

Vito RALLO 70 JT
Verdetto del Giudice Christopher Jones

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VITO RALLO 70 JUBILEE TOURNEY

It was a great honour and a real pleasure to judge the tourney celebrating Vito Rallo's 70th. birthday. 44 problems were entered, and in general the standard was good.

The theme specified that "during the solution, at least one initially pinned black piece makes an interference which is exploited in the mate". In one or two cases, composers interpreted this to mean that the black piece could remain static, pinned, provided that it interfered with a piece. I doubt this interpretation of the theme, but the results of this approach are in any event so much less interesting that they would not be considered for inclusion in the award anyway. (What the theme did allow was for a pinned piece to move along the pin-line, so that, still pinned, it now provided a necessary interference - the one composition showing this amusing slant won 2nd.Honourable Mention!)

In this thematic tourney, the quality of the interferences seems to me to be very important. In relation to purity, I am not at all worried if there is a second motivation arising from a departure effect (generally, the opening of a line), but a second motivation that also determines the square to which the interfering piece must move (generally, blocking a flight square) does strike me as a significant detraction. In such cases, the interference seems less important and indeed sometimes "weasely" (in other words, a bit of "added-on strategy"). In particular, I was concerned by cases which showed disharmony between solutions: a pure interference in one solution, an impure one in the other.

Two of the most striking problems had to be excluded from the award: **no.26 (Ka7-Ke4)** is anticipated by Michel Caillaud's E148 in the 1998-2000 Album, and **no.27 (Kh1-Ka5)**, complex and spectacular, makes a big impression until you notice that in part (b) the WR is left "pinning" a BP that doesn't need to be pinned, and so is, essentially, redundant.

Prize. No.34. - Aleksandr SEMENENKO, Ukraine

A familiar matrix and familiar motifs, but this is an especially polished and harmonious example, with precise move-by-move correspondence between the strategy in the two solutions. As part of that strategy, the captures at a1 and d8 of pieces guarding the mate square are perhaps unobvious, but this is linked to the line-play at the heart of the problem, and in particular to the nice dual-avoidance on move B2: Black must interfere on the line on which White will not capture.

It is probably true to say that in a tourney blessed with successfully ambitious problems this quite familiar but extremely elegant problem would have won, say, a 3rd. or 4th Prize - but in view of the exclusion of the two striking problems mentioned above and the "near miss" of the 3rd.Honourable Mention winner this problem stands alone, I believe, as being of prize quality.

1st.Honourable Mention. No.15. Stefan MILEWSKI, Poland

A very nice, clearcut showing of the theme, again showing move-by-move correspondence between solutions, with, this time, two-move interference manoeuvres by the unpinned BR.

2nd.Honourable Mention. No.22 Nikola STOLEV, Macedonia.

This is the witty interpretation of the theme to which I referred in my introductory remarks. In each solution, one black unit is unpinned, but it is the other black unit, the one that remains pinned, that moves and interferes with it! For this imaginative interpretation of the theme a prize might have been possible, but the lack of other interest in the play, and the need for outlying WPs (which signpost the solutions) militate against this.

3rd.Honourable Mention. No.35. Valery SEMENENKO, Ukraina

And this is the "near miss" to which I referred above. Extremely rich play and highly commendable mutual interferences of the d4B and e6R. Fine construction to achieve two sound solutions with such mobile and heavy white material. And yet... The failing, I think, is the fact that the BBd4 has to go to e5 in order also to block a flight-square. As mentioned in my introduction, I felt that this was a significant defect, especially in a thematic tourney and still more so in the light of the attendant disharmony that in the other solution 3.Rb6 is not a blocking move. The adverse impression of the blocking effect of 3.Be5 is somewhat mitigated by its being preceded by 2.Re4, emphasizing the interference function, and a different judge might have awarded this 1st.Prize even with the defect. If only it had been possible to guard e5, remove Pe3, and play 2.Re2 and 3.Be3! But I can well believe that the composer found that this was impossible.

4th.Honourable Mention. No.10. Emanuel NAVON, Israel

In both solutions, we have on moves B1 and B2 indirect self-unpins. In each case, the first self-unpinning is not exploited positively. As a result, on move B3 it is necessary for the second unpinned black unit to interfere with the first. A very nice conception. It was perhaps a shame that it was not possible for both B3 interferences to take place on e4 and that it wasn't possible to arrange matters so as to use one wP on b2 to go to c3 in one solution and to b3 in the other. Again I can well believe that this proved impossible.

5th.Honourable Mention. No.9. Francesco SIMONI, Italia

A very pleasant, rich construction. The need for the BS on its way to d3 to eliminate the c5P once and the f2P once is very nice. It is a slight shame that the units captured at c3 and f4 have to be officers.

1st. Commendation. No.7. Michel CAILLAUD, Uri AVNER, Mario PARRINELLO, Michal DRAGOUN

Matrices in which two BSs are pinned, one by a WR and one by a WB, are very familiar, and it is becoming more difficult to achieve anything new in them. I thought that this was the best of a number of neat such problems in this tourney. Most of the aspects of the play are known, but the placing of the WK, and the delicate footwork arising from the two battery lines of the BQ, may well be new, and serve to generate a very pleasing feature: each BS interferes twice on the thematic lines (a4>e4 and h7>e4), once as a square-block and once as a pure interference.

2nd. Commendation. No.1. Christopher J. FEATHER, England

Three interferences by the same BB on three different lines. In each case, the interference is pure in the sense that the BB is not required to block the arrival square. (As previously mentioned, the "impurity" in these moves also opening the line of guard of the Ba3 does not worry me.) The task of achieving these three good interferences entails some diversity of strategy between the solutions.

3rd. Commendation. No.33. Mario PARRINELLO, Italia

A pleasing complex in which unpinned black units must block on b2 to prevent move B3 from giving check. A rather heavy construction (notably Rf7) has been necessary.

4th. Commendation. No.17. Abdelaziz ONKOUD, Morocco

Familiar elements, pleasingly assembled. One slight drawback is that, unlike the Bd4, the Rc4 plays a part only in one solution.

It is always difficult for a judge to know where to draw a line. There are numerous other enjoyable entries in this tourney, which could well be entered for informal tourneys, at "Best Problems" or elsewhere. But this I think is where I should like to draw to a close the problems celebrating Vito's jubilee - on which it remains only for me to send my best wishes!

Christopher Jones
Bristol, 15 July 2010

Award H#3

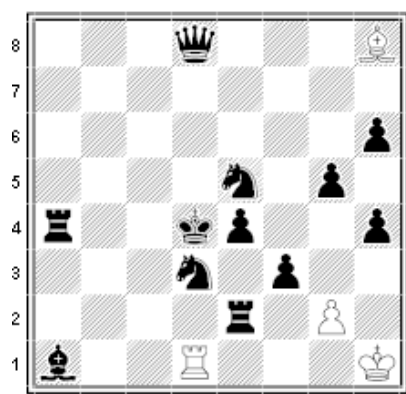
Vito RALLO '70 Jubilee Tourney

Judge: Christopher Jones.

n. 34 – Premio

Aleksandr SEMENENKO, Ukraine

3q3B/8/7p/4n1p1/r2kp2p/3n1p2/4r1P1/b2R3K



H#3 b) bPe4->e3 (4+12)

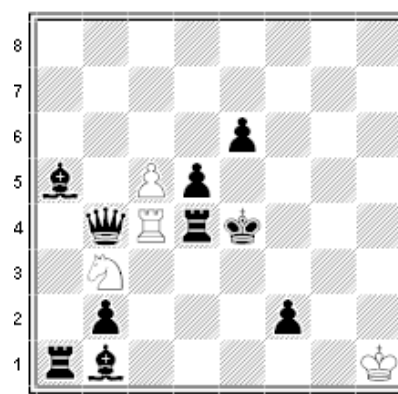
a) 1.Ke3 g3 2.Sd7! (Sc4?) B:a1 3.Sb4 Bd4#

b) 1.Ke4 g4 2.Sb2! (Sb4?) R:d8 3.Sec4 Rd4#

n. 15 – 1° Menzione Onorevole

Stefan MILEWSKI, Poland

8/8/4p3/b1Pp4/1qRrk3/1N6/1p3p2/rb5K



H#3 2 sol. (4+10)

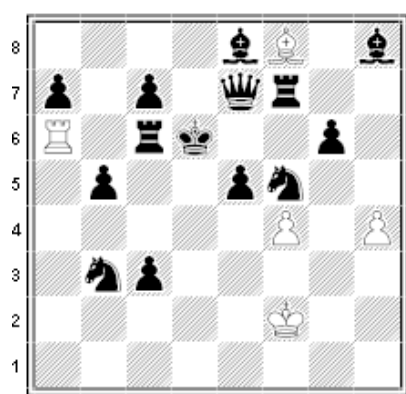
1. Ke5 Sc1 2. Rd2 Rf4 3. Rc2 Sd3#

1. Kf3 Kh2 2. Rd3 Re4 3. Rc3 Sd2#

n. 22 – 2° Menzione Onorevole

Nikola STOLEV, Macedonia

4bB1b/p1p1qr2/R1rk2p1/1p2pn2/5P1P/1np5/5K2/8



H#3 b) wPf4->b2 (5+14)

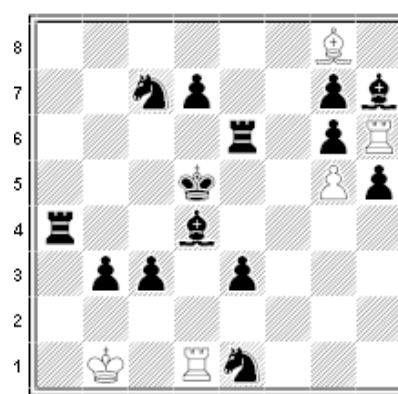
a) 1. Ke6 Kf3 2. Kf6 Ke4 3. Re6 f:e5#

b) 1. Kc5 Ke2 2. Kb4 Kd3 3. Qc5 b:c3#

n. 35 – 3° Menzione Onorevole

Valery SEMENENKO, Ukraine

6B1/2np2pb/4r1pR/3k2Pp/r2b4/1pp1p3/8/1K1Rn3



H#3 b) wRh6=wBh6 (5+14)

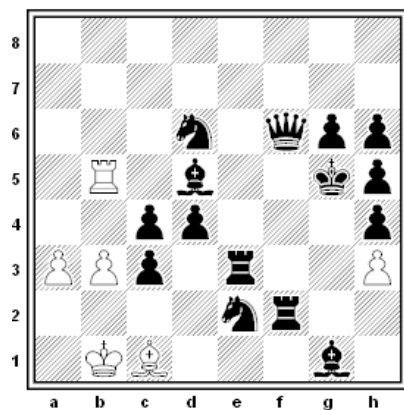
a) 1. Kc4 R:h5 2. Ba7 Rd5 3. Rb6 Rh4#

b) 1. Kd6 B:g7 2. Re4 Bd5 3. Be5 Bf8#

n. 10 – 4° Menzione Onorevole

Emanuel NAVON, Israel

8/8/3n1qpp/1R1b2kp/2pp3p/PPp1r2P/4nr2/1KB3b1



H#3 2 sol. (6+15)

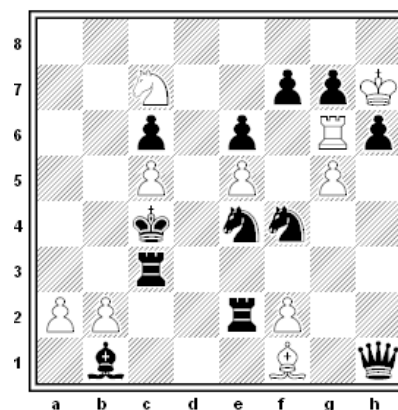
1. Qf4 a4 2. Sf5 Ba3 3. Be6 Be7#

1. Rf5 b:c4 2. Sf4 Rb2 3. Re4 Rg2#

n. 09 – 5° Menzione Onorevole

Francesco SIMONI, Italia

**8/2N2ppK/2p1p1Rp/2P1P1P1/2k1nn2/2r5/PP2rP2/1b3
B1q**



H#3 2 sol. (10+12)

1. S:c5 b:c3 2. Scd3 R:e6 3. Re4 R:c6#

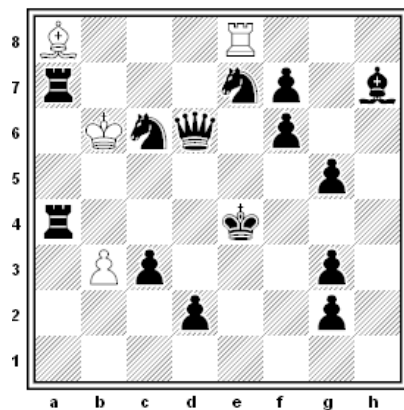
1. S:f2 b4 2. S2d3 Rf6 3. Rg2 R:f4#

n. 07 – 1° Raccomand.

Michel CAILLAUD, Uri AVNER,

Mario PARRINELLO, Michal DRAGON

B3R3/r3np1b/1Knq1p2/6p1/r3k3/1Pp3p1/3p2p1/8



H#3 b) wKb6->f8 (4+14)

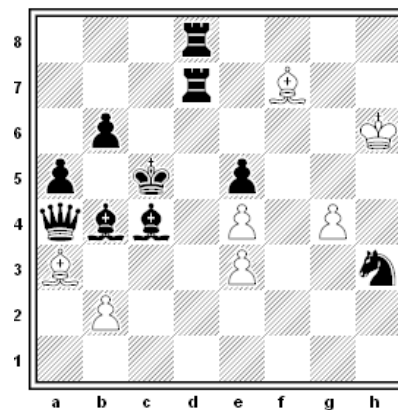
a) 1. Kf4 (Kd3?) Kb5 2. Sb4 (Sd4+?) B:g2 3. Sf5 Re4#

b) 1. Kd3 (Kf4?) Kg7 2. Sg6 (Sf5+?) Re1 3. Sd4 Be4#

n. 01 – 2° Raccomandaz.

Christopher J. FEATHER, England

3r4/3r1B2/1p5K/p1k1p3/qbb1P1P1/B3P2n/1P6/8



H#3 n. 3 sol (7+10)

1. Kd6 Be8 2. Ke6 Kg6 3. Be7 Bf7#

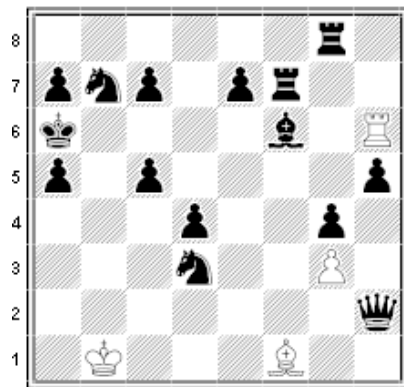
1. Qc6+ Kh5 2. Kb5 b3 3. Bc5 B:c4#

1. Bb3 Bh5 2. Kc4 g5 3. Bd6 Be2#

n. 33 – 3° Lode

Mario PARRINELLO, Italia

6r1/pnp1pr2/k4b1R/p1p4p/3p2p1/3n2P1/7q/1K3B2



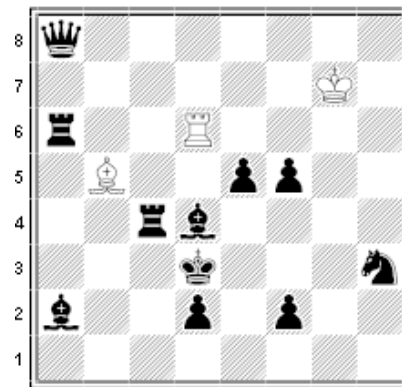
H#3 b) bPd4->d5 (4+15)

- a) 1. Qe2 R:h5 2. Sb2 R:c5 3. Qb5 Rc6#
b) 1. Rg6 Bg2 2. Bb2 B:d5 3. Rb6 Bc4#

n. 17 – 4° Raccom.

Abdelaziz ONKOUD, Marocco

q7/6K1/r2R4/1B2pp2/2rb4/3k3n/b2p1p2/8

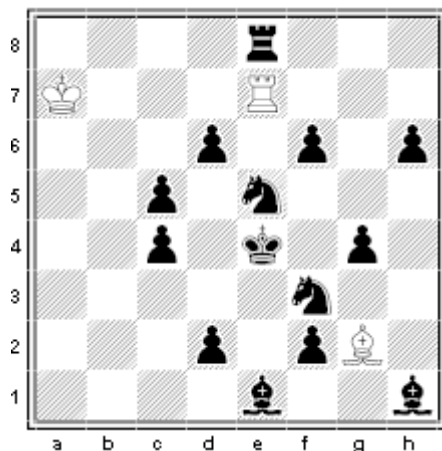


H#3 2 sol. (3+11)

1. Ke3 Rg6 2. Rcc6 Bd3 3. Sf4 Rg3#
1. Ke4 Be8 2. Bb6 Rd3 3. f4 Bg6#

n. 26 - Zoltan LABAI, Slovensko

4r3/K3R3/3p1p1p/2p1n3/2p1k1p1/5n2/3p1pB1/4b2b

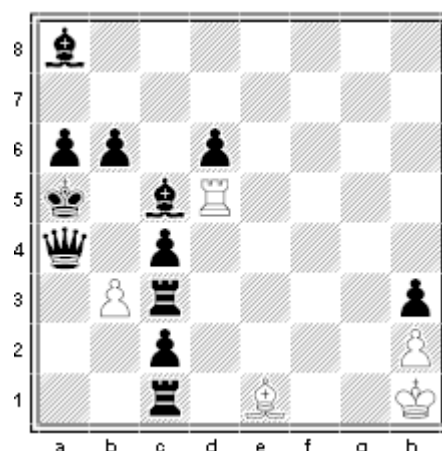


H#3 2 sol. (3+14)

1. Ke3 Rg7 2. Sd3 R:g4 3. Sfe5 Re4#
1. Kd5 Bf1 2. Sd4 Bd3 3. Sef3 Be4#

n. 27 – Menachem Witztum, Israel

b7/8/pp1p4/k1bR4/q1p5/1Pr4p/2p4P/2r1B2K



H#3 b) Pwb3->a2 (5+12)

- a) 1. Qb4 b:c4 2. Rf3 Rd3 3. Be3 Ra3#
b) 1. b5 a3 2. Bg1 Bh4 3. Re3 Bd8#

Elenco partecipanti “ Vito RALLO 70 JT”:

1. Christopher J. FEATHER, England
2. Valerio AGOSTINI, Italia
3. Alberto ARMENI, Italia
4. Pier Giorgio SORANZO, Italia
5. Eugene FOMICHEV, Russia
6. Roberto CASSANO, Angelo SMECCA, Italia
7. M. CAILLAUD, U. AVNER, M. PARRINELLO & M. DRAGOUN
8. Antonio GAROFALO, Italia
9. Francesco SIMONI, Italia
10. Emanuel NAVON, Israele
11. Valerio AGOSTINI, & Antonio GAROFALO, Italia
12. Angelo SMECCA, Antonio GAROFALO, Italia
13. Gabriele BRUNORI, Italia
14. =====
15. Stefan MILEWSKI, Polonia
16. Dieter MULLER, Germania
17. Abdelaziz ONKOUD, Marocco
18. Abdelaziz ONKOUD, Marocco
19. Abdelaziz ONKOUD, Marocco
10. Stefan MILEWSKI, Polonia
21. Stefan MILEWSKI, Polonia
22. Nikola STOLEV, Macedonia

23. Roberto CASSANO, Angelo SMECCA, Italia
24. Christer JONSSON, Svezia
25. Christer JONSSON, Svezia
26. Zoltan LABAI, Slovenia
27. Menachem WITZTUM, Israele
28. Petre STOJOSKI, Macedonia
29. Vladimír KOČI, Czech Republik
30. Vladimír KOČI, Czech Republik
31. Vladimír KOČI, Czech Republik
32. Roberto Cassano, Italia
33. Mario PARRINELLO, Italia
34. Alexander SEMENENKO, Germania
35. Valery SEMENENKO, Ucraina
36. Vladislav NEFYODOV, Russia
37. Vladislav NEFYODOV, Russia
38. Saverio CE', Italia
39. Saverio CE', Italia
40. Jorge J. LOIS, Jorge KAPROS, Argentina
41. Jorge J. LOIS, Jorge KAPROS, Argentina
42. Jorge J. LOIS, Jorge KAPROS, Argentina
43. Borislav GADJANSKI, Serbia
44. Pietro PITTON, Italia
45. Lkhundevin. TOGOOKHUU, Mongolia

Trapani, 19.07.2010

Vito RALLO