WORLD FEDERATION FOR CHESS COMPOSITION
64th World Congress (WCCC), Fujairah, UAE
12-19 November 2022

AGENDA

For the first session:

1. Opening address
2. Tributes
3. Verification of attendance and voting rights
4. Approval of the Minutes of the 63rd Meeting (Rhodes, 2021)
5. Membership of the standing committees, outline of business for the week from spokesmen, timetable for committee meetings
   - WCCT
   - WCCI
   - Solving
   - Album
   - Qualifications
   - Computer matters
   - Studies
   - Youth
   - Codex

6. Proposals and business carried forward:
   1. Application for membership by India (plenum)
   2. Sanctions on Russia and Belarus member countries for 2023 and Ukraine's appeal (plenum)
   3. Report of Mr Fomichev to the Ethics committee by Mr Gvozdják
   4. Results of the WCCI 2019-21 (Kopyl, supervising panel)
   5. Results of the 11th WCCT 2021-22 (Fougiaxis)
   6. FIDE Album 2016-18 and 2019-21 (Fougiaxis, Gvozdják)
   7. WCCT scoring system: suggestion of Slovenia
   8. Album and helpselfmates: suggestion by Crişan and Shankar Ram
   9. WCCI: Open letter by Valery Shavyrin
   10. Mathematical chess composition in the FIDE Album

7. Miscellaneous:
   1. Review of the year (with contributions from delegates)
   2. Report on the International Solving Contests 2022/2023 (Steinbrink/Palmans)
   3. Report on the ECSC 2022 (Denkovski); Future ECSCs: bid of Slovakia (Bratislava)
   4. World Chess Solving Championship 2022: introductory announcements (Denkovski)
   5. Future meetings and WCSC: bid of Georgia
   6. Nomination of the working party for the Presidium elections

For subsequent sessions:

1. Election of auditor and reserve auditor for the following year
2. Financial report, balance sheet, auditor's report, budget for the following year
3. Elections for the Presidium
4. Report by the spokesman of each committee on business covered
5. Discussion of proposals and business listed above
6. World Solving Cup 2021-22 (Ott); next WSC
7. Report by the director of WCSC 2022 (Denkovski)
8. Suggestions of the Qualifications committee re. new titles
9. Decision regarding future meetings
10. Any other business
11. Closing summary and vote of thanks

Fujairah United Arab Emirates WCCC 2022 Commemoration List

Mikhail Gershinsky	Ukraine	(11.01.1936 - 01.10.2020)
Anatoly Kirichenko	Russia	(10.03.1955 - 08.08.2021)
Markus (Johannes) Ott	Switzerland	(30.01.1960 - 01.10.2021)
Aleksandr Kostenko	Ukraine	(28.06.1952 - 08.10.2021)
Ed Van de Gevel	Netherlands	(17.02.1960 - 26.10.2021)
Leonid Volkov	Ukraine	(18.02.1939 - 29.10.2021)
Bizyagin Buyannemekh	Mongolia	(20.07.1946 - 01.11.2021)
Valery Gorbunov	Ukraine	(03.11.1950 - 05.11.2021)
Oleksy Ugnivenko	Ukraine	(18.11.1939 - 09.11.2021)
Gerd Rinder	Germany	(03.07.1935 - 20.01.2022)
Bozidar Djurašević	Serbia	(26.04.1933 - 23.01.2022)
Nikolay Koblov	Russia	(25.09.1938 - 27.01.2022)
Tode Ilievski	North Macedonia	(07.03.1952 - 29.01.2022)
Jorma Pitkänen	Finland	(07.04.1941 - 08.02.2022)
André Davaine	France	(19.04.1931 - 09.02.2022)
Jean Morice	France	(16.08.1930 - 22.03.2022)
Vitaly Shevchenko	Ukraine	(01.04.1939 - 07.04.2022)
Zdravko Maslar	Serbia/Germany	(26.10.1932 - 24.04.2022)
Yury Averbakh	Russia	(08.02.1922 - 07.05.2022)
Manfred Ernst	Germany	(05.07.1938 - 16.05.2022)
Jochen Wege	Germany	(18.12.1971 - 11.07.2022)
Nikolay Krogius	Russia	(22.07.1930 - 14.07.2022)
Gerald Sladek	Austria	(05.09.1931 - 18.07.2022)
Lev Grolman	Russia	(19.04.1941 - 11.08.2022)
R. [Ramaswamy] Ganapathi	India	(06.09.1929 - 12.08.2022)
Yosi Retter	Israel	(18.12.1934 - 20.08.2022)
Dmitry Zhilko	Belarus	(05.11.1975 - 30.08.2022)
Karol Mlynka	Slovakia	(11.08.1944 - 07.09.2022)
Unto Heinonen	Finland	(25.12.1946 - 17.09.2022)
Sergey Kasparyan	Armenia	(19.09.1952 - 13.10.2022)

Indian Chess Composition Society

Date: 31-August-2022

To: Harry Fougiaxis, President (WFCC)
Subject: Application of India for admission as a member of the WFCC

Sir,
We, composers, solvers and enthusiasts of chess composition in India hereby formally apply for membership of the WFCC.

We have a long standing tradition in chess composition, and are also currently an active and contributing presence in:

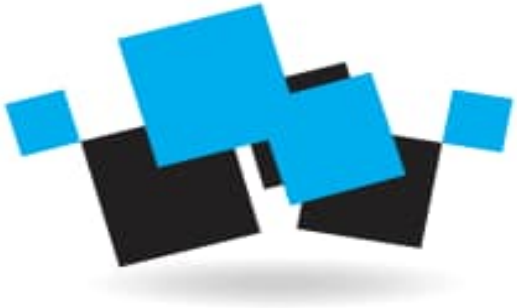
1. Composing:
    a. Regular and successful participation in the WCCT, including 3 individual first places.
    b. Two gold medals in the World cup.
    c. Two composers with IM titles.
    d. Awards in various informal and other tourneys.
2. Solving:
    a. Have been conducting the ISC regularly from 2016 in two locations.
    b. Have been conducting other solving competitions in OTB events like the Anand-Carlsen match.
3. Judging:
    a. WCCT: in 3 sections in the latest edition
    b. WCCI: in 2 sections in the 2019-21 edition
    c. World Cup: in 1 section each in the 9th and 10th editions
    d. FIDE Album: in 2 sections in the 2016-18 edition
    e. Various informal tourneys
4. Magazine editorship:
    a. Fairies section in *The Problemist* (K.Seetharaman)
    b. *The Hopper* online magazine (Anirudh Daga)
5. Media: Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Website (Satanick Mukhuty, Anirudh Daga)
6. Theoretical:
    a. Fairy chess classification on the Julia's Fairies website
    b. Articles in various magazines

We intend to continue and extend our participation and contribution in these activities, especially with the emergence of a young and enthusiastic new generation. We conduct regular virtual meetings and also have an online forum.

Requesting your and the WFCC Presidium's approval of our application.

Sincerely:

1. C.G.S.Narayanan
2. K.Seetharaman
3. N.Shankar Ram (Delegate)
4. S.N.Ravishankar
5. S.K.Balasubramanian
6. Rajendiran Raju
7. S.Manikumar
8. N.Velmurugan
9. R.Phanibhushan
10. Satanick Mukhuty
11. Anirudh Daga



Федерація шахів України

Appeal to the delegates of the 64th World Congress of Chess Composition

Ladies and gentlemen,

On February 24, 2022, began the Russian Federation's ruthless, exceedingly cruel, totally unjustified aggression against sovereign Ukraine. This is the biggest war in Europe since World War II. Moreover, it is the greatest threat ever to the existence of our civilization, in view of nuclear war blackmail implying "guaranteed mutual destruction." Remarkably, Russia acts as the accuser, judge and punisher at the same time. Absurd accusations of Nazism, anti-Russian combat insects in biological laboratories, dirty bomb threat, etc., were leveled at Ukraine. Having accused Ukraine, Russia itself found it guilty and enthusiastically got down to punishing it, brutally torturing and killing thousands of civilians, demolishing cities and villages, wiping out Ukraine's critical infrastructure, annexing territories, that is, as already recognized by many countries in the world, using terrorist methods and aiming at genocide, at the "final solution to the Ukrainian problem."

In October of this year, the annexation of the occupied territories of Ukraine was denounced by the UN General Assembly; furthermore, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted at its meeting on October 13, 2022, a resolution condemning the Russian aggression against Ukraine, and the Russian regime was separately recognized as a terrorist one.

Several Ukrainian chess composers found themselves in the occupation. Ihor Yarmonov, the many-time world chess champion among the disabled, and his wife went through an ordeal in Mariupol. Since early March, there has been no information about the fate of retroanalyst Mykhailo Kozula, WCCT vice-champion, a resident of the occupied Luhansk oblast region, who may have been murdered for his pro-Ukrainian position. The reigning WCCI champion Mykola Kolesnyk is disconnected from Ukraine's power supply system 20 hours a day as a result of damage to the system from Russia's missile strikes.

In March 2022, the WFCC already adopted limited sanctions against the aggressor countries. After their imposition, the most active supporters of the bloody war, protesting against the legitimate decision of the WFCC, which was in line with the requirements of the IOC and FIDE, withdrew from the WCCI. Evgeny Fomichev labeled our Slovak colleague a Nazi and went unpunished – at least so far. Similar accusations were also made by another representative of the Russian Federation, Valery Gurov.

Under such conditions, and in view of Russian and Belarusian composers' explicit support for the barbaric aggressive actions, the Ukrainian Composition for Chess Commission demands that Russia and Belarus be expelled from the WFCC or at the least that their membership in the Federation be suspended.

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to report Mr. Fomichev of Russia to the Ethics Committee.
The man in question labelled me publicly "a Nazi".
For evidence, see the attached file.

Sincerely,
Peter Gvozdják
Delegate of Slovakia

Marko Klasinc
Delegate of Slovenia

A proposal of improving scoring system of WCCT

After the results of 11th WCCT were published, I noticed two things which bothered me a lot.

1. Marks of some particular problems differed very much.
Just few examples:

2.2	3.4	3.0	1.8	-
1.0	3.0	2.6	2.8	1.8
2.6	-	3.6	3.4	1.4
2.0	2.0	3.8	3.8	1.4
-	2.6	3.0	3.6	0.0

I remember in one (or more) previous WCCT the Director in such cases asked judges to reconsider their marks because of big differences among them. I don't remember was it a part of the rules or maybe just a recommendation of WFCC. This time it was not a case and the Director didn't have right to act.

Proposal:
To include the right and obligation of the Director to consult judging countries in cases of big differences of particular problems in the rules of WCCT.
(This should imply for the WCCI as well.)

2. In my another problem opinion is a criterion of judges. Some judging countries allocated very low marks for a whole group. They found mostly all problems in a group very weak, or being clearer, almost all bad. I found it the most outstanding in groups A and C. If an average of marks of one judging country for all participating problems in a group is 1.17 or even 0.84, I believe there is something very wrong. WCCT is a competition with participation of the strongest composers from all over the world. They cannot all compose bad problems. I don't know the motive for such strict treating. As a result most of their marks were excluded for the final result of problems in a group. If is not in the spirit of judging so important tourney. But consequently another problem occurs. For a judging country their own problems get marks only from other four judges. It they are candidates for high places their final results are consequently much higher because other lowest marks are excluded for the final result. It is a case in group C with Ukrainian problems (placed very high) but not in group A with British problems (placed in the middle of a table). I absolutely don't want to speculate that it was intentional.
A problem is serious. I also remember from previous WCCTs that this happened sometimes before. In such cases I think that a recalculation of results would be necessary. It is not the same situation as above where we are talking about particular problems. Here all marks in a group are under question. In such cases it is easy to make a recalculation, mathematically called normalization. An average of all marks in a group (A) is a base for recalculation. For all problems of each judge marks are multiplied by a ratio between a complete average of marks (A), and an average of a judge (B), therefore A/B. A result is that marks of judges who give low marks are enlarged, and marks of judges who give high marks are lowered. At the end averages of all judges are the same as a complete average (A). I prepared this for groups A and C. I emphasized final marks of judging countries' own problems in red.

Proposal:
When one judging country's marks are significantly different from others, a mathematical normalization is to be implemented (as described above).

Alternative WCCT Scoring adjustment proposal
a smaller change than the positive proposal of Marko Klasinc

Marko Klasinc made a very sensible proposal to modify the method used to combine scores in the WCCT. He is right in observing that the current system can lead to what look like uneven results when different judges appear to be using very different scales to each other.

His first proposal to allow the Director to ask judges to consult judges in cases with large differences is clearly a good one.

His second proposal (introducing some normalization) which tries to address the more general issue caused by very harsh or very generous judges is also a very good idea in principle. But it does involve changing all judges scores, and therefore removes some of the trust in judges' personal judgements.

However, there isn't a simple way to just 'normalize' judges scores in a way that doesn't introduce the possibility of other weird results. Just multiplying a judge's scores by a cleverly chosen constant (as proposed) can be used to make each judge's scores have the same average, however this can result in scores much larger than 4. Imagine a judge who give 3.8 to one problem and less than 1.0 to all other problems. When this judge's marks are scaled up the problem they awarded 3.8 will likely received an enormous score. This method will also not provide final marks which bear much resemblance to the original scores. A strong alternative is to convert each judges' scores into ranks (e.g. from 1st to 77th) and then use ranks as scores – this many very positive features though has the drawback of losing the size of gaps the judges wish to show between their marks. Despite this drawback, this is a genuinely good option.

Is there something better?: I strongly support Marko's idea of modifying the way scores are used to try and make the final scores more objectively fair. However, I would observe that the current system does have a few desirable properties:

a A judge whose scores are out of line with other judges is generally ignored (because their scores are deleted).

b It is easy to see how the final scores are related to the judges' original marks.

My suggestion (explained shortly) has the following properties:

1. The existing system of removing highest and lowest marks is kept when all five judges count. So scores on most problems remain the same.
2. Only the scores on problems with just four judges are modified.
3. A judge whose scores are out of line with other judges is still generally ignored.
4. It is still easy to see how the final scores are related to the judges' original marks.

The issue identified by Marko: When one judge is typically more harsh than the other judges, problems from their country benefit slightly. If a judge is typically more generous than other judges, problems from their country are harmed slightly.

I have stolen the example from Marko's proposal to illustrate the issue caused when one judge awards much lower marks than others:

2.2	3.4	3.0	1.8	-
1.0	3.0	2.6	2.8	1.8
2.6	-	3.6	3.4	1.4
2.0	2.0	3.8	3.8	1.4
-	2.6	3.0	3.6	0.0

Notice the judge in column 5 is particularly harsh, the result is that in the first row, when this judge is discounted (due to country matching) the problem's score is calculated from $(2.2, 3.4, 3.0, 1.8)$. To do this the top and bottom scores are deleted leaving $(2.2, 3.0)$ for an average score of 2.6 used to get a total score of $3 \times 2.6 = 8.4$. It is much more difficult for problems to score this high when Judge 5 is actively involved.

Here is another table to illustrate more clearly, this is taken from one of the final tables:

3.4	2.8	4.0	3.4	2.0
2.2	3.2	3.0	3.6	
3.4	3.2	3.6	2.6	1.4
	2.8	3.6	3.2	1.6
2.6		3.6	3.4	1.4
2.6		3.0	3.8	3.0

These problems are in their final ranking order (highest at the top). Notice the second problem here scored very well because the fifth judge not being involved (who often awarded low marks) allowed the deletion of the 2.2 from Judge 1. In contrast, the third problem which was awarded 0.8 total marks more by the first four judges, finished behind the second problem because the deleted marks were 3.6 and the 1.4, leaving $(3.4, 3.2, 2.6)$ for a lower total.

My proposal:

1. For each judge calculate how often their marks are deleted for being the lowest.
2. For each judge calculate how often their marks are deleted for being the highest.
3. Subtract these numbers from each other to find out whether a judge is highest or lowest more often, record the proportion and in which direction.

I will illustrate the method with a specific very average example:

In the Moremovers the Finnish judge was lowest 10.5% of the time, and highest 4.6% of the time.

[Note that both these values are fairly low, but are the result of the competition containing both a more generous and less generous judge than Finland]

[Note that if someone is joint highest or lowest, I have weighted it to account for this, e.g. if two are joint highest it only counts as 50% of a 'top']

This Finnish judge on average is rejected for being lowest 5.9% more of the time than for being highest.

This value of 5.9% can be used to more fairly award marks when the Finnish judge is not involved. Here is the proposal.

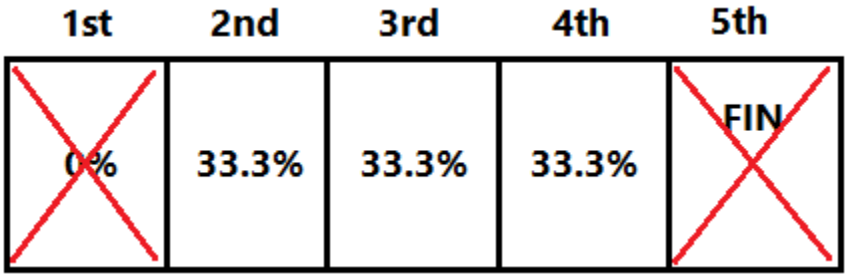
Now consider marking for a problem by a Finnish composer. We consider the four judges' scores when this Finnish judge is not involved. Place the four scores in ranking order, 1st (highest) to 4th (lowest):

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
0%	50%	50%	0%

The weightings described show how this problem is currently scored (deleting 1st and 4th scores).

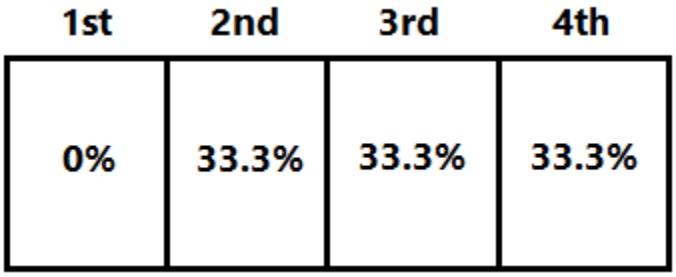
To explain my proposal we will first look at two more extreme examples:

Imagine temporarily that this Finnish Judge was **always the lowest scorer** (so we had 100% above and not 5.9%, then all problems with five judges would look like this

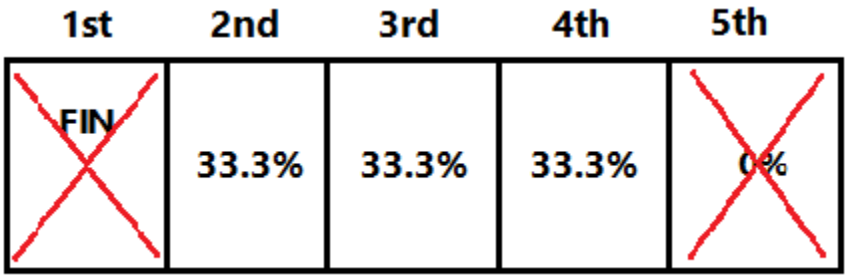


So you will see that **typical problems with five judges will receive a weighted average from the scores ranked 2nd, 3rd and 4th (when you ignore Finland)**.

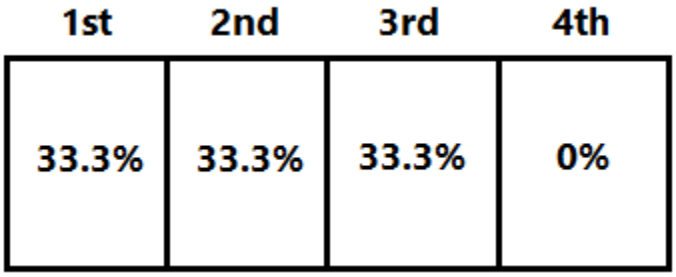
So if Finland is **ALWAYS LOWEST** a typical Problem with five judges obtains its scored weighted like this (if you exclude the Finnish judge):



But if instead imagine Finland was always giving out the highest mark (so we obtain 100% above but in the opposite direction) then **typical problems with five judges will receive a weighted average from the scores ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd (when you ignore Finland)**, like this:



So if Finland is **ALWAYS HIGHEST** a typical Problem looks like this (if you exclude the Finnish judge):



These are the two extreme positions:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	0%

The proposal:

In fact Finland had a net 5.9% more of the time looking like the first of these two pictures (being the lowest scorer). So we use that percentage to decide how much of the maximum 33.3% to give the 4th ranked score:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
0%	$\left(\frac{1-x}{2}\right)\%$	$\left(\frac{1-x}{2}\right)\%$	$x\%$

We use this table where $x = 5.9\%$ of 33.3%, i.e. $x = 1.97\%$. A modest change, resulting in the following new weightings used when Finland is judging Finnish problems:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
0%	49.02%	49.02%	1.97%

This makes very little difference to Finnish problems, since their judge was only very slightly more likely to be harsh than generous.

Final illustration:

Returning to the table presented above from the Moremovers event:

3.4	2.8	4.0	3.4	2.0
2.2	3.2	3.0	3.6	
3.4	3.2	3.6	2.6	1.4
	2.8	3.6	3.2	1.6
2.6		3.6	3.4	1.4
2.6		3.0	3.8	3.0

The fifth judge in this case was lowest 63.1% of the time, and highest 1.2% of the time, for a net value of 61.9% in the low direction.

In this case we would use $x = 61.9\%$ of 33.3%, i.e. $x = 20.6\%$ and we use:

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
0%	39.7%	39.7%	20.6%

This weighting means that for problems from the same country as this fifth judge, the lowest of the four rankings is used considerably in the final score calculation (Note that this 4th highest ranked was used in most other problems when this fifth judge was present).

Looking back at Problem 2 from the table above, in agreement with Marko Klasinc's method my calculations would have placed this problem lower in the final rankings than second. However, my scoring would only drop this problem to 6th, rather than 12th.

Spreadsheets attached for those that want to see the weightings.

David Hodge, UK

Proposal for the WFCC Congress – Fujairah 2022

Proposal Summary

The official composing competitions organized by WFCC (WCCT, WCCI and FIDE Album) are organized in the following eight categories (sections): #2, #3, #n, endgames, helpmates, selfmates, fairies and retros.

The current proposal suggests the creation of an independent 9th category (section): helpselfmates.

What is a HelpSelfMate

The helpselfmates are currently viewed as belonging to the fairies category. However the play in helpselfmates is entirely normal, while the [nested] stipulation is actually a combination of heterodox stipulations: n-1 moves help-play, 1 move self-play.

Current Situation

The number of selected helpselfmates in the FIDE Album significantly increased:

Helpselfmates in Albums														
Period	2004-06 (G)		2007-09 (G)		2010-12 (G)		2013-15 (G)		2016-18(G1)		2016-18(G2)		2016-18(G1+G2)	
Section	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%	Qty.	%
Selected (No Fairy Conditions and Pieces)	5	2.91%	13	5.88%	10	3.64%	17	5.78%	34	21.52%		0.00%	34	9.52%
Selected (Fairy Conditions Only)	8	4.65%	9	4.07%	15	5.45%	16	5.44%	1	0.63%	33	16.58%	34	9.52%
Selected (Fairy Pieces Only)	3	1.74%	13	5.88%	20	7.27%	26	8.84%	22	13.92%		0.00%	22	6.16%
Selected (Both Fairy Conditions and Pieces)	2	1.16%	6	2.71%	22	8.00%	17	5.78%		0.00%	29	14.57%	29	8.12%
Selected (Total)	18	10.47%	41	18.55%	67	24.36%	76	25.85%	57	36.08%	62	31.16%	119	33.33%
Selected (All types)	172		221		275		294		158		199		357	
Selected (Non-hs#s)	154		180		208		218		101		137		238	

Table 1. Distribution of helpselfmates in the past 5 FIDE Albums

The ascending trend can be best viewed in the following chart:

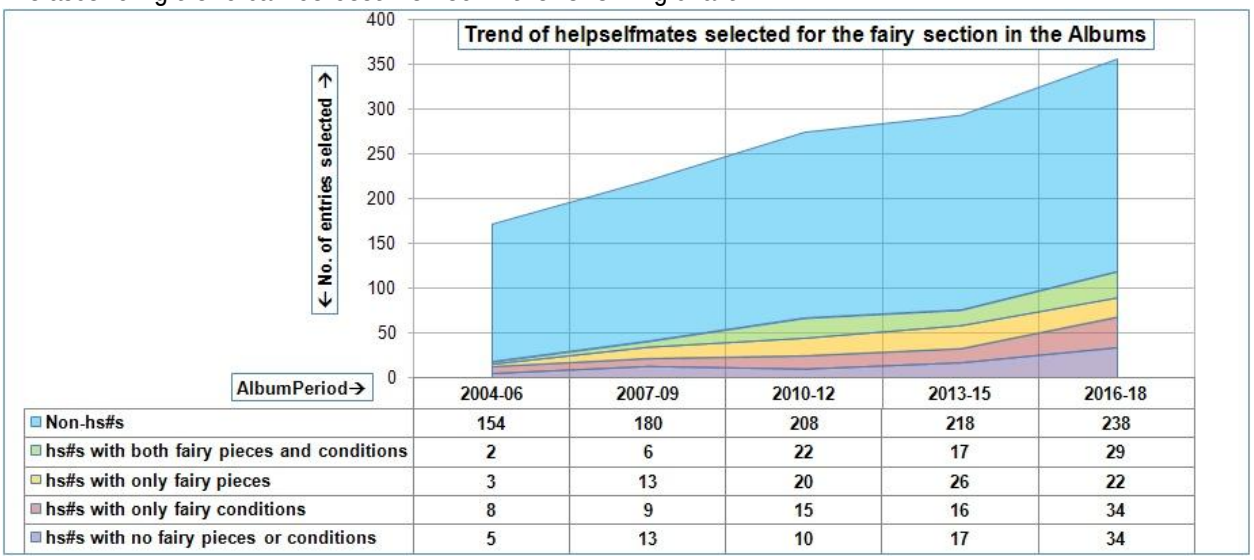


Figure 1. Trend of helpselfmates in the FIDE Album

Advantages

The main advantages for creating a separate section, covering both orthodox and fairy helpselfmates, are the following:
1. The helpselfmate stipulation is now widely recognized and used by many chess composers. Even the composers from the most traditional countries in chess composition are fascinated by the potential of this stipulation, as it can be seen in the list of participants from the 6th FIDE World Cup (2018).
2. Although the helpselfmates became popular only recently, it seems the popularity does not fade away as it happened with other discoveries / inventions. This popularity can be particularly seen in the rising number of helpselfmates published in the chess problem websites / magazines.
3. Due to a relatively small number of published compositions, there is a lower risk of anticipations than in the already established categories.
4. This genre is very suitable for both help-play and antagonistic-play aficionados. For instance, the history of the Romanian Tzuica Tournament shows that both traditional helpmates themes (such as Zilahi – 2005) and traditional selfmates themes (such as Dentist – 2006) can be explored.
5. The high ratio of the helpselfmates within the selected fairies in the FIDE Album might be also a very strong indicator for encouraging a separate development path. In the past, a similar initiative was to create separate sections for heterodox compositions within the FIDE Album.

Objections

However, there are also certain objections which might need clarifications:
1. Starting from the 2016-2018 cycle, the fairies section from the FIDE Album was split in two sub-sections: G1 (without fairy conditions) and G2 (with fairy conditions). The number of entries in these sub-sections is rather balanced. Why change that?
2. The particular choice of helpselfmates seems rather arbitrary: why not deal with other stipulations, with a longer history, such as series or stalemates?
3. Why mix orthodox and fairy helpselfmates in the same section?
4. What about helpmates: should orthodox and fairy helpmates be also merged into a single section?

Answers

All the above mentioned questions are pertinent and have been carefully addressed:
@1. Due to the high number of entries, the helpmates section is split in 3 categories. The creation of a separate helpselfmates category in the FIDE Album will diminish the burden on the judges.
@2. Other stipulations did not reach to 33% of the selected entries from the fairies section.
@3. The same mix (orthodox + fairies) is applicable in the retros section from the FIDE Album.
@4. The number of entries for orthodox helpmates is big enough to justify the separation between orthodox and fairies. The current 2016-18 album has almost as many fairy helpmates as helpselfmates. Both together comprise around 61% of the G1 + G2 sections!

Conclusion

Based on the aforementioned pros and cons, it is up to WFCC to consider in which of its official composing competitions is suitable to accept the helpselfmates category.

1st November 2022
Vlaicu Crişan (Romania) & Narayan Shankar Ram (India)

Hello

Валерий Шавырин <problemist64@yandex.ru> Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 8:09 PM
To: Harry Fougiaxis <loyaldragon@gmail.com>

OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS 2022 Hello, colleagues!

I, Valery Shavyrin, am an international grandmaster.
I am writing to you in an open letter about the WCCI judging, in particular, the three-way section.
The main question and problem is: why are the results of competent judging of authoritative judges of prestigious international competitions annulled and our works are reviewed in their own way by third-rate composers who, for some unknown reason (or rather, for personal reasons), someone appoints for judging.
Which of the judges of the three-way section was noticed in serious achievements over the last cycle? How could they adequately assess the novelty of the idea, the artistic components, the technical design of the work, not withstanding competition with other authors in serious competitions?
What kind of predatory principle is it; to take away all the achievements of the author for a cycle and redo them in your own way, giving the results of the work, in fact, to outsiders of this cycle? Why don't reputable composers dictate their terms?
Where are the representatives of the great chess countries like Germany with its logic school, England, the Netherlands, etc.?
Isn't it time to put an end to this outrage and entrust the choice to an independent agent, according to a modern computer, taking into account the achievements, status of competitions, rating, volume of works for the current period of the composer.
The data for the program can be agreed upon by discussion.
Of course, a number of problemists will have to work hard, instead of chasing one scheme in small-town contests, counting on personal connections.
The development of the program can be entrusted, for example, to D. Turevsky.,Sincerely, Valery Shavyrin, FIDE International Grandmaster

Mathematical chess composition in the FIDE Album

Eduard Eilazyan – Kyiv, Ukraine
Andriy Frolkin – Kyiv, Ukraine

The main goal of the article is to draw the attention of the entire composer community to the problem of resuscitating *mathematical chess composition* as a composition genre and, in particular, to the issue of restoring the status of this genre in the FIDE Album.

The idea of releasing "FIDE Albums" belongs to the second President of the FIDE Permanent Commission for Chess Composition, Croatian chess composer Nenad Petrović. In August 1957, the Commission made a decision to put out an album of the best problems and endgame studies published over a three-year period, from 1956 to 1958.

According to Wikipedia[1], "*The FIDE Album is published by the WFCC as a collection of the best chess problems and endgame studies over a three-year period. As of 2018, 23 FIDE Albums have been published, which contain about 24,295 compositions of all genres by more than 2,000 authors. The first FIDE Album, published in 1961, covered the 1956-1958 period and the last one was for the 2016-2018 period. As of 2018, the FIDE Album included eight sections (with subsections): twomovers, threemovers, moremovers, endgame studies, helpmates (with three subsections), selfmates, fairy chess, retroproblems and mathematical problems*."

The announcement of the 2019-2021 FIDE Album presents certain amendments.

A composer may submit to each of the 8 sections (A: twomovers, B: threemovers, C: moremovers, D: endgame studies, E: helpmates, F: selfmates, G: fairies, H: retros) no more than 30 compositions published in the defined three-year period…

In sections E (helpmates) and G (fairies), composers must submit a separate file for each group E1 (helpmates in 2), E2 (helpmates in 2.5 and 3), E3 (helpmates in more than 3), G1 (fairies without fairy conditions) and G2 (fairies with fairy conditions).

As we can see, now there are subsections in the *fairies* section, while mathematical problems are not included in any section of the 2019-2021 FIDE Album.

In FIDE Albums, a total of 6 chess mathematical problems were published, the last one appearing in the 1977-1979 Album as No. 674. Although a certain place was allocated to mathematical problems in FIDE Albums, there is not a single chess mathematical problem among the several thousand entries appearing in the Albums over the past 40 years. It would be interesting to find out the reasons why chess mathematical problems stopped being published in the FIDE Album and to discuss the possibility of removing these reasons.

To start with, here is a list of the most probable reasons for the "discrimination" of chess mathematical problems in the FIDE Album.

1. There are very few tournaments for composing chess mathematical problems in the world. (Perhaps the only one at present is the three-year tourney in *Die Schwalbe*.)
   There is simply no material to choose from for the Album.
2. No clear boundaries have been established for the genre of chess mathematical problems.
3. There are no criteria for evaluating the quality of a chess mathematical problem.
4. There is no consensus on the following questions: Is a chess mathematical problem requiring the study, proof or derivation of a formula involving complex mathematical constructions or cumbersome calculations a work of art? Who has the right to determine the acceptable level of complexity of such problems?
5. There are chess mathematical problems with rich, deep, beautiful mathematical content and rather primitive chess content. Can they be regarded as products of chess composition?

Each of the traditional classical genres of chess composition included in FIDE Albums has a clear definition. Is there a clear definition of the chess mathematical problem?

In order to answer this question, we need to understand the content of the basic concepts such as *chess composition, type (genre) of chess composition, and the chess mathematical problem*.

Chess composition – an independent area of chess creativity formed from the practical game; aimed at revealing the beauty of chess combinations. (Chess: An Encyclopedic Dictionary)[2].

The encyclopedic dictionary[2] has no entry entitled "Chess Mathematical Problems," but there is an entry "Mathematical Problems on the Chessboard," which presents three classical problems that are not directly related to chess composition (the 8-queens problem, the knight's tour problem and the untouchable king problem).

Compositional Chess is an independent form of chess activity which consists of using features found in, or derived from, the game of chess as the material for the creation of *artistic effects* or constructional feats, in the form of chess compositions. (International Codex [Codex for Chess Composition] Chapter I – General Principles, Article 1 – Independence)[3].

There also special types of composition.

Additionally, (...) there are a number of special types, including:
(a) Retroanalytical chess compositions; (b) Mathematical chess compositions; (c) Constructional chess compositions. (Article 6 – Special Types)[3].

Chess composition – a type of creativity that has historically developed from the practical game of chess. *The purpose of a chess composition is the expression of a chess idea in an artistic form*. (The Chess Code of the USSR. Rules of Chess Composition. Subject of Chess Composition. Article 1)[4].

Genre in chess composition – a historically developed, stable section of chess composition with specific features.

The Dictionary of Chess Composition Terms gives the following definition:

Chess mathematical problems – chess problems in the form of a question task without a diagram or in the form of a diagram and a related question; to answer such question, one has to calculate the number of pieces, moves, games, ways to place pieces, etc., find a formula for such calculation, or find a position based on given mathematical characteristics.[5]

This definition is too vague, fuzzy. On its basis, any mathematical problem with chess attributes can be assigned to chess mathematical problems. (Quite a lot of such problems can be found in textbooks on combinatorics and in books on entertaining mathematics.) The definition does not establish any requirements regarding the aesthetics, artistic value, or beauty of a problem. Most certainly, not all chess mathematical problems are works of chess art, as they do not have the necessary qualities for this.

There is another important point to which attention should be paid. In chess composition, the terms *problem* and *composition* are almost synonymous. The concept of *composition* is somewhat broader – in addition to problems, it also includes endgame studies, but the semantic content is preserved. And now let us compare the concepts "*chess composition*" (= problem, study) and "*mathematical problem*." In chess, composition is always a work of art, while a mathematical problem is most often a piece of didactic material for mastering the topic being studied. A collection of mathematical problems is fundamentally different from a collection of works of chess art – which the FIDE Album is meant to be. It cannot be denied that there is beauty in mathematical problems as well, but it is of secondary importance and its nature differs somewhat from that of beauty in chess! Beauty in mathematics is a separate topic worthy of deep research. For example, John von Neumann was of the opinion that mathematics, like art, is driven almost exclusively by aesthetic motives. And yet, solving problems in mathematics is aimed at achieving either scientific or educational goals, while chess compositions are works of art created primarily for the sake of beauty, although this does not preclude their use for educational purposes.

A chess mathematical problem is too broad a concept, one which incorporates heterogeneous problems whose formulation includes both a mathematical and a chess component. A vast majority of such problems have nothing to do with chess composition.

We have revealed a contradiction: all genres of chess composition presented in FIDE Albums have a clear definition containing aesthetic requirements, while the conditional genre of *chess mathematical problems* does not have such a definition. This contradiction is what actually creates the problem!

To eliminate the contradiction, it is necessary to separate mathematical problems with chess attributes from chess mathematical problems with chess aesthetics! From the huge variety of chess mathematical problems, a class of problems must be singled out in *which chess ideas are expressed in an artistic form* while the mathematical component is organically connected with the chess one. It must be added that the mathematics used to solve them must be easy to understand and should not go beyond the school curriculum. Problems of this class should give the impression of a finished work of art. We will call this class of problems "mathematical chess compositions" (MCC), as in the International Code of Chess Composition.

DEFINITION: *Mathematical chess compositions are chess problems the content of which is presented in the form of an original chess idea while the mathematical component is organically connected with the chess content.*

It is quite obvious that after assigning *mathematical chess compositions* to a separate class many of the reasons for the "discrimination" mentioned at the beginning of the article lose their relevance.

Mathematical chess composition is an independent area of composing. It has its own technological, aesthetic and genre-specific features and is not reduced to other genres of chess composition.

Evaluation of the MCC works should be carried out on the basis of generally accepted criteria (novelty of the idea, economy, expressiveness of the concept, beauty of the solution, originality), but taking into account the specific genre features. THE BEST MATHEMATICAL CHESS COMPOSITIONS FOR THE CORRESPONDING THREE-YEAR PERIOD MUST BE PRESENTED IN THE FIDE ALBUM!

It can be expected that if MCC composing and solving competitions are held regularly, interest in such problems will increase. They can come in handy for significantly expanding the audience of chess composition fans due to engaging school and university students, organizers of Mathematical Olympiads, scientific and technical workers who are interested in mathematics, as well as anyone who is fond of mathematics.

In the foreseeable future, mathematical chess composition should take its rightful place in the FIDE Albums, on equal terms with other genres of composition.

Also of interest is the discussion of the idea of publishing a separate (independent) FIDE Album-2, dedicated to SPECIAL TYPES OF CHESS COMPOSITION.

In our opinion, it is expedient to include in the FIDE Album-2:

a) Retroanalytical chess compositions;
b) Mathematical chess compositions;
c) Chess960 compositions;
d) Constructional chess compositions;
e) Other types (e.g. synthetic compositions like "h#+retro").

The publication of FIDE Album-2 (in parallel with the traditional FIDE Album) will contribute to the development and popularization of chess composition without harming anyone's interests.

The issue of whether or not it is appropriate to publish an independent specialized FIDE Album dedicated to special types of chess composition (FA-2) can be discussed at chess composition forums and at the next WFCC congress.

References

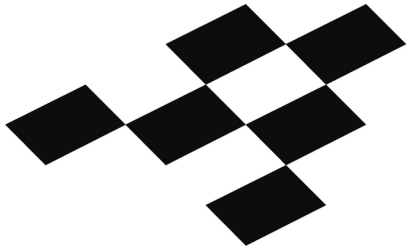
[1] https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Альбом_ФИДЕ

[2] Chess: An Encyclopedic Dictionary (in Russian) / A. E. Karpov (chief ed. – Moscow: Soviet Encyclopedia Publ., 1990. – P. 119. – 624 pages. –100,000 copies.

[3] [International] Codex for Chess Composition. https://www.wfcc.ch/1999-2012/codex/#intro

[4] Chess Codex of the USSR (in Russian). 12th edition, – Moscow, 1990.

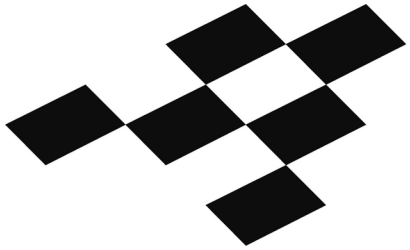
[5] Dictionary of Chess Composition Terms. – Publ. by M. B. Basisty. – Kyiv, 2004.



WORLD FEDERATION FOR CHESS CC

Balance Sheet 30.6.2022

Assets	CHF	€	€	Liabilities and Equity	€	€
Bank			10'306.58	Creditors		8'827.03
				Equity 01.07.2021	*4'502.75*	
Debtors			3'000.00	*Profits since 01.07.2021*	*-23.20*	
				Equity	*4'479.55*	4'479.55
Total			**13'306.58**			**13'306.58**



WORLD FEDERATION FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

Financial Report 2021-22

Budget 2021-22

	+	-
	€	€
FIDE	3'000.00	
ISC 2021		150.00
WCSC 2021		1'000.00
WCCC 2021		500.00
WCCT 2020-2023		400.00
YCCC 2021		100.00
Web sites		600.00
Banking		100.00
Other expenses		150.00
ISC 2020		150.00
World Solving Cup 2019-20		300.00
World Solving Cup 2020-21 (canceled)		0.00
Earnings		-450.00
Total	**3'000.00**	**3'000.00**

Earnings 2021-22

	+	-
	€	€
FIDE	3'000.00	
ISC 2021		0.00
WCSC 2021		990.00
WCCC 2021		500.00
YCCC 2021		75.00
IT		597.83
ECSC 2022		500.00
Banking		57.37
Debtor Loss		3.00
World Solving Cup 2019-20		300.00
Profit		-23.20
Total	**3'000.00**	**3'000.00**

Budget 2022-23

	+	-
	€	€
FIDE	3'000.00	
ISC 2022		150.00
WCSC 2022		500.00
WCCI 2019-2021		500.00
WCCT 2020-2023		100.00
Youth Chess Composition Challenge 2022		100.00
IT		600.00
ECSC 2023		500.00
Banking		100.00
Other expenses		150.00
World Solving Cup 2021-22		300.00
Earnings		0.00
Total	**3'000.00**	**3'000.00**

საქართველოს ჭადრაკის ფედერაცია
CHESS FEDERATION GEORGIAN 1877

საქართველოს ჭადრაკის ფედერაცია
GEORGIAN CHESS FEDERATION

№ 361 "10" 11 2022 წ.

OFFER TO ORGANIZE

65th World Congress of Chess Composition

46th World Chess Solving Championship

Batumi, Georgia

23 – 30 September, 2023

The Georgian Chess Federation have the honour to offer to organize 65th World Congress of Chess Composition and 46th World Chess Solving Championship in Batumi, Georgia from 23 to 30 of September, 2023. Georgia has already organized this event in 1975 and 2013.

Georgia has a great tradition in Chess Composition field. Georgia has played an essential role in chess composition development in the World.

Batumi is the second largest city of Georgia and the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, located on the coast of the Black Sea in Georgia's southwest. It is situated in a subtropical zone at the foot of the Caucasus.
The hotel Legend 5***** was built in 2019. It has splendid views to Famous Batumi Boulevard.
Hotel accommodation: per person/per day in Single room 96 USD and 78 USD in double room (Per person/per day).

Prices include buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, excursion, registration fees, free WIFI, closing banquet and so on.

Participants, who will not stay in the official hotel or not make reservation via the organizer, should pay 120 USD for the registration, excursion, banquet, congress materials and participation.

Sincerely Yours

President Giorgi Giorgadze

თბილისი 0179, კოსტავას ქ. 37ა, ტელ: 2982747. ელფოსტა: Geochessfederation@gmail.com, www.gcf.org.ge
Kostava Str. 37a. 0179 Tbilisi. Tel: (+995 32) 2982747. E-mail: Geochessfederation@gmail.com. www.gcf.org.ge

Proposal to host the European Chess Solving Championship 2023 by Slovak Chess Composition Organization

DATES	2nd-4th June 2023
CITY	Bratislava, Slovakia

ACCOMMODATION AND SOLVING VENUE: Falkensteiner Hotel** Bratislava**
The hotel has an excellent location right in the city center. All events will take place in the hotel. https://www.falkensteiner.com/sk/hotel-bratislava

SCHEDULE

Friday, June 2nd	17^{00}-20^{30}	open solving tournament
Saturday, June 3rd	9^{00}-12^{30}	ECSC day 1
Saturday, June 3rd	afternoon	sightseeing/excursion, solving-composing
Sunday, June 4th	9^{00}-12^{30}	ECSC day 2
Sunday, June 4th	16^{00}	closing ceremony

Main ECSC judge: Pavel Kameník, assisted by B. Moravčík, M. Križovenský, M. Hlinka.

PRICES (per person per day, bed, breakfast, wifi, and hotel wellness included)

single room	99 €
double or twin room	65 €
participation fee**:**	75 € (early registration until Apr 30th, afterwards 90€)

ORGANIZATION
Slovak Chess Composition Organization, contact persons Marek Kolčák & Tomáš Peitl (marek.kolcak@gmail.com, tomas.peitl@gmail.com)

ARRIVAL
Bratislava has its own international airport (BTS) and is located in close proximity of Vienna International Airport (VIE). Buses run frequently between both airports and the city, a one way journey between BTS and the city takes around 30 mins and costs approx. 2€, from/to VIE around 1hr and 10€. The hotel offers airport shuttle (at a surcharge). Bratislava also has good rail connections to major European cities including Berlin, Prague, Warsaw, and Zurich.

COMMENTS
The prices are higher compared to ECSC Riga'22, partly due to the rising costs of energy and commodities worldwide. On the other hand, the hotel boasts a truly outstanding location and excellent service, and we thus hope participants will have an all-round enjoyable stay. We are looking forward to hosting ECSC in Slovakia on the 30th anniversary of the Congress in Bratislava in 1993.

Marek Kolčák,
President of Slovak Chess Composition Organization

Bratislava, October 2022