

2nd Annual ACT/NSW DBA Championships

After Action Report

Well the 2nd ACT/NSW DBA Championships have been run and won, whilst numbers were a little down on those expected, it was encouraging to see a number of new players and such a wide variety of different armies.

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our very generous sponsors, this event would not have been possible, without the generosity of Essex Miniatures, Olympian Games, Mick's Metal Models, Eureka Miniatures, Pass O' the North and the Canberra Games Society.

Initial responses to the invitation and flyer indicated that we'd get somewhere in the vicinity of 35 entrants, however, the virulent flu currently sweeping Canberra, overseas holidays and the late cancellation of spousal leave reduced numbers by approximately twelve players. Having said this, 24 was a good number, as it was large enough to ensure diversity, whilst being small enough to easily manage.

The competition was a fairly closely fought affair, with early leaders being Dean Bedlington, David Lawrence, Doug Melville, Scott Roach and myself. Dean's Parthians were an early bolter, and he managed to maintain top spot for most of the tournament. In a field dominated by Sp armies, the Parthian's combination of Kn, LH and low aggression were difficult to combat. Dean only came unstuck once against Scott Roach's Medieval Scandinavians and this game eventually decided the tournament. The Scandinavian's combination of Kn and Bd were tough (especially in a field largely devoid of Kn armies) and Scott managed to come through the tournament undefeated.



Early Romans v's Sung Chinese

This is about where it all fell apart for me, things appear to be looking pretty good with my Sp wrapping the Chinese Bd on the left, whilst the Bw on the hill are about to be overwhelmed, however, notice the Cv General sitting on the edge of the table – doh!

The early promise showed by Doug and myself soon turned into a world of hurt, as our Sp armies (Thebans and Early Italian Romans respectively) went through the mid-tournament gauntlet of pain (comprising Bd heavy armies, lots of Wb and the dreaded Parthians). For myself, I managed to deal with Alex Topfer's Jewish Wb, but I was rubbed out by Polybian Romans and Dean's Parthians. I understand a similar thing happened to Doug, although he did beat the Polybians only to be run over by the Jewish Rebels. Doug's and my tournament ended with us playing each other in the last round, the game was very much a push and shove affair until we both managed to 6-1 the units standing next to each other's generals, fortunately for me it was my turn next and I was able to wrap Doug's general and win the game.

Burgundian Ordonnance

Mark Haughey's very pretty Burgundian Ordonnance army, the Banner of Burgundy is particularly well done. Mark has certainly shown what can be achieved with Tin Soldier's medieval range of figures. Hmm maybe it's time I got my Burgundians out of the mountain of unpainted lead.



David Lawrence was again very impressive with his Sung Chinese, especially in a field with lots of Bd and Sp armies. Unfortunately for him, the weight of numbers in heavy foot armies was just too much and despite some very good results, he could only manage a very credible sixth place (in all seriousness this was a good result for the Sung Chinese in this tournament).

The close fighting at the top of the table masked a number of truly great games and good results in the mid field. Stand out performances included Alex Topfer, whose early choice of Jewish Revolt raised some eyebrows, but it was an astute choice for this tournament. His Zealots crushed a number of Sp armies as he built up enough momentum to come out of the pack and claim third place. Well done Alex! Mark Baker also did extremely well with his Hoplites, just missing out on the points and finishing a very creditable fourth place. David Angelosante was also impressive with his Meroitic Kushites, with some very solid wins against more fancied opponents, but unfortunately was unable to capitalise on his early successes. Other stand out performances included, David Williams, Mark Haughey, Stephen Hopkins and Jon Willacy, all of whom put some early reverses behind them and scored some good solid victories in the closing rounds.



Polybian Romans v's Spartans

Stephen Hopkins and Greg Kelleher go head to head in the battle of the heavy foot armies

From what I saw this game was a pretty closely fought affair, until the Roman Bd gained the ascendancy.

Greg was unlucky not to do better in the tournament, he had a few of his opponents in tricky positions, before the dice gods abandoned him.

Player	Army	Score
Scott Roach	IV/54d Medieval Scandinavian (Other)	54
Dean Bedlington	II/37 Parthian	53
Alex Topfer	II/59 Jewish Revolt	41
Mark Baker	II/5i Later Hoplite Greek (Other)	36
David Williams	II/48 Mithradatic	36
David Lawrence	III/61 Sung Chinese	36
Mark Haughey	IV/84 Burgundian Ordonnance	36
Jon Willacy	I/29a Philistine	36
Stephen Hopkins	II/33 Polybian Roman	35
Mick Sellman	II/48 Mithradatic	35
Jason Dickie	I/55b Early Roman	32
Scott Driscoll	I/26b Later Mycenaean (Trojan)	32
Brenton Searle	II/67a Early Ostrogothic, (Radagaesus)	30
David Angelosante	I/58 Meroitic Kushite	29
Zaki Braddick	IV/59b Post Mongol Samurai	29
Jerry Hearn	IV/55b Ottoman	28
Doug Melville	II/5c Later Hoplite Greek (Theban)	25
David Lucas	I/29a Philistine	25
Mitchell Edwards	I/56a Kyrenean Greek	24
Rik Wood	II/23a Later Pre Islamic Arab (Nomad)	24
Jerry Cashman	III/25a Arab Conquest	24
Greg Kelleher	II/31c Hellenistic Greek (Spartan)	21
Nick Rodgers	I/49a Early Vietnamese	16
Chris Braddick	III/56 Koroyo Dynasty Korean	10

In summary, the results were:

Champion (\$80 certificate provided by Essex Miniatures) – Scott Roach
 Runner Up (\$60 certificate provided by Essex Miniatures) – Dean Bedlington
 Third Place (\$40 certificate provided by Essex Miniatures) – Alex Topfer

Other prize winners included:

Best Junior (DBA army provided by Olympian Games) – Zaki Braddick
 Magister Militum (DBA army provided by Eureka Miniatures) – Mark Baker
 Most Improved (DBA army provide by Mick's Metal Models) – Jon Willacy
 Gentleman's Award (DBA army provided by Pass O' the North) – Rik Wood

The Best Junior Award went to Zaki Braddick, who managed to hold off an early charge by Mitchell Edwards and eventually took home a Corvus Belli Ancient Spanish DBA army provided by Olympian Games.

The Magister Militum was a keenly sought after prize, with a number of players eyeing off the North West Indian army donated by Eureka Miniatures. With Alex Topfer's podium finish making him ineligible to win this award, it came down to a struggle between, Mark Baker's Hoplites and David Lawrence's Sung. David's last round defeat to Dean, left him agonisingly close, but Mark ended up taking home the silver.

The Most Improved award was a Later Assyrian DBA army provided by Mick's Metal Models, prior to the first round all opponents were ranked by myself, David Lawrence and Doug Melville. These rankings were then adjusted against the player's army ratings to give them their final anticipated ranking. The person's eventual placing was then compared to the anticipated ranking to determine the winner. Jon Willacy improved his anticipated ranking by an impressive 13 placings, which was particularly pleasing result as Jon is a thorough gentleman to play, even when things are going against him.



Go the Wallabies!!!!

Jon Willacy (using Philistines) takes out the Most Improved Player Trophy together with a Later Assyrian Army from Mick's Metal Models.

Hopefully it's a portent of things to come from men wearing similar jerseys at the Rugby World Cup in France.

My favourite award is the Gentleman's Award, in which every player rates his opponent at the end of each game, the person with the most votes at the end of the tournament wins the award (a Late Imperial Roman Army provided by Pass O' North Miniatures). I'm very glad to say that the vast majority of the field scored at least 16 points and from what I saw most games were played in a very good spirit. The eventual winner was Rik Wood (in his first competition) who scored a total of 20 points (out of a maximum possible 21!).

The Canberra Games Society also donated a Xyston Later Hoplite Greek – Thessalian Army as the Participation Award (Lucky Door Prize), this was open to all players who did not win any other prize. The very lucky winner was Stephen Hopkins.

Finally, but most importantly, I'd like to take this opportunity to especially thank our very generous sponsors:

Ray Compton from Essex Miniatures Australia who provided vouchers for first, second and third place - www.essexminiatures.com.au

Dean Bedlington of Olympian Games who donated a DBA Ancient Spanish Army for the Best Junior Award - www.olympian-games.com

Nic Robson of Eureka Miniatures who donated a North West Indian DBA Army for the Magister Militum Award – www.eurekamin.com.au

Mick Sellman of Mick's Metal Models who donated an Ancient Assyrian DBA Army for the Most Improved Award – micksmetalmodels.com

Jeff Caruso of Pass O'the North Miniatures who donated a Late Imperial Roman DBA Army for the Gentleman's Award - www.webspawner.com/users/thepass1984

In the spirit of supporting the sponsors that support you, I urge you all to visit these most generous suppliers for all your wargaming needs.

Special thank you's also go out to the Canberra Games Society (for providing the Thessalian DBA army and covering the tournament's costs), David Lawrence (for pulling the draw together and providing boards), Scott Driscoll (for providing boards), Doug Melville (for helping with rulings and the ranking) and Brenton Searle (for the painting the trophies).

For those interested in wargames in the ACT region the Canberra Games Society meets every Thursday night from 7.30 pm at the Deakin Bridge Club, whilst the Canberra Kriegspielers meets the fourth Sunday of each month from 12.00 noon at the Canberra Services Club.

Please note the next DBA competition will be held at MOAB in October, followed soon after by Landwaster 07 in November.

Thanks to all the players for making the ACT/NSW Championships such a delight to organise, and I can confirm that it will be back on again next year, so please keep your eye out for promotional material towards the middle of 2008.

Thanks again

Jason