
# 58th World Congress of Chess Composition

## 1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
## THE AWARD
### Judge: Julia Vysotska

First of all I would like to thank all the participants of this competition! I am pleasantly surprised to have received so many interesting works of very high quality, and I am honored to be a judge of this tournament!

The theme was half-neutral pieces in a help-play problems. There were 51 problems by 21 author from 12 countries. As the number of problems was significant, the tournament has been split into two sections:

- Section A: Half-neutral pieces in H#(=/==) & Ser-H#(=/==) problems; 22 in total;
- Section B: Half-neutral pieces in HS#(=/==) problems; 29 in total.

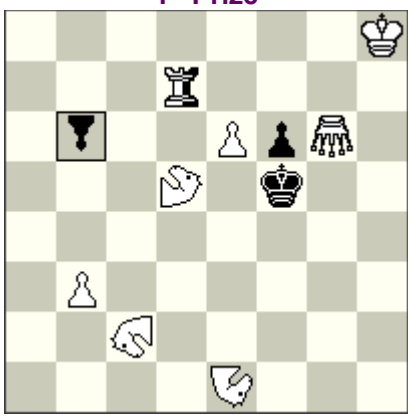
My main criteria were active and thematic usage of half-neutral pieces, originality of the problems and overall thematic content, economy of the constructions. In case of several problems by the same author showing the same theme, only the best versions were included into the Award. I have enjoyed analyzing of all the entries very much. Section B was especially strong with many thematically rich problems as well as light paradoxical problems, not easy to rank, and I have tried to reward both kinds.

I sincerely congratulate authors of the problems which made it into the award!

The Award by the section:

## Section A: Half-neutral pieces in H#(=/==) & Ser-H#(=/==) problems

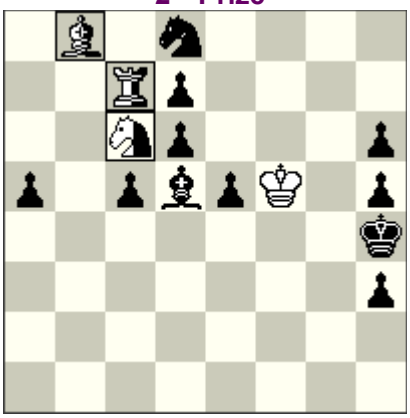
**Petko Petkov**
Bulgaria
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**1st Prize**



h=2 2 solutions (7+3+1)
b) wNe1->d2
Half-neutral Super-pawn b6
Grasshopper g6; Camel d5;
Zebra c2; Nightrider e1

a)
I. 1.nRd7-a7 nRa7-a5 2.hSPb6*a5=nh nhSPa5-a8=nhG=wh =
II. 1.nRd7-c7 nRc7-c5 2.hSPb6*c5=nh nhSPc5-c8=nhN=wh =
b)
I.1.hSPb6-b4=nh nRd7-f7 2.nRf7-f8 +nhSPb4*f8=nhCA=wh =
II. 1.hSPb6-b5=nh nRd7-e7 2.nRe7-e8 + nhSPb5*e8=nhZ=wh =

**Mario Parrinello**
Italy
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**2nd Prize**



h#2 (1+11+3)
b) Ph5->g3, c) Kh4<->h5
Half-neutral Bb8, Rc7, Sc6

a)
1.nhBb8*c7=bh nhSc6*a5=wh 2.hBc7*a5=nh nhBa5-e1=wh #
b)
1.nhRc7*c6=bh nhBb8*d6=wh 2.hRc6*d6=nh nhRd6*h6=wh #
c)
1.nhSc6*b8=bh nhRc7*d7=wh 2.hSb8*d7=nh nhSd7-f6=wh #

**Manfred Rittirsch**
Germany
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**Special Prize**

h#3 2 solutions (1+17)
Half-neutral Rb5, Bd6

I. 1.hBd6-b8=nh nhBb8-c7=wh 2.Bd3-e4 hBc7-d8=nh 3.Be4-d5 nhBd8-e7=wh # (1.hBc7=nhB?.. 3... hBe7=nhB+ 4. nhB~!)

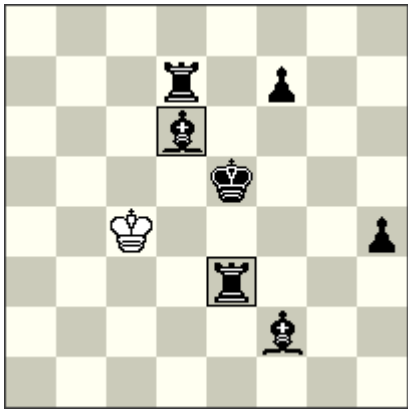
II. 1.hRb5-b3=nh nhRb3-b4=wh 2.Sc1-a2 hRb4-a4=nh 3.Sa2-b4 nhRa4-a5=wh # (1.hRb4=nhR?.. 3... hRa5=nhR+ 4. nhR~!)

**1st Prize - Petko Petkov** (Bulgaria). A bright task with 8 moves (4 black moves and 4 white moves) and 4 fairy promotions by the half-neutral Super-Pawn! 4 phases in a HOTF form (2+2 thematic duos).
Black moves of Super-pawn imitate Pickaninny: in the two solutions of a) SP makes a capturing black move, changing to neutral and promotes to a fairy piece on the white move, changing its phase to the white; in two solutions of b) SP makes two black moves, changing phase to the neutral, and makes two fairy promotional captures on the white move, changing its phase to the white. 8 moves of nR with a sacrifices on the different squares in all 4 phases. Meredith.

**2nd Prize - Mario Parrinello** (Italy). A surprising and paradoxical cycle of half-neutral sacrifices in three phases! Three neutral half-neutral pieces start the play, but they are too many to give mate! The mating piece captures one of its peers on the first black move changing color to the black, letting another peer to annihilate the black pawn on its line to the mating square and captures it on the white move obtaining its neutral color again; finally this lonely half-neutral piece makes a mating move changing color to the white and this way becoming immovable for the Black. Annihilation captures of black pawns, passive and active sacrifices.

**Special Prize - Manfred Rittirsch** (Germany). Interesting maneuvers (although in a heavy form) with anti-dual strategy of two black half-neutral pieces in Rex solus problem! Reciprocal play of two black half-neutral pieces: one does a self-block for the bK; another one makes 4 half-moves to obtain the white color on the mating square. The route of a mating piece is based on the anti-dual strategy, where capturing of Pa3/Pf6 is impossible as opens lines of R/B. Logical tries are based on the nature of half-neutral pieces. ODT. Model mates.

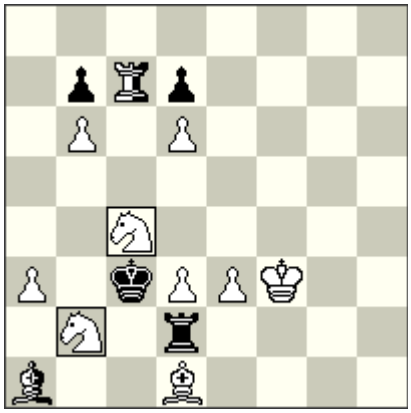
**Vlaicu Crişan, Eric Huber**
Romania
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**1st Honorable mention**



ser-h#6 2 solutions (1+7)
Half-neutral Bd6, Re3

I. 1.Ke5-f4 2.hRe3-e8=nh
3.hBd6-e7=nh 4.Rd7-d3 5.Rd3-f3
6.Kf4-e3 nhBe7-g5=wh #
II. 1.Ke5-e6 2.hBd6-h2=nh
3.hRe3-g3=nh 4.Bf2-c5 5.Bc5-e7
6.Ke6-d6 nhRg3-g6=wh #

**Kjell Widlert**
Sweden
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**2st Honorable mention**

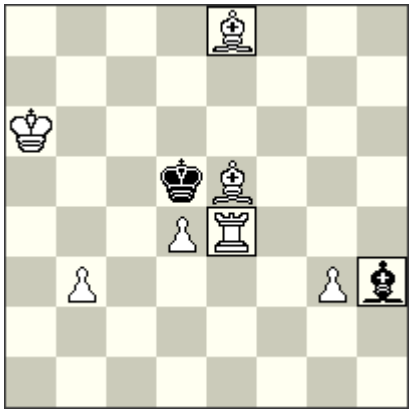


h#2* (9+4+2)
Half-neutral Sb2, Sc4

1...hSb2-a4=nh + 2.nhSa4-b2=bh
hSc4*b2=nh #

1.Rd2*d3 hSc4-a5=nh +
2.nhSa5-c4=bh hSb2*c4=nh #

**Pierre Tritten**
France
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**3rd Honorable mention**



h#2 b) hRh3 (7+2)
Half-neutral Be8, Re4, Bh3

a) 1.hBh3-f1=nh + hRe4-e2=nh
2.nhRe2-e4=bh + nhBf1-c4=wh #

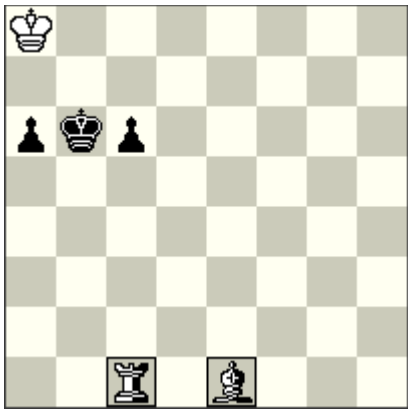
b) 1.hRh3-h6=nh + hBe8-g6=nh
2.nhBg6*e4=bh + nhRh6-d6=wh #

**1st Honorable Mention - Vlaicu Crişan, Eric Huber** (Romania). Reciprocal half-neutral neutral battery play in Rex solus serial helpmate. Two pairs of black pieces – hB/hR and B/R – together with the active bK make the play: half-neutral pieces create the batteries and give mate through the double check by neutral and white pieces; black pieces do the selfblocks. Critical moves of hR(hB) during neutral battery nhR/nhB(nhB/nhR) creation; line opening by hB for the bR (and by hR for the bB). ODT. Meredith.

**2nd Honorable Mention - Kjell Widlert** (Sweden). Reciprocal play of two neutral-half-neutral batteries with a pin mates by blocked neutral piece: One of initial batteries transforms into pin of the bhS after a specific switchback of white half-neutral forward battery piece hS. Next, the second battery plays so that forward half-neutral piece changes color to the neutral, but pins itself by capturing previously pinned bhS. Rear neutral battery pieces B/R are blocked to be immovable by black to defense. ODT.

**3rd Honorable Mention - Pierre Tritten** (France). Interesting cross-checks by half-neutrals hB/hR with change of phase. ODT. Meredith. Model mates. The problem of ANI type with a slight difference in two phases: the switchback with change of phase of hR in a); capturing of the hRe4 with self-block in b). The both phases show nice specific effects of the half-neutrals.

**Pierre Tritten**
France
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**Commendation**

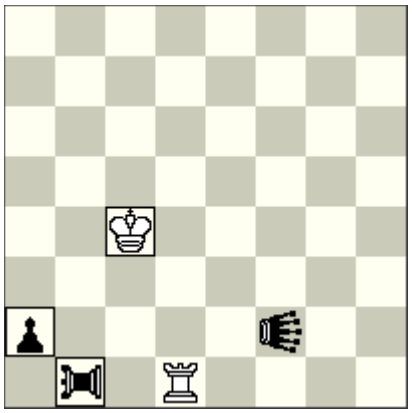


h#2 b) -bPc6 (1+3+2)
Half-neutral Rc1, Be1

a)
1.nhRc1-d1=bh nhBe1-b4=wh
2.hRd1-d7=nh nhRd7-b7=wh #

b)
1.nhBe1-g3=bh nhRc1-c5=wh
2.hBg3-b8=nh nhBb8-a7=wh #

**Karol Mlynka**
Slovakia
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**Commendation**



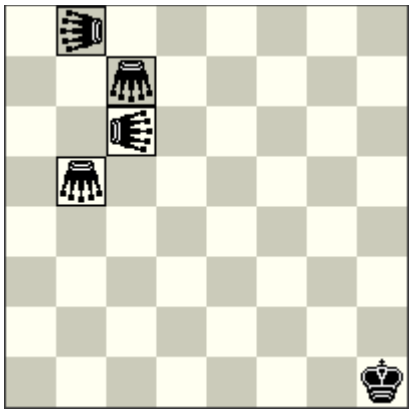
h#3 (2+3)
b) LOf2->e3, c) Rd1->h3
Half-neutral Pa2, Rook-Locust b1
Locust f2

a) 1.hPa2-a1=hL=nh hKc4-d3=nh +
2.nhKd3-e2=bh Rd1-d2 + 3.hKe2-e1=nh + nhLa1*b1-c1=wh #

b) 1.hPa2-a1=hQ=nh nhQa1-c3=wh
2.hLRb1*d1-e1=nh hKc4-d3=nh +
3.nhKd3-e2=bh hQc3*e3=nh #

c) 1.hPa2-a1=hR=nh hKc4-c3=nh +
2.nhKc3-b4=bh nhRa1*b1=wh +
3.hKb4-a5=nh Rh3-a3 #

**Sébastien Luce**
France
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section A
**Commendation**



h#4 2 solutions (0+5)
Half-neutrals Contra-grasshopper b8
Half-neutral Grasshopper c7, b5
Half-neutral Lion c6

I. 1.hLIc6-c8=nh nhLIc8-c5=wh
2.hGb5-d5=nh hLIc5-g5=nh
3.hCGb8-f4=nh nhGd5-h5=wh
4.hGc7-g3=nh nhCGf4-h6=wh #

II. 1.hCGb8-d6=nh nhCGd6-a6=wh
2.hGc7-c5=nh hCGa6-d3=nh
3.hLIc6-c2=nh nhGc5-c1=wh
4.hGb5-e2=nh nhCGd3-b1=wh #

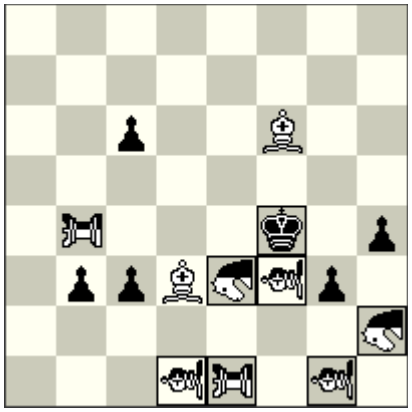
**Commendation - Pierre Tritten** (France). Interchange of functions for hB/hR. ODT. Miniature. Model mates.
**Commendation - Karol Mlynka** (Slovakia). Interesting play of the nK in three different phases; promotions.
**Commendation - Sébastien Luce** (France). Anti-battery mates; change of functions. Model mates.

## Section B: Half-neutral pieces in HS#(=/==) problems

**1st Prize - Petko Petkov** (Bulgaria). A fantastic task with 6 thematic half-moves of half-neutral pieces in each solution where three pairs of half-neutral pieces in neutral phase - a) nNAe3/nVAf3; b) nNAh2/nVAg1; c) nPAe1/nVAd1 - change their functions and color to create four (2 direct and 2 indirect) bi-color anti-batteries in each solution! Double bi-colored "Chinese Indian" on g2/d4 to create a double-checkmate mechanism! "Chinese Grimshaw" on e2 to block it for White and to include half-neutral nPAe1/nVAc1 on e3/f3 respectively. In both phases play 4(!) kinds of mixed-colour anti-batteries! Three blocks (1 for Black + 2 distant blocks for White) in each solution.

**2nd Prize - Franz Pachl, Dieter Müller** (Germany). Reciprocal play of two neutral riders CRh4/Ne8 and promoted half-neutral Riders of the same kind. Check to the bK in the both solutions is done by half-neutral Nd8/CRb8 in a neutral phase, after promotional captures of sacrificed neutrals CRd8/Nb8. Parrying the check half-neutral piece makes a move along its own line, changing color to black and giving mate. Another interesting effect here is a play of the second thematic pair of half-neutrals Bd6/Re3 with reciprocal capture of each other and pinning the black Sg5/Sb6.

**Petko Petkov**
Bulgaria
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**1st Prize**

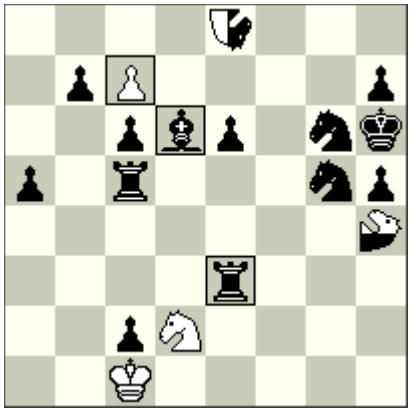


hs#3 b) PAb4->c4 (2+6+7)
Half-neutral NAO e3,h2; PAO e1
Half-neutral VAO f3,d1,g1; Kf4
PAO b4

a)
1.nhVAd1-e2=wh nhVAf3-h1=bh
2.nhNAe3-g2=wh nhNAh2-b5=bh
3.nhVAg1-d4=wh + hKf4-f3=nh #

b)
1.nhPAe1-e2=wh nhNAe3-c7=bh
2.nhVAf3-d5=wh nhVAg1-c5=bh
3.nhNAh2-d4=wh + hKf4-e3=nh #

**Franz Pachl, Dieter Müller**
Germany
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**2nd Prize**

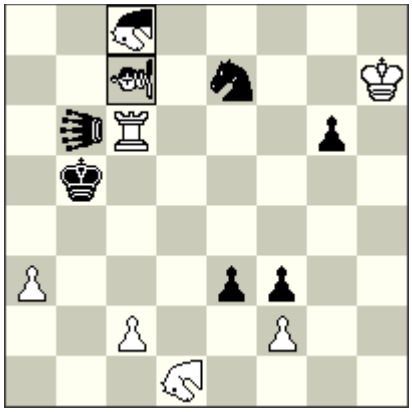


hs#3 b) Pe6->d5 (3+13+2)
Half-neutral Pc7, Bd6, Re3
Nightrider e8; Camelrider h4

a)
1.nCRh4-g7 hBd6-f4=nh
2.nhBf4*e3=wh nCRg7-d8
3.hPc7*d8=hN=nh + nhNd8-f7=bh#

b)
1.nNe8-f6 hRe3-e6=nh
2.nhRe6*d6=wh nNf6-b8
3.hPc7*b8=hCR=nh +
nhCRb8-e7=bh#

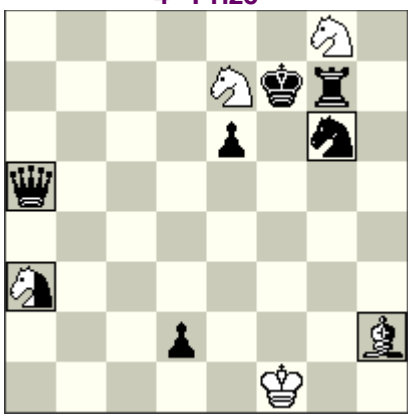
**Franz Pachl**
Germany
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**3nd Prize**



hs#4 b) Pe3->h3 (6+6+2)
Nalf-neutral VAO c7, NAO c8
Nao d1; Leo b6

a)
1.Kh7-h6 LEb6-a7 (LEb7?) 2.nhVAc7-a5=wh nhNAc8-a4=bh 3.hVAa5-e1=nh Kb5-a5 4.c2-c3 + (Rc3+?) nhVAe1-d2=bh #
b)
1.Kh7-h8 LEb6-b7 (LEa7?) 2.nhNAc8-a4=wh nhVAc7-a5=bh 3.hNAa4-g1=nh Kb5-a4 4.Rc6-c3 + (c3+?) nhNAg1-e2=bh #

**Petko Petkov**
Bulgaria
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**4st Prize**



hs#3 b) bPe6->f5 (3+6+2)
Half-neutral Chameleons:
Sa3, Qa5, Sg6, Bh2

a) 1.nchSa3-b5=nchB=w chQa5-c3=chS=n 2.nchSc3-e2=nchB=w chSg6-e5=chB=n 3.nchBe5-f4=nchR=w + nchBh2*f4=nchR=b #

b) 1.nchBh2-b8=nchR=w chSg6-h4=chB=n 2.nchBh4-f2=nchR=w chQa5-b6=chS=n 3.nchSb6-c4=nchB=w + nchSa3*c4=nchB=b #

**Vlaicu Crişan, Eric Huber**
Romania
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Special Prize**

hs#3,5 b) Pc4<->Kf3 (8+3)
Half-neutral Bd5, Rd6, Rf4, Bg5

a) 1...hBg5-h6=nh 2.hBd5-f7=nh nhBf7-h5=bh + 3.hRf4-g4=nh hRd6-g6=nh 4.nhBh6-f4=wh + nhRg4*f4=bh #

b) 1...hRd6-d8=nh 2.hRf4-f7=nh nhRf7-c7=bh + 3.hBd5-c6=nh hBg5-e7=nh 4.nhRd8-d5=wh + nhBc6*d5=bh #

**Kjell Widlert**
Sweden
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Special Prize**

hs#3 b) -wSe7 (6+7+2)
Half-neutral Ba6, Se2, Rf3, Rf8

a)
1.nhBa6-c4=wh b4-b3 2.hSe2-d4=nh nhSd4-c6=bh 3.hBc4-d5=nh + nhBd5-c4=bh #

b)
1.nhRf8-f5=wh g6-g5 2.hRf3-d3=nh nhRd3-d5=bh 3.hRf5-e5=nh + nhRe5-f5=bh #

**3rd Prize** - **Franz Pachl** (Germany). Reciprocal play of two Chinese half-neutral pieces. Check to the bK in the both solutions is done by hVA/hNA in a neutral phase after anti-battery play. The mechanism of giving mate is the same as in the 2nd Prize. Two logical tries in the both solutions. A nice effect on the 2nd move where both neutrals hVA/hNA go to the same squares (hVAa4,hNAa5) in two phases, but once on the white and once on the black move changing their color accordingly.

**4th Prize** - **Petko Petkov** (Bulgaria). Task problem where all 6 half-moves are made by half-neutral Chameleons! Two pairs of pieces (hbchQa5/hbchSg6; hnchSa3/hnchBhs) change their functions in two phases. A very surprising white zugzwang after the first black moves in both phases: White should play with a Chameleon in neutral phase and block squares around wK with a new phase of Chameleons in white color. Thematic anti-dual tries on the 3rd move: a) 3.nchBh2-f4=nchR=wh +? → 3... nchBe5-f6=nchR=bh!; b) 3.nchSa3-c4=nchB=wh +? → 3... nchBe5-f6=nchR=bh!; b) 3.nchSa3-c4=nchB=wh +? → 3... nchBe5-f6=nchR=bh!; b) 3.nchSa3-c4=nchB=wh +? → 3... nchSb6 - d5 =nchB=bh!. Model-mates with white blocks on e2/f2 and "anti-defensive" effects: a) 4.nchBe2-f3=nchR=nh+? - selfcheck!; b) 4.nchRf2-e2=nchQ=nh+? - selfcheck!. Meredith.

**Special Prize** - **Vlaicu Crişan, Eric Huber** (Romania). Task problem where all 7 half-moves are made by half-neutral pieces! Paradoxically initially black pieces check the bK being in the white phase; initially white pieces create neutral-black battery with a black double-check mate. Reciprocal play of white half-neutrals Bd5/Rf4 in neutral-black battery creation in the both phases; ODT. Reciprocal play of black half-neutrals Bg5/Rd6 in checking wK being in the white phase. Tries a) 1...hRd6-g6=nh? and b) 1...hBg5-e7=nh? are based on the interferences on the 2nd moves. Meredith.

**Special Prize** - **Kjell Widlert** (Sweden). A pleasant reciprocal play of two pairs of half-neutral pieces hSe2/hRf3 and hBa6/hRf8! Unpin of the white hSe2/hRf3 on the first white move; preliminary block of the neutral checking piece hBd5/hRe5 with a black Pb3/Pg5 and unpinned hS/hR in the black phase on c6/d5; switchback of the mating piece hBc4/hRf5 after change of phase from white to black.

**Erich Bartel**
Germany
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Special Prize**

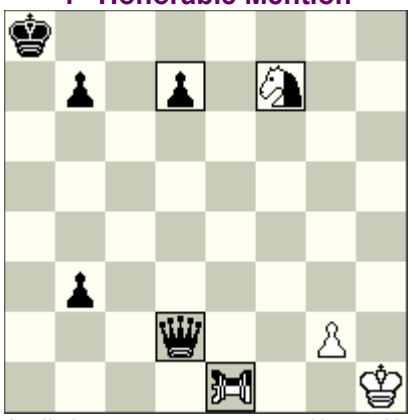
hs#3 (1+3)
b) Kf8->c7, c) Kf8->b3
Half-neutral Princess a3, Amazon a2

a) 1.Kf5-g6 hPRa3-b2=nh 2.Kg6-h7 hAMa2-a7=nh + 3.nhPRb2-g7=wh + nhAMa7*g7=bh #

b) 1.Kf5-f6 hPRa3-c4=nh 2.Kf6-e7 hAMa2-b4=nh + 3.nhPRc4-d6=wh + nhAMb4*d6=bh #

c) 1.Kf5-e4 hPRa3-d6=nh + 2.Ke4-d3 hAMa2-a6=nh + 3.nhPRd6-c4=wh + nhAMa6*c4=bh #

**Nikola Predrag**
Croatia
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**1st Honorable Mention**

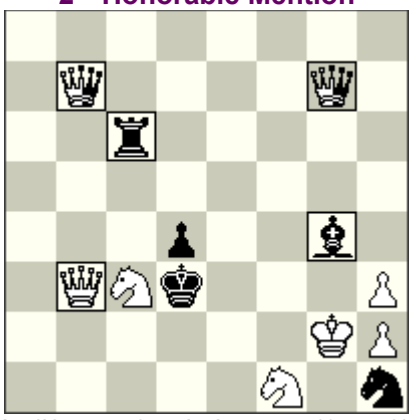


hs#4* (2+5+2)
Half-neutral Pao e1, Pd7
Halfneutral Chameleons Qd2, Sc7

1...nhPAe1-e8=bh
2.nchSf7-g5=nchB=wh
chQd2-e2=chS=nh
3.nchSe2-g1=nchB=wh hPAe8-h8=nh
4.chBg5-d8=chR=nh +
nchRd8*h8=nchQ=bh #

1.nhPAe1-a1=wh hPd7-d6=nh
2.nhPd6-d7=wh chQd2*d7=chS=nh
3.nchSf7-d6=nchB=wh
nchSd7-b8=nchB=bh
4.chBd6-a3=chR=nh +
nchRa3*a1=nchQ=bh #

**Georgy Evseev**
Russia
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**2nd Honorable Mention**



hs#2,5 2 solutions (6+5+2)
Half-neutral Qb3, Qb7, Qg7
Half-neutral Rc6,Bg4

I. 1...nhQb7-a8=bh 2.hQb3-a4=nh hRc6-f6=nh + 3.nhRf6-f3=wh + hBg4*f3=nh #

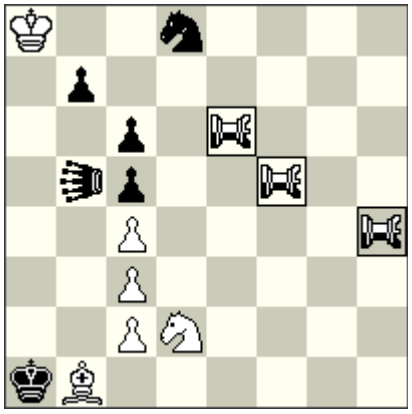
II. 1...nhQg7-g8=bh 2.hQb3-b4=nh hBg4-h5=nh + 3.nhBh5-g6=wh + hRc6*g6=nh #

**Special Prize** - **Erich Bartel** (Germany). Four-man in three phases! Cross-checks, model mates. Exotic fairy pieces in the play: half-neutral PR gives check to the bK in the white phase while half-neutral AM guards the squares of the bK being in neutral phase; and AM gives mate to the wK changing phase to the black.

**1st Honorable Mention** - **Nikola Predrag** (Croatia). An interesting color-inversion of thematic strategy realized with extra half-move! The double transformation of half-neutral Chameleons with a necessary change of Chameleon phase and color; the additional move of PA in a set-play and a switchback of hP in the real play defines the play. Meredith.

**2nd Honorable Mention** - **Georgy Evseev** (Russia). Paradoxical mates by half-neutral pieces in the neutral phases in the both solutions! Triple forces – double check with neutral pieces and a pin of one mating neutral piece - are needed for the mate! The problem is decorated with cross-checks; white tempo-moves and change of functions of two pairs of h-n: Qb7/Qg7, Rc6/Bg4. But the use of hQb3 which plays as white only is distracting.

**Mario Parrinello**
Italy
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**3rd Honorable Mention**



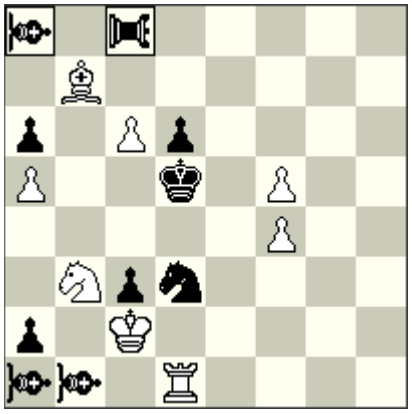
hs#4 (6+6+3)
b) LEb5->a4, c) Leb5->a6
Leo b5
Rook-lion e6, f5, h4

a) 1.nhRLe6-b6=wh LEb5*f5
2.hRLb6-b8=nh LEf5-h7
3.nhRLh4-h8=wh nhRLb8-b2=bh
4.hRLh8-h1=nh + nhRLh1-h8=bh #

b) 1.nhRLf5-b5=wh LEa4*h4
2.hRLb5-b8=nh LEh4-e7
3.nhRLe6-e8=wh nhRLb8-b2=bh
4.hRLe8-e1=nh + nhRLe1-e8=bh #

c) 1.nhRLh4-b4=wh LEa6*e6
2.hRLb4-b8=nh LEe6-f7
3.nhRLf5-f8=wh nhRLb8-b2=bh
4.hRLf8-f1=nh + nhRLf1-f8=bh #

**Luis Miguel Martín**
Spain
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Commendation**

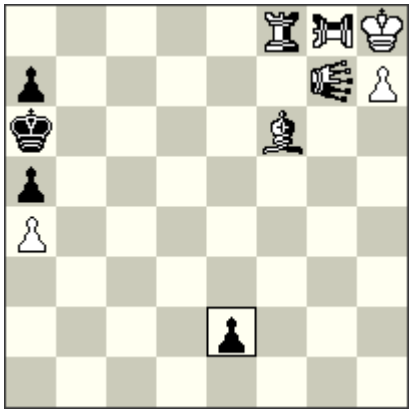


hs#2,5 2 solutions (8+10)
Half-neutral Alfil a1, Dabbaba c8
Alfil a1, b1

I. 1...hALa8*c6=nh
2.nhALc6-e4=wh + hDAc8-c6=nh
3.hALe4-g2=nh nhALg2-e4=bh #

II. 1...hDAc8*c6=nh
2.nhDAc6-c4=wh + hALa8-c6=nh
3.hDAc4-a4=nh nhDAa4-c4=bh #

**Luis Miguel Martín**
Spain
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Commendation**



hs#3,5 2 solutions (3+4+4)
Half-neutral Rook locust g8
Half-neutral Locust g7
Half-neutral Bf6, Rf8

I. 1...hPe2-e1=hR=nh
2.nhRe1-e8=wh nLg7*f6-e5
3.hRe8-a8=nh nRf8-c8
4.nLRg8*c8-b8 nhRa8*b8=bh #

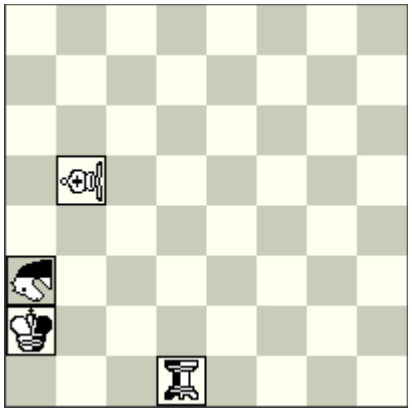
1...hPe2-e1=hB=nh
2.nhBe1-c3=wh nLRg8*f8-e8
3.hBc3-a1=nh nBf6-c3
4.nLg7*c3-b2 nhBa1*b2=bh #

**3rd Honorable Mention** - **Mario Parrinello** (Italy). Three half-neutral Rook-lions reciprocally play in 3 phases! One half-neutral RL is passively sacrificed; one makes a self-block to the bK being in the black phase; one gives a check to the bK being in neutral phase; and parries a check with another move, giving mate to the wK in a white phase.

**Commendation** - **Luis Miguel Martín** (Spain). Black zugzwang; half-neutral specific switchbacks.

**Commendation** - **Luis Miguel Martín** (Spain). Black zugzvang with half-neutrals B/R, reciprocally blocked in the corners.

**Stephan Dietrich**
Germany
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Commendation**

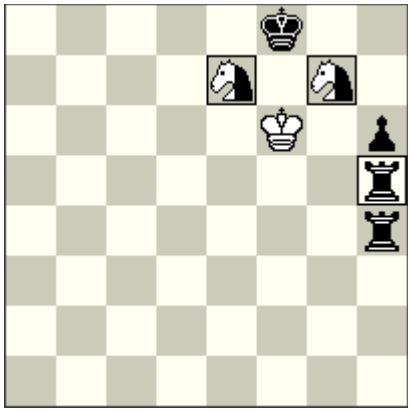


hs#2,5 b) nEMd1->d3 (1+3)
Half-neutral Ka2, Princess b5
Half-neutral Empress d1, Dragon a3

a) 1...nhKa2-b3=bh 2.hPRb5-c3=nh nhDRa3-c4=bh 3.nhEMd1-c1=wh + hKb3-a3=nh #

b) 1...nhKa2-a1=bh 2.hPRb5-c4=nh nhEMd3-d1=bh 3.nhDRa3-c2=wh + hKa1-b1=nh #

**Rainer Kuhn**
Germany
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Commendation**

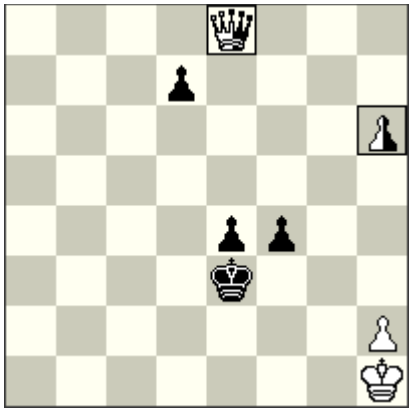


hs#3 2 solutions (1+4+2)
Half-neutral Se7, Sg7, Rh5

I. 1.nhSe7-d5=wh hRh5-e5=nh 2.hSd5-f4=nh Rh4-h5 3.nhRe5-e8=wh + nhSg7*e8=bh #

II. 1.nhSg7-f5=wh Rh4-e4 2.hSf5-h4=nh hRh5-g5=nh 3.nhRg5-g8=wh + nhSe7*g8=bh #

**Dieter Müller**
Germany
1st RIGA BLACK BALSAM TT
Section B
**Commendation**



hs#3,5 b) nhPh6->g6 (2+4+2)
Half-neutral Qe8, Ph6

a) 1...Ke3-f3 2.nhPh6-h7=wh e4-e3 3.hPh7-h8=hQ=nh nhQe8-e4=bh 4.nhQh8-h5=wh + Kf3-f2 #

b) 1...Ke3-f2 2.nhPg6-g7=wh nhQe8-h5=bh 3.hPg7-g8=hQ=nh hQh5-d1=nh + 4.nhQg8-g1=wh + nhQd1*g1=bh #

**Commendation** - **Stephan Dietrich** (Germany). Half-neutral King in four-men problem with exotic fairy pieces.
**Commendation** - **Rainer Kuhn** (Germany). Change of function of two half-neutral Knights. Miniature in two phases.
**Commendation** - **Dieter Müller** (Germany). ANI-problem: battery play in a); cross-checks in b).

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