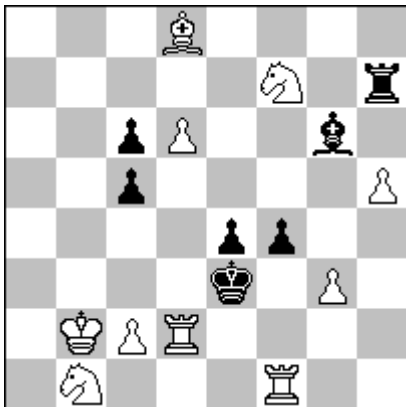


In the last Newsletter I left you with this problem:



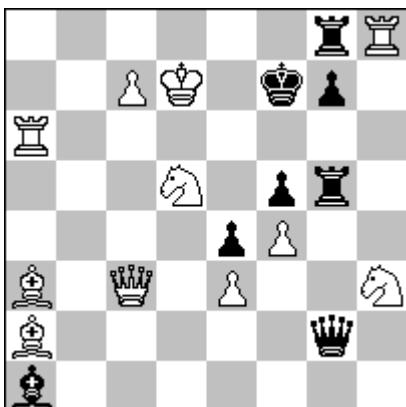
Mate in 3

M. Niemeijer and L. Schor

1st Honourable Mention, *Western Morning News* 1924

As I said last time, “the bK is already effectively contained and we need to find the right way of activating mate threats from the slightly out-of-play wN and wB. The bR and bB have potential defences in captures at f7 and at h5 ...”. White’s big threat is Ne5, which will threaten 3 mates – Nc4, Ng4 and Re1. At first glance it looks as though he can play this immediately but then one sees the defence 1...Rb7+. So one wants to neutralize that defence by eliminating that checking defence. It turns out that the correct way to do this is 1.Kc1!. Now Black’s attempts to provide against the Ne5 result in the bR and bB getting in each other’s way – 1...Rxf7 2.Na3 (no ...Bf7); 1...Bxf7 2.Bg5 (no ...Rf7); 1...Rhx5 2.Nc3 (no ...Bh5); and 1...Bhx5 2.Bb6 (no ...Rh5). The key-move must have the secondary feature of protecting the d2R so as to activate potential moves of the b1N, and 1.Kc3?, taking the c3 square away from the b1N, would fail to 1...Rhx5! (no 2.Nc3).

This month you may like to look at a prize-winning problem by Norman Macleod (1927-91), the second British composer (after Comins Mansfield) to win the title of Grandmaster for Chess Composition. Unlike Mansfield, who was a pre-eminent mate-in-2 specialist, Norman spread his net widely, but this month’s problem is a 2-mover, which should prove enjoyable to solve –



Mate in 2

N. A. Macleod

1st Prize, BCF Tourney 1972-73; Brian Harley Award e.a. 1973-74

It looks as though White would like to discover mate with a move of the d5N, but at present there are two impediments – the reply ...Qxa2 and the fact that all four moves of the d5N would interrupt

lines guarding potential flight squares of the bK. So what can White do? Solution next time.

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