

YER TIZ

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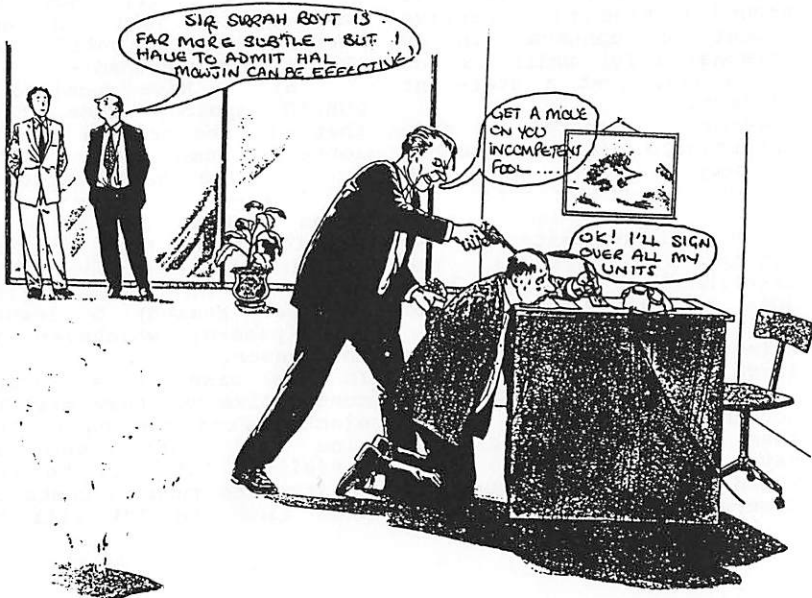
MAY '93

COST: 50p + POSTAGE



A zine dedicated to the playing of games by post to monthly deadlines (or thereabouts)!

AN NDC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT - 1993



TIZATORIAL

NMRs - A PLAYERS RESPONSIBILITY IN POSTAL GAMING?

I have been a player, GM and Editor in the British Postal Hobby since the middle eighties and have seen the best and the worst of the Hobby. I, myself, have been on the receiving end of just about every type of correspondence and happening that is possible. Personally I am proud of my own record in the hobby having dropped out of three games due to NMRs in ten years and having NMRed 9 times in total - including the dropouts. In all but 3 of the cases I could have made an effort to contact the GM concerned had my record keeping been better, and had I realised that the Deadline was near. The three exceptions (all games in Electric Monk, that I had already NMRed in once, the previous turn) were all around a time of a massive amount of upheaval in my personal life, which is not an excuse, just a statement of fact.

However there are, unfortunately a large number of people in the hobby who do not make the effort!

Some Editors/GMs have introduced deposits in an attempt to reduce the likelihood of NMRs but this does not seem to have the desired effect.

Unless the deposit is made large enough to be a threat, in which case players may not sign up for the games, then they are unlikely to have an effect. So this would seem to be a destructive and negative re-

action to the problem. Others will use their own time, effort and more often than not their own money, to chase players up. This hardly seems fair on the former as the majority already put a lot of time and money into their hobby (and it is a hobby for all of us) which is why the responsibility must be put on the INDIVIDUAL PLAYER. If the Player NMRs it HIS/HER responsibility, and they have brought upon themselves the consequences. In YER TIZ I am instigating a very simple policy of BLACKLISTING unreliable players. I will publish the names of all the players that NMR in MY games and put them in the "SIN BIN". They will have their names removed from all waiting lists and will not be invited to join in any further games until two things have happened:-

a) I have received a PUBLIC apology from them that will be printed in the letters column, and

b) They have completed a further 5 consecutive turns without any NMRs in all the games they are in, or, in the case that they are in no games (for whatever reason) 5 issues have passed, whichever is the lesser.

In the case of a second consecutive NMR they will be ejected from the game, the zine and their sub is forfeit. 30% will be put towards the running costs of this zine and 70% will be

donated to the Hobby Development Fund
If they NMR inside the 5 TURN/ISSUE "SIN BIN" time they will be fined 50% of their remaining sub (it will be split in the same way as above) and they will have their SIN BIN time extended by a further 5 TURNS/ISSUES. A third NMR will result in the same penalty as for the second consecutive NMR. You will already find one name in the "SIN BIN". This may not be popular with all my subbers and should any feel that they do not want to be part of my house rules then if they write to me I will return their subs to them. The above statement will form part of my House Rules (when I get around to writing them, hopefully as part of this issue).

Should any player request it in writing, I am prepared to offer NMR Insurance. This will take the form of a phone call on DEADLINE NIGHT if I have received no orders from you. The cost of this will be 30p - whether I contact you, your mother, daughter or girlfriend / boyfriend. If I cannot contact you on Deadline night TOUGH!! You will suffer the penalties as above.

The responsibility is still yours as the player to get orders to me ON TIME. I will accept phoned orders but accept no responsibility for any errors due to misunderstandings from either the Answermachine and/or phoned orders.

You have been warned!

PLYMOUTH BEER FEST & CUTKENCON III (11th - 14th JUNE)?!

Enough of the boring stuff and now let us have some fun. I recently attended the MAY BEER FESTIVAL at the THISTLE PARK INN in Cattedown, Plymouth. The pub is small affair run by a New Zealander (called "Oz") in one of the rougher parts of Plymouth. However he has this annual Fest over the Mayday Weekend when he gets in loads of Real Ales and has fun. This year I did not manage to make it down there until the Bank Holiday Monday but when I arrived I found that there were still some 20 Brews on offer, including: Clarkes ESB (4.5%), Scotch Port Rumble-belly (5.3%), Palmers Festival Ale (6.9%) and for

the real head cases Cripple-Dick (11.7%) or Bazzes Bonce Bouncer (12.3%). The percentage figure is the percentage alcohol per volume, and if you consider that you average wine is about 7.5% and Special Brew is 8.1% you can see that these were some real lethal brews. I tried samples of all of the above (except Bazzes) and a number of others and really enjoyed all of them. To my surprise though there was no Exmoor Beast, Mitchells ESB, Old Peculiar, Royal Oak, Bishops Tipple or Roger and Out (the strongest ale under regular production in this country at - I believe - a massive 15%). Unfortunately I had missed one of my favourites

Black Cat (ask Mike Scott about that stuff) as it had sold very well and was all gone. I also had to be a little careful as I was supposed to be playing cricket that afternoon. The other thing about this particular pub is it is one of the few that I have come across down here that has a Pin-ball Machine in the bar (take note Palmer), that is very cheap (5 plays for £1, 5 balls per play). So I spent a happy couple of hours at the pub and even bought a T-Shirt!! The next Beer Festival down here is over the WHITSUN BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND, at the PAVILIONS. Entrance is £2.50 (including a pint glass). If anyone wants to come down you'll be welcome to crash at the flat (there's regular busses from here to the Pavilions) just get in contact.

CUTKENCON III

Thinking of Drinking and the like Simon and I have decided to move CUTKENCON III to Plymouth as I (we?) intend to Party. I reach the BIG 30(!) on Sunday 13th so I am attempting to organise some festivities for any and all revolving around a trip to the SUPERBOWL (with the QUASAR just for us this time) a possible RAFT RACE (?) and my LOCAL where the Landlord has been quite amenable to PARTY TIME!!!! Fancy dress is optional however the theme at the moment is looking like a - wait for it - BLUES BROTHERS BEACH PARTY??!!?? ie Pork Pie

hats, Black ties, Cheap sunglasses and Bermuda Shorts?

BE THERE OR BE A SQUARE!!

OTHER HOBBY STUFF...

MANORCON: July 26th-28th, Birmingham University. Features the usual Team Dippy Championships and the Individual Championship. There is an extra round of Dippy to be held on the Friday Night as part of the individual Championship. Also Rothserne Games, Croquet, United(?), 1831 and many other Tournaments. A massive convention usually having in excess of 300 people attending, but do not be frightened by its' size as it is still a very friendly con, with loads of other games apart from the Dippy.

MIDCON: November, Birmingham National Diplomacy Championships, Midcon Quiz, Bridge and others. A friendly and intimate con that deserves a lot of support as the organisers have really worked hard so far to adapt to the changing face of the hobby not without some objections from other EDITORS and prominent members of the hobby.

CASTLECON: I did have some details on this but I cannot find them now!! September in NORTH WALES I think - for a week of games playing and fun - contact Steve Jones for more details.

I've also included the MAY edition of Chris Tringham/John Dodds' HOBBY NEWS later in the issue, there is a lot more information there.....

LETTERS AND ALL THAT JAZZ.....

**SAVING THE WORLD...? CUTFORTH REPLIES...! PLANETARY
DESTRUCTION IS ON THE MENU.....**

Simon Cutforth, Exeter: I liked Robs (Mulholland) letter and even agreed with some of it, but before I answer his main comment I'd like to skirt around the basic concept of my article.

The idea was to highlight the difficulties that humanity faces in the future as our current resources are exploited, and in turn known reserves are depleted. It is a harsh fact, but real nevertheless, that the planets resources are finite. One of the problems that humanity suffers from is a short term outlook. A problem of this scale cannot be solved using crisis management techniques that the Governments usually employ.

Rob argues that this can be achieved by changing the way that people think. That's fair enough, I wrote the article in the first place to alert people to the problem, which is the first stage in changing the way that they think.

I still believe that more stability in Government will be required and I definitely like the idea of annually electing one-quarter of the Politicians using Proportional Representation, however tinkering with Electoral form should perhaps be left for another time. Even so I think it would be good thing irrespective of this debate.

Global Politics is another matter. I have to agree entirely with Robs' comments. I just hope that the Western World can swing it on its' own without the help of other nations such as China.

Enough of the side issues - onto renewable energy. A Classic Green concept, and one that I whole heartedly approve of. Unfortunately the Government doesn't seem to. The technologies are in their infancy, and have limited applications, but personally, I do not believe that their development is being pushed enough.

Firstly research budgets are being cut and not only that but having their emphasis changed from pure research to development of short term commercial applications. And that is the official trend in the direction of the S.E.R.C. and the N.E.R.C., the two largest of the five research councils.

Secondly by privatisation of the Electricity Industries the Government is encouraging short term, commercially led, research for the Private Sector. Other than the non-fossil fuel agreement with the generators, there seems to be no control over the newly privatised electricity generators.

And what of recycling? Again the technology is in its'

infancy, here, however the problems are not so much with the technology but with the attitude of people. I know that attitudes are changing, and we cannot expect changes overnight, but the attitudes of the General Public to recycling still has to do a lot of changing and it will only be changed by education, which, it appears, is lacking.

I've almost got to the point, but before I do I must comment on Neils' reactions to Robs' comments. Neil, like Rob, myself and, I should think most people, has a love of the oceans. But wherever the resources needed for the next 100-200 years isn't going to make a lot of difference to the world environment. We've already got Global Warming, Ozone Holes, Acid Rain, Deserts forming from deforestation and poor farming techniques, and plenty of local problems too. Spoiling the countryside, or the oceans will be the least of worries in the future. Another harsh fact that saddens me, but a fact non-the-less.

Perhaps I should write another article - about Gaia. So to sub sea exploration, and exploitation. A good idea, easier than space exploitation and, as Rob points out, a nice way of developing appropriate technology. But it does not solve all the problems.

Oil and Gas, which are two of the most important materials - used for power, heat, petrol, plastics, chemicals, etc. - are already extracted predominantly from the seabed. As a geologist, by training, I know that the geological formations required for the formation of the trapping of oil and gas do not exist in the oceans. It's all about the Earths' structure and plate tectonics.

How about another of the major resources - both ferrous and non-ferrous metals, present in solution in sea water - perhaps we could concentrate them by osmosis or filtration. And of course there are manganese nodules, which if mined could meet the world's needs for quite a number of years, so this is something we should be going for. But mining the sea floor for metals? Well it may be possible, and without a review of technologies involved I cannot really comment, but I am not so sure about it....?

Of course I am not ruling out Robs' suggestions entirely. Resources from the seas are certainly something that we should be aware of, but they are not a complete alternative to the exploitation of space which I still think should be pursued.

NK *PHEW! That was a headache to type let alone to digest. Simon actually wrote at the bottom of his letter "...Neil, if you cannot read this I'll type it for you, but you'll have to post it back to me...". Fat chance!*

Anyway down to the business at hand. Both Rob and

Simon call themselves "ENVIRONMENTALISTS" and yet one aspires to raping the LAND surface of the Earth to allow SPACE EXPLORATION and the other wants us to RAPE THE OCEANS FIRST!! If this is what being an Enviromentalist is all about I am glad that I am not one of those gentlemen. The majority of the ideas from the pair of you - to put it mildly and politely - STINK! Both of you glossed over the real need and that is EDUCATION of the masses. Neither of you have even thought of the use of NUCLEAR POWER, which if used CONSTRUCTIVELY is more or less in abundance - the waste being the problem for that industry (space dumping of nuclear waste...?). I personally am all in favour of Nuclear Power as the way forward for the future with NATURAL energy resources being used as the back up. Enough of me - it's your zine - your comments can be printed here,.....

RADIO
PROGRAMMES...SPELLING...CIVILISATION...BROTHERLY
LOVE...EXECUTED BY YOUR SPOUSE..DOMMETT RAMBLES...

Mike Dommett, London: Some radio programmes travel well - "Round Home" did - but the "Clitheroe" didn't. The "Wavy Lark" - So-so. "Beyond our Ken?" . Not as good as R&H. ISIRTA - yes. The increased number of goon show tapes leads me to postulate that they produced a load of rubbish after listening to the extra tapes.

NK There is not an awful lot there that I recognise. I tend, when listening to the radio to either listen to RADIO 4 ("Just a Minute", "Weekending", "Today in Parliament" and "PM") or our local commercial station "PIRATE 102 FM". Radio 1 bores me, with the exception of DLT on Saturdays and Sundays.

Mike (continues): I liked the idiosyncratic spelling (see my own in reply) of your front cover. Was this a competition to see how much you need John Patten's reforms. Don't forget, Conservative COUNCIL costs you less.

How can you cheat a Civilisation? Puzzled. I agree though it is an excellent game. If you meet Advanced Civvy, it's not a "better" game, more a related game with a different feel. More forgiving to errors, I'd say, in many ways. Have you played Karriere Poker? Interested in the comments on brothers - you remember the game in the SFCP and myself coming in as a Russian standby and my brother Tom playing Turkey. No love there - but one evening at the club he left me his

orders to hand in to Paul who was late.....Even less love now!!

My wife has had me executed in the SFCP *En Garde* (for no good reason - when I was CPS the post made a profit, raffling off arrest warrants - what's corrupt in that?). Members of the same family are not always stooges.

NK I'm not sure that I'd agree with you about *Advanced Civvy* - but then I've only played it the once and it is not fair to comment on it because of that - so I'll leave that to the experts. Any comments from the Palmers, Mulhollands, Harries' or Cutforths of this world...?
Yes I have played *Karriere Poker* and thoroughly enjoyed it. I light and simple game that kills a half hour or so nicely.
I remember that game of *Dippy* - I always wondered what the cause of the antipathy was.....!
As for the *EN GARDE* that sounds like another "get Mulholland" ploy - are you reading this Suzanne??

MORE ON THE NDC..

Chris Tringham, London; At the risk of being very boring, I must pick you up on a couple of points in issue 17.

I do not think that we were complacent: we recognised that there were things that we needed to do but were unable to do them until we had sorted out the basics. The first was the venue, particularly after our problems in '89. The relatively trouble-free move to the Midland and the succesful return to the Angus in '92 were not achieved without a lot of hard work by the committee.

Our second problem was that since '90 Paul Simpkins had wanted to leave the committee (which he did after MIDCON '91), so we were looking for a replacement to get us back up to full strength.

Once Stephen Agar agreed to join us we were able to make improvements, and to raise the profile of MIDCON in the hobby. It so happens that the debate about the NDC coincided with this. I will readily admit that this was not our idea, but John has put a lot of effort in to turning it into a reality.

John points out in his letter that MIDCON continues to attract large numbers of people, and you add the tendentious comments (sic) "that is debatable of late". Er, it isn't debatable at all: we obviously don't have anything like as many as Manorcon, or quite as many as we had in our best years, but compared to all other UK cons we do attract a large number of people.

Incidentally Bristol was on our list, and Bristol and

Manchester are equally good from our point of view.

NK I do not wish to continue to labour this point Chris as numbers, and thus statistics, can be twisted any way the individual chooses, but MIDCON is synonymous with the NDC as Manorcon is with the World Dippy or Team Championships and Baycon the Victor Ludorum. When, apparently, your main Tournament has less than 50 people taking part it APPEARS that your attendance must be low(er).

As to your point about the reaction of the committee as a whole I, for one, and the rest of the hobby I am sure would agree that the speed of reaction has been admirable and highly efficient. Let's hope you can keep it up??!! Onto other matters of mighty importance...

HARRIS ON JIBES..STABBING OPPONENTS BEFORE THE COMPETITION EVEN GETS STARTED..PAPER TIGERS??

Toby Harris, Durham: No problem with the jibes about my style of Diplomacy play - indeed, as I pointed out to Andrew Moss (Age of Reason), there was little weight to his arguments; after implying that I only ally with strong players against the weak he then said that I allied with the (then) novice Stephen Agg at Manorcon '90. Just who should I ally with? As you may well be aware, players these days do not exactly queue up to ally with me, so my ally tends to be whoever is the least hostile at the start of the game. Isn't that how everyone plays?

NK No comment - Harris! I will just remind you of the friendliest face on the board at Manorcon 92 - if memory serves me correctly - and what you did to that player in Sp '02.....!?

Toby: Still it doesn't upset me - publicity (good or bad) tends to go in one's favour (Tell Nigel Lawson that....Ed) most of the time. Having said that I doubt if it makes any difference at all. Look at Jim Mills - twice Midcon Champion and some class Manorcon results - a very quiet, modest chap who keeps himself to himself. The poor soul gets victimised (especially at the last few events) despite never gloating about his excellent achievements.

NK You are incorrigible Tobes. I thought long and hard about printing that bit. You don't half believe in getting the knife in early don't you..?

Hobby News

May 1993

Chris Tringham, 10 Jubilee Court, London Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 6JL
John Dodds, 55 Leigham Vale, Streatham, London SW16 2JQ

081-683 2815
081-677 3287

BAYCON

About 70 people attended this year's Baycon at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon between Thursday 15 and Sunday 18 April. The main events were the Victor Ludorum Trophy for the best all round games player (won by Steve Bond for the second year running); the Gibsons' Trophy for the new Gibsons game, History of the World (won by Brian Flatt), and the South West Region qualifying round for the National Diplomacy Championship (won by Rob Chapman). Plans have already been announced for next year's event:

BAYCON 94

Will be held once more at the Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Nr Exeter, Devon. The dates are Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 April 1994. Prices are £35 a night for a single room and £22 for a twin. Registration £10 to Rob Mulholland (66 Magdalen Road, Exeter EX2 4TN).

SUNCON 93

Friday 20 to Sunday 22 August 1993, at Sunderland University. Main event is the North East of England and Scotland regional Diplomacy Championship, on Saturday 21 August, but more relaxed games-playing will also be in evidence. Convention fee: £2.50 in advance, £3.00 on the door. Accommodation: £10 per person per night (including continental breakfast). All accommodation must be booked by 31 July. More details from: Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland, SR3 1BW (091-523 8160).

THE 1993 ZINE OF THE YEAR POLL

Mark Boyle (15 Linn Park Gardens, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, PA5 8LH) is organizing the 6th *Zine of the Year Poll*. It is for all amateur postal games zines, this being defined as running at least postal game or being about the postal games hobby/world. The only other rules are that the zine must have published two or more issues since June 1992, and must be in the English language. As far as we can tell, the Zine of the Year Poll differs from the Zine Poll in that it covers all amateur zines regardless of the branches of the postal games hobby to which they belong.

Voters are asked to rank all the (qualifying) zines that they see, and supply their name and address. The deadline is Saturday 3 July.

NATIONAL DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIP

The South West Regional qualifying round took place at Baycon. The qualifiers were Rob Chapman, Rob Mulholland and Neil Kendrick. Forthcoming qualifying rounds are as follows (details of the conventions or hobbymeets are listed elsewhere in *Hobby News*):

Burton on Trent: Saturday 15 May, as part of the Beer & Pretzels games weekend. (For information, contact John Dodds), **Oxford:** Wednesdays 12, 19 and 26 May, **Brighton:** Saturday 29 May, as part of Furrycon, **Portsmouth/Fareham:** Sunday 11 July (Richard Williams), **Sunderland:** Saturday 21 August, as part of SunCon, **Nottingham:** Saturday 28 August, as part of Stakiscon, **Birmingham:** Friday 19 November, as part of Midcon. National Finals, also at Midcon, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November.

Being arranged, but dates not yet finalised: **London** (Vic Hall, 49 Vartry Road, Stamford Hill, London N15 - 081 802 5091), **Manchester** (Andrew Moss, 5 Meadow Rise, Littler Cross, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 2NT - 0606 550402), **Northampton** (Duncan Adams, 5 Hedge End, Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 OSW - 0604 700281).

Please contact the organizers to book your place, as far in advance as possible.

MASTERCON

A new convention at the Forte Crest hotel near Coventry from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 March 1994. Features the Masters Diplomacy Championship, a Diplomacy Variants tournament and more besides (details to be confirmed). Information from Shaun Derrick, 313 Woodway Lane, Walsgrave, Coventry CV2 2AP.

NEW ZINE: BORN LOSERS

Born Losers is a new zine from Edmund Morgan (brother of John Morgan of *Assassin's Handbook*). It will be "dedicated to music, football, real-life, slackerdom and (not necessarily) games". There is not much on the games front apart from a game of postal I-Spy (!), although future issues promise postal Illuminati and Diplomacy. No price details that we could see, but a stamped addressed envelope should secure a sample from: Edmund Morgan; 40 Cranbourne Road; Old Trafford; Manchester; M16 9PZ (until 18/6/93), and 22 Meadow Road; Sutton; Surrey; SM1 4NF (thereafter).

FURRYCON

The Old Ship Hotel in Brighton over the Spring bank holiday weekend Friday 28 to Monday 31 May. Rates are £28.75 per person per night for a shared room, or £39.50 for a single, plus a £12 convention fee. Features *En Garde!*, a qualifying heat for the National Diplomacy Championship and Intergame UK (the qualifying tournament for Essen): this year's games are Modern Art, Hare and Tortoise, Gangster and Regatta.

More details from SFCP at 42 Wyncdale Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DX.

BUMCON 7

Malcolm Cornelius is organizing a convention in Manchester to celebrate the 50th issue of his zine, *Backstabbers United Monthly*, over the Spring bank holiday weekend Friday 28 to Monday 31 May. Starts at 8 pm on Friday in the Kings Arms, Bloom Street, Salford, and continues at Malcolm's house.

If you want to attend, contact Malcolm (3 Gretton Close, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0YR - 061 224 0345).

MANORCON

High Hall, Birmingham University from Friday 23 to Monday 26 July. Accommodation is £19 (sharing) or £20 (single) per person per night and registration is £10. Features the National Team Diplomacy Championship, which is also day 2 (of 3) of the "British Individual Championship". Other tournaments: Railway Rivals, 1830, United, Acquire, Bridge, Diplomacy variants, Croquet, and (possibly) 5-a-side soccer.

Details from Richard Walkerdine, 6 Honeyborne Way, Wickwar, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 8FP.

STAKISCON 2

Stakis Victoria Hotel, Milton Street, Nottingham from Friday 27 to Monday 30 August 1993. It will feature 3 main tournaments: a qualifying round for the National Diplomacy Championship (on Saturday from 10 am to 7 pm); an 1830 tournament; and a Victor Ludorum in which all games played over the weekend will count. Prices: £25 per person per night for the first 2 nights; £22 for a third night and £20 for a fourth night. Convention Fee: £10 (£5 for a single day).

Send the convention fee to Keith Loveys, 32 Barkston Gardens, London SW5 0ER (cheques payable to Stakiscon).

MidCon

November 19-21 at the Royal Angus Thistle Hotel, Birmingham. Room rates are £26 per person per night (sharing) or £32 (single). Registration is available for £8 until 31st August, after which it will rise to £10.

Features the finals of the National Diplomacy Championship, a quiz, United and Subuteo tournaments plus relaxed general gaming in comfortable surroundings.

Cheques for the registration fee (payable to 'Midcon') should be sent to Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich, B71 2HA.

HOBBYMEETS

The BRIDGNORTH Board Games Club is no more.

BRISTOL: The Knowle (Back Bar), Leighton Road, off Priory Road, off Wells Road. 1st Friday of the month. Paul Norris (0272 427061) Richard Egan (0272 774460)

EXETER: Thatchmeet at the Mount Radford on Magdalen Road on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Rob Mulholland (0392 494072).

FAREHAM: Richard Williams (0329 236125) organizes a get-together at his house, on the 2nd Sunday of even-numbered months from 10 am. Plus a special July event (Sunday 11 July) featuring a qualifying round for the National Diplomacy Championship.

HERTFORDSHIRE: Martin Draper (0992 460117) and Alan Parr (0442 824173) are organizing semi-regular meetings on Friday evenings to play games in places like Sawbridgeworth, Hoddesdon, Tring, Hemel Hempstead and (er) Felixstowe. Next one is Friday 18 June.

LONDON (1): The Royal George, Eversholt Street, near Euston station, 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact Vic Hall (081 802 5091) or Mike Allaway (081 863 6413) for details.

LONDON (2): The Small Furry Swiggers meet at the Royal Oak in Regency Street, Westminster every Wednesday from 6.30. Costs £2.

The NOTTINGHAM & DERBY Board Games Club meets every Thursday from 7-10.30 pm. Contact Mick Haystack on 0332 511898.

NORTH YORKSHIRE: Tap & Spile, Monk Bar, York, on the 2nd Sunday of the month, at noon. Contact Iain Bowen (0904 640095) or Pete Sullivan (0325 364153)

OXFORD: Every Wednesday during term-time at 7.30 in the nuclear physics building off Keble Road. All welcome, whether members of the university or not. The May 12, 19, 26 meetings will each feature a qualifying game for the National Diplomacy Championship.

RIPLEY, near Woking on the 2nd Tuesday of the month - details from Dane Maslen (0483 721856). Starts with a curry and moves to a pub.

The SHREWSBURY Games Club meets every Sunday from 2.00 pm to 10.00 pm at The Lodge, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury. More information from Mark Kennett (0743 361417).

HOBBY SERVICES

Springboard is run by Danny Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1JG mainly to deal with people who respond to the Diplomacy box flyers. Players are limited to one gamestart.

The Finishing Touch is produced by Richard Sharp, Norton House, Whieldon Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0HU. The results of all Diplomacy games played in the UK: an invaluable source of reference for statisticians, or to find out something about your opponents.

Mission from God gives details such as addresses, prices etc. and comments on virtually every zine published in this country. £1 from Andy and Madelaine Key, 114 Perrinsfield, Venymore, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, GL7 3SE.

The Novice Package provides a large amount of useful information for those who are new, and not so new, to the hobby. Includes a 56 page booklet with articles on playing Diplomacy and other games by post, a glossary of hobby jargon and pen pictures of hobby personalities, plus a number of sample zines and addresses for hobby services and zine editors. £2 from John Dodds, 55 Leigham Vale, Streatham, London, SW16 2JQ.

Zine Bank: Send £1 and a large SAE stamped for 150g to George North, 24 Wigton Road, Romford, Essex, RM3 9HD and he will send you about half a dozen different zines.

International Subscription Exchange: If you want to subscribe to a United States zine, you can send good old English money to Iain Bowen, 5 Wigginton Terrace, York YO3 7JD and it will be converted into US Dollars and passed to the appropriate editor.

National Diplomacy Championship

May 1993

Editor: John Dodds, Top Flat, 55 Leigham Vale, Streatham, London, SW16 2JQ (081-677 3287)

In the run up to Midcon, I will be producing regular reports on how the National Diplomacy Championships are progressing. These will include results from the qualifying tournaments as they happen, and details of future qualifying rounds. There will also be space in future issues for a letter-column if anyone wishes to offer comments or observations.

What are the National Diplomacy Championships?

The National Diplomacy Championships aim:

- a. to find Britain's best Diplomacy player; and
- b. to provide the framework for a number of Diplomacy tournaments across the country, culminating in a national final.

The national final will take place as part of the Midcon board games convention, at the Royal Angus Hotel in Birmingham on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November 1993. The finalists will play one game each day.

Everyone is welcome to enter the National Diplomacy Championships, but to take part in the final and be eligible to become the National Diplomacy Champion, you have first to meet the qualifying standard. There are a number of ways you can do this:

- a. all previous National Diplomacy Champions qualify automatically;
- b. the top seven from the 1992 National Diplomacy Championship automatically qualify;
- c. the top 21 from Manorcon 1993 will be invited to participate.

Otherwise, the main way of qualifying is through one of the various regional tournaments that are taking place around the country. These usually take place over a single day and involve just one game of Diplomacy. Three people will qualify from each tournament for every seven who take part. So if 21 people play in a tournament, the top 9 will qualify for the national finals. You can enter as many qualifying tournaments as you wish, so you can keep trying until you reach the appropriate standard.

Most qualifying tournaments will take place in the summer and early Autumn, so that people will know well before Midcon whether they have qualified for the finals. But for the really keen player, there will be a last minute opportunity to qualify for the final at Midcon itself on Friday 19 November.

If you aren't successful in qualifying, you will still be able to play Diplomacy under tournament conditions at Midcon and compete for the Midcon Trophy, but unless you first meet the NDC qualifying standard, you will not be eligible to become the National Diplomacy Champion.

Who has qualified to date?

The following people have already qualified for the 1993 National Diplomacy Championship finals.

As previous National Diplomacy Champions:

1981	David Long
1982	Nick Carter
1983/1987	Jim Mills
1984	Andrew Sparkes
1985	Martin Clifford-King
1986	Ian Andrews
1988	Bob Kendrick
1989	Pete Mason
1990	Andrew Moss
1991	Peter Hawkins
1992	Julien Shepley

The top seven from Midcon 1992:

1st	Julien Shepley
2nd	Chris Robinson
3rd	Malcolm Cornelius
4th	Richard Williams
5th	David Wreathall
6th	Robin Levy
7th	Toby Harris

From regional qualifying tournaments:

South-West (held at Baycon: 17 April 1993)

1st	Rob Chapman
2nd	Bob Mulholland
3rd	Neil Kendrick

Results from Baycon:

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 Res

Austria (Bob Mulholland)	4	4	4	5	6	7	8	10	8	-	-	2nd
England (John Wilman)	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	1	-	-	-	5th
France (Neil Kendrick)	6	6	6	6	6	5	7	5	4	-	-	3rd
Germany (Glen Bird)	4	5	5	4	3	2	1	0	-	-	-	6th
Italy (Rob Chapman)	4	5	6	7	8	10	10	13	18	-	-	1st
Russia (Darren McAtee)	5	5	6	6	8	7	5	4	3	-	-	4th
Turkey (James Hardy)	4	4	4	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	7th

For general information/enquires, don't hesitate to contact John Dodds.

Forthcoming qualifying rounds:

Burton on Trent (Town Hall): Saturday 15 May (11am to 7pm), as part of the Beer & Pretzels games weekend. (To enter, or for further information, contact John Dodds).

Oxford (Nuclear Physics Department): Wednesdays 12, 19 and 26 May (from 7.30pm). (contact Mark Stretch).

Brighton (Old Ship Hotel): Saturday 29 May (10am to 7 pm), as part of Furrycon. (contact John Dodds).

Portsmouth/Fareham: Sunday 11 July. (contact Richard Williams).

Birmingham (High Hall, Birmingham University): Friday 23, Saturday 24, Sunday 25 July 1993. The top 21 players from the Manorcon Diplomacy Tournament will be invited to play in the National Diplomacy Championship finals. (contact Richard Walkerdine).

Sunderland (Sunderland University): Saturday 21 August, as part of SunCon (contact Toby Harris).

Nottingham (Stakis Victoria Hotel): Saturday 28 August (10 am to 7 pm), as part of Stakiskon (contact Keith Loveys).

Birmingham (Royal Angus Hotel): Friday 19 November (from 3pm), as part of Midcon (contact John Dodds).

Being arranged, but dates not yet finalised:

London: (contact Vic Hall)

Manchester: (contact Andrew Moss)

Northampton: (contact Duncan Adams).

National Finals: at Midcon in Birmingham, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 November.

Everyone is very welcome to enter these tournaments, but to ensure smooth organisation, participants should notify the organisers of their intention to take part in advance. Late entries may be possible, but to guarantee a place and to obtain full details about location etc, please contact the organiser at least three weeks before the tournament in question.

Contacts:

John Dodds, 55 Leigham Vale, Streatham, London, SW16 2JQ (081-677 3287)

Mark Stretch, Jesus College, Oxford, OX1 3DW.

Richard Williams, 55 Frosthole Cres, Fareham, Hants, PO15 6AH (0329 236125)

Richard Walkerdine, 6 Honeybourne Way, Wickwar, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos, GL12 8PF (0454 299073)

Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland, SR3 1BW (091-523 8160)

Keith Loveys, 32 Barkston Gardens, London, SW5 0ER.

Vic Hall, 49 Vartry Road, Stamford Hill, London N15 (081-802 5091)

Andrew Moss, 5 Meadow Rise, Littler Cross, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2NT (0606 550402)

Duncan Adams, 5 Hedge End, East Hunsbury, Northampton, NN4 0SW (0604-700281).

THE GAMES.....!

STD DIP (93??)

"WHEAL JANE"

SP '01

HOLDOVER

Standby wanted for GERMANY. Please contact me soonest!

MEANWHILE HERE IS SOME HEADLINES FROM THE LOCAL PRESS

Eddystone - All: I had to chase JEREMY LANE for orders and I have STILL NOT HAD ANY ORDERS from that person. PLEASE NOTE THE DEALINE and stick to it. Orders on file from A/E/F/I/R/T.

A - Eddystone Lighthouse Keeper: I know my handwriting is bad, but surely block capitals cannot be too hard read. Please note the correct spelling.

Eddystone - All: Please note the editor could not spell properly, hence the correction to JAMES HARDY's and JASON ASKER's ADDRESSES.

T - E: England, England. Give us a wave; England give us a wave.....

Moscow - All: My phone number is (0752) - 250229

Rome - T Stabber? Who, ME? You must have the wrong guy!

Rome - F: Let's hope you won't pick on your younger brother for a change!

A - R: As I've not heard from you I can only assume you will be moving to GAL. Hopefully a Stand-Off will have occurred, and negotiations can start in the Au.

Austria - Italy: Having read your article on Italy in SMODNOC and quote "...unfortunately most Austria's do cover Tri in the first move (well they sure as hell do when I play Italy).." I feel the Southern Hedgehog is the only way that I'm going to see '03!

WARLOCK

"GETAFIX"

R1/T2

PREMIER DIVISION

The next in a series of special reports from our roving reporter *Justin Time*:

After the first minor skirmishes here all the Wizards seem to be upstanding if a little singed in places. El Qabrim (not being impressed with the ANTIHERO) defends himself with a massive bolt of FORKED LIGHTNING (he obviously means business) before launching DEMONIC entities at the unsuspecting Ken DRINKLICE. Meanwhile, DRINKLICE, with amazing dexterity, manages to cast two defence spells almost simultaneously. Firstly he creates a bag with a blue circle on it in the air just above the Wandering TROLLS, causing them to get covered in a strange dust, then adding some water he TURNS THEM TO STONE, and then lets his INFANTRY out of their cage on to the SNAKES. Finally before he runs out of breath he lets loose the most fearsome creature for yards - a BLACK KNIGHT - who, with a banshee of a howl charges at Zarblatt (*Simon Cutforth*). Having warn himself out in this segment KEN hurriedly sits down to read his spell book, before the next encounter occurs (gaining one spell for defeating the wanderer). The action here

is really amazing. Meanwhile Zarblatt has burnt the ANTI HERO sent at him by Ken, using FLAME and has turned his attention to the unfortunate Black "Mac" McMad, (Mike Scott) once again. Not satisfied with his first attempt he now lets of his next major offensive spell in the round, FORKED LIGHTNING. Will the shock be too much for Black? Meanwhile Black has dealt with the puny attack on himself by casting LIGHT (a rather nasty spell for a Black Wizard to cast) and has drawn his BLACK SWORD fully intending to attack Tampon (Clive Palmer), who has just realised that he did not get thumped by the trolls spends some time conjuring drawing his MAGIC SWORD before doing a very good impression of Arnie Schwartzienicker and charging after El Quabrim and what a battle cry he's got "...Anyone want to buy a lovely mucus helmet, sug fit, freshly made, protects against flicked bogeys, flying gob, and seagull poo...?" (But not against Magic Swords I notice!). In the Woods, Willy Wonker (Rob Mulholland) sits alternately meditating and enjoying the fun and sparks being created by the other competitors has time to read two new spells from his Spell Book.

FIRST DIVISION

A second report from our Special Correspondent Justin Time:Plandybast Ogbone (Mike Scott) seeing the incoming vanishing trick counters the Invisibility with a MAGIC SHIELD smartly drawn from his back pack! Thinking carefully launches a thunderstorm with FORKED LIGHTNING at Fungus Mucus Weaver (Clive Palmer) who is busing making STONE SNAKES for his collection before drawing a MAGIC SPEAR from under his cloak with the clear intention of ramming it up Sellulox's (Dave Rigden) Jacksie!! Sellulox disdainfully, but with electrifying speed zaps the incoming CAVALRY using FORKED LIGHTNING, and then creates a mighty DEMON who glances around before attacking Zircon "Zap the Bastards" Craptheratner (Rob Mulholland). The sulphureous smell coming from his right and conjures up some INVISIBILITY and sends it off in the at Plandybast Ogbone!" In the woods we can see Tampon and Ry Boarshit. I believe that Tampon was heard to have exclaimed "...my, my this is frightful fun, what?..." to Ry who ignored him completely.

ECW IIA
1641

WHEAL HONEY

MICKLEMASS

GAMESTART

PARLIMENTARIANS: James Hardy, 21, Gourley Road, Liverpool, L13 4AY.

ROYALISTS: Stephen Agar, 79 Florence Road, Brighton, E. Sussex. BN1 6DL

WAITING LISTS

DIPLOMACY AND VARIANTS

Your name underlined indicates I have a preference list.

DIPLOMACY; (2/7): Adam Harris, Sean Newman,
GUNBOAT STAB; (4/7): Victor Meldrew, Mr. X Danny Coleman,
Mr. Z, (Players are invited to offer their own pseudonyms)
WINTER 1900; (2/7): Neil Richardson, Mike Dommett, Last call
for the Pre SP 01 Build variant
MULTIPLICITY II (1/7): Jason Asker,
ENGLISH CIVIL WAR IIa (0/2): GAMESTART, GAMESTART

OTHER GAMES

CIRCUIT; (1/5+): Rob Mulholland
KINGMAKER; (0/5+):
WARLOCK; (6+): Brian Flatt, GAMESTART!! GAMESTART!! 5 more
wanted for the next circle, and then a league can start -
join any time....

ADDRESSES etc.

I am; Neil Kendrick, my address is;
679, Wolseley Road, PLYMOUTH, PL6 6SZ.
Tel; (0752) - 367227 (answermachine sometimes)
(0752) - 364341, X205 (W),
(0752) - 368684 (FAX)

If this rag has come to you as a flier then please address
any cheques or beer vouchers of any sort to "NEIL KENDRICK".
If you like the zine please tell others, if you hate it
please tell me!!

The space below is for you to doodle in, write notes, slag
of the player that has just stabbed you etc.....

CREDIT	
AMOUNT	GOOD
BAD	SEND SOME DOSH PLEASE..!
GOODBYE	TRADE/ FREEBIE ✓
THE SIN BIN: Ian Andrews (5) Jeremy Lane (5)	

DEADLINES FOR ISSUE 19:

WARLOCK: TUE. 22nd June, MAIN: THUR. JUNE 24th