The 1st Youth Chess Composing Challenge

Group A - Mate in two moves

Theme: *Mixed pairs of black & white S promotions*
(announcement: http://www.matplus.net/pub/YCCC2016-1.pdf)

The task was to show as many mixed (black/white) pairs of S-promotions, which where divided into three types in the Announcement.

From Marjan Kovačević, the YCCC organiser, I received 7 different twomovers without the names of the authors. Most of the problems deal with "type 1" pairs, since they are the easiest to multiply. While for creating a new and pure pair of "type 2" or "type 3" both elements of the existing pair have to be changed, for "type 1" pairs it is sufficient to change the second element (the defence, since within one phase the first white move stays the same). The artificial opening of a new phase with repeated play (in 4 problems) is treated as ''dilution'' of the existing content and would not be accepted in other tournaments. However, I tolerate it here since it serves as a means of fulfilling the thematic requirement.

I have ranked the problems in the following way:

1st Place
Aleksey Abramenko
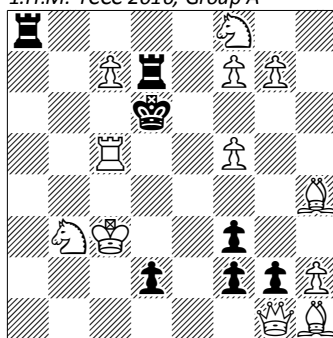*Pr. YCCC 2016, Group A*
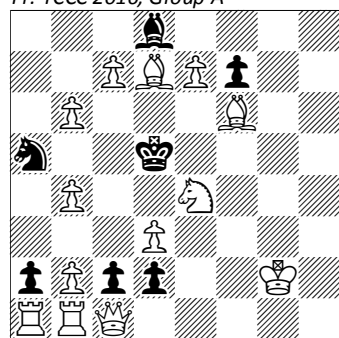
#2   13+7

1.e8S? - 2.Sc3# , 1...cbS 2.Qc5#,
  1...d1S 2.Qg5#, 1...axbS 2.Rxa5#
  1...Bxf6!
1.c8S! - 2.Sc3# , 1...cxbS 2.Qc5#
  1...d1S 2.Qg5#, 1...axbS 2.Rxa5#

2nd Place
Ilija Serafimović
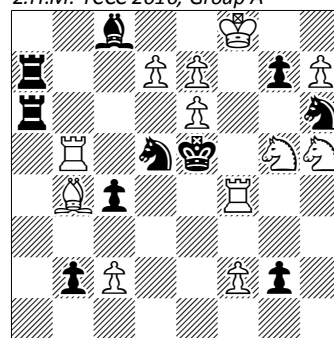*1.H.M. YCCC 2016, Group A*

#2   12+7

1.g8S! - 2.Bg3#, 1... d1S+ 2.Qxd1#
1...f1S 2.Qd4#, 1...gxhS 2.Qg6#
1...Re7 2.Bxe7#, 1...Ra4 2.c8S#
1...Re8 2.fxe8S#

3rd Place
Danila Pavlov
2.H.M. YCCC 2016, Group A

#2   12+10

1.d8S? - 2.Sf3#(C), 1...g1S!
1...Ra3 (a) 2.Sc6# (A)
1.e8S? - 2.Bc3#,   1...b1S!
1...Ra3(a) 2.Bd6#(B), 1...Sf5 2.Re4#
1.h8S! - 2.Sg6#, 1...Rxe6 2.Sf3#(C)

1ˢᵗ Place, Prize: **Aleksey Abramenko** (Russia) Three analogous defences and the first move of the solution build three "type 1" pairs. By the pragmatic inclusion of the try, its first move is paired with the same defenses thus creating 3 new pairs. Altogether 6 pairs is a respectable accomplishment.
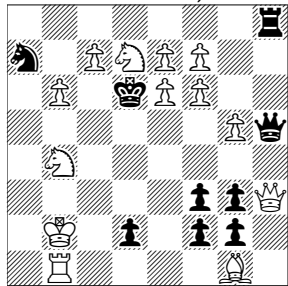
2ⁿᵈ Place, 1ˢᵗ HM: **Ilija Serafimović** (Serbia) Three "type 1" pairs within the same phase. Two unpaired S-promotions after rook defences nicely balance out the surplus of black promotions.

3rd Place, 2nd HM: **Danila Pavlov** (Russia) The author chose the more difficult path by displaying two "type 3" pairs. One mate is changed, and another transferred. Although the second try is contested by 1. dxc8S?, that flaw can, according to the explanation given in the introduction, transform into an advantage: a new pair with a common second element (the refutation 1...b1S!).

4th Place	5th Place	6th Place	7th Place
Ilija Serafimović	**Aleksey Abramenko**	**Maksim Romanov**	**Glafira Kulish**
1. Comm. YCCC 2016, A	*2. Comm. YCCC 2016, A*	*3. Comm. YCCC 2016, A*	*4. Comm. YCCC 2016, A*
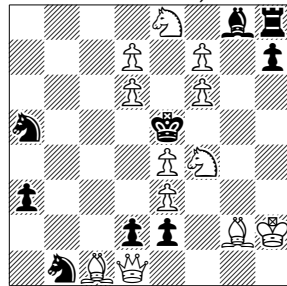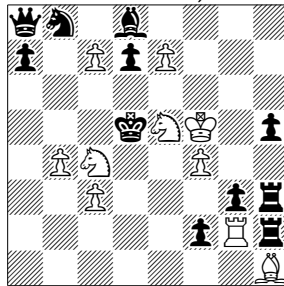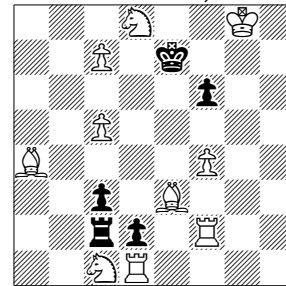
#2 13+9	**#2** 12+9	**#2** 10+11	**#2** 10+5
1. f8S!	**1. d8S!** 1. f8S? Bc4!	**1. e8S!** 1. c8S? Bb6!	**1. Re2!**

4th Place, 1st Comm: **Ilija Serafimović** (Serbia) A single-phase display of two "type 1" pairs is enriched by promotional mates, among which the one on e8 follows an undefined defense.

5th Place 2nd Comm: **Aleksey Abramenko** (Russia) There are formally four "type 1" pairs (compare to rank 1), but the dual mate in a thematic variation is a big flaw.

6th Place, 3rd Comm: **Maksim Romanov** (Russia) Each phase brings one "type 1" pair, but in a crowded position.

7th Place, 4th Comm: **Glafira Kulish** (Russia) The only problem to display a "type 2" pair, however multiple threats should be avoided.

Split, 21.07.16.   Ivo Tominić