

THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

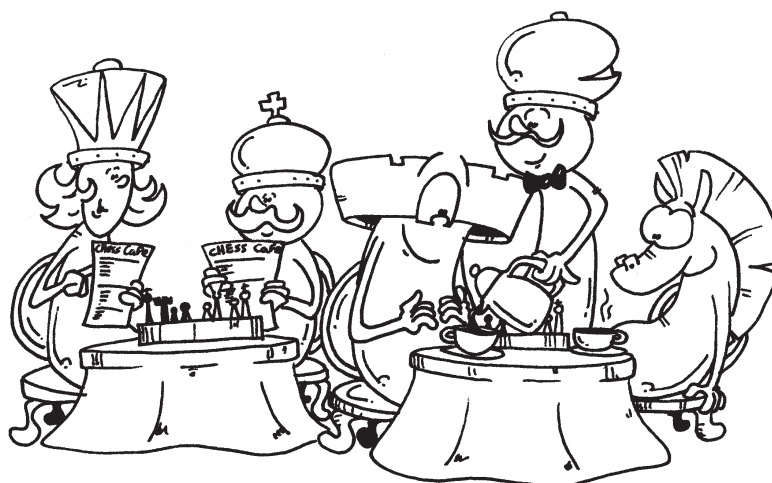
Jeff Coakley

SMORGASBORD XL

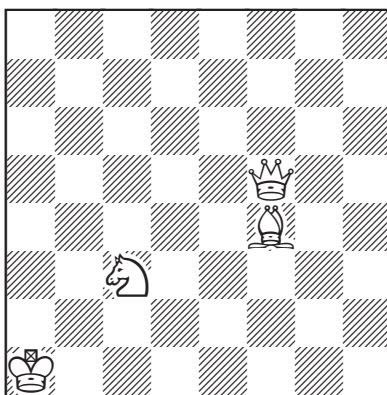
number 244

February 26, 2025

The winter winters on. Time for another chess smorgasbord. It's the usual assortment of problems. Hope you enjoy them.



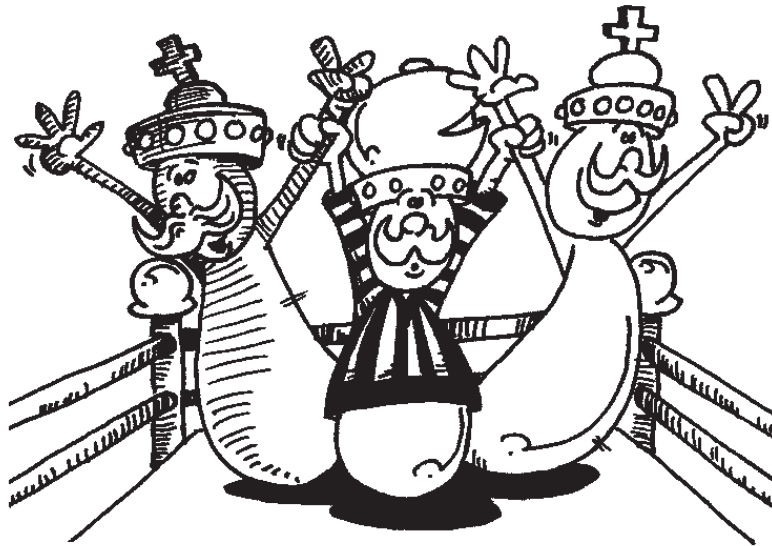
Triple Loyd 94



Place the black king on the board so that:

- A. Black is in checkmate.
- B. Black is in stalemate.
- C. White has mate in 1.

Win-Win Situation



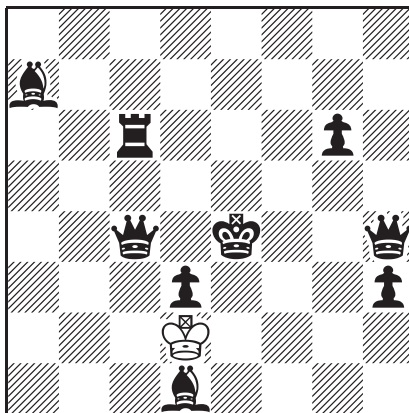
Construct a position with neither king in check so that one move by White checkmates both kings.

White's move will necessarily be illegal because it puts their own king in check but otherwise the position and mates should be legal.

What is the minimum number of pieces necessary?

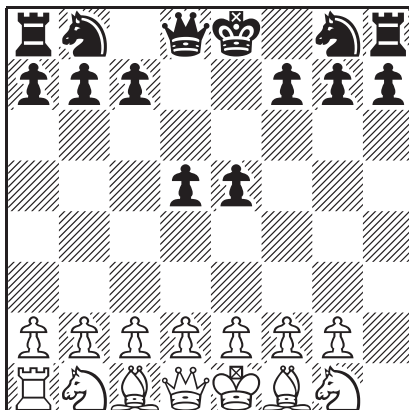
- A. for a pawn move.
- B. for a king move.
- C. for an officer move.

Inverted Loyd 70



Add a white rook, bishop, and knight so that White has mate in 1.

Longer Proof Game 142 (5.5 moves)

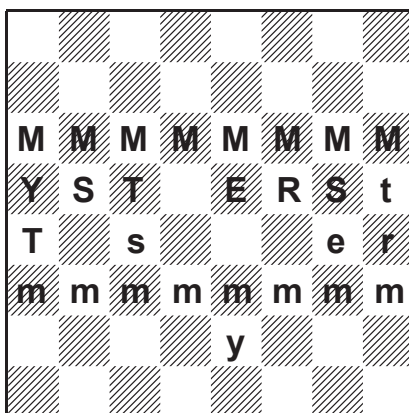


This position was reached after White's sixth turn.
What were the moves?



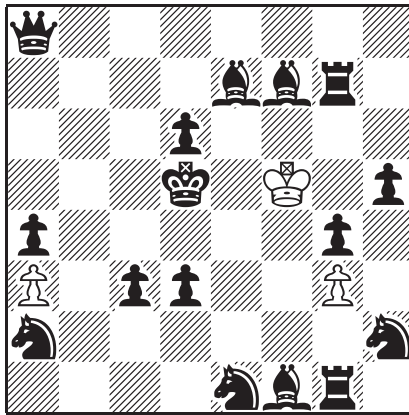
Rebus 128

"mystery"



Each letter represents a different type of piece.
Uppercase is one colour, lowercase is the other.
Determine the position and the last move.

Multi-Wham 96



series-mate in 44

White plays forty-four moves in a row to mate Black.

Captures are allowed. Only the last move may give check. Black does not get a turn.



Smorgasbord XL. The collection of such columns has certainly become “extra large”. For a complete list, see the archives index. The following puzzle is given there under “math”.

Progressio Binaria

2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 15, 20, 40, ...

What is the next number in the sequence after 40?

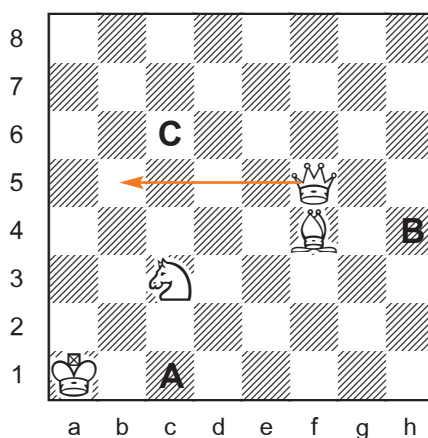
SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2025). Rebus 128 and “win-win” solutions are joint compositions with Andriy Frolkin.

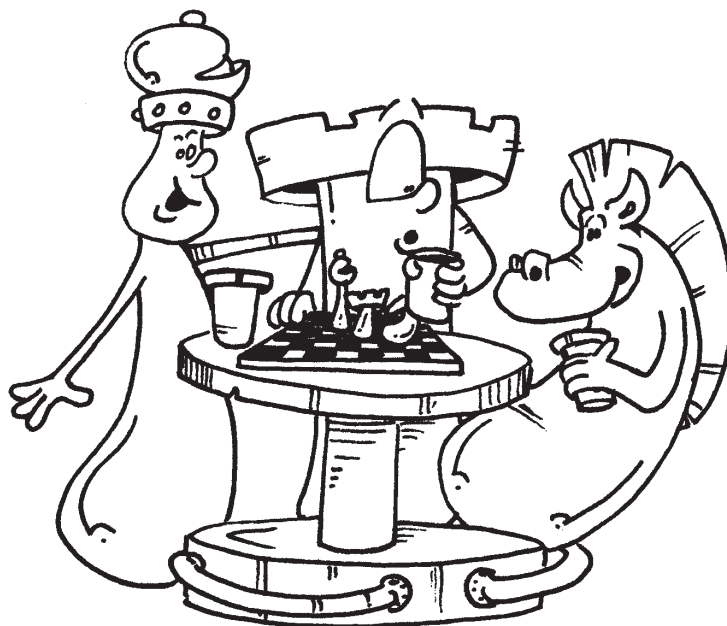
PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Archives. Past columns are available in the *Puzzling Side* archives.

Triple Loyd 94



- A. Kc1#
- B. Kh4=
- C. Kc6 (Qb5#)

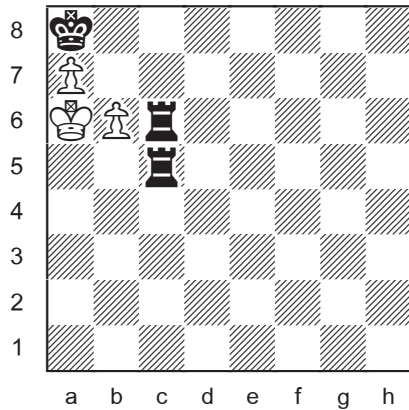


“Hey, are the drinks free if we solve all the puzzles?”

Win-Win Situation

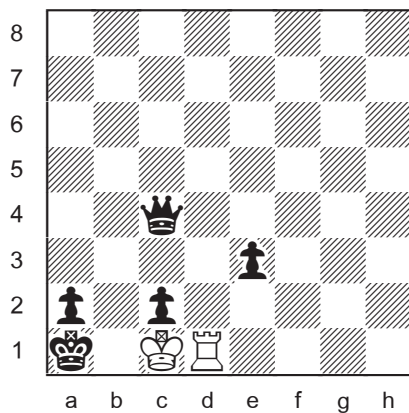
Both kings are mated after White's move.
Can anyone break these records for fewest pieces?

A. pawn move



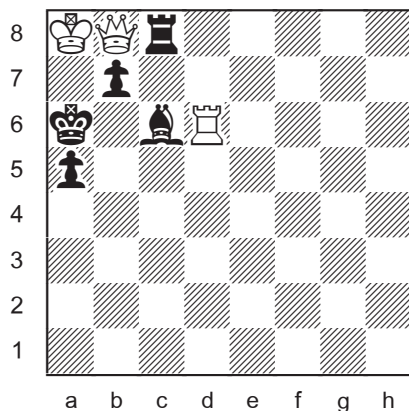
1.b7## (6 pieces)

B. king move



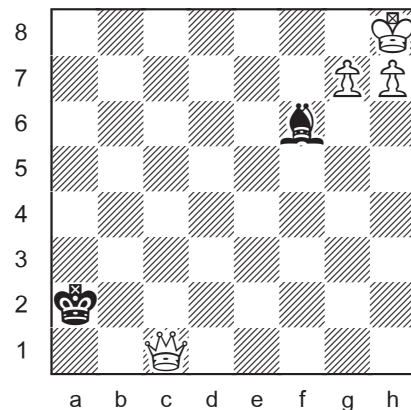
1.Kxc2## (7 pieces)

C. officer move



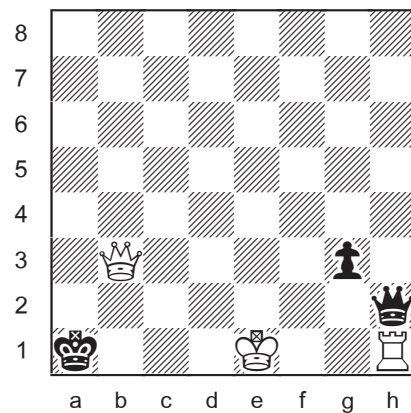
1.Qxb7## (8 pieces)

A2. pawn move (promotion)

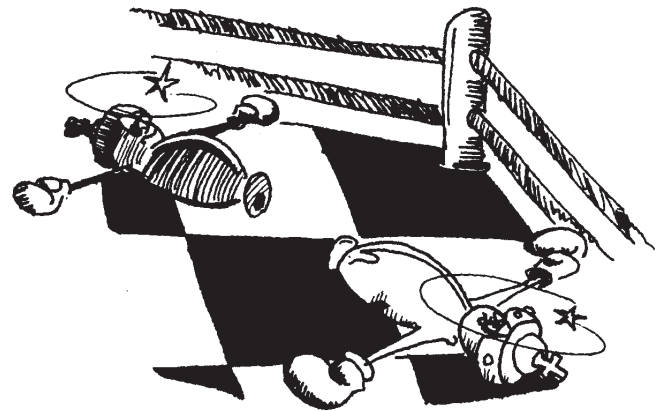


1.g8=B## (6 pieces)

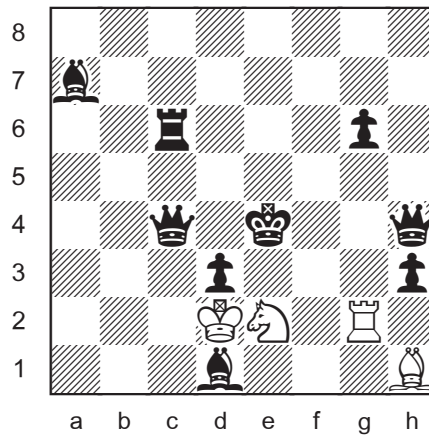
B2. king move (castling)



1.O-O## (6 pieces)



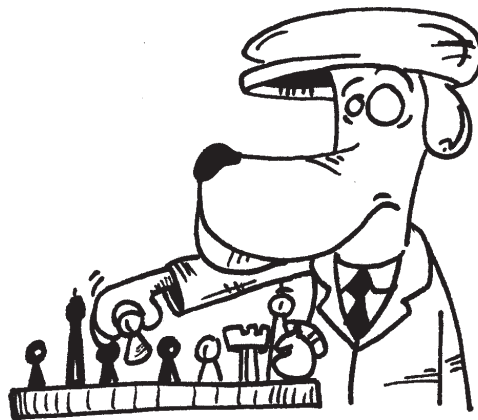
Inverted Loyd 70



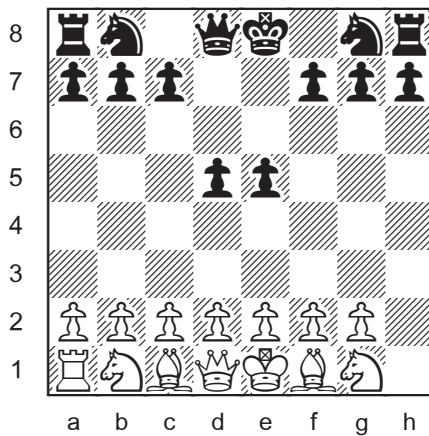
Add Rg2 Bh1 Ne2.

1.Rg5#

The not so uncommon disco mate trick.



Longer Proof Game 142 (5.5 moves)

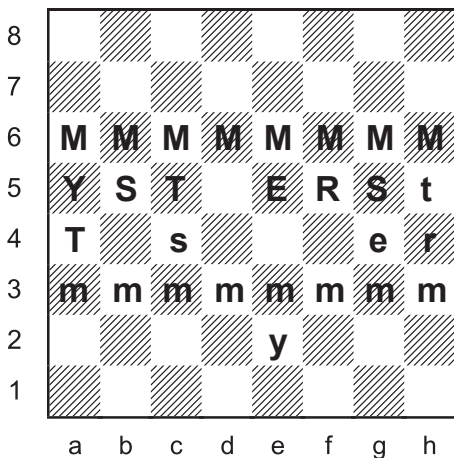


1.h3 e5 2.Rh2 Bxh3 3.Rxh3 e6 4.Ra3 Bxa3 5.Nxa3 e5 6.Nb1
Tempo moves by white rook and black e-pawn.

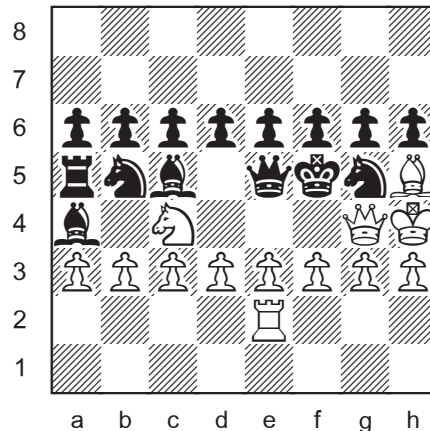
Rebus 128

Andriy Frolkin & Jeff Coakley

"mystery"



M = pawn
Y = rook
S = knight
T = bishop
E = queen
R = king
caps = black
last move
1.Qd4-g4#



(13+15)

M = ♙ If M ≠ ♙

There are insufficient missing pieces (3 officers, 2 pawns) to explain 12 promoted pieces and 2 passed pawns.

caps = black Obviously.

♔♕ = (ERY) Letters with one uppercase, one lowercase.
There are no promoted pieces.

Y = ♖ ERST ≠ ♖

A white rook cannot be in front of the white wall of pawns. Only one black piece is missing. So there has not been a cross-capture of white pawns to allow a white rook to escape from the 1st/2nd ranks.

R = ♔ If E = ♔, then R = ♔. Impossible check (f5).

E = ♕ Check (g4).

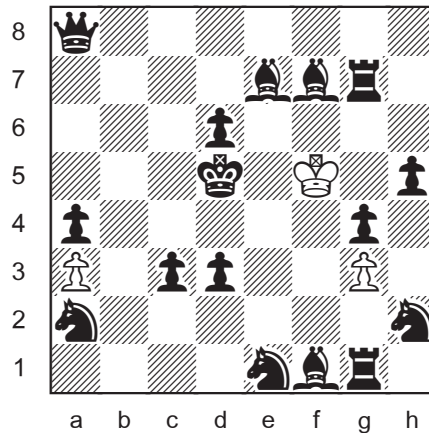
S = ♘ S ≠ ♘ Both kings in check (g5).

T = ♗

last move: 1.Qd4-g4#

This move was not a capture. The only missing black piece is a rook. The last move was not 1.Qd4xRg4# because the white king would be in an impossible check by the rook on g4. Black's preceding move was not the capture ...Rxc4+. White is only missing three pieces (RBN). The rook was taken behind the white pawns. The bishop and knight were cross-captured by black pawns to allow the black rook (a5) to be in front of the black pawns. That leaves nothing to capture on g4.

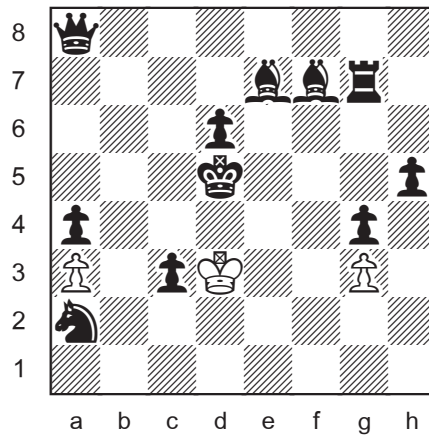
Multi-Wham 96



series-mate in 44

The white king cannot free the a-pawn by taking the black pawn on a4 because it is guarded by the queen on a8. So the g-pawn must promote first. To reach and capture the blockading pawn on g4, the white king has to circle the board, taking most of the black pieces along the way.

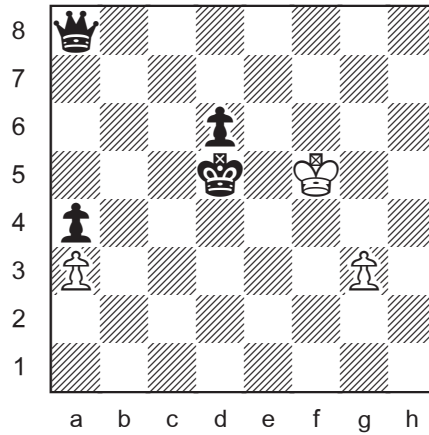
1.Kf4 2.Ke3 3.Kf2 4.Kxg1 5.Kxh2 6.Kg1 7.Kxf1 8.Kxe1 9.Kf2 10.Ke3
11.Kxd3



12.Kc2 13.Kb1 14.Kxa2 15.Kb1 16.Kc2 17.Kxc3 18.Kb4 19.Kb5
20.Kb6 21.Kc7 22.Kd7 23.Kxe7 24.Kf6 25.Kxg7 26.Kxf7 27.Kg6
28.Kxh5 29.Kxg4 30.Kf5

Having accomplished his mission, the king returns to where he started!



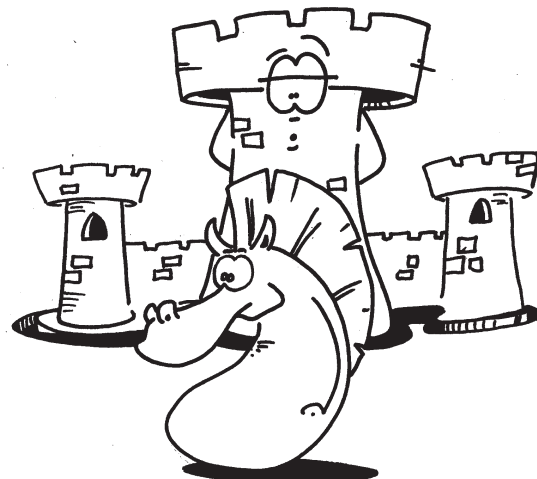
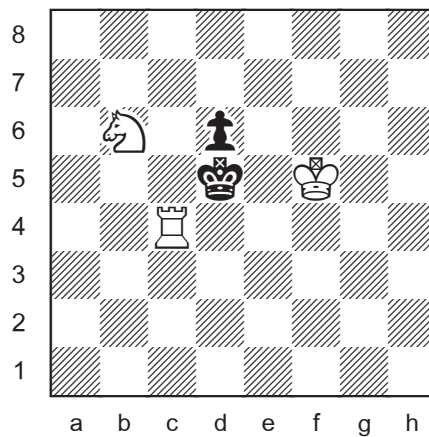


Fourteen moves to go.

31.g4 32.g5 33.g6 34.g7 35.g8=R

A queen would give check. A knight or bishop would not be able to capture the black queen. Note that White could have promoted a queen by 35.Kf6? 36.Kf7 37.g8=Q but again there would be no way to capture the black queen.

36.Rxa8 37.Rxa4 38.Rc4! 39.a4 40.a5 41.a6 42.a7 43.a8=N 44.Nb6#



Progressio Binaria

Numbers in the sequence are the Roman numerals with two letters.

II, IV, VI, IX, XI, XV, XX, XL

Next is 51, LI.

The next number is not 49. Perhaps surprisingly, IL is not a proper Roman numeral. The correct lettering for 49 is XLIX.

The subtractive rule for Roman numerals is that only I, X, and C can be placed before a higher digit and only before the next two higher digits.

I can only be placed before V and X.

X can only be placed before L and C.

C can only be placed before D and M.

Also according to this rule, 99 is XCIX and not IC.



Until next time!

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