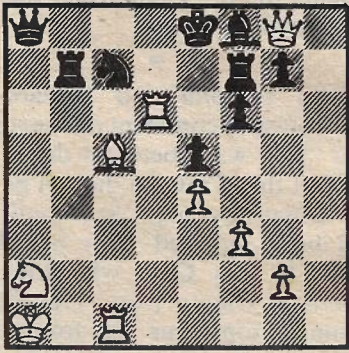
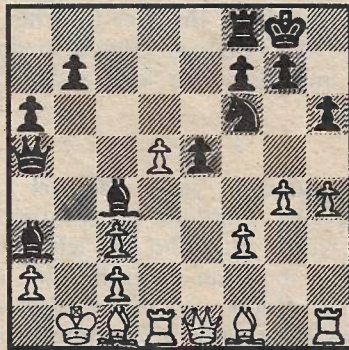


Problems, problems, problems

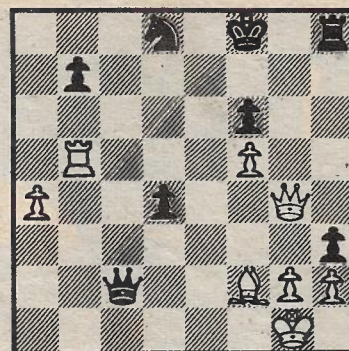
SOLVING PUZZLES and problem positions can sharpen a player's tactical awareness and help him to spot possible combinations that crop up in his own games. In each of the first four examples the player to move has a winning blow or sequence of moves. Solutions are upside down at the end of the column.



(1) White to play.
Korchnoi v Gheorghiu, London 1980. Here Viktor Korchnoi, who challenged Karpov for the world championship in 1978, played 1.Rc6 and the game was eventually drawn. Can you spot what he missed and all the spectators saw?

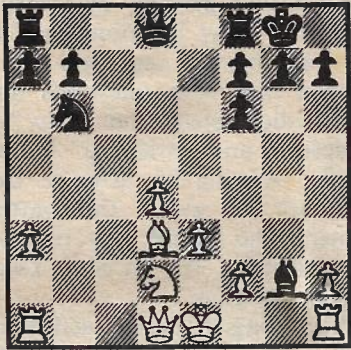


(2) Black to play.
Veroci v Ioseliani, ninth match game 1980. The young star of the Rio interzonal, Nana Ioseliani of the Soviet Union, safely negotiated her recent quarter-final candidates match by winning 6-3 against Zusza Veroci of Hungary. In the final game she made a typical Sicilian sacrifice of the exchange on c3 — how did she clinch victory from this position?



(3) White to play.
This diagram from Leonard Barden's excellent *Chess Puzzle Book* (Faber, £1.95) features a position in which even a novice may be able to spot what a Grandmaster missed. New Zealander Ortvin Sarapu, Black against Matanovic at the Sousse interzonal 1967, continued 1.Bg3 Qc1 ch 2. Kf2 Qe3 ch 3. Kf1 Qc1 ch 4. Bel with an eventual draw.

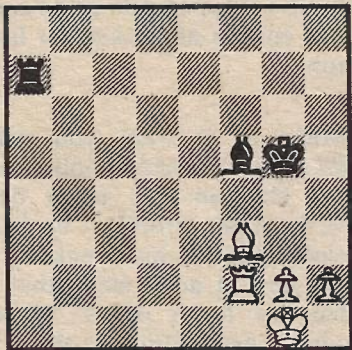
What did the Yugoslav GM Matanovic — and Sarapu — overlook?



(4) White to play.
Palatnik v Geller, USSR Teams Championships 1980. Even grandmasters are not immune to the temptation to snaffle material and here the experienced 54-year-old Geller has just grabbed the g2 pawn with his bishop on move 13. His opponent seized the opportunity to cause one of the sensations of the championship.

* * *

Tactical skill can also be used to salvage a draw from a poor position, as in this fifth example.



(5) Black to play.
In this endgame Black's situation looks hopeless. Should he continue (a) Resigns, (b) 1... Bd3 or (c) 1... Ral ch?

(1) 1.Rd7! would have crushed all resistance — White threatens QxJ7 mate and on 1...Rxd7 comes 2.QxJ8 mate; 1...Re7 meets 2.Rxe7 ch; and if 1...Kxd7 then 2.QxJ7 ch and Black's game collapses.
(2) Black won her opponent's queen with 1...Bxa2 ch 2.Kxa2 Bxc1 dis ch 3.Kb1 Qa3! 4.Rxc1 Nxd5 with the unstoppable threat of...Nxc3 ch.
(3) 1.Bg3?? could have been met (but wasn't!) by 1...Qxg2 mate. It really happened — both sides were in acute time trouble.
(4) Palatnik played 14.Rg1 Bc6 15.Rxg7 ch! forcing Geller's resignation in just 15 moves, for on 15...Kxg7 16.Qg4 ch Kh8 17.Qf5 leads to mate!
(5) (c) is right — 1...Ral ch 2.Rf1 Rxf1 ch 3.Kxf1 Bh3! 4.gxh3 Kh6. Black plonks his king in the corner and draws, because white's bishop doesn't control the queening square (h8) and he cannot force the pawns through.

SOLUTIONS.

MURRAY CHANDLER