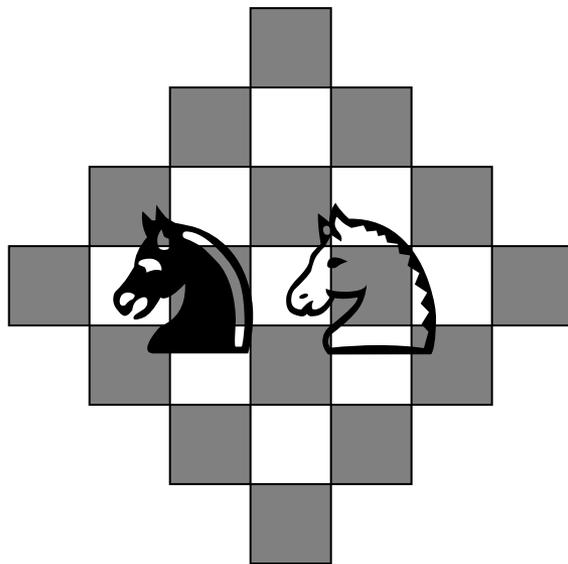


StrateGems

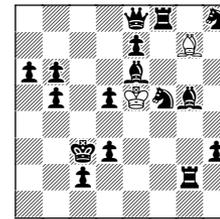


Ourstanding Awards

November 2022

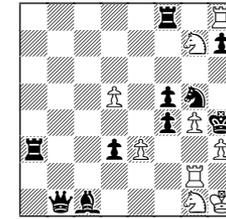
The FA section (no fairy pieces) included forty problems. I found the quality very high and this is reflected by the large number of awarded problems. The top prize problem became evident to me quickly after my first study of all the problems. As for the other six prize problems the difference between them was small and at other times or in a different mood I might have ordered them differently.

1st Prize
Armin Geister
& Daniel Papack



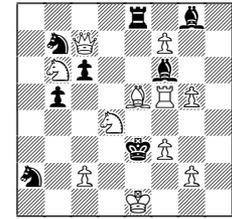
ser-hs#9 (2+16)
Anti-Mars Circe

2nd Prize
Jacques Rotenberg



#2 2 solutions (9+10)
Breton

3rd Prize
Hubert Gockel



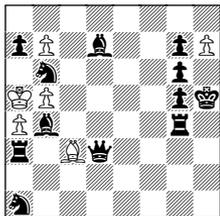
#2*√ Breton (11+8)

1st Prize - (Armin Geister & Daniel Papack - FA2078) To understand and appreciate this problem the mating position must be examined - working back to the start of the solution. The wK will be mated on f1 and we need to get bBg5 to c5 to guard f2. BBg5 can move from f8 so Rf8 and Pe7 must move away. To move Rf8, Sh8 must evacuate the square but it can move from b8 only to a6, so the starting move is a6-a7-a5 followed by Sh8-b8-a6. Now, where to move Rf8? Since Ph3 must evacuate to the BB that will move to h3, it will move by h3-h7-h6 or h3-h7-h5 (and it must wait for the BR movement), but as we need to move Sf5 away (to get the BB to h3) and it can move only to h6, the BP must play to h5. Thus, the Rf8 must play 3.Rf8-h8-h4! After all this we can move Be6 to h3 (6.Be6-c8-h3) and only now to close the c8-h3 diagonal by Pe7, and in turn play now Bg5-f8-c5. The final move: 9.Sa6-g8-e7 must be played to prevent 10.e6-e7-e5. A fabulous concept! **Solution:** 1.a6-a7-a5 2.Sh8-b8-a6 3.Rf8-h8-h4 4.h3-h7-h5 5.Sf5-g8-h6 6.Be6-c8-h3 7.e7-e7-e6 8.Bg5-f8-c5 9.Sa6-g8-e7 and now 10.Ke5-e1-f1+ Rxc7#.

2nd Prize - (Jacques Rotenberg - FA2093) Complex line effects fully exploiting the Breton condition. The bQ and the bB have the potential to guard the h7-h4 line while the two bRs have the potential to guard f3. The key-move that captures f5 can be accompanied by either removing the f5 Pawn or the e3 Pawn. Removal of f5 will open the lines of the bQ and bRf8: now removal of bPf4, after the defense, will open the bRf8 line, while removal of Pd3, will open the bQ line. The line effects are reversed when wPe3 is removed: removal of bPf4, after the defense, will open the bBc1 line while removal of Pd3 will open the bRa3 line. Excellent reciprocal changes with fully unified motives! **Solution:** 1.gxf5 (xf5)! (2.Rg4#), 1...Sxh3 (xf4)[a] 2.Rxh7 (xd5)[A]#, 1...Sxh3 (xd3)[b] 2.Sf3[B]#, 1.gxf5(xe3)! (2.Rg4#), 1...Sxh3 (xf4)[a] 2.Sf3[B]#, 1...Sxh3 (xd3)[b] 2.Rxh7 (xd5)[A]#. Try: 1.gxf5 (xd5)? (2.Rg4#) Qb7!.

3rd Prize - (Hubert Gockel - FA2073) Cyclic mating permutations (carousel) is one of my favorite themes and the adaptation of the Breton condition is fascinating. The distinction between defenses that vary only in terms of the piece that is removed is central to this composition. **Solution:** 1...Bxg5 (-c6)[a] 2.Sd5[A]#; 1...Bxg5 (-b5)[b] 2.Sc4[B]#; 1.Sxc6 [-f7]? 2.Bf4#, 1...Bxg5 (-b5)[b] 2.Bd4[C]#, 1...Bxe5 (-Bg8)[c] 2.Sd5[A]#, 1...Rxe5 (-Bg8); [1.Sxb5/xc6 (-g5)? Bh4+!]; 1.Sxb5 (-f7)! (2.Bf4#), 1...Bxg5 (-c6)[a] 2.Bd4[C]#, 1...Bxe5 (-Bg8)[c]/Rxe5 (-Bg8) 2.Sc4[B]#, 1...Bxe5 (-Be5) 2.Qf4#, 1...Rxe5 (-Bf6) 2.Qxe5 (-Rf5)#, 1...cxb5 (-Sb7) 2.Qc5#, 1...cxb5 (-Sa2) 2.Qc3#.

4th Prize
Mario Parrinello



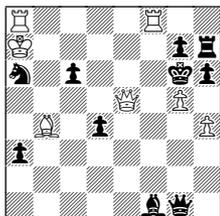
hs#3½ Madrasi (6+12)
b) Sa1→b8

4th Prize - (Marion Parrinello - FA2096) This harmonious and highly interesting AUW uses Madrasi-specific effects to determine all promotions. Promoting to a Knight on c8 enables the wK to capture on a4 as bSb6 is paralyzed. The bQ captures c3 to get bBb4 free for square guard and now wPh7 promotes to Q to force the bQ capture on c8, paralyzing wQh8 and un-paralyzing bSb6 which mates. Similarly, Bishop promotion on c8 paralyzes bBd7 enabling the wK to move to b5. Now the bR captures c3 so Ph7 promotes to Rook. The bR capture on c8 paralyzes wRh8 and un-paralyzes Bd7 which mates. The bQ & bRa3 exchange roles for sacrifices (on a4 or b5, respectively) and captures on c8. An excellent composition. **Solution:** a) 1...Bc8 2.bxc8S Rxa4+ 3.Kxa4 Qxc3 4.h8Q+ Qxc8#; b) 1...Sc8 2.bxc8B Qxb5+ 3.Kxb5 Rxc3 4.h8R+ Rxc8#.

5th Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - FA2109) An enjoyable Anda problem with fully matched solutions. The checks provide the means of turning the right piece into neutral, followed by switchback, enabling realization of the mate. A kind of paradox exists: in orthodox play we are tempted to play in (a) 1...Rh5 2.Bxd3+ Bxd3# and in (b) 1...Be8 2.Rxc3+ Rxc3#. However, since Anda turns regular pieces into neutral pieces, they first need to transform into neutral pieces, and this also helps with controlling squares around the BK. **Solution:** a) 1...Bf7=nB+ 2.nBg6 Rh5 3.Bd1=nB+ nBe2 4.nBgxd3=wB+ nBxd3=bB#; b) 1...Rh4=nR+ 2.nRh3 Be8 3.Rb2=nB+ nRb3 4.nRhxc3=wR+ nRxc3=bR#.

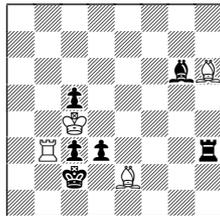
6th Prize - (Kivanç Çefle - FA2079) An interesting and artistic use of the white maximummer! White needs to promote the Pd2 and it is actually the last of the 4 Pawns to move. The other three wPs have a role in preventing the wK from making the Kc5-b4 and then the Kb5-c4 or Kb5-a4, thus enabling the forward move of the d-pawn. An important move is 20.Kb5 that must be made before d4-d5 to prevent Kc5-d4. The self-pin 26.Sxb7 allowing 27.Ka6 is a nice touch. **Solution:** 1.Kb1 2.Kc1 3.Kd1 4.Ke2 5.Kf3 6.Ke4 7.Kd5 8.Kxc4 9.Kb5 10.c4 11.Kxa4 12.Kb5 13.a4 14.Kxb4 15.Kc5 16.b4 17.Kxd4 18.Kc5 19.d4 20.Kb5 21.d5 22.d6 23.d7 24.dxe8S 25.Sd6 26.Sxb7 27.Ka6 28.Sxd8 29.Se6 30.Sc7#.

7th Prize
Petko A. Petkov



hs#3 b) Kg6→a1 (7+10)

5th Prize
Petko A. Petkov

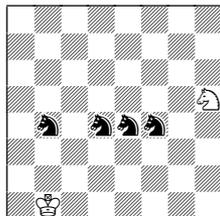


hs#3½ b) Pd3→e6 (4+6)
Anda

5th Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - FA2109) An enjoyable Anda problem with fully matched solutions. The checks provide the means of turning the right piece into neutral, followed by switchback, enabling realization of the mate. A kind of paradox exists: in orthodox play we are tempted to play in (a) 1...Rh5 2.Bxd3+ Bxd3# and in (b) 1...Be8 2.Rxc3+ Rxc3#. However, since Anda turns regular pieces into neutral pieces, they first need to transform into neutral pieces, and this also helps with controlling squares around the BK. **Solution:** a) 1...Bf7=nB+ 2.nBg6 Rh5 3.Bd1=nB+ nBe2 4.nBgxd3=wB+ nBxd3=bB#; b) 1...Rh4=nR+ 2.nRh3 Be8 3.Rb2=nB+ nRb3 4.nRhxc3=wR+ nRxc3=bR#.

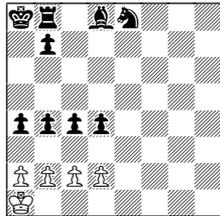
6th Prize - (Kivanç Çefle - FA2079) An interesting and artistic use of the white maximummer! White needs to promote the Pd2 and it is actually the last of the 4 Pawns to move. The other three wPs have a role in preventing the wK from making the Kc5-b4 and then the Kb5-c4 or Kb5-a4, thus enabling the forward move of the d-pawn. An important move is 20.Kb5 that must be made before d4-d5 to prevent Kc5-d4. The self-pin 26.Sxb7 allowing 27.Ka6 is a nice touch. **Solution:** 1.Kb1 2.Kc1 3.Kd1 4.Ke2 5.Kf3 6.Ke4 7.Kd5 8.Kxc4 9.Kb5 10.c4 11.Kxa4 12.Kb5 13.a4 14.Kxb4 15.Kc5 16.b4 17.Kxd4 18.Kc5 19.d4 20.Kb5 21.d5 22.d6 23.d7 24.dxe8S 25.Sd6 26.Sxb7 27.Ka6 28.Sxd8 29.Se6 30.Sc7#.

1st Honorable Mention
Václav Kotěšovec



sd=18 2 solutions (2+4)
PWC + Madrasi (NBK) C-

6th Prize
FA2079 Kivanç Çefle

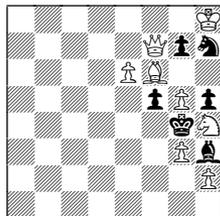


sd#30 (5+9)
White Maximummer

6th Prize - (Kivanç Çefle - FA2079) An interesting and artistic use of the white maximummer! White needs to promote the Pd2 and it is actually the last of the 4 Pawns to move. The other three wPs have a role in preventing the wK from making the Kc5-b4 and then the Kb5-c4 or Kb5-a4, thus enabling the forward move of the d-pawn. An important move is 20.Kb5 that must be made before d4-d5 to prevent Kc5-d4. The self-pin 26.Sxb7 allowing 27.Ka6 is a nice touch. **Solution:** 1.Kb1 2.Kc1 3.Kd1 4.Ke2 5.Kf3 6.Ke4 7.Kd5 8.Kxc4 9.Kb5 10.c4 11.Kxa4 12.Kb5 13.a4 14.Kxb4 15.Kc5 16.b4 17.Kxd4 18.Kc5 19.d4 20.Kb5 21.d5 22.d6 23.d7 24.dxe8S 25.Sd6 26.Sxb7 27.Ka6 28.Sxd8 29.Se6 30.Sc7#.

6th Prize - (Kivanç Çefle - FA2079) An interesting and artistic use of the white maximummer! White needs to promote the Pd2 and it is actually the last of the 4 Pawns to move. The other three wPs have a role in preventing the wK from making the Kc5-b4 and then the Kb5-c4 or Kb5-a4, thus enabling the forward move of the d-pawn. An important move is 20.Kb5 that must be made before d4-d5 to prevent Kc5-d4. The self-pin 26.Sxb7 allowing 27.Ka6 is a nice touch. **Solution:** 1.Kb1 2.Kc1 3.Kd1 4.Ke2 5.Kf3 6.Ke4 7.Kd5 8.Kxc4 9.Kb5 10.c4 11.Kxa4 12.Kb5 13.a4 14.Kxb4 15.Kc5 16.b4 17.Kxd4 18.Kc5 19.d4 20.Kb5 21.d5 22.d6 23.d7 24.dxe8S 25.Sd6 26.Sxb7 27.Ka6 28.Sxd8 29.Se6 30.Sc7#.

2nd Honorable Mention
Hubert Gockel



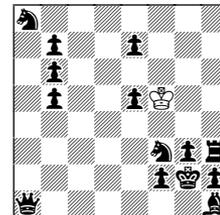
#2√. Bolero (8+6)

7th Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - FA2055) Harmonious and interesting! The wQ self-pins are followed by Pelle moves with a Bristol aimed at interference of the wB or wR. The battery mates add beauty with perfect use of the bQ & bR. The bK twin is fine here. **Solution:** a) 1.Qxd4 h5 2.Qb6 Qc5 3.Rf6+ gxf6#; b) 1.Qxg7 a2 2.Qb7 Rf7 3.Bc3+ dxc3#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Václav Kotěšovec - FA2097) In one solution the wK initially cooperates with the wS to enable some of its moves, while in the other it moves directly, with careful selection of the square from which it captures. The play is unified and the echo-stalemate positions are pleasing. **Solution:** 1.Kb2 2.Ka3 3.Ka4 4.Kxb4(Sa4) 5.Kc4 6.Kxd4(Sc4) 7.Kxe4(Sd4) 8.Kxf4(Se4) 9.Sg7 10.Se6 11.Kf3 12.Ke2 13.Kd3 14.Kxd4(Sd3) 15.Sc5 16.Kc3 17.Kb3 18.Kxc4(Sb3)=; 1.Kc1 2.Kd1 3.Ke1 4.Kf1 5.Kg2 6.Kh3 7.Kg4 8.Kxf4(Sg4) 9.Sf6 10.Kxg4(Sf4) 11.Kg3 12.Kf2 13.Ke3 14.Kxe4(Se3) 15.Sd5 16.Kd3 17.Kc3 18.Kxd4(Sc3)=.

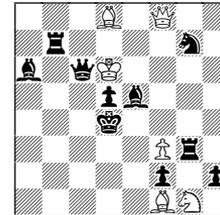
2nd Honorable Mention - (Hubert Gockel - FA2045) A nice rendering of double-threat Dombrovskis using the interesting Bolero condition. The introductory try uses the condition to perfection for both threats and refutation. The reintroduction of Qxf5 as a single threat in the 2nd try adds complexity and the try and key moving to the same square adds artistry. Nice play in the solution and, overall, a pleasant composition. **Solution:** 1.Qg6[C]? (2.Qxf5[A]/Qf4[B]#) f4[a]; 1.Bxg7? (2.Qxf5[A]#), 1...Kxg5/f4[a] 2.Qg6[C]/Qxf4[B]#, 1..Sh6!; **1.Qxg7!** (zz), 1...Sh6 2.gxf6#, 1...Sxf6 2.gxf6#, 1...Sxg5 2.Qxg5#, 1...f4 2.Qf5#.

3rd Honorable Mention
Andrey Frolkin
& Igor Vereshchagin



hs=17 C- (1+14)

4th Honorable Mention
Franz Pachl, Michael Barth
& Sven Trommler



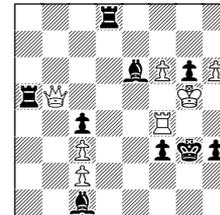
hs#2½ b) bPb7 (6+10)
Anti-Circe

3rd Honorable Mention - (Andrey Frolkin & Igor Vereshchagin - FA2112) A nice help-selfmate that has the feel of a serial problem due to the march of the wK (and its length). This looks very precise and with a good, and expected, Zugzwang ending. I hope it is sound. **Solution:** 1.Kg4 Kg1 2.Kxh3 e4 3.Kg4 e3 4.Kf5 e2 5.Ke6 e1B 6.Kd7 Ba5 7.Kc8 b4 8.Kb8 b5 9.Kxa8 b6 10.Kb7 e5 11.Kc6 e4 12.Kd5 e3 13.Ke4 g2 14.Kxf3 e2 15.Ke3 f1B 16.Kd2 Qe1+ 17.Kxe1 b3#; Try: 1.Ke6? e4 2.Kd7 e3 3.Kc8 e2 4.Kb8 e1B?, Qa7+?

4th Honorable Mention - (Franz Pachl, Michael Barth and Sven Trommler - FA2050) Both, the wB and the wQ are pinned. The play involves square evacuation, coupled with relocating the wS to b1 for guarding c3, a critical move by one of the Anti-Circe pinning pieces that allows one of the W pinned pieces to move onto the checking line, followed by an UmnoV mating move. This is nice, though play involving active pins would have been more interesting. **Solution:** a) 1...Rh3 2.Sxh3[wSh3-b1] Bg3 3.Qf4+ Bxf4[bBf4-f8]#; b) 1...Be2 2.Sxe2[b1] Qa6 3.Bb6+ Qxb6[bQb6-d8]#.

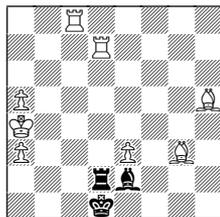
5th Honorable Mention: FA2054 Mykola Vasyuchko Pelle moves by the wQ, seemingly breaking the unity, have a good effect. The composition ends nicely with two solutions that show matching strategy. **Solution:** a) 1.Qd5 Bf5 2.Qd2 Rg8 3.Rg4+ Bxg4#; b) 1.Qc5 Rd2 2.Rf5 Bf7 3.Qf2+ Rxf2#.

5th Honorable Mention
Mykola Vasyuchko



hs#3 b) -Pf3 (7+9)

6th Honorable Mention
Vitaly Medintsev



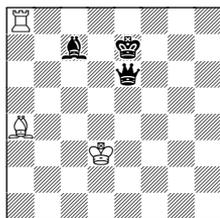
hs#4 b) Ka4→h1 (8+3)

6th Honorable Mention - (Vitaly Medintsev - FA2056) Elegant battery creation by both white and black with full ODT. The twin reduces the overall impression. Solution: a) 1.Bf7 (Bf3?) Bg4 2.Bd5 Rh2 3.Rc2 Rh4 4.Bb3+ Bxd7#; b) 1.Rg7 (Rd4?) Rd5 2.Rg4 Ba6 3.Be1 Bb7 4.Rg1+ Rxb5#.

7th Honorable Mention - (Andrey Frolkin - FA2051) Lovely play with the two promoted pieces moving (Pelle) to b8 and unpinned by two different black pieces on g8. Solution: a) 1.hxg8R! (hxg8Q?) Bh7! (Sf6?) 2.Rb8! (Pelle move) Bg8 3.Rxb2+ Qxb2#; b) 1.hxg8Q! (hxg8R?) Sf6! 2.Qb8! (Pelle move) Sg8 3.Qxe5+ Qxe5#.

8th Honorable Mention - (Paul Răican - FA2098) All five wPs promote (Q+R+3B) in this (hopefully sound) serial problem. The Circe condition is used several times but is not central to the idea. Solution: 1.b7 **2.d8Q** 3.Qxd5 [+bPd7] **4.b8B** 5.Bxf4 [+bRh8] 6.Be5 7.f4 8.f5 9.f6 10.f7 **11.g8R** 12.Rxg6 [+bRa8] 13.Rg8 14.g6 15.g7 **16.gxh8B** 17.Beg7 **18.f8B** 19.Qd1+ Kxd1=.

9th Honorable Mention
Kostas Prentos



hs#2½ 2 solutions (3+3)
Super-Circe

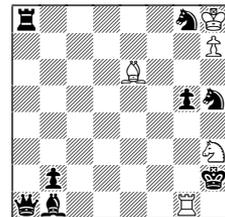
9th Honorable Mention - (Kostas Prentos - FA2074) An elegant use of Super-Circe to establish reciprocal batteries by the wR & wB. Ideal position using only the thematic pieces. Solution: 1...Bd7 2.Kxf6 Qh7 3.Rd5+ Sxd5#; b) 1.Bd3 Rxf6+ 2.Ke4 Rf3 3.Rxc4+ Rxc4#.

Commendations are not ranked and are listed in numerical order.

Commendation - (Ralf Krätschmer & Franz Pachl - FA2053) Harmonious solutions involving Pelle moves and WK moves along the pin line into the evacuated square. Solution: a) 1.Qf7 Qxe4+ 2.Kf6 Qh7 3.Rd5+ Sxd5#; b) 1.Bd3 Rxf6+ 2.Ke4 Rf3 3.Rxc4+ Rxc4#.

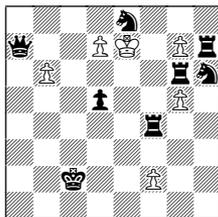
Commendation - (Armin Geister & Daniel Papack - FA2075) A strange condition is interestingly used here. The choice of bR capture on a3 and captures by the wS and the wP, needed to prevent the wK captures (not self-blocks), provide a nice background. The battery/non-battery mate is a drawback. Solution: 1.Sa3 Rbxa3 2.axb7 Rf8 3.Qxd8+ Rxd8#; 1.a3 Raxa3 2.Sxa7 Re8 3.Qxc6+ Sxc6#.

7th Honorable Mention
Andrey Frolkin



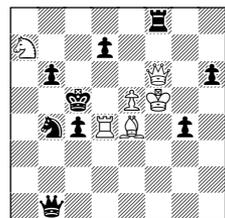
hs#3 b) Pb2→e5 (5+8)

8th Honorable Mention
Paul Răican
Dedicated to G.P. Sphicas



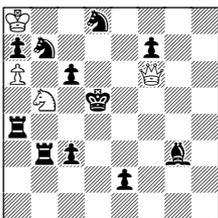
ser.s=19 C- (6+8)
Circe

Commendation
Ralf Krätschmer
& Franz Pachl



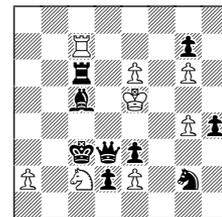
hs#3 b) bRb4 (6+9)

Commendation
Armin Geister
& Daniel Papack



hs#3 2 solutions (4+11)
Anti-Mars Circe

Commendation
Mykola Vasyuchko



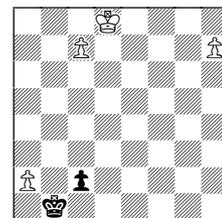
hs#3½ 2 solutions (8+9)

Commendation - (Mykola Vasyuchko - F2076) Exchange of functions between the bR and the bB is combined with use of the half-pin for checking captures of the remaining piece. Solution: 1...Qd7 2.Ke4 Ba3 3.Kf3 Bb2 4.Rxc6+ Qxc6#; 1...Qd6+ 2.Kf5 Rb6 3.Kg5 Rb2 4.Rxc5+ Qxc5#.

Commendation - (Christopher Jones - FA2077) The wB slowly moves into position, with the bK repositioning as well. Good exchange of functions between the wB and the wP. Solution: 1.Bg3 Kd6 2.Be1 Kc5 3.Bb4+ Kd4 4.Bd6 Rc5 5.Be5+ Qxe5#; 1.Bg1 Qd3 2.Bxe3 Kd5 3.Bd2 Kd4 4.Bb4 Rd5 5.e3+ Qxe3#.

Commendation - (Daniel Novomesky - FA2094) A study of model mates using Bolero. We have 2+2 echo mates with pleasant use of the condition. Solution: a) 1.Rf3 Sc1 2.Rd4+ Ke5 3.Rd2 Sg4#; b) 1.Rf6+ Kc5 2.Kf4 Sh3+ 3.Ke5 Sd3#; c) 1.R5f4 Sb2 2.Kd4 Sh5 3.Rfe3 Sb5#; d) 1.Rd4+ Ke5 2.Rd2 Sg1 3.Rad3 Sg4#.

Commendation
Eric Huber
Dedicated to Petko A. Petkov



hs#3½ b) Kd8→c8 (4+2)
Anticipes, Anti-Circe (Cheylan)

Commendation - (Eric Huber - FA2108) The two solutions are rather different, but provide a good glimpse into the rich possibilities offered by the combination of these two conditions. Solution: a) 1...c1R+ 2.h8B Kb2 3.Ke8 Ka1 4.Bb2 Kb1#; b) 1...Kc1 2.Kb7 Kb1 3.h8R+ c1Q+ 4.Rh1+ Ka1#.

Commendation - (Vlaicu Crișan & Eric Huber - FA2110) A curious perpetual-mobile position with many PWC moves and effects. The set and play are not overly unified, though some play is connected by the promotion and PWC-specific guard by the wP. Solution: 1...Kxa2(Sb3) 2.Sa1 Kxa1(Sa2) 3.b3 Kxa2(Sa1) 4.Sxc2(Ra1) Rxb1(Sa1)#; 1.Saxc3(a2) cxb1=Q(Sc2)+ 2.Sxb1(Qc3) Ka4 3.b3+ Kxb3(a4) 4.Sd2+ Qxd2(Sc3)#.

Commendation - (Sébastien Luce - FA2111) A pleasant minimal Masand problem with nicely matching play leading to different mating positions. Solution: a) 1...Kh2 2.g1Q+ Kh3 3.Qg2[a8=w]+ Kh4 4.Ke6 Bd5[g2=w]+ 5.Kf5 Qg5#; b) 1...Kf2 2.Sb6 Ke1 3.g1Q[b6=w]+ Ke2 4.Qc5 Sd7[c5=w]+ 5.Ke4 Qe5#.

We thank Paz for this timely award. The comments should be sent to Mike Prcic within 90 days.