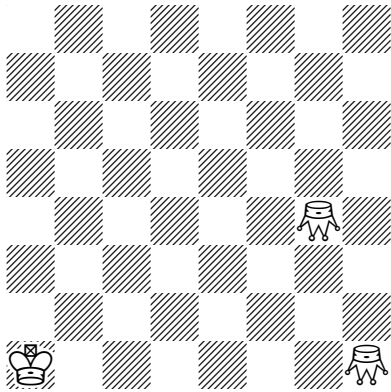**1.**
Adrian STORISTEANU
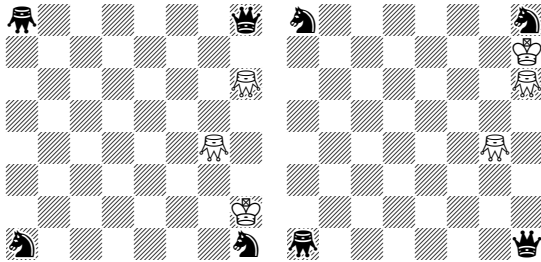3500. *Variantim* 81, 8/2020

–4w & !=1   (3+0)
2 solutions
torus, ♘=grasshopper (G)

– 1.Ka8xSa1 2.Kh8xGa8 3.**Gh6!**xSh1 4.Kg1xQh8 & 1.Kg1-h2 !=
  3.**Gh7?**xSh1 .. 2.Gh7(*-b1-over bGa8*)-h7!
– 1.Ka8xGa1 2.Kh8xSa8 3.Kg8xSh8 4.**Gh6!**xQh1 & 1.Kg8-h7 !=
  4.**Gh2?**xQh1 .. 2.Gh2(*-b8-over bGa1*)-h2!

Null (zero-length) move motivated dual avoidance.

Solutions issue: 1st solution – The third retraction (3.G__xSh1), an anticipatory self-pin, requires special attention. It appears that a wG may uncapture bSh1 from *any* of the h-file squares (h3 all the way to h7, not necessarily **h6**), as it will always be pinned in the end. But on squares h3, h4, and h5 the wG creates at least an obvious move for wGg4, wrecking the stalemate. Particularly interesting, and subtler, is the square h7: after – 3.**Gh7?**xSh1 4.Kg1xQh8 & 1.Kg1-h2 the position appears to be solidly frozen for white. However, null moves are possible on cylinder boards, and wGh7 has one: 2.Gh7(*-b1-over bGa8*)-h7! Not stalemate after all.
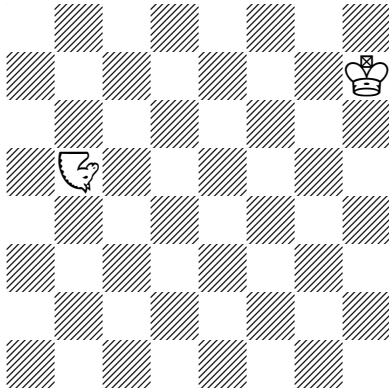The second solution is similar (cf. fourth retraction, 4.G__xQh1).

–4w & !=1 – series help retractor: white retracts four consecutive moves for a self-stalemate in one
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2.
Adrian STORISTEANU
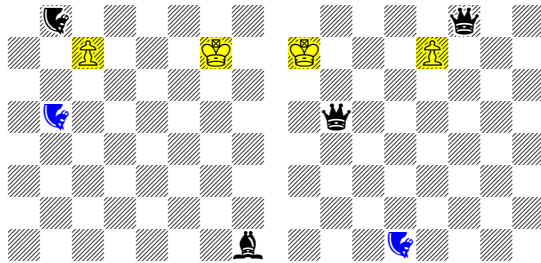7th *FIDE World Cup in Composing*, 2019
3rd Commendation

–3w & !=1 (2+0)
b)♔h7→h6
torus, ♘=nightrider (N)

a) – 1.Nh1xNb5 2.Nb8xBh1 3.**c7**xNb8=N & 1.Kh7-g7 !=
b) – 1.Nd1xQb5 2.Nf8xNd1 3.**e7**xQf8=N & 1.Kh6-a7 !=

Anticipatory wP self-pins. After a couple of uncaptures, the wN unpromotes itself into a P – this P is anticipatorily self-pinned for the stalemate by a bN resurrected earlier by that same wN:
  • bNb5 in **a** (bNb5-*c7*-..-d1-e3-f5-*g7*),
  • bNd1 in **b** (bNd1-..-*e7*-f5-g3-h1-..-*a7*).
The cylinder board makes it possible for a N to pin the P to a K located on the *same* rank.
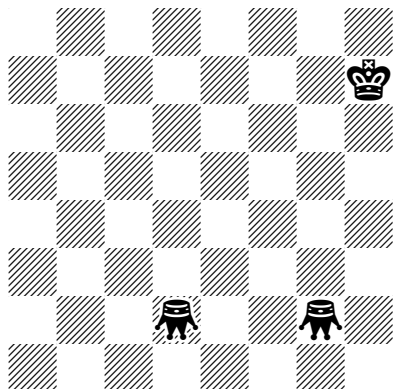
Judge: A nice fairy retro exercise with just two pieces on the board.

–3w & !=1 – series help retractor: white retracts three consecutive moves for a self-stalemate in one
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3.
Adrian STORISTEANU
12011. *feenschach* 234, 3-4/2019
Special Honourable Mention

−3b & h=1   (0+3)
2 solutions
b) ♟d2→e2
torus, ♟=grasshopper (G)
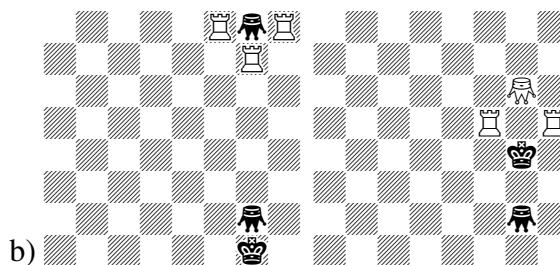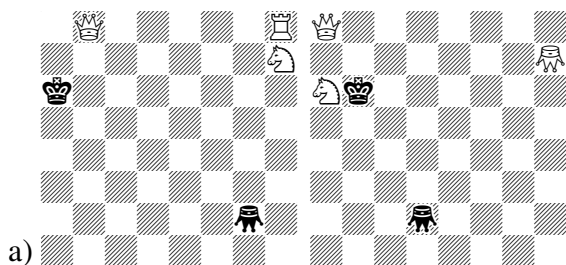
a) – 1.Kh8xSh7 2.Ka7xRh8 3.Ka6xPa7 & 1.Gd2-b8 a7xb8=Q=
  – 1.Ka6xGh7 2.Kb7xSa6 3.Kb6xPb7 & 1.Gg2-a8 b7xa8=Q=
Each bG sacrifices for a Q-promotion stalemate delivered by an uncaptured P.

b) – 1.Kg7xPh7 2.Kf8xRg7 3.Kg1xRf8 & 1.Ge2-g8 h7-h8=R=
  – 1.Kg6xRh7 2.Kf5xGg6 3.Kg4xRf5 & 1.Ge2-h5 Rh7xh5=
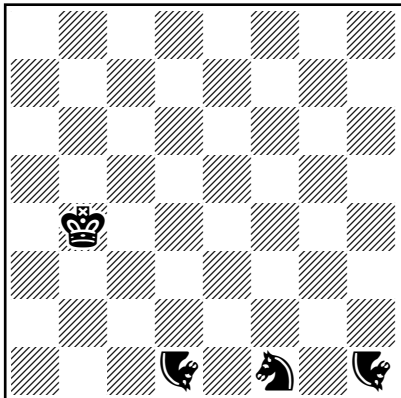Symmetrical stalemate positions.

ROTF (retractor of the future) -style solutions.

Judge: Amazing content for a 3-piece fairy retro.

−3b & h=1 – series help retractor: black retracts three consecutive moves for a help-stalemate in one
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4.
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18369. *Die Schwalbe* 305, 10/2020

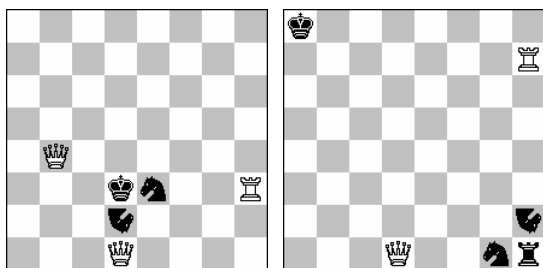–2(w,b) & h=1   (0+4)
circe assassin
b) ♚b4→b7
♞=nightrider (N)

a) – 1.Rd2xNd1[+bNd1,-wRd1] Se3-f1   2.Rd3xNd2[+bNd1,-wQd1] Kc4xQb4[+wQd1,-wQd1]
   & 1.Kc4xd3[+wRh1,-bNh1] Rh1-h3=

b) – 1.Qh2xNh1[+bNh1,-wQh1] f2-f1=S   2.Qg1xNh2[+bNh1,-wRh1] Ka8xRb7[+wRh1,-bRh1]
   & 1.f2xg1=S*!*[+wQd1,-bNd1] Rb7-h7=

Orthogonal pinnings – straight in **a**, fairy in **b** – of the black leapers (S, N), by the resurrected wQ
and wR.

Solutions issue: Mit konträren Konzepten in den beiden Stellungen: orthodoxe versus Märchen-
Fesselungen. **a)** Klar: direkte Fesselungen von sS und sN, und der sK ist eingekesselt.
b) Detailliert: wT deckt a7 und b7 direkt; 2.Kb8?? ist illegal, weil dann 2.– D:g1[sSb8,-sKb8!]!
folgen würde, darum muss Schwarz in seinem Vorwärtszug genau in Springer umwandeln;
2.Sg1-beliebig?? ist illegal, weil dann 2.– D:h1[sTa8,-sKa8!]! folgen würde; 2.Nh2-beliebig??
ist illegal, weil dann 2.– T:h1[sTa8,-sKa8!]! folgen würde.

–2(w,b) & h=1 – help retractor: white and black retract two moves for a help-stalemate in one
circe assassin – like circe, but when the rebirth square is occupied, the occupant is replaced (assassinated)
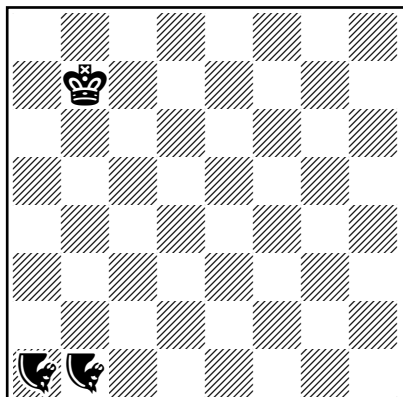by the captured unit
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5.
Adrian STORISTEANU
3294. *Variantim* 78, 8/2019
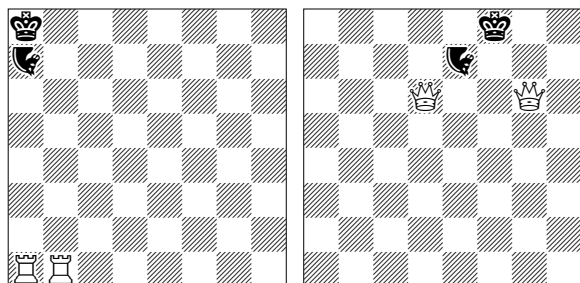5th Commendation *IRT* 2019 (fairies)

−1(w,b) & h=2   (0+3)
circe assassin
b) ♚b7→f8
♞=nightrider (N)

a) − 1.Rh1xNb1[+bNb1,-wRb1] Ka8xRb7[+wRh1,-wRh1]
    & 1.Nb1-c3 Rb7-a7+ 2.Nc3xa7[+wRa1,-bNa1] Rh1-b1=
b) − 1.Qd1xNb1[+bNb1,-wQb1] Ne7xQb1[+wQd1,-wQd1]
    & 1.Na1-e3 Qb1-g6 2.Ne3xd1[+wQd1,-bNd1] Qd1-d6=

Pair of wRs resurrected, bN pinned orthogonally in **a**; pair of wQs, bN pinned diagonally in **b**.
Ideal stalemates.

Judge: Nice RR-QQ play using an entertaining (once you get acquainted with it) condition, in particular if retractions are to be considered. Surprisingly, both twins end in orthodox pin stalemates.

−1(w,b) & h=2 – help retractor: white & black retract a move for a help-stalemate in two
circe assassin – like circe, but when the rebirth square is occupied, the occupant is replaced (assassinated)
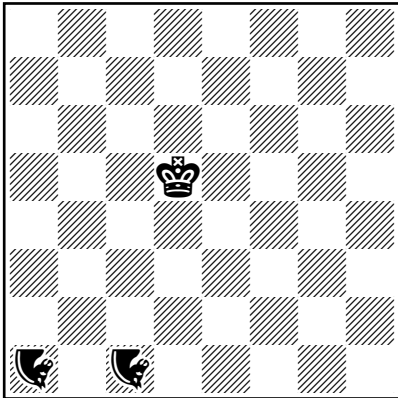by the captured unit
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6.
Adrian STORISTEANU
(v) 14227. *Springaren* 148, 12/2018
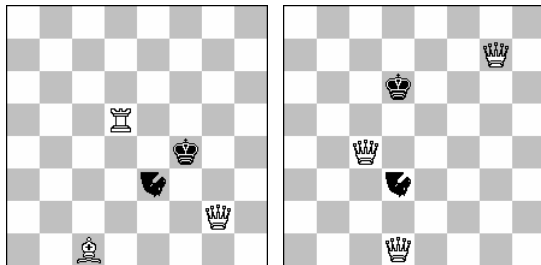correction p.2, *Springaren* 157, 3/2021

–2(w,b) & h=1   (0+3)
circe assassin
b)♚d5→d6
♞=nightrider (N)

a) – 1.Bf4xNc1[+bNc1,-wBc1] **Ne3-a1** 2.Rh1xNc1[+bNc1,-wRc1] Ke4xRd5[+wRh1,-wQh1]
   & 1.Ke4xf4[+wBc1,-bNc1] Qh1-g2=
b) – 1.Qc4xNc1[+bNc1,-wQc1] **Nd3-c1** 2.Qd1xNa1[+bNa1,-wQa1] Ne3xQa1[+wQd1,-wQd1]
   & 1.Ne3xd1[+wQd1,-bNd1] Qa1-g7=

Anticipatory self-pins of each of the bNs: Na1's, diagonal in **a**, and Nc1's, orthogonal in **b**.