

# MAD POLICY



WEAPONS RAISED?

ISSUE NUMBER 42.

It is with tears in my eyes and a genuinely deep sense of loss and infinite regret that I am forced to announce that this is, in all probability, the very last issue of MAD POLICY you will ever see.....

.....printed on gold paper!

Got you worried there, eh? Yes, well, my stocks of gold paper will definitely run out this issue, so unless I can get some more quickly and cheaply we'll have to make do with wishy-washy white, bilious blue or ghastly grey next time. Ugh!

Before I go any further I'd better tell you who I am. Well, I'm old RJW himself, who, when he's not masquerading as John Piggott, answers to the name of Richard J. Walkerdine, and lives at 'Cheriton', 15 Crouch Oak Lane, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 2AN. And this creation of paper and ink that you hold in your grubby paws is MAD POLICY, the 42nd issue thereof, a sort of postal Diplomacy zine. It costs 5p per issue plus postage, games in it cost you an additional 60p each, and it arrives on your doormat every fourth week - prompt! And back issues are 4p plus postage each - ain't that nice?

Today is Monday, April 7th, 1975.

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The young lady on the front cover is the Sorceress - drawn by my own fair hand with the aid of a pencil and some tracing paper, in case you were wondering.

In reply to some queries from some new subscribers; yes, no, yes, only when I can afford it, and a sort of brownish-green. All clear now?

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The Deadline

For all MAD POLICY games: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH, 1975.

For the ANNEXE games : MONDAY, APRIL 28TH, 1975.

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Standby Players

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 'H': Black, Pimley.               | 'I': <u>Coombe.</u>         |
| 'J': <u>Prevot, Challenger.</u>   | 'L': Challenger, Herlihy.   |
| 'M': Knowles, Challenger.         | 'N': Herlihy, Murphy.       |
| 'O': Kelly, Murphy.               | 'P': <u>Black, R.Allen.</u> |
| 'Q': Challenger, Murphy, R.Allen. | 'R': Prevot, Black, Murphy. |

Orders requested from those people underlined please - and thankyou to the new names on the list for helping to fill the gaps.

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The Finishing Touch issue 9 goes out with this MP, bringing to 63 the number of regular games reported. Let me know if you've asked for a copy and not yet received one, won't you?

Support you local IDA! IDA/UK represents the whole of the British hobby, not just a part of it. 80p a year from me, the Treasurer.

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News and the like

First of all the good news:

There is no bad news.

And now the bad news:

There is no good news.

(Think about it - no, on second thoughts don't bother....)

Let's try to find some real news:

Hartley Patterson tells me that his proposed Games Convention '75 has been postponed due to lack of support. He's now hoping something can be arranged for the Feb/Mar '76 period instead. I hope so too.

The third of the recent crop of new NGC zines duly appeared from Dave Ross recently. It's called Rocinante and costs 4p per issue plus postage. Issue one looked pretty good, with several short articles as well as the first batch of games starts. See Dave's 'Dictionary of Diplomatic Phrases' for the real meaning behind the letters you receive! Oh, Dave is really 797 Tpr Ross, Supt Trp C Sqn, 16/5th Lancers, Northampton Barracks, BFPO 33, of course...

Lots of people in lots of zines seem to have lots of things to say about the NGC - both for and against. Most of it is just trying to pick a fight with Richard Sharp of course, but it's hilarious to read - even my contributions! If you want to have a real good laugh then just pick any zine that has a letter column and look for the NGC bits. Providing you don't take any of it seriously I guarantee that within minutes the tears of mirth will be streaming down your cheeks - of course the sad thing is that a few of the participants do take it all seriously, but that's their hang-up.

I love this hobby, I really do.

Still on the subject of the NGC, the annual elections are due in June at Descontent and of course the plotting and intrigue has already started. My spies tell me that there are now at least three (possibly four) members of the Committee who have decided not to seek re-election (probably decided they can't stomach the idea of being talked about in a zine like Bellicus) so a few new faces are absolutely certain to appear. Look out for a rather different form of Committee next year with a smaller Committee co-opting extra members as and when needed.

Thinks: why don't we declare Sharp to be Life President of the NGC and then ask Will Haven to sign on as his assistant? Now that really would be fun! Pistols at dawn, gentlemen?...

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Terry Knowles

No, this is not an apology for his existence - I'll leave that for another issue. Fact is he's threatening to pay a visit to Europe in general and these sceptered isles in particular sometime in July and, as he'll be wandering around from country to country for a while it'll be difficult for him to keep track of his games. I'll probably act as a letter-box for him while he's here, but he's asked me to ask you lot if anyone would be prepared to take over his games for him for a short while just to be on the safe side. If anyone feels like volunteering just drop me a line - obviously it can only be someone who isn't in one of Terry's games already.

If he's here near an MP deadline I'll have to try to get him over to type up his own press for once - you never know, we might even be able to kill off Crinklecrud and his mates once and for all. Heh, heh, heh....

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Damn! West Ham have only managed a goalless draw with Ipswich - now we'll have to try again on Wednesday. Come on lads, get it in the net....

The Demise of the MW Rating System

It has become increasingly obvious in recent months that the MW Rating System has one major drawback in attempting to rate players and countries in Diplomacy games. This is that MW does not deal satisfactorily with tied positions. This is evidenced by the fact that those people who had been involved in a very high or very low tied position found that the estimates of their rating tended to move very slowly away from the original estimate, despite a change in results that would normally be regarded as significant.

Since persevering with MW would have served no useful purpose it has been replaced by the MWR Rating System. MW was, in fact, an approximation to MWR, as although MWR is more straightforward in theory it was previously regarded as having too many computational problems to be feasible in practice. These problems have now been overcome and it is hoped that MWR will prove to be a more acceptable system than the earlier approximation to it.

Description of MWR

Any rating system worth its salt only gives an estimate of the numerical value of a variable representing something in real life. Real Life here is the Diplomacy player, who is considered to be represented by a variable called 'ability at Diplomacy'. The estimate of the value of this variable is called a 'rating'. How does MWR obtain this rating?

It is done as follows. Each player is represented by a variable, as are each of the countries. For each game result (there are seven to a game), an initial equation is set up, involving the relevant variables. This is of the form:

$$\text{Player Variable} + \text{Country Variable} = \text{Result Value}$$

The result values used for each position are the Brob values multiplied by one thousand. Thus if, for example, John Meadon playing Italy comes third in a game, his equation for that game is:

$$\text{JM} + \text{ITALY} = 2000$$

Since there are seven equations produced by one game, and there have been many games, the country variables will each occur rather frequently while the player variables (individually) will be rather rare. However, many contradictory equations will be obtained both for individual players and for countries, so some method has to be found to reconcile them. The method used is to find, with the help of the computer, the particular values of the variables such that the sum of squares of the differences between forecast and actual positions is at a minimum.

The method also finds estimates of the values of the country variables. By making certain assumptions about the overall distribution of all the player and country variables it is also possible to obtain an estimate of how precise these values are.

-- John Meadon.

Other Details

MWR takes no account of standby players - only the original players in a game are rated. There are however two ways of treating dropouts, Method 1 and Method 2. In Method 1 a player who drops out of a game is completely ignored, his rating remains the same as it would have been if that game had never existed. In Method 2 a drop-out is considered to have been eliminated at the point at which he drops out and is rated accordingly. At present Method 2 is being used.

Even after computerising the system the prospect of, eventually, several hundred games and even more different players is a little daunting! Therefore as soon as it becomes known that a particular player is no longer active in the hobby his name is added to a 'censored' list within the system and no account is taken of his results.

The first MWR list will appear in the next issue of MP.

-- RJW.

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Splendidhamstaffshire-On-Trentoncalf

Editors note: Readers who are new to this saga and wish to find out the story so far are warned to on no account read the last dozen or so issues of MP - it ain't a pretty tale!

We find out heroes trapped in the underground hideaway of Brian Yare and his Yaren-SS. Astonishingly, one of Yare's cohorts is seen to be none other than the Talk of London, the voluptuous Claire Walkerdine!

"Defected?" echoes Crinklecrud. "What could Yare offer that Richard couldn't?"

"Well..." begins the Malicious Mistress, her eyes twinkling.

"Attention!" screams one of the guards, as a malformed figure enters the room. "Yarelord grovelfeet!"

"What?" cringes Grud..

"Yarelord grovelfeet!" the goon repeats, motioning toward the dirty feet of the new figure. When Grud fails to comply with the order, the other guard gives him a rough shove to sprawl at the other's toes. Unwillingly, the Tall Thin Man With No Balls does the same. Swanson, being at that level already, remains standing. Crinklecrud however crosses his arms obstinately. Lettice looks uncertain.

One of the guards looks at his master questioningly, and the purported Brian Yare shakes his head. The Master of Evil remains standing.

"You --" he motions, pointing at Crinklecrud, "are going to do some work for me."

"I am?" retorts Crinklecrud skeptically.

"Yes."

"Why?"

Without a further word, he calls one of the two goons-in-attendance over. Slapping the underling twice to ensure his attention, Yare points to the door and snaps, "Yarelord grovelfeet funmachines, funperson." In English, for our heroes benefit, he adds, "and the greeps."

Crinklecrud's blood runs cold. Having a rudimentary knowledge of Yarespeak, he realises they are about to witness someone (funperson) being tortured with (funmachines). What part will the Greeps - crottled, presumably - play? An extra instrument of torture? A reward? His digestive facilities cringe.

"I have a most important funperson for us to witness being entertained today," notes Yare casually.

"I really cannot see who you could possibly have captured that would interest me," snaps the Master Menace.

"I didn't expect you to cooperate with me solely for this person's benefit," explains Yare coolly. "This is merely an example of what will happen to you if you refuse to help me."

There is a sudden commotion at the door and the goons usher in a bearded figure. Claire's eyes remain glazed, unblinking, and she stares in steady adoration at the crippled figure of Yare.

"Richard Walkerdine," Crinklecrud gasps lowly. And indeed, it is the famed publisher, diplomacy player and serpot who is ushered in, struggling, and tied to a pair of rings set high in the wall. His deep expressive eyes meet those of his spouse momentarily and lock.

"Claire --" calls Yare.

"Master?" she responds simply.

Yare tosses her a dreadfully familiar weapon, smiling devilishly. "Rather a poetic irony, don't you think?" he remarks to Crinklecrud, giggling. And then to Claire: "Atomise them!"

Claire, realises the Mad Menace too late, must have been doped. Slowly she raises the testicle atomiser to her lovely shoulder, and her beautiful eyes sight along the barrel. Richard blushes.

"Pull the trigger, Claire..." commands Yare.

Will the inthinkable happen? Is Richard about to be callously castrated? By his wife? How did Claire fall into Yare's dirty hands? How did Yare's goons catch Richard? Is it true what they say about his beard? Find out next issue....

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AUSTRIA (Waldie): A Sev S A Arm, A Arm S F Smy, A Ank S A Arm, F Smy S F Aeg, A Con S F Smy, F Aeg S F Ion, F Gre S F Ion, F Adr S F Ion, F Nap S F Ion, F Rom S A Tus, A Tus S A Pie, A Ven S A Pie, A Tri does nothing in particular, A Pie S (GERMAN) A Mar.

CHINA (Buckingham): F Tun - Ion, F Alg - Tun S by A Sah, A Mor - Alg, A Eaf(OBB) - Mor S by A Mor(OBB), A Syr - Arm S by A Bag, A Sib S A Oms, A Tur S A Ira, A's Sah(OBB) Fez Sud Nej Yem Can Ira Oms all stand.

ENGLAND (Meadon): A Wal F Lon F Yor F Edi F Bar all stand.

GERMANY (Davies): A Fin S F Nwy, F Nwy S F Nth, A Lvn S F StP(NC), A Mos Stands, A Mar MS A Gas, A Bur S A Mar, A Par S A Gas, F Bre S A Gas, A Pic S F Bre, F Den S F Nth, F Hol S F Nth, F Hel S F Nth.

JAPAN (Knowles): F Jor(WC) F Egy(NC) & F Pen all S F EMS, F Lib & F Tun both stand, F GoL - Mar, F Por - Spa(SC) S by F WMS, F Spa(NC) - Gas, F Nrg - Nwy, F Eng - Bre S by F MAO, F NAO - Nrg, F Iri - Eng, all others stand.

Retreats: none.

And that is definately the finish!

Only one player voted against the 5-way draw, and his suggested way of breaking the deadlock involved two other players making certain moves which the above orders make quite clear they have no intention of doing - and there are sufficient defensive forces to guard against the plan anyway, Mr. X!

So with the supply centre chart now unchanged for the fourth successive year I declare this game ended as a 5-way draw. Final supply centre counts are: Japan 19, China 18, Austria 15, Germany 15, England 5. A final game summary and report will appear in one or two issues time - contributions from players will be welcome.

And may God bless all who sailed in her....

1973BYbb ('I' - Multiplicity) -- Spring 1908 DOUBLEDAY FLEXES MIGHTY TWEWS!!

ENGLAND (Doubleday): F MAO + 2A Lon + A Pic MERGE = f/3A Bre, 2A Mun - Tyr, 2F Eng C 2A Lon - Bre, A Mos - Ukr, F Lvn - StP(SC), F Den - Nth, F Bel Stands, F NAO - MAO.

FRANCE (Coombe?): A Bur - Mar.

ITALY (Meadon): F Nap Stands, 2A Tri - Tyr, F TyS - WMS S by F Tun, F Bre - Pic, A/3F Rom SPLIT = A Ven + 3F TyS, F Por - MAO, A Par + A Gas MERGE = 2A Bur.

RUSSIA (Buckingham): A Smy - Con, A War Stands.

TURKEY (Davidson): F Con + F Ank MERGE = 2F Con, F Bla - Ank, F Rum - Sev, A Ukr - War.

Retreats: Italian F Bre - Gas.

John Coombe failed to send in any standby moves for France, so the French units order has been made using the instructions left for it by Duncan Morris. But Duncan has of course said he wants to resign - and his absence of correspondance this time seems to confirm that he has - so whereas I think I'm justified in using Duncan's pre-set instructions on the first occasion that he is absent I don't think I'm justified in doing it twice in a row. After all, if he hadn't said he wanted to resign one missed set of orders would give him an NMR but he'd still be in the game, whereas two would mean that he was thrown out. So if the French unit is unordered by either Duncan or John next season it will stand unsupported in anarchy. Meanwhile, would JOHN COOMBE please try once more to order the damn thing? Ta.

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This is the part of the main body of this document that comes to you at absolutely no cost, and also fails to mention the fact that West Ham are in the Semi-finals of the cup. It is produced by John Morrison, 9, Highfield Avenue, Inskip, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0UE. Printing is done in Imrryr by persons unknown, at least in the field of human biology.

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Right then, orft we jolly well go.....

1973EK('H'): AUSTRIANS LEAVE MUN. & TUN., SO ON WE GO....Autumn.1911.

AUSTRIA(Walkerdine): F Tun-Naf, F Ion-TyS S by F Nap, F Adr-Ion,  
A Mun-Bur, A Pie-Mar S by A Gas, A Tus-Pie,  
A Rom-Tus, A Tyr-Boh, A Vie-Tyr, A Pru stands,  
A War-Sil, A Mos stands, A Gre-Alb, A Con-Bul.

ENGLAND(Pimley): F Nth-Nwy S by F Nwg, F Ska-Swe S by A Den,  
A Hol S F Kie, F Kie hopes for German/Austrian non  
co-operation, F Bel Metamorphoses and becomes A Bel-  
Ruh, ~~FRANCE~~ F EnC-Bre, A Par-Gas.

FRANCE(Buckingham): A Spa S A Mar, A Mar affirms R.L.D.O. RULES!

GERMANY(Ovens): A Ruh S(AUSTRIAN)A Mun-Bur, A Fin S F Nwy,  
F Nwy MS A Swe, F Ber-Kie.

ITALY(Black): F WMS-TyS.

Retreats: GERMAN A Swe annihilated-no retreat space given!

Winter 1911 Adjustments:

- AUSTRIA: 16 CENTRES: Bud, Tri, Vie, Ser, Bul, Gre, Rum, Sev, War, Ven, Con, Mos, Ank, Rom, Nap, Smy. NO CHANGE.
- ENGLAND: 10 Centres: Lpl, Lon, Edi, Bre, Par, Bel, Den, Kie, Hol, +Swe. BUILDS A Edi.
- FRANCE : 3 Centres: Mar, Por, Spa. OWED 1 UNIT(Nowhere to build).
- GERMANY: 4 Centres: Ber, Nwy, StP, Mun, ~~SyP~~. NO CHANGE.
- ITALY : 1 Centre : Tun. NO CHANGE.

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1973DEfa('L'):Spring 1461.....FURTHER FRENCH SETBACK, KING BORED.

BEAUFORTS(Ross): F Dor MS F Exe.

FRANCE(Scott): F Har-Echa S by F Cal & F IOW, A Pic S F Cal,  
F Por-Snt, A Lew-Sur.

NEVILLES(Walkerdine): F Sev-Cor S by A Bri, A Der-Not S by A Lei,  
A Sta-Der S by A Che, A Sou-Don, A War-Sta.  
F Mer-Lan, F StG stands.

PERCIES(Davies): A Sca stands.

RED ROSE(Knowles): F Dov-Str S by F Nor2, F ECha-Lew S by A Wea,  
A Roc-Lon, A Can-Sur S by A Cch, A Win-Pur S by  
A Sal, A Bks-Win, F Nor1 S A Lin, A Bed-Rut,  
A Lin S(NEVILLES)A Lei-Not.

SCOTS(Morris): A Uls-Dub, cursing Walkerdines wishes!., F M Bay-Lan,  
A Car-Bwk, A Dun-Rox, A Lan-WMor, F Bwk-Tyn.

WHITE ROSE(Black): A Not-Lin S by A Don & F Yor, A WRid S A Don,  
A Dur-Sca.

Retreats: FRENCH A Lew disbanded-Nowhere to go.  
WHITE ROSE A Not disbanded- Nowhere to go.

JORIL to Orienteer: Your booking now confirmed. Now can I have a  
supply centre?

+++++  
Well, I did give you chaps time to get your orders in, but all seems  
to be to no avail. There was an error in the Spring which no-one  
noticed. The Turkish A Ven could not move to Apu, and had to retreat.  
There was nowhere for it to go, so it was annihilated. And if you're  
wondering what game it is, it's 1973GI('J'): Autumn 1911...

AUSTRIA(Meadon): F Nap-Apu S by A Ven.

FRANCE(Swanson): F Tun-Ion, A Tus-Ven, S by A Pie & A Tyr, F TyS-Rom,  
F Gol-TyS, F WMS-Tun, A Ruh MS A Mun, F Hol S F Nth,  
F Nth MS F Nwg.

RUSSIA(Pimley): NMR! F's Ska,Kie,Nwy, A's Ber,Mos,Sil,Gal,Ukr stand  
unordered.

TURKEY(Sharp): NMR! F's AdS,Apu,Gre,Aeg,Rum,Bla, A's Boh,Tri, Bud,  
Bul,Sev stand unordered.

Retreats: AUSTRIAN A Ven annihilated-No retreat space given.

WINTER 1911 ADJUSTMENTS:

- AUSTRIA: 1 Centre : ~~Kon~~, Nap. NO Change.
- FRANCE : 14 CENTRES : Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Lpl, Tun, Bel, Hol, Lon,  
Mun, Edi, +Rom, +Ven. Builds A Mar, A Par.
- RUSSIA : 8 Centres : Swe, Nwy, Mos, StP, Den, Ber, Kie, War. No Change.
- TURKEY : 11 Centres : Ank, Smy, Con, Bul, Gre, Ser, Rum, Sev, Bud,  
Tri, Vie, ~~Yen~~. No Change.

SORRY ABOUT THE CRUSH.....TAFTAN.....STANDBYS??



1973IQ ('M') -- Autumn 1909 Warsaw: now you see it, now you don't...

AUSTRIA (Davies): F WMS - Naf S by F Tun, F GoL - Pie, A Tri - Tyr S by A Ven, A Gal - Boh S by A Vie, A Bud - Gal.

ENGLAND (A.Davidson): A Lvn S (GERMAN) A Sil - War, A StP - Mos,  
F Nwy - StP(NC), F Gas - Spa(NC), F MAO S F NAF, F Eng S F MAO.

FRANCE (Coombe): A Por MS A Spa.

GERMANY (B.Davidson): A Sil - War S by A Pru, A Boh - Gal, F Bal Stands,  
A Tyr - Ven, A Ruh - Mun, A Bur S A Mar.

TURKEY (Black): F Bul(SC) - Aeg, F TyS - WMS, F Bla tries to visit Caspian Sea,  
A Ukr S A War, A War S (AUSTRIAN) A Gal - Sil, A Rum - Gal,  
A Mos S A War, A Sev S A Mos.

Retreats: German A Boh - Sil, A Tyr annihilated.  
Turkish A War annihilated.

Winter 1909 Adjustments

A: 9 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie, Ser, Gre, Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun. Builds A Tri.

E: 7 Centres: Lpl, Lon, Edi, Nwy, Bre, Bel, StP. No change.

F: 2 Centres: Spa, Por. No change.

G: 9 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Swe, Par, Mar, Hol, +War. Builds A Ber, A Kie.

T: 7 Centres: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Mos, Rum, Sev, ~~War~~. No change.

1974BD ('N') -- Autumn 1906

Turkey: roasting slowly....

FRANCE (Meadon): F Mar - Gol, A Par - Bur S By A Gas, F Eng - Bel S by A Pic,  
F Hel - Hol, F Nrg - Nth, A Yor - Edi, F Wal - Lon.

GERMANY (Cousins): F Nwy S (FRENCH) F Nrg to off-board box!, A Ruh S A Bel,  
F Nth - Hel S by F Den, F Hol - Kie, A Mun - Kie.

ITALY (Ball): A Tri - Ser S by A Bud, A Vie S A Bud, A Bul S F Con,  
F Gre - Aeg S by F Con, F Ion - EMS, A Ven stands, F TyS stands, F Tun - Ion.

RUSSIA (Waldie): A StP S (GERMAN) F Nwy, A Sev - Arm, A Ukr - War, A Gal MS A Rum.

TURKEY (Swanson): F Aeg - Con S by A Smy & A Ank.

Retreats: French F Hel annihilated.  
Italian F Con - Bla.

Winter 1906 Adjustments

F: 8 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, Spa, Por, Edi, Lpl, Lon, ~~Bel~~. No change.

G: 8 Centres: Ber, Mun, Kie, Den, Hol, Swe, Nwy, +Bel. Builds F Kie.

I: 10 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, Tri, Ser, Gre, Vie, Bud, ~~Bel~~, +Bul. No change.

R: 5 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, Rum. No change.

T: 3 Centres: Ank, Smy, ~~War~~, +Con. No change.

Splendidhamstaffshire-on-Trentoncalf: "So you're Terry Knowles," says Professor Crinklecrud, Mad Scientist, Outcast from Every Country, Enemy of All Mankind and Ex-Member of the IDA.

"Yes," replies the young Canadian, "it is I to whom you refer, and I've come to take you, my creations, back with me."

"Oh good!" grins the Mad Menace. "Are we going to join forces to conquer the World? You and I, we could make a marvelous team."

"Oh yes, wonderful," nods Grud.

"Triffic," agrees Swanson.

" " says the Tall Thin Green Man with No Balls, who never says much anyway.

"Not quite. Actually I was intending to take you all back to my lab," says Knowles.

"There to live in the lap of luxury, eh?" asks Crinklecrud.

"Lovely," says Grud.

"Marvy," agrees Swanson.

" " ", says the Tall Thin Green Man with No Balls, who never says much anyway.

"Why have I been left out of this press release?" asks Lettice from the corner.

"No, not that either," replies Knowles. "I'm going to take you all, put you into my Super-Duper Fool-Proof Acme Character Metaphysical Mixer, and re-vitalize you. I'm getting bored with you lot!"

As Knowles breaks this news to the Quixotic Quadruplet, their eyes grow wide with terror. No, anything but that!

Only Crinklecrud knows the full meaning of Knowles' intentions. "This man is indeed a man after my own heart! But how are we to get away?" thinks the Petrified Professor.

Drawing his little company out from under the evil leer of Knowles, Crinklecrud asks them for ideas. However, he has little hope that these mindless morons will be able to think of anything.

Suddenly Swanson pipes up: "Surely," squeals the diminutive dwarf, "unless Knowles is actually writing this himself then the author could easily wish us out of this spot."

"Excellent idea!" says Crinklecrud. Looking skyward, he shouts: "Hey, you up there, get us out of here!"

Imrryr: Now if only I could remember which of the ~~four~~ five (or is it six?) authors wrote that particular piece I might even be able to put in a good word for them. After all, if you're looking skyward there's precious little that's more godlike than a GM/publisher, is there?....

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1974BE ('0') --- Autumn 1906 Birks flexes mighty....er.....

The proposal for a draw was heavily defeated - now there's a surprise...

AUSTRIA (Lindsay): A Rum - Bud S by A Ser.

ENGLAND (Coombe): F Nth - Edi S by A Yor, F Lon Stands.

FRANCE (Birks): F Lpl - Cly, A Edi Stands, F MAO - Spa(SC), A Mar - Pie, F Iri - MAO, A Bel Stands.

GERMANY (Burton): A Hol - Bel, A Pru - Sil, A Boh - Mun, F Den - Swe,  
F Nwy - StP(NC), F Bal - Swe.

ITALY (Knowles): F Adr - Alb S by F Ion, F Tun S F Ion, A Tri - Ser S by A Bud,  
A Tyr - Mun.

RUSSIA (Bullock): A StP S (ENGLISH) F Nth - Nwy, F GoB - Swe, A Gal - Rum,  
A War-e of the need for action, stands.

TURKEY (Challinger): F Con - Aeg S by F EMS, F Gre MS A Bul.

Retreats: French A Edi - Lpl.

Winter 1906 Adjustments

A: 2 Centres: ~~Bud, Ser, Gry,~~ Rum. No change.

E: 2 Centres: Lon, ~~Lpl, Nwy,~~ +Edi. Removes A Yor.

F: 7 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Bel, ~~Lpl,~~ +Lpl. Builds F Mar.

G: 7 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, Swe, +Nwy. Builds A Ber.

I: 7 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, Tri, Vie, +Bud. Builds A Ven.

R: 4 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War. No change.

T: 5 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, +Gre. Builds A Smy.

My thanks to Ron Kelly for the unused standby moves...

Skaro - Puta: Well, well. Now we can be alone without that nasty Jamul to bother us - by the way, do you like boiled sweeties? I've got some in my car...

For Sale: One pound of Crottled Greeps. One good owner. Selling because owner throws up at the sight of them. Apply Box no. 508.

R - KB7 x N: I am the real Professor Crinklecrud.

Q - KB7 x P: I am the real Professor Crinklecrud.

SplendidarentIhamshire-on-Trentonkneecap: Professor Crinklecrud, Mad Scientist, Enemy of All Mankind, Outcast from Every Country and Ex-member of the NGC, paused before the barred window. Outside, Pigstapo guards walked backwards and forwards. From the cell next door the crack of a whip and the cries of anguish could be heard through the two-foot-thick concrete. How had he, the trusted genius he was, been trapped by the evil forces of the dictator Piggott? As a famous person, he had been requested to attend a press character conference - only to find himself arrested the moment he arrived...

One of the guards seemed to be walking with a limp. The other was continually fingering his moustache (which was painted on anyway) - obviously he was the infamous lout, Dungan Morris. The guard with a limp passed close to Crinklecrud's window and dropped a piece of paper by the bars. The professor quietly reached through to pick it up. It was a message! It read...

'I am Pierre Birk, leader of the underground movement and sole perpetrator of Greasy Tits. We plan to free you and your friends. In ten seconds the wall will explode.'

...Which it duly did. Scrambling free from the wreckage were many famous names, all of whom had been locked up in Piggott's attempt at World domination. Now they were all free. Free to plague Walkerdini with bad press!

Imrryr: You mean they don't already?

P - KB7 x R: I am the Real Professor Crinklecrud.

Skaro: Will someone please tell me who the chess game is?

Imrryr: Look around - not that it'll help much....

Smyrna: I am the real Professor Crinklecrud.

Imrryr: Rubbish! I am!

Skaro: You can't castle with a queen on KB7.

.....

1974F ('P') --- Spring 1908 Anglo-French Concorde Rules O.K.!

ENGLAND (Buckingham): R F Lon S (FRENCH) F MAO - Eng.

FRANCE (Prevot): F MAO - Eng.

GERMANY (Knowles): A Bud S A Tri, A Pie - Tyr S by A Tri, A Lpl - Yor S by F Nth, F Bel - Eng, A Bre - Gas, F Eng - Bre, A Mar S (FRENCH) F MAO - Spa(SC), F Kie - Hel, A Ukr S (RUSSIAN) A Sev - Rum.

ITALY (Meadon): A Ven - Tyr, A Rom - Tus, F WMS - GoL, F Spa(SC) - Mar, F Ion - ADr, A Gre - Alb S by A Ser.

RUSSIA (Kelly): A Sev - Rum: S by A Gal, F Arm - Sev S by A Mos, F NAO - MAO, A Edi Stands, F Den Stands.

TURKEY (Sharp): NMR! F Bla F Ank A Bul A Con F Aeg all stand unordered.

Retreats: none!

Standby moves for Turkey hardly seem necessary as I know Richard Sharp is in France on holiday - hence his miss. But would DAVE BLACK (who seems to have a monopoly on standby positions as Turkey - eh Dave?) please send in some orders for TURKEY just in case? Ta.

Dear Imrryr: Well, here I am in 'P' game -- and although I never did manage to find out who the 'old man' you mentioned was, things worked out well in the end. I met this absolutely virile and dashing young fellow (to save any embarrassment let's just call him Richard S., shall we?), and he and I are getting along very well. He speaks a bit of Turkish, which I find almost as sexy

as Spanish. And the nicest thing of all is that I've managed to put both Skaro and Jamul out of my head entirely; looks like I wasn't all that serious about either of them after all.

Many thanks for all your help -- and tell your 'old' friend I'm sorry I never met him. -- puta.

PS: If you see Jeff Oliver around, tell him I still think of him from time to time...

Dear Puta: Virile? Dashing?! Young?! He certainly doesn't sound much like the ancient, balding old cradle-snatcher with the motto 'I just like to play with young boys' that I was thinking of. Still, if you're happy - takes all types I suppose... You might see big J.O. yourself one day, I'm not certain but I wouldn't be surprised to find that he was really one of the Crinklecruds that seem to be littered about this zine...

Now you've arrived here, why don't you pop back to 'O' game? There's a character there, in what is laughingly called 'Skaro', who seems to get turned on by enticing young children into the back seat of his car - you, he, your young friend and my old one would probably make quite a team... -- Aunty Imrryr.

.....

1974BT ('Q') -- Autumn 1904

Someone, somewhere, is being taken for a ride.....

AUSTRIA (Samson): A Ser - Tri, A Gal - Sil, A Boh - Mun S by A Tyr, F Gre - Alb.

ENGLAND (Knowles): F Cly - NAO, A Wal stands, F Por - Spa(SC), F MAO - WMS, F Eng - MAO, F Bar - StP(NC), A StP - Lvn, F Bre S (GERMAN) A Par - Gas.

FRANCE (Buckingham): A Gas - Mar.

GERMANY (Prevot): A Par - Gas, A Bur S (FRENCH) A Gas - Mar, A Mun - Sil S by A Ber, A Kie - Mun S by A Ruh, F Bal stands.

ITALY (Kelly): F GoL - Spa(SC) S by A Mar, F WMS - TyS, A Tun stands unordered.

TURKEY (Black): F Aeg - Ion, A Rum - Urr S by A Sev & A Mos, F Bla sails round the Crimean peninsula.

Retreats: Italian A Mar - Pie.

Winter 1904 Adjustments

A: 7 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie, Gre, Ser, Bul, War. Builds A Bud.

E: 8 Centres: Lpl, Lon, Edi, Bel, Nwy, StP, Bre, Por. No change.

F: 2 Centres: Mar, Spa. No room to build - 1 unit short.

G: 7 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, Swe, Par. No change.

I: 4 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun. No change.

R: 0 Centres: ~~Wos~~. Eliminated.

T: 6 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Rum, Sev, +Mos. Builds A Con.

Gas Mar: (without): Knock, knock.

(within): Who's there?

(without): ANEMONE.

(within): Anemone who?

(without): (Sung to a familiar air) ANEMONE here seen Kelly? K - E - double L - Y. Anemone here seen Kelly, Kelly from the Isle of Man?...(etc).

Imrryr: Overseas readers who would like a translation of that execrable punnish 'joke' (which, alas, I have to admit to having made myself on a few occasions..) should send a large, stamped-addressed plain brown envelope to Box 69, Skaro, Keynsham, Imrryr. They won't get a reply, but it's a good way to get rid of your spare plain brown envelopes...

Geneva: It's the "Down with Kelly" one man band, on the road for the very first time. Washington DC will never be the same again...

.....

1974EB ('R') -- Spring 1904

Franco-Russian Confrontation Looming?...

ENGLAND(Meadon): A Den - Swe S by F Ska & A Nwy, F Nth & F Nrg both S A Nwy.

FRANCE (Nathan): A Kie - Ber, A Ruh - Kie S by A Mun, A Bre stands, A Par - Bur, A Pic - Bel, F MAO stands, F Mar - Spa(SC).

GERMANY (Pollard): A Boh - Gal S by A Vie, F Hol - Nth.

ITALY (Churchill): F Aeg - Gre S by F Ion, A Tri - Alb, A Pie - Ven, A Ven - Tri.

RUSSIA(White): F Swe - Bal, A StP - Lvn, A Fin - StP, A War - Pru, A Gal - Sil, A Bud S F Rum, F Rum S (TURKISH) A Con - Bul.

TURKEY (Morris): A Bul - Gre, A Ser S (RUSSIAN) A Bud - Tri, A Con - Bul, F Smy - Aeg, A Ank - Smy.

Retreats: none!

Berlin: I propose a six-way draw.

Vienna: I accept.

Imrryr: The other five, however, do not!

St Petersburg, March 15: Due to the fall of Germany, Russia's position in Scandinavia can no longer be held as we must now bear the brunt of the English attack. Sweden is lost but perhaps St. Petersburg can be saved and Berlin liberated. To the unfortunate Swedes all we can say is that they must not give up hope - they shall be independent again. They have our sympathy as it seems likely they, like the Norwegians, will be forced to drink tea and even speak English (poor devils!).

With the Anglo-French alliance sweeping all before it, the Tsar appeals to Italy and Turkey to patch up their petty differences and unite to stop these imperialists before it is too late.

.....

Waiting Lists

As I rather expected there has been quite a flood of applications for new games - several of you forgot to send me a preference list though, but more of that later. Here's the position:

MP'S game: Geoff Challenger, Ralph Vickers, Craig Nye, Dave Black, Phil Murphy, John Piggott, Andy Holborn. I've got all your preference lists, and the country allocations and game-start will be announced next issue.

MP'T game: Richard Scott, David Noble, Dave Allen, Pete Charlton, David Tant, John Herlihy, Neil McDonald. I need preference lists from David Noble, Dave Allen and Neil McDonald as soon as possible please and hope to start the game in two issues time (i.e. MP44).

MP'U game: Terry Knowles, Robin Allen, Pete Lindsay, Howell Davies, John Meadon. Preference lists needed from all five of you...oops, no, sorry, Pete Lindsay has sent one. Just the other four then please. This game should start soon after 'T' game providing a couple more names turn up in the meantime.

Anyone else who wants a game is welcome to apply. Remember I'll want a preference list from you and that games will in future - once this present backlog is out of the way - be starting every third issue. Price? To you, 60p, cheap.

As I said last issue, I'm not planning to start any variants in the foreseeable future - all the above games are regular ones.

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CoA's

HOWELL DAVIES: 86 Gebelands Road, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9EA. (Until Apr 30).

ALLAN OVENS: Officers Mess, RAF Brize Norton, Oxford, OX8 3LX. (Until May 24).

JOHN PIGGOTT: 4 Lothair Road, South Ealing, London, W5.

.....

And that's the lot, and I've now got waste half a stencil telling you that in the next issue there should be the first run of the new MWR Rating System, the final report on 'C' game and, if MP's special representative at the gathering writes it in time, a report on the recent SF Con in Brighton. See you.

.....

Hi there! Your status is: .....<sup>T</sup>.....

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