

Robin Cruddace – Lead Games Developer for Warhammer 40,000 – Reflects on his NOVA Open Experience in Recent White Dwarf

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Few people get to immerse themselves in the hobby like Robin Cruddace. As the Lead Games Developer for Warhammer 40,000, he lives and breathes the game that so many of us are so passionate about. We at NOVA Open were delighted to have him in Crystal City for NOVA Open 2018 and look forward to seeing him again this year!

In a recent White Dwarf, Robin shared his NOVA Open experience with the community. He began his NOVA Open adventure as a referee for two of the Warhammer 40,000 tournaments held last year. Fortunately, the level of sportsmanship and play is very high at NOVA Open so he only came across a few rules questions. He spent most of his time enjoying the games. He was particularly intrigued to see units and stratagems, both of which he wrote, being used in combinations he had not considered before. Robin was very impressed with the players and suspected that “any one of them would have destroyed [his] humble Howling Griffons army by the third battle round.”

During the Grand Tournament, Robin stayed true to his national reputation and weaved between tables with a cup of tea. As he patrolled the vast expanses of battlefield in the Hyatt Regency and held seminars with the Games Workshop community team, he carried his little black notebook and wrote down rules questions that he felt would have to be addressed in the next update.

Robin has, of course, attended many of the big one-day events held by Games Workshop like the Warhammer World open days. What struck him about NOVA Open and its multiple day format was how relaxed attendees were at the end of the day, and how that let regular convention goers and industry veterans get together to enjoy each other’s company and trade war stories. According to Robin, “there was a true sense of community that was a pleasure to be a part of.”

That sense of community is what we hear from so many people who attend NOVA Open. From first time attendees new to the hobby, to grizzled veteran wargamers with foam cases of metal models, to the industry professionals who have made this hobby their life’s work: If you have been to NOVA Open, chances are that you have already seen this action, and we bet you would like to be part of it again! If you have not been to a NOVA Open, come see what you are missing!