

16th European Chess Solving Championship Bratislava

H# Composing Tourney C 1.5.2023

Theme: orthodox h#2 with successive twins (at least 3 positions a), b), c), and possibly more) formed by removal of one piece of either colour from the preceding starting position – so called striptease theme.

Judge: Juraj Lörinc

Director: Michal Dragoun

There were 33 participating compositions, including versions from 26 authors:

- Araz Almammadov,
- Anton Bidleň,
- Vlaicu Crișan,
- Michal Dragoun,
- Zoran Gavrilovski,
- Jurij Gorbatenko,
- Eric Huber,
- Stanislav Hudák,
- Dimitris Liakos,
- Emanuel Navon,
- Vladislav Nefjodov,
- Alexandr Pankratev,
- Nikola Petković,
- Srećko Radović,
- Vidmantas Satkus,
- Iveta Satkutė,
- Alexandr Semenenko,
- Valerij Semenenko,
- Nikola Stolev,
- Igor Svetlík,
- Slavomír Svetlík,
- Hans Uitenbroek,
- Kenan Velichanov,
- Menachem Witztum.

Thus the quantity was ideal, enough and not too many. As regards quality, some really top striptease h#2 were missing, but there surely were compositions that interested me immediately.

It was not easy to decide how to evaluate all entries. Finally I have decided to combine 2 possible approaches:

1. considering how the twinning mechanism is somehow related to the content of

- the solutions, thereby preferring inclusion of the striptease mechanism in the idea of the problems,
2. considering the content of solutions regardless of how the twinning is executed, thereby concentrating on phases, just like in the ordinary h#2 with multiple solutions or usually twinings.

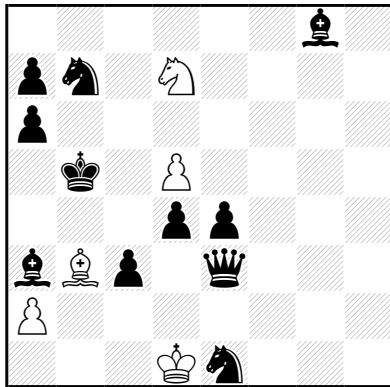
Although the first approach was my preferred, I could not ignore interesting compositions scoring well with the second approach.

I am not going to list extensively the comparison problems found by me or the director who helped me a lot during the whole process, since the idea of h#2 tourney related to ECSC was conceived and I was commissioned by ECSC organizers to take care of it. Almost no relevant comparison problem is direct anticipation and if non-rewarded problems are awarded in some other future tourney, I will be just happy that this tourney sparked more notable problems than just those listed below.

As regards other defects that prevented me from awarding some h#2s, they are rather obvious: unused white officers in some solutions and general economy breaches (although I admit possibility that construction of some awarded problems can be improved, maybe), then repetition of moves (although I made a few exemptions in case of entries with many phases) and finally too humble thematical content that I could understand by myself or from authors notes.

And here are the winners:

**Vladislav Nefjodov
& Alexandr Semenenko**
1st Prize
16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



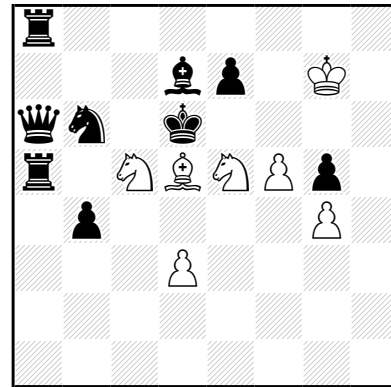
h#2 (5+11) C+

- b) - ♖a2
c) =b) - ♗b3

The twinning mechanism is based on removal of white piece that made tempo move in W1¹ of the previous solution and then checkmated Black. With checkmating pieces removed White has to find other heroes to lose time. I love also the construction, note the roles of Pd5 –it guards c6 in a), then is frozen in b) due to Bg8 and finally can make his own move just wasting time in c). Although the other strategy is diverse, the overall impression is very strong for me. (Model mates – welcome bonus.)

- a) 1.Bb4 a3 2.Sa5 a4#
b) 1.a5 Ba2 2.Ka6 Bc4#
c) 1.Kc4 d6 2.Kd3 Se5#

Kenan Velichanov
2nd Prize
16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



h#2 (7+9) C+

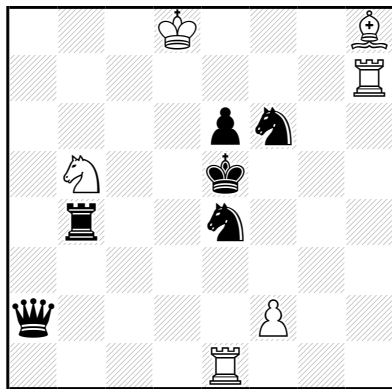
- b) - ♖d7
c) =b) - ♘b6
d) =c) - ♗e7

The scheme consisting of wSc5 + wBd5 + wSe5 + bKd5 was used already a few times to show cyclic Zilahi. This is exactly happening in positions a) to c), with twinning mechanism always removing a blocking piece (from previous position). However the last position d) adds something new – the checkmate utilises all three white thematical pieces. That makes sense!

- a) 1.S×d5 Se6 2.Qc6 Sf7#
b) 1.K×c5 d4+ 2.Kb5 Bc6#
c) 1.K×e5 Kh7 2.Kf6 Sd7#
d) 1.Ke7 Sc6+ 2.Ke8 Bf7#

¹ The standard abbreviations for moves in helpmate: B1 – the first move of Black, W1 – the first move of White, B2 – the second move of Black, W2 – the second move of White.

Valerij Semenenko
 3rd Prize
 16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023

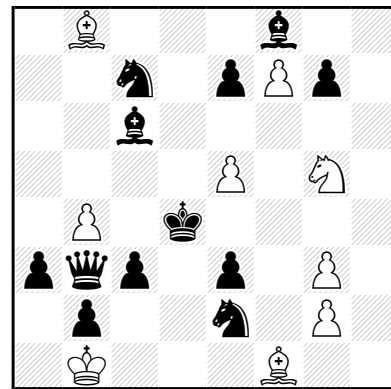


h#2 (6+6) C+
 b) - ♖e1
 c) =b) - ♘h8

In the diagram position there are two pinned black knights. The pins are static, White delivers checkmate utilizing two pins. Then one of pinning white pieces is removed. Thus we have only one pin now – black knight utilizes his newly acquired freedom in B1 and White delivers checkmate utilizing the remaining pin. As you can now guess, also other White pinning piece is removed and B1 in c) is made by unpinned knight. All three mates are model.

- a) 1.Qxf2 Rc7 2.Qf4 Rc5#
- b) 1.Sg3 f×g3 2.Re4 Rh5#
- c) 1.Sd7 Rf7 2.Qd5 f4#

**Menachem Witztum
 & Emanuel Navon**
 1st Honourable Mention
 16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



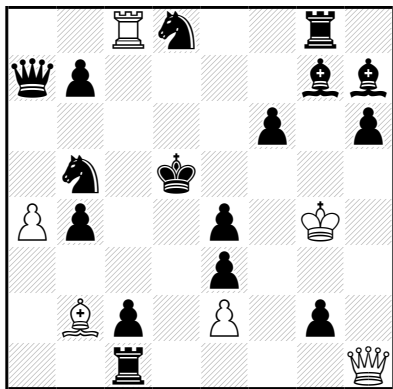
h#2 (9+12) C+
 b) - ♞e2
 c) =b) - ♚c6

Another h#2 with twinning thematically related to the solutions. In all of them B1 sacrifices black piece immediately captured by wP. The twinning removes exactly those sacrificed black pieces. If there was better white economy or model mates....

- a) 1.Sf4 g×f4 2.Bd5 Ba7#
- b) 1.Bf3 g×f3 2.Sd5 Se6#
- c) 1.Se8 f×e8=Q 2.Kd5 Qd7#

Nikola Stolev

2nd Honourable Mention
16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



h#2

(6+16) C+

b) - ♘b5

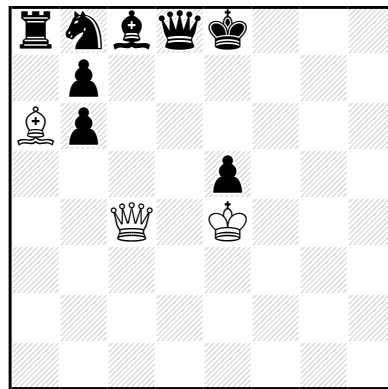
c) =b) - ♘d8

The strategical content of this h#2 is very well known. In B2 bK enters the line closed in B1, pinning the black piece making B1. In the meantime White organizes remaining parts of the mating net, in this case just wQ approaches, making solo all six white moves. The point is in the twinning (again), that removes exactly the selfpinned black pieces making B1. Somehow this heavy position escaped unscathed the search for anticipations.

- a) 1.Sc3 Qh2 2.Kd4 Qd6#
- b) 1.Sc6 Qd1+ 2.Kc5 Qd4#
- c) 1.Qc5 Qh5+ 2.Kc4 Qf7#

Srečko Radović

3rd Honourable Mention
16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



h#2

(3+8) C+

b) - ♘b8

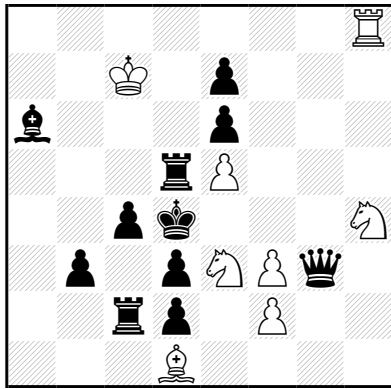
c) =b) - ♚d8

d) =c) - ♜b7

Instead of strategical content, this position scores well due to the nature of the position. 6 black pieces are on their initial squares and half of them is progressively removed. One could argue that two removals are done to enable the castling and then the content could end, but in my view the additional pawn removal adds further interest.

- a) 1.Qe7 Bxb7 2.Kd8 Qxc8#
- b) 1.Be6 Qc5 2.Kd7 Bb5#
- c) 1.Bd7 Qd5 2.0-0-0 Qxb7#
- d) 1.Ra7 Bxc8 2.Re7 Qg8#

Dimitris Liakos
 4th Honourable Mention
 16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



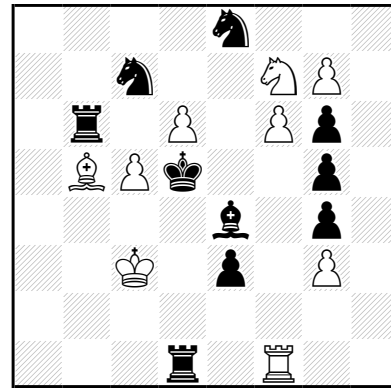
h#2 (8+11) C+

- b) - ♘h4
- c) =b) - ♔g3
- d) =c) - ♙d1
- e) =d) - ♖c2
- f) =e) - ♞e3
- g) =f) - ♜d5

The highest number of twin positions (seven) with present white officers utilized in all checkmates. Additionally, the author managed to make bK move to 7 different squares from d4 (only d3 not visited). In this case I have exceptionally admitted move repetition.

- a) 1.Qxf3 Sxf3+ 2.Ke4 Rh4#
- b) 1.Qxf2 Rh4+ 2.Kxe3 Re4#
- c) 1.Kxe5 Rh5+ 2.Kf4 Sg2#
- d) 1.Kc3 Rb8 2.Rd4 Sd1#
- e) 1.Rb5 Rh4+ 2.Kc5 Rxc4#
- f) 1.Rxe5 Kb6 2.Kd5 Rd8#
- g) 1.c3 Kc6 2.Kc4 Rh4#

Dimitris Liakos
 1st Commendation
 16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



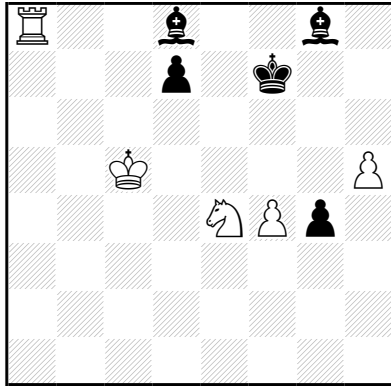
h#2 (9+10) C+

- b) - ♙d6
- c) =b) - ♖f1
- d) =c) - ♙b5
- e) =d) - ♞f7

The highest number of white removals. The content of solutions is almost irrelevant here, but it should be noted that always the checkmating unit is removed, substantially adding unity.

- a) 1.Ke6 d7 2.Bd5 d8=S#
- b) 1.Re6 Rf5+ 2.Re5 Rxe5#
- c) 1.Bf5 Bf1 2.Ke4 Bg2#
- d) 1.Kc6 Kc4 2.Rb7 Se5#
- e) 1.Kxc5 g8=Q 2.Rdd6 Qc4#

**Stanislav Hudák
& Michal Dragoun**
2nd Commendation
16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



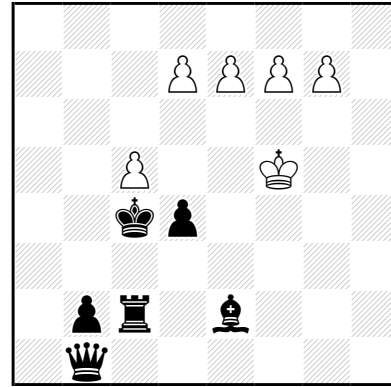
h#2 (5+5) C+

- b) - ♖d8
c) =b) - ♖g8
d) =c) - ♗h5

Very economical presentation of four different model mates by rook moving along the 8th rank.

- a) 1.Bf6 Sd6+ 2.Ke7 Re8#
b) 1.Kg7 Sf6 2.Kh8 R×g8#
c) 1.Ke6 Sg5+ 2.Kf5 Rf8#
d) 1.Kg6 f5+ 2.Kh5 Rh8#

Zoran Gavrilovski
3rd Commendation
16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



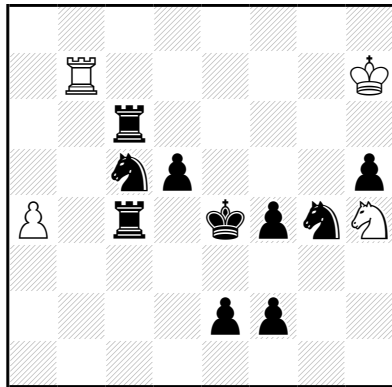
h#2 (6+6) C+

- b) - ♗d7
c) =b) - ♗e7
d) =c) - ♗f7

Multiple white promotions combined with bK's star are known, the same is true about bK's star with striptease. The present position is clearer than the comparable helpmates. The progressive removal of White pawns could be replaced by simply moving Pd7 to squares e7, f7, g7, but I am ready to accept the interpretation in the striptease form.

- a) 1.Kb5 d8=Q 2.Ka6 Qb6#
b) 1.Kb3 e8=Q 2.Ka2 Qa4#
c) 1.Kd5 f8=Q 2.Bc4 Qd6#
d) 1.Kd3 g8=Q 2.Rd2 Qb3#

Hans Uitenbroek
 4th Commendation
 16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



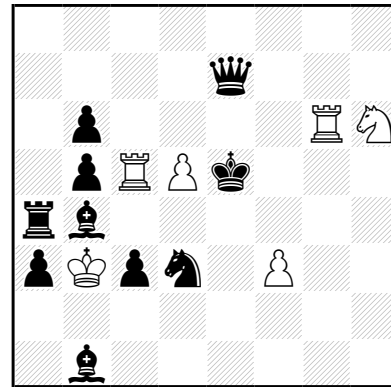
h#2 (4+10) C+

- b) - ♞c5
- c) =b) - ♖c6
- d) =c) - ♜f4

Geometrical theme (bK's cross in B1) is blended here with less usual repetition theme (knight moves repeated, rook moves all different). This combination was shown without twinning in a very different scheme, the present h#2 seems fully original. I only regret removal of Pf4 from thematical square.

- a) 1.Ke5 Re7+ 2.Kd6 Sf5#
- b) 1.Kd4 Sf5+ 2.Kc5 Rb5#
- c) 1.Ke3 Sf3 2.Re4 Rb3#
- d) 1.Kf4 Rf7+ 2.Kg5 Sf3#

Srečko Radović
 5th Commendation
 16th ECSC Bratislava C 1.5.2023



h#2 (6+10) C+

- b) - ♚e7
- c) =b) - ♖c5
- d) =c) - ♙d5

Slightly esoteric content: in a) both Rc5 and Pd6 play actively, in b) both are passively captures. Then these pieces are removed in two twins c) and d) with black selfblocks.

- a) 1.Kf4 d6 2.Qe3 Rf5#
- b) 1.bxc5 Sf7+ 2.Kxd5 Rd6#
- c) 1.Bd6 Rf6 2.Rd4 Rf5#
- d) 1.Sf4 Rd6 2.Bf5 Sf7#

I would like to thank all participants for their creative efforts, Michal Dragoun for effective directing and organizers of ECSC for entrusting me with the task to take care of the h#2 tourney.

Juraj Lörinc
 International judge of FIDE for chess compositions