

WAITING FOR BONAPARTE (Wycombe section)

Where in the world is Kendo Nagasaki? - Find a mystery personality or a sad masked wrestler

Commitment level - Low

Current list - Richard Smith

Dauntless - PBM version of Battleline WW2 air combat game

Commitment level - Medium

Current list - Arthur Owen, Allan Stag, Alex Richardson, Don Shailer *** GAMESTART ISSUE 24/25 ***

Royal Portrait - A new homegrown card game for budding art critics

Commitment level - Low

Current List : Kevin Lee, Arthur Owen, Mick Schofield (1 more needed)

Celebrity Weakest Link - A game of popularity and offensive voting

Commitment level - Low

Current List : Arthur Owen, Simon Ives, Mick Schofield, Kevin Lee, Tony Critchley, Don Shailer

The Far Seas - SPI/S&T game of the hunt for German commerce raiders in WW1.

Commitment level - Medium/High Requirements - You must own or have access to a copy of this game

Current list - Mike Dommett, Jim Dapkus *** GAMESTART ISSUE 24/25 ***

Fantasy A&R - All those bands you wanted to own, but never could (see Future Shock for details)

Commitment level - Medium

Current list -

Deadwood - Be "Falls off roof" at Deadwood Studios. Your line is "aaarrghh". (see Future Shock)

Commitment level - Medium

Current list -

DEADLINES

ALL GAMES - 13th DECEMBER
EXTERNAL GMS - 9th DECEMBER

Issue Cost : FREE

Credit : £0.00

Stephen Agar

THE TANGERINE TERROR

ISSUE 23

Idiotorial

It's amazing how quickly these things come round. It doesn't seem five minutes ago since I crammed the last T3 in an envelope and waved a tearful goodbye as the postman carried it away to a landfill site somewhere off the A40. Anyhow, I've decided to write this cheesy rambling drekk first this time, so that at least I can get something in the can early doors, so at least there's a good engine in my locker, etc. © Big Ron TomatofHead Enterprises Ltd. At least I got a full set of orders in this time (I think) and so far I haven't spotted any hideous GM gaffes that are likely to cause any hold overs. The readership is also starting to grow again and the decision to go with Diamond Dogs, while eating up any spare time I had, has at least given the 'zine a broader appeal.

'Snow joke

It appears that Christmas is almost upon us. Woolies are stocked up with crackers, budget DVD players and all the trimmings. Big fat Bernard will be starting his big turkey'n'water processing machine soon, and then we can look forward to High Street stores wringing their hands about the fact that they're being forced to sell stuff cheap, because of the lack of punters. But hey, isn't this October? Perhaps they've got their dates wrong. Nope, can't be, my kids are already glued to the adverts in between the cartoons for ideas for their present lists, so it must be December already. That's fine by me, I hate Autumn. There's something deeply depressing about it getting darker and having to run the gauntlet of pavements where all the dog poo is cunningly hidden under piles of wet leaves. Roll on Winter I say. Winter's cool, you get proper ball-breaking cold weather and half way through it, it starts to get lighter again. It's also the time of year when Man Utd go on a mid-season slide that we all pray will last until May, but never does.

Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark

Has the world gone mad? Not that long ago, the music press were such rabid bigoted RAWK-HATERS that I wondered whether the record companies that didn't have such acts on their rosters were slipping them suitcases of fivers to write the stuff. Now of course with Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and The Darkness and Evil Blacker Than The Blackest Black You Could Imagine Monster Truck Gang (actually I mad the last one up), it seems that unless you look like an outtake from Spinal Tap or Bad News you just aren't newsworthy. Hypocritical bastards!

Thing is, whereas the music press once told us what we could like, because we didn't know any better, the internet has made the whole thing tons more accessible, we can download stuff to try it out, get gig info, and buy pretty much any record ever made. All the NME does now is report what is already happening and try to put some sort of sensationalist spin on it.



I don't know where they stand on The Wannadies and frankly I don't care. They played a great Cardigans-meets-Tap set at The Mean Fiddler last week and every home should have one. Christina Bergmark is surely Princess of the Quizzical Sly Glance (Fiona Hall, who went to our school was the Queen of the QSG, and ever more shall be so, but that's another story).

Just in case you missed it, here's a picture of Chaddy the Owl winning the Mascot Grand National (again).

Don't forget to vote in the 'zine poll. Tangerine is spelled with one 't'. Like a planet H

***** PRIZE COMPETITION (page 12) *****

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ATTENTION SHOPPERS

Unfortunately I ran into a wall of snow at work and didn't get this out as fast as the editorial (written some time during the last century) suggests. I've also had to delay some gamestarts just to get this thing finished. On the positive side, none of the games had to be held over, I have another new subber (hi to Mike Parnaby) and Don has stepped forward to add yet another subzine into the mix. You should find Don's subzine, Jerry's Gridiron Morons superbowl report and a voting form for the 2003 'zine poll flopping around inside the envelope. Time to start thinking about Issue 24!

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WAITING FOR BONAPARTE (International/Regional GMs section)

Games from David Watts (a £1.20 game fee applies to all of these) :

- Railway Rivals** - NEW MAP >>>>>>> (Michigan map [MG])
 Commitment level - Medium
 Requirements - None, materials provided
 Current list - H

Games from Arthur Owen :

- 147 Break** - Sticks, balls and a triangle
 Commitment level - Medium
 Requirements - None, all rules provided
 Current list - H, Mike Dommett

- Decathlon** - 10 events and whistling the national anthem
 Commitment level - Medium
 Requirements - None, all rules provided
 Current list - H, Kevin Lee, Tony Critchley

Games from Jerry Spencer :

- Gridiron Morons** - American Football management game (United with helmets)
 Commitment level - Medium
 Requirements - None, all rules provided
 Current list - no waiting list, plenty of franchises available!

WAITING FOR BONAPARTE (Wycombe section)

- Euroliga** - European SuperLeague football action
 Commitment level - Low/Medium
 Current List (3 more needed) : John Walker

- Rome** - Reiner Knizia games (Imperium or Hannibal vs Rome)
 Commitment level - Medium
 Current List : Arthur Owen, Simon Ives

- Boom Town** - Town planning shenanigans
 Commitment level - Low/Medium
 Current List : Don Shailer, Mike Dommett

- Advanced Postal Bobsleighbing** - Deathly downhill chicanery (by post)
 Commitment level - Low
 Current List : John Walker, Don Shailer, Arthur Owen (several more needed)

- The One-Day Stuff** - 50 Over Cricket thrashfest
 Commitment level - Medium
 List 1 - Don Shailer, John Walker *** GAMESTART ISSUE 24 ***
 List 2 - (1 more needed) - Arthur Owen

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FUTURE SHOCK

New projects

Fantasy A&R - The basic concept is that you sign up bands and solo artists to your label by offering them fat contracts, using your starting budget of £1,000,000. Each week (or month, I haven't decided yet) you get money from the chart position of each of your artists in the Top 40 Singles and Top 40 Albums. Just to keep the pool of artists at a realistic size, you can only sign bands starting with A or R, or solo artists with a surname beginning with these same letters.

Deadwood - I recently picked up a new expansion for this Cheapass game about trying to earn an honest crust as a bit-part actor on location. I have some ideas about squeezing this into a PBM format. It will play best with 6-8 players so put your name down for this one.

GRO (aka Battle For The Petri Dish) - An abstract game of bacterial growth. Those of you who have sampled the curry houses of Oldham will have played this one already. It's designed as a 2-player slugfest, but I think it might actually be more interesting with 4.

Work in progress

- Killer 5K:** Zero candle power burner now in operation. About to go out.
- Celebrity Weakest Link:** Gamestart this time.
- Dauntless:** I'll send out the rules and scenario details in Issue 24.
- The Far Seas:** I think this is just going to be Mike and Jim. The amendments to the rules to allow postal play will go out with Issue 24, for a start in 25. Sorry for the delay chaps.
- Rome:** Progress minimus
- Tribes:** A heavily-tweaked postal version of the Steve Jackson Games RPG. Would be on the backburner, but fire not yet invented. I'm at least starting to rub the sticks together. Actually I've lost the sticks.
- The Sport Of Kings:** Before this ends up being a maiden 5-y-o, I'll get cracking on the rules. I think I've decided that it'll be a very much hacked about version, but who knows what it'll finally look like.
- Africa 1880:** I actually got this down from the loft yesterday, and I've become suddenly enthused about this again.
- Clans:** That back burner is your newly thatched hut on fire. I played this F-2-F at TringCon and I think I know how to work this postally. The only problem is going to be how to get the huts through the letterbox.
- Boom Town:** Waiting list open. Rules in issue 22
- The One Day Stuff:** Waiting list open. We've had 3 people signing up for The One Day Stuff. All being well the rules should appear in the next issue, with a gamestart for the first two chaps. I'll hang fire on starting the second game until it's clear whether it actually works or not.
- Fantasy A&R:** Waiting list open. (see above)
- The Olympians** If I go with my original idea, it will in all likelihood be based on Lambourne Games International Track & Field. The alternative is more of a quasi-historical abstract thing, based on a hacked-about German game, the name of which escapes me. Each athlete card has a position that they would finish in each of 5 events (running, javelin, etc.). My version would be more unplayable and would feature tributes to the gods to improve your chances. If either of these take your fancy let me know.
- Deadwood** Waiting list open. (see above)

KN-Taylor WHERE IN THE WORLD IS KENDO NAGASAKI 23:50

Agent Name	Where Am I?	Looking For
Dommett	Caracas	George W Bush
Schofield	Mexico City	Michael Jordan
Walker	Hollywood	Carrie Fisher
Stagg	Hawaii	Peter Mandelson

"Kendo's Clue" : Born within 50 miles of me

Our intrepid quartet of super secret agent 3-toed sleuths has dispersed around the globe looking for stupid presidents, slithy spin doctors, Chicago hoopmeisters and alcoholic film stars. Actually dispersed is probably the wrong word, because it seems that all the agents have taken advantage of a Daily Mail "fly to the Americas for free" offer. All they had to do was collect 5 tokens and mark a crosshair somewhere over a picture of a large metal fence marked "Spot the refugee" (subtitled "Shoot the freeloading economic migrant parasite in the back"). Ahem. Anyway the closest bod will be notified under cover of darkness using a Lord Peter Flint morse code flasher (free from Warlord comic) or I'll email them (whichever seems more appropriate).

By the way it's not Clive Lloyd this time, or indeed Christopher Lloyd, Harold Lloyd, David Lloyd, Lloyd George, Bobby George, Bobby Davro, or Davros from Doctor Who. I should also have made clear that any relatives of Kendo Nagasaki or employees of his holding company Nagasaki Enterprises (company motto: You Don't Need A Ken Do Attitude To Work Here But It Helps) are disallowed from entering this competition. They are however permitted to join the new body cavity search game called Needle In A Giant Haystack, in which players attempt to guess the name of a surgical implement and the wrestling celebrity it might have been accidentally left inside.

Also coming soon, Where The Buggary Bollocks Are My Keys?; a comedy live-action role-playing game for 30-something chaps. Each player has 3 minutes to locate a set of housekeys, urinate accurately into a toilet with the seat down, switch off the TV, Hi-Fi, upstairs lights, downstairs lights, oven, iron and wife's curling tongs, put on a pair of tight-fitting shoes, convert own wildman hair into respectable style, bring in 47 items of clothing from the washing line in a torrential downpour/hurricane, eat a boiling hot Cornish pasty in two bites and then leave the house through the front door. The winner is the person who has managed to get closest to the bus stop before the hooter goes. Current record holder is most certainly not our kid, who is forced to call off the search for his the keys because it has got too dark. The winner will be presented with a delightful Gladys D. Clutterbag (The Lost Keys) model (pictured below), by the irritating woman off Murder She Wrote.



[click image to enlarge](#)

Gladys D. Clutterbag... The Lost Keys

Item #: 381002
 Introduced: 2002
 Retired Status: Retired
 Material: Resin
 Dimensions: 4.5"
 Status: In Stock
 Usually ships in 24-72 hours.

\$14.00

BUY NOW

Description: Gladys knows her keys are in their somewhere...it's just gonna take a lil' diggin'. Our guardian angel of big purses is the perfect gift for someone who seriously needs to downsize! Features ribbon handles on angel's purse!

DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Little time this month for comedy linkages. Apologies for those who sent in witty or well-observed letters, expecting decent handling!

Mike Dommett (on slow turnarounds)

A long deadline or gap between issues is actually quite a good thing. Glad you liked the stuff (see elsewhere for Mike's stuff), I was surprised to see the column (about the mascot, see elsewhere), but Oldham sticks in the mind. You might still get a Metrolink to Oldham, I've been working on a tender for the phase three extensions, and it's up to the council now to sort out the funding.

Auntie Tangerine

I'm glad to hear that you're involved in the tender, who's building the rest of the steam engine? Actually knowing Oldham council, a return to steam is exactly what they're likely to agree to. "Nay lad, we can't be doing with none of this new-fangled electrical rubbish. It's just witchcraft. Mark my words, no good'll come if it. They stopped using horses in Guiseley and look what happened there!"

Mike Brian (on Yorkshire horse manure)

Mood not helped by the shitest display by a Leeds team for a couple of seasons on Monday. When the likes of Ben Thatcher (yes, BEN THATCHER!!!) misses three clear chances against you, you know that it's been a pile of manure. Birmingham on Saturday - doubt it'll be pretty. My back was fine until Saturday when the dangerous sport of shoelace untying proved my undoing (no pun intended). A bit better today (ie. can walk a little further) but might not regain full mobility for a few days yet.

Auntie Tangerine

Having seriously impaired hasn't stopped Martin Keown from being capped for England, so no need to worry just yet. Even Ian Ormondroyd played in the top division and he was nothing but a giraffe in a Villa shirt.

Mick Schofield (on giraffes in football shirts)

The 2nd Div standard with the possible exception of QPR is piss poor, and we're baffling teams by playing passing possession football. This renders their giraffe-like centre halves redundant, who having been fed a diet of high balls from the age of 11 are confused by the trickery of a ball rolling along the ground.

David Midha (on confused footballers and some that are just plain s**t)

Good buys.....no-one news really impressed me I must admit...although Dunn seems to have added a bit more creativity to Birmingham and Phillips is a good signing for Soton. Actually my best signing would be David Connelly..will get 20 goals in Div 1. As for worst...oh what a list this could be.... Craddock!

Joe Cole (why did Chelsea need him?)

Roque Jr...a world cup winning defender that can't defend?

Djemba Djemba - very ordinary african player

Amoruso - always been slow and getting shown up at Prem level

finally.....David Seaman.....Keegan needs a solid GK so he goes out and gets one that's dodgier than the 45 minute weapons of mass destruction claim!

Auntie Tangerine

Are you saying that the 45 min claim is dodgy. Let me introduce you to my friend Mr Gilligan. Don't worry, you won't actually need to say anything, because he'll just make up what he needs broadcast anyway.

Even David's 45 minute claims aren't as dodgy as Peter Reid's. Sorry Peter, but you can't keep using the word "unlucky". They used to hang "unlucky" sailors in the Caribbean.

Mick Schofield (on Caribbean piracy)

Still, Cuba in just over 5 weeks time, flying out of Gatwick at 07.00. How would the Bishop B&B be fixed for a booking on Tuesday 11/11? I have wine to sweeten the deal and enough cake to send the diabetic into orbit.

Auntie Tangerine

Just change your name to Marie Antoinette and you have a deal. I'll get the guillotine ready.

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🎵 FA-FA-FA-FAH-FAH-FAH-FAH-FAH

RAILWAY RIVALS — RR 1935 Colorado — GM : DGW Bus Boss Scoring, 4/2 Split for "3-pt" towns, Leapfrog.

Bishop's Runs Often Need Correction Or Support: Howard Bishop, red.

4a: (V12) R10.

4b: (R10) Marble P9.

4c: (P9) Somerset O8. 55 +6 +3 R - 2 R = 62.

Railroad Engineering for Denver, Nebraska, E.Colorado & Kansas: Ken Laidlaw, blue.

4a: (Glenwd Spr) S11; (S6) Q5 Gd Jctn.

4b: (Gd J) R3 R2 Q2; (S11) Aspen.

4c: (T12) U12; (Q33) Cheyenne Wells; (P21) Colorado Springs. 53 + 2 +2 BOS -3 BOS = 54.

Way Out West: Mike Dommett, black.

4a: (M7) Delta N5 O5; (L8) K8.

4b: (Pueblo) L23 Colorado Sprs.

4c: (K8) Ouray; (K8) J7 J6 I6. 60 +16 +9 BCO = 85.

Busy Railroad Organising New Crosscountry Operations: Bruce Edwards: green.

4a: (Alamoso) F16 G17 I16.

4b: (Walsbg) J23 Pueblo.

4c: (Pueblo) L23 Colorado Sprs. 52 +3 BUM -9 W = 46.

Bloody Useless Management: Jim Reader, orange.

4a: (K16) I17 H16 G17.

4b: (G17) F16; (Quartz) M13.

4c: (M13) M11. 16 - 3 BCO = 15.

Rolls for rd 5: 5, 4, 3.

Still only 1 leap (BUM on WOW); difficult to understand on this map. Max. leap is 3 hexes.

Leaps so far : BUM on WOW.

TRAWLING

Trawling 07: Round 1. GM: DGW

Both Schofields tried to order new trawlers. Chris's was disqualified because he wanted one of the same class, which is against the rules. Mike didn't name his. I also decided not to allow it, as it was ordered before he realised he didn't have any money, & it would have involved such a financial handicap (20% interest!) that he probably wouldn't have recovered.

Note that the *total* amount of fish is almost *the same* in each square (not as stated) at the start. Of course, the unfished areas have now gone up, and the fished areas down, over 10%. So your next trip should be very profitable.

New Trawlers: none. **Sightings:** Isobel sees 1 E. Gutter sees 1 W. Others see nothing.

Catches & value: Cod 50 @ 3, Hake 47 @ 4, Plaice 26 @ 5, Sole 24 @ 6.

Company	No Empty Trawlers	Old Mud Woolf	Cod Rock Co.	Caernarvon Trwlr
Player	Howard	Chris	Mike	Arthur
Trawler	B: Grey Mullet	D: Isobel	B: Gutter	B: Easter Rose
Catch:	Cod	Cod	Cod	Cod
	17 @ 3 = 51	6 @ 3 = 18	9 @ 3 = 27	18 @ 3 = 54
	Hake	Hake	Hake	Hake
	8 @ 4 = 32	13 @ 4 = 52	17 @ 4 = 68	9 @ 4 = 36
	Plaice	Plaice	Plaice	Plaice
	7 @ 5 = 35	6 @ 5 = 30	7 @ 5 = 35	6 @ 5 = 30
	Sole	Sole	Sole	Sole
	7 @ 6 = 42	5 @ 6 = 30	6 @ 6 = 36	6 @ 6 = 36
Total Value	160	130	166	156
Trip Cost	- 130	- 70	- 130	- 150
Cash brt fwd	0	300	0	0
Cash crd fwd	30	360	36	6
Trawler value	500-100= 400	300-60 = 240	500-100 = 400	500-100 = 400
Total Wealth	430	600	436	406

Arthur: you said game fee enclosed last time, but nothing was in the envelope. Stamps will do. Don't send cash.

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WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?

Name	Theatre of Operations	Battle Honours
Alan Parr		♣ ♠
Alex Bardy		♣
Alex Richardson	GO (O)	♠
Allan Stagg	BB (B), ZG (I), QC (G), GO (O), BM (Q), KN (T)	♣ ♣ ♣ ♣
Andy Tampion	BL (M)	
Arthur Owen	PT (F), QC (G), GK (K), BL (M), GO (O), EU (P), DD (S), CL (U), WL (V)	♣ ♣ ♣
Bruce Edwards	PT (N)	
Colin Bruce		
David Midha		
David Watts		♣
Don Shailer	WL (V)	
Ellis Simpson	EU (P), DD (S)	
George Urwin	DD (S)	
Graham Smith	DD (S)	
H		☺
Jerry Spencer		♣
Jim Dapkus	BB (B), ZG (I), CL (U)	♣
Jim Reader	BL (M), PT (N), GO (O)	♠
John Colledge		♣ ♠
John Harrington		♣ ♠
John Walker	KN (T)	☺
Keith Thomasson		♣
Ken Laidlaw		
Kevin Lee	BL (M), GO (O), EU (P), GK (R), WL (V)	♣
Martin Burroughs		♠
Mick Schofield	BM (Q), WL (V), KN (T)	☺ ♣ ♣
Mike Brian	GK (K)	♣ ♣
Mike Head		
Mike Dommett	BB (B), BL (M), EU (P), KN (T)	♣ ♣ ☺
Mike Page	DD (S)	♠
Mike Parnaby		
Pete Munro		♣ ☺
Peter Sullivan		
Richard Smith	PT (F), BL (M), BM (Q)	♠ ♣ ♣ ☺
Rob Thomasson		♠
Simon Ives	BM (Q), WL (V)	♣ ♠ ♣ ♣
Stephen Agar		♣ ♠
Stuart Eves		♠
Tony Critchley	GK (R), DD (S), WL (V)	

Heroic writer (articles or rules)	☺
Game GM	♣ (per game)
Old timer (received issue 5 or earlier)	♣
Prolific player	♣ (per 5 games)
Game winner	♣ (per win)
Game runner-up (4 or more players)	☺ (per game)
Editor trade	♠

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DEAD LETTER OFFICE (contd)

Mike Parnaby (on sharp things getting too close to your head)

It's [TTT] not a bad read. even though a lot it goes whizzing over my head.

Auntie Tangerine

Mike, since 95% of this stuff comes out of my arse it's unlikely that it'll be going over your head. Try a bit lower! Glad to see that you've decided to take up the vacant manager position at TEMPEST.

Arthur Owen (on being glad to see Mike Parnaby take up the vacant manager's position at TEMPEST)

One good thing, I've signed up Mike Parnaby for the post of manager at TEMPEST.

Auntie Tangerine

Is that an echo or have I got tittinus (sic)? Interesting squad in the Tempest. Mike could try Miranda and Caliban as wing-backs, Ariel playing off the front two and Prospero as skipper. Having to travel to small Mediterranean island might freak the opposition. Real Mallorca have done pretty well out of it.

Allan Stagg (on doing pretty well in Mallorca)

We had two holidays this year - normally we only manage one, but the wife is working now and in a moment of weakness I said 'yes' to our first overseas holiday, in Mallorca. Sun, sea, sand, and some decently warm temperatures - so of course our second holiday, in North Wales had to be more traditional 'hunt the sun, hide from the showers' stuff. Both were enjoyable, and with the digital camera we were able to see our pictures as soon as we returned home.

I passed my final accounts exams, so for payment of an additional fee I can be elected as a member, and be allowed to put some letters after my name. Whoopee! Also of interest was my week of jury service at Aylesbury - very interesting experience.

As for football, I don't want to talk about it. See, I support two teams, Spurs and Reading.....

Auntie Tangerine

Hmmm, an interesting combination, especially as David Pleat is illiterate. I remember shouting at the radio for 90 minutes while he continually referred to "juke-box" Durie as Gordon Drury. Let's just hope he never has to go to Aylesbury for Drury service.

Alex Richardson (on poor Reading material and HP sauce)

One day perhaps I'll write you a note which doesn't sound like Brian Sewell at his snobbiest. Thinking about it, I suppose that I'm not against Harry Potter books being read by their intended audience (i.e. children), and yes it's great if someone decides to try another writer having caught the Potter habit. Something in me, though, just rebels instinctively against the hype involved and the feeling that what started out as a kind of pleasant publishing success has turned into yet another 'cool' bandwagon for adults to hijack.

You should have seen the fuss in the bookselling trade press when JKR was suffering with her writer's block and the latest Potter book was going to be delayed for a year or so. The groans and lamentations were terrible to hear - "What about our profits?", "Not even the Christmas rush will make up for this dreadful loss", etc. But hang on, aren't there other books around as good or even better than the Potter series? Don't some of them even have films attached too? Really, things have got so bad that the only time we think of a bookshop as a good place to be is when it opens at midnight and it's staffed by poor saps dressed up as f**king gnomes.

Auntie Tangerine

And in the blue corner

Mike Dommett (on good Reading material and HP source)

Harry Potter and the Discworld series are excellent books, and great for making youngsters read. I remember reading Tolkien at 9-10, and lots of science fiction too. Reading wasn't the problem, stopping reading was. But I think children should enjoy reading, it can lead to lifelong learning and thinking entertainment.

Auntie Tangerine

Like my daughter's nose, this one could run and run, but probably best to draw a veil over it now. I think there's a place for most literature. I'm not a huge fan of the Potter dynasty, but at least Ms Rowling has made her money from innocent entertainment. We even have the videos.

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DEAD LETTER OFFICE (contd)

Pete Munro (on having the videos)

Why are clubs buying so many players that don't feature in their first team? Are people being bought on the basis of a video compiled by their agent instead of actually having them watched in matches?

Auntie Tangerine

Watching real football matches is just so passé now. If you're Chelsea, you don't even need to watch the best players on television, you can just buy them all and watch them training in your back garden. If they buy too many they could always turn the surplus into dog-food to stop the club imploding financially.

Mike Dommatt (on Chelsea imploding financially)

Would anyone mind if Chelsea go bust? I can only hope that they fail to win anything this year. It always seems not quite 'Fair' if you can buy success. Or is this just jealousy because Southampton don't have the money or the success and sponsorship to get the money? We used to survive on a mixture of old players in their last couple of seasons, but not too expensive and the odd talented guy. Le Tissier probably wasn't international class, but he did score some great goals. And he knew enough to score the last goal at the Dell, in the last minutes of the last match there. I'm sure too I remember when the Premiership started that there were many people saying that clubs coming up would have to buy talent to survive and would be in deep trouble if they failed.

Auntie Tangerine

I know it's sour grapes, but I also hope they have a crap year

Richard Smith (on a disappointing year)

I have to agree with you about this year's CD releases. Some hits but most of the ones I've bought have been OK but no great shakes, in many cases disappointing follow-ups to earlier records. I've rattled off a quick list of the ones I've wasted my wonga on

King Crimson - The Power to Believe - this is a goodie, a seriously heavy record that puts arch-imitators Tool to shame.

Elbow - Cast of Thousands - a bit of a grower, doesn't grab you like "Asleep at the Back" but still good.

Steve Hackett - To Watch the Storms - I would never have considered buying a Steve Hackett record (though I liked Spectral Mornings and Defector way back) but after hearing it I immediately bought it. Surprisingly good.

Super Furry Animals - Phantom Power - Highly rated in reviews but I thought it was average, not a patch on Fuzzy Logic.

Kings of Leon - Youth and Young Manhood - Retro fun. Shame about the annoying copy protection crap.

The Cooper Temple Clause - Kick up the Fire and Let the Flames Break Loose - nothing like as enjoyable as the rather chaotic See

This Through and Leave, but mostly good (also copy protected :-)

Radiohead - Hail to the Thief - good in parts but no really great tracks (Amnesiac had a few!)

Evanescence - Fallen - All About Eve with shouting sums it up. Three reasonable tracks but mostly crap.

Turin Brakes - Ether Song - Not bad but doesn't have tunes that worm into your brain like The Optimist.

Zwan - Mary Star of the Sea - nothing to write home about.

Mogwai - Happy Songs for Happy People - quite good but too bland. Rock Action was miles better.

Massive Attack - 100th Window - a long wait since the brilliant Mezzanine. Alas, average fare.

Gene Clark - No Other - remastered country / blues / rock from the 70s. Starts off really well but tails off.

Grandaddy - Sunday - I really like this one. I've not heard their earlier stuff but I think I'll check it out.

Coming soon to my doormat:

Muse - Absolution - The single is excellent and the album has had rave reviews. Could be even better than Origin of Symmetry.

Richard Thompson - 1,000 Years of Popular Music - Richard Thompson's pick of the millennium - from 11th century canticles to Britney Spears!

Auntie Tangerine

11th Century canticles sounds like a dodgy comestible that you'd get in a back-street café in Beijing.

I agree that some of the follow-on albums have been underwhelming. One or two gems though, Grandaddy, Stephen Malkmus, The Thorns, The Kills and The Rapture being among the best.

Is nobody going to have a go at my bloody album title competition?

Mike Dommatt (on not having a go at Howard's bloody album title competition)

I can't do much on the magazine article/album titles competition - you don't seem to have much punk rock, jazz, and classical, and also I haven't kept the previous issues.

Auntie Tangerine

Never mind. Have a guess. Even if you only get one, you'll be the winner, unless there are some late entries.

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Quiz 6



WHEN was the game apparently played?
WHERE was the game really played?
WHO scored the first goal?
WHAT was the score at half-time?

I have now tired of this quiz. So this will be the last picture. In fact, there won't be any more clues for the other pictures. So this is your last chance to get answers in.

Scores so far

	Quiz 1	Quiz 2	Quiz 3	Quiz 4	Quiz 5	Total
Pete Munro	7	6	3	9	7	32
Mick Schofield	7	7	8	7	7	31
Clive McQuinn	6	8	3	7	4	28
David Midha	2	3	4	10	7	26
Neil Roskell	2	3	3	4	3	15
Richard Smith	2	2	2	2	3	11
Arthur Owen	3	3	4	0	0	10
Mike Dommatt	0	2	2	0	0	4
Simon Ives	3	0	0	0	0	3
Tim Burrows	0	0	0	0	0	0

I think I've lost Simon's latest set of guesses, which could propel him away from wooden spoon contention. At the other end of the table, the leaders all did OK, but the When question is proving to be strangely elusive. Pete managed to play "spot the moustache" for this one, but has yet to find the right game. A couple of you went for the 70's. Wrong decade chaps. As Mick rightly pointed out, Who? is a Manc Herbert. You need the right herbert.

So it's all to play for and if that sounds like I'm trying to whip up some false atmosphere and tension to get you all to send in answers then it's a better impression than anything Mike Yarwood ever did. Except for his impression of Brian Clough, but then they probably shared the same bottle of Meths in the 70's.

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WhereWhoWhenWhat Footy Quiz

Quiz 3

WHERE?



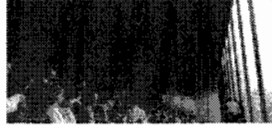
Clue 1 = "Start-ing XI"
Clue 2 = "The original Dynamos"
Answer = Kiev

WHO?



Clue 1 = "One of the Derby's best?"
Clue 2 = "A Maine man"
Answer = Colin "Nijinsky" Bell

WHEN?



Clue 1 = "Bantams' worst day"
Clue 2 = "A big loss at Valley Parade"
Answer = 1985

WHAT?

.... is the current stadium for the team in the WHERE question?
Answer = Olimpijski Stadion

Quiz 4

WHERE?



Clue 1 = "The Dutch disease"
Clue 2 = "The clue's in the poster"

WHO?



Clue 1 = "Tangerine Terrors"
Clue 2 = "They take the cake"

WHEN?



Clue 1 = "Treble top"
Clue 2 = "Silverware for the 'pool"

Quiz 5

WHERE?



Clue 1 = "Look I've Vollern down."

WHO?



Clue 1 = "Brother-ly love"

WHEN?



Clue 1 = "Let's have a look at the old scoreboard"

Alex Richardson (on late entries)

"Aargh!", "Urk!!", "Gak!!!" and other vaguely nonsensical expressions of bafflement. I'm really ashamed of myself for being late with my orders again. My all important stuff like TTT disappeared for a while into an indeterminate mass of paper.

Auntie Tangerine

Some mistake surely. TTT is an indeterminate mass of paper. As long as you entries arrive in the right century they should be OK. I don't have the fastest turnaround in the business. As long as everyone is comfortable with crap service then I'll keep going. If you want something more dynamic then I might have to cut down to subzine size.

Richard Smith (on cutting down to subzine size)

It would be sad to see "another one bite the dust". I think if you want to go down to a subzine you'd have to run it down for a few issues first to make the remains more absorbable. Then if you're stuck for a home the slow, fat Pig will probably take you in.

Auntie Tangerine

I didn't know Sammy Lee was looking for a lodger. I thought he should be pretty flush with all his England bench duties. Perhaps he should cut his losses and get out of such an expensive area. My guess is that he lives in Chester, but anywhere with decent swill would do.

Bruce Edwards (on being flush, and getting out of such an expensive area)

I read in the paper that Jack Walker wants to get out of Blackburn now (probably while he still has a tenner left in his pocket??) and I am only wondering how long the Football League will survive with 92 full-time clubs. I heard Notts County are in administration and it's only going to take one club folding up mid-season to start an avalanche - in my humble opinion! Notts Co supporters point to the fact that they were one of the founder members of the league?? Unfortunately, historical fact does not generate much cash!!! We already have an elite 5 or so clubs at the top of the Premiership and if there is more than Prem and Div 1 in a few years, I'll be surprised! How the teams in the Scottish 3rd Division survive with crowds lower than the average Conference attendance is a mystery to me! It's going to be hard for clubs initially, as shown by the (not-so recent?) row regarding a possible merger of Oxford United and Reading, but I think a reduction of professional football teams will be the only way forward...

So I'm actually going to risk MidCon this year and see if I can meet some of these names in the games - unless they're all just made up by zine editors to pretend they have a number of readers!! I have asked Jeremy Tullett whether there is any option for solitary people (like me) to share rooms to cut costs, so he's going to let me know. At the moment I'm booked for a single room, but willing to share if anyone is looking for a room-mate??? Quite looking forward to a good week-end - it's been a while since I attended any sort of games function... unless the 'Ripmeet' advertised in "Cut & Thrust" counts???

Auntie Tangerine

I went to MidCon last year, so I can confirm that even the most unlikely of hobby personalities exist (even Stephen Agar)

Jim Dapkus (on the existence of unlikely hobby personalities, even Stephen Agar)

Is Steve Agar of Armistice Day the access to the Diplomacy Variant Bank? I have U.S. info that it was being transferred to him. Did that ever occur? I'm looking to add a few variants to my Dip collection. Why not run a game of Gunboat Dip in TTT. You'd get a sign-up from me. Also the addresses would be helpful in your "Other News" section. Your review of The Napoleonic Wars (GMT) sounds interesting. Put me down for Russia if you plan a game in TTT.

Auntie Tangerine

Alas, The Napoleonic Wars is not mine! I only buy crap games. Stephen is indeed the Variantmeister. I can pass on his address if you're interested. I'm not planning to run any Dip myself, but if anyone fancies taking the plunge and running such a game in a subzine then I would be very pleased.

And that's just about it for the bag this time.

WEIRD ZINES INSIDE THE GOLD MINE

Face-to-face gaming stuff.

Thanks to the gentle cajoling of Allan Stagg I went along to TringCon this year. This is a one-dayer run by Alan Parr in (surprise surprise) Tring.

Even if you aren't a game-player there are enough chocolate biscuits to sink a small pre-dreadnought and you could always play spot the Tangerine Terror subscriber. I rolled up at 9 with a hideous hangover and a pawful of spare Terrors. I got off to a losing start with a chariot racing game that was a cross between a board game and a miniatures game. It worked well, although the bargaining rules didn't seem quite right, or I couldn't understand them, or both. I got stuck with a card inferring that my driver had stopped for a cold beer and wasn't going to be at full tilt. To be honest a cold beer was probably the very last thing I could have managed after a skinful the previous evening. Needless to say Howard Hur came a disappointing 4th out of 5. [Post-race note : A new deal has been signed with Bridgestonix, for their new Maximus Supergrip wheels. I expect to snatch the laurels next year]. I can't remember the name of the game, but it costs an arm and a leg by all accounts. A cross between this and Circus Maximus is what the world needs. Next up it was Clans, which is about shuffling coloured huts around. Once a group of huts is isolated from the others, it becomes a village and all the colours represented score (unless they're in the current bad terrain). I've owned this game for a while, but this was the first chance to try it. A clever little game it may be, but the nature of it means that there is almost no player interaction. There's a good game in there I think, but it's hidden under a thick blanket of tedium. After that it was Evo; a fluffy game about evolving dinosaurs. Each turn you bid for new attributes that allow you to fight, run, or survive the current weather conditions. There are also some random events cards, with a big impact. I got lucky with these. I then got involved in a 4-handed game of the Babylon 5 CCG. This wasn't a game I'd played before. In fact I've never seen the TV series either!! In the end, the game lasted over 6 hours. I think my stupid rules questions probably doubled the length of the game, and we didn't even get a single winner. Mike Eggleton and John Harrington ended up with the same influence and shared the win.

A great day and a chance to meet Tangerine Terriers face to face. Also a big thanks must go to Alan, who spends all day making sure everything is running smoothly, and must breathe a huge sigh of relief when we've all gone!

Zine poll

Here's the lowdown from John H. A voting form should be enclosed.

May I encourage the diminishing band of zine editors to download the Zine Poll voting form and distribute it with their zines, please? I've even done it in RTF to placate the Mac users. As soon as I "get my PC sorted out at home" [(c) John Harrington, 1997] I'll do a PDF version too.

Some of you may have already received voting forms via For Whom The Die Rolls and this form is much the same but with slightly different wording regarding eligibility of electronic zines, which I might as well expand upon here. Last year there was confusion about the Web Site poll, with some people voting for the likes of Serendipity, The Blue Nose Special and Devolution in the Zine Poll and some voting for them in the Web Site poll. It's difficult to come up with a hard and fast rule to differentiate between e-zines and web sites but in essence if the zine can be sent via e-mail or downloaded from a web site then it is eligible for the Zine Poll. If it can't then it should be voted for in the Web Site poll.

As mentioned above, Serendipity, TBNS and Devolution are all classified as zines this year, as is my own A League Of Our Own. There may be others. There's still at least 2 months of the year left so there is plenty of time for Stephen Agar to fold and start up 4 or 5 zines to be available for download from www.WWReference.co.uk or similar. The main change from last year is that editors are not allowed to vote for their own zines. Sub-editors may vote for the zine in which their subzine is hosted.

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BL-Moore

BACKPACKS AND BLISTERS

12:40-13:20

Our 6 intrepid hikers finally manage to chow down. Thanks to everyone for supplying replacement orders, so we can carry on.

Jim scores 2 points for having the heavy rucksack at lunchtime, but is unable to make it anywhere nice.

Press (and stuff) :

Psycho - Lunch and as I'm carrying the fridge and kitchen sink in this damned rucksack, I shall make sure I eat well with strawberries and cream and chilled champagne - bugger the Kendal Mint Cake. [GM - An interesting suggestion]

Orange Anorak - Scampering a little down Skiddaw, the orange anorak finds a stream and washes his puds, before returning to the top. He takes out his tin whistle, and gives a virtuoso rendering of "Over the Hills and Far Away", before succumbing to a desire to Yodel. For the health and safety contingent he soon realises that he isn't cut out for this, and returns to his lunch, setting up the folding table, and chair, and putting the wine into the cooler, all in readiness for 1300; lunch! The 15 course snack. Quails eggs do have that extra je ne sais quoi thinks the happy walker as he tucks into the brief repast prepared by his own hands the previous night.

Rambling Rick

Rambling Rick becomes Rumbling Rick as his tummy reminds him it's lunchtime, and that the chocolate might spoil his appetite, so he saves that for the afternoon and plays 000^ for a stroll to Thornthwaite Forest where he unpacks his cheese and pickle sandwiches, washed down with lashings of ginger beer.

Rambling report

Captain Flint (Castle Inn) - Back to the Castle Inn for grog and ship's biscuits aha weevils aha. What? I've already cracked that one? OK it's back to the Castle Inn to buy a bar of very unpiratical Galaxy. No tea, no grog, no ship's biscuits, no mainbraces, no Spanish Mains, no aha, no yohoho, no Jim lad, and certainly no me hearties. He does however put the Captain Pugwash theme tune on the jukebox, just for old time's sake.

Orange Anorak (Skiddaw) - Skiddaw, tin whistle, Led Zeppelin covers, eggs, I think you know the rest, mmmm, small boys in the park, rucksacks for goalposts, Chris Bonnington, marvellous

PsychoWalker (3 O SW of Bassenthwaite) - All ye who are heavy laden, getteth nowhere

Ivor Tinkle (Beauty spot 6 N of Robinson) - Returns from Antarctica (Robinson) and sees Ramblo starting to come the other way, with his turbo-powered chocolate trousers flapping in the breeze

Rambling Rick (Thornthwaite Forest) - Loses interest in Robinson and sets off for a leafy glade in the west (chocolate, flapping, trousers, etc.)

Harry Hemshaw (Causey Pike) - "Causey Pike" rhymes with "time for a drink", or at least it does in Hemshaw-world. Harry discarded his butties a while back to save weight and so it's time for a liquid lunch. That brown liquid in his flask isn't coffee. It turns out to be 2 pints of Baileys. "Result" says Harry and tucks in.

Player	Walker	50p	Choc	10:00-10:20	10:20-10:40	10:40-11:00	11:00-11:20	11:20-11:40	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:20	12:20-12:40	12:40-13:00	Lunch	TOTAL
Richard	Rambling Rick	0	1	0	2	15	0	0	9	1	2	3	3	35
Jim	Psycho Walker	2	0	1	2	14	1	1	12	0	0	0	2	33
Mike	Orange Anorak	1	0	3	0	13	1	3	3	0	5	0	5	33
Kevin	Harry Hemshaw	1	0	2	0	11	1	0	3	0	0	4	4	25
Andy	Captain Flint	1	1	0	5	3	2	2	2	3	0	2	2	21
Arthur	Ivor Tinkle	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	1	21

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PETE'S POP QUIZ - ROUND 4

The answers to Round 3:

1. Until 2002 Two artists/bands shared the record for most UK no.1 hit singles, which single broke that deadlock?(2 pts)
Elvis edged ahead of the Beatles thanks to the remix of 'A little less conversation' with Junkie XL
2. Which TV presenters had a hit with a cover of Kylie and Jason's Especially for you?(1 pt)
Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen
3. Ry Cooder has helped make which Social Club famous? (2 pts)
*Buena Vista though I would have loved it to be the wheeltappers just to hear Bernard Manning going 'Ry, what sort of f**king name is that?'*
4. The Human League were brought in to advise who on playing the synthesizer?(3pts)
Kevin's mum(though would have accepted Kevin) it's from the Undertones 'My Perfect Cousin'. I thought this was the REAL toughie as didn't see how you could find it on the web but apparently if you search hard enough you can!
5. Who is the only person to have 4 UK no.1's as a member of a group and as a solo artist?(1 pt)
Geri Halliwell, as mentioned Mr's Williams and Michael both had one No.1 as a duet.
6. More footy nonsense, who had hits with the following teams?(3 pts)
a. Tottenham b. Nottingham Forest c. Middlesbrough
a. Chaz and Dave
b. Paper Lace - personally I think Forest should have gone with the Des Walker Brothers but there you are.
c. Bob Mortimer and Chris Rea
7. Which band's 2002 album was called ()? (2 pts)
Sigur Ros - those Icelandic(?) fuusters who sing in a made up language and feature in also as many adverts as Rojksopp.
8. Which classic '70s live album opens with a speech which contains the following 'the time has come for each and everyone one of you to decide if you're gonna be the problem or you're gonna be the solution..'? (2 pts)
*MC5 - Kick Out the Jams - depending on which version you get, this speech also includes 'motherf**kers' or 'brothers and sisters.' This was the other toughie but it is famous for the speech(honest).*
9. In what year was the first UK hit single for Nirvana? (2 pts)
1968 - As mentioned above a slight trick question but a quick look in the Guinness Book of Hit Singles does show that Cobain, Grohl and Noveselic(?) were not the first Nirvana to trouble the charts.
10. Who has recently been performing as the lead singer of the Doors?(2pts)
Ian 'the wolfman' Astbury taking time out from the Cult

Questions for Round 4 (just in case there is anyone left alive and prepared to have go)

1. Which Beatle said 'If music be the food of love let's have a Beethoven butty'? (2pts)
2. One time son-in-law to the late great Johnny Cash, he had 3 tops 40 singles in 78/79, who is he? (2pts)
3. The series of compilation albums where stars record their ultimate party tape is called what? (2pts)
4. Who had hits in the '90's with covers of 'Wonderwall', 'Light my fire', and 'Don't Cry for me Argentina'? (2 pts)
5. Which UK female artist shares a birthday with Emily Bronte? (2 pts)
6. Who had a hit in the '90's with a cover of Johnny Kongo's 'He's gonna step on you again'? (2 pts)
7. Which band had a hit in 1994 with a song title that contained only one letter multiple times? (2 pts)
8. In which decade did CD's go on sale in Europe? (1 pt)
9. 'A whiter shade of pale' was based on a melody by which classical composer?(2 pts)
10. Name the backing bands: (3 pts)
Jimmy James
Graham Parker
Sutherland Brothers

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WEIRD ZINES INSIDE THE GOLD MINE (contd)

Other Zine News

Unfortunately, time is short, so no reviews this time, although I would just like to provide a plug for Simon Cutforth and his **Amnesia Express** subzine which appears with/in Alex Richardson's **Obsidian**, depending on Alex's mood/printer status. Simon is keen to run some of the more obscure 18xx titles. If you have any of these, Simon can be contacted via his e-mail address which is simon.cutforth@tesco.net

And finally Esther Mike Dean asked for this message about Dip variant waiting lists to be circulated in zine world.

Just an update on the variants available on **PSYCHOPATH** and to ask if GM editors would advertise these for me please?

Ancient Mediterranean - for 5 players.
http://www.variantbank.com/rules/a/ancient_mediterranean.htm
Hundred - for 3 players.
<http://www.variantbank.com/rules/h/hundred.htm>
Double Secret - for 6 players.
<http://www.variantbank.com/rules/d/doublesecret.htm>
Ard Ri - for 6 players. 4 required.
<http://www23.brinkster.com/rboulani/rulesidiot.asp?game=rules&season=ardri>
Crowded - for 11 players. 6 required.
<http://www23.brinkster.com/rboulani/rulesidiot.asp?game=rules&season=crowded>
Gunboat Crowded - for 11 players. 8 required.
Vain Arts - for 7 players. 2 required.
check out the psychopath message board

MIKE <http://www.psychozine.co.uk>

DD - Serrant

DIAMOND DOGS

Contract Offers

Some interesting bids. Everyone has had at least some success, but some have pushed the boat out a bit, and may have to be a bit more circumspect with the free agents. Others have been more Sharkey (ie. Frugal) and will need to splash a bit more cash to get a decent squad.

Montreal Expos (- unassigned -)	7 pitchers (\$7.7M), 9 batters (\$8.9M)
Florida Marlins (Ellis Simpson)	3 pitchers (\$2.4M), 7 batters (\$5.9M)
Havana Reds (George Urwin)	3 pitchers (\$2.4M), 7 batters (\$7.0M)
Texas Rangers (Arthur Owen)	3 pitchers (\$3.3M), 8 batters (\$8.4M)
Toronto Blue Jays (Graham Smith)	3 pitchers (\$3.4M), 5 batters (\$4.3M)
LA Dodgers (Mike Page)	7 pitchers (\$6.5M), 5 batters (\$5.9M)
Houston Astros (- unassigned -)	7 pitchers (\$7.5M), 9 batters (\$9.4M)
Tijuana Iguanas (Tony Critchley)	7 pitchers (\$10.1M), 10 batters (\$13.1M)

You can now bid for free agents. Players will accept any offer which is at least three-quarters of their expected salary. If more than one club bids for a free agent, that player will accept a bid from his current club as long as it is within \$100,000 of the highest bid, otherwise the highest bid wins (as long as it meets the 75% minimum). If bids are tied, the player will pick randomly.
Please assign your bids in order of preference. Once you get have contracted 25 players, your roster is complete, and the rest of your bids will not be processed. This means that you can bid for as many players as you like.

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There were some changes in the game system. Combat was mandatory between adjacent units. It wasn't in this version, but then playing face to face you could move your troops in response to hostile moves. Playing postally, you couldn't know whether enemy troops would end up next to you, so mandatory combat would have been a mistake. So you have a fog of war. You order movement towards where the enemy forces were at the start of the turn. You order movement past their positions, in case they have moved. The turn report tells you what troops your troops are next to, and you decide to attack or not, depending on how strong the opposing troops are. This is real fog of war. You know - well you can assume that your opponent will be likely to defend some places but may not defend others. You don't know what he will defend with, though you can guess from your knowledge at the start of the turn. You cannot just count the defending troops, and move the optimum units to each battle. It'd like to think that the US and British had the same problem with my troops. It felt realistic. You tell them where to go, and wait and see if they find what you expect. You may decide that the opposition is too tough, and wait another turn to bring up more forces, but while you wait, he may slip away, trading space for time.

Not being able to see where your opponent is moving troops made it very hard to trap units. You needed a cordon, and had to move to maintain the barriers. Is this unrealistic? Troops do get sent to attack places where the opponent has long since gone, sent to trap retreating troops and arrive too late. The all-seeing eye ensures that some of the problems a commander faces disappear, and double blind, which is what this was, puts them back again.

Multiple commanders works well - ha - the Germans had a unified command for nearly all the game - as long as they communicate to some degree. Fine detailed agreement, so that all moves are co-ordinated exactly, ends up as single player, but with the benefit of two or more minds thoughts. I fought a multiplayer fall of France 1940, with 3 German and 8 allied commanders, and the effect in reproducing the problems of co-ordination on the allied side, despite their overall superiority in soldiers and tanks was superb. The initial allied response in the real 1944 attack was uncoordinated in the initial stages, but improved later on. How did the allied players find things, when the German attack had split them into two groups, one on the Meuse, and the other at bastogne and along the southern flank?

I enjoyed the game immensely (not just because I won) and thank my opponents for a hard fought game. (Let's face it, I didn't know the victory conditions either - I was fairly sure I was winning but was it a good win, or marginal - I didn't know).

And thanks to the GM for running the game - it must have taken a lot of effort.

GM

I won't dwell too much on the outcome of the game, but as has been commented earlier, I felt there were 2 main keys to Mike's success. The first was his ability to break out and keep the Allies on the run early in the game. Secondly and perhaps most importantly was the capture of Liege. It gave him a bucketload of victory points and the die-roll modifiers for Jim's attacks against it always meant that he was relying on a very lucky result to shift the Germans out of the city. The knock-on effect of this was that while Jim battered away against Liege, Mike could turn his attention to consolidating elsewhere. The map area around Liege felt too constrained. In real life the Allies might well have been able to move around the city and attack from more directions to bring more firepower to bear.

Table with columns: Name, Team, Status, Name, Team, Status, Name, Team, Status, Name, Team, Status, Name, Team, Status, Name, Team, Status, Name, Team, Status. It lists various participants and their status in the game.

Everyone is getting down to some serious studying (even Allan!)

Moves :

Arthur (studying BSc Mathematics) asks to move 2, but doesn't have a 2. The NMR rules say that he moves 5. Thus he moves into Leicester Square, just after Jim, so he gets his lodgings free. QED.

Kevin carries on bombing round London, doing heaps of drugs and scavenging rooms off big Uncle Kev. He has pots of loot and 4 terms under his belt. Don't you just hate him?

Alex has a look at Nelson's Column, briefly thinks about sleeping rough with the pigeon's, but realizes that there's a nice warm pad round the corner.

Jim loves his Yellow Uncle Jim. Arthur accidentally crashes the party.

Allan suddenly realizes that he's student, rather than a gambler and buys "The Idiot's Guide To Gotopoly". Chapter 1 : Don't play it's rubbish

Uncle Jim fritters away his cash. Bond St?

	Arthur	Allan	Jim	Alex	Kevin
Fleet St	0	0	329	0	0
Bond St	70	0	370	0	0

	Arthur	Allan	Alex	Jim	Kevin
	LEICS SQ	REGENT ST	TRAFALGR SQ	LEICS SQ	COV ST
Move tokens	Horse	Gun	Hat	Battleship	Barrow
1	1	1	2	2	
2	1		1	2	1
3	1			1	1
4	1	2	2	1	1
5	1	2	1		1
6	1	1			2
Rent paid this turn	£0	£26	£0	£0	£0
Cash	£75	£137	£79	£158	£187
Terms	3	1	4	3	4
Risk	0	0	0	0	0
Landlord	£2,000	£1,050	£400	£556	£619
Properties		Vine St	The Strand	Leicester Sq	Oxford St
		Pentonville Rd	Trafalgar Sq	Piccadilly	Mayfair
		Whitehall	Nland Ave	Fleet St	Coventry St
				Bond St	Park Lane

Bids for The Angel, Islington and Whitechapel Road please, plus your move selections.

***** PRIZE COMPETITION *****

Here is the special prize quiz that nobody entered last time.

The winner will receive a copy of the book "Get Those Sheep Off The Pitch" which is about life in non-league football management. It's not great literature, but it provides an interesting insight into what it's like to manage a team at that level. It should be essential reading for all the sulky bastard Premiership managers who always moan when something goes wrong.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO WIN????

You may have noticed that many of the titles for the articles and sections in the 'zine are the names of albums. If you haven't, then you might as well stop reading now. All you have to do is provide the artist name for as many of these titles as you can. You can go back as far as you like (even to issue 1 if you still have it!).

Howard Bishop, 43 Guinions Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7NT - email : latic@globalnet.co.uk

The trouble was that the stack the US put there would have required 96 points of attackers - 6 armoured divisions - to have any chance of damaging the defenders, even without air support. But I couldn't leave only a small force to blockade it in case he sent a small unit to occupy most of the besiegers, and the balance hit a weak point, and broke out to run riot in my rear areas. In the north I continued to try to exploit, crossing the river on a broad front, and thrusting for the Meuse in three places. In retrospect I was lucky to occupy Liege, and might have done better to have been bolder, and pushed across the river at Namur as well, rather than sitting on the south bank. But that might have meant the troops being destroyed. It resolved itself into a stream of fights where my bridgehead over the meuse was slowly almost eliminated, as the allies at last managed to achieve local superiority.

As a game system it all worked quite well. Towns, bridges and gaps between the woods assumed great importance. Armoured units couldn't operate in woods, towns with the defensive shift became tough nuts to crack, and rivers, apart from providing a lesser defensive shift had to be crossed at bridges to avoid spending a turn to cross from one bank to another. I blew bridges on roads that I didn't expect to use to delay US reinforcements, and was surprised that my own rear area bridges didn't suffer air attacks, but the US had better things to do with his air support which affected several of my attacks.

His air support; it threw vital aid to small units, helped to overwhelm troops I thought were safe, and generally was an extreme irritant throughout.

I never knew what reinforcements were coming. I sometimes had a unit arrive in my rear as a welcome reinforcement, but I had no idea what was coming for the allies. Nor where. I was always trying to keep a reserve to cover any unexpected breakthrough, or reinforcement, which came in handy with the US attacks in the south towards the end of the game. Sometimes too, troops would vanish from my knowledge. You'd be in contact, and then they would retreat and all you'd know was there was an armour units in this area - but a big one or not? You never knew whether some American troops would arrive in your flank, whether more British troops would be released to block a bridge that appeared undefended. You could only do your best and push on. I tried to cut the allies communications, feel round their flanks, and try to pose them with too many problems to solve. How well it worked, I don't know.

I would have liked to have had identification on the troops - I feel much happier pushing 116th panzer through with support from 15th PzG rather than two 9-6's with a 5-6.

The CRT is not what you think. 3-1 stops an AR result, but exchange only removes 1 unit from each side, and Defender Retreats (DR) results when you surround the enemy with Zones of Control doesn't result in Defender Eliminated (DE), but a re-run of the battle with a second DR being DE. Something I didn't register for some time. Units couldn't retreat over rivers. Important, and again something I didn't realise until the last few turns. DR's weren't all that common. Good luck on a low odds attack could eliminate the enemy. You had to mass troops to be reasonably sure of success, but even then it might not work, while a low odds counterattack might pay off. Playing this game double blind really works. You have the myopic feel that fighting in the short December days under clouds would have provided. Maybe the allies had better reconnaissance? I don't know. I had a unit to represent the truppenheit sent ahead to confuse the allies on turns 3-5, which I made efforts to place on a hex that I could have reached in order to disrupt the allies plans.

Howard Bishop, 43 Guinions Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7NT - email : latic@globalnet.co.uk

BB-Buchan

ONE PAGE BULGE

DEBRIEF

This game has been a bit of an epic. There are plenty of comments from the players and I've tacked my thoughts on to the end.

Jim Dapkus

Now that Bulge is over, my thoughts; I think the game suffered, at least on my part, from a lack of feedback as to how the units, both US & German, moved or were prevented from moving/carrying out their missions. I guess this is unavoidable when the turns take 30-40 days, and I did not keep copious notes. A recorded chess game will at least show you the definitive ebb and flow of the game.

Bulge kept the "fog of war" at a maximum, perhaps too much. This really didn't detract from the play however. The Far Seas should be better suited for the simultaneous move game, simply because of the grander scale and fewer units.

Allan Stagg

Thanks Howard - this was enjoyable, and worked well. Mike's victory was decisive, helped by a unified command structure which meant that he could devote most of his resources in the North, against Jim. His capture of Liege was probably crucial - too far away for my reinforcements to do anything about, and too close to Jim's reinforcement area to allow him room to manoeuvre. At least I held on to Bastogne - a moral victory! Congrats to Mike on a well fought victory.

The simultaneous movement and the fog of war seems to work, although I did not always have much of a clue what was going on. I take the point about the artificial orders on the last turn of the game. Perhaps in future it might be better to have a variable ending - throw a die at the end of each turn from turn 9 onwards. On turn 9 a roll of 1 will end the game then. On turn 10 a 1 or a 2 will end the game, on turn 3 a 1, 2 or 3 will end the game - you get the picture.

Mike Dommett

I think that I was very lucky on the first turn, because I made a breakthrough of the American front at St Vith and was able to drive through with my panzers. This gave the American a problem. 106th division was cut off and surrounded, as happened in real life, the north wing was trapped with the woods behind it, and the map edge to the north, and he had to shift troops to block my westward advance. To the south, I thought I had a good position, with the 7th Army Infantry covering my flank so I could try to drive west with 5th Panzer Army. I had reckoned without the US armour attack which blew away my largest infantry stack, and forced me to keep troops and later reinforcements back to provide cover to my attack. I diverted 3 Panzer divisions for 4-5 turns trying to destroy the US armour.

Following turns seem logical - keep driving westwards, trying to infiltrate around US blocking units, and overrun with the armour where I could. The US 106th division kept infantry tied down as I slowly eliminated it with a series of exchanges. The weakened thrust for Bastogne just failed to take it before it was reinforced by the US.

The south then resolved into feeding units slowly past Bastogne, hooking behind it to cut routes to Sedan. (Strictly speaking Sedan is on the Meuse as well, but as it wasn't labelled as such it seemed unfair to move troops across it and claim them for victory point purposes). Also continuing to block off US attempts to cut my supply lines, where a small amount of troops tied down lots of German troops, and a late counter attack was threatening to relieve Bastogne. Bastogne ended the game surrounded, it had forced me to take 3-4 turns to pass units by it, and even at the end I didn't have enough troops to be sure of attacking it.

PT - Fatcher

POSTAL TENNIS (Smith v Owen)

3rd Set

Arthur uses his remaining stamina and with a bit of good fortune on his own serve (Richard missed 3 points in a row), he wins the second set easily.

The only problem is that he's shagged out (after a long squawk?).

Richard is looking fresher, but he has to win the 4th set with something to spare. I can see some long drawn out games while people try to get their breath back!!

Richard Smith	Arthur Owen	Serve	Points	Games	Sets
11 (-6)	13 (-3)	Smith	30-30	1-4	1-1
	1	Smith	30-40	1-4	1-1
1		Smith	Deuce	1-4	1-1
	1	Smith	Adv Owen	1-4	1-1
		Smith	Deuce	1-4	1-1
1		Smith	Adv Owen	1-4	1-1
	1	Smith	Game Owen	1-5	1-1
	1	Owen	15-0	1-5	1-1
1		Owen	15-15	1-5	1-1
	1	Owen	30-15	1-5	1-1
	1	Owen	40-15	1-5	1-1
1		Owen	40-30	1-5	1-1
1		Owen	Deuce	1-5	1-1
0		Owen	Deuce	1-5	1-1
0		Owen	Deuce	1-5	1-1
	1	Owen	Adv Owen	1-5	1-1
0		Owen	Adv Owen	1-5	1-1
1		Owen	Deuce	1-5	1-1
	1	Owen	Adv Owen	1-5	1-1
	1	Owen	Game Owen	1-6	1-2
	X				
	X				
X					
X					
	X	Smith		0-0	0-0
20 stamina	0 stamina				

PT - Naylor

POSTAL TENNIS (Edwards v Reader)

3rd Set

Bruce has obviously noticed what is going on next door on centre court and has decided to follow suit, straining limb and sinew and eating 4 hundredweight of steroid-infused bananas and jojoba bean extract between games.

He couldn't stop McNuisance from stretching his lead to 2 games, but then won his own serve with some inspired tennis when McNasty was thinking about yet another break.

He then broke back in an epic to tie up the third set at 3 games apiece. The question is, is he just too knackered to go on to take it, or is McCucumber in better shape physically and mentally, or just cooler?

Does he have any bananas left?

John McTannum	Bruce Edwards	Serve	Points	Games	Sets
15 (-6)	20 (20)	J McT	0-0	2-1	1-1
1		J McT	15-0	2-1	1-1
	1	J McT	30-0	2-1	1-1
		J McT	30-15	2-1	1-1
1		J McT	40-15	2-1	1-1
	1	J McT	40-30	2-1	1-1
	0	J McT	40-30	2-1	1-1
	1	J McT	40-30	2-1	1-1
1		J McT	Deuce	2-1	1-1
	1	J McT	Adv McT	2-1	1-1
1		J McT	Deuce	2-1	1-1
	1	J McT	Adv McT	2-1	1-1
1		J McT	Game McT	3-1	1-1
	1	Bruce	15-0	3-1	1-1
1		Bruce	15-15	3-1	1-1
1		Bruce	15-30	3-1	1-1
	1	Bruce	15-30	3-1	1-1
0		Bruce	30-30	3-1	1-1
	1	Bruce	40-30	3-1	1-1
	1	Bruce	40-30	3-1	1-1
0		Bruce	40-30	3-1	1-1
	1	Bruce	Game Bruce	3-2	1-1
1		J McT	15-0	3-2	1-1
1		J McT	30-0	3-2	1-1
1		J McT	40-0	3-2	1-1
	0	J McT	40-0	3-2	1-1
	1	J McT	40-15	3-2	1-1
	1	J McT	40-30	3-2	1-1
	1	J McT	Deuce	3-2	1-1
1		J McT	Adv Bruce	3-2	1-1
	1	J McT	Deuce	3-2	1-1
	1	J McT	Adv Bruce	3-2	1-1
	0	J McT	Adv Bruce	3-2	1-1
	1	J McT	Adv Bruce	3-2	1-1
1		J McT	Game Bruce	3-3	1-1
	0	Bruce	0-15	3-3	1-1
1		Bruce	15-15	3-3	1-1
23 stamina	10 stamina				

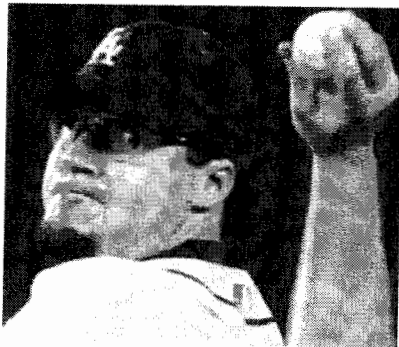
BALLS TO THE WALL

Tee hee! Watching the Yankees fans sitting in stunned disbelief after Josh Beckett blew them away in their own stadium was truly a sight to behold. The Man Utd of baseball were humbled when it seemed as though another World Series title was theirs for the taking. What was most remarkable about the whole thing was the way the Marlins were able to pick up from a poor start to the season (over the first 47 games their record was 19-28). Despite injuries to key men like AJ Burnett who had a 12-9 3.30 record in 2002, but who was only able to start 4 games this season the team blazed an awesome trail in the second half of the season. The real pedigree of the team showed itself in the NL Championship series when they rescued a seemingly lost cause against the Cubs and then won the World Series in New York. It wasn't just the Yankees who were stunned!

Once again Channel 5 flew the flag for British baseball fans, showing live games twice a week, plus the whole of the World Series. It would be interesting to see the viewing figures.

If the Marlins were the best team in baseball this year, Eric Gagne was arguably the best individual player. Gagne is a Canadian who now plays with the Dodgers and is their closer. For those who don't follow baseball closely, a team's closer is a pitcher who usually comes on near the end of a game with the team needing to hold on to a narrow lead (i.e. to close out the game). Big Eric (who tonight Matthew was Fred Durst), has been truly amazing in that role. Since the blown save was instituted in 1998, Rod Beck has had the only perfect season (minimum 20 saves), as he went 28-for-28 in strike-shortened 1994. Gagne was only one save away from doubling that total with 55 for the season and a 100% record.

In September, Gagne blew past Tom Gordon's record of 54 consecutive saves over two seasons. He is the fastest in Major League history to reach 100 career saves, the only pitcher with two 50-save seasons, and he is tied with Atlanta's John Smoltz for the second-highest single-season total ever. He needed only two more to tie Bobby Thigpen's all-time record of 57, set in 1990 when Thigpen was with the Chicago White Sox.



"No pitcher has ever had a season like this," said Beck, who set the record with the Giants and is currently with the Padres. "He's hands-down the Cy Young (Award winner). Cy Young didn't have a season like this. Everybody has a bad day, but he hasn't. I'm dumbfounded. You look at his numbers, it's not right. It's like he's playing with kids."

"If I get a save, it means a win, and that's what it's all about," said Gagne, who routinely deflects questions about personal accomplishments with answers that underscore team results. "I don't want to make a mistake. We have to win every single game we have left. Every game is meaningful, every pitch is meaningful."

And what of the Red Sox? Well we nearly did it, but like the Cubs, it seems like destiny is against us. With the series against the Yankees tied at 3-3 and Pedro on the mound I was pretty confident, but it just wasn't to be. Having said that, the prospects are good and if Manny and the rest of the offense can stay fit, and the bullpen can get its act together there's no reason why we shouldn't at least make the playoffs next season. Unless of course the Bambino has something to say about the matter!!

GK - Kenny

GRAVEL KINGS (contd)

Heats 2 to 5

Heat 5

Lane	Rider
1	Moukerjee (<i>Racers</i>)
2	Carruthers (<i>Cougars</i>)
3	Jones (<i>Racers</i>)
4	Caballero (<i>Cougars</i>)

Please nominate riders for Heat 6.

GK - Rhodes

GRAVEL KINGS

Heats 1 & 2

Some cagey selections, with Owen being held back for action in a later heat. Either that or he's in the Ladbrokes tent, putting a couple of grand on Man U for the title.

Heat 1

Lane	Rider
1	Roaster (<i>Raiders</i>)
2	Rush (<i>Strikers</i>)
3	Rashman (<i>Raiders</i>)
4	Dalglish (<i>Strikers</i>)

Heat 2

Lane	Rider
1	Fowler (<i>Strikers</i>)
2	Roadrage (<i>Raiders</i>)
3	Toshack (<i>Strikers</i>)
4	Rupert (<i>Raiders</i>)

Please provide rider names for the heat 3.

PRESS (Strikers to all) : Given his previous record, does Fowler get a bonus for "White-Lining"??!

QC-Graham

QUEBEC 1759

Turn 9

Wolfe decided that he should strike while the iron was hot. He confronted Montcalm on the Plains of Abraham. The French had pulled their forces from Sillery back to defend the city and this was to prove crucial.

Both generals were able to commit a large force but with a sizeable reserve. Montcalm positioned the Marines and their small artillery pieces on a small ridge slightly ahead of the main force, but out of sight of the advancing redcoats. They opened up and it was in the first exchanges that Wolfe, leading from the front, was killed. The line wavered but General Howe seeing the commander in chief go down, was able to keep the advance going.

These early successes spurred the French on and the militia holding the centre acquitted themselves well and allowed the Marines to pull back into their main position. Howe then attempted to outflank the French on the right, but the 47th were badly mauled and eventually the whole advance was called off. The British at least were able to retreat in good order, but they may not now have the strength to carry the city, without whittling away at morale and supplies.

The French forces at Cap Rouge were also heading back to reinforce the city.

Dark days indeed for the British!




GK - Kenny

GRAVEL KINGS

Heats 2 to 5




Heat 2 Jones 3, Cudicini 2, Charles 1 - COUGARS 7 RACERS 5

Jones (WL10) holds off the late rush from Cudicini (C10) and just makes it across the line before Carlo. Charles tries a risky manoeuvre behind Jones, but would have ended up crashing, so he's forced to go wide (ATB7).

LAP 4	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Around the boards										
Centre										
White Line										





Heat 3

Dinwiddy (C9 Risk) does a great job of blocking Collins (C8 Risk) in the centre, but it allows Charles to squeeze through on the inside (WL10) and take the lead at the start of the last lap.
(replacement cards : Dinwiddy (WL10), Collins (7ATB), Charles (WL6))

LAP 3	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Around the boards										
Centre										
White Line										

Heat 4

Cudicini is still trying to get the extra drive out in the deeper shale (ATB7). Olwen (C9) and Dinwiddy try to hold station, but Olwen makes a crucial error and he weaves back onto the inside lane. Carr is going too slowly to take advantage. He takes a steady lap and waits for his chance.
(replacement cards : Cudicini (ATB7), Dinwiddy (WL8), Olwen (WL8 Risk), Carr (WL9))
Mike played a non-existent card for Olwen, so he ends up with his lowest card. He also selected unavailable replacements, but got WL8's instead.

LAP 3	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Around the boards										
Centre										
White Line										

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE FUNKY

Thanks to Richard for his two excellent music reviews. Anyone else fancy a go?

Album - ABSOLUTION (Muse) : Reviewer - Richard Smith



As I write this, Absolution is currently No.1 in the album charts, and quite rightly so as it is a stunning piece of grandiose rock. Despite being shamelessly close to a prog-rock concept album with its apocalyptic theme, it has a peppering of popness to broaden its appeal, and is easier on the ear than the excellent but at times raucous Origin of Symmetry. Much more piano and strings than the previous album, and more restrained vocals see to this.

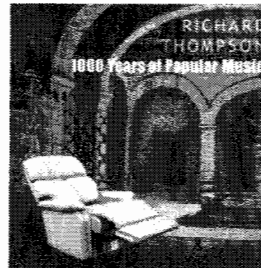
The record starts off with the sound of marching soldiers which runs into the opening number "Apocalypse Please" with its cheery singalong chorus of "this is the end of the world". Next up is the recent single "Time is Running Out" with its lovely synth bass, then the gentle "Sing for Absolution" lulls you before the ass-kicking "Stockholm Syndrome" which some have dubbed "Bohemian Rhapsody for the noughties" - I don't agree with that tag though it is a bit Queen-esque and has some fantastic guitar riffs.

Next up is the dreamy "Falling away with you", then "ahem" an instrumental "Interlude". The variety is maintained as "Hysteria" with its driving riffs gives way to the pseudo-classical waltz "Blackout" which features soaring strings overlaid with fuzzed guitar to tremendous effect. "Butterflies and Hurricanes" is a belting song which contains a Rachmaninov style piano break, then "The Small Print" is a simple rocker. The next track "Endlessly" is a gentle and slightly prosaic ballad but then "Thoughts of Dying Atheist" reminds you of "Plug in Baby".

Finally the album concludes with the dark and broody "Ruled by Secrecy" (the only track that sounds anything like Radiohead), and you are left wanting to listen again.... and again, and again...

Matt Bellamy is a genius, and with the able assistance of Chris Wolstenhorne and Dominic Howard has produced a classic album that must be a strong candidate for the best record of 2003. They will have to go some to top this with their next release, but I have a gut feeling there's plenty more in the tank.

Album - 1000 YEARS OF POPULAR MUSIC (Richard Thompson) : Reviewer - Richard Smith



Not widely available from record shops, this eclectic oddity can be ordered direct from http://www.richardthompson-music.com/catch_of_the_day.asp?id=117 though this does require you to write a rather large cheque for £18.50 to Mr. Thompson himself. This doesn't get you the double album you might expect, rather a 76-minute single album featuring a live concert performed by RT, a percussionist and female singer.

The sparse instrumentation does give the record a lovely clear sound and enable you to enjoy every nuance of RT's excellent guitar work.

The album originated as a result of a request from Playboy for musicians to name their top tracks of the Millennium. Mr. Thompson took this literally and sent in a list starting from the 11th century. It was never published.

The performance starts with four medieval songs, plus a rare piece about Henry V being given tennis balls from the king of France. Next up is some old folkies like Shenandoah and the Blackleg Miner. Then it's musical hall, then American jazz, and finally a clutch of modern songs, the best of which are "Kiss", "Money Money Money", and a marvellous version of "Oops I Did It Again".

It is a "novelty" record, but Richard Thompson's renditions are so good you'll want to keep listening to it long after the novelty has worn off. Shame about the price though.

Some interesting scorelines. I wonder whether you've started to work out who is real and who isn't.

Week 7

Wolves	4	0	St Etienne
Porto	1	0	Lokomotiv Leipzig
Rennes	1	1	Sturm Graz
Anderlecht	1	1	Dynamo Bucharest

Just when it looked as though Wolves' season was slipping away, they came up with an inspired performance to destroy St Etienne. Porto also increased their title chances with a niggling game against Leipzig. The replacements for Arepto and Pinto have held their own. Sturm Graz traveled to Brittany and found the home side in surprisingly nervous mood. Rennes scored early and then tried to hold on. The visitors leveled just after the break and then both sides decided that a point was sufficient reward for their efforts. The match between Anderlecht and Bucharest was a tough old encounter. Acimovic scored after just 4 minutes but was later taken off with what appears to be a nasty ankle injury. Vrietens secured a point on the hour, but then the Belgians squandered a hatful of chances to dent their championship ambitions.

Week 8

Lokomotiv Leipzig	2	2	Wolves
St Etienne	0	1	Dynamo Bucharest
Anderlecht	1	1	Rennes
Porto	0	3	Sturm Graz

Wolves picked up a useful point in Germany and are now back in the hunt. St Etienne lost at home and are now in grave danger of joining Leipzig through the relegation trapdoor. Lopescu got the winner for Bucharest and 4 points from two games on the road means that they are breathing heavily down the necks of the leaders. Anderlecht and Rennes shared the points, but neither can be satisfied with the result and they both slip further behind. The big winners were Sturm Graz who demolished Porto by three goals to nil. In fact Porto were lucky to get nil, they were so poor up front. They weren't helped by the sending off of Tula for a second bookable offence, but they never really looked like troubling the Huber in the Graz goal. They were however tenacious in defence and despite overwhelming midfield dominance, from the opposition their do-or-die attitude at least kept the score in single figures.

Sturm Graz stay top with Dynamo Bucharest still just a point behind. The top two have now moved a few points clear of the chasing pack. Rennes will be rueing their lack of ambition in the game against Sturm Graz when they really should have claimed more than a point. Wolves were the big winners in the chasing pack and seem to have regained some of their early season momentum. Lokomotiv Leipzig and St Etienne are now adrift at the bottom and look likely to be the two teams to drop out of the division at the end of the season.

Euroliga Division 1	Pts
Sturm Graz	15
Dynamo Bucharest	14
Rennes	11
Wolves	10
Anderlecht	10
Porto	10
Lokomotiv Leipzig	6
St Etienne	6

Scores

Richard -1 (+1, -1, -1)

Simon 0 (+1, -1)

Allan 0

Mick -1 (-1)

Press

Mike Dommett

Can we all vote on Baron Munchausen? [GM - You can vote, and you can take part too!]

Mick to GM

I'm sure BM will go in all sorts of directions unfortunately I deal in the bizarre and the obtuse. I use to deal in the acute but working in a cake factory made me obtuse. As for you adding to BM, I've read your postcards and can spot your prose (2 sarcasms and an irony) before it passes HM Customs.

The most popular continuation was the following ...

Sir Loin of Beef-Wellington

... the time that I really did fly over the Pyrenees suspended from beneath a huge flock of the stationery-constructed fowl. It was, I thought, rather an ingenious mode of escape from the Castille of Prince Mandy Of Aragon. He was the most pompous popinjay I had ever met, and had rather a girly name to boot. He was also a dull, undersexed man with pale gingery hair and legs like a Hepplewhite chair. More of a blandly, dandy, bandy, sandy, randy Mandy than a handy grandee, I'll warrant.

Unfortunately, I was staying at his pleasure because he had beaten me in a dubiously arranged duel. We were sailing out of Marseilles with the man'o'war Escargot, which we had captured double-handedly from under the noses of the lazy French navy, when he suggested that we should engage in a duel for sole ownership of the vessel. The loser would also be required to undertake domestic chores on behalf of the other. When he asked whether I was a good fencer, I could barely hide my joy, for it is true that I am without doubt the most renowned wielder of the foil, since Sir Franny Craddock brought back a turkey from the New World wrapped in the shiny stuff. It was only when I found out that the kind of fencing he had in mind was more concerned with the disposal of the Escargot's chronometer in the snug of the Lady Godiva And Saddle Sniffer tavern, that I realised that I was in some kind of trouble. In the end it was his connections with some Scally Wags which allowed him to win the wager. My offer was derided as being "cheap as chips punters", and Mandy was the proud owner of a 74-gun frigate.

Almost worse than that, I was responsible for cleaning out his study and entertaining his younger sisters, the arrogant dragon, Princess Tarragon Of Aragon and the beautiful Princess Candice. Tarragon was also something of a simpleton and it was only when I turned to one of my many talents, "full-contact origami" that she was finally interested in any of my tricks. I was, by this time, desperate to escape, but Mandy had a regiment of grenadiers permanently billeted outside my quarters. However I am nothing if not resourceful and endless paper-folding had given me an idea. Over the next 57 days I folded dozens of chickens using the papers from Mandy's study. Each one was cunningly designed to disobey the laws of gravity on a word from me and a handful of paper corn.

I then took my leave of the tiresome Tarragon and floated out of the courtyard with the lovely Candy on my back and away to the relative safety of Andorra, a country of which I have been a monarch a number of times.

Later that evening the enraged Prince returned home to find my room empty. He sat down and wept like a small child. But that was not the last time I took Candy from a baby

You now need to continue the above (keeping to the word limit this time). I also need you to provide a new pseudonym.

Everyone seems to have got the idea of the thing. It's also fair to say that the scoring is pretty tight, with the leader currently sitting on 0 points!!!

This would be a good time for anyone else to get involved, since they don't have too much ground to make up!!

Wagers and Objections

from Alistair Campbell

"I'll wager you, **Monsieur Egon Toast**, that your story, which has the ring of truth about it, would appeal to the discerning public. We all know the inhabitants of the USA to be gentle, well-mannered folk who would have taken you to their hearts. They would surely be the last people in the world to have elected a blithering idiot as their President!"
+1 for Richard

"But surely, my dear **Belle de Ringeur**, your tale lacks credibility. Whilst I can not question your achievements, it is abundantly clear both that Homo Mancunius has no link with any known animal (and it is an insult to the animal kingdom to suggest this), and that no-one can have given Harry Webb singing lessons."
-1 for Mick

from Egon Toast

"I'll wager you, **Sir Loin of Beef Wellington**, that you latter stuffed that parrot as well as his delicious daughter!"
+1 for H (not counted)

"I must object to **Lord Squelch's** preposterous tale of the sari. Surely under such flimsy clothing a gentleman's weapon would be barely concealed? In addition, wouldn't a man dressed in oriental ladies' clothing be likely to be mistaken for Lord David of Beckham?"
-1 for Simon

from Lord Squelch

"I'll wager you, **Sir Loin**, that Prince Mandy swore an oath of vengeance to retrieve his Candy and make you rue the day!"
+1 for H (not counted)

"But surely, my dear **Toast**, by the time the year 2001 rolls around we'll all be living on the moon."
-1 for Richard

from Belle de Ringeur

"I'll wager **Lord Squelch** has a full wardrobe of "outsize" ladies clothes that he parades around Glasgow inviting people to put their hands up his sari to guess his clan. If it's a quarter-pounder he's a McDonald."
+1 for Simon

"I must object to **Egon Toast** clearly starting Christianity again is going to end in a nasty assassination with a large T shaped wooden implement upon the grass knoll and the fool has a time machine and failed to get the crucifix concession."
-1 for Richard

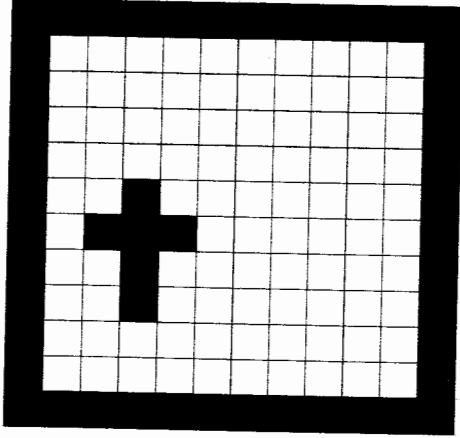
What Baghdad really thinks

Do you think that America's and Britain's war against Saddam's regime was right or wrong?	years' time (compared with the way it was before the American/British actions)?			Should stay for about a year	25	
Right (per cent)				Should stay a while, but leave inside 12 months	20	
Wrong	50			Should leave Iraq immediately	13	
No opinion/not stated	27			No opinion/not stated	11	
What do you think were the main reason(s) for America's and Britain's actions?						
To secure oil supplies	47			How soon should Iraqis be handed political power? (Even if the American forces remain in Iraq.)		
To help Israel	41			Straight away	40	
To liberate the people of Iraq from dictatorship	23			Within three months	11	
To protect Kuwait	7			Within six months	11	
To find and destroy weapons of mass destruction (e.g., chemical and biological weapons)	6			Within one year	11	
Some other reason	10			More than one year from now	9	
Don't know/not stated	8			Iraqis should not be handed political power	7	
What is your view towards the American and British forces currently stationed in Iraq?						
Do you feel:					Don't know/not stated	10
Very friendly	8			Which, if any, of these problems affect you personally?		
Fairly friendly	18			Power cuts (no electricity)	80	
TOTAL FRIENDLY	26			Danger of attack on the streets	67	
Neither friendly nor hostile	50			Danger of attack in your home/ place of work	50	
Fairly hostile	9			Lack of clean drinking water	49	
Very hostile	9			Lack of medical facilities/medicines	33	
TOTAL HOSTILE	18			Lack of clean washing water	25	
No opinion/not stated	6			Shortage of food	24	
If you had to choose, would you rather live under Saddam or the Americans?						
Prefer Saddam	9			Businesses closed	21	
No preference	47			Schools closed	17	
Prefer Americans	29			Other	9	
Not stated	15			None of these	1	
a) Comparing your life today with one year ago, is it better or worse?						
b) How do you expect your life to be in another year's time (compared with the way it was before the American/British actions)?						
c) How do you expect your life to be in five years' time (compared with the way it was before the American/British actions)?						
Right now, would you prefer to see the US (and Britain) stay in Iraq or pull out?						
Should stay for a few years						

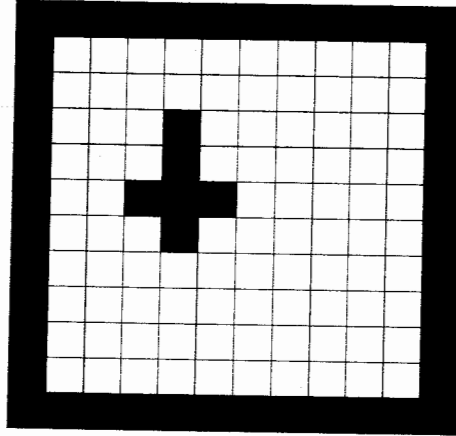


I do lots of weddings, christenings and Summer fetes are the worst because it is so hot inside the tent. You can only imagine what it was like on when these lessons on the ground you can writing your "shirt out after a game. When I started we used a but a new one but the club didn't have much money, so it was horrible. Now a local firm has bought us a much better one. We are sticking with that. I won the mascot Grand National last year, a race over hurdles that is held at Huntleigh race course, and came first. I was very happy to be the winner was disqualified for being an Olympic hurdler. We have to get over six jumps and then sprint for the finish. It is a bit like the Grand National. I can see that I'm entertaining children, I've got a four-year-old and at that age they are bit young to concentrate on their parents enjoy it more and that's why I do it. Chaddy the Owl is otherwise known as Kevin Williams

Caernarvon



Westfield



Arthur will be placing his first building in Caernarvon and Jim begins with the light pieces in Westfield. I'll keep a running total of buildings used and start printing that next time.

Having cajoled, bribed and threatened like it was going out of fashion, I have now extracted the weakest link squads from the players.

As it turned out, there were no conflicts with your top selections, but Alex Ferguson, Sven, Shrubya, Elton John, Becks and the Hewitt boy pushed auction down to row 9 on the spreadsheet. Makes the selection of 36 personalities a bit pointless, but if it seems to work, I might introduce 2nd XI (VI) teams as a sideline game later, so the celebs in the nether regions of your squads could yet get a run out.

Anyway these are the first teams for each of the players

KEVIN	TONY	SIMON	ARTHUR	MICK	DOH
Anne Robinson	Kylie Minogue	David Beckham	Pamela Anderson	Alex Ferguson	Clive Woodward
Elton John	HRH Prince Harry	Robbie Williams	Glenn Hoddle	Gordon Brown	Brad Pitt
George Michael	Peter Jackson	Leslie Grantham	Glenda Jackson	Arsene Wenger	Michael Schumacher
George W Bush	Frank Bruno	The Queen	Kirk Douglas	Ruud van Nistelrooy	Orlando Bloom
John Prescott	Martin Johnson	Pele	Claudio Ranieri	Saddam Hussein	Richard Branson
Victoria Beckham	Arnie	Nicole Kidman	John Leslie	Yasser Arafat	Sven Goran Eriksson

Some interesting selections. I had to disallow Tony's Father Christmas on the grounds that (at the risk of destroying your long held beliefs) he doesn't actually exist, although in the alternative Hollywood version of the second LOTR movie "The Two Grottos", Gandalf The Red and Saruman The Red battle it out for domination of the all important whining demanding brat sector of the community. In the end Shadowfax sprouts antlers and a red nose and bears our hero to safety.

I think that one or two are good for a short-term dabble (Bruno, Woodward, Leslie, Schwarzenegger), but it could well be the stayers in the pack (Bush, Brown, Beckham, Williams) that end up being the strongest link.

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KEVIN	TONY	SIMON	ARTHUR	MICK	DOH
Anne Robinson	Kylie Minogue	David Beckham	Pamela Anderson	Alex Ferguson	Clive Woodward
George W Bush	HRH Prince Harry	Robbie Williams	Glenn Hoddle	Gordon Brown	Michael Schumacher
Prince Harry	Peter Jackson	Leslie Grantham	Glenda Jackson	George W Bush	Alex Ferguson
George Michael	Frank Bruno	The Queen	Kirk Douglas	Arsene Wenger	George W Bush
Elton John	Martin Johnson	Pele	Sven Goran Eriksson	Saddam Hussein	Sven Goran Eriksson
Sven Goran Eriksson	Father Christmas	Nicole Kidman	Elton John	Yasser Arafat	Gordon Brown
John Prescott	Sven Goran Eriksson	Jonathan Ross	John Leslie	Ruud van Nistelrooy	Brad Pitt
David Beckham	Arnold Schwarzenegger	Madonna	John Leslie	Clive Woodward	Orlando Bloom
Victoria Beckham	The Sisters Williams	Anthony McPartland	Claudio Ranieri	Bobby Robson	Richard Branson
Jennifer Lopez	George W Bush	Declan Donnelly	Ian Rush	Jack Straw	Nicole Kidman
Anna Kournikova	George Lucas	JK Rowling	Sean Connery	David Beckham	Prince Charles
Jamie Oliver	Geoff Hoon	Mick Jagger	Sophia Loren	David Beckham	Prince William
Paula Radcliffe	Steven Spielberg	Roger Moore	Liz Dawn	Thierry Henry	Johnny Wilkinson
Leslie Grantham	Phil Tufnell	Sven Goran Eriksson	Shirley Bassey	Claudio Ranieri	Martin Johnson
George Best	Viggo Mortensen	Paul McCartney	Shirley Bassey	Roman Abramovich	Martin O'Neill
Richard Whiteley	Dr David Kelly	Kat Dealey	Paul Hogan	David Blunkett	Charles Kennedy
Madonna	Bruce Willis	Terry Pratchett	Robbie Williams	Michael Owen	Madonna
Ozzy Osbourne	Catherine Zeta-Jones	Tom Cruise	Windsor Dawes	Sven Goran Eriksson	Robbie Williams
Cameron Diaz	David Blunkett	Basil Bush	Tony Curtis	Michael Owen	Michael Owen
Maniah Carey	Linda Barker	Jasper Carrot	George Best	Ken Livingstone	Michael Owen
Jamie Beattie	Thierry Henry	Beyonce	George W Bush	Geoff Hoon	J K Rowling
Glenn Hoddle	Elton John	John Cleese	Ken Livingstone	Michael Vaughan	Paula Radcliffe
Tiger Woods	Jennifer Lopez	Michael Owen	Damon Hill	Lord Hutton	Ken Livingstone
Michael Schumacher	Roman Abramovich	Des Lynam	Henry Cooper	Alan Shearer	Paula Radcliffe
Michael Fish	Victoria Beckham	Victoria Wood	Anna Wididcombe	Ariel Sharon	Jamie Oliver
Craig David	Cherie Blair	Jack Duckworth	Gareth Gates	Martin Johnson	Osama Bin Laden
Rolf Harris	Osama Bin Laden	Caroline Quentin	Alex Ferguson	Max Clifford	Paul McCartney
Harrison Ford	Sadaam Hussain	Cilla Black	Will Young	John Prescott	Tim Henman
Sean Connery	Angus Deayton	Tim Henman	Cilla Black	The Queen	David Coulthard
Patrick Moore	Arsene Wenger	Gen Halliwell	Harry Enfield	Pope John Paul	Tom Cruise
Michael Owen	Gordon Brown	Osama Bin Laden	Simon Cowell	lan Duncan Smith	Arsene Wenger
Michael Vaughan	Robin Cook	Pete Waterman	Patrick Kielty	Hans Blix	Ryan Giggs
Jetinho	Alex Ferguson	Patrick Kielty	Ryan Giggs	Charles Kennedy	Ryan Giggs
Carol Vorderman	Michael Barrymore	Michael Schumacher	Tom Conti	Arnold Schwarzenegger	
Barbara Windsor	David Beckham	Margaret Thatcher	Arsene Wenger	Kieron Dyer	
Ellen MacArthur	John Prescott				

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