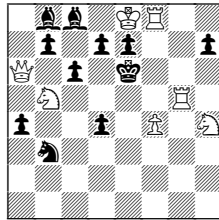


ChessStar 2018 #3 Award

By Mike Prcic

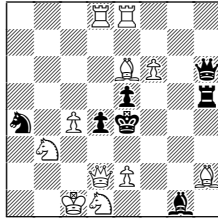
Twenty-three threemovers were published in 2018 (2158, 2165, 2170, 2172, 2178, 2189, 2195, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2237, 2241, 2243, plus 8 more in December, but without numbers). After careful consideration I have decided on the following ranking:

1st Prize
Mikhail Maranduyk
ChessStar 2018



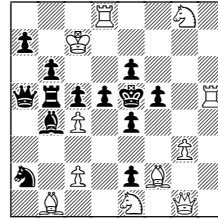
#3 (7+11)

2nd Prize
Aleksandr Sygurov
ChessStar 2018



#3 (11+7)

3rd Prize
Rauf Aliovsadzade
ChessStar 2018



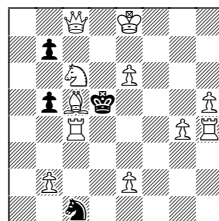
#3 (11+13)

1st Prize - (Mikhail Maranduyk - 08.12.2018) After the key: **1.Rf7!** (2.Rxe7+ Kf6 3.Rf5#), Black defends with 1...Bd6 2.Sxd4+! (Sc7+?) Sxd4 3.Qc4# (3...d5??) and 1...d6 2.Sc7+! (Sxd4+?) Bxc7 3.Qe2# (3...Be5??), with a Pikabish interference on d6-square. The white Queen waits in ambush behind its Knight, which is sacrificed twice, with dual avoidance. In the side variation, 1...d5 2.Re5+! Bxe5 3.f5#, the white Rook is sacrificed while the black Bishop self-blocks. The theme is presented in clear and clean fashion in the simplest way possible. The economy is excellent considering White's heavy advantage in manpower.

2nd Prize - (Aleksandr Sygurov - 23.12.2018) It's hard to imagine, but this is a 'waiter'. **1.Bh3!** (zz), 1...Qe3 2.Rxd4+![A] Qxd4 3.Qf4#, 1...Qg5 2.Rxe5+![B] Qxe5 3.Qd3# (Holzhausen interference and unpinning of the white Queen), 1...Be3[a] 2.Kc2 (3.Qd3#) Bxd2 3.Rxd4#[A]; 2...Sb2 3.Sc5#, 1...Rf5[b] 2.Bg2+ Rf3 3.Rxe5#[B], 1...d3 2.Qxh6 Be3+[a] 3.Qxe3#; 2...Rf5[b] 5 3.Sxd2# (Changed functions of moves).

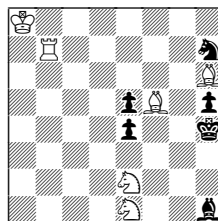
3rd Prize - (Rauf Aliovsadzade - 2165) Despite the heavy setting , some good variations with White and Black playing to same squares in reciprocal order (Kubbel Theme). Add to that a switchback by the white Rook and two quiet moves. **1.Rh7!** (2.Rxd5+ exd5 3.Re7#), 1...Sc3 2.Be3 ~/f4 3.Bf4/Rh5#, 1...e3 2.c3 ~ 3.Sf3#, (1...dxc4 2.Bd4+ cxd4 3.Qxd4#).

1st Honorable Mention
Alexander Shpakovsky
ChessStar 2018



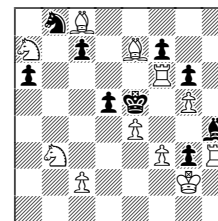
#3 (11+4)

2nd Honorable Mention
Miguel Uriis
ChessStar 2018



#3 (6+6)

3rd Honorable Mention
Rauf Aliovsadzade
ChessStar 2018



#3 (11+9)

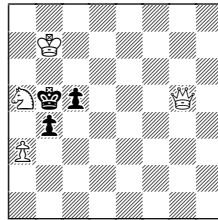
1st Honorable Mention - (Alexander Shpakovsky - 2178) After a rather strong key, there are two pairs of variations. **1.e7!** (2.Qf5+[A] Kxc4 3.Sa5#[B]; 2...Kxc6 3.Qd7#), 1...Kxc4 2.Sa5+[B] Kd5 3.Qf5#[A], 1...bxc4

2.Sb4+ Ke5 3.Qf5#[A], 1...b4 2.g5! (3.Qd7/Rhd4#) bxc6 3.Qf5#[A], 1...bxc6 2.Rxc1 ~ 3.Qf5#[A], 1...b6 2.Rd4+ Kxc5 3.b4#, 1...Sb3 2.e4+ Kxc4[a] 3.Se5#, 1...Sd3 2.e4+ Kxc4[a] 3.Sa5#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Miguel Uris - 24.12.2018) 1.Sf3+? exf3 2.Rb4+ e4 3.Rxe4#, 1...Bxf3!; **1.Rg7!** (zz), 1...e3+ 2.Rg2 (3.Sf3#) 2...e4 3.Rh2#; 2...Bxg2+ 3.Sxg2#; 2...Sg5 3.Bxg5#, 1...Bf3 2.Rg3 (3.Rh3#) e3+ 3.Sxf3#; 2...Bg2/Bg4 3.S(x)g2#; 2...Sg5 3.Bxg5#. A good key opens up white King to checks. After 1...e3+, the same Rook closes the line and places Black in Zugzwang.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Rauf Aliovsadzade - 2170) 1.Bb7? (2.Bc5 & 3.Bd4#), 1...Bxg5!; 1.Rh1? (2.f4+ Kxe4 3.Re1#) dxe4!; 1.Bxa6? (zz), 1...dxe4 2.f4+ Kd5 3.c4#, 1...d4 2.Bc5 ~ 3.Bxd4#, 1...Bxg5!; **1.c4!** (2.Bc5 ~ 3.Bd4#), 1...dxc4 2.Bb4! ~ Bc3#; 2...Sc6 3.Sxc6#, 1...Bxg5 2.Rh5! ~ 3.Rxg5#; 2...gxh5 3.Rf5#. Change of play.

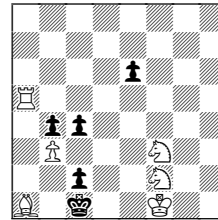
Commendation
Vladimir Kozhakin
ChessStar 2018



#3

(4+3)

Commendation
Nikolay Akimov
ChessStar 2018



#3

(6+5)

Commendations are in order of publication

Commendation - (Vladimir Kozhakin - 2206) 1.Qg8? (zz), 1...b3 2.Qc4+ Kxa5 3.Qa6#, 1...Kxa5 2.Qa8+ Kb5 3.Qa6#, 1...Ka4 2.Qc4 Kxa3 3.Qb3#; 2...Kxa5 3.Qa6#, 1...c4 2.Qc4+ Ka4 3.Qxb4#; 2...Kxa5 3.Qa6/Qxb4#, 1...bxa3!; **1.Qd5!** (2.Qc6+ Kxa5 3.Qa6#), 1...Ka4 2.Qc4 Kxa3 3.Qb3#; 2...Kxa5 3.Qa6#, 1...Kxa5 2.Qxc5+ Ka4 3.Qxb4#, 1...bxa3 2.Sc6 (3.Qb3#) Ka4 3.Qc4#. Good try and a changed mate after 1...Kxa5.

Commendation - (Nikolay Akimov - 27.12.2018) 1.Re5? (2.Re1#) Kb1; 1.B4? (2.Ra1#) c3!; **1.Be5!** (2.Ra1#), 1...c3 2.Sd2! cxd2 3.Ra1# (self-block); 2...Kd2 3.Bf4#; 2...Kb2 3.Sd3#.

I would like to thank the editors of ChessStar for entrusting me to judge this tourney. The award is open for three months. Please send your comments to the editors of ChessStar.