



I told you, in the last issue of Eclipsor, that the next issue would be late. At that time, I did not realise exactly how late it would be. My intention was to make Issue 29 a litho copy - first so that I could get rid of the jobs I consider most onerous - namely collating and stapling, as well as the actual duplicating itself - and, secondly, to enable me to improve the quality of duplication (inclusion of artwork, etc). As I pointed out to you, I was getting fed up with giving up an entire week-end to the zine. There are two disadvantages to going litho: the turnaround time would inevitably go up, as would the price. On the other hand, however, I am fairly sure that, everything else being equal, I should have been less tempted to fold the zine.

Everything else, though, is not equal. I moved last week-end into a flat I have purchased. It is an old flat in terrible condition and requires a great deal of work. I have had a week off work to get started. It was my intention to rewire the flat (before it burns to the ground), and perhaps make a start on the decorating. In the next few weekends, I would complete the decorating, and then begin the work involved in installing central heating.

I have worked every day this week from the time I got up until 1.00., 2.00., or 3.00. in the morning. I have completed the rewiring of the lighting circuit, and have managed to get another week off from work. In this week, I now hope to complete the ring main rewiring. Then, in my spare time, I must decorate the interior, the exterior, and start thinking about the central heating.

My time is therefore going to be limited. Bridge is going out of the window, girls (unless they are practical and prepared to help) are also going. I shall be resigning from all my games, and Eclipsor is going to fold. Or rather, has folded. Today is 27th February. I don't know when this will be duplicated, or when I shall find time to address and post the copies. That remains to be seen.

This flat is in a shitty state, and I don't enjoy living in it. In due course, though, I hope it will be livable-in, and I shall be resuming the pleasures of life, like girls, bridge, and Diplomacy. When that happens, Eclipsor will, I am sure, rise, phoenix-like - or rather, [Ethil-the-Frog and Greatest Hits-like - from the ashes of its past. Issue 29 (which won't be called Issue 1) will emerge, then, some time in the future. When, I'm not sure. It may be as little as three months. It may be as long as a year or even two. I simply have no idea.

The questions remain, then, as to what to do with the games. I am sufficiently sure of Eclipsor's rebirth to simply move them into suspended animation until the zine surfaces again. I am equally sure that you will all find that extremely unsatisfactory. So, if a majority from any game write to me with a request to rehouse the game and the name of an editor prepared to run it, that game will be resumed elsewhere.

As for your remaining credit, you should find a cheque enclosed. It won't be your entire remaining credit: it will be short the cost of posting this, and a further sum for the cost of Issue 29, I am estimating that at 25p, but it could well be less. If, at that time, you do not wish to resubscribe, the balance will be returned. to you.

My thanks to those of you who wrote drawing my attention to the fact that I did not type out the whole of the results of one of the games, to those who wrote wishing me luck in the new flat, to those who wrote saying how sorry they were to see the signs of an impending fold, and to the one who wrote to vilify me for the employment of double standards!

If you wish to get in touch with me, my address is

77 Runnymede, Colliers Wood, London SW19 2PG,

and the phone number is 01-543 2025 - but at the moment it sounds as though there is a swarm of bees hiving on the line somewhere. How quickly the machinery of the Post Office will move into action is anybody's guess.

To traders, if I fail to receive your zine, I shall not be surprised. If I continue to receive it, I thank you. Bye for now.

Dear Rob,

I'm terribly sorry I haven't written. I know it sounds feeble, but I really haven't had the time. When I finished the electrics, it was shelves, Ben Polyfilla — You know the new-place-in-a-terrible state syndrome!

LC looks terrific, and when Eclipsor surfaces again, I shall publish it. I shall then kill off Nat Burdett and continue the game. Please, thank Jean for the cover. I shall stick something over the date and use it for the next issue of the zine.

I'm going to miss my games. The only one I'm keeping on is a game of Intimate with Keith Black. We GM alternate seasons, enclosing sealed orders for the following season. Do you fancy a game the same way? If so enclose a sealed envelope with your preference list in your reply. I shall then write mine before opening it. Alternatively simply write on the back of the envelope "Don't open this until you've written your pref. list."

Even if you don't take me on, I hope we'll keep in touch. Give my love to Jean,

ROB CHAPMAN  
~~61A BERRY ROAD~~ 7 BAYMOUNT  
PAIGNTON  
DEVON TQ3 3 2LD

All the best,

Paul