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The WarStone gameboard is ready for the next players. Keith Barnes | Times

Game: Wii was top prize

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"It's wonderful and a lot of fun," Temple said. "My daughter and son-in-law play also, so it's good family fun. I won my very first game."

A tournament for those who learned to play the game was held. Around 100 people showed up and played the game. A Wii was the top prize in both the child and teen categories.

Byron Kilpatrick played the game with his 9-year-old son, Nicholas, who won the Wii for the under 12 category.

"I have played marbles before, but this is different — I like it a lot," Nicholas said.

Byron Kilpatrick said the strategy you have to use with the marbles makes the game interesting.

Hosting the launch and tournament turned into business for The Hobby

Shop. Furman said they sold more of the games than she thought they would during the launch.

Levy said WarStone is a change from sitting in front of a computer to play video games.

"There are no chairs where you sit and play cards with this game," Levy said. You're up and moving. It's also a game of mental skill and dexterity."

Levy said WarStone has been two years in the planning stages.

Furman said they first learned about the game while it was in development at a trade show in Las Vegas.

"We'd talked to Brown on-and-off during the two years, and then he called to ask us if the game could be launched in Wilson," Furman said. "I said 'sure.'"

Levy said he was pleased that Wilson is the first

place to introduce the game in the country.

"I am delighted with Wilson, the people who turned out and the folks here at The Hobby Shop," Levy said.

Brown said it can be difficult to market a game whether it be a well-known company or a small company.

But Brown said they are using the grassroots approach and going to small specialty shops, like The Hobby Shop, and to groups, like the Boy Scouts, to introduce it. The game retails for \$20.

"We are focusing on the Boy Scouts creating it as one of their officially sponsored games because of the marbles — they're into marbles," Brown said.

Brown and Levy will go to Wisconsin where over 500 Boy Scouts are waiting to play in a tournament.

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