

Introduction

CASLO XXIV was to be held in Fredericton, NB. A first for CASLO: ASL in the Maritimes. And then COVID-19 reared its ugly head and the global pandemic put a stop to many things, including CASLO XXIV. The tournament director, David Garvin, approached the committee and proposed an emergency CASLA session and the membership voted on a Virtual CASLO in its place. It was, in a word, a resounding success.

Hosted by the nascent Fredericton-based ASL Club (“D-Day Dodgers ASL Club of Southern New Brunswick”), Virtual CASLO became the club’s newest focus. With under a month to go, the planning committee altered the scenario list ever so slightly due to lack of VASL maps for certain scenarios. With that, VASL version 6.5.0 start files were created and these were sent out to the tournament participants, along with scenario packs. In all, 40 players logged in from across Canada and around the globe, from Sweden to New Zealand!

Sponsorship

This tournament would be impossible without the generous support of many throughout the ASL community and beyond. The sponsors this year were:

- Slitherine Games
- Multiman Publishing
- ASL Battle School
- Le franc tireur
- Bounding Fire Productions
- Lone Canuck

The Tournament

Modern problems require modern solutions. As such, the opening ceremonies were conducted using Zoom. Most participants were able to partake and many brought along their own cheer to toast the memory of Jim McLeod. The Tournament director, David Garvin, read a small note about Jim, courtesy of Dr Mark Pitcavage’s well-known site, Desperationmorale.com:

Perhaps over a 100,000 people own a copy of ASL, and the number of people who play at least semi-regularly numbers in the tens of thousands. But the number of “hardcore” ASL players is far smaller and the “hardcore” ASL scene—the scene with clubs dedicated to the game, and tournaments, and people dedicated enough to read these words—is not that large. That scene depends on key movers and shakers to keep it going. They are the ones who design scenarios, host tournaments, publish newsletters, run websites. Among this sort of people, Jim McLeod loomed large.

Read more at the site: <http://www.desperationmorale.com/products/elite-canadians-the-scenarios-of-jim-mcleod/>

The tournament had two components: the main tournament of five rounds and several mini tournaments of three rounds each. The mini tournaments were conducted in a round-robin fashion with four players in each. Some were those who slotted over from the main tournament after the second round, but most were signed up just for them.

The Main Tournament

Each round had a theme and had five scenarios from which to choose. Players were asked to submit their scenario and side choices ahead of time to facilitate matching. The first round's theme was East Front Heavy Metal. The following were the scenarios:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
J 181	The Deadly Line	Not Played
ANZAC 99.2	Die Weisse Hölle	Not Played
FrF 23	Elephants Unleashed	German 2 – Soviet 2
BFP 101	Panzer Spirit	German 2 – Soviet 1
RPT 3	Varosmajor Grange	Hungarian 3 – Soviet 5
ASL 182	Strayer's Strays	US 1 – German 0

NB: Strayer's Strays was played by request due to a new player not being familiar with AFVs. His opponent graciously agreed. And lost as the Germans. How nice!

Round 2's theme was From the Official Publishers. This had five scenarios from Avalon Hill and Multiman Publishing. Unfortunately, one player had to withdraw from the main tournament after the first round as he took ill. The following were the scenarios:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
153	Totsugeki!	Japanese 2 – Chinese 2
1	Fighting Withdrawal	Finns 0 – Soviet 2
J 32	Panzer Graveyard	German 4 – UK 2
J 62	Lee's Charge	Not Played
23	Under the Noel Trees	German 1 – US 2

Round 3 started on Saturday and with it was the round featuring Canadians in O Canada. As mentioned, a number of players reverted to the minis for the final two days. Of note, 2 scenarios featured actions of the local reserve regiment, the Carleton and York Regiment, perpetuated today by the Royal New Brunswick Regiment of the Canadian Army. As well, a Jim McLeod scenario was featured. The following were the scenarios

Scenario ID	Title	Record
ANZAC 2000	The Ardennes Abbey	German 1 – Canadian 0
CDN 15	Sweet Revenge	Canadian 0 – German 2
CDN 27	Help is on the way, hold on	Canadian 0 – German 1
J 175	Bedburg Bite	Canadian 2 – German 3
MLR 1	Hana-Saku	Canadian 1 – Japanese 0

The next round on Saturday was Early War Blitzkrieg. The early war battles as Germany and Japan rapidly expanded their territories against a growing number of enemy nation-states was the focus. The scenarios were:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
FT 04	Retour a la case depart	Not Played
J 41	By Ourselves	German 5 – Norwegian 2
FrF 27	Cocktails for Molotov	Soviet 1 – Pole 3
SV 4	Frivillingkompani Benckert	Not Played
RBF – 40	King's Gambit	Not Played

Once Sunday came around, only two undefeated players remained: Carl Nogueira and Darren Kovacs. Both are great players and well-known across the ASL community. The winner would emerge as CASLO XXIV Champion. They ended up playing in J 43, 3rd RTR in the Rain. Carl had it (with Germans) as his first choice; Darren had it as its second choice, no preference. Second place was still up in the air as several players went into round 5 with a 3-1 record. With some of them getting to 4-1, thus matching the loser of the above-mentioned match, it was a matter of bonus points to settle 2nd and 3rd place. The theme was Case Yellow, featuring the German drive into the low countries and France in 1940 (with a special appearance of Japanese attacking the French!) The scenarios were:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
J 69	The Army at the Edge of the World	Not Played
FrF 86	Belgian Tigers	German 2 – Belgian 3
G 7	Bring up the Guns	Not Played
FT 91	Ne pas subir	French 1 – German 1
J 43	3 rd RTR in the Rain	German 3 – British 2

After five rounds of play, Carl Nogueira emerged as the sole player with a perfect record and as such was crowned as tournament champion. The following is the final standing of the players in the main tournament:

Place	Name	Points	Bonus Points	Total Points
1 st	Carl Nogueira	50	17	67
2 nd	Richard Domovic	40	12	52
3 rd	Darren Kovacs	40	11	51
4 th	Jeffrey Wasserman	40	10	50
4 th	Bruno Larcheveque	40	10	50
6 th	Paul Chamberland	40	9	49
7 th	Blake Ball	30	10	40
8 th	Jonathan Kay	30	6	36
8 th	David Goldman	30	6	36
10 th	Bruce Stevenson	30	5	35
11 th	Doug Rimmer	30	3	33
12 th	Andy Beaton	30	2	32
13 th	Michael Rodgers	20	3	23
13 th	Mark Chapman	20	3	23
15 th	John Lehman	20	2	22
15 th	Daniel Braund	20	2	22
15 th	George Hiotis	20	2	22
18 th	Terence Gray	20	1	21
18 th	Raymond Vincent	20	1	21
20 th	Alain Chabot	10	1	11
21 st	David Rosner	10	0	10
22 nd	Peter-James Palmer	10	0	0
23 rd	Peter Rogneholt	0	0	0
DNF	Richard Vieira	-	-	-

1st, 2nd and 3rd were all recognized with prizes and will get a plaque. Other winners include: Peter Rogneholt: Sportsman and Darren Kovacs as both sniper champ *and* the Box car champion. He won both of those by wide margins! Of note, the four players behind Carl in the standings were a mere two points apart! Congratulations to everyone!

The Mini Tournaments

As stated, there were a number of mini tournaments, each of which was themed. A total of 16 players competed. The themes were:

- USA! All the way!
- Balkan Medley
- Pacific Theatre of Operations
- Early War Blitzkrieg

USA! All the way!

The battles in this tournament followed the US from Africa over to Italy, thence to Normandy and then finally to the Battle of the Bulge and later to Operation Varsity. The scenarios were:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
Round 1		
OA 31	With Friends like These	French 1 – American 0
ASL 178	The Niscemi-Biscari Highway	Not Played
J 51	Canicatti	American 0 – German 1
Round 2		
ASL 186	L'abbaye Blanche	American 1 – German 1
RP II #3	Distinguished Service	Not Played
ASL 181	Gavin Take	Not Played
Round 3		
DB 135	The Krinkelterwald	Not Played
J 156	Mageret Mixer	Not Played
ASL 201	Hunters from the Sky	American 1 – German 1

The Standings were:

1 st	Francois Guerette	3 – 0
2 nd	Christian Knudsen	2 – 1
3 rd	Dmitri Garlic	1 – 2
4 th	Nick Faryna	0 – 3

Balkan Medley

The battles in this tournament featured the often-neglected battles in the Balkans, featuring the Greeks, Italians and others. The scenarios were:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
Round 1		
ASLUG 15	Mount Pissodderi	Not played
HG 4	Cohort and the Phalanx	Greek 1 – Italian 0
Q 5	Drive to Ioannina	Italian 1 – Greek 0
Round 2		
ASL 144	The Professionals	Yugoslav 1 – German 0
PBP 22	Morire in Belleza	Not played
ASL 28	Ambush!	Partisans 1 – Bulgarian 0
Round 3		
J 109	Break for Hungary	Partisan 1 – Croat 0
PB-CH [c]	Balkan Dawn	Croat 1 – Partisan 0
ASL 219	Blood Enemies	Not Played

The Standings were:

1 st	Steffen Knipper	3 – 0
2 nd	Andrew Luden	2 – 1
3 rd	Glen MacDermid	1 – 2
4 th	Mike Van Hoy	0 – 3

Pacific Theatre of Operations

This mini tournament featured battles of the Empire of Japan vs Americans, Brits, Chinese and others. PTO terrain featured in this mini. The scenarios were:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
Round 1		
J 189	Buckley's Block	American 1 – Japanese 0
DB 136	The Block on the Trail to Hell	American 1 – Japanese 0
ASL 67	Cibik's Ridge	Not Played
Round 2		
ASL 145	Shanghai in Flames	Chinese 1 – Japanese 0
BoF 1	The Marco Polo Bridge Incident	Not Played
AP 54	800 Heroes	Chinese 1 – Japanese 0
Round 3		
AP 86	Milling About	British 1 – Japanese 0
J 46	Strongpoint 11	Dutch 1 – Japanese 0
DB 104	The Police Station	Not Played

The Standings were:

1 st	Vic Rosso	3 – 0
2 nd	Jean-Francois Fortin	2 – 1
3 rd	John Garlic	1 – 2
4 th	Milton Soong	0 – 3

Early War Blitzkrieg

This featured The French, the Low countries and then the BEF all against the invading Germans of 1940. The scenarios were:

Scenario ID	Title	Record
Round 1		
FT 91	Ne Pas Subir	German 1 – French 0
J 193	A Real Barn Burner	Not Played
ASL 231	In Front of the Storm	Not Played
Round 2		
FrF 86	Belgian Tigers	Belgian 1 – German 0
G 7	Bring up the Guns	German 1 – Dutch 0
RBF – 40	King's Gambit	Not Played

Round 3		
J 43	3 rd RTR in the Rain	British 1 – German 0
J 67	The Lawless Roads	Not Played
J 66	Sound Retreat	Not Played

There were 2 byes issued in this tournament due to real life issues outside the tournament. The Standings were:

1 st	Erik Lindblad	3 – 0
2 nd	Ernest Meyer	2 – 1
3 rd	Jean-Yves Tessier	1 – 2
4 th	Bob Schaaf	1 – 2

In all, a grand total of 76 games were played! What a great weekend and what a way to finish with former CASLO Champion Darren Kovacs facing off against the famed Carl Nogueira of the Yankee ASL crew out of New England!

Random Statistics

- The scenario most often chosen by the players was J 43 3rd RTR in the Rain with 28 players selecting it as one of their choices in the 5th round of the main tournament.
- The most popular individual choice was J 175 Bedburg Bite as Germans, chosen by an amazing 20 players in the 3rd round.
- The top #1 pick was RPT 3 Varosmajor Grange with 9 people taking it as their top pick in the first round.
- The top #2 pick was J 175 Bedburg Bite as German, selected by 9 players in the 3rd round.
- The top #3 pick was FT 91 Ne Pas Subir as German, selected by an astounding 13 players in the 5th round.

Final Thoughts

As tournament director, my job was made easy because of the players. There was only one adjudication and this was due to time running out. There were no complaints whatsoever but there were also a number of compliments on opponents. “So-and-so was a great player and he should have won this. I will play him anytime!” is a paraphrasing by me, but it’s not far off the mark.

I have to thank the CASLA committee for their advice in the planning phases of this tournament, especially as we transited to a virtual tournament.

Next, my thanks to the tournament committee. Andrew Luden selected the majority of the main tournament scenarios. Christian Knudsen worked on the Mini Tournament scenarios with Andrew, as well as provided timely feedback on the selections. Notably was the behind-the-scenes work of novice ASL player Nick Faryna. He played his first match against me on September 16th: Retaking Vierville. His first full-rules ASL Match was on October 14th as he and I fought it out as the Guards counterattacked in ASL A. He did all the VASL maps for the

tournament, both main and all the minis. Without these three gentlemen doing such great work, Virtual CASLO XXIV would not have been held at all.

Finally, I must thank my first ASL Mentor, Alain Chabot. When I stumbled across the ASL Starter Kit six years ago, he played S 20 Joseph 351 against me on the 12th of March 2014. I had played the old game system before that, but S 20 was an eye opener for me, even though it was “only” starter kit! Several hundred matches later, I cannot thank him enough.

So, until next year, take care and please stay safe.

David Garvin
Tournament Director
CASLO XXIV