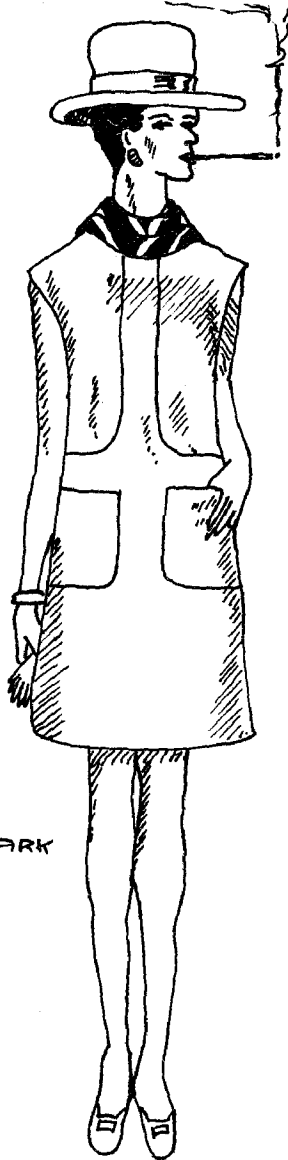


Dolchstoß

ISSUE 31

13:5:75

"BUT DARLING! YOU MUST
COME! DESCONTENT
WILL BE SUCH A GRAND
ROUT - ALL THOSE
HUSKY HE-MEN AND
DEBONAIR SPIRITS.
WHAT A GAY PARTY"



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF —
RICHARD "CHIC" SHARP
GAY CONTRIBUTIONS
RICHARD "CREEPS" WALKERDINE
TONY "SUGAR DADDY" BALL
RICHARD "I'M AT HOME" SCOTT
PETER "SCORE" DEAN
BRIAN "I'LL TAKE YOUR QUEEN" CLARK
NICKY "DANISH BLUE" PALMER
STEVE "LEGS" DOUBLEDAY
... BUT NOT THIS ISSUE, ALAS!!

Election '75

There ain't one ! There is so little competition to get onto the Committee that it seems best to accept everyone nominated. This results in at least one, possibly two extra members, and I'm sure everyone will agree it wasn't worth the expense and labour of an election just to eliminate one or two people from the 'general' jobs.

For a long time, no one came forward to volunteer for the post of Treasurer, in some ways the most arduous and least rewarding job the Committee offers. Tony Ball offered to stay on if no one else came forward, and Pete Birks and Mike Wassall were also heard to mutter that they would have a go if they were needed. I feel very strongly that no one should do a job he doesn't really want to do, and I know none of those three really did, despite their public-spirited offers.

Anyway, a suitable candidate has now emerged in Gordon Bell, and I think he is slightly more happy about the thought of the job than anyone else would have been ! His nomination was late and somewhat informal, but I had no hesitation in jumping on him before he could think better of it. Gordon works for a bank and has acted as Treasurer for other organizations before, so seems excellently suited to the job; it's a pity he lives so far from London and can't reasonably be expected to attend meetings very often, but it's enough to know that all that paper-work will be in safe hands. Anyway, after all the doubts are resolved, the new Committee will look like this:

GENERAL SECRETARY:	John Piggott	(unopposed)
TREASURER:	Gordon Bell	(effectively unopposed)
SCRABBLE SECRETARY:	Peter Dean	(re-elected unopposed)
CHESS SECRETARY:	Brian Clark	(unopposed)
WARGAMES SECRETARY:	Nicky Palmer	(re-elected unopposed)
GENERAL & DIPLOMACY MEMBERS:		
	Dave Allen	
	Pete Birks	
	Steve Doubleday	
	Andy Holt	
	Les Pimley	

It will be observed that my own name is not on the list. This is because I understand a motion has been proposed and seconded to instal me as a sort of supernumerary member, presumably in my capacity as Dolchstoss editor. This motion seems likely to be put to the NGC Meeting at DesConTenT, and I am content to take my chance on that.

Retiring Committee Members

This seems a good opportunity for me to say thank you, on your behalf as well as my own, to those members of the original Committee who have decided not to stand this time: Tony Ball, Richard Walkerdine, Richard Scott and Mick Bullock. All these have helped a lot to give the club a very successful year, and I don't think the others will mind if I say that Tony's contribution in particular has been enormous, literally producing order out of chaos ! Tony and Richard Scott have merely evinced a quite natural desire to retire from public life and let someone else have a go; Mick and Richard Walkerdine, I suspect, will not be retiring from anything, and probably feel they can make more progress outside the committee than inside. Both, I believe, feel that the Committee has not done what it should have done over the past year; for my part I accept that it hasn't done what they think it should have done, and I hope it goes on not doing it ! Still, I've no doubt that these two will continue to make an important contribution, even if only by providing a vociferous opposition. All the retiring members (and the survivors, come to that) are deserving of all our thanks.

Dolchstoss

This, I need not say, is a very much slimmer issue than usual, simply because it is imperative to get it into people's hands before DesConTenT. I have ruthlessly axed all press (I did ask you not to send it, but I'll keep it anyway); the staggered deadline achieved precisely nothing, as all games had many defaulters so I couldn't get anything done early. Sorry for the defects of this issue, especially the lack of the usual contributions; we shall be back to normal next time.

DESCONTENT

Well, it's too late to go back now. The day approaches; Oxfordshire County Constabulary has been plastering the countryside with recruiting posters; Young's Brewery has taken on an extra 50 mash-stirrers to cope with demand; fathers of teenage virgins within a twenty-mile radius of Henley have been out buying padlocks. So here, I hope, is all you need to know about DesConTent; if you want any further details, you're more likely to get a coherent answer out of Richard Scott or Norman Nathan.

Transport

I have done my best to fix up everyone who has contacted me, and this service is now closing down. Below is a list of those known to be attending, with those known to be driving underlined. If you still need a list, please contact one of the drivers direct. As for trains, please attempt to catch one of the following: the 6.15 p.m. from Paddington on Friday, arriving Reading General 7.01 p.m.; the 10.40 a.m. on Saturday, arriving Reading General 11.13 a.m.; or the 10.40 on Sunday, which mysteriously takes 6 minutes longer (arr. R.G. 11.19 a.m.). If you will be on one of these, let me know and I will meet it (or force someone else to). If you arrive by any other train you're on your own - see Richard Scott's notes elsewhere; car-drivers will also find the necessary details in Richard's piece.

Members Attending

This is a list of all those known to have registered for the meeting as at 11/5/75. Those underlined are known to be coming in their own cars, and some may still have lifts available. Those marked * are not full members of the club.
 Dave Allen, Paul Almond, Roger Ayre, Tony Ball, John Balson, Steve Barrett, Pete Berlin, Pete Birks, Dave Brown, Graham Buckell, Mick Bullock, Jenny Bullock, Pete Campbell, Bob Chapman, Mal Copeland, Pete Cousins, Geoff Craigs, Tony Crouch, Andy Davidson, Seth Davies, Peter Dean, Steven Doowra, Steve Doubleday, Ron Fisher, Roger Fox, Peter Foxton, Darryl Francis, Mark Frank, Steve Frow, Nick Furse, Mark Gleeson, Edwin Godfrey, Malcolm Griffiths, Mike Groom, Willy Haughan, Andrew Herd, Andy Holborn, Bob Howes, Mike Ingham, Ian Jones, Dave Johnson, Lyla Johnson*, Helen Kimble, Roger Kitchener, Paul McGivern, Ian McLaren, Paul Morgan, Duncan Morris, Nick Morris, Phil Murphy, Ian Noble, David Noble, Craig Nye, Ellie Nye, Derek Orme, Glyn Palmer, Nicky Palmer, Laurence Parrott, Jacques Parry, Brian Pawley, Stephen Pratt, Ron Rayner, Graham Reynolds, Barry Rudkin, Martin Rundle, Richard Sargent, Jeff Scriven, Alan Sedgwick, Richard Scott, Richard Sharp, Malcolm Shaw, Paul Simpkins, Gordon Smith, David Tant, Wink Thompson, Louis Verdegem, Doug Wakefield, Richard Walkerdine, Claire Walkerdine, Don Webb, Richard Wein, David Wheeler, Andrew Wright.

Plus a new list from Doug today: Alan Reason, Tony Sturt, Peter Tyrrell, Stephen Lunn, Ben Smith, Sally Vickery*, Alan Owens, Antony Taylor, Hartley Patterson, Martin Hamon, Mike Roberts, Mrs Mike Roberts*.

Plus a few known (or suspected) to be coming but not registered yet: Tadek Jarski, Norman Nathan (!), John Piggott, Les Pimley, Simon Rooke.

Add those who wander along on the day, and we shall clearly be over 100.

Accommodation

Away from the site, in hotels, etc., see Richard Scott's bit. On the site you're on your own, except for the 'girls' dormitory' in the house. Tents, sleeping-bags, frilly nighties, anything you like - many will sleep in cars, some not at all. Please note that the house is out of bounds except for the harem wing (and that's out of bounds to those not medically qualified...)

Admission Charges

The gate money is fixed at £1 per day, maximum £2 which means anyone who stays one or more nights pays £2. There is a surcharge of 25% for those who haven't registered. Non-members are required to pay a 'temporary membership' fee of 50 p., except of course those who are helping run things. The £1 deposit is of course to be deducted from these figures - i.e. as I understand it if you've registered and only come on one day you get in free. (I hope that's what you meant, Norman ...)

DesContenT (ctd)Bar

Contrary to what we were at first told, we have had to get a licence and observe specific hours, though these are not too restricting: 6.00 p.m. - 10 p.m. on Friday, 1 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. on Saturday, and 12.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. on Sunday. It may seem a silly thing to say, but your support for the bar is essential to help the meeting break even. We shall be aiming at making enough profit to pay the bar staff, which will still mean drinks below pub prices; I personally shall be patronizing the Young's barrels at 24 p. a pint for Special, 22 p. for Ordinary, compared to the 29 p. and 26 p. I am accustomed to. A full price list will be displayed at the bar.

Meals

A meal will be available up to about 9.30 p.m. on Friday, and an even better one (I hear) on Saturday evening. Apart from that there will be a permanent snack-service. Prices of meals have not yet been decided, but will certainly not be excessive. There is still an urgent need for more help with the catering, so if anyone has a part-worn wife or girl-friend and wants to ensure she never speaks to him again, bring her along. (This is a serious request, actually, since I gather that Natalie Nathan has broken a bone in her foot, presumably while playing bridge with Norman; so if anyone can help, please contact the Nathan residence.)

NGC Meeting

This will be held on Saturday afternoon at 5.00 p.m., and it is hoped that all members attending the convention will make an effort to stay awake until the meeting. Among other attractions, it should be the first (and last) joint appearance of the entire 1974-5 Committee, who will hand over to their successors half-way through or thereabouts. Nearly all the new Committee will also be there, and if you have any points you want to raise this will be the best opportunity you'll ever get.

GAMES & PUZZLES - Philmar Diplomacy Championship

Adequate details of this will be posted on the day; most of the information was in Dolchstoss 30 anyway. Prior entry is not necessary. Just a reminder that in order to take part you must be present at some stage on either Friday or Saturday, and also on Sunday morning if you want to play in the final.

Scrabble

Many of the Scrabble players will no doubt be departing on Sunday for the NSC finals - I know that John Piggott and I are in, as is Peter Dean, and no doubt Darryl Francis and Helen Kimble will be there as well. So the NGC Scrabble Tournament will be played on the Saturday, and will probably be either a KO or a Swiss, depending on numbers involved (I know of about 15 players coming so far). In the hope of making life easier for Peter, whose baby this will be, I suggest Scrabble players convene at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday if wanting to compete.

Poker

This is controversial, of course! A proposal to ban it was heavily defeated, but as a compromise it was agreed to restrict it to players over 21. No one realized at the time that Pete Birks, undoubtedly the top money-winner so far, is under 21, and I look forward to hearing Norman tell Pete he's too young to play. Looking at the list of those attending I see that no less than 19 are known poker-players, so I suggest the game (if there is one) be restricted to those 19 plus anyone else who is obviously well over 21 years old. The list is thus: Allen, Birks, Cousins, Davidson, Doubleday, Fisher, Furse, Gleeson, Johnson (D.), Morris (D.), Nyes (both), Ovens, Palmer (G.), Piggott, Rayner, Sharp, walkerdines (both)... and, would you believe, Nathan. This lot (plus such as Baird, Yare, etc, if they come) can hardly be prevented from doing what they like; but all are asked not to solicit players (shouldn't be necessary!) and not to admit players who cannot satisfy inquiry that (a) they are over 21 and (b) they know exactly what they are letting themselves in for!

Thank you.

DesConTenT (ctd)Richard Scott's Little BitHow to get there:

There are three approach routes if you are coming by car; from Henley, Reading or Oxford. Desscot is about 5 miles from Henley and 7 from Reading and a little over 20 from Oxford.

From Henley; take the Peppard road and look out for signs after about 3 miles.

From Reading; through Caversham and onto the Peppard road. Look for a sign to the left after 5/6 miles.

From Oxford; Take the Henley road to Crommarsh Gifford; left at lights and immediately right on the Reading road. Turn left at 'The Fox' at Cane End after 7 1/2 miles and look for a sign at a crossroads after another 2 miles.

I shall be putting up some 'N.C.C.' signs in the immediate locality and so I hope that you should not experience too much difficulty. If in doubt ask for Peppard (Kingwood Common is unknown; if you find someone who does actually know the place I'd guess you were already there!!). As a final recourse try Rotherfield Greys 285 between the hours of 9am and 11pm ONLY.

Those coming by train should make for Reading and then, if no lift is available, take a No.7 (or 7b) bus from the Bus station. Get off at Peppard Hospital, walk back to the Unicorn and follow the signs, about 300/400 yards.

Accommodation:

For those not wishing to rough it I would recommend the following hotels, the first two are really only suitable if you have your own transport:

The White Hart, Nettlebed. Tel. Nettlebed 245.
The Red Lion, Mart Street, Henley. Tel. Henley 2161.
The Caversham Bridge Hotel, Reading. Tel. Reading 53793.

*

Back to Richard Sharp AgainGeneral Games

Please bring anything and everything you feel you might want to play, preferably marking it with something you recognize, like your name or a large X. Diplomacy and Scrabble sets, wargames, anything. You'll have to be responsible for the safety of your own possessions, obviously, but this shouldn't be too taxing, games players being a reasonably honest lot away from the Diplomacy board.

Finally

I hope, but hardly dare believe, that I've covered everything of importance there. If anyone has any further queries, I suggest the following procedure: for any information about geography and local conditions generally, contact Richard Scott; for anything to do with administration or catering, contact Norman Nathan; for anything to do with games or booze, contact me.

Now there's no more we can do but pray for good weather, though after 5 fine days in a row the odds are looking pretty sick.

* * * * *

New Members

If you've read this far, you will have gathered that there is a mass meeting of the NGC taking place next weekend (20-22 June). The meeting is an open-air one, using marquees, and will take place at Desscot, Kingwood Common, Henley on Thames, Oxon, from 6.00 p.m. on Friday to whatever time it stops on Sunday. You should find all necessary directions, etc., somewhere in this issue if you look hard enough. If you want to come you'll be very welcome; the surcharge doesn't apply to you as you haven't had time to register. Hope to see some of you there.

BREST STROKE ENDS IT

Balrog Rule OK

GERMANY (Alan Humphrey) F(SKA) S A(Den)-Swe A(Kie)-Den* A(Bel)-Hol A(Ruh)-Hol
 RUSSIA (Richard L.Sykes) F(BAL) S TURKISH A(Ber)-Kie A(Swe)-Den A(Pru)-Ber
 A(Nor) S A(Fin)-Swe A(Ven) stands
 TURKEY (Nicky Palmer) F(LkI)-Lpl F(MAO)-Bre F(WES) & F(GOL) S A(Mar)-Spa
 A(Bur)-Gas F(Pie)-Mar A(Tri)-Ven A(Sil) S A(Mun) S A(Ber)-Kie F(Tun)-Naf
 F(Smy)-Syr F(BLA)-C A(Ank)-Con F(BLA)-C A(Con)-Ank Air Force bombs
 Bedbug =6F(Iceland)

FRANCE (Andrew Herd) NMR F(NTH), F(ENG), A(Par), A(Por), F(Spa)(sc)*, A(Gas) stand

Retreats: GERMAN A(Kie) unordered - disbanded by GM
 FRENCH F(Spa)(sc) unordered - disbanded by GM

*

Gains and losses:

GERMANY ~~Kie~~, Hol, Bel, Edi, Den = 4 No change
 RUSSIA StP, Mos, War, Nor, Swe, Ven + Ber = 7 No build requested - 1 short
 TURKEY Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Gre, Sev, Bud, Tri, Nap, Rom, Mar, Vie+Kie, Lpl, Spa
 Bre = 20 Builds ICBM Launchpad(Smy) but WINS anyway
 FRANCE Par, ~~Fre~~, ~~Spa~~, Por, ~~LkI~~, Lon = 5 GM removes A(Por), F(NTH)

* (oops! Turkey also has Ser, Rum, Mun, Tun and lost Ber - total 20 as above)

The Final Count

BDC 12 (1973-K). Zine: Dolchstoss. GM: Richard Sharp. Players: A - Geoff Harrison (dro W02), Paul Hartley (out A03); E - John Boden (dro S06), Barbi Sharp (out A08); F - Andrew Herd; G - Mark Robertson (dro S09), Alan Humphrey; I - Andrew Cameron-Mills (out A08); R - Richard L. Sykes; T - Nicky Palmer (won All).

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
A	3	4	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E	3	4	5	5	6	4	3	2	0	-	-	-
F	3	5	5	5	6	7	7	7	7*	7	6	3
G	3	5	6	6	5	6	6	7	8**	7*	5	4
I	3	4	5	6	6	6	4	1	0	-	-	-
R	4	5	5	6	4	3	5	5	6	6	6	7
T	3	5	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	17	20

*

GM Report

I'm sure Nicky will be the first to admit this was an easy ride. The high drop-out rate tells half the story, and there were many missed moves as well, so that the game frequently drove the GM to despair and had to be held over more than once. The only real contest was between Turkey and Russia, and this was won by Turkey at an early stage; thereafter Russia made peace, having no choice, and became a Turkish stooge in return (presumably) for 2nd place. France launched a wild attack on Italy, getting a few cheap gains but (I thought) guaranteeing the Turkish win; the original England, Austria and Germany contributed nothing, and the standbys were left with positions that could merely be held, and then not for long. Not my favourite game, you will gather, but I expect Nicky will make it more exciting in his report ...

BDC 12 was the 5th game to start in Dolchstoss, back in issue 6, and is the 12th to end so far, leaving BDC 17 as the senior game now.

Victory Statement - NICKY PALMER

This, my first game of postal Diplomacy, started way back in Dolchstoss 4 ((NB - the start was delayed by player change, hence my reference to issue 6 - RS)) as the 'Raspberry for Europe' game, concurrently with Britain's entry into the EEC (and

BDC 12, Victory Statement (ctd)

finishing, let's hope, concurrently with our withdrawal). ((No such luck !)) I have a special affection for it which I don't think is felt by the other players, and certainly not by the long-suffering GM.

At the start I attempted to short-circuit the usual south-eastern triangle by telling Austria (Geoff Harrison) that Russia (Richard Sykes) had sent on to me his (Austria's) letter proposing to attack Turkey - as Harrison's letter to me was stereotyped I felt sure he'd have written an identical one to Richard. Gratifyingly, he wrote back and said he'd ally with me, as he could see something was wrong when I told him about the 'leak'. So I moved into BIA. To my amazement Austria tried to stab me, and was only frustrated by Russia's choosing to support me instead ! If Richard had supported him I would have been out quite quickly. Accordingly I reversed my stance to supporting Russia, and Harrison immediately dropped out. Up north, England was being pressed back by France (Andrew Herd) and Germany (Mark Robertson), aided no doubt unnecessarily by a stream of tactical suggestions from me, which worked out OK, in the hope of securing their help later on. Relations with Italy (Andrew Mills) were also good, and we slowly ground up the corpse of Austria, assisted by Russia. I reached a position around 1903 where Russia could have shattered me if he chose, and spent the whole month covering mentally until Dolchstoss turned up with the news that he'd let me off, leaving me in a fantastic position to stab him. I don't think I'd do the same now, but then I was so shaken by the anticipated stab the previous turn that I resolved to make sure it couldn't happen again by attacking Sykes - in retrospect the psychology seems bizarre, but that's how I felt then. The game was then decided by Sykes's decision to accept a guaranteed second place in return for forgiving and forgetting; mingled feelings of guilt and gratitude ensured that I kept the promised when the time came.

The rest of the game was mainly notable for dropouts. As soon as we attacked Italy he vanished (returning briefly once), and when we attacked Germany he vanished. The German sub, Alan Humphrey, fought valiantly to split the Russo-Turkish pact, and would undoubtedly have made a very formidable opponent if he'd been there from the start. As it was, there was little reason for the alliance to split when we were clearly going to get the 1-2 positions. Andrew Herd missed a couple of moves through Dolchstoss not reaching him, but also put up a solid defensive fight, narrowly failing to put up an impregnable barrier along the MAO-Spa-Mar line. A couple of leaks, including a press-release from Ankara accepting a non-existent offer from France, sped the conclusion of the game by encouraging France and Germany to fight for third place - but anyway it was the most reasonable course at that stage.

I shall remember various things about the game: Italy's inspired press release series, filled with allusions unknown to me about 'Daisy, the Girl in the Red Velevt Swing' (I think) and the Grand Sofa; the gloomy attitude of the GM, whose headlines were mostly about Italy until he dropped out and thereafter mostly said things like 'Boring' and 'What is the Point?' and who called me a hyposcrite for apologizing to Germany for stabbing him (I did genuinely regret this as our alliance had been 100% perfect throughout, but it had to be him or Russia) - OK, that's Dippy, but one doesn't have to relish every stab; and above all Richard Sykes's almost total reliability throughout - I recommend him as an ally par excellence to anyone. Many thanks also to Richard Sharp (remarks above notwithstanding) for his speedy and efficient GMing ((?)), and all those scintillating Dolchstosses over the last 26 issues !

GM again: Thanks, Nicky, and well played - after all, you can't do more than win ! Thanks to the standbys also. If anyone else wants to send comments, feel free.

* * * * *

BDC 10 (1972-GA) Long-delayed final statements

GM: Better late than never, I suppose ! This game ended back in January, and the final counts were published in Dolchstoss 27, but up to now I've had no space to print the players' comments. The collapse of the electoral system gives me a chance to put that right as from now.

This was the third game to start in Dolchstoss (issue 1 announced the gamestart), and tied with BDC 13 as the ninth to finish. It was declared a draw after the Spring 1913 season between Germany (Tony Ball), Austria (Ted Hopher), Italy (John Warburton) and France (Jack Westlake), with 12, 8, 7, 7 centres respectively; Italy did not

BDC 10, Victory Statements (ctd)

accept the draw at all, and Austria was hesitant at first but gave in with good grace when France and Germany were able to demonstrate the forced stalemate. Other players involved were Norman O'Grady (Russia, out A11), Rod Lord (England, dropped out A04), Paul Hartley (standby England, out A07) and Chris Harvey (Turkey, out A06). Despite the contentious and some would say indecisive finish, this was one of the best games I've run, with very few missed moves and an interesting struggle in the middle game where so many games tend to become formalities.

Now let's hear from some of the players.

TONY BALL: This was certainly one of the most interesting and enjoyable games I've ever played. My thanks to all the other players and the GM for making it so. Only over the last 2-3 years, when the diploming stopped and the stalemate began, did the game start to lose interest.

The gamestart was announced in Dolchstoss I, back in October 1972. From the start I as Germany had an alliance with France against England, and a non-aggression pact with Russia. Things went very well for me up to Autumn 02 when I stabbed Russia by taking Sweden from him and reached 7 units. The following year of course everyone pounced on me and I lost Belgium to the French and Munich to the Italians. I thought the end would come very quickly, but surprisingly I survived. The Austro-Italian alliance was already a threat, and somehow France decided to help me in order to meet this southern menace. Having retaken Belgium and Munich, I found the Russians had come in by the back door and taken Denmark and Sweden without opposition. But Russia was also heavily fighting Austria in the south, and was happy to agree to peace in the north. I promised him Edinburgh (still English) in return for Denmark. This gave me the opportunity to take the initiative against France, and I took Brest when the French missed a move. However, the threat of the Austro-Italian alliance was still there, and once more France and Germany had to come to terms to hold them in check.

In the north Russia was by now drawn out of position, and a swift stab saw the fall of Norway and Sweden. After a dour defensive action over many years, Russia now began to fall apart and it was a race between me and Austria to pick up the pieces. I turned on Austria before the end, as I suspected he would attack me. Although I gained ground and had a fleeting chance to take Vie (due to an Italian NMR) the stalemate lines were soon established and a 4-way draw became inevitable.

TED HEPHER: This was my first postal Diplomacy game; I hope it isn't the last. Unlike the fanatics involved in 243 other games, my involvement is minimal; right now I just don't have any spare time.

Looking back through the correspondence I've kept, I am amazed at the development of the game, and my own mistakes.

Until it was too late the seedy alliance between Austria and Italy wasted too many pieces, tied down and thus unable to break through France. Again, development of trust between Austria and Russia was too late in coming, though I blame Norman here more than myself. He refused to acknowledge the growing threat of Germany and Tony's lack of scruples.

If the game was spoilt, however, it was by Rod Lord, who played a pathetic England until dropping out, a perennial problem apparently.

Congratulations to Germany, who staved off defeat and managed to dominate so much of the game with the compliance of France. Commiserations to Italy, who never got into his stride and had a draw forced down his throat. Two fingers to Chris Harvey Ataturk, who botched up his plans for playing off Austria, Italy and Russia against each other with the hope of sweeping across the board; if we ever meet in another game, Chris, be warned. One finger to Russia for such uninspired movements.

All that I have left to do now is tear up my rather silly notes, the press releases concerning the exploits of Baron Ernst von Heffer of Hesse-Kassel; of Rupert Howzat, pretender to the throne of Slobodia; and other double-headed nonsense.

CHRIS HARVEY: Funnily enough, since I came 7th, this was a game I enjoyed. There is something quite fun about working out how long you can survive when you know all are against you. On the diplomatic front I lost for the same reason that the game is a four-way draw: Italy and Austria played together from the beginning and nothing I could do would split them. Coupled with a megalomaniac on my northern borders this gave me little chance. I congratulate Ted ('Did You') Hepher, the most consistent liar it has ever been my misfortune to meet. Would you believe three letters a turn and every one a lie? I did.

Right - thanks to those who wrote victory stuff, and let's get back to those games that still have some life in them.

BDC 17 (1973-DO) Autumn 1912

MASSACRE !

England Runs Amok

ENGLAND (Mike Wassall) F(ENG)-Lon F(NWG) S F(NTH)-Nor F(Tus)-Rom F(ION)-Nap
F(HEL) S A(Kie)-Den F(Hol) S F(Edi)-NTH A(Bel)-Ruh A(Bur) S A(Tyr)-Mun

GERMANY (Ray Pink) NMR ! A(Rum), A(Boh), A(Gal), A(Vie), F(Lon), F(Ber), A(Den)*
A(Mun)*, F(Nor)* stand unordered

RUSSIA (Dave Thomas) F(Sev)-Rum

TURKEY (Tony Hickie) F(BLA) S RUSSIAN F(Sev)-Rum F(Con)-Bul(sc) F(Smy)-AEG

AUSTRIA (Barry Ellis) F(Tri)-ADS F(Alb)-Gre A(Bul) & A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Rum
F(AEG) S A(Bul)

Retreats: GERMAN A(Den), A(Mun) & F(Nor) all unordered - disbanded by GM

*

Gains and losses:

ENGLAND ~~Lpl~~, Lpl, Edi, Par, Mar, Bre, Bel, Hol, Spa, Por, Tun, Kie + Nor, Den, Mun,
Rom, Nap = 16 Builds A(Lpl), A(Edi), no room for more so 2 short

GERMANY Ber, ~~Mun~~, ~~Den~~, Swe, ~~Mos~~, StP, Mos, War, ~~Yld~~, Rum + Lon = 7 No builds
ordered, so 1 short ... oops. also owns Vie now, so 2 short, total 8

RUSSIA Sev = 1 No change

TURKEY Con, Ank, Smy = 3 No change

AUSTRIA Tri, ~~Vla~~, Gre, Ser, Bul, Ven, ~~Boh~~, ~~Gal~~ + Bud = 6 No change

*

LONA: Blimey, what a carve-up ! Suddenly this game, which looked like lasting many more years, is virtually over. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I see no way England can be prevented from winning next year. He is 100% certain to pick up Lon, Swe, StP, Ber, cannot be evicted from anywhere that I can see, and should have 20 by next autumn. If players wish to shorten the agony, I will accept an immediate concession with a notional 1913 played, England gaining the four above, leaving the final totals as E20, A6, G4, T3, R1. Such a concession must of course be unanimous, abstention counting as a vote to end the game. Meanwhile, will Kim Bailey, 134 Cambridge Road, Hitchin, Herts please send standby moves for Germany. (You don't get a vote, though, Kim.) Everyone voting should of course send orders anyway.

* * * * *

BDC 18 (1973-DP) Spring 1912

WHERE ARE YOU ALL ?

Two-Way Draw by Default ?

ENGLAND (David Wheeler) NMR A(Lpl) stands unordered

GERMANY (Peter Tyrrell) F(ENG)-IRI F(Edi) S F(Nor)-NWG A(Swe)-Fin F(Fin)-GOB
A(Ber)-Pru A(Sil) S A(Boh)-Gal A(Tyr)-Vie A(Bur) S A(Bre)-Gas

TURKEY (Graham Buckell) A(Liv) S A(Pru) S A(Gal)-Sil A(Mos)-War A(Ukr)-Gal
A(Sev)-Mos A(StP)-Fin A(Vie)-Boh F(BLA) stands F(MAO)-Cly F(MAF)-MAO

ITALY (Chris Spikings) NMR A(Tri), A(Pie), F(Spa)(sc), F(Por), F(Tun), F(MAO),
A(Mar), A(Gas)*, A(Ven) stand unordered

FRANCE (Ian Moseley) NMR A(Par) stands unordered

Retreats: ITALIAN A(Gas) unordered - disbanded by GM

Standby: Alan Humphrey, 52 Sish Lane, Stevenage, Herts for Italy, please. If not ordered, England and/or France will go into anarchy.