



It is a great honour to be invited to judge such an important Tourney. It was an enjoyable task to analyse more than 60 high quality originals from the top composers of the world. The high quality of the originals made it very difficult for me to finalise the selection for the award list. The animation feature of the website made it easy for me to browse and play through the solutions. Many thanks to Dmitri Turevski for the program and Julia for implementing it so elegantly.

Note: No diagrams are present, but clicking the problem number will take you to the JF page.

Some originals which were not suitable for the award.

1728 (Kekely) pser condition seems not essential for the play.

1730 (Malcom) Seems cooked by 3.Bxc7. No fix appeared

1731 (Geister & Papack) Definitely a new fairy condition Mars total. But shouldn't there be some use for the white knight and bishop in the mate position? Also the configuration for blocking the black king is the same in both phases.

1773 (Ravishankar) Would loved to have included this from my dear friend. But too close to the predecessor cited.

1741 (Mikitovics) The use of superpawn e2 seems unjustified since its two moves are anyway repeated in both solutions.

1756 (Stucker) 64 twins is a great achievement and should have involved tremendous work, but too many of the twins involved double changes.

1775 (Nouguier) Duals in threat and dual after the only black defence 1...Gh2.

1781 (Petkovic) Similar idea of 1766.1 though play is different. I have preferred that.

1785 (Sharp) Battery transformation by both sides. But the effect has been shown before and this tourney has proved to be too strong for single-solution works.

1791 (Smotrov) The fairy condition is almost superfluous.

1793 1795 Too simple.

1794 (Jordan) Interesting play, but predictable promotions.

First prize

1764 Peter Gvozdiak

1.VAdg4? [2.VAhf4# **A** 2.VAhe5# **B** 2.VAhd6# **C** 2.VA8f5# **D** 2.VAce6# **E**]

1...pPAf4 **a** 2.VAxf4# **F** 1...ANe5 **b** 2.VAxe5# **G** 1...pPAd6 **c** 2.VAxd6# **H**

1...pPAf5 **d** 2.VAxf5# **I** 1...pPAe6 **e** 2.VAxe6# **J** 1...ANc4!

1.Vacg3! [2.VA8f4# **F** 2.VA8e5# **G** 2.VA8d6# **H** 2.VA3f5# **I** 2.VA3e6# **J**]

1...pPAf4 **a** 2.VAxf4# **A** 1...ANe5 **b** 2.VAxe5# **B** 1...pPAd6 **c** 2.VAxd6# **C**

1...pPAf5 **d** 2.VAxf5# **D** 1...pPAe6 **e** 2.VAxe6# **E**

Five-fold Odessa is a great achievement. I like the scheme of transferring the five threats and five different mates between the two phases. Forcing the capture of the black Pao after its defences which do not directly affect the battery and the refutation 1.Vadg4? ANc4! are both subtle.. The strong try and key paralysing two black pieces and that one antelope not used thematically after the key are small minuses, but what a task!

Second prize

1750 Hein Verduin

1...nKd1 2.h1=nS c8=nR 3.nRa2 (via a8) nSa3# (via b1) 1...c8=nB 2.h6 (via h7) h7
3.nBg4 h8=nQ#

Neutral AUW in a three-man setting is a nice achievement, fully utilising the Phantom Chess condition. Single check-mate with neutral men is difficult unless they are blocked. Here however both mates are single checks and the move Sa3 in the first solution is neat hideaway. Dont miss the 3-move Excelsior and the h2 pawn being promoted by both sides!

Other prize winners show much more complex and difficult themes, but I think this is such a rare three-man setting deserving to be widely known.

Third prize

1754 Petko Petkov:

a) 1.Qa8 Bxa8→a1 2.Re5 Sxe5→f5# (3.Kxc5? is illegal)

b) 1.Qb5 Rxb5→b1 2.Rg6 Bxg6→b6# (3.Kxd3? is illegal)

c) 1.Qf4+ Sxf4→f1 2.Rc6 Rxc6→d6# (3.Kxe4? is illegal)

Petkov at his usual best. Three mates using the Immune condition and Complete cyclic play of the white pieces (Blocking rebirth square, Immunised piece moving near king and mate). Definitely a classic.

Fourth Prize 1740 Franz Pachl

a) 1.Kc5 d2 2.dxc3 (nPc3→c2) (+nPc7) c1=nZ 3.nZe4 Be5 4.c8=nL2+ nL2xe4 (nL2e4→e1) (+nZe8)#

b) 1.Kd4 c2 2.cxd3 (nPd3→d2) (+nPd7) d1=nL2 3.nL2b5 Bd6 4.d8=nZ+ nZxb5 (nZb5→b1) (+nL2b8)#

The combination of Circe and Anticirce enables the composer to show the difficult idea both neutral pawns promoting on different sides in different solutions! In the finale, black is unable to move away the checking neutral man and is forced to capture the other one resulting in a complex double check mate which is echoed in the twin. Excellent achievement.

Fifth Prize 1758 Vlaicu Crisan

a) 1.Be3=nB+ Rf4=nR+ 2.Kb3 nBc1 3.Re3 Bh5 4.nRg4 Bf7=nB+ 5.Re6=nR+ nRe3=bR#

b) 1.Rd6=nR+ Be6=nB+ 2.Kb4 nRa6 3.Bd6 Rg7 4.nBf7 Rg4=nR+ 5.Bf4=nB+ nBd6=bB#

Anda, a fairy condition invented by ***Petko Petkov*** seems to have limited scope since its effects are dependant on direct checks. However, the composer here shows very interesting play including battery formation, check prevention and all pieces on board changing to Neutral in the penultimate position. Dont miss that in the mate the firing piece must change into non-neutral one for the mate to work! Magical!

Note: the original version had cooks which were corrected by adding a WPg3.

Sixth Prize 1777.1 Georgy Evseev & Boris Shorokhov

1.VAb7 Rxg5 2.NAxc2 Bf7# 1.PAa5 Bf7 2.VAxg7 Rd2# 1.NAb5 Rd2 2.PAxe8 Rxg5#

Composer describes the themes as Cyclic Zilahi, Cycle of white moves, Direct pin & pin-mates and Hideaway moves of black. Interesting that to hide away, the chinese pieces must capture. Perfect unity in theme and play.

Seventh Prize 1778.1 Hiroaki Maeshima & Dr.S.Manikumar

1.PAa5 Kh5 (Kh5?) 2.CAe5+ Nc5# 1.PAb5 Kg5 (Kh5?) 2.CAf5+ CAd5#

In each solution, the black Pao makes a critical move and selfblocks on a5 or b5. The white King moveing onto that line opening guard for b6, must choose the correct square anticipating the B2 move. This is followed by a black check and crosscheck self-pinmates. Perfect unity with dual avoidance in meredith. Surprisingly each half-move of the solution is on a different square on the fifth rank using all the eight squares. I have not seen anything like it before !

Eighth prize

1789 Michael Barth

1.c8=Q? [2.Nf8# **A**] 1...Rxc8 (+Qg4) **x** [2.Ne2# **B**] 1...Rxc2 **y** 2.Nxc2# **X** 1...Gf8! (2.Nd4-f8[+bGb4] + ? Gb4*d2[+wRh6] !)

1.c8=G? [2.Ne2#**B**] 1...Rxc8 (+Gg4) **x** 2.Bxe4 (+Pa8)# **C** 1...Rxc2 **y** 2.Sb6# **Y** 1...Rxa6 (+Pe2)! (2.Nd4-e2 ?)

1.c8=N! [2.Bxe4# **C**] 1...Rxc8 (+Ng4) **x** 2.Nf8# **A** 1...Rxc2 **y** 2.Nb6# **Z** 1...f5 2.Ne7#

In the two tries and after the key the composer shows the Ukrainian Cycle (Cycle of threat and mate after the defence 1...Rc8). There is also a change of mate in each phase after another defence 1...Rxc2 making it a Zagoruiko also. Excellent combination. The idea of promotions and Circe for showing cyclic **Le grand** has been shown many times already. Nevertheless this deserves a prize.

1st Honarary Mention

1786 Aliaksandr Bulauka 1.Gg4! [2.Ke2+ Ge1 3.Bxe1 (Be1→c1)#]

(2.Qa3xb4[Qb4->d1]+? c2xd1=S[Sd1->g8]!; 2.Sh3-g1+? h2xg1=S[Sg1->b8]!)

1...Sxb5 (Sb5→g8) **2.Qxb4 (Qb4→d1)+**

2...cxd1=Q (Qd1→d8) 3.Nxa2 (Na2→a8)#

2...cxd1=R (Rd1→a8) 3.Nxc5 (Nc5→c8)#

2...cxd1=B (Bd1→c8) 3.Nxd6 (Nd6→d8)#

1...Sxb6 (Sb6→b8) **2.Sg1+**

2...hxg1=Q (Qg1→d8) 3.Gxf7 (Gf7→f8)#

2...hxg1=R (Rg1→h8) 3.Gxd4 (Gd4→d8)#

2...hxg1=B (Bg1→f8) 3.Gxh6 (Gh6→h8)#

Excellent and complex direct mate showing three Visserman type changed mates after second black moves in the two main variations. White has to wait until b8 or g8 is blocked by a B1 move though he has two batteries ready, for the W2 reply to work. All the three B2 variations are promotions and they each block a different reappearance square enabling white to choose the correct capture and block another reappearance square. Neat differentiation of the white mates and changes. It is a pity that the Must-capture condition is also needed.

2nd Hon.Mention

1734 Ladislav Salai jr. & Michal Dragoun

1.Rxe5 Be3 2.Rc5 LIa3# 1.Qd5 LIb5+ 2.Kxd4 Be3#

1.Qd6 LIa3+ 2.Kxd2 Sf3# 1.Bxe7 Sf3 2.Bc5 LIb5#

Four-fold white cycle and hurdle creations by black. Excellent theme shown in a light position. A zilahi of white Lions and a black grimshaw on c5 seems almost incidental !

3rd Hon.Mention

1771 Kjell Widlert & Arno Tungler:

1.Bh8! 2.Rb4+ Ka5 (Rc4xb4??) 3.Ba1 4.Sb3+ Kb6 5.Bh8+! Kc6 6.Ba1! 7.Rb6+ Kd6 8.Rc6 9.Be5+ Rxc6 (Rc6→a8)# Nice surprise that the Bishop has to play corner-corner four times! The h8 move is to check the black king and to prevent the checking rook from capture and the h1 move is to allow the king access to black squares! A neat trick is that the final move Bc5 is a check by the white rook and not the bishop.

1739 Manfred Rittirsch

a) 1.f8=Q Bb7 (Tempo Sb2??) 2.e8=S+ a1=Q# b) 1.e8=R Sb2 (Tempo Bb7? ...3.Kh5!) 2.f8=B+ a1=R#

An excellent combination of two difficult fairy conditions to realise six promotions including a white AUW. What is one to do when Popeye and Winchloe do not agree? In this case I agree with the interpretation of the composer and Winchloe. There is no logic in considering that Ba8 is paralysed (and hence cannot make a tempo move) since it is not attacked by Bc6.

4th Hon. Mention 1763 Neal Turner

a) 1.N8b7+ Nb6 2.Nh1+ Nb5 3.Ne7+ rGf8 4.Nc8+ rGb8 5.Ncd6+ Nc7

6.Ne8+ rGf8 7.Nd8+ Nd7 8.Nb4+ Na3 9.Nf2+ Ne1 ==

b) 1.Nc5+ rGd6 2.Nc6+ Nb6 3.Nd3+ rGd2 4.Nce5+ Nd4 5.Nf2+ Nf3

6.Nc6+ rGg2 7.Ncb4+ rGe2 8.Nbd3+ Nc4 9.Nb2+ Na3 ==

Amazing sequence of moves to control four Nightriders, all four being pinned in two different final positions. A great find. This makes a good comparison to 1726.

5th Hon. Mention

1759 S.K.Balasubramanian

a) 1.Bg5 Rxc5 (+Bf8) 2.Rxa1 (+Bc1) Bxe3 (+Pe7)#

b) 1.Rc3 Bxc3 (+Rh8) 2.Bxc3 (+Ra1) Rxa3 (+Pa7)#

Perfect blend of the two popular fairy conditions with lateral and orthogonal echoes, though the play is well known. Even the mating capture of the black pawn is necessary to prevent a paralyzing black defence

6th Hon. Mention

1767 Georgy Evseev

a) 1...NAc1 2.NAg8 PAc2 3.VAf6 PAe2 4.Re5+ Rd4#

b) 1...PAe1 2.NAa8 PAb2 3.VAb6 NAe2 4.Rc5+ Rc4# a)

Two different critical moves by black and white in each solution followed by two different anti-battery moves. To expect a direct battery formation also in such a nice sequence is too much obviously!

7th Hon. Mention

1766.1 Nikola Petkovic & Georgy Evseev

a) 1.Be6 Rf3 (1...Rxa5? 2.Kd5??) 2.Kd5 Ra3 3.Re4 Rxa5+ 4.Bc5+ Rxc5#

b) 1.Rd3 Bg3 (1...Bxa7? 2.Kd4??) 2.Kd4 Bb8 3.Be4 Bxa7+ 4.Qc5+ Bxc5#

Nice black half-pin and interesting play of black pieces taking longer routes to enable white king move. Mates on the same square and diagonal orthogonal transformation are a plus.

8th Hon. Mention

1755 Ralf Danck.

1.VAxe6→c6? ~ 2.Qxe3→d1# 1...MAxf6→e6 2.LExg6→f6# 1...MAxf6→d6!

1.VAxe6→b6? ~ 2.Qxe3→d1#

1...MAxf6→d6 2.MAxd6→b5# 2.MOxg6→e6# 1...MAxf6→e6 2.LExg6→f6#

1...MAxf6→c6!

1.VAxe6→a6! [2.Qxe3→d1#]

1...MAxf6→b6 2.MAxc6→c6# 1...MAxf6→c6 2.Rxc6→d6#

1...MAxf6→d6 2.MOxg6→e6# 1...MAxf6→e6 2.LExg6→f6# [2.Qf2xe3-d1+?

PAf7xf3-d2!]

The composer uses the 2010 Gockel idea and lots of fairy pieces to produce a heavy version of Loshinski magnet in the tries. After the key, however, white has four different mates on the sixth rank with good dual avoidance. Since these mates are by different white pieces it is perhaps a pseudo Loshinski magnet. Still an excellent problem deserving an award.

9th Hon. Mention

1784 James Malcom & Andrew Buchanan

1...d8=S 2.Rxg8 fxg8=R 3.Kd7 h8=B 4.Qxd8+ exd8=Q+ Dead Position (5.Kxd8= would be forced).

Probably a record for the shortest AUW. Doubled Schnoebelen is another nice addition, which makes it unique since three Schnoebelen had been shown before. I don't however see the justification for a new stipulation when an existing well-known stipulation HS=4 is available and works here. It is obvious, that every HS= or S= reaches a Dead-Position when the final white move is played since after that black has no choice except stale-mating white. Better to avoid such artificial stipulations for self-stalemate themes reserving it only for pure **Dead-position** aims (like insufficient material).

10th Hon. Mention **1787 Vlaicu Crisan**

White is mated: 1.b8=R Kh2 2.Rg8 f1=B+ 3.Kf2 Bh3 4.Kg1+ Kg2#

Black is mated: 1.f1=S Ke1 2.Kf3 b8=Q 3.Sg3 Qg8 4.Ke2+ Qxg3#

Nice AUW in helpselfmate duplex (not frequent) Small weakness is that b8Q in the white phase is avoided by direct check.

Commended (in order of appearance).

1726 Vaclav Kotesovec

1.Qb2 2.Qxc2 (+Rb2) 3.Qxg2 (+RHc2) 4.Qf1 5.Qa1 6.Qxg1 (+RHa1) 7.Qb1 8.Qxa1 (+RHb1) 9.Qxa7 (+Qa1) 10.Qa2 11.Qxg8 (+RHa2) 12.Qb3 13.Qxc2 (+RHb3) 14.Qxc8 (+RHc2) =

1.Qg3 2.Qxg8 (+RHg3) 3.Qh7 4.Qxa7 (+Qh7) 5.Qc5 6.Qxc8 (+RHc5) 7.Qh3 8.Qh1 9.Qxh7(+Qh1) 10.Qh2 11.Qxg2 (+RHh2) 12.Qxc2 (+Rg2) 13.Qf2 14.Qxc5 (+RHf2) =

1.Qb7 2.Qxg2 (+RHb7) 3.Qxc2 (+Rg2) 4.Qc7 5.Qxc8 (+RHc7) 6.Qa8 7.Qxg8 (+RHa8) 8.Qb8 9.Qxa8 (+RHb8) 10.Qxa7 (+Qa8) 11.Qxg1 (+RHa7) 12.Qb6 13.Qxb7 (+RHb6) 14.Qxg2 (+Rb7) =

1.Qxa7 (+Qg7) 2.Qf7 3.Qxg8 (+RHf7) 4.Qxc8 (+RHg8) 5.Qh3 6.Qh8 7.Qxg7 (+Qh8) 8.Qxg2 (+RHg7) 9.Qxc2 (+Rg2) 10.Qh7 11.Qxg7 (+RHh7) 12.Qxg2 (+Rg7) 13.Qg6 14.Qxg1 (+RHg6) =

Lacking kings, this looks more like a construction task than a problem, with no strategy involved. Obviously this is a subjective view. But nevertheless surprisingly unique play to get four corner echoes.

1729 Thomas Maeder

a 1.Qxf6 [-f8] exd8=B [-d8] 2.Rc8 bxc8=Q#

b) 1.Rxg2 [-d8] exf8=S [-f8] 2.Qc8 bxc8=R#

Two different uses of the Py variant of Breton condition. Once to clear the eighth rank and later to force Rook or Queen promotion for mate. Nice.

1732 Hiroaki Maeshima

1...Sxg3 (f1=rB)+ 2.rBc4 Sxe4 (c4=K) 3.Rd5 Sd6#

1...Sxd6 (f1=rR) 2.rRd1 Sxe4 (d1=K) 3.Be1 Sc3#

Two neat fairy mates by moving the black king to a knight-length distance from white king. Pity the cook stopper f6 is necessary.

1742 Torsten Linss.

1...Qb8 2.Qh2 Kb1 3.Kd2 Ka2 4.Kc1+ Kb3 5. Ka3+ 6.Qxb8= & 6.Qb2+ Qxb2#

Stipulation is that starting white both sides play nine help plys to reach a position in which there is a =1 and S#1. Multi goal stipulations are indeed too long to express! But in a five-man position Torsten manages to show two Q-K Indians. The tries on the b-file why queen has to go upto g8. Excellent!

1744 Julia Vysotska

1.Re2 Sxd2+ 2.Kf2+ Se4# 1.Re6+ Qxe6 2.Sxf3+ Kf5# Two matching battery creations but contrasting pin-mates and pawnless construction!

1749 Michael McDowell 1...b4 2.axb4 ep. Ra8 3.0-0 h8S# Shortest Valladao? Each move is thematic since 1...b3 is illegal and black cant castle until f8 is guarded! So much in a short single solution, the only one in the award.!

1752 Paz Einat

1...Bd3# 1.Kxf5 (+Rh1) 2.Ke5 3.Kd6 4.Kc7 5.Kb7 6.Kxa7 (+Bc1) 7.Kb6 8.Kc5

9.Kd4 10.Kc3 11.Kxb3 (+Pb2) 12.Kc2 13.b3 Bd3# Neat rearrangement of pieces for surprisingly same mating move.

1753 Manfred Rittirsch 1.Rxe4 axb7 2.Kxe4 Qxb7# b) 1.Sxf4 gxf7 2.Kxf4a)

Qxf7#

Nice motivations for capturing own pieces – flight allowin, hideaway and taking the flight. Two such captures in each thematic square.

1761 (Evseev) 1.Qe4 nG*e4-e5? - 2.S*e5-c5 or nGc5 1.Qc4 Gc5 2.Qe4 nGxe4→e5# (S*e5?? nG*c5-e5??) 1.Qe7+ nG*e7-h4? - 2.S*h4-f4 or nGf4 1.Qe3 Gf4 2.Qe7+ nGxe7→h4# (S*f4?? nG*f4-h4??)

The impossible switchback paradox is probably original. But I wish the composer had also tried different knights to move to g6 (blocking g7/h7) thereby adding another theme to the 'uncapturable' T&M.

1768 Ralf Danck 1.nSa3-b5? nBa4xb5->a7+ 2.nBa7-b8! 1.Qxd8→f8+ Bxf8→b8 2.nSb5 nBxb5→a7# b) 1.nBa4-b5? nSa3xb5->a6+ 2.nSa6-b8! 1.Qxd8→g8+ Sxg8→b8 2.nBb5 nSxb5→a6# Interesting idea to block b8 for the mate to work. Pity about the twin and the initial capture.

1774 Yaaqov Mintz & Hans Gruber 1.a1=S Kf6 2.Sb3 cxb3 3.h3 bxc4 4.h2 c5 5.h1=R c6 6.Re1 c7 7.f1=B c8=Q# Many miniature AUWs have been done in helpmate two and more moves. Here is one with a model mate.

1779 Menachem Witztum & Ricardo Vieira

1.Sxc3→e4 Rxc7→e7 2.Sxh5→g7 Bxh6 [-g7]# (Bh8*g7*h6 #)
1.Sxh5→f4 Bxf6→g5 2.Sxc3→a2 Rxa8→e8 [-a2]# (Rc2*a2*a8-e8)

Wellknown play of selfblocks, pins and pin-mates. Each move however is a series capture. Pity the black queen is needed.

1780 Menachem Witztum

a) 1...Qa8 2.Rxd5 Sf4 3.Rxe5 Sh3 4.Re6+ Kxe6#
b) 1...Qa7 2.Bf2 Sf3 3.Bxe3 Sh4 4.Bg5+ Kxg5#

Nice idea of pinning white piece checking on the initially guarded square after a long route. But the both pins are already there and the need for twin is unfortunate.

1790 Brian Stephenson & Jacques Rotenberg

1...NAf7 (NAg5~) 2.Se1# 1...PAf4 2.LEd7#

1.Kf2! ~ 2.LEd1# 1...PAgf3+ 2.LEf5# 1...NAf3+ 2.Sf4# 1...PAff3 2.LEd7# 1...PAf4 2.Se1# 1...c3 2.Sc5# 1...Kxe4 2.Bc2#

Deightful problem with traditional cross-checks, Umnov and transferred mates. Three black defences on f3.

1792 Paul Raican:

1.h1=R 2.Rh6 3.Rxf6 (+Qd1) 4.cxd1=R 5.Rxd5 (+Pd2) 6.exd2 7.dxc1=R 8.Rc7 9.Rc5 10.d5 11.d4 12.d3 13.dxe2 14.e1=R 15.Re6 16.Ke5 17.f4 18.f3 19.f2 20.f1=B 21.Bxa6 (+Bf1) 22.b5 23.Rb6 24.Rc6 25.Kd6 26.g5 27.g4 28.g3 29.g2 30.gxf1=R 31.Rf7 Qxf7 (+Ra8)=

Multiple Promotions in help-play has been done frequently but here composer adds a bishop promotion to 5 rooks.