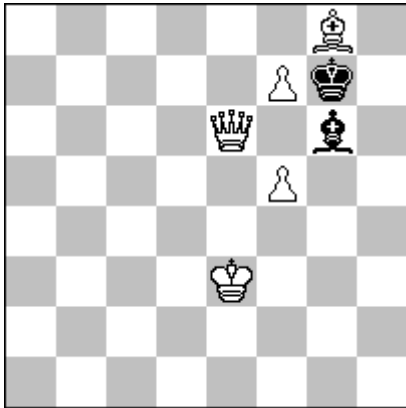


In the last Newsletter I left you with this problem:



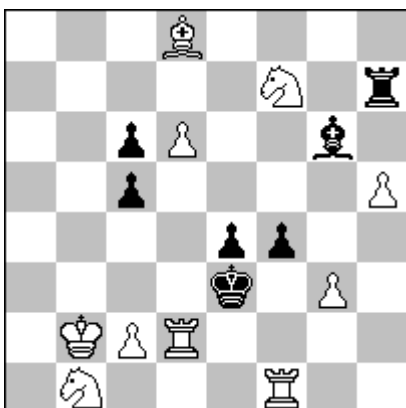
Mate in 3
Viktor Chepizhny

1st Prize, N. Rezvov 80th Jubilee Tourney 2002

You generally need to disregard obvious moves that would be the prime candidate moves in a game, which a problem composer would regard as crude, and not worth troubling solvers with. Often, this entails a waiting move, which doesn't even threaten mate, but instead creates zugzwang. That is the case here. The key move is 1.Kf4. Now upon a random move by the Bishop White will play 2.f8=Q+! Kxf8 3.Qf7#. (There are various mates after 2...Kh8.) If Black corrects by choosing the specific square h5 to move the Bishop to then White instead plays 2.Qh6+! Kxh6 3.f8=Q/B#. (The bB has blocked h5.) Or if 1...Bxf7 then 2.Qxf7+ and mate next move. Finally, 1...Kf8 2.f6 (many threats) Bxf7 3.Qxf7#.

As there are only 7 units on the board this counts as a *miniature* - showing interesting and accurate play with such limited resources is generally highly valued among problem buffs.

And now here is another 3-mover for you to solve. When it was shown on the 'Weekly Problem' page on the British Chess Problem Society website in 2013, Steve Giddins gave no clues to solvers as it's fairly easy (though in my opinion far from being a 'gimme'!) –



Mate in 3
M. Niemeijer and L. Schor
1st Honourable Mention, *Western Morning News* 1924

If you'd like me to go a bit further than Steve Giddins did, 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 ... If you want to check the full solution (and make sure that you haven't opted for the wrong key-move, which is still a risk, even when you see the basic idea) you can Google 'theproblemist' to get to the BCPS website, and at the foot of the Weekly Problem page click on 'Archive' and then '2013-09-09'. Otherwise you can wait till the next Newsletter!

Christopher Jones
cjajones1@yahoo.co.uk