

DIB DIB DIB

ISSUE

30

Vote for Dib!

(10 that is)



This is the 30th issue of what may now be classed as a 'gameszine' called Dib Dib Dib. Price for each issue will cost you but a mere 35p (UK rates) and 15p + postage (overseas rate). Anyone needing to subscribe or trade should write to me, Tom Tweedy, at 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. But if you'd like to telephone my number is: 02403 4513.

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EDITORIAL

Must quickly get this lot finished and in the post so I can watch the bloody Wimbledon. Football and cricket you can have - but, tennis, this time of the year? Great. Still one shouldn't talk about sport in a game's magazine anyway as it's not to everyone's taste.

Pete Doubleday, man of the future? Hmmm, maybe. I feel I have to get it out of my system... that it needed to be said at all is the worse thing that's ever happened to me. If I leave it any longer I may just chicken out:- I'm beginning to enjoy reading Thing on the Mat! Yes yes, I know it's a sick thing to say, but some of Pete's latest articles - his ramblings on his life at Oxford; his IBM interview etc - have been very good indeed. At one point I was beginning to believe the man had actually freaked out, and was totally out of control. He had only one way out - the fact that he should be destroyed. But after seeing his 'AARDVARK' flyer when Pete stood for Oxford in the General Election, I now realise just how wrong I was: the man is a man for all right-minded thinkers. Anyone that can guarantee in his manifesto that he will NOT introduce hanging for Catholics, can't be all bad. I only wish I had seen his flyer first before I voted for Maggie ... it may well have turned the tide of the Tory landslide. *Sigh* Yes a sad day for Britain indeed. But enough about Doubleday - he's not used to all this praise. Better I should change the subject quickly.

I've had a tremendous response so far to the D&D campaign idea. People who have shown interest so far are: Clive Booth, George North, Dave Tant, Derek Andrews, Sandy Peters (maybe), Nick Clark, Simon Craddock, Daniel A. Worthington, and Mick Antrobus. Others that want to play but have also offered to act as DM are: Victor Hall, Chris Sandow, John Boogert. I still haven't been able to decide who will DM the game yet as Victor, Chris, and John are still undecided as to how much work they are likely to take on. I do have some very worthwhile hints on Postal play Pete Tamlyn sent me; taken from an article Dave Tant did for the glossy magazine. Imagine. These should be included with this copy of Dib to those that offered to DM the game. I think you'll find the advice Dave gives of great help as it covers most all areas of postal play.

Actually, talking of Imagine, it's nice to see the close ties it has to this postal hobby. They already number amongst its contributors such hobby greats as Pete Tamlyn, Brian Creese and Dave Tant. This being the case it could very well be that this should become required reading for the hard-hitting, go-getting, man-who-has-everything, humble postal hobby member (I already subscribe to it myself). Certainly it has the 'friendly' feel of a ordinary hobby magazine. Strongly recommended you get to see a copy.

That last sentence may not justify too well because of the hyphens joining the words up. Ah well... there are worse things in life than having big spaces all over the place. Having Mike Close as an ally in a Diplomacy game is one... Ah sod the editorial and on to something else - must get this printed up.

CENTRAL GAMESTART SERVICEList Of Zines Awaiting Regular Starts:-

Foiled Again, The Question Mark, War and Peace, The Drooling God, Perspiring Dreams.

List Of Zines Awaiting F(Rom) Starts:-

Watch Your Back, Panzerkreuser.

DONATIONS TO THE CGS:Game Filled:

Dave Thomas.....£1
 John Harrington...£2 (donation)
 Derek R. Caws.....£1
 John Wilman.....£2
 Paul Segal.....£1
 Mike Sharpe.....£1
 Ian Winstanley....£6.32½p (donation)

Games Unfilled:

Derek R. Caws.....£2
 Mike Sharpe.....£1
 Alec Winton.....£1
 Paul Segal.....£1
 John Dodds.....£1
 Miles Cowling.....£1

JOTTO Turn 11

Two people decided to take guesses this time: Larry Trask and George North; and both got them wrong. Heh heh, great innit? George got the 1st word wrong, and Larry, the 2nd and 5th. Both had worries that their numbers were wrong - but they weren't. There is one point I'd like to make. The first word is NOT in the SOED (though Jan told me it was - and anyway that was the one Larry got right), but IS in the Chambers.

RICHARD BASS: 11th (- NMR! -)	ALAN PARR: 11th (3,1,3,3,1,3)
TIM BALL: 11th (2,1,2,2,2,1)	ROBERT LOZYNSKYJ: 11th (3,1,2,1,1,1)
R.J. LAMPARD: 11th (2,1,1,2,2,2)	NICHOLAS CLIFTON: 10th (2,1,2,2,1,1)
ALAN SHARPLES: 11th (2,0,6,2,0,1)	11th (- NMR! -)

**** DIB'S GALLERY ****

"Here, as promised, is who I am, so prepare yourself to be bored.

NAME: Daniel A. Worthington

"Known to friends, foes, and indifferent as Arthur. I am 18 years of age and am presently between the 1st and 2nd years of the HND in Computer Studies at Southampton College of Higher Education.

But, what, you say, is he doing if he's between years. Surely one of this country's students (most worthy and industrious types) ((Hah!)) cannot be intending to idle away his time for several months? ((Oh? isn't that what students always do?)) No! Of course I shan't be idle, I'm spending the summer break working in a fish and chip shop - making chips and washing up (it's hell trying to get the grease out of those used fish and chip wrappers). ((I bet it is...))

Now for the bit Tweedy gets upset about when people leave it out.

When reading I enjoy science-fiction and mysteries, although I have been known to read Tolkien and books by lesser authors. I don't mind most music, if it is not played too loud, and I can actually hear the words of the lyrics. As for hobbies I don't really have many apart from messing about with my ZX81 and attempting to teach myself to play the guitar (very badly) ((Wrong - if you want to to play a guitar you must learn to play it well oh you've heard that one have you?)) My political views, I don't intend to mention in this Tory Propaganda Sheet (er sorry I seem to have misspelt zine) in case I get thrown out.

(cont'd on Page 11)

IT'S THE CLIVE 'HE'S SO HUNKY' BOOTH VIDEO SHOW!

((It seems as though my little comment last issue about Clive looking like Kenny Everett hit near the mark. A few people have written in agreeing with me. Clive's own wife, Pauline, agrees with me. Now you may judge for yourselves, as Clive has kindly sent us a photo - hope you can see it - and a letter of complaint of all things.))



● ON THE BEAT — Pc with a smile is Clive Booth, community officer for Heanor, Langley Mill and Marpool.

A GALLUP poll reveals this week that seven out of ten people are happy with the work done by the police force in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire County Council commissioned the poll as part of an investigation into local authority services

It was centred on the multi-racial areas of Derby.

Although the Derby East sub-division was most closely connected with the poll, through its experiments with community policing, police throughout the county are delighted with the result

Community policemen have been assigned to most large police stations in the county — and by and large there are more policemen "on the beat"

Chief Constable Mr Alf Parrish said "Community policing is not new. It is what I did when I joined the service. The move throughout the country and certainly within Derbyshire is back to the traditional role

"I intend to use the experience gained in Derby in my approach to policing in the rest of the county"

Gallup presented their poll to Derbyshire Constabulary on Monday

Just over 1,000 people were asked a series of questions on the police, culminating in a question about opinions of the force "They are efficient and do their job well," 68% replied

Of 432 people who had made contact with the police, 72% were very satisfied or quite satisfied with the response they got. One in five were either rather dissatisfied or very dissatisfied

Even so, 81% of all those questioned still wanted to see more officers on foot patrol

"Tweedy, You imbecile!! I don't mind you drawing the attention of the whole of the lower echelons of the hobby that result to the fact that there is a faint resemblance between my own good looks and those of Kenny Everett, but fancy putting it on the front of an envelope addressed to me that the postman is going to see. And then, to cap it all, posting it to arrive on the very day when the enclosed appeared in the centre of the front page of the local rag. Can you imagine what is going to happen when it gets back to the sorting office and tells all the other postmen that I look like Kenny Everett and produces the paper to prove it? How will I ever walk down the street again when all the females I pass are swinging their legs wide and declaring: "It's all in the best possible taste!", or picking their nose and shouting "Gizzard Puke here!"

You've ruined my credibility, Tweedy! I'll get you for this! Have I ever told you that you remind me of one of Everett's characters? Cupid Stunt - or similar anyway..."

((No, it's no use attacking me with my own idea, Clive (Kenny). You'll have to think of something more original than that. There you are, in all your glory, for all the world to see (if it has turned out alright). It serves you right for supplying me with the ammunition. I just hope you never manage to get your hands on a photo of me!))

DIPLOMACY STATS

Well some Diplomacy stats. Yes, at last Diplomacy Hobby Statistician, Pete Calcraft has sent some out. Now that I have them though, what to do with them? Pete doesn't print them in a form that's interesting to the 'ordinary' zine editor. I know it can be done because Mick Bullock's New Statsman was always of some interesting read (well, so it seemed to me). Trouble is, I can't really remember how Mick laid NS out. A couple of things in Pete's latest batch were of interest though. One was his calculations on how much the stats were costing him to produce. And I quote:-

"In view of some of the editorial whingeing ((?)) going around some sections of the hobby at present, I thought it might be interesting to set out the costs incurred by yours truly in this enterprise so far.

"I'll start by ignoring production costs entirely (paper, ribbons, tippex, reminders to editors, queries, photocopied forms, typewriter servicing, broken fingernails, files, glue, postage, lighting, heating etc etc) and so sticking to publishing and distributing costs only."

Which is probably just as well. Costs according to Pete are as follows: (ITB = In The Beginning, TFT = The Finishing Touch, and SOTA = Spirit of the Age - Pete's zine which I thought had folded...)

Printing ITB 12 & TFT 38 (3x150x2)	£21.51
Printing ITB 13 (1x150x2)	£ 7.17
Printing SOTA frontsheet (1x200x1)	£ 4.14
Approx postage on SS1-3	£11.00
Printing TFT 39 & TFT 40 (4x150x2)	£28.68
Printing ITB 14 (1x150x2)	£ 7.17
Approx postage SS4-6	£ 9.00
Total	<u>£88.67</u>

All very interesting, but the printing wasn't what all the hue and cry was about or am I wrong? Certainly I've never 'whinged' to Pete about his production costs. He continually brings this subject up himself, as if this justifies the REAL problem; the fact that no-one was getting to see the precious stats. I've said it once and I'll say it again: If Pete's worried about his litho production costs, why not change to a mimeo format? (Pete?) Certainly no-one will hold it against him.

But enough of my petty bickering (I think I only do it now to egg him on) and on to the other interesting point of the stats; the final WINS and DRAWS table, complete from the time Pete took the job over.

<u>TFT 38-42</u>	<u>5-Way</u>	<u>4-Way</u>	<u>3-Way</u>	<u>2-Way</u>	<u>WINS</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Austria	2	6	4	6	13	19.233	6
England	2	13	8	5	14	22.816	5
France	3	9	6	8	21	29.850	1
Germany	3	3	8	5	21	27.516	3
Italy	2	7	5	8	10	17.860	7
Russia	2	6	8	4	21	27.566	2
<u>Turkey</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>23.200</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals	3	13	16	21	115	168.000	

It's not so surprising that Italy and Austria did badly, but it certainly surprised me that Germany did better than Turkey or England. I LOATH playing Germany, and have found it, so far, to be the hardest country on the board to control.

Anyway, apart from, and perhaps ignoring, the odd little whinge above... my thanks to Pete for getting the stats out ... Here's to the next set.

SOPWITH STATS 2
by Richard Morris

((Richard has put a HELL of a lot of work into these stats since taking them over. SS2 is six pages long! In fact much too long to cover them fully here. They make interesting reading though so if you want to see the full results I suggest you send Richard a stamped addressed envelope: Richard Morris, 1 Highlandville, Lightcliffe, Halifax, HX3 8AG - they're well worth a look. Anyway on to Richard...))

"I shall be using the convention of showing pure rating in brackets for games which have been re-rated in future 'down to earth's' and in my ratings list."

Sopwith Records Richard Morris 28/5/83

1. Most Pts. in game: 50(69) Richard Morris DDD RAVEN
33 Tom Tweedy Hops GOTHA
29(41) Richard Turner Hops FOKKER (incomplete)
2. Most Pts. not winning: 22 Brian Moore Hops GOTHA
15(24) Rob Chapman DDD RAVEN
3. Worst Performance: -5 (Turn 4, Move 2) Peter Cowling DDD PELICAN
-5 (Turn 4, Move 2) Robert Lozynskyj DDD REDWING
-5 (Turn 4, Move 3) Martin Allen DDD KINGFISHER
4. Worst Winning Performance: 6 Keith Loveys DDD MUDLARK
5. Most Wins: 2 Frank Dunn
6. Most Kills: 6 Sandy Peters
7. Most Kills in a Game: 3 Richard Morris DDD RAVEN
8. Quickest Win: Turn 14, Move 3 Keith Loveys DDD MUDLARK
9. Slowest Win: Turn 24, Move 1 Dave Tant DDD KESTREL (20 pt. game)
Turn 15, Move 1 Tom Tweedy Hops GOTHA (normal game)

ACES HIGH SOPWITH RATING LIST Richard Morris

I don't have the time to include all the names this month - there are now 110 names on the list. Anyway everything here is correct up to and including: Thing 15/16 & 17: HtL 31 & 32; Acolyte 46 & 47; Zeeby 12/13 & 14; Hopscotch 31; Dib Dib Dib 29.

The awards/penalties are: +1 point for every hit a player makes; +5 for making a kill; +10 for killing an ace; and -10 if you're an ace that's been shot down. To become an ace a player must get a score of 40 or more. Anyone needing to understand more has but to ask me for a copy of the postal rules.

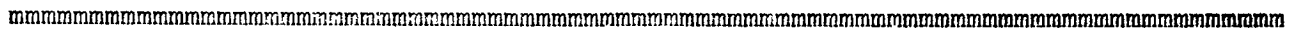
The breakdown of it is: Pts = Points/Hits (obviously); K = Kills; Sta = Status; C/R = Games Complete/Running; W = Wins.

Pcs		Pts	K	Sta	C/R	W
---		---	-	---	---	-
1.	Sandy Peters	90	6	ACE	3/3	-
2.	Richard Morris	88	3	ACE	2/2	1
3.	Tom Tweedy	73	2½	ACE	3/2	1
4.	Frank Dunn	68	2	ACE	2/0	2
5.	Dave Tant	54	3	ACE	2/4	1
6.	Rob Chapman	47	2	ACE	2/1	-
7.	Brian Moore	43	3	ACE	1/4	-
8.	Richard Turner	41	2	ACE	0/1	-
9.	Nicholas Clifton	36	1	-	1/4	-
10.	Mick Antrobus	35	2	-	1/7	-
11.	Brian Douglas	23	0	-	0/1	-

	Martin Mills	23	1½	-	1/10	-
13.	Nick Hoyle	22	1	-	1/1	-
14.	Alan Sharples	19	0	-	1/0	-
	Ian Tillson	19	1	-	0/1	-

Other Dib subscriber positions: =16 Alec Winton; =20 Iain Singer; =22 George North; 24 Tim Sharrock; 25 Clive Booth; =31 Keith Loveys; =33 Alan Parr & Larry Trask; =46 John Field & John Lee & Karl Piper; =62 Colin Bruce; 68 Richard Bass; all =69th Simon Billenness, John Bycroft, Cathy Cunning, Derek Cowan, Martyn Ives, Richard Lewis, Nick Marshall, Gary Piper, Matt Quartermain, Chris Sandow, Mike Sharpe, Richard Wernick, Ian Winstanley; =105 Robert Lozynskyj.

Phew you'll have to turn Sopwth Stats into a fee paying zine, Richard. If it gets any longer...



LETTERS

And who better this time to open Dib's lettercolumn than the brave a noble...

DEREK ANDREWS:

"I'd like to have my name included on your D&D waiting list. I've never played the D&D system, although I've proved myself to be an abject coward when playing T&T, Sorcerer's Cave, etc. I've got a broad, yellow, run-faster stripe down my back and a reputation for becoming a snivelling little shit when confronted by an Orc. Should you get the act together, and I do make the first team, can you forward an abundance of white flags and a bottle of Jack Daniels to the above address?"

((My God, this sounds like an earlier version of a Clive Booth profile! Must be a Communist plot to infiltrate Dib's lettercolumn... damn cowardly pinko subversives, ought to have their nuts put through a mangle and shot at dawn. That goes for any other commies left of Thatcher as well.))

oo000oo

DAVE TOTTEY:

"Have you ever thought about doing a survey of unusual pets of Dib subscribers?"

((The rest of this letter was censored because of subversive babblings and 'cos there was one deliberate mention of C*****n's. As for your single question Dave..... do you think I'm mad!? Martin Allen made friends with a pound of stewing steak - and he's the LEAST of my worries.))

oo000oo

GEORGE NORTH:

"On the front cover of Dib Dib Dib there is this bloke jumping out of the top window of a high building and in his hand he holds a copy of Dib Dib Dib and on the front cover of that Dib Dib Dib there is this bloke jumping out of the top window of a high building and holding in his hand a copy of Dib Dib Dib; and on the front cover of that Dib Dib Dib there is this bloke jumping out the top window of a high building and in his hand a copy of Dib Dib Dib; and in that copy of Dib Dib Dib there is this bloke jumping etc etc. ((So starts a typical George North letter - I think I get the point, George.))

I had a similar experience when I held a glass up to a mirror and saw glass; glass, glass, glass, glass, ad infinitum almost. It is strange that these things never go on foe ever and ever though, isn't it. I have tried it in the barber's chair where you see your face, back of the head, face, back of the head

and so on. But no matter how you stand there are always a limited number of times you can do this. Your front cover missed a good chance to prove me wrong. But it would be most interesting to know what the record number of times some feature could be so repeated."

((It would indeed, George - I always thought the mirror trick DID go on ad infinitum (though I've never tried it). Most certainly though my cover did. I can't help it if you're too short sighted to notice, now can I. But you be careful here, this Infinity subject is getting far too close to the dreaded Chimaera style lettercolumn for comfort.))

GEORGE (CONT.):

"Not that anyone would want more than one Dib Dib Dib; good heavens no. ((Seez you)) It can do untold damage to one's mental state. Come back Sandy Peters - all is forgiven. Just look at that Dib's Gallery for your first cranium jolt.

Mind you I actually saw this Lynda Louise Foster on telly when she played for Brighton in the second match following suspension. Bandage round the head to keep the brains in and lost the game four to none. Is it any wonder I ask myself, and answer came there none."

((And answer came there none indeed. I know when to let well enough alone.))

oo000oo

SANDY PETERS:

"No postal Dalmatian breeding then; what a cop-out. In Hopscotch 'Win, Place and Show' we've had horses mating and foaling during races without breaking stride. Where's your problem? What's all this about a masked Egyptian refuse collector offering postal ferret-breeding though? I suspect you've gone right over the top this time, but send me a copy of the rules and a photo of Lynda Louise in a plain buff envelope and I may be tempted."

((Tsk Tsk, this won't do your solid and reliable "I'd buy a second-hand car off him" image any good, Sandy. lynda in a buff envelope indeed....))

oo000oo

But talking of envelopes it's...

LYNDA FOSTER: ((who's quickly taking over Martin Allen's position as bane in my life))

"Thanks for Dib 29, although not all of it pleased me. Not that I usually get pleasure out of zines, not physical pleasure. But I digress. I cannot understand why people think that BIFRA is a joke. It is not. We do have aims. We do have a membership (however small it is). We do care about society, and the need for a better understanding of the ferret and its needs. ((I'm speechless...))

I do not mean to say that our organisation is not without problems; ((no, I can see that would be stretching things too far)) it is involved in a protracted legal wrangle with one of our splinter groups: The Progressive Mole Society. ((Heh heh, subscribers to good literature may lynch you for this letter, Lynda)) This is due to them stealing one of our members, which is a very nasty experience. There is also the problem of the Ferrets Against the Bomb group and the Ferrets Against the Ferrets Against the Bomb: FAB and FAFAB, respectively.

Despite these minor blemishes on our image, there are two insurmountable problems to overcome, ((only two?)) which is very difficult. The first is lack of money.

There are eight members of BIFRA. Four are founder members, and therefore do not pay the £5 sub. Of the others, one is caught up in the PMS case, two are my ferrets (Arthur and Caspar) and the last has let his subscription lapse. This leaves us in the rabbit hutch without a ferret.

The second problem is much more complicated. The Stalybridge Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Ferrets, Polecats, Stoats and Weasals, which

supposedly supports us financially, if not spiritually, has withdrawn its support in favour of the Conservative Party. I suppose Dr. Eichen Von Noddenburger wants a knighthood off Maggie.

I was disappointed to find I had been left out of the birthday honours again. That £500 to Cess Parkinson (known as Pitt to his friends) did no good. ((Take the money and run, eh? ...must be something you said)) As Lord Lichfield said to me the only yesterday: "You've got to be born into it." I wonder if he meant poverty?

P.S. I don't think Matt Quartermain is corrupting your new subbers - they're corrupt already."

((Well if they weren't before they are now, aren't they? You see you lot, you've just been insulted I think. Anyway, as you can see, Lynda is looking for new members. Er p'raps I should rephrase that... Her Club is looking to expand membership - for a small fee of £5 of course.))

oo000oo

MATT QUARTERMAIN:

"I definitely think there should be a new category in the Rusty Bolts awards: The Hobby's smoooothest talker... Biggles should win it hands down. According to his letter in Don't Shoot Me recently, apparently all his friends at Lowbrow (oh, is it pronounced Lufbra? Sorry...) are female. Waaaah... ((Yeah, it's a tough life alright - who is there to belly up to the bar with him and buy him a pint like a mate should. How he must SUFFER!))

The 'Send Cathy to Britain' Club? Yeah! My address is drop in anytime. "Do you think I would leave you crying, when there's room in my..." (Rolf Harris - getaway!) ((It'll serve you right if a big 7 foot 4 inch 500lb bristly American football pro turns up on your doorstep demanding a kiss!))

But then, I personally think that Cathy probably is a real person, and is alive and well and resides in the person of Constance Hackett. Now this could be interesting - I'm playing Sopwith with both. ((Constance doesn't live in America, does she?))

And as for Lynda Foster...! FERRETS! This is a Chameleon zine, whether Tweedykins wants to infiltrate them into his letter column or not. ((Oh no it's NOT!)) Let's not muddy the waters of a once fine zine of c*****ns with warm-blooded creatures, now, shall we? Or I'll ramble on and on about red elephants. ((Good grief...))

And talking of Chameleons, once more ...

((Stone me, some people never learn - still, the next bit may be slightly interesting to variant lovers of Diplomacy))

"I was reading Mr Winstanley's press in issue 26 of Dib Dub Dob, Iuchar game, as Germany, last night. The reason for this was that there was a couple of wallies shouting "Manchester United" and various other obscenities from eleven till three, so I had to do something. ((And to pass the time you read Dib? That's sick...)) And to pass the time I actually put together some rules for Chameleon Diplomacy, which include such things as: nobody knows where the pieces are - when they retreat, not even the player controlling them knows their position; mating season is in the Spring so any convoying done then results in a new unit - sex determined randomly - to be placed in the nearest coastal province to the fleet doing the convoying; adjacent armies and fleets of differing countries result in another new unit, this time neutral, which sits in the nearest free s/c until dislodged, as a piece in Anarchy or whatever. It makes an interesting variant on Stab: perhaps I should call it CRASS Diplomacy: Chameleon Run Awfully Silly Stab Diplomacy? Or Chameleon Run Univeral Diplomacy (CRUD)? ((Oh most definitely the latter)) I think this is an idea worth kicking around. Oh, of course - female units as fleets, male ones as armies - why not?"

((Why not indeed. It never ceases to amaze me the games people play. Never could cotton on to variants myself.))

oo000oo

And talking of crud, Martyn Ives says he has problems with it...

MARTYN IVES:

"Well here I am with another apology for the lack of content in my 'letter'. The end of May until September is the time when all good Royal Marine musicians don't have time to sit down. We spend these months marching up and down at County Shows around the country trying to avoid everything the 'prize bulls' leave all over the grass. The best bit is getting it off your boots afterwards."

((See! Now don't you ever say you don't get to read any bullshit in Dib. Yes it's a tough life in today's modern army alright. Do you ever get to do the Aldershot Army Display show, Martyn? I know they have the massed bands there. I got stuck with that bloody show 4 years running - 2 years as a diver showing the general public how to play chess underwater, 1 year on the Bomb Disposal stand (I think they still have photographs of me in a book they show), and 1 year demonstrating a thermic lance (nearly setting myself on fire) - great stuff. Didn't see any bulls though.))

oo000oo

DEREK ANDREWS:

"The editorial concerning the high percentage of dropouts from Diplomacy games was very thought provoking. In essence I agree with you, but think how the novice feels. He/she writes off to the CGS and receives a zine by return. The world of gaming (postally) is revealed for the first time. This is all weird and wonderful to the newcomer, and he/she promptly wants to get a slice of the action. It is only after they've taken on a few games that the extent of their commitments are realised. Pressure gets too much, deadlines cannot be met, ergo, they bottle-out. Why not organise 'novice only' games. This way, the newcomer can try a game amidst their own peer group, with the proviso that, should the game not be to their taste, they can drop out without any ill-feeling. The newcomer is introduced to postal gaming in a friendly manner, and without inconveniencing the more experienced player. Sure, it's going to be one helluva headache for the GM, but a small price to pay when you think how the hobby may benefit. All those new, dedicated players - a bargain at the price.

Finally ... May I take this opportunity to thank the following for their help and advice: Alan Parr, Paul Simpkins and Pete Tamlyn."

((Well the short answer to this, Derek, is that the CGS games ARE novice only games. Dropouts are always difficult for the GM of course, who may feel the reason for the dropouts are because the players are bored. No-one likes GMing games players are fed up with. But my main argument is that dropouts can destroy a good game for the average interested player - who might then become disillusioned with our hobby and fade out after their game finishes. I'm not saying that this is in fact the case... but I think this is what goes through the mind of anyone GMing such a game.))

oo000oo

SIMON CRADDOCK:

"Mike Singleton hopes to run a version of his game of 'Starlord' (reviewed in Gamer 8) on Prestel's Micronet using the electronic mail to return your orders. Since I don't have a micro I don't know what the game is like, but I can thoroughly recommend Mike's postal version of the game."

((Yes, I've heard about this Micronet game - it's supposed to be very good. Yet another reason towards my decision for a possible link-up maybe. Don't think I can afford it yet though. I'm still saving up for my 'Microvetek' colour monitor. Unless Jan wins the argument and we end up with something trivial like, a new kitchen: fitted bedroom units, etc etc.))

oo000oo

FRANK DUNN:

"Has anyone any idea of how you don't turn green and die in Astro Adventure 'A'? I assume the mirror is important."

((Can anyone help, it's not a game I've heard of...))

oo000oo

And in regards game reviews...

BRIAN MOORE:

"Ah, I see. You need subbers to do the reviewing of games they have got, so you can print them and award free issues for their effort. Good idea. Right then, what would you like a review of? I've got 80+ games to have a go at and that's where the problem lies, I see. Suppose you offered a service you sort of hint at in your reply to my letter. People ask if 'such and such' is a good game or not, then someone writes a review of it. That saves on reviews people don't want, such as a review of Monopoly or in this hobby of ours, Diplomacy. (Or even Scpwith!)"

((And...))

DEREK ANDREWS:

"The idea of DIB becoming a collective for subscribers reviews/articles is well worth thinking about. Especially if punters are free to submit articles on any subject they choose. Issue 30 may well contain an article on the state of Pornography in Kwazululand (complete with Malcolm McLaren soundtrack?), juxtaposed with an article on Ferret Racing. Somebody may even submit a sensible review of Atari cartridges, and save me from wasting £29.95 on crap like Yar's Revenge. Interested?"

((Certainly I am - I'm interested in any sensible reviews with the intention of (a) informing people of exciting games: meaning value for money, and/or (b) warning people of any rubbish that is going around, and therefore NOT value for money. Of course I would prefer to read category 'A', as someones enthusiasm for a game generally makes for more entertaining reading. But to answer Brian's point: it shouldn't be up to subscribers to ask for a particular review (though one can always be offered if someone asks about a game - as you did last issue), but it be sufficient that the contributor thinks it'll be interesting (or important enough) for others to read. e.g. A game I would enjoy reviewing if I had the time would be TSR's 'Dungeon' game. It's a simple game I've enjoyed plying many times with the company of friends.))

(Dib's Gallery cont. from Page 3)

I do not possess any dalmatians, chameleons, ferrets, or bright red elephants, though I did once have a hamster, who has now sadly passed away and whose main claim to fame was a mention in the staff Christmas Show at school, some number of years ago."

((Thanks Daniel, you earn yourself a free issue. I hope you weren't insinuating that Tolkien was one of these lesser authors you mention? If so you may have to start looking over your shoulder.

I won't toss you out because of your left-wing misconceptions (I take ANYONE'S money for my zine) I'll just heavily edit any mention you make of it. Please, let's not go on about censorship. Believe me when I say us Tories are always fair, and NEVER biased or narrow-minded.))

'Anu' (1981DQ)

Spring 1911

GERMANY MOVES FOR A STRONGER POSITION WHILST AUSTRIA CRUELLY STABS ONLY ALLY
(Chapman shows his true colours)

AUSTRIA (Rob Chapman) A(Rom)-Tus, A(Pie) S A(Rom)-Tus, A(Ven) S A(Rom)-Tus, A(Tyr) S A(Pie),
F(Nap)-Rom, F(ION)stands, F(Alb) S F(ION), F(Tri)-ADS, A(Boh)-Sil,
A(Gal)-War, *A(Lvn)-StP, A(Sev)-Mos, A(Ukr) S A(Sev)-Mos, A(Vie)-Gal

FRANCE (Colin Bruce) F(ENC)stands, A(Hol)-Bel, [[A(Bur) S GERMAN A(Mun)]]], A(Mar)-Pie,
F(GOL) S A(Mar)-Pie, A(Tus)-Rom, F(TYS) S A(Tus)-Rom, F(Tun)-ION,
F(WMS)-TYS

GERMANY (John Lee) F(Lon)stands, F(Nor) S A(StP), A(StP) S A(Pru)-Lvn, A(Ruh) S A(Kie)-
Mun, A(Mun)-Sil, A(Kie)-Mun, A(Ber) S A(Mun)-Sil, A(Sil)-Pru, A(Pru)-
Lvn

RUSSIA (Richard Hucknall) *A(Mos) S AUSTRIAN A(Lvn)-StP

Retreats: RUSSIAN A(Mos) dies (NRP); AUSTRIAN A(Lvn) dies (NRP)

LUTON AIRPORT: Slight error last time, Austria didn't in fact make a build in Budapest, but has written orders to the effect of leaving him 1 SHORT. Not easily seen with the way it was worded. Sorry...

GAME-END PROPOSALS: John Lee has a standing vote against all proposals. Both proposals last season were defeated. Another proposal has been put forward: 2-way draw F/A.

PRESS:RUSSIA - GERMANY:

A final defiant 2-fingered gesture to you. I hope Austria wins. ((That thar's fightin' talk from where I come from, Hucknall!))

GERMAN (GOVT) - WORLD: (especially those in the Austrian corner)

As there is no way that I'm going to agree to those stupid game-end proposals which continue to ignore German existence, I hereby publically announce that I've lodged a standing vote against ALL game-ends until further notice. Perhaps this will persuade Mr Chapman to stop trying to catch us all out on a slip of the old memory. OK?

AUSTRIA - GERMANY:

No, we needn't go on. Just vote in favour of the end proposal and we can stop right now.

'Brigida' (1981DV)

Pre-Spring 1910

LUTON AIRPORT: This game is held over until issue 31 - no longer. I do NOT consider holidays a good reason for holding a game over, and will not do so again unless ALL players concerned have agreed. You get away with it this time Chris... Have orders on file from Martin Allen and William Fisk. Orders may be changed at any time.

'Clota' (1981DV)

Autumn 1909

ITALY OUT OF THE GAME

(in a game where everyone seems reluctant to make a move or even build it's surprising)

AUSTRIA (Peter Northcott) A(Sev) S A(Ukr), A(Ukr)stands, A(Gal)stands, A(Vie) S A(Gal), A(Tyr) S
A(Boh), A(Boh)stands, A(Pie)stands, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Nap) S F(Tus)-Rom,
F(Tus)-Rom, F(ION) S F(WMS)-Tun, F(WMS)-Tun

ENGLAND (Karl Piper) F(Edi)stands, A(Lpl)stands, F(Lon)stands

FRANCE (John Wilman) A(Bur) S A(Mar), A(Spa) S A(Mar), A(Mar) S A(Spa), F(MAO) S A(Spa)

GERMANY (Sandy Peters) A(Sil) S A(Mun), A(Ber) S A(Sil), A(Mun) S A(Sil), A(Kie) S A(Mun),
A(Bel)stands, A(Gas) S FRENCH A(Spa)

ITALY (John Field) A(Apu)-Ven, F(Tun)-TYS

(Cont'd over...)

RUSSIA (Alan Sharples) A(Lvn) S A(Mos), A(Mos) S A(War), A(Pru) S A(War), A(War) S GERMAN
A(Sil), F(MAO) S FRENCH F(MAO)

Retreats: None.

LUTON AIRPORT - ALL: Slight error last time I'm afraid. Italy stood the Austrian unit out of TYS (I knew that of course, I just hadn't underlined it), consequently the Italian unit couldn't retreat to Tus, but had to retreat to Apu.

Endgame Proposals: Both proposals last season were defeated. Pete Northcott has a standing vote against anything that doesn't give Austria at least a 1/4 of a Calhamer point. ((I'm not into Calhamer points, Pete, you'll have to enlighten me)) John Field votes against any proposal not including Italy. John Wilman against anything not including France 1st or anything with more than 4 countries. Four more proposals have been put forward:-

- (a) 4-way draw A/F/G/R
- (b) I also have a proposal to END THIS GAME ((similar to proposal 'D' I suppose))
- (c) =1st A/F/G/R; 5th E
- (d) =1st A/F/E/G/R ((which unless a couple of standing votes are changed, should be defeated next time)) ((Votes for next time please - failing to vote counts as 'YES'.))

Winter 1909 Adjustments:

AUS: Vie,Bud,Tri,Ser,Gre,Bul,Smy,Ven,Con,Ank,Sev,Rum,Nap + Rom,Tun	No Change	for 15 (3 SHORT)
ENG: Edi,Lpl,Lon	No Change	for 3
FRA: Spa,Por,Par,Bre + Mar	Builds: F(Bre)	for 5
GER: Kie,Ber,Hol,Mun,(Mar),Den,Bel	No Change	for 6
ITA: (Tun),(Rom)	Disbands A(Apu),F(TYS)	for 0 OUT
RUS: Mos,Swe,StP,Nor,War	No Change	for 5
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'Dagda' (1981GC)

Autumn 1908

FRANCE WINS THE GAME!!

AUSTRIA (Anarchy) Has: A(Bud)

FRANCE (Frank Dunn) F(Bul sc)-Con, A(Gre)-Ser, A(Tri) S A(Gre)-Ser, F(GOL)-Spa sc, F(TYS)-
ION, F(ION)-AEG, A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Gal) S A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Pic)-Ber, F(ENC)-NTH,
F(NTH)-Nor, F(BAR) S F(NTH)-Nor, A(Den)-Swe

GERMANY (Anarchy) Has: A(Kie), A(Lvn), F(BAL), F(Pru), A(War)

ITALY (Anarchy) Has: *A(Vie)

RUSSIA (Karl Piper) A(StP) S F(Nor), F(Nor) S A(StP), A(Mos)-Ukr

TURKEY (Anarchy) Has: F(BLA), A(Sev), A(Rum), *A(Ser), A(Con), F(Smy)

Retreats: ITALIAN A(Vie) dies; TURKISH A(Ser) dies
COA: Karl Piper (back home to Northampton on 25th June)

Winter 1908 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud	No Change	for 1
FRA: Bre,Par,Mar,Por,Spa,Bel,Lon,Lpl,Tun,Nap, Gre,Ven,Rom,Bul,Tri,Den + Ser,Vie,Ber,Swe	Builds: F(Bre), A(Par), F(Mar)	for 20
GER: Kie,Mun,(Ber),Hol,Edi,(Nor),War	No Change	for 5
ITA: (Vie)	No Change	for 0
RUS: Mos,(Swe),StP + Nor	No Change	for 3
TUR: Con,Smy,Ank,Sev,Rum,(Ser)	No Change	for 5
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LUTON AIRPORT: Congratulations Frank for finally winning Dib's first Diplomacy game. Same goes to you, Karl, for your perseverance. Game end statements (if any) will be published next time.

PRESS:

FRANCE - RUSSIA:

Yes you nearly got it right. I've been running Germany for years now until his NMR. Thanks for the staying power.

'Epona' (1982BE)

Autumn 1906

GM FAR FROM PLEASED AT HAVING TO RETYPE THIS RE-ADJUDICATION (see below)

AUSTRIA (Martin Allen) F(Con)-BLA, A(Ser)-Rum, A(Rum)-Ukr, A(Gal) S A(Rum)-Ukr, A(Ven)stands, A(Nap)stands, F(Alb)-Gre, A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Bul)-Con

ENGLAND (Joe Gibbons) A(StP) S RUSSIAN A(Mos), F(BAR) S A(StP), F(HEL)-Hol, F(NTH) S F(HEL)-Hol, A(Den)-Pru, F(BAL) C A(Den)-Pru, A(Ber) & F(IRI) stand unordered

FRANCE (Dave Fish) F(Spa sc)-Por, F(WMS)-MAO, A(Bre)-Pic, A(Gas)-Bur, A(Bel)stands, A(Ruh)-Kie, *A(Hol)stands, A(Sil)-Ber

RUSSIA (Richard Wernick) A(Mos)stands, A(Lvn) S A(Mos)

TURKEY (Ian Tillson) [[F(Smy) S A(Arm)-Ank]] ((IMPOSSIBLE)), A(Arm)-Ank, A(War)-Ukr, A(Sev)-Rum

Retreats: FRENCH A(Hol) dies (WRO)

LUTON AIRPORT: I'm sorry but this game has to be held over again. It was too late to get a re-adjudication to you earlier because Joe Gibbons only pointed his two missing units out to me Friday, the day of the deadline. It was my mistake really, I should have checked his orders. But my mistake was compounded with the fact that Joe was given MY copy of the adjudication (he says he didn't get his) of the previous season. What a cock up. If won't happen again though. In future ADJUDICATIONS STAND UNLESS I'M NOTIFIED WELL BEFORE THE DEADLINE, or, it's not too much of a hassle to myself (mainly) and to the other players. Have orders on file from: Martin Allen, Dave Fish, Richard Wernick, Ian Tillson. Orders may be changed at any time.

End-game Proposal: Proposals last time were defeated. A new proposal has been put forward.
=1st E/F/A; 4th T; 5th R. ((votes for next time please - failure to vote counts in favour))

Winter 1906 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud, Ser, Tri, Rum, Ven, Rom, Gre, Con, Bul, Vie, Nap	Builds: F(Tri), A(Vie) for 11
ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Wor, Swe, Den, StP, (Bel), (Kie) + Hol, Ber	Builds: A(Lon) for 9
FRA: Par, Por, Spa, (Hol), Tun, Mar, Mun, Bre + Bel, Kie	Builds: F(Bre) for 9 ((1 SHORT))
RUS: Mos, (Ber)	GM disbands A(Lvn) for 1
TUR: Smy, Ank, Sev, War	No Change for 4
	34

'Fergus' (1982BT)

Spring 1906

GERMANY NMR'S, AND IS OUT OF THE GAME UNLESS ENGLAND VACATES KIEL

AUSTRIA (Robert Lozynskj) A(Rum) S RUSSIAN A(Mos)-Sev, A(Ser) S TURKISH F(Gre), A(Tri)-Alb, A(Bud)-Tri, A(Vie) S A(Bud)-Tri

ENGLAND (Richard Bass) F(Lpl)-Wal, F(Lon) S F(Lpl)-Wal, F(NTH)-Hol, A(Den)-Kie, F(Ber) S A(Den)-Kie

FRANCE (Mick Antrobus) F(WAO)-NWG, *F(Wal) S F(Bre)-ENC, F(Bre)-ENC, F(ENC)-IRI, A(Hol) S GERMAN A(Kie), A(Bel) S A(Hol), A(Bur)-Mun

GERMANY (Jaap Jacobs) NMR! Has: *A(Kie)

ITALY (Gary Piper) F(AEG) S TURKISH A(Bul), F(ION)-Alb, F(ADS) S F(ION)-Alb, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Ven) S A(Mun)-Tyr

RUSSIA (Julian Shepley) A(Sil)-Boh, A(War)-Sil, A(Mos)-Sev, F(Swe)-BAL, A(Nor)stands

TURKEY (Anarchy) Has: F(Con), F(Smy), F(BLA), *A(Sev), A(Bul), F(Gre)

Retreats: FRENCH A(Wal) dies (NRP); GERMAN A(Kie) dies; TURKISH A(Sev) dies

PRESS:

FRANCE - ITALY:

Seems like a good idea.

GERMANY - WORLD!:

(press cont'd over...)

('Fergus' cont.)

GERMANY - WORLD!:

Either this is the end or else I am a Dutchman. ((You could well be right...))

FRANCE (GOVT) - ITALY:

The Bur-Mun is not meant to be aggressive, but I would object to a certain party occupying Berlin this season. Hope you understand.

FRANCE:

The beloved French president Mon Pierre Bloodnock today stated in parliament "that the downfall of our close friends and confidants in Germany was entirely due to English aggression and promised full retribution on behalf of the depressed Germanic people."

'Goibniu' (1982DG)

Spring 1905

AUSTRIA HITS ITALY HARD - CHANCES OF RECOVERY LOOK BAD

AUSTRIA (Steve Gregory) F(ION) C A(Alb)-Nap, A(Alb)-Nap, A(Tri)-Ven, A(Tyr) S A(Tri)-Ven, A(Boh) S A(Vie)-Gal, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Bud) S A(Ser)-Rum, A(Ser)-Rum, A(Con)-Smy

ENGLAND (Simon Ratcliffe) NMR! Has: F(Lon), F(Edi)

FRANCE (Ian Tillson) A(Par)-Bur, F(Lpl)-Cly, A(Gas)-NAf, F(MAO) C A(Gas)-NAf, *A(Mar)stands, F(Bel)stands

GERMANY (William Fisk) A(Mos)-Sev, A(Ukr) S A(Mos)-Sev, A(Gal)-Sil, A(Mun)stands, A(Ruh) S A(Mun), F(Kie)-HEL, F(Hol)stands, F(Den)-NTH, F(Nor) S F(Den)-NTH, F(NWG)-NAO

ITALY (Chris Sandow) A(Spa)-Gas, A(Pie) S F(GOL)-Mar, F(Gol)-Mar, [[F(WMS) S A(Spa)]], *F(Ven) stands unordered

RUSSIA (Anarchy) Has: *F(Sev)

TURKEY (Anarchy) Has: A(Arm)

Retreats: FRENCH A(Mar)-Gas; RUSSIAN F(Sev) dies

LUTON AIRPORT: The Turkish unit F(BLA) was disbanded by the GM in the Winter 1904 Adjustments - thanks for letting me know, Steve.

PRESS:

AUSTRIA - GERMANY:

I'll swop Rumania for Munich.

AUSTRIA - ITALY:

All roads lead to Rome.

GERMANY - AUSTRIA:

Sure you've got enough bloody armies?

'Herne' (1982D0)

Spring 1905

LUCKY GERMANY IS ALLOWED TO RETREAT TO NORWAY - WHAT IS THE ENGLISH MASTERPLAN?

AUSTRIA (Tim Ball) A(War)-Lvn, A(Ukr)-Mos, A(Sev)-Arm, A(Bud)-Rum, F(ADS)-Alb, A(Vie)-Tyr, F(Tri)-Ven, A(Rum)-Bul, A(Bul)-Gre, A(Ser) S A(Rum)-Bul

ENGLAND (Mark Lipton) F(Bel)-Hol, *F(Den)stands, F(Lon)-NTH, F(ENC) S F(Lon)-NTH, F(SKA) S F(Den), A(Swe) S F(Den)

GERMANY (Dave Tottey) A(Bre)stands, A(Par)-Bur, *F(NTH)-SKA, A(Kie)-Den, F(HEL) S A(Kie)-Den, F(BAL) S A(Kie)-Den

ITALY (Martyn Ives) F(Lpl)-IRI, A(Por)-Gas, F(MAO) C A(Por)-Gas, A(Rom)-Tus, A(Ven)-Iri, F(Apu)-ADS, F(ION) S F(Apu)-ADS, F(Nap)-Apu

RUSSIA (Anarchy) Has: A(StP)

TURKEY (Richard Lewis) A(Con)stands, F(Smy)-AEG, A(Ank)-Arm