In the last Newsletter I left you with this problem:



Mikhail Gorislavsky

Schach, 1970

Mate in 4 (b)Bh3>f1

The difficulty is that, hemmed in as Black is, we need to avoid a stalemate arising after ...Pb6>b5>b4. In each solution, it turns out that the only successful method involves White sacrificing one of his pieces. Thus (a) solves as follows: 1.Bd7 b5 2.Kc5 b4 3.Na3 bxa3 4.b4. And (b) solves by sacrificing the wB: 1.Bb5 axb5 2.Kb7 b4 3.Nd4 b5 4.Nc6. Black's shortage of moves is made to tell against him – in (a) it is only because Black's only move, ...bxa3, vacates b4 that White can play 4.b4; and in (b) Black must obligingly put a Pawn on his potential flight square on move 3.

Now here's another problem for you to get your teeth into -



Mate in 2

Zivota Tanic

Commendation, Schweizerische Arbeiter Schachzeitung 1971

Clearly, 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. Best of luck; solution next time!

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