

Israel Ring Tourney Award: Fairies - 2012

Judge: IGM Petko Petkov, International FIDE Judge, Sofia, April 15, 2015

During 2012 there were 56 fairy problems published in Variantim, many of them composed by world famous masters! The high class of this tournament confirms a good Israeli tradition – Variantim is one of the best problem-magazines in the world! For me it was a pleasure to award such a competition, although it was not easy to determine the order of the awarded problems.

I propose the following ranking:

1st Prize: Var. 2228 Juraj Lörinc

A very interesting thematic play in "two main stages": in the first white forms a direct B/N battery; in the second - the B/N battery plays and forms a B/G anti-battery! There are a lot of other nice thematic elements: unpins of Nf6, double black blocks, model-mates after double checks!

1. ♖b5 ♘d4 2. ♜a6 ♞h2 3. ♜hc4 ♘b6♯

1. ♖b3 ♘c5 2. ♜a2 ♞d7 3. ♜cc4 ♘b4♯

2-3rd Prize: Var. 2307 Semion Shifrin

One graceful problem – Meredith on the Shedy cycle theme ! The beautiful key move reinforces the positive effect of the complex. I believe that such super-economical "cyclone problems" are an excellent advertisement of this thematic style!

1. ♘e8 ? (2. ♘h8 A #)

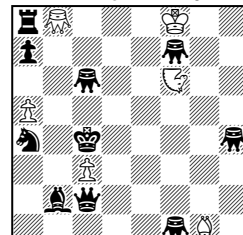
1... ♖e4 a 2. ♖ef6 B # 1... ♞d3 b + 2. ♖f6 C #
but 1... VAa4 !

1. ♖e6 ! (2. ♖ef6 B #)

1... ♖e4+ a 2. ♖f6 C # 1... ♞d3 b 2. ♘h8 A #

Juraj Lörinc

1st Prize IRT 2012



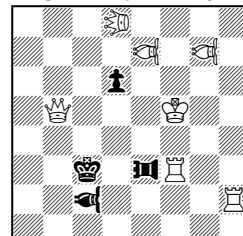
H#3 2.1.1.1 6+10

Grasshopper ♘

Nightrider ♞

Semion Shifrin

2-3rd Prize IRT 2012



#2 AMU 7+4

Pao ♞, Vao ♖, Leo ♘

2-3rd Prize: Var. 2276 Vaclav Kotesovec

The most paradoxical problem in the tournament, which presents fourfold Lacny theme in a special form of twins with a change of condition! This manner in the field of cyclic change of mates is probably "a patent" of Vaclav Kotesovec; similar works by Vaclav are also known from earlier periods. Still, each new composition meet with such complex is interesting although here on the board there are 3 wS and 3 bS. Such "hyper sets" should be seen as a normal feature in fairy chess. I am convinced that in the near future they will be officially recognized in all other genres of composition.

- a) 1. ♖c5! zz 1... ♗d4 a/d6 b/ ♗e7 c/e3 d 2. ♗exg3 A/ ♗xg7 B/ ♗xf6 C/2. ♗fxg3 D #
- b) 1. ♖h1! zz 1... ♗d4(w) a/d6(w) b/ ♗e7(w) c/e3(w) d 2. ♗xg7 B/ ♗xf6 C/ ♗fxg3 D/ ♗exg3 A #

4th Prize: Var. 2262 Torsten Linß, Sven Trommler, Franz Pachtl

This non-standard creation of anti-batteries & direct batteries, combined with other difficult and interesting thematic elements, deserves a prize. But in my opinion the construction here seems not quite aesthetic.

- 1. ♖c8 ♖d7 + 2. ♗f5 ♖e4 (♗e4?) 3. ♗d3 ♖xd2 #
- 1. ♖d8 ♗d7 + 2. ♖d4 ♗e4 (♖e4?) 3. ♗g4 ♗xh3 #

5th Prize: Var. 2222 Julia Vysotska

Formation of batteries with Chameleon as a forward piece, here the theme is richly presented in combination with double Annihilation of pawns f3/f6, line opening after moves of the white King, & dual-avoidance. The finals are nice model-mates with double-checks. Interesting is that in both solutions the black Chameleon (R) realizes a full cycle of "Chameleon - changes": bCR- bCQ- wCS-bCB-wCR and then > wCQ#. A small correction of the published solution and comment: the dual-avoidance-motives here are 1...Kg5! not 1...Kg6? (sol 1) and 1...Kg6! not 1...Kg5? (sol 2).

- 1. ♖a1=♗ ♖g5 (♖g6?) 2. ♗xf6=♗ ♗xh5=♗ 3. ♗xf3=♖ ♖d3=♗ #
- 1. ♖d1=♗ ♖g6 (♖g5?) 2. ♗xf3=♗ ♗xh4=♗ 3. ♗xf6=♖ ♖a6=♗ #

Sp. Prize : Var. 2322 Michael Grushko

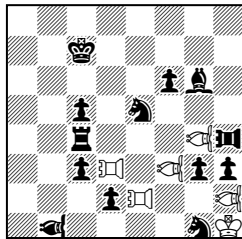
Only 3 nP on the board, 4 (!) fairy conditions and long play in 6.5 moves in a HS# with 2 solutions with fancy echo-finals! Probably at present only Michael Grushko can compose such problems which for now do not have many "friends" among the judges (or/plus solvers) in fairy composition. But I think this style is undeservedly underrated due to the complex and long play (Please note that Grushko composes and checks only according to Popeye!). On that basis, I have decided to award with a special prize also the next problem!

- 1... ♗f5 2. ♗e4 ♗xe4-e5=♗ 3. ♗e5-g6=♗ [+ ♗g5] ♗xf5-f6=♗ 4. ♗xf6-e8=♗ [+ ♗d8] ♗d6 [+ ♗f4]
- 5. ♗xd6-d5=♗ ♗xd5-e4=♗ [+ ♗c6] 6. ♗c7 [+ ♗d6] ♗xd6-g3=♗ 7. n♗xe4-h1=♗ [+ ♗e4][+ ♖f3] + ♖xe4-a8[+ ♖f3]#
- 1... ♗f7 2. ♗e4 ♗xe4-e5=♗ 3. ♗xf7-f5=♗ [+ ♗f4] n♗f5-e4=♗ [+ ♗e6] 4. ♗f5 ♗xe4-g5=♗ 5. ♗xe6-e5=♗ [+ ♗c4] ♗xe5-d4=♗ [+ ♗f6] 6. ♗f7 [+ ♗e6] ♗xe6-b3=♗ 7. ♗xd4-a1=♗ [+ ♗d4][+ ♖c3] + ♖xd4-h8[+ w♖c3]#

T. Linß S. Trommler

F. Pachtl

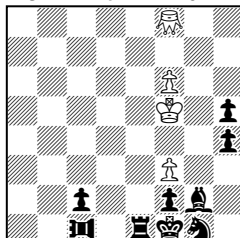
4th Prize IRT 2012



H#3 2.1.1.. 6+13
vao ♗ pao ♖

Julia Vysotska

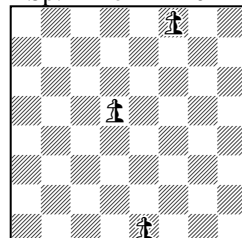
5th Prize IRT 2012



H#3 2 sol 4+9
AndernachChess
Chameleon ♗ GrassHop. ♗

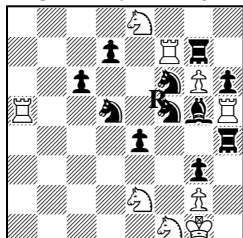
Michael Grushko

Sp. Prize IRT 2012



HS#6.5 2.1.1.. 0+0+3
EinsteinChess Take&Make
ParrainCirce Rep.Chess

Vaclav Kotesovec
2-3rd Prize IRT 2012



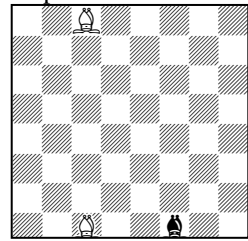
#2 a) orthodox 9+11
b) Anti-Andernach
Royal ♗ Rookhopper ♗

Sp. Prize: Var. 2264 Michael Grushko

Here we see on the board only 3 Bishops! It is curious that in this long "three-men" two phases exist: set-play and real play with quite different motives in solutions.

Set: 2. ♖h3=♘ ♘h3=♗ [+w♟f1] 3. ♙e3=♘ ♗xe3=♚ [+w♟h3] 4. ♘e3=♙ [+b♟f1] ♚e1=♗ 5. ♟f2=♙ Rxe3=♚ [+w♙e1] 6. ♟e3=♙ [+b♟f2] ♚e1 [+w♟f2] 7. ♙xe1=♗ [+b♟f2] ♚h2=♗ 8. ♟g2=♙ [+b♟h1]+ ♗xg2=♚ [+w♟h2][+w♟f1]#
 1... ♖h3=♘ 2. ♙f4=♘ ♘xf4=♙ [+w♟h3] 3. ♘xf4=♙ [+b♟h3] ♙xc8=♗ [+w♟h3] 4. ♙xc8=♗ [+b♟h3] ♗g3=♙ 5. ♗d8=♙ ♘xf4=♗ [+w♙g3] 6. ♙h4=♘ ♗fxh4=♚ [+w♟f4] 7. ♙xh4=♗ [+b♟g3] ♚g1=♗ 8. ♟g2=♙ [+b♟h1]+ ♗xg2=♚ [+w♙g1][+w♟h3] #

Michael Grushko
Sp. Prize IRT 2012



HS#7.5* 2+1
EinsteinChess PWC
RepublicanChess

1st Hon Mention: Var. 2305 Hubert Gockel

The authors' comment: "Reciprocal changes after consecutive zugzwang and a transferred mate!" Without doubts it is a very difficult and interesting thematic content which excellently demonstrates the specifics of this fairy-genre! But unfortunately here the construction is very heavy.

1. ♘e2! zz 1... ♙xb3 2. ♘xb3 c3 a/cxb3 b 3. ♙xd3 A/♘c3 B # 2... ♙xb4 3. ♚a7#
 1... ♙xb4 2. ♘xb4 c3 a/cxb3 b 3. ♘c3 B/♙xd3 A # 2... ♙xb3 3. ♚a7#
 (1...h6, ♘h~ 2. ♟g3# 1...c3, cxb3 2. ♘(x)c3#)

2nd Hon Mention: Var. 2312 Diyan Kostadinov

Interesting finals (with model-stalemates!) after active play of both Kings and two white under-promotions! The beauty of the condition Kobul Kings here is nicely demonstrated. But in my opinion a small minus of the problem is the fact that in both phases the Kings (though in different, reciprocal phases) play only on a5 and a8.

1. ♙a5 ♚xb3 2. ♘c7 a8=♘+ 3. ♙Kxa8 ♘c7xa5= 1. ♘a5 ♚xd2 2. ♙c6 a8=♙+ 3. ♙Kxa8 B♚xa5=

3rd Hon Mention: Var. 2265 Julia Vysotska

Specific Indian theme with use of three neutral pieces: Locust and both N! Reciprocal self-pins of nNs are a nice motive, though this element is well known. But here the play of the neutral trio seems interesting and fresh!

1. ♗a2 ♚xa2-a1 2. ♙g5 ♙a2+ 3. ♚a5 ♙xc6#
 1. ♗f2 ♚xf2-g1 2. ♙c8 ♙f2 3. ♚c5 ♙xd3#

4th Hon Mention: Var. 2274 - Harald Grubert

Captures-mate cycle! A very difficult idea, using two extreme dynamic conditions: Super-Circe and Take&Make! Also the white material is rather non-standard. Such a problem, "Tanagra", deserves a good honors but according to me, in this case, no more than Hon.Men. Unfortunately, thematically, the play is not completely analogous and seems somewhat mechanical.

a) 1. ♚xf5-f4 [+♙h7] ♚f5+ 2. ♚xf5-h8 [+♚e7] ♚f7# b) 1. ♚xe5-f4 [+♙b1] ♚g3 2. ♚xf5-c1 [+♙b3] ♚a2#
 c) 1. ♚xd4-e6 [+♚f8] ♙g7+ 2. ♚xe5-h6 [+♙h5] ♙f7#

Hubert Gockel
1st HM IRT 2012

Diyan Kostadinov
2nd HM IRT 2012

Julia Vysotska
3rd HM IRT 2012

Harald Grubert
4th HM IRT 2012

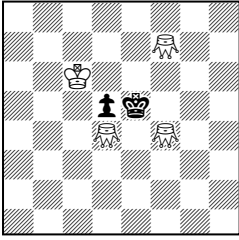
#3 AnnanChess 9+13

H#3 2.1.1... 4+3
Kobul Kings

H#3 2.1.1.. 1+10+3
Neutral locust ♚
Neutral nightrider ♙

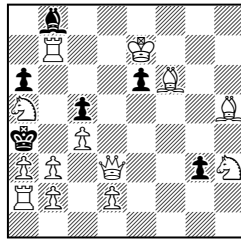
H#2 b) ♚f6→e1 4+1
c) ♚f6→h8
SuperCirce Take&Make
Moose ♚ Eagle ♙ Sparrow ♘

M. Grushko & S. Shifrin
5th HM IRT 2012



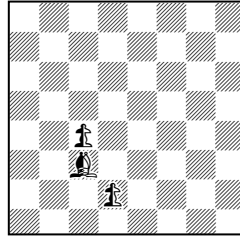
H=3.5 G.hoppers ♘ 4+2
3.1.1... ParrainCirce

Raffi Ruppin
Com IRT 2012



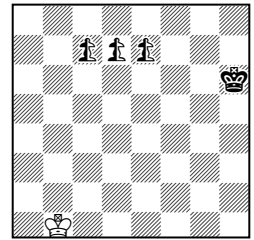
S#8 AntiCirce 13+6

M. Grushko H. Grubert
Com IRT 2012



HS#7 Duplex 0+0+3
Republ.Chess Einst.Chess
ParrainCirce

Juraj Lörinc
Com IRT 2012



#5 b) ♖→d3 1+3+1
c) ♗→e2
Circe maximumer

5th Hon Mention: Var. 2272 Michael Grushko & Semion Shifrin

A nice miniature which demonstrates in learning style the "potential power" of the condition Circe Parrain. We see here three beautiful fairy stalemates finals (with a "Hidden black pawn") but the play in all phases is not identical. A better version here is obviously impossible.

1... ♗fd6 2. ♖f6 ♗xd5 3. ♖g6 (+♗e5) ♗h5 4. ♖f5 ♗xe5 =

1... ♗fc4 2. ♖f5 ♗d6 3. ♖f6 ♗f5 4. ♖e5 ♗xd5 = 1... ♗f6 2. ♖e6 ♗xd5 3. ♖e7 (+♗d6) ♗c7 4. ♖e6 ♗xd6 =

Commendations (without rank and comments):

Var. 2261 Raffi Ruppin 1. ♖a1+ ♖b4 2. ♗h1+ ♖b5 3. ♗b1+ ♖c6 4. ♗d1+ ♖d5 5. ♗c1+ ♖e5
6. ♗g1+ ♖f4 7. ♗f1+ ♖g4 8. ♗e1+ ♖h5(♗e8)#

Var. 2226 Michael Grushko Harald Grubert 1. ♗d4 ♗xd4=♗ 2. ♗c5 [+♗d5] ♗c4 3. ♗xc4=♗
♗d4 [+♗c3] 4. ♗xd4=♗ ♗b3=♗ [+♗c3] 5. ♗xb3=♗ ♗c2 [+♗b2] 6. ♗xc2=♗ ♗xc2=♗ [+♗d2]
7. ♗d4 [+♗c4][+♖c1]+ ♗xc4[+♖c3]# 1. ♗xd2=♗ ♗c5 [+♗d3] 2. ♗c4 ♗xd3=♗ 3. ♗xd3=♗
[+♗e2] ♗xd3=♗ [+♗c4] 4. ♗c5=♗ [+♗d4] ♗xc5=♗ 5. ♗e6=♗ [+♗d7] ♗e7 6. ♗xe7=♗ ♗xe7=♗
[+♗f7] 7. ♗f5 [+♗e5][+♖e8]+ ♗xe5[+♖e6]#

Var. 2214 Juraj Lörinc a) 1.c8=♗! ♗c2+ 2. ♗c6+ ♗g2 3.d8=♗ ♗a8 4. ♗f8 ♗g2 5.exf8=♗(♗h8) #
b) 1.e8=♗! ♗e1+ 2. ♗g3+ ♗g8 3.c8=♗ ♗a2+ 4. ♗e2+ ♗e8 5.d8=♗#
c) 1.c8=♗! ♗c1+ 2. ♗a2 ♗h6 3.d8=♗ ♗c1 4. ♗f1+ ♗f8 5.e8=♗#

Var. 2225 Pierre Tritten

1.f5 Kxd8-f8 2.Kxe5-f6 ♗d6 # 1. ♗d6 Kxd6-h6 2.Kxf3-h4 ♗f6 # 1. ♗b8 Kxb8-b1 2.Kxd3-b3 ♗d2 #

Var. 2316 Ofer Comay

a) 1... ♗f2 2. ♗g3 ♗h4 3. ♗e3 ♗f4#
b) 1... ♗b3 2. ♗b6 ♗b7 3. ♗d4 ♗d5#

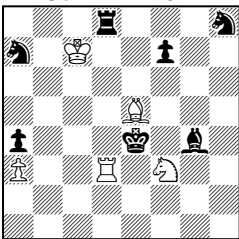
Var. 2266 Pierre Tritten

1. ♖f7 2. ♖xe6 3. ♖f7 4. ♖g8 5. ♖h8 ♗h6#
1. ♖xf8 2. ♖g7 3. ♖h6 4. ♖g5 5. ♖g4 ♗e5#

Var. 2267 Geoff Foster

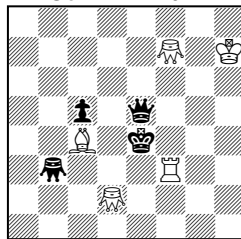
1... ♖c3 2. ♖g1=♗ ♖b4 3. ♗e1 ♖g8=♗+ 4. ♗e6 ♗xe6 [+♗d1]#
1... ♖c5 2. ♖g8=♗ ♖b4 3. ♗g4 [+♗h1=♗]+ ♖b3 4. ♗e4 ♗xe4 [+♗d8]#

Pierre Tritten
Com IRT 2012



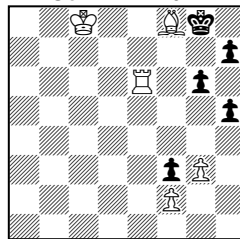
H#2 3.1.1.1 5+7
Take&MakeChess

Ofer Comay
Com IRT 2012



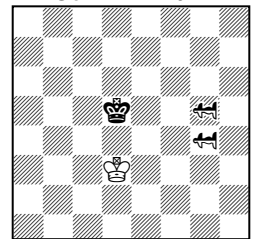
H#2.5 b) ♗b3→f2 5+4
Grasshoppers ♗♗

Pierre Tritten
Com IRT 2012



SH#5 2.1.1.. 5+5
KoBul Kings

Geoff Foster
Com IRT 2012



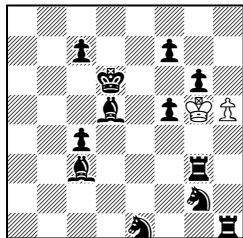
H#3.5 Duplex 1+1+2
CouscousCirce
Superpawns

Var. 2215 Themis Argirakopoulos 1.♔h6 2.♔h7 3.♔g8 4.♔f8 5.♔e8 6.♔d8 7.♔c8 8.♔b8
 9.♔a7 10.♔a6 11.♔b5 12.♔a4 13.♔a3 14.♔a2 15.♔b1 16.♔c1 17.♔d1 18.♔e2 19.♔f2 20.♔xg3
 21.♔f2 22.♔e2 23.♔d1 24.♔c1 25.♔b1 26.♔a2 27.♔a3 28.♔a4 29.♔b5 30.♔a6 31.♔a7 32.♔b8
 33.♔c8 34.♔d8 35.♔e8 36.♔f8 37.♔g8 38.♔h7 39.♔h6 40.♔g5 41.h6 42.h7 43.h8=♔ xz

Var. 2271 Jan Golha

1.♙xf4-f3 2.♙xd5-b4 (+w♖c2) 3.♙d1 (+w♗b3) 4.♙xb3-a1 5.♙xc2-c1 (+w♗a3)
 6.♙xa3-b1 (+w♖b2) ♖c2 (+w♗b3)#
 1.♙xf4-c4 2.♙xd5-f6 (+w♖g4) 3.♙e6 (+w♗f7) 4.♙xf7-h8 5.♙xg4-g5 (+w♗h6)
 6.♙xh6-g8 (+w♖g7) ♖f7 (+w♗g6)#

Themis Argirakopoulos
Com IRT 2012



Ser-xz!43 2+12

Jan Golha
Com IRT 2012



Sh#6 2.1.1... 2+2

Parrain Circe
Take&Make Chess