

Editorial: Organisations (contd...)

Last issue I briefly described the history of the NGC and IDA/UK and gave a sort of wish-list of how I would like to see both organisations develop in the future. I ended by asking for comments from anyone interested and promising to go into more detail this time, including the financial aspects. The response I've had has really been rather good, and I'm most grateful to all of you who have contacted me in recent weeks both by letter and phone - see the letters section for some of the views expressed. Just about everyone who has been in touch with me seems to agree that there is a need for the NGC and the IDA to get together in some way, particularly with regard to international matters, and it is to this end that I have been turning my efforts in recent weeks. As the financial aspects of the whole of the NGC are currently being debated in other zines at the moment I'm going to use this editorial simply to tell you what I've been doing about the NGC/IDA situation and how much has been accomplished.

I wrote to the NGC Committee a couple of weeks ago setting out my ideas on how I thought the NGC was failing its members in the area of international contacts and cooperation and then made the point that IDA/UK, while being more effective than the NGC internationally, was far too restricted by its small membership to do all that much. I suggested that the best solution for both organisations was for the NGC to take on the responsibilities of IDA/UK by creating a new Committee member with the specific task of looking after the British hobby's interests internationally by representing the NGC on, for example, the IDA Council and acting as liaison man between the NGC and any overseas groups or individuals that wished to have contact with it. I also suggested that the non-international services performed or proposed by IDA/UK should also be at least considered by the NGC so that eventually IDA/UK could be wound up, leaving the NGC to provide all the hobby services necessary. I asked the Committee to discuss my proposals at their next meeting (which was on Jan 31st) and offered myself as 'International Secretary' should they decide to appoint one. The result I think that can best be summarised by quoting the extract from the minutes of the meeting that John Piggott sent me a few days later:

Extract from the minutes of the NGC Committee meeting, 31-1-76:

Proposed: that someone shall be appointed to the Committee to express views of the Committee in any international organisation.

For, 8. Against, 0. Abstain, 0.

Proposed: that Richard Walkerdine shall be so appointed.

For, 8. Against, 0. Abstain, 0.

So it looks like I've got the job! Of course, the matter won't end here as this appointment only covers an NGC representative to the big world outside and there is obviously still an awful lot of negotiating to be done - by me I suppose - to see if it is possible for the NGC to take on any of the other services of IDA/UK and so end up with just one organisation doing the job for the whole of the hobby. But this is certainly a start, and a very encouraging one, and I would like to thank the whole of the NGC Committee for acting in what I consider to be a most creditable and mature manner. It certainly bodes well for the future.

And speaking of the future I'd better make it clear what I intend to do next. The first thing is to get the IDA Council to accept an NGC representative instead (or as well as) an IDA/UK one - though as both gentlemen happen to be RJV that will not be much of a problem, methinks. Then I will discuss with the rest of the Committee what if anything the NGC is prepared to do about Boardman Number subsidies, World Variant Bank contacts etc, and after I've got a few of the international odds and ends settled in some way I'll see what can be done about those non-international IDA/UK services (orphans schemes, novice packages etc) that will have to be sorted out one way or the other if IDA/UK is really to bow out in favour of the NGC. It's quite a lot of work to get through but not an impossible amount, and I hope that some real progress can be made well before this years NGC elections. As always, any comments from anyone interested will be most welcome.

One other development on the NGC front, which probably has some bearing on the above, is the formation of a Constitutional Committee. Chaired by Steve Doubleday, its members so far are the unlikely pairing of yours truly and Andy Davidson! It has been set up in order to suggest both a format for future annual general meetings

<u>Player</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>av. Rating</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>	<u>No. Games</u>
Gus Ferguson	45	3091	1447	6
John A Hendry	47	3011	1762	4
Chris Harvey	50	2680	2039	3
Richard Sharp	51	2544	1335	7
Stewart Buckingham	53	2397	2039	3
John Piggott	56	1983	940	14
Geoff Challenger	59	1501	2039	3
Peter Robertson	62	1380	1777	4
Andy Davidson	64	1326	828	18
Edi Birsan	65	1275	2040	3
Pete Cousins	57	1167	2039	3
John Coombe	68	1140	1340	7
John Morrison	69	1065	1763	4
Andrew Waldie	71	736	977	13
David Wheeler	72	715	2039	3
John Meadon	73	706	1245	8
Geoff Nuttall	75	637	2040	3
Dave Black	80	493	2039	3
Will Haven	83	50	1762	4
Richard L Sykes	84	-57	2039	3
Ron Kelly	85	-89	1773	4
Charles Burton	87	-121	1776	4
Duncan Morris	88	-216	2039	3
Phil Shaw	89	-385	2039	3
Pete Charlton	95	-461	1762	4
Martin Davis	101	-664	1774	4
Wink Thompson	102	-740	2057	3
Andrew Heid	108	-1429	1330	7
Dave Allen	111	-1761	2040	3
John Lettice	112	-1787	1170	9
Colin Walsh	113	-1804	2039	3
Steve Plater	114	-1903	1763	4
Howell Davies	120	-2785	1593	5
Chris Hancock	122	-3185	1763	4

A full listing of all active players, 135 of them, is available from me for postage only - just ask.

:::::RUBIN:::::CARLIER:::::IS:::::INNOCENT:::::.....

IDM News

See the editorial for news of what's likely to be happening on the IDM/UK front, though of course takeover or not its services will continue to be provided come what may.

Calhamer Awards. Thanks very much to those of you who sent in nominations, and thanks too for the volunteers for the British judges panel. Britain's nominations are as follows:

- International: Non-tech. article; Jealous (Dolchstoss), Splatter Theory (FC).
 Technical article, Who's Where (1901).
 Established zine; Dolchstoss, Impassable, 1901, Maximu Gazette, GH.
 Individual Service; Bullock, Haas.
 Single Contribution; Birsan, Haas. ((NOTE. These are incomplete lists as yet due to late receipt of some nominations))
- British: New zine; GH, Chimaera, Yggdarsil, Jigsaw, Japhidrev.
 Best player; Sedgwack, Evans, Ball, Scott.
 Variant; Mercator, Intimate, Atlantica.

The British panel of judges will consist of Pete Swanson, Peter Berlin, Andrew Waldie, Jeremy Maiden and Phil Murphy (note however Phil that if you sit as a judge your zine will be intelligible for an award). My thanks to you all - more gon when I have been told what we're supposed to do next.

AND:THOUGH:THEY:COULD:NOT:PRODUCE:THE:GUN:THE:D.A.:SAID:HE:WAS:THE:ONE:WHO:DID:THE:DEED
 - AND THE ALL-WHITE JURY AGREED.....

Letters, we get letters, we get....

On NGC and IDA.....

PETE BIRKS. I think I agree with you when you say the NGC is slightly too insular in its attitude to British Diplomacy - and the recent activities of you on orphans has certainly re-established the reputation of IDA/UK.....But although the NGC may be part of the Diplomacy hobby, the IDA/UK is not part of the postal Scrabble, Chess or wargames hobby. There is the difference, and if IDA/UK would be willing to combine on that understanding I would back a merger.

((It would, he was, and he did - see editorial.))

ANDY EVANS. I agree with every word you say, but nothing will happen to bring about what you want until something forces it to happen. ((Something did - see editorial.)) I would like to see this NGC vs Independants thing dropped since it is rather a silly argument. As far as I'm concerned the NGC was a good development in the hobby for the simple reason that it was because of its formation that I joined. People may think it was far better in the good old days, but it was not as far as I was concerned because I hadn't heard about it! My thanks will ever wing their way to Richard Sharp for introducing me, however indirectly, to this crowd of nuts who seem to enjoy playing games as much as I always have and who have the same basic flaws in their characters as I - deceit, viciousness, cruelty, insanity, perverse senses of humour and a foolish trust in Doug Wakefield.

((You have just won the Linda Lovelace prize for the best written, best presented and most valid point this issue. I agree with you 100%. The hobby might well have been even better in the old days - though I personally don't think it was - but its far bigger now and if a great many more people are going to get a lot of enjoyment out of it then it must change to accommodate them - and any 'old timers' who can't change with the times will have to fall by the wayside. Sad perhaps but its an inescapable fact of life. I think the present 'NGC vs Independants thing' is a side effect of the growing pains associated with this change and I also think that it will have to be the NGC that makes a few small changes to itself in order to put matters to rights again - my new Committee post is, I hope, a start and I will try to take it from there.))

TONY CROUCH. Three cheers for what you have finally said about NGC and IDA/UK. IDA/UK should be part of the NGC, for players who wish to play with those overseas. You say the NGC is too insular, but to my mind a National Games Club should be involved more with national games than a minority international interest. At present, the NGC is a very limited Diplomacy club, with a few other interests on the periphery. I would like to see the NGC connected with other organisations such as Chess and Bridge clubs etc. throughout the country. I believe the present NGC membership is about 500, a pitifully small handful of the potential membership up and down the country, if many games could be associated with the NGC. If the various front runners of other games groups could be brought in we could truly have a national games club. The IDA/UK would then be a small part, dealing with the UK section of international Diplomacy.

It seems to me that the NGC, in its present form, has gone as far as it is likely to go. I'm sure the majority of people are games players, not solely Diplomacy players, and it is time the NGC started accounting FtF's and more 'Games' interest.

((I've certainly never expected that the international side of the hobby would ever become more than a fairly small part of the national group in any country. But there are plenty of people in every country who would like to have the opportunity of learning a little bit more about the hobby in other countries - this is what my new Committee job is all about. I don't know if I agree with you entirely about the future development of the NGC - I think I'd rather see its name changed to 'British Postal Games Club' for example and leave it at that - but of course now that the Constitutional Committee has been formed this will be precisely the sort of thing that it will be considering. I'll see that your ideas are aired in the committee and hope that both you and anyone else who is interested in this matter will take the trouble to get in touch with one of the committee members and put your point of view.))

On centralised zinc distribution....

JOHN COOMBE. As Hartley pointed out OIPA has been using this system for decades (possibly, if my memory is right, upwards of 28 years). The only thing differing between the two systems is that OIPA realised that you need some sort of safe packaging. Looking over Bill's leaflet there's no mention of this small but costly item. OIPA uses Jiffy bags, which even when I was a member was a very costly item. Repeated use made them a worthwhile packaging but even these sturdy bags were torn after a few trips and had to be replaced. Any other form of packaging (string and paper etc) is far too liable to loss and in their own way more costly and bothersome. I'd be interested in how Bill planned to send these sizeable parcels.

((And to think I thought Jiffy bags were only ever used to send porn through the post! - you live and learn... I don't know what Bill's thoughts are on this - perhaps you'd like to send in a progress report for next time Bill, with a note of any changes you're proposing?))

ANDY EVANS. I'm dead against this idea for much the same reason as Mick Bullock.

Unlike him I don't have thirty trades but I do have a few and I like them all arriving in dribs and drabs so I can read them one zinc at a time. If they all arrived at once I would have terrible trouble getting through them all, and would probably only browse several of them. At the moment a lot of them all appear in a bunch anyway which means I've got a lot of reading to do at one period in the month; I can't do anything about that but the idea of them all arriving on the same day -- well! Do you find the same thing?

((Well, yes I do actually. At the moment my trades arrive at the rate of about one a day, with a bit of bunching here and there, and I manage to read every one fairly easily. Twenty or thirty arriving together would certainly bring on the pains a bit, and would probably mean me reading some of them up to a month late, which wouldn't be much use. It is for precisely this reason that I've been careful not to be too enthusiastic about the idea - I've told Bill I will support it, but I've made it clear that I'll only join in if pretty nearly everyone else does too. I think it's only when you get the really large savings in postage from twenty or more people in the scheme that the financial benefits begin to outweigh this drawback of receiving half a ton of zincs once a month. I know Bill has suggested sending smaller bunches more frequently but then of course you lose most of the financial benefits. At least, I think you do - Bill?))

JEREMY MAIDEN. Obviously I will affiliate HDJ and my planned NGC zinc This Is It to Bill's scheme. He is talking in terms of periods too long for players though, but agrees non-traders could be allowed in the scheme if they have at least ten zincs through it which would increase economy to all members.

((I'm not too sure about non-traders. It would require an awful lot of book-keeping on Bill's part to make sure they were all credit-worthy with each zinc they were getting - or else special lists from each publisher every issue. It'll take a good bit more proof to convince me that part is a good idea I'm afraid.))

On Will Haven.....

KERN DINGSDALE. It would have been more ethical of Will to take a little trouble and at least inform you and send you a cut, however small the profits are. But you, in different words, say Will Haven is bad for the hobby, however I have read in other zincs that he has attempted an explanation and is now acting quite rationally. You, however, seem to be over-reacting. Why don't you contact him, allow him to put Multiplicity back on his lists, and ask him to try to send you royalties in future? As matters stand, between you, the hobby is being harmed.

((No Kern, the hobby is never going to be harmed by two people having a row, it's just not important enough. But what you don't realise is that Will, me, and many other people in the hobby are not above a bit of exaggeration here and there just to stir up a reaction. No matter what you might read I consider Will to be just as much a friend of mine as anyone else in the hobby - his funny ideas just don't

enter into that - and I'm sure the same goes for him. We have differences of opinion certainly - who doesn't? - but the fact that we both chose to argue in public only means, at least as far as I'm concerned, that we thought it would be more fun that way. And it was. Now that Will has decided to ask permission before printing a designer's variant I shall write to him and congratulate him, though I will still refuse him rights to my variant because of the royalty issue. But I'll stop criticising his variant bank and I'm sure we'll both be the best of friends again until we find something else to argue about - and anyway, I like arguing. One final thought though: do you really think he would have agreed to ask permission before reprinting a variant if I hadn't bothered to stir up such a fuss about it?))

On the Diplomacy Federation....

PHIL STUTT. The 'mini-NGC' idea has been voted down by the others. For the foreseeable future I think that DF will remain an agency for the advertising of our zines within the hobby and also outside, as well as guaranteeing games when editors require it. As such I think there is a role for DF, although with your commitment to the IDA I doubt if you would agree.

((I wouldn't say that, it sounds as though your current proposals are far more sensible than what was at first suggested. And remember that my commitment to the IDA only exists because I happen to be more interested in Diplomacy worldwide than in one particular country. But I still maintain that the best way to perform any service in this country is likely to be via the NGC - and if the present structure of the NGC won't allow it then it will have to be changed. But although an outside body like the DF, or IDA/UK etc., can show up faults within the NGC any changes have to be made from the inside. Of course, I'm on the inside now...))

((One little point. Competition is a great thing, and I firmly believe it tends to improve performance. But one thing that is probably even smoother running and hence more acceptable than competition is a benevolent monopoly. Sometimes of course you need to use the threat of competition to ensure that a future monopoly really will be benevolent... I think you might be performing a more valuable service than you realise...))

And just to round things off...

ANDREW WALDIE. University life is going well but I'm afraid it is so full, what with work, rowing and politics, that I've little time left for Diplomacy. I can't understand how Greg Hayes manages to find time to produce TotS. He may not politicise but he seems to make up for it by womanising instead! Unfortunately it is difficult to do both, unless you are John F Kennedy...

((Right. New topic for discussion next issue: the sex life of Greg Hayes! Greg?....))

:::RUBIN:SITS:LIKE:BUDDHA:IN:A:10-FOOT:CELL:::AN:INNOCENT:MAN:IN:A:LIVING:HELL:::~::~:

Gamestart, Waiting lists etc

Here we go then with 'Y' Game, or 1976AJ.

- AUSTRIA: Martin Rundle, 63 Thealeys Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2LL.
- ENGLAND: John Lettice, 19 Dresden Road, London, N19.
- FRANCE : Kern Dingsdale, 513 Whitton Avenue, Groenford, Middx, UB6 ODY.
- GERMANY: Allan Ovens, Officers Mess, RAF Thorney Island, Fms worth, Hants, PO10 8DG.
- ITALY : Roy Taylor, 63/4 St Nicolas Park Drive, Nuneaton, Warks, CV11 6DZ.
- RUSSIA : Tony Ball, 10 Arbroath Road, Sundon Park, Luton, Beds, LU3 3LA (& see CoA's).
- TURKEY : Andy Evans, 36 Brynmill Terrace, Brynmill, Swansea, SA2 0BA.

And as you all have enough credit none of you need to send me any more cash just yct as a result of forking out your 60 (40 to you Martin) p game fees. Humm...

First deadline as usual in two issues time, that is MP54. See you then. Good luck..

So the waiting list now becomes: Peter Berlin, Paul Simpkins, Norman Nathan, Nina Pawlak, Pete Lindsay, Neil McDonald, John Herlihy and Dave Tant, which is enough for 'Z' game (starts MP55) and one over. Goody. I need preference lists from everyone except the two Petes please. No rush. (AND WHAT CAN I CALL GAME 'Z+1'????). Ideas?..

:::~::~:

At last! Games!

1973BYbb ('I') - Multiplicity) -- Dec 31st 1910, 11.59 p.m.

No votes received against the proposal of a concession to England so that's the end of that. GI's summary next ish plus any statements any of the players cares to submit. That's yer lot...

'I' Game Bourse

<u>AUTUMN '04 DEALINGS</u>	<u>CROWNS</u>	<u>POUNDS</u>	<u>FRANCS</u>	<u>MARKS</u>	<u>LIRA</u>	<u>ROUBLES</u>	<u>PIASTRES</u>
'Shylock'	719	1	-500	-500	-1	0	0
Phil Stutt NLR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethulfrog Finance	-500	-500	0	1572	-499	-500	-500
Pete Swanson	0	-500	0	583	0	-499	-500
'Cuthbert'	969	-500	-500	-500	-2	-1	-424
Embull Enterprises	-500	-500	1021	228	-500	-11	-495
Steve Pratt	0	-500	776	-500	0	-500	-117
'Credit Suisse'	-500	2	789	0	-500	0	163
'Aries'	-500	1000	-500	327	0	500	1000
Tony Ball	-500	-400	0	875	0	0	0
Phil Murphy	0	1	-500	0	1707	0	-500
Dave Pollard NMR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jeremy Maiden	-500	-500	1375	-500	0	-499	0
'Devil'	88	0	36	0	0	-500	0
Paul Simpkins	321	-499	300	0	-500	-500	-499
Duncan Morris NLR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Nett Trade</u>	-903	-2895	2297	1585	-295	-2510	-1872
<u>Old Value - \$/unit</u>	4.02	0.86	3.09	2.69	1.30	0.93	1.35
<u>New Value - \$/unit</u>	3.93	0.58	3.31	2.84	1.28	0.68	1.17

Notes: Paul, you can only sell a max of 500 units of any one currency - only 500 Roubles sold therefor and dealings in £, FF & Pi adjusted to balance up.
 'Shylock' and 'Nick B. (ho ho ho) both underspent - small adjustments made.
 'Cuthbert' and Phil M. (who forgot his decimal places then?) underspent by a little, small adjustment made.

<u>New Holdings</u>	<u>CROWNS</u>	<u>POUNDS</u>	<u>FRANCS</u>	<u>MARKS</u>	<u>LIRA</u>	<u>ROUBLES</u>	<u>PIASTRES</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
'Shylock'	7414	2	3405	3258	0	0	0	49661
Phil Stutt	2886	0	3000	3033	6139	104	1225	39247
P Walter Swanson	2643	2172	2500	4933	0	2	1387	35555
John Piggott	2710	501	1189	2613	5140	750	4456	34600
'Cuthbert'	5166	1146	1085	3269	0	0	0	33842
Nick Bullock	3872	1100	4000	1228	502	1	1	33226
Steve Pratt	4500	508	3021	1463	0	700	0	32610
'Credit Suisse'	3997	2	3337	1000	279	0	1500	31706
'Aries'	3603	2000	2157	1570	0	1501	1000	29108
Tony Ball	1600	0	3924	2093	0	0	0	25220
Phil Murphy	3788	1	1023	1000	1707	1	383	23747
Dave Pollard	890	1503	2538	2001	1000	500	1033	21281
Jeremy Maiden	650	1200	2475	1650	0	653	0	16572
'Devil'	494	0	4111	0	0	1290	0	16426
Paul Simpkins	2121	1	1738	500	0	1	1	15510
Duncan Morris	100	2773	0	0	4500	5500	500	12086

And GI's tips this time were a meagre £3.38. Jeanies...

Was this better Jeremy?

Tycoon (part 5): Stutt was fat. In fact, Stutt was obese. He spent nearly all his day behind his desk at the bank, perspiring and pushing figures around with the end of his pencil. His only physical activity was reporting to Piggott each evening, and the 'recreation' he got in return. For the Bristol branch of NatWest was a front for

the sea-side end of Ethilfirog Enterprises!

Clients, those interested in legitimate banking, thought Stutt was repulsive, and for the safety of their stomach contents usually 'condescended' to see the assistant manager, a naive and innocent young man taken to pin-stripe suits by the name of Pratt. So when a client actually insisted on seeing him, Stutt was surprised and of course a little wary. Checking to see that his derringer was safe in his garter, he asked the client to enter.

Nye, one of the three aides of P. Walter Swanson, financier and wheeler-dealer extraordinaire (you thought I was going to leave that out, didn't you?) ((we should be so lucky?)) stepped into Stutt's office, steeling himself for what was to be a squeamish experience.

"Ah, w-w-w-welcome, Mrs...er...?"

"Inss," replied Nye, adjusting his falsies nervously. "Miss Alias."

"Oh, uh, well, s-s-s-sit down, Miss Alias. How c-c-can I help you?" asked Stutt, certain now that something was up. He thought to himself, that name -- it's familiar! Where have I heard it before?

"Well handsome," grimaced Nye, "I would like to open a special account, ya know what I mean sweetheart? Make a few deposits and withdrawals? There could be capital gains in it for both of us."

This brought Stutt to his feet, a marvelous example of physical engineering. "Ma-ma-ma-madame! It's not that s-s-s-sort of b-b-b-bank! I suggest you t-t-take your leave!"

With these words a door behind Stutt burst open revealing the voluptuous figure of...

"Siberia Frigid!" gasped Nye as a hole appeared in the middle of his forehead. Blowing the smoke from the end of her Colt, Siberia leaned in the doorway, watching the shocked expression on Stutt's face.

"H-h-h-how...w-w-why...?" gibbered Stutt, now a physical disaster area.

"I was watching through the one-way mirror. I recognised that creep. It's one of Swanson's minions, Nye. He had to be pumped off as a warning to the others."

"Siberia, my darling, you're so violent, and I adore you for it! But how did you recognise, pray tell me my sweet, that cad in tarts clothing?"

"I think the beard gave him away..."

1975DK ('T') -- Autumn 1904

NO! THEY'RE ALLIES, NOW THEY AIN'T...
You pays yer money....

AUSTRIA (Herlihy): A Sev - Mos, F Bla - Con, A Gal - Ukr, F Tri - Alb, A Apu - Nap,
F Adr S (GERMAN) A Ven, A Ber - Sve, A Sil - War, A Vie - Gal.

ENGLAND (Noble): F NAO - MAO, F Nth S A Lon.

FRANCE (Scott): F Ipl - Cly, A Wal - Ipl, F Eng - MAO, A Bur - Bel, A Mar - Bur,
A Pie - Ven, F TyS - Nap, F Pun - Ion, A Rom - Nap.

GERMANY (McDonald): A Ruh - Bel, A Kie - Ber S by F Bal & A Mun,
A Vie - Tri S by A Tyr ((no Neil, it's in Venice!!)), A Ven stands unordered.

ITALY (Allen): F Aeg - Smy.

RUSSIA (Charlton): A Lvn - War S by A Mos.

TURKEY (Tant): A Arm - Smy, F Ank stands.

Retreats: Austrian A Ber - Pru.

Winter 1904 Adjustments

A: 10 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie, Ser, Gro, Bul, Con, Rum, ~~Yon~~, ~~Mun~~, War, +Sev. Builds F Tri.

E: 4 Centres: Edi, Nwy, Sve, +Lon. No build req. - 1 unit short! (that's F Tri.)

F: 9 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, ~~Yon~~, Nap, Spa, Ipl, Tun, +Rom. No change.

G: 7 Centres: Ber, Kie, Den, Hol, Bel, ~~Yon~~, +Mun, +Ven. Builds F Kie.

I: 1 Centre: Smy. No change.

R: 2 Centres: Mos, StP. No change.

T: 1 Centre: Ank, ~~Smy~~. Removes A Arm.

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1974BE ('O') -- Autumn 1911

NORTH SEA HOLDS KEY TO FINAL RESULT
Who will use it to unlock his victory?...

Votes on the proposed draws were: 1 for, 2 against -- on we go...

FRANCE (Kelly): A Lon - Edi C by F Nth, F Eng S F Nth, F Iri - Lpl, F MAO - NAO,
A Pic - Bel S by A Bur, A Mar S A Bur, A Tyr - Vie.

GERMANY (Burton): A Ber S A Mun, A Mun S A Ruh, A Ruh S F Bel, F Hol S F Bel,
F Den - Nth S by F Bel, A StP - Nwy, F Nrg - Edi, A Boh - Tyr S by A Tri,
A Gal - Ukr, A Sev stands, A Vie S A Tri.

RUSSIA (Bullock): A Ser - Bul S by A Gre, A Bud - Rum.

TURKEY (Murphy): A Arm - Sev, A Con - Bul S by F Aeg, A Apu S A Ven, F Rom - TyS.

Retreats: French A Tyr - Pie.

Winter 1911 Adjustments

- F: 9 Centres: Mar, Bre, Par, Spa, Por, Lpl, Tun, Edi, Lon. No change.
- G: 14 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, Swe, Nwy, StP, War, Vie, Sev, Bel, Mos,
Tri. Builds F Kie.
- R: 5 Centres: Rum, Bud, Ser, Bul, +Gre. No room to build - 2 units short.
- T: 6 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, ~~Wrt~~, Nap, Rom, Ven. No change.

Many thanks to Phil Murphy for taking over Turkey - Geoff Challenger is now blacklisted unless I hear from him soon....

DESIRE::DYLAN::AS:YOU:ALWAYS:WANTED:TO:HEAR:HIM::BUY:IT:NOW::DESIRE::BEST:IN:YEARS:::

1974F ('P') -- Autumn 1912

RUSSIA LOSES ANOTHER FRIEND!
4-way draw in 1926?.....

GERMANY (Knowles): A Ruh - Kie S by A Hol, F Nth - Den, A Tyr - Mun S by A Boh,
A Vie MS A Tri.

ITALY (Meadon): A Ven - Tri S by A Ser, A Apu - Nap, F Tun - Ion S by F TyS,
F MAO - Bre S by A Par.

RUSSIA (Kelly): A Bud - Rum S by A Gal & A Sev, A Ukr S A Sev, A War S A Gal,
A Mun S (ITALIAN) A Par - Bur, A Ber S A Mun, F Den S F Kie, A Edi stands,
F Kie S A Mun ((huh?)), F Nwy stands, F Bre S (ITALIAN) F MAO - Eng.

TURKEY (Sharp): F Ion - Gre S by F Aeg, F Rum - Sev S by F Bla, A Bul - Rum.

Retreats: Russian F Kie - Hel, F Bre annihilated (no retreat space given).
Turkish F Rum disbands.

Winter 1912 Adjustments

- G: 7 Centres: Hol, Bel, ~~Wrt~~, Vie, Lon, Tun, Tri, ~~Wrt~~, ~~Wrt~~, +Kie. No change.
- I: 8 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Mar, Spa, Ser, Par, +Bre. Builds F Rom.
- R: 14 Centres: Mos, StP, Swe, Nwy, Den, Edi, Por, Rum, ~~Wrt~~, Bud, Lpl, Ber, Mun,
+Sev, +War. Builds F StP(NC), A Mos - 1 unit short still.
- T: 5 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, ~~Wrt~~, +Gre. Builds A Smy.

Grateful thanks to Dave Black for the unused standby orders.

1974BT ('Q') -- Spring 1909

STILL ANYONE'S GAME
Well, almost anyone's...

ENGLAND (Knowles): A Mos - Ukr, F MAO - Naf, F Iri - MAO, A Yor - Lpl, A Lvn - Mos,
F Nrg - NAO, F TyS S (GERMAN) A Pie - Tus, F Tun - Ion, F Bar stands,
F WMS & F GoL both S F TyS.

GERMANY (Prevot): F Den stands, F Hol stands, A Tyr - Vie S by A Boh, A Mun - Tyr,
A Pie - Ven, A Mar - Pie, A War - Gal, A Pru - Sil.

ITALY (Kelly): A Rom S (TURK SH) A Ven.

TURKEY (Black): A Ukr - Gal S by A Rum & A Vie, A Sev - Ukr, F Bla - Sev, A Con - Bul,
F Ion - Adr, F Aeg - Ion S by F EMS & F Nap, F Apu - Ven, A Ven - Tyr S by A Tri.

Retreat: Turkish A Vie - Bud. Ta to Phil for unused standbys. Did it!

.....

1975Fw ('X') -- Autumn 1901

RUSSIAN MISS EVFNS PHL ODDS....
Even the odd Russian misses?....

AUSTRIA (Meadon): F Alb - Gre S by A Ser, A Tri - Ven.

ENGLAND (Tant): A Yor - Bel C by F Nth, F Nrg - Nvy.

FRANCE (Hammon): F MAO - Por, A Bur - Hun, A Spa stands.

GERMANY (Lettice): A Ruh - Mun, A Kie - Hol, F Den stands.

ITALY (Rundle): F Ion - Tun, A Ven - Fri, A Rom - Ven.

RUSSIA (Plater): NMR! F GoB, A Ukr, A Gal, F Rum stand unordered.

TURKEY (Baker): A Bul - Gre, A Con - Bul S by F Bla.

No retreats.

Winter 1901 adjustments

A: 5 Centres: Bud, T₁, Vie, +Ser, +Cre. Builds A Vie, A Bud.

E: 5 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, +Bre, +Nvy. Builds F Edi, A Lon.

F: 5 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, +Spa, +Por. Builds A Par, F Mar.

G: 5 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, +Den, +Hol. Builds A Hun, A Kie.

I: 4 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, +Tun. Builds F Nap.

R: 5 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, +Rum. NBR - 1 unit short.

T: 4 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, +Bul. Builds F Smy.

Standby orders for RUSSIA please from PAUL WILLY (c/o La Casa Inglesa, Avenida Marques de Sotelo 1, Valencia-2, Spain). Muchisimas gracias....

A Continuing Story (part 2): Your word is my command, O Mighty One, but which Martin are you? However...

Also in this unmasked creature was something touchingly defenceless. "You shouldn't you know, Miss Pendrell."

His heart went out to her as she stood there, motionless apart from the disturbed heaving of her bosom. How was she to know what she had done?

"Miss Pendrell," he spoke again, his voice quivering with emotion, "now that you are here we must take you fully into our confidence. You were not supposed to see this, but as you have we must ask you to use the utmost discretion: nothing must go beyond those walls."

Her lips parted. What would her reaction be, now she had come, unbidden, to this inner sanctum? "Oh tell 'im ter git 'is bleedin' trahsers on," she shrilled. "Fink I ain't seen a mans bum before?"

"This is no ordinary man," he replied loftily. "This is the magnificent Pete Birks, of whom it has been said."

"Yer, an' I can see why," nodded Miss Pendrell. "What's that funny mark?"

"That," replied Birks, zipping himself up, "is no funny mark. That is a tattooed map, which will lead us to the lost civilisation of Halifax, on the trail of the Golden Bullock. My partner, who trusts no-one, has tattooed it there, where only his eyes can behold it.".....

Perhaps the 'other' Martin could continue?...

The 'New Sherrads' author had it nearly right; actually it was a case of vodka, Pams People and two years if I lasted...

The Gamis Filé (part 1): A fast moving story of skill, intrigue, terror, romance, sex and general boredom.

The time: the present.

The characters: Richard Pym. Ex Harrow school-boy and part-time author. Tends to be reckless but still has a highly acute mathematical brain. A ruthless one sided narrow minded killer. Has a good sense of humour and likes to think he is still in control of the British organisation.

Lady Will Foze. Offspring of Mancunian tripe farmer. Excellent contacts with the lower orders. Refuses to become part of the establishment. Subject to fits of irregular appearances. Hates Richard Pym and all that he stands for. Inspires dog-like devotion in male followers.

few other publishers would sit down and make an effort to keep the price of their zine to a reasonable level we'd end up with more people subscribing to more zines and everyone would benefit!

Of course the big savings from the above come from orders of more than 120 reams, which I'm sure none of us could possibly afford on our own. But the NGC has got more than enough capital to buy that much paper. How about the NGC buying say 200 reams of paper at the discount price and then selling it to publishers at the per ream price, with the excess going to cover any costs incurred? Everyone would benefit; the Club would make a small profit, the publishers would get cheaper supplies and the subscribers wouldn't have to forever pay more and more in subscriptions.

I'll suggest this idea at the next Committee meeting, so it might be as well not to actually order anything yet until we know whether the Committee will agree to the idea or not. More news when I have it.

~~~~~

Orphans Report

Main news this time is that Jeremy Maiden (20 Newport Road, Cwmcarn, Gwent) has offered to take responsibility for re-housing orphaned variant non-NGC games. Any of you in such a game are urged to get in touch with him as soon as you can.

Enry VI is the last of the Enry and Star regular games to be re-housed, this one will be run by Paul Simpkins in Bruce. Details going out with this issue. That's a total of six of the ten regular games in those two zines which have been saved and as far as I'm concerned that's all that will be possible.

Black Spot and TUCA games. Questionnaire going out to players with this issue. I would hope that at least half of the 13 regular games concerned will be rescued. Offers from GMs and standby players urgently sought.

EQOE game. No more news yet. Norman?

Orbit games. No reply from Paul Cook yet (but as I only wrote to him 3 days ago that's not unreasonable!). Something by next issue I hope.

Polaris games. Excellently handled by Phil Stutt and friends - thank you Phil.

An IDA/UK subsidy of £1 per game taken has been suggested by me to the members. I should know by next time whether this has been agreed or not.

~~~~~

New Zines

There have been several new ones lately and I've managed to miss mentioning most of them through constantly running out of space! Here goes to catch up....

He's Dead, Jim! comes from Jeremy Maiden (20 Newport Road, Cwmcarn, Gwent), who is the latest of a long line of variants fanatics. The difference with Jeremy's variants though is that they're damn good - he seems to have the knack of taking a basically simple idea and turning it into, at least on paper, a fascinating game. It almost makes me sorry I don't like variants.. He describes his zine as 'endearing' but that gives little idea of the enthusiasm that oozes from its every asterisk. And you could do worse than study the incredible 'Galactic Patrol vs Boskone' game. 2p per side plus a supply of SAEs.

Gummiballs is an NGC zine from Ron Rayner (32 Wentworth Avenue, West Finchley, London, N3 1YL), ex SS Inc no less. Ron is trying to arrange a charity appeal where publishers ask their subbers to chip in an extra 1p per issue to go to charity. Well my opinion of charities is my affair but I don't much like the way Ron suggests the appeal is run. He wants each editor to ask for a vote from his subbers with a majority decision deciding whether the zine's price is raised or not. I say it has to be a unanimous decision to be fair - if a zine doesn't contribute its subbers are still free to give to charity if they wish, but if it does it means that even those voting against the idea are forced to chip in. This is wrong. I will support Ron's scheme only if I receive no votes against the idea at all - over to you....

Bruce is an NGC zine from Paul Simpkins (104 Combs Hill, Dewsbury, West Yorks, WF12 0LQ) which costs 5p plus postage and offers a bourse, a home for orphans and some nice little odds and ends about almost anything - the covers are good too. Only three issues old so a bit early to judge it yet.

Cops, no more space again. More news next ish, plus a new story from Paul Willey, plus another editorial on the NGC's future, plus, er... games? Astral Press 147..

WINTER ADJUSTMENTS 1903:

AUSTRIA: 6 Centres Bud, Tri, Vie, Gor, Grc, +Bul.
BUILDS A Bud.

ENGLAND. 6 Centres: Ed., Lon, Lpl, Hvy, Hol, +Swe, +StP.
BUILDS F Lpl.

FRANCE : 9 CENTRES: Bre, Mar, Par, Spa, Bel, Por, +Lon, +Mun, +Ber.
BUILDS F Bre, A Par, F Mar.

GERMANY: 2 Centres: Hie, ~~Ber~~, Den, ~~Wm~~.
NO CHANGE.

ITALY : 4 Centres: Ven, Nap, Rom, Lun.
NO CHANGE.

RUSSIA : 4 Centres: ~~SzF~~, Mos, Sev, War, Run.
NO CHANGE.

TURKEY : 3 Centres: Con, Smy, Ank, ~~Ak~~.
NO CHANGE.

Right then, I think that has told you where you all stand. Now for a few items from yours truly.....

C OF A.

Well, it isn't really, but as Pete has pointed it out, I suppose I really ought to mention it. Pete Lindsay can now be found at the following Herkless 16 (was 15), David Russell Hall, St. Andrews, Fife. Just what a Herkless is I do not know. Perhaps you could enlighten me next time you write Pete.

WILLY HAUGHAN: Willy had a query on the Autumn 1902 orders, and my interpretation of them. I thought we had sorted it out last time, but I mis-understood Willy's point, so those of you who aren't interested can turn over the page, while we and Willy fight it out.

Now, as far as I understand it, Willy disputes my judgement in annihilating the Russian F Bul(ec). He claims that the Austrian order supporting this unit was valid because no-one attacked Greece. Now I agree with this, but the reason why I invalidated this order was for a far more simple reason. The Austrian order F Cre S(Russian)F Bul meant exactly what it said; i.e. that the unit supported the Russian unit ordered to stand. However, the unit was in fact ordered to attack Constantinople. This meant that the Austrian support became invalid in that the Russian unit appointed did not in fact stand, according to the orders that is. As a result of the conflicts that took place, the Russian unit was in fact subjected to a 'Stand-off'. My interpretation of this is that this occurred after the conflict occurred; i.e. the supporting Austrian unit arrived on the scene, found the Russian unit away fighting on it's South-Eastern front, and so returned to base. Hence, by the time that ~~XXXX~~ the Russian returned from its stand-off, the supporting Austrian unit had gone.

I expect that this has over-emphasised the situation, but I don't

