



**BPA** is an association of boardgame enthusiasts incorporated as a non-profit company in the state of South Carolina for the express purpose of hosting the annual gaming conference known as the World Boardgaming Championships, or WBC for short. It offers tournaments, vendors, an auction, demonstrations, seminars, open gaming, and Juniors and Teen programs. In addition, for those who can't get enough, we offer focused Mini-Cons and Play-by-Email-Tournaments. We love boardgaming competition — from wargames and Eurogames to racing, sports, and rail games, and we make no apologies for it. It's what we do. And we've done it better than anybody else for more than ten years. This yearbook documents BPA events of the previous year. It does not contain scheduling information for the upcoming convention. Schedules and event previews will appear in a separate program and online at *boardgamers.org*. In fact, on our website, you'll find more pre- and post-event information than any place on the net — over 1,000 pages of it. It's not very lucrative or cost effective, but we think it demonstrates our commitment to this hobby.

To help support BPA activities, take a moment to subscribe to our FREE e-mail newsletter via the web site and continue to spread the good news about our association and its activities.

### Credits

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This past year marked the decade point for the World Boardgaming Championships run by the Boardgame Players Association. In the dark days when AvalonCon was declared defunct, it was impossible to foresee the success we could find starting an independent convention run by boardgamers where the gaming—and specifically tournaments—would come first. At that time, we couldn't envision that our Juniors program would graduate so many champions who would be raising their own children to compete at future WBCs. Who would have guessed that ten years later our attendance would be continuing to increase annually or that the Finn Riku Riekkinen would put an end to one of WBC's longest winning streaks by downing ex-Caesar Master James Pei in *For the People*. Certainly, few would believe that out-of-print Avalon Hill classics such as *Gangsters*, *B-17*, *Victory in the Pacific*, and *Slapshot* would be pulling their own weight (and even reaching a new audience) amidst games such as *Settlers of Catan*, *Twilight Struggle*, *Elchfest*, and *Here I Stand*.



Our 154 adult tournaments in 2008 included a record 16 events with triple digit entries, led by late-night favorite *Liar's Dice* with 212. Average event size grew to 47.1 participants overall, an increase of one per event. Laurels were awarded to players from 41 different states/provinces and nine nations. The champions included 17 incumbents who retained their respective titles another year, six members of the fair sex, and 13 who claimed multiple titles. Newcomers made their mark, with 42 "virgins" winning their first-ever WBC championship. All told, 79 players earned laurels for the first time.

In the two-win department were Riku Riekkinen, Harald Henning, Chris Byrd, Ewan McNay, Nick Page, Alex Bove, Bryan Eshleman, Jason Ley, John Popiden and Rob Beyma. Bruce Reiff and Chris Trimmer scored a pair of triples with trial events, but the biggest winner by far was Andy Latto who homered. His four wins included three Century events, just missing the never achieved WBC Grand Slam. Moreover, three of the four were triple-digit tournaments. In all, Andy bested 484 opponents in winning

*Ingenious*, *Lost Cities*, *Thurn & Taxis* and *Ivanhoe* to take Consul honors as the highest scorer at WBC. And to prove he wasn't a one-trick Euro pony, he also found time to go 4-1 in *Hannibal* during the Omens pre-con. Top honors for the year went to Alex Bove who earned laurels in nine different Euro events between EuroQuest, email tournaments and WBC to edge Ewan McNay by a single laurel and lay claim to the title of Caesar for 2008.



In the continuing soap opera of WBC winners and losers, 12 events were replaced in the Century club. (There is an icon in this yearbook marking Century events that failed to make the grade for 2009.) Further, the Board granted Legacy status to *Football Strategy* and *Euphrat & Tigris*. Among events with at least a three-year track record, 17 raised their attendance bar. However, 23 tournaments dropped to new attendance lows—going all the way back to 1991, including *Advanced Squad Leader*, which won't be returning to WBC at all in 2009.

It was not all about winning and losing, though. This past year provided us many examples of fine sportsmanship. Members bestowed our Sportsmanship Award on our Assistant Convention Director Kaarin Engelmann. It is the second time she has earned that honor.

Looking back, it's possible to say that where we are today is a testament to the power of volunteers to give of themselves to support the boardgaming hobby. We particularly recognize Debbie Guteruth for her many efforts to make WBC better, including taking photos of practically every event, running tournaments, setting up kiosks, and even finding time to compete.

This book is an opportunity to preserve our traditions—something that, after all of these years, has made BPA and WBC stand out in the hobby. We hope as you look through it you will relive the good times and look forward to making more memories at WBC 2009, which has been expanded to a full week. Check our website at [boardgamers.org](http://boardgamers.org) for a list of tournaments, pre-cons, and scheduling information. We look forward to seeing you this summer in Lancaster from August 3-9.

Don Greenwood, Convention Director  
Kaarin Engelmann, Asst. Convention Director