

TATA STEEL: CHALLENGER HANS

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ FEBRUARY 07, 2024

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



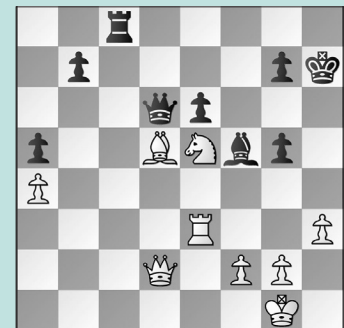
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



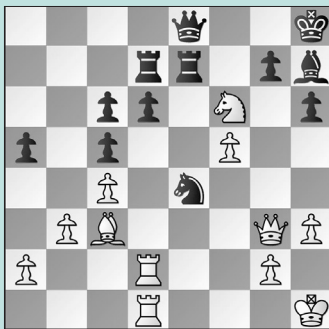
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



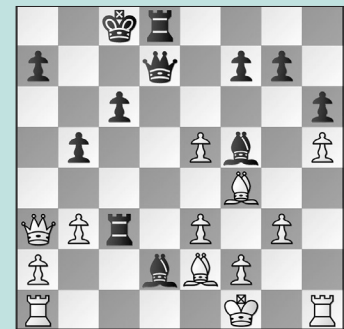
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 28. Qxc6 Simple, but strong: **28. ... bxc6** Now, White has to be precise. **29. Rd2!** Not 29. Rd1?? c5! (not 29. ... Bxf2+?? 30. Nxf2 covering the rook) and the position is equal, as White loses with 30. Nxc5?? Bxf2+. In the game, **Black resigned** after Hans chose the right rook: **29. ... Rfd8 30. Red1 c5 31. Nxc5 Bxf2+ 32. Kxf2 Rxd2+ 33. Rxd2 Rxd2+ 34. Nxd2** when White has consolidated. (Niemann – Vrolijk, Wijk aan Zee, 2024) **PUZZLE 2.** An elegant forced mate! **33. ... Qxe2+** and **White resigned**, since **34. Kxe2 Bxf4+ 35. Ke1** Or 35. Rd2 Rxd2+ 36. Kf1 Rd1+ 37. Kg2 R8d2 mate. **35. ... Bxg3+ 36. Kf1 Rxd1** is mate. (Beukema – Niemann, Wijk aan Zee, 2024)

PUZZLE 3. 45. g4! Rc5 The trickiest line was with 45. ... Bc2 (not 45. ... Bg6 46. Nxc6 Kxc6 47. Be4+ winning), since White's win is not with the obvious 46. Be4+?? (instead 46. Rc3! is the precise move; or, 46. Qxc2+ Rxc2 47. Be4+ Kg8 48. Bxc2 is also good) 46. ... Bxe4 47. Qxd6 Rc1+ 48. Kh2 Rh1+ 49. Kg3 Rg1+ with a perpetual. **46. gxf5 Rxd5 47. Qe2** and White won. (Roebers – Niemann, Wijk aan Zee, 2024) **PUZZLE 4. 49. Nxe4!** Not 49. Nxe8?? Nxc3+ 50. Kh2 Rxe8 51. Kxc3 Re3+ winning. **49. ... Rxe4 50. Rxd6 Re3 51. Qg4 Bxf5 52. Qxf5 Rxd6** Black is hanging on by a thread. **53. Bxg7+!** Not 53. Rxd6?! Rxc3 when White still has an edge after 54. Rxh6+ gxh6 55. Qf6+ Kh7 56. Qxc3 Qe2 57. a3, but the win is further off. **53. ... Kxg7 54. Rxd6**

and **Black resigned** in light of **54. ... Re7 55. Qf6+ Kg8 56. Rxc6** winning. (Niemann – Divya, Wijk aan Zee, 2024) **PUZZLE 5. 27. ... Rf8! 28. Qe6+** Note that 28. Bxd5+ falls to the subtle 28. ... Kh8 (or 28. ... Nxd5?? 29. Qxd5+ winning) when there is no way to defend the f2-square. **28. ... Kh8** and Black wins material: **29. Re2 Nf6 30. Bh3 c2 31. Rc1 Re8 32. Qf5 Qxf5! 33. Rxe8+ Nxe8 34. Bxf5 Bb2** clarifying. (Niemann – Korobov, Wijk aan Zee, 2024) **PUZZLE 6. 29. ... a5!** Setting up a queen trap. **30. Rd1** Or 30. Qb2 Rc2 31. Qd4 Qb7 also wins the queen. **30. ... Rc2! 31. b4** If 31. Qd6 Qb7 32. Qa3, Bb4 is the point. **31. ... Qd5** and Black won after **32. e4 Qxe4 33. f3??** see **Puzzle 1.** (Beukema – Niemann, Wijk aan Zee, 2024)