

WHO ME ? The Farewell Issue 20.

Well my faithful ones the time has come for the Smiff to hang up his keyboard for a while. Not forever, but for a while at least. The truth is real life has just intruded to much upon him and his beloved Eve. Hopefully, he will still produce a free read only Issue every so often just to keep his hand in, but for the moment he is somewhere over his head in terms of reality and he hasn't even been able to be a decent Postal Dip Player.

Over the last few months, since the last Issue he had changed jobs, meaning he now did a four hour round trip to work each day. Add to that the move they had planned had again met problems, with the Surveyors report on the latest property sounding like a demolition site, as the people who owned the property must have done the biggest cover up job in history, but could not hide the condition of the property from a professional. The possibility of a £6,000 retention on the property, was more than they were willing to risk. So they were back to square one. Although, the bribe money to leave the area had come in very handy for Surveyors and Solicitors fees.

Eve's mum was also now unwell having had some kind of Angina attack a little while ago, whilst Mr Smiff Senior was having an Ultra Sound for a rather nasty, but embarrassing condition, meaning the stress level in the Smiff residence was high at present.

Added to this the subscribers were beginning to disappear, through a lack of games in the dear zine, but those who left did not ironically join any of the lists. Sadly, this was not the worst thing, but he would deal with that, when he could bear to be more serious.

The games and credit, will be transferred to Winter Retreat, run by the ever reliable Matthew Male, 21 Coventry Road Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11-4NL.

Orders should for safety sake be resent to Matthew, although I will forward the orders I have for both games, the Post Office is currently investigating a number of allegations of Mail tampering, including one for me.

Talking of which Blodwin, I made a mistake in the last adjudication (shock, and gasps of disbelief), yes I know it is unlikely but it is true.

England did not have Nwy last turn and should have removed A(Fin) and Russia builds. Sorry folks.

Trades: I will be sending cheques to most of you, as you all turn out such interesting zines damn it. Hopefully you can get the support you need to carry on the good work and you will have to put up with me and Eve for a while longer yet. Anyway Bob's efforts follow this serious part.

Okay the serious bit. Another matter arose which made up my mind to call it a day for a while, simply because I was completely gutted. Edward Case the author of many a decent article and a good friend to me and mine and despite what many people thought a genuine person and a fine local journalist, passed away. He leaves a wife and two children and died aged 45. A good and

kind man, he will be greatly missed by those who knew him, if only through his work. So this is for the moment the final Issue, all be it a very short one and it is dedicated to him. God Bless Ed wherever you are mate. Edward Case RIP.

Now to get on to a lighter subject, the top ten Diplomacy standings for Diplomacy games played in the year ending with the National Diplomacy Championship 1998, these details have been cribed save for the comments from that ever interesting publication of Mr Efficient himself, Jeremy Tullett, "The Queen's Lane Advertiser" 19 Khartoum Road, Rodwell, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4-9LG, the list covers 122 players, so if you wish to know the entire story and lots and lots more, get a copy.

Position	Name	Total
1.	Dave (The Niceman) Horton	272.36
2.	Christian Dreyer (The Iceman)	235.58
3.	Paul (Trust Me I'm A Doctor) Spurgeon	216.63
4.	Chetan (Well He Told Me To Do It) Radia	197.60
5.	Vic (Never Played The Smiff) Hall	189.87
6.	Toby (Well This Is A New Game No Grudges) Harris	184.83
7.	Steve (Mr Realiable) Jones	184.79
8.	Thomas G (Who ????)	172.22
9.	Mark (The Merciful) Wightman	149.56
10.	Shaun Derrick (The King Of Style)	145.05

How did Keyf do ? Well he did very badly and needs all the help he can get in the next game you see him in, so be extra kind to him and Eve'e too. The poor old Smiff was bullied as usual and has not done anywhere near as good as that Kevin Smith, the K. Smith some have printed as finishing in the top ten at Mid Con. No he did so badly they didn't even bother to publish his score. Oh alright, he got a bit lucky. A lot of good players did not show, whilst others did not play in every game, so the Smiff score was a little higher than usual, but this means you have to be all the kinder in the next game you see him as he has been suffering from shock and nose bleeds. Talking of which, glad to see Jeremy intends to adopt the Australian method of ensuring deadlines are kept, by having boxes with lids on them and once the deadline time is up the lid goes down and if you have not got your orders in you NMR. Phew that should settle some and will sort out the good players from the bad. Imagine no more late night/early morning games due to slow players, brilliant. "Sound as a Pound Old Boy".

Well having said never again after the madness of last year, the bold Eve and the ever mad Smiff have decided to try Oxford one more time. This had better be good having had to run to an event, they arrived an hour early for, just because the organisers did not think to put up a notice saying they had changed the venue. Why the hell can't they run the blessed event in a Hotel and done with it. Come to think of it, why can't we have more than one days Diplomacy, instead of running these Childrens games like Settlers (yawn, snore) and make the trip worthwhile. Damn we even suggested a cheap well placed Hotel to the Committee last year and they have completely ignored it. Huh it just would not happen if it were Cambridge students in charge (Sorry Mr Stretch Sir, just couldn't resist it).

Having mentioned the Hobbies new Sex Moggy, I just wish to point out that he does owe my Dating Agency the fee for the initial idea, although we allowed another agency to make the Introduction. The idea is the thing that counts. Seriously though glad to see you happy and another lady in the hobby. But surely you intend to teach her a Civilised game like Diplomacy ?