Introduction

In Julia's Fairies 2019/I tourney took part 43 problems. It is slightly less than in previous tournaments on Julia's website and in my opinion, the quality of published problems was lower too. Not in general – I considered relatively high number of problems for low distinction – but I missed problems impressive at the first look.

Several problems showed possibilities of (usually recently defined) fairy conditions but in my opinion without deeper idea (1400), some of them with echo-mates (1411, 1416; further in similar positions I dislike use of twins like in 1398, 1401).

Further, here are my specific notes to some other problems.

- 1371: Echoed mates, but I dislike some repeated moves in A.
- 1376: Blocks of rebirth squares against rebirth of disturbing pieces, but helpplay is maybe not the best genre for presenting this effect – it was realized already in seven variations in selfmate (like in WinChloe 11746 or 81252).
- 1378: Small study in geometry.
- 1385: Task (maybe inspired by 1378). However the play is mechanical, once the mechanism was found, and two additional homogenously refuted tries by white queen are for me not enough.
- 1389: Rules of Messigny chess create motivation for unique second black move, to avoid defence with kings switch. Unfortunately, two black pawns are necessary for the promotions.
- 1393: Threefold change of mate with specific Alsatian motivation. But claimed cyclic dual avoidance is questionable for me: the single keys just remove Alsatian obstacle for one of possible mates.
- 1407: 2+2 solutions, but motivation is simple (especially for the first move in solutions III and IV). I like use of f6-square in single pairs, but finally I put this problem aside because of simple unguard 2.b3 compared to unguard with interference 2.Sc7.
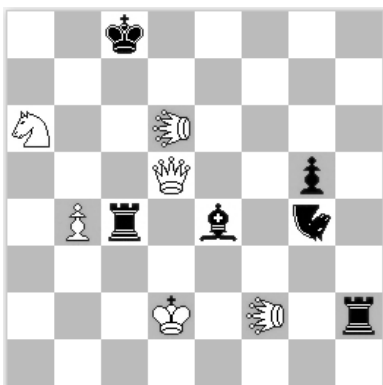
My award is as follows

No.1381 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgaria
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
In the memory of my father Andon Petkov
1st Prize

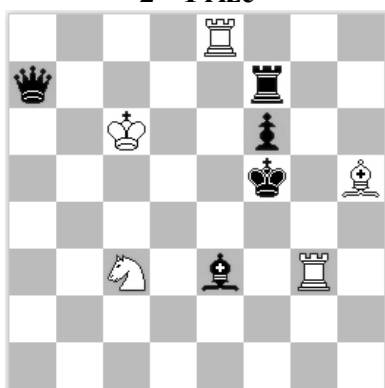hs#3.5 (6+6)
b) Pg5→e7 ; c) Pg5→a5
Nightrider g4 ; LEO d6, f2

1st Prize: Petko Petkov – 1381

Cyclic creation of black batteries with material R+B+N with Indian theme is combined with white leo/leo antibattery creation on three different lines. The composition partly reminds me problem WinChloe 409580 (with Anti-Andernach and different creation of batteries) but I like more creation of final antibattery check in 1381.

a) 1...Na1 2.LEe6 Bc2 3.Ke3 g4 4.LEf5+ Bxf5#
b) 1...Bb1 2.LEc7 Rc2+ 3.Kd3 e5 4.LEc5+ Rxc5#
c) 1...Rc1 2.LEd8 Nc2 3.Kc3 a4 4.LEf8+ Nxf8#

No.1395 Marjan Kovačević
Serbia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
2nd Prize

[chess diagram]

hs#3   2 solutions   (5+5)
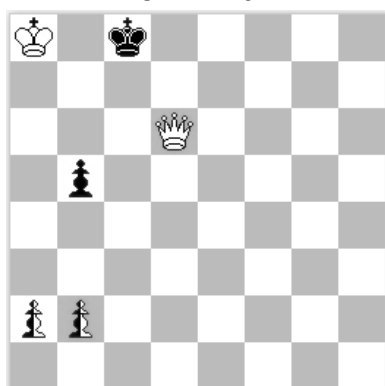
2nd Prize: Marjan Kovačević – 1395

Very elegant setting with black Bristols and reciprocal functions exchange of two pairs of white pieces (guard of f4/guard of e4 and guard of g4 and g6/final check). Homogeneous are square vacations and line-openings for white pieces as well as determination of moves of the black queen, which in turn determines the first black moves. (The dual avoidance given in the first move is not so much convincing.)

1.Re4 Rh7! (1...Bg1? 2.Rc3??) 2.Be8 Qg7! (Qe7? Qf7?) 3.Bd7+ Qxd7#

1.Se2 Bg1! (1...Rh7? 2.Be8??) 2.Rc3 Qf2! (Qd4? Qe3?) 3.Rc5+ Qxc5#

No.1414 Julia Vysotska & Marjan Kovačević
Latvia / Serbia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
3rd Prize

[chess diagram]

hs#3*   (2+2+2)
Neutral pawns a2, b2
Chameleon Chess

3rd Prize: Julia Vysotska & Marjan Kovačević – 1414

Reciprocal exchange of the promotions into neutral rook and queen, analogy in creation of batteries on the a-file, specific use of chameleons in determination of promotion in non-moving rear battery piece. Excellent find.

1...b1=nR 2.nRg1=nQ a1=nQ+ (a1=nR +?) 3.nQa7=nS+ nSc6=nB# (3...nQxa7=nS??)

1.Ka7 b1=nQ 2.nQb4=nS a1=nR+ (a1=nQ +?) 3.nSa6=nB+ nBb7=nR# (3...nRxa6=nQ??)

No.1408 Daniel Papack
Germany
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
1st Honourable Mention

[chess diagram]

h#2   3 solutions   (6+15)
SuperGuards

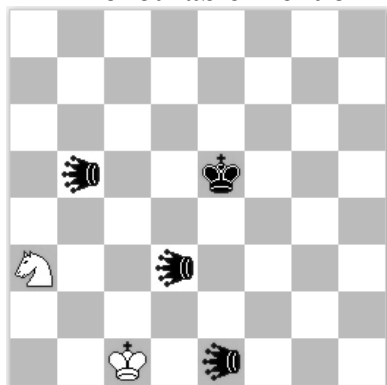**1st Honourable Mention: Daniel Papack – 1408**

Black king has in the diagram position three adjacent squares, where would be guarded and thus cannot be mated: d4, e4 and f4. In each solution is king's access to them cyclically avoided by black hideaway unguard, occupation by white unit and mating occupation by the white king, of course in each solution the dual avoidance is included. Nice touch is black double-move hideaway manoeuvre: after 1.c4 there arises new defence Kd3, after 1.Sg7 Sf5 and after 1.Sh3 Kf2. Not all white officers have guarding duties in all mates, but I decided to tolerate it in this case.

1.c4 Se4 2.c3 Kf4#   1...Rf4? 2.c3 Ke4 3.B/Kd4!

1.Sg7 Rd4 2.Se8 Ke4#   1...Se4? 2.Se8 Kd4 3.Q/Kf4!

1.Sh3 Rf4 2.Sg1 Kd4#   1...Rd4? 2.Sg1 Kf4 3.Ke4!

No.1372 Václav Kotěšovec
Czech Republic
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
2nd Honourable Mention

hs=5   4 solutions   (2+4)
Eagle b5, d3, e1

2nd Honourable Mention: Václav Kotěšovec – 1372

Fourfold echo with pinned knight. In two solutions black king moves to the square, where serves as hurdle and is checked at the end. Multiple final black moves are not "big weakness" for me.

1.Kd2 EAc2 2.Kc3 EAd5 3.Kb3 EAa2+
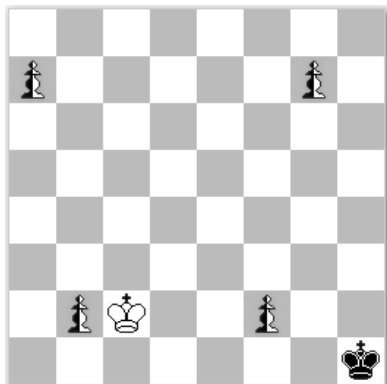4.Ka4 EAb3+ 5.Sc4+ Kf4 / ~ =

1.Kb2 Kd5 2.Kb3 EAb4 3.Sb1 EAb2
4.Ka3 EAd4+ 5.Sc3+ Kc6 / ~ =

1.Sc2 EAd5 2.Sb4 EAc2 3.Kd2 EAe2
4.Kd1 EAe4+ 5.Sd3+ Kd6 / ~ =

1.Sc4+ Kd4 2.Sa5 EAc2 3.Kb2 EAa2
4.Kb1 EAc4+ 5.Sb3+ Ke3 / ~ =

No.1384 Michel Caillaud
France
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
dedicated to Sébastien LUCE
3rd Honourable Mention

s#7   (1+1+4)
Black play only to double check

3rd Honourable Mention: Michel Caillaud – 1384

Neutral Allumwandlung with creation and play of three neutral batteries. New fairy condition allowed very economical realization of the theme.

1.g8=nR 2.nRg2 3.a8=nQ 4.nQa2 b1=nB+
5.Kd1 6.nQa1 nBc2+ 7.Kd2+ f1=nS#

No.1404 Hubert Gockel
Germany
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
4th Honourable Mention

#2   (8+14)
Breton

4th Honourable Mention: Hubert Gockel – 1404

This time specific and nice use of a new fairy condition for le Grand theme: promotions in the keys allow to remove useless officer on a8 instead of guarding one and after capture on a8 is opened one of the guarding lines for the white queen to c6 or e6.
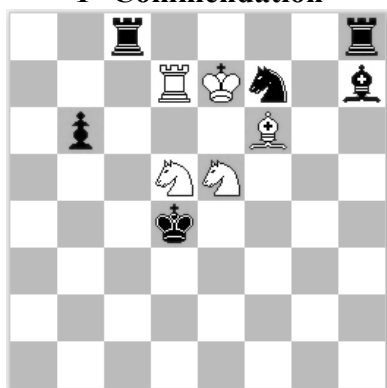1.Bxe4 [-f6]+? Ke6!

1.bxc4 [-b8]+? Kc6!

1.a8=R? ~ 2.Bxe4 [-a8]# A'
   1...Bxa8 [-d7] x 2.bxc4 [-b8]# B
   1...Sd2!

1.a8=S! ~ 2.bxc4 [-a8]# B'
   1...Bxa8 [-e7] x' 2.Bxe4 [-f6]# A
   1...Bxa8 [-c4] 2.c4#
   1...Sa3 (Sc4~) 2.Sxb6 [-h1]#

No.1410 Vitaly Medintsev
Russia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
1st Commendation

hs#4   b) Sf7→d8   (5+6)

1st Commendation: Vitaly Medintsev – 1410

The reciprocal Indian manoeuvres by black B/R are not a novelty and the strategic content of the remaining part of single solutions consists in creation of the mating nets by play of white king and guard by black rook, but the overall economy is exemplary.
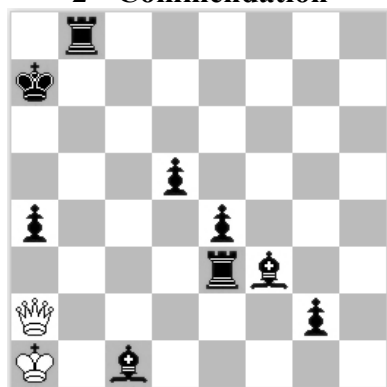
a) 1.Ra7 Rc1 2.Kd7 Bc2 3.Kc6 Rb8 4.Ra4+ Bxa4#

b) 1.Bh4 Bb1 2.Kf6 Rc2 3.Kf5 Rg8 4.Bf2+ Rxf2#

No.1383 Michel Caillaud & Sébastien Luce
France
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
2nd Commendation

s#26   (2+9)
Black play only to double check

2nd Commendation: Michel Caillaud & Sebastian Luce – 1383

Long manoeuvre with round-trips of both white pieces to bring black rook on the first rank.
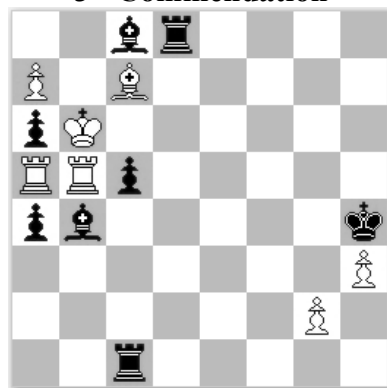
1.Qb3 2.Kb1 3.Kc2 4.Qd3 5.Kc3 6.Kd4 7.Ke5 8.Kf4
9.Kg3 10.Kh3 Bg4+ 11.Kh4 12.Kg5 13.Kf4 Rf3+ 14.Ke5
15.Kd4 16.Kc3 17.Kc2 18.Qd2 19.Kd1 Rf1+ 20.Kc2
21.Qb4 22.Kb1 23.Ka2 24.Qb1 25.Ka1 26.Qa2 Bb2#

No.1396 Julia Vysotska
Latvia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
Dedicated to Marjan Kovačević
3rd Commendation

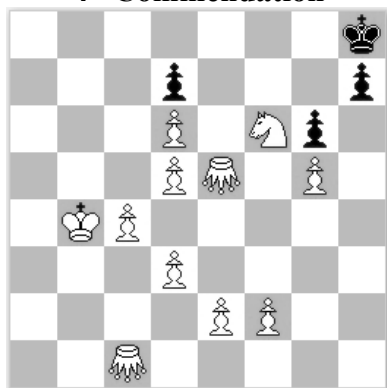hs#3.5   b) Pc5→c6   (7+8)

3rd Commendation: Julia Vysotska – 1396

Ambitious concept with function exchange of black R/B (pin/mate), pinning piece at the same time stands on a diagram square of the second one from thematic pair. But motivation for the annihilation of a black pawn is not completely homogeneous.

a) 1...Rd4 2.Bd6 Be1 3.Bxc5 Rb4 4.Bf2+ Bxf2#

b) 1...Be7 2.Rc5 Rh8 3.Rxc6 Bd8 4.Rh6+ Rxh6#

**No.1386 Arnold Beine &
Juraj Lörinc**
Germany / Slovakia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
4th Commendation

ser-h#18*   b) Pc4→c5   (11+4)
Grasshopper c1, e5

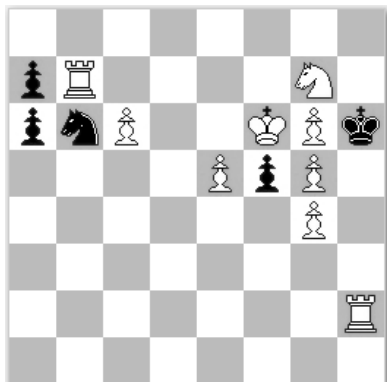**4th Commendation: Arnold Beine & Juraj Lörinc – 1386**

Two different ways (with changed promotions) how to replace bph7 by an officer and how to avoid its move. Difficult concept, but unfortunately (for me) has wSf6 no guarding duties in mate in B.

a) 1...Gh6#
1.h6 2.hxg5 3.g4 4.g3 5.gxf2 6.f1=G 7.Gxd3 8.Gxd6 9.Gd8 10.d6 11.Gxd5 12.Gf5 13.Gh7 14.g5 15.g4 16.g3 17.g2 18.g1=G Gh1#

b) 1...Gh6#
1.h5 2.h4 3.h3 4.h2 5.h1=Q 6.Qxd5 7.Qxd3 8.Qxd6 9.Qf8 10.d5 11.d4 12.d3 13.d2 14.d1=B 15.Bb3 16.Bg8 17.Bh7 18.Qg8 Gh6#

**No.1382 Armin Geister &
Daniel Papack**
Germany
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
5th Commendation
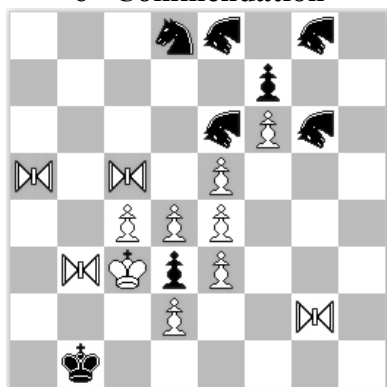
hs#4   MarsCirce   (9+5)

5th Commendation: Armin Geister & Daniel Papack – 1382

Disturbing rook b7 attacks on white squares h6, on black squares a6, so it is necessary to capture it and to return with black king to h-file.

1.Rh2-a1xa6++? Sb6-b8xa6??

1.Rc7?! Kh5 2.Rh2-a1xa6+ Sb6-b8xa6+ 3.Rc7-a1xa6!

1.Rf7! Kh6-e8xf7 2.Sh5 Kg7 3.Rh2-a1xa6 Kh6
4.Sg7 Sb6-b8xa6#

No.1370 N.Shankar Ram
India
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
6th Commendation

#3   Diagram Circe   (12+8)
Camels: e6, e8, g6, g8
Non-Stop Equihoppers: a5, b3, c5, g2

6th Commendation: Narayan Shankar Ram – 1370

The author published homogeneous group of compositions (1370, 1403, 1406) dealing with various realizations of Jacobs theme, and devoted exhaustive overview about it in e-zine Conflictio as well. For me this problem is from published series the most appealing, although it is much less economical than 1403 (with strong symmetry and relatively special combined piece). The play is partly mechanical, and as in such cases, the more variations, the more mechanically looking result. Similar problem to the task 1406 was published shortly earlier as 3500, The Problemist, March 2019.

1.NEag3! (zugzwang.)
1...CAe6-f3 2.NEf5+ CAe8xf5 (+NEb3), CAg8xf5 (+NEb3) 3.NEh7, NEh5#
1...CAe6-h5 2.NEd5+ CAg6xd5 (+NEb3), CAe8xd5 (+NEb3) 3.NEf3, Neh7#

→ *Continuation:* **6th Commendation: Narayan Shankar Ram –** <u>1370</u>
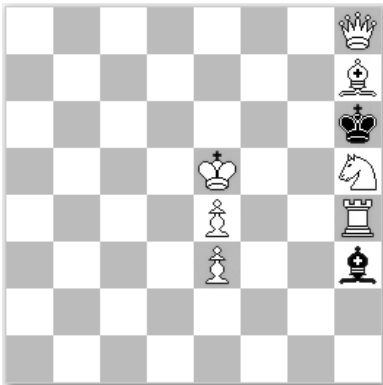
1...CAe6-h7 2.NEd7+ CAg6xd7 (+NEb3), CAg8xd7 (+NEb3) 3.NEf3, NEh5#
1...CAg6-d5 2.NEh5+ CAe6xh5 (+NEb3), CAg8xh5 (+NEb3) 3.NEf3, NEd7#
1...CAg6-f3 2.NEf5+ CAe8xf5 (+NEb3), CAg8xf5 (+NEb3) 3.NEd5, NEd7#
1...CAg6-d7 2.NEh7+ CAe6xh7 (+NEb3), CAe8xh7 (+NEb3) 3.NEf3, NEd5#
1...CAe8-d5 2.NEh5+ CAe6xh5 (+NEb3), CAg8xh5 (+NEb3) 3.NEh7, NEf5#
1...CAe8-f5 2.NEf3+ CAe6xf3 (+NEb3), CAg6xf3 (+NEb3) 3.NEh7, NEd5#
1...CAe8-h7 2.NEd7+ CAg6xd7 (+NEb3), CAg8xd7 (+NEb3) 3.NEd5, NEf5#
1...CAg8-d7 2.NEh7+ CAe6xh7 (+NEb3), CAe8xh7 (+NEb3) 3.NEh5, NEf5#
1...CAg8-f5 2.NEf3+ CAe6xf3 (+NEb3), CAg6xf3 (+NEb3) 3.NEh5, NEd7#
1...CAg8-h5 2.NEd5+ CAg6xd5 (+NEb3), CAe8xd5 (+NEb3) 3.NEd7, NEf5#
1...Sb7 (S~) 2.NEd5+ CAxd5 (+NEb3) (CA~xd5) 3.NExf7#
(Duals after 1...CAe6/e8-b7, CAe6-b5, CAg6)

No.<u>1417</u> Vitaly Medintsev
Russia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
7th Commendation

hs#7   (7+2)

7th Commendation: Vitaly Medintsev – <u>1417</u>

Round-trip of black bishop with Kniest theme extended by one more (mating) move, thus fulfilling the Meerane theme. Clever determination of move's order, although the selfblocks are not very interesting.

1.Rg4 !(Rf4?) Bg2 2.Sf4 Bxe4 3.Sg2 Bf5 4.Rd4 Bh3
5.Bd3+ Kg5 6.Ke4 Kg4 7.Qe5 zz Bxg2#

No.<u>1409</u> Pierre Tritten
France
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
8th Commendation

h#2   2 solutions   (4+6)
Bolero

8th Commendation: Pierre Tritten – <u>1409</u>

Simple, but nice demonstration of Bolero with reciprocal captures, selfblocks and specific model mates.
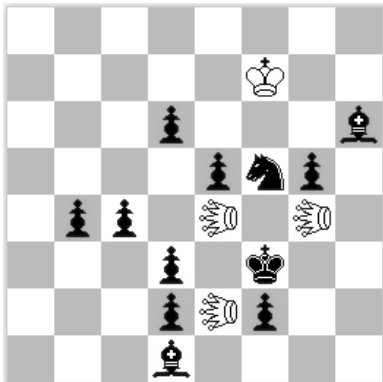
1.Rxf7 Bxe7 2.Rb3 Bxc5# (3.Rb4??/Rxc5??)

1.Bxh4 Rxf3 2.Bb4 Rxd3# (3.Bc3??/Bxd3??)

No.1402 Anatoly Stepochkin
Russia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
9th Commendation

h#2   3 solutions   (4+12)
Lion e2,e4,g4

9th Commendation: Anatoly Stepochkin – 1402

Cyclic Zilahi with cyclic function exchange of white lions. But words here are more impressive than play of a single black king; moreover some details are disturbing: repeated move LIxb4, and mate after 1.Kxg4 is not a model one (g6).

1.Kxe2 LIxc4+ 2.Ke1 LIxb4#
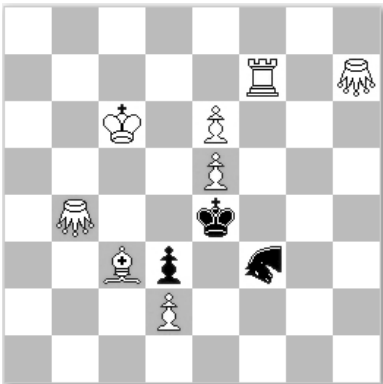
1.Kxg4 LIxb4+ 2.Kh5 LIe8#

1.Kxe4 LIc2+ 2.Kd5 LId7#

No.1379 Linden Lyons
Australia
Julia's Fairies 2019/I
10th Commendation

=2   (8+3)
Grasshopper b4, h7
Camel f3

10th Commendation: Lindon Lyons – 1379

Nice, although maybe "old-fashioned" problem with 2+2 analogic variations with four pins of black camel. Perfectly matched in use of white grasshoppers and R+B.

1.Bb2! zugzwang.
  1...CAc2 2.Gb1 =
  1...CAxe6 2.Ge7 =
  1...CAc4 2.Bd4 =
  1...CAg6 2.Rf5 =

Finally, I thank Julia for invitation to judge this tourney and congratulate to authors of all awarded problems.

Prague, October 2019
Michal Dragoun