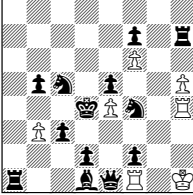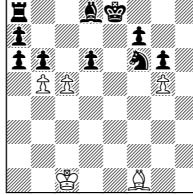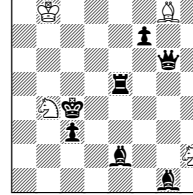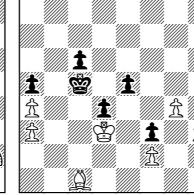# StrateGems 2015 h#3 Award
### By Christopher Jones

I was very grateful to be asked to judge this tourney. It was an enjoyable task, but the outcome was one of disappointment. I do feel that a greater effort is required to produce truly noteworthy examples. In judging h#3s now one does not expect to find wholly new ideas, but one does hope for combinations of ideas that have some novelty, or that are disguised so well that they create a fresh impression, or that are shown in an outstandingly polished or striking way. In this tourney there were many serviceable problems that will have given solvers enjoyment but which to my mind did not have those rather elusive qualities that would earn a place in the award. In the end I decided to award six problems, as follows:

Honorable Mention
K.R. Chandrasekaran

1st Commendation
Andrew Kalotay

2nd Commendation
Christer Jonsson

3rd Commendation
Aleksandr Semenenko
& Boris Shorokhov
*Dedicated to Mike Prcic*



h#3      2 sols.      (7+13)

h#3   b) Sf6→d7   (5+10)
c) Bf1→b7

h#3      2 sols.      (4+7)
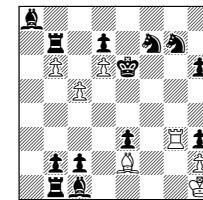
h#3   b) Pa5→d5   (7+6)

**Honorable Mention - (K.R.Chandrasekaran - H1982)** It is very difficult to tame the power of 2 wRs in order to compose a sound h#3, and the strain shows in this meritorious achievement of that task, both in the heavy position and in the incidental capture of the bQ at e1; though some virtue is created by having the bQ go to b1 in order to be captured by the same wR in the second solution. The centrepiece of the problem is the matching strategy that sees a black minor piece vacate h5/d1, pinning a wR but also allowing a Pelle move, after which a black switchback permits the wR to exploit the annihilation of a wP that has just taken place. A baroque conception, carried off with aplomb. I especially like the way in which it turns out that with 2 wRs the equivalent of ODT (orthogonal-diagonal transformation) seen in wR+wB problems is HVT (horizontal-vertical transformation)! Solution: 1.Sxh5 Rxe1 2.Sxf6 Rh6 3.Sh5 Rd6#; 1.Bxb3 Rh3 2.Qb1 Rxb1 3.Bd1 Rb4#.

**1st Commendation - (Andrew Kalotay - H2010)** Enthusiastically embraced by solvers as being not only a solving challenge but also one that gave satisfaction when all three solutions were eventually teased out, this, like the preceding problem, is a baroque affair. It is of course possible to show the Valladao task much more concisely; here it is used as the underlying motif on which three diverse solutions are hooked. I love problems in which a very slight change in the starting position gives rise to a radical transformation of the solution, and to my mind the one weakness of this very enjoyable problem is that the shift of the wB to create (c) is itself rather radical. Solution: a) 1.Kd7 cxb6 2.Se8 Bh3+ 3.f5 gxf6 e.p.#; b) 1.bxc5 b6 2.Bc7 bxa7 3.0-0-0 Bxa6#; c) 1.Be7 cxd6 2.Kd8 d7 3.Rc8+ dxc8Q#.

**2nd Commendation - (Christer Jonsson - H2008)** A much more traditional problem, but showing the limpid elegance characteristic of its composer; the arranging of alternately P>f5 and P>f6 is its grace note. Solution: 1.Bc5 Sg4 2.Kd4 Sf2 3.f5 Sc2#; 1.Rb5+ Kc7 2.Kc5 Sf3 3.f6 Sa6#.
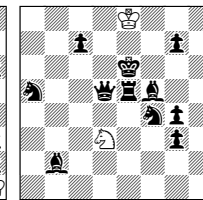
**3rd Commendation - (Aleksandr Semenenko & Boris Shorokhov - H2051)** Round-trips by Ks are rather unusual, and this bicolor example certainly deserves recognition. Such round-trips are piquant but not inherently spectacular, and here require a fair smattering of Pawns, which may be why I have given this a lower placing than would have some judges. Solution: a) 1.Kd5 Kc2 2.Ke4 Kd2 3.Kf4 Kd3#; b) 1.Kb6 a5+ 2.Kb5 a4+ 3.Kc5 Ba3#.

4th Commendation
Kostas Prentos

5th Commendation
Karol Mlynka



h#3      2 sols.      (7+13)

h#3                   (2+11)
b/c/d) Sd3→e3/b7/h7

**4th Commendation - (Kostas Prentos - H1983)** In a way my reaction to this problem is similar to my reaction to the previous one: the ODT relationship between the solutions is perfect both geometrically and thematically, but the 'single combat' nature of much of the play and an inevitable 'straggliness' in the position has caused me to value this very clever problem less highly than might have other judges. Solution: 1.Bd2+ Rg1 2.Bc3 Rf1 3.Be5 Bc4#; 1.Rc7+ Bf3 2.Rxc5 Be4 3.Re5 Rg6#.
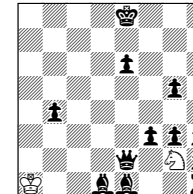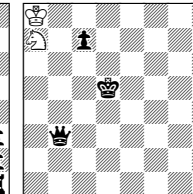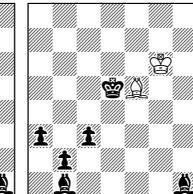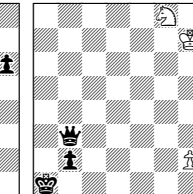
**5th Commendation - (Karol Mlynka - H2033)** Four wS switchbacks achieved without having to shift any black units in the twinning is a fine achievement, especially as on only two occasions is the easiest expedient, the need to capture a bS, used to determine the arrival square of the wS. Solution: a) 1.Re4 Sxf4+ 2.Ke5 Ke7 3.Bd4 Sd3#; b) 1.Be4 Sxd5 2.Kf5+ Kf7 3.g5 Se3#; c) 1.c6 Sxa5 2.Kd6+ Kd8 3.Be6 Sb7#; d) 1.g6 Sg5+ 2.Kf6+ Kf8 3.Qe6 Sh7#.

*We thank Chris for his diligent and timely effort. The award remains open for three months. Please send comments to Abdelaziz Onkoud.*

# StrateGems 2015 h#n Award
### By Christer Jonsson

I thank Mike Prcic for asking me to judge *StrateGems*' 2015 moremovers helpmates. I considered thirty-eight entries of very high quality. Many of them featured Rundlauf Theme, which you will see in the prize list. I have decided on the following ranking:
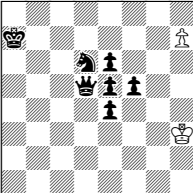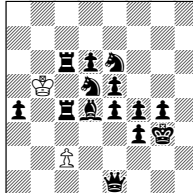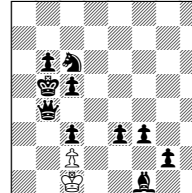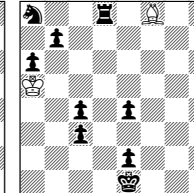
1st Prize
Jorge Lois

2nd Prize
Torsten Linβ

3rd Prize
Fadil Abdurahmanović
& Ioannis Kalkavouras

4th Prize
Viktoras Paliulionis



h#7½      (2+12)

h#7      (2+4)

h#5   2 sols.   (2+7)

h#6      (3+3)

**1st Prize - (Jorge Lois - H2040)** In order to open lines for the black Queen, Bishop and Rook, white Knight has to do a round trip in eight moves. The white Knight goes to the f2-, f3-, f4-, g2-, g4-, h2-, h3- and h4-squares. A masterpiece! Solution: 1...Sh4 2.Kf7 Sxf3 3.Kg6 Sxh2 4.Kh5 Sg4 5.Kh4 Sf2 6.Qh5 Sxh3 7.Bg4 Sf4 8.Rh3 Sg2#.

**2nd Prize - (Torsten Linβ - H1992)** Very impressive miniature with Rundlauf by the white Knight and the white King (with tempo) without captures of black pieces. The solution is extremely interesting! Solution: 1.Kd6+ Sc6 2.Qg8+ Kb7 3.Kd7 Ka7 4.Kc8 Sd4 5.Bc6 Sb5 6.Bd7 Ka8 7.Qd8 Sa7#.

**3rd ⁻ Prize - (Fadil Abdurahmanović & Ioannis Kalkavouras - H2037)** Rundlaufs by the white Bishop and King with mates in different corners. Solution: 1.Kc4 Bxc3 2.Kb3 Bxb2 3.Ka2 Bc1 4.Ka1 Bd2 5.a2 Bc3#; 1.Bh7 Kg7 2.Ke6 Kxh6 3.Kf7 Kg5 4.Kg8 Kf6 5.Kh8 Kf7#.

**4th Prize - (Viktoras Paliulionis - H2060)** Excelsior, black promotion and a long Rundlauf by the black Rook with a well-known mate. All this with 6 pieces! Solution: 1.b1R g4 2.Rf1 g5 3.Rxf8 g6 4.Qf7+ gxf7 5.Rb8 f8Q 6.Rb1 Qa3#.
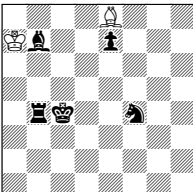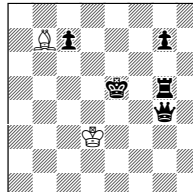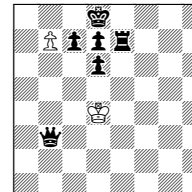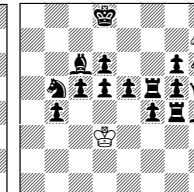
| 5th Prize, Steven Taylor & Mike Prcic | 1th Honorable Mention Mike Prcic & Abdelaziz Onkoud (v) | 2nd Honorable Mention Zlatko Mihajloski | 3rd Honorable Mention Fadil Abdurahmanović & Zlatko Mihajloski |
|---|---|---|---|



h#4½　　　(2+7)　h#6 b) Pg4→d5 (2+13)　h#6 2 sols. (2+10)　h#5½　　(2+9)

**5th Prize - (Steven Taylor & Mike Prcic - H2057)** Rundlauf of the promoted white Queen, White minimal, Kniest Theme and model mate. Delightful play of the white 3…Qh2 and 4…Kg3! Solution: 1...h8Q 2.Kb6 Qxe5 3.Kc5 Qh2 4.Kd4 Kg3 5.Ke5 Qh8#.

**1st Honorable Mention - (Mike Prcic & Abdelaziz Onkoud - H1991)** A brilliant thought! White minimal, 2x white King Rundlauf, 2x Kniest and 2x switchback. Unfortunately also 2x c3 and 2x c4. The twinning eliminates the try 1…Kxc4 in b. Solution: a) 1.Bc5 Kxc4 (Kxc6?) 2.Kf2 Kxd5 3.Ke3 Kxc6 4.Kd4 Kb5 5.Kd5 c3 6.Bd4 c4#; b) 1.Sc5 Kxc6 2.Kg4 Kxd5 3.Kf5 Kxc4 4.Ke6 Kb5 5.Kd5 c3 6.Se6 c4#.

**2nd Honorable Mention - (Zlatko Mihajloski - H1990)** Two quite different solutions with interesting play and good use of black pieces. The move 1.Qh4 is a surprise. Solution: 1.Qh4 Kb1 2.Ka5 Ka2 3.Ba6 Kb3 4.Kb5 Kxc3 5.Qe1+ Kb3 6.Qa5 c4#; 1.Qb3 cxb3 2.Sa5 b4 3.Ka4 bxa5 4.Bb5 a6 5.Ka5 a7 6.Ka6 a8Q#.

**3rd Honorable Mention - (Fadil Abdurahmanović & Zlatko Mihajloski - H2039)** Waiting moves of both white and black in a very fashionable position. Solution: 1...Ba3 2.Rd1 Kb4 3.Kd2 Kc5 4.Kd3 Kd6 5.Kd4 Bb4 6.Rd3 Bc5#.

| 4th Honorable Mention Mečislovas Rimkus | 5th Honorable Mention Zlatko Mihajloski & Christopher Jones | Commendation Mike Prcic *Ded. to Abdelaziz Onkoud* | Commendation Ken Seehofer & Boško Milošeski |
|---|---|---|---|



h#7½　　(2+5)　h#6 b) Qg4→g2 (2+5)　h#4½　　(2+6)　h#3½　　(2+16) b/c) Sh7→c7/a4

**4th Honorable Mention - (Mečislovas Rimkus - H2063)** A long walk by the white King accomplished with only one capture, with a tempo move by the black Rook in a miniature. Solution: 1...Kb8 2.Ra4 Kc7 3.Ra8 Kd7 4.Kb5 Kxe7+ 5.Ka6 Kd6 6.Sd5 Kc5 7.Sb6 Kb4 8.Ra7 Bb5#.
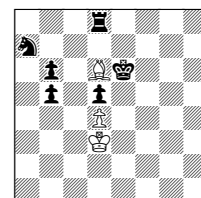
**5th Honorable Mention - (Zlatko Mihajloski & Christopher Jones - H2061)** Miniature with a brilliant first move in both parts. Unfortunately, the same black moves in 4 and 5 detract. Solution: a) 1.Ke6 Be4 2.Rd5+ Kc4 3.Rd8 Kb5 4.Kd7 Ka6 5.Kc8 Ka7 6.Qd7 Bb7#; b) 1.Kd6 Bf3 2.Rb5 Ke4 3.Rb8 Kf5 4.Kd7 Bg4 5.Kc8 Ke6 6.Qb7 Ke7#.

Commendations are without order.

**Commendation - (Mike Prcic - H1986)** White minimal, Rundlauf of the promoted white Bishop and the Kniest Theme. Solution: 1...b8B 2.c6 Bxd6 3.Qe6 Bc5 4.Kc7 Ba7 5.Kd6 Bb8#.
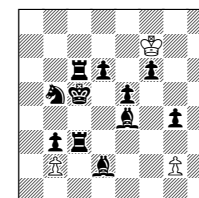
**Commendation - (Ken Seehofer & Boško Milošeski - H2035)** White minmal, 3xRundlauf, 3xKniest, but with twinning. Solution: a) 1...Sxg5 2.Ke7 Se6 3.Kf6 Sf8 4.Kg5 Sh7#, b) 1...Sxd5 2.Kd7 Sc3 3.Ke6 Sxb5 4.Kd5 Sc7#, c) 1...Sxc5 2.Kc7 Se4 3.Kb6 Sc3 4.Kc5 Sa4#.
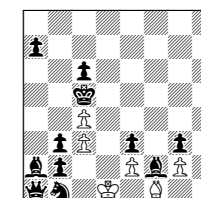
| Commendation Aleksey Gasparyan | Commendation Ján Kovalič | Commendation Aleksey Gasparyan |
|---|---|---|



h#5 2 sols. (3+6)　h#5½ 3 sols. (3+11)　h#11 (6+11)

**Commendation - (Aleksey Gasparyan - H2038)** Two Indians with different promotions. Solution: 1.Sc6 Bf8 2.Se5+ dxe5 3.Kd7 e6+ 4.Kc6 e7 5.Kc5 exd8S#, 1.Rc8 Bb8 2.Rc5 dxc5 3.Sc8 c6 4.Se7 c7 5.Kd6 c8Q#.

**Commendation - (Ján Kovalič - H2059)** Good effort with three solutions. Solution: 1...bxc3 2.Be3 c4 3.Kd4 c5 4.Kd5 cxd6 5.Bc5 d7 6.Kd6 d8Q#; 1...g3 2.Bf4 gxf4 3.Rc8 fxe5 4.Kc6 e6 5.Rc7+ e7 6.Kd7 e8Q#; 1...Ke8 2.Rf3 gxf3 3.Bc3 bxc3 4.Sd4 cxd4+ 5.Kd5 fxe4+ 6.Ke6 d5#.

**Commendation - (Aleksey Gasparyan - H2064)** Interesting play by Black. Solution: 1.Bg1 Ke1 2.Kb6 Kd1 3.Ka6 Ke1 4.Bf2+ Kd1 5.Be1 c5 6.Bd2 c4 7.Bc1 Ke1 8.Sd2 Kd1 9.Sf3 gxf3 10.Bb1 Bh3 11.Qa5 Bc8#.

*We thank Christer for this timely award which stays open for three months. Please send comments to Abdelaziz Onkoud.*

## StrateGems 2015 #n Award
By Mario Guido Garcia

Special thanks to Richard Becker for entrusting me to judge this tourney and thanks to the tourney participants.

I have asked four solvers to rank all entries on the scale of 0-4 in ½ point increments. Their scores are important although non-binding.

For the purpose of making a more objective comparison between entries, I have established two groups: #4-#6 and #7 and higher. Given the considerable variety of themes and ideas addressed by composers, and the good artistic and technical level of entries, I was able to award a large number of entries. Judging this tourney was not easy but it was certainly pleasant.