



## Martinscon.

So much has already been written in other zines about this event that I think I'll give a purely personalised report. So...

On Friday, September 12th, I met Andy Pope on the train to New Cross, and arrived at Martin Hammon's 'house' at about 8 p.m.. This was the first Con I had ever been to at which no-one, not even the host, was present when I arrived. Eventually, Andy and I spotted someone who looked like a cat-burglar but who turned out to be Dave Ross, who took us into the commune and up to Martin's room, upon the door of which was a note, signed by one or two Dippy players, directing us to the local pub.

Incidentally, the girl mentioned in Rocinante 8, whom we passed on the stairs, did cower against the wall, but at the sight of Dave's impression of a cat-burglar, not me.

Outside, we met Roger Kitchener and Duncan Rigden, and Dave and Roger offered to drive us round the pub. Then Roger discovered that he'd locked his car and left the key inside, so we spent the next twenty minutes looking for a piece of wire so that Roger could break into it!

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Anyway, at the Rose of Kent, New Cross (Courage) at last, we saw a pathetic band of Dippy players sitting in a corner of the Saloon watching Dad's Army on the colour TV. We got down to a bit of chatting, in which I was talking pleasantly to Ade Baird until he was buttonholed by the irrep-ressible Barry McManus, when who should walk in but Martin Hammon!

Back at 5 Sanford Walk, with the arrival of the rest of the regulars, the most incredible Poker game got under way. (But not before I had phoned some not-to-early orders to an incredulous Mick Bullock, wangling the GPO out of the cost of the call on 5 Sanford Walk's unique pay phone.) The Poker saw me win £50 (yes, five-0, fifty!), mostly off Tim Spanton, and Sharp lose about £70 to Mark Gleeson in one hand, holding a Royal Flush!!! (Sharp, I mean!)

Next morning, and Sharp plays me at Scrabble for 1p a point. Although I get a 50 start, Richard manages 4 bonuses and beats me by 148! In the middle of the game, I hear the dulcet tones of Victor Logan and fear the worst. Sharp and I, in our little room, are hunched, all unsuspecting, over the Scrabble board. Enter Victor:

Victor: "Anyone for a game of Diplomacy or Monopoly?"

Greg: "No thank you, Victor."

Richard: "No thanks, we're playing Scrabble."

Victor: "Oh. Sort of dominos with letters, is it?"

Greg (spluttering): "Yes, you could call it that, Victor...."

After the Scrabble game, we go into the kitchen, where Mr. Logan is referring to the ads. published in Toad 3:

"Okay, who is New Cross Sanitorium. Is he here?"

---

A brief enquiry reveals that breakfast is being cooked four houses down, so Richard and I go there hordes of hungry Dippyists are consuming sausages and egg, ably cooked by Martin and served by his voluptuous fiancée. Then we decide to adjourn to the pubs, which are just opening. Quote of the Con then comes from Richard:

"Cor, and I thought Martin was joking when he said his girlfriend had the biggest tits in England....!"

First, then, to the Catford Ram (Youngs), which is sited in a shopping precinct (!), and turns out to be the plushiest pub I've ever been in. There is no dart board and Richard, feeling out of place, insists that we move on!

I suggest the Crown, Lee (Youngs), and we arrive in the public bar to find no dart board there either. Later, we realised that the saloon might have been equipped, but by now it's near closing time and we're at the Old Tiger's Head, Lee (Charrington's), where the dart board is unusable. Anyway, they settle to play Bridge while I thrash Cousins at bar-billiards. Then I nip over to my Dad's shop, which is opposite, and return with my brother (amazing what Dad sells nowadays). We meet some girls who are old friends of ours and chat for a while, then closing time comes, recreation ends, and it's back to the Con.

While Sharp and Weedsack practise their Bridge and everyone else plays Dungeons and Dragons, I occupy myself watching Tim Spanton sleep and tossing

pieces of paper into his wide-open mouth.

Opening time, Saturday evening, and Roy Taylor drives me, Richard, Barry McManus and Glyn Palmer on a pub-crawl of Wandsworth. As we leave, the Dungeons and Dragons mob, now evicted from the house, are watching the thunderclouds coming over....

Darts. I've never played before, really, and it becomes obvious when, playing this over-under game, I am set to go under about 86. I score 59 with my first two darts, and need only to miss the board (scoring 20) to make almost certain of winning. My third dart skewers into the treble 18, and all collapse laughing.

After about our fourth pub (and umpteenth pint...), Roy drives us, in the pouring rain, and the wrong way up one-way streets, to this chinese take-away Richard is sure is open. It's closed. Back in New Cross, however, we find one open, and I get sweet & sour pork.

The rain is now really pouring down. Roy parks about 50 yards from Martin's front door and we all dash, heads down, for the house. I've gone 30 yards and-am-doing 20 m.p.h. when I run into an invisible washing line which catches me round the neck but fortunately snaps. I fall backwards into four inches of water....

Inside, and I can't stomach my sweet'n'sour, which Doubleday eagerly bolts to follow his 3-course dinner.

Poker, and I, half asleep, lose £46. Sunday morning I wander listlessly around looking for somewhere to sleep (3 hours in 2½ days), can't, and decide to go home. Grooooooogh...!

Thanks to Martin for the most eventful Con I have ever attended, to Roy for all that drunken driving, to Tim for the money, and to Richard, Pete and Adrien for taking it off me. I now look forward with relish to ScotDipCon.

For the benefit of new members, the above is perfectly true, and typical of a good Diplomacy convention. What's that you say? Diplomacy? Good God no, I didn't play that. ScotDipCon 1975 is being hosted by Wink Thompson, of 15 Lineside Walk, Rhu, Dumbartonshire, (Scotland, dummies!). All sleeping space inside the house has already been booked, but you could always sleep in a car, in a tent, under the stars or not at all. The price, to cover the cost of the food, is £1 deposit (as soon as possible) plus £1 on arrival. The date is 24th-27th October, and I hope to arrive some time Friday evening. See you there.

\* \* \* \* \*

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|------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|
| <u>GAMESTART</u> | <u>NGC 144 (1975 FE)</u>   | <u>"ARAGORN"</u> | <u>Player List.</u> |
| AUSTRIA :        | Phil Dines, 31 Elmfield Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 4AY.                                  |                  |                     |
| ENGLAND :        | Jon Grose, 18 Highfield Grove, Horfield, Bristol 7.  |                  |                     |
| FRANCE :         | Frank Dashwood, 12 Lomond Road, Edinburgh, EH5 3JR.  |                  |                     |
| GERMANY :        | Martin Styler, 53 Shenley Fields Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 5AL.                                 |                  |                     |
| ITALY :          | Jonathan Palfrey, School of Industrial and Business Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. |                  |                     |
| RUSSIA :         | 24336936 Gnr Chris Bishop CJL, 6-27 Med Regt RA, B.F.P.O. 107.   |                  |                     |
| TURKEY :         | Ian Macdonald, "The Retreat", Findhorn, Forres, Moray, Scotland, IV36 OYS.                             |                  |                     |

Well, you're all paid up with the Club, and at the time of typing this (Monday 6th), I have subscriptions to TotS from six of you and orders from five. The Spring 1901 adjudication appears overleaf, and the TotS house rules, recommended reading for all of you, comprise the last two pages of this issue.

I have decided to call my regular and variant (not ID) games by the names of Tolkein characters, starting with A for Aragorn and working through the alphabet. It remains for me to wish you all luck, and hope you all decide to see the game through till its (or your) end.

Important note - will all players in NGC 144 please note the above names and addresses of the other players, which are almost all different in some way from those in Hello, Good Evening, and Welcome... 57.

Austro-Russian border squabble  
Peace, for the most part, elsewhere.

AUSTRIA (Phil Dines): F(Tri)-Alb A(Bud)-Ser A(Vie)-Gal  
ENGLAND (Jon Grose): F(Lon)-NTH F(Edi)-NWG A(Lpl)-Edi  
FRANCE (Frank Dashwood): A(Par)-Pic A(Mar)-Spa F(Bre)-MAO Builds Hotels  
Pic, Cov & Lei. Sq. !  
GERMANY (Martin Styler): A(Mun)-Ruh F(Kie)-Den A(Ber)-Kie  
ITALY (Jonathan Palfrey): A(Ven)-Pie A(Rom)-Tus F(Nap)-TYS  
RUSSIA (Chris Bishop): A(War)-Gal A(Mos)-Sev F(Sev)-Rum F(StP)sc-GOB  
TURKEY (Ian Macdonald): A(Con)-Bul A(Smy)-Arm F(Ank)-BLA

No retreats (hardly surprising, really !).

Press:

De La Frenais: - Ashwood to you. Happy new Century to your assorted Majesties from Frank's Republic.

Let us rejoice that in these civilised days War between the Great Powers is unthinkable ! In mutual trust and cooperation entering the Golden Age of peace and prosperity, when Income Tax shall be abolished, beer strengthened and the penny post reduced to a halfpenny (and GMs' typewriters have circum-flex accents).

Vote for Cendre De Bois, President de Gaul.

((Sounds like the NF manifesto !))

((No Dateline)): The people of Russia look forward to the early destruction of the English forces and early occupation of London. "Long live the Tzar".

Sara's Sleazy Swedish Sauna: A typical Spring '01 season. I haven't got Mick Bullock's analysis of openings with me at college, but I would guess that all the opening moves are very common except France's. A couple of gems from the GM's mailbag: "Already I have the feeling there are some not-quite-honest people about." - Chris Bishop. You betcher, Chris ! "You can credit me with £12 - rent for stopping on my property x 2 as I own all the blue sites." - Frank Daswood. No chance, try Rocinante. TotS House Rules are at the back of this issue, and all players are recommended to read them carefully.

\* \* \* \* \*

Once again, I have not received any orders from the SESAME player for his Intimate Diplomacy game against Richard Sharp. This is a final warning; if I have received no orders from the player concerned by the Intimate Diplomacy deadline, his or her name will be revealed for public ridicule. If I receive no orders from anyone who is a member of the Society for the Extermination of Sharp And Morris Everywhere (the last game report can be obtained from me), I will consider the game to have been conceded, and SESAME disgraced. So you have been warned !

ID - B has only one season adjudicated this time, since Dave Brown has found that now he's at work he has less free time. Surprise, surprise ! He would, however, like another game. Fortunately, so would Mike Ingham, so ID - E will be between these two noble personalities. I already have a preference list from Mike; can I have one from you by the deadline please, Dave ? Ta. Dave's new address, by the way, is:

37 Hopefield Avenue, Kilburn, London, NW6 6LJ.

Dave Ross is also on the move, to:

Rayleigh Tower, Flat no. 5, University of Essex, P.O. Box no. 26,  
Tivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3UE. !!!

Dave Brown also expresses surprise at my House Rule 4, regarding voluntary disbandment of mercenaries, and says "... Part of the interest in ID is in skilfully manipulating mercenary units on to another player, which he has to guard, in case they turn upon his back..." Well, if Mike is agreeable, we could play ID-E with the GM retreating unordered mercenaries. How about it ?

Is a breakthrough possible ?  
GM confused !

Dave Ross (France)

v

Dave Brown (Austria)

FRANCE : A(Pie)-NAf F(WMS) C A(Pie)-NAf F(GOL) C A(Pie)-NAf F(MAO)-Spa s.c.  
 A(Bur)-Bel A(Pic) S A(Bur)-Bel F(ENG) S A(Bur)-Bel F(Tun) st.  
 A(Par)-Bur A(Mar) S A(Par)-Bur F(Nor) S A(StP) A(StP) st.  
 A(Swe)-Den

Germany : F(Bel)-Pic\*

AUSTRIA : A(Ruh)-Hol A(Kie) S A(Ruh)-Hol A(Mun)-Ruh A(Ven)-Tus A(Smy)-Con  
 A(Boh)-Mun A(Ber) S A(Boh)-Mun A(Rum)-Sev A(Mos)-StP F(ADR)-ION  
 A(Tri)-Ven A(Tyr) S A(Tri)-Ven A(Lvn) S A(Mos)-StP  
 F(Rom) S TURKISH F(ION)-TYS F(Nap) S TURKISH F(ION)-TYS  
 F(Apu) S F(ADR)-ION

Turkey : F(ION)-TYS

Russia : F(EMS) st.

\* Retreat : German fleet (Bel) disbands.

Now comes the crunch. I have not brought any of the back issues of Betelgeuse to College with me, though I am sending home for them. Thus I don't know what the supply centre ownership table looks like or how much credit you have left. However, I am pretty sure that the supply centre chart below is accurate as to who owns what, and I think that France had a residue of £ 0 credit. Austria's was more. I therefore suggest that you both consult your back issues before making your bids for New Year 1908. I will have mine by the deadline so it won't help you to cheat. Now:

How they stand:

FRANCE : Owns: Par Mar Bre Spa Por Lon Lpl Edi Nor Swe StP Tun Den Bel = 14  
 Builds A(Par).

AUSTRIA : Owns: Tri Bud Vie Rom Nap Ven Mun Ber Kie Mos War Sev Ser Gre  
 Bul Rum Con Ank Hol = 19 Builds F(Tri), A(Bud), A(Vie).

Germany : Owns nothing - OUT !

Russia : Owns nothing - OUT ! GM removes F(EMS)

Turkey : Owns: Smy no change.

Now you are bidding only for control of the Turkish F(TYS); quite an important unit, I think. The relevant figure is France's credit balance, which I think is now £14. Yes ?

I don't think this game is yet a stalemate, although I don't think that France can win it. In fact, it's getting quite interesting now. Spring orders, conditional on who controls Turkey, by the deadline, please

\* \* \* \* \*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those publishers who plugged Turn of the Screw in their zines. And, of course, to solicit plugs from anyone who has not yet done so.

Meanwhile, I suppose I ought to do my share by informing you of what else is new, although you probably know already. Uriah's Heap, from Roger Kitchener, had probably the most promising first issue of any Dippy zine ever, with regular contributions coming from Steve Doubleday and Doug Wakefield. Also around are Jigsaw, from Roy Taylor, and Bruce, from Paul Simpkins, neither of which I have seen as yet.

\* \* \* \* \*

Back, for the moment, to the subject of my house rules. In the event of my making an error in an adjudication, it will be corrected where possible, and notifications will be sent to all players concerned. However, it is up to the players to inform me if an error has been made, since once they become 'established' it is very difficult to correct them without upsetting the game drastically.

In all cases, the GM's decision is final.

My decision not to use standbys in Regular games is based on Mick Bullock's philosophy that they alter the course the game would otherwise have taken. Variant games, which are more like playtests, will use standbys.

Dave Ross (Russia)

v

Paul Willey (France)

Some close bidding

But does Willey think he's playing Austria ?

	RUSSIA	FRANCE
Credit:	£20	£20
BIDS: Germany (-)	£8	£8
England (F)	-	£2
Italy (-)	£2	£2
Turkey (R)	£5	£4
Austria (R)	£5	120 pesetas
Total of successful bids:	£10	£2
Credit remaining:	£10	£18

Press:

Paris to SSSS: ~~Fank you for the grammar lesson. It will come in very useful~~  
when I start to teach these ~~Creasy Dagoes~~ Spaniards a civilised  
tongue. But English grammar is dead easy so long as you remember to not split  
((Oh no !)) an infinitive or allow a preposition to finish a sentence off.  
((Aaaaaaargh !!!)) And don't start one with a conjunction. ((Aaaaaaargh  
again !))  
(To be read in a Cockney accent, punctuated with sniffs.)

Sara's Sleazy Swedish Sauna: I suppose I asked for that.

Paris to Vienna ((Er... Moscow ?)): Why waste time ? Concede now.

SPRING 1901

Now Ross thinks he's playing against Italy !

Phew !

RUSSIA : A(Mos)-Ukr A(War)-Gal F(StP)s.c.-GOB F(Sev)-BLA  
Turkey : F(Ank)-Con A(Smy)-Syr A(Con)-Smy  
Austria : A(Vie)-Tyr F(Tri)-ADS A(Bud)-Ser  
FRANCE : F(Bre)-MAO A(Par)-Bur A(Mar)-Spa  
England : F(Edi)-NWG F(Lon)-NTH A(Lpl)-Edi  
German F(Kie), A(Mun) & A(Ber) and Italian F(Nap), A(Rom) & A(Ven) st. (neutral)

Press:

Moscow to Rome ((!!!)): Who are you trying to kid Willey ? You do realise I  
am the reigning undefeated Betelgeuse ID champion  
don't you ? Still, you were lucky enough to pick a reasonable country so you  
~~might give me some sort of a game. If you want any advice by the way I'll be~~  
happy to help.

Paris to Moscow: Okay, so you haven't annexed Vienna yet. There's still  
nothing to stop you conceding. It's the only way you can  
avoid the humiliation of defeat.

SSSS: Thank you, gentlemen. Autumn orders by the deadline on page 1, please.  
Don't forget conditional builds. Or just builds - what's to be condi-  
tional ?

\* \* \* \* \*

Paul Willey tells me; "...there may soon be an embargo on Spanish-  
British mail, so I hope that if I suddenly stop communicating you will give  
me the benefit of the doubt and won't blacklist me !" Screech... I had no  
idea anything so drastic could happen, and I sincerely hope it doesn't come  
to that. Bloody silly business anyway; if they started executing terrorists  
in this country (including those found guilty of membership of the IRA), I'd  
be the first to support it. (The executions, I mean, not the terrorists !)

Paul also asks me to print his telephone number, which is 3 33 49 30,  
presumably preceded by the code for Spanish calls (before 3.30 pm and after  
10.30 pm or at weekends !).

Turn of the Screw HOUSE RULES.

- 1. Rules: The 1971 Diplomacy rulebook will be used at all times except where amended by the rules of a variant and as below.
- 2. Subscriptions: Except for trade and other agreements, Turn of the Screw is available on subscription only, at the rate of  $\frac{1}{3}$ p per side plus postage per issue, with fractions less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ p being rounded off in subscribers' favour. Subscriptions must be kept in credit at all times. Subscribers will be notified of their remaining credit after each issue, the amount appearing on the address label after the name.
- 3. Deadlines: These will usually be on Fridays at 4-weekly intervals. Dead-line for mailed orders is second post on the deadline day. Phoned orders will only be accepted during vacations before 7pm on the deadline day. Orders received after the deadline will only be accepted if they are postmarked before it and the game has not yet been adjudicated.
- 4. Orders: All orders must be typed or clearly written on one side of a sheet of paper. Illegal, illegible or ambiguous orders fail. Orders for different games must be on separate pieces of paper. Order sheets must carry the game number, country, year and season and must be dated. In the case of two sets of orders being received, that dated last will be used.
  - Players are advised to sign their orders.
  - Joint orders must be signed by all players concerned. Orders conditional on joint orders being rescinded are illegal. Any player may unilaterally change his orders.
  - 'Funny orders', e.g. A(Bul)-ges, will be treated as 'stand' orders. Unordered units, misordered units, and units in anarchy stand and may be supported.
  - All orders involving split-coast provinces must have the coast specified, whether or not the order is ambiguous:

F(Spa)-Mar is illegal                      F(Spa)s.c.-Mar is correct.

- 5. Abbreviations: The first three letters of a province name will serve as an abbreviation, lower case being used for land spaces, capitals for sea. Exceptions are:

Lpl - Liverpool	Lvn - Livonia
NAf - North Africa	NTH - North Sea
NAO - North Atlantic Ocean	MAO - Mid Atlantic Ocean
WMS - Western Mediterranean Sea	EMS - Eastern Mediterranean Sea
GOB - Gulf of Bothnia	GOL - Gulf of Lyons
TYS - Tyrrhenian Sea	NWG - Nowegian Sea

Other abbreviations used are:

A = Army	e.c. = east coast
F = Fleet	n.c. = north coast
S = Supports	s.c. = south coast
C = Convoys	NMR = No moves received!
St. = Stands	<del>A(Bul)</del> = non-existent unit
- = moves to or attacks	A(Mun)-Bur = failed move
* = unit dislodged	A(Mun)-Par = illegal or impossible move

The province from which a unit moves is bracketed.

- 6. Seasons: Spring orders should contain conditional retreats for units which may possibly be dislodged. They may be made conditional on any other moves or sets of moves during the Spring season. Autumn orders should contain conditional retreats, builds and removals. In the absence of retreat orders a dislodged unit will be disbanded by the GM. In the absence of build orders no builds will be made. In the absence of removal orders the GM will remove units as per rule XIV 4 of the 1971 Rulebook.

7. Press: Press releases are welcome for publication in Turn of the Screw alongside the game report. The GM reserves the right to censor press for any reason. GM's comments will be in double brackets (( )), or under the dateline 'Sara's Sleazy Swedish Sauna' (SSSS). Both are reserved exclusively for GM usage.

8. Blacklisting: A player may be blacklisted and banned from all NGC zines for:  
a) Dropping out of a game - missing two successive deadlines.  
b) Deception of the GM - submission of faked orders.  
c) Lapsed credit.

Turn of the Screw does not use standbys for regular games. The units of any player who drops out will go into anarchy. A player may avoid blacklisting by resigning from a game for a good and legitimate reason or by appealing to the GM. A blacklisted player forfeits his game deposit and any remaining TotS credit.

(Note - in variant games the GM will appoint a standby, if any are available, to take over from a player who resigns or drops out. Standbys pay no game fees.)

9. Miscellaneous:  
a) All players are responsible for notifying the GM of any changes of address, which will be published in TotS.  
b) All players in TotS must be NGC members.  
c) Spain and North Africa are not connected.  
d) A game may be ended by unanimous vote of the remaining players.

10. Notes: When writing orders for convoy or support of units of a different nationality, the nationality of the unit being convoyed or supported must be given in all cases, or the order will not succeed.

Examples:  
(England): F(MAO) C GERMAN A(Bre)-NAF  
(Russia): A(Rum) S AUSTRIAN A(Ser)-Bul

These House Rules take effect from 1st October 1975.

2nd TotS, from:

Please return if undelivered.

Greg Hawes,  
Corpus Christi College,  
OXFORD,  
OX1 4JF.

Return postage guaranteed.

\* \* \* \* \*

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