

FM OREST POPOVYCH

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JUNE 14, 2023

BY JOHN HARTMANN

PUZZLE 1.



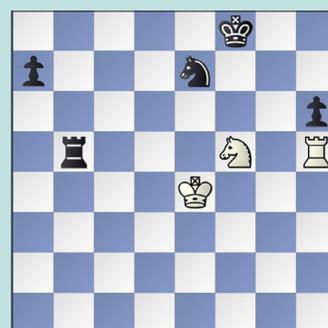
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. When you have bishops aimed at a king, you need to act. Therefore: **19. e5! g6** On 19. ... h6 20. Nxf6 Nxf6 21. Rxf7 with the idea of Bg5xh6 followed by Rf7xf8. **20. Nxd6 Bxd6** If 20. ... f5 21. Nf7+ Kg7 22. Rxf5! wins. **21. Rxf7, Black resigned.** (Popovych – Lombardy, U.S. Open 1954) **PUZZLE 2.** Popovych initiates a king hunt with a past with **17. Rxf7+ Kg8** Not 17. ... Rxf7 18. Ne6+. **18. Rg7+ 18. Rxh7** also wins. **18. ... Kh8 19. Rxh7+ Kg8 20. Rg7+** Here Black resigned in Kupper - Olafsson, Zurich 1959! **20. ... Kh8 21. Rgx6, Black resigned.** (Popovych – Jacobs, U.S. Open 1967) **PUZZLE 3.** Two pawns down, the wily veteran finds the only move to hold with **49. Rxh6! Rb4+** Alterna-

tives: 49. ... Rxf5 50. Ra6 with a drawn position, and after 49. ... Nxf5 50. Rf6+ Ke7 51. Rxf5 Rxf5 52. Kxf5 the king gets back in time. **50. Nd4 Rxd4+ 51. Kxd4 Nf5+ 52. Kc4 Nxf6 53. Kb5, draw.** (Popovych – Garcia, Philadelphia 1989) **PUZZLE 4.** **28. ... Ne3!** A nice bit of clearance. **29. Nxe5+** After 29. fxe3 we see Black's main point: 29. ... Qg4+! (29. ... g4 30. Kf2 gxf3 31. Bxf3) 30. Kf2 Qxh4+ 31. Kg1 Rxf3 32. Bxf3 Rxf3 and Black should win. **29. ... hxg5 30. Raxe3 dxe3 31. Rxe3 Qg4+ 32. Rg3 Rxf2!, White resigned.** (Zlotnikov – Popovych, New York 1978) **PUZZLE 5.** The game went **26. e6? Nxe6 27. Ne2** (27. Qxf7+ Kxf7 28. Nxd5+ Kg8 29. Nxc3 and White is down a bishop.) **27. ... Qe3+ 28. Kh1 0-0-0** and **White resigned** in Popovych – Blatny,

Philadelphia 2003. The engine finds the lovely **26. Kh1!** With the king off the dark squares, e5-e6 is a real threat. **26. ... Rh6** If 26. ... Qxd4 27. e6! Ke7 (27. ... fxe6 28. Nxe6; 27. ... Nxe6 28. Nxe6 fxe6 29. Qxe6+) 28. exf7 Kd6 29. Re2. **27. Nxd5 Qa5** Or 27. ... Qd3 28. Nc7+. **28. e6 Rxe6 29. Nf6+ Ke7 30. Qxa5** and mate is coming. **PUZZLE 6.** **36. Nd5!** With the threat of 37. Qxf7 Rxf8 38. Ne7+ and wins. In the game White played **36. Qf7+ Qxf7 37. Rxf7 Bd6 38. Bg2** (38. Nb5 Be5 39. Nc7 Bd4+ 40. Kg2 Bxe4+ 41. Kg3) **38. ... Be5 39. Nb5 Rf8 40. Rxf8+ Rxf8 41. Rd1 Rf4** and Popovych lost on move 78 in Popovych – Plaskett, New York 1979. Now if **36. ... exd5 37. Bf5! Qd6 38. Bxh7+ Kxh7 39. Qf5+ Kg8**, then **40. Rh3** with mate to follow.