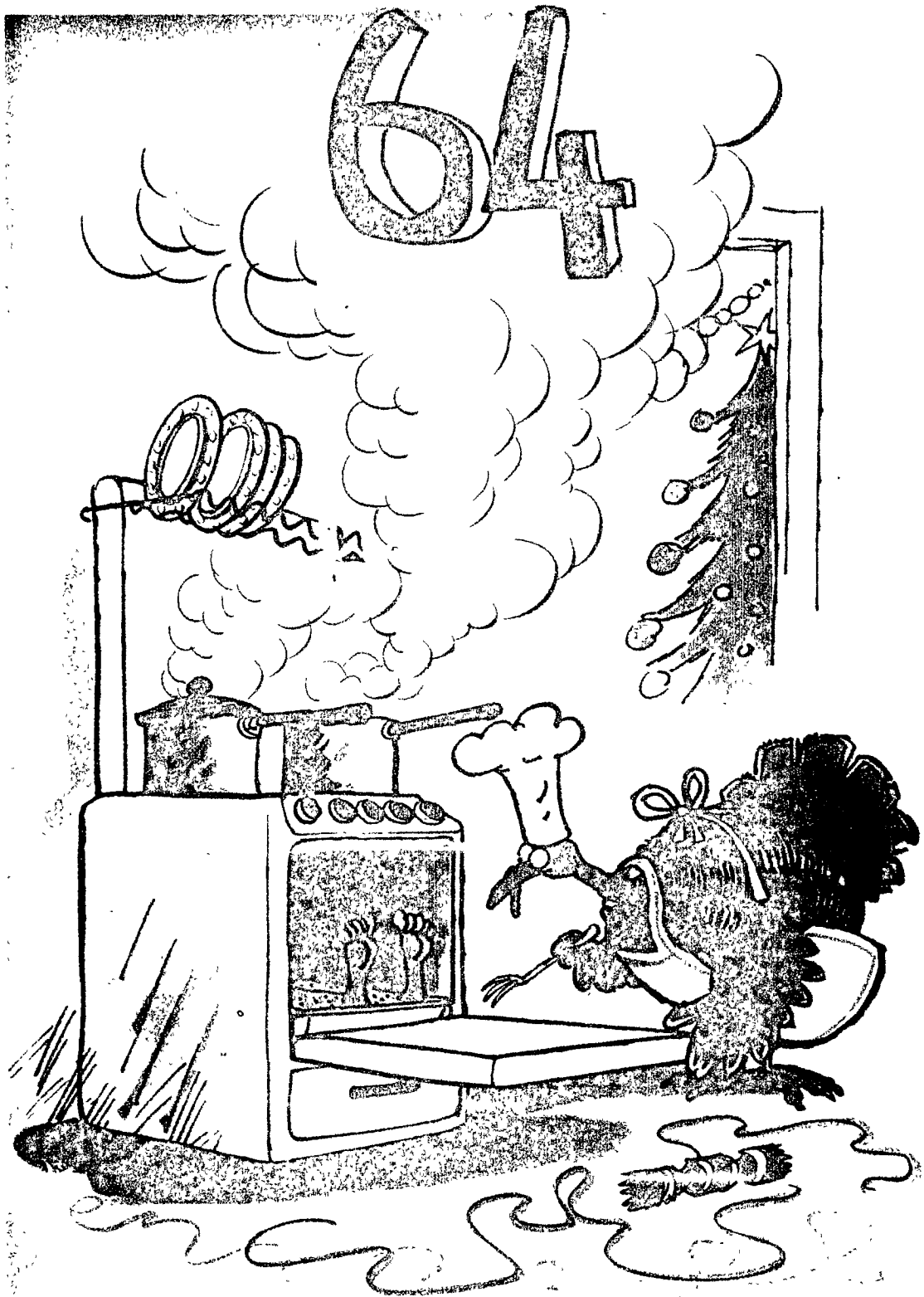


DIB DIB DIB



Welcome to the 64th issue of Dib Dib Dib - a Christmasy issue of 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. Electronic Mailbox ID: BT GOLD 72:MAG100056

EDITORIAL

Well, before I start on anything else, I'd like to wish everyone of Dib's subscribers a VERY, MERRY CHRISTMAS, and of course at least a good start to the New Year. This is a great time of the year for us - oh I know some of you find it boring - but we make a big thing of it every year in our house. Don't any of you write to me trying to convince me there's no Father Christmas, 'cos I don't want to know! Yep, now is the time when we have the traditional argument as to where to put the Christmas tree - I want it by the bookcase, near the patio doors, Stuart and Jan insist it stays at the other end of the room. Boring lot, you'd think they'd want a change after all these years.

Anyway, what else have I been doing... On the house searching front, not much, we did have quite a nice one through the post a couple of weeks ago: a 14 acre livery place with 10 stables, a huge barn, dressage area, and something called a manege. The house and 14 acres sound nice, but I'm not sure I want to go into the livery business (have a guess who does though?).

We haven't had the time to see the place yet but did get to see the area (it's on the road between Bletchly and Buckingham) on the way up to Stafford. What was I doing in Stafford you may well ask? Believe me, on the road at seven in the morning with a stinking cold I was mumbling the same thing! In actual fact Jan dragged me kicking and screaming from my bed because she had decided we were all going to a mixed dog show up there. The trip wasn't exactly uneventful as we ~~bomb~~ ~~ed~~ ~~our~~ ~~way~~ ~~up~~ ~~there~~ in the van. Deciding to stop at one of the Trusthouse Forte places, we pulled up and parked beside some wreck of a car where some RAC bloke was tentatively peering under the hood. Ordered to stay where I was by my wife (because I said I felt I was dying with this bloody fever - STILL getting no sympathy from her) she left me, taking the keys with her. All seemed fine until I noticed the RAC bloke had got open the hood and was bending over the engine of this car with a small fire extinguisher. A few minutes after that a police patrol car rolled up, followed not long after by TWO fire engines! All parked around me and this bloody car. By the time Jan arrived back on the scene all she could do was laugh!

You may be wondering why I didn't move away? Well, apart from getting out and standing in the frosty morn, Jan told me to stay where I was didn't she - and YOU just try and disobey her!

After celebrating a friend's win and Reserve Best In Show with a 'few' whiskeys, and sitting in a huge freezing cold Agricultural Hall (which helped what I was dying with no end) we made our way home. Halfway down the M1 the traffic slowed to a crawl and police cars started whizzing by. On the other side of the motorway, on its side and facing the wrong way, lay a rather smashed up hulking great juggernaught - its cargo of oil drums strewn and split open all over the road. I couldn't see if any cars were mixed up in the tangle - I hope not. It must have only happened seconds before because the traffic behind the mess had hardly built up. It takes calamities like that to bring all the warning home. Vulnerable we all are.

Just room now to give my apologies for getting Dib out a week late - part of the reasons are as given above, but on top of that the Spots of News deadline came bang on top of Dib's (I never can work my dates out!). Never mind, there's a good long bit of diploming time until issue 65 - so there'll be no excuses I hope for 'lack of communication' and not getting your orders in with the New Year's post.

RESULTS OF THE 1986 ZINE POLL

	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>VC</u>	
1. Home of the Brave	40	-	2	120	81	Now the headings are easily explained (as JCP would have us believe), in order from left to right it's Wins, Draws and Losses compared to other zines. Points given are three points for a win, and one point for a draw, and after being juggled about with a Piggott formula and an unpredictable low-cost (low-caste) computer we end up with... yes, good enough, if you need to know more, check with the great sage himself. Incidentally, if anyone wants the full set of results John has some copies of <u>Ethel the Frog</u> left costing 50p each. You might think this an exorbitant price to pay for yet another overdue Frog, and normally you would be right, however, John has produced the stats in a witty, a very well produced format. Well worth asking the old scrooge to see a copy. Write (enclosing your 50p) to John Piggott, Bosworth House, Central Wall Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 9PJ. I'd like to thank, once again, all those who voted for Dib in this year's Poll - especially the six who were kind enough to give it 10. Not a bad spread of votes I thought, although I can't see why anyone voting 4-4.9, or lower, bothers subscribing to the zine in the first place. You may also have noticed
2. Dolchstoss	36	4	2	112	62	
3. Thing on the Mat	37	3	2	114	53	
4. Take That You Fiend	28	7	7	91	19	
5. Denver Glont	29	6	7	93	49	
6. Zine to be Believed	32	-	10	96	75	
7. Mad Policy	31	1	10	94	94	
8. Vienna	25	3	14	78	68	
9. Prisoners of War	23	10	9	79	21	
10. Dib Dib Dib	27	5	10	86	53	
11. Cassandra	25	9	8	84	19	
12. NMR!	27	4	11	85	35	
13. Faster than Light	27	5	10	86	21	
14. Veni Vidi Vici	25	1	16	76	25	
15. Diversions	20	6	16	66	18	
16. Cut and Thrust	23	6	13	75	29	
17. War and Peace	22	1	19	67	32	
18. Now Eat the Rabbit	19	8	15	65	26	
19. <u>Infernal Desire</u>	21	4	17	67	21	
20. <u>Rostherne Games Review</u>	19	9	14	66	34	
21. Morrigan	18	9	15	63	41	
22. Gazfinc	19	4	19	61	37	
23. Roar of the Greasepaint	17	8	17	59	20	
24. Greatest Hits	19	9	14	66	36	
25. Bruce	19	4	19	61	37	
26. Hopscotch	19	2	21	59	31	
27. Back to the Dark Ages	17	9	16	60	20	
28. Ode	14	5	23	47	42	
29. Gallimaufry	14	6	22	48	29	
30. Lokasenna	11	12	19	45	17	
31. Froggy	12	5	25	41	18	
32. Mellow Yellow	15	2	25	47	29	
33. Masters of the Prime	10	10	22	40	24	
34. C'Est Manifique	10	2	30	32	53	
35. Lost Cause	6	6	30	24	21	
36. Quartz	9	4	29	31	24	
37. The White Rabbit	4	5	33	17	17	
38. Boojum	5	3	34	18	27	
39. The Road Goes Ever On	6	4	32	22	19	
40. Pigbutton	5	5	32	20	34	
41. Bohemian Rhapsody	-	5	37	5	22	
42. The Ring	4	-	38	12	20	
43. Rag	6	4	32	22	20	

from the list, 53 people voted for Dib. Checking through my subscribers I'm amazed - because only 42 actual Dib subscribers could have voted. They were:-

Richard Bairstow, Kevin Baker, Richard Bass, Daniel Brooks, Geoff Challinger, Jake Cheung, Mike Close, John Colledge, Tim Collieu, Danny Collman, Kath Collman, Simon Craddock, David Crawford, Roberto Della-Sala, Paul Donley, Bernard Emblem, Rowland Goodman, Ulf Jiretorn, Nick Kinzett, Robert Lozynskyj, Andy Mansfield, John Marsden, Pete Mason, Kris Morris, Michele Morris, John Moss, Neil Parkin, John Piggott, Rosie Roberts, Heiko Schafer, Richard Sharp, Julien Shepley, Paul Simpkins, James Steele, Paul Street, Pete Sullivan, Dave Tant, Steve Thomas, Stuart Tweedy, Richard Walkerdine, Nicholas Whyte, Ian Winstanley.

And the spread of votes were:-

Range:	1-1.9	2-2.9	3-3.9	4-4.9	5-5.9	6-6.9	7-7.9	8-8.9	9-9.9	10
Dib votes.	2	1	2	3	3	8	9	12	7	6

GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTAR

'Anise' (1986??) Pre-Spring 1901 [32]

- AUSTRIA: Victor Hall, 265 Sherrard Road, Manor Park, London, E12 6UG.
- ENGLAND: Alan Frost, 33 Fryent Close, Blackrod, Bolton, BL6 5BU.
- FRANCE : Steve Kirk (Home) 54 London Road, Copford, Colchester, CO6 1BJ
(Term) 281 Gillot Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 ORX.
- GERMANY: Andrew Kemp, 78 Leopald Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1ES
- ITALY : Andrew Smith, 6 College View, Peverell, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4JB.
- RUSSIA : Nick Hoyle, Brauerstrasse 5, 7170 Schwabisch Hall, Gelbingen.
- TURKEY : Mike Sykes-Gelder, 4 Elm Gardens, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9AH.

This is the line up then - a few new faces here for which much welcome to their first game in Dib. Just a few more rules: please check to see if you have enough credit after the £1.75 deduction. All orders must have the name of the game; preferably dated and with the game season; and most certainly clearly signed. A map and a copy of my houserules should be included with this issue. My call sign is LUTON AIRPORT, I would request you not to misuse it as all official missives (reajudications etc) will come under this heading. And last and most definitely least, don't forget to send Provisional Autumn 1901 orders in with your Spring 01 orders (it's ONLY for the 1901 season) as it ensures the game gets off to a smooth start. I hope you enjoy the game and wish you the best of luck - may your knife leave many marks.

'Lamfhada' (1983EE) Autumn 1915 [21]

RUSSIA GAINS SEVEN CENTRES! - A CONVINCING WIN

- AUSTRIA (James Cowie) *A(Con)-Bul, *[A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Vie]] (IMPOSSIBLE)),
[[A(Alb) S A(Bud)-Vie]] (IMPOSSIBLE)), *A(Bud)-Vie
- FRANCE (Alan Sharples) F(Pic)-Bre, F(Spa-sc)-Mar, F(IRI)-MAO
- GERMANY (R.J. Lampard) A(Bur)-Par
- ITALY (Paul Donley) F(AEG)-Bul-sc, F(Gre) S F(AEG)-Bul-sc, [[F(WMS) S
F(Bre)-WMS]], [[F(NAf) S F(Bre)-WMS]], *[[F(Bre)-WMS]]
(IMPOSSIBLE)). A(Par)-Gas, A(Ven)-Pie, A(Rom)-Ven
- RUSSIA (Mike Close) F(NTH) SA(Bel), A(Mun)-Ber, A(Boh)-Mun, A(Gal)-Bud,
A(Vie) S A(Gal)-Bud, A(Tyr)-Tri, A(Bul)-Ser, A(Rum) S
A(Bul)-Ser, F(Sev)-Arm, F(BLA)-Con, A(Smy) S F(BLA)-
Con, F(NWG)-NAO, F(MAO)-Spa-sc, F(ENC) S FRENCH F(Pic)-
Bre, A(Bel) stands unordered

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A(Con) & A(Ser) & A(Bud) die; ITALIAN F(Bre) dies

LUTON AIRPORT. Don't forget endgame statements for next time will you?
Congratulations Mike, a good win.

Winter 1915 Adjustments:

AUS: (Bud), (Ser), (Tri), (Smy), (Vie)	= 0
FRA: Por, Lpl, Lon + Bre, Mar	= 5
GER: (Ber) + Par	= 1
ITA: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun, (Mar), (Par), (Bre), Bul, (Spa), Gre	= 6
RUS: StP, Mos, Nor, Sev, Swe, Ed1, Den, Hol, Kie, War, Rum, Bel, Mun, Ank, Con + Ber, Bud, Vie, Tri, Ser, Smy, Spa	= 22 WINS!
	34

PRESS:

Italy - Russia: Congratulations Mike, you totally deserved the victory.

Anon: I hate losing, especially to a clown like Close. ((Clown?))

'Quadri' (1984DX)

Autumn 1911

[23]

QUIET GAME - HALF THE UNITS STAND UNUSED!

FRANCE (Alan Powis) F(Swe)-SKA, F(Edi)-NTH, F(BAL)-Swe, F(NTH)-ENC, [[A(Hol) S A(Kie)]] ((NO SUCH UNIT)), A(Yor)-Edi, A(Mun)stands, A(Ruh) S A(Mun), A(Kie) S A(Mun), A(Bur) S A(Mun), F(MAO)-WMS, A(Mar)stands, A(Gas)stands, A(Den)stands unordered

ITALY (Martin Clifford-King) A(Pie)-Mar, A(Tyr) S RUSSIAN A(Boh), A(Gre)stands, A(Ser)stands, F(Tri)-ADS, F(Tun)-WMS, F(Smy)stands, F(ION)-TYS

RUSSIA (Richard Downes) A(StP)-Lvn, A(Pru) S A(StP)-Lvn, A(Ber)-Sil, A(Boh) S A(Ber)-Sil, F(BLA)-Bul-ec, A(Con) S F(BLA)-Bul-ec, F(NWG)-Nor, F(BAR) S F(NWG)-Nor, A(Sil) & A(Ukr) & A(Gal) stand unordered

Retreats. None

ENDGAME PROPOSAL. =1st I/F/R was defeated by an abstention, so, votes for next time please - this time failure to vote counts as YES))

Winter 1911 Adjustments:

AUS: (Ser) = 0 OUT

FRA: Par, Bre, Mar, Spa, Por, Lpl, Bel, Lon, Hol, Edi, Swe, Den, Kie, Mun = 14 Builds F(Bre)

ITA: Rom, Nap, Ven, Smy, (Bul), Tun, Tri, Gre + Ser = 8 No Change

RUS: StP, Sev, Rum, Nor, Ank, Mos, Bud, Vie, War, Ber, Con + Bul = 12 Builds A(War)

34

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Richard: Please make a note of your credit.

'Setanta' (1984BF)

Spring 1910

[24]

THE RUSSIAN-ITALIAN PINCER MOVEMENT CLOSES IN ON THE HELPLESS FRENCH

ENGLAND (Anarchy) Has. F(Lpl)

FRANCE (Robert Lozynskyj) F(ENC) S F(Bre)-MAO, F(Bre)-MAO, F(Bel)-Pic, A(Hol)-Bel, F(Lon)-Wal, [[A(Yor) S RUSSIAN F(NTH)-Edi]]

ITALY (Alan Powis) F(WMS)-MAO, A(Mar)-Spa, A(Par)-Bre, F(Edi)stands, A(Pie)-Tyr, A(Ven) S A(Pie)-Tyr, F(ION)-AEG

RUSSIA (Paul Finch) F(StP-nc)-Nor, F(NWG) S F(NTH), F(NTH) S F(HEL)-Hol, F(Den)-HEL, F(HEL)-Hol, [[A(Ber) S F(HEL)-Hol]] ((NO SUCH UNIT)), A(Ruh) S A(Mun)-Bur, A(Mun)-Bur, A(Mos)-Sev, A(Ukr) S A(Mos)-Sev, A(Tri) S A(Ser), A(Ser) S A(Rum), A(Rum) S A(Mos)-Sev, A(Gal) S A(Rum), A(Kie)stands unordered

TURKEY (Victor Hall) F(AEG)-ION, A(Alb)-Ser, A(Gre)-Bul, F(BLA) S A(Gre)-Bul, *A(Sev)-Rum, F(Bul-ec)-Con

Retreats: TURKISH A(Sev)-Arm

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

(a) =1st R/I/F/T was defeated by abstention.

(b) 1st R; 2nd I; 3rd T; 4th F was defeated.

(c) 1st R; =2nd I/F/T was defeated.

((Endgame proposal (a) was defeated by an abstention and has to be voted on again, so, votes for next time please - failure to vote this time counts as YES))

A NEW proposal has been put forward: (b) 1st R; =2nd T/F; 4th I. ((Votes for this next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

PRESS:

Turkey - Italy: One extra build isn't much of a clear second if you ask me.

Constantinople - Moscow: It may have taken nine years but how does it feel to lose a home centre?

A HORRIBLE BLOODY BATTLE - GUTS AND BROKEN BONE EVERYWHERE - GREAT!

ENGLAND (Dave Fish) F(NTH)-Nor, *F(Swe) S F(NTH)-Nor, F(HEL)-NTH, A(Yor)-Lpl
 FRANCE (Neil Parkin) *A(Lpl)stands, F(ENC)-Lon, A(Bel)-Pic, F(MAO)-Por, A(Ruh)-Mun, *A(Mar)stands
 GERMANY (Luke Clutterbuck) A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Nor)-Swe, A(Den) S A(Nor)-Swe, F(Kie) S A(Den), F(Hol)-NTH, A(StP)-Lvn
 ITALY (David Abbott) A(Bur)-Par, A(Pie)-Mar, F(GOL) S A(Pie)-Mar, F(Tun)-WMS, F(Bul-sc)-Gre, A(Apu)-Alb, F(ION) C A(Apu)-Alb, F(NAO) S ENGLISH A(Yor)-Lpl, A(Gal)-Rum, A(War)-Mos, A(Sev) S A(War)-Mos, F(Spa-sc)-Por, [[A(Tr)stands]] ((NO SUCH UNIT))
 RUSSIA (Ulf Jiretorn) A(Pru)-War, *A(Mos)-Sev, F(BLA) S A(Ank)-Con, A(Ank)-Con
 TURKEY (Ken Haywood) F(AEG)-Bul-sc, *F(Con) S F(AEG)-Bul-sc

Retreats: ENGLISH F(Swe)-Fin; FRENCH A(Lpl)-Ed1; FRENCH A(Mar)-Gas; RUSSIAN A(Mos)-StP; TURKISH F(Con)-Smy

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

- (a) 1st I; =2nd F/G/R; =5th E/T was defeated.
 - (b) 1st I; 2nd G; 3rd R; 4th T; 5th E; 6th F ((Should have been '5th E')) was defeated.
- A NEW proposal has been put forward: 1st I; 2nd G; =3rd T/E; 5th F/R ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

Winter 1908 Adjustments:

ENG: (Lon), (Ed1), (Den), Lpl + Nor	= 2 Disband F(HEL), GMdisbands F(Fin)
FRA: Bre; (Par), (Mar), Por, (Spa), -	- - - - -
	Bel + Ed1, Lon, Mun = 6 No Change
GER: Kie, Ber, (StP), (Nor), Hol, Swe + Den	= 5 Disband A(Swe)
ITA: Ven, Nap, Rom, Tr1, Tun, Ser, Vie, Bud, Gre,	
(Mun), (War), Sev + Par, Mar, Rum, Mos, Spa	= 15 Builds: A(Ven), A(Rom) (1 SHORT)
RUS: (Mos), (Rum), Ank, (Bul) + War, StP, Con	= 4 No Change
TUR: (Con), Smy + Bul	= 2 No Change

34

PRESS:

Berlin - LUTON AIRPORT: If you're bribing the postmistress with your body, then I'm surprised my mail gets here at all! ((THAT was a low blow even from you, Clutterbuck, expect retribution to be swift and deadly!))

France : Italy: An alliance? Sounds great, give me a ring.

Germany - Italy: Delirious.

Turkey - You lot: What can one say?!

England - Germany: Letter of explanation follows.

France - Turkey: About handing over my units to you. If you wrote during this game you could have made your feelings known before now. One letter is not diploming. Still, I will consider it if Italy will allow me to.

Russia - Turkey: I didn't want to do this move, but last season's results forced me to do this.

Friend-Italia - Russia: All my moves are driendly - they have been carefully and individually selected to maximise consumer satisfaction and friendliness. Therefore, anyone who disagrees with friend-Italia is obviously suffering from a mental disorder and should immediately apply for termination immediately. Have a nice day!

France - Russia: Of course Italy's A07 moves are friendly. He likes the south of France, almost as much as Budapest! ((I know your writing is practically illegible, but orders sent in on the side of a PIG!? Come on!))

England - World: I will not support any proposal that has me 4th or less.

NASTY FRENCHIES TRY AND CONFUSE NICE GM

ENGLAND (Piers Shepperson) F(BAR) S A(Ed1)-Nor, F(NTH) C A(Edi)-Nor, F(SKA) S A(Ed1)-Nor, A(Edi)-Nor, F(Den) S A(Swe), A(Swe) S F(Den)

FRANCE (Daniel Brooks) A(Gas)-Mar, [[A(Ruh) S A(Ruh)-Mun]] ((IMPOSSIBLE)), [[A(Ruh)-Mun]] ((DOUBLE ORDER)), F(NAf)-Tun, F(WMS) S F(NAf)-Tun, *F(GOL) S F(WMS)

GERMANY (James Cowie) F(BAL) S A(Ber), A(Kie) S A(Ber), A(Ber) S A(Kie)

ITALY (Anarchy) Has: F(Nap)

RUSSIA (Kris Morris) F(StP-nc)-Nor, A(Fin) S F(StP-nc)-Nor, A(Mos)-StP, F(COB)-BAL, A(Pru)-Ber, A(Sil) S A(Pru)-Ber, A(Boh) S A(Mun), A(Mun)stands, A(Pie)-Mar

TURKEY (Kath Collman) F(TYS)-GOL, F(Tus) S F(TYS)-GOL, *F(Tun)-WMS, F(ION)-Tun, F(Gre)-ION, A(Tr1)-Ven, A(Apu) S A(Tr1)-Ven, A(Alb)-Tr1, A(Tyr) S RUSSIAN A(Mun)

Retreats: FRENCH F(GOL)-Spa-sc; TURKISH F(Tun)-TYS

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - James: Look, I know you're a Scot, but is it REALLY necessary to send your orders in on the envelopes I post your Dib in? I mean, apart from it being crass bad manners, I generally throw all my envelopes away; and I might inadvertently throw your orders away without realising it.

Germany - Russia: You an ally! How diplomatic, you'll go far - if my boot connects with your arse.

Russia - Germany: Manners? I didn't know France and England had any, after all they haven't bothered to reply to me for ages.

Sultana - Tsar: YOU LET ME DOWN! And I was so looking forward to it!

Germany - France: How about giving me Munich, after all it is supposed to be in Germany? ((Even I have to agree with that - TT))

Sultana - Tsarina: Congratulations on making front page news! Next time you might make it page 3! ((Er, I don't think Dib is ready for that... Come to think of it I'M not ready for that!))

Russia - Germany: How's this for good news. I'll stop the attack if you'll help me against England. Well, how about it?

Turkey - Rupert: Come up and see me, sunshine, and WE'LL SEE. ((I dunno about 'see', Bruno, if you go up to see her sunshine, you might just end up blind!))

France (Govt) - Germany & England: I can't hold Turkey off in the Med!

Turkey - LUTON AIRPORT: You must have a mind like a sewer. We're just trying to have a discussion on How to Play Diplomacy and you seem to think there's something funny going on. Honestly - MEN. ((Oh, I'm wounded - I was talking about Diplomacy as well! Honestly - WOMEN!))

Russia - England: And while you're giving London to France, you can let me have Liverpool.

Interested Bystander - Germany: Have you persuaded England to let you have Denmark back yet? There are an awful lot of pink bits coming your way.

Germany - England: Denmark's on my shopping list too, how's about a swap, you give me Denmark and I'll give you a Christmas card.

France - Russia: You do realise that you're going to come off 2nd best in this alliance of yours? Turkey has a very effective stab, taking Vie, Bud and Rum, when the time comes for one of you to go for the win.

Germany - Turkey: Did I hear Kris mention whips and fishnet stockings? Explain please?

'Vortigern' (1985GA)

Spring 1907

[27]

GM THINKS SOME PLAYERS ARE PLAYING DIPLOMACY ON THEIR LUDO BOARDS

AUSTRIA (John Piggott) *A(Mos)-Sev, A(Ukr) S A(Mos)-Sev, A(Ser)-Rum, A(Bud) S
 A(Ser)-Rum, F(ION)-Gre, F(Alb) S F(ION)-Gre, A(Ven)-
 Tri, A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Nap)-TYS

ENGLAND (Michele Morris) A(StP) S RUSSIAN A(Sev)-Mos, F(Edi)-NTH, F(Nor) S
 A(StP); [[F(SKA)-BAL]] ((IMPOSSIBLE)), F(Den) S
 F(Edi)-NTH, A(Fin)-Swe

FRANCE (Bob Watson) A(Bel)-Ruh, A(Bur)-Mun, F(Mar)-Pie, F(GOL) S F(Mar)-
 Pie, F(WMS)-Tun

GERMANY (Alan Frost) F(Hol)-Bel, [[A(Ruh)-Pic]] ((IMPOSSIBLE)), A(Mun)-
 Ruh, A(Kie)-Ruh

RUSSIA (Per Von Gavel) A(Lvn) S A(Sev)-Mos, A(Sev)-Mos

TURKEY (Jon Moss) *F(Gre)-Alb, F(AEG)-ION, A(Con)-Bul, *A(Rum)-Ser,
 F(BLA) S A(Con)-Bul

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A(Mos)-War; TURKISH F(Gre) dies (NRO); TURKISH A(Rum)-Gal

PRESS:

England - World: Whadya' mean? Cradle snatching indeed!Germany - Russia: Eh?England - Germany: How big is your extension? ((A REAL gentleman would decline to answer that!))Germany - France: You should have answered me.England - Austria: Aren't you talking to me either? I can't think why.

'Witham' (1986BF)

Spring 1905

[28]

A BUCKETFULL OF UNORDERED UNITS - IT SEEMS SOME ARE PLAYING A DIFFERENT GAME!

ENGLAND (Per Von Gavel) F(Wal)-ENC, [[F(Edi)stands]] ((NO SUCH UNIT)), F(Yor)
 stands unordered

FRANCE (Pete Mason) F(Mar)-GOL, F(MAO)-Spa-sc, A(Gas) S F(MAO)-Spa-sc,
 A(Bur) S A(Bel)-Ruh, A(Bel)-Ruh, F(Bre)-MAO, A(Lpl)
 stands, F(Lon)stands

GERMANY (Alan Powis) [[A(Kie) S RUSSIAN A(Ber)-Mun]], [[A(Hol) S A(Kie)]]
 ((NO SUCH UNIT)), F(Swe) S RUSSIAN F(StP-nc)-Nor,
 F(BAL) S F(Swe), A(Den) stands unordered

ITALY (Kris Morris) A(Mun)-Ruh, A(Tyr)-Mun, A(Pie)-Mar, A(Ven)-Tri,
 A(Tus)-Ven, F(Rom)-TYS, F(WMS)-GOL, F(Gre)-ION, A(Smy)
 stands, F(ION) stands unordered

RUSSIA (Danny Collman) F(StP-nc)-Nor, F(Fin) S F(Lvn)-GOB, F(Lvn)-GOB,
 A(Ber)-Kie, A(Sil) S ITALIAN A(Tyr)-Mun, A(War)-Lvn,
 A(Rum)-Bud, F(Bul-ec)-BLA, A(Con)-Bul, A(Arm)-Ank

Retreats: None

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT: A slight cock-up on my part with Pete's orders last time - he did in fact use A(Bur) to support the Italian Munich. It didn't change anything though.Russia - Italy: See, I can be trusted... not like some people I could mention.Russia - France: Maybe. Then again, maybe not.Kris - Mole: I never understood one word of your press. Explain it to me sometime. ((In a letter!))The Bottom Enders: (Another load of vile tripe from the BBC.)Cast: Dirty Dan - Danny Collman
 Angie his Wife - Kris Morris
 A German Taxi Driver - Mole

(Cont'd over.....)

(Witham press cont'd...)

Scene 86.

D.D. "Well Angie we've got the (beep)"

A.h.W. "And a (beep) good job."

A.G.T.D. (from beyond the grave) "Well I'm not dead yet."

D.D. & A.h.W. "Oh yes you are!"

A.G.T.D. "Oh, no I'm not!"

D.D. & A.h.W. "Oh yes you are!" (At this moment, the stage-manager, one Tom Tweedy, should release the trapdoor.)

D.D. and A.h.W. Fall through it and break their necks.

A.G.T.D. should then appear, on stage and take over running the Italian/Russian opera house next episode)

Russia (Govt) - Anyone reading the 'Xanten' press: A lot of press in Xanten has taken my name in vain. In fact all that has used my name has taken it in vain: I have not contributed anything to the press since the game started, so Rowland, kindly desist

Bystander - Russia: Okay, no I'm nousey.

Russia - England: My apologies for not writing, but I've been a bit busy.

Italy - Germany: I know the feeling.

Russia - Germany: Thanks for the liberal policy document, sorry about the demolition job, but you did declare war on me: you stood me out of Sweden.

'Xanten' (1986BS)

Autumn 1904

[29]

SO FAR THE GAME HAS BEEN KEPT NICELY IN BALANCE...

AUSTRIA (Colin Kinsella) A(Tyr)-Ven, A(Tri) S A(Tyr)-Ven, A(Bud)-Ser, A(Gre)-Ser, F(ADS) S A(Tyr)-Ven
 ENGLAND (Stephen Cloves) F(NTH)-Nor, F(Lon)-NTH, F(NWG) S F(NTH)-Nor, *A(Swe) S
F(NTH)-Nor
 FRANCE (Heiko Schafer) F(Spa-sc)-MAO, A(Gas) S A(Bur), A(Pic) S A(Bur),
 A(Bur)stands, [[F(ENC) S GERMAN F(Den)-NTH]]
 GERMANY (Chris Sandow) *A(StP)stands, A(Nor)-Swe, F(Den) S A(Nor)-Swe,
 A(Kie)-Ber, A(Mun) S A(Ruh), A(Ruh) S F(Bel), F(Bel)
 S A(Hol), A(Hol) S F(Bel)
 ITALY (Andy Mansfield) *A(Ven)stands, F(TYS)-ION, F(EMS)-Smy
 TURKEY (Rowland Goodman) F(BLA)-Con, A(Bul)-Smy, F(AEG) C A(Bul)-Smy, A(Rum)-
 Gal, A(Gal)-Sil, A(War)-Pru, A(Mos)-StP, A(Lvn) S
 A(Mos)-StP

Retreats: ENGLISH A(Swe) dies (NRP); GERMAN A(StP)-Fin; ITALIAN A(Ven)-Rom
 COA: Heiko Schafer (10th Dec-10th Jan), Bung.160, Miraverde, Adeje, Tenerife,
 Spain.

LUTON AIRPORT: Just to put matters straight - the Italian A(Tyr) was annihilated in S04, and the Austrian move A(Vie)-Tyr succeeded.

Autumn 1903 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud,Ser,Gre,Vie,Tri + Ven	= 6 Builds: A(Vie)
ENG: Lon,Lpl,Edi,Nor	= 4 Builds: F(Lon)
FRA: Bre,Mar,Par,Por,Spa	= 5 No Change
GER: Mun,Kie,Ber,Bel,Hol,Den,Swe,(StP)	= 7 GM disbands A(Fin)
ITA: Rom,(Ven),Nap,Tun	= 3 No Change
TUR: Smy,Ank,Con,Bul,Sev,Rum,Mos,War + StP	= 9 Builds: F(Smy)

34

PRESS:

Austria - Turkey: Sorry for not writing, but this season I just haven't been able to find the time. I will write a long letter to you for the spring explaining the situation.

Mole - Germany: Start digging!

Mute - John Daniel: Sorry that didn't work, but I suggest we keep trying.

Mole - Danny: I liked your press. A bit unsuttle (I couldn't resist misspelling that, Tom). ((Why?))

Germany - No-one in particular: I've got a bad feeling about this...

'Ymir' (1986DQ)

Autumn 1902

[30]

RUSSIA BULLDOZES HIS WAY WESTWARDS

AUSTRIA (Barry Raynes) A(Ven)-Tri, A(Vie)-Tri, A(Boh) S RUSSIAN A(Sil)-Mun, F(Gre)-ION, A(Bul)-Con

ENGLAND (Paul Street) F(SKA) S F(Swe)-Nor, F(NTH) C A(Lon)-Hol, F(ENC)-Bre, F(Swe)-Nor, A(Lon)-Hol

FRANCE (Kevin Baker) A(Bur)-Par, F(MAO)-NAf, F(GOL)-TYS, A(Spa) S F(Mar), F(Mar) S A(Spa)

GERMANY (John Cavanagh) F(Kie)-Hol, A(Gas)-Bre, A(Bel)stands, F(Pic) S A(Gas)-Bre

ITALY (Mike Close) A(Tyr) S AUSTRIAN A(Ven)-Tri, A(Pie)-Ven, A(Rom) S A(Pie)-Ven, F(ION)-Gre, F(WMS)-Spa-sc

RUSSIA (Rowland Goodman) F(BLA) C A(Rum)-Arm, A(Sev) S A(Rum)-Arm, A(Rum)-Arm, A(Sil)-Mun. F(Den) S A(Nor)-Swe, A(Nor)-Swe

TURKEY (Kris Morris) [[F(Con) S RUSSIAN A(Rum)-Bul]], A(Ank) S F(Con), A(Smy) stands

Retreats: None

LUTON AIRPORT - Barry: No, you didn't upset me - your letter merely spurred me on to say things I wanted to get off my chest anyway but had managed to keep in control. Sorry.

Autumn 1902 Adjustments:

AUS: Tri, Bud, Vie, Gre, Ser + Bul	= 6 Builds: A(Bud)
ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, (Nor), (Den) + Swe	= 4 Disbands A(Lon)
FRA: (Bre), Mar, Par, Por, Spa	= 4 Disbands F(NAf)
GER: Kie, Ber, Bel, Hol + Bre	= 5 Builds: A(Ber)
ITA: Rom, Ven, Nap, (Mun), Tun	= 4 Disbands A(Tyr)
RUS: Mos, War, StP, Sev, Rum, (Swe) + Mun, Den, Nor	= 8 Builds: F(StP-nc), A(War)
TUR: Smy, Ank, Con, (Bul)	= 3 No Change
	34

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Paul: When sending in two sets of orders, please put 2nd set. Also when ordering a unit with support, it makes it easier to put orders for BOTH units; the unit moving, and the supporting unit. You should do it anyway. To whoever cares to listen: I knew I was going to hate this game. Guess what - I am. ((Am what?))

France - Italy & Germany: Can you swivel on your own Axis? ((Ouch!))

Pleasure Palace - Lonely hearts club: Dearest darling Kevin. Your wish will be my command. Just tell me where and when and I'll come running!

LUTON AIRPORT - Kevin: In answer to your question: I think it maybe is because you get yourself noticed early in the press.

England - The Other Half of the World: Many thanks for your efforts to make up for the lack of correspondence from the others!

Turkey - Mole: I keep telling you, I'm not four-bodied, just two. My alter-ego plays in Vortigern.

The great Djinn appears outside the Tweedy house, he raps on the front door. The wood is eaten away by his touch, as is ice by molten iron. All inside cower under the table-cloth. His great hairy arm squeezes through the doorway, and feels inside. Finding nobody he stomps off, muttering "I'll spell 'Genii' anyway I like!"

'Zin' (1986???)

Pre-Autumn 1901

[31]

There has been a request for a double-deadline with this game due to 'lack of communication'. My initial reaction was NO because the excuse isn't enough. Sadly, I only have orders on file from Tony Reynolds, Colin Kinsella, Steve Kirk, and Steve Thomas, so I guess it will HAVE to be held over till after Christmas. Start writing you lot out there and make a neighbouring player happy in this festive season, eh?

<u>Sopwith (T067DD)</u>	GM Tom Tweedy	<u>Albatross</u>			<u>Turn 14</u>			
		<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>
THE PINK PANTHER:		RS - F0,	RS - FR,	RS - FA+R	D11	D12	2	9
Richard Downes								
KAMEE KAZEE:		A - F0,	A - FA,	A - FA	D13	C12	14	8
Ian Tillson								
PINK POTATO FLY:		A - F0,	CRASHES		DIES			0
David Abbott								

DAMAGE (DGE): In the 2nd move PP Fly flies off the board - CRASHING. In the 3rd Move Pink Panther fires ahead and hits KAZEE for 3 dge.

<u>SOPWITH (T084DD)</u>	GM Tom Tweedy	<u>Great Tit</u>			<u>Turn 10</u>			
		<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>
MACHINE-GUN JOE:		RT - F0,	RT -*FA+R,	DIES				0
Stuart Tweedy								
FLYING MANIAC:		LT - F0,	LT - F0,	LS -*FL	P12	O11	3	7
David Daw								
PHANTOM PHART:		A - F0,	LT -*FA+R,	DIES				0
James Steele								
WOODY WOODPECKER:		A - F0,	A - F0,	RT - F0	DIES			0
Daniel Brooks								

DAMAGE (DGE): Lots and LOTS of blood. In the 2nd move MG Joe fires right and inflicts 5 dge on Phantom Phart (as PP only has 1 dge left, he DIES) - so Joe get 1+5-10 points. Also in the same move PP fires right hits and KILLS Ace pilot MG Joe (PP gets 2+10-5 points). And in the 3rd move Maniac fires to the left and KILLS Woodpecker by taking his last 1 point (Maniac gains 1+5 and WINS THE GAME!! +5).

MISTAKE AFTER MISTAKE

(John Colledge's first visit to MidCon)

Many moons ago, quite by accident, I decided that one of my many odd days holiday (that was put in for the benefit of a certain Frog) would be Friday 7th November. When I discovered that Midcon was to be that weekend I thought to myself, why not? I phoned Pete Hurcome whom I had met through a game in Zeeby (this was where I met the aforementioned frog by the way) and asked if he fancied going down. He was able to wangle the day off as well so things were looking good.

This was when the first mistake was made. "Oh, you'll be going down in the train," says Denny ((John's wife)). "No, I will be taking the car," says I. Some twenty or so references to the train and how stupid it was especially at that time of year - the foot was put down and things turned very frosty on the home front. Come the week of Midcon they were getting just a little bit frosty outside as well, but one was damned if one was going to give in.

Friday 7th came and it was raining like mad. We headed off into the great unknown. Unfortunately the wind, which was quite strong, was blowing against us so the poor wee car was struggling. Eventually Pete ran out of nervous chatter and fell asleep, with his hands hanging on to his chair so tightly that his knuckles were white. ((Perhaps he had fainted - Ed.))

It took us about six hours to get to Birmingham, and thanks to a map from one of the native guides (a certain Danny Collman from that game) we found the hotel with no bother. This was where the second mistake happened. "Oh, there is the car park just behind the hotel," says I charging off. "This must be the entrance here," he says turning left into the Birmingham Mail's main building.

After a quick sightseeing tour of Brum we found the entrance on the far side of the hotel.

Having dumped our things in the bedroom we wandered down to the Registration area, where we were greeted by a very large and equally jolly Brian Williams who gave us our name plates. Yes, we would be taking part in the Diplomacy Competition. At the time I thought I was making mistake number three, as the names were in groups of seven and after I saw a name I recognised I found myself in a different seven. However this was not the case. Mistake three was lurking in the Wroxton Suite. First of all I was attacked by Toby Harris, a young punk who is actually much more pleasant than his appearance suggests. Then Nick Kinzett grabbed us and gave us our copies of Zeeby. After a few groans and raised eyebrows we were asked if we fancied a game of Britannia. Sure we would like to play, but we would have to be told how the game went. This was about half past four. When I tell you that we did not finish until after one in the morning, you will realise that saying yes to Nick was the third mistake! Mind you Pete won, which rather made up for me not getting the Scotts landed on Galloway.

During the game Danny and Kath Collman arrived, and Pete and I managed to talk Kath into entering the quiz. The preliminary round was to be a set of questions on paper. Apart from some American states beginning with vowels, four medal winners at the European games and four of the Seven Wonders of the World, I was really struggling. The other two between them managed a very respectable score, but as we found out the following night we were lucky not to get any further. By this time the place was swarming with people crouched over games of one sort or another. There was such a buzz in the place. It was really exciting. At last the Britannia came to an end and we decided it was time to go to bed.

Next morning, we were up bright and early. Breakfast was great. Much better than the fish and greasy things we had the night before. At about nine o'clock we all gathered in the Wroxton Suite to hear which countries we were to play. I drew Italy. Oh well, I thought. I might get a game of Railway Rivals after lunch. However, I talked Austria into a joint attack on Turkey, and it looked as if I might even do quite well. At one stage I suggested an alliance with England. What a good idea they both thought. You can see what is coming can't you? Yes, the next mistake. I was stabbed by Austria. I did manage to con both of them into agreeing that we should end the game early. After all they were bound to do well. At that stage I think I was the third best Italy so I was well pleased with myself.

Later there was a friendly game with some of the Veni, Vidi, Vici crowd. I had arranged a game of squash with Eric Knibb so when Brian Frew stabbed me I did my best to help Toby Harris before departing. The squash was yet another mistake. Eric forgot to mention things like how fit he was. To add insult to injury he booked a court for the whole hour. Back at the hotel there was just time for a few words with Danny and Pete about our postal game before the finals of the quiz. Boy was I ever relieved that we had not reached this stage. What an amazing amount of rubbish the frog, sorry, John Piggott knows. His team won fairly convincingly.

Next day saw me drawn as England. Someone somewhere doesn't like me. However emboldened by my previous day's performance I entered into a three way alliance with France and Germany. It lasted a mere eleven years and I ended up with eleven centres including Smy! Unfortunately Pete had not done so well so when he asked when we would be leaving I suggested more or less at once as we had a long way to go. After our farewells we were pleasantly surprised to discover that the parking had cost us nothing (it's the Scot in me that makes these things important) we were more or less blown back up the country. It took us half an hour less going back and that included stopping for a meal.

(Cont'd over....)

fateful word, he sneezed. Immediately, the place became dark and eerie. Thinking quickly, I shut my eyes and drove most of the way back to Oxford before opening them. No-one has seen any of my fellow players since that day, and locals shun the place. You were well advised to drive straight through, and an elementary precaution would be to avoid the estate agent who sent you there."

((Hah! I never thought of that. The estate agent must be in on it - procuring sacrificial lambs for their own evil ends. I shall certainly take your advice, Steve - and your account of what happened to the village could well be true... it must be... for I didn't see your friends there either!))

PAUL DUNNING: "Vindaloo curries. We had a lengthy discussion about these in biology once. The average meal takes anything from 16-48 hours to pass through the body. However, a curry always takes 6. We could not come to a good reason for this, apart that the spices must have a relaxing affect on all the muscles in the gut."

((RELAXING! Probably 'purgative' would be nearer the mark; and, with some I've had, total body rejection! But trust you Dunning, to bring 'tasteful' topics like this into the discussion, even though some DO say it's a suitable subject for Dib!))

GEORGE NORTH: "Another Dib Dib Dib came yesterday - there is always something spoils my day. But I perked up when I saw Mike Close featured in the letter column because he always has something interesting to say. But he is wrong for once. Teabags without a little tag can be lethal. How else do you know you put a teabag in if there is no little tag?

You see, we don't use a teapot. Just 'x' cups and a teabag in each. But the problem is that you pour in the water and let it stand for ten seconds and along comes Peg and drops another teabag in every cup and then where are you? Or you don't put the teabags in the cup and Peg comes along and assumes you already done it and then everybody gets a cuppa with no tea bag at all.

We used to use the teapot but that was deadly. I pop in the teabags and pour on the water. Along comes Peg, tips the teapot down the sink, washes the teapot and commences to boil the kettle and pop in teabags all over again. This can go on ad infer ni tum, whatever that means.

Not that Mike is altogether wrong because we would never resort to a tag on a teabag ourselves because it is 'no knowing' that makes it so much fun and to use a tag would be almost akin to cheating wouldn't it? It might also tempt Peg into a save money campaign whereby everybody gets a quick dunk of the teabag and half a dozen perforations instead of the required ten-million."

((And so the saga of Our George goes on - it's a good job we have Peg to keep him in control. It may interest you to know, George, but I've found that some tags work like a siphon, they get wet then drip the tea gracefully over the top of the cup onto the table. I bet you didn't know that.))

GEORGE (CONT): "Anyway, enough. I really have to get serious and mention that Keith Loveys has kindly agreed to let me run the Zine bank. As a retired person I am hoping that this might save me a few quid and at the same time give me plenty to do sending out bundles of the zines to anybody who wants them and all they need to do is cover the postage. I am awaiting the zines at this very moment but assume they are in the post any day now. Haven't got around to an official ad. But I would like the change, the take over, known far and wide so that I can do a great job and send out zines as often as possible. Perhaps you would be so kind as to give the Zine Bank a mention for mw please? ((Done.))

I am a bit surprised to hear Mark Billeness is in America as I am in his Football League and starting the next session. Not another fold, I suppose? It is a sad thing that more editors pack up than players NMR. it