

„MSV-2009” – Provisional award

The „MSV-2009” was an international informal tourney. We published **25** entries of **21** authors from **11** countries. Among the entries there were **3** joint compositions. In my opinion, the average level of studies was decent, and there were a few excellent works! I did not awarded the studies, which contain only technical play, and the **database works**. I think, **database studies** are not the product of human creativity.

Prizes:

1. *Martin Minski* (2009/12., Solution: 2010/2.)

A study in classical style. The centre of study is the position after the 5th move of black. The main line and the thematic try leads to only one difference, but the position of white rook (on c7 or on c8) determines the result of play. The zugzwang position in the thematic try is very surprising. The try after the first move of white also increases the value of study, here a nice minor promotion saves black. The counterplay of black is strong, both sides are very active in the play. I like that, the variants (main line, tries, others) do not lead to **database positions**.

2. *János Mikitovics* and *Iuri Akobia* (2009/4., Solution: 2009/8.)

The theme: both kings have to hide behind the black c-pawn both in the mainline and in the thematic try. The introduction play is followed by the fight of major pieces. White has big material disadvantage, but the dangerous position of the black King compensates it. The two silent moves: 5...♙e2! and 7.♚c7! are very nice. The structure is complex, though the two main lines appear a bit too late. Many variants lead to ♙ ↔ ♙+ ♜ material, and to analysis these positions is quite hard without the use of a computer. Otherwise the content of study is very rich!

3. *Eduard Eilazyan* (2009/12., Solution: 2010/2.)

Both main lines show the fight of black queen against material superiority of white. Both white and black have several choices in almost all moves, and to find the best is hard. This gives the value of study and the difficulty of solution. The silent first move pair in the sharp initial position is very aesthetic. After the 9th move both main lines lead to plays of database position. A little complicating factor after 3...Qb2+ is that, 9...Qh4 is better than the move of main line 9...Qa5.

Honourable mentions:

1. *Michal Hlinka* és *Lubos Kekely* (2009/3-LXXI., Solution: 2009/7.)

Positional draw in two main lines. In the first, white escapes with perpetual check, he pursue the black king from a8 to e7. The other main line shows a simple positional draw, black can not win with his material advantage. The elaboration is economical, the study does not contain confused other variants. The counterplay of black is a little weak, and the harmony of main lines is incomplete.

2. *David Bergkwist* (2009/2-LXX., Solution: 2009/6.)

The material and the position are unusual from the beginning to the end. White must sacrifice his first queen because of the threat of black passed pawns, but his king remains in a dangerous position. White bypasses many thematic tries so he averts all threats. The self-evident counterplay of black and that the real point (4.Qe1!!) comes too soon, decreases the artistic value of study a little.

3. *Richard Becker* (2009/5-LXXIII.)

The study is a three phase queen endgame, but the first and second phases are maybe part of a long introduction play. After the appearance of the third white and black queens, black's threat with queen-step seems to be undefendable, but white unexpectedly escapes with stalemate or perpetual check.

4. *Csengeri József* (2009/12-283., Solution: 2010/2.)

White equalizes his material disadvantage by dicing sacrifices and forks in more variants. The elaboration is aesthetic, but the study is a bit old-fashioned, it does not contain modern ideas.

5. *Enzo Minerva* (2009/12-287., Solution: 2010/2.)

A good tactical endgame with active play on both side. There are three main lines after the second move of white. White escapes with stalemate, with perpetual check and with equalization of material. Unfortunately the main lines do not form a harmonic structure at all.

Commendations:

1. Pietro Rossi – Marco Campioli (2009/11- LXXIX_2., Solution: 2010/4.)
Hard tactical fight with surprising ending by zugzwang.

2. Marcel Doré – Alain Pallier (2009/7-LXXV_2., Solution: 2009/10.)
White proves his minor material advantage with nice strategy.

3. Csengeri József (2009/12-284., Solution: (2010/2.)
Simple strategic ideas, boosted with additional tries.

4. Gerd Wilhelm Hörning (2009/12-280., Solution: 2010/2.)
Good elaboration of an idea from practical game – a spectacular king-manoeuvre.

5. Gheorghe Telbis (2009/12-LXIX_c., Solution: 2010/2.)
The study contains many good tactical motifs, but the theme (one variant stalemate) is very old so the study does not give the impression of originality.

6 Gerhard Josten (2009/6-LXXIV_2., Solution: 2009/10.)
Practical lessons with tries and other variants.

Please, send me your observations (faulty, second solutions, duals, anticipations) until 15th October. E-mail: gyarmatl@enternet.hu or gyarmati.peter@enternet.hu , or post: Peter Gyarmati, 8900 Zalaegerszeg, Rákóczi u. 10-22. III/36, HUNGARY.

Zalaegerszeg, 15th July 2010.

Peter Gyarmati
judge