Quality Chess Puzzle Book

By

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Quality Chess
www.qualitychess.co.uk
Chapter 2

Contributions from our Readers

In this chapter all the puzzles were generously sent to us by our readers. I hope this will create a new business model in chess publishing where our readers do all the work and I reap the benefits. Naturally, the positions demonstrate a range of themes. In general, the level of difficulty is lower than later in the book, so this chapter is a useful warm-up for what is to come.

The first example was sent by Manfred Herbold of Germany. The tactic lands on move 8, but the opening moves are weird enough to be worth a look.

Herbold – Mayer, Lampertheim 2002

1. \( \textit{c3} \) d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.\( \textit{dxe4} \) \( \textit{d5} \) Black was determined to play a Scandinavian. 4.\( \textit{c3} \) a5 5.b4 \( \textit{xb4} \) 6.\( \textit{b5} \) a5 7.\( \textit{c4} \) c6? 7...

8...\( \textit{d6} \) would have seriously challenged the soundness of White's opening play.

The next position was supplied by Rui Marques of Portugal. It is White to play. There is no forced win, but there is definitely a correct way to play.
22. \( \text{Ke4!} \) The best move even though Black can hang on with accurate play. 22... \( \text{Kx}e1? \) Black had to decline the offer with 22... \( \text{Kd}8! \) creating a square for the king on f8. 23. \( \text{Kf6} \) 24. \( \text{Kxh6} \) Now I cannot find a forced win, e.g. 25. \( \text{Ke3} \) 26. \( \text{Kxh6} \) 27. \( \text{Kg7} \) 28. \( \text{Kxe6} \) 29. \( \text{Kf7} \) 30. \( \text{Kf8} \) 31. \( \text{Kxh6} \) 32. \( \text{Kf7} \) 29. \( \text{Kxe6} \) 28. \( \text{Kf7} \) 27. \( \text{Kf8} \) 30. \( \text{Kc3} \) dxc3 31. \( \text{Ke4} \) 32. \( \text{Kxb4} \) c2 33. \( \text{Kd1} \) 34. \( \text{Kxc6} \) 35. \( \text{Kd7} \) 36. \( \text{Kc6} \) 37. \( \text{Kc7} \) 23. \( \text{Ke6} \) 24. \( \text{Kxh6} \) 25. \( \text{Kxg6} \) 26. \( \text{Kf1} \) when Black must give up his extra rook and a few pawns.

24... \( \text{Kxe3}!! \) The tempting 24... \( \text{Kb4} \) is less convincing after 25. \( \text{Kcx3} \) 26. \( \text{Kxa2} \) 27. \( \text{Kd1} \) 29. \( \text{Kxe1} \) 30. \( \text{Kb1} \) Black must lose f6, f7 and e6. For example, 30. \( \text{Kc5} \) 31. \( \text{Kb7} \) 32. \( \text{Kxh8} \) 33. \( \text{Kxf6} \) 34. \( \text{Kg7} \) 35. \( \text{Kf6} \) and now either 35. \( \text{Kxe6} \) or first 35. \( \text{Kxa4} \) will win eventually.

Our final example before the puzzles was sent from Glasgow in Scotland. It is Black to play.
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Snuverink – Lindam, Gent 2004

NN – Rotella, Internet Blitz 2008

Schnoor – Peterson, Dresden 2007

Rotella – NN, Internet Blitz 2008

De Crop – Van Vliet, Brasschaat 2007

Dabo-Peranic – Kozul, Croatia (rapid) 2007
(1) J. Snuverink – Ingo Lindam, Gent 2004
Black went into the ending with an extra piece and an extra pawn after a nice combination, but then failed to get the most out of his investment. 30...\f6! A nice shot. 31.\xe4 The only move. 31.hxg4 \f6† is mate. 31...\xh2† 32.\xe2 \xe4† 33.\xd3 \xe3† 34.\xd2 \xe5 34...\g3!+- won easily. 35.\b7 \d5† 36.\c2 \xd6 37.\xd6 \xd6 38.\h1 a5? Only here is the win put in jeopardy. Black could win easily with 38...\g6! 39.\xh2 \g3 40.\d2 b4 41.cxb4 \xb3 42.\h1 \xb4 and two extra pawns are plenty. 39.\xh2 a4 40.bxa4 \xb4 41.\h1 White has a fighting chance, but should probably still lose. Black however is having a bad day. 41...\e6† 42.\d3 \g6 43.\g4 \h5 44.gxh5 \a6 45.\a1 a3 46.\c4 \f5 47.\b5 \a8 48.\c4 \f4 49.c5 \f3 50.c6 a2 51.c7 \f2 52.\b6 \h7 53.\b7 \f8 54.c8=\f1=\f7?! This is unnecessary. Black could make a simple draw with: 54...\xc8 55.\xc8 \h6 56.\d7 \h5 57.\e6 \h4 58.\f5 \xh3 59.\f4 \g2 60.\xa2= 55.\xf1 \xf1 56.\c2† Black resigned, which is the most calamitous calamity of them all. The position is a fortress. With the rook on f6, ready to go to h6, and the king on h8 or h7, the combined might of the Quality Chess office has been unable to find a win. 1–0

(2) Ekkehard Schnoor – Eric Peterson, Dresden 2007
White played 28.\xb5? axb5 29.\xb5² and held a slight edge for a while. (0–1, 107). Later he regretted not playing 28.g4!, when Black cannot hold the defence of f7 and White simply wins. For example: 28...\xg4† 29.\h2 and the queen is lost.

(3) R. De Crop – D. van Vliet, Brasschaat 2007
Black won an important tempo for only a rook. 20...\c5! 21.\xa8 \g5† White is mated. 0–1

(4) NN – Tony Rotella, Internet Blitz 2008
21...\h2†! Thematic and effective. 22.\xh2 \f2† 23.\h3 \e7 White resigned. 24.fxe5 \h8† 25.g4 \f5† and mate is near. 0–1

(5) Tony Rotella – NN, Internet Blitz 2008
White is generally winning, but it is fun to end with a flourish: 23.\xf7†! \xf7 23...\h8 24.g5 \d7 is equally hopeless. 25.\xe8! is the most effective, and also the most stylish. 24.\g5† \g8 25.f7# 1–0

(6) Robert Dabo-Peranic – Zdenko Kozul, Croatia (rapid) 2007
White has played the game brilliantly, and now mated the former European Champion with a queen sacrifice. A real-life dream scenario: 17.\b5†! 1–0
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Sullivan – Rousseau, Montreal 2003

Lindam – Weber, Germany 1991

Ortkamp – Neuer, Germany 1981

Lindam – Smithers, Correspondence 2003

Wyss – Rölli, Switzerland (ch) 2008

Robiolle – Muneret, France 2008
White took control over the 7th and 8th ranks with the brutal 26.\(\text{d}7!!\), forcing immediate resignation.
1–0

Black won with a fine shot. 27...\(\text{f}4†\) 28.gxf4 \(\text{g}6†\) 29.\(\text{f}2\) White is lost. After 29.\(\text{f}1\) Black has 29...\(\text{h}3†\) forcing the win of material. 29...\(\text{h}2†\) 30.\(\text{e}3\) \(\text{xe}2†\) 31.\(\text{xe}2\) \(\text{xg}1\) 0–1

(9) Jonas Wyss – Sabrina Rölli, Swiss Championship 2008
With the black king in the centre it is not a surprise that there is a direct win. It is also not a surprise that it is brutal and sacrificial. 17.\(\text{x}e6!\) \(\text{f}xe6\) 18.\(\text{d}6†\) \(\text{f}7\) 19.\(\text{g}5†!\) Not the only win, but a nice way to own the light squares. White also wins after 19.0–0† \(\text{g}8\) 20.\(\text{g}3!\) with a winning attack. For example: 20...\(\text{h}8\) 21.\(\text{x}g7!–\)
19...hxg5 20.0–0† \(\text{g}6\) 21.\(\text{h}3!\) Accurate till the end. Black is mated. 21...\(\text{g}4\) 22.\(\text{xe}6†\) \(\text{f}6\) 23.\(\text{xf}6†\) \(\text{g}5\) 24.\(\text{f}5#\) 1–0

(10) Ingo Lindam – Michael Weber, Germany 1991
White has a promising position and can take back the sacrificed exchange. But instead he found an instant winner: 21.\(\text{e}8!!\) \(\text{xe}8\) Nothing else makes any sense. 22.\(\text{d}6†\) \(\text{b}6\) 23.\(\text{c}4†\) Black resigned, facing mate-in-three. 1–0

(11) Ingo Lindam – Steven Smithers, Correspondence 2003
White wins material with a neat little twist. 13.\(\text{x}e6!\) dxc3 There is no alternative. 14.\(\text{xf}7†\) \(\text{xf}7\) 15.\(\text{xd}5†!\) The point. The rook an a8 cannot be defended after the queens come off. 1–0

(12) J.M. Robiolle – M. Muneret, France 2008
22.\(\text{x}g6!\) The most effective solution. White is also winning after 22.e5 \(\text{e}7\) 23.f6!, when Black should give up the exchange. 22...\(\text{fxg}6\) 23.\(\text{xd}5!\) exd5 23...\(\text{g}7\) was possible, but after 24.\(\text{f}6†\) or 24.\(\text{x}g7\) \(\text{xg}7\) 25.\(\text{f}6†\) Black is dead anyway. 24.\(\text{f}6†\) Black resigned. A possible line was: 24...\(\text{f}7\) 25.\(\text{x}h7†\) \(\text{g}7\) 26.\(\text{g}7†!\) 1–0
(13) Marek Soszynski – B. Henderson, Nottingham 1999
White has a promising position, but to be able to exploit the weaknesses on the kingside and in the centre at the same time requires violence. 17.\(\text{f5}\)! \(\text{xe4}\) Trying to make it to an ending, but there is no happiness there either. The more critical 17...\(\text{b4}\) is best met with 18.\(\text{f8}\) (although 18.\(\text{xd6}\)? also wins) 18...\(\text{h5}\) 19.\(\text{h5!}\) g\(\text{xh5}\) 20.\(\text{xd6}\) and the black king lacks a defence. Black cannot take on \(\text{c3}\), as it would allow the rook to quickly reroute to \(\text{g3}\) with terminal effect. 18.\(\text{xe4}\) \(\text{xd2}\)† 19.\(\text{d2}\) g\(\text{f5}\) 20.\(\text{xd6}\) Complete collapse. 20...\(\text{d8}\) 21.\(\text{h5}\) \(\text{f6}\) 22.\(\text{xf7}\)† \(\text{h7}\) 23.\(\text{f8}\)† \(\text{h5}\) 24.\(\text{h5#}\) 1–0

(14) Filip Ljubicic – Robert Dabo Peranic, Croatia 2000
34.\(\text{xf5}\)! g\(\text{xf5}\) 35.\(\text{d7}\)! Black is paralysed. White is in no hurry to give the check on \(\text{e8}\), but first brings the king to \(\text{f5}\). 35...\(\text{h8}\) 36.\(\text{e1}\) h\(\text{h4}\) 37.\(\text{f2}\) Black resigned. 37...a\(\text{5}\) 38.\(\text{f3}\)–+ 1–0

(15) Lidia Sanchez – Fernando Semprun, Spain 2006
Black organizes a surprise mating attack with a few clever twists. 28...\(\text{e5}\)! 29.\(\text{d5}\) \(\text{f3}\) loses to the nice line: 29...\(\text{e1}\)! 30.\(\text{g4}\) \(\text{e3}\)† 31.\(\text{f3}\) f\(\text{4}\)†!! 32.\(\text{xe4}\) \(\text{e2}\)→ 29...\(\text{f4}\)! The quickest way to mate, but Black was also winning after: 29...g\(\text{4}\)!? 30.\(\text{xe4}\) \(\text{e2}\)→ 30.\(\text{xf7}\)† \(\text{g7}\) 0–1

(16) David Gardner – Dan Scoones, Canada 1985
Black managed to unsettle the white pieces with a lovely punch. 46...\(\text{xa3}\)! White resigned. After 47.\(\text{xa3}\) \(\text{c1}\)† 48.\(\text{g2}\) \(\text{g1}\)† 49.\(\text{f3}\) \(\text{d4}\)† Black would win the queen. 0–1

(17) Constatinos Papatyfonomos – Simon Bibby, Calvia Olympiad 2004
Black is able to give up a lot of pieces, as his opponent’s king is in trouble. 19...\(\text{d2}\)! 19...\(\text{ce4}\) 20.\(\text{xd8}\)=\(\text{xd8}\) 21.\(\text{xd3}\)= is less clear. 20.\(\text{d1}\) \(\text{ce4}\)! An elegant solution. Black could also win with: 20...\(\text{d5}\)! 21.\(\text{xd8}=\text{xd8}\) 22.\(\text{e4}\) \(\text{a4}\)!→ 21.\(\text{xe4}\) Resignation. 21.\(\text{xd8}\)= \(\text{xd8}\) changes nothing. 21.\(\text{e3}\) \(\text{d5}\)! is another way to end the game. 21...\(\text{xa3}\) 22.\(\text{cxd8}=\text{xd8}\) 23.\(\text{f3}\) \(\text{b2}\) 0–1

(18) Trevor Bemrose – Rajendran Ramachandran, Australia 2005
White has a good position, but to win it still requires work. White did this with a nice shot. 26.\(\text{xd6}\)! \(\text{xd6}\) Black saw no reason to fight on with a piece less. 27.\(\text{f5}\)! \(\text{gxf5}\) 28.\(\text{g5}\)# 1–0
(19) Ingo Lindam – Kai Renner, Stuttgart 1995
White wins with a classic king hunt. 10.\textit{$\text{e}xh7$}! $\text{e}xh7$ 11.$\text{e}g6$† $\text{e}7$ 12.$\text{e}f7$† $\text{d}6$ 13.$\text{c}4$† $\text{d}xc4$ 14.$\text{f}4$† $\text{d}5$ 15.$\text{c}3$† $\text{e}d4$ 16.0–0–0† $\text{c}5$ 17.$\text{e}3$† The queen is not enough. The rest is a bit silly, but still fun. 17...$\text{b}4$ 18.$\text{xb}7$† $\text{b}6$ 19.$\text{xb}6$ $\text{g}6$ 20.$\text{c}7$† 20.a3# 20...$\text{c}5$ 21.$\text{a}4$# 1–0

(20) L. Cooper – P.M. Stimpson, England 2004
Black is very active, but his attack could quickly lose momentum. In the game he made sure this did not happen. 19...$\text{h}3$!! 20.gxh4 $\text{f}3$†! Blocking the f-pawn. These two great moves could of course be inverted. 21.$\text{x}f3$ $\text{d}6$ White cannot avoid mate. 22.$\text{d}1$ $\text{h}2$† 23.$\text{f}1$ $\text{c}5$ 24.$\text{g}1$ $\text{h}2$† 25.$\text{f}1$ $\text{xf}2$# 0–1

(21) Jens K. King – Marques, Internet Blitz 2008
Although only an Internet blitz game, Black found a wonderful combination. 32...$\text{e}h3$!! 33.$\text{x}h3$ There is no reason not to take the rook. After something like 33.$\text{d}1$, Black wins trivially: 33...$\text{h}2$† 34.$\text{x}f1$ $\text{xe}2$ 35.$\text{xe}2$ $\text{c}2$† 36.$\text{e}c1$ $\text{g}3$† 37.$\text{f}1$ $\text{f}5$†→ 33...$\text{f}1$†! The important follow-up check. White is mated. 34.$\text{g}2$ White cannot elude his fate: 34.$\text{g}2$ is best met with: 34...$\text{e}6$!! 35.$\text{x}e6$ $\text{f}3$† 36.$\text{g}3$ $\text{xg}3$#; 34.$\text{g}4$ $\text{h}5$†! 35.$\text{hx}5$ $\text{h}3$† 36.$\text{h}4$ $\text{h}4$#] 34...$\text{f}5$† White resigned. The next check is on h7, and it hurts. 0–1

(22) D. van Vliet – A. Roos, Belgium 2007
White needs to strike or cry. A fancy move like 19.$\text{h}5$ only leads to a perpetual check, but White can strike much harder with: 19.$\text{x}f6$!! $\text{xf}6$ This does not change much. 19...gxf6 20.$\text{h}5$ and Black is mated. 20.$\text{x}f6$ $\text{cxd}5$ 21.$\text{xg}7$ $\text{e}4$ The only way to avoid mate, but not a way to live. 22.$\text{cxd}5$ $\text{f}5$ 23.$\text{g}5$† $\text{h}7$ 24.$\text{xf}5$ $\text{e}c8$ 25.$\text{e}5$ 1–0

(23) A. Swede – W. Hannum, Café Friendly 2008
A sudden chance, and Black created a little masterpiece. 24...$\text{xh}2$!! 25.$\text{g}3$ The only attempt. 25.$\text{hx}2$ is refuted by thematic means: 25...$\text{h}4$† 26.$\text{g}1$ $\text{h}1$† 27.$\text{xh}1$ $\text{h}4$† 28.$\text{g}1$ $\text{h}2$# 25...$\text{h}4$!! But this ends all discussion. 26.$\text{gxh}4$ $\text{e}4$# 0–1

White would like to play 25.$\text{g}5$†, but after 25...$\text{g}7$! the queen on b5 would interfere and give Black the edge. Instead White found a tricky little deflection in 25.$\text{a}4$! forcing Black to resign in view of the mate. 1–0
(25) **NN – Tony Rotella**, Internet Blitz 2008

Black won with a demolition on the dark squares. 10...\textbf{exe3}! 11.\textbf{exe3} \textbf{c2}!! The really brilliant move, luring the queen to a worse square. 11...\textbf{xd4}?? is very good for Black, but not as direct. 12.\textbf{d2} 12.\textbf{xc2} \textbf{xd4}† 13.\textbf{c2} \textbf{xc3} 14.\textbf{bxc3} \textbf{e8}†→ is hopeless. 12...\textbf{g4}†! 13.\textbf{fxg4} 13.\textbf{c2} \textbf{c7}† and the queen is gone. 13...\textbf{g5}† The point. 14.\textbf{f2} In blitz, who can blame him. 14.\textbf{c2} \textbf{e8}† 14...\textbf{xd2}† 15.\textbf{g2} \textbf{xd4} 16.\textbf{e1} \textbf{e8} 0–1

(26) **Tony Rotella – NN**, Internet (rapid) game

1.d4 \textbf{f6} 2.c4 \textbf{g6} 3.\textbf{c3} \textbf{g7} 4.e4 \textbf{d6} 5.f4 0–0 6.\textbf{f3} c5 7.d5 e6 8.\textbf{e2} exd5 9.cxd5 \textbf{f3} c5 7.d5 e6 8.\textbf{g7} 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0–0 6.\textbf{e2}! \textbf{xd4}† 13.\textbf{xf7}!! This attack was all home preparation. However, this does not reduce the pleasure for the player in executing it. 21...\textbf{xf7} 22.\textbf{e2}!! The dual threat of \textbf{e8}† and \textbf{xf7}† followed by \textbf{e7}† is too much to handle. The queen is by the way better placed on e2 than on e1, as was played in two games. The main difference is that the defence attempted by Black in this game would be far more successful, as White would lack \textbf{c4} in the end. 22...\textbf{a4} The other line runs: 22...\textbf{xc3} 23.\textbf{exe3} \textbf{g7} 24.\textbf{xf7} \textbf{xf7} (24...\textbf{g4} 25.\textbf{d2}) 25.\textbf{f1}† \textbf{g7} 26.\textbf{c1}→ 23.\textbf{xf7}† \textbf{g7} 23...\textbf{xf7} 24.\textbf{c7}† \textbf{g8} 25.\textbf{h6} is just mate. 24.\textbf{b3}! \textbf{d7} 25.\textbf{xc5}!! Another great shot. 25...\textbf{c6} Or 25...\textbf{xc5} 26.\textbf{e5}† \textbf{f8} 27.\textbf{h8}#. 26.\textbf{xc6}! bxc6 27.\textbf{c4} Black resigned. 1–0

(27) **Ivica Mihoci – Nikola Ziskovic**, Croatia 2004

The first move is easy, but the subsequent win is very hard to find. It all ends in a rook ending where White has to show a bit of accuracy to win. 26.\textbf{xf6}! This is easy enough, and in the game Black did not make it harder than this. 26...\textbf{xf2}†? This loses quickly, as the rook can come to c3. The accurate defence was 26...\textbf{xf6}, and now 27.\textbf{h3}, 27.\textbf{g5} and 27.\textbf{hxg7}† all lead to the same position after a few checks. 27...\textbf{g7} 28.\textbf{g6}† \textbf{h8} Here White cannot do more damage with the pieces he does have in the attack, but he can bring more in. It is not possible for Black to get rid of the queen from g6. 29.\textbf{xf7}!! \textbf{f8} The only defence. 30.\textbf{xe3} \textbf{f3} 31.\textbf{d1} \textbf{f8} It seems as if Black has managed to keep control, but the set-up of his pieces is fragile. 32.\textbf{f5}!! With the threat \textbf{h4}† and \textbf{xd4}. Black has no easy way to meet this. 32...\textbf{h7} The best among not many options. (32...\textbf{d8} is well met with the curious 33.\textbf{f1}!! threatening \textbf{h4}† and \textbf{xc3}, without having any irritating ...\textbf{xf2}† interfering. And 32...\textbf{c5} is refuted with 33.\textbf{xc3} \textbf{xc3} 34.\textbf{h6}† and the opening of the a2-g8 diagonal is lethal.) 33.\textbf{h4} Here Black has a real choice for once. Probably best is 33...\textbf{xf2}† to keep some pieces on the board. (After 33...\textbf{xd3} 34.\textbf{xd3} \textbf{c7} 35.\textbf{xh7} \textbf{xf2}† 36.\textbf{xf2} \textbf{xf2}† 37.\textbf{xf2} \textbf{xf2} White has a winning rook ending. 38...\textbf{c2} 39.\textbf{xf3} \textbf{c3}† 40.\textbf{e4} \textbf{xa3} 41.\textbf{xh6} \textbf{a4} 42.\textbf{e7}† \textbf{g6} 43.\textbf{xb6} 44.\textbf{xb6}† \textbf{g7} 45.\textbf{f5} \textbf{axb4} 46.\textbf{g4} \textbf{a5}† 47.\textbf{f4} \textbf{a4} 48.\textbf{f4} b3† 49.\textbf{g3}→) 34.\textbf{xf2}† 35.\textbf{xf2} \textbf{xf6} 36.\textbf{e1}+, but the extra pawn still needs to be converted in practical play. 27.\textbf{h1} \textbf{f6} 28.\textbf{g7}† \textbf{g6} 29.\textbf{h8} 30.\textbf{e3} 1–0