

Award Buletin Problemistic fairies 2004-06

by Bjørn Enemark, Denmark

First, a thank you to Dinu-loan Nicula for asking me to judge this fairy section, it has been a pleasure. The overall standard was very high. There have been many candidates for the award and it has not been so easy to select. An important criterion has been interesting play. This has eliminated some of the long series movers where the king walks down through a long and winding, but predefined route to capture a blocking piece. I have given 5 prizes, 6 honorary mentions and 9 commendations, but could easily have added more problems to the list. 8 out of these 20 awards went to Romanians.

I have not wanted to be influenced by the composers' names so I have initially erased all names on the magazine pages in the jpeg-files that I received from Dinu-loan.

Then a little statistics. Altogether, there were 56 problems by 33 different authors from 13 countries:

- BP81: 4336-4343 (9)
- BP82: 4395-4408, 4338V (15)
- BP83: 4460-4465 (6)
- BP84: 4521-4531 (11)
- BP85: 4580-4594 (15)

Of these were 7 direct mates, 17 selfmates, 21 helpmates, 9 helpselfmates and 2 proof games. 17 had a series stipulation. Many of the problems had a kind of task element, like the Valladao task or unusually many moves. A fourth of them had more than 10 moves and half of those had more than 20 moves.

The authors were Albert Grigorian (2), Albert Ivanov, Aleksandr Pankratiev, Dinu-loan Nicula (4), Eligiusz Zimmer, Eric Huber (5), Gabriel Nedeianu, Gaspar J. Perrone, Ghenadii Kukin, Guy Sobrecases-Florea (2), György Bakcsi (3), Igor Vereşciaghin, Ion Murăraşu (2), Jean-Francois Baudoin, Jorma Pitkänen, Laslo Zoltán (2), Leonid Borodotov, Menachem Witzum, Michael Grushko (4), Neculai Chivu (7), Nicolae Popa, Nikolai Mironenko, Oleg Paradzinski, Paul Răican (4), Tode Ilevski, Valer V. Demian, Valerii Gurov, Valerii Koşelenko, Valeriu Petrovici (4), Venelin Alaikov (3), Victor Cioană, Vlaicu Crişan (4), Wladyslaw Rosolak, some of these in collaboration.

I excluded some problems:

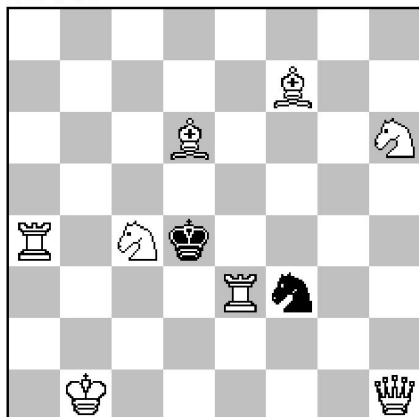
- 4343, 4404, 4465 and the original version of 4338 for having multiple solutions.
- 4396 (ser-s#16) which has a predecessor in Gennadi L. Kukins ser-s#13 (PDB P1236035) with same last 5 moves and precisely the same mating position
- 4531 and 4591 upon request from Componist, as proof games are now considered a separate category and 4591 in the meantime was republished as R04 in Componist no. 1 (with the author's acceptance)

and for 4464 I had expected more from a Pickaninny with four Excelsiors and grasshopper promotions, like P1177460 by Wenelin Alaikov & Petko Petkov with four different mates

And now for the awards:

4585. Paul Răican, ROU

1. Pr., Buletin Problemistic fairies
2004-06



S#15 Circe 8+2

DEMO LAT 2017

1. Pr., 4585 (Răican):

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Se5+ | Kxe3 (hTa1) | 2. Dxf3+ (sSg8) | Kd2 |
| 3. T4a2+ | Ke1 | 4. Te2+ | Kd1 |
| 5. Tb2+ | Ke1 | 6. Dh1+ | Sxh6 (hSg1) |
| 7. Sh3+ | Sxf7 (hLf1) | 8. Lc4+ | Sxe5 (hSg1) |
| 9. Se2+ | Sxc4 (hLf1) | 10. Lg3+ | Kd1 |
| 11. Sf2+ | Ke1 | 12. Sg4+ | Kd1 |
| 13. Se3+ | Sxe3 (hSg1) | 14. Dd5+ | Sxd5 |
| 15. Sc3+ | Sxc3# | | |

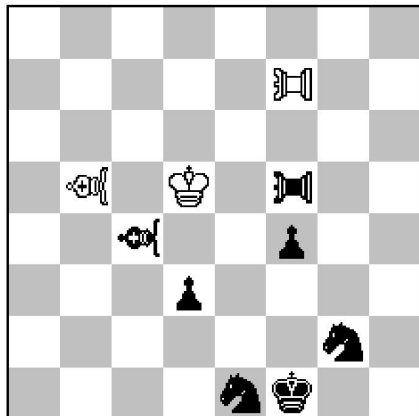
This aristocratic self mate in 15 moves has a long forced play, quite entertaining, where the lone defender, the black knight, again and again must save the ball at the goal line, using Circe to block for a check from the queen at h1. This is done by black's 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th move. It ends with a forced ideal mate.

It displays the Popandopoulo theme: a battery is established (the queen at h1) and fired several times with different front pieces. Here this is done in white's 7th, 8th and 9th move.

White has all his officers in play; this gives about 50 possible moves for white in each move. So even though black usually has only one move, this problem becomes impossible to test! The last 6 moves are tested ok in 18 minutes. The last 7 moves are tested ok in 51 hours. So testing just one more move (the last 8 out of the 15 moves) would probably take 1 year!

4406. Vlaicu Crișan, ROU

2. Pr., Buletin Problemistic fairies
2004-06



Ser-H#3 Supercirce C+ 3+7
2.1...

2. Pr., 4406 (Crișan)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. VAXf7 [+hPAc4] | 2. VAXc4 [+hPAf8] |
| 3. PAXb5 [+hVAF7] | VAXc4 [+sVAG1]# |
| 1. PAXb5 [+hVAF5] | 2. PAXf5 [+hVAA6] |
| 3. VAXf7 [+hPAb5] | PAXf5 [+sPAG1] # |

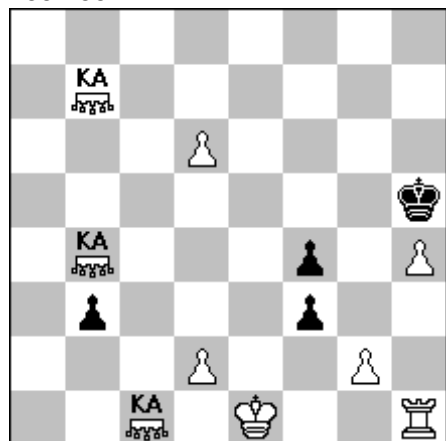
In supercirce captured pieces may be placed anywhere. And in this little beauty with Chinese pieces all moves are captures, making the most out of the condition. Two solutions with perfect analogy, ODC. The rear piece of one battery is captured by the front piece of another. Since it is a series mover there may be no check to the black king so the rear piece is used to block. With a switchback the rear piece is reinstated only one square further away.

Then the front piece of the other battery captures the rear piece of the first one and places this piece as a new front piece. And for the finale the second battery is fired with a double check and a self block. The white king is the crankshaft of it all, acting as hurdle for both Vaos and Paos. Quite simple actually, but very nicely done. I just wonder why there is a knight and not a pawn at g2.

4530. Gaspar J. Perrone, ARG

3. Pr., Buletin Problemistic fairies

2004-06



HS#5

C+ 9+4

3. Pr., 4530 (Perrone)

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|------|
| 1. 0-0 | b2 | 2. Kh2 | b1KA |
| 3. Rg1 | KAb8 | 4. KAh1+ | Kxh4 |
| 5. g4+ | fxg3 ep.# | | |

A kangaroo moves like a grasshopper but needs two hurdles. They may be without intervening spaces. In this problem there are four of them and two of them have several functions:

- KAb7 is a hurdle for KAb1 and also a self block on h1
- KAb4 is a hurdle for KAb1 and delivers check on h4 after g4

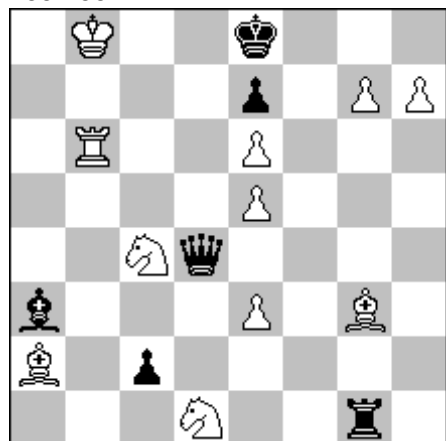
The theme is Valladao, a problem that contains all of the three special moves of chess: castling, promotion and en passant. All in a helpselfmate in five.

The final move gives check to the bK with an exo-battery with a kangaroo as a rear piece and black's only defence is an en passant move that mates wK because it is a double check, from the pawn and another exo-battery with the newborn black kangaroo as a rear piece.

4590. Guy Sobrecases, FRA

4. Pr., Buletin Problemistic fairies

2004-06



HS#20.5

C+ 11+6

Double maximummer

4. Pr., 4590 (Sobrecases)

The fourth prize goes to a helpselfmate in 20.5 moves!

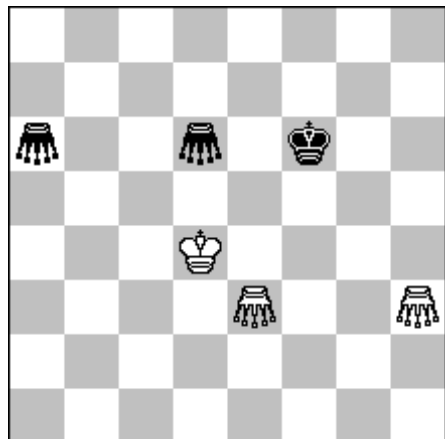
- | | | | |
|---------|------|----------|--------|
| 1. - | Ld6+ | 2. Sxd6+ | Dxd6+ |
| 3. Txd6 | Txd1 | 4. Txd1 | cx d1T |
| 5. Ld5 | Txd5 | 6. Le1 | Td1 |
| 7. La5 | Td8+ | 8. Lxd8 | Kxd8 |
| 9. Ka7 | Kc7 | 10. h8L | Kd8 |
| 11. Kb6 | Kc8 | 12. Ka7 | Kc7 |
| 13. g8S | Kd8 | 14. Lf6 | exf6 |
| 15. Se7 | fxe5 | 16. Sd5 | Kc8 |
| 17. Sf4 | exf4 | 18. Kb6 | fxe3 |
| 19. Ka7 | e2 | 20. Kb6 | e1D |
| 21. Ka7 | Da5# | | |

The length is in itself an achievement in a helpselfmate. Here it is supplemented by bicolor AUW and also quadruple Phenix since each of the promotions has been preceded by a capture of a corresponding piece during the first eight moves where all the original officers plus the newborn rook are eliminated.

4592. Eric Huber, ROU

5. Pr., Buletin Problemistic fairies

2004-06



H#26* Koeko C+ 3+3
Double maximummer

5. Pr., 4592 (Huber)

1. -	Gd3	2. Ge2	Gc5	3. Gg6	Gh7
4. Ge6	Ge3	5. Gg6	Gf5	6. Ge4	Gd3
7. Gc4	Gc5	8. Gc2	Gb1	9. Gxc5	Ke5
10. Gc6	Kd6	11. Ge7	Kxe7	12. Kf7	Kf6
13. Ke6+	Ke7	14. Kd5	Kd7	15. Ge8	Ke6
16. Kd6	Kd5	17. Ke5	Ke6	18. Kf6	Kf5
19. Kg5	Kg6	20. Kh6	Kh7	21. Kg7	Kg6
22. Gh5+	Kh7	23. Kh8	Kg6	24. Gf7	Gh7
25. Gh5	Gh4	26. Gf7	Kh7#		

1. Gg6	Gd3	2. Ge2	Gh7	3. Ge4	Gf5
4. Gc4	Gh7	5. Ge6	Ge7	6. Gf7	Gg5
7. Gd5	Gc5	8. Gf7	Ge7	9. Gd5	Gf8
10. Gc4	Gf5	11. Gg5	Gxg5	12. Ge4	Ge7
13. Ge8	Gg5	14. Kxg5	Gh5	15. Kh4	Gh3
16. Kg3	Gf3	17. Kf2	Gf1	18. Ke3	Ke4
19. Kf4	Kf5	20. Kg5	Kg6	21. Kh6	Kh7
22. Kg7	Kg8	23. Kh8	Kf7	24. Gg6	Gf8
25. Ge8	Gd8	26. Gg6	Kg8#		

Another lengthy double maximummer problem goes into the prize list, an aristocratic miniature help mate in 26 with the Koeko condition. Only kings and grasshoppers. In Koeko moves are only legal if the piece ends up being adjacent to another piece on the board.

Its qualities is not just the length, it has a set play half a move shorter that ends up with mate in the opposite corner, and a photographic echo too!

This must be a lucky find! The Koeko condition is so contrary to normal chess play that is hard to imagine composing such a long problem without extensive use of the computer. Still, it is the result that counts and a H#26 with photographic echoes is certainly worth a prize.

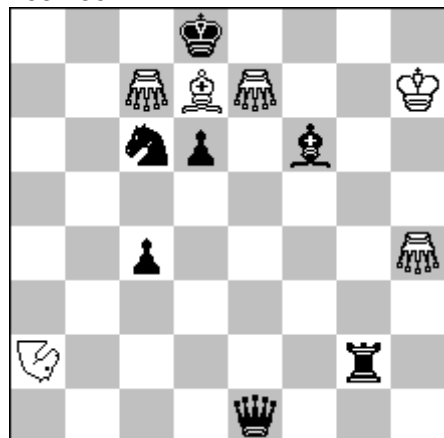
4526. Dinu-Ioan Nicula

& Vlaicu Crișan, ROU

dedicated to Lina

1. HM, Buletin Problemistic fairies

2004-06



H#2 2.1... C+ 6+6

1. HM, 4526 (Nicula & Crișan)

1. Sb4 Gxb4 2. c3 Gd2#

1. Lg5 Nxc5 2. Tf2 Nf3 #

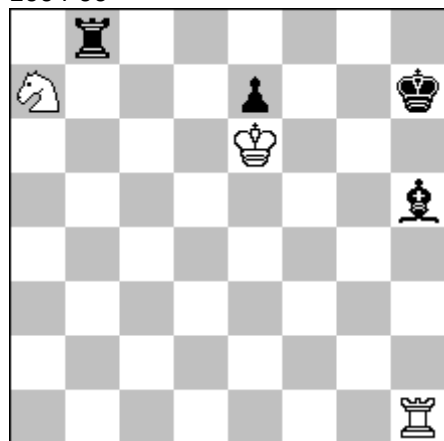
Change of function between the nightrider and the grasshopper.

Very neat analogy. First the pinned black piece moves away from the king along the pin line (a Pelle move), and then the rear piece of the other battery captures the pinned piece making a battery. To make the battery work black must be prevented from 1) capturing the rear piece and 2) interfering on the battery line.

4403. Michael Grushko, ISR

2. HM, Buletin Problemistic fairies

2004-06



S=9 Circe C+ 3+4
Maximummer

2. HM, 4403 (Grushko)

1. Sc6 Tb1 2. Sb8 Txb8 [Sg1]

3. Th3 Tb1 4. Tb3 Ld1

5. Sf3 Lxf3 6. Kxe7 La8

7. Ke8 Lh1 8. Tb7+ Txb7

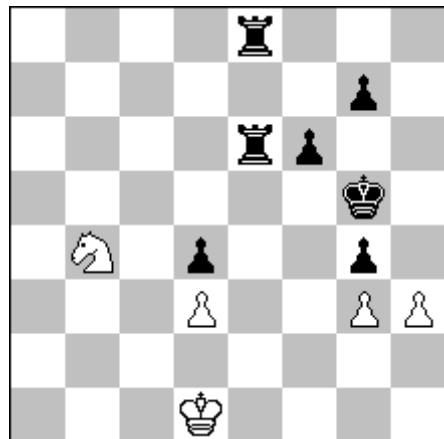
9. Kf8 La6=

White's knight and rook are cleverly eliminated in spite of the Circe condition. In move 6 the knight goes because of the black rook at b1 and in move 8 the rook is taken because of the black bishop at h1. The move 8. - Lxb7 is longer than 8. - Txb7 but is illegal due to self check.

4398. Jean-François Baudoin, FRA

3. HM, Buletin Problemistic fairies

2004-06



Ser-H#13 C+ 4+7

3. HM, 4398. (Baudoin)

1. f5 2. Tg6 3. Te3 4. Txc3 5. Tf3

6. g3 7. g2 8. g1L 9. Lh2 10. Le5

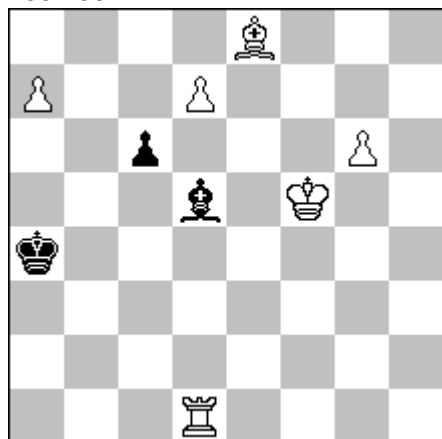
11. Kf4 12. Tg3 13. g5 Sd5#

Black constructs a fortress and bK enters.

The surprising thing here is that wBg3 is captured and that it is done by the rook at e8

4589. Guy Sobrecases, FRA

4. HM, Buletin Problemistic fairies
2004-06



HS#16 C+ 6+3
Double Maximummer
Frankfurter Rex Exclusive

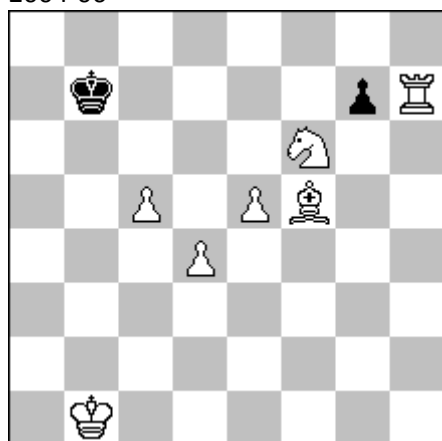
4. HM, 4589 (Sobrecases)

1. Th1	Lxh1(T)	2. Ke6	Th8	3. Lf7	Ta8
4. Le8	Txe8(L)	5. Kf5	Lxg6(B)+	6. Ke4	Kb3
7. Kd3	Ka2	8. Kc4	Kb1	9. Kb3	g5
10. Ka4	Kc2	11. d8S	Kd3	12. Se6	Kc4
13. Sf4	gxf4(S)	14. a8D	Sg6	15. Dh8	Sxh8(D)
16. Ka3	Da1#				

Another successful long double maximummer, this time with Frankfurter chess: When a piece makes a capture it changes into that piece, but retains its own color. bLd5 turns into T, L, B, S, D, so it is a kind of AUW even though there is not promotion involved for black. Due to the maximummer condition the pawns can only move when the corresponding K is caught at the edge, unable to make a diagonal move.

4580. Venelin Alaikov, BUL

5. HM, Buletin Problemistic fairies
2004-06



Ser-H#8 C+ 7+2

B: wBe5→h6
C: B + wLf5→a5
D: C + wBh6→f5

5. HM, 4580. (Alaikov)

A:	1. Ka6	2. gxf6	3. fxe5	4. e4	5. e3
	6. e2	7. e1L	8. La5	Ld3#	
B:	1. Ka8	2. g5	3. g4	4. g3	5. g2
	6. g1L	7. Lh2	8. Lb8	Le4#	
C:	1. Kc8	2. gxh6	3. h5	4. h4	5. h3
	6. h2	7. h1L	8. Lb7	Th8#	
D:	1. Kc6	2. g6	3. gxf5	4. f4	5. f3
	6. f2	7. f1L	8. Lb5	Tc7#	

This series mover has many qualities:

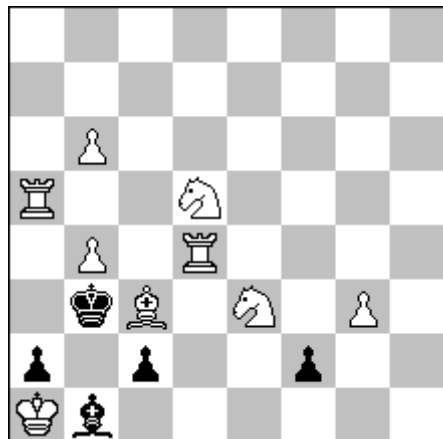
- K-star in first move (bK must unpin the pawn)
- Pickaninny
- four excelsior runs by pawn g7
- promotion to bishop on e1, f1, g1 and h1

Some would disqualify it completely for having a white officer (S) not participating in the B-mate, but I think its qualities easily outweigh this. However, it would certainly have been ranked higher without this flaw.

4401. Neculai Chivu, ROU

6. HM, Buletin Problemistic fairies

2004-06



S#3 Maximummer C+ 9+5

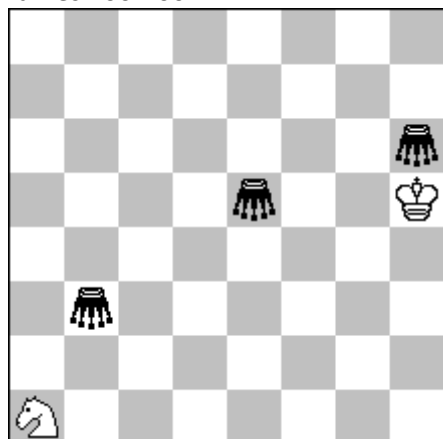
6. HM, 4401 (Chivu)

- | | | | |
|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. Le1 | ZZ | | |
| 1. - | fxe1S | 2. Ta3+ | Kxa3 |
| | | 3. Sxc2+ | Sxc2# |
| 1. - | fxe1L | 2. b5 | Lxa5 |
| | | 3. Sc3 | Lxc3# |
| 1. - | fxe1T | 2. Td1 | Th1 |
| | | 3. Txb1+ | Txb1# |
| 1. - | fxe1D | 2. Txa2 | Dxb4 |
| | | 3. Ta3+ | Dxa3# |

Fine S#3 with AUW. Black must promote the f-pawn with capture.

4339. Michael Grushko, ISR

1. Comm. , Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



S#7 Circe
Maximumber
B: wSa1→a8

1. Comm. , 4339 (Grushko)

A)

1. Sc2	Gd1	2. Sd4	Gd5
3. Kg6	Gc3	4. Sf5	Gg5
5. Sg7	Gh8	6. Kh7	Gg8
7. Kxh8 [+bGh1] Gh7#			

B) wSa1→a8

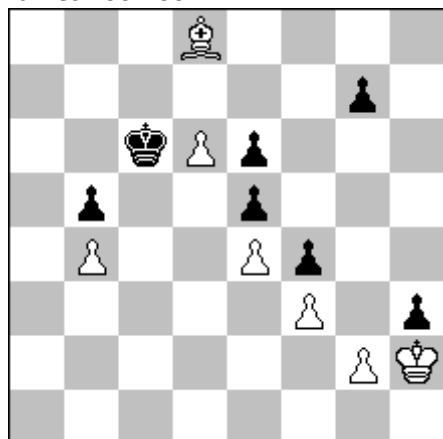
1. Kg6	Gf6	2. Sc7	Gb8
3. Se6	Gb2	4. Kxf6 [+bGf1]	Gg7
5. Kxg7 [+bGg1]	Gg8	6. Kh8	Gf7
7. Sg7	Gf8#		

Two mates with this weak material, both in the h8-corner. Almost symmetrical around the diagonal. One of them is Circe dependent: in A) the grasshopper at g8 is self guarded.

4407. Igor Verešciaghin

& Valerii Gurov, RUS

2. Comm. , Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



HS#7 C+ 7+7

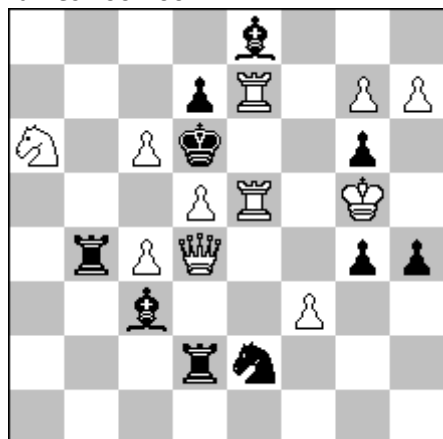
2. Comm., 4407 (Verešciaghin & Gurov)

1. d7	Kd6	2. Lb6	Ke7
3. d8T	Kf6	4. Td1	Kg5
5. Th1	Kh4	6. Lg1	g5
7. g4	fxg3 ep.#		

Logical HS#7 ending in ZZ and forced ep-capture.

4400. Venelin Alaikov, BUL

3. Comm. , Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



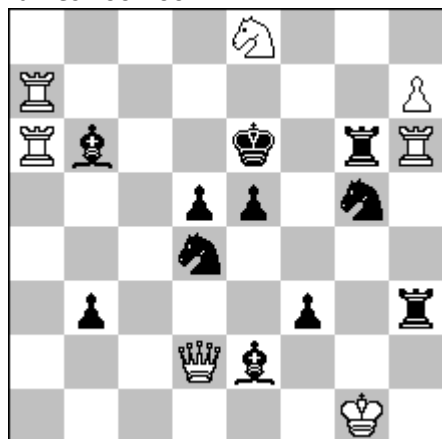
Semi-R#3 C+ 11+10

3. Comm., 4400 (Alaikov)

1. Te3!	tr.	2. De5+	Lxe5	3. Kh6	Lf4#
1. -	Txd4	2. T3e6+	dxex6	3. Kf6	Txd5
1. -	Sxd4	2. c5+	Kxd5	3. Kf4	Se6#
1. -	Lxd4	2. Txd7+	Lxd7	3. Kxh4	Lf6#
1. -	Sf4	2. Dxf4+	Le5	3. Kh6	Lxf4#

After the threat black may defend with four moves all resulting in reflex mate. White K-star in third move. The position is a bit heavy though.

4529. Menachem Witztum, ISR
4. Comm. , Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



HS#2 B: bBe5→f5 C+ 7+11

4. Comm., 4529 (Witztum)

A:

1. Dxc5 Lxa6 2. Dg4+ Sf5#

B:

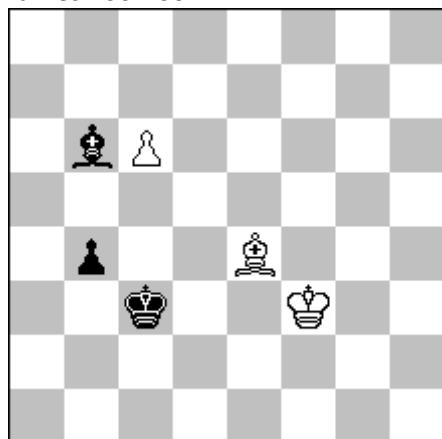
1. Dxd4 Thxh6 2. De3+ Se4#

White queen captures one of the knights that both are front pieces in batteries. The other knight fires its battery at the end. This is called pseudo-Zilahi.

We also have Pelle moves by the queen and of course ODC.

The position is quite heavy though and the extra rook out of the box is a minus.

4521. Valer V. Demian
& Valeriu Petrovici, ROU
5. Comm. , Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



Ser-H#6 2.1... C+ 3+3

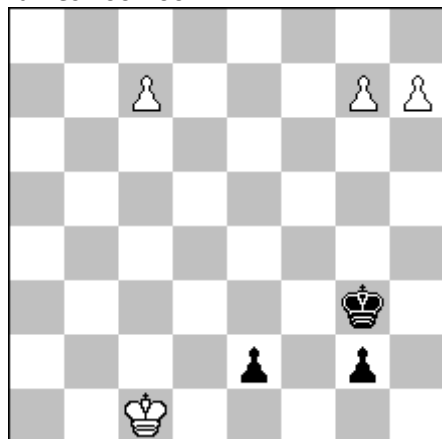
5. Comm., 4521 (Demian & Petrovici)

1. Kc4 2. Kb5 3. Ka6 4. Ka7 5. Ka8
6. La7 c7#

1. Kd2 2. Ke1 3. Kf1 4. Kg1 5. Kh1
6. Lg1 Kg3#

With simple means this miniature generate the same mate in opposite corners.

4344. Eric Huber, ROU
6. Comm., Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



HS#4 Eiffel C+ 4+3

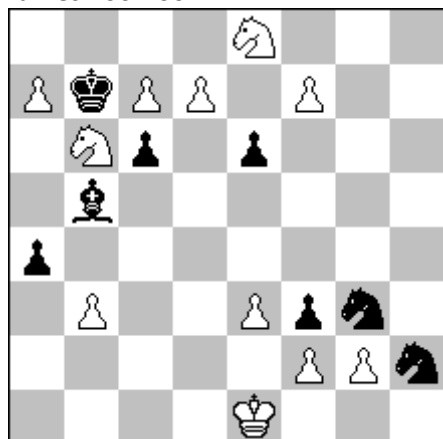
6. Comm., 4344 (Huber)

1. c8T e1L 2. Tc2 g1T
3. g8D+ Kh4 4. h8T+ Lc3#

A fine miniature helpselfmate featuring 5 promotions. In Eiffel a pawn threatening a knight will paralyse the knight. Likewise for knight threatening bishop, bishop threatening rook, rook threatening queen and queen threatening pawn. Here this is used twice, the rook at g1 paralyzes the queen at g8 and the bishop at c3 paralyzes the rook at h8. Lc3 is the only way to prevent the mating of black: bK cannot enter the g-line because of self check when the g1-g8 line is broken.

4338V. Neculai Chivu, ROU

7. Comm., Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



S#6 Maximummer C+ 11+8

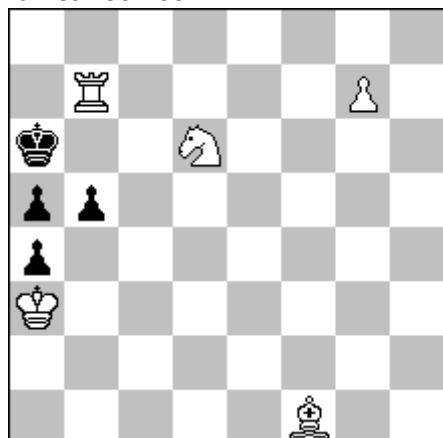
7. Comm., 4338V (Chivu)

1. a8D+ Kxb6 2. c8S+ Kc5 3. f8L+ Kd5
4. d8T+ Ke4 5. Td1 Lf1 6. gxf3+ Sxf3#

Quite entertaining. By means of four promotions with check (AUW) black is forced onto the e-column, the maximummer condition makes it e4 instead of the safe spot e5. The final pawn check could easily be parried by Ke5/Kf5/Kxf3 but due to the condition it must be Sxf3#

4463. Neculai Chivu, ROU

8. Comm., Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



S#7 Circe C+ 5+4

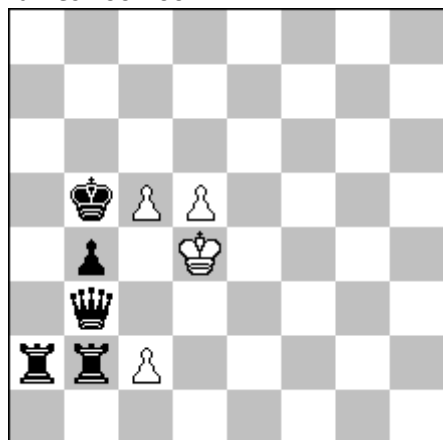
8. Comm., 4463 (Chivu)

1. Ka2! ZZ
1. - a3 2. g8D a4 3. Dc8 Ka5
4. Sxb5 Ka6/Kb4 5. Sd4+ Ka5 6. Tb4 Kxb4 [+hTa1]
7. Sb3 axb3 [+hSb1]#

Because of zugzwang black is forced to capture white rook and knight, creating two white self blocks.

4397. Jorma Pitkänen, FIN

9. Comm., Buletin Problemistic
fairies 2004-06



Ser-H#11 C+ 4+5

9. Comm., 4397 (Pitkänen)

1. Ta6 2. Tba2 3. T2a5 4. Da3 5. b3
6. b2 7. b1S 8. Sc3 9. Sa2 10. Sb4
11. Da4 c4#

A neat puzzle with quadruple black self block and promotion to S