

2015 Results

🏆 Tom Gregorio, PA
 🏆 Bill Morse, VA
 🏆 Jeff Hacker, PA
 🏆 Frank Sinigaglio, NJ
 🏆 Mike Mitchell, GA
 🏆 Johnny Hasay, PA
 🏆 Tom Gregorio, PA

† 25 📖 1999-2015



2015 Results

🏆 Greg Thatcher, CA
 🏆 Eugene Hourany, CA
 🏆 Rob Flowers, MD
 🏆 Sceaudeau D'Tela, NC
 🏆 Rob Murray, NJ
 🏆 Paul Sampson, OH
 🏆 Edward Kendrick, uk

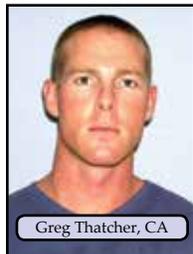
† 40 📖 2010-2015



Tom Gregorio, PA

Top Laurelists

Tom Gregorio, PA	354
Randy Heller, NH	227
Bruno Sinigaglio, AK	182
Bill Morse, VA	175
Forrest Pafenberg, VA	135
Bob Ryan, MI	128
Phil Evans, fr	94
Steve Likevich, OH	65
Marty Musella, VA	51
Mike Mitchell, GA	50



Greg Thatcher, CA

Top Laurelists

Bruce Hodgins, on	51
William Kendrick, uk	51
Paul Sampson, OH	45
Philip Shea, FL	45
Rob Flowers, MD	42
Daniel Speyer, NY	39
John Corrado, VA	36
Greg Thatcher, CA	30
Eugene Hourany, CA	30
Tom McCorry, VA	18

Bitter Woods (BWD)



No bidding occurred during the 39 preliminary games despite much concern beforehand on this topic. Numerous sharp openings were in vogue—specifically, attacking 14AC with 20 or 28 factors on the opening turn created some unique German opportunities. After a full week of pushing cardboard, the traditional Grognard evening challenge round was held. Top seeds Bill Morse and Tom Gregorio were joined in the semifinals by Forrest Pafenberg and Jeff Hacker but neither was able to deny the leaders.

Shortly after 5PM, the Final began. Tom's Germans got off to a strong start using his usual opening. It was sufficient to build the bridges in front of Clervaux and Vianden. Over the next three turns, 17AM through 18AM, the Germans didn't get much done. Peiper was ineffectual, Skorzeny wasn't able to sneak through an Allied ZOC and German attacks near Stavelot were thrown back.

The turning point occurred on the 18PM turn. Bill launched a high-odds counterattack to secure his flank north of Malady, but neglected to account for German artillery and was thrown back. This exposed his secondary defensive line on the next German turn and Tom immediately sent a probe forward that resulted in the capture of the Francorchamps dump. Both players, now very groggy, were taken aback on

11/12/2
10-5-4

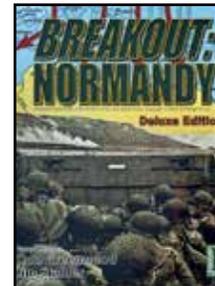
19PM when it became clear that the Axis were going to garner a VP from killing 18+ Allied units. Shortly after 1:15AM, Bill conceded when Tom had secured four additional VPs.

Brass (BRS)

17 preliminary games produced three double winners—none of whom survived Round 2 where 11 qualifiers and five alternates converged to thin the herd. When the survivors emerged, a mix of the usual (and some new) suspects gathered around the Final table. They were 2011 champion Rob Flowers; 2012 laurelist Eugene Hourany; Sceaudeau D'Tela, living proof that neither alternate status nor a name that defies phonetic spelling can keep a good man down; and Greg "I don't know what I'm doing" Thatcher, whose air of bewilderment that he was still in the running touched few hearts.

Hourany proceeded to execute a ruthlessly efficient mills strategy to build and ship 3xMill-3 and a Mill-4 in the Canal phase, shipping two Mill-4s in the Rail phase and adding ironworks before exhausting his money. Flowers balanced coal, iron and mills with heavy rail building while D'Tela went for ports and shipyards. Meanwhile, the confused Thatcher drove his income up, eventually building all his coal while making high-end ports available to the other players. Coupled with a few ironworks and a last-gasp shipyard, this approach overtook Hourany to win. That innocent air of the new champion will be harder to sell next year.

After six years of establishing the Brass tournament to a small but stable following, your GM is handing the reins to initial champion and long-time assistant GM Bruce Hodgins, who will no doubt continue the tradition while combining liberal doses of Canadian politeness and firmness.



2015 Results

🏆 B. Malcomson, MN
 🏆 Nels Thompson, NY
 🏆 K. Wojtaszczyk, NY
 🏆 Mark Gutfreund, KY
 🏆 K. Hammond, WA
 🏆 B. Passacantando, CT
 🏆 Nels Thompson, NY

† 27 📖 1994-2015



Bob Malcomson, MN

Top Laurelists

Don Greenwood, MD	404
Nels Thompson, NY	372
Andrew Cummins, uk	316
Michael Kaye, MD	249
Marvin Birnbaum, NY	215
Alan Applebaum, MA	204
Mark Gutfreund, KY	187
Jim Doughan, PA	187
Jim Eliason, IA	185
Bryan Eshleman, NC	169

Breakout: Normandy (BKN)

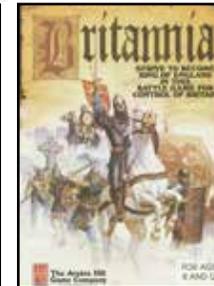
Bob Malcomson bested the field for his first Breakout title. He earned his laurels the hard way, playing the statistically disadvantaged Allies throughout. His opponents were all expert German players: Scott Fenn, designer Don Greenwood, Mark Gutfreund, Kevin Hammond, and Nels Thompson—holders of nine WBC/PBeM titles.

Our dear friend, GM Andrew Cummins, passed away in February, but was remembered fondly. Marvin Birnbaum and Anthony Daw received the first Andrew Cummins Award for creative play. Marvin didn't take any of the St. Mere Eglise bridges with his paras on the drop, but Anthony was unable to get any defenders into the area, and Marvin cleared it during a daylight impulse.

In the semifinals, Kevin Wojtaszczyk took the Allies against Nels and immediately regretted it. Nels was able to stuff St. Mere Eglise, and the 7th ended on impulse 3. Defending champ Kevin Hammond lost Caen to Malcomson's Allies on a coin flip roll that put Bob in the Final. Nels, looking for his 5th title, took the Germans, giving 30 supply to Bob's so far triumphant Allies. Bob then completed a perfect 5-0 Allied slate by clearing Gold Beach with a single unit on the landing. Bretteville fell soon thereafter. Carentan and Caen were contested on the 7th, as Bob's perfect storm continued. On the 8th, Tilly, Foret, Caumont, Isigny



and Catz fell to Bob's controlled, aggressive juggernaut. Nels desperate plays to recover during the overcast 9th failed, and he conceded the year and the title to Bob in mid-game.



2015 Results

🏆 Ewan McNay, NY
 🏆 Chris Trimmer, TX
 🏆 Sean McCulloch, OH
 🏆 Ed O'Connor, NJ
 🏆 Barry Smith, NY
 🏆 Jim Jordan, MD
 🏆 James Jordan, MD

† 32 📖 1991-2015



Ewan McNay, NY

Top Laurelists

Ewan McNay, CT	393
James Jordan, MD	204
Nick Benedict, CA	200
Barry Smith, NY	137
Randy Schilb, MO	120
Rick Kirchner, KY	108
Mark Smith, KY	90
Scott Pfeiffer, SC	83
David Gantt, SC	70
Richard Curtin, NY	64

Britannia (BRI)

Blue had a great year, claiming half of the 12 preliminary games. The remainder were evenly split between Green and Yellow.

Ewan McNay ended up competing with himself for high score honors. He racked a 286 in his first heat and added a 288 in his second. Green was tighter with Ron Clement's 254 falling four short of Bruce Blumentritt's 258. Yellow went to Ed O'Connor's 247, six more than Barry Smith's 241.

There were ten different qualifiers in the 12 games but with two defections to other endeavors, we admitted four runners-up. And again, with just three Round 2 games, a close second would be just as beneficial as winning, since the best runner-up would also advance. The semifinals, encouraged by this advancement scheme, were closely contested. Sean McCulloch and Ed O'Connor registered Yellow wins, and Red finally broke into the winner's circle under Randy Schilb! The runners-up, in order, were Chris Trimmer, Ewan McNay and Barry Smith. Randy had to depart so our finalists were winners O'Connor and McCulloch, and runners-up Trimmer and McNay who instantly assumed the aura of invincibility that comes with a second life—the equivalent of playing with "house money". The Final scores were 263 Red, 205 Green, 200 Yellow, and 193 Blue. Translating colors into players it came as no surprise that the top two places were held by the pair of ostensibly eliminated semifinalists who were granted a second chance. Ewan rode his all the way to the 2015 consulship.



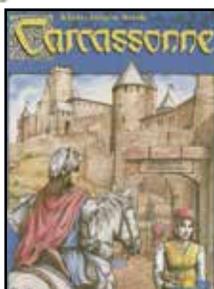


2015 Results

♣ Phil White, MD
 ♠ Rob Murray, NJ
 ♣ Hein Hundal, PA
 ♠ Mark Moore, PA
 ♠ Ryan Romanik, MI
 ♠ Andy Latto, MA

♣ MaryEllen Powers, VA

† 245 📖 2006-2015

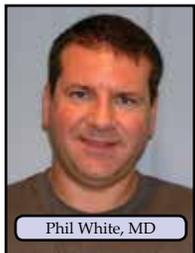


2015 Results

♣ Joe Millovich, PA
 ♠ Chad Martin, PA
 ♣ Hope Millovich, PA
 ♠ Kevin Quirk, FL
 ♠ Dusty Usner, PA
 ♠ Henry Allen, FL

♣ Jennifer Visocnik, IL

† 161 📖 2002-2015



Top Laurelists

Phil White, MD	30
Greg Zegalia, PA	30
Ben Collinson Jr, MD	30
Sceadeau D'Tela, NC	30
Jay Fox, NJ	30
Rob Drozd, IL	30
Elaine Pearson, NC	30
Danny Lewis, DE	30
Anne Norton, NJ	30
Rob Winslow, NY	20



Top Laurelists

Joe Millovich, PA	78
Robbie Mitchell, VA	69
L. Dan Hoffman, MD	59
Arthur Wines, PA	48
Scott Buckwalter, MD	42
Olin Hentz, CT	36
Eric Monte, NY	33
Debbie Gutermuth, NC	33
Chad Martin, PA	30
Norman Rule, MD	30

Can't Stop (CNS)

Can't Stop is WBC's raucous version of the lottery. The nine previous tournaments had produced only one returning laurelist—and no repeaters. This year it produced two—Mark Moore who placed third in 2012 and Andy Latto who was third last year and thus became the first repeating laurelist ever when he claimed sixth. But neither could turn their prior experience into a title.

The Final was a sight to behold, even more so because of how short it was! Our winner, Phil White, embraced the spirit of the game and didn't stop until capping a number. As the fourth player, one might assume he was at a disadvantage, but he didn't show it as he capped the 12s on his first turn. When it came around to him again he used the other side of the board, capping the 2s. Some comments were made about needing the 7's for perfect symmetry, and when the dice returned to Phil after Rob Murray, Hein Hundal, and Mark Moore each failed in turn to catch our leader, it seemed very likely he would achieve that goal with a protracted run of the 7's. Alas, he busted on the last roll before topping the column—ending his blitzkrieg of three numbers in as many turns.

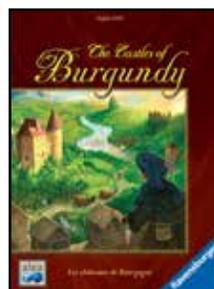
But it was still his night. The 7's fell to his bid for perfect symmetry on his next turn before any of his opponents could cap a single column—giving him his third WBC title.



Carcassonne (CAR)

We continued use of participation points rewarding multiple plays as the first tiebreaker in determining advancement. Of the previous 15 multiple winners, only eventual champ Joe Millovich was able to retain that status this year as one of nine double winners. So seven players would qualify with only one win. 47 such winners were now dependent on their participation points. However, three qualifiers did not appear—providing seats for three alternates. The last to make the cut had 15 tournament points. All of those advancing with just one win had entered at least three heats. Nine players entered all four heats and six of them reached the semifinals.

Chad Martin, Kevin Quirk, Hope and 2013 champ Joe Millovich won their semifinal matches to advance to the Final where they were greeted by a set of enlarged tiles courtesy of 2014 champ Norman Rule. Their size fittingly reflected the importance of the occasion and the uniqueness of the match did not end there. Joe's 83 points would give him a 17-point margin of victory over his sparring partner and vault him into first place on the laurels list. But his wife was mired in a tie even after application of two tiebreakers. Rather than resort to a die roll to decide the matter, Chad and Hope agreed to a head-to-head playoff. Chad won the deciding duel to claim second place. In the future, any ties in the Final will be broken by their rank following the qualifying heats.

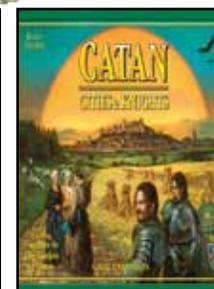


2015 Results

♣ Nick Vayn, PA
 ♠ Dominic Blais, qc
 ♣ Jay Boring, MD
 ♠ C. Applegate, MD
 ♠ Steve LeWinter, NC
 ♠ Jon Senn, PA

♣ Barb Flaxington, NJ

† 80 📖 2013-2015



2015 Results

♣ S. Branchfield, NY
 ♠ Andy Latto, MA
 ♣ Peter Tu, NJ
 ♠ Pierre LeBoeuf, MD
 ♠ Bob Wicks Jr, CT
 ♠ Matthew Leader, MA

♣ Chris Gnech, PA

† 50 📖 2013-2015



Top Laurelists

Nick Vayn, PA	49
Jay Boring, MD	46
Dominic Blais, qc	36
Keith Dent, NY	30
Robert St. Pierre, PA	18
Ted Simmons, IL	18
Christy Applegate, MD	12
Mikko Raimi, fi	12
Andrew Norgren, NY	9
Steve LeWinter, NC	8



Top Laurelists

Seann Branchfield, NY	30
Alistair Thach, TN	30
Rich Shipley, MD	30
Janet Ottey, PA	24
Andy Latto, MA	18
Colin Crook, PA	18
Peter Tu, NJ	15
Kate Fractal, MA	12
Josh Lanham, MD	12
Pierre LeBoeuf, MD	9

Castles of Burgundy (COB)

Silverlings were readily spent by the finalists with most of the black tiles bought. However, the three that would be most helpful at the start did not appear until the last round. Christy earned early shipping points and closed smaller areas to take a strong lead that did not erode until Round 4. Nick and Jay struggled in Round 2 with tile placement and traded dice for workers. Dominic, on the other hand, although furthest behind at the outset was able to draw ahead on boats and close areas to gain the most by Round 4.

The scores at the start of Round 5 were Christy 151, Dominic 134, Jay 126, and Nick 105. Jay unfortunately was unable to close a six building area as the specific tiles he could use were not available (Nick had gotten the duplicate building tile in the first round). Nick had the strongest comeback, closing an eight building area and obtaining 28 more points by finishing a large single animal zone. Dominic and Jay were able to score the most end game bonus tiles (35 and 32 points respectively, compared to Nick and Christy with only 12 each). The score left Nick and Dominic tied at 229, followed by Jay 207, and Christy 190. The tie was broken using the German version of the rules as indicated in the event description.

Nick had the most empty estate spaces (seven versus five for Dominic) and thereby was declared the victor and awarded his first shield.



Catan: Cities & Knights (C&K)

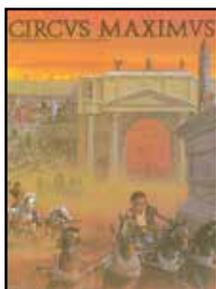
The junior year of C&K at WBC drew 50 unique players with a third of them playing multiple heats. Again, only a single win, or two seconds in the heats were required to advance to the semifinals.

Pierre LeBoeuf, Andy Latto, Peter Tu, and Seann Branchfield advanced to the Final. Pierre, Andy and Peter started without Brick and Seann began with neither Ore nor Wheat but he did have a 2 for 1 Brick port. This lack of Brick slowed the settling of the island, but allowed Seann to trade for the resources he lacked. 2.5 hours later Seann emerged as the winner of his first WBC shield with 13 points including the Science Metro (4 pts), a City (2 pts), four settlements (4 pts), the longest road (2 pts) and the Constitution Political VP card.

Peter Tu lost his Political Metro to Pierre with only seven dice rolls left in the game. Pierre dropped to eight points then but with only two turns left to play he built a settlement, upgraded it to a City and then built three roads attempting to challenge Seann's longest road. Had he not lost his Metro to Pierre he might have won one dice roll before Seann.

Surprisingly, no one ever played a single Merchant card. The Merchant remained on the Desert where it started throughout play. The Inventor was played six times with the greatest impact on Peter who suffered a net loss of two pips of Wheat and two pips of Ore.



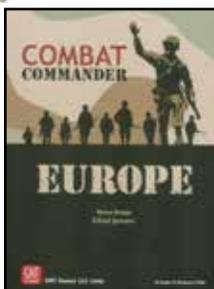


2015 Results

🏆 Tony Musella, VA
 🏆 Steven Sabatino, PA
 🏆 John Tighe Sr, DE
 🏆 Jennifer Brown, DE
 🏆 Dan Dolan Jr, VT
 🏆 Joshua Githens, SC

🏆 Jake Jacoby, VA

† 61 📖 1991-2015



2015 Results

🏆 Marty Sample, NH
 🏆 Jordan Kehrer, PA
 🏆 Peter Gurneau, WI
 🏆 Stan Myszac, qc
 🏆 Anthony Raimo, OH
 🏆 Ben Whitten, GA

🏆 Bryan Collars, SC

† 53 📖 2007-2015



Tony Musella, VA

Top Laurelists

Josh Githens, SC	317
Anthony Musella, VA	167
Frank Sinigaglio, NJ	152
Steve Katz, VA	144
Tom Saal, MI	120
Angela Collinson, MD	116
Scott Sirianna, NY	97
John Tighe Jr, NJ	84
Bill Beckman, SC	72
Michael Lind, VA	60



Marty Sample, NH

Top Laurelists

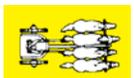
Peter Gurneau, WI	182
Bob Heinzmann, FL	165
Marty Sample, NH	74
Bryan Collars, SC	72
Jordan Kehrer, PA	70
J. R. Tracy, NY	69
Michael Johnson, MA	52
Bob Jamelli, PA	48
Chris Byrd, CT	42
Anthony Raimo, OH	40

Circus Maximus (CMS)

Colosseum traffic remained sparse due to the reduced slate of races with but two heats. The 17 finalists that clogged the track in the seven-hour cavalry charge of 2014 were now a distant memory. Just two heats were offered to reduce the field and it worked all too well as the event drew its smallest audience since 1994. With only ten preliminary races generated, the field was further cut when two qualifiers failed to appear. This resulted in only eight finalists. Consequently, the larger Seven Springs colosseum has already scheduled four heats and a semifinal for 2016.

With six heavies and only two lights, the faster entries of Jennifer Brown and Nora Tuke were set upon by the pack before the first turn with the ladies being cut no slack from this less than chivalrous lot. On Turn 4 John Tighe was blocked and burned 17 endurance while losing a full turn of movement. It was open season on wheels. Frank Sinigaglio put four damage on defending champ Githens' wheels while taking five hits himself. Unfazed by the first attack, Frank attacked Tighe's wheels with both chariots suffering six damage. At a speed of 13, his Goodyears collapsed relegating Frank to a quick dirt bath. The curves were cruel. Tighe was jostled at only one over, while Dolan sideslipped into Sabatino's wheels for four damage.

Meanwhile, Tony Musella pulled ahead of the wounded pack with Sabatino in close pursuit, but not close enough to prevent Tony's first shield.

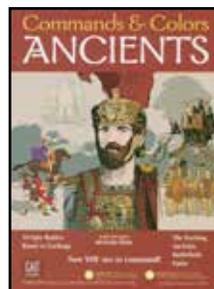


Combat Commander (CBC)

Four preliminary Swiss rounds saw three players emerge from a field of 53 with perfect 4-0 records—reigning champion Peter Gurneau, 2014 runner-up Jordan Kehrer, and Martin Sample as this years top seed. Stan Myszac, whose 3-1 record was ranked highest of the 3-win competitors, joined them in the elimination rounds.

The semifinals introduced a new scenario and map. In a rematch of the 2014 Final, Kehrer reversed fortunes vs defending champ Gurneau in a tense game. In the other match, Sample's attacking Germans faced a deep VP deficit, but when the curtain came down he had killed via direct fire or melee six of the seven Russian units, thus ending a grueling 15 hours en route to his first Final.

Both players tweaked setups that had won prior matches for a rerun of the fourth scenario. Kehrer's Germans occupied a key VP location worth 6 VP. A 10 Smoke marker protected his troops. However, it also prevented him from responding to Sample's move into the other building hex as well as the street adjacent. After an exchange of Satchel Charges, that drew the use of the Initiative Card several times, Sample's Russians stood as lone survivors in the VP hex. Recovering from the loss of the critical VP hex as well as his best leader, Kehrer clawed back but could narrow his VP deficit to no less than six before the second Time Trigger ended the contest giving Marty his second WBC title.



2015 Results

🏆 Riku Riekkinen, fi
 🏆 Greg Ottoman, TX
 🏆 Bill O'Neal, NY
 🏆 Joe Harrison, KY
 🏆 Dan Dolan Jr, VT
 🏆 Carl Moon, NY

🏆 Andy Lewis, DE

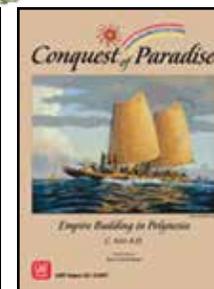
† 42 📖 2006-2015



Riku Riekkinen, fi

Top Laurelists

Bill O'Neal, NY	187
Allen Kaplan, NJ	68
Riku Riekkinen, fi	61
Jack Morrell, NY	58
Tony Curtis, OK	58
Chad Mekash, NJ	56
Brian Conlon, CT	54
Joe Harrison, KY	42
Rick Young, NC	42
Greg Ottoman, TX	40



2015 Results

🏆 M. McCandless, LA
 🏆 Dave Dentel, VA
 🏆 Keith Ferguson, VA
 🏆 Kurt Mitchell, VA
 🏆 Steve Vondra, VA
 🏆 David Cross, VA

🏆 KevinMcPartland,MD

† 28 📖 2008-2015



Mark McCandless, LA

Top Laurelists

David Cross, VA	80
Mark McCandless, LA	74
Nick Smith, uk	40
Rejean Tremblay, on	39
Steve Simmons, NJ	33
Keith Ferguson, VA	32
Daniel Pappas, MD	32
Charles Drozd, IL	30
Andy Lewis, DE	20
Steve Cameron, PA	18

Commands & Colors Ancients (CCA)

The first round consisted of three games of *Bagradas*, with the best record in each 4-player group advancing and the best runners-up filling the remaining slots to field 16. Carthage held a slight advantage 31-26-5.

Round 2 was three rounds of *Trebbia*. Only the winner of each pod would advance. Carthage won overall 16-8 although the four pods offered very different balance views with Carthage going 4-2, 3-3, 3-3, and 6-0.

The semifinals were conducted as two-game matches, playing both sides against the same opponent. The battle was *Sucro*. In one bracket, three-time champ Bill O'Neal faced the mighty Finn, Riku Riekkinen. Riku took the first game 6-1 as the Sertorians and the second 6-2 as the Romans to end any ideas of a fourth title in the immediate offing. In the other bracket, Greg Ottoman eliminated defending champion Joe Harrison 6-5/6-4 as the Sertorians/Romans.

The battle for Round 4 was *Mantineia*. Greg started the Final as the Spartans. He lost a general, costing him a close battle 5-6. Block casualties were 26-28. In the second game, Greg took a 5-3 lead, but fortunes were reversed in an instant when the Spartans bagged three units in one turn to give Riku his sixth WBC title.

Even Riku was somewhat surprised by the sudden twist of fate. So the reputation of the Mighty Finn grows. Is another *FTP* giant killing in the offing?



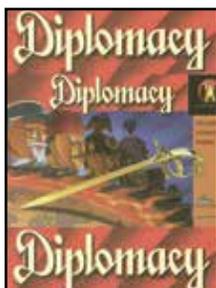
Conquest of Paradise (CQP)

2015 saw *CQP* return to the Century despite dropping a heat. A wide range of play styles was on display. One game never saw an attack, while another had "the most combat I've ever seen in a *CQP* game". We had what was certainly the closest game in our history: a tie for not only first place, but also third place as well—and only one point behind the leaders! Meanwhile, defending champ Dave Cross won his heat by an overwhelming 10.5 points.

The semifinals consisted of three 4-player games. Dave Dentel was the closest runner-up, just a point and a half off the pace, so he earned the fourth seat in the Final. Former champions Keith Ferguson and Mark McCandless won their games to return to Round 3. On the opposite side of the experience spectrum was Kurt Mitchell who learned the game before the first heat and made the Final! Quick study! After choosing starting positions in seed order, the role read: Keith as Samoa, Mark as Tonga, Kurt as Hiva, and Dave as Raiatea.

Exploring and discoveries predominated but as the game neared its end, the claws came out. Five attacks were launched by the four protagonists, but the decisive battle occurred when Tonga launched a massive attack on neutral Vanuatu. So, we now have our first two-time champion: Mark McCandless and his victorious Tongans! He had won the very first WBC tournament back in 2008 and now reigns again among the palm trees.

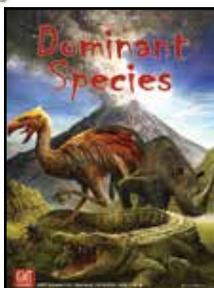




2015 Results

🏆 Keith Boone, MD
 🥈 Steven LeWinter, NC
 🥉 John Stevens, NY
 🏅 Amber Martin, PA
 🏅 Jay Boring, MD
 🏅 Paul Konka, MD

🏆 Thomas Haver, OH
 † 32 📖 91-04, 06-08, 12-15



2015 Results

🏆 Anthony Laines, qc
 🥈 C. Applegate, MD
 🥉 Dennis Mishler, TX
 🏅 Kevin Emery, SC
 🏅 Rob Woodham, TX
 🏅 Bill Dickerson, NY

🏆 Dave Long, NC
 † 30 📖 2011-2015



Keith Boone, MD

Top Laurelists

Nick Benedict, CA	115
Andy Marshall, MD	96
Tom Pasko, CT	76
Christopher Lee, AZ	60
Scott Nedza, NV	60
David Rynkowski, NY	60
Andy Bartalone, MD	60
Alvaro Ugaz, VA	60
Simon Bouton, uk	60
Nick Palmer, uk	56



Anthony Laines, qc

Top Laurelists

Kevin Emery, SC	76
Robb Effinger, NJ	54
Dennis Mishler, GA	45
James Geronimo, NJ	43
Tom McCorry, VA	41
Anthony Laines, qc	30
August Thiesing, NJ	30
Christy Applegate, MD	18
David Buchholz, MI	16
John Emery, SC	12

Diplomacy (DIP)

The *Diplomacy* tournament is run as best two rounds out of three. We used the “Carnage” scoring system and supplemented the plaques provided by WBC with seven Best Country awards as well as doughnuts in the morning and pizza at night. What more could you want?

On R1B1, Steve LeWinter took England to an 11-center board top aided by veteran Paul Konka, who managed a 7-center second with France. John Stevens bullied R1B2 with his Russia to a board top. On R1B3 back-and-forth play saw veteran Rex Martin and defending champion David Rynkowski square off with many new faces. Ultimately, Keith Boone emerged to earn the top.

In Round 2, Jim Mason (Turkey) took advantage of open centers behind-the-line after a Western Triple and jumped to a board top. Over on Board 2, an alliance between Helen Powell (England), Tom Good (France), and Amber Martin (Italy) lasted nearly the entire game. On the third board, it was the western alliance of Keith Boone (England) and Trevor Schoenen (France) that won the day.

In Round 3, LeWinter (Austria) made the most progress early, working with Italian ally Scott Fenn to gain (and hold) an early lead. On Board 2, Amber (England) teamed up with Stevens (France) to roll the board. Jay Boring (France) ran the show on Board 3 from beginning-to-end with ally Schoenen (Germany).

Boone edged LeWinter for the championship by a single center, with each player taking two Best Country awards.



Dominant Species (DSP)

There were eight qualifiers and when two opted for other adventures, the event proceeded directly to the Final. Its second turn came close to a mass extinction. The Scoring cards were Catastrophe, Blight, Disease, and Cold Snap leaving just eight species cubes on five spaces! The birds were wiped out by Blight, the amphibians and reptiles were down to a single cube, while the last three each retained a pair.

On Turn 3, the Arachnids depleted the only seed just before Bill’s mammals speciation play on seeds. It really put the hurt on the mammals, since they had no other speciation action available. Dennis then played Instinct on himself to take Turn 4’s wasteland action. And as a sun disk was going to be in the Wasteland box, Christy’s reptiles looked to lose four of the five suns available, as the glaciers would swallow them.

As we headed into Turn 6, Anthony’s arachnids held a slim four-point lead over Christy. The key play came down to Robert, who held the Glaciation for the turn. He had a choice between Anthony’s forest or Kevin’s grassy wetland, and when the wetland was frozen, things fell into place for Anthony. After final scoring, and bid adjustment, he became the 2015 champ with a score of 109 for his second WBC title. Christy built genuine bonafides as her Reptiles’ 101 points took second ahead of Mishler’s 98, Emery’s 94, Woodham’s 83, and Dickerson’s 72 which nonetheless earned his first laurels.



2015 Results

🏆 Dan Boyle, NY
 🥈 Chad Weaver, PA
 🥉 D. McGregor, on
 🏅 Tim Tu, NJ
 🏅 Pat Richardson, VA
 🏅 Loc Nguyen, PA

🏆 Nick Ferris, MD
 † 111 📖 2009-2015



Dan Boyle, NY

Top Laurelists

Arthur Field, SC	90
Chad Weaver, PA	84
Mark Giddings, NY	56
Sceaudeau D'Tela, NC	52
Haim Hochboim, il	50
Dan Boyle, NY	40
Duncan McGregor, on	40
Brandon Bernard, PA	40
Randy Buehler, WA	40
Edward Fu, NY	40



2015 Results

🏆 Jacob Dyer, IL
 🥈 Matt Fagan, NJ
 🥉 Lee Proctor, IL
 🏅 Stephane Dorais, qc
 🏅 Michael Powers, VA
 🏅 Carl Krosnick, PA

🏆 Brad Johnson, IL
 † 26 📖 1992-2015



Jacob Dyer, IL

Top Laurelists

Bill Dyer, IL	228
Glenn McMaster, on	115
Phil Barcafer, PA	93
Jacob Dyer, IL	92
Lee Proctor, IL	76
Joe Abrams, CT	70
Steve Koehler, NC	70
Matt Fagan, NJ	67
Jean-Francois Gagne, qc	63
Joe Harrison, KY	58

Dominion (DOM)

After frequent inquires requesting expansions to augment preliminary round play, the field was presented with two options for earning their way into the quarterfinals: playing ye olde base set, or a mix of base and *Prosperity* cards. A dozen tables took the more challenging course.

Those skilled 48 players who advanced to the quarterfinals then faced more challenging sets from the first four expansions: *Intrigue* and *Seaside* cards in one game, then a much less commonly seen mash-up of *Alchemy* and *Prosperity*. The latter set stumped some players who couldn’t decide between big money and action-heavy strategies. The best 16 advanced to a semifinal of middling expansions including the despised Tournament card. From those matches emerged perennial sharks Chad Weaver, Tim Tu, and Duncan McGregor along with newcomer Dan Boyle.

Game 1 of the Finals introduced the Guilds expansion to tournament play, and those players who wanted to do well had to take advantage of the “overpay” features of those cards. Weaver ultimately succeeded best in this strategy, using Doctors to clean his deck and Stonemasons to fill it with flexible Nobles for the victory. In Game 2, rule-breaking Embargo tokens populated the Silver and Gold piles from the start, and mostly cheap cards meant players had to find alternate methods for enriching their decks. Boyle latched onto the best way —loading up on Fools Golds—and edged the other three for the game and tournament wins to earn his first shield ...an impressive one.



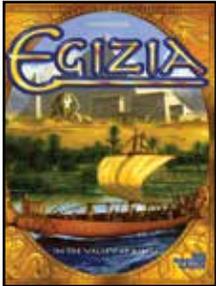
Dune (DUN)

The finalists selected their faction assignments in order of qualification. Qualification round scoring was simplified, although reduced points for default and adjudicated wins will be considered in 2016. The average game lasted eight turns and 4.4 hours, with five of nine games needing adjudication. To shorten play and keep games dynamic, I will be considering reducing the ability to block strongholds and limit away-from-table negotiation time. We will also further boost the Fremens with the following house rule: “The Fremens may count their tokens at full strength for no cost in ALL battles. Additionally, the Fremens may permit their ally to do the same in their own battles.”

Division of wins by faction varied with Atreides, BG, and Guild improving, Emperor holding steady, and Harkonnen and Fremens plummeting. We saw three separate solo wins, including a Guild default win (adjudicated) by Carl Krosnick and an absolutely amazing set of two solo standard victories by Stephane Dorais! Best Faction plaques went to Bill Dyer for Atreides; Phil Barcafer, BG; Ty Hansen, Emperor; Joe Harrison, Fremens; Stephane Dorais, Guild; and Steve Cuccaro, Harkonnen.

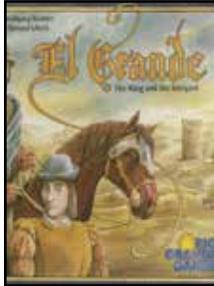
The Final saw huge amounts of precarious negotiation, battle, and alliance changes, but the Harkonnen/BG alliance emerged as a dominant force in mid-game. After Matt’s BG narrowly missed a great victory due to an opposing Truthtrance, the Harkonnen/BG tried again in Turn 11, winning Jake Dyer his second title with the draw of a critical Shield card for the fourth consecutive Dyer family win!





2015 Results

- ♣ S. D'Tela, NC
 - ♠ Henry Dove, MD
 - ♣ Eric Freeman, PA
 - ♠ Andrew Emerick, CT
 - ♠ Rob Murray, NJ
 - ♠ Antony Saccenti, MD
 - ♣ Andrew Emerick, CT
- † 57 📖 2011-2015



2015 Results

- ♣ Rob Flowers, MD
 - ♠ Yoel Weiss, NJ
 - ♠ K. Broh-Kahn, MD
 - ♠ Pete Gathman, NJ
 - ♠ Rebecca Hebner, CO
 - ♠ Scott Fenn, MD
 - ♣ Rob Flowers, MD
- † 65 📖 1999-2015



Top Laurelists

Sceadeau D'Tela, NC	72
Andrew Emerick, CT	65
Randy Buehler, WA	50
Cary Morris, NC	34
Sam Schell, NC	30
Robert Murray, NJ	24
Kyle Smith, PA	24
Henry Dove, MD	18
Elaine Pearson, NC	18
Robert Kircher, RI	14



Top Laurelists

Rob Flowers, MD	139
Robb Effinger, on	108
Greg Thatcher, FL	95
Curt Collins II, PA	87
Geoff Pounder, on	73
Jason Levine, NY	62
Eric Freeman, PA	60
Jay Fox, OH	55
Yoel Weiss, NJ	54
Charlie Kersten, OH	40

Egizia (EGZ)

The bids reaffirmed that going earlier is better than later, and were consistent in value across the semis where Andrew Emerick won in the first seat bidding 2, Sceadeau D'Tela won from the third seat bidding .5 against a first seat bid of 2.5. Henry Dove won from the second seat bidding 2 against the first seat bid of 3, and Eric Freeman took a tiebreaker win from the first seat with a perfect bid of 2. Any larger and Rob Murray would have taken his seat. The bids increased in the Final with Eric buying first seat at 4.5 points, Henry second for 2 points, Andrew third for 1 point, and Sceadeau accepting fourth to keep his points.

The flip revealed a +2 Sphinx card for Eric, the free crew boosting permanent for Henry, and a 3 stone quarry for Andrew. With nothing of note left, Sceadeau elected to slowboat his way through the round, opting for quantity over quality.

Ultimately, it paid off. Sceadeau's score of 104 won his fifth title without needing his bid savings. Henry took second with 63 on the board, plus 31 in final scoring, including six and seven blocks in the pyramids and a column complete, less his bid of 2 for 92. Eric had 91.5 with 73 on the board and 23 in final scoring, including four blocks in the column, black crew, joker crew, and people reaching the end of the farm track. His bid of 4.5 cost second place. Andrew's 88 trailed the pack.

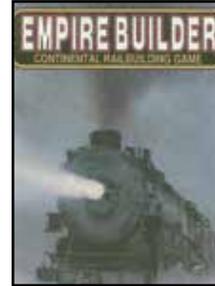


El Grande (ELG)

The preliminary heats produced one triple winner (Chris McCurry) and one double winner (Greg Thatcher). The highest winning score was 118 points by Geoff Pounder; the lowest was a 74 by Bryan Berkenstock. But none of those worthies survived the semifinals as Yoel Weiss, Kevin Broh-Kahn, Pete Gathman and Rebecca Hebner joined two-time champ Rob Flowers at the Final table.

The Final was relatively quiet until Turn 3, when we turned the Score the Firsts card, which can have a huge impact if your board position is in transition. Rob managed to set the board such that Yoel decided to execute the card, giving himself 22 points, Rob 17, Kevin 6, and the rest zero. This created a gap between Yoel/Rob and the pack of trailers that was never really narrowed.

During the later turns, it became a Yoel and Rob duel to gain on the other. Rob had a lead of two points at the first check, and extended it to six after the second scoring. Victory was still potentially in reach for Yoel, but the action cards and bidding began to favor the GM. Rob secured the Veto near the beginning of the 8th turn, and on the last turn was able to play his 13 card (which he had taken back earlier with a special action), because no one else had a 13 remaining to play. This allowed him to defend his home territory and seal his third ELG shield and fifth overall.



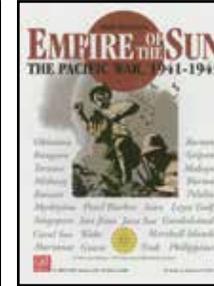
2015 Results

- ♣ Jeff Jackson, MN
 - ♠ Alex Henning, PA
 - ♠ Ken Gutermuth, NC
 - ♠ M. McCandless, LA
 - ♠ Bob Stribula, PA
 - ♠ Deb Gutermuth, NC
 - ♣ Bob Stribula, PA
- † 62 📖 1999-2015



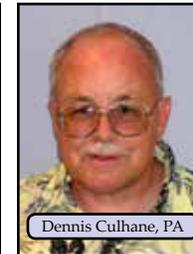
Top Laurelists

Richard Meyer, MA	218
Dave Steiner, IN	151
Eric Brosius, MA	125
Harald Henning, CT	115
Ken Gutermuth, NC	113
Jim Yerkey, MD	110
Tom Dunning, NY	97
Debbie Gutermuth, NC	90
Mark Kennel, DE	84
Tedd Mullally, NJ	79



2015 Results

- ♣ Dennis Culhane, PA
 - ♠ Craig Yope, MI
 - ♠ Nicholas Frydas, uk
 - ♠ James Doughan, PA
 - ♠ Robert Hammond, on
 - ♠ Tom Thorsen, NY
 - ♣ Mark Herman, MD
- † 32 📖 2005-2015



Top Laurelists

Dennis Culhane, PA	115
Antero Kuusi, fi	86
Mark Popofsky, DC	66
Bob Heinzmann, FL	48
Craig Yope, MI	45
Paul Gaberson, PA	42
Mark Hodgkinson, bh	30
Pablo Garcia, ch	28
John Chabonneau, NH	24
Steve Campbell, NH	16

Empire Builder (EPB)

30 preliminary games were logged on nine different maps. Mark Kennel and Jeff Jackson won three, Bob Stribula and Eric Brosius two. The 25 winners were seeded into five semifinals played on the newest *Empire Builder* map and the winners advanced to a *Eurotrails* Final. Debbie Gutermuth did not advance further but finally won her sand plaque by finishing sixth in a level 6 year!

Jeff Jackson drew first in the Final—going from Iberia to Paris and the Ruhr. Alexandra Henning built from Paris to Cardiff using the Portsmouth ferry and to Milano. Ken Gutermuth began from London to Bruxelles via the Ramsgate ferry and north to Aberdeen. Mark McCandless started from Holland via the Ruhr to Berlin. Bob Stribula connected the Ruhr to Frankfurt, to Paris, and towards Spain. Ultimately, four linked to the most lucrative region; Madrid. Mark built to Scandinavia and including trackage fees, gained a net €44M while Jeff, using Mark's track, earned €90M. Jeff pitched until he found high payout oranges and/or cork demands. He delivered six of these while the others combined for seven. Ken tried desperately to find a last minute bonanza with a flurry of pitches that flooded the Ebro and Rhein Rivers while North Sea Gales stalled the leader for a turn. However, Jeff's strategy ultimately won by a substantial margin.

He scored €285M in 12 deliveries followed by Alex €173M in 11 deliveries. Ken €136M in 10 deliveries. Mark €107M in 13 deliveries and Bob €96M in nine deliveries.



Empire of the Sun (EOS)

The 11th running of the EOS tournament saw a record 32 players. As always, the 1943 scenario continued to demonstrate balanced results. The early rounds, with so many new players on hand, were hard to judge, but once play progressed to the more *experienced* survivors, the results were evenly split. Three-time champ Dennis Culhane met longtime challenger Craig Yope in the Final.

Dennis smacked the Commonwealth super stack in Akyab with a nasty air raid that took out five of six ground steps early in the first turn and pretty much sealed Craig's fate for the rest of the game. He fought back to take four ports in New Guinea and Rabaul by the end of Turn 2 but stumbled in his sequencing/planning early in Turn 3 leaving Dennis with five cards to play after he was done.

The early resolution of the CBI allowed him to shift resources into the central Pacific. Only his weak hand in the second turn allowed Craig a glimmer of hope. A third turn return to ISR killed any momentum the Allies had. When Craig miscalculated his Biak amphibious assault based on the use of Australian 12-12 units—not realizing those units require two ASPs—he was all but up the river without a paddle. A desperate attempt to get strategic agreement was met with a quick counter of an ISR card from the Japanese hand drawing an early concession and giving Dennis his fourth EOS title.

