

2014 Results

- ♣ Bill Morse, VA
- ♠ Richard Beyma, VA
- ♣ Forrest Pafenberg, VA
- ♠ Tom Gregorio, PA
- ♠ Ed Witkowski, VA
- ♠ Bob Bassin, MD

♣ Bruno Sinigaglio, AK

† 21 📖 1999-2014



2014 Results

- ♣ Philip Shea, VA
- ♠ Bruce Hodgins, on
- ♠ Wm. Kendrick, uk
- ♠ Tedd Mullally, NJ
- ♠ John Corrado, VA
- ♠ Al Hurda, on

♣ Edward Kendrick, uk

† 33 📖 2010-2014



Bill Morse, VA

Top Laurelists

Tom Gregorio, PA	314
Randy Heller, NH	227
Bruno Sinigaglio, AK	182
Bill Morse, VA	151
Forrest Pafenberg, VA	135
Bob Ryan, MI	128
Phil Evans, fr	94
Steve Likevich, OH	65
Marty Musella, VA	51
Mike Mitchell, GA	42



Philip Shea, VA

Top Laurelists

Bruce Hodgins, on	51
William Kendrick, uk	51
Philip Shea, FL	45
Paul Sampson, OH	42
Daniel Speyer, NY	39
John Corrado, VA	36
Rob Flowers, MD	30
Tom McCorry, VA	18
John Dextraze, on	15
Ed Kendrick, uk	12

Bitter Woods (BWD)



It was the first year of the merged *Bulge* and *Bitter Woods* tournaments. The Germans won 10 of 21 in the 6-turn scenario, and 14 of 24 in the 8-turn scenario. Richard Beyma went 6-0 and Bill Morse 6-2 in the qualifiers with 64 points each. Forrest Pafenberg had 56 and Tom Gregorio 48. Ed Witkowski, Bob Bassin, Bruno Sinigaglio and Marty Musella formed the chase pack. The new Challenge rule made its debut allowing any player in fifth through eighth to challenge a player in first through fourth, at random. The Challenge prevents leaders from ducking opponents at the end of the preliminaries and allows those on the cusp a chance to advance. Ed and Marty challenged. Ed drew Forrest and Marty was paired with Richard. Both lost, but, if either had won, they would have passed Tom and made the playoffs.

Richard's GI's defeated Tom in the 6-turn scenario semifinal. In the other bracket, defending champ Forest was crushed by Bill's Germans in the 8-turn scenario. This paired two veterans in search of their first *BWD* title. The game started late and ended early, with both players sleep deprived at the end. The fatigue of the players after a week's combat was evident, both making terrible blunders, but following with spectacular recoveries. Bill rallied last and was able to garrison Parker's Crossroad, mainly due to the Hackers Gambit, which delayed the Germans on the way to Bastogne long enough to claim his first *BWD* title.

11/12/12
10-5-4

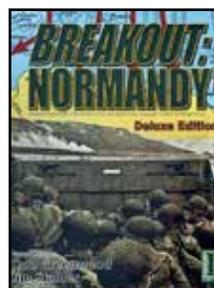
Brass (BRS)

It's not surprising that players discriminating enough to play *Brass* would also be successful in other games requiring planning, forethought, deep strategic thinking and ruthless exploitation. Several qualifiers missed the semifinals to contest other Finals, while others passed up the *Circus Maximus* Final to play *Brass*. It's tough at the top.

Our Final started conventionally and both Philip Shea and Bruce Hodgins wasted six mills while Tedd Mullally built three ironworks and William Kendrick built ports and iron. In the second half of the Canal Phase Tedd and William developed shipyards while Bruce and Philip each laid out three 3-mills, with William pushing out his iron and overbuilding Tedd. At the turn William had a point lead, while Philip trailed by seven points.

However, the early leader often fades in the second half and this game proved no exception. After the usual rail builds William mistimed his turn and allowed Tedd to drop shipyards while the other two each eventually shipped three 4-mills. After some vicious overbuilding, at game end Shea had turned round his position to edge Hodgins by two points to emerge a worthy champion with his fifth *WBC* title.

In this Final the top pair used the mill strategy and were assisted by ports built by other players. Last year the winner countered similar strategies with a broad-brush coal, iron, rail and shipyards mix, but that proved to be no panacea and confirms that there is no single winning strategy in this great game.

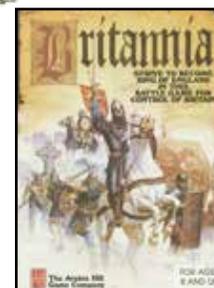


2014 Results

- ♣ K. Hammond, WA
- ♠ Nels Thompson, NY
- ♠ K. Wojtaszczyk, NY
- ♠ Mike Kaye, MD
- ♠ Mark Gutfreund, KY
- ♠ M. Birnbaum, NY

♣ Andrew Cummins, uk

† 27 📖 1994-2014



2014 Results

- ♣ R. Malcomson, MN
- ♠ Rick Kirchner, KY
- ♠ John Henry, on
- ♠ Barry Smith, NY
- ♠ Mark Smith, KY
- ♠ Jim Jordan, MD

♣ James Jordan, MD

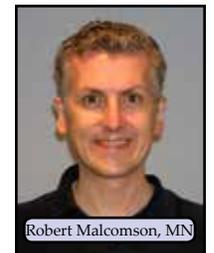
† 35 📖 1991-2014



Kevin Hammond, WA

Top Laurelists

Don Greenwood, MD	388
Nels Thompson, NY	348
Andrew Cummins, uk	316
Michael Kaye, MD	249
Marvin Birnbaum, NY	215
Alan Applebaum, MA	204
Jim Doughan, PA	187
Jim Eliason, IA	185
Mark Gutfreund, KY	175
Bryan Eshleman, NC	169



Robert Malcomson, MN

Top Laurelists

Ewan McNay, CT	353
James Jordan, MD	200
Nick Benedict, PA	200
Barry Smith, NY	129
Randy Schilb, MO	120
Rick Kirchner, KY	108
Mark Smith, KY	90
Scott Pfeiffer, SC	83
David Gantt, SC	70
Richard Curtin, NY	64

Breakout: Normandy (BKN)

Only six of 32 games saw bidding in double figures. In fact, 21 games saw no bid at all. The highest bids were by Kevin Hammond, twice giving 30 supplies to the Allies for command of his preferred Germans. The overall result was 20 German victories with the Allies faring better in the early rounds and the Germans taking six of seven in the medal games.

Hammond played the Germans throughout, bidding high for the privilege. It took 31—a high bid indeed in the L2 version—to secure the German command in the Final against four-time champ Nels Thompson.

Nels tried unsuccessfully for a spectacular early knockout against Caen with a successful airstrike followed by a failed 7-7 armored assault from Juno. Allied progress was soon hampered by weather changes and poor bombardments. Omaha developed well but the points weren't adding up to an Allied victory. At the end of the 9th, Nels double-impulsed through Troan and into Mezidon generating simultaneous threats to Caen and a breakout in Zone A. Kevin expertly defended during regroup, falling back from Houlgate into Zone A while packing Caen with forces at the start of the 10th as the British contested Bourguebus. The 11th saw Caen cut off but the defense was so strong that neither



Allied bombardments nor isolation rolls sufficed to hamper the defense. A German counterattack on the 12th to clear Bourguebus and relieve Caen secured Kevin's second *BKN* crown.

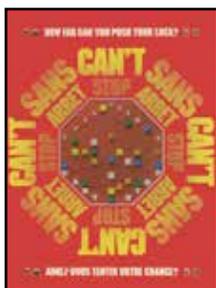
Britannia (BRI)

The usual balance of winning colors was maintained during the heats. We had four wins each for Blue and Red and three apiece for Yellow and Green. The preliminary high scores started out with a roar with Blue and Yellow high bars being set on Monday. Barry Smith racked up a Blue 243 while newcomer Robert Malcomson put together a huge Yellow 259. In the second heat, Ewan McNay pulled out a massive Red 297 points, easily grabbing the high score there. Then, in the third heat, Rick Kirchner pulled off a 255 Green score, easily eclipsing the hefty, but not enough 240 score by Chris Trimmer in the second heat. My favorite Ethelraed the Unraedy award was a tie this year! Both Barry Smith and John Henry claimed the honors with 191 points.

11 winners and a 12th alternate manned the semifinals with Ewan McNay, Robert Malcomson and Barry Smith emerging triumphant. However, Ewan declined his opportunity for his sixth *BRI* title in favor of a *RRY* Final, so two alternates joined the remaining victors at the Final.

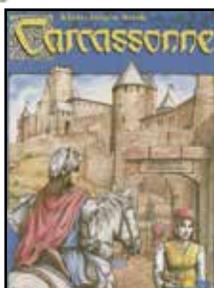
Barry Smith drew Yellow, Rick Kirchner Green, Robert Malcomson Red, and John Henry Blue. In the end, only 10 points separated first and fourth in a low scoring affair. Barry's Yellow's took fourth with 194, John's Blues were third with 196, Rick's Green's ended with 202, and Robert's Reds won the game with 204 to become the fourth winner of the *Britannia* sword.





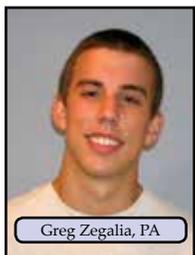
2014 Results

♣ Greg Zegalia, PA
 ♠ Tim Packwood, DE
 ♣ Chris Long, PA
 ♠ Andy Latto, MA
 ♠ Trella Bromley, FL
 ♠ Richard Meyer, MA
 ♣ Rebecca Hebner, DC
 † 229 📖 2006-2014



2014 Results

♣ Norman Rule, MD
 ♠ Joe Millovich, PA
 ♠ Chad Martin, PA
 ♠ Jon Gemmel, MD
 ♠ Chris Kreuter, NY
 ♠ Thomas Strock, PA
 ♣ Jennifer Visocnik, IL
 † 166 📖 2002-2014



Greg Zegalia, PA

Top Laurelists

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
David Burkey, PA	20



Norman Rule, MD

Top Laurelists

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

Can't Stop (CNS)

In 76 games fate will pick its favorites somewhere along the way and Carmen Petruzzelli (8's & 9's), Andy Latto (4's & 10's) and James Kramer (6's & 12's) were all blessed at one point by closing out two columns on their last turn. Brett Fox fared even better by closing three columns (5's, 6's and 7's) in a single turn. But one game does not a champion make.

The Final was tense with Chris Long, Andy Latto, Tim Packwood, and Greg Zegalia all seeking the shield. The first three started well by closing a column each (11's, 6's, and 2's respectively). In response, Greg, who had yet to join the capped-column-club, said, "You're going to close out two, then you're going to close two, and then I'm going to win."

Chris took the lead by cashing the 8's before Greg got on the scoreboard by capping the 3's. With five columns closed, it became a longer slog up the columns. Eventually, Tim closed his second column with the 5's, much to the chagrin of Chris who, after advancing from a semifinal table where he needed four or more turns to roll a single 11 to advance, had three shots to roll a 5 for the win, but couldn't close the deal. With two players a single column away from paydirt, Greg, in true *Can't Stop* fashion, methodically advanced the 7's and 9's to cap both, sealing victory over his more cautious opponents. Self-fulfilling prophecy or just good luck?

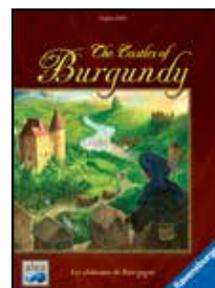


Carcassonne (CAR)

Several changes were made to the format in 2014, not the least of which was the addition of a 4th qualifying heat. In combination with a 7% increase in the size of the field to a record high of 166 players, the number of qualifying games played increased by 40.4%. In addition, a new point structure was introduced to encourage multiple plays and discourage 5-player games by the addition of a point for those bringing their own game. This succeeded in eliminating the eight 5-player games required due to game shortages in 2013. The addition of tournament points served as a tiebreaker for advancement purposes. Since only three of the 16 eventual semifinalists had less than two wins, players who wish to advance had best have at least two wins. If there is room in the semifinal for players with only one win, they will need to play multiple heats to increase their tournament points to qualify for the semifinals.

Norman Rule was the top qualifier with three wins and a 2nd in four preliminary heats. His hot hand continued throughout. He went on to win his semifinal by 17 points and the Final by 22.

Also posting three wins in the qualifying heats were John Gemmel, Chris Kreuter, and Thomas Strock. Each went on to earn laurels. Of the six players who logged more than one win last year, only Kreuter and Joe Millovich were able to repeat that feat in 2014.



2014 Results

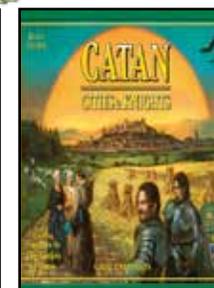
♣ Keith Dent, NY
 ♠ Robert St Pierre, PA
 ♠ Dominic Blais, qc
 ♠ Nick Vayn, PA
 ♠ Antony Saccenti, MD
 ♠ Anni Foasberg, NY
 ♣ Barb Flaxington, NJ
 † 53 📖 2013-2014



Keith Dent, NY

Top Laurelists

Keith Dent, NY	30
Jay Boring, MD	30
Robert St. Pierre, PA	18
Ted Simmons, IL	18
Dominic Blais, qc	12
Mikko Raimi, fi	12
Nick Vayn, PA	9
Andrew Norgren, NY	9
Antony Saccenti, MD	6
Randy Buehler, WA	6



2014 Results

♣ Alistair Thach, TN
 ♠ Janet Ottey, PA
 ♠ Kate Fractal, MA
 ♠ John Gitzen II, NY
 ♠ Winton Lemoine, NV
 ♠ Tim Tu, NJ
 ♣ Chris Gnech, PA
 † 46 📖 2013-2014



Alistair Thach, TN

Top Laurelists

Alistair Thach, TN	30
Rich Shipley, MD	30
Janet Ottey, PA	24
Colin Crook, PA	18
Kate Fractal, MA	12
Josh Lanham, MD	12
John Gitzen II, NY	9
Matt Leader, MA	9
Winton Lemoine, NV	6
Tim Tu, NJ	3

Castles of Burgundy (COB)

The high winning scores in the preliminary rounds ranged from a high of 275 (by the ultimate champion) to a low of 218 points. In the 12 games played with the standard boards, the same trend was noticed in starting player order differential, with Seat 2 again seeming to be the most advantageous (winning 41.2% of the time, in contrast to 16.7% for Seat 1, 16.7% Seat 3, and 25% Seat 4). The sample size still remains too small for any definitive conclusions.

The Final was close and the lead changed hands frequently during the earlier rounds with no clear victor until the end. Robert St. Pierre took an early lead by closing three areas in the first round. Keith Dent made a big comeback (from 86-151 points) in the fourth round by completing an eight-building area. This accomplishment was even more impressive given that he did not possess the tile allowing duplicate buildings in the same area. Unfortunately for Nick Vayn, in the last round Keith also took the one tile available that Nick needed to legally complete a six-building area. Player order was important throughout, particularly to collect specific tiles and bonuses. Silverlings were readily spent to obtain additional tiles. Dominic Blais scored the most bonus points at the end (37 compared to 24 by Keith and 16 by



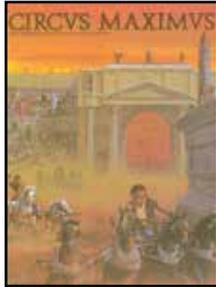
Nick and Robert), but not enough to close the gap. Keith won his first WBC title with 216, followed by Robert at 206, with Dominic and Nick tied at 204.

Catan: Cities & Knights (C&K)

The finalists in our second year were Kate Fractal, Janet Ottey, John Gitzen, and Alistair Thach. Both Kate and Alistair started with paper heavy strategies, placing their cities on a double lumber intersection. Consequently, Kate did not produce wheat and Alistair had no ore. Kate was able to build an active knight before the first barbarian attack. Alistair was not, but was saved by Janet's double knight (gaining a Defender of Catan card for her efforts). Kate was able to build to the aqueduct ("gold") early, thereby gaining wheat to manage the knights. Alistair remained blocked from the ore hexes, but the others had plenty to spare and were willing to trade, even favorably. At this point, Janet enjoyed a 5-4 lead over the field.

Alistair and John built the Aqueduct shortly thereafter. With the Aqueduct, Alistair was able to build more cities, and with the paper production still rolling in, claimed the green metropolis. At this point, the game appeared to be a blowout with Alistair at ten VPs, and his closest opponent three behind. Janet still had very good resource production and was able to build a settlement and a city in the same turn to tie Alistair at ten VPs. The next turn she actually went ahead with the help of two mining progress cards. However, Alistair's cloth production and some extra paper to trade 2:1 (with the cloth special), enabled him to claim a metropolis for the winning total and his first WBC title.

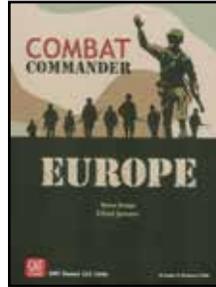




2014 Results

🏆 Josh Githens, SC
 🏆 Nora Tuke, DE
 🏆 Robert Voisin, NY
 🏆 Jennifer Brown, DE
 🏆 Tony Musella, VA
 🏆 Vincent Sinigaglio, NJ
 🏆 John Jacoby, VA

† 68 📖 1991-2014



2014 Results

🏆 Peter Gurneau, WI
 🏆 Jordan Kehrer, PA
 🏆 J.R. Tracy, NY
 🏆 Michael Redman, MN
 🏆 Mike Gentile, PA
 🏆 Phil Walling, VA
 🏆 Bryan Collars, SC

† 40 📖 2007-2014



Josh Githens, SC

Top Laurelists

Josh Githens, SC	313
Frank Sinigaglio, NJ	152
Steve Katz, VA	144
Anthony Musella, VA	127
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



Peter Gurneau, WI

Top Laurelists

Bob Heinzmann, FL	165
Peter Gurneau, WI	162
Bryan Collars, SC	72
J. R. Tracy, NY	69
Michael Johnson, MA	52
Bob Jamelli, PA	48
Chris Byrd, CT	42
Jordan Kehrer, PA	40
Mike Galandiuk, OH	40
Tony Raimo, OH	30

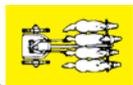
Circus Maximus (CMS)

Colosseum traffic was much lighter this year. Gone were the 17 finalists that clogged the 2013 track in a seven-hour endurance test. A heat was dropped to limit the field and it worked all too well as the event drew its smallest numbers in two decades. With only ten races offered, the field was further cut when three qualifiers failed to appear.

The finalists arrived in a less bellicose assortment than the norm with three heavy, two medium and two light chariots. The drivers were also less experienced. Only Josh Githens had ridden to victory in the big circus previously. He brought a light chariot, correctly predicting it would be a kinder and gentler race.

Only two horses would be destroyed. In such a relatively bloodless environment it was the former champion's day. In a spectacular show of both skill and ineptitude, Josh lashed a driver already against the wall after coming out of the 8 lane. The driver resignedly backed his chariot into the curve at a speed of 15 over the limit. As the multitude held its collective breath awaiting the carnage sure to come, the dice tumbled to a stop causing only one point of damage. The anticipated blood lust was replaced by disappointed jeers at the unlikely escape. Josh nevertheless got the best revenge

on Turn 17 when he crossed the finish line a full turn ahead of his closest pursuer for his third CMS title.



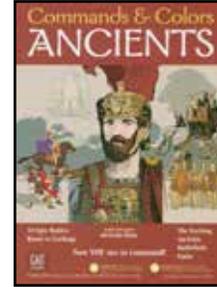
Combat Commander (CBC)

The Great Campaign continued with scenarios for 1941 as the action shifted to the Mediterranean and the opening stages of Operation Barbarossa. We again played four qualifying rounds to advance four to single elimination.

The swiss rounds were played in succession with most entrants playing three or more games. The scenarios, in the order played, were *Operation Mercury* (Germans vs British); *Barbarossa Unleashed* (Soviets vs Germans); *Operation Compass* (British vs Italians); and *Defend in Place* (Germans vs Soviets). All rounds were played with new scenarios crafted and introduced at this year's WBC. Each of the scenarios played equally well and finished within the established time limits. For the first time there was no need for adjudication.

Perennial laurelist, JR Tracy, was the top seed, followed by Jordan Kehrer, newcomer Michael Redman and defending champion, Peter Gurneau. In the semifinals, JR faced off against Peter and Jordan took the chair opposite Michael. The scenario was *Operation Compass II* featuring Germans attacking the British. Jordan dispatched Michael to advance to his first CBC Final while in the other bracket Peter advanced to defend his title yet again.

As in previous years, the lower seeded finalist, Peter, selected a scenario from the five played and the higher seed chose his side. Peter opted to return to *Operation Mercury* where Jordan chose to play the defending Brits. After a tense game that saw three sudden death rolls, Peter emerged victorious for his third straight title.



2014 Results

🏆 Joe Harrison, KY
 🏆 Bill O'Neal, NY
 🏆 Derek Landel, NJ
 🏆 Matt Bacho, MD
 🏆 Jack Morrell, NY
 🏆 Carl Moon, NY
 🏆 Andy Lewis, DE

† 37 📖 2006-2014



2014 Results

🏆 Jeff Pattison, MD
 🏆 Joel Tamburo, IL
 🏆 Jonathan Squibb, PA
 🏆 Jessa Burdett, NY
 🏆 Mark Davis, MI
 🏆 James Doughan, PA
 🏆 Joel Tamburo, IL

† 20 📖 2013-2014



Joe Harrison, KY

Top Laurelists

Bill O'Neal, NY	171
Allen Kaplan, NJ	68
Jack Morrell, NY	58
Tony Curtis, OK	58
Chad Mekash, NJ	56
Brian Conlon, CT	54
Rick Young, NC	42
Joe Harrison, KY	30
John Kirk, PA	24
Terry Cotter, CT	24



Jeff Pattison, MD

Top Laurelists

Joel Tamburo, IL	36
Jeff Pattison, MD	30
Andrew Ruhnke, VA	30
Jonathan Squibb, PA	21
Jessa Burdett, NY	15
Jeff Burdett, NY	12
Mark Davis, MI	6
James Doughan, PA	3
Scott de Brestian, MI	3

Commands & Colors Ancients (CCA)

The first round used the pod system of 4-player groups with round robin play in the *Bagradas* scenario. The best record in each group advanced automatically and the best runners-up filled the remainder of the 16 available slots. Side selection was handled by bidding victory banners. Carthage held a miniscule advantage 26-25-1. The second round was again contested in pods with the battle of *Castulo*. This time, only the winner of each pod would advance to the semis. Rome won overall 15-8-1.

The semifinals were conducted as 2-game match play, playing both sides against the same opponent. The battle was *Bagradas River* from the third expansion. In the first pairing, defending champion Bill O'Neal faced Derek Landel. Derek took the first game 5-3 as the Romans, but Bill also won as the Romans by a 5-1 margin to advance on total banners 8-6. In the other bracket, Matt Bacho faced Joe Harrison with neither having a laurel to his name—yet. Joe won both games by a 10-4 margin to advance easily.

The Final was contested at *Sotium* from the second expansion. Three-time champ Bill O'Neal had missed laurels just once in nine years. It looked like a David vs Goliath mismatch. And it was ...Goliath never knew what hit him. Bill lost with the Romans 6-3 in the first game. The advantage was now David's as they switched sides. Joe tied the second game 4-4, and a new CCA champion was borne.



Counter-Insurgency Series (CIS)

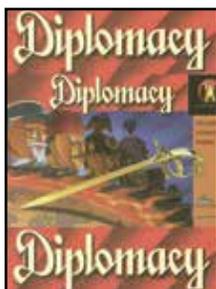


After a successful launch with *Andean Abyss*, 2014 featured an expanded menu of options for the COIN series. The two qualifying heats used *Cuba Libre*, the shortest game. All told, 20 players manned six games. The Syndicate and M-26 (Castro) each won once while the Directorate (Students) and Government each prevailed twice.

The Final used the "short" game of *A Distant Plain*. Jessa Burdett and Jonathan Squibb as the Taliban and Warlords were on the receiving end of what can happen when the Government (Jeff Pattison) and Coalition (Joel Tamburo) players are in sync. Even so, the game literally came down to one card. The last Propaganda card ending the game was drawn earlier than usual. The Coalition had gambled unsuccessfully on one more card play to pull his troops out for the win. The only player who could alter the result now was the Taliban.

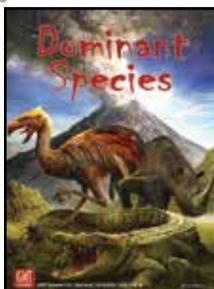
Jessa had the proverbial "bird in the hand versus two in the bush" situation. She could either take a move that was guaranteed to gain a point or risk an attack in Kandahar worth potentially more. What no one realized at the time was that had she successfully attacked, the entire order of finish would have changed, resulting in her victory. Not being aware of this at the time, she took the safe point. Jeff Pattison's Government was the beneficiary of this declined option as he earned his first WBC title.





2014 Results

♣ D. Rynkowski, NY
 ♠ Jay Boring, MD
 ♢ Adam Sigal, MD
 ♠ Rex Martin, PA
 ♠ A. Sherwood, PA
 ♠ Bill Riggs, VA
 ♣ Thomas Haver, OH
 † 24 📖 91-04, 06-08, 12-14



2014 Results

♣ August Thiesing, NJ
 ♠ Kevin Emery, SC
 ♢ Robb Effinger, on
 ♠ Tom McCorry, VA
 ♠ John Emery, SC
 ♠ Dennis Mishler, TX
 ♣ Dave Long, NC
 † 24 📖 2011-2014



Top Laurelists

Nick Benedict, CA	115
Andy Marshall, MD	96
Tom Pasko, CT	76
David Rynkowski, NY	60
Andy Bartalone, MD	60
Alvaro Ugaz, VA	60
Simon Bouton, uk	60
Nick Palmer, uk	56
Rick Desper, MD	56
Tom Kobrin, NC	48



Top Laurelists

Kevin Emery, SC	67
Robb Effinger, NJ	54
James Geronimo, NJ	43
Tom McCorry, VA	41
Dennis Mishler, GA	33
August Thiesing, NJ	30
David Buchholz, MI	16
John Emery, SC	12
Geoffrey Entwistle, MD	12
Lane Hess, PA	12

Diplomacy (DIP)

Going into the third and final round, Jay Boring held the lead with two tied board tops. However, numerous players with solid scores in the opening rounds still had hopes of overcoming his lead. Round 3 is where the full "meta" kicks in, as players know exactly what they need to win, or at least grab a coveted Best Country award. Board 1 ended up being a slog with shifting alliances because we had a few new players. Adam Sigal's Turkey topped the board with eight centers after a back-and-forth affair. The true challenge was on Board 2 where three players were hotly engaged. Russia and Austria opened against Turkey at the same time England and Germany jumped France. Both alliances held until the victims were dismissed. Once clear of the chaff, the A-T began a deliberate push west into Germany and Italy. Once again, it was defending champ David Rynkowski as Russia who managed to make significant late gains. Time was called as Germany was pushed to the brink of destruction, and Russia stood alone at board top with 13 centers. His second board top netted David just enough points to best Jay for the title and in so doing he became the only back-to-back champ in the history of the event.

The Best Country Awards went to: Carter Su and Jay Boring (Austria), David Rynkowski and Adam Sigal (England), Christian Pedone (France), Matt Calkins and Bill Riggs (Germany), Rex Martin (Italy & Turkey), and David Rynkowski (Russia).



Dominant Species (DSP)

24 contestants, a steep decline from prior years, continued to display a fine grasp of survival despite the global cooling in the Ballroom. Eight games were played in three heats. The father-son duo of John and Kevin Emery won twice and when Dennis Mishler declined to advance, the five remaining qualifiers advanced directly to a Final.

John Emery bid 7 for the insects, Tom McCorry 6 for the amphibians, Kevin Emery and Augie Thiesing both bid 3 for the arachnids and reptiles, leaving Robb Effinger the mammals and birds, leaving Robb Effinger the mammals and birds for free. Robb jumped out to a quick lead with nine points, with Augie riding the survival card for eight. Turn 3 was the turn of Speciation, as both Fertile and Fecund were scored. John rode a massive wave of bugs to a 2-point lead over Robb, helped immensely by a 10-point survival play, with Tom's amphibians pulling into third. Kevin got into the action on Turn 4, with a double wanderlust to net 13 points, moving him within a point of Tom's amphibians.

The last turn saw Kevin and Augie's decision to play the long game borne out. Kevin scored 45 points in Ice Age scoring with Augie netting 15. The others totaled only 13 points between them. Augie's adaptive arachnids had managed to spread out, and his Final scoring barely managed to offset Kevin's huge Ice Age tally. After Final Scoring and subtraction of bids, Augie had 126 to claim the title ahead of Kevin 122, Robb 117, Tom 105, and John 98.



2014 Results

♣ Mark Giddings, NY
 ♠ Duncan McGregor, on
 ♢ Conal Jaeger, VA
 ♠ Chad Weaver, PA
 ♠ Tim Tu, NJ
 ♠ Thomas Tu, NJ
 ♣ Nick Ferris, MD
 † 108 📖 2009-2014



Top Laurelists

Arthur Field, SC	90
Chad Weaver, PA	60
Mark Giddings, NY	56
Sceaudeau D'Tela, NC	52
Haim Hochboim, il	50
Brandon Bernard, PA	40
Randy Buehler, WA	40
Edward Fu, NY	40
Rob Renaud, NY	38
Edward Fear, NY	30



2014 Results

♣ Bill Dyer, IL
 ♠ Lee Proctor, IL
 ♢ Wray Ferrell, NC
 ♠ Jake Dyer, IL
 ♠ Jean-F. Gagne, qc
 ♠ Liam Dyer, IL
 ♣ Brad Johnson, IL
 † 32 📖 1992-2014



Top Laurelists

Bill Dyer, IL	228
Glenn McMaster, on	115
Phil Barcafer, PA	93
Joe Abrams, CT	70
Steve Koehler, NC	70
Jean-Francois Gagne, qc	63
Lee Proctor, IL	60
Joe Harrison, KY	58
Wray Ferrell, NC	53
Jacob Dyer, IL	52

Dominion (DOM)

The *Dominion* preliminaries introduced a new twist, with every player having the chance, nay obligation, to veto one of the 14 Kingdom Cards selected for each of two games. Chapels were a popular veto, but many tables saw split victories and few sweeps, bringing a field of 64 to the quarterfinals. Day 2 featured two games centered around the Bishop card and his Victory chips, but few players who did poorly in Game 1 could recover in the subsequent match, resulting in a field of 15 semifinalists who finished either flawlessly or one-two (Mark Giddings was the sole first-and-third player to qualify).

With the return of *Cornucopia* and *Hinterlands* cards as well as the introduction of *Dark Ages* cards in the semifinals, players familiar with the newer sets may have had a slight advantage. Just missing the Final table were the Tu brothers--Tim finishing fifth and Thomas sixth.

In the Final, more *Dark Ages* gave Giddings a decisive victory in Game 1 with Duncan McGregor placing second. In both games, Conal Jaeger favored Treasure-heavy decks but could not translate either set into a victory. Chad Weaver, a frequent face in the *Dominion* Top Six, faltered in the first game and tried to capitalize on Game 2's Black Market and King's Court, to no avail. Giddings dished out Curses like crazy in Game 2, giving him



four straight wins in the tournament's last four games and the overall victory after barely making it out of the quarterfinals as the 16th seed.

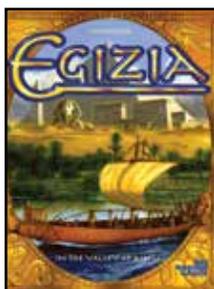
Dune (DUN)

After a 4-year absence, House Harkonnen returned to the top with a 54% win rate. 11 of the 12 qualifying games ended with a 2-player alliance win. The other game was a BG prediction victory, surprisingly timed at a fairly early Turn 5. There were no Guild or Fremem default victories this year, which probably contributed to the overall decrease in game duration, but it's certainly possible that one or more of the three adjudicated games may have ended in stalemate if permitted to continue to the bitter end.

Best Faction plaques were awarded to Michael Powers for best Atreides; Wray Ferrell, best BG; Jake Dyer, best Emperor; Adam Sigal, best Fremem; Bill Dyer, best Guild; and Matt Fagan, best Harkonnen.

2010 champion Jean-Francois Gagne advanced with the only solo victory, along with Wray Ferrell, the only 3-game winner. Liam Dyer, Ty Hansen, and Lee Proctor also advanced with two wins each. 2012 Champion Jake Dyer claimed the last seat. Unfortunately, Ty declined to advance, and it fell to the third alternate, defending champion Bill Dyer, to take the remaining seat at the table. This not only gave a 3-time former champion a second life, but also put three Dyers into the 2014 Final. Of course, the patron saint of Second Chances immediately took notice! When the spice settled, the Guild held three strongholds with a mere eight tokens, with his Harkonnen ally in the fourth, giving Bill Dyer his fourth *Dune* title!



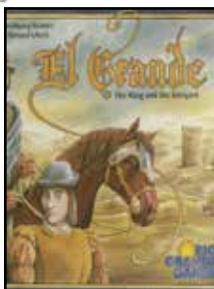


2014 Results

♣ Cary Morris, NC
♠ Kyle Smith, PA
♣ Keith Dent, KY
♣ Elaine Pearson, NC
♣ Steven LeWinter, NC
♣ Dominic Blais, qc

♣ Andrew Emerick, CT

† 58 📖 2011-2014



2014 Results

♣ Alex Bove, PA
♠ Greg Thatcher, CA
♣ Yoel Weiss, NJ
♣ Robb Effinger, on
♣ David Buchholz, MI
♣ Geoff Pounder, on

♣ Rob Flowers, MD

† 70 📖 1999-2014



Cary Morris, NC

Top Laurelists

Andrew Emerick, CT	56
Randy Buehler, WA	50
Sceadeau D'Tela, NC	42
Cary Morris, NC	34
Sam Schell, NC	30
Kyle Smith, PA	24
Elaine Pearson, NC	18
Robert Murray, NJ	18
Robert Kircher, RI	14
Keith Dent, NY	14



Alex Bove, PA

Top Laurelists

Rob Flowers, MD	109
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
Charlie Kersten, OH	40
Mark Guttang, VA	40

EGZIA (EGZ)

Four double winners in the preliminaries, Randy Beuhler, Cary Morris, Kyle Smith, and Andrew Emerick, allowed any winner to qualify for the semis without fear of first heat tiebreakers. The four double winners were seeded for the semifinals, but only two advanced—Morris and Smith. Two-time Caesar Randy Beuhler was bested by WBC newcomer Keith Dent while defending champion Andrew Emerick was eliminated by Elaine Pearson, just as she had done in the semifinals two years ago.

Keith drew the coveted first seat in the Final, followed by Cary, Kyle, and Elaine. The first round featured a relatively weak set of cards. Consequently, the trip down the river was slower than usual, with Cary, Kyle, and Elaine all stopping at the Sphinx. Predictably, the second round card row was rich. Cary, Kyle and Elaine all boosted their stone production this round, while Keith elected to slowboat, picking up both a green and yellow food card, a spot at the Sphinx, and several crew strength.

In final scoring Cary flipped a solid stack of scoring cards, picking up six from four bricks in the columns, seven for three people at the end of the grain track, four for finishing the grain track, seven for finishing both tracks, eight for having the most brown fields, plus two for graves and three for unused stones, giving him 99 points. Thus, Cary won, and the three-way logjam at 86 for the remaining places was broken by the order they arrived.

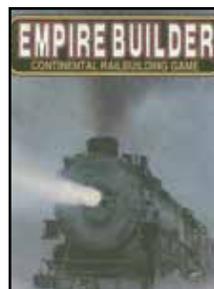


El Grande (ELG)

20 preliminary games yielded no double winners but Greg Thatcher won three, including one of 150 points. The Jay's Basement crowd was well represented, while the GM and his assistants barely made the cut. With the number of games played, ties are not uncommon. Usually, the first two tiebreakers suffice. However, this year, a battle went to the third tiebreaker (highest unused power card). Fortunately for Tim Mossman, he had his 13 left while Geoff Pounder could muster only a 12.

The semifinals produced tense games. In the closest, Greg Thatcher edged Geoff Pounder on a tiebreaker to win his fourth straight, thereby relegating Geoff to sixth place.

The Final featured previous champions Thatcher and Robb Effinger, plus a pair of runners-up: David Buchholz and Yoel Weiss. Alex Bove, a newcomer to *ELG* laurels, occupied the fifth seat. The game started with one of the few cards that can dramatically change the outset: *Decay of Authority*. Dave, bidding last, was first player with a 6 and executed the card, sending home seven cabs from each player. He also set up a *Score the Least* card that Yoel then used to score all the current regions and propel both of them to a decent lead. A complete account is on the website, but Alex's relative inexperience proved no impediment to a narrow 2-point win for his first *ELG* title and tenth overall. Greg and Yoel tied for second at 106, while Robb and Dave finished with 103 and 101 respectively.



2014 Results

♣ Dave Steiner, IN
♠ Norm Newton, on
♣ Bob Stribula, PA
♠ Mike Holmquist, PA
♠ Trella Bromley, FL
♠ Ken Gutermuth, NC

♣ Bob Stribula, PA

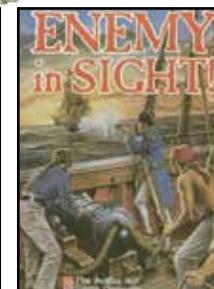
† 62 📖 1999-2014



Dave Steiner, IN

Top Laurelists

Richard Meyer, MA	218
Dave Steiner, IN	151
Eric Brosius, MA	125
Harald Henning, CT	115
Jim Yerkey, MD	110
Tom Dunning, NY	97
Ken Gutermuth, NC	89
Debbie Gutermuth, NC	84
Mark Kennel, DE	84
Tedd Mullally, NJ	79



2014 Results

♣ Rob Kilroy, PA
♠ Bill Peeck, NY
♠ Mike Dwyer, FL
♣ Wm. Kendrick, uk
♣ Joseph Burch, MD
♣ Steve Squibb, PA

♣ Matt Evinger, PA

† 37 📖 1991-2014



Rob Kilroy, PA

Top Laurelists

Gordon Rodgers, PA	96
Matt Evinger, PA	78
Rob Kilroy, PA	66
Bill Peeck, NY	65
Tim Hitchings, DE	63
Mike Sincavage, VA	48
Evan Hitchings, DE	47
Blair Morgen, NJ	36
Mike Mitchell, GA	36
Robert Eastman, NV	33

Empire Builder (EPB)

Bill Peeck ably demoted our old classic to six newcomers. 30 preliminary games followed in three heats. Bob Stribula won three while Mark Kennel and Richard Curtin each triumphed twice to receive the highest seeds. With two missing qualifiers, one alternate also advanced to make 25 semifinalists competing on five *Empire Builder* maps. The closest runner-up was awarded 6th place—thereby earning Ken Gutermuth his fez.

Two of the *Euro Rails* finalists were returnees: the repeating Trella Bromley and Dave Steiner—a veteran of four previous Finals. Dave drew first, from Paris to Bilbao. Norm Newton paralleled him to Valencia. Mike Holmquist built from the UK to Marseille. Bob Stribula built from London to München. Trella linked Porto and Toulouse. She added track from Bruxelles to Szczecin but left a large gap. Notice how three players immediately established track to Iberia, the map's most lucrative region. Mike later joined them. As five tracks spread throughout Europe, Dave and Trella stayed on the continent. At game's end, Bob had built the least track, from Aberdeen to Napoli. Mike had by far the most, Porto to Beograd including the Chunnel to net the most rent. Trella pitched most often. Dave and Norm shuttled back and forth to Iberia. However, Dave speculated well on cork; drawing the cork to Leipzig for €52M card, he quickly made his 13th delivery to total €261M cash. That clinched the victory. Norm made 15 deliveries for €173M, Bob 16 for €121M, Mike ten for €114M, and Trella nine for €109M.



Enemy in Sight (EIS)

Two of eight qualifiers declined to advance—doubtlessly already on the road. The Sunday finale has always made this a local extravaganza. *EIS* was the last event firing and turned out the lights on 2014. Five of the six finalists qualified in their first heat; only Rob Kilroy needing a second attempt.

The opening hand distributed points fairly evenly with only a 29-point spread. In the second hand, the action grew heavier with a couple strong, but failed, attempts to end the game. Rob, Bill Peeck and Mike Dwyer all brought prizes back to port. William Kendrick scored 43 points, but his combined total of 67 left him 14 behind Rob and 24 behind Mike's 91.

So we went to a third hand and it did not disappoint. Five of the next six boarding attempts were repelled despite +3 on the dice. After several more rounds of carnage, Bill boarded the last ship in Rob's line, but Rob was saved the 15-point penalty for loss of his fleet by a *Refuse Battle* card. Bad luck continued to plague Steve Squibb who finished last. Joe Burch could only garner 14 more points for 61 and fifth place. William added 33 to reach 100 but was only the fourth to do so. Mike lost his lead but edged William by a point. Bill's 60-point hand gave him 110 for the day and second place. Rob's second chance qualification paid off with 45 for the last hand to give him 126 and the win.

