

DANKA PETKOVA – 100 M.T. 2020-21 AWARD, by Petko Petkov

First of all, I apologize to the participants in the tournament for the long delay in publishing the results. The reason is a very long and dangerous disease of mine, associated with side-effects to a Covid vaccine, which led to a long and difficult stay in a hospital setting. Now the rehabilitation procedures are continuing and it is not clear when all this will end. However, there has been some improvement in the last month and I can now write, compose and edit, of course at a slower pace, following a very strict regime of physical and mental activity.

In the three sections of the tournament DANKA PETKOVA - 100 M.T 2020-21, fifteen authors from nine countries sent a total of 63 originals. The general level of the competition, in my opinion, was very high, given the excellent problems of world-famous authors, who in this difficult and very specific thematic tournament again showed their super-class.

The following is brief information about the situation in the three sections of the tournament.

A) Direct mates in 2-4 moves. For me, this section was the only big and negative surprise, as here I received only 7 problems from 4 authors. Only one original (from IGM Juraj Lörinc) appears in my award. The other 6 originals, mostly by young authors, turned out to be thematic, but very elementary in content for such a tournament and with some typical weakness in this field.

B) Helpmates (stalemates, double ==) in 2-4 moves with at least two phases (2 or more solutions, set play + solution, twins but no zero positions. Here the participation was the greatest – 39 problems, and the competition was really at an elite level!

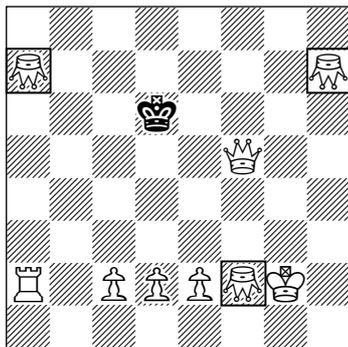
C) HS# (=, ==) in 2-4 moves with at least two phases. Here I was surprised by the relatively limited number of 17 originals with this fairy stipulation, which is the most popular today. But I am very pleased with the quality of the ranked problems. On the other hand, I accept the comment of some participants that for them the work with only 4 types of “BUL HOPPERS” has significantly limited the thematic possibilities. The reason was that before this tournament I had defined only 4 types of “BUL HOPPERS”, which were programmed in the then version of WinChloe. However, in the next version of this fantastic program, Christian Poisson programmed many more similar “BUL HOPPERS”, which, I hope, will be thematic material in future tournaments.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the participants in the competition, as well as to the world-famous programmer Christian Poisson, who was the first to program “BUL HOPPERS” in WinChloe! I am also very grateful to my friend Geoff Foster, who did a great job in translating, editing and formatting the competition materials!

A) Direct mates in 2-4 moves

Here I award only one prize, for an excellent problem by the Slovak Grandmaster Lörinc that perfectly demonstrates the features of the new Bul Grasshoppers. As I mentioned above, the other 6 originals submitted to this section were of a low level.

Juraj Lörinc
Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section A



#2 (9+1)

 Bul Grasshopper

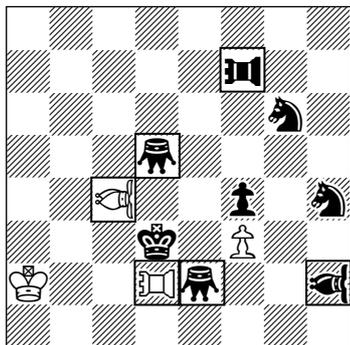
Prize: Juraj Lörinc (Slovakia). If I may say so, this is an excellent fairy problem, composed in “Loyd Style”! The shining key gives 5 flights to the black king and sends the white lady to “exile” on the f1 square. The 8 thematic variations feature a black King’s cross + King’s star. Problems with such maximum royal activity (8 thematic moves) are no novelty in composition, but the great advantage of this opus, as I said, is the extremely beautiful key and the perfect Meredith construction, in “Rex Solus” type.

1.BGe4(Qf1)! zugzwang
1...Kc7 2.BGd7(Kc1)#
1...Ke5 2.BGe6(Ke1)#
1...Kc5 2.BGd4(Kc1)#
1...Ke7 2.BGe8(Ke1)#
1...Kc6 2.BGb7(Kc1)#
1...Ke6 2.BGe7(Ke1)#
1...Kd5 2.BGc6(Kd1)#
1...Kd7 2.BGe7(Kd1)#

B) Helpmates (stalemates, double ==) in 2-4 moves with at least two phases

Vlaicu Crişan

1 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section B



h#2 (b) Pf3→e5 (4+8)

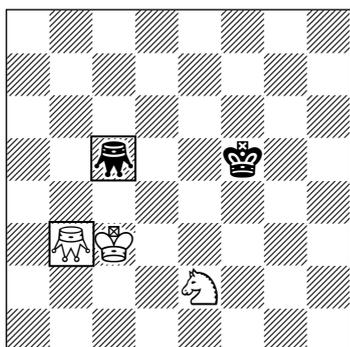


2nd Prize: Borislav Gadjanski (Serbia). This great problem to some degree is too close thematically to the previous one. There are also three pairs of pieces that exchange their functions: white d1/h2, black d3/f4 and black d4/e5. Other interesting motifs: diagonal/orthogonal echo, double and reciprocal Chumakov = “complete Chumakov”, reciprocal Umnov moves by black knights, reciprocal anti-batteries and six captures by the Bul pieces (2 x 3). Although in this very rich complex there are Bul-effects only in the white play, the beautiful and economical construction also makes a strong impression!

- (a) 1.Se2 BVAXc7(Bd6) 2.Sdf4 BPAXd6(Rd1) 3.Re1 BVAXf4(BPAf8)#
(b) 1.Sf2 BPAXd7(Rd6) 2.S4d3 BVAXd6(Bc3) 3.Be1 BPAXd3(BVAa6)#

Juraj Lörinc

3-4 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section B



h#3½ 2 solutions (3+2)



3rd-4th Prize: Juraj Lörinc (Slovakia). In this genre, “helpmates with variations” are a rare phenomenon in modern practice. But as you can see here, after the one “overture” with the move 1.BGd5(BGc5)+, there follow two variations with beautiful anti-battery chameleon-echo mates. The play is very dynamic and a very pleasant surprise is the cyclical change of functions of the 3 white Bul-Grasshoppers, who play the following roles: guarding: BGB3/BGc3, anti-battery hurdle: BGd6/BGb3, anti-battery rear piece: BGc3/BGd6.

- 1.BGd5(BGc5)+, and now:
1...BGd4(BGb5) 2.Kc8 BGc6(BGc7)+ 3.BGd7(BGe8)+ BGd8(BGb7)#
1...Kf7 2.Kd8 BGe6(BGd7)+ 3.BGe7(BGf8)+ BGe8(BGc7)#.

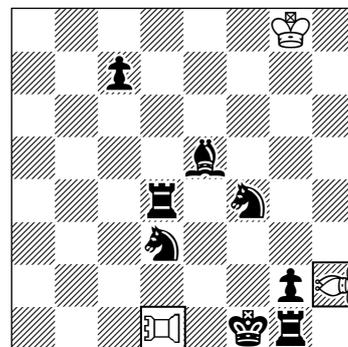
This section highlights two main areas of work: problems with a strategic style and those with construction of echo-mates. I have already mentioned that I am very pleased with the level of this section. However, I had to exclude many entries due to defects, which you will read about at the end of this award.

1st Prize: Vlaicu Crişan (Romania). This problem very well demonstrates the possibilities for the combined actions of Bul Grasshoppers and Bul Pao/Vao. In the process of the dynamic play, in which all moves are thematic, three pairs of pieces reciprocally change their functions: white d2/c4, black f7/h2 and black d5/e2. The model mates with double checks are spectacular. As a small minus I would like to note that in both phases the king gets mated on the same square h5.

- (a) 1.BPAXf3(Pg4) BVAXe2(Kf5) 2.BGg5(Kh5) BPAXh2(BVAe8)#
(b) 1.BVAXe5(Pg5) BPAXd5(Kf3) 2.BGg4(Kh5) BVAXf7(BPAh1)#

Borislav Gadjanski

2 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section B



h#3 (b) Pc7→d7 (3+8)

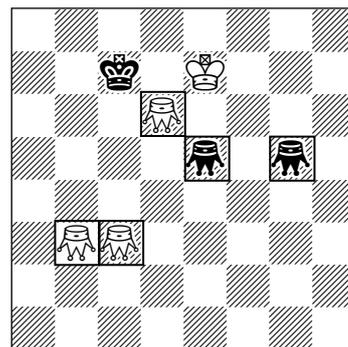


3rd-4th Prize: Juraj Lörinc (Slovakia). Ideal echo-mates after beautiful thematic finales, attained by a specific and interesting mating move. The bK is transported to the mating square by means of the Bul second step; the bBG hurdle cannot jump away as both wS and wBG cannot make the second step. A memorable Tanagra!

- 1...Sd4+ 2.BGe3(Sb2) Sc4 3.Ke6 BGd5(Sc2) 4.BGb3(Kc1) BGf7(Ka2)#
1...BGd3(Ke3) 2.BGf2(Kc3) Sd4+ 3.BGc5(Sd2) Sb3 4.BGc2(Ka3) BGg6(Kb1)#

Juraj Lörinc

3-4 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section B

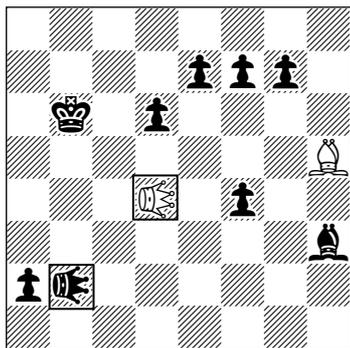


h#3 1.2;1.1;1.1 (4+3)



Pierre Tritten

5 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section B



h#2 2 solutions (2+9)

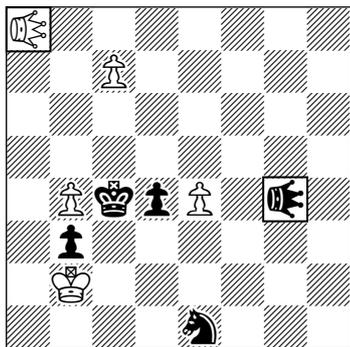
Bul Lion (No wK)

Set: 1...nPb5 2.BGb6(nPb7) Bb3 3.BGb2(Bg8) b8=nBG# (4.nBGB1?? is illegal because the BGb2 is immovable!)

Solution: 1.nPb3 Ke6 2. BGb4 (nPf7)+ f8nQ+ 3.Kh7 Bc2#

Maryan Kerhuel

Special Prize, Danka
Petkova-100 MT 2020-21
section B

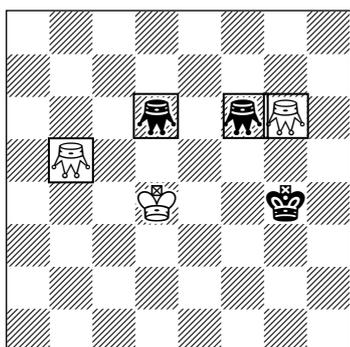


h#2 (b) BLIa8→h8 (5+5)

Bul Lion

Jaroslav Stun

1 HM, Danka Petkova-100 MT
2020-21 section B



h#4 2 solutions (3+3)

(b) BGd6→b4

Bul Grasshopper

5th Prize: Pierre Tritten (France). Mirror echo model mates. Many long moves, ending with nice B/BLI anti-batteries. Unfortunately, the play is not quite analogous between solutions.

1.Bg4 BLIh8(g1=BLI) 2.BLIa7(Kb1) BLIh1(Bd1)#

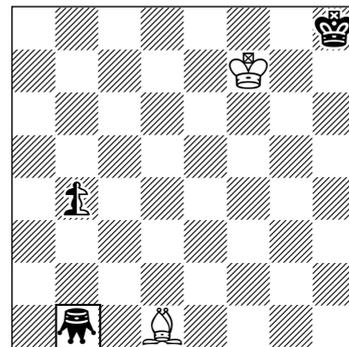
1.BLIb7(Kb8) BLIh4(Pc7) 2.Kc8 BLIh8(Be8)#

Special Prize: Sébastien Luce

(France). A small but very nice paradox: the neutral pawn moves as a white unit in the set play and as a black unit in the solution! Also surprising are the neutral promotions on b8/f8 that lead to model mates. This complex in my opinion deserves special attention. Despite the simple position, this nice "Tanagra" would probably be difficult for many solvers.

Sébastien Luce

Special Prize, Danka
Petkova-100 MT 2020-21
section B



h#3* (2+2+1)

Bul Grasshopper

Special Prize: Maryan Kerhuel (France). Promotions and specific mating moves. The same 4 units play in each solution. «Seneca» twins applied to h#2: the try in one twin is the solution in the other. I give another Special Prize for the unusual and difficult idea, which can probably be realized in a better form if in both phases the black Bul Lion demonstrates its Bul-effect in the tries.

(a) 1.Sf3 c8=Q+ 2.BLI d1(Sc6) BLI d8(Qc5)#. Of course, incorrect is 2.BLI e2?(Sc6) BLI d8(Qc5+) 3.BLI b5/a6(Ka4)! Here the "Seneca try" does not work: 1.Sg2? c8=Q+ 2.BLI g1(Sc6) BLI d8(Oc5+) 3. BLI xc5(Pd4~)!

(b) 1.Sg2 c8=B 2.BLI g1(Sb7) BLI b8(Ba6)#. Here, incorrect is 1.Sf3? c8=B 2.BLI d1(Sb7) BLI b8(Ba6+) 3.BLI a4(Pb5)!

1st Honourable Mention: Jaroslav Stun (Slovakia). Here we see a four-phase play with 4 Bul-Grasshoppers (2 white + 2 black). Achieving such an idea in the form of 2 + 2 solutions and with only 6 units on the board is not easy. The finales are thematic, interesting and difficult to discover, but unfortunately there is no complete analogy between them.

(a)

1.BGh6(BGc6) Ke4 2.BGb6(BGf3) BGd5(Kc6) 3.Kf3 BGbb7(BGb8)
4.BGhb6(Ka6) BGg2(Ka8)#

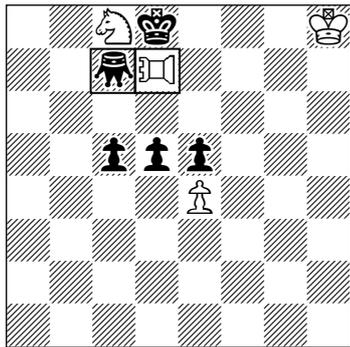
1.Kf5 BGe4(Ka5) 2.BGc6(BGd3) Kc5 3.BGa4(BGd5) BGc6(BGb5)
4.BGda6(BGd5) BGb7(BGa8)#

(b)

1.BGb6(BGb7) Ke3 2.BGh6(BGa6) BGe6(BGf2) 3.Kh3 Kf3
4.BGh2(Kh1) BGg2(Kf1)#

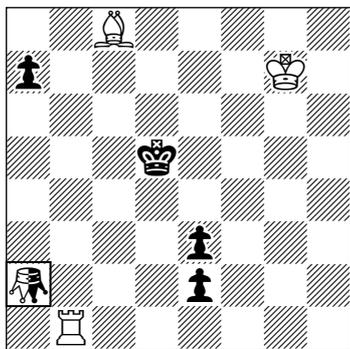
1.BGc3(Ka4) BGg3(Kg2) 2.BGd2(BGe1) BGg1(Kc2) 3.Kc1 Kb4
4.BGb1(Ka1) Kb3#

Sébastien Luce
 2 HM, Danka Petkova-100
 MT 2020-21 section B



h#2½ 2 solutions (4+5)
 Bul G Bul Pao

Pierre Tritten
 Comm, Danka Petkova-100
 MT 2020-21 section B



h#2 2 solutions (3+4+1)
 Bul Grasshopper

2nd Honourable Mention: Sébastien Luce (France). Creation of anti-batteries knight/Bul Pao and pawn/Bul Pao on the d-file. Nice construction and play, but without full identity between the two phases.

1...Sd6 2.BGc4(Pe7) BPAXd5(Sc6)+ 3.BGc7(Sc8) Sd6#

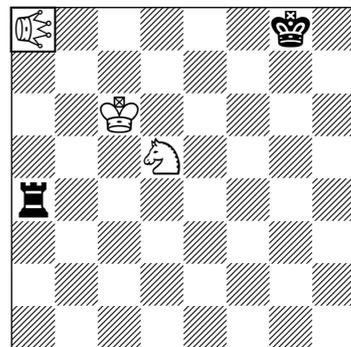
1...Se7 2.BGf4(Pe3) exd5 3.BGd2(Pe8) BPAXd2(Pd6)#

Commendation: Borislav Gadjanski (Serbia). The problem is not of the high rank typical of this author, but it is like a beautiful little flower in a garden. Surprisingly, in a light Tanagra position, the black king will receive echo-model mates from anti-batteries in two opposite corners of the board. Also, the role of the black rook is very curious: it must be deactivated on a3 (in the first solution) and on f8 (in the second)!

1.Ra3 BLIh8(Ka2) 2.Ka1 Sc3#

1.Kh8 BLIa1(Re8) 2.Rf8 Sf6#

Borislav Gadjanski
 Comm, Danka Petkova-100
 MT 2020-21 section B



h#2 2 solutions (3+2)
 Bul Lion

Commendation: Pierre Tritten (France). A nice illustration of the super activity of a neutral Bul Grasshopper, which directs the reciprocal change of functions of the white rook and bishop!

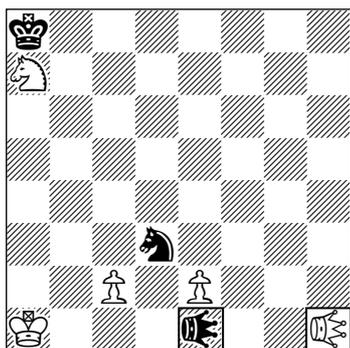
1.nBGf2(Pe4) Rg1 2.nBGd4(Pe5) nBGd6(Kf5)#

1.nBGa8(Ph7) Bf5 2.nBGe4(Kf3) nBGg2(Kd1)#

C) HS# (=, ==) in 2-4 moves with at least two phases

This genre turned out to be more difficult for the participants than I expected when it comes to the number of originals sent. They were few, but almost all of them were created by prominent masters of our art. It is surprising to me that problems with an aim of stalemate were obviously underestimated, but in this section the 2nd Prize is a great example!

Borislav Gadjanski
 1 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
 MT 2020-21 section C

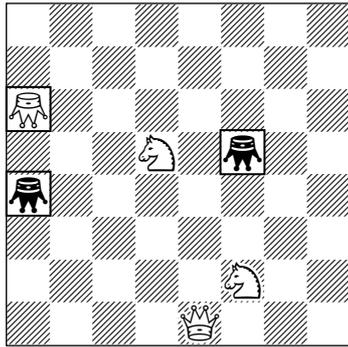


hs#3 2 solutions (5+3)
 Bul Lion

1st Prize: Borislav Gadjanski (Serbia). A wonderful illustration of the beauty and strength of the Bul Lion piece! It is hard to believe that here as finales we see model mates after a white and black anti-battery duel, also with the surprising participation of the wS as a front anti-battery piece. Note that the black S plays a double role – not only as the front anti-battery piece in the mate, but also as a blocking piece of the white S. For example, in the second solution after 3.BLIIf3(Pb2)+ Sc1# the bKa8 is not in check by wBLIf3, as Sc6 is immovable because the square c1 is blocked and there is no a second part of the thematic move BLIXa8. An extremely dynamic Meredith with a total of 8 Bul Lion effects in the two phases! A perfect performance by the Serbian maestro!

1.BLIc1(BLIb1) BLId1(BLIe1) 2.BLIe8(Pa6) BLId4(Sb1) 3.Sc8+ Sc3#

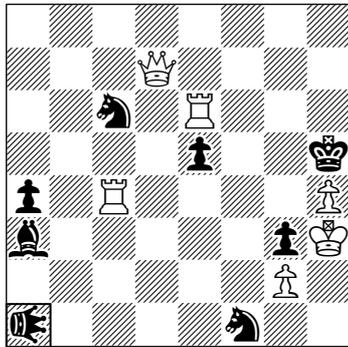
1.BLIId1(BLIc1) BLIc5(Pf2) 2.Sc6 BLIg1(Pc2)+ 3.BLIIf3(Pb2)+ Sc1#

Jaroslav Stun2 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section C

hs=4 3 solutions (4+2)

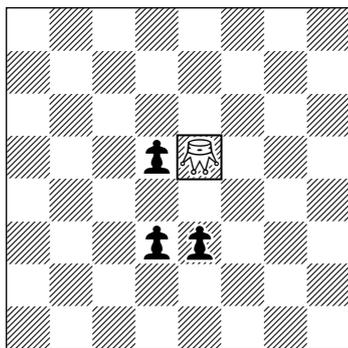
Bul Grasshopper

Royal units a6, f5

Maryan Kerhuel & Jacques Dupin3 Prize, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section C

hs#2½ 2 solutions (6+8)

Bul Lion

Jaroslav StunHM, Danka Petkova-100 MT
2020-21 section C

hs#2½ 3 solutions (1+3)

 Royal Bul Grasshopper
(No bK)

1.nBGe6(BGh5) nrBGe7(nBGe8) 2.nBGe6(nrBGc5) BGb5(nrBGe7)
3.BGf6(nBGe8) nrBGg5(BGh4) 4.BGf6(nrBGA5) nrBGc5(BGd5)#
{5.nrBGe5(BGf5)?? - self-check}

1.nrBGh6(BGc5) nrBGc6(BGb6) 2.nBgb7(BGd6) nrBGe4(BGA8)
3.BGb4(BGA3) BGA2(BGA1) 4.nrBGA4(BGb8) BGA5(nrBGA6)#
{5.nrBGA4(BGA3)?? - self-check}

2nd Prize: Jaroslav Stun (Slovakia). Another very beautiful problem (an Aristocrat) in which the author demonstrates in cyclical form a pin of two white thematic pieces, combined with the annihilation of the third thematic white piece. In all three cases we see surprising model stalemate finales with an additional Bul effect after the last black move. A microscopic disadvantage of this paradoxical idea is the fact that in the second solution there are 4 Bul effects, but the other two solutions have 5 Bul effects. But overall, the problem is a great achievement!

1.Se4 BGf4(Sc6) 2.rBGd6(Se6) rBGd7(Sc4) 3.Qe7+ rBGxd5(rBGf8)
4.Qe6+ rBGf7(Qb3)= {5.rBGf6(rBGf5)?? illegal self-check}

1.Qe6+ rBGd7(Qc4) 2.Qd4 rBGxd4(Sd3) 3.Sb2 rBGa1(Sg2) 4.Se3
BGa7(rBGA8)= {5.rBGA6(BGA5)?? illegal self-check}

1.Qb4 BGc4(Qd4) 2.Sg4 BGe6(Sd3) 3.Qd6 BGxg4(rBGh3)
4.rBGe6(Qd2) BGd7(rBGc8)= {5.rBGe6(BGf5)?? illegal self-check}

3rd Prize: Maryan Kerhuel & Jacques Dupin (France). Although there are only 2½ moves, it is not easy to find the solutions. The formation of two mechanisms of double check-mates is realized very elegantly: in the first solution the black Bul Lion should be placed on h8, and the black S on d8, while in the second solution we have Bul Lion a5 and Bb4. Black pawns e5 and a4 perfectly motivate the future “Lion role” of the bS and bB. But most interesting are the moves of the white rook to c8 and c3 respectively. They “secretly” hide the line of the black Bul Lion. For example, in the first solution 2.Rc4(~)? fails due to 3...BLIb8(Sg5)+! or 3...BLIa8(Sg5)+! and there is no double check. Similarly in the second solution 2.Rc4(~)? fails due to 3...BLId2(Bg4)+! or 3...BLIe1(Bg4)+! A nice content with maximal use of Bul effects.

1...Sd8 2.Rc8 BLIh8(Pe7) 3.Qd5+ BLIxc8(Sg5)#

1...Bb4 2.Rc3 BLIa5(Pc4) 3.Qd1+ BLIxc3(Bg4)#

Honourable Mention: Jaroslav Stun (Slovakia). With only four units on the board, the author shows a simple but interesting cyclical play of black pawns (AB-BC-CA). If you try to find other similar mechanisms, you will be convinced that this is not an easy goal. Of course, here the complete cycle of black moves (ABC/BCA/CAB) is unfortunately not possible.

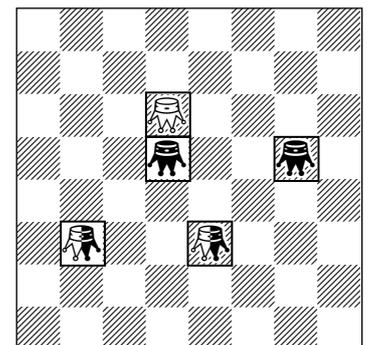
1...e2 (A) 2.rBGe1(Pc4) d2+ (B) 3.rBGc3(Pd6) d4#

1...d2 (B) 2.rBGe2(Pe1=BG) d4 (C) 3.rBGc2(Pd5) d3#

1...d4 (C) 2.rBGc3(Pd2) e2 (A) 3.rBGe1(Pd4) d2#

Commendation: Jaroslav Stun
(Slovakia).

1.nBGe6(BGf7) BGd2(nrBGc1)
2.nrBGe3(BGf4) nBGg8(BGf3)
3.nrBGg3(BGf5)+ BGf3(BGh2)
4.nrBGc7(BGb8) nBGA8(BGd6)#
{5.nrBGe5(BGf4)?? – self-check}

Jaroslav StunComm, Danka Petkova-100
MT 2020-21 section C

hs#4 3 solutions (1+2+2)

 Bul Grasshopper
Royal neutral BGe3

DEFINITIONS

I. BUL PIECES (BULGARIAN PIECES)

General definition of the pieces from the Bulgarian (Bul) pieces family:

1. A Bul piece can be any piece “X” that has the ability to play (with or without capture) by jumping over another piece “Y” (known as the hurdle). Y can be of the same or different colour as X, a king, pawn, etc.

2. After such a jump, as a second, compulsory part of the move, Y must make only one non-capturing movement (the second step), imitating a move of X. If such imitation is impossible, then the move of X over Y is illegal. The second movement of Y must be chosen by the side that plays with X.

3. If the hurdle Y is also a Bul piece, it performs, as a second step of the move, only one movement imitating the piece X in its standard form.

4. In the role of Y a pawn (including a fairy pawn) must promote when it arrives on its promotion rank, the promotion being chosen by the side that plays with X. In the role of Y a pawn when it arrives on its first rank can move or capture one step forward.

II. DIFFERENT TYPES OF BUL PIECES:

1. Bul pieces from hopper’s type in this T.T:

a) **BUL GRASSHOPPER** (code BG): Definition (according to WinChloe where the French name is Sauterelle Bul, code SB): Moves like a Grasshopper ((0,1) + (1,1) Hopper), but the hurdle must also make a non-capturing Grasshopper move (the move is impossible if it cannot).

b) **BUL LION** (code BLI): Definition (according to WinChloe where the French name is Lion Bul, code LB): Moves like a Lion ((0,1)+(1,1) Prolonged Hopper), but the hurdle must also make a non-capturing Lion move (the move is impossible if it cannot).

(Note: of course, many other Bul Hoppers are possible, for example: Bul NightriderHopper, Bul Rosehopper, Bul Bishophopper, Bul Rookhopper, etc. These will not be allowed for now, but will be used in future tournaments).

2. Bul pieces with Chinese elements:

a) **BUL PAO** (code BPA): Definition (according to WinChloe where the French name is Pao Bul, code PAB): Moves like a Pao ((0,1)Chinese), but the hurdle must also make a non-capturing Pao move (the move is impossible if it cannot).

b) **BUL VAO** (code BVA): Definition (according to WinChloe where the French name is Vao Bul, code VAB): Moves like a Vao ((1,1)Chinese), but the hurdle must also make a non-capturing Vao move (the move is impossible if it cannot).

(Other similar pieces such as Bul Leo, Bul NAO, Bul RAO, etc, are not allowed in this tournament.)

SOME AESTHETIC CRITERIA

When composing with Bul pieces, some special properties and effects of these pieces must be taken into account. I will briefly elaborate, as these rules (of an aesthetic nature) have been applied in my award.

1. A very important requirement, which is not only aesthetic: if the piece “Y” is an hurdle to the Bul piece “X”, and after the move of “X” this piece can make an additional movement (second step) on more than one square, then this is considered to be a weakness, if the movements of “Y” do not have thematic character. It is especially annoying if “Y” can move on several squares on the mating move. In this case [X(Y~)], we could talk about “semi-duals” (or 50% duals), which must be avoided.

2. Another unpleasant situation occurs when, on the same move of “X” (this can be a key-move or a move in variations), there follows different “second steps” of “Y”. In all such cases there is a repetition of the moves, which is a common shortcoming for all genres, pieces and conditions, if it is not thematic.

In conclusion, I would like to note that in my ranking I did not include problems in which the twin is obtained after two changes from the starting position, for example: twin c): as b), but Rd3→e4.

Judge: PETKO A.PETKOV

Sofia, 29 December, 2021