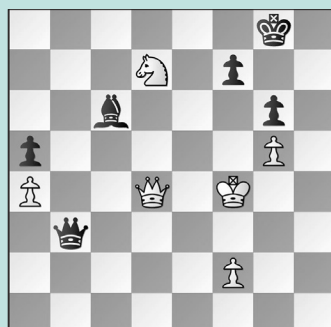


MASTERS IN QATAR

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ OCTOBER 18, 2023

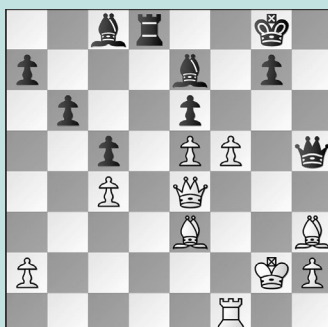
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



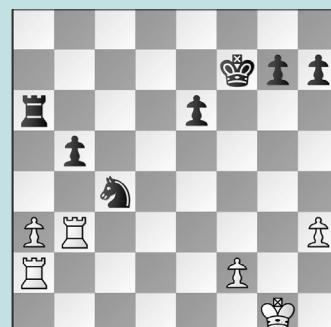
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



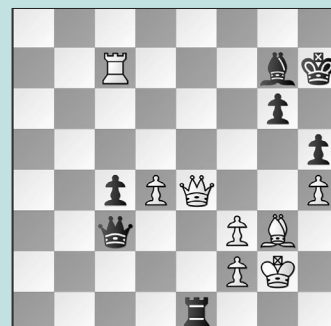
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 50. Nf6+ Carlsen uncorks the fastest mate. **50. ... Kg7 51. Nh5+! Kf8 52. Qd6+ Kg8 53. Qd8+** when **Black resigned** due to **53. ... Kh7 54. Nf6+ Kg7 55. Qg8** mate. (Carlsen – Muthiah, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 2. 28. ... Qe2+! 29. Rf2 Qd3!** The point: White's position falls apart without queens. **30. Qxd3 Rxd3 31. f6** White is helpless against ... Bc8-b7+, and this only delays the inevitable. **31. ... Bxf6! 32. exf6 Rxe3 33. Bg4 Bb7+ 34. Kg1 Ba6** and **White won** on move 62. (Vantika – Nakamura, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 3. 35. Rxb5** White assesses the position and determines the simplifications favor him: **35. ... Rxa3 36. Rxa3 Nxa3 37. Rc5!** While the knight

might be able to hold against the rook with all pawns on the same side, White's win has to do with "dominating" the knight. **37. ... Nb1 38. f3!** The next precise point. Now even after **38. ... Nd2** the knight is unable to do much. **39. Rc3 e5 40. Kf2 e4 41. f4 Nf3 42. Ke3** and White picks up a key pawn while keeping Black's knight sidelined. (Nakamura – Kevlishvili, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 4. 32. Nf5!** A lovely *intermezzo*. The automatic **32. Rxc1 Nf6 33. Nf5 Qd7** is what Black must have banked on. **32. ... Qf8 33. Rxc1 Nf6 34. Bxb7 Rd8 35. Rc7** and White won ten moves later. (Nakamura – Dai, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 5. 16. gxf5!** Ignoring the threat of the fork on c3! **16. ... Nxc3 17. bxc3 Bxc3 18. Qg4** Not the only move.

18. ... Kg7? 18. ... Qf6 was more stubborn, with White having nothing better than a pawn-up ending: **19. fxe6 Kg7 20. gxf7+ Qg6 21. Qxg6+ Kxg6 22. Ba3 Rxf7** when Black recoups the Exchange. **19. e4! Bxa1 20. Bg5! Qb4 21. f6+ Kg8 22. Rxa1 Nd7 23. Qh3** and **Black resigned!** (Carlsen – Srihari, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 6. 30. Rxe7+!** Instead, **30. Qd5??** was played and Black blundered back with **30. ... Qc1??**. (correct was **30. ... Qd3!**, when after **31. Qxc4 Qxc4 32. Rxc4 Kg8**, Black has drawing chances given White's weak pawns) **31. Bh2 Re2 32. Qf7 Rxf2+ 33. Kg3!** and **Black resigned** three moves later. **30. ... Kxg7 31. Be5+ Kf8 32. Bd6+ Kf7 33. Qb7+ Ke8 34. Qc8+ Kf7 35. Qf8+ Ke6 36. Bb4!** (Carlsen – Subramaniyam, Qatar, 2023, analysis)