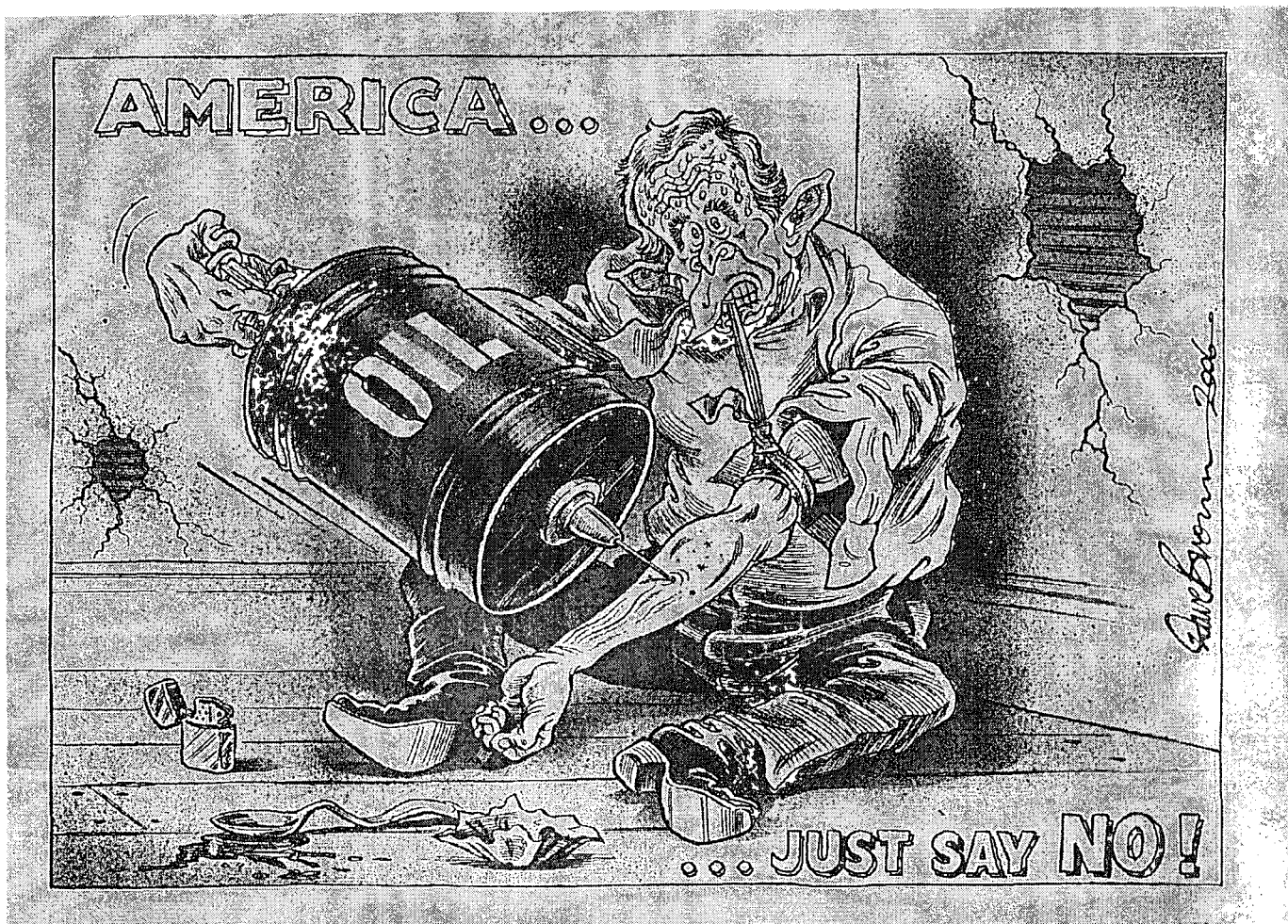


# The Cunning Plan 137

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DEADLINE = FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAR 2006

## TCP Waiting lists:

Note: Players should submit a preference list for any game on offer.

Std Dip "Uqli" has started with: Tony Sait, Allan Gordon, Richard Williams, Pete Mason, John Stratford, Mike Pollard & Robert Thurston. I still need provisional orders from some of you!

Your Credit is: *Op* *last*  
*live,*

*Can we talk in 123eme?*

## TCP 137 Ed's Bit

### Missing ManorCon:

It is about 96% sure that I am gonna miss ManorCon this year for the first time in I don't know how long. I am a bit gutted, as it was the one big games Con I still go to and I know that if the momentum slips away, it can be difficult to get back. The likely miss is due to conflicting with family commitments.

### Another reason:

Much on my mind has been the old College inspection thingy we have just been through. I think I nearly cracked a couple of times under the strain, but fortunately, everyone else was too busy cracking themselves to notice me. Anyway - the good news is that we passed and did pretty well by all accounts. The bad news is, well, my job was to work on getting the college thru' the inspection so what happens to me now?

My hope is that my Herculean hard work and stunning good looks will secure a permanent place for me on the staff. I do realise however that the life is not always fair, and I might find myself back in the clutches of Tesco/Morrisons/Sainsbury until I can find a proper job. I have been (vaguely) assured that, "you'll be alright" but until I see it in black and white I am not gonna get too complacent.

### Do what George?

I won't harp on about the war - I know that you are all fed up with it, but I will mention a couple of things. Firstly it was the 'cunning plan' by Georgie boy to try a feeble attempt to provoke Saddam before the war. The old shooting down a fake UN plane stunt - incredible! Kinda makes the, "Fuck you I'm going in shooting anyhoo!" he finally adopted look positively decent by comparison.

The other little observation was the death of the 100<sup>th</sup> British soldier and the fact that just a few weeks before he had been photographed with Bliar. Seems like a bizarre coincidence some how. I think the 'insurgents' too out the wrong guy from that picture myself.

### Dani-s-s-sh-i-t-!!!:

Whoa - this whole cartoon of Mohammed thing is getting well out of hand. Very scary that people can get some worked up. I have to say that I learnt one thing in all this - dunno how it slipped by me all these years. I did not realise that in Islam it was forbidden to have an image of a person or an animal? Can't quite get my head around that one, can't understand why it should be considered wrong?

Anyway - the cartoon thing (and I haven't seen of the offending cartoons) - but I bet a lot more people have checked them out then if no fuss had been made. So what are the implications? Freedom of speech? Respect for another religion? Need a balance really. For myself, I would rather people said what was on their minds, rather than keeping it bottled up. You can't stop them thinking whatever and if they vocalise it, at least you can offer your own perspective on it.

Trouble is that it doesn't look like its gonna blow over any time soon and I see some poor (innocent) person copping it in the shorts over this, so it kinda makes you question whether it was worth it in the long run.

### More on that 'other' zine:

Yeah - I know it's a bit like a guy going on about his horny hot mistress to his frumpy old wife, but I'm pretty obsessed right now (in case you hadn't noticed).

I had given to me a newspaper cutting from one of Basingstoke's local papers in which the writer was urging, "All budding writers with an interest in the local music scene" to submit reviews of gigs/CD's etc by following Monday lunchtime. I had a bit of a ponder about it - I have to date remained under the radar-screen of the local press etc, as I believe that they are a bit of a double edged weapon. But in the end I threw caution to the wind and put a couple of back issues in an envelope and hand-delivered them to the guy Monday lunch time.

The days passed without a word, ditto the weekly editions of the paper (with the same cheesy write-ups of some crap covers band doing 'Status Quo' or whatever for £15 a head in the local theatre. (NB: Some six weeks or so later I have never had so much as an acknowledgement of my work.)

Anyway, a few weeks after the article and non contact re my local knowledge I mentioned it in passing to my boss. She says, "Oh that paper is utter crap - you'll never get anything from them!" Then she rings up he mate who is head honcho in Basingstoke's other local paper and I get told that the entertainment sub-editor will get in touch with me about my zine.

A few days later she did get in touch and expressed an interest in my work and knowledge. I send her some copies of my zine and she raved about them! So I have been invited to submit gig reviews etc and I believe that the first one is due to be printed this coming week.

I hope that it will 'open doors' for me to other events and help me plug my punk zine. I have been published in the paper loads of times with the various activities over the years, so I am not that fussed one way or another.

I don't think TCP would attract much interest alas.

Late breaking news! The third review I wrote for the paper has appeared today, only a week after the event - result!

### More prehistoric punk:

First gig of the New Year was headlined by another rave from the grave - namely SPODGENESSABOUNDS. Now I didn't really pay too much attention to the first time around, but my experiences with these early punk bands have provoked a kind of morbid curiosity in me, so off I went.

First off - these guys had aged pretty well (not the original guitarist, but the one from Sham 69, I believe. Secondly, I was surprised by how much of their material I knew - not just, "Two pints of lager..." or "Two little boys...!" Natch they were well lubricated by the time they took to the stage but still managed a fantastic performance. The crowd loved them and there were numerous stage invasions and on a couple of occasions members of the band were raised aloft, whilst still playing and/or singing.

Afterwards I think they were genuinely moved by the enthusiasm of the reception. This was especially rewarding, because I understand they essentially played the gig for expenses only as a favour for someone.

I also met an original B/stoke punk from the old days which was an interesting encounter.

### Vaguely relevant to the zine:

My girls have been getting into board games more recently and by that I mean that whilst we have always played them in some shape or form, they are diversifying away from your typical family and borderline family fare to some 'proper' ones. Recent offerings have included, TAJ MAHAL, SAMURI and WILDLIFE. The usual SOP is that I introduce them to a new game and usually win that first time around. Next and subsequent turns I get hammered left right and centre. They have become quick learners!

Parallel to this, the cold, wet weather has meant that at larger family gatherings (usually on a Saturday afternoon) we have had had up to ten family members of varying ages playing various board games. Tends to be the more straight forward games then, such as; ELFINLAND, THE LEAKY LIFTBOAT game, a simplified version of FORMULA DE, ATLANTIS and one or other of the JURASSIC PARK games. It's quite good really and the level of competition has certainly increased over the years.

### The end bit:

Oh yeah, I will be doing the usual French trip again this year. The not usual bit being that we have to get to Heathrow by 6:00 in the morning which I am not looking forward to at all. What a total bastard. Plus the English and French school holidays do not match up again - this time's it's the English ones that are all cocked up. Mind you, only a couple more years then I will not be constrained by the holidays so much.

The other different bit is the fact that my girls have now really got into "Lost" and are pretty obsessed. I guess I'm just grateful that we will cross very little ocean, otherwise I would have to look forward to them talking in very loud voices about what would happen if our plane crashed and we got stranded on an island!

I have enjoyed the series myself - but I have observed that there were no 'normal' people on that plane! Indeed, it suffers from the Star Trek red jersey syndrome - basically any minor character is pretty well assured a hideous death!

## Con Corner

South Hants Hobby meet: Probably April.....

MasterCon 2006 (Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 2006):  
Lea Vally Youth Hostel, Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Herts,  
<http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/hostelpages/861.html> or <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/edc2006/>

ManorCon 2006 (Fri 21<sup>st</sup> - Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Jul 2006):  
You can get booking forms from me and send them back to me with cheques made payable to "The Universities Diplomacy Tournament" by 16<sup>th</sup> June latest.

North Hants Hobby meet: Probably after Easter now - just too damn busy at present.

## THE TCP 137 LETTER COL

TCP: It's looking much better this time - I guess you have all recovered you're your post New Years hang overs.....

Allan Gordon (Has a pop at PC):

I knocked out this piece for the lettercol which amounted to a protest rant against the incredible stupidity of political correctness. Yes, I know it's been done to death, but I thought I had a new angle. Then - prior to sending it in - I happened on a bit of info as to what can be construed as free-speech and what can't. And the short answer is that theoretically, this ancient right on which the British so pride themselves, no longer exists... so I pulled the piece.

Not that I'd have minded taking knocks for speaking my mind, but apparently an editor like Neil would have been equally liable for publishing it, and I wasn't prepared to go there. That sounds risible, doesn't it? - that someone would pick up something printed in an obscure (sorry, Neil, but it's the truth) hobby zine and make a case of it, but it has happened. It's a raison d'etre crusade for the PC mob, and the Thought Police everywhere!

TCP: Bloody hell Allan - talk about whetting my appetite and getting me gagging to read your words. Know what you mean about the dangers of speaking ones mind these days. And of course of my own stupidity in not recognising something might get me into trouble and running with it anyway!

But all is not lost - you can of course supply the piece and mark it 'NFP'. Or you can use the time-honoured method when going to the doctor about an embarrassing complaint, "I have this friend..." Or you could be reporting a conversation that you 'overheard' in a pub, a play you staged or we could have an intellectual 'thought' experiment. You are a clever bloke, I'm sure that you can come up with a way of saying:

"I think [deleted] are a bunch of [deleted] and they should be boiled in oil and have their bottoms cut off!"

...without actually saying it.

### Allan carries on (pondering my challenge no doubt):

Apparently, there's something called the Public Order Act (I think that's the title), and one of its laws states that, 'it is an offence to use a word that distresses, threatens, or harasses another person' - the wording may not be correct, but that's the gist of the thing. Obviously, the main target here is racial abuse... all those 'nasty' names Brits have used for centuries and which do gooders have now outted, acting out of 'respect' for foreigners who, by and large don't give a damn anyway. But if taken literally, this law casts its net much wider and you now have a situation where no longer can you anybody anything!

No bad thing, some would say - and I know from personal experience, that there are some fag-paper skins out there. Once, I joshingly called a very good friend a 'Son of a Bitch', and to my utter amazement, he took exception - under the present stupid law, he could have reported me. So, you'd better watch your mouth. If the wimp driver in front is tentative about pulling out into the main flow, you'd be wise not to mutter "Big girls blouse!" 'cos he could claim he was being 'distressed' by having his masculinity denigrated - likewise make no reference to female genitalia. And there's no safety in niceties, either... call a girl 'sweetheart', and she could easily find a way a way to twist it around into some form of sexual harassment.

TCP: Is it really getting as lame as that these days? But language is such a dynamic thing and things have different meanings and impacts to different people how can you even define 'distress'? I mean I couldn't give a monkey's about being called a big girls blouse. And as for female genitalia - the best response has to be, "It's cunts like me that make pricks like you stand to attention!"

I think the only words that might distress me are, "I'm gonna smash your face in!" said by somebody he was clearing just about to deliver on that promise.

Allan Concludes:

So, the best bet seems to be, say nothing at all - which possibly accounts for why today's Dip players are such crap correspondents!

TCP: Mr policeman - that Allan Gordon is distressing me by saying that I'm a crap correspondent!

(titter)

You could always phrase your insults in the third party (I think its called), as in; "Don't you just hate those bogey-encrusted half-wits who really smell of poo!" It would be worth the court case just to see someone stand up and admit to being one of the insulted group!

And the final Allan:

Can anyone come up with a longer palindrome than this 29-letter Punk Band competition result?

EVIL RATS WON TOP SPOT - NOW STAR LIVE

and this is a clever one (but shorter):

A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL - PANAMA

TCP: very clever - but I'll have to leave it to the readers as I am not very good at those things.

John Wilman (Gunboat groupie):

One reason for playing Gunboat is indeed to cut down the amount of letters written, most of them a complete waste of time as players are stubborn and don't change their minds, especially when they are attacking you. And there is also the bonus of being able to play a purely tactical game, without having to justify your actions at great length.

But the main reason for playing postal gunboat, as opposed to the ftf variety, is that you are anonymous. When John Norris used to win nearly all his games, he played one under an alias, fearful that his notoriety would cause the opposition to make a common cause against him. Not all GM's allow this and setting up an alias is in itself a time consuming task. In a gunboat game, you have no reputation and no rating points to lose. For me, this is like playing 5-minute blitz chess on the internet, as opposed to a proper team tournament game.

I was in Mark Wightman's 7X7 gunboat tourney, which was abandoned before completion, and also in the only other one I know of, run by Mark Nelson in the 80's. It would be interesting to know if anyone else played in both of these gunboat fests - and indeed, who actually won them! My best results in both were with Austria; an outright win on 18 centres with only 13 units, and a 17 centre and counting when SPROUTS folded.

So there's another reason for Gunboat - it gives Austria a sporting chance.

TCP: Indeed - I understand the many good reasons for Gunboat.

I did not play in any of the games you mentioned but if any TCPers did, please step forward and make yourselves known.

By the way - SPROUTS hasn't folded, it's just 24 months late, and counting.....

Richard Williams (the missing letter):

Another example of going hugely over the top. As good a footballer as he was, the coverage George Best got for his funeral, amounted to a state one, or at least it seemed, as I didn't watch it, but even BBC1 moved its programmes to show it.

TCP: Yeah its amazing - suicides don't usually get such high-profile adulation...

Richard continues.....:

A few years ago when the markets were slumping you mentioned someone who had gone in at the wrong time and lost nearly everything. As someone who had relied heavily on the markets to do well, I thought I would show one example. In one of my funds I have a Japanese one. Nearly 10 years ago, I bought in at £1. Even before the crash it had struggled a bit lowering around the 75p level after 2 years just before the major slump, then in 1998 it collapsed to 36p. In the next 18 months the fund managed to get back to £1, only for it to end 2000 at 75p. It stayed around that value for around a year only for it to dive down to 50p by the end of 2001, growing back to 75p by mid 2002, only for it to drop to 50p by the end of the year.

It stayed at that level for around 18 months then for 2004 it rose back to 75p. I Sept'04 it suddenly took off and is now standing at £1.60p. So over a ten year period the fund has risen 60%, although in the last 12 months it rose just under 100%. So if anyone had bought in the summer of 2004, they could have doubled their investment. So it's all about timing really, although in my case I am in it for the long haul as it is giving me an income. If you haven't fallen asleep, it was just to give an example, as people tend to complain when things go badly, but keep quiet when things are going well.

TCP: Sleep? No - I was chuckling, it just so reminded me of RED DWARF, when Rimmer was recounting from his RISK war diaries...

I appreciate the point you are making, but being risk-adverse myself, wonder if a simple savings account would not have performed comparable to that over the time period you mention?

Richard - moves onto the internet:

As for accessing secure sites, I have the same problem as you, but not as bad. The really important one for me is my bank, which I can access, but I can't get onto the Southampton FC ticket section. As the bank site is the only one I am keen to get into, I haven't worried about the others. I have assumed in my case due to the fact I am still on Windows 98.

As I was once a programmer, many moons ago, I am always wary of any upgrades. Something usually goes wrong somewhere, so until a time something is so outdated it doesn't work at all, I tend to keep what I have. If it works why break it? An upgrade will usually see the odd improvement, but basically the IT department has put in a lot

of work, they have been paid, so better install their efforts.

**TCP:** Well I had to do all sorts of frigs to get the internet to work and I get umpteen error messages and warnings. It looks messy, but once in, it seems to work so I agree with you - stuff the upgrades.

**Richard Willaims (with a new letter):**

I only just began to realise how well the markets have done recently after writing to you last time. Of the packages I have, two I consider the most important as they provide me with an income, a little like a pension I suppose.

One is an income property fund, which I started in mid 2001, when the share market looked really dodgy. In this I take out 5% a year of its current value and after a slowish start even with taking the money out, it is still worth 10% more than when I started. So basically if the fund goes up I get paid more and down I get paid less.

The other fund is an income bond, in which I have four separate funds and I take 5% a year of its original value, so I get paid the same amount. This fund at times has been hairy. I have had it for ten years, so I have taken out 50% of its initial value, but after a horrendous slump, where I was worried it wasn't going to cope, it has almost returned to its original value. I have not included this month, which has been going rather up and down, but from May 2004 until the end of 2005, I had three British funds which have gone up around 30% each, but in the last 18 months, my Japanese one has risen 133%. The latter is a risky fund and over ten years has risen 70%.

Another thing I am staggered at, considering all the fuss is my pension fund. I must have picked some very lucky stocks, because to me it is doing remarkably well, especially considering all the doom and gloom. Back in 1993 I switched from the IBM personal one. In that time there were two really bad years, yet over the 13 year period it has gone up close to 200%. In other words it has almost trebled in value. What is more I haven't put any of my own money into it. When I joined IBM they put the contributions in and when after a few years they tried to get people into a different scheme, I stayed put. As it turns out I obviously didn't stay with them, but I worked out having joined them at 19, I would have to live until I was 76 before I benefited and didn't see the point of putting my own money in.

The reason I moved to a personal pension was I can start collecting when I am 50, if I wish, which is now not that many years away.

**TCP:** And those of us who have to work our butts off are not the least be jealous that you get to play with 'real' money on the stock market and generally do whatever the hell you like.

Are we lads?

**And Richard Continues:**

So to fighting my corner with Mike Dommett. I agree the chances of celebrating anything for Southampton is minimal and pretty close to non-existent. I largely agree with the cricketing comments as Hampshire have a lot of South Africans by birth. Especially over the last 30 years. But if you read this piece, what nationality do you think Roy Marshall is? I am certain Mike knows, but to me he implies he is

South African who did not play test cricket. He is Barbadian and played four tests for the West Indies. I wasn't around in the 50's when he qualified for England, so I have no idea what the selectors policies were back then.

But he did captain Hampshire in his older years in the late 60's, when I was a very little boy and many of the club were family friends, as my grandfather was the club doctor. In the late 60's the doctors usually held surgeries at their homes. Then most memorable moment for me was probably the 1968 touring Aussies. I had been to see them play Hampshire and Graham McKenzie, then the second highest Aussie wicket taker after Richie Beraud, although now ell down the list, came to the house to have his stitches out. Came into the kitchen to talk to me while I was eating fish fingers.

Also much of my watching in the late 60's and early 70's were from the club secretary's office, as the then club secretary was Desmond Eagar, close friend of my grand parents for many years. He died years ago, but I last saw his wife 4 or 5 years back. Their son is Patrick the famous cricket photographer, who even 30 years was one of the best.

Also, something I didn't appreciate at the time and was told to be on my best behaviour, at one game I met Field Marshall Montgomery. It meant nothing to me at the time.

Once I couldn't get in for nothing I have only been to see them on rare occasions, not at all at the new ground, even though it is quicker for me to get to. Since I wrote about two weeks ago, it appears that IBM are about to close their final salary pensions scheme, so having attempted to persuade me to join it, it hasn't come close to surviving, so my estimate of paying off by the time I reached 76, now gets worse. Quite a few people I know aren't amused, although most didn't have the choice anyway. They joined the company 3 or 4 years after me and were forced into the scheme. Then one I was in was closed to new employees back then.

**TCP:** I can't really comment on the cricket stuff, but I hope that sport-interested readers will have enjoyed Richard's tales of rubbing shoulders with some sporting greats of yesteryear.

I don't really want to think about the pension thing, having now left two long standing employers and have the prospect of having to stay working at the college as long as poss to try and build up a new pension. (Perhaps I should go for the £2 a week one - a lottery ticket and a prayer?!!)

**Colin Hobbs (Duncan debunked):**

There is an unfortunate significant error in my game end statement for the Duncan game. James's typo suggests that I wish to revoke a rule of the game. I have no such authority or aspiration. I am merely invoking rule 526. There is no need to send me a bottle of Burgundy. I shall call round and collect it at my earliest convenience.

**TCP:** Who - me or James? It had better be James cos a) I have no idea what you are talking about and b) I have never had a bottle of Burgundy.

**And more Colin:**

I am sending you a new subscription cheque, which I would like to be split 50:50 between TCP and your ISSUE punk zine. This is for three reasons: (1) You are about to commence your

final Std Dip game in TCP and that may mean that in three years time there will be no Std Dip games in TCP GM'd by you. (2) If TCP folds I may lose all my money as with SPROUTS, I know that SPROUTS has not folded, it is merely 24 months late, (3) I want to know what you think of modern bands accorded the punk mantle. What do you think of Hard-Fi? The Artic Monkeys? The Ordinary Boys?

**TCP:** Wow Colin - steady on there. Three years is a long time - I might change my mind (again) and open up new lists! That's your number (1). re your number (2) (titter) - unless I was run over by a steam-roller, or otherwise rendered incapable, I would not 'fold' and not return outstanding subs. I think eds who do this are very slack and naughty. (Same goes for excessive delays between issues!) As for (3): Hmm, dunno how much of an answer you'll get from ISSUE, since it is probably around 90% local! Never heard of Hard-Fi. I have heard of Artic Monkeys, but never knowingly heard them. Dunno zip about the Ordinary Boys. I guess that I must be a disappointment to you. For me a modern definition of 'punk' is the same as 25 years ago and it is summed up as, DIY. So this is why well known groups are almost excluded by definition.

**Colin continues:**

I don't know how old TV Smith is but I know that Andy Blade was 14 in 1977. Sadly for Eater, they were just too callow to enjoy more than a cult following. I think I have a single by them somewhere.

**TCP:** For me - out in the sticks, Eater were only ever a one-hit (on a compilation LP) wonder. People like, The Lurkers, Sham 69, UK Subs and others who trekked West, were always held in higher esteem. Oh, yeah, and of course Penetration who were one of my faves.

**And the final Colin:**

If Alan Frost believes that aliens have evolved a different working model of the universe does he think its fair that they shouldn't be entitles to apply for work permits.

**TCP:** Colin - you've confused me, are you talking about aliens - little green men, or non-English aliens?

**Richard Williams - returns.....:**

Unlike the South Coast clubs, at least I can manage a football team, much to my surprise, as I didn't think I had a particularly great week. I pick up the paper this morning to find I got the highest score of the week, which nets me £250, which isn't to be sniffed at, especially as my fantasy football team hasn't had a great season, then has the fortune to face Portsmouth and demolish them.

It's been a good start to the New year with two minor lottery wins as well!

**TCP:** Richard - you are a spawny devil! One of those people who good luck follows around like an obedient puppy!

**Mike Dommett (re war on terror):**

One of the problems I have with the measures the Government wants to bring in its 'War on terrorism' such as identity cards, increased police powers, extradition on demand to the USA, rendition of suspects to foreign countries, is the response from otherwise Intelligent people that "If you are innocent you have nothing to

fear" That shows a worrying trust in Governments and their agents.

There was the recent case of the German Citizen taken by the US to be tortured and imprisoned - who was then released on a back road in Serbia - because he was a victim of mistaken identity. As of the moment, he hasn't been apologised to, and compensated for his illegal detention and torture.

A few years back, an elderly Civil Engineer was imprisoned by South Africa for some weeks preparatory to being handed over to the US - they had mistaken him for a criminal whose name was similar. To be fair, he wasn't tortured, but it didn't do much for his holiday. On this occasion the US did eventually apologise for their mistake in sending out incorrect details.

Those imprisoned in the American enclave on Cuba must surely be guilty. However, approximately 1/3rd of those detained by the US in Guantanamo bay have been set free as the US admitted that they were innocent people caught up in their dragnet, or have been released to the country of their nationality. The British citizens have been freed, as there was no evidence that would stand up in court. Shamefully the British residents are still there, and the British government refuses to do anything to help them. Of those released, a few of these have been rearrested as part of insurgencies in the Middle East. That may be that the US were wrong and they were bad, or that they decided to be bad after their treatment. Arresting people who are innocent can create much more trouble than you'd expect. It's a problem we found in Ireland. Our internment campaign revitalised the IRA, winning many recruits to their cause, including some of those we had arrested.

How good are the courts in deciding guilt anyway? Since 1973, 188 prisoners who were sentenced to death in the US have been released. In each case because they were not guilty of the crime. In Ohio, the Governor is pardoning a man who has been revealed by DNA testing not to have been involved in the killing of which he was sentenced to death. He had always insisted that he was innocent. Sadly for him, he was executed, but he will receive a posthumous pardon. Alan Gell, Gordon Steidi, Laurence Adams, Dan Bright, Ryan Matthews, and Ernest Ray Willis. Six prisoners condemned to death in the US after due trial and appeals, Laurence Adams being found guilty as far back in 1974, Alan Gell as recently as 1998. All released on the grounds of their innocence in 2004. I would hesitate to describe them all as angels. Some of them were criminals, some were law abiding citizens. All suffered from a combination of poor defence lawyers, suppression of evidence by the prosecution, assumptions of guilt, refusal to accept that the wrong person was convicted. It's this evidence that makes me wonder how anyone can possibly support the death penalty.

When you are being waterboarded, trussed to a plank and lowered head first into water so that you start to drown, a practice that George Bush and Condelezza Rice do not accept as being torture, worth remembering when you read US assertions that they do not torture suspects, it must be quite hard if you don't know anything to tell them. As is common knowledge, terrorists receive training to resist interrogation, so your silence indicates that you are obviously well trained. After a while interrogators may get angry at your stubbornness. Pushing a man head first into a sleeping bag and sitting on his chest and killing him in a recent case, which earned the American interrogator a verbal

reprimand. If the person's body is broken, it's often easier to kill them and dump them, as practiced by SAVAK in Iran, and by countless US trained anti-subversion groups in south and Central America.

(And indeed any government that are prepared to be ruthless - I may not like what the US does, but I am under no illusions about the world)

TCP: Quite - I thought the WWII world view was that we were the 'good' guys and we don't do bad things. We defend, not attack etc. The fact that the UK/US governments lied and misled over the reasons for war kinda undermines anything they ever say from now on. The latest revelation is that the US were going to try and provoke Iraq by disguising a US plane as a UN one and then let the Iraqi's shoot it down. Crazy.

#### More Mike moves on to Iran:

Iran is next on the hit list. I think that it is trying to build a nuclear bomb. I don't think this is something we should encourage, bearing in mind how close India and Pakistan, non-signatories both of the Non-proliferation treaty, have come to war for a 4th time in 60 years. Israel, threatened by millions of Arabs, as I saw a recent Government Pronouncement say, also has a couple of hundred nuclear bombs and does not sign the non-proliferation treaty. (Incidentally, even if all the Arabs attacked Israel, 99.8% of them would have to do it as unarmed human waves, most after a march of hundreds of miles, and Israel can bomb all and any Arab country that tried to do that. Of five wars that Israel has fought, the first, 1948, and fourth, 1973, were Arab started, and the second, 1956, and fifth, 1982, were Israeli started. The Israelis started the their one, in 1967, but to be honest the Arabs were only just pre-empted and it really should count as an Arab attack.) The trouble could possibly be that the US has not come to terms with Iran. The US installed the Shah, trained and backed his hated secret police, and in parallels with the recent Palestinian elections, gave no backing or concessions to moderate political forces in the country. Thus, when the Shah was overthrown by a popular revolt, the US embassy was seized. Since then the US has refused to talk to Iran, except to call it part of the 'axis of evil', and to call for the overthrow of the government. Is this the best way to influence Iran? Given that of the three countries the US called the axis of evil, it has invaded the weaker of the two that do not have atomic weapons, what might a reasonable Iranian conclude is the best way to protect his country? Were the positions reversed, would the US disarm?

TCP: This is of course pointing up the major problem - the Americans really do have this "Do as we say, not as we do attitude" and the most obvious reason they have it is because they are the biggest fish. This means it's bullying pure and simple. Is the psychology of an individual bully the same as the psychology of a nation of bullies? Does fear drive them?

#### And the final Mike:

Why can't Xena be a planet? People spent good money looking for planet X after the discovery of Pluto didn't account for the irregularities in Uranus' and Neptune's motion (not one to say out loud). There should be a lot more objects that sort of size out there, and does it matter if there turns out to be 20 or more planets? We cope with Saturn, having 40+ moons rather than the 9 we used to think it had.

TCP: I agree with you. I dunno the origin of the name Xena - is it Greco-Roman? Cos that's what they tend to name planets after. Like you say, it would fit in nicely with the whole 'Planet X' thing.

#### Tony Sait (makes good his New Years resolution):

I have sent my Diplomacy orders in the time-honoured fashion of the post-office mail... and how long will it be that I, or anyone, will be able to say that? How long before they give it up and you have to send your letters/parcels etc by a courier company at extortionate rates... or come to that, not have mail delivered but actually have to go and collect it at a central office. Rolling back the years rather than moving forward.

TCP: I know - it's a bit sad really, and like you say, it does seem to be turning the clock back many years. I can't see that anything other than a national not for profit service postal system could work. I suppose, except for the corporate wretches who like sending us lots of junk mail!

#### Tony continues moving backwards:

Talking of moving backwards rather than forwards... what is the music business coming to? I mean the method of delivering the noise, not producing it. I am not exactly an innovator... so do not know much about IPODs etc, but isn't it annoying when you have to do the work of getting music onto your machine... I mean downloading from a website etc... I just want to be given the music and away I go... not spend bloody hours mucking around with some bloody computer. At least there is a step forward after the incredible two steps back of the CD revolution. I have a couple of (admittedly cheap) comedy CDs which are one track... i.e. no divisions. When driving I like to sometimes listen to music, sometimes the humour - it's all down to moods. However with these bloody things, when I slip in a disc I have to start from the beginning again, I cannot select a start point... and forget fast-forward or rewind. I've heard the first half so many times, and the end about once! Oh well, at least they don't unwind and wrap around my dashboard like manic tapeworms like so many of my tapes used to do. Whilst on the subject, how many of you have the same "records" (God how my daughter laughs when I say that... remember the Not the 9 O'Clock News skit... "A gramophone, granddad, how many amps in your speakers... etc etc) on vinyl, tape and CD (and IPOD for those that indulge)? Someone is making money out of re-releases!

TCP: Bloody hell Tony - you are dead right! (Although I have yet to have the 'all on one track' problem on a CD yet). For me the bursting of the CD bubble is that they can become scratched and corrupted too! Shit - I remember 'Tomorrows World' when CD's were new - the presenter dolloped peanut butter on them, put them through a washing machine, did a bit of clog dancing on the, then back in the player and they worked perfectly. In the real world, if a passing fly breaks wind, that's it, you've had it. Anyway - quickly switching over to a topic from my other zine... you would be amazed at the number of new local bands who opt to produce a vinyl single/EP whatever. I was flabbergasted and would bait them with the old, "sheesh - I thought I was the old foggy here!" A couple of years ago you used to get a choice, now some releases are only coming out as vinyl! So I have had to claw my record player back from the museum. Its seems bizarre to me.

### Tony moves onto politics:

Politics. The Liberal party. Why is it that whenever the government are going through a sticky patch one of the other parties goes and stick their foot firmly in it and relieves the pressure. Anyway, it does show what a bunch of no-hopers the Liberal-Democrats really are.

**TCP:** The Liberal leadership thing - my goodness this has been a totally weird time hasn't it. How can such men as whoever and whoever (sorry can't remember their poxy names) rise to (near) the top of any organisation? They seemed to get ahead by denying who/what they are, by lying and misleading and what am I talking about? The biggest liar and misleader is PM, it is obviously a requirement of the job! I therefore predict a LibDem landslide!

### And the final Tony (Alan Frostie):

Following on from Alan's musing in the last issue, I have occasionally thought about how the basic elements of our life-style got invented. Not your super scientific things of the last two centuries, but the basics. For instance... I can see how cavemen came across the concept of cooking, i.e. some twit of a caveman left a leg of sabre-tooth tiger too close to the fire, and before you know it, the Sunday roast is invented. But from there it's a major leap to taking a bunch of grass seeds, crushing them, adding water, a pinch of fungus and coming up with a sandwich!

And what about glass - how do you go from polished metal to digging sand, melting it and producing a see-through surface?! Or cotton? take a bit of a plant, spin it, tease it or whatever, until you come up with something which is pleasant to wear and doesn't smell like the dead-bear that the old guy in the cave next door is wearing? There must have been some smart cave-men and I bet none of them drove a BMW... no that's another day...

**TCP:** Tony I am glad to see that someone else has the same sort of enquiring mind that I do! I always felt that the 'Sunday roast' was discovered, rather than invented. Namely, after a forest/bush fire, primitive man wandered into the blackened area, starving, and came across a nicely done wild boar and bingo! But I agree that bread seems slightly more problematic. Firstly I would observe that the likes of you and I are so far removed from that prehistoric life, that we can no longer see some of the connections and thread which may have given rise to whatever. I suppose that once 'cooking' was adopted, some would experiment by cooking various stuff and see which came out better. Undoubtedly all the poor or toxic products put an end to the inventors, whilst the bread man (or woman) survived to produce billions of bread-eating descendants.

I won't bore the rest of the readers with endless discussion, but ending in brief: After numerous camp fires built on sand, Ugh (probably bronze-age Ugh) discovers this strange, smooth, slightly opaque substance. Centuries later and curiosity and inventions give us glass.

### Alan Frost (wises up):

Must be getting old. Well, yes, I am; I had a deep revelation about the nature of wisdom the other day. Stick with this. It does have some minor relevance:

Do you remember being a teenager, when everything was obvious and in black and white?

(Apart from the fact that they probably didn't have colour in those days, that is) If people would just listen to your sensible ideas, the whole world could be put right. As you get older, you realise that there are shades of grey. It's the beginning of wisdom. Everybody has a bit of wisdom but some people never get much. It's not about intelligence (although it helps) and it's not about being an expert. Nor is it about age, although you need a certain amount of that in order to collect enough varied knowledge. It's about the synthesis of knowledge and experience from many disciplines.

My revelation went thus: we have, on and off, talked about the nature of the universe. I was banging on about not being able to understand everything because of the gaps in perception. One idea is that the universe has to exist because of the nature of mathematics; that because  $2+2=4$  always there has to be some fundamental truth and maybe, in some way that we don't yet and may never understand, this forces the universe to exist. Well, it's only an idea, but it has a seductive sideline: all the different possible universes are the result of different values of pi (dunno how to do Greek letters). [TCP:  $\pi$  - insert, symbol, pi] Pi in our flat universe is 3.14....etc (now there's a thing: GCSE has pi as 3.14. When I did O level it was 3.142. That's a measure of how standards have fallen) OK. Now think about the Earth. You look down on the north pole from a spaceship a long way away. What is the relationship between the diameter and the circumference (the equator)? Well it's  $\pi \times \text{diameter}$ , isn't it? Yes, but that's looking at a 2-d picture. If you actually measure it on the surface, you find that the "diameter" say, the distance from the equator to the pole and then diametrically back to the equator, is a lot bigger. In fact, pi for earth's surface becomes 2 (try it. The distance from the equator to the pole is 0.25 of a circumference). For a 2-dimensional being on the surface of a sphere, pi is 2. (This only works at the equator. Pi is variable, I think.) So pi is only 3.14... in a "flat" universe. Now, if a universe is curved in a higher dimension, the value of pi will be different. Thus, our universe happens to be the one where the curvature of a higher dimension gives pi this specific value. It seems quite probable that there will be an infinite number of other universes in which the curvature is slightly different and pi has a different value.

Still with me? Sound reasonable, doesn't it? This, however, isn't wisdom. It's knowledge.

Now, then, anybody listen to Melvin Bragg's In our time? It's on Radio 4 at the bloody silly time of 9.00am on Thursdays, so it's only suitable for Countdown listeners, but it's repeated sometime but not so good as it's edited. Record it, as I do. It is brilliant. Anyhow, a couple of weeks ago, it was on about prime numbers and, inter alia, it mentioned that some aspect of prime numbers is governed by pi. (Can't remember what, now. It's a very hard programme.) They didn't say anything about universes but it struck me that, if our value of pi is fundamentally tied in with the nature of numbers, then either a) There is only one possible value for pi or b) Numbers have different values and relationships in different universes. In fact, ours would be the only one in which  $2 + 2 = 4$ .

Which is it? Take your pick. It seems illogical that numbers could have different values but, then, it's illogical that the universe exists. It suggests, I think, that the differently-curved universe hypothesis is a load of

bollocks. Maybe a mathematician can explain it differently.

So what? Well, I reckon that, for once in my life, I was in touch with real wisdom: I'd accumulated enough knowledge from all sorts of different disciplines and suddenly, another jigsaw piece arrived and slotted exactly into place. I couldn't have done that when I was a clever teenager. That's what wisdom is about. Does this make me a genius? (No. I just am one.) Of course not. There are plenty of people wiser than me (I suppose, modestly) and I daresay I'll get wiser myself but I was pretty impressed by the concept.

TCP: At the moment I think that you must be wiser than me, cos I can't quite grasp the point you are making? You are referring to pi, but there are a number of other scientific and/or mathematic constants and irrational numbers etc - are you including them in the (non) variability of pi debate? Only fair to warn you that my brother reads TCP and might see your 'thread' as an invitation to start talking about the 'minus-one dimension' - so you have been warned.

#### Alan continues..:

And the point of all this self-congratulation? Well, it explains why an otherwise perfectly intelligent and sensible fellow, who is probably kind to animals and picks up litter in the street, can spout occasional bollocks. I refer to Mike Dommett and his brief comment about the uselessness of nuclear power. Apart from his point about the long-lasting nature of the waste products (which we have the technology to deal with today, if we bite the bullet and don't listen to the Friends of the Earth crap (hearts in the right place but brains in their arses), he was exactly wrong in everything he said. Few countries have given up nuclear power forever. The only real one being Norway, which has a tiny population and a huge potential for self-sufficiency in hydro-electricity. The moratorium in the US has resulted in power outages (as they disgustingly call them) and Germany is shitting itself because it's dependent on Russian gas (as will we be in the near future because of our short-sighted politicians - they won't be on power when the shit hits the fan) and is buying nuclear electricity from the Frogs. Renewable energy won't do. Sorry. Nice idea. We should use as much as we can get but there ain't enough, folks. You can talk all you like about putting windmills out to sea but it will be devastatingly expensive (contrary to Mike's opinion, nuclear power is almost as cheap as fossil fuels and will soon be cheaper. Wind power is only viable because it's subsidised and untaxed. If you had to pay the real price, it would be several times more expensive.) Add in all the other as yet largely unproved technologies (wave, tide and so on) and you're still short by a huge margin.

What's more, what we do isn't important. Nor, especially, is the fact that the US is the biggest power-waster. China and India are rapidly moving into the modern world and their energy needs will make ours look pathetic. China has some of the largest coal reserves in the world. What price global warming if they don't go nuclear?

Would you rather have a nuclear power station at the bottom of your garden or a windmill? No-brainer, isn't it? Unfortunately, it's the wrong question. Would you rather have a few nuclear power stations at the bottom of the gardens of people who already have them and, by and large, welcome the employment they bring, or would you

rather have a windmill at the bottom of everybody's garden? That's what it will take, you know: roughly one windmill per square 100metres all over Britain. God help us on still days (or too windy ones, when they shut down, did you know?)

TCP: The renewable stuff they got now is all like, first generation - further development will improve efficiency and reduce impact. And surely it would be a good idea to cut down on some of the waste. Basingstoke town centre is lit up like a Christmas tree 24/7/365 - is that really necessary? Loads of other examples of rampant waste that could be tackled if people had the right incentive. I am still not convinced that 'Nuclear' is the only choice - seems too fraught to me.

#### And the final Alan:

Wisdom says nothing is black and white, but if you synthesise enough knowledge, you come up with only one answer, unfortunately. Keep learning, Mike, you'll get there.

(Hope it was Mike. I can't be bothered to look in TCP at this time of night.)

TCP: Me too! But surely there are things which don't have a single answer? Didn't you say that already in your 'shades of grey' opener?

Lets have a bit of a joke now;

A bloke stops to visit his mate who has a broken leg. His friend says, "My feet are cold mate. Can you go and get me my slippers from upstairs please."

The guy goes upstairs, and there are his mate's gorgeous twin 18 year old daughters. "Hi, girls, your dad sent me up here to shag you." The first daughter says, "That's not true." He says, "I'll prove it." He yells down the stairs, "Both of them?" His mate yells back, "Of course, both of them."

TCP: Oops - a bit low-brow, so let's raise the tone a tad to end on.....

Each year the Washington Post's Style Invitational asks readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing only one letter and supply a new definition. Here are the 2002 winners:

11. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
  10. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
  9. Foreploy: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
  8. Giraffiti: Vandalism painted very, very high.
  7. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
  6. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
  5. Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.
  4. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit).
  3. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
  2. Glibido: All talk and no action.
- And, the winner of the Washington Post's Style Invitational:
1. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

TCP: Anon dudes.



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 TCP 137

**Source of the Nile**

**ASWAN**

**Turn 19**

**Light Blue:** Dr Peter Dunnett (Peter Dunnett)  
 Zoologist

Back to Europe - publishes all hexes and highest waterfall at this time. Other waterfall discoveries are deducted from players totals as necessary. 5 new cards for outfitting a new expedition:- 61 (£50), 77 (£100), 84 (Free ticket to Calabar), 14 (£0), 96 (£100). So a total of £250 with a free ticket.  
 Victory points 40 (0)

**Green:** Dr John Derrick. (Shaun Derrick) - Botanist - Strat Laurence Marques - Canoe expedition. Expedition make-up

Members/Items	Portage	Transport
Explorer	15	
2 Canoes		600
6 Askaris	90	
16 Bearers	240	
2 Guides	30	
40 Gifts	40	
105 Rations	105	
	520	600

Movement: Reckless - NE, NW

Lost: N/A

Terrain: Card 44 - Veldt

River: Card 18 - River forks - Card 71 - and rejoins flowing in from NE

Natives: Card 104 - No natives

Movement: Reckless - NE

Lost: N/A

Terrain: Card 33 - as E so Veldt

River: Card 107 - continues (new card req.)

Card 34 NW. ((As the hex NW has two rivers flowing from it, it has to be Swamp or Lake))

Natives: Card 69 - Yes, Roll 2 - Small. Policy 6, Roll 1,6 - Go to Negotiation table. Offer 8 gifts

- Roll 1,4 so Friendly

Hunting: Tribe feeds expedition

Bonus: Card 8 - no effect

Disaster: Card 20 - Find previously unknown cache containing Canoe, 10 Gifts and a musket

Victory Points: 24 (5)

**Red:** Count Gustav Adolphus (Brad Martin) - Ethnologist - Start Brass - Foot expedition Expedition make-up:

Members/Items	Portage	Transport
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**Explorer**

7 Askaris		
17 Bearers		170
1 Musket	1	
20 Gifts	20	
95 Rations	95	
	116	170

Movement: E

Lost: Roll 3 - Yes (only a 6 can get you out unless you go back and try another route, Brad)

Terrain: N/A

River: N/A

Natives: Card 81 - no Natives

Hunting: Column 6 - Roll 5 - 24 Fresh rations.

1 Ration used (94 left)

Bonus: Card 53 - no effect

Disaster: Card 35 - no effect

Victory Points: 0 (15)

**Orange:** (James Hardy) 'Scoop' Hardy - Journalist - Start Durban - Mounted expedition. Expedition make-up

Members/Items	Portage	Transport
11 Horses		220(115)
Explorer	15	
1 Bearer	15	
1 Guide	15	
4 Askaris	60	
0 Rations	0	
0 Gifts	0	
	105	220

Movement: Normal W

Lost: N/A

Terrain: Card 67 - Swamp, so must retreat back to previous hex

River: N/A

Natives: In hex are friendly

Movement: NW

Lost: Roll 2 - OK

Terrain: Card 7 - as SE so Mountain - no high Mountain

River: Card 99 - no River

Natives: Card 37 - no Natives

Hunting: Column 5 - Roll 1 - no fresh Rations so 1 Horse is shot to provide 10 rations

Bonus: Card 103 - no effect

Disaster: Card 94 - no effect

Victory points 0 (32) + 2<sup>nd</sup> highest Mountain 16,900ft

**Cerise:** Earl Poulter of Dolphingstone (Alan Poulter) - Doctor

Back to Europe - publish all discoveries. Just 1 card for new expedition - Card 1 (£300)  
 Victory Points: 6 (0)

**Yellow:** Capt Rupert Kraine (Geoff Crane) - Explorer - Start Khartoum - Foot expedition

Members/Items	Portage	Transport
Explorer		
1 Rations	1	
1 Item	2	
Musket	1	
	4	

Movement: Normal NW

Lost: N/A

Terrain: Card 82 - as NW so Mountain. Card 13 - huge Mountain of 25,750ft - highest!

River: Card 16 - River forks. Card 15 - flows in from Swamp NE and joins with Nile, NW

Natives: Card 89 - No natives

Hunting: Column 7 - Roll 5, 3 Fresh rations - no other rations left

Bonus: Card 2 - no effect

Disaster: Card 70 - no effect

Victory points: 0 (23) + Highest Waterfall 2,100ft + Highest Mountain 25,750ft

**Brown:** Dr. C.X. Latimer (Chris Latimer) - Retired

Victory points 13 (0)

Native Trade exchange rates for Turn 20

Tribe 1 (Friendly to Dr. Peter Dunnett):

1 Gift = 3 Rations

1 Musket = 3 Gifts

Tribe 2 (Friendly to Earl Poulter)

1 Gift = 2 Rations

1 Musket = 6 Gifts

Tribe 11 (Friendly to Earl Poulter)

1 Gift = 4 Rations

1 Musket = 3 Gifts

Tribe 12 (Friendly to Dr John Derrick)

1 Gift = 5 Rations

1 Musket = 6 Gifts

Tribe 19 (Friendly to Dr Peter Dunnett)

1 Gift = 1 ration

1 Musket = 5 Gifts

Tribe 20 (Friendly to 'Scoop' Hardly)

1 Gift = 1 rations

1 Musket = 5 Gifts

Tribe 22 (Friendly to 'Scoop' Hardly)

1 Gift = 1 Rations

1 Musket = 5 Gifts

Tribe 23 (Friendly to 'Scoop' Hardly)

1 Gift = 5 Rations

1 Musket = 2 Gift

Tribe 24 (Friendly Dr John Derrick)

1 Gift = 5 Rations

1 Musket = 3 Gifts

No other friendly tribes on the map!

In order to keep track of Bonus discoveries I will keep a list here...

Animals (published) - Dik-dik (PD)

(unpublished) -

Plants: (Published) - Ixia viridiflora(SD),

Galtonia Candicans(SD), Streptocarpus

rexii(SD), Okume(SD)

(unpublished) -

Miscellaneous: (published) -

(unpublished) - Elephant item(GC, PD)

Highest Mountain unpublished - 25,750 ft (GC)

2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Mountain unpublished - 16,900ft

(JH)

Highest Waterfall unpublished - 2,100' (GC)

2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Waterfall published - 88' (PD)

3<sup>rd</sup> Highest Waterfall Published - 81' (CL)

Waterfall Published - 74' (CL & PD) will be

deducted from vp's once higher waterfalls

published.

Waterfall Published - 73' (SD) will be deducted

from vp's once higher waterfalls published.

Cache 2(JH): 1 Canoe, 23 Gifts

Cache 4(CL): 2 Canoes

Cache 6 (GC): 1 Canoe

Cache 8 (AP): 20 Gifts

Cache 10 (AP): 50 Gifts, 110 Rations

## MACHIAVELLI

**BORGIA**

Autumn 1454

Notes: I omitted the Venetian order F(UAD) support Papal F Anco-LAD last time - noticed by some!

You cannot build fleets in cities that are not ports.

**AUSTRIA:** Andrew Greco. 11 Wyndham Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 3DS

Email [andrew.greco@virgin.net](mailto:andrew.greco@virgin.net)

Expenditure: 0

Treasury: 4d

**G(Tyro) std, A(Carn) std**

Home: -AUST, HUNG, TYRO, - Cari,

Conq: CARN

Cities: 3

Add Treasury to Income: 14 + 4 = 18d

Maintain all + build EMA(Hung) = 12d.

Treasury remaining: 6d

**FLORENCE:** Nigel Pepper. 20 Fallowfield,

Skipton, North Yorks BD23 1BN

Email [nepper@worldmasters.net](mailto:nepper@worldmasters.net)

Expenditure: 0

Treasury: 6d

**F(Cors)-EGL, A(Arez) std, A(Lucc) B1**

Home: FLOR(3), PISA, AREZ, Pist

Conq: CORS, Lucc/p

Cities: 4

Add Treasury to Income: 6 + 16 = 22d

Maintain all + build A(Flor) = 12d. Treasury

remaining: 10d

**FRANCE:** Doug Massie. Flat 2 Thackery Court,

1a Thackery Road, Southampton SO17 2GS Email

[douglas.massie@centrica.co.uk](mailto:douglas.massie@centrica.co.uk)

Expenditure: 0

Treasury: 1½d

**A(Swis)-Turi, A(Turi)-Salu, F(Savo) B1**

Home: AVIG, -MARS, SWIS, Prov

Conq: TURI, Savo/p, Salu/p

Cities: 3

Add Treasury to Income:  $1\frac{1}{2} + 13\frac{1}{2} = 15d$ 

Maintain all = 9d. Treasury remaining: 6d

**MILAN:** Neil Duncan, 25 Sarum Hill, BasingstokeRG21 8SS. Email [neil.duncan@bcot.ac.uk](mailto:neil.duncan@bcot.ac.uk)Expenditure:0 Treasury:  $6\frac{1}{2}d$ **A(Mila)-Tren, A(Tyro)-Aust, A(Cari)-Slav**

Home: MILA(3), PAVI, CREM, Como, Forn, Parm, Pian

Conq: Cari, AUST, Slav, Tren/p Cities: 4

Add Treasury to Income:  $6\frac{1}{2} + 14\frac{1}{2} = 21d$ 

Maintain all + build A(Mila) = 12d. Treasury remaining: 9d

**NAPLES:** Mike Pollard, 1a Cochrane Road, LONDON SW19 3QPEmail [michael.pollard@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:michael.pollard@stgeorges.nhs.uk)Expenditure:0 but Borrow 1d for 2 years (Owe 2d Aut 56) Treasury:  $4\frac{1}{2}d$ **A(Aqui)-Anco, A(Pale)-Mess, F(Piom)-WTS, F(ETS) S F Piom-WTS**

Home: NAPL(2), BARI, MESS, PALE, Capu, Aqui, Sale, Otr

Conq: PIOM Cities: 5

Add Treasury to Income:  $4\frac{1}{2} + 13\frac{1}{2} = 18d$ 

Maintain all + build F(Bari), F(Napl) = 18d. Treasury remaining: 0d

**PAPACY:** John Marsden, 91 Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RSEmail [jandcmarsden@iclway.co.uk](mailto:jandcmarsden@iclway.co.uk)

Expenditure:0 Treasury: 5d

**A(Sien) B1, A(Peru) S A Sien, A(Mant) B1, F(LAD)-Anco**

Home: ROME(2), PERU, ANCO, BOLO, Patr, Spol, Urbi, Roma

Conq: Sien/p, Mant/p Cities: 4

Add Treasury to Income:  $19 + 5 = 24d$ 

Maintain all + build A(Bolo) = 15d. Treasury remaining: 9d

**TURKS:** John Stratford, 27 Farrar Court, The Old Schoolhouse, Leeds LS13 3SP Email[john.stratford6@btinternet.com](mailto:john.stratford6@btinternet.com)Expenditure: 0 but Borrow 2d for 2 years (Owe 3d Aut 56) Treasury:  $2\frac{1}{2}d$ **F(WMS)-Mars, F(Dura)-LAD, A(Bosn)-Dalm**

Home: TUNI(2), DURA, ALBA, Herz, Bosn

Conq: MARS, DALM Cities: 5

Add Treasury to Income:  $2\frac{1}{2} + 10\frac{1}{2} = 13d$ 

Maintain all + build A(Alba) = 12d. Treasury remaining: 1d

**VENICE:** Alan Poulter, Dolphin Cottage, Dolphingstone, East Lothian EH33 1NH Email [alan.poulter@cis.strath.ac.uk](mailto:alan.poulter@cis.strath.ac.uk)Expenditure: 0 (Owe 3d Sum56) Treasury:  $\frac{1}{2}d$ **A(Ferr) std, A(Vice) std, A(Friu)-Cam, F(LGN)-UAD, F(UAD)-Istr**

Home: VENI(3), PADU, TREV, -DALM, Istr, Friu, Vice, Vero, Bres, Berg

Conq: FERR Cities: 4

Add Treasury to Income:  $\frac{1}{2} + 20\frac{1}{2} = 21d$ 

Maintain all = 15d. Treasury remaining: 6d

Famine removed eliminating autonomous garrisons in Mont and Piom.

**DELUGE (Diplomacy Variant)****'COPERNICUS'**

Spring 1902

Notes: I would rather not publish A4 size maps as it takes a lot of ink. However, I will increase the size a little.

**Austria:** Neil Duncan, 25 Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 8SS

F(Gre)-ION, A(Vie) S F Tri, F(Tri) std, A(Bud) MS A(Ser)

**England:** Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6AR

F(BAR)-Nwy, A(StP) S F BAR-Nwy, F(Nwy)-NTH, F(LON) S F Nwy-NTH, A(Edi)-Yor

**France:** Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, Alton, Hants GU34 2DD

F(Bre)-MAO, A(Por)-Spa, F(Spasc)-WMS, F(Mar)-GOL, A(Bur)-Mar

**Germany:** Mike Pollard, 1a Cochrane Road, LONDON SW19 3QP

A(Den) = F(Den), F(Kie)-HEL, F(BEL)-NTH, A(Mun) std, A(Ber)-Kie

**Italy:** Nick Kinzett, c/o 11 Daleway Road, Green Lane, Coventry CV3 6JF

A(Tyro) std, F(VEN) S A Tyr, A(Apu)-Nap, F(Tun)-ION

**Russia:** Doug Massie, Flat 2 Thackery Court, 1a Thackery Road, Southampton SO17 2GS

F(Sev)-BLA, A(War)-Mos, A(Ukr) S A War-Mos, A(Rum) = F(Rum), F(Swe)-Nwy

**Turkey:** Nigel Pepper, 20 Fallowfield, Skipton, North  
Yorks BD23 1BN

**F(Ank)-BLA, A(Arm)-Sev, A(Bul) std, F(Con)-  
AEG**

### Press

**Eng to Ger:** Be careful – red mists carried over from  
other games can blind to opportunities.

**F – All:** One has to agree with England on the level of  
correspondence

## WORLD CUP, The History...

A few of you might be aware that I have designed a  
new game based on the Football World Cup. I have  
playtested it many times and I am confident that this is  
a real winner, so I am progressing with publication.  
Sales will be through my - yet to be designed – website  
as well as at conventions and through retail outlets.

I have got a great graphic designer who will be  
designing the characters for the cards and playing tiles.  
I have designed the board myself, but it will need  
sharpening up and set up for printing.

The game will consist of the 1930 and 2002 World Cup  
tournaments with all the other World Cup tournaments  
being added as expansion sets to build into a complete  
'History of the World Cup' collection. Furthermore I can  
see that there is great scope for optional rules and extra  
cards which can be added at a later stage within the  
expansion sets.

I may be blowing my own trumpet here, but this is  
definitely the best football board game I have ever  
played. My searches for anything similar have drawn a  
blank. The nearest I can get is the Australian Design  
Group 'World Cup Football' which was OK, but was  
restricted to the format used in the 1986, 1990 and  
1994 World Cup tournaments. The advantage of my  
system is that it can be manipulated very easily to fit  
any World Cup format.

Other World Cup games are either dice rolling or the  
popular but mind-numbing Trivial Pursuit style of  
'question and answer' games.

Most other football games attempt to recreate individual  
matches e.g. Subbuteo or Soccerama. The main  
exception is something like 'Wembley' which was a  
neat game except for the silly numbers on the dice  
which gave lower division sides a '5' whereas a Division  
1 team could only achieve 4 at best. The idea was to  
give the little teams a chance --slightly bizarre.

My game system is simple enough to encourage people  
who are not really games players but are interested in  
football. On the other hand, at OxCon a couple of  
weeks ago I played with a group of games players who  
really weren't keen on football but liked the system as it  
does involve some skill, some luck and a simple  
strategy system that doesn't detract from the theme.

You can play the 1930 version in about an hour while  
the 2002 version will take around 3 hours. Both of these  
playing times would be reduced with experienced  
players.

To give you a basic idea of the game...

The original draw for the World Cup being played is  
printed on the board. All the teams are ranked, based  
on FIFA rankings (though a little personal manipulation  
has removed the obviously silly rankings which  
sometimes appear). Teams are randomly divided  
between the players. Cards are dealt out and played in  
the straightforward play one, take the action, replace  
from unused stack.

You play Goals, Attacks and Defences onto yours or  
other players teams (this is where the strategy comes  
in) in order to get your teams through to the next round.  
All games are played simultaneously per round.

Obviously the objective is to win the World Cup. Once  
all the expansions are available there will be a Grand  
History of the World Cup game which can be played  
over many sessions – this is still being worked on.

Another advantage (in my eyes) is that the results  
produced are sensible, none of this 8-5 mullarky every  
other match! A number of games finish 0-0 which is  
almost unheard of in other football games!

To give you an idea of results from some of the 2002  
playtests...

#### Semi-Final:

Brazil 2 England 2 – won 2-3 by England on pens

Portugal 3 Mexico 1

3<sup>rd</sup> Place play-off

Brazil 3 Mexico 1

Final

England 3 Portugal 1

#### Semi-Final

Costa Rica 0 Brazil 3

Poland 0 Spain 2

3<sup>rd</sup> place play off

Poland 6 Costa Rica 0

Final

Spain 3 Brazil 2

#### Semi-Final

Denmark 1 China 1 – Denmark won 3-0 on pens

Germany 6 Rep. Ireland 5 (one odd result)

3<sup>rd</sup> place play off

Rep. Ireland 2 China 0

Final

Germany 3 Denmark 2

**LOOK OUT FOR IT!  
RELEASE DATE IS APRIL.**

## Aeryn - Gunboat - Sp 06

**Austria:** A(Pru) - War, A(Ukr) S A(Pru) - War, A(Gal) S A(Pru) - War, A(Rum) - Sev, A(Ser) - Gre, A(Tri) - Ven, F(AEG) - Bulsc.

**England:** A(Edi) - Lpl, F(NWS) - BAR, F(Nwy) S F(NWS) - BAR, F(Por) - MAO, F(Bre) hold.

**France:** A(Bur) - Mun{nsu}, F(TYS) - Nap, F(ION) S F(TYS) - Nap, A(Ruh) stands unordered.

**Germany:** A(Spa) - Mar, A(Par) - Bur, A(Swe) - Den, A(Ber) - Kie, A(Mun) S A(Ber) - Kie, F(Bel) hold, F(BAL) S A(Swe) - Den.

**Italy:** A(Pie) - Ven, A(Rom) S F(Nap), F(Nap) hold.

### Russia (Georgi Porgi):

A(War) - Pru, A(Lvn) S A(War) - Pru, A(Kie) - Mun, A(StP) - Mos, F(BAR) - StPnc.

**Turkey (Captain Hookah):** F(Alb) - Gre, A(Con) - Bul, A(Smy) hold.

**RETREATS:** RUSSIAN A(War) - Sil.  
RUSSIAN A(Kie) - Hol.

**PRESS:** None

## Raspberry - Std Dip - Au 17

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles) BN: 02 BB

**Austria (Allan Gordon):** A(Sev) - Mos, A(Gal) - War, A(Ukr) S A(Gal) - War, A(Rum) S A(Ukr), A(Bud) - Gal, A(Tri) - Bud, A(Boh) - Mun, A(Tyr) - S A(Boh) - Mun, A(Vie) - Boh, F(TYS) hold, F(NAf) - MAO, F(Spasc) S F(NAf) - MAO, F(WMS) S F(Spasc), F(GOL) S F(Spasc), A(Pie) S RUSSIAN F(Mar) {nsu}.

### Germany (Tony Sait):

A(Mos) S A(War) - Ukr, A(War) - Ukr, A(Lvn) S A(Mos), A(Pru) - War, A(Sil) - Gal, A(Ruh) S A(Ber) - Mun, A(Ber) - Mun, F(BAL) hold, A(Gas) - Mar, A(Bur) S A(Gas) - Mar, F(Bre) S F(IRI) - MAO, F(IRI) - MAO, F(Por) S F(MAO) - Spasc, F(MAO) - Spasc.

**Turkey (Anarchy):** F(Mar) stands unordered.

**RETREATS:** TURKISH F(Mar) disbands NRO.

### Winter 1917 Adjustments

A: Tri Ven Bud Ser Gre Rum Bul Con Ank Smy Sev Ven Nap Rom Rum Spa 16(16) no change.

G: Kie Ber Hol Den War Mos StP Swe Nwy Bel Lon Edo Par Lpl Bre Mun Por +Mar 18(17) WINS!!

T: -Mar 0(1) OUT!!!

### PRESS:

Omar's finger: And when The Traveller didst see that he couldst journey no further, he heaveth a great sigh. "Verily, I am not worthy", he spake, and didst lay himself down to slumber, the lazy sod.

German High Command: We wouldn't know an 'if' if we tripped over it, and there are no 'buts' in the German army.

Germany - Austria: I do believe we have bored the rest of the players into either extinction or stupefaction... Call it a day?

Biggles - All: I have ignored the GEP which did not pas and has become superfluous! GES from any awake players next time please?

## Tangerine - Std Dip - Au 06

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles) BN: 04 BA

**Austra (Tony Sait):** A(Sil) S ITALIAN A(Pru) - Ber, A(Tyr) S GERMAN A(Ber) - Mun, A(Ser) S A(Gre), A(Rum) - Bul, A(Gre) S A(Rum) - Bul.

**England: Richard Williams:** F(BAR) S A(Nwy) - StP, F(Hol) S A(Yor) - Bel, F(NTH) C A(Yor) - Bel, A(Fin) S A(Nwy) - StP, A(Nwy) - StP, A(Yor) - Bel, A(Den) - Kie, F(BAL) S ITALIAN A(Pru) - Ber.

**France: Nigel Pepper:** A(Mun) S ENGLISH F(BAL) - Ber {nsu}, A(Bur) S A(Mun), A(Gas) - Spa, F(TYS) - Rom, F(Mar) - GOL, F(MAO) - WMS, F(Tun) S F(TYS) {unit moving}.

**Germany: Allan Gordon:** A(Ber) - Mun, A(Boh) S A(Ber) - Mun.

**Italy: Mike Dommett:** A(Pru) - Ber, A(Tus) - Rom, F(WMS) - Tun, F(ION) S F(WMS) - Tun, F(AEG) S ITALIAN A(Bul) - Gre, A(Bul) - Gre.

**Russia: Doug Massie:** F(Sev) BLA, A(Con) S AUSTRIAN A(Rum) - Bul, A(Smy) - S A(Con), -A(War) hold, A(Mos) - StP, A(Lvn) S A(Mos) - StP.

**Retreats:** FRENCH A(Mun) - Ruh.  
FRENCH F(Tun) - NAF.  
ITALIAN A(Bul) disbands NRP.

### Winter 1906 Adjustments

A: Tri Bud Vie Ser Rum +Bul +Gre 7(5) +F(Tri) +A(Vie)  
E: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy Den Swe Kie Hol +StP +Bel 10(8)  
+F(Lpl) +F(Lon).

F: Par Mar Bre Por Spa -Bel -Tun 5(7)GM -F(NAf) - F(TYS).

G: Mun -Ber 1(2) -A(Boh).

I: Nap Rom Ven +Tun +Ber -Bul -Gre -War 5(6) unit lost  
R: -StP +War Mos Sev Con Ank Smy 6(6) same units

### Press:

Austria - Russia: Hope you get back to Mun in time for the Olympic Games in the 1970's.

Austria - England: I hope you were not expecting everyone to roll over and play dead.

Not-so-grand National: ... the Open Ditch, and Fille d'Epice took another bite out of Graf Kybo... Willy Wonka running wide, forcing Revolting peasant to give ground... Skin Tone definitely crossed Wippawoppa there - it's a confusing race so far...

Italy - Austria: Backstabbing once more? So I don't want to be next to you or Keith Smith in the final TCP game thee.

Italy - England: I wonder if you are related to Colonel Say=unders perchance.

Rome - Moscow: The aces are in your sweaty mitt.