



## 2009 in Review...

As we begin the 2010, it's timely to reflect on Diplomacy Downunder in 2009...

The Bismark Cup Champion for overall tournament play is Shane Cubis, who won three of the seven tournaments and rounded out his year with a Russian solo at The Don.

Andrew Goff won the 2009 World Diplomacy Championship in Ohio, after taking out the Australian Championship for the second year running.

**The Sydney bid for the 2011 World Diplomacy Championship was accepted. Register your interest here:**

<http://www.daanz.org.au/wdc2011/index.php>

Incredibly generous sponsorship from Sean Colman and Seropeco Games has seen five trips to WDC 2010 in The Hague offered as first prize in five DAANZ tournaments. The first two have been won by Will Black (at SDC) and Shane Cubis (The Don). Three more remain available to be won at ADC 2010, the NZ Victorian Championships. This will create the largest and strongest group of local players participating in an International event, an important part of the build up to WDC 2011.

Seven tournaments played, three solos scored, increasing player numbers, new players joining the hobby, great prizes and quality competitive Diplomacy made for a successful 2009.

Hoping for more of the same in 2010!

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## Tournament Sponsorship Announcement

*by Grant Steel*

Dear all, I am very pleased to announce a generous expansion of support to Australian and New Zealand Diplomacy by Seropeco Australia Pty Ltd.

To build momentum for the 2011 World Diplomacy Championship in Sydney, Seropeco will sponsor five (5) players to attend the 2010 WDC event in The Hague, Netherlands. These five trips (flights and accommodation) will be offered as first prize in the next five DAANZ affiliated Diplomacy Tournaments:

- \* Sydney Diplomacy Challenge, Oct 3-4th 2009
- \* The DON Challenge (Melbourne), Dec 5-6th 2009
- \* The Australian Diplomacy Championship (Sydney), Jan 23-25th 2010
- \* The New Zealand Diplomacy Championship (Auckland), Feb 2010
- \* The Queensland Diplomacy Championship (Brisbane), TBC in March [Alternative - Victorian Diplomacy Championship in March]

The prizes are open to all players who are or become DAANZ members by the start of the event(\*).

This is a great opportunity for the ANZ hobby to send a strong contingent of players to a world-class Diplomacy event. By supporting WDC 2010, we're sure to attract more international visitors Down Under in 2011.

Looking forward to seeing you at a future Diplomacy Tournament.

Cheers, Grant Steel, DAANZ President

(\*) Conditions

1. All players must be or become DAANZ members by the start of an event to be eligible for the prize of a trip to WDC 2010 Scheduled for August 2010.

2. There is a limit of one prize per person, who by accepting the prize, agrees to play WDC 2010 in The Hague, Netherlands.

3. If the winner of an eligible event has already won a prize at one of the previous events, then the prize goes to the second place getter, and so on.

4. If the winner of an eligible event declines the prize, then the prize goes to the second place getter, and so on.

5. The Tournament Director of an event is ineligible for the prize – DAANZ Executives are eligible to win (if not a TD of the tournament); family members associated with Seropeco are eligible to win

6. All prizes and travel arrangements are a private matter between Seropeco Australia Pty Ltd ABN 46 107 419 358 and the player, to a maximum of A\$3500.00 per Prize. The promoters are Seropeco Australia Pty Ltd and the Organiser of the individual tournaments as indicated. The DAANZ Inc is not a party to this promotion.

7. Participants are advised of the need to have Travel Insurance (at your own expense) if you win a prize as Travel Insurance is not covered in the Prize as it will vary according to your particular circumstance.

8. Subject to these conditions, the decision of the promoter (Seropeco Australia Pty Ltd) as to the recipient of the prizes shall be final.

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## **World Diplomacy Championship 2010 at The Hague**

**August 19-22nd**

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## **Bismark Cup 2009**

*by Will Black*

A close finish this year, Top 10

1	Shane Cubis	33.82
2	Thorin Munro	33.46
3	Andrew Goff	29.32
4	Steve Lytton	29.03
5	Will Black	24.97
6	Bill Brown	19.60
7	Grant Steel	17.39
8	Geoff Kerr	15.13
9	Liam Cosgrave	14.6
10	Chris Goff	14.57

Well Done Shane, a well played year and to the victor go the spoils.

Full Results:

<http://www.daanz.org.au/results/bc2009.htm>

### **Shane Cubis**

"Wow! That's very exciting, and it came right down to the wire, like all good tales of achievement.

The truth is, at the beginning of this year I committed to attending the ADC. From there, I made myself a promise to attend every DAANZ tournament for the year, since there was no fiscal or responsibility angle preventing me from doing so, and I was keen to jump over to NZ (since I was now in possession of a passport).

I'm not sure when that transformed into an intentional Bismark bid, but it was probably somewhere between Auckland and Brisbane. Unfortunately I didn't do as brilliantly in Melbourne, and had to miss the Auckland Champs due to a fortnight of work at the ABC on *Good Game* \*brag\*, which meant I had to try harder in Sydney.

Naturally, I exuded the stench of desperation, which meant a hometown triumph didn't happen. \*8th place\*

At the Don, I was having a great time just enjoying the games, the company, the free beer...not even really thinking about the victory or the Bismark. I knew Thorin and I were close, but didn't think I had a real shot of catching him, until suddenly I did in the last stanza of the last game of the last round. It was a tough choice but I took it, to the detriment of one old friendship.

It's been a massive year for me, diplomatically, and I couldn't be happier to finish it with a third tournament victory, a trip overseas, my first solo and - of course - my first Bismark Cup. I can still remember staring at it in Rob Stephenson's back room, wondering if I'd ever be good enough to get my name on it.

Doing almost the entire DAANZ circuit was a total pleasure. It was great to catch up with friends I hadn't seen for years, meet new people who were equally engaging, and be hopelessly drunk in four major cities. Dunno if I'll be able to do the same in 2010, but I'll be attending all the tournaments I can. I hope to see more of you this year!

Especially you. Yes, you. You know who I'm talking about... Cheers, Shane "Arthur" Cubis"

**Thorin Munro**

"Congrat's Shane! The closeness of the final result is flattering. Shane took three tournament victories and a solo along the way.

For my part I'm happy to see a healthy pulse in the hobby, plenty of new players getting involved, competitive games, great prizes etc.

I enjoyed every tournament and look forward to another full year."

**Andrew Goff**

"Nice one Cubiscuit... The Hague awaits....."

**Steve Lytton**

"Well done Shane, Thorin, Goffy.. a very very tough top 3...."

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## **Auckland Diplomacy Championship**

**29-30 Aug 2009**

*By Thorin Munro*

Having lived and worked in Auckland in 1997-8, I turned the 'excuse' of the tournament into a family holiday. We thoroughly enjoyed travelling from Wellington to Auckland over 10 days, staying with family and friends along the way. NZ is an incredibly scenic country, volcanic & thermal, snow-capped mountains, rolling hills covered in sheep and more sheep, crater lakes, friendly people.

Walking in the door at the Onehunga

Community Centre on Saturday I was amazed to see a small horde of people. Took me just a little while to differentiate between the Christian Revival group who were meeting next door and the Diplomacy players:)

After gradually getting my bearings it looked like there were 16 or 17 diplomats. An incredible turnout, particularly when compared to the NZ Championship six months earlier, when we had 7 both days, with two Aussies in the mix... Will as TD made a great call and set up two first round games, separating the new players and the old hands. While the 'serious' game played out I would hear the shouts of glee, groans and death rattles from the Newbie board. Clearly they were having a great time and more than that, learning to play accomplished Diplomacy. So much so that two best country awards were won from that game .... and I should give Grants giant, warped, home-made map a mention. Very creative and yet I was thankful I avoided the dubious honour of playing on it!

Meanwhile the big-dogs assembled for the first round. I drew Austria (the third tournament in a row where I have played Austria in my first game, and ended up scoring 9 centres in each ... any A-H expert will chide my lack of ambition after such good starts:). England = Erwann; France = Goffy; Germany = Craig Purcell; Italy = Grant; Russia = Quentin; Turkey = Steve. Steve and I had a good chat and we've often flirted with forming a big alliance but never yet pulled it off. Instead the crafty Russian made an incredible S01 blunder - FSTP-BLA and FSEV-GOB ... misordering his fleets and going no-where. Steve smelled blood on the water. I couldn't bring myself to slaughter Quentin, and instead helped Q back into the game to Steve's misfortune. In the north Goffy invaded England, and with Quentin onside we plotted to help Erwann make a build (from SWE) and that second homeland army slowed the French advance somewhat. Grant played a slow Italy, probably frustrated by my play at times. I ceded TRI and took it back (without permission) while ceding GRE at one point, all helping Grant build the third Med fleet. Anyway, after Turkey fell, Italy pushed at French flank just as Goffy stabbed Germany. Suddenly Goffy had enemies all around, though with a big 9-10 centre force. Craig invited Austria and Russia into Germany to 'help' defend, and his maverick Army in PIE helped Grant take MAR and SPA. We call a draw in about 1908, still a dynamic position, but one which would have required a change in alliances to make much more progress. Goffy

and I shared the lead on 9sc each, Quentin made 7.

The afternoon second round games Will mixed the two groups. I don't recall much about the other board ... was paying close attention to my own troubles as Germany! Austria = Goffy; England = Josh (very capable, if erratic and maybe too honest:); France = Gilby (Grants step-son, my guess 16 or 17yo, in his first tournament); Italy = Adam Schofield (experienced online player); Russia = Victor (another new player, who really felt the pressure of the game and held his own well); Turkey = Neil Gladden (making a come-back to FTF after many years away). In the East, it looked like Goffy switched horses a bunch of times, each time slightly bigger and better placed than before. Eventually Turkey fell and Russian heartland became Red. adam and Goffy then dominated half the board and that's when things got interesting ... in the West, Josh and Gilby hit it off well and I was on the defensive. Tried to win a friend in Russia by ceding SWE in 1901, but somehow it didn't help much. Maybe it was 1903, when a crucial French misorder left the EF alliance stuck, I finally found a crack and won Gilby (F) as a new ally. We quickly invaded England and Josh's only recourse was to head for Portugal and hide-out there. But once that job was done we had to turn and face A-I and they were hard on the stalemate lines and trying to break through. There were a number of seasons when I tried hard to plant seeds of fear and doubt in Adam's mind re Goffy's intentions. Enough of it worked, so that he didn't leave his territory completely defenseless and ultimately Goffy (10sc) was forced to actually cede a centre to Italy (8sc) before the game ended! Russia finished in scandinavia (3sc), Germany holding the centre (7sc) and France brittle but holding (5 sc) and Josh (1sc in Portugal). Tough game that left Goffy the overnight leader of the tournament, and Adam Schofield in second place (I think).

Sunday saw the numbers fall away a little as emotional fatigue hit newer players. Adam, Oly and Gilby all came back for more... along with a bunch of hard heads. We had 12 or so players so Will started the first game and delayed the second for Adam who would arrive late after a Hockey game. And he would pick up a GM position if needed.

In the 5th game: Austria = Erwann (0sc); England = Neil Gladden (5); France = Thorin (6); Germany = Gilby(5); Italy = Will (6); Russia = Steve (6); Turkey = Grant (6); Austria was

very quickly taken apart by the IRT gang. In the West, as France I kept my options open for too long and Will and I eventually locked horns in the Med which forced a semi-EFG partnership. Gilby (G) allowed two of my armies through MUN and into WAR and Russia, while England came over the top. It was a slow-played France and I liked my psotion, until the late lunch break when it was announced the German player had to leave (this was all handled correctly) and rather than try to find a new player we settled for a gentlemanly draw...

This meant Goffy really only needed a decent survival in his final game to take the first prize trophy (A very nice model sailing yacht). As Turkey he managed his Eastern partners and pushed everyone forward. Sitting comfortably near a bunch of vacant dots, everyone was quite happy to call the draw and escape while the escaping was possible.

Will gave out best country awards, being model lighthouses. For those who don't know Auckland is a sailing city ... and maybe some recall NZ even held the America's Cup for a while. Before the land-locked Swiss took it :)

Congratulations to Goffy for a clear victory and well done Adam on your third placing (and best Kiwi). Not sure how I pipped you, especially as you won one (or two) best countries and I scored none... And really I want to thank Will and Grant for their organising efforts. Will in particular has started using facebook very effectively as a recruiting tool. Thanks to Josh who alone brought 3-4 of the new players into the event.

I'll certainly be back to Auckland for future tournaments.

### **Auckland Championship Results**

by Will Black

The 8th Auckland Diplomacy Championship was staged at the weekend.

Full results online :

<http://www.daanz.org.au/results/res-akl2009.htm>

- 1 Andrew Goff 70.5754717
- 2 Thorin Munro 62.36792453
- 3 Adam Schofield 61.14150943
- 4 Grant Steel 53.10784314
- 5 Oly Hannaford 48.30392157
- 6 Quentin Ball 47.45098039
- 7 Manpreet Kaur 37.7254902
- 8 Craig Purcell 36.0245098
- 9 Gilby Rehtein 32.70754717
- 10 Steve Lytton 27.34313725

11 Josh Guilbert 26.69025157  
12 Victor Bonges 23.54716981  
13 Neil Gladden 20.88679245  
14 Erwann Sbai 5.960784314  
15 Mathieu Apers 2

Adam, Olly, Manpreet, Gilby, Victor, and Mathieu made their Tournament debut and well done for your results. This was the first 2 board tournament in NZ for a long time.

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## **Sydney Challenge 2009**

*by Will Black*

Sydney, Sydney is the place to be.

Arriving in Sydney a few days earlier, I had a few days to fit in. I did feel Sydney was the land of Giants, walking around looking up, or have I shrunk?

I had an interview and a nice discussion and played a fantastic board game called Stone Age twice, but finished last twice. Friday was a relaxing day with the anticipation of the tournament ahead of us, then out of drinks and dinner on Friday night, a nice bar and then a great tapas place that was serving half price cocktails, and cassasas were on the menu, super. The rest of the night is a bit of blur, but I got home real early.

Day one and around 20 or so people there, two games starting. I drew Turkey and it was ok, Liam was Austria, Andrew was Italy, Charlie was Russia, The Steel brothers Germany and France, and a new guy was England. Ok so I need to find someone to work with, Liam was keen to work with me, Andrew also. Not sure about Russia, he is new and he was not giving me anything, only maybe, or don't know. So grabbed Bul and see what happens. Al bounce in Tri in both Spring and Fall.

Austria was not advancing and bouncing me out of AEG, I was trying to have a jump at Russia. Then Austria attacked me, taking Bul. I strike a deal with Andrew, giving him Ser and a working alliance is built. We clean up Austria in the next couple of years. Meanwhile on the other side of the board Germany and France are have a lot of trouble with the Englishman, who is defending very well. Russia is still on one unit and Germany is now in War. Andrew breaks into the MAO, and I start working with Russia again and get him a build of a fleet in

Stp, but then the game stalled a bit and a draw was agreed upon. A great start to the tournament.

Now game two was a different story, I had my work cut out for me from the start. Thorin was Turkey and Grant was Austria. France with Liam and England with the leader from the first round Dangerous Leena. Russia was a new player and Germany was Jason, who had just started playing FTF but played many games by email.

The early going was looking like a EF alliance was forming and I was trying to get an alliance with Austria to squash Turkey into the corner. Fall 01 was very interesting, Turkey took Sev, and supported Austria into Rum, giving Austria three builds and Turkey 2. Austria only build two units, but in Tri and Bud. I was real nervous at this point it looked like a strong AT alliance was heading my way with the trust the first year move had. But I was wrong, Austria doubled back on Turkey and the AI was back on. In the meantime EF were making great progress against Germany, in fact to fast progress. Italy then went into Pie, which was surprising and unexpected. But only to go to Tyl, I do not like this I was thinking. He did go to Tyl but I was still getting the jitters from the moves.

So Austria and I pulled back from Turkey to stop the big EF getting any further. Austria and Turkey were to finish off Russia. But at the same time that Austria took Warsaw, Turkey took Greece from me and Rum from Austria. This was a shock and made Austria and my defence against the EF now non-existent, So we invited EF over the line, and hoped that they would get big scores. Turkey was the enemy. The game was draw over to the next day, the feelings were not.

A very drawn out game of citadels was played at Rob's place, I was assassinated twice and fell asleep. Shane tried to wake me up a couple of times and say it was my turn but I gave him an evil look.

Day two, I was still on 1 as Italy, but was ready for another game. I drew Germany, Grant England, Jason France, Tristan Russia, Chris Italy, Charlie Austria, Bill Turkey. My first talk was with Grant, and he was looking at heading to the Channel, wow, that is interesting, maybe I should go to Bur then. Chris was looking at going to Pie and seeing what happens, maybe I should now order that unit to Bur. Russia was a bit wishy washy, I was not sure but it did

seem that he wanted to attack England, but that is not what I wanted. Austria was looking south. Turkey was just hoping for Bul.

So end of spring saw, F EC, A Bur, A Pie. Not a great start for France. Russia had moved north to Stp from Mos. I was not pleased with this, and I think England was not either. Austria opened standard and so did Turkey. In the Fall, England got a break. Stp Held, I supported him into Bel and we got two build each. So the start.

Next was the jump on Russia, I moved all my units that way. picked up Swe, then War. While helping England take out Paris and Bre. Then I took Mos and Stp in the same year, that was a break. England took Spain and Mar to finish off France. 9 each.

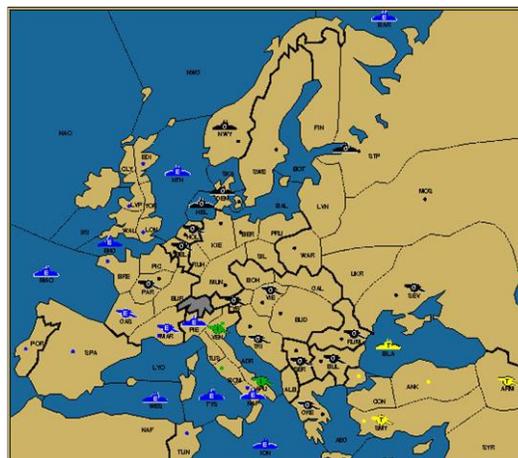
While this was happening Russia/Austria/Italy and Turkey were all fighting each other. Turkey was accused of being dangerous for just sitting there. So England got the jump on Italy, and an easy Tunis. I was going for Sev and Vie, but there still was a bit of guesses to be made. Russia moved out of the way and I got both. 11 each for England and Germany.

Here is where the game turned against Grant and more in my favour. I had a lot of pressure on the south and was picking up position with ease and he was fighting a battle with Italy. Austria was into Turkey, and Russia was still going south.

So I went to 12 when he dropped to 10. Then the next year, jumped on Rum, Tri and Bud. and failed to support him into Ven. Giving me 15 and him 11. Now the balance of units, I had two fleets and 10 armies. I promised a support into Ven this turn and he would get the rest of Italy to even it up.

I moved into position for the solo instead. Moved to Swe for a chance at Norway. Moved to Kie, to move to Hol, for a shot at Bel. Moved to Bur in hope for Par, or Mar, or Bel. I took Ser for 16. Built two fleets and one army. Pushed into Bur, while taking Gre for the position for a unstoppable 18. Grant did not place orders so I got 20.

A great game and the balance was all askew which gave me a strong position for a chance at a win, and with the tournament and a trip to the Hague on the line, I took it.



Thanks to Thorin for a great tournament and giving me a place to stay. Thanks to all the other players including Grant for being so great about me stabbing him, and sorry to Dangerous Leena for taking the tournament from you, but I am sure your time will come.

Until next time, play board games, and by all means play Diplomacy.

### **Sydney Challenge Results** by Thorin Munro

Congratulations to WILL BLACK the new Diplomacy Champion of Sydney.

Will scored a sweeping solo victory with Germany in his 3rd game to clinch the title. He becomes the first member of 'Team ANZ', winning sponsored travel to the 2010 World Championship in The Hague.

A strong performance from second placed Leena Hu, in just her second tournament after winning best novice award at the 2009 Australian Championships. Third place won by Liam Cosgrave, collecting two Best Country awards along the way with Italy and France.

From a Tournament Directors view point, this event was a great success. There were 23 players over the two days, 8 high quality games, keen newcomers like Matthew Woodburn, Jason Collins, Riccardo Ingles and Matt Cobb-Clark, and a sociable and sporting atmosphere.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Will Black
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Leena Hu
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Liam Cosgrave

Full results:  
<http://www.daanz.org.au/results/res-syd2009.htm>

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## SDC09 – Whale of a game by Thorin Munro

Game: Whale @ Sydney Diplomacy Challenge  
Date: 3-4/10/09  
Round: Day 1 & Day 2

### "Lurking Turkey Logic"

There's no question the most memorable game **for me** from SDC09 was 'Whale', started early Saturday evening and finishing near lunch on Sunday. It was the longest game of the tournament. Also the game that produced the second and third placegetters, Leena and Liam. And a game that generated plenty of strong player emotion and viewpoints.

To date I haven't enjoyed much tournament success with Turkey apart from an alliance with Brett Chatterton's Austria in the final round of the 2005 Australian Championship (Turkey 15sc, Austria 13sc). Paradoxically the Austro-Turkish alliance seems to be generally maligned, yet it's been my best Turkish result. Hmm... maybe I'll try again .... why not in Whale?

### Whale... Opening

And so to the game, where during Spring 1901 negotiations with Grant as Austria, it became clear to me there was an opportunity for us to work together and get a very fast start. Grant and I have yet to 'click' in any previous game and I know he's a skilled player so I'm keen to try to finally work with him in this game. Also newcomer Riccardo as Russia began with a very non-committal stance, hoping for Grant and I to duke it out and then to tag along with the winner. At this stage Will as Italy looked quite tired, not having slept much over the past 36 hours. In the West, I'm afraid my focus was very blurred. No doubt I underestimated the EFG trio and did not expect their speedy reduction from 3 to 2 powers....

At the end of 1901 Austria gained 3 (SER, GRE, RUM) and Turkey gained 2 (BUL and SEV), blitzing the Balkans. As Turkey I'd had to stab my erstwhile Russian ally and show my clear intent to ally with Austria. Italy was very disturbed and upset by the AT success and even more worried by the Austrian builds of ATRI and AVIE with one (strangely) waived. That happening as Grant had agreed to waive

a build if he gained three to my one. As I gained two, I'd expected his third build. Anyway, it was looking good for an AT roller .... Unfortunately in 1902 it all went sour for Turkey! Austria went to the Russians 'rescue', supporting him back into SEV. Italy sent his fleets East along with Austrian FGRE. It's a problematic turn of events for Turkey. No allies and looking down the familiar barrel.

### Lurking Turkey Logic... part 1.

What to do? Well...

- Step 1. Hang tough and don't give up, Turkey is a hard nut to crack.
- Step 2. Do whatever it takes to win back Russia's trust and
- Step 3. Start encouraging the Western powers, particularly France to move Eastward.

OK Step 1 is relatively easy. I've been stabbed and am in a difficult position. That is my new reality. The 1901 success with Austria is history. Put on a brave face, this is a good challenge, keep talking and study the tactical wrinkles in my position.

Step 2 also clicks into place with Riccardo agreeing that his Russia is more likely to be next on the menu if Austria succeeds in eliminating Turkey. Grant and I both expended plenty of diplomatic effort trying to win Russian support. I'm still not exactly sure what swayed Ric back onside. As with all diplomacy, there's personality and style factors which matter. Content isn't always king. Whatever it was, this shift was vital for Turkey (and obviously reduced the speed of the AI attack).

Step 3 seeded. I figure if Turkey can hang on until the Western powers roll East, there's a chance to survive and maybe get back into the game. I start to use the phrase '**ace in the hole**' as the reason why France should move before Turkey is eliminated. That idea gradually seemed to gain traction.

Liam played France with a very direct strategy, building all armies in 1901 and keeping his fleet docked in POR for what seemed like years. Germany was led by tournament debutante Jason Collins, who proved he knows the moves, with good results in his first two games. This time, he was up against a determined Admiral Leena as England and an experienced France. To Jason's credit, he

played a rapidly terminal position creatively and with great sportsmanship.

There was a crucial positive turn of events for Turkey late in 1903. Will and Grant were poised for the kill. Fleets surround Turkey. Austria ceded GRE to an Italian army expecting to force the capture of BUL for himself. In the tactical permutations I find FCON-AEG cutting a key Austrian support and with Russian help save the beleaguered ABUL (gambling and leaving SMY unexpectedly undefended). Austria drops a centre and disbands. Italy places another fleet. Too slow.

In 1904, with Germany eliminated, France moves East and England moves against Russia. Here comes the cavalry. Will sees the danger for Italy and starts to negotiate a ceasefire between AI and RT. He needs forces back in the Med to fend off France, and Austria wants to block the centre while Russia holds off England. As Turkey, I agree to sit in the corner and even cede BUL to Austria if needs be. The potential stalemate position develops and the East looks very secure.

Shall we just call it a 6-way draw in 1905?

### **Whale ... Midgame**

Not quite. Things get interesting when Liam wants to hold me to our agreement. He has moved East, drawing Italy and Austria away from Turkey. He and Leena are both wanting to gain about 10sc before agreeing to draw "neither of us has ever reached double figures"! They are each just a couple of SC each away from that goal.... so they ask Turkey to break the blockade.

### **Lurking Turkey Logic... part 2.**

I look around the map.

- There's no Western solo threat that needs to be stalemated.
- Fairly or not I didn't seriously believe either Leena or Liam are yet capable of scoring a solo. [NB: After this tournament experience, I'm sure they're both that much closer ;)]
- It's getting late in the evening with play due to stop at 10pm ... I figure we'll probably draw by then
- I know that stabbing AI at this point will draw their fury. I don't know how much either values survival.

- Yet I'm confident Turkey won't be eliminated and feel there's every chance to make gains which can be held
- And I ask myself, what do I really owe two players intent on Turkish elimination since game start? Not a lot, is the realistic answer...

So with all that rattling around a weary Sultans brain, I throw my lot in with the England and France. Ordering the 'unthinkable' stab, dotting both Austria (RUM) and Italy (GRE) and at the same time being gifted SEV by a shrinking Russian ally who saw England crashing through.

Thunder rolled across the map....

Austria and Italy immediately announced they would suicide to France and called for the collective destruction of Turkey. Quickly apparent neither valued survival. So while it was Christmas time in France, England and Turkey also mopped up centres.

After 1906, there was a Spring to play before stopping for the night, and possibly resuming in the morning. France and England both had 11sc, Turkey had 8sc with Italy and Austria still holding 2sc each. Turkey proposed a draw. France and England both accept.... however Italy declines (!) and so the game is to be continued the next morning.

### **Whale ... Endgame**

Sunday arrived and with a good nights sleep, England and France now see the board differently. Clearly they have the potential to grind out much larger positions than they'd wanted the night before. So it was a completely new ball game.

### **Lurking Turkey Logic... part 3.**

At the start of 1908, the game is down to three contenders. England and France have settled into their alliance. Turkey does not hold enough centres to stalemate the EF. What to do?

- Hang tough and don't give up ... AGAIN.
- Use whatever tactical tricks and wrinkles I can manufacture to slow the advance

- Where possible sow seeds of doubt into the alliance and talk up "solo threats" hoping for a 'safety' draw to be called
- If I'm losing dots, try to cede them to only one player to create imbalance
- Similarly if I disband, try to create an imbalance.

In the 2009 Australian Championship, Bill Brown (France) and I (Germany) arrived at a very similar endgame, up against Shane Cubis playing Turkey. Bill and I diplomatically twisted Shane's arm and cut a deal where he walked off all his centres except 2, and Bill and I collected 16 apiece (not without tension), along with 2nd and 3rd places in the tournament. Now I found myself in Shane's exact position, although facing less experienced opposition.

Early on Sunday Liam offered me the same deal as I'd offered Shane. "Walk off your dots and you can finish on 4sc". I look around the map, and even though I can't hold it, I've used tactical tricks to get to 10sc, collecting TRI and a useful army build along the way. What else am I going to do today? Here's a challenging game. I'm stubborn and can't bring myself to capitulate. "You're going to have to take them off me." Game on.

As the English and French forces expand it becomes harder and harder for them to be managed. The tactics on the map became more complex. And psychological pressure grows as both hit the teens and Liam in particular started looking sideways. I suspect because there were solo possibilities for him to consider, being more experienced. Whereas Leena was locked into the alliance and played it very solidly. I'd been trying to negotiate with each along the way until they hit upon the tactic of refusing to leave the board with me! Whatever I said to one, had to be said to both! That cut across my ability to seed doubts somewhat.... though not completely :)

Liam later asked me politely would I mind leaving the board so they could talk about the position and how to play it. Needless to say I politely declined in return and glued my tail to the seat! Forcing EF to figure out tactics away from the map could only help the Turkish survival cause.

Eventually, stubborn defence had chewed up hours of playing time. Liam became concerned he would miss the opportunity to play in a

fourth game to substitute for his 1st round elimination. Particularly as the result both he and Leena would score from this game meant they were in the running for the trip to WDC 2010. At this stage Liam started to consider ceding me more than 4sc in the draw. I suggested we call it at 13/13/8. Seemed like it was worth a shot! "No, we'll settle for 14/14/6." And again my reply was "No, you'll have to take them...." And so we played on for yet another couple of years, when after 1911 EF did finally succeed in reducing Turkey to 6sc.

Turkey then proposed the draw. EF left the table. Assuming the worst I wrote down my units in preparation for more defense. Yet to my pleasant surprise Liam and Leena returned and accepted the draw.

### Postscript

This game was one of the toughest I have ever played. The scramble to survive the opening onslaught, the emotional midgame play, and finally facing a hard grind as Liam and Leena played a classic and excellent game-long alliance. While objectively Turkey may not have finished on many more sc's than in a possible 1906 6-way draw, there were certainly points where it was possible and the endgame play was an interesting challenge and educational for all three players involved.

Having given it much thought, I believe the Turkish play was legitimate and logical and hope this article gives fellow Turks a few ideas!

Congratulations to joint leaders Leena and Liam. Thanks also to Will, Grant, Riccardo and Jason for the game. We'll meet again no doubt!

Thorin  
Sydney 7/10/09

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## The Don 2009 by Thorin Munro

The Don turned out to be an excellent tournament, rounding out a very full 2009 DAANZ Diplomacy calendar.

Goffy booked a venue at the base of a central Melbourne office tower exclusive for our use. The Cocoa Bean cafe was entirely glass walled and so we were playing in a fish bowl. Not sure if we ever had spectators peering in, I was in far too much trouble through all my games to look up. The cafe owner and his attractive

blonde assistant kept up with our coffee and beverage needs very well.

The CBD location gave me the opportunity to wander around the city on Sunday. Even popped into the cathedral opposite Flinders St Station. Thought it might help for a change of luck in my last game, and ended up getting blitzed by a solo! But I'm getting ahead of myself...

There were six games played and I didn't pay a lot of attention to those I wasn't playing (but I have the full results and will give a summary). Goffy made a couple of rule innovations, tweaking the Cricket scoring system and introducing a new method for deciding draws. For a draw to be agreed, all players would have to have "Draw = YES" on their orders, when read after the deadline. This meant there was no time wasted on draw votes through the turn, nor the usual peer pressure from an open air vote. And it created an extra negotiation point through a turn. I have a feeling it made settling a draw a little harder to do, keeping games going longer, which I think is a good thing. Worth more trials in tournament play.

#### Game 1.

For the 4th time this year I drew Austria in my first game. I quite like this start, or maybe I'm just getting used to it. In the first game, I notice most players are looking for a solid start to the tournament and so as Austria there's the chance to grab a bunch of dots and sue for peace (before the grind starts and shrinkage sets in). The full board was A = TM; E = Chris Goff; F = Geoff Kerr; G = Steve Lytton; I = Gabriel Singer; R = Matt Cobb-Clark; T = Mel Call.

The short story is that Steve (16) and Geoff (14) took out Chris very quickly and then turned against the fractious and uncoordinated East and busted us all, except for Melissa (3) holed up in Turkey and Matt (1) somehow hanging on after 1912. I could go on with a tale of missed opportunities, particularly an alliance with Mel, who I enjoyed meeting and playing with for the first time. She is very experienced and pragmatic. Sounds like Mel and her husband will be moving to Melbourne later next year to manage a laboratory. Look forward to having her back in the local hobby.

#### Game 2.

Three way draw after 1911. Shane (A/12); Greg Evans (I/12); Frank (F/10). These three were at it again in the final game... more later!

The casualties were David Blom (E), Tristan (G), Guy (R) and Rob S (T).

#### Game 3.

Relatively quick 6-way draw in 1907, called at the end of Saturday's play, partly because Mel couldn't continue on Sunday. Sean (A/0), Guy (E/3), Goffy (F/3), Chris (G/5), Rob (I/10), Mel (R/11), Gabriel (T/2).

#### Game 4.

An even quicker 5-way draw, played over Sat and Sun, to 1906 (seemed a lot longer). Here I drew England (1sc) with Steve as France (9) and Shane in Germany (7). Sean (Russia/0), Greg (Austria/8), Frank (Turkey/9) and Matt Cobb-Clark (Italy/0). In the West, I became impatient with Shane's neutrality and Steve's foxing, and dived into Germany. Hoping to draw Steve into alliance with that commitment. Instead, Steve backdoored me into Liverpool and Shane and Steve whittled my position down slowly. Sean's Russia also went after Germany early, but Frank and Greg were allied firmly (on reflection, I'm beginning to notice some alliance patterns and I wasn't in any of them. Must have been my crap diploming!) and routed him and Matt's trusting Italy. Anyway, I defended actively and earned an honorable survival as a result. Was happy to get out alive ... and took myself off for that hike around the city, looking for salvation!

#### Game 5.

Rob Hadley came along for a game on Sunday and his devil may care approach, made for what sounded like a dynamic, fun and chaotic game. 5-way draw called after 1906. Geoff (A/0), Goffy (E/0), Sean (F/9), Matt (G/2), Rob Hadley (I/9), Gabriel (R/6), Chris (T/8).

#### Game 6.

The three tournament leaders were all in this crucial game - Steve, Greg and Shane, probably with current scores in that order. What a ripping game it turned out to be. Goffy (A/0) eliminated in 1902; Steve (E/0) eliminated in 1905; Thorin (F/5); Geoff (G/0) eliminated in 1907; Frank (I/4); Shane (R/18) soloing after 1909; Greg (T/7).

Tired of trying to ally with, but getting busted in my two previous games by Steve, I open FBRE-ENC for the first time in my life. Good old Geoff is always up for a Sea-Lion. When you hear those musical words 'yeah, lets gun him', you know Geoff's onboard! I missed the troika from game 2, settled neatly in the East arrayed around Goffy's Austria. I doubt he knew what hit him, but at least the suffering

was very short lived. Shane kept pumping fleets out of STP and was quite vulnerable to Greg's Turks, but Greg played nice and pushed Frank hard at me in the Med. Geoff and I weren't really quick enough in taking out England and by 1905 the IRT triple had us beat.

At this stage Greg and Shane offered me a three way (we were all at 9sc) , them on 12 each and me at 10. Greg was counting dots and with Steve's elimination, he calculated he needed that many to win the tournament and the trip to WDC 2010. Of course I agreed. And they of course stabbed the be-jesus out of me in 1906, though Shane (with 13) got much more than Greg (11). Shane built FOUR armies immediately. Lacking any Russia armies in the box, he place 4 big white pawns from Franks chess set. Talk about dominating the map!

Greg and Shane invite me back to the 'draw huddle'. Greg is telling Shane he needs to collect more centres to equal Shane's score and win the trip... I can't help laughing at Greg. "Mate, you're not in control of this game any more. Shane's got solo chances if he wants, and he can take the centres and win the tournament / trip himself. Why would he hand it over to you?" Greg slowly started to realise the new power dynamics ... Shane's da boss ... but never-the-less kept trying to talk Shane into giving him the tournament... I walked away and started working with Geoff and Frank, hoping for Greg to join us in a stop the solo alliance. Note to self, have Geoff on your side if you are ever trying to figure out how to stop a solo. He's a great strategic and tactical thinker.

Shane of course pushed on, good for you mate! Picking up another four dots and reaching 17sc after 1907. Frank and Geoff and I start writing collective orders, Greg has largely checked out. We manage to make Shane work for his solo, holding him at 17 again in 1908. There were slim chances for holding out another year, but Shane played very well for position in Spring 1909 and we can't stop him in Fall. After the game, Goffy tells us that with 6pm approaching, if we'd held on then he would have been forced to call a time draw. Huge congratulations to Shane for scoring his first ever solo, under a huge amount of pressure and earning it by outplaying the rest of us.

Finale ...  
I found this to be a very tough tournament. Many strong players, fighting for a significant

prize. Despite losing that final game, flying out of Melbourne I felt I'd really enjoyed the quality of play and the friends I'd spent two days with. That's what it's all about, isn't it!

Hope to enjoy the Australian Championship as much in January, see you there.

#### Don Results.

1	Shane Cubis	66.57
2	Steve Lytton	35.82
3	Greg Evans	32.90
4	Frank Meerbach	30.90
5	Melissa Call	21.58
6	Geoff Kerr	21.25
7	Chris Goff	21.07
8	Gabriel Singer	16.73
9	Sean Colman	15.23
10	Rob Stephenson	15.00
11	Rob Hadley	12.90
12	Thorin Munro	12.07
13	Matt Cobb-Clark	10.65
14	Andrew Goff	8.67
15	Guy Mischlewski	8.33
16	David Blom	3.00
17	Tristan Lee	1.33

Full results:

<http://www.daanz.org.au/results/res-don2009.htm>

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## **Bertie – Goffy's System** *by Andrew Goff*

At The Don I introduced a number of new ideas including a modified Cricket scoring system:

#### **Bertie**

##### Win:

40 points

##### Loss:

1/3 point for every centre;  
1/3 point per year of survival to a maximum of 3.

##### Draw:

1 point for every centre;  
1/3 point for every year of survival to a

maximum of 3, or 3 for surviving in a draw;  
 1 point shared between the outright leaders.  
 1 point for being 2 or more centres ahead.  
 1 point for being 4 or more centres ahead.  
 If the points for being 2 or 4 centres ahead are  
 not claimed, they are distributed among all  
 surviving players.

Some thoughts on the organisational changes  
 and rule stuff.

a) Scoring System.

I loved it. The concept behind the changes was  
 twofold: reward leaders AND chasers, and  
 Thorin's persuasive argument on not being so  
 brutal on 18 losers won me over. On both front  
 it was a resounding and fair success. There  
 was an unexpected benefit too... tie-breakers  
 became unthinkable, without making the  
 system incomprehensible. Major win. Now, can  
 I convince Thorin to use it?

b) Draw System

Worked. Some more thought needs to go into  
 this though. I think I made a mistake allowing  
 draw votes in adjustments. Some of this is the  
 nature of continuous tournaments, meaning the  
 next game still waits exactly as long so there is  
 no organisational benefit. But primarily, I think  
 it interfered with the sanctity of no negotiation  
 during adjustments. So I would make it only  
 with orders.

That being said, the general idea worked well,  
 reducing time-wasting tactics, and i think really  
 improving the tournament environment.

c) Live feed to the internet

This was planned but did not happen. I will be  
 trying to do this myself in the near future. Why  
 mention it? Because it was on my mind to  
 watch if the idea was practical and I think it  
 very much is. Stay tuned!

d) The Venue

Much better than the last one after their  
 manager change. Very professional and the  
 feedback was universally positive... plus it also  
 resulted in a great tournament dinner and then  
 following drinks.

e) Promoting Diplomacy

I am no good at it. I can run a good  
 tournament, but I cannot get numbers to show  
 up. This is a serious concern for me... I need  
 someone to publicise the tournament next year  
 as numbers were very dissapointing.

f) Further loosening of the tournament rules

No decisions were impacted by this. No one  
 raised any objections.

g) Tournament Prizes

This was amazing and was a major positive  
 factor throughout the tournament. Thanks  
 Sean!

I'd really welcome any other thoughts on any  
 of this or anything else you would like to  
 comment about (on or off list).

- Andrew Goff

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## Anzac Cup 2009

Stephen Muzzatti wins the 2009 Anzac Cup.

This in addition to his first place in 2006, 2nd  
 place in 2007 and 5th place in 2008 ... marks  
 Muz as arguably the strongest and most  
 consistent online Diplomacy player Down  
 Under.

Peter snared 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a single solo.  
 Welcome to Matthew Woodburn to both the  
 online and FTF hobby. Great result for first  
 year in the game.

Thanks to all the players for making this a very  
 easy event to TD. While there was a smaller  
 field and fewer games than years past, the  
 games were hard fought and of high quality.

The Western powers scored heavily this year  
 while the best Russia could manage was a 5sc  
 in a loss...

### Final Standings: Anzac Cup 2009

	Player	State	Total (Best 4)
1	Stephen Muzzatti	NSW	55.00
2	Peter McNamara	WA	35.00
3	Andrew Goff	VIC	33.00
4	Matthew Woodburn	NSW	31.75
5	Doug Melville	ACT	22.75
6	David Blom	VIC	20.50
7	Adam Schofield	NZ	12.00
8	Matthew Cobb-Clark	NSW	11.00
9	Joel Follan	Vic	9.00
10	Vijayan Roy Thomas	NSW	9.00
11	Sean Colman	NSW	6.50
12	Gabriel Singer	NSW	4.75
13	Nick Walls	NZ	4.50
14	Bob Blanchett	NSW	3.75

15	Steve Lytton	VIC	3.50
16	Blake Colman	NSW	2.00

Best Austria	Matthew Woodburn	16
Best England	Stephen Muzzatti	SOLO
Best France	Peter McNamara	SOLO
Best Germany	Andrew Goff	15
Best Italy	Stephen Muzzatti	9
Best Russia	Nick Walls	5
Best Turkey	Vijayan Roy Thomas	8

Games for reference. You can read EOG press at the game page.

Game 1:  
[http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09\\_bryce](http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09_bryce)  
 (Completed: 3-WAY DRAW)

Game 2:  
[http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09\\_jeffery](http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09_jeffery)  
 (Completed: English Solo)

Game 3:  
[http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09\\_hollingworth](http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09_hollingworth)  
 (Completed: 5-WAY DRAW)

Game 4:  
[http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09\\_deane](http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09_deane)  
 (Completed: 4-WAY DRAW)

Game 5:  
[http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09\\_hayden](http://www.floc.net/dpjudge/?game=ac09_hayden)  
 (Completed: French Solo)

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## DAANZ Calendar

To get started in the hobby, why not make the effort to participate in an upcoming event. You will meet a bunch of unique characters and enjoy the game played at its best, in person!

Full tournament calendar at:  
<http://www.daanz.org.au/dip-tournaments.htm>

## Australian Diplomacy Championship 2010

Saturday 23rd January 2010 - Monday 25th  
 January 2010

Summer Hill Community Centre, 131 Smith  
 Street, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Contact: Thorin Munro

## New Zealand Diplomacy Championships

**Location:** ASB Stadium, Kohimarama,  
 Auckland, NZ

**Format:** 3 Rounds over 2 Days  
**Scoring System:** Detour98f  
**Tournament Director:** Will Black

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## DAANZ eZine Editor

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