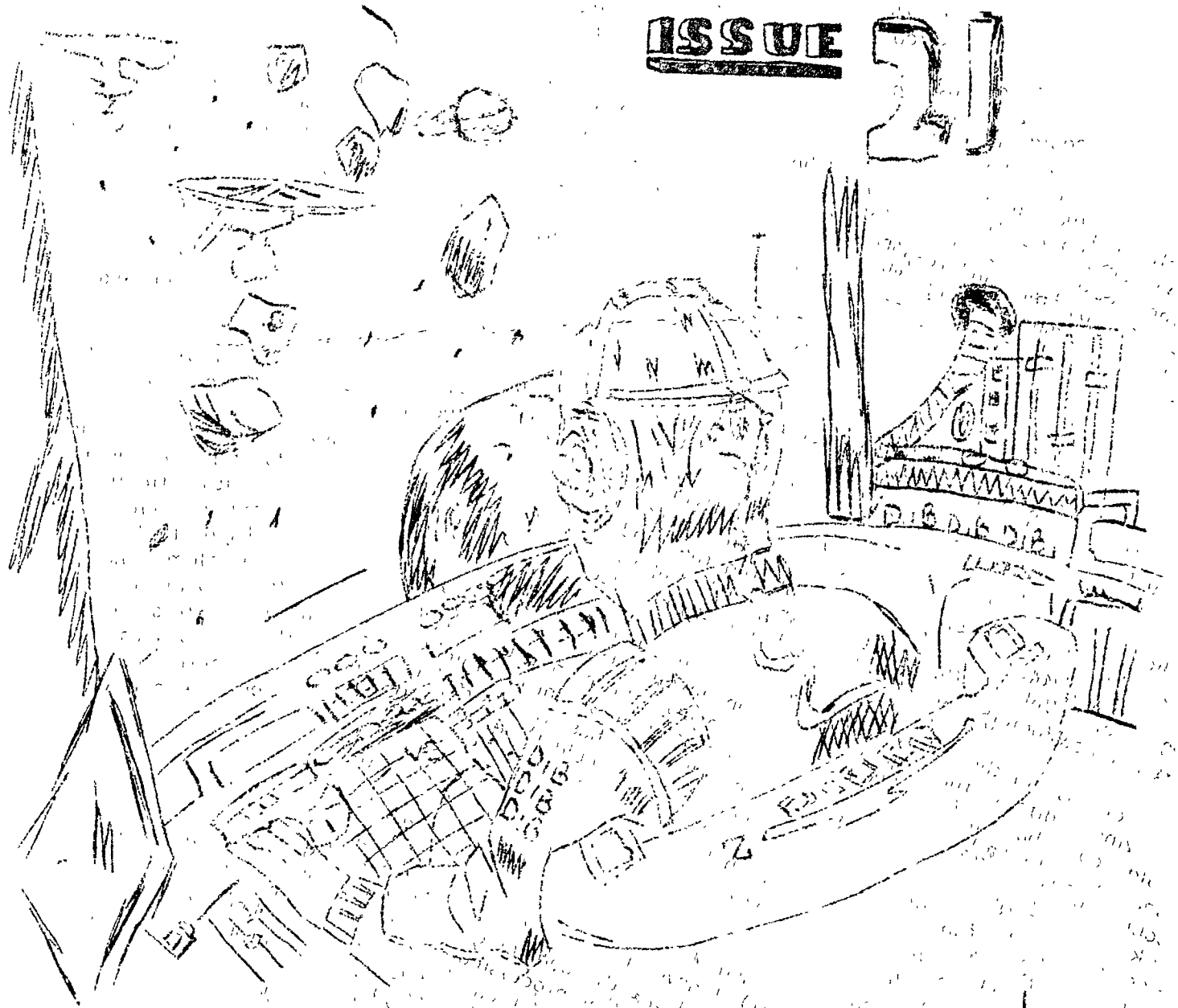


# DIB DIB DIB

ISSUE 21



The zine that goes where no zine went before!

Welcome one and all (including new subscribers) to issue 21 of Dib Dib Dib (I can't underline zine names 'còs I'm now using the printer via the computer). This issue, as every other, costs just a mere 1p per sheet (and a bargain at the price!) + postage. Monies to subscribe (and re-subscribe) should be sent to Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513. That's me.

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## EDITORIAL

I did hear from Clive Booth that a lot of complaints were sent his way because of my putting his name and address down in last issue as Dib's complaints department. Fine thing for an officer of the law to fib about things like that, eh, what?

'Ere, did you know that the Diplomacy box flyers have dried up? In a letter from Paul Simpkins (see lettercolumn) Paul says they need replacing and he can't afford it - is it possible for the hobby to pull together and collect the money to print 10,000 more. Well, is it? I certainly think it's important to contribute something to attract newcomers, but I can't speak for anyone else.

Most of us in the hobby will gain from continuing the flyers, but I suppose it's the zine editors that gain more than anyone else. It would be nice if everyone could contribute something - but who to give the money to? Who to organise it? My idea was to ask John Marsden, he's good at organising things, but I've yet to sound him out on the subject. Anyone else who has any ideas/comments and/or would like to contribute, please let me know. Also, I would be grateful if other editors could spread the word about this. The more people that know about it the better. Some might be only too glad to help - others almost certainly would like to know what's going on in hobby anyway. Some might even want to get their excuses together, to justify not paying!!

But now to my computer and the format of Dib (for those you who aren't too bored to read computer stuff). I haven't a clue how all this is going to turn out in the final printing. As I said at the beginning, I'm typing this up on the computer (using the Applewriter 1.1 wordprocessing package). In some ways it is easier. I can type in mistakes and remove them easily. If I don't know how to spell something I can stick in anything, and search and replace it automatically when I've finished. I can even insert and remove whole blocks of text without any trouble. The only failing is, I can't indent; underline within blocks of text; score out (i.e. using the '/'); all of which I need in the lettercolumn and adjudicating games. I have heard Pete Birks say something like: "Well, so much for the capabilities of computers then." Well, it's not quite like that. Computers can do a lot - but only what you tell them - in this case it's the wordprocessing package that counts. This one is cheap, hence it can't do much more than move blocks of text around. But, never fear, I shall eventually sort out the one I want. Still, to other things...

My nose is beginning to twitch with the smell of a possible hoax. TWICE in a matter of a couple of days I've come across the name of a zine that I've never heard of. Once in NMR!, and again in Fall of Eagles. The name of the zine is 'Chanticlear'. Anyone ever heard of it? According to Brian Creese this zine (which I've never even seen reviewed) is neck and neck with Greatest Hits, NMR!, Ode, Fall of Eagles, Acolyte, and Watch Your Back for the top spot in this year's Zine Poll. Strange innit? Especially when one considers a point that was put to Richard Walkerdine in his last issue of 'O Tempora! O Mores!' - that it would be easy for a party of hoaxers to push forward a fake zine. I quizzed Richard Hucknall about it of course, but apart from laughing (a dead giveaway) he said nothing. Anyway, the facts are before you. Are the devious minds of Creese and Hucknall at work again? Is the Poll, and the hobby as we know it, threatened with Chaos yet again? I say yes. There are no depths this despicable pair wouldn't stoop to!

Talking of hoaxers, it saddens me to say but that well known one, Clive Booth, has just published the fact that he's thinking of hanging up his bag of tricks and typewriter and folding 'Chimaera'. Another excellent zine disappearing. This is bad. More so because Clive doesn't want to fold it, but has no other choice as his police duties/exams etc are taking up more and more of his time. I wish Clive well in his exams of course, but I sure as hell wouldn't like to see Chim fold. I'd be content to trade with Chim even if it only appeared as a games-only issue - in the hope that sooner or later Clive would have the time to get back into full swing again. I might even eventually let him have his lettercolumn back! I've offered to help Clive with any printing and collating he may require - I even suggested it would be a good idea to run Chim as a Dib suppliment (he failed to appreciate the humour of this merry little quip). Who's zine is next to fold I wonder? I don't like my hobby changing!

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REGULAR AND F(ROM) CGS LISTS

I've had enough applications for three more gamestarts (four actually, counting a F(Rom) game). The three Regular games went to Walamalasia Gazette, Ode and Dib - the F(Rom) went The Acolyte. Left on the list now are:-

REGULAR:

Bohemian Rhapsody, Stick the Knife in, Perspiring Dreams, and Panzerkreuser.

I've explained to Mike (editor of Panzerkreuser) that once he starts a game of his own he goes to the top of the list.

F(ROM):

Bohemian Rhapsody. (Actually, I'm thinking of dropping this list due to lack of interest.)

Simon Billenness has asked me to remove Shellshock from this list (he was going to GM the game), don't know why, does this mean Shellshock really is going to fold?

Talking of folding: I haven't seen Bohemian Rhapsody for a while either. If it doesn't arrive before the next CGS game fills BR will have to miss it's turn, with the possibility I might have to remove it from the lists altogether. Malc?

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JOTTO

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AND WE HAVE A WINNER! Spurred on to a valiant effort by the threat of 'everwinning' Keith Loveys, George North took a chance and sent in his six guesses - and got them all right! Actually I think his wife, Pat, helped him - so does it count I wonder? Anyway his six guesses were Trifle, Switch, Cringe, Mouldy, Jovial, and Probed (in that order). In actual fact MY first word was Filter - but anagrams are allowed. So, for his prize George gets two free issues of Dib..... issues 18 and 19! Well done, George, you deserve it. (Nobody can ever say Tom Tweedy is tight-fisted!)

But **\*\*\***(Fanfare of trumpets)**\*\*\*** I'd like to take this opportunity to declare the opening of another Jotto game. There's still no game-fee, but, to the winner there is a prize of .... not 25p .... not 30p ... but 50p .... WHAT? ... £2!! ..... that's a bit steep innit, Jan?! Okay, okay, £2 it is. The six words are quite common and should be found in a rare and almost unknown 15th Century Chinese Dictionary. Don't forget for the first attempt you can send in 3 words to get you started. Three words already on file from Peter Cowling.

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Articles seem to be fairly thin on the ground this issue. I see I'll just have to get on to Dib's own War Correspondant, 'George North of G-Force' (short for George Force - he's the only member). You have been warned!

Apologies to all for the absence of the Angel cartoon, really it arrived too late for me to get the stencil cut. Anyway the 1982 Zine Poll results have just arrived today so these are a MUST to be included. I dunno, once again Dib turns out to be mainly a rating issue, but what can I do, ratings such as this are practically meaningless (perhaps just old news) when printed a month out of date. But to hell with the excuses, I'm printing it.

### THE 1982 ZINE POLL RESULTS

by Richard Walkerdine

Explanations of the various columns as follows:- ((copied straight from Richard's zine.))

The Ratio Listing is the ratio of total preferences to non-preferences for each zine (equalities counting as half to each).

The Points Listing ignores the overall totals and considers each pair of zines individually. One point is awarded to a zine if it beats another (half a point for a draw) irrespective of the size of the win.

The Apportioned Points listing goes a stage further and instead of giving one whole point to a winning zine, shares that point between the two zines in the proportion of the preferred/non-preferred ratio for the pair.

The Overall Rank is simply the combination of the ranks from the above three methods. It is also the official result of the Zine Poll!

	RATIO LISTING					POINTS LISTING					APPORT'ND PTS		OVERALL
	P	EQ	NP	RATIO	RANK	W	D	L	PTS	RANK	POINTS	RANK	RANK
Ode	566	45	164	3.156	1	30	0	1	30	1	24.194	1	1
Greatest Hits	547	29	211	2.490	2	28	1	2	28½	3	23.037	3	2
Fall of Eagles	310	23	126	2.338	3	28	0	3	28	4	23.625	2	3
The Acolyte	450	53	185	2.253	4	26	1	4	26½	5	22.498	5	4
NMR!	524	37	227	2.210	6	29	0	2	29	2	22.006	7	5
Watch Yr Back	448	52	185	2.246	5	25	0	6	25	7	22.817	4	6
Dib Dib Dib	409	35	185	2.106	7	26	0	5	26	6	22.151	6	7
Home of the Brave	426	44	228	1.792	9	24	1	6	24½	8	21.192	8	8
Chantecler	401	17	47	1.973	8	20	5	6	22½	9	20.847	9	9
Chimaera	270	28	175	1.503	10	21	2	8	22	10	20.273	10	10
Denver Glont	306	35	236	1.276	12	20	1	10	20½	11=	18.785	11	11=
Persp Dreams	389	54	289	1.316	11	20	1	10	20½	11=	18.730	12	11=
Thing	286	26	312	0.920	16	16	1	14	16½	13	16.415	14	13
Outposts	114	31	118	0.970	13	13	2	16	14	18	16.429	13	14
Putty Riff	301	38	320	0.944	15	15	2	14	16	14	16.288	16	15
PTN	267	47	281	0.954	14	14	3	14	15½	15=	16.170	17	16
Ripping Yarns	302	34	332	0.914	17	15	1	15	15½	15=	16.312	15	17
Last Stand	253	60	324	0.799	18	13	3	15	14½	17	14.893	19	18
Oxymoron	50	18	70	0.747	19	11	4	16	13	19=	15.171	18	19
Snorewood Gaz	218	34	306	0.728	20	12	0	19	12	21	14.084	20	20
RGR	118	21	217	0.565	23	13	0	18	13	19=	13.739	21	21
Blackmail	194	40	317	0.635	21	11	0	20	11	22=	12.840	23	22=
Pyrrhic Vic	228	39	380	0.620	22	11	0	20	11	22=	13.277	22	22=
Bohemian Rhap	184	51	394	0.499	25	6	1	24	6½	26	11.578	24	24=
Match Aban	27	15	61	0.504	24	5	5	21	7½	25	10.904	26	24=
Zine to be Bel	154	38	354	0.464	26	9	0	22	9	24	11.511	25	24=
En Guardian	36	10	116	0.339	27	4	4	23	6	27	8.410	28	27
Walamalasia Gaz	130	33	431	0.327	28	4	2	25	5	28	8.701	27	28
Don't Shoot Me	54	7	274	0.207	29	1	1	29	1½	31=	5.720	29	29=
Shellshock	66	26	381	0.200	30	2	0	29	2	29=	5.331	30	29=
Stick Knife In	60	16	391	0.170	31	2	0	29	2	29=	4.797	31	31
Bats	17	4	168	0.112	32	1	1	29	1½	31=	3.286	32	32

Now, before going any further I must point out that this list was not released in 'O Temporal O Mores!', but Richard's old zine 'Mad Policy' (issue 74). Obviously at first I thought this to be another hoax, but if it is it's a damn good one (and worth printing anyway) - certainly I couldn't spot anything out of the ordinary. The typeface, with defects, is EXACTLY the same as Richard's, and a hell of a lot of work has been put into it. It MUST be the genuine article!

As you can see, Dib came 7th overall - a result that pleases me greatly (especially because Marsden is quoted as saying Dib wouldn't appear in the Top Ten). As Richard Walkerdine pointed out,



LETTERS  
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RICHARD WERNICK:

"Thank you for printing my contribution to 'Dib Dib Dib'. I tend to think that letters to Dib should not become mere polemics, but, on the other hand, should not be devoted solely to Diplomacy and Sopwith. It is difficult for me to say exactly what should be printed; that decision belongs to you as editor. My experience on a London newspaper with a circulation of 10,500 tends to confirm me in my view that most letter writers are would-be or failed politicians whose rantings are not worth an inch of column space. However I suppose a letter column has to exist in any paper (or zine), but it is a pity that most of the nation's wits display their talents in public conveniences to the detriment of English belles lettres."

((Who says GH has all the literary giants, Ernst Hemingway eat your heart out. Powerful stuff for the first letter in the column, eh? Ah what the hell, live dangerously that's what I always say. Yes Richard, a circulation of 10,500 is pretty impressive by any zine standard (even Greatest Hits and Thing on the Mat!) but I don't think you can hold a newspaper up as an example of what a zine should be like, the two types are aiming at totally different things. On the one hand the newspaper which is geared to getting the news to the public in general - very rare will you find a journalist that actually WANTS to make contact with their readership. On the other hand zines are aimed directly at a particular type of readership; gamers. Contact between editors and their readers, through letters and Cons, are actively encouraged! This is the only way our hobby could exist. What more can I say?))

ooOOOoo

And talking of contacting people. Just thought I'd include the next letter shown to me by my son which was sent to HIM - just to show you the despicable, underhand, lowlife characters we deal with in this hobby.

MIKE CLOSE:

"Dear Young Master Tweedy, ((crawler!))

I understand that you are a keen stamp collector, so here are a few of my spare stamps. I wonder if you would do something for me? Your Dad and I are playing against each other in one of those silly Diplomacy games, and he has started to attack me in it. Please tell him to stop attacking me and take his fleets back to Italy, and if he doesn't, then stop him reading your comics - that would really upset him! I'm playing France in the game (called Juno) you see, and I've never attacked him, so why should he attack me? Please tell him to stop!

Have fun with the stamps."

((Makes yuh sick dunnit? I wouldn't mind really, but my son DID stop me from reading his comics! I admit to being worried - I'm expecting a letter any day now for my wife, urging her to cut out cooking, cleaning etc etc. You have an awful lot to answer for, Close! I just hope some assassin can stop you in time.))

ooOOOoo

Now to get my own back...

RICHARD BASS:

"Jotto orders will follow when Charlotte solves it. She's a trifle slow at times. These women just cannot take the stresses and strains of games playing!"

((I agree, these women have no bottle. There, that should get him into enough trouble. Actually, I knew you had to be getting help with the Jotto from somewhere, Richard - some of your words were just too pat!))

