

GCT ZAGREB RAPIDS

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JULY 12, 2023

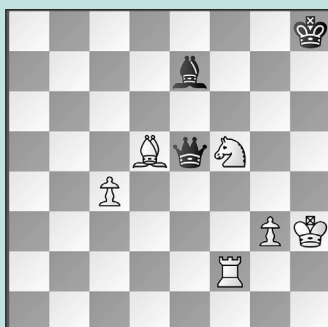
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



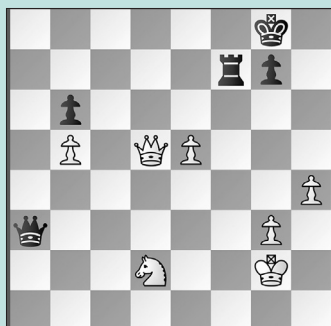
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



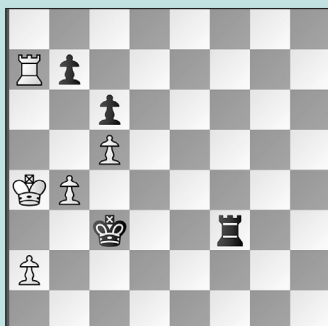
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



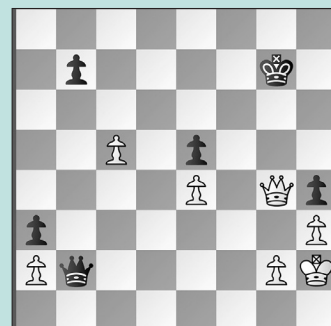
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 35. Qxg7+ Even grandmasters can miss patterns in rapid. **35. ... Rxg7 36. Nf6+** Black has lost a pawn for nothing and **resigned**. (Saric – Rapport, Zagreb, 2023) **PUZZLE 2) 62. Kg4** A beautiful mating net. There is no answer to the threat of Rf2-h2 mate. **Black resigned**. (Rapport – Caruana, Zagreb, 2023) **PUZZLE 3) 20. ... f6** Not even Carlsen's rook can escape this. **21. Rg4 Bxg4** and **Black won** in due time. (Carlsen – Caruana, Zagreb, 2023) **PUZZLE 4) 48. e6 Re7** The question is how White can follow up after this blockade. **49. Ne4** The knight heads to the c8-square! **49. ... Qb2+** This was played in the game. Instead, 49. ... Kf8 would be worth considering,

but since White has two pawns for the Exchange, Black cannot simply return the rook. For instance, after 50. ... Qb4 51. Nd6 Qa3 (while 51. ... Qc3 stops Nd6-c8, but 52. Qa8+ at what cost!) 52. Nc8 Re8 53. Qf5+ winning. **50. Kh3 Qe2 51. Qd8+** and **Black resigned** on move 59. (Caruana – Gukesh, Zagreb, 2023) **PUZZLE 5) 53. ... b6!** The only move that holds. The key point is that while White cannot take the pawn — hence why Saric played **53. ... b5** without fear of *en passant* — Black must keep White's king from reaching the a5-square. In the game, after **53. ... b5+??** White ends up on top after: **54. Ka5! Kc4 55. Rh7 Ra3+ 56. Kb6 Rxa2 57. Rh4+ Kd5 58. Rh5+ Kc4 59. Kxc6 Kxb4 60. Kb6 Ka4 61. c6 b4 62. Ra5+ Kb3 63. c7** when **Black**

resigned. 54. Rc7 Not 54. cxb6?? Which loses to 54. ... Kb2! threatening mate, when 55. b5 is met by 55. ... c5! winning. **54. ... bxc5 55. bxc5 Kc4** Black holds, as **56. Rxc6 Rf5** is drawn. (Firouzja – Saric, Zagreb, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 6) 47. ... Kf8!** In the game, **47. ... Kf7??** was played, and White was winning with **48. Qxh4 Qxa2 49. Qh7+ Kf6 50. Qxb7 Qc4 51. Qb6+ Kg5 52. c6 Qxe4** (or 52. ... a2 53. Qe3+ Kg6 is too slow for Black. Black can trade the a-pawn for White's c-pawn with 54. Qg3+ Kf7 55. Qa3 and still win) **53. Qd8+ Kg6 54. Qg8+ Kf6 55. Qf8+ Kg6 56. c7** when **Black resigned. 48. Qxh4 Qxa2** Now Black can interpose. **49. Qh8+ Qg8** when the threat of ... a3-a2 means White settles for a perpetual. (Firouzja – Carlsen, Zagreb, 2023)