

2025 CAIRNS CUP, PART 2

WEDNESDAY WORKOUT ■ JUNE 18, 2025

BY JJ LANG

PUZZLE 1.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 2.



BLACK TO MOVE

PUZZLE 3.



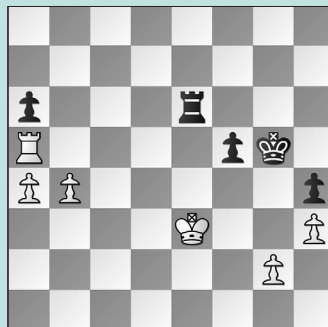
WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 4.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 5.



WHITE TO MOVE

PUZZLE 6.



BLACK TO MOVE

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLE 1. 43. ... **Be4!** 44. **f5+** White can't allow 44. **Re2** **Bxg3+** 45. **Kxg3 Rh3+** 46. **Kf2** (or 46. **Kxg4 Bf5+** mates) 46. ... **g3+** when the pawn breaks through. 44. ... **gxf5** White has no compensation, and **White resigned** soon. (Dzagnidze – Harika, St. Louis, 2025) **PUZZLE 2.** 23. ... **Bxe4!** 24. **Ng3** After 24. **Nxe4 exf4!** 25. **Nxf4** (or 25. **Qxf4 Rxe4** wins) 25. ... **Qf5!** keeps an edge. 24. ... **exf4** 25. **Qxf4 Bxc2** 26. **Rxe8+ Rxe8** 27. **Nxh5 Re1+** 28. **Kh2 Be5** Black regains her queen with interest! (Muzychuk – Lee, St. Louis, 2025) **PUZZLE 3.** 23. **Nf3 Qh5** 24. **e5! Rff8** No better is 24. ... **Rh6** 25. **exd6** although Black has an interesting try with 25. ... **Ng5!** 26. **Nxg5 Rxd6** 27. **Qc1** when Black regains the piece, but

White is still better. 25. **exd6 cxd6** 26. **Qxd6** Black cannot defend both the d7-bishop and the threat of **Re1xe6**. 26. ... **fxg3** 27. **hxxg3 Bc6** 28. **Re5 Qg4** 29. **Nh2!** Finally removing the defender. 29. ... **Qxc4** 30. **Qxe6** and **Black resigned** shortly. (Lee – Kashlinskaya, St. Louis, 2025) **PUZZLE 4.** 31. **Kf1** Black has no advantage! White's 31. **Ke3?** was wrong! 31. ... **Qxxg3?** Black erred here. Instead, 31. ... **Qxb2!** is crushing after 32. **Rd3**, as taking the d3-square away from her king proves fatal: 32. ... **Qg2** 33. **Qg4 Rf4** 34. **Qh5 Qxxg3** 35. **Rf1 g6** 36. **Qh1 Rxe4+** 37. **Kxe4 Qf4+** 38. **Kd5 Ra5+** forces mate. 31. ... **Qxxg3** 32. **Ree3 g5** Not fatal. 33. **Ke2 g4** 34. **Ne1!** Securing the d1-square for White's king. (Yip – Batsiashvili, St. Louis, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 5.** 47.

Kd4! In the game, 47. **Kd3? Kf4** 48. **b5 axb5** 49. **axb5** when Black erred with 49. ... **Re3+?** and lost. 47. ... **Re2** This must have been what worried White. 48. **Rxa6 Rxxg2** 49. **b5** The connected passers win. (Yip – Dzagnidze, St. Louis, 2025, analysis) **PUZZLE 6.** 27. ... **Bxd4** Black played 27. ... **Ne7??** but after 28. **Bxe7! Bxd4** 29. **Qc4+ Kh8** 30. **Bxd8 Qd1+** 31. **Qf1**, she resigned. 28. **Re8+ Nf8** 29. **Bxd4!** Instead 29. **Bxf8??** might have discouraged Black, but 29. ... **Bxf2+!** wins: 30. **Kxf2** Capture or no, White's king is exposed enough for 30. ... **Rxd7!** 31. **Rxb8** 31. ... **Rd2+** with mate to follow. 29. ... **Qxd4** 30. **Qe6+ Kh8** 31. **Qf7 Rxe8** 32. **dxe8=Q Rxe8** 33. **Qxe8 Qd1+** Black is pawn-up and not in danger. (Yip – Humpy, St. Louis, 2025, analysis)