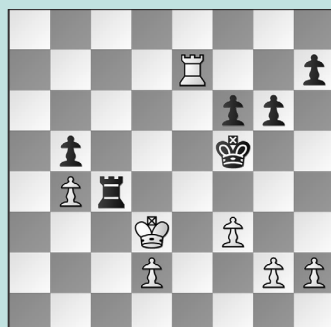


GRENKE FESTIVAL + FREESTYLE

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ APRIL 30, 2025

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



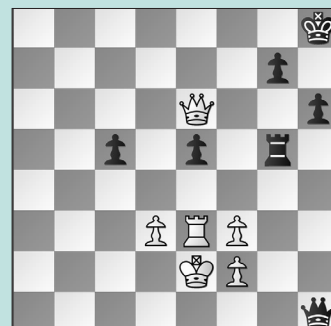
BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 41. Re4! Rc1 42. h4 Ensnares Black's king in a mating net. 42. ... g5 43. h5 and Black resigned. (Niemann – Kadric, Grenke, 2025) **PUZZLE 2.** 21. ... Bg6 22. Qf1 If 22. Rc1 Bxb1 23. Rxb1 Qg6! is the point, as, e.g. 24. Qc2? allows 24. ... Re1+ winning material. 22. ... Qf8! Most precise, as 23. Rc1 Bxb1 24. Rxb1 Qf5 25. Kc1 Bxf4+ wins. (Karthikeyan – Caruana, Grenke, 2025) **PUZZLE 3.** 26. ... Be2! 27. Qxe2 The key line. The game continued 27. Qc2 Bxf1 28. Nxf1 Ba5 and Black won shortly. 27. ... Nxc3 Mate is unstoppable, e.g.: 28. Qd3 Qxa2+! 29. Bxa2 Rxa2 mate. (Koehler – Tang, Grenke, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 4.** 25. ... Nxc3 Greed is good! 26. Bd2 Qxa2 Or

26. ... Ne2+ 27. Kf1 Nxd4 28. Nxd4 Nxd4 29. Qb2 Qc5 also wins. 27. Rb2 Qa1+ 28. Kh2 Nb5! The key point, as 28. ... Ne4? 29. Ra2 was White's trap. 29. Ra2 The key line. In the game, White played 29. Be3 and after 29. ... Nb4 resigned shortly. 29. ... Ncxd4! Or 29. ... Na3 also wins. Note: 29. ... Nbx4? 30. Qa4! is a problem, as after 30. ... Nxf3+ 31. Bxf3 Qxe5 32. Qxc6 White is fine. 30. Qa4 Nxf3+ 31. Bxf3 Qxe5 Black escapes. (Amar – Jacobson, Grenke, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 19. ... Nxd5! Black emerges better, but it requires concrete play to prove. 20. cxd5 Or 20. exd5 Ba4! 21. Bc2 (not 21. Qd2 e4 winning) 21. ... Bxc2 22. Qxc2 e4 23. Nh2 Nd3 with a crushing attack. 20. ... Ba4 21. Bc2 Forced. Queen moves such as 21. Qe2? allow 21.

... Nxd3 22. Qxd3 Bc2 winning material. 21. ... Bxc2 22. Qxc2 f5! 23. Qe2 If 23. exf5 e4 24. Nh2 Nd3 wins similarly. 23. ... Nxe4 24. Qxa6 Ra8 25. Qc6 Rc8 26. Qa6 Nc5 and Black had a dominating position. (Knoblauch – Jacobson, Grenke, 2025) **PUZZLE 6.** 36. ... Qb1! By playing 36. ... Qc1? Black allowed 37. Qd5 Qb2+ Now, the idea with 37. ... Rg1 is met by 38. Qa8+ Kh7 39. Qe4+ and a perpetual, as 39. ... g6 is met by 40. Qb7+ and a perpetual. 38. Kf1 Qa1+ 39. Re1 Qd4 40. Qa8+ Kh7 41. Qe4+ and White was able to hold. 37. Qd5 Rg1 The difference is that, now, White has no perpetual, as the b7-square is covered. 38. Qa8+ Kh7 39. Qe4+ g6 White cannot stop the mating attack. (Dominguez – Maghsoodloo, Grenke, 2025, analysis)