

**URI AVNER**

**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE CHESS PIECES**

Editors:

**Raffi Ruppin**

**Jacques Rotenberg**

Problem Comments:

**Kjell Widlert**

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## EDITORS' FOREWORD

The idea of producing this book was conceived about ten years ago. Kjell Widlert recalls: "At the WFCC meeting in Jesi in 2011, I asked my old friend Uri if it wasn't about time for him to prepare a new collection of his best works. After all, the previous collection (*The Neutralized Battery and Other Chess Ideas*) appeared in 1994, and contains only 86 of his compositions, with limited commentary – surely not doing justice to his work. I should have foreseen his answer: *Yes, but only if you help me!* That's an offer one cannot refuse..." Thereafter, they began to collaborate on this project, with Uri preparing an initial selection of his best problems, and Kjell providing comments on each of these problems.

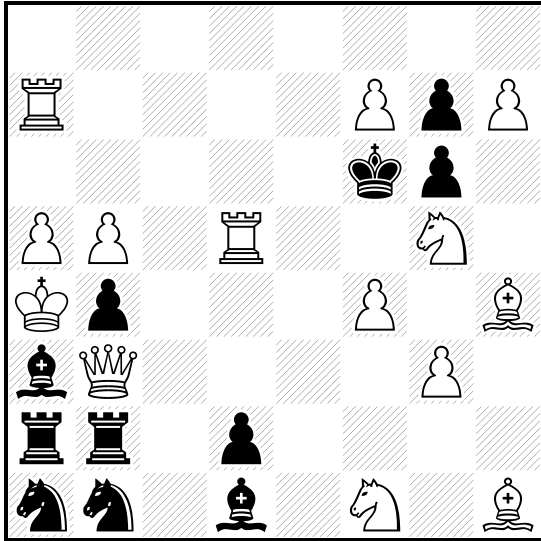
However, when Uri passed away in June 2014, the manuscript was far from being ready for publication. About two years ago we embarked on the task of completing the book. We decided on the final selection and added various related materials, including the text of a lecture delivered by Uri at the WFCC meeting in Graz, 1987. The format of the book adheres as much as possible to Uri's plans. He had intended each problem to

be accompanied by his own comment, often containing some personal anecdotes and recollections, in Hebrew, on the right hand side column. Unfortunately, he managed to do this for only a fraction of the problems.

## 15

Israel Ring Tourney 1981

Prize



S#3 (14+11)

1... ♖xb3(a) 2. ♖d6+(A) ♔f5 3. ♗e3+  
♖xe3#

1... ♖c2(b) 2. ♔c3+(B) bxc3 3. f8=♔, ♖+  
♗xf8#

1... ♘b3(c) 2. ♗e4+(C) ♔e6 3. ♗c5+  
♘xc5#

1... ♘c2(d) 2. ♖a6+(D) ♔e7 3. ♔xb4+  
♖, ♗, ♗xb4#

1. ♔c2! waiting

1... ♖b3(a)(♗d~) 2. ♔c3+(B) bxc3  
3. f8=♔, ♖+ ♗xf8#

1... ♖xc2(b) 2. ♗e4+(C) ♔e6  
3. ♗c5+ ♖xc5#

1... ♘b3(c) 2. ♖a6+(D) ♔e7  
3. ♔c5+ ♘xc5#

1... ♘c2(d) 2. ♖d6+(A) ♔f5  
3. ♗e3+ ♘xe3#

**Eric Hassberg** (TJ): Four-fold Lačný theme, in which the reply after the four thematic moves ♖b3, ♖c2, ♘b3, ♘c2 is changed from a sequence ABCD in set to BCDA in the play, on the second move. The pin-line key in this surprising waiter is in keeping with the theme, and the heavy setting is easily carried by one of the best selfmates I have ever seen.

KW: Twenty four years after No. 7, the same basic mechanism is used for a fourfold Lačný. I am unspeakably impressed.

JR: A historical achievement. This problem by itself is enough to ensure the celebrity of its author.

הערות המחבר:

השופט, **אריק מ. האסברג** (ארה"ב), בדו"ח התחרות ("הפרובלמאי" מארס 1983): "לאצ'ני כפול ארבעה, בו התשובות למסעים התמאטיים צב3/2צג3/פב3/פג2 מוזחות מ-א,ב,ג,ד במעמד ל-ב,ג,ד,א בפתרון. מסע המפתח לאורך קו הכפיתה בבעיית כפאי מפתיעה זו, מקושר היטב עם הנושא. המבנה הכבד נמחל בקלות לאחת המעולות בבעיות המט לדעת שראיתי מעודי". זו בעיה נוספת בסימן "מנגנון אבנר", הפעם – לאצ'ני מרובע. הבעיה קיבלה תשבחות מכל עבר. לפני כשנתיים קראתי בפורום של "מט-פלוס" את דברי רב האמן **פטר גבוזדיאק** (ברטיסלבה), שמצא אותה כבעיית המט לדעת הטובה ביותר המוכרת לו. (בידי גרסה עדיפה, אבל עם שלושה פרשים לבנים)...

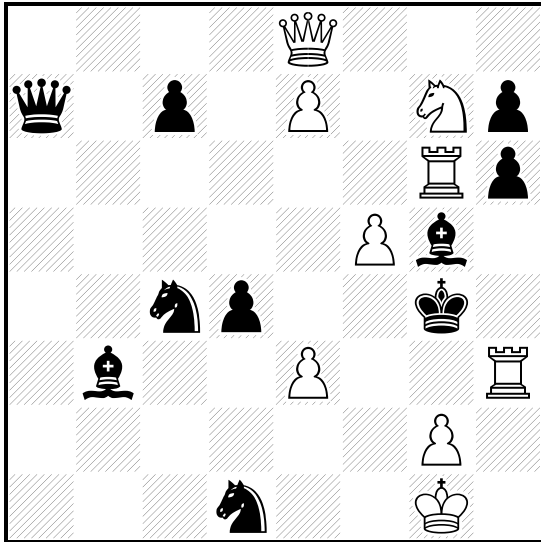
## 30

Raffi Ruppin

Uri Avner

2nd WCCT 1980-83

17th Place



#3

(9+10)

1. ♖f3! [2. ♖f4+ ♔g3 3. ♘h5#]

1... ♞dxe3 2. ♖a6 [3. ♕h5#]

1... dxe3 2. ♖b6 [3. ♕h5#]

1... ♞cxe3 2. ♖e6 [3. ♕h5#]

1... ♔h4 2. ♖xh6+ ♙xh6, ♔g4 3. ♕h5#

1... hxg6 2. ♕xg6 [3. ♕h5#]

KW: Three obstructions on e3 allow White to unpin ♙g5; dual avoidance effects force unique unpinning moves.

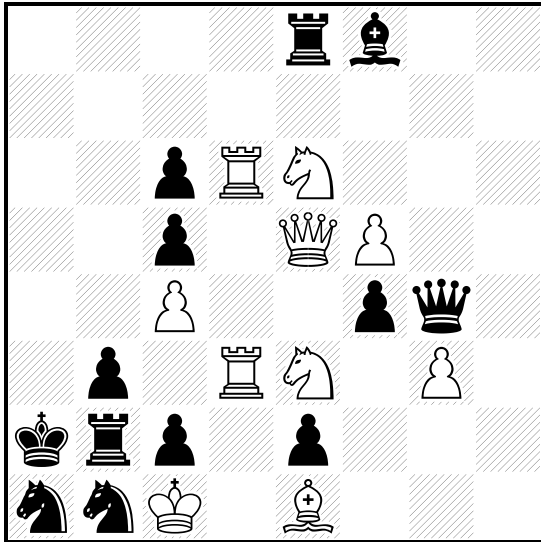
## 48

Uri Avner

Kjell Widlert

Problemblad 1991

1st-4th Prize e.a.



R#3                  Madrasi                  (10+13)

1. ♔xc5! [2. ♖d2!~ 3. ♘d1 cxd1=♔#]

1... ♕f3 2. ♔a7+ ♕xe3

3. ♖xb3 ♘xb3# (4. ♘c5/♘d4??)

2... ♘a3 3. ♖d2 ♖b1#

1... ♕xg3 2. ♔a5+ ♕xe1

3. ♘xc2 ♖xc2# (4. ♖c3/♖c2??)

2... ♘a3 3. ♖d2 ♖b1#

1... ♙g7,e7 2. ♔a7+ ♘a3

3. ♖d2 ♖b1#

(2. ♖d2? ♘xd2! 3. ♔a7#)

1... ♕g8 2. ♔a5+ ♘a3 3. ♖d2 ♖b1#

(2. ♖d2? ♘xd2! 3. ♔a5#)

KW: The idea is to "illegalize" white paralysing moves by making them selfcheck by unparalysis. With ♔a7/♕e3, White cannot play ♘c5/♘d4 to paralyse a ♘b3. With ♔a5/♕e1, White cannot play ♖c3/♖d2 to paralyse a ♖c2. After 1. ♔xc5, not 2. ♔a7+? ♕g7! Or 2. ♔a5+? ♕xf5! In the thematic variations, these paralysis lines are replaced with more useful ones, leading to the desired illegalizations.

Originally started in Andernach, where we couldn't overcome the great technical difficulties in time. The quiet threat was found by Popeye in an earlier version, and Uri first refused to believe it: "How can ♖d2 be a threat? This is a bug in Popeye!" But after much head-scratching, we found out the program had seen 3. ♘d1!, which we naturally decided to incorporate into the problem.

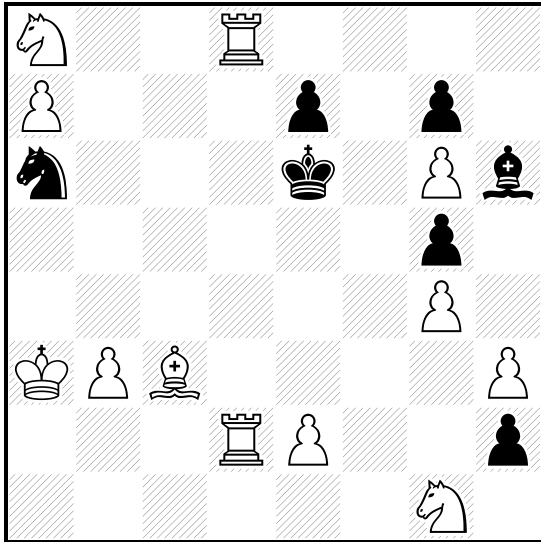
## 52

Michel Caillaud

Uri Avner

TT Andernach 1992

2nd Prize



#4

(12+7)

1. ♖a2! [2. ♔b2 (3. ♖xa6#) ♚~ ♘c7#]

1... hxg1=♙ 2.e3 (2. ♔b2? ♙b6!)

2... ♙h2/♙f2/♙xe3

3. ♖xh2/♖xf2/♖e2 ♚~ 4. ♘c7#

1... h1=♙ 2.e4 (2. ♔b2? ♙c6!)

2... ♙g2/♙f3/♙xe4

3. ♖xg2/♗xf3/♖e2 ♚~ 4. ♘c7#

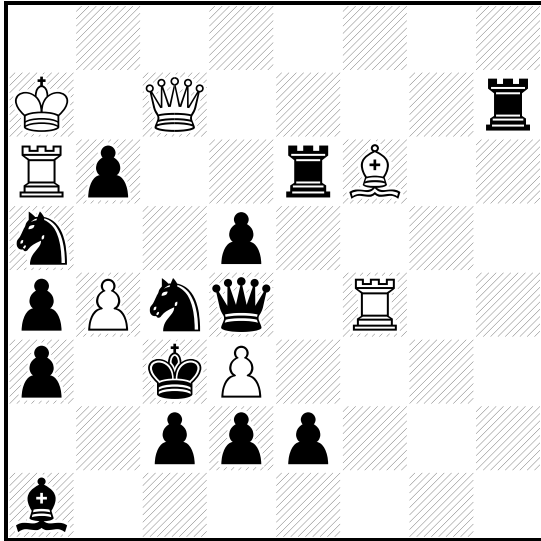
KW: A miraculous setting of two ♙ promotion defences by the same pawn. Who would think that the silly move ♖a2 is actually White's strongest one? And who would think that Black's strongest defences are to put a bishop on b6 or c6 on the second move? Of course, White then uses the weak promotions for a *Zugzwang* end.

JR: Black underpromotes for a self-pin stalemate trick on the 6th rank, but this allows a lethal pin on the e file!

## 53

Czechoslovakia – Israel 1992

1st Place



H#2

b) a6=♙

(7+14)

a) 1. ♔xb4 ♙e7+ 2. ♞d6 ♖xb6#

b) 1. ♔xd3 ♚xh7+ 2. ♚e4 ♖f3#

UA: My opinion: 1st & 2nd Place (both by me, see next page) should have swapped places. That's the opinion of **Fadil Abdurahmnovic** as well. Fadil was appointed to be the judge, but due to the battles in Sarajevo at that time he was replaced.

KW: The double pin in the diagram changes into two new double pins of the same black pieces, with each of the original pinners pinning on another line in one solution. There is one less important difference between the solutions - ♔xd3 walks into a pin and ♔xb4 walks into a half-pin.



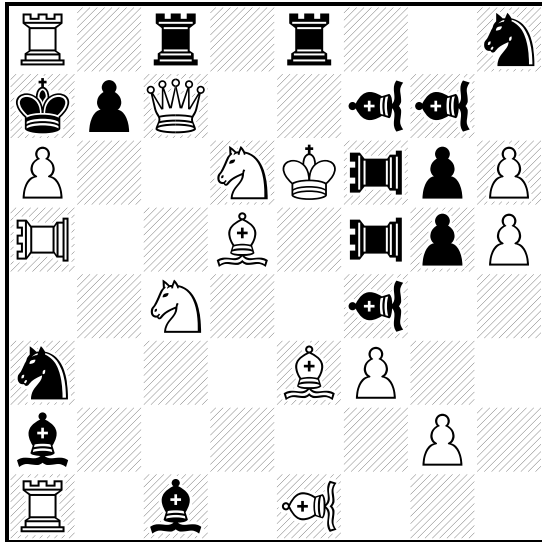
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Jacques Rotenberg

Uri Avner

8th WCCT 2007-2008

3rd Place



#2 Anticirce (15+15)

Capture on rebirth square forbidden

♞=Vao ♜=Pao

- 1... ♞xh6(♞h1) (a) 2. ♜xc1(♜a1)# (A)
  - 1... ♜xh6(♜h1) (b) 2. ♞xb7(♞f1)# (B)
  - 1... ♜xh5(♜h1) (c) 2. ♜b1# (C)
  - 1... ♞xh5(♞h1) (d) 2. ♞xb7(♞b1)# (D)
1. ♞e5! [2. ♜b8#]
- 1... ♞xh6(♞h1) (a) 2. ♞xb7(♞f1)# (B)
  - 1... ♜xh6(♜h1) (b) 2. ♜b1# (C)
  - 1... ♜xh5(♜h1) (c) 2. ♞xb7(♞b1)# (D)
  - 1... ♞xh5(♞h1) (d) 2. ♜xc1(♜a1)# (A)
  - 1... ♜b8 2. ♞c8#

KW: The heavy position reflects really heavy content. ♞xb7(♞b1)+ or ♞xb7(♞f1)+ with a check by ♞c7 can be met by a capture of the remaining piece on d5 or d6, occupying the rebirth square d1 and so preventing the ♞ from capturing. ♜b1+ with a check by ♜a8 is met by a capture on a5 or a6, occupying the rebirth square a1 before White can do it. And ♜xc1(♜a1)+ with a check by ♞e3 is met by a capture on c4 or c7, occupying the rebirth square c1 before White can do so.

The key switches the access to these squares by the four Chinese pieces on the f file, thereby producing a full fourfold Lačný. The key threatens 2. ♜b8# with mate from ♞a5 by unpinning ♜a8 (♞x♞ becomes possible if ♜a8 tries to move prematurely), and the thematic black moves defend by another "rebirth clash": when a black piece is on h1, Black can answer 2. ♜b8+ with ♞a8! (2. ♜xa8(♜h1)??).

JR : 1. ♞d7? ♜e5! 1. ♞e7? ♞xe3(♞f8)+!  
 Rebirth clash on a1, c1, d1, h1, (and a8).

**Uri Avner**  
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