

Csaba Balogh

Greatest 550 puzzles

**From practical games
of 2017**



Chess
Evolution

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KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+ -	White has a decisive advantage
- +	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞̄	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate

PREFACE

As a professional chess player, I know exactly how important it is to perform well in tactical calculations. We face them so often that after playing a great game, we can simply blunder something and throw away a safe point, causing ourself sleepless nights!

For most of the players and chess fans, the biggest pleasure in a chessgame is to beat an opponent with a beautiful combination, of which we can be proud at. However to live with all the given oportunities and not miss any of the chances, we must stay in sharp shape all the time, what we can reach only by practicing puzzlesolving.

Many puzzle books are based on artificial positions or selected only for their beauty. The concept of my book is different. The highest priority is to **“use the practical side of the puzzles” and take the level of calculation to a completely new dimension.**

All the puzzles have been selected from recent games, trying to put the reader in the shoes of “the player”.

The difficulty of the different sections might also give you a right evaluation of your current tactical skills and bring them further ahead.

I tried to mix three things in my book:

1. a lot of fun in solving the puzzles,
2. a lot of different tactical ideas,
3. and of course, the direct practical use for your future games.

A very important factor to keep in mind — all the **practical motifs from the book can definitely be used in your future games!**

Enjoy!

Csaba Balogh

INTRODUCTION

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR OUR DEAR READERS

This book is the continuation of the successful puzzle-book series, which started with the “Greatest 365 Puzzles” and “Greatest 501 Puzzles” from the practical games of 2012. It was followed by „Tactics, Tactics, Tactics!” Volume 3 and Volume 4 which covered the best practical puzzles of 2013–2015 and the next one of the series was the „Greatest 551 Puzzles” with the combinations of 2016.

The new book contains 550 puzzles divided into 3 chapters. You will find a huge range of tactical ideas that you can use in your own games! All the puzzles have been collected from practical games throughout 2017. In each section the puzzles are sorted according to the date of the game.

The book consists of three chapters:

- 1. Easy (300 Puzzles)**
- 2. Medium (178 Puzzles)**
- 3. Hard (72 Puzzles)**

All in all 550 puzzles created by the greatest masters of our time, such as Carlsen, Caruana, Aronian, Kramnik, Anand and many more.

I advise you to try to solve all the combinations in each chapter one-by-one, because a less difficult solution from the „Easy” section might be even more brilliant from the beauty point of view than a „nutcracker” from the „Hard” ones. Even if a puzzle can be easily solved, it sharpens your tactical skills and makes it so much easier to find solutions in a practical game, even under difficult circumstances.

To be tactically sharp is one of the basic requirements for a successful chess player!

- EASY -

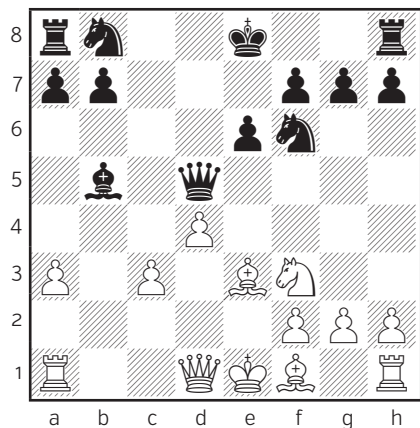


(1)

▷ U. Kersten
 ▶ S. Fedorchuk

Stauffer Open, 02.01.2017

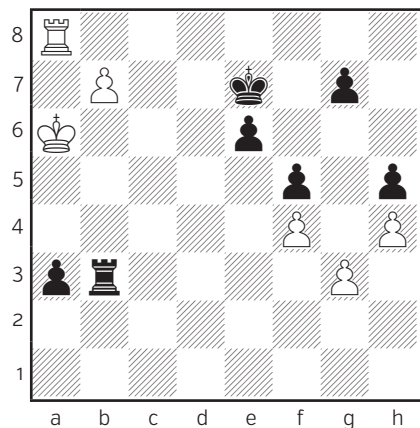
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**(3)**

▷ D. Svetushkin
 ▶ D. Forcen Esteban

Roquetas de Mar Open, 05.01.2017

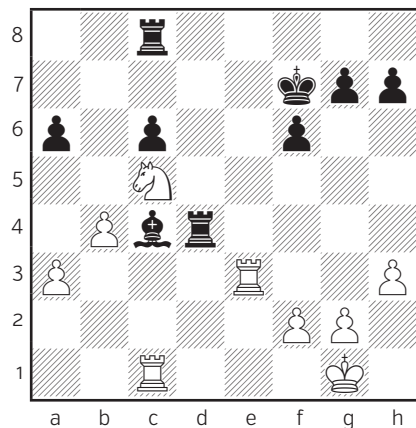
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**(2)**

▷ A. Heimann
 ▶ B. Stillger

Basel Open, 04.01.2017

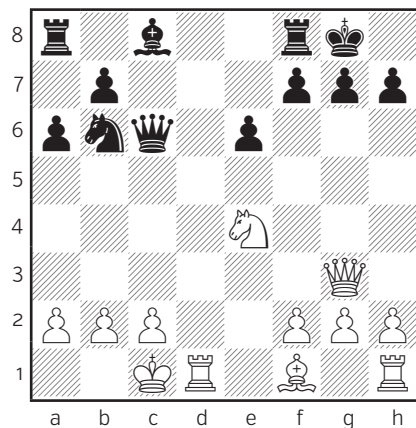
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**(4)**

▷ E. Safarli
 ▶ A. Donchenko

Basel Open, 05.01.2017

1.+-



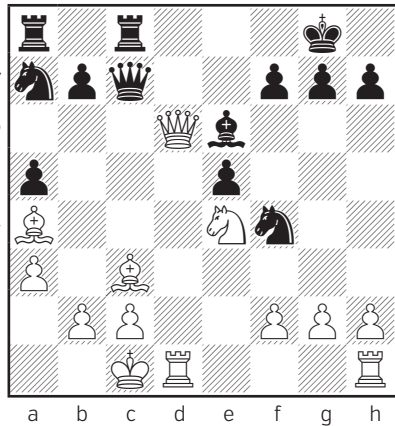
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▷ **R. Kevlishvili**

▶ **C. Bauer**

Basel Open, 05.01.2017

1...-+



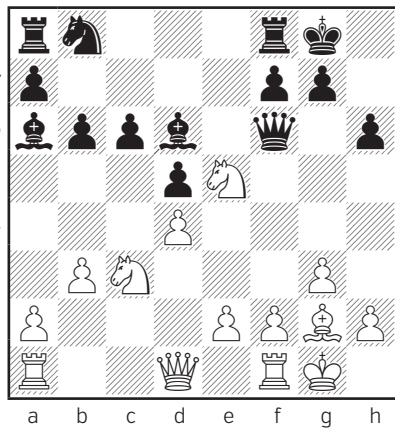
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▷ **J. Hammer**

▶ **R. Elseth**

NCB Sandefjord, 06.01.2017

1. +/-



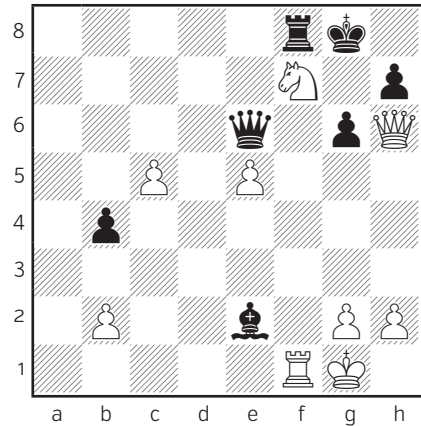
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▷ **M. Antipov**

▶ **S. Ivanov**

Rilton Cup Stockholm, 05.01.2017

1.+-



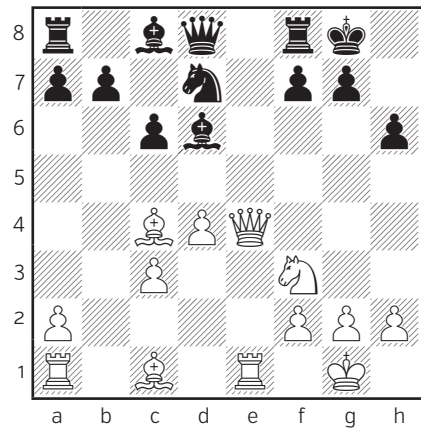
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▷ **K. Piorun**

▶ **W. Przybylski**

Polish Championship Rapid, 08.01.2017

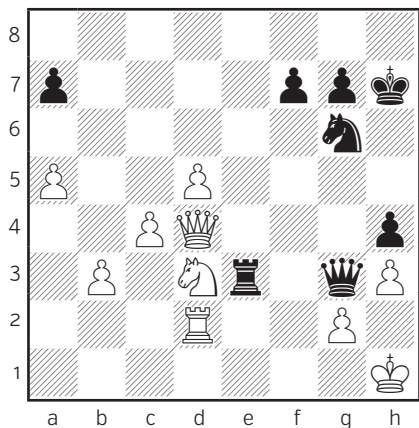
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[9]▷ **S. Gajewski**▶ **B. Socko**

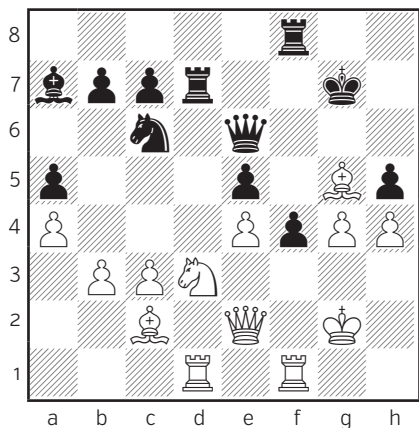
Polish Championship Rapid, 08.01.2017

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**[11]**▷ **H. Gabuzyan**▶ **S. Ter Sahakyan**

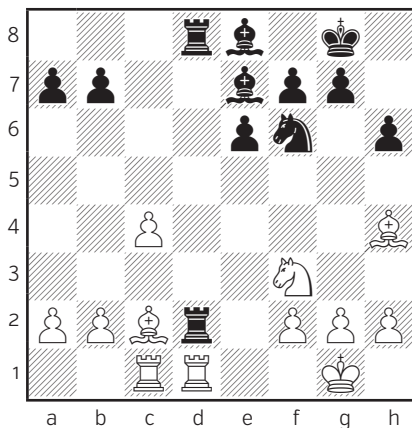
Armenian League Yerevan, 16.01.2017

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**[10]**▷ **L. Dek**▶ **G. Meier**

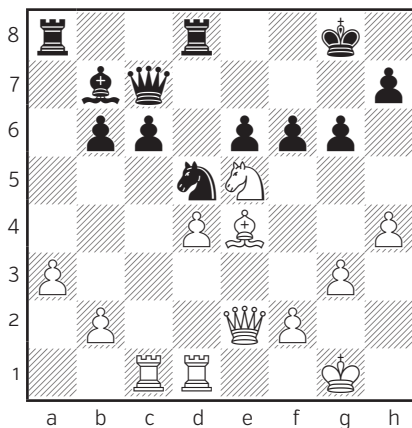
Internet PRO League Rapid, 11.01.2017

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**[12]**▷ **S. Mareco**▶ **M. Leskovar**

Internet PRO League Rapid, 18.01.2017

1.+-



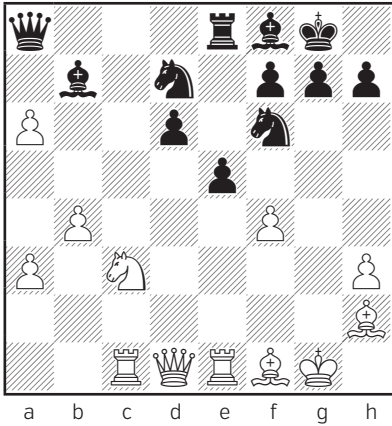
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▷ **R. Jumabayev**

▶ **A. Yatzenko**

Internet PRO League Rapid, 18.01.2017

1...-+



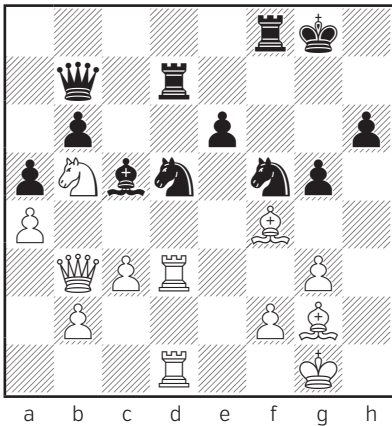
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▷ **E. Hansen**

▶ **J. Xiong**

Wijk aan Zee, 20.01.2017

1.+



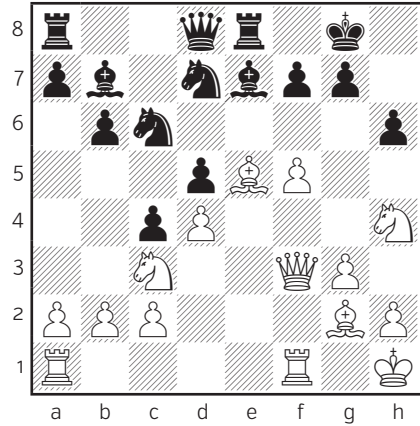
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▷ **S. Lu**

▶ **J. Van Foreest**

Wijk aan Zee, 20.01.2017

1.+



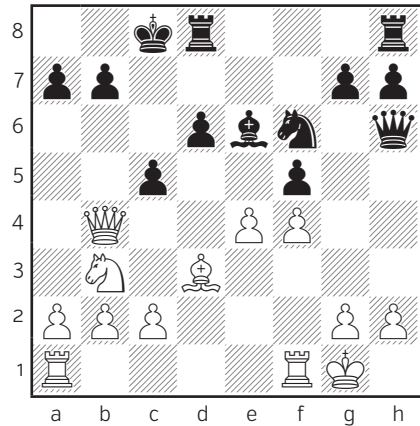
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▷ **S. Sethuraman**

▶ **K. Sundararajan**

Gibraltar Masters, 25.01.2017

1. +/-

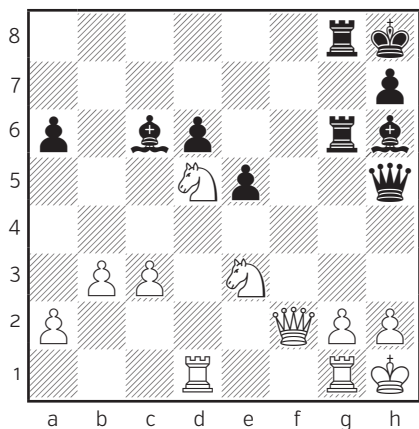


[17]

▷ L. Dek
▶ E. Bacrot

Internet Pro League Rapid, 25.01.2017

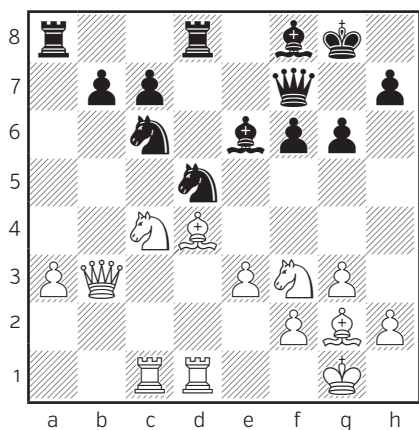
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**[19]**

▷ B. Gledura
▶ H. Nakamura

Gibraltar Masters, 27.01.2017

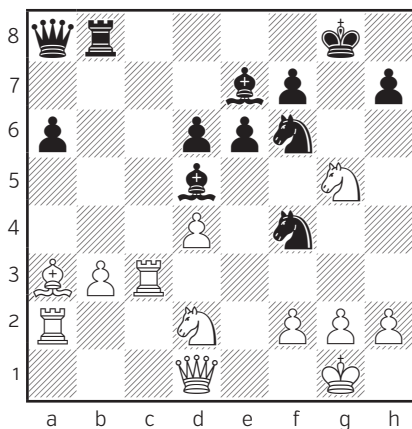
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**[18]**

▷ J. Salomon
▶ M. Vachier-Lagrave

Gibraltar Masters, 26.01.2017

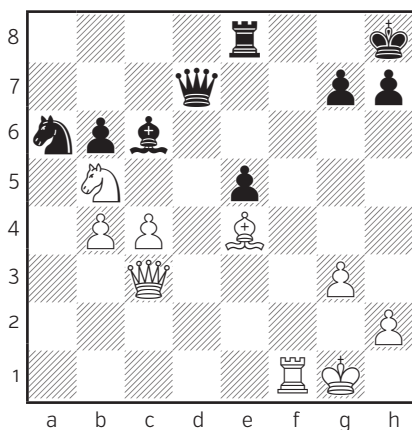
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**[20]**

▷ H. Nakamura
▶ E. Iturrizaga Bonelli

Gibraltar Masters, 28.01.2017

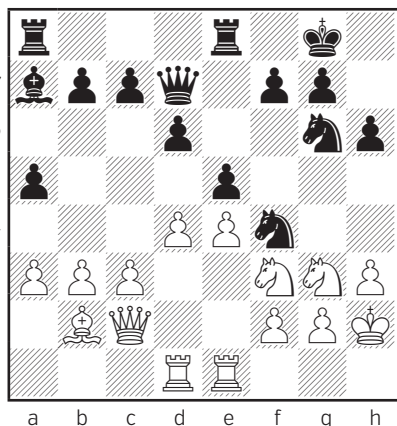
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▷ S. Sethuraman
 ▶ I. Cheparinov
 Gibraltar Masters, 29.01.2017

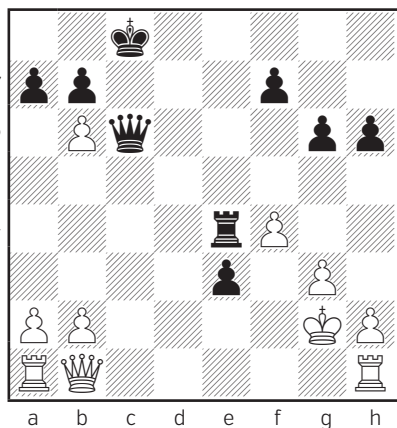
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[23]

▷ Z. Izoria
 ▶ J. Sheng
 Internet Pro League Rapid, 01.02.2017

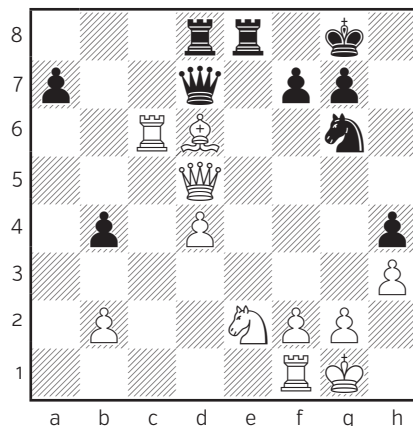
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[22]

▷ S. Docx
 ▶ S. Sethuraman
 Gibraltar Masters, 30.01.2017

1...-+



[24]

▷ I. Cheparinov
 ▶ D. Fridman
 Gibraltar Masters, 01.02.2017

1.+-

