

Theme

Helpselfmates (hs#n) or **helpselfstalemate** (hs=n) with **Batteries**. All fairy conditions and pieces are allowed.

There must be at least two active (firing) batteries during each solution. Batteries can be already present in the diagram position or built during the play; they can be both white, both black or black & white.

Definitions

In a **help-selfmate** problem in "n" moves (denoted hs#n), White starts and Black collaborates with White in order to reach a position of s#1 (selfmate in one move) at move "n" (the last move).

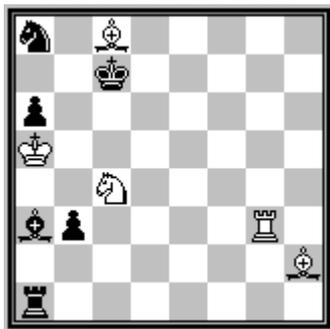
Battery

A battery is an arrangement of two pieces capable of giving a discovered check.

Example

Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Eric HUBER
(Romania)

Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#2 (5+6)

b) wSc4→f8

a) 1.Rc3+ Kc6 2.Se3+ Bc5#

b) 1.Rg8+ Kd8 2.Sg6+ Bf8#

There are two pre-existing batteries wBh2-wRg3 and bRa1-bBa3 in the diagram position. White builds another battery wR-wS during each solution.

Judge's comment

33 problems by 19 composers from 12 countries have taken part in this tourney. We had expected fewer entries, taking into account the difficulty of this year's theme. Unsurprisingly, there was no helpselfstalemate this year.

We made a first decision when we realised that we would receive more entries than expected: splitting the award in two sections, one for problems with fairy pieces and/or conditions and the second section for orthodox helpselfmates. This was a practical as well as a thematical decision, since in fairy chess you can build fairy batteries as well as orthodox batteries. It proved very handy, since there was about the same number of orthodox (16) and fairy (17) problems.

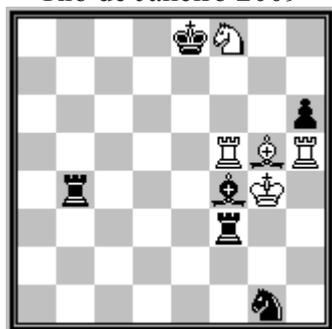
Our second decision was to establish eliminatory criteria. In the first place and according to our thematic requirement, there should be at least 2 different batteries in multi-phased problems and - we added that later for the award - 4 different batteries in single-phased problems. In the second place, we calculated a specific ratio for each problem: Total number of pieces on the board / Total number of batteries, which had to be under the maximum value of 3.25 for the problem to be considered in our award. Thus 5 orthodox and 3 fairy problems were eliminated.

Obviously the number of batteries was an important criterion for a high ranking. The prizes are given to entries that show at least 3 batteries per phase. We granted bonuses for the presence of different batteries in each solution, for the construction of batteries during the solution(s), for the lack of repeated moves and for inter-play.

1st Section: Orthodox Helpselfmates.

**Michael BARTH, Franz
PACHL, Dieter MUELLER**
(Germany)

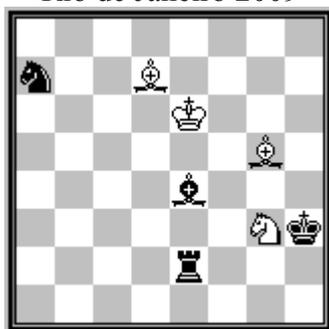
Prize
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#4 2 sol (5+6)

Geoff FOSTER (Australia)

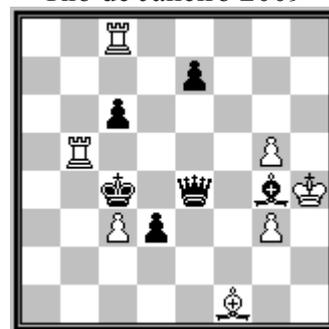
1st Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#5 (4+4)

Juraj LÖRINC (Slovakia)

2nd Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#3.5 2 sol (7+6)

Prize: Michael BARTH, Franz PACHL, Dieter MUELLER (Germany)

An excellent Meredith. In both solutions, White builds two batteries using Rf5 and Bg5, each of them being alternatively the front and the rear piece but in reversed order. The spectacular white play is nicely matched by the static black batteries mates (one direct and one indirect), using bBf4 as front piece. Head and shoulders above all the other competitors of the orthodox section.

1.Rf6 Kd8 2.Rxh6+ Kc7 3.Bf6 Kd6 4.Bd8+ Bxh6#
1.Bf6 Kf7 2.Be5+ Kg8 3.Rf6 Kh8 4.Rg6+ Bxe5#

1st Honourable Mention: Geoff FOSTER (Australia)

Best single-phase entry, showing 4 batteries (2 already prepared, 2 built during the solution). What is particularly very appealing is that all pieces are active during the play in the very artistic aristocratic position! A worthy piece of work.

1.Bf4 Bh1+ 2.Kf5 Rg2 3.Ke4+ Kh2 4.Bf5 Sc6 5.Se2+ Rg3#

2nd Honourable Mention: Juraj LÖRINC (Slovakia)

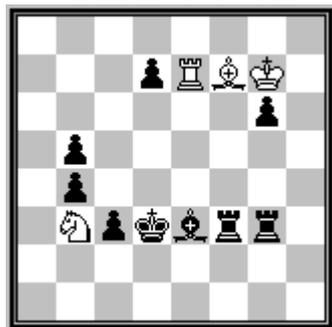
The initial black battery is destroyed and rebuilt in each solution on the last column, while wRc8 and wBf1 are exchanging their functions. Very subtle problem, but unfortunately with a thematic density not high enough to get a prize in this tournament.

1...Qe2(Qg2?) 2.Bg2 Bh3 3.Bxc6 Qh2 4.Be8+ (Bd7#?) Bxc8#

1...Qe5 (Qd4?) 2.Rd8 Bh5 3.Rxd3 Qh8 4.Re3+ (Rf3#?) Be2#

Michel CAILLAUD (France)

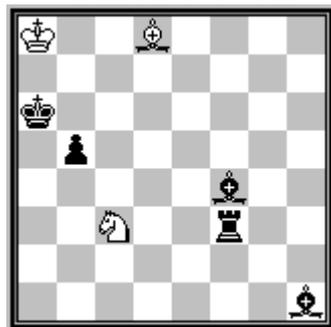
3rd Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#3 2 sol (4+9)

Geoff FOSTER (Australia)

Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#2.5 2 sol (3+5)

3rd Honourable Mention: Michel CAILLAUD (France)

Grimshaw-like reciprocal bicolor batteries R-B and B-R. A deeper analysis reveals a certain lack of homogeneity: in one solution the mate is delivered by a double check, while in the other is obtained by capturing the rear piece of white firing battery (instead of interference).

1.Be6 Bf4 2.Kf6 Ke4 3.Bc4+ Be5#

1.Re6 Rf4 2.Kh6 Kc4 3.Rd6+ Rxf7#

Commendation: Geoff FOSTER (Australia)

Original interpretation of the required theme, which reminds us the Dentist theme: bR unpins twice wS in both solutions. Perfect economy should also be praised.

1...Rd3+ 2.Se4 Rd5 3.Sc5+ Rxc5#

1...Re3+ 2.Sd5 Re4 3.Sb4+ Rxb4#

2nd Section: Fairy Helpselfmates.

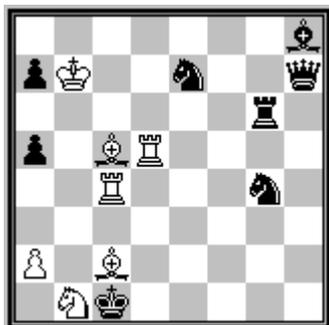
Petko A. PETKOV (Bulgaria)

1st Prize

*Dedicated to the memory of my
unforgettable mother Danka*

Petkova

Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#3.5 2 sol (7+8)
Take & Make

Petko A. PETKOV (Bulgaria)

2nd Prize

Rio de Janeiro 2009



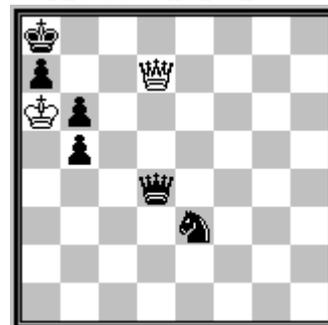
hs#3 (3+5+5)
b) wKh8→h7
Take & Make
Nightrider f5, Lion h1

Tadashi WAKASHIMA

(Japan)

3rd Prize

Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#2 (2+6)
(1+1) Invisibles
b/c) bPb5→d6/f7

1st Prize: Petko A. PETKOV (Bulgaria)

A top class composition highly in the spirit of this thematic tournament: a real orgy of no less than 6 different batteries are built during the solutions, while the initial existent white battery is destroyed. This problem is both fascinating and surprising, with the wK taking a long trip to the mating field using bS a Take & Make "springboard". One should also note the mutual exchange of functions between wRc4 and wBc5, respectively bRg6 and bBh8, the black distant Grimshaw (f6/g7) and the white Grimshaw on b4. There are plenty of specific fairy effects - just study for instance why wPa2 can not be captured by the bK in the first solution.

1...Rg7 2.Rb4 Sc6+ 3.Kxc6→d4 Kxb1→a3 4.Rb7+ Rxb7→b4#

1...Bf6 2.Bb4 Sc8+ 3. Kxc8→d6 Kxc2→a4 4.Bc3+ Bxc3→b4#

2nd Prize: Petko A. PETKOV (Bulgaria)

Although not explicitly specified in the tournament announcement, it was allowed to use neutral pieces in the batteries. This problem has again a very complex thematic charge (among which we should mention the Zabunov and Zilahi themes), with again 6 different batteries being built and fired during the solution.

The Take & Make specific mate, which activates both the royal battery and creates a royal antibattery reusing bLI is a marvelous finish of a new exceptional creation of the Bulgarian grand master.

a) 1.nNe3 nSg5+ 2.Qxh4→f3 Rg3 3.nBxe3→a1+ Kxg5→h3#

b) 1.nBd6 nSg6+ 2.Qxh3→f4 Rg4 3.nNxd6→b4+ Kxg6→h4#

3rd Prize: Tadashi WAKASHIMA (Japan)

The only entry from the tournament which shows in 3 phases a cyclic duel between Q-R, Q-B and Q-S white and black batteries. The construction is faultless and the solutions are perfectly matched. The author must be praised for his ingenious idea to use Invisible pieces properties in this tourney context.

- a) 1.Qc6 Qa4 2.Ixb6(+) Ixc6/I--# (wI=Rb7, bI=Sa5)
- b) 1.Qc8 Qd3 2.Ixd6(+) Ixc8# (wI=Bb8, bI=Rc4)
- c) 1.Qe8 Qa1 2.Ixf7(+) Ixe8# (wI=Sd8, bI=Ba4)

Aleksandr BULAVKA, Viktor

ZAITSEV (Belarus)

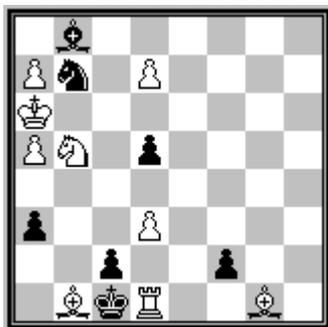
1st Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#7.5 (1+26)
b) bBf7→a6
Functionary Chess,
Duellist Chess
Royal Queen d6

René J. MILLOUR (France)

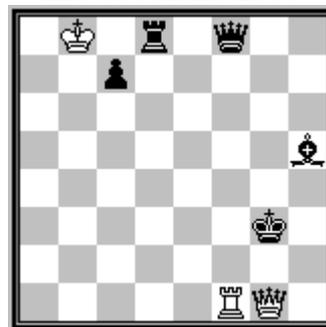
2nd Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#3 2 sol (9+7)
Mars Circe
b) bPa3→g5 Duplex
only

Thomas MAEDER (Switzerland)

3rd Honourable Mention
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#3 2 sol (3+5)
Mars Circe

1st Honourable Mention: Aleksandr BULAVKA, Viktor ZAITSEV (Belarus)

The absolute task of this tournament showing 8 black batteries in each of the two solutions! Moreover, bSs follow the route of a regular octagon – theme Lord of the Rings. From a purely technical point of view this monumental task requires several restrictive fairy conditions (Duellist and Functionary Chess) and the use of a royal wQ hunted all over the board by the two black skittish Knights.

- a) 1...Sf6+ 2.rQxe5 Sg4+ 3.rQf5 Sf2+ 4.rQxf4 Sd1+ 5.rQc1 Sb2+ 6.rQxc3 Sa4+ 7.rQxa5 Sb6+ 8.rQb5+ Sd7#
- b) 1...Sc6+ 2.rQxd5 Sb4+ 3.rQb3 Sc2+ 4.rQxa2 Se1+ 5.rQxa1 Sg2+ 6.rQxf1 Sh4+ 7.rQxh3 Sg6+ 8.rQxe6+ Se7#

2nd Honourable Mention: René J. MILLOUR (France)

A new sensational problem featuring a double AUW with Mars batteries duel in each solution. There is much finesse in each solution which proves the overwhelming constructional difficulties. However, had the author have managed to achieve a duplex without position change and avoided repeated black move Bg2, he would have surely won a prize!

- a) 1.d8Q f1B 2.Qf6 Bg2! 3.Rf1+ S(g8)xf6#
1.d8R f1S 2.R(a1)xa3 Sg3! 3.Ba2+ B(f8)xa3#
- b) 1.f1S d8Q 2.Sh2 Qb6! 3.Bc7+ R(h1)xh2#
1.f1B d8R 2.Bg2 Rh8! 3.Sd8+ B(f1)xg2#

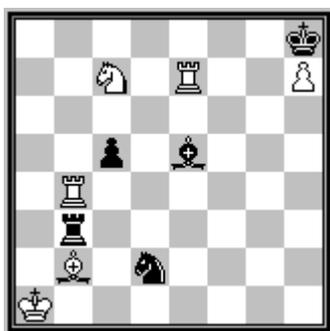
3rd Honourable Mention: Thomas MAEDER (Switzerland)

Very good thematic intensity, with 3 specific batteries in each solution. The main drawback here is that solutions are not quite homogenous, which detracts the overall artistic impression.

- 1.Qh1 Kh2 2.Qg2+ Kh1 3.Rf3+ Rd1#
1.Re1 Kf2 2.Rd1+ Ke1 3.Qa7+ Qf1#

Petko A. PETKOV (Bulgaria)

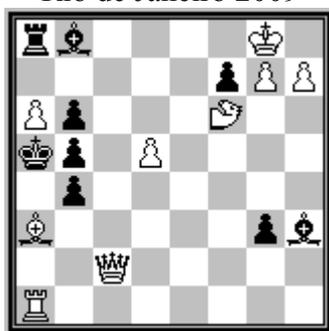
1st Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#3.5 (*) (6+5)
Take & Make

Dieter MUELLER, Franz

PACHL (Germany)
2nd Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#2.5 (9+9)
b/c) Bs→Ss/CAs
Camel f6

Marco BONAVOGLIA (Italy)

3rd Commendation
Rio de Janeiro 2009



hs#2 Circe (6+6)
b) bBf8→bSf8

1st Commendation: Petko A. PETKOV (Bulgaria)

Two reciprocal batteries are shown in a very economical setting, where the lack of black tempo preserving the set play seems unbelievable. The fairy condition is exploited exclusively by Black and this defect hinders a higher classification of the problem.

- (*) 2.Rg7 Bxc7→a6 3.Rb8+ Rxb8→a8 4.Rb7+ Bxb7→g7#
1...Bc3 2. Re5 Bxb4→a4 3.Sb5 Rxb5→a7 4.Re8+ Bxe8→e5#

2nd Commendation: Dieter MUELLER, Franz PACHL (Germany)

Three almost homogenous solutions, with front piece battery actively sacrificing at W1. It would have been even better if wQ sacrificed herself in the first twin.

- a) 1...Be6 2.Bxb4+ Kxb4 3.CAc7+ Bxc7#
- b) 1...Sg5 2.Sxb5+ Kxb5 3.Qc6+ Sxc6#
- c) 1...CAe4 2.CAxb6+ Kxb6 3.Qc5+ CAxc5#

3rd Commendation: Marco BONAVOGLIA (Italy)

White R-B and B-R reciprocal batteries built during the solution thanks to Circe rebirths. If only this condition had been exploited equally by black pieces, this problem would have been ranked higher in the award. Anyway a very good first helpselfmate by the Italian composer!

- a) 1.Rg5 fxg3(Bc1) 2.Rf5+ Bxd6(Pd2)#
- b) 1.Bh4 hxg4(Rh1) 2.Bxf6(Pf7)+ Sxh7(Ph2)#

Fairy definitions:

Circe

When a piece is captured it is immediately reborn on its *birth* square if it is empty, otherwise the capture is definitive. A birth square is

- Queen: its original square (d1 or d8)
- Rooks, Bishops and Knights the original square of the same color of the square where the piece has been captured. A white Rook captured on c3 is reborn on a1, if it were captured on b3 it would be reborn on h1.
- Pawns: the rebirth square is the one on the same column where the capture has been made. A white Pawn captured on c3 is reborn on c2.

Duellist Chess

Once a unit has moved, it must continue moving turn after turn, as long as it has legal moves.

Functionary Chess

A piece can move only if it is threatened.

Invisibles

See Sake Tourney!

Mars Circe

To make a capture, a unit is first reborn on its Circe rebirth square, which must be empty, and then makes the capture from that square. The captured piece disappears.

Take & Make

When a piece captures, it *must* make immediately a new move, according to the captured piece's movement. Legality is checked only at the end of both moves. Pawns move differently depending on the color (white upwards, black downwards). Promotion is done when a pawn ends its move on the eighth rank. If it's not possible to make the second part of the move, then the move is illegal. Capture of the king is orthodox (i.e. there's no need to make the second part of the move).

Camel

The Camel is a leaper on a 1-3 rectangle.

Lion

The Lion is a fairy piece that moves hopping over any piece and *landing* on a square after the hurdle (capturing if there is an enemy piece). It's not possible to hop over more than one piece. The Lion moves along Queen lines, otherwise the piece is named Rook-Lion or Bishop-Lion and likewise.

Nightrider

A fairy piece that moves along the lines defined by the Knight move. A Nightrider a1 may move to b3-c5-d7 in one way or c2-e3-g4 in the other.

Rio de Janeiro & Bucharest, October 15th, 2009
Vlaicu CRIȘAN, Eric HUBER (Romania)