

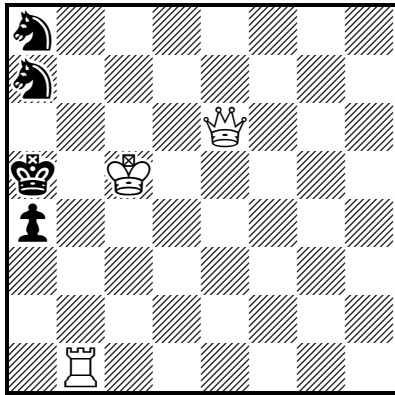
# Facebook: Chess Endgame Studies and Compositions Solving Ladder

## Leg 2, Round 1, January/February 2022

### Solutions, Comments and Results

#### 1) Werner Speckmann

*Dortmunder General Anzeiger, 1931*



- |                |            |            |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| <b>1. ♖b3!</b> | ()         | <b>(5)</b> |
| 1... ♖a6       | 2. ♖xa4#   |            |
| 1... ♗7 any    | 2. ♖(x)b5# |            |
| 1... ♗8 any    | 2. ♖(x)b6# |            |
| 1... axb3      | 2. ♗a1#    |            |
| 1... a3        | 2. ♖xa3#   |            |

Mate in 2

“Without the black pawn at a4, Ra1 is mate, so the key jumps to mind.” (David Whisstock) “If 1...Sc6 then 2.Qb5# is required. If 1...Sb6 then 2.Qb6# is required. A line drawn joining these two squares b5 and b6 intersects only with a line drawn from Qe6 on b3, so 1.Qb3.” (Hugh Gilbert) “Surprising that this is the only way to mate in 2. A good one to challenge otb players with, easily stored in the memory.” (Dafydd Johnston) “The brutal 1.Rb6? with its double threat won’t do (1...Sc6!).” (Rhodes Peele). Every piece on the board has a clear duty and there are no cook or dual-stoppers. An encouraging, easy starter to our second leg.

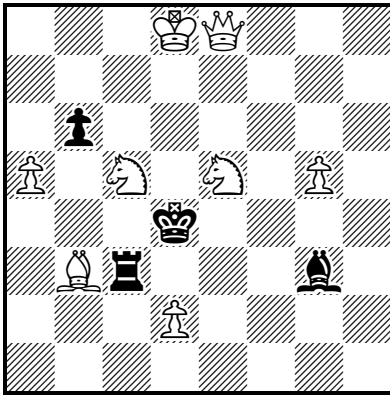
Werner Speckmann (1913-2001) was a towering figure in the German chess problem community. He specialised in miniatures (7 pieces or fewer) like this and wrote several books about them. This is one of his early works. We will meet him again as composer of our threemover.

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## Leg 2, Round 1, January/February 2022

### Solutions, Comments and Results

2) Thomas R Dawson  
*Chess Amateur*, 1908



1. ♕g6! (5)  
 (2. ♕d6#)

1... ♖xc5	2. ♕xb6#
1... ♕xe5	2. ♕f6#
1... ♖xc5	2. ♗f3#
1... ♗xe5	2. ♗e6#
1... bxc5	2. ♗c6#

Mate in 2

“1.Qg6 to counter unprovided 1...Kxc5 with 2.Qxb6 and control b1-h7 diagonal.” (David Whisstock) “e4 must be covered on move 1 as it is the only escape square covered by one knight, which is threatened by pawn, rook and king. 1.Qg6 has the significant advantage over 1.Qc6 of also covering d3.” (Hugh Gilbert) “Nice series of queen mates along the sixth rank, though it is a pity there is no knight mate on b3.” (Matthew Reisz) “The pawns on b5 and g5 are a clear pointer to the key, but the different mates after five captures of the knights are good.” (Dafydd Johnston) “All Black’s defences to the threat are captures, each leading to a different mate.” (Rhodes Peele)

From a towering figure of German chess problems, we move to a towering figure of British chess problems. Thomas Rayner Dawson (1889-1951) composed an immense number of problems and was one of the major proponents of ‘Fairy Chess’ during the first half of the twentieth century. As well as pursuing a very responsible full-time professional career he also for many years edited *The Problemist*, *The Fairy Chess Review* and the problem pages of *British Chess Magazine*.

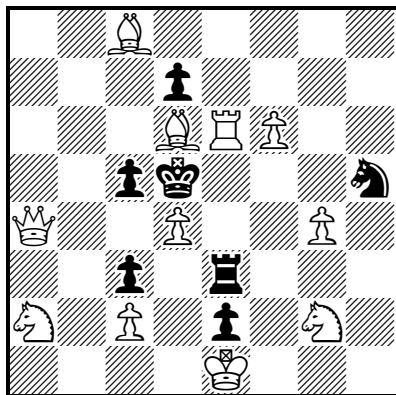
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## Leg 2, Round 1, January/February 2022

### Solutions, Comments and Results

#### 3) Thomas Taverner

3rd Prize, *Nashville Daily American*, 1887



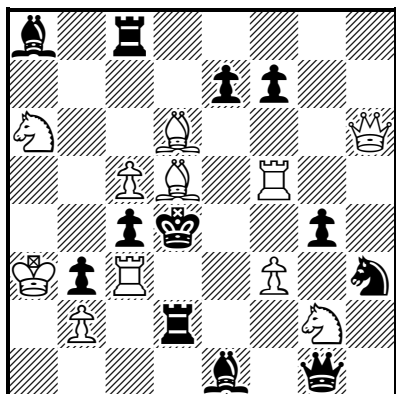
- 1. ♖e7! (5)**
- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1...d6     | 2. ♗xg3#   |
| 1...dxe6   | 2. ♖b7#    |
| 1...c4     | 2. ♗xd7#   |
| 1...cxd4   | 2. ♗b3#    |
| 1...♙xe6   | 2. ♗c4#    |
| 1...♗ any  | 2. ♗(x)f4# |
| 1...♞xe6   | 2. ♗xc3#   |
| 1...♞e4    | 2. ♞d6#    |
| 1...♞ else | 2. ♞(x)e5# |

Mate in 2

“The need to provide for 1...Kxe6 and to meet it by 2.Qc4 necessitates protection of f6.” (Tim Sheldon) “1.Be7 to provide for 1...Kxe6 – the pin on bPd7 allows 2.Qc4.” (David Whisstock) “I much enjoyed the separation of queen mates on b3 and c4, including a nice pin-mate.” (Matthew Reisz) “The star variations are the ones after the three captures on e6, with two self-blocks and a self-pin.” (Dafydd Johnston) “No threat, no ‘duals’ in this remarkable post-key position.” (Rhodes Peele) This old-fashioned, English style block problem with varied strategy and mates is my favourite of the two-movers. The British composer Thomas Taverner (1856-1928) was a major figure in the formative years of chess problem science.

#### 4) Dragan Stojnic

1st Prize, Mansfield-125 MT (*Kudesnik*), 2021



- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. ♗b4?            | (2. ♞xc4#) |
| 1...♞xc5           | 2. ♗e5#    |
| 1...♗xd5           | 2. ♞xd5#   |
| 1...♙f1            | 2. ♙e3#    |
| 1...♞c2!           |            |
| <b>1. ♗f4! (5)</b> | (2. ♗e5#)  |
| 1...♙e3            | 2. ♞xc4#   |
| 1...♗xf4           | 2. ♙xf4#   |
| 1...exd6           | 2. ♙f6#    |
| 1...♞d3, ♞e2       | 2. ♗(x)e2# |
| 1...f6             | 2. ♗e6#    |

Mate in 2

“I found this very tricky, initially looking for moves of Bd5, even though none of its moves are tries in the strict sense.” (Tim Sheldon) “Not sure if this qualifies as a ‘pattern play’ problem but the white moves Rxc4 and Be5 in a sense ‘switch places’ between try and key.” (Rhodes Peele) Thanks, Rhodes, because I couldn’t understand what was going on in this one. Searching in the reference works identifies this as an example of the ‘Pseudo le Grand’ theme. Even now having that knowledge, I have to admit to being somewhat underwhelmed. I must be missing something, as it is a first-prizewinner. I selected it because I too found it tricky to solve.

The Russian chess problem magazine *Kudesnik*, edited by Vladimir Kozhakin, organised the memorial tourney for Comins Mansfield (1896-1984), the first British composer to be awarded the Grandmaster title.

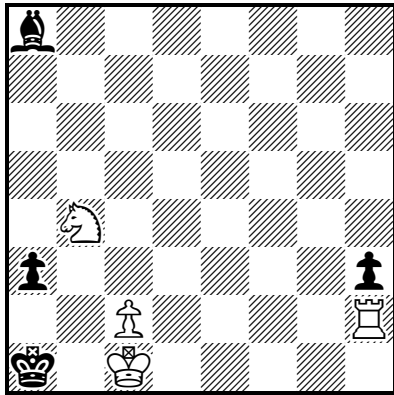
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## Leg 2, Round 1, January/February 2022

### Solutions, Comments and Results

#### 5) Werner Speckmann

*Dortmunder Anzeiger*, 1932



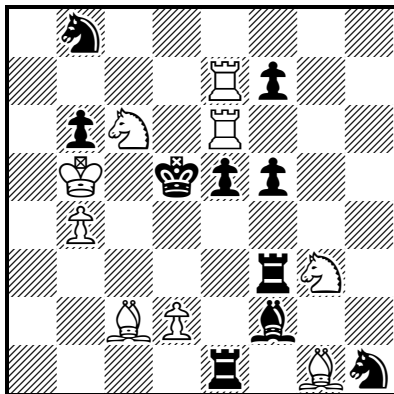
1.c3! (2.♖a2#)  
 1...♗g2 2.c4 ♗ any 3.♖a2# (2.5)  
 1...♗d5 2.♖a2+ ♗a2 3.♗c2# (2.5)  
 1...♗d5 2.♖a2+ ♗x a2 3.♗c2# (2.5)

Mate in 3

“Close thematic try fails to 1.c4? Bg2 2.c5? Bd5! The key works because after 1...Bg2, 2.c4 is waiting and blocks the diagonal defence of a2.” (Chris Blanden) Another neat early problem by Speckmann, though this time it is ‘one over the seven’.

#### 6) Carsten & Rainer Ehlers

Comm., *StrateGems*, 2020



1.♖f6! (2.♖d7+ ♗x d7 3.♗e7+ @ ♖d4 4.♖d6#)  
 1...♗c5 2.♗e3 (3.♗b3, ♖x e5#)  
 ♖e x e3 3.♗b3+ @ ♖x b3 4.♖x e5#  
 ♖f x e3 3.♖x e5+ @ ♖x e5 4.♗b3#

@ 1/2; 2/3.5; 3/5

Mate in 4

“A pleasing Plachutta, though the need for bPf7 makes the key rather obvious.” (Tim Sheldon) “The key was suspiciously straightforward and 1...Bc5 made it look very much like a try, but 1...fxe6 looked like a dead end, so 1.Rf6 had to be persevered with. 2.Be3 on the intersection of blocking both rooks from preventing mate was now allowed ... There was a nice symmetry about the white rook unblocking wRe7 with the first move. (Hugh Gilbert) “Plachutta interference enabled by the unmasking of the B on g1, which is provoked by the clearance sacrifice threatened by the key. Economical construction.” (Dafydd Johnston) “This problem is an example of the Plachutta theme. White sacrifices the bishop on e3, the intersection square of two black rooks, and whichever rook captures then interferes with the other.”

