

===== s#: 4 problems

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WCCI 2016–18, F: selfmates

1.

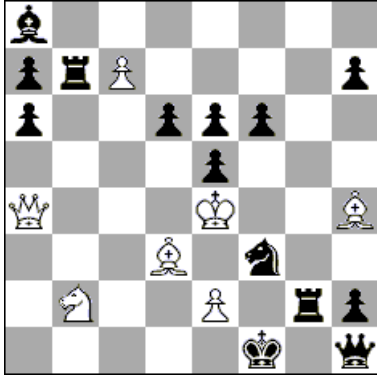
**Valery Liskovets**

The Problemist Supplement

March 2017, No.147, #PS3173

(awards have not been announced yet)

b7/prP4p/p2ppp2/4p3/Q3K2B/3B1n2/1N2P1rp/5k1q



P1332780 (PDB)

s#7

C+

7+14

**1.Qd1+! Se1 2.e3+ Kg1 3.Qa1 a5 4.Sa4 h6 5.Bg3 (tempo) h5 6.Bh4 a6  
7.c8S! (zz) Rb7~#/Rg2~#/ d5#/f5#: 28 mating moves!**

Thematic try:

1.Qa1+? Se1 2.e3+ Kg1 3.Bg3 a5 4.Sa4 h6 5.Bh4 h5 6.c8S a6! 7.?

[Besides, 1.e3+? Re2!; 3...h6 4.Sa4/Bg3, etc.]

- **Zugzwang avoidance** (anticipatory tempo-saving key). Reciprocal Zugzwang.
- Selfmate moreover featuring a great number of mating moves.
- In s#2, similar 28 mates have been implemented by B.Zastrow (P1184881). The absolute record is 29 mating moves: P1178654, s#1, by H.H.Cross, 1936.
- Qa4-d1-a1 instead of Qa4-a1 may be considered as a kind of pericritical maneuver.
- *“The placing of the white pieces for tempo play is beautifully precise. Interesting construction but difficult to solve with complicated strategy. A fascinating study in tempo play with a fully thematic try.”* (Solvers’ comments)

2.

**Valery Liskovets**

The Problemist

May 2017, No.3, #S2644

(awards have not been announced yet)

8/8/3p1pQ1/3PbPp1/2Pppk2/5PR1/P1BPPP2/K1R1N3



P1335014 (PDB)

s#4

C+

14+7

**1.Sd3+ exd3 2.Bb1! g4 3.Re1 gxf3 4.e4! (zz) dxe3 e.p.# (4.e3+? Ke4!) or  
3... dxe2 4.fxg4 (zz) d3# [or the same with reversed B2 and B3: 2... dxe2 3.Re1 g4 4.fxg4 d3#].**

[2.Bxd3? g4 3.Rd1(R~) gxf3 4.Bb1 fxe2! (due to the thematic wPe2).

2.Re1? dxc2! 3.Rc1 g4 4.fxg4 Ke4! or 3.e3+ dxe3+ 4.c4(?). (1.Bb1?/Rd1? d3+!)]

- **Forced e.p.-mate** with an **unusually motivated double move** of wP: flight-taking of the designation square e4 due to its guard from below.
- Battery zz-mates. Hidden bK's flight square e4 occupied initially and guarded twice.
- Delayed Umnov on e1 and e4. Reciprocal captures gxf/fxg.
- Popeye: nothreat!

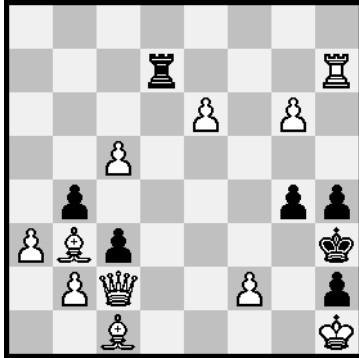
3.

**Valery Liskovets**

The Problemist

July 2018, No.10, #S2710

8/3r3R/4P1P1/2P5/1p4pp/PBp4k/1PQ2P1p/2B4K



P1353324 (PDB)

s#5

C+ 11+7

1.Rxd7/exd7? g3 2.f3 g2+!

- 1.Qxc3+! g3 2.f3 Rd8 3.Rh8 bxc3 4.Rxd8(!) cxb2 5.Bxb2 g2#. (1)  
 3...Rd1+/Rd5 4.BxR bxc3 5.bxc3 g2#. (2-3)  
 3...Ra8 4.Rxa8 bxc3 5.bxc3 g2#. (4)  
 3...Rd3/Rd4/Rxh8 4.QxR bxa3 5.bxa3 g2#. (5-7)  
 3...Rd2 4.Bxd2 bxa3 5.bxa3 g2#. (8)  
 3...Rd6/Rd7 4.PxR bxc3/bxa3 5.bxc3/bxa3 g2#. (9-10)  
 3...Rb8/Rc8/Re8/Rf8/Rg8 4.RxR bxc3/bxa3 5.bxc3/bxa3 g2#. (11-15)

- 15 variations. The **grab** theme.
- Presumable novelty: **W catches bR on all 15=8+8-1 squares of one file (d) and one rank (8th) including the center d8**, where the lines intersect and onto which bR steps, as well.
- Every thematic capture of bR is followed by one or two dual-free lines.
- Additional thematic tries (4.axb4/Qxb4?) ensure dual avoidance due to bR's escape into several hideaways:  
 3...Rd3 4.axb4/Qxb4? Rxf3! 3...Rd4 4.axb4? Re4! or 4.Qxb4? Rd3!  
 3...Rd5/Rf8 4.axb4? Rf5! 3...Re8 4.axb4? Re7! 3...Rg8 4.axb4? Rxg6!

