

Results of the Fourth MP Zine Poll

After a fairly slow start votes ended up simply pouring in, and by a few days after the deadline (I delayed counting a bit in order to include the latecomers) we had a grand total of 69 people contributing to the final result. Compared with the 54 people who voted last time I think that's a first-rate turnout and I'm most grateful to you all. Thanks also to the other publishers who publicised the poll.

Here's this years chart, pop-pickers....

<u>Position</u>	<u>Zine</u>	<u>Votes Cast</u>	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Average</u>
1	Chimaera	252.2	31	8.135
2	1901 And All That(3)	282.7	36	7.853
3	Mad Policy(2)	291.5	38	7.671
4	Jigsaw	137.4	19	7.232
5	Trojan Horse	151.4	21	7.210
6	Ad Nauseam	206.8	29	7.131
7	Bumm	106.5	15	7.100
8	He's Dead-Jim	88.5	13	6.808
9	Rocinante	94.9	14	6.779
10	Dolchstoss(1)	353.7	53	6.674
11	Greatest Hits(6)	197.9	30	6.597
12	Lemming Express(9)	195.0	30	6.500
13	Yggdarsil	168.9	26	6.496
14	(SZ)Elimp/Fastonbulbous	94.2	15	6.280
15	Puppet Theatre News	56.1	9	6.233
16	Eclipsor	43.0	7	6.143
17	Courier(14)	55.1	9	6.122
18	Victor Ludorum	245.5	41	5.988
19	Bruce	107.2	18	5.956
20	(SZ)Depth Charge	92.5	16	5.781
21	Turn Of The Screw	132.2	23	5.748
22	Vortigern	22.8	4	5.700
23	(SZ)Wistermer(13)	50.6	9	5.622
24	Gummiballs	144.9	26	5.573
25	Japhidrev	120.3	22	5.468
26	Pendulum(24)	52.3	10	5.230
27	Bellicus(12)	150.0	29	5.172
28	The Tinamou	87.2	18	4.844
29	This Is It	14.4	3	4.800
30	(SZ)Nitehawk	66.8	14	4.771
31	The Norns(21)	88.2	19	4.642
32	Uriah's Heap	41.6	9	4.622
33	The Polar Knight	45.5	10	4.550
34	(SZ)Unnamed	24.4	6	4.067
34	Fortis Est Rana	12.2	3	4.067
36	(SZ)Hercules	32.5	8	4.062
37	(SZ)The Annexe	80.1	20	4.005
38	Shenandoah Services	67.1	18	3.728
39	(SZ)Shenandoah	29.6	8	3.700
40	(SZ)Cannonade	29.4	8	3.675
41	(SZ)Guano	13.9	4	3.475
42	(SZ)Spread Vulture	27.9	9	3.100
43	(SZ)Spread Eagle	15.0	5	3.000
44	(SZ)D.M.P.S.H.	36.0	16	2.250
45	Hannibal(16)	6.0	3	2.000
46	Orbit(22)	4.0	3	1.333

Notes:

(SZ) indicates a sub-zine. A number in brackets after the name is the position of the zine in the last MP Zine Poll - don't read too much into that however as there were only 29 zines in the last list (no sub-zines and only British zines) and only 12 of them are still with us.

Only European zines have been included in the list, and only Dippyazines - pure

wargaming zines, SF fanzines etc. are not rated here. Also only zines which were voted for by three or more different people are listed.

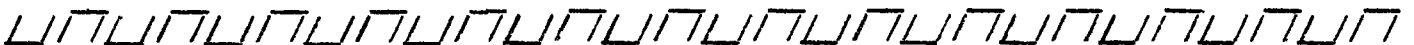
Although zines such as Uriah's Heap, Orbit and Hannibal are all folded they received votes from people and so have been included.

Comments:

General details. The 69 voters rated a total of 777 zines between them for an average of ~~5.94 zines~~ (sorry!) 11.26 zines each, up from 9.06 zines per voter last time. A total of 4615.9 points were given for an average of 5.94 per zine, down from 6.07 last time. Note that several people used decimals in their ratings and I have accepted these.

There's rather too many zines in the list to go through them all so I'll just try to pick out some of the main points as I see them. The winner of course needs scarcely any comment - the real surprise would have been if Chimera hadn't finished on top! (Though early on in the voting 1901 was in fact fractionally ahead.) But Clive's zine is a thoroughly worthy winner and I hope it's around for a long time to come. Mick Bullock and I should be getting used to seeing our zines just behind the leader by now, but it's nice to be consistent at least - my turn for second place next time, Mick? Seriously though, thanks to all of you who gave me such a high position - it really is nice to know one's zine is that highly regarded. 4th to 7th places were very keenly contested, with the positions switching about with almost every new set of votes - I couldn't choose between any of them, they're all good. Dolchstoss in 10th place is a bit surprising - particularly as Richard was top dog last time, but the usual saga of over-work seems to have taken its toll here, and recent irregularity probably hasn't helped. Martin Hammon ends up with the highest placed sub-zine with The Blimp/Eastonbulbous, and also apparently wins his side bet with Phil Stutt - well done mate. Pendulum, Japhidrew and The Tinamou all seem a bit too lowly placed in my opinion, but I suppose that's what polls are supposed to find out anyway. Shenandoah Services would also have ended up higher if Graham Mills had a better image in the hobby I think - the zine itself would never set the world alight, but it deserves a better position if only in recognition of the care and effort that Graham puts into it. DMPSH as the country's worst sub-zine? - yes, that seems about right. In fact the listing seems to show that with just a few exceptions sub-zines are not really regarded very highly at all, with the best of them being those that are virtually zines in their own right anyway - a point to bear in mind perhaps?

Well there you are, and thanks again for all the votes. Everyone who voted, and who isn't a trader, is getting this issue for postage only. All being well I hope to run another Zine Poll in 9-12 months time.



New Game-Start - 'Z' Game

Here's the line-up for the new game, which will be 1976GJ.

Austria: Tony Crouch, 35 Melbourne Avenue, West Ealing, London, W13.
 England: Norman Nathan, 3 Brooke Close, Bushey, Watford, Herts.
 France: John Herlihy, Travellers Rest, Durweston, Dorset, DT11 0QG.
 Germany: Pete Lindsay, Herkless 16, David Russell Hall, Buchanan Gdns, St. Andrews, Fife.
 Italy: David Tant, 32 Nursery Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4JZ.
 Russia: Peter Berlin, 8 Sutcliffe Close, London, NW11 6NT.
 Turkey: Neil McDonald, Durweston House, Durweston, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 0QA.

I've deducted the game fees from your credit (and I did remember the IDA discount for Berlin and Herlihy) and you've all still got at least enough for the next issue of MP except for Peter Berlin, from whom I'd like a renewal please. Ia. The first deadline will be in 2 issues time unless I receive all seven sets of orders by the next deadline. Good luck - you're all experienced players so it should be a good game.

Which leaves the waiting lists looking like this:

REGULAR DIP.: Orr, Collins, Dean, Potts, Segal. - 2 needed.
 MULTIPLICITY: Maiden, Willey, Morris, Lettice. - 3 needed.

I need preference lists from Willey, Orr, Collins and Dean please, plus any

others of you who want to go on the lists. Although I hadn't planned to start the next regular game until MP56 I might bring it forward an issue if it fills quickly, as seems likely. Multiplicity will start as soon as it's full. Whichever game starts first will be 'AA' game. Don't be shy to write for a regular game if you want one - just because there's only two vacancies left - there'll be plenty more to come after this one as I plan to start new games every (approx.) third issue of MP from now until hell freezes over!

Don't bother asking for a variant though, apart from the single game of Multiplicity MP will continue to carry regular games only.

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And now, as they say, for something completely different....

Do You Know What Day You Were Born On?

What day of the week is what I mean. well, do you? Or do you want to know what day your next wedding anniversary will fall on, or a future or past birthday? Here's how you can find out.

<u>Table 1</u>	1904	1932	1960	1988	2016	2044	2072
----------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

<u>Table 2</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	N	P
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	12	16	20	24
		7	13	14		11	17		15	21				
		18	19	25		22	23		26	27				

Table 3

Jan	5	0	1	2	3	5	6	1	3	4	6	4	2	0
Feb	1	3	4	5	6	1	2	4	6	0	2	0	5	3
Mar	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	5	6	0	3	1	6	4
Apr	5	6	0	1	3	4	5	1	2	3	6	4	2	0
May	0	1	2	3	5	6	0	3	4	5	1	6	4	2
Jun	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	6	0	1	4	2	0	5
Jul	5	6	0	1	3	4	5	1	2	3	6	4	2	0
Aug	1	2	3	4	6	0	1	4	5	6	2	0	5	3
Sep	4	5	6	0	2	3	4	0	1	2	5	3	1	6
Oct	6	0	1	2	4	5	6	2	3	4	0	5	3	1
Nov	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	5	6	0	3	1	6	4
Dec	4	5	6	0	2	3	4	0	1	2	5	3	1	6

<u>Table 4</u>	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

Instructions

Using 25 May 1975 as an example:

1. Write down the year (1975 in this example) and from Table 1 put under it the nearest number which is lower than it, in this case 1960.
2. Subtract the second number from the first, in our example that leaves 15.
3. Find this number in Table 2 - in our example 15 can be found under J - and follow this column down into Table 3 until you reach the row for the month in question. Under column J against the row for May we find the number 4.
4. Add this number to the date, i.e. 4+25, giving 29.
5. Take away 1, which in our example leaves 28.
6. Divide by seven and take the remainder. Our example gives 28/7, which makes 4 with remainder 0.
7. Look up the remainder number in Table 4. So in our example the remainder was 0, which is Sunday, so 25 May 1975 was a Sunday!

Try it yourself - it works for all years between 1904 and 2099.

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Time for some games I think...

1974BE ('O') -- Spring 1913 Still deadlocked, still fighting, still voting....

Results of the votes on the proposed draws:

F/G/T = 1st, R 4th, 2 yes, 2 no.

F/G/T/R 4-way draw: 2 yes, 2 no. Try again.

Another 4-way draw result is proposed - votes again next time please.

FRANCE (Kelly): A Pie - Tyr, F Cly - Edi, F Nrg - Nth, A Edi - Yor S by F Lon, F Eng - Bel, A Bel - Bur S by A Par A Gas & A Mar.

GERMANY (Burton): A Mun - Bur S by A Ruh, A Bur - Gas, A Nwy stands, A Ukr - Gal, F Hol F Den & F Hel all S F Nth, A Sev - Mos, A Ser S (RUSSIAN) A Gre, A Tyr MS A Tri, F Bar - Nrg.

RUSSIA (Bullock): A Gre MS A Bul, A Rum - Sev.

TURKEY (Murphy): A Ven stands, A Apu - Alb C by F Ion, A Arm - Sev, A Con - Bul S by F Aeg.

Retreats: German A Bur - Pic.

~~~~~

1974F ('P') -- Spring 1914 Kool Kelly Kalmly Kompletng Konquest?

Richard Sharp's copy of MP52 apparently never reached him, which was why he NMR'd. So although he's left it too late to continue in the game there is no question of him being blacklisted.

GERMANY (Knowles): A Tyr S A Tri, A Tri S (RUSSIAN) A Bud - Ser, F Ska - Den, A Vie S A Tri.

ITALY (Meadon): A Ven - Pie, A Apu - Ven S by F Adr, A Ser - Tri, F Nap S F Ion, F MAO - Eng, A Bur S F Bel.

RUSSIA (Kelly): A Sev S A Rum, A Rum S (TURKISH) A Bul - Ser, A Gal - Vie S by A Bud, A Sil - Mun, A Mun - Ruh, F Kie - Den, F Nwy - Nrg, F StP(NC) - Nwy, A Mos - Ukr, A War - Sil, A Ber - Kie, A Ukr - Gal, F Hel - Hol, A Hol - Yor C by F Nth.

TURKEY (Black): A Bul - Ser, F Bla - Bul(LC), A Smy - Con, F Aeg MS F Gre.

Retreats: German A Vie - Boh.  
Italian A Ser - Alb.

A vote on a proposed concession to Russia has been asked for - scarcely necessary I would have thought as Russia seems set to win next move - but it's been requested so I'll ask you all to vote on it please. Failure to vote = 'yes'.

Ankara: Hello folks. It's McTurkey again, the Glasgow Sultan.

Imrryr: Alright McTurkey, try and get a draw out of this lot...

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1974BT ('Q') -- Autumn 1910 Yaaaaaaaaaaaaawwwwwnnnnnn..... Boringggggggg....

Results of draw votes: 3-way; 3 yes, 1 no: 4-way; 2 yes, 2 no. Pray continue...

Another request for a 4-way draw has been made. Votes please.

ENCLAND (Knowles): F WMS - MAO, F TyS - WMS, F Tus - TyS S by F Tun, A Lpl - Wal, F GoL C (GERMAN) A Mar - Tus, F Naf stands, F MAO - Iri, A Lvn stands, F Bar stands, A Mos S (GERMAN) A War - Ukr.

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

ITALY (Kelly): A Rom S (TURKISH) F Ven.

TURKEY(Black): F Nap S (ITALIAN) A Rom, F Adr S F Ven, A Alb - Apu C by F Ion, F EMS S F Ion, F Ven S A Tri, A Iri & A Bud both S A Vie, A Vie S A Bud, A Ser S A Rum, A Sev MS A Rum, F Bla S A Sev.

p.t.o. for the rest...

'T' Game Bourse

<u>Spring '06 Dealings</u>	<u>CROWNS</u>	<u>POUNDS</u>	<u>FRANCS</u>	<u>MARKS</u>	<u>LIRA</u>	<u>ROUBLES</u>	<u>PIASTRES</u>
'Shylock'	+728	0	-500	-500	+3	0	0
Phil Stutt	+986	0	-500	-500	-500	0	-500
Pete Swanson	+930	-500	-500	-500	0	0	-386
'Cuthbert'	+810	-146	-500	-500	0	+1	+3
Embull Enterprises	+595	-99	-500	-228	0	0	0
Steve Pratt	0	0	+716	-500	-500	+9	-500
Ethilfrog Finance	-500	0	+1333	-500	-499	0	-500
'Credit Suisse'	+874	0	-500	-500	+3	0	-500
'Aries'	-500	-500	+1216	-500	0	-500	0
Tony Ball	+787	0	-498	-500	0	+1	0
Phil Murphy NMR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jeremy Maiden	+466	-500	0	-500	0	-138	0
'Devil'	+4	0	+15	0	0	-286	0
Paul Simpkins NMR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duncan Morris	+215	-500	-1	+1	-500	-500	0
<u>Nett Trade</u>	+5455	-2245	-219	-5227	-1993	-1413	-2383
<u>Old Value - \$/unit</u>	4.07	0.61	3.30	3.12	0.91	0.23	0.70
<u>New Value - \$/unit</u>	4.61	0.39	3.28	2.60	0.72	0.09	0.47

GM's tips \$5.26. Getting better...

And incredible to relate you all got your calculations right! Well done!

<u>New Holdings</u>								<u>Total Value</u>
'Shylock'	9063	0	1905	2842	3	0	0	55420
Phil Stutt	4984	0	2000	2033	5139	0	225	38627
'Cuthbert'	6590	0	85	2769	1	2	3	37860
Mick Bullock	4949	2	4304	0	0	0	0	36932
Pete Swanson	3073	674	1500	6205	0	0	2	35483
Steve Pratt	4500	0	3213	1500	0	512	0	35229
'Credit Suisse'	3874	0	4114	800	3	0	0	33435
John Piggott	2843	0	3605	1113	3641	1	2956	31835
'Aries'	2820	1001	2373	3272	0	1	0	29681
Tony Ball	2749	0	3948	593	0	2	0	27164
Phil Murphy	2788	0	2160	1575	707	0	0	24541
Jeremy Maiden	1099	200	1975	1950	0	15	0	16693
'Devil'	699	0	4054	0	0	4	0	16519
Paul Simpkins	2121	2857	1238	500	0	0	0	16252
Duncan Morris	315	4773	201	106	3000	4002	0	6768

In response to a players query, the rulebook says a country is eliminated after an autumn season so even if a country loses all its units in the spring you may still trade in its currency the following autumn as the value won't drop to zero until the end of the autumn turn.

Tycoon (Part 8): Not many hours later, Walkerdine and Birsan were standing outside the double doors of Ethilfrog Enterprises. Their offices occupied the whole of a huge tower block in the city, a glass citadel from which few unauthorised visitors had ever returned.

The two were impeccably dressed in nearly clean boiler suits with the legend 'Cygnet Pinball Tables' emblazoned across the backs. Dark sunglasses completed the disguise. Nervously, they argued as to who should ring the bell. Finally, Walkerdine said, "OK, let's flip a coin, heads I win, tails you lose."

"Oh no, none of that," said Birsan. "I know that trick!"

"Alright," replied Walkerdine, "I'll play fair. Heads you lose, tails I win."

"OK," agreed Birsan.

Seconds later, still scratching his head, Birsan pushed the doorbell. A disembodied voice answered: "Whaddayawant?" it growled.

"Uh...we've come to fix the pinball table," answered Birsan.

"Yeah," chipped in Walkerdine, "the factory sent us round because it may need

THE ANNEXE EMERGENCY ISSUE NUMBER 36. THE ANNEXE EMERGENCY ISSUE NO. 36.

From a very despondent John Morrison, 9, Highfield Avenue, Inskip, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0UL. Printing is done in Liverpool.

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Straight on with the games, and explanations later....

1975DT('U'): Autumn 1904.....First Germany, Then England, Then???

AUSTRIA(Ovens): A Bul S(ITALIAN)F Aeg-Con, F Gre S A Bul, A Tri MS A Vie,
A Ser-Rum S by A Gal.

ENGLAND(Haughan): 1 Lpl stands, 1 Yor-Ed1, 1 Hol stands, 1 Swe-Den,
F Nwy S(GERMAN)F Den-Nth, A Sto-Mos.

FRANCE(Pratt): A War stands, F EnC-Nth, A Pic-Bel, A Ruh-Hol S by A Kie,
A Ber S A Kie, F Iri-Lpl S by F Val, F Spa(sc)-MAO.

GERMANY(Willey) F Den stands.

ITALY(Kelly): F Aeg-Con, F EMS-Smy, A Ven-Rom, A Tyr-Ven.

RUSSIA(Lindsay): A Smy MS A Arm, A Sev-Mos(It's already in moscow, Pete),
F Nwy-Ed1.

TURKEY(Crouch): HUR! F Bla, A Ank stand unordered.

Retreats: ENGLISH F Hol-Hel. ENGLISH F Lpl disbanded.

WINTER 1904 ADJUSTMENTS:

AUSTRIA: 7 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie, Ser, Gre, Bul, +Rum. BUILDS A Bud.

ENGLAND: 4 Centres. Ed1, ~~Yor~~, Nwy, ~~Nth~~, Swe, StP. REMOVES F Yor.

FRANCE · 13 CENTRES: Bre, Mar, Par, Spa, Bel, Por, Lon, Mun, Ber, +Lpl,
+Hol, +Aie, +War. BUILDS F Bre, A Par, A Mar.
OWED ONE UNIT.

GERMANY: 1 Centre : ~~Nth~~, Den. NO CHANGE.

ITALY : 5 Centres: Ven, Nap, Rom, Tun, +Con. NO BUILD REC'D-OWED ONE.

RUSSIA : 3 Centres: Mos, Sev, ~~Nth~~, ~~Nwy~~, +Smy. GI REMOVES F Nwy.

TURKEY: 1 Centre : ~~Bla~~, ~~Smy~~, Ank. GI REMOVES F Bla.

STANDBY ORDERS FROM SOMEONE FOR TURKEY IF YOU LIKE!!!! TA!

Now for the PRESS:

EDINBURGH: What are you all doing? Are you blind to the French menace? He is neatly carving us up (thanks to Churchill & Russian F Nwy I have no defence). France will have 13 centres this Winter & the prospect of 4 more without much resistance. All he needs is Tunis & you are all sunk(I will be long gone). So will you wake up and join ~~me~~ into some semblance of an alliance to actually fight instead of merely ignoring his very real threat.

Assa Marra-Herkless: OI! Witless ponder, if you had moved to NAO as I suggested we might have had a faint chance of holding the French Blitzkrieg. Poz on the Crimson King.

1975FL('V'): Spring 1902...ZZZZZZ ZZZZZZZL.....

The result of John Coombe's proposal was; 2 For, 2 against, the rest failed to vote, so on we go. There is an anonymous proposal of conceding the game as follows; 1)Germany, 2)Austria, 3)The rest excluding Russia, 7)Russia. Your votes next issue. No vote counts as agreeing. Unanimous verdict required. How to the game;

AUSTRIA(Spanton): A War in S A Gal, A Ser-Bul S by F Gre & A Rum, A Vie-Tri, F Tri-AdS.

ENGLAND(Millen): A Bel-Hol S by F Nth, F Lpl-Wal, F EnC-Bre.

FRANCE(Doubleday): F MAO-EnC, A Gas-par.

GERMANY(Willey): A Bur-War, A Ruh-Bur, A Hol-Ruh, F Den-Bal, A Kle-Den.

ITALY(Plater): A Ven-Tyr, A Tun-Syr C by F Ion & F EHS.

RUSSIA(Pollard) HMR! A StP, F Nvy, A Mos, A Ukr stand unordered.

TURKEY(Coombe): A Jul stands, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I Ela-Sev, A Sev-Mos, A Con-Smy.

Retreats: TURKISH A Bul-Con.

Explanation accepted from Steve Doubleday. Dave Pollard is dropped unless he has a very good explanation. Standby orders from Pete Lindsay please. This looks like your big chance Pete.

Trieste: "Time to inspect the Northern fleet, I thought the Emperor, so he did. Suddenly, in the time it takes to type 'WOLVES 5 NEWCASTLE O', an arrow flew through the air and pierced Kaufmann's economic file. Tied to the shaft of the streamlined arrow was a message: "Sod off! Love Zorn." The Emperor was all a tremble. "Who is Zorn?" he inquired. "No-one of any consequence," replied Kaufmann (for in truth he is not). "I understand he tried to help the Turks invade Rumania last year." "Ahna," exclaimed the Emperor. "Then it is time for us to take revenge. We will liberate Bulgaria and send the Northern fleet to aid our Italian friends." Kaufmann sighed. How could he explain to the Emperor that the Turks had refused the Russian help?

ITALY-AUSTRIA: Just a precaution Tim, not having heard from you lately; It'll go peacefully back to Venice now, without touching your centres. Honest!

((OTHER PRESS HELD OVER TO NEXT ISSUE, SORRY I AUL, LFC..))

THE FINAL STRAW: I have been so busy that I didn't think I would have time to do this this time. As it is, I have had to rush it, and the quality is poor. Please bear with me. A Final note to HOWELL DAVIES. The reason your second set of orders did not arrive on time was because you sent them to the wrong address. Your latest letter posted 8/4/76 to the same wrong address arrived here 26/4/76. It's contents were only fit for the trash can.

Good riddance! You may just have pushed me to the point where I shall have to consider if the effort is really worthwhile to produce this zine.

TAFTAN

1975FW ('Z') -- Spring 1903

Bleak outlook for Austria...

AUSTRIA (Headon): A Ser - Bud S by A Vle & A Tri.

ENGLAND (Tant): A Bel - Pic, A Yor - Bel C by F Nth, F Ska S F Nvy,
F Nvy S (GERMAN) F Den - Sve.

FRANCE (Homon): F Naf - Tun S by F WMS, A Mar S A Bur, A Par - Pic.

GERMANY (Jettice): F Den - Ska, A Kie - Den, A Ruh - Bel S by A Hol,
A Mun S (ITALIAN) A Tyr - Swi ((can't, lost his climbing boots, ain't 'e?)).

ITALY (Rundle): F Ion - Tun S by F TyS, A Ven - Tri S by A Tyr.

RUSSIA (Pictler): A Sev - Ukr, F Rum - Sev, A Bud - Tri, A War - Gal, A StP - Nvy,
A Igg - StP, F Sve S (GERMAN) F Den - Ska.

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

Retreats: Austrian A Tri - Alb. English A Bel & F Ska both disbanded.
Russian A Bud - Rum.

Real London - Moscow: I didn't write that last bit. Pity really, it conveys my feelings much better.

Real London - Rome: I didn't write that either. Anyway, who could wish to stir it between us? Dinsdale isn't even in the game! Whichever of Berlin or Paris, which doesn't feature this time, must be the guilty one.

A Typewriter in the Kings Road: The President of France wearily raised her head and mopped her tired brow. "Mon dieu!" she exclaimed. "Why do I have to continue to write such stylish prose for the cruds of this zine? I slave for hours trying to please my fans, but they only reject me. I know, I shall take my stories to a magazine which understands me and is sympathetic to my ideals - the Blimp/Fastonbulbous.

Inrryr: Yes deary, it deserves you....

The New Sherrads, part 5:

A Coll Deep Beneath The White House: Holmes had been tapping his teeth with a pencil for three days now. Watson sighed. Holmes looked at him furtively.

"You don't think I don't have a plan, do you Watson? Ha, the very idea! I solved the League of Frogs incident, didn't I?"

"You did? Jolly good, Holmes. Who did it?"

"Hum....."

France - London: We're doing okay David - let's keep it up.

Inrryr: Er... Shall I tell him, or will you?

The Gamis File, part 3: The smootn white bird rose majestically into the sky. The passengers were ordering their first cocktails of the flight. As the beautiful Malayan-looking stewardess passed through the cabin she had the strange sensation that her stockinged leg had just been touched by a rubber covered hand. As she had been trained to control herself under any situation she casually turned her enticing body around and faced the passenger in question. "Can I help you sir?" As she finished the sentence her composed brain had digested the view in front of her. The man who had touched her leg had a gun in his other hand and it was pointing at her!

"Keep quiet lady," he snarled, "and you won't get hurt. Listen to me and do exactly as I say. Walk in front of me very slowly to the flight deck and enter the cockpit. But remember slectie, this shooter's loaded and ready to go. Now move!"

She began to walk down the gangway. What does he want? she thought. Surely not the Gamis File. Nobody knows that it's on board.

They had reached the door to the cabin. She knocked. "Come in baby," the voice boomed from inside.

Once inside Ho Raynor suddenly realised his downfall. He, as usual, had been beaten to the punch.

"Come on in Ho," his old adversary smiled at him. "The party's just beginning

to liven up. I presume you're after the Gamis File as well, you bungling ninny? Well I have it right here in this cockpit. You see I, and my partner, managed to persuade the Foreign Office's messenger to part with his vital load, with just a small amount of sleep gas.

By the way, I don't think you have met my new assistant. She has only just joined our organisation. Ho Rayner, I would like you to meet Lady Will Foze."

Lady Will, dressed stunningly in a close-fitting lame one-piece, and Ho exchanged pleasantries. Suddenly the sleek bird shuddered and the starboard side of the plane suddenly dropped.

"What is it?" Ho said to the pilot.

"Somebody has broken a window, and unless I can control this thing we are all heading for a watery grave."

The plane began to nosedive towards the murky black/green water of the Bay of Biscay...

A Continuing Story (part 4): "Did you say you'd do anything?" asked Lovibondage. "Oh goody..."

After the ensuing exertions, a silver Cadillac whisked them from the shabby office blocks of a little known Lancastrian bottle manufacturers towards the smutty gloam of Manchester. Relaxed in the plush red leather upholstery of his prize motor, relieved of his gay little disguise, Lovibondage tickled Birks arm. Engrossed in a dog food advert on the built-in 26 inch colour TV set amidst radio and 32 track stereo cassette player, Birks failed to notice. When the sensation finally reached his finely tuned brain however he could only ask, "Where are we going then?"

"Can't you guess, my little love-plum?" came the teasing reply.

"Toll me, oh please tell me," pleaded Birks.

The answer was swiftly given. "To the Holy, indeed revered, no, cherished county of Berkshire where, on the peaty downs the map tells me we will find the clue to the whereabouts of the Golden Bullock."

Glass flew as the windscreen shattered. Driver dead, the car skidded out of control.

"It's RJW!" screamed Lovibondage. "He's found us!"

-- follow it up, Steve....

1976AJ (*Y*) -- Autumn 1901

Quite a few about-turns, methinks...

AUSTRIA (Rundle): F Alb - Gre S by A Ser, A Gal - Boh.

ENGLAND (Lettice): F Nrg - Nwy, A Yor - Hol C by F Nth.

FRANCE (Dingsdale): F MAO - Iri, A Pic - Bel, A Spa - Por.

GERMANY (Ovens): F Den S (RUS,LAN) F GoB - Swe, A Kle - Hol, A Ruh S (FRNCH) A Pic - B

ITALY (Taylor): A Tri stands, F Ion - EMS, A Apu stands.

RUSSIA (Ball): A Ukr - War, A Sev S F Rum, F GoB - Swe.

TURKEY (Evans): A Bul - Ser, A Con - Bul, F Bla - Ccn.

No retreats.

Winter 1901 Adjustments

A: 4 Centres: Bud, ~~Tri~~, Vie, +Gre, +Ser. Builds A Bud.

E: 4 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, +Nwy. Builds F Lpl.

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

G: 4 Centres: Ber, Kic, Mun, +Den. Builds A Mun.

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

R: 6 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, +Rum, +Swe. Builds F StP(NC), A Mos.

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

Hol, Spa, Tun still unmolested.

Angels One-Five: The figure at the controls was small, dark haired, and wore a kamikaze head band. A little incongruously, he also wore a large handlebar moustache.

