



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

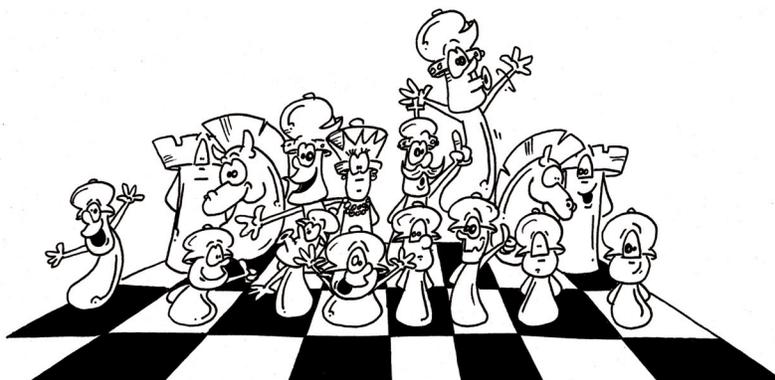
Jeff Coakley

SMORGASBORD XVII: Escape From The Usual

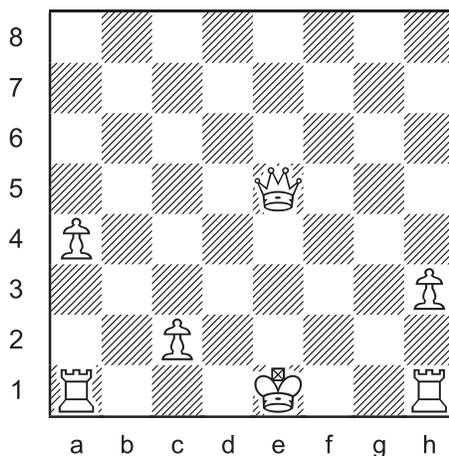
number 124

October 1, 2016

Trapped in a world of expectations? Perhaps a chess smorgasbord can break up the routine. This week's menu features a triple loyd, a double whammy, an illegal position, and a special retro prizewinner.



Triple Loyd 61

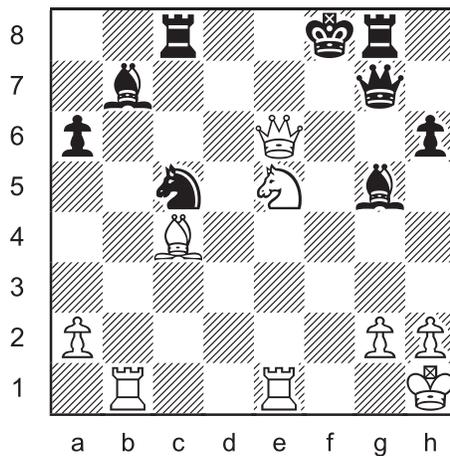


Place the black king on the board so that:

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



Double Whammy 67

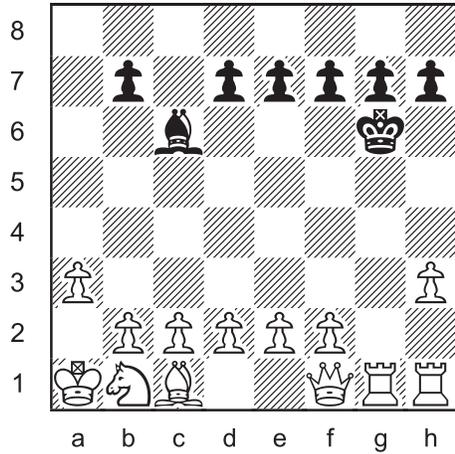


White plays two moves
in a row to mate Black.

Special instructions for *double whammies*.

- a) White plays two moves in a row to mate Black.
- b) The first move may not be check.
- c) Either move may be a capture.
- d) Both moves may be with the same piece.
- e) Black does not get a turn.
- f) White may not place their own king in check on the first move, even if they get out of check with the second move.

Who's the Goof? 35



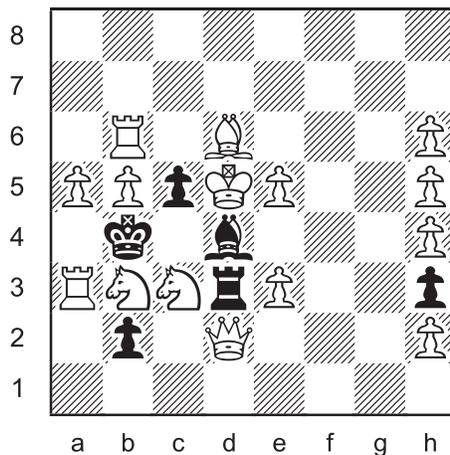
Why is this position illegal?



There is always an escape button.

Our final problem is an entry from the 2013 *Puzzlers Cup* by British retro expert Andrew Buchanan. Unfortunately, his submission was “lost in the mail” at Chess Cafe and never reached our judges.

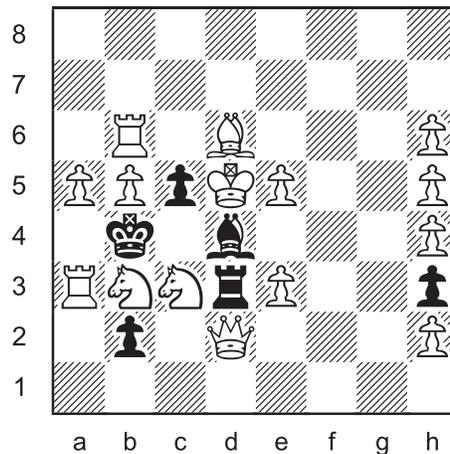
The puzzle is hereby awarded a belated *honourable mention* in the tourney. Can you solve it without being told the stipulation?



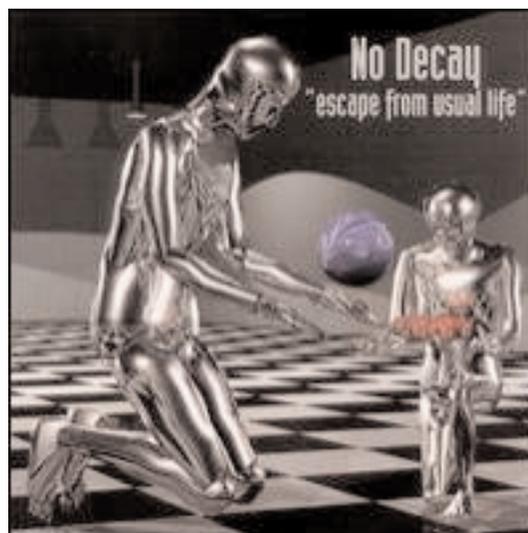
Here's the same problem again, this time with a stipulated stipulation.
Did you notice that the pieces form the letters "# 1"?

Retro 35

Andrew Buchanan
2013 Puzzlers Cup
Honourable Mention



White to mate in 1.
What were the last 3 moves?



Blasts From the Past

The Puzzling Side of Chess is updated every Saturday. For the next year, there will only be two new columns each month. On other weeks, previously unarchived material will be posted. There are two reasons for this change. Several book projects require more of my time, and the archive of past columns will be completed sooner.

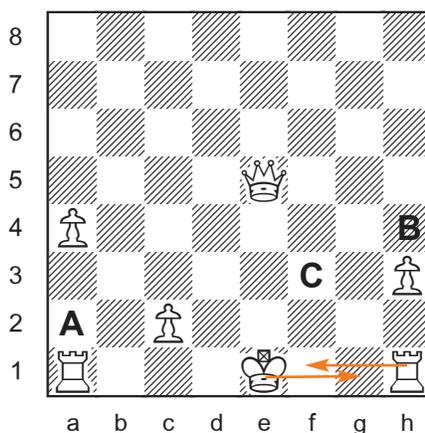
SOLUTIONS

Triple loyd 61, double whammy 67, who's the goof 35 by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2016).

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.

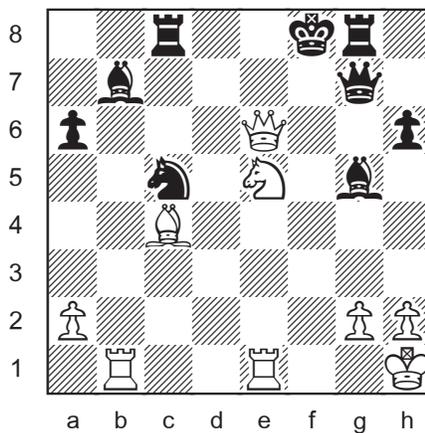
Archives. Other columns with similar problems can be found in the Puzzling Side archives.

Triple Loyd 61



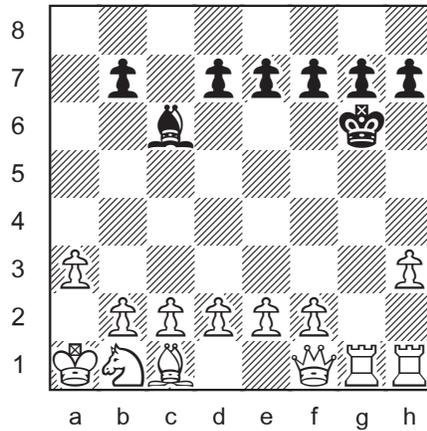
- A. Ka2#
 - B. Kh4=
 - C. Kf3 (0-0#)
- Castle-rama.

Double Whammy 67



- 1.Qxh6 2.Ng6#
- Pinner queen.

Who's the Goof? 35



The position is illegal because there are not enough missing white pieces to account for the necessary captures by Black.

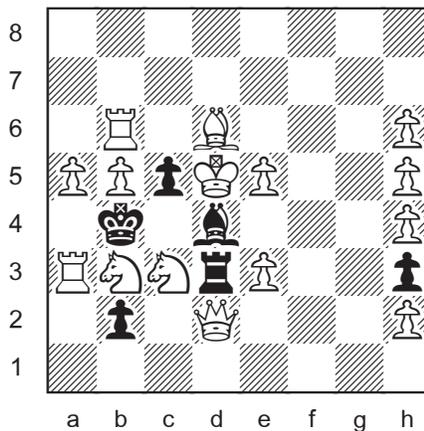
With black pawns on b7 and d7, we know that the light-square bishop on c6 is a promoted pawn. Three captures were needed for the black a-pawn (or c-pawn) to promote on the light square b1. For example, ...a4xb3xa2xb1=B.

White is missing three pieces, so nothing seems illegal at this point. However, the black king is in check from the rook on g1. This could only happen by the discovered check and capture gxh3+.

If a white pawn was on g2 last turn, with another white pawn on e2, then the white light-square bishop must have been captured on f1. Therefore, the black a-pawn could not have made three captures.

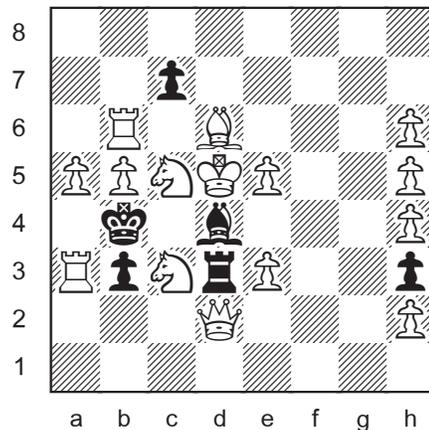
Retro 35

Andrew Buchanan
2013 Puzzlers Cup
Honourable Mention



b5xc6 e.p.#

Here is the position before the last 3 moves.



Play proceeded 1...b3-b2 2.Nc5-b3+ c7-c5.

Analysis from puzzle diagram.

The white pawns on the e-file and h-file have made nine captures, which leaves one missing black piece unaccounted for.

The white a-pawn and b-pawn would need two captures to “switch files”. That means the white pawn on b5 is still on its original file and the black pawn on b2 must have captured from the a-file to get past it. (...a4xb3, taking White’s only missing piece, a light-square bishop.)

We can thus deduce that the original black b-pawn was taken on b6 or b7. All captures are now accounted for. This proves that the last move was not a capture by the black pawn on h3 (from g4).

The last move was not by the immobile black rook or bishop or pawn on b2. The last move was not ...Ka4-b4 because the black king would be in an impossible double check on a4. The last move was not ...c6-c5 because a pawn on c6 would be checking the white king.

Therefore Black’s last move had to be ...c7-c5, allowing White to mate with the *en passant* capture b5xc6 e.p.#.

Before the last move, the black king was in check from the white bishop on d6. But c7 was occupied, and the bishop could not have captured on d6. So white’s previous move had to be the discovered check Nc5-b3+. And on the preceding turn, Black’s only possible move was ... b3-b2. Case solved.

Thanks for the great problem, Andrew. Sorry it took so long to get published.

Until next time!

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