~ Go Flank Yourself ~

Justin Rice, VA
Here I Stand • 9

Rob Doane, MD
Battles of the Am Rev • 8

Dave Cross, VA
Conquest of Paradise • 2

Brad Merrill, ME
Wilderness War • 0

Go Flank Yourself, ranked 50th in the 84-team field, edged perennial favorite *Nest of Spies* by a single point to take the 20th Run for the Slivers in the 2011 WBC Team Tournament. The 150-1 longshot scored three bonus points in the WBC handicapping system for scoring in events which they had not won previously as Justin Rice and Rob Doane were rewarded for their first titles in *Here I Stand* and *Battles of the American Revolution* respectively while Dave Cross also picked up a bonus point for his third place finish in *Conquest of Paradise*. *The Nest*, in contrast was ineligible for bonus points from its three scorers who had combined for 17 titles in their respective team events as the prohibitive favorite settled for also-ran status for the fourth year in a row.

The colorfully named *Amish Chicks Dig Wood* overcame 83-1 odds to take third—a mere point behind the *Nest*, and 31 places above its 34th ranking—fueled by the *CCA* and *WOG* titles of Bill O'Neal and Rob Winslow respectively. That put them one point ahead of the *MIT Strategic Gaming Society* whose lock on the two *Titan* events remained firmly controlled by Dave Finberg and Aaron Fuegi. The 5th place *Shockers* and 8th place *Band of Fools* were the only teams able to score points with all four members.

The year's biggest over-achievers were the 62nd-ranked *Team Looking Glass* who eschewed recruiting ringers and fielded a strictly famiiy squad to overcome 264-1 odds to finish in the Top Ten. Also thumbing their noses at the Happy Handicapper were the ladies of the aptly named *Lady Luck* whose estrogen ignored 340-1 odds to finish 19th.

With a substantially smaller field, shutouts decreased to 28, but remained steady at approximately a third of all entries. The highest ranked squad to post nothing but goose eggs and thereby earn the 2011 title for Most Overrated was the 21st ranked *Gang Green*. However, the second-ranked *Win or You're Grounded* squad was the highest ranked team to fall out of the Top 25—and it did so while scoring one measly point. So much for "manly men".

The *Werewolf Bait* team retained the Misery Loves Company title with 506 entrants for an average of 126.5 entrants per event while scoring 5 points. On the opposite end of the scale, claiming the Big Fish in the Small Pond title with but 3 points were the *Gaming Speed Bumps* whose 97 total entrants averaged just 24.25 players per event. In all, 22 Team participants (6.5%) won their selected events—down from 38 (9%) in 2009 and 33 (8%) in 2010.

Predicting all of this doesn't appear to be so easy after all. Overall, the Happy Handicapper held steady with 14 of his top 25 picks making the Top 25 cut—the same as last year—and keeping his five-year average at 56% which is apparently more than any of the rest of us can say. On average, contestants in our Team Tournament prediction contest correctly picked only 2.44 teams in ten guesses as making the Top Ten—down from 2.66 last year. Mark Love's 2009 winning score of six correct guesses in our initial contest remains the high water mark as this year's high score was just five teams—selected by Bruno Wolff who was the only entrant to manage 50% accuracy in 2011. Bruno correctly selected #2 *Nest of Spies* (as did every other entrant), #4 *MIT Strategic Gaming Society*, #8 *Band of Fools*, #6 *Central Florida Gamers* and #9 *Tell Me the Odds* in that order. Bruno won a free 2012 membership for winning our Third Annual Bracket Busting Contest. Read our pre-convention email newsletter in July to try your hand in our next Bracket Buster.

EURO QUEST

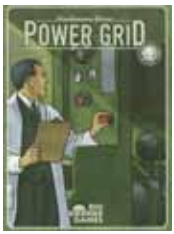
41

Ben Scholl • PA

EURO QUEST

54

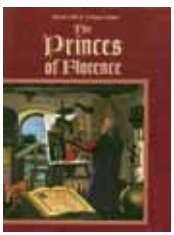
Haim Hochboim • is



EURO QUEST

57

Daniel Eppolito • CA



EURO QUEST

34

Aran Warszawski • is

EURO QUEST

58

Ben Scholl • PA

Convention Directors John Weber and Norman Rule are to be congratulated for the best Euroquest conference run to date. Euroquest 2012 set a host of records during its continuing evolution with several new faces gaining momentum and attention in the quest for BPA laurels. An attendance of 340 was a 10% increase over our initial year at the Pikesville Hilton and meant that the convention has now more than doubled in size since its inaugural edition in 2003 and has us once again searching for additional space options. This year's event had a truly international flavor, as attendees representing four different continents, from as far away as Australia, Israel and Rumania, converged at the Hilton Pikesville near Baltimore for four days of fun and competitive gaming. This year's program was jam-packed with tournaments, new game demos and a variety of other activities in a welcoming environment. Tournament attendance swelled as well, with eight of 11 returning main events setting all-time highs, with the remaining three nearing their previous highwater marks. The Hot New Game for 2011—*7 Wonders*—led the way with an all-time Euroquest single event attendance record of 80, shattering the old mark of 68 set by *Ticket to Ride* in 2009 when that tournament doubled as a qualifier leading to the World Championships sponsored by Days of Wonder. *Ticket to Ride* attendance also broke that old mark, by 10, with a total of 78, while *Stone Age* tied the old mark at 68.

Daniel Eppolito
Harold L. Siegelman Award Winner

Dramatic finishes were the order of the day with new attendees playing a leading role. Heading into the finals on Sunday, Haim Hochboim

EURO QUEST

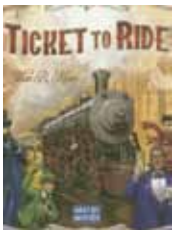
42

Daniel Eppolito • CA

of Israel stood atop the HLS leaderboard with 28 points, while advancing to the final of *Ticket to Ride*, guaranteeing even more points. Thus, it seemed likely that the HLS Trophy—which had made it all the way to Seattle and back in 2010 (in the custody of Randy Buehler)—might travel even further afield this year. Former HLS winner Rob Kircher's bid for a second brass plate on the trophy ended when he flamed out in the *Settlers* final, finishing fourth. However, all was not lost for the host country as the *Power Grid* final also featured Daniel Eppolito, another EQ rookie but WBC veteran, who was still in contention, bidding for his second event win after having captured the *Ra* title. The *Power Grid* game, which took a long time to complete, went Dan's way, enabling him to surge past Haim in the HLS standings. At this point the pressure shifted to Haim, as only a first or a second in the *Ticket to Ride* final could tip the balance in his favor. However, it was not to be, and the HLS Trophy went to Dan Eppolito who amassed a record total of 33 HLS points. Haim Hochboim (30 points) finished second, followed by California's Bill Zurn, who zoomed to third place overall with a win in the final event to finish—*7 Wonders*. Bill's 28 HLS points carried him ahead of a trio of former Siegelman Trophy winners: 2007's Rob Kircher (25 points); defending Champ Randy Buehler (25 points) and 2009's Sceadeau D'Tela (24 points) who came in fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.

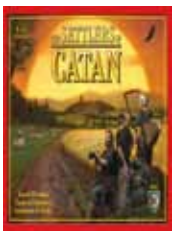
Dan's two wins in *Power Grid* and *Ra* were matched by Ben Scholl, who was also a double winner in *Agricola* and *Puerto Rico*. Like Dan, Ben was attending his first Euroquest. Haim Hochboim put himself near the top of the Siegelman charts with a win in *Dominion*, followed by a runner-up finish in *Agricola*, assuring that there was going to be some "wood" on the plane back to Israel. Haim's countryman, Aran Warszawski, was not to be outdone, taking top honors in *Princes of Florence*, which was the first event to finish. Bill Zurn (*7 Wonders*), Vien Bounma (*St. Petersburg*) and Jim Castonguay (*Thurn and Taxis*) rounded out the list of first-time EQ champions

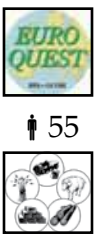
Virginia Colin • VA



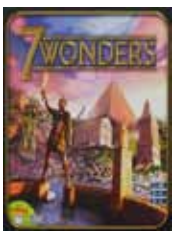
Sceaudeau D'Tela • NC

Jim Castonguay • MD

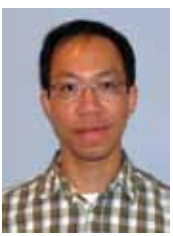




Brian Reynolds •MD



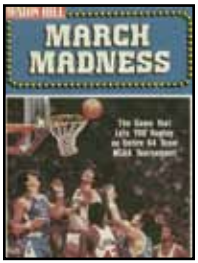
Bill Zurn • CA



Vien Bounma • NJ

Play-by-e-mail tournaments are the answer to many players' most common complaints—lack of time and inability to find skilled opposition. BPA does not run PBeM tournaments; rather, we provide support for hobbyists willing to host events. E-mail tournaments are counted the same as face-to-face action in BPA's prestigious Caesar competition, with Laurels based solely on size of the field and the average face-to-face playing time.

Entry in these tournaments is free to current BPA members. For anyone who is not already a member, an Associate membership costs only $10 to cover the costs of this program. (Players have no obligation to keep their memberships current once the tournament begins.) For information about running a PBeM tournament, contact the BPA PBeM coordinator Hank Burkhalter at *ussChevalier@abovethefields.com* or check out his webpage at *www.abovethefields.com/top_pbem.*



Event Results

- Bob Menzel, VT
- Thomas Browne, PA
- Debbie Bell, MD
- Harry Flawd, PA
- Mike Pacheco, CA
- Daniel Leader, MA

Bruce Monnin, OH

Previous Winners

2004 Peter Staab, PA 30
2005 Jim Gutt, TX 30
2006 Bruce Monnin, OH 32
2007 Jeffrey Martin, CT 40
2008 Bruce Monnin, OH 38
2009 A. Warszawski, is 38
2010 D. Nicholson, NY 42

Next Tournament in progress

44

Event Results

- Michael Ussery, MD
- Jim Eliason, IA
- Michael Day, AZ
- N. Markevich, CA
- Robert Drozd, IL
- Bryan Eshleman, NC

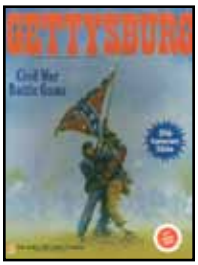
John Pack, CO

Previous Winners

1999 N. Markevich, CA 20
2001 Ed Menzel, CA 32
2004 Rob Flowers, MD 32
2007 Charles Drozd, IL 35
2009 Joe Dragan, MI 42

Next Tournament in progress

28



Event Results

- Michael Pacheco, CA
- Bill Thomson, TX
- Daniel Overland, MI
- Ed Menzel, CA
- Dennis Nicholson, NY
- Tom Gregorio, PA

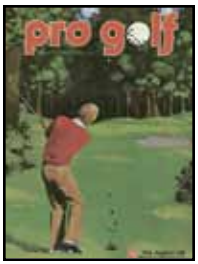
Vince Meconi, DE

Previous Winners

2006 Barry Shoults, MI 26
2008 Vince Meconi, DE 28

No event underway

36



Event Results

- Dennis Nicholson, NY
- Bruce Reiff, OH
- Michael Pacheco, CA
- Debbie Gutermuth, NC
- Robert Kircher, RI
- Bill Morse, VA

Bruce Monnin, OH

Previous Winners

2010 L. Gutermuth, NC 41

Next Tournament in progress

41

Event Results

- Larry Mull, AZ
- Jeremiah Peterson, IL
- Rob Mull, CO
- Kaarin Engelmann, it
- Scott Burns, uk
- Bryan Collars, SC

Bryan Collars, SC

Previous Winners

2009 D. Gallagher, MD 54

No event underway

67

Event Results

- Gary Dickson, CA
- Douglas James, NC
- Michael Kaye, MD
- John Ohlin, FL
- Ari Kogut, TX
- Ed O'Connor, NJ

John Ohlin, FL

Previous Winners

1999 Gary Dickson, CA 19
2000 Gary Dickson CA 22
2001 Doug James, NC 23
2002 Gary Dickson, CA 44
2003 Tom Gregorio, PA 40
2006 Doug James, NC 34
2008 Tom Gregorio, PA 31
2010 Gary Dickson, CA 31

24

Event Results

- Keith Wixson, NJ
- Al Owen, au
- John Buse, IL
- Adam Deverell, au
- Stefan MeCay, TX
- Kevin Worth, ab

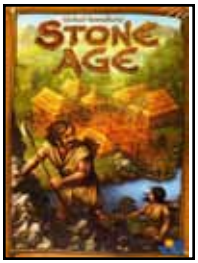
Keith Wixson, NJ

Previous Winners

2005 James Pei, VA 64
2006 John Buse, IL 50
2008 James Pei, VA 62

No event underway

50



Event Results

- Eric Freeman, PA
- Stefan Mecay, TX
- Scott Fenn, MD
- Greg Thatcher, CA
- Chris Yaure, PA
- Robert Kircher, RI

Max Jamelli, PA

Previous Winners

2010 Eric Freeman, PA 23

No event underway

28

Event Results

- Mark Gutfreund, KY
- Michael Kaye, MD
- Tom Dworschak, GA
- K. Hammoond, WA
- M. Birnbaum, NY
- Scott Fenn, MD

Mark Gutfreund, KY

Previous Winners

1999 Jim Doughan, PA 34
2001 John Crabtree, CA 36
2003 B. Passacntndo, CT 48
2004 D. Greenwood, MD 47
2006 T. Dworschak, GA 50
2011 D. Greenwood, MD 38
Next Tournament in progress

36

Longest Current Serving Gamemasters

WBC would not exist were it not for those few who give their time, effort and enthusiasm to promote competition in one of their favorite games and continue to do so year after year. Many go so far as to fund special prizes out of their own pocket to support the grand alliance. Herewith we honor the longevity of their dedication by recognizing their years of service to a single event. In doing so, we also give a nod to the Jim Vrooms and Kathy Strohs of our GM cadre who annually serve where ever they are needed while changing events.

David Terry, MD • 21

Harry Flawd, PA • 18

Bruno Wolff, WI • 18

John Pack, CO • 16

James Jordan, MD • 14

Vince Meconi, DE • 14

Marc Houde, VA • 14

Tom Gregorio, PA • 13

Mark Love, MD • 13

John Jacoby, VA • 13

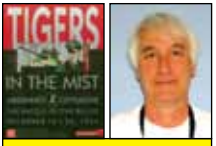
John Coussis, IL • 13

Jon Lockwood, VA • 13

Pierre LeBoeuf, MD • 13

Mark Miklos, GA • 12

Brad Johnson, IL • 12



Ray Freeman, CA • 11

Tim Hitchings, DE • 11

Stuart Tucker, MD • 11

Richard Irving, CA • 11

Greg Crowe, MD • 10

Kieth Wixson, NJ •10

Mark Herman, MD • 10

Eric Brosius, MA • 10

Steve Scott, CA • 10

Ron Secunda • 10

After ten years, the annual get together of the "Card Sharks" is still going strong. WAM X was held in Timonium, Md., on Jan. 26-29 with a small but enthusiastic group of 36 CDG players.

The three events were dominated by James Pei (titles in *HRC* and *WWR*), Chris Byrd (a title in *TWS* and a 3rd place finish in *WWR*), Keith Wixson (runner-up in *HRC* and *TWS*), and Marvin Birnbaum (runner-up in *WWR* and 3rd place in *TWS*).

Players were asked to enter each tournament prior to the start of Round 1 and at the start of each successive round attendance was called off of that list. Each evening a detailed schedule of the next day's events was displayed. We continued the concept of Open First Rounds on Thursday (because it is a travel day) and Round 5s (if required) being scheduled on Sunday morning. *TWS* and *WWR* both required a Round 5 this year.

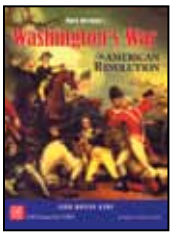
Outside of the tournaments there was much open gaming with *Paths of Glory*, *Stalin's War*, *Labyrinth*, *A Few Acres of Snow*, *Atlantic Storm* and *1812* all seeing table time. Games ran pretty much nonstop from 0900 in the morning to as late as 0200 at night.

Hannibal

Balance was even, with the Romans winning 12 of 23 games. Round 2 generated seven games and yielded four unbeatens; Keith Wixson, James Pei, Stuart Tucker and Michael Mitchell.

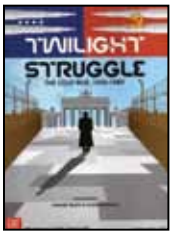
Tucker met the Master in Round 3 and Pei's Romans were able to deny Tucker's patented island strategy until the last turn. Unable to establish a foothold in the islands, Hannibal rushed across the Alps in a final do-or-die bid to gain a ninth province. In a close battle, Consul Paulus successfully foiled the Carthaginians to deny Tucker again. Meanwhile Wixson bested Mitchell for his chance at the Master.

Lady Luck smiled upon Pei's Romans once again. Hannibal crossed the Alps on Turn 1 but rolled a 6 on attrition and was further weakened by another 6 roll on Turn 2 when Pei played Epidemic. On a Campaign move Consul Fabius attacked Han-



22

- James Pei, VA
- Marvin Birnbaum, NY
- Chris Byrd, CT
- Terry Coleman, CA
- Paul Gaberson, PA
- Rob Doane, MD



30

- Chris Byrd, CT
- Keith Wixson, NJ
- Michael Mitchell, GA
- Larry Fryer, MD
- Marvin Birnbaum, NY
- Kevin Earle, VA

19

- James Pei, VA
- Keith Wixson, NJ
- Stuart Tucker, MD
- Michael Mitchell, GA
- Randall MacInnis, NJ
- Tim Miller, GA

nibal in an even battle, 15 cards to 14. At one point Hannibal failed his counter roll six straight times! On the 13th battle card, unable to match a Probe, Wixson played his last strategy card of Allies Desert to take one of Pei's two remaining battle cards. In a screaming outburst, he failed to pick the lone remaining Probe and Hannibal was trapped. Consul Nero, who had marched up from Sicily on two Force March cards, then followed up and finished off the now depleted Hannibal before he could flee Italy. The Master prevailed again.

Twilight Struggle

Twilight Struggle has easily been the most played event at WAM since its release. We played 2nd edition rules with two changes: 2 influence were added to Canada regardless of whether players opted to use optional cards from the Deluxe set; in an effort to avoid draws (we had three last year) the holder of the China Card at the end of the game was only awarded 1/2 point. The latter had a significant effect in one of the very first games played, where Michael Mitchell thus won by a half-point over Bruce Monnin. Michael went on to take third at 4-1, while Bruce finished out of the running.

The US held a 22-20 edge overall. Half of the games were played using the optional cards, and those results were split equally between US and Soviet wins. Only a few games opted to use the Chinese Civil War rules, something we will keep in mind for next year. If we gave an award for most improved player, it would go to Larry Fryer, who despite never before having managed a winning record at WAM, went 4-1 and took 4th place. With the absence of Stefan Mecay—winner at the last two WAMs—this year's Cold War struggle came down to Keith Wixson, the 2007 champ, and Chris Byrd, who is becoming a true WAM Renaissance man, winning titles in *Hannibal*, *Paths of Glory*, *1960*, *Combat Commander*, and now *Twilight Struggle*. Byrd won as the US on Turn 9 by playing Wargames after building up a big lead.

Washington's War

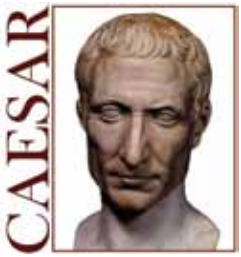
The Americans went 9-2 in Round 1 to win 23 of 38 games overall. Sides were random with the exception that each player was required to play both sides an even number of times when possible.

James Pei added to his laurels by besting a highly competitive field to win the five-round event with a perfect score. He defeated current WBC Champ Michael Mitchell (as the Americans), Bill Edwards (as the Brits), Marvin Birnbaum (as the Americans), Terry Coleman (as the Americans) and Chris Byrd (as the Brits). However, he did not breeze through without a few scares along the way and enjoyed more than a little luck. In the Edwards match, on a game ending turn in which Bill held a Major Campaign, Pei's Cornwallis won an even odds battle against Greene in Boston. If Greene had intercepted, or won the do-or-die battle, then the Major Campaign would have sealed Pei's fate. It was ironic as it was a Major Campaign by Keith Wixson last year on the final card that knocked Pei out.

In the Birnbaum match, Marvin had him on the ropes, but Pei drew a Major and two Minor Campaigns on the same hand to plug all the holes. You can imagine Marvin's reaction. In the Final against Nest of Spies teammate Chris Byrd, the pair sparred toe-to-toe until the game ending turn in which Byrd played a Minor Campaign as the last card. Lincoln with 1 CU attacked Boston defended by 1 British CU, on a 2 vs 4 die roll. It was a close affair, but again Pei's luck held.

It only took Randy Buehler two years to climb to the top of the BPA rankings by unseating two-time defending Caesar Stefan Mecay by 47 laurels to become the BPA's top competitor in 2011. True to form, Stefan had again run up a big lead before WBC began in email tournaments and by winning his *Twilight Struggle* specialty at WAM, but Randy reduced that lead by scoring in five Euro Quest tournaments before overtaking Stefan altogether with a dominating WBC that included a second in the *Through the Ages* pre-con as well as three outright wins in *Dominion*, *Egizia*, and *Princes of Florence*. Randy's win knotted the score at the top with four wargamer Caesars offset by four predominantly Euro-playing top dogs. Two Caesars (Mullet and Benedict) have defied classification with more varied tastes.

Randy Buehler



Rounding out the top six BPA competitors for 2011 were 2004 Caesar James Pei, Jason Ley, and a pair of next generation upstarts; Richard Beyma and Nick Henning, threatening to overtake the records of their illustrious fathers.

Again this year, only eight of the preceding year's Top 25 players managed to retain that high ranking, led by Buehler who improved from 16th in his inaugural campaign to top the list in his second. Other top scorers to retain their Top 25 standing were Mecay, Pei, Beyma, Henning, Robert Kircher, Jason Levin and Eric Freeman. Absent from the Leader Board for the first time in four years were Alex Bove and Chris Byrd—thus ending the longest streaks in the high rent district. No one has maintained their status in the Top 25 for four straight years.

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	241

We are pleased to award the 2011 GM of the Year honor to **Claire Brosius** for her outstanding work running *Ticket to Ride*—one of WBC's largest events—annually drawing in excess of 200 players. In winning the award, Claire breaks the glass ceiling for her gender, being the first woman to win the award.

Claire came to us late in WBC's gestation, finally tagging along with husband Eric on his annual trip to WBC four years ago and was instantly hooked when she finished sixth in *Lost Cities* for her first laurels. Even on that first trip, she was anxious to pitch in and help in the registration room between events. Since then she has become a regular in the auction crew and wherever else she can lend a hand. So, naturally she takes over the administration of WBC's largest event the following year and what a job she has done—hitting the ground running as a supremely organized human dynamo who broke into our Top Six ratings in only her second year on the job and won the whole shebang in her junior year. For winning the GM of the Year, Claire will be our guest at WBC 2012, and provided he behaves, she can bring Eric along too.

Claire's event fills the Distelfink ballroom but nonetheless runs more smoothly than most events a fraction of that size. She can be seen standing on a chair in her station master's hat, blowing her whistle, while she and her appropriately accessorized "conductor" assistants direct players to random tables using train jargon and juggling player preferences as to which version of the game they prefer during a difficult registration procedure which she handles with ease. One could almost believe they've entered a queue for a Disney ride. And her enthusiasm doesn't end with organization either. Each of her preliminary winners received a gold train key chain memento she provides. In only three years, Claire has become the gold standard for WBC GMs—showing the rest of us how it is done.

Claire Brosius

Overall, scores ranged from Clair's record 89 to a low of 27. Claire's support was across the Board with two firsts, five seconds and a third—the highest score ever achieved in our annual GM vote. It bested the previous record of Ivan Lawson for *Lost Cities* by two points. Clair's score topped runner-up Sean McCulloch who made his first appearance in the Top Six by a whopping 15 points. The seen but not heard Sean has been the un-voice of *Slapshot* for six years and is hard at work late into the wee hours dropping the final puck and recording the results long after the celebrities have hit the sheets. But Sean probably owes much of his support to his double duty as the record setting replacement GM for *Facts in Five* which doubled its attendance in 2011.

Finishing third for his fourth appearance in the Top Six with 68 points was John Weber who completed a ten-year stint as the guiding hand of *Puerto Rico* while amassing the most first place votes (3) from the Board. Rounding out the Top Six was Pierre LeBoeuf (59 points; second appearance) whose movement of *8XX* to the pre-con has returned it to numbers it has not seen in 17 years, Ed Beach (55 points) making his fifth straight Top Six showing for his work with *Here I Stand*, and Terry Coleman (50 points) whose eighth year at the helm of *March Madness* was rewarded with a new attendance record and his first Top Six rating.

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

The Sportsmanship Award is our top honor since it is something we can all aspire to and is within our reach regardless of our skills. It reminds us that there is no fun to be had with these games without affable opposition providing obstacles to overcome. Our Sportsman of the Year always prizes camaraderie and fair play over victory and therein offers a shining example of sportsmanship that we should all do our best to emulate.

Our winner was selected from among many nominees put forth by GMs and other commentators whose recommendations were considered and reduced to a field of 17 worthies included on our annual Membership Drive ballot for selection by the membership at large. The members' choice is rewarded with a free room at the following WBC.

Larry Lingle

Past Winners

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

After 2010's razor thin margin of one vote separating the top three contenders, this year provided more clarity as our winner more than doubled the vote percentage of last year's recipient by garnering more than 20% of the 251 votes cast. Grognard Bruno Sinigaglio rarely nominates anyone for sportsmanship honors since he has high expectations of everyone that comes under his watch. So you know he is impressed when he finally gives in and places someone in the spotlight. Lo and behold, it was none other than Cap'n Larry who had put aside his pirate gear long enough to don his jedi knight duds while defending his *Star Wars; Queen's Gambit* title. The three-time champion had his semi-final game all but won by merely playing out his hand normally, but he didn't want to win by time limit, so he passed on his own moves, allowing his opponent to beat the clock and win the game as Anakin brought down the death star—ending **Larry Lingle**'s quest for his fourth title.

Larry's main competition for free lodging this summer was Eric Monte whose rectifying of an incorrect *Ticket to Ride* score garnered more than 12% voter support. Following Monte was Thomas Drueding at 9%, a pair of Greenville Mafia lads (John Emery and Tim Rogers) at 8%, and grognard Kevin McCarthy at 6%. Given all the swag Cap'n Larry hands out in his *Pirate's Cove* event, it is truly fitting that he be our guest in 2012.

Twelve nominees are put forward each year by the Conference Director for the Board of Directors' consideration. Although service as a GM is the most common qualifier, it is not the only factor with consideration given to other behind-the-scenes volunteer tasks and this year's honoree is living proof of that. The Board votes by secret ballot, weighing their votes according to their own particular values as to what constitutes the greatest contribution, by ranking each nominee from 12 (strongest) to 1 (weakest). The result is usually a good cross section with few receiving more than two first or last place votes. We repeat the process each year dropping the bottom third of the nominees to make room for more.

Scott Pfeiffer

In 2011, the vote was unprecedented. Understanding that a typical Board vote would probably favor the sun setting in the west by only a 7-2 margin, it was surely a sign of the coming apocalypse, when they—by secret ballot no less—unanimously selected **Scott Pfeiffer** as the 2011 recipient of the BPA's Hobby Service Award.

This individual has never been a WBC GM. However, he has been active in creating and supporting one of the hobby's strongest clubs in his hometown of Greenville, SC, and was instrumental to the birth of WBC. While I often get the credit (or the blame) for transforming Avalon con into WBC, it really was the creation of this man who convinced me to take the leap back in 1998 when Avalon Hill went down the tubes. And while many may claim to say the right things to support their hobby, few have actually backed that up with action. It was Scott Pfeiffer who actually took the bull by the horns and incorporated BPA *pro bono* with his law practice, writing our by bylaws, and performing the myriad tasks required to keep us on a solid legal footing.

Past Winners

2005
Stuart Tucker
Kathy Stroh
Steve Okonski
Vince Meconi
Mark McLaughlin
Ken Whitesell

2006
Keith Wixson

2007
Bruno Sinigaglio

2008
Debbie Gutermuth

2009
Alan Applebaum

2010
David Dockter

While so many of us escape the annoyances of the real world to enjoy ourselves each August extending our Peter Pan syndrome of never growing up with these addictive games, it is Scott who invariably pays the price behind the scenes in an adult world when I need to pull him from a game to deal with the legal issues of maintaining order when someone needs their priorities rearranged. Rest assured that while you've been rolling dice, Scott has been protecting your ability to do just that during this prized annual celebration of our hobby. This token thank you is long overdue.