



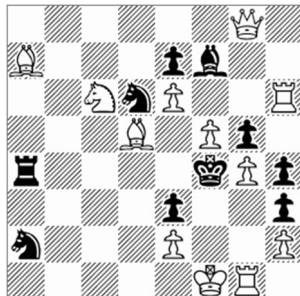
ECSC Internet composing tourney 2026

On the occasion of the 19th European Chess Solving Championship (ECSC), which will be held in the Macedonian capital Skopje from 8 to 10 May 2026, an Internet composing tourney is announced for mates in three moves (#3) and helpmates in 2.5 or 3 moves (h#2.5 or h#3) with the following theme: Shift of at least 2 white moves and/or 2 black moves, which appear in different stages of at least 2 variations (including a threat) of #3 or at least two solutions (not twins) of h#2.5 or h#3. The theme can be shown with a random or pattern order of white moves (including exchanged white moves) in two variations or solutions (see **Nos 1 and 2**); or in more thematic variations or solutions (see **Nos 3-8**); in 1+2 variations or solutions (see **Nos 3 and 4**); in 4 or more (including 2 or more groups of) thematic variations or solutions (see **Nos 5 and 6**); between try and solution (see **No 7**); or in 3-n variations or solutions with cycle of white moves, full or incomplete (see **No 8**). It is sufficient to show shift of at least 2 moves of any colour, but doubling, either bicolour (**Nos 2 and 3**) or monocolour (see **Nos 4, 7 and 8**), and multiple presentations of the theme (with more than 2 thematic moves and/or in more than 2 pairs of variations) would be welcome.

Please send your original problems to the tourney judge at zoran.gavrilovski@gmail.com until 30.04.2026. The best participants will receive chess composition literature (books, magazines etc.) and other prizes.

1. Valery Shavyrin

1st-2nd Pr. Petko Petkov MT
2025–2026, section A1 (*The
Macedonian Problemist* 79-a,
I-IV/2026)



#3 12+10

2. Jorge Kapros

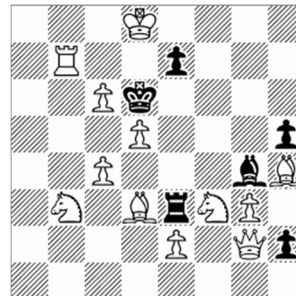
1st Pr. B. Majoros-65 JT
(*Csák-Majoros-Pásztor*) 2020



H#3 2 solutions 4+14

3. Zoran Gavrilovski

The Macedonian Problemist
2026 (issue 79, January–
April) 2026



#3^{vv} 12+6

4. Igor Agapov

1st Pr. *Pat a mat* 2020–2021



#3 7+10

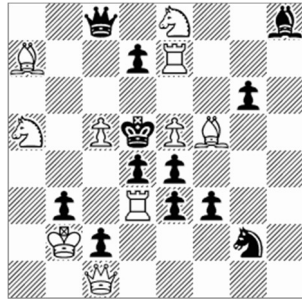
N^o 1: 1.Ke1! (2.Rf1+ C K:g4 3.Se5#), 1...Re4 2.R:h4! ~ 3.Rf1# C, 1...Se4 2.Q:g5+! A K:g5/S:g5 3.B:e3# B/Bb8#, [2.B:e3+? B K:e3 3.Q:g5+ A S:g5!], 1...Sc4 2.B:e3+! B K:e3/S:e3 3.Q:g5# A/Qb8# [2.Q:g5+? A K:g5 3.B:e3+ B S:e3!]. Shift of 3 white moves, of which 2 are exchanged between 2 variations: 1.! (2.C), 1...Re4 ... 3.C#, 1...Se4 2.A K:g5 3.B#, 1...Sc4 2.B K:e3 3.A#.

N^o 2: 1.Qc5 x Bh1 2.c3 y Kf3+ A 3.Kd5 Kg4# B; 1.c3 y Rh4 2.Qc5 x Kg4+ B 3.Kd4 Kf3# A. Bicolour doubling of the theme: I) 1.x ... 2.y A ... 3...B#; II) 1.y ... 2.x B ... 3...A#.

N^o 3: 1.Se5? (2.Sf7#), 1...K:e5 2.R:e7+ Kd6/Be6 3.c5#/R:e6#, 1...Rf3! x; 1.Qf2? (2.B:e7+ & 2.Q:e3 etc.), 1...R:f3 2.B:e7+ Ke5 3.Qd4#, 1...B:f3! y; 1.Qh1! (2.Qa1 A (3.Qa3#) R:f3 x/B:f3 y 3.B:e7# B/Rd7# C), 1...R:f3 x 2.B:e7+ B Ke5 3.Qa1# A, 1...B:f3 y 2.Rd7+ C Ke5 3.Qa1# A, 1...Re5 2.Rb6 (3.c7#) Bd7 3.c:d7#. Bicolour doubling of the theme: the “white” and black parts of the theme are shown in the threat and 2 variations with split exchange of the white moves: 1.Qh1! (2.A x/y 3.B/C#), 1...x 2.B ... 3.A#, 1...y 2.C ... 3.A#.

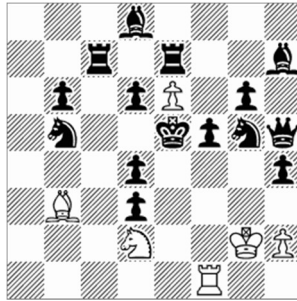
N^o 4: 1.Qh4! (2.R:e6+ B:e6/K:e6 3.Qf4# A/Q:f6# B), 1...Be4 2.Qf4+ A e5 3.Q:f6#, 1...e5 2.Q:f6+ B Be6 3.Q:e5#, 1...Re2 2.Bc5+ K:c5/Ke5 3.Q:b4# C/Qd4# D, 1...Rf2 2.Q:b4+ C e5 3.Rd7#, 1...d4 2.Q:d4+ D Sd5 3.Qc5#, 1...Sg6/Sg8 2.S:f5+ e:f5 3.Q:f6#/Qf4#. The theme is doubled here in 6 (1+2 and 1+2) variations: 1.Qh4! (... 3.A/B#), 1...Be4 2.A, 1...e5 2.B, 1...Re2 ... 3.C#D#, 1...Rf2 2.C, 1...d4 2.D.

5. Zoran Gavrilovski
The Macedonian Problemist
 2026 (issue 78, September–
 December 2025)



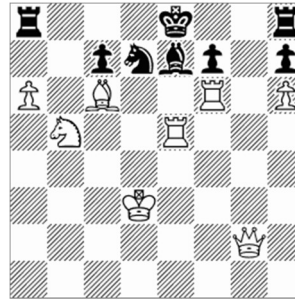
#3 * 10+12

6. Zoran Gavrilovski
 7th H.M. FIDE World Cup
 2025



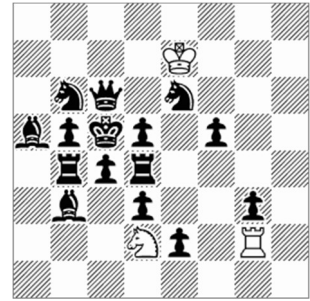
H#2.5 4 solutions 6+15

7. Aleksandr Feoktistov
 1st-2nd Pr. Petko Petkov MT
 2025-2026, section A1 (*The*
Macedonian Problemist 79-a,
 I-IV/2026)



#3 v 8+8

8. Zoran Gavrilovski
The Macedonian Problemist
 2026 (issue 79, January–
 April 2026)



H#2.5 4 solutions 3+15

№ 5: 1...e2 x 2.R:d4+ K:d4 3.Qd2#; **1.Qf1!** (R:d4+ **A** K:d4 3.Qc4#), 1...e2 2.B:e4+ **B** K:e4 3.Q:f3#, 1...Q:c5 2.Sc7+ Q:c7 3.R:d4# **A**, 1...B:e5 2.Sf6+ B:f6 3.B:e4# **B**, 1...c1Q(B)+, R 2.Q:c1 (3.Qc4#) Qa6/Q:c5 3.Sc7#/Q:c5#. The theme is shown in 2 pairs of variations with tactically different play (Adabashev synthesis): I.! (2.**A**), 1...e2 2.**B**, 1...Q:c5 ... 3...**A**#, 1...B:e5 ... 3...**B**#.

№ 6: 1...Bd5 2.R:e6 Bc6 3.Bf6 Sc4# **A**; 1...Rf4 2.Se4 Rg4 3.Sf6 Sf3# **B**; 1...Sc4+ **A** 2.Kd5 Rc1 3.Kc6 Sa5#; 1...Sf3+ **B** 2.Kf4 Bd1 3.Kg4 Se5#. Presentation of the theme in a “Helpmate of the Future” form (Adabashev synthesis): I) ... 3...**A**#; II) ... 3...**B**#; III) 1...**A**#; III) 1...**B**#.

№ 7: 1.Qg4? (2.S:c7+ Kd8/Kf8 3.Q:d7#/Qg7#), 1...Ra7 2.Q:d7+ Kf8 3.Qe8#, 1...0-0-0 2.a7 **C** ~ 3.a8Q,R#, 1...Kf8 2.Qg7+ **D** Ke8 3.Q:h8#, 1...Rc8! x; **1.Qd5!** (2.S:c7+ Kd8/Kf8 3.Q:d7# **A**/Q:f7# **B**), 1...Ra7 2.Q:d7+ **A** Kf8 3.Qe8#, 1...Rc8 x 2.Q:f7+ **B** Kd8 3.Q:e7#, 1...0-0-0 2.Bb7+ Kb8 3.a7# **C**, 1...0-0-0 2.Qg2+ Kh8 3.Qg7# **D**. Doubling of the theme by showing a shift of white moves between the solution’s threat and two variations [1.! (... 3.**A**/**B**#), 1...Ra7 2.**A**; 1...Rc8 2.**B**] and between the try and solution [1.?, 1...0-0-0 2.**C**, 1...Kf8 2.**D**; 1.!, 1...0-0-0 ... 3.**C**#, 1...0-0 ... 3.**D**#].

№ 8: 1...Rg1 **A** 2.Ra4 Rc1 **B** 3.Bb4 S:b3# **C**, 1...S:b3+ **C** 2.c:b3 Rg1 **A** 3.Kc4 Rc1# **B**, 1...Rf2 **D** 2.Re4 R:f5 **E** 3.Sd4+ S:e4# **F**, 1...Se4+ **F** 2.d:e4 Rf2 **D** 3.Kd5 R:f5# **E**. Doubling of the theme in each of the two pairs of solutions with incomplete cyclic change of 2 triplets of white moves: **ABC-CAB** and **DEF-FDE**.