

Israel Ring Tourney: Fairies 2017

Judge: Aliksandr Bulauka (Belarus) (Translation: P. Einat with Google-Translate)

In 2017, 48 problems were published in the magazine. The level of the tournament can be considered quite good, above the average level, which gave me the opportunity to award a third of the problems. Checking the problems for defects and predecessors ended in nothing. Only two problems had a relative similarity with previously published ones but both remained unharmed and, moreover, one of them even received a distinction. The trouble came from the other side. Unfortunately, two tasks had to be excluded from the competition. Nos. 2995 and 2958 used an incompatible combination of fairy rules. More precisely, these rules can be combined, but this requires an additional definition, which the author did not provide.

I want to say that I will remember this judging for a long time. The fact is that the notebook with comments and the assignment of problems to places has disappeared somewhere. I had to do all the work again. You have no idea how hard it is psychologically. But I believe that it will be found :-)
And now we proceed directly to the award.

1st Prize: 3060 – Franz Pachl, Dieter Müller & Hubert Gockel

The whole play is built on the pickup of d4, e4 and e2 squares near the black king. There is no problem with one of these squares – they are blocked by a black figure, which on the way to the goal captures one of the white thematic figures (Sg4, Rf1, EQb4). With the other two squares things are more complicated. To begin with, pay attention to the fact that the position has a charged anti-battery with a rear figure in the form of Equihopper h1. One of the white pieces is enough to go to f2 and the black king is under the check. Moreover, one of the key squares will be picked up. Well, and the third square takes the last figure from the above white trinity. But there is one more misfortune - taking control of two squares with white pieces can be done in two ways. Consider the first solution: it seems that both 1...Sf6 2...Rf2, and 1...Re1 2...Sf2 are suitable, because in any case, the squares e2 and e4 are under the White's control. But in the second scenario, the white king is under the check from EQa1. In the second solution, 1...EQh2 2...Rf2 does not work because of 3.Rxh1, and in the third it is impossible 1...Sf6 2...EQf2, since there is 3.EQxh1. As a result, we see a cyclical alternation of functions of three white figures with a complete analogy of the play in three solutions and beautiful tries (it is a pity that the motives for their refutations are different). In the problem there is a cyclic pseudo-Zilahi. The prefix "pseudo" appeared, because the white piece taken in one solution is not a mating piece in another solution (except the knight), but only makes a mating move. The problem, of course, did not suffer at all from this fact.

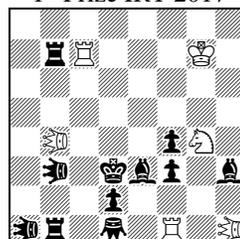
1. ♖xb4 ♠f6! (♜e1?) 2. ♜d4 ♜f2# 1. ♞xg4 ♜e1! (♞h2?) 2. ♞e4 ♞f2# 1. ♝xf1 ♞h2! (♠f6?) 2. ♝e2 ♠f2#

2nd Prize: 3004 – Semion Shifrin

First about the subject. The problem presents the le Grand, Dombrovskis, and Luukonen themes and a sympathetic appendage in the form of a three-phase change according to Rukhlis. The mechanism consists of two parts, each of which is built on defensive and weakening motives in the thematic moves of the blacks: b6, b5 and Nb3. The first two moves of this trio in the tries provide double control over the threatening mate of the white figure, and in the solution after these moves a single control is created over the same Vao and Rook. The move 1...Nb3 in both tries not only helps to neutralize the threat by double guarding the threatening piece, but also provides a single control over the mating piece of white. It is also worth noting that in all phases VAg1 is attacked in three different lines, leading to the same mate.

1. ♜b4 ? [2. ♞d6 A #] 1... ♞b3 c 2. ♜xe4 B # 1... ♞xc5 2. ♞h2# 1... ♞c4 2. ♜e6# but 1...b6 a !
1. ♜c4 ? [2. ♜xe4 B #] 1... ♞b3 c 2. ♞d6 A # 1... ♞c1 2. ♞h2# 1... ♠xc4 2. ♜e6# but 1...b5 b !
1. ♝g7 ! [2. h8=♞ #] 1...b6 a 2. ♞d6 A # 1...b5 b 2. ♜xe4 B # 1...♞xg7 2. ♞h2# 1... ♞c4 2. ♜e6#

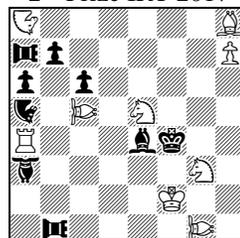
F. Pachl D. Müller H. Gockel 1st Prize IRT 2017



H#2 3.1.1.. 6+11

Equihopper ♞
Grasshopper ♞

Semion Shifrin 2nd Prize IRT 2017



#2 AMU 9+9

N.rider ♞ ♞hopper ♞
Pao ♞ Vao ♞

3rd Prize: 3010 – Menachem Witztum

A combination of white knight and black bishop rundlauf. Both closed routes have a similar goal: open the action-lines of the enemy pieces. So, the white knight opens line of the black black-square bishop twice (it is this motive that determines the direction of rotation) and once the white-square one. And the black traveler removes interfering white pawns from the line on which the white bishop takes control of the g1 square. It is a pity that the white rook fulfills only a technical role, forcing the black bishop to return to the starting point.

1. ♖xg5 ♖h6 2. ♗xf7 ♖xe3 3. ♗xd6 ♖xc5 4. ♗e4 ♖f8 5. ♗f4+ ♗xf4#

4th Prize: 2952 – Ralf Krätschmer & Franz Pachl

Two phases with almost identical content. Two consecutive captures with a revival of the captured piece on the second move first creates a black R/B battery (which then mates), and then a pin of the black queen (which now cannot protect its monarch from the provocation check). The cunning move 1...Qxg4 attracts attention, as it allows to get rid of the potentially unnecessary white knight in position b. a) 1...♗f4 2. ♖xg5 [+b♖h8]+ ♗xg5 [+w♖c1] 3. ♗e7+ ♖xe7 [+w♗d1] #
b) 1...♗xg4 2. ♗hx5 [+b♖a8]+ ♗hx5 [+w♗d1] 3. ♖h1+ ♖h2#

Special Prize: 2951 – Paz Einat

I did not dare to give this problem the usual distinction. It presents three systems of simple changed mates. But all six phases are arranged in such a cunning way that it is time to talk about a new form of change. The author called this the “dismantled Rice cycle”. Well, it can be so. Consider the mechanism. There are three key squares: c4, e4 and e5, which are controlled in the initial position by Sa3, Na6 and Ng4, respectively. With the introductory move of one of the figures Gf5, Pf2 and Gc4, two actions are performed: one of the above key squares is guarded and the line for one of the black grasshoppers c8, h2 and h7 is opened. Further, everything is simple: one of these grasshoppers, defending the threat, captures the c2 pawn (with a check to the white king), after which it is captured by one of the white figures freed from the guardianship of the square. Note also that all thematic defenses and mates occur on the same square.

1. ♖f5-f1 ? [2. ♗b5#] 1... ♖h7xc2 a+ 2. ♗a3xc2 A # (1... ♖xf1 2. ♖xd3# 1... ♖e2 2. ♖h8#) but 1... dxe5 !

1. ♖f5-d5 ? [2. ♖a6-b8#] 1... ♖h7xc2 a+ 2. ♖a6xc2 B # but 1... b5 !

1. f3 ? [2. ♖a6-b8#] 1... ♖h2xc2 b+ 2. ♖a6-xc2 B # but 1... b5 !

1. f4 ? [2. ♖g4xh2#] 1... ♖h2xc2 b+ 2. ♖g4xc2 C # but 1... ♖g1-g5 !

1. ♖c4-e4 ? [2. ♖g4xh2#] 1... ♖c8xc2 c+ 2. ♖g4xc2 C # (1... ♖f1 2. ♖xd3# 1... ♖e2 2. ♖h8#)

but 1... ♗xf2 ! 1. ♖c4-e2 ! [2. ♗b5#] 1... ♖c8xc2 c+ 2. ♗a3xc2 A # 1... ♖xe2 2. ♖h8#

Special Prize for miniature: 3003 – Sebastien Luce

Two super mixed-AUW with two bonus promotions. The total number of promotions is impressive, especially considering that we have a miniature. Of course, the presence of two restrictive rules greatly simplifies the task for the composer, but still... There are some minor drawbacks: the lack of a white king on the board and non-participation in the mate picture in b) of a promoted white knight.

a) 1... e8=♗ 2. c2 e7 3. c1=♖ ♗a4+ 4. ♗e2 ♗h4 5. ♖a3 e8=♗+ 6. ♖e7 ♗a4 7. d1=♗ ♗g4+ 8. ♗f1

fxe7 9. ♗c3 e8=♖ 10. ♗b5 ♖xb5= b) 1... e8=♖ 2. ♗e2 e7 3. d1=♖ ♖a8 4. ♖h1 ♖a1 5. d2 ♖xh1

6. d1=♗ e8=S 7. ♗e3 ♗g7 8. ♗f3 f7 9. ♗f1 f8=♖+ 10. ♗g2 ♖xf1=

Menachem Witztum

R. Krätschmer F. Pachl

Paz Einat

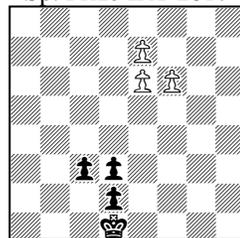
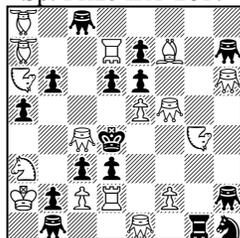
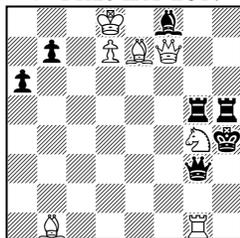
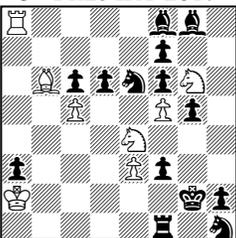
Sebastien Luce

3rd Prize IRT 2017

4th Prize IRT 2017

Sp. Prize IRT 2017

Sp. Prize IRT 2017



HS#5 8+14

HS#2.5 Circe 7+7

#2vvvvv 16+15

H#9.5 b) ♖c3→g3 3+4

b) ♖f8→b8

Gr.Hopper ♖ N.rider ♗

AlphabeticChess

♖, ♖ Hopper ♗, ♖

Max. white-Max.

1st Honorable Mention: 3055 – Semion Shifrin

The problem is very difficult to understand, and, accordingly, to solve. Note that if you remove the paralysis from LEh7, then the white king will be mated. But not everything is so simple, because it is not enough to lure a black piece to the d3-g6 diagonal section, because in this case any move of the white NAe4 eliminates the threat. Two ways to solve the problem are presented. In the first solution, the white piece on the diagonal d3-g6 is replaced by black, and in the second, both white pieces in the same diagonal become paralyzed. Despite the obvious difference in the play in the solutions, the composition looks pretty solid.

1. ♖e5 ♗f5 + 2. ♗c5 ♜xf6 3. ♖e6 + ♗g6# 1. ♖ec7 ♜d6 2. ♜e6 ♗d7 3. ♜g6 + ♗e5#

2nd Honorable Mention: 3062 – Paz Einat & Evgeni Bourd

Alternating two mates using double-grasshopper features. By its semantic content, the mechanism resembles a "check - not check" from the orthodox three-mover. A little more. In the initial position 1.Sb5 ?? cannot be played because the white king is under check: DGe3-c5xa5. For the same reason 1.Bb6 ?? cannot be played, again the white monarch is attacked: DGf7-c7xa5. It is logical that the distraction of double-grasshoppers makes these mates real. After the key, the same mates do not pass for the same reason - the white king is under check. But the lines along which the double-grasshoppers move are different: 2.Sb5 ?? DGf7-c4xa6, 2.Bb6 ?? DGe3-e6xa6. As we see, in different phases different double-grasshoppers protect from the same mate. Hence the alternation.

1... ♗ch1 a 2. ♖b5 A # 1... ♗fh1 b 2. ♖b6 B #

1. ♗a6 ! [2. ♖d3#] 1... ♗eh1 a 2. ♖b6 B # 1... ♗fh1 b 2. ♖b5 A #

3rd Honorable Mention: 3000 - Hubert Gockel

Ukrainian cycle, fully built on line effects. Each time, playing 1...Bxf5, black creates additional control over the threatening mate figure. But at the same time, the black bishop creates a single control over another white figure from the trio Sb1, Rg4 and Rh3. To eliminate duals in spurious variations, in one case, preliminary overlap of bBf5 is used, and in the second, overlap of wBg1. The problem clearly lacks an additional play needed for higher ranking.

1. ♖xd4#?? / ♖c3#?? / ♖d2#?? All illegal because pieces are not observed by hostile unit!

1. ♖e4? gets observation from ♖c5 [2. ♖xd4# A] 1... ♖xf5 x invalidates threat by multiple observation! 2. ♖c3# B (2. ♖d2#?? still illegal due to interference f5-b1 on e4) 1... ♖xd7, ♖d5 2. ♖xd5# gets observation from ♖d~ but 1... ♖xd7! 1. ♖e3? gets observation from Pd4 [2. ♖c3# B] 1... ♖xf5 x invalidates threat by double observation! 2. ♖d2# C gets observation from ♖f5 (2. ♖xd4+? ♖xd4!) 1... ♖xd7, ♖d5 2. ♖xd5# but 1... ♖f4!

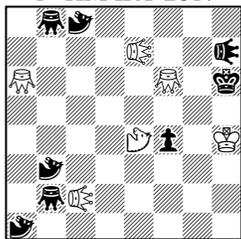
1. ♖a6! now ♖b7 observes ♖b1 [2. ♖d2# C] 1... Bxf5 x invalidates threat by double observation! 2. ♖xd4# A gets observation from ♖f5 1... ♖a7, Rxxb1, ♖b2 2. ♖xd5#

4th Honorable Mention: 3008 – Valerio Agostini & Antonio Garofalo

A very economical position with an orthogonal-diagonal analogy, which includes the construction and play of the royal battery and the sacrifice of the white queen.

1.c6 ♖a7 2. ♖d6 ♖d2 3. ♖e4 + ♖xe4# 1. ♖f5 ♖c2 2.b3 ♖d6 3. ♖e3 + ♖xe3#

Semion Shifrin
1st HM IRT 2017



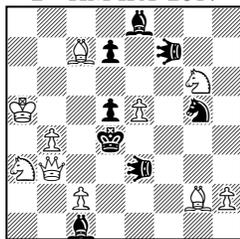
HS#3 2.1.1.. 6+8

Madras

Leo ♖e4 Nao ♗f5

Grasshopper ♜♜

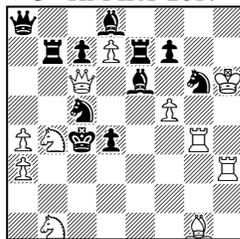
P. Einat E. Bourd
2nd HM IRT 2017



#2* 10+8

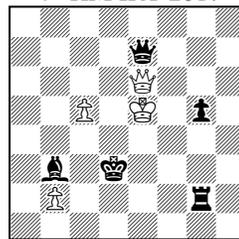
Double-grasshopper ♗

Hubert Gockel
3rd HM IRT 2017



#2 AMU 11+11

V. Agostini A. Garofalo
4th HM IRT 2017



HS#3 2.1.1.. 4+5

5th Honorable Mention: 3056 – Michael Grushko

There are only four figures on the board, but as many as seven fairy elements! As a result, we see two mates in different corners of the board. Despite their apparent similarity, they are not echo mates. The reason is not in the “geometry” of the black rider, but in the sense of its location. In the first twin, it keeps a-a and b2 in the field, and in the second he has only h2. And the field g2 picks up the lion from the field a8 (in this position, the mat is a double check). An interesting move is Kxg1, the meaning of which is to make the field g1 inaccessible to the king in the future.

- a) 1.♔a1 2.♞g5-g1-b1 3.♞f3-f1xb1 4.♞b1-h1[+♞b1] ♞c1-c8-d6#
 b) 1.♞g1 2.♔xg1 3.♔g1-h1[+♞g1] 4.♞f3-f1-a1 ♞c1-c8-e4#

1st Commendation: 2953 – Eugene Rosner

Theme le Grand using AMU-effects. In the diagram position, the white rooks are held up by two black pieces. With the introductory move, one of the rooks “throws off” one control from himself, threatening to checkmate with the use of the Queen's pin. Defending itself, the queen removes control from the threatening rook, but simultaneously also from the second rook, which remains under single control, allowing it to make a mating move. To be honest, I dislike symmetrical positions, but sometimes this complicates the solver's life, forcing him to choose one of the equivalent extensions.

- 1.♞b6 ? [2.♞b4 A #] 1...♔xa2 a 2.♞c3 B # 1...♔c2 2.♞xb3# 1...♞a7,c7 2.♔xf7# but 1...♞a6 !
1.♞e3 ! [2.♞c3 B #] 1...♔xa2 a 2.♞b4 A # 1...♔c2/♞f4 2.♞xb3/♔xf7#

2nd Commendation: 2949 - Janos Csak

The two solutions are combined with the destruction of the Q/P battery followed by an Excelsior, with promotion to a minor piece. Directly in front of the provocative check, the newly appeared figure performs various functions. In the first twin, this is the pickup of the b2 square, and in the second, the pinning of Ba3.

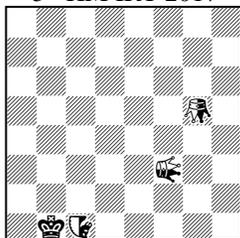
- a) 1.♔xe2 2.♔xe8 3.bxa3 4.a4 5.a5 6.a6 7.a7 8.a8=♞ 9.♞b6 10.♞xc4 11.♔a4 + ♞xa4 #
 b) 1.♔xd1 2.b4 3.b5 4.b6 5.b7 6.b8=♞ 7.♞xb1 8.♞b4 9.♞xc4 10.♞a4 11.♔c2 + ♞xc2 #

3rd Commendation: 2945 - Raffi Ruppin

The main plan does not work because after the capture of the b2 pawn, the black bishop controls the field of threat from its field of rebirth. By simple maneuvers, white gets rid of the interfering pawn, and passes the main plan Sg6 ! But now there is Bxe5 (Bf8) - the bishop again guards the threat square. But as the e5 field was freed it becomes possible to play 6.Se5 with a mate.

- 1.♞g6? (2.♞e7#) ♞xb2(♞f8)!
1.b4 ! [2.b5#] 1...♞a6 2.b5 + ♞xb5[b♞b5→c8] 3.b4 [4.b5#] 3...♞a6 4.b5+ ♞xb5[b♞b5→c8]
 5.♞g6 [6.♞e7#] 5...♞xe5[b♞e5→f8] 6.♞e5#

Michael Grushko
5th HM IRT 2017



Ser-H#4 0+3+1

b) ♞b1→g2

GhostChess

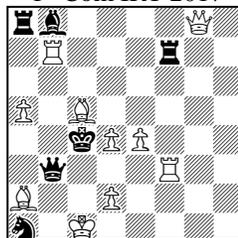
PhantomChess

Neutral: Lion ♞,

nightrider ♞,

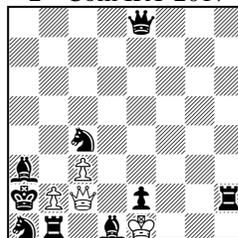
Grasshopper ♞

Eugene Rosner
1st Com IRT 2017



#2v AMU 10+6

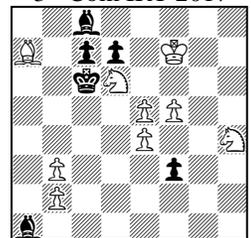
Janos Csak
2nd Com IRT 2017



Ser-S#11 4+9

b) ♞e8→d7

Raffi Ruppin
3rd Com IRT 2017



#6 AntiCirce 9+6

4th Commendation: 2946 - Menachem Witztum

ODT with alternating moves of blacks and mates with a pin of one of the black rooks. Every half-move uses Circe features. Moreover, all circe-captures make sense: 1-pinning of a black piece, 2-preliminary overlapping of a black rook, 3-transfer of a matting figure, 4-excuse for taking a black knight on the first move.

1. ♖xg4[+w♙f1] hxg4[+b♗g8] 2. ♖xe3 [+w♖a1] ♖xa5[+b♖h8] #
 1. ♖xe3[+w♖a1] fxe3[+b♖b8] 2. ♖xg4 [+w♙f1] ♗xb5[+b♖a8] #

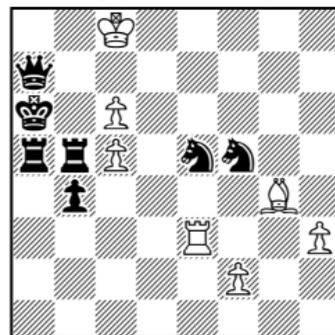
5th Commendation: 3053 - Ivan Skoba

The most interesting thing in this problem is that while the black king is busy circumnavigating the world, only the rook can move for White. If we make even one move with the f2 pawn, then after taking the rook we will not have time to activate any of the remaining white pieces - white stalemate. If the f2 pawn is not touched for the time being, then the ball of white pieces is successfully untied, and the black king and the black-square white bishop are moving thoughtlessly towards the mate on the b8-h2 diagonal.

1... ♖a4 2. ♖b2 ♖a3 3. ♖c1 ♖a4 4. ♖d2 ♖a3 5. ♖e1 ♖a4 6. ♖f1 ♖a3 7. ♖g1 ♖a4 8. ♖h2 ♖a3 ... 15. ♖f7 ♖a4 16. ♖f6 ♖a3 ... 21. ♖xa7 ♖a4 22. ♖b7 ♖a3 23. ♖c7 ♖a4 ... 28. ♖g8 ♖a3 29. ♖h7 ♖a4 ... 34. ♖h2 ♖a3... 40. ♖b2 ♖a3 41. ♖xa3 f3 42. ♖xa2 f4 43. ♖xb3 f5 44. ♖a4 f6 45. ♖xb5 f7 46. ♖a6 b5+ 47. ♖a7 ♗b4 48. ♖b7 ♗a3 49. ♖c7 ♗c1 50. ♖d6 ♗f4#

Menachem Witztum

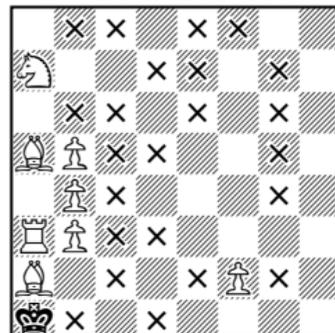
4th Com IRT 2017



H#2 Circe 2 sol. 7+7

Ivan Skoba

5th Com IRT 2017



H#49.5 x = hole 8+1