

AMERICANS IN SHARJAH

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ MAY 31, 2023

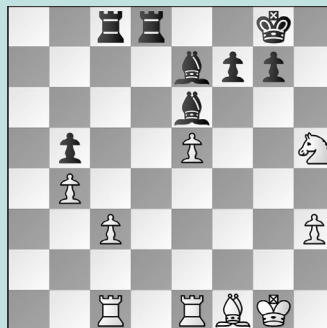
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



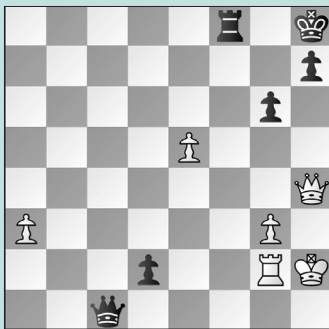
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



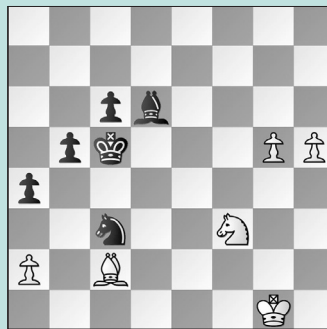
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



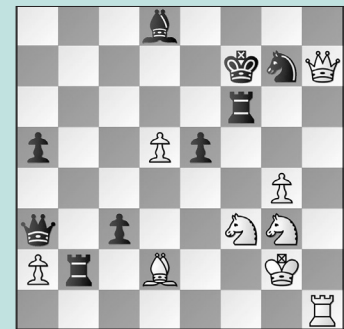
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 31. Qa2 This wins instantly, but there is still one trap. **31. ... Bd5** The point is that simple Black cannot defend with **31. ... Qf4** due to **32. Rx7**. **32. Rc8+** and **Black resigned**. Here's the kicker: **32. Qxd5??** would be a tragedy! **32. ... Qxf2+** **33. Kh1 Qe1+** and now Black is winning! (Oparin – Niemann, Sharjah, 2023) **PUZZLE 2. 31. ... Bg5!** The weak c3-pawn will fall, and with it, the game. **32. Rc2** Similarly, **32. Rcd1 Bd2!** **33. Re2 Bxc3** cleans up the pawns. **32. ... Bd2 33. Re2 Bxc3 34. Rg2 Bd4+ 35. Kh2 Bxe5+** and **White resigned** on move 40. (Mendonca – Oparin, Sharjah, 2023) **PUZZLE 3. 41. b5** White calculates that Black has no attack, and thus this plan is not “too slow.”

Another way to win would be **41. c5** with the same idea. **41. ... Kf7 42. a6 bxa6 43. bxa6 Qh8 44. a7 Qa8 45. Qa5** and **Black resigned** three moves later. (Niemann – Kadric, Sharjah, 2023) **PUZZLE 4. 61. Qe7** The game went **61. Qh6?? Rf1** and **White resigned**. This was the only move that held the draw. For instance: **61. ... Rf5 62. Qe8+ Kg7 63. Qd7+!** Not **63. Qe7+?? Rf7 63. ... Rf7 64. Qxd2** with a drawn endgame. (Adhiban – Yoo, Sharjah, 2023, Analysis) **PUZZLE 5. 50. ... Kd5** In the game, Black lost after **50. ... Ne2+?? 51. Kf2 Nd4 52. h6! Bf8 53. Ne5!** and **Black resigned. 51. h6** Now, Black holds (barely). **51. ... Bf8!** Not **51. ... Bc5+? 52. Kg2 Bf8 53. Nh4 Ne4 54. Bxe4+ Kxe4 55. Ng6** winning. **52. Nh4 Ne4!** Not **52. ... Ke6?? 53. Bf5+**

Kf7 54. Ng6 Nd5 55. Ne5+ winning. **53. h7 Bc5+!** Not **53. ... Bg7?? 54. Nf5 Bh8 55. g6 Ng5 56. g7 Bxg7 57. Nxb7 58. Bxb7** winning. **54. Kf1 Bd4 55. g6 Nd6 56. Nf3 Bg7** and Black will create counterplay before having to sac a piece. (Yoo – Muradli, Sharjah, 2023, Analysis) **PUZZLE 6. 46. Nxe5+!** After **46. Nh5??**, White lost the advantage. Play continued with **46. ... Qf8! 47. Nxe5+ Ke7 48. Nxb7 Rxd2+ 49. Kg3** when Black could have forced a draw with **49. ... Rg2+**. Instead, Black played **49. ... Kd6?!** and went on to win. **46. ... Ke8** The alternatives allow White to clean up with check, for instance **46. ... Kf8 47. Qh8+ Ke7 48. Qxg7+ Kd6 49. Nc4+**, winning the queen. **47. Qxg7 Rxd2+ 48. Kh3!** winning. (Ivic – Sevian, Sharjah, 2023, Analysis)