

The Study of the Year 2014 – report

During the WFCC meeting in Ostroda the endgame study committee discussed the selection procedure of the Study of the Year (SOY). The committee members reemphasized that SOY is the study best suited to popularize our art among **a general chess public**. For the same reason the committee once more underlines that for SOY the focus is on the study, not the composer.

In recent years, the individual scores of the committee members selecting the SOY were published. As a handful of composers complained in a disproportional way, it was also decided in Ostroda to no longer publish the individual scores of the judges.

Another important decision during the Ostroda meeting was that each composer was only allowed to submit a single study (a co-authored study counts as the one study per composer).

For SOY 2014 a decent 24 studies were submitted before the deadline. The five judges: Ilham Aliev (Azerbaijan), Gady Costeff (USA/Israel), Martin Minski (Germany), Oleg Pervakov (Russia), and Harold van der Heijden (the Netherlands) scored each study (0.5 to 4.0 points, with 0.5 point increment). The WCCI scoring system was applied (if a study has been judged by five judges, the lowest and highest scores are discarded and sums the remaining three, if a study belongs to a judge, the two middle scores are summed and the average of these two scores is added). Two studies ended up first with the highest score. As the WCCI system has no tie breaking system for a single study, the help of the Dutch o.t.b. IM Hans Böhm was sought, who has done a lot for popularising chess among a general public. Mr. Böhm is a chess journalist, wrote a series of (Dutch) books mainly about endgame studies, and has experience as an endgame study judge. He received the two studies anonymously. Mr. Böhm wrote that the element of surprise, which he considers very important also for a general chess public, was decisive.

On behalf of the endgame study committee I thank all composers, and all other people involved, especially Hans Böhm.

Harold van der Heijden
Spokesman of the endgame study committee of WFCC

Results

Oleg Pervakov & Karen Sumbatyan	9.0	Yochanan Afek	6.0
Ladislav Salai jr	9.0	Peter Krug	6.0
B. Djurasevic & M. Miljanic	8.5	Aleksandr Stavrietsky	5.5
Pavel Arestov	8.0	Vladimir Samilo	5.0
Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen	8.0	V. Pogorelov & V. Kopyl	5.0
Sergiy Didukh	7.5	Daniel Keith	4.5
Darko Hlebec	7.5	Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely	4.5
Andrzej Jasik	7.5	Geir Sune Østmoe	4.5
Martin Minski	7.25	Virgil Nestorescu	4.0
Vladislav Tarasiuk	6.5	Luis Miguel González	4.0
Richard Becker & Mario Garcia	6.5	Alexander Shpakovsky	3.5
Alexander Zhukov	6.5	Jaroslav Polasek	3.0

The study by Pervakov & Sumbatyan was chosen as the SOY 2014.