The 5ᵗʰ FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section G – Fairies

Final award by

Petko Petkov

MMXVII

Participants

G01	S.Dietrich (DEU)	G21	A.Beine (DEU)
G02	E.Rosner (USA)	G22	R.Kratschmer (DEU)
G03	J.Burda (CZE)	G23	V.Dyachuk (SVK)
G04	P.Tritten (FRA)	G24	V.Medintsev (RUS)
G05	J.Csak (HUN)	G25	J.Ducak (CZE)
G06	H.Gockel (DEU)	G26	K.Mlynka (SVK)
G07	V.Crisan (ROU)	G27	K.Gandev (BGR)
G08	L.Kekely (SVK)	G28	I.Soroka (UKR)
G09	V.Kotesovec (CZE)	G29	R.Kohring (DEU)
G10	F.Pachl (DEU)	G30	S.Trommler (DEU)
G11	I.Kochulov (RUS)	G31	J.Lorinc (SVK)
G12	L.Grolman (RUS)	G32	V.Kozhakin (RUS)
G13	D.Muller (DEU)	G33	A.Oganesjan (RUS)
G14	D.Turevski (RUS)	G34	A.Gasparyan (ARM)
G15	V.Nefyodov (RUS)	G35	M.Mishko (UKR)
G16	E.Klemanic (SVK)	G36	B.Basic (SRB)
G17	M.Barth (DEU)	G37	M.Rittirsch (DEU)
G18	L.Packa (SVK)	G38	V.Gurov (RUS)
G19	A.Styopochkin (RUS)	G39	J.Mikitovics (HUN)
G20	K.Prentos (USA)	G40	U.Marks (DEU)

*F*or this year's World Cup tournament I received from the director Mr. Boris Shorokhov, 40 original problems, printed on uniform diagrams without the authors' names. As a general statement about the level of the tournament, I assume that it is very good, given, above all, the problems honored in the tournament. A disturbing fact is, however, that a large number of problems had to be excluded from the competition due to various reasons. On this occasion, I would like to note that I expected a stronger and more precise participation - as a general trend.

I must immediately point out that awarding such tournaments probably always experiences some difficulties, if it is needed to compare quite different problems; for example, from help - play type and direct compositions. In this case, I kept myself to the generally accepted criteria of complexity and beauty of content, originality and material economy. In such cases, there is always subjectivity on the part of the judge, although I try to be equally fair to all styles and schools. But I must note that in this tournament there were not enough good and original direct problems, which deserved prizes.

I did not include the following problems in my ranking for a variety of reasons:

G03: Repetition of moves 2.Sf5 Sf7# in I and II solutions.

G15: I received position in which the stipulation HS#4, 2 solutions is impracticable. In fact, there is only one solution here: 1. Bd6 Sxb4 2.Qxe4+ Kxe4 3.Sf4 Kd4 4.Rxb4+ Qxb4(Rxb4)# - with a dual on the mating move.

G19: Not quite original. There are many similar problems by the Russian composer Stepochkin

G22: The black Qa8 is redundant at position b).

G23: Predecessor: Vasil Dyachuk, 27° Spisska Borovicka, Ostroda 2015, 1st Prize;

G25: Bad twin with two changes in position a); only two mates: after Sf7 and after Bb8 in a problem with 4 solutions.

G30: A very good problem but with bad cook-stopper Gc8. With this major technical defect, I cannot rank this h#2. By the way, after a thorough analysis, I found that the Gc8 problem could be improved. Therefore the author has the possibility to correct his h#2 and receive high honor in another tournament.

G32: There is not full identical play in the four twins and also unpleasant formation of twin "d" through two changes.

G33: Heavy position and only one mate in the content.
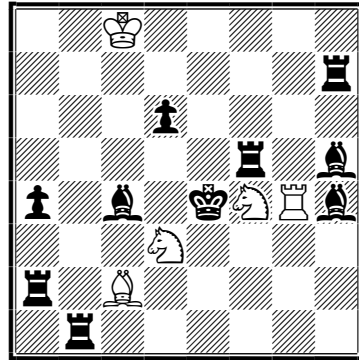
G35: Full symmetry in play.

G38: Take&Make effect in only one half-move.

G40: A long play, but it's rough and mechanical.

Another group of problems that are missing in the award are of insufficient quality, poor form or lack of originality. I will not comment on these opuses.

I suggest the following ranking:

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1ˢᵗ Prize – Gold medal
VLAICU CRISAN
Romania

hs#3.5   2 solutions   5+10

Take&Make

1... ♔:d3→c1 2.♖:h4→d8! ♗d1
3.♗:f5→g5 ♖c2 4.♘d3+
♗:d3→f4#
1... ♔:f4→h3 2.♗:b1→b8! ♖h2
3.♖:c4→b3 ♗g4 4.♘f4+
♖:f4→d3#

An extremely complex and interesting problem, composed in a hyper-modern style! With only four figures, the two white batteries show a paradoxical metamorphosis - these initial batteries are destroyed and new white batteries are created in the solutions! The black ones respond with the construction of two other batteries (vertically and diagonally), which give beautiful mates. The play is extremely dynamic, as the black king in the two phases occupies the distant fields c1 and h3 where we see also in every phase two self-blocks realized by black figures! Full

diagonal – orthogonal correspondence in a problem in which five (!) duets of thematic figures are played (Sd3/Sf4, Rg4/Bc2, Rb1/Bh4, Ra2/Rh5, Rf5/Bc4.

Of course, I accept that it is normal for a modern fairy – opus to use a "hyper complex" of orthodox figures - 4 black Rooks and 3 black Bishops! In the near future, most fairy problems will have similar material.

I congratulate the author on this grand task!

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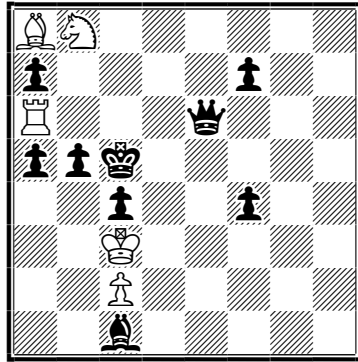
hs#3.5   b) ♕e6→e4   5+9

a) 1... ♕h6 2.♖g6 f6 3.♘a6+ ♔b6 4.♖:f6+ ♕:f6#
b) 1... ♕h1 2.♗g2 f3 3.♘d7+ ♔d5 4.♗:f3 ♕:f3#

An impressive mechanism for demonstrating of themes Bicolor Bristol + Maslar! The play is very beautiful and spectacular - the position is also very good. The optimal use of white and black thematic material enhances the sense of harmony!

According to the author`s comments, it is better to have twins than two solutions (with a black Qc6). His main motives are some tries such as in position "A" the moves 1... Qf5?, 1... Qe7?, 1... Qe2? etc. Of course, this view seems somewhat debatable. On one hand, with Qc6 there will be 2 solutions or twins with eventual

material economy. But on the other hand, with Qc6 the mobility of the white figures is too limited and that is not good. Therefore, I accept the version with twins better on this basis!

3ʳᵈ Prize – Bronze medal
LEV GROLMAN
Russian Federation
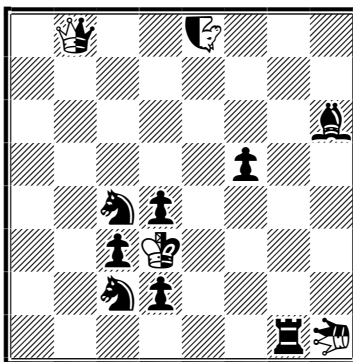
h#2.5   AntiCirce   0+8+4
Circe
b) ♖g1→c1
Nightrider e8
Leo h1

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a)   1...n♕h2!   2.♗e3   nN:h2 (+nNh8, +n♕d8) 3.nLEh7 +! n♕:h8 (+n♕d1, +nNh1) #!
b)   1...n♕b1!   2.♘e3   nLE:b1 (+nLEb8, +n♕d8) 3.nNb2 +! n♕:b8 (+n♕d1, +nLEb1) #!

The theme "Mate to a Neutral King through neutral pieces" is always interesting, although it is not a novelty. In these cases, the use of an additional fairy condition (such as Anti-Circle, etc.) is obligatory. Here the play is super dynamic, beautiful and is demonstrated on a wide front by strong neutral figures. The reciprocal change of the functions of nLE and nN, which give mates by double check, impresses strongly. The neutral Queen also plays very actively and

thematically here. But I still want to note that the problem has a small negative - the nQ has to take the fields d8 and d1 twice. This repetition, although of course necessary here, slightly disturbs the harmony. In problems of this kind, it is better during the play to occupy at least one of the two fields (d1 or d8) with different piece(s) in both phases.

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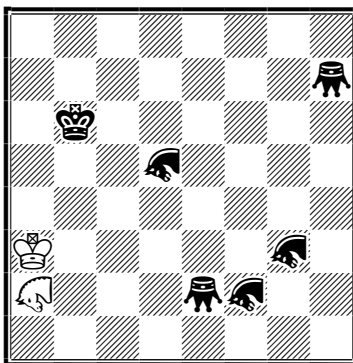
Ser-h#18   Grasshoppers   2+6
Kangaroos
3 solutions

1.♔c5 2.♔d4 3.♔e3 4.Ge4 5.Gd3 6.Gd6 7.Gd4 8.KAc5 9.♔f2 10.KAg1 11.Gf4 12.Gf1 13.Gf3 14.♔g2 15.♔h2 16.KAg2 17.Gh3 18.Geh1 ♔b2#
1.♔b5 2.Ga6 3.♔c6 4.Gd6 5.♔d7 6.KAd8 7.♔e6 8.♔e5 9.KAc7 10.Gf4 11.♔f6 12.KAf7 13.♔e7 14.KAg7 15.♔f8 16.♔g8 17.Gf8 18.KAh8 ♔b3#
1.♔b7 2.Ga7 3.♔b6 4.Gc5 5.KAa7 6.♔c6 7.Gc7 8.♔d6 9.KAb8 10.♔e6 11.Ge7 12.Gf7 13.KAg8 14.♔f6 15.♔g7 16.♔h8 17.Gg7 18.Gh7 KAa8#

It is curious that this beautiful "aristocratic" problem (White minimal!) has three long solutions in 18 moves ending with model mates! But in our "computer

times" such opuses are possible and pleasant for contemplation, but also incredibly difficult for the solvers! Of course, the three solutions are not totally equivalent. In the first two of them we see two wonderful mates, using the anti-battery King / Kangaroo plus orthogonal-diagonal echo. But in the third solution (after 1.Kb7) there is no anti-battery, although the model mate here has also a very interesting and surprising structure. I call these types of compositions ANI - TYPE. They are different from the standard forms of content, but I am convinced that in the near future this type will have much greater application.
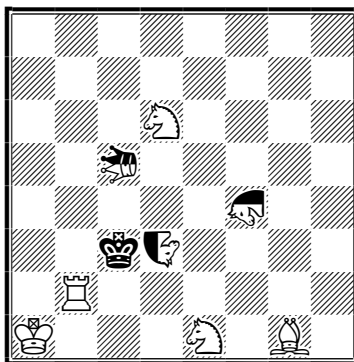
h=2   Circe Volcanic   5+1+3
             b) EAc5→e8
             c) Zf4→e8
             Zebra f4
             Eagle c5
             Nightrider d3

a) 1. nZd1 nEA:d3[+nNd1→v] 2. nEAe6 nEA:d1[+nZd1→v] =
b) 1. nEAf1 nN:f4[+nZf1→v] 2. nNh5 nN:f1[+nEAf1→v] =
c) 1.nNc1 nZe:c5[+nEAc1→v] 2.nZf3 nZ:c1[+nNc1→v] =

A very non-standard "Aristocrat" created with only 9 pieces! Cycle of neutral pieces: The first neutral piece blocks the rebirth square, the second neutral piece captures the third neutral piece (Now we have a volcanic battery!) and then it captures the first neutral piece to make both of them immobile. Surprising stalemate finals!
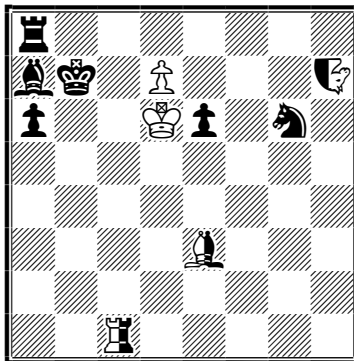
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Special Prize
BOJAN BASIC
Serbia

1st Honourable mention
IGOR KOCHULOV
Russian Federation
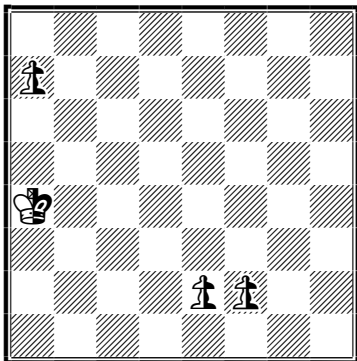
hs#3.5   Phantom RI   0+0+4
b) ♙a7→a2

hs#2.5   PWC   2+6+3
Take&Make
3 solutions

a) 1...f1=n♖ 2.n♖d1 e1=n♕
3.a8=n♗ n♗d5 + 4.n♖d1-h1-h8 +
n♔a4-e8-d7#

b) 1...e1=n♗ 2.n♔b3+ a1=n♖
3.n♖d1 f1=n♕ 4.n♖d1-h1-h6 +
n♔b3-e8-e7#

A memorable "Four - men"
problem created with only neutral
pieces! There are several
interesting and specific cycles:
cycle of the order of promotions
(R, Q, B then B, R, Q), cycle of the
order of the promoting pawns (f-
pawn, e-pawn, a-pawn, then e-
pawn, a-pawn, f-pawn) and cyclic
change of promotions of the
corresponding Pawns. The
strategy based on non-standard
battery patterns is also very
enjoyable.

1...n♖c4 2.nNe1+ n♗c5 + 3.n♖:c5→b4
[+n♗c4]+n♖:c4→d3[+n♗b4]#;
1...n♗c1→c5 [+n♖e3] + 2.n♗:e3→d3
[+n♖c5] nNd5 3.n♖:d5→b4 [+nNc5]+
nN:d3→b5 [+n♗c5]#;
1...nNd5 2.n♗:c1→h1 [+n♖e3] n♖d3
3.n♖:d5→b4 [+nNd3]+ nN:b4→e4
[+n♖d3]#

In recent years, the combination of
Take&Make and PWC appears often
in fairy practice. This problem
demonstrates well how non-standard
and beautiful effects are possible here.
In a light and enjoyable position, three
difficult solutions are presented with
active and surprising play of all
neutral figures. To my regret, there is
no exact cyclical change of functions
here. For this reason the problem
becomes "only" a H.M.

EUGENE ROSNER
United States of America
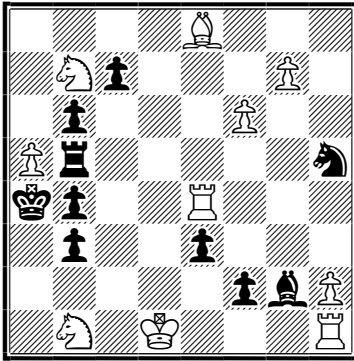
#2   Black Must Capture   10+10
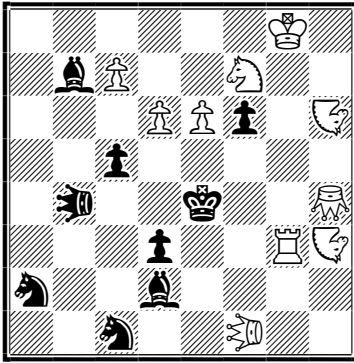   a) Antipodean Circe
   b) Symmetry Circe

Considering the complexity of content and form, I appreciate this opus as quite good. But on the other hand, quite mechanical play is obvious here. In the main variants, white captures black pieces in only 3 out of 4 cases. But there are no thematic black rebirth effects here.

a) 1.♔e2! zz; 1...♘:g7 a (♙c3)
2.♖:b4 A (♙f8)#; 1...♘:f6 b (♙b2)
2.♘c3 B#; 1...♗:e4 c (♖a8) 2.a:b6
C#; 1...B:h1 d (♖d5) 2.♗:b5 D
(♖f1)#; 1...b:a5 (♙e1) 2.♘c5#;
 b) 1.h4! zz; 1... ♘:g7 a (♙b2)
2.♘c3 B#; 1...♘:f6 b (♙c3) 2.♖:b4
A (♙g5)#; 1... ♗:e4 c (♖d5)
2.♗:b5 D (♖g4)#, 1...♗:h1 d
(♖a8) 2.a:b6 C (♙g3)#; 1...b:a5
2.♘c5#

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   Here the theme is Double reciprocal change after defenses 1...Sxg7(a) and 1...Sxf6(b) as the first duo and 1...Bxe4(c) and 1...Bxh1(d) as the second duo. It is realized in an unusual form (although this is not a novelty in the genre). The condition Black Must Capture is used in both positions (phases). In the initial position it is combined with Antipodean Circe but in the twin b) it is combined with Symmetry Circe.

#2   PWC   10+9
b4, f1: Moose h3, h6:Nightrider
h4: Grasshopper

hs#2.5   Chameleon+Eiffel   9+7
2 solutions

1.c8=MO?   (2.♘g5#),   1...MO:c8
[+MOb4]   2.♖f3#   (2...♔:f3
[+♖e4]??);   1...♗:c8   [+MOb7]
2.Nf4#   (2...♔:f4   [+Ne4]??);
(1...♗e3 2.♖:e3 [+♗g3]#; 1...♗d2-
g5!); **1.c8=G ! (2.Nf2#), 1...MO:c8
[+Gb4] 2.Nf4# (2...♔:f4 [+Ne4]??);
1...♗:c8 [+Gb7] 2.♖f3# (2...♔:f3
[+♖e4]??);**(1...♘e2/MOe2 2.MO:d2
[+♗f1]#, 1...♗e1/e3 2.♖e3#).

Reciprocal mate changes with
specific PWC mating-moves and
PWC specific refutations. A good
implementation and construction.
The promotions of two Hoppers`
types in both phases here
probably would be a nice surprise,
mainly for the solvers. But this
manner of realization, as well as
the type of thematic play is not a
novelty on this arena.

1...♗h4=♖ 2.♗d6=♖+ ♘f4=♗
3.♖c4=♕+ ♗:d6=♖# (♗~??=♖!)
1...♘b2=♗ 2.♖c6=♕+ ♗c3=♖
3.♗e5=♖+ ♖:c6=♕# (♖c~??=♕!)

An unusual and interesting
synthesis between Eiffel Chess
and Chameleon Chess! Above all,
the reciprocal play of chameleons
CSd3 and CBe1, which create two
mechanisms similar to "black
batteries", deserves interest. The
front pieces of these "batteries"
give beautiful mates. However, it
seems to me that the construction
is not optimal - for example, here
the role of the cook-stopper CSb4
is not pleasant. The static (and
not thematic!) Chameleons - trio
CQf8, CRh7, CBg7 is also needed
of course but somewhat disturbs
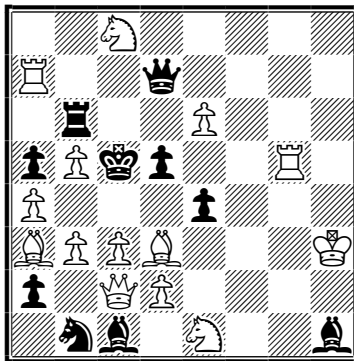the harmony.

1ˢᵗ Commendation
LADISLAV PACKA
Slovakia

2ⁿᵈ Commendation
HUBERT GOCKEL
Germany
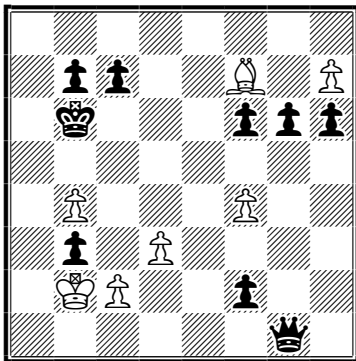
hs#3   Anticirce Cheylan   7+9
3 solutions

#2   Eiffel Chess   14+10

**1.h8=♘ ♔b5 2.♘:g6→b1 ♔a4
3.♘c3 + ♛b1#
1.h8=♖ ♔a7 2.♖:h6→a1 + ♔b8
3.♖a8 + ♛a1 #
1.h8=♗ ♔c5 2.♗:f6→c1 ♔d4
3.♗e3 + ♛c1 #**

Underpromotions combined with Umnov - theme using the Anti-Circe Cheylan condition. This is undoubtedly a good idea and this problem deserves particular interest. But the realization is obviously not optimal. Impress only the third moves of white and black (Umnov!), as well as the activity of the black king. But the promotions in a very limited "section" of the board are formal and obvious. The captures of the black pawns, too.

1.♗d~(e2,f1)? (2.d4# A (2.- e:d3 e.p.??))
1…♗:d2 captures threat piece 2.♕:b1#
1…♖:b5 2.♖c7#
1…♖b7! (2.d4+ ♛g7!!)
1.♗c4?! ~ 2.♖:d5# B (2.d4+? A d:c4!))
1…♖d6 Holzhausen interference 2.d4# A
1…♗:d2 paralizes threat piece 2.♕:b1#
1…♖:b5 2.♖c7#
1…♘:a3! (2.♖:d5+ ♔:d5!)
1.♗:e4! ~ 2.♘d3# C (2.d4+? A d:e4!; 2.♖:d5+? ♗:e4!)
**1…♗:e4 2.d4# A
1…♗g2! 2.♖:d5# B
1…♗:d2** (unpins d5) **2.♕:b1#
1…♖:b5 2.♖c7#**

The theme "Complete tertiary threat correction (TTC)" causes almost always interest in the genre. Here it turns out that the difficult condition Eiffel chess is

compatible with this subject - with interesting and non-standard nuances. Unfortunately, the difficult thematic content here is in dissonance with a very heavy and unaesthetic position. Especially unpleasant is the isolated white Qc2.

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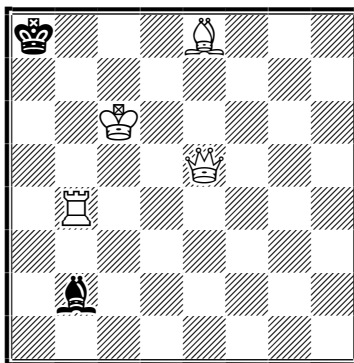
hs#8   2 solutions   4+2

1.♔d6 ♚a7 2.♗b5 ♚b6 3.♕e8
♗h8 4.♔e7 ♚c5 5.♗c4 ♚d4
6.♗g8+ ♚e5 7.♔f8+ ♚f6
8.♖b5 zz ♗g7#;
1.♔b5 ♚b7 2.♕e2 ♚c7 3.♖a4
♚d6 4.♔b4 ♚d5 5.♗f7+ ♚d4
6.♗a2 ♗a1 7.♔a3+ ♚c3 8.♕d1 zz
♗b2#.

Another "Aristocrat" problem, with only 6 figures. At first glance, it is curious that white and black have unique moves to achieve the goal in 8 moves. But nowadays, with the help of the computer (a help that varies from 50% to 100%!), it is possible to compose such opuses. Although the finals are beautiful echo-mates in two distant fronts of the board, the first objection is that these are a banal known matte paintings. The second minus is

that the game is completely
mechanical, with no strategic
content.

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