



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

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

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www.boardgamers.org • *info@boardgamers.org*
 August 3-9, 2015 • July 23-31, 2016
 Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Seven Springs, PA



2015 was WBC's Lancaster Swan Song. Our tenth year in Dutch country set another attendance record despite, or perhaps due to, all the concern over the coming venue change. Each year in Lancaster saw steady attendance gains despite infrastructure challenges and 2015 was no exception with both fire and flood calamities taken in stride. Players from over 50 states and Canadian provinces plus a record 23 nations met at the Host one last time. 24 events broke 100 with ten more topping 90 entrants. All 164 events achieved tournament status with fields ranging from eight to the reigning attendance champ *Ticket to Ride* and its 302 riders!

18 reigning champions defended their titles, led by the Master, James Pei, who extended his dominance in *For The People* to seven straight to maintain his hold on WBC's longest winning streak. Curt Collins lost his status as the closest pursuer when he failed to win his fifth consecutive *Union Pacific* title—finishing third. Peter Gurneau and Eric Wrobel also fell off the pace, failing to record their fourth consecutive title in their respective specialties. Perennial 18XX champ Bruce Beard thus became Pei's closest pursuer with his third straight 8XX title as he built a second winning streak.

Among those of us with humbler ambitions, 37 claimed their first title of any kind. 110 earned their first laurels to claim contender bonafides in the years to come. 14 gents managed to win two events each while Ewan McNay and newcomer Richard Boyes claimed three. The female presence continued to grow but their market share dropped as only Angela Collinson (*Adel Verpflichtet*), Kate Fractal (*Temporum*), Stefany Speck (*Pirate's Cove*) and Carol Strock (*Queen's Gambit*) were able to thwart all the guys.

The *Harry B's*—the best ringers laurels can buy—made good on their 18-1 odds to win the Team tournament, besting the *Dice Loving Canucks* who took second with 22 points. With the favorites having their way, it is perhaps not surprising that the winner of the annual Bracket Busting Contest was none other than 2014's guest prognosticator Jeff Cornett. His six correct picks tied Mark Love's all-time record.

James Pei continued to amass laurels at a prodigious rate with 186 more to become Caesar for the third time while raising his career laurels to 2332. He continued to brandish *For the People* as his weapon of choice—scoring 100 laurels in that title alone between his latest

WBC and PBeM titles. A repeat win in *Sekigahara* and a pair of thirds in CDWs enabled him to withstand the Euro-fuelled charge of runner-up Sceadeau D'Tela. Ewan McNay claimed Consul over the Mighty Finn, Riku Riekkinen, with 120 laurels earned in *Britannia*, *Ingenious* and *Robo Rally*.

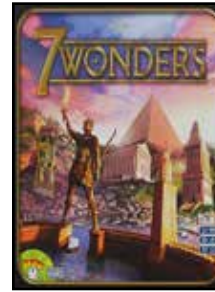
Relative newcomer Duncan McGregor continued a recent trend of new GMs winning accolades for their organizational skills. The rookie GM rode an impressive wave of 272 entrants for *Splendor* to impress the voters with the ease with which he managed the generation of 165 games.

GM chores also determined our Sportsmanship winner. As the first alternate for the *Here I Stand Final*, Justin Rice was offered a seat by first-time qualifiers Ed and Matt Beach who were needed elsewhere to GM a 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.

In the continuing circle of life that marks the evolution of winners and losers in WBC events, 18 events set new attendance highs for the past decade while 19 sunk to new lows. Attrition usually causes more losers than winners inasmuch as new events start high and usually lose entrants over time so being close to even made 2015 a good year. The following record attendance highs and lows over the past decade are limited to events with at least a three-year track record.

Zenith: Those setting new highwater marks for the last year were: *Saint Petersburg* +27, *Ra*; *The Dice Game* +19, *Castles of Burgundy* +18, *Can't Stop* +16, *Facts in Five* +11, *Thurn & Taxis* +10, *Empire of the Sun* +9, *Yspahan* +8, *Ace of Aces* +6, *Acquire* +6, *Alhambra* +5; *Battles of the American Revolution* +5, *Rail Baron* +5, *Vegas Showdown* +5, *Advanced Civilization* +4, *Merchant of Venus* +3, *Santa Fe Rails* +2, *Kremlin* +1, *Formula Motor Racing* +1.

Nadir: Those sinking to new lows for the past decade were: *Commands & Colors Napoleonic* -1, *Titan: The Arena* -1, *Victory in the Pacific* -1, *Euphrates & Tigris* -3, *Princes of Florence* -3, *Battle Cry* -4, *Gangsters* -4, *Here I Stand* -4, *Sekigahara* -4, *Gettysburg* -5, *Small World* -6, *Circus Maximus* -7, *Union Pacific* -7, *Manoeuvre* -8, *Settlers of Catan* -8, *Le Havre* -10, *Paths of Glory* -10, *Leaping Lemmings* -11, *Puerto Rico* -17.



2015 Results

🏆 Kelly Czyryca, MD
 🏆 Michael Wojke, PA
 🏆 Ed Beach, MD
 🏆 D. McGregor, on
 🏆 Etienne Evans, qc
 🏆 Ernie Czyryca, MD
 🏆 Nick Ferris, MD

† 165 📖 2011-15



Kelly Czyryca, MD

Top Laurelists

Kelly Czyryca, MD	80
Andrew Emerick, CT	58
David Platnick, VA	56
Matthew Beach, MD	50
Luann Stubbs, PA	30
Bill Zurn, CA	30
Dominic Blais, qc	30
Michael Wojke, PA	24
Karl Buchholz, MI	24
Dan Shmueli, NY	24



2015 Results

🏆 Bruce Beard, MD
 🏆 Peter Eldridge, uk
 🏆 Glen Pearce, on
 🏆 Anthony Lainesse, qc
 🏆 Antero Kuusi, fi
 🏆 Akihisa Tabei, jp
 🏆 Tom McCorry, VA

† 61 📖 1991-2015



Bruce Beard, MD

Top Laurelists

Bruce Beard, MD	572
Jim McDanold, TN	120
Spencer Hamblen, MD	108
Jon Kwiatkowski, NC	104
Paul Hakken, NJ	103
Barrington Beavis, uk	90
Mark Neale, RI	72
Akihisa Tabei, jp	64
Peter Eldridge, uk	60
Anthony Lainesse, qc	54

Seven Wonders (7WS)

With 165 participants, an expanding game drought required far too many 5-player contests, advancing 50 to the next round. From that quarter-final of mostly 5-player contests, 22 advanced, including most runners-up plus a handful of thirds. In a tournament first, 4-player semis advanced only winners into the two-game Final. While most games were 4-player, two were 3-player contests, with both trios registering tighter scores than their foursome counterparts.

Game 1 of the Final round started with a 6-player matchup including cards from the *Cities* expansion and its coin-killing, debt-inducing, battle-avoiding mechanics. 2013 champ Kelly Czyryca dominated the first game with an 11-point spread over Michael Wojke, Duncan McGregor and Ed Beach.

In Game 2, players adopted Wonder boards from expansions while playing the base set of cards. Czyryca, playing the build-in-any-order Great Wall wonder, continued to frustrate the opposition by amassing a huge and unanswered military and science buildup. Wojke's Alexandria specialized in Civ cards for second, while Beach's Petra wonder netted him 17 points on top of decent military and commerce progress (for third). McGregor's *Catan* wonder and its resource-trading power led him to adopt a jack-of-all-trades approach that only dented Czyryca's science empire slightly and cost him enough points to finish fourth. Czyryca once again won the table handily by a final score of 61-



51-50-49 to take his second 7WS shield.

18XX (8XX)

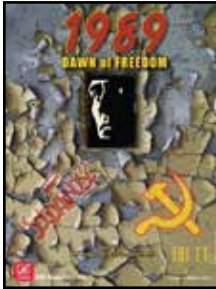


The event added two games (*1817*, *18NY*) and saw broad international representation at the top of the standings board. *1830* continued to dominate with 14 plays, followed by *1846* and *1862* (eight) and *1861* (five). We had 26 qualifying winners (Bruce Beard, Anthony Lainesse, and Eric Brosius each won three). Unfortunately for Bill Peeck, 25 of the 26 qualifiers appeared for the semifinals and only the top 24 advanced to four 6-player games.

The semifinals used four different games (*1830*, *1880*, *1862*, and *1861*) that each resulted in a decisive win. The Final was *1830* and resulted in one of the closest finishes of the tourney. Peter Eldridge gave Bruce Beard all he could handle with the outcome in doubt till the end. But the undisputed 8XX Master had enough cash advantage to overcome Peter's superior stock position to win 8958 to 8828 to claim his tenth 8XX shield and third straight title. In an appropriate finish for the World Boardgaming Championships, the top six finishers came from five different countries (US, Britain, Canada (x2), Finland, and Japan).

Despite the elimination of pre-cons and the WBC going to a nine-day format at its new location, we will retain the same three-day opening weekend format in 2016. Several new games have been or will be published in time for the next convention and will be considered in lieu of the less popular current tournament titles: *18PA* and *18Dixie*, *1844/1854*, and *1837* and *1867*.





2015 Results

♣ Max Duboff, NJ
 ♠ Riku Riekkinen, fi
 ♣ Jeromey Martin, GA
 ♠ R. E. Woodham, TX
 ♠ Michael Kieffe, ns
 ♠ Roderick Lee, CA
 ♣ Henry Richardson, VA
 † 23 📖 2014-2015



2015 Results

♣ Steve Packwood, MN
 ♠ Jason Arvey, VA
 ♠ L. VanDeGraaf, NJ
 ♠ Ben Carter, FL
 ♠ Tim Tu, NJ
 ♠ Jessica Shea, VA
 ♣ Cliff Ackman, PA
 † 99 📖 1991-2015



Top Laurelists

Max Duboff, NJ	70
Jeromey Martin, GA	34
Riku Riekkinen, fi	24
R. Evan Woodham, TX	21
Tom Drueding, MA	12
Michael Kieffe, ns	8
Pat Richardson, VA	6
Roderick Lee, CA	4
Paul Sampson, OH	3



Top Laurelists

Justin Childs, FL	88
Joshua Cooper, MD	69
Matt Calkins, VA	60
Steve Packwood, MN	55
Steve Shambada, PA	54
Gary Moss, MO	51
Jason Ley, WA	45
David Gantt, SC	44
Phil Bradley, IL	38
Laurie VanDeGraaf, NJ	34

1989: Dawn of Freedom (1989)

Ending a three-year absence, the formidable Finn, Riku Riekkinen, returned with another CDW bullet in his bandolier. Already a title holder in four of the most prestigious CDWs, the question was, "Is it 1989's turn to be struck by 'Riku lightning'?" With five of last year's six laurelists returning to do battle again, it was not going to be an easy road to the top.

After three rounds, only two players remained unbeaten: defending champ Max DuBoff and Riku. Max faced the giant killer with the Communists. On Turn 2, Poland scored. Riku had the better position, but Max won the Power Struggle because Riku had a terrible hand with many dead cards. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, Max gave up Power. Hungary also scored in Turn 2, and Max improved his VPs by winning a fairly even Power Struggle. In Turn 3, both players turned their attention to the Mid Year countries. Riku expanded into Bulgaria heavily, while Max got lucky with the dice and used support checks to reduce Riku's position in Czechoslovakia. Although Riku took the Czech church space in Turn 4, Max played Czech Scoring with five spaces to Riku's one. Max was able to Raise the Stakes and win the Power Struggle with a Rally in the Square card, improving his die rolls for Support Losses and VPs. Scoring for Czechoslovakia put Max over the 20-VP threshold to conclude his successful title defense against the Scandinavian strongman.

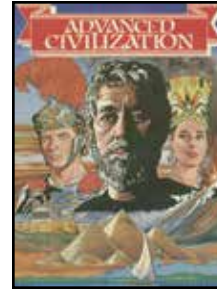


Acquire (ACQ)

Maybe it was nostalgia or just a scheduling break. Whatever it was, our 25th tournament set an attendance record. Journeymen, ex-champs and newbies all flocked to one of the oldest games in the WBC lineup.

Our 16 semifinalists recorded a win and another placement. Steve Shambada headed the qualifiers with three wins, but the 4th ranked laurelist again failed to win the big one and exited in Round 2, still without a title. Dan Farrow held the 16th seed until the late arrival of a higher ranked qualifier bumped him to the gallery with a sportsmanship nomination for his gracious withdrawal.

The finalists were Laurie Van deGraaf for the second straight year; Steve Packwood, the 1993 champ; Jason Arvey, in his first Final; and newcomer Ben Carter. Ben had both the largest win at 207% over the runner-up and the narrowest at 100.2%. Steve began by starting Imperial. Ben was second and started the other high cost, Continental. Turn 6 brought the first merger, giving Jason first dividend and Steve second. The next play, Steve started Luxor and gained first place. Laurie's Continental then took over American, giving her much needed cash for second dividend but Steve had first. Steve then started American again on his very next play. The game was short with only nine mergers and Steve was in seven of them. In the final reckoning, he stood 140% over runner-up Arvey. It was an impressive encore—even if it was 22 years in the making.



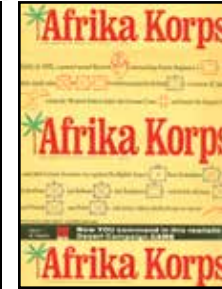
2015 Results

♣ Wade Campbell, on
 ♠ Ron Clement, on
 ♠ Jon Anderson, PA
 ♠ Ken Rothstein, NY
 ♠ Kevin Youells, PA
 ♠ Roberto Fournier, MI
 ♣ Kevin Youells, PA
 † 47 📖 1991-2015



Top Laurelists

Kevin Youells, PA	465
Doug Galullo, MD	352
Mads Lunau, dk	216
Shantanu Saha, NY	199
Joe Gundersen, IN	186
Christina Harley, VA	144
Eric Gundersen, NJ	125
Harald Henning, CT	80
Jon Anderson, PA	78
Ted Mullally, NJ	74



2015 Results

♣ Bruno Sinigaglio, AK
 ♠ Jon Lockwood, VA
 ♠ Robert Frisby, VA
 ♠ Vince Meconi, DE
 ♠ Dick Boyes, WA
 ♠ Kevin Hacker, PA
 ♣ Jon Lockwood, VA
 † 24 📖 1991-2015



Top Laurelists

Vince Meconi, DE	254
Jon Lockwood, VA	226
Bruno Sinigaglio, AK	209
Bert Schoose, IL	156
Ed Menzel, CA	118
John Popiden, CA	108
Randy Heller, MD	81
Lane Newbury, TX	48
Greg Smith, PA	44
Bill Morse, VA	39

Advanced Civilization (ACV)



Attendance was up again with four games in each heat. Wade Campbell's Babylon won by 138 over Roberto Fournier's Egyptians. Ron Clement's Assyria topped Matt Calkins' Egyptians by 139. Kevin Youells' Assyria took a 53-point win over Eric Monte's Africa. Jon Anderson's Thrace breezed to a 276-point win over Warren Whitsitt's Illyria and followed that with the only double win of the heats and the largest win of the week as his Illyria crushed David Rynkowski's Egypt by 560. Roberto Fournier recovered as his Africa edged 1994 champion Ken Rothstein's Egypt by 39 points. Shantanu Saha reclaimed his customary seat at the Final by guiding his Babylonians to a 300-point win over Nathan Barhorst's Assyrians. Steve Spisak qualified for his second Final by guiding Babylon to a 93-point win over Mindy Kyrkos' Illyria.

The traditional random draw for positions was modified by one trade (Babylon for Africa), as the finalist rolloccall became: Africa: Roberto, Iberia: Ken, Illyria: Kevin, Thrace: Jon, Crete: Steve, Assyria: Ron, Babylon: Wade, and Egypt: Shantanu.

The lead changed hands several times in the early going. Kevin led after the first round of purchases, but soon was struck with famine and Barbarian Hordes which cut him to eight units and four cities—never to threaten again. Ron led briefly the next turn, followed by two turns of Jon at the helm. However, it was really Wade's game most of the way as he led for six of the last seven turns.



Afrika Korps (AFK)

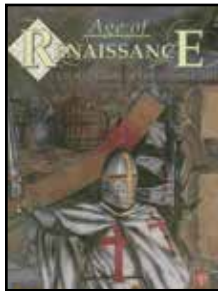


The 2015 playoffs hosted three returning veterans with ten AFK titles among them and one veteran newcomer to this theatre. The first match paired five-time champion Vince Meconi's Germans versus two-time champion Jon Lockwood. Jon's defense destroyed two Italian infantry divisions before being driven into Tobruch. Jon then fell back to the defensive line in front of Ruweisat. Vince realized he could not take Alexandria prior to the British November reinforcements and launched the Holy Hand Grenade (1-1 attack on Tobruch). His Attacker Eliminated result advanced Jon to another Final.

The other semifinal paired Bruno Sinigaglio's British versus Robert Frisby—a veteran grognard newly arrived from the closed Anzio front. Although able to slow Robert's advance, the British took heavy losses, as Bruno grudgingly gave ground all the way to Alexandria. In August 1942, Bruno attacked out of Tobruch at 2-1 against an Italian division for a D Back 2. He followed that with a 1-1 for another D back 2. By October, Robert was forced to concede the grueling seven-hour match.

The Final was slated for the next morning. An exhausted Bruno was in no shape for another marathon, and so his Germans drove for Tobruch. Jon saw it coming and prepared his best defense for the inevitable Holy Hand Grenade vs Tobruch. It came in July, with Bruno rolling a D Elim and a mercifully quick concession for the grognard's third AFK title—some 18 years since his last one.



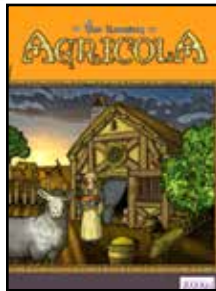


2015 Results

♣ Wade Campbell, on
♣ John Coussis, IL
♣ Ron Clement, on
♣ Steven Spisak, on
♣ Jeff Mullet, OH
♣ Roger Whitney, FL

♣ Winton Lemoine, CA

† 23 📖 1996-2015



2015 Results

♣ Sceadeau D'Tela, NC
♣ Haim Hochboim, il
♣ M. McCormick, NC
♣ Jon Senn, PA
♣ Daren Schreier, PA
♣ Chris McCurry KY

♣ Rob Murray, NJ

† 72 📖 2008-2015



Wade Campbell, on

Top Laurelists

Jeff Mullet, OH	472
Bill Crenshaw, VA	331
Ken Gutermuth, NC	276
Ewan McNay, CT	271
Harald Henning, CT	261
Carl Damcke, IL	200
Steve Simmons, NJ	197
Chris Byrd, CT	186
Mark Smith, KY	160
Kevin Sudy, VA	138



Sceadeau D'Tela, NC

Top Laurelists

Sceadeau D'Tela, NC	153
Eric Ho, NY	108
Mike Kaltman, PA	88
Ben Scholl, PA	75
Jon Senn, PA	74
Tedd Mullally, NJ	70
Cary Morris, NC	66
Haim Hochboim, il	58
Rob Kircher, RI	53
Eric Wrobel, MD	50

Age of Renaissance (AOR)



With only five preliminary games logged, only winners would advance. Two-time champ Jeff Mullet qualified as London with hot dice and a resounding 3693 score. Wade Campbell took a 140% win with no ships. Steve Spisak's Venice, Mark Smith's Barcelona with a close 102% win and a rare Hamburg victory by John Coussis completed the qualifications. However, an alternate was required when Mark Smith opted for History of the World instead—and won—thus verifying his decision. That got alternate Ron Clement into the mix to complete the Canadian triumvirate with Spisak and Campbell together in the Final. Oh Canada indeed!

The Canadians had breakfast and agreed that it was every man for himself. Wade bid 3 for Barcelona, Ron 2 for Paris, Steve 1 for Venice, while the Americans were saddled with Genoa and London for free. By Turn 6 Paris had emerged as leader, and was soon visited by Black Death, Alchemist Gold, and Pirates/Vikings while being reduced to three cities. If there is any evidence the Canadians were not playing favorites this would be it. Nevertheless, Genoa and top ranked laurelist Jeff Mullet would chaos out on Turn 7.

Turn 9 saw Wade's Barcelona and Ron's Paris finish the advances. Venice would finish fourth with 1575. Paris made a Silk run but mired down by 500 misery took third with 1991. London made a big Wool score for 160, but his 50 points of misery was the difference as his 2076 trailed Barcelona's 2105.



Agricola (AGR)

The last *Agricola* tournament at Lancaster Host exceeded expectations! In a year where the field dropped 17% the skill level nonetheless raised the bar over previous standards, probably due to increased popularity of the game due to iOS availability. 2015 also allowed fresh talent to strut their stuff, as four of the previous semifinalists were not present.

The Final drew three perennial contenders: Sceadeau D'Tela, Haim Hochboim and Jon Senn and an unknown, Micah McCormick. While Micah was a WBC fresh face, he is not a novice. He earned a 63-point win in the heats which matched Sceadeau for the highest overall score.

Sceadeau raced out to an early lead by maximizing his tempo and playing cards generating future goodies. Jon built the first room in Round 6, but Haim wasn't worried, as his Head of the Family allowed him to not only grow at his leisure, but he continued to grow his family at a quick pace. Micah played a strong Educator game and accumulated resources that led to scoring in the mid to late game. It was hard to guess a victor at game's end. When the scores were all tallied, the nearly impossible result was confirmed: All four players tied at 44! Tiebreakers reigned as Sceadeau claimed the win with a food advantage. The fewest negative categories scored (the third tiebreaker) was required to determine the remaining order of finish. After eight years of dominance without victory, Sceadeau claimed his first *Agricola* shield and fifth overall.



2015 Results

♣ Craig Melton, VA
♣ Seth Kirchner, OH
♣ B. Bernard, PA
♣ Andy Gardner, VA
♣ John Rinko, VA
♣ Scott Smith, PA

♣ Max Jamelli, PA

† 69 📖 1996-2015



2015 Results

♣ David Meyaard, ID
♣ Carolyn Strock, PA
♣ Lisa Gutermuth, WA
♣ D. Bohnenberger, PA
♣ Brad Sherwood, PA
♣ Frank Downing, NC

♣ Debbie Gutermuth, NC

† 149 📖 2004-2015



Craig Melton, VA

Top Laurelists

John Coussis, IL	131
Stephane Dorais, qc	122
Ken Rothstein, NY	116
Chris Storzillo, NJ	108
Brandon Bernard, PA	104
Andy Gardner, VA	85
Craig Melton, VA	80
Robert Sohn, PA	78
Bruce Bernard, PA	64
Tom Bissa, MI	52



David Meyaard, ID

Top Laurelists

Vassili Kyrcos, NY	70
Luke Koleszar, VA	58
Nate Hoam, OH	54
David Meyaard, ID	48
Carolyn Strock, PA	42
Michael Wojke, PA	40
Alan Elkner, NJ	40
Bruce DuBoff, NJ	40
Dave Bohnenberger, PA	36
Richard Meyer, MA	34

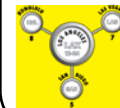
Air Baron (ABN)

69 battled ever present calamities to claim the last *ABN* title flown out of Lancaster. David Earls thrived amidst the Preliminary calamities, winning both of his sorties.

The five semifinals were characterized by work stoppages with ten strikes slowing progress. Craig Melton was first to land in just over an hour with a market share of 280 and \$53. He was joined by Seth Kircher with 330/\$34, John Rinko's 220/\$110, Brandon Bernard's 290/\$51 and Andy Gardner's 260/\$30.

A \$6 bankroll launched the Final so the threat of fare wars was ever present. The first Fare Wars attack came on Turn 4 and proved successful. Attackers enjoyed a solid 75% success rate. Melton ran six rolls to take Phoenix and Denver. Kircher followed with seven wins in Detroit, New York, and Washington. The dreaded fuel hike appeared on Turn 10, forcing Rinko to downsize in Atlanta while Gardner sold off interests in Miami. Bernard needed just three successful rolls to win on Turn 12, but was stopped on his first attempt. Melton took his shot a turn later, but was likewise denied. By Turn 14, the Turn Order was seen as the key to victory, but Bernard, Melton and Kircher failed one after another. Turn 15 arrived, and again the contenders each failed clinching

attacks until Melton, going third, won control of the Chicago hub to push his market share to 320 with \$12 to spare to take his third WBC title as our 15th *ABN* champ.



Alhambra (ALH)

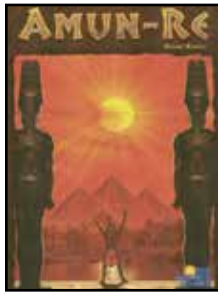
Alhambra set an attendance record with the same two-heat format producing 37 winners despite Blair Morgen, Brandon Bernard, and Lisa Gutermuth thinning the herd with double wins.

Dylan Quintana scored the largest margin of victory, a 60-point shellacking. Playing it closer to the vest were four micro-winners relying on tie-breakers (Adina Weiss, Andrew Sherwood, Lou Nguyen and Matt Naughton). The biggest wall builder was Angela Collinson with 18 lengths. Three winners disdained wall length: Lynda Shea and Alex Henning at eight lengths, and Allyson Thoma with nine.

There were 25 semifinal slots, but ten of our qualifiers chose not to advance, leaving only two to be cut. Brad Sherwood's one-point win over runner-up Frank Downing, thus earned Frank sixth place laurels as a consolation. The largest Round 2 score belonged to Lisa Gutermuth (106) as she won her third straight. David Meyaard enjoyed the largest margin of victory in the Round with an 11-point win over Bryan Berkenstock. David Bohnenberger won with only five wall lengths—the shortest wall in the tournament while Carolyn Strock survived the last table to advance.

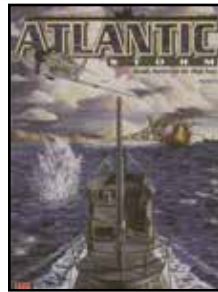
Bohnenberger—the lone repeating finalist—enjoyed the best start with ten points in the first round but soon faded. Meyaard took the lead with 33 points after two rounds and held on to win going away with 91 points, proving that the *ELC* champ had more than just nimble fingers. He was followed by Strock's 83, Gutermuth's 74, Bohnenberger's 71 and Sherwood's 63.





2015 Results

- ♣ Steven Spisak, on
 - ♠ Greg Thatcher, CA
 - ♣ Alex Bove, PA
 - ♠ Ron Clement, on
 - ♠ Haim Hochboim, il
 - ♠ Eric Freeman, PA
 - ♣ Greg Thatcher, CA
- † 67 📖 2003-2015



2015 Results

- ♣ Robert Kircher, RI
 - ♠ Justin Thompson, VA
 - ♠ Alex Lange, GA
 - ♠ Ron Glass, FL
 - ♠ Andy Gardner, VA
 - ♠ Jesse Boomer, KS
 - ♣ Ben Knight, MD
- † 116 📖 1998-2015



Steven Spisak, on

Top Laurelists

Greg Thatcher, FL	133
Eric Freeman, PA	109
Alex Bove, PA	104
Arthur Field, SC	91
Haim Hochboim, il	73
Kevin Wojtaszczyk, NY	73
Raphael Lehrer, MD	64
Nick Anner, NY	51
Aran Warszawski, il	48
Curt Collins II, PA	43



Robert Kircher, RI

Top Laurelists

John Coussis, IL	168
Roy Gibson, MD	100
Scott Buckwalter, MD	96
Rob Winslow, NY	95
Rob Eastman, NV	92
Patrick Mirk, FL	85
John Elliott, MD	84
Justin Thompson, VA	68
Bruce Young, SC	68
Bill Place, PA	64

Amun-Re (AMR)

18 Preliminary winners, a number reduced by six double wins, were unable to produce an all-winners semifinal of 5-player games, so four 4-player games obliged the 16 qualifiers available for Round 2.

Greg Thatcher earned the highest semifinal score (45) while Alex Bove took a comfortable 44-36 win over Aran Warszawski. The other games saw Eric Freeman and Haim Hochboim edged by Steve Spisak and Ron Clement, respectively. Eric's two-point loss gained sand laurels, while Haim's one-point defeat earned fifth.

Greg had a good money position heading into the second round of the Final, but Alex's decision to push the sacrifice up to 2 (increasing points for Ron who was the only person to have temples and money for Steve who had the most farmers) gave Steve almost the same amount. The second round became a chess match of province selection. Ron continued to covet the temple spaces while Steve and Greg used monetary advantages to take the larger pyramids. Greg took the Edu province with a temple and two pyramids giving him a boost at the end and an offset to Ron's two temples in Damanhur. However, the money and points Steve managed in the first round were enough to deny

Greg. The leaders tied with 42 points, but Steve held the first tiebreaker (nine pyramids to eight). Ron and Alex also tied with 36 points. Alex needed two tiebreakers (nine farmers and temples to Ron's seven) to take the bronze.



Atlantic Storm (ACS)

To qualify for the semis, you had to win one of four heats. Anna Kieft and John Coussis were taking no chances—having won three each. Robert Kircher, on the other hand, won just one, and that haltingly as he pondered which event to enter next. Finally, he opted for the last heat of ACS. It would turn out to be a good decision. He soon followed his victory there with a second win in the semifinals.

That decision was looking even better when he won Round 1 of the Final playing the fate card against the convoy, and everyone else discarded. At the halfway point, Robert enjoyed a slight lead and a 7-card hand, but 2011 champ Justin Thompson had an 8-card hand. Things slowed in the second half, with only three of the last ten convoys seeing actual battles. Justin won the 18th convoy using a wolf pack fated against SC 121 to tie Robert at 24 while gaining a 9-card hand. The Allies encountered no further opposition, but the players still competed for the strongest Allied escort points.

Robert won a 67% chance on one die roll to win convoy #19, earning four VPs. Justin called submarine for suit on convoy #20 and played three Allied cards for a 67% chance to win the convoy. He did but was rewarded with only three VPs—giving Robert the title by a single point. It was Robert's 16th WBC title but his first ACS shield.



2015 Results

- ♣ J. Fleckenstein, VA
 - ♠ E. Rodgers-Vargo, PA
 - ♠ Dan Hoffman, NC
 - ♠ John Emery, SC
 - ♠ Andy Lewis, DE
 - ♠ David Buchholz, MI
 - ♣ Steve Caler, OH
- † 38 📖 1991-2015



James Fleckenstein, VA

Top Laurelists

Bill Edwards, VA	88
Daniel Hoffman, NC	66
Bruce Young, SC	44
Jim Fleckenstein, VA	42
James Doughan, PA	40
Steve Caler, OH	40
David Sidelinger, CT	40
Kaarin Engelmann, VA	35
John Conlon, OK	33
John Emery, SC	32

Attack Sub (ATS)

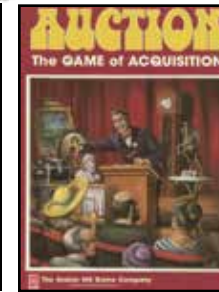


Four emerged unbeaten from the three qualifying swiss rounds—young Eric Rodgers-Vargo, Andy Lewis and a pair of former champions: Dan Hoffman and John Emery. Tiebreakers were used to resurrect Jim Fleckenstein, David Buchholz and previous champs Jim Doughan and Steve Caler from the 2-1 ranks.

Emery remained unbeaten through four rounds by dispatching the 2003 champ in Scenario E by sinking Caler's Renegade. As the Quarterfinals continued, Lewis met Fleckenstein's British in Scenario A. Andy sank Jim's *Swiftsure* and got in two attack solutions on *Valiant*, but missed both. Jim then sank the *Skoortsov* with a fire 1 and *Ivan Rogov* with a fire 2 attack. In the other quarterfinal matches, Doughan's *Renegade* managed to survive into deck 2 of Scenario E, but was sunk by Hoffman's forces before it could escape. Buchholz and Rodgers-Vargo played Scenario A with each losing a sub before Eric's British prevailed.

Both semifinals reprised Scenario E. Rodgers-Vargo continued his run by drawing a 0 on his first escape attempt of the second deck to defeat Hoffman. The streak of the other unbeaten, Emery, came to an end against Fleckenstein's surface fleet—being sunk by a third hit and thus guaranteeing a first-time champion would emerge.

Eric, flush with five straight wins, took the British in Scenario A. A Final two-deck battle royal saw both sides score a kill before Jim emerged with his sixth WBC title and first *ATS* shield after many years of trying.



2015 Results

- ♣ Michael Shea, CT
 - ♠ Jordan Shea, CT
 - ♠ Haakon Monsen, no
 - ♠ John Schoose, FL
 - ♠ Bruce Monnin, OH
 - ♠ Vasilli Kyrkos, NY
 - ♣ Bruce Reiff, OH
- † 34 📖 1993-2015



Michael Shea, CT

Top Laurelists

Bruce Reiff, OH	90
Ken Gutermuth, NC	62
Arthur Field, SC	50
Michael Shea, CT	44
John Schoose, FL	42
Andy Gardner, VA	40
Jon Lockwood, VA	34
George Sauer, OH	34
Steve Cuccaro, MD	32
Jeff Mullett, OH	30

Auction (AUC)

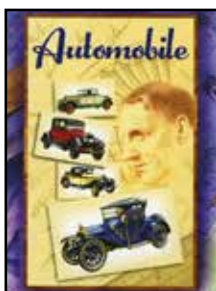


24 collectors responded to the early opportunity of an extra heat on Sunday evening. The Shea family began their domination with defending champ Michael and son Jordan winning their tables. Paul Klayder and Peter Staab acquired Final tickets as did former champs John Schoose and Andy Gardner. The next two heats each drew four tables with Bruce Reiff, Luke Koleszar, Sean McCulloch, Vassilli Kyrkos, Bruce Monnin, Norwegian Haakon Monsen and Lexi Shea gaining the last semi seats. Klayder got an extra pillow on his for winning twice.

11 of the 14 qualifiers appeared and were divided between three tables. Two Sheas, and Gardner prevailed with Schoose living to fight another day as the closest runner-up.

Sunday morning dawned on the four finalists vying for all the wooden marbles. Dad Shea had to fall on the team sword to stop his son from winning time and again. The last three cards in the special value deck were three Rich Collectors that never saw the light of day. The big break came late as Michael was selling and the "Everyone Inherits" card appeared. Haakon and John were out of luck as the last two cards went to Michael and Jordan triggering game end. Then, Michael bought back the three coins he sold earlier. It was enough. He won with \$6030, followed by Jordan \$4200, Haakon \$2760 and John \$1610. The defending champ had successfully defended his title, won his sixth WBC shield and become only the third multiple winner of the event.





2015 Results

♣ Rob Seulowitz, NY
♣ Dave Metzger, NY
♣ Matt Calkins, VA
♣ Robert Cranshaw, RI
♣ Mike Kalktman, PA
♣ Tom Bissa, MI

♣ Andrew Maly, TX

† 38 📖 2010-2015



2015 Results

♣ Joe Gioia, NY
♣ Chris Gioia, NY
♣ Mike Gioia, NY
♣ John Shoemaker, PA
♣ Kevin Keller, MD
♣ Ty Hansen, DC

♣ Joe Powell, VA

† 21 📖 1999-2015



Top Laurelists

Nick Henning, DC	78
Romain Jacques, qc	36
Andrew Maly, TX	36
Rob Seulowitz, NY	30
Matt Calkins, VA	30
Bill Zurn, CA	30
David Metzger, NY	27
Robert Cranshaw, RI	18
Michael Kaltman, PA	18
Greg Ziemba, MI	18



Top Laurelists

Joe Powell, VA	210
Kevin Keller, MD	203
Ty Hansen, DC	196
Philip Shea, VA	192
Pat Mirk, FL	129
Phil Rennert, MD	96
Richard Beyma, MD	95
Andrew Murphy, PA	94
Joe Gioia, NY	72
Tim Rothenhoefer, MD	68

Automobile (AUT)

With one less heat, the fewer preliminary tables meant that some would advance on cash. In Round 1, Greg Ziemba, Matt Calkins, Alistair Thach, Tony Newton, Anthony Lainesse, Robert Cranshaw, Al Hurda, and Tom Bissa all emerged victorious. Heat 2 took on the mid-70's aspect, as smaller was in vogue. David Stoy won his table handily. David Metzger, Bruce Hodgins, and Jack Jung all rebounded from initial losses. Most impressive was Jack's triumph as he beat Pat Hussey on a rare tiebreaker procedure. Matt Calkins again dominated the heats with a second win.

Tiebreaker wins are an endangered species in this event but 2015 had two such sightings. In one, Greg Schmittgens lost his semifinal to Rob Seulowitz, after having an apparent dominating position on the board. Matt Calkins again demonstrated his dominance, re-cording his third straight win. His protégé, Dave Metzger, handled his table by a comfortable \$420 while Robert Cranshaw won by \$200.

Howard was the choice in the Final, Durant and Chrysler were each chosen three times, and the other roles twice. And then Turn 3 started, and the pressure and decisions magnified. Probabilities were calculated with each move. Fates hung on the turn of the demand tiles. The game hinged on the demand draw for luxury cars on the last turn. The resulting "4" allowed all remaining luxury cars to be sold, and yielded a spread of

only \$180 between the top three. Rob Seulowitz thus earned his fourth WBC title—his first since the age of *Successors*.



Axis & Allies (A&A)

It was the first time a father (Joe Gioia) and his sons (Chris and Mike) swept the plaques. With only 21 entrants, it was the third smallest field in 17 years. Three former laurelists made it to the semifinals, the aforementioned members of the Gioia family. John Shoemaker was the lone interloper, but made his mark with a 4th place finish.

Mike was the top seed with a 3-0 record and 46 victory territories. He defeated John in the first round with an income increase as the Allies of 5, breaking the tie of 12 victory territories each. In Round 2 he defeated Sam Packwood with a concession. Two-time champ Kevin Keller was his third victim: 15-9.

Joe Gioia had finished second the previous two years, but swept his sons in the playoffs to get the brass ring, but not before tasting defeat in the Preliminaries. After topping two-time champ Joe Powell 15-9 in Round 2, he lost to Sam Packwood, 13 to 11. Despite the loss, he qualified for the semifinals where he ruined Mike's perfect slate. Japan had rolled up to Novosibirsk, but the Russian riposte retook it and later liberated Sinkiang. In the other semifinal, Chris defeated Shoemaker. John had committed three Japanese carriers against the Americans in the Atlantic to no avail.

Play balance was maintained with 26 games being split between the two sides. The average bid to play the Allies was 3.86, down from 2014's 4.3 and 2013's 5.0.



2015 Results

♣ Karl Henning, DC
♣ Pete Pollard, TN
♣ R. Covington, MD
♣ Paul Risner, FL
♣ Brendan Coomes, OH
♣ P. Livingston, DE

♣ Dave Terry, MD

† 65 📖 1992-2015



Top Laurelists

Paul Risner, FL	361
Richard Moyer, MN	156
Karl Henning, DC	120
William Rohrbeck, NH	106
Keith Hunsinger, OH	100
Bill Beckman, SC	90
Eric Stranger, OH	76
Steve Ambruzs, VA	60
Steve Sabatino, PA	60
Dan Dolan Sr, NJ	60



2015 Results

♣ Tommy Miklos, GA
♣ Rob Doane, OH
♣ Mark Miklos, GA
♣ Jim Tracy, OH
♣ Rod Coffey, MD
♣ John Vasilakos, VA

♣ Mark Miklos, GA

† 39 📖 1999-2015



Top Laurelists

Mark Miklos, GA	278
Bruno Sinigaglio, AK	144
Dale Long, NJ	125
John Vasilakos, VA	109
Jim Tracy, OH	102
Chris Easter, GA	88
Rob Doane, MD	71
Tommy Miklos, GA	59
David Stiffler, VA	50
Cliff Hansen, NM	48

B-17; Queen of the Skies (B17)

2015 marked the 24th year of B17 competition, spanning 71 missions from August 1942 through December 1943. Our first mission this year was a repeat visit to Solingen, Germany on 1 December. While the 3rd Bomb Division aborted due to weather, the First (B-17s) and Second (B-24s) were led by Pathfinders to the target. The second mission went to La Rochelle, France on 5 December. It featured the first escort by P-51 Mustangs and was the start of OPERATION CROSSBOW, the campaign against German V-1 sites. This raid struck several V-1 targets, and included a longer range attack on airfields in La Rochelle. The third mission was to Emden, Germany on 11 December, continuing the pressure on the German aircraft industry. All 65 players once again flew all three missions.

B-17 regularly awards a coveted sixth place Sand Plaque. We had a tie for fifth between Brendan Coomes and Philip Livingston at 170. Tiebreakers had to be consulted giving Brendan the nod. Thus, Philip "lost" out and earned the Sand Plaque instead to become the newest member of the Fez fraternity. Just missing Sand was Rose Hitchings with a score of 169 for seventh place.

The 2015 winner became our second repeating champion in consecutive years. Karl Henning claimed top wood at 178.5, following a winning score of 176 last year. The last to win B-17 in back to back years was Kevin Coombs back in 1993-94 against a much smaller field.



Battles of the Am. Revolution (BAR)

BAR ended a decade in Lancaster with record attendance. Six new players reinforced a field already bulging with returnees. 16 Mulligan Round matches of *Eutaw Springs* yielded eight American victories and two draws. A draw entitled the higher Morale to advance. *Eutaw Springs* was again contested in Round 1 with seven reinforcements helping contest nine more qualifying games. This time the British won three and drew four.

Round 2 was *Guilford Courthouse* with the British winning six of 11 contests. The remaining ten worthies met at *Germantown* in a Round 3 5-hour time slot. The Americans won three and drew two. In each draw the Morale differential was a single point. Rod Coffey's Americans passed Chris Easter 11 to 10 while Rob Doane's British bested John Vasilakos 13 to 12. The other survivors were Mark and Tommy Miklos and Jim Tracy who defeated Bruno Sinigaglio, Bill Morse and Jeff Lange respectively.

Doane's Americans defeated Coffey in the "Holding Action" scenario from *Monmouth Courthouse* by capturing Perrine Ridge in a "play-in" game to determine the final four!

The *Saratoga* semifinals were split 1-1. Doane's British defeated Tracy and, in a father vs. son contest, Tommy's Americans bested his dad in come-from-behind fashion, by tying him late at 2 1/2 VPs each. The stage was thus set for what would become a 9-hour Final slugfest. At the end Miklos's Americans prevailed with 12 VPs and Morale of 14 to 7.5 British VPs and Morale of 1.

