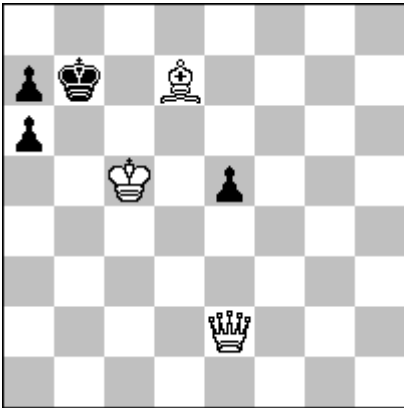


First of all, let's return to the problem I set two Newsletters ago:



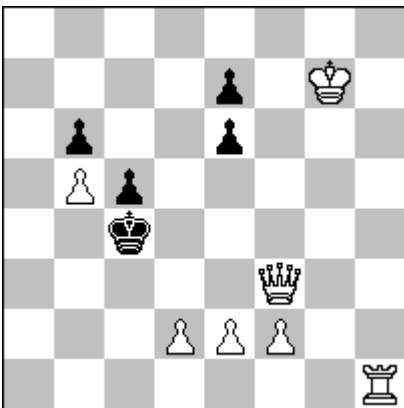
Mate in 3

Otto Wurzburg, *Bahn Frei* 1895 (v)

In the last Newsletter I said: "The key is 1.Bh3!. Now after any move by the black King 2.Qg4 forces mate next move. But what about 1...a5 (after which 2.Qg4 can be met by 2...a6, vacating a7)? The answer is the star move 2.Qa6+! The Pawn at a5 is now what problemists would call a distant self-block, and after 2...Kxa6 White mates with 3.Bf1."

John Leake has pointed out my 'deliberate mistake': after 2...Kxa6 the mate is not 3.Bf1 but 3.Bc8. Well spotted, John!

The problem, also from Werner Keym's excellent recent book *Anything but Average*, with which I left you last time, is a personal favourite of mine -



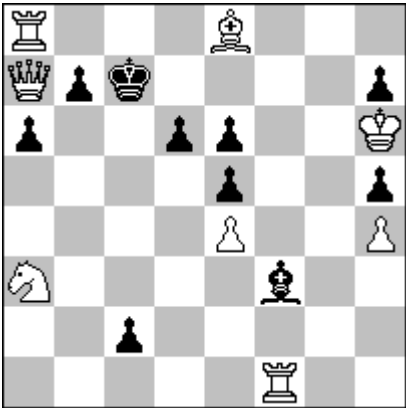
Mate in 3

Johann Berger, *Didaskalia (Frankfurter Rundschau)* 1887

Congratulations if you found the key 1.Rf1!! . The main line is 1...Kd4 2.Qd3+ Ke5 3.f4#. Side lines are 1...e5 2.Rb1 e4/Kd4 3.Qxe4/Qd3#, 1...Kxb5 2.Rb1+ leading to 3.Qa8# or 3.Qd3# depending upon Black's reply.

If you go on to the website of the British Chess Problem Society, www.theproblemist.org/, you can call up most of the back issues of the BCPS magazine *The Problemist* and all the back issues of its *Supplement*, from which you can glean a wealth of interesting problem to solve and to read about.

From one such *Supplement* (March 2017) comes this venerable problem –



Mate in 2
Philip H. Williams

English Mechanic, 1893

White has mating replies to Black’s possible moves; but what does White, to move, actually play?

Solution next time.