easy technical win: 7...c5 8.Kh6 Kf6 9.Kxh7 Kf7

10.b4 a6 11.bxc5 bxc5 12.c4 a5 13.h5 Kf6 14.Kg8 Kg5 15.Kf7 Kxh5 16.Ke6 Kg5 17.Kd5 Kf6 18.Kxc5

i) 1.Kf3? Qxd3 =; ii) 4...c5 5.Kg4 Kc6 6.b4 b5 7.a5 cxb4 8.cxb4 a6 9.h5 Kb7 10.Kf5 Kb8 11.Ke4 Ka7 12.Kd5 Kb7 13.Kd6 Kb8 14.Kc6 Ka7 15.Kc7+; or 4...a5 5.h5 c6 6.Kg4+; or 4...c6 5.h5 Kc8 6.Kg4 a5+.

3rd Honourable Mention: 1443 – Mirko Marković (Serbia). A stalemate combination with two minor promotions and good involvement of all pieces. However, the play is too forced.

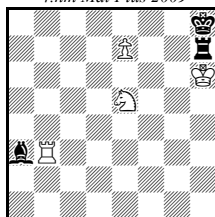
1.b8S+/i Kxa7/ii 2.Bxd4+! Qxd4/iii 3.c8S+/iv Kxb8/v 4.Sd6+! Bxe8/vi 5.c7+ Kxc7/vii 6.Sb5+ Bxb5=

i) 1.b8Q? Qg1+ 2.Kd2 Qd1#, 1.Bxd4? Qd1+ 2.Kf2 Qxd4+ -; ii) 1...Kb6 2.Sd7+ -; iii) 2...Ka8 3.Sd7+ Bxe8 4.c8Q#, iv) 3.c8Q? Sf3+ 4.Ke2 Qd2+ 5.Kf1 Qd1+ 6.Kf2 Qg1+ 7.Ke2 Qe1+ 8.Kd3 Qd2+ 9.Kc4 Bf7+ 10.Kb5 Qb2+ 11.Ka4 Qb3+ 12.Ka5 Qa3+ 13.Kb5 Sd4#, v) 3...Ka8 4.Sb6+ Qxb6 5.Sd7+ Bxe8 6.Sxb6+; vi) 4...Kc7 5.Sb5+ =; vii) 5...Ka7 6.c8Q=.

Iuri Akobia

Vazha Neidze

4.hm Mat Plus 2009

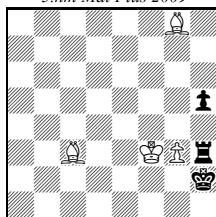


+

4+3

Luis Miguel Martin

5.hm Mat Plus 2009



+

4+3

4rd Honourable Mention: 1240 – Iuri Akobia and Vazha Neidze (Georgia). A charming miniature with two mating finales based on selfblocks on g7 and e7 which occur during the play.

1.Kg6! /i Rg7+ 2.Kf5!! /ii Bxe7 /iii 3.Sg6+ /iv and main lines:

A) 3...Kg8 4.Rb8+ Bd8 5.Rxd8+ Kh7 /v 6.Rh8#

B) 3...Kh7 4.Rh3+ Kg8 5.Rh8+ Kf7 6.Se5#, or 4...Bh4 5.Rxh4+ Kg8 6.Rh8+ Kf7 7.Rf8#

i) 1.Kg5? Bxe7+! = (1...Rxe7? 2.Kf6! Kg8 3.Rg3+! +-); ii) 2.Kf6? Bxe7+ =; iii) 2...Rxe7 3.Kf6! (3.Sg6+? Kg7! 4.Sxe7 Bxe7=) 3...Kg8 (3...Rxe5 4.Kxe5+-) 4.Rg3+! +-; iv) 3.Rh3+? Kg8=; 3.Rb8+? Kh7=; v) 5...Kf7 6.Rf8#.

5th Honourable Mention: 1242 – Luis Miguel Martin (Spain). Another miniature, this time with an unusual domination.

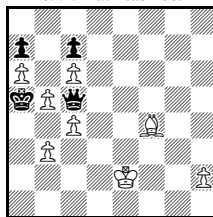
1.Be5/i h4/ii 2.Kg4 hxg3 (2...Rxc3+ 3.Kxh4 +-) 3.Bg7! (Mutual zugzwang) Kg2/iii 4.Bd5+ Kh2 5.Be4 (Mutual zugzwang) +-

i) 1.Kf2? h4 2.Be5 hxg3+ = (but not 2...Rxc3?? with mate in 4); ii) Black must remove white pawn. Other plan has no problem for white, for example: 1...Kg1 2.Be6 (2.Bd4+ Kh2 3.Kf2 h4 4.gxh4 +-) 2...Rh2 3.Bd4+ Kf1 4.Bb3 h4 5.Bc4+ Ke1 6.gxh4 +-; 1...Kh1 2.Bd5 Rh2 3.Bd4 Rc2

(3...Rd2 4.Ke3+ Rg2 5.Bxc2+ +-) 4.g4 +-; iii) 3...g2 4.Be5+ Kh1 5.Kxh3 g1=S+ 6.Kg3(g4) +-

Siegfried Hornecker

6.hm Mat Plus 2009



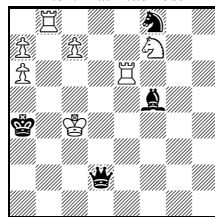
+

8+4

Lubos Kekely

Michal Hlinka

1.cm Mat Plus 2009



=

7+4

6th Honourable Mention: 1350 – Siegfried Hornecker (Germany). The stalemate avoidance occurs twice.

1.Bd2+ Kb6 2.Be3 Ka5! 3.b4+!i Qxb4 4.Bd2 Kb6! 5.c5+!i Qxc5 6.Be3 wins

i) 3.Bxc5 and 5.Bxb4 would be stalemate.

1st Commendation: 1349 – Lubos Kekely and Michal Hlinka (Slovakia). A stalemate combination with good usage of the material, but with forced play.

1.Rd6 /i Be6+ 2.Kc5 /ii Qc3+ 3.Kb6 Sd7+! /iii 4.Rxd7 /iv Qb4+ 5.Kc6 Qc4+ 6.Kb7! /v Qb5+ 7.Ka8 Qc6+ 8.Rb7 Qxd7 9.Sd6! Qxd6 10.c8Q! Bxc8 11.Rb4+! Ka5 /vi 12.Rb5+ Kxb5 stalemate, or 12...Kxa6 13.Rb6+ Kxb6 stalemate

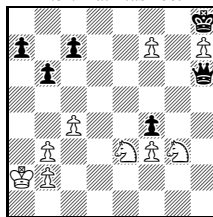
i) 1.c8Q? Bxe6+ 2.Qxe6 Sxe6 3.Rd8 Qc2+ 4.Kd5 Sxd8 5.a8Q Qg2+-; ii) 2.Rxe6? Sxe6 3.Rd8 Qc2+ 4.Kd5 Sxc7+ 5.Kd6 Sb5+ 6.Ke6 Sxa7+-; iii) 3...Qb4+ 4.Kc6 Qe4+ 5.Kb6 Sd7+ 6.Rxd7 Qb4+ 7.Kc6 Qc4+ etc..as main line, black only waste time; iv) 4.Kb7? Qf3+ 5.Rc6 Sc5+ 6.Ka8 Qxc6+ 7.Rb7 Sxa6 8.Sd8 Sxc7+ 9.Kb8 Sa6+-; v) 6.Kd6? Qd5+ 7.Ke7 Qxd7+ 8.Kf6 Qxf7+ 9.Ke5 Qxc7+ 10.Kxe6 Qxa7+-; vi) 11...Ka3 12.Rb3+ or 12.Ra4+=.

János Mikotivics

Gerhard Josten

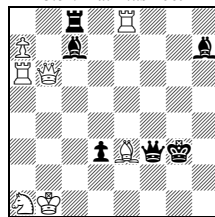
Iuri Akobia

3.cm Mat Plus 2009



+

9+6



+

7+6

2nd Commendation: 1249 – Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia). The same comment as for No.1354 can be repeated here.

1.Sg4! Qg7! /i 2.Se4! Qxf7 /ii 3.Sg5! Qf5! /iii 4.Se5! Kg7!
5.Ka1! /iv c6! 6.Ka2! Qxg5/v 7.h8Q+! Kxh8 8.Sf7+ Kg7
9.Sxg5+-

- i) 1...Qf8 2.Se5 Kxh7 3.Sh5+-; 1...Qd6 2.Se4 Qb4 3.Se5 Kxh7 4.Sd7+-; ii) 2...Kxh7 3.Se5 Kh6 4.Sf6 Kg5 5.Sfd7+-; iii) 3...Qg6 4.Se5!+- (4.Sh6? Qxh6! 5.Sf7+ Kxh7 6.Sxh6 Kxh6+-); iv) 5.Sef7? Qa5+! =; 5.Ka3? Qb1! =; 5.b4? Qc2 6.Ka3 c5 =; 5.c5? Qc8! 6.Sef7 Qa6+-; v) 6...Kf6 7.h8Q+ Kxg5 8.Qg7+ +-.

3rd Commendation: 1351 – Janos Mikitovics (Hungary), Gerhard Josten (Germany) and Iuri Akobia (Georgia). Interesting introductory play transforms to equally interesting endings, but the impression is that there is no strong connection between these two stages.

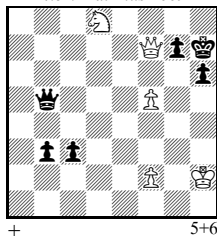
1.Rg8+!/i Bxg8/ii 2.Qg6+/iii Kh3 3.Qxd3/iv Qb7+ 4.Kc1!/v Bf4+!/vi 5.Sc2 Rxc2+!/vii 6.Kxc2 Bh7! 7.Rg6!/viii Bxg6 8.Qxg6 Bb8!/ix 9.Qe6+!/x Kh2 10.Bg1+!! and main lines:

A) 10...Kxg1 11.Qg8+-; 10...Kh1! 11.Qe1 Kg2 12.Qf2+ Kh1 13.Qf1+-, or

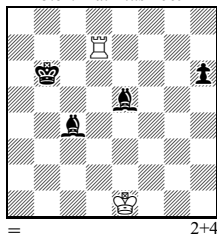
B) 11...Bxa7 12. Bf2+ Kg2 13.Qg1+ Kf3 14.Qh1+ wins.

- i) 1.Qh6!? d2+! Bristol-theme (1...Qb7+? 2.Ka2! +-); 2.Rg6+ Qg4! (2...Bxg6+? 3.Qxg6+ +-) 3.Qxh7 d1Q+! =; 1.Bf4+? Bxf4! =; 1.a8Q? Bxb6 2.Qxc8 d2+ =; ii) 1...Rxxg8 2.Qxc7+ +-; iii) 2.a8Q? Bxb6! 3.Qxc8 Bxe3 4.Qxg8+ Kf2 5.Ra2+ d2 =; iv) 3.Qh6+? Kg2 4.Qg7+ (Rg6+) 4...Bg3 =; v) 4.Bb6+? Bg3! 5.Qf5+ Kh2 = ; 4.Rb6? Bxb6 =; 4.Sb3? Qxb3+ =; vi) 4...Bg3+ 5.Sc2 Qh1+ 6.Kb2+-; vii) 5...Bh7 6.Qf1+ +- (6.a8Q? Rxc2+ 7.Kd1 (7.Kxc2 Bxd3+ =; 7.Qxc2 Bxe3+ =) 7...Qb1+! 8.Bc1+ Bxd3 9.Qf3+ Kh2 = (9...Bg3? 10.Rh6#); 5...Qh1+ 6.Kb2+ = (6.Kd2? Qg2+ 7.Kc1 Qh1+ 8.Kb2 loss of time; viii) 7.a8Q? Bxd3+ =; ix) 8...Bxe3 9.Qe6+ +-; x) 9.Qf5+? Kg3 =.

Borislav Ilinčić
4.cm Mat Plus 2009



Jean-Marc Loustau
5.cm Mat Plus 2009



4th Commendation: 1441 – Borislav Ilinčić (Serbia). Sharp and accurate play with excellent quiet moves, but without real finesse.

1.Se6 /ii Qe5+ /i 2.Kh3! Qf6 /iii 3.Sf8+ Kh8 4.Sg6+ Kh7 5.Qd7! c2/iv 6.Qc8! Qxf5+ 7.Qxf5 c1Q 8.Se7+ +-

- i) 1.Qg6+? Kg8! 2.Se6 Qd7! 3.f6 c2+-; ii) 1...Qb8+ 2.f4! /iv Qg8 3.Qg6+ Kh8 4.f6! gxh6 5.Qxf6+ Kh7 6.Sf8+ Qxf8 7.Qxf8+-; iii) 2...c2 3.Sf8+ Kh8 4.Sg6+ Kh7 5.Qf8 Qc3+ 6.Kg2 Qc6+ 7.f3! +-; iv) 5...Qg5 6.Qc8! Qh5+ 7.Kg3 Qg5+ 8.Kf3 Qh5+ 9.Kf4! +-; 5...Qa6 6.Kg3! Qa8 (6...Qf1 7.Qc8!) 7.f6! Qg8 8.f7+-.

5th Commendation: 1237 – Jean-Marc Loustau (France). The precise play of White based on the wrong-cornered black bishop is probably important for endings theory thanks to the genuine “endgame move” 4.Rb1!, while the phenomenon that the white rook visits all four corners looks fairly incidental.

1.Kf2 /i Bb3 2.Re7 /ii Bd6 3.Re1! with two main thematic lines:

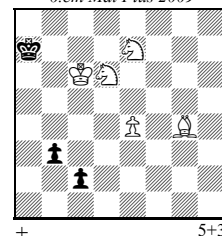
A) 3...Ba4 4.Rb1+ /iii Kc7 5.Rh1! /iv (wR on the corner 1) Be8 6.Ra1! (wR on the corner 2) 6...Kd7! 7.Ra8 (wR on the corner 3) Bg6 8.Rh8 (wR on the corner 4) 8...Be5 9.Rh6 =.

B) 3...Kc7 4.Kg2! Kd7 5.Kh3 Be7 6.Re3! /v Bc2 7.Re5! Bg6 8.Ra5 Ke8 9.Kg3 Kf8 10.Kf4! Kf7 11.Rb5! Bd6+ 12.Kg5 Be7+ 13.Kf4 Kg7 14.Rb7 Kf8 15.Rb8+ Kf7 16.Rb5 positional draw, or 16...Bd8 17.Rd5 Bc7+ 18.Kg5 =

- i) 1.Rh7!? Bg3+! 2.Kd2 h4 3.Ke3 Bd5+-; ii) 2.Rh7!? Bd1! 3.Rd7 Bg4+-; iii) Thematic try: 4.Rh1!? Be8! 5.Ra1 (5.Rb1+ Kc6!! (5...Kc5!? 6.Rg1 Kd5 7.Rg8 Bf7 8.Rg7 Be8 9.Rg8 positional draw, or 9...Ba4 10.Rg5+ Ke4 11.Rxh5 =; or 6...Kd4 7.Rd1+ Kc5 8.Rg1 Kd4 9.Rd1+ positional draw, or 9...Ke5 10.Re1+ Kf4 11.Rxe8 =) 5...Bd7! 6.Rh1 Bg4+-; or: 4.Kg2!? Bd7+-; 4.Ra1!? Bd7+-; iv) Thematic try: 5.Ra1!? Bb3! 6.Rh1 Bf7 7.Ra1 Be6 8.Rh1 Bg4+-; vi) Thematic try: 6.Re5!? Bf7! 7.Kg2 Bd6 8.Re3 (8.Rf5 (Or 8.Ra5 Ke6!) Be8 9.Kh3 Ke6!) Bg6 9.Kh3 Be7 10.Re5 Ke8 11.Rb5 Kf8! 12.Kg3 Be8!! 13.Rb8? Bd6+!+-; or: 6.Kg3!? Ke8! 7.Rh1 Bf7 8.Re1 (Or 8 Kf4 Kf8!) Bg6 9.Re5 Kf8 10.Rb5 Be8! +-.

6th Commendation: 1438 – Janos Mikitovics (Hungary). A harmonious and lovely coordination of white pieces in building mating threats and preventing black pawns’ promotions.

János Mikitovics
6.cm Mat Plus 2009



1.Kc7!

A) 1...b2! 2.Sdc8+! /i Ka6 /ii 3.Sc6!!/iii Kb5!/iv 4.Sb6! thr. Be2+ and #1 /v] 4...c1S!/vi 5.Sa4!! /vii 5...Kxa4/viii 6.Bd1+! Sb3 (Ka3,Kb5) 7.Bc2 wins.

B) 1...c1Q+ 2.Sc6+ Ka8 3.Bc8 Qxc6+ 4.Kxc6 b2 5.Kc7! b1Q 6.Bb7+ Ka7 7.Sc8#

- i) 2.Sc6+? Ka8 =; ii) 2...Ka8 3.Sb6+ (3.Bd7? c1Q+ =) 3...Ka7 4.Sc6+ and #1; iii) 3.Be2+? Ka5 4.Sc6+ Ka4 =; iv) 3...b1Q 4.Be2+ Qb5 5.Bxb5+ Kxb5 6.Sd4+ +-; v) 4.Be2+? Ka4 = (4...Kc5? 5.Sb6 # & #1); vi) 4...c1Q 5.Be2+ Kc5 # & #1; vii) 5.Sa7+? Kb4! 6.Sd5+ Kc4! 7.Sb5 Kxb5! - + (7...b1Q? 8.Sa3+ +-); 5.Sd4+? Kb4 6.Sc2+ Kb3 (6...Kc3? 7.Sa3+-) 7.Sa3 Kxa3 8.Kxb5 6.Sc4+ Kb3 = (8...Ka2 9.Be6 Sd3 10.Sd2+ Ka1 =) ; 5.Sd5? Kc4 6.Sb6+ Kb5 7.Sa4 loss of time; 5.Bd7? b1Q =; viii) 5...b1Q 6.Sc3+-.



HELPMATES IN 3 OR MORE MOVES (H#N) 2009

by Guy Sobrecases (France)

I am honoured to write this judgement for the excellent magazine "Mat Plus", and I thank the editor, Harry Fougiaxis, for his invitation.

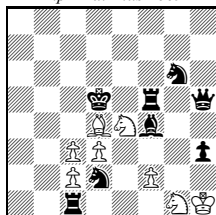
42 originals (by 32 authors) entered this Tourney, and the quality level seemed good to me. None of the problems published is trivial, and in each one (including those which do not appear in this ranking) I found something of special interest.

Some problems are of high quality, but even if not fully anticipated, they show very familiar matrices, and for that reason do not appear in this award: 1266, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1374, 1375, 1468, & 1472.

Borislav Gadanski

Zdravko Maslar

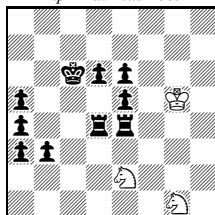
1.pr Mat Plus 2009



h#3 211... 8+8
1.Sc4 Sg5 2.Qxg5 dxc4+
3.Ke4 f3#
1.Sf1 Bh8 2.Qxh8 c4+
3.Kd4 Sf3#

Christer Jonsson

2.pr Mat Plus 2009



h#3.5 211... 3+10
1...Sc3 2.Rb4 Sxa4 3.Kb5 Se2
4.Kxa4 Sc3#
1...Sf3 2.Kd5 Sxe5 3.Kxe5 Sg1
4.Rd5 Sf3#

1st Prize: 1377 – Borislav Gadanski & Zdravko Maslar (Serbia). A beautiful setting of white tempo sacrifices. A dynamic problem showing good overall unity.

Une belle réalisation de tempo-sacrifices blancs. Un problème dynamique, et une bonne unité au global.

2nd Prize: 1278 – Christer Jonsson (Sweden). A very nice four-stroke engine! Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

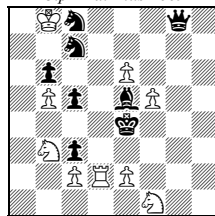
Très joli moteur à quatre temps! Bravo pour cette remarquable réalisation.

3rd Prize: 1370 – Abdelaziz Onkoud (Morocco). Anticipatory self-pinnings and black line-closings justify appropriate critical play in each phase. The line play is of good quality.

Les auto-clouages préventifs et les fermetures de lignes noires motivent un jeu critique pertinent dans chaque phase. Le jeu de ligne est de belle qualité.

Abdelaziz Onkoud

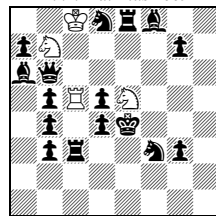
3.pr Mat Plus 2009



h#2.5 211... 9+8
1...Rd8 2.Sd6 Sf2+ 3.Kd5 e4#
1...Rd6 2.Sd5 Sbd2+ 3.Kd4 e3#

Zlatko Mihajloski

1.hm Mat Plus 2009



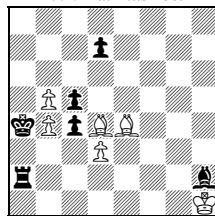
h#3 b) ♗d5 4+16
a) 1.Be7 Sxf3 2.Kd3 Rc4
3.Kxc4 Se5#
b) 1.Re7 Rc6 2.Kxd5 Sd3
3.Kxc6 Sxb4#

1st Honourable Mention: 1277 – Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia). Elegant clearance sacrifices, Grimshaw and model mates. It seems that the BPA7 was neglected during the final tidying-up operation, but I have not taken that point into account.

D'élégants sacrifices de dégagement, Grimshaw, et mats modèles. Le PNa7 semble avoir été oublié lors de l'opération finale de nettoyage, mais je n'en ai pas tenu compte.

Boris Shorokhov

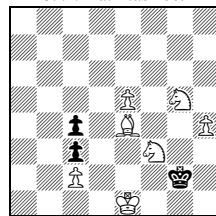
2.hm Mat Plus 2009



h#3 211... 6+6
1.Kxb5 bxc5 2.Ra6 Bc6+
3.Ka5 Bc3#
1.Kxb4 dxc4 2.Ra5 Bxc5+
3.Ka4 Bc2#

Chris. J. Feather

3.hm Mat Plus 2009



h#2.5 211... 7+3
b) ♗g5→d1
a) 1...Sd2+ 2.Kh2 Sf1+ 3.Kg1 Sh3;
1...Kd1 2.Kf2 Sh3+ 3.Kf1 Sh2#
b) 1...Sb2 2.Kh3 Kf2 3.cxb2 Bf5#
1...Bd3 2.Kh1 Kf1 3.cxd3 Sf2#

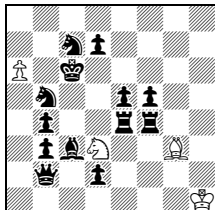
2nd Honourable Mention: 1268 – Boris Shorokhov (Russia). The WBs' line-openings justify the capture of the WPs guarding flights. An economical and original AntiZiel problem, showing chameleon echo model mates.

L'ouverture des lignes des FB justifie la capture des PB gardant les fuites royales. Un AntiZiel inédit et économique, qui montre un écho caméléon de mats modèles.

3rd Honourable Mention: 1264 – Chris Feather (United Kingdom). Very harmonious tempo play, and a Zilahi showing active sacrifices.

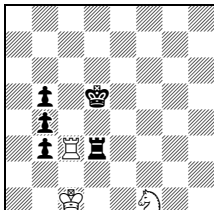
Un jeu de tempo très harmonieux, et un Zilahi avec sacrifices actifs.

Gennady Chumakov
4.hm Mat Plus 2009



h#3 b) ♠d7→d5 4+13
a) 1.Rd4 Bf2 2.Rd6 Ba7
3.Bd4 Sxb4#
b) 1.Bd4 Bh4 2.Bb6 Be7
3.Rd4 Sxe5#

Christer Jonsson
5.hm Mat Plus 2009



h#3 b) ♠b3→b6 3+5
a) 1.Kd4 Rc4+ 2.bxc4 Sg3
3.Kc3 Se2#
b) 1.Rd4 Rc5+ 2.bxc5 Kc2
3.Kc4 Se3#

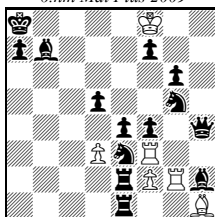
4th Honourable Mention: 1378 – Gennady Chumakov (Russia). I enjoyed the BB's attempts to unguard b4, and the linked BB/BR interferences on d4. A subtle problem, which is well worth solving.

J'ai bien aimé les tentatives d'abandon de b4 par le FN, et le conflit qui leur est lié sur d4 entre le FN et la TN. Un problème subtil, et qui vaut beaucoup à être résolu.

5th Honourable Mention: 1469 – Christer Jonsson (Sweden). A good idea, and a perfect setting. A problem for the anthologies.

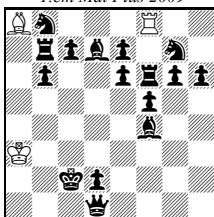
Une bonne idée, et une parfaite réalisation. Un problème destiné aux anthologies.

Vadim Vinokurov
Aleksandr Semenکو
6.hm Mat Plus 2009



h#3 211... 6+14
1.Sxg2 Re3 2.d4 Rxe4
3.Se3 Re8#
1.Sxf3 Rg5 2.exd3 Rxd5
3.Sg5 Rd8#

Mečislovas Rimkus
1.cm Mat Plus 2009



h#3 b) ♠a8→g8 3+16
a) 1.c6 Rc8 2.Rc7 Bxc6
3.Rb7 Be4#
b) 1.g5 Bh7 2.Rg6 Rxf5
3.Rf6 Rc5#

6th Honourable Mention: 1276 – Vadim Vinokurov (Russia) & Aleksandr Semenکو (Ukraine). I like the intention very much. Greater variety in the mates would probably have earned a better placing in the award.

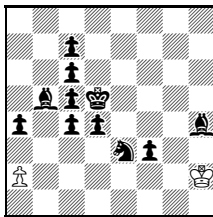
J'aime beaucoup l'intention. Des mats plus variés auraient sans doute valu un meilleur classement.

1st Commendation: 1275 – Mečislovas Rimkus (Lithuania). Both the black sacrifices and the two

clearance switchbacks to open white lines are attractive.

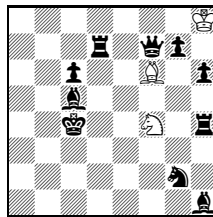
Les sacrifices noirs ainsi que les deux switchbacks de dégagements pour ouvrir les lignes blanches sont charmants.

Steven Dowd
Mirko Degenkolbe
2.cm Mat Plus 2009



h#7 b) ♠d5→b7 2+11
a) 1.Sc2 a3 2.Sb4 axb4 3.Ba6 b5
4.f2 b6 5.f1=R bxc7 6.Rf6 c8=Q
7.Rd6 Qf5#
b) 1.Be1 Kg1 2.Ba5 Kf2 3.Bb6 Ke1

Pierre Tritten
3.cm Mat Plus 2009



h#4 211... 3+10
1.Se3 Bxg7 2.Be4 Bf8 3.Kd4 Be7
4.Qc4 Bf6#
1.Rd6 Sxg2 2.Kd5 Se1 3.Rc4 Sd3
4.Be4 Sf4#

2nd Commendation: 1382 – Steven B. Dowd (USA) & Mirko Degenkolbe (Germany). The try play is interesting and subtle, and the solutions are surprising. A hard nut in a solving contest, in spite of the small white force!

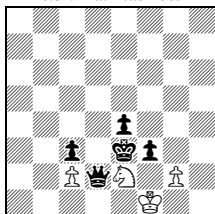
Les essais sont intéressants et subtils, et les solutions surprenantes. Un redoutable problème en concours de résolution, en dépit du faible matériel blanc!

3rd Commendation: 1474 – Pierre Tritten (France). A pleasant problem showing nuanced motivations in the white play. These WB & WS round trips have quite often been shown, but with different associated themes, or in other matrices.

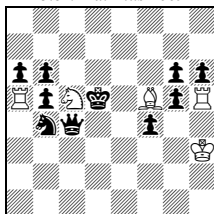
Agréable problème, qui montre des motivations nuancées du jeu blanc. Ces circuits de FB & CB ont été assez souvent exposés, mais avec des thèmes associés souvent différents, ou avec d'autres matrices.

4th Commendation: 1470 – Alexandr Maximov (Russia). A BQ tempo-triangle is always impressive, even if it has already been shown (see App. I, II & III). Here a specific point of interest might be that the set play is accurate, which seems fairly new... but it unfortunately shows the same mate.

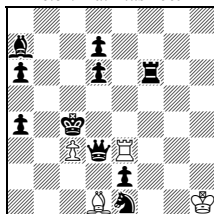
Le triangle-tempo de DN est toujours impressionnant, même si cela a déjà été vu (voir les annexes I, II, III). L'intérêt spécifique pourrait être ici que le JA est précis, ce qui semble assez neuf...mais il mène malheureusement au même mat.

Aleksandr Maksimov
4.cm Mat Plus 2009

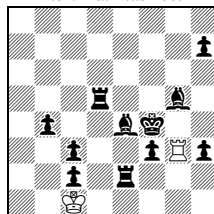
h#3* 4+5
1...Sd4 2.Kf4 g3+ 3.Ke3 Sf5#
1.Qd6 Sd4 2.Qh2 g3 3.Qd2 Sf5#

Mečislovas Rimkus
5.cm Mat Plus 2009

h#2.5 b) ♔d5→c5 5+10
a) 1...Rxc5 2.Kxc5 Rxb5+
3.Kxb5 Bd7#
b) 1...Rxb5 2.Kxf5 Rxc5+
3.Kxg5 Se4#

Christopher J.A. Jones
6.cm Mat Plus 2009

h#3 4+10
a) 1.d5 Re8 2.Bg1 Bxa4
3.Rf2 Rc8#
b) 1.Bd4 Re5 2.Qg3 Rb5
3.Sf3 Bxe2#

Zlatko Mihajloski
7.cm Mat Plus 2009

h#5 2+11
1.Rh2 Rg2 2.Bg6 Re2 3.Rf5 Kxc2
4.Rg2 Kd3 5.Rg3 Re4#

5th Commendation: 1265 – Mechislovas Rimkus (Lithuania). An amusing idea which shows an extended Zilahi and 2x2 white sacrifices. The play is of course somewhat linear, but this didactic example is attractive.

Une idée amusante qui montre un Zilahi étendu et 2x2 sacrifices blancs. Le jeu est bien sûr un peu linéaire, mais cet exemple didactique est charmant.

6th Commendation: 1373 – Christopher Jones (United Kingdom). Two critical manoeuvres to clear the mating units' lines, and fairly homogeneous white play. It falls rather short of the many masterpieces by this author, but it is still nice.

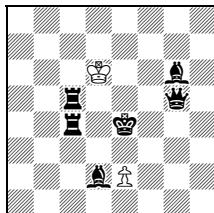
Deux manoeuvres critiques pour dégager les lignes des pièces matantes, et des jeux blancs assez homologues. C'est un peu en-dessous des nombreux chefs-d'oeuvre de l'auteur, mais cela reste agréable.

7th Commendation: 1281 – Zlatko Mihajloski (Macedonia). The R/R Platzwechsel on e2 & g3 goes well with the bicoloured Turton.

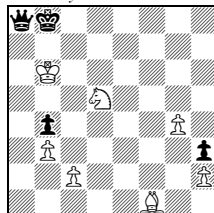
L'échange de place des Tours sur e2/g3 se marie bien avec le Turton bicolore.

8th Commendation: 1280 – Daniel Novomesky (Slovakia). The solution showing three tempo moves, including a Royal switchback, is really subtle.

La phase montrant trois tempi, dont un switchback royal est tout à fait subtile.

Daniel Novomesky
8.cm Mat Plus 2009

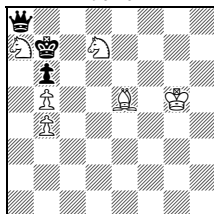
h#5 211... 2+6
1.Qd5+ Ke7 2.Bf5 Kf6 3.Bc3+ Kg5
4.Kd4 Kf4 5.Bd3 e3#
1.Kf5 Kd7 2.Rg4 Kd6 3.Rc6+ Kd5
4.Bf4 e3 5.Rf6 e4#

(I) Róbert Darvas
The Fairy Chess Review 1944

h#3 7+4
1.Qa1 Ba6 2.Qh1 Sf6 3.Qa8 Sd7#

(II) László Zoltan

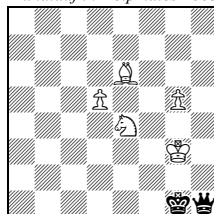
3.pr Jubilé J. Lamoss – A.
Sallay, Magyar Sakkélet
1981-82



h#3 211... 6+3
1.Qb8 Sc8 2.Qa7 Bb8
3.Qa8 Sd6#
1.Qh8 Bb8 2.Qa1 Sc8
3.Qa8 Sd6#

(III) Mike Prcic

Rundlauf in Helpmates 2003



h#3 5+2
1.Qh7 Sc3 2.Qe4 Bh3
3.Qh1 Se2#