

WARNING: Some of this page may offend Mr. Mark "Crazy Markie" Nelson, who seems to think that to review another zine meaningfully is possible only to an editor who's produced an indeterminate number of issues more than my total and (I presume) less than his. Well, I was reviewing for **Mission from God** well before I'd turned out a gameszine at all, and don't remember any howls of outrage, so I shall ignore this calumny and continue to judge other zines as I see them.

Andrew Moss has produced the first true issue of **Age of Reason**, and explains that the cause of contention between me and he was the insertion of a spurious 'not' in the Manorcon flyer [i.e. "AoR will {not} be the same old drudgery..."] Well, if true (and I know it's a lot easier to drop a 'not' out than to put one in), it explains a lot, as issue 1 is pretty much the same old "drudgery" (in other words, Diplomacy related articles and gamestarts, with which there's nothing wrong). Could go far, especially if he starts putting the player names on the game reports -- I thought at first this self-defined purist zine was running Gunboat. [Andrew Moss, 143 Aughton Rd, Ormskirk, Lancs]

Mr Nelson also takes offence at my tagging Vick Hall's **A Little Original Sin** as a potential hobby focus; I stand by this, given that Vick has already been in the hobby for donkey's years, turned up at numerous cons, started several games, developed a good chat section, and restarted the London hobby meet (just after I left London, the rat). I could name zines that have been around longer and done less for the hobby, but I won't because U-Bend is one of them. [Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Rd, London N15; 50p]

Ian Harris's zine, now renamed **Borealis**, is a cheerful, messy little rag which contains more original thoughts on games and variations thereupon than any zine bar **V&U**. That it has only 18 subscribers at issue 2 is nothing short of criminal; the aforementioned column itself is worth the 30p per issue fee. Go thou and write him a cheque. [Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH2 1TQ]

All the other new zines too truck on, and all are worth at least a sample, though Dunx Proffitt could do with learning good manners, it seems; Duncan, if you pull a stunt such as you just did with Iain Bowen, i.e. a slamming review and no complimentary copy to the subject, you can only expect the target to lose their rag at you. Or did Iain do likewise and not send you a copy of his rejoinder? Hmm, hmm...

Tom Tweedy, in **Electric Monk**, blasts **Springboard** and longs for the good old days of the Central Gamestart Service. So long as someone looks after novices, Tom, does it matter who? The danger is the person in charge folding up under the pressure -- which is no more or less likely with the CGS than with Springboard.

Meantime, a sort of CGS system is being set up for the soccer game UNITED, by Ryk Downes ('Sharic', 63 Hirst Wood Road, Saltaire, Shipley, W Yorks BD18 4BU). I know nowt of this; suggest contacting Ryk with an SAE.

The Collman/Bowen on-again-off-again feud is currently off. Expect it to return in a couple of months with Collman's next cretinous comment on Bowen's bisexuality and Bowen's browned-off barrage in return. The last-named's books apa seems to have been abandoned, since Iain mentions returned credits in the latest YDdG. (He also promises zine poll statszine **Cui Bono 4** soon; about bloody time, Iain! I've only been drooling over the prospect of those nice lists and stats and meaningless numbers since the start of the year or so...)

Paul S Richards now, apparently, wishes to be known as Stephen Richards. This strikes me as pointless; he'll always be PSR to the hobby, just as Richard Walkerdine is RJW.

OUR VARIANTS COLUMN

Wiv Extrer Speshul "Guest" Starr

LAZY BASTARD DIPLOMACY (The Adam Sharr Variant) by Steve Guest

- 1) The normal rules of Diplomacy apply except where modified below.
- 2) Players must not write, phone, or talk to each other regarding the game. The GM will (if he can be bothered) prohibit one build (chosen at whim) per suspected collusion.
- 3) Convoys and Supports require some thought, so these may be limited at the GM's discretion.
- 4) Press is not allowed.
- 5) The GM will only adjudicate when he can be bothered.

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REALLY LAZY BASTARD DIPLOMACY (The Peace Variant) also by our Steve

- 1) The normal rules of Diplomacy apply except where modified below.
- 2) Any player submitting orders is treated as a dropout (ostracised by the World Community).
- 3) When the GM feels like it, he will declare a draw between the remaining players.

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I know I'm pushed for space in the zine, but I somehow think that to open a list for R.L.B.D. won't cause too much extra anguish. Already on it are Steve Guest and Dave Rowley, and I feel justified in adding Adam Sharr's name to that list. So four more are wanted for this first ever playtest. (I need hardly add that to submit a preference list will result in your being treated as a pre-S01 dropout).

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THE SORDID COMMERCIAL BIT

TONY SAIT offers 3% discount to U-Bend readers who book a holiday through his travel agency. Phone 049161 3718 for details.

Any ELO FANS interested in tapes of a somewhat rare CD concert bootleg (price, a fiver)? If so contact EUAN WILSON, Dept. of Computing, Staffs Polytechnic, Blackheath Lane, Stafford ST18 0AD.

ALAN PARR is selling off a lot of his game collection; a list of items up for grabs is available from 6 Longfield Gardens, Tring HP23 4DN.

MIDCON TIME IS HERE: I'm told this is a good con for those rich enough to afford it, unlike me. 30.00 a night for a single and eight quid fee from Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, West Bromwich, W Midlands B71 2HA -- enjoy a con without Haz Bond and Steve Howe! How can it fail but be a success?

ZINE POLL BALLOT OUT SOON: Not very commercial, I grant you, but if my copy arrives in time it'll be included. Hopefully instructions will be on it, as I certainly don't have room for them down here.

EE-YAKABOO... It's the GAMES SECTION, overblown and sprawling as ever!

QUINCY (Time Lords Diplomacy II)

Pre-gamestart

The list of players for this oh-ever-so-nasty variant is, provisionally:-

Steve Doubleday, Edmund Morgan, Peter Ritchie, Mike Allaway, Rob Moore, RJ Walkerdine, John Wilman.

Some of these haven't seen the rules, though, but in case anyone doesn't like them or has changed their mind, Ian Harris is reserve. So could DayDay, Ritchie, Allaway and RJW send pref lists for next deadline, and we'll kick off then.

OMAR (Intimate)

Winter 1900

Dead-heats abound

B I D S (ECU)

	Eng	Fra	Ita	Rus	Tur	Balance
Austria (Tom Tweedy):	3	3	6	6	6	13
Germany (Peter Dunnett):	1	8	6	6	1	14

Which gives both players plenty of reserves for next year. Tom, the source I copied the rules from gives both Germany and Italy 22 ECUs to play about with -- check issue 3.

NOXIN (Intimate)

Spring 1901

AUSTRIA (Italian): A(Vie)-Boh, F(Tri)-Alb, A(Bud)-Gal.
 ENGLAND (Mick Haytack): F(Edi)-NWG, F(Lon)-NTH, A(Lpl)-Wal.
 FRANCE (English): F(Bre)-ENG, A(Par)-Bur, A(Mar) H.
 GERMANY (Italian): F(Kie)-Hol, A(Mun)-Ruh, A(Ber)-Kie.
 ITALY (Nicholas Parish): A(Ven)-Tri, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Nap)-ION.
 RUSSIA (Italian): F(StP/sc)-GOB, A(Mos)-StP, F(Sev) H, A(War)-Lvn.
 TURKEY (Italian): F(Ank)-Arm, A(Con)-Ank, A(Smy)-Syr.

Press:-

Pope Parish - Loyal Catholics Everywhere:

Oyez, oyez. I have decided to offer a generous reward to the first person to bring me the head of that heretical Englishman, King Michael VIII. Dead or alive, barbecued or fried, just get 'im for me and you'll be rewarded with 150 days off purgatory. Honest.

KELSO (Intimate)

Spring 1901

AUSTRIA (Mark Stretch): F(Tri)-Ven, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Bud) S A(Vie)-Gal.
 ENGLAND (Neutral): F(Lon), F(Edi), A(Lpl) all H u/o.
 FRANCE (Neutral): A(Par), A(Mar), F(Bre) all H u/o.
 GERMANY (Austrian): A(Mun)-Sil, A(Ber)-Pru, F(Kie)-BAL.
 ITALY (Russian): A(Ven)-Tyr, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Nap)-ION.
 RUSSIA (Eddy Richards): F(StP/sc)-GOB, F(Sev)-Rum, A(Mos)-Ukr, A(War)-Sil.
 TURKEY (Russian): A(Con)-Bul, A(Smy)-Con, F(Ank)-BLA.

No retreats, no press, no nuffink...

INTIMATE GAMES: Not yet on double-speed due to my move (from which I'm still far from recovered). Hopefully at a later date they (and I!) will be.

DREDD (Diplomacy 91DC)

Autumn 1902

AUSTRIA SNEAKY: Italy even sneakier

{Silly error by me last time, Russia went A(Ukr) S A(Rum), not A(Ukr)-Rum}

AUSTRIA: Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford E4 6AR
 A(Bul) S Russian F(BLA)-Con, F(Gre) S Italian F(ION)-(AEG) (nso),
 A(Ser) S F(Gre), A(Bud)-Tri, A(Tyr)-Tri.

ENGLAND: Adam Sharr, 54 Kingsdown Road, Cheam, Surrey SM3 8NY
A(Den)-Kie, F(HEL) S A(Den)-Kie, F(NTH) C A (Yor)-Den, A(Yor)-Den,
F(Swe) S A(Yor)-Den.

FRANCE: Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3NU
 F(MAO)-IRI, A(Spa)-Por, A(Bur) S F(Bel), A(Mun) S German A(Kie) (it
 moved), F(Bel) S German F(Hol) (so did that one).

GERMANY: Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8JX
F(Hol)-HEL, A(Kie)-Den, A(Ruh)-Hol.

ITALY: Toby Harris, 6 Durham Tce, Silksworth, Sunderland, SR3 1BW
 A(Apu)-Alb, F(ION) C A(Apu)-Alb, A(Ven) S Austrian A(Tyr)-Tri,
 F(Tun)-TYS.

RUSSIA: Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Road, Stamford Hill, London N15
 A(Nwy) S F(BAL)-Swe, F(BAL)-Swe, F(BLA)-Con, A(Arm)-Ank, A(Rum) S
 Russian A(Bul), A(Ukr) S A(Rum).

TURKEY: Peter Charles, 16 Bosbury Road, Catford, London SE6 2SJ
A(Con)* S A(Ank), A(Ank) S F(AEG)-Smy, F(AEG)-Smy.

Dislodgements Turkish A(Con) dies nrp!

Adjustments:-

AUSTRIA: Vie Tri Bud Ser Gre	+Bul = 6	Builds A(Vie)
ENGLAND: Lon Lpl Edi Den	-Nwy = 4	Disbands F(HEL)
FRANCE: Par Mar Bre Spa Bel	+Por +Mun = 7	Builds F(Bre), A(Par)
GERMANY: Kie Ber Hol	-Mun = 3	n/c
ITALY: Rom Nap Ven Tun	= 4	n/c
RUSSIA: StP Mos Sev War Swe Rum	+Con +Nwy = 8	Builds F(StP/nc), A(Sev)
TURKEY: Ank Smy	-Con -Bul = 2	n/c
		34

Oh, mustn't forget the **Press...**

Italy - Austria: Hope you liked that one. There will be plenty more like that if you don't stop messing about!

Anon - Judge English: Own up! Whose game did you mess up this time...

Judge English - Anon: Well, yours amongst others, but not very much, be fair...

England - All: A child of five would understand Diplomacy, someone fetch a child of five.

Turkey - GM: I take it you didn't get my 2nd set of orders. {Correct}

Turkey - Postman Pat: I am quite capable of losing without your help

Turkey - Russia: You're not a postman, are you?

'Orrid Square Typeface - Blobchops: I refuse to be drawn further into this debacle. Besides anything else, it's no longer funny.

Not the Gingerbread Man:and next the Gingerbread Man did try to cross the M25. Unfortunately, despite urgent chocolate button surgery, the emergency services (due to cuts, a Ford Cortina and someone who once had an auntie who was a nurse) were unable to nullify the effects of the HGV. Oh dear! What a shame this press saga can't continue.

{But it does, over...}

The Gingerbread Man: "Run, run, as fast as you -- oo-er!" The lane was blocked by the formidable bulk of the Little Old Androgyne. "You know your trouble, Brownie?" it grated. "You talk too much." Ginger defiantly stuck out his chin. "Yes, well -- gotta, an' I? It's me make-up, innit? When you're full of it, stands to reason you'll want to spice everything else up, right?" "Gercha!" snarled the L.O.A. and made a grab for our hero -- but the Gingerbread Man was too quick for him/her, ducked and swerved through the U-Bend legs and sped off down the lane. "And that's a touch of Nutmeg!" he chuckled.

JACK (Five Italies Diplomacy)

Spring 1902

ALPINE HOLIDAYS STILL NOT POPULAR

{Italy B's F(Rom B)-TYS B last time failed and should've been underlined}

ITALY A: James Nelson, Room P17, Clifton Hall, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middx -- COA
A(Rom A)-Ven A, F(Tun A)-ION A, F(TYS A)-ION A.

ITALY B: Toby Harris, 6 Durham Tce, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1BW
A(Ven A)-Apu A, A(Ven B)-Pie A, F(Nap B)-ION B, F(ION B)-TYS A,
F(Tun B) S F(Nap B)-ION B.

ITALY C: David Tittle, 5 Penrhyn Cres, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4XJ
F(Tun C)-ION D, F(TYS C)-ADR C, A(Pie C)-Ven D, F(Rom C)-Tus C.

ITALY D: Paul Bennett, 103 Deleval Cl, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4QP
A(Ven D) S A(Swi), F(ION D) S F(TYS D)-Tun D, F(TYS D)-Tun D.

ITALY E: Simon Cutforth, 19 Weavers Croft, Pudsey, Leeds, W Yorks LS28 9LF
A(Pie E)-Ven A, F(Tun E)-ION A, F(ION E)-ADR D, F(Nap E)-ION E.

Press:-

Italy E - Italy D: Again, if you NMR and then fail to reply, what do you expect?

Judge English - Cartophilists: OK, you've talked me into it, have a map.

[insert map]

Enclosed separately for players - it's too big for this space! (What editing skills, Sullivan?)

HERSHEY (Diplomacy 91DG)

Spring 1902

AUSTRIANS WANDER THE UKRANIAN CORNFIELDS

Plucky little neutrals still holding out

{Turkey's A(Con)-Bul was reported as F(Con)-Bul last time, damn it all.}

AUSTRIA: Ed Morgan, Pavillon C Ch.412, Residence Universitaire Galois, Cite Scientifique, 59650 Villeneuve d'Ascq, FRANCE [another bloody COA]
 A(Vie) S A(Bud)-Gal, A(Bud)-Gal, A(Rum)*-Ser, F(Tri)-Ven.

ENGLAND: Dave Newnham, 80 Price Edward's Road, Lewes, E Sussex BN7 1BH
 A(Yor)-Wal, F(NTH) S F(Lon)-ENG, F(Lon)-ENG, F(Nwy)-Swe.

FRANCE: Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL
 F(Por)-MAO, A(Pic)-Bel, A(Spa)-Gas, F(Bre)-ENG, A(Par)-Pic.

GERMANY: Simon Cutforth, 19 Weavers Croft, Pudsey, Leeds, W Yorks LS28 9LF
A(Hol)-Bel, A(Mun) H, A(Ber)-Sil, F(Kie)-BAL, F(Den)-Swe.

ITALY: Dave Hicks, Top Flat, 8 Dyfrig St, Pontcanna, Cardiff CF1 9LR
 A(Boh) S Russian A(War)-Gal, A(Ven)-Tyr, A(Rom)-Pie (not adjacent),
 F(Tun)-ION.

RUSSIA: Paul Bennett, 103 Deleval Close, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4QP
F(GOB)-Swe, A(StP)-Fin, A(War)-Gal, F(Sev)-Rum.

TURKEY: Chris Sutton, 62 Ashbrook Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2XB
 A(Smy)-Arm, F(Con)-AEG, A(Gre)-Ser, F(BLA) S A(Bul)-Rum, A(Bul)-Rum

Retreats: Austrian A(Rum)-Ukr

Press To Play:-

Russia (Govt) - All: Sorry about last season's NMR.

All - Russia: You will be, Oscar, you will be...

Germany - Russia: If you NMR and then fail to reply what else do you expect.

Turkey - Austria: I've assumed the worst.

Austria - Turkey: Sorry I haven't written yet -- things are almost back to normal so I'll write when I get issue 6.

Germany - France: Sorry about that Mark. I didn't want to see you powerful whilst I'm so threatened.

Austria - Italy: I think your ally left you high and dry there.

BARRETT (Railway Rivals map YO)

Round 3

ER, DAMIEN... what were you smoking when you wrote your orders, and can I have some of it?

NUTS (Nicholas Parish, purple): 3a) (M10)-M8-L7-K8: 3b) (K8)-I9; (York)-H61
 -H62: 3c) (H62)-Malton-H67. 39+6+5I-1L-1T=47

THEE (John Webley, brown): 3a) (Mexborough)-C9-Rotherham: 3b) (Rotherham)-
 C5-Sheffield: 3c) (N15)-E58. 28+6-6L+4A+1N=33

LUST (David Oya, red): 3a) (J46)-J45; (G8)-D6: 3b) (D6)-C6-C5-Sheffield;
 (L11)-K12: 3c) (K12)-J12; (B53)-B57. 36+6-5I+1N+6T=44

AE (James Thorp, blue): 3a) (Selby)-N19-N20: 3b) (N20)-N22; (Castleford)-
 K15: 3c) (K15)-F12. 27-4T+1I=24

IYI (Damien Cosgrove, orange): 3a) (C48)-D48-E48-F48; (D46)-D45-Dewsbury {I
 think you meant Halifax, but too far anyway}. 3b) (Wakefield)-J12-

Elmsall: 3c) (K5)-K4-J3-Penistone; Elmsall-E13 {eh?!?} 39+6-5N-1A+5L=44

Rolls for the next round are 6-3-3

ENGLISH (Railway Rivals map OH)

Holdover

Mark Giles has written asking to resign. Luckily we have a standby straining at the leash; from now on A4T will be run by NICHOLAS PARISH of 'Monkmoor', 10 Beechwood Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9TE. Mark, could you send Nicholas your map immediately on receipt of this? Nicholas, if you haven't had the map within a week or so, get onto me and I'll supply you a marked-up copy. Apologies to the other players for this delay; all their orders are on file, but may be changed if desired.

Mica/GLOSTER (Sopwith T163MA)

Turn 10

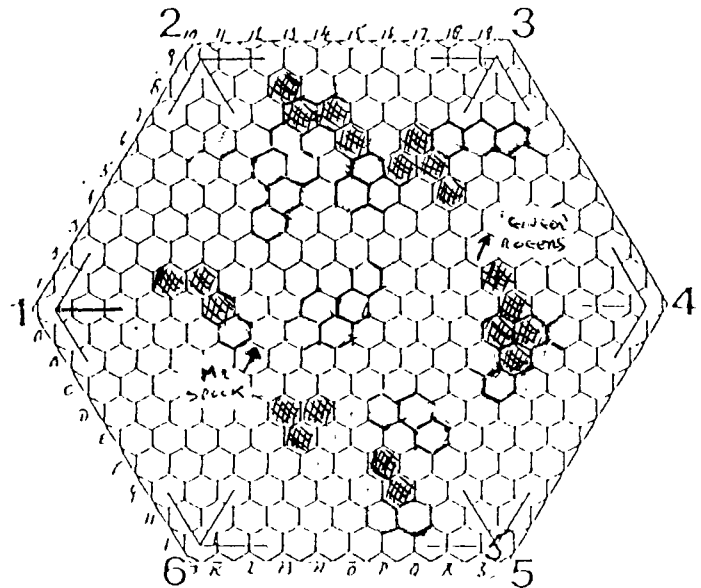
Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Orville Wrong {Steve Lander} (NMR!)	J14-K15	A, <u>A</u> , <u>A</u> -- dead		-2
Baron von Luftkrieg Paul Slade	H4-G4	<u>RT</u> f- <u>A</u> , <u>A</u> f- <u>A</u> , <u>A</u> f-A -- dead		14
Mr Spock ACE! Rob Cullender	G8-H9	<u>RT</u> f- <u>R</u> , <u>RT</u> f- <u>A</u> , <u>I</u> f- <u>A</u>	H6-H7	05:05:18
'Ginger' Rogers John Miller	L12-L13	A, <u>A</u> f- <u>A</u> , <u>RS</u> f- <u>A</u>	M15-M16	06:04:26

Clouds go SW to (D5,E6,F6):
(D12,E12,F13,G13): (I14,I15,J15,K15):
(J6,K6,K7): (N8,O8): (N15,O14,O15,
P14,P15).

Utter mayhem this turn as Ginger shoots down the somnolent Orville, and a timely Immelmann by Mr Spock puts him bang on the Baron's tail, allowing him to blow the poor sod to bits (13 damage in one turn! Never seen the like). Luftkrieg does batter the alien somewhat in return.

Press:-

Mr Spock: Having a spot of trouble with my fire control scanners, so I'll have to revert to manual control -- here goes!



FARADAY (Atlantic Airlines)

Turn 1

Company/Base	Aircraft/	Start	/	Via	/	End
LAKER/New York	DC8	New York	/	Caracas	/	I6
David Tittle						150-28-20=102
CLAY P/London	747	London	/	Amsterdam, Madrid	/	D63
Steve Guest						20-50-20-10(interest)--60
AIR CRASH/Paris	DC10	Paris	/	Belem	/	Accra
David Oya						80-44-20=16
HIGH/Chicago	767	Chicago	/	Atlanta, Chicago	/	D43
Tony Sait for James Thorp						120-36-20=64
JWA/Pittsburgh	767	Pittsburgh	/		/	Belem
John Webley						120-36-20=64
HYMEN/Atlanta	TriStar	Atlanta	/	New York	/	H60
Dave Lomas						100-40-20=46

Planes on order and paid for next turn: DC10 for HYMEN
 747 for LAKER
 DC10 for CLAY PIGEON
 747 for AIR CRASH

Passenger loads landed this turn:

Chicago Atlanta HIGH/TriStar 8 / 5 / {45} p/l

Passenger loads currently in flight:

Madrid Havana CLAY PIGEON/747 2 / 31 / 62
 Accra Montreal AIR CRASH/DC10 5 / 35 / 175
 New York Kano HYMEN/TriStar 7 / 35 / 234
 Chicago Atlanta HIGH/767 1 / 5 / {45} p/l
 Amsterdam Atlanta CLAY PIGEON/747 4 / 31 / 124
 Caracas Chicago LAKER/DC8 6 / 17 / 102

Passenger loads currently available:

OLD:
 From To Load Size/Distance/Value
 Bogota Paris 3 / 37 / 111
 Berlin Amsterdam 11 / 3 / 33
 Paris Belem 2 / 29 / 58
 Kano London 8 / 21 / 168
 New York Algiers 10 / 27 / 270
 Montreal Madrid 12 / 22 / 264

NEW:
 Pittsburgh Algiers 2 / 29 / 58
 Bogota Pittsburgh 3 / 18 / 54
 Atlanta Paris 5 / 30 / 150
 London New York 7 / 24 / 168
 Las Palmas Havana 9 / 26 / 234
 Algiers Berlin 11 / 9 / 99

A Few Points:

HIGH stands for Hicks Incorporated Gigantic Hiccups; JWA for John's Wonderdul Airlines. Tony Sait kindly supplied orders for the former due to James being temporarily unable to -- James will be running it for the rest of the game. Note that HIGH has split the Chicago-Atlanta run; no points will be scored until it's all landed. Steve, we're using 2nd edition rules, available for 50p from all good David Wattses; a few of the planes have different costs, and there's no bankruptcy. Finally, Judge English's tip for new players; remember to use conditional orders, especially if you're near the bottom of the list, and the game is rarely won by companies with only one plane.

ANDERSON (T172UB)				Turn 4
Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Kaptain Krum Kris Morris	J7-K8	A,A,RT	M9-N9	14:07:00
Major Mirkin James Thorp	J12-K13	A f-L,A f-L,A	M16-N17	14:04:00
Lt.Janno Vorg John Webley	L16-K15	LS f-A,LT,LT	M14-N14	10:12:04
Daffy Dodo David Oya	M19-E	RT,RT,A f-R	O17-O16	14:12:04
Magneto Tim Lomas	K5-J4	RT,RT f-R,RT f-R	K7-L8	08:06:00

The Major H3-I3 LT f-A&R,RS,RS f-L K4-L4 05:11:10
 Dave Lomas

Clouds SE this time: (E3,E4,F3,F4,G3):
 (H10,H11,H12):(I5,I6,J4,J5):(J9,K8,K9):
 (M6,N6,N7):(Q10,R9,R10,R11).

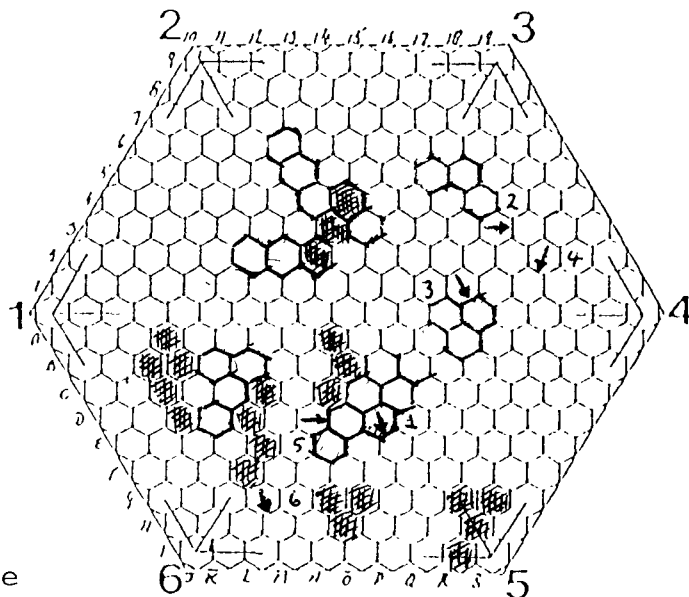
Mirkin guesses badly and gets strafed at closest range by Vorg and Dodo, whilst his own shots go wide. The Major cares nothing for clouds in his zeal to knock lumps off Magneto. This is developing into a truly bloodthirsty combat; do keep it up, y'all.

Press:-

Major - Magneto: Taste this lead whilst I disguise myself as a cloud.

Magneto - Major: Come along then, stop faffing around on the spot and get stuck in (roughly translates as kindly get yourself in the line of the bits of lead I'm throwing!) You want safe, just land, I won't strafe you on the runway (honest!)

Krum - All: Look, this is getting silly. rather PO (showing my age!) shoot Mr Posty.



I am playing, but the GPO, or won't let me. Don't shoot me,

McGRUDER (Deluge Dip)

Spring 1901

WHEN THE RAIN COMES THEY RUN AND HIDE THEIR HEADS

AUSTRIA: Paul Norris, Top Flat, 53 Ashley Hill, Montpelier, Bristol BS7 9BE
 A(Bud)-Ser, F(Tri)-Alb, A(Vie)-Ven (not adj. -- concentrate, man!)

ENGLAND: Tony Sait, 15 Alphington Green, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5LQ
 F(Edi)-NWG, F(Lon)-NTH, A(Lpl)-Edi.

FRANCE: David Tittle, 5 Penrhyn Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4XJ
 A(Mar)-Spa, A(Par)-Gas, F(Bre)-Pic.

GERMANY: Nicholas Parish, 'Monkmoor', 10 Beechwood Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9TE
 F(Kie)-Den, A(Ber)=F(Ber), A(Mun) H.

ITALY: Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford E4 6AR
 A(Ven)=F(Ven), A(Rom)-Apu, F(Nap)-ION.

RUSSIA: Dave Hicks, Top Flat, 8 Dyfrig Street, Pontcanna, Cardiff CF1 9LR
 F(StP/sc)-GOB, A(Mos)-StP, F(Sev)-BLA, A(War)-Sil.

TURKEY: Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8JX
 A(Con)-Bul, A(Smy)-Ank, F(Ank)-Con.

Press:-

Germany (govt) - Guilty Ones: Look here guys, this may be a variant but you can still write, y'know. I know I've been away but that's no excuse...

France - rest: Sorry about the lack of letters. I'm working away from home at the moment but will try harder next season. May I respectfully suggest to my neighbours that they adopt my policy of beating up the orange bits that don't fight back?

Green Slime: For centuries, he had floated on the surface of the canals -- polluting the water and filling the air with his putrid stench. Now, he awoke with a start ... his head had bumped against the underside of the Ponte di Vecchia. "Hello!" he thought, "the water's rising!" (He was quick like that). "And if that's the case, my time has come at last ... I can spread my filth across the face of the Earth. Yippee! Gotta have some of this, an' I?!"

Jim Ladd, A cautionary tale: Jim Ladd was a happy-go-lucky boy who dreamed that one day he might reach the fame of his uncle, Tom, and be a Tenor in the English Opera. He already knew all the words to La Boheme, in German and Italian as well as in English, and regularly practised his scales whilst gutting the cod in his father's shop, The Hungry Sole (no Plaice for a decent fish to be seen in) in Harbour Road down in Old Portsmouth town. Tonight he would be doing a recital for the matelots down at the dock yard, which could easily lead to greater things. He'd heard the sailors liked to hear youths sing out -- or something like that. Anyway, as he was seventeen now, he would be able to have an ale with them in the 'Seven Tuns' hostelry after the performance, no matter what his mother said about Press Gangs and the like. Huh! those stories didn't scare him -- they were for little kids!

Meanwhile, on board HMS Wopbasher, Captain Gordon was addressing his motley crew. "Right, you scurvy knaves. Tomorrow we sail to make war again against those foreigners." "Which foreigners?" asked Able Seaman Poor. "Who gives a toss," swore the captain, "as long as they ain't British and good guys like me -- then we fight 'em." Parson Nicholas looked aghast. "May God have mercy on yo--" "Shut up!" stormed the Cap'n, reverently adding "father" when he saw who dared interrupt him again. "But tonight, you have work to do -- we need another six men to make up the ship's complement. Bosun Hicks-pasha, take a team down the harbour, and recruit some... volunteers!!"

IZZARD (RR Dynamite map PN)

Turn 2

Yes, of course dynamite etc. orders are supposed to be anonymous. I am a total dork, and even people who aren't playing pointed this one out to me. But of course you'll forgive me cos you're all wonderful.

WARPATH (David Tittle, black): 2a) (H39)-I39-K40-Casper; (J39)-L38:
 2b) (L38)-N37: 2c) (N37)-Worland-Q37-Q36-S35 {too far} 36+6+1M-2=41
 HAVE A NICE DAY (Steve Guest, orange): 2a) (W29)-W27: 2b) (W27)-Butte;
 (W27)-X26: 2c) (X26)-Y26-Missoula-A74. 18+6+6+1H-2=29
 GIT (Tony Sait, green): 2a) (B81)-A81-Great Falls-Helena; (Great Falls)-
 B79: 2b) (B79)-D78: 2c) (D78)-D76. 31+6+2T-4=35
 TBNS (John Colledge, blue): 2a) (Bozeman)-Helena; (Bozeman)-U29-T28-T27:
 2b) (T27)-S27-R27: 2c) (S27)-S26; (Helena)-Y29. 32+6-1H-2G-4=31
 MICA (Joy Hibbert, purple): 2a) (K44)-Casper-K38: 2b) (K38)-K36: 2c) (K36)-
 K35; (P42)-P41. 20+6-1W-2=23

Nasty (and anonymous) Happenings: Two attacks on HAVE A NICE DAY's track were foiled by vigilant guards. Workmen repair WARPATH's E45-E46, but as they down tools they hear an explosion in the distance at H39-I39...

Rolls for the next round are 6-5-5

LARTER (Asteroid Dogfight)

Turn 3

Name	Start	Speed	Shd	Moves	Fires	Ends	Cap	Dge
Gervaise the Frog	E4-F5 Simon Cutforth	2 - 2	3	_RT,RT	0	F3-F2	4	8
Admiral James T. Bag	E10-F10 Eddy Richards	2 - 2	2	LT,LT	R4	F12-F13	2	16

Soup Dragon	J17-J16	1 - 2	0	LS,LS	R4,R5	L17-L16	3	16
David Tittle								
Last American	O13-N12	4 - 4	0	A,A,A,A	A4,A5	K9-J8	1	16
Pitbull Marc Cole								
Kismett	M8-L7	4 - 4	1	A,A,LS,A	R2,R4,R5	J4-I3	0	16
Nicholas Parish								
Major Mark E. Smith	F2-F3	3 - 3	2	LS,LT,RT	A1	D3-D4	2	16
Edmund Morgan								

Asteroids truck on NW: (E6,E7,F7)[4]:
 (E10,F10,F11)[4]: (I13,I14,J14)[4]:
 (M5,N5,N6)[4]: (N11,N12,O12)[4]:
 (P8,Q8,Q9)[4].

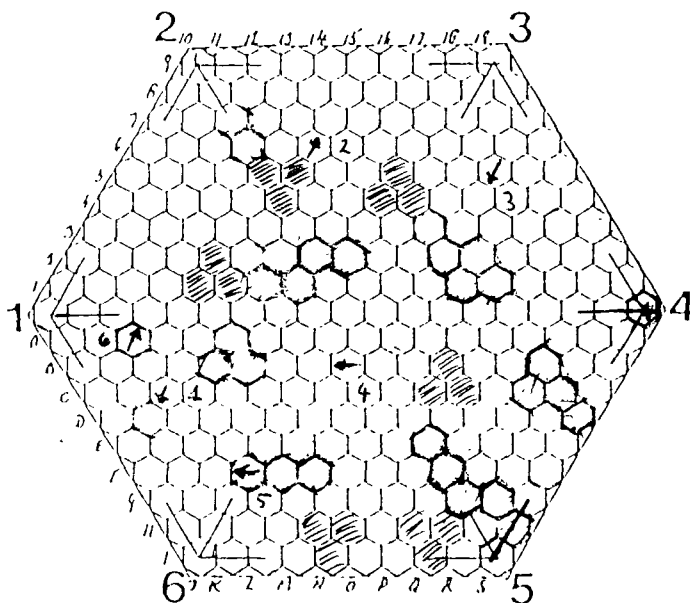
Press:-

All-Mjr Smith: These are the finest times of my li-ife. Zap!

Mjr Smith - Gervaise: Going anywhere?

James T Bag - All: Continuing on my thesis: "Why has SF gone downhill?", compare "Star Trek -- The Next Generation" with "Star Trek" (the original). I've watched two episodes and so far I've seen not a single ravening alien monster; a bunch of Klingons surrendered, for heaven's sake (they even let one onto the Enterprise unchained): all they do is have sex with each other and play at being 20th cent-

ury PI's in some sort of game (the Enterprise is now some sort of luxury intergalactic holiday cruiser rather than a warship); and to clinch it, not a single solitary security guard has been callously exterminated! Grrrr.



SOPWITH QUERIES: Your Questions Answered by Smilin' Judge English

- Q. How much damage do clouds inflict? **A.** One point per move spent inside
- Q. Can a player be shot whilst landing or on the ground? **A.** Yes, indeedy
- Q. Can more than one player land at the same airport? **A.** You can only land at the airstrip you began at
- Q. What happens if a player aborts take-off? E.g. A,O,O. Is he deemed to have moved back to his start position? **A.** Never come across this one. I rule from common sense that you can't do it and anyone trying will indeed be ruled to have remained landed.

PEPPER (Sopwith T???UB)

Turn 1

PRESS? More like an entire newspaper!

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Retaliator Mark Wightman	A1	"Hover" (see below)	A1	16:12:00
Cam E.Khazi Adam Sharr	A10	T/o Alpha, A,A,A f-A	D13-E14	15:10:02
Erik the Half-a-bee Erik Eriksson	J19	T/o Gamma, A,A,A f-A	G16-F15	15:10:02

Baron von Lettuceleaf S10 T/o Alpha, A,A,A f-A S16-S15 15:12:00
 Marc Cole

Atsuko S1 T/o Beta, A,A,RS Q11-P11 16:12:00
 Dave Lomas

Father Avion J1 T/o Alpha, A,A,RS H2-G2 16:12:00
 Jeff Cattle

Clouds rev up and go NE to:
 (E10,E11,F9,F10):(I12,I13,J13):
 (K6,K7,K8):(L14,M13,M14,M15):
 (M10,M11,N9,N10,N11):
 (M18,N19,O19).

Press:-

Father Avion - All: For those we are about to splatter may the lord make us truly thankful.

Anon - Judge English: I don't know! Who was dragged down by the stone?

Judge English - Anon: The 'dog' in Pink Floyd's 'Animals', you philistine.

Anon - All: OK chaps, chocks away and may the best man (Von Lettuceleaf) win.

Anon - Cloud at E9,E10,F8 & F9:

Excuse me, are you a cumulonimbus?

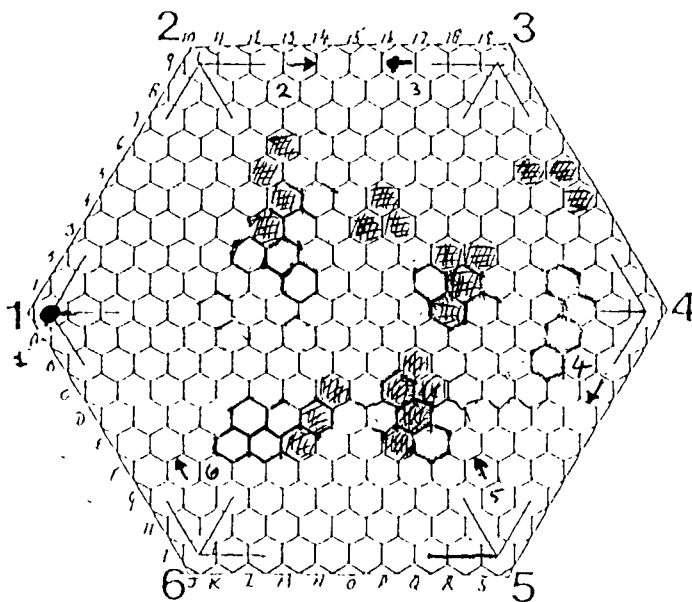
Cloud - Anon: No, I'm fucking cast iron, so don't run into me.

Retaliator: He sat in the cockpit, goggles on, waiting to go. The sky was dark and there was a distant rumble of thunder. The engine sprang into life and the blades started to turn. Suddenly there was a flash of lightning, a roar of thunder, and everything became dark... Slowly light returned, though a sudden mist had sprung up. The roar of the engine was gone; it was replaced by a low-pitched whine. He looked around; there were dials and switches everywhere. Not only that, his goggles were gone; beside him lay a helmet with **F-29** stamped on it. What did it all mean? Something deep inside felt good. Somehow he knew he was the retaliator, on a mission to bring ultimate peace. He squeezed the trigger and watched AIAAM- firebolt fly skywards -- he smiled.

He built up the thrust, took off the landing gear brakes and pulled up. He waited there, hovering, over the runway... this would be fun...

Judge English - Retaliator: [PHEEEEEEEEP!] And the ref's blown his whistle, James -- I can't see what for, our Swedish camera team have switched back to Eriksson... oh, now I can see, Wightman is being cautioned for illegal use of advanced technology! Yes, he's quite clearly sitting in an F-29 Retaliator there, and the rules do categorically state that World War One technology is the limit, so he really does have only himself to blame. He's being ordered back into his Camel, but of course this puts him a turn behind the other flyers, so Wightman is faced with a mountain to climb... James!

Yes, and we didn't see this as the cameras were elsewhere, but Khazi and Erik are already locked in combat, so we can expect a good battle there, Murray.



Mica/AQUILA (4002AD)

Autumn 4014AD

Arcturus I/yellow 58a/2
 Andy Bell E/yellow 2a/2
 F/red 4a/1

* Gemma

from Denebola

Segin G/red 11a/2
 Rob Cullender H/yellow 5/2 * Castor
 E/yellow 2/1 from Castor

Battle Report:-

The siege of Segin is broken as the defenders wipe out the remaining six attackers for the loss of three of themselves.

At Castor five Segin ships spring at the sole Arcturan defender and blow it to shreds before it can even think of fighting back. Half the victorious fleet quickly warps out again; whether in search of further prey or to withdraw to aid defence, time will tell.

A different outcome seems likely at Gemma, however, as Segin's defenders find themselves unable to make inroads into the two raiders there. One Segin ship has been lost so far, as combat continues with Gemma under siege (2aA + 2S).

Still orbiting Rigel are 8 advanced Arcturan ships and 8 advanced ex-Rigellian ships.

C Regulus) 1R o+ Alhena	B Betelgeuse) 1S o Bellatrix) 1S +	A Mirfak Algol) 14S o+	M Menkhib) 1S o Miram) 1S +
Avoir) 1R + Adhara) 1R o	Canopus Rigel)* o+	Aldebaran + Menkar o	Theemin Zaurak) 1aR o+
F Merak) 2aA + Pollux) 2aA o	E Castor) 3S o+ Capella	D Polaris) 1S + Hamal) 1S o	N Segin) 59S o+ Schedir
Alphard Denebola) 2aA o+	Procyon) 1S o Sirius) 1S +	Mira) 1aR o+ Archernar	Alrisha) 1S + Mesarthim) 1S o
I Alkaid Arcturus) 33aA o+	H Gemma) u/s + Altair) 1S o	G Alpharatz Markab) 1S o+	O Homam) 1S o Matar) 1S +
Acrux) 1A + Spica) 1A o	Alpha Centauri Sol) 5A o+	Fomalhaut) 1S + Algenib) 2S o	Sandalmelek Sandalsud) 1aR o+
L Thuban) 1A + Rutilicus) 1A o	K Albireo Vega) 2A o+	J Deneb) 2A + Alderamin) 2A o	P Sham Tarazed) 1S o+
Antares) 1A o+ Atria	Sargas) 2A + Sabik) 1A o	Enif Pavo) 2S o+	Rukbat) 1S + Dabih) 1S o

Builds: 14 at Segin, 11 advanced at Arcturus. The storm clouds gather!

Press:

Have my scanners detected a black hole in the vicinity of Arcturus or could it be an overloaded warp?!

GRIFFIN (Sopwith T174UB)

Turn 3

OH NO! OH WOE! THE DREAD CURSE OF NMR STRIKES HOME...

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Baron von Boggles Mark Giles	A8-A9	RT,RT,RT	C8-C7	16:06:02

{Ghost of Lettuceleaf} Up, Up and Away --
 Marc Cole

'Blue with White M16-N16 RS,A,LS O16-P16 16:12:02
 Stripes' Baron Peter Ritchie

Roger Ramjet M16-L15 A,A,A J13-I12 15:12:02
 John Todd (NMR!)

Captain Condor M6-L6 LS f-R,O f-R,O f-A L5-K5 12:09:10
 ACE! Dave Rowley

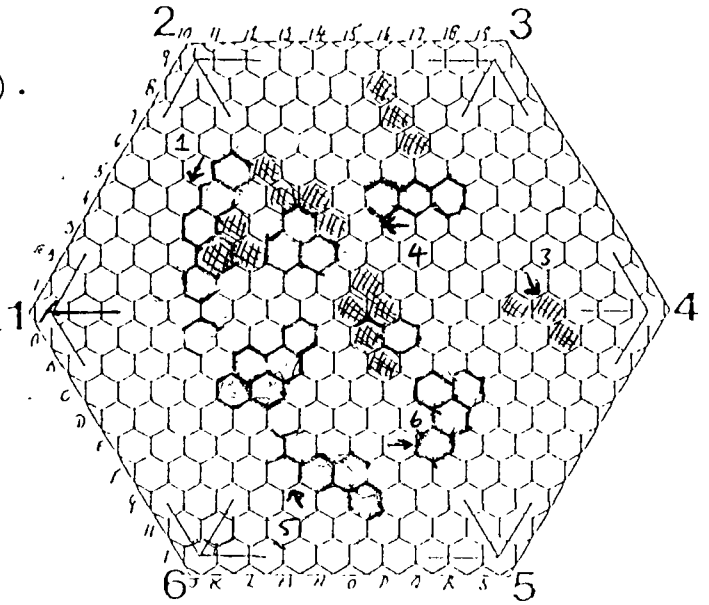
Machine Gun Joe K6-L7 A,A,A N9-O10 13:04:05
 ACE! Stuart Tweedy (NMR!)

Clouds head NW to: (E7,E8,F8):(E10,F10,
 G11,H11):(G15,H15,I15):(J10,J11,K10,
 K11,L10):(O15,P16,Q16):(P13,P14,Q14,R14).

Press:-
Ghost of Lettuceleaf - All: Oh bugger.
Captain Condor: Ooh look, Captain
 Condor, Ace of the Spaceways,
 is at the L5 point.

Judge English: Why do both my NMRs crop
 up in the same game? Both Stuart and
 John, especially the former, are lucky
 to get away with hides intact. At this
 rate Machine Gun Joe will be losing his
 Ace's scarf again.

Meantime, the others jockey for
 position. (How many Sopwith games have
 I seen that phrase used in, I wonder,
 as a synonym for "nobody got shot up
 very much"?)



COREY (Asteroid Dogfight)

Turn 4

{More cosmetic errors: Tiny ended as shown in the report rather than the
 map, Daffy as shown on map rather than the report. Some day it'll be OK.}

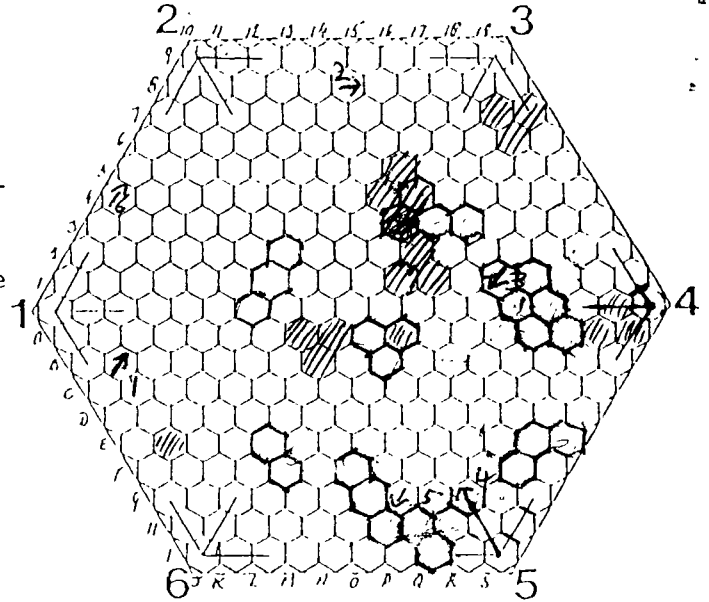
Name	Start	Speed	Shd	Moves	Fires	Ends	Cap	Dge
Tiny Clanger Dave Lomas	D2-E3	0 - 0	0	L	<u>L1</u>	D2-D3	2	10
Baron 'Flash' von Boggles Mark Giles	E13-E14	1 - 1	0	A	0	F14-G15	5	16
Kaptain Krum Kris Morris	N19-O19	2 - 4	0	RT,A,A,A	0	N15-N14	5	16
Last American Pitbull Marc Cole	O9-M8	4 - 4	0	LT,LT,LT,LT	<u>L2</u> , <u>L4</u> , <u>L5</u>	Q10-Q11	3	16
Mjr Mirkin II James Thorp	P8-Q8	4 - 4	0	LS, <u>LT</u> ,L,LT,LT	0	O8-O7	5	10
Daffy Dodo David Oya	A1-NW	3 - 4	0	<u>RT</u> ,A,A,A	0	A5-A6	2	9

Map over (why won't any games fit neatly on a page this issue?...)

Asteroids go E and are at: (I8,J8,J9)[4]:
 (I13,J13,J14)[4]: (K12,K13,L13)[4]: (K18,
 L18,L19)[0]: (R17, R18,S18)[1]: L11[2]:
 G2[2]

That there zero is due to a little aster-
 oid hitting a big one, a situation not
 covered in the rules. In one of my famous
 ad hoc decisions I declare that the little
 asteroid is smashed to cosmic dust, but
 the big one is fragmented and will split
 in the usual fashion in the asteroid
 movement phase next turn.

I was hoping to have a kind of forum on
 possible scoring systems for Asteroid
 Dogfight this issue, but time and space
 forbid; your considered and cogent
 comments will be committed to print next
 issue, I hope.



HALWILL JUNCTION (Halwill Junction)

Parr for the course.....(ho, ho)

- 1: Peter Dunnett, Mick Haytack, Denis Jones, Dave Lomas, Marc Cole
- 2: Nicholas Parish, Joy Hibbert
- 3: Edmund Morgan, Dave Rowley, David Oya
- 4: Ian Harris, Peter Ritchie
- 5: **ALAN PARR**
- 6: Mark Giles
- 7: Mark Wightman
- 8: Jeff Cattle, David Tittle
- 9: Adam Sharr, Erik Eriksson
- 17: Paul Bennett
- 22: Mark Stretch

And so the sage of Longfield Gardens carries off the laurels again,
 thus giving himself twice as good a record as anyone else, and leaving the
 subscribers still without a free issue to their collective name. At least
 bloody 2 didn't win this time, anyway.

Mica/STANSTEAD (Atlantic Airlines [GM Dave Rowley])

Turn 7

Note that Dave's change of address (and deadline) are the same as mine in
 all respects.

AUDITORS INVESTIGATE ACCOUNTS OF TWO AIRLINES, BACK INTEREST CLAIMED

Company/Base	Aircraft/	Start	/	Via	/	End
DHAL/London	747 /	Las Palmas	/	Accra	/	J30
Joy Hibbert	Concorde /	A43	/	Miami, Washington, Madrid	/	G70
	DC-10 /	Miami	/	New York	/	H58
	TriStar /	Madrid	/	Kano	/	F30
Account=	-824* +132	-50 -56 -44	-40 -20	= -902,	-20% =	-1083
PNEUMONIA/Chicago	747 /	B64	/	Las Palmas	/	H50
Harry Bond	DC-8 /	Madrid	/	stays on the ground	/	
	TriStar /	L56	/	Atlanta	/	Pittsburgh
	707 /	I56	/		/	New York
Account=	+170 +324	+60 -50 -14	-40 -24 -20	=		+406

Fawltly Airlines	A300	/	L70	/	Gander	/	J50
Gander	727	/	L56	/	London	/	Paris
Thane Duffield	DC-10	/	Bogota	/	Miami	/	H46
	BAC 111	/	L3	/	Bogota	/	A43
Account=	-705	+72	-32	-20	-44	-12	-20 = -761, -20% = -914

BARF/Paris	747	/	Caracas	/	Port O'Spain	/	M23
Rob Cullender	DC-10	/	Paris	/	Milan	/	J58
	TriStar	/	Rome	/	Frankfurt	/	L57
	DC-8	/	Washington	/	Port O'Spain	/	M13
Account=	-270*	-50	-44	-40	-28	-20 = -452, -20% = -543	

Planes on order for use & payment next turn:- None

Landed:-

From	To	Carrier	Load/Distance/Value				
Belem	Paris	BARF/DC-10	7	/	29	/}	*
Bogota	Miami	DHAL/Concorde	1	/	12	/	132
Chicago	Las Palmas	PNEUMONIA/747	12	/	27	/	324
Paris	Atlanta	PNEUMONIA/TriStar	2	/	30	/	60
Toronto	Paris	FA/727	3	/	24	/	72

In Flight:-

Caracas	Tunis	BARF/747	9	/	33	/	297
Belem	Paris	BARF/747	1	/	29	/	232
Port O'Spain	Paris	BARF/747	2	/	29	/}	
Milan	Chicago	BARF/DC-10	10	/	31	/	310
Frankfurt	Toronto	BARF/TriStar	4	/	27	/	108
Port O'Spain	Paris	BARF/DC-8	6	/	29	/	232
Accra	Pittsburgh	DHAL/747	12	/	37	/	444
Washington	Milan	DHAL/Concorde	2	/	29	/	58
New York	Berlin	DHAL/DC-10	7	/	29	/	203
Kano	Belem	DHAL/TriStar	6	/	24	/	144
Milan	Chicago	FA/A300	5	/	32	/	160

Loads Available:-

OLD							
New York	Casablanca		8	/	24	/	192
New York	Chicago		10	/	6	/	60
NEW							
New York	Tunis (EX-BARF/747) in Caracas		2	/	29	/	58
Port O'Spain	Algiers		2	/	28	/	56
Atlanta	Las Palmas		3	/	24	/	72
London	Caracas		5	/	32	/	160
Accra	New York		7	/	35	/	245
Havana	Madrid		9	/	31	/	279
Miami	Paris		11	/	32	/	352

Is that it for the games? Phew.

If ever an issue could be referred to as a wall issue, that is this issue (and anyone taking issue with this will be issued with a writ, which won't be one of summons to Parliament). We moved. The games file vanished. It was found. It went walkies again. I pinned it down for long enough to do the games, and now the address cards have gone AWOL. I hope they can be dug out in time for tomorrow.

Only two of you were surprised by my lateness; model subbers Mark Stretch and Nicholas Parish enquired, the rest of you presumably expecting it. Are you all Froggy subbers or what? Anyway, here follows a late Manorcon report from Joy (in a fancy typeface).

A Feeble, Late Excuse for a ManorCon Report by Joy Hibbert

I hadn't wanted to go. I only went because the alternative was staying at home on my own, which makes it impossible for me to sleep. Amazingly, I had a good time. I had only been to one previous ManorCon, about 5 years ago, and I, or ManorCon, must have changed more than I thought.

So we got there, took stuff to the room, got me registered, and went down to the main floor to see what was what. I stopped at a table, sat and watched a game, and was invited to play in the next game. This was a technique that worked often over the weekend. The first game was Pole Position, a car racing game, which was fairly light, and a good way to get into the right frame of mind.

Somehow, I got involved in a game of 1830, which was unutterably boring, though I don't think it was entirely the game's fault: partly the other players, whose names I can't remember, partly the tiredness. But I'm glad I played it - it means I now have the rudiments of 18XX so that I haven't looked such an idiot in future games.

Then it was bedtime - non-residents (which I officially was) were not allowed in the convention after midnight, so I tactfully withdrew.

They didn't check who was residential at breakfast time, so I had some. I tend to have a rather basic attitude towards breakfast, ie I want some. I've heard people describe certain catered breakfasts as uneatable, but as long as it's veggie and I can leave the mushrooms, I'm not particular.

Then I had a go at *The Sherlock Holmes Card Game*, largely based on a game we've all played but which has many names. The card that is put down last determines who goes next, what they can put down or pick up or pass on, who has to miss a turn etc., and the first person to run out of cards is the winner. Not at all heavy, but fun, and suitable for the time of day. I wandered upstairs and met Robin ap Cynan, who I'd only met once before but who I'd thought of as a fairly serious sort of person. He was playing *Mitternachtsparty* and asked if I wanted to join in. It's a highly silly game based on the idea of a house party with a ghost in the basement, who comes up and captures various guests while they run round trying to avoid him and hide in rooms. I played it several times during the weekend, with various people, and enjoyed it except for the time there was a homophobe in the game who wouldn't let me have 2 female characters because it offended him. He claimed it was merely an aesthetic objection, but what could be more aesthetically pleasing than two women?

After that first game of *Mitternachtsparty*, I got involved in a playtest of a game I will refer to as 18 god knows what. John Cryer designed this one, in China, partly to have a go at a more realistic share dealing system. I enjoyed it. I played two games over the weekend, one on Saturday, on one Sunday. I can't remember which was which, but in one I got garrisoned out of my own starting town, in the other I garrisoned someone else's, and the assembled pedants (myself, Robin, and Haz, who dropped in to see what was happening from time to time) had a great deal of fun with John's choice of names eg the Sino-Soviet and the Thailand Railways, both of which are anachronistic. This gets my vote for Serious Game of the Con.

I think it was after that that I had a go at Szalonagar, Hungarian Dog Racing, which is a lot better than it sounds. The 'squares' on the 'board' (it was home made) are striped in different colours, and the dogs can only move on certain ones. In addition, there are various 'doping' cards which can be used to advance or penalise various dogs.

The Silly Game of the Con was Suppenkaspar, which led to some discussions of national characteristics, as I maintained that it would never have been marketed as a mainstream game in this country. The name is that of a German legend, a boy who wouldn't eat his supper and starved to death. You get a hand of about 10 cards, divided up into various sorts of food with various caloric values, all of them high except for muesli. Cards of the same type (muesli goes with everything) are thrown into a central heap, and as soon as you can't put in the right sort of card, you have to eat it all. There are cards to avoid the effects of it, which translate approximately as 'I never put on weight', 'I'll eat the muesli' and 'I'll throw it up afterwards', and one group of cards for passing on the problem, 'I'm not eating that!' The game continues until someone has starved to death or exploded. Haz & I were playing this with some of the VT crowd, who are a lot of fun, even if they do drink too much. Despite the fact that I don't drink, my memories of the con are blurred, but the VT crowd featured largely in it.

Then the three of us went out to dinner at Imran's, a largely overrated but cheap Indian restaurant.

Then I came back and went to sleep.

I was amazed to see Blaise, one of the VT crowd, at breakfast the next morning, considering the amount he'd drunk the previous evening. I can only stand in awe of his constitution. But thinking of it, in my serious drinking days I could have done the same, and he's younger than I was then.

Some time that day I played Family Business, a game based on Chicago gangsters, and Jenga, a physical game involving a large pile of wooden bricks in which the object is to pull out the bottom ones and put them on top without knocking the pile over. You are allowed to make noises to make the other players laugh. Robin was playing that too. I reconsidered my view of him as a serious person.

In the evening Haz & I went back to Imran's with the VT crowd, after a difference of opinion with Dave's car, which didn't want to go. Perhaps it just wanted to give Steve Guest more opportunities to whinge. One of the VT crowd was having a birthday, so we sang 'Happy Birthday' and embarrassed him.

The next day I felt fairly dead, failed completely to grasp *Chafits*, a chess/draughts combo; and played *Mking*, the card version of Mah-jongg, in a half dead manner until it was time to go home.

Perhaps I will go next year, and I'll write an earlier report, so I can use all the jokes instead of someone else getting them.

"A Pretend Family Fanzine"

"I got a motorcycle, an empty seat,
I'm twenty years ahead of my time.
I got a million things I'd rather do,
If only you say you'll stay mine."

-- The Stranglers, WHERE I LIVE

And on that note a very tardy issue of the postal games zine UP AROUND THE BEND, more familiarly known as U-Bend, hits the streets (ouch). All its recipients should note that its editor has moved house, especially traders (who are notoriously bad at this, particularly if named Harrington or Warne) and players (Messrs Tittle and Colledge are the culprits here); indeed, that relocation is the sole reason for this zine's shocking lateness, and future issues should be back to punctuality.

That new address is:

13 MERRIVALE ROAD, STAFFORD ST17 9EB

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Phone is (0785) 213259, but don't expect the answerphone to work any better than it did at the old address -- it's the same machine.

There is a sad lack of waiting lists:

Diplomacy: Chris Sutton*, Edward Ainsworth, Keir Hodgson*, Ian Harris (if not playing in Quincy). 3 or 4 wanted (* = pref list received)

Really Lazy Bastard Diplomacy: Steve Guest, Dave Rowley, Adam Sharr. 4 wanted

Sopwith: Mark Wightman, Adam Sharr, Marc Cole, Jeff Cattle, Tim Lomas. 1 wanted

And get in fast as that'll be the last Sopwith w/l for a while. I do think I've about reached my limit as regards numbers of games, so it's Dippy lists only for the foreseeable future.

DEADLINE for issue 7, which you may expect there to be the usual amount of leeway with (ie sod all) is:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1991

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And since I've finally given up on the economy drive of stapling copies up rather than using envelopes (to get an issue even approximately sealed up left me with a sore left hand for a week) I don't need a mailing label, and thus have a lot more space on the back page to play with, which is proving an embarrassment, as I don't have much to fill it with. I refuse to do huge credit/gamestart boxes, it's cheating; they remain the normal size;

PERSONAL MESSAGE:

%%%%%%%%%%
% Lots and %
% lots! %
%%%%%%%%%%.....credit box
I hear Leebys 100 is imminent - I anticipate it eagerly!
(those back issues will get to you eventually...)
gamestart box...%%%%%%%%%%

Let's spacefill with a review of **Dolchstoss**, 75p from Richard Sharp of Norton House, Whielden St, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0HU. Without query or doubt this contains the best letter column in the hobby, especially on matters political, since Richard is reputedly so right-wing as to be into the ultra-violet and several of his subscribers are equally far the other way. If they talked like this in Parliament it might just make that venerable institution worthwhile. The games service is also second to none, and I speak from personal experience.