

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Chess Composing Challenge 2017

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> YCCC, for composers under 20 years (born 1997 and younger) has been organized by the Serbian Chess Problem Society, in cooperation with Russian friends. Grandmaster Valery Gurov kindly accepted to propose an original and challenging thematic condition, and to take over the delicate judging duty. Each participant had right to send up to 3 problems, including joint ones with another U20 composer. This year YCCC had only one group. In spite of a short time for composing, 40 days only, the tourney attracted 21 entries by 12 composers from 5 countries.*

*Theme: In h#2 there are two thematic pieces A & B (of any colour). In one phase (solution or set-play) the piece A opens a line for the piece B. In other phase piece A closes a line of piece B. It was possible to present several effects in a single moves, to multiply the theme, etc. Twins and duplex form were not allowed.*

### Award by Valery Gurov, FIDE International Judge

The offered examples ([http://matplus.net/pub/2nd\\_YCCC\\_2017\\_Announcement\\_en.pdf](http://matplus.net/pub/2nd_YCCC_2017_Announcement_en.pdf)) presented thematic requirements in a pure form, hoping the participants would follow such direction, although it was not set as obligatory condition. Unfortunately, several participants either did not understand the theme, or implemented it formally, one might say, incidentally.

Here are the reasons why some entries haven't got into award:

**Aleksei Popov (Russia) (c1-a1)**. Not thematic: in the 1<sup>st</sup> solution there's unblock instead of opening of the line.

**Aleksei Popov (Russia) (g8-d4)**. In two out of four solutions white has superfluous pieces, neither participating in the mate, nor playing.

**Aydan Huseynzada (Azerbaijan) (f7-d4)**. Thematic effects are actually incidental. The role of the third solution is also unclear.

**Azer Abbasov (Azerbaijan) (h4-d4)**. Both solutions are thematically impure: in the first one a piece needs to be pinned, in the second one a square needs to be guarded. Also, there is no additional thematic content to justify the idea.

**Maxim Romanov (Russia) (b4-f3)**. In the second solution the theme works by chance. Also, this problem is worse than the other six-men problem with author's participation.

**Aleksei Abramenko (Russia) (e3-c5)**. The idea of the problem repeats another problem by the same author.

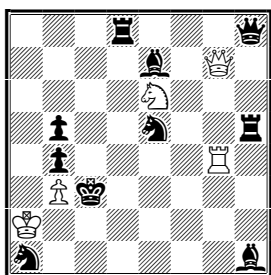
**Mihail Prilepin (Russia) (f5-b3)**. Unfortunately, both solutions are not thematically pure, and the rest of the content is inferior to those in the award.

**Ilja Vikulin (Russia) (e3-c4)**. The second solution is not thematic: white bishop unblocks the square, doesn't open the line.

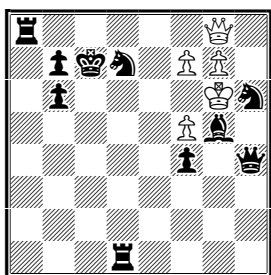
In general, the tournament was successful, and I've rewarded a number of interesting, thematically powerful and various works.

I've evaluated not only the purity of the theme, but also tactical content and additional themes.

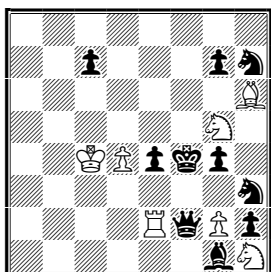
Here is my award (thematic moves are in bold fonts):

**Ilija Serafimović (Serbia)****1<sup>st</sup> Prize****h#2 2.1.1.1 5+10****1.Bg5 Rd4 2.Sf3 Qc7#****1.Bf6 Rg2 2.Sd7 Qg3#**

Very original and clear implementation of the theme in the play of two pairs of pieces: BB-WQ & WR-WQ. The idea is successfully supplemented by a double unpining of black knight and four interferences of the black lines! Although the play of white rook gives an additional strengthening of the position, it looks very natural because of the interferences. In my opinion, this is the best problem of the competition, in both thematic and tactical content. Congratulations to the author for deserved success!

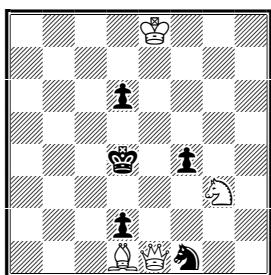
**Ilija Serafimović (Serbia)****2<sup>nd</sup> Prize****h#2 4.1.1.1 5+10****1.Be7 f8=S 2.Kd8 Se6#****1.Ra7 f8=B 2.Kb8 Bd6#****1.Kd6 f8=R 2.Ke7 Qe6#****1.Sf6 f8=Q 2.Rd7 Qc4#**

Extraordinary and surprising for me approach to the theme: AUW with two pairs of solutions. In one pair, promotions close the orthogonal for WQ, in the other – they open diagonal for the mates by Her Majesty. The idea is very impressive, I would say "mature", but from the point of the theme (promotions additionally strengthen the position), it is less impressive than the previous problem. In the non-thematic tournament this problem would have been evaluated higher.

**Azer Abbasov (Azerbaijan)****3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Prize****h#2 2.1.1.1 7+10****1.Qe3 S×e4+ 2.K×e4 Sg3#****1.Qh4 Sg3 2.K×g3 S×e4#**

A much unexpected additional theme: the interchange of moves of white knights with Zilahi theme! It's a pity that in the second solutions Qh4 is not only opening of the line, but also blocking. It would be preferable to have a hideaway move of the black queen (I hope the author will find it himself, but the change of the scheme is also a possibility to look for).

**Ilija Serafimović (Serbia)**  
3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Prize



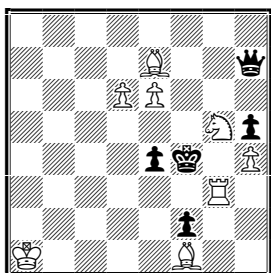
**h#2 2.1.1.1 4+5**

**1.Sh2(S~?) Be2 2.Ke3 Qg1#**

**1.Se3 Bb3 2.Ke5 Qa1#**

Black moves present the theme in a pure form. In the first solution, BS opens line for WQ with hideaway effect. In the second one, there is a peculiar correction of the play: another precise move of the black knight leads to interference of WQ line. There are beautiful Model mates on the edge of board. The author tried to double the theme in the play of the WB & WQ, but not in a pure way. Still, the content is impressive concerning only 9 pieces on the board!

**Roy Ehrlich (Israel)**  
Special Prize



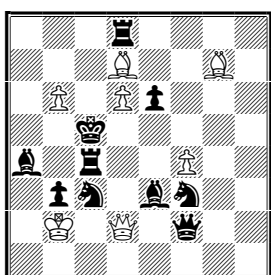
**h#2\* 8+5**

**1...Sf3 2.Ke3 Bg5#**

**1.Kf5 Bh3+ 2.Kg6 Sf7#**

The presentation of the theme is not pure here, but it is quite unexpected – with two faraway lines of WR. The author managed to present the idea in the form of set play, which is quite difficult with four white pieces and different mating squares of the black king. Therefore, a special reward for originality.

**Aydan Huseynzada (Azerbaijan)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Honourable mention



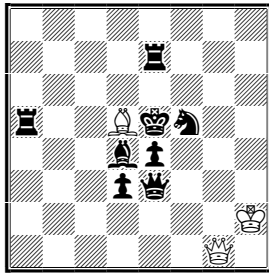
**h#2 2.1.1.1 7+10**

**1.Se2 B×a4 2.R×d6 Qa5#**

**1.Sd5 Be8 2.K×d6 Bf8#**

The unpinning effect in the first solution has the form of correction. Pure implementation of the theme in B1, and relatively pure in W1, with a bit rude capturing of BB. The problem would be placed higher if the solutions would be linked with additional content.

**Murali Karthikeyan (India)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable mention



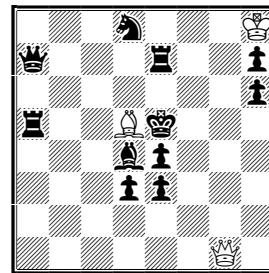
**h#2 2.1.1.1 3+8**

1.Bc5 **Ba2** 2.Kd4 Qa1#  
1.Kf6 **Bf7** 2.Rae5 Qg6#

The theme presented in the play of pieces of different colors, with elements of correction. Spectacular mates by white queen.

Unfortunately, in the second solution the bishop also controls g6 square. This could have been avoided with addition of material, and correction of WB in both solutions.

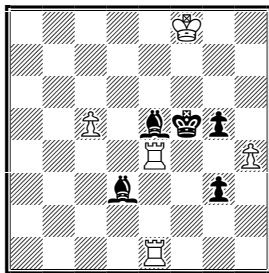
For instance:



**h#2 2.1.1.1 3+11**

1.Bc5 **Ba2**(B~?) 2.Kd4 Qa1#  
1.Kf6 **Bf7**(B~?) 2.Rf5 Qg7#

**Aydan Huseynzada (Azerbaijan)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Honourable mention

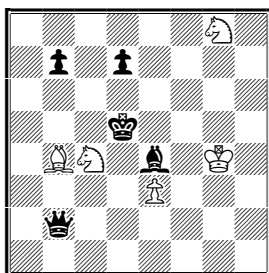


**h#2 2.1.1.1 5+5**

1.Kf6 **R×e5** 2.Bg6 h×g5#  
1.Ke6 **Rd4** 2.Bf5 Rd6#  
1.g4 **R4e2** 2.Kf4 Rf1#

A non-standard approach: two openings of the thematic line, one closing. Of course, the openings are not thematically pure, but in general the problem and the form leave a pleasant impression.

**Danila Pavlov (Russia)**  
4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> Honourable mention

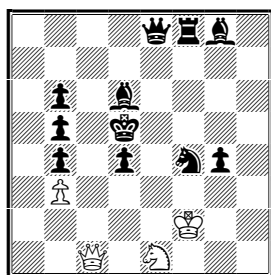


**h#2 2.1.1.1 5+5**

1.Bd3 **Bc3** 2.Ke4 Sf6#  
1.Kc6 **Bd6** 2.Qb5 Se7#

A good construction and good idea – identical play of the black. Opening of the WQ line includes additional effect of guard, while closing is presented with the purity of aim.

**Azer Abbasov (Azerbaijan)**  
4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Honourable mention



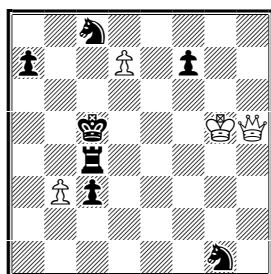
**h#2 2.1.1.1 4+11**

1.Rf7 Sc2 2.Kc5 Se3#

1.Bf7 Sd3 2.Se6 Qh1#

There is an interesting tactical idea added to the theme: the Grimshaw interference. The thematic content leaves to wish for more. In the second solution the theme is incidental: the knight additionally controls the squares – this is exactly the main goal of the move. In the first solution, there is also an additional attempt (Bh7?). Pity that in the second solution BR couldn't produce such an attempt.

**Aleksei Abramenko (Russia)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Commendation



**h#2 2.1.1.1 4+7**

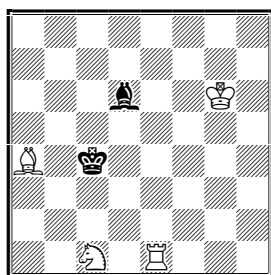
1.Kd6 Kf6 2.Rc6 d8=Q#

1.Kf4 Kf4 2.Rc5 Qd1#

Of course, all thematic effects are far from being pure, but the use of the black king as a thematic piece deserves to be rewarded. It's a pity that the author hasn't found a solution presenting interference of WQ by WK, when the opening of the WQ line already exists.

**Maksim Romanov, Aleksei Abramenko**  
(Russia)

2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation



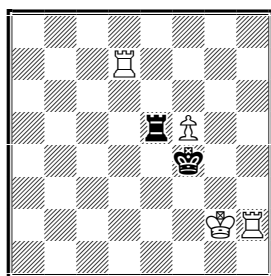
**h#2 2.1.1.1 4+2**

1.Kb4 Sd3+ 2.Ka3 Ra1#

1.Kd5 Se2 2.Ke6 Sf4#

The first solution is thematically impure, but this is the best six-men problem. Aristocratic position and Model mates.

**Glafira Kulish (Russia)**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation



**h#2 2.1.1.1 4+2**

1.Ke4 Kg3 2.Rxf5 Re2#

1.Kg5 Kh3 2.Kh6 Kg4#

Guard of flight makes the first solution impure, but the use of white king as a thematic piece and the good form deserve reward for the youngest participant of the competition.