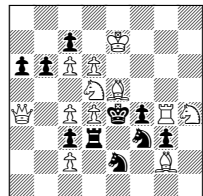


# FIDE Olympic Tourney 2018 --- Award for threemovers

Judge: Mike Prcic

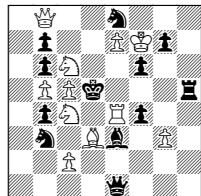
Twenty-nine entries competed in this strong tourney. Several were miniatures. After careful consideration I decided on the following ranking:

1st Prize  
Mikhail Marandyuk



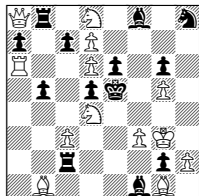
#3 (12+10)

2nd Prize  
Aleksandr Feoktistov



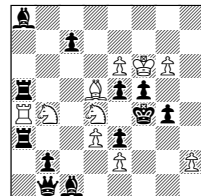
#3 (11+12)

3rd-4th Prize  
Zoran Gavrilovski



#3\* (13+13)

3rd-4th Prize  
Anatoly Karamanits



#3√ (10+12)

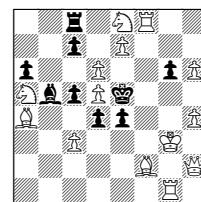
**1st Prize – Mikhail Marandyuk** A modern threemover with a good key and a quiet threat. In the threat, the defenses 2...Rxd4/Sxd4 are answered with 3.Qe3/Qxf4#. After 1...cxd6, the same defenses produce changed mates 3.Bxf3/Rxf4#. In the last two variations (1...Rxd4/Sxd4), the mates from the threat reappear as White's second moves (2.Bxf3+/Rxf4+). All of this is done with a full form of Rukhlis. Clean and sweet. **Solution:** 1.Qa3! (2.Qc1 & 3.Sf6#; 2...Rd2 3.Bxf3#[A]; 2...Sxc1 3.Rxf4#[B]; 2...Rxd4 3.Qe3#; 2...Sxd4 3.Qxf4#), 1...cxd6 2.Qxd6 (3.Qg6#) 2...Rxd4 3.Bxf3#[A]; 2...Sxd4 3.Rxf4#[B], 1...Rxd4 2.Bxf3+[A] Kxe5 3.Rg5#, 1...Sxd4 2.Rxf4[B] Kxe5 3.Sg6#.

**2nd Prize – Aleksandr Feoktistov** After the key, and the threat 2.Qd8+, Black captures wPc5 four times. White responds by playing four of his pieces to c4-square, one of them a switchback by the key-piece. **Solution:** 1.Sb2! (2.Qd8+[A] Kxc5/Sd6+ 3.Sa4/Qxd6#), 1...Kxc5 2.Rc4+! Kd5/Kxb5 3.Be4/Rc3#, 1...Sxc5 2.c4+! bxc3 e.p. 3.Sb4#, 1...Bxc5 2.Bc4+! Kxe4 3.Qxf4#, 1...bxc5 2.Sc4! (switchback) & 3.Sb6#; 2...Sc7/Sd6+ 3.Qd8[A]/Qxd6#, (1...Qa1 2.Rc4! & 3.Be4/Sxb4#).

**3rd and 4th Prize - Zoran Gavrilovski** In the set, after Black captures Pd6, Sc6 mates. The key, 1.Sb7!, destroys the set-mates and threatens 2.f4+ and 3.Sc5#. The captures on d6 (2.cxd6/Bxd6) result in different mates, after two quiet moves by Black. The defense by the black Rook opens white Bishop's line making 3.f4 mate possible after 2.Sc6+ Rxc6. **Solution:** 1...cxd6[y]/Bxd6[z] 2.S8c6#; 1.Sb7! (2.f4+[A] Ke4 3.Sc5#[C], 1...Rxc3[x] 2.Sc6+![B] Rxc6 3.f4#[A], 1...cxd6[y] 2.Sc5![C] & 3.f4#[A]; 2...Rxc3[x]/Rf2 3.Sc6#[B]; 2...dxc5 3.Rxe6# (2.Kg4?[D] Rc8!), 1...Bxd6[z] 2.Kg4![D] & 3.Sc6#[B]; 2...Rxc3[x] 3.f4#[A] (2.Sc5?[C] Rf8!; 2.Sa5? Rb6/Rxc3![x] 3.Qxh8?), 1...Rxb7 2.Qxf8 & 3.Qf4,g7,xh8,f6/Sc6#; 2...Rb6/Sf7 3.Qf4/Qg7#.

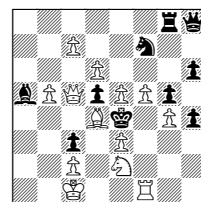
**3rd and 4th Prize– Anatoly Karamanits** After the key, and a quiet threat, there are four thematic variations. In each variation, Sd4 closes defender's line activating the Rook/Knight battery. **Solution:** 1.Sxf5? (2.Sg3 & 3.Sh5#), 1...Ra6 2.Bc6! & 3.Sd5#, 1...g3 2.Bf3! e4 3.hxg3#; 2...gxh2 3.Sd5#, 1...e4!; 1.g7! (2.g8Q & 3.Qg5#), 1...Qxd3 2.Sb3! & 3.Sxd3#, 1...Rxd3 2.Sdc2! & 3.Sxd3#, 1...Bxd5 2.Sb5! & 3.Sxd5#, 1...Rxd5 2.Sdc6! & 3.Sxd5#.

1st Honorable Mention  
Aleksandr Kuzovkov



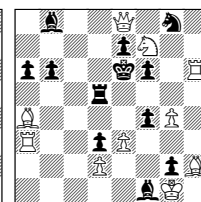
#3\* (14+9)

2nd Honorable Mention  
Viktor Volchek



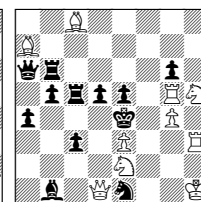
#3√ (13+10)

3rd Honorable Mention  
Viktor Kapusta



#3\* (11+11)

Commendation  
Vladimir Kozhakin



#3√ (10+12)

**1st Honorable Mention – Aleksandr Kuzovkov** The royal battery is in place. It will fire several times, depending on the play of the black Bishop. In the process of firing the royal battery, the white King makes a cross. Nice and clean. **Solution:** 1...Bd7 2.c4! e3 3.Kf3#, 1...Bf1 2.Bc6! e3 3.Kf3#; 1.Rf6! (2.Kh3+ Kd5/Kf6 3.Rg5/Qf4#), 1...Bd7 2.Kg2+! Kd5 3.c4#, 1...Bf1 2.Kg4+! Kd5 3.Bc6#, 1...e3 2.Kf3+ Kd5 3.Rg5#, 1...Kd5 2.Kf4! & 3.Rg5#; 2...Bd7 3.c4#.

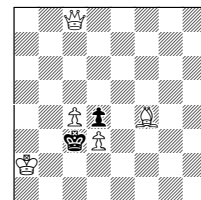
**2nd Honorable Mention – Viktor Volchek** Two threats, 1.Sf4? and 1.Qxc3? are defended by 1...Qxe5 and 1...Sxe5. The same defensive moves appear after the key. This time, the original try moves, 2.Sf4! and 2.Qxc3! succeed. **Solution:** 1.Sf4?[A] (2.Qxd5#[C]) Qxe5![a]; 1.Qxc3?[B] (2.Qd3#[D]) Sxe5![b]; 1.b6? (2.Qxa5 & 3.Sxc3#), 1...Sxe5 2.Sf4! (3.Qxd5#) Sd3+ (2...Qxe5?) 3.cxd3#; 2.gxf4 3.Rxf4#, 1...Qxe5 2.Qxc3! (3.Qd3#) Bxc3 (2...Sxe5?) 3.Sxc3#; 2...Qxd4 3.Qxd4#, (1...Bb4 2.Qxb4!; 1...Sxd6 2.Qxc3!), 1...Rc8!; 1.e6! (2.Bxh8! & 3.Qd4#; 2...Bb6 3.Sxc3#), 1...Se5[b] 2.Sf4![A] 3.Qxd5#[C]; 2...Sd3+ 3.cxd3#; 2...gxf4 3.Rxf4#, 1...Qe5[a] 2.Qxc3![B] (3.Qd3#[D]); 2...Qxd4 3.Qxd4#; 2...Bxc3 3.Sxc3#.

**3rd Honorable Mention – Viktor Kapusta** After a strong key, the black defends by threatening to mate White! All the defensive moves are made by the black Bishop. **Solution:** 1...Be5 2.Sg5+[B] Kd6 3.Qc6#, 1...Re5 2.Sd8+[C] Kd5/Kd6 3.Qc6#, (1...Rd8 2.fxe7+ Sxh6 3.exd8Q#); 1.Bb3! (2.e4![A] & 3.exd5/Bxd5#; 2...Sxh6 3.Qc7#), 1...b5![a] (2.e4?[A] Ba7#![b]) 2.Rxa6+! Bd6 3.Rxd6#, 1...Ba7![b] (2.e4?[A] b5#![a]) 2.Bxf4![D] & 3.Sg5[B]/Sd8#[C]; 2...Sxh6 3.Qxe7#, 1...Bd6! (2.e4?[A] Bc5#![c]) 2.Sg5+[B] Ke5 3.Bxf4#[D], 1...Be5! (2.e4?[A] Bd4#![d]) 2.Sd8+[C] Kd6 3.Qc6#.

## Commendations are not rated

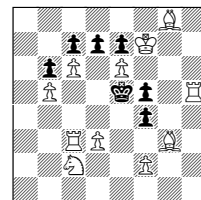
**Commendation – Vladimir Kozhakin (wKh1/bKe4)** Both thematic mates (Seg3 and Shg3) are predicated on opening line for wBa7. This allows mate on g3. The mates are well-differentiated. **Solution:** 1.Be6? (2.Sf6#), 1...Rxe6 2.Sxc3+ Rxc3 3.Shg3#, 1...Sf3!; 1.Rf5! (2.rf4+ exf4 3.Qd4#), 1...Rc4 2.Shf6+ Rxf6 3.Seg3#, 1...Rf6 2.Sexc3+ Rxc3 3.Shg3#, 1...Sd3 2.Sexc3+ Rxc3 3.Qf3#, 1...Sc2(Sg2,Sf3) 2.Seg3+ Kxe3 3.Rf3#, 1...Bd3 2.Shg3+ Kxe3 3.Qc1#, 1...d4 2.Rxe5+! Kxe5/Rxe5 3.Qxd4#.

Commendation  
Vladimir Kozhakin



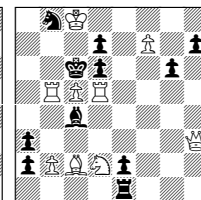
#3 b) Pd3→e2 (5+2)

Commendation  
Zoran Gavrilovski



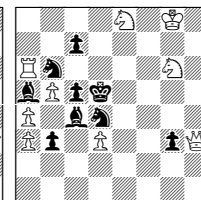
#3 (11+7)

Commendation  
Eugene Fomichev



#3\* (9+11)

Commendation  
Yuri Gorbatenko



#3 (10+9)

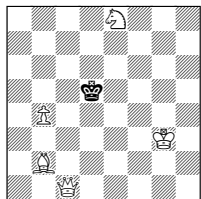
**Commendation – Vladimir Kozhakin** A good miniature with a twin and many interesting variations including tries. Solution: **a)** 1.Qb7? Kxd3!, 1.Qf5? Kc2!, **1.Qe6!** (zz), 1...Kb4 2.Qb6+ Ka4 3.Qb5#; 2...Kc3 3.Qb3#, 1...Kc2 2.Qe2+ Kc3 3.Qd2#, (1...Kxd3 2.c5! Kc2/Kc3 3.Qb3#; **b)** 1.Qa6? d3!, 1.Qf5? (zz), 1...Kxc4 2.Bd6 (3.Qc5#) Kc3 3.Qd3#, 1...Kb4 2.Bd6+/Qb5+ Kxc4/Kc3 3.Qc5/Qb3#; 2...Ka4 3.Qb5#; 2...Kc3 3.Qd3#, 1...d3!; 1.Qd7? (zz), 1...Kc2 2.Qa4+ Kc3 3.Qb3#, 1...Kb4 2.Bd2+(Qb5+) Kxc4 3.Qc6#; 2...Kc5 3.Qc7#, 1...d3!; 1.Qc7? (zz), 1...Kc2 2.Qa5 Kd1/d3 3.Qd2#, 1...d3!; 1.Qe8? (zz), 1...Kc2 2.Qa4+ Kc3 3.Qb3#, 1...Kb4 2.Qb5+ Kc3 3.Qb3#, 1...d3!; **1.Qb7!** (2.Qb3#), 1...Kxc4 2.Qc6+ Kb4 3.Bd2#, 1...d3 2.Be3 Kc2/Kxc4/d2/dxe2 3.Qb3#

**Commendation – Zoran Gavrilovski (wKf7/bKe5)** A Pickaninny, but the white mates keep repeating. Solution: **1.Bh2!** (zz), 1...Kd6[x] 2.Bxf4+[A] (2.Rxf5?[B] dxe6!) Kd5[y] 3.Rxf5#[B], 1...Kd5[y] 2.Rxf5+[B] (2.Bxf4?[A] dxe6!) Kd6[x] 3.Bxf4#[], 1...d6 2.Rc4 (zz) d5/Kd5 3.B/f4/Rxf5#, 1...d5 2.d4+ Ke4/Kd6 3.f3#/Bxf4#, 1...dxe6 2.Kxe7 Kd5 3.Rxf5#, 1...dxc6 2.Rxc6 Kd5 3.Rxf5#.

**Commendation – Eugene Fomichev** The lone black defender (Bishop) makes a cross, while the white Queen delivers most of the mates. Solution: 1...Bb3 2.Qxb3, 1...Bd3 2.Qxd3; **1.Qg4!** (2.Qxc4! dxc5 3.Qxc5#), 1...Bxb5 2.Rxd6+[A] Kxc5 3.Qd4#[B], 1...Bd3 2.Qd4![B] (2.Qb4? Kxd5!) & 3.Rb6#[C]; 2...Bxb5 3.Rxd6#[A]; 2...Kxb5 3.Qa4#, 1...Bxd5 2.Rb6+[C] Kxc5 3.Qb4#[D], 1...Bb3 2.Qb4![ D] (2.Qd4? Kxb5!) & 3.Rxd6#[A]; 2...Bxd5 3.Rb6#[C]; 2...Kxd5 3.Qe4#, (1...Sa6 2.Qxd7+ Kxd5 3.Qxd6#, 1...dxc5 2.Rdxc5+ Kd6 3.f8Q#).

**Commendation – Yuri Gorbatenko** Two sets of variations. In the first set, the white Queen is sacrificed twice while the white Knights mate. In the second set, the black battery is destroyed allowing for the movement of the black King and subsequent mates by the white Queen. Solution: **1.Bb2!** (2.Qf5+ Sxf5 3.Sf4#), 1...Bc3 2.Qd7+ Sxd7 3.Sxc7#, 1...Bxb5 2.Se7+ Ke5 3.Qf5#, 1...Bxd3 2.Sf6+ Kd6 3.Qd7#.

Commendation  
Yuri Gorbatenko



#3\* (10+9)

**Commendation – Dieter Müller (wKg3/bKd5)** A good miniature with many tries. Solution: 1...Ke4 2.Qc4+ Kf5/Ke3 3.Qg4/Bc1#; 1. b5? Ke4 2.Qc4+ Kf5/Ke3 3.Qg4/Bc1#, 1...Ke6!, 1.Bg7? Ke4 2.Qc4+ Kf5/Ke3 3.Qg4/Bh6#, 1...Ke6!, 1.Sg7? (2.Qc5+ Ke4 3.Qd4#), 1...Ke4 2.Qc4+ Ke3 3.Bc1#, 1...Kd6!, 1.Qc7? (2.Sf6+ Ke6 3.Qd7#), 1...Ke4 2.Qc4+ Kf5/Ke3 3.Qg4/Bc1#, 1...Ke6!; **1.Qc8!** (2.Sf6+ Kd6 3.Qd7#), 1...Ke4 2.Qc4+ Kf5/Ke3 3.Qg4/Bc1#.

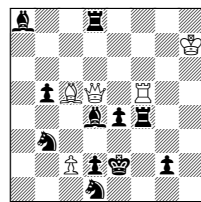
I thank the organizers for entrusting me with such an important journey to judge.

**4<sup>th</sup> Honorable Mention - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2192)** Anticipatory line-closure to give a free square to the black King after W1. Good interplay. The problem would have been ranked higher if the author had managed to perform a function permutation between mating units. Compare to [P0544718](#). **Solution:** 1.Bg5 Sd4 2.Kxd5 Sf6#; 1.Qg5 Sd6+ 2.Ke5 f4#.

**Special Honorable Mention - (Fadil Abdurahmanović & Živko Janevski - H2166)** Despite the existence of a strong forerunner (see [P1072539](#)) I have decided to include this problem in the award for three reasons: 1) model mates in all solutions, 2) better economy, 3) there are differences in setting and matrix of thematic black pieces, though it is not essential for the whole content, in my opinion. **Solution:** 1.Sd5+ Kd2+ 2.Ka5 Kc1#, 1.Rd5 Ke2+ 2.Rb5 Kf3#, 1.Qd5 Qf2 2.Kc5 Kf4#.

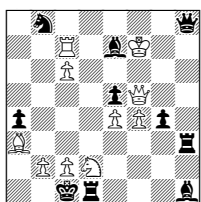
**1<sup>st</sup> Commendation - (János Csák - H2216)** Quite an original and interesting strategy but the construction is too heavy. One more shortcoming is in the fact that the black Queen plays like a Bishop. See suggested versions (Diagrams B and C). **Solution:** 1.Qc3 Rxe3 2.Qb4 Qf1#; 1.Rb3 Bxe5 2.Rb4 Qxf7#. **Solution to Diagram B:** 1.Rb3 Bxe5 2.Rb4 Qf7#; 1.Bc3 Rxe3 2.Bb4 Qf1#. **Solution to Diagram C:** 1.Bf2 Rxf4 2.Be1 Qh5#; 1.Rf1 Bxd4 2.Re1 Qxb5#.

Diagram C  
Suggested version



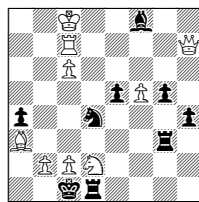
h#2 2 sols. (5+11)

2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation  
Alexandr Pankratyev



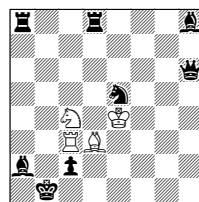
h#2 2 sols. (10+10)

Diagram D  
Suggested version



h#2 2 sols. (9+9)

3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation  
Fadil Abdurahmanović

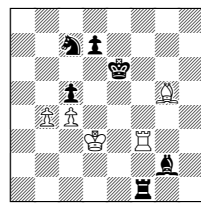


h#2 2 sols. (4+8)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation - (Alexandr Pankratyev - H2215)** Annihilation of white pawns e4/c6 with the subsequent bi-valve effects is combined with alternate guard of Sd2 by WR/WQ as well as with alternate battery mates. See suggested version (Diagram D). **Solution:** 1.Bxe4 Rd7 2.Bf3 b4#; 1.Sxc6 Qd7 2.Sb4 b3#. **Solution to Diagram D:** 1.Sxf5 Rd7 2.Se3 b4#; 1.Sxc6 Qd7 2.Sb4 b3#.

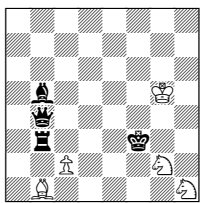
**3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation - (Fadil Abdurahmanović - H2186)** Klasinc theme seems to be novel in this well-known matrix but the key moves are unbalanced. Compare to: [P0538364](#). **Solution:** 1.Sd7 Rxc2 2.Ba1 Rc3#; 1.Kc1 Bxc2 2.Rd1 Bd3#.

4<sup>th</sup> Commendation  
Živko Janevski



h#2 4 sols. (5+6)

5<sup>th</sup> Commendation  
Abdelaziz Onkoud



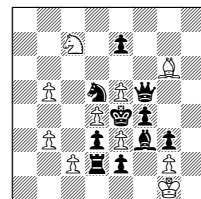
h#2 2 sols. (5+4)

**4<sup>th</sup> Commendation - (Živko Janevski - H2163)** The point of this problem is mates on squares e7/f6 by the white Rook and the white Bishop. However, the strategy is rather simple and the play is not quite harmonious. **Solution:** 1.bxc5 Rc4 2.dxc4 Rd2#, 1.Rxc5 Rb4 2.Bd6 Rc2#, 1.exd4 Se4+ 2.Ke5 Rg5#.

**5<sup>th</sup> Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2234)** It's curious and funny how the order of Black's moves determines the White's play, ending with reflected mates. Compare to [yacpdb/#88312](#). **Solution:** 1.Re3 c3 2.Be2 Se1#; 1.Be2 c4 2.Re3 Sh4#.

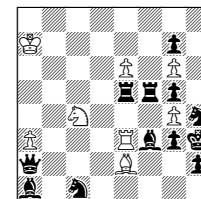
*We wish to thanks Vitaly for this comprehensive and timely award which stays open for three months. Please send comments to Abdelaziz Onkoud.*

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Zoran Gavrilovski



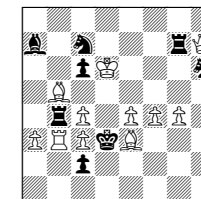
h#2 b) Pb5→h4 (10+10)  
c) Sc7↔Qf5, d) Bf3→c4

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, O.Comay,  
M.Erenburg & P.Einat



h#2 (8+12)  
b/c) Kh3→b1/f6

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
Vitaly Medintsev



h#2 (11+8)  
b) Sc7→d4, c) Be3→a1

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, O.Comay, M.Erenburg & P.Einat** a) 1.Rxe3 Sxe3 2.Bxg4 Bxg4#; b) 1.Bxe2 Rxe2 2.Qxa3 + Sxa3#; c) 1.Qxc4 Bxc4 2.Rxe6 Rxe6#. A problem with 3 pairs which are combined, during the solution, with dynamic captures. The capture on Black's 1st move allows White to recapture that piece and remain on that square. A highly enjoyable problem.

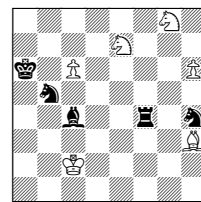
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Vitaly Medintsev** a) 1.Rxb3 c5+ 2.Kxc3 Qxg7#; b) 1.Rxh7 cxd4+ 2.Kxe4 Bxc6#; c) 1.cxb5 e5+ 2.Kxc4 Rxb4#.

It is worth nothing that the 3rd Youth Chess Composing Challenge attracted several promising youngsters (born in 1997 or younger). The kudos go to Marjan Kovačević, who promoted the idea back in 2016 during the Belgrade meeting. The tourney was directed by Julia Vysotska.

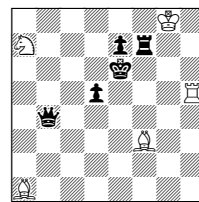
## Recent Tourney Winners

Comments and solutions are from the magazines which originally published the awards.

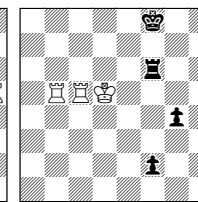
**N°1** Pavel Arestov **N°2** S. Slumstrup Nielsen **N°3** S. Slumstrup Nielsen **N°4** Daniel Keith  
1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Thematic sec. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Win studies 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Draw studies 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
4<sup>th</sup> UAPA Internet Ty. '17 4<sup>th</sup> UAPA Internet Ty. '17 4<sup>th</sup> UAPA Internet Ty. '17 XXIII Birnov-MT 2017



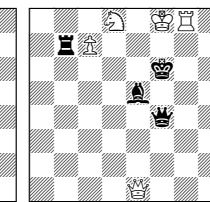
Win (6+5)



Win (5+5)



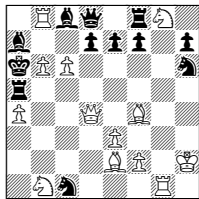
Draw (3+4)



Win (5+4)

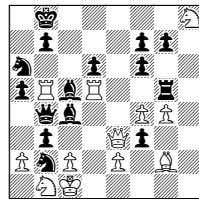
**N°1 1.c7!/i** Sxc7/ii 2.h7 Sg6 (Rf2; Kc1) 3.Sxg6 Bd3+ 4.Kb3/iii Rh4 5.Sxh4 Bxh7 6.Bf1+ (Sf6? Bd3); Ka5 7.Sf6 Bb1 8.Kb2 wins (domination). i) 1.h7? Rf2+ 2.Kc1 Sd4 3.h8Q Sb3+ 4.Kd1 Rd2? 5.Ke1 Sf3 mate. ii) Rf2+ 2.Kc1 Sxc7 3.h7, or Sd4 3.c8Q+ wins. iii) Thematic try: 4.Kc1? Rc4+/iv 5.Kb2 Rb4+/v 6.Kc1 Rc4+ 7.Kd2 Rh4 8.Sxh4 Bxh7 9.Bf1+ Ka5 10.Sf6 Bb1 11.Kc1 Ba2 draws. 4.Kxd3? Rf3+ 5.Ke4 Rxb3, or 4.Kc3? Sd5+ 5.Kxd3 Rf3+, or 4.Kd2? Rh4 5.Sxh4 Bxh7 draw. iv) Rh4? 5.Sxh4 Bxh7 6.Bf1+ Ka5 7.Sf6 wins. v) Rh4? 6.Sxh4 Bxh7 7.Bf1+ Ka5 8.Sf6 wins. "This is an elegant work by the author with the theme executed with purity in which the interesting solution is closely connected to a thematic try. The correct move choice of the wK on the 4<sup>th</sup> move, while avoiding capturing the bB, does not leave any escape routes for the bB in the finish. The study is decorated with two-piece sacrifices". (Judge: V.Tarasyuk)

1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Vidmantas Satkus



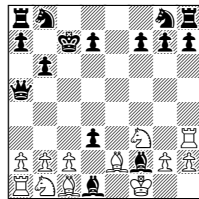
PG 23½ (13+12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Ivan Denkovski



PG 26½ (12+15)

1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention  
Marek Kolčák



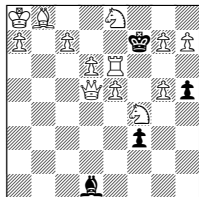
PG 12½ (12+15)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Ivan Denkovski** 1.d4 c5 2.Bg5 c4 3.Bf6 exf6 4.h4 Bc5 5.Rh3 d6 6.Rb3 Be6 7.Rb5 Qa5+ 8.b4 cxb3 e.p.+ 9.Sc3 Bc4 10.d5 Qb4 11.Qd4 a5 12.0-0-0 Sa6 13.Sb1 0-0-0 14.Qg4+ Kb8 15.f4 Re8 16.Sf3 Re6 17.dxe6 Se7 18.Rd5 Sc8 19.e7 h5 20.e8Q hxg4 21.Qe3 gxf3 22.g4 Rh5 23.Bg2 Rg5 24.h5 Sb6 25.h6 Sa4 26.h7 Sb2 27.h8S.

**1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention, Marek Kolčák** 1.f4 c5 2.f5 Qa5 3.f6 Kd8 4.fxe7+ Kc7 5.e8R b6 6.Re3 Ba6 7.Rh3 Bxe2 8.Sf3 Bxd1 9.Be2 c4 10.0-0 Bc5+ 11.d4 cxd3 e.p.+ 12.Rf2 Bxf2+ 13.Kf1.

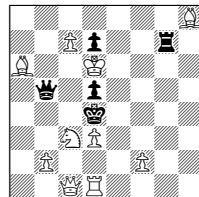
**Vodka Tourney. Theme:** s#3-5 with mates by the same black piece on different fields.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Petko A. Petkov



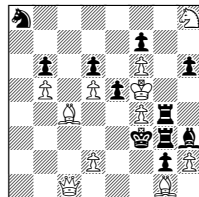
s#3 (13+4)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Waldemar Tura



s#3 (10+5)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
Evgeny Fomichev



s#3 (11+11)

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Petko A. Petkov** 1.Sf4~? (2.g8B+! Kf8 3.Qxf3+ Bxf3#) Bc2!; **1.Sh3!** (2.g8B+! Kf8 3.Qxf3+ Bxf3#), 1...Bc2 2.Re7+ Kg6 3.Qe4+ Bxe4#, 1...Bb3 2.h8S+! Kg8 3.Rh6+ Bxd5#, 1...Ba4 2.Rf6+ Kxe8 3.Qc6+ Bxc6#. Four-fold showing of the theme with white passive promotions on different squares.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Waldemar Tura** 1...Qxb2 2.Sb5+ Qxb5 3.Qc5+ Qxc5#; 1...Q~ 2.Sb5+ Qxb5 3.Qc5+ Qxc5#; **1.Dg5!** (zz), 1...Q~ 2.Sb5+ Qxb5 3.Qxd5+ Qxd5#, 1...Qxb2!? 2.Se2+ Qxe2 3.Qe5+ Qxe5#, 1...Qxd3!? 2.Rd2 zz Qxd2 3.Qf4+ Qxf4#. Two corrections by the black Queen with a changed mate from set.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Evgeny Fomichev** **1.Qa1!** (zz), 1...Sc7 2.Sg6! & 3.Sh4+ Rxh4#, 1...e4 2.Qe1! & 3.Qxg3+ Rxg3#, 1...h5 2.Sxf7! & 3.Sg5+ Rxg5#, 1...exf4 2.Qd4! & 3.Qxf4+ Rxf4#.

**21<sup>st</sup> Sabra Tourney. Theme:** h#2, Mutual captures involving (at least) two Black pieces and two White pieces: In one phase Black piece A captures White piece B & White piece C captures Black piece D. Another possibility is that the two Black captures are done in one phase and the two White captures in the second.

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Zoran Gavrilovski** a) 1.Sxc7 Bxf5+ 2.Kd5 c4#; b) 1.Qxg6 gxf3+ 2.Kf5 e4#; c) 1.Bxg2 cxd3+ 2.Kf3 Bh5#; d) 1.dxc2 Sxd5 2.Kd3 Bxf5#. A harmonious problem with 4 solutions showing, at a high technical level, several different cyclical mechanisms. A remarkable achievement.

## StrateGems 2017 Fairies - Section A Award

by Pierre Tritten

Forty-three problems were published in 2017: FA1576 – FA1581 (SG77), FA1588 – FA1594 (SG78), FA1612 – FA1624 (SG79) and FA1639 – FA1655 (SG80). I awarded twenty-one problems. Among them are seventeen help-selfmates, a stipulation more and more used in the fairy field, with great success, as we will see below.

I made my choice following my personal taste, and I am aware that it can be very different from that of other judges. I tried to favor problems showing new and striking ideas rather than more technical or computer-generated ones.

As usual when judging a fairy tourney, it was difficult for me to compare the qualities of problems using different stipulations and conditions; my apologies if anyone feels upset.

The average quality is really good and the ratio of awarded entries to published ones is very high, almost half of the field, but some other good problems could also have been awarded.

Here are my comments on some of the problems that did not into the award, mainly due to a lack of economy or originality:

**FA1579:** Two-Knight round trips have already been shown with this stipulation and with a lighter setting (See Diagram A. Solution: 1.Sxc3 Sb4 2.Se2 Rg8 3.Sf4+ Kc3 4.Sd5+ Sxd5#; 1.Sxd3 Qa5 2.Sf2 Rg6 3.Se4+ Kd3 4.Sc5+ Qxc5#);

**FA1581:** AUW with this stipulation has already been shown in a similar way by the author;

**FA1616:** Ideal-mates can be shown while keeping the problem in miniature form;

**FA1639:** A version with eight pieces (2+6) without the white Pawn can be achieved;

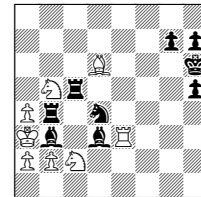
**FA1642:** Two black Pawns can be saved;

**FA1643:** A black Bishop is unused in each solution, a shame for such an interesting problem;

**FA1646:** A white Pawn and a black Pawn can be saved.

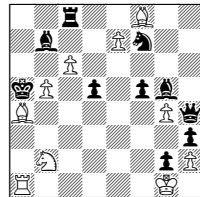
Here are the awarded problems:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Vlaicu Crisan &  
S.K.Balasubramanian



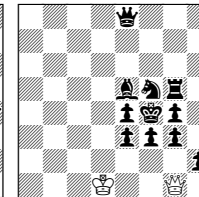
hs#3 2 sols. (8+9)  
Take & Make

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Manfred Rittirsch



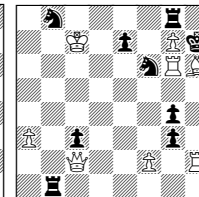
hs#3 2 sols. (10+10)  
Circe Assassin + Eiffel

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
Petko A. Petkov



h#2 3 sols. (2+11)  
Anti-Circe Couscous

4<sup>th</sup> Prize  
Mario Parrinello



hs#2½ b) Pe7→e6 (8+9)  
Anti-Andernach + Eiffel

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - (Vlaicu Crisan & S.K. Balasubramanian - FA1620)** An incredible festival of thematic captures, beginning with a sacrifice of each of the two white Knights on f5, opening a line for White's second move and allowing Black to prepare the mating battery. On their second move, Black captures the remaining white Knight and move its front-battery piece so that it can capture white checking piece. The finale, showing double cross-checks, is superb. During the play, two pairs of white pieces and two pairs of black pieces exchange their functions, while White and Black show reciprocal double-check batteries. This masterpiece demonstrates the wide opportunities provided by the help-selfmate stipulation, and it will surely become a classic. Solution: 1.Scx4-f5+ Bxf5-e7 2.Bxc5-c1 Rxb5-d6 3.Rxb3-e6+ Rxe6-e3#; 1.Sbxd4-f5+ Rxf5-g3 2.Rxd3-a6 Bxc2-e3 3.Bxb4-f4+ Bxf4-d6#.