

• UNDER • THE • WIRE •

(Editorial - from centre column)

Jill enjoyed it, I was pleasantly surprised (I didn't fall asleep), and the furniture wasn't mentioned until the end.

One damp, foggy Sunday in early September found us heading out into the Border country again, ostensibly looking for lunch and trying to get out of the depressing flat we were in for the month between leaving my flat, and moving into Carfrae Park. We drove the quiet back roads, and the weather promised to break on several occasions. But it never did. We had a lovely lunch in a hotel at Innerleithen - where they sell Traquair Ale, and some of the brews from another local brewery on draught, none of which I'd seen available on draught before - shame I was driving.

Just up the street in the village is Robert Smail's printing works, a National Trust for Scotland property. The premises, comprising the office, paper store, case room and print room, remain very much as they would have been at any time over the last hundred years. Throughout that time the family firm failed to move with technology, and thus there are extensive collections of loose metal type for hand-setting, hand-proofing presses, and low-technology powered printing presses. Originally water powered, these printing presses are now run by electricity. While Smail's is not remarkable for the quality of printing or its importance to printing, it is a fine example of the type of small jobbing printer which served local communities and businesses over the period. While other printers were moving with the times, Robert Smail's continued to survive using traditional methods until it finally closed down in 1986, and was subsequently taken over by the Trust.

The Trust employs two staff on site, carrying out small printing jobs for the Trust, and other local customers, ensuring that the skills are retained and the machinery kept in working order for the visitors to watch. Modern type and printing technologies



More apologies, I'm afraid, for the delay in getting this issue out. When I set the deadline last time, I had completely forgotten that Jill and I were heading off south for a fortnight's holiday visiting friends, relations, and spending a few days in the Cotswolds.

As notified last issue, we moved to the bungalow in Carfrae Park, which is to the north west of the city, just off the main route out of the City Centre towards the Forth Bridge. It's very convenient for me to drive to work (ten minutes), and for Jill to get buses into the City Centre. Problem will come if I have to use public transport to get to work as there are no buses going round the periphery. It's also on the right side of town for heading back to Arbroath to visit the mothers, or to go up to St Andrews for the weekend.

Since the last issue, the 1992 Edinburgh Festival and Fringe have come and gone. Clive Davenhall stayed over for a few days, and between us we went out to a few music gigs - Capercaillie, Kathryn Tickell Band, Findask, Peter Nardini - and one play. Being in limbo, accommodation wise at that time, we hadn't really planned ahead, and missed out on a few shows. Maybe next year we'll be a bit more organised in advance!

The play was a one-woman performance in a play called "Shaker" depicting the life of the founder of the Shaker movement - from her origins in England, through emigration to America, and the growth of the movement, and its slow decline. The actress, who had spent time with the remaining handful of Shakers, flipped between a factual documentary narrative, and acting out scenes from the life of the founder, or her followers. It was a complete gamble.

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are so vastly different from those employed at Smail's, that it will be impossible for the Trust to be able to get, or offer a secure job to, an apprentice. But without the introduction of new blood the skills on display will disappear, and the presses will be silent once again. The current staff feel that the way forwards may be to train an older person who has taken early retirement, and wants a new interest to fill his/her time. In addition, to expand the work of the unit, spread the knowledge, and bring in some extra income over the winter months, the staff are hoping to be able to offer midweek courses in traditional printing methods.

For the holiday trip we planned to travel south over two days, stopping off in Yorkshire overnight. We were to drop in to the New Inn at Hutton for lunch on the way down, ostensibly for the German sausage. The pub is a few miles from the Catterick army garrison, and the public bar was full of raucous squaddies. As Jill and I walked into the Lounge Bar, a voice from a corner was heard to say "That looks like Wallace." "Perhaps it's because it is," said another. Like an oasis in the desert, the New Inn had attracted Brian's Dolton, Duguid and Haunton, Simon Green, Graham Staplehurst, and another person who I probably should have known, on their way north to Teesdale for the 1992 MayCon. They too had arrived in search of German sausage only to find that the chef was only in in the evenings, and that all they could offer was the standard pub fare of steak pie, fish, or lasagne. But the helpings were still generous though.

Only a few miles away are the crumbling, overgrown remains of Jervaulx Abbey, founded in the 13th Century by the Cistercians. On private land, it is simply being left to die gracefully. The grounds are kept tidy, and though there

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are notices warning of the instability of some parts of the structure, I imagine that if any parts became dangerous to the public they would be removed. There's no restoration work in progress, no information boards, no labels telling you what each area was used for. Some areas are obvious - the cloistered garden, the church itself. But that's about it. There was an honesty box, a few postcards, and a simple nature guide to the site. All very understated.

We stopped over in Harrogate and went to see Noel Coward's "Blythe Spirit" at the local Rep theatre. Written during 1941 amidst the Blitz, it is a wildly improbable farce about ghosts and death. Charles is a novelist, and sceptic that he is, invites Madame Arcati to dinner in order to obtain information about psychic phenomena. But Charles is unable to cope with the events of the evening - the return of his late first wife. Chaos from beyond the grave soon reigns as Charles is the only one who can see her. Very enjoyable.

On the south coast of England, about twenty miles east of Southampton, is the town of Chichester. A few miles away, at Fishbourne, can be found the remains of one of the biggest Romano-British villas in the country, and perhaps even north western Europe. Dating to the 1st Century AD, the palace covered about ten acres, with only the remains from one of the four wings having been excavated to date. Marble was shipped in from Greece and Turkey, the walls were painted with murals, and the floors were paved with mosaics of intricate design. This was probably the home of Cogidubnus, a British king who swore allegiance to the Romans from the invasion in AD 43. At the end of the 3rd Century the palace burnt down, the roof falling in, covering the mosaics. One wing has been excavated, and has a modern building around it. There's a museum explaining the features of the site. There is much still to be discovered here, as three quarters of the site remains unexcavated - partly for future generation, but also because modern houses and roads are built on top of them.

The abiding memory of the site, apart from the excellent mosaics, was the size of the site. It is difficult to appreciate just how successful the Romans (and Greeks) were at building such large constructions - I suppose a trip to Italy, or Greece, to visit their remains might give one a greater feeling for what was normal.

Three miles to the west of Fishbourne, on a calm inlet off Chichester Harbour, lies the little village of Bosham (pron. Bossam). Closely packed cottages line the quayside, with the spire of the Saxon Church rising above them. The road floods at high tide, and while we ate our lunch, the tide came in and surrounded some idiot's car. As we left the salt water was up around the foot of the doors. Bad

enough to leave it in such a place in the first case, but to then admit to having done so...

Stayed at Bourton-on-the-Water for a few days. It, and some of the villages nearby - Upper and Lower Slaughter (from the Anglo Saxon word meaning "muddy place", nothing grizzly), Broadway and Burford, for example - are very quaint, and pretty, with soft, yellow limestone buildings, some thatched. The 'water' in the village's name is the River Windrush, which flows, surprisingly cleanly, through the centre of the village, beneath low stone bridges, and alongside a tree-shaded green. Bourton is a mecca for many day-trippers, and tour buses, typifying the Cotswolds villages. Others are just as, or more, pretty, and much less crowded.

Bourton provides a good centre to visit the other Cotswolds villages, though it has several attractions of its own. A corn mill now serves as the home for a motor museum and village life exhibition. There's a one ninth scale model of the village in the garden of the Old New Inn built in stone and containing a model of the model. Brightly plumaged parrots and macaws may be seen flying around the village. These come from 'Birdland', a bird zoo, where many of the birds are allowed to fly freely. There are a wide range of birds, including a large group of penguins, some of whom starred in the most recent Batman film.

We visited another Romano-British villa later in the week. This one, located about six miles north of Cirencester, also features some impressive mosaics. Smaller in scale than Fishbourne, and sited on the back slope of a gentle north facing valley, it dates from the 2nd Century, and probably remained in use until the 4th. Other similar sites are known in the area, but have not been excavated. The Romano-British owners here at Chedworth had several sets of baths including both Turkish-style, and sauna-style. Elegant mosaic floors were laid, and white marble was brought from the Mediterranean for some of the walls. Excavations continue on-site, plus some major repairs to the hypocaust system, and the upgrading of the museum. An interesting site to visit.

A few of you may be interested to know that Cathy Ozog recently gave birth to a baby girl at the end of August - the first child for Cathy and Eric. Eric's zine Ramblings by Moonlight has now joined the ranks of the baby zines, with cute photos of all the family, and extensive details of the trials and tribulations of getting baby Shannon into the world. Congrats to both the three of you. It seems it's the thing to do these days, with two of my work colleagues currently on maternity leave, several of Jill's work colleagues recently made proud parents, and a few other friends soon to produce.

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OCTOBER 1992

BUS BOSS
P U C H - BB26ENG
 ROUND 9

RACES

Races not possible: 4, 6, 7, 14, 15.

No	Route	BOSS (134)	RNBL (56)	BBB (105)	WRECS (69)	EOR (79)
2	Yarmouth - London	-	-	30	-	-
3	London - Liverpool	5+4	20-4	-	-	5
12	Newcastle - Manchester	-	-	-	30	-
13	Norwich - Oxford	5	-	20	-	5
19	Margate - Scotland	-	30-9	-	+9	-
20	Manchester - Bristol	20-4	5	-	-	5+4
21	Chatham - Dover	-	30	-	-	-
22	Northampton - Bath	-	+4	-	-	30-4
23	Leeds - London	-	20	-	10-6	+6
24	Shrewsbury - London	+5	-	30-5	-	-
25	Newport - Heathrow-	-	-	-	-	30
26	Peterborough - Birmingham	16 (185)	- (152)	5-5 (180)	9+5 (156)	- (160)

NOTES: None.

ROUTES PURCHASED

Sandy Dewar - RNBL - Black Sheffield - Hull; Nottingham - Derby	152-12	= 140
Pete Harbron - WRECS - Blue Peterborough - London	156-12	= 144
Eoin Rutter - EOR - Green Birmingham - Northampton; Leicester - Nottingham	160-12	= 148
John Breakwell - BBB - Red Leicester - Northampton	180-6	= 174
David Watts - BOSS - Yellow Peterborough - Skegness	185-8	= 177

GAME NOTES

RNBL built Nottingham - Lincoln last time, and not Leicester as reported last time.

PLAYERS

David Watts, 102 Priory Road, MILFORD HAVEN, Dyfed SA73 2ED (0646 692752)
 Sandy Dewar, 17 Queensberry Avenue, Clarkston, GLASGOW G76 7DX (041 638 4490)
 John Breakwell, 62 Shackleton Way, Woodley, READING RG5 4UT
 Pete Harbron, 27 Torridon Crescent, Woodcrest, BRADFORD, N. Yorks BD6 0XX
 (0274 690432)
 Eoin Rutter, 233 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1PE (031 226 5214)

ROUND 10 RUNS

Players may enter up to five of the following.

4	Skegness - Luton	29	Blackpool - Newport
6	Scarborough - Middlesborough	30	Ipswich - Brighton
7	Gloucester - Exeter	31	Bristol - London
14	Kendal - York	32	Scotland - Liverpool
15	Sheffield - Hull	33	Nottingham - Gatwick
27	Shrewsbury - Northampton	34	Yarmouth - Chatham
28	London - Carlisle	35	Manchester - London

BUS BOSS
NEVAL - BB108USA
 TURN 4

ROUTES PURCHASED

David Watts - Buses On States Seviles - BOSS - Yellow Tulsa - Albuquerque; Atlanta - Charlotte	64-12	= 52
Eoin Rutter - St Louis Indianapolis Cincinatti Knoxville - SLICK - Black Omaha - Salt Lake City	64-10	= 54
Frank Burns - The Engines Cannae Tak It Cap'n - TECTIC - Lurid Orange Omaha - Salt Lake City	72-10	= 62

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SUBS RECEIVED FROM

Frank Burns, Jim McLennan, Nick Davison

CHANGES OF ADDRESS, etc

Anthony Dickinson, 29a London Street, EDINBURGH EH3 6LY
 Gavin Greig, 24 Logan Road, Bishopston, BRISTOL BS7 8DT

GAME OPENINGS

UNDER STARTERS ORDERS - Simon McInnes' horse racing game which is distruted to players only with UTW. Slmon McInnes, 236 Sydenham Road, West Croydon, Surrey, CR0 2EB (081 689 6817)
 CCTFL - TouchDown! American Football league run completely separately from UTW. Wallace Nicoll, 26 Carfrae Park, Blackhall, Edinburgh EH4 3SN (031 336 3328)

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Bill Becker - Dispatch Illusion Service - DIS - Blue

Atlanta - Jacksonville - Tampa; New York - Albany 66-12 = 54

John Breakwell - North American Folk Ferriers - NAFF - Green

New Orleans - Jacksonville 65-8 = 57

GAME NOTES

With the reduction in the number of players to five, the large number of routes left unpurchased in the previous Bus Boss games, and a suggestion from David, there will be an additional build round before the races start. David has also discovered that the game number had already been used before, so there's a new game number. SLICK to go first next time. The Omaha - SLC link proved popular this time, while NAFF did not include sufficient alternatives to use up all his available purchase points.

Frank Burns, 51/26 Caledonian Crescent, EDINBURGH EH11 2AT

Bill Becker, 1515 Ridgewood, JENISON, Michigan 49428, U.S.A.

John Breakwell, 62 Shackleton Way, Woodley, READING RG5 4UT

David Watts, 102 Priory Road, MILFORD HAVEN, Dyfed SA73 2ED (0646 692752)

Eoin Rutter, 233 High Street, EDINBURGH EH1 1PE (031 226 5214)

RAILWAY RIVALS

OSSA

TURN 8

NOTES

Scotty has dropped out of the game due to a lack of free time. I'm not too happy about it at this stage in the game, but will auction off his track before the next actual game turn. Details below of the track segments available.

RACES

			JIR	OUI	RRS	GOBLIN	ICBM
1	24-53	Nantes to Toulouse	30-2	-	-	-	+2
8	52-31	Limoges to Amiens	16-3+3	5-3+3	9	-	-
10	13-46	Paris to St Etienne	-	16	9-3	5+3	-
11	54-41	Bordeaux to Strasbourg	-	30	-	-	-
12	15-36	Rouen to Nancy	-	-	10-1	20-4+1	+4
13	64-(5)	Marseille to Italy	30	-	-	-	-

NOTES: No entrants for races 9 and 14.

BUILDS**Bill Becker - RRS - Red**

(q13)-p12-o12-n12-m12-l11-k11-j11-i12 (-1 OUI, -1 JIR)

Eoin Rutter - OUI - Blue(e58)-e57-f56-f55-f54-f53-f52-f51-f50-g50 (-1 ICBM)
(z31)-y32**John Breakwell - GOBLIN - Green**

(i62)-j62-k62-l61 (-1 JIR)

Ulf Jiretorn - JIR - Purple(a50)-b49-Rennes-b47-c47-d46-d45-e45-e44-e43-d42-BREST
(Lille)-n60**FINANCES**

	START	RACES	BUILDS	RIVALS	END
JIR	159	74	-12+6	+2	229
OUI	80	51	-12	+1	120
RRS	65	89	-12	0	77
GOBLIN	42	67	-4	0	63
(ICBM)	65	6	-	+1	72)

GAME NOTES

As noted above, Scotty's ICBM track will be sold off to highest bidders (in a blind auction) prior to the next round of races.

These races will be advised to all players when the bids for the track have been resolved. There will be an interim adjudication on Friday 6th November by which date all bids should be received by me. All players will then be advised of the successful bidders, and a complete list of the next round of races. The segments of ICBM track are :-

- Paris - Rouen - Le Havre (length = 7)
- G58 - Calais and Lille (10)
- Paris - Rennes - Cherbourg (20)
- A50 - Nantes - La Rochelle (8)
- La Rochelle - Bordeaux - Bayonne (13)

PLAYERS

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Eoin Rutter, 233 High Street, EDINBURGH, EH1 1PE

(031 226 5214)

John Breakwell, 62 Shackleton Way, Woodley,

READING RG5 4UT

Ulf Jiretorn, Västergatan 12B, 332 00 GISLAVED, Sweden

DEADLINE FOR UTW 6 ORDERS – 20th Nov 1992
(USO Deadline 13th November)