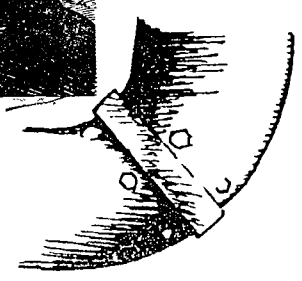


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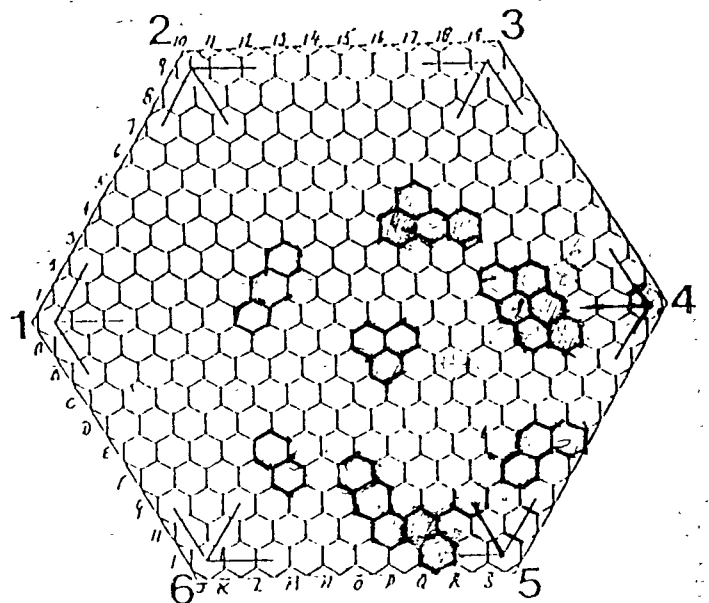
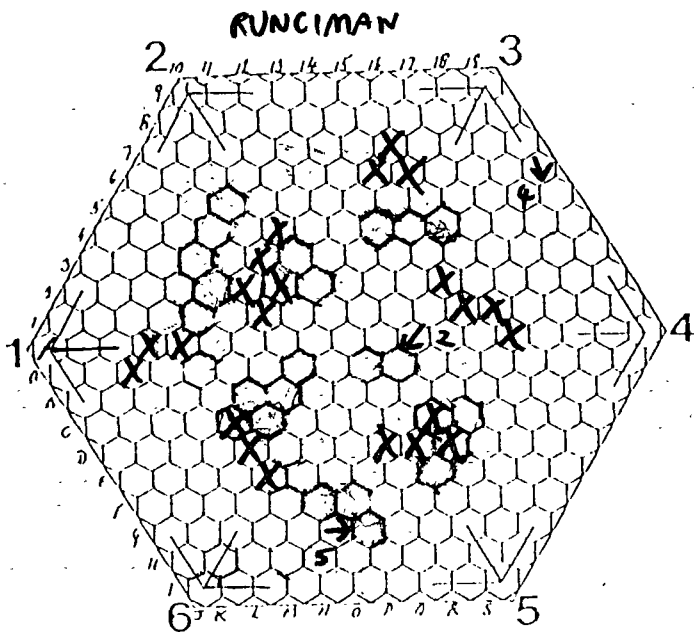
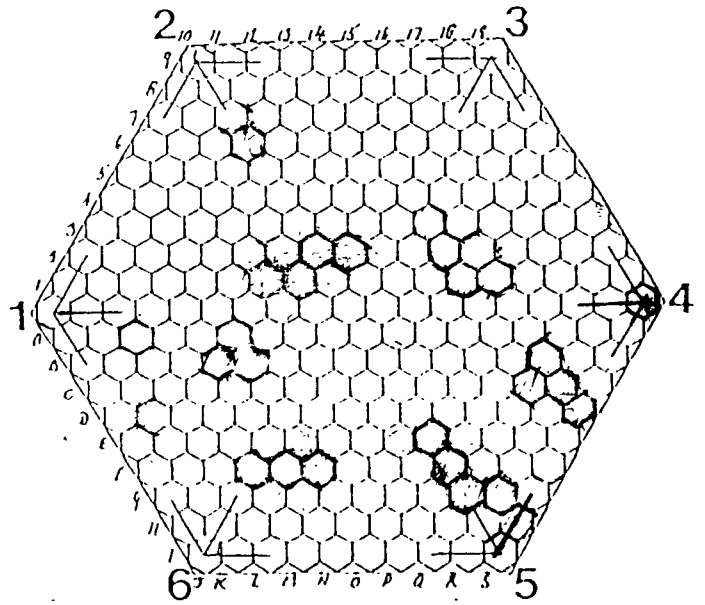
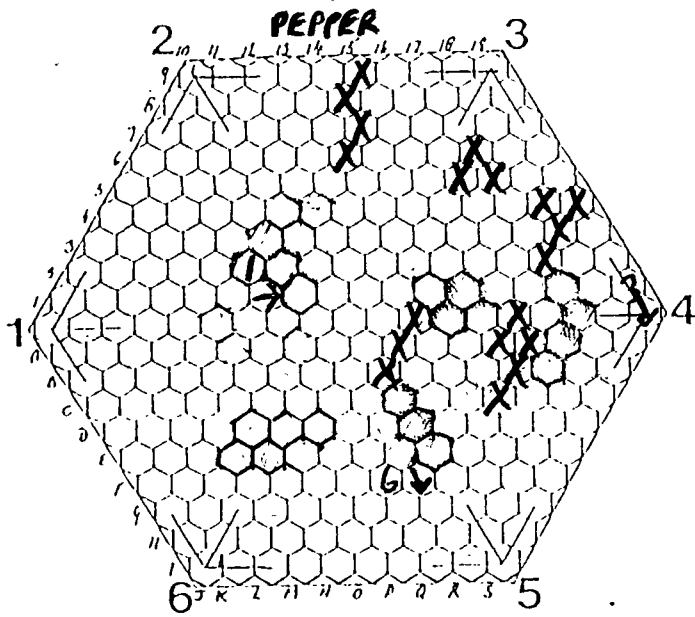
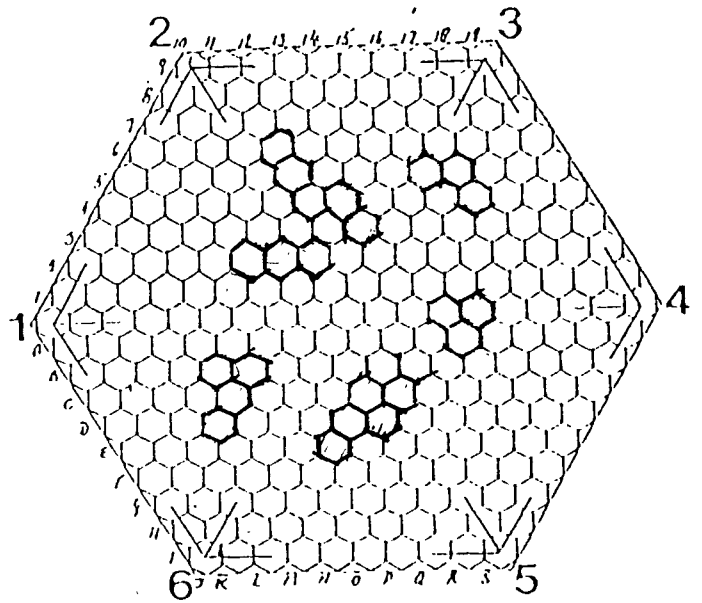
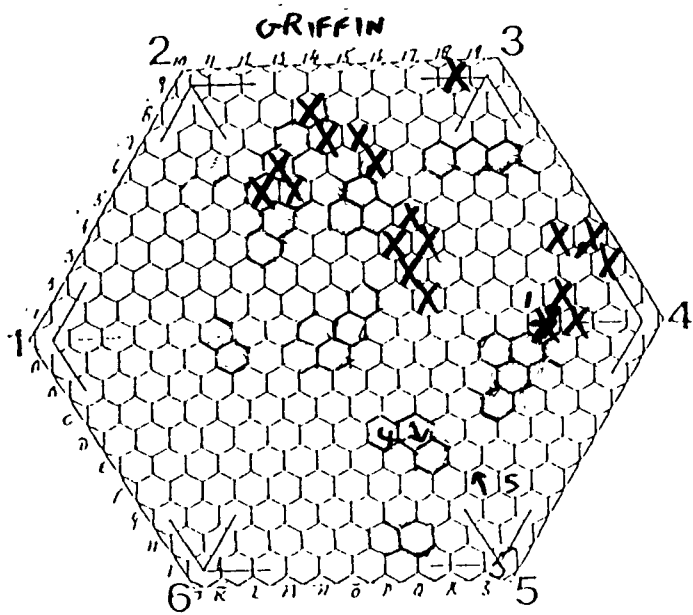
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THIRTEEN



SOPWITH MAPS



Walks into Manorcon, cool and slow, who calls Mark Nelson 'Crazy Markie-oh'?

UP AROUND THE BEND issue 13
=====

A five-weekly publication running postal games, postal grievance-airing, postal slanging matches and postal vitriol-hurling, at 30p plus postage a shot.

A Pretend Family Fanzine

oooooooooooo

Waiting Lists

Diplomacy: None; seven wanted.

Railway Rivals: None, tho' Dave Oya, Rob Cullender and Mark Nelson have first refusal on this list. Chilterns map, anyone?

Sopwith: John Miller, Edmund Morgan, Mike Clark, Mark Wightman; 2 wanted.

Atlantic Airlines (GM Dave Rowley): Alan Harvey. 3 wanted.

Lift Off (GM Dave Rowley): Rob Moore, Ian Harris, Gary Lyon; 1 wanted. Those 3 may get rules details along with this, depending on how far out Dave pulls his finger.

Chaos II Diplomacy: Nicholas Parish, Denis Jones, Duncan Adams, Peter Ritchie. 30 still required! The full rules are not in this issue, due to me being a lazy sod and not sending off to the UKVB for them. Permit me to summarise, therefore:

- 1) There are 34 players who start with 1 home s.c. each (random draw -- anyone sending preference.lis's will be fed through a meat grinder)
- 2) There is a Winter 1900 season where players with coastal s.c.'s may build an army or fleet at their choice.
- 3) First to 18 centres wins. All else is as per regular Dip rules.

Note that we shan't be playing conference win rules, and that builds may be taken in any owned centre (this is a slight modification of the rules, I think -- but otherwise it takes even closer to forever)

Nick Kinzett would like to make it clear at this point that he has no intent of playing. Aw.

Regarding Sopwith/Anderson, Dave Lomas writes some post-game PRESS:

The Major - Mr Webley: Sorry, old chap, but I'm retired now, y'know. Gammy leg and all that. Still, I'm sure that you will meet up with one of my proteges, Stevie Nicks or Atsuko, both fine gals, in an aerial duel somewhere soon and they will give you a chance (but only a slim one, mind!) to even the score. All the best.

Now, always assuming that the silk screen doesn't crease again, this issue will be out pretty damn neatly on schedule. Would that they were all like that!

I don't like to shout, but I ought to tell you --

*Deadline -
Tuesday, August 25, 1992*

Front cover this time by Freddie Baer.

Our reporter arrived at Lake Hall late on Friday afternoon, to find that the car park was crammed full, and he had to park, therefore, at the bottom of the hill. Lugging up a huge bag filled with games, enormous bottles of lemonade and other such necessities, he began to wonder whether the weekend was going to be as good as he had hoped. Would he really be able to ferret out the dirt and see it spread out over column inches in the tabloids?

At first, things looked promising. Discovering that one Stephen Agar was standing nearby, your reporter attempted to attach himself to Mr Agar, reasoning that this revived editor was likely to be the focus of attention, and of furtive, unsavoury goings-on. However, after ten minutes all that had been achieved was to reintroduce him to John Marsden. Mr Agar commented that in the thirteen years since they had last met, Mr Marsden had either turned his head upside down, or had gone bald and grown a beard. On hearing this gem of wit, our reporter made his excuses and left.

At this point he came upon Stephen Richards, known to our investigators as a fetishist of black attire, and Paul Norris, whose notoriety knows few if any bounds. He allowed himself to be drawn into a game of Republic of Rome with them, reasoning that such a game was certain to contain smut and steamy sex a-plenty. Unfortunately, he was unable to ascertain whether this was indeed the case, since due to Andy Bate's extreme skill at rolling 4 on three dice, the game was terminated at the end of the first round and all players declared losers. A second game was mooted, but since the one-round first game had taken over an hour, our reporter threatened to make his excuses and leave unless something simpler were played. It ~~was~~ was: Slapshot, the perennial Viennamob favourite hockey card game. Since this showed no sign of indecency, or even of your reporter winning, he made his excuses and left anyway.

By now, the bar being open, your reporter made his way there in the hopes that there would be some good old D.I.R.T. to be dug up there. In actual fact there was, but since notorious Brian Dolton was involved and he is bigger than your reporter, no mention will be made of it. Denis Jones is, however, smaller than myself; so I have no fears in reporting that he got totally and disgustingly inebriated, made several lewd and unwholesome suggestions to your reporter, and confessed to sending obscene materials through the post, arson (a crime for which he is wanted in the USA), and various other heresies (by thought, by word, by deed and by action -- four counts). Your moral and upstanding reporter, being unable to stomach this (and not getting any more free drinks), made his excuses and left.

Thus emboldened, your reporter attempted to find out the TRUTH behind Richard Walkerdine's money-laundering operation. It transpires that the vast profits which MANORCON makes every year have been funnelled into buying a new house in the Cotswolds for this Napoleon of crime, leaving his previous residence in Hitchin free to be let out to DHSS customers at vast sums as a hostel. When pressed with these comments, Mr Walkerdine threatened to co-opt your reporter onto next year's Manorcon committee. Faced with this despicable threat your reporter had no other option but to make his excuses and leave.

Due to the miserly rates of pay afforded to roving reporters, your scribe was unable to afford a room at the convention, and was forced to kip on the floor of Danny 'Mad Axeman' Collman and his moll, Big Kath. As midnight approached (the time when all non-residents of Manorcon are turned into pumpkins and eaten by Keith Boveys) Mr Collman approached our reporter near the registration desk and enquired "Ready?" "Ready when you are," I replied. At this juncture Madeline Key, who was staffing the desk, burst into giggles and affected to believe that our departure was for a purpose less than wholesome and decent. Your reporter was sorely tempted to make his excuses and not leave, for fear of how it would all be written up in Electric Monk, but was prevailed upon to depart.

Evidence manifested itself at this point that Mr Daniel Collman, of Birmingham, leads a DOUBLE LIFE. This SORDID man, by day a respectable teacher, at night

he TRANSFORMS himself into a CRAZED MANIAC. He sped away in his souped-up vehicle at HIGH SPEED in a built-up area; and several times your reporter was forced to choose between losing his host in the deprived inner city, or breaking numerous articles of the Highway Code in order to keep up with him. Upon arrival at the house (a normal-looking terrace in a middle-class area) your reporter was tempted to make his excuses and go straight to sleep; so tempted, in fact, that he did.

Morning saw a return to the convention and the Diplomacy Tournament -- that SHAME OF OUR HOBBY -- that EVIL institution in which players are encouraged to CHEAT, LIE and DECEIVE others in their efforts to win the team trophy. In his quest for TRUTH, your reporter had volunteered himself to be part of such a team, representing this magazine. The team can now be EXCLUSIVELY REVEALED as the following: your reporter played Austria; Paul Bennett, England; Mark Sheiham, France; Mark Wightman, Germany; Edmund Morgan, Italy; Mike Clark, Russia; Simon Cutforth, Turkey. I very much regret to have to tell you that by 1905 the Austrian home centres had made their excuses and left.

This being the case, your reporter went in search of the men more likely than any others to be engaged in SMUT, FILTH, and USING NAUGHTY WORDS -- to wit, the editorial team and hangers-on of VARIABLE TITLE. These drink-sodden layabouts, the shame of our higher education system, are frequently to be found in David Watts' room playing RailwayRivals (though how the non-smoking, virtuous Welsh methodist-type David Watts can stomach such company puzzles your reporter more than a little). In two games of RR gluttony and even WINEBIBBING were seen to occur (it was doubtless as a result of the second that your reporter broke his RR duck and won his first game, having tried since 1988; this after Mr Guest and Mr Harrison had spent all game attempting to inflit hideous payments upon the other. Following this sad display, your reporter made his excuses and left to get some food.

! Which was foul, as per usual.

Since your reporter had to be home that night for a prior engagement on Sunday, the rest of the evening was spent playing an exceedingly long game of Rogue Trooper during which, every time it seemed that the end was nigh and he would be able to make his excuses and go, something else happened to delay the end.

Monday, though, and your roving reporter was back again. Soon a game of NUCLEAR WAR was under way, which BRUTALLY and CASUALLY DEGRADES the peace movement by making MOCKERY of atomic warfare. Your reporter thought this, at any rate, until he won two games of it.

There followed the usual con-end mooching about. One Duncan Adams, a disreputable looking fellow from (we believe) Bristol, was making free with the subjects of DEVIANTS, or 'variants' as they are referred to in Diplomacy code, and was even heard at one point to propose MERCATOR CHAOS II, which requires 210 participants. Our reporter was too boggles to make any excuses, wondering as he was how to arrange 210 Diplomacy players in such a way as to cause maximum scandal. The use of explicit photography would seem to be indicated.

Mr Nick KINZETT, of Coventry, then happened by. He was sore in need of food, and being directed to a zippy little machine which mirowaved meals and served them up, he was then seen to perform LEWD and LASCIVIOUS ACTS with a beef and vegetable casserole in a small plastic pot. In front of SPECTATORS, too, he did this. He WILFULLY and DELIBERATELY peeled off the lid, pretending to have GREAT DIFFICULTIES in order to attract SYMPATHY (which was not forthcoming, as Mr Adams was in too many fits of laughter); then he SCOFFED THE LOT! Mr KINZETT is well-known in this DEMI-MONDE, having published ONE HUNDRED issues of his 'zine'. Despite this, NO STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE POLICE.

This act was the final straw for our reporter, who decided that enough was enough, and that the Plain People of Britain would never believe a word if it were to be printed. And as he made his excuses and left, he was already looking forward to next year's event.

Parents! Do you want YOUR CHILDRENS' MINDS to be WARPED like our reporter's? Then tell them to SAY NO TO DIPLOMACY. Your super crusading U!BEND vows to ERADICATE THESE PERVERTS and make it SAFE TO WALK THE STREETS.

STICHOMYTHIA

Disgusted of Lewes (aka Dave Newnham) I note that my F(BAR)-StP has been disallowed because of 'no coast specified'. I do not consider this to be an acceptable or reasonable adjudication and herewith demand a recount.

((Dave then quotes VII.3b of the 1971 rulebook, and continues))

Your houserules appeared as a part of issue no. 1. That is to say, the sides containing the houserules, backed onto pages containing other information/also contained other information. The point is that they were not issued separately or in a detachable section. I like many people keep my back issues and am not prepared to mutilate them, and thus do not have a file copy of the houserules available in the file I keep for Hershey. It is unreasonable to expect players to remember instances where the houserules conflict with the Diplomacy rulebook in circumstances where they have not been provided with an easy means of keeping a copy of the houserules with the game in progress.

((Why not put the whole issue in your file?))

They appeared in issue no 1, which was circulated in March 1991. There have been no re-issues or upgradings since that time. It is unreasonable to expect players to remember houserules that were issues 17 months ago.

((This is the first time that the houserules' efficiency has been called into question; why fix something when it's working?))

Whilst your houserules do state that the coast must always be specified, the whole question of Houserules superseding the Diplomacy rules is debatable. It is not reasonable for any editor to expect HIS players to follow a set of houserules which conflict with the basic Diplomacy rules. An editor has to appreciate that diplomats are usually involved in several games over a number of zines, and cannot be expected to remember his particular foibles. He should, therefore, make his houserules compatible with those of other zines or at the very least must ensure that his rules do not conflict with the basic rules of the game.

I consider the above to constitute justification for a re-adjudication and would expect to see my move succeed. Upon consideration, the above probably presents a good argument for a modification of the houserules?

((Boy oh boy. You can tell this man doesn't play in Mopsy, can't you?))

As I see it, there are two questions here. A, am I in breach of my houserules to adjudicate as I did? B, are my houserules too strict?

The answer to A is patently 'No'. It is a fact that the postal game of Dip is at variance to the f-t-f one (15 minutes to negotiate?) -- and one of the differences is the increased scope for deception. The Deliberate Illegal Order is one such. If I correct badly written orders, I lay myself open to complaints from players who wished the order to be wrong. Ideally, a player in such a situation would inform me of the deliberate error; but ideals are rare in this world.

As such I cannot readjudicate -- the other players would have justifiable grounds for complaint if I did, on the grounds that I had broken the house rules to which they were playing.

I am, however, prepared to accept that my house rules are too strict. I therefore, being a great supporter of participatory democracy, call for a REFERENDUM. All U-Bend readers who are interested should let me know by next deadline whether they would prefer my houserules to be more lax regarding ambiguous/illegal orders. If the majority favour a change, I will distribute new houserules with the next issues. As flyers. (Games already in progress will, though, remain under the original houserules unless no player objects to any change that may be introduced).

And if you can say fairer than that I will be surprised.

Allan Gordon Chingford You wanna hear weird? A few Sundays back, I trolled to the newsagents' for my paper, with naught but 67p clutched in my sticky little paw. On the pavement, outside the shop, I found 3p. When it came for stumping up for the Sunday Telegraph, I found that the buggers had sneaked up the price from 60p to 70p -- exactly the amount I now had! What do they say about 'somebody up there.....!?'

David Oya I thought Ms Pye's character ~~profiles~~ profiles were spot on, especially mine. Of course, the great thing about being frighteningly young is that you can model yourself on your heroes. I'm not ashamed to admit that when I finish my GCSEs and have my facial boils surgically removed I intend to do everything in my power to grow up just like you, Harry. Particularly in terms of your athletic physique and unique mastery of the English language. One quibble is that Steev plays the bagpipes, not the Northumbrian pipes. For the technically minded, the difference between the two is that the Northumbrian pipes can sound beautiful but bagpipes always sound wretched, regardless of whether or not they're being played by a guy in a skirt and a silly hat.

Re Faraday, if you pick option A after all the fucking work I've put into the orders I will sulk at you long and hard and, in all probability, be sorely tempted to stop being a pacifist temporarily and give your face a jolly good talking to with a large stick with a rusty nail protruding from it. I don't own such an implement, but I'm sure B&Q sell them.

((This, of course, has nothing to do with why I chose option B.))

Denis Jones ((After getting all the 'Missed Hits' bar two)): Good one Harry, Ilford how about: Later Vomit the Tomatoes and Rabbit; Bloodless Defeat; Deviants an' Aunts; Botha; The Whine of Watercolours; That on the Carpet; Guards of Colditz; College for Clean Living; Orders Received; Twenty Years Previously.

((I can get all those except Botha. Any clues, Denis?))

John Wilman If you were a bookie, I'd cut those odds on Hollis to 200-1 -- Perthshire anything can happen in a Dip game! I only watch the bill occasionally, under sufferance, but how about this for the line-up.

Favourite -- Supt Brownlow -- smooth, outranks the rest!

2nd -- DS Greig -- canny Scot.

3rd -- DCI Reid -- difficult to argue with.

4th -- DS Ted Roach (if he doesn't get drunk too quickly). A charmer, especially with the women

5th -- DI Burnside -- a bully, quite sharp, but who would ever trust him? Paranoid.

6th -- Hollis (staff rep) ((not any more)) -- stupid, but stubborn.

7th -- CI Conway -- would piss everybody off.

Well, it's more fun than picking English cricket teams. Oh, Bob Cryer for reserve.

Gary Lyon The bit about strange deaths and falling shelves reminds me of a film Norfolk made a few years back (the name escapes me), based on a true story, when a man is killed by a falling pig in Naples. The Neapolitans habitually raise them on their balconies, the pig got too fat and the balcony collapsed. Don't suppose there was a copy of Pass The Pigs on your shelf, was there?

Rob Moore's old zine list stirred a few memories of old FRP and SFRP mags -- can you remember any of these; Underworld Oracle, Sewars, Journal of the Senseless Carnage Society, Tome of Horrors, Balrog Banter? As for your zine lists, Blue Orc = Green Goblin presumably ((yup)), but I can think of at least two other FRP zines with orcs in the title.

Printing a zine is, I think, the hardest task. When I used to do mine, I was lucky in that I knew someone locally that was trying to make a living out of being a printer. When he folded, so did my zine. Now I've changed jobs I suppose I could produce a zine on the office copier, but the initial enthusiasm seems to have gone. Perhaps I might do a subzine one day. At least now I have access to a decent word processor -- before I used a manual typewriter on which the A key kept sticking. Ever try to write an editorial using as few As as possible?

((Oddly enough this manual's keys always seem stick after I clean them. It's always different keys, though. If you look at U-bond 1 it was the T that gave me gyp.))

Rob Moore: Yes, to my shame I was subbing to Toad, UD etc even when I was 14 or 15. I even contributed to Jeremy Nuttall's campaign world... blush... Before it folded I'd just written an amazing piece on Disguise and Costume in terms of D%s. CRINGE! I kind of forgot zines when Toad folded, though, until I answered the Springboard flyer. Remember Sound and Fury, Explosive Rune, Rage in Eden? Ahhh... nostalgia!

((I used to see a few gameszines, but most of them were so godawful (who mentioned Alex Bardy? Serpent's Venom? Durin's Bane?) The only decent ones I got were Tyrone Stodard's Cerebral Cortex and the humorous Bone of Contention (which once had a banner headline 'Free Drugs This Issue!' and had a teabag sellotaped on the cover...) I know now that I was missing some of the quality stuff, but I only really saw what people flogged me at Gamesday. Things were never the same after The Acolyte went, I am assured.))

Rob again: I don't know where the following came from; it was on a computer network when I first saw it but I've reproduced it from memory so if anyone screams out that it's wrong, sod 'em. No apologies for any offence it might cause; after the cucumber one you've probably scared the pruders off anyway.

TEN REASONS WHY A BEER IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN A WOMAN

- 1: A beer doesn't mind if you pass it round your friends.
- 2: A beer will watch football with you without complaining.
- 3: If you don't like the taste of a beer, you can throw it away and get another one.
- 4: A beer is always in the mood.
- 5: Beers don't have mothers.
- 6: Beers don't complain when you're drunk.
- 7: You don't have to warm up a beer before you drink it.
- 8: You can drink a beer without protection.
- 9: A beer won't complain if you don't finish it off.
- 10: A beer already has a ring, so it won't nag you into buying it one before you open it up.

((Thank you, Rob: And if Iain Bowen still thinks I am politically correct after printing that, I shall despair of the chap.))

Joy Hibbert: Might I suggest another 'quickie' ((Not now, Joy, I'm typing)) game Stafford ((Ohh, right))? Entitled 'Beeching', the rules are simple...
a) Anyone who sees U-Bend is eligible
b) Free issue/30p goes to the first person who accurately and concisely brings an adjudication error to the GM's attention.

((What a good idea. Residents of 13 Merrivale Rd are ineligible, I hasten to point out. I dislike giving money away, so this might goad me into cocking up fewer games in future.))

Joy again: Re Toby Harris, he was in fact the first person to tell me of Dunky's disappearance, and he did not tell me this info was in confidence. I can't follow his logic about zine recipients taking the editor's side against each other, can you?

Love the interlineations.

TON SI EMIT ELBASREVER SI NOITAENILRETNI SIHT

That was a strain -- I can write backwards, but not forwards letters, backward words.

?NOIZ FO SREGNUOY EHT EB TAHT T'NDLUOHS

Like the guide to men in the hobby, though I suspect QT of false naivete when she says this list is for hobby women, don't you?

Don't worry, Haz, you're not more of a pervert than I'd like.

((Well, I'm dead sure that list wasn't written for you.))

BEHOLD, UNCONSCIOUS OF THEIR DOOM THE LITTLE VICTIMS PLAY
the games section

The shortest one for some considerable time, it is, since no end of stuff is held over for varying reasons, mostly because of the delay in zine production last time round. Let's run through the list of what's here and what ain't:

QUINCY (Time Lords Dip): Orders awaited from Mike Allaway (who's been in the USA), Richard Walkerdine (who's been running Manorcon), and John Wilman.

ENGLISH (RR map OH): Orders awaited from Iain Bowen.

DREDD (Diplomacy) and

JACK (5 Italies Dip): Orders on file from all, but Toby Harris requests a hold-over as his copy only reached him 10 days before D-Day. Orders on file may be changed.

McGRUDER (Deluge Dip)

The latest recipient of shocking misadjudications on my part, and since the deadline was short, I decided it would be less hassle to save it than to try for an interim readjudication. Errors are:

- i) Russian F(RUM) was disbanded last winter, leaving only F(LVN)
- ii) France did order and support himself to Spa/nc.
- iii) Most seriously: Austria and England BOTH forgot to specify a coast for their armies transmuting to fleets. Thus I must rule that the transformation fails, leaving Austria with A(Tri) and England with A(Mar). Cap'n Gordon's eagle eye saw what others missed, as oft before.

Orders are awaited from Paul Norris. Others may change them if they fancy.

BARRETT (RR map YO)

Well, in copying out the map I do seem to have made a pig's ear of it, and hence James Nelson has got all stuffy. James, send us your map, like a good fellow, and I shall vet it for errors (e.g. I appear to have got the line from I50-Ilkley in the wrong colour!)

As an aside, I would prefer it if players who have a grievance about the way their game is being run (and let's face it, what other sort of player is there in this zine?) should try and sort things out with me rather than resigning out of hand, as James has done. (I do assume you're willing to keep playing once this error is straightened out, James?) I also find it annoying that you didn't tell me you were resigning at Manorcon, and give me a chance to look for a new player. However, things can hopefully be sorted out once the faulty map is corrected. Perils of being a standby, dontcha know. Pissing James Throp's fault, all this. Orders are on file from Damien, David and Nick, and I've heard from John. Race 2 will be rerun, needless to say

PEPPER (Sopwith T178UB)

Turn 7 :

I tried to kill off Dave Lomas last go, but I was wrong-o! He was hiding in a cloud and so escaped Father Avion's fair, the sneaky sod. Luckily it doesn't affect the position overly if I allow the game to continue with Atsuko returned to the skies and with Avion dead on 3 points total, so I shall. (This also means, natch, that Mark Wightman doesn't win from being the only player not NMRing his way out, which I find aesthetically pleasing).

Just for the record, and to fill space... Father Avion ordered as shown in U-Bend 11; Atsuke went LS,LS,LS. Atsuko shoots down the Reverend in Move 2 of turn 6, and ends at N3 facing M8, on 4 ammo, 3 damage, 20 VPs.

This turn's adjudication is overlaf (note that Erik Eriksson is no longer in receipt of U-Bend and is thus sure to crash next go).

PEPPER (Sopwith T178UB)

Turn 7

GM FLUSHED AS TWO ACES REMAIN (Poker joke for Pete Birks)

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
<u>Retaliator</u> ACE Mark Wightman	D7-D6	LT,A,LT	G8-H9	13:12:01
Erik the Half-a-bee (Erik Eriksson) (NMR2!)	P19-Q19	A,A,A	S19-SE	11:03:06
Baron von L'leaf (Marc Cole) (NMR3!)	F1-W	A and flies off		-2
<u>Atsuko</u> ACE Dave Lomas	N9-M8	LT,LT,LS	09-P9	04:03:21

NE scot the clouds, to: (F14,F15,G13,G14):(K16,K17,L17):(L10,L11,L12):
(N18,O17,O18,O19):(O14,O15,P13.P14,P15).

Retaliator - Judge English: Time to make a bee-line for Erik.

Retaliator - Erik: Soon the ½-a-bee will cease to be!

Judge English - Retaliator: Yeah, move 1 of next go, I make it.

XX

TEX (Diplomacy 92??) Spring 1901

All present and... well, nearly correct...

AUSTRIA (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Cl cton on Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)
F(Tri)-Ven, A(Vie)-Gal, A(Bud)-Ser.

ENGLAND (Edward Ainsworth, 4 Park Avenue, Bedford MK40 2JY)
F(Edi)-NWG, F(Lon)-NTH, A(Lpl)-Yor.

FRANCE (Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Cl, Urpeth Grange, Chester le Street, DH2 1TQ)
F(Bre)-MAO, A(Mar)-Spa, A(Par)-Bur.

GERMANY (Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Pk, Birmingham B29 7JL)
A(Mun)-Bur, F(Kie)-Den, A(Ber)-Kie.

ITALY (Keir Hodgson, 37 Shanklin Drive, Leicester LE2 3RH).
A(Ven)-Tri, A(Rom)-Apu, F(Nap)-ION.

RUSSIA (Chris Sutton, 62 Ashbrook Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2XB)
F(StP/sc)-GOB, A(War)-Ukr, A(Mos)-Sev, F(Sev)-Rum.

TURKEY (Mark Underhay, 65 The Chase, Holland on Sea, Essex CO15 5PZ)
A(Co:)-Bul, A(Smy)-Con, F(Ank)-BLA.

Retreats Don't be silly, boys.

Press

Russia - Germany: Thanks for the offer of Sweden. My build will be conditional on it...

France - England: I trust we've kept ENG clear?

Italy - Germany: OK.

Russia - England: Thanks for your letter. Good luck with your plans and with the game.

France - Germany: A(Bur) is purely defensive. Don't worry about it. ((Hmm...))

Italy - France: If we continue to ignore each other I'll be very happy.

Germany - France: Make sure you stick to the DMZ. ((Hmm, hmm...))

France - Everyone Else: Hello there!

Turkey - Italy: Watch out for the Austrians, they get everywhere at this time of the year.

Judge English: A few lines for commentary. Most importantly, would A Certain Person note that my recommended abbreviations for areas round Britain are NWG, NTH, Nwy Write them in full if uncertain. Otherwise, bog standard openings from many, though Russia is definitely pointing south rather than north. Orders for Autumn 01 on file from messrs Ainsworth, Sutton; may be changed at whim.

KELSO (Intimate Ia Dip)

Restart?

Well, I awarded this to Mark Stretch after Eddy Richards appeared to vanish, but I've since heard from Eddy who says that the Post Office are having difficulties finding the esoteric letter box of Flat 2, 80a Cromwell Rd, Whalley Range. Mark intimated at Manorcon that he was willint to carry on, so if Eddy sends in some orders and credit, we can. (Mark's orders are on file still -- what a filing system I have!)

After Winter 1901 bids the situation was --

AUSTRIA (Mark Stretch): F(Tri), A(Gal), A(Bud). 1 ECU in stock. Centres: home
ENGLAND (Russian): F(Lon), F(Edi), A(Lpl). Centres: home
FRANCE (Neutral): A(Par), A(Mar), F(Bre). Centres: home.
GERMANY (Austrian): A(Sil), A(Lvn), F(BAL). Centres: home.
ITALY (Russian): A(Tyr), A(Rom), F(ADR). Centres: home.
RUSSIA (Eddy Richards): F(GOB), A(Ukr), A(War), F(Rum), A(Mos). Centres: home + Rum. Treasury empty.
TURKEY (Austrian): A(Bul), F(BLA), A(Con). Centres: home + Bul. Oh, and F(Smy).
Neutral still: the other ten.

.....
OMAR (Intimate Ia Dip)

Spring 1903

COSSACKS SEEN IN BERLIN NIGHT CLUBS -- VODKA SALES SOAR

AUSTRIA (Tom Tweedy): F(Smy)-AEG, A(Con)-Bul, A(Ser)-Rum, A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Boh)-Mun*,
A(Gal) S RUSSIAN A(War)-Sil. A(Bud) H.
ENGLAND (Austrian): F(NAO)-MAO, F(Lpl)-Wal, F(Cly)-NWG, A(Fin)-Swe.
FRANCE (Neutral): A(Tyr) H u/o*.
GERMANY (Peter Dunnett): A(Par)-Bur, A(Mun) S A(Sil)-Boh, A(Sil)-Boh, A(Ber)-Pru,
F(Kie)-BAL, F(Den) S F(Kie)-BAL.
ITALY (Austrian): A(Tri) S AUSTRIAN A(Vie)-Tyr, A(Alb)-Tun, F(ION) C A(Alb)-Tun,
F(Ven) H.
RUSSIA (Austria): F(BAL)-Ber, A(War)-Sil, A(Pru) S A(War)-Sil.
TURKEY (Austrian): A(Sev)-Mos.

Retreats: Austrian A(Boh)-Vie; French A(Tyr), c'est mort.

Press

Tom -: Peter: Could this mean an Autumn 03 win for Austria? It might be close.
Judge English - Peter: You wrote 'Press' on your orders, then left a big blank space....

.....

NOXIN (Intimate Ia Dip)

Spring 1903

Germans would have been seen in Moscow night clubs, if there were any

AUSTRIA (Italian): A(Ber)-Kie, A(Gal) S A(Bud)-Rum, A(Bud)-Rum.
ENGLAND (Mick Haytack): F(Lpl)-IRI, F(Lon)-NTH, F(Bel)-Hol, A(Edi)-Lpl, A(Kie) H,
F(MAO)-Spa/nc, F(Swe)-Nwy, A(Mar)-Bur.
FRANCE (Neutral): A(Tyr) H u/o.
GERMANY (English): F(BAL)-Pru, A(Lvn)-Mos.
ITALY (Nicholas Parish): F(Spa./sc) S A(Pie)-Mar, A(Pie)-Mar, F(Tus)-GOL, A(Ser).
.....S Austrian A(Bud)-Rum. F(Rom)-TYS, F(Nap)-ION, A(Ven)-Tri, A(Vie)-Boh, F(Gre)-AEG.
RUSSIA (English): A(Fin)-StP, F(StP/nc)-BAR, F(GOB)-BAL.
TURKEY (English): F(Con)-AEG, F(Smy)-EMS, F(BLA) S A(Bul), A(Bul) S A(Sev)-Rum,
A(Sev)-Rum.

No retreats...shall we try for an intermediate d/l, guys?

Seginese now living on rats, mice and zoo animals (aka Tres Nouvelle Cuisine)

Arcturus	I/y llow	20a/3	
Andy Bell	F/yellow	14a/4	* Segin
	I/yellow	20a/1	from Arcturus
Segin	O/yellow	3/2	
Rob Cullender	O/yellow	3/2	

-----/-----/-----/-----	
C	/B /A /M
Regulus)1R	o+ /Betelgeuse)1S o /Mirfak /Menkhib)1S o
Alhena	/Bellatrix)1S + /Algol)1S o+ /Miram)1S +
-----/-----/-----/-----	
Avoir)1R	+ /Canopus /Aldebaran + /Theemin
Adhara)1R	o /Rigel)*A O+ /Menkar o /Zaurak)1aS o+
-----/-----/-----/-----	
F	/E /D /N
Morak)1AA	+ /Castor)8aA o+ /Polaris)1S + /SEGIN)@ o+
Pollux)1AA	o /Capella /Hamal)1S o /Schedir
-----/-----/-----/-----	
Alphard	/Procyon)2aA o /Mira)*S o+ /Alrisha)1S +
Denebola)2aA	o+ /Sirius)2aA + /Archerar /Mesarthim)1S o
-----/-----/-----/-----	
I	/H /G /O
Alkaid	/Gemma)2aA + /Alpherat /Homam)1S o
ARCTURUS)48aA	o+ /Altair)1aA o /Markab)1S o+ /Matar)1S +
-----/-----/-----/-----	
Acrux)1A	+ /Alpha Centauri /Fomalhaut)1S + /Sandalmelek
Sica)1A	o /Sol)5A o+ /Algenib)1S o /Sandalsud)*A
-----/-----/-----/-----	
L	/K /J /P
Enuban)1A	+ /Albireo /Deneb)2A + /Sham
Rutilicus)1A	o /Vega)2A o+ /Alderamin)2A o /Tarazed)1S o+
-----/-----/-----/-----	
Antares)1A	o+ /Sargas)2A + /Enif /Rukbat)1S +
Avria	/Sabik)@ o /Pavo)1S o+ /Dabih)1S o
-----/-----/-----/-----	

((Key: a=advanced ship: *=mixed class fleet; @=siege))

No new battle reports; only the continuing grinding siege of Segin, where the fleets currently number 13aA, 46S. Sabik still sees one standard ship of each side glare at the other.

Mixed Class Fleets: Rigel -- 8aA, 8aR; Sandalsud -- 1aA, 1aR; Mira -- 1S, 1aR.

Builds: Arcturus gets 14 nice shiny advanced ships: at besieged Segin cobwebs festoon the shipyards. Cobwebs of Seginese Space Spiders, natch.

Press:

"Aldebaran? I'd rather jump through the Capellan planetary garbage disposal wormhole than that dump! And Menkar's even worse!"

#####

SILVER (Really Lazy Bastard Dip)

Autumn 1902

Another creditable absence of interest...

AUSTRIA: Dave Hicks (NMR)/ENGLAND: Steve Guest (NMR)/FRANCE: Bryan Betts(NMR)/GERMANY: Ed Morgan (NMR)/ITALY: Dave Rowley (NMR)/RUSSIA: Crazy Markie (NMR)/TURKEY: Alan Parr (NMR).

Mind you, the orders file for this game does contain one bit of paper, thus: JOY HIBBERT: If it weren't too much trouble, I'd complain about the fix. Since I was too idle to stay on the waitlist, the game should have gone to me by default. How about a vote? Abstentions count for me; anyone who votes automatically loses for showing too much interest.

Go to the letter column, go directly to the letter column.

AUSTRIA (the late Ed Morgan):

A(War)-Mos*, A(Tri)-Ven*, A(Vie)-Gal.

ENGLAND (Dave Newnham, 80 Prince Edward's Road, Lewes, E Sussex BN7 1BH).

A(Edi)-StP, F(BAR) C A(Edi)-StP, F(NWG) C A(Edi)-StP, F(WTH) takes soundings at Jutland, F(Bel) inspects the mole at Zeebrugge.

FRANCE (Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL)

F(TYS) S A(Tus)-Rom, A(Mar)-Pie, A(Tus)-Rom, F(ION)-Gre*, A(Gas) H, F(GOL)-WMS

GERMANY (Simon Cutforth, 4 Beer's Cottages, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7TL)

F(GOB)-BAL, F(Den)-HEL, A(Hol)-Kie, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Boh) S A(Tyr)-Ven.

ITALY (anarchy): A(Ven) H u/o.

RUSSIA (anarchy): A(Mos) H u/o.

Turkey (Chris Sutton) 62 Ashbrook Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2XB

A(Gal)-War, A(Ukr) S A(Gal)-War, F(Alb)-Gre, F(EMS)-ION, F(AEG) S F(EMS)-ION, F(Nap)-Rom, A(Ser)-Tri, A(Bud) S A(Ser)-Tri.

Retreats French F(ION)-ADR. Austrian A(War)-Sil, A(Tri) annihilated.

Adjustments

AUSTRIA: War Vie Tri Ven	= 0	Out! lose A(Gal,Sil)
ENGLAND: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy Bel <u>StP</u>	= 6	Build A(Lon)
FRANCE : Par Mar Bre Spa Por Tun <u>Rom</u>	= 7	Build F(Mar)
GERMANY: Ber Mun Kie Den Hol Swe <u>Vie</u>	= 7	Build A(Ber)
ITALY : Ven Ven Ven	= 1	n/c
RUSSIA : Mos Mos	= 1	n/c
TURKEY : Ank Con Smy Bul Gre Ser Rum Sev <u>War</u> <u>Tri</u> <u>Nap</u> <u>Bud</u>	=12	Build 3 armies,
	34	1 short (!)

Press

France - England: Your comments about the adjudication and house rules are ridiculous. Would you have defended anyone else making the same

mistake?

Turkey - France: According to my sources you are not exactly telling the truth about your intentions.

Judge English - All: For the vexed question of my houserules see this issue's letter column, passim.

.....
GRIFFIN (Sopwith T174UB)

Turn 10

Good grief! More than one set of orders. I'm impressed.

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
Baron von Boggles {Mark Giles} (NMR4!)	M13-N14	A,A,A	P16-Q17	14:03:02
Roger Ranjet John R Todd	K8-L9	A,A,RT f-A	N10-010	09:09:02
<u>Captain Condor</u> ACE Dave Rowley	Landed	T/o Ctr, A,A,RS f-A	Q11-P11	15:07:39

Clouds go NW to: (E10,E11,F11):(E13,F13,G14,H14):(I18):(J13,J14,K13,K14,L13):(O18,P19,Q19):(P16,P17,Q17). In doing so they knock a point off Boggles again, and it couldn't happen to a worthier target, say I. Impartially, of course.

Btw, John wrote after the deadline to apologise for his last NMR. It's always worthwhile putting orders in in such cases if you haven't had the zinc yet -- you never know, if I haven't adjudicated you could get lucky.

Note that Dave Rowley (editorial address) has taken over the running of HYMEN, since the popular vote was to call for a standby.

Company/Base	Aircraft/	Starts	/	Via	/	Ends
CLAY P/London	747 /	Madrid	/	Frankfurt, Berlin	/	F70
Steve Guest	707 /	Atlanta	/	sits on the ground		
	Tristar/	London	/	sits on the ground		
	DC10 /	F49	/			Washington

Account: -275 -50-44-20-12-20+260+30 = -131; -20% = -158

AIR CRASH/Paris	DC10 /	H55	/			New York
David Oya	747 /	E46	/			Chicago
	Tristar/	Kano	/			H59
	A300 /	L68	/			Amsterdam
	767 /	London	/	sits on the ground		

Account: -778 -44-50-40-32-18-20+56+105 = -821; -20% = -986

HYMEN/Atlanta	Tristar/	G69	/			London
Dave Rowley.	DC10 /	Chicago	/	sits on the ground		
	767 /	Chicago	/	sits on the ground		

Account: -228 -40-22-18-20 = -328; -20% = -394

LAKER/New York	DC8 /	I24	/			Caracas
David Tittle	747 /	Chicago	/	New York, Miami	/	N3
	707 /	A13	/	Port o' Spain	/	I23*
	A300 /	New York	/	Miami	/	New York

Account: -266 -28-50-24-32-20+84+216+66 = -54; -20% = -65

Loads Landed

From	To	Carrier	Load	Size/Distance/Value
Washington	Amsterdam	AIR CRASH/A300	2 /	28 / 56
Accra	New York	AIR CRASH/DC10	3 /	35 / 105
Dakar	Caracas	LAKER/DC8	4 /	21 / 84*
Paris	Wash'ton	CLAY PIG/DC10	10 /	26 / 260
Dakar	Miami	LAKER/A300	7 /	27 / 216
Dakar	Miami	LAKER/747	1 /	27 / 216
Madrid	Frankfurt	CLAY PIG/747	5 /	6 / 30
Chicago	New York	LAKER/747	11 /	6 / 66

Loads In Flight

Belem	London	LAKER/707	2 /	29 / 58
Toronto	Tunis	LAKER/A300	6 /	31 / 124
Port o' Spain	Casablanca	LAKER/707	2 /	24 / 48
Berlin	Las Palmas	CLAY PIG/747	7 /	13 / 91
New York	Belem	LAKER/747	9 /	21 / 189

New Loads Available

Chicago	Bogota		2 /	20 / 40
Milan	Port o' Spain		4 /	32 / 128
Miami	Accra		6 /	36 / 216
Atlanta	Rome		8 /	33 / 264
London	Toronto		10 /	24 / 240
Tunis	London		12 /	10 / 120

Notes

David T, you undercounted for your 707, so I've moved it on towards its goal. Also, 4x21 is 84, not 63, sigh...which is how much the Dakar-Caracas run is worth.

Let's hope this game now runs smoothly to its destination, without turbulence.

I'm afraid there has been another outbreak of GM Denseness; the rules explicitly state that the 'guard' order doesn't work in a hex where there is a geographical feature, including towns. A Certain Player thus quite rightly complains that TBNS's track at T8-The Dalles should have been exploded last time. Since this affects the orders of several players, it has to be a holdover, though if you all get revised orders in sharp I may try for an interim adjudication.

A few minor errors to correct whilst I'm here...

- a) TBNS pays HAND 1 for T39
- b) MICA pays TBNS an extra 1 for A68-Z17.) c/f scores: MICA 39 HAND 68 TBNS 96.

Not Correction a) GIT has track (T6)-Portland (having leapt TBNS from The Dalles)

Not Correction b) TBNS didn't enter race 6 last time

Not Correction c) The runs are sectioned thus: I fix the cards so that each suit has 3 runs to each other suit and 1 internal suit run; which ensures an even spread. What I didn't do (and perhaps I should've) is make sure that each card comes up once in the first half of the races and once in the second. This explains why some towns have been twice and some have yet to show at all. Get it? got it? good.

RUNCIMAN (Sopwith T189UR)

Turn 5

GM in missing headline scandal

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A : D : P
Cam E. Khazi (Adam Sharr) (NMR3!)	L3-SW	A and crashes off		-2
Magneto Tim Lomas (NMR!)	L15-L14	A,A,A	L12-L11	12:08:05
<u>Retaliator</u> ACE Mark Wightman	L19-K19	I,A,A	M19-N19	07:05:22
<u>Zebedee</u> ACE Rob Cullender	J3-K3	LS f-A, LS f-A, IT	M6-N7	11:12:10

Clouds drift oh-so-fleecily SW to: (D3,D4,E5):(F8,F9,F10,G8,G9):(H5,I5,J5):
(H14,H15,I15):(L14,M14,N15,O15):(M9,N10,N11,O11).

Zeb - Cam (If he can hear me) ((Which he can't)): Just making sure!
Retaliator - All: Dok started a battle with me and now look where he is. Beware...
Judge English - Magneto: Wakey wakey! And I still haven't had that programme you promised me lo, these many issues ago. If I make any more mistakes in adjudications because of that it's your fault!

.....

HALWILL JUNCTION

Clap hands, here comes...

- 1: DAVID TITTLE
- 2: Joy Hibbert, Gary Lyon, Peter Dunnett, Nicholas Parish, Mark Wightman
- 3: David Oya, Steve Guest, Edmund Morgan
- 4:
- 5: Alan Parr, Mark Stretch, John R Todd, Dave Lomas, Peter Ritchie
- 6:
- 7: Rob Moore
- 8: Denis Jones
- 42: Ian Harris
- 5000: Dave Rowley

A free issue thus wings its way to Runcorn. A couple of dozen and you can afford a new kagoul, eh, David?

New entrants always welcome -- just send a positive integer to me each issue for a free U-Bend. How can you afford not to participate?!

ENGLISH (RR map OH)

Holdover revisited!!!

Would you believe, firstly that I managed to miss off IDLE's buil's in 5b) and 5c), but that nobody else noticed the omission till now!! Anyway, here they are...

IDLE (Peter Ritchiem, red): 5b) (Chillicothe)-K17; 5c) (Springfield)-Q12.

Orders already on file from all but OSCAR, but, of course, they may be changed.

BEECHING

Gamestart

The rules for this witty little competition of cause-the-editor-grief are outlined in the letter column. Remember, it's ME against YOU LOT, so the better I do the better I shall be pleased. Call it a method of damage control if you like. I might mention that Allan Gordon would have got the freebie this go, had the game been operational.

QUISQUILLIAE

Well, there are no more games, so I can but waffle at you to fill things out a wee bit. Let's turn to the new zines at Manorcon for inspiration.

They may be fruitfully divided into various degrees of corporeality --

EXTREMELY CORPOREAL is The Laughing Roundhead, an A3-folded-A4 job from Duncan Adams of 33 Morgan Street, St Agnes, Bristol BS2 9LG. A very mixed bag it is; Duncan does seem to have a flair for writing and will never, ever fall into the risk of taking himself or the hobby too seriously. Against this one must weigh the following minus points...

- a) The last editor to use that many fonts was Dunky Proffitt
- b) The last editor to have nothing better to do of an evening than throw the pigs from 'Pass the Pigs' 5000 times was Martin Hansen
- c) The last editor to have bright ginger hair was Andy Bate.

On the other hand,

- d) The last editor to run Russian Roulette was Nick Kinzett; and look what became of him.

Duncan does have editorial experience, though not in this hobby; he was formerly in charge of his local Sealed Knot Society's newsletter. My verdict? It's not what you might call great yet, but it may yet be, especially if he and his sub-editor grow out of the Utter Zaniness they both seem so eager to display (and yes, William Whyte never did -- but then Whyte can get away with a lot.) At 60p it must be worth investigating.

NOT YET CORPOREAL is ASSASSIN'S HANDBOOK from John Morgan, who promises his first issue for August. He foretells waiting lists for Dip, variants and wargame Conquistador, at 50p every 6 weeks. More on this when I see a proper issue.

(Oops, I should mention that TLR is to run Dip, Gunboat, Sopwith, Fic Dic, Pass the Pigs and Russian Roulette; frequency not stated.)

QUASI-CORPOREAL is Mission from Ghod, from 'The North Yorks Game Board; Hobby Services Division', which is so transparently Mark Nelson that one wonders why he bothered to use the soubriquet at all. A parody of the more normally spelt MfG, and while some of the jokes are on target, others go way beyond the fetters of decency, taste, sanity etc. Oh gosh, what will Mr Collman say when he finds Mark writing graffiti on the hobby's toilet wall?

BECOMING MORE AND MORE CORPOREAL are Bandersnatch, Spring Offensive and Sidewalk, on issue 5, 4 and 2 respectively. Bert has hit upon the inspired idea of running postal Consequences, though Dunning deserves 1000 demerits for exhuming Roberto Della-Sala, former Upstart of the Year and latterly pet bigot of several zines; Sidewalk continues to impress at 3-weekly, although he is not having much luck getting people to join games; unjustly so, I feel. And Spring

Offensive is taking off like a rocket, with four gamestarts at issue 2 (hmmm, just like U-Bend) and more to come. Because...

(We interrupt these parentheses to bring you the addresses for the above publications:

BANDERONATCH, Paul Dunning, 43 St John's Road, Watford WD1 1QB; 50p)
SIDEWALK, Mike Clark, Auchtydore, Longside, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire
AB42 7YL; 60p)

SPRING OFFENSIVE, Stephen Agar, 79 Florence Road, Brighton BN1 6DL; 60p)

...because NO LONGER CORPOREAL is that granddaddy of zines, NMR!. Ken Bain and Brian Croese overcame the handicap of not being readily distinguishable from one another in print to run a zine which clamours for the title of Best Never to Win the Zine Poll (along with such luminaries as Vienna, Thing on the Mat, Zeeby, 1901aat...) It has run for 136 issues, nearly 13 years; and now Ken, Brian and Geoff Challenger (who folded Home into it) have sizable amounts of children between them, and seized the chance of folding at a point where games were ending anyway.

I am scarcely in a position to pen a history of NMR!; it began when I was a stripling of ten years, in 1970, and I cannot say I placed great importance in gaming then. But it has been a stayer. Ken and Brian swapped the position of 'front-man' once or twice, and after issue 100 (and the infamous trade cancellation) it drifted away from the hobby mainstream in a way almost pitiful to behold; for most of its life, though, it "bestrode the narrow hobby like a Colossus", and there have been many fine zines directly inspired by it or taking a tip here and there. Highlights have been many; the cassette tape issue, using the editors' production facilities to create an issue in what was then an unheard of format; the mimeo covers by Rod Anderson (including the issue with a Nekkid Lady, which (according to hobby tradition) gave a young Stuart Tweedy an interesting biology lesson when he opened his father's copy); sparring with the other members of the Guildford Mob (Walkerdine, Richard Morris, Richard Bairstow, Steve Doubleday... a sobering thought to note that only one editor remains of this hitherto wannabee-Elders of Zion bunch); the Pub Guide; Rather Silly Dip... It's a sign that even though I was not there for most if not all of these events, I still know about them. NMR! looms large in hobby mythology.

The NMR! duplicator, of course, went to Steve Howe who used it to start up A Step Further Out. One appreciates the irony which made that machine, it seems, fall terminally apart even as the publication it first produced squeaked to a halt.

Now, way way back in the mists of time, Steve Agar (as he then was) folded his first zine Pigmy. (Agar dates this in 1900, Bain in 1979.) The games and subs were transferred to... NMR!. Nice reversal now, therefore, for SPOff to be taking them back. (Actually, it's twice that they've done that. Home folded, or effectively so, into NMR!, and then split from it again when Challenger could spare the time.)

Ave atque vale, igitur, NMR!. ~~0/0/7/7/1/0/0~~ Lucio says you were great, and you will be missed.

Spring Offensive, in the meantime, is (as I intimated earlier) on the road upwards. Stephen has refamiliarised himself with the hobby in a remarkably short time, and has already resumed his role as variant publiciser by putting together (along with James Nelson) a booklet of variants; a dozen of 'em, not a tummyache in a tankful, and all for £1 plus 36p post. Hmm, I wonder if I can wheedle a free review copy out of him? Finally on this subject, I might add that having met the man himself at Manorcon, I can state that his heart is sound even if his eyes aren't.

In the remaining space I shall express my relief that Variable Title, that fine product of various unlovely young drunks, has published issue 59 after a worrying gap. Costing postage only, it never ceases to amaze me why more people don't get this classic of lowliferity (Steve Guest, 3 Becket St, Oxford OX1 1PP).

ENDPAPERS

This is the back page of Up Around The Bend issue 13, the page that 8 out of 10 readers said they looked forward to the most. Now recovered from Manorcon, its editor... who is

HAZ BOND, 13 MERRIVALE ROAD, STAFFORD ST17 9EB

... is back in the groove and ready to go.

Detailed descriptions of deadlines, waiting lists, etcetera, are to be found on the inside front cover. This being the case, the back page is free for some LETTER OVERSPILL.

From The Offices Of Dear Mr Bond: Up Around The Bend. We are writing to point out a mistake in a recent issue of the above mentioned magazine. I refer to your spelling of the word 'Pyhhric' as 'Pyhhric'.

Normally we do not bother with such minor offences, but since you advertise yourself as 'a classical scholar', we feel that this may be a breach of the Trades Descriptions Act as well as of the Grammar Regulations.

We do not intend to take any further action on this occasion, but suggest that you ensure that we have no reason to write to you in the future. Yours sincerely, (Squiggle), pp Supervisor.

((I did it again and had to conflu it, I'm afraid. Steve Agar has had one of these too. Own up, I say, or the whole zine will be kept in at playtime.))

Steve Agar I note what you said about the 'rather weird' clause in my House Brighton Rules. I must say that I am surprised that you bothered to read my House Rules at all as they are scarcely very exciting. For what it is worth, I would argue that the only thing weird about my houserules is your interpretation of them! The phrase "Anarchy (which means that all units stand unsupported)" is simply pointing out that I will not adopt a system whereby units in anarchy use defensive supports determined by some formula applied by the GM. I will add the words 'by each other' in future to prevent any similar misunderstandings.

Thanks for the offer of a trade, which I gladly accept. Why did Andrew Moss cut his trade with you? Whatever U-Bend is, it is certainly entertaining.

((I do play games, you know, Agar, and as such perusing a new zine's house-rules is logical in case I want to play there. As for Andrew Moss. If someone writes and tells me his zine is cutting all trades due to financial difficulties I assume they are being honest with me. It appears that Mr Moss was not, but simply didn't have the balls to tell me he wanted to cancel trades with me alone. Gosh, I wonder if that had anything to do with the fact that I thought AoR wasn't the best thing since sliced bread and printed a review saying so. If you must be dishonest, though, it's not a wise move to print the details of your dishonesty and then leave piles of the issue it's in lying round at Manorcon for the person involved to read. Mr Moss may be good at the game of Diplomacy, but he has a lot to learn about its real-world counterpart, eh?))

=====

A brief newsflash; James Nelson is attempting to set up a Variants Game-start service to combine waiting lists for variants from several zines and fill up lists which would otherwise remain half complete. This is an excellent idea in principle, though U-Bend is so full right now that I'm not sure I'd be able to participate fully in this scheme. Still, anyone interested can and should contact James at 112 Huntley Avenue, Spondon, Derby DE2 7DU.

COLD
COM
PRESS
33

7 Probes

...credit box (if red, renew sub!).