

GASHIMOV MEMORIAL, PART 2

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ DECEMBER 20, 2023

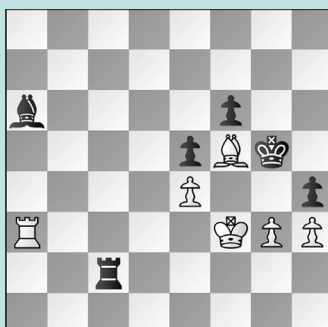
BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



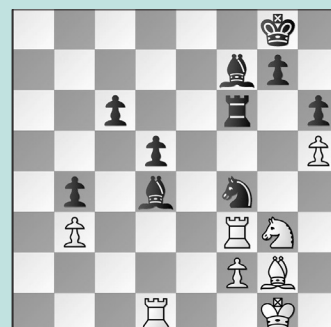
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



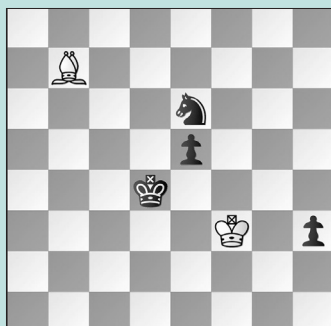
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



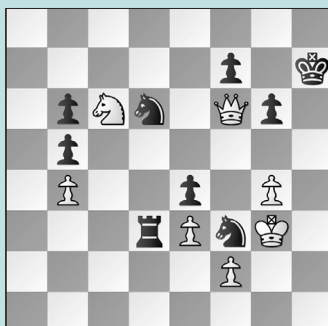
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



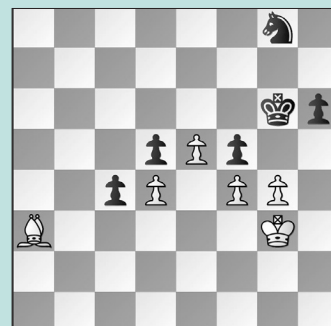
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 18. g6! White threatens h5-h6. 18. ... h6 19. Bxh6 The bishop is untouchable thanks to g6-g7+. 19. ... f5 And now, the final breakthrough: 20. Bxg7+! Kxg7 21. h6+ Kxh6 22. g7 Rg8 23. exf5 Nf6 24. Qe3+ and Black had seen enough. (Van Foreest – Radjabov, Gabala, 2023) **PUZZLE 2.** 48. ... Be2+ Black wins a key pawn. 49. Ke3 Or 49. Kg2 Bg4+ 50. Kg1 Bxf5 51. gxh4+ Kxh4 52. exf5 Kg5 53. Rf3 Rd2 with a won endgame. 49. ... hxg3 50. Ra8 Bc4 51. Ra7 Rc3+ 52. Kd2 Rd3+ 53. Ke1 Kf4 54. h4 Re3+ 55. Kd2 g2 56. Ra1 Bf1 and White resigned. (Van Foreest – Arjun, Gabala, 2023) **PUZZLE 3.** 44. ... Bc3! Here comes the bride! Black's d-pawn is mighty fast, and the weakness

on b3 just accelerates matters. 45. Re3 d4 46. Rf3 Bxb3 47. Ne4 Rf8 and White resigned, as the rook is effectively trapped. (Gelfand – Radjabov, Gabala, 2023) **PUZZLE 4.** White's king must head towards the h-pawn. But to g3 or g4? One loses, one draws. 78. Kg4! Instead, after 78. Kg3?? Ng5 79. Bh1 e4 80. Kf2 Ke5, White resigned. 78. ... Ng5 Instead, if Black tries 78. ... Nf4, he cannot play ...e5-e4, while other moves hang the h-pawn: 79. Kg3 Ke3 80. Bc6 e4 81. Bb7 draws; 78. ... h2 does not save the pawn, as 79. Kg3 nabs it. 79. Kxg5! e4 80. Kf4 e3 81. Kg3 e2 82. Kf2 Kd3 83. Ba6+ should draw. (Gelfand – Abasov, Gabala, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 44. ... Rd1! Black can disrupt White's king enough to keep alive. Not 44. ... Rd5 45. Qa1!

guarding against perpetual. 45. Nd4 The only try was 45. g5, when after 45. ... Nxe5 46. Ne5 (not 46. Qxg5? Rg1+ winning White's queen) 46. ... Kg8 47. Kg2 Rd5, Black still holds. 45. ... Rg1+ 46. Kh3 White must settle, as 46. Kf4?? g5+ parts with the queen. 46. ... Rh1+ 47. Kg3 Rg1+ 48. Kh3 Rh1+ 49. Kg3 with a draw. (Vidit – Arjun, Gabala, 2023) **PUZZLE 6.** 41. ... fxg4! Instead, Black played 41. ... c3 when White erred with 42. e6???. Correct was 42. g5!, eliminating Black's h-pawn. For instance 42. ... hxg5 43. fxg5 Kxg5 44. Kf3 c2 45. Bc1+ holds. Instead, Black was winning after 42. ... fxg4 with the idea of ...h6-h5+, although White held. 42. Kxg4 h5+ 43. Kf3 Nh6 Or 43. ... Kf5, winning. (Arjun – Radjabov, Gabala, 2023, analysis)