

**Problem Page 32 March 2016**

**This is the last problem page set by Gerald Loble, a new composer will be setting problems from May onwards**

**The power of two bishops**

Many chess players believe that having both bishops on the board (versus an opponent's bishop + knight or 2 knights) is an advantage. This is usually true in 'open' position where the longer range attack from bishops can be useful. In addition King + 2 bishops can mate a lone King (while King + 2 knights versus a lone King is a draw).

a.



Checkmate positions with K + 2B versus K are shown in figures (a) and (b). Please remember that the K must also help the two bishops, all three pieces combine to deliver the mate.

(b)

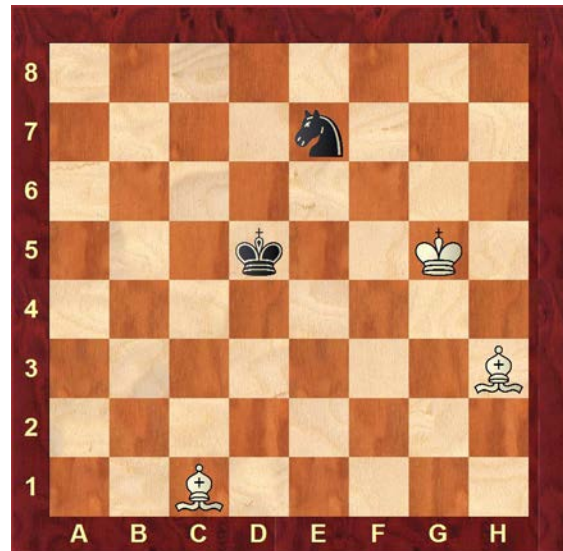


So in the endgame converting to a position with 2 Bishops against a lone King should enable you to win.

Look at position (c) and work out how White can win the black knight (N) leaving 2 bishops to mate the black K.

Please note there are 2 answers here depending on how Black responds to the correct first move by White

(c)



(d) Same again, how can White capture the black N and remain with K + 2B against the black K

(d)



(e)

**(e) Sometimes it is not necessary to capture the opponents piece in order to deliver checkmate with the 2 bishops (plus K).**

**See if you can solve this puzzle and give checkmate. Please note there are 3 answers depending on what moves Black plays to White's first move.**



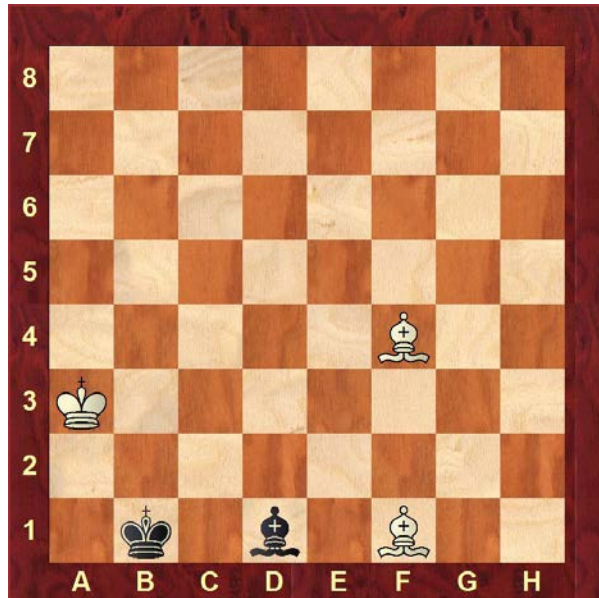
**Answers to problems (c) to (e) are given [HERE](#)**

**Now try Novice and Intermediate problems below and use what you have learned here to answer the questions. Remember the theme is all about the power of 2 bishops.**

**(several of these exercises come from part of the excellent series by Bruce Pandolfini).**

## Answer to last month's problems - Novice

### Problem N59



**N59. White to play and force checkmate. There are 4 options for Black to respond to the correct first move by White so you need to find 4 answers!**

**The correct first move for White is**

**1. Bc4**

**if Black replies**

**1. .... Kc2**

**2. Bb3 wins the black bishop and then mate by the 2 bishops follows**

**if Black replies**

**1. .... Bc2**

**2. Ba2+ Ka1**

**3. Be5#**

**if Black replies**

**1. .... Ka1**

**2. Ba2 Bb3 (or anywhere else)**

**3. Be5#**

**if Black replies**

**1. .... Bf3 (for example)**

**2. Bd3+ Ka1**

**3. Bc2 and mate at e5 to follow**

### Problem N60



**N60. Again White to play and force checkmate. This time there are 2 options for Black to respond to the correct first move by White so you need to find 2 solutions.**

**Here the correct first move for White is**

**1. Ba2+**

**if Black replies**

**1. .... Ka6**

**2. Bc8+ Ka7**

**3. Be3+ Ka8**

**4. Bb7#**

**if Black replies**

**1. .... Ka4**

**2. Kc5+ (note the discovered check by White)**

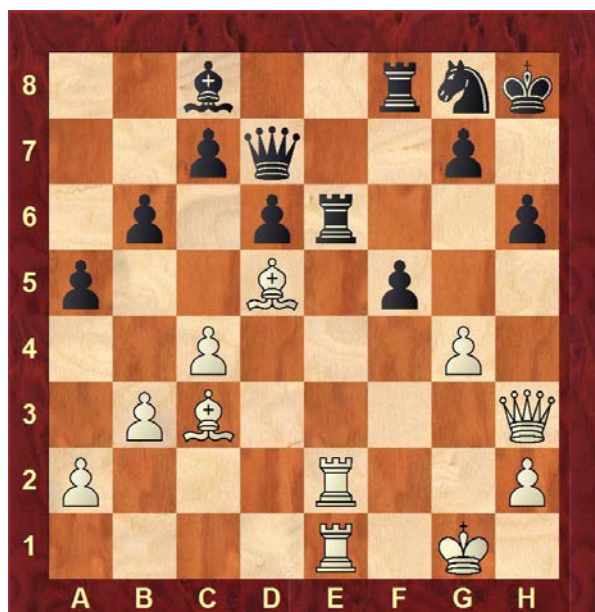
**2. .... Ka3**

**3. Bc1#**



## Answer to last month's problems - Intermediate

### Problem 159



159. White to play, what is the best forcing line to convert the strong positional advantage into a mate attack?

White has the choice of Bxe6 and Re6, with the latter move better because of the threat

1. Rxe6 .....
2. Rxh6+ Nxh6
3. Qxh6# because if the pins by the two bishops.

### Problem 160



160. Black has been greedy and taken first the white R on a1 and check the K (which was on e1 and has moved to d2) and then removed the R on h1.

(a) He was shocked when White won from here - but how?

(b) If it was Black's move in this position what would you play?

A neat queen sacrifice to finish the game

1. Qxc6+ bxc6
2. Ba6# his is a variation of Boden's mate

If it was Black's move then Ne7 stops the queen sacrifice.

Answers to this month's Beginners questions (above).

Return to positions above [HERE](#)

So here are the answers

Position (c)

Position (e)

**The correct move by White is**

**1. Ba3**

**If Black plays**

**1. .... Nc6 then**

**2 Bg2+ wins the N.**

**And if Black tries instead**

**1. .... Ng8**

**2. Kg6 Ke5**

**3. Kg7 Nf6**

**4. Bb2+ again wins the N**

**These are examples of a 'SKEWER' where a stronger piece (here the K) is in front of a weaker piece (the N).**

**Position (d)**

**White plays**

**1. Bf4 to which Black replies**

**1. .... Kd6**

**2 Bb3+ wins the N as the black K must move away from defending the N.**

**This time winning the piece involved a 'PIN' where a weaker piece (the N) is in front of a stronger piece (the K).**

**Here White plays**

**1. Be2 and play might play either**

**1. .... Nb7 when**

**2. Bg4# is checkmate**

**OR Black tries**

**1. .... Nc6**

**2. Ba6# mate again**

**OR Black tries**

**1. .... d6 and then White plays**

**2. Bg4+ Ne6 when**

**3. Bxe6# finishes the game**