

Andrey Frolkin wrote:

*Alexander Zlochevsky came up with another proposal: to create a number of retros related to modern music (rock songs) with some relationship to horses, since 2014 is “a year of the Horse,” according to the Chinese animal calendar.*

*As a result, four problems were quickly composed. In Ukrainian/Russian/ Catalan languages, contrary to English/German, a knight (Springer) is referred to as “a horse.” We thought that you might be interested in publishing this short selection of retros in your blog as a “New Year present” to you and the readers of your retro blog. It does not have to be a fast solving tourney, but perhaps retro colleagues will enjoy solving the problems.*

*The “Heavy Horses” retro is partially based on No. 35 in the article on retro shielding as well as on my FIDE Album 1980-1982 problem 978.*

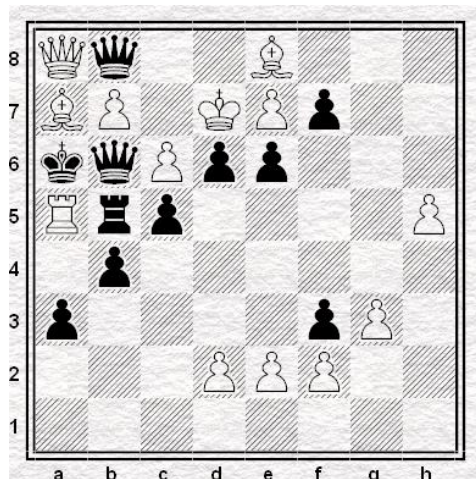
A. Frolkin

A. Zlochevsky

J. Crusats

[www.thbrand.de/retroblog](http://www.thbrand.de/retroblog), Jan 1, 2014

*Heavy Horses* (a 1978 Jethro Tull album)



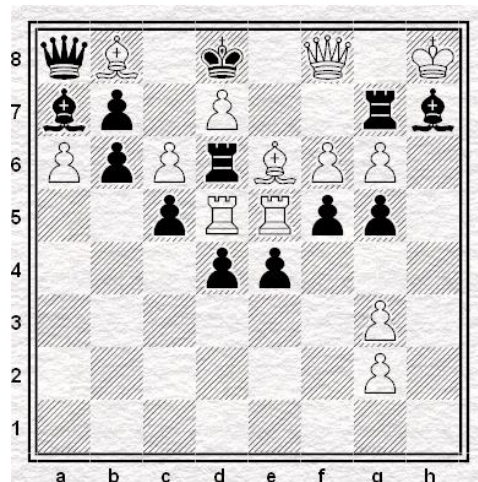
13+11 Release the position

Retract: -1.Ra4xSa5+ (a rook uncaptures a knight) g4xSf3 -2.Sd4-f3 g5-g4 -3.Sb3-d4 Sc4-a5 -4.Sa5-b3+ Se3-c4 -5.h4-h5 Sd5-e3 -6.h3-h4 Sc7-d5 -7.h2-h3 Sd5xRc7 (a knight uncaptures a rook) -8.Rc8-c7 Sc7-d5 -9.Kd8-d7 g6-g5 -10.Bd7-e8 g7-g6 -11.Ke8-d8 Sd5-c7+

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*A Day at the Races* (a 1976 Queen album)



13+13 Release the position

Retract: -1.Qf8-f7# Bg8-h7 -2.f2xSg3 and now try: -2...Sh1-g3 -3.a5-a6 h2-h1=S -4.a4-a5 h3-h2 -5.a3-a4 h4-h3 -6.a2-a3 h5-h4 and retrostalemate for White – the race is lost; solution: -2...Se2-g3 -3.a5-a6 Sc3-e2 -4.a4-a5 Sb5-c3 -5.a3-a4 Sc7-b5 -6.a2-a3 Se8-c7 -7.Qf8-f7 – the race is won.

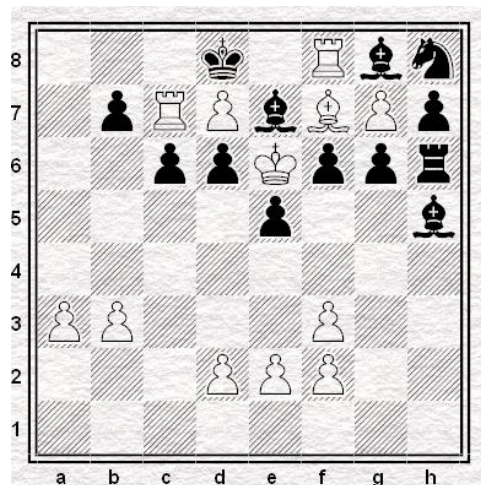
Comment: I know that –be– dislikes Queen very much, but...

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*Crazy Horses* (a 1972 song by The Osmonds)



12+13 Last 14 single moves?

Retract: -1.Be8-f7+ Sf7-h8+ -2.a2-a3 Sh8xSf7 -3.Sg5-f7 Sf7-h8+ -4.Se4-g5 Sh8xSf7 -5.Sg5-f7 Sf7-h8+ -6.Sg3-e4 Sh8xQf7 -7.Sf5-g3 Bg4-h5

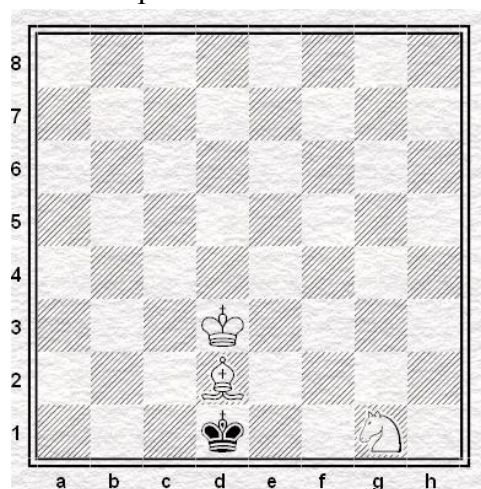
Comment: The video of *Crazy Horses* is an anticipation to the famous song *Gangnam Style* by Psy; compare <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMM3MgS4yxc> vs. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7xw3xS1r8Y>

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“A Soho problem”



3+1 Vertical cylinder; #1

Hint:

*Hear them down in Soho Square*

*Dropping H's everywhere*

Alan Jay Lerner / Frederick Loewe, *My Fair Lady*

Solution: White “drops all the H’s” (deletes the h-file) and mates by means of 1.Sb2#.

Comment: I saw the film *My Fair Lady* for the first time back in 1970.

Comment TB: “*Dropping all the A s*” is *NOT* a cook due to the problem’s motto...