12th TZUICA TOURNEY – Berne 2014

Theme: Help-selfmates (hs#n) with at least two solutions featuring mate by double check.

Example 1 for Orthodox section	Example 2 for Fairy Section
Phénix 2012	Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber
Dedicated to Denis Blondel	Prize, Quartz TT6 2004
hs#4 (8+4) b) bPc6→d3	hs#3 2 sol. (3+4) Augsburg, Circe
A: 1.Bc1 Ra3 2.Re7 Ra6 3.Sxc6+ Bxc6	°Æ = (K+S)
4.Re4+ Bxe4#	1.Qd6(=Q+S) Sc5 2.Kc1 (R+S)c6
	3.(Q+Š)d3+ Sxd3(+wQd1,+wSb1)#
B: 1.Ka/ Ba4 2.BI4 BC2 3.5X03+ RX03	
4.DUUT NXU0#	1.Rxd4(Bb4;+bRh8,+bSb8) Rb8=(R+S) 2.Rd2 (R+S)xb4(+wBc1) 3.Bd2=(B+R)+ Sxd2(+wRa1,+wBc1)#

A record number of 63 problems by 42 composers from 20 countries have taken part in this tourney.

Our first decision as judges was to establish eliminatory criteria.

- In the first place and according to our thematic requirement, the composition must show at least 2 mates by double checks. It is possible to show triple or quadruple check in fairy problems, contrary to orthodox problems.
- In the orthodox section, strategic elements and perfect presentation were essential for obtaining a prize. The presence of three solutions ending with mates by double check was not sufficient.
- In the fairy section, one the one hand we favoured intensive presentations of the theme (triple, quadruple checks), but on the other hand we were also strict concerning other specific fairy aspects (fairy density) and formal aspects (for instance, useless units). We praised good and pleasant construction, with all white or black officers used in the solutions. Interplay must also play an essential role in the solution.

We have discarded problems showing unaesthetical captures of pieces, with repeated moves or lacking sufficient unity, hoping the authors will be able to improve them.

ORTHODOX SECTION

This section is well represented, with 27 problems by 25 authors from 12 countries. Authors were confronted with a thematic limitation: in orthodox problems the only way to show double check is by battery play. How the most successful participants overcame this limitation can be seen in the following problems.

Among the problems that did not make it, we have a special thought for the orthodox **TZ27** (**Kc5/Kb3**) which showed three exchanges of functions, reciprocal battery creation and direct pinning. The reasons why we did not award it are the following: a hs#2.5 version (7+8) would probably be more suitable to the idea than the present hs#3 (7+10) setting; and the black officer Sb6 is useless in one solution.

We propose the following ranking:



1st Prize: Franz PACHL (Germany)

This truly outstanding work would have earned a prize in any competition. It features a blend of Tzuica themes:

- Switchbacks of black units (two in each solution), which would have made it valid for Tzuica 2013
- Diagonal-orthogonal correspondence (Tzuica 2008)
- Two active batteries in each solution (Tzuica 2009)
- At least three (four to be exact) reciprocal exchanges of functions between pairs of pieces (Tzuica 2011). The thematic duos are wSs, wRa6/wBc1, bBg7/bRh5 and bBe6/bRf4.

You may add to that impressive strategic complex the Black Indians, the active unpinning and pinning and, of course, the double check that can be achieved only by battery mate in orthodox chess.

A perfect winner? Not quite, as there is a tiny speck: the sole purpose of black officer Sg3 is to guard f5 and thus prevent cooks (ending with wK on the 5^{th} rank and last move 5.Sf5+ Rxh5#)

2nd Prize: Ofer COMAY (Israel)

Here too four pairs of pieces reciprocally exchange their functions: the two pairs of Knights, wRf4/wBf3 and bBa8/bRa4. White play is also characterized by a 3-move Follow-My-Leader effect. After White's sacrifice on the first move, Black builds a battery and makes a bS hideaway and selfblock.

This problem might be reproached with its lack of interplay after the 1st move, but that does not mar too much the artistic impression left by this work when you play through the solutions.



1st Honourable Mention: Rodolfo RIVA (Italy)

The black Indian and creation of reciprocal batteries are similar with those of Franz Pachl's 1st Prize. Here strategy is a not as complex, but the diagonal-orthogonal correspondence is finely tuned and the position is very elegant. All units work in both solutions and no cookstopper can be found.

2nd Honourable Mention: Mario PARRINELLO (Italy)

This solid and convincing presentation with three solutions has a very good unity: black battery creation, anticipatory line closings by the wS and capture of the wQ. With this thematic complex, it could have pretended to obtain a prize.

However, there are drawbacks: the twinning moves the thematic wS, the solutions lack interplay and the white Rooks are mere spectators of the show.



1st Commendation: Luis Miguel MARTIN (SPAIN)

There is not much material on the board, but a lot happens in 2 moves on the e-file: the initial half-pin is changed into a pin, then into a masked battery and the battery is fired. The two exchanges of functions (wS/wQ, bS/bB) are as easy to notice as the absence of cookstoppers.

2nd Commendation: bernd ellinghoven, Hans Peter REHM & Kjell WIDLERT (Germany & Sweden)

The aesthetic long moves and Indians bear some similarity with those of Riva, HM1. However White's play is poorer here.

We cannot resist the temptation of quoting Hans Peter Rehm's 4th Prize, Mat Plus 2008, for comparison's sake (see **Appendix A**).

FAIRY SECTION

This section is also well represented: 36 problems composed by 30 authors from 17 countries. In this section we expected the authors' imaginations to take over, because theoretically in fairy chess many things, such as multiple checks, are possible.

When launching this tourney, we only knew of one helpselfmate featuring mate by multiple checks. That is Diyan Kostadinov's Commendation, 8^{th} Tzuica Tourney 2010, which displays 4 solutions ending with mate by triple check (see **Appendix B**). We expected some surprises here and were not disappointed, since four problems competing in the fairy section showed pairs of mates by **quadruple check** – an amazing technical achievement. However one of them cannot be found in the award, because the presentation had flaws that the author himself had diagnosed.

We generally specify in our award that in an informal competition, the ranking could have been different. Because this is a thematic tournament, we generally favour the density of the thematic presentation, with the notable exception of the 1st Prize which shows only two double checks, but with an exceptional strategic complex.

Some problems did not make it into this award but deserve to be mentioned here.

- **TZ16 (Kd1/Kg5)** This very ambitious achievement was at a disadvantage in comparison with the 3rd HM of the fairy section, due to similar cyclic thematic. We hope that the authors will be able to get rid of the Zero-position presentation and improve the twinning (obtained by moving the bK).
- TZ31 (Kh3/Kf4) features reciprocal ecto-battery creation by Grasshopper and Moose ending both with captures on the same square. Certainly a worthy problem, but not fit for this tourney.
- **TZ32** (**Kh1/Ke4**) does show mates by triple check, because the Moose gives a double check by itself. Lack of interplay and symmetry of the position threw it however out of the award.
- **TZ34** (**Kh2/Kg7**) features reciprocal neutral ecto-batteries N-EQ and EQ-N and interesting dual avoidance motives, but there are too many static pieces.
- **TZ40** (**Kc4/Ke5**) An interesting idea in hs#2 with ParrainCirce in 3 solutions. However, there is a useless white unit in two solutions. We think the author will be able to reach a better version.
- **TZ51** (**Ke3/Kd7**) An ambitious theme and a very cerebral achievement. It would have been more appreciated if the thematic unit bRa8 had had a role in twin A.

We have reached the following ranking:



1st Prize: Ofer COMAY (Israel)

The dedicatee Uri Avner would have enjoyed this work. It can be claimed that the exchanges of functions between 5 (!) pairs of pieces are featured:

- nBe6/nRd3 Full exchange of roles (rear piece vs. front piece of neutral battery)
- nLEe3/nLEf5 Full exchange of roles (Black pinning rear piece of neutral battery vs. active sacrifice)
- nLEc2/nLEe7 Partial exchange of roles (White pinning the rear piece of neutral battery vs. flights guard existent)
- nNAa5/nPAb7 Partial exchange of roles (creation of pinning neutral battery vs. shield of bK)
- wPAg5/wVAg2 Passive exchange of roles (hurdle for nLE vs. guard of bK flight both existent)

Beside all this, the head-spinning solutions also offer the creation of two pairs of batteries on the same squares (a3-b3 and c8-d7) - one with regular neutral pieces and one with Chinese neutral pieces.

One evident achievement is that all moves of the solutions are made by neutral pieces: the move order is subtly defined by line openings/closings and checks/counter-checks.

Although thematically speaking the problem offers only double checks and is not as strong as other entries featuring multiple checks, we had to award this masterpiece the 1st prize.

2nd Prize: Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS (Greece)

A striking contrast with the 1st Prize. The solutions of this shorter problem culminate in a fabulous quadruple check, which is already a highly noticeable record with only 9 units on the board. Besides, the diagonal-orthogonal correspondence is perfectly realized and we find, as in many problems, the traditional reciprocal battery creation with Rook and Bishop.

The wQ arrives on the same square e8 at W3, but since the routes the wQ takes are different, it is not a defect. One defect however would be the passive nRa6.

3rd Prize: Petko PETKOV (Bulgaria)

This second two-fold presentation of quadruple check, with set-play, exploits the peculiarities of the Disparate fairy condition. Here the quadruple check is given by the neutral Rook which:

- a) Plays as a forward piece of the direct neutral battery nRe3/nLIg1
- b) Plays as a forward piece of the anti-battery nR/nRL
- c) Plays as a forward piece of a Ecto-battery nR/nLIa3 or nR/nLIc3: after the nR final move, the nLI is activated for Black due to Disparate.
- d) Gives check by itself from e7/e5.

The author rightfully underlines that the anti-battery nR-nRL is needed because without nRL there is no mate through triple check. For example, in set-play follows: 3...nRe7+? 4.nLIxe7!! and nLIg1 is paralyzed because of Disparate.

A festival of all sorts of batteries according to the style of the Bulgarian Grandmaster.

4th Prize: Cornel PĂCURAR (Canada)

Can the double-check theme be realized with only 4 units on the board? This amazing Wenigsteiner provides the answer by showing four solutions ending with double check.

It also boasts a double AUW combined with two pairs of reciprocal captures of the neutral Pawns.

An excellent candidate for the WenigsteinerJahresPreis 2014.





1st Honourable Mention: Petko PETKOV (Bulgaria)

Giving a double check is possible with one single fairy piece such as the Double-Grasshopper. This Meredith shows quadruple check, but by only three pieces. This is why we took the debatable decision not to award it a prize.

The main role is held by the black King, who at his last move is:

a) The front piece of two anti-batteries nDG-K via b8-b4 or c8-c4, respectively a6-c4 and b6-d4;

b) The active piece of an Ecto-battery which activates the nQ;

c) The opening figure of a direct battery nDG-K (via h6-h4).

The same Disparate feature is noticed as in the 3^{rd} Prize: both nDGs are needed to check the wK for the mate, else the wQ could capture the checking nDG and thus paralyze the checking nQ. In Disparate, a triple check may not be enough for the mate!

2nd Honourable Mention: Julia VYSOTSKA (Latvia)

This problem shows that in Disparate when there are 3 different types of fairy pieces, triple check may be enough for mate. Disparate condition is intelligently used to defer a check by neutral piece until the next move. For instance 3.nQxf2+ is a check to the black King, not a self-check to the white King, because the nQ is paralyzed on Black's move but will be free to move on White's next move.

The solutions pleasantly display reciprocal play and interchange of functions of two pairs of neutral pieces: the active exchange nQ/nR and the passive exchange nPf2/nPh6 (both neutral Pawns are captured by White and Black).



3rd Honourable Mention: Mario PARRINELLO (Italy)

Another beautiful piece of work, mixing several motifs: cyclic battery creation, cyclic Zilahi and cyclic exchange of functions. All these allow a three-fold mate by double-check. The twinning may not be perfect, but construction is good. What makes it miss a prize is the lack of interplay.

4th Honourable Mention: Gerard SMITS (Netherlands)

At first sight this problem has all that is needed: specific Martian batteries with double check, Super-AUW by 3 pawns and a remarkable economy.

You may observe some technical details: nGb3 guards b5 via b1 as well as h2 via b8, allowing also a G promotion. Similarly, wROg2 guards g4 via g8 and also blocks g2, while ROa5 guards a7 via a1 and blocks another flight. The author's technique is definitely good.

The problem however has a technical flaw: nPc3. This pawn cannot be black due to cooks with promotions of bPc3, and blocking bPc3 would close the line of ROa5 via a1 to a7.



1st Commendation: Michael BARTH & Franz PACHL (Germany)

Batteries are on the menu: here reciprocal battery creation with the neutral pieces nR and nB. The fairy specificity is good and the diagonal-orthogonal correspondence is not without charm. Economy has been cared for by the authors. Its battery creation reminds vaguely of a problem awarded in a former Tzuica Tourney (**Appendix C**).

2nd Commendation: Tadashi WAKASHIMA (Japan)

Diagonal-orthogonal correspondence, Ecto-battery (in VogtländerChess, battery means having King and another unit on the line of action of a black piece), all this in Tanagra. Miniature art is alive in Japan!

3rd Commendation: Jaroslav ŠTUN (Slovakia)

White's aim is to force Black to mate by zugzwang, which means that the bSd5 must be eliminated **without rebirth**. This is achieved by a capture performed by a different white unit in each solution (exchange of functions between wS and wB).

Chameleon echo mates with double check and rebirth of the black Rook are the conclusion of this demonstration.



We conclude this award with our congratulations to the winners and our thanks to all participants for the time spent studying their problems.

Vlaicu Crişan & Eric Huber 28th August 2014, Cluj-Napoca & Bucharest

Appendixes





Fairy definitions

AntiSuperCirce: When a capture is made, the capturing unit (including King) must be replaced on any empty square. Unless otherwise stated, captures on the rebirth square are forbidden. Exception to the rules by default : A Pawn is immovable on its 1st rank.

Eagle: Moves like a Grasshopper ((0,1)+(1,1)Hopper), but deflects 90° either way on passing over the hurdle. The arrival square is adjacent to the hurdle.

Disparate: If one side makes a move with a piece of type "x" (black, white, neutral, half-neutral, etc., King included), the other side cannot answer immediately by moving a piece of the same type "x".). A pawn promoting is a pawn move.

Double-Grasshopper: Makes a Grasshopper move without capturing, then a 2nd Grasshopper move.

Fairy Bishop (Bf): (WinChloe only) Moves like normal Bishop, is reborn like a fairy piece.

Grasshopper: Moves along Q-lines over another unit of either colour to the square immediately beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Kamikaze Circe: the captured piece is reborn according to Circe rules, and the capturing piece is reborn according to Circe rules; the only exception is the King, who is not reborn.

Köko: A move is possible only if the piece moved arrives on a square next to another unit.

Leo: (0,1)+(1,1) Chinese. Chinese Queen. Moves as Queen, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.

Lion: (0,1)+(1,1) Lion. Moves along Queen lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Locust: (0,1)+(1,1) Locust. Moves along Queen lines only by capturing an enemy unit, arriving on the square immediately beyond that unit, which must be vacant.

MarsCirce: To capture, any unit return at first on its rebirth square (according to Circe rules) which must be unoccupied, and then make the capture from this square.

Nao: (1,2) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along the lines of Nightrider.

Nightrider: (1,2) Rider. Operates along straight lines with squares lying a Knight's move away from each other.

Pao: (0,1) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along Rook lines: moves as Rook, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.

ParrainCirce: After a capture, the captured piece is reborn only after another piece of its own side has moved. The line between capturing square and rebirth square is parallel with and of same direction and length as the move of this other piece. Pawns can be reborn on 1st and 8th rank. From their own base rank, they may move one-step; if reborn on the promotion rank, the Pawn at once promotes, the promotion piece being determined by the Pawn side.

Rook-Lion: (0,1) Lion. Moves along Rook lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Rose: (1,2) Octagonal Rider (extents the move of the Knight on a circular path e.g. a4-b6-d7-f6-g4-f2-d1-b2 or a4-c5-e4-f2).

Take & Make: Having captured, a unit must immediately, as part of its move, play a non-capturing move in imitation of the captured unit from the capture-square. If no such move is available, the capture is illegal. Promotion by capture occurs only when a pawn arrives on the promotion rank as the result of a take&make move. Checks are as in normal chess: after the notional capture of the checked K, the checking unit does not move away from the King's square.

Vao: (1,1) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along Bishop lines: moves as Bishop, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.

VogtländerChess: A side is in check only if it threatens to capture the opposite King.