



The Dutch Fungus

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*** THE FINAL ISSUE ***

Editor: Toby Harris

Email: toby@responsiva.biz

Mobile: +44 7734 774520

Post: 10 Charlotte Bronte Drive,
Droitwich Spa WR9 7HU (UK)



The Italian **HIGH COUNCIL** prepare their national Diplomacy team for WDC. ((A special *Thank You* to the kind Italian who sent in this wonderful photograph!))

Fungitorial

A warm welcome to everyone; yes, it's Fungus time once again. And indeed, the very last Fungus from me ... for a year or two at least! But this does not mean that all good things must come to an end, because after this issue there will be a **new editor**.

There is more about this later in this issue, and of course I will do my best to hand everything over smoothly, without hiccups, professionally and as beautifully well organised as ... as ... as a Dutch WDC ☺

Being the Managing Director of a company (with me as the only person working for the company) makes the job especially interesting. You have

to look after all the clients, suppliers, production, order delivery, invoicing, credit control, profit & loss management, forecasting, quotations, website development, Google optimisation, client complaints, prospecting & marketing, Twitter, Bing, Ping, Adwords, You-Tube video promos, Linkedin, stationery, IT, PC, printer, fax, scanner & projector support, data backups, telephony, "0800" number divert, be your own P.A., networking, filing, strategic planning, enquiry source coding, office management and many other roles. But the hardest role for me has to be Human Resources!

I mean, of all those tasks, you can imagine that disciplining just the one employee (i.e., a Mr Toby Harris) can be quite a challenge at times!

And so this issue is dedicated to all those other Managing Directors, especially those who have many more employees to cater for, and so many more responsibilities ...

The Managing Director



Giovanni Cesarini



Giovannis new baby Komodo Dragon needs food. Oh my!

But not all news is a challenge. Indeed, some news is joyous ...



Giovanni Cesarini
new baby Pika



Hey, before we go any further, didn't Daniel Leinich do an excellent job with the WDC website? Three cheers for him. Actually, he gets more than just three cheers. If you look to the top / left of this page you will see his photo on one of the Freaky Fungi!

And a really special thanks to EVERYONE who has helped Frank get this WDC going this summer. Help was surely needed, and it is so great that so many have helped out.

So, how is our Managing Director getting along?



Giovanni Cesarini



Giovanni has found a new Brown Foal on their farm in FarmVille!

Excellent – so recruitment is going well. No Human Resource problems!

The World Cup

And now we have the World Cup upon us. For those considering what anthems to sing along to as you watch your national team games, spare a thought for this true English classic from the World Cup of 1998, which you will certainly hear being chanted in the crowd during every one of their matches this Summer ...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T1pXsJp_go

Amusing that the song should be named after a spicy Indian (rather than English) dish! But for those who are unaware, Indian is the most popular food in England. (So I married one) And if your national team is taking part ... good luck! And please ... no complaining from the Italians in this World Cup ☺

World DipCon

2010

Stay with the website to keep updated with details. See you there for beers at the bar and your supply centres any time you let 'em hang loose.

EDC: 27 – 29 August 2010.

PARIS

"Ze plane bozz, take ze plane"

Disappointing to hear nothing from the organisation team since last year. All I know are the dates and that it's at Xavier's hotel. For most of us I guess that's enough info anyway!

A Derangement of Epitaphs

As it's the last episode of Fungus for a few years (and you can be assured I'll be back editing again one day) I wanted to share with you some moments of thought and philosophy. A little rambling, one might say.

Just a few months ago, Sital prepared an evening meal, which included a goats cheese salad (yes, it had all the appeal of an Austrian WDC platter). But the point is that she then announced "we're having an 'al fresco' dinner this evening". "Al fresco?" I asked. "So why are we sitting down at the dinner table, and not going outside with it?"

The thing is ... it became clear at that moment that Sital thought "al fresco" (which, despite what you other Europeans may think, is a phrase frequently used in English too) was a type of dish, rather than the manner by which it was eaten. Simply put, she once saw/heard someone use the phrase "al fresco", whilst eating a goats cheese salad - - - outside.

So since then she always associated goats cheese salad with "al fresco".

It made me laugh. Not simply because it was a funny thing to laugh at, but also because I don't look in the dictionary for every word I don't understand either. And sometimes I get words hideously wrong or out of context too.

And this is what I love about language. That there are so many ways of expressing the same thing, and that in effect all roads can lead to Rome when you try to communicate something. Did I say Rome? My mistake; in Diplomacy terms all roads lead to Milan & Brunate ☺

So (for example) Al Fresco. I don't know the precise translation or precisely which Latino language it comes from. But It sounds Italian and I guess means "in the fresh air", because these 'keywords' are so similar. "fresco" & "fresh" must surely be the same thing?

In English nobody ever says "shall we eat our dinner in the fresh air?". We simply say "shall we eat outside?" instead.

As a teenager I worked in a Wimpy bar. I'm not sure how many of you even know what a Wimpy is, but I believe it pre-dates Burger King & McDonalds. It never quite made it as quite such a successful business franchise model however. This is interesting because the food products were better quality. As I worked in a Wimpy for six years (Saturdays & school holidays from the age of 14 to 20) and then McDonalds in North London for two years (20 - 22 whilst a student / dossier / stoned layabout) I'm in as good a position as anyone to judge the difference in quality of their various foodstuffs!

McDonalds had/have the efficiency, lower price, systems, standardization, consistency and that was always gonna beat a better-baked wholemeal Wimpy bun every time.



((The Wimpy Bar back in 1985. One of the rare occasions my hair was not in a punk fashion, spiked or dyed.))

But one clear memory I do have of the Wimpy was (because it was on a holiday resort, by the sea in Cornwall) when the French tourists would come into order something.

They would always ask for "Ships!". "Yes" we would say, pointing at the sea ((just beyond the glass windows at the rear of the picture above)); "ships - out there!". "No no," the French would reply. "Sheeeeps!".

"Sheeps? No, we are by the sea, there are no sheep here". And then they would point ... at a plate of chips.

Yes indeed, all eight of these enchanting spotty French teenagers would be investing their holiday pocket money into a single platter of chips to share. Oh, and if we would be kind enough to furnish them with a bottle of our finest Engleesh vinegar and eight clean forks as well. Oh how we loved their custom!

But frankly, at the age of 18 who cared ... I was king chef and the other twenty or so staff were (save the "Norwegian Berserker" manageress) all teenage & female. Yes, I had the most fortunate of teenage years!

But that's another story ☺

What these Summer nights did teach me about the French however, was how resourceful they could be with their language. They would steer around the words they needed by using other words. For example, none of them ever knew the English word *orangeade*. They would always ask for "orange wiz gaz" or "orange wiz bubblez". Sure, we knew what they really wanted. And today this dilemma has been beautifully resolved the whole World wide with the simple and single word ... *Fanta!*

But even though the English language does have many ways of saying the same thing (lemon with gas, lemon with bubbles, lemonade ... and Sprite) we only have the one word for snow. It is a popular legend that the Inuit or Eskimos have an unusually large number of words for snow. In reality, the Eskimo language has about the same number of distinct word roots referring to snow as English does. And that is taken directly from Wikipedia.

So, do both languages have just the one key word: snow? Naaaaaah, we English have LOTS of words for snow! If you live in Newcastle (the far North-East of England) for example then when the snow falls we have "fuckin'-great-snow-like" for all the kids to slide down in their sleds.

And when the trains are all halted because there is snow on the rails, and the train snow-ploughs don't work either, then (as every Brit will tell you) we have from British Rail ... "the wrong kind of snow".

And there's even the snowman cabaret actor's famous song "*there's no business like snow business ...*". But for that joke you'd have to be of UK or US origin, aged 40+, and even then it's as lame a gag as they get.

So please accept my apologies.

Hey, I've chatted half way through the night and then some. It's best we catch up with Giovanni and see what he's been up to ...



Giovanni Cesarini



Giovanni found a Great Egret

All good team-building stuff, eh.

Berlicon 2006

In most respects Belicon 2006 was my favourite of all WDC's.

But there is something I can only share with you now, some four years later ...

Round one was a cracker, drawing Turkey against Vick Hall (France) & Gihan (England) from the UK. Also on the table was Fabrice (Italy) & Baptiste (Russia) representing 'ze' French contingency at this WDC. Baptiste won the game and this was my worst result of the tournament, but it was fun anyway and probably my most memorable game.

A Dutch guy played Germany too, and the late Eve Smith was Austria.

The "late" Eve Smith?
Unfortunately, yes.

I never quite knew how to say this in Fungus before but Eve died nearly two years ago. But if I don't say it now then I guess it never will be said.



Back in the 1990's Diplomacy zine editors loved to have fresh stories no matter what the price (like the paparazzi). But here is a story I was dreading to write, and eventually it arrives because I feel (if you have ever met Eve) that you would want to know she is no longer with us.

I hope that those who remember Eve will do so fondly. She grew from being the 'whipping girl' on the Diplomacy table to the girl who sometimes bit back. But she was always very sweet with it.

My last tournament win was 12 years ago in 1998. I'd like to go back to this tournament for a moment and give Eve the best tribute I can give her from all the times we met over the Diplomacy table ...

EDC 1998

Eve played France to my Italy in the penultimate round of this 1998 EDC. This was the round where you fight tooth and nail to get a place in the top table by topping the board or securing a reasonable result.

Eve attacked me from the start and did well from it. Her ally (Richard Williams) was England and stood the soon-to-be-world-champion Christian Dreyer out of Holland in the Fall of 1901. Christian was most upset!

I needed to get an equal first place (or thereabouts) to finish in the top seven places for the final, and Eve kept battering the hell out of me.

It was a safe thing for her to do; Christian was kept busy in the North and I had been given a gift ... Francois Riverssau as Austria. Francois explained to me at the start how his 'real' job was a diplomat, but he then let me take Trieste & Vienna in 1901. How "diplomatic" of him. For this reason Richard & Eve agreed: Eve stay south against me and Richard keep a tab on Dreyer.

But I haven't explained the rest of the table just yet. Russia was Andrew Greco and Turkey Vittoria Depino. What nobody knew in the game until the very end was that Vittoria and I were 'dating'. Although it had no effect on our relationship afterwards, I have to say that it was very wrong of me to pressurize Vittoria so much in the final turn to help me hold a centre by simply "walking out" herself. So all the hard work Eve had done to stop me from reaching the final was unfortunately spoiled by a gift from Vittoria in the final turn. So England's first ever EDC winner was put into the final by an Italian! (thank you Italy). And Eve did her very best to stop it. Eve saw a lot in this game and grew as a character since.

Although I've thought of her husband Keith often since learning this news, we haven't spoken and really hope he's coping better now with his loss.

Berlicon 2006

WDC 2006 was the last time most of us saw Eve, and it's fair to say that by then she'd become internationally well known. Perhaps not for the right reasons, as her style was sporadic at best. But she was still a very sweet lady anyway. Rest in peace.

So now I will change the subject to the really GREAT stuff that WDC 2006 gave to everyone who came;

The best room/games access for starters. I mean, you had to walk about six feet from the Diplomacy hall to crash out in bed ... I could do that even when stoned off my trolley! (So thank you Julian for the organisation, and to Igor/Fabian for testing my ability to find my room)

Organisation was phenomenal, save the tiny "Maggi-Yann" hiccup in round four which we'll skip past. Hot Dogs and other barbequed food was awesome ... especially if topped with Igor's extra-special green relish! Music was provided all weekend by Andre Ilievics & Tredicino Cleopadre singing "In Da Navy". Food was great, prices fair, beer magic and nobody went hungry.

And only now do I re-think that top table with "if everyone played the game again, which country/player would you swap with?"

Well the obvious choice would be to swap with Nicolas Sahuguet's France. But then the winner would have been Nicolas Sahuguet. That's because the G/E (Demis/Vincent) alliance would have turned West against me instead of East.

I don't see how a swap with G or E would have altered things, other than the angle by which I was attacked. Swapping with Cyrille's Turkey would have (probably) made Cyrille the victim instead of me, and I'd have expected no lesser treatment from Cyrille than I gave him (i.e., I did my best to stop him winning).

So my choice is Austria (Schlomi) or Italy (Fabien). If I'd swapped with one of them then things would have changed. But exactly how, we will never know. It's another story!

But in my honest view, Nicolas deserved this win, playing every turn faultlessly and diplomatically.

The 3-way, Dual-Nationality alliance

(A Diplomacy strategy article)

Apart from a modest eight year break (1990 – 1998), your youthful, well-dressed & charismatic Fungus editor has in fact not won any individual Dip tournaments since starting in 1976. Whilst many others have reached the lofty heights of World (or even Oxcon!) champion, despite the way they look and dress. Examples;



Left to right, winners of: WDC1997 & 2001 Cyrille Sevin, WDC2004 Yann Clouet and Oxcon 1997 Vick Hall. Yes, they are tights on Yann ☺

But despite all this I will leave you in the final Fungus with a fresh and new Diplomacy strategy article which has never been covered in any other Dipzine ever before! How can this be, after so many decades, that a new strategy article can appear?
So here I introduce the ...

3-Way, Dual-Nationality Alliance

We all know about the three-way alliance. And no matter what three countries are involved, provided you are with the right three players, they can really kick some butt. We all know this. This article has a little twist however, with perhaps a few shivers for some of the readers as they recall their own references.

In my view the **best** three-way alliance is where you ally with two other players that are either (a) very good friends (before the game began at least!) or (b) of the same nationality. The important thing is that YOU are the “outsider” and they have some mutual commonality. What this does is to provide a common bond between the other two players, thus giving them a sense of security. It is false however! So as the “outsider” in the three-way alliance you have a *perceived*

disadvantage from the start, and this has the psychological effect that your two allies are more likely to be more open with their centres.

Commonalities of your two allies need not be by nationality or friendship. It could be two smokers, or take Vick Hall for example: at one Manorcon he said to Vesa Virri: “*we short guys should stick together*”.

Either way, as the third person in this ‘marriage’ you are the outsider.

The concept first hit me in the late 1980’s during a postal game. I drew Russia and two close friends were playing England and Austria (I think). i.e., not neighbours on the board, but both neighboured me. I suggested we have a three-way alliance. As we expanded I stabbed one of them. But why did I choose THAT guy over the other? The answer is actually the same as my reason in every game;

- First, I stabbed the player most “out of position”.
- He was the player I could get the most centres from (from this turn and any “fall-out” turns)
- Friendship and personal preference are disregarded.

The stab went well. Three centres. And I said to his friend “*well, that’s the way the game goes, but let’s you & me continue the alliance because I cannot fight a war on two fronts.*”
Within two turns I stabbed the other friend too, and went on to get 18.

Many years later (The French WDC of 2001) I played Italy to the two Irish buddies Fintan & Moorish as Turkey & Austria. Moorish was the younger brother of the well-known Fearghal O’Donnohu, and Fintan was his mate. I can only best describe them today as akin to Merry & Pippin of “*Lord of the Rings*”; cheeky, hobbit-like and loyal to each other.

This was the first time my concept had truly worked. You ally with two people who are (a) good friends (b) the same nationality and (c) not your own nationality. i.e., be the outsider Moorish went down for four. Fintan gazed on and then lost three. The WDC team trophy was mine again ☺

As organiser of the 2006 EDC in Cheshunt, I only played to make up the numbers (and my score then disqualified). In one game I drew two young, fresh, and sparkly-eyed Italians who came to this EDC as good friends. Isn’t that so Luca ☺. We had a three-way alliance which soon became a two-way alliance ... and then a *one-way alliance*.

So what exactly is the strategy with this article? I guess the point is to start the game by approaching the two closest friends in the game (or the two players with the same nationality or closest commonality). Then suggest that the three of you have a three way alliance. Most close friends would welcome a third player to join them – there is some safety in numbers! And with the three-way alliance formed, maybe you will be considered from the start the underdog, and for that reason given more freedom. i.e., when one of the allies is hesitant about a move which leaves them wide open, your answer can be “why would I dare to stab the two of you close friends together?”

Do you need more proof that this works? In 1997 (WDC final round) there was Paul Nilsson & Anders Desmark in Sweden. The three-way alliance (A/I/T) got me 18 by 1907. Though in all fairness there were five Swedes on this table, all determined to kick shit out of each other! So this one probably doesn’t count.

But it’s not all ancient stuff. EDC 2008 as Russia, this time allied with two German buddies; Fabian & Igor. We removed the illustrious Gwen Maggi together before the three-way was reduced to two and then one.

The concept is simple. Your friends are your friends. When the game is over it is your friends that you join at the bar and drink beer with. But the Diplomacy game is not something you choose; players are presented in front of you and you have to make do with the board allocation you’re given.

So next time you start a game, give some thought to approaching the two closest friends in the game and inviting them to join you for a three-way alliance. And after the game you may just be buying me a beer for the suggestion.

Your Emails

Jean Louis Delattre

"I should be considered as a past winner... I would have won 97 if the others on the final table listened to me when I said to them that Cyrille was the ogre who would eat us all... I fully attacked Cyrille Austria with my turkey but nobody followed... then Cyrille said "you are not kind with me JL... be gentle or I will fight back then I carry on trying to convince Edi's Italy and Borger Russia to gather in Vienna..."

"I fully attacked a second time... nobody helped... then I was doomed by Cyrille... then he won the game as I predicted... I'm the champion at guessing who will be the champion"

((Exactly, and the "Borger-Russia" explain everything !!))

André Ilievics

"I was VERY busy the last few months. I quit my job and already found a new one at another investment company, which starts in July. I have some days off soon, and if you still want to print some words of last years EDC winner, I can finish my article in a day or so and send it to you?"

((It would be good to print it Andre, because you will not be EDC Champion forever! I have had no such title for 12 years ☺ But now you will have to send it to the new zine editor because this is my last issue. Please do this because it will make the zine have a nice fresh start and help keep some continuity for the Worldwide hobby.))

Jim Burgess

"Hi Toby, you are STUPENDOUS! Congrats on giving up the butts, how will we ever deal with you if you have no vices whatsoever??? I am trying to find a way to do this, have been promoting it 1-1 incessantly. I am really trying to think about Sydney.... best to you and your family, brought back all sorts of memories about "that World DipCon".... my great Diplomacy that weekend was keeping Iain Bowen somewhat sane. I have tried off and on to keep up with Iain, but feel badly about those who have been "destroyed" by World DipCon, it is my #1 hobby regret. I hope you

find a Bitch for this one, it is needed..... ;-)"

((Well Jim, if you would like to apply for the role of "Frank's Bitch" you would be most welcome ☺))

Daniel Lester

"I am NOT a bitch. So you can stop that train of thought right now Mr Harris!"

((well, it was worth a try ☺))

David Maletsky

"Congratulations on giving up smoking... keep up the good fight!"

Vidar Ambrosiani

"PPS: Good job on quitting the smoke."

((Thank you guys, I really appreciate the support. There was a small lapse in April but my wife – who has been a non-smoker all her life - soon "encouraged" me back on track!

So, ending with a "pps", what was the rest of Vidar's email ...))

Vidar Ambrosiani

"PS: I'm unlikely to come to Hague unfortunately. Two kids at 3 and 1 years old, + I'm hopefully going on a loan to a different section of government in the fall."

((Well it will be a shame not to see you again but you have good reason))

Vidar Ambrosiani

"Regarding the comment: "Leave your stabbing brother back home".

I'm shocked and insulted, stabbing, me??? I think I only stabbed you once, and that was more of a joint attack with Simon Bouton right from the start actually.

Actually, I was planning to give you some support in your bid to finally win WDC. You see, I think we've only played three games together and I've tried all three options to deal with you. Attack, DMZ and ally.

Attack: Third round WDC Namur 1999. My France and Simon Boutons Germany go straight for your England and we also get Björn Westlings Russia to open to StP. It was a really rough game since 6 out of the 7 players would have reached the WDC top table with a win (I still wonder what the french guy playing

Turkey had done to be drawn to that table, but he got eliminated anyways). Before you were eliminated I managed to stab Simon in such an incompetent way that I actually disbanded (Leif in Italy might have had something to do with that...). ((of course he did!)) The rest of the game was downhill, except for my steal of Liverpool which made me survive on 1 sc. But attacking you was hardly a good option.

DMZ: Manorcon 1998, Team tournament, I played France and got involved in a western war. You played Italy and faced an AT alliance. Not much happened in our relationship until you suddenly had 17 sc's including my Mar and Spa. I survived on 2 sc which is better than 1...

Ally: Out first game, Swedish NDC, Stockholm 1998. I played France (again, or actually this list is chronologically backwards) and you played England. For some reason Germany and I were both so afraid of you that we decided the other one would be your puppet and such the best course of action was to be a better choice of puppet. I won that race and we took out Germany. I was extremely paranoid and waived one build in W01 just to keep my defense deep. I waived a second build sometime down the line as well. But when the stab came I managed to defend OK and actually survived with 5 sc. Seriously 5 sc, that's like almost double the amount of the two other games that hadn't yet been played.

So my advice is to ally with Toby. It's not a good choice but it really beats the alternatives!!

Or, that's what I would have written if you hadn't called me a stabber ;-)"

((LOL, well Vidar it is all very convincing but unfortunately I don't think there will be many readers who will start each game at WDC with the goal of getting just five centres ;-))

Mark Stretch

"ManorCon flyer enclosed - can you publicise this in the Fungus please."

((Thanks Mark. Of course. Everyone will have it attached with this issue.))


Daniel Lester

“Wait - seriously - are you telling me there WASN'T a Belgian world champion? I can't believe it!”

((ha ha ha ha ha, you're really serious aren't you? Well, if some Belgians are to be believed then maybe we would now have a Belgian World Champion if it weren't for ... the Borger Russia !))

“All the best writers let their creations have a little fun - which is why you'll be missed as Mr Fungus.”

((Well, our new editor has an opportunity for a fresh start, new ideas and obviously his zine and style will be different to mine. And I really look forward to reading it.))

 **Moritz Am Ende**

“How to handle a problem neighbour;



((Nice!))

 **Laurent Dumont**

“The next Dragon's Cup will take place on 16-17th of October in the Youth Hostel of Mons, Belgium. The Belgian NDC is also the Belgian EGP step, Tour de France step, and Vier Chancen step. More information soon. Links :

<http://cartazimut.over-blog.net>

http://www.laj.be/html/fr/auberges/mons/aubergesmons_01.htm


<http://www.mons.be/home.aspx>

 **Francesco Conte**

“I think the next will be the last Fungus, and I have to say, I'm starting to miss it :P

Good news: I will officially participate in the next WDC and EDC. The car is ready (me, Marco, Luca, Davide - maybe). Bad news: I guess I'm not the favorite...

Maybe the next EGP event (2010) will be hosted in Rome and not in Milan (Davide agrees :D), because of an opportunity we shouldn't miss.”

 **James Hardy**

“I registered the other day. It doesn't really say what rooms they are (guessing they'll be twins at least?) nor does it tell you who else has signed up. Also the details for paying some up as TBC or something...”

((I think all this is now sorted, but any questions – from anybody – can be answered by sending an email to the WDC committee. Just see the website for the details.))

 **James Arney**

“Many thanks for keeping me in the loop. It is with much regret that I have already booked my family holiday for the fortnight in which both the WDC and EDC take place. I will therefore have to pass.

Good luck! (I look forward to reading about your victory)

James

(p.s. The memory of your message laughing at Gihan after stabbing him at the start of the email game we played still brings a smile to my face!)

((LOL. So there you have it. For those that have been confused since the WDC of 2006, James Hardy and James Arney are in fact two very different people. Indeed, they have notably different accents, height, hair styles and body masses ☺))

 **Alexandre Daquo**

“Thank you for all the work on the Zine.”

((You're welcome and I hope you enjoy the new incarnation as much.))

 **Fabian StrauB**

“Of course I signed up already. I really hope we see each other on Top board.”

((Well good luck Fabian, though you probably won't see me ... for dust!))

The Swedish Juggernaut

 **Aron Ambrosiani**

“The Swedish juggernaut is now beginning to roll – I registered to the WDC this morning. See you there!”

((Hmmm, well, let's just see how fare this Juggernaut can roll ...

 **Christian Dreyer**

“Firstly; there is no way whatsoever that any other Swede than me ever wins the WDC. Please forward this message to everyone so they know it's not worth going.

Secondly, I have tried to sell the idea of going to the Netherlands to my family, and surprisingly my wife didn't automatically reply "hell no". So there is still hope of seeing me there. It still has to work out with my job etc but maybe the chance of me coming has risen from 3 to 27 percent...”

((I don't think the arrival of a WDC “has been” from the last Millennium will have us all quaking just yet!))

 **Tomas Larsson**

“Can't promise anything (as usual)...but I hope I will be able to go to Haag.

Will they have team competition?”

((Yes of course they will! You can be in the World Champion winning team again and gloat at Dreyer ☺))

 **Sven Vasseur**

“It is so refreshing to see your efforts for recruiting WDC players. Let me express my hope for your immediate success. Your passion is simply overwhelming. A real asset for the lovely but what I experience in Sweden being a bit of a slumbering hobby.

Even if we haven't encountered on any dip boards as far as I can recall, I am sure you would be able to sell me anything...

Thanks for the awakening. To begin with I have registered for a tournament in Sweden and we'll see how far that leads. Nothing is impossible and when reading your Funguses, Haag is the place I want to spend that particular August weekend.”

((Fantastic, so perhaps this year's WDC will see a healthy arrival of Swedes once again. And they just keep a coming ...))

 **Peter Lund**

“That was a really flattering letter to the Swedish hobby :D Nice with dates in clear big red letters too. Yes it would be nice to come back to a WDC once more...”

I could very well be interested of taking part in this years WDC if I can

get everything to fit together. I would bring with me my whole family (2 adults + 3 kids) to Den Haag in that case. And if I can persuade my wife to get her holidays during that week, and if I can find a nice hotel to book room(s) for 5 people. Just taking the car and head south would be very feasible then... (No we would not stay in a hostel.)

Den Haag seems on google maps to be very close to the sea. Is there any nice beach with a good hotel *near* to the WDC which you or your arranging team could recommend? Maybe there is a good hotel booking website for Den Haag somewhere?

I could not find the WDC venue address in the last "Dutch fungus". Maybe it is not clear yet where it will be held. It would anyhow be nice to have when booking a hotel to get within walking distance...

Btw, I greatly appreciate the Dutch fungus! Very nice to read every time!"


((Thanks Peter, everything should be on the website now. The last time Swedes came en masse to a WDC, one of them danced with my wife by the Seine ...))



((Sital with a fruity Leif Bergmann.))



((Sital, myself, Leif & Niclas Perez ... all this centre-grabbing was thirsty work and gave us quite an appetite!))

 **Emeric Miszti**

"We haven't yet finalised our hols dates so I am working on trying to go earlier in the month. I might then be able to make WDC and EDC - why settle for one title when you can get both? ;)"

((Indeed. Bet you do as well!))

 **Yann Clouet**
27th April 2010

"Always at the edge of innovation, after "Paris Plage" today it was "Paris Campagne". Quite an impression to cross tractor on the motorway :) Here is a few sample of what you could see in the street of Paris today."



 **Conor Kostick**

"Thanks for Fungus 4. It's a good read. With regard to the notorious WorldDipCon 1994, I was a player on the board where Pascal got his 18 and the title. I have a lot of respect for Pascal's dip career, but here he was embarassed by the fact that the manner of his 18 was so evidently contrived. At the point where the game should have ended in a draw, but didn't because the other French player started to order outrageous moves to throw the game to Pascal, I contacted the referees and went around the other boards to make sure there were plenty of witnesses to the 'before' and 'after' situation. There was no rule infringement and nothing could be done, in a way you could say that it is all part of the game. And I don't think many players, including myself, would have done any differently to Pascal at the time and taken the win that was suddenly on offer. But this was the incident that convinced me that dip could never have a serious sponsorship and prize, because off-board manouevers will contaminate the game. As a matter of fact they still do to some extent, in that sometimes friendships or grudges tip the balance."

((I wasn't aware you were on Pascal's "18" board so it's great to hear another side of it.))

 **Luca Pazzaglia**

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"We are trying to grow ((the Italian hobby)) during these years and searching new players especially in the center and south Italy (Rome is our last conquest ;-)). Next step is Verona.

I have seen your big work for the European Hobby and ALL the Italians players appreciate. So, let's go on this way because we think it's the RIGHT way for a new born of Diplomacy.

About your proposal of a WDC in Italy in 2012 I need to talk with the HIGH COUNCIL of the Italian Diplomacy Associaton ☺, because, as you can imagine, we need to concentrate all the energies in this project if we want to do it."

((I genuinely believe it would be fantastic and right for Italy to be the next European nation to host a WDC. I have not heard news of another country making a bid for the next European WDC. So I hope the HIGH COUNCIL will all agree and that you have the right man in charge.))

The Managing Director



Giovanni Cesarini



Giovanni just traded
10 Gold pieces for the
Shamrock Sheep

 **Luca Pazzaglia**

"BTW: I would like to make a trip by car around the Europe:

Aug. 18 – Start (Italy)

Aug. 19 – Switzerland, Germany and Holland

Aug. 19-22 WDC

Aug. 23-26 Belgium/ Luxembourg/ France

Aug. 27-29 EDC in paris.

Hope to take Davide, Giovanni, Marco, Leonardo and other italians players on board ;)."

((That is excellent news. But please don't forget room for Giovanni's beached humpback whale!))



Giovanni Cesarini



Giovanni found a
beached Humpback Whale.

 **Dave Wreathall**

"I'm now 90% likely to be there, at least for part. Thanks for all your hard work promoting this!"

((Blimey, Dave Wreathall appearing at a non –UK WDC! That's excellent news. Dave, I'm sure you'll better your 83rd place from the first WDC back in 1988 ...

<http://www.manorcon.org.uk/res88.htm#IDip>

82 players are estimated this year ☺))

But changing the subject ever so slightly ...))



Andrew Greco

"I remember Clunk very well. When I was down in Cornwall I had a friend who always reminded me of the other member of Dastardly's Flying Squad who translated for Clunk and was perpetually terrified about the next disaster."



Eeeeeee Cluck Prrrring



David Norman

"On the subject of WDC, if anybody from the UK is interested in going by car, it's only 200 miles to Den Haag from Calais, and according to Google Maps, only 3 1/4 hours driving time - it's fast roads the whole way (except the Antwerp ringroad, which is usually as busy as the M25)."

((Thanks David. I'll be taking a last-minute flight myself, simply because my family are planning a late holiday so I need to work around this. However, I understand Stephen Agg and others are looking at car-sharing.))



John College

"Meant to say, well done on the still not smoking front. You pick up ooooooodles of brownie points for that! :-) How long is that now?"

((well there has been a lapse, and may yet be more. But I'm taking each day as it comes. By the way John, so sorry that Scotland missed out on the World Cup this time ;-)) I don't suppose you fancy cheering on England instead do you?))



Yann Clouet

"The winner won't be French, I'll make sure of that (prediction made by a French :)"



((Yes indeed, with those tights and your unusual 'party dance' I am sure your enemies will run in fear ☺))



Dave Simpson

"About the EDC/WDC thing, I am still looking to go to both and I'm sure that some of us Brits will be looking to meet up to get out there together if possible."

I'm still enjoying the Freaky Fungus, good stuff! All the tales of the other players is quite handy on the "know your enemy" stakes too. ☺"

((yes, WDC can be like Mordor – many enemies!))



Frank Oosterom

"Moritz am Ende offered his help during the tournament. A bit of the bitch stuff without accepting the bitch tag... So that's one PA. Hopefully some others will join, so I can make everything run smoothly."

((That's fantastic news and my special thanks on behalf of everybody to the support Moritz has kindly offered.

HOWEVER ... Moritz must understand that this does not automatically exonerate him from the title of "Frank's Bitch", he he.))

New Editor



Shane Cubis



Email: cubisia@gmail.com

"G'Day Toby,

To help with the introductions, here's a bit about me.

I'm the deputy editor of a weekly lads' mag here in Australia (People magazine), so I spend a lot of my time dealing with nude models, organising alcohol samples for review and trawling through reader submissions...so The Dutch Fungus should be pretty similar, I imagine!

I've been playing Diplomacy since 2000, was the DAANZ president in 2001 and 2002, had a couple of years off from 2007-2008 before coming back last year to win the Bismark Cup and get my first-ever solo.

I'll aim to get the first Aussie issue of TDF (or whatever the equivalent Australian title ends up being) out in July, as you suggested.

Any advice you've got would also be much appreciated, of course!

Hmmm...I think that's all for now."

Thank you Shane. I've really enjoyed editing Fungus, but now is the right time to hand over to someone new. As the 2011 World Dipcon will be hosted in Australia, who better than to carry forward the WDC email database and update us with the World's Dip news, events & gossip.

Please give Shane a very warm welcome and send him your articles and hello's: cubisia@gmail.com

And Finally ...

Do keep checking the WDC website regularly for news and updates and I look forward to seeing many of you at the main event this August.

Before I leave you, please can we all just check under the sofas, beds and tables because



Giovanni Cesarini



A rescued Hedgehog escaped from Giovanni's zoo. Oh No!

Cheers,
Toby