



AWARD of Julia's Fairies 2022-I Informal Tournament (1.1.2022-30.6.2022)

Judge: Vlaicu Crișan

In the first semester of 2022 46 originals were published, out of which 1723 and 1723.1 were cooked. Readers interested to find out the cook(s) from [1723.1](#) can enter the following input in Jacobi:

forsyth 7s/1P2p2P/3pP1p1/1s1Pp1P1/p1p1P3/1p4p1/1K4P1/7k

stipulation ser-a=>b33

forsyth 8/8/8/8/p1p5/BQB5/KB3Q2/XB5k

I learned this method of cooking by reading the article "Testing Series movers" published in [Quartz](#). Curiously, the author of both the article and the problem didn't check the possibility of putting wQa1 instead of wBa1.

A quick inventory of the participating compositions revealed all stipulations are represented, but not enough for creating independent sub-sections based on stipulation:

The second attempt was to check if the material criteria could lead to a balanced separation, but again it was not the case:

Stipulation	Entries
Help play	22
Series	10
Antagonistic	7
Help Self	7
Total	46

Material	Entries
Miniature	12
Meredith	11
Less than 16	7
16 and over	16
Total	46

That's why I eventually decided to make a single award. The next step was to establish the criteria in the assessment of the entries. That's always the most difficult part which requires careful thinking, because there is no common ground between the stipulations. In this informal tournament, my criteria were the following:

- Specificity: all fairy elements must be exploited in all phases
- Originality of the idea: the strategic content must be interesting and ambitious
- Artistry: the presentation form must be appealing, respecting all economy principles

The overall quality of the tournament is rather high, as in the first draft of the award I retained more than half of the competing entries. Then I decided to change my approach and proceed in a different way by establishing the rank level for each composition:

- Prize: Must be in the FIDE Album
- Honorable Mention: Should be in the FIDE Album
- Commendation: Could be in the FIDE Album

The order of distinctions within each rank level is purely subjective and other judges might have reached to an entirely different classification! As you will see, it is not possible to objectively compare two consecutively placed compositions and sometimes it is even not worth trying.

Before presenting the classified entries, some words to the composers of not retained compositions. First of all: there is nothing wrong with your compositions! There are fierce competitions where good problems can't emerge just because other compositions are better sticking to the set criteria. That doesn't mean your compositions are not worth being selected in an anthology – it only means that for me other compositions from this tournament deserve more to be recognized.

The **prize winners** stuck in my memory long time after viewing all the problems. All are simply outstanding pieces of work – clearly the best in their categories – and produce sheer enjoyment.



1st Prize – [1712](#) Michel Caillaud (France)

In the set play only 1... Sf3 is not met by a White mate. The key pins bSg1 and selfpins wRe8, but unblocks bPc2 allowing 5 promotions – that's called Super AUW. The anti-quintuple separation of wR mates after the black promotions is based on heterogeneous AntiCirce motivations:

- 1... c1=Q checks, so the rebirth square of the bQ must be occupied
 - 1... c1=R checks, so the rebirth square of the bR must be occupied
 - 1... c1=B attacks the wROL, so the rebirth square of the bB must be occupied
 - 1... c1=S attacks the wROL hurdle (wSd3), so the rebirth square of the bS must be occupied
 - 1... c1=ROL checks (over e2, via f4-e6), so the bROL must be interfered
- In spite of the utmost economy, this impressive task intensively exploits both Rose-Lion and AntiCirce capabilities!

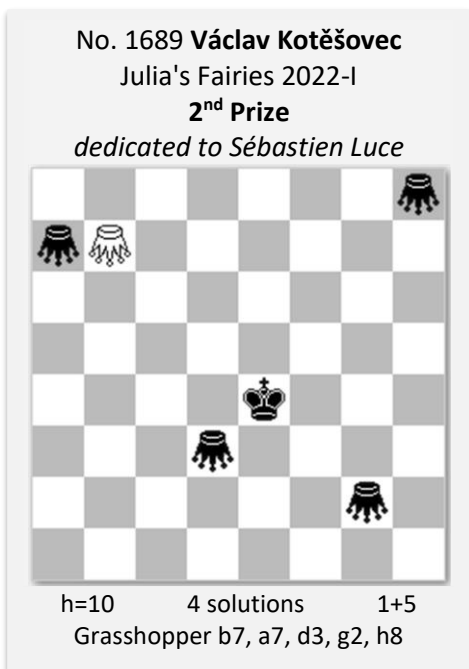
1...Sh3 2.Sxe2 (Se2→b1)#

1.Sd3! zugzwang.

1...c1=Q+ 2.Rd8# ; 1...c1=R+ 2.Rh8# ; 1...c1=B 2.Rf8# ; 1...c1=S 2.Rg8# ;

1...c1=RN+ 2.Re6#

By-play: 1...d5 2.Kd6#



2nd Prize – [1689](#) Václav Kotěšovec (Czech Republic)

A truly unbelievable task: 4-fold exact echo ideal stalemate positions in 4 corners of the chessboard obtained in 4 solutions of 10 moves length each! The *connoisseurs* will rightly claim the author realized similar such tasks in the past ending with mate and using different fairy pieces. However this task has some peculiar features which ensure its uniqueness: white minimal, ends with a stalemate and doesn't use any fairy conditions. The play is similar in the author's own [FB2065](#) published in StrateGems 97/2022. I was able to spot only single repeated move (1... Gf3 appears in the first and last solutions), but let's not be too harsh and request the moon. Regardless how this chess composition was actually created, it is clearly an impressive demonstration of technical virtuosity deserving high recognition.

1.Gf5 Gf3 2.Kd3 Gf6 3.Ge5 Gd4 4.Ge3 Gf2 5.Gc3 Gf6 6.Kc2 Gd4 7.Gb1 Gf6 8.Kb2 Gd4+ 9.Ka1 Gb2 10.Ga2 Gd4 =

1.Kd4 Gh1 2.Gc3 Gf3 3.Ge4 Gd5 4.Gb3 Ga2 5.Kc5 Ga8 6.Gc6 Gd5 7.Kb6 Gf3 8.Kb7 Gd5+ 9.Ka8 Gb7 10.Gb8 Gd5 =

1.Kd5 Ge4 2.Gd6 Gc6 3.Gd4 Ge4 4.Ke6 Ge7 5.Kf7 Gg7 6.Gf6 Ge5 7.Kg8 Gg7 8.Gh7 Ge5 9.Kh8 Gg7 10.Gg8 Ge5 =

1.Gc7 Gf3 2.Gg3 Gh1 3.Gh2 Gh3 4.Gd5 Gh1 5.Kf3 Gh3+ 6.Kg2 Gf3 7.Gh1 Gc6 8.Gf3 Ge4+ 9.Kh1 Gg2 10.Gg1 Ge4 =

No. 1691 **Manfred Rittirsch**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

3rd Prize*Dedicated to Petko A. Petkov
for his 80th birthday*

ser-h#10

2 solutions

8+4

Camel h4 ; Rose h7 ; Ibis h8

3rd Prize – [1691](#) Manfred Rittirsch (Germany)

This Meredith setting doesn't seem too complicated at the first glance: the white Camel guards e5, the white Rose guards c5 and d7, while the white Ibis guards c7. The white pawns respectively guard c6 and d5, so Black needs to block the two remaining flights (e6 and e7) and block a third one to release a white piece from its guarding duties. But here is the real catch: the author managed to show a cycle of fairy promotions, with each promoted piece blocking a different square in the two solutions! Moreover, the final move is different – so also the white mating pieces exchange their functions. This idea is highly original and the presentation ending with two model mates is simply flawless.

1.a1=RO 2.ROxc2 3.ROe7 4.c2 5.c1=CA 6.CAxf2 7.CAe5 8.f2 9.f1=IB 10.IBe6 CAg7#

1.a1=IB 2.IBxf2 3.IBe7 4.f2 5.f1=CA 6.CAxc2 7.CAd5 8.c2 9.c1=RO 10.ROe6 e5#

No. 1697 **Thomas Maeder**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

4th Prize

h#2

2 solutions

6+10

Breton

4th Prize – [1697](#) Thomas Maeder (Switzerland)

The subtle exploitation of Breton specificity was explained *in extenso* by Geoff Foster in his excellent comment of the problem contents. The solution outlines the logical character of the composition, according to the New German chess composition school principles: there is a main plan and its execution fails due to an obstacle. After the preparatory plan (here entirely executed by Black) removes the obstacle in a fairy specific way, the execution of the main plan (here entirely played by White) becomes successful. Of course, there is no real interplay though Black must carefully avoid a clash in both solutions. Very short, but also very clever!

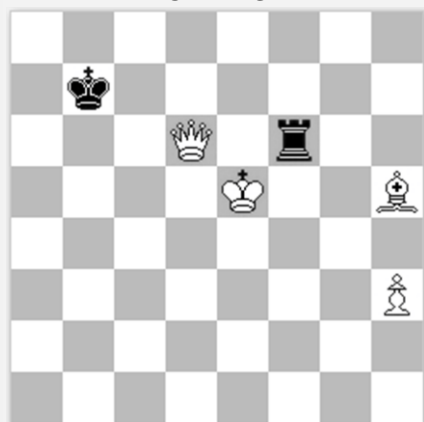
1.d4 (~?) R3g6 2.Bh8 Ba6+ 3.Kxa6 [-h8] ; 1.Bg5? Rg6?? 2.Bxc1 [-bB~] Ba6#

1.Re1! R3g6 2.Rxc1 [-f6] Ba6# ; 1.d4 (~?) Bf4 2.Re1 Rb8+ 3.Kxb8 [-e1]

1.Re3? Bf4?? 2.Rxg3 [-bR~] Rb8# ; 1.Bh4! Bf4 2.Bxg3 [-e5] Rb8#

No. 1710 **Torsten Linß**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

5th Prize

hs#8.5

4+2

5th Prize – [1710](#) Torsten Linß (Germany)

The best single-line composition from the whole tournament! The strategic wealth is astonishing: both line pieces from the 6th rank must play Bristol moves to allow the passage of both Kings before returning to their original squares. All pieces are active in the solution. As in the case of the 2nd Prize, it doesn't matter at all how this composition was conceived – what actually matters is the story it says. True: some of the elements have been shown before in Torsten's previous compositions, but the whole package seems quite original and very satisfying from a merely solver's perspective.

All the Honorable Mentions have something in common: the multiplier 4. In other less ambitious fairy informal tournaments any of these compositions would have easily won a prize! Only in this very strong competition they missed the Prize rank level by a whisker. But I won't be too surprised if they will feature in the next FIDE Album.

1...Rh6 2.Qg6 Kc7 3.Kf6 Kd6 4.Kg7+ Ke5 5.Qd6+ Kf5 6.Be8 Rf6 7.Kh8 Kg5 8.h4+ Kh6 9.Qf8+ Rxf8#

No. 1696 **Michal Dragoun**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

1st Honorable Mention

h#2

4 solutions

13+10

Nightrider b5, c4
LEO b4, d7, f1, f7
PAO e1 ; VAO e8

1st Honorable Mention – [1696](#) Michal Dragoun (Czech Republic)

A monumental conception! The author deplores the need to place three blocking pieces on the first rank. All four solutions are based on captures: B1 creates a flight for the wK, W1 opens wBb6 diagonal, B2 unblocks an occupied square on which W2 delivers mate. The pattern of captured piece and mating piece shows a fourfold cyclic Zilahi. What I would have expected for a prize was another cycle of black pieces sacrificed on B1 and B2, but alas there was "just" a double exchange of roles between bSa2/bLEf7 and bLEd7/bVAe8. The close analysis of the mechanism reveals the composer's dual avoidance tricks to make it work. Two flights are double guarded: d2 by wLEb4 and wNc4, while f3 by wNb5 and wBd5. Out of the four potential white mates, three are ruled out due to similar reasons: (a) capture of white piece, (b) previous move of sacrificing black piece and (c) need to guard the flight after the capture of white piece, hence only one possible sacrifice remains possible.

1.Sxb4 Kxb4 2.LExf3 Bxf3# ; 1.LExd5 Kxd5 2.VAxb6 Nxb6#

1.LExc4 Kxc4 2.Sxc3 Nxc3# ; 1.VAxb5 Kxb5 2.LExb4 Lxb4#

No. 1688 **Armin Geister & Daniel Papack**
Julia's Fairies 2022-I
2nd Honorable Mention



ser-h#8

9+11

Mars Circe

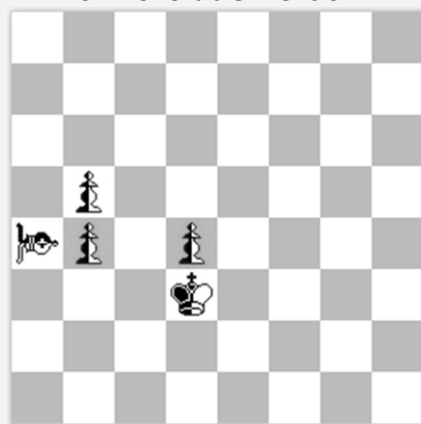
Logical try: 1... Qxd2??

1.Qh8 2.Rg8 3.Sf3 4.g1=R 5.Rg2
6.Sg1 7.Re8 8.Qf8 Q-d1xd2#

2nd Honorable Mention – [1688](#) Armin Geister & Daniel Papack (Germany)

The composition raised many heated debates among the readers. I see it as a logical composition, where the main plan falls due to the initial specific pin of wQ by the bPg2. The first preparatory plan (1.Sf3), aiming to promote the bP and hence unpin the wQ, fails due to another specific check. The second preparatory plan (1.Qg8 2.Sf3 3.g1=R) fails again due to another specific check. In the solution, Black must block both rebirth squares g8 and h8 to allow the execution of the preparatory plan. The promoted bR must to return to g2 to interfere with bBh1 and then all the black pieces also must return to their original squares. The whole play is motivated by Mars Circe effects, the last Black move being also a specific unpin of the wQ, while the penultimate is a block of bK rebirth square. The four switchbacks just enhance the crystal clear logical structure of the solution. I am not bothered at all by any concerns related to the legality of the position although I can also put my fairy retros hat on when necessary. But it is clearly not the case here! However there is still one question: is it justified to use wPs on e7 and f7 instead of bPs? From a logical perspective the purity of aim of the switchback 7.Re8 is better preserved with black pawns, as it is a mere selfblock and no longer an occupation of bK's rebirth square. This slight, yet understandable, violation of economy of purpose principle made me place this otherwise excellent composition in a lower rank level.

No. 1719 **Ján Golha**
Julia's Fairies 2022-I
3rd Honorable Mention



h#2.5

4 solutions

0+0+5

Take&Make

Anti-Take&Make

neutral Moose a4

neutral Pb4,Pb5,Pd4

neutral Kd3

3rd Honorable Mention – [1719](#) Ján Golha (Slovakia)

Fourfold exact echo mates realized with only neutral pieces! To avoid a self-check this is theoretically possible only if the mating piece is a neutral Pawn. Under Take & Make rules, the neutral Pawn must be immobilized between other two pieces, while the upper diagonal square must be occupied by a non-checking piece (Moose). Thanks to Take & Make a capture of the Moose would lead the neutral King into an illegal self-check. The author deserves credit for discovering this final position and also for finding an initial setting leading to four echoed positions. No move is fully repeated: although 1... dxc5→b3 appears twice, the captured neutral Moose appears on different squares. The only slight blemish is that the slight disparity in the number of captures between the first solution (4) and the last solution (2). No deep strategy (... what can you expect in a *tanagra*?), but very intensive exploitation of the fairy elements!

1...nKe2 2.bxa4→c3 (+nMc5) dxc5→b3 (+nMd2) 3.cxd2→b5 (+nMf1)
nKxf1→a5 (+nMb6)#

1...nKe4 2.b3 bxa4→b6 (+nMe3) 3.dxe3→b7 (+nMd5) nKxd5→a7 (+nMb8)#

1...nKd2 2.nMc5 dxc5→b3 (+nMa4) 3.bxa4→b2 (+nMc3) nKxc3→a4 (+nMb5)#

1...d5 2.nMb6 nMc4 3.dxc4→b6 (+nMe3) nKxe3→a6 (+nMb7)#

No. 1724 **James Quah**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

4th Honorable Mention

#2

12+9

Quintessence a7, d5, e2

4th Honorable Mention – [1724](#) James Quah (Singapore)

The author claims a quadruple Grimshaw. Well, I slightly disagree with this description and would rather call it a double Grimshaw on the same field. There are actually two pairs of pieces mutually interfering with each other on f6: bBd8 and bRf4, respectively bRe6 and bPf7. The author is a reputed expert in the quadruple Grimshaw and has shown many times before this theme. Regardless the inaccurate theoretical description of the theme I must confess I don't remember seeing any rendering of a double Grimshaw on the same field! Thus the content of the problem seems to become more original in spite of the reduced complexity. Now that's quite a paradoxical situation for any judge: how should one properly assess the content? I ultimately decided to give it a high place, due also to the good activity of all white Quintessences. While the presence of the third wR is not disturbing me at all, however as a solver I immediately noticed the presence of wRh8 requires a threat on h7 which almost instantly gives away the key.

1.QNe8! ~ 2.Rxh7#

 1...Rf6 2.Bxg5# ; 1...Rf6 2.gxf4# ; 1...f6 2.Rg6# ; 1...Bf6 2.QNxf7#
 (2.gxf4? Rxe2+!)

The **commendations** distinguish themselves among other quality entries by an original feature. They don't have the ambition scale of the prizes or honorable mentions, yet deserve to have their own place under the spotlight.

Commendations (in order of publication)

No. 1692.1 **Gábor Tar**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

Commendation

ser-s#7

9+8

Anti-Circe

[1692.1](#) Gábor Tar (Hungary)

A small retro trick enabled the author to begin the solution with an en passant capture. There have been composed many series movers showing the Valladao theme, but all of them end with the classical en passant capture. The author brings a new and fresh perspective, which must not pass unnoticed. A real gem!

 1.axb5→b6 (Pb6→b2) (a5*b6 ep.) 2.Kxc4 (Kc4→e1) 3.Rxb4 (Rb4→a1)
 4.0-0-0 5.Kb1 6.Ka1 7.Rb1 gxf1=R (Rf1→a8)#

No. 1695 **Chris Feather**
Julia's Fairies 2022-I
Commendation



h#2 b) shift a1 ==> b1 4+8
Equipollents AntiCirce

[1695](#) Chris Feather (England)

This Meredith shows in a humorous way that sometimes the world is too small! It is unusual to unpin an enemy piece by moving the pinning unit along the pin line, yet this is possible in Equipollents AntiCirce thanks to the chessboard's size. The inspired FML mate following the black unpin reminds me of "*reculer pour mieux sauter*". Call it a fairing: something to delight a newcomer into the fairy chess world!

a) 1.Se3 Bh1 2.Re5 Be4# (Rc5-c6?) ; b) 1.Bc4 Ra5 2.Rd6 Rd5# (Rf4-f5?)

No. 1709 **Neal Turner & Henry Tanner**
Julia's Fairies 2022-I
Commendation



s#2 SAT 7+9
Royal Grasshopper b5, e5

[1709](#) Neal Turner & Henry Tanner (Finland)

In the set play Black has only two unprovided defenses, one of them being 1... Rg2. Now the attempt to capture on c3 with wRd3 fails due to the presence of wBh3, which can save the mate after the black switchback by playing to f1. I also liked how a minor alteration of the position (e.g. the removal of a hurdle) enables the black switchback and disables the white switchbacks. Witty!

1.Bg2! ~ 2.Bd5+ rGg5#
1...Ba3 2.Rxc3+ Bb2# (3.Rb3??)
1...Rxc3 2.Rxc3+ Re2# (3.Rd3??)
1...Sd6 2.Sxc7+ Sb7# (3.Se8??)

No. 1715 **Hans Uitenbroek**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

Commendation

hs#2.5

2 solutions

6+9

Rose e2, c3

[1715](#) Hans Uitenbroek (Netherlands)

A new twist on Julia's Fairies 10 Jubilee Tournament theme: two initially doubled pinned pieces are step by step unpinned, after which the white unpinned piece triggers the created black batteries. Careful readers will notice in each solution there are actually two different black batteries created after each white move and only the latter is activated. The black Rose c3 is the soul of the composition, although it doesn't move at all during the solution.

1...Be7 2.ROg7 Re2 3.ROe6+ Rxe6# ; 1...Rd7 2.Sc7 Bb5 3.Sa6+ Bxa6#

No. 1715 **Eric Huber**

Julia's Fairies 2022-I

Commendation

hs#3

b) Ke1->f1

5+2

Anticipés

Anti-Circe (Cheylan)

[1717](#) Eric Huber (Romania)

Anticipés leads to unforeseen situations, even in deceptively simple Kindergarten settings! This composition is like the dark chocolate: it doesn't immediately reveal its taste and it takes quite some time to feel the real flavor. The mate is easily engineered once the major promoted black piece gets off the pin – the real question being how to properly control their unleashed power. The zugzwang mates delivered by the black King after the previous brilliant cross checks are typical for Eric's composition style of unexpected twist endings.

a) 1.Kc8 c1=R+ 2.h8=R+ Ra1+ 3.Rh1 Kf2# ; b) 1.d8=B Kg1 2.Bh4+ c1=Q+ 3.Bf2 Kf1#

31st December 2023, Cluj-Napoca