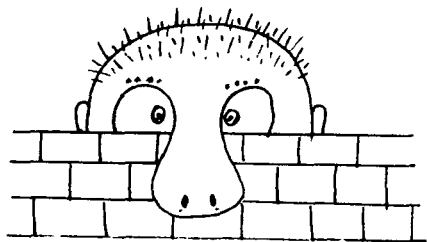


15-6-79

'ello squire, its....

ISSUE 4
JUNE

The Fool



I Don't have anything clever to say this month - must be all this sitting on the wall - stunts the brain development.

Plays On

5/-

MADE IN ENGLAND

SORRY WE'RE LATE!
(ED.)

Good day. This is the fourth issue of The Fool Plays ON, a Diplomacy and other games fanzine, produced by :-
MALCOLM BROWN, 2 Park Street, Dunstable, Beds. (0582 602849) and
PAUL PREBBLE, 3 Victoria Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds (LB 372893).

We have both changed jobs since issue 3, and the work phone numbers given in that issue no longer apply. When new ones are available they will be printed.

The Fool Plays On costs 25p inc postage, 35p air mail. Subscriptions are available, send money in multiples of 25p to Malcolm Brown. Credit is shown on your label, the number after your name is the number of the last issue your current credit will buy.

WAITING LISTS.

The following games are available in the Fool.

Standard Diplomacy (21) Seven Wanted.

Stab Diplomacy (21) Pete Sealy, Colin Grubb, Mike Wassall + 4 wanted.

Cartel Diplomacy (Free) Mike Jervis, Graham Tunnicliffe, Hugo Tyler, Keith Loveys + 3

Mercator Stab (21. GM Mike Nicholas) Keith Loveys, Ron Raynor, + 3 interested, + about 3 wanted.

Rail Barons (21) Ian Phillips, Keith Loveys, Keith Thomasson, Chris Donald.

This game starts next time, though if you contact the GM (Fred Hemmings, 1 Holmleigh, Swindon) very quickly you might get in. Would all the players please contact Fred and let him know if they want to play this game knowing the next one or two destinations. Game fees to me please.

Soccer League. Keith Loveys, Eric Willis, Fred Hemmings, Ian Phillips, Gary Murkin, Robert Stanford, Gary Ames, Roy Taylor, Paul Willis, Bob Lowndes, Mike Jervis, Ian Roberts, Mick Roberts, Ted Cook, Steve Plater, Graham Tunnicliffe + 4 places only available.

The above players will find the rules enclosed. Would they let me have their teams by the next issue please, plus 50p gamefee. The teams will be published next month, and the matches will start the month after. When selecting your team, remember that early success in the league cup will bring you division 1 football in the first season.

No other games are available at the moment, and unless stab fills quickly I will consider dropping it and trying something else instead.

DEADLINE

Thursday June 28th. Diplomacy Games. etc

Thursday June 21st. Co Chairman, Rail Barons, Soccer League

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GOOD NIGHT TO YOU ALL.



The editor sits and waits for the self release mechanism to operate on his new camera. Meanwhile the cat prepares to offer some advice on the Snorwood Gazette Vain Rats game. The fact that the cat had very little idea of the rules, confusing the game with standard dip, is the main reason why the editor is about to be eliminated from this game.

Does the presence of Wine, Beer, Fags and a Diplomacy board mean that the editor is in training for his 'hardcore' entrance exam ?.

((If the space opposite is blank then the planned photo didn't come out.))



HIS MASTERS VOICE

Shit ! For the first time the Fool is actually late. I don't intend to make the normal string of excuses for this, but there was the fact that Paul was on holiday for two weeks before the deadline, and the fact that I went away for the whole of the Bank holiday, and the fact that I started a new job on the day after the holiday, and the fact that we all went off to Whipsnade Zoo last sunday afternoon. Thats four reasons for a one week delay - what on earth will I have to say if I'm ever four weeks late I wonder?. Anyway, we're here now and I hope you enjoy it. For the reasons mentioned above this issue is only 16 pages, hopefully we will be back to normal next time with the Poker column and Pauls bit.

From now on the Poker column will appear bi-monthly, alternateing with the Chess column and a new series on Crib that someone is writing for me. If I were to put them all in every month there would be too much of an unbalance towards non-games material (make that non-Diplomacy material) which would be undesirable. Furthermore the number of gamestarts continues to grow, and they must obviously have the first priority when it comes to the allocation of space.

Actually space is already becoming something of a problem, as more people sit down and write things for me. If I had the space there is a lot more I could include, indeed given the time and money, this issue could have been about 30 pages long at least. Two things I'm waiting to publish at the moment are yet more variant rules - Nuclear Dip by Dave Parry, and Majik Diplomacy by Pete Sealy. Furthermore the first part of the planned series on the Greek Islands arrived a while ago - 10 pages of small handwriting (M). That was intended for the first installment, with more to come next month! Various ideas are being worked on to get more pages each month, but the cost is very prohibitive. Talking of costs, the GPO are putting up postage very soon. This will see a general rise in prices in the hobby, and the Fool will be no different.

I have a new job, but not the one I mentioned in the last issue. I now work for a small software house, a job that involves visiting various clients and doing small projects for them, selling and installing computer package systems and other odd jobs within the computer industry. Because of all this travelling I am unable to give you a telephone number where I can be contacted during the day - sorry. I'm looking forward to it very much as it has all the advantages of freelancing but with the security of a normal job. Oh, I get a company car as well.

I've also got a new hobby, as should be evident from page 3. Yes, I've finally got a decent camera and am now teaching myself all about photography. I'm using a Zenith E f2 SLR camera, with a second hand telephoto lens, and it's great fun. The next stage is to learn developing and printing, as I'm currently keeping some of the photographic labs in business, shooting about 100 photos a week.

I hated the result of the Cup Final and the Election; wrong people won both. The Cup Final was a non event apart from the last few minutes, and will be classed along with the Leeds v Liverpool & Leeds v Arsenal games for lack of entertainment. The Election was the usual farce, until we have a decent system of P.R. in this country election results will continue to be basically meaningless. It was good to see the Liberals keep most of their seats at a difficult time; I'm sure that the next election will see them drive a more significant wedge between the two main parties. Talking of results; England v Scotland was great. I was never in any doubt that we would win, the impression I got was that England were content to let the Scots play for just long enough, knowing that once their passion and enthusiasm died off they would be easy to beat.

Zines continue to come and go. Latest victims are Gummiballs and AZOTT. I don't think anyone was suprised at either of these. Dolchstoss and Ethil still haven't appeared, there must now be serious question marks over both of these, which means that they will probably be published this week. If they were to fold it would be a serious test of the new spirit that seems to be filling the hobby at the moment. Whilst I'm sure the hobby would continue to run perfectly OK the conflict caused by the re-housing of all their games would be bound to upset a few people. Such a job would be a good start for an orphaned games secretary, once we get one. I have one name of a volunteer, and as he isn't an editor he would be ideal. The ability to absorb two folds of this nature would be a bonus for the PDA, and would give it a senior status within the hobby. At the moment it's only function is to get newcomers into the hobby, and into their first game.

Replies to the adverts are coming in at a steady rate, Private Eye produced 16, and games and Puzzles has produced 3 already. The CGS had given out the first game, to Putty Rizzo. This brings me back to the subject of zines coming and going, as PR is a new zine from Rob Chapman, 7 Baymount, Paignton, Devon. Despite what Rob has to say about litho zines it's well worth a look, and if Rob puts the same effort into PR that he puts into Diplomacy games then it's sure to be a winner. In the distance is a Voice in The Wilderness from one John Lee; and the return of Bruce from Paul Simpkins. Tantulus now counts as a new zine - as Don Brown has finally decided to come out of hiding and admit to being it's editor. He has also agreed to trade with me, so ignore that bit in the reply to Pete Birk's letter. Fool was of course the first UK zine to actually tell you who was producing T, rather than resorting to silly little comments like "is Don Brown producing a zine? a tantalising question indeed".

Where is Lemming Express ?? it seems like a long time since I last saw it. On that very subject, where is Howay the Lads ?? I'm supposed to be trading with it, but it must be about 3 months since I last got one. Considering Willy has written to me twice in this time, and joined a Diplomacy game, it seems rather strange. Doubtless after this mention Willy will sort out whatever is going wrong with his administration.

Mr. Gladgrind is produced by John Miller, 9 Carysfort Rd., London N16, and very good it is, though the effect of John going off to university next year remains to be seen. Well worth asking for a copy. I can now clear up a mystery that cropped up in Mr G a few months ago. Peter Hawkins NER'd on 17 centres, when all he had to do was to move and he would have won. He threatened to go round and search John's dustbin, as he was 100% certain he had sent the moves in. What actually happened Peter was that you sent them to Richard Hucknall, along with your moves for a FOE game. It was of course some considerable time later before he was able to identify where they should have gone!

The hobby awaits the result of the Zine poll with interest. If there is any justice then Greatest Hits (Pete Birks, address on page 15) is sure to win. Megalo should also be in the top three.

The Jigsaw soccer league (Roy Taylor, 65a St. Nicholas Pl. Drive, Nuneaton) has a few vacancies if you fancy playing in what most consider to be the best soccer league going. Write to Roy for more details. The most complicated soccer league is Fred Hemmings league, being run in Chimera. When it started I took over one of the teams, but due to the nature of the game I don't have the time available to run my team to it's best. Therefore if someone wishes to take part, and care to contact me, they can have my team. The first seasons game fee has been paid, and in addition I shall pay the sub for a few issues of Chim if you don't already get it. It's a very good team, and with proper management could well stand a chance of winning something. I shall let it go to the first person who contacts me with a definite request.

Piggy (Steve Agar, 3 North Rd., Chester Le Street, Co. Durham) has gone litho, and it looks good too. Steve does the printing himself (coolly little sod, eh); one wonders why he would charge the same as a pro. printer for Diplomacy Box Flyers, I'm sure that in his next issue Steve will explain all. The litho Pig is a great improvement, and I look forward to seeing what he can do once he gets used to it. Two things that annoy me; lots of fancy patterns across pages, when lines would look better, and yet another crossword. Granted that it uses words taken from the hobby, rather than from Chambers, but it seems that litho editors feel some sort of obligation to include crosswords. I don't like them. The latest ... also had one of those quizzes where the person who sets it tries to display a superior knowledge of some obscure facts.

The Central Gamestart System is now in operation, and working well. It was set up as support for the PDA (postal Diplomacy Association) newcomers, and only editors involved in the scheme will get gamestarts. However anyone can put their name down for a game, and it's a good way to get a quick game. There is no charge for players, which is a great advantage over the old NGC scheme, and all you have to do is write to Richard Hucknall, 124 Southcliffe Rd., Carlton, Nottingham. Once the G & P advert starts to bring people in there could be a lot of gamestarts for this source - support it.

One of the people who replied to the PE ad was Chris Donald, 16 Jesmond Cres., Newcastle. The guy is an absolute lunatic, and I suggest you write to him. It seems that his hobby is entering into correspondence with people about totally bogus subjects. That's about all I can say on the matter, drop him a line and see what sort of reply you get - well, it is supposed to be a postal hobby, isn't it. Another one of the people who replied claims to be the first person to actually be made mentally ill from playing 5tf Diplomacy at work. It seems strange, but he claims that the effects of the game, and being attacked by certain people had strange effects on his mental well being for a time. He did say that I could mention this, but obviously I have no intention of telling you his name.

June 16th approaches. For those of you that know no better, that magic date is the start of the coarse fishing season, and along with millions of others I shall be out that weekend trying my best to catch something. Coarse fishing is one of those things that most people are unable to understand, as everything you catch goes back, and it can be a great pleasure even if you don't actually catch anything. However it's a great thing, and the joy of seeing sunrise over a small lake in the middle of the country is really wonderful. If you get the chance - try it.

The end of the page gets close, and I can't say I'm sorry. This has been the hardest issue to put out, and I can't say that I've enjoyed it all. I suppose that all editors have some issues that go worse than others, and this is one of my bad ones. Hopefully next month will see me back on top of the world, a few weekends fishing can make the world of difference to your mental state.

BYE.

COMPANY CHAIRMAN

Eight prospective young executives join in the third ever game of postal Company Chairman. You are all reminded that the deadline for this is one week before the main zinc deadline - please don't forget as it will play hell with my work schedules if you fail to get them to me on time. Can I please have company names for those people that haven't given them to me, and can I also have £1 game fee from anyone who hasn't paid it. The competitors are:-

Fred Hemmings, 4 Holmleigh, Swindon.

Rotanrust Universal Machine Parts. "Gauranteed to make an'arse'of themselves"

Bary Ibbeson, 8 Kynance Cres., Brinsworth, Rotherham, Yorks.

The Benjamin Bunny Lettuce & Carrot Co. Ltd.

Peter Hawkins, 21 Shakespeare Rd., Bexley Heath, Kent

No company name supplied yet.

Steve Rennie, Room 1, Flat 15, North Hill Court, North Hill Rd., Leeds 6

Ferkin Memorial Society.

Paul Wilson, 6 Rose Hill, Oxford

Imperial Rigellian Enterprises

Paul Prebble, 3 Victoria Rd., Leighton Buzzard, Beds

No company name supplied yet

Mike Wassall, 27 Shelley Rd., Stratford on Avon, Marks

Spare Parts Auto Manufacturing

Rob Thomasson, 3 Armstrong Close, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex.

No company name supplied yet.

For most of you this will be your first game of company chairman, and you may be worried by the fact that Barry has both played a game and run one (indeed the buggger invented it too). I can assure you ~~yes/no/both~~ that each game is very different, due to the prices and numbers of units. Games differ so much that previous experience can be a distinct dis-advantage, as was my case in the FOE game, where I was thinking in terms of the Jigsaw game strategy, and consequently sold and brought units for crazy prices.

Enough of that, and on with the game. Market research figures are now available for the first six months. Please note that the same " does not apply to all figures quoted for a month i.e. In month 4 the MG units price is obviously a long way off the actual price when month 4 arrives (if you can't see why drop out now). However it is quite possible for the MG unit price to be very accurate, or it may be even more out than the MG.

MARKET RESEARCH INFORMATION

| | Month 1 | Month 2 | Month 3 | Month 4 | Month 5 | Month 6 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <u>Raw Materials</u> | | | | | | |
| Units available | 16 | 22 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 8 |
| Min Price | 5,020 | 5,220 | 4,190 | 7,630 | 4,340 | 6,250 |
| <u>Manufactured</u> | | | | | | |
| Units accepted | 9 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 9 |
| Max Price | 46,030 | 64,350 | 58,950 | 70,370 | 38,410 | 61,950 |

Obviously I can make no comment on the figures, as I'm the only one that knows what the future will bring. However I do promise you an interesting game. The first deadline is Thursday JUNE 21 st. Orders should include company names if I don't have them, if they don't I shall make up a name myself and you will be stuck with it. I will also be delighted to print any good press that you care to submit, and even some bad press if there's nothing else to take up the space. Any questions about the rules will of course be dealt with by me if you care to ask. Good Luck to you all.

CHESS

7

A number of you will be familiar with the play of modern masters such as Fisher and Spassky. However, for this month's game we go back long before they were born, 1851 in fact, for a game that has been described by many as "The Immortal Game". To quote Steinitz, himself a brilliant player, "this game is a continuity of brilliances, everyone of which bears the stamp of intuitive genius that could have been little assisted by calculation, as the combination point arises only at the very end of the game". Strong praise indeed.

LONDON 1851. ANDERSSSEN v KIESERITZKY

Kings Gambit

| | | | |
|---|-------|---------|--|
| 1 | P-K4 | P-K4 | |
| 2 | P-KB4 | PxP | |
| 3 | B-B4 | Q-R5 ch | |
| 4 | K-B1 | P-QN4 | |
| 5 | BxP | N-KB3 | White looks strong, with a piece in the open & |
| 6 | N-KB3 | Q-R3 | a good pawn centre. Black uses his strongest |
| 7 | P-Q3 | N-R4 | piece to defend a pawn. |
| 8 | N-R4 | | |

a duplicate of Blacks move, but so much more positive

| | | | |
|----|--------|-------|--|
| 8 | ... | Q-N4 | |
| 9 | N-B5 | P-QB3 | |
| 10 | P-KN4 | N-B3 | |
| 11 | R-N1 ↓ | PxB | The first sacrifice, but there's more to come. |
| 12 | P-KR4 | Q-N3 | |
| 13 | P-R5 | Q-N4 | |
| 14 | Q-B3 | | |

White can play 15 BxP, winning the Queen, and 15 P-K5, with an attack on Rook and Knight. The Knight is forced into a humiliating retreat.

| | | | |
|----|--------|------|--|
| 14 | ... | N-N1 | |
| 15 | BxP | Q-B3 | |
| 16 | N-B3 | B-B4 | |
| 17 | N-Q5 ↓ | QxP | |

White, already a Bishop down, now makes 3 sacrifices which make this game famous. At this stage can you see the final mating position ??

| | | | |
|----|-----------|--------|--|
| 18 | B-Q6 ↓ | BxR | |
| 19 | P-K5 ↓ | QxR ch | |
| 20 | K-K2 | N-QR3 | |
| 21 | NxP ch | K-Q1 | |
| 22 | Q-B6 ch ↓ | | |

Not content with two rooks and a Bishop White now gives up his Queen

| | | | |
|----|------------|-----|--|
| 22 | ... | NxQ | |
| 23 | B-K7 mate. | | |

The final position is amazing. White has lost 2 Rooks, his Queen, and 1 Bishop. His 3 remaining pieces have combined to give this beautiful mate. Black meanwhile has all his pieces on the board, which must prove something. There are a number of lessons to be learnt from this game, but the major one is that Blacks problems were caused by the early advance of the Queen, which was then forced to make 4 Or 5 moves defending a pawn and evading capture whilst White was able to get on with his development.

Thanks to all of you who wrote and said that you enjoyed the chess column, it's very satisfying when I get response like that. To answer someones question, the reason I don't feature any of my games here is that I don't play any more, any never kept records of the few games I did play.

Once I can get the Lettraset chess sheets I have some fantastic problems that I very much doubt you will be able to solve, but I've a number of great games to get through before then.



Welcome to For'Skins! 3 (not Foreskin you prat, Malcolm. "FOR'SKINS!" A rousing cry of support for the Nottingham Redskins, currently propping up the Football Strategy Telephone Summer League. What a Birk! Can't you read Maltic ?)

Before we start anything, here's a little competition. If BIRKS = 3; SHARP = 3; FARMER = 3; TRINGHAM = 2; JERVIS = 1; MITCHELL = 0; FOSTER = 2; LOVEYS = 1; GILBERT = 3; what does BROWN = ?? . A prize of an Atlanta Falcons car sticker goes to the winner.

I've decided to change the format a little this month and present you with a factual column about sports boardgaming. There has been a great upsurge of interest in statistical sports games (at 10 Portree), and enquiries have led to the conclusion that if you like a sport then the Americans do a game based on it.

organ, here is a list of some of the better U.S. games manufacturers and a note of the sports currently on offer.

Alpha Game Co., 1001 Millersville Rd., Lancaster, Pa 17604

Baseball; Football; Basketball; Horse Racing; Golf.

Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md 21214

Baseball; Football; Basketball; Horse Racing; Golf; Sailing; Grand Prix racing; Athletics; Boxing.

Big League Game Co., 321 East Superior St., Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Baseball; Football; Basketball; Golf; Boxing; Bowling; Ice Hockey.

Gamecraft, Box 1531, Vernon, Texas 76384

Baseball; Football; Basketball; Horse Racing; Boxing; Bowling; Ice Hockey; Tennis.

Strat - O - Matic Game Co., 46 Railroad plaza, Glen Head, New York 11545

Baseball; Football; Basketball.

Truco Boxing, RD-2 Box 628, Leechburg, Pa 15656

Boxing.

Universal Game Co., 45141 Westlake, Ohio 44145

Soccer.

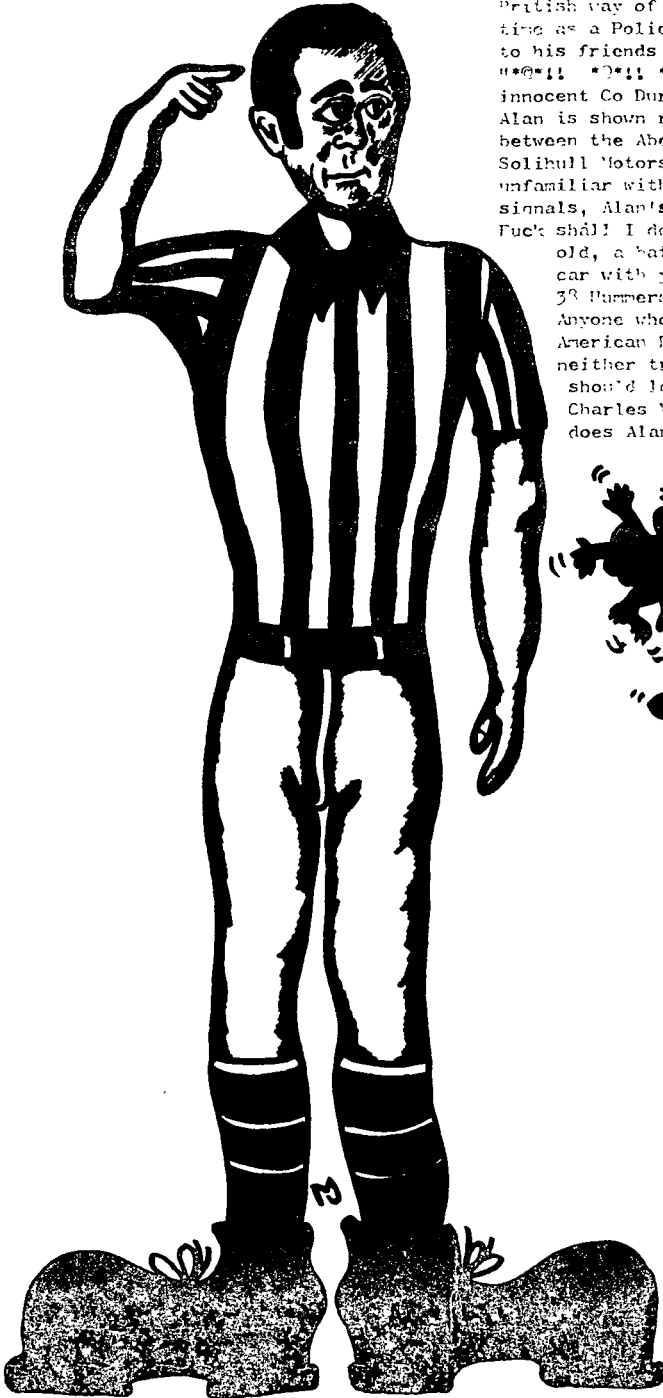
Just to give you an idea of what the games offer, "World Cup Soccer" from the Universal Game Co., has over 375 players in the advanced version and comes with 24 International teams. Each player is individually rted according to his abilities and the game contains six formation charts, pass and steal charts, penalty chart, situation charts and a playing field with suitable markers. Interested ? Drop them a line. A word of warning though - look at the drawing of Alan Watson. This is what sports gaming can do to you ! Think carefully before you take the chance.

Finally a word of advice from SHOAT COOPER for Brian Williams. "If you run the football up somebodys ass then it's them that has to get their hands dirty tryin to pull it out ". Bye.

((Thanks to Avalon Hills UK agent for his column this week. I think this was put together just to prove that Mike doesn't have to be silly, and even if it is boring it's a lot better than his ~~xxx~~ last effort in Megalomania. Actually I can back up what Mike says about American sports games - they are bloody good. I've got A.H. Baseball, and one day I'll get round to playing it. Actually I'm waiting for a boxing game to appear in the country, once it does I hope to be able to adapt it for some sort of postal play. Actually I do have a scheme worked out to play A.H. Football strategy by post, but it would be incredibly boring. The main problem is that all the games would have to run at the same time due to the length of a postal game. Therefore there would be no provision for player interaction and transfers etc. Still I suppose that it would be considerably cheaper than playing the game by telephone, which must cost a fortune.

I am holding a rather nice little American Football Car sticker for the first correct awnser to Mike's competition - I know the awnser but I still don't understand it though !))

ALAN WATSON, A man barely alive, rebuilt by Leg o, upholder of truth, Justice and the British way of life. Employed, part time as a Police Inspector, known to his friends as "Mr. Plod", and as "a@*!! *?!! *?!!!!" moron" by the innocent Co Durham motoring public. Alan is shown refereeing the "AAFL" game between the Aberdeen Raiders and the Solihull Motors. For those of you unfamiliar with the American Football signals, Alan's hands signify "What the Fuck shall I do now?". He is 50 years old, a bachelor, and lives in a car with yellow stripes outside 33 Hummersknot Avenue, Darlington. Anyone who now believes that the American Football officials wear neither trousers or underpants should look at the drawing again. Charles Vasey assures me that it does Alan an injustice.



Game A 1979 ??

ALYCIDONStab Diplomacy. GM Malcolm
Brown

Spring 1902.

29 Units on the board - Only 6 revealed !

AUSTRIA : Steven Agar ; A Fri sups
 ENGLAND : Mike Jervis ; ??
 FRANCE : Dave Parry ; A Pie st.
 GERMANY : Keith Loveys ; A Mun - Sil
 ITALY : Chris Farmer ; A Ven - Tri A Tus - Pie
 RUSSIA : Ian McIntyre ; A War - Sil
 TURKEY : CHRIS TRINGHAM ; ?? ((SORRY ABOUT THIS!!))
 PRESS

England - France Trust in me.The World. Arthur Gilbert lives.Arthur Gilbert is in Jessie Mathews.Gaffer This is the sort of press I could sit and type all day !!!**BORDERER**

Game B 1979 BS

Standard Diplomacy. GM Malcolm
Brown

Spring 1902

Russia Looks sick !!! (England looks a little ill)

AUSTRIA : Keith Loveys ; A Gal & A Ser sup A Bud - Rum F Alb - Gre
 ENGLAND : Richard Prosser ; F NTH - Bel F NWG - NTH A Nor sup German F Den - Swe
 FRANCE : Paul Prebble ; A Mar st A Par - Pic A Spa - Por A Bel st. F Lon sup F Bre -
 GERMANY : Hugo Tyler ; F Den - Swe F Kie - BAL A Ber sup A Mun - Sil A Hol st
 ITALY : Roger Collins ; A Apu st F Nap - ION A Rom - Tus F Gre - AGE
 RUSSIA : Mike Jervis ; F GOB - BAL A Sil - Mun* A StP & F Sev st.
 TURKEY : Ken Williams ; F Con - AGE A Ank - Con A Bul sup Rus F Sev - Rum A Arm st

Retreats; Russian A Sil disbands NRO

Gaffer ; A Small typing error last time, the English Army NOR came from Edi, and not Yor.
 no one was notified as only one person told me about it, and it made no
 difference to the adjudication.

PRESSRussia - Sliny Boring, isn't it ?Germany - France So you grow too big for your boots, hein. We haf ways of making you shrinkGermany - Russia Lost your pen ?Germany - England Do you really hate Mike Jervis that much ?Austria - France OK, but I prefer my spaghetti al denteHugo - Mike Young Paul's hands or Malc's testicles ?Russia - Austria Now look here, Loveys, leave me alone - who do you think you are anyway,
Malcolm ??Cassandra Can anyone enlighten me as to, whose imagination Mike Jervis is a figment of.Berlin - London. Whoops, sorry ! Where did you say you'd removed your seat of government to.Cassandra - Jervis Eloquent little bleeder aren't you ?

Greece - Italy Are you trying to set a precedent for 1940 - 41 ? For those of you weak
 on your history you should know that Italy invaded Greece in Autumn 1940, after pre-
 fabricating a series of ~~xxxxxx~~ incidents. By Spring 1941 Mussolini's pride and joy found
 itself pushed 50 miles over the Albanian border, and with egg all over its face.

GAFFER Someone sent me a conditional order. There is no way that I could accept it, thats
 why you write to each other between moves. Whats more, if the condition had been
 fulfilled, then under ambiguous orders rule the unit would have stood un ordered. OK.

DIBATAG

is held over by popular request. 6 sets of orders on hand, which may
 be changed if you so wish.

CENTAUR

Spring 1901

France under pressure -- could he get the early boot ??

AUSTRIA : Bruce Foster ; A Bud - Ser ; A Vie - Gal ; F Tri st.
 BARBARY : Ken Williams ; A Alg - Sah ; F Mor - SAO ; F Tun - WMS
 ENGLAND : Graham Box ; F Lon - ENC ; A Lpi - Wal ; F Edi - NTH
 FRANCE : Hugo Tyler ; A Mar - Pie ; A Par - Gas ; F Bre - MAO
 GERMANY : Colin Grubb ; A Mun - Ruh ; F Kie - Hol ; A Ber - Kie
 ITALY : Ron Kietz ; A Ven - Pie ; A Rom - Tus ; F Nap - TYS
 PERSIA : John Jackson ; A Ira - Arm ; A Ara - Jor ; F Jor - SMS
 RUSSIA : Pete Sealy ; F Sev - BLA ; A Mos - Ukr ; A War - Sil ; F StPsc - GOB
 TURKEY : Paul Prebble ; A Con - Bul ; F Ank - BLA ; F Smy - AGE

PRESS

Little Abdul & the Golden Road to Samarkand: Of one thing little Abdul was certain - he had to find and tread the Golden Road to Samarkand.

Everyone was very willing to give him helpful directions and advice - some said Samarkand lay just North of the Black Sea, others felt sure it was on the banks of the Bosphorus, yet others pointed in the general direction of the eternal city and the Pillars of Hercules.

But since everyone was agreed that the best place to start looking was their neighbours back garden, little Abdul knew he must be doing the right thing as he struck his camel affectionely across the back of the neck and set off for the back gardens of his own two neighbours. Such a congenial setting would be sure to evoke even more persuasive ~~bluffs~~ directions.

Austria - Russia I don't trust you enough .. yet .. but your actions will show me how much I can.

Bruce - JJ Not ready for the plan yet - 1910 maybe

Italy - Rest Greetings to all and sundry

France - Rest Why don't you write you bastards ? You must all be going to attack me ((looks like it)). Help! ((you'll need it I think !))

Gaffer So the first postal Cline game gets underway, with only two standoffs. If anyone wants to play Cline, Graham Box is still looking for 5 or 6 people for a game in his very good zine Finisterre.

GAMESTART

Seven Silly Sods decide life is not worth living; but instead of jumping from bridges or under trains they decide to join in the first ever game of

ELECTRA 1979??ULTRA STAB

GM. Malcolm Brown.

AUSTRIA : Steve Plater, c/o F.C.O. King Charles st. London SW1 (mark envelope TOKYO in top right hand corner. 9p stamp

ENGLAND : Richard Hucknall, 12 1/2 Southcliffe Rd., Carlton, Nottingham.

FRANCE : Tony Mitchell, 343 Newton Rd., Rushden, Northants.

GERMANY : Ian McIntyre, Slains Schoolhouse, Ellon, Aberdeenshire

ITALY : Richard Prosser, 8 Sketchley Rd., Burbage, Nr. Hinkley, Leics.

RUSSIA : Mike Jervis, 19 Portree Drive, Rise Park, Nottingham

TURKEY : Keith Loveys, 25b South Norwood Hill, London SE25

GAFFER Right gentlemen, good luck to you all, and may the most evil one win. Some clarification of the rules. The stab rules published in issue 1 will be used. The order of business is; Units move, Spies move, Assassins move, Assassins kill spies in the same province, Spies report on anything in the same province. Dead spies do not make a final report, assassins do not tell whose spy they kill, but you will be told that they have killed someone. Your first set of orders must contain the following ; - Initial placement of units, spies and assassin; S01 moves for all three. Any questions will be answered with pleasure. Once again, Good Luck - you'll need it !!!

BIG ERN

Game 1 1978GZ GM: Paul Prebble Spring 1904

An awful lot of underlining, especially for Turkey.

AUSTRIA : A Bud-Vie, A Ser sups(RUSSIAN A Tri), F Gre-AEG
(Don Brown) :

ENGLAND : A StP-Mos, F MAD stand, F NWG sups(F Lpl-NAO),
(Malcolm Brown) : F IRS-ENC, F Lpl-NAO

FRANCE : F NAO-NWG#, A Pic-Par, A Bre-Gas
(Steve Agar) :

GERMANY : F GOB-BAL, F Fin-GOB, A Bur sups(A Bel-Pic),
(Chris Tringham) : A Spa-Gas, A Bel-Pic, A Ruh-Kie, A Mun-Sil,
: F Ber sups(F GOB-BAL)

ITALY : F Tun-IOS, A Tyr-Vie, A Mar stands, F WMS-TYS,
(Chris Farmer) : A Ven-Tri

RUSSIA : F BAL-Swe, A Lun-Mos, A Sev-Arm, A Bul-Con,
(Rob Chapman) : F BLA sups(A Sev-Arm), A Tri sups(AUSTRIAN A Rud-Vie),
: A War-Sil

TURKEY : A Con-Bul, A Arm-Sev#, F Ank-BLA
(Ian McIntyre) :

RETREATS: FRANCE F NAO-Cly
TURKEY A Arm-Smy

DISBANDS: None

PRESS:

Paris-Berlin: As I told you I would defend myself, I gambled that you wouldn't bother to attack me. I was wrong.

GM: OK Tringham, just 'cos you eat dictionaries for breakfast, can you manage to find any word used incorrectly in this lot?

LA BOURSE (Game 3)

GM: Paul Prebble Spring 1904

DEALINGS:

| Company | Currency | CROWNS | POUNDS | FRANCS | MARKS | LIRA | ROUBLES | PIASTRES |
|--------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| Malcolm Brown | : | -500 | +2070 | -500 | 0 | -500 | 0 | -500 |
| Cats wrose | : | -500 | -500 | -500 | 0 | 0 | +2300 | -500 |
| Marion Chasms Inc. | : | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chris Farmer | : | -500 | -500 | -500 | 0 | 0 | +2300 | -500 |
| Dai Cumtwrch | : | -500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -500 | +1222 | 0 |
| Errol Halfyard | : | 0 | 0 | 0 | -500 | 0 | +1106 | -500 |
| Stud Holdings | : | 0 | 0 | 0 | -500 | -500 | +1150 | 0 |
| DEALINGS | : | -2000 | +1070 | -1500 | -1000 | -1500 | +8068 | -2000 |
| OLD VALUE | : | 1.36 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.22 | 1.38 | 1.13 | 1.28 |
| NEW VALUE | : | 1.16 | 1.38 | 1.13 | 1.12 | 1.23 | 1.93 | 1.08 |

BILL CURRY

Game 2 1978JC GM: P. L. Prebble Autumn '04

The dropouts finally depart, and France strengthens.

AUSTRIA : A Tri sups(A Vie), F ADS sups(A Tri), F Apu-Nap,
(Steve Agar) : A War sups(TURKISH A Mos-Lvn), A Gal sups(A Vie),
: A Vie stands.

ENGLAND (Anarchy) : A Lpl##. stands unordereded.

FRANCE : F TYS convoys(A NAF-Rom), F WMs convoys(A NAF-Rom),
(Chris Farmer) : F Tun-IDS, A Tus sups(A NAF-Rom), A NAF-Rom,
: F Wal sups(GERMAN F Cly-Lpl), A Ven sups(GERMAN A Tyr-Tri).

GERMANY : F Cly-Lpl, A Fin-StP, F StPsc-Lvn, A Kie-Mun, A Tyr-Tri,
(Roy Egginton) : A Boh sups(A Sil-Gal), F NTH stands, A Mun-Sil,
: A Ber-Pru, A Sil-Gal.

ITALY (Anarchy) : A Rom## stands unordereded.

TURKEY : A Mos-Lvn, F Con-Bulsc, F AEG sups(F IOS), F Gre-Alb,
(Tony Mitchell) : A Ukr sups(AUSTRIAN A Gal), A Rum-Sev,
: F IOS sups(AUSTRIAN F Apu-Nap)

RETREATS: None.

DISBANDS: ENGLAND - A Lpl
ITALY - A Rom

WINTER ADJUSTMENTS:

| | | |
|---------|---|------------------------|
| AUSTRIA | : Tri, Bud, Ser, War, Mos, +Vie, +Nap, -Ven = 7 | +A Bud |
| ENGLAND | : -Lpl = 0 | OUT |
| FRANCE | : Par, Mar, Bre, Bel, Spa, Por, Lon, +Rom, +Ven, +Tun = 10 | +F Bre, +A Par, +A Mar |
| GERMANY | : Kie, Mun, Ber, Den, Hol, Swa, StP, Edi, Nor, +Lpl, -Vie = 10 | No change |
| ITALY | : -Rom, -Nap = 0 | OUT |
| TURKEY | : Ank, Smy, Con, Gre, Sev, Bul, Rum = 7 | No change |
| | <u>TOTAL = 34</u> | |

PRESS: None.

ENDGAME PROPOSAL: For 1, Against 1, Abstentions 2.
The game continues.

HOLDINGS:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---|---------|---|----------|---|---------|---|---------|---|----------|---|----------|---|---------|---|
| C* | \$18476.73 = | : | 500 | : | 2398 | : | 3589 | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 4800 | : | 1174 | : |
| MB | \$17811.63 = | : | 2320 | : | 2070 | : | 4393 | : | 0 | : | 500 | : | 2162 | : | 2326 | : |
| DC | \$14005.65 = | : | 2777 | : | 3484 | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 500 | : | 2417 | : | 645 | : |
| CF | \$13909.94 = | : | 2397 | : | 3093 | : | 252 | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 2300 | : | 1979 | : |
| MC | \$11312.89 = | : | 617 | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 1575 | : | 6479 | : | 0 | : | 800 | : |
| EH | \$10215.86 = | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 3324 | : | 0 | : | 2606 | : | 3355 | : |
| SH | \$ 8410.59 = | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 0 | : | 3240 | : | 2000 | : | 1203 | : | 0 | : |
| \$'s | 94143.29 = | : | 9988,76 | : | 15242,10 | : | 9304,42 | : | 9115,68 | : | 11659,17 | : | 29891,84 | : | 8941,32 | : |

GM: Owing to my rotten typing, two items on the above list need clarifying.

i) DC bought 1212 Piastres.

ii) EH holds 1355 Piastres not 3355!

This seasons trading gave us a new market leader, congrats to Cats w/rse, also, Marion Chasms Inc. who did no trading, dropped from third place last season to fifth this time. There must be a moral there somewhere!!

JESSIE MATTHEWS

Game 3 1978JJ Spring 1904
GM: Paul Prebble

England consolidates whilst Italy has a brain haemorrhage!

AUSTRIA : A Tyr-Mun, A Gal-Rum, A Ser## sups(A Gal+Rum),
(John Foulger) : A Tri-Ven, A Bud sups(A Gal-Rum).

ENGLAND : F Lon-ENC, F Edi-NTH, F Nor-SKA, F Bel sups(A Hol),
(Arthur Gilbert) : F Den sups(RUSSIAN F GOB-BAL), A Hol stands,
: F MAQ stands.

FRANCE (Anarchy) : F Bre, F Pic, A Gas all stand unordered.

GERMANY : A Ruh sups(A Kie), F BAL# sups(A Kie),
(Bob Brown) : A Kie sups(AUSTRIAN A Tyr-Mun).

ITALY : A Nap-Apu, A Alb-Tri, F Spasc-Mar, A Rom stands u/o,
(Mike Jervis) : A Rum-Ius ((No such unit)).

RUSSIA : A War sups(A Rum-Gal), A Mos-Ukr, F GOB-BAL,
(Bruce Foster) : F Sev-Rum, A Rum-Gal, A Mun stands#, F Swe-Fin.

TURKEY : F BLA-Bulec, F AEG-IDS, A Gre sups(A Bul-Ser),
(Keith Loveys) : A Bul-Ser, F IDS-Tun.

RETREATS: GERMAN F BAL-Swe
RUSSIAN A Mun-Ber

DISBANDS: AUSTRIAN A Ser ((Nro))

PRESS: Italy to the world: Excuse my atrocious play, I have a new small noise and sh-t machine.

GM: Two points, Firstly, before everyone claims that I should have allowed Italian A Rum-Tus realising instantly that young Mike ment A Rom-Tus, may I point out that on his orders he wrote A (Rumania)-Tuscany! I think that should sort that out. Secondly, when I go to the expense of buying Snorwood Gazette every month, I don't expect the pubber to write his orders all over it, alright Keith?

MASTERMIND

| | Code 1 | Code 2 | Code 3 | Code 4 | Code 5 | Code 6 | Total Guesses |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|
| Fred Herrings | : XOO | : O | : X | : 000 | : XOO | : XXX | : 18 |
| Roy Eggington | : XXX | : 00 | : XX | : 00 | : 00 | : X | : 18 |
| COLYHVB | | | | | | | |
| Colin Grubb | : O | : 000 | : XX | : 00 | : XX | : X00 | : 18 |
| Graham Box | : X0 | : XXX | : XX | : XX | : XX | : X0 | : 12 |
| Keith Loveys | : XX | : XX | : 00 | : O | : O O | : XX | : 12 |
| " " | : XX00 | : XX | : O | : 00 | : XX00 | : XXXX | : 18 |

No codes submitted by Richard Prosser this month. I would be grateful if him and Graham would try to catch up with the rest. Keith looks very strong at this stage, though Graham must be a joint favourite. Of course this is all crap - a few lucky guesses change the whole game.

LETTERS

15

Pete Berks, 39 Handforth Road, London SW9 6LL

Thanks for TFPO3. I realise that you are not responsible for the manic ramblings of Jervis, but since you do print it I suppose I should reply in your zine.

The implication of the statement "the work Tringham puts into a litho Megalo and that which Berks does on GH" when compared should have some reflection on zine poll placing is, I think, logically incorrect. Surely it is not the effort that counts but the result? Taking the argument from that angle, Meg almost certainly is better than GH. Whether most people agree with that will only transpire when we see the results.

The aspect on which I really wish to differ with Mike, however, is the claim that producing a mimeo zine is easier than producing litho zines. Viz, 'All Berks has to do is a bit of typing and he can stop when he likes.' As anyone who has produced both Litho and Mimeo will testify, mimeo involves far more work for far less reward. The cartoons on the front of GH need to be drawn on paper, traced onto a stencil, and then laboriously cut with a needle, a process taking about three hours. Litho, it would take about 25 mins. Similarly, the litho zine editor does not have to duplicate 1500 sheets of paper, and then backbreakingly collate them. To use a few quotes as illustration 'the main justification of this change is cost, 150 litho copies, collated stapled etc, costs slightly less than 100 copies on the photocopier that we had to put together ourselves.' (TFPO3 p5) 'I have discovered that it is far easier to put out a zine if you can type up the originals on paper, instead of messy stencils.' (Steve Agar, Pigmy 25, p3) 'I could never go back to producing Dolchstoss on a duplicator, it's too much work.' (R.Sharp, in pub).

I await comments from a man who has the diligence to produce more than six copies of a non-mimeo zine before I take them seriously; what worries me is that some people might take them seriously, hence the reply !

Your revelation that Brown is producing a zine smacked of 'Scoopits'. All it bothered me was that I hadn't seen it !

I think TFPO was excellent in litho, keep it up (and if you can't, keep it hard).

((Yes, I completely agree with you Pete. There is no way that I would ever consider producing a mimeo zine, the effort of typing on stencils, duplicating and folding etc would be far too much effort for me, and consequently I have great respect for people that manage for a long time. Personally I would rather spend the extra effort on trying to produce a better zine; never found much to be proud about hard work for the sake of it.

Revelations about Don Brown were not actually 'scoopits', but simply the printing of popular rumour. I too am bothered that I haven't seen it, and as the editor of Tantulus has contacted me and told me that he doesn't wish to trade I doubt very much if I will, because when he decides in his infinite wisdom that he wishes to stop paying for the Fool I shall probably turn down his request for a trade - universal trading or nothing is the policy in this zine.))

Chris Farmer, 3 Westborough Lane, Long Bennington, Newark, Notts

I am browned off with your zine. I'm a peace loving sort of bloke but now feel compelled to list my complaints. Viz

- 1) Envelopes. a) I like to guess who is writing to me, so no more sticky labels with name, address, contents please. b) I like to receive my zines two or three weeks late so try to exclude me from the mailing list occasionally, or post with a 7p stamp (morning Shaun). c) I like to be unsure whether we agree zine credit, so try to get it wrong occasionally.
- 2) Zine Cover. a) I like to search for the zines title. Instant recognition is the wrong way to package any product; you've only to look at the Sun's dismal circulation to realise the dangers. b) Why tell me the issue number and the month. I'd much rather scrawl them on myself.
- 3) Pages. a) Typical cock - up. Clean numbers at the top left (evens) and top right (odds) will never catch on. b) Why not have a few blanks now and then ?
- 4) Staples. a) Daft idea, two central staples.
- 5) Contents. a) Why write about Football ? After all it's only the greatest sport in the world. b) A games zine with descriptions of games. Loony !

((cont over

c) No contrived criticism of other zines. These publishers spend all their time knocking out reams of material and then you can't find anything horrible to say about them. d) Mike Jervis. Well, he is a bit of a scrote innit?

6) Games. a) I like games all over the place. To lay them out clearly, well headed and in alpha/numeric order is a travesty. b) Gming. I prefer a few adjudication errors, and if there is one I don't expect to be informed of it immediately at the Gm's expense. Far better to ignore it and pretend that the game of Regular Diplomacy is occasionally going to convert to Stab (morning Shaun, and where the hell is that other army of yours Malcolm ((don't know squire))).

All in all, mate, if you don't change your ways pretty quickly you'll be in grave danger of winning the next years zine poll, and that would never do.

((This is probably the only letter of complaint that I shall ever really enjoy printing. Most of the points raised here justify what I said after Pete Birk's letter, I can find no justification in flogging my guts out for a weekend duplicating and collating a zine, when instead I can spend my time working on those little extras that I hope will set the FOOL apart from a number of other zines. Even for the amount of effort that I put into it the zine does not take up a large part of my life, as Steve Agar suggested it would in a recent editorial. If it ever got to the stage where I was spending all my spare time on zine production you would all find your credit cheques popping through your letter boxes very quickly - not that there's any chance of that sorry event for some time to come.))

GAMESTART

Once more unto the breach dear friends for :-

FROBISHER 1979 ??

Standard Diplomacy

Gm Malcolm Brown

AUSTRIA : Willy Haughan, 140 Dilston Rd., Newcastle upon Tyne.

ENGLAND : John Lee, Ashlea, 10 Chapel Close, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambs

FRANCE : Sue Prebble, ~~Exitt~~ 3 Victoria Rd., Leighton Buzzard, Beds

GERMANY : Richard Brockington, 66 Moorside South, Newcastle upon Tyne

ITALY : Stephen Reece, 17 Place Farm Way, Monks Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks

RUSSIA : John Gargin, c/o PE/C 2.1.1. , Room 1030, 207 Old St., London EC1

TURKEY : Nick Howell, 96 Lake Rise, Romford, Essex

A late gamestat, which is why it's stuck on the back page. A double deadline is available if you ask for it, but I really would rather that you didn't.

Game fees requested from anyone that owes me one, if I don't get them you might find your credit number drastically reduced next issue. Good Luck.

CONVENTIONS CONVENTIONS CONVENTIONS CONVENTIONS

First is my own con, organised at very short notice. I shall be holding an open house on Sat 9th June, from about 10.30 am until about midnight. Some food will be available, and the local pubs sell a selection of goodies. A variety of games will be played, and there will be something for everyone. Park Street is easy to find, It's on the A5 in North Dunstable, just opposite The Chiltern Pub. Buses stop each side of the road outside the pub, one route from Leighton Buzzard station, the other from Luton station.. If you should arrive at 2 Park and there's no answer we shall be in the Public bar of the Chiltern Pub across the road, where you will find a pool table amongst the various delights. Saturday evening will probably find us at the Wheatsheaf, which is about 400 yards back towards the centre of Dunstable. Not required, but I would appreciate a phone call in advance if you are coming.

Second Con is the last weekend in June, at the Northolt Community Centre, Northolt in Middlesex. £3 per night, bring your sleeping bag 'cause all accomodation is in the centre, on the floor. Contact Graham Box or Mike Allaway for more details, as I don't have time to be going, despite Agars threat of a character