The 16th Japanese Sake Tourney Award

Theme: H#2, Colorless Chess.

Any other fairy pieces and/or conditions are not allowed.

**Judges**: Tadashi Wakashima, Toshiki Kobayashi, Masato Yoshii

Definition

Colorless Piece: A piece whose color is not known. By moving the piece first, both sides can claim that it is his. A colorless piece can capture another colorless piece.

Colorless Chess: All pieces including Ks are colorless. Castling and en passant capture are possible unless proved otherwise. In this fairy condition, moves are assumed legal. A position is checkmate if and only if every legal coloring of the position is checkmate in an ordinary sense. For convenience sake, all colorless pieces in the initial diagrams below are colored as White.

We received 20 entries. In spite of this new weird fairy condition, as usual for the Sake Tourney, the general standard of the entries was satisfactory. We were happy to find some outstanding problems.

Kostas Prentos
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake 1st Pr.
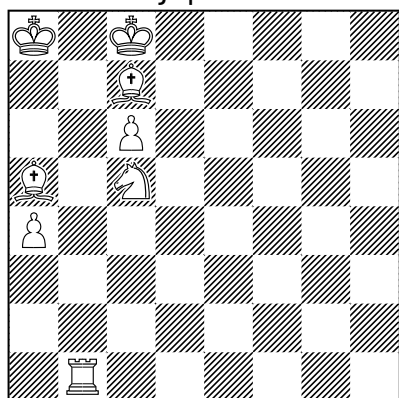

H#2 b)Rb1→d1   (8+0)
Colorless Chess

a) 1.Rb7(=b) Bcb6(=w) 2.Sd7(=b) cxb7(=w)#

b) 1.Bb8(=b) c7(=w) 2.Rd7(=b) cxb8=Q#

Composer: The two Kings' colors are not revealed in either phase, but the final mates work with every possible coloring of the Kings.

"Schrödinger's cat" theme in twin form. We highly evaluate the composer's skill in achieving this difficult task. A worthy winner.

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Kjell Widlert
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake 2nd Pr.

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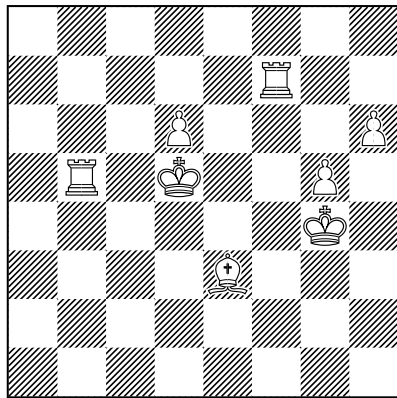
H#2   (8+0)
Colorless Chess
b) Pg5→c7
c) Pd6→d3

a) 1.Kc6(=b) Kf4!(=w)[Rf7,Be3=w] 2.d5(=b) Rb6(=w)#
b) 1.Kxd6(=b) Kf5!(=w)[Rb5,Rf7=w] 2.c6(=b) Bf4(=w)#
c) 1.Kc4(=b)[Pd3=b] Kxg5!(=w)[Rb5,Be3=w] 2.Kc3 Rc7(=w)#

Cyclic combination of revealed white pieces in W1. The presentation is quite artistic. The only drawback is two cookstoppers Pg5 and Ph6. (Without Pg5, 1.Ke4 Bd4 2.Rd5 Rf4# in c) and without Ph6, 1.Kh4 Bf4 2.g4 Rh7#.)

Eric Huber
Vlaicu Crisan
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake 3rd Pr.

H#2 3 sols   (8+0)

Colorless Chess

1.Rd2(=b) 0-0 [Ke1,Rh1=w] 2.Rxc2 Sc3(=w)#

1.Rg1(=b) [Ke1=b] Sc3(=w) 2.Rf1 Re2(=w)#

1.Sxb2(=b) Rxc2(=w) 2.Sa4 Kd2(=w) [Rh1=w]#

Composers: Cyclic change of color of pieces Sd1, Rh1, Rh2.

The only entry that realized this cyclic change. The first solution includes a little bit of retro analysis (if Pb2=w then with the fact that white could castle, black K cannot reach b1. Thus Pb2 should be black). Tempo moves 1.Rd2! and 1.Rg1! add a nice touch.

Michel Caillaud
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake Sp. Pr.

H#2   (16+0)

Colorless Chess

1.axb3! ep(=b)

[The last white move is 0...b2-b4. Ba1 is a promoted black piece, and Pa2=b. Ba1 and Pa2 made at least 3 captures.]

1...0-0!

[Ke1,Rh1,Pd2e2f2g2h2=w. White's Bc1 and Bf1 were captured on their initial squares.]

2.Bb7(=b)

[If Be8=b then it is a promoted piece and made at least 2 captures. In case of Pc5,d7=w then the number of white's missing pieces is 6 and it cannot explain black's 7 captures. In case of either one of Pc5 and Pd7 is black, the number of black's captures also increases, and does not balance with the number of white's missing pieces. Thus, Be8=w and it is a promoted B.]
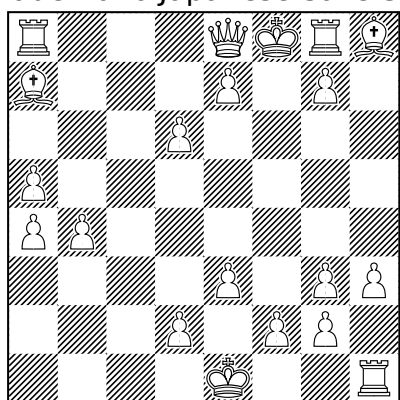
2...d8=Q(=w)#

[We have 8 white Ps already and Pc5=b.]

Composer: Valladao.

As is expected from this grandmaster, crystal-clear presentation and logic. The construction is highly polished. Take note the try 1...Kf1? which does not prove Pc5=b (Ph2 can be black).

Ken Kousaka
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake Sp. Pr.

H#2   (20+0)
Colorless Chess

1. axb3 ep!(=b)

[The last white move is 0…b2-b4.]

1…0-0!

[Ke1,Rh1,Pd2f2g2=w. White's Bc1 was captured on its initial square.]

2.Bxe3(=b)

2…fxe3(=w)#

[Apparently, Kf8,Qe8,Rg8,Pe7g7=b and Bh8=B. The colors of Ra8, Pa5d7g3h3 are still unknown. Black's Bf8 were captured on its initial square.

bBa7 is a promoted piece and the only square where it can promote is g1. Thus, Pg3=b.

Suppose Ph3=b. In case of all unknown pieces are black, then black made at least 9 captures (1 by aP, 6 by cP for promoting on g1, 1 by Pg3, Bc1), which does not balance with white's 8 missing pieces. If Pa5 or Pd6 is white, we have one less white's missing pieces, but also one less black's captures. Thus, Ph3=w.

Suppose Pd6=w. White's cP made 5 captures for promoting on h8. White's aP made 3 captures to reach d6. Therefore, white made 9 captures in all. This contradicts with the fact that black has already 8 pieces on the board. Thus, Pd6=b.

Suppose Pa5=w. This came from initial a2 without any captures. It can be easily deduced that black made at least 6 captures. This contradicts whether Ra8 is white or black. Thus Pa5=b.
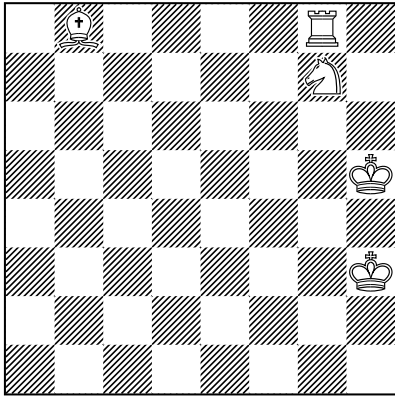
We have already 10 black pieces on the board. White made 6 captures as stated above, then Ra8=w. The final position is checkmate.]

Enjoyable labyrinthine deduction. The idea is quite similar to Caillaud's one, but compared to that masterpiece, this one has less clarity. The presence of an obvious promoted piece Bh8 is a noticeable blemish.

Shinichi Soma
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake 1st HM

H#2 2 sols   (7+0)
Colorless Chess

1.cxb3 e.p(=b)

[Pb4=w and White's last move is Pb2-b4.]

1...Sb5(=w)

[Ka2=b and Ka4=w. Ba1=b, otherwise the retraction 0...Pb2-b4 is illegal.] 2.
2.b2 [Bg8=b.] Sc3#

1.bxc3 e.p.(=b) [Pc4=w.] Bxc3(=w) 2.Sb5(=b) Bb3(=w) [Ka2=w and Ka4=b.]#

Reciprocal en passant captures, interchange of colors of all pieces between two solutions. Nicely done.

Kostas Prentos
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake 2nd HM

H#2 2 sols   (6+0)
Colorless Chess

1.Be7(=b) Kh5(=w, bKa4, wRb5, wBe8) 2.Ba3 Sb6(=w)#

1.Bg3(=b) Se3(=w) 2.Kh4(=b, wKa4) Rh5(=w, wBe8)#

Composer: A different King is mated in each phase. The colors of all the pieces become known, leading to two distinct mating positions.

   This has a certain charm without any particular theme.

Kostas Prentos
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake 3rd HM

H#2 b)Ba2→e2   (9+0)
Colorless Chess

a) 1.cxd3 e.p.(=b) Rf6(=w) 2.Bd5(=b) Rf4(bKe4, wKg5, wBc1, wSf3)#

b) 1.dxc3 e.p.(=b) Ra4(=w) 2.Kd3(=b, bBe2, wKg5, wBc1, wSf3) Se1#

Composer: Reciprocal en passant captures, with the combined effect of blocking a square and opening a line.

   Similar to Soma's 1st HM, but achieves different aims. It is slightly disappointing that colors of almost all pieces are the same between two solutions.

Pierre Tritten
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake 4th HM

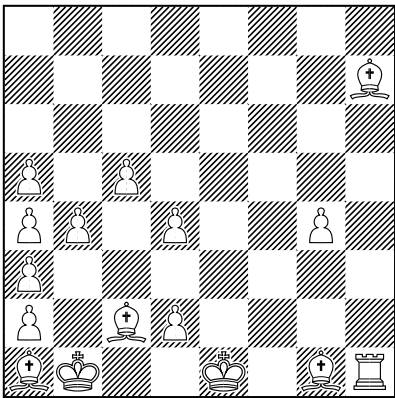H#2 2 sols (5+0)
Colorless Chess

1.Bh2(=b) Se6(=w) [Kh5=w and Kh3=b.] 2.Rg3(=b) Sf4#

1.Sf5(=b) [Kh5=b and Kh3=w.] Bf4(=w) 2.Sh6 Rg5(=w)#

Composer: All pieces interchange their color in the two solutions. Mirrored final positions.

A minimal art.

Shinichi Soma
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake Sp. HM

H#2 (16+0)
Colorless Chess

1.axb3 ep! (=b)

[White's last move is 0…b2-b4. Ba1,Pa2=b]

1...Bxd4(=w)

2. a4(=b) 0-0# [Ke1,Rh1,Pd2=w; Kb1,Bc2=b]

Again, the combination of en passant capture and castling. The main point is that Bh7=w can be deduced without moving from counting the black's captures and white's missing pieces. For the detailed explanation, please try it by yourself. See the texts of Special Prizes by Caillaud and Kousaka.

Commendation without order

Allan Bell
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake Comm
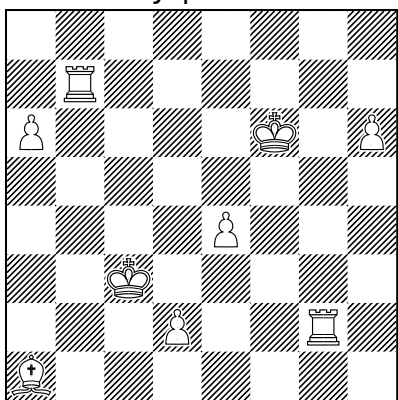
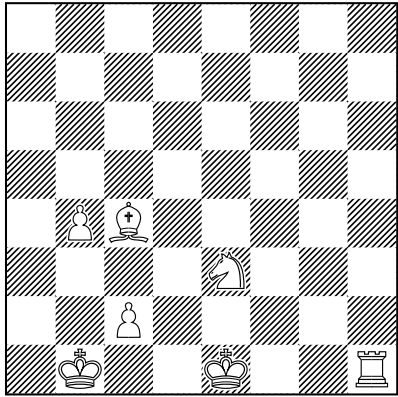
H#2 2 sols   (9+0)
Colorless Chess

(a) 1.Kf5(=b) Kxd2(=w) 2.Kf4 Rf7(=w)#

(b) 1,Kc4(=b) Rc7+(=w) 2.Kd5 Rxd2(=w)#

Composer: (a) play shows wBa1, wRg2, bPe4. (b) play shows wBa1, bPe4, (bPd2); wBa1 prevents dual 1.Kc4/Kd4; position is legal, last white move being Rb2-b7+.

Allan Bell
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake Comm

H#2 2 sols   (9+0)
Colorless Chess

1.d2(=b) Bxd2(=w) 2.Rb3(=b) Ra6(=w)#

1.Bg5(=b) d4(=w) 2.f4(=b) Bxe6(=w)#

Coposer: 7 units change colour between the solutions (Ka3, Pd3, Be3, Re6, Pf5, Kg4, Rh3).

Ken Kousaka
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake Comm

H#2   (7+0)
Colorless Chess

1.Kb7(=b)[Pc6=b] 0-0-0 [Ke1,Ra1,Bf4=w] 2.Kc8 Ba6(=w)#

[White's last move was 0...axb6 ep(=w).]

H#2 b)Bc4→Pc4   (7+0)
Colorless Chess

a)1.b3(=b) Kd1(=w)[Rh1,Se3=w] 2.b2 Ke2 [Bc4=w]#

b)1.cxb3 e.p.(=b) Sc4(=w) 2.Kc1(=b) 0-0 [Ke1,Rh1=w]#

[Pc2=b can be deduced from en passant capture and castling. See the text of 3rd Pr. by Huber and Crisan.]
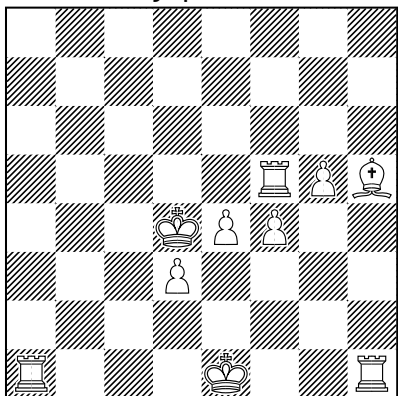
H#2 b)Pd3→b3   (10+0)
Colorless Chess

a) 1.fxe3 e.p,(=b) 0-0(wKg1, wRf1, wRa1, wRf5, bKd4) 2.Ke4(bPd3) Ra4#

b) 1.Ke5(=b, bRf5, bPf4, wKe1, wRa1, wRh1) 0-0-0(wBh5) 2.Kxe4 Rhe1#

Composer: In twin a, the Rf5 is white because it controls the square f1 that is

crossed by the white King while castling short. In twin b, the Bh5 is white because it controls the square d1 that is crossed by the white King while castling long. Note that in twin b, the Pb3 (instead of a twin with the removal of the Pd3) is necessary to prevent a cook by 1.exf3 e.p. Rh4+ 2.Ke3 Ra3#.

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Boris Shorokhov
Belgrade 2016 Japanese Sake Comm
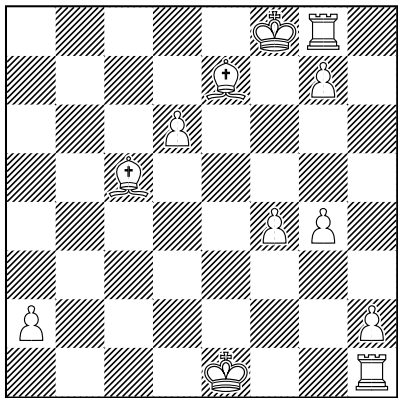
H#2   (12+0)
Colorless Chess

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1. fxg3 e.p (=b) d7 (=w) 2. a1=S! (=b) 0-0-0 (Ke1,Rh1,Bc4=w)

Composer: Valladao.