

That would be enough

This has been issue 36 of *To Win Just Once*, published 18th July 2003. It incorporates *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses*, a postal game of *En Gardel*. Issues are published ten times a year, roughly every five weeks.

Deadlines

Orders for *Odessa Steps* and *Railway Rivals* to Mike Dommett at 119 Victoria Rd, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD, UK or mike_dommett@yahoo.co.uk by 1st Aug.

Orders for *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses* to Pevans, 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF, UK or LPBS@pevans.co.uk by Friday 8th August.

(Planned deadlines for the rest of 2003 are 5th/12th Sept, 12th/17th Oct, 14th/21st Nov.)

Subscriptions

To play in any of the postal games in *TWJO* you must be a subscriber. For some of the games (see below) a start-up fee is charged, which is the equivalent of an extra issue. To subscribe or play in a game, send a cheque or postal order in pounds sterling (payable to Paul Evans) to 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF, UK with your name, address and which games you'd like to play in. I also accept payment through PayPal (<http://www.paypal.com>) in pounds sterling, euros or US dollars (at the rate of 1.5 dollars/euros to £1), subject to a surcharge of £1 (or 1.50 dollars/euros) to cover PayPal's charges. My PayPal account is twjo@pevans.co.uk.

	UK	Other Europe	Rest of World
Single issue	£2.00	£2.50	£3.00
Subscription (11 issues)	£20.00	£25.00	£30.00
Start-up (inc. 4 issues)	£10.00	£12.50	£15.00
Start-up (inc. 10 issues)	£20.00	£25.00	£30.00

Games played

If you are interested in playing any game, please let Pevans know. Games will start once there are enough players. You need to subscribe to *TWJO* to play in any game.

Diplomacy Neil Packer will run this if we have seven interested players. So far Pete Holland, Mike Dommett, Barry Townsend, Michael Martinkat and Bill Michell have volunteered. [free start-up]

En Gardel Pevans has room for more players in *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses*. You will need the rules to *En Gardel* in order to play. [start-up fee payable]

Railway Rivals A new game has just started. Edward Walkington wants to play in the next. You will need the chosen map to play. [free start-up]

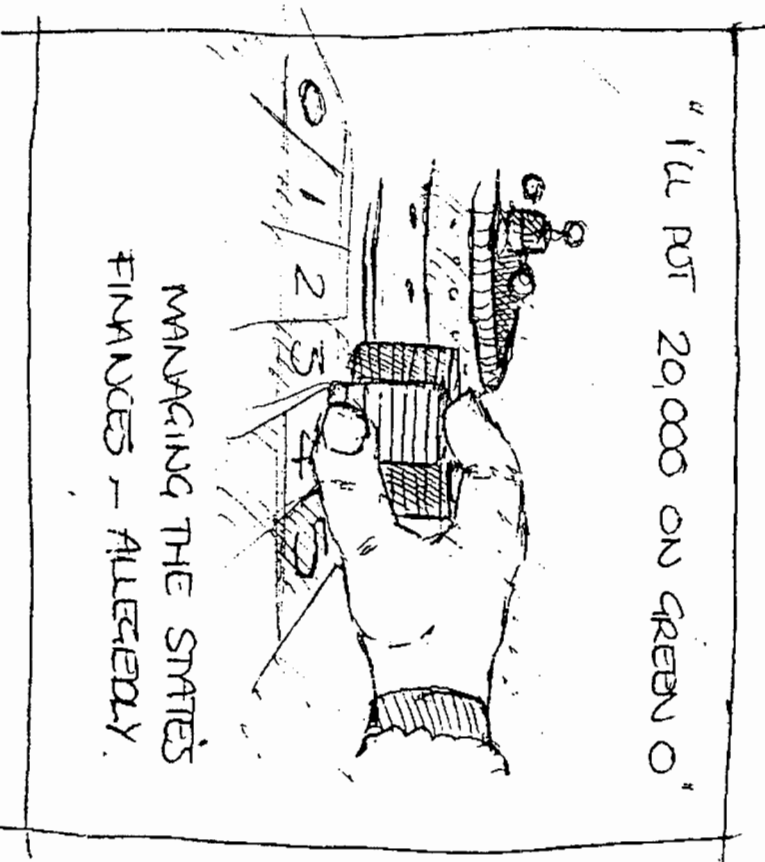
Star Trader A game is in progress, but can take another player or two. Full rules will be provided. [start-up fee payable]

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To Win Just Once

(incorporating *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses*)

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Chatter

My apologies for the problems with the website immediately after last issue was published. Apparently my ISP had a problem with the server containing my website and replaced it with a back-up. Unfortunately, I'd updated the site in the meantime, so the old version of the website appeared. The up to date pages were back a day or so later, so I hope no-one was inconvenienced.

Geraldine and I had a great break in Brittany, despite the indifferent weather. We spent the time chilling out with lots of French wine and food. Some of which we've brought back with us – but not nearly enough!

The idiosyncrasies of the Royal Mail baffle me. Can anyone explain why Monday's post is almost always exclusively for me? While the contents of Saturday's mailbag are almost always addressed to Geraldine? Anyone submitting LPBS orders by post: beware! If they don't reach me on Friday, I probably won't get them until Monday.

And then they threaten us with doing away with deliveries by 9 am. Well, our post seldom arrives before 9. 11-12 is more like it, and it can be as late as 2 (one of the perils of working from home is knowing when the post drops through the letter box). So it's not much of a threat. Neither is that of removing second deliveries. Second deliveries? Don't make me laugh!

Moving swiftly on, Thursday (7th August) afternoon at the Great British Beer Festival looks to be on for definite as I've had responses from a couple of people. If anyone else would like to join us, feel free to do so. Give me a call or e-mail to arrange a rendezvous. Or just turn up and call my mobile (07771 535690) to find where I've got to. Expect some notes in next issue.

Science Fiction

Time for another good old space opera. This is Alastair Reynolds's debut SF novel from 2000, *Revelation Space*. The various blurbs on and inside the cover make comparisons with Stephen Baxter and Peter F Hamilton – British writers who produce hard SF space opera. Reynolds certainly holds up his end in such august company.

The book is set in a far future with various different strains of humanity colonising the galaxy. There is no vision behind this; there is no empire. Instead you have different groups jockeying for advantage. And very strange some of these groups are: from the Ultras, who gradually cyborg themselves, to the enigmatic Conjoiners, who built the engines that power interstellar flight. The spaceships are known as light-huggers as they get close to the

speed of light, but do not reach it – let alone exceed it. Crew and passengers sit out the journey in suspended animation (“reefersleep”). Their journeys take years, most of which they don't have to live through, but time dilation means it's decades to a planet-bound observer, of course.

This brings up another interesting parallel apart from Messrs Baxter and Hamilton – Vernor Vinge's *A Deepness in the Sky*. Here, too, space travel is achieved by suspended animation on slower than light spacecraft. But Vinge and Reynolds have rather different views on what this achieves. In Vinge's book, his Geng Ho are a force that unites humanity across the galaxy. They are (more or less) honest traders, spreading knowledge and expanding horizons. Reynolds's starfarers are – as far as we can tell from the people we meet in the book – self-serving, paranoid, greedy and amoral. Another example of the transatlantic divide in SF writers?

It is often said that American SF authors (especially from the 'Golden Age') are optimistic and believe that humans are different, special and better in the universe. British science fiction, on the other hand, is pessimistic and believes that things can only get worse (that's entropy, man!). US writers tell uplifting tales of galaxy-spanning civilizations of human beings and/or aliens; Brits focus on grim stories of the remnants of humanity struggling to survive after some holocaust. They produce *Star Trek*, we come up with *Space: 1999*. Reynolds actually has elements of both. He has a galaxy-spanning human civilisation, but one that is past its best: humanity is split into different breeds; there are no new spaceships (the Conjoiners no longer make the engines – how very British!); and technology is gradually being destroyed by the “Melting Plague”. So we have a background of decay rather than growth or catastrophe in *Revelation Space*.

Which brings me back to the book. We are thrown in to the deep end of Reynolds's universe right from the start. He uses strange terms (“razorstorm” and “Stoner”, for example) without explanation – though you get the idea, if not the detail, from the context. The first character we meet is Dan Sylveste, archaeologist on an alien world. We quickly learn that Sylveste is rather more than just an archaeologist: he's also leader of the colony and facing a challenge to his authority. Then we meet his dead father, Calvin Sylveste. Calvin is an example of one of the book's features: he is a licensed 'beta-level' copy of the elder Sylveste as he was transcribed into a computer-based entity (the question of what happened to the alpha-level entity is one of the book's early puzzles). It also brings out the richness of the novel: Calvin Sylveste's own story is part of the backdrop, the history of the story we're being told.

Another feature – of the early stages of the book, anyway – is the time difference between different settings. So our next introduction is to the light-

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
DyB	Dan y Beauye	10	F	Rich	Lt.Colonel KM/Fntr Div Adjutant	5		Hunt	4	Chris Boote
LdE	Lucien d'Escaillehuittaillement	9	14	OK		3		BG	4	Nik Luker
SC	Sirius Chien	9	9	OK		3	Emma	BG	4	Paul Wilson
MdZ	Marc de Zorro	9	F	Comfy	B.Major RFG	2		BG	5	Colin Parfitt
EH	Euria Humble	9+	27	OK	Major RM/Gen's Aide (1st Army)	7	Sue	BG	5	Matthew Wale
CdE	Charlot d'Evoir	9+	27	Comfy	Major ALC/Hvy Brigade Maj.	2	Deb	BG	1	Simon Burling
OdC	Orson de Combat	8	21	OK	Captain RM/LtGen's Aide (1st Div)	4			5	Francesca Weal
GdLi	Gar de Lieu	8	19	OK	Lt.Colonel 4A	2		BG	4	Bill Hay
PdG	Paul d'Geist	8	F	Comfy	Private RFG	3		BG	3	Graeme Wilson
MM	Maurice Mineur	8	F	OK	Captain KM	6		BG	5	Mark Jones
JEKK	Jared E Kaph-Kophi	7	F	Comfy	B.Captain CG/Ensn.C's Esc	6		F&P	3	Timothy Hunt
JoR	Jean ou Rous	7	7	Poor	Lt.Colonel Gscn	2		F&P	2	Brian Niemi
RdO	Revaulvin d'Or	7+	26	OK	Lt.Colonel 13F	7	Di	F&P	4	Jerry Spencer
JS	Jacques Shitacks	7+	24	OK	Major RM	3	Vera	RP	4	David Olliver
X3	Xavier 3sup	7+	23	Poor	Captain RM/LtGen's Aide (CBy)	4	Anna	F&P	5	Mark Mortimer
JNG	Jacques N Gilles	6	F	OK	B.Bdr-General 4A	4			3	Nigel Monaghan
LR	Lothar Rio	5-	2	Comfy	Lt.Colonel 53F	2		F&P	3	David Kennard
JdF	Jean de Florette	5	8	Poor	Major 13F	4		F&P	4	Robert Carter
GL	Gaston Lescroc	5	F	Wlthy		3		F&P	3	Hajo 'Red' Schlosser
MDES	Mon Dieu Ewe Swine	5	F	Comfy	Subaltern QOC	5			5	Wayne Rutledge
JdV	Joseph de Veevre	5+	22	Comfy	Captain 13F	3	Ada	RP	5	Andrew Kendall
JP	Jean Petit	4	9	Poor		3		RP	4	Pete Card
RdM	Rob d'Masses	2	8	OK	Captain RM	3			4	Craig Pearson

An F under SPs means that the character was at the Front, RIP means that he died. + against SL means it went up this month, - means it went down. Cash: Poor = <500, OK = 500-1500, Comfy = 1500-5000, Wlthy = 5000-10000, Rich = 10000-25000, Flthy = 25000+

Last seen is the lady the character was last seen with in public.

EC is Endurance Class: 1 = <60, 2 = 60-90, 3 = 91-120, 4 = 121-159, 5 = 160-200, 6 = 201+

The Greasy Pole

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	FC	Player
AR	Count Abel Ringeur	26	63	OK	B.General/1st Army Commndr	11	Bette	Flr	4	Bill Michell
JiT	Count Justin Time	26	F	Comfy	B.Bdr-General CG	34		Flr	5	Dan Steel
MLR	Count Marvin Leigh Rowbow	24	64	Comfy	Fld Marshal	11	Jane	Flr	3	Martin Jennings
HTC	Count Henry Thierry Christian	22	F	Rich	Colonel QOC/State Min.	12		Flr	3	Matthew Shepherd
CWAE	Earl Co W. Ard Extrême	21	55	OK	General/2nd Army Commndr	5	Polly	Flr	3	Benedikt Löwe
CBy	Earl Claude Byacat	21	F	Wlthy	Lt-General/Fnter Div Commandr	6		Flr	4	William Steven
DAV	Count D Arth Vader	21	F	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General DG/Justice Min.	11		Flr	6	Michael Blasebalk
ZTMG	Viscount Zachary The Money Goes	20	F	Comfy	B.Bdr-General KM/Min w/o Port	10		Flr	4	Gerald Udowiczenko
CaT	Baron Charles à Tanne	19	F	Rich	Lt.Colonel CG/FMshl's Aide	9		Flr	4	Alan McTernan
REYE	Count R Even d'Ypres d'Ete	19	F	Rich	B.Lt-General/Gds Brigadier	12		Flr	2	Benjamin Sorrill
SDL	Stan Dandy Liver	19+	60	Comfy	B.Bdr-General RM/I F Brigadier	8	Bess	Flr	4	Guy Arnold
AQH	Sir Alfonso Qué Holique	18	F	Rich	Colonel RFG/Ist Army Adjutant	5		Both	5	Tym Norris
CIG	Sir Charlemagne le Gosse	17	F	Comfy	Major CG	6		Both	2	Neil Packer
BdM	Earl Beppe de Marko	17+	53	Fthy	Colonel CPC/Chancellor	14	Edna	Flr	2	Rob Hallett
GdSM	Marquis Gaston de St Marque	15+	50	Comfy	B.Lt-General/Ist Div Commandr	8		Both	2	Nathan Richards
AdS	Sir Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger	14	36	Comfy	Lt.Colonel RM/Ist Div Adjutant	2	Katy	Both	2	Pam Lindsay
SS	Sir Sean Sondamour	14	F	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General ALC/Ist Army QMG	3		Both	2	Pete Holland
HC	Sir Harry Covert	14	F	Comfy	Lt.Colonel RFG	8		Both	2	James Guiton
LI	Marquis Lokwot Isaw	14	F	Rich	Major RFG	10		Both	3	Barry Townsend
JdIB	Sir Jacques dans le Box	13	25	Wlthy	Lt.Colonel ALC	2		Both	6	Ben Brown
DdR	Don de Rico	13	F	OK	Lt.Colonel DG	6		Hunt	3	Sean Devoy
BR	Sir Beau Romir	12	F	Comfy	Major KM/KM Regt. Adjt.	4		Both	3	Graeme Morris
OP	Omi Palone	12+	39	Comfy	B.Bdr-General 13F/2 F Brigadier	3	Lucy	Hunt	4	Mike Dommatt
BdW	Bud d'Wiser	11	18	Comfy	Colonel GDMD	8	Lotte	Hunt	2	Francesca Huskinson
RdB	Sir Robert d'Bildare	11	F	Rich	Major KM	2		Hunt	3	Terry Crook
GdL	Baron Guy de Lynes	11	F	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General PLLD/2nd Army QMG	5		Hunt	1	Colin Forbes
RO	Rene Ouai	11+	33	OK	Colonel 69A/2nd Army Adjutant	1	Frances	Hunt	5	Peter Denison

hugger, 'Nostalgia for Infinity' (not quite as involved as Iain M Banks's 'Culture' spaceships), mentioned above, and its crew. Some eight years earlier. We meet Volyova, one of the three senior crew who run the ship as the Captain is incapacitated. In what appears to be typical for this crew, Volyova has come out of suspended animation to try to get one over on her crewmates. Finally, we come to Ana Khouri, ex-soldier and now an assassin. Though this 'now' is nineteen years earlier than Volyova's.

A combination of periods of suspended animation, the effects of time dilation and common purposes mean that the time lines of the three main characters gradually converge. They come together on the planet Resurgam, the archaeological colony founded by Sylveste (carefully identified as being in the Delta Pavonis system for the astronomers out there). From here, a combination of bargaining and blackmail takes the disparate threesome to investigate an astronomical oddity – and to find the answer to an age-old question about the galaxy (serendipity, rather than purpose).

As you can see, this is quite a ride. The first part of the book interweaves the three main characters' separate stories, though you, the reader, are quickly aware that they will merge. About 60% of the way through the book, they do. By this time, you know what the light-hugger crew wants – if not quite what Volyova wants. You know what Khouri is supposed to do, but not what she will do. And you have little idea what Sylveste is up to. So the trajectory of the rest of the book is unexpected.

This is great stuff, if a little lengthy. Reynolds handles it all very well, though it's noticeable (afterwards) that only the main characters have any depth to them. I was also intrigued by the way the characters split into different camps towards the climax of the book: women on one side, men on the other. I wonder if there is any significance to this? Perhaps we'll find out in Reynolds's later books!

Games Events

As I mentioned last time, Manorron takes place over the weekend that this issue should be arriving with you (18th-21st July). If you're not already there, there's probably no point in saying any more about it.

Then it all goes quiet until the autumn. Apart from Dicecon in Glasgow on 24th August. This is a board games event run by the Scottish Boardgames Association. It features the *Scottish Settlers of Catan* Championships, the top players in which get places in the World Championships. The events at the Quality Inn (previously the Central Hotel and still at 99 Gordon Street, next to Central Station) and entry is £7 for the day. For details, visit the website at www.dicecon.com.

And then there's the seventh Mind Sports Olympiad. This is being held at the Manchester Conference Centre (at UMIST) from 16th to the 25th August. As always, this is a series of tournaments in different games of skill, including some proprietary board games (including *Age of Steam*, *Diplomacy*, *Puerto Rico* and *Settlers of Catan*). There are entry fees to the tournaments (or a blanket fee if you're entering several) and accommodation is available on site. Lots of details on the website: www.msoworld.com.

Not to mention Battlemasters. While this is primarily a role-playing and CCG event, it also includes board games. It's run by Eurolog (the European League of Gamers) and has been going for a good few years now. This year's event is 29th-31st August at Digby Hall at Leicester University. Entry is £27 for the weekend (£20 for Eurolog members) and accommodation is available on site. There's more information on the Eurolog website at www.eurolog.org.

This box concentrates on games events I expect to attend.

Swiggers: games club that meets Wednesday evenings (though December dates depend on venue availability) at the Bunch of Grapes, St Thomas Street, London SE1. Board games and occasional role-playing. No charges, all welcome. (<http://www.pevans.co.uk/Swiggers/>)

Games Games Days: from noon on the second Saturday of every month (except August & December) at the Duke of York pub at 35 New Cavendish Street, London W1. Day of board games hosted by SFC Press. (<http://www.sfcpc.co.uk/Events/>)

Maycon: a mixture of board games and role-playing at a comfortable hotel in central Birmingham, 30th April – 3rd May 2004 (bank holiday weekend). For more details: www.maycon.org.

Spjel: the board games event of the year. Oct. 23rd-26th 2003, at the Messe (Exhibition Centre) in Essen (Germany). Contact Friedhelm Merz Verlag, Postfach 210250, Bonn, 53157 Germany, http://www.merz-verlag.com/Spjel_e.html.

MidCon: board games plus the UK's National *Diplomacy* Championship. Nov 2003, Thistle Birmingham City Hotel in central Birmingham. Contact: SFC Press. <http://www.sfcpc.co.uk/Events/>.

Credits

To *Win Just Once* issue 36 was written and edited by Paul Evans. The LPBS masthead (page 8) is by Lee Brimicombe-Wood. The cover illustration is another whose creator is lost in the mists of time – unless anyone remembers from its original appearance.

Hell Hath no Furry...

No	Name	SL	Attr	Last	No	Name	SL	Attr	Last
61	Bette Noire	19	W	AR	63	Carole Singeurs	11		
64	Edna Bucquette	18	W	BdM	20	Emma Roides	10	1	SC
3	Kathy Pacific	17	B		33	Anna Rexique	10	1	X3
35	Katy Did	16	1	AdS	38	Pec Uliane	10	W	
42	Maggie Nifisent	16	B		43	Di Lennerre	10	1	RdO
55	Jacky Tinne	16			53	Angelina de Griz	10	B	
60	Polly Hydronne	16	W	CWAE	56	Ingrid la Suede	10		
52	Guinevere d'Arthur	15	BW		51	Jane Lapotaire	9	B/1W	MLR
10	Frances Forrin	14	B	RO	57	Ava Crisp	9	1	
48	Fifi	14	BW		59	May Banquet 'l'Idée	9		
16	Ophelia Derriere	13			2	Bery Kant	8	1	
26	Ella Fant	13	B		19	Jenny Russe	8	W	
27	Lucy Fur	13	B	OP	32	Sali Munella	8	W	
30	Lia Orgasma	13	B		41	Marie Antoinette	8	B/1	
45	Cath de Thousands	13			47	Eve Ningalle	8	1/W	
8	Lothe Bortle	12	B	BdW	49	Mary Huana	8	B/1W	
12	Charlotte de Gaulle	12			34	Freda de Ach	7	W	
17	Henrietta Carrotte	12	1/W		39	Thomasina Tancenjin	7	1	
28	Vera Cruz	12		JS	50	Ulla Leight	7	1	
31	Bess Ortede	12	1/W	SDL	5	Belle Epoque	6	B/1	
1	Sue Briquet	11	B	EH	13	Josephine Buonoparte	6	1/W	
4	Anne Tique	11	W		24	Violet Bert	6	1/W	
9	Deb Onarre	11	1	CdE	15	Ada Andaberoir	5	B/1	JdV
40	Sheila Kiwi	11			25	Lois de Low	5	B	

This table shows the mistresses in Paris. B=Beautiful, I=Influential, W=Wealthy, Last = Last lover seen with this month

Other Appointments

King's Escort: Ensign N	Captain N
Cardinal's Escort: Ensign JEKK	Captain N
Aides: to Crown Prince N	co Field Marshal CaT
Provincial Military Governors: N/N/N/N/N	Adjutant-General N
City Military Governor N	of Infantry N
Inspectors-General: of Cavalry N	
Commissioner of Public Safety	Minister of Justice DAV
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Minister of State HTC
Minister of War	

Shows who holds appointments outside military units:
 ID for Characters, N for NPC, ___ for vacant,
 CPS for additional posts held by the CPS.

Regiments Organisation

	RFG	CG	KM	DG	QOC	ALC	CPC	RM	GDMD	PM	13F	PLLD	53F	27M	4A	69A	Gscn
Col	AQH	JiT	ZTMG	DAV	HTC	SS	BdM	SDL+	BdW		OP+	GdL	N8		JNG	RO	
LCol	HC	CaT	DyB	DdR		JdIB		AdS			RdO	N5	LR		GdLi		JoR
Maj	LI	CIG	RdB	N3*	N3+	CdE+	NI	EH	N4+		JdF		N2	N6+	N1*	N6+	
Maj	MdZ	N2	BR*		N4			JS							N1		
Capt	N4	N6	N6	N4	N5	N3	N2	N6	N6	N1	JdV	N6	N2	N3	N3	N1	N3
Capt	N2	N3	N1	N3	N6*	N2	N4	RdM	N3	N2	N6	N1	N1	N5	N2	N1	N6
Capt	MdZ+	N5*	N3	N6	N5	N6	N4	OdC	N2	N3	N4	N2	N6	N5	N3	N1*	N5
Capt	N4	N4	N4	N1	N6	N3	N3*	X3	N3*	N2*	N3*	N5	N1*	N4*	N3	N1	N1*
Capt		JEKK	MM														
Capt		N2	NI														

Entries are Character abbreviations, N (+ Military Ability) for NPC, blank for vacant, * shows the regiment adjutant. + shows ranks held by characters with a brevet rank or an appointment elsewhere.

Frontier Regiments

(On Campaign for June-Aug)

	F1	F2	F3	F4	RNHB
Colonel	N3	N4	N4	N2	N8
Attached					
Also at the Front					
This table shows volunteers currently in action and their deployment.					

The Bonking Game

The name goes back to more innocent times and the game has also appeared under other titles. Each turn, you can bonk (= nominate) one other recipient of this magazine. Anyone who gets a certain number of bonks in a turn (4 at the start, but now down to 3) is out of the game. Last man standing wins. The game is open to anyone who receives *TWJO*. All you have to do is send me the name of one other recipient - who's still in the game - and give your reasons. If you fail to do so, you bonk yourself (to the number of consecutive self-bonks).

Turn Ten

Barry Townsend bonks Gerald Udowiczenko, "because the competition is getting hot and, with one self-bonk already, it's another chance to get rid of someone" Gerald Udowiczenko bonks "Pete Card, as he has no bonks against his name and is still playing the game, I checked this time." Ben Brown elects to bonk William Hay - "he just seemed the obvious choice." Michael Martinkat gets his retaliation in first: "I bonk the same person (Bill Hay) as last turn, because I expect to be bonked by him in return." Bill bonks Robert Carter "for not being Howard." No, I don't get it. David Olliver bonks Robert, too. "Well," he says, "It's like they say in that film: Get Carter!" Robert bonks Francesca Huskinson "in retaliation for bonking me last time." Terry Crook bonks Francesca "as she bonked me before." Francesca bonks Pete Holland, "because if I don't win the duel I want him out." Pete bonks Mark Mortimer "for absolutely no reason - other than having 'absolutely no reason' for his bonk last turn!" Graeme Morris bonks Mark as well "cos he lives in a house named after an island." Mark bonks Peter Denison, "because if I knock him out of the bonking game he can concentrate on our duel - he'll need to!" Colin Parfitt chips in by bonking Graeme Morris - "there was a reason, but I forgot it," he writes.

Mark Jones believes he must be lovable to have survived this long. Then he says, "I bonk Andrew Kendall because the voices in my head tell me to." Andrew writes "seem to have forgotten the list of who is or isn't in. So I'll bonk Jerry Elsmore." Jerry has a lengthy cogitation: "Okay, so both ends have been bonked, whilst random brings retribution, so it's time to go up the middle and counting from either end targets Mark Jones. No offence, just wrong place, wrong time as it were." Which gives this paragraph a nice symmetrical feel.

On two bonks or more, out go: Pete Card (helped by a self-bonk), Robert Carter, Pete Denison (also aided on his way by a self-bonk), Bill Hay, Mark Mortimer and Jacky Sharp (self-bonked out!).

Still playing are: Ben Brown, Terry Crook, Jerry Elsmore, Pete Holland, Francesca Huskinson, Mark Jones, Andrew Kendall, Michael Martinkat, Graeme Morris, David Olliver, Colin Parfitt, Barry Townsend, Gerald Udowiczenko.

Get your bonks to Pevans at 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF or twjo@pevans.co.uk by 8th August 2003

Star Trader

Odessa Steps – Turn 4

"We seem to be landing already. That was a quick flight. And missing out the Spacestation."

"Um, no your Excellency, we've had to divert."

"A diversion?"

"We need to collect a few things."

"Well, I'll be able to do a bit of sightseeing then."

"Ah, no, that won't be possible."

"Won't be possible? Why not, young man?"

The unfortunate Shylocks steward reddened. "The fact is, your Excellency, that I have instructions, orders rather, to keep you confined to your quarters for the duration of our brief stay."

"I want to speak to the Captain."

"I'll tell him as soon as I can, but I believe he is busy at the moment."

A distant rumble, as of loading equipment, was heard through the Shylocks.

The Ambassador's flight is delayed while SHYLOCKS collect some weapons for onward resale. But SHYLOCKS didn't lose their ship as GRAND LARS THENI & T. HEFT did, the Grand Thief being intercepted and captured by NEKEKAMI's squadron in system space at Tau Ceti. As NEKEKAMI made clear, insurance against space piracy is available for a cheap rate. Presumably the TAU CETI EXPRESS are already paying, as their shipping reported no unexpected encounters on their regular runs. Also suffering were NEWBIE, whose Flute hull failed to make planet fall at Mu Herculis. THE CULTURE were celebrating their success in increasing their fleet – perhaps it was the massed banks of weapon pods on a Monarch hull that produced an instant surrender.

Trading at Beta Hydri saw THE UNIVERSAL selling 6 Alloys for 7 HTs and a Dealership. THE CULTURE sold 7 Isotopes for 8 HTs and NEWBIE sold 4 Monopoles for 20 HTs. At Alpha Centauri, now free of adulterated Liquor, SMF's trading in the same failed, but KATCORP sold 8 Alloys for 5 HTs apiece and gained a Dealership. TOTAL TRANSIT 2070 sold 8 Isotopes for 7 HTs and a Dealership as well, and TAU CETI EXPRESS's bid of 8 was shut out.

Gamma Leporis saw TCX buying 6 Alloys for 5 HTs and a Dealership. Surprisingly, the Alloys were then dumped, as no storage existed for them. INTERSTELLAR METALS bought 7 more Alloys at the same price, and KATCORP's Bid of 3 was ignored. TCX was trying to sell Isotopes at Epsilon Eridani but the bid of 9 was too close to the market to produce results. SWISS MERCENARY'S FLEET sold 3 Liquor to the thirsty masses for 15 HTs and could have sold more, while TRANS SOLAR TRADING INC. sold 7 Petroleum for 13 HTs and became Dealers.

Spice at Sigma Draconis saw much bidding, but TSST's bid of 12, and SMF's bid of the same were beaten by INTERSTELLAR METALS bid of 14 to buy, which gained

(Rapier) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Jacques Shitacks (Cutlass, adv.) and Rene Ouai (Rapier, 1 rests) have mutual cause for being enemies.

Orson de Combat (Cutlass, Seconds EH, 1 rests) and Rene Ouai (Rapier, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Rene Ouai (Rapier) and Xavier 3sup (Cutlass, Seconds CBy) have mutual cause for being enemies.

Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger (Cutlass, Seconds SDL, adv.) and Rene Ouai (Rapier, 3 rests) have mutual cause for being enemies.

Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger (Cutlass, Seconds SDL, adv.) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds Odc & SS, 2 rests) as he's

not Noble but higher SL.

Lucien d'Escaillehuitaillement (Rapier, 1 rests) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds Odc & SS, adv.) as he's not Noble.

Rene Ouai (Rapier) and Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds Odc & SS, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

"Adv." Indicates player with the advantage in Expertise: his first duelling sequence need only contain six Actions.

All duels (including any to be voted on) must be fought next month unless held over due to one or other duelist being at the Front. Orders conditional on a challenge being voted cause are acceptable.

Battle Results

Guards Brigade: 1
 Royal Foot Guards: 2
 Cardinals Guard: 1
 King's Musketeers: 1
 Dragon Guards: 1
 Queen's Own Carabniers: 1
 Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers: 3
 Princess Louisa Lt Dragons: 2
 4th Arquebusers: 5
 Frontier regiment 1: 3

Brigade Positions

Guards Brigade	REVE/_/_
Horse Guards Brigade	N4/N/N3
Heavy Brigade	N2/N/CDE
Dragon Brigade	N3/N/N4
First Foot Brigade	SDL/_/_
Second Foot Brigade	OP/N/_
Third Foot Brigade	N4/N/N6
Fourth Foot Brigade	N4/N/N6

Entries as Army Organisation Table

Tables

Frontier regiment 2: 5
 Frontier regiment 3: 4
 Frontier regiment 4: 4
 RNHB regiment: 5

Army Organisation and Summer Deployment

First Army (Defence)	AR/EHA/QH/SS
First Division (Defence)	GDSM/Odc/AAS
2nd Foot Brigade (Defence) – PM 53F	
3rd Foot Brigade (Defence) – 27M 4A	
4th Foot Brigade (Defence) – 69A Gscn	
RNHB Regiment (Defence)	
Second Army (Siege)	CWAE/_/_RO/GIL
Frontier Division (Siege)	CBy/_/_DYB
Frontier Regiments (Siege)	

Organisation and Deployment for the Campaign Season plus Army and Division posts (CO/Aide/Adj/V/QMG): ID for chars, N (+ MA for CO and Adj'l) for NPC, _ for vacant

Duels

Results of this month's duels:

Bud d'Wiser declined to meet Jacques dans le Box as he was under half Endurance.

Sean Sondamour (with CIG, gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Bud d'Wiser.

Beau Romir didn't turn up to fight Charles à Tanne and lost SPs.

Beau Romir (with RdB, gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Jared E Kaph-Kophi (with CaT).

Stan Dandy Liver declined to meet Beau Romir as he was under half Endurance.

Charles à Tanne (with CIG, gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Robert d'Bildare.

Zachary The Money Goes declined to meet Charles à Tanne as he was under half Endurance.

Stan Dandy Liver (with Odc & SS, under half Endurance, gains 1 Exp) beat Don de Rico.

Rene Ouai declined to meet Eurria Humble as he was under half Endurance.

Stan Dandy Liver (with Odc & SS, under half Endurance, gains 1 Exp) beat Harry Covert.

Stan Dandy Liver declined to meet Jacques dans le Box as he was under half Endurance.

Jared E Kaph-Kophi (with CaT, under half Endurance, gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Robert d'Bildare (under half Endurance).

Zachary The Money Goes declined to meet Jared E Kaph-Kophi as he was under half Endurance.

Rene Ouai declined to meet Jacques Shitacks as he was under half Endurance.

Stan Dandy Liver (with Odc & SS, under half Endurance, gains 1 Exp) beat Lucien d'Escallehuit-

aillement.

Stan Dandy Liver declined to meet Lokwot Isaw as he was under half Endurance.

Orson de Combat (with EH, gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Rene Ouai.

Stan Dandy Liver declined to meet Robert d'Bildare as he was under half Endurance.

Rene Ouai declined to meet Stan Dandy Liver as he was under half Endurance.

Rene Ouai declined to meet Xavier 3sup as he was under half Endurance.

Stan Dandy Liver declined to meet Sean Sondamour as he was under half Endurance.

Don de Rico (gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Henry Thierry Christian (with AR).

Rene Ouai declined to meet Rob d'Masses as he was under half Endurance.

Gaston de St Marque (gains 1 Exp) beat Zachary The Money Goes.

Lothar Rio didn't turn up to fight Jared E Kaph-Kophi and lost SPs.

Jean Petit (gains 1 Exp) beat Orson de Combat (with EH).

Henry Thierry Christian (with AR, gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy D Arth Vader.

Results of this month's duels:

Justin Time (Sabre, Seconds AR, adv.) has cause with Gaston de St Marque (Rapier, 3 rests) for pinching Kathy.

Sean Sondamour (Sabre, Seconds CIG) has cause with Gaston de St Marque (Rapier, adv.) for pinching Henrietta.

Eurria Humble (Cutlass, Seconds SDL & SC, adv.) and Rene Ouai

8 units of Spice and a Contractorship. IM sold 13 Petroleum for 9 HTs as well, and a Dealership, but TSTI got their revenge in the Isotopes when they bought 10 Units for 7 HTs and a dealership, while shutting out bids of 6 by IM and GRAND LARS THENI. At Mu Herculis THE UNIVERSAL sold 2 Monopoles for 13 HTs and INTERSTELLAR METALS bought 1 petroleum for 12 HTs. Tau Ceti saw the second Contractorship of the quarter, as SHYLOCKS sold 7 Isotopes for 3 HTs. KATCORP were buying, 7 for 6 HTs and a Dealership while NEKEKAMI bought 2 more at the same price. TOTAL TRANSIT were selling Alloys, 6 for 8 HTs each.

Finally Delta Toucanis saw UNIVERSAL becoming a Contractor selling 8 Spice for 11 HTs each. TRANS SOLAR TRADING INC bought 10 petroleum for 10 HTs and another Dealership and INTERSTELLAR METALS bought 2 more for 9 HTs. GRAND LARS THENI sold 14 Alloys for 7 HTs, undercutting both TSTI and IM's bids of 8 to sell. IM did sell 6 on Contract using Agent Percent at the end of the Quarter, but GRAND LARS got the Dealership.

TOTAL TRANSIT 2070 sold their ship, Clarnet hull TTI, to TRANS SOLAR for 168 HTs and bought a Cargo and Passenger pod for the Mogul, for a full complement at last. They also visited the banks to repay their loan. NEWBIE had a welcome recruit to their ranks, agent Eleanor, who may find she has a mission in short order. NEWBIE's loss of their ship was met with a great rise in their Reputation and they also raised their Political Connections and bought a warehouse at Delta Toucanis. The loss of the Weapons may hurt finances hard in the long term however.

TRANS SOLAR TRADING INC. hired B crew for their new Phoenix hull, Fiacre, and bought a cargo pod for the newly launched vessel. Their purchased ship was renamed CUTTY SARK, and was re-crewed with A grade crew. Some weapon pods were stripped from the vessel and sold at a healthy profit. New warehouses were bought at Tau Ceti and Epsilon Eridani and a further new Phoenix hull was laid down at Tau Ceti, leaving the Corporation almost out of funds until their Reputation bonus arrived.

INTERSTELLAR METALS became the first defaulters in the Quadrant, failing to meet their interest payments on their loan with consequences to their Reputation. THE UNIVERSAL were very late in acting this quarter and suffered thereby. Though failing a hypertump to Mu Herculis may have proved to be a blessing. SWISS MERCENARIES FLEET sold 3 Liquor factories and 3 Spice factories, and repaid their loan. Thus free of constraints, they took out a 503 HT loan over 8 quarters and used it to increase their Business connections, to purchase 6 Monopole factories at Mu Herculis, to buy 3 Spice factories at Sigma Draconis (where they had just sold them) before the new owners had removed the Corporation logo and finally increased their Reputation.

SHYLOCKS took OP 3 on Tau Ceti and increased their Political Connections and their Reputation. KATCORP took OP 9, unloading Isotopes into their warehouse to make space. The Tiger had a passenger pod added, the Lion had cargo pods, augmented jump and A class crew when it launched and the Corporations

Reputation was increased. BLAND & BRASS had a frustrating quarter as they missed out on OP 9. Rumours of a split between the founders have been ignored.

THE CULTURE tried to increase their Reputation, but there are limits to public image making and THE CULTURE seems to have come up against them, as the campaign flopped. TAU CETI EXPRESS hired agent CRIP at Tau Ceti and increased their Reputation with successful financial results. People are suggesting that the Corporation slogan should be updated to "we get you there (usually)!"

News Chits

OP 9 taken by Corporation H and OP 3 in bold below. Current chits are:
by Corporation G (though what the Turn 5 P9
ambassador thinks...). Turn 6 P1, B4
Turn 7 C1, B2, P5, P9.

There are 5 new chits this turn, shown Turn 8 B10, C6.

Corporation letter & name	Conn'n Levels	Init Turn	Cash Rep'n	Player
A Total Transit 2070	5 0 7	30 2nd	132 34	Simon Burling
B New Expensive Weapons	1 7 2	0 11th	17 29	Peter Denison
C Trans-Industrial Empire	8 7 3	7 7th	41 40	Jerry Elsmore
D Interstellar Metals	7 5 4	3 9th	60 38	Paul Evans
E The Universal	8 0 5	0 13th	330 34	John Harrington
F Swiss Mercenary's Fleet	3 0 9	0 8th	71 35	Martin Jennings
G Shylocks	10 0 2	0 12th	139 30	Andrew Kendall
H KatKorp	3 1 1	7 36 1st	76 35	Michael Martinkat
J Bland & Brass	1 1 6	20 3rd	79 22	Colin Parfitt
K The Culture	3 0 7	7 10 5th	66 16	Nathan Richards
L Grand Lats Therni & T Heft	7 1 1	2 0 10th	274 26	Jerry Spencer
M Tau Ceti Express	3 0 7	1+4 6th	341 33	Mike Wale
N Nekekami Corporation	2 8 0	13 4th	237 23	Paul Wilson

'N' under Initiative Bid indicates No Move Received

Press

I am planning to stay in system space of 15 HT's a turn to protect the ships of Federation sweeps and I am seeking to protect any ships that enter Tau Ceti and I will only charge the paltry sum that company.
(Signed) Chairman, Nekekami Corporation

GM Notes

The S/D modifier for Alloys at Delta Toucanis is -7. The next reprint of the rules will have the correction in it. All players were informed earlier by Pevans.

Points Arising

Next turn is the start of a new season. **All characters start the month in Paris and all duels must be fought.** Any vacant appointments not taken by player characters will be filled by NPCs – unless appointed by a player character, who may order that they are left vacant (if you have a post or a rank that allows you to appoint other characters to posts, don't forget to appoint people).

Next turn is the start of the campaign season. All units listed on the "Army Organisation" table will be in action (any volunteers will serve with the Frontier regiments). Characters who are part of one of these units can only avoid active service by resigning from their regiment and/or appointment.

No orders were received from the following and they suffered accordingly:
LR Lothar Rio (David Kennard) has NMR'd. Total now 1
RDM Rob d'Masses (Craig Pearson) has NMR'd. Total now 1
Only 2 NMRs again – great stuff!

Announcements

Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger asks NPC Army Quarter Master Gen. of Second Army to resign
Euria Humble asks NPC Captain 1 of Royal Marines to resign
Marc de Zorro asks NPC Captain, King's Escort to resign
Marc de Zorro applies for Captain, King's Escort
Paul d'Geist applies for Trooper, King's Escort

GL (Hajo Red Schlosser) and JoR (Brian Niemi) were floated at their request.

One point: 'parties' are not part of the rules. So, if you say "Attend XYZ's party" in your orders, I interpret it as "Taddy to XYZ and carouse".

Reminders: It is worth sending orders in even if they're a day or two late: I will probably be able to use any press. It also reassures me that you're still out there.

You are welcome to submit orders and press by e-mail or on diskette (PC format) – disks will be returned with the next mailing. Getting your press this way is particularly helpful. E-mail orders to me at lpbs@pevans.co.uk – remember to give your name and your character's name and specify actions in full (since it's without your character sheet). Attached files should have your character ID and the month in the name. If you want queries answered before the deadline, e-mail paul@pevans.co.uk.

Stan Dandy Liver asks NPC Captain 1 of Royal Marines to resign
Sean Sondamour asks NPC Captains 1 and 2 of Archduke Leopold Cruasiers to resign
Zachary The Money Goes asks NPC Captains 1, 3 and 4 of King's Musketeers to resign

de Bernais: (is annoyed and grunts at Extreme.)

CWAE: Erm... (reads aloud) "please permit me to forward two names for your consideration". Ah, so where are these? Erm, here...

de Bernais: (taps an aggressive rhythm with his pencil on his desk.)

CWAE: Erm ... Army Adjutant, ah, yes... "Rene Ou...ai?" (mumbles) I really can't read Liver's handwriting. "Colonel Ouai"? Does such a person exist?

de Bernais: (nods silently.)

CWAE: Great. (smiles sheepishly.) So that's my new Aide. Erm... or ... Army Adjutant.

(Extreme fiddles around with his papers again, trying to read the next name.)

CWAE: "Shitacks"? ... "Major Jacques Shitacks of my own Regiment, the Royal Marines..."

de Bernais: (looks puzzled at Extreme, but nods to acknowledge the existence of Major Shitacks.)

CWAE: (grins contentedly) Great. So, he's my new Aide. Erm ... and there was someone else. (Unfolds the second paper.) "sole viable candidate ... unassigned Brigadier ... glad to accept". Uh-huh. (mumbles) What was that position again?

de Bernais: (haughtily) I guess the Quartermaster General?

CWAE: Could be. Well, and the name is... "Guy de Lyne" (smiles). Make sure they get their appointment letters as soon as possible. I need all three of them to protect me during the campaign.

de Bernais: (grunts)

Overheard in the RFG barracks
1st trooper: I hear that the RFG Passing Out Parade is just that.
2nd trooper: Well, what do you expect if you spend all night drinking with AQHI

Lord Percy Percy says as fashion is tending towards the anorexic, our Minister of State is deeply unfashionable.

Overheard in the RFG barracks...

1st Lieutenant: I hear that Alphonse, our beloved leader, saw the ALC at their evolutions yesterday.

Another 1st Lieutenant, though the 2nd Lieutenant for the purposes of this report: Yes, he let us down a bit.

1st Lieutenant: How so?
2nd 1st Lieutenant: Well, he kept saying "Look at the gee-gees".

Claude Byracet may be your hero. My hero takes mobile wine cellars with the troops. Now that's living. (Let's get pissed again, like we did last summer...)

Poetry Corner

(All signed poetry submissions gain their author at least 1 SP)

Jean Petit
Pettit man,
Pettit mind,
Big head,
Large behind!
+ SDL

IF I've fought two duels
And won but two,
Make a bet of one thousand
Two hundred and two
In the fourth week of May
At the Fleur de Lys:
By the turn of the card
Will my fate be dandy?
+ SDL

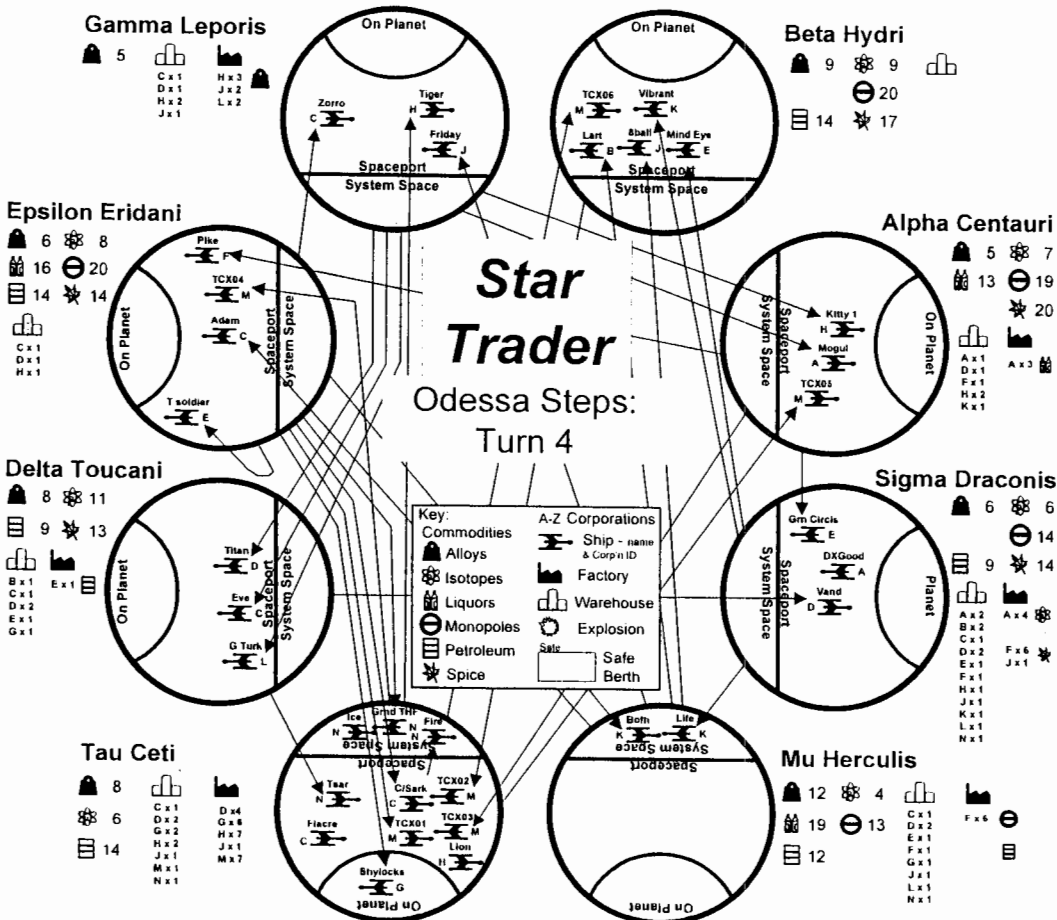
You cannot transfer Agents between ships in System Space.

Captured ships are illegal hulls, don't forget. A captured ship can be resold to

its original owner.

Agents left are: Alexis, Amy, Poun, Red Choir and Z.

Orders to Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD or by e-mail to mike_dommett@yahoo.com by Friday, 1st August 2003.



Railway Rivals 2 – Turn 1

Builds

HEDGEHOG built west into the mountains, before coming back and building parallel to IVOR & CO. IVOR built south to the Bulgarian border, and then headed off towards the Black Sea. IMPALER TRAINS built a line through a gap in the mountains towards the centre of the country, while TTYFI was building into the same area from the northwest. Finally, ROMANOV RAILWAYS started from Galati and built northwards towards the Ukraine.

Trains Take You Further (TTYFI),

Blue John Harrington

a) (Satu Mare) - R5 - R6 - S7

b) (S7) - T7 - DEJ

c) (DEJ) - T11 - U12

Points: 20 +3 = 23

Romanov Railways (RR), Red

Nathan Richards

a) (Galatai) - O59 - O58 - N57 - M57 -

L56 - K56

b) (L56) - L57 - Focsani;

(K56) - K55 - K54

c) (K54) - Bacau - J52 - I52 - H51

Points: 20 +12 = 32

Impaler Trains (IT), Black

Gerald Udowiczenko

a) (Timisoara) - G16 - G17;

(G17) - H17 - I17 - J16 - K16

Press

Press release from IMPALER TRAINS competition from the other rail We are looking forward to "driving a companies. But as we have been stake through the country and around for a long time, and know the connecting the far flung corners of general populace better, we fell we are Romania, with what we fell is, the best better suited to their needs CEO Vlad Impaler Trains rail link possible. We welcome the

Die rolls for next turn are: 4, 6, 2

Orders to Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD or by e-mail to mike_dommett@yahoo.com by Friday, 1st August 2003.

Lord Percy Percy has not been seen with any form of sheep.

The country people think that the Guards Brigade drives food on the hoof, as they are followed to war by flocks of sheep. The City people know that the Guards Brigade officers are ensuring plenty of female companionship for the campaign season.

The RFG fitness test

1) Down a bottle of wine in one.

2) Run from the RFG barracks to the Colonel's club.

3) Down another bottle of wine in one.

4) Run back.

5) Throw up (enlisted men only).

Because he's a little concerned about his new Aide's Spanish-sounding first name, Claude Byrnat insists that all new Frontier Division staff officers have to take individual loyalty tests.

One at a time each new officer is blindfolded and expected to choose between samples of French and Spanish food and drink. The final test is when the still blindfolded officer has to choose between a French mademoiselle and a Spanish senorita.

For all but the last test the officer has to choose the French produce over the Spanish in order to pass. However, for the final test, as long as the officer picks either or both of the girls he passes, but if he says "Neither" then he's obviously an effete Englishman and is rejected from the Staff. When they've passed the tests and been accepted, they have to swear an oath of loyalty to God, France, the King and the Frontier Division.

JP:

Manly doesn't rhyme particularly well with Dandy. Listen to the stresses as you say it. + Omi Palone

To BR
I started to use my Kitchen knife set when it got too easy beating you wimps in the Mousekeepers. I will be happy to leave the kitchen knives at home next time we meet. By the way when did the Sabre become your regimental weapon?
+ CaT

M d'Masses displays no more wit than one would expect of a Marine. Like the implement he carries, his attack on M Palone has no point, and relies for its effect on a wild and extravagant excess of zeal. Rather than accuse M Palone of talking "complete crap", one might say that "your ignorance does not excuse your impertinence". I might add that the details of M d'Masses' financial embarrassment are neither edifying nor amusing, but that would be heartless.
+ JP

The RFG battle drill

"Draw corkscrew!"

"Present corkscrew!"

"Ready bottle!"

"Open bottle!"

"Drink contents!"

"Throw bottle!"

"Sheathe the corkscrew!"

High Command Headquarters of the

French Army

Office of the Chief Scribe of Personnel Affairs

(2nd Army Commander Extrême stands in front of the desk of M de Bernais, Chief Scribe of Personnel Affairs, who is responsible for adding the names of new appointments to the Roll of Appointments. Extrême has two pieces of paper in his hand, apparently written by someone else, and tries to read what is written on them.)

CWAE: Erm ... erm, my ... my new, erm, Army Adjutant, erm, no, Aide ... hmm.

Matters of Honour

To Rene Ouai,
When I said I looked forward to seeing your blood on my cutlass, I didn't mean all over my uniform, the ground and everything else in the area. I beg you to be more careful this time around and then stay out of my sight!
Yours,
† Jacques Shitacks

To all Gentlemen of Good Repute,
HC is looking for a second for his duels. All officers of good repute would be welcome. I would be more than happy to reciprocate.
† Sir Harry Covert Lt. Col RFG

To JoR,
As a former Gascon myself, I would be honoured if you would allow me to hold your coat in duels, should you still require a second.

If you wish to advance your career, it is probably best not to go to the front in a Gascon uniform.
Yours,
† MidZ

Social

Rob d'Masses
Your invitation to my table is suspended.
† Oni Palone

Personal

Beauye old boy,
Yes, green vomit is very hard to get out of one's uniform. But perhaps u should be more careful with the parties you attend? How about popping in one week after we get back from the front and I'll show u how to avoid the problem altogether? There won't be any green vomit (not really sure where u can find it), but I am sure we will find a few Cardinals's Guards not able to hold their drink, that I can use as an example.
† Zack

Major Shitacks, After all the trouble I have been to, securing you the post of General Extrême's Aide, the least you can do is to accept it. Let's try again in June!
† SDL

The RFG recruitment test
"How many bottles of wine can you drink before you fall over?"

S D Liver,
I may have missed some level of subtlety in your address to me because it seems that you are proud that your service to Le Roi has been mediocre, at best. You really are more of an Englishman than a Frenchman.
Please don't respond. It grieves me enough that you have risen, somehow, to command, without having to listen to your inane and almost treasonous comments any further.
† Brigadier General Viscount R. Even

d'Ypres d'Etie
Commanding Officer, Guards Brigade

To Stan Dandy Liver
My dear Stan,
Your continued lack of a title is becoming a bit awkward. Since I was granted my knighthood, I seem to be obliged to challenge you if I encounter you socially. By going on campaign I can avoid this for a while, but, God willing, I will be back in Paris sometime. It will be a great relief to me if you can manage to win yourself at least a knighthood in the near future.
Your good friend,
† Sean Sondamour

Baaal!
Anonymous commentator, please explain your comment about quiet sheep. One feels one ought to take offence, but I fear I cannot comprehend any intended insult.
† Count Abel Ringeur

**Les Petites Bêtes
Soyeuses 162**

Being a postal game of *En Garde!* run by Pevans since April 1986 and now published as part of *To Win Just Once*.

If you'd like to play, you'll need to subscribe to *TWJO* and pay the start-up fee (see back page). You will also need a copy of the rules to *En Garde!* - or at least access to a copy.

En Garde! is published by SFC Press.

Next deadline is 8th August 2003



May 1657

Last month's parties sparked many disputes between members of enemy regiments - not to mention the provocations involving the ladies. It is no surprise that the early hours of May days are full of cloaked figures on their way to secret rendezvous. One of the busiest is Brigadier Stan Dandy Liver, who has upset lots of noblemen with his social position. But preliminaries have to be dealt with first.

The commander of the Dragoon Guards, D Arth Vader, is the first choice of Queen's Own Carabiniere's Colonel, Henry Thierry Christian. Both men bring their sabres and Christian is backed by Abel Ringeur. The odds are very much with the beefy Vader against the slight Christian. Vader tries to catch out his opponent by starting with a (furious) lunge. Christian anticipates this and parries to stop the first blow. Then he attacks with a (furious) slash, gaining first blood. Vader acknowledges the touch and concedes before the cut can get him. DG Lt-Colonel Don de Rico is next. His average build still gives him an edge over Christian, but he is conceding a lot of expertise. This time Christian is caught out by the opening (furious) lunge. First blood - and the fight - to de Rico.

After which de Rico is the first to meet the badly injured Liver and his cutlass. Liver is supported - literally - by Orson de Combat and Sean Sondamour. Surprisingly, Liver's cutlass gets moving first and he hits de Rico with a slash before he can get into the action. De Rico surrenders. Next up is the slight figure of Harry Covert and his rapier. He opts to start with a slash, giving Liver enough time to hit him first with his own slash. Covert quickly converts his blow into a salute and gives in. Lucien d'Escaillehuitallements would be a good match for Liver in full health. He looks rather overpowering against the frail and bandaged figure in front of him, even if he only has a rapier against Liver's cutlass. Both men

are cautious: d'Escallehuitaillements jumps out of the way of the expected slash. But Liver has his own jump just in case his adversary started with a furious lunge. Both men regain their balance. Having started first, Liver recovers first and attacks. His slash hits home and d'Escallehuitaillements surrenders. "Ow!" he cries. "Like that HURT, man! Oh wow, blood! Uncool and heavy... I, like, quit!" Tired out by his exertions, Liver declines to meet Beau Romir, Jacques dans le Box, Lokwot Isaw, Robert d'Bildare, Rene Ouai or Sean Sondamour.

Sondamour does get one fight this month. He, his sabre and Charlemagne le Gosse turn out to meet Bud d'Wiser and his sabre. This is a pretty even match, the only significant difference being d'Wiser's greater expertise. Sondamour proves the cannier fighter though. He starts by parrying d'Wiser's opening (furious) lunge and ripostes to score the first touch. Sondamour then jumps aside from the subsequent cut. As d'Wiser recovers, Sondamour strikes with a slash. This is too much for d'Wiser, who concedes the duel. He is then unfit to fight Jacques dans le Box.

Jared E Kaph-Kophi chooses to meet Lothar Rio first, but Rio doesn't show up. Next on Kaph-Kophi's card is Beau Romir – Cardinal's Guard versus King's Musketeer. Surprisingly, Romir brings a sabre to the duel, while Kaph-Kophi carries the standard rapier. He has the advantage in skill, but otherwise the two men are well matched. Charles à Tanne seconds Kaph-Kophi and Robert d'Bildare backs Romir. Kaph-Kophi starts by parrying. He continues this until Romir demonstrates its uselessness by slashing straight through the defence. Kaph-Kophi drops his guard to start his own slash only to be caught by the follow-up cut of Romir's Furious Slash. Kaph-Kophi throws in the towel: Cardinal's Guards 0, King's Musketeers 1. Romir then refuses point blank to fight à Tanne – one all.

CG vs KM – again

Robert d'Bildare is made of sterner stuff and steps up to à Tanne's challenge. D'Bildare has his regimental rapier, but à Tanne uses daggers. Charlemagne le Gosse seconds à Tanne, who has a slight physical advantage over d'Bildare. Drawing his first knife, à Tanne steadies himself. His arm goes back and... he is run through by d'Bildare's lunge. Nothing daunted, à Tanne lets fly. His dagger flies through the air and inserts itself neatly between d'Bildare's ribs. Shocked by this nasty injury, d'Bildare surrenders as à Tanne prepares his second blade.

After a hefty bandage has been strapped across his ribs, d'Bildare insists on meeting Kaph-Kophi for their duel. Kaph-Kophi is also badly injured, but wants to carry on the fight. This is a pretty even duel with rapiers used on both sides and à Tanne continuing to second Kaph-Kophi. The Cardinal's man starts by defending with a series of parries. D'Bildare seems to expect a slash as he blocks. Realising his opponent is being defensive, Kaph-Kophi launches into a furious slash. The slash is, of course, caught by d'Bildare's blocking. But the cut goes through his guard, causing a fresh wound, and the Musketeer capitulates. Final score: Cardinal's Guards 3, King's Musketeers 1.

Another Musketeer, Zachary The Money Goes, is due to meet the Cardinal's men, but decides to face Gaston de St Marque first. Both men use rapiers and old injuries to The Money Goes make it a very even fight – though de St Marque has

Kophi is brevetted to Captain and takes just four hundred crowns – more than enough to buy the horse required for his new rank.

Commanding the Musketeers, Colonel Zachary The Money Goes is brevetted to Bdr-General. He leads the regiment to the enemy's supplies and forms a chain to make sure they get back to the regiment's wagons. His share of the booty comes to fifteen hundred crowns. By positioning himself carefully, Lt-Colonel Dan y Beauve ensures that his cut exceeds his boss's by a couple of hundred. The senior Major, Robert d'Bildare, makes do with just over five hundred crowns-worth of goodies as he is also Mentioned twice in the Despatches. There's close to a thousand crowns for Major Beau Romir, but his name goes into the Despatches just once. The new recruit, Captain Maurice Mineur, isn't sure what he's doing there and gains nothing from his month in action.

There's not a lot for the cavalry to do this month, except trot around in the mud and try to run down any stragglers. Having been *in situ* for a couple of months, the Princess Louisa Light Dragoons know what's going on. Bdr-General Guy de Lynes gets his name into the Despatches by taking advantage of the terrain to capture several groups of enemy soldiers. Liberation of their excess possessions brings him almost a thousand crowns. With only one squadron in action, the Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers can't do very much. But they do enough for the commander, Bdr-General Sean Sondamour, to take home eight hundred crowns. Colonel Henry Tierry Christian has brought two squadrons of the Queen's Own Carabiniers to the front, but he can't get them to do anything much. There's no reward for him. The Dragon Guards do a bit better, but Bdr-General D Arth Vader keeps all the booty for himself. That's almost a thousand crowns for him and nothing for Lt-Colonel Don de Rico.

Press

Announcements

OK lads, we are off to the Front next month for the Summer. I could really do with some money, as these month-long parties not only take a toll on the body but the purse as well.

So please remember who's in charge and let Bessie get in there first, as she has a good nose for money.

+ Colonel The Money Goes, King's Musketeers

To all the Gentlemen in Paris.

The Royal Foot Guards are still recruiting. As we will be at the Front for the campaign season this is your chance to serve in style. † Col AQH

OK, Boys of the First Army. It's off to the front now, let's put on a good show!

† Gen. Abel Ringeur

Men of the ALC

Since my recent appointment as QMG to the First Army does not require service at the front, I am free to lead the regiment for the campaign season. I will consider leaving one or even two squadrons behind in Paris, if requested. Any new recruits wishing to join us will be welcome.

Financial assistance is available to suitable candidates on request.

† Sean Sondamour

This leaves just a few Parisians largely unaccounted for. Apart from attending Omi's party, Xavier 3sup is to be found at the regimental gym, practising his cutlass swings. Orson de Carre starts at the Bawdyhouses and then fits two weeks of cutlass practice around Omi's party. This is probably a good idea as he resigned from his club to join the Frog & Peach at the beginning of May. Unfortunately, as he's just resigned from this club, he can't re-join for three months! Gaston de St Marque pays some attention to the ladies. Well, one lady in particular – much to Sean Sondamour's chagrin – after which he takes his rapier for two weeks practice. And Jacques dans le Box is the most unaccounted for: he simple practices all month. Four weeks with his sabre.

Almost summer

The arrival of lots of volunteers ensures a successful end to this season's siege, providing a jumping-off point for next season's main campaign. As always, the Frontier regiments take the brunt of the action, exchanging charge and counter-charge with the enemy. Attached to Frontier regiment 1, QOC Subaltern Mon Dieu Ewe Swine has an indifferent month. One foray against the enemy brings him some loot, however, and he ends the month richer by some seven hundred crowns. Gaston Lesroc serves with Frontier Regiment 3. He survives a close encounter (of the unfriendly kind) with a cannonball to collect three hundred crowns from the regiment's dead pool. The flat and muddy terrain has the Royal North Highlanders confused. Despite commanding a battalion, Lt-General Claude Byacat can't produce any success for the regiment. He is Mentioned in Despatches, however.

Wet weather plays havoc with the 4th Arquebusers' weaponry and the regiment is all but routed by an enemy assault. Colonel Jacques N Gilles is brevetted to Brigadier-General in an effort to move him somewhere else. It is left to the Guards Brigade to do the job and they do so in some style. Brigadier R Even d'Ypres d'Ele is promoted to (brevet) Lt-General and granted the title of Count. Not having a Brigade Major keeps him busy and the plundering suffers: just 400 crowns for him.

The Royal Foot Guards do the damage, taking over the Frontier regiment positions and attacking the enemy's lines. Concentrating on capturing enemy officers brings Colonel Alfonse Qué Holique some fifteen hundred crowns in ransom payments. Lt-Colonel Harry Covert manages the regiment and is Mentioned in Despatches. The star of the show is undoubtedly Major Lokwot Isaw. He is Mentioned in Despatches, which brings him the title of Marquis, and accumulates just short of two thousand crowns' worth of loot. Private Paul d'Geist makes the magic two thousand mark – a terrific reward for the regiment's newest recruit. Captain Marc de Zorro is brevetted to the vacant Major's position. Taking an enemy standard brings him just over a thousand crowns as well.

The Cardinal's Guards and King's Musketeers complete the job, sweeping over the enemy ramparts to rout what's left of the defenders. The commander of the Cardinal's Guards, Bdr-General Justin Time, leads the charge and is the man to strike the enemy's colours – worth over a thousand crowns to the right man. He is Mentioned in Despatches. Lt-Colonel Charles à Tanne is right behind him, but makes do with the round thousand crowns of booty. Major Charlemagne le Gosse's share of the takings comes to just six hundred crowns. Subaltern Jared E Kaph-

the lower weapons expertise. De St Marque parries and stops The Money Goes's opening lunge. A riposte gives de St Marque the first touch – albeit a fairly light one. The Money Goes uses his skill to get in another attack – a slash – before de St Marque can strike. A slash from de St Marque follows and is enough to bring a surrender from The Money Goes. After this, he is able to decline his duels with the Cardinal's Guards (Kaph-Kophi and a Tanne) without loss of status.

Rene Ouai decides to meet Orson de Combat for his first duel. As a member of the 69th Arquebusers, he takes a rapier against Marine de Combat's cutlass. The two men are evenly matched, were it not for Ouai's wounds from previous months. De Combat also has Eura Humble on his side as his second. Both men pause and block. Ouai then attacks and draws blood with a lunge. This doesn't stop de Combat's slash and Ouai concedes the fight. With this latest injury, Ouai is unable to attend his other duels, against Eura Humble, Jacques Shitacks, Rob d'Masses (who doesn't show up anyway), Stan Dandy Liver (who's also too injured) and Xavier 3sup.

So de Combat (with Humble) moves on to fight Jean Petit. This is another pretty even fight, with Petit opposing de Combat's cutlass with his sabre. De Combat starts with defensive moves: a block and a jump planned to avoid a furious slash. Petit scores first blood by lunging instead, his blow going straight through the block. Realising that de Combat will try to attack, Petit switches into a series of blocks. He duly catches and stops the cutlass. Jumping back from the clinch, Petit swings into a furious slash. The slash strikes home just before de Combat finally hits him with a slash of his own. The cut follows, knocking de Combat to his knees and forcing his capitulation.

New staff for old

With the summer campaign looming, May sees some jockeying for position before hostilities start. To start with, General Co W Ard Extreme orchestrates a clear-out of his staff in Second Army. Alfonse Qué Holique, Guy de Lynes and Rene Ouai join Extreme in getting rid of his Aide. Overwhelmed by this onslaught, the poor man resigns and Extreme appoints Jacques Shitacks in his place. Or tries to, anyway, but Shitacks is holding out for a different position. Holique and Ouai also have words with the Army Adjutant, as does Stan Dandy Liver. After which, this officer can't wait to quit either. The new Adjutant is Colonel Ouai. Extreme then turns his attention to the Quartermaster-General and Abel Ringeur joins him to force the incumbent out. Brigadier-General de Lynes accepts the offer of the vacancy from General Extreme.

As commander of Frontier Division, Lieutenant-General Claude Byacat also feels like new staff. Gar de Lieu and Xavier 3sup help him to remove his Aide – another overwhelming effort. Byacat appoints Captain 3sup to the job. Dan y Beauve and Henry Thierry Christian support Byacat to convince the Divisional Adjutant to resign. Byacat signs up Lt-Colonel y Beauve for this post. Revaulvin d'Or, Stan Dandy Liver and Sean Sondamour gang up on the Lt-Colonel of the 13th Fusiliers. Once the man's resigned, d'Or buys the rank for himself. Jean de Florette purchases the resulting vacancy at Major. Liver then offers d'Or the job of Brigade

Major of First Foot. Unfortunately, his new rank makes d'Or ineligible for the job and he's already quit as Brigade Major of Second Foot!

Paul d'Geist signs up for the Royal Foot Guards, courtesy of Alfonse Qué Holique, as a Private. Zachary The Money Goes recruits Maurice Mineur into the King's Musketeers and gives him the cash to buy his way to Captain. Cardinal's Guards Subaltern Jared E Kaph-Kophi finally succeeds in his ambition of becoming Ensign of the Cardinal's Escort. He had to grease some palms on the way, though the support of Henry Thierry Christian helped even more.

Several military commanders decide that some time at the front will help set the scene for the summer campaign – especially as they won't be in action in the summer. Lt-Colonel Harry Covert volunteers the first battalion of the Royal Foot Guards. Having resigned as Guards Brigade Major, Charlemagne le Gosse volunteers battalion 2 of the Cardinal's Guards. And Major Beau Romir volunteers battalion 3 of the King's Musketeers. This neat pattern is ruined when Brigadier R Even d'Ypres d'Eye decides that the whole Guards Brigade should be in action.

Dragoon Guards commander D Arth Vader orders second and third squadrons into action with him. Lt-Colonel Don de Rico volunteers his own command, first squadron, to ensure the whole regiment is mobilised. Colonel Henry Thierry Christian follows his fellow regimental commander's lead by activating second and third squadrons of the Queen's Own Carabiniers (as first squadron stays in Paris, Subaltern Mon Dieu Ewe Swine remains with a Frontier regiment!). Second and third battalions of the 4th Arquebustiers follow their CO, Colonel Jacques N Gillies, to the frontiers as well. Sean Sondamour throws the Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers into the fray, but decides that one squadron (third) will be enough.

It's his party

The surprise mobilisation of the Guards Brigade causes a few upsets in Paris this month. To start with, Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger was expecting to Toady to Zachary the Money Goes at the Fleur. As Zack isn't there, Arnaldo spends a couple of weeks outside the club. At least he manages to retain Katy Did's affections by taking her out to Bothwell's the following week. And the pair of them finally make it into the Fleur as Stan Dandy Liver's guests at the end of May.

Several people are caught out by Maurice Mineur's disappearance – the last they heard he wasn't even in a regiment, let alone serving on the frontier with the Guards! Standing around outside Blue Gables are Jean de Florette, Jean Pettit and Reavulvin d'Or. After this Jean P repairs to the gyms for three weeks with his rapier – does that training dummy resemble Captain Mineur? Reavulvin is practising with his rapier, but takes a week off for Omi Palone's Infantry party. Jean de F returns to the porch for week 2. The following week he joins Omi, but is then back outside Blue Gables at the end of the month. This time he is joined by Joseph de Veuvre and Jacques Shitacks – both of whom were at Omi's do as well. Jacques is still boasting of his conquest of Mille Vera Cruz at the start of the month. He took her to Red Phillips to show her off in week 2, but the place was empty (and remains so for the rest of the month). Joseph, on the other hand, put in two weeks practice with his rapier before his partying.

As usual, Paris's elite hangs out at the Fleur de Lys. Sojourning there for the whole of May are Abel Ringeur and Bette Noire, Beppe de Marko (busily counting money) and Edna Bucquette, Co W Ard Extreme and Polly Hydronne and Marvin Leigh Rowbow and Jane Lapotaire. What keeps them all amused is Stan Dandy Liver. For three weeks, he turns up to Toady to Abel with Bess Orbede on his arm. Nothing strange in that. Except that he's wearing a pink ballgown and a false beard (which goes very badly over his own, fine moustaches). Stan finally eschews this strange attire to host a "Ruffians Ball" at the club at the end of May, dressed in Ducal robes and with Bess attired as a Duchess. Entry is only for those of noble birth, so Sirius Chien is refused admission. Those who do turn up start with Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger, accompanied by Katy Did and dressed as a street urchin. Lucien d'Escallehuitalllements is next – his normal dress is quite ruffianly enough! Rene Ouai arrives with Frances Forrin in one hand and a purse for Stan in the other. His costume is decorated with an archery target and the inscription "Official Army Training – sponsored by the 69A." As Stan might have expected, Arnaldo and Lucien take exception to his lack of noble blood and challenge him – an extra embarrassment in the case of Arnaldo, who is a member of the same regiment! Rene doesn't get away with it, either. As a member of the 69th Arquebustiers, he swaps challenges with his regimental enemies in the Royal Marines, Stan and Arnaldo.

Lucien's May starts with a visit to the Bawdyhouses, after which he repairs to the Blue Gables until Stan's Ball. Rene, on the other hand, is in Hunter's all month, first with Frances on their own and then at Omi Palone's party. This is definitely the most successful event of May – except for poor Rene. The guest list is just full of Royal Marines, with all of whom he has to exchange challenges. As well as Jacques Shitacks (with Vera), Rene runs into Euria Humble, escorting Sue Briquet, Orson de Combat and Xavier 3sup, who has Anna Rexique in tow. As already mentioned, the other guests are Jean de Florette, Joseph de Veuvre (with Ada Andabetroit) and Reavulvin d'Or, who has Di Lemmere on his arm. Omi probably considers this event a success, though his companion, Lucy Fur, doesn't seem to agree. Still, the two of them have the club to themselves to end the month. They were there for the first two weeks, too, along with Rene and Frances and Bud d'Wiser, escorting Lotte Bottle. Bud completes May with two weeks practising sabre.

As well as the gathering outside, there are a fair number of people inside Blue Gables. Charlot d'Evoir spends the whole month here, along with his belle, Deb Estaround. Sirius Chien brings EmmaROIDes here for three weeks, before his abortive visit to the Ball in the Fleur. As already mentioned, Lucien d'Escallehuitalllements fills the middle weeks of the month in the club. Euria Humble is here, too. Two weeks in the club on his own, a week Toadying to Omi with Sue and then a week with his cutlass. That's May, the Humble way. Gar de Lieu starts May in Blue Gables as well. He has a complex gambling system that sees him place nine wagers. He walks away a few hundred crowns poorer, but having gained some status for his *sang-froid*. A visit to the Bawdyhouses sees the footpads mug him as he strolls home, composing new gambling systems. He has spent all his cash, so the muggers get nothing for his pains. Two weeks practising with his rapier complete the month.