

ABSOLUTELY PURE... ABSOLUTELY FRESH...

New U-Bend is the best zine in the hobby at being kind, yet gentle, to your entire wash. Gets whites white, and Diplomacy right (sometimes). And look at those bright colours on the Soapwith! And yet it leaves your hands as soft as the editor's brain.

UP AROUND THE BEND issue 23

Coldcom Press 44, Pretend Family Fanzine. Not genuine without this mark. £100 will be paid to anyone who can prove that U-Bend is adulterated in any way whatever. Pat. Pend. 50p & post. 5wkiy. Our Founder: H. Richard Bond, Esq., of

13 Merrivale Road, Stafford ST17 9EB (phone 0785 213259)

Waiting Lists [* = preference list received]

DIPLOMACY: Keir Hodgson*, John R Todd, Bob Holliday*, Martin Draper*, Mark Stretch*. 2 wanted. Following list: Edward Ainsworth

ILLUMINATED VAIN RATS [Dip vtj]: John Wilman, John R Todd, Bob Holliday*, Ed Morgan. 4

BREAKING AWAY [GM David Oya]: David (que Dieu le sauve) has offered another game of this. Already we have Haz Bond, Dave Lomas. 4 wanted.

GRAND SLAM: Rules within. Martin Draper, lots needed.

MARSHA SEA GAOL: the debtors' prison

Goodbye to: Nick Kinzett, Theo Clarke, Robin ap Cynan

The following are sailing close to the wind: Keir Hodgson, Damien Cosgrove, Rob Moor, Alan Harvey, Alan Coulthard.

Main Deadline: 21 SEP 1993

Outside Deadline: 18 SEP 1993

Outside GMs:

Luton: Paul Slade, 164 Ark Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7NE

Armstrong: Geoff Brown, 15 Scotland Hall Rd, Newton Heath, Manchester M10 6PE

Broken Face. Cactus: David Oya, 24 Kingsway, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9NY

Your remaining credit is _____

Mini-Ecopland

Welcome to a pared-back issue of U-Bend, without so much as a cover -- the first such since issue 6, and only one fourth all told.

Babies apart, there's still a reasonable amount of reading in it, since several letters were typed up in advance by a long-suffering Joy Hibbert while she waited for things to start happening. There's not much comment by me, though, since I never got round to writing most of it: still, you know me pretty well by now, if this absence bothers you you can probably compose some ersatz Bond sarcasm and jests and scribble them in such marginal spaces as the Gestetner deigns to leave free of black smudges ("I didn't realise justifying margins meant acknowledging the staple had to go somewhere until I read Hopscotch" -- unoriginal joke). We also have our third outside GM, none other than David "Big Bibbledy Weeeeee Flop" Oya, whose spondicious statements make many a good zine better if less comprehensible. What a package!

BABY REPORT

Well, I was walking round the garden two weeks ago, and suddenly a big bird with a bundle in its beak flew down out of the sky and alighted by a rose bush (we don't have any gooseberry bushes). Leaving said bundle behind, it flew off once more. Investigation proved that the bundle contained the sweetest little baby you ever saw, so of course we took him in and looked after him, and christened him Leopold Oscar Algernon, and lived happily ever after.

And then I woke up, and it had all been a dream.

The actual birth wasn't so simple, needless to say. The baby was due on July 14th, which came and went without any sign whatever of labour. As did the 15th, and 16th, and 17th, and so on and so on.

This gave the doctors all the excuse they needed to summon Joy at increasingly short intervals and immobilise her by strapping her up. No jokes about kinky sex, please, this was serious, they were trying to measure the baby's heartbeat and check it was okay, which it was. Mr ---- came down to his usual standard by failing to find the baby's head, and assuming not that it was snugly in Joy's pelvis and thus inaccessible, but that -- well, I don't know, maybe he thought it didn't have one or something.

By the time the birth was twelve days late they were making very strong noises about inducing it, not because the baby was at risk according to their monitors, but because we were starting to mess up their statistics. Joy and I were both getting fed up with waiting, and lost our tempers with one another once or twice, and eventually decided that the induction was the lesser of two evils. Wednesday, said the doctors. Make it Friday, we said, Haz has a job interview Thursday.

Given the amount of antenatal classes we attended, the next bit may come as a surprise, but I assure you it's true. Wednesday afternoon, Joy started to get gutache. Instantly we thought it was the birth at last. But time passed, and the pains didn't become regular, or feel as though they were in the appropriate spot, or in any way appear to approximate to labour. So we tried to make light of them, despite their getting worse, till about ten o'clock, by which time we were wondering how you operate for appendicitis with a great big baby in the way. And so we called the doctor.

Who sent us up to maternity at once, where Joy was found to be fully dilated. Ouch. Some women have all kinds of pain relief to get through the first stage. Joy managed it all on two paracetamol. It's at times like this that I feel glad to be a man, and you may call me sexist if you like.

There isn't too much to say about the rest of the birth, actually. Joy took hold of the Entonox (laughing gas) mouthpiece very firmly and became rather annoyed if told to let go, I knelt on a ridiculously small stool and tried to hold Joy (20+ stone) up, and at 1.32am a baby boy was born via the usual method and instantly started screaming the place down. Continuing the theme of inconvenience, the other baby in maternity was born at the same instant, and the paediatrician who looked as though she'd been awake for 72 hours had to dash back and forth between them.

He had swallowed some meconium (baby shit, for the uninitiated) and had to be dashed off for a stomach pump and thence to the special care baby unit, though he was a very healthy colour and all his bits and pieces were evidently right. I went with him. Here they monitored him (and had to give up because he kept kicking and knocking the probe off his skin), and measured him, whereupon he excreted some malodorous black meconium all over their tape measure.

Joy eventually turned up at 3.30, having got rid of the placenta and had a shower, and she looked better than anyone had a right to expect, I think. The baby was certified healthy and released to a cot, Joy was taken off to a ward with him, and I was told by Joy to get my ass off home and try and sleep before my interview. Unsurprisingly I didn't get the job -- though my boss told me that this was because I was more valuable to them where I was, and because if he'd given it to me, there was no guarantee that my current position would be filled due to the college being skint. I really think I did well to get to the interview at all.

Joy was allowed home two days later, and the intervening time has been spent in feeding him, cleaning him, showing him off to people and (very occasionally) sleeping. Joy and I are both shadows of our former selves, I can tell you. But we are managing. Already we are quite willing to accept all the inconvenience that will come when he starts becoming mobile just in order to sleep through the night.

Oh, his name? Lee David Frederick. This is for real, as opposed to a little joke at the expense of Dave Tant.

As for the baby sweepstake, Lee's lateness confounded most of you. It seems a little unfair that the only person who didn't read U-Bend closely enough to spot that he was due in July should scoop the pool, but that's the way the cookie bounces, for IAN HARRIS gets a free issue by a margin of a mere 92 minutes from Mike Clark, and as a trader should find a slew of stamps enclosed.

QUID IN ALVEOS ACCIDET

hobby news

Far more to report than I have a chance of stuffing in this space, needless to say, so let brevity be my watchword. Of the overdue zines, Greatest Hits and Variable Title both show at last, both well below par, but at least still alive; no sign of The Laughing Roundhead, as for Monochrome, I give up, and NERTZ, well, anyone who expects that before they see it is an arrant ninny.

Manorcon news: Jim Mills individual champion with an astounding two solo wins and a good draw, Mad Policy team champs, Walkerdine doubtless insufferable. Liverpool entered as "Spring Offensive III" to annoy Stephen Agar and came last; Ode nowhere, for a change. News is that Agar and Bowen are trying to set up an alternative system to the Collman/Springboard novice handling method, akin to the old CGS. I am all in favour of this extra choice for novices, and the only complaint I have is that I (and, lord help us, Tom Tweedy) were saying much the same in late 1991 and were roundly abused for a bunch of radical eikonoclastes. Steve and Iain even bend over backwards enough to deny themselves CGS players, which no CGS custodian has hitherto found necessary.

Midcon appears to be handing out free passes to all and sundry for their Dip tourney for long service. So if you got knocked out in 1903 for the last two years, you are now adjudged a sufficiently skilful player to take part in the fight for the gongs. I hereby give up trying to talk sense into Dodds and Tringham (whose letter features a few pages on); the former will doubtless come out with some gabble in News from the National Dip Championship to justify this frantic patching together of an unworkable system, but I am past caring.

In brief: Realpolitik confirms that its rundown will lead to a fold, sigh... Paul Bennett attempts to take Nothing to Declare separate from TLR due to latter's lateness ... Sharp totally revamps Dolchsstoß ratings again... Tringham threatens to run Dip in relaunched Megalomania -- using computer adjudications (relieved noises from old timers)... Won't be at Sto-Con-Fest (Keele Univ 10-12 Sept) but anyone wanting cheap accomodation need only ask... see you in sixty, folks...

GRAND SLAM

- 1) This is a game set in the framework of a tennis circuit. Tournaments feature the best of five set matches. Tie breaks will resolve each set if necessary.
- 2) Each player should supply a pseudonym and a nationality for the player they wish to control. Nationality should be one of: Australian, Czechoslovakian, French, British, German, Spanish, Swedish and US. The GM reserves the right to change the nationality to achieve an even balance of countries, if necessary.
- 3) Players should then determine their match profile by allocating 100 point between the five sets. Once this allocation is made, it is essentially fixed for the entire game (but see rules 6 and 7).
- 4) To play any match, the profiles of the two players are compared. The match is won by the first player to win three sets. Each set is won by the player who has more points allocated in that set, the score being decided by the following table:

Difference	Set Score
23 or more	6 - 0
19 - 22	6 - 1
15 - 18	6 - 2
11 - 14	6 - 3
7 - 10	6 - 4
3 - 6	7 - 5
0 - 2	Tiebreak

- 5) Tiebreaks: Each player also has 20 tiebreak points which are distributed between the five sets in a similar manner. These are only called upon if a tiebreak in a set is necessary. Should the tiebreak points in a set be equal, the tiebreak is won by the player having most tiebreak points left in the following sets. Should this fail to produce a winner it will be decided on the toss of a coin. Tiebreak points, whilst not interchangeable with basic profile points, may be amended with each tournament. The score for a tiebroken set is always 7-6.
- 6) In any match, players need not stick rigidly to their basic profiles, but may alter distribution by up to 8 points per set, provided the allocations still add to 100 total.
- 7) Success in a tournament brings in more basic profile points to be allocated in the following tournament as the player sees fit. These points will depend on each individual tournament, but will be detailed before each tournament begins.
- 8) If a tournament fails to attract the appropriate number of players, the GM will invite local generated amateurs to make up the numbers. Their basic profile points will total not less than 80 but not more than 95.
- 9) There will be 9 tournaments in all, one for each of the 8 nations plus a preliminary tournament held in Japan. Each tournament will take place in an issue of the zine. Players playing in their home country may claim an extra 5 points; home advantage is added after set allocation, so it is possible to adjust a profile by more than 8 using these extra points.
- 10) NMRing players' points will be allocated identically to the previous match, with 5 profile points deducted from each set. Should a player NMR twice a replacement will be found.

[[These rules by an unknown hand, taken from John Booth via Martin Draper]]

Feudman Number Reports

The former 'official' Feudman Number custodian has failed to publish any Feudman details for some considerable time. After due consultation I must declare it my duty to the hobby to annex this post and issue temporary numbers and updates myself. So, starting with the earliest,

1987A Iain Bowen vs Mark Nelson: Sadly no moves have been received in this feud for such a long time that I feel compelled to declare it abandoned, with no Feudman Points gained by either participant.

1990E Haz Bond vs Eoghan Barry: This too will be declared abandoned unless the feud moves on very shortly.

NEW NUMBERS:

1993A Neil Duncan vs Danny Colman: Adjudged a win for Duncan due to sheer cheek.

1993B Vick Hall vs Stephen Agar: Ongoing, though signs are that a stalemate line is imminent.

1993C Haz Bond vs The Midcon Committee: An independent ombudsman is investigating this feud following allegations of irregularity.

1993D Neil Duncan vs Iain Bowen: Ongoing. Your Feudman Number man advises all students of the art to watch this one -- we have DNG letters being printed regardless, we have allegations of all kinds of corruption from both sides, and appearances indicate that Sarcasm is already coming into use. Open Letters may be next.

1993E Mark Boyle vs ?: Whoops, I'm not supposed to allocate numbers without a full list of participants' names, am I? Boyle is of course one of the oldest hands at feuding to be found, as indicated by the rise in feuding level to threats of legal action with the first shots.

1993F Peter Sullivan vs John Morgan: Shurely shome mishtake [ed].

Any feuds of which I am unaware should be reported to me at once so they may be issued with a Feudman number and statistics kept. Only regular feuds are eligible for numbers; thus multi-party feuds are ineligible (but may be issued Killer Numbers instead), whilst American and other foreign feuds are the provenance of the relevant country's custodian.

Finally, I think I should make my position clear regarding the Nice Numbers issued during the Feudman interregnum. These numbers have no official status whatever. I suppose that if someone is daft enough to keep records and compile statistics on people being kind and friendly to one another in the postal hobby, they can, but I for one want nothing to do with it; my interest lies solely in the One True Pastime of Feudmanship, and these fairy-interactions hold no interest for me at all.

Good grief. Next thing you know, one of these duvet stuffers will start issuing index numbers and running stats for Diplomacy games!

-- 'KARL N. LEMON'

[[Many thanks to 'Karl' for that piece, and a few apologies to Iain Bowen for pinching his idea....]]

STI CHOMYTHIA

a letter column with less editorial comment than usual, for obvious reasons

David Oya Re the Oxon RR Map, you were actually the third lucky recipient after
Banbury David Watts and Steve Guest. Sorry to shatter your illusions. In order to
 make you feel a little better, I've enclosed FOR YOU EXCLUSIVELY, an
early version of my Turkey RR map. I'm particularly looking forward to the special
runs: connections for soft drugs, connections for hard drugs; connections for
international terrorism. What jolly fun. [[Wot, no connections for little boys?]]

I'm not going to flood the hobby with the damned things (Oxon maps) (isn't that nice
of me) but anyone who wants one need only send me a couple of 24p stamps to cover
copying and postage. And yes, I'd be happy to run a game on it in U-Bend. And I won't
even flog a comatose horse by suggesting that we make it a S**** R***** games. *sigh*
(though there are lists open in Lies and TLR, you know)

Stuart Dagger Something weird about someone who subscribes to zines without
Aberdeen playing in them? Possibly, but then in most people's eyes you get
 the badge simply for being a gamer. My position is the same as that
described by John Harrington in TTYF: I came into the hobby in order to play postal
Diplomacy, but that was a long time ago; as a direct result of my involvement in
postal gaming I now have a circle of friends here in Aberdeen with whom I regularly
play games FTF; although my hobby is now centred on FTF play and the newsletters,
such as SUMO, that deal with the sort of games we play, I still value the feeling of
being part of the wider hobby and so maintain a peripheral presence in postal
gaming - about 8 subscriptions and a couple of games.

As to why U-Bend has stayed on the subscription list but never made it to the play
list, the former is because of its early issues and in its most recent ones it has
been an entertaining read. Had my subscription fallen due during the low period in
the middle, I doubt that I'd have renewed, but it didn't, and the magazine recovered
its old form. As for not playing, considerations of time mean that I don't play many
games at any one time, and when I have been in the market for a new one you haven't
been offering anything I fancied.

Rob Moore I hope everything is going well, all the best for the big day!
Leeds (note, this is directed at Joy, it won't be too taxing for you, I
 suppose). I must confess I, too, have recently taken steps to
reduce my liberty, in my case the announcement of my engagement to my long suffering
girlfriend. I did the traditional thing and requested her hand from her parents, but
her dad was so engrossed in the TV he missed it! Sad..

I'd like to comment on this MidCon thing, but I know nothing about it. Hey! That puts
me in the ideal position. Seems to me that it's a nice idea, but the dip hobby is too
small to support it properly. Still, if it does work out it could serve to expand ftf
Dip playing, which can't be a bad thing.

Congrats on the award, you've a little recognition for your success! Maybe best GM
next year? (smirk).

With reference to current news. I thought Mates were for added comfort and
protection. Maybe that's how Nadir sees it, but probably not John Major!

The reason I never say anything you disagree with is that we're genetic twins,
separated at birth and moulded to our different characters and appearances by our
upbringings. Allegedly, Tom Tweedy was the father (shiver.. what a frightening
thought).

Chris Tringham Let's deal with the points you make in reply to John's and my
Thornton Heath letters.

Firstly, the fact that non-qualifiers can play in the Diplomacy tournament at MidCon without qualifying has always been in the rules: we don't want to prevent anyone from playing (thought it is probably the case that, for various reasons, some people who would otherwise have played will choose not to do so if they haven't qualified).

Your scenario of a non-qualifier winning is not going to come true. In effect, there will be two competitions taking place simultaneously at MidCon: the qualifiers playing in the National Diplomacy Championship whilst everyone else competes for the MidCon Trophy. An outstanding performance in the MidCon Trophy will not mysteriously propel the player into contention for the National Diplomacy Championship, though the winner will qualify for the following year's event.

Of course John and I only played in the tournament at MidCon [[I think he means FurryCon, kids]] to make up the numbers; if seven (or fourteen) players had turned up, we would have dropped out, but as organisers we have a certain obligation to make sure that the players who make the effort to turn up do have the opportunity to play. You have my word for it that I took the game seriously (at least until Dodds stabbed me!) and I think that John's results speak for themselves.

I do not find it surprising that we have difficulty staging games at cons that previously had no Diplomacy content. The first year was always going to be hard work, but the hope is that having proved we are serious about this we will find it much easier in 1994. Obviously, there will be a need to review the progress we have made, and decide whether some changes are required, but I don't think there can be any doubt that John has done very well in establishing the qualifying competition in such a short time.

As for your idea that we should charge a fee for non-qualifiers who want to take part in the Championship, I'm not sure whether we are supposed to take this seriously or not. Taking this to its logical conclusion, perhaps we could emulate the Tory party and take as much money as we can from anyone who'll contribute, then announce who has been selected to compete for the Championship. Perhaps those who gave the most money would get the best countries allocated to them.

[[See Realpolitik for further debate on this topic. I'm worn out.]]

Edmund Morgan I hope all is well with Joy and the kid-on-the-way. Any thoughts of
Sutton, Surrey names? Is Azathoth out of the question? Oh well. I've always thought that naming a child must be one of the really fun things about having kids, though there is the responsibility that you can't give your offspring something that they're going to resent for the rest of their lives. Dweezil? Moon-Unit, anyone? No takers - glad to hear it.

Question about last Egoland: 'Schizo and Lentil' - is that the name of the hippies or of the dogs?

[[Of the dogs, silly. I wouldn't let any real weirdos into the car.]]

John McCoubrey I'm not gay, I don't support gay rights or fancy the idea of sub-
Ringwood dom etc., but it does make you wonder about the wholesale witch hunt for the said 'offenses' (?) during the week when the West has supported the American big cheese launching god knows how many cruise missiles at Bagdad on the pretence that an Iraqi plot was planned to kill George Bush. The plot was uncovered, and I believe that individuals in question are awaiting trial. I know the guy is off his trolley and a tad megalomaniac, but in this instance my sympathies lie with Saddam and the poor Iraqi buggers who were bombed. Bloody hell! Not exactly extending the olive branch is it? I would advocate that (sorry if I sound like a 70s hippy/New Age guru) a bit more love, be it heterosexual or otherwise, would certainly leave the world no poorer. Ok, back off my soapbox.

Joy Hibbert What a lazy Joy I must be, haven't locked U-Bend for three issues.
Stafford What will people find to disagree with? Still, I've done my bit: I

write on 15th July, the day after the foetus' official getting-out day (it is less than punctual), and yesterday I wrote to about 6 zines, which should keep them going in controversy for a couple of months.

Let's start with issue 20:

Congratulations on saving a boy from alcoholism. I refer, of course, to Baby Mikey Clark's reaction to your use of the terms 'draught' and 'bottled' for the two methods of conception. Pity not every Seetone reacted the same way.

It takes a very special sort of mind to really think that a sub-standard pornographer who specialises in women and dogs (ie Nancy Friday) can really be compared to a great and original thinker such as Dworkin. Or indeed that any pornographer can reasonably be compared to any philosopher. I am reminded of a joke: What do you call the loose folds of skin around the vagina? - a woman. I am reminded of this because that must be how anti-Dworkin men see women. How can anyone dispute that we are conditioned to see the recipients of penetration as inferior or damaged? How can any (straight) man want to defend this masturbatory relationship with females when they can have real, caring relationships instead? Well, apparently they do.

As for Boyle, he should be informed that real women don't need 'telling' what to do or think by little boys like himself. But then, he's probably too afraid of real women to have ever got to know one. [[Hark! do I hear a lawsuit approaching?]]

John Wilman: Well, I suppose you should have made it clear who was making the snide remarks about S&M parents, but it did seem unfair since she is not an official recipient of U-Bend (mind you, that doesn't seem to get in Baby Mikey's way). People should, however, try to remember what offensive remarks they made. I have always found that increasing the blood to alcohol ratio in my circulatory system improves my memory no end - perhaps others could try it?

Ian Harris: Pain is a very bad system for telling you anything. You can go into, say, a radioactive area and suffer fatal injuries without a twinge. On the other hand, you can develop something like an ear infection about which (in the pre-antibiotic days) you could do nothing, and suffer for several days until it sorted itself out. Childbirth is perhaps a bad example, since theoretically at least, it only hurts overwhelmingly if you're doing it wrong, but in order to understand what 'overwhelmingly' means, you need a trial run of some kind, and no-one gets one.

Having said that, it does annoy me when people use 'hurts like buggery' to mean 'hurts a great deal more than buggery, even with an overendowed and inconsiderate partner'. No-one ever needed epidural anaesthesia in order to tolerate buggery.

I think people attracted to the 'forbidden' aspects of S&M would be more into the 'fashion' end - wearing lots of leather and other odd stuff in public - rather than the 'sex' end - which is by its very nature semi-private. Many people at the 'fashion' end don't do anything I would call S&M at all.

As for the risk of forcing people into S&M, you're either into consent, or you're not. If you are, you can do consenting anything, including some of the more violent S&M scenes, without being a danger to anyone who isn't interested. If you're not, the fact that you're only vanilla is probably of little comfort to your victims.

Rob Moore is not only generally sensible, but also witty. On the legalised buggery question, while I agree that there's more to it than that, I think you, and he, miss the point. If it was just 'legalised buggery', so what? Does the fact that it's distasteful justify criminalising it? If so, where would it end? Possibly exactly where Witchburner Dickens wants it to end, but I don't think many of the rest of us would be happy. The postal games hobby would be unhappy to be criminalised (since so many games, including some Dip variants, have 'devil worship' aspects) for a start.

Mind you, I can understand hetero/bi people being a bit irate. Buggery between a m/f

couple is still illegal, after all.

Re Dave Newnham, I did say that the Egoland about the foetus could be misconstrued by those determined to do so. The only thing I got wrong was the name of the person most likely to...

Pete Birks can be so quaint sometimes. 'Judicial murder' has been the accurate way to refer to 'capital punishment' for longer than my lifetime. Why is it that these 'old enough to switch my brain off' types always end up thinking that any even vaguely radical idea must be new?

For example, there's a difference between 'a right way to think', which is clearly a non-starter, and 'a wrong way to think', which leaves a lot more options open. More usefully, there's 'a wrong way to behave', something that the Bowens and Birks' of this world like to conflate with 'a right way to think' so they can indulge themselves in terror.

Birks' entire letter was a red herring, designed to trivialise the sort of racism that people complain about (such as refusing jobs to blacks, burning Asians houses down etc) by comparison with the sort of thing we're all guilty off (feeling more nervous around a black gang of yobboes than a white gang of yobboes). The difference between him as a racist and me as a racist is not what our conditioned reactions are, but simply the fact that I see it as a problem to be overcome and he sees it as a good thing to be defended by whatever degree of sophistry is necessary.

On to issue 21. John Wilman seems unable to distinguish between 'rude' but fair remarks addressed honestly to someone's face and 'rude', inaccurate comments hiding behind the pretence of being 'a joke'. And if he wants to avoid violence, what was he doing in the police?

Rob Moore: The hobby may be relatively free of racism, but since it is also relatively (or should that be mostly?) free of blacks, how can you tell? It's easy not to appear racist if there's only one race around.

Actually, South Africa is a minor example of the results of being scared of differences. I know it's a bad situation, but remember: they only have the apartheid problem because they neglected to sort out their 'native' problem via genocide, something that the other major colonies, such as the USA, Canada and Australia, didn't fail to do.

I take James Nelson's point. I suppose I'd just assumed that euthanasia would always be surrounded by safeguards - consent in advance in writing and the approval of two doctors, for example - while SSM or coerced submission would be more a matter for individuals. As such, euthanasia would be a medical matter, and exempt from laws around consent. Or it should be.

Re Ian Harris, another reason why humans express pain, whether in childbirth or otherwise, may be that we are a gregarious species. If we are in pain, we want someone to do something about it for us. Animals who are not gregarious, such as cats, do not express pain even when they feel it. Our senior cat, Petronius Arbiter III, has sustained a scrape on her back inside leg that goes down to the muscle level. I don't know when it was sustained - she didn't see fit to tell me. At some point I noticed her limping, and saw what the problem was. I intended to take her to the Vets the next day, but don't let anyone tell you cats are stupid. They can tell the time. She vanished 15 minutes before the vet opened, and reappeared 15 minutes after they shut. By the time I got her there, it was infected, and the vet said it couldn't be stitched for that reason. The war of wills known as 'one tablet twice a day' was necessary, together with bathing the wound with antiseptic liquid four times a day. While she takes a dim view of these procedures, she never expresses the dim view orally. (Cat lovers note: she's better).

I'm not really interested in the Great MidCon Debate, but it does look to me as if

they're trying to be all things to all people. On the one hand, they want a seriously challenging Championship, with lots of heats and good people in the finals. On the other hand, they don't want to appear elitist, and so create opportunities for people to qualify, thus defeating their object. In practice, a person with money has a better chance of qualifying than a person without, since (s)he can merely enter every heat until (s)he finds one where all the other players are worse. The only way to overcome that, that I can see, is to have the country divided up in a rational way into heats, players only being allowed to compete once, rather than have heats in places where someone already in favour of the idea is prepared to run one. This would cost extra money and effort for the organisers, but seems the only way of getting much respect for what is, in theory, the sort of good idea that no-one could argue with.

On to issue 22. I hope your new found surface respectability as a heterosexually cohabiting father to be isn't turning you into a Bowen clone. The Data Protection Act is a largely Good Thing, and better than anyone could have expected from the government. Its weakness lies in the fact that it excludes non-computerised data, thus allowing the Economic Society (or Blacklisters Anonymous), the Oxford Cornmarket Branch of the Midland Bank (or the All Blacks are Not British Citizens and Therefore are Bad Credit Risks association) and the Medical Profession to get away with things.

Except for those of us who can read upside down and/or walk off with their own file. Hee hee. The last Foetus Facts wasn't very accurate. What actually happened was the hospital midwife assumed I'd been seeing my GP, and was horrified to find I'd 'only' been seeing the community midwife, surprised that I wasn't already dead. So she shunted me in to see the consultant's registrar, and the midwife assisting her. The registrar seems to have decided that there was something the matter that she couldn't sort out (possibly finding the fetal head) and shunted me off to the consultant, who insulted my intelligence by assuming I needed 'a good bedside manner' (ie my legs covered during the examination) rather than merely someone who believed pregnancy was a normal (as in 'non-pathological') condition. But I got off lightly with just a bit of condescension and instructions to go back the following week. He couldn't find the head, which isn't surprising since it's down in my pelvis, but seemed unable to make the mental leap from knowing it wasn't findable by fingers to knowing it was 'engaged' as the jargon has it. Wot a plonker, eh?

I walked off with my file just to see what had been said and to correct some of the 'social' details (such as crossing Dave out every time he was mentioned). The really annoying thing about the consultant is that he makes threats and doesn't write them down, so I can't prove anything.

I can't see how identity parades for lesser crimes or those with low conviction rates can ever work under the system you described. If a Brick Wall, or even a 7 stone weakling, has already assaulted you, are you going to take the risk of recognising him/her and risk him/her taking it personally upon release, or are you going to fail to recognise your assailant? As for you being dead hard, since the witness didn't know how many of the other people in the parade were villains dragged from the cell for the occasion, he probably picked the person who looked least threatening. Ie the teddy bear.

Ian Harris Now look. First Stephen Agar pays a visit to Chateau Harris, and Chester Le Street goes on to describe me as a nice, all round family man. Now you drop by and lumber me with the appellation of 'genteel'. Bah. Obviously my image could do with a long, hard looking at.

Well done, (I think) for half taking the 'Most Improved' category in the Gladyses. This always strikes me as something of a back handed compliment; if you've improved more than any other zine in the hobby does that mean you were crap before but are now up to standard? Or that you were ok before and are now outstanding? It's all very strange.

[[Well, I didn't reckon much to most of the manually typed issues, but it was

them or nowt.]]

Ah, please put me down for Beat the Black Ball. I'm loving this proliferation of silly games in the hobby; how long before someone offers postal Mousetrap, I wonder?

Following on from my musings last time about why childbirth is so painful for humans yet apparently easy for animals, something else I've often wondered is why animals get up to all manner of disgusting practices without ill effect, while any human who was to eat from the floor, drink from an outdoor pool of muddy water, habitually sniff the genitals of strangers and occasionally consume the body wastes both of themselves and their family, would very quickly go down with something very nasty indeed. Yet we're all animals, descended from monkeys, aren't we? So how come things are different for us? When did it happen? Not that I particularly want to do any of the above, you understand, just that these are the sort of questions that come to you at four in the morning when you're dog tired and bored silly.

[[Any answers? Could this be the hobby's equivalent of the Guardian's "query column" (I note that MidCon has already nicked that paper's colophon typography)]]

Dave Tant It may be a little late by now, but I hope the arrival proves healthy and causes Joy no problems. I await with trepidation Bexleyheath learning what you decide to call it. [[Sorry to disappoint you, guv]]

John Wilman According to what I remember of my training, many years ago, the Blairgowrie purpose of an Identity Parade is "To test the ability of the witness to recognise the suspect".

Yours was obviously an old hand - who would pick the guy on the end of the line? I never did have much faith in them. We used photo albums of convicted villains, and "confrontation" wherever possible - not admissable in evidence, but useful ammunition for interviews.

The trend must be towards forensic evidence, which is generally more reliable than the human mind, which tends to fill in gaps and then by sure the invention is a genuine memory.

Gary Lyon I took part in an identity parade a few years back (when I ran a Great-Yarmouth sub-post office). The police never paid me anything -- and I was the main reason the event was being held. Perhaps I should have asked for a commission from the civilians on parade? It all took place during a particularly vicious thunderstorm, so I was kept hanging around in what seemed to be the police station broom cupboard for nearly two hours whilst they tried to find enough similar types to the suspect.

To make things worse, and very frustrating, I failed to pick him out. I like to think that I'm very good at remembering faces (though terrible with names), but failed dimly on this occasion. (One can only put it down to the six month gap (and I'm not exaggerating) and the fact that the miscreant in question had made good use of the delay by growing a full beard.

He was still found guilty eventually, though -- I got the registration number of the car he was in as he left, after failing to pass off the forged benefit book, and it turned out that this was his wife's. That and a correct photo identification (on the same format as the ID parade only with head and shoulder pictures), done on the evening of the offence, were enough. I got £25 from the court as a gift, but that was small recompense for the hours spent hanging round in police stations, magistrates' and county courts. The final insult was that he only got a suspended sentence. Justice? Humbug. [[There speaks Lord Justice 'Stringemup' Lyon, eh?]]

[[There are lots more printable letters -- Moore, Lyon, Underhay, Collman D. -- but if I try and do the lot the zine will never get done. Maybe next time.]]

oimoi, peplegmai kairian plegen eso
the games section

XIMENEZ

Chaos II Diplomacy 92BW rh06

Autumn 1903

NORWEGIAN WANDERINGS CONTINUE
A Quiet Season

ANKARA (John Miller): A(Sev)-Mos.
BELGIUM (Peter Ritchie): F(Bre) H*, A(Bel)-Ruh.
BREST (John R Todd): F(MAQ) S Norwegian F(ENG)-Bre.
BULGARIA (Vick Hall): A(Bul) S Serbian A(Rum)-Ser.
DENMARK (Peter Dunnett): F(BAL)-Swe.
EDINBURGH (Denis Jones): F(NTH)-Lon.
HOLLAND (anarchy): F(Hol) H u/o.
KIEL (Duncan Adams): A(Ber)-Mun, F(Kie)-Hol, A(Ruh) S F(Kie)-Hol.
LIVERPOOL (John Morgan): A(Yor)-Edi.
MARSEILLE (Guy Thomas): A(Spa)-Gas, A(Mar) S A(Spa)-Gas.
NORWAY (Toby Harris): F(ENG)-Bre.
PARIS (Damien Cosgrove): A(Par)-Mar (nsu and impossible), A(Gas) H* u/o.
ROME (Alex Richardson): A(Ven) H, A(Tus)-Pie, A(Rom) S A(Ven).
SERBIA (Mike Clark): A(Rum)-Ser.
SMYRNA (Neil Duncan): F(Con) S A(Ank), A(Ank) S F(Con).
SPAIN (Edmund Morgan): F(Gre) S Bulgarian A(Bul).
ST PETERSBURG (anarchy): F(GB) H u/o.
SWEDEN (Stephen Agar): F(Nwy)-SKA, F(Swe) S F(Nwy)-SKA.
VIENNA (Allan Gordon): A(Bud) S A(Tri)-Ser, A(Tri)-Ser, A(Tyr)-Tri.
WARSAW (Peter Charles): A(StP) H, A(War)-Mos.

Retreats Belgian F(Bre)-Pic, Parisian A(Gas)-Par.

Adjustments

Ankara:	Sev	= 1	n/c	Belgium:	Bel Bre	= 1	-F(Pic) [gm]
Brest:	For	= 1	n/c	Bulgaria:	Bul	= 1	n/c
Denmark:	Den	= 1	n/c	Edinburgh:	Edi Lon	= 1	n/c
Holland:	Hol	= 1	n/c	Kiel:	Kie Mun Ber	= 3	n/c
Liverpool:	Lpl Edi	= 2	-F(Lpl)	Marseille:	Mar Spa	= 2	n/c
Norway:	Lon Bre	= 1	n/c	Paris:	Par	= 1	n/c
Rome:	Rom Nap Ven	= 3	n/c	Serbia:	Rum	= 1	n/c
Smyrna:	Smy Con Ank	= 3	-F(Smy)	Spain:	Tun Gre	= 2	+F(Tun)
St P'burg:	StP	= 0	OUT	Sweden:	Swe Nwy	= 2	n/c
Vienna:	Vie Bud Tri Ser	= 4	+A(Vie)	Warsaw:	War Mos StP	= 3	1 short

Designated Centres Smyrna plumps for Ank, Kiel for Mun, Warsaw for Mos.

Press

Pompey - Strauss: Boing!

Strauss - Wagner: Tried to contact you (with a view to co-composing a beautiful concerto) but letter returned 'not known'. COA?

Judge English - Strauss: Duncan Adams, 5 Hedge End, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0SW.

Other COAs: Damien Cosgrove to 28 Mayfair Rd, Jesmond,

Newcastle on Tyne NE2 3DP; Ed Morgan back at 22 Meadow Rd, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4NF.

Damien - All: Sorry about no mail recently, just been moving house (see above).

Par - Bel: Well, I wonder how things stand now?

=====
BEECHING

I hate to say this, but the fact that Steve Guest owns a calculator and can count better than me in RR means he wins again. I'm not giving him any money, though, because VT is so overdue. So there. [Stop Press: it's arrived at last!]

LUTON

Atlantic Airlines [GM Paul Slade]

Turn 6

TBNS 707 G53 / / Chicago
 John Colledge 747 M19 / Port of Spain / A45

Account -340 -24-50-20 = -434, -20% = -520

FUSSYCAT 747 K2B / Tunis / D64
 Haz Bond 707 Atlanta / Chicago / M56
 Tristar J&S / Tunis / L72

Account -168 -24-50-40-20 = -302, -20% = -362

RAC Tristar C2B / Kano
 Alan Harvey

Account +186 +64-40-20 = +190

SANTA CLAUS 747 C44 / Bogota / J7
 Rob Cullender Tristar M2 / / B65
 DC8 C44 / Miami / E60
 DC10 G46 / Chicago, Montreal / E51

Account +177 +196-50-40-28-44-20 = +193

Planes Ordered And Paid For Next Turn None
Loads In Flight

Atlanta	Frankfurt	PUSSYCAT/Tristar	2 * 33	= 66
Casablanca	Frankfurt	PUSSYCAT/Tristar	3 * 9	= 27
Havana	Casablanca	SANTA CLAUS/Tristar	9 of 10 * 29	= 290
Havana	Casablanca	SANTA CLAUS/DC8	1 of 10 * 29	
Pt of Spain	Washington	TBNS/747	11 * 13	= 143
Chicago	London	PUSSYCAT/707	3 * 29	= 87
Miami	Rome	SANTA CLAUS/DC8	5 * 35	= 175
Tunis	Atlanta	FUSSYCAT/747	7 * 31	= 217
Montreal	Kano	SANTA CLAUS/747	9 * 35	= 315
Bogota	London	SANTA CLAUS/747	11 * 37	= 407

Loads Delivered This Turn

Bogota	Kano	RAC/Tristar	2 * 32	= 64
Madrid	Chicago	SANTA CLAUS/DC10	7 * 28	= 196

Loads Available

OLD			Size / Dist / Value
From	To		
Belem	Paris	10	29 = 290
Belem	New York	3	21 = 63
Las Palmas	New York	7	22 = 152
Pittsburgh	London	10	27 = 270
Accra	Pittsburgh	2	37 = 74
Frankfurt	Madrid	4	6 = 24
Amsterdam	Chicago	6	31 = 186
Casablanca	Madrid	8	4 = 32
Chicago	Washington	12	6 = 72
Milan	Berlin	2	3 = 6
NEW			
Amsterdam	Caracas	2	34 = 68
Chicago	Paris	4	29 = 116
Miami	New York	6	8 = 48
Chicago	London	8	29 = 232
Toronto	Algiers	10	29 = 290
Port of Spain	Tunis	12	30 = 360

Hello soldier boy, oh boy, she's spewing out her propaganda, propaganda

Secrets: Insula Vectis are very sorry to report a massive disaster in their germ warfare programme. A huge cloud of anthrax, AIDS and botulism drifts on the winds, which blow it over Simon Cutforth and leave 25m of him dead.

I.V. are probably less sorry to report that top Fnord athlete Hugo Thataway has defected and is now living in a nice little semi in Ventnor. Unfortunately 1,999,999 fans came with him and are living in tents in the vicinity, so Ventnor Town Council are a bit cheesed off.

This being so, they may be heartened to find that APPLIANCE have perfected a device to make bolts of lightning come out of the local TV mast and strike everyone in Tent City dead, not to mention Mr Thataway.

Simon Cutforth, meantime, suffers from protestors calling for a test ban and must miss a turn.

Finally, as regards secret cards, the Faroe Island peace corps are cheesed off with home, and all 2m leave for Peckham.

Revealed Cards: All propaganda, not surprisingly at this stage...

THE FNORDS (Geoff Brown): 10 million leave Insula Vectis, pining for the Fnords

FAROE ISLANDS (Rob Moore): 5 million dissidents leave PRP for a life of fishing and weather forecasting

INSULA VECTIS (Paul Slade): 5 million more bowler-hatted bank clerks leave PRP to watch yacht races and enjoy them so much they don't come back.

APPLIANCE (Andy Bell): 10 million leave Peckham for the land of Hoovers and sandwich makers.

Simon Cutforth: Is missing a turn.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF PECKHAM (Alan Coulthard): 5 million Faroers get fed up of fishing and weather forecasting and decide that queueing for the Nunhead circular bus is more interesting.

Deterrents Insula Vectis wants you all to know there's a 20 meg' warhead sitting in Freshwater and they're not afraid to use it. Not to be outdone, the Faroes declare a cruise missile.

Population Changes since 1999AD

TF+8m, FI-2m, IV-5m, AP+10m, SC-25m, PRP-13m

Your New Card(s):

New Secrets: The Faroes and Peckham both have a shiny new secret card.

Press:

In the background: H.P. Lovecraft played songs that blew the mind. The leader of the Fnords calmed himself before his presentation to the people. A few words from this charismatic man and millions would flock to the cause. All the more to play the game of life!

And the World still turned and the band played on!

Judge English - Fnords: Oh no, please, not 'Game of Life'. Anything but 'Game of Life'.

PEPPER

Sopwith T178UB

Turn 15

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A : D : P
<u>Retaliator</u>	K7-J6	RS, RS, A	H6-G5	01:07:02
1 ACE	Mark Wightman			
<u>Atsuko</u>	Q10-N10	LS, LS, LS f-A	L7-K7	04:04:26
5 ACE	Dave Lomas			

Clouds went NW to: (G16,H15,H16):(L18,L19,M19):(M12,M13,M14):(P19):
(P16,P17,Q15,Q16,Q17). No damage, sorry about squashed format.

BROKEN FACE Breaking Away [GM David Oya]

Setup

Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL (home)
Jesus College, Oxford OX1 3DW (term)
Stuart Dagger, 27 Cameron Way, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8QD
Mick Haytack, 43 Swanmore Rd, Littleover, Derby DE23 7SD
Bob Holliday, 39 Peterborough Rd, Portsmouth PO6 3LB
Alan Coulthard, 173 Valeside Gdns, Colwick, Nottingham NG4 2EN
Edward Ainsworth, 4 Park Avenue, Bedford MK40 2JY

Okay, by next time I need from each of you (1) a team name, (2) a name for each of your cyclists, and (3) intitial card allocations for each of your cyclists. Please note that we'll be using the rule amendment as printed in U-Bend 22, page 11. This will very probably affect your starting card allocations. Also, note that my deadline is the Saturday before the main deadline, that I don't accept telephone orders and that my dateline is Agrajag.

CACTUS

Railway Rivals (Oxfordshire) [GM David Oya]

Setup

Duncan Adams, 5 Hedge End, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0SW
Haz Bond (your gorgeous pouting zine-ed)
Steve Guest, 3 Becket St, Oxford OX1 1PP
Bob Holliday (see above)
Mark Stretch (see above)

There's room for a sixth player on this map, so if anyone out there fancies a game, give Haz or me a shout as soon as possible. TurboNick? Johnnybaby? Anybody? Unless Uncle Haz sez otherwise, your maps should be enclosed. Good, aren't they? By next time I need from each of you (1) a company name, (2) a preferred colour, (3) a preference between central or scattered start and (4) in case the latter option wins out, a preference list from Banbury, Chipping Norton, Carterton etc. You may, if you are so inclined, make your orders for (3) and (4) conditional on whether or not a sixth player turns up. Please note that my deadline is the Saturday before the main deadline, that I don't accept telephone orders and that my date line is Agrajag.

You may be interested to know that the last two games I ran started in two zines called 'A Step Further Out' and 'Garbage In, Garbage Out'. In both cases, shortly after the game started, the parent zine folded in mysterious circumstances. This was, of course, pure coincidence. Haz has nothing at all to worry about. And rumours that I wear a black hooded cape, carry a large and very sharp scythe and let out the occasional blood-curdling cackle are, of course, completely unfounded. Or... are they?

Judge English: How The Merry Thump, David dear, am I supposed to mail out maps when I only have one, and that one is more than usually important as I'm playing in the game? Let me know quickly if you can't make copies and I shall endeavour to.

BREYER

RR map IN:

Round 1

RAITA (Steve Guest, orange): 1a) (Mangalore)-N7: 1b) (N7)-Q9: 1c) (Q9)-S10-T9.
MOO (Jeff Cattle, blue): 1a) (Vish'nam)-V24-W24-X24-Y24; (Vish'nam)-T23: 1b) (Y24)-Z23: 1c) (Z23)-A64.
IRATE (Peter Charles, green): 1a) (Calcutta)-I71: 1b) (I71)-Bhagalpur-K69: 1c) (K69)-K66.
DIPSO (Duncan Adams, red): 1a) (Madras)-L18-L17-O16: 1b) (O16)-O15-Q14: 1c) (Q14)-T12.
ERRRR (David Oya, oh all right, purple): 1a) (Bombay)-Z6-A46; (Z6)-Y7: 1b) (Y7)-X7: 1c) (X7)-Pung.

IRATE and ERRRR have 26 points, others 20 still. Rolls for the second round are 4-4-6.

ARMSTRONG

Lift Off! [GM Geoff Brown]

1961 (Finally).

Ian Harris United States

Purchase Interplanetary Rocket Programme
 Purchase Liquid Fuel Strap Ons [[ooh err missus]]
 Purchase One Stage Rocket
 Purchase Two Person Capsule
 R&D Liquid Fuel Strap Ons = +21% @ Max R&D = 85%
 R&D 2 Person Capsule = +27% Current R&D = 83%
 R&D EVA = +28% Current R&D = 84%
 R&D Interplanetary Satellite = 30% Current R&D = 75%

Launches 7 and 8 are declared for December this year.
 Launches 8 and 9 are planned for next year. [[Perhaps 9 and 10? --HRBJ]]
 A large corporation buy some advertising on your next launch. +8MB to your budget.

#####

John Breakwell U.S.S.R.

Despite several attempts to contact John through U-Bend, by telephone and by letter, I have been unable to obtain a duplicate set of orders from him. I waited and waited but finally had no option but to give him an NMR.

#####

Gary Lyon Duchy Of Grand Fenwick

Purchase Three Stage Rocket
 Purchase 2 x 1 Stage Rocket
 Purchase One Person Capsule

Launches 7 and 8 are declared for November this year.
 Launches 9 and 10 are declared for next year.
 The government orders that your next launch must be with a civilian. If you accept add +30MB to your Budget, if not, reduce your budget by 50%. Your next mission must be a multi-manned capsule with a new astronaut (see rules page 11)

#####

Rob Moore Termight

Purchase 2 x Orbital Satellites
 Purchase 2 x 1 Stage Rocket
 R&D 2 Stage Rocket = 32% Current R&D = 32%
 R&D One Person Capsule = 30% Current R&D = 65%
 R&D for Interplanetary Satellite = +20% @ Max R&D = 90%

Launches 7 and 8 are declared for December this year.
 Launches 9 and 10 are declared for next year.
 The release of a new film at the cinema, showing Martians invading earth, puts off any prospective astronauts for next year. +5 to Budget.

LAUNCHES

NOVEMBER:

The Duchy of Grand Fenwick were the first to launch this year, with attempts at a Manned Orbital and Spacewalk and an attempt to dock with their own craft after a second launch. The initial lift off went without any problems and the mission was well underway before the first hitch. The second rocket exploded on the launch pad. There was no-one on board, but it also meant that there would be no docking attempt this year.

+1% 1 Stage Rocket, +1% 1 Person Capsule, +1% EVA.
 (+21MB -2 failed mission) = +19MB to budget.

DECEMBER:

The first to launch in December were Termight, beating the USA by a matter of hours, due to a lower budget. The first mission was the launch of an Orbital Satellite on a 1 Stage Rocket. The mission went without any problems at all and led to:

+1% 1 Stage Rocket, +1% Orbital Satellite, +2MB to budget.

The second mission had a few core problems. The rocket lifted into space without a hitch, and re-entered the atmosphere without any problems. The problems came when it was time to find the capsule. It wasn't anywhere on the radar screen. After a couple of hours frantic searching they finally came across it and managed to release a very tired and ill Bryan Robson. The mission is still declared a success and the scientists jumped for joy.

+1% 1 Stage Rocket, +1% 1 Person Capsule, +10% experience to Bryan Robson, +6MB to Budget.

The final launches of the year were by the USA. They were an attempt at a Manned Orbital and Spacewalk and an attempt at a Manned Orbital and Dock. The first mission went without any problem at all, with all the steps going exactly as predicted by the jubilant scientists on the ground.

+1% 1 Stage Rocket, +1% 1 Person Capsule, +10% experience of astronaut, +9MB to budget

The final launch of the year was a manned orbital and docking. The explosion that happened on the launch pad could be seen for miles around. The newspapers were told it was a standard test to check the safety of the escape pods, which worked very well. The astronaut just looked ill from the pressure of work!!

-10 budget failed mission.

BUDGET TABLE

	D O G F	U S S R	U S A	T/MIGHT
Budget Brought Forward	67	68	69	61
Budget Mods Due to Event	30		8	
Budget Mods Due to Card				5
Mission Modifiers	19		-1	8
BUDGET NEXT YEAR	116	68	76	74

CASH IN HAND

	D O G F	U S S R	U S A	T/MIGHT
Cash in Hand Brought Forward	29	90	45	18
Budget This Year	67		69	61
Expenses This Year	-92		96	66
Rushing This Year	-02			8
CASH CARRIED FORWARD	2	90	18	11

That went out separately last time: here's the current turn --

Ian Harris

United States

Purchase Third Launch Facility

Purchase Two Astronauts

Purchase Docking Module Programme

R&D 2 Person Capsule +4%

@ Max R&D 85%

R&D EVA +6%

to 90%

R&D Interplanetary Satellite +15%

@ Max R&D = 90%

Declares 3 Launches (10, 11, 12) for next year and attempts in December at Manned Orbital, Docking and Spacewalk, and Lunar Satellite Flyby. (See Mission Control)

Your government have discovered a foreign mole working in your design department. He invented your most advanced satellite programme. Pay either 12MB to sort out his mess or reduce your Interplanetary Satellite programme by -10% on future missions. The government also cut your budget by -2MB after the bad press involving this.

#####

John Breakwell

U.S.S.R.

Purchases 2 Stage Rocket Programme

Purchases Interplanetary Satellite Programme

R&D 1 Stage Rocket +16%

to 76%

R&D Orbital Satellite +14%

to 93%

R&D 1 Person Capsule +24%

to 58%

R&D 2 Stage Rocket +31%

to 41%

R&D Interplanetary Satellite

to 53%

USSR declare 2 launches for next year.

In Russia a bright young student has started work at your plant producing rockets. He spots a potentially fatal problem with your fuel injection system, allowing you to ignore your next failure on a rocket programme (I will keep the card and play it when necessary)

#####

Gary Lyon

Duchy Of Grand Fenwick

Purchase Civilian Astronaut

Purchase Docking Module

Purchase Lunar Probe Programme

Purchase 3rd Launch Facility

R&D 2 Person Capsule +3%

to 83%

R&D 3 Person Rocket +17%

to 32%

R&D EVA +34%

to 84%

DOGF announce 3 launches (11, 12, 13) for next year and attempts in November at a Manned Orbital and Spacewalk and an Unmanned Docking.

A Major Problem with fuel formula, not spotted by your scientists until AFTER your next launch, means a 50% chance of explosion before the launch takes place. The government add another 7MB to your budget.

#####

Rob Moore

Termight

R&D One Person Capsule +26%

@ Max R&D 80%

R&D 2 Stage Rocket +29%

at 61%

Termight announce 2 launches (11, 12) for next year, and this year attempt in December

an Unmanned Sub Orbital and in November an Unmanned Orbital (see Mission Control)

A notable scientist has been added to your programme. He gives a +1 to all R&D dice next year. The government kick in with +5MB to help pay his wages.

LAUNCHES

NOVEMBER:

First up in November are Termight due to their lower budget. Their attempt at an Unmanned Orbital looked easy. The rocket lifted into space without any problems, and the slight problem encountered on re entry was overcome. (+1% 1 Stage Rocket, +1% 1 Person Capsule)

Next up were the Duchy of Grand Fenwick with 2 launches. The first being a Manned Orbital with spacewalk. Astronaut Rutherford strolled out to the capsule with all the confidence of a man who has seen it all before. The slight figure of the civilian that followed him showed all the signs of needing the sick bag. The 3 Stage Rocket didn't even make it off the launch pad. Negative ignition meant the evacuation of the astronauts and a potentially hazardous job for the ground crew. (-10MB failed mission)

The second launch by DOGF was an attempt at an Unmanned docking. The 1 Stage Rocket had been tested much more than the 3 Stage used in the earlier launch. However, the ground crew are reminded that in order to carry out a docking it is necessary to have a CAPSULE loaded on board. A 1 Stage Rocket not being capable of carrying both a docking module and capsule, it is necessary to use a bigger rocket (-3MB failed mission)

DECEMBER:

First in December, again because of their lower budget, are the USA. The first mission being a Manned Orbital, Spacewalk and Docking. The USA having seen the DOGF rocket fail because of lifting power, remember to add LFSO to increase their lifting capability. Lift off goes without any problem, as does the rest of the mission until the recovery stage. The ground crew have to release the astronauts from the capsule by cutting away the hatch. This minor problem still means the mission is a success, and the astronauts are led away by a cheering group of engineers. (+1% LFSO, +1% 2 Person Capsule, +1% Orbital Satellite, +1% EVA, +15% Docking Module, +10 experience astronauts, +34MB to budget)

All this meant that when the second launch failed to make lift off, nobody was that bothered. (-3MB failed mission)

Final launch of the year was by Termight, with an unmanned Sub Orbital. Everything on the mission list went without a problem and the scientists marked it down as another success. (+1% 1 Stage Rocket, +1% 1 Person Capsule)

BUDGET TABLE				
	D O G F	U S S R	U S A	T/MIGHT
Budget Brought Forward	116	68	76	74
Budget Mods Due to Event				
Budget Mods Due to Card	7		-2	5
Mission Modifiers	-13		31	
BUDGET NEXT YEAR	110	68	105	79

(This space for hire
(See, Agar? That's how to do it)

CASH IN HAND				
	DOG F	U S S R	U S A	T/MIGHT
Cash in Hand Brought Forward	2	90	18	11
Budget This Year	116	68	76	74
Expenses This Year	-113	-148	-69	-40
Rushing This Year	-02			-1
CASH CARRIED FORWARD	3	10	25	44

MISSION CONTROL

After a couple of attempts, we finally manage to make it in on time. There have been a few questions and some comments from me, which I will address now. If you have any questions in future, please indicate if you want them anonymous or not.

IAN: Because I failed my mission last year, can I change my missions this year to attempt it again?

No, it takes 1 year to plan a mission. If you fail a mission then tough! You have to try to take this into account.

JOHN: You didn't add my budget to my cash in hand when I NMRed, and why do I have only 90 to spend?

True, you state that you have only 90 to spend, when at the end of the last budget you had 158. This is still the case, because you need to add your cash in hand figure to the figure for your budget. With regard to an NMR, I don't know how Dave dealt with them, but this is how I do it. You receive no budget and you don't receive an event card. Therefore you are in exactly the same position after the NMR as you were before it. You also lose any budget due to missions that have to be cancelled. As I didn't see any house rules, I am being lenient. In any future games you would also be fined 10% of your budget for any NMR!

JOHN: You can only carry out R&D up to a maximum of 8D, this is why you still have some cash in hand.

ROB: Both your launches for this year were declared as being Unmanned!

Finally, as Lift Off requires very little, if any, diplomacy, it would be a great help if you could get your orders in ASAP after getting U Bend, as sorting it all out takes about 3 days.

Judge English: Let me know if you'd prefer an earlier deadline, Geoff.

URQUHART

Sopwith T21SUB

Turn 7

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A : D : P
1 <u>Ginger Rogers</u>	F12/NE	I f-L, RS, A	E11/SW	07:07:25
ACE John Miller				
3 <u>Retaliator</u>	H14/SW	I f-A and snuffs it		03
ACE Mark Wightman				
4 Lord Biscuit	L7/W	RT, A, A	I7/NW	07:08:06
Barrel Mike Clark				
5 <u>Vic Rattlehead</u>	J15/NW	I f-R, RS r-R&A, RS	I13/SE	07:08:06
ACE Rob Moore				

Clouds reverse west to: (I12-J12-J13-K13-L14); (E1-E2); (L6-M6-M7); (C10-D11-D12); (I8-J9-J10-K10); (N13-N14-O12-O13). Sorry, no room for press!

ZIMMER

Sopwith T216UB

Turn 5

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A :D :P
1 Red Byron	F8/E	LT, LT f-L, LT f-L	D8/W	08:07:08
Alex Richardson				
2 Beelzebub	D6/SE	RS f-A&R, and expires		03
Mark Stretch				
3 Florence	L13/W	I f-R&L, I f-A, 0	L13/W	08:03:28
ACE Rob Cullender				
5 Sky Tripper	L13/W	LS f-R, and also expires		07
Duncan Adams				
Boring Boris	E4/NW	RI f-A&L, LS, LS	C5/NE	11:08:09
Ian Harris				

Clouds moved west to: (H13-H14-I14):(L9-L8-K7):(O16-N15-M14):
(E9-F8-F9-G8-G9):(Q13-Q14-R15-R16):(N19-O19-P19-N18)

Judge English: Boris and Beelzebub, and Florence and Skytripper, each exchange blasts at closest range which are enough to kill the second of each pair. Can Rob maintain his supremacy, or is his kite too badly battered? Time will tell. Sorry for putting the wrong turn number on last go, incidentally.

Press

Florence - Sky Tripper: Nice pincer movement on the Baron we did there -- how about teaming up...

DREDD

Diplomacy 91DC

Spring 1910

R-F still tied after penalties!
But rematch has Austrian referee...

AUSTRIA (Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6AR)
A(Vie) S A(Gal), A(Rum)-Sev A(Ser)-Bul, A(Ven)-Pie, A(Tri)-Tyr,
A(Gal) S French A(Boh)-Sil, F(Bul/sc)-AEG, F(Rom) S F(Nap)-TYS, F(Nap)-TYS,
F(IDN) S F(Nap)-TYS.

FRANCE (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)
F(Cly)-Edi, F(Lon)-NTH, F(Hel) & F(HEL) S F(Lon)-NTH, A(Boh)-Sil, A(Mun) S
A(Boh)-Sil, A(Kie)-Ber, A(Bur) S A(Mun), F(Den)-SKA*,
F(WMS) S F(GOL)-TYS, F(GOL)-TYS, F(Bre)-ENG.

ITALY (Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1BW)
F(Tun) S French F(GOL)-TYS.

RUSSIA (Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Road, London N15)
F(NTH)-ENG*, F(Edi)-NWG, A(Her)-Kie, F(NWG)-NAO, A(Sil)-War,
A(Swe)-Den, A(Arm) S A(Sev), F(Con)-Bul/ec, F(SKA) S A(Swe)-Den, A(Pru)-Lvn,
A(Sev) starts biological warfare programme.

Retreats French F(Den)-BAL, Russian F(NTH)-Nwy.

Press

The Gingerbread Man: As he skipped merrily on his way, he came upon the Big Ol' Bear (and resisted the temptation to be crude!) "Hello, old tatty Bear!" said Ginge, "how about some fun-fun-fun?" Bear snarled. "Sod off! I ain't talking to you!" Ginge smiled his warmest, winningest smile. "How's the sore head, this fine morning?" A set of filthy, blood-stained claws flashed within an inch of his currant nose, so Ginge decided that this might not be the best time for the spreading of bon-homie.

Ginge - L.O.A.: Wossis? wossis? wossis?!... the GM scourging one of the contestants because he's playing for fun?! Talk about yer player-bias!

Fancy footwork from France

AUSTRIA (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)
A(Mun) S A(Sil)-Ber, F(ADR)-Apu, A(Ven) S A(Apu)-Rom, A(Apu)-Rom,
A(Sil)-Ber, A(Ser) H, F(Tri)-ADR, A(Vie)-Tyr.

ENGLAND (Edward Ainsworth, 4 Park Avenue, Bedford MK40 2JY)
F(NWG)-Nwy.

FRANCE (Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Cl, Urpeth Grange, Chester le St, Co Durham DH2 1TQ)
 F(MAO) C A(Bre)-NAf, A(Gas)-Mar, A(Lon) H, F(NTH) S English F(NWG)-Nwy,
A(Par)-Bur, F(Mar)-GOL, A(Bre)-NAf.

GERMANY (Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL)
F(Den)-Kie, A(Bel) S F(HEL)-Hol, F(Swe)-Nwy, F(Ber)-Kie,
A(Bur)-Mun, F(HEL)-Hol.

ITALY (Keir Hodgson, 2 Leeds Old Road, Thornbury, Bradford BD3 8HT -- COA)
 A(Nap) H, F(Tun) H.

TURKEY (Mark Underhay, 65 The Chase, Holland on Sea, Essex CO15 5PZ)
 A(Lvn)-Pru, F(AEG) S F(EMS)-ION, A(StP) S A(Nwy), A(Nwy) S A(StP), F(Rom)-Nap*,
 F(EMS)-ION, A(Gal)-War, A(Run)-Gal.

Retreats Turkish F(Rom)-TYS

Press Still none. Very restrained of you.

VIRGIL

RR map CT

Turn 8

STUPID aiming at world record score?

Race Results

- 8) 55-46 St Albans - Linslade: FERGIE 15-2, STUPID 15+2-4, IDLE 0, MOD 0+4
- 9) 11-33 Newbury - Amersham: IDLE 30-3, STUPID +3
- 10) 43-14 Bicester - Maidenhead: STUPID 30
- 11) 26-x1 Princes Risborough - The South: FERGIE 20, MOD 10-1, IDLE +1
- 12) 65-22 London - Oxford: STUPID 20, IDLE 10+1, MOD 0-1
- 13) x4-61 The North - London: MOD 20+2, STUPID 10-2, FERGIE 0
- 14) 31-51 High Wycombe - Dunstable: FERGIE 20-5, IDLE 10+5

Faces for round 9 (enter up to 4, build up to 8 physical points):

- 15) 16-32 Slough - Beaconsfield
- 16) 62-52 London - Luton
- 17) 25-24 Thame - Didcot
- 18) x3-13 The North - Reading
- 19) 36-45 Watford - Bletchley
- 20) 56-66 Hatfield - London
- 21) 41-x2 Berkhamsted - The West

Builds

IDLE (Ritchie/red): (G15)-E14-D14 = 5+1S
 FERGIE (Moore/purple): None
 STUPID (Stretch/brown): None
 MOD (Cattle/blue): (Didcot)-H1; (E58)-E60-Luton;
 (B17)-Slough = 6

Running Totals

84+27-6 = 105
 90+48 = 138
 159+74+1 = 234
 70+34-6 = 98

Judge English: No prizes for guessing on whom the smart money is going.

A reminder of addresses: Rob Moore: Flat 2, 132 Otley Road, Leeds LS16 5JX
 Peter Ritchie: 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8JX
 Mark Stretch: 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Pk, Birmingham B29 7JL
 Jeff Cattle: 5 Lilac Avenue, Thornes, Wakefield WF2 7RY

We have ten peoples' guesses, so there will be ten rounds to this game. Entries for the first drop read:

Alan Parr:	Marble 12 secs, Black Ball 1 sec
Ian Harris:	Marble 13 secs, Black Ball 30 secs
Joy Hibbert:	Marble 15 secs, Black Ball 30 secs
Mark Stretch:	Marble 15 secs, Black Ball 1 sec
John R Todd:	Marble 20 secs, Black Ball 45 secs
Dave Lomas:	Marble 40 secs, Black Ball 1 sec
Alan Coulthard:	Marble 45 secs, Black Ball 65 secs
Martin Draper:	Marble 49 secs, Black Ball 115 secs
Peter Dunnett:	Marble 56 secs, Black Ball 65 secs
Rob Moore:	Marble 90 secs, Black Ball 120 secs

I make the Black Ball's time (the average of that little lot) to be 47.3 seconds, so the scores on the doors show Alan Coulthard leading after the first round:

+7: Coulthard	-1: Draper
+6: Lomas	-2: Dunnett
+5: Todd	-3: Moore
+3½: Stretch, Hibbert	
+2: Harris	
+1: Parr	

So the 1-second merchants fail to reap the rewards that some spectators were predicting. But how Martin Draper must wish he'd jogged that funnel!

Edmund Morgan writes: "Surely by taking the average of the times submitted you defeat the whole object of random times. Given a reasonable spread of times, won't the average always be around the same time? There will be no incentive to go early or late and (as the average time will probably be around 45-60 seconds) people will just guess 5-10 seconds before the last average."

Frankly I think that depends on the artificial play of 1 or 120 seconds for the Black Ball (the three former this time saved the BB from being well over a minute) -- but what do you players think? I suppose we shall see next issue...

Rob, the maximum time is 2 minutes! As it happened your illegal guess didn't change things....

=====

CHESS

Game III (me white): 1) e4 : e5
2) Nf3 :

your replies: Nc6 x13, f5 x7, Nf6 x5,
d5 x4, d6 x2, g5 x1, b5 x1.

My response: Bb5 (Oh, I'm a
sucker for punishment)

Game II (me black): 1) Nf3 : Nf6
2) g3 : g6
3) Bg2 : d5
4) c4 : Bg7
5) cxd5 : Nxd5
6) 0-0 : c5

Your replies: Nc3 x14, e4 x6, d3 x3,
Qa4+ x2, Qb3 x1, d4 x1.

My response: Nxc3

Position: R1BQ1RK1/PP1PPBP/2n2NP1/
8/2p5/6p1/pp2pppp/rnbqk2r.

Remember, every reader can play. Just send me your choice of three moves for each game, ranked in order of preference, and most popular is played.

YAVILLAND

RR map LE

Round 5

No, I don't know why I keep getting the payments wrong. Thanks to Steve Guest for pointing out the following:

RADAR should have had 64 c/f; TBNS should pay 11 to RADAR, not 7, 6 to DEAD, not 4, and 1 to SACK, not 2. Also London/L46 should read London/M46.

TBNS/blue (John Colledge): 5a) (J46)-J49; 5b) (J49)-J50-I51; (L8)-K8; (N27)-A68;
5c) (A68)-F70; (K8)-J7. $2-5S-1Dr+1R = -3, -1 \text{ interest} = -4$

RADAR/purple (Paul Slade): 5a) (Tunbridge Wells)-B54-Tonbridge; 5b) (M11)-M5; 5c) (M5)-
M3-Horsham; (Bexhill)-F18-G18-H18. $68-1S-1T-8De+4Dr = 62$

SACK/orange (Steve Guest): 5a) (B47)-B44; 5b) (B44)-B43-Dorking; (B43)-B42-A42-A41;
5c) (K8)-K7-Haywards Heath-H5-G6; (F52)-G52. $75-3De+5T+1R = 78$

DEAD/black (David Oya): 5a) (I54)-Gravesend; (M5)-M4; 5b) (M4)-M3-Horsham; (Dorking)-
D41; (F12)-Eastbourne; 5c) (E8)-Newhaven. $57+6+8R+3S = 74$

DRUNK/khaki (Duncan Adams): 5a) (I62)-J62; 5b) (J62)-Sheerness; (J15)-J12-K12-K11;
5c) (K11)-J10; (Gravesend)-K52; (J16)-H17. $23+6-4R+1T = 26$

Rolls for the last building round are 3-4-5.

Press

TBNS - other players: Come on, guys, I have wandered all over your tracks, isn't it time you started to wander over some of mine?

CAPABLANCA

Sopwith T207UB

Turn 1

Steady takeoffs all round

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A : D : P
Intimidator 1 Jeff Cattle	A1	T/o β , A, A, A	D4-E5	16:12:00
'Ginger' Rogers 2 ACE John Miller	A10	T/o α , A, A, RS	D12-E13	16:12:00
Algae 3 Andy Cox	J19	T/o τ , A, A, LS	H16-G15	16:12:00
Sky Tripper 4 Duncan Adams	S19	T/o β , A, A, LS	Q16-P15	16:12:00
Wizard Prang 5 Geoff Brown	S10	T/o τ , A, A, A	S13-S14	16:12:00
Depraved Round- 6 head Splatterer John G McCoubrey	J1	T/o β , A, A, A	J4-J5	16:12:00

Clouds moved southwest to: (M15-N14-N15-O14-O15):(H9-I9-I10):(F11-G10-G11);
(H3-G2-F1):(M10-N11-O12-N10):(B7-C7-C6-D6).

A few flaws in orders had to be corrected there. John McC and Duncan forgot to specify a strip, and Geoff, whilst your map was a good idea, 1) you had it 180° out of kilter, 2) a RT involves moving one hex forward-right and altering direction, not swivelling on the spot; I have done the best I can. I am always happy to answer rules queries.

No, I don't know how this game got an earlier Tweedy number than 'Zimmer' and 'Urquhart' either.

Press

Wizard - All: As I don't know how to play this game, how about letting me watch you all fight it out before I join in?

Germans vanish totally!

Russia begins long march home!!

I know you're not used to having more than 1 unit, John, but --

AUSTRIA (Anarchy): A(Bud) H u/o

ENGLAND (John Wilman, 2 Keillor Cottages, Kettins, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH13 9JT)
F(Hol)-NTH, A(Bel)-WARP, E(Lon)-Yor (nsu), A(Lon) H u/o.

FRANCE (RJ Walkerdine, 6 Honeybourne Way, Wickwar, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos GL12 8PF)
A(Lpl) H, F(Spa/sc)-MAD, A(Por)-Spa, A(Mar)-Gas.

GERMANY (Steve Doubleday, Norton House, Whielden Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0HU)
A(Par)-WARP, A(Edi)-WARP, A(Tyr)-WARP, A(Sev)-WARP, A(Bur)-WARP-Mun,
A(Gas W S06)-Por.

ITALY (Rob Moore, Flat 2, 132 Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX)
A(Apu)-WARP, A(Swe)-Den, A(Rom)-Ven, A(Nap)-Rom, A(Rom W S05)-Par. A(Pie W S06),
F(Gre W S06).

RUSSIA (Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8JX)
A(Tri)-Vie, F(Rum) H.

TURKEY (Edmund Morgan, 40 Cranbourne Road, Trafford, Manchester M16 9PZ)
F(BLA)-WARP-Sev, A(Bul)-Ser, A(Con)-Bul, A(Gal) S Russian A(Tri)-Vie, A(Ber)-Sil,
A(Smy)-Con. A(Bul W S07)-A. b.

Retreats Not so much as a stand-off!

Press

- Italy: All going well, I trust. Write and tell us about your job.

Is there: a prize for those who complete 10 game years without an NMR?

In a bunker under Berlin: Lucky are the meddlers who took advantage, and how shall
these canaille rue the day as either centres or units go
missing to their despite!

Judge English: Contrary to indications, Lawrence Sterne is not playing in this game.

=====

NOXIN

Intimate Ia Dip 91BQ rx03

Spring 1907

ENGLAND (Mick Haytack): F(MAD) H, F(IRI) & F(MAD) & F(ENG) S F(MAD), A(Ruh)-Kie,
F(BAL) S A(Kie)-Ber, A(Kie)-Ber, F(Bel)-Hol, F(StP/nc) S F(Nwy), F(Nwy) S
...F(StP/nc), A(Ukr) tunnels under the Adriatic and emerges in Venice#.

ITALY (Nicholas Parish): F(WMS)-MAD, F(NAf) & F(Spa/sc) & F(Por) S F(WMS)-MAD,
A(Mos) S A(Rum)-Ukr, A(Rum)-Ukr, F(ADR) H, F(BLA)-Sev, A(Par)-Pic, A(Bre) H,
A(Bur) S A(Pic)-Bel, A(Pic)-Bel, A(War) S A(Sil)-Pru, F(TYS)-WMS, A(Sil)-Pru,
A(Mun)-Sil, A(Ser)-Bud, A(Tyr)-Mun, A(Ven)-Tyr, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Nap)-ION.

Retreats English A(Ukr)-Gal

Press

Nick - Mick: OK then, what criteria do you want to use for deciding stalemates? Amount
of credit, number of centres, whatever -- I'm still going to win.

England - Judge English: I must confess to not reading your rules in issue 3. My rules
are obviously very old as they make no mention of any victory
criteria other than occupation of an enemy home centre. As for conceding -- not just
yet. Young Nicholas may well yet walk under a bus or blow his mind out at an acid house
party. We live in hope.

Nick - Judge English: Remind me what an ECU is again. Is it something to do with the
ERM (snigger)?

Judge English - Nick: Not a bit of it, my lad. An écu is an obsolete French coin which
my whimsy dictated would be used for bids in this game.

Ref's whistle blows a fraction before winning goal crosses line

Bids:	E	F	G	I	T	Balance
Austria (Mark Stretch):	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	2
Russia (Peter Dunnett):	0	0	0	<u>10</u>	0	0

Spring 1904

AUSTRIA (Mark Stretch): F(Rom)-TYS, A(Bud) S A(Tri)-Ser*, A(Tri)-Ser.
 ENGLAND (Austrian): E(NTH) C French A(Bel)-Nwy (nso), A(Nwy)-Fin.
 FRANCE (Austrian): A(Ven)-Tri, A(Tyr)-Tri, A(Boh)-Gal, F(NWG)-BAR, F(Por)-MAO,
A(Bel)-NTH (silly, silly), A(Ruh)-Bur.
 GERMANY (Austrian): A(Sil) S A(Ber)-Pru, A(Ber)-Pru.
 ITALY (Russian): F(ADR)-Tri.
 RUSSIA (Peter Dunnett): A(Ser)-Bud, A(Rum) S A(Ser)-Bud, A(War)-Gal, A(Pru)-War*,
 F(Con)-BLA, A(Rul)-Ser, F(Lvn)-GOB, F(StP/nc) H, A(Sev)-Ukr.
 TURKEY (Austrian): A(Syr)-Arm.

Retreats Austrian A(Bud)-Vie, Russian A(Pru)-Lvn.

Game End Proposal The A-R draw gets one AYE, one abstention counting in favour, and so the game is at an end. The phrase 'travesty of justice' springs to mind, but Rules Is Rules, and the last adjudication stated quite clearly that abstentions count towards the draw. There is no doubt as to whom the moral victory belongs, but as the chess player Tartakower said ruefully after blundering away a game, "Moral victories do not count".

QUISQUILIAE IN VERSO

Well, well, not an NMR in sight in the whole issue. Can't remember the last time that happened to me. I am well pleased, my children.

Except with Pete Sullivan, who has sent me a cheque to transfer credit to me from one of the many disappointed CMag subscribers. (joke), and dated it 7th November 1993. Bloody accountants, can't trust 'em.

It occurs to me that I have thus far failed to cause storms of protests, cancelled subscriptions and so on by giving details of this year's bisexual conference -- you may question the relevance of this, but I know for a fact that several interested parties are reading this, though Webley, Tweedy and Proffitt, who got so hot and bothered this time last year, aren't. Nottingham University, 1 - 3 October; write to BiCon c/o Rainbow Centre, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW. And while we're on, SM Pride 93 is in London on October 30; further details not to hand, though in the unlikely event that any of you want to attend you can get them from me.

In order to give me the best chance of running a zine and a baby whilst retaining my sanity, a long deadline applies this issue. This being so, I am taking the liberty of using second class post to you all indiscriminately, which I hope won't cause too many objections. Still, I observe that that slacker Agar has put SpOff on a seven week deadline (just after his frequency survey -- the man's no fool) with far less excuse, I have no reason to feel that I am doing you wrong. (He also claims he can't find the name of an ancient battle beginning with X for a game name, despite the fact that I told him one when he asked before. Silly, silly).

I bid welcome with this issue to my first US subscriber (as opposed to trader), who thus proves that the ISE works.

Right, that's it, probably time to change nappies again.