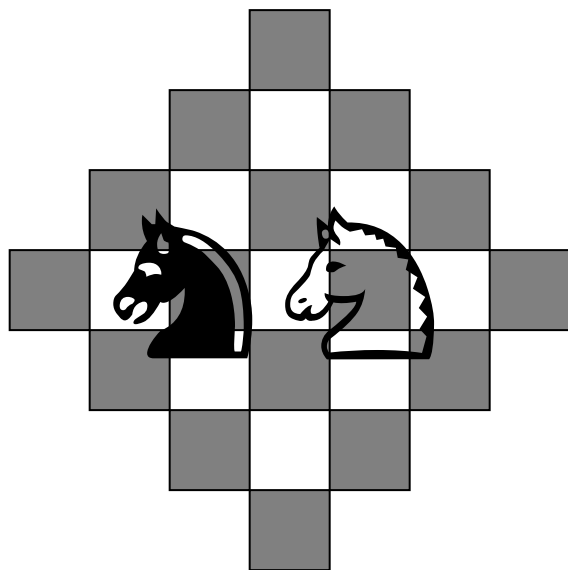


# StrateGems

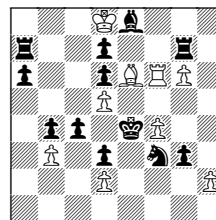


Ourstanding Awards

October 2022

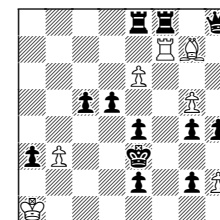
I reviewed twenty-nine entries of average quality. Here is my decision.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Alexandr Pankratyev  
& Evgeny Gavriliv



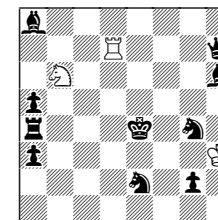
h#3 4 solutions (9+12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Valery Gurov(v)



h#2½ 4 solutions (7+12)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
Fadil Abdurahmanović



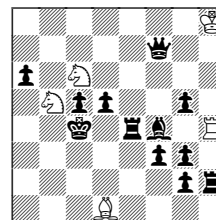
h#3 2 solutions (3+10)

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - (Alexandr Pankratyev & Evgeny Gavriliv - H2677) HOFT.** In the first set, White plays a clearance move allowing the black thematic piece to enter the critical line and sacrifice itself on the mating move, after the capture of white piece. In the second set, the black Rooks are actively sacrificed in order to enable white thematic pieces to mate on same squares as in the first set. The supporting cast (Sf3[a & b], Pb3[B], Ph2[A]) plays twice to the same square but on different moves. Solution: 1.Se5[a] Rf8 2.Rf7 hxg3[A] 3.Rxf4 Rxf4#; 1.Sd4[b] Bg8 2.Bf7 bxc4[B] 3.Bxd5 Bxd5#; 1.Rxg6 hxg3[A] 2.Rg5 fxg5 3.Se5[a] Rf4#; 1.Rc7 bxc4[B] 2.Rc6 dxc6 3.Sd4[b] Bd5#.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - (Valery Gurov - H2673) HOFT.** Two sets of variations with rich thematic content. In the first set we have creation and play of an Indian battery. The black thematic pieces, the Queen and the Rook have but one safe square to play to. Both pieces are captured in the first set (reciprocal captures and safe moves). In the second set, the black thematic pieces are ambushed and captured after Bristol moves. Solution: 1...Rxf8 2.Qh5 Rf6 3.Kd4 Rf3#; 1...Bxh8 2.Rg8 Bf6 3.Kf3 Bd4#; 1...Rf1 2.Rf2 Bd4+ 3.Kf3 Rxf2#; 1...Bb2 2.Qc3 Rf3+ 3.Kd4 Bxc3#;

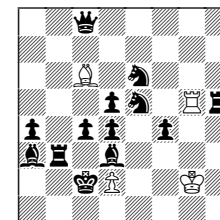
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - (Fadil Abdurahmanović - H2702)** A simple idea shown with great economy and clarity. The black King vacates e4-square, which becomes a focal point for black Grimshaw enabling the white King to move into guarding position. To top it off, the black thematic pieces are actively sacrificed on the mating move. Solution: 1.Ke3 Rd1 2.Re4 Kxg2 3.Bd5 Sxd5#; 1.Ke5 Rd6 2.Be4 Kxg4 3.Rc4 Sxc4#.

1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention  
Francesco Simoni



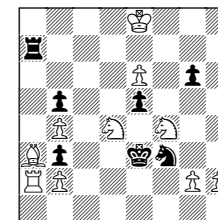
h#2½\*\* 2 solutions (5+12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention  
Vladislav Nefyodov



h#3 2 solutions (4+13)

3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention  
Christer Jonsson



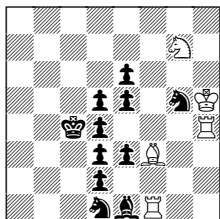
h#2½ 2 solutions (10+7)

**1st Honorable Mention - (Francesco Simoni - H2650)** A cleverly constructed helpmates with two solutions and two set-plays. The main protagonist, the white Bishop, makes guarding moves (A & B) in the set-play. In the play, it first makes hesitating moves (B & A) before making the same guarding moves (A & B). Solution: Set-play, 1.Bd2 Ba4[A] 2.Bb4 Se5#; 1.Re3 Bc2[B] 2.Rc3 Sd6#; Play, 1...Bc2[B] 2.Bd2 Ba4[A] 3.Bb4 Se5#; 1...Ba4[A] 2.Re3 Bc2[B] 3.Rc3 Sd6#.

**2nd Honorable Mention - (Vladislav Nefyodov - H2655)** Good harmony with exchange of functions between wR/wB ending in model mates. Solution: 1.Rb5 Rg7 2.Kb3 Rb7 3.Kb4 Rxb5#; 1.Bf5 Be8 2.Kd3 Bg6 3.Ke4 Bxf5#.

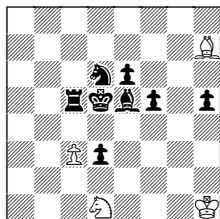
**3rd Honorable Mention - (Crister Jonsson - H2700)** A strange looking Zilahi, where the white thematic pieces must be captured to open lines for the mating piece. Solution: 1...g3 2.Rxa3 bxa3 3.exd4 Re2#; 1...gxf3 2.bxa2 b3 3.Kxf4 Bc1#.

4th Honorable Mention  
Abdelaziz Onkoud



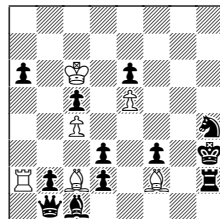
h#3 2 solutions (5+11)

Commendation  
Mikola Vasyuchko



h#3 b) bBh7 (4+8)

Commendation  
Christer Jonsson



h#3 2 solutions (6+12)

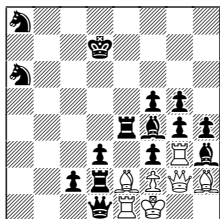
**4th Honorable Mention - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2654)** Passive and active sacrifices of two white pieces in each solution. The active sacrifices open the path for the black King. Solution: 1.Bxh4 Bxd5+ 2.Kxd5 Se8 3.Ke4 Sf6#; 1.Sxf3 Rxd4+ 2.Kxd4 Rg1 3.Ke4 Rg4#.

Commendation are not rated and are shown in the order of publishing.

**Commendation - (Mikola Vasyuchko - H2651)** I like the fact that all white moves in a) are by the white Bishop, while in b), the twin black Bishop makes the same moves. Both mates are model. Solution: a) 1.Rc4 Bg6 2.Rf4 Be8 3.Ke4 Bc6#; b) 1.Bg6 Kg2 2.Be8 Kf3 3.Bc6 Se3#.

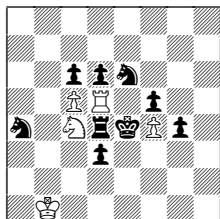
**Commendation - (Crister Jonsson - H2656)** Zilahi with model mates. Solution: 1.Qxa2 Bxd3 2.Qxc4 Bxc4 3.Sg2 Bxe6#; 1.Qxc2 Ra4 2.Qxc4 Rxc4 3.Rg2 Rxh4#.

Commendation  
Vitaly Medintsev



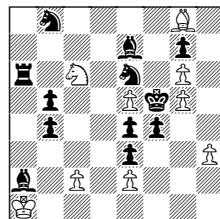
h#3 2 solutions (7+15)

Commendation  
Ivan Antipin &  
Alexandr Pankratyev



h#3 4 solutions (5+9)

Commendation  
Abdelaziz Onkoud



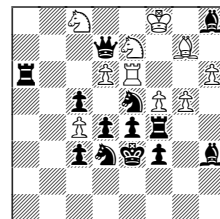
h#3 b) Ph3→h5 (9+12)

**Commendation - (Vitaly Medintsev - H2657)** Zilahi. The squares around the black King are not guarded in the initial setting. However, the overall artistic impression is poor. Solution: 1.Rxe2 Rxf3 2.Re8 Rxf4 3.Rc8 Rd4#; 1.Bxg3 Bxf3 2.Bc7 Bxe4 3.Bd8 Bxf5#.

**Commendation - (Ivan Antipin & Alexandr Pankratyev - H2674)** HOFT. Two sets of variations. In the first set we have Zilahi. In the second set annihilation of white Pawn with mates by Rook and Knight, but solutions are not balanced. Solution: 1.Rxc4 Rxd6 2.Sd4 Re6+ 3.Kd5 Re5#; 1.Saxc5 Kb2 2.Kxd5 Kc3 3.Re4 Sb6#. 1.Kxf4 Se5 2.Re4 Rxd3 3.Sg5 Sg6#; 1.dxc5 Rd8 2.Rd7 Sd2+ 3.Kd5 Rxd7#.

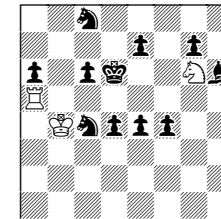
**Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2678)** Good correspondence between solutions. Solution: a) 1.Bc5 c3 2.Bd4 cxd4 3.Sxg5 Se7#; b) 1.Sc7 c4 2.Sd5 cxd5 3.Bxg5 Be6#.

Commendation  
Michal Dragoun



h#3 2 solutions (10+13)

Commendation  
Ricardo Vieira



h#2½ b) Kb4→b3 (3+11)

**Commendation - (Michal Dragoun - H2679)** Double Knist with active sacrifices by Black on matting squares, but the setting is very heavy. Solution: 1.Sg4 Bxd4+ 2.Kxd4 Sb6 3.Rxf5+ Sxf5#; 1.Sc6 Rxe4+ 2.Kxe4 Sd5 3.Qxd6+ Sxd6#.

**Commendation - (Ricardo Vieira - H2722)** Creation and play of one direct and one indirect battery. Solution: a) 1...Rh5 2.Se5 Rxh6 3.Kd5 Sxf4#; b) 1...Rf5 2.e5 Sxe5 3.Kc5 Sxc4#.

*Comments should be sent to Mike Prcic withing three monthe of the publication of the award.*