



The best of Macedonia!

Supplement to The Macedonian Problemist № 69, September – December 2022

## THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEMIST LEAGUE 2022

Place	Name	Country	#2		#3-n		S#2-n		H#3½-n		Points total
			Place	Pts.	Place	Pts.	Place	Pts.	Place	Pts.	
1.	Zoran Gavrilovski	MKD	1,3,4,6,r	12	1,2,4,5	12	5,8	7	3,7,9	9	40
2.	Sven Trommler	GER	+	1	6	6	4	8	2,10	10	25
3.	Miroslav Bílý	CZE							1	12	12
4.	Vidadi Zamanov	AZE	5*, 8*	3.5	7*, r*	2.5	3*	4.5	x	0	10.5
5.	Anatoly Styopochkin	RUS					2,7,9	10			10
6.	Marco Guida	ITA	2,10	10							10
7.	Valery Shavyrin	RUS			3	9					9
8.	Miroslav Svítek	SVK	7*, r	2.5	9, r	3	10, r	2	+	1	8.5
9-10.	Peter Gvozdják	SVK					1*	6			6
9-10.	Jozef Havran	SVK					1*	6			6
11.	Gennady Koziura	UKR					6, r	6			6
12.	Aleksandr Pankratiev	RUS	r	1	10*	1	x	0	4*, 5=*, 5=*, 8*, r*	4	6
13.	Sergey Smotrov	KAZ					3*	4.5			4.5
14.	Anatoly Kirichenko †	RUS							4*	4	4
15.	Gennady Ignatenko	RUS			8	4					4
16.	Aleksey Ivunin	RUS							5=*, 5=*, 8*, r*	3.5	3.5
17.	C. G. S. Narayanan	IND	5*	3.5							3.5
18.	Zoltán Labai	SVK	7*, 8*	2.5	r*	0.5	++*	0.5			3.5
19.	Nikola Stolev	MKD	9	3							3
20.	Kostas Prentos	USA			7*	2.5					2.5
21.	Yuri Gorbatenko	RUS			10*	1					1
22-23.	Evgeny Gavryliv	UKR	+	1							1
22-23.	Vladimir Kozhakin	RUS			+	1					1
24-27.	Anastasiya Bazhan	RUS			++*	0.5					0.5
24-27.	Salman Javadzade	AZE							++*	0.5	0.5
24-27.	Christer Jonsson	SWE							++*	0.5	0.5
24-27.	Viktor Volchek	BLR			++*	0.5					0.5

Explanation of the symbols in the table

- +/r. = Participation in one section or reserve: 1 point.
- x = Anticipated or cooked problem: 0 points.
- \* = Joint problem: 1/2 (\*\* = 1/3 etc.) of the points.

Please send your anticipation or other claims to [zoran.gavrilovski@gmail.com](mailto:zoran.gavrilovski@gmail.com) until 30 March 2023, when the awards of TMP League 2022 will become final. The authors of the problems placed on the position of reserves are kindly asked not to publish their problems until that date.

## THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEMIST LEAGUE 2022: MATE IN 2 MOVES

Judge: Pavel Murashev (Russia)

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Zoltán Labai & Vidadi Zamanov – 1; Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svítek – 2.1 & 2.2; Miroslav Svítek – 3; Sven Trommler – 4, 5; Vidadi Zamanov & C. G. S. Narayanan – 6; Zoran Gavrilovski – 7, 8, 9, 10, 11; Marco Guida – 12, 13; Aleksandr Pankratiev – 14; Nikola Stolev – 15; Evgeny Gavryliv – 16

### AWARD

I received 16 problems (and 1 version) anonymously. In general, the overall level of the competition did not impress me, although some of the honoured problems are very good. But most of the problems (especially those that are not honoured), although sometimes they abound with attractive moments, give the impression that such content (in terms of the topic, the play – not the scheme) has been shown many times. This is especially true for problems with the choice of play by a knight, aimed at achieving either *Zagoruiko* or *Velimirović* attack, or complex thematic combinations (for example, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this competition), particular tactical nuances (line themes, switchbacks on 3 different squares, etc.), because the mates themselves of such constructions were repeatedly encountered in different configurations. And there are often too many unaesthetic moments such as: rude refutations and introductions, repetition of refutations or dual play.

Six problems did not enter the top-10 in the award. Non-honoured are the following #2s:

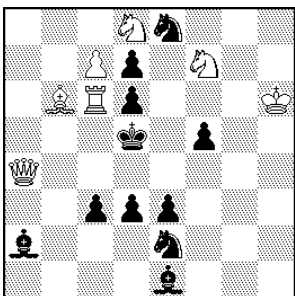
- № 3 (♔f6/♚d5), 2<sup>nd</sup> reserve: Just *Salazar* theme, with a most obvious introductory move (given that the h4 rook is out of play).
- № 4 (♔h4/♚f5): White combinations in tries with a banal play in the solution. Even for this type of problem, the play (not interesting at all) is too poor. And the ♔d2 seems as a piece that must play at the W1 move (otherwise why would it be there?), and tries thus appear actually redundant.
- № 5 (♔h5/♚d6): In principle there is no genuine problem here. The first variation of the solution is the only “defence”, motivated by the need of reducing the threat’s random jump of the white knight into a single mate.
- № 7 (♔h8/♚e3), 1<sup>st</sup> reserve: White correction with *Bartolović* theme. However, the choice of play by the white knight is better in the problems awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> places. Too many black duals, and an additional try refutation of the black king’s flight.
- № 14 (♔b1/♚e4): Nothing special here, and the repetition of one refutation and a couple of white duals in the tries amount to unpleasant surprise.
- № 16 (♔h2/♚f4): There are no *Arnhem* and *Rukhlis* themes (because in one of the variations there is repetition of the threatened mate), and the white queen is captured in the refutation. In this context, it is not important whether *Ventura* theme exists or not (in general, it is not a topic that allows such “pretentious liberties”).

The distinctions in the awards are distributed as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: № 9 – Zoran Gavrilovski

*Zagoruiko* 3+2+3 with *pseudo Salazar*. It is nice that all 3 mates after the defences from the set play are changed. The first move leads to strengthening of White’s position – by creation of a battery. But there is also compensation – granting a free square to the black king, as well as an enchanting battery play in the solution (5 different battery mates with a rook as a front battery piece). The weakening of White’s position with anti-duals in the threat and their reappearance as mates in the respective variations (in the try and solution) is also a modern feature. Everything is beautiful and harmonious with a good design. A try with a promotion of a technical white pawn into a knight is, in principle, not necessary – the set play is sufficient, but in this case it is no longer quite technical. A good work.

1<sup>st</sup> Place  
№ 9 – Zoran Gavrilovski



#2 \* v v 7+11

- 1... ♔c4 2. ♖:c4#  
 1... ♜d4 2. ♖:d4#  
 1... ♞:c7 x 2. ♚:d6# A  
 1.c8 ♞? (2. ♞e7#)  
 1... ♔c4 2. ♖:c4#  
 1... ♜d4 2. ♖:d4#  
 1... ♔h4!  
 1. ♚c4? B (2. ♖b5#, ♖a8+? C)  
 1... ♔c4 2. ♖a8# C  
 1... ♜d4 2. ♚:d4#  
 1... ♞:c7! x  
 1. ♖a8! C (2. ♚:c3#, ♚:d6+? A, ♚c4+? B)  
 1... ♔c4 2. ♚:d6# A  
 1... ♜d4 2. ♚c5#  
 1... ♞:c7 x 2. ♚:c7#  
 1... ♖e4 2. ♚c4# B  
 1... d:c6 2. ♖:c6#

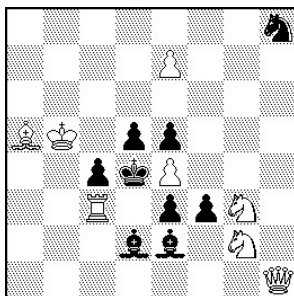
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: № 13 – Marco Guida

Synthesis of *Dombrovskis-Hannelius* and quite harmonious 4-phase *Zagoruiko* (with alternation of defence and refutation). This is one of the variations of *Dombro-Zagoruiko*. The visually inactive white queen, standing in a corner of the board, is activated in the tries by long-range attacks, including her arrival to another corner of the board, and in the solution she remains in place, from where she gives mate by moving to another corner of the board. An interesting geometric setting for a thematically rich problem. It is a pity that the author didn't manage to get rid of an unpleasant technical pawn on the 7<sup>th</sup> rank, but for problems with powerful thematic content, I consider this an excusable minor flaw.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: № 10 – Zoran Gavrilovski

Choice of opening move and creation of three different masked batteries. Alternation of defence and refutation. A rare three-variation *Bartolović* theme (with change of 3 mates). But the symmetric solution is not impressive. The black queen tries to help her monarch three times, and she is captured three times. Dealing with such a topic should not completely neglect the aesthetics. But, in general, an attempt to make such an unusual thematic complex is good.

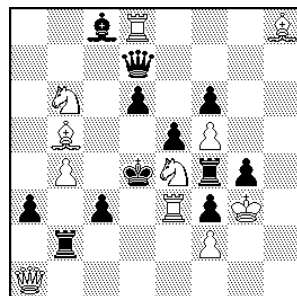
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
№ 13 – Marco Guida



#2 v v v [v] 8+9

1. ♖h6? (2. ♖b6#)  
 1... ♔:c3 x 2. ♖:e3#  
 1... d:e4 y 2. ♖d6#  
 1... ♞g6!  
 1. ♖a1? (2. ♔b6# A)  
 1... ♔:c3 2. ♖:c3#  
 1... d:e4! y  
 1. ♖h4? (2. ♞f5# B)  
 1... d:e4 2. ♖:e4#  
 1... ♔:c3! x  
 [1. ♖b1? (2. ♞f5# B)  
 1... d:e4 2. ♖:e4#  
 1... ♔d3!]  
 1. ♞f4! (2. ♞e6#)  
 1... ♔:c3 x 2. ♔b6# A  
 1... d:e4 y 2. ♞f5# B  
 1... e:f4 2. ♖:h8#

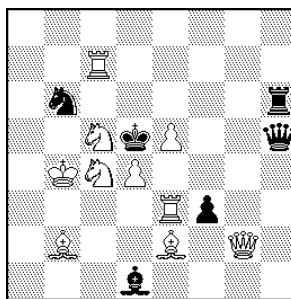
3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
№ 10 – Zoran Gavrilovski



#2 v v [v] 11+12

1. ♞:f6? (2. ♚d3#)  
 1... e4 x 2. ♞:d7#  
 1... ♚d2 y, ♚:b4 m 2. ♖:c3#  
 1... ♖:f5 z 2. ♚:d6# A  
 1... ♖:b5! n  
 1. ♞:c3? (2. ♚d3#)  
 1... e4 x 2. ♔:f6#  
 1... ♚d2 y 2. ♞e2#  
 1... ♖:f5 z 2. ♚:d6# A  
 1... ♖:b5 n 2. ♞:b5#  
 1... ♚:b4! m  
 [1. ♖e1? (2. ♚d3#, ♖:c3#)  
 1... ♚d2! y]  
 1. ♞:d6! (2. ♚d3#)  
 1... e4 x 2. ♔:f6#  
 1... ♚d2 y, ♚:b4 m 2. ♖:c3#  
 1... ♖:f5 z 2. ♞:f5#  
 1... ♖:b5 n 2. ♞:b5#  
 1... ♖:d6 2. ♚:d6# A

4<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 8 – Zoran Gavrilovski



#2 v v v 10+6

1. ♚e3~? (2. ♞e3#)  
 1... ♞:c4 2. ♔:c4#  
 1... ♖g5 2. ♖:f3#  
 1... ♖:e5! x  
 1. ♚e4? (2. ♞e3#)  
 1... ♖:e5 2. ♚:e5#  
 1... ♞:c4 2. ♔:c4#  
 1... ♖g5! y  
 1. ♚d3? (2. ♞e3#)  
 1... ♖:e5 2. d:e5#  
 1... ♖g5 2. ♖:f3#  
 1... ♞:c4! z  
 1. ♚:f3! (2. ♞e3#)  
 1... ♖:e5 x 2. ♚f5#  
 1... ♖g5 y 2. ♚g3#  
 1... ♞:c4 z 2. ♔:c4#

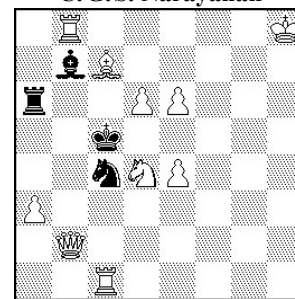
4<sup>th</sup> Place: № 8 – Zoran Gavrilovski

Four-phase white rook correction with White combinations. The problem falls short of showing *Zagoruiko*, but a pleasant defence-refutation cycle is formed. It is good that in the solution there are new (different from the set play) thematic mates with an interesting battery play in the form of a duel between the black queen and the white rook. A light construction. It is unpleasant that in the solution the white queen performs the function of a bishop, and it has no role after a random move by the rook (1. ♚c3? is not such a move), but these are not critical shortcomings. The problem was published online as a participant in a solving contest (<https://www.yacpdb.org/#577677> – 24.10.2022). Nevertheless, there is a “legal incident” in such publication, and the author is requested not to allow this to happen again.

5<sup>th</sup> Place: № 6 – Vidadi Zamanov & C.G.S. Narayanan

A problem with a classical content, but everything is done in a quite skilful manner. In the set play there are mates after correction by the black bishop, with the *Somov* theme after the corrective move on c6. In the solution there is an active sacrifice by the ♞c6 after granting the square c6 to the black king, and there are 3 black defences on this square. Moreover, the mates are completely changed after the black bishop correction, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> system of black correction appears – by a black rook. Thematically this #2 offers nothing special and its content is even insufficient according to modern standards, but everything is done easily and beautifully.

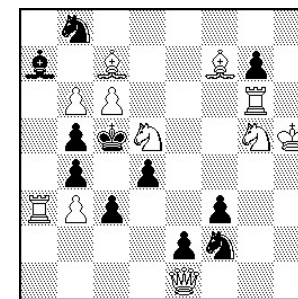
5<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 6 – Vidadi Zamanov & C.G.S. Narayanan



#2 \* 10+4

- 1... ♔~ 2. ♚b5#  
 1... ♔c6 2. ♞b3#  
 1. ♞c6! (zugzwang)  
 1... ♖:c6 2. ♚:c4#  
 1... ♔:c6 2. ♖f2#  
 1... ♚:c6 2. ♖e5#  
 1... ♔~ 2. ♖b5#  
 1... ♚~ 2. ♖(:)b6#

6<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 11 – Zoran Gavrilovski



#2 \* v v 11+11

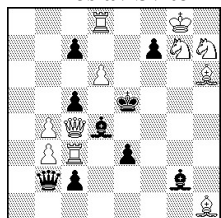
- 1... ♞:c6 x 2. ♔d6# A  
 1... ♔:b6 2. ♔:b6#  
 1... c2 2. ♖:b4#  
 1... d3 2. ♖:f2#  
 1... ♞f2~ 2. ♞(:)e4#  
 1. ♔d8? (2. ♔e7#)  
 1... ♞:c6! x  
 1. ♞e7? (2. ♞e6# B)  
 1... b:a3!  
 1. ♞:b4! (zugzwang)  
 1... ♞:c6 x (♞b8~) 2. ♞(:)a6#  
 1... ♔:b6, ♞:b4 2. ♔d6# A  
 1... c2 2. ♞e6# B  
 1... d3 2. ♖:c3#  
 1... ♞f2~ 2. ♞(:)d3#

6<sup>th</sup> Place: № 11 – Zoran Gavrilovski

Change of 5 mates and of 1 defence in a zugzwang #2. Not bad, but 1 defence in the solution is not specific – a random move by a black knight. A good sacrificial key and granting a flight to the black king. And there are a few tries with changed functions of black and white moves.

7<sup>th</sup> Place

№ 2 (version 1) – Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svítek

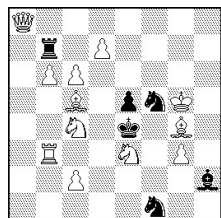


#2 \*v v 11+9

- 1...f7~y 2. ♖e6# A  
 1...c:d6 x 2. ♖e8# B  
 1.b:c5? (2. ♖e8# B)  
 1...♙:c5 2. ♙f4# C  
 1...♗e4 2. ♖:e3#  
 1...♙c6!  
 1.♙:f7? (2. ♖e6# A)  
 1...♙:c3 v 2. ♙f4# C  
 1...♙h3 z 2. ♖d5#  
 1...♗e4 [cMN]  
 2. ♖:e3#  
 1...♙d5+ [dPR]  
 2. ♖:d5#  
 1...♗:b3!  
**1. ♖d3!** (2. ♖f5#)  
 1...♙:c3 v 2. ♖e8# B  
 1...♙h3 z 2. ♖e4#  
 1...♗d5 [eMN]  
 2. ♖:c5#  
 1...♙e4 [fPR]  
 2. ♖:e4#

8<sup>th</sup> Place

№ 1 – Zoltán Labai & Vidadi Zamanov

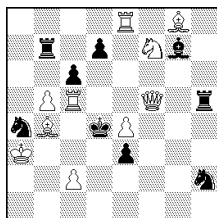


#2 v v v 12+6

1. ♗a4? (2. ♘d2# A,  
 2. ♘d6# B)  
 1...♙5:e3 y 2. ♘:e3#  
 1...♙1:e3! x  
 1. ♗a1? (2. ♖:e5#)  
 1...♙d4 2. ♘d6# B  
 1...♙:g3! z  
 1. ♗g8? (2. ♖d5#)  
 1...♙5:e3 y 2. ♘d6# B  
 1...♙1:e3 x 2. ♘d2# A  
 1...♖:d7!  
**1. ♗h8!** (2. ♖:e5#)  
 1...♙:g3 z 2. ♖h1#  
 1...♙g7 2. ♘d6#

9<sup>th</sup> Place

№ 15 – Nikola Stolev

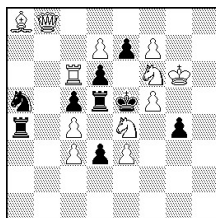


#2 v v v 10+9

1. ♘b3? (2. ♖c4#)  
 1...♙b6 a 2. ♙c3#  
 1...♙:c5+ b 2. ♙:c5#  
 1...c:b5 x 2. ♖d5#  
 1...d5! y  
 1. ♘d6? (2. ♖c4#)  
 1...♙:c5! b  
 1. ♘e5? (2. ♖c4#)  
 1...♙b6 a, ♙:c5 b 2.c3#  
 1...c:b5 x 2. ♖d5#  
 1...d5 y 2. ♘:c6#  
 1...e2! z  
**1. ♘g5!** (2. ♖c4#)  
 1...♙b6 a 2. ♙c3#  
 1...♙:c5 b 2. ♖:c5#  
 1...c:b5 x 2. ♖d5#  
 1...d5 y 2. ♘e6#  
 1...e2 z 2. ♖f2#

10<sup>th</sup> Place

№ 12 – Marco Guida



#2 v v v 12+9

1. ♘e4~? (2. ♘:g4#)  
 1...e:f6 2. ♖e8#  
 1...♙d4! x, ♖:c4! y  
 1...♖:c5? (2. ♘:g4# A)  
 1...♖:c5 z 2. ♖:c5# B  
 1...♙d4 x 2.c:d4#  
 1...e:f6 2. ♖e8#  
 1...♖:c4! y  
 1. ♘d6? (2. ♘:g4# A)  
 1...♖:d6 2. ♖:c5# B  
 1...♖:c4 y 2. ♘:c4#  
 1...e:f6, e:d6 2. ♖e8#  
 1...♙d4! x  
**1. ♖:c5! B** (2. ♖:d5#)  
 1...♖:c5 z 2. ♘:g4# A  
 1...e6 2. ♖:d6#  
 1...e:f6 2. ♖e8#

solution, thematic refutation, the absence of a black queen, which is only needed to refute a try in the version 1 (such use of the ♖ is unpleasant, of course) and 2 pieces fewer. Nevertheless, I chose version 1, because in the solution the whole play is completely changed, so I think that this is more important than the shortcomings listed above.

8<sup>th</sup> Place: № 1 – Zoltán Labai & Vidadi Zamanov

Dombrovskis theme and Rudenko (in the form of defences and refutations) is flavoured with a classical geometry – the presence of the white queen in all 4 corners of the board.

9<sup>th</sup> Place: № 15 – Nikola Stolev

Choice of the first move and change of 3 mates, including 3 x 1 change. In general, it is not bad, but to choose a knight for a play without Zagoruko or other multi-phase theme is not enough and there are too many repetitions. And why did the author show a try that introduces nothing, with a rude refutation involving capture of a threatening piece? It is worth showing only as an attempt (without variations) to stay within the framework of a motivated choice. And the g8 bishop in the solution is needed only for the threat, somewhat wasteful for such a simple topic.

10<sup>th</sup> Place: № 12 – Marco Guida

To the theme of Erokhin in a banal scheme (I saw these introductions many times), the theme of pseudo-Erokhin was added. Interesting, but nothing more.

1<sup>st</sup> reserve: № 7 – Zoran Gavrilovski

2<sup>nd</sup> reserve: № 3 – Miroslav Svítek

I thank all the participants and the Tournay Director. I wish them all the best and creative successes.

Pavel Murashev, International judge of FIDE for chess compositions

02.12.2022

THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEMIST LEAGUE 2022: MATE IN 3 MOVES

Judge: Aleksandr Sygurov (Russia)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Valery Shavyrin – 1; Vidadi Zamanov & Viktor Volchek – 2; Zoltán Labai & Vidadi Zamanov – 3; Kostas Prentos & Vidadi Zamanov – 4; Miroslav Svítek – 5, 6; Sven Trommler – 7, 8; Zoran Gavrilovski – 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; Vladimir Kozhakin – 14; Vladimir Kozhakin & Anastasiya Bazhan – 15, 16

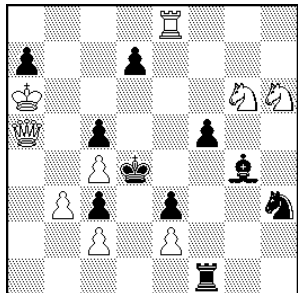
AWARD

The following problems were not included in the award:

- № 2: To construct a reply to the move 1...♙:h5 in the solution, the author needed an extra white bishop b4 (it can be easily replaced by a black pawn on h3, **1. ♙g8!**). In this form, we have a classic Bohemian problem with three model mates (albeit with a repetition of the white second move).
- № 11: Predecessor – Claude Goumondy, *Het Belgisch Schaakbord (L'Echiquier Belge)* 1984, <https://www.yacpdb.org/#233780>
- №s 15 & 16: weak problems.



1<sup>st</sup> Place  
№ 13 – Zoran Gavrilovski



#3 ♘ 9+10

1. ♘e5? (2. ♘c6+ d:c6 3. ♘d8#)  
 1... ♗e4 2. ♘d3+ ♗d4 3. ♘:c5#  
 1... ♗a1 2. ♘f3+ ♗:f3 3. ♘:f5#  
 1... f4 2. ♘e:g4 ~ 3. ♘f5#  
 1... ♗f3 2.e:f3 (3. ♘:f5#)  
 2... ♗:f3 3. ♘:f3#  
 1... ♗f4! x  
 1. ♘e7! (2. ♘c6+ d:c6 3. ♘d8#)  
 1... ♗e4 2. ♘d5+ ♗d4 3. ♘:c3#  
 1... ♗a1 2. ♘e:f5+ ♗:f5 3. ♘:f5#  
 1... ♗e5 2. ♘d5+ ♗d4/♗d6  
 3. ♘:c3#/♗c7#  
 1... f4, ♗f4 x 2. ♘e:(f5+ ♗:f5  
 3. ♘:f5#

1<sup>st</sup> Place: № 13 – Zoran Gavrilovski

A simple change of play after battery creation. No complex, but sufficiently harmonious. The following position is slightly more economical: 4R3p2p4K5NNQ1p2p22Bk2b11Pp1p2n5rP.

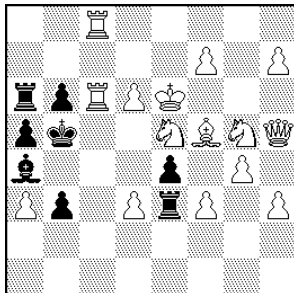
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: № 10 – Zoran Gavrilovski

Annihilation of white pawns by checking defences, half-battery play, a thematic introductory key. A similar idea with annihilation and checks is implemented by László Schór, 3<sup>rd</sup> Pr. *Die Tat* 1964 (available at <https://www.yacpdb.org/#55412>). A legal, but still tense, starting position.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: № 1 – Valery Shavyrin

An expanded battery play with white rook moves along the d-file [compare with Vasily Kryzhanyvskiy, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* 2002 (<https://www.yacpdb.org/#513855>); Aleksandr Bakharev, 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> Pr. *Uralsky Problemist* 2000 (<https://www.yacpdb.org/#309165>); Jan Hartong, *Problem* 1953 (<https://www.yacpdb.org/#51090>), with a similar rook play along one line]. In general, an interesting motivation for choosing the second moves in the variations. It is a pity that variations 1... ♗d7 2. ♗d6+ and 1... ♗d6 2. ♗d5+ didn't work out, which would work harmoniously in conjunction with 1... ♗d8 2. ♗d7+ (a kind of “magnet” of the white rook and black pieces). The Judge takes a rather negative attitude regarding separation of the threatened dual mates and does not consider this point worthy of attention (a similar comment is valid for the cycle of dual threats in № 8). Another message of the author is connected with the dual threat: black pieces defend at the B1 move on the squares of dual mates. For the judge, this causes cognitive dissonance in the light of the stated position on duals.

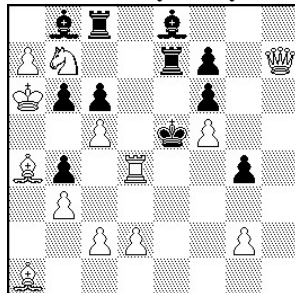
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
№ 10 – Zoran Gavrilovski



#3 15+8

1. ♘d7! (2. ♗c5+ b:c5 3. ♗:c5#)  
 1... e:d3+ 2. ♘e4 A (3. ♗g6#)  
 2... ♗:e4+ x 3. ♗:e4# B  
 2... ♗:f3 3. ♘c3#  
 2... ♗a~ 3. ♗:b6#  
 1... e:f3+ 2. ♗e4 B (3. ♘:f3#)  
 2... ♗:e4+ x 3. ♘:e4# A  
 2... ♗:d3 3. ♗:d3#  
 2... ♗a~ 3. ♗:b6#

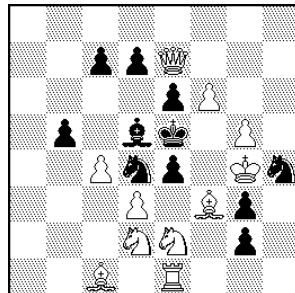
3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
№ 1 – Valery Shavyrin



#3 13+11

1. g3! (2. d3 ~ (♗d8 c)  
 3. ♗d8# C, ♗d7# B, ♗d6# A;  
 2... ♗d7 b 3. ♗:d7# B, ♗d6# A;  
 2... ♗d6 a 3. ♗:d6# A)  
 1... ♗d6 a 2. ♗d3+ ♗e4  
 3. ♘:d6#  
 1... ♗d7 b 2. ♗d5+ ♗:d5, ♗e4  
 3. ♗h1#  
 1... ♗d8 c 2. ♗d7+ ♗e4  
 3. ♗:c6#  
 1... ♗b7 2. ♗c4+ ♗d5 3. ♗h1#  
 1... b:c5 2. ♗d3+ ♗e4 3. ♘:c5#

4<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 9 – Zoran Gavrilovski



#3 ♘ 11+11

1. ♗:d7? A (2. ♗:c7#)  
 1... ♗:e2 2. ♗b2+ ♗d4/♗c3  
 3. ♗:c7#/♗:c3#  
 1... ♗f5!  
 1. ♗:e4! (2. ♘f3+ ♗:f3 3. ♗f4#)  
 1... ♗:e2 2. ♗b2+ ♗d4/♗c3  
 3. ♗:d5#/♗:c3#  
 1... ♗:e4 2. ♗c5+ ♗d5/d5  
 3. ♘:d4#/♗:c7#  
 1... ♗g6 2. ♗:d7 A (3. ♗:c7#)  
 2... ♗f5, ♗:e2 3. ♘f3#

4<sup>th</sup> Place: № 9 – Zoran Gavrilovski

An unusual mechanism for a mutual destruction of pieces (♗d5, ♗d4, ♘e2, ♗e4) to enable the activation of the ♗e1. The possibility of adding a second pair of thematic variations should be considered, for example, play with the moves 2. ♘:d4 and 2. ♗:d5, and rehabilitation of the white half-battery follows logically from the position (the idea is rough, of course, but it follows from the position).

5<sup>th</sup> Place: № 12 – Zoran Gavrilovski

White fourfold play on d5 on the second move in the mechanism of evacuation sacrifices. There is a lack of uniform black tactics in the defences on the first move, and the white second moves are also different in character.

6<sup>th</sup> Place: № 7 – Sven Trommler

*Grimshaw* interference and bicolour *Bristol*. A poor use of the white pieces. For making a composition of a higher value, there should be a classical “add-on” with *Novotny* interference on e4, which is missing there.

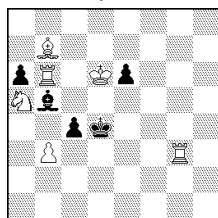
7<sup>th</sup> Place: № 4 – Kostas Prentos & Vidadi Zamanov

A lightweight with sacrifices by white pieces, which is pleasant to solve.

8<sup>th</sup> Place: № 17 – Gennady Ignatenko

Change of play with a check in the set play and three variations in the solution with mates on d4 by different pieces, but the variation 1... ♗d6 2.e:d6 with capture of the defending piece is quite bad.

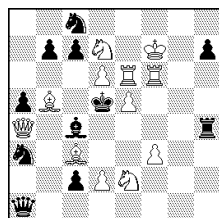
7<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 13 – Kostas Prentos  
& Vidady Zamanov



#3 v 6+5

1. ♖h1? (2. ♖:b5 ~  
3. ♗c6#; 2...c:b3  
3. ♖b4#)  
1...c:b3! x  
1. ♖g2! (2. ♖:b5 ~  
3. ♗c6#; 2...c:b3  
3. ♖b4# A)  
1...c:b3 x 2. ♗c6+  
2...♙:c6/♙c4  
3. ♖b4# A/♖f1#  
1...♙d7, ♙e8  
2. ♖c6 (3. ♖:c4#)  
2...♙:c6 3. ♗:c6#  
1...♙a4 2. b:a4 (3. ♗c6#)  
2...c3 A 3. ♖b4#

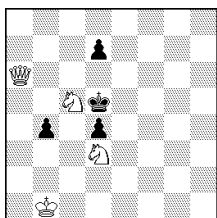
8<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 17 – Gennady  
Ignatenko



#3 \* 12+11

- 1...♙:d6+ 2. ♖:d6+  
2...c:d6 3. ♖:d6#  
1. ♖f4! (2. ♙:c4+ ♙:c4  
3. ♖:c4#)  
1...♙a2 2. ♗f6+ ♙c5  
3. ♙d4# [d4#?]  
1...♙b6 2. ♗f6+ ♙c5  
3. d4# [♙d4#?]  
1...♙:d6 2. e:d6 ~ 3. ♖f5#  
2...♙h5 3. ♖d4#  
2...♙d3 3. ♖d4#  
2...♙:b5 3. ♖e4#  
2...♙:b5 3. ♖:c4#  
2...♙:c3 3. ♗:c3#  
2...♙:f4 3. ♗:f4#

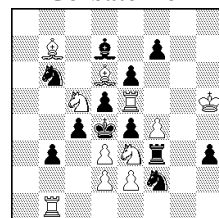
9<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 5 – Miroslav  
Svítek



#3 v [v v] 4+4

1. ♖b5? (zugzwang) d6!  
[1. ♖b7+? ♙c4!  
1. ♖a8+? ♙d6!]  
1. ♖a7! (zugzwang)  
1...♙c4 2. ♖a2+  
2...b3/♙b5/♙c3  
3. ♖:b3#/♖a6#/♖c2#  
1...♙c6 2. ♖b7+ ♙d6  
3. ♖:d7#  
1...d6 2. ♖f7+ ♙c6  
3. ♖b7#  
1...b3 2. ♖b7+  
2...♙c4/♙d6  
3. ♖:b3#/♖:d7#

10<sup>th</sup> Place  
№ 18 – Aleksandr  
Pankratiev & Yury  
Gorbatenko



#3 v v 11+12

1. ♖:b3? (2. ♗c2#)  
1...♙:e3!  
1. ♗:d7? (2. ♙c5#)  
1...♙d3!  
1. ♖c1! (2. ♗:b3+ c:b3  
3. ♙c5#)  
1...♙d3 2. ♖:c4+  
2...d:c4/♙:c4  
3. ♖:e4#/♗:b3#  
1...♙:f4 2. ♗c2+ b:c2  
3. e3#  
1...♙a4 2. ♗f5+ e:f5  
3. ♖:d5#  
1...♙a4 2. ♖:d5+  
2...e:d5/♙:d5  
3. ♗f5#/♖:c4#

9<sup>th</sup> Place: № 5 – Miroslav Svítek

A solving-type problem with a good first move (giving two squares to the black king).

10<sup>th</sup> Place: № 18 – Aleksandr Pankratiev & Yury Gorbatenko

Multiple decoying and square-vacating sacrifices by white pieces. A lot of similar problems were composed by A. Pankratiev. The positions of the key pieces (♖e5, ♗c5, ♗e3 & ♙d6) are well recognizable, the thematic variations coincide with the play in his #3s: *A. Lobusov-70 MT* 2021 (<https://www.yacpdb.org/#546303>); *Phénix* 2021 (<https://www.yacpdb.org/#563549>). Mates, motifs, order of variations change a little, but in general the “skeleton” remains the same.

1<sup>st</sup> Reserve: № 3 – Zoltán Labai & Vidadi Zamanov

2<sup>nd</sup> Reserve: № 6 – Miroslav Svítek

THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEMIST LEAGUE 2022: SELF-MATE IN 2-N MOVES

Judge: Hartmut Laue (Germany)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Zoltán Labai & Vidadi Zamanov – 1; Vidadi Zamanov & Sergey Smotrov – 2; Gennady Koziura – 3, 4, 5; Miroslav Svítek – 6, 7; Anatoly Styopochkin – 8, 9, 10; Sven Trommler – 11; Jozef Havran & Peter Gvozdjak – 12; Aleksandr Pankratiev – 13; Zoran Gavrilovski – 14, 15, 16

AWARD

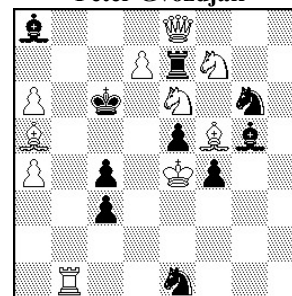
16 selfmates participated in this tourney. The number may look small, but the overall quality was satisfactory, with an excellent top group.

Four problems were excluded:

- № 1 has too much in common with several very old and more convincing works, e. g. by Rud Prytz, *Chemnitzer Tageblatt* 1925; Leonard Nicolaas de Jong, *Tijdschrift van den NSB* 1929; Emilio Battaglia, *Skakbladet* 1939; Janusz Sledziewski, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Match *Silesia vs. Warsaw* 1959 (see P1275085; P1313271; P1295951; P1237408).
- № 3 is strongly reminiscent of superior recent works by G. Kozyura, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pr. *V. Zheltonozhko – 80 JT* 2022 and 1<sup>st</sup> Pr. *Labai – 80 JT* 2022 (see P1404216; also P1405919).
- № 13 has a matrix which is well-known from more elaborate older examples, for example by Mikhail Maranduk & Ivan Soroka, *Uralsky Problemist* 2008 (P1088791) or Zoran Gavrilovski, Comm. *The Macedonian Problemist* 2003 (P1197573).
- № 14 has an illegal position.

My ranking is as follows:

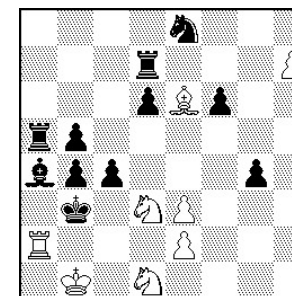
1<sup>st</sup> Place  
№ 12 – Jozef Havran &  
Peter Gvozdjak



S#3 \* v 10+10

- 1...♙:e6 x 2. ♖:e6+ ♙c5+  
3. ♖d5+ ♙:d5#)  
1. ♖d1? (2. ♗ed8+ A ♙c5+  
3. ♖d5+ ♙:d5#)  
1...♙e7~x 2. ♗fd8+ B  
2...♙:d8 3. ♖d6+ ♙:d6#  
1...♙:e6! y 2. d8 ♗+ C  
2...♙c5+ 3. ♖d5+ ♙:d5#  
1...♙:f7! z 2. d8 ♙+ D  
2...♙d7 3. ♖d6+ ♙:d6#  
1...♙d3!  
1. ♖b5! [2. ♗fd8+ B ♙d6+  
3. ♖d5+ ♙:d5#]  
1...♙e7~x 2. ♗ed8+ A  
2...♙:d8 3. ♖c5+ ♙:c5#  
1...♙:e6! y 2. d8 ♙+ D  
2...♙:e8 3. ♖c5+ ♙:c5#  
1...♙:f7! z 2. d8 ♗+ C  
2...♙d6+ 3. ♖d5+ ♙:d5#

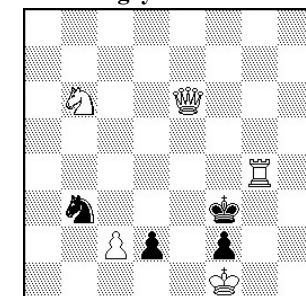
2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
№ 10 – Anatoly Styopochkin



S#12 8+11

1. ♗f2! (2. ♗c1+ ♙c3  
3. ♖c2+ ♙:c2#) ♙c3  
2. ♗e4+ ♙b3 3. ♗:f6  
3...♙c3 4. ♗d5+ ♙b3  
5. ♗e7 ♙c3 6. h8 ♖+  
6...♙b3 7. ♖h1 ♙c3  
8. ♗d5+ ♙b3 9. ♗f6  
9...♙c3 10. ♗e4+ ♙b3  
11. ♗dc5+! d:c5  
12. ♖d1+ ♖:d1#  
6...♙g7/♙f6 7. ♖g7/♖f6+  
7...♙b3 8. ♖:g4/♖f4  
8...♙c3 9. ♖d4+ ♙b3  
10. ♖:c4+! b:c4  
11. ♗c1+ ♙c3  
12. ♖c2+ ♙:c2#

3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
№ 2 – Vidadi Zamanov &  
Sergey Smotrov



S#20 5+4

1. ♖f5+ ♙e3 2. ♖g5+ ♙f3  
3. ♖g3+ ♙e4 4. ♖e3+ ♙f5  
5. ♖g5+ ♙f6 6. ♖e5+ ♙f7  
7. ♖g7+ ♙f8 8. ♖f6+ ♙e8  
9. ♖f7+ ♙d8 10. ♖d5+  
10...♙e8 11. ♖g8+ ♙e7  
12. ♖e5+ ♙f7 13. ♖e8+  
13...♙f6 14. ♗d7+ ♙f5  
15. ♖f7+ ♙e4 16. ♖g4+  
16...♙e3 17. ♖e6+ ♙f3  
18. ♗e5+ ♙e3 19. ♗c4+!  
19...♙f3 20. ♗:d2+ ♙:d2#

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: № 12 – Jozef Havran & Peter Gvozdjak**

The clear and outstanding winner, showing a combination of the *le Grand* theme and reciprocal change of continuations by minor promotions. The defence motive of 1...♙~ (i.e., 1...♙:d7 or 1...♙:e8, taking control over d8), is inverted by White. Both 1...♙:e6/♙:f7 are black corrections. All second moves by White have the same arrival square: d8. Of the two existing renderings of the extremely difficult theme combination, Peter Gvozdjak, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pr. *Die Schwalbe* 2008 (P1196881) is more related to № 12 than the other. However, it does not exhibit the above-mentioned additional valuable features.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: № 10 – Anatoly Styopochkin**

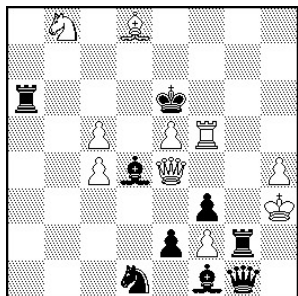
The basic matrix of this problem has been explored by Ivan Soroka during the last couple of years, with remarkable results [2<sup>nd</sup> Pr. *Shahmatnaya kompozitsiya* 1987 (P1391762); 1<sup>st</sup> Pr. *Moscow tourney* 2021 (P1395897); *The Macedonian Problemist* 2021 (P1387997)]. The choice of a ♘ as the protagonist of a logical succession of manoeuvres results in a particularly colourful main variation and an unexpected mate by the ♙d7 on d1.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: № 2 – Vidady Zamanov & Sergey Smotrov**

The necessary improvement of the position (♘→c4) can't be reached by an ordinary move by the ♘, but needs a detour. By means of a long manoeuvre including an extensive walk of the ♖ to the 8<sup>th</sup> rank, the ♘ is made into the front piece of a white battery so that it arrives on c4 by a discovered check on move 19. The long circuit of the ♖ involves even a short circuit starting from e5. A very nice form of a gain of a tempo, in an excellent construction.

**4<sup>th</sup> Place**

**№ 11 – Sven Trommler**



S#4 10+9

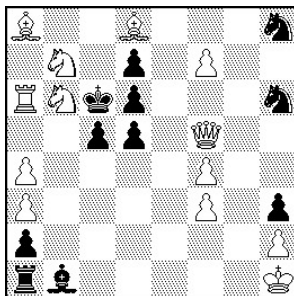
1. ♙f8! (2. ♙e8+ ♖f7 3. ♙h7+)
- 3... ♖:e8 4. ♙g8+ ♙:g8#)
- 1... ♙:c5 2. ♙g4+ ♖:e5
3. ♙f5+ ♖d6, ♖e6
4. ♙g6+ ♖:g6#
- 1... ♙a7 2. ♙g6+ ♖:e5
3. ♙f6+ ♖f4, ♖e6
4. ♙g4+ ♖:g4#

**4<sup>th</sup> Place: № 11 – Sven Trommler**

Nice spacious threat and two harmonious lines with reversal of the moves of the ♙ to g6 and g4. After 1...♙:c5 a line of the ♙ is obstructed by the ♙, after 1...♙a7 by the ♙, followed by a switchback of the ♙.

**5<sup>th</sup> Place**

**№ 16 – Zoran Gavrilovski**

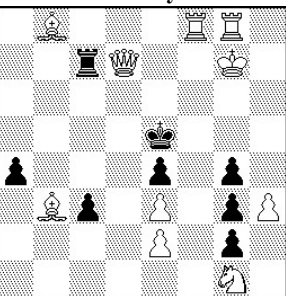


S#3<sup>v</sup> 13+11

1. ♙c2? ♖ (2. ♘:d5+ ♖:d5)
3. ♙e4+ ♙:e4#)
- 1...d4! x
1. ♙h7! (2. ♘:d5+ ♖:d5)
3. ♙e4+ ♙:e4#)
- 1... ♙f5 2. ♘:d7+ ♖:d7
3. ♙:f5+ ♙:f5#
- 1... ♙g6 2. ♘:d6+ ♖:d6
3. ♙:g6+ ♙:g6#
- 1...d4 x 2. ♘:c5+ ♖:c5
3. ♙c2+ ♖:c2#

**6<sup>th</sup> Place**

**№ 5 – Gennady Koziura**



S#6 10+8

1. ♖f7! (2. ♙c2 ~ 3. ♖e7 ~)
4. ♙e8 ~ 5. ♖f8+ ♖f6
6. ♙f7+ ♙:f7#)
- 1...g:h3 2. ♙e7+ ♖f5
3. ♖g7+! ♖g4 4. ♖h8+
- 4... ♖h5 5. ♙f5+ ♖h6
6. ♙h7+ ♙:h7#
- 1...a3 2.h4! ~ 3. ♙h8 ~
4. ♙e7+ ♖f5 5. ♖g8+
- 5... ♖g6 6. ♙g7+ ♙:g7#

**5<sup>th</sup> Place: № 16 – Zoran Gavrilovski**

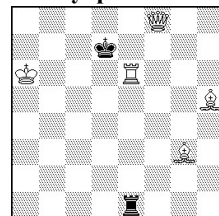
Very harmonious play: Both white batteries fire twice, where the front pieces are sacrificed by capturing one of the four pawns around the ♔. The ♙ forces selfmate by checking on four different squares of the diagonal b1-h7.

**6<sup>th</sup> Place: № 5 – Gennady Koziura**

Three epaulet mates. This problem has a threat 2. ♙c2 etc., which is parried by 1...g:h3 and by 1...a3, but not by 1...c2 (thus 1...c2 merely enforces the threat).

**7<sup>th</sup> Place**

**№ 9 – Anatoly Styopochkin**



S#10 2 solutions 5+2

1. ♙d6+! ♖c7 2. ♙d4+
- 2... ♖c6 3. ♙f3+ ♙c4
4. ♖a5! ♖b7 5. ♙b8+
- 5... ♖c6 6. ♙h4! ♖c5
7. ♙a7+ ♖c6 8. ♙d7+
- 8... ♖c5 9. ♙e7+! ♙:e7
10. ♙a7+ ♙:a7#
- [2... ♙e5 3. ♙d5 & S#7]
1. ♙f7+! ♖c8 2. ♙c6+
- 2... ♖d8 3. ♙d6+ ♖c8
4. ♙d7+ ♖b8 5. ♙a7+
- 5... ♖c8 6. ♙a8+ ♖c7
7. ♙d5+ ♙e5 8. ♙d8+
- 8... ♖c6 9. ♙e8+! ♙:e8
10. ♙a8+ ♙:a8#
- [1... ♖d8 2. ♙d6+ ♖c8
3. ♙d7+ ♖b8 4. ♙a7+
- 4... ♖c8 5. ♙a8+ ♖c7
6. ♙d5+ ♙e5 7. ♙d8+
- 7... ♖c6 8. ♙e8+ ♙:e8
9. ♙a8+ ♙:a8#]

**7<sup>th</sup> Place: № 9 – Anatoly Styopochkin**

Aristocratic twin miniature with the interesting feature of chameleon echo conclusions, not just chameleon echo mates. The impression is detracted by shorter side-lines that end like the main variation after 1. ♙f7+.

**8<sup>th</sup> Place: № 15 – Zoran Gavrilovski**

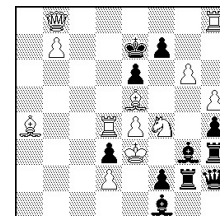
Threefold line-opening for the ♙g3 by different moves of the ♘, followed by sacrifices of the ♙ on three different squares.

**9<sup>th</sup> Place: № 8 – Anatoly Styopochkin**

An old school, but clever mutate with a simple, yet surprising mating position.

**8<sup>th</sup> Place**

**№ 15 – Zoran Gavrilovski**

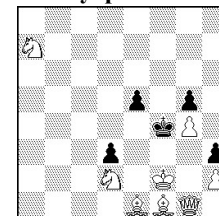


S#3 12+11

1. ♙g7! (2. ♘d5+ e:d5)
3. ♙e5+ ♙:e5#)
- 1...f6 2. ♘:e6 ~
3. ♙d6+ ♙:d6#
- 1...f:g6 2. ♘:g6+ ♖f7
3. ♙c7+ ♙:c7#

**9<sup>th</sup> Place**

**№ 8 – Anatoly Styopochkin**

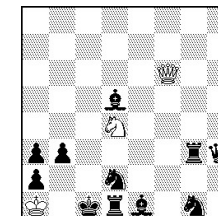


S#11 \* 8+5

- \* 1...e4 2. ♘c6 e:c3#
1. ♘c6! (zz) e4 2. ♘b3
- 2...d2 3. ♙:d2+ e3+
4. ♙:e3+ ♖e4 5. ♙g3
- 5... ♖d5 6. ♘cd4 ♖e4
7. ♖g1 ♙d5 8. ♖h1
- 8... ♖e4 9. ♙d6 ♖:e3
10. ♙e5+ ♖f2
11. ♙g2 h:g2#

**10<sup>th</sup> Place**

**№ 7 – Miroslav Svíték**



S#2<sup>v</sup> 3+11

1. ♘d4~? (2. ♙b2+
- 2...a:b2#)
- 1... ♙c3 2. ♙:c3+ ♖
- 2... ♙:c3#
- 1... ♙c4! x
1. ♘f3! (2. ♙b2+
- 2...a:b2#)
- 1... ♙c4 x 2. ♙c3+ ♖
- 2... ♙:c3#

**10<sup>th</sup> Place: № 7 – Miroslav Svíték**

A neat genre-specific white correction. The refutation of 1. ♖~? is answered in the secondary phase by the same move that follows after 1... ♜c3 in the primary phase, with changed mating moves. (What is the reason for ♜g1?)

**1<sup>st</sup> Reserve: № 6 (♔d3/♔d5) – Miroslav Svíték**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reserve: № 4 (♔g3/♔e1) – Gennady Koziura**

**THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEMIST LEAGUE 2022: HELPMATE IN 3½-N MOVES**

**Judge: Viktor Syzonenko (Ukraine)**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Christer Jonsson & Vidadi Zamanov – 1; Salman Javadzade & Christer Jonsson – 2; Miroslav Svíték – 3, 4; Sven Trommler – 5, 6; Aleksandr Pankratiev & Anatoly Kirichenko (†) – 7, 8, 9; Aleksey Ivunin & Aleksandr Pankratiev – 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15; Miroslav Bilý – 16; Zoran Gavrilovski – 17, 18, 19

**AWARD**

The Editor of *TMP* invited me to judge the tourney and I took a chance and agreed, despite severe uncertainties. Thanks to the Editor of *TMP* and to all the participants who sent whatever they could.

On 30 October 2022 I received 20 chess compositions (ranging from H#3½ to H#6½). Eight of them involve “twins”. On 31 October 2022, 1 was withdrawn, so 19 compositions remained.

Below I give my comments for problems which are not included in the award in the top 10, or as reserves:

- № 1: the twinning uses the stipulation “zero position”, but the content was shown earlier in two solutions (Boris Shorokhov, 1<sup>st</sup> Pr. *Milan Vukchevic – 75 MT (Strategems)* 2012-2013).
- №s 2 & 8: they could not compete with other entries.
- №s 3 & 9: there is a strong belief that if a pawn gives a mate, then it is a “piece” and it should be used in all phases. This was not done in № 3 (♔h2) and № 9 (♔f3).
- № 4: it is too isolated from the mainstream. Authors–work and expect a favorable situation.
- № 12: yes, there are mates on one square (e4), but you can’t disregard a wonderful opportunity. We must try to implement it. The second solution must be in line with the first solution. And the mate may be on a different square. In summary, it is a sharp combination. Thank me when you do it. In the meantime, until you do it, you can scold me.
- № 13: mates on e3, but ♔e2 has to be eliminated (like ♔g5 in one solution).

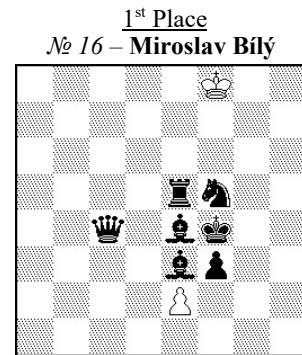
I do not weigh these works according to the standards of the past, but I rather try to look forward to the future.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: № 16 – Miroslav Bilý**

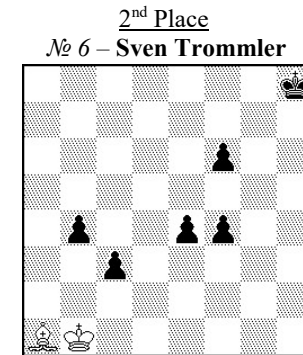
The only “block” in the tourney. It seems strong to start the actual play by the mating move of the set play. It resembles the birth of the *Zilahi* theme: set A#, sol. 1.A. A paradoxical turn of the situation.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: № 6 – Sven Trommler**

A visual effect: half-pinned black pawns. No black aristocratic pieces! The charm of lightness.



H#5 ½ \* 2+7  
\* ... 2. ♜d4 ♔f7 3. ♔d3  
3... ♔g6 4. ♔e4 ♔h5  
5. ♜e7+ ♔g4 6. ♜d5 e:f3#  
1... e:f3 2. ♜d6 ♔g7 3. ♔d4  
3... ♔h6 4. ♜e6+ ♔h5  
5. ♔e5 ♔g5 6. ♜d5 f4#



H#6 2 solutions 2+6  
1.f5 ♔c2 2.b3+ ♔:c3  
3.b2 ♔d4 4.b1 ♔ ♔e5  
5. ♔a2 ♔f6 6. ♔g8 ♔g6#  
1.c2+ ♔:c2 2.e3 ♔d3  
3.b3 ♔e4 4.b2 ♔f5  
5.b1 ♔+ ♔:f6 6. ♔h7 ♔f7#



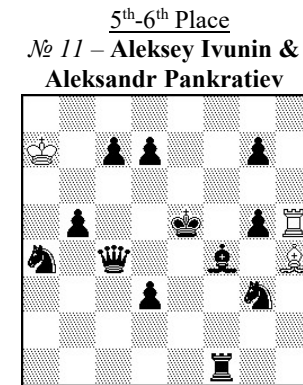
H#3½ b) ♔c3, c) ♜c3 4+12  
a) 1... ♔:a4 2. ♔c6 ♔:b6  
3. ♔b5 ♔d5 4. ♔a4 ♔c3#  
b) 1... ♔:e5 2. ♔e7 ♔g3  
3. ♔f6 ♔e1 4. ♔e5 ♔c3#  
c) 1... ♜:c5 2. ♜b5 ♜d5  
3. ♔c6 ♜d3 4. ♔c5 ♜c3#

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: № 19 – Zoran Gavrilovski**

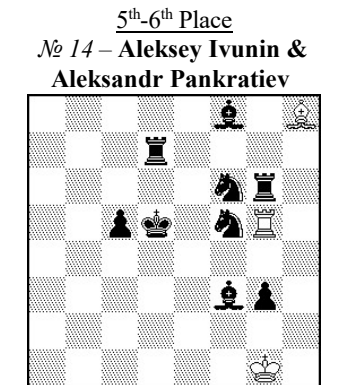
*Forsberg* twins, round-trip of the thematic pieces. Another black pawn can be eliminated in the author’s alternate setting (♜a1→a4): ♜d6=♔d6, -♔e6, ♜a4-e6, ♜d8-a4. 4+10, C+. [\*]



H#6½ 3+8  
1... ♔:d5 2. ♔d7 ♔:f3 3. ♔e6  
3... ♔:g2 4. ♔e5 ♔f1 5. ♔e4  
5... ♔c4 6. ♜g4+ ♔f1  
7. ♔f3 ♔d5#



H#3½ 2 solutions 3+12  
1... ♔:g5 2. ♜f7 ♔:f4+  
3. ♔e6 ♔:c7 4. ♜f6 ♜e5#  
1... ♜:g5+ 2. ♔d4 ♜:b5  
3. ♜e4 ♔g3 4. ♔e3 ♔e5#



H#3½ 2 solutions 3+9  
1... ♔:f6 2. ♔e4 ♔e5 A  
3. ♜d3 ♔:g3 4. ♔d4 ♜e5# B  
1... ♜:f5+ 2. ♔d6 ♜e5 B  
3. ♔c6 ♜e8 4. ♔d5 ♔e5# A

**4<sup>th</sup> Place: № 7 – Aleksandr Pankratiev & Anatoly Kirichenko (†)**

The white bishop is very persistent in the desire to get the help of his king.

**5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Place: № 11 – Aleksey Ivunin & Aleksandr Pankratiev**

White pieces cross through the square of the black king and give mates on this square.



5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Place: № 14 – Aleksey Ivunin & Aleksandr Pankratiev

Alternation of transit through, and delivery of a mate on, one common square (e5). So there is no conflict at all. But this is not obvious. It will be remembered. According to the position's logic, there must be B1 moves in a full-length problem (H#4). These moves exist: 1. ♖d6-d7 and 1. ♕e4-f3. But a "trifle" prevents this idea and the existing "trifle" is a mate by the ♕h8/♖f6 battery. So it turns out that between H#3½ and H#4 there is an abyss. I re-read what I wrote ten times and I thought: "Why didn't the author choose ♕e5?! But if the ♕ is moved there, everything falls apart. The dual 1... ♖g4! 2. ♕c6 ♖e4+ etc. spoils the idea. This is a pity, because the ♕ on e5 would bring both ♖s under pinning of white pieces.

1<sup>st</sup> Reserve: № 15 (♗h2/♕d5) – Aleksey Ivunin & Aleksandr Pankratiev

2<sup>nd</sup> Reserve: № 13 (♗h4/♕d4) – Aleksey Ivunin & Aleksandr Pankratiev

Viktor Syzonenko,

Kryvyi Rih, (Ukraine), 8 December 2022

\* (See the judge's comment for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pl.): The author informed the judge *beforehand* that he "opted for a heavier position with ♗a4 instead of saving it by placing the ♖a1 on a4, in order to avoid rude capture of an aristocratic piece at the W1 move in the first twin." The possibility of saving another pawn at the cost of introducing a black bishop (the total economy: 3 ♗s = 1 ♕, 4+10) involves a non-aesthetic capture of the ♖. [Editor of TMP, who acted as a Tourney Director of TMP League 2022]

\*\* (See the judge's comment for the 7<sup>th</sup> Pl.): The judge proposed a setting (h#4) which is flawed because: 1) the ♗ would be in check in the initial position and thus forced to play at the B1 move, and 2) there are many cooks by no fewer than 6 different B1 moves by the ♗ and, moreover, shifting the position 1 row up would make the things even worse, because White could no longer count on its pawn to prevent cooks, as placing the ♖ on h7 would create too many unwanted solutions. (Tourney Director)

\*\*\*\*\*

DATE/VENUES OF PUBLICATION

The brochure with the awards of *The Macedonian Problemist League 2022* is a special issue of *The Macedonian Problemist* (69-a), annexed to issue 69 of the magazine. Therefore, reference to this formal tourney should be made according to the following mode of citation: *The Macedonian Problemist League 2022 (The Macedonian Problemist 69-a/2022)*.

On 31.12.2022 the brochure with the awards of *The Macedonian Problemist League 2022* was e-mailed to the participants and judges, and it was also published online at the *Macedonian Problemist* group's section of the *Facebook* account of the editor of *TMP*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The editorial board of *The Macedonian Problemist (TMP)* expresses profound gratitude to the tourney participants and to the expert and prompt judges Pavel Murashev, Aleksandr Sygurov, Hartmut Laue and Viktor Syzonenko for their support to *TMP League 2022*, to Geoff Foster for the language control, to Predrag Žuvić for the proof-reading and to websites' editors for re-publishing the awards of this four-rounds formal tourney.

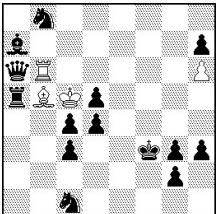
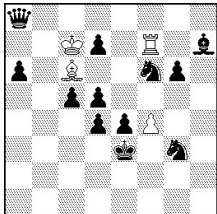
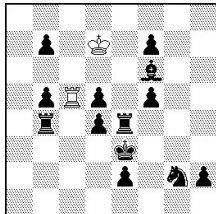
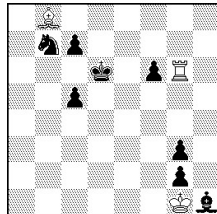
ANNOUNCEMENT OF *THE MACEDONIAN PROBLEMIST LEAGUE 2023*

The magazine *The Macedonian Problemist* announces the formal tourney *The Macedonian Problemist League 2023* in the following sections (and with the following judges): #2 (Pavel Murashev); #3 (Aleksandr Sygurov); S#2-12 (Hartmut Laue); and H#2½-3 (Nikola Stolev).

The themes for this formal tourney are free. In each section 10 problems will be ranked from the 1<sup>st</sup> Place (12 points) to the 10<sup>th</sup> Place (2 points) and two reserves (scoring 1 point) will be identified to serve as possible replacement of anticipated problems (if any). The overall ranking of authors will be based on the sum of their points from particular sections.

Composers may send unlimited number of original problems (including joint problems) until 30 August 2023 to the tourney director at [zoran.gavrilovski@gmail.com](mailto:zoran.gavrilovski@gmail.com) or by snail mail: Zoran Gavrilovski, P. fah 137 (Poshta 2), Skopje MK-1001, North Macedonia.

The tourney brochure with the awards and the overall ladder of *TMP League 2023* will be preliminary shared with all participants by e-mail before the official publication of the awards in a supplement to the last 2023 issue of *The Macedonian Problemist*.

<p><u>7<sup>th</sup> Place</u> № 18 – Zoran Gavrilovski</p>  <p>H#3½ b) ♕f3→g4 4+14</p> <p>a) 1... ♖:d4 2. ♖:b6+ 2... ♖:e5 3. ♖:f2 ♕:e8 4. ♕:c3 ♕:h5#</p> <p>b) 1... ♖:d5 2. ♖:b5+ 2... ♖:e4 3. ♖:h5 ♖:f6 4. ♖:g5 ♖:f4#</p>	<p><u>8<sup>th</sup> Place</u> № 10 – Aleksey Ivunin &amp; Aleksandr Pankratiev</p>  <p>H#3½ 3 solutions 4+12</p> <p>1... ♖:f6 2. ♖:f3 ♖:f7 3. ♖:g4 ♕:d7+4. ♖:h5 4... ♖:h7#</p> <p>1... ♖:d7 2. ♖:d3 ♖:d5 3. ♖:c4 ♕:e8 4. ♖:d5 4... ♕:f7#</p> <p>1... ♕:d5 2. c4 ♕:e4 3. ♖:e4 ♖:e7+ 4. ♖:d5 4... ♖:e5#</p>	<p><u>9<sup>th</sup> Place</u> № 17 – Zoran Gavrilovski</p>  <p>H#3½ 4 solutions 2+13</p> <p>1... ♖:c7 2. ♖:d3 ♖:b7 3. ♖:c4 ♖:b6 4. ♖:c5 ♖:c6#</p> <p>1... ♖:d5 2. ♖:f4 ♖:d6 3. ♖:e5 ♖:c6 4. f4 ♖:c5#</p> <p>1... ♖:c6 2. ♖:f4 ♖:e8 3. ♖:c4 ♖:f7 4. ♖:e5 ♖:c6#</p> <p>1... ♖:c2 2. ♖:f2 ♖:e2+ 3. ♖:g1 ♖:f2 4. ♖:h1 ♖:f1#</p>	<p><u>10<sup>th</sup> Place</u> № 5 – Sven Trommler</p>  <p>H#4 a) + ♖c6 3+8</p> <p>a) 1. ♖c6 ♖h6 2. ♖b6 2... ♕:c7+ 3. ♖a7 ♖:f6 4. ♖a8 ♖a6#</p> <p>b) 1. c4 ♖:g3 2. ♖c5 2... ♖:g2 3. ♖d6 ♖b2 4. ♕d5 ♕a7#</p>
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7<sup>th</sup> Place: № 18 – Zoran Gavrilovski

Maybe: ♕ on g3, + ♖h2. And 1 rank up. And if this is impossible, then we must declare it. Someone will definitely do it. I have been long embarrassed by such external movements, i.e. twinning. That's the wrong way to go. A "twin" is a separate direction, not a technical means. [\*\*]

8<sup>th</sup> Place: № 10 – Aleksandr Pankratiev & Aleksey Ivunin

The ♖f4 is used three times. Yes, the ♕ comes to one square twice at the same time, but by different routes. The third solution has clearly less tension.

9<sup>th</sup> Place: № 17 – Zoran Gavrilovski

Three solutions in which the ♖ shows its resourcefulness. The tension disappears in the fourth solution. So, we need to find a fifth solution.

10<sup>th</sup> Place: № 5 – Sven Trommler

All material is used. If this is the fruit of the work of an inexperienced author, then this is wonderful.