

**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

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#### 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 is 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 Cary, 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 Cunnings, 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!

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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?

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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...

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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).