

**DIB DIB DIB**



Welcome to the 56th issue of Dib Dab Dib - a much rushed and rather down to basics issue. The cost is a fixed rate of 45p per issue in the UK and 28p + postage overseas. Send money, to Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks., HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513

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### EDITORIAL

Well, not really an editorial, just a space to explain why this issue is so sparse. Sparse, you say? Yes, no editorial, no articles, and a 'small' letter column. The reason being is that everything seemed to come in all at once 1 week before the deadline. I just couldn't have the time to type it all up - sorry. So, a lot of stuff is being held over, hopefully, for next time.

Just a brief bit to mention all the hobby news I can remember off the top of my head, er... Richard Downes will carry on producing Back to the Dark Ages, but as his duplicator is really knackered now (the ink drum has had it) he will be producing the main zine on a monthly basis. What he'll be doing is printing everything up on stencils and sending it to me with address labels where I'll print it up, collate it, stick the stamps and address labels on and post it. Well, I won't, Jan will, I'll force her. Hah!, women's rights indeed!

What other... Steve Norledge's Rapscallion has folded so I hear. I don't know what will be happening about the 'Gladys Awards' now, but with all the mucking about that they've had I doubt whether anyone will really even be interested. I liked to support them at one time, but even I'm not too bothered about them now. If someone is to resurrect them, it'll need a powerful personality to get them off the ground.

The other piece of news of note, is the worthwhile ZINE POLL. As you know John Piggott has now taken it over, and at the moment there's a war of words over what zines to include and what zines not to include. John wants only Diplomacy zines (zines having at least two Diplomacy games) whilst others want the 'fairy' zines and European zines included. Personally I don't give a jot for the arguments, the Zine Poll was originally called the DIPLOMACY ZINE POLL and was run to find the best Diplomacy magazine. If others want their poll, let them (the Gladys Awards might accomodate them), but don't let them get on their high horses and start dictating what should be run or not run in Richard/John's 'Diplomacy Zine Poll'. John has made his decision and if the fairy gamers have a gripe (and remember I like some fairy games) they should remember that by NOT including Diplomacy games in their lists editors have deliberately chosen to stay out of the Diplomacy Poll themselves, so there should be no comeback. It is simple, if editors really want to take part in the most 'interesting' poll in the hobby (a well chosen sentence to jibe), they must make a choice. No-one will force them either way.

Amazingly Chris Tringham's Megalomania turned up again the other day. Chris had the cheek to ask once again whether I'd like to trade with him. I wasn't going to but as he suggested it should be on a one-to-one bases I eventually agreed. Well, after all Chris' jottings can make for fairly interesting reading. For those who don't know it Chris is notoriously bad at getting Meg out on time, so much so that people now come to expect it once in a blue moon. Anyway, he has given official notification that MIDCON has now been fixed for the weekend of 7th - 9th November 1986 at the Royal Angus Hotel. Single rooms will be £21.95 twins £17.50, both per person per night including English breakfast. Registration will be the same as last year (£5), but only until 31st July. Thereafter it will be £6. Registrations to Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 2HA. Cheques made out to 'National Diplomacy Championship'.

CASTLECON is also on. It's to be held at Shelwick Court, near Hereford, on 21 - 28 June 1986. There's a deposit of £5. I've forgotten who has the details.



Which reminds me of a funny question. You see Tweedy, old thing, if you stand on your head the blood rushes to your head so why is it the blood never rushes to your feet when you stand up normal? Is it because your feet ain't empty? ((muffle...))

And finally a word about Mike Close on stockings and suspender belts - does the latter hold the former up or stop them falling down?

And finally finally why do they call flats flats when they are many stories high, and when they are fed up building ordinary houses is that when they bungalow one up?

My brain hurts..."

((Yes, so does mine. (You see, Kris, this is the sort of thing I had to put up with in the old days! I thought I'd better print it to show you. But I am in control.) I AM WINNING! I am, I am...))

MIKE CLOSE: "Re. 'Blue Max' Only £11.95? Where have you been living recently? That's cheap! Take a look at an Avalon Hill price list. Most of the games start at £20.00! As I said Blue Max is value for money, I can't think of any other game that has given us so much fun for such little outlay. We now play with aircraft miniatures and we have drawn up height rules!"

((Alright, you've convinced me, I'll get Jan to put it on my Birthday or Christmas list. Where do you get the aircraft miniatures from? Anyway, what about a review for Dib?))

CATHY OZOG: "I feel like Close (awful thought eh?) ((Yeh, I agree - I wouldn't feel like having him if they were giving him away with free issues of 'Playboy' girls... the REAL ones.)) I get to be mentioned even if I don't write. I shouldn't mention Close should I? He'll just write again and we should keep him locked away.

I have played in all female games before. Three in fact and one is still going, but it is 6 females and a Duck. (This could lead to interesting discussions about ducks and how they play Diplomacy. But I'll leave that for sicker people than me - you know, that Close creature again.) The main problem was many of the females were guided by their husbands in the game and lost interest after a time. In the States there are probably three Big female players (and I don't mean size). They are Kathy Byrne, Melinda Ann Holley and myself. We all three run zines and play in over 5 games. Melinda plays in over 40, but Kathy and I think she's an alien from another planet. I wouldn't mind trying another all female game. I mean, Mike Close won't be in it and so it shouldn't be too bad."

((That is very true, he tried though. The problem of some females being guided by their husbands is a problem I can well understand, but can this really be true for you, Kath and Michele? I can just see you all taking orders from your own respective husbands, oh my yes. My difficulty is in understanding WHY some women like to play postal/ftf boardgames and the majority don't. What makes girls like you so special? There must be others like you out there. If there are I'm still interested in running a Diplomacy game for them.))

LUKE CLUTTERBUCK: "I must chastise you most sternly Tomi ((Oh good)) Not only do you accuse a former Londoner of being an Aussie, but you compound your error by alledging she plays Diplomacy. Denise LOATHES Diplomacy with a passion usually reserved by a snail for the rain! However, one of my subscribers, Marion Ashworth, is very interested in the all-women game Michele Morris suggested last issue. The South Australian zine Austral View (with which Rumplestiltskin may merge later this year) also has a woman player who is another possible. Should this all-woman game look like a possibility then I'd be more than happy to do the organisation at this end, such as it is. Marion is prepared to subscribe to Dib and I have explained to her the added costs and differences. An event such as

an 'All-woman international' would be a sight to see so I hope it comes off."

((So then, we tentatively have: Michele, Kath, Cathy, Marion and another 'possible' for the game - we only need another two. Yes, you could spread the word if you wanted, Luke, but you must further spread the costs and differences (though anyone not wanting Dib can just pay postage for a games sheet). As you know I've tried producing a service by sending you (and Cathy) an 'air mail' games sheet 1st class postage and following Dib on 2nd class, but in the end it worked out just as expensive when adding the two postages together. As long as people realise that I have to send Dib 1st class to get it there in time. Mind you I'll offset this by not charging a gamefee for the game (which I've put in the Waiting List in the 'Dibs and Drabs' section.) This game is on then if I can find another two willing players.))

JIMMY COWIE: "Thanks for Dib 55 most enjoyable. I'm a bit worried about your standards though - they do seem to be slipping ever so slightly. Why is there so much politics in the letter col? We've got MP's, to take care of that. Let's leave them to it, that's what I say - after all that's what the lying, cheating swines get overpaid for. I'm all in favour of sex and perversion in a zine. Where have all your disgusting, perverted subscribers gone too? The only distasteful vermin to creep out of the woodwork regularly is the bold, daring, honest and loyal Mike Close."

((You mean that isn't enough! Typical gutter press mentality - you'll be wanting page 3 nudes next! And no, I won't get Mike Close to pose....))

ROBERTO DELLA-SALA: "Many thanks for sending the sample issue of Dib Dib Dib - I read it from cover to cover during a double free period at school on Friday morning in the library and was warned for laughing too loud! - I assure you though it was worth it! Anyway as I mentioned before, there was and is no doubt in my mind that Dib Dib Dib should take its place amongst such notable zines as MP, D, CMag, BR, V, Life, and BD on my book shelves, so I include some money towards my subscription.

What individualises Dib Dib Dib (what's its abbreviation Tom?) ((Dib, DDD, or Dib x 3)) from the other zine are two main features. Firstly the lettercol is completely different from those of all the other zines I receive, apart from BR because it is up-to-date and is composed of articles that are in the main non-diplomacy orientated, which is a welcome break from lettercols such as that of MP where the 'zine poll debate' still ensues!!

Also the 'debatable parts' seem to attract letters of higher standards because the issues being discussed affect many individuals themselves, so contributors seem to speak from the heart, rather than other parts of the anatomy! ((I wouldn't say that, see letter above!))

The second point is your truly 'world' attraction! Of course I refer to your subbers from Australia, America and West Germany, as well as Sweden! I imagine letter writing in games with the above people in must be both interesting and enjoyable, especially if there are language barriers to overcome - perhaps my schoolboy French will come in useful after all - who knows?

Also the ideas and enthusiasm of your subbers is abundantly clear from their letters and willingness to try new options, for example, diploming by tape, as the subber concerned can speak better English than he can write.

Anyway I won't continue to flatter you with my comments - I wouldn't want you to become a 'swell-headed, ego-maniac' like a certain editor of Vienna (issue 18).

However I will bore you a little bit with a history of myself and description etcetera, as it occured to me that you know nothing or very little about me!

Well as you know my name is Roberto Della-Sala, not a typical British surname so I had bet er explain! Some 18 years ago (18-12-67 to

be precise - early presents very, very welcome, as one would say as a 'typical' subber to Dib Dib Dib) I was born in a small hospital in Kings Street, Watford, the first son of two Italian parents - my parents have lived in England for almost 25 years now. I have been born and thoroughly bred in Watford and attended Central Primary School till I reached the tender age of 11 years, whereupon I then continued with my education at Watford Boy's Grammar School. I am doing two 'A' levels, Biology and Economics and in September I hope to go off to do a BSc in Sociology for 4 years.

My main hobby is photography and train spotting, as well as 'steam railways' and I have been on several steam hauled trips across the 'Settle Carlisle' line.

Travelling also plays a major part in my life - I have been on two P+O cruises on board the school ship, the SS Uganda and visited Israel, Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece, Turkey, Malta, Yugoslavia, Italy, France and more recently spent 4 weeks in America on an exchange with the school.

I am returning to the States in July for seven weeks and then I'm not sure what I'll be doing! Well that's the 18 years of my life summarised in less than one side - an achievement in itself!"

((Welcome to Dib Roberto, I'm glad you liked the zine enough to contribute those few kind words. Modesty forbids me to point out how true they were, but it's obvious of course that mere money is more than a fair exchange for my priceless offerings. (Perhaps I SHOULD put the price up again...?) A threat of becoming swell headed, ME? Never....

It's alright for some innit, travelling around to God knows where - you middle class grammar schools boys are all alike. Actually, if you're interested in Railways, you should get in touch with Richard Bairstow, editor of Gazfinc. He's interested in trains enough to own his own carriage (which he's doing up). Mind you he's absolutely nuts because he also collects milk bottles. How the two interests connect I have no idea. Perhaps he uses the carriage to store all the crates!))

ROBERTO (LATER): "As you know I'm off to the good ol' USA this summer but things are not quite as I hoped they would be, nor as cheap! My flight to New York is going to be about £350+ which is okay, but I was planning to then fly down to Little Rock (Arkansas) and onto Phoenix (Arizona) vis Dallas then back to New York. These internal flights look as though they are going to cost me a further \$500 which is more than I budgeted for. Without going into details I'll have to fork that out if nothing else crops up but perhaps our American friends could help by letting me know whether it's going to be cheaper to purchase my internal flights, once I'm out there, or whether they know how I can get in touch with the 'Grey Hand Coach' company. ((Shouldn't that be 'Greyhound'??)) The American Embassy in London didn't know that such a company existed, so you can see I'm making progress here.

Any information I can get which will help me save money is very very welcome and especially if I can widen my options by getting in touch with the bus company. I'm leaving any time after July 10th and coming back September 6th."

((Cathy Ozog might be able to help you here, she actually nails from Phoenix, but now lives in Chicago. (Cathy, can you help?) If there's anyone can help Roberto, either send a letter to me, or, write directly to Roberto at 1 Farraline Road, Watford, Herts, WD1 8DQ. There, how was that?))

MIKE CLOSE: "A comment for your letter column, serious for once (is he sick, you scream!). Part of your lettercol has been concerned with jobs etc for a while, so I'm going to add my two-pennyworth. It occurs to me that the chronic employment shortage in this country (and others) is due to two factors:-

1) The increase in the number of women who now work. I'm not trying to be chauvinist or anything, but it is fair to say that it is now the

prevalent attitude in society that both the husband and wife should be in employment - indeed, with present expectation of lifestyle, it is often a necessity. Over the last twenty or thirty years, therefore, the workforce has exploded in proportion to the number of jobs available. Actually, the economy hasn't done too badly, growing steadily over this time, but it isn't capable of coping with such a surge. Consider that we've added 10-15 million to the workforce over the last 20 years - an unemployment level of only 3 million is quite a success!

- 2) The nature of employment available has changed greatly over the last 20 years, and will continue to change in the next 20 years. I refer to the ubiquitous automation and computers, of course. The days of the labour intensive heavy (and light) industries have gone. (And for those of you who say "smash the machinery" I suggest you read the history of the Luddites in the late 18th century....!)

What is the solution? Now that's a hard one....! ((as the actress said to the...))

Finally a suggestion to those of you who are short of money. You have in your possession an item which is soaking up somewhere between £100 - £200 of your money each month. It's called a motor car.

I recently considered buying one, and found that, in addition to the repayments of the £2,000 loan, the cost of tax, insurance and petrol (+ repairs) was going to cost me about £150 a month, I dropped the idea. I'll continue to walk to the shops, and get the train to work."

((Wait till you're married, Mike, then try and get £60 worth of food etc onto the bus/train, in various boxes and bags, no can do old chum! Actually there was some good points there, Mike (see, some of you thought he was brainless!), point 1 in particular. It's not often that argument is put forward, and of course it is true.))

KATH COLLMAN: "Three cheers for John Colledge and his wife for taking such a responsible attitude towards having children. Although I'm a parent myself, and can't imagine life without the little beasts - and yes, it is fun - it was a hell of a big decision to take at the time. So many couples seem to start a family because 'it's the thing to do', without devoting much thought to the realities of parenthood.

Please tell Clive Booth I haven't laughed so much in years as when I read his letter in Dib 54. He has Danny summed up to a '1'. Actually, what destroyed my concentration in the MidCon quiz was this feeling that I was sitting next to an active volcano, which was about to erupt any second."

((You have my sympathy, Kath, I realise it must be far from easy living with Danny. As for John and children, yes, you're right, he has his say next...))

JOHN COLLEDGE: "I must confess I was a bit put out by your response to my last letter. Perhaps I didn't put myself across to well.

The point I am trying to make is, I feel it is important that those couples who are aiming to have a family should stop and think hard about why they are, and what they are letting themselves in for. Having a family because 'everyone else your age is', or 'she was fed up with work and had nothing better to do', or 'your Mum and Dad will just love having wee kiddies on the go again' are not good enough reasons. The worst remarks of all are the ones along the lines of 'When you are old it will be nice to have a family to look after you', as if the family is an insurance policy against loneliness in your dotage.

I take your point about a family adding something to a marriage and you certainly make it sound most appealing, but the fact is, a family can also screw up a perfectly happy relationship. It is vitally important, I feel, that couples don't fall into the parent trap, as they are not only affecting themselves, they are affecting the lives of their proposed family. Thanks to Michele for the moral support by the way. What a wonderful human being she must be."

((Don't get me wrong, John, I agree with what you say about children entirely. Last time you asked the question as to why parents go on about having children - I gave my opinion as to why I had them. I was not trying to 'convert' you.))

BERNARD EMBLEM: "Why print Dib on foolscap paper?"

((Simple. First, I hate changing the paper in the typewriter rack just when I'm just getting into the swing of things. Also, when I first started typing on stencils I noticed first the A4 position, then the foolscap. Why, I asked myself should I waste the bottom of the stencil when I can get more on a page and give the customer more for his/her money? It seemed ridiculous and a waste of space to stop at the A4 line. So there you have it. My only surprise is why more people don't see it that way. I've asked some people who do use A4, why, and they come up with some really pathetic reasons: "My supplier only has A4 paper", or "My computer only goes down 56 lines", or even the much better reason "I managed to get my hands on some really cheap A4 bog paper". All of which is okay, but it seemed to me they weren't in charge of their own destiny, so to speak; they weren't producing A4 zines because they wanted to, but because they had to.))

PER VON GAVEL: "Just have a mention to David Crawford, that his zine Lost Cause is brilliant when you receive it. Somehow the post hates me and I got 1 letter from the people in the Diplomacy game but I never receive LC. Can anything can be done? - as maybe David doesn't receive my letters either."

((I can't answer that - it's up to David. The post has certainly been bad around here ever since Christmas. Some letters are taking as much as 8 days to arrive.))

JOHN COLLEDGE: "In your capacity as a World War One Flying Ace of great distinction, can you offer me a few words of guidance? I recently joined a game of Sopwith in Life, and I think I have made my first mistake already by writing to the other players. Nobody has written back to me. Any assistance you can offer by way of tactics would be gratefully received."

((It's no mistake to write to other players. When I first typed up the postal rules for Sopwith including Aces, it seemed to me where there was 1 Ace in a game amongst 5 novices, the novices would stand a better chance forming an alliance to combat the Ace. To do that there was no alternative but to write. Unfortunately in some games (not only Sopwith) apathy rules, and often you may not get any replies to your letters. It's rude I know, but a fact of life. The only advice on tactics I can offer you is to get stuck in with the game, and enjoy yourself regardless of possible outcome. What I have found out is players hanging round the edge of the board sometimes survive, but become BORED, while other get stuck in and enjoy themselves (taking an active part, writing press etc) even though they might get shot down. It's entirely your choice. Well, finish we must... and who better to finish with than a little snippet from....))

KATH COLLMAN: "As I have no wish to comment on whether or not Michele should decorate those parts of her body which have recently been exposed to the sight of horrified passers-by, I'll say no more this time... TWEEDY!! was that a sigh of relief I heard??"

((It was indeed. However the mind boggled at the thought of exposed parts until I remembered that it was Michele's ears you were talking about. Pheww! I mean, I can't have one of my subscribers going around horrifying passers-by, can I? Actually, I think some (Piggott, Clifton, Close, etc) already do, but it's already too late to do anything about them!))

My thanks to all who wrote....



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'RHIANNON' GAMESTATEMENT

GAME: 1984GY

ZINE: DIB DIB DIB

GM: Tom Tweedy

Game Commenced: Issue 41 (Sep 1984)

Game Ended: Issue 55 (Feb 1986)

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	
AUSTRIA (Gil Von Gavel)	3	4	5*	4	5	3	2*	0	0	Out A07
ENGLAND (Gary Piper)	3	3	3	4*	4	4	4*	2		Drop-out A06
FRANCE (Ralph Baker)	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9		
GERMANY (Dave Bird)	3	5	6	7	7	5	4	2		Drop-out S05
ITALY (Jeremy Miles)	3	4	3	2*	1	1	1	0		Drop-out A02 Out A07
RUSSIA (Graham Freeman)	4	4	4*	2*	0	-	-	-		Drop-out S03 Out A04
TURKEY (Luke Clutterbuck)	3	4	6	10*	11	14	15	21		WINS!

(\* denotes number of units short)

(Turkey) Luke Clutterbuck:

"I was lying in bed early one Monday morning, staring up at the ceiling and trying the old Buddhist trick: 'listen to the sound of one hand clapping'; when I was interrupted from my unsuccessful pursuit by the sound of the postman. As I descended the stairs I had high hopes that this time I would get a reply. Only 4 days before the deadline after an extended period for diploming and I still hadn't heard from 3 of the 4 players including Austria and Russia! This lack of committment unfortunately set the tone for the whole game. I was disappointed on the Monday but Austria eventually came through at the eleventh hour with a long letter and he also enclosed his opening moves, asking me to forward them on. So I allied with him and attacked the nameless Russian... What else could I do?"

Before long Italy laid a sudden, brave assault on Austria and the Balkans and Russia counter-attacked through Galicia. "Heck, wow, golly gosh and gee whizz", I exclaimed to my pet Buddah who applauded inaudibly, "things are getting interesting!" But again I was let down when Italy and Russia became sudden, brave drop-outs. And then there were five... I will never forget the first optimistic line in Italy's one and only letter to me: "Hi, this is my first game of postal Dip and I didn't really think I had much hope of winning, then I got Italy and I gave up." How prophetic.

Realising the danger, Austria quickly proposed an insane plan which entailed me attacking Germany while he cleared up Italy. Austria had all the bad luck. Weakened by the Italia-Russian attack he was left wide open to Turkish attack. Our alliance had worked too well and our enemies had been eliminated too quickly. So I attacked him... what else could I do? Gil (and Per) put up a good defence and I am grateful to Austria for being the only power that never NMR'd. It was worth it for Gil's letters alone!

Germany and France were the big threats now and they were fighting each other so all boded well. Then Germany became the surprise third drop-out. He was the most prolific Dip player I had come across and though I knew he was bored and upset about events outside the game, it was still very mysterious. At any rate this left just France. Remembering with a shudder my earlier failures with the Buddah I figured I needed an extra hand in the North. I could push as hard as I liked from the Southern side but without at least some pressure from the other side I couldn't make the magic 18. The taking of the MAO became my top priority. France faced more problems than I did, not least being a England which in 12 moves NMR'd 6 times! How could France plan anything with a power like that on his doorstep? He counter-attacked through Germany to threaten my Russian centres but by then it was too late.

For anyone whose interested I sent and received the following letters: Eng S:2, R:0; Fra S:6, R:3; G S:6, R:8; Aus S:9, R:4; Rus S:4, R:0, Ita S:5, R:1. No one diplomed with me (or I with them) after 1904.

It's nice to win but in a game which saw 4 drop-outs, I have to admit

that I had more than my fair share of luck. I particularly enjoyed playing with Gil, Per and Ralph and I thank them for their participation. Thanks also to you Tom for some top notch GMing and for a great zine!"

LUTON AIRPORT: This was not one of my favourite games to GM - as an outsider getting the orders I could almost feel the apathy that surrounded the game. My only surprise was the fact that Luke, Ralph and Per found the guts to stay in and finish it! I was sure a draw would be voted for.

One thing I did spot, which I think contributed to the game's downfall, was the stated reluctance to diplomate with anyone living abroad. I saw press in one of the games (it might even have been in this one) where there was a plea to smash those living overseas quickly because they "couldn't be bothered to get different stamps". In Diplomacy this attitude is ridiculous because it makes for far too rigid a strategy, eliminating a possible and valuable ally.

My thanks to Luke, Ralph and Per for sticking the game out and proving themselves true gamers.

### 'PRYDERI' GAMESTATEMENT

LUTON AIRPORT: I've redone this Endgame Statement because of a slight mix up with regards the German holdings I printed last time. Instead of ending up on 4 centres, Germany has 5, and Russia has 3. Not that I suppose it matters much, but fair's fair.

GAME: 1984DA

ZINE: DIB DIB DIB

GM: Tom Tweedy

Game Commenced: Issue 37 (March 1984)

Game Ended: Issue 54 (December 1985)

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	
AUSTRIA (Pete Mason)	3	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	8	
ENGLAND (Ralph Baker)	3	4	6	2*	1*	0	-	-	-	Out A05
FRANCE (John Piggott)	3	5	5	7	9	10	12	16	18	WINS!
GERMANY (Nick Hoyle)	3	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	
ITALY (Mike Pollard)	3	4	5	4	3	3	3	2	0	Drop-out S08
RUSSIA (David Crawford)	4	6	6	7*	7	8	7	5	3	
TURKEY (Iain Forsyth)	3	4	3	4	3	2	1	0	-	Out S07

(\* denotes number of units short)

(France) John Piggott:

"What excellent news this is for you Tom: a Piggott win in Dib. Just what you needed to raise the tone of your magazine! ((The remarkable thing is, that you had a win AT ALL!))

I was delighted to see that I had drawn France, since it gave me my first opportunity to try out the Vineyard Opening, which Geoff Tonks had promulgated a few months previously. It's one of the many excellent strategies which you won't find in Richard Sharp's book. The theory goes that by opening A(Par)-Gas, F(Bre)-MAO, together with an arranged stand-off in Burgundy with A(Mar) and arrangements with England and Italy respectively to keep out of each other's way, France can follow up in the Autumn with A(Mar)-Spa, A(Gas)-Por C by F(MAO), safely gaining two builds while staying on friendly terms with everyone and, crucially, keeping that all-important fleet at sea and poised for action instead of seeing it stuck in Portugal. In the past year I've tried this in four further games and I can honestly say that it has not yet misfired, even in the one game when England broke his agreement and opened to ENC; it really is one of the best French openings. Bedbug, had he been privy to my thoughts at this time, would have been most impressed.

In Pryderi, after volumes of initial correspondence, England (Ralph Baker) and Germany (Nick Hoyle) did as I asked while Italy (Mike Pollard) went one better and got himself hopelessly entangled with Austria (Pete Mason). I could not have asked for a better start. I duly built F(Bre), A(Par) and in Spring 1902 ordered F(MAO) northwards. (I'm sure this must be the 'standard' development from the Vineyard Opening; although an attack on Italy seems

equally possible, England certainly offers a better chance of quick gains). Nick too, was poised to help me against England, but for some reason he hadn't quite decided whose side he was on and in Autumn 1902 he moved in England's favour - while Ralph obligingly moved into Belgium and took Denmark off him! The bemused Bedbug could say little at this point except criticise the GM's spelling. ((Perhaps this was because 'Bedbug' was totally confused!))

From that moment England and Germany were doomed. Ralph had made the classic mistake of over-extending himself: his six units were hopelessly placed to support each other and by the end of 1903 he was down to one. (He could have done a lot better if he'd bothered to order some retreats; a surprising number of players neglect this.) Nick's earlier error gave me control of all the English home bases and in 1904 I was ready to advance upon him. He was in a poor position and still hindered by Russia. I also moved against Italy and already I could reasonably expect to win, as even Bedbug could perceive by now.

Nick now offered to help me win and duly threw everything against Russia. I could sense that he really hoped to establish a stalemate line and so salvage a draw; it could have worked, but I wasn't worried as there never seemed any prospect of everyone agreeing. So in return for Nick's help I undertook to try to ensure that he finished ahead of Russia in the final placings. Bedbug's astonishment at my rapid gains must have increased to apoplexy when Italy, bored with his hopeless position, offered to place his units under my command as well; this was in 1906, two seasons before he dropped out. Finally, after I'd reached 16 bases my charisma was such that even Austria agreed not to resisit me further (why don't I get all these friends when I really need them?). So, defying Bedbug's displeasure, I duly took the 18th and won the game.

This was a very enjoyable game, but not a classic one; the squabbles between Austria and Italy, and later between Austria and Russia, gave me an easier time than I had any right to expect (I had done nothing to encourage either quarrel), so it might be said that I won through other people's errors and omissions rather than my own good play. Still, many thanks to all concerned: Nick's letters were always interesting despite the influence of his much-loved Alsatian wine, and the German commemorative stamps he used, depicting a motley assortment of the 18th-century gentlemen, often bore an alarming resemblance to our revered GM: and the other players kept their ends up to the finish. And Bedbug had a certain je-ne-se-quoi....

	E	G	R	T	A	I	Total
Letters received	5	20	6	-	4	5	40
Letters sent	5	18	5	-	6	4	38

As for you Tweedy, what can I say? Those mid-deadline corrections to the published adjudications became one of the best-loved features of the game! You saved your best mistake until last, though. Germany had an A(Mos) but not an A(Lvn), right? (See the Autumn 1907 position.) Therefore, his A(Mos)-Sev in Autumn 1908 was perfectly legal, and succeeded! The final score is F18, A8, G5, R3 - and I have fulfilled my pledge to Nick, who I see has just started another game in DIB. May I commend his attention to "Vortigern", where Austria's play so far has been the archetype of competence and decisiveness, and what have you to say to that, Beddie baby?"

LUTON AIRPORT: Yes, as I've pointed out above (and to Nick) there was a slight mistake in one of the adjudications, further, because some of the players were not unable to work out the exact location of their units, due to illiteracy, the mistake was compounded. Am I to be blamed for this?

Things went wrong in Spring 1908. Because Nick made the order 'A(Lvn)-Sev', I assumed he actually HAD the unit still in Lvn (even though I normally always check to see where each unit ends up). He should have realised, that I had things wrong when I didn't state 'A(Mos) stands unordered' in the same season, and let me know straight away. Two or three seasons late, in pointing out a GM's error is no good because according to the rules units have to stand if not brought to the attention of the GM in time for things to be rectified.

Nevertheless, even with incompetents, and even incompetence, I found the game most enjoyable to run. There was some good press, though at times I had to correct John on the meanings of some of our more obscure words. (And to think this man attended Cambridge! They must be giving degrees away with Cornflake packets nowadays...) The fact that this man actually managed to win at all, shows, to a great extent, how unbiased a GM I must be.

I'll take my fee now John, if you don't mind.

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BR 'Icene' (1982ES)

Spring 1908

THE MIGHTY AUSTRIAN TAKES MOSCOW AND CLOSES IN ON A SLUMBERING FRANCE

AUSTRIA (Alan Frost) F(GOL)-WMS, F(ION) S F(Nap)-TYS, F(Nap)-TYS, F(ADS)-Alb, A(Rom)-Ven, A(Pie)stands, A(Tyr)-Mun, A(Sil)-Ber, A(Pru)-Lvn, A(War) S A(Sev)-Mos, A(Sev)-Mos, A(Ank)-Con, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Tri)-Ser

ENGLAND (Andrew Glynn) A(Lvn) S GERMAN F(BAL)-Pru, F(NTH)-ENG, F(Den)-NTH, F(Nor)-NWG, A(Lon)stands

FRANCE (Martin Cutmore) NMR! Has: F(NAf), F(MAO), A(Mar), A(Spa), F(Tun), A(Ruh), A(Bur)

GERMANY (Bill Haygarth) A(Ukr)-Sev, \*A(Mos) S A(Ukr)-Sev, F(Swe)stands, F(BAL) S A(Ber), F(Kie) S A(Ber), A(Ber) S A(Mun), A(Mun) S A(Ber)

TURKEY (Anarchy) Has: A(Arn)

Retreats: GERMAN A(Mos) dies (NRO)

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:-

- (a) 4-way draw A/E/F/G was defeated
- (b) 1st A; 2nd F/E/G was defeated

PRESS:

Wellington - Army: Hard pounding, this, gentlemen. We shall see who can pound the longest.

'Lamfhada' (1983EE)

Autumn 1911

ITALY & GERMANY MAKE GAINS WITH AUSTRIA PLAYING PIGGY-IN-THE-MIDDLE

AUSTRIA (James Cowie) A(Con)-Smy, \*A(Ber) S ITALIAN A(Tyr)-Mun, \*A(War)-Mos, A(Ukr)-Sev, A(Bud)-Rum, A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Rum, A(Vie)-Bud

FRANCE (Alan Sharples) A(Bur)-Mar, F(Spa-sc) S A(Bur)-Mar, F(Por) S F(Spa-sc), F(ENC)-IRI, F(Pic) S RUSSIAN F(NTH)-ENC

GERMANY (R.J. Lampard) A(Gal)-Ukr, A(Mun)-Ber

ITALY (Paul Donley) A(Pie)-Mar, F(GOL) S A(Pie)-Mar, A(Par) S F(MAO)-Bre, F(MAO)-Bre, A(fyr)-Mun, F(NAf)-MAO, F(AEG) S AUSTRIAN A(Con)-Smy, F(TYS)-WMS, F(Bul-sc)-Con

RUSSIA (Mike Close) F(Hol)-Kie, F(NTH)-ENC, F(NWG)-NTH, F(BAL) S GERMAN A(Mun)-Ber, A(Mos)-War, A(Lvn) S A(Mos)-War, A(StP)-Mos, \*A(Rum)-Sev, F(BLA)-Sev

TURKEY (Simon Craddock) A(Ank)-Con

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A(Ber)-Pru; AUSTRIAN A(War)-Sil; RUSSIAN A(Rum) dies (NRP)

COA: For the Easter hols....

Paul Donley, (20th Mar - 3rd Apr)	And	(3rd Apr - 24th Apr)
7 Dan-yr-heol		William Morris Hall
Cyncoed		Ashby Road
Cardiff		Loughborough
CF2 6JU		Leics. (Cont'd over....)

(Lamfhada cont'd.....)

After the 24th Paul is back to Telford Hall (can't you sit still for 5 minutes, Paul?!)

Winter 1911 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud, Ser, Tri, Rum, (Bul), (War), (Ber), Con + Smy	= 6 Disbands A(Bud)
FRA: (Bre), Por, Lpl, Lon, Bel. + Spa	= 5 No Change
GER: (Mun), Vie + Ber	= 2 No Change
ITA: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun, Gre, Mar, (Spa), Par, (Smy)	
	+ Bre, Mun, Bul = 10 Builds: F(Nap)
RUS: StP, Mos, Nor, Sev, Swe, Edi, Den, Hol, Kie + War	= 10 Builds: A(Sev), A(StP)
TUR: Ank	= 1 No Change
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PRESS:

Russia - Turkey: If you're bored with this game, then you could hand your unit over to me! It wouldn't be the first time I've ordered the units of another country... ((Cough cough splutter...))

Anon - Turkey: The end is nigh my little friend.

The Forty Nine Steps: Step 6: Which country had an ADULTS' DAY national holiday on the 15th of January this year? ((Tell me, why does this have to be repeated three times, surely once is more than enough?))

Anon - Germany: I've got my eye on you too.

'Nuada' (1984BN)

Autumn 1908

THE INSUFFERABLE CLOSE WINS YET AGAIN!

AUSTRIA (John Cavanagh)	A(Sev)-Mos, A(Ukr) S A(Sev)-Mos, A(Arm)-Sev, F(AEG)-ION, F(Gre) S F(AEG)-ION, A(Tri)-Apu, F(ADS) C A(Tri)-Apu, A(Ven) S ITALIAN A(Rom), A(Pie) S A(Tyr), A(Tyr) S A(Pie), A(Boh) S A(Sil), A(Sil) S A(Boh)
ENGLAND (Martin Allen)	F(MAO)-NAf
GERMANY (Mike Close)	F(NTH)-Edi, A(Nor)-StP, *A(Mos) faithfully S RUSSIAN A(War), A(Ber)-Pru, F(BAL) S A(Ber)-Pru, A(Kie)-Ber, A(Ruh) S A(Mun), A(Bur) S A(Mun), A(Mun) S A(Kie)-Ber, A(Tus)-Nap, F(TYS) C A(Tus)-Nap, F(Spa-sc)-GOL, F(Por)stands, A(Mar)stands
ITALY (Anarchy)	Has: F(WMS), A(Rom), *F(ION)
RUSSIA (Cathy Ozog)	[[A(War) S AUSTRIAN A(Ukr)-Mos]]

Retreats: GERMAN A(Mos)-Lvn; ITALIAN F(ION) dies

ENDGAME PROPOSALS: =1st G/A; 3rd E/R/T; 6th I was defeated

LUTON AIRPORT: Well done everyone. There should be some interesting comments coming from the gamestatements so don't forget to get them in for next issue.

Winter 1908 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud, Vie, Ser, Bul, Gre, Rum, Smy, Con, Tri, Ank,	
	Ven, Sev + Mos = 13
ENG: (Edi)	= 0 OUT
GER: Mun, Ber, Kie, Den, Hol, Bel, Swe, Lpl, Lon, Nor,	
	StP, Bre, Par, Tun, Spa, (Mos) + Edi, Nap, Por, Mar = 19 WINS!
ITA: Rom, (Nap), (Mar), (Por)	= 1
RUS: War	= 1
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PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Cathy: The A(Kie)-Lvn could have been underlined I suppose as it did fail to move, but I put it in double brackets because it was an IMPOSSIBLE or ILLEGAL move, considering Mike was trying to convoy it via F(BLA).

Russia - World: Am I still alive?!

(Cont'd over.....)

(Nuada cont'd....)

Germany - GM: Did I write BLA last time - silly me! ((Yes, to much merriment from me))

Russia - Germany: You're so sexy when you get so big in the Autumn of the year. ((No comment))

Germany - Russia: How could you refuse the support of a gallant gentleman such as myself? I tried my best to eliminate Italy and England so that you would be third! ((See, Cathy? - he's as thoughtful as ever...))

The Forty Nine Steps: Step 6: Which country had an ADULTS' DAY national holiday on the 15th of January this year?

'Olwen' (1984B0)

Spring 1910

THE AUSTRIAN CENTRES ARE MORE EVENLY 'REDISTRIBUTED'

FRANCE (Colin Pickard) F(MAO)-NAO, A(Edi)-Yor, F(ENC)-Bel, A(Pic) S A(Par)-Bur, A(Par)-Bur, A(Gas)-Mar, A(Bre)-Gas, F(Mar)-GOL, F(ION)-TYS, F(Gre)-Bul-sc, A(Bud) S TURKISH A(Bul)-Ser

GERMANY (Kenny Adams) F(NWG) S. F(NTH), F(NTH)stands, \*A(Bur)-Bel, A(Hol)-Ruh, A(Kie)-Mun, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Boh) S A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Den)stands

ITALY (Nick Lourie) NMR! Has: \*A(Ser), A(Rum), \*A(Tyr), F(Tr1), A(Ven), F(Nap)

RUSSIA (Nicholas Whyte) A(Sil)-Gal, A(StP)-Fin, A(Sev)-Ukr, [[A(Ukr) S A(Sev)-Ukr]] ((? Er, a slightly unorthodox support))

TURKEY (Ian Winstanley) A(Gal)-Vie, A(Bul)-Ser, F(EMS)-ION, F(Con)-Bul-sc

Retreats: GERMAN A(Bur) dies (NRO); ITALIAN A(Ser) dies; ITALIAN A(Tyr) dies  
COA: Nicholas Whyte, 10 Salamanea(?), Roebuck Road(?), Dublin 14, Eire  
ENDGAME PROPOSAL: 5-way draw was defeated.

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Italy: I tried to ring you on Sunday.

LUTON AIRPORT - Nicholas: Your writing is totally unreadable - is your COA correct?

LUTON AIRPORT - Ian: Comparing the seasons it would seem you are right. It seems I easily make the mistakes when someone NMR's - I'll have to watch that more carefully. You guessed right though, I can't do much about it once a season passes - sorry.

Paris - Rome: Sorry, Nick, they made me do it, it was either you or both of us. ((Now, where have I heard that before...?))

Le Figaro: Jubilation (almost comparable with the scenes witnessed in Wales, many years ago, when glorious French armies liberated that stricken land) spread across the Balkans as news of the Allied armies coming to the aid of the beleaguered French garrison heroically defending the cities of Budapest and Vienna from the dirty horrible green men from Italy, reached the peasants in their impoverished hovels.

Already most of the armies of occupation have been put to rout with Russian forces mopping up along the Black Sea coast and the Turks in Serbia.

Reactions on the streets of Paris were mixed. With some people fearing the mythical 'Juggernaut' the Italian ambassador has been whispering about and some confident that Human Rights in Austria-Hungary so abused under President Bensted's Reign of Terror would be at last restored.

Turkey - Italy: You see, I'm a lot harder to kill than you imagined.

AN ADVERTISEMENT

DANNY COLLMAN: "A little plug about that Birmingham Weekend Diplomacy - anyone living in my general area who is interested in FTF play can contact me by letter or on 021 554 9401."

'Quadri' (1984DX)Autumn 1908

## GAME ENDS IN A FIVE-WAY DRAW!

AUSTRIA (James Steele) A(Tri)-Bud, A(Ser) S A(Tri)-Bud, A(Alb)-Tri,  
F(Gre)stands

FRANCE (Alan Powis) F(ENC)-NTH, F(Lon) S F(ENC)-NTH, A(Lpl)-Edi,  
F(MAO)-Cly, F(MAO)-ENC, A(Naf)-Tun, A(Bur)-Bel,  
A(Pic) S A(Bur)-Bel, A(Bel)-Hol

GERMANY (Richard Wernick) A(Mun) S A(Ruh), A(Ruh)stands, F(Kie)stands,  
F(Hol) S F(NTH), \*F(NTH) S F(Hol)

ITALY (Martin Clifford-King) F(TYS) S F(WMS)-Tun, F(WMS)-Tun, F(Bul-sc)-Con,  
A(Ven) S AUSTRIAN A(Alb)-Tri, F(Con)-Ank

RUSSIA (Richard Downes) A(Arm)-Ank, F(Edi) S GERMAN F(NTH), A(Nor)-Swe,  
[[A(Bud) S ITALIAN A(Ven)-Tri]], [[A(Vie) S  
ITALIAN A(Ven)-Tri]], A(Gal) S A(Bud), A(Ukr)-  
Rum, F(Rum)-BLA

Retreats: GERMAN F(NTH) dies (NRO)

COA: Martin Clifford-King, (from 24.3.86) 11 Lordsbury Field, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9OE.

ENDGAME PROPOSAL: =1st R/F/G/I/A WAS ACCEPTED!

LUTON AIRPORT: That's it then gentlemen, the game's over. A couple of you didn't vote so accepted the result by default. Other than that a good game with some good fighting. Don't forget your gamestatements for next issue will you.

Winter 1908 Adjustments:

AUS: Tri, Ser, War, Gre	= 4
FRA: Par, Bre, Mar, Spa, Por, Lpl, (Tun), Bel, Lon	= 8
GER: Mun, Ber, Kie, Hol, Den	= 5
ITA: Rom, Nap, Ven, Smy, Con, Bul + Tun	= 7
RUS: StP, Sev, Swe, Rum, Nor, Ank, Edi, Mos, Bud, Vie	= 10
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PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - James: Best of luck with your exams - but, do you really think you'll have more time when you get to University?

'Setanta' (1984BF)Spring 1906

## AUSTRIA FIGHTS BACK - WITH HELP FROM THE KINDLY RUSSIANS

AUSTRIA (Jon Moss) F(ION)-Gre, A(Ser) S F(ION)-Gre, A(Bud)-Vie, A(Tri)  
S A(Bud)-Vie

ENGLAND (Anarchy) Has: F(Lpl)

FRANCE (Robert Lozynskyj) F(Spa-sc)-Por, A(Par)-Gas, A(Pic) S A(Bur)-Bel,  
A(Bur)-Bel, F(ENC) S RUSSIAN F(NTH)

GERMANY (Mike Deans) NMR! Has: \*F(Bel), F(Den), F(Kie), A(Ruh), A(Mun),  
A(Ber)

ITALY (Alan Powis) A(Tyr)-Mun, \*A(Vie) S AUSTRIAN A(Bud), A(Tus)-Ven,  
F(MAO) S FRENCH F(ENC)

RUSSIA (Paul Finch) F(Sev) S A(Arm), A(Arm)stands, A(Rum)stands, A(Ukr)  
S A(Rum), A(Gal) S AUSTRIAN A(Bud)-Vie, A(Boh) S  
AUSTRIAN A(Bud)-Vie, A(Yor)-Nor, F(NTH) C A(Yor)-  
Nor, F(SKA) S F(NTH)

TURKEY (Victor Hall) F(BLA) S A(Bul), F(Ank) S F(BLA), A(Bul)stands,  
F(AEG)-ION, A(Smy)stands

Retreats: GERMAN F(Bel) dies; ITALIAN A(Vie) dies (NRO)

COA'S:

Paul Finch, 4 Didcot Road, Shirley, Southampton, SO1 5QX.

(Setanta cont'd....)

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

(a) = 1st A/I/F/R/T; 6th G; 7th E was defeated

(b) = 1st A/I/F/R/T/G; 7th E was defeated

BUT proposal (a) has been re-proposed ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as YES))

PRESS:

France - World: Please note change of address.

'Taranis' (1985BG)

Autumn 1905

GERMANY GIVES RUSSIAN CENTRES A PASTING BUT NEGLECTS TO WATCH HIS BACK

ENGLAND (Dave Fish)	F(Den) S F(Swe), F(Swe) S F(Den), F(Nor) S F(Swe), F(Wal)-Lpl
FRANCE (Neil Parkin)	NiMR! Has: F(Spa-sc), F(IRI), A(Hol), A(Mar), A(Gas), F(Bre), A(Por)
GERMANY (Luke Clutterbuck)	A(Gal)-War, A(Sil) S A(Gal)-War, A(Lvn)-StP, A(Fin) S A(Lvn)-StP, F(HEL)-NTH, F(BAL)-Den
ITALY (David Abbott)	[[*F(Gre) S RUSSIAN F(BLA)-Bul-ec]], A(Ser) S F(Gre), F(WMS)-Tun, F(MAO)stands, A(Vie) S A(Bud)- Gal, A(Bud)-Gal, A(Ven)stands, F(Nap)-ION
RUSSIA (Ulf Jiretorn)	*A(War)-Mos, F(BLA)-Ank, F(Rum) S TURKISH A(Bul), *A(StP)-Mos
TURKEY (Ken Haywood)	F(ION)-Gre, F(AEG) S F(ION)-Gre, A(Bul) S F(ION)- Gre, F(Con) S A(Bul)

Retreats: ITALIAN F(Gre)-Alb; RUSSIAN A(War)-Ukr; RUSSIAN A(StP) dies (NRP)

COA: David Abbott - home to Cheshire for the duration (13th Mar - 24th Apr).

ENDGAME PROPOSAL: 1st F; 2nd Luke Clutterbuck's ego; 3rd I; 4th Those people unmentioned. ((Well I'm treating this as a serious proposal - does Luke wish his country to accept 2nd place? Votes for next time - failure to vote counts as YES))

Winter 1905 Adjustments:

ENG: Lon, Edi, Nor, Swe + Den, Lpl	= 6 Builds: A(Lon), F(Edi)
FRA: Bre, Par, Mar, Por, Spa, Bel, (Lpl) + Hol	= 7 No Change
GER: Mun, Kie, Ber, (Hol), (Den), StP + War	= 5 Disbands A(Sil)
ITA: Ven, Nap, Rom, Tri, Tun, Ser, (Gre), Vie, Bud	= 8 No Change
RUS: Mos, (War), Sev, Rum + Ank	= 4 Builds: A(Mos)
TUR: Con, (Ank), Smy, Bul + Gre	= 4 No Change

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PRESS:

Germany - Russia: You could have a point, what do you think of my 'alliance' with England?!

Roma - LUTON AIRPORT: Que? Scuzzi, but your last 'headline' was a heretic Protestant lie. Russia is my friend, my ally. So if you don't want da boys to come round, write something correct (like 'Italy looks after orphans' or 'Rome is a nice place', or 'Tom Tweedy likes having knee caps'). Okay? ((Okay... enough, you win. Here's the re-print: 'ROMA IS A VERY NICE PLACE... EVERYONE SHOULD GO THERE!' There, how was that?)).

Russia - Turkey: I've got to try to stay as long as possible. This doesn't mean that I didn't mean what I said.

Roma - World: As of now, normal diplomatic communications will be resumed (so lock up your wives/daughters/sheep). ((...Planks of wood...))

TOWER CONTROL - LUTON AIRPORT: Do you know where I can get some good videos of Clutterbuck? ((Er, yes gov, but it's a bit risky, try the 'video nasty' section))

Italy - France: Enjoy your Grand Tour of the antipodes.

(Press cont'd over....)



Taranis press cont'd....)

Turkey - Italy: I'll do anything, anything - even retreat, but please, please, no more poetry!!

Italy - England: It'll all end in tears, you know.

Berlin Accountants - The Book-keepers of Dib: I'm not after the capital... I'm after the interest! ((Oh well that's different - at Dib's going rate as a loan shark team, on five quid @ 1 month's interest, er, Mr Downes owes you exactly £2016.02. Or, alternatively, 1½ broken legs... plus VAT of course. As it is well known he is stoney broke now, please let me know when you wish me to collect the broken legs.))

Roma - Warsaw: 970000 pizzas on da way...

Russia - Germany: Wasn't this exactly what I said would happen if you attacked me?

'Uther' (1985DV)

Spring 1903

AUSTRIA STARTS TO CRUMBLE UNDER THE ASSAULT OF 'THE DASARDLY TRIAD CLUB'

AUSTRIA (Kevin Baker)	A(Bud)-Gal, A(Vie) S A(Bud)-Gal, *A(Tri)-Ven
ENGLAND (Piers Shepperson)	F(Swe)-Nor, F(NTH)-ENC, F(NWG)-NAO, F(Lpl) S A(Lon)-Wal, A(Lon)-Wal
FRANCE (Daniel Brooks)	F(Bre)-MAO, F(IRI)-Lpl, F(ENC) S A(Pic)-Bel, A(Pic)-Bel, A(Bur)-Mun, A(Bel)-Ruh
GERMANY (James Cowie)	F(Den)-Kie, F(BAL)-GOB, A(Sil)-Ber, A(Hol)-Ruh, A(Mun) S A(Hol)-Ruh
ITALY (Tim Collieu)	F(ION) C A(Tun)-Alb, A(Tun)-Alb, A(Tyr) S A(Ven)- Tri, A(Ven)-Tri
RUSSIA (Kris Morris)	F(StP-nc)-Nor, A(Rum)-Bud, *A(Gal)-Vie, A(War)-Sil, A(Pru) S A(War)-Sil
TURKEY (Kath Collman)	A(Ser) S RUSSIAN A(Rum)-Bud, A(Bul) S A(Ser), A(Con)stands, F(Gre) S ITALIAN A(Tun)-Alb, F(AEG) S F(Gre), F(Smy)-EMS

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A(Tri) dies (NRP); RUSSIAN A(Gal)-Ukr

LUTON AIRPORT: I know it was fairly obvious, but I'll correct it anyway, the ITALIAN A(Tun) could NOT go to Alb in Autumn '02 as it was stood out by the failed move AUSTRIAN F(Alb)-Tri.

PRESS:

Sultana - Tsarina: Does he know you called him a frog, or do you want me to keep quiet about it?

Tsarina - Italy: If the coffee was that bad you should have said. Next time try the tea - it's a little better.

Arthur - World: The sword will rise again.

Turkey - Italy. Why oh why do you keep your distance? Am I using the wrong soap? Or is it 'something my best friend wouldn't tell me'?

Turkey (Rhiannon) - Turkey (Uther): OK sheila, but look what you're doing to the nation I toiled long and hard to build up. Where is your A(StP)? What has happened to your fleet in London? Call yourself a Turkey? Don't be chicken - get gobbling!

What's On in Constantinople: A new chain of fast food restaurants has recently opened in the city, under the name of 'Jumbo Kebab Houses'. The first branch was officially opened by the Sultana, who has a strong interest in national and international cuisine. In her opening speech, the Sultana referred to 'a most generous gift from the Emperor of Austria, without which this venture would not have been possible'. She declined, however, to stay and sample the speciality of the house, the Jumbo Kebabs with mustard, which has, however, proved extremely popular with the younger customers, who enjoy the exotic flavour. We can heartily recommend these restaurants to anyone seeking 'a meal with a difference'.