

The Back Page - at last it's over

Welcome this issue to -

Top ups received from (tat) - Alex Richardson

So long and thanks for all the fish to - Mike Sykes, Tony Reeves, Yann Clouet, Nicolas Perez, Mike Head

COA: None

Time for a top up?: Giban Bandaramaika, Leslie King, Rick Powell, Tony Sait, John Stratford, John Todd, Paul Clayson

Final Sub Warnings: Alan Coulthard, Dave Gittins, Kim Head, Iain Lovejoy, Keyf Smith

OK, I like you, but this really is your last warning:

Testing my patience to extremes: Paul Oakes, Simon Hornby

Waiting Lists

Cluedo (0/9)

- Let's try again. Anybody up for another game?

Diplomacy (5/7)

- Tony Sait, Nigel Pepper, Tim Deacon, Doug Massie, John Dennett

Gunboat (6/7)

- Two more secret squirrels have chosen to chance their nuts. Only one more needed.

The Ed

The Sprouts of Wrath

- Mark Wightman, 52 Park Road West, Bedford, MK41 7SL - 01234-262575

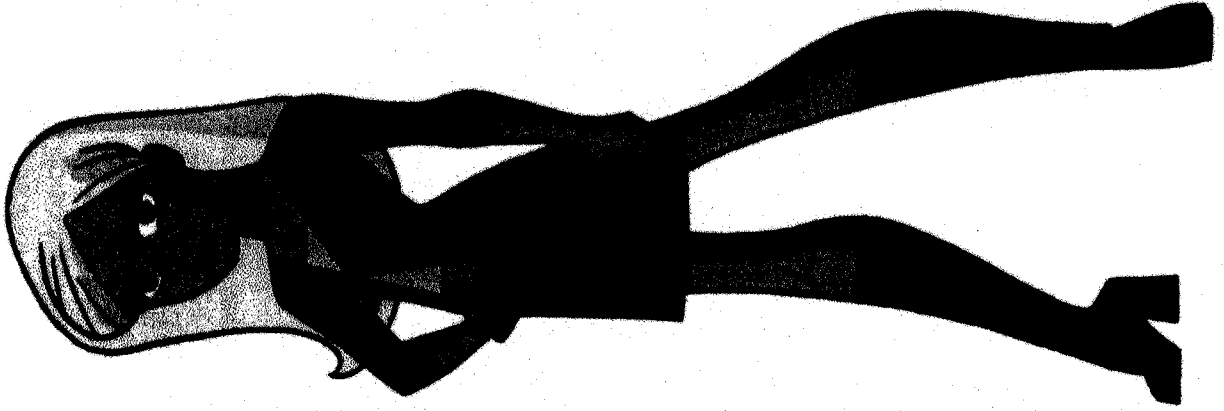
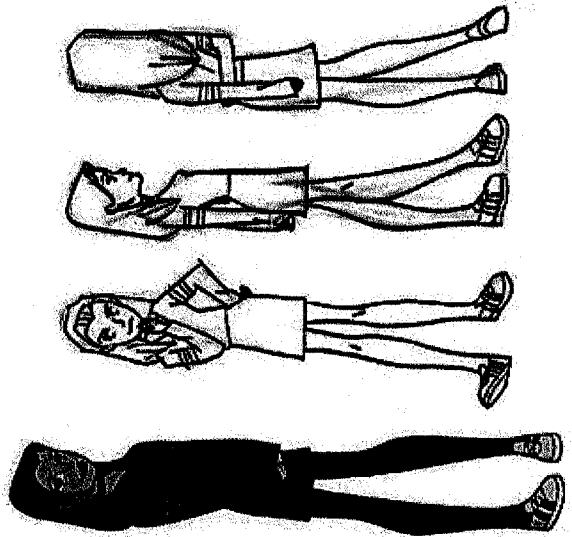
- Email - mr.sprout@btinternet.com

- Web - <http://www.btinternet.com/~mr.sprout> [a new version is coming soon, if back allows]

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This has been issue #61 of 'The Sprouts of Wrath': It really is all over now, bar the shouting of course.

clinched it. Only every time I'm poised to buy one some other electrical item of mine blows up - diverting the funds earmarked for the I-pod. A couple of months ago it was the washing machine (see Issue #59 for the full yawn inducing tale) and this month it was my Fridge/Freezer. Or to be more accurate the fridge part of it, which packed up a couple of weeks ago. Slightly warm milk was the first indication that things might not be right in the fridge. Followed by confirmation in the form of a particularly noxious yoghurt incident. Yeurrrkkk!

Trying to survive without a fridge just isn't an option, so I-pod on hold once again <sniff>. At least I managed to avoid buying another DVD player when I walked into town to look for a replacement**.

A new Fridge/Freezer is a poor substitute for an I-pod. Even if it's a super-sexy Bosche Fridge/Freezer with lots of odd buttons and displays to play with. One of the displays is a very useful temperature indicator, which allows you to set the fridge temperature anywhere between +2 and +8C. I've no idea at all what temperature it should be set at, but of course started with it set at +2. Which is probably too cold. But at that temperature even cheap beer tastes absolutely gorgeous, even if you can't hold the bottles for long.

Anybody know what temp it should be set at? The freezer can be set too, anywhere between -16 and -32C, but thanks to a frozen pizza I know that should be set at -18C.

And on that rather pathetic note. See you all at ManotCon. Until the next time.

Issue #61 was typed to the following motley collection of tunes: Stereolab - Mars Audioc Quintet; Summertime - Pure Juice; Imogen Heap - I Megaphone; REM - Monster**

Issue #61 was largely ignored for: The code of the Woosters - P.G Woodhouse; An unfortunate woman - Richard Brautigan; The comfort zone - Jeremy Sheldon

- *1 - In contrast to the usual mind-numbing tedium.
- *2 - And let's face it, unless Darren Buckley is replaced by one of the "pod people" then you're all fucked.
- *3 - Although, I did have a close shave with a DVD recorder, but luckily they only had the ex-demo one left - and I'd never buy one of them.
- *4 - I don't know why either.



Editorial

Hi dudes!

God this is depressing. Everything seems to be conspiring to prevent me editing this zine. And to be frank, I'm not sure why I'm bothering to even try.

First off: My back has flared up again. Making sitting at the computer absolute mind-altering*1 agony.

I can work around that problem though and rather than delay the zine indefinitely I decided to transfer all my zine files to my laptop, which I can use lying on the bed. This, I thought, would let me knock out a quick games only issue to at least keep things ticking over.

How naïve.

Sadly, after spending a couple of agonising hours sat at my desktop moving and copying the files, you can imagine how frustrated I was to discover that I still couldn't do a single thing. Why? Because I didn't have a complete set of orders for a single game. Not one. Pretty pathetic.

I once said that I'd fold if that ever happened and I will if it ever happens again. It's one thing not getting a response to quizzes, articles and the like, but when your actual players can't be bothered to send their orders in on time - then you start to despair. You've all been warned**.

I'm despairing a lot at the moment. I'm despairing that my back will ever be 100% (although I'd settle for 50% at the moment).

I also despair that I'll ever get around to buying an I-pod. I've been thinking about buying one for some time now and the arrival of the 30Gb model, which should hold my entire CD collection, has just about

"Very well put Suzanna, we'll make a poet of you yet. The Russians are great poets, you know, just like the Irish. And they are drinkers of vodka and players of chess, but we put that down to the long Russian winters. Your grandad went to Moscow once, not long before he died, to see Spassky play Petrosian for the World Championship, in the Hall of Columns. Petrosian was actually from Armenia, which is an independent country again now. Peasant folk they mostly are, though good Christians. Spassky was the younger man and a fearsome attacker in those days - he won the match and the title, anyway."

"So was my grandfather a Russian? Do I have the Russian soul?"

"He was half Russian; your grannie's mother was a Scottish lassie from Ullapool who wed a Russian sailor in the last war. He was on the Arctic convoys - dangerous and difficult work."

"But this is real history Da - you make it interesting!"

"We're all part of history, Suzy. One day, when you're grown up, I'll mebbe tell you what I did in the war - our war."

But would he ever tell her? Three kills to his credit, all of them clean. And now the province was at peace, supposedly, and he retired. Had it all been worth it? Had he even been on the right side? Not that he had had any choice in the matter. You were born Catholic; you died Catholic. If the IRA came calling in the seventies, you did as they said or you died before your time.

"How's that stew coming on? I've sealed the mutton - you'll find the stock in the fridge. Back to your wee exercise book now, and take it off the table. Your Ma will be in soon. And remember, no talking politics over tea. Your uncle Grumpy is some kind of Bolshevik, if you ask me."

Suzanna gave him an old-fashioned look.

"He's called Ben, Da, and he's a charmer. Why do you call him Grumpy?"

Calum shrugged. There had been seven of them, before Doc stopped an army bullet in the Falls Road.

Somebody had to be Grumpy.

The man they called Dopey (though not to his face) was a complex character. Although he took pride in his work, and believed passionately in it, he kept his home life separate and what his wife and children didn't know wouldn't harm them. That was one of the rules: family were sacrosanct.

"Da, can you help me with my homework?"

"I will do that thing for you, if you will help me here in the kitchen - your ma's at her yoga class tonight."

"What are we having?"

"Good Irish stew. You can chop the carrots; they're already washed. Tops and tails go on the compost heap, so put them in that old pot over there. Now, what's this homework that you're struggling over. Mathematics? Religion?"

"Naw, history. We're doing the collapse of Communist Russia."

"And they call that history! Current affairs, more like. History should be ancient stuff, with the participants all dead and buried. Still, what can I be doing for you?"

"Well, apparently Churchill described Russia as an enigma wrapped in a mystery. Something like that, anyway."

"Your man should know. After the Great War, World War One to you, he tried to invade it, to crush the revolutionary government. He backed the White army, the old aristos and the Tartars and the mercenaries. But he failed, just as Napoleon and Hitler failed - it was the Red army who won that one. If history teaches us anything, it is that invading Russia is a bad idea.

"And your Mr Churchill, he was out of power and office for a long time after that - he called it his wilderness years."

"The teacher, she told us to think about those Russian dolls - the ones that nest inside each other, but all look the same."

"Not always. Your Ma has a set, you know, away up in the attic, all of different saints. Have a good look at them some time. Are you done with those carrots? Put them in a pan with salted water. Now look at this onion I am peeling and slicing. What would happen, if I carried on and on peeling in, because I didn't like the look of the outside?"

"That would be silly. You'd end up throwing the whole thing on the compost heap. And you'd have nothing but tears for your trouble."



Letter Column

Apologies in advance for what might turn out to be a pretty lame column this time. I've had to exclude just about everything that needed copy-dying. So, gone is a five page copy final travelogue courtesy of Mr Williams. Did I hear a sigh of relief?

John Wilman

In partial defence of my father, I should point out that he is a technophile and all the machinery in the house, including the record deck, is my mother's department. She is a bit gaga, and she probably converted the speed on the deck when she was "dusting" it.

Also, my father has a fondness for German conductors in their eighties (Furtwangler, Klemperer etc), and these guys are so slow that they actually benefit from being speeded up!

Furtwangler sounds ever so made up. Almost certainly wasn't though, although perhaps he should have been.

Dave Gittins

On the subject of playing records at the wrong speed, I recall a prank I played whilst a presenter on student radio. Katrina & The Waves' "Walking On Sunshine" was one of THE summer records that year and I convinced my listener(s?) that it was in fact a cover version. Playing the single at 33 and slightly speeded up (perhaps +4), it did sound vaguely like an old soul tune sung by a guy with a voice just slightly higher than Barry White. I attributed the song to the "long-forgotten" Jackie Washington and the Windmills and offered a prize (probably a King album or some other tat we'd been sent f.o.c.) to anyone who could tell me the year in which Jackie Washington had died. I received one phone call (presumably from a King fan with no money) and various other presenters were busy complimenting me on finding this nugget in the record library that had eluded all of them. The game was only up when the 40-something mature student who did the news programme and had little interest in music wandered into the studio and said "For ****'s sake, Gittins, play that record at the right speed". All

of this earned me a stern ticking off from the rather humourless Programme Controller.

How can you tell the news monkey didn't like music? Well, he wanted to hear Katrina and the Waves for a start @

Nigel Pepper

Why the question mark last time, what were you questioning? The fact that I'm in the worldmasters tournament or that Guy rated me a sound player? The first is undeniable the second I accept is open to question, note the adjective was sound not good - that I would say is stretching a point to a considerable degree.

It was more an "over to you, Nigel" question mark - rather than anything too sinister.

Anyway the game Guy was talking about was only spoilt by a game long alliance between AJI which neither of them would break even when it would have been in their own interests to do so. That and some 'gifted' defence by myself (Turkey) & Russia meant that there were 6 finishers, even if Guy was miles out front.

Oh, I thought he'd got 18. I know Rick did.

Rick Powell

I see a couple of your zine subbers in the top few... must make you proud.

That might be what I'm feeling, but it could just be my lunch coming back to finish me off.

Nigel Pepper

I regret that this year I was unable to see the Eurovision Song Contest and could only listen to our magnificent entry. What a pity I didn't shove some money on them finishing last and scoring zero. With the very tongue in cheek commentaries of Messrs Wogan or Burns, it's rapidly becoming a must see/listen experience.

Oh it is. Just make sure you are very well pissed before any of the music starts. Disappointed this year that T.A.T.U didn't do anything offensive, other than sing that is - an everyone else was doing that too.

Nigel Pepper

Finally a reply to John Wilman - I haven't had time to send this to him so on the assumption that his deadline to you has gone, I'll submit it via you instead.

I've had all the names Sgt. Dr. even Red Hot so none of them come as a surprise any more.

Any pursuit like a quiz or chess is merely an exercise in the reorganisation of acquired knowledge. There isn't anything else it can be, you either know the answer or you don't.

Unless it's one of those quizzes (like Dan's) where it isn't so much what you know, but more what you can work out from what you know.

On that basis John's allegation of cheating on my part is that the time between acquisition and use of the knowledge is too short. Sorry, is there a statutory minimum? If the format of the quiz had been announced in the previous issue and I had spent the intervening time between issues bombing up on the subject matter would that still be cheating or just thorough preparation (I'll ignore the sad issue for the time being)?

That's probably for the best.

Most people would say preparation, so where does the distinction lie. John answers this one himself. If you can get away with it then there isn't a distinction.

Like John I am fundamentally lazy so I don't normally do research on this occasion however I got so close to completion from existing knowledge that I was stirred to research the rest. If that damns me as a cheat in John's eyes then so be it.

There is another teachers rule taught to me by my father - a teacher. Those who can do, those who can't teach (and those who can't teach get jobs with Ofsted). If you want to remain ignorant then OK but don't begrudge those who want to expand their knowledge even if you don't like the circumstances in which they do it.

John?

Leslie King

After my comments about how horribly complex ASL was I have played a couple of fun games of it since then (honest!). If you steer clear of all the really complex scenarios it can be a good enough game.

Well, it's been about six weeks. More than enough time to finish a couple of the shorter scenarios.

Like Richard Williams I also had the experience of supporting a team against Watford at Villa Park in a FA cup semi-final but mine was in 1984. I travelled up from Milton Keynes that day on a train which had

stopped at Watford earlier, but there were still no Watford fans on it.... however, at every station we stopped at on the way to Birmingham more and more Plymouth fans got on until it was packed. That was in the days before we had all-seater grounds and I can remember the end we were in being so full it was quite frightening for a while. I had a similar experience at Arsenal for an FA cup match in the 1980s when they just kept filling the away end despite the fact that it was already too full and it was getting difficult to breathe. Luckily they opened another section but I can still remember how terrifying it was.

Not a pleasant thought at the best of times, but for a Liverpool fan...

I don't know what it is about Watford but that's the only ground where I have come close to being arrested. That was because I wanted to go to the tube station so I could go home, but because I was an away fan the intellectual in his blue uniform decided that we all had to go to the railway station...

Pretty typical stuff for away fans. They just want you away from the ground asap and, for the at least, herding you off is the best way.

I'm beginning to wonder if it's worth my while reading my e-mails these days. Despite being careful with my e-mail address I still manage to get 150-200 spam messages per day. I read somewhere that 180 people are responsible for 90% of them - bastards!

It's more like 4 people and they all live in Boca Raton (sp?) Florida. Any hurricane could remove the problem, so keep your fingers crossed.

Now wouldn't it be good if someone could post their identities on the web. We've also had a few of those scams from (usually) Nigeria at work asking for help getting money out of the Country or similar. We used a hotmail account to reply, but somehow they don't seem to have a sense of humour... still, we enjoyed it.

Never thought of that. Sounds almost as much fun as trying with the telemarketers.

John Marsden

I sympathise with your difficulties in keeping going as a Diplomacy zine. Postal Diplomacy is certainly in steep decline. I've just updated the stats and there have only been two gamestarts in five months, and my list of current Diplomacy players only has 114 names on it (and some of those are dubious). This is a very small pool for the number of GMs still wanting to run the game. TCP and GAME are in the same position, and waiting lists take forever to fill.

Taking out a small mortgage on my other flat seemed like a good idea, now that I have a paying tenant in, to clear some rather pressing debts. 3 months down the line (the delay caused on this occasion by the Lloyds TSB bank, who repeatedly made errors so basic that you cannot believe how they stay in business) I am told that the funds, initially £15,000 but rather less when Blackadders have made up a few numbers and then charged a flat fee of £300 (commission?) for a couple of phone calls, have been received and a cheque is being posted out on Friday afternoon. I am away all weekend, unsuccessfully trying to view an annular eclipse in Wick (it was foggy). By Wednesday, I am somewhat concerned by the non-arrival of this cheque. Have they sent it to the wrong address - surely not. Has it been lost in the post, and will they say it ain't their fault? One anxious trip to the office in town, and it transpires that they haven't even written out the cheque! I get one with the ink still wet which I promptly bank....

Share tips for the next two months: Colt Telecom; Legal & General.

Much easier than Dan's excellent quiz, but I want to get this one out of the way before I start packing up my books. Below are the titles of ten works of Speculative Fiction, Fantasy and straight SF, together with their authors - just match 'em up. Nine are genuine, believe it or not, one is a ringer - I have made up the title and the author. Shouldn't be too difficult - answers to me or to Mark.

John's Quiz

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | What Mad Universe? | John Manchip White |
| 2 | Miracle Visitors | Gustav Eriksson |
| 3 | Death by Dreaming | Wayland Drew |
| 4 | The Half-Angels | Hal Clement |
| 5 | Venus plus X | Geoff Ryman |
| 6 | Ocean on Top | Fredric Brown |
| 7 | Diary of a Spaceperson | Ian Watson |
| 8 | Dragonlayer | Theodore Sturgeon |
| 9 | Mission of Levity | Andrew Lovesey |
| 10 | The Child Garden | Chris Foss |



Cabin Fever

by John Wilman

Like our illustrious editor, I work from home, though not as a salaried employee or even a freelance. I do a bit of this and a bit of that - much housework, though never enough, some judicious buying and selling of shares, the odd bit of writing, occasional watching of TV and the usual time-wasting computer activities.

Unlike our splenetic editor, I welcome interruptions from guests wishing to discuss the finer points of theology with me, or sporty youths with clipboards from the gas company trying to sell me electricity, and their competitors from the electricity industry trying to sell me gas. It is so benignly surreal, and if you take against the individual you can simply offer tea liberally adulterated with laxatives.

Come 11.00 am in the morning, however, if I'm not out already, a certain restless feeling comes over me. Part of my brain is telling me that the pubs are open, and I am wasting good drinking time. Once ablutions have been performed and the post dealt with, one feels the desire to plunge into the maelstrom of social human existence. To do battle, as one has to, with the ubiquitous double buggies, built along the lines of a Sherman tank, and their chain-smoking, mobile-phone-prattling teenage mum charioteers. To forget to return overdue library books (though always to remember milk and newspaper).

On a typical day, if not scheduled for a morning class or stint at work (the local CAB), I am rarely out much before one, since I like to catch "Working Lunch", aka The Goldfish strikes back, on BBC 2. And I note that today a Test match should kick off at around 11.00am. The smarmy Mark Nicholas (public school tosspot) is a major downside to the Channel 4 coverage, but to compensate we have Henry "armband" Olonga, quite rightly given a job commenting on the game which he has been viciously driven out of. He replaces Rod Liddle of the Guardian as My Hero, not least because Liddle has sold out to the establishment (the Beeb) by agreeing to appear on that most banal of "quiz shows" (old men blathering), Call My Bluff.

There is something worth watching on TV at the moment - "Early Doors", a sitcom set in a pub, where everyone speaks like Caroline Aherne out of the Royle Family (which I thought was crap). Take my word for it, this quasi existential slice of social commentary is the new Black Books. As TV critics get the chance to make comments like this every day, you probably didn't read it here first. Watch out for the bent coppers.

Blood on the keyboard.

Solicitors - who needs them? Bunch of blood-sucking, thieving, incompetent parasites. With the exception of our local legal aid specialist, Aneca Jethries, and one young guy at Cambridge magistrates court in the eighties, I have yet to meet one who could actually claim to be doing anything other than robbing his clients. When they are not drinking to excess, playing golf or swapping off colour jokes, they spend their half day in the office working out how much they can cream off the top of all the financial transactions that come their way. And they cannot follow the simplest instructions either.

The guy handling my house purchase was instructed on a Friday to organise a full structural survey - the only kind of survey worth paying good money for, since the other sorts consist of two guys with clipboards and suits walking in, looking around and walking out again - that will be £200, thanks very much. For a full structural survey, the surveyor actually has to do some work and get his hands a bit dirty. Naturally, they are not too keen on this. On the Saturday, I got a letter (solicitors love writing letters as they can charge £50 a throw - how do they sleep at nights?) saying that the survey had been ordered. On Monday, I got a phone call asking me if I really wanted a full structural survey ... the lying git hadn't instructed it at all! I could have lost the house over that omission.

Not enough players is, as you say, basically the problem. We just can't compete with the internet for the interest of the casual player.

On the other hand, there does seem still to be a market for postal games zines; the general games and football zines keep going very well, and Ode is increasingly dependant on Railway Rivals and 18xx. You have plenty of subscribers who appreciate your non-games content and would miss it.

I've never had too much demand for other games (non-Dip), I'm sorry to say. I've run a few simple things in the past, but the take up has hardly been spectacular. I've no interest in running 18xx and I've proved in the past that I shouldn't under any circumstances be allowed to run a football game. Which is a shame, because there does seem to be a demand for both.

I am trying to think of a way in which those of us GNs that still want to run Diplomacy games could pool our lists without forcing players to subscribe to extra zines, so that players have access to the full range of opponents - and maybe get game reports and zines separately. Any thoughts on how it could be done?

I'm too much of an anarchist to suggest a central gamestart service and I don't see an easy way to surmount the problems that having game-report only players might bring, but something needs to be done: because unless there's a sudden influx of Diplomacy players I can't see more than a handful of games starting each year. Anybody else got any ideas?

Andrew Greco
"Jehno Tullett"'s brilliant, tell us who made that one up?

I couldn't possibly say, but he's not very tall if that's any help as a clue.

John Harrington
Might be an idea to clarify which bit is John Wilman's this issue. I had forgotten he was writing for you.

I think John has covered that by putting his name on his bit this time, but a general rule you should find his bits at the back (oooo-eeerrrr mississ).

James Hardy
So, is it true that you are deserting team FB to play for the mercenary Harris this Manorcon? Would be nice to know so I can get on with organising some replacements (I believe Dan Lester has already scarpred too as he thinks there will be no team FB.

well there wouldn't actually, I'd rename it SNOT until you come crawling back after Harris dumps you, but you get my drift...).

I couldn't possibly comment at this early stage, but I've not joined Mr Harris's squad of ringers.

Dave Gittins
I see I'm due to give you some more money. I'll send this tomorrow if I remember. I don't know if you're going to Manorcon this year, but bearing in mind that I didn't speak to you until about 1pm on the Monday last year, it's probably not reliable to leave it until then.

I've been poised by my letter-box for a week now...

I'm sorry to see "Sprouts" heading towards the fold stage. Despite not being the most active of subbers, I do enjoy the zine and will be sad to see things wind down.

Well, I haven't decided to fold, although my back may force me into doing just that. My problem is that games are finishing by the bucket load with hardly a twitch on the waiting list to compensate. I'm not surprised really. There's so few players out there that those who are will probably be sick to death of playing one another.

James Hardy
No more drawings of Colin Hobbs please - I'm still getting over the shock of the last one!

But it was a recycled one. I think initially from the cover of Issue #34. If not the an issue from somewhere in the early 20's for sure.

Colin Hobbs
I think that cartoon has had previous outings. Was it done in 96 or 98? It captures my gormless malevolence as well as my Terry-Thomas style gap teeth.

It was 98. And in my defense I remember when drawing it thinking "does Colin have any missing teeth" and then thinking "well, he does now". Call it artistic license if you will.

Thinking about it a bit more I recall that the image also graced the wino card in my FTF Milk & Cheese game. Fame at last!

Andrew Greco
Vick was completely exaggerating when he said I spend 1 day in every 9 here (Amsterdam - pay

attention at the back) – more like I in 14. And the flat is not steady.

But it is.

Dave Gittins
I see Dan Reed Network get a mention in 23 Songs. A friend of mine was seriously into this lot in the late '80s / early '90s and kept "doing me a favour" by lending me their albums.

I hoped you returned the favour by using them to line the budgets cage . . .

They were never very popular chez Git, but the believers finally deserted the band when Dan Reed chopped off his long hair and shaved his head. Not that they were ever a triumph of "style" over substance of course.

Sounds like a line from a Billy Bragg song "She cut her hair and I stopped loving her".

Colin Hobbs
I hope you have conceded the 9 points, rather than 8, in 23 tunes. I need all the points I can get as it isn't getting any easier.

And if this turn is any indication everybody else is struggling too. Scores have dropped considerably.

I always liked 'Jolene', and Andy Williams.

I'm sure help is available.

He had a better single than "Music to watch girls by" all about sailing the seven seas.

Which album is Billy Bragg's "Little time bomb" from? I gave up on his later albums as his songwriting was fast deteriorating.

It's from 'Workers Playtime' (his fourth one).

Top Tips: Worried about finding and cleaning out the little filter things on your washing machine?

Avoid the necessity by handwashing your woollens.

Odd. I understand all the words in that sentence, but somehow the meaning of it all eludes me.

Doug Massie
In defence of Raymond E Feist.

Not a phrase you see very often.

So after 3 years of avoiding reading Magiclan, you finally deign to read it, calling it "predictable, but readable too". Now that is a fair description of most David Gemmel (another author I enjoy), but Magiclan is a cut above that.

But isn't that like saying "That Pol Pot was a bit of a bastard, but he wasn't as bad as Hitler"?

Feist has created two believable worlds, with very different social structures and sensible characters. It is a story on an epic scale (as per most fantasy these days), but with a political level and internal consistency missing in most. It is also a novel in its own right and the start of a trilogy of trilogies (ok, I lost my own sympathy with that last point, he should have stopped with Darkness at Sethanon and Mistress of the Empire).

Odd. That's twice I've seen that phrase "created two believable worlds". Not sure where the somewhere else was, but I beg to disagree, because I didn't find the 'other' world plausible at all.

Sadly, despite starting very well, after six books he has fallen into the trap of so many authors (Turtelove, where are you?) of writing endless sequels and proving the law of diminishing returns to be absolutely true.

This did start off as a defence, but the last couple of books have been fairly poor.

See, even you don't like him any more. You'll be glad to learn that your other recommendation (Ender's Game) has made it's way almost to the top of the to-be-read pile. The pile falling over certainly helped it a bit, but the dearth of good new books has quite a bit to do with it too.

Dave Gittins

I'll throw in another contender for favourite track from "Dumpty" - "Roads". This really grabbed my attention when I first heard the album, although I was already familiar with "Sour Times" by then. I recently heard a track from an album that Beth Gibbons has made with some guy who used to be in Talk Talk. Does anyone know if the album is any good? I certainly liked the track I heard.

Been meaning to have it stuck on the listening post in MFC, but keep forgetting.

Doug Massie

I liked your rant about BBC2 scheduling. Its long been true that whenever the beeh has something a bit special - The Olympics, Snooker World



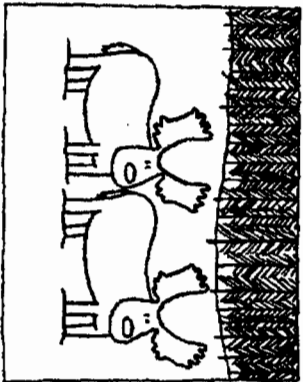
Cluedo – Turn 14

Player	Suspect	Weapon	Motive	Location	Result
Penelope P	Nympho	Poison Dart	Lust	Nursery	Bingo you've done it.

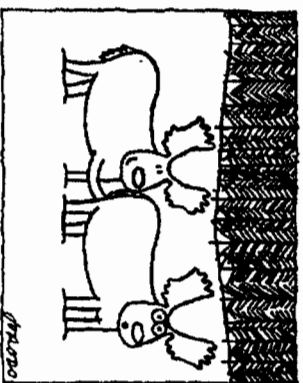
Prof. Stocombe / All: Please note that Rick's attempt is an accusation. It is correct and therefore he wins. I haven't bothered to include your guesses, since with Rick's win they become somewhat moot. Thanks to everybody who took part. Well, to those that managed to send their orders in. Now, just to reveal who was who –

Penelope Pistorp was Rick Powell, Nymphomaniac was Geoff Brown (when he could be arsed), Buffy the Vampire Slayer was Alan Coulthard, Inspector Morose was Tony (Dead next time I see him) Reeves, Sheerluck Holmes was Nigel Pepper, whilst Miss Marple was, when he remembered, Darren Buckley.

I'll probably open a list for another game of this as it's simple for me to run.



Canada Moose



Canada Goose

F	Lloyd Cole and the Commotions Rattlesnakes	Never understood why this wasn't a massive hit. I can only think it suffered from lack of airplay in the "Smashie & Nicey" era when a song which name-checked Simone De Beauvoir didn't sit well with "Agadoo" and endless Frankie Goes To Hollywood.	My guess would be because it's pretty crap. Better than Agadoo, but only in the same way that hanging is better than crucifixion.
F	The Jam Bananan Theme	I like to think that this proves that Paul Weller has (had?) a sense of humour.	Paul Weller had a sense of humour? Wonder where he stole that from. Rather a pedestrian version of the theme.
G	Tom Lehrer The Elements	Simply the names of the chemical elements to the tune of "I am the very model of a Modern Major General".	Very quaint. He even sounds a bit like Groucho Marx - and there is no higher compliment.
G	Parti Smith Because the night	Co-written with Bruce Springsteen, but his version doesn't hold a candle to this.	That Co-written comment had me rushing to my albums to check as I'd always thought it an all Bruce composition (a bad thing). Seems you are right but Bruce holds the sole copyright. Superb track! Indeed not. A true classic.
H	Cab Calloway Jumping Jive	Not all the great music was made post-1954.	Of historical curiosity only. This who the Bay City Rollers were ripping off (amongst others).
H	The Turtles You don't have to walk in the rain.	A swing band masquerading as a pop band.	Something about witches and virgins and stuff. I was too busying banging my head to be sure.
I	White Zombie Super charger heaven	Can you tell what he is singing?	This from their third album I assume. Sadly Summerland will always be a fun far on the Isle of Mann which burnt down in the 70's with massive loss of life.
I	Kings X Summerland	Two great albums, then mediocrity.	Oh I do. I gave this a chance though, but still pretty much loathed them still at the end of it. Keith's obviously no Bach. At least it's not "Fanfare for the Common Man" which can induce vomiting (in me at least).
J	Emerson, Lake and Palmer Trilogy	I bet that you loathe ELP. Sorry. It's that classically influenced music again (at least two of them went to the RSM). You may not like the music, but they know how to write it. Keith Emerson's Piano Concerto may be 'derivative', but it is good fun.	Why, oh why? At least it's the best bit of Tubular Bells. I find myself heading towards Rawlingsons End now.
J	Mike Oldfield Tubular Bells	The Sailor's Hornpipe from the original release was re-issued in this (I assume) out-take with Mike and Viv Stanshall on a drunken tour of the country house recording studio. Probably funnier when the listener is drunk too, it makes me giggle even when I'm sober.	Not quite my cup of tea - just a little too shrill at times, but pretty good all the same. In Bedford we are plagued by Irish bands playing twiddle-lee-diddle-dee music badly, nice to hear some done well for once.
K	Richard & Linda Thompson When I get to the border		She's currently touring touring the UK with the Thompson's (see above). This track made me very much want to make sure I get a ticket for the Northampton Roadmender.
K	Erin McKeown Queen of quiet		

Championship, knitting from Kettering it is invariably broadcast from gym on a weekday and whatever was there is delayed a couple of weeks. Used to be Star Trek Next Gen, then DSG & Voyager, now Buffy. Its been the same for at least 15 years and probably longer.

And this week, Buffy Season 6 penultimate episode has been bounced for... Top of the Pops 2!

And it wasn't a very good Top 2 either. Some dumb strumpet introducing (badly) a motley collection of 80's rat. Why BBC2, why?

In truth, I've just about given up on watching anything early evening on BBC2 for that very reason.

SKY are currently getting quite a bit of my ire.

Thanks to their cavalier attitude to scheduling "Atlas", it's changed transmission time twice, transmission date once and even channel once. It is now the only 'all-new' programme not broadcast twice, making it even more important to keep track of its wanderings. It's been a right royal pain in the arse making sure I don't miss a chance to oggle Ms Garner I can tell you.

John Harrington

Sorry, can't think of anything more inspirational at the moment; like Rod Stewart when he was in the Faces, I'm saving all the good stuff for my own effort (A League Of Our Own).

And the Oscar for steady zine plug goes to...

Doug Massie

By the way, if Richard got pretty much a page for the semi final, how long is his diatribe about the final? It was a good game to watch, but apart from Arsenal's appalling time wasting in extra time I don't think you could argue that they were by far the better team on the day! Saints had their chances, but Arsenal could easily have had a hatful.

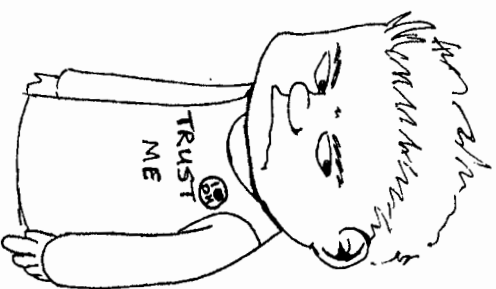
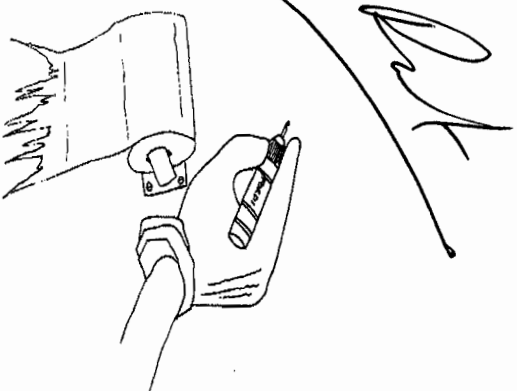
Sadly Richard has fallen victim to my copy typing embargo - although, if you're lucky I'll slip in a short bit from him.

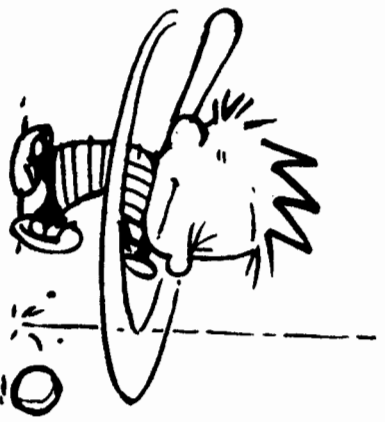
Richard Williams

First I will say that the result was fair. The major disappointment is Strachan refusing to take risks to try and get back into it.

Disappointing, yes. Losing 2-0 in a cup final isn't really any worse than 1-0.

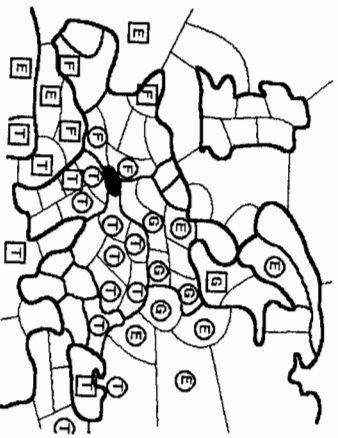
And at that point my back is too sore to continue. So, until next month.





Games Section

Broccoli: S10 – 00BH



ENGLAND (Rick Powell)
 A(Mos) s A(Ukr); A(Ukr) s GERMAN A(Gal)
 (MISORDER); A(Lvn) s GERMAN A(War) - Pru;
 A(Dan) - Kie; A(Swe) Stands; F(MAO) - Bre
 (FAILED); F(NAD) s F(WMS); F(WMS) s FRENCH
 F(GoL)

FRANCE (Darren Buckley)
 F(Por) - Spa sc; A(Spa) - Mar; A(Mar) - Bur; F(GoL)
 s A(Spa) - Mar; F(Bre) Stands

GERMANY (Tony Sait)
 F(Kie) - BAL; A(Mun) s A(Sil) (CUT); A(Sil) s
 A(Mun) (CUT); A(Gal) - War; A(War) - Pru

TURKEY (Ghan Bandranaik)
 A(Pie) - Mar (FAILED); A(Tus) - Ven; F(TYS) -
 Tus; F(Nap) - TYS; F(Tun) s F(Nap) - TYS; F(ION) s

F(Tun); A(Tyr) - Mun (FAILED); A(Boh) - Sil
 (FAILED); A(Vie) s A(Rum) - Gal; A(Boh) s
 A(Rum) - Gal; A(Rum) - Gal; A(Sc) - Rum; A(Sev)
 Ukr (FAILED); A(Arm) - Sev (FAILED); F(BLA) s
 A(Arm) - Sev

GEF

The GEF was defeated with at least one vote against.
 Two more have been proposed for next time. Usual
 rules – NMR's and abstentions count against.

- 1 – E/F/T (3-way draw)
- 2 – E/G/T (3-way draw)

Press

**Europe / United Republican Corporations of
 America:** Turkish Weapons of Mass Destruction
 could be launched in 45 minutes! (source:
 A.Cambell). Please liberate us now! Reward:
 lucrative mineral, reconstruction and rearmaments
 contracts and lifetime board directorships post-
 politics. God bless the alliance of construction
 and armaments companies! (Hey, destroy & rebuild!
 is simply the Circle of Life - the American Way!)

Iron Chancellor / Tin Pot General: I SAID "Keep
 the heads down" NOT "Go swimming off round the
 trenches for a sing song". Now look what a mess
 you've got in. You are relieved of command. Report
 to the Russian front immediately. I DON'T CARE
 YOU'RE ALREADY THERE It's the thought
 that counts.

Germany / France-England: Oops Sorry . . . I'll try
 to be more careful.

"The Good Ship E/F/G": Breach in the staminate
 line! ABANDON SHIP! All hands to the nearest
 vacant centre! Save yourselves! The Turks are
 coming!

Sultan / Kaiser: It was not my intention to patronise
 you. You have caused me major hassle in this game.
 If Russia hadn't thrown everything away up north in a
 fit of pique, this game would be over by now. So you
 can't blame me for trying to win, can you? I do think I
 have played well enough for a win. You obviously
 disagree.

Sultan / Darren: You would've been eliminated long
 ago by Ricky if it wasn't for my kind aid. This game
 tells every reader they can attack you as you will always
 work with him afterwards! I am very disappointed. I
 thought more of you. For a threat to be a credible
 deterrent, you have to carry it out on occasions. So
 what better time than now? You show everyone that
 (a) it is bad to attack you and (b) you repay any who
 help you when in trouble. A good gamer always
 thinks beyond the current game. And I always felt you
 were a good games player. I am usually a good judge
 of character. Maybe not this time. You are obviously
 happy to continue playing Dip, forever in the shadow

23 Tunes – round 7

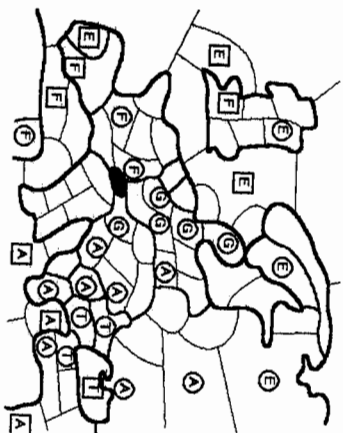
Bit of a Steward's inquiry after the last round. Seems I miscounted Colin's score. I've corrected it now. Bonus
 points for quality to both of the Portsmouth tracks (Jim / Jeremy) from last time, plus one to the Buzzcocks (Colin)
 too. Another bonus point, this time for a lack of quality, to Dave for Dolly Parton

The setters from last time were as follows - A = Me, B = John Harrington, C = Andrew Greco, D = Jim Burgess, E =
 Graham Smith, F = James Hardy, G = Leslie King, H = Colin Hobbs, I = Paul Barker, J = Jeremy Tullett, K = Dave
 Gittins

Scoring = John Harrington (20+1), Dave Gittins (14+2), Colin Hobbs (28+7), Paul Oakes (4+0), Andrew Greco
 (25+5), James Hardy (18+4), Paul Barker (11+1), Jeremy Tullett (16+6), Graham Smith (17+1), James Burgess
 (6+1)

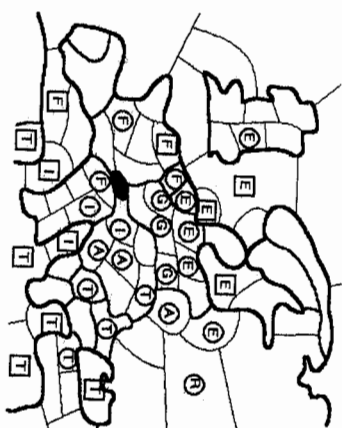
A	The Stooges Gimme Danger	Swaggering rock from the days Iggy Pop was worth listening to, though being 4 I didn't.	Make me feel old why don't you! My God there's nearly a guitar solo in this. Is that still allowed?
A	The Fall Telephone thing	Mark E Smith claims he did not know Gretchen Franklyn was an actress on Eastenders. How does this group keep its creativity after 25 years?	Gretchen who? Interesting tune. I kept expecting it to explode into a wall of sound, but it didn't.
B	Bowling for soup Girl all the bad guys want	Very much your "American Pie" style of band. Only in a 'dick in a pie' rather than 'chevy to the levy' sort of way.	Must find out what a two-way is. Sounds down right kinky.
B	Jonathan Richman & The Modern Lovers Buzz Buzz Buzz	A song which very much typifies what the brilliant Mr Richman is all about. Completely insane, but if you can stop yourself from singing along the you are probably dead.	A typical Richman tune – but amazingly enough it's a cover version of a 1950's song by the Hollywood Flames. Don't you just love the internet!
C	Sloaxie & The Banishes Passenger	Better live again.	More Iggy! Only this time minus the Iggy. Can I hear a brass section? I think I can. Methinks not a regular feature of the Banishes.
C	Julian Cope Trampoline	An excellent musician with a dodgy style in headgear. Teardrop explodes might have been a better choice for a track though.	Amusing lyrics. A bit like something that Homer Simpson might come up with. Only he's pronounce trampoline as trampopolaine.
D	Poe Not a virgin	I was discussing POE the other day with a 21 year old who said that Poe articulated so many things for her relationship with her absent father. This was the one that she mentioned as being evocative, especially the cutting in of the voices in the 2nd half.	Are you sure she wasn't coming on to you? No seriously. Poe are superb and this is probably one of their more user-friendly tracks. The sort of thing you could imagine becoming a hit if it wasn't for the fact that the music buying public are all morons.
D	Golden Smog To call my own	This leads off their best album so well.	Tempted to look up this band, about whom I know nothing, on the web. Then the track started playing. Bland.
E	Richard Hell and the Voidoids Blank Generation	Richard Hell invented the ripped T-shirt look. He used to be in Television before their Marquee Moon days.	Very much a classic of it's time.
E	The Charlatans You're not very well	From their best album, 'Some Friendly'.	Dare I describe another tune as bland? I flat can't be bothered to find the thesaurus so bland will have to do.

Eggplant: S06 - 01BE



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Doug Massie)
 A(Smy) s F(EMS) - Syr; F(EMS) - Syr; A(Bul) - Con
 (FAILED, DISLODGED - DISBANDED NRP);
 F(AEG) s A(Bul) - Con; A(Apu) - Gre; F(ION) c
 A(Apu) - Gre; A(TTr) - Ser; A(Vie) - Bud; A(TY) -
 Tri; A(Mun) - Sil; A(War) - Mos; A(Mos) - Sev

Fennel: S05 - Gunboat



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
 A(Bud) - Tri; A(Vie) s A(Bud) - Tri; A(War) s
 ENGLISH A(Lon) - Mos (MISORDER)

ENGLAND
 F(BAL) s A(Pru) - Ber; F(HEL) s A(Lon) - Hol;
 F(NTH) c A(Lon) - Hol; A(Lon) - Hol; A(Pru) - Ber;
 A(Lvn) s RUSSIAN A(Mos); A(Kie) - Mun
 (FAILED); A(Yor) s FrenchAO - (MISORDER)

FRANCE
 F(MAO) - WMS; F(Pie) s A(Bur) - Bel; A(Bur) - Bel;
 A(Mar) - Pie; A(Par) - Gas

GERMANY
 A(Bel) - Ruh; A(Hol) - Kie (FAILED, DISLODGED
 - DISBANDED NRP); A(Mun) - Ty (FAILED);
 A(Ber) - Sil

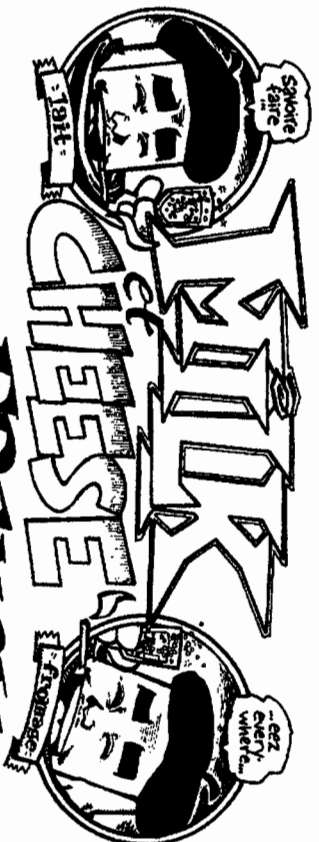
ITALY
 F(TYS) - Tun (FAILED); F(ADS) - Th (FAILED);
 A(Ty) s A(Tri) - Vie (CUT); A(Tri) - Vie (FAILED,
 DISLODGED TO Ven)

RUSSIA (Anarchy)
 A(Mos) Stands

TURKEY
 A(Rum) s A(Ukr) - Gal; A(Ukr) - Gal; A(Ser) - Th
 (FAILED); F(Con) - AEG; F(Smy) - EMS; F(Bul) ec
 - BLA; A(Ank) - Con; F(Tun) s F(Gre) - ION (CUT);
 F(Gre) - ION

Press
 Aus (Gov) - Eng; Prezzie again!
 England / Austria: I will help you to defend
 Warsaw.
 England / France: Bel and Mun are yours.

are every FRENCH. no?



are every FRENCH. no?

Bout your Milk and Cheese are very French today no?

Yes, Or should I say, oui?

But you must be asking yourself: Why? Why do we do this thing? Impermeable the French?

Our approach is two fold: firstly, to embark the French bring them more SHABBI!

And to PUNISH the French for not embracing Milk and Cheese as un-funny pop-cult heroes like Senny Lewis!!

And lastly, to use these pop heroes from that 'dear' old strip and a few years back.

That's three reasons.

Oh, I'm sorry, I was wrong.

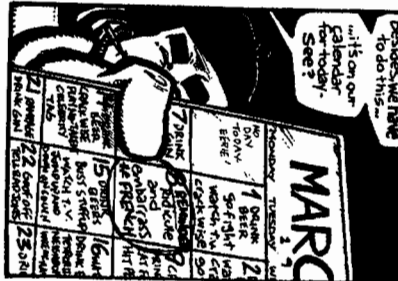
Unfortunatly, we'll have to use these silly French pop-cult heroes to do this.

Light in it's self is indeed sad.

I wished that hoopy french dance where you smoke and slup french girls about under a street lamp.

But EMBARKING UNLUCKY DIALOGUE: IT'S TIME FOR ACTION! EVERYONE HATES THE FRENCH BUT NOBODY DOES ANYTHING ABOUT IT!!

Today we will be French! When we act horribly, people will blame France. And bissof-Chanda! And make the Green some English!



Dix Next!

Seems that some of you didn't quite understand my comments about draws in Issue #39. So, I'll repeat them. I've underlined the most crucial part.

Players cannot propose draws. They can however indicate with their orders if they would accept a draw. If all surviving players in a game state they will accept a draw on the same turn then a draw is agreed. All draws must therefore include all survivors. All draws are considered to take place after the current set of moves are adjudicated and as such can be made conditional on the outcome of those moves/build etc. Players eliminated on the turn a draw is agreed are not part of the draw. Should a draw be agreed during a Spring season then the SC count from the previous Autumn turn will be used to determine each player's score.

Scoring itself is simple and will be done on the basis of 100 pts for a win (losers score 0), 50 pts +sc count for a 2-way draw, 33 + sc count for a 3-way, 25 + sc count 4-way etc. Eliminated players score 0.1 pt per season survived, more as a tie-break than anything else.

There's also a complicated tie-break procedure based upon your country performance above/below the norm. I won't even begin to try and explain it here, but hopefully it shouldn't come down to that.

This turn saw no less than 4 positions eliminated. As one might expect the large powers get larger and the small ones are starting to get picked off. But what's going on with Italy - talk about a late bloomer!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot
A	4	14	1	1	2	16	37	
E	11	3	1	10	3	1	29	
F	5	8	0	6	10	5	34	
G	0	11	5	14	0	4	9	43
I	10	8	6	1	9	1	29	
R	4	0	4	2	5	1	16	
T	15	15	13	14	1	1	42	
Tot	34	34	34	34	34	34	238	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot
A	-2	-1			-2	+1	-4	
E	+1				-1			
F	-1		-2	-1	+1	-1	-4	
G	-1		+1	-1		+1		
I	+3			+1		+3	-1	+6
R	-1	+1						
T	+1			+2	-1			+2



Chase Me, Chase Me: Turn 11

No mistakes reported to me. Not sure there are enough hunters to track down the prey, but we'll give it a bit longer and see what happens.

Hunter starting positions:

- Andrew Greco: Kew Gardens
- Rick Powell: Mile End
- Dave Gittins: St Johns Wood
- Mick Haytack: Woodford
- Des Langford: Marble Arch

Moves

- AG: District to Richmond, National Rail to West Hampstead
- RP: District to Tower Hill, Circle/District to Embankment
- DG: Jubilee to Wembley Park, Metropolitan to Northwick Park
- MH: Circle Line to Mile End, District Line to Cannon St
- DL: Circle Line to Leyton

Final Hunter Positions (scores in brackets)

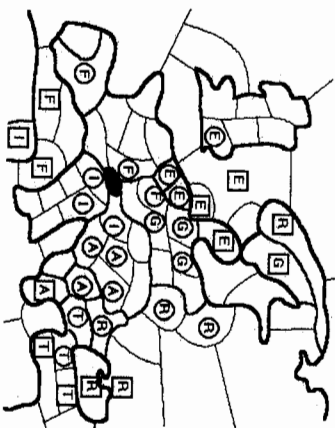
- Andrew Greco: West Hampstead (17+0)
- Rick Powell: Embankment (18+0)
- Dave Gittins: Northwick Park (45+10)
- Mick Haytack: Cannon St (36+9)
- Des Langford: Leyton (53+10)

Just a little reminder that prey captured from here on in aren't replaced.

Prof. Sloccombe / Des: Just to confirm, you are where you think you are.

Prof. Sloccombe / Rick: A not unsurprising attitude. Even if it is quite annoying.

Garlic: A02 - ????



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Paul Barker)
 F(Gre) - AEG (FAILED); A(Ser) s RUSSIAN
 A(Rum) - Bul (MISORDER); A(Bud) s A(Ser);
 A(Vie) s A(Tr); A(Tr) s A(Ser)

ENGLAND (Richard Williams)
 F(NTH) c A(Yor) - Hol; F(SKA) - Den; F(HEL) s
 F(SKA) - Den; A(Bel) s A(Yor) - Hol; A(Yor) - Hol

FRANCE (Les Greeney)
 F(WMS) s F(Gol) - TYS (CUT); A(Bur) - Rut;
 A(Mar) - Bur; A(Spa) - Mar (FAILED); F(Gol) - TYS

GERMANY (Andrew Greco)
 A(Ber) - Pru (FAILED); A(Mun) - Sil (FAILED);
 A(Hol) - Kie; F(Den) - Swe; F(BAL) s F(Den) - Swe

ITALY (Leslie King)
 F(Tun) - WMS (FAILED); A(Pie) - Mar (FAILED);
 A(Ven) s A(Pie) (MISORDER); A(Tyr) - Mun (FAILED)

RUSSIA (Tim Deacon)
 F(Swe) s ENGLISH F(SKA) - Den (DISLOGGED
 TO NWy); A(Rum) s AUSTRIAN A(Ser) - Bul
 (MISORDER); F(Ser) s A(Rum); F(BLA) s A(Rum);
 A(War) - Sil (FAILED); A(Lvn) - Pru (FAILED)

TURKEY (Simon Hornby)
 F(Arn) - Ank; A(Con) s A(Bul); F(Smy) - AEG
 (FAILED); A(Bul) s AUSTRIAN A(Ser) - Rum
 (MISORDER)

Autumn 1902 Adjustments:

- A: Gre, Ser, Bud, Vie, Ti = 5; No change.
- E: +Den, Bel, +Hol, Edi, Lon, Lpl -NWy = 6; Gains 1.
- F: Spa, Por, Bre, Mar, Par = 5; No change.
- G: Ber, Mun, Kie, +Swe -Hol, -Den = 4; Losses 1.
- I: Tun, Ven, Nap, Rom = 4; No change.
- R: +NWy, Rum, Sev, War, Mos, SIP -Swe = 6; No change.
- T: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul = 4; No change.

Buils/Distsbands:

- A: None.
- E: Buils A(Lon).
- F: None.
- G: Removes F(BAL).
- I: None.
- R: None.
- T: None.

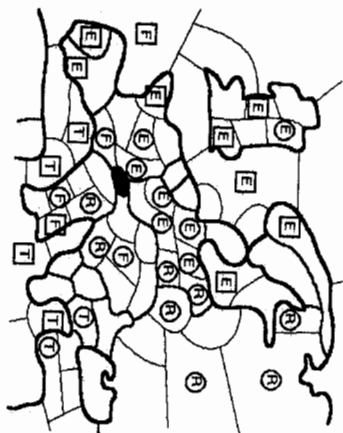
Press

Russia / Austria: Hopefully you're in Bul and we can finish off Turkey.
 Germany / Russia: I hear you are the next target.



UPON REMOVING HIS BLINDFOLD, YOUNG BURTON FELT BETRAYED. THE EYEBALLS WERE REALLY JUST GRAPES, AND THE SUITS' ONLY SPAGHETTI NEEDLESS TO SAY THE PARTY ENDED EARLY, AND DENIAL RECORDS WERE REQUIRED TO DENY THE BODIES.

Ton-up: A11 – 99BH



Builds/Dishbands:
 E: Builds F(Lon), F(Lpl), A(Edi).
 F: None.
 I: Removes A(Tyr), A(Tus).
 R: Builds A(Mos), A(War).
 T: None.

Unice Ilya: A12 – 99BW



Builds/Dishbands:
 A: None.
 E: Removes A(Yor).
 F: Builds F(Mar).
 G: None.
 I: Builds F(Nap), A(Rom). 1 Build centre short.
 R: None.
 T: Removes A(Syr).

7 x 7 Gunboat: Game 7 – A09



Builds/Dishbands:
 A: None.
 E: Removes A(Yor).
 F: Builds F(Mar).
 G: None.
 I: Builds F(Nap), A(Rom). 1 Build centre short.
 R: None.
 T: Removes A(Syr).

RUSSIA

A: Bud (FAILED); A(Sil) - Boh; A(Sev) - Rum; A(Ser) s A(Gal) - Bud (CUT); F(BLA) s A(Sev) - Rum

TURKEY

A(Arm) - Smy (FAILED); A(Syr) s A(Arm) - Smy

Autumn 1909 Adjustments:

A: +Bud, Vie -Bud, -Gre, -Ser = 2; Losses 2.
 E: Lon, Lpl, Edi, -Den = 3; Losses 1.
 F: Bre, Bel, Hol, +Kie, Ber, Mun, Mar, Spa, Por, Par = 10; Gains 1.
 G: +Den, Nwy, SP, Swe -Kie = 4; No change.
 I: -Gre, +Bud, +Smy, Con, Tri, Ven, Tun, Nap, Rom = 9; Gains 3.
 R: Rum, +Ser, Sev, War, Mos -Bud = 5; No change.
 T: Ank -Smy = 1; Losses 1.

Builds/Dishbands:

A: None.
 E: Removes A(Yor).
 F: Builds F(Mar).
 G: None.
 I: Builds F(Nap), A(Rom). 1 Build centre short.
 R: None.
 T: Removes A(Syr).

FRANCE

F(MAO) - WMS (FAILED); F(NAD) s F(MAO) - WMS; A(Spa) s A(Mar); A(Bre) Stands; A(Bur) s GERMAN A(Rub); - Mun; A(Mar) Stands

GERMANY

F(ENG) - MAO (FAILED); F(Den) - BAL; F(NTH) c A(Hol) - Den; A(Mun) - Sil; A(Rub) - Mun; A(Bel) s FRENCH A(Bur); A(Hol) - Den; A(Wal) Stands

ITALY

A(Con) Stands; A(Tyr) - Mun (FAILED); DISLODGED - DISBANDS)

RUSSIA

A(Nwy) s ENGLISH F(Swe)

TURKEY

F(Ank) s ITALIAN A(Con)

Autumn 1909 Adjustments:

A: SP, Bul, +Smy, Vie, Ven, Rom, Tun, Rum, Nap, Mos, War, Sev, Ser, Gre, Bud, Tri = 16; Gains 1.
 E: Swe = 1; No change.
 F: Spa, Bre, Mar, Par, Por = 5; Losses 1.
 G: Mun, +Bel, Den, Lon, Kie, Edi, Lpl, Hol, Ber = 9; Gains 1.
 I: Con, -Smy = 1; Losses 1.
 R: Nwy = 1; No change.
 T: Ank = 1; No change.

Builds/Dishbands:

A: Builds F(Tri), A(Bud).
 E: None.
 F: GM Removes F(MAO).
 G: Builds A(Ber).
 I: None.
 R: None.
 T: None.

7 x 7 Stats

Before I start on the stats I must remember to mention that one of the players NMR'd this turn and I called upon my emergency player to submit orders in their stead. If you were that player then you should receive a separate note with your 'zine asking you to submit your 7x7 orders by return of post. This will give me a chance to scrounge up a permanent replacement should you have disappeared. I've every confidence that you haven't though. Seems much more likely the Post Office have done something unspeakable with your orders.

Autumn 1911 Adjustments:

E: Mun, Por, +Bre, +Spa, +Par, Ber, Kie, Nwy, Den, Bel, Hol, Lon, Swe, Lpl, Edi = 15; Gains 3.
 F: Rom, Mar, Vie, Nap, Tun, -Spa, -Par, -Bre = 5; Losses 3.
 I: -Ven, -Tri = 0; Losses 2.
 R: SP, +Tri, +Ven, War, Bud, Ser, Sev, Mos = 8; Gains 2.
 T: Bul, Smy, Gre, Con, Rum, Ank = 6; No change.

ITALY (Pete Birks)
 A(Tyr) s A(Ven); A(Ven) Stands (DISLODGED TO Tus)

RUSSIA (John Harrington)
 A(SP) - Fir; A(Lvn) - SP; A(Pru) s A(Sil); A(Sil) s A(Pru); A(Bud) - Tri; A(Tri) - Ven

TURKEY (John Marsden)
 F(TYS) - Gol; F(ION) - TYS; F(AEG) - ION; F(Con) - AEG; A(Bud) Stands; A(Smy) Stands

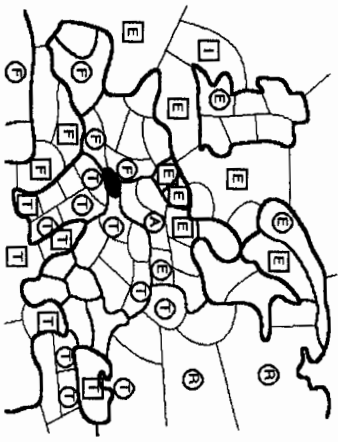
Autumn 1911 Adjustments:
 E: Mun, Por, +Bre, +Spa, +Par, Ber, Kie, Nwy, Den, Bel, Hol, Lon, Swe, Lpl, Edi = 15; Gains 3.
 F: Rom, Mar, Vie, Nap, Tun, -Spa, -Par, -Bre = 5; Losses 3.
 I: -Ven, -Tri = 0; Losses 2.
 R: SP, +Tri, +Ven, War, Bud, Ser, Sev, Mos = 8; Gains 2.
 T: Bul, Smy, Gre, Con, Rum, Ank = 6; No change.

ITALY (Tony Sait)
 F(RU) - MAO; F(MAO) - NA; F(WMS) - Tun; F(Spa) sc - Gol; A(Pie) - Ven (FAILED); A(Bur) - Mar; A(Par) - Bur; F(Bud) sc - Gre (FAILED); DISLODGED TO AEG; A(Arm) s AUSTRIAN A(Ank) - Smy (MISORDER)

Autumn 1912 Adjustments:
 A: +Ank, Con, Bul, -Gre, Sev, +Nap, +Rom, Ber, +Mun, Smy, Ven, Mos, War, Vie, Ser, Rum, Bud, Tri = 18; Gains 5 and Wins!
 E: Nwy, Den, Lpl, SP, Lon, Edi, Swe = 7; No change.
 F: +Spa, Bre, Bel, Hol, Kie, -Mun = 5; No change.

ENGLAND
 F(Swe) s RUSSIAN A(Nwy)

7 x 7 Gunboat: Game 5 – A09



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
A(Mun) s FRENCH A(Bur) (MISORDER)

ENGLAND

F(NAO) - MAO; F(ENG) s F(NAO) - MAO; A(Lon) - Nwy; F(NTH) c A(Lon) - Nwy; F(Swe) s A(Lon) - Nwy; F(Hol) s F(Bel); F(Bel) s F(Hol); F(Kie) s F(Hol); A(War) s RUSSIAN A(Mos) (CUT, DISLODGED TO SI); A(Wal) Stands

FRANCE

A(Spa) - Por (FAILED); A(Mar) - Spa (FAILED); A(Bre) - Gas (FAILED); A(Tun) - NAf; A(Bur) - Gas (FAILED); F(Gol) - WMS (FAILED); F(TYS) - WMS (FAILED)

GERMANY

A(Rub) - Mun (FAILED)

ITALY

F(MAO) - Por (FAILED, DISLODGED TO IRI)

RUSSIA

A(SP) s A(Mos); A(Mos) s ENGLISH A(War) - Ukr (MISORDER)

TURKEY

F(ADS) s F(AEG) - ION; F(AEG) - ION; F(Smy) - AEG; F(BLA) Stands; F(ION) - Nap; A(Apu) s F(ION) - Nap; A(Vie) - Tyr; A(Ven) s A(Tus) - Pic; A(Tus) - Pic; A(Ser) - Mos (FAILED); A(Gal) s A(Ukr) - War; A(Ukr) - War

Autumn 1909 Adjustments:

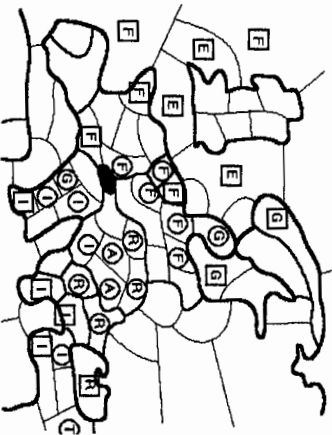
A: Mun = 1; No change.
E: Nwy, Swe, +Hol, Bel, Kie, Ber, Den, Lon, Edi, Ipl, -War = 10; No change.
F: Spa, Mar, Bre, Rom, Tun, Par, -Nap = 6; Losses 1.
G: -Hol = 0; Losses 1.

I: Por = 1; No change.
R: SP, Mos = 2; No change.
T: +Nap, Ven, Sev, +War, Con, Bud, Tr, Vie, Ser, Rum, Gre, Bul, Ank, Smy = 14; Gains 2.

Builds/Disbands:

A: None.
E: None.
F: Removes A(Bre).
G: Removes A(Rub).
I: None.
R: None.
T: Builds A(Con), A(Ank).

7 x 7 Gunboat: Game 6 – A09



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

A(Rum) - Ser (FAILED, DISLODGED - DISBANDED NRO); A(Bud) s A(Rum) - Ser (CUT); A(Vie) - Gal (FAILED); A(Bul) s A(Rum) - Ser (CUT, DISLODGED - DISBANDED NRR)

ENGLAND

F(IRD) s F(ENG); F(NTH) s F(ENG); A(Tor) Stands; F(ENG) s F(NTH)

FRANCE

F(Bre) s F(Spa) sc - MAO; F(MAO) - NAO; A(Mar) - Bur; A(Pic) - Bel; F(Hol) s A(Pic) - Bel; A(Rub) s A(Kie); A(Kie) s A(Mun) - Ber; A(Mun) - Ber; F(Spa) sc - MAO

GERMANY

A(Tus) - Rom (FAILED); A(Den) - Ber (FAILED); F(BAL) s A(Den) - Ber; F(Nwy) Stands

ITALY

F(Gre) s F(AEG) - Bul sc; F(AEG) - Bul sc; F(Smy) s A(Con) (CUT); A(Con) s F(Smy); A(Tr) - Ven (FAILED); A(Ven) - Rom (FAILED)

I: Tun, Mar, Par, Por, -Gre, -Ank, -Spa, -Nap, -Rom = 4; Losses 5.

Builds/Disbands:

A: Builds! He don't need no sickenkin builds.
E: None.
F: None.
I: Removes F(MAO), A(Bur), A(Arm), A(Mar), F(AEG).

Press

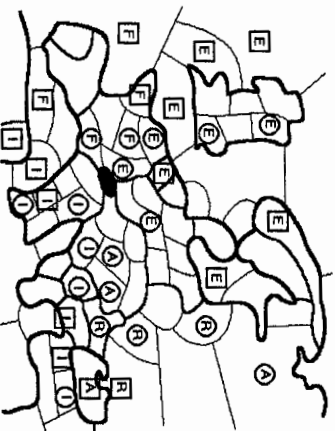
Boy on a headless chicken ... Would Gianni make it in time – only the GM would know until the next adjudication.

Boy on a headless chicken Part 2

Gianni realised he had a crick in his neck from starting over his shoulder so much - then he still missed the gypsies moving in whilst he went to the bog. Italy, France, Spain, England, Liverpool (he shuddered as he remembered) - he had visited them all and look where it had got him - might as well have stayed in Salsburg polishing his bleedur' Julie Andrews mask.....

Prof. Slocombe Looks like Gianni was too late. Congratulations to Nigel. Game ends statements for the next issue please. Preferably via email, they are much easier to ignore that way.

7 x 7 Gunboat: Game 1 – A09



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

F(BLA) c A(Bul) - Ank (FAILED, DISLODGED - DISBANDED NRP); A(SP) - Mos (FAILED); A(Tun) Stands (DISLODGED TO NAf); A(Bud) s A(Gal) - Vie; A(Gal) - Vie

ENGLAND

A(Rub) - Bur; A(Mun) s A(Rub) - Bur; A(Bel) - Pic; F(ENG) s A(Bel) - Pic; F(Hol) - Bel; F(Kie) - BAL; F(NTH) - Nwy; F(NAO) - MAO (FAILED); F(IRD) s F(NAO) - MAO

FRANCE
A(Vie) - Bud (FAILED, DISLODGED TO Tyr); A(Pic) - Bur (FAILED); A(Gas) - Mar; F(WMS) s F(MAO); F(Bre) s F(MAO); F(MAO) Stands

GERMANY

A(Bur) Stands (DISLODGED TO Gas)

ITALY

F(TYS) s F(ION) - Tun; F(ION) - Tun; A(Ven) - Tr; A(Ser) s F(Gre) - Bul sc; F(Gre) - Bul sc; F(Con) s F(Gre) - Bul sc; A(Ank) s F(Con) (CUT)

RUSSIA

A(War) - Lyr; A(Ukr) - Mos (FAILED); A(Rum) s ITALIAN F(Con) - Bul ec (MISORDER); F(Ser) s A(Rum)

Autumn 1909 Adjustments:

A: SP, Bud, +Vie, Gre -Ser, -Tun, -Bul = 4; Losses 2.
E: +Mun, Bel, Nwy, Ber, Hol, Kie, Den, Swe, Lon, Edi, Ipl = 11; Gains 1.
F: Par, Mar, Bre, Spa, Por -Vie = 5; Losses 1.
G: -Mun = 0; Losses 1.
I: +Tun, Tr, +Ser, +Bul, Con, Ank, Ven, Rom, Smy, Nap = 10; Gains 3.
R: Rum, Sev, Mos, War = 4; No change.

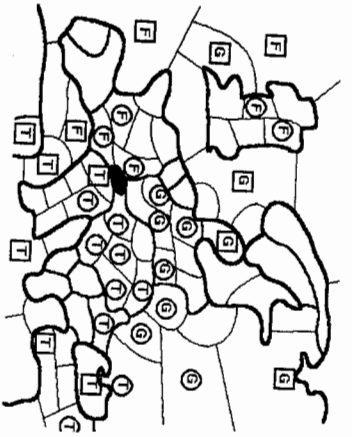
Builds/Disbands:

A: Removes A(NAf).
E: Builds A(Lon), A(Edi).
F: Removes A(Tyr).
G: Removes A(Gas).
I: Builds A(Ven), A(Nap), F(Rom).



YOUNG BUNCH DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE OTHER KIDS WERE SCREAMING "BLACK CAT YOU PLAY WITH THE TAIL ON THE BLACK CAT WITHOUT FIRST REMOVING THE TAIL"

7 x 7 Gunboat: Game 2 - A09



FRANCE
 F(NAO) s F(Bre) - MAO (CUT); F(Bre) - MAO;
 F(WMS) - Gol; A(Mar) - Pie (FAILED); A(Bur) s
 GERMAN A(Mun); A(Yor) - Lpl; A(Ed) - Por
 (MISORDER); A(Gas) - Mar (FAILED)

GERMANY
 F(RD) - NAO (FAILED); F(Nwy) - SP nc; F(NTH) -
 Den; F(Hol) - NTH; A(Sil) - War; A(Mos) s A(Ukr);
 A(Ukr) s A(Gal) - Rum (CUT); A(Bel) - Rut; A(Ruh)
 - Kie; A(Mun) s RUSSIAN A(Boh) (MISORDER);
 A(Gal) - Rum (FAILED); DISLODGED TO Sil

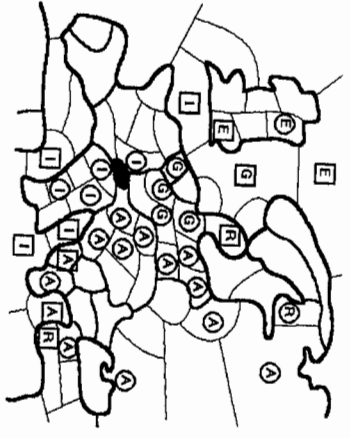
RUSSIA
 A(Boh) - Mun (FAILED)

TURKEY
 F(Pie) - Mar (FAILED); F(Tun) s F(ION) - TYs;
 F(ION) - TYs; F(AEG) - ION; A(Ven) s A(Tr) - Tyr;
 A(Tr) - Tyr; A(Se) - Tr; A(Vie) s A(Rum) - Gal;
 A(Bud) s A(Rum) - Gal; A(Rum) - Gal; A(Bul) -
 Rum; A(Sev) - Ukr (FAILED); A(Arm) - Sev
 (FAILED); F(BLA) s A(Arm) - Sev

Autumn 1909 Adjustments:
 F: Mar, Lpl, Edi, Par, Bre, Lon, Por, Spa = 8; No
 change.
 G: SP, Den, War, Mos, Kie, Mun, Nwy, Hol, Bel,
 Ber, Swe = 11; No change.
 R: - Vie = 0; Losses 1.
 T: Tun, Ven, Tr, +Vie, Bud, Rum, Sev, Ser, Bul,
 Rom, Gre, Nap, Ank, Con, Smy = 15; Gains 1.

Builds/Disbands:
 F: None.
 G: None.
 R: Removes A(Boh).
 T: Builds F(Smy).

7 x 7 Gunboat: Game 3 - A09



AUSTRIA-HUNGARY
 A(Lvn) - SP (FAILED); A(SP) - Nwy (FAILED);
 A(Pru) s A(Ber); A(Sil) - Mun (FAILED); A(Boh) s
 A(Sil) - Mun; A(Ber) s A(Sil) - Mun; A(Tyr) s A(Sil)
 - Mun (CUT); A(Vie) s A(Tyr); A(Tr) - Ven
 (FAILED); F(Alb) - ION (FAILED); A(Se) - Gre;
 F(AEG) s F(Alb) - ION; A(Sev) Stands; A(Ank) -
 Con; A(Bul) s A(Ank) - Con

ENGLAND
 A(Ed) - Nwy (FAILED); F(NWG) c A(Ed) - Nwy;
 F(Lon) - NTH (FAILED)

GERMANY
 A(Mun) s ITALIAN A(Pie) - Tyr (CUT); A(Ruh) s
 A(Mun); A(Kie) s A(Mun); F(NTH) s ENGLISH
 A(Ed) - Nwy (CUT); A(Bel) Stands

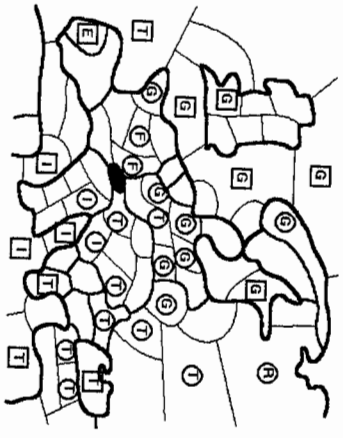
ITALY
 F(NG) s GERMAN F(NTH); A(Bur) s GERMAN
 A(Mun); A(Rom) s A(Ven); A(Ven) s A(Pie) - Tyr
 (CUT); A(Pie) - Tyr (FAILED); F(TYS) s F(ION);
 F(ION) s F(Apu) - ADS (CUT); F(Apu) - ADS

RUSSIA
 F(Con) s ITALIAN F(ION) - AEG (MISORDER,
 DISLODGED TO Smy); F(Den) s GERMAN A(Kie);
 A(Fin) - Nwy (FAILED)

Autumn 1909 Adjustments:
 A: SP, Ber, Vie, Tr, Gre, Sev, Con, Bul, Mos, Rum,
 War, Ank, Ser, Bud, -Smy = 14; Losses 1.
 E: Edi, Lon, Lpl = 3; No change.
 G: Mun, Kie, Bel, Hol, Par = 5; No change.
 I: Rom, Ven, Tun, Mar, Bre, Por, Spa, Nap = 8; No
 change.
 R: +Smy, Den, Swe, Nwy = 4; Gains 1.

Builds/Disbands:
 A: Removes A(Bul).
 E: None.
 G: None.
 I: None.
 R: None. 1 Build centre short.

7 x 7 Gunboat: Game 4 - A09



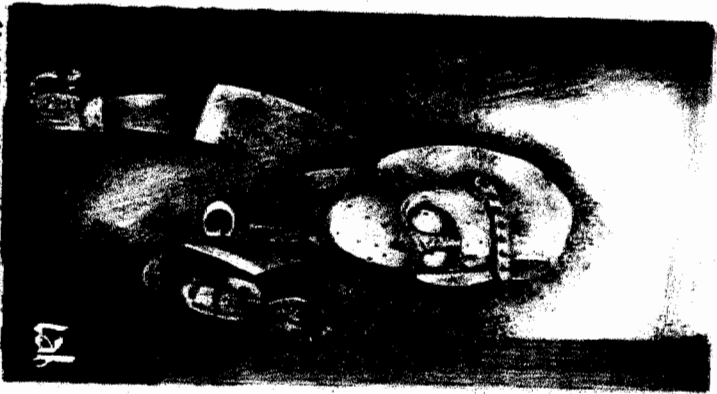
ENGLAND
 F(Por) s TURKISH F(Spa) sc (MISORDER)

FRANCE
 A(Gas) s ITALIAN A(Mar) - Spa (MISORDER,
 DISLODGED - DISBANDS)

GERMANY
 F(MAO) - NAF; F(NG) s F(NAO) - MAO; F(NAO)
 - MAO; F(Pie) - Bre; A(Bre) - Gas; A(Par) s A(Bre) -
 Gas; A(Bur) - Mun; A(Mun) - Sil; A(Ber) s A(Mun) -
 Sil; A(Lvn) - Pru; A(SP) - Mos (FAILED); F(BAL) s
 A(Lvn) - Pru; F(Gob) - Lvn (FAILED)

ITALY
 F(Gol) - Spa sc; A(Mar) s F(Gol) - Spa sc; F(ADS) -
 Tr (FAILED); A(Tyr) - Vie (FAILED); F(Nap) - Apu

TURKEY
 A(Arm) - Sev; A(Ukr) s A(Mos); A(Mos) s A(War) -
 Lvn (CUT); A(Pru) - Sil (FAILED); DISLODGED -
 DISBANDED NRP); A(Sil) - Boh; A(Gal) - Vie
 (FAILED); A(Se) - Tr (FAILED); F(Gre) s F(AEG)
 - ION; F(AEG) - ION; A(War) - Lvn (FAILED);
 F(ION) - Tun; F(Spa) sc - WMS



SAVANNTIA HIGGINS HAD BEEN THE ONLY GIRL AT THE PARTY, AND WHEN YOUNG BUTCH HAD SMASHED THE SPINNING BOTTLE OVER HER HEAD AND CUT HER THROAT WITH A JAGGED SHARD, THE OTHER BOYS HADNT KNOWN WHETHER TO FLEE IN TERROR OR BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF THAT THE THREAT OF 'COOTES' HAD BEEN ABATED.

Autumn 1909 Adjustments:
 E: Por = 1; No change.
 F: -Mar, -Par = 0; Losses 2.
 G: Bre, +Par, Mun, Ber, SP, Bel, Nwy, Lon, Hol,
 Lpl, Den, Edi, Swe, Kie = 14; Gains 1.
 I: +Spa, +Mar, Tr, Ven, Nap, Rom -Tun = 6; Gains 1.
 T: Sev, Mos, Ser, Gre, War, +Tun, Con, Rum, Bud,
 Vic, Bul, Ank, Smy, -Spa = 13; No change.

Builds/Disbands:
 E: None.
 G: Builds A(Kie).
 I: Builds A(Ven).
 T: Builds A(Con), F(Smy).