



The 11th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section G – Fairies

Preliminary award by

Borislav Gadjanski

MMXXIII

I would like to thank the organizer for entrusting me with judging the Fairy Section of the 11th FIDE World Cup. From the tournament Director, I received 48 originals on uniform diagrams with solutions and without authors' names.

I was delighted to notice the significant increase in the number of compositions, over 20%, more than the previous year. Only in 2015, there were more problems - 51. The quality, in my opinion, is high, with many number of outstanding compositions. The vast majority are the problems with Help play. Among them, 16 (a third of the total number) are the hs#. Also, there are: 11 helpmates, one h=, one h#1 retro, six serial compositions, four selfmates, eight direct problems, one EG, and one direct-selfmate (ds#).

Section G is by far the most complex to judge, as it has all kinds of problems from the other sections, with additional heterodox conditions and/or pieces plus many other specific stipulations. Some compositions are not comparable when ranking is needed. The attitude, view, and taste of the judge are crucial.

A few words about the compositions that are not in the award:

- **G40 (hs#3, ♘f1-♘c7, 8+15)** shows an exquisite and complex cyclic mechanism, with AntiCirce condition using 3 Sirens. This combination of conditions and these fairy pieces are treated differently by the two most popular solving programs (Popeye and WinChloe). Popeye sees no solutions, and WinChloe says the problem is only correct for AntiCirce Calvet. In French: Anticircé + Captures sur case de renaissance autorisées.

Unfortunately, I could not rank the problem because each of the three thematic pieces (b♘a3, b♘a5 & b♘a6) has not have a role in one of the phases. b♘a3 is unnecessary in a), b♘a5 is unnecessary in b), and c) instead of b♘a6, b♘a7 is also possible. It is a "system drawback" that can only be fixed with a non-twin position, but I do not know if such a position exists;

- **G33 (#2, ♘f2-♘h8, 13+9)** – twomover task, an exceptional achievement. But there are too many different types of fairy pieces, in my opinion;

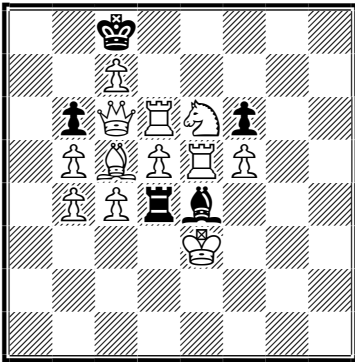
- **G45 (hs#5, ♘d7-♘a8, 14+7)** – similarly, with a beautiful AntiCirce wB-Rundlauf and zugzwang with mates after AntiCirce promotions was excluded due to the nine Dummies.

I decided to give priority to compositions with two or more phases/variants, with logically (or geometrically) related changes in thematic play, strategy, and/or functions of thematic pieces.

Although several constructive problems did not make it into the award, they are worthy achievements. Along with them, several other solid compositions are not included. Simply, not everyone can receive the honors they deserve in such fierce competition. They may get their glory in other tournaments..

A composition of radiant beauty. Perfect ODT with 2 x 11 mutually aligned echo (orthogonal-diagonal) half-moves. "Slow creation" of the reciprocal black RB batteries on d5 with the addition of tempo-move of the rear piece. Mating the wK on the square where the rear piece of the black battery stands in the starting position. Two pairs of reciprocal black moves. The pairs in the 4th and 6th moves are particularly impressive on the squares where the thematic piece once makes a tempo maneuver and mates the other time. Three pairs of pieces reciprocally change their functions: b♘e4/b♞d4, w♝c6/w♞d6 and w♞e5/w♘c5. 2x Bristol-bicolor ♝c6/♘d5 and ♞d6/♞d5.

G41 – 1st Prize



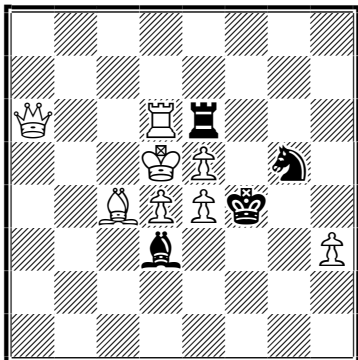
hs#5.5 2 sol. 12+5

1...♘xd5 (A) 2. ♞e4 ♘xc6 3. ♞f4
 ♞d5 (B) 4. ♚e4 ♘a8 (C) 5. ♘e3
 ♘b7 6. ♞d8+ ♞xd8# (D)

1... ♞xd5 (B) 2. ♘d4 ♞xd6 3. ♘c3
 ♘d5 (A) 4. ♚d4 ♞d8 (D) 5. ♞e3
 ♞d7 6. ♝a8+ ♘xa8# (C)

I especially want to draw attention to Black's second move in both solutions (♘xc6 & ♞xd6). Black takes the white piece which in the second phase, in its final move, forces Black to checkmate wK. This is fully associated with the Zilahi paradox but with a helpself condition. It seems to me that it may be called **Zilahi-2**: *reciprocally, Black takes a white piece, which forces Black to checkmate wK in the second solution!*

G38 – 2nd Prize



hs#4 Kobul Kings 8+4
 b) ♖g5→f2

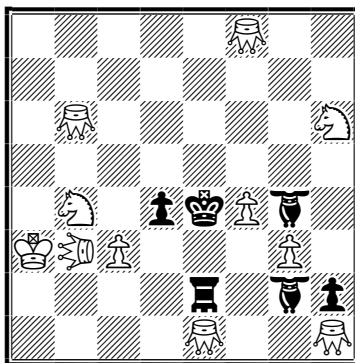
a) 1. ♖xe6[f4=r ♖] r ♖f7 2. ♖c6 ♖e6
 3. ♖b7+ r ♖xb7[d5=r ♖]
 4. ♖xe6[b7=r ♖]+ ♖xe4[d5=♔]#
 (4... ♖xc4[d5=r ♖]?? 5. ♔xe4[b7=r ♖]??)

b) 1. ♖xd3[f4=r ♖] r ♖d2 2. ♖b5 ♖d3
 3. ♖a5+ r ♖xa5[d5=r ♖]
 4. ♖xd3[a5=r ♖]+ ♖xe5[d5=♔]#
 (4... ♖xd6[d5=r ♖]?? 5. ♔xe5[a5=r ♖]??)

Another composition with wonderful content and a complete (from start to finish) diagonal-orthogonal correspondence. The diagram position is orthodox (which gives this problem an additional aesthetic value), while both final positions would be the fairy Ideal-mates if we ignore the distant w♔h3. There are perfect orthogonal-diagonal piece-positions on both sides, and a black Minimal at the end. White K cannot capture an "undefended" black piece due to self-checking because the b♔ takes

the movement-property of his captured piece. Surprising Zilahi and Kozhakin (first and last white moves are the same). I like fairy compositions like this one!

G20 – 3rd Prize



#2 11+6

♟=Grasshopper, ♞=Leo
 ♖=Rookhopper, ♗=Bishophopper

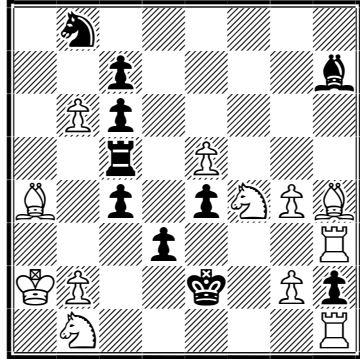
*1... ♖e5 (a) 2. ♟be3# (A)
 *1... ♗d5 (b) 2. ♟f3# (B)
 *1... d3 (c) / dxc3 2. ♞a4# (X)
 *1... ♗d1 2. ♟h4#

1. ♟be3? (A) ♗d5! (b) 2. ♟f3? (B) ♔xf3!
 1. ♟f3? (B) ♖e5! (a) 2. ♟e3? (A) ♗e2!

1.c4? zz 1... ♖e5 (a) 2. ♞be3# (C),
 1... ♗d5 (b) 2. ♞f3# (D), 1... ♗d1
 2. ♟h4#, 1...d3! (c)

1. ♞a4! (X) zz 1... ♖e5 (a) 2. ♞e8# (E),
 1... ♗d5 (b) 2. ♞a8# (F), 1... ♗d1 2. ♟h4#
 (1. ♔a2? ♗d5+!; 1. ♔b2? dxc3+!)

When I entered the world of chess composition, I especially liked **White to play** twomovers. Now after many years, I saw a wonderful example with a fairy mechanism. Using hoppers (grasshoppers, rook & bishop hoppers, and Chinese piece Leo which captures like a prolonged grasshopper), the author managed to fit several twomover themes into a harmonious content enriched with orthogonal-diagonal echo play. We can see **Banny** with **Simple Zappas**, and **Zagoruiko 3x2** (set play, try & solution) with **zugzwang positions** in all phases.



#6 12+10
Anticirce type Cheylan

		a	b	c
		A	B	X
A			!	
B		!		
		C	D	!
X		E	F	

Four mates by Leo in try (♙e3, ♚f3) and solution (♙e8, ♚a8) on both sides of the black king's orthogonal and diagonal.

Simple Zappas theme: *A square of the black King field is controlled by 3 white pieces. A try removes one control and is refuted by a black move, which remove a 2nd control because the envisaged mate removes the 3rd control.*

1.b7! – 2.♙b3 – 3.♙c2/♙c3 ~ 4.♙c3/♙a3#, 2...e3 3.♙c3 d2 4.♙a3+ ♙b1 5.♙xb1(♙h1)#

1...♙f5 2.♙b3 ♙xc4(♙c8) 3.♙c3+ ♙d2 4.♙xe4(♙b1) ♙e2 5.♙c3+ ♙d2 6.♙e4#, 2... ♙xe5(♙h8) 3.♙a3+ ♙d2 4.♙xc4(♙b1) ♙e2 5.♙a3+ ♙d2 6.♙c4#

1...e3 2.♙c3+ ♙d2 3.♙e4+ ♙xe4(♙c8) 4.bxc8♙(♙b1+) ♙e2 5.♙c3+ ♙d2 6.♙e4#

1...c3 2.♙a3+ ♙d2 3.♙c4+ ♙xc4(♙a8) 4.bxa8♙(♙b1+) ♙e2 5.♙a3+ ♙d2 6.♙c4#

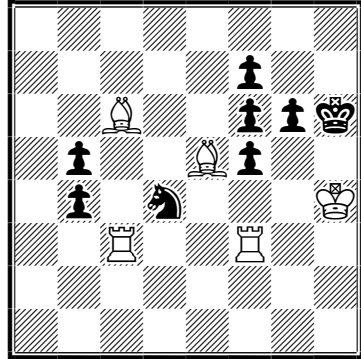
(1...♙g6 2.♙b3 ♙xe5(♙h8) 3.♙a3+ ♙d2 4.♙xc4(♙b1) ♙e2 5.♙a3+ ♙d2 6.♙c4#)

A very original play of the "Fairy Popandopoulo battery" with specific AntiCirce Phoenix and also specific AntiCirce ♙-promotions after capturing on c8 and a8, excellently integrated. The orthodox Popandopoulo battery requires line-

piece and two knights. Here we have a pseudo battery, without the white line-piece and with ♖ - rebirthing multiple times! Especially interesting are the AntiCirce defenses 1...e3, 1...c3. They prevent the thematic w♖-Phoenix after capturing on e4 or c4, but then ♖b7 enters the scene with a new Phoenix via c8 and a8 after 3...♙x♖e4(♙c8) or 3...♞x♖c4(♞a8). Finally, the mates are on empty squares e4 or c4! I would especially draw attention to the subtle logical connection between the full-length variants in the threat (1...♙f5) and the thematic defenses 1...e3 and 1...c3.

An extraordinary idea, which is not easy to spot because of the abundance of short variants.

G11 – 1st Honorable mention



h#2 2.1. 5+8
 Antircirce couscous

1. ♖xf3[b ♖f3→h1] ♙xh1[w ♙h1→g8]
 2. bxc3[b ♖c3→a1♙] ♙xa1[w ♙a1→f8]#

1. ♖xc6[b ♖c6→f1] ♞xf1[w ♞f1→g8]
 2. fxe5[b ♖e5→c1♞] ♞xc1[w ♞c1→h8]#

Astonishing reciprocal orthogonal-diagonal play. All moves (8) are AntiCirce Couscous capturing moves. Zilahi and promotions with reciprocal Black & White capturing:

b ♖d4x♙c6→f1 & ♞f3x♖f1→g8
 (1st sol.)

b ♖d4x♞f3→h1 & ♙c6x♖h1→g8
 (2nd sol.)

b ♖x♞c3→a1B & ♙e5x♖a1→f8#
 (1st sol.)

b ♖x♙e5→c1♞ & ♞c3x♞c1→h8#
 (2nd sol.).

Perfect harmony.

1. ♔d3? – 2. ♘g6# (B) (2. ♖xh3+? (C) ♖xh3!), 1... ♗e6~ (a) 2. ♖xh3# (C), 1... ♗cd4 (q) 2. ♘f6# (D), 1... ♗a3! (y)

1. ♗c3? – 2. ♖xh3# (C) (2. ♘f6+? (D) ♖xf6!), 1... ♗e6~ (a) 2. ♘f6# (D), 1... ♗fd4 (r) 2. ♗g4# (A), 1... ♗xh2! (z)

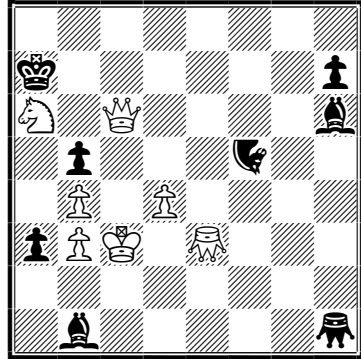
1. ♔d4! – 2. ♘f6# (D) (2. ♗g4+? (A) ♖xg4!), 1... ♗e6~ (a) 2. ♗g4# (A), 1... ♘e4 (s) 2. ♘g6# (B)

"Chinese Organ Pipes" in an impressive thematic content. According to the author: 4x Cyclic Sushkov, 4x Cyclic Le Grand, 3x Dombrovskis in relation to the set-play variations, pseudo-Le Grand, 3x Barnes. There is also Rudenko theme with 3 thematic mates. And all of that asked for a very high price! Twenty-eight pieces (11+17) were used and among them as many as 14 Chinese officers!

These combinations are primarily possible due to the properties of the Chinese line pieces. Arrival of any piece on a line of a Chinese piece either establishes or lose control of the distant square on that line. The same can happen when a piece leaves this line. In orthodox chess this would be a paradox, but in fairy chess it may not be.

This composition was obviously created by a "master's hand", and it is a valuable work, but it's placement very much depends on the judge's attitude towards different types of fairy problems.

G42 – 4th Honorable mention



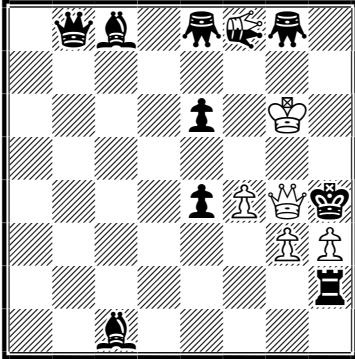
hs#3.5 2.1.. 7+8
 ♗=Grasshopper
 ♘=Nightrider

1... ♘g5! 2. ♗h6! (2. ♗c5? ♘g7 3.??)
 ♘g7 3. ♗f8 ♗h8 4. ♗a3+ ♘a4#

1... ♘e4! 2. ♗e5! (2. ♗c5? ♗d5 3.??)
 ♗d5 3. ♗c5 ♘e7 4. ♗a5+ ♗a5#

Creation of reciprocal Black ♗+♘ batteries with the help of White Grasshopper tempo play. Two model mates after the double check

G30 – 5th Honorable mention



hs#3.5 Mars Circe 5+9+1
2 sol.

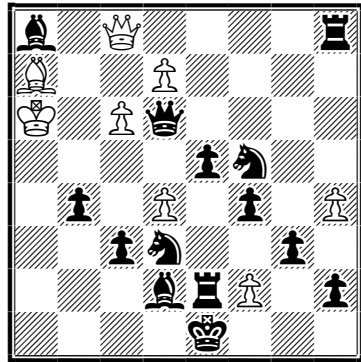
♙=Grasshopper, ♚=Lion

- 1... ♖c2 2. ♔xc2 n♙d8 3. ♔b1 ♙h5
4. ♔g5+ n♙xb1#
1... ♔b3 2. ♔xb3 n♙h8 3. ♔b7 ♙g5
4. ♔h5+ n♙xb7#

Witty and clever pseudo-Zilahi. Reciprocal functions of b♖ & b♔. They are actively sacrificed at the beginning and they are passively mating at the end, as the rear pieces of n♙-b♔/b♖ battery. They allow white Queen to reach the square where it will be captured. In the second move, the neutral Lion simultaneously creates one anti-battery and one battery! Anti-battery is firing by moving the w♔ into the battery line, and the battery is firing after capturing the w♔ by n♙ in the last move! Black Grasshoppers actively block squares near w♔, and passively interfere with n♙ (4...n♙h8 / n♙d8 is self-check). In both mating positions, the white King's square

and three squares around it are under fairy control of Mars Circe! An unusual ODT with a harmonic strategy in both phases.

G8 – 1st Commendation



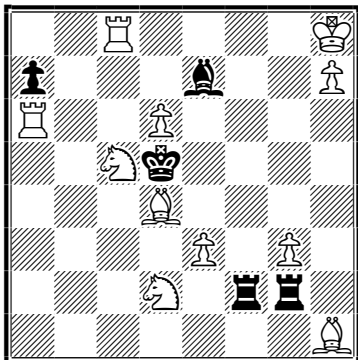
h#2 2 sol 8+14

b) ♔c8→d8
Breton adverse

- a) 1. ♔xd4[-w ♖d7] ♔h3
2.h1 ♔ ♔xh1[-b ♖d4]#
1. ♔xc6[-w ♖d4]+ ♔xc6
2.h1 ♔ ♔xh1[-b ♖a8]#
b) 1. ♔xh4[-w ♖d4] ♔xh4[-b ♖d3]
2.h1 ♖ ♔xh1[-b ♖h8]#
1. ♔xd4[-w ♖d7] ♔d5
2.h1 ♔ (♔d~?) ♔xh1[-b ♔d4]#

Black AUW with Schnoebelen paradox on h1. Nice idea. All white moves are made by Queen: ♔c8-h3xh1, ♔c8xc6xh1, ♔d8xh4xh1 & ♔d8-d5xh1

G34 – 2nd Commendation



hs#3.5 2 sol. 11+5

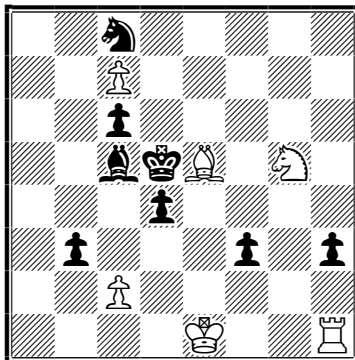
1... ♖h4! 2. ♛g8! ♜f8 3.gxh4 ♜a8
4. ♜b8 zz ♜xb8#

1... ♜f4! 2. ♜g7! ♜f6 3.gxf4 ♜a1
4. ♜b2 zz ♜xb2#

Bi-color Brunner-Turton doubling with Pelle movements of maximum lengths. Reciprocally changed functions of w♜d4/w♜c8, active Zilahi, zugzwang.

Orthogonal-diagonal analogy.

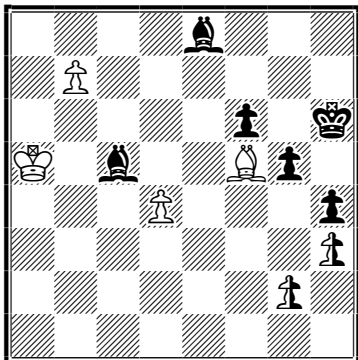
G25 – 3rd Commendation



ser-s#11 6+8

1.0-0 2. ♜a1 3. ♜a8 4. ♜xc8 5. ♜h8
6.c8♜ 7. ♜xh3 8. ♜f1 9. ♜h1 10. ♜h2
11.c4+ dxc3 e.p.#

Valladao with wR-Rundlauf over 4 corners! Outstanding work.



hs#3.5 b) Δ h4→h5 4+6+2
AntiCirce, Circe

a) 1... ♔h5
2.n Δ gxh3[n Δ h3→h2][+n Δ h7]
n Δ h1n ♚
3.n ♚d5 n ♚g8 4.n Δ h8n ♞+
n ♚xh8[n ♚h8→d8][+n ♞a1]#

b) 1...n Δ hxg2[n Δ g2→g7][+n Δ g2]
2. ♘a6 n Δ g1 ♞ 3.nRe1 n ♞e7
4.n Δ g8n ♞+
♞xe7[n ♞e7→b8][+n ♞a1]#

This is an excellent example of what two neutral pawns can do with the addition of AntiCirce + Circe conditions. Four neutral promotions (two on the first: h1n ♚ & g1n ♞ and two on the eight rank: h8n ♞ & g8n ♞) Reciprocal capturing of neutral pawns. Exceptional "neutral mates" after AntiCirce-Circe-battery-capturing of the newly promoted neutral pieces of course, with double check).