

## FIDE OLYMPIC TOURNEY 2018: SELFMATES AWARD

**JUDGE: ZORAN GAVRILOVSKI**

It was an honor and pleasure to judge the tourney organised on the occasion of the Chess Olympiad 2018 at Batumi. The tourney attracted 24 selfmates (5 s#2s, 5 s#3s and 14 s#-moremovers), composed by 21 authors from 10 countries.

In making the award I was guided by my usual judging criteria, which include originality of the contents; strategy, harmony, quantity and quality of the play, including aesthetic or solving-appealing elements (such as unexpectedness and beauty of a first move and of the further play, existence of different mates etc.); and the technical presentation of themes and/or ideas. In the selfmate genre I also pay attention to the existence or absence or genuine selfmate elements in the play.

I had to exclude a S#16 which combines AUW, Phenix and Valadao, because of the cook 1.a8Q+ Ba2.f:g8Q!! with many sub-variations, which was found by Olaf Jenkner (the 127-pp. results of the computer testing will be submitted to the author of the problem).

The quality of nearly 2/3 of the entries is on a low or average level, but this is partly compensated by the good quality of the problems which entered the award, notably those awarded a prize.

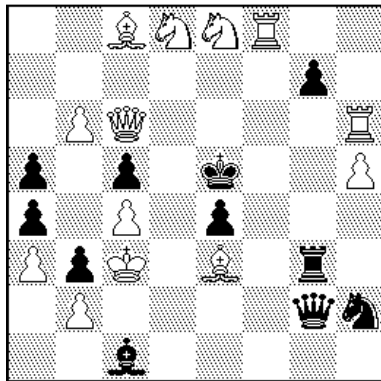
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize Aleksandr Kuzovkov	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize Aleksandr Feoktistov	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize Andrey Selivanov
		
S#6                      11+12	S#4                      13+11	S#3 <sup>vv</sup> 14+12

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Aleksandr Kuzovkov.** A cycle of moves is naturally combined with a cycle of formation of white batteries and a vivid battery play. A pattern and strategic play achieved with utmost precision.  
**1.d6!** (2.Be4+(A) Kc4 3.Bd5+ Kd3 4.Rd4+(B) Kc3 5.Re4+ Kd3 6.Re3+ S:e3#, 1...g:f2 2.Rd4+(B) Kc3 3.Re4+ Kd3 4.Se5+(C) Kc3 5.Sg4+ Kd3 6.S:f2+ Sf2#, 1...B:c7 2.Se5+(C) Kc3 3.Sf7+ Kd3 4.Be4+(A) Kc4 5.Bc2+ Kd5 6.B:b3+ Q:b3#.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Aleksandr Feoktistov.** The author claimed that the problem shows the Theme of the Future. It has 3 + 2 variations with the following contents: I) play by the existing black battery (after removing the obstructing bPf4 from the fourth rank) in the threat and after 1...b:c4/e:f2; and II) play by the white R/B battery and by newly created black batteries after 1...Q:f5/Q:f6. The claimed change of functions of white and black moves is not very convincing because the „letter“-pattern is not clear-cut.  
**1.Sc4!** (2.S:e3+! f:e3(a) 3.Rd2+!(A) e:d2 4.e4+(B) R:e4#, 1...b:c4 2.Rd2+!(A) e:d2 3.e4+!(B) f:e3 e.p.(a) 4.b:c4+ R:c4#, 1...e:f2 2.e4+!(B) f:e3 e.p.(a) 3.Rd6+ Kc5(b) 4.Bd4+ R:d4#, 1...Q:f5 2.Rc5+!(C) K:c5(b) 3.Bb4+ Kd4 4.f:e3+ f:e3#(a), 1...Q:f6 2.Qd8+! Q:d8 3.R:c7+ Q:a8 4.Rc5+(C) K:c5#(b).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Andrey Selivanov.** “Star” by the black Bishop at B1 moves, White Allumwandlung (AUW) at W2 moves and four-fold BK play at different squares at B2 moves is a nice combination, which is regrettably achieved with multiple repetition of the mate 3...Be6#. The ostensibly crowded position is unpleasant at first sight, but all white aristocratic pieces are well-employed, except the underused out-of-play wSa7. The quality of the key is emphasized by two nice tries. 1.Be4? B:h4!; 1.Bg2? Rh1!;  
**1.Bf3!** (2.R:c6+ K:d7 3.Bg4+ Be6#), 1...B:f4 2.f8Q+! Ke5 3.Qe7+ Be6#; 1...B:h4(R:h4) 2.f8S+! Kf5 3.Qe6+ B:e6#; 1...B:f6 2.f8R+! Ke7 3.Qf7+ B:f7#; 1...B:h6 2.f8B+! K:f6 3.R:c6+ Be6#.

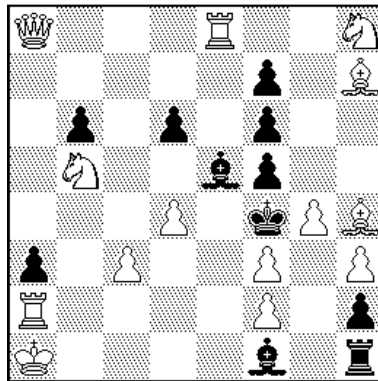
**1<sup>st</sup> Honourable Mention**  
**Sergey Borodavkin**



S#4 \*

13+11

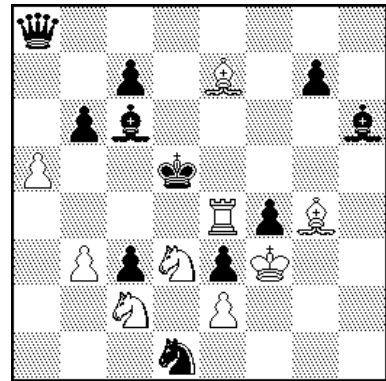
**2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable Mention**  
**Štefan Sovik**



S#5

14+11

**3<sup>rd</sup> Honourable Mention**  
**Jozef Havran**



S#3 v

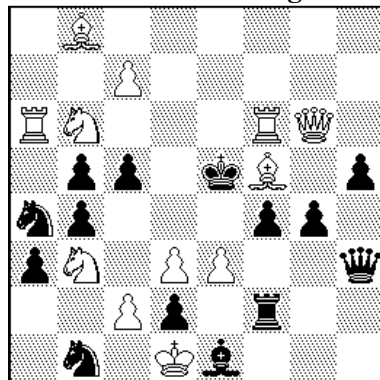
9+11

**1<sup>st</sup> Honourable Mention – Sergey Borodavkin.** A well-constructed rendering of the 10<sup>th</sup> WCCT theme with 4 different mates on the same square, but the repetition of the white 4<sup>th</sup> move is regrettable. 1...Qh3 2.Re6+ Q:e6 3.Q:c5+ Qd5 4.Qd4+ Q:d4#, 1...Rf3 2.Sf7+ R:f7 3.Qc7+ R:c7 4.Bd4+ c:d4#, **1.Sf6!** (2.Qe8+ Kd6 3.Qd7+ Ke5 4.Qd4+ c:d4#), 1...Sf3 2.Q:e4+ Kd6 3.B:c5+ K:c5 4.Qd4+ S:d4#, 1...B:e3 2.Q:c5+ Kf4 3.S:e4+ K:e4 4.Qd4+ B:d4#, 1...Qh3 2.Sd7+ Q:d7 3.Q:c5+ Qd5 4.Qd4+ Q:d4#.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable Mention – Štefan Sovik.** A good battery play with exchange of white 2<sup>nd</sup> moves (which decoy the bPf7) and 3<sup>rd</sup> moves. The bPb6 is redundant and the key is made by an out-of-play wS. **1.Sc7!** (2.Sd5+ K:f3 3.Se3+ d5 4.Q:d5+ Kf4 5.Sg2+ B:g2#), 1...B:d4 2.Sg6+(A) f:g6 3.Se6+(B) Ke5 4.S:d4+ Kf4 5.Se2+ B:e2#, 1...f:g4 2.Se6+(B) f:e6 3.Sg6+(A) Kf5 4.S:e5+ Kf4 5.Sd3+ B:d3#, [1...Rg1 2.Sd5+ K:f3 3.Sb4+ d5 4.Q:d5+ Kf4 5.Sd3+ B:d3#].

**3<sup>rd</sup> Honourable Mention – Jozef Havran.** Le Grand theme and additional changed play after 1...Sf2 in a symmetrical matrix. 1.Rc4? (2.Sdb4+(A) Ke5+ 3.Re4+ B:e4#), 1...b:a5 2.Scb4+(B) a:b4 3.Rd4+ K:d4#, 1...Sf2 2.Rc5+ b:c5 3.Be6+ K:e6#, [1...Ba4(Bb5,Bd7,Be8) 2.Sdb4+ Ke5+ 3.Re4+ Q:e4#], 1...Q:a5!; **1.Re6!** (2.Scb4+(B) Kd4+ 3.Re4+ B:e4#), 1...b:a5 2.Sdb4+(A) a:b4 3.Re5+ K:e5#, 1...Sf2 2.Rd6+ c:d6 3.Be6+ K:e6#, 1...Q:a5 2.Sdb4+ Q:b4 3.Re5+ K:e5#, [1...Ba4(Bb5,Bd7,Be8) 2.Scb4+ Kd4+ 3.Re4+ Q:e4#].

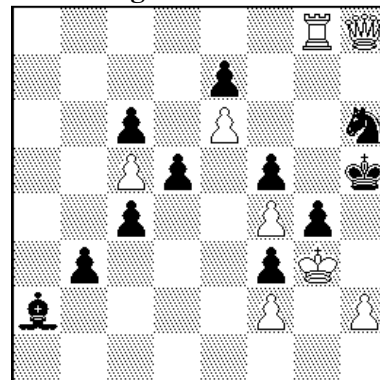
**1<sup>st</sup> Commendation**  
**Mark Erenburg**



S#8

12+14

**2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation**  
**Eugene Fomichev**



S#11

8+11

**1<sup>st</sup> Commendation – Mark Erenburg.** Popandopulo mechanism with use of white promoted pieces in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the thematic play, starting from 6.Sb6+ in the threat and 5.Bce6+ after 1...S:b6. **1.Rf7!** (2.Qd6+! K:d6 3.c8S+ Kc6 4.S:a4+ Kd5 5.Sc3+ b:c3 6.Sb6+ Kc6 7.Sa4+ Kd5 8.S:c3+ S:c3#, 1...S:b6 2.c8B+ Kd5 3.Bfe6+ Kc6 4.B:g4+ Kd5 5.Bce6+ Kc6 6.Bf3+ R:f3 7.Bg4+ Kd5 8.B:f3+ Q:f3#).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation – Eugene Fomichev.** Attacking the square f5 by 1 or 2 white pieces (wQ, or wR+wQ) allows the wR to chase (with an aim to grab) the bB and then to preventively close the c2-f5 line. **1.Qh7!** (2.Q:f5+ S:f5#) Bb1 2.Rf8! (3.R:f5+ B:f5 4.Q:f5+ S:f5#) Ba2 3.Ra8! Bb1 4.Ra1! (5.R:B and 6.Q:f5+) Bd3! (4...Bc2? 5.Rc1 and s#10) 5.Rd1! Bc2! (5...Be4? 6.Re1 and s#9) 6.Rc1! Bd3! 7.Rc3! Be4(Bb1) 8.Re3! Bc2 9.Re5! Bd1 10.Re4! ~ (10...Bc2?) 11.Q:f5+ S:f5#.

I express my gratitude to Mr Ferad Kakabadze for inviting me to judge the FIDE Olympic tourney 2018, to all authors for sending their problems for the tourney, as well as to Olaf Jenkner for the computer testing of the aforementioned s#16 by using his own programme “Gustav”, and to Hans Gruber for asking Mr Jenkner to test this problem. I congratulate the authors of the problems which entered the award and I express my hope that some problems from this tourney will enter the forthcoming FIDE Album 2016–2018.

**Zoran Gavrilovski**, International Judge of the FIDE for Chess Compositions

In Skopje, 18 December 2018