

~ The Harry B's ~



Bruce Reiff, OH
Football Strategy • 7



Bruce Beard, MD
18XX • 8



Bruce Monnin, OH
War At Sea • 2



Harry Flawd, PA
Paydirt • 8

Despite record attendance, only 78 teams entered the 25th Team Tournament in the smallest field since 2007. The *Harry B's*—the odds-on favorite at 18-1 and the best assortment of shameless ringers that laurels can buy, reigned supreme with three firsts and a fourth. This came as no surprise since the trio of Reiff, Beard and Flawd had won their respective events 30 times. The smart money has under achiever Monnin with but four titles in his specialty being jettisoned for more of a sure thing. In amassing their 25 points, they spoiled the sophomore year of the talented Canadian quartet of Page, VanderWal, Drummond and McGregor whose 22-point total would have won 20 of the 25 previous races. Andrew Drummond paced the 120-1 underdog *Dice Loving Canucks* and led all scorers with a maximum score of 12 points for winning *Splendor* in a field of 276. Having now finished sixth and second in two tries, mayhap they should get more respect from the handicapper. Both teams managed to score with every player—a feat accomplished by only one other team—the 11th place *Iron Meeples*.

A bigger overachiever claimed third as *Team Hyboria* padded its 21-point score with three bonus points. Without a prior title between them, the Melton and Franklin father-and-son teams managed two titles and a third to edge perennial contender *Band of Fools* by the entrants tiebreaker. The 32-1 grognard entry used a trio of 7-point wins to remain in the Top Ten.

The U.S.-Israeli alliance of *Philly Streets* also used three bonus points to claim fifth and was led by Ben Scholl's 10-point win in *Puerto Rico*. He was backed by impressive laurel hauls by Israeli's Haim Hochboim and Aran Warszawski in *Agricola* and *Through the Ages*.

However, the real long shot payoff was the newcomer *Alham-Bros* squad that logged in at 5000-1 odds with three bonus points behind Dan Boyle's *Dominion* win and laurel efforts by Ben Carter in *Ticket to Ride* and Jon Wyatt in *Formula De*. That was enough to claim sixth place over the next seven highly ranked teams who all came in under 54-1 odds.

Rounding out the best of the rest were the defending champion *30.314* who could muster barely half that score in their title defense. Perennial challengers *Wood Bee Contenders*, *KGB* and *The Siegelman* took the last three spots in the Top Ten with 15, 14 and 13 points respectively to provide the answers to our Annual Bracket Busting contest. Honorable Mention goes to the Harris family who claimed 14th place for *Athena & the 3 Spartans* with 12 points against 600-1 odds.

Despite the upsets, it was a good year for the favorites with seven teams ranked at 76-1 or better in the Top Ten. A notable exception was *Nest of Spies* which finished 13th, and again ruined most brackets in our annual Prediction contest. So, in a more predictable year, it was not surprising that our annual Prediction contest was won by Jeff Cornett—the dueling guest prognosticator of 2014—who tied Mark Love's all-time record with six correct picks. Among the also-rans with 50% correct were James Pei, Riku Riekkinen and Andrew Emerick—serious Caesar contenders all.

27 teams were again shut out—the same number as last year. The highest ranked team failing to score was none other than the 2008 champion *St. Paul's Rejects* whose 46-1 odds proved to be a terrible investment. Fame is fleeting.

Only 27 of our 312 players, less than 9%, managed to successfully call their shots by winning their selected event—six less than last year. 133 of our 164 events were employed. *Dominion* was the most frequently chosen with nine entrants, followed by *Agricola* with seven. The choice of going big or small remained an interesting contrast with *Jay's Basement* swinging for the fences with a combined field of 893. In contrast, the *AREA* team played small ball and failed to break 100 with a combined field of 92. This time, "small ball" won the battle with a 4-0 decision over the shutout *Jay's*.

WBC exists by the volunteer efforts of your fellow members—from the GMs that run the events to the support staff that does all the behind-the-scenes work to your unpaid elected Board of Directors. The CD is your sole full-time employee. WBC draws over 2,000 people—the vast majority of whom will never give a second thought to participation in any way beyond their attendance. Less than 20% will take a moment to vote in our elections. Yet, those few manage to make it happen year after year.

Our Hobby Service Award recognizes the efforts of the best with an annual moment of recognition for their selfless participation. Twelve Service nominees are nominated annually. This year's honoree has never served as a "GM" himself—but instead served his time in the Junior's Room—where disputes are settled at kneecap level. The Board votes by secret ballot, weighing their votes according to their own individual values as to what constitutes the greatest contribution, by ranking each nominee from 12 (strongest) to 1 (weakest). Our winner scored 82 of a possible 96 points with three firsts and two second place votes and no scores in the bottom half of the poll. He bested the runner-up by 14 points to win comfortably—if one can be said to win comfortably after waiting 25 years!

I still recall the original organizational meeting at the Penn Harris in 1991 when this individual spoke to

the crowd and volunteered to host Juniors events to help support the hobby. He was true to his word and is still at it 25 years later—the only person to have performed that thankless task 25 years running. But then, there is no quit in this guy. This year was also his 25th consecutive pursuit of the *Up Front* title without success—but he's still on his feet and back for another try—even if his son has beat him to the grand prize.

By itself, that 25 years of service to our youth should be enough for this award—and maybe sainthood too.

But Ray Stakenas's service goes well beyond that. He also hosts Roman themed gaming sessions for a high school group of Latin students. And if that still weren't enough, he serves as a true ambassador to our hobby—representing the best qualities of competition and sportsmanship in every game he plays. Ray Stakenas is a prized member of the BPA extended family whose recognition is long overdue.



Ray Stakenas, Sr.



Past Winners

- 2005 Stuart Tucker
- 2005 Kathy Stroh
- 2005 Steve Okonski
- 2005 Vince Meconi
- 2005 Mark McLaughlin
- 2005 Ken Whitesell
- 2006 Keith Wixson
- 2007 Bruno Sinigaglio
- 2008 Debbie Gutermuth
- 2009 Alan Applebaum
- 2010 David Dockter
- 2011 Scott Pfeiffer
- 2012 Keith Levy
- 2013 Roy Gibson
- 2014 Bruno Passacantando



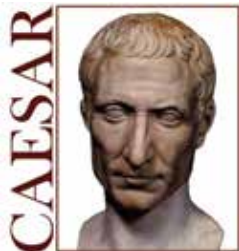
James Pei repeated as Caesar to become the third back-to-back BPA Top Gamer of the year while adding 186 to his leading career laurel total of 2,332. It was his third Top Dog performance which leads the BPA laurels universe. His 33-laurel margin of victory over runner-up Sceadeau D'Tela was tripled by a haul of 100 laurels for his specialty *For The People* where he once again swept both the WBC event and its email counterpart. Over the years, Pei has amassed a largely unchallenged 862 laurels in all versions of *For The People* competition—nearly 37% of his career totals. He added a repeat win in *Sekigahara* and a pair of CDW thirds in *Hannibal* and *Washington's War* to guarantee his third Caesar title.



James Pei






Rounding out the top six competitors for the year were Ewan McNay, Andrew Emerick, Kevin Youells and Riku Riekkinen. Only six of last year's Top 25 players managed to retain that billing led by Pei, who alone of all BPA's Top Dogs, has managed to remain in the Top 25 for each of the last seven years. In fact, you have to go back to 2006 to find the last time "The Master" did not place in the Top 25. The others able to retain their elite standing in 2015 were Sceadeau D'Tela (fifth year in a row), George Young, Keith Dent, Karl Henning and Randy Buehler (sixth year). Nearly half of this year's crop had not appeared in the Top 25 class in the past seven years.

Mini-con tournaments no longer played a role in the outcome but email tournaments did, enabling James to bank a 60-laurel head start before WBC began. Runner-up Sceadeau D'Tela also benefitted from an email boost—with 8 laurels in *Tzolk'in* but that bonus was dwarfed by the CDW mastery of Pei in his specialty. Even a pair of wins in *Agricola* and *Egizia* backed by three other lesser scores weren't enough to overcome Pei's initial PBeM advantage.



CAESAR

Past Caesars		
1999	Marvin Birnbaum, NY	135
2000	Ewan McNay, CT	120
2001	Nick Benedict, CA	138
2002	Marvin Birnbaum, NY	146
2003	Nick Benedict, CA	113
2004	James Pei, VA	293
2005	Arthur Field, SC	224
2006	Jeff Mullet, OH	166
2007	Raphael Lehrer, MD	170
2008	Alex Bove, PA	159
2009	Stefan Mecay, TX	295
2010	Stefan Mecay, TX	182
2011	Randy Buehler, WA	241
2012	Randy Buehler, WA	205
2013	Andrew Emerick, CT	177
2014	James Pei, VA	176

Sceadeau D'Tela, NC	Ewan McNay, 120	Andrew Emerick, CT	Kevin Youells, PA	Riku Riekkinen, fi
 153	 120	 115	 114	 112
- The 2015 Caesar Line of Succession -				



In keeping with our Roman theme, Consul is awarded to the player earning the most laurels in WBC week (Monday - Sunday) as opposed to the Caesar Award that includes all our tournaments in a given laurel year. In any year when the same player tops both totals, no Consul is named. Pre-Con events are excluded from WBC totals for purposes of this award but the growing number of such events that began in the Pre-Con but could be won during WBC week were increasingly blurring that distinction. Consequently, with WBC abandoning Pre-Cons in 2016 in favor of a nine-day WBC, 2015 will be the last time that omission affects the scoring.



Ewan McNay

Ewan McNay vaulted over both of the leaders in the Caesar contest to score annual metagaming honors for the first time in earning the 2015 Consul award. Stripping away PBeM and Pre-Con laurels left McNay in the lead as all of his 120-laurel total was earned during WBC week with a triple win in *Ingenious*, *Britannia* and *Robo Rally*. The transi-






Past Consuls		
2004	Devin Flawd, PA	111
2006	Jeff Cornett, FL	134
2008	Andy Latto, CT	129
2009	Rich Moyer, MN	100
2010	Bruce Reiff, OH	151
2012	Nick Henning, DC	133
2013	Ken Gutermuth, NC	108
2014	Richard Beyma, VA	128

tion of WBC to a full nine days in 2016 will remove the concept of Pre-Cons and, thus, make email tournaments the sole difference between Caesar and Consul honors in the future.

The Mighty Finn, Riku Riekkinen, finished second with 112 laurels—eight behind McNay. Three runner-up finishes in 1989, *Russian Railroads* and *Twilight Struggle* cost him the title, as a victory in any of them would have pushed him over the Consul finish line. Alas, such fish stories of the one that got away plague us all eventually. Riku, no doubt, will have cause to regret a single misstep or ill-fated die roll for years to come. Sceadeau D'Tela, the Caesar runner-up, finished third—11 laurels behind—done in by the forfeiture of 36 Pre-Con laurels for a second place finish in *Through the Ages*. You had to look all the way down to sixth to find Caesar. James Pei was 18 laurels off the pace and four behind relative newcomers Max DuBoff and Ryan Romanik, who tied for fourth. Completing the Top Ten were Wade Campbell, Matt Calkins, triple winner Ricky Boyes, and Duncan McGregor. All but Calkins were relative WBC newcomers of varying degrees.



CONSUL

Riku Riekkinen, fi	Sceadeau D'Tela, NC	Max DuBoff, NJ	Ryan Romanik, MI	James Pei, 102
 112	 109	 106	 106	 102
- The 2015 Consul Line of Succession -				



We attract many Canadians who return north with their fair share of wood. But 2015 was the first year one showed us how to run an event so well that he carried home our Top GM award. **Duncan McGregor** is a recent convert to our annual madness and enjoyed it so much, he decided to lend a hand.

It was his event submission that got *Splendor* on the ballot—resulting in its election as the 7th highest Trial event in the 2015 survey. Although prepared to randomize tables, not even he was prepared for the popularity of his new event—which drew 272 entrants and 165 games in three heats. Fortunately, Duncan was admirably supported by fellow Canadians Andrew Drummond and Sara VanderWal who pitched in to help forge order out of chaos. Overflow space was found and ad hoc Quarterfinals were added without interfering with other events.

Duncan thus became the first rookie GM so honored. He won by a wide margin in amassing 87 points—just two shy of Claire Brosius' 2011 record. Although he attracted only one of eight top votes, he ranked no lower than third on any ballot with five seconds and two thirds completing his score.

Placing second and earning his second Honorable Mention with 77 points was Bill Morse whose nine

years as the power behind the throne that scores the eight Grogard events garnered four of the eight top votes. In all, the Grogard Free Format events logged 323 games played, and Bill entered them all to print out twice daily standings. Close behind in third with 75 points and his second straight HM performance was John Corrado whose humorously delivered Power Point presentation and well prepared trivia puzzles created another *Facts in Five* attendance record as the event broke into triple digits with 107 entrants while escaping notice from the Fire Marshal. John also performed double duty by running yet another triple-digit attendance event with the debut of *Castles of Mad King Ludwig*.

The Michael Gar-ton - John McLaughlin team earned 59 points and took fourth place with their visually spectacular *Stockcar Championship Racing* to the delight of 50 drivers. Their 14th appearance netted one top vote and earned their third HM. Earning his first HM was George Young with 55 points as *Twilight Struggle* rebounded nicely from a down year with 68 players for the six-round swiss event. Meanwhile, Ed Beach improved his bridesmaid status by

tying the record for HMs at seven with 51 points for the third year of *Virgin Queen*.



Duncan McGregor

Past Winners

- 1991 Russ Gifford, NE – ASL
- 1992 Jim Burnett, TN – WPS
- 1993 Glenn Petroski, WI – VIP
- 1994 John Ellmann, MD – MMS
- 1995 Ken Lee, PA – GCA
- 1996 David Terry, MD – B-17
- 1997 Will Wible, VA – ROR
- 1998 Bruce Monnin, OH – WAS
- 1999 Bruno Wolff, WI – TTN
- 2000 Vince Meconi, DE – WAS
- 2001 David Terry, MD – B17
- 2002 John Jacoby, VA – CMS
- 2003 Chuck Foster, TX – EPB
- 2004 John Coussis, IL – ACS
- 2005 John Sharp, FL – VIP
- 2006 Don Chappell, TX – WTP
- 2007 Ivan Lawson, MD – LST
- 2008 Tom McCorry, VA – CAR
- 2009 Jim Jordan, MD – BRI
- 2010 Stuart Tucker, MD – HRC
- 2011 Claire Brosius, MA – TTR
- 2012 Brad Johnson, MI – DUN
- 2013 Larry Lingle, PA – PRC
- 2014 N. Ferris, MD – DOM, 7WS



The BPA membership elected Justin Rice as its 2015 Sportsmanship winner in heavy voting with 381 members casting votes for 15 candidates. Justin collected no less than 21% of those votes for being nominated in the *Here I Stand* event. As the first alternate for the Final, he was offered a replacement seat by first-time qualifiers Ed and Matt Beach. At least one of the father and son duo was needed to GM their Junior event that conflicted with the Final. Justin, however, insisted that they both play and instead volunteered to run the Junior event himself to enable them to do so. Both events went off without a hitch and with a record number of junior participants putting Justin to the test as he earned his free lodging prize at the next WBC.

Placing second with over 15% of the vote was popular GMT spokesman Andy Lewis whose good intentions backfired when he volunteered to run a teaching game for new players of *Roll For the Galaxy* and did such a good job he managed to lose by a point.



Justin Rice

Shooting oneself in the foot is always a sure fire vote getter.

Garnering third place with nearly 14% of the vote was Gordon Stewart for a decade of maintaining good cheer and a positive attitude despite enduring the daily challenges of navigating the Host's archaic handicap accessibility issues and coming back for more each year.

A couple of WBC regulars of long standing tied for 4th as Gregory Schmittgens and Peter Staab each garnered 9% support. Greg is generally regarded as WBC's most consistent smile machine as well as always being ready to lend a hand teaching games and doubling as a buttons and jerky dispenser. Peter's claim to support this year was that he corrected misplaced markers to his own detriment in *Kremlin* and voluntarily conceded his seat in the *Kanban* Final to a late arriving finalist to earn not one—but two—GM nominations.

Grogard Greg Smith took sixth place with 5.7% of the vote to narrowly edge Fred Bauer and Mark Love for the sand position. He had volunteered to be the odd man out in all five rounds of *War At Sea* to eliminate any need for byes due to an odd number of players.

As always, it was a classy group and we salute all our nominees for being the real attraction in our annual reunion.

Past Winners

- 1992 Chuck Stapp, NJ
- 1993 Tiger Von Pagel, FL
- 1994 Rob Kilroy, PA
- 1995 Ian Lange, AE
- 1996 Jim Matt, MI
- 1997 Ed Connery, NJ
- 1999 Frank Sinigaglio, NJ
- 2000 Robert Sacks, NY
- 2001 Bret Hildebran, OH
- 2002 Kaarin Engelmann, VA
- 2003 James Jordan, MD
- 2004 Steve Okonski, MD
- 2005 Bruno Sinigaglio, AK
- 2006 Phil Barcafer, PA
- 2007 Rebecca Hebner, CO
- 2008 Kaarin Engelmann, VA
- 2009 Mark Yoshikawa, CA
- 2010 John Emery, SC
- 2011 Larry Lingle, PA
- 2012 Peter Eldridge, uk
- 2013 Emily Wu, NY
- 2014 Tom Gregorio, PA





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The Sandmen gather at the Good Spirits Watering Hole.

Sandmen drink to their courage. I thought I had destroyed the negatives.



Grand Marshall Docktor leads the Parade thru the Showroom Euroweenies.

Not even a tree can withstand the Sandman Parade.

