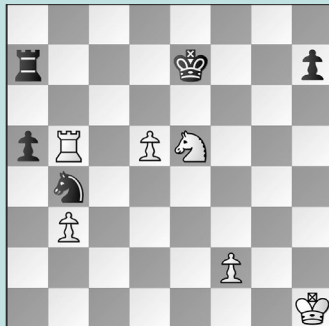


# WORLD RAPID AND BLITZ PT. 3

## WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JANUARY 17, 2024

BY JJ LANG

### PUZZLE 1.



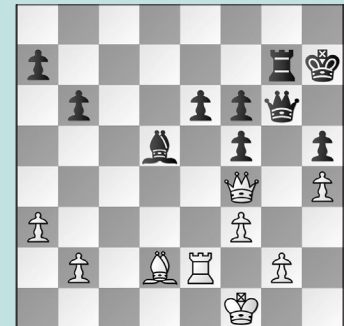
WHITE TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 2.



WHITE TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 3.



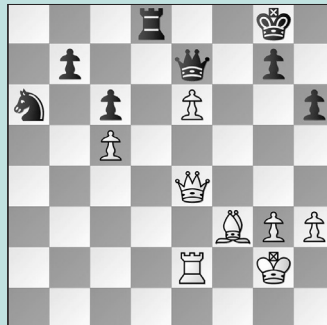
BLACK TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 4.



BLACK TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

### PUZZLE 6.



WHITE TO MOVE

## SOLUTIONS

**PUZZLE 1. 50. Rxb4!** Removing the guard, setting up a game-ending fork: **50. ... axb4 51. Nc6+ Kd6 52. Nxa7** and the endgame is winning: **52. ... Kxd5 53. Kg2 Kd4 54. Nc6+ Kc3 55. Na5 Kd4 56. Kg3** and the king can march the f-pawn up the board. (Yu – Stefanova, Samarkand, 2023) **PUZZLE 2. 24. Re5! Qxd4** Or 24. ... Qd8 25. Qg5+ Kf7 (or 25. ... Kh7 26. Qf5+ Kg7 27. Rae1 Rf7 28. Re7! winning) 26. Rf5 Bxd4 27. Qh5+ Ke6 28. Re1+ Kd7 29. Bxf6 Bxf6 30. Rd5+ winning. **25. Qg5+ Kf7 26. Qxf6+** winning. (Niemann – Hong, Samarkand, 2023) **PUZZLE 3. 43. ... e5!** White's queen is overloaded. She can no longer guard both the f3-pawn and the threat of ...Bd5-c4. **44. Qe3** Or 44. Qb4

Bxf3 wins. **44. ... Bc4 45. Kg1 Bxe2** and **White resigned** seven moves later. (Danielian – Yu, Samarkand, 2023) **PUZZLE 4. 42. ... f3+** Of course, the discovered check is just the beginning! The work really begins after: **43. g3 Rd2+ 44. Kh1 Qxg3** Did you calculate this, or did you assume White had a perpetual? If you didn't calculate it, you can be forgiven, but kudos to Yu for doing the work here and bringing home the point. **45. Qxf7+ Kd6 46. Qe6+ Kc7 47. Qe7+ Rd7** The checks run out and **White resigned**. (Humpy – Yu, Samarkand, 2023) **PUZZLE 5. 48. Qg6!** What a devastating quiet move. There is no stopping the cool Bf3-g4-f5 mating net! In the game, **48. Rc2?** lost White's chance: **48. ... Nxc5 49. Qb4 b6 50. Qxb6 Nxe6 51.**

**Re2** although Black returned the favor with **51. ... Qd6??** (instead 51. ... Rd6 was equal) allowing **52. Rxe6 Qxe6 53. Qxd8+** winning. **48. ... Nxc5 49. Bg4! Rd5** or else 50. Bf5 wins. **50. Bf5 Rxf5 51. Qxf5 Na6 52. Rd2** and White is still winning. (Caruana – Praggnanandhaa, Samarkand, 2023, analysis) **PUZZLE 6. 29. Rg1!** Very necessary prophylaxis. In the game, **29. Bg3?** lost the edge after **29. ... Rf2! 30. Rg1** although Black was impatient with **30. ... Qf5?? 31. Bxf2 Qxf2** (or 31. ... exf2 32. Rd1 winning) **32. Qf1** and resigned. **29. ... e2 30. Bg3** and now Black is unable to play ...Rf8-f2, giving White that crucial one extra turn to consolidate. **30. ... Qe4 31. Qxe4 Bxe4 32. Nb5** and White is better. (Caruana – Idani, Samarkand, 2023, analysis)