

DIB DIB DIB

61 61 61 61



CP
FRANKLY I THINK WE APPEAL
TO THE MORE MATURE READER,
DON'T YOU AGREE MR CLOSE?"

Welcome to the 61st issue of Dib Dib Dib - a zine dedicated to games, games players, loonies, but mostly, to the civilised game of Diplomacy. 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

SEE INSIDE.... THE GLADYS AWARDS WHERE DIB DID JUST FINE, THANKS TO YOU LOT WATCH..... FOR THE NEWS OF THE FOLD OF RAG SPOT... THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO OF DIB'S OUTSIDE GM'S CHECK.... THE BRAND NEW LETTER COLUMN FOR ANY SANE COMMENTS SEE.... THE ADVERT WITH THE NICE LITTLE ASTERISK BORDER AROUND IT YES, THIS IS DIB 61... THE CREAM OF THE CROP... THE ZINE TO READ WITH YOUR CORNFLAKES! THIS, AND MUCH MUCH MORE... INSIDE NOW!

'Lamfhada' (1983EE)Spring 1914

[21]

AUSTRIA & ITALY BATTLE IT OUT EVENLY WITH FRANCE & RUSSIA - IS A DRAW LOOMING?

AUSTRIA (James Cowie) A(Tri) S A(Bud), A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Bud) S A(Gre)-Ser, A(Smy) S ITALIAN F(Con), A(Gre)-Ser
 FRANCE (Alan Sharples) F(Pic)-Bre, F(IRI) S RUSSIAN F(MAO), F(Por)-Spa-sc
 GERMANY (R.J. Lampard) A(Ruh)-Mun
 ITALY (Paul Donley) F(Naf)-MAO, F(Spa-sc) S F(Naf)-MAO, F(Bre) S F(Naf)-MAO, F(WMS) S F(Spa-sc), F(Tun)-ION, F(Bul-sc) S F(Con), F(Con) S F(Bul-sc), A(Bur)-Pic, A(Par) S F(Bre)
 RUSSIA (Mike Close) F(Den)-NTH, A(StP)-Nor, F(Bel)-Hol, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Sil)-Boh, A(War)-Sil, A(Mos)-Ukr, A(Rum) S A(Gal), A(Gal) S A(Sil)-Boh, A(Sev)-Arm, A(Ank)-Con, F(BLA) S A(Ank)-Con, F(ENC) S F(MAO), F(MAO) S FRENCH F(Por)-Spa-sc

Retreats: None

COA: James Cowie, 15 Pitlochry Place, Abbeyhill, Edinburgh.

PRESS:

Italy - All: There's not many of us left to fight back against Russia now, how about getting our act together before it's too late (especially you Alan).

Austria - All: Sorry about lack of communication, I'm moving house. ((New address above))

'Olwen' (1984B0)Autumn 1912

[22]

THE 3-WAY DRAW HAS BEEN ACCEPTED

(Unusual in the fact that Ian was practically ordering EVERY country)

FRANCE (Colin Pickard) F(IRI)-NAO, F(HEL)-Den, F(NTH)-Edi, A(Bel)-Hol, A(Ruh) S A(Bel)-Hol, F(WMS)-MAO, F(TYS)-GOL, F(Nap)-Rom, A(Tus)-Pie, A(Bur) stands unordered
 GERMANY (Kenny Adams) A(Den)-Pru, F(BAL) C A(Den)-Pru, A(Tyr)-Boh, A(Mun)-Tyr, F(Cly), *A(Hol), A(Kie) all stand
 RUSSIA (Nicholas Whyte) F(Nor) S A(Fin)-Swe, A(Fin)-Swe, A(Sil)-Ber, A(Boh)-Mun, A(Rum) S A(Bud), A(Bud) S A(Rum)
 TURKEY (Ian Winstanley) F(Alb)-Tri, F(EMS)-ION, F(AEG)-Con, F(Gre)-Alb, A(Tri)-Vie, A(Ser) S A(Bul), A(Bul) S A(Ser), F(Ven) S F(Alb)-Tri

Retreats: GERMAN A(Hol) dies

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

(a) =1st F/R/T; 4th G was ACCEPTED!

(b) =1st F/R/T/G was defeated. That's it then gents the game's over :- could you let me have endgame statements for next issue please. (Cont'd over....)

(Olwen cont'd.....)

Winter 1912 Adjustments:

FRA: Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Lpl, Lon, Tun, Bre, Bel, Nap + Den, Edi, Hol, Rom = 14
 GER: (Mun), Kie, (Ber), (Swe), (Hol), (Den), (Edi) = 1
 ITA: (Ven), (Rom) = 0
 RUS: Mos, War, Sev, StP, Nor, Bud, Rum + Swe, Ber, Mun = 10
 TUR: Con, Smy, Ank, Bul, Vie, Ser, Tri, Gre + Ven = 9
34

PRESS:Germany: Hmmm, it seems I've been well and truly shafted.Turkey: Hello France and goodbye Germany.'Quad11' (1984DX)Spring 1910

[23]

NASTY PLAYERS STILL TRY AND TRICK NICE GM WITH BAD ORDERS

AUSTRIA (James Steele) [[A(Alb) S A(Ser)]] ((NO SUCH UNIT)), [[A(Ser) S A(Alb)]]
 FRANCE (Alan Powis) A(Lpl)-Yor, F(Edi) S F(Hol)-NTH, F(Hol)-NTH, F(SKA) S F(NTH)-Den, F(NTH)-Den, A(Bur)-Mun, A(Ruh) S A(Bur)-Mun, A(Mar) S A(Par)-Bur, A(Par)-Bur, A(Bel)-Hol
 GERMANY (Richard Wernick) [[F(Kie) S A(Mun)]] ((IMPOSSIBLE)), *A(Mun)stands
 ITALY (Martin Clifford-King) F(TYS) stands, F(ION) C A(Nap)-Gre, A(Nap)-Gre, F(Bul-sc)-AEG, A(Gre)-Bul, A(Tri)-Bud, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Con)-Smy, F(Ven)-ADS
 RUSSIA (Richard Downes) A(War)-Pru, A(Gal)-Sil, A(Rum)-Ser, A(Bud) S A(Rum)-Ser, A(Vie) S A(Bud), A(Swe) S F(Nor), F(Nor)stands, F(NWG)-BAR, A(Ank)-Con, F(BLA) S A(Ank)-Con

Retreats: GERMAN A(Mun) diesENDGAME PROPOSAL:-

(a) 1st I; =2nd R/F; =4th A/G was defeated

(b) =1st F/R/I was also defeated.

A NEW proposal has been put forward: =1st R/F; =2nd G/I. ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

'Setanta' (1984BF)Autumn 1908

[24]

AUSTRIA KNOCKED OUT - A GOOD SAVAGE GAME, EVERYONE FIGHTING EVERYONE

AUSTRIA (Jon Moss) A(Tri)-Alb, *F(Gre)-Bul-sc
 ENGLAND (Anarchy) Has: F(Lpl)
 FRANCE (Robert Lozynskyj) A(Yor) S ITALIAN F(Edi), F(Wal)-Lon, F(Bel)-NTH, F(MAO)-ENC, F(HEL)-Den, A(Hol) S A(Ruh)-Kie, A(Ruh)-Kie
 ITALY (Alan Powis) A(Ven)-Tri, F(Edi)stands, A(Tus)-Nap, F(TYS) C A(Tus)-Nap, A(Bur)-Mar
 RUSSIA (Paul Finch) [[F(NWG) S F(NTH)-NWG]] ((IMPOSSIBLE)), F(NTH)-Edi, F(Den) S A(Kie), F(Nor)-NTH, A(Kie) S A(Mun), A(Mun) S A(Kie), A(Sil)-Boh, A(Vie)-Bud, A(Ukr)-Rum, A(Mos) S A(Sev), A(Sev) S A(Ukr)-Rum, A(Ser) S A(Ukr)-Rum
 TURKEY (Victor Hall) A(Alb)-Gre, F(AEG) S A(Alb)-Gre, F(Smy)-Con, F(Con)-Bul-ec, A(Rum) S F(Con)-Bul-ec, F(BLA) S A(Rum), A(Arm)-Sev

Retreats. AUSTRIAN F(Gre) dies

(Cont'd over...)

(Setanta cont'd....)

COA'S: Jon Moss, South Lodge, Singleton Park, Kendal (or Kendal?).
Victor Hall, 265 Sherrard Road, Eastham, London:

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

- (a) =1st F/R/I/T; 5th A was defeated.
(b) 1st R; =2nd T/F; =4th I/A was defeated
(c) 1st T; =2nd R/F; =4th I/A was defeated
(d) 1st F; =2nd T/R; =4th I/A was defeated
(e) =1st F/R/T; 4th I; 5th A; 6th E/G was defeated

Winter 1908 Adjustments:

AUS: (Gre), (Tri)	= 0 OUT
ENG: Lpl	= 1 No Change
FRA: Bre, Par, (Mar), Por, Spa, Bel, Lon + Hol	= 7 No Change
ITA: Rom, Ven, Tun, Edi, (Mun) + Tri, Nap, Mar	= 7 Builds: A(Ven), F(Rom)
RUS: Mos, War, StP, (Rum), Swe, Nor, Vie, Bud, Den, Kie, (Hol), Ber + Mun, Sev, Ser	= 13 Builds: A(War)
TUR: Smy, Ank, Con, Bul; (Nap), (Ser), (Sev) + Gre, Rum	= 6 Disbands F(Smy)
	34

Tarqnis (1985BG)

Spring 1907

[25]

LONE ITALIAN FLEET STILL MAKING WAVES IN THE NORTH

ENGLAND (Dave Fish)	F(Lpl)-NAO, F(Edi)-NTH, F(Den); S F(Edi)-NTH, F(Swe)-Bel, A(Lon)stands
FRANCE (Neil Parkin)	F(MAO)-ENC, F(WMS)-MAO, F(IRI) S F(WMS)-MAO, A(NAF) stands, A(Pie)-Mar; A(Bel)-Ruh, A(Pic)-Bel
GERMANY (Luke Clutterbuck)	F(BAL)-Kie, *F(NTH)-Den, A(Fin)-Swe, A(Nor) S A(Fin)-Swe, A(StP)stands
ITALY (David Abbott)	A(Tyr)-Mun, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Gal)-War, A(Ser)-Rum, [[F(Gre) S TURKISH F(BLA)-Bul-ec]], F(ION) S
RUSSIA (Ulf Jiretorn)	F(Tun), F(Rom)-TYS, F(Tun) S F(Rom)-TYS, F(NAO)-NWG A(War)-Pru, A(Mos)-StP, F(Ank)-Con, F(Bul-sc) S F(Ank)-Con, A(Sev)-Arm
TURKEY (Ken Haywood)	F(BLA)-Bul-ec, F(AEG)-Con

Retreats: GERMAN F(NTH)-Hol

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Turkey: Your orders cut it a bit fine - don't trust the post around here.

Turkey - The Ether: What a swell party this is!

Turkey - Italia: Look who's talking!

Russia - Italy: Understood.

Italia - All my (ex)allies: Sorry!

Italia - Luton Airport: Do you think they'd believe that? ((Would YOU?))

England - Germany: We cannot go on like this.

Italia - All my (new) allies: Trust meeee.....!

Germany - France: And thank you too! Don't forget to look me up next time you come. Haven't you left Italy a little too strong?

England/Germany - Casual Observer: This is just a friendly disagreement over who is to be trusted out next.

Berlin - London: There just has to be an alternative to this.

LUTON AIRPORT - Luke: I have been getting The Envoy (up to issue two), it's okay, but doesn't seem as friendly as the original Rump. Mind you I'm a bit biased against multi-editor zines anyway.

'Uther' (1985DV)

Autumn 1905

[26]

A SEEMINGLY QUIET GAME WITH RUSSIA AND TURKEY SNEAKING INTO THE LEAD

ENGLAND (Piers Shepperson) F(Nor) S F(NWG)-BAR, F(NWG)-BAR, F(Den)-Swe,
F(Wal)-Lon, A(Yor)-stands, F(Lon)-NTH

FRANCE (Daniel Brooks) F(MAO)-WMS, F(GOL) S F(MAO)-WMS, F(ENC)-MAO,
F(Bel)-Pic, A(Bur) S A(Mun), A(Mun) S GERMAN
A(Kie)-Ber

GERMANY (James Cowie) F(HEL)-Den, A(Hol)-stands, A(Kie)-Ber

ITALY (Anarchy) Has: *A(Ven), F(Nap)

RUSSIA (Kris Morris) F(BAR)-StP-nc, F(GOB) C A(Lvn)-Fin, A(Lvn)-Fin,
A(Ber) stands, A(Sil) S A(Ber), A(Tyr)-Ven, A(Gal)-
Boh

TURKEY (Kath Collman) F(TYS)-Tus, F(ION)-Tun, F(EMS)-ION, F(AEG)-Gre,
A(Apu)-Rom, A(Tri) S RUSSIAN A(Tyr)-Ven, A(Ser) &
A(Alb) take up Morris dancing ((oh very funny))

Retreats: ITALIAN A(Ven) dies

COA: James Cowie, 15 Pitlochry Place, Abbeyhill, Edinburgh.

Winter 1905 Adjustments:

ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nor, Swe, (Den) = 5 Disbands F(Lon)

FRA: Par, Bre, Mar, Por, Spa, Bel, Mun = 7 Builds: A(Par)

GER: (Ber), Kie, Hol + Den = 3 No Change

ITA: (Rom), Nap, (Ven) = 1 No Change

RUS: StP, War, Mos, Sev, Rum, Bud, Vie + Ber, Ven = 9 Builds: A(Mos), A(War)

TUR: Smy, Ank, Con, Bul, Ser, Gre, Tun, Tri + Rom = 9 Builds: F(Con)

34

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Kris: Sorry if there was any mix up - I don't have last season's orders to hand at the moment so I can't say.

Russia - Germany: You mean to say that England had friends?

Sultana - French Navy: Hello sailor, fancy a bit of fun. ((Jezabel!))

Russia - Germany: Well done on getting France to support you, I just wonder if he'll offer Munich back to you.

France (Govt) - Russia: Sorry but I just can't see you attacking Kath until the two of you have taken me out.

Tsar - Sultana: Yes you did, you kept mentioning my nose!

Turkey - LUTON AIRPORT: Please don't talk about blood, I'm so squeamish! ((Oh, so we won't talk of the bloodied corpses you've left behind you in your climb to the top of the Diplomacy ladder, eh? I know, they were just slips of the knife...))

Tsar - Sultana: Did you have to mention the love and kisses, now you've made Tom jealous. ((Very true *sulk* so there!))

Sultana - Tsar: If you call that house-trained, I'd hate to see anyone who wasn't!

Rupert Bear - Turkey: Why so glum chum?

Sultana - World: I am no longer on speaking terms with that unspeakable purple cad to my north. The Tsar may deplore inhuman tactics, but he's not above using them on poor defenceless little old me. ((Old?))

Tsar - Alice: Don't let the ravings of a tired old degenerate like Tom put you off, go on, send me your name and address and all will be revealed. ((Yeuk! - well Alice you have been warned... it won't be a pretty sight!))

Turkey (Govt) - World: It has come to our attention that the European heads of state are perturbed by the recent Civil Disorder in Italy, and this government is prepared to take emergency measures to quell the disturbance. To this end we propose to set up a new seat of government in Rome, which will henceforth become the capital of the Western Empire - the Eastern Empire will continue to be governed from Constantinople. The rest of Europe may now go about their normal business peacefully, and in total confidence and security, now that the threat to world stability has been neutralised. AVE CAESAR MORITURI TE SALUANT.
(Press cont'd over.....)

(Uther press cont'd...)

Russia - Italy: Bye Tim, it was nice knowing you.
Sultana - Tsarina: I told you to bring the Valium!!
Tsarina - Sultana: Believe me I've tried everything, from bromide in his tea to Barbara Woodhouse but nothing works!
Tsarina to his Imperial Highness the Czar (Head of the Russian Secret Service):
Subject of report: The recent Imperial visit to the Turkish court.
 Royal thanks for the plum jam of assessing that "Old Fruit", the Sultana, and her consort. If their current form continues we have no raisin to worry. The royal palace was just peachy with the staff kept in apple-pie order. The royal couple make a good pear, but I was able to spend some time alone with the Sultan and the gaming tables. The Sultana had to stay home for fear of seeming a right gooseberry and making a fool of herself. The Sultan though past his salad days, is well-preserved but not dated. He can be a bit of a lemon, but is thick-skinned with a real zest for life. I plied him with jungle juice and he soon crumbled under my onslaught I squeezed him as hard as I could but obtained little of satisfaction. He made a right prune of himself by getting well stoned and on our return to the palace blew a raspberry at the Sultana. She cherried well and in a fit of sour grapes made him do penance in the usual Royal Mould I last saw him berried under a pile of soggy bread and butter crying "That's Charlotte for now!" ((Good grief, this press is fruitless as far as I'm concerned - it's a right melon to type up and the author needs squashing FAST!))

'Vortigern' (1985GA)

Autumn 1905

[27]

RUSSIA AND TURKEY NOT ABLE TO HOLD THE AUSTRIAN FORCES

AUSTRIA (John Piggott) A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Ven) S A(Vie)-Tyr, F(Tri)stands, A(Ser), S F(ION)-Gre, A(Rum)-Sev, F(ION)-Gre, F(TYS)-Tun, A(Gal)-Rum, A(War)stands
 ENGLAND (Michele Morris) A(Nor)-StP, A(Lon)-Nor, F(NTH) C A(Lon)-Nor, F(Edi) S F(NTH), F(NWG) S F(NTH)
 FRANCE (Bob Watson) A(Ruh) stands, A(Bur) S A(Ruh), A(Pic)-Bel, *A(Tyr)-Tri, F(WMS)-TYS, F(GOL) S F(WMS)-TYS
 GERMANY (Alan Frost) F(Den)stands, F(HEL) S F(Den), A(Mun) S AUSTRIAN A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Ber) S A(Mun), A(Kie) S A(Mun)
 ITALY (Anarchy) Has: A(Apu)
 RUSSIA (Per Von Gavel) NMR! Has: A(Mos), A(Ukr), F(Swe)
 TURKEY (Jon Moss) F(BLA)-Sev, A(Bul)-Gre, F(AEG) S A(Bul)-Gre, F(EMS)-ION

Retreats: FRENCH A(Tyr) dies

COA: Jon Moss, South Lodge, Singleton Park, Keidal (or Kendal?)

Winter 1905 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud, Tri, Vie, Gre, Ser, Ven, Rom, Nap, War + Rum, Tun = 11 Builds: A(Vie), A(Bud)
 ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nor, StP = 5 No Change
 FRA: Par, Bre, Mar, Por, Spa, Bel = 6 Builds: F(Mar)
 GER: Mun, Ber, Kie, Den, Hol = 5 No Change
 ITA: (Tun) = 0 GM disbands A(Apu) OUT
 RUS: Mos, Sev, Swe, (Rum) = 3 No Change
 TUR: Smy, Ank, Con, Bul = 4 No Change

34

PRESS:

Germany - GM: Why censor it? It was only libel. Anyway, 'censor' is spelled with an 'S', so there! ((Very true - however, I CENSORED that section of press because I felt it was something I wouldn't like said in the company of women - it's the only criteria I can go by. I'm not prudish, it just makes me feel uncomfortable.))

(Press cont'd over....)

(Vohltigern press cont'd....)

Turkey - Russia: Per, you are authorised to move my units until further notice - Tom will confirm such. ((Er, yes, but it's normally kept secret.))

Prince Consort - Austria: Boris Karloff eh? I don't know if to be flattered or insulted. Just as long as I get the girl I'll forgive you, just this once.

Germany - GM: Thanks for the compliment in 'Icene', but if I'm such a good player, why ain't I winning? ((Well, it IS a tough life sometimes!))

England - Germany: I take it you don't love me any more? I can't think why.

Germany - Russia: It's OK. You couldn't help it. I always fancied older women myself.

Prince Consort - LUTON AIRPORT: Permission granted. I'll expect you sometime during the next week, and don't worry, I've arranged for a medical team to be on hand to see to your wounds. ((Oh gee, thanks a lot...))

England - LUTON AIRPORT: You now have the written permission you requested, when are you going to try, or will you prove to be all mouth and no trousers like most men? ((Well, the written permission was of doubtful origin being as it was crudely constructed on some home computer, but I'll let that pass, instead I'll send the 'the boys' down to administer said punishment, led by my trusty strong right hand, John 'Spanker' Piggott - bane of tender fair maidens, and Terror of Canvey Island. You will feel a strong need NOT to speak of this again - and there will be NO reprieve.))

Ethilfrog Studios: 'Seven Little Niggers' - a grim yet touching adaption of the famous Agatha Christie mystery. Six men and one woman, each with a dark secret, are invited to a house in south-east Essex to play Dilpomacy. The owner of the house, the mysterious Mr Piggott, is nowhere to be found. As the game progresses, one by one the players meet their deaths.....

Thomas Tweedy

Jack Warner

(The stakes in this game were high, and Tweedy gave a hideous shriek as the sharp ones thrust through his head and chest....) ((WOT! dead already? Anyway, 'shriek'? Surely I just gritted my teeth?))

Alan Frost

Gert Frobe

(Too late, he realised the shocking truth: the English A(Tyr) had been electrified....)

Jon Moss

Kenneth Williams

("I'll get some food from Piggott's fridge," he said, - but when he fell in all his assets were frozen.....)

Bernard Emblem

Gerald Campion

(They call socialists 'reds'; funny, by the time the fire went out Bernard was quite black....)

Luke Clutterbuck

Buster Keaton

(He'd been walled up in the cellar - the only way out was to dig through to Australia....)

Andy Mansefield

Dan Blocker

(As he stalked the murderer through the kitchen, an exploding Christmas Pudding had him bang to rights....)

Michele Morris

Hattie Jaques

(Bound and helpless, she turned green with fear and disgust as the giant man-eating frogs approached....)

LUTON AIRPORT - Per: Sorry about this but your orders came in far too late (Monday) when I had already adjudicated the game. And I know this makes me sound heartless (you put me on the spot) but I can't hold the game over either - you see even though you left it to the last minute, holidays don't count. Thanks for the cheque though!

Russia - Germany: When things start getting tough, you mustn't just give up.

TURKEY TAKES A SEVERE THRASHING

ENGLAND (Per Von Gavel) NMRI Has: F(ENC), F(NTH), F(Nor)
 FRANCE (Pete Mason) A(Bel) stands; F(MAO)-Por, F(IRI)-ENC, A(Lpl) stands,
 A(Bre) stands.
 GERMANY (Alan Powis) F(Swe)-Nor, F(BAL)-Swe, A(Ber)-Mun, A(Hol) S FRENCH
 A(Bel), A(Pie)-Ven
 ITALY (Kris Morris) F(ION)-Gre, F(Nap)-ION, F(TYS) S F(Nap)-ION, A(Vie)-
 Boh, A(Tyr)-Ven, A(Alb) S F(ION)-Gre, A(Ser)-Bul
 RUSSIA (Danny Collman) [[F(GOB) S ENGLISH F(Nor)-Swe]], A(Pru)-Ber, A(Sil) S
 A(Pru)-Ber, A(Rum) S ITALIAN A(Ser)-Bul, F(BLA)-Con,
 A(Ank) S F(BLA)-Con, A(Arm)-Smy
 TURKEY (Rowland Goodman) F(EMS)-Smy, F(Con) stands, F(AEG) S F(Con), [[A(Bul)
 S ITALIAN A(Ser)-Rum]], A(Gre)stands

Retreats: TURKISH A(Bul) dies; TURKISH A(Gre) dies

COA: (Till Sep 8) Per von Gavel, Hofeweg 51, Butteldorf, 2887 Elsfleth, West
 Germany.

Winter 1903 Adjustments:

ENG: Lon, (Lpl), Ed1, Nor	= 3 No Change
FRA: Bre, Par, Mar, Bel, Spa + Por, Lpl	= 7 Builds: F(Mar), A(Par)
GER: Mun, Kie, (Ber), Den, Hol + Swe	= 5 No Change
ITA: Ven, Nap, Rom, Tun, Vie, Ser, Iri + Gre, Bul	= 9 Builds: A(Ven), A(Rom)
RUS: StP, Sev, Mos, War, Rum, (Swe), Bud + Ber, Ank	= 8 Builds: F(StP-sc)
TUR: Smy, (Ank), Con, (Gre); (Bul)	= 2 Disbands F(AEG)
Neutrals: (Por)	= 0
	<u>34</u>

PRESS:

Kermit - Bald Eagle: There was a young lass from Brum,
 Who kept putting stuff on her tum,
 She said with a giggle,
 And a beautiful wiggle
 This will stop me becoming a mum.

Germany - England: What is stopping you? Do you owe him money or something?

Mama Buitoni - Czar: You say you wanna licka my beloved in one breath and then
 you say you no like-a da ginger in the next. I'ma confused!

Munich - Rome: I said I would. Did you believe me?

Mole - Germany, England, & France: I asked for help and received none. So I
 have kept my promise.

Munich - Paris: Satisfied?

Russia - Turkey: If you did, thank you kindly. But you really didn't have to -
 I'd have got there anyway. If you didn't: cunning! But I don't think you've
 got much longer.

Italy - LUTON AIRPORT: See what happens, I send love and kisses to Russia and
 he threatens to licka me all over. And you wonder why I never went to
 Manarcon? ((I know, it's disgusting))

Turkey - Russia: Don't you believe it.

Russia - England: Your letter reached me in Wales; thanks. Orders changed to
 comply with half your request. Information received suggests the move may not
 work and reinforcements are necessary.

Italy - England: Believe me, I do have problems. If only you knew.

StP - Scarpa Flow: Who is it that's so trustworthy?

'THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL' - WITHAM BOURSE

LUTON AIRPORT: This game has had to be cancelled as Richard cannot carry on
 GMing this game due to a new job and girlfriend. Please accept my apologies
 for letting you down, I won't let this sort of thing happen again! All monies
 will be refunded as soon as I have your names. I am extremely sorry.

ENGLAND AND TURKEY LINK UP

AUSTRIA (Colin Kinsella) A(Vie) S A(Bud), A(Bud) S A(Vie), A(Ser)-Tri,
F(Alb)-ADS
 ENGLAND (Stephen Cloves) *F(Lon) S F(Lpl)-Wal, F(Lpl)-Wal, A(StP) S TURKISH
 A(Sev)-Mos, F(BAR)-NWG
 FRANCE (Heiko Schafer) F(Wal)-Lon, F(ENC) S F(Wal)-Lon, A(Pic)-Par, A(Mar)-
Bur, A(Gas) S A(Mar)-Bur
 GERMANY (Chris Sandow) A(Lvn) S TURKISH A(Sev)-Mos, A(Swe)-Fin, F(BAL)-Swe,
A(Bur)-Gas, A(Mun)-Bur, A(Ruh) S A(Mun)-Bur, F(Bel)
 stands
 ITALY (Andy Mansfield) F(ION)-ADS, A(Tri)-Vie, A(Gal) S A(Tri)-Vie, F(Nap)-
TYS, A(Ven)-Tri
 RUSSIA (Tony Reynolds) F(Nor)-NTH, A(Ukr)-War, *A(Mos) S A(Ukr)-War
 TURKEY (Rowland Goodman) F(Smy)-AEG, A(Sev)-Mos, A(Rum)-Ukr, A(Bul)-Rum,
 F(BLA) C A(Con)-Sev, A(Con)-Sev

Retreats: ENGLISH F(Lon)-Yor; RUSSIAN A(Mos) dies (NRP)

PRESS:

Mole - Hadrian: Goodbye.

France - England: Due to German imperpence ((?)) we are now open to correspo-
 ndence again.

Italy - Austria: Here we go round the Mulberry bush, how about we go the other
 way next time?

Chay - Mr.Glide: You puff! Having your pierced. Whatever will you think of
 next?

Mole - Aquila. I trust you have got the spaghetti out of your hair. New
 Ottoman shampoo is quite effective. All you need now is a quick rinse in the
 Ionian, and you can visit Rome.

Henry Root - Anyone who cares to read this: I do object strongly to all this
 empty space in Germany, Mrs Root and myself are thinking of forming 'A day
 trip to Berlin' society and all interested members should send their donations
 (nothing under £5) to Colin Kinsella at the usual address.

Somebody else - Mole: Persuasive, I should koko what's he got that I ain't -
 DON'T ANSWER THAT!

A NICE PREDICTABLE START, WITH RUSSIA AND TURKEY LINING UP

AUSTRIA (Barry Raynes) F(Tri)-Alb, A(Bud)-Ser, A(Vie)-Tri
 ENGLAND (Paul Street) F(Ed1)-NWG, F(Lon)-NTH, A(Lpl)-Yor
 FRANCE (Kevin Baker) A(Par)-Bur, F(Bre)-MAO, A(Mar)-Spa
 GERMANY (John Cavanagh) A(Mun)-Bur, A(Ber)-K1e, F(K1e)-Hol
 ITALY (Mike Close) A(Ven)-Tyr, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Nap)-ION
 RUSSIA (Rowland Goodman) F(Sev)-BLA, A(Mos)-Sev, A(War)-Ukr, F(StP-sc)-GOB
 TURKEY (Kris Morris) F(Ank)-BLA, A(Smy)-Arm, A(Con)-Bul

PRESS:

Italy - GM: OK, now how many of the countries in this game can I order? ((I'm
 sure you'll have a better idea than me, Mike.))

Paris: Premier Pissonieu sat pensively on the throne of France. Meditation?
 No, constipation. How could he become Ymir of Constantinople? Success was
 ynear at hand at hand and yet it was so yfar to travel there. He looked at the
 selection of papers readily to hand - 'Paris Match' or 'Le Monde'. Taking a
 sheet of the former he finished his ablutions and adjusted his dress (it was a
 rather pretty floral print). ((groan)) He left his throne room muttering to
 himself "Today Paris, tomorrow the world..."

(Press cont'd over....)

(Ymir press cont'd....)

In the corridor outside the throne room a very short man was scribbling graffiti on the walls. Amidst a collage of petticoats and legs ((oh very poetic)) some writing could be deciphered. "Aha," he murmured, "at last the signwriter has arrived - no longer will we have visitors wandering aimlessly down the corridors seeking the throne room - now it is clearly indicated - 'To Loos-La Trek'." ((Oh, now I remember the style of prose - an appeal goes out - is there someone to rid me of this maniac?! Perhaps someone could cut off his writing hand....))

Turkey - World: You will all no doubt be relieved to hear that I have decided to drastically limit the amount of press that I submit to this rag journal. I think that our esteemed GM (all praise to him) deserves a well earned rest from printing out my usual masterpieces. Besides, I can't think of anything to say (for now). (Now if that doesn't win me the game, what will?). ((deviousness, slyness, and urge to maim, kill, etc? Y'know, just be yourself.))

Italy - England: So you are clever enough to design Diplomacy puzzles in Dolchstoss eh? You certainly kept that quiet.

Turkey - England: Whadya mean, I've got a funny name? - come here and say that (but, only if you're 5ft and skinny with it).

Guillermo Hills: Latest betting: 1-2 any draw; 6-4 Turkey, England; 2-1 Bar...

London 1st March 1901: The British Government today announced its appointment of a new cultural attache to the Ottoman Empire, Mr Bernard Matthews. Asked for his initial reactions on news of the appointment, Mr Matthews replied, "it's bootiful, I'm looking forward to talking Turkey with that motor engineer from Plymouth."

Kris - Kevin: Me, stir it with your friends and neighbours, now would I do a nasty thing like that? Go on everyone, tell him what I told you about him (I don't think I should have said that).

The 49 Steps - Luton Airport: A double deadline due to the amount of diploming? Does this mean people are actually listening to Close? You'd think they would know better by now. ((There's always one, isn't there? Well Mike manages to find half a dozen...))

The 49 Steps: Step 11: In whose defence did the widow Kenou Masselaer raise a ferocious band of women?

Turkey - World: Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me!

Turkey - Italy: My interesting news came straight from the horses mouth, care of the GPO of course.

Kris - Luton Airport: My fourth game and I've got a reputation already, what am I doing wrong? ((It's because you're married to Michele - she trouble!))

Rolf Harris - France: Gday sport. Ow's yer billabong? A passing kookaburra tells me yer try'n to stir the s..t against me ole copber the Sultan. Can't be true can it? I didn't think yer'd be such a wallaby t' try it on. Ge' on w'ya, go crack a tube on' put yer feet up, 'cus if y'do such a dumb thing then I'll send a load of 'roos to bounce on yer bonce.

Mole - Bird Eaten at Christmas: You treacherous.....

Sopwith (T067DD)	GM Tom Tweedy	Albatross:			Turn 11			
	MOVE 1	MOVE 2	MOVE 3	HEX	F/HEX	AMMO	DGE	RAT
THE PINK PANTHER:	LT - F0,	LT - F0,	A - F0	E7	E6	5	9	4
Richard Downes								
KAMEE KAZEE:	RT - F0,	A - F0,	A - F0	J18	J19	3	11	19
Ian Tillson								
PINK POTATO FLY:	RS - F0,	A - F0,	A - F0	L5	M6	4	12	9
David Abbott								

DAMAGE (DGE): None.

CLOUD POSITIONS (beginning of Turn 12): All move North East

(1) ??,??,??, K19, L19 (2) Gone forever

(IMPORTANT press cont'd over....)

PRESS: (for Albatross

LUTON AIRPORT: This game can't be held up any longer - John cannot carry on GMing this game due to a move of house and a new job, this means I will be taking over. Please accept my apologies for letting you down, I won't let it happen again! This is the last adjudication I published many issues ago, all I need from each of you are your orders (John can't find your last set) and your AIRFIELD HEX. Remember, send your orders to me next issue, not John.

SOPWITH (T084DD) GM Tom Tweedy	Great Tit			Turn 7			
	MOVE 1	MOVE 2	MOVE 3	HEX	F/HEX	AMMO	DGE
MACHINE-GUN JOE: Stuart Tweedy	A - F0,	RT - FR,	A - FR	LANDS A10	??	16	2
SAUER VON MESSERSHIP: Per von Gavel	LS - FL,	LT - F0,	LT - F0	D9	D8	7	2
MAJOR CRINGEWORTHY: Terry Dibden	I - F0,	A - F0,	LT - FA	N9	O10	7	7
PHANTOM PHART: James Steele	RT -*FR,	RT - FA+L,	O - F0	O13	N13	7	3
WOODY WOODPECKER: Daniel Brooks	RT - F0,	A - FA,	LT - F0	N14	M14	9	5

DAMAGE (DGE): In the first Move Phantom Phart hit Woodpecker (who takes 4 dge). That's all I believe

CLOUD POSITIONS (beginning of Turn 8). All move toward S10.

(1) D5, E5, E4, F5, F4	(2) J11, K11, L11	(3) J5, K6, K5
(4) J14, K15, L15	(5) N11, N10, O11, P11	(6) D8, E8, G9

PRESS:.

LUTON AIRPORT: This game can't be held up any longer - Richard cannot carry on GMing this game due to a new job and girlfriend, this means I will be taking over. Please accept my apologies for letting you down, I won't let it happen again! This is the last adjudication that was published in issue 59, all I need from each of you are your orders (Richard can't find your last set) and your AIRFIELD HEX. Remember, send your orders to me next issue, not Richard.

SOPWITH (T0??DD) 'Tinamou' TURN 9

GM: Matt Quartermain, 76 Wilwood Road, Priestwood, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1SN

	MOVE 1	MOVE 2	MOVE 3	HEX	F/HEX	AMMO	DGE	RAT
MAJOR I. SWOTTER: Dave Tant	RT - F0,	A - FA+R,	RT - F0	K6	J5	13	12	11
STONE EAGLE: Jake Cheung	NMR! A,A,A - no firing			H1	?(G0)	6	1	3

DAMAGE (DGE): None

CLOUD POSITIONS (beginning of turn 10): All move South West

(1) D6, E6, E5, F6, F5	(2) J12, K12, L12	(3) K7, J6, J7
(4) J15, K16, L16	(5) N12, N11, O12, P12	(6) D9, E9, F10, G10

LUTON AIRPORT: Thanks for trying about Elite, Matt - sorry to hear you bugged your own up - but Stuart has managed to get a copy using his recently purchased copy chip. He only needed the boot program, the rest can easily be copied. Also, thanks for seeing Vulture through. I realise it must have been a bit of a bind at times - thanks for sticking with it, it really is appreciated.

SOPWITH (T025DD)'VULTURE'TURN 32

GM: Matt Quartermain, 76 Wilwood Road, Priestwood, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1SN

	<u>MOVE 1</u>	<u>MOVE 2</u>	<u>MOVE 3</u>	<u>HEX</u>	<u>F/HEX</u>	<u>AMMO</u>	<u>DGE</u>	<u>RAT</u>	
LT. DEZ TROY:	LT - FO,	LT -*FA(4),	LS -*FR(4+10K)	L11	K11	0	4	39	
<u>Martyn Ives</u>									
<u>FLYER TUCK:</u>	NMRI A,A,A - DEAD							79	
<u>Richard Morris</u>									

DAMAGE (DGE): Phew...LETTERSRICHARD WALKERDINE: "MP All-stars 1st, D1b/Rag (or should that be Dish-Rags? 8th, HUH!!!)"((Crow while you may, old man - our time will come! Perhaps I'll help Nick Kinzett do a take-over of MP?))

Many of you have been complaining... AGAIN!

MIKE CLOSE: "What's this miserable excuse for a lettercol? Pull yourself together man, and let's get back to normal!"

((Oh Close mumble mumble stab mumble strangle mumble NORMAL! Are you kidding?))

MICHELE MORRIS: "When will we get our lettercol back? Kris and I have been reduced to writing long letters full of drivel to Nick Kinzett instead of you."

((Well we can't have that now can we? Why not give it all to Tweedy to type up? I mean, he only uses 23 hours in a day editing!))

LUKE CLUTTERBUCK: "I'd like to see D1b and its wonderful letter column back to full strength as soon as possible!"((Oh okay, ENOUGH - I'll do it... Consider the letter column open again. More tomes from the Collmans and Morrises, more insults from Close and Ozog, more confusion from Clutterbuck and Della-Sala, more logic from Piggott, more illogic from Emblem - is it no wonder D1b win the Gladys lettercol award? Ye Ghods and little fishes!))MICHELE MORRIS: "Well done young fella-me-lad on winning two Gladys Awards and coming so close in the other categories you were nominated for. Of course the D1b letter column has been immeasurably improved since the Morrises and Collmans arrived so your winning the 'Best Letter Column' award was no great surprise. Geoff Challenger may criticise it for being too lightweight and prefer meatier stuff in Home, but I know which letter column I prefer to read with my cornflakes of a morning. If I want to discuss the more serious side of life I prefer to do so in a serious magazine or newspaper. This is after all supposed to be a hobby, is it not? ((True. God forbid that we should talk of anything serious in Dib))

I always knew the 'Dame Edna Award' would go to either you or Nick. It was logical that it would be won by someone who was well known throughout the hobby. That meant a zine editor with a largish circulation and probably involvement in some other Hobby service like the CGS. This meant it had to be you, Nick or Piglet, but he's annoyed a lot of people with his plans for the Zine Poll. ((He has? He's done exactly as I would have done...)) I reckon Nick pipped you at the post because he's just had good exposure, if you'll pardon the phrase, at Manorcon. I would have

voted for you this year only I do so like Teddy Bears! ((Jan says I'm a bit like a grizzly bear in the morning, does that count?))

I was dead chuffed with how well I did. I figured I had to get three votes; two from whoever nominated me (poor fools) and one from Kris who was persuaded to vote using the usual torture methods. I was therefor pleasantly surprised to see that total had passed, and that I'd drawn with Piglet. After all, I'd only been around for about a year, and Piglet has been around for ever. ((And how!)) John is really annoyed about it too. He'd worked out suitable insults for if I beat him, and crowing statements for if he beat me, but he never envisaged a dead-heat and is temporarily at a loss for words!"

((As long as I've know him John has NEVER been temporarily at a loss for words - but thank you for those few kind words, ego boos are always welcome.))

As some mags die other come to fill their place, so, space for a couple of little personal plugs...

BRIAN MOORE: "PHOENIX issue 1 came out at the start of July. It was only two sides, but from little acorns grows a 10 side zine. Waiting lists are open for Rail Baron, Railway Rivals and British Rails. I've worked out postal rules for the latter so I'm playtesting it. As usual, the playtest is free. New address is: Brian Moore, 18 Leicester Avenue, Horwich, Bolton, Lancs."

((And...))

PAUL DONLEY: "Lufbra hobbymeet is no longer in existence now that Derek and I have left University. On a more positive note I have just joined the ranks of the Diplomacy editors. I have manipulated my entry into this elite by starting a sub-zine called Y Golygiad O'r Déan in Derek Caw's zine War & Peace. It will consist of chat on various subjects, hopefully a letter column and games of Diplomacy. The only thing I'm worried about is if it is successful I may turn into an ageing hack like yourself. But still I would appreciate a plug in your wonderful masterpiece (Creep, grovel).

Finally could you please provide me with Alan Sharples current address as I can't find it."

((Certainly, it's: 13 Eccletriggs Avenue, Hawcoat, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 4NG. Also, consider your Y Golly thingy (wotta name!) plugged - see I even underlined it for you. You have a right to be worried, being an ageing hack is no joke. You must be mad! Still, I wish you the best of luck. Those interested in seeing Paul's efforts can contact Paul at 7 Dan-yr-heol, Cyncoed, Cardiff, CF2 6JU.))

ANDY MANSFIELD: (EARLIER) "I may have missed it but do you just GM games or are you playing in any? I would not like to have your job for the world, I find it difficult enough, just to get all the orders in on time let alone have to worry about everybody else. The only thing that tempts me is a letter game I'm playing in where the game only goes to the seven people involved. Now if I get the itch to do a bit of GMing I would probably go this route. How did you start?"

((See this is how the rot starts. Well, my intention was to start as a sub-zine to the infamous Clive F. Booth's zine Chimara. This, however, never worked out as Clive couldn't line up his deadlines at the time. So, Dib went out as a gamesheet. It became, I suppose, a 'fully fledged zine' about issue 7 when I changed from photocopy to mimeo.

As for playing in any game, well, I've just finished a game in Ode, but I must admit that producing a zine has spoiled this side of the hobby for me. I used to enjoy writing letters to other players and other magazines - I still do, but I just don't get the time. Producing a magazine does this - and you

must remember I also print up the bi-monthly Dalmatian magazine for the 'British Dalmatian Club' (It takes up a lot of my spare time.)

ANDY: (LATER) "I did start a zine for a few friends to play a postal/telephone game in, which I am finding enjoyable. It is only really the Game report and any other junk I can put in it, but there is something satisfying in being in control. I can understand your motives behind Dib as it must be great to be the centre of everything and it also must bring in new friends into your life. All this is getting a bit highbrow so I'll go into something else. ((Another good man succumbs...))

Congratulations on Issue 60, and the splendid tongue in cheek cover, or at least I hope it was tongue in cheek, as the whole affair was so blown up out of all proportion that I couldn't stand any more after about 3 weeks prior. It seemed that everybody who had ever set eyes on the girl was sought after for a 3 hour interview and every stitch of her clothes from her drawers to her cuffs was exploited wept over and generally hyped out of sight. I suppose I have nothing against the two of them but I just wish they had eloped.

Noticed Kath's letter and her proposition (1) that you move next door, I better warn you that at present Danny seems to be running around stopping his one falling down. As far as I can make out the garage floor is on the front lawn, and various doors keep leaping off the hinges and the foundations are full of old exercise books and failed duplicators which seem to have erroneous rollers. Please be advised that this could constitute a severe case of "Help thy neighbour" and avoid the place like the plague. No seriously though Birmingham seems to be a place where only demented school teachers and other assorted weirdo's who have nothing better to do hang out. My god man, it's NORTH OF WATFORD you need some sort of visa and anti-rabies shots to go up there.

As to the ratings system, I agree with you that good players will always rise to the top but I do wonder if the ratings just follow the good players and would not be a hinderance in the long run. I am currently playing with the esteemed Piggott in NMR and everybody's reaction in the first season was "Get Piggott he's too good". So the Result? Russia cruises in on the east and France leaves him to stew in the west. I help for a couple of seasons and when the end is nigh put the boot in. He must be feeling pretty fed up that he had to work extra hard at the Diplomacy just to keep his head above water. Maybe there is a case for a few psew false names be thrown into the ring.

((I'm all for any phrase that starts of with "Get Piggott" at any time, but I'll be surprised if he's 'fed up' at having to do extra work diploming - it's the name of the game, and it's tough cases like this that make the game more interesting and so different from other games. There have been a few 'Anonymous Diplomacy' games but I don't think they were that popular.

Yes, it was a tongue in cheek cover, done for the same reasons as you give; that everyone was doing it in every form of media coverage - I was also fed up with it. Glad you liked it, it was Jan's idea (the covers generally are) she's pretty good at it I think.

I agree with you, much as it would be NICE to live next door to the Collman's, of course it would, I CANNOT bring myself to live in Birmingham! We still favour Market Harborough south-east of Leicester. We've actually been up to cruise around the area and we like it very much indeed. It is extremely worrying moving north of Watford though, I must admit.))

JOHN PIGGOTT: "Many thanks for Dib 60 and for publicising the Zine Poll. It was kind of you to produce those ballot papers; several people have already used them to vote. I haven't yet got round to checking how exhaustive your coverage is, but you may well have missed off some of the newer zines given that ZWnn is so badly overdue. And you forgot to put Diversions in your list! No matter; people can add extra zines to the bottom of the form if necessary.

Incidentally in answer to your query editors can vote for their own

zines. Can't imagine what kind of person would want to give Dib 10, though. ((For someone lacking in any kind of imagination (I mean, who on earth thought of Ethil the Frog?) this hardly surprises me!))

The letter I sent last issue seems to have become garbled on its way to your stencil - can I give the figures again for clarity?

Walkerdine Zine Poll 1984 - 258 votes received (British record)

Walkerdine Zine Poll 1985 - 248 votes

U.S. Zine Poll 1985 - 265 votes (world record)

Clearly the target for us to beat is the world record of 265. If we did, it would be all the more poignant in view of the recent news that the recent Diplomacy tournament at Dipcon (the U.S. equivalent of Midcon) was won by ...Malcolm Smith! So the present American FTF champion is British, and (in the nicest possible way of course) if our Zine Poll outstripped theirs it would further underline our superiority!

While on the subject of polls, I don't really want to respond to Bernard Emblem's silly letter; my manifesto for running the Zine Poll was printed in Mad Policy 113 last November and the basic principles were widely publicised in Dib and several other zines. The debate is now over for this year: those who followed it know that I responded to several points that were made, but Bernard's letter is at least six months too late. I am of course aware of several proposals, including LeFevre's, to run a 'rival', 'all-zines' poll (although limiting it to games zines seems just as arbitrary as my own rules - what's wrong with pop music fanzines, SF fanzines, all-in wrestling fanzines?) That's all they are: just proposals. Since ZWNN looks set fair to become another 20YO I'm not to hold my breath waiting for Martin's poll to be announced."

((It's my fault, I printed Bernard's letter a little late anyway but I wanted to reply to it in print to help put the LeFevre rot in perspective i.e. halt it before it starts. But you're right, if Martin LeFevre gets on with his poll the way he's set about producing ZWNN - it'll NEVER happen. Has anyone heard of what's happening about ZWNN issue 2?

It would be nice to beat the 265 votes - I hope we do it. Best of luck with the Poll, I can't wait to see how much I beat Dolchstoss and MP by...))

ROWLAND GOODMAN: "I saw in Mad Policy 115 that someone has tried to make out that Railway Rivals has overtaken Diplomacy in the postal Diplomacy hobby. To back this up, he quoted numbers of games started in 1985. This seems ludicrous to me. Railway Rivals is a nice undemanding game requiring a little skill, Diplomacy is a highly demanding game that requires great skill, and the facility to write long letters frequently, to many different people. The postbag for all the Railway Rivals games played by post in 1985, would be dwarfed by the postbag for just Dib's Diplomacy games in the same period. To compare Railway Rivals with Diplomacy is like comparing Noughts and Crosses with Chess. Numbers of games starts mean nothing."

((Too true... upstart games! Having multi-game zines are all well and good but as this is a postal HOBBY how do games other than Diplomacy help to unite the average hobby member? Editors are united through their zines - how would other members get to know other interesting people if it wasn't by the Diplomacy letter and press... just by lettercolumns and con? A lot of people don't go to cons or contribute to letter columns. Long live the Diplomacy zine!))

DAVE TANT: "I realise you are still trying to fawn your way towards an MBE, but to cut out all the surplus clues ((?)) from both Duke and Duchess was surely going too far even for you. ((A good spoof cover though, eh?))

But enough of you: let me talk of more important things...me!

I was recently delighted to receive some copies of the first Japanese translation of my supreme opus 'Monsters of the Marsh'. And they really do print from top to bottom of the page, and from front to back of the book. Actually my wife took a copy to school, as one of the masters studied Japanese and actually had a couple of Nips staying

with him, to try to find out which of the various blocks of strange script was my name. I gather that two of them are, as everyone has two ways of writing their name, a sort of stylish title and a more personal 'chap', that they might have a rubber stamp for. [I think you can call me DM')Fp though ((Well that's what the Japanese word looks like to me)), as you've known me for some time!] Anyway I thought you might like to own one.

Having no words for 'Monster' or 'marsh' they have translated the title as "nasty things from muddy places...." doesn't have the same punch does it?"

((Er, thanks Dave, I shall... treasure it. One of Jan's clever University friends called the other day, and trying to impress, I casually showed her the book and asked her if she could read it at all... she could not only read the title but she is also fluent in Japanese... I can really pick 'em!))

MICHELE MORRIS: "Did you see "The Prince Trust Concert" on the other night? Kris tells me they are soon going to repeat the best bits so if you didn't catch it first time round give yourself a treat and watch the likes of Eric Clapton and Mark Knopfler playing together. It was brilliant. Talking of telly, did you see "A Very Peculiar Practice?" I haven't laughed so much in years. Unfortunately the series has ended for now but they are going to do another one, and I for one can't wait. It brought back memories of my days at Loughborough and OU summer schools and some of the weird creatures I met there. One day I might get round to revealing all about my OU summer schools (no not as in the News Of The Screws - chance would be a fine thing), some funny things have happened to me there and I've heard about some other odd goings on too."

((Sounds like things your editor should know about - it's my duty to keep an eye on the morals of my subscribers lest I let a corrupt one in to cause havoc with the others! Why only the other day Martin Allen (a former Dib subscriber) wrote to me pleading to be let back in. Some long-standing subscribers will well remember this degenerate. Naturally I ignored his letter, pretending to have moved house.

As for seeing 'The Prince Trust Concert' and 'Peculiar Practice', no, not really, I caught just bits of them; adverts etc. I'll try and catch the concert next time round though as I do like Eric Clapton.))

CATHY OZOG: "Why should I forgive you for not writing sooner? Are you feeling guilty for putting me on a game with Close and not telling me, or is it because you forgot to put airmail on my zines? My poor character was having a hard enough time and now his days are numbered. As for your excuse for not writing sooner because you were watching sport, why that is no excuse at all. Still it's nice to hear from you. Funny, I've been hearing from a lot of old - I mean people I've known for awhile, you know - old people lately. Maybe I'm finally getting old too.

As for married life, it's wonderful. I had Eric trained quite well, until he broke his arm and claimed he couldn't cook and do the dishes and clean the bathroom any more. Now I have to do his share. Of course he is doing his own wash right now and so that is the one thing I don't have to do. Now how am I supposed to get a proper letter off, when I'm slaving in the kitchen?

You and Mr Bob Acheson should meet each other you know. Bob gave me a T-shirt which says a "Woman's place is to serve and obey". Well I wouldn't wear it, but I did think it was funny. He said I'm a bit slow, but he told Eric all was not lost I could still be trained properly yet. You would like him, I know you would. You would both drive me crazy.

By the way, my birthday is Oct 5th, just thought I would give you lots of warning this year. Oh, I noticed you wrote on the 4th of July. Very proper of you to remember me on the day that we kicked you British out so many years ago. Regan was very buday, buddy with the French this year. Weird how things change, no-one talks about Libya anymore. It's

like it never happened.

By the way is house buying really as much pain as Glover Rogerson told me it was? He said there is only a handshake or something and nothing binding until the very end. Either party could walk out at any point. That must be crazy! Ours is difficult, but not as bad as that. It's hardest to get the loans through the banks. We have such low interest rates right now that everyone is buying or selling or refinancing their houses at the lowest rates.

I'm moving August 15th and I'll put the COA in CR just so you will remember I thought I would tell you here. I haven't forgotten you."

((Yes, house moving can be tricky, I was left hanging on for a year once waiting for a vacant house while the seller just sat on it putting the price up every now and then. After about 4 or 5 price rises I just cut my losses and got out. The house I'm in now is very nice costing me £39,000 when we moved in 7 years ago, now it's valued at £170,000 so I guess we can be considered lucky.

Good job you reminded me about your birthday, now I remember I'm not too late to say it... HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Cathy Ozog, P.O. Box 5225, Munds Park, AZ 86017, U.S.A. I'm too good to you, Cathy...))

KRIS MORRIS: "Right firstly I have now received official notice of my acceptance to the course I applied for. This is now where the fun begins because I have also had a phone call from the LEA and they told me that I can have a grant for £1452, which is to last me for three terms, i.e. 36 weeks. Now I don't know how you are at managing on small amounts of money, but I/we can't manage on £40 a week! They also told me that I cannot also receive any supp. benefit whilst receiving a grant. I spent a happy couple of hours down at the local DHSS, and they are quite mystified over what I can do, so much so that they couldn't give me an answer there and then, but wrote everything down and "are looking into it", so god only knows when I will hear anything. Rest assured that if anything turns up before I send this lot off, then there will be another PS on the bottom of this one. All I know is, that if I do have to turn the offer down because of financial reasons then we are going to kick up one hell of a stink, and write to every paper, local radio etc, that we can think of."

((Kris has since sent the horror story to this leader - too late to be included in this issue but will be printed in issue 62. I think you can all guess what will happen - talk about hammering someone when their down!))

ANDY MANSFIELD: "This is continued at work on the Wang VS 90, so you should be able to decipher this a bit better. I am not familiar with the stand alone micro market as my background is non computer based and I haven't had the time or money to get involved. However I have watched with interest the growth of the PC over the past few years and noticed it's impact on life in general. A few years ago it was the prime job to be involved in 'computers' and now, unless you can prove your worth by being innovative you are just another button pusher. How long before even this is devalued and will become just another routine occupation!"

((Not very long I'm afraid - the fast moving computer business is the only thing that keeps the whizz-kids on the hop; no sooner do they get used to one machine/pièce of software than another better one comes on the market, but it's not stopping them by much!))

MICHELE MORRIS: "I too love adventure games, though I prefer text only games. I've never come across "Wizardry" but then I don't suppose I've had access to the right kind of machine. I love those written by level 9 and have just bought my first Infocom, though I'm firmly stuck for now. I've been given the name of someone who has completed it and if I haven't sorted things out for myself in a week or two I'll have to write and ask