

## **Israel Ring Tourney: Fairies 2015**

**Judge: Vlaicu Crişan, Budapest, December 2017, Cluj-Napoca (Romania)**

I would like to thank Michael Grushko for the invitation to judge the informal fairies tournament for 2015. He definitely managed to create a very interesting fairies section, which can be seen from the following award. I also thank Paz Einat for his generous and helpful comments of the solutions.

52 problems composed by 41 composers from 15 countries competed in the informal tournament. The level of the tournament enabled me to create two different sections. As a judge I always consider both the technical merit and the artistic impression of the composition.

One particularly challenging part in any fairy judgment is dealing with compositions sound in one program but unsound in another. How to deal in such debatable cases? I eventually decided to accept the convention(s) used by the authors, but mentioned below the theoretical questions in the award.

### **Section A – Problems having more than 8 pieces**

30 compositions took part in this section – this number is due to the fact that I considered Imitator merely as a fairy condition. I have discarded 2727, which is actually a version of a previous problem (e.g. 2482 from Variantim 61/2013). The level of the published originals is quite high. The problems left out of the award were simply unlucky to compete against better problems. I suggest the following ranking.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Var. 2769 Michael Barth

An outstanding conception of cyclic captures of the neutral pieces on the same square (b3). Although the author showed the same idea in feenschach 2015 (see Annex A) using another neutral trio, I prefer this version for the more unified twinning mechanism. Although the mechanism has been successfully used afterwards by other German composers, we should praise the author for his outstanding conception and originality.

- a) 1. ♖d6-b3 A ♜h1xb3 [+ ♖b1] 2. ♖b1-d4 ♜f7xb3 B [+ ♜b1] #  
 b) 1. ♜f7-b3 B ♖d6xb3 [+ ♜b1] 2. ♜b1-g1 ♜h1xb3 C [+ ♖b1] #  
 c) 1. ♜h1-b3 C ♜f7xb3 [+ ♜b1] 2. ♜b1-d7 ♖d6xb3 A [+ ♜b1] #

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Var. 2720 Manfred Rittirsch & Boris Tummes

This superb work features a very subtle dual avoidance motivation in both Black and White choice of promotions. White wants to mate by promoting his pawn either into a Double-Grasshopper or a Kangaroo, but must cope against Black's flight on d7. So, white King must hide against the royal battery created by the key, in order to virtually guard this flight by specific Transmuted Kings effects. I think this composition shows a clear step in advance compared to Manfred's previous work (see Annex B). There is also a theoretical question: are the white pawns on 1<sup>st</sup> rank and/or black pawns on 8<sup>th</sup> rank immobile? Winchloé says "No", while Popeye says "Yes", hence the following cook: 1.Kc3 d8=DG+ 2.Ke8 d7 / gxf7# However, with the additional specification "Normal Pawn" this problem would be also C+ in Popeye.

- 1.b1=♖+ ♖b7 2.d1=♜ d8=♞ # (3.♞d7?) 1.d1=♖+ ♖h7 2.b1=♞ d8=♜ # (3.♞d7?)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Var. 2770 Igor Kochulov

The triple capture of a neutral piece in hs#2 SuperCirce is an ambitious task which deserves a high recognition. Igor is undoubtedly one of the world's experts in this field, having shown this idea in several remarkable settings. This problem would have been placed even higher, would not have seen the magnificent version from the recent StrateGems 2015 judgment (see Annex C).

1. ♖h4 ♜xh4 (♖a6) 2. ♜xa6 (♖g2)+ ♜xg2(♖b6) #  
 1. ♜f6 ♖xf6 (♜c8) 2. ♜xc8(♜d4) ♖xd4(♜c7)#

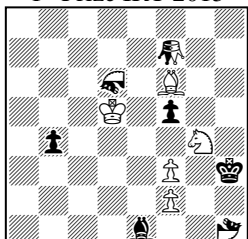
### 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 2756 Menachem Witztum

The three white pieces are unpinned in order to force a mate by the black Rook d8 on the 5<sup>th</sup> rank. This difficult cyclic exchange of functions required in the Romanian Tzuica 2012 tournament is enhanced by the initial choices of the pinning pieces (1... Qh2? / 1... Re3? / 1... Bf6?), though the reasons for failure are not quite matching. The three attractive double pin mates enhance the overall impression. 1... ♖h1 2. ♖e5 ♜f8 3. ♖f5 + ♜xf5# 1... ♜d3 2. ♖f7 ♜h8 3. ♖h5 + ♜xh5#

- 1... ♖g5 2. ♖f7 ♜e8 3. ♖e5 + ♜xe5#

#### Michael Barth

1<sup>st</sup> Prize IRT 2015



H#2 Circe 5+4+3

b) ♖→h5 c) ♖→h7

Neutal: zebrarider ♜

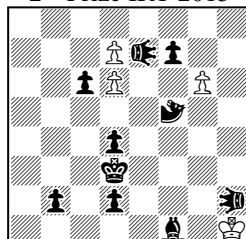
camelrider ♞

grasshopper-2 ♟

#### Manfred Rittirsch

Boris Tummes

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize IRT 2015



H#2 2.1.1.1 4+10

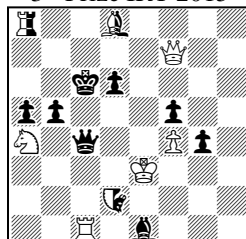
TransmutedKings

Lion ♚ Kangaroo ♞

Double-Grasshopper ♜

#### Igor Kochulov

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize IRT 2015



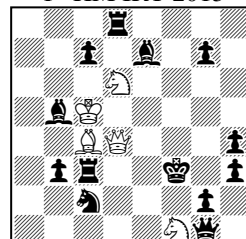
HS#2 2.1.1.1 8+8

SuperCirce

Neut: ♜ ♖ nightrider ♞

#### Menachem Witztum

1<sup>st</sup> HM IRT 2015

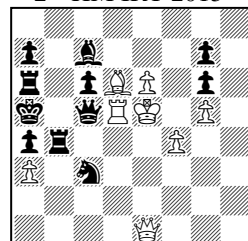


HS#2.5 3.1... 5+13

**2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 2761 Paz Einat (v)**

A neat combination of two themes – white tempo at second move and zugzwang mates – I have not seen before. The exchange of white first and third move – once capturing a black unit, once pinning it – gives a sense of unity. Of course, the presence of the cook-stopping bRa6 hindered a higher classification. 1.♙xc7+ ♚bb6 2.♙d8 ♚b5 3.♚c5 ♚xc5# 1.♚xc5+ ♘b5 2.♚c3 ♙b6 3.♙c7 ♙xc7#

**Paz Einat (v)**  
2<sup>nd</sup> HM IRT 2015



HS#3 2.1... 8+13

**3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 2673 Mark Erenburg**

Another ambitious idea, shown for the first time: black creation of reciprocal batteries, with White and Black switchbacks in the background – the theme required in Romanian Tzuica 2013 tournament. The trade-offs required in order to achieve this task (e.g. the captures of bRa1 and bPb2) slightly diminish the otherwise artistically accomplished setting. I was quite highly impressed by the author's technical skills, in spite of the seemingly crowded position.

1.♙xa1 ♙c5 2.♙xb2 ♚b5 3.♙f1 + ♙f2# 1.♙xb2 ♚f4 2.♙xa1 ♙g3 3.♙a3 + ♚b4#

**4<sup>th</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 2667 Cornel Pacurar & Adrian Storisteanu**

The Canadian duo shows their specialty – the retro-series. For the readers interested to find out more about this fascinating genre, I recommend the articles published in the Canadian Chess Problem Bulletin. This setting seems deceptively simple, but one must not overlook the possible cooks. For instance, wPf4 is ideally placed against the following cook in b)-1.Sd3xf2(f2, -bSf2) -2.Sc1-d3 -3.Bg3xf2(f2, -bBf2) -4.Bb8 & 1.axb8=R(Bf8)# The authors' humoristic comment of the content of their problem is also typical for Adrian's well-known style from the unequalled feenschach articles.

- a) - 1.♙c2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙c2 3.♙c2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙c2 & 1.♙d5#
- 1.♙g2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙g2 3.♙g2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙g2 & 1.♙f5#
- b) - 1.♙d2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙d2 3.♙d2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙d2 & 1.♙e6#
- 1.♙h2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 2.♙h2 3.♙h2x♙f2(+w♙f2, -b♙f2) 4.♙h2 & 1.♙g6#

**Commendations in order of publication**

**Var. 2663 Alexey Gasparyan**

The surprising key blocks Black's main defender leading to an unexpected zugzwang. All the mates show interesting Circe motivations. Sadly enough, nowadays, this kind of typical solver's problems seldom find their way into any award. 1.♙b3?! (2.♙xh2, ♚xg2#) but 1...♙a2+! 1.♙a4 (♙b4)?! ♙g8! 1.♙b4 (♙a4) ?! ♙h8! **1.♙e8!** zz 1...♙d6 (d6, ♙e7) 2.♙xh2 (♙f8)# 1...♙a7 2.♙xg2 (♙a8)# 1...♙a2 2.♙xg1 (♙b8)#; 1...♙xe8 (♙d1) 2.♙xg1 (♙b8)#

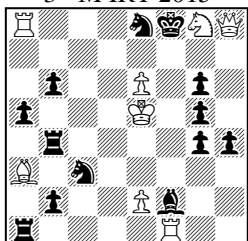
**Var. 2717 Mark Erenburg**

Another rendering of the Romanian Tzuica 2013 tournament! The economic problem displays again a neat orthogonal-diagonal correspondence. However, the rather light strategy and the repetition of the third black move prevent a higher classification.

1.♙d1 ♙e2 2.♙xf7 ♙d4 3.♙f8 ♙d3 4.♙f2 + ♙xf2# 1.♙a4 ♙d4 2.♙xe7 ♙e2 3.♙f8 ♙d3 4.♙c5 + ♙xc5#

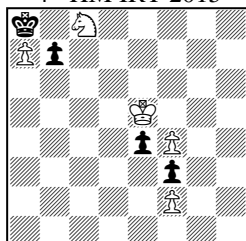
**Cornel Pacurar**

**Mark Erenburg**  
3<sup>rd</sup> M IRT 2015



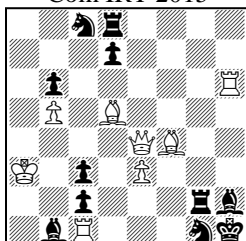
HS#3 2.1.1.1 8+13

**Adrian Storisteanu**  
4<sup>th</sup> HM IRT 2015



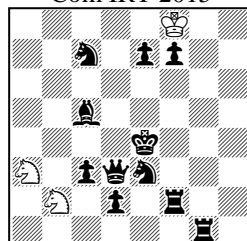
-4b&#1 2 sol. 5+4  
b)♙e5→f6  
circe assassin

**Alexey Gasparyan**  
Com IRT 2015



#2vv Circe 8+11

**Mark Erenburg**  
Com IRT 2015



HS#4 2.1.1.. 3+11

### Var. 2719 Raffi Ruppin

The subtle key avoids the clash of rebirth on a1 square. I liked a lot the idea of anti-battery mates occurring as a consequence of black rebirths. The imaginative setting explores well all the possibilities in spite of the simple orthodox means during the play.

1.♖b5! [2.♗e5 + ♜xe5[b♖e5->e8] #] 1...♗g3 2.e3 + ♜xe3[b♖e3->e8] #  
 1...c3 2.♗d3 + ♜xd3[b♗d3->e8] # 1...g3 2.♗f3 + ♗xf3[b♗f3->c8] #  
 1...f4 2.♗e4 + ♜xe4[b♗e4->e8] # 1...e5 2.♗d5 + ♜xd5[b♗d5->e8] #

### Var. 2760 Eugene Rosner

Here, we can admire four specific variations (including the threat) – perhaps a task in Alsatian Circe? Such problems should simply not go unnoticed, hence the distinction, in spite of the [typical] rather messy initial position.

1.♖h1! (2.♗c5#) (2...bxc5(♗g1)?) 1...♖a5 2.♖xe5(Pe7)# (2...fxe5(♖a1)?)  
 1...♗f8 2.Pxg5# (♗f8?) 1...♗c8 2.Pxd3# (♗c8?)

### Var. 2766 Pierre Tritten & Sébastien Luce

This rewards one of the first compositions ever published featuring the condition Couscous AntiCirce. The mixed AUW with specific mates should be just enough to attract the further exploration of this fairy condition from other composers.

a) 1.exf5(♖b1) ♖d8 2.♖b5 cxb5(♗a8)# b) 1.exd5(♗h1) ♗e3 2.♗d5 cxd5(♗c8)#

### Section B – Miniatures

The high number of compositions (22) in this section shows a trend towards maximum economy. I had to exclude 2678 for a cook in 3 moves: 1.GN**b6** cxb6(>b7) 2.DR**f7** (dual 2.DR**g6**) b6 3.DR**f8** b5#. I propose the following ranking for the remaining problems

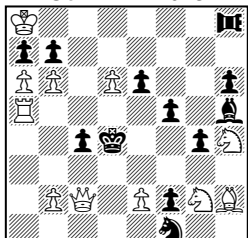
#### 1st Prize: Var. 2726 Vaclav Kotesovec

A truly unbelievable setting: the old-fashioned four corners theme is presented in a twinless form! All pieces are used in each phase and both fairy elements (the Royal Grasshopper and Maximum condition) are essential for the soundness of the problem. I have absolutely no hesitation in awarding the highest possible reward to this remarkable composition, regardless how this might have been created.

1.♖e2 ♖e1 2.♗d3 ♖d2 3.♖e4 ♖f3 4.♖e5 + r♖f2 5.♖f5 ♖g6 6.♖g4 ♖g2 7.♖h3 ♖g7 8.♖h2 ♖g3 9.♖h1 ♖g2#  
 1.♖c2 ♖c8 2.♖b3 ♖d8 3.♖c4 ♖c3 4.♖d5 r♖b2 5.♖e6 ♖f5 6.♖f7 ♖g6 7.♖g8 ♖h8 8.♖g7 ♖f6 + 9.♖h8 ♖g7#  
 1.♖c1 ♖f5 2.♖c2 ♖g4 3.♖d3 ♖c2 + 4.♖c4 ♖b4 5.♖c5 ♖c6 6.♖d6 ♖e7 7.♖c7 ♖d5 8.♖b8 r♖b6 9.♖a8 ♖b7#  
 1.♖e1 ♖f1 2.♖e2 ♖f7 3.♖f3 ♖g2 4.♖e3 ♖e2 5.♖d4 ♖d3 6.♖c3 ♖h2 7.♖b3 ♖a2 8.♖b2 ♖c2 + 9.♖a1 ♖b2 #

#### Raffi Ruppin

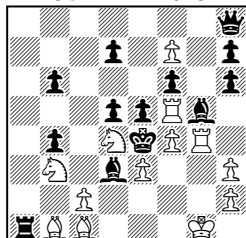
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S#2 AntiCirce 11+12  
 Rook Lion ♖

#### Eugene Rosner

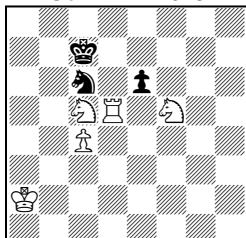
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#2 13+13  
 Alsatian Circe

#### P. Tritten S. Luce

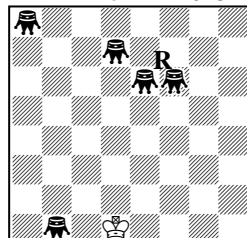
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H#2 b)♗c5=♖ 5+3  
 Anticircé couscous

#### Vaclav Kotesovec

1<sup>st</sup> Prize IRT 2015



HS#9 4.1.1.. 1+5  
 Maximummer  
 Grasshoppers ♖  
 Royal Grasshopper ♖<sup>R</sup>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Var. 2725 Geoff Foster**

The Bulgarian pool, as I use to call the combination of Take&Make and AntiTake&Make, can lead to very economic settings, as convincingly demonstrates the award of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bulgarian Wine Tournery. Geoff manages to show a tremendous density of captures in an amazing Wenigsteiner setting, with both Kings performing captures during the play and chameleon echo mates.

1... ♖c2+ 2. ♜xc2-d1[ ♖h7] ♜xh7-d3[ ♖g8] 3. ♖xf7-c7[n ♖f4] ♖xf4-a4[ ♖f1]#  
 1... ♜d7 2. ♖xd7-g7[ ♜d2]+ ♜xg7-f8[ ♖b2] 3. ♜xb2-h8[ ♖c1] ♖xd2-d4[ ♖h2]#

**1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 2669 Geoff Foster**

An exquisite presentation of Phantom Chess Rex Inclusive: with only three neutral pieces, the author shows two minor promotions and specific mates. Why not a prize then? Just because the author managed to show with the same material even three promotions in another really outstanding composition published in the same year (see Annex D), which earned a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> place in the prestigious Wenigsteiner of the Year 2015 tournament!

1. ♖e1=♜ ♜h3 2. ♜g7 ♜f1# 1. ♖e1=♖ ♜b3 2. ♖c5 ♜e2#

**2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: Var. 2672 Michael Grushko**

Both themes – the mutual captures between the neutral pawns and the promotions in neutral Rook – have been shown before by the author, but their synthesis here seems to me quite original. I like a lot the fairy conditions are quite well represented in both solutions. I therefore think this is actually the best published work from Variantim’s warm-hearted and innovative fairies editor.

1... n♗d4 2. ♖e3 n♗xd4[n♗d4→d2]+ 3. n♗d2-d1=n♖ [+n♗d3] n♖d2 + 4. ♜xd3[b♜d3→e8] n♖d7 [+n♗d8=n♖]# (5. ♖xd7? (♖d7 a8)+, (4... ♖d7[+pd8=♖ (♖d1!))

1... n♗c4 2. ♖d2 n♗xc4[n♗c4→c2] 3. n♗c2-c1=n♖ [+n♗c3] n♖c2 + 4. ♜xc3[b♜c3→e8] n♖c7 [+n♗c8=n♖]# ((5. ♖xc7 (♖c7 a8)+))

**Commendations in order of publication**

**Var. 2675 Eric Huber**

Unfortunately the sparkling solution of the first twin, with four consecutive checks, is not properly matched by the second solution, with only three consecutive checks. A black pawn g7 would lead to cooks, so a [technical] neutral pawn is required instead. In spite of these unbalances, the two Phantom effects in each phase ensure a place in the award for this interesting conception.

a) 1... ♖h1=n♖ 2. ♖b8=n♖+ r♖c3 3. n♖h1-h8-f6+ n♖e5+ 4. n♖e5-c1-b2 + r♖e5#

b) 1... ♖h2-h1=n♖ 2. ♖b7-b8=n♖ n♖h1-d8-c8 3. n♖d8 n♖c3+ 4. r♖h8+ n♖d5#

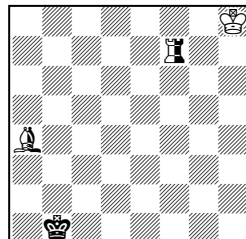
**Var. 2721 Guy Sobrecases & Jacques Rotenberg**

I liked a lot the echo mates, but the repetition of several moves is a serious drawback. Sometimes less is more, a setting without the cook-looking solution starting with 1.Rxd5 would have been preferable. 1. ♖xe3 + ♜b4 2. ♖e5[+wu♖e3] ♖d6+ 3. ♜xd6 u♖f5# 1. ♖e4 ♖f5 2. ♜xd5 ♜b3 3. ♖e6 ♖e7#

1. ♖xd5 ♜b4 2. ♖d5-d7[+wu♖d5] u♖e5+ 3. ♜d6 u♖e6# 1. ♜e7 ♖d6 2. ♜xd6 ♜b4 3. ♖e7 ♖c4#

**Geoff Foster**

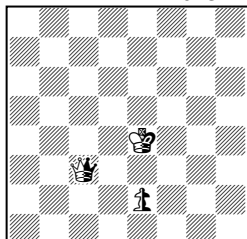
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize IRT 2015



H#2.5 2.1.1.. 1+1+2  
 Take&MakeChess  
 AntiTake&Make  
 Neut.Rook Bishop ♜ ♖

**Geoff Foster**

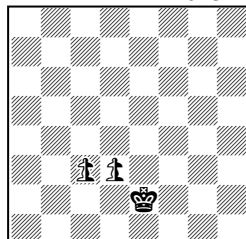
1<sup>st</sup> HM IRT 2015



H#2 2.1.1.1 0+0+3  
 PhantomChess RexIncl.

**Michael Grushko**

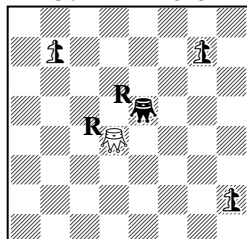
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H#3.5 2.1.1.1 0+1+2  
 Anticirce Parraincirce

**Eric Huber**

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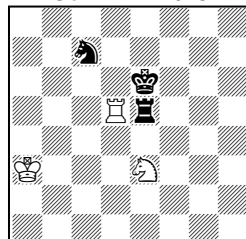


HS#3.5 1+1+3  
 b) R♖e5→d6  
 PhantomChess

**Guy Sobrecases**

**Jacques Rotenberg**

Com IRT 2015



H#3 4.1.1.. 3+3  
 GhostChess

### Var. 2723 Jaroslav Štůň

The combination of AntiAndernach and Parrain Circe seems to be fruitful mainly in serial problems. Here, the leading expert in the combination mixes them for the first time with neutral pieces, using an interesting systematic maneuver to get a proper arrangement before delivering the final blow. However, another interesting theoretical question: how should the neutral pieces change their color after a non-capturing move in Anti-Andernach? Winchloé says: a neutral piece moved by White becomes black. Popeye doesn't seem to care at all.

1. ♖f1(w) 2. g×f1=♙ 3. ♗d2(w;w♙e2) 4. ♙×e2 5. ♕a3(w♙e1) 6. ♙×d2 7. ♕a4(w♗d3) 8. ♖b3 9. ♙×e1 10. ♕a4(w♙d2) 11. ♖b3 12. ♙×d2 13. ♕a4(w♙c3) 14. ♙×d3 & 1. ♖a5(b;w♗b5)+ ♙a×b5#

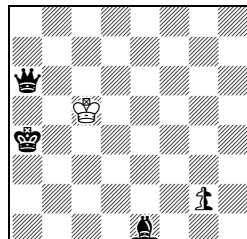
### Var. 2763 Valerio Agostini

Probably the best amongst the single line compositions! The most economic rendering of the imposed theme of Arnold Beine 60 Jubilee Tournament certainly deserves recognition.

1. ♖g3 e1=♘ 2. ♗f3 ♗f3 3. ♖h3 ♗f1=♘ 4. ♘h2 ♘g2 5. ♖g1+ ♖g3#

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all participants for the many entertaining hours I spent studying their compositions.

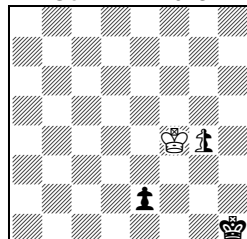
### Jaroslav Štůň Com IRT 2015



14N & ss#1 2+3

ParrainCirce  
AntiAndernachChess  
Neutral Pawn ♗

### Valerio Agostini Com IRT 2015



HS#5 AnnanChess 2+2

Neutral pawn ♗