

## Dom Springaren h#n 2021

The Springaren h#n informal tourney for 2021 mustered 35 originals, including “Småaker & hugskott”, and I have decided on three Prizes, five Honourable mentions and eight Commendations. Before proceeding to the award itself, I would like to make a few comments on some of the entries that were not included in it.

**14826** is nearly identical to 14890; I more or less randomly chose the latter for consideration below.

**14886** The content is not bad at all per se, but there must surely be a more organic, and therefore more economical, way of doubling it the idea.

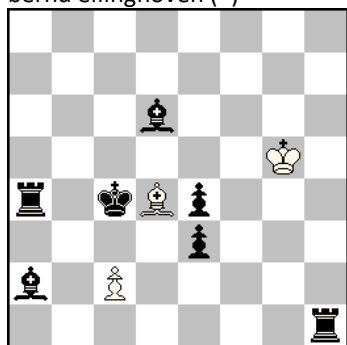
**14887** This is really an embellishment of a pretty basic h#3 scheme (let's say, Kh1 Rd1 Ba7; Kd4 Qf5 Rc4 Bc5 Pc6,d3; 1.Bb6 Bb8 2.Qb5 Rxd3 3.Qc5 Bd6#, 1.d2 Re1 2.Qc2 Bxc5 2.Kd3 Re3#), but the added white moves, eliminating black guards, hardly justify the material input.

**14888** First of all, the Ba2 is unnecessary (C+); furthermore, the motivation for a) 1.Ba2 is not pure, as White must both evacuate b1 for the bQ and avoid capturing it, which makes the whole strategy somehow artificial.

**14943** Fine, but similar things have been done before—I know this, because I have done it too!

1 Pr 14941

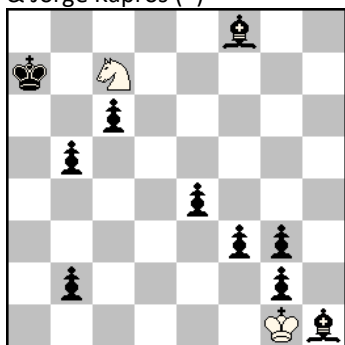
Fadil Abdurahmanović &  
bernd ellinghoven (†)



h#4 2 lösn

2 Pr 14761

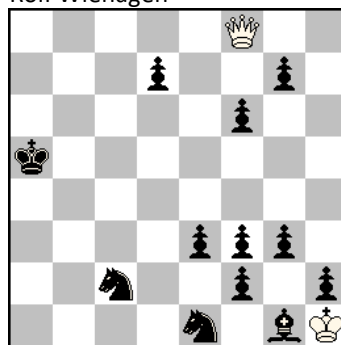
Christer Jonsson, Rolf Wiehagen  
& Jorge Kapros (†)



h#8

3 Pr 14890

Reinhardt Fiebig &  
Rolf Wiehagen



h#5

**1st Prize: 14941** (Abdurahmanović & ellinghoven †)

This “Dynamic Duo” of authors (R.I.P. -be-) is usually a guarantee of high quality, and this entry is no exception. Critical corner tempo moves (Indian theme) and black self-blocks. The fact that both solutions do not end in a model mate (actually, the candidate tempo move 1. Bb2 Kd5 2. c3 Ke5 3.Kg4? fails only to a check on the last move) is clearly overshadowed by the effortless and economical presentation.

1. – Lh8 2.Lc5 Kf6 3.Kd4 Lg7 4.Tc4 Ke6#

1. – La1 2.Kd5 c3 3.Ke5 Lb2 4.Le6 c4#

**2nd Prize: 14761** (Jonsson, Wiehagen & Kapros †)

A long S Rundlauf, determined by the need to cover a check on the first rank at the right moment, as well as clearing the long diagonal for Bb7 is a very fine accomplishment.

Apart from the cited problem by Smits (Springaren 159, p. 156), I found another couple of full-length h#8 Knight Rundlaufs (Chess Problem Database Server #P1374462 by Cailaud and #P1407132 by Jonsson), but none of the three are dangerously similar to this one.

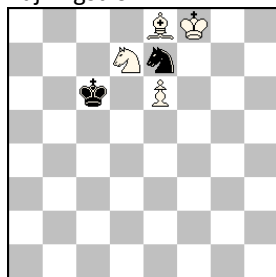
1.e3 Sxb5+ 2.Ka8 Sd4 3.Lc5 Sxf3 4.b1=T+ Se1 5.Tb8 Sxg2 6.La7 Sf4 7.c5 Se6 8.Lb7 Sc7#

**3rd Prize: 14890** (Fiebig & Wiehagen)

The solution, with a Queen Rundlauf clearing a diagonal for the Bg1 to act as a blocking piece, is pretty straightforward, but there's more to it: an try in the form of a different Rundlauf, clearing a different diagonal, fails because the Bishop lacks a legal move at the right time. Well done!

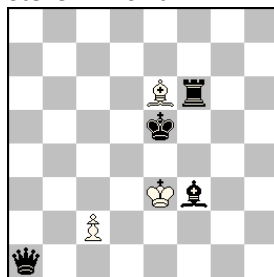
1.Kb6 Dh8 2.Kc7 Dxh2 3.Kd8 Dxc3 4.Lh2 Dxc7 5.Lc7 Df8#  
 (try 1.Kb6 Da3? 2.Kc7 Dxe3 3.Kd8 Dxf2 4.Lb6?? Dc5 5.Lb6-c7 Df8#)

1 HO 14885  
Kaj Engström



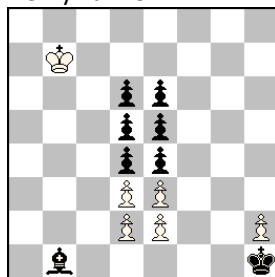
h#3,5 B: -Le8

2 HO 14825  
Steven B Dowd



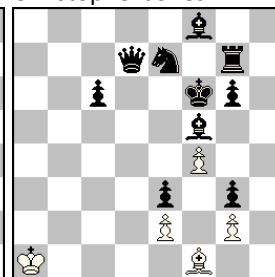
h#4 B: Lf3>g4

3 HO 14827  
Henry Tanner



h#5,5 3 lösn

4 HO 14944  
Christopher Jones



h#4 2 lösn

**1 HM: 14885** (Engström)

The content is quite impressive for such a light setting: distant self-blocks by the bS and minor promotions, one "quasi-Phoenix". Both 1...Bh5! and 1...Nc5! are excellent first moves and not easy to spot. The repetition of 2.e7 and the fact that Bg4# is not a model mate does not matter much to the overall favourable impression.

a) 1. - Lh5 2.Sd5 e7 3.Kd6 e8=S+ 4.Ke6 Lg4#  
 b) 1. - Sc5 2.Sc8 e7 3.Kc7 e8=L 4.Kd8 Se6#

**2 HM: 14825** (Dowd)

Excellent miniature with photographic echo mates by Pawn batteries, clever determination of the move order, and the Indian manoeuvre ...Ba2-b1 as icing on the cake.

a) 1.Tf4 La2 2.Ld5 Ke2 3.Ke4 Lb1 4.De5 c3#  
 b) 1.Da3+ Lb3 2.Ld7 c4 3.Ke6 Ke4 4.De7 c5#

**3 HM: 14827** (Tanner)

First of all: points for a beautifully intriguing diagram position! The solutions offer good variety and are not too obvious: twice the black King must find its way to the centre of the board, as might perhaps be expected, but Qh5# is well hidden. Besides the well-defined move order in general, it is worth noting that the Ph2 guards a flight in one solution and determines the bK:s first move in another.

1. - dxe4 2.Kg2 exd5 3.Kh3 dxe6 4.d5 e7 5.Le4 e8=D 6.Lg2 Dh5#  
 1. - Kb6 2.Lxd3 exd3 3.Kg2 dxe4 4.Kf3 exd5 5.Ke4 d3+ 6.Kxd5 e4#  
 1. - exd4 2.Kxh2 dxe5 3.Kg3 exd6 4.Kf4 d7 5.Ke5 d4+ 6.Kd6 d8=D#

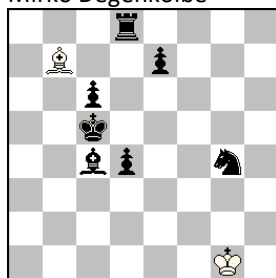
#### 4 HM: 14944 (Jones)

The nicely differentiated Black sacrifices and the analogous Umnov effects of the self-blocks mitigate the mirroring of all White moves and make this an enjoyable problem.

1.Lh3 gxh3 2.Dg4 hxg4 3.Tf7 Lh3 4.Lg7 g5#  
1.Dd3 exd3 2.Le4 dxe4 3.Sf5 Lc4 4.Le7 e5#

5 HO 14892

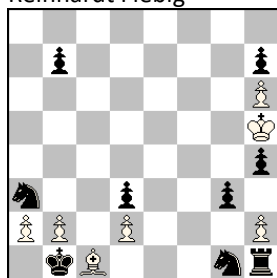
Steven B Dowd &  
Mirko Degenkolbe



h#5 B: sBg4

1 Omn 14891

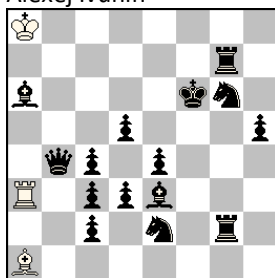
Reinhardt Fiebig



h#5,5

2 Omn 14942

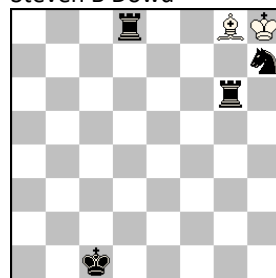
Aleksandr Pankratiev &  
Alexej Ivunin



h#3,5 2 lösn

3 Omn 14760

Steven B Dowd



h#8

#### 5 HM: 14892 (Dowd & Degenkolbe)

The a) twin has a very striking solution, with a tempo move to one corner followed by a critical move to the other, while b) is markedly less interesting—not un-interesting, to the point that you would consider omitting it altogether, but nevertheless the imbalance is noticeable.

a) 1.Kd6 La8 2.c5 Lh1 3.e6 Kg2 4.Kd5 Kf3 5.Td6 Kf4#  
b) 1.Tb8 Lc8 2.Tb4 Kf2 3.Lb5 Ke1 4.Kc4 Kd2 5.c5 Le6#

#### 1 Comm: 14891 (Fiebig)

Anticipatory passive sacrifices of white material to clear the path for Black's Rook and King. There is something charmingly old-fashioned and "Loydesque" about the single-line solution that I find appealing.

1. – hxg3 2.Th3 bxa3 3.Txg3 Lb2 4.Tg7 hxg7 5.Kxb2 g8=D 6.Kxa3 Db3#

#### 2 Comm: 14942 (Pankratiev & Ivunin)

The mating net itself, although nicely put together, is perhaps not particularly original, but I will say that controlling a potentially devastating R/B battery over 3.5 moves could not have been easy to do!

1. – Txc3 2.Lh6 Txd3+ 3.Kg5 Tf3 4.Tg4 Lf6#  
1. – Lxc3+ 2.Ke6 Ta1 3.Td7 Tf1 4.Se7 Tf6#

#### 3 Comm: 14760 (Dowd)

An attractive an economical position, and a nicely crafted black move order to allow the King walk.

1.Te6 Kg7 2.Sg5 Lh7 3.Te1 Kf6 4.Se4+ Ke5 5.Te8+ Kd4 6.Sd2 Kc3 7.Kd1 Kb2 8.T8e2 Lc2#

#### 4 Comm: 14889 (Dowd & Degenkolbe)

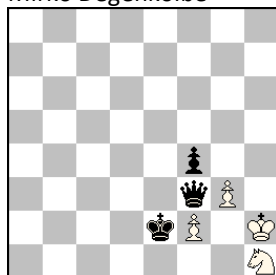
Two good solutions centered around sacrifices of the 'g' pawn to clear g3 for the white

Knight. Although a zero-position is almost by definition less desirable than normal twinning, I am normally pretty lenient, but I do think it's a significant disadvantage in this case.

- a) 1.fxg3+ Kh3 2.gxf2 Kg3 3.Kf1 Kh2 4.De1 Sg3#  
 b) 1.Dh5 g4 2.Kf3 Sg3 3.Kxg4 Kg2 4.Dg5 f3#

4 Omn 14889

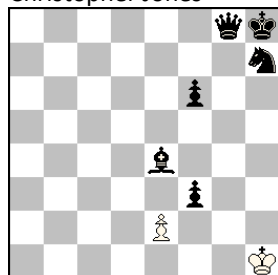
Steven B Dowd &  
 Mirko Degenkolbe



h#4 A: Df3>e4, B: +sBh4 h#6

5 Omn 14759

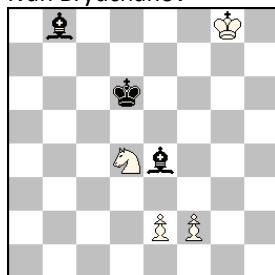
Christopher Jones



h#6

6 Omn 14884

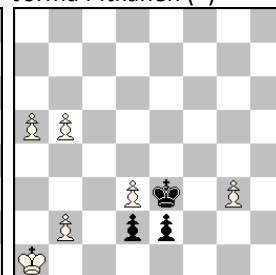
Ivan Bryuchanov



h#3,5 B: -Lb8

7 Omn 14757

Jorma Pitkänen (†)



h#3,5 2 lösön

#### 5 Comm: 14759 (Jones)

Black and white S promotion; 1.Bg6! is a nice point, but also really the only point of strategic interest.

- 1.Lg6 e4 2.f2 e5 3.f1=S exf6 4.Se3 f7 5.Sf5 f8=S 6.Sg7 Sxg6#

#### 6 Comm: 14884 (Bryuchanov)

Miniature setting and a clever twinning. Not too deep, but sometimes a smooth surface is enough!

- a) 1. – Kg7 2.Ke5 Kh6 3.Kf4 Kh5 4.Le5 e3#  
 b) 1. – Kf8 2.Lg6 e4 3.Ke5 f4+ 4.Kf6 e5#

#### 7 Comm: 14757 (Pitkänen)

Nice and simple self-blocks by promoted pieces followed by Queen mates. Although one should not “look a gift horse in the mouth”, so to speak, it can't be helped that the solver is left wanting a tempo move in both solutions.

1. – a6 2.e1=L a7 3.Lxg3 a8=D 4.Lf2 De4#  
 1. – b6 2.d1=L b7 3.Lc2 b8=D 4.Lxd3 Df4#

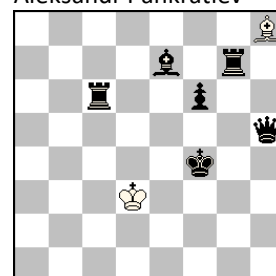
#### 8 Comm: 14945 (Pankratiev)

Two tempo moves by the white Bishop while Black carries out self-blocks in the correct order.

- 1.Df3+ Kd4 2.Tg4 Lg7 3.f5 Lh8 4.Lg5 Le5#

8 Omn 14945

Aleksandr Pankratiev



h#4

Stockholm, December 2, 2024

Lennart Werner