Quick V&B Napoleonic Game

While I’m a newcomer myself, with only a half a dozen games under my belt so far, I’m already showing novices how to play. A recent 1815 game included about a corps worth of troops a side and two new-to-V&B players; but not new to wargaming or Napoleonics.

On the spur of the moment, we applied a few shortcuts:
All infantry brigades were exactly 4 strength points (actually, pretty close for 1815)
All cavalry brigades were 2 strength points (even closer)
Both sides included a horse battery, played normally
The French included a 2 strength point heavy artillery battalion.
All divisions (infantry and cavalry) included exactly two brigades (again, pretty close for 1815).

We treated divisions as exhausted when one of the two brigades was removed from play (probably a bit generous, but still reasonably close). These simplifications made it easier to keep track of exhaustion and allowed the newcomers (a father and son team who played the French) to focus on learning the combat mechanisms. They learned well enough to secure a victory (perhaps not an accident...).

I think I would not recommend these mods for all games, but they did make it easier for the newcomers. They were quite impressed with the way the game flowed; being veterans of considerably more complex rule systems.

Another enjoyable game!

John Drye

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