

Report on the WFCC Special Awards 2026

At the Alba Iulia WCCC in 2025, two proposals for instituting special awards to recognise outstanding contributions to the world of chess composition were put forward: one by N. Shankar Ram and another jointly by Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen and Volodymyr Samilo.

Following these proposals, WFCC President Marjan Kovačević constituted a group to review the proposals, identify and shortlist eligible candidates, and finalise the first recipients. The group comprised Shankar Ram, Harry Fougiaxis, Thomas Maeder, Julia Vysotska, Marco Guida and Neal Turner, together with Marjan Kovačević.

Over several months, the group considered and discussed various aspects of the proposed awards, including:

- Categories of awards
- Frequency of the awards
- Number of recipients
- Selection procedure
- Title of the award
- Selection criteria
- Nature and form of the award

After these discussions, it was decided that the award would be called:
the **WFCC Dawson–White Award for Outstanding Contributions** in honour of two great pioneers of chess composition from the last century:



T.R. Dawson



A.C. White

- **Thomas Rayner Dawson (1889–1951)** — regarded as the father of Fairy Chess, the first editor of *The Problemist*, and an indefatigable composer, writer, editor, theorist, guide and mentor to generations of fairy chess problem enthusiasts.
- **Alain Campbell White (1880–1951)** — distinguished composer and patron of chess composition, founder of the *Good Companion Chess Problem Club*, and author of the famous *Christmas Series* of books.

The award will be **annual** in nature. Each winner will receive a **trophy and a certificate**.

2026 Awardees

This will be announced during the WCCC at Magdeburg.

Award Production

The design and production of the trophies/plaques and certificates are being undertaken by **Julia Vysotska**.

The candidates who were shortlisted but not selected for the 2026 awards will remain under consideration for the **2027 awards**.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the group for their time, thoughtful discussions and valuable contributions, and to WFCC President **Marjan Kovačević** for initiating and supporting this process.

N. Shankar Ram

July 2026