Vince Meconi 105 Churchill Lane Wilmington, DE 19808-4355 vmeconi@verizon.net

>>>>> vmeconi@verizon.net

2009 World Boardgaming Championships War At Sea Post-Tournament Newsletter

In This Newsletter

2009 Tournament Recap	Pages 1-2	2009 Final Standings	Pages 4-5
Play Balance and Bidding	Page 3	Latest AREA Rankings	Page 5
Many Thanks	Page 3	Notes and Stats	Page 6
War At Sea PBEM Tourney	Page 3	2009 Game-By-Game Results	Pages 6-7

Pat Richardson Takes War At Sea Crown at WBC Andy Gardner Latest Inductee Into the War At Sea Hall of Fame

Pat Richardson of Warrenton, VA won the 2009 War At Sea Championship in Lancaster, PA on August 8 with a record of 7-0-1. Pat, who previously won the 2000 WBC, defeated teammate and one-time neighbor **Andy Gardner** of Fairfax, VA (6-1-1) for the title. **Ewan McNay** of Albany, NY nabbed 3rd place with a 5-1-0 tally. Ewan was the only player to go undefeated and untied in the Swiss rounds, doing so for the 2nd year in a row. 4th place went to defending champ **Jonathan Lockwood** (Reston, VA), who had a 4-3-0 log. Other playoff contenders were 5th, **Chuck Stapp** (Freehold, NJ/4-2-0), 6th, **Ed Menzel** (Fullerton, CA, 4-2-0), 7th, **Mike Kaye** (Pasadena, MD, 4-2-0), and 8th, **Bruce Reiff**, (Lewis Center, OH at 3-3-0). Rounding out our top 10 were **Ray Freeman** (Berkeley, CA) in 9th place at 3-2-0 and 10th place, **Scott Beall** (Portland, OR, 3-2-0).

In addition to his 2nd place wood, **Andy Gardner** became the 4th inductee into the War At Sea Hall of Fame, joining previous inductees **Alan Applebaum**, **Ray Freeman**, and **Bruce Monnin**. On top of his two WBC crowns, Andy is the only player thus far to have won the War At Sea "triple crown," which includes the WBC, PBEM Ladder, and BPA PBEM Championship tournaments.

37 players opened the competition shortly after 9 AM on tournament day. But playoff eligibility for most players came down to Round 5, 8 hours later. At the end of 4 rounds, only **Ewan McNay** was undefeated and untied and had clinched a playoff slot. Ewan opted not to play in Round 5, which left 6 games in which both players had a chance at the remaining 7 playoff berths. **Pat Richardson** (3-0-1/35 VPs to that point) took on **Bruce Reiff** (3-1-0, 30 VPs), in a contest featuring 2 frequent playoff competitors who did not enter the 2008 tournament. Pat's Axis prevailed over Bruce's Allies by 10 POC; the 2.0 Allied bid wasn't even needed by the Kriegsmarine. A 2nd contest featuring multiple-year playoff veterans was **Andy Gardner** (3-0-1/35 VPs) against **Ed Menzel** (3-1-0/30 VPs). Andy's Axis came out on top by the exact 2.0 Allied bid by Ed. Next, **Chuck Stapp**, bidding 2.0 for the Allies, faced **Ray Freeman**'s Axis. These 2 have played many times over the years, and this time it was Chuck's fleet victorious by 3 POC. **Mike Kaye** (3-1-0, 28 VPs) faced off against **John Elliott** (2-0-1, 23 VPs) one board away. John was seeking to repeat his feat of making the playoffs after skipping Round 1, which has only been done twice, but it was Mike's Allies, bidding 2.0, who prevailed. **Scott Beall** and **John Sharp** sat at the next board, both with 2-2-0/20 VPs at the time. Scott bid 1.5 for the Allies and ran away with an 8.5 POC victory. Finally, 2 of last year's playoff participants, **Rob Drozd** (2-1-1, 21 VPs)

[Continued under 2009 Tournament Recap on page 2.]

If You No Longer Want To Receive This Newsletter

Please say the word, by e-mail or regular mail, and I will take you off the list.

2009 Tournament Recap (continued)

and **Jonathan Lockwood** (2-2-0, 20 VPs), faced off, with the knowledge that only the victor would have a chance to return this year. That turned out to be Jonathan, who took the Allies for a 1.5 bid and prevailed by 8.5 POC.

At the conclusion of the Round 5 carnage, 5 of the 8 playoff slots were set. Andy Gardner and Pat Richardson led the way with identical 4-0-1 records and 45 VPs apiece; Andy's strength of schedule was marginally higher. Similary, Chuck Stapp (4-1-0) edged Ewan McNay (4-0-0) for the #3 seed; both had 40 VPs, but Chuck's strength of schedule was slightly better. Next was Mike Kaye at 4-1-0 and 38 VPs The following 5 players all finished 3-2-0 with 30 VPs: Scott Beall, Ray Freeman, Jonathan Lockwood, Ed Menzel, and Bruce Reiff. Ed, Jonathan, and Bruce won the strength of schedule tiebreaker to round out the elite eight field. Mike Kaye, Jonathan Lockwood, Ewan McNay, and Ed Menzel all repeated from last year's playoffs; the only previous player to have done so since the playoff field was expanded to 8 was John Pack.

In the quarterfinals, top seed **Andy Gardner** took the Allies for a 2.0 bid against #8 seed **Bruce Reiff**'s Axis, and Andy prevailed with an 8-POC win after the bid. To avoid a rematch, rather than play the #7 seed, **Pat Richardson**'s #2 seeded Allies, bidding 2.5, faced **Ed Menzel**'s #6 seed Axis, and won by just 0.5 POC. **Jonathan Lockwood**'s #6 Allies upset #3 **Chuck Stapp**'s Axis by 8 POC. The Axis started with a 2.0 bid, but lost 4 ships on Turn 1 and never recovered, never even breaking the blockade. And finally, #4 **Ewan McNay**'s Allies, bidding 2.0, ran away with the game against **Mike Kaye**'s Axis. The Axis could not break the blockade with 6 U-boats against 11 ASW in the North Sea on Turn 6, then failed with 7 U-boats to break out against 11 ASW in the North Sea on Turn 7. Mike had won the Victory in the Pacific tourney earlier in the week; each year the VITP champ seems to do well in War At Sea, but not well enough to win both events. In the semifinals, **Andy Gardner** continued his winning ways against **Jonathan Lockwood**; Andy took the Allies for 2.5 bid and won by 5.5 POC. Meanwhile, **Pat Richardson** used an Allied bid of 2.5 to turn **Ewan McNay**'s Allied lead of 1 POC into an Axis victory by 1.5 POC.

Finalists **Andy Gardner** and **Pat Richardson** reprised their Round 3 tie. Pat won the die roll for 1st bid and promptly bid 2.5 for the Allies, which Andy accepted. (Thanks to Andy for the following detailed description.) Pat's Barents on 1 tactic was met by Andy sending the Axis fleet to the South Atlantic. 2x225 speed rolls failed, but the Axis won the area anyway; each side lost one ship. Turn 2 proved the defining turn of the game as the Axis sallied forth to the South Atlantic again, but lost a 225, 3x117, and the area. While they retained a 3-POC lead, the majority of their fleet was now trapped. With nowhere else to go, the Axis fought in the South Atlantic again on Turn 3, losing both 357 battleships, the last Italian CA and, again, the area; the Axis lead was now +2. On Turn 4 the Axis used U-boats to decontrol the South Atlantic, but the Allies landed a convoy and took the lead by 1 POC. On turn 5 the Axis sailed their remaining ships to the Barents. LBA disabled the convoy, but after 20 rounds (the GM was counting!), the Allies barely won the battle to go up by 2 POC. Turn 6 saw the Axis U-boats again disable Convoy 2B, but the Allies got it to England on Turn 7 to widen their lead to +4. The Allies landed Convoy 3C in England on Turn 8 to clinch the victory at 5 POC before the bid and 2.5 after. Congratulations again to 2009 War At Sea Champion **Pat Richardson**!

Our total of 43 entrants was a decrease from last year's 46, and 72 total games were played, also off last year's count. For the first time since the initial Avaloncon in 1992, when <u>everyone</u> was a rookie, no Rookie of the Year was named. Champ **Pat Richardson** added Best Axis Player (2-0-0) to his honors; he was previously Best Axis player in 2000. **Andy Gardner** and **Jonathan Lockwood** shared Best Allied Player laurels at 4-0-0; Jonathan repeated from last year and Andy was the 2007 Best Allied Player. For the 6th year in a row, no chess clock expired.

Play Balance and Bidding

Bidding for the Allies reached an all-time high this year (90.3% of the games had an Allied bid vs. 9.7% with no bid; no player bid for the Axis). However, the percentage of games won by the Allies also reached a new peak. The Allies won 45 games (62.5%), the Axis 25 (34.7%) and there were 2 ties (2.8%). The average bid this year was 1.51 for all games and 1.68 for those games which had bids; both numbers were higher than last year. Here's a breakdown of this year's bids:

	No. of	Won By	Won By	
Bid	Games	Axis	Allies	Tied
No Bid	7	1	6	0
Allies 0.5	1	1	0	0
Allies 1.0	11	4	6	1
Allies 1.5	25	13	12	0
Allies 2.0	20	3	16	1
Allies 2.5	8	3	5	0
Totals	72	25	45	2

The percentage of games won by the Allies has now declined every year but one since 2002: from 51% to 50, 36, 49, 42, 39, 37, and now 34% even while, as mentioned, bidding – and bidding for the Allies – has steadily increased. When the Allies still win more than 3/4ths of the games in which they bid 2.0 or more, their edge has gone from marginal to substantial, in my opinion. To bring the game back into balance, either bids need to increase even further or one or more play-balance mechanisms need to be introduced. Suggestions, anyone?

The foregoing is not meant to imply that bidding has no effect on game outcomes. In fact, the results of more games than ever before – 15 in all – were altered this year by bids. 4 Allied wins became Axis wins, 4 ties became Axis wins, and 2 Allied wins became ties. In addition, one Axis win by less than 2 POC became an Axis victory by 2 POC or more, and 4 Allied wins by 2 POC or more converted to Allied wins by less than 2 POC.

Thanks To....

Thanks go to Circus Maximus GM John Jacoby, who strolled over in mid-tourney and handed me a huge coffee table book entitled The War At Sea 1939-1945 and told me to give it to the highest player who did not get a plaque, in this case, Chuck Stapp. As always, putting on the War At Sea tournament is a team effort, starting with Assistant Gamemasters Ewan McNay, Frank Cunliffe, who ran our demo, and John Sharp, who not only helped on tournament day, but also provided the chess clocks. Thanks also to Greg Smith, who volunteered to play Round 1 only if we had an odd number of entrants; this year we did not. Finally, I always manage to draw the most gentlemanly of opponents, win or lose. John Sharp, Jonathan Lockwood, Steve Packwood, Chuck Stapp, and David Rennert played swiftly, set up the game afterwards, and allowed me to attend to my GM duties

War At Sea PBEM Championship

War At Sea BPA PBEM Championship VII is underway. This one is single elimination, so entrance is closed, but you can read all about it at GM **Bruce Monnin**'s site, http://www.nktelco.net/bdmonnin/was home page.html.

2009 World Boardgaming Championships Final Standings

No.	Name F	Played	Axis W-L-T	Allies W-L-T	Total W-L-T	Swiss Points	Schedule Strength	Finish
9 6 7 1 17 2 5	Pat Richardson Andy Gardner Ewan McNay Jonathan Lockwood Chuck Stapp Mike Kaye Ed Menzel Bruce Reiff	8 8 6 7 6 6 6	2-0-0 2-1-1 — 0-3-0 0-1-0 1-1-0 2-2-0 0-1-0	5-0-1 4-0-0 5-1-0 4-0-0 4-1-0 3-1-0 1-1-0 3-2-0	7-0-1 6-1-1 5-1-0 4-3-0 4-2-0 4-2-0 3-3-0 3-3-0	45 40 30 40 38 30 30	5.727 5.870 5.000 6.609 5.091 — 7.750 5.278	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
15 8	Ray Freeman Scott Beall	5 5	3-2-0 —	 3-2-0	3-2-0 3-2-0	30 30	4.842 4.737	9 10
11 41 10 31 36 18 42 37 32 13	Vince Meconi John Elliott Rob Drozd John Sharp John Welage Mark Gutfreund Bruce Monnin Steve Raszewski David Rennert Steve Packwood	5 4 5 5 2 4 2 4 5 3	2-2-0 2-1-1 2-2-0 1-3-0 0-1-0 1-1-0 1-0-0 0-2-0 1-2-0 1-1-0	1-0-0 0-0-1 1-0-0 1-0-0 1-1-0 1-1-0 0-2-0 0-1-0	3-2-0 2-1-1 2-2-1 2-3-0 1-1-0 2-2-0 2-0-0 1-3-0 1-4-0 1-2-0	28 23 21 20 *20 18 18 14 12		11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
34 35 3 21 33 4 20 41 43 23	Sean Druelinger John Skiba Darren Kilfara Mike Ussery David Rynkowski Glenn McMaster Ed O'Connor Joe Collinson Ted Drozd Bill Scott	3 2 3 4 1 1 1	1-2-0 0-1-0 — 0-1-0 — 1-0-0 1-0-0	— 1-0-0 1-2-0 1-1-0 1-3-0 — — 1-0-0 1-0-0	1-2-0 1-1-0 1-2-0 1-2-0 1-3-0 1-0-0 1-0-0 1-0-0 1-0-0	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	7.857 6.000 5.778 3.818 3.600 3.333 3.333 2.400 0.000	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
39 28 30 12 40 25 27 24 29 26	Tom Richardson Greg Smith Ben Gardner Jim Kramer Tim Hitchings Robert Hahn Steve Koleszar Meghan Friedmann Matthew O'Connor Bruno Passacantand	1 0 3 5 1 1 1 2 0 2		1-0-0 — 0-1-0 0-3-0 — 0-1-0 — 0-1-0	1-0-0 — 0-3-0 0-5-0 0-1-0 0-1-0 0-1-0 0-2-0 0-2-0	10 *10 4 2 0 0 0 0	0.000 —————————————————————————————————	31 32 33 34 35 36T 36T 38 39 40

2009 World Boardgaming Championships Final Standings (continued)

No.	Name	Playe	Axis ed W-L-T	Allies W-L-T	Total W-L-T	Swiss Points	Schedule Strength	Finish
22	Frank Cunliffe	1	0-1-0		0-1-0	0	6.000	41
19	Charles Drozd	2	0-2-0		0-2-0	0	5.778	42
16	Bryan Eshleman	2	0-2-0		0-2-0	0	4.286	43
43	Totals	144	25-45-2	45-25-2	70-70-4	**670		

Key

No. — Player seeding.

Played — Number of games played by player, including quarterfinals, semifinals, and final.

W-L-T — Won-Lost-Tied

Swiss Points — Number of VPs scored in 5 preliminary (Swiss) rounds.

Schedule Strength — Used to break ties among players with same VPs; equals # of VPs earned by player's opponents divided by # of games played by player's opponents.

Finish — Final ranking. Top 8 players are ranked by results of playoffs.

War At Sea AREA Ratings/Preliminary 2010 WBC Seedings (as of September 26, 2009)

1	Pat Richardson	6526			
	(also Defending C	Champion)	21	Alan Applebaum	5588
2	Andy Gardner	6443	22	Ray Freeman	5576
3	Jonathan Lockwood	6376	23	Bruce Reiff	5570
4	Mike Kaye	6350	24	Steve Packwood	5565
5	Ewan McNay	6261	25	Bruce Monnin	5549
6	Glenn McMaster	6241	26	Kevin Shewfelt	5546
7	Ed Menzel	6036	27	Ron Dietz	5532-i
8	Darren Kilfara	6013	28	Phil Rennert	5489
9	John Pack	5894	29	Rob Beyma	5456-i
10	Scott Beall	5836	30	David Finberg	5440-i
11	Rob Flowers	5787-i	31T	Don Greenwood	5434
12	Vince Meconi	5784	<i>31T</i>	Steve Carver	5434-i
13	Dennis Nicholson	5762	33T	Mike Bailey	5414
14	Joe Collinson	5752	33T	Ted Drozd	5414
15	Andy Choptiany	5738	35	Ian Zernechel	5390-i
16	Rob Drozd	5723	36T	John Elliott	5377
17	Tim Tow	5719	36T	Ed O'Connor	5377
18	John Strand	5662	38	Nick Markevich	5372
19	Mike Knautz	5624	39	Tom Scarborough	5362
20	Chuck Stapp	5591	40	David Lindsay	5349-i

i=Inactive AREA status.

Italicized players have not entered a WBC/Avaloncon War At Sea tournament.

^{*} Includes 10 points awarded for a bye.

Tournament Notes and Statistics

By virtue of his 4-0-0 tally as the Allies this year, Jonathan Lockwood pushed his undefeated streak to 10 Allied wins from 2007 through this year; Ray Freeman (2003-2005) and Mike Kaye (1998-2000) held the previous WBC mark with 8 consecutive Allied wins. Ed Menzel won 15 BPA PBEM Championship games as the Allies over BPA PBEM Championships II-VI....After playing one game this year, Tim Hitchings remains the only person to have played in every one of the 19 WBC and Avaloncon War At Sea events....Scott Beall, Ewan McNay, and David Rynkowski played all games as the Allies; John Elliott and Ray Freeman stayed on the Axis side of the board every time....In David's and Ray's cases, they've been known to play almost all of their games on the other side in previous years.... A warm welcome to our 5 first-timers: Meghan Friedmann, Robert Hahn, Steve Koleszar, Bruno Passacantando, and David Rennert....Jonathan Lockwood won all of his Allied games, but was shut out as the Axis.... Through 2,612 War at Sea tournament games played at the WBC, Avaloncon, PBEM Ladder, and BPA PBEM Championships, the Allies lead 1,311-1,182, with 65 ties and 54 games with no information available....There has been an Allied bid in 54% of those games, an Axis bid in 6%, and no bid in 40%....The 5 best career tournament War At Sea winning percentages belong to 1) **David** Finberg, 2) Andy Gardner, 3) Glenn McMaster, and 4) (tie) Pat Richardson and Tom Scarborough....The 5 top Axis records belong to 1) David Finberg, 2) Glenn McMaster, 3) Tim Tow, 4) Jim Kramer, and 5) Jonathan Lockwood....Heading the Allied charts are 1) John Elliott, 2) Andy Gardner, 3) Phil Rennert, 4) Ray Freeman, and 5) Mike Kaye....Ewan McNay has the best record in WBC/Avaloncon only games, Andy Choptiany the best PBEM Ladder winning percentage, and Ed Menzel the best record in BPA PBEM Championship contests....Bruce Monnin has played the most tournament games, 161, and has the most Axis victories (55); **Jonathan Lockwood** has the most total wins (102) and Allied wins (79)....3 readers of this newsletter share the record for most total losses; you know who you are....I'm not calling them out, because then somebody might ask who's in 4th place....The 2009 Family War At Sea event was won by the brothers **Pat** and Tom Richardson over the father and son teams of Andy & Ben Gardner, Rob & Charles and Ted Drozd, and Ed & Matthew O'Connor....Speaking of family teams, it was painful enough for Jim Kramer to wear an 0 for 5 collar; on top of that, he had to endure abuse from son Nick, who announced to the GM that his dad had "shamed the family" with his winless record. I might have been more sympathetic to that argument had Nick defended his family honor by himself entering this year instead of sitting on the sidelines! Personal bests were registered this year by Steve Raszewski (18), Bill Scott (30), and Ben Gardner (33)....Pat Richardson is now both defending champion and AREA leader at 6526.

2009 World Boardgaming Championships Final Game-by-Game Results

No.	Name	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	VPs
		Players: 37 Games: 18	Players: 29 Games: 14	Players: 26 Games: 13	Players: 22 Games: 11	Players: 18 Games: 9	
1	Jonathan Lockwood	W-10 v. 18	W-10 v. 11	L-0 v. 7	L-0 v. 9	W-10 v. 10	30
2	Mike Kaye	W-10 v. 19	W-8 v. 13	W-10 v. 3	L-0 v. 6	W-10 v. 38	38
3	Darren Kilfara	L-0 v. 20	W-10 v. 30	L-0 v. 2			10
4	Glenn McMaster	W-10 v. 21					10
5	Ed Menzel	W-10 v. 22	W-10 v. 17	W-10 v. 8	L-0 v. 7	L-0 v. 6	30
6	Andy Gardner	W-10 v. 24	W-10 v. 32	T-5 v. 9	W-10 v. 2	W-10 v. 5	45
7	Ewan McNay	W-10 v. 25	W-10 v. 34	W-10 v. 1	W-10 v. 5		40
8	Scott Beall	W-10 v. 26	W-10 v. 35	L-0 v. 5	L-0 v. 15	W-10 v. 31	30
9	Pat Richardson	W-10 v. 29	W-10 v. 10	T-5 v. 6	W-10 v. 1	W-10 v.14	45
10	Rob Drozd	W-8 v. 30	L-0 v. 9	W-8 v. 18	T-5 v. 38	L-0 v. 1	21
11	Vince Meconi	W-10 v 31	I -∩ v 1	W-10 v 13	I _∩ v 17	W-8 v 32	28

2009 World Boardgaming Championships Final Game-by-Game Results (continued)

			•		,		
No.	Name	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	VPs
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Jim Kramer Steve Packwood Bruce Reiff Ray Freeman Bryan Eshleman Chuck Stapp Mark Gutfreund Charles Drozd Ed O'Connor	L-0 v. 32 W-10 v. 33 L-0 v. 34 L-0 v. 35 L-0 v. 36 W-10 v. 37 L-0 v. 1 L-0 v. 2 W-10 v. 3	L-0 v. 38 L-2 v. 2 W-10 v. 21 W-10 v. 29 L-0 v. 31 L-0 v. 5 W-8 v. 33 L-0 v. 37	L-0 v. 21 L-0 v. 11 W-10 v. 31 W-10 v. 32 W-10 v. 34 L-2 v. 10	L-2 v. 42 W-10 v. 36 W-10 v. 8 W-10 v. 11 W-8 v. 37	L-0 v. 42 L-0 v. 9 L-0 v. 17 W-10 v. 15	2 12 30 30 0 40 18 0
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Mike Ussery Frank Cunliffe Bill Scott Meghan Friedmann Robert Hahn Bruno Passacantando Steve Koleszar Greg Smith Matthew O'Connor Ben Gardner	L-0 v. 4 L-0 v. 5 W-10 vs. 27 L-0 vs. 6 L-0 vs. 7 o L-0 v. 8 L-0 vs. 23 Bye-10 L-0 v. 9 L-2 v. 10	L-0 v. 14 L-0 v. 15 L-0 v. 3	W-10 v. 12 L-2 v. 33		L-0 v. 43	10 0 10 0 0 0 0 10 0 4
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40	John Skiba John Welage	L-0 v. 11 W-10 v. 12 L-0 v. 13 W-10 v. 14 W-10 v. 15 W-10 v. 16 L-0 v. 17	W-10 v. 16 L-0 v. 6 L-2 v. 18 L-0 v. 7 L-0 v. 8 Bye-10 W-10 v. 19 W-10 v. 12	L-0 v. 14 L-0 v. 15 W-8 v. 30 L-0 v. 17 L-2 v. 38 W-8 v. 37 W-10 vs. 40 L-0 v. 39	W-10 v. 33 L-0 v. 41 L-0 v. 31 L-0 v. 14 L-2 v. 18 T-5 v. 10	L-0 v. 8 L-2 v. 11 L-0 v. 2	20 12 10 10 10 20 14 23 10
41 42 43	Joe Collinson Bruce Monnin Ted Drozd				W-10 v. 32 W-8 v. 12	W-10 v. 12 W-10 v. 26	10 18 10
No.	Name C	Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Final			
1 2 3	Andy Gardner Pat Richardson Chuck Stapp	W v. 8 W v. 6 L v. 7	W v. 7 W v. 4	L v. 2 W v. 1			

W v. 5

L v. 4

L v. 2

W v. 3

L v. 1

L v. 2

L v. 1

4 Ewan McNay

7 Jonathan Lockwood

5 Mike Kaye

6 Ed Menzel

8 Bruce Reiff

Vince Meconi 105 Churchill Lane Wilmington, DE 19808-4355

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL