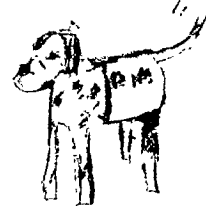
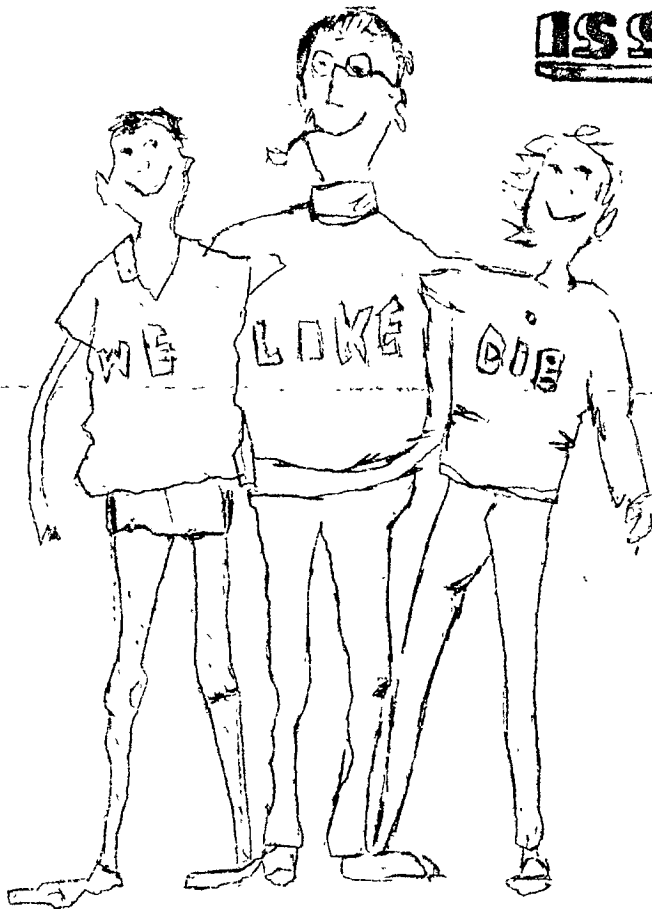


# DIB DIB DIB

**ISSUE** 20



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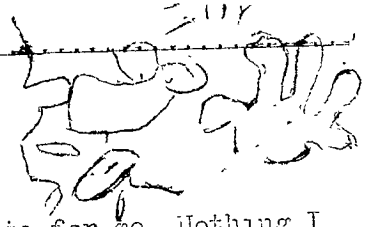
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Into every life a little sunshine falls, not only did I win a Magnum of Champagne but it's the Tillsons turn to buy the Indian meal tomorrow night..... but, on the other hand, things could change!

1-1-83  
Welcome to the 20th issue of Dib Dib Dib. Nothing to say in this section this month that shouldn't be said in the editorial (but that comes later). To those subscribing, Dib will cost (and it's cheap at the price) a mere 1p per sheet (that's two zinc pages) + postage. For those that wish to send me money, my name is Tom Tweedy, and I live at 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513  
And for those that wish to complain, I go under the pseudonym of Clive F. Booth, and live at 71 Clara Mount Road, Langley, Heanor, Derbys.

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EDITORIAL



This has certainly been a depressing month and a depressing issue for me. Nothing I do, or try to touch, seems to work out right. Didn't I do a nice review of Fall of Eagles last issue? Didn't I happen to mention that Richard Hucknall would take some beating as a Diplomacy GM? Didn't I? DIDN'T I? And what happens? Richard decides to tell the world that he's folding the zine! Bloody diabolical I call it. Every zine that I put up above the rest, that I always enjoy receiving, seem to do this to me. What is it with them, are they doing it to annoy me, or is it simply that the Tweedy stamp of approval means the kiss of death to those favoured few? I've said before, it really is depressing when a zine, never mind a major one, is seen to fold. Blast that Hucknall!

Mind you, when all said and done, Richard is going to fold FOE down slowly. Probably taking about two years (more than the life of some zines). And will probably see Dib and maybe some other zines out! But that's not the point; it's his springing it on me that I object to. There, now that I've got that bit off my chest, I can sit back and watch Richard's interest pick up again when he finds his games dwindling down to one or two. Is it possible for him to give up the typing? Doing a zine may be a sod at times, but one does get itchy fingers after being away from the typewriter for a while.

Anyway, to other depressing things (shades of Allaway). As you know from the last issue, I've been thinking about getting a typewriter/printer and interfacing it to my Apple computer. I got over the hard bit (what I thought was the hard bit) and finally made my choice. I chose to get the Scripta. It wasn't a hard choice really, the small Olivetti Praxis 35 daisywheel hardly had the strength to hold a sheet of paper, never mind a stencil. When the man demonstrated it he pulled the paper out easily without even turning the roller (platen?). That was it then, my choice was made. I dare not tell you how much the choice is going to cost me, or I'd be hearing cries of disgust from the four corners of the hobby. But, regardless of the price, I managed to track down the Scripta I wanted at a fair price - all I had left to do was get them to supply me with the interface card that slots into my Apple. But would they supply me with one - would they hell. It appears there's a well known argument that goes round if ever something were to go wrong with the printing: if you take it to the people that supply the printers they say it's the fault of the software (the card); and if you take the problem to the people who supplied you with the card they say it's the hardware. I was advised to insist and see that the two were supplied together. But so far, it doesn't look likely. You'd think that the way trading is supposed to be (as it used to be a few years back) that someone would want to put himself out to take my money, wouldn't you? Salesmen just don't seem that bothered anymore. But why - what's changed?

I won't bother going on with any more depressing stuff - it's too depressing. Must think about some gay, happy thing that's happened lately....think.....think.... Ah yes. A couple of weeks ago Jaap Jacobs and his co-editor of Oxymoron Frank H....er, I've forgotten Frank's second name! ....anyway these two undesirables plus the two Pipers and Alan Parr managed (I think, and hope) to have a very pleasant day playing assorted games, drinking my vintage cider (must have got through at least 15 large bottles!) and eating me out of house and home. Things started well (~~I/with/for/1p/1p~~  
~~1p/1p/1p/1p/1p~~) with the Pipers wi....wh....wi....no, I can't bring myself to say it.....playing adequately at 'Formula 1'. After that things went steadily downhill as those two blasted Dutchmen (after sharing food at my table!) beat the rest of us at Sogwith, Dungeon, Abandon Ship (well I thought even I must stand some chance of winning that!) etc, etc. Had they no shame, I wondered. Next time I'll invite twice

as many Englishmen - we can't let this shame pass without some reprisal. Consider the challenge issued, Jaap! Mind you, the reason we lost at Sowith was because at the last minute Gary did a kamee-kasi (?) on my plane. These Pipers have no bottle!

But to other matters. It seems that I warranted some attention from John Marsden in Ode with regard to my political/ideological preferences. John Says:-

"Tom Tweedy takes on the mantle of hobby arch-right-winger, to be appropriately hated by all us less ferocious beings."

Appropriately hated.... typical eh? I read in the papersx this morning that yet another policeman has been shot dead - perhaps John has a better idea on how we could have kept that policeman alive? Will he be satisfied when the police are issued with sidearms to protect themselves? Is that the step in the right direction that he wants? What am I even going on about this here for? This is supposed to be the hobby section....

### REGULAR AND F(ROM) CGS LISTS

The CGS applications have been coming in thick and fast just lately. I think I've got enough now to start a Regular game, and a F(Rom) game. I'll see as soon as I get this editorial out of the way. The two CGS games that have just been filled (since and around last issue) went to Home of the Brave and Stick the Knife in. For the Regular games the list now stands as: Walamalasia Gazette, Ode, and Bohemian Rhapsody. Richard Hucknall asked that FOE be taken off the list for obvious reason. Actually the list is getting rather small again, I think I'll put Dib on the list.

For the F(Rom) List I have: The Acolyte, Shellshock and Bohemian Rhapsody.

\*\*\*\*\*

	<u>JOTTO</u>	Turn 9
Nicholas Clifton:	9th (1,3,0,1,2,2)	William Fisk: 9th (4,1,2,2,2,2)
Richard Bass:	9th (1,1,2,4,2,1)	John Miller: 9th (2,1,1,2,6,1) !!!
George Davies:	9th (3,2,3,1,2,1)	John Field: 9th (1,2,2,2,1,0)
Keith Loveys:	9th (3,1,4,1,1,4)	George North: 9th (1,0,2,2,1,5)
David Huson:	9th (- missed -)	Sandy Peters: 9th (- missed -)
John Lee:	8th (- missed -)	
	9th (- missed -)	

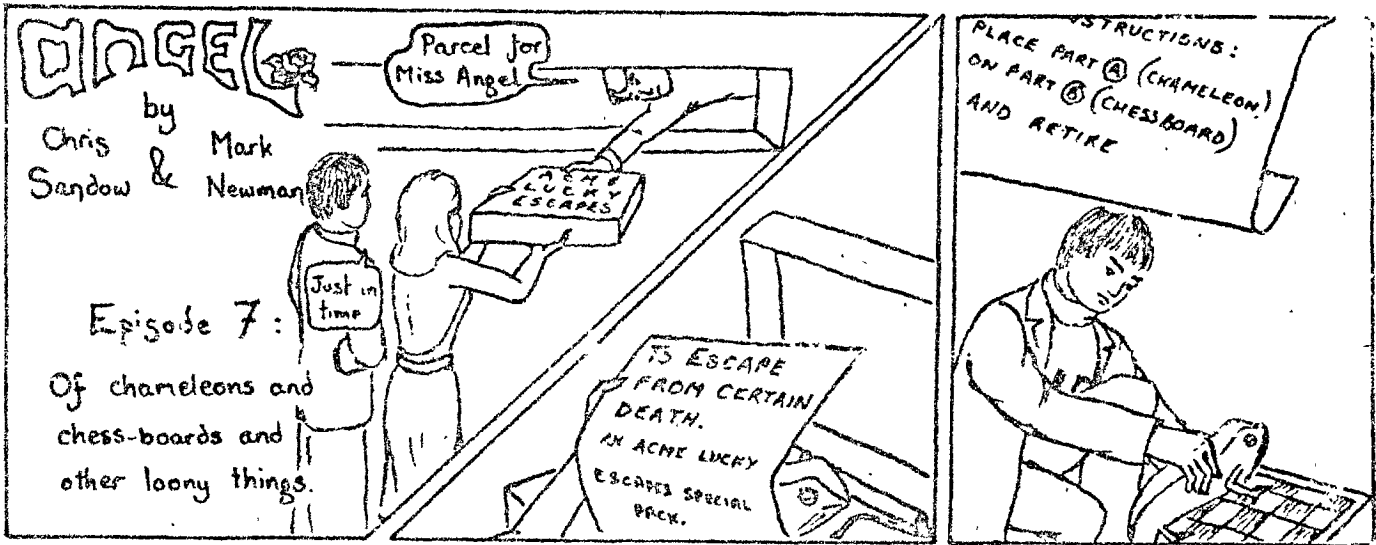
That's it then - still no guesses although some are mentioning what they think some might be. We have John with a six this turn - will he make a guess for the whole six words next issue? We'll see. Those that missed this time my certainly send words in to catch up next time if they so wish - but can Peters and Lee stand up to more strain? Peters & Lee! ...ho ho, oh yes, very good.

\*\*\*\*\*

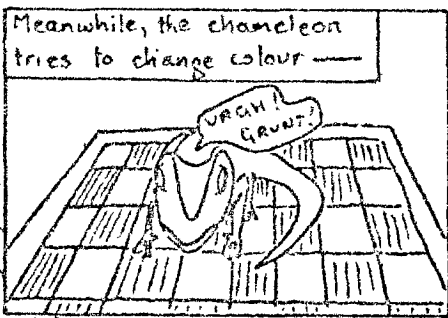
Just Room to quickly go through a couple of zine reviews (damn the typing!)...

Panzerkreuser: Edited by Mike Sharpe. A very new zine (issue 1) which just reached me the other day. It's so new that there's hardly anything I can say about it. There's no games in the zine yet, but Mike wants to run Diplomacy, Advanced D&D (if anyone is interested) or any variant a subscriber would care to suggest. His main interests seem to be Naval Wargaming and music. The zine is A5 size, neat, and is NOT centre stapled. Consequently one has to fight to keep the thing together - a fault that other zines are also guilty of. It's early days yet, but for a first issue it looks good. I shall certainly trade, and I strongly suggest that you ~~xxxx~~ write to Mike and give it a try. Mike Sharpe, "Sandy Brae", Stoneleigh Road, Blackdown, Lemington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 6QR.

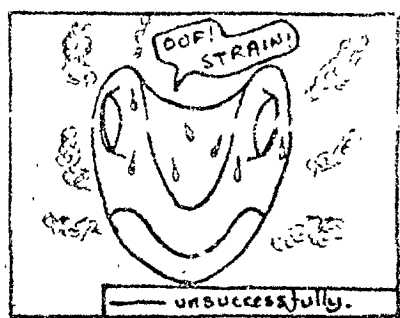
Just enough room to mention about an interesting bilingual Dutch zine, Orymoron, edited by Jaap Jacobs. It's a shame really because, understandably, I can't understand half of what's printed. The Dutch Diplomacy hobby is just starting but picking up - it's interesting to see the early spread with Jaap breaking into the British hobby. Worth a look. Jaap Jacobs, Vincent Van Goghlaan 16, 2343 RW Oegstgeest, Holland. No more space....!



Episode 7:  
Of chameleons and  
chess-boards and  
other loony things.

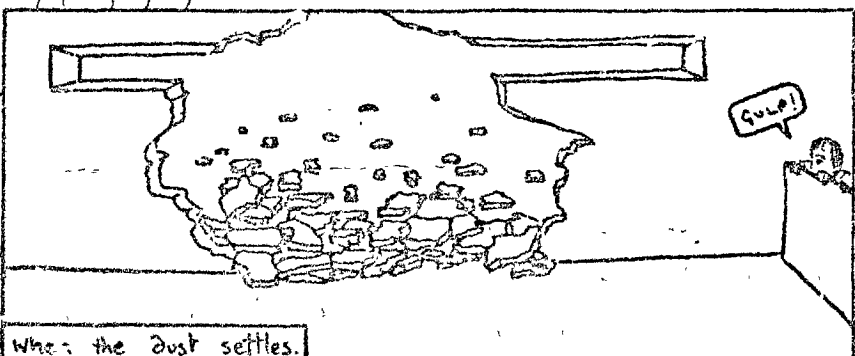


Meanwhile, the chameleon tries to change colour —

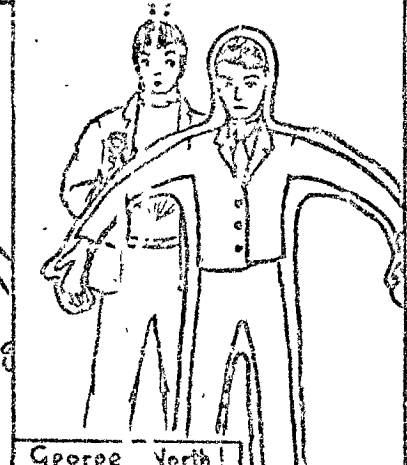
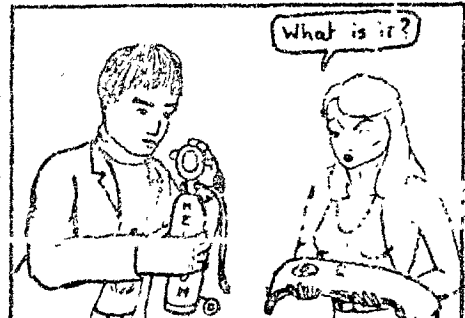
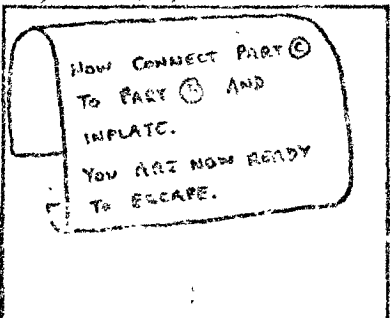


— unsuccessfully.

The chameleon explodes.



When the dust settles.



(This episode even left us speechless!)

And again, as promised, the Alan Sharples article on the MidCon Diplomacy Ratings (part two)....

PERFORMANCE OF DIPLOMACY COUNTRIES IN THE MID-CON III  
NATIONAL DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.

Final supply centre holdings (SUMMARY)

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>MEDIAN</u>	<u>HIGHEST/2nd HIGHEST</u>
TURKEY	120	7.06	7	14/13
FRANCE	114	6.71	6	14/13
ENGLAND	103	6.06	7	13/13
ITALY	84	4.94	4	15/12
GERMANY	84	4.94	3	16/13
RUSSIA	42	2.47	2	12/5
AUSTRIA	31	1.82	0	7/7

FINAL SUPPLY CENTRE HOLDINGS

<u>GAME No</u>	<u>AUSTRIA</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u>	<u>FRANCE</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>	<u>ITALY</u>	<u>RUSSIA</u>	<u>TURKEY</u>
Day One							
1	1	0	2	16	15	0	0
2	7	12	0	6	3	1	0
3	7	9	6	0	0	4	8
4	0	7	4	5	9	0	9
5	0	13	9	1	0	0	11
6	0	0	12	2	8	4	3
7	5	10	0	10	2	0	7
8	0	13	5	0	4	0	12
9	4	11	5	3	5	1	5
Day Two							
10	0	7	14	0	0	5	3
11	0	11	7	1	0	2	13
12	0	1	3	9	2	0	14
13	0	0	12	10	5	3	4
14	0	7	0	11	10	2	4
15	0	1	11	2	1	12	7
16	7	0	13	1	3	3	7
17	0	1	6	7	12	5	3

"STARS" RATINGS FOR MID-CON III PLAYERS

Scores for supply centre holdings at MidCon III

<u>NO OF CENTRES</u>	<u>TURKEY</u>	<u>FRANCE</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u>	<u>GERMANY/ITALY</u>	<u>RUSSIA</u>	<u>AUSTRIA</u>
0	-7.50	-7.13	-6.44	-5.25	-2.63	-1.94
1	-6.44	-6.06	-5.38	-4.19	-1.56	-0.88
2	-5.38	-5.00	-4.32	-3.13	-0.50	+0.19
3	-4.32	-3.94	-3.25	-2.06	+0.56	+1.25
4	-3.25	-2.88	-2.19	-1.00	+1.62	+2.31
5	-2.19	-1.81	-1.13	+0.06	+2.69	+3.37
6	-1.13	-0.75	-0.06	+1.12	+3.75	+4.44
7	-0.06	+0.31	+1.00	+2.19	+4.31	+5.50
8	+1.00	+1.37	+2.06	+3.25	+5.87	+6.56
9	+2.06	+2.44	+3.12	+4.31	+6.94	+7.62
10	+3.12	+3.50	+4.19	+5.37	+8.00	+8.69
11	+4.19	+4.56	+5.25	+6.44	+9.06	+9.75
12	+5.25	+5.62	+6.31	+7.50	+10.12	+10.81
13	+6.31	+6.69	+7.37	+8.56	+11.19	+11.87
14	+7.37	+7.75	+8.44	+9.62	+12.25	+12.94
15	+8.44	+8.81	+9.50	+10.69	+13.31	+14.00
16	+9.50	+9.87	+10.56	+11.75	+14.37	+15.06

The above scores were arrived at by comparing the supply centre (S.C.) holding of the player being rated with the average S.C. holding of all other players playing in the same country.

(Cont'd over.....)

i.e. Score for x centres as Turkey =

$$X - ((\text{Total Turkish S.C. Holdings} - X) \div 16)$$

There were four players who played a country twice in the HidCon III Tournament. I have ignored this complication when rating one of their rounds, I have treated their other round as another players S.C. holding.

"STARS" RATINGS FOR HID-CON III

Official HidCon Rating	Name	Round 1 Country SC's	Round 2 Country SC's	"STARS" Rating	"STARS" Position
1	David Long	T = 11	F = 14	+11.94	1
2	David Dilling	E = 11	A = 7	+10.75	3
3	James Hills	I = 15	T = 8	+11.69	2
4	Peter Northcott	F = 9	T = 13	+8.75	7
5	Phil Smedley	T = 12	E = 7	+6.25	11
6	Richard Morris	A = 5	T = 14	+10.74	4
7	Bart Huby	E = 13	R = 5	+9.38	6
8	Niall Litton	E = 10	G = 11	+10.63	5
9	Halc Smith	I = 8	G = 9	+7.56	8
10	Mike Chaplin	T = 8	F = 12	+6.62	9
11	Martin Hathaway	E = 11	I = 5	+5.31	13
12	David Redfern	A = <del>11</del> 7	F = 7	+5.81	12
13	Richard Wein	G = 10	A = 0	+3.43	19
14	Brian Croese	I = 5	E = 7	+1.06	22
15	Mike Benyon	F = 2	R = 12	+5.12	14
16	Hick Kinzett	I = 8	F = 8	+4.62	15
17	Alan Sharples	G = 16	I = 0	+6.50	10
18	Alec Winton	T = 9	E = 1	-3.32	37
19	John Wilman	F = 6	I = 2	-3.88	41=
20	Jem Clarke	I = 9	R = 2	+3.81	17
21	Shaun Dorrick	R = 0	F = 13	+4.06	16
22	Paul Lock	R = 0	A = 7	+2.87	20
23	David Mcraith	G = 6	A = 0	-0.82	30
24	Steve Jones	F = 12	G = 0	+0.37	23=
25	Charles Singer	R = 4	G = 1	-2.57	33
26	Julien Shopley	F = 0	I = 12	+0.37	23=
27	Peter McDonald	G = 5	A = 0	-1.88	31
28	Bob Kendrick	T = 5	F = 11	+2.37	21
29	Ken O'Brien	A = 4	A = 0	+0.37	23=
30	Peter Doubleday	R = 4	I = 0	-3.63	38
31	Ian Clarke*	E = 13	--	+7.37*	--
32	David Bowler	F = 5	A = 0	-3.75	39=
33	Paul Doubleday	G = 0	I = 10	+0.12	27=
34	Paul Vanc	I = 0	G = 10	+0.12	27=
35	Frank Dunn	G = 2	T = 7	-3.19	36
36	Hick Allen	E = 12	R = 0	+3.63	18
37	Steve Gregory	R = 1	T = 4	-4.81	45
38	Peter Eldridge	F = 7	E = 1	-5.44	46
39	Arran Nicholson	F = 5	R = 2	-2.31	32
40	Howard Walker	E = 0	R = 5	-3.75	39=
41	John Nutley	A = 0	G = 7	+0.25	26
42	Steve Killyard	R = 0	T = 7	-2.69	34
43	Bill Wright	I = 4	A = 0	-2.94	35
44	Andy Davidson	E = 9	T = 4	-0.13	29
45	Ian Watters	R = 0	I = 3	-4.69	44
46	Martin Boyd	R = 1	F = 0	-8.00	51
47	Keith Shapley*	T = 8	--	+1.00*	--
48	Grog Davies	T = 0	R = 3	-6.94	50
49	Dave Thomas	A = 0	A = 0	-3.88	41=
50	Richard Wright	G = 3	F = 0	-9.19	53
51	Tony Wheatley	I = 2	F = 6	-3.88	41=
52	Nigel Hawthorn	R = 0	I = 1	-6.82	49
53	Iain Singer	F = 0	R = 3	-6.57	48

(Cont'd over.....)

54	Judy Lock	I = 0	G = 2	-3.38	52
55	Alan Wright	E = 0	H = 1	-11.82	56
56	Mal Newman*	A = 1	.	-0.38*	.
57	Colin Bruce	G = 1	H = 0	-10.63	55
58	Craig Milos*	F = 4	.	-2.88*	.
59	Peter Davies	G = 0	G = 1	-9.44	54
60	Victor Logan*	E = 7	.	+1.00*	.
61	Adam Huby	A = 0	T = 3	-6.26	47
62	Lee Paddon*	A = 0	.	-1.94*	.
63	Larry Edgar*	T = 0	.	-7.50*	.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks Alan....I'm afraid this entitles you to another free issue though. As I said last issue when I first started typing this, I think something of this sort should be produced as an after-the-tournament mini-zinc. I don't know who would have the time to do it, certainly I didn't have the time (or the space) to bang it out in one go - perhaps the MidCon committee could decide. Maybe it could be produced something on the lines of O Tempora! O Mores!? Anyway, I can't work out if Alan's "STARS" system is any better than the official system - anyone else like to comment?

\*\*\*\*\*

Unfortunately, because of exams (a problem that seems to be hitting everyone), Frank can only let me have a brief summary for Part Two of his Toucon article. He apologises for it being so short, and ~~xxx~~/<sup>begs</sup> me not to squeal to Clive Booth that he's failed me. Hah! Why shouldn't I - such is the price of failures...

A TALE OF TOUCON OR MY GOD WHERE ARE THE PUBS (Part Two)  
from Frank Dunn

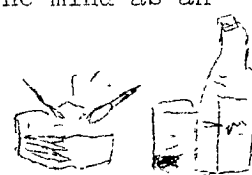
Sunday

After an enjoyable game of 'Hitler's War' in which we actually managed to use most of the rules correctly the following day devolved into a small individual Diplomacy competition and other games. Winner of the Dippy was Gary Piper ((Who?)), tho' I kept confusing him with his brother. I spent the day playing 'Empires of the Middle Ages' with Jeremy Tullet and sundry others, the main event of that game was, as the Ottoman player I gave rise to plague. This had something of a semi-permanent effect on any chance of my doing well in it. However, this didn't stop young Tullet romping away with a win as the somewhat fragmentary Germanic player.

Sometime during the day there was a games auction. This was most amusing, someone I knew managed to buy a game that had all its rules in German. The concept of the reserve price was something the auctioneer had some difficulty grasping, as frantic pleas came from those selling games heard him drop the prices by pounds. This was probably one of the better games of the day, it certainly enjoyed mass participation even by those who attended and didn't play.

Actually, running concurrently was another con, I believe it was 'Hero 82' - although some wit may have changed the name to Herd 82. I would be more likely to believe it was called Herd. Anyhow it was run by the inimitable Chris Harvey, late of Overkill repute. Overall, Toucon was a reasonable effort and bears lightly on the mind as an enjoyable event.

\*\*\*\*\*



Thanks Frank - please accept another issue free.....although you don't deserve it! Yes, joking of course. All in all, your description of the event makes it sound horrendous. No pubs, no decent restaurants, and the best game being an auction.... it's certainly not a place I could relax in whilst stabbing a few friends! Add this to other reviews I've read on this little gettogether, and I could quite safely say that I bet Toucon won't be held at the same place again in a hurry.

LETTERS

To start off with, a letter from Keith Loveys that on opening quite shocked me... "I normally call you Tom..." ... "I cannot remain on such personal terms..." etc. What could I have possibly done to warrant such a letter.....and a long one too? Clearly it must be something bad, as I've known Keith for a couple of years now and have even played against him in more than one game of Diplomacy. In all that time Keith has never written more than a couple of words to me -- even in diploming. In fact most people I've talked to have all said, Keith very rarely writes letters or diplomes. It could be said he is a man of very few words. And yet, somehow I had provoked him. I had to read on.....

KEITH LOVEYS: "Yes, I know I normally call you 'Tom', but I feel I cannot remain on such personal terms with a person (if such you can be called) who makes a statement as disgraceful as that you made last issue.

No, I'm not referring to the fact that you allowed another George North article to slip in unnoticed, though of course that's bad enough. Nor even that you insist on giving verbal sustenance to our men in blue -- those spoilsports who will insist on stopping me in my main hobby of killing an old age pensioner a day (besides, how can any job who practitioners include Booth, Wilman & Rundle deserve defending).

No, I do, of course, refer to your disgraceful statement that The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy (hereafter ~~referred~~ referred to as THGTTG) is just a one-off fad. I'll have you know that THGTTG is the best serial to come out of a radio set since The Curse Of The Flying Wombat (hereafter not referred to at all). ((A hasty judgement I think))

To prove my case, I've been doing some careful market research. On asking one Mark Wing-Davies about THGTTG, he said: "Hey man...it's great...I mean really great man. Arthur is a great guy, Ford is a great guy, Lintilla is a great girl, Lintilla is a great girl, Lintilla is a great girl... (exit, pursuing Rula Lenska).

Also questioned were some chameleons on which it was found that 90 percent of chameleons think THGTTG is even better than sliced bread (it must however be admitted that the chameleons had been exposed to DDD and so were confused).

Until you retract your scurrilous lies, I will have to hereby cancel our trade. Oh, hold on, I see you're now playing in a Sopwith game so I'll enjoy watching you get massacred in that instead."

((If 90 percent of chameleons questioned thought THGTTG was better than sliced bread (this report has yet to be verified) then it's just possible I may have been hasty in my own judgement. It must be admitted though, I haven't been fortunate enough to <sup>have</sup> heard the series on the radio and read a few more George North articles. If I had, maybe I would speak of the series with some knowledge and affection, like your good self. It seems to me (if the chameleon report is true) that you deserve an apology -- what might be more difficult is actually getting George to apologise. Actually since making my "one-off fad" remark last issue, I see they've brought it out on BBC 2 again. Typical! Somebody at the Beeb must read Dib! Please consider my scurrilous remarks retracted....))

MARTIN ALLEN: "With all this talk of zinc polls, exciting tense atmosphere building up to a climax of fever pitch proportions that creates a diverse reaction in emotions: the elation, disappointments and jealousies, it seems to remind me of the build up to the Academy awards evening."

((It is a shame when disappointments and jealousy creeps into something like the Zinc Poll. It's a pity because I think the Poll is really done as a matter of interest (I'm sure Richard Walkerdine finds it interesting) and fun. Certainly I find the end results interesting -- I did so before I started publishing Dib -- but I would never let it sway my judgement for what zines I liked or disliked. Zines like Snorewood Gazette never get too far up the list, mainly I think because it never has any chat, but that doesn't stop Keith or SG's players -- it's been going for as long as I can remember, and it wouldn't surprise me if it sees Dib out. No, with the Zinc Poll, you get what you want out of it, it should be nothing more than that. BUT YOU 'ORRIBLE LOT BETTER VOTE DIB 10!! .... Sorry, just slipped out.))



LETTERS (cont)

DAVE TANT: "I did write a four page letter trying to refute Brian Creese's argument in such a way as not to turn him off with the first few words, but to make him see how he appears to be living in a different country from me (and, I imagine, you). But what's the point: he's young, I am sure, and to the young the old must be wrong by definition.

All I would say is that I can remember how things were when we still had the rope, the cat, the birch, penal servitude and a police-force that was respected by most and feared by a few. In those days there were very very few violent crimes, practically no criminal carried guns and there were no such things as football hooliganism and race riots.

Then punishment became a dirty word and wrongdoers had to be understood and rehabilitated. Unfortunately the army of social workers who sprang up to do their noble tasks don't seem to understand them very deeply, and the rehabilitating doesn't seem to work. Nonetheless we apparently must not return to the old ways because that would be reactionary and, by definition, reactionary people are bad and only progressive people are good.

I suppose we'll go on throwing money at the problem and our inner cities will become more and more like jungles (if that's not unfair to jungles) until in about ten to fifteen years so many people will become sick of it that they'll welcome some leader who's so right wing he'll make Enoch look like a Guardian reader.

Then the law and order problem will be solved in a way we'll come to regret. Wouldn't it be much easier to try to reverse the trend now. We've tried the Creese way for the last twenty years and it's been a flop. Couldn't we at least try the old ways again for a while."

((See, now to me, all that makes sense; it was possible to take kids to football matches etc at one time.....no more - but why can't some people see that? As for coming to solve the problem some way we'll regret... If there's one thing I've learnt about our society, it's that they always have to learn things the hard way. One can't really argue against a fact of life I suppose. Still, I agree with this letter entirely. I need say no more.))

But before delving further into this, here's a letter from someone who's finally twigged on the fact that this debate in the end gets us nowhere. Pity, I was enjoying the arguments....

RICHARD WRNICK: "To digress for a moment, why don't the concerned letter writers express their views on the Police, hanging, etc in the Daily Telegraph/Sun/Socialist Worker/Morning Star? I hope this will not lead to a debate on the relative merits of J.M. Keynes and Milton Friedman as economists or some other such topic which doesn't belong in a zine such as Dib Dib Dib. Anyway, the arguments can be repeated ad nauseam for and against something, but a person is unlikely to change their opinion."

((The last bit of your letter, Richard, is very true of course, in that no-one hardly ever (if ever) changes his/her opinion over matters such as been talked about. But, is it really true that those kind of letters don't belong in Dib? What kind of letter do you think (if any) does belong in a magazine of this kind? No, really, I am interested.

The way I see it, is that in this kind of games hobby (a postal hobby) it's kind of hard to get to know, really know, anyone. Now, I'm the type of person who likes to get to know people, know what makes them tick, so to speak. Especially with the sort of games played like Diplomacy. Apart from finding some discussions interesting, I think I pick up quite a lot from people's letters. One is reasonably sure if a certain letter writer is likable, aggressive, etc. Mind you, this is only my opinion. I've been wrong before.....tho' not many times!))

Anyone else any comments on the above letter? Do people find some letters so boring that they can't see insight into the writer? Surely every letter must tell you something?

LETTERS (cont)

It seems Pete Doubleday and the 'Just Imagine' article is still attracting comments...

NICK HOYLE: "Why does Doubleday keep using the name of my noble fighter-pilot Blue-bottle, with reference to the uniformed constabulary? And if he is to join the force, as he says he may well do, he'll merely strengthen the view that the Police can't be understood... After all, I've never understood his letters 100 percent, but who has? I can just picture his lofty frame positioned on the opposite side of the street to some long-haired, unemployed layabouts, with him shouting, "Can't you appreciate that Bruckner's better than Stravinsky, peasants?"

((Hmm, well what can I say - perhaps Pete sees the police as something like the Gestapo? Some do. It's possible he may think he's suited to something like that. Hoh heh...only joking Pete...honest!))

FRANK DUIN: "My comments on Peter Doubleday's unkeptness were prompted by the reaction I noted and heard from various onlookers at MidCon III. I am sorry to deflate young Doubleday's ego, but I don't have any expectations to fulfill as regards his smear over my masculinity, perhaps pistols at dawn would be a fitting method. I thought I detected more than a fair share of copping out as regards his desire for you to edit him so as to appear to rant less. As Peter is a self declared ignoramus on computers the easy course would be to ignore his comments, but as W.C. Fields said, never give a sucker an even break. I must disclaim the label he gives me, a genius I ain't. I wasn't talking about the graphics of games, generally the games are getting more difficult not only complicated too. The plot does change. This is like saying every Raymond Chandler plot is the same. Cobblers! If society manages to produce over 400,000 addicts of hardware in one year then we are in trouble. 400,000 is the number of Z80's sold to date. They also, according to Peter, are cretins and gumbos, presumably for spending (c) £130 instead of £600 as he thinks they do. Because a micro can be programmed, it offers you control. You determine what it can do, and it can be applied on within the continually decreasing limits of the hardware and your own personal ability at programming. ((?)) That's why I have the money to spend on it and why I have one. It's a means to an end and not as I suspect a minority would admit an end in itself."

((("Decreasing limits of hardware and personal ability"...? Perhaps I'm missing something Frank, but surely hardware and programming ability is ~~not~~ expanded after a time? I know mine has. Certainly I agree with you though that 400,000+ (other micros are being sold) hardware addicts aren't cretins and gumbos. If nothing else, ~~expensive~~ messing about with computers is a hobby, a passtime - since when does one become a cretin by having a hobby? But, to carry on.....))



FRANK (cont): "Jon Rogers' argument was very pertinent. But you ignored some of it when 'discussing' the effect on hanging or crime stats. You say things are worse, but are they. The current information and communications explosion has mainly enhanced our awareness of crime. Without historic data to compare such statements as 'things are definitely worse' are basically emotional and factually groundless. And then there is the position that your viewpoint is that of mid 20th century western capitalist culture, it's probably too easy to superimpose our values and fears on some feeling that it was 'better before'. One major factor in the creation of the present police force was the need for a form of social control in the increasingly chaotic urban growth areas of early 19th century UK. So last year's riots in some respects were the police relearning forgotten skills in the sticky end of social control. Here endeth the Social History monologue. I wonder the letter column is described as esoteric."

((I could waste a lot of time (and space) 'discussing' my own ideas and opinions again, but I won't, I'll fire a few questions your way instead. We can't change each

LETTERS (cont)

others minds, but, to be fair, questions have to be answered honestly. Apart from the development of Television, do you really think telephones, teleprinters, radios, telegraph, national newspapers, etc, etc, is that much better today than say 20 years ago? If anything, I'd say the telephone and radio is worse! I was talking about things being better 20 years ago. As far as I could see, communications were fine.

It's true the police were formed as a social safety valve, and it's true there have been riots before, but: Were the reasons for the riots the same? Were the same 'type' of person involved (e.g. were they the worried out-of-work angry family men that had mouths to feed; or skinheads/'coloureds'?)? (coloureds?) In the riots of the 30's, were there actually no-go areas? Did the police have petrol bombs used against them? And anyway, if as you say things are no different, then why get rid of the 'sus' law and hanging -- are things really that much better? Perhaps you're right; perhaps I'm a fool to worry about my 10 year old son being out on the streets. Maybe I shouldn't worry about him wandering through the tree-shadowed alleyways around this way. But funny, it never seemed that much of a problem 20 years ago.))

CLIVE BOOTH: "Thanks for Dib. As I said on numerous occasions before, I have no intention of getting myself involved in your 'law and order' debate although I do read with interest and occasional disbelief and amazement the views expressed by others.

Peter Doubleday does, however, warrant comment. To the best of my knowledge I have never met him nor have I ever corresponded with him. He does not know me and yet there he is passing comments on my character that can only have been based on hearsay -- and this guy is considering being a policeman is he? Well god help us should the police service ever be reduced to accepting the likes of him. Should he ever go out on the street and talk to the public with the same sort of attitude that he displays with his writings through your pages then police/public relations would soon hit rock bottom.

I have no doubt that he will mature as he gets older (how old is he? About 12?) but until then I suppose we will have to tolerate his rantings."

((It seems, Peter, that your last letter made some enemies..... Much as I find it interesting, both sides have had their say now, so that's all I'll print about it.))

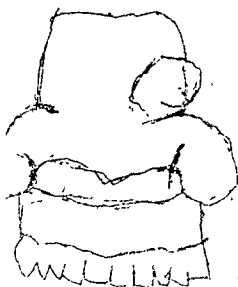
GEORGE NORTH: "I am a little startled at these imaginary worlds people keep coming up with. How about a world where a man goes to work five days a week. Where a man has a job he likes and also has many workmates, and where the daily toil is more a pleasure than a hardship.

Where he returns home in the evening to a huge pile of mail and a few magazines. Where he can watch the telly, dig the garden and plant seed, paint the fence, paper the parlour, or potter around with the car. Where this man can choose to do what he likes best. He can do the shopping, or have a drink with friends in the local when the occasion demands, or he might choose to go to church on Sunday!

This is a world where riots and hooliganism only exists on the telly or in the newspapers. Unpleasant people leave him alone because he leaves them alone. Policemen do not exist in this man's world which revolves around his family and friends.

Unlike other imaginary worlds I believe this one does exist if only people will look at it."

((Ah but there's very few that are contented as you and I, George -- there's a lot of angry young people 'out there'. A lot don't have their own family as a steadying anchor. A lot don't have a job, so therefore don't have workmates, and can't find any pleasure in the 'daily toil'. Some almost certainly don't have their own house and car -- so never know the pleasures of pottering around, or watching one's wife dig the garden. Some are even angry enough to want to spoil the pleasures that you have -- merely because they don't have them, and don't see why you should. Some you can feel sad about, but it's these last lot you must protect yourself against, George. You can't just ignore them



LETTERS (cont)

hoping they'll leave you alone. Do that and they just get stronger - and eventually they'd get yound to you. This is why although your world does exist, you can only protect it by paying heed to the 'other worlds' around you.))

GEORGE (cont): "But whatever imaginary environment you choose to live in, with obvious exceptions, YOU make it happen the way you want it and often get back just what you put into it. I realise one cannot avoid war, should it come, and anybody can get mugged, but these worlds are speaking in general, are they not. Even the policeman chooses his vocation and must surely go in with his eyes wide open."

((Yes but a policeman doesn't always expect that the public will just let him get shot/maimed/abused/killed etc, etc, without him/them doing something about it.))

IAIN SINGER: "Are David Huson and George North related? ((You won't get David to admit to anything like that!))

Should a player become an ace then I think it is best that all the players involved are informed of the fact before any Immelman Turns etc occurs."

((I agree....))

And to finish.....

GEORGE NORTH: "Yes, bring back hanging - except in the toilet where I prefer wall tiles."

((Quite...)) My thanks to all those that wrote.

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GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES GAMES

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'ANU' (1981D)

Spring 1906

RUSSIA HANGS ON BY THE SKIN OF HIS TEETH

AUSTRIA            A(Mos)-War, A(Gal) S A(Mos)-War, A(Rum) S A(Gal), A(Sev)-Ukr,  
Rob Chapman      A(Slav)-Arm, F(Tri) S ITALIAN A(Ven), A(Vie) S F(Tri), A(Bud) S  
                    A(Vie), A(Bul)-Ser, F(Gre)-ION

FRANCE            F(MAO)-MIS, F(MAf)-Fun, F(Har)-GOL, F(IRE)-ENC, F(Bel) S F(IRE)-ENC,  
Colin Bruce      A(Lon)stands, A(Spa)-War, A(Pie)-Ven

GERMANY           F(WTH)-ENC, F(BAL) S A(Pru)-Lvn, A(Pru)-Lvn, A(Hol)-Dcl, A(Tyr)-Vie,  
John Lee         A(Boh) S A(Sil)-Gal, A(Sil)-Gal, A(Abu)-Ven

ITALY             F(TYS)-Fun, F(ION)-Nap, A(Rom) S A(Ven), A(Ven) S AUSTRIAN F(Tri)  
Keith Loveys

RUSSIA            A(StP)stands, A(War) S GERMAN A(Sil)-Gal  
Richard Hucknall

NO PRESS

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If you have no enemies, it is a sign fortune has forgot you...