

EURO TEAMS, PART 1

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ NOVEMBER 29, 2023

BY JOHN HARTMANN

PUZZLE 1.



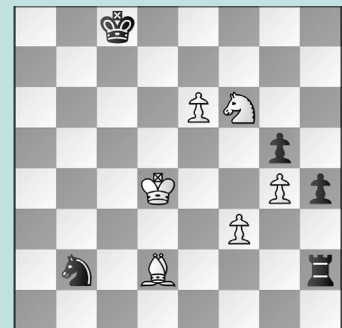
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



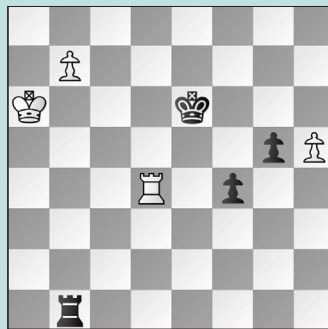
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



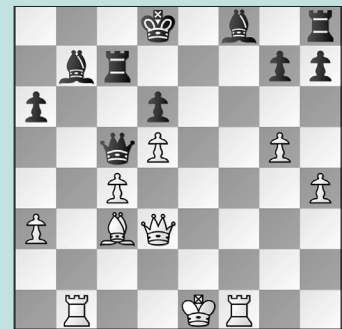
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. Down two pawns, White can turn the tables with **35. Nh6!** and now the g5-knight cannot be defended! (35. Rxd6? should have lost to 35. ... Nf3+ in Andersen – Pancevski, Euro Teams, 2023.) Now if **35. ... Nf3+?** **36. Rxf3 Bxf3 37. Nf7 mate.** **PUZZLE 2.** 40. Ne5 Bxe5 41. dxe5 Nd5 was equal in Grandelius-Pasko, Euro Teams, 2023, but **40. d5!** liberates the a1-bishop to wreak havoc, i.e., **40. ... Bxd5** Or (a) 40. ... Nxd5 41. Bxg7+ Nxg7 42. Qxh6 with Qh6-h8+ to follow, and (b) 40. ... Rxd5 41. Bxf6. **41. Bxf6! gxf6 42. Qxf6** and now Ne3-f5 is lights out! **PUZZLE 3.** Pawns aren't important; promoting is. Therefore: **57. Be3!** Not 57. Bxg5? Re2! 58. Bxh4 Rxe6 as seen in Stal-

mach – Lodici, Euro Teams, 2023. **57. ... Kd8 58. Bxg5 Re2 59. Ne4+** and wins. **PUZZLE 4.** Here **38. ... c5!** gets the c-pawn rolling, and also allows the bishop to defend the f7-square: **39. bxc5 bxc5 40. Kg3** Not 40. Kh4? c4. **40. ... c4 41. Kf2 Kxd6 42. f6 Bd5!** and Black has real chances to win. In Roos – Kurmann (Euro Teams, 2023), Black lost after 38. ... Kxd6? 39. f6! c5 40. bxc5+ bxc5 41. Nf5+! (41. f7? Ke7 42. Nf5+ Kf8!) 41. ... Ke6 42. f7! Kxf7 43. Nd6+ Kg6 44. Nxb7. **PUZZLE 5.** The game continuation in Gledura – Rodshtein (Euro Teams, 2023) 56. Rd8? lets Black draw as 58. ... Ra1+! takes advantage of the rook being unable to block checks. Instead White wins with **56. Rd3!** with the idea of blocking checks on the third and allowing the

king to get to a8 or c8, while also stopping ... f4-f3. After **56. ... Ra1+** 56. ... g4 is too slow, allowing 57. h6 f3 58. h7 and wins. **57. Kb6 Rb1+ 58. Ka7 Ra1+ 59. Kb8 Rh1 60. Rc3 f3** If 60. ... Rxh5 61. Ka8. **61. Kc7** It's game over. **PUZZLE 6.** This one is *hard*. In Sipilä – Krivokapic (Euro Teams, 2023) White played 27. Rb4?, which is the right idea but allows 27. ... Bxd5! 28. Qxd5 Qxd5 29. cxd5 Rxc3 and Black is up a piece but White has full compensation. Instead the prophylactic **27. Kd2!** defends the c3-bishop, stopping any ... Bb7xd5 ideas, and retains the threat to the b7-bishop. Black lacks good moves! **27. ... Be7** Or 27. ... Qxc4 28. Qxc4 Rxc4 29. Rxb7. **28. Rb4! Rd7 29. Bd4** hits the queen. After **29. ... Qc8 30. Bb6+** White is crushing.