Franz Pachl–70 Jubilee Tournament, equal 229th thematic tourney of Schwalbe

Preface by Tournament director

On the occasion of Franz Pachl's 70th birthday on January 8th 2021 the *Schwalbe* announced a theme tournament.
Required were **helpselfmates in 2-4 moves**, where the mate move is performed by a **neutral** stone (not by a semi-neutral one!). Fairytale stones and conditions were allowed. Twins (also zeroposition) and multiple solutions were allowed, but each phase had to be thematic.
Franz Pachl took the task of the judge. The announcement was published in the October 2019 issue (299). Until the closing date of July 8th 2020 70 problems were submitted by 31 authors from 14 countries:
Jurij W. Arefjew (70), Arnold Beine (55*), Michael Barth (14*,30*,31,32,33*), Dirk Borst (59,60), Michel Caillaud (66,67), Vlaicu Crisan (49), Udo Degener (42), Stephan Dietrich (1,2,3,5,15), Wolfgang Erben (25,26,27,28,38,39,44,45,54), Armin Geister (34), Theodoros Giakatis (40*,41*,43*,48*), Hubert Gockel (61,62,63,64), Mikael Grönroos (24), Maryan Kerhuel (51), Igor Kochulov (22), Marjan Kovačević (68*), Ralf Krätschmer (4*,6*,9), Rainer Kuhn (21,53), Sébastien Luce (56), Thomas Maeder (23), Karol Mlynka (7,8,52), Pjotr Moldowjanu (29,35,36,37,46,47,55*), Cornel Pacurar (69), Kostas Prentos (40*,41*,43*,48*), Manfred Rittirsch (57,58), Gerard Smits (10,11,12,13), Viktor Syzonenko (65), Pierre Tritten (50), Sven Trommler (14*,16,17,18,19,20,30*,33*), Julia Vysotska (68*), Dieter Werner (4*,6*), (*=Joint task).

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the participants, as well as to the judge Franz Pachl for the rapid preparation of the award. I send my warmest congratulations to the authors of the excellent tasks. The unawarded problems are available to the participants again. After the objection period of three months, the prize money, which has been increased to 300 € by another donor, will be paid out to the prize winners. Non-*Schwalbe* members please contact the treasurer for the bank details.

Rainer Kuhn

Award from 229th thematic tourney of Schwalbe

Award by Franz Pachl (Ludwigshafen)

I can hardly believe that I am now 70 years old. I remember well when I created the brochure for the tournament for my 60th birthday. 10 years have passed since then and it seems to me that the older you get, the faster the time flies. On July 8th, 2020, exactly half a year before my birthday, was the deadline for the entries and a few days later tournament director Rainer Kuhn sent me exactly 70!! problems (by chance or a fortunate foreordination of the chess goddess Caissa?) in anonymous form, which was divided into 26 problems without and 44 with fairy conditions. From the beginning I played with the idea of forming these two groups and I was able to implement it. At first I chose the 26 problems in Group A and started working. After reviewing this section, I was more than satisfied. The theme was well chosen and inspired the authors to perform extraordinarily well. When I looked at the 44 problems in Group B, I could hardly curb on my enthusiasm for the fullness of great ideas that were presented to me. I had to deal with 19 different conditions from Annanchess to Wormhole and 29 different fairy pieces from Alfil to Zebu. I was secretly hoping that I would find cyclical helpselfmates as well as two-phase harmonic and I was not disappointed. I have never given so many distinctions as a percentage, because just over 50% of the entries can be found in the award, whereby the ranking in the first 7 places in section B was quite difficult. Each of these problems could have achieved 1st place in another tournament. There are 17 prizes, 11 honorable mentions and 10 commendations, the top problems show fantastic problem art at the highest level. Enough praises, let the problems speak for themselves.

In advance, comments on some problems that did not make it into the award.

No. 4: In the first solution, the neutral Rook cannot remove the double checkmate by capturing the neutral Bishop because of illegal selfcheck. It would have been enough for a distinction if this effect would also appear in the second solution, but unfortunately this does not give the scheme away.

No. 13: Shows the same as No. 12 and is probably by the same author who added a fourth phase and imposed the decision on which work I would prefer. I know very well how difficult it is to create a fourfold cycle. For this top performance, the author had to accept some disadvantages compared to No. 12. Twin formation with moving the white Rook, no promotions, the wBa8 is only on the board to be captured, and a neutral Nightrider that only guarded squares. The biggest weakness for me is the bSc1, which is an idle piece in two phases. The threefold cycle at No. 12, however, is presented flawlessly, which is why my decision is in his favor.

No. 24: Duplex with reciprocal captures neutral Rook/neutral Bishop in the mating move. Because of the repetitive moves, even if they are performed by white and black, it looks boring to me.

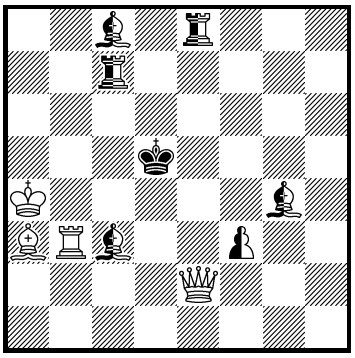
No. 46: For these three Moose mates lying side by side, the material is enormous and the solutions are very mechanical and not very varied. The nSa4 can also be black.

No. 47: Has a phase more than No. 46 and the same disadvantages, an additional point of criticism is the black 1:5-Knight.

No. 55: So that the first two moves cannot be swapped in the b) solution, the author chose the cheapest method and put the wK in check. It's too bad about the problem with promotion changes and reciprocal dual avoidance in the mating move.

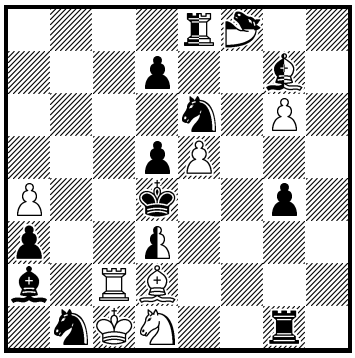
Section A: Helpselfmates without fairy condition

No. 40 **Kostas Prentos**
Theodoros Giakatis
1st Prize



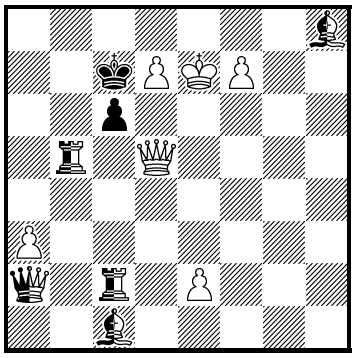
hs#3 2;1.1;... (4+1+6)

No. 60 **Dirk Borst**
2nd Prize



hs#3,5 2;1.1;.. (7+9+4)
🢔= Rose

No. 41 **Kostas Prentos**
Theodoros Giakatis
3rd Prize



hs#2,5 (6+2+5)
b) ♟c6→c4

1st Prize No. 40: (70€) by Kostas Prentos and Theodoros Giakatis
I) 1.nRc6 nBcd7 2.nB:f3+ nRe4+ 3.Qc4+ nRc:c4#
II) 1.nBa6 nRa7 2.nRd8+ nBd7+ 3.Qb5+ nBa:b5#
The two reciprocal neutral batteries shine through perfect interaction. After the battery is aimed at the white King, there are four consecutive checks installing the second battery towards the black King, then the white Queen forces a double checkmate. White cannot cancel this by taking back the last move, because the front piece of the battery is pinned by the front piece of the other battery. All in all, this results in two fabulously harmonizing solutions without an additional piece, which only prevents cooks.

2nd Prize No. 60: (50€) by Dirk Borst
I) 1.– nRc8 2.Rc5 S:c5 3.Bb4 nROh3 4.B:c5+ nR:c5#/nRO:c5#
II) 1.– nBh6 2.Bf4 S:f4 3.Rf2 nROa6 4.R:f4+ nB:f4#/nRO:f4#
The double mates are thematically refreshing, funny and above all super original. The neutral Rose and the neutral line-piece can neither capture each other in the mate-position nor can they move away

because they are pinned by the other piece. The author has managed to incorporate this astonishing slight of hand into two wonderful solutions that work in perfect harmony. Since the final play is a S#1, the double mating moves are not duals, but variants..

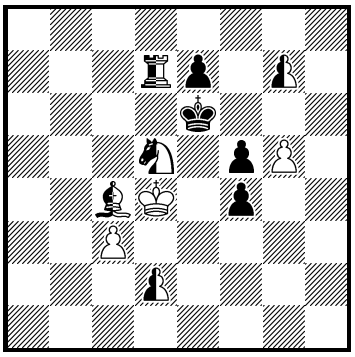
3rd Prize No. 41: (30€) by Kostas Prentos and Theodoros Giakatis

a) 1.– nB:a3+ 2.nRcc5 nQ:e2+ 3.Qe5+ nR:e5#

b) 1.– nR:e2+ 2.nBe3 nQ:a3+ 3.Qc5+ nB:c5#

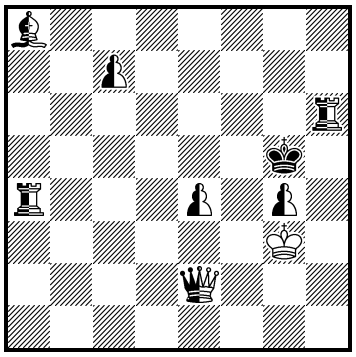
Reciprocal battery formation with double checkmate, whereby the front piece cannot move back because of pinning as in No. 40. A neutral Queen, whose check the white Queen counters with a counter check and forces the battery to fire, takes over the pinning function. The fact that white Pawns are captured to determine the moves is as easy as the fact that the Rook on b5 could be white.

No. 66 Michel Caillaud
4th Prize



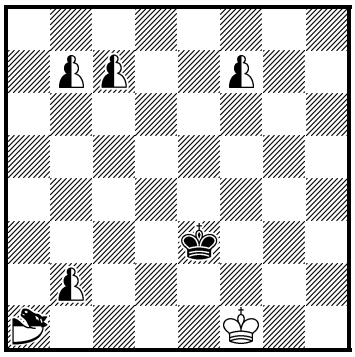
hs#3 duplex (3+4+5)

No. 10 Gerard Smits
5th Prize



hs#4 (1+1+7)
b) ♖ h6 → h7

No. 67 Michel Caillaud
6th Prize



hs#4 (1+1+5)
🐓=Rose

4th Prize: No. 66 by Michel Caillaud

White to play: 1.nPg8=nR nPd1=nQ+ 2.nQb3 nRgd8 3.nB:d5+ nR:d5#

Black to play: 1.nPd1=nB nPg8=nQ+ 2.nQd8 nBdb3 3.nR:d5+ nB:d5#

I was surprised to find two duplex problems among the submissions, and this one is beautiful. It begins with promotions, with the mating side having to promote into "stronger" and the other side into "weaker" pieces. The two solutions show the best diagonal/orthogonal strategy, as I appreciate it. I welcome the intention of the author, who has only set up thematic neutral officers, since a nBg5 could save pawns e7, g5 and f4.

5th Prize: No. 10 by Gerad Smits

a) 1.nPc8=nB nQe1+ 2.Kg2 Kf4 3.nBcb7 Ke5 4.nR:e4+ nB:e4#

b) 1.nPc8=nR Kg6 2.g5 nQd3+ 3.Kg4 nRcc4 4.nB:e4+ nR:e4#

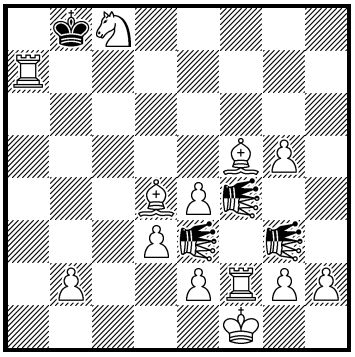
Here, too, the neutral mating piece is moving into a pin. The two Kings make room for each other while the neutral Queen spins the web for the mate. With the promotions on c8 and the reciprocal captures from neutral Rook/neutral Bishop to e4, it is always worthy of a prize for me. Although the nPe4 could be black, I also would have placed only neutral pieces, that just looks nicer.

6th Prize: No. 67 by Michel Caillaud

1.nPb8=nR nRd8 2.nPf8=nB nRd2 3.nBd6 nPb1=nRO 4.nPc8=nRO+ nROc:d6#

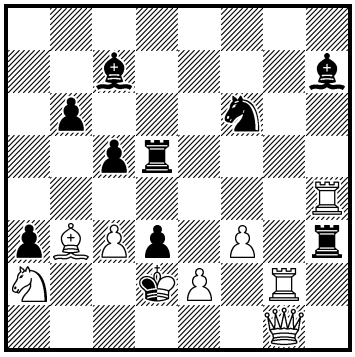
A magical miniature with promotion puzzle. It is astonishing that the promoted Rose on c8 can only capture the nBd6 and you have to look closely at why the neutral Rose cannot leave this square at the end.

No. 65 Viktor Syzonenko
1st Honourable Mention



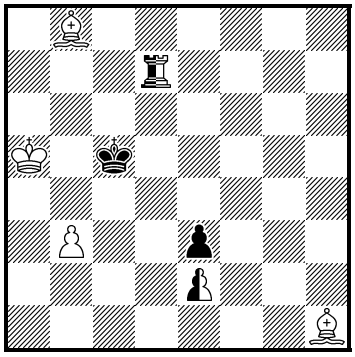
hs#2 3;1.1;.. (13+1+3)
=Locust

No. 59 Dirk Borst
2nd Honourable Mention



hs#2,5 2;1.1;.. (8+9+1)
b) ♙f3 = ♟f3

No. 34 Armin Geister
3rd Honourable Mention



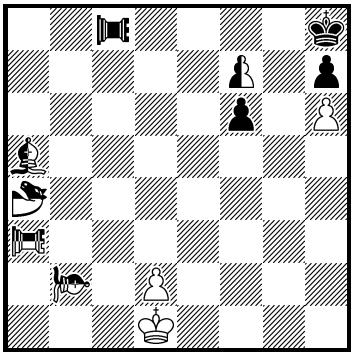
hs#3 2;1.1;... (4+2+2)

1st Honourable Mention: No. 65 by Viktor Syzonenko
I) 1.nLO:g3-h3 nLO:g5-h6 2.nLO:h6-h7 nLO:h2-h1#
II) 1.nLO:f4-e5 nLO:d4-c5 2.nLO:c5-b5 nLO:b2-b1#
III) 1.nLO:e3-d2 nLO:d3-c3 2.nLO:c3-b4 nLO:b2-b1#
A cycle in which each of the three neutral Locusts eliminates the other two so that a Zugzwang mate is possible on the baseline. It is noticeable that a7 is doubly guarded, but with a wPd4 instead of a Bishop the problem would be cooked, and furthermore a white Pawn would be missing to explain the promoted Bishop on f5.

2nd Honourable Mention: No. 59 by Dirk Borst
a) 1.– b5 2.Sc1 Ba5 3.e4+ nK:c3#
1.– R:h4 2.Rf2 Bf4+ 3.e3+ nK:e3#
b) 1.– Rd4 2.Qf2 Sd5 3.e:d3+ nK:d3#
1.– Rf5 2.Qe1+ nKe3 3.e:f3+ nK:f3#
The only problem where the mating move is carried out by a neutral King. When paired with an albino, this is highly original and would normally have ended up high up in the award. In terms of construction, however, the work does not convince me, since at least two black officers stand around uselessly in every phase, very unfortunately.

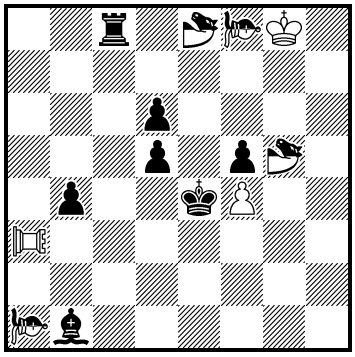
3rd Honourable Mention: No. 34 by Armin Geister
I) 1.Ba8 nPe1=nQ+ 2.nQh1 nQ:a8+ 3.Ba7+ nR:a7#
II) 1.Be5 nPe1=nR 2.Bb2 nRa1+ 3.Ba3+ nR:a3#
The problem shows two ways in which the move of the neutral piece that gives check can fail. In the first solution, which is more spectacular due to the long sacrificial Bristol move of wBh1, the motif is pinning and in the second solution block, in addition there are different promotions of the neutral Pawn.

No. 63 Hubert Gockel
1st Commendation



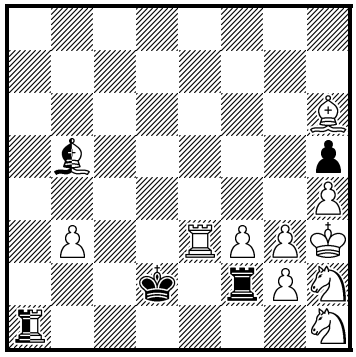
hs#2 (3+4+5)
b) ♔d1 →d6
♘=Loco ♖, ♖=Faro
♙=Saltador

No. 62 Hubert Gockel
2nd Commendation



hs#2.5 (3+7+4)
b) ♖c8 →b8
♘=Loco ♖=Faro
♙=Saltador

No. 23 Thomas Maeder
3rd Commendation



hs#3,5 b) ♗f2 (10+3+2)

1st Commendation: No. 63 by Hubert Gockel

a) 1.nBb6 nBe3 2.nFA:e3 nSA:b2#

b) 1.nBd8 nBb6 2.nSA:b6 nLO:a3#

Neutral Argentineans are ideal for mating because they cannot move away afterwards if no hurdle is available. The cyclical play of Faro, Loco and Saltador with sacrifice of the neutral Bishop to tie down the mating net is not without its charm. If the author had succeeded in incorporating a third phase with completion of the cycle, I would have awarded the problem higher.

2nd Commendation: No. 62 by Hubert Gockel

a) 1.– Bd3 2.FAf3 Bc4 3.nSA:d6+ nLO:d6#

b) 1.– b3 2.FAg3 K:f4 3.nLO:d6+ nSA:d6#

Black ensures that Faro a3 reaches its target square and that the neutral Argentinean cannot move away after the check on d6. The location of the black Rook decides whether the Loco or Saltador gives the battery mate.

3rd Commendation: No. 23 by Thomas Maeder

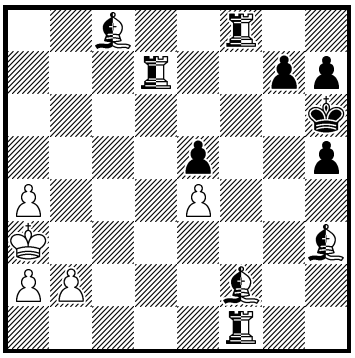
a) 1.– nRf1 2.nB:f1 Re2 3.Re4+ Kd3 4.Rc4 nB:g2#

b) 1.– nR:h1 2.nBd3 Bg1 3.R:d3+ Ke1 4.Rd2 nR:h2#

To reach the Zugzwang mate one of the two neutral pieces has to be removed and the black Rook or black Bishop has to be pinned by the other neutral. A nice idea with a massive position in the southeast..

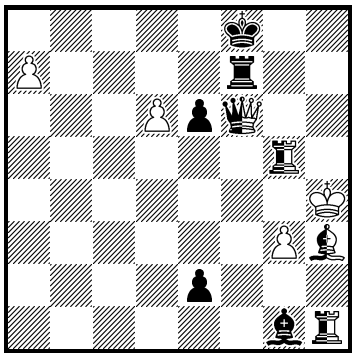
Section B: Helpselfmates with fairy condition

No. 49 **Vlaicu Crisan**
1st Prize



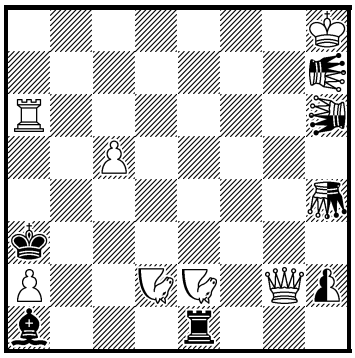
hs#3,5 2;1.1;.. (5+5+6)
take&make

No. 58 **Manfred Rittirsch**
2nd Prize



hs#2* (4+5+4)
Eiffelchess

No. 12 **Gerard Smits**
3rd Prize



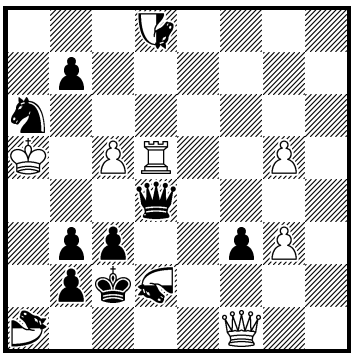
hs#3,5 3;1.1;... (7+3+4)
Marscirce
=Grasshopper
=Grasshopper-2
=Grasshopper-4
=Nightrider

1st Prize: No. 49 (70€) by Vlaicu Crisan
I) 1.- nBd4 2.nRd6+ nBce6 3.nRc8 nB:f1-f8 4.nB:c8-c1+ nR:d4-e3#
II) 1.- nRd4 2.nBe3+ nR1f4 3.nBf1 nR:c8-h3 4.nR:f1-a6+ nB:d4-d6#
A geometric take&make masterpiece with parallel movements of the neutral line-pieces (diagonal and orthogonal) in perfect harmony and precise unison. In the final, White uses double-check to force the opponent to a double checkmate, that's madness. One might think that the Wizard of Oz had a hand in it.

2nd Prize: No. 58 (50€) by Manfred Rittirsch
** 1.– e1=B 2.a8=Q+ nRa5#*
1.nRh2 e1=S 2.a8=R+ nBg2#
Mixed-color AUW in set and play plus battery mates with specific pre-disabling of the return by black promotion, function change neutral Rook/neutral Bishop (paralyzing discovery/guarding of g4). Also a masterpiece, which shows Eiffel Chess to perfection and seems to me like a slightly exhilarating Mozart sonata. A flawless problemchess gem of magical beauty, which is worth studying at any time.

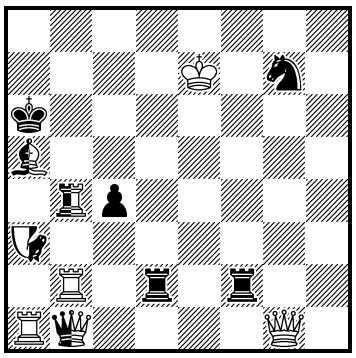
3rd Prize: No. 12 (30€) by Gerard Smits
I) 1.– nPh1=nG 2.Qb7 nGa8 3.Qc7 Bf6 4.Ra4+ nG–2a7#
II) 1.– nPh1=nG–2 2.Qc6 nG–2a8 3.Qe6 Bd4 4.Ra5+ nG–4a6#
III) 1.– nPh1=nG–4 2.Qe4 nG–4a8 3.Qb4 Bg7 4.Ra7+ nGa4#
This cycle deserves the title first-class and impresses with its uniformity. The theme fits perfectly into the time, because white and black must be careful to observe the distance rules of the different Grasshoppers. They are set up in such a way that they alternately give a check to the white King when someone leaves his place. The neutral promotions also add colour to the play. The two non-thematic Nightriders don't really fit into the picture, but I have to admit that this is an elegant solution for guarding b4 and b2.

No. 19 Sven Trommler
4th Prize



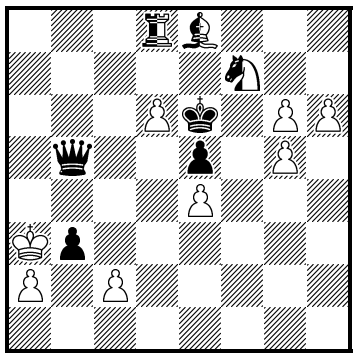
hs#2,5 3;1.1;... (6+8+3)
Interchange Circe
=Antilope =Giraffe
=Lancer

No. 68 Julia Vysotska
Marjan Kovačević
5th Prize



hs#2,5 2;1.1;.. (4+5+4)
take&make
=Nightrider

No. 18 Sven Trommler
6th Prize



hs#2,5 3;1.1;... (8+4+3)
Disparate

4th Prize No. 19 by Sven Trommler

I) 1.– Qf2 2.nGIe2 Q:e2[+nGIf2] 3.Qb1+ nGI:b1[+wQf2]#
II) 1.– Qe5 2.nLAf6 Q:f6[+nLAe5] 3.Qc1+ nLA:c1[+wQe5]#
III) 1.– Qh4 2.nANg4 Q:g4[+nANh4] 3.Qd1+ nAN:d1[+wQh4]#

Cycles are usually very popular, especially when they are presented so impressively as here. The interaction of bQd4 with the neutrals is celebrated masterfully, since it not only ensures the transport to the right square, but also guards the square that the neutral fairy piece gives up. The wQf1 comes into action in the selfmate. It guarded itself in the check and prevents the retraction of the mating move, thanks to Interchange Circe. All three neutrals involved in the cycle have a function due to the obligation to guard, another positive piece of this extraordinary problem. The fact that the bSa6 is dispensable in the 3rd solution because the black Queen happens to have an eye on b4 hardly diminishes the value of the problem due to the colossal content.

5th Prize No. 68 by Julia Vysotska and Marjan Kovačević

I) 1.– c3 2.Qg5 nB:b4-h4 3.nN:b1-e4+ nN:g5-a5#
II) 1.– Ka7 2.Qg3 nN:b1-h1 3.nB:b4-b8+ nB:g3-a3#

A take&make spectacle with two breathtaking solutions. One of two front pieces of the white/neutral half battery (neutral Nightrider/neutral Bishop) fires the battery in each solution, and then both create a new battery for a double check with role reversal of the front and rear piece plus sacrifice of the white Queen. Returning to the previous half battery line the neutral Nightrider and neutral Bishop change place. The take&make condition unfolds a powerful dynamic here.

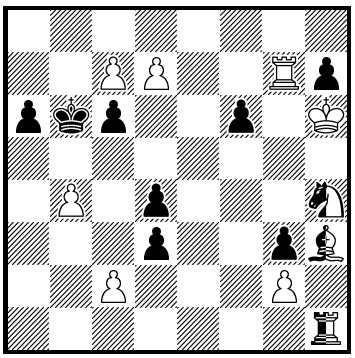
6th Prize No. 18 by Sven Trommler

I) 1.– b:a2 2.nBc6 a1=R+ 3.nRe8+ nB:e8#
II) 1.– b2 2.nRd7 b1=S+ 3.nSd8+ nR:d8#
III) 1.– b:c2 2.nSh8 c1=B+ 3.nBf7+ nS:f7#

If a neutral piece has moved, it cannot be moved by the opponent in connection with Disparate. We can admire this nice effect in this cycle presented as if all of a piece. While the bPb3 is proceeding to promote, a function change cycle of the neutral pieces takes place in the upper half of the board on narrow space with mutual cyclical captures (Bishop / Rook, Rook / Knight, Knight / Bishop) and switchback in the mating move. The construction is excellent, as all three neutrals guard squares in their passive phase.

No. 64 Hubert Gockel

7th Prize



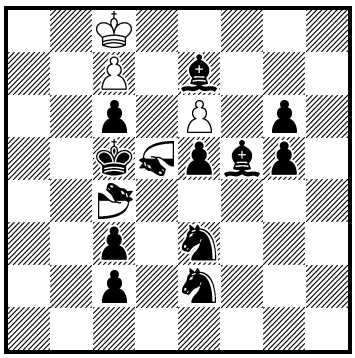
hs#3 (7+8+3)

b) ♙c2 → c3

Breton adverse

No. 14 Michael Barth
Sven Trommler

8th Prize



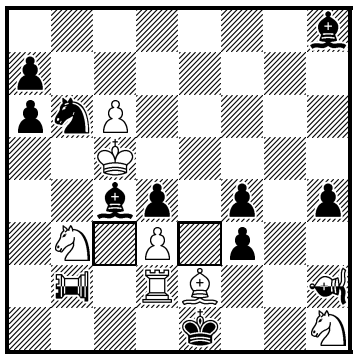
hs#2,5 2;1.1;... (3+11+2)

Annanchess

=Zebra =Camel

No. 33 Michael Barth
Sven Trommler

9th Prize



hs#3,5 2;1.1;... (7+10+2)

□ = Wormhole c3 e3

=Pao =Vao

7th Prize: No. 64 by Hubert Gockel

a) 1.c:d3[-bPg3] nBf5 2.g4 nB:d3[-wPd7] 3.c8=S+ nR:h4[-wSc8]#

b) 1.c:d4[-bPg3] nSf3 2.g3 nS:d4[-wPc7] 3.d8=B+ nR:h3[-wBd8]#

With this ballad, the author has succeeded in bringing us closer to the facets of Breton adverse in two solutions ready for the stage. White and black replace each other to remove disturbing pawns in order to free the wPg2 and to clear the 7th rank for the wRg7. A neutral takes over the guard of b5 and dissolves the half battery, which is not fired. With single and double steps, the wPg2 prevents the neutral Rook from leaving the mate line after it has made one of the promoted white Pawns disappear - formidable.

8th Prize: No. 14 by Michael Barth and Sven Trommler

I) 1.– Sc1 2.nCAf3 Sc4 3.nZf2+ nCA:e6#

II) 1.– Sd4 2.nZb8 Sd5 3.nCAb7+ nZ:e6#

A few months ago I composed problems with Annanchess for the first time and realized how much potential this condition has. If you use also neutral pieces, interesting effects can be shown like in No. 14. Here we see two neutral fairy-pieces that transfer their powers to white and black. The two black Knights ensure that the neutral mating piece is forced to capture the wPe6 in order to take over the power of the bBe7 on the mate. The bBf5 chaines the mating piece and the two Pawns c7/c6 nail the Kings. Two original solutions with a change of function of the neutral pieces (mating piece/transport piece) and characteristical Annanchess mate.

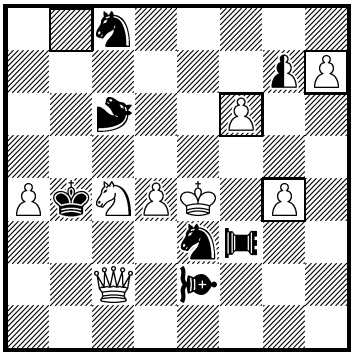
9th Prize: No. 33 by Michael Barth and SvenTrommler

I) 1.– Be5 2.Rc2 nVAg1+ 3.nVAe3-c3 nVAa5 4.Rd2+ nVAc3-e3#

II) 1.- a5 2.B:f3 nPAc2+ 3.nPAc3-e3 nPAe4 4.Be2+ nPAe3-c3#

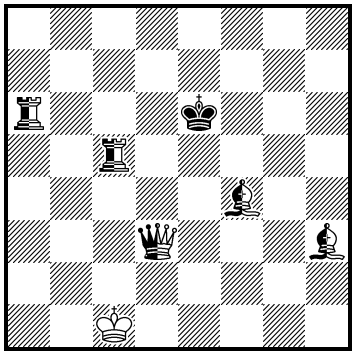
Attractive wormhole problem with switchback of white Rook/white Bishop and change of function of the neutrals as guarding and mating pieces. The two solutions with bidirectional transport of the mating piece over the two wormholes are very aesthetic and leave nothing to be desired in terms of harmony and analogy. Constructively the problem is not fully exhausted, since the bBc4 in I) is superfluous. If you are not averse to twin formation, I can present a version (see Diagram **A**) that does not need this black spot.

No. 30 Michael Barth
Sven Trommler
10th Prize



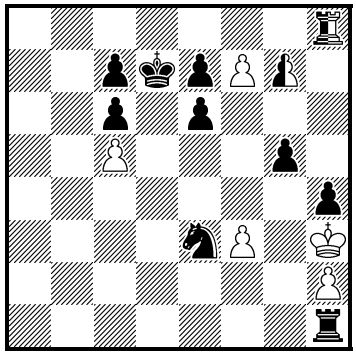
hs#2,5 (8+6+1)
b) ♞ c8 → d8 c) ♞ c8 → e8
□ = Wormhole g4 f6 h7 b8
=Faro =Loco
=Saltador

No. 69 Cornel Pacurar
11th Prize



hs#2,5 2;1.1;.. (1+1+5)
Point Reflection, Supercirce

No. 6 Dieter Werner
Ralf Krätschmer
1st Honourable Mention



hs#4 (5+9+2)
Circe
b) ♟ g7→h7, ♙ f7→ g7

10th Prize: No. 30 by Michael Barth and Sven Trommler

a) 1.– Sa7 2.nPg8=nSA nSA:f6-b8 3.nSAa6+ nSAb8-f6#
b) 1.– Sb7 2.nPg8=nFA nFA:g4-b8 3.nFAb5+ nFAb8-g4#
c) 1.– Sc7 2.nPg8=nLO nLO:h7-b8 3.nLOd6+ nLOb8-h7#

In this wormhole cycle, the later mating squares are blocked by a white Pawn. The round trip of the promoted neutral Pawn begins with the fact that he eliminates a pawn on his way to wormhole b8 and then – after a check - returns to the free wormhole mating the white King. He is supported by the black Knight, who is available as a hurdle and enables the check. I like the task extremely well and it receives the well-deserved prize. The distinction could have even been higher if bSe3 would not only act in the b)-solution. My version (see Diagram **B**) with Forsberg twins shows that you can manage it without this flaw.

11th Prize: No. 69 by Cornel Pacurar

I) 1.- Ke6-a2 2.nRa6:d3[+nQa5]+ nRd3:h3[+nBa3]+ 3.nRh3:a3[+nBg4]+ nBf4:g4[+nBh6]#
II) 1.- Ke6-g8 2.nQd3:a6[nRe6] nBf4-c4 3.nRe6:a6[+nQf7]+ nBc4:a6[+nRc2]#

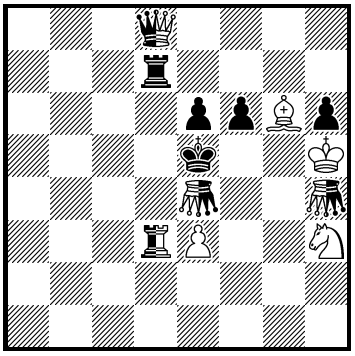
Just as unusual as the combination of Point Reflection with Supercirce in this miniature are the two solutions with reciprocal captures of nQd3/nRa6. The harmonious diagram position with the point-reflected pieces on a6/h3, c5/f4 and e6/d3 suggests two similar solutions, but this is not the case. They are rather anti-identical, but this is not a disadvantage due to the extensive use of the two fairy conditions and the extravagant solutions.

1st Honourable Mention: No. 6 by Dieter Werner and Ralf Krätschmer

a) 1.f8=S+ nR:f8[+wSg1] 2.Se2 Rb1 3.nPg8=nB Rb7 4.nR:g8[+nBc8]+ nR:c8[+nBf1]#
b) 1.g8=L nR:g8[+wBf1] 2.Le2 Ra1 3.nPh8=nS Ra6 4.nR:h8[+nSb8]+ nR:b8[+nSg1]#

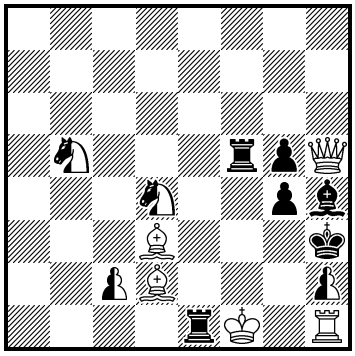
How the neutral Rook sends promoted pieces back to their rebirth square three times each, together with the double block ups on the black and white side, seems very original to me. If only not two pieces were moved in the twin, this problem would have got a prize.

No. 48 Kostas Prentos
Theodoros Giakatis
2nd Honourable Mention



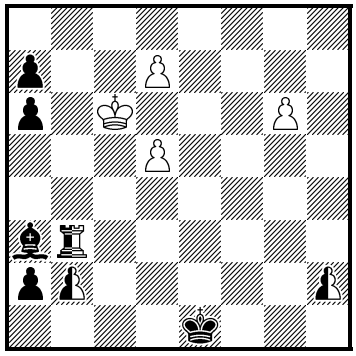
hs#2,5 b) ♙h6 (4+5+4)
Circe
 = Grasshopper

No. 61 Hubert Gockel
3rd Honourable Mention



hs#2 2;1.1;.. (5+6+4)
Eiffelchess

No. 50 Pierre Tritten
4th Honourable Mention



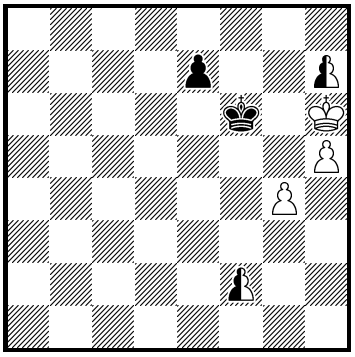
hs#3 2;1.1;.. (4+5+3)
Circe Couscous

2nd Honourable Mention: No. 48 by Kostas Prentos and Theodoros Giakatis
a) 1.– Rg7 2.nGh2 nQ:d3[+nRh1] 3.Sf4+ nR:h2[+nGh8]#
1.– Re7? 2.nGe2 nR:d8[+nQd1] 3.e4+ nQ:e2[+nGe8]+ 4.K:h6[+sPh7]!
b) 1.– Re7 2.nGe2 nR:d8[+nQd1] 3.e4 nD:e2[+nGe8]#
1.– Rg7? 2.nGh2 nQ:d3[+nRh1] 3.Sf4+ nG:h6[+wPh2]!
A good problem with anticipatory chess protection for the black King by the black Rook and reciprocal captures by neutral Queen/neutral Rook to build batteries with the neutral Grasshopper as front piece. Surprisingly they are not fired, but destroyed by capturing the neutral Grasshopper, creating a double checkmate. The colour of the Pawn on h6 determines the solution. Fortunately the neutral Grasshopper, which is not actively involved in the checkmate, guards a flight of the white King (particularly effective in b), where the capture of nGh4 by the white King is prohibited because of illegal selfcheck.

3rd Honourable Mention: No. 61 by Hubert Gockel
I) 1.nPc4 nS:b5 2.Bc3 nP:d3#
II) 1.nPc3 nS:d4 2.Bc2 nP:d2#
A charming Eiffelchess problem with single and double steps of the nPc2 to paralyze one of the two neutral Knights. To achieve the Zugzwang mate to be playable, the neutral Knights must capture each other and the white Bishops must block the neutral Pawn. Black now has no other option than to capture one of the two white Bishops with the neutral Pawn, which unmakes the paralysis of the black Rooks.

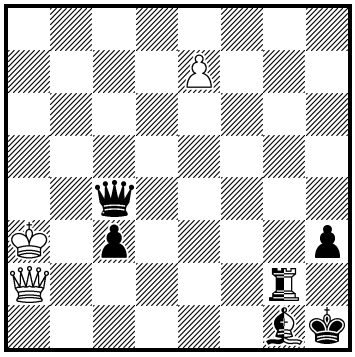
4th Honourable Mention. No. 50 by Pierre Tritten
I) 1.nR:b2[+nPa1=nS] nR:h2[+nPh8=nQ] 2.nQb2 nQc2+ 3.nS:c2[+nQb1]+ nQ:c2[+nSd8]#
II) 1.Kc7 Bb4 2.Kc8 Ba5 3.nR:b2[+nPa1=nQ]+ nQ:b2[+nRd8]#
A very entertaining Circe–couscous-problem with original reciprocal captures in selfmate. Unfortunately, the second solution is clearly inferior to the first and also could-shoulders the nPh2. Without it, solution II) would work as well, but there would be a cook 1.nRb5 a:b5[+nRb7] 2.nR:b5[+bPh1=Q] Qh6 3.nR:b2[+nPa1=nR]+ Qc1#.

No. 11 Gerard Smits
5th Honourable Mention



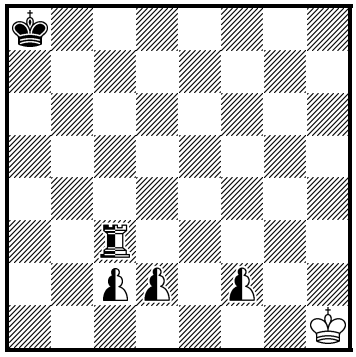
hs#4 (3+2+2)
Degradation

No. 57 Manfred Rittirsch
6th Honourable Mention



hs#2,5* (3+4+2)
Anticirce

No. 42 Udo Degener
7th Honourable Mention



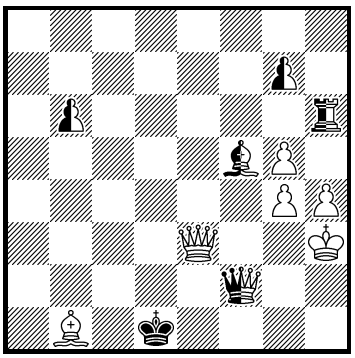
hs#4 (1+1+4)
b) Rotation 180°
Annanchess
Functionary Chess

5th Honourable Mention: No. 11 by Gerad Smits
1.nPh8=nB+ nBg7=nP+ 2.nPg8=nB nPf1=nB 3.nBd3 nBh7=nP 4.nPh8=nB+ nBg7=nP#
This single-phase miniature has an extremely humorous solution with four promotions to neutral Bishops, but I couldn't help smiling when I played the solution. The mate with the degraded neutral Bishop on g7 is delicious.

6th Honourable Mention: No. 57 by Manfred Rittirsch
** 1.e8=B h:g2[bPg7] 2.Qh2+ nB:h2[nBf8]#*
1.– h2 2.nRg8 h:g1=S[bSb8] 3.Qg2+ nR:g2[nRa8]#
Set and play with neutral Zilahi. The bPh3 captures the non-mating neutral piece in order to block the neutral mating piece on its repulse square (once as black Knight). Only the wPe7 remains in its position without function in the play.

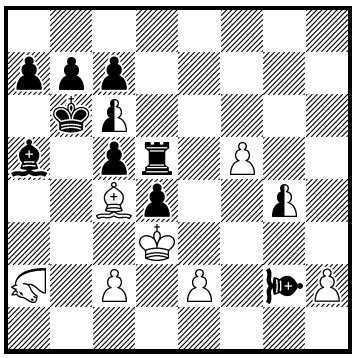
7th Honourable Mention: No. 42 by Udo Degener
a) 1.nRc4 nPc1=nQ+ 2.nRg4 nPd1=nS 3.nPf4 nSf2 4.nRh4 nPf3#
b) 1.nRf1 Kg2 2.nPf8=nB nBg7 3.nRf7 nBe5 4.nPc8=nR nPe6#
This find shows a neutral mixed-colored AUW, whereat Functionary Chess clearly outshines Annanchess in these totally different solutions.

No. 43 Kostas Prentos
Theodoros Giakatis
8th Honourable Mention



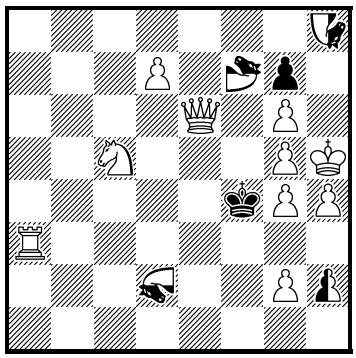
hs#2,5 b) ♗b1 (6+1+5)
Anticirce Calvet

No. 9 Ralf Krätschmer
1st Commendation



hs#4 b) ♙f5 →f6 (7+9+2)
Anticirce Cheylan
=Lancer =Alfil

No. 20 Sven Trommler
2nd Commendation



hs#2,5 3;1.1;... (10+2+4)
Anticirce Cheylan
=Antilope =Giraffe
=Lancer

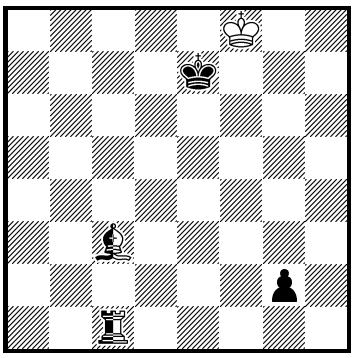
8th Honourable Mention: No. 43 by Kostas Prentos and Theodoros Giakatis
a) 1.– nBh7 2.nPg8=nQ nR:h4[nRh8] 3.Bc2+ nB:c2[nBc8]#

b) 1.– nRe6 2.nPb7 nB:g4[nBc8] 3.Qe1+ nR:e1[nRh8]#
Reciprocal neutral batteries with entertaining twin. Why does the Bishop in b) have to be black? It prevents the refutation 4.nBxc8=nS [nSb1]!. Of course it would have been nice if white pieces would be pinned on g4 and h4 in the end, but I assured myself that this is not possible.

1st Commendation: No. 9 by Ralf Krätschmer
a) 1.h4 Rd7 2.nP:d7[nPd2] nPd1=nAL 3.nALf3 nP:f3[nPf7] 4.nPf8=nLA+ nLA:h4[nLAh1]#
b) 1.h3 Rf5 2.nP:f5[nPf2] nPf1=nLA 3.nLAd5 nP:d5[nPd7] 4.nPd8=nAL+ nAL:f6[nALf1]#
The problem is unlucky that the idea of activating neutral Pawns, which demonstrate promotions on both sides into fairy pieces after repuls, was already shown in a very similar form by me (see Diagr. C). Here it is pleasing that the seemingly misplaced wPh2 with single and double steps and the wPf5, which is moved to f6 in the twin, each change their function as captured piece and block. But I can't give more than a commendation.

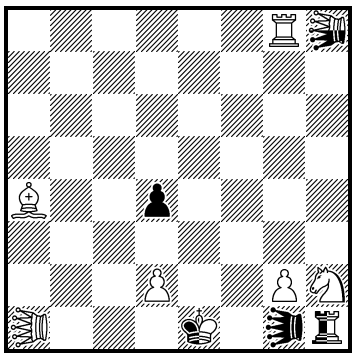
2nd Commendation: No. 20 by Sven Trommler
I) 1.– nPh1=nGI 2.Qf6+ nLA:f6[nLAf1] 3.Sd3+ nGI:g5[nGIg1]#
II) 1.– nPh1=nLA 2.Se4 nAN:e4[nANe1] 3.Qf5+ nLA:f5[nLAf1]#
III) 1.– nPh1=nAN 2.Rg3 nGI:g3[nGIg1] 3.Qe5+ nAN:e5[nANe1]#
One cannot declare these three double checkmates of neutral fairy pieces, which are appealing from the idea, as a cycle. A Pawn can only promote into the kind of fairy piece that is on the board. If this is the only reason for its existence as in solutions II) and III), that is not enough for me. As one could also take off pieces in all three solutions (wRa3 in I), nGIf7 in II) and wSc5 as well as nLAd2 in III)) the author has to be satisfied with a commendation.

No. 17 Sven Trommler
3rd Commendation



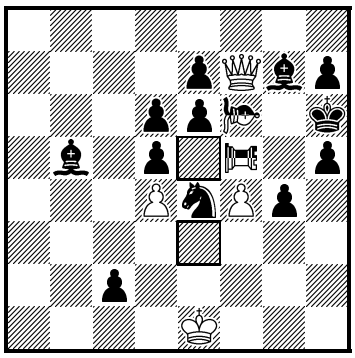
hs#4 (1+2+2)
b) ♗ c3→ g3
Madrasi Rexinclusive

No. 22 Igor Kochulov
4th Commendation



hs#3 (6+2+3)
b) Rotation 270°
Anticirce Calvet
♖♖♖=Lion

Nr. 31 Michael Barth
5th Commendation



hs#2,5 (4+12+2)
b) □ e3 → g3
□ = Wormhole e3 e5
♖=Faro ♘=Loco

3rd Commendation: No.17 by Sven Trommler
a) 1.nRc2 g1=R 2.nRh2 Rg6 3.nRh7+ nBg7+ 4.nR:g7 nRg8#
b) 1.nRc5 g1=B 2.nRg5 Be3 3.nBh4 Bf4 4.nB:g5 nBh6#
Cute Zilahi with five men with under-promotion and reciprocal captures of the neutral pieces. In the Zugzwang position before the selfmate, the white part of the neutral piece paralyzes its counterpart, so that the black part is condemned to move with mate.

4th Commendation: No. 22 by Igor Kochulov
a) 1.Re8 LIb1 2.nRf1 d3 3.LIa8+ nLI:a8[nLIa1]#
b) 1.b3 nLIh4 2.Rh1 d4 3.LIe8+ nR:b1[nRa8]#
The second problem in the tournament with a neutral king on the board has two tricky solutions that don't have much in common, but an unusual twin. Why the black Lion in a) has to go exactly to b1 is not immediately apparent.

5th Commendation: No. 31 by Michael Barth

a) 1.– nLOd8 2.nLOg5+ nLOe3-e5 3.nFA:h5+ nFA:e5-e3#

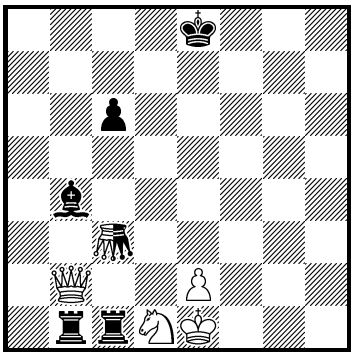
b) 1.– nFAc5 2.nFAg5 nFAg3-e5 3.nLO:g7+ nLO:e5-g3#

This change of function of the neutral pieces as sacrificial and mating piece requires the entire black Pawn force. So that the neutral Argentineans are able to checkmate the white King on wormholes e3 and g3, they have to make an inrun to occupy wormhole e5 via g5. The selfmate over this control center can no longer be prevented.

No. 70 Jurij W. Arefjew

FP–70–GT Section

6th Commendation



hs#3 2;1.1;.. (4+5+1)

Circe

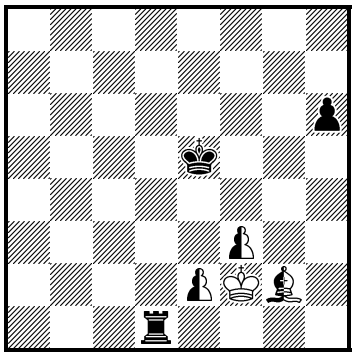
=Grasshopper

No. 51 Maryan Kerhuel

FP–70–GT Section

7th Commendation

Jacques Dupin gewidmet



hs#4 2;1.1;.. (1+3+3)

KoeKo

6th Commendation: No. 70 by Jurij W. Arefjew

I) 1.Q:b1[+bRa8] 0-0-0 2.Qh7 Rf8 3.Qc7+ nG:c7#

II) 1.Q:c1[+bRh8] 0-0 2.Qh6 Rf6 3.Qg7+ nG:g7#

A small but pleasant castling problem with rebirth of the black Rooks and long white moves of the white Queen.

7th Commendation: No. 51 by Maryan Kerhuel

I) 1.nB:f3 Rg1 2.nBe4 nPe1=nR 3.Kf3 nBh7 4.Kf4+ nRf1#

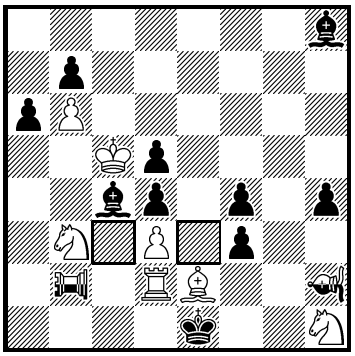
II) 1.Ke3 nPe1=nB 2.nBg3 Rf1 3.nBh2 nB:f3 4.Kd4+ nBg1#

This is a Koeko problem that can be looked at again. The promoted nPe2 gives mate and the black Rook is the friendly neighbour next door.

Anhang

A

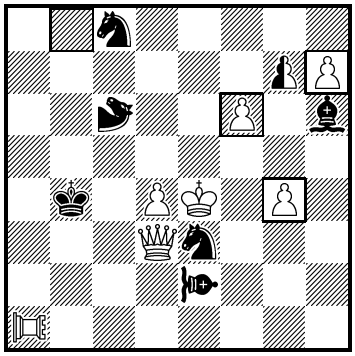
Nr. 33 **Michael Barth**
Sven Trommler
Version Franz Pachl



hs#3,5 (7+10+2)
b) ♟d5 →b5
□ = Wormhole c3 e3
=Pao =Vao

B

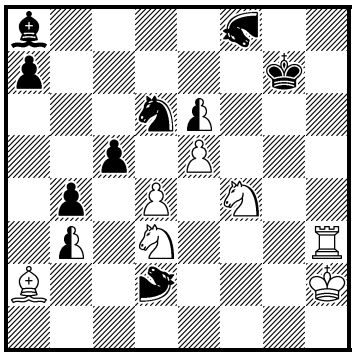
Nr. 30 **Michael Barth**
Sven Trommler
Version Franz Pachl



hs#2,5 (7+6+1)
b) c8 c) c8
□ = Wormhole g4 f6 h7 b8
=Faro =Loco
=Saltador

C

Franz Pachl
A. Petkov–100 MT 2014–15
5th Prize



hs#4 (7+8+2)
b) – ♟c5
Anticirce
 =Giraffe  =Kamel

Solution:

A

a) 1.– Be5 2.Rc2 nVAg1+ 3.nVAe3-c3 nVAa5 4.Rd2+ nVAc3-e3#
b) 1.– a5 2.B:f3 nPAc2+ 3.nPAc3-e3 nPAe4 4.Le2+ nPAe3-c3#

B

a) 1.– Sa7 2.nPg8=nSA nSA:f6-b8 3.nSAa6+ nSAb8-f6#
b) 1.– Bb7 2.nPg8=nFA nFA:g4-b8 3.nFAb5+ nFAb8-g4#
c) 1.– Rc7 2.nPg8=nLO nLO:h7-b8 3.nLOd6+ nLOb8-h7#

C

a) 1.Sb2 Sc4 2.nP:c4[nPc2] nPc1=nGI 3.nGId5 nP:d5[nPd7] 4.nPd8=nCA+ nCA:e5[nCAe1]#
b) 1.Sc5 Sf7 2.nP:f7[nPf2] nPf1=nCA 3.nCAc2 nP:c2[nPc7] 4.nPc8=nGI+ nGI:d4[nGId1]#

I hope that my judgment will meet with your approval. All I have to do is to say thank you to Die Schwalbe for organizing the tournament, to the tournament director Rainer Kuhn, who always supported me with advice and action, and to the authors who showed me their appreciation with their fabulous chess problems. Special thanks go to Arnold Beine for his support translating the text into English.

Franz Pachl, Ludwigshafen in October 2020