I had to judge 87 problems, among them were 41 miniatures, which led me to divide the award into two separate sections (section A: miniatures and section B: problems with more than seven pieces).

Problems with mate-building images without a strategic depth I have not included in the award, also riddles with several conditions that show adventurous solutions I have excluded (occasionally a condition was even used just to prevent cooks). In accumulations of echo-mates I have made sure that there are no move repetitions. Fairy-pieces and -conditions should be specifically used or needed; in No. 1178 the idea also works with orthodox pawns and in No. 1123 the neutral king spoils the good impression. Its existence is only important for c), in the other solutions a black king would do as well. If Alphabetic Chess is only good for the mating move (No. 1137) or in Circe Equipollents only the king moves (No. 1100, 1125, 1137, 1152), then this is not enough. A Babson task in Madrasi is no great shakes (No. 1132), and Maximummer is not necessary for the bishop-promotion. In No. 1149 the double refutation is destructive. In No. 1159 the transformation without set-mate is relatively unfunny. No. 1094 does not convince me as a problem of letters, since the threats cannot be executed at all because black has only one single move, the variant or the refutation.

Overall, this was a very successful tournament that shows what appreciation Julia’s website enjoys in the problem world. Enjoy the top problems, the best advertising for problem-chess.

I decided the following ranking:
Section A, problems with maximal 7 pieces

1. Prize: Arnold Beine, 1175 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II


II) 1. Kb7(+Pc6) 2. Ke2 Kc8(+Pb7) 3. Kf3(+Pe2) Kd7 4. Kg4(+Pf3) Ke6 5. Kh5(+Pg4) Kf5(+Pe6) 6. e1=R e7 7. Rxe7(Rh8) Kxg4(Ke1)(+Pf5) 8. Ra8 bxa8=R(Rh1)+ 9. Kg4(+Ph5) 0-0

No. 1175 is a clear improvement of A. Thoma’s wonderful idea to gain both castlings and is naturally independent enough. There is a half-move more, no twinning, and Circe is eliminated. Here the kings must be brought into opposition, so that the pawns can be promoted on both sides. Two sustained, harmonious solutions with enough Anticirce, the ressurrected pawns at the end do not matter.

2. Prize: Oliver Sick, 1090 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II


Very nice with subtleties studded move sequence, which ends in a surprising Anticirce-specific “Zugzwang”-mate. The solution is so beautiful, that the low usage of Circe fades.
3. Prize: Peter Harris, 1144 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

a) 1.d1=Q rBf4 2.e1=S rBg5 3.Qh5+ rBf6 4.rSg7 rBg5 5.Qh8 rBd2 6.Sd3 rBc3#

b) 1.d1=B rBe3 2.e1=R rBc5 3.rSc4 rBb4 4.Ba4 rBc3 5.rSc2 rBb4 6.Rb1 rBa3#

This KoeKo-Wenigsteiner convinces through fine play with well-founded AUW. 5.Qh8 in a) is very subtle.

1. Honourable Mention: Peter Harris, 1147 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

a) 1.- Ke7 2.Kh5(+Pg5) Kd6(+Pe7) 3.e8=Q g4 4.Qg6+ Kd7(+Pd6) 5.Kh4(+Ph5) Kd8(+Pd7) 6.Qg5(+Pg6)+ Kxd7=

b) 1.- Kc7 2.Kf5(+Pg5) Kd6(+Pc7) 3.c8=Q g4 4.Qc2 g3 5.Qd1(+Pc2) cxd1=Q 6.Kf4(+Pf5) Qh5=

It is astonishing that an unambiguous solution is also made when Black has to make the longest move. Two varied solutions, which leave no superfluous pawn behind at the end.
2. Honourable Mention: Erich Bartel, 1161 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II


There is no Anticirce capture in the solution, but this four-fold promotion is very nicely cut to the Alphabetic Chess and Black has to play exactly so that the Anticirce-mate can be done by the wK. Too bad that an AUW hasn’t quite turned out.

3. Honourable Mention: Chris Feather, 1158 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

* 1.- Rb1#


The basic idea (of course, without the well-timed push effects) with transformation of the set-mate from one into the other corner is already known without the Circe variant. Here, the rook supports its monarch during the hike from a1 to h1, which ends in a specific mate.
4.–5. Honourable Mention: Anatoly Stepochkin, 1118 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

a) 1.cxd1=RO Rc2 2.Bf3 Ke1 3.Bc6 Rb2#; 1.dxc1=RO Rc6 2.ROa6 Rb6+ 3.Ka7 ROe3#

b) 1.cxd1=RO Rc7 2.ROe3 Kf3 3.ROc8 ROf4#; 1.cxd1=B ROd5 2.Be3 Rc6 3.Ba7 Rb6#

The author has already repeatedly shown such building of mate images with KoeKo. Here I like the reciprocal promotions in bishop and rose and the realization with two solutions in a) and b).

4.–5. Honourable Mention: Anatoly Stepochkin, 1093 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

a) 1.exd1=R Qxd2 2.Rc1 Qe2 3.Rc8 Qe7#

b) 1.dxe1=LI LIh1 2.Rb1 Qa2 3.Rb5 Qa7#

c) 1.exd1=L Qd3 2.LIf1 Lh1 3.Lia6 Qe3#

d) 1.dxe1=L Llg1 2.LLe8 Qg6+ 3.Kg7 Qf6#

Here we see reciprocal promotions in rook and lion with uniform displacement of the bK in the twin.
1. Commendation: Aleksey Oganesjan, 1105 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1. - Qa8+ 2. Sa3 Kxa3 3. Qb4+ Kxb4#
II) 1. - Qh8+ Sc3 Kxc3 3. Qc4+ Kxc4#

To force the royal battery-mates, White has to sacrifice his only two figures. For only seven pieces a remarkable helpselfmate.

2. Commendation: Harald Grubert, 1151 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1.c1=nS(Ib6) g8=nR(Ib7) 2.nRg2(Ib1) Kd5(Ic2) 3.nSb3(Ib4) Ke4(Ic3)#
1.c1=nB(Ib6) g8=nQ(Ib7) 2.nBb2(Ia8) nQg2(Ia2) 3.Kg3(Ib1) Kb4(Ia1)#

AUW with blocking of the imitator in the mate images.
3. Commandation: Ladislav Packa, 1171 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

a) 1.Kd1 f8=Q 2.Ke1 Qf3=
b) 1.Kb1 f8=R 2.Ka1 Rf1=

A charming miniature to smile. Funny, that two different promotions allow the respective stalemate.

4. Commandation: Peter Harris, 1097 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1. - a4(a4=b) 2.Sxc3(c3=w)[+Rc1] Sxa4(a4=b)[+Pd1=S]#
1. - a3(a3=b) 2.Sd2(d2=w) Rxa3(a3=b)[+Pc1=R]#

Despite the shortness two nice solutions and three harmonious conditions. The economy of material is less successful, since instead of the wQ also a wB would have been enough.
Section B, problems with more than 7 pieces

1. Prize: Vitaly Medintsev, 1115 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1.Kf7 Rh8! 2.Qg8 Bd5+ 3.Ke8 Bf7+ 4.Sxf7 (ZZ) Rxg8#

II) 1.Kf5 Bh1! 2.Qg2 Rf8+ 3.Ke4 Rf5 4.Sxf5 (ZZ) Bxg2#

This helpselfmate is the most beautiful problem of the tournament and immediately fascinated me. It shows a beautiful pair of solutions with completely analogous play, which ends after Bristol-moves for the wQ in mates after Zugzwang.

2. Prize: Ladislav Salai jr. & Emil Klemanič & Michal Dragoun, 1098 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1.Rb2 Li2 2.CAf4 Lh5# (1.- Li2? 2.CAf4 Lh5#?)

II) 1.Lib2 Lf2 2.Rxd5 Le8# (1.- Ld2? 2.Bxf5 Le8#?)

III) 1.Sb2 Ld2 2.CAe4 Lxc5# (1.- Lg2? 2.CA4 Lxc5#?)

IV) 1.CAb2 Lg2 2.Bxf5 Lxb8# (1.- Lc2 2.Rxd5 Lxb8#?)

Monumental four-fold cycle around d5, f5, f4, e4. An enormous plus are the dual-avoiding unsuccessful attempts, which fail uniformly, because the black block figure disturbs the mate. 25 pieces are appropriate for such a huge concept.
There are few problems with Alphabetic Chess, which specifically use the peculiarities of the condition, but Chris shows how a good problem of this genre must look. Subtle moves of the promoted bQ who starts as a pawn on a6 and returns at the end of the delightful solution with many interesting reliefs to pin the wPc4, so that the wBc7 can mate.

The two white knights must be captured so that the black king can enter their original squares by exploiting the fairy-condition. Gorgeous Take&Make strategy, up to the point of excellence and absolutely analogously and harmoniously presented.
Michel Caillaud
5. Prize
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

5. Prize: Michel Caillaud, 1174 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1.c8=S 2.a8=Q 3.Qh1 4.Sb6 5.Sd7 6.Sf8 7.g8=R 8.Rg6 9.Kg8 10.h8=B

Michel’s adaptation of the idea of Sébastian Luce surpasses his No. 1163 and also No. 1163.1, because he has found a way to realize an AUW in the Ser== without Alphabetic Chess, which is a great achievement. The fabulous solution is a real pleasure.

Jean-Marc Loustau
6. Prize
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

6. Prize: Jean-Marc Loustau, 1110 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1.Bb3! (2.Ne5#)
1.- Ng5~ 2.Qe3# A
1.- Nc7! 2.Bc4# B (2.Qe3+? Nxe3!)
1.- Bc6~ 2.Bc4# B
1.- Bd5! 2.Sb4# C (2.Bc4+? Lxc4!)
1.- Rf6~ 2.Sb4# C
1.- Rf4! 2.Qe3# A (2.Sb4+? Rxb4!)
[1.- Bb5! 2.Qd1# (2.Lc4+? Bxc4!)]

Cyclical Feldmann theme (A-B, B-C, C-A) with 3 black corrections. Thematically and constructively excellent.
7. Prize: Miodrag Mladenovic, 1117 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1. c1=B b2 c1=B 2. Kc2 b1=R 3. Bd4 e1=S+ 4. Kd1 f1=Q 5. Rg4+ Qxh5=

How this black AUW is earned is simply great and as an encore you are served a magnificent endgame with a wonderful stalemate-position, which has caused me to award this relatively short single-phase problem a prize.

1. Honourable Mention: Hubert Gockel & Eugene Rosner, 1095 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

* 1. dxe5(Pe5-e7) 2. Rd8#
 1. Sxd3(Sd3-b1)? (2. Sxd2(Sd2-g1)# A), 1. - Bg1!
 1. Sxc6(Sc6-b1)? (2. Th5# B) 1. - dxe2(Pe2-e7) 2. Sxd2(Sd2-g1)# A, 1. - g2!
 1. Sxc4(Sc4-b1)! (2. Lb3# C) 1. - dxc2(Pc2-c7) 2. Sxd2(Sd2-g1)# A, 1. - c5
 2. Th5# B

Unfortunately no “Tertiary Threat Correction”, but a twofold threat change with return of the threats from the tries. Particularly the specific first- and mate-moves are to be emphasized.
2. Honourable Mention: Julia Vysotska & Marjan Kovacevic, 1111
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1.\(cBf4=cR?\) (2.\(cBxf3=cR#\))
1.\(-\) \(Be4\) 2.\(cRxe4=cQ#, \) 1.\(-\) \(Bh5\) 2.\(cRe4=cQ#, \) 1.\(-\) \(d5!\)
1.\(cSx f3=cB?\) (2.\(cBd5=cR#\))
1.\(-\) \(Be4!\)
1.\(cBxf3=cR?\) (2.\(cBf4=cR#\))
1.\(-\) \(Be4\) 2.\(cBd2=cR#, \) 1.\(-\) \(Bh5\) 2.\(cRf5=cQ#, \) 1.\(-\) \(Ke4!\)
1.\(cBd5=cR!\) (2.\(cSx3=cB#\))
1.\(-\) \(Ke4\) 2.\(cSxc2=cB, \) 1.\(-\) \(Be4\) 2.\(cSb5=cB#\)

Very economical double threat-reversal with chameleon-pieces and 3-phase mate changes on 1.\(-\) \(Be4.\)

3. Honourable Mention: Georgy Evseev & Boris Shorokov, 1136
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

a) 1.\(NExh5(+Rd5)\) [\(NEb5xh5(+Rb5)?\] \(Rxb5(+NEd5)\) 2.\(Kxb5(+Rc4)\) \(Rc5#\)
b) 1.\(NExh5(+Rb5)\) [\(NEb3xh5(+Rb3)?\] \(Rxb3(+NEd5)\) 2.\(Kxb3(+Rc4)\) \(Rb4#\)
c) 1.\(NExh5(+Rb3)\) [\(NEd3xh5(+Rd3)?\] \(Rx f3(+NEd3)\) 2.\(Kxd3(+Rc4)\) \(Rc3#\)
d) 1.\(NExh5(+Rd3)\) [\(NEd5xh5(+Rd5)?\] \(Rxd5(+NEd3)\) 2.\(Kxd5(+Rc4)\) \(Rd4#\)

The wandering \(bPb4\) determines which Non-stop Equihopper will change its place with the \(wRh5.\) The result is a tempo-roundtrip of the \(wR,\) a black king-star and a rook-cross at the mating move. PWC is active in all moves. Impressive perpetuum mobile, but in the individual phases there are a lot of unnecessary pieces.
4. Honorable Mention: S.K. Balasubramanian & Vlaicu Crisan, 1156
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1. Sxg4-f3(+Bf1)+ Sxe4-d4(+Qd8) 2. Kxd4-e2(+Sg1) Kxh3-g2(+Bc8)#
II) 1. Dxg4-h5(+Bf1)+ Dxe3-d5(+Sb8) 2. Kxd5-d2(+Qd1) Sxh5-d5(+Qd8)#

Complicated strategy with pre-paralysis of a reborn piece so that the black king can enter the mate-square. The theme is somewhat skewed on the three pairs of pieces Qq/Bb/Ss and therefore does not work perfectly harmoniously. The fact that in both solutions a white officer (wSg1/wBf1) plays no role in the mate-image is a weakness.

5. Honorable Mention: Pierre Tritten, 1169 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1. cxd2(Pg1=S) Rxf3(Rc8)+ 2. Kxc8(Kh1) Sg3#
II) 1. Sxc2(Sh1) Sxc3(Sc7) 2. Kxc7(Kg1) Kg2#
III) 1. Sxf2(Sa1) Sxf3(SC8) 2. Kxc8(Kb1) Rb2#
IV) 1. Bxe2(Bb1) Rxc3(Rc7) 2. Kxc7(Ka1) Sb3#

Cyclic interchange of function of the white pieces as passive sacrifice, active sacrifice for bk, guarding piece and mate piece. The economical construction is a plus, the symmetrical mates are a minus.
6. Honourable Mention: Michel Caillaud, 1177 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1.g1=S Kb1 2.Sf3 exf3(Pg8=S)#
II) 1.g1=R Ka1 2.Rg3 hxg3(Ph8=R)#
III) 1.g1=B Kc1 2.Be3 dxe3(Pf8=B)#

Echoed promotions with specific white king moves, which turns off the black defenders by occupying the original square of the white promoted piece.

7. Honourable Mention: Igor Kochulov, 1166 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1.- Bb3 2.Rc6 Qf2 3.Rxe6+ Bxe6#
II) 1.- Qf1 2.Bh4 Bc4 3.Bxf6 Qxf6#

A harmonious SAT problem with unpin in the key, flight-giving with sacrifice and some function changes, and all this without cook stopper.
Special Honourable Mention: N. Shankar Ram, 1170 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1. Sf3! in all phases.

Is this still a chess-problem or a (genius) geometrical construction? How to deal with such a task? The composer had to set up very special fairy-pieces to let the solutions with the many algebraic notations work in the individual phases. Therefore, a special award is also appropriate. However, the eight black fairy-pieces hit hard on my tolerance limit, which is why I cannot award a prize. A bold concept, but the beauty of a chess problem is missing.

Sébastian Luce & Alan Bienabe
1. Commendation: Sébastian Luce & Alan Bienabe, 1163.1 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II


This AUW was quasi the forerunner to Michels great No. 1174, therefore the No. 1163 earned the commendation well.

N. Shankar Ram
Special Honourable Mention
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

Piece X: d1 b3 b5 d7 f7 h5 h3 f1
a) X = Knight + Antelope
b) X = Knight + (0.5)Leaper
c) X = Wazir + Zebra + Giraffe
d) X = Wazir + Giraffe + Corsair
e) X = Zebra + Giraffe + Corsair
f) X = Wazir + Zebra + Corsair
Antelope = 3.4 Leaper
Wazir = 0.1 Leaper
Zebra = 2.3 Leaper
Giraffe = 1.4 Leaper
Corsair = 2.5 Leaper
2. Commendation: Krassimir Gandev, 1092 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II


The author has published some serial-movers of this kind with promotions of fairy-pawns. This is a nice example with Super-AUW, but why does on h6 not stand an ordinary bK with 17. Dg6 +?

3. Commendation: Pierre Tritten, 1130 Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1. Qa6 2. Qxc4(+Se2) 3. Qc2 4. Qxc5(+Bc8) – Bxg4#  
II) 1. Qa5 2. Qxc5(+Be5) 3. Qc6 4. Qxc4(+Sc2) – Se1#

Attractive queen moves, it goes four times into position to push the white pieces to the right squares.


Argentinian sea serpent, the king supporting his loco on the way to the mating-square.


* 1.- g7~ 2.Rd1 Rxe7#, 1.- Rh8 2.0-0-0 Rc8#
1.e8=R! (ZZ)
1.- g7~ 2.0-0-0 Rc7#, 1.- Rh8 2.Rd1 Rxe8#
1.e8=B+? g6! 2.Bxg6#
1.e8=S? 1.- g7~ 1.2.Sf6#, 1.- Rh8! 2.Sxg7#

Under promotion key, castling and reciprocal change of continuation between set and play.
Andrey Zhuravlev & Valery Shanshin & Gennady Egorov
6. Commendation
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

I) 1.Kxd2(Se2) Sxc1(Qe2) 2.Kxc1+Sd2) Sb3#

II) 1.Bg1 Sxf1(Sd2) 2.Kxf1(+Se2) Sg3#

III) 1.Bf4 Sxf3(Sd2) 2.Kxf3(+Se2) Sd4#

IV) 1.exd2(+Se3) Sxd1(+Be3) 2.Kxd1(+Se2) Sc3#

Fourfold Kniest Theme in PWC. The wS opens the prison door for the bK.

Sébastian Luce
7. Commendation
Julia’s Fairies 2016/II

1.GSb1 2.GSxh2(+Bb1) 3.GSe3 4.GSxb1(+Be3) 5.GSh2 6.GSxf5(+Sh2) 7.GSxg2(+Pf5) 8.GSd1 9.GSxg3(+Sd1) 10.GSc4 11.GSg1 12.GSxd2(+Bg1) 13.GSxf5(+Pd2) 14.GSg2 15.GSxd1(+Sg2) 16.GSxh2(+Sd1) 17.GSe1 18.GSxf4(+Re1) 19.GSc2#

To reach the mate on c2, on d2 must be a bP that is blocked by a black piece on d1. In addition, the square e1 and g1 must be blocked. In order to achieve this, 19 moves with the regrouping of the black figures are necessary.

Many thanks to Julia for the confidence to let me judge this great tournament and congratulations to the successful authors. Special thanks go to Manfred Rittirsch and Arnold Beine for their help with the translation of the text into English.

Ludwigshafen, in March 2017

Franz Pachl