

THE

NUMBERS

ISSUE

1

GAME

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They said it couldn't be done (but of course it could). They said it shouldn't be done (and maybe they were right). But here it is anyway, the first issue of a new hobby stats zine, from Richard J. Walkerdine of 144 Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6PG.

Surprised?

You shouldn't be really as I've been getting round to something like this for a fair while now and the recent acquisition of my Amstrad PCW (advt) provides me with the perfect opportunity to get this zine underway. Now (at least in theory) I can gradually transfer all the stats tables and surveys I usually publish in Mad Policy (plus a few others) onto the word processor, keep them up to date and publish them in this form whenever I want to.

In theory...

So, what exactly is the plan?

Well, as with most of the things I do, it's all a bit vague to begin with and will probably only become clear (if it ever does) after I've been doing it for a while. But the general idea is to get back to the system we used to have when Mick Bullock and Pete Calcraft were in charge of the Stats; a single zine which anyone can subscribe to and which contains all the various Diplomacy Stats surveys under the one roof. One zine to rule them all...

There will of course be differences from the predecessor zines and perhaps the major difference will be that this zine will be more wide-ranging. Although it should contain all the usual Diplomacy Stats including In The Beginning, The Finishing Touch, Openings Surveys etc (the last two still subject to negotiation with their current organisers however), it will also contain several other surveys like the Zine Frequency Survey, numbers of zines in circulation, performances of the different countries and other things I've got into the habit of publishing in recent years. There will be some new things too, but I'll tell you about them in a future issue. Suffice it to say that the general intention is to publish hobby stats with a fairly hefty (though certainly not exclusive) emphasis on Diplomacy.

Printing will be either litho or photocopy (depending on price and convenience), which will allow me to include graphs and diagrams where appropriate, and it will most likely remain A4 size but with some bits photo-reduced in order to cram more information into the available space. The intended frequency is 6 issues a year, but that is really only an intention and will fluctuate quite a bit according to the amount of time I am able to make available to produce the thing.

What will it cost?

The price of the zine will be 25p plus postage for the time being but I'll review that later in the year when I have a better idea of its size and how much it costs to print it. This first issue is free however (though some of you are paying postage for it - see below) as it's really only intended to be a flyer to help launch the thing.

This issue is being sent to all MP readers plus the 20 or so other people who had some stats credit left with Pete Calcraft. To receive future issues however you need to be one of the following:

A freeloader, which means someone already connected with the stats.

An MP trader who has asked to receive it.

An MP subber who is willing to pay for it out of his MP credit.

Anyone else who is willing to subscribe to it.

Speaking of subscriptions, I received a cheque from Pete Calcraft some while ago covering most of the outstanding stats credit he still held. It's high time this was sorted out so here's what I've done with it:

MP subscribers have had it transferred to their MP account. as follows:

Alan Bustany (£3.50), John Gatheral (£3.39), Steve Gregory (£3.50), Ian Jago (£3.39), Mark Mander (£0.89), John Piggott (£1.39), Julien Shepley (£1.91), Gareth Williams (£0.60).

MP traders will be receiving a cheque from me a.s.a.p., which means:

Richard Egan (£2.50), Roland Prevot (£1.63).

The rest of you have each had 12p deducted to cover postage of this issue and the remainder is being held by me as a "subscription for future issues of TNG. IF YOU WANT IT RETURNED PLEASE TELL ME. Amounts involved are as follows:

Andrew Bell (£3.38), Mick Bullock (£0.19), Mike Close (£1.88), Frank Dashwood (£0.99), Brian Elsey (£1.63), Hugh Elton (£0.77), Alan Glaum (£0.27), Victor Hall (£4.48), Steve Hillyard (£2.13), Andy Holborn (£2.13), Hauke Jansen (£1.17), Cliff Kennedy (£0.27), Martin Clifford-King (£1.13), Mike McLaren (£1.66), Kris Norris (£2.13), Simon Porter (£4.27), Paul Richardson (£2.13), Matthew Shackle (£2.88), Piers Shepperson (£3.38), Jed Stone (£1.88), Steve Walmsley (£0.77), Mike Wilkinson (£1.38), Michael Yeo (£0.38).

Anyone not on one of those lists who thinks he should be can expect an individual response from Pete Calcraft in the near future.

Other stats publications currently available are In The Beginning from Nick Kinzett (11 Daleway Road, Green Lane, Coventry, CV3 6JF) giving details of Spring 01 moves and Autumn 01 holdings in new Diplomacy games (price 2 x 17p stamps), The Finishing Touch from Richard Sharp (27 Elm Close, Amersham, Bucks, HP6 5DD) or RJW giving details of completed Diplomacy games (price 30p plus postage), and the Openings Survey from Eddie Duralski (Floor 4 Room 7, Lawrence Tower, Aston Street, Birmingham, B4 7EA) giving frequencies of openings in Diplomacy games (price 50p).

Next issue of TNG should be out in July and will feature a list of all the British postal games zines ever published, with details of editors, launch and fold dates, issues produced and some summary tables of how the hobby has developed in the last 17 years. Order your copy now...

Numbers is the name of the game...