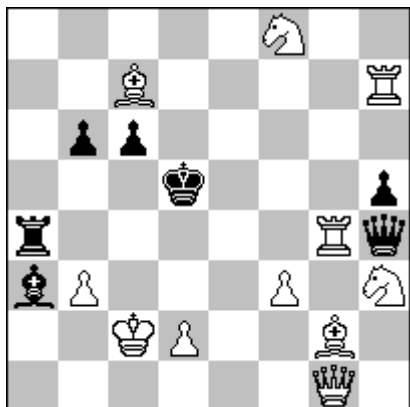


This month another very strategic 2-mover for you to solve –



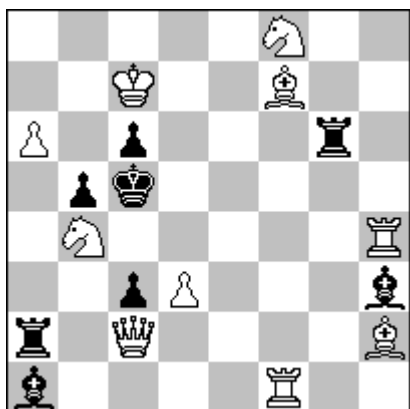
Mate in 2

Milan Vukceovich, 5th Prize, *Mat Plus* 1997

As a starting point you may like to consider what would happen if it were Black to move and he moved his Rook along the 4th rank. But of course it's White to move, and he has to threaten mate next move, and after the key move it may be that some of the set play is changed ...

As usual, I'm cribbing from the archive of problems that have featured in the 'Weekly Chess Problem' section of the website of the British Chess Problem Society. So if you would like to confirm the solution, and read Steve Giddins' informative commentary on it, enter 'theproblemist' and on the BCPS website click on 'archive' below the Weekly Problem, then go to 28th April 2014. Otherwise you can wait until I give the solution in the next Newsletter!

Let's go back to the problem in the last Newsletter, that classic from 1930, by the great composer Lev Loshinski, which won 1st Honourable Mention in *L'Italia Scacchistica*.



Mate in 2.

The popular problem theme to which I alluded last time is the Nowotny interference. Consider the bR at a2 and bBa1. They respectively guard against 2.Qf2 and 2.Qxc3. But if either of these black pieces moves to b2 it disables one of those guards. Can White play a key move that will induce Black to make that error? Yes, he can. The key is 1.Rb1, which threatens 2.d4 (a move that if played on move 1 would fail to 1...Kxb4). Now 1...Rb2 and 1...Bb2 are defences because they intercept the b1-b4 line and give rise to the white Queen mates noted above. But there is much more to the problem. Black can also defend by intercepting the line h4-d4 at g4, whereupon we get another pair

of variations: 1...Rg4 2.Ne6 and 1...Bg4 2.Bg1. And, for full measure, note the defences when Black intercepts the line f7-c4 at e6: 1...Re6 2.Nd7 and 1...Be6 2.Bd6. It's a masterly achievement to show this self-interference theme three times over, and the pleasure is I think enhanced by the fact that the motivation for all these black self-interferences is the attempt to interfere with the lines of guard of three white officers: the b1R, the h4R and the f7B.