



ISSUED BY



UP ARON
THE BEN

"If they place us outside the law, we shall act outside the law"
(Peter Tatchell, 21 February 1994)

Further comment on this topic is not forthcoming from me, because it makes me angry, and you wouldn't like me when I'm really angry. REALLY angry, I mean. Here I am, I'm three weeks late and I haven't even the time to explain why, though as a teaser (I'm a born teaser) I shall just mention that almost being shock-horror-probe-exposed by the Daily Mail was part of it.

Be that as it may (as they used to say on Round the Horne), this is

UP AROUND THE BEND

(Issue 27. Coldcom Press 48. Pretend Family Fanzine.)
Haz Bond, 13 Merrivale Road, Stafford ST17 9ER
(phone 0785 213259, work fax 0785 228317)
(answerphone finally defunct, so beware!)

Front cover by Fiona Campbell, what talent. Never mind the name, dig that issue number: Waiting Lists [* = preference list/setup received]

DIPLOMACY: Edward Ainsworth, Kim Head, Paul Cockayne*. 4 wanted.

GRANDMASTER DIP.: 7 wanted. See page 6.

BREAKING AWAY (GM me this time): Paul Cockayne, Rob Cullender. 4 wanted.

GRAND SLAM: Martin Draper, John McCoubrey?, Mark Stretch, Rob Moore, Kim Head, John Miller, Richard Walkerdine, Bob Holliday*, Dave Lomas, Alex Richardson, Ian Harris*, Denis Jones*, Geoff Brown*, Steve Guest, Paul Cockayne, Rod Tregale. 1-2 more will make a start; come along, guys and gals, I want this game to run. Rules available.

CHILD SOMETHING: Girl Duncan, Kevin Head, Kayley Harris, Samantha Harris.

SEISMIC DIP: Rules still forthcoming. Denies Jokes*, 6 wanted.

BUS BOSS: Paul Cockayne. 3-5 wanted.

SOPWITH: Alex Richardson, Rob Cullender?. 5? wanted.

ACE SOPWITH: Rob Cullender? 6? wanted. See page 6.

MARSHALSEA GAOL: the debtors' prison

Goodbye to: Andy!kate!, Kern Dingsdale

The following are sailing close to the wind: THE BREAKWELLS, Pete Sullivan, Mark Wightman (really), Alan Coulthard, Gary Lyon, Rob Cullender.

Outside Deadline: Saturday April 2nd 1994 (Bank Hols. I know)

Inside Deadline: TUESDAY APRIL 5th 1994 (Buttwaemayybee away that week, so late orders may be worth sending anyway)

Outside GMS:

Geoff Brown, 65 Scotland Hall Rd, Newton Heath, Manchester M10 6RE

David Oya, 24 Kingsway, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9NY

Your remaining credit is I _____

EGOLAND editorial

Look, guys, this zine is far too late, if you wait around for me to do an editorial, things will be even worse. Come back this time next issue and I can get you a great little second-hand editorial, race runner, only one owner, little old lady who only used to write editorials once a year or so, to you, squire, fifty pee, and I'm doing myself no favours. Is that a deal?

Hope to see you at the house on

SELF EXPLANATORY

by Haz Bond

What's the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning?

Usually, I wish I could go back to sleep. Sleeping (and dreaming) is one thing I am incontrovertibly good at. I'm not bad at dreaming while I'm awake either, but it doesn't have the same quality of immediacy to it.

What was the first fanzine you received?

Depends on the definition. I actually did NOWHERE FAST 1 before I'd seen any examples of a fanzine, and quite understandably it was dire (photocopied single-sided and double-spaced, for starters). First other fanzine I saw was Leeds Univ SF soc's BLACK HOLE. First gameszine Dave Rowley's MICA, but that had a tiny circulation and rarely mentioned the hobby, certainly not presenting it as something I would be interested in at any rate. The one that really got me started in this crazy postal gaming life was, no prizes, Iain Bowen's Y DDRAIG SOCH. We don't often see eye to eye these days but I must admit that you owe the existence of this rag to Iani.

Which book do you wish you had written?

Most books I've enjoyed, as a matter of fact. And because I'm an idealist, the Bible. I can tell you, if I'd written that one, there'd be none of these bloody holy wars and religious intolerance and so on.

What zine do you most wish you had produced?

Again, most of them which I've enjoyed have made me think "I wish I'd done that" -- not necessarily all of them, just the odd stylistic trick or bit of layout or what have you. I have never produced a fanzine I've liked afterwards.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

"Never fuck anyone crazier than yourself". Now since I'm fairly wild myself I don't often meet anyone who is disbarred under this rule, but I've managed it at least twice, and regretted it twice. One of these, incidentally, was inconvenient enough to be much saner than I to begin with and change places with me as time passed.

What is your most treasured material possession?

Good question. In terms of sheer convenience, my car, which I don't know how I ever managed without. In terms of financial value, my stamp collection, which I really must try and get out of my parents' house one day. In absolute terms -- the thing I'd take to a desert island -- my zine collection. That really is irreplaceable in every meaningful sense. Oh, sure, if it all got burnt to ashes I might be able to get hold of another copy of MAD POLICY 88, but it wouldn't have Gary Piper's name scribbled on the back cover or the old stamp at an identically rakish angle.

Who was the last person you slept with?

Strickly speaking, Lee Bond-Hibbert, who shares my bed every night and wakes me up far less than everyone said he would. The answer you were expecting, though, is Joy Hibbert. Surprise.

What do you think of the weather?

Don't really care, as long as the snow doesn't cut us off or the rain flood us.

When did you last cry and why?

Last time I had a row with Joy. I cry a lot. Good healthy thing to do in the right circumstances.

What characteristics do you think you've inherited from your parents?

My face, my propensity to overweightness, my short temper.

What's the biggest myth about fame?

The existence of the HobbyMasters. (Or am I just laying a smokescreen? You'll never know).

What are you like when you're drunk?

In younger days, I used to get very maudlin and weepy (see above). Nowadays I'm a generally happier person, and I just tend to become camp and giggly. And loud. And reckless. It's probably a good job I don't get drunk much nowadays.

Who would you have play you in a film?

Myself, for two reasons. One, I've always wanted to be in acting -- my strong accent puts the tin hat on that, though. Two, I don't know anyone who could get half way to portraying me accurately, and I don't want the truth bending when they make the film of my life; it must be warts and all.

Pick five words to describe yourself.

Dreamer, intellectual, volatile, idealist, worthwhile.

Is there one piece of criticism that sticks in your mind?

Not really, since you ask. This probably means I'm very pig-headed. I remember Marrkie Nelson devoting an issue of TMNX to me and my works, but it seemed to have no relation at all to me or my works as they exist in the real world.

What's your most unpleasant characteristic?

Weak will, I'm afraid. All too often I don't stand up for what I know to be right. It surprises me that a lot of people who know me well think I'm outspoken.

What is your greatest fear?

That before I die, or even grow, I shall start to fear death. I don't at the moment; indeed I have a quite unhealthy fascination with it and its courting. It's easier to do this when you're young, I'm told.

What ambitions do you still have to fulfil?

Getting a decent professional job, getting the qualifications so I can get one, writing something for professional publication, doing a zine that completely satisfies me or that I don't think I could have done better in any way.

Are you afraid of failure?

Sometimes. I was always dead scared of chatting people up, for example, in case it all went wrong and I got a knee in the groin or lost a friendship. I used to be very, very

scared of making any mistake at all because on some level I thought I would get shouted at. I'm glad I don't worry so much about that any more. Nowadays, laziness rather than fear is my main inhibiting factor.

What do you never leave home without?

I am dreadfully scatty and have on occasion managed to leave home without everything necessary for continued existence outside it, with the possible exception of clothes. And I never go anywhere without taking something -- book, zine, sauce bottle -- to read in case of spare time unfilled.

Who is your best male and best female friend?

Sorry to be so predictable, but the female one is Joy Hibbert. Male, I guess, would be Steve Johnson, who nobody reading this will know, but he is a fucking good guy nonetheless.

Who would you most like to meet?

Dunno, really. I've never thrilled much at the thought of meeting famous people. Mostly I'd prefer to meet people I used to like and have lost touch with once more instead.

What are the last three books you read?

COMING OUT OF THE BLUE by Marc E Burke -- big fat book about homosexuality in the British police, most revealing, most enlightening. 1066 AND ALL THAT by Sellar and Yeatman -- a reread, just as good as it ever was. THE ANATOMY OF BIBLIOMANIA by Holbrook Jackson, bloody heavy going and still unfinished, but some real nuggets to quote at the sort of litcrit parties I don't get invited to.

What are the last three records you played?

NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS. HERE'S THE SEX PISTOLS, by guess who. CROSSING THE RED SEA WITH THE ADVERTS, by guess who. WORKER'S PLAYTIME by Billy Bragg. I've been in an emotional crisis mood these last few days and the music reflects it, my god, doesn't it just reflect it.

What music would you have played at your funeral?

A nice mixture of classical stuff I like and pop/rock/whatever stuff I like, so people know it was me and not just any old corpse being buried, and please, please, nothing out of Hymns Ancient and Modern.

When you look in the mirror what do you see?

Oh, lordy, this takes me back. When I was sixteen or so I wrote a perfectly dreadful poem which went, in part, "I have still to discover my true face; every time I look in the mirror a stranger looks out". This is still the case, though I don't write horrible poetry about it these days.

[[This piece is a double ripoff; a gift from Greg Pickersgill's excellent SF zine RASTUS JOHNSON'S CAKEWALK 3, who in turn admits to having nicked it from Q magazine ("Q Magazine? What on earth is a Q Magazine?")]]

Readers are invited, nay, encouraged to complete this questionnaire themselves, and hold themselves up to public scrutiny, as it were. Go on, be bold; be bloody, bold and resolute.]]

DIPLOMACY PLAYER RATINGS

As kindly supplied by Richard Sharp. The table below requires the following explanatory text: Position (out of 4338), Name, Dates of career, Games played, numbers won, drawn, lost but survived, eliminated, dropped out, game abandoned, still in progress or 'lost'; and then the rating, where 100 is the score of a total novice and the top players achieve 350 or so.

Richard asks me to tell you rabble that anyone disputing their record should write to him at Norton House, Whielden Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0HU if they want to set things straight. I advise such people to give him 75p for a copy of Dolchstoß if they want him to act on their info.

These statistics are, of course, quite useless, but according to Oscar Wilde that makes them into Art (false logic there, Bond), so you should all admire them from a suitable distance. Here we go:

Position	Name	Career	P	W	D	S	X	d	a	ip	Rating
2573	Duncan II Adams	90-93	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	40.84
3728	Stephen Agar	76-93	25	1	3	4	4	9	0	4	11.72
952	Edward Ainsworth	85-93	14	0	2	1	7	1	0	3	130.76
980	Mike Allaway	76-92	32	1	4	11	14	2	0	0	128.98
2627	Andy Bate	85-88	7	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	36.17
219	Andy Bell	82-89	7	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	201.08
467	Pete Birks	73-92	31	4	7	5	10	5	0	0	168.12
2486	John Breakwell	85-92	9	0	1	2	2	3	0	1	27.40
1398	Fiona Campbell	92-94	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	108.42
1225	Peter Charles	87-91	23	0	4	6	9	1	0	3	115.66
63	John Colledge	79-93	37	4	17	4	6	0	0	6	255.38
931	Danny Collman	85-93	7	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	132.63
197	Kath Collman	85-88	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	206.55
1068	Malcolm Cornelius	79-93	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	122.93
1045	Damien Cosgrove	90	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	124.38
370	Alan Coulthard	85-90	5	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	177.59
601	Simon Cutforth	90-93	7	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	156.24
104	Stuart Dagger	74-79	6	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	232.49
3280	Kern Dingsdale Stewart	76-93	9	0	0	1	2	4	0	2	15.37
3264	Steve Doubleday	73-93	25	2	4	4	4	8	1	2	15.55
94	Martin Draper	84-94	8	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	237.53
269	Neil Duncan	90-93	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	192.15
131	Peter Dunnett	90-93	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	223.93
2159	Paul Dunning	86	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	71.06
143	Allan Gordon	87-93	19	3	4	1	6	0	0	5	221.05
809	Steve Guest	86-87	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	140.07
138	Vick Hall	83-93	17	3	3	2	0	1	0	8	222.24
442	Ian Harris	85-92	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	170.93
225	Toby Harris	92-93	22	2	5	2	5	1	0	7	199.62
12	Mick Haytack	83-92	6	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	311.07
1905	Kim Head	93	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	90.44
820	Keir Hodgson	85-94	9	0	1	1	2	0	0	5	139.15
1003	Bob Holliday	90-94	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	127.95
218	Stephen Jilks	84-87	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	201.11
2599	Denis Jones	84-92	10	0	1	0	3	2	0	4	38.27
1139	Dave Lomas	90	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	119.59
441	Tim Lomas	87-88	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	170.94
239	Andy Key	87-89	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	198.11
69	Madeleine Key	86-89	8	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	251.47
367	Gary Lyon	85-89	9	1	5	0	3	0	0	0	177.71

4076	John McCoubrey	91	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10.33
58	John Marsden	77-92	26	1	10	8	4	0	0	3	259.04
328	John Miller	76-92	21	1	5	7	5	0	0	3	183.60
768	Rob Moore	87-93	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	143.06
1271	Edmund Morgan	88-92	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	114.07
1043	John Morgan	89-91	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	124.40
50	Kris Morris	85-89	9	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	262.19
2897	Tim Neale	85-94	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	24.93
761	Paul Norris	89-90	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	143.77
312	Bill O'Neill	85-91	7	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	185.40
834	David Oya	88	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	137.87
99	Nicholas Parish	89-93	12	1	7	0	1	0	0	3	234.91
3883	Michael Quist	72 (!)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	11.52
847	Alex Richardson	86-87	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	137.45
2053	Peter Ritchie	91	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	80.55
483	Mark Stretch	90-94	10	0	1	1	1	0	0	7	166.74
689	Peter Sullivan	84-86	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	149.87
449	Dave Tant	74-80	17	3	3	3	8	0	0	0	170.39
9	Guy Thomas	82-93	13	5	6	0	0	0	0	2	314.63
1763	David Tittle	89-91	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	96.99
1027	John II Todd	89-94	10	0	1	1	3	1	0	4	125.84
339	Chris Tringham	77-92	18	2	6	2	6	1	0	1	181.79
475	Jeremy Tullett	77-92	18	2	2	5	7	0	0	2	167.21
293	Mark Underhay	91-93	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	188.59
20	Richard Walkerdine	72-92	26	3	13	7	2	0	0	1	283.23
1175	Kevin Warne	82	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	118.32
3049	William Whyte	84-85	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	20.40
940	Mark Wightman	89-93	6	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	132.17
186	John Wilman	79-93	44	3	12	10	14	1	1	3	209.13

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Sopwith ratings from Dave Tant are also out, which relay details of Nicholas Parish's elevation to Ace status. Well done, that TurboNick. These stats are published thrice yearly and are available, I believe, for a couple of stamps from Dave at 32 Nursery Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4JX.

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Given all these stats it seems silly not to do summat with them. Ever full of unoriginal ideas, I hereby announce invitational games of Sopwith and Diplomacy for the highest rated readers according to the current lists.

In order of status, Sopwith aces reading this are currently: ROB CULLENDER, DAVE LOMAS, ALLAN GORDON, JOHN MILLER, DAVE TANT, NICHOLAS PARISH, MARK WIGHTMAN, ROB MOORE and KEVIN MCGOWAN. (Andy Bate would also qualify if I weren't about to give up my trade for Froggy as a dead loss). If six out of that lot volunteer we can have a tip-top game.

As for Diplomacy, my calculations are that the top seven are: GUY THOMAS, MICK HAYTACK, RICHARD WALKERDINE, KRIS MORRIS, JOHN MARSDEN, JOHN COLLEDGE and MADELAINE KEY. Given that the unlikeliness of all seven wanting to play is terrific, the next seven will also be invited to show interest, being MARTIN DRAPER, NICHOLAS PARISH (again), STUART DAGGER (unlikely), PETER DUNNETT, VICK HALL, ALLAN GORDON (again), and JOHN WILMAN. Quite frankly I reckon any seven from either of those list would make a damn fine tussle, so I have high hopes that we can scrape the requisite number of stars up. On the subject of all-star games, readers of Chris Tringham's Negalomania are about to have the chance of a good chortle as Haz (Austria) gets creamed by Sharp, Bowen, Harris T., Agar, Duncan and Morris K. Go on, watch, it'll be a scream.

GRAND HOBBY HISTORY QUIZ

HURRY HURRY HURRY! Yes, NOW is your chance to prove what a sad, pathetic, obsessed, duvet stuffing individual you are by demonstrating your knowledge of utterly useless trivia concerning the British postal games hobby. The winner will be officially named Brain of the Hobby and be mercilessly held up to ridicule by all and sundry. The idiot who actually compiled the thing has already been medically declared Pastimishly Challenged and has been sent to the Mark Nelson Rehabilitation Clinic for sad cases.

In a vain hope to tempt entrants out of the woodwork, five free issues of your favourite zine (all right then, five issues of U-Bend) will be awarded to the winner. Marks will be awarded not only for accuracy, but for making the examiner laugh. Note also that the last question in each section is even more of an absolute bastard than the rest.

A. Addresses Which of the following addresses is the most obscure?

- 1) 71 Clara Mount Road, Heanor, Derbyshire [1]
- 2) 15 Lineside Walk, Rhu, Dumbartonshire [1]
- 3) 1 Wellesley Nautical School, Blyth, Northumberland [1]
- 4) 100 High Street, Swanscombe, Kent [1]
- 5) 302 Lordswood Road, Harborne, Birmingham [1]
- 6) Bosworth House, Central Wall Road, Canvey Island, Essex [1]
- 7) 71b Gladsmuir Road, Archway, London N5 [1]
- 8) 115 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire [1]
- 9) Luney Barton Farm, Sticker, St Austell, Cornwall [1]
- 10) "Elboreth", 123 Hollis Road, Stoke, Coventry [4]

B. Abbreviations Expand the following abbreviations. (1 each)

- | | | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1) BDC | 2) Zeeby | 3) Pzk | 4) Ode | 5) TROG |
| 6) FPO | 7) TRey | 8) SNorl | 9) DDTS | 10) NOSE |

C. Name themes Which of the following name themes is the most obscure? (2 each)

- 1) French ordinals
- 2) German ordinals
- 3) Celtic deities
- 4) Characters from Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy
- 5) The editor's favourite foods
- 6) Wild West heroes
- 7) Tyneside pubs
- 8) Cambridge colleges
- 9) Towns on the Isle of Wight
- 10) Districts of Birmingham

D. Editors Name the editor of each of the following titles. (1 each)

- 1) Enigma
- 2) Overstop
- 3) Here We Go Again
- 4) The Norns
- 5) The Church Mouse
- 6) Queen's Lane Advertiser
- 7) Red Revolution
- 8) Jigsaw
- 9) Second Hand News
- 10) Screwy Louie's First Finesse

E. Subzines Give the title of each of the following subzines. (1 each)

- 1) The Art of Deviance
- 2) Heimstringla
- 3) Sequences
- 4) Realgaming
- 5) Reuters Reports
- 6) Serendipity
- 7) Serendipity [sic]
- 8) The Amnesia Express
- 9) The Brilliance of Massed Violins
- 10) I Hate Geraniums

F. Where? At what location did the following take place? (1 each)

- 1) Koancon 1
- 2) Toucon
- 3) Midcon 1
- 4) Toastcon 1
- 5) DesConTent
- 6) Stakiscon 1
- 7) Linercon
- 8) Games Day 1981
- 9) Dangling Geordiecon
- 10) I'm Joanna Lumley Week

G. Imprints WWboppoddoeedzimeesundeertheefoblowwnggaeggseeB?[[leaabB]]

- 1) Astral Press
- 2) Primal Press
- 3) Snugglebug Press
- 4) Revolutionary Penguin Press
- 5) Putkin Press

H. Datelines WWbouseedthheefoblowwnggGSPleeddaeebiomeB?[[leaabB]]

- 1) League of Nations, Amersham (LONA)
- 2) The Heretic
- 3) Rabbi
- 4) Z
- 5) Dirk
- 6) Agrajag
- 7) Eyrie
- 8) Ui
- 9) Strider
- 10) Euler

I. Quotes A@tkrbttéaaendeæppááááñthheefoblowwnggqubees.

- 1) "This is a game of chance." [2]
- 2) "Smocnoc turns round in a weekend -- play in Smocnoc!" [2]
- 3) "UDI for the Isle of Wight." [2]
- 4) "This has been a fuck issue of [zine name]". [2]
- 5) "What are you doing in that ditch?"
"Goin' shleep."
"Well, get up -- people don't sleep in ditches in Oxfordshire." [3]
- 6) "Blow the air-horn again, would you, Kinzett?" [2]
- 7) "Steve McQueen Used To Have Coffee Enemas" [2]
- 8) "Can I get 100 for anti-honours?"
"Do you want your privy member inserted in a plug socket?" [3]
- 9) "SEA (Not safe as ships run you down)" [2]

J. Pot Luck WWaatittsaxxx-f@ckes.

- 1) No less than three zines folded into The Road Goes Ever On. Name the three, the zine that TRGED folded into, and the zine that that zine folded into. [5, and you'll deserve them]
- 2) What was remarkable about Filibuster game 6? [1]
- 3) ... and about Fall of Eagles game 6? [1]
- 4) ... and about issue 23 of ATU XVIII? [1]
- 5) ... and about the initial issues of Down Alien Skies? [1]
- 6) ... and about the initial issues of Court Circular? [1]
- 7) Name the first two British zines to fold. [2]
- 8) ... and the first British zine poll winner. [1]
- 9) The 1982 zine poll saw a fake set of results circulated a few days in advance of the real ones. Who produced the fake, and according to it, which zine won? [2]
- 10) Why are Macha and It not to be considered as proper zines? [1]
- 11) Who accused whom of "hippocracy"? [2]
- 12) What was peculiar about the numbering of Will It Lead To Trouble?! ? [1]
- 13) ... and of DJ? [1]
- 14) Why was Phil Stutt's zine Japhidrew forced to change its name? [1]

K. This is utterly ludicrous

- 1) Name as many "Warwick zines" as you can. [up to 9, plus 1 bonus for whoever gets the most]

And if I can count, that comes to 150 marks maximum, which I am sure nobody will get. (Tempting fate there, Bond).

Answers will be in next issue. My thanks in advance to that ever-helpful, ever-ready, ever-faithful fellow Kay Dekker for helping me out with a few questions whose answers even I wasn't quite sure of.

And now, we have an article from a fellow editor rathertoo long for his own worthy mag:

I DON'T WANNA GO BACK ON THE BOX

by Alan Farr

I didn't see whoever sold Channel 4 the idea of live chess appearing on the New Year Honours List, but his name deserves to live forever. At one fell swoop he's rendered obsolete all those saying about selling refrigerators to Eskimos. This must have been the only time in the history of televised sport where the honours went not only to the channel who didn't have live coverage, but didn't have any pictures whatsoever of the event itself or the contestants.

Let's face it, the idea of live chess gave a lot of cheap laughs to all the smart types who write the TV schedule snippets for newspaper columns - I even noticed the Sunday Times (I've been sent some strange papers of late) column making ever-so-funny references to watching snowflakes melt. In the Channel 4 afternoon programmes only a single move might be played, or perhaps none at all, so the usual visual image was of a single guy crouched and looking worried over a chess board. You got fifteen minutes of this, then a commercial break, then another fifteen minutes, etc, until the end of the programme. I can't imagine either Channel 4 or Times Newspapers will be at the front of the queue when the next big chess event appears (and I notice that the traditional classic event at Hastings is yet again in dreadful financial trouble - a few thousand quid spread in their direction would do a fair amount of good).

Of itself, the slow pace didn't matter too much, particularly to the BBC2 team, who never had the chance to show anything approaching a live move and hence planned their programmes differently. Both channels had a range of experts on hand and by the end of the match we must have seen at least a dozen of them who could talk fluently - here, as in most aspects, I thought BBC2 had the edge. I saw two reasons for this - the C4 team were clearly working to play up chess as a sexy activity (the younger better-looking experts, the fantasy title sequence, and the quality of the technical comments like 'rip his head off'). On the other hand the BBC2 team offered a less glamorous presentation - and wouldn't you if Bill Hartston was your anchorman and Dominic Lawson standing in the rain in front of the Savoy Hotel was the outside personality?

The female team members fitted the profile in the same way. In all her myriad TV performances Carol Vorderman can never have been seen to such disadvantage. She's an attractive and clever woman with lots of experience, but somebody should have realised that not having the faintest idea what chess is about was likely to be a small handicap. In one of the early programmes she was amazed to discover that the different pieces move in different ways! I can understand her amazement, because I remember making just that observation myself, but I was 11 at the time, and not being paid to host a series of national television programmes about the world championship. On BBC2 Francine Stock and Peter Snow had no pretensions to being expert players, but they were competent enough not to disgrace themselves and took a low profile and kept out of trouble.

If C4's problems included the fact that the whole afternoon session might not feature a single move, the evening session - live or not - had an even bigger one. As the games reached their climax both players were frequently in such time trouble that moves were being made almost faster than the eye could see, and certainly faster than either screen or brain could follow. Paradoxically, the game that's so slow that grass grows faster is actually so lightning fast as to be totally beyond comprehension.

And the incomprehensibility isn't just restricted to the likes of you and me. There were several occasions during games (and here I'm talking about the leisurely openings and middlegames, not the frantic endgames) when every single expert was agreed that one player or the other (usually it seemed to be Nigel Short) had only to play a particular move and he'd have an easy win. He didn't make the move, and the experts were distraught that he'd thrown away certain victory. But on more than one occasion in

their post-game discussion Kasparov and Short made clear that both had seen the line of play, and both had realised that it was in fact hopelessly flawed. More than anything else it was this that brought home to me the levels at which both players were operating; under the unimaginable strain of playing the match for the world championship they could see things that not one of a bevy of other top players, complete with every technological aid, even suspected. Wow - what manner of people are these?

If other players in the top twenty or so in the whole world can't see what's happening, how can any programme hope to communicate across the entire range of viewers? Plainly neither channel had the answer, so in the same programme we might have explained how a knight moves, through why isolated pawns are weak, right through to how a particular minor inaccuracy at move 15 led to inevitable defeat at move 50. But other sports can be televised so that people of any experience or none can appreciate and enjoy them - you don't have to be a runner to understand what Linford Christie's doing, and you don't have to be a golfer to get some appreciation of what goes on in golf.

The BBC, with considerable experience of televising chess, must have known all these problems, which I guess was one reason why it came out better - and certainly got more for its money - than Channel 4. C4 chose to throw in its lot with people who were heavily involved in promoting and hyping (and presumably lining their own pockets) the whole contest - a startling level of naivety from a channel that's made a success of televising all sorts of unlikely games.

But clearly chess isn't just another game. It's the moves themselves, rather than the physical act of moving pieces, that make the game, and once made, the game can then be re-created by anyone. Once played, an entire game immediately becomes totally accessible to everyone (I presume the moves are technically copyrighted, but whether that's either feasible or practicable may be another matter entirely). On the other hand, reading a scoresheet (or even the scorer's notebook) in cricket gives me no understanding of the player's style or abilities, and even in my fantasies I can't repeat David Platt's last-minute goal against Belgium in 1992. So whereas in many sports the home viewer gets a far better view of the action than the spectator at the event chess is going to offer precious little for the £30 or so admission fee. Even with all the manufactured hype chess simply isn't much of a spectator sport. The organisers introduced all the hoopla you can imagine short of actually dressing up the players in coloured costumes and introducing troops of cheerleaders, and still people failed to turn up - and who can blame them? (By the time you've counted travel and food, anyone planning on attending every session would have been looking at coughing up £1000 or more, and that's not counting lost earnings from a whole working month or so.)

Any other points? Well, I guess organisers and TV people alike were horrified at how one-sided the contest was, so that by halfway the commentators were reduced simply to hoping that Short would win a single game. Eventually he did, but even the deeds of great gallant British losers of history paled into insignificance at the feeble nature of the target - could Short win one game out of 24!

I'd like to move on a bit to a related point, and one that's a bit more relevant to you and me and everyone else in a games hobby. Of all the games in all the world chess is the only one that can call upon total respectability going back for generations. When I was child in the 40s and 50s schools and libraries might not offer any indoor games opportunities whatsoever apart from a chess club and a chess book or two. And yet our society can produce an intelligent and educated person like Carol Vorderman who's totally ignorant of chess (and she's the best they could find to front a chess series!) How many times in films and on do you see chessboards set up incorrectly, and no-one at all connected with the production is able to point this out? So what hope do you and I (and for that matter Gibsons or Spears or Waddingtons) have of getting people to appreciate Diplomacy, 1829, or even Railway Rivals?

Part of the problem is the one we've all lamented for years - that the profile of indoor games in this country is so low compared to others. When I was in Germany a couple of years ago I was browsing in a station bookstall and found something like eight different chess magazines on display. And those were just the chess magazines - my son recently gave me a copy of a general games magazine - 70+ pages of news and reviews, selling for about £2.50. There's yet another brave soul attempting to set up a British games magazine for the general public, and I wish him luck - I reckon he's going to need it.

Mind you, however high the profile of chess in other countries, I have to say that I do think the very game is its own worst enemy - there are so many things wrong with it that anyone who invented it today would be hard pushed even to find a zine to give it houseroom. A game for two people with no sensible versions for three or four. Six or seven different types of pieces, all with different moves. Several examples of crude fixes to make the game a bit faster or solve bugs (castling, pawns taking differently from the way they move, two-square initial pawn moves - but not the taking move, en passant, pawn promotion). A game flawed enough that it can end in two moves or is more likely to go on for dozens, and which has every chance of ending so aimlessly that you need another two rules in case you need to put a dying game out of its misery. A hugely steep learning curve, and no real chance for two players of rather different abilities to give each other a fair game. An opening procedure so formalised that anyone who bothers to learn a few standard openings gets a huge advantage over someone who wants to play on skill alone (I've long advocated a game where, for example, the backrow pieces are arranged anew each game).

Like most of us, I'm better at raising problems than offering solutions. Does the huge popularity of trivia games and pub quizzes mean people would be more or less receptive to a decent boardgame or cardgame if they met one? Fantasy games of various forms have been hugely successful for nearly twenty years - but do young people move from these into more general games? If The Daily Telegraph, no less, (excuses needed here - I have The Telegraph on Mondays for its sports section) can offer a fantasy football game surely that's a good thing? And if wonderful computer games like Railroad Tycoon and Sim City are viable then not only does that prove there are people (i.e. programmers investing thousands of hours) out there even more nutty than zine editors, but there are a lot of players there as well. Whether you and I will ever get them playing Beat the Black Ball in U-Bend is another matter entirely.

~~~~~  
Last week, I'd've agreed with you there, Alan, but since then Kate n'ha Ysabet (que Dieu la sauve) has provided me with a fascinating piece from the Independent for Saturday 19 February, with news of the latest trend on the night club scene in London; if it can be believed, there are two clubs whose patrons like nothing more than an evening full of boardgames and good company, and the craze is spreading like wildfire.

"On a busy night, four Twister mats are joined together, and up to a dozen players will join in...." The hostesses hand out free lollipops, grapes and condoms, these last presumably for those who become a little too entangled in Twister.

Other games popular include KerFlunk!, Escape from Colditz, Battling Gladiators (sounds ominous), and Terry Venables' The Manager (cue for Alan Parr to bite the carpet here). Nothing more complex than chess or backgammon seems to have occurred to these high livers yet, but this is plainly a vast market waiting to be tapped. Do I see John Dodds popping in to deliver novice packages? Richard Walkerdine trying to sell World Dip Con memberships? Perhaps David Watts in the midst of the grapes and condoms with "Two more wanted for a game of Railway Rivals"?

The bind, as they say, moggles.

[[Something is stirring in the depths; something old, and eldritch, and very horrible, is about to emerge from its loathsome pit to once more trouble the world, and lay waste vast swathes of land in its path as it rampages through the country.

Meanwhile, dear old **Steve Howe** pops up again in Hadleigh with his poetry just the same as he ever was and nobody takes a blind bit of notice:]]

You'd better have a poem I suppose. Except that I have something of a confession to make: every so often I feel the urge to write Poetry (capital P) as opposed to my usual doggerel. The following was first penned some years ago and forgotten. Then a few months ago I suddenly thought of a nifty title for it. I read it to the writers circle recently and no-one saw the point. Perhaps it needs a better-read audience?

CONCERNING THE NEED FOR A MAN FROM PORLOCK by Steve Howe

Beneath the waves did Mrs T  
A continental link decree:  
The Franco-British gulf to span,  
The longest tunnel built by man  
Beneath the raging sea.  
So swathes of fertile Kentish ground  
With cranes and 'dozers will abound  
And diesel fumes will belch from mighty drills  
To rot the blossom from many a shapely tree  
Where once a village, ancient as the hills,  
Did nestle in a tranquil cloak of greenery.

A workman with a power-saw  
In a vision once I saw:  
An oaken forest waste he laid  
In one short morning as he played  
His lay of desolation.  
And he and all his fellows  
Played each the self-same song -  
Discordant notes from howling bellows  
Cacophonous and long.  
And they will make a desert there  
Of barren concrete, steel and tar  
And all who would not see them there  
Should loudly cry Beware! Beware!  
Lest choked be soil and fouled be air  
And maimed be hill by six lane scar;  
Lest field and woodland soon be dead,  
Cold asphalt blossom in their stead  
And Mammon feed in Paradise.

[[If we're going to have one pastiche in this issue we may as well have two, so here's one of mine. No reference is intended to any pop stars living or half-dead.]]

The 1950s saw me first,  
A lad with a guitar, sir,  
I'd play for coins to quench my thirst  
In every coffee bar, sir.  
The craze took off, assured my fame,  
Though critics called it piffle,  
The teenagers all knew my name  
And raved about my skiffle.

The connoisseurs may sneer at me  
But in my heart of hearts, sir,  
I know whate'er the trend may be  
I'll still be in the charts, sir!

When Liverpool took centre stage  
I was not unaware, sir;  
I artfully disguised my age  
And grew some Beatle hair, sir.  
My accent I developed so  
It made my parents worry;  
But then, my fans must never know  
That I was born in Surrey.

But then once more the fashion changed  
And psychedelia came in:  
With bangles and with beads arranged  
I kept my hand at fame in.  
To be a millionaire I hoped,  
And yet I lived in fear,  
For though I sang of drugs and dope  
My strongest vice was beer.

A teeny-bopper I was next  
And though my hair was greying,  
My movements looked so oversexed  
It made them keep on paying.  
Such soppy verses I wrote then,  
Enough to turn your belly;  
And that's how I fulfilled my yen  
For endless spots on telly.

To disco, reggae, punk and ska  
I all have turned my hand, sir;  
The lists of my successes are  
Enough to beat the band, sir.  
I wrote a Christmas song, what's more,  
It too a surefire winner,  
It rode the charts at number four  
As I ate Christmas dinner.

The connoisseurs may sneer at me  
But in my heart of hearts, sir,  
I know whate'er the trend may be  
I'll still be in the charts, sir!

--- Haz, Jan 1994

Pond, you're a dork. Who forgot there was a space that needed filling on this page, then? Eh?

Quick, think, man. Okay, usual solution, fill up with news snippets.

Into the Night has officially folded and subs/games are officially going to YDdG. James Nelson blames business at Univ for the delay in a proper announcement. Hmm.

Stephen Agar has finally taken a tumble by being foxed by a new WP system that ate all his adjudications. Tee, hee, hee. Touch wood.

And that takes care of that little gap. Love and kisses, everyone.

stichomythia  
the letter column

Paul Cockayne  
Nottingham

Thanks for the 2 complimentary copies of U-Bend and glad to see that you decided the article was worth a reprint. One of these years inspiration will strike again, but don't hold your breath.

U-Bend itself is not as I remember it, and improved very much for the better in my view. I used to find it interesting, amusing, but in an artificial sort of way. Now I have the feeling that it's you being yourself and no longer worrying about making an impression or creating impact. But still interesting and amusing, and it's nice to see that Guy Thomas isn't the only person in the hobby who can write - I thought your mini review of Realpolitik was spot on. The mix of games is now much more to my taste, and so you get me back, you poor sod.

As for Electric Monk, when Andy and Madi got married, I remember writing that I gave the Monk no more than a year. I sort of had this theory that producing Monk was some sort of subconscious courtship ritual, without which Mr Key and Ms Smith would have been painting their bottoms red and dancing naked through W H Smith's canteen, or whatever natives of Swindon usually do. But what's it all about - I don't think they really lived for the games side of Monk, they'd won the Zine Poll, they'd outlived ASFO, which always seemed to be some sort of objective, was there anything more to live for. And having said that, it'll probably pop through the letter box tomorrow and go on until the end of the century.

[[Later:]] How's about that for a prediction: the Monk arrived this morning!

[[And at the moment, despite its reduced frequency, it's walloping me in the quickness stakes. Oh dear, I am not doing very well, me oh my, no.]]

Steve Howe            Look, I don't mind you reprinting one of my poems (I use the term  
Hadleigh, Essex       strictly as a convenient shorthand) but did you have to pick such a  
                         rotten one? Digging it up again after all this time and separating it  
from the debate it referred to... ah well.

[[Sorry, gov'nor, the issue of NMR it came from is an isolated one in my archive. What was the debate?]]

I do still write the occasional poem, and since you ask nicely I'm quite happy to send you one now and then. I should make it clear, however, that this is likely to be an irregular service at best. One of the main reasons I stopped doing the things for NMR is that I couldn't handle the pressure of churning them out every month. Er, does the New Statesmen really pay for verse? Must investigate this.

[[Put it this way, those literary competitions that Iain Bowen was doing were a direct steal from the Staggers. Check it out, it's just inside the back every issue. I really reckon it'd be up your alley. (If you do start entering and winning I reserve the right to charge you commission on your earnings for putting you onto this).]]

Many (rather belated) congratulations on the arrival of Lee David Frederick (why do kids all get three names nowadays? We couldn't afford three in my day tha' knows; we had to make do with two. But we were happy then, although we were poor. "Son", my father said, "a third name can't buy you happiness". We lived in a tiny...)

ASFO 52? I should cocoa. But a zine from Mr Oya -- that I'd very much like to see.

[[Looks like you only get a letter:]]

David Oya                    You didn't print any rolls for turn 4 in Breyer. Presumably you  
Banbury                    believe that printing the rolls in an RR game is strictly for soft  
                             Southern shandy drinkers. We din't av none o' them dice rolls printed  
fo' us when I were a lad. We ad to make up our own. Ay, and we were grateful.

[[And that's enough Four Yorkshiremen imitations for one issue.]]

Not only is Bowen at it, but now you too. Gawdelpme from these zine-ed's and their insane theories that I'd make a good zine-ed. 'Pah!', I say. I know Bowen's motive is, that he wants more fodder for his beastly zine reviews, but I'm not so sure about yours. I'm very happy to maintain my hobby involvement at its current level and don't need any extra hassle in my life right now.

Many apols for calling you Harold. That's the kinda wild uncontrollable beast I am. Am I correct to infer from 'it isn't my name and never has been' that you were in fact christened Henry? I think we should be told.

[[Wrong again; three strikes and you're history, kid.]]

John Wilman                Surely 'laterally' is not a difficult word for a self-confessed  
Blairgowrie                addict of polysyllabic discourse. I could also have used 'literally'  
                             or 'latterly'.

Campo is diminutive and dapper; Raymondo looks like a glassy-eyed, plump penguin. [[Robin ap Cynan will kill you.]] The Miles-Keane feud is recorded in all its shame in issues 12-21 of 'Kingpin'. [[Quite a lot of interesting but DNO gossip is omitted]]. Funny little world, isn't it. Inow! Pete Birks a'favour, so I'll keep schtumm about him.

Martin Draper             One thing you can be sure of now that I am in a Diplomacy game with  
Hoddesdon                 you is that I will not NMR. Haven't done ever since I first started  
                             playing Diplomacy back in 1984. If you haven't had orders from me  
come the deadline then you will know that something drastic has happened. Hopefully, that situation will not be faced.

Speaking of that first Diplomacy game I played reminds me of that notable coup I pulled off which you may not have heard about. I doubt that I will get away with another coup so I won't be attempting to deceive you in U-Bend. The game was an early Richard Egan game; prior to the launch of Vienna, having answered his advertisement in White Dwarf shortly after receiving the game. We (myself and friend) replied to that ad and played the country as a partnership. Fortunately, in that first letter we addressed ourselves as Joe and Jon, Joe being the nickname for myself, and continued to use these names throughout. We drew Italy and wasn't proceeding too well early in the game. Around 1904 Austria-Hungary had to withdraw through ill-health and RME advertised for a replacement. The replacement happened to be a person called Martin Draper with my dad writing the letters under tuition and the address of Jon's parents' shop nearby. It served the purpose quite well as Italy proceeded to take all of Austria-Hungary's centres and attack France. Unfortunately we were still beaten by Russia, largely due to a Germany that didn't trust us and ended the game with a creditable 10 centres.

However, I began to get to know the Vienna crowd quite well (as did my sister) and had to adopt a fictitious name, Joe Chambers, on the many visits I made to Bristol as my real name was being used by someone else. I think it was nearly three years before I revealed my real name, long after that game had finished. It certainly shocked quite a few people who had got to know me as Joe and the nickname has largely stuck ever since.

In case you are beginning to wonder, Tim Neale is not a pseudonym, even if I can post letters to you with a Stevenage postmark.



Andy Cox Swindon I now await the next issue of TLR with interest as Duncan has promised me a right slagging off for arguing with him about the Sopwith adjudication. Two phonecalls later I finally worked out that he'd got the planes in the right place but mixed up the numbers! Most of the earlier confusion admittedly came from my inability to tell East from West - if god had meant me to know things like that He'd (She'd?? It'd?? - what is the politically correct term these days?) have made me a homing pigeon. I think Duncy baby needs to sell himself a damp course (his new job) to separate his brain from his alcohol consumption.

[[And after he waxed so sarcastic in the current TLR, too. It's a good job I know you pair are mates really. I can never tell (physical) left from right either, btw.]]

Throwing myself into the political fray for a change, I have to say that the Tower Hamleys vote only goes to show the true hypocrisy of 'British' politics. Most parties rely on safe seats and the so called swings only affect a small proportion of MPs. The BNP win is actually a reflection of a whole constitutencies total disbelief that the existing mainstream parties will achieve anything for them (even if what they want is not 'politically correct'). In a similar way Plaid Cymru, the SNP and Sinn Fein demonstrate that some areas have a strong enough feeling to produce their own spokesman - who duly goes off to Westminster and is swamped in the mass of Con/Lab/Lib block voting. To repeat a favourite quote: "Whoever you vote for the government gets in". Whilst not advocating or supporting the BNP, they must have touched on a nerve in the mass of the people (that lot should give you something to argue with).

Personally, I feel that my natural party is the Monster Raving Looney Party and all its affiliated nutters but unfortunately I've never had a chance to vote for them as candidates are few and far between. I normally vote for the party I feel needs the votes most. In the past this has included the Greens (several times), the Socialist Workers Revolutionary Party and the Liberals.

After re-reading U-Bend 26 I agree with what you say about the problems of a protest vote but that surely is what it is -- a protest by the 'downtrodden masses'. I stand by my comments on the minority parties and their total inability to achieve anything once elected.

I think that's about it for this issue apart from: WHERE'S THE POETRY CONTEST RESULTS.

[[No room, no time. You got them right. Satisfied now, crumb?]]

Alan Coulthard Nottingham I did enjoy your article about your recent travels, which was very entertaining. I bet you're looking forward to Edinburgh already. I must admit that I never expected reading material like this when I first subscribed to U-Bend. What an amazing zine! Kept me entertained for ages. Keep up the good work, Haz.

[[Someone likes my stuff? I must be doing something wrong. Thanks, Alan. Nice to know that not all my readers are Tom Tweedies.]]

Edmund Morgan Sutton Thanks for that comment about Born Losers. I'm not sure if it's possible to "steal through the box to squeeze under the wire" but positive reviews always convince me that maybe I shouldn't give it all up as a bad job! Not that I care about Zine Polls...

[[Good job, cos BL doesn't feature in the results after all. And it's late again. Come on, Morgan, shoulder to the grindstone, you can do it.]]

Toby Harris Sunderland Oh dear, my first NMR in 13 years - well, that is if you don't count the time I was at Uni, had bugger all money and Paul Simpkins decided

not to send me the latest issue of Bruce; would you believe over the sake of 15p! I won't deny I have not sent subbers Smodnoc when it would put them in the red, but am always generous with active players and subbers on low income.

I have taken the liberty of compiling an estimated top five in the Zine Poll - by taking an average of the few predictions people have sent me (or those I have pinched from other zines, like yours!) So far, it would appear the top five will be:-

1st: Spring Offensive; 2nd: Dolchstoss; 3rd: Smodnoc; 4th: ALOS; 5th: ADR/Bloodstock/Ode.

Looking at the list, it seems a perfectly feasible result. Having said that, I would be surprised if it actually came to pass: Spring Offensive is pretty well unanimously predicted as the winner, but what folk predict and what folk actually vote for tend to be two different things. It is, as everyone will agree, an excellent zine with a good mix of what most people want to see. The thing which will potentially jeopardise its result is grudge votes on Stephen. From what I have seen in the past, there are always grudge votes floating about and I can only see Stephen getting them this year. From my point of view, I certainly didn't vote it top because I wouldn't rate it as the best games service around.

[[Your prediction got one more of the top five correct than mine, but we both missed Cut & Thrust, presumably because its votes are garnered from a high subber loyalty rather than plaudits from its (few) traders. As for games service, your comments may be right, but that's not the only criterion I use when working out my votes for the poll.]]

It is very easy for editors to be over-modest about their zine but I can honestly see Smodnoc not making the top five. So maybe I have been less arrogant, but people tend not to forget these things in a hurry. All said and done, it would be a pretty boring Zine Poll if it did turn out as predicted.

Young Oya Again My wordporker, he say 'If I wanna have an è with every linefeed I'll  
Banbury have a goddamn è with every linefeed and there's fuck all you can do  
about it. è's are good, è's are good...' Isn't user-friendly software  
marvellous? Have you considered using your wp's search & replace function to get rid of  
the è's? It's such a crazy idea it JUST MIGHT WORK.

[[I know not this search and replace function. Help, Joy.]]

So I'm to become a U-Bend cover star? I'm aghast. My left side is my best profile, by the way.

Re-usable nappies? Wretch, heave. Is there no end to your sickening depravity, Bond? (Don't answer that.)

[[Don't call me a wretch and tell me to heave, you little rat.]]

Joy Hibbert 'Lee had never slept away from home before' is a statement subject to  
Stafford misinterpretation on two counts. One, he has slept away from home  
before, almost every time he goes out in the car, for example. Two,  
however, he had not been away from home overnight before.

Some of the 'famous bisexuals' who the rooms were named after seemed to be only bisexual in the fantasies of one or more of the organisers (Sandra Bernhardt, for example).

It had never occurred to me before reading this article that 'press excluded' meant me, or anyone else who would subsequently be reporting in writing on an event. Must be more

careful in future.

You put on whose neck restraint? You put my neck restraint on you, because I was abstaining from kinky gear due to the presence of Lee. U-Bend readers who also read Skin Two (who can probably be counted on the thumbs of no hands) should note that the Pretend Family appear in a photo on page 9, annoyingly captioned "on the march: SM people, gay and straight, female and male". Wot about the bisexuals, eh? Still, at least they didn't refer to me as a 'supportive vanilla' on account of my attire.

[[If they had they'd've received a visit from an angry person waving a large bullwhip. So it's just as well they didn't. On second thoughts, we're talking about Skin Two, so maybe it's not...]]

Subsequent news reporting suggests that none of the men murdered by Colin John Ireland were actually SM, but were persuaded to be tied up by him after he claimed it was the only way he could function sexually. Have group sex -- it's safer!

[[and more fun, mayhap? -- well, slap my wrists...]]

I suppose it's useful to have Allan Gordon on the mailing list. If he starts praising U-Bend, you know you're doing something wrong. It was particularly good of him to clarify where, exactly, you are going wrong. Hopefully, you'll be doing more 'silly sensationalist' stuff in future, though I don't know if I can provide any 'militancy', after all, I never have so far. Perhaps you could ask Kellen Farshea, Andrea Dworkin or someone like that to do a column? Perhaps you could also find a nice cellar to hide me in if either of that pair ever find out they were mentioned in the same sentence?

[[But what if he came down into the cellar after you? Come to think of it, what if she did?]]

Oh, don't be a coward, explain why he's threatened (good of you to notice that 'bored' usually means 'threatened' when used by such unfortunates. 'Amused' is also often synonymous) by my thinking. I assume you had something more imaginative than the obvious fear of female revenge?

Actually, what I'm starting to suspect is that for people like him, what is threatening about my writing is simply that I am writing it. You, after all agree with me (or vice versa) on nearly everything, but no-one seems as frightened by what you have to say.

Shouldn't criticise the poor thing. There, but for the grace of god (or somesuch) etc. And he does seem to be filling the role left vacant by Tom Tweedy. Hopefully he'll wait till the end of his games before storming off in a huff, though.

I look at waitlists and what do I see? Kim Head, Kim Head, Kim Head. Is Kim intending to play in every game running in the hobby? I think we should be told.

I would like to deny Kim's implication that I would call any cat of mine Vita Radcliffe Sappho. Those were merely the names I thought up for a daughter, for the purpose of winding up Dave Tant, when said worthy wrote to say he dreaded hearing our planned names for our offspring.

Re the BNP, it seems particularly odd that people are congratulating them on their 'democratic' victory, when even our current limited democracy would not long survive if they won a general election.

Rob Moore: if the No Means No campaign is specifically about date rape it would make more sense to leaflet men who are currently with women, and thus in a position to commit that offence, rather than groups of lads. However, as he says himself in a

subsequent paragraph, in a group the worst traits come out. Groups of men often egg each other on to violence, whether rape or other sorts. Whether a leafletting campaign would have any effect on this trait is another matter.

'Maybe.. the community in Tower Hamlets will come through this with a strengthened inter-racial unity'. Very logical. Think it through Rob. Imagine you are a black person living in Tower Hamlets. Your white neighbours may well have voted for a councillor committed to repatriating you to a country you've probably never even seen. Would you have any trust in white electors from your ward ever again?

Re the gay gene, Rob is missing the point. He asked if the gay gene had been passed on to Lee. Has he asked the same question to other recent parents he knows ie heterosexual ones? If not, he's assuming on some level that the gay gene is passed from gay parent to child. (Or perhaps he's just assuming that other recent parents are violent heterosexuals).

I can't see the point of opening banks/building societies at weekends. Most transactions can be done via ATMs these days, and those that can't can be done by sticking a letter through the door. I believe that the big supermarkets want unlimited Sunday trading in order to bankrupt the 'corner shops' after which they will be able to put their prices up. The government seems to have made some recognition of this in the law changes, whether it will be enough remains to be seen.

[[I can see the point. I for one (and you should know this, Joy) have accounts without ATM access deliberately to make it harder for me to splurge all the money in it on whim. If you have to go into the outlet and queue it makes it that little bit harder. (I don't carry plastic for a similar reason. "Money flowed between his hands/ Like water through the ocean sands".)]]

What I don't like is the way the pro-Sunday Trading lobby tried to smear all the antis with the label of 'Christian'. I haven't been a christian since I was ten, but I can see the sense in a 'day of rest' ie a day on which workers should be paid lots and lots if they can't 'rest'.

Getting to John Wilman's letter reminds me that I intended to dissect his article on pornography. I don't feel up to it at the moment, so I'll just make one small point. He claims that pornography reduces the incidence of rape by encouraging men to wank off (a paraphrase, I admit). This implies that the male sex drive is a fixed thing. I'm sure any man who has ever got off with someone he fancied would agree with me when I say that there are times you want to do it a lot, and times you just can't be bothered. Any pornography worthy of the name will encourage a user to want to do it more, and, furthermore, will condition his sexuality in particular ways, usually ones concerned with dehumanisation or violence, with obvious results for any weaker person he subsequently encounters. I'm using 'pornography' here to mean stuff produced by the industry devoted to providing heterosexual porn to males. Porn produced for other groups, which goes against the trend of eroticising violence against women, doesn't really count.

'Ray Keene.. is an even bigger crook than Campomanes'. C'mon, John, details! I can see it now "U-Bend: the zine for semi-libellous gossip about the chess world". I wonder what Allan Gordon will find to be offended by in that?

Susie Orbach put fat on the agenda. The argument is that fat oppression affects women more than it does men (though that has changed somewhat since her original book on the subject), eg the assumption that a chubby woman is ugly while a chubby man is distinguished, and the increasing tendency to consider even the slightly plump female as unfit for ordinary work. However, I would dispute John's implication that something has to affect women in order to be a feminist issue.



[[My dear Bobby, if you will keep writing stuff that is interesting, controversial or both, you must expect me to respond in kind. If you wanted to, you could always just stop, though I hope you won't, as it'll make it harder for me to do a lettercolumn longer than an average issue of Obsidian if you do.]]

Nice to see U-Bend again though, ish 26 and still looking good. Will you sneak a top 5 place? I feel it may be false modesty, omitting yourself from your top 5 predictions.

My votes? Ahha! Confidential! \*blush\* ok, I forgot. \*blush\* the pressures of work... mumble.

Another MP bites the dust. Yeah, he's only human, we all make mistakes blah blah blah but you cannot make speeches on 'family values' (however misguided the interpretation of this happens to be) and then shrug off a love-child-sex-romp-affair shocker like this.

Any views on the post-menopausal pregnancy debate? How old is too old, when it comes to motherhood? Can the wishes/needs of the mother outweigh the future needs and welfare of the unborn child? Should the mother (the \$1000 loaded question) be able to make a choice like this on behalf of the kid? Personally, I feel there should be the option of having it done, but the parents should have to pay. And not peanuts either. I can't say I think it's a good thing, but who are we to deny people the choice? We defy nature in so many other ways... And do you think Lee's arrival has altered your views on this kind of issue, compared with, say, 3/4 years ago?

[[First, please define 'not peanuts'. Anyway, there are two points at issue. One is that science is trespassing on the role of God, a view which I laugh to scorn, and which has been waved at every scientific advance since appendectomies. The second, for which I have more respect, is that for a child to be born to someone that age is likely to mean the parents' demise when the offspring is still relatively young. I'm not sure what I think about this, to be honest (this may be the first time I've ever made that admission in print -- treasure it). I don't see it as an insurmountable difficulty, but I do think it incumbent on the parent/s to make some kind of contingency plan. Do we have 1994's first Topic for Heated Debate here? I think we may. Views, please.]]

I hope he (and you two as well) had a good christmas. The first white one for a bit as well. A sign! Obviously he's destined for bad dandruff or something.

I agree with Andy Cox on Sunday trading. If X is the total disposable income, then splitting it 6 or 7 ways makes no difference to the total. It's all market forces, I guess, like everything else in our 'classless society'. Plus another attempt to spark a 'consumer lead recovery'. Sheesh, I'm glad I'm not an economist.

About the sexist pig thing yah sucks boo to you too. If you don't lay off, I'll nominate you Best GM in the Gladyses and if that doesn't merit a feud I don't know what will.

Allan Gordon            Oh God, here we go with the 'threatened' bit again! Why is it that  
Chingford                whenever anyone is disinterested in the earthshakers' posturing, it  
                              can only be translated as feeling 'threatened'. Why can't they just  
be plain and simple bored shitless? As I understand it, the nub of your self-appointed  
task (to make the unenlightened aware of minority lifestyles) amounts to no more than  
an appeal to live-and-let-live, right? Well, how about practicing it? Why can't you  
leave the ignorant alone? -- those that are, you'll never get through to anyway.  
Millions before you have tried and failed -- what have you got to say that's new? And  
those that are aware and accept are in real danger of becoming alienated by over-kill..  
don't you militants ever understand that? It has been the Achilles' Heel of rabble-  
rousers for centuries.

[[My response when something bores me shitless is usually to ignore it, not to write long letters concerning it. I would happily leave the ignorant alone if they'd leave me alone, but they don't, believe me. (I might comment that you don't for one, but my new year resolution was to try and be less bitchy). And just because millions have tried and failed (if indeed they have, which is arguable), why should I let that deter me? It didn't stop Roger Bannister running a four minute mile, though every athlete in history had failed before him. Thank you for calling me a militant, the nicest compliment anyone's paid me in this lettercolumn for a good while.]]

And for your 'secundus' motive (the appliance of labels), I'm surprised that you believe that anyone other than the completely brain-dead does this and really means it. We are all guilty of generalising at some time - even you Haz (come on, be honest, admit it) - but we all know that there is far more to a person than a group-tag. You really do talk down at times, do you know that? You have to learn to accept the fact that there are intelligent people outside of the 'minority lifestyles' who are more than happy to live-and-let-live.. if only you didn't go on about it so!

And speaking of Joy... and her appeal to editors of other zines, I hate to say it but I rather suspect that they find her contributions more amusing than she thinks... or would like.

[[That's not what many of them say. Evidence and names, please, Allan.

[[Okay, so I talk down. So do many other people. Danny Collman does it almost incessantly in Springboard. But because he does it on the subject of Dip, he doesn't get letters like yours taking him to task.

[[More of all these topics next issue, no doubt.]]

## UP THE POLL

This set of Zine Poll results is from Neil Duncan's The Cunning Plan, via John Dodds, and thus does not carry the official seal of Justinian Rhinotmetus. I must say it doesn't look bogus, though, apart from the placing of yours truly (see below):

|                              |       |                                 |       |
|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Spring Offensive          | 89.0% | 18. Mopsy                       | 51.7% |
| 2. Smodnoc                   | 88.1% | 19. Realpolitik                 | 51.1% |
| 3. Cut and Thrust            | 81.6% | 20. Arfle Barfle Gloop          | 49.7% |
| 4. Dolchstoß                 | 80.7% | 21. Pigbutton                   | 49.6% |
| 5. A Little Original Sin     | 77.9% | 22. Shadowplay                  | 48.0% |
| 6. Y Ddraig Goch             | 77.9% | 23. Backstabbers United Monthly | 46.1% |
| 7. The Cunning Plan          | 72.9% | 24. Borealis                    | 45.1% |
| 8. <u>UP AROUND THE BEND</u> | 70.0% | 25. Gallimaufry                 | 45.1% |
| 9. Take That You Fiend       | 68.7% | 26. Die Große Dampfmaschine     | 36.5% |
| 10. Age of Reason            | 68.1% | 27. Assassins' Handbook         | 36.1% |
| 11. Greatest Hits            | 66.0% | 28. Electric Monk               | 34.0% |
| 12. Ode                      | 65.0% | 29. Springboard                 | 31.9% |
| 13. C'est Magnifique         | 64.8% | 30. Pyrrhic Victory             | 28.2% |
| 14. Bloodstock               | 62.0% | 31. Odardle                     | 22.7% |
| 15. LiES                     | 60.2% | 32. Into the Night              | 20.3% |
| 16. Obsidian                 | 59.4% | 33. Sidewalk                    | 15.6% |
| 17. Hopscotch                | 56.5% | 34. The Laughing Roundhead      | 8.1%  |

More comprehensive comments will follow next time around, but for now, congrats to Monsignor Agar, and commiserations to all those who failed to score as highly as they deserved, which in my book means John Marsden, Mick Haytack, S. Diesduplex and Bill Turner especially. I would stick a tongue out at the lucky sods who were placed far higher than they deserve, but the main one of those is me, and there's no mirror handy.

**SITZKRIEG**  
the games section

ARMSTRONG Geoff should have forwarded a copy of all players' details to them, and a copy of the last adjudication should be enclosed for Ian Harris. After which, I sincerely hope, this game can start lumbering onwards again.

UROUHART This is annoying, because I can only find half Rob Moore's order sheet, and it's the wrong half. Goddess knows where the other half has gone. Be a dear and send me some more, Rob.

=====

david oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine

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DREDD

Diplomacy 91DC (DR:1221,87)

Spring 1912

AUSTRIA (Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford, London E4 6AR)  
A(Apu)-Ven, F(ADR) S A(Apu)-Ven, F(Gre)-ION, F(Nap) S F(Gre)-ION, F(Rom) S  
F(Nap), A(Tyr)-Boh, A(Rum)-Gal\*, A(Bud) S A(Rum)-Gal, A(Vie) S A(Rum)-Gal,  
A(Bul)-Rum.

FRANCE (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)  
F(ENG)-NTH, F(Edi)-NWG, F(NTH)-SKA, F(IRI)-Lpl, F(Den) S F(NTH)-SKA, F(BAL)-Swe,  
F(WMS) S F(ION)-Tun, F(TYS) S F(ION)-Tun, F(ION)-Tun, A(Pie) S A(Mun)-Tyr,  
A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Sil)-Gal, A(Bch)-Vie.

ITALY (Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1BW)  
F(Tun)-ION\*.

RUSSIA (Vick Hall, 100 Landor Road, Clapham, London SW9)  
F(Lpl)-NAD, A(War) S French A(Sil)-Gal, A(Gal)-Rum, A(Ukr) S A(Gal)-Rum, A(Sev) S  
A(Gal)-Rum, F(Con)-Bul/sc, A(Smy)-Con, F(Nwy) S F(SKA), F(SKA) S F(Swe), F(Swe) S  
F(SKA).

Retreats Italy: F(Tun)-NAf. Austria: A(Rum)-Ser.

Press:

The Gingerbread Man: "Run! run! - as fast as..." He stopped in mid-gambol. Lots of hungry eyes peering at him from the hedgerow. Could it be, Ginge asked himself, that the nerds were actually getting closer? ... and meant him GBH?... Ol' Tatty Bear, Wide Mouth, Stumpy - not to mention the cranky LOA? His currant eyes twinkled. "Okay guys - if that's the size of it, let's see your best shot!"

=====

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PEPPER

Sopwith T178UB

Turn 24

| Pilot             | Starts        | Moves             | Ends    | A :D :F  |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------|----------|
| <u>Retaliator</u> | J2-K3         | RS, A, A f-A      | M4-N5   | 15:08:02 |
| 1 ACE             | Mark Wightman |                   |         |          |
| <u>Atsuko</u>     | S10           | T/o Ctr, F, A, RS | Q11-P11 | 16:08:22 |
| 5 ACE             | Dave Lomas    |                   |         |          |

Press

Atsuko-Retaliator: Ding ding, round 2

Clouds are currently at: (F15,G14,G15):(K17,K18,L18):(L11,L12,L13):(O18):  
(O15,O16,F14,F15,F16).



# CACTUS

Railway Rivals (Oxfordshire) [GM David Oya]

Turn 3

BLOTTO (Duncan Adams, green) 32 +6 -1(BR) -1(PU) +1(PR) +6(S) +5(I) = 48  
a) (Oxford[42])-X28; b) (J21)-J20-Shipton; (H24)-H25; c) (H25)-H29

BRASENOSE (Haz Bond, brown) 28 +1(BL) -2(PU) -1(PR) = 26  
a) (Abingdon)-S32; b) (S32)-S33-U34-Didcot; (S23)-Kidlington; (Bicester)-W15;  
c) (W15)-V14-Ardley; (V14)-U15-S14

ISIS (Steve Guest, orange) 28 +6 +1(S) +1(PR) -5(BL) -1(PU) = 30  
a) (P15)-R14; (P12)-P11; b) (R14)-Ardley;  
c) (P11)-Q11; (Oxford[41])-Oxford[42]-W28

PUFF (Bob Holliday, purple) 33 +3 +1(BL) +2(BR) +1(I) = 40  
a) (W32)-W33; b) (W33)-U34-Didcot; (V28)-U28-Oxford[42]; (Watlington)-F82;  
c) (F82)-Thame

STUPID (Mark Stretch, blue) 39 -1(I) -6(BL) -1(PR) = 31  
a) (Q19)-Q21-R21; b) (R21)-Kidlington; (Charlbury)-H19;  
c) (H19)-Shipton; (R21)-R23

CIDER (Fiona Campbell, red) 50 +12 +2(PR) = 64  
a) (Q32)-Q33-S34; b) (S34)-Didcot-W36-Y35;  
c) (Y35)-Wallingford; (S26)-Oxford[42]; (Q27)-Q26

PRACTICE (Alan Parr, black) 45 +3 -1(I) -1(BL) +1(BR) +1(S) -2(C) = 46  
a) (P21)-P19; (S23)-Kidlington; b) (X27)-X33;  
c) (X33)-Y34-Y35-Wallingford; (F77)-Thame

Agrajag: Haz is beaten to Didcot and Ardley. What a personal disaster. Rolls for turn 4 (efficient GMs never forget the rolls) are: 6, 4, 4.

Fiona - Duncan: I can't be the one dogging you, as I can't afford to see over twenty zines and besides, most of the time I put my name on the list before yours!

Special Houserule: I will only accept late orders if you phone me and tell me that you've just filled a Sappy Rivals waiting list in your zine. Rob, if you're thinking of seeking physical retribution for this appallingly unjust state of affairs, I have to warn you that I'm a black belt in running away and hiding.

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david oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine

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# QUINCY

Time Lords Dip III? 91BS rd??

Spring 1909

ENGLAND (John Wilman, 2 Keillor Cottages, Kettins, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH13 9JT)  
A(Edi)-Yor; A(Lpl)-Wal; F(Nwy)-NTH; F(StPnc)-WARP.

FRANCE (RJ Walkerdine, 6 Honeybourne Way, Wickwar, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos GL12 8PF)  
F(Bre)-WARP; A(Bel)-Pic; A(Bur)-WARP-Par; A(Mar)-Gas; A(Lon)-WARP.

GERMANY (Steve Doubleday, c/o The Old Vicarage, Bruntcliffe Rd, Morley, Leeds LS27 0JZ)  
A(Kie)-WARP; A(Rom)-WARP.

ITALY (Rob Moore, Flat 2, 132 Otley Road, Far Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX)  
A(Par)-WARP; A(Ven)-WARP; A(Hol) H. A(Tri)-WARP {no destination ordered};  
A(Mun)-WARP; A(Nap)-WARP-Rom.

TURKEY (Edmund Morgan, 22 Meadow Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4NF)  
F(BLA) C A(Ank)-Sev; A(Vie)-Bud; A(Rum)-Gal; A(Sev)-WARP; A(Con)-Bul; A(Smy)-Con;  
A(Ank)-Sev.

Retreats None, and no explosions either

Nuke 'em till they glow, then use 'em as a night light

The feminist revolution is finally here on the Isle of Wight as the government of Insula Vectis is overthrown and the territory renamed GREENHAM PLEASANT LAND, under the benevolent yet radical hand of Joy Hibbert.

Secrets: None this time

Revealed Cards:

FROGLAND (Simon Cutforth): Onto the top of the Titan goes a satellite -- the LandSat, as it happens. The launch goes without a hitch, and Frogland may now choose to use this piece of technology to spy on one other country's population level from next turn. Which is a great amount of use, considering what's about to occur.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF PECKHAM (Alan Coulthard): The Cobalt Bomb is launched against Frogland, and since Peckhamites believe in making hay while the sun shines, a Midgetman missile is quickly set up to follow it up.

THE FNORDS (Geoff Brown): GOING UP: Space Shuttle with a Killer Satellite aboard, which can from next turn zap any other space hardware in orbit.

GOING DOWN: One 20m and one 10m warhead from the Space Platform, both of them aimed at Frogland, oh dear.

FAROE ISLANDS (Rob Moore): Behind the Titan there is... a Minuteman. What's behind the Minuteman is anyone's guess, though, and since they have withdrawn their cruise missile as a deterrent and taken it in hand...

GREENHAM PLEASANT LAND (Joy Hibbert): But behind the Saturn we find a 20 meg warhead, and it's ready to launch. "If you're not part of the solution we're gonna blow you to bits," said Matriarch Hibbert in a press statement today.

APPLIANCE (Andy Bell): NMR 1m population penalty. It turns out that the Minuteman last time was a harmless test launching, since the next thing out of the box is a Polaris.

Attacks: Peckham's cobalt bomb is targeted at Frogland, but that nation's defences are alert enough to wallop the missile with a Nike-Zeus Interceptor, which saves their skin more than a little.

Alas, Frogland has no such defence capability against direct strikes from orbit. The Fnords' 20meg kills 5+1 = 6 million, and the 10meg 2+2 = 4 million. Alas once more, this is sufficient to reduce the entirety of Frogland to glowing rubble. Simon now has a FINAL STRIKE ("From Hell's heart I stab at thee...") which will take effect at the start of next turn, following which (and any other attacks to be resolved) peace will reign again and unrevealed strategy cards (but not revealed ones) may be reshuffled.

Deterrents: Greenham Pleasant Land: 20 megaton warhead

In Orbit: Fnords: space platform, Killer Satellite  
Ex-Frogland: LandSat

Population Changes since 1997AD: TF+18m, FI-19m, IV-10m, AF-7m, Fr-31m and OUT, PRF-18m

Your New Card(s):

Player Notes:

New Secrets: Greenham Pleasant Land are the lucky owners of a TOP SECRET.

Press:

Frogland burns, and the charismatic leader of the Fnords turned his gaze skywards and watched the cleansing rain fall from the heavens. Howard the Dolphin watched, and decided to fall in love with a teddy bear called Roosevelt, who had good contacts within the CIA and knew how to separate the hemp.

Ferdinand Fooch got even closer.

BROKEN FACE Breaking Away [GM David Oya]

Turn 3

|    |    |                                        |
|----|----|----------------------------------------|
| RC | Sq | Cyclist                                |
| 4  | 37 | Happy                                  |
|    | ^^ |                                        |
| 3  | 33 | Skeeve                                 |
|    | ^^ |                                        |
| 3  | 24 | Gremlin Griff, Huffed, Puffed, Stuffed |
| 7  | 23 | Satan Sam                              |
| 8  | 22 | Foltergeist Pete, Vampire Val, Hilbert |
| 11 | 21 | Rally Splash, Sleepy, Noether          |
| 14 | 20 | Gauss, Grumpy                          |
| 16 | 19 | Mutton Jeff, Euler, Bashful            |
| 19 | 18 | Leeding Pack                           |
|    | 17 |                                        |
| 3  | 16 | Knackered, Eileen Dover, Gleep         |
|    | ^^ |                                        |
| 3  | 13 | Aahz                                   |
| 4  | 12 | Tanda                                  |

|                         |                           |                              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| MYTH Inc (Mark Stretch) | Math Mode (Stuart Dagger) | Spooky Spokes (Bob Holliday) |
| Skeeve                  | 3, 3, 11 Euler            | 5, 9, 15, 16 Vampire Val     |
| Aahz                    | 3, 3, 15 Gauss            | 14, 14, 15 P'geist Pete      |
| Tanda                   | 4, 5, 15 Hilbert          | 3, 8, 12 Gremlin Griff       |
| Gleep                   | 3, 3, 10 Noether          | 5, 9, 11 Satan Sam           |
|                         |                           | 4, 7, 7                      |

|                        |                          |                              |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dwarves (Mick Haytack) | Windy Pops (E Ainsworth) | Boston Brakers (A Coulthard) |
| Happy                  | 1, 1, 4, 4 Huffed        | 3, 10, 10 Leeding Pack       |
| Grumpy                 | 10, 14, 15 Puffed        | 3, 8, 8 Rally Splash         |
| Sleepy                 | 7, 11, 11 Stuffed        | 3, 5, 7 Mutton Jeff          |
| Bashful                | 3, 5, 16 Knackered       | 1, 3, 3 Eileen Dover         |
|                        |                          | 3, 7, 11                     |

Agrajag: Happy has the first ten sprint points sewn up but Skeeve puts paid to any thoughts of a breakaway.

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david oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine

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BREYER

RR 1222IN

Round 4

RAITA (Steve Guest, orange): 4a (J15)-H14-G15-F14. 4b (F14)-Madurai; (W17)-X17-Y17-Z17. 4c (Z17)-A58-Nagpur-D56 50 +6+15E = 71

MOO (Jeff Cattle, blue): 4a Nagpur-Y15. 4b 056-Agra, K58-Kanpur. 4c C63-E64-E66 37+6+6-71+1E = 43

IRATE (Peter Charles, green): 4a (Jamshedpur)-E69-E66. 4b (E66)-E63-D62. 4c (D62)-Raipur, (N71)-N72, (N71)-071 51 +7M = 58

DIPSO (Duncan Adams, red): 4a (Delhi)-U55-Sarahapur-W54. 4b W54-W51-Amritsar. 4c N52-N51-Jaipur; L53-L55 9 +6+6+6 = 27

ERRRR (David Oya, purple): 4a (K15)-J15-H14, (J15)-J16. 4b (H52)-H53-J54-J55. 4c (J55)-N57 40 -20R-1M = 19

Press ERRRR-RAITA: What trick's that?

Current Whinges from Steve Guest: That route to Vijayansade is what I meant, is it not what I ordered? You've missed off 2 hexes of my build, which I'm fairly sure was (U17)-V17-W17. [Guilty, me lud] Rolls for the next round are 5-2-4

Jesus College rules triumphant

Race Results

- 36) 54-26 Stevenage - Princes Risborough: FERGIE 20-2+2, MOO 10-2, STUPID +2.
- 37) 42-36 Aylesbury - Watford: STUPID 20, IDLE 10, MOO 0+1, FERGIE 0-1.
- 38) 61-41 London - Berkhamsted: IDLE 20.
- 39) 24-x3 Didcot - The North: IDLE 20+4, STUPID 10-4-2, MOO +2.
- 40) 12-15 Reading - Windsor: FERGIE 20+2, MOO 10-2.
- 41) 33-55 Amersham - St Albans: STUPID 20.
- 42) x2-62 The West - London: MOO 20, STUPID 10+3+1, FERGIE 0-3, IDLE 0-1.

Ludicrously Lopsided Final Totals

STUPID (Stretch/brown): 452 +60 = 512 Utter and total winner  
 IDLE (Ritchie/red): 270 +53 = 323 2nd  
 MOO (Cattle/blue): 250 +29 = 279 3rd  
 FERGIE (Moore/purple): 235 +38 = 273 4th

Game End Statements

FERGIE/Rob Moore: Well, an NMR ruined a decent chance of second, and a bad set of runs in turn 11 means I need a bit of luck to get a third. My reputation as the worst RR player in U-Bend looks safe (that's official now as well!) I quite like this map, although it seems fair; lenient on those who make mistakes, you can always do a shortish detour. Damn. My first RR NMR as well. Bah humbug!

STUPID/Mark Stretch: This game might just get me onto Tony's rating list. Ask him what the record score is. Virgil might rival it.

Judge English: No doubt as to the winner almost from the start of the races, so thanks for sticking with it, y'all. Strange, as the networks and map look so balanced too.

=====

david oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine.

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CHES(aka Done and help thrash Haz senseless, everyone)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Game III</u> (me white): 1) e4 : e5<br/>                 2) Nf3 : Nc6<br/>                 3) Bb5 : a6<br/>                 4) Ba4 : f5<br/>                 5) d4 : fe<br/>                 6) Bxc6</p> <p>Your Replies: bxc6 x9, dxc6 x8, exf3 x6, nf6 x5,<br/>                 Bb4+ x1.</p> <p>my response: Nxe5.</p> | <p><u>Game II</u> (me black): 1) Nf3 : Nf6<br/>                 2) g3 : g6<br/>                 3) Bg2 : d5<br/>                 4) c4 : Bg7<br/>                 5) cxd5 : Nxd5<br/>                 6) 0-0 : c5<br/>                 7) Nc3 : Nxc3<br/>                 8) dxc3 : Qb6<br/>                 9) Qa4 : Nc6<br/>                 10) Rd1 : 0-0</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Your Replies: Qh4 x8,  
 Qc2 x3, Be3 x3, Rb1 x2,  
 Ng5 x2, Rd3 x1

Position: RNBQK2R/PPF2PPP/  
 8/3Pp3/4N3/p1p5/2pp2pp/  
 r1bqkbnr.

my response: ...h5

Position: R1BR2K1/PP2FPBP/  
 2P2NP1/7Q/2p4p/1qn3p1/  
 pp2ppb1/r1b2rk1.

Remember, you can all play; send up to three choices for the readers' next move ranked in order of preference. I must say now that I don't fancy my chances in game 1. I should have known better to start this lark with Wilman and Stretch reading.

EUWE

Diplomacy 94BA (DR: 999.94)

Spring 1901

Russian Attack from Turkey, something nameless and nasty from Austria....

AUSTRIA (John R Todd, 70 Alfred Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2DW)  
A(Vie)-Gal, A(Bud) S A(Vie)-Gal, F(Tri)-Alb.

ENGLAND (Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL)  
F(Lon)-NTH, F(Edi)-NWG, A(Lpl)-Yor.

FRANCE: (Keir Hodgson, 2 Leeds Old Road, Thornbury, Bradford BD3 8HT)  
F(Bre)-MAD, A(Par)-Pic, A(Mar)-Bur.

GERMANY: (Fiona Campbell, The Manse, Munloch, Ross-shire IV8 2NL)  
A(Ber)-Kie, F(Kie)-Den, A(Hun) H.

ITALY: (Martin Draper, 124 Lord Street, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8NP)  
A(Ven)-Tyr, A(Rom)-Ven, F(Nap)-ION.

RUSSIA: (Tim Neale, 33 The Towers, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1HE)  
F(StP/sc)-GOB, A(Mos)-Ukr, A(War)-Gal, F(Sev)-BLA.

TURKEY: (Bob Holliday, 39 Peterborough Road, Portsmouth PO6 3LB)  
F(Ank)-BLA, A(Con)-Bul, A(Smy)-Arm.

Press:

Italy - All: Sorry if I have been a little uncommunicative but things will change in the new year

Italy - GM: I guess the name is pronounced You as in sheep.

Judge English - Italy: You do, so you? Hmm.

England - All: Term EMail address: jesu0014@black.ox.ac.uk

Judge English: This went out separately with last issue. This time's adjudication follows after this musical interlude ~~BBB~~.....

EUWE

Diplomacy 93???

Autumn 1901

Full marks for Italy and Aust.... ooops.

AUSTRIA (John R Todd, 70 Alfred Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2DW)  
F(Alb)-Gre, A(Bud)-Ser, A(Gal)-Rum.

ENGLAND (Mark Stretch, Flat 23, Stevens Close, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2)  
F(NTH) C A(Yor)-Nwy, A(Yor)-Nwy, F(NWG)-BAR.

FRANCE: (Keir Hodgson, 2 Leeds Old Road, Thornbury, Bradford BD3 8HT)  
F(MAD)-Por, A(Pic)-Bel, A(Bur) S A(Pic)-Bel.

GERMANY: (Fiona Campbell, 75 Powis Terrace, Aberdeen AB2)  
A(Kie)-Hol, F(Den) H, A(Hun) H.

ITALY: (Martin Draper, 124 Lord Street, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8NP)  
F(ION)-Tun, A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Ven)-Tri.

RUSSIA: (Tim Neale, 33 The Towers, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1HE)  
A(War)-Gal, F(Sev)-BLA, A(Ukr)-Sev, F(GOB)-Swe.

TURKEY: (Bob Holliday, 39 Peterborough Road, Portsmouth PO6 3LB)  
A(Arm)-Sev, F(Ank)-BLA, A(Bul) S Austrian F(Alb)-Gre.

Builds:

Are to be found overleaf.

Austria: Bud Vie Tri Gre Ser Rum = 4 Builds A(Bud)  
 England: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy = 4 Builds F(Lon)  
 France: Par Mar Bre For Bel = 5 Builds F(Bre), F(Mar)  
 Germany: Mun Kie Ber Hol Den = 5 Builds A(Kie), A(Ber)  
 Italy: Rom Nap Ven Tun Vie Tri = 6 Builds F(Nap), A(Rom), A(Ven)  
 Russia: Mos Sev War StP Swe = 5 Builds A(Mos)  
 Turkey: Con Ank Smy Bul = 4 Builds F(Con)  
 Neutral: Spa = 1  
 34

Press:  
 Germany-Italy: I've just found out you're rated 250th or something like that. Help!  
 Germany-GM: Can I have whipped cream instead of custard.  
 Judge English: Full marks there to Mr Neale who somehow failed to receive a copy of the flyer, but deduced his position from others' letters and ordered accordingly to save delaying the game.

=====

David Oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine

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LUTON

Atlantic Airlines [GM now Haz]

Turn 10

Paul Slade writes: "I am sorry to have to say that due to personal reasons I am withdrawing entirely from the postal games hobby, with immediate effect. I apologise for leaving you in the lurch with respect to Luton." Well, this game has seen off two GMs now, and I doubt anyone else would go near it. So I shall run it to the end, and write orders for PUSSYCAT before sending out the zine. I tell you there's a jinx on AA in this zine.

TBNS 707 L60 / New York / I42  
 John Colledge 747 L73 / Paris / K53

Account -462 -24-50-20 = -556, -20% = -668

PUSSYCAT 747 Algiers / Port of Spain / C64  
 Haz Bond 707 D18 / Belem, Caracas / G7  
 Tristar F27 / Dakar / I9

Account +107 +68-24-50-40-20 = +41

RAC TriStar K70 / / J46  
 Joy Hibbert DC10 Paris / sits on the ground

Account +50 -220-40-22-20 = -252, -20% = -304

SANTA CLAUS 747 New York / Montreal, Pittsburgh / G53  
 Rob Cullender TriStar I54 / Las Palmas / Casablanca  
 DC8 Chicago / Pittsburgh / G60  
 DC10 N19 / Paris / London

Account +1371 +252+290-50-40-28-44-20 = +1731

Planes Ordered And Paid For Next Turn None  
Loads In Flight

|            |          |                     |         |   |    |   |     |
|------------|----------|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|-----|
| Kano       | Bogota   | PUSSYCAT/Tristar    | 4       | * | 32 | = | 128 |
| Paris      | Toronto  | RAC/Tristar         | 8       | * | 24 | = | 192 |
| Berlin     | New York | TBNS/747            | 7 of 12 | * | 29 | = | 348 |
| Montreal   | Milan    | SANTA CLAUS/747     | 10      | * | 25 | = | 250 |
| Pittsburgh | London   | SANTA CLAUS/747     | 2 of 10 | * | 27 | = | 270 |
| Pittsburgh | London   | SANTA CLAUS/DC8     | 8 of 10 | * | 27 | = | 270 |
| Casablanca | Madrid   | SANTA CLAUS/Tristar | 8       | * | 4  | = | 32  |
| London     | New York | SANTA CLAUS/DC10    | 7       | * | 24 | = | 168 |

|        |            |                  |    |   |    |   |     |
|--------|------------|------------------|----|---|----|---|-----|
| Paris  | Toronto    | TBNS/747         | 5  | * | 24 | = | 120 |
| London | Port of Sp | PUSSYCAT/747     | 11 | * | 29 | = | 319 |
| Belem  | New York   | PUSSYCAT/707     | 3  | * | 21 | = | 63  |
| Dakar  | Bogota     | PUSSYCAT/Tristar | 2  | * | 26 | = | 52  |

Loads Delivered This Turn

|           |            |                     |         |   |    |   |     |
|-----------|------------|---------------------|---------|---|----|---|-----|
| Chicago   | Las Palmas | SANTA CLAUS/Tristar | 9       | * | 28 | = | 252 |
| Belem     | Paris      | SANTA CLAUS/DC10    | 10      | * | 29 | = | 290 |
| Berlin    | New York   | TBNS/707            | 5 of 12 | * | 29 | = | 348 |
| Amsterdam | Caracas    | PUSSYCAT/707        | 2       | * | 34 | = | 68  |

Loads Available

| From         | To            | Size / Dist / Value |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Accra        | Pittsburgh    | 2 37 = 74           |
| Frankfurt    | Madrid        | 4 6 = 24            |
| Chicago      | Washington    | 12 6 = 72           |
| Milan        | Berlin        | 2 3 = 6             |
| Miami        | New York      | 6 8 = 48            |
| Chicago      | London        | 8 29 = 232          |
| Atlanta      | London        | 3 30 = 90           |
| Toronto      | Berlin        | 7 29 = 203          |
| Chicago      | Algiers       | 2 33 = 66           |
| Havana       | Milan         | 6 37 = 222          |
| New York     | Paris         | 2 24 = 48           |
| New York     | Las Palmas    | 3 22 = 66           |
| New York     | Caracas       | 9 16 = 144          |
| NEW and last |               |                     |
| New York     | Port of Spain | 2 15 = 30           |
| Frankfurt    | New York      | 4 27 = 108          |
| Berlin       | Atlanta       | 6 35 = 210          |
| Washington   | London        | 8 26 = 208          |
| Washington   | Belem         | 10 19 = 190         |
| London       | Accra         | 12 23 = 276         |

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TEX

Diplomacy 92DY (DR: 1257.19)

Spring 1908

AUSTRIA (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)  
 A(Boh) S A(Gal), A(Gal) S German A(Mun)-Sil\* (nso), A(Vie) S A(Tri),  
 A(Tri) S A(Ven), F(Ven) S A(Tri), F(Nap) S French F(TYS)-ION.

ENGLAND (Edward Ainsworth, 4 Park Avenue, Bedford MK40 2JY)  
 F(Nwy)-BAR, F(NTH) C English A(Wal)-Nwy (nsu/imp).

FRANCE (Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Ct, Urpeth Grange, Chester 1e St, Co Durham DH2 1TQ)  
 A(Lon) H, F(ENC)-NTH, A(Bel)-Nwy (imp), A(Par)-Bur, F(TYS)-ION, F(GOL)-TYS,  
 F(Mar)-GOL, A(Tus)-Rom, A(Tun) H.

GERMANY (Mark Stretch, Flat 23, Stevens Close, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6JW)  
 F(Swe)-Nwy, F(Den)-NTH, F(Ber)-BAL, A(Kie)-Hol, A(Pic)-Bel, A(Mun) S French  
 ... A(Bel)-Bur (nso).

TURKEY (Mark Underhay, 65 The Chase, Holland on Sea, Essex CO15 5PZ)  
 A(Con)-Bul, A(StP) S German F(Swe)-Nwy, A(Ukr)-Gal, A(War) S A(Ukr)-Gal,  
 F(Smy)-EMS, A(Gre)-Apu, F(ION) C A(Gre)-Apu, F(ADS) S A(Gre)-Apu,  
 F(Alb) S F(ION), A(Rum) S A(Ukr)-Gal, A(Ser) S A(Rum).

Retreats Austria: A(Gal)-Bud

RADAR (Paul Slade) has resigned -- see 'Luton'. Joy Hibbert will run the company for the rest of the game -- thanks again, oh great one.

Guest whinges: Last time's whinge continued first - according to my notes the carried over totals should have been TENS 2; RADAR 67; SACK 75; DEAD 72; DRUNK 22. You'd already taken off my 7 to DEAD and now you've done it again. Now for this issues corrections on builds.

|                                                        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| TENS: 11 + 1 (SACK)                                    | -5  |
| RADAR: 11 + 14 (DRUNK) + 13 (SACK) + 6 (TENS)          | -43 |
| SACK: 12 +1 (DRUNK)                                    | +4  |
| DEAD: 11 + 2 (SACK)                                    | -12 |
| DRUNK: 11 + 1 (DEAD) + 1 (TENS) + 1 (RADAR) + 1 (SACK) | 0   |

Thus the totals are:

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| TENS: 2 + 28 -5 = 25     |
| RADAR: 67 + 39 - 43 = 63 |
| SACK: 75 + 59 + 4 = 138  |
| DEAD: 72 + 43 - 12 = 103 |
| DRUNK: 22 + 31 + 0 = 53  |

Race Results

- 8) 44-26 Brighton - Deal: DRUNK 20-6, DEAD +6
- 9) 31-45 Gravesend - Newhaven: TENS 20-6, DEAD 10+2, SACK +1, RADAR +3
- 10) 62-32 London - Sevenoaks: TENS 0-4, SACK 0, DEAD 10+8, RADAR 20-4
- 11) x4-63 X-Channel - London: TENS 0-4, DEAD 20-1, DRUNK 5-1, RADAR 5+6
- 12) 21-14 Whitstable - Eastbourne: RADAR 20-4, SACK +4.
- 13) 13-53 Dover - Tonbridge: TENS 20, SACK 10-4, DRUNK +4
- 14) 52-x5 3 Bridges - X-Channel: DEAD 20+1, RADAR 10-1.

Races (enter up to 4, build up to 10 physical points)

- 15) 51-12 Dorking - Dover
- 16) 22-33 Canterbury - Rochester
- 17) 65-42 London - Lewes
- 18) x2-54 Seaside - Horsham
- 19) 11-25 Folkestone - Ashford
- 20) 46-66 Haywards Hth - London
- 21) 34-x2 Chatham - Seaside

Builds

Running Totals

|                                                                 |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| DEAD (Oya/black): None                                          | 103 +76+1 = 180 |
| TENS (Colledge/blue): None                                      | 25 +26+1 = 52   |
| SACK (Guest/orange): (I52)-H52; (B46)-Reigate; (H64)-H65        | 138 +11-7 = 142 |
| DRUNK (Adams/green): London/61-L44-G42-F42-E42-Dorking; (J8)-J7 | 53 +22-11 = 64  |
| RADAR (Hibbert/purple): A65-Ashford; M6-Three Bridges           | 63 +55-2 = 116  |

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ZIMMER

Sopwith T216UB

Turn 7

|                     |        |          |        |          |   |   |
|---------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|---|---|
| Pilot               | Starts | Moves    | Ends   | A        | D | P |
| 3 Florence          | M18/E  | RT, 0, 0 | P17/SW | 08:01:28 |   |   |
| ACE Rob Cullender   |        |          |        |          |   |   |
| 6 Boring Boris C9/E |        | A, A, A  | G15/E  | 09:08:15 |   |   |
| Ian Harris          |        |          |        |          |   |   |

Clouds moved west to: (F11-F12-E12):(J7-J6-I5):(M14-L13-K12):  
(C7-D6-D7-E6-E7):(O11-O12-P13-P14):(L17-M17-N17-L16).

Florence: When we started, I only had five enemies, now it seems I have seven!

Boris-Byron: Oh, blinking flip. If I'd known you were going to do that I'd've shot you down myself and scored an extra four points and a kill!

Boris-Judge English: Ta for the map. Pity it was of Capablanca, but ta anyway.  
(Actually the map which came with the readjudication was Zimmer, so that's ok).



DEBASER

Breaking Away [GM David Oya]

Setup

Team Barbary (Haz Bond)

A: Anna Madrigal 1, 6, 8, 15  
B: Mouse 5, 9, 11  
C: Mona 3, 7, 10  
D: Mary Ann 2, 5, 9

MYTH Inc (Mark Stretch)

A: Skeeve 4, 11, 15  
B: Aahz 3, 7, 15  
C: Tanda 2, 3, 15  
D: Gleep 1, 5, 10

Flintstones (Bob Holliday)

A: Betty 2, 6, 9, 13  
B: Fred 3, 6, 16  
C: Barney 4, 6, 10  
D: Wilma 5, 5, 6

Poetic Licence (Kim Head)

A: Charles Baudelaire 4, 5, 6, 15  
B: Wendy Cope 3, 8, 14  
C: John Donne 2, 7, 11  
D: Alice Walker 1, 6, 9

Eternal Champions (Alex Richardson)

A: Elric 10, 10, 10  
B: Corum 7, 9, 9  
C: Erepose 3, 8, 9  
D: John Daker 4, 5, 7

??? (Dave Lomas)

A: Fanny 3, 4, 8, 15  
B: Ursula 3, 7, 15  
C: Cecily 3, 5, 12  
D: Kitty 3, 6, 7

Agrajag: Note that we'll be using the amended turn 1 rule, as printed in U-Bend 22, page 11. Provisional turn 1 orders on file from Haz, Bob, Kim and Alex.

Alex comes out of the closet marked 'Pixies Fans' and correctly guesses the game name. Dave comes out of the closet marked 'Smartarses' and comments 'I was going to enclose a £5 note to reward you for taking the time to run this game but I have already sealed the envelope.' Hey, it's the thought that counts. By the way, under Houserule 73f(xiv), your failure to specify a team name makes you liable to a £10 Late Team Name Allocation Fee.

Lit Crit Ed sex: Cultural References-A-Go-Go! Maupin - non placet. Cope - placet. Asprin - non placet. Betty Rubble = totally babelicious, man. Yabbadabbadoo!

Haz Bond (who he?), 13 Merrivale Rd, Stafford ST17 9EB

Mark Stretch, 2 Over Hill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL (home)

Flat 23, Stevens Close, Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 6JW (term)

Bob Holliday, 39 Peterborough Rd, Portsmouth PO6 3LB.

Dave Lomas, 6 Ramshaw Grove, Alderley Green, Stoke on Trent ST3 5TD.

Kim Head, 23 Higher Efford Road, Efford, Plymouth PL3 6LB.

Alex Richardson, 6 Millow, Dunton, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 8RH.

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XIMENEZ

Chaos II Diplomacy 92BW rh06

Autumn 1906

ANKARA (John Miller): A(Mos)-War

BELGIUM (Peter Ritchie): A(Bel) H.

BREST (John R Todd): NMR! F(Bre) H u/o

BULGARIA (Vick Hall): NMR! A(Bul) H u/o

DENMARK (Peter Dunnatt): F(Den) S F(BAL)-Swe, F(BAL)-Swe

KIEL (Duncan Adams): NMR! A(Mun), F(Kie), A(Hol) H u/o

LIVERPOOL (John Morgan): F(Lol)-IRI, F(Lon)-ENG, A(Yor) H.

MARSEILLE (Guy Thomas): A(Par)-Bre, F(MAD)-Por, A(Gas) S A(Par)-Bre

NORWAY (Toby Harris): F(Pic)-ENG.

ROME (Alex Richardson): A(Ven) H, A(Rom) S A(Ven), A(Boh)-Vie.

SERBIA (Mike Clark): NMR2! = anarchy. A(Sev) H u/o

SPAIN (Edmund Morgan): F(ICN)-AEG, F(Gre) S Bulgarian A(Bul)

SWEDEN (anarchy): F(SKA), F(Swe) H u/o

TURKEY (Neil Duncan): F(Smy)-AEG, F(BLA)-Rum, A(Con) S Bulgarian A(Bul)

VIENNA (Allan Gordon): A(Tyr)-Vie, A(Tri)-Ven, A(Ser)-Eul, A(Rum) S A(Ser)-Eul,

A(Gal) S A(Rum)

WARSAW (Peter Charles): A(StP) H, A(Ukr)-Sev

Ximenez Retreats Swedish F(Swe) dies

Adjustments

Ankara: Mos War = 2 1 sht nbp  
 Brest: Per = 0 OUT  
 Denmark: Den Ber Swe = 3 1 sht nbp  
 Liverpool: Lpl Edi Lon = 3 n/c  
 Norway: Bre = 0 OUT  
 Serbia: Sev = 1 n/c  
 Sweden: Swe Nwy = 1 n/c  
 Vienna: Vie Bud Tri Ser Rum = 5 n/c

Belgium: Bel = 1 n/c  
 Bulgaria: Bul = 1 n/c  
 Kiel: Kie Mun Ber Hol = 4 1sht  
 Marseille: Mar Spa Par Bre Por = 5  
 [I Build F(Spa/nc), F(Mar)  
 Rome: Rom Nap Ven = 3 n/c  
 Spain: Tun Gre = 2 n/c  
 Turkey: Smy Con Ank = 3 n/c  
 Warsaw: War StP = 1 -A(Ukr)[gm]

Build Centres

Warsaw designates StP

Press

Marseille-Brest: Sorry but we were not making fast enough progress as it was.  
 Marseille-World: Please note my new address: 10 Archers Court, 13a Nottingham Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 6LN.  
 Strauss: Huh! No-one writes press let alone letters. Where'd you get this lot of brain dead tombstones, Haz?

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David Oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine

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DUZ-CHOTIMIRSKI Beat the Black Ball

Round 5

Peter Dunnett: Marble 10 secs, Black Ball 30 secs  
 Joy Hibbert: Marble 30 secs, Black Ball 58 secs  
 Edmund Morgan: Marble 50 secs, Black Ball 90 secs  
 Martin Draper: Marble 54 secs, Black Ball 16 secs  
 Rob Moore: Marble 56 secs, Black Ball 80 secs  
 Mark Stretch: Marble 57 secs, Black Ball 1 sec  
 Dave Lomas: Marble 60 secs, Black Ball 1 sec  
 John R Todd: Marble 61 secs, Black Ball 120 secs  
 Alan Parr: Marble 67 secs, Black Ball 120 secs  
 Alan Coulthard: Marble 69 secs, Black Ball 115 secs  
 Ian Harris: Marble 90 secs, Black Ball 120 secs

The BB therefore drops at 68 and a bit seconds, and Alan Coulthard may count himself most unlucky. With six rounds to go the game is anyone's, though Ed Morgan is bound to be something of an outside shot.

Running totals (\* = funnel nudged):

+25½: Parr                    +17½: Hibbert  
 +24: Coulthard               +17: Todd  
 +19½: Stretch\*               +16½: Lomas  
 +19: Harris\*                  +11: Moore  
 +18½: Dunnett\*               +1½: Morgan  
 +18: Draper

Parr says: If 2 or more players nudge, does the BB drop 5 seconds early, or 5+5, etc?

Coulthard says: I don't care if you do call me a coward, Haz. Look at last month's scoreboard! (Might as well make hay while the sun shines. I'll probably lose the lead before long!)

Lomas says: Round 3 - I meant black ball 1s, own ball 43s but what the hell, it's all a load of balls anyway.

Judge English says: I find it both heartening and amazing that people are taking so much interest in the rules of a joke page-filler game. If 2 players nudge the effect is cumulative.

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David Oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine

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CHES(aka Come and help thrash Haz senseless, everyone)

Game III (me white): 1) e4 : e5  
2) Nf3 : Nc6  
3) Bb5 : a6  
4) Ba4 : f5  
5) d4 : fe  
6) Bxc6

Game II (me black): 1) Nf3 : Nf6  
2) g3 : g6  
3) Bg2 : d5  
4) c4 : Bg7  
5) cxd5 : Nxd5  
6) O-O : c5  
7) Nc3 : Nxc3  
8) dxc3 : Qb6  
9) Qa4 : Nc6  
10) Rd1 : O-O

Your Replies: bxc6 x9, dxc6 x8, exf3 x6, nf6 x5,  
Bb4+ x1.  
my response: Nxe5.

Your Replies: Qh4 x8,  
Qc2 x3, Be3 x3, Rb1 x2,  
Ng5 x2, Rd3 x1

Position: RNBQK2R/PPP2PPP/  
8/3Pp3/4N3/plp5/2pp2pp/  
r1bqkbnr

my response: ...h5

Position: R1BR2K1/PP2PPBP/  
2P2NP1/7Q/2p4p/1qn3p1/  
pp2ppb1/r1b2rk1.

ACCORD  
R. G. L. F. I.

Remember, you can all play; send up to three choices for the readers' next move ranked in order of preference. I must say now that I don't fancy my chances in game 1. I should have known better to start this lark with Wilman and Stretch reading.

=====

david oya, this is a subliminal command to start a zine

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BEECHING

Duncan Adams was the first to let me know I'd hadn't given the numbers for the next round in Breyer. Gosh, another traders who owes me several copies, another prize I can morally justify withholding.

As a reminder, this "game" is my way of making sure I don't fall asleep; the first reader to notify me of an error in any of my games wins a free issue or equivalent. Some day I shall win it myself by having a spotless issue. It hasn't happened yet.

=====

if you haven't done it yet, oya, congrats on your strength of mind

=====

PLAYLIST for this issue (and for a spacefiller)

- Billy Bragg -- Worker's Playtime, Don't Try This At Home
- Tracy Chapman -- Tracy Chapman
- Pansy Division -- Pansy Division
- 10cc -- Greatest Hits, The Original Soundtrack
- Pink Floyd -- Relics

The last house con was such a jolly success that we're having another one. Write this date in your diary: 14-15 May 1994. RSVP. Come and see Geoff Hardingham being carnivorous, Andy Bell's desperate search for a newspaper, and if you're very lucky The Other Andy might say more than three words all weekend. Those specially favoured by Joy and I may even be allowed to give Lee a push in his swing. (I promise we won't make you change his nappy, unless you're David Oya, in which case you bloody well owe me one).  
That's all folks!