

You will already have noticed that this is a thin issue. I will explain why. The plan was to have the Christmas Special Litho Issue ready for this deadline, but that hasn't happened. Rather than keep you waiting for it, I've decided to put out what is essentially a games-only issue to keep the games going. I also have one or two things that I need to say publicly, but this will be a fairly sparse issue. To compensate for that, you will receive the Litho edition fairly shortly, and that will be full of reading matter.

It is likely, incidentally, that issues like this one will become more common in the future. I won't go into the boring reasons for this, mainly because I would be speculating about the future, but I can't see the zine continuing in the way that it has for the last two or three issues. It isn't fair on players to keep producing the zine so late, and anyway I don't like it. In future, therefore I will speed up the turnround and slim the zine down in order to achieve this. The material that is thereby displaced will appear in the new regular litho issues, produced at a more leisurely pace than is possible at present.

Megalomania should therefore become a zine in which it is possible to play Diplomacy once again. The "Guest GM" arrangement seems to be working well, so that will continue - with the possibility of another GM being brought-in if Keith reaches his capacity. If anyone else is interested, do let me know. I will also do my very best to run my own games properly, which really ought to be possible now that most have ended or soon will do.

It isn't my intention to let Megalomania become a boring games-only zine, and I will continue to comment on the hobby, destroy zines with a single nasty review (but that I could), keep you up to date with all the hobby news, etc. etc. It's just that there may well be less of it.

DEADLINES: Keith Black (48 Stamford Drive, Agar Nook, Coalville, Leics, LE6 3TA) and John Dodds (Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU) should receive your orders by Thursday 8th January 1981. If you're lucky enough to be playing in a game that I'm running, you have until Saturday 10th January 1981.

COLOPHON: This is MEGALOMANIA, a fanzine of the Postal Diplomacy Hobby, published by Chris Tringham, 25 Auckland Road, London SE19 2DR, to whom all subscriptions should be sent. Your credit, in £p., is written in brackets after your name on the envelope currently residing in the rubbish bin. This issue costs + postage or delivery charge.

Following Mick Bullock's decision to give up New Statsman (and all the hobby stats, Boardman Numbers, the zine poll and all that), Pete Calcraft will be taking over the BN's and the assorted stats. The Zine Poll, however, isn't yet sorted out. I have offered to take it over, and Mick says that's fine by him. However, there are others who want to do it (John Marsden notably), and Brian Creese is attempting to confuse things by backing someone who hasn't even offered. This one could run and run....

Well, I suppose I had better explain how I plan to run the Zine Poll. If this meets with universal non-acclaim I will reconsider my plans, so do let me know. If anyone else who wishes to run the ZP could also tell us how they'd do it, that would then enable the hobby to make its choice properly. I will, of course, respect the wishes of the Hobby in this matter - the last thing we want is to have two or more competing Zine Polls each with their own rules and so forth. Over the page.....

The poll will be announced in early April, with a deadline at the end of June. This should allow plenty of time for zines to publicise it and people to get their votes in. All members of the postal hobby will be entitled to vote for all zines they see regularly. Voters will be asked to state their involvement in the hobby (playing in/receiving x zines, basically).

All UK-based Diplomacy zines will be eligible to receive votes. Zines not running at least one game of Diplomacy (or an accepted variant thereof) or which haven't produced three issues on 1st April will be disqualified.

Voters will be required to rank all the zines for which they are voting in order of preference. This will be used to calculate the winner and all the other positions. The method used will be Mick Bullock's Apportioned Points system, as explained in NS 13. In addition to the result, I will publish the preference matrix showing how the result was arrived at, plus a couple of other analyses of the results.

All clear, I hope. If you want a one-line summary of that, it would be 'I'll continue to run the Zine Poll as Mick Bullock has'.

Doubts will no doubt be expressed about my ability to run the thing, given the problems that I have had with Megalomania. I can only say that I wouldn't offer if I didn't feel I could do it properly, and if I did find that I couldn't do it (for whatever reason) I'd pass the job on to someone else.

My earlier confidence in Palace's ability to survive in the First Division is beginning to look rather misplaced. I do, however, welcome the appointment of Malcolm Allison: the current side is very much Allison's, the players having been in the Youth side (wot won the FA Youth Cup twice) when he was last here. The side is good enough, whatever others may say, and properly organized with their confidence restored will win matches. Since Allison is highly-regarded as a coach, he should be able to do it.

Well, it'll be interesting to find out, anyway.

Kenscon was highly enjoyable, and a full report (already typed) will appear in the CSLI. The con's UC was Clive Rushen, with the already well-established Dave Thorby giving him assistance. No con is complete without a UC, and my only regret is that I ended up eating a meal with both of 'em. Still, I suppose you must expect that if you eat English/American. The food was as unimaginative as I had feared - their idea of a menu was a choice between a pizza and a hamburger (the latter being available with a variety of dressings, but underneath exactly the same. Food wasn't really the con's strong point - but then Ken had warned us in advance that this would be the case. My breakfast order was pblitely ignored by Ken, but endless supplies of toast were provided. I remember the days when bacon butties were the order of the day (even if we were charged for them), and another con at which Ratatouille was served-up by the host....

A good con, though.

I won't be at Stabcon III, unfortunately. Various reasons, but the fact is that if I really wanted to go I probably would. It's too close to Christmas, and previous events have been rather too D & D-orientated for my liking. It's a pity, as there isn't likely to be another con for a while afterwards, but there it is. If you want to go, write to Dave Waring at 11 Cranfield Avenue, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham. Anyone turning up on the day should attempt to find Woolton Hall in Fallowfield and then go down to the pub to avoid the gamesplayers. This is Woolton Hall in Manchester University, in case you didn't realise..

Record reviews can be expected, as I've just bought a new record deck and eagerly awaited albums from The Jam, Bruce Springsteen and The Clash. The last is much the strangest and also a triple album, so I'll reserve judgement...

GAME TWELVE 79DZ GM:John Douds

ENGLAND NMR!! F's(Lon, NWG, Den, NTH, Pie) & A's(Nor, StP*) stand.
Howard Sayles A(StP) dies NEO.

GERMANY F(Hol) stands A(Tus) S Italian A(Rom)-Ven ((nso))
Simon Langley

AUSTRIA A(Mos)-StP A(Lvn) S A(Mos)-StP A(Gal)-Sil A(Tyr)-Mun A(Pie)
Pete Tassell A(Pie)-Mar A(Ven) stands F(ADR) S A(Ven): A(Bul)-Con:
A(Arm)-Ank F(AEG) stands.

ITALY
Dave Parry A(Cas)-Par A(Rom)-Spa F(TYS) A(Rom)-Spa A(Smy) stands
F(ION) S F(EMS) F(EMS) S F(ION) F(WMS) C A(Rom)-Spa

FRANCE F(ENC)-Bel F(NAO)-MAO F(MAO)-Cas: A(Mun) stands
John Lee A(Ber) S A(Mun) A()-Spa

Adjustments:

E: 7 centres: Edi, Lpl, Nor, Swe, Den, Pie, Bel, SVP, +Lon	NBO - short
G: 1 centre: Hol, Wdr	Removes F(Hol)
A: 13 centres: Vie, Bud, Tri, Rum, Bul, Mos, War, Sev, Con, Ser, Ven, +StP, +Ank	Builds A(Tri), A(Bud)
I: 6 centres: Rom, Nap, Tun, Gre, Smy, Wdr, Ank, +Par	Removes F(ICS)
F: 7 centres: Bre, Par, Spa, Ber, Pak, Lbh, +Mun, +Mar, +Bel	Builds A(Bie)

GAME FIFTEEN 80DE Spring 1904

ENGLAND F(ENC) MS F(NTH) F(NAO)-MAO A(Edi)-Yor. A(Swe) stands
Brian Elsey

GERMANY A's(Deb, Bel, Ruh) & F's(Hol, Ber, SKA) stand
Conrad Rumney

RUSSIA A(Sev)-Arm A(Ukr)-Sev A(Rum) S A(Ukr)-Sev A(Bud)-Vie
Bill Brakes F(Con) S Italian F(Gre)-AEG F(COB)-BAL: A(Fin) S English A(Swe).
F(StPsc)-Lvn A(War)-Sil

TURKEY F's(AEG*, BIA) stand u/o.
Norman Melvin *F(AEG) chopped, NRO

ITALY A(Tri)-Tyr: A(Ser)-Tri. F(Nap)-TYS: F(Gre)-AEG F(ADR)-IOS
Malcolm Jones

FRANCE A's(Pic, Cas) & F's(Spa:sc, Bre, MAO)
Andy Tringham

More Zine Poll News Speculation

NMR arrived yesterday, with a very funny cover by Rod Anderson, and the Rat Creese's refusal to back my takeover. He suggests that Richard Walkerdine should take it back (he started the thing), which I would support if RJW wants to do it. I doubt whether he will, but you never know. Keep listening.

The new Clash triple-album has got a bad review in NME I see. They were obviously due for a bad review, but in this case I agree with all the criticisms - it just isn't a good album, and is instead a missed opportunity. Longer review to follow, I expect. (First impressions can be misleading, of course. I should know by now that it isn't wise to leap into print before considering one's views....)

No such reservations about either the Jam or Springsteen albums, the former a relief after 'Start' and the latter doing just what was expected of him. But this isn't a music paper is it. More games is what we want, so that is what we'll have....

ENGLAND NMR

Steve Plater

GERMANY F(MAO) stands F(NTH)-Nwy; A(Swe) S F(NTH)-Nwy; F(GOB)-Fin:

Brian Creese F(BAL)-Lvn A(Pru)-War A(Sil) S A(Pru)-War: A(Mar) stands

RUSSIA A(Nwy)-Swe* A(Fin) stands: A(Lvn) stands. A(Ukr)-War.

Tim Davison *A(Swe) retreats to 'zone alpha'.

TURKEY F(Tus)-Pie F(NAf)-MAO

Bob Brown

ITALY A(Pie)-Mar

Rob Chapman

FRANCE NMR

Winter 1937

S. C counts: 1, 1, 1, 5, 11, 15

Builds/Removals: G: 'NMR 5', 'R: 'NC', T: '111', I: '1', F: GM removes A(Pic)

Game End Proposal: Defeated - no votes (apathy rules nem con)

Dear Everyone Else: As I am the only original player left in this game, and I have more sc's than anyone else, I think a concession to me is a very just idea

Dear Brian: Stop whining and get on with it

Tim - World: At present am living at no fixed abode (near Oxford). All mail to go (slowly) via Bristol. ((I'm sure the Post Office will ensure that))

Fall of Eagles 52 has just arrived, complete with a letter from my good self. It inevitably includes some comments about football - Richard being the Notts County supporter. Having tipped County for the drop from Division 2, I find that they are up there challenging for promotion. I suppose worse sides have gone up, and some have even prospered, but the odd mix of players now resident at Meadow Lane can't really be supposed to even survive in Division One, can it?

I have offered Richard a simple bet on the relative positions of the two sides (Palace and County) at the end of the 1930/31. He reckons he'll win because Palace will be relegated at the end of this season, the poor fool, and so has accepted. It's a bit early on in the season to talk about relegation or promotion, and just because Palace are seven points adrift doesn't mean they're going to go down. The funniest part of Richard's comments is the final bit: 'I see Palace have reappointed Allison! That just about clinches my win....' What can I say? Well, for a start, I doubt if I'd have gone to watch Palace play Norwich this coming Saturday if Allison hadn't been given the job. He is probably Palace's best hope for a prosperous future, as he proved last time around by totally rebuilding the side, and thus building the foundations for the success achieved under Terry Venables, and restructuring the entire club to take it from a crazy and virtually bankrupt state towards the £1m+ profit of last year. Don't underestimate him.

Did you hear the one about the Anglo-Scottish Cup Final between Notts County and Chesterfield? Yes, really! County have apparently got several Scots players, so perhaps that explains it. There is no truth in the rumour that the winners will be side with the most players left on the pitch at the end.

Whilst we're on football jokes, here's one for Bob Brown. Did you hear about the referee at the City Ground who gave Forest a penalty when two of their players collided in the penalty area? Laugh? I almost bought a round! (C) D.Thorby 1979.

GAME FOURTEEN OJBC Spring 1983

ENGLAND F(Nor)-Swe. F(NTH) C A(Yor)-Nwy; A(Yor)-Nwy; F(Lon)-ENG
Les Tassell

GERMANY F(Den) S A(Hol)-Kie; A(Hol)-Kie. A(Mun)-Sil; A(Ruh)-Mun
Andy Davidson

RUSSIA F(Ber) stands. A(Pru) S F(Ber) A(Rum)-Bud. A(Bud)-Vie
Howard Sayles

TURKEY F's(BLA, Con) & A(Arm) stand u/o

AUSTRIA A(Bul)-Rum; F(Gre)-AEG A(Ven)-Tri. A(Tyr)-Vie. F(Tri)-ADR.
John Piggott A(Vie)-Gal

ITALY F(TYS)-Rom; F(ION) C A(Tun)-Apu A(Tun)-Apu
Patrick Thompson

FRANCE F's(Bel, Mar, Tus) & A's(Bur, Par, Por)
Roy Egginton

Italy wishes to apologize on behalf of the CPO and/or the Post Office ((no that's not right - I'll try again)) and/or C. Tringham esq. for the non-arrival of his orders, moves of such wit, originality and panache that Piggott would have been sent reeling to the furthest reaches of the board.

You have been warned, Piggott! Withdraw now, whilst you still have the chance.

London Calling: Well, I bet you thought you'd never this game again, eh? Talk about "jinx" games. (Actually, I'd rather not.)

GAME FOUR

The three-way draw has been emphatically rejected, and the game goes on. I can't find any orders from Paul - he can't find any copies of Megalomania, so we're stuck.

GAME THIRTEEN

Is held up to give Doug Wakefield a chance. All flak to me, not Keith, as I made the decision.

GAME ONE

I'd still like other final statements to publish, please.

THE NATIONAL DIPLOMACY
CHAMPIONSHIPS.....1981

Still proceeding, but we would now like to set up a proper committee to organize the thing. Anyone who wishes to help is welcome, but the particular need is for a Treasurer, a Secretary and someone to deal with registrations. A reasonable degree of basic common sense and administrative competence would be useful, but the main requirement is enthusiasm. None of the jobs will be difficult, but they will involve SOME WORK (oops) and it's no good having someone who won't actually do the job. Committee members will get all the glory, natch, plus cheaper room rates (circumstances - ie the success of the event - permitting). It might also be FUN!

(I'd be obliged if other editors would reprint/summarise/enthuse about this, giving my phone number/address. Ta)

The final page unless something untoward happens, and quite a lot to say. The Zine Poll Saga keeps on rolling, with the news that Richard Walkerdine will be running the poll. I haven't actually had confirmation of this from RJW himself, but it looks as though he will be doing it. I will happily support him, since I'm sure that a non-editor is the best bet; and Richard is probably the best-qualified person to do it anyway (having run the thing before Mick Bullock). Richard is also unaffected by petty hobby squabbles and the like, thus enabling him to do the job 'neutrally'. I would liken his return to that of Malcolm Allison - the only person for the job - but I realise that might be taken the wrong way by other people.

Talking of football, you will doubtless be aware that Palace beat Norwich 4-1 whilst both Manchester City and Notts County lost. Excellent.

This issue is actually rather late as well as small, with the blame placed squarely on Christmas. Not only are we a great deal busier at work (we took more money this Monday than in a normal week), but spare time seems to disappear as well. Last night was the Alders Christmas Buffet/Dance, not really my scene at all - the promise of free food and drink was too much for me, though. Did I say free drink? Scotch was 61p. There was free wine with the food, and it was worth every penny. Perhaps we ought to have a Campaign for Real Wine? Real Music as well: the band were attempting note-for-note covers of various disco-type records. All rather futile, really.

Stabcon this weekend, and I won't be there. Wrong time of the year, Dave - after Christmas would have been fine for me. As it is, there's a free Christmas lunch at work (with liberal quantities of free alcohol around in the afternoon if it's anything like last year), then I am working on Saturday. If I survive all that, Birks will probably kill me off with his cooking at a 'Dinner Party' for select members of the hobby. These working-class (ho ho) people are all the same. It's a hard life, y'know.

I'm trying to apologize for the lateness/smallness of this issue, in case you're wondering what this is all about. The writing's on the wall, of course, for Megalomania. There, I said it before anyone else. The better reason for this issue's deficiencies is that I'm more interested in the Special New Year Litho Edition. I'd like to say more about it, but what's the point when it'll almost certainly change considerably before it actually appears. It'll be good - that's all I'll say.

That's about it, I think. There's a great deal more I ought to say, but I really must get this issue out before Christmas. Not a very auspicious way to end the decade, but there we are. I'm not the only one, either: Putty Riff, Ode and RIP all appeared in reduced form, and others just haven't appeared - Perspiring Dreams I know, others I haven't missed, and GH will be late. It's interesting to consider which zines are missed when they fail to appear: certainly there are quite a few that I probably wouldn't notice. I sometimes wonder whether editors are deliberately withholding copies of their zines to make a point - if perchance anyone is, I'm sorry I haven't noticed.

I arrived at the Lamb last night expecting only two or three people to be there - it was worse, though: the first two people I saw were Thorby and Hetherington. . . . Ken Bain was down here on a course, and the Petes (Birks and Tamilyn) both turned-up later wearing leather jackets. "I can't understand it" quoth Birks, "I had £10 more than this when I set off, and all I've done is buy a quadruple whisky and taken a cab here." The decadence of these people. Brian Dolton was there, but he wouldn't talk to me, and Ken was stuck sitting-down whilst I was stuck between Thorby and Hetherington. Life's like that. Tony bought me a drink, though, so it wasn't an entirely wasted evening. Marie accused me of being a nice person, really, underneath. Er, thanks. Have a Merry Christmas and all that. Cheers.