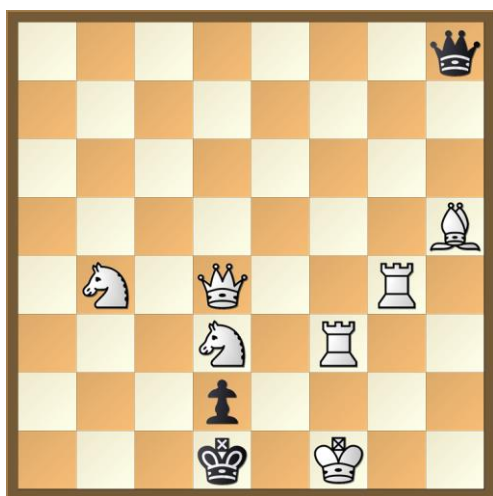


In the last Newsletter I left you with this problem -



Mate in 2

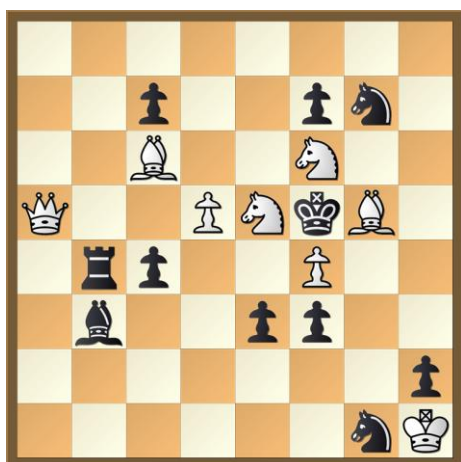
Zivota Tanic

Commendation, *Schweizerische Arbeiter Schachzeitung* 1971

As I said last time, “we want to move one of the Rs to allow a discovered checkmate when the second of them moves. The bQ, which has to keep an eye on the a1 square also, will be overloaded. But it turns out that it is tricky to find the unique move that succeeds”.

If you delved into all the possibilities here you will have found that 1.Rf6?, threatening 2.Qa1, fails to 1...Qc8!; the other lines of play make no threats, but attempt to create Zugzwang. If 1...Rf8? 1...Qe5! defends. If 1.Re4?, the defence is 1...Qg7!. Or try 1.Rg5?; the defence this time is 1...Qa8!. Eventually you should have alighted on 1.Rf5! (1...Qa8,Qe5 2.Re4; 1...Qxh5 2.Qa1) – well done if you did!

I haven’t given you a longer problem for a while, so here is one –



Mate in 4

Adolf Bayersdorfer

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Chess Monthly 1895

You may find this one tricky to solve, though if you're imaginative and think quite spectacular you may well get there. Of course if you want to try (at least initially) to solve it without any further hints do feel free to ignore the rest of this paragraph! If White didn't have a Bishop at c6 then 1.Nc6, with the threat of 2.Ne7, would win out of hand. At first it appears that we can get it out of the way with check, but after 1.Bd7+ Ne6 Black has made the square g7 available for his King, so defends 2.Nc6 with 2...Kg6. But otherwise what? The composer presumably had a positive purpose in mind for the c6B, and also for the out-of-play white Queen...

I'll give the solution next time. If you don't solve it and want to see the solution before then, I wonder whether chess playing programs make light work of this one? (I'd be quite interested to know. Do feel free to email me about this or any other point arising from this article.)

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