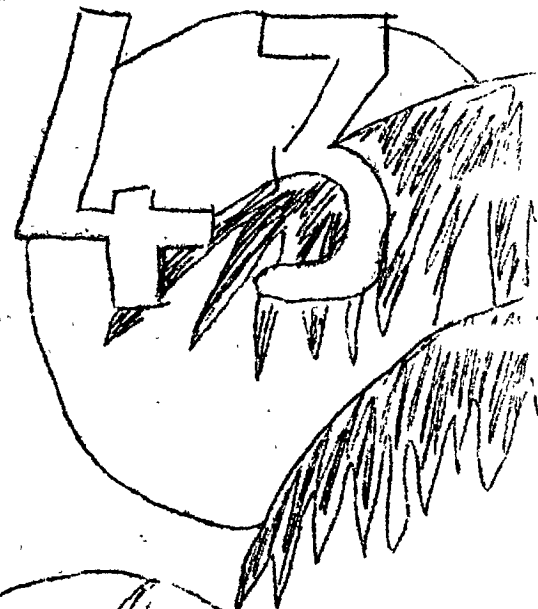
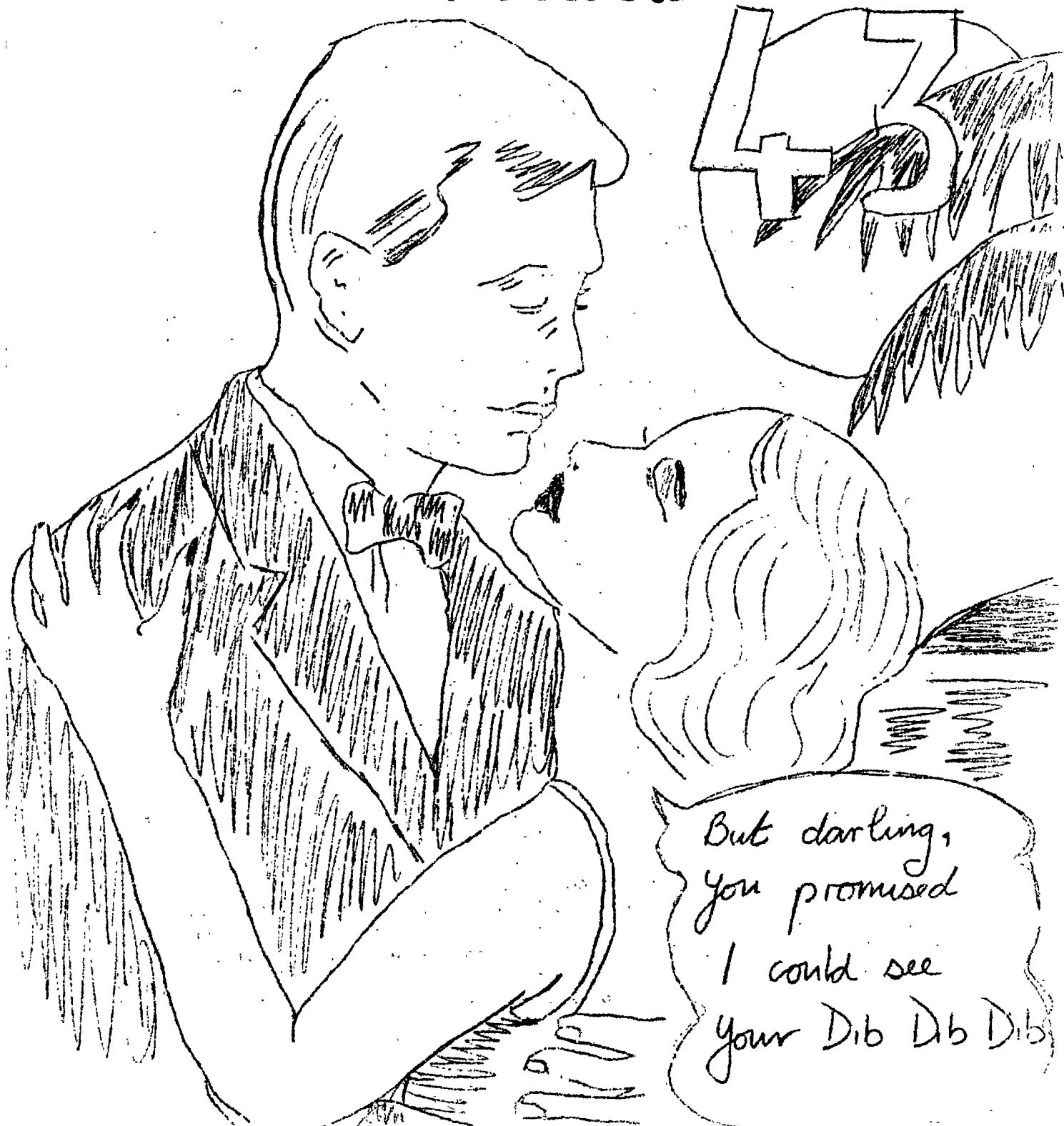


DIB DIB DIB



But darling,
you promised
I could see
your Dib Dib Dib

This is Dib Dib Dib 43 - a postal games zine dedicated to those who like an easy, laid-back style and format, well-run games adjudicated strictly and fairly. What more could a player ask for? Price to subscribers is 40p in the UK, with prices yet to be sorted out abroad. Anyone who wants to send money, send it to me, Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513

EDITORIAL

I seem to have been attacked from all sides with charity appeals for Ethiopia this past month. Every time I open a newspaper, every time I turn the TV or radio on, even my own circle of friends seems to talk (some rather heatedly at times) of nothing else. My own view is based on the outlook of my own life (the only criteria one can really go by), and that is to try and stand on ones own two feet, and try to help others to stand on theirs if the need arises. I've been accused by some of being hard-nosed, and, that I should be a little more like them and give money right away to the immediate need of feeding the dying. This is all well and good, but does it really help? I'm obviously more cynical than some. Why is it I always believe most of the money is being poured away to no good? If there is only a certain amount of money to go around, why is it not being used instead to solve the problems that helped cause the famine? Stopping the war; taking steps to irrigate the land; teaching the population that in the good times having 10 children per family is not always a good idea for the future.

I'll admit I don't know whether some of the problems causing the famine can be coped with (little can be done about the rainfall), but what are the different governments doing about the war? What are they doing about roads, irrigation, long term developments? Is the western world only going to keep the population alive for a few months and then let them die when media interest tails off? I haven't heard anyone trying to educate the British public on how and why such a disaster was allowed to occur in the first place. We're as ignorant to the reasons and possible answers the same as the Ethiopian population is said to be. Hell I can remember Ethiopian appeals when I was younger - what happened to that help? Did it act as ANY kind of buffer towards this famine? If not, will the same mistakes be made again this time? By mistake I refer to the wrong sort of help, food, etc, going to the wrong people; help which takes no account whatsoever the dietary needs of the people needing that help. Yes, dried milk and suchlike have been sent, but to people who couldn't in any way utilise it. It doesn't help either, if one believes the media, to hear of the Ethiopian government buying huge stocks of whisky at their greatest moment of peril. Could it be that they themselves believe in the futility of helping their own people? The thought is a little sickening, but should be asked.

Did anyone see the programme a couple of weeks ago about farmers building their own PERMANENT irrigation canals off the Nile? A, seemingly impossible and absolutely horrendous task! Yet, with government help supplying builders, they laid miles of fairly crude, but very solid, sevicable, clay tiles to form the sides and the bottom of the canals. And all this was built on sand! Suddenly (well, not too suddenly) lots of desert has been reclaimed.

So what is the answer then? It would seem there isn't one. Perhaps none except just giving and not wondering afterwards where the money goes. I suspect most people are content to do this anyway. And actually, it all seems to tie nicely in with the little snippets of philosophy - Bacon, Hobbes, Plato, etc - that have managed to rub off on me from Jan's Open University course (I often get lumbered with these little philisophical discussions) about how everyone is motivated out of self interest in whatever they do. It seems to me quite a few people give money out of guilt, don't wish to be the odd one out in a group, or merely because of some other form of self-interest. But anyway, knowing all this, would it change one ounce of the grain the Ethiopians eat anyway... I certainly doubt it. Perhaps I should be like the rest and just give... and give

the next time the famine hits as well. But dammit, I'd like to find a charity that is doing something to end the famines - even if it's only in some small way. What's my self interest? I wouldn't feel guilty any more about a world that lets children die in such a way, if, by some miracle were somehow able to succeed.

HOBBY MATTERS: Yes, back to earth... calm myself down. Time for a rethink: it seems to me that Dib is seriously on the verge of becoming top-heavy in regards the amount of games it is running, which may be all right for zines with multi-editors and outside GMs, but as I have to GM all my games (bar 3) Dib is closely reaching saturation point. If I take on any more, adjudication mistakes might well start cropping up. I have more Diplomacy games than many other 'Diplomacy zines' so I guess Dib must be popular enough for playing games in. Anyway, this means, I'm sorry to say, that I must close down my waiting lists for the time being. I'll start one more game of Diplomacy (the one now on the waiting list) when it fills, and that'll have to be it for well into the New Year.

Also, players MUST get their orders in for the deadlines on the back of Dib - because I'm trying to keep the turnaround time down, I can't, oh all right Gary, won't accept orders after the stated times. After the Friday morning post arrives I start adjudicating - the last thing I need is someone ringing me up on the Saturday expecting me to feel guilty because I adopt a reasonably hard-line approach. If players can't take deadlines then... raspberries.

YET ANOTHER FOLD: Alec Winton has finally folded Foiled Again. Although I trade I don't know what caused it yet as Alec has sent no explanation. I think maybe apathy set in. It seemed obvious for a long time that he might because of the dangerously long turnarounds. According to Nick Kinzett all the game will be taken over by Lee Paddon's Newspeak - although as Nick was careful to mention, it's a lot of games, and Lee might possibly be asking for too much. Still Nick is bound to keep an eye on this particular problem.

A MINI GAME REVIEW: Surprisingly I bought a new game the other day, called 'Talisman' from Games Workshop - though I say so myself, an excellent addition to the tweedy games library. I say surprisingly because for quite some time now I've been 'off' playing boardgames at home. I think doing a zine does it - by the end of the day (after typing up Dib) the last thing I want to think about is games. Consequently I just stopped buying any. Anyway, about the game. It's for 2-6 players, has a good strong cardboard folding board which I really liked (I can't stand these flimsy cut-out boards they mostly fob us off with nowadays), a good selection of Good, Neutral and Evil characters (anything from a warrior, to a thief, sorceress, troll, etc), spell cards, and adventure cards. I found it different from any other game I've tried, something that is almost unique nowadays; generally a new game is just a remake of another, a point that irritates me considerably when I have to pay such high prices. It played well as a two-player game, a point which most multiple-player games fail to achieve e.g. games like Kingmaker, Monopoly. The board layout is made up of three regions: the Outer (circling the edge of the board), the Middle, and the Inner regions. These regions get slightly harder as you enter them. Basically all one has to do is get one character from an allotted start position in the Outer region (given on the character card), to the Crown of Command square at the centre of the Inner region - picking up adventure cards, spells, and making purchases on the way. And the winner is the last character left on the board. Play requires moderate skill, and complexity is low, thus in this instance (because of my tired brain) it made the game far more fun. It has been a long time since I've enjoyed a board game so much (having, as I said, got bored with my other games). Recommended that you get the game if you like entertaining as it'd make a good house-con game.

Thanks to all those that sent good wishes and Birthday cards - so good of you all to remind me I'm now getting on in years. One such card, from that scourge of British zines, Cathy Cunniff, had a picture of a scantily-dressed pretty girl on the outside with the caption "Would you like one of these for your Birthday?" And on the inside: "Or would you rather have something a man your age could use?"

Ooo, hurtful. I wouldn't mind so much, but the fact of the matter is; at 36 years of age and feeling as old as I do, I think she may well be right!! And there was I, at 24 years of age, vowing to myself that I was definitely going to grow up and be a dirty old man. Oh sweet youth, where are thy dreams now? My word though, Cunning will pay for bringing this point home!

~~~~~

JOTTO Turn 6

|                  |             |                 |             |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| James Steele:    | 6th: 230121 | Richard Sharp:  | 6th: 222121 |
| James Cowie:     | 6th: 020321 | George North:   | 6th: 111101 |
| Ulf Jiretorn:    | 6th: 302212 | Brian Moore:    | 6th: 121212 |
| Larry Trask:     | 6th: NMR!   | Richard Morris: | 6th: NMR!   |
| Richard Lampard: | 6th: 233102 | Tim Collieu:    | 6th: 231321 |
| Richard Downes:  | 6th: 322132 | Nicholas Whyte: | 6th: NMR!   |

Still no guesses yet - chicken lot. Those who NMR'd may catch up next time by sending two words next time.. It shouldn't be too long now before someone starts guessing. Who will panic first I wonder?

~~~~~

Pigbutton: from Clive Palmer and Peter Groome. Quite a nice zine this - looking at it one would think they've been publishing for years. Certainly not one of these sloppy first issue jobs one normally associates with mimeo produced zines. The zine looks very much like Glover Rogerson's Denver Glont - which is not too surprising I suppose as Clive and Peter, apart from being DG subscribers, deliberately modelled Pigbutton on it's zany offbeat style. The only fault I can find with this is that they may have gone too far in copying Glover's diaboical misuse of the letter 'i' for the personal pronoun. A small point I know, but it really does irritate after a while, and tends to distract the reader from what is actually being said. Has game openings for Judge Dread, MAD Diplomacy, Downfall III, Regular Diplomacy, Sopwith and Baseball Wars - no game fees for any of them (though Pete provided maps for 25p). The zine costs 15p plus postage. Reccommend you ask to see a copy. Send trades (and I suppose suggestions, money) to:-
Clive Palmer, Tulluch 23, David Russell Hall, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland.

REGARDS CHRISTMAS COA'S: Christmas is nearly upon us, but then I hardly need to remind you all about that, do I? What I do need to remind you about though, is changes of address. As my address list is at last up to date and is being printed on the next couple of pages, I think now might be a good time to suggest that all those leaving University, coming home from abroad, or whatever, please let me know their change of address and how long they're likely to be at the new address e.g. 10th Dec - 12th Jan.

This would be a great help, because what I don't want to have to do is hold over games because someone had their zine sent home/to university, or whatever, when they were somewhere else entirely. If you're playing a game in Dib SEE THAT YOU GET YOUR CHRISTMAS ZINE by giving me your correct Yuletide address. I don't want any excuses when players suddenly realise they haven't had Dib for two months and then ring me up at the last minute to hold over their game. If you even think you'll be moving around a lot, and Dib is unlikely to catch up with you, tell me NOW, so I can warn the other players in time that the game will be held over.

And just to cap this point - please contact me if you haven't received your issue of Dib at least 2 weeks after the deadline; it certainly would never be later and so it must mean that your copy was lost in the post. Don't leave it for 4 weeks and ring me the day of the deadline...

ADDRESS LIST FOR DIB'S SUBSCRIBERS AND TRADES

Kenny Adams, 262 Drumchapel Road, Glasgow, G15 6DS.

Martin Allen, 15 Ragley Crescent, Broom Park, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B60 2BD. H/Tel. 0527 72092

Derek Andrews, 18 Hume Street, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 3QR. Tel. 0923 574731

Stuart Bailey, Post Office, Bitton, Bristol, BS15 6HQ. Tel. Bitton 4074

Richard Bairstow, 20 Queen's Drive, Guildford, GU2 6PP. Tel. 0483 38247

Ralph M. Baker, 3 Summit Close, Jericho, Bury, Lanc. BL9 7TS. Tel. 061 764 6379

Chris Bartrum, 20 York Road, Montpelier, Bristol, BS6 5QE. Tel. 0272 553394

Richard Bass, Rowly Cottage, Rowly Drive, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8PN. Tel. 0483 271692

Mick Bensted, Harrietsham Manor, Nr. Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1NR. Tel. 0622 859253

Mark Billenness, 20 Winifred Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3 3JA. Tel. 01 660 8608

David Bird, 13a Roman Vale, Priory Avenue, Old Harlow, Essex. Tel. 0279 24987

Pete Birks, 65 Turney Road, London, SE21 7JB. Tel. 01 274 3731

John Boogert, Flat 6, 51 Bradley Gardens, Ealing, London W13. 01 997 1420

Pauline Lesley Booth, 12 Bassford Avenue, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE7 7SS. Tel. 0773 761944

Colin Bruce, The Librarian, Elmwood Agricultural & Technical College, Carslogie Road, Cupar, Fife, Scotland.

John Bycroft, 9 Barfield Grove, Leeds, LS17 8TF. Tel. 0532 680878

Peter Calcraft, 13 Ridgeway Road, Long Ashton, Nr. Bristol, BS18 9EX. H/Tel. 027580 3357

John Cavanagh, 15 Waverley Drive, Chertsey, Surrey.

Geoff Challinor, 117 Shrubbery Road, South Darenth, Kent, DA4 9AP. Tel. 0322 862213

Rob Chapman, 7 Baymount, Paignton, Devon, TQ3 2LD. Tel. 0803 551045

Jake Cheung, 15 Albert Road, Retford, Notts, DN22 6JD.

Nick Clark, 25 Broadclyst Gardens, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 3QP.

Martin Clifford-King, 11 Lordsbury Field, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9OE. H/Tel. 01 669 9920

Nicholas Clifton, 4 Bonchester Close, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5HS. H/Tel. 01467 5396

Mike Close, Lamont, Claude Road West, Barry, South Glamorgan. CF6 8JG. H/Tel. 0446 737733.

Luke Clutterbuck, 182 Princes Street, Ryde, NSW, 2112, Australia.

Tim Collieu, Soliel d'or, Bradfield, Berks., RG7 6AJ.

James Cowie, 24 Cyllin Court, Hallqleñ, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

Simon Craddock, 34 Woodfield, Parkhill Road, London, NW3. Tel. 01 5860140

David Crawford, 14 Kiln Street, Fintona, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. BT78 2BG.

Cathy Cuning, 1526 N. Lawler Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60651 U.S.A..

Mike Dean, 19 Peterson House, 25 Rosangle, Dundee.

Mike Deans (Private & Confidential), Fjellsenden 4, 4000 Stävanger, Norway.

I. J. Dibden, 5 Lampeter Square, London, W6 8PS.

Konrad Dolata, Hermann-Loens-Weg 34, D-5650 Solingen M, W. Germany.

Paul Donley, 7 Dan-yr-heol, Cyncoed, Cardiff, CF2 6JU.

Richard Downes, 8 Treasury View, Ickham, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 1QY. Tel. 0227 721337

John Field, 19 Forest Way, Ashstead, Surrey, KG21 1JN. H/Tel. 03722 75515

P.L. Finch, 24 Chestnut Road, Shirley Warren, Southampton, SO1 6BP.

David Fish, 30 Derby Avenue, Upminster, Essex, RM14 2NR.

Iain Forsyth, 6 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire. H/Tel. 0294 61414

Iain Forsyth, Reduction Works, Braken Mines Ltd, PO Box 73, Evander 2280, South Africa.

Graham Freeman, 14 Garden Village, Micklefield, Leeds, LS25 4AB. Tel. 0532 861108

Alan Frost, 33 Fryent Close, Blackrod, Bolton, BL6 5BU.

Gil Gavel, 13 Chamberlain Street, London, NW1 8XB.

Joe Gibbons, 42 Elm Park Road, Reading, Berks., RG3 2TN.

Steve Gregory, 83 Dean Close, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2BX.

Victor Hall, 101 Oyster Lane, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7JF.

Dylan Harris, 76 Haddo House, Haddo Street, Greenwich, London, SE10. Tel. 01 305 0604

Bill Haygarth, 37 Charter Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG2 7AB. Tel. 01 554 3934

Ken Haywood, 39 Acaster Lane, Bishopthorpe, York, YO2 1SA. Tel. 0904 704584

Neil Hopkins, 8 Highfield Avenue, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5UA.

Nick Hoyle, Am Dahnbach 26, 7160 Gaildorf-Münster, W. Germany. Tel. 010 49 79714566

Martyn Ives, 76 Lumsden Road, Southsea, Hants., PO4 9LR. Tel. 0705 823993

Ian Jago, 46 Welland Avenue, Gartree, Market Harborough, Leics., LE16 7RW.

Ulf Jiretorn, Algbacken 2 D, 372 00 RÖNNEBY, Sweden.

Steve Jones, 6 Kingsdown, Hitchin, Herts. H/Tel. 0462 35195

John Keight, 12 Langham Gardens, Gordon Road, London, W13 8PY. H/Tel. 01 998 8224

Geoff Kemp, 23 Raygill, Wilnecote, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4JY.

Nick Kinzett, 11 Daleway Road, Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6SF. Tel. 0203 414759

R.J. Lampard, 14 Richmond Gardens, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8ES.

Steve Lewis, 8 Worwood Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2EE. Tel. 0232 651921

Richard Lewis, 15 Mistwood Hayes, Moseley Parklands, Wolverhampton, West Midlands. WV10 8UQ.

Dr. Mark Lipton, Blue Hills, Long Meadow, Gayton, Wirral, Merseyside, L60 8QQ. Tel. 0513425518

Niall Litton, 47 Queens Place, Summerseat, Bury, Lancs. BL9 5PH.
 Wick Lourie, 15 Brocklebank Road, London, SW18, Tel. 01 870 6819
 Robert Lozynskyj, 41 Rockfield House, Hendon, London, NW4 2BH. H/Tel. 01 203 4780
 Grahame MacLennan, 6 Melrose Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8UP. Tel. 0932 41169
 John Marsden, 17 Church Road, St. Leonards, Hastings, TN37 6EF. Tel. 0424 440846
 Pete Mason, 29 Brampton Lane, Anchorage Park, Portsmouth, PO3 3TB. Tel. 0705 671208
 Pete Mearns M.A. C.A., 63 Firthview Drive, Inverness, Tel. 0463 221080
 Jeremy Miles, 39 Balance Street, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ST14 8JQ.
 James Mills-Hicks, 71 Leman Street, Mayfair Park, Derby, DE3 3UY.
 Brian Moore, 87 Pimlott Road, Hall i'ith'wood, Bolton, Lancs. BL1 8TW. Tel. 0204 58228
 Richard Morris, 1 Highland Vile, Lightcliffe, Halifax, W. Yorks. HX3 8AG. H/Tel. 0422 206139
 Paul Morton, 22 Munro Road, Bushey, Herts, Work Tel. 01 954 2311 ext 4102
 Jon Moss, 29 Cherryholt Avenue, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4 3PS. Tel. 061 442 7314
 Mike Motley, 53 Huntley Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield, S11 7PB.
 Simon Nightingale, 91 Tennal Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B32 2JB. H/Tel. 021 427 1168
 Steve Worledge, 75 Hawkhurst Way, W. Wickham, Kent, BR4 9PE.
 George North, 24 Wigton Road, Romford, Essex, RM3 9HD. H/Tel. 04023 47586
 Peter Northcott, 16 Fawley Road, West Hampstead, London, NW6 1SH. H/Tel. 01 794 6024
 Clive Palmer, Tulluch 23, David Russell Hall, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland.
 Neil Parkin, 1 Cartmel Close, Dronfield Woodhouse, Sheffield, S18 5PF.
 Alan Parr, 6 Longfield Gardens, Tring, Herts, HP23 4DN. Tel. 044282 4173
 Colin Pickard, 5 Pattons, Stoke St. Mary, Taunton, Somerset. Tel. 0832 442467
 John Piggott, 'Bosworth House', Central Wall Road, Canvey Island, Essex. SS8 9PQ.
 Gary Piper, 4 Woodstock, Billing Road Northampton, Tel. 0604 27521
 Mike Pollard, 208 Fairwater Drive, Woodley, Berkshire, RG5 3JF. Tel. 0734 694773
 Alan Powis, 14 Wyrley Close, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV12 5JY.
 Matt Quartermain, 138 Three Bridges Road, Three Bridges, Crawley, W. Sussex. RH10 1JP. Tel. 0293 39919
 Nigel Quinn, 3 Alma Way, Newtown, Birmingham, B19 2LN.
 Steve Rennie, Flat 5, 17 Tierney Road, Streatham Hill, London SW2.
 Chris Sandow, 2 Coronation Avenue, Keynsham, Bristol, BS18 2PT. Tel. 027 56 68874
 Richard Sharp, 27 Elm Close, Amersham, Bucks., H/Tel. Am 6148. Work Tel. GX 87241
 Alan Sharples, 13 Eccleiriggs Avenue, Hawcoat, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 4NG. Tel. 0229 29460
 Julian Shepley, Shackleford House, Shackleford, Godalming, Surrey. GU8 6RX.
 Piers Shepperson, 264 Lee High Road, Lewisham, London, SE13 5PL.
 Iain Singer, 19 Rosefield Gardens, Uddington, Glasgow, G71 7AW. Tel. 0698 815006
 Andrew Smith, 8 Nicholas Gardens, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey. GU22 8SD.
 Chris Spall, 17 Duppas Hill Road, Croydon, Surrey. CRO 4BG.
 James Steele, 1 Bowfield Cottages, Howwood, Renfrewshire, Scotland. PA9 1DB. Tel. 050 57 3650
 Dave Tant, 32 Nursery Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4SZ. H/Tel. 01303 7405
 Ian Tinson, 5 Shackleton Way, Woodley, Reading, RG5 4UU. Tel. 0734 697916
 Larry Trask, 11 Carnatic Close, Carnatic Road, Liverpool, L18 8DW. Tel. 051 724 2301 EXT 211
 Chris Tringham, 204 Beulah Hill, London, SE19 3UX,
 Richard Walkerdine, 144 Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6PG. Tel. 0483 577312
 Richard Wernick, 247 Huntingfield Road, London. SW15 5ER,
 Nicholas Whyte, Loughbrickland House, Loughbrickland, Co Down, BT35 3NH. Tel. Banbridge 22637
 Spt. Steve Williams, Warrant Officers & Sergeants Mess, RAPC Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants. SO21 2RG.
 John Wilman, Flat 2, 37b High Street, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4LT. H/Tel. 0353 61553
 Ian Winstanley, 400 Billinge Road, Highfield, Wigan, Lancs. WN3 6BM. Tel. 0942 217935

UNIVERSITY AND OTHER ADDRESSES

Martin Allen, 14 Trafford Road, Headington, Oxford, Oxfordshire.
 Ralph M. Baker, Hobsons 5a, St. Catharines' College, Cambridge, CB2 1RL.
 Martin Clifford-King, 88 Argyle Road, Southampton, SO2 0BQ, Tel. 0703 38993
 Nicholas Clifton, Clifton Hill House, Lower Clifton Hill, Bristol, BS8 1BX. Tel. 0272 733528
 Tim Collieu, Room 409, Dame Agnes Weston Hall, 237 Albert Road, Devonport, Plymouth.
 Paul Donley, Telford Hall, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3UA.
 R.J. Lampard, Collingwood College, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LI.
 Peter Northcott, 'Lake Hall' The Vale, Church Road, Edgbagton, Birmingham. B15 3SX.
 Colin Pickard, 61 Osborne Road, Levenshulme, Manchester, M19 2DU.
 Matt Quartermain, c/o 52 Enid Wood House, High Street, Bracknell, Berks., RG12 1LW.
 Piers Shepperson, 16 Selwyn Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EB,
 Andrew Smith, Hope Hall, Prince of Wales, Exeter, EX4 4PL.

As my subscriber list has changed, and with so many others moving around, I thought it was about time I printed an update of where people are. As you can see I've also printed telephone numbers - if anyone doesn't want their number known please let me know for next time (it's too late now).

LETTERS

I'm way behind time getting the zine out this month (it's now Friday the 16th) so I guess I've only time for a small column this issue...

GEORGE NORTH:

"You are wrong if you think the reader loves to hear editors raving on about what they did at some blighters house party. It depends how it is written, of course, but mostly these scribes have got bored and gone down the pub, come back drunk and try to show off how much beer they have sopped by throwing it up for all to appreciate. Seldom does an editor tell how he thoroughly enjoyed himself, etc etc.

At the con I attended many years ago we slept the night, and I waited for ages to see who would be first to suggest we went and found an eating place, and nobody ever did. Instead, some nut staggered in with cans of beer and packets of crisps and that was that. I went alone and unaided to search for a cafe or a fish & chip shop and I don't think anybody even realised I was missing. Cons are for the clique in my opinion."

((This sounds a bit unfair on cons, George - certainly what you say doesn't sound like the house cons I hosted. Admittedly it's 'invitation only' cons where I know most of the people, but certainly one or two people I don't know show up as friends of those invited. Generally the cons go quite well, and so they should because Jan's a good cook and she sees there is plenty to eat - an important point in running a good con. Mind you, I do get a bit put out if someone doesn't pull his weight. There have been a couple who have treated Jan as 'the little woman' and expect to be waited on hand and foot, but these are soon weeded out. What does surprise me, as I am supplying most meals and the beds, is not many offer to treat Jan and myself to things like a chinese take-away. (we both love Indian and Chinese food), just to ease the household cooking and everything. We do drop hints, but generally hobby members are a pretty much a thick(skinned) lot.

As for writing about such events, I think it's a good thing. I remember when I first joined the hobby, many years ago now, where I couldn't read enough of the daft antics of such stalwarts as Pete Mearns, Paul Oppenshaw, Clive Booth and their cronies. It's what the hobby is all about. I just wish I could be there being as daft with them. And I think most hobby members would feel the same.

Admittedly things seemed to have calmed down a bit nowadays, people take things a little more seriously and don't write as much about the daft tricks, but accounts of MidCon and suchlike can still make interesting reading. Of course, I realise it all depends on who is doing the writing, but hell, this is all part of our hobby, let's have more of it. Mind you, personally I'm getting too old to run cons at my house; believe me, keeping an eye on a houseful of gaming loonies can put years on you.))

oo000oo

DAVID ALLOTT:

"In Boojum, Richard Morris states that Dib Dib Dib is right wing. However, bearing in mind his present political status, that could mean anything. So, purely as a matter of interest, I would be interested to know the political status of the magazine; (rate 1=you subscribe to Militant, 10=you ride with the Vale of Ayelsbury hunt)."

((An unusual request - but as you ask I'd have to say on your scale of 1-10 Dib would come about 7. Personally, I'm about 10 but I don't let it rub off too much in Dib, where it might offend the delicate natures of some of the pinko scum and liberal wets that subscribe to this glorious rag.))

oo000oo

ALAN FROST:

"I read a deeply perceptive letter in the last Dib. I thought "this chap's

(Cont over...)

got the right idea. Pity he didn't put in this, that and the other. That sentence looks unfinished. That's ungrammatical. Sound fellow though. Who is it? Who? Me?! I don't remember writing that!"

I'm not vain, so I only re-read it 10 times or so. It wasn't exactly wrong, but it wasn't exactly what I said either. I've noticed an ungrammatical tendency in letters in Dib, ((Wot! surely you jest?)) and I just assumed that Diplomacy players were illiterate - most people are, these days. Perhaps it's the editing or copying that's at fault. My telling points, couched in flowing prose, lost their keenness. No wonder Lawwy Twask thinks we can't handle our own language.

Perhaps you could get the incomparable Jan (my wife's called Jan, too, so the 'incomparable' comes easily) anyhow, get she-who-must-be-obeyed (my wife's called that, too) to read letters through to you after copying.

This is not really a complaint just constructive criticism since Dib is an excellent zine and well worth 40p or even more (do I get the free copy Tom?).

However, I likened the letter column to the Times, last time. Perhaps the Grauniad (Guardian to non-Private-Eye readers) would be closer to the mark.

Well, Bloody hell! It's Hallowe'en and we've just had a load of kids knocking on the door asking for "Trick or Treat". These sodding Yanks have got a lot to answer for. What have you got to say to that, Trask? Encouraging begging. I suppose Americans call that 'free enterprise' (I said "trick" and let the dog loose. Surprise, surprise! It was a treat to watch!"

((Now listen 'ere, Frost, I've just about had enough of your trouble-making ways, so most of my subscribers, myself, Sharp and Trask, know nowt about aramma, this is not a literary hobby y'know! I have trouble enough typing this little lot, without having the job of getting it right as well.

But to answer some of your points. It was Jan, admittedly the brains of this family, who typed your letter into the computer last issue. Sometimes... MOSTIMES I check what she's done as she's not exactly the best typist in the world, but, I must admit that I didn't get much of a chance last issue other than to glance at typiung errors (like that one). From what I could see it looked the same. However, I feel it only fair to point out that most copy typing is done a sentence at a time - this being the case the typist's own words might creep in. The sentence means the same, but the words are different. Now, I'm not saying this was the case in regards your letter, but most hobby copy typists will give you the same excuse. My apologies if Jan got it wrong - be assured I'll chastise her later on.))

oo000oo

RICHARD SHARP:-

"You certainly resemble your late mentor, the unlamented Constable Booth - trying to argue with you is like trying to arm-wrestle an electric eel. I shall merely say that in normal English, 'not top' is not the same as 'bottom', and 'not win' is not the same as 'lose'."

((Hah, what you're trying to say, Richard, is, like Clive Booth I too have you over a barrel because my arguments are correct. Please, there is no need to explain further.))

RICHARD (CONT.):

"I suppose I'd also better reply to the wretched Marsden - trust a Liberal to defend himself before anyone's attacked him. My 'article', for want of a better word, is entirely accurate as a statement of what I know about the position.

For example, John says that he received nothing from John Piggott and copuldn't be aware of any standing orders... as if I had accused him of tearing them up. What I actually said was that John P. had apparently not passed on my standing order, and indeed this appears to be the case. As for the so-called 'untruths' which J.M. lists, well...

(1) The statement that 'everyone voted for the draw' is in quotes to indicate that it was said to me by John Piggott; most people are familiar with the use of quotation marks to indicate reported speech. If this is an 'untruth' (unlikely) it's not mine.

(2) The statement that John M. sent Robert his copy by surface mail is not in my article at all, I said it travelled by sea, a different matter, and an event which all GMs are familiar with. It is also clear from the context that this knowledge is obtained from Robert Correll's letter to me. How else could I know?

(3) The statement that Robert Correll NMR'd is true - a player who resigns sends no orders, which is what the common abbreviation 'NMR' means.

(4) The statement that Dave Johnson 'was very surprised' is based on a phone-call from Dave to me about three years ago, when he rang from America to ask for a copy of my book. I said, "You rat, I hear you fiddled yourself a win in 1974-N." He said, "Yeah, surprised the hell out of me." Well, he should know.

Well there you go. I have looked at my article again, searching for a word of 'accusation' against the virtuous Marsden, but in vain, there are none.

As for his comic suggestion that I repay him the 'many pounds' he seems to feel I owe him, how am I supposed to do that? I have repeatedly and publicly offered to repay any money anyone feels I still owe them from 1979, but never a word have I heard from John until now. Do I ask for copies of his old phone bills? Write him a blank cheque and hope for the best? (Of course, he never did telephone me about 1974-N, because if he did he couldn't say he didn't know about the standing order. Anyway, why should I refund him the cost of that - I didn't ask him to restart this completed game.)

In short, I did not and do not accuse John Marsden of anything."

((Well there's a couple of points I can pick up: in sub para (2), Richard, it's obvious if orders are said to 'travel by sea' that they're going via surface mail - how can it be classed otherwise? It's not Air Mail, is it? Also, sub para (3) is debatable. Normally if someone resigns they go into anarchy and all units stand - NMR's (No Moves Received) are reserved for players who fail, normally unintentionally, to get orders in. A different thing entirely I would have thought. - Com'on, Richard, admit it eh, you were wrong again! As for the rest, well, I'm sure John can answer for himself.))

oo000oo

IAIN FORSYTH:

"What kind of printer do you have for your computer? I have a 48K Spectrum and am thinking about buying a couple of microdrives and a printer for it while I'm back. ((From darkest Africa)) I have some nice software for it, but without a printer it's not much use."

((I must agree with you there; a computer without a printer is just so much a toy/arcade machine. Well, the printer I have, Iain, is an 'Olympia ESW 103' daisywheel typewriter/printer. At just over £1000 it's a little expensive, but at the time, when I wanted to interface a printer to my Apple, I had a relatively new electric typewriter to trade in. Also, because I wanted to produce Dib on it, I needed a 17" wide carriage, stencil cutting workhorse - which is what the Olympia is; it's on the go constantly and takes a lot of hammer.

But it's like anything else with computers; first you must decide what you want to use your printer for. If I wasn't producing Dib I'd go for a nice matrix printer about £500. For this price you could get all the essentials: 17" carriage, single sheet friction feed (a must if you write lots of important letters) as well as tractor feed (for fan-fold paper and labels), graphics and a fairly good quality letter print. And of course matrix printers are so FAST. Daisywheels are all well and good for quality print but of course no way can they produce decent graphics (some I believe do use the dot in a fashion). Hope that's of some help.

But to digress a little, and while I'm on the subject of computers. BBC 'B' owners might be interested in what I found out about Beeb disk drives. Stuart has decided he'd like a disk drive for his BBC (I'll get to the reason why this started off in a minute) - consequently he began saving for it. As Stuart's beeb needed a DFS fitted (Disk Filing System, or DOS, Disk Operating System, they're both the same) as well as the drive, we decided it would be a good idea if he paid for the DFS, and we would buy the drive for his Christmas present. To cut a

long story short, I decided that the best DFS was the one made by Watford Electronics (£113), and the best drive (because of the price) was the Cumana drive, the CS100 (£150). Fitting the DFS (1 eprom, 8 IC's and a small board) was a bit of a struggle, nevertheless we made it without destroying the guts of the Beeb.

To justify the purchase for a disk drive we (Stuart and I) cited the new BBC game by Acornsoft, called 'Elite'. I've always thought Sir-Tech's 'Wizardry' was the best computer game ever made (a D&D computer game with its 3 scenarios), but I have to admit, this Elite game, which is a 3D space fighting/trading game, is just as good. We bought the cassette version and couldn't put it down. The only trouble was, the cassette version doesn't have some of the extras the disk version has; things like military lasers, mining lasers, and 8 or so extra different type/class of spaceships. So we sold the cassette version immediately and ordered the disk version. A highly recommended game for these long cold wintery night.))

oo000oo

And; last and most definitely least, as you know I always try and finish with a loony... so here we have...

LUKE CLUTTERBUCK:

"I've been reading your letter column for a while now searching desperately for that elusive collection of words which forms what is called in the vernacular a 'sentence with meaning'. I now realise that this was the wrong approach. Correct me if I'm at fault but it seems to me that the idea behind DDD letters is to pick some subject about which no real person could ever conceivably have an argument like 17th century English Language or the word 'jeopardize' or some obscure ten year old game, and then attack it with zeal usually reserved for contentions such as 'You should be shot' or 'let's have a nuclear war'. I've got it! They aren't real people. Ian Winstanley and Cathy Cuning and Richard Sharp don't really exist do they? ((Unfortunately they do)) They're just make believe. Your letter column is just one big D&D game isn't it?

Can I play? I'd like to invent a character which I'll call Luke Clutterbuck (well, if you're going to invent a name you may as well go to town on it!) and I'd like to argue about the assertion that 'a banana is but a pimple on another man's knee' and I'll take the case against. OK?"

((At last, someone who has seen through my ruse. You're quite correct, Luke, my column is like one huge D&D game. And yes, anyone can play. It helps of course if you're a borderline nutcase, which I'm sure you are, and can tell you most of my subscribers are, but for God's sake don't tell the 'serious' people - they may never write again.))

Well, that's it for a reasonably short letter column this issue - I hope I managed to copy everything out correctly this time. I'm okay until I get to the long words Sharp, Piggott and Trask use, damn them. Serves me right for letting such undesirables into Dib in the first place, I suppose.

'Lamfhada' (1983EE)

Autumn 1905

RUSSIA APPEARS TO HELP EVERYONE, YET STILL SNEAKS AHEAD - HOW DOES CLOSE DO IT?

AUSTRIA (James Cowie) A(Vie)-Tri, A(Bud) S A(Vie)-Tri, A(Ser) S RUSSIAN A(Rum)-Bul
 ENGLAND (David Crawford) F(Hol)-NTH, F(Lon) S F(Hol)-NTH, A(Yor)-Edi
 FRANCE (Alan Sharples) A(Ruh)-Hol, A(Bel) S A(Ruh)-Hol, *A(Mun)-Kie, F(MAO)-NWG, F(Lpl)stands,
 F(Bre)-ENC, F(Spa-sc)-MAO, *F(NTH)-Den, A(Pic) stands unordered
 GERMANY (R.J. Lampard) A(Ber)-Mun, A(Kie) S A(Ber)-Mun
 ITALY (Paul Donley) A(Tyr) S A(Ven), A(Ven) S A(Tyr), F(ION)-Gre, F(Nap)-TYS
 RUSSIA (Mike Close) F(Nor) S ENGLISH F(Hol)-NTH, F(Den) S GERMAN A(Kie), A(Sil) S GERMAN
 A(Ber)-Mun, A(Rum)-Bul, A(Gal)-Rum, A(Ukr) S A(Gal)-Rum
 TURKEY (Simon Craddock) A(Alb)-Gre, [[F(Bul-ec) S AUSTRIAN A(Ser)-Rum]], F(AEG) S A(Alb)-Gre,
 F(EMS)-ION, A(Con) S F(Bul-ec)

Retreats: FRENCH A(Mun)-Bur; FRENCH F(NTH)-SKA

Winter 1905 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud, Vie, Tri + Ser	Builds: A(Vie)	for 4
ENG: Lon, Edi, (Hol)	Disbands F(Lon)	for 2
FRA: Par, Mar, Bre, Spa, Por, Bel, Lpl, (Mun), (Kie) + Hol	Disbands F(Spa-sc)	for 8
GER: Ber, (Den) + Mun, Kie	Builds: A(Ber)	for 3
ITA: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun	No Change	for 4
RUS: StP, Mos, War, Swe, Nor, Sev + Den, Rum	Builds: F(StP-nc), F(Sev)	for 8
TUR: Smy, Con, Ank, Bul, (Rum), (Crc), (Ser)	No Change	for 5
		34

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Alan: Sorry about your credit, you were right.

Austria - All: Sorry about lack of communication - I'm in the middle of flitting. ((Then what about a COA, James?))

Italy - France: Sorry again, but I needed room for a build.

'Macha' (1983EN)

Autumn 1905

RUSSIANS PUSHED BACK BY THE MIGHTY FRENCH HORDES

ENGLAND (Anarchy) NMR!! Has: F(Lon), F(Lpl)
 FRANCE (Bill Haygarth) F(NWG) S F(NTH)-Nor, F(NTH)-Nor, F(Wal)-ENC, F(ENC)-NTH, A(Hol) S A(Kie),
 A(Kie) S A(Mun), A(Ruh) S A(Mun), A(Mun) S ITALIAN A(Tyr)-Boh, A(Bur) S
 A(Mun)
 ITALY (Alan Frost) A(Tyr)-Boh, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Bud)-Gal, A(Ser)-Rum, F(Gre)-Bul-sc,
 F(EMS)-Smy, F(ION)-Gre, F(Alb) S F(ION)-Gre
 RUSSIA (Steve Rennie) *A(Boh)-Mun, A(Gal)-Rum, A(Sil) S A(Boh)-Mun, A(Ber) S A(Boh)-Mun,
 F(Den)-NTH, *A(Nor)stands, A(Rum)-Bul, F(BLA) S A(Rum)-Bul, A(Arm) S
 ITALIAN F(EMS)-Smy, A(Pru) S A(Ber)
 TURKEY (Ulf Jiretorn) A(Bul) S F(Con), F(AEG) S A(Bul), F(Smy) S F(AEG), F(Con) S A(Ank),
 A(Ank) S F(Smy)

Retreats: RUSSIAN A(Boh) dies (NRO); RUSSIAN A(Nor) dies (NRO)

COA'S:

Bill Haygarth, 37 Charter Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG2 7AB. Tel. 01 554 3934

Steve Rennie, Flat 5, 17 Tierney Road, Streatham Hill, London SW2.

Winter 1905 Adjustments:

ENG: Lon, Lpl	No Change	for 2
FRA: Par, Mar, Por, Bel, Spa, Bre, Mun, Hol, Edi + Nor, Kie	Builds: F(Bre), A(Par)	for 11

ITA: Ven, Rom, Nap, Jun, Vie, Tri, Bud, Ser + Gre	Builds: A(Ven)	for 9
RUS: StP, Mos, War, Sev, Rum, Ber, (Nor), (Kie), Sue, Den	No Change	for 8
TUR: Con, Smy, Ank, Bul, (Gre)	Disbands F(Smy)	for 4
		34

PRESS:

Turkey - Russia: Withdraw from Smyrna and Black Sea if you want peace.

Turkey - Italy: This is getting a bit tiresome, but I wonder if I can trust you this time.

France - Russia: Maybe you realise now that you've taken more on than you can handle. Give me control of your units or die. ((How that's what I call a diplomat))

'Nuada' (1984BN)

Pre-Spring 1903

This game is held over until next issue because of an address/postal mixup - it seems John Cavanagh changed address (forgetting to notify me) to, 15 Waverley Drive, Chertsey, Surrey. A couple of you were damn lucky though getting your orders in late - I would have NMR'd you but for this. My apologies for the others who have to wait. I now have orders from everyone but John.

PRESS:

France - Germany: You snivelling dog, I spit on you. May your camel drop dead and your legs fall off!! ((Yes Paul, that's the right attitude to take with the likes of Close...))

Moscow - LUTON AIRPORT: I'm a young 24! By the way, did you figure out what to do with your Birthday Card? ((Grrrrrr - these immature youngsters nowadays just have no respect for their elders. One of these days. Ms Cunning.. God willing, over my knee you'll go!))

Italy - Anyone who is listening: One day I'll learn how to play this game...

France - Italy: Let's be friends. xxx ((I hope these 'kisses' weren't for ME, Paul!))

War - Gal: Yeah, we don't have any vodka here either - go away!

War - Mun: I don't know if I could list all the wonderful things about you. ((Oh come now, surely you can? I could lend you a postage stamp to get them all on!)) The list is so long. ((Hah!)) We don't want Tweedy too soon do we? ((Of course we do, everyone wants Tweedy)) Slow torture is much better don't you think?

LUTON AIRPORT - Above Deviants: If it DOES come to the choice of slow torture, please, let me have first refusal of holding the implements of destruction. Not that I'd refuse of course. By the way, Cathy, congratulations on the engagement - though what poor Eric ever did to you....

'Olwen' (1984B0)

Spring 1904

WITH THREE NMR'S .. AN UNUSUAL SEASON

AUSTRIA (Mick Bensted)	A(Vie) S F(Alb)-Tri, F(Alb)-Tri, A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Rum, A(Bud)-Rum, *A(Gre) S A(Ser)
ENGLAND (Grahame MacLennan)	F(Edi)-Cly, F(Nor)-NTH
FRANCE (Colin Pickard)	NMR! Has: F(Lpl), F(Lon), A(Yor), A(Gas), *A(Ruh), A(Bur), A(Tyr), F(Bre)
GERMANY (Kenny Adams)	F(Den)-NTH, F(Swe)stands, F(StP-sc)stands, A(War)-Mos, A(Hol) S A(Mun)-Ruh, A(Mun)-Ruh, A(Kie) S A(Ber)-Mun, A(Ber)-Mun
ITALY (Nick Lourie)	NMR! Has: A(Ven), A(Apu), F(Tun)
RUSSIA (Nicholas Whyte)	NMR! Has: *A(Rum), A(Gal), A(Mos)
TURKEY (Ian Winstanley)	F(ION)-Alb, F(AEG) S A(Bul)-Gre, A(Bul)-Gre A(Con)-Bul

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A(Gre)-Alb; FRENCH A(Ruh) dies; RUSSIAN A(Rum) dies

PRESS:

All together now: Rule Britannia.

LUTON AIRPORT - Russia: Nicholas you posted your orders Friday afternoon on the 9th (?) - I mean, they couldn't possibly reach me for the Friday morning.