July 15, 1928 - August 26, 2019

Pál Benkő Memorial Tourney 2020
Sponsored by Andrew Kalotay

In memory of my dear friend grandmaster Pál Benkő, also international master of composition, I am pleased to sponsor a Memorial Tourney. I am grateful to János Mikitovics, another close friend of Pál's, for agreeing to be Tournament Director. Special thanks to distinguished composers Christopher Jones and Mike Prcic for agreeing to be the judges.

The tourney will consist of two sections — one for helpmates and the other for help-stalemates. Submissions must be tested by the Alybadix, Popeye or WinChloe programs. Participants should state which software they used. A composer may submit no more than 3 compositions per section, including joint submissions. Fairy pieces and conditions are not allowed.

Section 1: Helpmate in 3 or more moves
Judge: Christopher Jones

1) Theme: a white pawn and an officer (or officers) promoted from the same pawn, must give mates on the same square in [a) & b)] twin problem.

- **Example No.1 below.**

Related Important terms:
2) In start position the theme pawn cannot be stand on 7th rank, only on 2. 3. 4. 5. or on 6th rank, because cannot give a pawn-mate from the 7th rank.
- **https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P0500665** : **e) wPd7 to c4 is no thematic Twin**
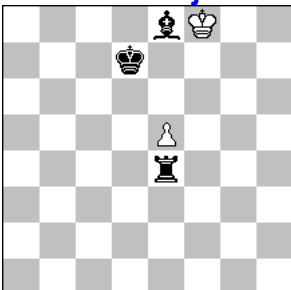- **https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P0508207** : **e) wPf7 to e5 is no thematic Twin**

3) The theme pawn must in every twin position must remain on their same square.

4) Plus [c) & d)]; [e) & f)], etc. twin positions can be created by moving the theme pawn. So, you can move the theme pawn to another square, but in this case, rules 1-3 apply to each twin pairs.

5) The theme pawn can have multiple promotional pairs. For example: in a H#3 problem with 5 solutions, may be 1 pawn mate plus 4 AUW-mates: a) 3...Pe7# b) 3...Se7# c) 3...Be7 # d) 3...Re7# and e) 3...Qe7# **Here is a thematic H # 4 problem, with 2 solutions by Vladislav Bunka 5565 Sachova skladba 11/2001:**
- **https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P1005473**
- **The same in a joint recast by Vladislav NEFYODOV & Vladislav BUNKA**

   H#4   2.1.1…   (2+3) 4bK2/3k4/8/4P3/4r3/8/8/8
 a) 1.Rd4 e6+ 2.Kd6 e7 3.Bc6 e8=Q 4.Rd5 Qe7# (IM)
 b) 1.Kc8 Ke7 2.Rc4 Kd6 3.Kd8 e6 4.Rc8 e7# (IM)

5) **Battery mates are acceptable.**

- **Example No.2 below.**

Section 2: Helpstalemate in 3 or more moves

Judge: Mike Prcic

The theme is free.

Tournament Director: János Mikitovics
Entries must be sent only by email to the Director at j.mikitovics@gmail.com.
Participants should include their postal address with their submission.

The closing date is August 31, 2020

The Director will send standardized anonymous diagrams of the submissions to the judges by September 15, 2020. The judges will decide the winners by November 15, 2020.
The results will be published on the Internet by December 1, 2020, and they will be declared as final two months later, to allow for claims of anticipation and unsoundness.

The prize money pool in both sections:

€ 2,500 - € 2,500.

The awards will be announced in *The Problemist*, and also on the Hungarian Chess Composers website.

Please forward this announcement to interested parties, and reprint it in magazines and websites aimed at composers.
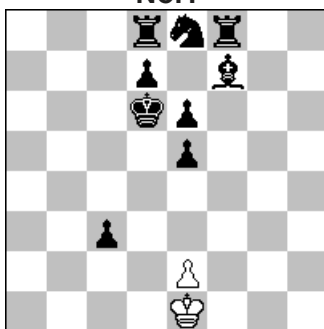
Thank you in advance for your participation in the memorial tourney. It is a fitting way to remember the genius of Pál Benkő.

Andrew Kalotay
January 2020

Examples for Section 1, provided by János Mikitovics, checked by Popeye 4.83
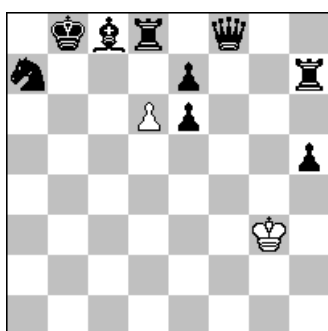
No.1

H#5.5   0-position   (2+9)
A) bKd6 to c5 B) bPe5 to e4 C+

A) 1...e2-e4   2.d7-d5 e4*d5   3.Kc5-d4 d5*e6   4.Kd4-e3 e6*f7   5.Rd8-d3 f7*e8=Q   6.Rf8-f3 Qe8*e5 #
B) 1...Ke1-f2   2.Rd8-c8 Kf2-e3   3.Rc8-c6 Ke3*e4   4.Se8-c7 Ke4-d4   5.Rf8-e8 e2-e4   6.Re8-e7 e4-e5 #
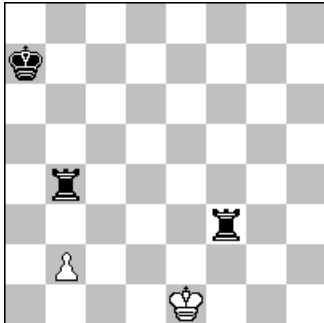
No. 2

H#3   0-position   (2+9)
A) h2=wB C+ B) h8=wR (with cooks)

A) 1.Qf7-f3 + Kg3-h4 2.Qf3-a8 Bh2-e5 3.Bc8-b7 d6-d7 #
B) 1.Bc8-b7 d6*e7 2.Rd8-d2 e7*f8=S 3.Rh7-c7 Sf8-d7 #

By Way of Background

The epaulette mate in Example No.1 was inspired by a **Pál Benkő's problem** that I presented at the 2019 BCPS annual meeting in Solihull (Benkő System). See it here [Hungarian Chess Composers](#) with 'BCPS at Solihull' report by David Friedgood in *The Problemist,* **May 2019**.
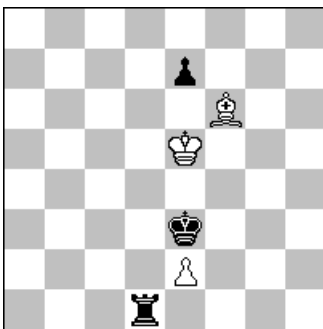

H#6   with cooks   (2+3)

1. Rd4 b4 2. Kb6 b5 3. Kc5 b6 4. Rd3 b7 5. Kd4 b8Q 6. Ke3 Qe5#

We would appreciate any feedback about the Benkő System. In particular, is it amanable to programing for testing purposes?

Selected Joint Compositions with Pál Benkő

Pál Benkő & Andrew Kalotay
Chessics 17/1984

H#5   C+   (3+3)
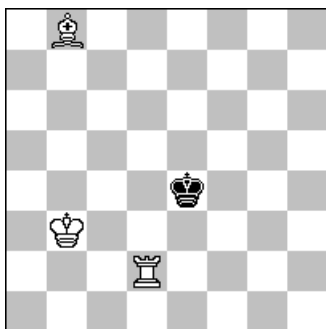A) Diagram B) Bf6 to b7 C) Bb7 to e8 D) Rd1 to f1 E) Be8 to h7 F) Bh7 to d6

A) 1.Ke3-d2 Ke5-f4   2.e7-e5 + Kf4-g3   3.Kd2-e3 Kg3-g2   4.Rd1-d4 Kg2-f1   5.e5-e4 Bf6-g5 #
B) 1.Rd1-f1 Ke5-d5   2.Ke3-f4 Kd5-d4   3.Kf4-f5 e2-e4 +   4.Kf5-e6 e4-e5   5.Rf1-f7 Bb7-c8 #
C) 1.Ke3-d2 e2-e3   2.Kd2-d3 Ke5-f4   3.e7-e5 + Kf4-g3   4.Kd3-e4 Kg3-f2   5.Rd1-d5 Be8-g6 #
D) 1.Ke3-f2 e2-e3   2.Kf2-f3 Ke5-d4   3.e7-e5 + Kd4-c3   4.Kf3-e4 Kc3-d2   5.Rf1-f5 Be8-c6 #
E) 1.Rf1-d1 Ke5-f5   2.Ke3-d4 Kf5-f4   3.Kd4-d5 e2-e4 +   4.Kd5-e6 e4-e5   5.Rd1-d7 Bh7-g8 #
F) 1.Ke3-f2 Ke5-d4   2.e7-e5 + Kd4-c3   3.Kf2-e3 Kc3-c2   4.Rf1-f4 Kc2-d1   5.e5-e4 Bd6-c5 #

Benkő's comment in his *My Life and Games (2003)*: A five-move helpmate with six ideal mates might well be a record! ...made with my friend, Andrew Kalotay.

Pál Benkő & Andrew Kalotay
The Problemist 1989
1st Prize Wenigsteiner Ty 1989

H#3.5   C+   (3+1)
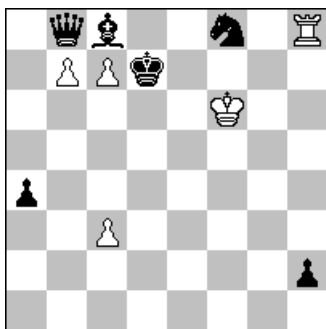A) Diagram B) Bb8 to a7 C) wK to c2

A) 1...Rd2-e2 +   2.Ke4-d3 Re2-e3 +   3.Kd3-d2 Bb8-f4   4.Kd2-c1 Re3-e1 #
B) 1...Rd2-h2   2.Ke4-d3 Rh2-h1   3.Kd3-d2 Ba7-g1   4.Kd2-c1 Bg1-e3 #
C) 1...Rd2-d1   2.Ke4-f3 Kc2-d2   3.Kf3-g2 Kd2-e1   4.Kg2-h1 Ke1-f2 #

Pál Benkő & János Mikitovics
StrateGems 2019-SG88
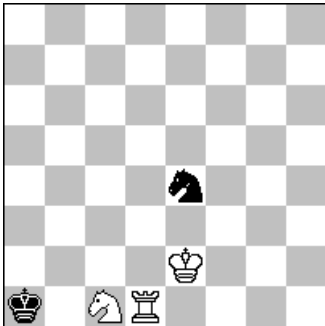
H=4 2X   C+   (5+6)

A) 1.h2-h1=B c7*b8=Q 2.Kd7-d8 b7*c8=B 3.Bh1-b7 Bc8-d7 + 4.Bb7-c8 Bd7*a4 =
B) 1.Sf8-e6 c7*b8=Q 2.Se6-c7 Rh*h2 3.Sc7-a8 b7*a8=Q 4.Kd7-d8 Qa8*a4 =

Unfortunately, Pál did not live to see this problem in print.

Pál Benkő's Favorite Helpmate

Berliner Morgenpost, 1970

H#3   C+   (3+2)

1.Ka1-b2 Rd1-d5   2.Kb2-c3 Rd5-c5 +   3.Kc3-d4 Sc1-b3 #

Even those who disliked helpmates enjoyed this one. With white starting, there are many mates of the cornered king, but with black starting there is only one solution, and it is in the center.

Paradoxically, even Grandmasters like Mikhail Botvinnik, Bobby Fischer, Jefim Geller, and Paul Keres couldn't solve it within 1 hour! Only GM Samuel Reshevsky solved the problem in half an hour!

Pál dedicated this helpmate problem to Ziki, who was a chess player at her young age. Thanks for this they got to know each other 64 years ago. This helpmate problem is about Ziki & Paul. Pál was just in Spain. Expressed with a poetic image, he is the black King on the a1 square. From Spain, one of the corners of Europe, Pál sent the problem of Helpmate as an engagement ring to the heart of Europe, to his Queen, Ziki who later became Pál's wife. They lived together in a happy marriage for 51 years.

Therefore, it is not possible to move the chessboard to right to g & h, for a H # 3 * C +, because we, despite Pál's intention, would move to another corner of Europe.