

# DIB DIB DIB

48

Read  
Dib  
For a new  
angle on  
life



Welcome to the 48th issue of Dib Dib Dib - and, because of the games only holdover, a rather large issue this time I'm afraid. The cost is a mere 23p + postage (40p in the UK) - not like these expensive photocopied or litho'd zines. Anyone wishing to send money, send it to Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks., HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513, and I'll do my best to see it's put to good use.

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### EDITORIAL

Before I start anything else, PLEASE PLEASE remember to put 'Avenue' after Stanley Hill when addressing orders to me (Tim Collieu please note), the man at 29 Stanley Hill is getting very pissed off with sending stuff on to me (the cantankerous sod) and is even holding some of my mail over for two weeks before sending it on to me. You have been warned.

I had a nice surprise the other day - the inventor of the boxed Sopwith game rang me right out of the blue just to let me know, in case I was interested, that the Sopwith game was being re-released. Of course I told him a knew, and that I'd already ordered a couple of boxes (one to go to David Crawford who apparently can't get games too easily in Northern Ireland) and another one for me as I was interested to see how they would present the new version. He kindly offered to send me another box, free, complimentary. Very civilised of him I thought.

Actually, talking of civilised people - after a long absence, Mike Allaway is back in England with his new American wife, Robin (not that he had an old one before I hasten to add). A VERY nice lady! A couple of weeks ago Mike and Robin came round and had a very pleasant couple of hours chatting, playing 'Abandon Ship' (at Mike's insistence) and Sopwith (at my son's) when I happened to mention the fact that, as a lover of good whiskey (but who'll also accept bad in a pinch) I've always been interested in trying out the American bourbon. I've said it once, and I'll say it again, I must try everything at least once before I die (not that I'm likely to go yet you understand). Lo and behold, the next time Mike and Robin pops over, they only went out and bought me a bottle of Jack Daniels didn't they! Are you listening you lot - this is the way this hobby makes friends!

Anyway, it's still time for the Zine Poll 85: the Deadline is SATURDAY JULY 20TH 1985, and, because of the new voting method, that of only voting for a maximum of 10 zines (minimum of 2) giving your choices in order of preference, it's going to need all you subscribers out there to get Dib anywhere even near a respectable placing if I'm having to compete with the high subscribership of zines like Dolchstoss and MP. I am bothered (a lot of editors say they're not - phooey) but I think the ego boost is mainly because I'm competitive. The only games player I know who isn't, is Alan Parr - even so, I find it unbelievable; one should play games to win. Alan doesn't, he literally plays games for the fun of it - couldn't care less if he wins or loses. He's totally mad... But I digress, VOTE FOR DIB! AND SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHTS! Other than that, have fun, I will.

Zine Poll Prediction game: Due to popular request I'm running this again this year. Right up until the results are made public anyone can join - just send in your guesses for who you think will be in the Top Five positions. Gamefee will be 25p which will be collected together for the prize. The one with the closest guess gets the money. I'll start it off with: 1st Dolchstoss, Mad Policy, Ode, Hopscotch and Greatest Hits. See what you can do, get your guesses in now.

But now we come to the boring serious bit, which I think I'll take a deep breath for and start over on the next page.

It would appear my little off the cuff remark about Pete Calcraft's unsuitability for doing the Diplomacy stats has hit a raw nerve last time. Nothing from Pete himself, defending himself as you might expect, but from the unlikely source of Richard Walkerdine (I think Geoff Challinger said that...), who went on to mention in Mad Policy of the "hysterical outburst" I made in Dib 46.

I can hardly believe my 'outburst' can be classed as hysterical - that is only the case when one argues without reason. I was reasonable... I didn't state my case because I didn't feel there was any need to defend what I said! What Richard doesn't seem to realise is that I (and every other editor) have given Pete Calcraft every chance to come through and deliver the goods. Believe me, more chance than Pete himself would give anyone else. There's been many a time in the old days when Pete's caustic couldn't-care-less attitude towards others, and his subscribers in general, appeared in Spirit of the Age. Many's the time I've been irritated to read quotes/remarks to his subscribers telling them that if they didn't like what he'd decided they could piss off. But this isn't my argument, this is just the reason why I take such a hard line with him; I judge him as he would judge others, no more no less.

My main argument is that we're not getting the standard of service that one had come to expect with the likes of Mick Bullock. It makes no difference if Pete hasn't the time because he's doing exams, moving house etc, because if that's merely the case he shouldn't have taken the job on in the first place - there's plenty of others who would willingly take the job over. The only understandable excuse is if there's sickness in the family - is anyone sick? If not forget it, Pete stalled for a long time before anything was done. I complained that there was no stats. Pete stalled again, saying that he couldn't produce anything because of all the extra bills he'd entailed from printing sota and the stats. (This amused me because we hadn't seen any stats, and anyway, how the hell had the other hobby statisticians managed to pay their way in the past? - I assumed it was because Pete wanted to use expensive litho productions... and nothing else would do.)

Anyway, it was decided while I was CGS Custodian that we (the hobby) should help him out by granting him some money from the Hobby Development Fund - to me this was throwing good money after bad but it wasn't up to me. This worked fine for a few issues... but now, it seems to me, Pete had dried up yet again. If I was wrong, and Pete nearly has something ready, fine, I apologise. But I will not listen to any shit about lack of stats and Boardman numbers because someone doesn't have time with having other things to do. Sticking to the same attitude as Pete - put up or shut up - if you can't do the job, hand it over. John Marsden says in Home's letter column: "Frankly I think it's time the hobby sacked Calcraft." Hah! I'll tell you this... no way will Pete ever turn his work over to the hobby... it doesn't matter how bad a job he does. What happens then, when even Richard Walkerdine's patience is tried, will we just sit and twiddle our thumbs like this again? All I ever asked of Pete was stats, or failing that, information for why there aren't any. I rest my case.

NORTHERN IRELAND HOBBYMEET. As Nicholas Whyte says: "As you have perhaps more Northern Irish subscribers than anyone else (31) could you please publicise the first Belfast Hobbymeet?" ...Which I certainly will. I don't know if it's to be a regular hobbymeet, no-one has actually said, but it is to be held at The Eglantine Inn on the Malone Road (just past Queen's University on your way out of town), at 7.30 on Monday April 29th."

I believe Gibson Games are asking for suggestions on any rule changes in the Diplomacy game. Personally I don't like it, the game and rules have been fine up to now with most people knowing the rules off by heart. All ambiguities have been thrashed out under the present rules - maybe with any changes the answers to these might change. I'd be very careful with tampering with these rules, but if you feel you must, write to Richard Bairstow (editor of Gazfinc) who's co-ordinating thgestions, 20 Queen's Drive, Guildford, GU2 6PP.

## THE 1984-5 GLADYS AWARD NOMINATIONS.

Right, the rules are simple - all you do is list the nominations of each category in order of preference; most deserving at the top, least deserving (like Mad Policy and Dolchstoss) at the bottom. Where to send your votes to is given at the bottom. And PLEASE if you have time give these awards your best support.

1. MOST EAGERLY AWAITED ZINE: Atu XVIII; Denver Glont; Dolchstoss; Greatest Hits; Hopscotch; Lokasenna; Mad Policy; Rostherne Games Review.
2. BEST DIPLOMACY ZINE: A Bolt From The Blue; Atu XVII; DIB DIB DIB; Denver Glont; Dolchstoss; Home of the Brave; Mad Policy; Ode; War & Peace; Zine to be Believed.
3. BEST GAMES ZINE: Back to the Dark Ages; Boojum; Diversions; Hopscotch; Masters of the Prime; Ode; Prisoners of War; Rostherne Games Review; Zine to be Believed.
4. BEST CHAT ZINE: Atu XVIII; Denver Glont; Greatest Hits; Lokasenna; The Wind's Quarter/The Mike Oldfield Collection; Rapsallion; Thing on the Mat.
5. BEST PERSONALZINE: Atu XVIII; Lokasenna; Monochrome; Now Eat the Rabbit; Ode; The Wind's Quarter/The Mike Oldfield Collection; War & Peace.
6. BEST DIPLOMACY GM: Ken Bain; Bryan Betts; Geoff Challinger; Shaun Derrick; John Marsden; John Norris; Glover Rogerson; Richard Sharp; Dave Thorby; Richard Walkerdine.
7. BEST GAMES GM: Mark Billeness; Brian Dolton; Brian Douglas; Richard Downes; RIP Gooch; Nick Kinzett; Keith Loveys; Richard Morris; Alan Parr.
8. BEST LETTER COLUMN: Atu XVIII; Denver Glont; DIB DIB DIB; Greatest Hits; Imazine; Lokasenna; Mad Policy; Rapsallion.
9. BEST LOOKING ZINE: Cut & Thrust; Gallimaufrey; Lokasenna; Morrigan; Prisoner of War; The Wind's Quarter/The Mike Oldfield Collection; Up Tight.
10. BEST NEW ZINE: Back to the Dark Ages; Coolnacran; Diversions; Morrigan; Now Eat the Rabbit; Pigbutton; Prisoner of War; Up Tight.
11. BEST ZINE FOR HOBBY NEWS: Home of the Brave; Mad Policy; Rapsallion; School for Scandal; Zine to be Believed.
12. MOST IMPROVED ZINE: Gazfinc; Home of the Brave; Mad Policy; Ode; The Five Year Plan; Rapsallion; School for Scandal.
13. BEST PLAYER: David Balfour; Mike Close; Len George; Steve Jones; Nick Kinzett; Richard Morris; John Norris; Geoff Tonks; Graham Staplehurst; Richard Young.
14. THE DAME EDNA EVERAGE AWARD FOR NICEST HOBBY PERSON: Ken Bain; Derek Caws; Robin ap-Cynan; Brian Creese; Brian Dolton; Pete Doubleday; Steve Doubleday; RIP & Kim Gooch; Trevor Mendam; Steve Norledge; Glover Rogerson; Graham Staplehurst; Derek Wilson.

Voting will be really tough this year, as there's not that much to choose between the different zine. Going down the list my own opinion is:-

1. This is just another way of saying best zine - out of that lot I only trade with Dolchstoss, Hopscotch, Greatest Hits and Mad Policy. And, copping out, I look forward to getting all four equally. Ode, if it was in it would have been my choice here, because I'm playing a game in it.
2. Obviously I'd like to plug for Dib here, but can't help feeling although I'm reliable and on the nose (99% of the time) in regards the adjudicating; zines like Dolchstoss, Zeeby, Home etc publish more Diplomacy articles for the Diplomacy enthusiast. Here I may go for the rubbish Dolchs oss.
3. There are some excellent game zines here, but two of the favourites must be Zeeby and Hopscotch. BattDA is a good up and coming new zine, but I can't help feeling it is yet too new (though I wish Richard all the luck in the world - I think even getting in this list is good going for a new zine). I may plug for Zeeby here.
4. Th difficult. Chat zines are a matter of taste, and believe me, no two of this lot are the same. As I only trade with two zines list here, at the moment (GH and Rap) I'd have to go for GH because that young whippersnapper Norledge surely can't compete with the great sage for chat (Birks talks like a

machine gun!)).

5. Bleah! Make of this category what you will, it means nothing to me. I'll go for Ode because I know it.

6. Another tough one - there's some damn good GMs listed here. Personally I've only been GM'd by John Marsden; Richard Sharp and Richard Walkerdine - and none of them ever made mistakes with me (well, Sharp did fold before I finished my game so I'll kick him out). Er... eeny, meeny...

7. Yet another difficult choice - Richard Downes I'd have to say is the fastest. yet Nick, Alan and Richard M. handle more. Back to the eeny, meeny again.

8. This has got to be Dib's SURELY? Having won it for the last two years I know that the standard of content has slipped a little (having got more serious), but then the letter cols in the others is hardly better. All have a serious content. I say vote for Dib and have done with it - but as I can't vote for myself (a terrible breach of human rights - MP's can vote for themselves) I'd have to go for staid, miserable Mad Policy.

9. This is easy - Morrigan - it's halfway to being professional while still being in the hobby.

10. Another difficult choice - there's so many good new zines about. BttDA, Morrigan and Pigbutton is what I trade with, so the choice for me is from them. By a short hair, Pigbutton I think.

11. Aahhh, decisions, decisions - I gather 99% of all my news from this lot. I can't choose... I CAN'T! Damn you, Norledge, another sleepless night!

12. This is silly - Home, MP, Ode improved? When were they bad? All appears as before, to me.

13. This is easy - I choose either Mike Close or Steve Jones for this, JUST to make sure they get the noteriety, and consequently they'll get jumped on by EVERYONE every time they start a game - heh, heh. (What do you mean, this is because I'm playing in game with them? This is my vote, and I'll vote how I like, push off!)

14. Ridiculous - everyone KNOWS I'm the nicest person. I rest my case.

The DEADLINE for getting your Gladys votes in is: Wednesday 26th June. All votes should be sent to Steve Norledge, DO please vote, as it can be a lot of fun.



JOTTO Turn 4

Now things are beginning to look up - with four more people joining us the prize money is now set at £4.50 - a nice little sum. Also we have last times winner, Rosie Roberts, back to take up the challenge I threw down last time. Will she win it again? Surely not, nomatter how good Rosie is, surely she can't beat the head start Andrew now has? It'll be interesting to find out. A small slip of your Jotto words should be included with this issue, so if you haven't spotted them yet go and rescue the envelope from the litter bin.

KATHY COLLMAN: 1st: 211323  
 2nd: 213322  
 3rd: 121011  
 4th: No Hyphens

BRIAN MOORE: 4th: 132231

ULF JIRETORN: 1st: 111002  
 2nd: 231124  
 3rd: 123241  
 4th: 101112

ANDREW SMITH: 1st: 322112  
 2nd: 212312  
 3rd: 321233  
 4th: 511236 ((11))

R.J. LAMPARD: 2nd: 321113  
 3rd: 412233  
 4th: 113232

MIKE DEANS: 4th: 224222

RICHARD DOWNES: 4th: 231133

ALAN POWIS: 1st: 331234  
 2nd: 221233  
 3rd: 421235  
 4th: 222112

ROSIE ROBERTS: 1st: 321014  
 2nd: 221121  
 3rd: 113211  
 4th: 112221

READING BETWEEN THE ZINES

Before I start I must stress here that this section is only done in fun and is purely my own opinion. In part I'll be sticking my neck out here trying to predict relative positions where each zine might come - and would ask editors not to take this part as any criticism of their zine.

Gazfinc (16): Edited by Richard Bairstow. 20 pages of neat A4 photocopy - I say neat because Richard uses his BBC micro to type it all up. Lots of interesting chat, up to date hobby news, this issue an interesting article on working in Bahrain, and lots of games. Has openings for: Railway Rivals (50p), Sopwith (50p), Maneater (£1) and Diplomacy (£1). It has always seemed to me that Richard has had an easy time of it editing a magazine, what with being the protege of Richard Walkerdine and talked into it by other members of the Guildford mob - one minute he was relatively unknown, the next he had a fully fledged zine. Still, no zine editing is easy. A good zine to play in if you're interested in what's going on in the hobby. I'd give it 8 out of 10, and predict it'll come in the top 10.

Richard Bairstow, 20 Queens Drive, Guildford, GU2 6PP.

Home of the Brave (47): Edited by Geoff Challinger. An A5 photocopied reduced booklet which is extremely reliable. Very similar to Ode in many ways. To tell you the truth, and I've said it before, I sometimes find Home very staid, very dry and precise. Mind you this is no bad thing, it's certainly a magazine I would subscribe to if I wasn't trading (the ultimate test I think), and it's always packed with the latest hobby news. Home (this issue) runs to a regular 32+ pages, including Editorial, general chat, hobby news, large interesting letter column, article for discussion from Rob Chapman (which I'd dearly love to answer if I get time - not likely though unfortunately), games, a sub-zine called Bellicus (which I couldn't read because of the faint print), and another sub-zine (the official one from John Webley), Serendipity. At about 44p an issue (it's £1.75 for 4 issues) it's good value for money. Home has waiting lists open for Diplomacy - Regular, Origins, and Downfall. Waiting lists for Serendipity are: Sopwith, Executive Decision, and Railway Rivals. Recommended. Out of 10 I'd give it 8, and predict it'll do better this year (last year it came a disgusting 20th) by coming in the top 10.

Geoff Challinger, 117 Shrubbery Road, South Darenth, Kent, DA4 9AP.

Back to the Dark Ages (13): From Richard Downes. A very nicely produced A5 reduced photocopied booklet done on a Macintosh computer. This really hasn't been out that long, but it's so fast, coming out every two weeks on the dot. This issue, number 13, actually came out two or three days after number 12! Supposed to be just a games only zine with no chat at all but this issue had zine reviews, a small editorial, his subscriber list, a very interesting profile of himself and how he entered the hobby, a layout of how many games he's playing in (44 games and on 30 waiting lists - STRENGTH!) and various game and house rules. Has Waiting lists for: Diplomacy; Sopwith; Dune; Vain Rats; Middle Earth; Railway Rivals; and Bourse - all for 50p. Thoroughly recommended if you like fast turnarounds. Out of 10 I give it 7, and predict it'll come between 20 and 30. If it comes much lower it'll be because Richard, like so many good new zines, don't yet have enough subscribers. Which means there's no shame in that.

Richard Downes, 2 Brisbane Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1XZ.

Hacking Times (7): A new one (to me) from Dylan Harris. About 30 pages (this issue's were not numbered) of photocopied, centre stapled, A5 booklet. There's not too much I can say about this yet as I've only seen two issues. Off the cuff I'd have to say Dylan is still finding his feet: although some of HT is good - the general chat, hobbystuff, editorial games articles - a lot of the 'extra' stuff I find totally confusing. By extra stuff I mean bits and pieces that I can't see any reason for - right in the middle of the zine is something called 'Dead Centre' (which is probably why it's in the middle) which seems to consist of things like a small ads stion which is totally