

BCPS AWARD: H#2 2018 – PROBLEMS NOT HONOURED

By Mario Parrinello

For anticipation search I have used several databases (PDB, YACPDB, WinChloe) and my personal collection of H#2s.

I have excluded the following problems due to weak and/or non-homogeneous play and/or other constructional defects: PS3263 (non-homogeneous motivations for B1 moves), PS3264, PS3298 (symmetrical play), PS3300 (geometrical strategy but it lacks of homogeneous motivations for the differentiation of the W1 moves), PS3336, PS3353 (non-homogeneous motivations for the white sacrifices and the twin-setting could be avoided by moving the bPa4 to g3), H4103 (the only point of interest is that 4 different pieces occupy e4 but the whole strategy is rather weak); H4165, H4166 (too symmetrical), H4178 (non-homogeneous motivations of black and white strategy), H4179 [interesting Phenix theme but non-homogeneous motivations for both B1 (selfblock in B) and B2 and moreover the twinning mechanism is rather ugly]; *Original Homebase Helpmates* (March Supplement pag. 625): no.1, no.2, no.3 (substantially anticipated by PDB P1181950), no.4 (ugly repetition 2.Rd8 and it is useful to compare with YACPDB 383669 or PDB P1361860); original published on March page 305 (“the genesis of a twinning problem”): the wBg8 is idle.

The following problems, though interesting, show known ideas: no.3 (Greetings Problems): compare to PDB P1293340; no.4 (Greetings Problems): heavy position and for homogeneous motivations of the strategy compare to P0502825; PS3262: well-known strategy (compare among others with PDB P0540840) and moreover one of the pin mates is artificial since the bQg7 can be replaced by a black Rook; PS3265: along with an ugly repetition (1.Ke3), compare with R.Bacharev 3rd Commendation *Moscow Ty* 2005 (W:Ka8 Qf1 Rf2 pd3; B: Ke5 Qd2 Rh5 Sc3 Sh1 h#2 4.1.1.1); PS3317: compare to PDB P1075669; H4099: compare to PDB P0518539; H4100: for a better and more homogeneous strategy (especially regarding the dual avoidance) compare to B.Lyris & N.Siotis Comm. *Mat 16th TTy* 1987-89 (W: Ka8 Sg2 Sd5 pd3 g3; B: Kf5 Ra5 Ra2 Ba7 Bh1 Sb5 Se2 pf6 e5 g5 H#2 2 sols.); H4101: interesting play but 1.Bb7 is not a genuine closing of black line and for a more homogeneous and complex strategy compare to PDB P0518767; H4102: economical *triple-pawn* but it shows non-homogeneous motivations of B1 and not entirely genuine closing of Ba8; for a better rendering of this idea compare to PDB P1268061; H4114: though rather economical, the strategy is very well-known (compare among others with PDB P1078441) and moreover the twinning mechanism is weak; H4116: attractive play but 1.Se4 is not a pure unpin since it is essentially a squareblock; for a superior realization, compare to PDB P0537377; H4117: the play is interesting but the realization is not: along with the weak twinning mechanism, the dual avoidance is not entirely convincing: in A) 1.Re5 Rh1? and 2...Rc1#?? fails not only by 3.Sc2! but also by 3.Bxc1!; moreover in B) the analogy is lacking since after 1.Re3 the try 1...Bh4? fails essentially due to the fact that the route to the mating square is closed by the bPf2 and not because the bPd3 has been unpinning; H4130: compare to YACPDB 393389; H4131: compare to the excellent PDB P0526964; H4133: the idea is not new (compare to the superior PDB P0541647) and the only novel feature is the black Grimshaw but the twinning mechanism is weak and a better version can be achieved: pc2→e2, Td3 →d2, remove Rf2 and add a BPf7, B) Sg2 →c2; H4146: very well-known idea and among other predecessors, anticipated by PDB P1188199; H4148: interesting cyclic dual avoidance but it is useful to compare to PDB P0541650 that shows a more economical rendering and more importantly all thematic white pieces actively play in all solutions (the thematic wPe3 of H4148 does not play in two solutions); H4151: interesting 8-solution problem with model mates but it shows an non-homogeneous line of play (1.g5) and

as a consequence the thematic wPh7 unaesthetically does not play in all other solutions; moreover the task is not new, compare to PDB P1073788 and YACPDB 444312; H4162: for a more complex strategy compare to PDB P1084995; H4167: interesting task but two solutions are not well matched with the others and moreover it is useful to compare with Salai jr & M.Dragoun *Probleemblad* 2018 (W: Kb2 Qa8 Bd4 Be6 pc2g2e3h4d5e5f5c6; B: Ke4 Ra1 pc7h5c4a2 H#2 6.1.1.1); H4181: very well-known strategy and substantially anticipated (in a few cases with more economical position), by PDB P0530188, PDB P0534937 and PDB P0530447.