

QATAR MASTERS CONTINUED

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ NOVEMBER 01, 2023

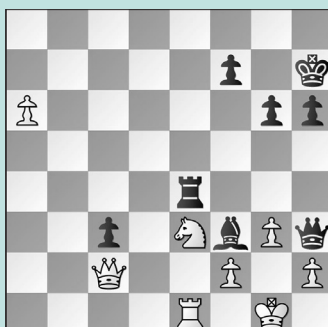
BY JOHN HARTMANN

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



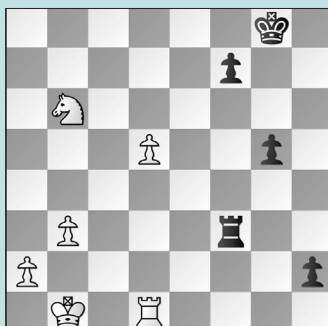
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 16. **Bxh7+ Kxh7** 17. **Nxg5+ Kg6** The retreat with 17. ... **Kg8** 18. **Qh5 Rfe8** 19. **Qxf7+ Kh8** 20. **Rad1!** loses, as the rook lift will be fatal!; Or 17. ... **Kh6** 18. **Qg4** threatening **Qg4-h4+** with devastating effect. 18. **Qg4 f5** 19. **Qg3 Qxd4** 20. **Ne4+**! The key move. Instead, 20. **Nxe6+ Qg4** 21. **Qd3 Nxe5** 22. **Nxf8+ Kh5!** is good but not decisive. 20. ... **Kh7** 21. **Qh4+ Kg6** 22. **Qg5+ Kf7** 23. **Rad1!** A final hammer blow. 23. ... **Qxe5** 24. **Rxd7+ Kg8** 25. **Rxb7** The knight is still untouchable! **Black resigned** in six more moves. (Kaidanov – Van Foreest, J, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 2.** 36. ... **Re5!** 37. **Qb3** No better is 37. **g4** due to 37. ... **Qxg4+** 38. **Kf1 Qh3+** 39. **Kg1 Rg5+**

40. **Ng2 Qxg2** mate. 37. ... **Qxh2+** and **White resigned** due to 38. **Kxh2 Rh5+** 39. **Kg1 Rh1** mate. (Jin – Raja, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 3.** 20. **Bf1!** The only winning move. In the game, White played 20. **axb5** but after 20. ... **Bxb5** 21. **Bf1 Bxf1** 22. **Rxc6 Rd1!** 23. **Nd2 Rxa1** 24. **Nxf1 Rc8** 25. **Rd6 Rf8!**, White had nothing better than a repetition. 20. ... **Bxf1** Or 20. ... **Rc8** 21. **axb5!** **Bxb5** 22. **Bxb5 Rdx7** crushes. 21. **Rxc6 Rc8** 22. **Kxf1** and White is a piece up. (Raja – Rosen, Qatar, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 4.** 22. ... **Nxf2** 23. **Kxf2 Bb5!** 24. **Qc3** 24. **Qd2 Re2+** 25. **Qxe2 Bxe2** 26. **Kxe2 Bxd4** 27. **Bxd4 Qxd4** is winning.; 24. **Qd1 Re2+** 25. **Kg1 Rxb2** is also winning. 24. ... **Re2+** 25. **Kf3 Rxb2!** 26. **Qxb2 Bxd4** 27. **Qc1 Bd7!** 28. **Rb1 Bf5** winning.

(Rathanvel – Pham, Qatar, 2023) **PUZZLE 5.** 40. **d6!** The Shankland Rule in effect. Instead, 40. **Rh1** is how the game continued, and White went on to win. 40. ... **Rd3** 41. **Rxd3 h1=Q+** It turns out that the pawn is unstoppable after 42. **Kc2 Qc6+** 43. **Nc4 Qd7** 44. **Kd2 f6** (else **Nc4-e5**) 45. **Nb6 Qd8** 46. **d7** winning. (Giri – Rohith, Qatar, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 35. **Bxh6!** The attack is clear, but the pay-off is several moves away. Instead, 35. **f5** was played, and White lost shortly. 35. ... **gxh6** 36. **g7 Bd6** 37. **Qxh6 Qh7** 38. **Qxh7+ Kxh7** 39. **g8=Q+ Rxc8** If you got this far, you may well have missed the winning move: 40. **Bf5+!! exf5?** “Better” would be 40. ... **Rg6** 41. **Bxg6+** but White is winning. 41. **Rh3** mate. (Liu – Bai, Qatar, 2023, analysis)