

DIB DIB DIB

6

O.K. so I'm Sorry...



5

I know I'm late...

Welcome to the 65th 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.

 * EMAIL: I can also be reached via bulletin board on 'West London TBBS' *
 * 0895-52685 (1200/75 or 300/300 baud - No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop *
 * bit), where all orders, articles and whatever can be sent to me on the *
 * public message board or the private mailing section. *

EDITORIAL

Yes I had a nice Christmas, thank you to all those who sent Christmas cards, greetings and well wishes for the New Year. We had hundreds of cards and great difficulty finding a place where to hang them. But apart from that I've had a TERRIBLE New Year so far. In fact I know of NO-ONE in my circle of friends and acquaintances who has had any good luck this year. I've had friends go sick, and one even died!

I blame it all on Jan of course. I'm not kidding, before I met her I had the devil's own luck. My life was one long round of wine, women, women and song - I didn't have a care in the world. After marrying Jan all hell broke loose, she attracts bad luck, but it veers away from her and hits the people around her. We've had workmen working in the house who have put chisels through their hands, drilled through electric cables, and damaged themselves in various other ways too horrible to mention here. Not a pretty sight at times.

Anyway, this brings me to the reason why Dib is late. First late orders because of the snow, then my disk drive broke, emitting horrendous alarm sounds and grindings before we quickly shut it down. The price to repair it... £160! We were given a temporary IBM drive which lasted a day before breaking down with the same fault as the Canon drive. "A million to one fluke" the man said (I glanced at Jan - was the 'Chance in a Million' programme coming back to haunt me?). I got a call yesterday, the special Canon drive chip can only be bought in America. We rang Canon to find out why we couldn't get a chip over here:

"Oh we don't mend Canon drives, we merely replace them!"
 I asked for the replacement cost... £300 !!

Anyway, then I had to drop Dib to help with an even bigger issue than normal of 'Spots'. But I don't let any of this get me down now do I? I'm strong - I mean in the middle of it all I still get letters from the Morrises, Collmans, and Clutterbuck, don't I? These certainly are testing times.

Talking of testing times, an even more serious problem has cropped up. It seems some people have joined my games who don't bother writing and diploming to anyone. I've said it once and I'll say it again, Diplomacy can't be played properly by post without writing letters. I strongly suggest to those who don't have the time, or don't like writing, not to put their name down for any of my games. It make things more difficult for me, and it also spoils the game for the other interested players who fork out a lot of good money to entertain themselves. Steve Thomas writes:-

"The orders I submitted last month for 'Zin' for Autumn 1901 should stand. I'm disappointed with this game - as the person who requested the double deadline said, there's been very little correspondence so far, at least insofar as few letters have reached me. It's disturbing that three people have been unable to sustain their interest in the game until the end of the first year. Things can only get better."

I certainly hope so. Now there's even talk of folding the 'Zin' game, something that has never happened in Dib. I hope it doesn't, but if it does, and the culprits know who they are, then I suggest they don't sign up in a Dib game again - the hobby can do without those kind of players.

On the hobby front. I've recently received a couple of letters/flyers and a new zine from Danny Collman detailing his intention to start up 'A Novice-only Magazine'. Roughly this means that all newcomers will be channelled into Danny's zine, Springboard, to be weaned before coming into the hobby proper. Danny got the idea, from the questionnaire I returned, that I disapproved of him running a novice-only magazine. I don't - Danny made quite a good job of it, SB looks quite good - I just think it isn't practical. In issue 1 of Springboard Danny takes six pages to describe the do's and don't's of Diplomacy and information to 'ease' the novice into the hobby without getting bruised. The trouble is how MANY novices is Danny catering for? To reach all the novices that come his way those six pages are 'essential' reading in issue 2 as well, and issue 3, and so on, as I assume he will receive newcomers as these are published. This poses the question as to whether it would be desirable for the 'old sweats' of SB, who've been subscribing for a couple months, to receive and pay for these pages?

So, will Danny change his novice information as he goes along? It seems likely - but then what he'll end up with is a normal magazine after a year, with novice-only players who'll be far from novices. What then has he achieved? Just what the rest of us editors have - a zine to play games in where an editor gives advice as and when it is requested from him.

This then comes down to my other two gripes. OTHER new magazines form in this hobby, and they need just as much new blood as Danny. The hobby needs new zines... why should this novice magazine get any preferential treatment? (I hear Nick Kinzett may hand the CGS over to Danny.) The only other gripe is Danny's attitude. He says:-

"I have felt strongly for some time that novices get rather a raw deal from the Hobby, without much help or advice at their level."

This is ridiculous. To say that novices get no help 'at their level' is patronising, to say the least. I joined the hobby, and 'was chucked in at the deep end' and I enjoyed every minute of it learning the ropes. I shall be watching with interest the growth of this new magazine, and I'll be trading. If you're a novice or merely interested give the magazine a try. Write to Danny Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1JG.

Obsidian is a new mag which recently dropped on my doormat asking for a plug. It's normally A5 and 12 pages long, but the copy I received, issue 6, looked VERY nice, and was produced exactly how I'd like to present Dib: A4 corner stapled photocopy or litho - apart from Home, VVV and Dolchstoss I hate lithoed centre stapled booklets. My copy also came printed in a nice flashy blue ink colour - very refreshing. It has waiting lists open for Diplomacy, Goblin, Scrabble, and Sopwith - and features something called 'The Midgard Campaign', whatever that is. The only gripe I can find with it is it features a sub-zine, called 'Warm Sporrán' from Dom de Bechi, which I think is unnecessary in such a small zine - dual editorship is bad enough but is certainly better. Why some people can't be content as regular guest contributors, beats me. I'll trade. If anyone is interested in seeing a copy, write to Alex Richardson, 2 Hopewell Road, Baldock, Herts, SG7 5AA. The cost is only 26p.

JOTTO Turn 5

MICHELE ORRIS: 5TH 322000

KATH COLLMAN : 5TH 221022

MIKE CLOSE : 5TH 122000

ROSIE ROBERTS : 5TH 311343

STEVE THOMAS : 5TH 111322

EMAIL DIPLOMACY, AND OTHER GAMES - CHEAPLY?

As quite a lot of home computers are being bought nowadays, and, as a high proportion of hobby members are contributing to the trend, it occurred to me that the natural extension for our postal hobby would be a move into playing games via Electronic Mail (EMAIL). This being the case, I decided to find out,

- (a) How easy it would be for games to be run in this way, and
- (b) If it was cheap enough to compete favourably with our beloved postal method.

For the record, I do NOT mean EMAIL to be a breakaway part of our hobby, but expand and compliment it. i.e. I'm advertising EMAIL postally, and I'll be putting adverts on the EMAIL board detailing the CGS, Zine Bank, Novice Package, and certain Cons. There's no need for the two sectors to stay separate - I'll even be publishing my EMAIL games in Dib to get them rated.

Anyway, what have I found out? The problem was simple enough to sort out, and I got straight to the heart of the matter - COST. Whatever system has to be used, had to compete with the old pencil, paper and stamp way of doing things. Assuming from the start enough interest in computers and Electronic Mail to invest in a modem (e.g. my WS4000 modem came to £140 with public domain software), how do telephone costs and related bills, compare against paper, pens, typewriters and the Postal Service.

For an evaluation, I tried two popular public EMAIL systems to begin - BT GOLD's 'MicroLink', and PRESTEL's 'Micronet 800'. Sometimes 3 months 'free' subscription is given to these systems when you buy your modem. A generous offer you might think, but BEWARE - I tried to log into PRESTEL with my free subscription and found MY software wouldn't support it. All I got on the screen was unrecognisable garbage, not only that but the very fact that I logged on, tripped the PRESTEL computer to start charging me! One month after that first try I received a bill of £30, and all I had tried to do was change my password! - the bill was sent back with an explanation. Take notice - to subscribe one has to pay, for registration, a month's usage, plus one month's usage in ADVANCE, and on top of all that the telephone bill!

BT GOLD's MicroLink was much the same - the first month I paid £16.50; not too bad considering I had to fumble my way about. Last month I hardly used it at all (a couple of minutes, twice). I was charged £10 for the system's accessibility to me (remember the telephone charges are on top of this). These charges are outrageous - at least if you use EMAIL purely for games.

This left the bulletin boards. These are the boards for hobby members. Americans have these boards by the thousands, one for every conceivable subject - even porno boards. The trend however is spreading very slowly over here, in line with home and hobby computing. But, no matter how slow, I think it has to come. One day I think we'll have games-only EMAIL boards cropping up all over the place (one I've heard of may well be starting in the summer).

I've had time to try a few bulletin boards, most of which are public domain software related boards - some are scrappy and horribly slow. However I've found one that is FAST, very neat and which seems to fit Diplomacy needs. There's no cost for using the board for games and mail, apart from the cost of a phone call. And as one only needs to be on the board for a short length of time to upload/download mail, even from as far as Scotland it shouldn't cost that much more than playing by post. There's no paper, stamps or magazines to pay for, and no gamefees.

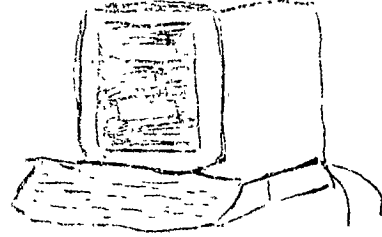
Anyway, if you're interested I've already got a waiting list open on the 'West London TBBS' (one game has started), Tel. 0895-52685 (1200/75 or 300/300 baud - No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit), where all orders, articles and whatever can see sent to me on the public message board or the private mailing section. What you will be greeted with, as a newcomer, is continued over the page:

"V21/V22/V22bis/V23 Auto Service

<<Welcome to TBBS Version 2.05>>
Serving the World 24 hrs, 7 days

First Name?
Last Name?
Where are you calling from?

TBBS Welcomes TOM TWEEDY
Calling From AMERSHAM,BUCKS
Is this correct? Y
Terminal Width (10-132)? 80



<A>VIDTEX TRS-80 1/3 <C>VT-52 <D>ATARI <E>H19/H89/Z19
<F>IBM PC <G>TeleviD 925 <H>VT-100 <I>Ams PCW <J>Ams PC1512

Enter letter of your terminal, <CR> if not listed: F

Upper/Lower Case
Line Feeds Needed
00 Nulls after each <CR>

Do you wish to modify this? N
Do you wish to have a pause after each display page (Y/N)? N

"Please Enter a 1-8 character Password to be used for future logons. This password may have any printable characters you wish. Lower case is considered different from upper case and imbedded blanks are legal. REMEMBER THIS PASSWORD. You will need it to log on again.

Your password? PASSWORD
You have read through message 0
Current last message is 16906
You are caller number 14560
You are authorized 30 mins this call

"You are not a current registered user on this BB.

If you think there has been a mistake, please leave a message for the Sysop when you log off. ((Etc. there's a few notes on the PDSig board itself here - and which goes on...))

"This Board is one of the very few BIG systems with an extremely FAST access time to all areas of the Board. Currently the active memory size is about 24 Megabytes and will be increased with time when required.

Rules of this board:-

You must use your real name (under certain circumstances you may use a different name from your real one e.g. circumstances of work etc.).

No offensive or obscene messages.

Don't ask for and don't leave non public domain files.

Do nothing illegal.

"HACKING" is an illegal occupation.

Please do not just hang up on TBBS. This is most insulting behaviour. It is JUST as easy to log-off by typing "G" for Goodbye!

I hope you will not find these too draconian.

Iain Philipps, Sysop..."

((Continued over.....))

*** Main Menu ***

T.....Time G.....Goodbye

R.....Repeat New User Information
 E.....Editorial - Latest news from PD Sig
 W.....What's the time NOW ?
 X.....Public Domain Software Exchange Area
 L.....Library - things to read
 M.....Mail - PRIVATE User to User Mail
 P.....Public Board
 \$.....Tiger's Trivia
 S.....SIGS Menu
 U.....Utilities Area
 *.....See the Change of Address stuff again

((From here you would select the Public section, or Private Mail section.))

Command: P

T.....Time E.....Exit G.....Goodbye

R.....Read PUBLIC Messages
 Q.....Quickscan PUBLIC Messages
 L.....Leave PUBLIC Messages
 M.....Mail - PRIVATE User to User Mail
 S.....SIGS Menu

Command: R

Type P to pause, S to stop, N to skip to next msg

<F>orward or <R>everse Multiple
 <N>ew Messages
 <M>arked Messages
 <S>elective Retrieval
 <I>ndividual Message(s)
 <A>bort Retrieve

((On the Private Mail section the system doesn't allow you to spell someone's name wrong. If you do get it wrong it will tell you, and ask for another name - not all boards do this and it's a handy feature. It allows you to get a name wrong on the Public board, but then everyone gets to see it automatically anyway.))

Which One? S

Select <F>rom, <T>o, or <S>ubject? S
 Enter text to select by: DIP

((This feature allows you to search all Diplomacy related stuff by inputting 'DIP'.))

Pause after each msg(Y/N)? Y

Section has 394 Msgs, 15028 to 16901
 Starting number, <CR>=First:

** Private Mail Menu **

T.....Time E.....Exit G.....Goodbye

R.....Read your Mail
 Q.....Quickscan your Mail
 L.....Leave Mail for others
 K.....Kill your Mail

((After you've logged on ALL Public mail will be downloaded to you, even choosing <N>ew mail (because it's all new to you). If you just want to look at all Diplomacy related topics select it under subject 'DIP' - this will read 'DIPLOMACY WAITING LIST'; 'DIPLOMACY'; 'DIPLOMACY <gamename>'; DIPPY; etc. Why

not give the board a try? Also I'd appreciate it if everybody could spread the word, friends, foes, mums and dads - even editors can give it a plug if they wish. The number to ring is on the bottom of the first page of this article, and in the colophon at the front of this mag.))



DIPLOMACY RATINGS

These are the latest Diplomacy Ratings thankfully received from Richard Sharp. Richard points out there may be a few errors in the list as it's the first run off his computer. The ratings are as close as any, but I'm not sure which formula he uses to work them out; his own or Wink Thompson's. Anyway, the list you asked for is as follows:-

1. Peter Tassell	304	56. Geoff Chase	216.4
2. Bob Kendrick	301.8	57. Simon Dally	215.8
3. John Norris	289	58. Tom Kirby	215.3
4. Martin Feather	287.5	59. Chris Rick	214.5
5. Rob Chapman	282.8	60. Thomas Franke	214.3
6. Steve Jones	270.8	61. Dave Anderson	213.3
7. David Phillips	270.2	62. Ross Baird	213
8. Any Holborn	268.3	63. Bruce Little	212.2
9. Ken Bain	264	64. Ray Evans	212
10. Chris Noerthcott	257.8	65. Niall Litton	211.9
11. Tom Tweedy	255.1	66. Dave Lambert	211.7
12. Graham Tunncliffe	253.8	=67. Terry Quested	209
13. Tony Ball	252.9	. Andrew Malcolm	209
14. Roland Prevot	249.6	69. Chris Farmer	208.5
15. John Sandell	248.3	70. Steve Gregory	208
16. John Keight	247.2	71. Paul Oakes	207.7
17. Mike Brocklehurst	246.3	72. Dave Thorby	207
18. Keith Shapley	244.8	73. Edward Morgan	206.7
19. Nigel Quinn	244.6	74. Norman Nathan	206.6
=20. Harry Turner	242.5	75. Phil Bass	206.4
. James O'Fee	242.5	76. Alan Sharples	205
22. Gary Silk	241.8	77. Frank Dashwood	204.9
23. Mike Close	241.4	78. Richard Scott	204.8
24. Ken Haywood	240.7	79. Richard Sargent	204
25. Les Tassell	240.3	80. Brian Creese	203.3
26. Robert Lozynskyj	238.3	81. Dennis Love	202.2
27. John Lee	237.6	82. Tony Whitfield	201.8
28. Richard Walkerdine	237.1	83. Stuart Dagger	201.4
29. Cliff Kennedy	235.8	84. Frank Dunn	201
30. Steve Hillyard	235.7	85. Peter Croft	200.8
31. Mike Nicholas	235.6	86. Malcolm Sharrock	200.5
32. Peter Northcott	232.3	87. Peter Scholey	200.3
33. Tim Roberts	231.1	=88. Paul McGivern	200.1
34. Dave Browne	229.5	. Andy Evans	200.1
35. John Smart	229.3	90. Bob Larter	199.2
36. John Balson	227.4	91. Tom Corden	196.8
37. Richard Bairstow	226.5	92. Alan Edwards	196.7
38. Steve Pratt	226.1	93. Pat Jones	196.5
39. Richard Hucknall	224	94. Graham Buckell	196.3
40. Paul Reeves	223.7	=95. Graham MacLennan	196
41. Ian Maclean	223	. Mick Bullock	196
42. Nicholas Clifton	222.8	97. Matthew Judah	195.8
=43. Neil, McDonald	221.8	98. Keith Walter	195.5
. Martin Clifford-King	221.8	=99. Nick Kinzett	195.4
45. Roger Blewitt	221.3	. Allen Ovens	195.4
46. Chris Harvey	221.2	101. Bill Brakes	195.3
47. Doug Wakefield	220.9	102. Duncan Hector	195
48. Jeff Edmunds	220.7	=103. Miles Cowling	194.5
49. David Barnes	220.5	. John Todd	194.5
50. Ron Fisher	219.3	105. Pete Scott	194.3
51. Gareth Lodge	219	106. Richard Savage	193.3
=52. Timothy Sharrock	218.8	107. Mike Lean	193.2
. Richard Brockington	218.8	108. Andrew Smith	193
54. Tony Wheatley	217.3	109. Martyn Hathaway	192.5
55. John Marsden	216.8	110. Colin Bruce	192.3

111. Alan Watson	192.1	=174. Tim Durston	174.5
112. Frank To	192	. Ailsa Turrell	174.5
113. Bruce Foster	191.9	. Tony Wadsworth	174.5
114. Barry Rudkin	191.3	" 177. John Culver	174
115. Mike Hanns	191.2	178. Allan McGregor	173.8
116. Péte Tamlyn	190.6	179. Alan Bustany	173.6
117. Bob Tucker	190.4	=180. John Bower	173.5
118. Pete Mearns	190	. Nigel Haslock	173.5
119. Gary Piper	188.9	. Helen Lewtas	173.5
120. Tadek Jarski	188.8	. Andrew Pepper	173.5
=121. Julian Shepley	188.7	. Francis Weaver	173.5
. Jaap Jacobs	188.6	. Geoff Tonks	173.5
123. Paul Sheppard	188.5	186. Guy Fraser-Sampson	173
124. Iain Forsyth	188.1	187. Roger Bowyer	172.7
125. Guy Woodland	187.7	188. Lionel Bidwell	172.4
126. Tom Butcher	187.5	189. Bob Clifford	172.3
=127. Hugo Tyler	187.3	=190. Sandy Peters	172
. Geoff Nuttall	187.3	. Charles Burrows	172
129. Nicky Palmer	186.8	. Graham Willey	172
130. Lindsay Jackson	186.4	193. Mark Wilkins	171.8
131. Derek Wilson	185.5	194. Claire Nicholson	171.7
132. Jonathan Palfrey	185.4	195. Chris Stokes	171.5
133. Mike Ingham	185.1	196. Sam Moore	171.4
=134. Peter Robertson	184.7	197. Tony Robbins	171
. Colin Graham	184.7	198. Kim Bailey	170.8
136. Bob Brown	184.6	199. Dave West	170.7
137. John Wilman	183.9	=200. Michael Sharkey	170.5
138. Larry Edgar	183.5	. Roger Collins	170.5
139. Dave Johnson	183.2	=202. Robert Correll	170.3
=140. Roger Cody	183	. John Marks	170.3
. Alan Sedewick	183	. Clive Booth	170.3
. Tony Flaherty	183	205. Paul Vane	170.2
. Mike Ranshaw	183	206. Aidan Foss	169.7
=144. Steve Froud	182	207. George Kingston	169.6
. Tony Harris	182	=208. David Thompson	169
146. John Webley	181.5	. Craig Chapman	169
147. David Yule	181.3	210. Laurence Parrott	168.9
148. Mike Wassall	180.6	=211. Andrew Glynn	168.8
149. Gareth Cook	180.5	. Mike Lay	168.8
=150. Andrew Allaway	180	213. Brian Elsey	168.5
. Paul Patrick	180	214. Alec Winton	168.4
152. Paul Ward	179.9	215. Nick Wagg	167.7
153. Eddie Duralski	179.7	216. Lawrence Green	167.3
154. Stu Wright	179.6	217. Pete Swanson	167.2
155. Graham Kirby	179.5	=218. James Malcolm	167
156. Tony Thornton	179	. Hazel Robson	167
157. Ken Wilson	178.8	. Andrew Scholey	167
=158. Stephen Cruse	178.5	. Bob Denton	167
. Phil Stimpson	178.5	222. Jim Roberts	166.4
160. Glover Rogerson	178.2	=223. Jack McKone	166
=161. Tony Sierla	178	. Paul Doggett	166
. Robin Wilkins	178	. Greg Hawes	166
163. Don Turnbull	177.5	226. Mal Copeland	165.6
164. John Miller	177.3	227. Peter Greig	165.5
165. Paul Hartley	177	228. Derek Sutherland	164.8
166. Lex Allison	176.8	229. Michael Hogarth	164.7
167. Edwin Godfry	176.4	230. Richard Sharp	164.6
168. Alan Heath	176.3	231. Alan Marson	164.5
169. David Owen	175.5	232. John Lushington	164.3
170. Gordon McDonald	175.4	=233. Stuart Basten	164
=171. Martyn Ives	175	. Ian Doherty	164
. Gus Fergusun	175	. John Field	164
173. Colin Harden	174.9	236. Ian Phillips	163.7

237.	Keith Black	163.6	. Richard Lonsdale	153
238.	Russell Sims	163.3	. Stephen Brophy	153
=239.	Tony Mitchell	163	304. Nigel Evans	152.5
	. Steven Matthews	163	305. Martin Allen	152.3
=241.	Andy Streeter	162.8	306. Dave Hall	151.5
	. Barry Ibbeson	162.7	307. Martin Pearson	151
=243.	Norman Dyson	162.5	308. Chris Spillett	150.8
	. Nick Furse	162.6	=309. Walt Buchanan	150
245.	Robert Sturges	162.4	. Robert Jewett	150
=246.	Karl Piper	162.3	. Paul Harwood	150
	. Ron Kelly	162.3	. Colin Ford	150
	. John Ewing	162.3	. Richard Morris	150
=249.	Michael Cox	162	. Andrew Parker	150
	. Michael Eastland	162	315. Peter Knight	149.8
=251.	John Harrington	161.5	316. Ian Livingstone	149.7
	. Ray Harrison	161.5	317. Alan Dickenson	149.6
=253.	Chris Charles	161.3	=318. Pete Doubleday	149.5
	. Ian Macdonald	161.3	. Marcel Williams	149.5
255.	Martin Dean	161	320. Michael Yeo	149.3
256.	Dave Bowler	160.8	=321. Peadar Creagh	149
257.	Andrew Mason	160.7	. Hugh Baldwin	149
258.	Pete Calcraft	160.1	. Richard Merrett	149
=259.	Roy Egginton	160	. Andrew Bridgeford	149
	. Keith Tait	160	325. Paul Lock	148.5
261.	Michael Whelan	159.6	=326. Edwin Hutton	148.4
262.	Willy Haughn	159.5	. Nigel Sloan	148.4
263.	Bill Spencer	159	. Dave Crichton	148.4
264.	Mike Vernon	158.8	329. Torbjorn Strom	148.3
=265.	Arthur Bolder	158.5	330. Peter McDonald	148.2
	. Marie Cawley	158.5		
=267.	James McKaigue	158.3		
	. Philip Billot	158.3		
=269.	Clive Palmer	158		
	. Dave Balfour	158		
271.	John Effemey	157.8		
272.	Dennis Wilson	157		
=273.	Trevor Benton	156.5		
	. Chris Hunt	156.5		
	. Alan Marsden	156.5		
276.	Roger Randall	156		
277.	Dave Chappell	155.8		
278.	Nick Carter	155.7		
279.	Andy Lenihan	155.5		
=280.	Steve Barnwell	155		
	. Chris Bartrum	155		
	. Steve Scarlett	155		
	. Paul King	155		
	. Jeremy Hawker	155		
	. Kathy Hudson	155		
	. Kevin Stephens	155		
	. Steve Taylor	155		
	. Peter Reay	155		
289.	Dave Merriman	154.7		
=290.	Simon Harris	154.5		
	. Keith Thomasson	154.5		
=293.	Steve Hbadnwell	154.4		
	. Jane Coombe	154		
	. Matthew Shackle	154		
	. Jonathan Clatworthy	154		
299.	Nick Collins	153.5		
300.	Alan Reason	153.2		
=301.	Keith Jewers	153		

The rest of the list goes up to the shared position of 2047 so I won't have enough room to print all that here. Still to satisfy the rest of you not listed above I'll print the rest of my subscriber positions:-
 331 Brian Moore; 339 Simon Billenness; 350 Andy Smith; 354 Dave Tant; 370 Geoff Challenger; 443 John Piggott; 463 Nick Hoyle; 472 James Mills-Hicks; 518 George North; =632 John Bycroft, RJ Lampard; =652 John Colledge; =711 Claire Walkerdine; =716 Cathy Ozog; 832 Neil Parkin; Richard Bass; =836 Mike Dean; 846 Dave Thomas; =864 Nicholas Whyte; 874 Ian Winstanley; =961 Ian Tillson; =1048 Rosie Roberts; =1128 David Abbott; =1240 Richard Wernick; =1273 Jon Moss; =1378 Alan Powis; =1427 Chris Sandow; and lastly, if it's the same as the one I know, =1793 Steve Thomas. That's the last of it. I don't think I've missed anyone out - if I have, sorry.

It would have been better if Number of Games was included, I know, one could then go only to 10 was satdmes) high John Piggott so low (where ohn has played 20 or 30) - perhaps nexttime, if Richard's program can andle it, I'll ask him. I won't be ushing into it though, because it's a bugger of a thing to type up!

'LAMFHADA' GAMESTATEMENT

GAME: 1983EE

ZINE: DIB DIB DIB

GM: Tom Tweedy

Game Commenced: Issue 32 (Sep 1983)

Game Ended: Issue 64 (Dec 1986)

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	
AUSTRIA (James Cowie)	3	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	5	6	8*	6	5	6*	5	0	Out A15
ENGLAND (David Crawford)	3	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	Out A10
FRANCE (Alan Sharples)	3	5	6	7	9	8	9	9	11	7	5	5	4*	3	3	5	
GERMANY (R.J. Lampard)	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3*	1	1	1	
ITALY (Paul Donley)	3	5	5	6	4	4	4	6	5	7	9	10	10	10*	10	6	
RUSSIA (Mike Close)	4	5	5	5	6	8	7	8	7	9	9	10	11	14	15	22	WINS!
TURKEY (Simon Craddock)	3	4	6	6	7	5	4	4	3	2	1	1	1	0	-	-	Out A13

(* denotes number of units short)

Italy (Paul Donley):

"This game was the first game played by myself outside War & Peace, and a nice change it has been. Drawn as Italy I initially attempted to emulate a highly successful strategy I had followed in a face-to-face game at a Con, by invading Germany in 1901, setting up an attack on Austria and not following it through to gain his trust. This all went according to plan until the stage where Austria was supposed to trust me when instead he attacked. After fighting this off a seesaw conflict ensued for a number of seasons until a truce was agreed, and an alliance was formed. We continued to attack each other for appearances only, which seemed to fool the other players quite successfully for a while at least.

By now I had 5 units and a major problem. I had been allied to France since 501 with a buffer zone agreed from Pie to NAF, had made friends with Austria and Germany and was friendly with Russia, who had been suggesting moves for a number of seasons. I was in a situation where I had no real enemies and too many friends - hence an attack on Turkey with Austria and Russia was agreed. This yielded a couple of centres and prompted my first push on France, at Russia's prompting. This was pointless I soon realised so I moved back again.

However a few seasons later I had a far more effective stab available on France which yielded Spa and Mars and eventually the rest of France and Iberia. But France remained with the game due to Russia's failure to take Bel, Lon and Lpl off him as arranged. My attack soon became bogged down and I tried to consolidate my position, the situation in the East started turning against myself and Austria at this time as well with Russia slowly gaining the ascendancy, I suspect aided by Turkey, who shortly went out of the game like England.

By now it was clear that Russia was ordering Germany's units, and shortly later did the same with Frances. From this point on the result was clear despite my attempts to 'turn' both of Russia's satellites. The last few seasons were very dull and I lost interest as Russia started to move towards total domination. I have no doubt that in a few seasons he could own every centre on the board i.e. my 6 centres being the only ones left to be conquered.

Not too bad a game overall, but rather spoilt by the number of NMR's (mine included) and the domination of Mike Close, who for half the game controlled 3 countries. But congratulations to Mike for his sound play and the effort he put into diploming which together secured his win long before he finally got it. Thanks to Jimmie Cowie for a good alliance that nearly produced results and sorry to Alan Sharples for a badly timed stab early on, I wish I'd listened to you now. Finally thanks to you Tom for running the game all these years and bearing with us. As for me, I'm retiring from playing for

(Cont'd over.....)

Russia (Mike Close):

"It was not an auspicious start. Turkey in Armenia and Austria in Galicia after Spring 1901, and I chose to open Mos-StP! The only good news was Germany's move to Hol. Fortunately I guessed correctly and managed to scrape one build. Most interesting was Tom allowing England to convoy A(Yor)-Nor with the fleet in NWG, which represented a massive set-back for England (and a re-adjudication!) Germany got off to a bad start, losing Munich to the Italians and never really recovered.

Relations with Austria went down rapidly but at last we were corresponding regularly which is more than I can say for Germany after his 1901 letters, so it was no surprise that France had it all his own way in the west, taking Bel in 1902 and Hol in 1903. His Italian ally moved eastwards in 1902 for which I was extremely grateful, to put pressure on Austria and a useful fleet in AEG. My frantic defending in 1902 meant that I gained the Black Sea in the Autumn (and lost Sevastopol to the Turkish A(Arm), but fortunately I managed to gain Norway, so I as still on 5 centres, whilst Turkey had gained Rum (and Italy NMR'ed! David Crawford (England) had managed to take Hol in 1902 but France was pressing him hard.

1903 saw my armies retreating from Scandinavia, keeping Austria out of Warsaw, but losing the Black Sea fleet (eliminated). The north was quiet (for me) as I used my F(Nor) to stand off the German A(den) whilst Italy had finally crossed the Austrian border into Trieste.

I had my first real break in 1904. Austria retreated to defend against the Italian attack and blast his way back into Trieste. But this left the back door open, and his former ally Turkey stabbed viciously, taking Gre + Ser (but giving up Sev to me). In the West, France was indiscriminate, taking Lpl from England, Kiel from Germany, and Munich from Italy - he looked unstoppable. Trying desperately hard to co-ordinate the defence of the North, I built a fleet in StP nc to try and stop him - England was clamouring for my help, whilst Germany... was Germany - occasionally he would do something I asked!

1905 and Austria was begging for help to stop the Turkish hordes, whilst Turkey having given back Sev, suggested a Turkey/Russia/bits and pieces in North alliance vs France and Italy. As I have this almost Biblical philosophy of helping the weak against the strong (are you laughing Tom?) ((I... I... can't... I'm choking too much!)) I chose Austria (after getting Turkey to look the other way) Austria retook Serbia and I got Rum, whilst in the North I accidentally found myself defending Denmark as well. Two more fleets rolled off the stocks at the end of that year.

Unfortunately France had by now sneaked into SKA and as I tried to defend three centres with two units, I was completely outguessed by France who just did the simple move: F(SKA)-Swe. In the South I guessed correctly, gaining control of the Black Sea in the Autumn, but the loss of Swe forced a removal in Rum that would cost dearly. It was about this time that David Crawford (England) got fed up with my phone calls and letters each season, and handed his units over to me - an army in Edi and a wandering fleet, on the condition that I would keep him in the game as long as possible. Austria took Greece and looked set for a revival, but then he promptly handed it over to Italy, who took full advantage to stab. This let Turkey off the hook (temporarily), but I continued by moving an army to Armenia, and regaining Swe for another fleet in StP, this time on the South coast to counter a very useful-looking French fleet in Bal.

1908, and Lamfhada hit the top of the Games Report in Dib, the oldest game running (and all countries still in!). Fighting in Turkey and the North I was wide open in the middle, so France just wandered across from Munich and took War! He also took Den from me, whilst Austria, after forcing Italy out of Trieste (again!) got greedy and pinched Rum. Despite 'borrowing' Edi from the English, and forcing my way into Ank, I wa back on seven centres! Off went the army I had laboriously convoyed into Edi. Germany was back in control of Kie and Ber, whilst England was left with a solitary unit in Bel. France on eleven centres looked unstoppable, although Italy had finally decided to turn around and move westwards.

In Spring 1909 Alan (France) NMR'ed - exactly at the wrong time as I attacked Den and BAL, and Italy attacked Mar. It eventually truned out that

Alan's father had died, and in his grief he had (not unnaturally) forgotten about his games. The savaging France took that year was not pleasant to watch, and a lesser man might well have dropped out, but Alan was determined to continue as best he could. Italy grabbed Spa and Mar, I took Den and Berlin, whilst Germany regained Munich. Actually, it was now that I wrote to Germany and suggested that I took over his units (as I was efficiently ordering them anyway). This he did, although I found myself having to pay for his sub to Dib so that I could maintain control of the units!! (Will this man do anything for a win? Of course!! Anyone want to buy my mother?) ((Why do I feel WE would lose out if we did?!))

The dirtiest rat was Austria though, because he had wandered into Ukr and Gal (and I helped him to take Bull). He had obviously done a deal with Italy, and this was borne out when, having almost eliminated Turkey, I was stabbed by a combined Austro/Italian attack in Con. France less attentive than before, had let Italy into Paris, but finally eliminated the last English resistance. I grabbed Kiel as I sent the German unit south to harass the Austrian, but faced with Austrian units in War and Ukr and Rum.

I managed to hold on, the fleet in BLA proving extremely useful and eventually France threw in his lot with me. The remaining years were more of a tactical battle as France and I strained to hold the Austro/Italian alliance whilst I tried to build armies and regain control of my homeland. Then came the final push into Austria. As for the final result, I didn't really want Austria eliminated - he deserved better - in fact, a six or seven way draw would have been a fair result in terms of effort by the players. It was one of the best games I have ever played in, and my thanks go to all the other players and the GM for looking after it."

Austria (James Cowie):

"Lamfhada was a great game - I thoroughly enjoyed it. I suppose Mike deserved to win, his manipulation of Richard was brilliant. Congratulations Mike.

I started off quite well with an alliance with (T) against (R) but Italy moved against me and held me back. Italy took (Mun) and his presence there helped (F) to prosper early. My alliance with (T) stopped in A04 when he stabbed me with Russian help. The signs were there in the Spring but I chose to ignore them because things were going so well and I thought he'd be stupid to attack me.

After some frantic diploming my efforts were rewarded in S05 when Italy called off his attack and Russia changed sides and helped me attack (T). Things were going well for (R) up North where he was combining well with (F) against a weak (E) and (G). The re-establishment of his Southern fleet and an alliance against his biggest enemy must have pleased him no end. (R) and (I) and myself continued to attack (T) and during this period I managed to patch up my differences with (I). We were worried about the size of (R) and (F) so we decided to have a non-aggression pact and attack them whilst continuing to polish off (T).

I NMR'd in A07 and a planned stand-off between (I) and myself turned out to be an Italian attack. I then pleased (R) by attacking Italy which we both agreed on. Once I regained my centres Italy and myself went back to our pact and I stabbed (R). By 1910 I was making steady progress against (T) and (R), but, due to Alan's personal problems, Italy was making huge gains in the Med. At this stage of the game it was (I) against a faltering (F) and I as Austria against a strong (R). German interference on the Russian side and Turkey's stubbornness continued to frustrate me and the largest I reached was 8 units with 1 short.

After that it was all down hill an expanding Italy got greedy and abandoned me when I was in trouble in (Mun). I dearly wanted to stab him but I was under constant pressure from (R) and never had the chance. Once I wilted there was no chance of preventing (R) winning. (T) finally succumbed in A13 and even then it wasn't to our alliance, but to the might of Russia.

Looking back on the game it was really enjoyable I was stabbed twice - once by Turkey when we had everything going for us; and thrown to the wolves by Italy in the middle game when we had a real chance of winning. I still

can't see the sense in any of the two moves, but I suppose that's what made them so successful.

Austria is a very lively country to play. I wrote and received lots of letters from everyone and thoroughly enjoyed all the lies and deceit I was involved in. Mike's a good player but so is Alan, who was unlucky. I think Richard knew he had no chance and decided to cause as much damage as he could. Simon was okay when things were alright but as soon as he got into trouble he just fell away. I don't know why he didn't take my offer of help when I wanted to attack (R). Paul was the guy I had most correspondence with and after we worked out our early problems we got on okay. I still thank you were in the best position to win the game, but Mike beat us all in the end.

Thanks for a good game Tom, you're a good GM."

LUTON AIRPORT: At one point (1908) I would have said France (Alan Sharples) would've won this game - but due to some serious personal upsets he had to NMR at a critical time, leaving the vultures (namely the wretched 'Close) time enough to circle in for the kill. It couldn't be helped though and nothing was to be done about it. The players played a good game and it was a joy to GM, the only flaw being R.J. Lampard handing his units over to Mike early on.

'Anise' (1986??)

Pre-Spring 1901

[32]

This game is held over until next issue because a double deadline has been requested - a beginning prerogative so has been granted. Lots of press held over as well. I have orders on file from: Victor Hall, Alan Frost, Steve Kirk, Andrew Kemp, and Mike Sykes-Gelder. The list of addresses has been requested as well:-

Victor Hall, 265 Sherrard Road, Manor Park, London, E12 6UG.

Alan Frost, 33 Fryent Close, Blackrod, Bolton, BL6 5BU.

Steve Kirk (Home) 54 London Road, Copford, Colchester, CO6 1BJ

(Term) 281 Gillot Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 0RX.

Andrew Kemp, 78 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1ES

Andrew Smith, 6 College View, Peverell, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4JB.

Nick Hoyle, Brauerstrasse 5, 7170 Schwabisch Hall, Gelbingen, W. GERMANY.

Mike Sykes-Gelder, 4 Elm Gardens, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9AH.

'Quadri' (1984DX)

Spring 1912

[23]

RUSSIA SET TO LOSE 2 CENTRES - BUT FRANCE AND ITALY GUARD THE MAO/WMS GAP

FRANCE (Alan Powis)	F(SKA)-Nor, F(NTH) S F(SKA)-Nor, F(Swe) S F(SKA)-Nor, F(ENC)-IRI, A(Edi)stands, A(Mun)stands, A(Ruh) S A(Mun), A(Bur) S A(Mun), A(Kie) S A(Mun), A(Den) S A(Kie), F(MAO)-Por, F(Bre)-MAO, A(Mar)stands, A(Gas) S A(Mar)
ITALY (Martin Clifford-King)	A(Pie)-Mar, A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Gre) S A(Ser)-Bul, F(Smy)-Con, F(ADS)-Alb, F(Tun)-NAf, F(TYS)-WMS, A(Ser)-Bul
RUSSIA (Richard Downes)	A(Lvn)-StP, A(War)-Lvn, A(Ukr)-Mos, A(Gal)-War, *F(Bul-ec) S A(Con), A(Con) S F(Bul-ec), [[A(Boh) S ITALIAN A(Tyr)]]], A(Sil) S A(Ber), A(Pru) S A(Ber), A(Ber)stands, F(Nor)-NWG, F(BAR) S F(Nor)-NWG

Retreats: RUSSIAN F(Bul-ec)-BLA

ENDGAME PROPOSAL: =1st I/F/R was defeated

'Setanta' (1984BF)

Autumn 1910

[24]

RUSSIA WINS!

ENGLAND (Anarchy) Has: *F(Lpl)
 FRANCE (Robert Lozynskyj) F(MAO)-Spa-sc, F(Pic) S A(Bel)-Bre, F(ENC) C A(Bel)-Bre, A(Bel)-Bre, F(Wal) S A(Yor)-Lpl, A(Yor)-Lpl
 ITALY (Alan Powis) F(Edi)-Cl, F(WMS)-Spa-sc, A(Spa)-Por, A(Bre)-Par, A(Ven)-Tri, A(Tyr) S A(Ven)-Tri, F(ION) stands unordered
 RUSSIA (Paul Finch) F(NWG) S F(NTH)-Edi, F(NTH)-Edi, F(Nor)-NTH, F(Hol)-Bel, F(HEL)-Hol, A(Ruh) S F(Hol)-Bel, A(Bur)-Gas, A(Kie)-Mun, A(Tri) S A(Ser), A(Ser) S A(Tri), A(Rum) S A(Ser), A(Gal) S A(Rum), A(Ukr) S A(Sev), A(Sev) S A(Rum)
 TURKEY (Victor Hall) A(Arm)-Sev, F(Con)-AEG, F(AEG)-Gre, A(Alb) S F(AEG)-Gre, A(Bul)-Rum, F(BLA) S A(Arm)-Sev

Retreats: ENGLISH F(Lpl) dies

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

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

(b) 1st R; =2nd T/F; 4th I was defeated

LUTON AIRPORT: Thanks for a nice finish gentlemen - can I have your endgame statement for next issue please.

Winter 1910 Adjustments:

ENG: (Lpl) = 0 OUT
 FRA: Bre, (Por), Spa, (Bel), Lon, (Hol) = 3
 ITA: Rom, Ven, Tun, (Edi), Nap, Mar, Par + Por = 7
 RUS: Mos, War, StP, Swe, Nor, Vie, Bud, Den, Kie, Ber, Mun, Ser, Rum, Tri + Edi, Bel, Hol, Sev = 18 WINS!
 TUR: Smy, Ank, Con, Bul, Gre, (Sev) = 5
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PRESS:

Italia - Turkey: The draw is not beyond the realms of possibility yet. I might, yet, still prefer that to second, but it depends on the moves around me (i.e. your moves).

Turkey - Russia: Congratulations (probably).

Italia - Russia: If you don't know. I'm sure I don't.

'Taranis' (1985BG)

Spring 1909

[25]

RUSSIA RULES THE HIGH SEAS - BUT LOOKS SET TO LOSE 3 CENTRES

ENGLAND (Dave Fish) A(Lpl)-Edi, F(Nor)-Swe
 FRANCE (Neil Parkin) A(Edi)-Lpl, F(Lon)-ENC, F(MAO)-Bre, A(Gas)-Par, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Pic) S A(Gas)-Par
 GERMANY (Luke Clutterbuck) A(Lvn) S RUSSIAN A(StP)-Mos, A(Tyr)-Vie, F(Hol)-NTH, F(Kie)-BAL, A(Den)-Kie
 ITALY (David Abbott) F(GOL)-Spa, F(Spa-sc)-MAO, F(WMS) S F(Spa-sc)-MAO, F(NAO)-NWG, A(Par)-Bur, F(ION)-AEG, F(Gre) stands, A(Alb)-Ser, A(Rum)-Gal, *A(Mos)-StP, A(Sev)-Mos, A(Ven)-Tri, A(Rom)-Ven, A(Mar)-Gas
 RUSSIA (Ulf Jiretorn) A(War) S A(StP)-Mos, A(StP)-Mos, F(BLA) S A(Con), [[A(Con) S TURKISH F(Bul-sc)]]
 TURKEY (Ken Haywood) F(Bul-sc)-Con, F(Smy) S F(Bul-sc)-Con

Retreats: ITALIAN A(Mos)-Ukr

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

1st I; 2nd G; =3rd T/E; 5th F/R was defeated.

A NEW proposal has been put forward: 1st T; 2nd I; 3rd F; 4th G; 5th R; 6th E ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

(Taranis press cont'd.....)

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Neil: Your revised orders came 1 week late (22nd Jan).

France - Friendly Italian: Now, about that alliance we discussed, I was to attack Eng, which I have done. Now, what were you going to do...?

Italy - World: I will not support any proposal that has me 1st or less.

Turkey - Germany: Predictable - wasn't it?

Us Lot - Turkey: Well...

Germany - Russia: Nobody wanted you to do that move!

Italia - LUTON AIRPORT: Every person I communicate with keeps on telling me that I'm going to win, yet I remain unconvinced. Do they know something I don't? ((Maybe they're trying to lull you into a false sense of security.))

Turkey - France: Come on Dave, you can own up now!

Italy - England: For both our sakes, I hope you've done the right thing.

Russia - Italy: Sorry, but when I was on my way into the termination office I was forced back by crowds demanding that the struggle for freedom and against Italianism is continued. However, if you withdraw from Europe, maybe my crowds would be more positive to your suggestion. Give it a thought!

Friend - Italia: With friends like you....

Turkey - Russia: I'm saving up all the really nasty words for the game end statements

France - Germany: Thanks for the loan of Munich Luke!

England - World: I will not support any proposal that has me 5th or less.

World - England: Are you now willing to support a proposal that has you 4th or less?

France - Russia: Are we all now trying to stop Italy?

'Uther' (1985DV)

Autumn 1907

[26]

EVERYONE BELIEVES GERMANY IS DOING ONE THING... WHILE GERMANY DOES THE OTHER!
(Great stuff!)

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

FRANCE (Daniel Brooks) [[A(Ruh) S GERMAN A(Kie)-Mun]], [[A(Bur) S GERMAN A(Kie)-Mun]], A(Gas)-Mar, F(Spa-sc) S A(Gas)-Mar, F(WMS) S F(Tun), *F(Tun) S F(WMS)

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

ITALY (Anarchy) Has: F(Nap)

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

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

Retreats: FRENCH F(Tun)-NAf

Winter 1907 Adjustments:

ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Nor, Swe, Den	= 6 No Change	Well
FRA: Par, Bre, Mar, Por, Spa, Bel	= 6 No Change	that
GER: Kie, Hol, Ber	= 3 No Change	was
ITA: Nap	= 1 No Change	fruitful
RUS: StP, War, Mos, Sev, Rum, Bud, Vie, Ven, Mun	= 9 No Change	wasn't
TUR: Smy, Ank, Con, Bul, Ser, Gre, Tun, Tr1, Rom	= 9 No Change	it

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PRESS:

Tsar - Sultana: I was looking forward to IT as well, but what would happen if the Sultan caught us? ((He'd probably see you were totally seperated from your raisins!))

Turkey - England: If you're giving London to France...