## Five Days Composing Tourneys - Group B, Ser-r\#3-8

Theme: Series reflex mate in 3-8 moves with at least 2 solutions. Each solution contains at least 1 attempt, where White is obliged to mate Black because of a harmful unpinning of a white piece, or because of a harmfull pinning of a black piece.
(Announcement: http://wccc2016.matplus.net/ct/5DCTB.pdf)
From the neutral judge I received seven problems. Unfortunately one problem is non-thematic in one solution (\#2 $\mathrm{wKc3} / \mathrm{bKh} 8$ ) so I had to eliminate it from the tournament. The overall quality of remaining problems was very high. I decided to rank problems in the following order
$1^{\text {st }}$ Place
Evgeni Bourd

1.f6 2.Kd4 3.Rc3 4.Kd3 5.Be7

Be4\# (1.2.3. Kd3?)
1.Rd2 2.Kd5 3.Bd6 4.Ke5 5.Rc2

Re4\# (1.2.3. Ke5?)
$2^{\text {nd }}$ Place
Menachem Witztum
(Dedicated to Evgeni Bourd) 2. Pr. WCCC 2016 5DCT - B

1.Sf2 2.Sh3 (Se4? Bg7\#)
3.Sg5 Sf6\#
1.Se3 2.Sg2 (Sf5? Re8\#)
3.Sh4 Se5\#
$3^{\text {rd }}$ Place
Aleksandr Semenenko

1.Kd3 2.Bxd5 3.Bf3 4.Be2
(4.Re4? SF6\#) 5.Re4 Rc3\#
1.Kb4 2.Rxd5 3.Ra5 4.Ra4
(4.Bb5 c8Q\#) 5.Bb5 Bc3\#
$1^{\text {st }}$ Prize - Evgeni Bourd (Israel) Without a question the best problem participating at the tournament. The goal of white is to move King to e5 or d3 and to move wBb4 and wRc6 to open bR and bB lines. Then black mates either Re4 or Be4. White can do this in three moves but two extra moves are needed to avoid white mates to the bK. On the first move white closes one of the two white thematic pieces to allow unpinning. On the second move white King unpins the thematic piece and on the third move unpinned piece moves and allow unpinning of the second piece by closing it's line. Finally after white Kings plays to the final position the second thematic unpinned piece opens line and close another white line. Beautiful line opening and closing play. Amazing problem.
$\mathbf{2 d}^{\text {nd }}$ Prize - Menachem Witztum (Israel) In this problem the goal of white is to block either g5 or h4. The wSd1 can block those squares in two different ways. However one of the attempts is failing because of the unpinning of wBd4/wRe6. The doubled pinned mates in both solutions. Nice content.

3rd Prize - Aleksandr Semenenko (Ukraina) The interesting content where white has to be sure that pinning of black pieces is happening on the last move to avoid mating black. There is reciprocal pining of pieces (wRd4/bBe5 \& wBc4/bRc6).
$\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ HM - Michel Caillaud (France) The white cannot unpin the Queen before line f4-b4 is closed to avoid Qb4\#. This makes determination of moves in the solutions. White has first to bring promoted $R / B$ to this line before white King can play to unpin Queen. Mixed allumwandlung. Perhaps this problem would been ranked
higher at some other tournament. However because there is only one thematic white mate Qb4 I could not rank this problem before $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ prize winners.

$\mathbf{2}^{\text {nd }} \mathbf{H M}$ - Hans-Peter Rehm (Germany) In this problem white can achieve mating positions in two moves. However white has to play extra move to open black line to prevent reflex mates. Additionally there is a dual avoidance theme shown in both solution. Nice problem.
$\mathbf{1}^{\text {st }}$ Comm - Kjel Widlert (Sweden) There are two thematic tries where wBe7 and wRd5 are reciprocally pinning mating black King. In solutions white has to play tempo move to avoid checkmates. The same black mating move $96 \#$ in both solutions is downgrading the value of this problem.

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