# 20th TZUICA TOURNEY AWARD - 2022

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## TZUICA TOURNEY 2022 ANNOUNCEMENT

Theme: Helpself compositions (hs#n/hs=n) with at least 2 solutions showing each at least two Consecutive Follow My Leader.

**1.** 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). Helpselfstalemates are also accepted.

**2. Two Consecutive Follow-My-Leader (FMLs)**: In three consecutive half-moves of each solution, the following pattern occurs:

- Piece X leaves square A
- Immediately, Piece Y leaves square B and moves to A (first FML)
- Immediately, Piece Z moves to square B (second FML). Possibly, Piece X = Piece Z.

Problems with twins or zeroposition are allowed. All fairy pieces and conditions are accepted, provided that the problem is checked by a known solving program.



Participants:

Abdelaziz Onkoud 2, 3, 5; Anirudh Daga 22; Borislav Gadjanski 26; Dimitris Liakos 27; Emanuel Navon 17\*, 18\*; Franz Pachl 10\*, 11; Hiroaki Maeshima 4; Kostas Prentos 25\*; Mario Parrinello 15(v); Mark Erenburg 29; Menachem Witztum 17\*, 18\*, 19\*; Michael Barth 16\*; Misha Shapiro 12, 13, 14; Neal Turner 1; Ofer Comay 6, 7; Petko Petkov 20, 21; Predrag Zuvic 28; Rainer Kuhn 10\*; Ralf Krätschmer 8, 9; Ricardo de Mattos Vieira 19\*; Sven Trommler 16\*; Themis Argirakopoulos 24, 25\*; Theodoros Giakatis 25\*; Zoran Gavrilovski 23.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The consecutive Follow-My-Leader theme must have posed some interesting challenges for the composers. We wanted to ask them to find good motivations for showing a genuine interplay in the solutions. In spite of the inherent difficulties and the harsh competition of official and unofficial composing tournaments, we finally received 29 problems from 23 composers from 14 countries. We assume the rather low number of entries was due to the absence of our delicious drink during the prize giving ceremony.

What is actually a good motivation for showing several consecutive FML moves? Can such a FML motive occur in the mating move? How many such consecutive FMLs are actually possible? Little did we know when we launched this tournament that one would show 7 consecutive thematic half-moves! The composers managed to surpass again all our expectations and it won't be a surprise to anyone to see several of the top entries selected in the FIDE Album.

The number of consecutive FML moves was the decisive factor in ranking the compositions:

- For a Commendation there should be the thematic minimum of 2 consecutive FMLs (3 consecutive half-moves), as in the examples given in the announcement, with some strategic contents.
- For an Honorable Mention there should be at least 3 consecutive FMLs.
- For a Prize there should be at least 4 consecutive FMLs.

When the strategic content of the problem overshadows the chosen theme, we decided to leave the problem to the author. Instead of giving a rather low reward to a composition that would have better chances in an informal tournament, we usually prefer to return it to the author.

As usual, our comments focus on the strategic motivations created by thematic moves. Only some obvious blemishes are mentioned.

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#### **ORTHODOX SECTION**

More than half of the received entries were orthodox (18 entries out of 29). The overall quality is excellent. One of the entries (**TZ29**) was excluded because we think it will have better chances for a higher placement in another tournament.



#### Prize: Ofer COMAY (Israel)

The author's comment says everything: "4 Umnov move sequence in each phase". We prefer using Follow-My-Leader instead of Umnov, as the Umnov paradox from the antagonistic genre is not automatically transferred in help genres.

In each twin, the sequence involves 5 pieces: BsSrS in a), respectively RsSrS in b). The whole strategy resides in the creation of a white battery, with one wS acting as a front piece selfblocking e4 and the other sacrificing on the square occupied in B1 by the selfpinned bR.

Although the strategy is not fully matched, this is by far the most intense and convincing realization of the theme from the orthodox section. A clear winner!

#### Honorable Mention: Petko PETKOV (Bulgaria)

There were several entries tripling the theme by using two promoting black Pawns, but the entries by another author had several flaws. This one is clearly the best, featuring the same four units in both twins: BpQp in a), respectively QpBp in b). The author managed to show changed black promotions: two Bishops in a) and two Queens in b).

The clever trick was to use the Argentine twins, switching from mate to stalemate. The usage of promoting bPs as thematic pieces greatly reduces the motivation difficulty: the white pieces must unblock the promotion squares and then should either block or selfpin. The economy is as usual astonishing.

#### **Commendations without order**



## Commendation: Hiroaki MAESHIMA (Japan)

The consecutive FML is actually an exchange of places between wBe5 and bRf4 in the first solution and between wBe5 and bSf6 in the second solution. The exchange is realized thanks to the need to selfpin a black unit on the 5<sup>th</sup> rank, hence parrying the check delivered by the white battery. Two pairs of pieces eventually exchange roles: wSg8/wQa4 respectively bRf4/bSf6. Very short yet very clear!

## **Commendation: Ralf KRÄTSCHMER (Germany)**

This Meredith shows an additional FML in the introductive play, which enhances the contents. Again the author used the exchange of places between wS and bR as a simple device to show the theme.

The strategic motivation is not very deep: the wS must arrive on a square from where it can sacrifice itself, while the bR must selfblock. However, the good economy and the "thematic" introduction with FML must be praised.



## Commendation: Menachem WITZTUM & Emanuel NAVON (Israel)

The theme is shown by sSs, but that's not what caught our eyes!

The strategy is worth admiring: there is a white tempo by the white Rook (not an exchange of W1 and W3) and an additional Black-Black FML at B3 enabling the active sacrifice of the thematic wS.

Yes, the motivation for the theme is again a simple black selfblock, but the presentation is really tasteful.

We think this is better than TZ18 by the same authors.

#### **Commendation: Anirudh DAGA (India)**

The two solutions feature exchange of places between wR-bB, respectively wB-bR, with a really superb economy. We were surprised that in each solution a white piece is pinned and the pin is actually required for the mate.

The strategy is not quite unified in all moves because there is only one pin in the diagram position. However the Black battery creation, the flavor of diagonal-orthogonal correspondence and the good economy provide more than enough compensation.



### Commendation: Zoran GAVRILOVSKI (Republic of Macedonia)

The author mentioned "tempo on first move" as being a feature of this problem. We actually think this might be the first transposition of the Mäkihovi theme\* in helpself genre!

In the set play, after 2.Rf3+ and 2.Re1+ both 2... Be3 and 2... Se3 work. After the key, one of these continuations is eliminated thanks to the dual avoidance effect created by the key.

As we have seen in previous compositions, the motivation for the consecutive FML is the exchange of places between wR and bB / bS. The set black battery is then forced to mate, as in a typical selfmate composition.

\*Note:

*The Ellerman-Mäkihovi theme is a twomover theme. There are two or more mates in the set-play (or in tries) after the thematic defences. In the try and in the solution, these mates are separated.* 

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#### **FAIRY SECTION**

Out of the remaining 11 problems for the fairy section, two were excluded for the insufficient exploitation of the fairy elements.

All prizewinners set the bar very high, with 5- and even 6-fold presentations of consecutive FML. With 3 and 4 FML one could get "only" a HM, while the commendations had to show something more than the announcement examples in order to be retained in the award.



## 1st Prize: Petko PETKOV (Bulgaria)

This magnificent opus could have the motto "The caterpillar".

In the first solution, six different thematic pieces pVAbLEkPA play along the white long diagonal to achieve an unexpected zugzwang position.

In the second solution, the thematic chain involves again six different thematic pieces lLkLEbVA moving in another direction to achieve another zugzwang position.

The mechanism involves a mutual pin and two Pelle moves played by the wVA and bB.

This was the best composition from the fairy section and an unequalled constructional triumph!

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Ofer COMAY (Israel)

Another amazing sequence of 6 thematic pieces: in a) we have leNAsBleS, while in b) leNAsRleS.

The reasons for which the Chinese pieces occupy the thematic squares are specific: first the mating square must be unblocked through a capture, then bPA and bVA need a hurdle for their guarding duty. The bS must occupy a field from which it can deliver the mate and White must selfblock the field d4.

The last move in the chain is by far the most spectacular: the bLE must ensure the mating field is not guarded by a Chinese piece, but at the same time must avoid an unguard.

There is also a dual avoidance: the white piece selfblocking on d4 must substitute the guard duties of the white piece captured on B1. From a strategic perspective, there is an exchange of functions between wRd3/wBe5 and wNAf5/wNAe2.

The only drawback was signaled by the author: "*one piece doesn't participate in each solution*", namely wRd3 in a) and wBe5 in b).



## Special Prize: Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS (Greece)

The absolute task of the tournament, featuring 6 consecutive Follow-My-Leader played by the two fairy Grasshoppers! This task is facilitated by the "*until ply*" specification applied to the Cast condition.

Both fairy Grasshoppers perform a 3-fold Rundlauf on the same squares: g5-e5-e3 in a), respectively g5-e5-g7 in b). The construction seems easy, but it isn't.

We highly praise the author's amazing creativity in finding really original ways to show the theme!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: Mario PARRINELLO (Italy)

After the tournament deadline the author submitted an improved version, extending the number of FML moves. This version would have surely won a prize, with a superb 5-fold rendering of the theme, with different chain of pieces involved in each solution: PvaLEvaKpa in a), respectively PpaLEpaKva in b).

A perfect rendering of the theme, with all moves (including the mate) being thematic!

As in the first prize, we see again the "caterpillar" motivation, but here the objective is to be able to fire the existing royal battery, immediately followed by an anti-battery mate.

This superb composition mixes themes from previous Romanian Tzuica tournaments, such as exchange of functions between three pairs of pieces (wLEc4/wLEc6, bPAb6/bVAb3 and bPAd6/bVAd5), diagonal-orthogonal correspondence and Pelle moves.

In spite of the rather "low" ranking, we hope this magnificent composition will undoubtedly find its way in the next FIDE Album.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention: Borislav GADJANSKI (Serbia)

This other task doubles the theme in each solution.

The wQ and bG play together a rather weird tango, eventually forcing a zugzwang mate by bP advance shutting off the control of wQ.

The wQ Rundlauf and diagonal-orthogonal correspondence are nice add-ons.

The three passive black Rook-Hoppers are the inherent and ugly price to pay.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention: Neal TURNER (Finland)

Another composition in which all moves are thematic.

It takes some time to figure out why the two solutions actually work, as usual with the combination of royal Grasshoppers and SAT.

Both bRg8 and wRc6 are initially pinned. The first solution features a whole bunch of consecutive cross-checks, while the second solution starts with a tempo move.

The role of bBe1 is only to ensure that the rGe4 is not in check in the initial position.

A very original interpretation of the theme!



## 4<sup>th</sup> Honorable Mention: Franz PACHL (Germany)

A composition typical for its author: the theme serves only as a decoration for a strategic wealth in which the FML moves are actually of secondary importance.

There are many references to previous Romanian Tzuica tournaments themes: three pairs of pieces exchange their roles (bVAd4/bPAe4, bVAe6/bPAc5 and bNAc2/bNAg3), diagonal-orthogonal correspondence and the mates delivered by the royal unit.

The anti-battery duel at the end is spectacular. Another significant plus is the realization of the theme in a multi-solutions form.

The seemingly useless bVAd4 in the second solution is in fact an effective cook-stopper.

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#### **Commendations without order**

#### **Commendation: Franz PACHL & Rainer KUHN (Germany)**

Another intellectual achievement, in which the consecutive FML plays a secondary role.

In the initial position, the half[anti]battery wRAc8-wVAb6 is ready to fire, but first Black must bring VAf7 beyond the critical square c4.

There is a heterogeneous dual avoidance in B1 and the primary motivations for the FML are the guarding duties. "Only" two pairs of pieces exchange their functions: bRLa4/bRLc2 and wPAf3/wNAg5. The remarkable antibattery duel made sure that this beautiful piece of work finds a place in the award.



## Commendation: Theodoros GIAKATIS, Kostas PRENTOS & Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS (Greece & USA)

We couldn't resist including a special interpretation of the theme. Strictly speaking the mate is not quite thematic, because the black piece doesn't occupy the departure square: it is actually reborn on that square after capturing the white piece.

Of course, to make this idea work the authors had to overcome several constructional challenges. An Anticirce subtlety: the pinning of bSb2 is essential for avoiding the specific defense 3...Sd1! A witty idea, which raised a huge smile on our tired faces!

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What else can be written in the conclusion? There are many other possibilities to show this theme in fairy compositions – either by fairy rebirth or by using worm holes, to give just two ideas. We thank the participants for their tremendous efforts and also for their understanding of our humble attempt to contribute to saving the planet.

Vlaicu Crișan & Eric Huber November 19<sup>th</sup> 2022, Fujairah

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#### **FAIRY DEFINITIONS**

Andernach hoppers: When moving, changes the colour of whichever unit (not K) that it uses as a hurdle.

AntiCirce: Anti-Circe Calvet (the default type): After a capture the capturing piece (Ks included) must immediately be removed to its game array square (necessarily vacant, else the capture is illegal). Captures on the rebirth square are allowed. Game array squares are determined as in Circe. AntiCirce Cheylan: As antiCirce Calvet except that captures on the rebirth square are not allowed.

**Bishop-Lion**: (1,1) Lion. Moves along Bishop lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Cast: A piece may capture a piece only if it does not threaten other pieces.

**Grasshopper**: Moves along Q-lines over another unit of either colour to the square immediately beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

Grasshopper with black hurdle: Grasshopper that jumps only over a black hurdle

Leo: (0,1)+(1,1) Chinese. Chinese Queen. Moves as Queen, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.

Lion: (0,1)+(1,1) Lion. Moves along Queen lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

**Locust**: (0,1)+(1,1) Locust. Moves along Queen lines only by capturing an enemy unit, arriving on the square immediately beyond that unit, which must be vacant.

Nao: (1,2) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along the lines of Nightrider.

**Nightrider**: (1,2) Rider. Operates along straight lines with squares lying a Knight's move away from each other.

**Nightrider-Locust**: (1,2) Locust. Moves along Nightrider lines only by capturing an enemy unit, arriving on the square immediately beyond that unit, which must be vacant.

**Pao**: (0,1) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along Rook lines: moves as Rook, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.

**Pepo**: An attacked king has no power. In particular, he can no longer attack the opposite king. A king can be captured only if he is attacked by at least 2 pieces.

Rao: Chinese piece operating along the lines of Rose.

**Rook-Hopper**: Moves like a Grasshopper, but only on Rook lines.

**Rook-Lion**: (0,1) Lion. Moves along Rook lines over another unit of either colour to any square beyond that unit. A capture may be made on arrival, but the hurdle is not affected.

**Rose**: (1,2) Octagonal Rider (extends the move of the Knight on a circular path e.g. a4-b6-d7-f6-g4-f2-d1-b2 or a4-c5-e4-f2).

**Royal unit:** The side that has this piece is in check if it is threatened.

SAT: A King is under check if it can move to at least one square not controlled by the opposite side.

**Vao**: (1,1) Chinese. Chinese piece operating along Bishop lines: moves as Bishop, but captures only by hopping over a hurdle to any square beyond.