

# Award Maroc Echecs 2015

## h#3.5>7 moves

### Christopher Jones

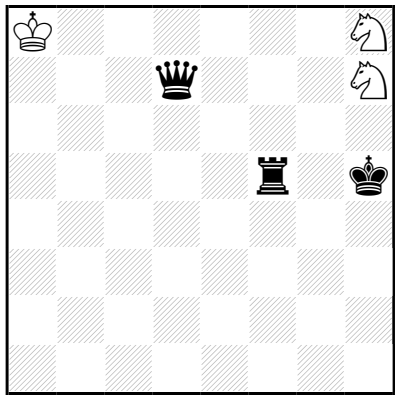
### Bristol, September 2015

I am grateful to Abdelaziz for entrusting me with this award. It proved to be a particularly enjoyable task in view of the high standard of the competing problems. In the end, I included 10 of the 19 problems in the award. A case could have been made for the inclusion of quite a few other ones too; but as standards in long helpmates continue to go up, and as more nice elements in long helpmates begin to seem very familiar, the judge has to become more selective. With apologies therefore to the composers of entries that might well have been included in the award by another judge, here is my award:

#### **Participants :**

Abdurahmanovic Fadil:17\* ;Csak János:4 ;Fica Alexander:6 ;Grubert Harald:18 ;  
Ivunin Alexei :1\*,7\*,8\*,9\*,14\*,19\* : Jonsson Christer:5,16\* : Mihajloski Zlatko:12,17\* :  
Muller Dieter:10 : Onkoud Abdelaziz:3,11 : Paliulionis Viktoras:15 : Pankratiev Alexandre:  
1\*,7\*,8\*,9\*,14\*,19\* ; Rimkus Mechislovas:13 ; Semenenko Alexandre:2  
and Wiehagen Rolf:16\*

15 - Viktoras PALIULIONIS  
 5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
 1° Prize



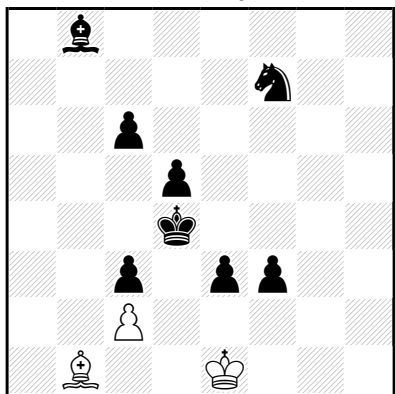
h#5 3+3 C+  
 2 solutions

I-1. ♖f4 ♘g6 2. ♗h3 ♔b7 3. ♕g4 ♔c6 4. ♗f5  
 ♔d5 5. ♗g4 ♘e7♯

II-1. ♕h6 ♘g5 2. ♗h7 ♔b8 3. ♕g7 ♔c7 4. ♗f6+  
 ♔d6 5. ♗g7 ♘e4♯

Absolutely outstanding; congratulations to the composer! Two perfectly constructed complementary solutions with fine white/black interplay and rich strategy, most notably the need for the ♗ to go on to h7/h3 on move 2 before returning to g7/g4 on move 5. With only 6 units a gem!

12 - Zlatko MIHAJLOSKI  
 5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
 2° Prize



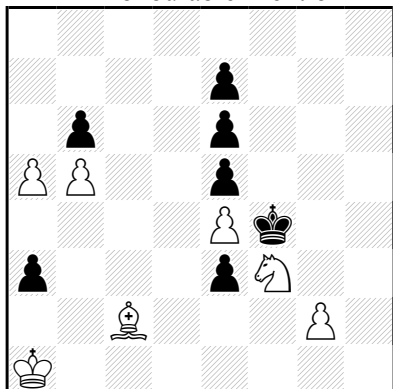
h#5 3+8 C+  
 2 solutions

I- 1. ♖d6 ♖a2 2. ♖b4 ♖c4 3. ♗c5 ♖f1 4. ♗f2+  
 ♔e2 5. ♗c4 ♖xé3♯

II- 1. ♗e5 ♔d1 2. ♗d3 ♖xé3 3. ♖f4 ♔c2 4. ♗e5  
 ♖d4+ 5. ♗e4 ♖xé3♯

Very neat construction to show matching royal battery mates. I like the different significances of the ♗e3 and the ♗f3 in the two solutions.

6 - Alexander FICA  
 5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
 1° Honourable Mention



h≠4 7+7 C+

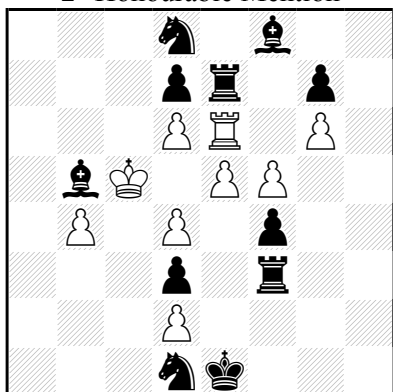
b) ♖f3↔♜e7

I- a) 1. ♜e2 ♖×b6 2. ♜e1=♞ ♖b7  
 3. ♞d3 ♖b8=♚ 4. ♚×e4 ♚×e5‡

II- b) 1. ♜f2 ♖a6 2. ♜f1=♞ ♖a7  
 3. ♞d3 ♖a8=♚  
 4. ♚×e4 ♚a4‡

An unusually interesting AUW. Although none of the pawns that promote start on the 7<sup>th</sup> rank there are no recurring P-moves. The only recurring move is the (unavoidable) 4.Kxe4. It is very nice that the strategy – black promotes prospectively self-pinning – is matched in the two solutions. The twinning mechanism is inventive and amusing but is probably a factor militating against the award of a Prize.

11 - Abdelaziz ONKOUD  
 5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
 2° Honourable Mention



h≠4 9+11 C+

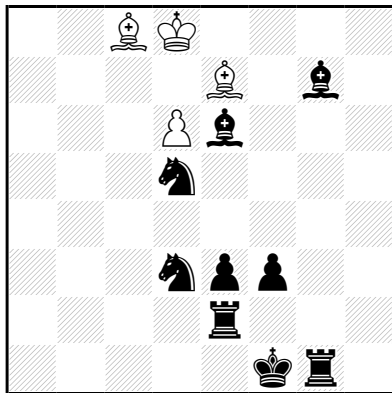
b) ♜f3→f1

I- a) 1. ♚×d2 ♚f6 2. ♚e3 ♚×f8 3. ♚e4 ♚e8  
 4. ♚×e5+ ♚×e5‡

II- b) 1. ♚f7 ♖×b5 2. ♚×f5 ♖c4 3. ♚×e5 ♖×d3  
 4. ♚e2 ♚×e2‡

White and Black swap roles in the two solutions: one must perform a peri-critical manoeuvre to get the Rooks 'in the right order' on the e-file, the other must march his K to the scene of the action. Quite a heavy position is necessary, and in an ideal world it would have been possible to show this without twinning, but still it is a richly enjoyable problem.

2 - Alexandre SEMENENKO  
 5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
 3° Honourable Mention

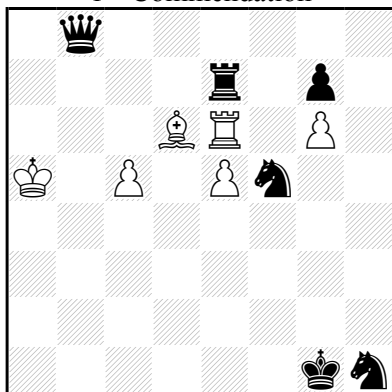


h#3,5 4+9 C+  
 2 solutions

- 1... ♔a6 2. ♞×é7 ♖×é7 3. ♜f8 é×f8=♚  
 4. ♜é1 ♚×f3‡  
 1... ♔h4 2. ♜×ç8 ♖d7 3. ♞f2 d×ç8=♚  
 4. ♜é1 ♚ç1‡

Deep first moves prepare pins (in both solutions 1...d7? would spoil things) and there follow nicely differentiated paths to promotion. The pinning/captured interchange between the wBs is very likeable.

3 - Abdelaziz ONKOUD  
 5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
 1° Commendation

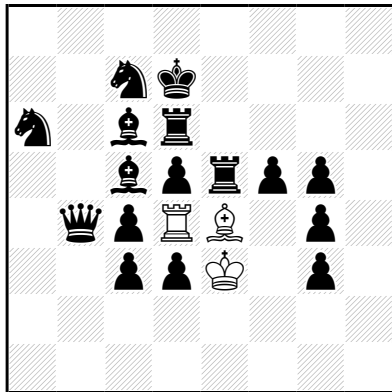


h#3,5 6+6 C+  
 2 solutions

- 1... ♔×é7 2. ♚×é5 ♔d6 3. ♚f4 ♜é2  
 4. ♚f1 ♔h2‡  
 1... ♜f6 2. ♚×é5 ♜é6 3. ♚é2 ♔g3  
 4. ♚g2 ♜é1‡

A nice mechanism, with move-by-move strategic correspondence between the solutions and a pleasant interchange of roles of wB and wR. The only detraction is that in one solution the ♜e7 is captured.

4 - János CSAK  
5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
2° Commendation



h#4 3+16 C+

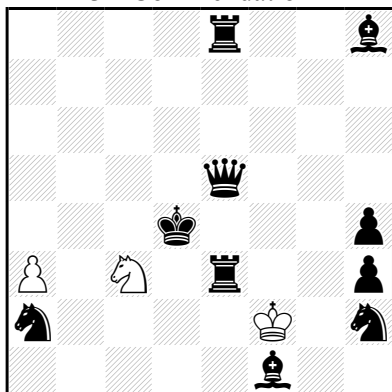
b) ♔d7→e6

I- a) 1.g2 ♕f2 2. ♖b7 ♗×d5 3. ♜b6 ♗é6+  
4. ♕ç6 ♗d7‡

II- b) 1.d2 ♗é2 2. ♜d7 ♜×d5 3. ♗é7 ♜ç5  
4. ♕d6 ♜×ç6‡

A rich strategic mix: White must choose carefully which of his officers to unpin (it turns out that the other can perform valuable guard duty while remaining pinned throughout). As with the previous problem it is a bit of a shame that a significant black piece is captured (...Rxc6), and I'm not sure whether it is worth adding to the complexity (and heaviness of the position) by having Ps at d3 and g3 to make the introductory moves.

13 - Mechislovas RIMKUS  
5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
3° Commendation



h#5 3+10 C+

3 solutions

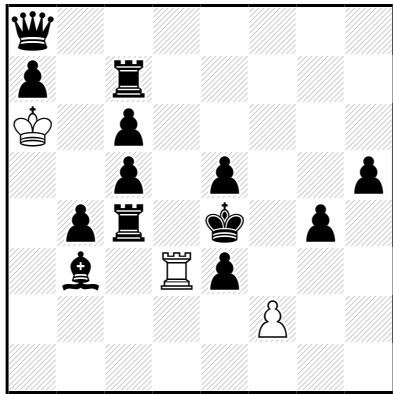
I- 1. ♗é2 ♕é1 2. ♗ç4+ ♕d1 3. ♕d3 ♗é4 4. ♜ç3  
a4 5. ♗d4 ♗f2‡

II-1. ♕d3 ♗é4 2. ♕ç2 ♕×é3 3. ♕b1 ♕d2 4. ♜a1  
♕d1 5. ♗b2 ♗d2‡

III-1. ♜f3+ ♕g1 2. ♜é1 ♕×h2 3. ♕é3 ♗d5+  
4. ♕f2 ♗f6 5. ♜é2 ♗g4‡

Three neatly contrived mates. Not very thematic, but very enjoyable play.

8 - Alexei V. IVUNIN &  
 Alexandre PANKRATIEV  
 5° Maroc Echecs 2015  
 4° Commendation



h≠4 (3+13) C+  
 3 solutions

I- 1. ♖d4 ♙×é3 2. ♚é6 ♜b3 3. ♜d6 ♜×b4+  
 4. ♚d5 é4‡

II1. ♚ç2 ♜d8 2. ♜d7 f4 3. ♚d5 f5  
 4. ♚é4 ♜×d7‡

III- 1. ♚f3 ♜d6 2. ♚g2 ♜×ç6 3. ♚h3 ♜h6  
 4. ♚g2 ♜×h5‡

Again, an enjoyable mix; disparate elements, but also the nice feature that the wP plays its part (in different ways) in all the solutions.

Once again, my thanks to Abdelaziz, and to the composers, for my enjoyable task.

**Christopher Jones**  
 Bristol, September 2015