

Motif 44 resulted in more reactions than I had expected.

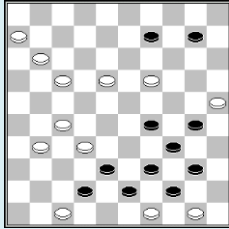
Although it's hard work to make an acceptable composition on it, a number of problemists dared to meet the challenge.

Joost de Heer rapidly came with the position of diagram 1.

In this fantasy position white wins through 21, 47x38,43,37,1,46.

Clever and original, but rather rough.

1. J. de Heer



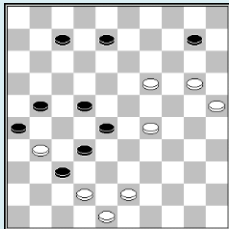
As often, this time also Virmantas Masuilis did his work, even with three arrangements given by the diagrams 2-4.

Number 2 wins by 438,39,15,4,46

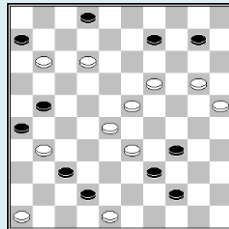
In number 3 white wins by 127,18,12,41,37 (unfortunately, an ugly uneconomical three-stroke) 15,2,46

Number 4 is the smallest one, but nevertheless the most beautiful of this trio: 44,7,9,4,46

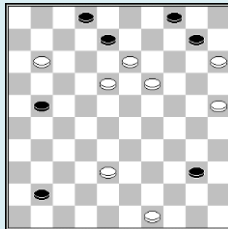
2. V. Masuilis



3. V. Masiulis

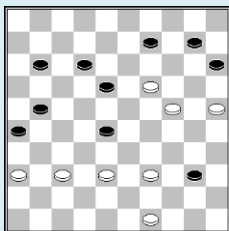


4. V. Masiulis

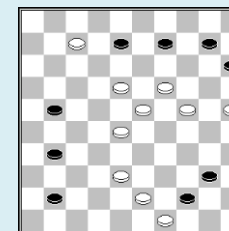


Reasonable problems, but the author doesn't win the jackpot. Tom Kieboom has tried to obtain somewhat more equivalence in his positions. Some success in problem 5, but black has two pieces more than white, that's a bit too much. In number 6 this difference is brought down to one, but the position is far from beautiful, although there are attractive economic strokes.

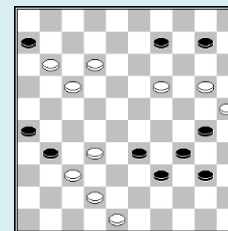
5. T. Kieboom



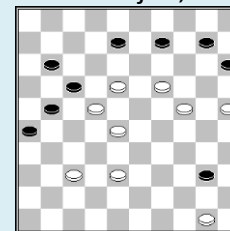
6. T. Kieboom



7. E. Zubov



8. J. Scheijen, arr. T.Smedinga



Number 5: 44,393,4,31,240,46

Number 6: 39,44,18,240,2,46

Zubov made a beautiful arrangement on this difficult motif. In De Problemist of August 2006 this composition was published for the first time (Number7). White wins beautifully by 43,27,39,31,15,2,46. Such top achievement is hardly to improve.

However, there came the very valuable remark of Tjipke Smedinga. He had studied the side-solution-containing problem of Jan Scheijen on this motif. Scheijen created the position of diagram 8 without the pieces on squares 26 and 37, in which white may win by different ways. Tjipke proposed to add a black piece on 26 and a white piece on 37. In this nice separated position white wins by 31,44, 183! 4, 240,46. A fantastic achievement that proves the possibility to arrange this difficult motif into a good initial position.