



The Dutch Fungus

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Diplomacy's "Mount Rushmore".

But wait, what is this? What's JLD doing in there with those past WDC winners?

Fungitorial

A very warm welcome to all, for another helping of Fungus. If all goes to plan then there will be plenty of news about World DipCon in this issue. But most important of all is that we all know how to get there



"Ze plane, boss, take ze plane!"
(Hervé Villechaize: Paris's finest!)

Yes indeed, Fantasy Island's little star and Christopher Lee's comedy stooge in the James Bond Film *The Man With The Golden Gun*. The French must be sooo proud of him ☺

There is a **real treat** this issue with some encouraging words by the past World Diplomacy Champions. Lots of words in fact! For me this is what has made this issue so enjoyable to put together. But all that's to come.

We have quite a summer ahead of us; such as the football World Cup. The English team have been appearing regularly on the front pages of the newspapers as usual, where all the sleaze and gossip appears. Our entire defence is in disarray as John Terry (our captain) gets demoted for shagging another player's girlfriend, who in turn resigns from the team. And Ashley Cole has been "playing away" with another girl also. Only in Ashley's case he has an excuse: he says it's because his mother-in-law moved into their marital home and he had no room to even breathe. Indeed, their house is only the size of Luxemburg so it must have been a really tight squeeze for the three!

But at least we have a familiar set of names at the fore with Owen, Gerrard, Beckham and of course Rooney.

So who knows: we might just get "lucky" this time and win the World Cup ... just like the Italians did ☺

Ah yes (and if there is one thing for sure!), where would the World Cup be without the Italians?

So that's the French & Italians insulted before the zine has even started ... who's next I wonder? No, I'm not going to pick on the Germans this time because Daniel Leinich has become the overnight hobby hero in my opinion. And as for the Swedes – they usually get a tease somewhere in the zine anyway.

Either way, I'm sure most of you will be watching the imminent World Cup with great interest ☺

Ok, so let's move straight onto our own "little world cup" of Diplomacy. This time there is lots of information to report about the WDC and it all needs to start from the front page. Some really important changes have taken place in the organisation over the last few days ...

World DipCon 2010



WDC: 20 – 22 August 2010

***** UNDER NEW ***
** MANAGEMENT ****

Things were not happening (like a website that was promised for August 2009) so the WDC Organisation Team has changed, so as to ensure a fantastic 2010 World Dip Con for all.

But there is some extra help needed too, so please do help where you can and asked for below;

Team WDC 2010

You can email the team with any questions at:

teamwdc2010@gmail.com



Frank
Oosterom

Chief WDC
organiser

Frank told me last week that he needed some help. There are three areas where this help is needed and this is where we have got to:

1. The WDC Website

Without the technical know-how to arrange the website himself, the WDC team is honoured to welcome;



Daniel
Leinich

Website
designer

Daniel wrote a fantastic website for the German European Diplomacy Championships in 2009 and writes:

"we will definitely have something up by the 15th of March. My guess is earlier but you can never know..."

As soon as Frank & Daniel are happy with the website (and let me know), I will send all of you an email with the address so you can keep up to date with news directly yourselves.

Daniel, you're a real star – thank you for helping and make this happen.

2. The Hostel Deposit

Frank needs to find 1,000 Euros for the hostel deposit. And so we have asked a few people if they would send Frank some money to help cover this (typically 50 – 100 Euros).

There is still about 500 Euros to find, so if you are planning to come to WDC this Summer, please would you email the team at their email address (teamwdc2010@gmail.com) and pledge a token deposit to help with this arrangement. Please note:

- It is a **deposit only**: so you will get your money back, deducted from your hostel bill.
- This is **urgent**, so please either do it NOW or not at all.

Normally I would not ask, but we have to move quickly to make this happen and have a great WDC for all.

3. Frank's Bitch!

Frank will need someone (preferably who lives in the Netherlands) to help with some of the running around of the organisation nearer the event. i.e., a shoulder to help carry the burden. You could say "a best man", or (as we might say in England) "a bitch"!

This title ("Frank's Bitch") comes with no payment for a lot of hard work. However, the reward is plentiful when everyone at WDC will show their appreciation for Frank's Bitch. Indeed, I am sure this person will get a better applause and cheers than the new World Champion!!

So, roll up and apply now please. Applications should be sent to: teamwdc2010@gmail.com

Seriously though – please help in any way if you can. I imagine it may be things like getting Diplomacy games to the event, setting up tables etc.

WDC 2010 NEWS

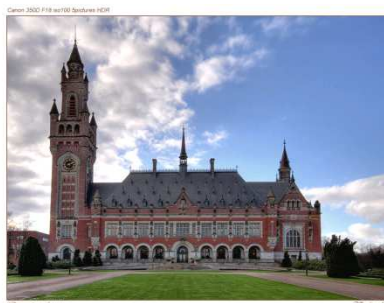
WDC XX



Den Haag, The Netherlands August 19-22, 2010

Location:

This should be the Stayokay Hostel in Den Haag, but the deal has not been confirmed due to delay in deposit. We are currently raising funds to finalize on this deal.



Den Haag: a truly beautiful place!

Schedule:

Thursday, August 19

19:00 – 19:45 Welcome & Registration
20:00 – 21:30 Dinner
21:30 – 23:30

No Press Tournament:

21:45 – 22:15 Round 1
22:30 – 23:00 Round 2
23:15 – 23:45 Round 3

Friday, August 20

07:00 – 09:00 Breakfast
09:00 – 09:30 Reg. Round 1
10:00 – 14:00 Round 1
14:00 – 15:30 Lunch
15:00 – 15:30 Reg. Round 2
16:00 – 20:00 Round 2
20:00 – 21:30 Dinner
21:30 – 22:15 Bids + voting
WDC 2012 + Hobby meeting

Saturday, August 21

07:00 – 09:00 Breakfast
09:00 – 09:30 Reg. Round 3
10:00 – 14:00 Round 3
14:00 – 15:30 Lunch
15:00 – 15:30 Reg. Round 4
16:00 – 20:00 Round 4 (Team Round)
20:00 – 21:30 Dinner

Sunday, August 22

07:00 – 09:00 Breakfast
09:00 – 09:30 Reg. Round 5
10:00 – 14:00 Round 5 (and Top Board)
14:00 – 15:00 Lunch
15:00 Award Ceremony

Some of the prizes:



The Teddy Bear prize. ((surely not for Frank's Bitch?!))

Another photo from Den Haag;



((A few more photos later guys !!!))

So, come to Den Haag this Summer to try your "luck" at being the **2010 World Diplomacy Champion**. We look forward to welcoming you.



Happy Stobbin'!

teamwdc2010@gmail.com

Other Tournaments

EDC: 27 – 29 August 2010.

European Diplomacy Championships



PARIS



"take ze plane boss, take ze plane"

Laurent Joly

"We are still talking about it.

The date is sure :

August 26 evening : host people

August 27->August 29

Hotel : Hotel La Louisiane, Paris.
(free room for american). We will have 18 rooms or more.

Location: I don't have the exact location yet, but that will be in the center of paris.

Cyrille Sevin

"This has still to be accepted by the co-organizers (the WAC) but it should be as follows. As we wanted to mix long and short games, we needed a balanced system for the 2 options, therefore we picked the Manorcon one. Cheers, Cyrille."

April 2010 Toulouse

April 24 2010

Cyrille Sevin

2 rounds, C-Diplo. It is during the Festival du Jeu of Toulouse, one of the biggest in France

Planning :

(exact timing will depend on room)

Friday: 1 no-limit game (10h-19h and more if necessary). It will be actually limited to 22 years, this should be enough I guess ;-)

Saturday: 2 limited game (10h-14h00 et 15h00-19h) played in 8 years!

Sunday: 1 limited game and the finale (10h-14h), then results

Scoring system: Manorcon (very good for mixing limited and unlimited game. That may be impossible to mix C-Diplo with the unlimited game. Manorcon was used many times in France, and in several European major convention)

Ranking System: 3 qualifying round 100% 80% 40% or 100% 100% (if only 2 games played) + score final round.

Top board: The winner win the tournament. People chose their country like during each French NDC.

September 2010 *** ROME ***

September 25 – 26 2010

Francesco Conte

"Can I ask you to mention in the next Fungus issue that, on the last weekend of September, there will be the first CISD event organized in Rome? (and in Vatican, not in a suburb!) Maybe there is a foreigner wanting an excuse for a trip :P

First of all, the name will be "Legatio in Urbe 2010" :D

It will take place on Sept. 25/26, in the Center of Rome (in Vatican City, to be precise!), in a High School named Pio IX (Via dei Cavalieri del Santo Sepolcro, 2). That is the same place which the first Legatio in Urbe occurred in. Before you ask, no boys/girls on saturday/sunday :P

Thus, it's in the very centre of Rome! 8 min walking from an underground rail station (directly connected to the main train station, Termini). Termini is connected by rail to the airport Fiumicino (that is the main hub for international flights).

I think that anybody interested should contact me for accommodation and other stuff (you can attach my email), at the moment we have a good deal with a B&B well connected to the site, but I usually deal online with my prenotations, so I can give my

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opinion or directly help in the choice of an appropriate accommodation.

Now it is clear, this will be a national event (but foreigners are welcome, especially if they don't speak French :P) - and we'll try for an EGP event next year.

Another event that I'd like to write of, is the first event of CISD 2010. It will be hosted by Leonardo Quirini in Terni, that is quite near us Romans :D I think it will occur on March 13/14. If you have free space, you can write of it.

March 2010 Frankfurt

Wiesbadener Varianten-Tage

**Sat 20th - Sun 21st March 2010
Wiesbaden, Germany**



Ulrich Degwitz

The Wiesbadener Varianten-Tage will be a special convention for Diplomacy variants like Ancient Med, Battleships, Chromatic, just to mention a choice of five-player-variants to be offered.

We will not stop you from bringing a board of plain old Diplomacy with you but the focus is definitely on variants of all kinds. There will be a special scoring system to play the variants in a tournament like fashion.

If you invented a variant and want it played or tested this will probably be the perfect convention for you as well. There simply is no other place where you will find as many variant-freaks gathering to play them face-to-face.

Wiesbaden is located in Central Germany, ca. 30 km from Frankfurt airport. The price will be about 40 Euros, including one overnight stay in the local youth hostel. Further information (in German) can be found on the website of the German Diplomacy association.

Website:

<http://www.diplomacy-bund.de>

Contacts:

Felix Happich (fhappich@gmx.de)
Ulrich Degwitz (degwitz@graue-substanz.net)



The year of death




1994 was without doubt the World Diplomacy hobby's darkest hour.

94 players took part which made the tournament a healthy size. And the build-up to 1994 (i.e., the previous few Manorcons) may have had some impact on how this WDC turned out.

The Team Event

From a personal point of view, I was tired of getting 14+ centres every year in the team tournament but never being in the winning team. Indeed, three or four of us consistently got great results, whilst the rest kept getting eliminated. So this was the year of the all-star "Alsoran" team, which included the likes of Shaun Derrick, John Colledge, Brian Frew, (the late) Bob Kendrick, Vick Hall, myself and brother Adam.

With five rounds of Diplomacy that weekend, Adam won the Tournament Director's award for getting four eliminations and a 17-centre result in the team round. Actually, Adam won the TD's award several years running ... so one can't help but wonder if the TD (Iain Bowen) had a special 'thing' for Adam ☺

Adam's final turn had a 50/50 at the 18, which wasn't to be. Had it been, the "Alsorans" would have won the team tournament, but instead that title went to ... I can't bring myself to say it ... ok ... "Team ". Mna.

So, once again, many congratulations to Per Westling, Bjorn Von Knorring, Paul Nillson and the rest of that team of reprobates ☺

The French

This WDC was split into two clear 'factions'. In the one party we had the Americans, British, Germans, Scandinavians and everyone else ... and in the other there was the French. Xavier had very kindly mustered a group of about 25 French players (though, to be fair, some were independent – it just didn't feel that way at the time).

By the end of the first round there were rumours of French alliances, and by the end of the second it became full scale war.

Personally, I hadn't encountered anything to speak of at this stage, and met Pascal Montagna on a board in the third round. Although I gave him a good hammering in this game, his style of play was fantastic and every bit the World Champion he was to become that weekend.

So my experience of the French cartels was not so bad ... until the fifth round. Then I learned first-hand what all the fuss was about.

I drew Turkey, my brother Germany and Jon Pollock Austria. The other four players were French (and I've never met any of them since).

The game was the most disgusting I've ever been a part of; the French were leaving themselves horrendously wide open to each other, going all out to eliminate the three English. For example, Adam's Germany was eliminated in 1902, after which point England held every unit every season, whilst the rest of the French players focussed on Jon and myself.

As Turkey I survived the longest and stabbed Jon in about 1904 (causing his death) as a goodwill gesture to the French guys playing Italy & Russia.

Russia promised to work with me should I join him and make this stab.

But once Jon was eliminated, Russia and Italy focussed on me, whilst France and England ordered all their units to hold each turn.

I asked the guy playing Russia "why?" and he couldn't look me in the face as he replied "because you're not French".

So this was what it was all about, and most people experienced something similar at some stage in the tournament. Alliances are one thing (and allying with someone of the same nationality is widely accepted too), but the main point to this is what possible interest could it have been for France and England to hold all their units for many seasons whilst Austria & Turkey was eliminated, therefore helping Russia and Italy to gain more centres. It defies all logic of the game.

And that is precisely where the bad feeling came from: totally illogical play with the sole interest of assistance for other French players, rather than personal gain and greed.

The Hobby Meeting

As with all WDC's there was the hobby meeting to discuss future hosts, charters and all the other bumbf. Heated arguments broke out and people walked out of the meeting in disgust. Needless to say, tempers were already frayed from their games and the issues that went with them.

Results – Top 20

Posn	Name	Score
1	Pascal Motagna	128.91
2	Stephane Gentric	121.46
3	Bruno Andre Giraudon	91.93
4	Bjorn Von Knorring	86.12
5	Thomas Franke	86.12
6	Vick Hall	82.04
7	Xavier Blanchot	80.93
8	Dan Horning	80.2
9	Roland Isaksson	77.97
10	Eric Roche	77.44
11	Emmanuel Lorge	74.75
12	Clement Merville	74.02
13	Jonathan Pollock	73.97
14	Thibault Constans	73.45
15	Lex Pater	71.33
16	Johannes Nesser	71.32
17	Simon Bouton	68.35
18	Toby Harris	68.35
19	Conor Kostick	67.52
20	Chris Courtier	67.49

Taken from Manorcon's website:

<http://www.manorcon.org.uk/res94.htm#IDip>

Of all the WDC's in history, this is the one that most would prefer to forget. After the results, some of the French were up on stage singing *La Marseilles* to celebrate their countrymen taking the top three places. This was the icing on the cake for a weekend which had already left a bad taste in many people's mouths. Some never played Diplomacy again. And the front page of my zine at the time (*Smodnoc*) showed a poodle 'taking' a bulldog from behind!

But for the record, I believe Pascal, Stephane and Bruno played no part in these issues – even if they had some natural benefit from being French.

To end on a better note, it was pleasing to see that the winner was a fully deserving one, and a truly great player. And by 1997 these international wounds were repaired.

The World Champions

There will never be another Diplomacy article quite like this one. And it is the moments like these that make Dipzine editing all worthwhile and enjoyable.

The first World Diplomacy Championship (WDC) took place in the UK at Manorcon in 1988. After this, WDC was every two years: USA in 1990, Australia in 1992 and back to the UK in 1994. Thereafter it took place every year; from Paris in 1995.

So to date there have been:

- 19 World championships and
- 18 World champions

(There is one less World Champion: Cyrille got greedy and won twice!)

As each year passes it gets harder to find all eighteen past winners. And I wanted to ask them all what winning a WDC feels like? Why should we all go to WDC? Has it changed lives?

So this section of Fungus is dedicated to those past Diplomacy World Champions. Thank you (especially Edi Birsan and Andrew Goff) for all the support in tracking them down.

So the next few pages contain words from these past World Champions and reasons why you should book your flight **NOW** for the World Championships this August.

To see the rostrum of all past winners and runners up, see Wikipedia at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International prize list of Diplomacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_prize_list_of_Diplomacy)

Huge thanks go to all these past World Champions for taking their time to give us a few words. I am certain that nearly all of the readers will love hearing your stories ☺

So with virtually no interruption, I'm honoured to present ...

The World Champions ...



Phil Day (1988 WDC winner)

"It is good to hear from you after all these years. Are you still playing Diplomacy? ((Is Gollum sneaky?!)) I haven't played for 6-7 years now. My son never showed any interest in Diplomacy even though he loves board games, but we still play Settlers from time to time.

How are things with you? I think last time I saw you you had set up your own company. I'm now working for a small(ish) biotech company in Cambridge, bloody hard work but good fun most of the time....."



Jason Bergmann (1990)

"In dc now. Two young babies, so the Hague is not really doable this year. Thanks for the suggestion, though."



Steve Gould (1992)

Diplomacy, Self Indulgence, and why you should come to a WDC.

So, have you Googled yourself? It's a bit self indulgent I know but hard to resist at times.

Google results for "Steven Gould" are somewhat obscured by a couple of famous namesakes, but if I Google "Steven Gould Diplomacy" then the first three hits all include me!

((It really works - same for me!))

Overall my life has been somewhat mundane: I've spent time in the Australian Army, I'm now married with two kids, a dog and a nice house in Suburbia. The exception to my mundane existence came in 1992. That was the year that I became Diplomacy World Champion.

I'd been playing Diplomacy since my early teens. These social games with a bunch of nerdy friends became a bit more serious when I walked into a diplomacy event at a New South Wales war gaming convention in 1983. I ended up joining and actually winning this event which started me on a decade of Diplomacy obsession.

I was an Australian tournament regular in the 80's at a number of state competitions and the annual national tournament in Canberra. I won another couple of state comps and usually placed well, but the culmination of this obsession was World DipCon III in 1992. Did I mention that in 1992 I was World Diplomacy Champion?

My strength as a player was that I was a consistent "good ordinary" player. The guilty secret that I still carry with me today is that, for all of the tournament success that I enjoyed, I have never had an 18 centre win (tournament game or even a social game!). I attribute my success at World DipCon III as more luck than anything. It was a year when the couple of standout players that did succeed in getting an 18 centre victory were successfully cut down by those of us with more average skills. My consistency managed to drag me to the top of the ladder at the end of the tournament. Did I mention that in 1992 I was World Diplomacy Champion?

Soon after 1992 I met my wife to be and I moved away from Diplomacy without regrets. I'd had a decade of fun times and great memories. I did make a cameo appearance at the 2002 DipCon but my results were, as expected, unspectacular.

So, if you are a player of average to good skills, if you think it's your turn to get lucky, if you want to Google yourself, if you want to casually drop in a conversation "Did I mention that I was World Diplomacy Champion?", if you want to prove that you are better than a hack that has never had an 18 centre victory but managed to become World Champion, then I encourage you to get to the next World Diplomacy Championship.



Pascal Montagna (1994)

"I must give you the award of the best off game diplomat :) you almost convinced me to play next WDC. One more effort and may be you'll succeed on your mission. ((Oh, go on ... and bring your lucky sunglasses too!))

Anyway, as you asked, I'll take the time to write something you can publish for the next Fungus issue.

You must know that even if I don't appear any more on any mail game, forum or ftf, the Fungus is the last thing that link me to the hobby and it is always a pleasure to read all the news from all over the world."



Bruno André Giraudon (1995)

"Dans le doute, hésite" is my personal guideline... so I won't say I won't come, but it doesn't say I will."

**Pitt Crandlemire (1996)**

((Unfortunately there's nothing from Pitt, but it wasn't without trying! So over to Edi for a few words in his stead ...))

**Edi Birsan**

"Pitt- got involved in German games and also got turned off by tournament Dip. Last contact with him was at a WBC event. He is on Boardgamegeek.com and I have sent him a private message there but I do not know if he is active."

**Cyrille Sevin (1997)**

"So here is my contribution. I even wrote two articles, you have the choice between the short version and the longer one ;-). If you want, I can elaborate on the subject, but the general theme should be that, this is how I really feel about this game, now that I become old... hopefully I will never be as old as you ;-)"

Short ONE

OK guys, my friend Toby asked a few guys randomly chosen to write some lines, to motivate people who could hesitate to participate to the incoming WDC in Den Haag, Netherlands, in August 2010. Well, first of all, you have to come because the hobby needs YOU! More seriously, you have to come because otherwise my 3rd victory in the WDC will not have the same taste. Even more seriously, you have to come to avoid another victory from any former WDC Champ but me."

((Seeing as Cyrille is the only player to win WDC twice, I guess he can have two versions! I'll save the long one for his second WDC crown))

**Chris Martin (1998)**

"A Fun read as always, and great to finally have a date for the event. World Dip Cons are a unique opportunity to play against some of the best players from all over the world. The mix of styles, languages, and personalities is unlike any other tournament you are likely to attend. If you are only going to travel to one tournament this year -- or for the next two or three years -- this year's WDC is an amazing chance to have an experience you will never forget!"

**Christian Dreyer (1999)**

"God I'm young and handsome on that picture :-). Nowadays I'm overweight, overhairs and overpopulating.

I want to point out to whoever reads the fungus (a little like haruspex on plants) that it was merely luck that made me world champion. You wrote something about my experience but hey, all attacked me spring 1901 and I was Germany. Only luck can help one there.

But you should attend because it's extremely fun. Because you might win. Because you will have much use of the skills you learn there in your so called "real life". But frankly, it's not worth going if you don't plan to win. Playing Diplomacy with people who doesn't want to win is just plain irritating."

**Jean Louis Delattre (Huh ?!)**

"I will for sure be ..." <<cut>>

((No no Jean Louis; your email 'ave not won a place in ziss section for ze World Champions! You will 'ave to come back later to speak.))

**Simon Bouton (2000)**

"Happy New year! I'm glad to have something for me to browse through on what I find to be the hardest working day of the year! A real mental struggle after the festivities."

**Cyrille Sevin (2001)**

"Longer ONE (Short one PLUS)

Besides, remember how many times have you seen players shaking hands after a game of Monopoly, Puerto Rico or Siedler von Catan? Probably never. How many times have you seen 2 players, not having seen each other for several months or years, sharing a drink while talking about a convention (or even worse for some freaks some specific games they shared during this very Con)? Probably never.

This is most probably because this game (if you didn't follow I'm here talking about DIPLOMACY) is really unique. People recognize themselves during Diplomacy games really as opponents, reason why they shake hands, to make peace actually... and sometimes still after the games, the tension was so high that they can

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stand for some minutes some "opponents". But fortunately after a while, everything gets back in order, just the memories stays, which all tends to be good after a while. And you remember all the people you met, from different countries and cultures... This is also the wealth of our hobby, only shared by a couple of rich sports, which do the same but have to spend millions for this.

Whatever happens, whatever ups and downs our hobby will have, it will always remain THE game, and you would have been part of it. Just for this reason, YOU HAVE TO COME.

Very truly yours,
Cyrille SEVIN"

**Rob Stephenson (2002)**

"It is just a game. Play the people not the country. Trust your gut. When you think they are lying they generally are. Grow a pair and attack when the time is right. Have fun."

**Vincent Carry (2003)**

"Why go to a WDC?"

I may say that is a good tournament for see people of all country.

I may say that is always a good tournament for drink beer with good friends.

I may say that is a good tournament for improve your skills.

I may say that and some other things but I'll talk you about what only that tournament may bring to you:
The title of World Champion.

I won this title in 2003 in Denver. And that title change my life.

It's not an exaggeration, I think that give me a job. A title of World Champion of diplomacy in your CV that change of travel and cinema, and your future boss may ask you some question about that :)

But only in the hobby you will have some surprise like this Swedish that I never seen before that ask to me:

"You're Vincent Carry? The World Champion?" or these Chinese in a postal diplomacy "Sorry guy, I didn't know you but like you're a WDC, I was fear about you".

You'll also have Toby that will send a mail to write in his Zine ;-)

Sometime that will help you, sometime not, but in all case it's good to hear.

And just for say to your future grandson "I'm a World Champion, do you know?" without lie, you must try to do that.

Go to the WDC, win it and after you will say; **"I did it!!!!!!"**

Last thing: If you think you need a good level in English to become World Champion, that message is the proof that with an horrible English you may become World Champion ;-)

Yann Clouet (2004)

"Ever since I joined the Diplomacy Community, I've seen recurrent debates other the years to know whether Diplomacy was rather a game or rather a sport.

What do YOU like about it ?

Is it the good moments we spend together ? Is it playing and not taking yourself seriously ? Is it the fun that comes with it ? Is it the bragging and all the lore and legends of the Hobby ? Is it the curiosity of visiting new countries ? Is it the people you get to know and remain friend with for years ? Is it the overall spirit of friendliness ?

Or is it the challenge of practising a really catching game, that survived the years, against an ever changing competition (especially in an international background) and still always adapt yourself, see your own progresses, start in the comfort of invibility and then face growing threats as your reputation builds up and you attract more attention ?

What makes a WDC so special is that whatever YOU are after YOU'll find it there ! Diplomacy is both a game AND a sport and WDC is the best illustration of that ! It's the ultimate competition where you'll face the best who will go beyond their limits. It's also a week-end gathering of friends to share drinks, news, jokes, play some games, make sure you hit your bed as few as possible, and where you'll have some fun regardless of your results. WDC is more than that, it is the place to be, the one which will leave you your most vivid memories of the hobby, some you'll still talk about years after.

So will you join us ?"

Frank Johansen (2005)

"Sure I will write something. Sorry, Toby that I didn't reply to your initial e-mail. It hit me at a time I was very busy, and it sank further and further down my in-box."

((The article didn't arrive, but is welcome next issue Frank))

Nicolas Sahuguet (2006)

"Happy new year to you! And thanks for the last issue of Fungus. Another good one! I'll try to think of something for the next issue of this wonderful zine. I don't know yet if I will be going to the WDC, but i can still try to persuade others to go and then stab.

By the way, after the article in the previous fungus where I was described as too nice or too soft (i don't recall) by an anonymous writer, I decided to change my style. I got the Most Machiavelous Player trophy at the last French NDC. Not enough for the win, but I am back on the right track - GRAB AND STAB!"

Doug Moore (2007)

"Can you send me the dates/times? I'm not sure I can make it since I have an 18 month old and this is an election year in the USA (I work for a US Member of Congress and run his campaigns), but before I rule anything out, I need to know that information."

Julian Ziesing (2008)

Why should you go to WDC 2010? The least is that I found a number of friends that I am seeing regularly now even outside tournaments. But also some fond memories, among them of course the WDC 2008. Most cons I have been to were well organized, fun and full of great people.

When I won the WDC, that was considered a surprise by many. Because I had never been considered the best player in the world, and still am not. That's why you should go.

To be World Champion, you needn't be the best player in the world, only the best player of the tournament. Any player who is decently good and ambitious can do it. You need to win a few games in a row, that's tough
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(and can make you sweat), but possible. If you have ever won one single game of Diplomacy in a tournament, you can win 3-4 games, too. And then it's really fun to hear your name last at the prize giving.

Where do you get a chance like this these days? You don't even need to qualify, you just need to show up, do your best and you can end up with your name on Wikipedia. And then one day you will get an email from Toby saying "This email has gone to every WDC winner only, please say a few words to the hobby" and you will write your answer for the Fungus (that will probably be much better than mine)."

Andrew Goff (2009)

"Diplomacy for me is all about the challenge. Like running a marathon or climbing a mountain, the sense of accomplishment I get just from competing in a tournament makes it worthwhile... but to actually win one is something else again; and winning World DipCon is the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest!"

Beyond the game, however, is something even more substantial. Just like the New York Marathon someone else will win World DipCon next time; but some of the friendships that I have made will last a lifetime. Diplomacy players are sociable, intelligent, and diverse - and I celebrate that I am blessed to have met so many wonderful people far more than I celebrate the victories along the way. While every tournament adds to this, the World DipCon events stand out beyond anything else I have ever attended. Plus, you all get to beat the living bejesus out of me, which I am told is very enjoyable.

See you all in the Netherlands!"

Final Words

Thank you everyone. Especially to all those who helped track some of these guys down. And apologies to the UK guys (Colledge, Derrick, Norman, Thomas & Tullett) who were all looking for Phil Day after I had in fact already found him. Staaaaaaab !

As per Andrew's final sentence ... see you all in the Netherlands ☺

Your Emails

(From all the non WDC-winning lesser mortals ...)

 **Jean Louis Delattre**

"I will for sure be there on Saturday and Sunday. Friday will need some negotiation at work but I have nice chances to have my Friday off work."

"I'm sorry not having obeyed to my promises by not sending you a report of the Namur WDC... Your fungus was a pleasure to read and takes me some straight laughs."

((It's always a pleasure to create a laugh, and happy you have now appeared in the right part of Fungus too ☺ I always wanted to return the compliment for your stabbing me at the prize-giving in Namur '97.))

 **Francesco Conte**

"It's always a pleasure to deal with your way of thinking. Speaking about French hobby, I was believing that the king was Emmanuel DuPontavice?"

((Ha ha ha ha ha weeeeeeeeeee! He can be king if you like.))



"Manu-king"



"Uh-huh-huh, I'm all shook up"

 **Gihan Bandaranaike**

"I can't believe you printed the photo."

((It was just too good not to print!))

 **Vick Hall**

"I have to say that the giga/smile pic is a classic"

((I think a lot of it was make-up!))



Andrew Greco

((Regarding the WDC – EDC round trip with a "bit in-between"))

"It would be good to go to Amsterdam at least one night, seeing how close The Hague is."

((I just can't believe what you did at Manorcon 2001 (pre-Paris WDC); you waited for me to stab Sean Colman so he would go ballistic with me. Then you mopped up behind. It was most "un-poodly" of you!))

 **Moritz Am Ende**

"Just a comment on my 'diplomatic' team victory at the French NDC: I'm afraid I can't take any credit for 'talking my way into the team', as I was actually invited. But who cares, another medal on the wall! :-) (Merci Gwen for asking me to join the team!)"

 **Aron Ambrosiani**

"I don't know yet if I can come to WDC – haven't really gotten to making plans for the summer. But if the ball starts rolling and a Swedish crowd (like Namur) will be there, well, then I'll join them!"

((Great ... but just leave your stabbing brother back at home though!))

 **Steve Lytton**

"Thorin Munro passed on your email and zine to me."

"I'm a relatively new player in the Australian diplomacy field, and I am trying to win flights to the Hague for the WDC. My back up plan is just to make it a great holiday, taking in the Paris tournament as well"

"I know the dates are 20-22nd August and 27-29th (from you zine which you can add me to the mailing list) but do you have any more details, or indeed places to stay in the Hague or Amsterdam?"

((Thanks Steve. Firstly, I'll email everyone who gets the zine the WDC website address just as soon as it's ready (estimate mid March). And both events recommend a hotel. But if that's not enough for you ...))

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 **Frank Oosterom**

((With some more breathtaking photos from The Hague, where WDC will be hosted this Summer.))

"For peace loving criminals around the world!"

"This summer, the bloodstained shores of The Hague will nurture the peace loving World Championships of the brilliant game Diplomacy. What can be expected of this annual meeting of board game afficionado's and their families?"

"Well, first of all, it's not a coincidence we've planned this thing in the summer; the best chance you have of getting a well deserved tan after a year's hard work is in July and August. That is, if you want to combine this with the relaxed atmosphere you will only find in The Netherlands."



"It's also not a coincidence to tell you about this atmosphere here."

"You'll surely recall many events, big and small, with tensions raging high and beyond. These tensions were often created by Olympic sacrifices and bloody onslaughts. Following these sportive bouts, almost every time you've seen brotherly and sisterly conversations at the bar."

"Personally, this is what set me off wanting to get involved in the Diplomacy scene and since the time I entered this 'realm' I've met up with dozens of people of whom a bunch I consider to be my friends and companions."



At the same time I was increasingly interested in tournament set ups around the globe. Soon enough I recognized the American, Australian and European style of playing and started thinking how I would go about structuring a big event. Now that the honour fell upon us Dutchies.



So what am I trying to tell you people? Is the weekend from August 19-22 going to be a nice summer weekend with plenty opportunities? You might think so with time to enjoy the noblest of games, your long time and new friends and time to hang out as a tourist in the famous Peace Palace, the Binnenhof, the House of Golden Age homo universalis Constantijn Huygens and many other places.



Be sure not to miss out on this biggie and cross out August 19-22 for a Dutch treat extraordinaire this summer!

We'll keep you posted from the website which is close to come out as I'm writing right now. You can also contact us through email, teamwdc2010@gmail.com.

Or peak a preview at our venue at: <http://www.stayokay.com/index.php?pageID=3207&hostelID=356029&gclid=CO>

We will coordinate every guest's accommodation centrally up to three weeks before the start of the event, so for quick deciders, please drop us a line and we'll get it done for you.

Your organizing team of WDC 2010.

((Wow, thank you so much for this Frank. I'm sold already and really looking forward to it ☺)).

Ulrich Degwitz

"Another wonderful issue indeed. Thanks so much - you are doing a great job for the European hobby! Please go ahead this year as you did in 2009 :-)) (we met in Bonn last year, remember me?)



((Of course I remember you ... and your hat ☺. Yes please; just send some details and I will print them.))

Manus Hand

"I know it's a long-term promise, but I am still out here and still (all too slowly) coming back to all of you guys. The proverbial someday has to be drawing closer, right? :-))"

((Indeed it is ... get your backside down to The Hague this August !!))

Leonardo Quirini

"Who is the writer of the notes in italian? Francesco?"

((Actually, not Francesco. Best that I keep the identity a secret!))

Demis Hassabis

"Great fanzine, fun read! hope you had a great Christmas and new year.

I can't believe you brought that WDC 2006 top table up - my darkest hour in gaming. I've been trying to erase all trace of it from my mind, without success. I was so ashamed and distraught over my performance (and throwing away a chance to win a WDC) that I haven't been able to face playing diplomacy for the past 4 years! I still wake up some nights in a cold sweat about it. I betrayed my own innermost nature in that game, by stabbing Vincent Carry, my great

ally for no reason. As anyone in the hobby will tell you, I'm one of the most trustworthy players on the circuit, but somehow Toby 'Wormtongue' Harris got inside my head that day - perhaps the tension of the day got to me, that's all I can offer in mitigation.

(("Wormtongue" ??? I like it!))

Just to set the record straight about what happened in that game though, the only reason I did that pathetic stab was because Toby was (heavily) pressuring me with the threat that he would throw the game to Cyrille if I didn't call off the dogs (Toby was Russia and getting crushed by Vincent and I as England and Germany, with Cyrille as Turkey). I believe he would have done it too, but what I should have done instead of getting bullied by such feeble threats was to go back on the verbal offensive and counter with the threat of throwing it to Vincent. How would you and Cyrille have liked them apples?!?!?!?! :) Still, it's all too late now... and basically (with all due respect to Nicolas Sahuguet who played well) the WDC was gifted to him after the imbalance on the board my stab caused...

I'll never forget Vincent Carry's face after my stab, the look of total shock, like an axiom of the world had been inverted. It was like watching Marlon Brando in Apocalypse Now... 'the horror, the horror'. Vincent, if you are reading this, I am truly truly sorry for that stab and ruining both our games, i hope one day to be able to make it up to you over the board. Perhaps, this year, it is time for me to come out of retirement.

Bet you didn't realise it affected me that much eh Toby? :) I'd like to come to the Hague this year, but we'll see. It's hard to get weekends off these days with two kids... Also depends if the London boys can be mobilised..."

((Thanks Demis, it was one of my darkest hours too! I believe most of the London boys will be coming this year, so you can book your flight now and reserve your place in another WDC final.))

Alberto Capponi

"Happy New Year to the Fungus Diplomacy Team for a brave and peaceful 2010."

((Thanks Alberto; it's good so far!))

**Vansokha Kiem**

“I am in france for hollidays with my daughter, i will stay with her until march. Now i lived in Thailand soon 4 years. In begin August ill be in Portugal for friend s wedding.”

((Blimey Van – a real blast from the past ! The only guy to cross customs to get to Manorcon without his passport ;-)) Maybe you can “sneak” to The Hague after the wedding?))

**James Hardy**

“WDC - Been looking at the flights for Amsterdam - do we know when the rounds are yet? Guessing Friday night, 2 on Sat, 1 Sunday morning.”

((Exactly ... but with an extra one on Friday ☺. See “WDC” section))

“EDC - do you reckon there'll be free digs for us furriners courtesy Uncle Xavier? Trying to talk Sonia into going if so. Play a couple of rounds for a cheap weekend in Paris! Doubt it'll happen but you gotta try :-)”

((Nice one – bring her along! I believe that the EDC accommodation will be at Xavier’s hotel and he usually offers a discounted rate at the hotel. But unfortunately they’re not free! And that reminds me ... the room I last had at Xavier’s hotel came with Xavier telling me all about the history of the room. Apparently it has been used for many film sets, such as staging Pulp Fiction. Well, I’ve watched Pulp Fiction several times since and don’t remember seeing this hotel room anywhere in the film. Staaaaaaab !))

**Luca Pazzaglia**

“Thank you very much for your last issue of Fungus, interesting article about the Italian Hobby □, as president of Italian Diplomacy Association I will do my best to play an EGP step in Rome in 2011 but only if you can assure us to see you bad face in our capital ;)”

((Yes, I will come. Perhaps even this September for a warm-up?))

“The location is simply fantastic, 100 metres to Piazza San Pietro (you can see the Pope when he goes to the toilette ;)”

((I hope you don’t look vertically straight up when you see him!))

**il Fulvio De Persio**

“I hope that I can see and betray you at the next Rome tournament. But remember that Roma 2010 is only for the Italian championship. Me, francesco and Luca hope that Roma 2011 is the next EGP for Italy!”

((Ok, so this is clear now. Thank you. I asked Francesco for some more detail for next time so everybody can see it. Perhaps I will come anyway.))

**Phil Day**

“What I don't understand is why no-one has tried the easy option of just E-mailing me - my e-mail address hasn't changed in 20 years!”

((It’s a shame that our hobby could just “lose” it’s first ever World Champion. Just emailing your old address never occurred to anybody either! Well, you’re back now ☺))

“World Dip is tempting. However August is usually tied up. Do you have any details of dates etc and I can check out availability.”

((Great, yes, it’s all in this issue now and the website address will be sent out to everyone in a week or two))

**Michael Binder**

“Thank you so much for forwarding the latest Bathroom reading and please keep me on the list. I expect to be at the WDC. The Euros may be tough, as I have a meeting to attend the weekend following the Euros and the thought of missing 3 weeks of work may be too much for me to handle, but we shall see. Let me know how to register for both tourneys, for you never know what I can make. And do send my regards to Frank. I am looking forward to seeing him again.”

((Yes, I owe Frank a good stab after he shafted me in WDC 2004!

**Greg Duenow**

“Thought I'd pass along a couple of local-ish Dip Forums that could use such grand prose as you provide:

<http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/stlouisdiploamacy>

<http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/ToledoDip>

((Thanks Greg))

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**Sital Harris**

And here’s an email I got from my wife Sital one day last week ...

This is how I heard YOUR day was going...

First you had trouble getting out of bed



You had a stiff neck



You washed your hair and couldn't do a thing with it



Your new diet really doesn't seem to be working out



**You pulled a muscle when
you tried to exercise**



**Your new hat looked better
on you at the store**



You keep losing things



**You got caught in the rain at
lunchtime**



**Then the lunch you had
didn't seem to agree with you**



You feel trapped



**Uninvited guests showed up
at dinnertime**



**On top of that you think
you're coming down with the
flu**



((Cyrille at the London Trophy!))

**And finally, you're alone in
the house at night when you
think you hear a noise in the
basement**



**MAYBE TOMORROW
WILL BE BETTER!**

Duncan's Corner

((Nothing from Dunx this time so
here's one from me instead ...))

A husband and wife were having dinner at a very fine restaurant when this absolutely stunning young woman comes over to their table, gives the husband a big open mouthed kiss, then says she'll see him later and walks away.

The wife glares at her husband and says, "Who was that?"

"Oh," replies the husband, "she's my mistress."

"Well, that's the last straw," says the wife. "I've had enough, I want a divorce!"

"I can understand that," replies her husband, "but remember, if we get a divorce it will mean no more shopping trips to Paris, no more wintering in Barbados, no more summers in Tuscany, no more BMW in the garage and no more yacht club. But the decision is yours."

Just then, a mutual friend enters the restaurant with a gorgeous babe on his arm.

"Who's that woman with our friend?" asks the wife.

"That's his mistress," says her husband.

"Ours is prettier," she replies.

Lords of the Boards

With apologies, there was no *Lords of the Boards* article last time but I inadvertently used this header on Fabian's dipcon article instead. So, here we are with the second edition of *Lords of the Boards*:

Previously on this show: We had a look at the Who is Who French FtF players of the last 5 years, dugged a bit into tactics and the individual styles of the top French Diplomacy stars and starlets.

As you can imagine, writing about French players was very challenging and demanding, so I needed a break. Now I am back in the game, ready to take you to the next journey starting with a country where pasta is king and amore rules. Welcome to Bella Italia!

Before Italy San Marino was the country running own NDCs, so obviously Italy got its initial spirit for Diplomacy by San Marino! Since the first Italian NDC FtF in December 2004 Italians have been improving constantly and in my opinion faster than the German or Dutch scene. I like playing tournaments in Italy, because they are very familiar and Italians do their best being perfect hosts without being too pushy.

One of the highlights in Italy is undoubtedly the dinner on Saturday night where all players of the tournament sit together enjoying some Pasta e Vino. Another good thing is that the Italian players have improved their English, so you don't have to communicate using your hands and feet anymore. □ This applies for other countries as well, but Italians "talk" with their hands anyway, so they hopefully will smile about this best.

Because our Italian fellows are known for being perfect and carrying husbands we usually don't go out for some wine and the taste of vita bella like we would do in other countries. Sometimes Toby Harris arranges a poker night to refinance his travelling expenses taking the money mostly from the other non Italian players. I

feel that Italian NDCs have the highest number of different countries attending the tournament (always a French, an English, a German or Dutch or both all come to Italy, so the Italians are forced to play alliances), so despite of the language boundaries one may face attending tournaments in Italy is a synonym for having a good time!

Now, time to get down to business, folks, and start with some names:

Davide Cleopadre ("Cleopatra"), the first Diplomacy boulevard reporter writing an article about the German NDC in 2007, there he was mentioning the best players of Germany (we will come to them later – and he admitted they are friends of him). By the way, he won the German NDC also (Diplo-World #99)! He is a diplomatic player. His tactics and his way of playing are not exceptional, which does not mean his methods are not smart. Friendliness is one of his strengths he knows how to "work" with, so no one takes him off the board. And even if you try, you won't succeed – just take a look at that friendly, nice face and you'll know what I mean. Moreover, his eyes and ears are everywhere. He is your Campo de' Fiori (famous market place in Italy), your breaking news banner, so no matter what news and facts, Davide knows best. I think he is very successful with his skills he can rely on, but sometimes maybe not really aware of them.



Giovanni Cesaraini ("Cesar") is the creative maestro in the Italian team. I think he is the best technical player and one of the top players who could go for WDC. I played some boards with him and we were both successful. In my opinion he can be a good ally and he is still looking for playing good Diplomacy and not sticking to an alliance forever no matter what – so it never becomes boring. And he wants to win (Italian Champion 2005) by all means, but without changing his "running

system" which can sometimes result in a very static way of playing.

The Italian tournament players are Luca Pazzaglia (won EDC in 2008) and Marco Ferrari (he has improved a lot since the last time – he won Italian NDC in 2007). Both Luca and Marco together with Davide and Giovanni belong to Italy's first generation of Diplomacy players. And as we all know you can always benefit and learn from the older generation.

Take Luca for example: Having his girl-friend accompanying him to the tournaments was based on nothing else but purely rational motives: What else than a woman's healing hand can cure man's soul best at nights. He is very balanced and can make up his mind quite fast. One advantage of him for playing Diplomacy internationally is the fact that I understand his English best. I think Marco's weapon is his "instinct", which helps him seeing a great deal coming, finding the right ally and foreseeing the next moves. He is a trustful ally but it is not so easy – at least for me – to become his ally. But it is worth it.



Next is Alex Lebedev (I don't know if he is related to this Russian billionaire), the Italian Russian winning San Marino NDC twice in a row. He is an interesting and various character, playing diplomacy and having such a good-looking and well-educated girlfriend is a rare combination. Respect Alex (whatever the reason was why she picked you)! He is a diplomatic player with a strong glance over the whole board and a strong instinct to know, who is the boss on the board. I think sometimes he is too relaxed or too patient which prevents him from achieving better results – but maybe this will change next WDC!

The upcoming talent of Italy is Daniele Belardinelli. When he started to play FtF tournaments he looked like a shy soccer player from AS Roma. His long hair was like a shadow to hide his face (and thoughts). Like women who change

their hair cut to give live a new direction Daniele cut his hair to show the others that he has changed (he is not Obama) to a much more outgoing and open minded person. Okay, let's have a look at the next country: Austria!



Last year the Dippy folks met in Vienna for WDC. Yes, Vienna (was) calling and the world came gi(f)v(t)ing the title to a German: Julian Ziesing. And this where opinions diverge – for some players in the scene Julian is one of the weakest WDC-Champions ever. Maybe they are right. I think it was just good timing and I bet he knows this. But without luck, no one becomes WDC-Champion (this means you too, Gwen Maggi). Being the host of the Berlin WDC in 2006, Julian knows the rules very well – maybe he thinks about them too much. One of his outstanding strengths is to “hire” weak players and manipulate them so that he takes almost total control of them (for e.g. Chris Brand at the top board in 2008). He has brought this to perfection when he told one player during the German NDC in 2009 that Fabian Straub is the most dangerous player on the board, even though Julian was the current WDC-Champion at that time – and guess what, this player believed it! Unfortunately, since then Julian has been changing to a somehow arrogant fellow sometimes - without showing any empathy for what it means to be an ambassador for the hobby, if you are a World Champion. Julian, let me shortly recall what “Diplomacy” stands for: Diplomacy is the art and practice of conducting negotiations (of course there is more than that). Maybe he thinks he is the most efficient WDC Champion by winning only one tournament in his life! Or does he wait for the second win for the other 1-Hit-Wonder WDC Champion Nicolas Sahuguet to follow him again? My favourite tournament in Austria is called “Hohe Wand” and it's close to Vienna. It is like being on vacation.

You are overseeing the country like a sovereign of the country you are playing, outside and uphill, enjoying a great view over Austria. The weather is great, the Austrian food is delicious and you stay in the lovely old, traditional “Herzogenschnitzer Haus” situated on the highest point of Hohe Wand. The host of this house, Michael, is a great guy and I like him a lot. He does not even play Diplomacy, but he enjoys watching us playing. He charges really fair and you can pig out. Traditionally, all players of the tournament meet to play Werewolf for at least one big round. The first round is mostly the best and we have a great laugh and some serious argumentations – most of the time accompanied by some traditional Schnaps (best country awards are donated by typical drinks like Grappa for Italy or Vodka for Russia). Of course, it is not easy if you don't understand German – ask the Austrians! The Austrian scene is not so big like the German one, but quite stable and they organized a great WDC in 2008 (the only time the Austrian NDC was not at Hohe Wand). It was great experiencing the cool, smooth and much more relaxed Austrian way of seeing things. So, not surprisingly that it's one of my favourite locations. Special thanks to Herbert Bieber, Günther Hopf, Clara Schmerbach and Sebastian Beer affording us such a beautiful weekend!

One of the top Austrian players is without any doubt Sebastian Beer. They say he played all top boards at Austrian NDCs except for WDC (because he was the TD and did a great job with some others). Sebastian and Julian are pretty much equal – they simply have the rules down cold. The major difference is that Sebastian's way of playing is much more dynamic, not static at all. For me he is very well-balanced and he enjoys playing Diplomacy making use of all the options and possibilities he has. But no praise without criticism Sebastian: Ever thought about becoming a really good tournament player? Maybe you would be more successful. But it's probably better to follow the old saying “cobbler stick to your last”.

His Austrian partner is the most relaxed player I know, Georg Kotschy, the artist, and somehow a mixture between Igor Kurt (hobby)

and Fabian Straub (habit). Unfortunately, he does not participate so much anymore. His motto used to be: “A game without a stab is a bad game”. This proves that he understood the “true” Diplomacy spirit! I suppose he quit when tournaments started dominating FtF events and Dippy life turned grey. Hopefully he will find his way back to the board.



Next one is Dietmar Helbig, the general; conservative, well-educated, decisive and always adhering to his principles. He is a very good tactician like most of the chess players within the Diplomacy community. Under certain conditions he can use his diplomatic strength to rock boards. But the way he sees things and argues about, may give you sometimes the impression he is too dominating. But I would never blame him for this, because Austrian attitude in general has always been, well, let's say different, but therefore also so adorable. So, it's up to you - either you like it or not. Austrian diplomats have their own way enjoying life and living the moment, that is, playing some Diplomacy stabbing someone here and another one there without getting too worked up about anything.

Austria's young wild „talents“ are Gert Petter, Andreas Fiala and Stephan Seklehner. Please note here that there has been a golden age of Diplomacy in the 80's and early 90's, but this area has been outside my scope for the last five years. I bet one of them is going to win the Austrian NDC probably within the next 3 years. Gert, the grizzly bear, is a straight, but defensive and polite player. I also bet he will not agree with me, but I think he follows sometimes too much his instinct instead of his ratio. If he has made up his mind about someone he will play according to his fixed opinion, which, of course, reduces his chances and prevents him from playing good Diplomacy (what he usually tries to show).

Stephan Seklehner, Vienna's dandy, is always trying hard to win, but in a sportive and friendly way, without being fanatic. He enjoys the game, because of the tournament atmosphere - he just needs goals. Getting best country award makes him happy and becoming 12th in the WDC in 2008 (his second tournament) didn't make him sad at all. Yes man, this is true sportmanship like it was celebrated in the ancient Olympics! He grasps things quickly and some people may think he is that typical arrogant guy from Vienna (anyone remembers Falco?), but his is not. It's just what Viennese call "Wiener Schmah" (Viennese charm).

It might be one advantage of our hobby that you can play a World Championship in Diplomacy as your premier in FtF-Diplomacy, like Andreas Fiala (#33 WDC 2008) did. He might become a Jedi knight, seeking the secrets of playing good Diplomacy, having a good empathy for players and the actual gravitation center of power. All these combined with a friendly appearance makes him the Austrian rookie 2009 becoming best Austrian at their own NDC (#4).



Talking about Vienna why don't we take a look at Austria's neighbour Germany and some of the Diplomacy heroes there?

This brings us back to the 3 players of Germany, Davide Cleopadre was announcing in his article in 2007 already:

Fabian Straub (2nd Grand Prix 2008), Igor Kurt (2nd EDC 2008) and Andre Illevic (1st EDC 2009) – so Davide knows what he is talking about! Davide, please tell us who are the other Lords of Boards in every country? We begin with the same player Davide started in his article, the "most Julian-dangerous" one:

Fabian Straub has been one of the strongest tournament players over the past 3 years, and he can be one of the most powerful allies one can have. Trying to describe Fabian is like trying to catch an eel – almost

impossible (Fabian, I know you like hearing this, but don't luxuriate too long in this...). He is demanding and exhausting at the same time and constantly striving for higher things in life letting anyone know he is going to make it no matter how. The only natural enemy Fabian has in life is his ambition. He thinks the world of himself, so don't be surprised when you hear his nickname: Fabi-Wan Kenobi. Some would say he is exceptional, well-educated, polite and determined, others describe him as an adventurous know-it-all always running on adrenalin and is addicted to taking the center stage. But no matter which Fabian you meet, you won't forget neither of them:-) So, having two souls dwelling in his breast makes him an incalculable opponent. Whenever you think you have seen through his tactics, there is he is again kicking ass and controlling the scene with some surprising moves

All this may sound a bit weird, spooky or remind you of lonesome nerd? Nope, far from it! He is rather living according to the motto "Work hard, play hard". He is mostly one of the last leaving the scene – and still standing next day! And should you ever happen to argue with him, you will definitely get the short side of the stick. His defence is better than his attacking skills and he knows all about tactics (3rd NP-Blitz in Paris 2008). If he wouldn't make a fuss about everything all the time, he could go for WDC, because he has demonstrated quite convincingly he can win with and without stabbing.

In 2005 Fabi-Wan was introduced to FtF by his best buddy Igor Kurt, one of the most creative players "celebrating" Diplomacy like it would be the translation for the art of war. Everybody who is playing FtF knows "Iggy". He is one of the funniest in the scene and with Toby Harries often one of the guys turning the lights off and still able to rock the board the next day.



Sun and shadow are closely related to him. His socializing "style", his way

of approaching people and his happy-go-lucky attitude makes him sympathetic and he is welcomed everywhere! On the tactical side he is Germany's next top model. But sometimes he is loosing the connectivity to earth and wants too much, making him to a Highlander (there can be only one - besides Toby□). But it seems he improved his patience at the FAT 2009 getting second there. Iggy and Fabian are my top favourites for the team WDC in 2010 (second together with Toby Harries 2008, a couple times 1st at German and Austrian NDC's), if they don't get in trouble with each other like last time and if they find an appropriate replacement for Toby Harris, leaving the team. Igor stabbed his mate for (only) one center in the last turn of the first round. Fabian announced publicly he is paying a beer to all mates who will help taking Iggy out first from the next 2 boards. Fabian paid more than one beer.□ But I think both overreacted, so I got to tell you something: Igor don't stab for just one center anymore(!), and Fabian don't exaggerate because of this "little" stab becoming second in the Team WDC with only 7 points behind the first team!

Remember Davide Cleopadre, who named besides Fabian and Igor the new European Champion Andre Illevic as the best player of Germany? Interesting observation for me is the fact, that each of them is representing an own generation. I like Andre, because he is entertaining visitors in Germany and does not hang around only with Germans. Interesting that Andre, Igor and Fabian were never successful as a team ("Fast killers"), but they have a healthy competition. I think Andre has rebalanced his style to a tournament player to become successful again, because he is too well-known not to adjust his style to this fact. Andre is one of the pioneers introducing the first conventions in the late 90's and the first FtF NDC in Germany in 2002 - and he is still organizing a lot for Germany. For me, he is the typical German, because his game is very structured following mainly the balance of power which, also means he can foresee more than the moves of only one turn. At the end I think Andre should follow a little bit more his instinct than his brain making his game more dynamic. He is an erectly guy and

never gives up, a real worthy German Lord.

The FtF-Tournaments in Germany are, of course, very well-organized. Most of the time they do start accurately – so don't be late. Unfortunately, tournaments in Germany have a slight touch of school excursions especially when they are take place in Berlin. So, I hope the Germans will stick to their original idea organizing German NDC not only in Berlin, but also in other German cities. I think a great number of players are attending Berlin tournaments rather for playing Werewolf at night than participating in the Diplomacy tourney. Though Germans are not popular for their entertainment qualities, they could at least try to mingle and be good hosts. This is a downer, because Germany basically provides an ideal framework for tournaments: Everything is well-organized and almost everyone speaks good English. At least you have the Freaky-Fungus Germans playing FtF outside of Germany who have the heart to talk to people other than Germans:-).

Next is Stefan Unger (3rd Grand Prix 2007) who is besides Fabian the German player who has improved the most in the last couple of years. He is always in a good mood and if you talk to him you immediately feel good (this is how stimulating drugs must feel...). He is very communicative, has a good way to express himself and knows much about openings and tactics. But don't think he is always Mr. Nice Guy. He knows what he wants and he has a very distinctive self-confidence (like many famous characters smaller than 1,65. Napoleon, Berti Vogts, ...□). He must be one of the most popular Germans in the Netherlands, just look at his results there, becoming 1st, 2nd and 3rd since 2007! Being sometimes the "good" German makes it not easy for him to stab "friends" and it is often foreseeable what's coming next especially in the mid game.

One of the local heroes is Stefan Hagemann ("Hage") who won the German NDC in 2005 and he has improved his game since then in a positive way parallel to the weight he was losing (but in a slow way). In my opinion he can read boards and he is on the strategic side better than on the tactical one – but still on a high level. The older he gets the better you come along with him, so I would say he is

trusting himself more and his self-confidence to express himself.

Frank Oschmiansky, Germany's enfant terrible (Igor Kurt should take some lessons to keep up with him!) - is a strong player who can rock boards. Unfortunately his view is very short sighted, he seems to forget that you always meet twice in life and in Diplomacy tournaments. He likes to beat the shit out of you, but cannot handle it when someone hits back. Frank is very well-educated and really proud of himself having succeeded in the Diplomacy quiz: No one has ever managed to answer more than 40 or 50 percent of his questions correctly. But as long as he puts himself above the others he will never win any big tournaments (3 times 1st in Cups, 1 Team- champion German NDC with Fabian Straub)! One thing about him worth mentioning is the dearly friendship between his brain and beer, so be careful when you start drinking with him – he makes it always to the board next morning. You too?



The philosopher among the German players is Daniel Leinich (looks a little bit like Lenin), who played the tournament of his live at the WDC 2008 in Vienna becoming 3rd! Congratulations to this. To me he is a diplomat who builds up trust to other players quickly. He knows about tactics, but has difficulties in calculating the future developments of the whole board depending on his moves. Therefore he sometimes stabs too early – like he did in the Final at WDC – wrecking his own and his mate's game. If you are looking for intellectual input "sold" in a funny way then Daniel is a good choice.

Another guy becoming 3rd on a big Tournament was Moritz at EDC in 2009 which is still a mystery to me. Maybe this is his secret and shows his strong diplomatic attitude, making him the common choice for everybodys ally. But at least it is a sympathetic guy who got hit by Fortuna's arrow! But it proofs that playing a big tournament in your home country or as a native speaker increases your chances a lot, maybe

comparable to soccer games in the own stadium.

For many Not-German players, Dominic Panic is the best German Diplomacy lord (3rd Place 2003 Sweden NDC). I have never played with him, but what I have seen on his boards was interesting. He finds his way and improves continuously. He shows no weakness on the board and is very faithful to his partners, so many players trust him. In other words, I think he is mastering stabs in away that the victims even don't realize they got stabbed, so for me he is the German Yann Clouet, a Diplomat with strong skills in other important fields.

Dennis "the kid" Krüger, a proud knight of Gondor who always smiles. Unfortunately he does not play outside of Germany. That would do him good and help him improving his skills. Instead he prefers wasting his time playing PBEM. He is very focused and talks to everybody especially to the guys he has just stabbed only to tell them how sorry he feels about it and that it was nothing personal And most of the guys seem to believe his words. An ingenious rethorician who somehow is able to convince you stop attacking him and leave the scene. This is really impressive. I think his tactical focus dominates his strategic view, so some stuff he does not take into account.

Last but not least there is the actual German Master of 2009: Jan Baduricz. A very sympathetic player you can forgive even a stab. He enjoys the game and I think he is one of the funny players who won a NDC. His weakness is sometimes his dependence on his Diplomacy network and his honourable "principles", so he prefers to stab strong and well-known players, but not his friends. On the other side he knows about seeing each other again, so his diplomatic skills are his best weapon.

I know this was quite long and there are still a lot of names missing – don't blame me for this.

Third part is going to feature Scandinavians and Benelux players. Stay tuned!



Girl from the Snow Country



UK (£500+) Dutch (£300-£500)

This is undoubtedly the one single that most hardened Stranglers collectors are still chasing; a solo project by the French bassist Jean Jaques Burnell. This record has been described as **one of the rarest British singles of all time**.

Somehow, the incomplete "Girl from the Snow Country" found its way onto vinyl (as a 7" single), without JJ's knowledge or permission. Through JJ's eventual intervention (and threat of legal action), none of the singles made it to the stores in the UK. About 20 or so are thought to have made it into general circulation. If you find one on Ebay, it is unlikely to be sold for less than £500.

Only in Holland did copies of this single emerge in the stores, for one day only; between 50 and 70 are thought to have been sold. The Dutch version will fetch around £300-£500.

Numerous bootleg versions of the 7" single are also available. Typically these will fetch around £10 - £50;



The new Stranglers album "Decades Apart" was released this week:



Information from www.stranglers.net and other literary sources of the band.

WANTED New Editor

In the first issue of The Dutch Fungus last Summer, you may recall I promised a zine every two months up to the WDC of 2010. And so far I've lived up to just that.

Sometimes zine editing is incredibly rewarding; the best times I get from it are when I'm quite literally laughing aloud as I write, add a caption to a photo or just do something crazy.

In editing a zine it has always been my favourite approach to include something that is completely out of sync with everything else around it. Such as (for this issue) having JLD's email in amongst the WDC winners.

Or (another) Andrew Greco's own special 'poodle' national flag? But my favourite surreal moment of all time was with the first incarnation of Fungus;

There was a string of emails all talking about Diplomacy scoring systems, and buried in-between them was an email from Vick Hall which read: "*Yeah, I just love games with flame-throwing elephants*".

It makes such little sense, but still has me creased with laughter today.

So, come WDC 2010 Fungus will finish. At least, for the foreseeable future. And that means someone else needs to take charge of this database of over 700 email addresses. Someone who'll keep them up to date, add in new ones and (most importantly) someone who'll keep us all up to date with a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter on the WDC of 2011 in Australia.

So for that reason I'm appealing to the DAANZ hobby in Australia & New Zealand to find someone.

The ideal candidate should be:

- Reliable (they'll complete the job for a year and then hand over again for the 2012 WDC).
- Able to entertain everyone.
- Informed of the WDC event and able to chase for information.

Ideally I'd like to announce a successor in two issues time, so that gives us until 1st July.

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This issue goes to ...

Nationality	Readers	Nationality	Readers
France	151	Austria	8
USA	120	Norway	7
Netherlands	96	Romania	7
UK	63	Unknown	7
Australia	55	Russia	6
Sweden	37	South Africa	5
Italy	36	Finland	3
Germany	30	Turkey	3
Belgium	14	Denmark	2
New Zealand	12	Estonia	2
China	11	San Marino	2
Ireland	11	Israel	1
Brazil	10	Latvia	1
Canada	10	Spain	1
Argentina	8	Ukraine	1

That's 720 in total. And as an extra bonus ... less than 2% are Belgian ☺

And Finally ...

Well I never thought I'd live to say it. Two months ago I gave up smoking and haven't touched a cigarette since. The most surprising thing of all is just how easy it has been. Sure, I still get the odd craving for a puff even after two months (and never expected anything different) but something I once heard is so very true; to give up smoking you have to really want to give up. The only thing that the gums and medications do is help you – they don't do the work of giving up for you. At 42 it's now my time to stop.

So you would think that without cigarettes and walking a dog twice a day I'd be getting fit and healthy. If only. The weight has piled on, and what little hair that hasn't already fallen out ... has turned grey. Such is life.

Right, it's Saturday night and I've got a load of decorating to do tomorrow; Mia is moving into the spare bedroom, which means that both rooms need decorating accordingly. And before any of that can happen the garage needs clearing out of junk so as to make space for the spare bedroom's bed. The "new" spare room will have Kai's bunk bed and his room will get a new bed and decor too. All this means that Fungus arrives with you a little over 24 hours early this time ☺. See y'all in May for some more Fungus!

Cheers,
Toby