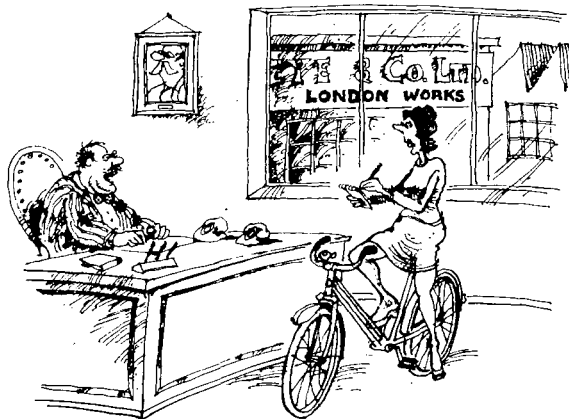


ethil the frog

23

This will be a bad winter for industrial relations. Among the exciting possibilities is a postal strike...



"Take a letter, Miss Douglas. To our Manchester office."

ETHIL THE FROG, rivalling The Times for time-lag between issues, comes at last to you from John Piggott, still at 32 Munsterburg Rd, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 8HP, U.K. Tel (office only) 01-928 9222 x 2091. (note change)

Next deadline (after this, he has the nerve even to set one?)
Saturday, 14 April 1979.

GAME REPORTS

GAME FOUR 1977-EE Diplomacy Spring 1909

TURKEY (Cliff Kennedy): A(Tri)-Ven S by A(Tyr) & A(Apu); F(Alb)-ADR; F(Gre)-Alb; F(AEG) S F(ION); F(ION) S Italian F(Tun); F(Nap) S Italian A(Rom); A(Gal)-Sil; A(Sil)-Ber S by A(Pru); A(Boh) S Italian A(Mun); A(Mos)-StP S by A(Lvn).

ITALY (now in anarchy): Has: A(Ber), A(Mun), F(Ven)*, A(Rom), F(Tun).

FRANCE (Norman Williams): F(StP:nc) stands S by F(Fin); F(Swe)-BAL; A(Den) S A(Kie); A(Kie) S Italian A(Ber); A(Ruh) & A(Bur) S Italian A(Mun); F(Bre)-MAO; A(Gas)-Spa; A(Par)-Pic; F(GoL) & F(WMS) S F(TYS); F(TYS) & A(Tus) S Italian A(Rom); A(Pie) S Italian F(Ven).

*Retreat: Italian F(Ven) disbanded.

Last issue's game-end proposals were both defeated. Now Taylor has dropped out (thanks, Roy - may all your bedmates have hairy chests) I've received two more: a 2-way draw and a concession to Turkey. Would both remaining players vote with their Autumn orders!

Abdul looks at Birks: It's a well-known fact that Birks drinks his whisky with his eyes closed. Asked to explain, he said, "It's like this: whenever I see a glass of whisky my mouth waters, and I don't care to dilute it."

Kampala (Hub o' de Universe): It de end o' de line. Dis de final bulletin f'om Kampala. De jewel droppin' out o' de famous Ethil zine, an' f'om here on in it jus' a question o' how long de weekly colleckershun o' illit'rit rubbish able t' carry on connin' de pubberlick.

It bin a good coupla years, an' I grateful fo' de opportunity t' raise journalisum t' de art form. But it time t' put de cover on de Smith-Corona on account o' how duty callin' an' I in danger o' neglectin' de affairs o' state - speshully de number 3 wife. Look at de case o' Abdul, tryin' t' be pee em at de same time he hammerin' away at Ducais. It no wonder Ireland endin' up in de present condition.

It truly amazin' de changes wot takin' place in de too years since I embarkin' on de lit'ry career. A Morris gone, S Davies gone, I Mardle gone, M Shaw gone, an' now it lookin' like even de famous RAT becomin' overawed by de biggest genius de wurd ever known. You lookin' at de major remainin' leader o' de free wurd, an' it jus' goin' t' show wot it takin' t' stay at de topp.

I got one final wurd t' say t' Abdul: it no use you tryin' t' get RAT t' betray me. I got de pied piper o' Hamleys on de payroll an' he's de bes' rat trap known.

So I windin' up. Here we are at de last paragraph t' fall f'om de magic fingers. It a dam' shame de knighthood not bin conferred yet, but I bet it a bit difficult sendin' de sword in de registered post, an' I expectin' de invite f'om de Palace any time now.

Abdul's Book of Famous Quotations: "It's a lonely washing that hasn't got a man's shirt in it." (Especially for Pat, that one).

"Good manners is the art of making those people easy with whom we converse; whoever makes the fewest people uneasy is the best bred in the company." Dean Jonathan Swift.

GERMANY (Richard Sharp): A(Mun) S Russian A(Ber)

RUSSIA (Roland Prevot): A(Lvn) stands S by A(Mos) & A(War); A(Ber) stands S by A(Pru); A(Sil) & A(Boh) S German A(Mun).

TURKEY (Robert Correll): A(Gre)-Mar S by A(Pie), C by F(GoL), F(TYS), F(ION) & F(AEG); A(Ven)-Pie; F(WMS)-Spa:sc; F(NAf)-MAO; F(Tun) S F(WMS); A(Tyr) S German A(Mun).

FRANCE (Dave Johnson): F(Nwy)-Swe; F(BAR) S A(StP); F(BAL)-Lvn S by A(StP); A(Den) S A(Kie); A(Ruh)-Mun S by A(Kie); A(Bur) S A(Mar); A(Mar) MS F(Spa:sc); F(Gas) S F(Spa:sc); F(MAO) S F(Spa:sc); F(Bre) S F(MAO); A(Bel)-Hol.

One player voted against the 4-way draw (tchah!), so we're carrying on. This time I've got two proposals to end this game: (1) 1 F, 2 T, 3 R, 4 G; (2) 1 F, 2= T/R, 4 G. Votes next time, please - as always, silence will be interpreted as agreement.

*

GAME NINE 1978-BN Diplomacy Spring 1905

ENGLAND (Tadek Jarski): F(MAO)-WMS S by F(NAf); A(Edi)-Nwy C by F(NTH); A(Hol)-Kie; A(Lpl)-Edi; A(Den)-Pru C by F(BAL), S by F(Ber); A(Lon) & F(StP:nc) stand.

RUSSIA (Terry Hill): A(War) stands.

TURKEY (Paul Openshaw): A(Ank)-Arm; A(Sev)-Ukr S by A(Mos); F(Smy)-EMS; F(Con)-AEG; F(Gre)-Alb S by A(Ser); A(Bul)-Gre; F(Rum) stands.

ITALY (Ian Macdonald): F(ION)-ADR; F(Tun)-WMS S by F(TYS); A(Vie)-Tri S by A(Bud); A(Tyr)-Pie.

FRANCE (George Kingston): A(Mun)-Tyr S by A(Ven); A(Ruh)-Mun; F(GoL)-Tus; F(WMS)-GoL.

*

GAME EIGHT 1977-JF Diplomacy Autumn 1906

ENGLAND (Paul Hurtley): A(Lon) stands*; F(Swe) stands*.

RUSSIA (Alan Watson): F(Nwy)-Swe; A(StP)-Mos; A(Mos)-Ukr S by A(War).

TURKEY (Terry Hill): F(AEG)-Gre S by A(Bul); F(Rum) stands S by A(Ukr)*; F(Con)-BLA; A(Sev) S A(Ukr).

AUSTRIA (Chris Tringham): F(Alb)-Gre S by A(Ser)*.

ITALY (Gary Silk): A(Tri)-Ser S by A(Bud); F(ION)-EMS; F(Nap)-ION; F(ADR)-Alb; A(Vie)-Tri; A(Gal) S Russian A(Mos)-Ukr.

FRANCE (James O'Fee): F(Wal)-Lon S by A(Yor); A(Den) S Russian F(Nwy)-Swe; F(ENC)-NTH; F(NTH)-NWG; A(Kie)-Ber; A(Sil)-Pru; A(Mun)-Sil; A(Bur)-Mun; A(Gas)-Bur; F(MAO) & F(Spa:sc) stands.

*Retreats: English F(Swe) & A(Lon) disbanded; Russian A(Ukr) annihilated; Austrian A(Ser) annihilated.

E: 0 bases: ~~Lpl, Den, Spt.~~ Eliminated.

R: 5 bases: StP, Mos, War, Nwy, +Swe. Builds A(StP).

T: 7 bases: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Rum, Sev, +Gre. Builds F(Smy); one unit short.

A: 0 bases: ~~Bud, Spt.~~ Eliminated.

I: 8 bases: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun, ~~Gre~~, Vie, Tri, +Bud, +Ser. Builds A(Nap).

F: 14 bases: Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Bel, Hol, Kie, Mun, Ber, Edi, Lpl, +Lon, +Den. Builds F(Mar), F(Bre).

I've received a game-end proposal: 1 F, 2 I, 3 R, 4 T. Votes next time, please - no vote = assent. (I'm sorry to keep repeating this, but in view of Crouch's campaign against the result of the Civil Service Game - it's still a 4-way draw, by the way - it seems the only sensible thing to do.) Some press for this game is on the next page.

To Italy and France: Yes, I quite agree with your sentiments. ---The double-headed eagle.

From France, with love: In Norwood there lived a young lad
With psychology just a bit sad.
If losing a game
He loud would exclaim
And proclaim that the others were mad.

Who said it: I am but mad north-north-west; when the wind is southerly I know a hawk from a handsaw.

Great wits are to madness near allied.

It may be madness, but there's method to it.

Allah created the English - the maddest of all mankind.

*

GAME TWELVE 1978-GG Diplomacy Spring 1902

ENGLAND (Andy Tringham): A(Lon) & A(Bel) stand; F(Nwy) S German F(Den)-Swe*;
F(NTH)-HEL; F(Edi)-NTH.

GERMANY (Andy Davidson): F(Den)-NTH; A(Mun)-Ruh S by A(Hol); F(Kie) S A(Hol);
A(Ber)-Mun.

RUSSIA (Paul McGivern): A(Gal) S Italian A(Tyr)-Vie; F(StP:nc)-Nwy S by F(Swe);
A(Fin)-StP; F(Sev) stands.

TURKEY (Martin Styler): A(Ank)-Arm; F(BLA) S Austrian A(Ser)-Rum; A(Bul)-Gre;
A(Con)-Bul.

AUSTRIA (Gary Silk): A(Bud)-Gal; A(Ser)-Rum; F(Tri) stands S by A(Vie).

ITALY (Cliff Kennedy): A(Tyr)-Vie; A(Ven)-Tri; F(Nap)-Apu; F(Tun)-WMS.

FRANCE (Tom Davies): A(Bur)-Mar; A(Spa) stands; F(Por)-MAO; F(Mar)-GoL; A(Par)-Bur.

*Retreat: English F(Nwy)-SKA.

*

GAME ELEVEN 1978-EZ Diplomacy Autumn 1902

ENGLAND (Stephen Agar): NMR! Has: F(ENC), A(Bel), A(Lon), F(NWG), F(StP:nc).

GERMANY (Alan Watson): A(Ruh)-Mun; A(Bur)-Gas; A(Kie)-Hol; F(Swe)-Nwy; A(Den)-Swe.

RUSSIA (Chris Side): A(Boh)-Mun; A(Gal)-Sil; F(GoB)-BAL; F(Rum) MS F(Sev);
A(Ukr) S F(Rum).

TURKEY (Pete Tassell): F(BLA)-Sev S by A(Arm); A(Bul)-Ser; A(Con)-Bul.

AUSTRIA (Barry McManus): A(Bud)-Ser; F(Gre)-ION.

ITALY (Tadek Jarski/Sellick Davies): A(Tri)-Ser; A(Vie) stands; F(ION)-Tun;
A(Tyr) S Russian A(Boh)-Mun.

FRANCE (John Marsden): A(Pic)-Bre; A(Spa)-Gas S by A(Par); F(Por)-MAO; F(Mar) stands.

E: 5 bases: Lon, Lpl, Edi, Bel, ~~Nwy~~, +StP. No change.

G: 5 bases: Kie, ~~Nwy~~, Ber, Hol, Swe, +Nwy. No change.

R: 5 bases: ~~StP~~, Mos, War, Sev, ~~Vie~~, Rum, +Mun. Removes F(BAL).

T: 4 bases: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul. No change.

A: 2 bases: Bud, Gre. No change.

I: 6 bases: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tri, +Vie, +Tun. Builds A(Rom), F(Ven).

F: 5 bases: Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por. No change.

Tadek has decided to 'declare independence' from Sellick, and won't be ordering Italy's units in future; Sellick's address, the last time I heard from him, was: O.S.C.O, E & C Tehran Projects, P O Box 602, Khorramshahr, Iran. I suspect he may have moved on: Iran isn't really a very nice place for an Englishman to be at present. If he's still there, I hope he's all right.

GAME SIX 1977-GO Diplomacy Spring 1908

The three-way draw proposed last move was rejected by one vote. On we go...

ENGLAND (Phil Stimpson): F(TYS) S Italian F(Nap); F(Spa:sc)-GoL; F(Gas)-Spa:nc;
F(MAO)-WMS; F(ENC)-MAO; F(Lpl)-IRI; A(Par)-Gas; A(Bre) stands.

GERMANY (Stuart Dagger): F(StP:nc)-Nwy; A(Mos) stands; A(Sil) stands S by A(War);
A(Pru)-Lvn; A(Mun) stands S by A(Ber); A(Kie)-Ruh; A(Bur) stands.

AUSTRIA (Brian Williams): A(Pie) S A(Tyr); A(Tyr) S A(Boh); A(Boh) S A(Gal);
F(Apu)-Nap S by A(Rom); F(Tri)-ADR; F(Smy)-AEG; A(Rum)-Ukr S by A(Sev) & A(Gal);
A(Arm) S A(Sev); A(Vie)-Tri.

ITALY (anarchy): Has: F(ION), F(Nap).

FRANCE (Andy Norman): A(Por) stands; F(WMS)-Tun.

*

GAME SEVEN 1977-GV Diplomacy Spring 1907

GERMANY (Roger Collins): F(NTH)-Bel; F(Lon)-NTH S by F(Den); A(Sil)-Mun S by A(Ber);
A(Mun)-Kie; F(Swe)-Nwy; A(Tyr)-Pie; A(War) stands.

RUSSIA (Rick O'Fee): A(Sev) stands; A(Mos)-StP; A(Lvn)-StP

TURKEY (Horst John): F(Con) MS A(Smy); A(Arm) stands.

AUSTRIA (Norman Nathan): F(Ven)-ADR S by F(Alb); A(Tri)-Ven; A(Bud)-Tri;
A(Gre) MS A(Bul); A(Rum) S A(Bul).

FRANCE (Simon Dally): F(Edi)-NTH; F(Wal)-Lon S by F(ENC); F(Bre)-Pic; A(Mar)-Pie;
A(Bur)-Mun; A(Ruh)-Kie S by A(Hol); A(Fin)-Nwy; F(ION)-EMS; F(Nap)-ION;
F(AEG)-S Austrian A(Bul)-Con.

*

NGC 217 1977-EX Diplomacy Autumn 1908

ENGLAND (Geoff Hardingham): F(Gly)-Edi; F(Lon)-Yor.

RUSSIA (Gary Silk): F(HEL)-Kie; F(Yor)-Lon; F(Edi)-Gly; A(StP) S A(Lvn);
A(Sil)-Boh*; A(Ber)-S French A(Ruh)-Mun; A(Lvn)-S Turkish A(Mos)-War.

TURKEY (Patrick Thompson): A(Mos) MS A(Sev); F(BLA) S A(Sev); A(Ank)-Con;
F(ION)-TYS.

ITALY (John Marsden): F(WMS)-MAO; F(TYS)-GoL S by F(Tus); F(Ven)-ADR; A(Pie)-Tyr;
F(Nap) S Turkish F(ION)-TYS; F(Bul:sc) stands; A(Boh)-Sil S by A(Mun) & A(War);
A(Ukr) S A(War); A(Rum)-Gal.

FRANCE (Terry Hill): F(MAO)-Spa:sc; F(Bre)-MAO; F(GoL)-Mar; F(Bel)-ENC;
A(Ruh)-Bur.

*Retreat: Russian A(Sil)-Pru.

E: 2 bases: Lon, Lpl. No change.

G: 0 bases: ~~Mun~~. Eliminated - about time too.

R: 7 bases: StP, Swe, Nwy, Den, Kie, Ber, Edi. No change.

T: 5 bases: Con, Smy, Mos, Ank, Sev. No change.

I: 13 bases: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun, Tri, Ser, Bul, Rum, Gre, Vie, Bud, War, +Mun.
Builds A(Ven).

F: 7 bases: Bre, Par, Mar, Spa, Por, Bel, Hol. Builds A(Par); 1 unit short.

I have received the following game-end proposal: 1 I, 2 R, 3 T, 4 F, 5 E. Votes next time, please - as usual failure to vote will count as a vote in favour.

Russia - France: Sorry I didn't support you last season. You should have asked for help.

Russia - Turkey: Glad to see that at least you ~~are~~ are going to help us.

Jotto II - Turn 5

Phil Bass	NMR	Paul Hurtley	2-3-2-2-1-2	Gary Silk	2-3-2-0-2-3
Mike Close	1-1-2-3-1-0	Cliff Kennedy	2-1-2-4-2-1	Patrick Thompson	
Tom Davies	(4) NMR	Roland Prevot	(4) 2-1-4-2-4-2		4-1-2-2-1-4
	(5) NMR		(5) NMR	Tom Tweedy	1-3-3-0-2-2

*

GAME TEN 1978-EY Diplomacy Winter 1903

I'm afraid this game will have to be held over. It's my fault; I mislaid a vital unit in the Autumn 1903 adjudication and then forgot to answer Al Bustany's frantic queries about it. Would everyone please add the French move F(WMS)-Tun to the game report in Ethil 22, and note that France now builds F(Bre), A(Par) for 7 centres, while Italy removes A(Pie), A(Rom) for 2.

My apologies to all players, especially Al and Phil, for this cock-up.

*

GAME THIRTEEN 1978-GS Diplomacy Summer 1901

This game also has to be held over, but this time it isn't my fault: Malcolm Shaw's copy of Ethil 22 was delayed by the Civil Service messengers, so he asked me to extend the deadline, and I agreed. If I'd known this issue was going to be delayed for four weeks I'd have given Malcolm a specific date instead of saying he could have "an extra issue's diplomacy time" - it's too late to change it now, though. Autumn 1901 orders should reach me by 14 April, please.

*

GAME FOURTEEN Third Age II Pre-Marie 3018

I am three sets of orders short, presumably because of my gross delay this issue. If the defaulters would send their moves quickly I'll circulate a carbon-copy adjudication to avoid a further wait.

*

WAITING LISTS: Regular Diplomacy (reopened): Ken Bain, Doug Wakefield. Game fee £1.50.

Third Age II: Charles Vasey, Norman Williams, Richard Sharp. Three more places available at £1.00. For the rules, see Ethil 21.

Jotto: Places still available: game fee 50p (40p of which goes to the prize fund, £3.60 at present). The rules are in Ethil 20.

Chris Tringham here. Must say it's a pleasure to have my very own column in this 'ere magazine. In case you haven't read the Megalomania wrapped around this issue (tastless prole), I should point out that thsi is only appearing because I captured it in a daring raid on Elizabeth House, with the assistance of a team of highly-trained well-equipped guerrillas (Sid & Doris Bonkers). The unspeakable, bearded, Piggott has set a deadline for the next Ethil, and plans are being made in case he doesn't produce it. I have no intention of trying to prevent John continuing, and the games will be re-housed only if the next issue shows no signs of appearing in the four weeks following the next deadline. I'll join the waiting list, John, since the Hill/Silk cartel has knocked me off in Game Eight, demonstrating my faith in the future of Ethil. I just hope that the next couple of pages come out OK, hand-written as they are. Lazy sod.

And now I'll hand over to Roy Taylor, who's going to tell you all about the joys of playing golf with lots of really wonderful famous people (like his boss), and the sheer delight of playing Soccerboss by post. (Oh, there isn't room. Next month, perhaps?)

And now I really must go to Islington. Rod's not going to believe this. Yes Ethil, Rod. You remember, surely.

The September 1978 issue of Psychology Today contains an interesting article on brain cell research completed recently which disputes the findings of previous experiments.

Do we all think alcohol kills a whole lot of irreplaceable brain cells? Do we think we lose 100,000 brain cells a day after age 30?

Dr Marian C Diamond and associates studied the brains of healthy rats at various ages and concluded that there is no appreciable loss of brain cells due to drinking moderately or due to ageing.

They did find that environment has a great effect on rat brains - if a rat is challenged to learn and to contend with an 'enriched' environment... ladders, mazes, tunnels... he will develop a thicker cerebral cortex with more glia cells and increases in the size of synapses (junctions) between nerve cells, than rats kept by themselves or in the standard three-rats-to-a-plain-cage situation.

And this enrichment is effective at every age.

So the worst thing to do to people (if you agree that these findings apply to human brains, too) is keep them in sedentary confinement in a dull, boring environment, such as a nursing home or a prison or a sanatorium... or a routine job/home situation.

So go ahead and drink that gin, and read that 'forbidden' book, and follow that hobby and open up your life if you feel a need. It'll do you good. And you'll probably live longer.

---Dick Geis

Feeble excuses

This is probably the latest issue of any Diplomacy magazine in the history of the hobby. I suppose I'd better explain what happened - if nothing else, it may deter others from making similar delays...

The problem first arose at the office at the beginning of November. Most readers know that I've been stuck in a dreary, run-of-the-mill Civil Service job since 1975: late last year I started getting paranoid fantasies when I tried to move over to something more interesting (and better suited to my qualifications and abilities); I evolved notions that a Grand Conspiracy was afoot to keep me in my place. By happenstance I discovered a file containing papers which proved all my paranoid fantasies were true...

I shan't labour the point. My polemic on social sciences in the Civil Service is lengthy and repetitive even by my standards. Struck down in a fit of depression, I visited the doctor, who advised me not to return to work for the sake of my health until my job had changed. In any other circumstances, I'd have been pleased to receive this "license for skiving". As it was, I got very little joy from my holiday. While my enthusiasm for work

had gone (it was never very great to begin with), so was my enthusiasm for anything else. It took all the will-power I could muster even to get out of bed in the morning, and my activities for the rest of the day then generally consisted of sitting around, "dipping into" (rather than reading) books and magazines, and getting quietly sloshed on cheap wine when I had any. Not a pretty sight.

It took some time for me to snap out of this. Nevertheless, by Christmas the issue was ready, in the sense that all the games had been adjudicated. So why did I not publish then? Partly, I suppose, there was my ill-advised desire to produce a proper sized issue — which never came to anything: the essential momentum had gone. Part of the trouble, I feel sure, was the fact that this particular issue, and the circumstances surrounding it, had unpleasant connotations. There were other factors: distractions, the lack of working space in the bungalow. Pat and I are in the slow process of buying a much larger property, so this problem at least will ease.

And what of the future? Well, I shall try and carry on as before. Some players may see this as unsatisfactory, even irresponsible. There has been talk of my games being rehoused. If players want this, I can hardly blame them. Certainly, if delays ensue next time, I'll fold at once. I'm not that insensitive. (Apropos of this, I must scotch one remark at once: if Ethel folds, I can repay all the subs: about £220 worth.) But I feel sure that, given a rekindling of my enthusiasm, which has taken quite a battering in recent months, there is no reason why Ethel should not, eventually, regain its prestige and quality. I hope so.

—J.C.P.