

STRATEGEMS EDITORS

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2613 Northshore Lane, Westlake Village, CA 91361-3318, Tuzlak@aol.com
#2 Editor: Aaron Hirschenson
6 Nizana Street, Metar 85025, Israel, Aaron43@newvision.net.il
#3 Editor: Rauf Aliovsadzade
5600 Randolph St. Lincoln, NE 68510, bakili97@netzero.net
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Solutions Editor: Danny Dunn
1003 Yvonne, Joshua, TX 76058, dldunn@ev1.net
Consultant: Dan Meinking; **Web Master:** Reb Orrell; SG Web site: www.Strategems.org

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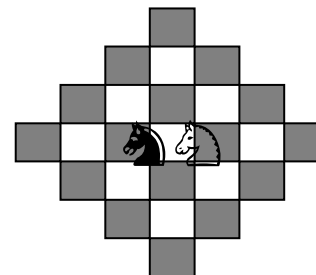
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StrateGems 2005



Edgar Holladay Memorial Tourney Award



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U.S. CHESS PROBLEM MAGAZINE

Edgar Holladay Memorial Tourney (EHMT) 2003-2005

Judge: Dan Meinking, Cincinnati, November 2004

It was an honor to judge this tourney in memory of our beloved friend. I'm certain Edgar would be pleased by the breadth and depth of ideas realized! Our thanks to all the participants for putting forth such great creative efforts. Ryan McCracken served admirably in his first stint as Director, forwarding all entries to me in anonymous form shortly after the closing date (Oct 1, 2004). I appreciate the assistance of Gianni Donati, Chris Feather, Viktor Syzonenko, and Rolf Wiehagen, each of whom forwarded comparison problems.

The tourney was parsed into 3 sections: **Section 1** called for orthodox h#3½-n where a white unit, X, visits square Y which is unoccupied or was previously unoccupied; later, the bK, standing on Y, is mated by X. X cannot be a Pawn, except where Y is a promotion square. X may be the rear- or front-unit of a battery-mate. Multiple solutions and normal twinning were permitted, but no duplex or zero-positions. For other prior examples of the "EHMT Theme", see PDB numbers P0500688, P0500961, P0516304 ("play" only), P0559462, P0564398, P0576790 (part (a) only), P0578101, P0578315 (part (a) only), P0578663 and P1006337. (The "no duplex" proviso proved an unfortunate choice on my part as it excluded potential gems like **diagram A**. Solution: w: 1...Re5 2.Kxd3 Rd5 3.Ke4 Rxd4+ 4.Ke5 Re4#, b: 1...Be5 2.Ke7 Bf4 3.Kf6 Bg5+ 4.Ke5 Bf6#)

Section 2 required h#3½-n with fairy unit(s), showing the same theme as Section 1. However, no fairy stipulations (Circe, Madrasi, etc.) were permitted. **Section 3** was open to directstalemates with a free theme. All entries are numbered EHs-*nn*, where 's' and 'nn' are the section and problem numbers, respectively. For Sections 1 and 2, the thematic moves are underlined for theme clarity. And now... on with the show!

Section 1: Orthodox h#3½-n

I received a total of 38 computer-tested entries of high quality. This being a formal theme tourney, I applied strict protocol whenever the same idea was realized by more than one entry: only the *best* one reaches the award. In that regard, I can only offer my condolences to the composers of EH1-04 (h#6 Ka1/Kg8) and EH1-14 (h#5½ Kh7/Ka3), whose fine efforts were outdone by the 3rd Prize winner. I made a minor exception for EH1-08 & EH1-13 (=7th/8th HM), which are virtually identical.

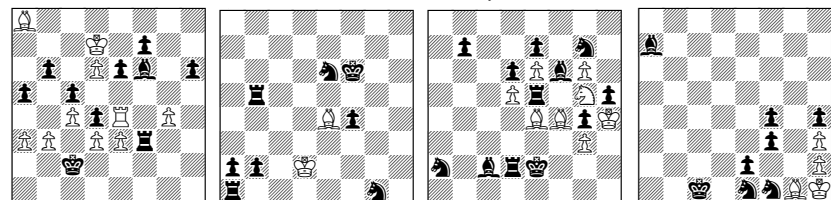
A few comments about other non-awarded entries:

- EH1-05 (h#7 Kd7/Kh1): I prefer the interplay of EH1-03 (Commendation).
- EH1-07 (h#5 Kd5/Kg7): Cute and simple presentation.
- EH1-09 (h#7 Kc1/Ke6): This is surpassed by **diagram B** (Solution: 1...Bb1 2.Ke5 Kc2 3.Ke4 Kc3+ 4.Ke3 Kc4 5.Kd2 Be4 6.Kc1 Kd3 7.Kb1 Kd2#), which is also EHMT-specific.
- EH1-16 (h#4½ Ka1/Kh7): The mutual unpinning mechanism has even been doubled (M.R. Vukcevic, 1st Prize, F. Abdurahmanovic 60JT 2000). Adding the EHMT-element is surely original, though the single-line presentation falls short.
- EH1-21 (h#6 Ke8/Kc3): A neat ideal-mate package.
- EH1-25 (h#5½ Ke5/Kg3): Bettered by EH1-8 & EH1-13 (=7th/8th Honorable Mentions).
- EH1-32 (h#3½ Kc2/Kf2): Nice tempo and Indian.
- EH1-34 (h#5 Ke5/Ke8): Needs to be shown in captureless form; compare to EH1-33 (Commendation), for example.

All in all, I awarded 7 Prizes, 8 Honorable Mentions, and 8 Commendations, as follows:

- 1st Prize - (Menachem Witztum & Emanuel Navon)** Two beautiful echoes emerge from this epic showpiece. In each, a white Bishop taps the focal square before whisking off to the edge. Then, a timely bP shield and a check by the *other* Bishop sets the trap. Outstanding! a) 1...Be3 2.Bd3 Ba7 3.b6 Bf3+ 4.Ke3 Bxb6#; b) 1...Bd3 2.Re3 Ba6 3.b5 Be5+ 4.Kd3 Bxb5#
- 2nd Prize - (Michel Caillaud)** In this stellar one-liner, the thematic Bishop twice visits f2 and twice returns to g1. The motivations for the captures at h4 (tempo) and h2 (clearance), and the interwoven bB/wB maneuvers, were a pleasure to digest! 1...Bf2 2.Kd2 Bxh4 3.Bg1 Bf2 4.Bxh2 Bg1 5.Bg3 Bh2 6.Ke3 h4 7.Kf2 Bg1#

- (A) D. Borst, 3rd Prize
Niemeijer, Drese, Hartong & Ten Cate MT
- (B) H.P. Rehm & U. Ring
1st Prize, feenschach '86
- 1st Prize
M. Witztum & E. Navon
Holladay-MT 2005
- 2nd Prize
Caillaud
Holladay-MT 2005

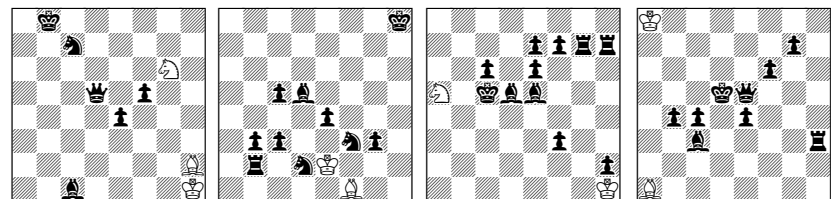


h#3½ Duplex (10+10) h#6½ (2+8) h#3½ b) Ke2→c3 (8+12) h#6½ (4+8)

3rd Prize - (Kostas Prentos) Exquisite timing and optimal economy yield *two* thematic forays in one solution -- an astonishing feat with a mere nine units. 1...Be5 2.Bf4 Ba1 3.Se6 Se5 4.Kc7 Sd3 5.Kd6 Sb2 6.Ke5 Sc4#

4th Prize - (Mario Parrinello) The need to pluck b3 cleverly deflects the Bishop through the mating field to and fro. The wK switchback complements it perfectly. 1.Kg7 Kd1 2.Kf6 Bc4 3.Ke5 Bxb3 4.Kd4 Bc4 5.Rb4 Bf1 6.Sb3 Ke2 7.Kc4 Ke3#

- 3rd Prize
Kostas Prentos
Holladay-MT 2005
- 4th Prize
Mario Parrinello
Holladay-MT 2005
- 5th Prize
Kostas Prentos
Holladay-MT 2005
- 6th Prize
Nathan Kauffman
Holladay-MT 2005



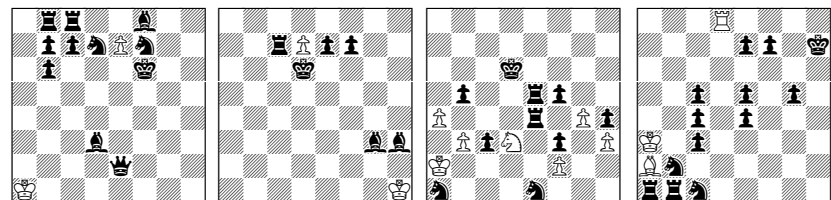
h#5½ (3+6) h#7 (2+10) h#6½ (2+11) h#5 (2+9)

5th Prize - (Kostas Prentos) The Knight's long and winding path, featuring a triple-recoil, twice gallops through the King's stable. 1...Sc4 2.Bc7 Sd6 3.e5 Sxf7 4.e6 Sd6 5.Rd7 Sc4 6.Re7 Sa5 7.Kd6 Sb7#

6th Prize - (Nathan Kauffman) In this well-tuned instrument, the EHMT-content plays second-fiddle to the lovely clearance motif. The bQ/bB Platzwechsel is a nice touch. 1.Qg3 Kb7 2.Be5 Bd4 3.Qc3 Ba7 4.Rd3 Kb6 5.Kd4 Kc6#

7th Prize - (Misha Shapiro) Here, the tall task of two EHMT-specific Knight promotions, ushered by matching sacs, is elegantly achieved. a) 1.Sd8 exd8S 2.Qe8 Sxb7 3.Ke7 Sa5 4.Kd8 Sc6#; b) 1.Re8 fxe8S+ 2.Kf7 Sxc7 3.Rd8 Sb5 4.Ke8 Sd6#

- 7th Prize
Misha Shapiro
Holladay-MT 2005
- 1st Honorable Mention
Misha Shapiro
Holladay-MT 2005
- 2nd Honorable Mention
Christher Jonsson
Holladay-MT 2005
- 3rd Honorable Mention
Emanuel Navon
Holladay-MT 2005



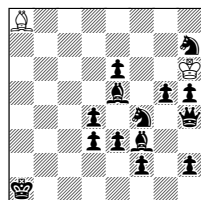
h#4 b) Pe7→Sf7 (2+11) h#3½ b) Pd7→e7 (2+6) h#4 2 solutions (7+10) h#4 b) Kh7→f6 (3+13)

1st Honorable Mention - (Misha Shapiro) A second-cousin to EH1-20: the less paradoxical Queen promotions are augmented by geometrically appealing routes and superb construction. 1...d8Q+ 2.Rd7 Qe8 3.Kc7 Qxg3+ 4.Kd8 Qb8#; b) 1...e8Q 2.Re7 Qh8 3.Kd7 Qxh3+ 4.Ke8 Qc8#

2nd Honorable Mention - (Christer Jonsson) Orbital Knight trails begin by ousting the invading Pawn (Zilahi). A wonderful result, but the play feels somewhat symmetric. 1.b4 Sxb4 2.Ra5 Sc2 3.Kc5 Sxe1 4.Kb4 Sd3#; 1.f4 Sxf4 2.Rg5 Sg2 3.Ke5 Sxe1 4.Kf4 Sd3#

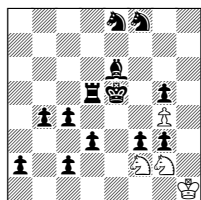
3rd Honorable Mention - (Emanuel Navon) In this spicy platter, the white Rook turns two ¾-twists to roast the King. a) 1.c2 Rf8 2.c3 Rxf7+ 3.Kg8 Rg7+ 4.Kf8 Rg8#; b) 1.e3 Rd4 2.e4 Rxc4 3.Ke5 Rxc5+ 4.Kd4 Rd5#

4th Honorable Mention
Mario Parrinello
Holladay-MT 2005



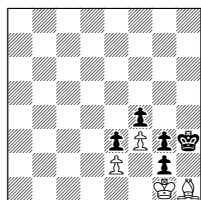
h#6½

5th Honorable Mention
Misha Shapiro
Holladay-MT 2005



h#3½ 2 solutions (4+13)

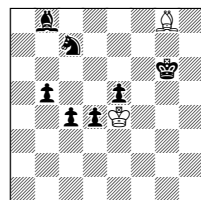
6th Honorable Mention
Zoltan Laborczi
Holladay-MT 2005



h#7½

(4+5)

7th Honorable Mention e.a.
Kostas Prentos
Holladay-MT 2005



h#5½

(2+7)

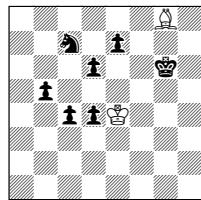
4th Honorable Mention - (Mario Parrinello) The unusual consequence of the Bishop's second pause at e4 is ingenious. Alas, the incidental bS removal lessens the effect. 1...Be4 2.Sd5 Bxd3 3.Qe4 Bxe4 4.Kb2 Bxh7 5.Kc3 Bg8 6.Kd3 Kxg5 7.Ke4 Bh7#

5th Honorable Mention - (Misha Shapiro) Echoed underpromotion and block schemes are aptly employed. One wishes the e6 grab was avoidable. 1...Sf4 2.c1B Sxe6 3.Be3 Sxf8 4.Kf4 Sg6#; b) 1...Se4 2.a1B Sd6 3.Bd4 Sxe8 4.Ke4 Sf6#

6th Honorable Mention - (Zoltán Laborczi) All tallied, "five returns" (3 wB, 1 wK, 1 bK) stem from this tidy position, including a relevant one to the corner. 1...Bxg2+ 2.Kh4 Bh1 3.Kh3 Kf1 4.g2+ Ke1 5.g1B Bg2+ 6.Kh2 Bh3 7.Kh1 Kf1 8.Bh2 Bg2#

7th – 8th Honorable Mention - (Kostas Prentos) White's Bishop and King make a pit-stop on d5. With the exception of Black's first and second, the play is identical to EH1-13. 1...Bd5 2.Se6 Ba8 3.Bd6 Kd5 4.Kf5 Kc6 5.Ke4 Kb7 6.Kd5 Kb6#

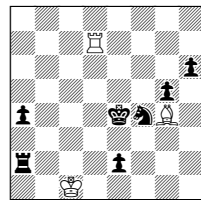
7th Honorable Mention e.a.
Fadil Abdurahmanović
Holladay-MT 2005



h#5½

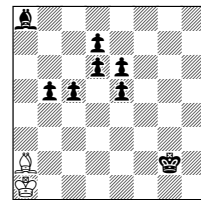
(2+7)

Commendation
Kostas Prentos
Holladay-MT 2005



h#3½ 2 solutions (3+7)

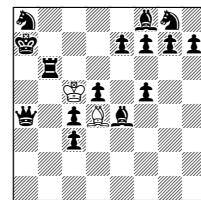
Commendation
Kostas Prentos
Holladay-MT 2005



h#5

(2+8)

Commendation
Ilo Krampis
Holladay-MT 2005



h#5

(2+15)

7th – 8th Honorable Mention - (Fadil Abdurahmanović) Marginally better economy than the previous composition, but not enough to push it any higher. 1...Bd5 2.e5 Ba8 3.Se6 Kd5 4.Kf5 Kc6 5.Ke4 Kb7 6.Kd5 Kb6#

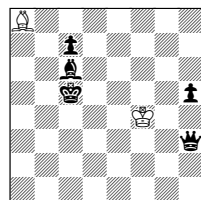
Commendations in numerical order:

Commendation - (Kostas Prentos) The mutual R+B Indians are ambitious, but the imbalanced black sequences and idle bS capture detract. 1...Rd3 2.Rd2 Rg3 3.Rd4 Bf3+ 4.Kd3 Bd5#; 1...Bh5 2.Kf5 Be8 3.Kg4 Rf7 4.Kh5 Rxf4#

Commendation - (Kostas Prentos) The timely mutual clearances bring a smile to the lips. 1.Be4 Bd5 2.Kf3 Ba8 3.Bb7 Kb2 4.Ke4 Kc3 5.Kd5 Bxb7#

Commendation - (Ilo Krampis) I enjoyed the nifty retro-trick: ...Bd4, without capture, landed immediately prior. Compare to EH1-08 and EH1-13. 1.Re6 Bg1 2.Re5 Kd4 3.Kb6 Ke3 4.Kc5 Kf2 5.Kd4 Ke2#

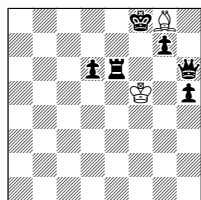
Commendation
Zoltan Laborczi
Holladay-MT 2005



h#6

(2+5)

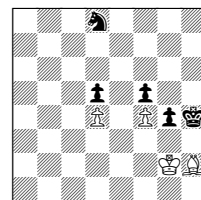
Commendation
Zoltan Laborczi
Holladay-MT 2005



h#4½

(2+6)

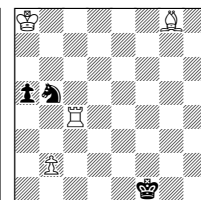
Commendation
Zoltan Laborczi
Holladay-MT 2005



h#5½

(4+5)

Special Commendation
Fadil Abdurahmanović
Holladay-MT 2005



h#4½

(4+3)

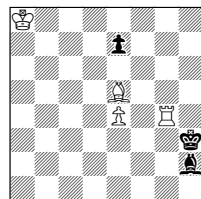
Commendation - (Zoltán Laborczi) Both sides rush through c8 to make room for His Majesty. Notice how the bQ and wB traverse the same lines. 1.Qc8 Bb7 2.Qb8 Bc8 3.Kb6 Bh3 4.Kb7 Kf5 5.Kc8 Ke6 6.Bb7 Kc7#

Commendation - (Zoltán Laborczi) Another stutter-stepper, this time with the Bishop returning to the thematic square. 1...Bf7 2.Qh8 Bg8 3.Rh6 Bd5 4.Rh7 Ke6 5.Kg8 Ke7#

Commendation - (Zoltán Laborczi) The coiling Bishop slithers through to strike from above. 1...Bg3+ 2.Kh5 Bh4 3.Se6 Bg5 4.Sg7 Bh6 5.Kh4 Kh2 6.Sh5 Bg5#

Special Commendation - (Fadil Abdurahmanović) The wR Rundlauf and wB ambush bears a strong resemblance to **diagram C** (Solution: 1.e6 Bh8 2.Bd6 Rh4+ 3.Kg3 Rh7 4.Kf4 Rg7 5.Ke5 Rg4#), but the EHMT-content here warrants inclusion. 1...Rb4 2.Ke2 Ba2 3.Kd3 Rb3+ 4.Kc4 Rc3+ 5.Kb4 Rc4#

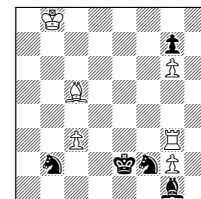
(C) F. Abdurahmanović
1st Prize
The Problemist 1997



h#5

(4+3)

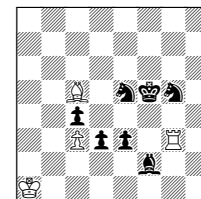
Special Commendation
Zoltan Laborczi
Holladay-MT 2005



h#3½ 2 solutions

(6+5)

(D) M. Henrych
4th Prize
The Problemist 1999

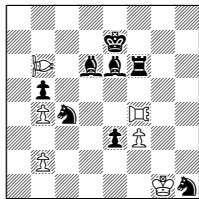


h#3½ 2 solutions

(4+7)

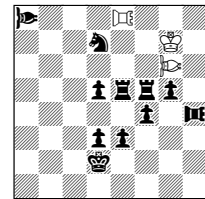
Special Commendation - (Zoltán Laborczi) 1...Be3 2.Sfd3 (Sbd3?) Bh6 3.Bf2 Rg5 4.Ke3 Re5#; 1...Re3+ 2.Kd2 Re8 3.Sbd3 Be7 4.Ke3 Bg5# Although the EHMT-specific nature of this gem is new (no Kniest capture on e3), the white pattern is not. Compare to **diagram D** (Solution: 1...Bxe3 2.Sgf3 Bh6 3.Ke4 Rg5 4.Ke3 Rxe5#, 1...Rxe3 2.Sef3 Re8 3.Kf4 Be7 4.Ke3 Bxg5#). The black play is less cohesive here, but the paradox is stronger.

1st Prize
Zoltan Laborczi
Holladay-MT 2005



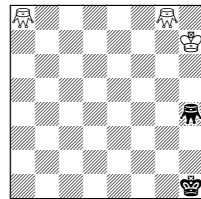
h#4½ b) Pb2→e2 (6+8)
♖ Pao ♗ Vao

2nd Prize
Juraj Lőrinc
Holladay-MT 2005



h#4½ 2 solutions (3+11)
♖♗R-Lions ♗♘B-Lions

Commendation
Kevin Begley
Holladay-MT 2005



h#4 (3+2)
♖♗♘Moose

Section 2: Fairy h#3½-n

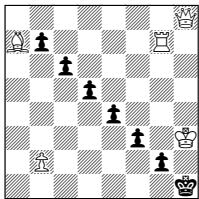
This section attracted a mere 5 entries. However, the quality of the honorees was more than adequate: the top pair would feature in *any* award. Regarding those excluded: both EH2-02 (h#4½ Ke3/Kc3) and EH2-03 (h#4½ Ka4/Kh4) achieved double-EHMTs in a single-line, but their use of hoppers (making this task easier) and insufficient strategy prevents placement here. My selections are as follows:

1st Prize - (Zoltán Laborczi) An amazing feat: EHMT requirements doubled in two variations! In each, the "front" battery piece zigs through d4 in anticipation of its zagging counterpart. Meanwhile, Black must carefully choose his key-move, which blocks the correct square and opens the door for the King. The finishing strokes highlight these sparkling sequences. a) 1...VAd4 2.Be5 VAc3 3.Kd6 PAd4 4.Kd5 PAd1 5.Kd4 VAd2#, b) 1...PAd4 2.Bd5 PAd2 3.Ke6 VAd4 4.Ke5 VAA1 5.Kd4 PAb2#

2nd Prize - (Juraj Lőrinc) In two perfectly matched lines, one Lion visits e4, then departs to make room for the other which, in turn, returns the favor by vacating g6/e8! The ODT effects are even extended to Black's play, and every unit, including the wK, is essential. Technically speaking, only the key arrivals are EHMT-specific, while White's third-moves serve as noble sacrifices. 1...RLe4 2.Ke3 RLg4 3.BLf3 BLe4 4.Kd4 RLg6 5.Kxe4 RLg4#; 1...BLc4 2.Ke2 BLc6 3.RLd4 RLe4+ 4.Kf3 BLe8 5.Kxe4 BLc6#

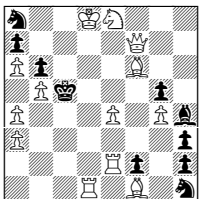
Commendation - (Kevin Begley) Both the bK and wM return after intriguing journeys, the former leaving the thematic corner at the outset. Only one EHMT combination here, but the manner in which it's achieved is very clever. 1.Kg2 Mh1 2.Kg1 Mg5 3.Kh1 Mh3 4.Mg2 Mg8#

(E) J. Green,
Commendation
StrateGems 1999



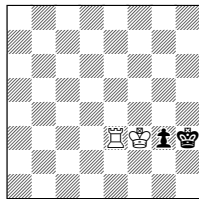
=6 (5+7)

Prize
Marcel Tribowski
Holladay-MT 2005



=7 (13+10)

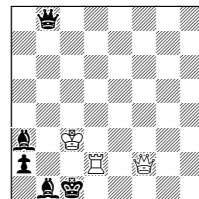
Honorable Mention
Nicolai Zinovyev
Holladay-MT 2005



=8 (2+2)

b) all men 1 square up
c) Kh3→b2

Commendation
Nicolai Zinovyev
Holladay-MT 2005



=14 (3+5)

Section 3: Orthodox Directstalemates

The third and final section drew 31 entries, three of which were withdrawn prior to my receiving them. A fourth, EH3-27 (=12 Kf2/Kh2), was found to be anticipated, hence duly eliminated. The overall level of the remaining 27 was rather disappointing, the majority rejecting for forced checking sequences (after strong keys), numerous idle captures (to lengthen the solution, or to produce 'asymmetry'), or laborious computer analysis -- in all cases leading to predictable conclusions. Regarding two other omitted items:

EH3-02 (=2 Kc8/Ka8): Too mundane. I prefer **diagram E** (Solution: 1.Qa8!), showing a complete 6th-pin with the same mechanism.

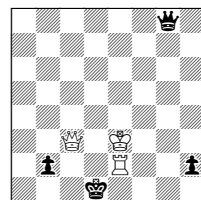
EH3-10 (=6 Ke1/Ke8): A nice four-part idea, but having the same key in each is too great a flaw.

That said, the sole Prizewinner made this tourney (section) a resounding success!

Prize - (Marcel Tribowski) In the first two variations, Black's Knight and Bishop take turns freezing one another by plugging g3. White proceeds with distinct, consecutive windmill-style maneuvers, relocating his Rook and Bishop to pinning squares after coercing his adversary onto anticipatory lines. The third defense adds a key-piece switchback while ushering the King to g3, paralyzing both of his colleagues. A marvelously rich specimen! **1.Sg7!** Sg3 2.Bd4+ Kd6 3.Bxf2+ Ke5 4.Bd4+ Kd6 5.Bg1+ Ke5 6.Bxh2 Sc7 7.Qxc7=; 1...Bg3 2.Rd5+(Rc1+?) Kc4 3.Rxg5+ Kd3 4.Rd5+ Kc4 5.Rh5+ Kd3 6.Rxh3 Sc7 7.Qxc7=; 1...Sc7 2.Rc1+! Kd6 3.Se8+ Sxe8 4.Be7+ Ke5 5.Qd5+ Kf4 6.Qf5+ Kg3 7.Kxe8=

Honorable Mention - (Nicolai Zinovyev) From this linear Wenigsteiner, echoed Royal Duels prod Black into three different corners. Edgar would be proud! a) 1.Kf4 Kg2 2.Rf3 Kh3 3.Rxg3+ Kh4 4.Rg4+ Kh5 5.Kg3 Kh6 6.Kh4 Kh7 7.Kh5 Kh8 8.Kh6=, b) 1.Kf5 Kg3 2.Rf4 Kh4 3.Rxg4+ Kh5 4.Rg5+ Kh4 5.Kg6 Kh3 6.Kh5 Kh2 7.Kh4 Kh1 8.Kh3=, c) 1.Kxg3 Kc2 2.Kf3 (Kf2?) Kb2/Kd2 3.Kf2 Kc1 4.Re2 Kd1 5.Kf1 Kc1 6.Ke1 Kb1 7.Kd1 Ka1 8.Kc1=

(F) Nicolai Zinovyev
Ideal Mate Review 1999



=9 (3+4)

Commendation - (Nicolai Zinovyev) This forced-checker has an unusual twist: Black avoids the bait initially. White counters with a foreplan, inching his Queen one square closer before making an offer that Black can't (again) refuse. 1.Rc2+ Kd1! (1...Bxc2 2.Qe1+ is 6 moves quicker) 2.Qf3+ Ke1 3.Re2+ Kd1 4.Rb2+ Kc1/Ke1 5.Qe3+/Qf2+ Kd1 6.Qe2+ Kc1 7.Rc2+! Bxc2 8.Qe1+ Bd1 9.Qd2+ Kb1 10.Qxd1+ Bc1 11.Qc2+ Ka1 12.Qxc1+ Qb1 13.Kd2 Qxc1+ 14.Kxc1= (ideal). The author provided **diagram F** (Solution: 1.Qd4+ Kc1 2.Qxb2+ Kd1 3.Re1+ Kxe1 4.Qd2+ Kf1 5.Qe2+ Kg1 6.Qf2+ Kh1 7.Qf1+ Qg1+ 8.Ke2 Qxf1+ 9.Kxf1= ideal) for comparison, which Ryan forwarded to me (source data withheld, of course). However, the present problem, with its refined introduction, is clearly preferable.

Send all claims of anticipation or unsoundness to Ryan McCracken no later than June 1, 2005.