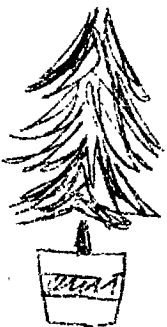
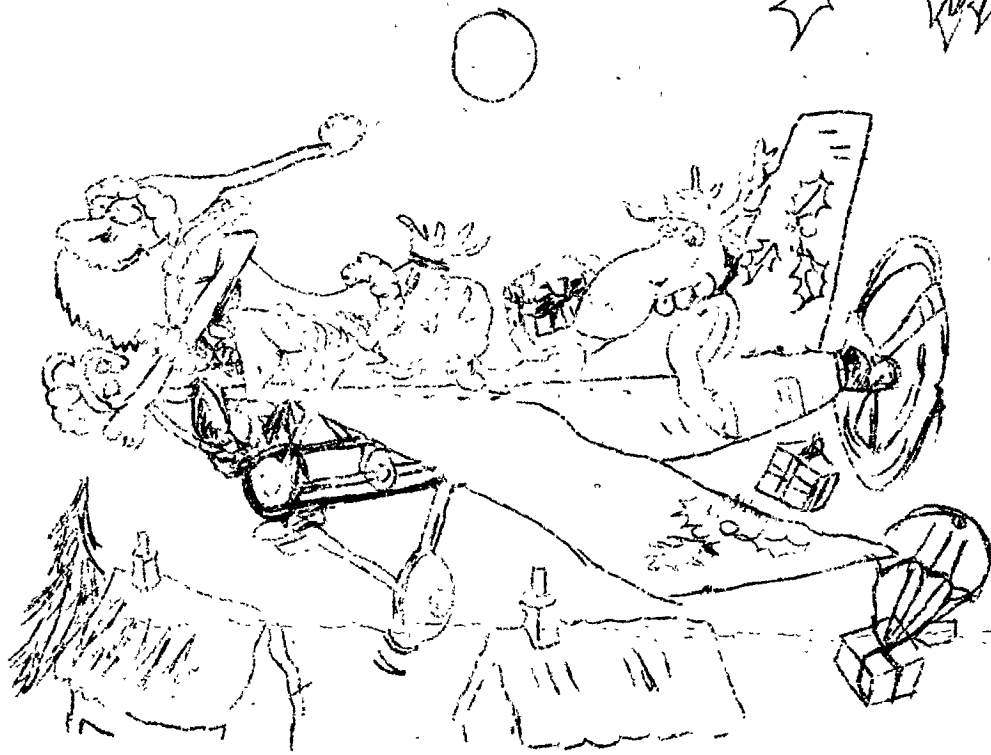


DIB DIB DIB

ISSUE 25



Merry Dibmas



This is number 25 (a very apt number) of what was intended to be a festive issue of Dib Dib Dib. This eventually slightly thin zine deals in Diplomacy, Sopwith, fast talk and fast women - all of which you get for a mere 34p. To subscribe all you have to do is send a Christmas card and perhaps the odd £1 to £5 to Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. (Tel. 02403 4513)



EDITORIAL



Before going any further I'd just like to say thanks to all those that sent me Christmas cards (and to those that haven't - where are they?) and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and certainly a happy New Year. Great innit? I do like to enjoy Christmas time. I suppose it's the child in me - I never did like growing up. Hands up all those that don't believe in Santa...

Actually I've already opened my early Christmas present - Jan bought me a second disk drive - it's come in quite handy doing the zine. But just getting presents (personally getting them) is not what Christmas is all about. Certainly it's the religious side: goodwill to all men and all that - but it's the traditions that I like: The turkey, the tree, crackers, Christmas carols/records, watching the kids open their presents and hopefully, the snow. It's a shame but some people seem to find Christmas time boring. It can be at times I suppose, but the secret I've found is that if you go out of your way to play it up for other people; so that they enjoy it (in the traditions that you would want to, of course), it seems to generate much more of the old Christmas spirit.

I had a letter from George North last week (as I imagine everyone did) detailing his Christmas. It seems he enjoys it like wot the Tweedys does. Being pleasantly stuffed, with a glass of hi-carb. beside you, kids and the wife's family making a row, Christmas wrappers all over the place, torn party hat worn at a jaunty angle great eh? Well done George.

But enough of this and on to the boring serious stuff again. Can anyone tell me: WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED TO PETE CALCRAFT AND THE DIPLOMACY STATS? I've been sending Dib regularly to him for the past year now and have got absolutely nothing from him in return. I know at least of a couple more zines with the same problem (Greatest Hits was the last one I heard about). It seems to me that Peter is getting a whole lot of something for nothing. We never had this problem when Mick Bullock did the stats. Mick gave the hobby one hell of a service - what has Pete Calcraft given us? Nothing. I think it's right that the stats should be done for the hobby, not just for the person doing them. After all, we, the zine editors are paying for them every time we send him a zine. If Pete can't give us the service then I think he should hand the stats over to someone who can.

I have published a letter from Wink Thompson, who compiles and edits the NGC Diplomacy Ratings, complaining about Pete Calcraft's failure in sending out the information much-needed to do the ratings. I'll admit the NGC system is not liked by everybody, but Wink likes doing it, and it gives a fair representation of what players should be at the top, and what players should be at the bottom. A worried Wink says:-

"I'd like to request, through your zine, that all GM's send their finished game results to me, so that I can update the NGC Ratings List.

The ratings are getting more and more out of date due to the non-appearance of game results from Pete Calcraft, and if I don't start getting results soon I will have a horrendous task to catch up, judging from Calcraft's past timekeeping. All GM's who send me results will get the complete ratings list at regular intervals. I've been keeping the records up to date since Richard Sharp handed them over to me 5 or 6 years (and 4 addresses) ago. The last lot of games that I rated started back in '79 and '80 (fifty-five 1979 games and eleven 1980 games, out of a total of 130 games), which clearly shows how far behind the ratings are. Those that want/need the NGC rating need only send their game-end results to:-



Wink Thompson, 6, Waterbeach Road, Slough, Berks, SL1 3LB. (Slough 34471)"

Nice to meet you last week Wink.

I'll certainly be sending Dib to Wink. Most people seem to prefer playing in games with Boardman numbers anyway, so their games can be rated - why not, it adds a bit more meaning to WINNING a game. And this was my only reason for trading with the stats in the first place.

Just to finish off here, changing the subject again, the Angel cartoon strip will be back again next issue. I didn't have time to get the stencil cut for this issue. Nevertheless Chris Sandow has informed me that the current Angel saga is coming to an end, and that George North should beware the final instalment.

Actually, talking of Chris Sandow - he paid me a visit for the first time a couple of weeks ago. If it hadn't been the fact that he left a £10 note for subscription I'd bar the man from my doorstep forever!

I mean, just to fill in time before lunch (we were going onto the computer afterwards) I suggested we play one of my favourite two-player games called 'Cul-de-Sac' (produced by 'Lazy Days') - my favourite mainly because I win at it. I've even thrashed Richard Sharp at it! Yeah, thought that would impress you.

Anyway, as I was laying the pieces out I said to a rather confused looking Chris: "Don't worry about losing the first game, Chris, it takes one or two tries before one gets used to it." After which the backstabbing rat proceeded to beat me! "HUSTLER!" I cried. "You've played this before." "No I haven't" he protested. "Yes you have" and immediately dashed the pieces to the floor.

You'd think a man would have the manners to let the host win the first game, wouldn't you?

JOTTO Turn 6

I choose six words from the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, each six letters long. Each month you send in one word and I then score each letter against each of my six words. For instance, if you submitted DETOUR and the six secret words were: RESORT, BASKET, GENTLE, PRIEST, MORTAR, BOTTLE the scores would be: 4, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3 respectively. Obvious aim is to find all six words.

When you think you know all six words you may take a guess at them (you must guess at all six) - but you must get ALL six right! Get one wrong and you're out.

((To those that NMR'd, just send in two words/guesses next month to catch up.))

IAIN SINGER: 6th (3,3,2,1,1,3)	ALAN PARR: 6th (2,1,1,3,4,2)
KEITH LOVEYS: 6th (1,2,1,3,2,2)	PETER COWLING: 6th (- NMR -)
RICHARD BASS: 6th (1,2,2,2,1,2)	ROBERT LOZYSKYJ: 6th (0,2,2,1,0,0)
SANDY PETERS: 6th (1,2,2,2,3,3)	RICHARD MORRIS: 5th (1,1,3,3,2,1)
NICK MARSHALL: 6th (- NMR -)	6th (5,1,3,2,1,2)
TIM BALL: 6th (1,3,0,1,2,3)	GEORGE NORTH: 6th (- NMR -)
MARK LIPTON: 5th (1,2,1,3,2,2)	NICHOLAS CLIFTON: 5th (0,1,1,1,3,1)
6th (3,1,2,1,2,1)	6th (3,2,1,1,1,2)
R.J. LAMPARD: 6th (3,1,3,3,2,3)	RICHARD WALKERDINE: 5th (1,2,2,3,1,0)
ALAN SHARPLES: 6th (2,3,1,0,2,1)	6th (3,0,1,2,4,2)
LARRY TRASK: 1st (3,0,1,1,1,1)	SIMON CRADDOCK: 6th (3,4,1,2,1,2)
2nd (2,1,2,2,2,1)	DAVID HALL: 6th (1,1,3,2,1,1)
3rd (2,2,0,0,1,2)	
4th (0,0,1,2,1,0)	
5th (1,2,2,3,1,0)	
6th (2,1,1,1,0,0)	



LETTERS

MATT QUARTERMAIN:

"May I denounce the filthy scandalous, libellous comment about Socialists and Orc Dung in Dib 24. This disgusting bigotry and political railing must be the product of a filthy warped mind. He's the ultimate racist in the most abhorrent fascist clique, in that he likens the excrement of Orcs to those left of Shirley Williams. Any more of it and we'll send the Orcs round to give a formal complaint, emphasised by the sharpened edges of their axes."

((What can I say this man is so definitely right. It's my fault entirely for forgetting, even Orcs must have feelings...))

MATT (CONT.):

"Will Shand can't spell cirrhosis. ((Actually, neither can I unless I look it up)) Sirocis indeed. Could understand it if he studied Engineering at Brunel (c'est moi) but English? Bleah. As for me, I'm 22 in December, looking for ways of getting out of working and still being rich when/if I graduate, and a Hawkwind/Quo/Dylan/Floyd/Young/etc. freak. I do not know George North or Dave Tottey/Tooty; but I correspond with Andreas Sarker."

((Name dropper! Anyway, what do you mean you're a Hawkwind freak?what sort of taste in music is that? The only other maniac I know with an ear for this sort of noise, is Pete Mearns (of Puppet Theatre News fame) - and there was talk of locking him away.))

oo000oo

MARK LIPTON:

"I'm close to Bolton, didn't you do Geography, for a hobby meet in Greater Manchester. ((Course I did bloody Geography - I could stick my finger right now where England is!))

I thought it might be a good idea to have a medical problem page as there does seem to be a large number of mental aberrants in our hobby."

((You ain't just whistling into the wind there (thought it'd be better to mix metaphors there - this is a family mag). I think as you're an M.D. (mental deviant) yourself, why don't you do a column in Dib? I must warn you though, in subjects as tricky as this, it's quite easy to lose control. I don't think I'm ready for the ailments of some of my subscribers!))

oo000oo



IAIN SINGER:

"Thanks for the last issue of Dribble - most interesting - definite psychotic case - rest is required."

MidCon article was good.

Could you mention the Glasgow Hobbymeet - corner of Old Dumbarton Road and Yorkhill Street, at 8.45 in the Overflow - supposedly sells good English beer (!?) - 3rd Thursday of December. Look for someone wearing a Dib, Dib Dib badge!!!!"

((You're not actually going out (especially in Glasgow) wearing a badge with Dib Dib Dib on it are you?! Geez, that takes some guts, even I'm not that stupid.))

oo000oo



BRIAN MOORE:

"I now have a regular Games Club formed, which meets at my place every from 2.00pm to 10. There is me and 2 others at the moment, so if anyone fancies a trip to Bolton they'd be quite welcome, provided I know in advance, of course."



((Well it's nice to know Dib has achieved something. Anyone else interested in this gamesmeet can contact Brian at:-
17 Westway, Hall i'th'Wood, Bolton, Lancs, BL1 8SS.))

oo000oo

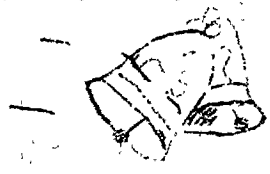
LARRY TRASK:

"The arrival of Dib 24 has reminded me that I meant to join your Jotto game last time. Well, I forgot, but here goes now. A question, though: your words come from the 'Shorter OED', right? But you don't say anywhere that our guesses have to be in the SOED, do you? The thing is, I want to use some words which aren't in there (I don't have a copy of the SOED, but I had a look at somebody else's). All the words I'm using as guesses, though, are in the 'Official Scrabble Player's Dictionary', all are in the 'Heritage Dictionary', and all but one are in the 'Collins English Dictionary'.

I don't really think the 'Shorter OED' is a good choice for word games -- apart from its habit of giving all entries with capital letters, it's just antiquated. It was originally published in 1933, and its latest addendum is only dated 1974. In any case, it's fundamentally an abridgement of the OED, most of the work on which was done many decades ago. The 'Collins English Dictionary' or the 'Chambers' Twentieth Century Dictionary' would be better choices, and the 'Official Scrabble Player's Dictionary' a better one still."

((And to think I thought this was going to be a simple word game. Well Larry, points taken, but not really needed. The only reason I mentioned a Dictionary at all was merely to point out that my six words existed somewhere. You don't think I can just draw six-letter words out at the drop of a hat, do you? My vocabulary only extends to five-letter words!))

oo000oo



And from another American....

CATHY CUNNING:

"Dear Mr Tweedy bird, ((Hrm. I can spot a troublemaker here))

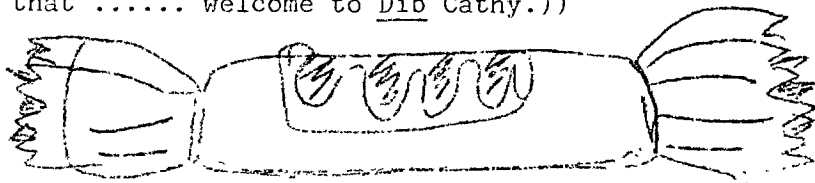
First if you look at the date, you'll say that either I was slow or the post office was. Well I was already to send all my gold bullion off to Pete Birks and then what happens? DDD comes to my house, just yesterday!

Not an easy choice let me tell you. To choose between the Birks and a chameleon, however there was one big selling point. In DDD I wouldn't have to read anything by Mark Berch! Boy what a relief that is. Besides, if I don't sub, who's going to let you in on all the gossip from te American hobby? ((Well, there's...))

But enough of this - let's get to the big money areas. Enclosed is your gold bullion, but since the exchange rate is so funny with gold, I'll try to put some form of pounds in here. Do you realise that I live in the unchartered wilderness where cowboys and indians still roam the plains? When I go to a bank and ask for pounds (£), they tell me that I look just right the way I am and I don't need any more pounds (lbs). Urg!!

You must let Martin Allen have more of his letters published. Most of your subscribers are currently suffering from brain damage - "What is a chameleon?" - so you needn't worry about that."

((It's not the brains of my subscribers I'm worrying about - as you say, most of them are past redeeming anyway - it's my own sanity I worry about. But as to the money: what gives? Three crumpled notes and an I.O.U. from a post office employee for one gold brick? It's not on you know. I can't help it if you live in an uncivilised part of the world where everyone uses Monopoly money - gold bricks I say or I'll feed you back to Pete Birks and Mark Berch. You have been warned. Apart from that welcome to Dib Cathy.))



oo000oo



JOHN LEE:

"I hate to disillusion the author of your spacefiller, but Pete Birks (of whom, it must be said, has sat in many positions) doesn't sit at God's right hand. Jesus was either Mad, Bad or telling the truth. I don't know of any other 'madman' who hasn't got a grave, of anyone bad who tried to do something for others (and those who hated him as well!) or of a lie living on so prominently for 2000 years. I do have first hand experience though, of healings done in the Lord's name, utterings of strange languages the speakers didn't understand (though others did) and visions that have come true. If you don't want to believe it all, that's up to you, but be sure that there's a time coming when you will have no longer have that choice."

((Good Grief, Lee - are you trying to preach to me in my own mag? You didn't bother putting stuff like this in Voice - what gives? If all you want to say is that said spacefiller was in bad taste, then by all means go ahead, let's not clutter it up with theological entanglements. I'm not saying that what you've seen and heard is just religious mumbo-jumbo mind - I'd say you're a fortunate man indeed if you have witnessed all that you say you have - but, is Dib really the place....? Anyway if you know something I don't, then out with it - why would someone want to relieve me of my choice of believing all that I see and hear?))

oo000oo

MICK ANTROBUS:

"Thanks again for an issue full of interest, if Dib fails to win the best lettercolumn category in the Gladys Awards, then the results must be rigged, it certainly gets my vote.

Before I continue, I seem to remember approx 3 issues ago, you mentioned briefly the computer game of 'Adventure'. Perhaps you would allow me to pick your brain? I have use at work of an Apple + disk drive, and a few days ago I was given the Adventure disk (my first attempt at this type of game I might add). Anyway to shorten the letter, I can find my way into the cave etc, pass the bird, and can even conjure up the Crystal bridge, to cross the chasm. However that's about it, after collecting a few treasures I usually find I am wandering around a maze which my computer tells me looks the same, I am then chased by the amazing little dwarves until relieved by the jolly pirate. Perhaps you could tell me how to get⁴ out of the maze, and also how the hell do you get past the snake in the King's chambers? I know this is cheating but the 'friend' at work who owns the disk refuses to enlighten me, and gets great enjoyment from seeing me turn into a demented wreck, who is turning grey, and is unable to concentrate on work and possibly facing the sack due to this damn disk. If it's the same game as you possess, then PLEASE put me out of my misery, before it's too late; and the console ends up in the car park 3 storey's below."

((Hmm. Yes, a very bad case indeed. It saddens me to see a grown man practically in tears, becoming a vegetable, a terminal junkie, but there's nothing I can do. I haven't played that game before (but even if I had I think I'd see you suffer a little more! - heh heh). The Apple game I was talking about is a hi-res graphic game called 'Wizardry' - the ultimate in computer adventure games. Now if you wanted help with that.... I've just finished it after a year of playing! Am now just starting on the 2nd scenario. I suppose I'm just a glutton for punishment.))

oo000oo

PETER NORTHCOTT:

"Ref. your reports on RYODA, last time's diabolical delay in LS was their fault:- my turnaround - 3 days; theirs: 16 days. (This is NFP!)"

((Exactly my point.))

