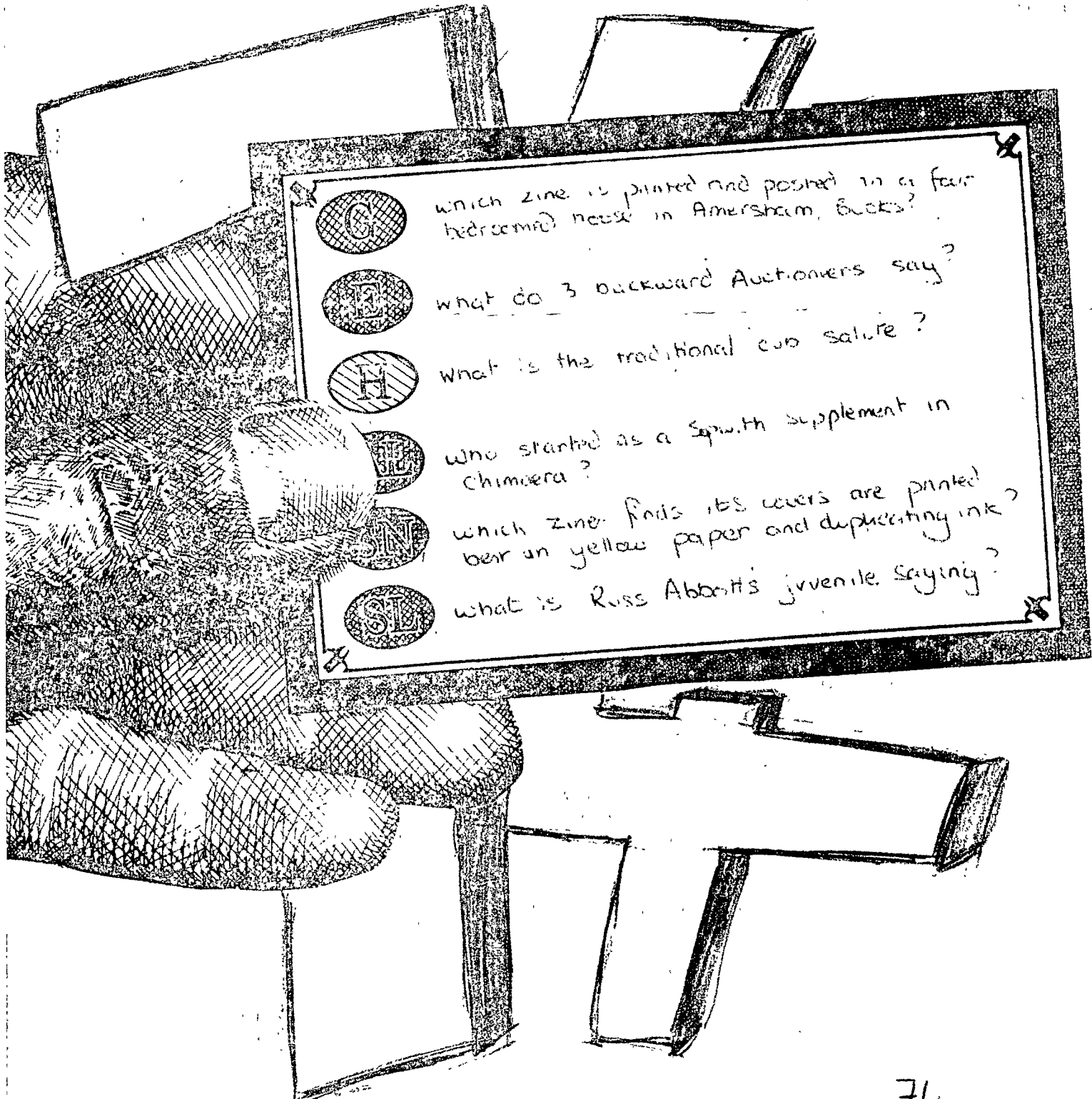


DIB DIB DIB



G

which zine is printed and posted in a four bedroomed house in Amersham, Bucks?

E

what do 3 backward Auctioneers say?

H

What is the traditional cub salute?

JL

who started as a growth supplement in chimera?

IN

which zine finds its covers are printed on yellow paper and duplicating ink?

SL

what is Russ Abbott's juvenile saying?

Welcome to the 74th issue of Dib Dib Dib - a zine dedicated to games, games players, and 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 (net 503, node 60) *
 * 'PDSig HQ TBBS' on Tel. 01 864 2633 (1200/1200, 1200/75 or 300/300 baud - *
 * No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit), where all orders and articles can be *
 * sent to me in the Diplomacy section reached via the <M>essage Rooms, *
 * <O>ther message areas. Also, on the much more friendly (read wacky) multi- *
 * user 'GODS' board Tel. 01-994 9119 - reached via the bulletin board *
 * 'Diplomacy section' (1200/75 or 300/300). *

QUOTE OF THE MONTH comes from Alex Richardson in the very well produced Obsidian issue 13: "There are women in the hobby, it's just that they seem to prefer the 'animal magnetism' of the 'older man' like Tom Tweedy and Richard Walkerdine."

((Very true, Alex, very true.....))

EDITORIAL

It's always difficult to start off an editorial or article - at least the first couple of paragraphs anyway - especially as I'm not the valuable type who like to stick everything down on paper. However, to heck with it, down it goes, as it comes out. Yes, I had a very nice Christmas, thank you. Thank you for the HUNDREDS of cards and Christmas greetings you sent, well, about 195 actually. In the end we were having difficulty finding places to hang them all. All four walls in the living room were festooned with them. Which looked quite nice really. Our festivities actually started off one week before Christmas Day with our annual Christmas party. Jan thought to invite 27 people over for a Trivial Pursuit party (boys against the girls), thinking some of them might not turn up. When 27 people turned up we had a somewhat difficult time with the seating arrangements. If it wasn't for the mountain of food set out on a groaning dining room table and serving trolley it might have been worse. At least we could move them around in shifts; one set on the game, one on the food, and some on the drinks! An excellent time was had by all though with the men winning at Trivial Pursuit once again while the women fell back on to the same old cry that we were cheating. It all broke up about 1 o'clock with people going home with carrier bags instead of doggie bags. Jan always does overdo the food.

Bernard Emblem says: "Let us know what you all got for Christmas." Hah! and I tell you, hah again. The main things I got were screw drivers, tool box and a Black & Decker jigsaw thingy. I never USE them! It's Jan who has taken up the DIY stuff at a weekly night class, not me! (Have you noticed that more and more women seem to be attracted to this heathen pursuit lately? Is it the fault of us laid-back men who prefer to see things stay as they are, or is there some other more sinister reason?)

The truth of it is that Jan, having got her quota of smelly stuff and things, still wanted the work tools anyway - so she puts them down on my list and I get them. Where was my necessary stuff? Where was my computer games? Where was my hardback copies of Homer's Iliad and Odessey? Or where, even, was my pair of multi-coloured Argyle socks that has been a tradition up till now? Nowhere, that's where! If it hadn't been for the food an' cigars, the odd box of chocs and bottle of sparkling wine, I'd have been truly let down over the Christmas period - bereft of my usually spoilt and enjoyable time the man of the house is normally accustomed to. It's nothing to laugh about!

Ah, but it has been good to ignore the computer and zine stuff. In actual fact I frittered away most of my time catching up on all the books I've meant

to catch up on. Tim Lomas very kindly lent me his copies of Asimov's 'Foundation Trilogy + one' (Foundation and Earth being the fourth), which I reread with some surprise, because although I've always said how excellent the series was to other people, it wasn't ANYTHING like I had remembered it! Plus I good through his 'Stars Like Dust', 'The Naked Sun' and the superb 'I Robot'. This still left me time to read a collection of short SF stories which was kindly sent to me (with message on flyleaf) from Kris & Michele Morris, as a Birthday present! Michele's birthday has actually passed this January, and Kris' is on the 30th, but I haven't sent them anything back because, wheras I am tight, they still love me! Cheapskate though I may be, I'm not heartless - no expense spared - HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOU TWO!

~~~~~

DIB DIB DIB - TOP THIRTY

|                     | <u>Pld</u> | <u>DO</u> | <u>PS</u> | <u>Total</u> |                      | <u>Pld</u> | <u>DO</u> | <u>PS</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Mike Close       | 2          | -         | 5600      | 5600         | 16. Alan Sharples    | 2          | -         | 1575      | 1575         |
| 2. Steve Gregory    | 2          | -         | 3875      | 3875         | 17. Jon Moss         | 2          | -         | 1375      | 1375         |
| 3. Martin Allen     | 4          | 1         | 4000      | 3600         | 18. Robert Lozynskj  | 2          | -         | 1320      | 1320         |
| 4. Victor Hall      | 2          | -         | 3300      | 3300         | =19. Nicholas Whyte  | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| =5. Rowland Goodman | 1          | -         | 2800      | 2800         | Alan Frost           | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| John Piggott        | 1          | -         | 2800      | 2800         | Richard Downes       | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| Martyn Ives         | 1          | -         | 2800      | 2800         | Bill Haygarth        | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| Chris Bartrum       | 1          | -         | 2800      | 2800         | Rob Chapman          | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| Luke Clutterbuck    | 1          | -         | 2800      | 2800         | Colin Bruce          | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| Paul Finch          | 1          | -         | 2800      | 2800         | John Lee             | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| 11. Frank Dunn      | 2          | 1         | 3100      | 2790         | Martin Clifford-King | 1          | -         | 1300      | 1300         |
| =12. Steve Rennie   | 2          | -         | 2120      | 2120         | 27. Dave Bird        | 2          | 1         | 1375      | 1237         |
| Ian Winstanley      | 2          | -         | 2120      | 2120         | 28. Gary Piper       | 3          | 1         | 1320      | 1188         |
| 14. Alan Powis      | 2          | -         | 1900      | 1900         | =29. Pete Northcott  | 1          | -         | 1075      | 1075         |
| 15. Richard Lampard | 5          | 2         | 2370      | 1896         | Sandy Peters         | 1          | -         | 1075      | 1075         |

These are the latest figures sent in by James Cowie of Dib's Top Thirty Diplomacy players (thanks James - please accept this issue free). From left to right the headings are: Pld = games played; DO = Dropped out; PS = points scored; and Total... speaks for itself. I'm glad to see James has penalised the drop outs this time - I think it makes for a much fairer score. Don't see too much into the results though, some players (like Mike Close and Martin Allen) get to the top by sheer luck, while others, not so high, may well have the skill.

~~~~~

JUST A COUPLE OF ZINE REVIEWS

IN BETWEEN DAYS 23 is a huge 44 page A5 booklet edited by Richard Downes, Steve Gregory, Paul Johns, James Steele and Sam Emmett. IBD consists of a collection of sub-zines collecting together all Richard's old zines it seems to me called 'Back to the Dark Ages', 'Shadowplay', '90 Minutes' etc, and has about 8 pages of Cricket Boss, about five pages of United and a scattering of other games. It's beautifully photocopied but has a rather confusing layout that one comes to expect with multi-editor zines. I don't know how reliable it is - Richard was once reknowned for his ultra-fast two week turnarounds a couple of years ago, but for some reason it all came to a head and he dropped out of things for a year or so, games and all. IBD has openings for: United; Diplomacy; Space Invaders; Off Board Diplomacy; Random Power Diplomacy; Objective Diplomacy; Broadside; Spellcaster Arena and Railway Rivals. All gamefees are £1 as far as I can see. Cost per issue is 50p. If interested write to Richard Downes, 2 Brisbane Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1XZ.

And..... cont'd over...

THE YORKSHIRE GALLANT 24 is another photocopied A5 booklet edited by Mark Nelson with sub-zine editor James Nelson. This reports to be a well run zine coming out regularly every 4 weeks. If this is true you can't say fairer than that. It's 48 pages are filled with 7 Diplomacy articles on Russia (reprinted from popular zines), the games, and a rather confusing, I think, letter 'column' which seems dotted over wherever there was a space. I can't help feeling these complex A5 zines are in the Morrigan mould, and are perhaps the way new zines are going. I hope not, because, for a simple man like myself I find flitting between pages for the bits I like rather difficult. I much prefer the games in one section, letters in another and so on. Still, apart from the poor printing of the sub-zine, a well turned out zine. TYG has openings for: Diplomacy; En Garde; Railway Rivals; WOTR; MVain Rats and Cline 9-Man. Gamefees I think are £1.50 and the zine costs 60p per issue. If interested write to Mark Nelson, 11 Lancaster Grove, Kirkstall, Leeds, West Riding, LS5 3DY

ENDGAME STATEMENTS ENDGAME STATEMENTS ENDGAME STATEMENTS ENDGAME STATEMENTS EN

'COBOLT' (EMAIL) GAMESTATEMENT

GAME: 1987BX ZINE/BULLETIN BOARD: DIB/West London TBBS GM: Tom Tweedy

Game Commenced: Issue 68 (May 87) Game Ended: Issue 74 (Jan 1988)

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
AUSTRIA (Nick Simpkins)	3	4	3	2	2	1	0	Drop-out A04
ENGLAND (Tim Lomas)	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	2-WAY DRAW
FRANCE (Michele Morris)	3	6	5	6	7	9	9	2-WAY DRAW
GERMANY (Stuart Tweedy)	3	5	5	3	0	-	-	Out A04
ITALY (John Cavanagh)	3	4	5	6	6	3	2	Drop-out S05
RUSSIA (Simon Jones)	4	6	6	6	7	7	8	
TURKEY (Stephen James)	3	5	5*	5**	5	6	7	

(* denotes number of units short)

A 2-WAY DRAW WAS PROPOSED AND ACCEPTED PRE-AUTUMN 1907

'ELECTRA' (EMAIL) GAMESTATEMENT

GAME: 1987BE ZINE/BULLETIN BOARD: DIB/West London TBBS GM: Tom Tweedy

Game Commenced: Issue 66 (Mar '87) Game Ended: Issue 74 (Jan 1988)

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	
AUSTRIA (Rod Chamberlin)	3	5	8*	6**	2	1	0	-	-	Out A06
ENGLAND (Kris Morris)	3	4	5	6	6	7	7	7	9	2-WAY DRAW
FRANCE (Stuart Tweedy)	3	5	5	7	8	9	9	9	8*	Drop-out S09
GERMANY (Simon Jones)	3	5	8	8	9*	6	5	7	8	2-WAY DRAW
ITALY (Monty Trent)	3	3	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	Drop-out A02
RUSSIA (Carl Kuttelwascher)	4	4	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	Drop-out A02
TURKEY (John Cavanagh)	3	5	6*	7	9	11	13	11	9	Drop-out A07

(* denotes number of units short)

A 2-WAY DRAW WAS PROPOSED AND ACCEPTED PRE-AUTUMN 1909

PLEASE NOTICE.....

The EN GARDE is held over until next issue because Jake doesn't have all the orders. Actually, Stuart was one of the culprits - but his excuse was that he was doing his mock GCSE's. The deadline and Jake's address is on the back page. Try and get your orders in. Or, if you've lost interest, please let Jake know.

GAME REVIEW - BARRICADE
by Michele Morris

This was the Christmas Mathew decided that he wanted board games instead of toys. "Yipee!", we thought, "what shall we buy ourselves?" As luck would have it a W.H.Smith brochure arrived the very next morning and was instantly collared by Matthew. He drew up a list of half-a-dozen of the games he wanted. Luckily for Kris and myself we couldn't find any of them in the shops. (We did try very hard to find them... honestly!!!) Instead we bought a couple of games we liked the look of. Find of 1987 must be Barricade.

Barricade is one of those deceptively simple games which takes only a few minutes to learn but can become a compulsion. Although it is die based, (so Danny Collman can stop reading now), it has elements of strategy too. The box contains the gameboard, eleven barricades, twenty playing pieces in four different colours and a die. The board is made of stout card, folded in the middle. The barricades and playing pieces are coloured wood.

The board is a symetric maze, with locations marked as a circle on a pale background. Eleven of the circles are dark brown and mark the starting positions for the barricades. The barricades are squat brown mushrooms of a rather phallic nature! At the top of the board is the goal. At the bottom of the board are four home bases. Each player has five playing pieces which begin in their home base.

The object of the game is to get one of your pieces to the goal before anyone else. Players take turns to roll the die and move a piece through the maze. Moves can be made in any direction, including backwards. Players use their own judgement in deciding whether to move a piece forward or to start another piece. There are many paths through the maze and players can choose a route freely. Pieces can jump over each other. If a piece lands on an occupied location, the piece already there is sent back to its home base.

If a player encounters a barricade he cannot jump over it, but a throw which lands a piece on top of a barricade allows that player to remove the barrier and to replace it on any free space on the board he chooses! The barricade can be used to block an opponent or to protect your own pieces. Good tactics include bringing as many pieces into play as possible, placing barricades one space in front or behind of opponents, and allying with other players against the leader. If a player is blocked in, and cannot throw a score enabling him to free a piece, he forfeits his move.

I can see this game going down well at Cons. Just the sort of game to work over old grudges between Diplomacy opponents! The tactical element lifts the game above a simple children's game, and yet it is simple enough for family play. You'll be glad to hear that Matthew loves it. (He plays a mean game too!) The game is produced by 'Ravensburger', but distributed by Fisher Price, and if memory serves me well it costs just £7. Give it a try.

((Thanks Michele - a good review which earns you yet ANOTHER free issue of Dib (I'm just TOO good to you). Actually the game sounds basically like a rather good two-player game I used to have called 'Cul-de-Sac', so I might just go out and buy it myself.))

JOTTO Turn 6

ROSIE ROBERTS : 6TH 132242	KATH COLLMAN : 6TH 222233 ((Oh dear))
STEVE THOMAS : 6TH 411101	PETER HAUKE : 6TH 253423
NICKY JOHNS : 6TH NMR!	STEVE KIRK : 5TH 221012
CHARLES SMEDLEY: 6TH 222003	6TH 110011

KATH writes: "If I get all 1, 2, 3's again I shall SCREAM!" ((Heh heh))

REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY REGULAR DIPLOMACY

'Anise' (1986GP)Spring 1905

[32]

AUSTRIA (Victor Hall) A(Bud)-Rum, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Bul) S A(Bud)-Rum, A(Tri) stands, A(Ser) S A(Bul), F(Gre)-AEG
 ENGLAND (Alan Frost) F(Edi)-Cly, F(Lpl)-Wal, F(NTH) S F(Lon)-ENC, F(Lon)-ENC, A(Kie) S RUSSIAN A(Mun)-Ruh, A(Yor) stands
 FRANCE (Steve Kirk) F(NAO)-IRI, F(Wal)-ENC, *F(ENC)-Bel, A(Bur)-Mar, A(Bel)-Ruh
 GERMANY (Anarchy) Has: A(Hol)
 ITALY (Andrew Smith) NMR! Has: A(Pie), F(Nap), A(Tun), F(Ven)
 RUSSIA (Nick Hoyle) A(StP)-Lvn, A(Mos) S A(Sev), A(War)-Sil, A(Sev) S TURKISH F(BLA)-Rum, A(Sil)-Mun, A(Mun)-Ruh, F(Swe) stands
 TURKEY (Mike Sykes-Gelder) F(BLA) S RUSSIAN A(Sev)-Rum, A(Arm)-Smy, A(Con)-Bul

Retreats: FRENCH F(ENC) dies (NRO)

PRESS:

France - GM: NBO! You jest, it must be pressure of work. What I wouldn't do for a steady job! Only six months of tortuous study to go and then...

Turkey - France: Who said life was easy?

France - England: You started the war. If you want peace you'll have to do something impressive. Nick must be itching to attack you. Getting nervous?

'Belladonna' (1987BK)Autumn 1904

[15]

AUSTRIA (John Colledge) A(Tri)-Ven, A(Tyr)-Mun, F(Gre) S A(Ser)-Bul, F(AEG) S A(Ser)-Bul, A(Ser)-Bul, A(Gal)-Rum
 ENGLAND (Ralph Baker) NMR! Has: *A(Bel), *F(Hol), F(NTH), F(Lon),
 FRANCE (Gary Lyon) A(Bur) S F(ENC)-Bel, A(Pic) S F(ENC)-Bel, F(ENC)-Bel, A(Par) S A(Bur), F(Spa-sc)-MAO
 GERMANY (Alan Powis) *F(Den)-NTH, A(Ruh) S A(Kie)-Hol, A(Kie)-Hol, A(Mun)-Sil
 ITALY (Charles Smedley) F(Rom)-TYS, F(Apu)-ION, F(ION)-EMS
 RUSSIA (Colin Pickard) A(Nor)stands, A(Swe) S F(SKA)-Den, F(SKA)-Den, A(Sev)-Arm, F(Rum)-Sev, *A(Bul)-Rum, A(Sil)-Ber
 TURKEY (Steve Kirk) A(Smy) S F(Con), F(Con) S RUSSIAN A(Bul), F(BLA) S RUSSIAN F(Rum)

Retreats: ENGLISH A(Bel) & F(Hol) die; GERMAN F(Den)-BAL; RUSSIAN A(Bul) dies

Winter 1904 Adjustments:

AUS: Tri, Bud, Vie, Gre, Ser, Ven + Mun, Bul = 8 Builds: A(Bud), A(Vie)
 ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, (Bel), (Hol) = 3 NBO (1 SHORT)
 FRA: Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por + Bel = 6 Builds: F(Bre)
 GER: (Mun), Kie, (Ber), (Den) + Hol = 2 Disbands A(Sil) & F(BAL)
 ITA: Rom, Nap, Tun = 3 No Change
 RUS: StP, Mos, War, Sev, Swe, Nor, Rum + Den, Ber = 9 Blds: F(Stp-nc), A(War), A(Mos)
 TUR: Con, Ank, Smy, (Bul) = 3 No Change

34

PRESS:

Austria - Europe: The wonderful thing about Tiggers is that Tiggers are a wonderful things. Their tops are made out of rubber their bottoms are made out of springs. They're bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy, fun, fun, fun, fun, fun. But the most wonderful things about Tiggers is I'm the only one I'm the only one. TWANG! GDONG! THUD! Anyone got a mattress spring they don't need?

Russia - Germany: This is a forgery.

(Belladonna press cont'd....)

Tigger - Pooh Bear: Oh no! You haven't got your head stuck in the hunny ((sic)) jar again have you? You are a silly old bear. Why don't you go to your thotful spot for a while and leave me to bounce around a while?

Turkey - Russia: Why??

Tigger - Ehore: What was that you said about being alone. Yes I think your neck of the woods must be a very gloomy place.

LUTON AIRPORT - Tigger: I hate to say it, but I think this story has been done.))

'Colombo' (1987DT)

Autumn 1902

[16]

AUSTRIA (Mike Allaway) A(Ser) S RUSSIAN A(Rum)-Bul, F(Gre) S RUSSIAN A(Rum)-Bul, A(Bud) S RUSSIAN A(Gal)-Rum, A(Tri) S A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Vie)-Tyr
 ENGLAND (Colin Bolton) A(Den)stands, F(SKA) S A(Den), F(NTH)-HEL, F(NWG)-NTH, F(Lon) S F(NWG)-NTH
 FRANCE (Peter Hauke) A(Bur)-Mar, A(Spa)-NAf, F(WMS) C A(Spa)-NAf, F(MAO) S A(Spa)-NAf, F(GOL) S F(WMS)
 GERMANY (Andrew J. Moss) F(Bel)-Pic, A(Hol)-Bel, F(HEL)-Den, F(Ber)stands, A(Mun) S F(Ber)
 ITALY (Simon Craddock) F(TYS) S F(Tun)-WMS, F(Tun)-WMS, A(Ven) stands, A(Sil)-War
 RUSSIA (Mel Gamble) F(Swe)-BAL, A(Pru)-War, A(Gal) S A(Rum), A(Ukr) S F(Sev), A(Rum) S TURKISH A(Bul)-Ser, F(Sev) S A(Rum)
 TURKEY (Simon Shimbart) A(Bul) S A(Con), A(Con) S A(Bul), F(BLA) S A(Bul), F(Arm) S F(BLA)

Retreats: None

Winter 1902 Adjustments:

AUS: Tri,Bud,Vie,Ser,Gre = 5 No Change
 ENG: Lon,Lpl,Edi,Nor,Den = 5 No Change
 FRA: Bre,Par,Mar,Por,Spa = 5 No Change
 GER: Mun,Kie,Ber,Bel,Hol = 5 No Change ((WOT, NONE!??))
 ITA: Rom,Nap,Ven,Tun = 4 No Change
 RUS: StP,Mos,War,Sev,Rum,Swe = 6 No Change
 TUR: Con,Ank,Smy,Bul = 4 No Change

34

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Simon: Don't forget to put the game name on top of your orders will you.

Germany - Anon: Yes it is.

Russia - Austria: Heaven knows I tried to get out of Galicia - you stopped me!

Italy - Russia: Will write soon.

England - Italy: When you get to Norway I'll convoy you.

'Deadly Nightshade' (1987???)

Autumn 1901

[29]

AUSTRIA (Martin Taylor) A(Ser) S F(Alb)-Gre, F(Alb)-Gre, A(Bud)-Tri
 ENGLAND (Martyn Ives) A(Edi)-Nor, F(NTH) C A(Edi)-Nor, F(NWG) S A(Edi)-Nor
 FRANCE (Madelaine Smith) F(MAO)-Por, A(Gas)-Spa, A(Mar)-Bur
 GERMANY (Barry Raynes) F(Den)stands, A(Kie)-Hol, A(Mun)-Ruh
 ITALY (Mike Allaway) F(ION) C A(Apu)-Tun, A(Apu)-Tun, A(Ven)stands
 RUSSIA (Victor Hall) A(Ukr)-Rum, A(StP)-Fin, F(GOB)-Swe, F(Sev) S A(Ukr)-Rum
 TURKEY (James Cowie) F(Ank)-BLA, A(Bul)stands, A(Arm)-Ank

(Cont'd over....)

(Deadly Nightshade cont'd...)

COA'S:

Martin Taylor, 159 Dawes Road, London, SW6
 Madelaine Smith, 44 Lychett Way, Nythe, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN3 9ZZ

Winter 1901 Adjustments:

AUS: Tri, Bud, Vie + Ser, Gre = 5 Builds: A(Bud), A(Vie)
 ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi + Nor = 4 Builds: F(Lon)
 FRA: Bre, Par, Mar + Por, Spa = 5 Builds: F(Bre), A(Par)
 GER: Mun, Kie, Ber + Den, Hol = 5 Builds: F(Kie), A(Mun)
 ITA: Rom, Nap, Ven + Tun = 4 Builds: F(Nap)
 RUS: StP, Mos, War, Sev + Rum, Swe = 6 Builds: F(StP-nc), A(Mos)
 TUR: Con, Ank, Smy + Bul = 4 Builds: F(Con)
 Neutrals: Bel = 1
 34

PRESS:

Austria - 'Austria': Stop abusing my dateline.
Turkey - All: Hope you all had a good time.
London - Paris: I wanted to write but wasn't sure of the address. Sorry!
Austria - Europe: Sorry I haven't written much; my flat has been gutted, and I'm having to take legal action to get it rebuilt. You will almost certainly have received a change of address ((see above)) by the time you read this. ((Okay, own up, which one of you has been sending parcel bombs to Martin's flat while he was away!??))

'Taranis' (1985BG)

Autumn 1913

[25]

ENGLAND (Dave Fish) F(Cly)-Lpl
 FRANCE (Neil Parkin) A(Mar)-Pie, A(Spa)-Mar, F(WMS)-Tun, F(MAO)-WMS,
 F(TYS)-ION
 GERMANY (Luke Clutterbuck) A(Bur)-Par, A(Tri) S ITALIAN A(Vie), A(Tyr) S
 A(Tri), A(Boh)-Gal, A(Sil)-War, A(Pru) S A(Sil)-
 War, F(NTH)-ENC, F(NWG)-Edi, F(Nor)-StP-nc, A(Den)-
 Swe
 ITALY (Anarchy) Has: F(IRI), F(GOL), A(Vie), F(AEG), A(Arm)
 RUSSIA (Ulf Jiretorn) *A(War) S A(Gal), A(Gre)stands, F(Con)-Smy, A(Ser)-
 Tri, A(Smy)-Arm, A(Bud) S A(Ser)-Tri, A(Rum)-Ukr,
 A(Gal) S A(War), A(StP)-Nor
 TURKEY (Ken Haywood) F(Nap)stands

Retreats: RUSSIAN A(War)-Lvn
ENDGAME PROPOSAL: =1st G/R; 3rd F; 4th I; 5th E; 6th T was defeated.

Winter 1913 Adjustments:

ENG: (Nor), (Edi) + Lpl = 1 No Change
 FRA: Bre, (Par), Por, Tun, Spa + Mar = 5 No Change
 GER: Kie, Ber, Hol, Swe, Den, Mun, Bel, (Mar), Lon,
 Ven + Par, Tri, War, Edi, Nor = 14 Blds: A(Mun), A(Ber), F(Kie)(1 SHORT)
 ITA: Rom, (Tri), Vie, (Bud), (Gre), (Lpl) = 2 Disbands F(IRI), F(AEG), A(Arm)
 RUS: Ank, (War), StP, Mos, Sev, Bul, Ser, Con, Smy,
 Rum + Gre, Bud = 11 Builds: F(Sev), A(Mos)
 TUR: Map = 1 No Change
 34

PRESS:

Russia - Germany: Not once again...
Turkey - France: Will write (that's WRITE, Tom - not RIGHT or RITE - OK?) next season. ((All write don't tear my arm off, it's an harrassed GM you have here y'know!))
France - Turkey: I hope you like the new stationery, very conservative I thought.
Turkey - Germany: If you start having trouble sorting out that fellow in the east, I shall put all my forces at your disposal!

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

Russia - France: How about stopping Germany from winning before it's too late?
Turkey - Russia: If you start having trouble sorting out that fellow in the west - TOUGH!

France - Turkey: I think we have given them both enough start as you say, but doesn't England figure in our plans?

Russia - Turkey: Thanks for the advice. Could you recommend one you've been thrown out from.

'Uther' (1985DV)

Spring 1912

[26]

ENGLAND (Anarchy) Has: F(BAR), F(SKA)
 GERMANY (James Cowie) F(Lon) S F(Hol)-NTH, A(Bre)-Par, A(Par)-Bur, F(Hol)-NTH, #A(Kie)-Mun, A(Ruh) S A(Par)-Bur
 RUSSIA (Kris Morris) A(Mar)-Bur, A(Den) S A(Ber)-Kie, F(Nor)-NWG, A(Swe) stands, F(BAL) S A(Ber)-Kie, A(Ber)-Kie, A(Pru)-Ber, A(Sil) S TURKISH A(Tyr)-Mun, A(War)-Pru, A(Gal)-Boh, A(Ukr)-Gal, A(Mos)-Ukr, F(StP-nc)-Nor
 TURKEY (Kath Collman) F(NAO)-Lpl, F(MAO)-IRI, F(Por)-MAO, A(Spa)-Gas, A(Mun)-Ruh, A(Tyr)-Mun, F(ION) C A(Gre)-Apu, A(Gre)-Apu, A(Bul)-Ser, A(Con)-Bul, F(Smy)-Con, F(AEG)stands, F(GOL) stands

Retreats: GERMAN A(Kie)-Hol

ENDGAME PROPOSAL: 1st T; 2nd R; 3rd G was defeated.

PRESS:

Tsar - Luton Airport: Tried 10 minutes, but the results were just the same. I'll have to try prunes, that might work. ((Well, I wouldn't hold your breath))

Sultana - LUTON AIRPORT: Ah come on, it was worth a try! You're an old meanie, Tweedy. ((Old MEANIE! - gee, that hurts. I don't call YOU nasty names!))

Germany - Russia: Thanks for the letter - I agree.

Sultana - Kaiser: It seems that our mutual friend the Tsar is trying to cast nasturtiums on our relationship which is of course pure as the driven slush snow. It just goes to show the state of his moral depravity - he'll sink to any depths to win a Dip game. I strongly advise you to have nothing further to do with him!

Tsar - Sultana: ME stab YOU! Now would I do such a dastardly thing as that?

Sultana - Tsar: Of course you didn't embarrass me - in fact will you show me your dinosaur at Manofcon? ((Hah! I doubt it... he'll probably show you his fossel though!))

Rupert - Sultana: Course I know what your knickers are like, don't you remember showing them to me when the Sultan was out of the room? (No Tom, they were on the washing line.) ((Ah, must make a note of that. "Kath: Makes weird after-dinner entertainment by showing you her washing line!" And to think I'm still stuck at the boring Trivial Pursuit stage - how unsophisticated us southerners are!))

Kath - Kris: I refuse to answer that on the grounds that it might incriminate me.

Germany - Turkey: Thanks for the boxers - I assume it was you.

Turkey (Govt) - Russia: Don't get your knickers in a twist over Bul, I decided self defence was best in view of your stated moves. No harm done (I hope).

Kris - Kath: See, I told you Tom was getting old and decrepid, now he's owned up to it. ((Not too old yet to give you a sound thrashing, you young whipper-snapper you!))

Sherlock Holmes - Dr Watson: Have you seen the latest report on the Phantom Knicker Knicker case? ((No, Watson was the knicker knicker?)) It looks as if the police are on to another false trail. A Rasputin lookalike with a Cornish accent indeed! Don't they realise that's just a cunning disguise used by the real villain. I deduce that the culprit is a Scotsman hoping to claim

(Uther press cont'd...)

on the insurance; or it could be a closet librarian who intends to use knickers as flags to mark the places of interest in Birmingham for the forthcoming World Dip Con ((Nah... he'd only need one pair then, wouldn't he?)) Pass me my violin and let me compose another ditty.

'Vortigern' (1985GA)

Spring 1912

[27]

AUSTRIA (John Piggott) A(Rom)-Nap, A(Ven)-Rom, F(Tri)-Ven, A(Gal)-Rum
 ENGLAND (Michele Morris) F(MAO)-NAF, F(Por)-Spa-sc, F(Bre)-Gas, A(Pic)-Par,
 F(ENC) C A(Lon)-Bel, A(Lon)-Bel, F(NTH) C A(Edi)-Nor,
 A(Edi)-Nor, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Kie)-Mun, A(StP)-Lvn,
 A(War)-Gal, A(Ukr)-Sev, A(Mos) S A(Ukr)-Sev, F(Ber) S
 F(Pru), F(Pru) S F(Ber)
 FRANCE (Bob Watson) A(Vie) S ENGLISH A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Pie) S ENGLISH A(Mun)-
 Tyr, F(Spa-sc)-GOL, F(TYS) S F(ION)-Nap, F(ION)-Nap
 TURKEY (Jon Moss) F(EMS)-ION, F(AEG) S F(EMS)-ION, F(Gre) S F(EMS)-ION,
 F(Smy)-ION, A(Ser)-Alb, A(Bul)-Ser, A(Con)-Bul,
 *A(Sev) S A(Bud)-Rum, A(Bud)-Rum

Retreats: TURKISH A(Sev) dies

ENDGAME PROPOSAL:

(a) 1st E; =2nd A/T/G; 5th F was defeated.

(b) 1st E; 2nd T; =3rd A/F was defeated - but both have been REPROPOSED ((So, votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

PRESS:

Germany - England: Unfortunately, you left off the story before it was complete. I must continue:

The small (but perfectly formed) man in the flat cap, rubber gloves and pinnie sighed. It was ever thus. However much he tried to cover up his fatal attraction, women always seemed to be exposing themselves to him. Carefully maintaining his image, he said, gently;

"Nay, lass don't take on so. Tha'll do thisen an injury."

"Oh, Alan," gasped Michele (for it is she), "take me!"

Frost (for it is he) recognised the Joan-the-Wad Mummerset accent. It was the usual thing: A southern woman, used to her men expecting her to drink pints, pay for her own rounds and arm-wrestle. When confronted with gentlemen who treated them as different and feminine they just went to pieces.

"Ah'm'reet sorry, lass. It's me hour off. And, anyway, I prefer my women more feminine."

"It's my body-shaper, isn't it? You don't like my body-shaper!"

Frost surveyed the garment. It was a tasteful purple, emerald green and salmon pink lame' creation with strategically placed yellow tassels. They always seemed to wear something like this, thinking he would be impressed. But he would have to put her right about it.

"Nay, lass, it's not that. But it's not called a body-shaper. My Littlewood's catalogue says it's a BASQUE."

"Basque, body-shaper, what does it matter!" shrieked Joan the Wad. "I've got lots more of them. Would you like me to change it for another? Would you like to watch me change it? Come to me."

It was no good. Gentleness had failed. Shock tactics were in order. Abandoning the assumed accent, he reverted to the cut-glass English that was the envy of news-readers everywhere and had driven Bosanquet to an early grave through drink:

"Listen you demented harridan. I don't want you. I don't want your basques. In fact, you know where you can stick them."

Then came the final crushing blow that sent the poor creature sobbing into the street: "Just make sure you don't put all your basques in one exit." ((Heh heh - a little cutting, but very entertaining... touche, Michele?))

(Vortigern press cont'd...)

The French Scriptwriter - Luton Airport: It's purely academic now, but just for interest and information, as I'm ordering the French units can I also have his vote in Endgame proposals? (i.e. do I get to vote twice?) ((Yes))

Germany - Nobody in particular: Ah yes! That was it! I knew there was some reason why women shouldn't be allowed.

England - Ghost of Germany: What took you so long? Austria spotted that last September. Thanks for the note anyway.

Germany - England: Sorry, but the Eternal Champion must have got the wrong house. The Great White Whale would never let me wear my flat cap in the house and she's bought me a dishwasher to leave more time for peeling her grapes. Anyway you'd have noticed the tripe and cowheels. Try again.

England - Austria: Thanks for the freebie frog. What's all this about leaving the Civil Service?

'Witham' (1986BF)

Spring 1910

[28]

FRANCE (Pete Mason) A(Alb)-Ser, F(ION)-ADS, F(WMS)-Tun, F(Mar)-GOL, F(TYS)-ION, A(Bur) S A(Mun), A(Ruh) S A(Mun), F(Kie)-Ber, A(Mun) S F(Kie)-Ber, A(Nor)-Fin, A(Bre)-Nor, F(ENC) C A(Bre)-Nor, F(NTH) C A(Bre)-Nor, F(Swe)-GOB, A(Pie)-Tyr

ITALY (Kris Morris) A(Mos)stands, A(Sev)-Rum, A(Ukr) S A(Mos), A(Gal)-Bud, F(Con)-AEG, A(Smy)-Con, F(AEG)-Gre, F(Gre)-Alb, F(Nap)stands, A(Rom) S F(Nap), A(Ven)-Tus, A(Tyr)-Ven, A(Vie)-Tri, A(Boh)-Tyr

RUSSIA (Danny Collman) A(Ber) S A(Sil)-Mun, A(Sil)-Mun, A(War)stands, A(StP)stands

Retreats: None

PRESS:

Italy - Russia: Gladly, whose heart would you like me to have, yours or France's.

Russia - Both: It would be nice to be in the game still when one of you gets the magic number.

Italy - France: Alright, your army has had a very nice time holidaying in the Balkans; but don't let them stay too long will you. All rest and no battle will make them flabby.

'Ymir' (1986DQ)

Autumn 1907

[30]

AUSTRIA (Barry Raynes) *A(Vie) S A(Bud)-Tri, A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Tri, A(Bud)-Tri

ENGLAND (Paul Street) F(IRI) S F(ENC), F(ENC) C A(Lon)-Bel, A(Lon)-Bel, F(Pic) S A(Lon)-Bel, A(Nor)stands, F(Swe)-GOB, A(Den) S F(BAL)-Kie, F(BAL)-Kie

FRANCE (Anarchy) Has: *A(Par)

GERMANY (John Cavanagh) *A(Kie)-Ber, A(Mun)-Ber

ITALY (Mike Close) A(Gas)-Par, A(Bur) S A(Gas)-Par, F(Bre) S F(MAO), F(MAO) S F(Bre), F(ION)-Tun, F(AEG)-Gre, A(Tri)-Vie, A(Tyr) S A(Tri)-Vie, A(Ven)-Tri, F(ADS) S A(Ven)-Tri

RUSSIA (Rowland Goodman) A(StP)stands, F(GOB) S A(StP), A(Ukr)-Gal, A(Gal)-Sil, A(Rum) S A(Ukr)-Gal, F(BLA) S A(Rum)

TURKEY (Kris Morris) A(Smy)-Arm, A(Bul)-Gre, F(Con)-AEG, A(Ank)-Smy

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A(Vie) dies; FRENCH A(Par) dies; GERMAN A(Kie)-Hol

Winter 1907 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud, (Vie), Ser = 2 No Change
 ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Bel, (Hol), Nor, Swe, Den + Kie = 8 No Change
 FRA: (Par) = 0 OUT

(Ymir cont'd...)

GER: (Kie),Ber + Hol,Mun = 3 Blds: F(Ber)
 ITA: Rom,Ven,Nap,Tun,Spa,Por,Mar,Bre,Tri,Gre + Par,Vie = 12 Blds: F(Nap),A(Rom)
 RUS: Mos,War,StP,Sev,(Mun),Rum = 5 Disbands: A(Gal)
 TUR: Smy,Ank,Con,Bul = 4 No Change
 34

PRESS:

Turkey - Italy: As you enjoyed my Uther press so much I thought you'd appreciate this little ditty. Sung to the tune of 'My Old Man's a Dustman', which I'm sure you've got in your collection.

Mike Close he is a rat-bag
 He's always telling lies,
 A fleet in the Aegean
 I can't believe my eyes.
 He looks like winning Ymir
 But I say 'what the heck,'
 Next time I visit Cardiff

I'll wring his bloody neck! ((Well, you have the right attitude, at least!))

Professional Diplomacy Player offers his services to improve your results and ratings. Andy Mansfield, accomplished negotiator and tactician will diplomate and order for you. He has just won 'Xanten' under a contract. Please write c/o this press column for details of rates and availability - maximum three contracts per game (no Cornish).

Turkey - Italy: Garry who?

Kris - Luton Heliport: No, I tried dirty living but only spent more on soap. Must be something different, cheating perhaps? ((Nah, that takes a certain amount of native cunning and intelligence... no, it must be something else!))

Kris - Mike: Slade Christmas Album? Wash your mouth out. Now if you had said SingalongaMax Vols 1 to 23!!!

'Zin' (1986GI)

Autumn 1905

[31]

ENGLAND (Anarchy) Has: A(Edi), F(Lon)
 FRANCE (Richard Wernick) F(Bel)-Hol, A(Bur)-Mar, A(Ruh) S F(Bel)-Hol, F(Lpl)-NAO, A(Par)-Bur
 GERMANY (Anarchy) Has: *A(Hol)
 ITALY (Steve Kirk) F(Por)stands, A(Spa) S F(GOL)-Mar, F(GOL)-Mar, F(TYS)-ION, A(Ven) S A(Tri), A(Tri) S A(Bud), A(Ser) S A(Bud), A(Rum) S A(Bud), A(Bud) S A(Rum)
 RUSSIA (Ralph Baker) NMR! Has: F(GOB), A(Tyr), A(Mun), F(Kie), A(Boh), A(Vie), A(Gal), F(BLA), F(Sev)
 TURKEY (Steve Thomas) [[A(Con)-Gre]] ((NO SUCH UNIT)), A(Bul) S ITALIAN A(Rum), F(AEG) C A(Con)-Gre, F(Ank)-BLA, F(Con) stands unordered

Retreats: GERMAN A(Hol) dies

LUTON AIRPORT: My mistake... the French A(Spa) in fact DIED last season; also, there is NO Turkish A(Con)... it's a FLEET in Con. It's no use making 'mistakes', my machine will pick them up eventually.

ENDGAME PROPOSAL: =1st I/R; =3rd F/T ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

Winter 1905 Adjustments:

AUS: (Vie) = 0 OUT
 ENG: Lon,Edi = 2 No Change
 FRA: Bre,Par,(Por),(Spa),Bel,Lpl + Hol = 5 No Change
 GER: (Hol),Den = 1 NBO (1 SHORT)
 ITA: Ven,Rom,Nap,Tun,Tri,Ser,Mar,(Bul),Bud + Por,Spa,Rum = 11 Builds: A(Rom), F(Nap)
 RUS: StP,Mos,War,Sev,(Rum),Swe,Nor,Kie,Ber, Mun + Vie = 10 NBO (1 SHORT)
 TUR: Con,Ank,Smy,Gre + Bul = 5 Builds: F(Smy)

XANTEN GAMESTATEMENT REVISITED...

Danny Collman (the 8th player?):

I'm quite sure you were expecting this, so I'll not disappoint you. Rowland Goodman's 'Xanten' game end statement was a wholly remarkable document - remarkable for his breadth of memory (don't expect such detail from me) and remarkable also for its mixture of fact and fantasy.

My thanks to Rowland for his opinion on my letter-writing (long and interesting) - I'm not sure about his comment "Tony was for real, while Danny was and is a teacher."

What gets me, however, is the suggestion that I was an 8th player in 'Xanten': "Danny", says Rowland, "You dived in this game more than Heiko." Well, yes there were one or two occasions earlier on in 'Witham' when I made comment on 'Xanten' - after all, three of the 'Xanten' players I knew (know) fairly well - but to suggest that I played a significant part in the game is twaddle.

In the case of Stephen Cloves, I may have made some suggestions for the first two or three seasons but the main thing I did was to save a young lad in his teens the cost of a stamp by sending his orders to you along with mine and Kath's. He lives no more than five minutes walk from me.

In the case of Colin Kinsella, my influence was even shorter lived: Colin was clearly not writing letters favourably impress them during his first couple of seasons so I gave him some pointers. It is clear that he either took notice of me, or he found his own way through later comments to me about Colin were definitely not unfavourable.

In the case of Andy Mansefield it is certainly true that I made a few comments to him concerning Colin and vice versa, but what the effects were of those comments I simply don't know: I didn't follow 'Xanten' past, perhaps, 1902.

Rowland seems to me to have taken very much to heart the fact that I stabbed him in 'Witham' and the facts that I know Andy and live in same city as Stephen and Colin. He seems to have assumed that my close geographical proximity to Stephen and Colin means that I have been feeding them suggestions and advice throughout the game.

This is simply nonsense as I'm sure both Stephen and Colin have told you. Andy's comment in his Game-end statement "Danny Collman had nothing to do with this game", is not entirely accurate, but is so nearly correct as not to be worth the argument.

Here endeth the lesson.

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LETTERS

MADELAINE SMITH: "I really love your letter column, I feel like I want to reply to every one of the letters, or at least make some comment. You'll have to forgive me if I get carried away. I was quite astonished at how much you printed of my last letter to you... if this carries on, I'm going to have to do something about my grammar and spelling and so on.

Could you please tell Mr Close that yes, I know it isn't a real Welsh Dresser, but think how the story would have sounded if I'd said it was a "pre-fabricated shelf and cupboard unit"? Shall we call it poetic licence!?"

((Poetic licence!? Well, yes if you want to - it's probably a lot better than calling it a 'pre-fabricated shelf and cupboard unit' anyway. Glad you like the letter column though.))

KRIS MORRIS: "I'm not too sure if you took Kath's letter about flirting seriously or not, your reply looked to me as if you did, but not to Michele. I presume that Kath wrote it in fun. I think I know her well enough by now, but I hope she hasn't taken offence at anything I've said to her. I've put a light-hearted reply to her within the Uther press, and