

[PR5] Proposal for updating FIDE Album points system

The protocol from meeting of Permanent Commission of the FIDE for Chess Compositions (PCCC) in Leipzig in 1960 states that it was decided that when calculating points for Album problems '1 Studie = 1 2/3 Probleme'. No argumentation or additional information was registered in the protocol. It has now been in force for over 60 years and now seems a good time to review whether it's still appropriate in light of modern day developments.

Without dwelling on any ideological or personal considerations which may have been in play so many years ago, we address below some of the actual arguments that are put forward in support of the status quo and try demonstrate their shortcomings:

- *Studies were considered to be more valuable than other problems.* – Studies might have had some significance for endgame play and theory in the past. In the computer era of today exact theory and analysing powers well above human capacities are available, which decreases the role of endgame studies.
- *Studies were considered to be closer to the game of chess than other chess problems.*
 - Direct orthodox mates are similarly close to the game of chess and much closer than e.g. fairy chess problems, but in this case no difference in points has been introduced.
- *Studies were considered to be more difficult to get correct.* – This might have been the case in the past, which can be seen from the fact that in the leading endgame studies database one third of the studies are said to be / have been incorrect. The issue of getting a study correct is nowadays of smaller magnitude due to efficient computer checking possibilities.
- *Studies were considered to be more difficult to compose than other problems.* – The length of a study is normally 5-15 moves. It can have been seen to be more difficult to compose a study of such length than e.g. a short direct mate; this is also related to the issue of getting correct mentioned above. With the computer checking and solving programs of today all composing has less limitations and vast possibilities.
- *Studies were considered to be more beautiful and more interesting than other problems.* – Can be disregarded as subjective.

As we see no reason and no justification for continuing to have a bonus system for any type of problem genres, we propose the following: Starting from the Album period 2025-2027 all selected problems and studies are rewarded one point.

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Finnish Chess Problem Society