

DARK MAGENTA

Competition Brings Out the Best in Us

The Conclave Hobby Competition 2009

By Dave Knowles

Inspiration

Back in 2005, when I was just starting out with Inquisitor and 54mm modelling, I stumbled across The Conclave and the Conclave Hobby Competition being run by Dark Magenta's own Robey Jenkins. I'd never done a 54mm model before, but I was really happy with how my Inquisitor Kaled model turned out and so I figured I'd get involved and enter him in the competition - which to my surprise and delight I won. Fast forwards to December 2008 and it seemed time for a repeat event - as I'd won the first one, I felt it was my duty to organise this one.

I discussed the idea with Derek, moderator of The Conclave (and editor-in-chief of this very magazine), who volunteered to help judge the competition. The next step was to find some prizes - as there was no money to run the competition I would be relying entirely on the goodwill of strangers. I sent e-mails to a number of miniature companies, and hoped that at least one would respond so there would be a prize for the winner (and if I could find prizes for the top three I would be ecstatic). The first person to respond was Steve Buddle, a regular visitor to The Conclave, who offered to donate a miniature from his new company, [Eolith Miniatures](#), as a prize. With Steve's kind donation and Derek's offer to judge, I now had enough to run the competition, so put out announcements on as many forums as possible in the hope of drumming up some interest in both Inquisitor and The Conclave.

The competition was run along the same lines as that in 2006; entrants had about nine weeks to supply up to 400 words of background and a profile for their character along with a photo of their model. Although some participants found the 200 word limit too restrictive, I stuck by it as it forced people to be selective in what they wrote and to encourage them to think about what was really important about their character.

Reality

Soon after announcing the competition, I received replies from more of the companies I had e-mailed about prizes. To even get replies was more than I was expecting, but when [Pegaso Models](#) and [JMD Miniatures](#) both came through with offers of prizes I was over the moon - even more so when both offered half a dozen models! The prize pot now stood at thirteen models, more than enough to give prizes for the top three and for a runner-up prize for fourth place as well. What's more, Gav Thorpe, author of Inquisitor, also volunteered to help with the judging!

With the competition announced, a fantastic set of prizes up for grabs, a celebrity judge, and a large number of people talking about entering, I sat back and waited for the entries to flood in.

Fourth Place: Aleksey Dmitrinov, Vostroyan Guardsmen, by Maverick1985



And waited...

And waited...

Perhaps unsurprisingly, despite the nine-week window, about 90% of the entries arrived in my inbox on the last day - most of them in the last hour! I had no idea how many entries to expect, but I hoped we would at least get more than the 2006 total, and once processed, I was happy to see that we had indeed beaten that and had twenty-one entries. The entries covered a huge range of different archetypes with Inquisitors, abhumans, heretics, Astartes and aliens all represented in the mix, and it was especially nice to see entries by people ranging from veteran players to complete newcomers. All of the entries had something to commend them, whether it be good background, interesting rules, a nice conversion or a great paintjob and it was obvious that people had put a lot of time and effort into both their background and models.

Results

I posted the entries online for all to see, and then entrants then had to endure a period of waiting while the judging took place. The whole process took longer than expected,

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About the Author

Dave lives in Preston where he works as a software engineer. He has been playing Inquisitor for about five years during which time he has racked up an impressive set of victories in both the Hobby Competition and the Inquisitor Grand Tournament. Unfortunately for him, success brings responsibility, and as well as organising the Hobby Competition he is now responsible for arranging the next Tournament and the Spring Conclave.



with judges unfortunately vanishing at the critical moment (Editor's Note: I am not guilty!), but finally a consensus was reached and the results were announced. First prize went to Robskib, whose imaginative background and fantastically painted and converted Bibliothecary with daemonic familiar impressed both judges and onlookers alike. Second prize went to Ynek's Dark Eldar, with third going to PrecinctOmega's Ordo Sicarius operative, and fourth to Maverick1985's Vostroyan Guardsmen, all of which can be seen throughout this article (along with a collage of pictures of some of the other entries).

With that, the competition was over for another year. On a final note, I'd like to express my thanks to all those who helped the competition succeed; to the judges and entrants, but most of all I'd like to thank Steve Buddle of Eolith Miniatures, Luca Marchetti of Pegaso Models and Jean-Marie of JMD Miniatures who donated the prizes - I am eternally grateful for their kindness. I'd encourage everyone reading this to have a browse through the sponsor's online stores - all three make some fantastic models which are perfect for Inquisitor (and, if you do buy something from them, please mention the competition when you place your order and thank them for their generosity.)

<http://www.eolithminiatures.com/>

<http://www.pegasomodels.com/>

<http://www.jmd-miniatures.com/>



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First Place: Biliothecary Kendel, by Robskib

As an orphan in a destitute Schola Progenium run by disillusioned Sororitas and passing Missionaries, Kendel grew up thirsty for knowledge the Sisters couldn't provide, and lacking the self-discipline to wield it. Several off-world leads with the Ecclesiarchy soon lead the over-eager young Progena to a vast archive of heretical texts.

The texts spoke of incredible powers that could be gifted to an individual, even one who wasn't a sanctioned psyker. Kendel spent years alone studying the texts and learnt of a ritual to summon the spirit of an ancient sage into a mechanical vessel who would gift him with knowledge of the gods.

With no knowledge of the Warp and the ruinous powers it contained, Kendel summoned the Daemon Meledandri into the twisted contraption. It sprung to life, moving with unearthly speed and clawed both Kendel's eyes out its fleshy talons.

Blinded and bound to a life of servitude under a new mentor, Kendel became the scribe for Meledandri, scribbling down its heretical litany, blinded so he could never gaze upon the insidious writings. As a reward for his services and as a cruel joke on the mortal, Meledandri granted Kendel a lamp so that he may see with a third eye by the lamplight, so long as the candle stayed lit. Utilising this new sight, he has been painstakingly recording ways to banish Meledandri, but only when the Daemon's back is turned, and progress is slow...

WS	BS	S	T	I	Wp	Sg	Nv	Ld	Speed
31	29	40	36	56	46	87	55	23	3

ABILITIES: Schola Meledandrium.

EQUIPMENT: Meledandri; Light Progena robes (AV 2) on all locations; Third Sight lamp

Schola Meledandrium: Count as Heroic, May opt to expend actions speaking the words from the pages telepathically sent by Meledandri. Each action counts as a 'concentrate' action for any psychic powers used by Meledandri next turn.

Meledandri: Counts as a cyber mastiff for purposes of stats, except has Wp 87, and the psychic powers Enforce Will, Terrify and Telepathy.

Third Sight lamp: Allows Kendel to see with Warp sight for 10" around him, and a 360 degree vision arc. The candle can be put out, however, due to GM discretion.



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