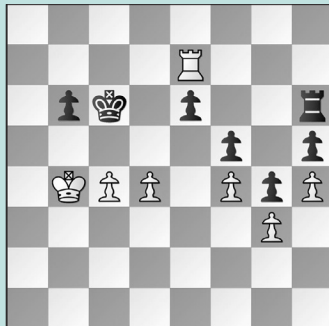


EURO WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPS

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ DECEMBER 06, 2023

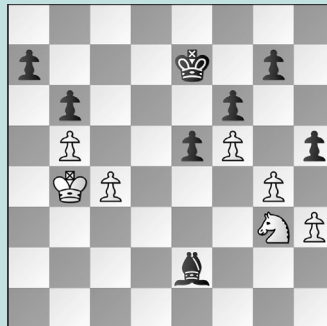
BY JOHN HARTMANN

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



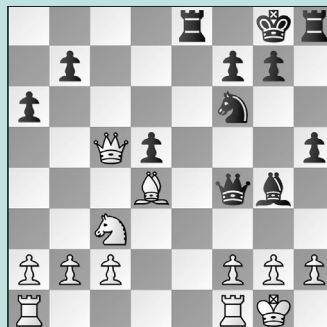
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 80. Rxe6+ After 80. Ra7 Rh8! 81. Rg7 (or 81. Re7 Kd6 82. Rb7 Kc6 etc.) 81. ... Rd8 82. Kc3 Ra8, Black holds. 80. ... Rxe6 81. d5+ Kd6 82. dxe6 Kxe6 83. Kb5 yields a won pawn ending. (Paasikangas – Manova, Euro Teams Women, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 2.** Black overlooked a win after three captures: 50. ... hxc4! After 50. ... Bf3 51. Nxb5 Kf7 52. Ng3, the game was equal. 51. Nxe2 or 51. hxc4 Bxc4 is even easier. 51. ... gxh3! 52. Ng3 h2 when the knight is tethered to the h1-square. (Blokhin – Sliwicka, Euro Teams Women, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 3.** White's attack looks threatening, but the queen is a bit short on squares, as evidenced by 27. ... Bg6! After

27. ... Be6 28. Qe4 Ree7, White should have played 29. g5! crushing. 28. hxc6 hxc6 and there is no good square for the queen! 29. Qe4 Rxe4 30. Bxe4 Bxf4 31. Rh1+ (Balajayeva – Lanchava, Euro Teams Women, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 4.** Black would love to get at the king, but the threat of Qd5-g8 mate is always lurking. After 29. ... b5!, it is the white king that will be in trouble. Instead, 29. ... Bd7?! 30. Nc5! led to a win in short order. 30. Bxb5 Worse is 30. Bd3 as it cuts off defense of the third rank: 30. ... Qh5+ 31. Kg3 Qh4 mate. 30. ... Qh5+ 31. Rh3 Bxb3 32. gxh3 Qf7 and we reach a position where all three results are possible. (Hoang Thanh Trang – Ushenina, Euro Teams Women, 2023, analysis)

PUZZLE 5. While it may not quite be “gold coins thrown on the board” territory, possible was the stunning 21. ... Bf3!!, offering a Marshall-esque bishop that wins in every variation. Instead, 21. ... Be6 22. Rad1 h4 23. Bxf6 Qxf6 24. h3 Rh5 25. Qd4 Qg6 was equal. 22. gxf3 Ng4! 23. fxc4 Qxc4+ 24. Kh1 Qf3+ 25. Kg1 Rh6 and Black wins. (Garcia Martin – Stefanova, Euro Teams Women, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** The black king can escape White's attack, right? Well, after 48. Rc1!!, White prepares 49. Qg8 with clear mate threats. Instead, 48. Qg8+? Kd7 49. Qxf7+ Kc6 allowed the king to squirm out. 48. ... Bc6 49. Qg8+ Kd7 50. Qxf7+ Kc8 51. Rxc6+ is neatly winning. (Hakimifard – Van Foreest, Euro Teams Women, 2023, analysis)