**CoG tournament recap**

This year, the various gaming tracks at CoG collapsed into one. The former EuroCaucus, Racing, America First and Train tracks were combined into two days of tournament gaming, with the top scoring players vying to win the new CoG Medal of Honor. The structure remained similar to previous years, with points being given out based on number of players at each table. Scoring was computed from a player’s best five scores from Saturday combined with up to 3 scores from Sunday.

Games were selected through a process of voting by previous attendees, with consideration given to games with a willing volunteer to GM. Although Euro games dominated the voting, interest remained for other types of games as well. In the end, 35 different games were offered and all but 2 had at least one full table.

Old favorites tended to garner the most plays. Ticket to Ride and Thurn und Taxis were most popular, although newcomers Splendor (20 players) and Russian Railroads (15 players) also drew well. In all, 85 unique players competed in at least one event.

Last year’s EuroCaucus winner, Phil Rennert, was present and expectations ran high that he might be able to repeat. In fact, by the end of Saturday Phil was on top of the pack with a strong lead, and looking like he might be tough to dethrone. However, Phil still had to contend with four strong players from the Saccenti Family, as well as previous top competitors such as Weber, Morelli, Onufrak and Henderson.

On Sunday morning, the top ten players began to be paired together when they chose the same games. This made it tougher on Phil, as any losses to another top 10 player could put him in some danger of being overtaken. John Weber, who was currently holding in second place, had a win in Puerto Rico and looked like a threat. However, Puerto Rico was his last tournament game which caused him to drop in the standings. Glenn Massey, Ed Gilliard and Marcy Morelli were also in the running and had good scores Sunday morning. However, a strong win by Eric Kleist in the final game of Splendor kept them out of Top Three contention. The Saccenti brothers, Antony and Donte, pulled very close to Phil and were possible winners if their scores continued to rise. However, Donte won the final game of Carcassonne – giving Antony only fourth place points.

In the end Phil’s strong performance could not be denied, and he came away with his second consecutive victory.

The Top Ten were:

Phil Rennert 61 pts

Antony Saccenti 59 pts

Donte Saccenti 56 pts

Glenn Massey 55 pts

Ed Gilliard 53 pts

John Weber 48 pts

Marcy Morelli 47 pts

Jim Henderson 46 pts

Eugene Yee 43 pts

Eric Kleist 43 pts