



COLUMNISTS

Chess Mazes

Bruce Alberston



Chess Mazes

In the fall of 2004, popular chess author Bruce Alberston released a book called *Chess Mazes*, designed to help students to develop their visualization and planning skills. *Chess Mazes* was an instant success and **ChessCafe** was delighted when Bruce agreed to offer a new *Chess Maze* puzzle each week.

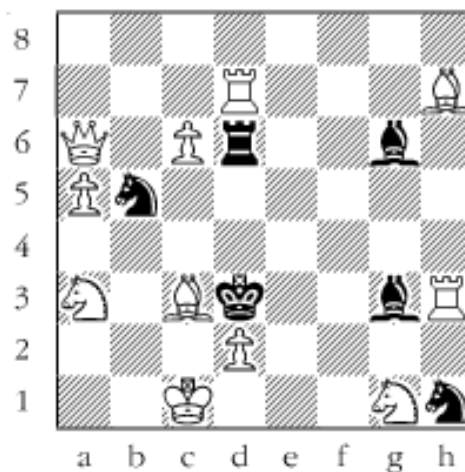
The concept is simple enough: The object is to place the black King in check in the shortest number of moves. The one restriction is that the white piece may not put itself *en prise*, i.e., on a square where it can be captured.

For those who may be interested in a more detailed introduction and overview to these puzzles, we invite you to take a look at the introduction from Bruce's book. Click [here](#) to read more, otherwise, we hope you enjoy this week's *Chess Maze* puzzle...

A King Maze

The only moving piece is the white king. The white helpers cannot move nor can Black. The king, making legal moves, must give mate using the shortest route. Check is not allowed.

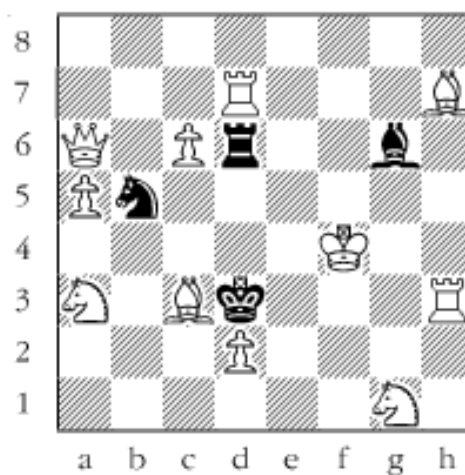
#18



Scroll down for the solution

1. Kb2 2. Kb3 3. Kb4 4. Kc5 You can't afford to take the knight; there's no mate when the king leaves b5. 5. Kb6 6. Kb7 7. Kc8 8. Kd8 9. Ke7 10. Kf8 11. Kg7 12. Kh6 13. Kg5 14. Kg4 15. Kf3 16. Kg2 17. Kxh1 A long way to go for the first capture, but the finish line is near. 18. Kg2 19. Kxg3 20. Kf4#

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