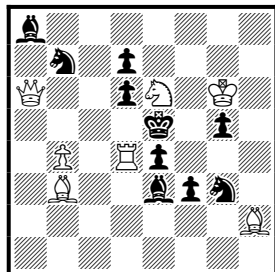# Facebook: Chess Endgame Studies and Composition Solving Ladder
Leg 2, Round 6, November/December 2022
Solutions, Comments and Results

1) Israel Abraham Schiffmann
L'Alfiere di Re, 1925

1.♘c5!   **(5)**
(2.♖×e4#)

|	
1...♚×d4	2.♕a1#
1...♚f4	2.♖×e4#
1...♗×d4	2.♗×g3#
1...♘b any	2.♕×d6#
1...d×c5,d5	2.♕f6
1...♗f4	2.♖d5#

#2

"An attractive problem, but for the solver here are some obvious signposts in the initial position. For example White must meet Black's strong threat of 1...dxe6, and the availability of the sweepiing Q move Qa1 for White looks sure to be a factor." (Chris Shephard) "A nice sacrificial key, giving two flights and offering the knight in two different ways, and allowing the seemingly out-of-play white queen to mate from three different diagonal directions (while the white bishop on h2 mates from a fourth)." (Matthew Reisz) "Obviously wPb4 reveals black king's flight at d4. The first key I tried!" (Ioannis Garouflidis)

Israel Schiffmann (1903-1930) is the Schiffmann of the famous Schiffmann defence, of which more later. He was the subject of the wonderful 1963 book *Faszinierendes Schachproblem* by Gabriel Baumgartner, of whom more later.

2) Jaques Fulpius
4th HM., *Schweizerische Schachzeitung*, 1958
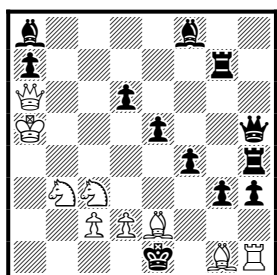
1.♔b4!   **(5)**
(2.♕a1#)

1...♖b7+	2.♗b6#
1...f3+	2.♗d4#
1...d5+	2.♗c5#
1...♕×e2	2.♕×e2#

#2

"Set 1...e4+ with 2.Bc5# indicates key with K walking into a few checks on the only available square." (David Whisstock) "One set cross-check is replaced by three after the key." (Dafydd Johnston) "After the key move Black's defensive tries include three possible checks, but each of these impedes the diagonal of the B on a8 and can be met with a move of the g1 B, discovering checkmate by the h1 R." (Chris Shephard) "I solved this instantly, but traditional cross-checkers are always fun." (Matthew Reisz) "Fairly simple – checking defences to the threat 2.Qa1# block the defences of the a8 B." (Chris Blanden)

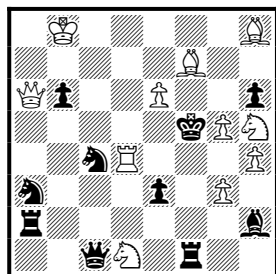The Swiss composer Jaques Fulpius 1933-2007) was famous for his 'task' chess problems.

3) Werner Issler
1st HM., *Die Schwalbe*, 1955

1.e7! **(5)**
(2.♕c8#)

|	
1...♘b2	2.♕×f1#
1...♘d2	2.♘×e3#
1...♘a5	2.♕d3#
1...♘e5	2.♘g7#
1...♘d6	2.g4#
1...♗×g3+	2.♘×g3#

#2

"Took me an uncomfortably long time to work out why this wasn't cooked and you couldn't equally well have 1.Qc8." (Hugh Gilbert) 1.Qc8? is refuted by 1...Sb2! & 1...Sa5! "A very nice problem. Of Black's six different moves to prevent 2.Qc8# (including five by the c4 S) each leads to a different mating position." (Chris Shephard) "It is obvious that the black knight on c4 has to be forced to go on a (partial) tour, so one soon works out that it needs to be forced to open the c-file to stop White's threat. There are four corrections to the random knight move to a5." (Matthew Reisz) "Fantastic – the Sc4 can move to 5 squares, each leading to a different mate. I really liked 1...Sb2 2.Qxf1#." (Chris Blanden) 1.Qa8? (2.Qe4#) fails to 1...Qb1! & 1...Qc2! 1.Bf6? (2.Sg7#) is refuted by 1...hxg5!

Werner Issler, who died on the second day of this year while this round was in progress, was a distinguished Swiss composer who was born in 1933.

4) Odette Vollenweider (aka Gabriel Baumgartner)
2nd Prize, *Neue Zurcher Zeitung*, 2004-2005

1.♘×e3! **(5)**
(2.♘b5#)
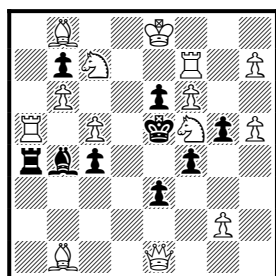
1...♔d4	2.♘×e6#
1...♗×c5	2.♘f5#
1...f×e3	2.♕×e3#

#2

"The Schiffmann defence 1...Bxc5 leads to a nice switchback." (Dafydd Johnston) "Elegant switchback after 1...Bxc5 (also pin-mate)." (Chris Blanden) "It is clear that the d5 square has to be guarded so that the battery using the bishop on b8 can open. There is not much play, but the star variation following 1...Bxc5 defeats the threat of 2.Sb5 (since this would unpin the bishop) and so forces the switchback." (Matthew Reisz) "Quite a tricky problem. I wonder if the white pawns on h5 and h7 are placed just to mislead the solver; either 1.Re7? or 1.Rd7? looks tempting at first sight because if 1...Kxf6 2.h8=Q#." (Chris Shephard) In a Schiffmann Defence, Black deliberately pins his own piece on the understanding that it would be unpinned by interference on the pin-line by White's threat and thus be able to defeat that threat. After 1.Rd7? (2.Sd5#) there is 1...Bxc5 2.Qc3# another Schiffmann defence and pin-mate. However, this try is defeated by 1...exf5, a flight-giving move in the diagram position that needs provision by the key, so the changed mate after a Schiffmann Defence may not be spotted by all solvers. The judge though would be made aware of it, and this probably explains the problem's prize. So, to make 1.Rd7 a thematic try defeated by only one move, the white pawns h5 and h7 are necessary from the composer's point of view, although the actual play of the problem is sound without them.

Odette Vollenweider (1933-2021) was a female Swiss composer who wrote and composed under the name Gabriel Baumgartner for many years. She only disclosed her real identity in her later years. She was the long-time editor of the chess problem column in *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*.
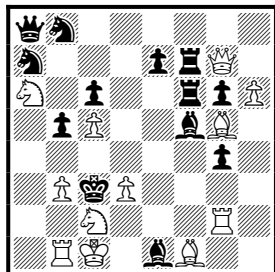
5) Rafael Moiseevich Kofman
3rd Prize, *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, 1931

1.♖g3!

	(2.d4+	♗×g3	3.♗d2♯	**(1)**
		♗d3	3.♖×d3♯)	
1...♗e4 2.d×e4+		♗×g3	3.♗d2♯	**(1)**
1...♗e6 2.♗e3			(3.♗d4♯)	**(1)**
		♗d2+,♗f2	3.♗(×)d2♯	
1...♗d7 2.♗f4			(3.♗e5♯)	**(1)**
		♗d2+,♗×g3,♗f2	3.♗(×)d2♯	
1...♗c8 2.♘ab4			(3.♘a2♯)	**(1)**
		♗d2+	3.♗×d2♯	

#3

"The black bishop moves block the moves which defeat the post key tries." (Tim Sheldon) "There are three lovely responses (relying on two blocks and an interference) already set in the diagram position when the black bishop on f5 moves to the north-west, so one just has to find a way to force it to move. Highly ingenious!" (Matthew Reisz) "A stylish interference problem. On move 1 Black can retreat f5 bishop to e6 or d7 or c8, thus preparing to meet 2.d4+ by 2...Rf3, but each moves impedes the black defence in a different way." (Chris Shephard) "Made me chuckle!" (Hugh Gilbert)

6) Bo Waldemar Lindgren
Eskilstuna Kuriren, 1943
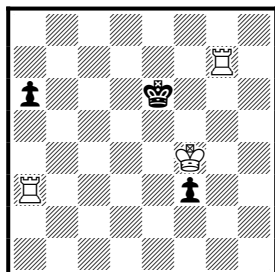
1.♖c3!

	(2.♖c6+	♔d5	3.♖gg6	&	4.♖gd6♯)**(1)**
1...♔d5 2.♖d7+	♔e6	3.♖cd3	&	4.♖3d6♯	**(1)**
1...♔d6 2.♔e4	&	3.♖gc7	&	4.♖3c6♯	**(1)**
1...♔f6 2.♖d7		(3.♖c6♯)			
	♔e6	3.♖cd3	&	4.♖3d6♯	**(0.5)**
	♔g6	3.♖c6+	♔h5	4.♖h7♯	**(0.5)**
1...f2 2.♔e4		(3.♖c6♯)			
	♔d6	3.♖gc7	&	4.♖3c6♯	**(0.5)**
	♔f6	3.♖cg3	&	4.♖3g6♯	**(0.5)**

#4

"A miniature which I think is instructive for a practical player. For the solver, it's an exercise in logic." (Chris Shephard) "Once you realise that you need to create a one row corridor for the black king, mirror symmetrical about the white king diagonal, then 1.Rc3 is a given." (Hugh Gilbert) "This mate in 4 is wonderfully ingenious, so many almost symmetrical mates." (Stephen Orton) "Notwithstanding the paucity of pieces, key not easy to find." (David Whisstock) "Four echo mates; the gate-opening by the f-pawn to enable the rooks to combine on the g-file is very nice." (Dafydd Johnston)

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The winner of our second leg, by just half-a-point, is Geoff Haddow on 179.5 (an almost perfect score), with Chris Carew and Chris Shephard equal second on 179.0, but with Chris Worthington another half-a-point behind. Clearly, Chris is a very good name for a chess solver!

Facebook Chess Solving Ladder, Leg 02, 2022

Name	Ascents	Leg 01	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Leg Total	Total
Geoff Haddow	0	19.0	30.0	30.0	29.5	30.0	30.0	30.0	179.5	198.5
Chris Carew	0	30.0	30.0	29.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	179.0	209.0
Chris Shephard	1	109.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	29.0	30.0	30.0	179.0	288.0
Chris Worthington	0	29.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	28.5	30.0	30.0	178.5	207.5
David Whisstock	0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	29.0	30.0	25.0	174.0	204.0
Dafydd Johnston	0	0.0	30.0	29.0	29.5	29.0	30.0	26.0	173.5	173.5
Tim Sheldon	0	0.0	30.0	30.0	29.5	29.0	25.0	30.0	173.5	173.5
Matthew Reisz	0	25.0	30.0	30.0	29.5	28.0	30.0	25.0	172.5	197.5
Ene Florian	1	135.5	25.0	26.0	29.0	29.0	29.0	30.0	168.0	303.5
Hugh Gilbert	1	160.0	28.5	30.0	29.5	24.0	25.0	29.0	166.0	326.0
Stephen Orton	0	0.0	30.0	28.0	23.0	28.0	25.0	22.0	156.0	156.0
Geoff Brown	1	158.5	25.0	20.0	15.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	145.0	303.5
Harry Scott	0	24.0	20.0	28.0	26.0	26.5	20.0	24.5	145.0	169.0
Erik Baurdoux	0	0.0	25.0	20.0	25.0	25.0	23.0	24.0	142.0	142.0
Adrian Tottenham	0	0.0	25.0	23.0	19.5	24.0	23.0	24.0	138.5	138.5
Joe Franks	0	30.0	25.0	29.0	25.0	27.0	30.0	-	136.0	166.0
Chris Blanden	0	14.0	25.0	20.0	25.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	130.0	144.0
Rhodes Peele	1	153.5	30.0	23.0	22.5	22.0	25.0	-	122.5	276.0
Syd Jacob	0	0.0	-	-	29.5	28.5	30.0	30.0	118.0	118.0
Whole Hog (Malmsbury)	0	0.0	22.5	30.0	25.0	-	20.0	20.0	117.5	117.5
Ioannis Garoufalidis	0	80.0	20.0	-	24.0	24.0	20.0	28.0	116.0	196.0
Dennis Chivers	0	14.0	27.0	22.0	17.0	15.0	14.0	15.0	110.0	124.0
Alan Bradnam	0	15.0	25.0	5.0	10.0	21.0	15.0	12.0	88.0	103.0
Gerry Enslin	0	30.0	25.0	25.0	-	25.0	-	-	75.0	105.0
Nigel Pilkington	0	10.0	15.0	10.0	0.5	-	15.0	7.0	47.5	57.5
Colin Thiodet	0	62.5	-	15.0	-	-	20.0	-	35.0	97.5
James, Brown	0	10.0	25.0	-	-	-	-	-	25.0	35.0
Gordon Ironside	0	0.0	22.5	-	-	-	-	-	22.5	22.5
John Warren	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	15.0	-	15.0	15.0
Paul Davies	0	0.0	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	5.0	5.0
Alex King	0	29.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	29.0
Christian Westrapp	0	30.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	30.0
Stanislas Loiret	0	29.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	29.0
Steven Dowd	0	45.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	45.0

Overall leaders of the two legs so far are: 1) Hugh Gilbert, 326, 2-3) Ene Florian, Geoff Brown, 303.5, 4) Chris Shephard, 288.0, 5) Rhodes Peele, 276.0.

Congratulations to these five, who are also our first climbers to the top of the ladder.