

To put it bluntly, this issue is going to be limited to eight pages, hence the space-saving heading. The reasons for this are simple. (1) I'm having to work through the holidays so that I can survive next term financially. (2) I have to do at least four hours revision a night as well. This leaves little time for Diplomacy. I shall therefore start with the games, and any space that I have left will be used for whatever constructive purpose I can think of. (God! This is going to ruin my chances in the MP zine poll!)

DK 74/7 (1974 BZ) SPRING 1910 DK 74/7 (1974 BZ) SPRING 1910

STALEMATE LINE DEVELOPING?

As Four-Way Draw Is Rejected.

AUSTRIA: A (Rum) sta, A (Rom) sta, A (Sev) S A (Mos), F (Con)-BLA,
 (Pete Swanson) A (Ank)-Con; F (ION) S F (TYS)-Tun, F (TYS)-Tun, F (Nap)-TYS,
 AT(Pie)-Mar, A (Tus)-Ven, A (War) S A (Gal)-Sil, A (Gal)-Sil.
 A (Ukr) S A (Mos); A (Mos) S A (Ukr), A (Mun)* S A (Gal)-Sil.
 A (Boh) S A (Mun), A (Tyr) S A (Mun).

FRANCE: F (Spa.sc)-GOL, F (Tun) sta, A (Mar)-Pie, A (Gas)-Spa, F (Bre)-MAO.
 (Barry Rudkin)

GERMANY: F (WMS) S (FRENCH F (Tun), A's (Bur), (Ruh), & (Kie) ALL Support
 (Kevin Stephens) A (Sil)-Mun. F (Nor) S A (StP), A StP sta, F (Ber)-BAL,
 A (Liv) S F (Pru), F (Pru) S A (Liv).

RETREATS: Austrian A (Mun), Kapow! No retreat space available.

WHOOOPS! Forgot Russia! (Greg Hawes), F (EIA) sta, F (BAR) sta.

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BDC 66 (1974 DN) AUTUMN 1908 BDC 66 (1974 DN) AUTUMN 1908

WEEDSACK BANISHED!

Looks Like Turkey Vs. England.

ENGLAND: F (Nor) S F (NWG)-BAR, F (NWG)-BAR, A (Swe) sta, A (Den) S
 (Rob Stephens) A (Kie), A (Ruh) S A (Kie), A (Kie) S A (Bur)-Mun, A (Bur)-Mun,
 F (Spa.sc)-GOL, F (Por)-MAO, F (MAO)-NAF, F (NAO)-NWG,
 A (Gas)-Spa, A (Mar)-Pie.

ITALY: NMR. Has F (Nap), F (WMS), F (Tun).
 (Stephen Lunn?)

RUSSIA: - Has A's (Mos), (Ber), (Mun); (Boh); (Sil), (Liv), & (Bud), & F (BAL) & A (StP)
 (Anarchy)

TURKEY: A (Tyr) S RUSSIAN A (Mun), A (Ven)-Rom, F (ION)-Nap, A (Tri)-Ven,
 (Ade Baird) A (Alb)-Tri, F (Gre) S F (AEG)-ION, F (AEG)-ION.

RETREATS: None.

SUPPLY CENTRE CHART, BDC 66, AUTUMN 1908

	Losses	Gains	Retains	Builds/Removes	Controls
ENGLAND	-	Swe	Lon Lpl Edi Nor Bel Hol Den Kie Bre Par Mar Por Spa	+1 (A Edi)	14
ITALY	Ypk Zfz	-	Rom Nap Tun	0 (No Change)	3
RUSSIA	Ypk	-	Mos StP War Sev Ber Rum Bud Mun	-1 (- F (BAL))	8
TURKEY	-	Tri Ven	Con Ank Smy Bul Gre Ser Vie	+2 (A Con F Smy)	9

TURK TO GH: Whaddya Mean? "?" after The Baird. First insult me by suggesting I'm some sort of necrophiliav, and then "?". At least I think I exist....

NGC 153 (1975 IH) AUTUMN 1902 NGC 153 (1975 IH) AUTUMN 1902

BALKAN DOUBLE-CROSS!

As Two Powers NMR.

AUSTRIA: A (Tri)*S A (Vie)-Tyr, A (Vie)-Tyr, A (Bud) S A (Tri),
(Antony Taylor) F (Gre) S TURKISH F (AEG)-ION.

ENGLAND: F (MAO)-Por, F (Lon)-ENG, F NTH sta, A (Swe) sta.
(Dave Johnson)

FRANCE: NMR, HasA's Spa, Pic, Bur*, and F Bre.
(Phil Stutt?)

GERMANY: A (Bel) and A (Mun) S A (Ruh)-Bur, A (Ruh)-Bur, F Den sta,
(Mike Raffell) A (Sil) S RUSSIAN A (War).

ITALY: F (ADS) S A (Ven)-Tri, F (ION) C A (Tun)-Gre, A (Ven)-Tri, A (Tun)-Gre.
(Glyn Palmer)

RUSSIA: NMR, Has A (War), A (Mos), F (GOB).
(Tim Spanton)?

TURKEY: F (AES) S ITALIAN A (Tun)-Gre, A (Bul)-Ser, A (Gal)-Bud,
(Horst John) A (Ukr) S RUSSIAN A (Mos)-War, F (BLA)-Rum.

RETREATS: AUSTRIAN A (Tri)-Alb, F (Gre)-Bul. FRENCH A (Bur)kaput

SUPPLY CENTRE CHART FOR NGC 153, AUTUMN 1902.

AUSTRIA	4 4 4	+ Bud+Bul Vie	0 (NO Chagè)	3
ENGLAND	-	+Por +Swe Lon Lpl Edi Nor	+2 (+ F Edi A Lon)	6
FRANCE	-	Bre Mar Par Spa	+1 (NBR, 1 short)	4
GERMANY	-	+ Bel Ber Kie Mun Den Hol	+1 (+ A Ber)	5
ITALY	-	+Tri +Gre Ven Nap Tri Tun	+2 (+A Ven, F Nap)	6
RUSSIA	4	- Mos War StP	0 (No Change)	3
TURKEY		+ Ser Con Ank Smy Rum Sev	+1 (+ A Con)	6

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NGC 103 (1975 BJ) SPRING 1909 NGC 103 (1975 BJ) SPRING 1909

NOT LONG NOW

As Russia And Italy fight out the places.

FRANCE: F (Tun) S TURKISH F (TYS)-WMS.
(Kim Bailey)

GERMANY: A (Pru)-War, A (Liv) & A (Sil) S A (Pru)-War, A (Fin) sta,
(Barry Rudkin) A (StP) sta, A (Mun)-Tyr, A (Boh) S A (Mun)-Tyr, A (Kie)-Mun,
A (Ber)-Pru, F (Swe)-Den, F (MAO)-NAf, F (ENG)-MAO, F (Por)-Spa(sc)
A (Spa)-Mar, A (Gas) S A (Spa)-Mar, F (BAL) S A (Liv).

ITALY: A (Tri)-Ser, A (Tyr)-Tri, A (Pie)-Tyr, F (GOL)-TYS.
(Roy Taylor)

RUSSIA: A (Mos)-Sev, A (Sev)-Arm, A (Vie) S ITALIAN A (Tyr)-Tri,
(Dave March) A (Bud) S ITALIAN A (Tri)-Ser, A (War)-Gal.

TURKEY: F (TYS)-WMS, F (BLA) sails round and round in ever-decreasing
(Antony Taylor) circles, F (SMY)-AES, A (Bul)-Rum, A (Ser)* stands and watches
A (Bul)-Rum, A (Alb) stands and watches A (Ser) stand and watch
A (Bul)-Rum.

RETREATS: TURKISH A (Ser) disappears from worldly view.

Spacefiller:

Typewritten on a pound note I saw yesterday... "WARNING, EXCESSIVE
USE MAY BE DANGEROUS TO THE ECONOMY: (Low To Zero Value)"

OVAL:

The Draw proposal was rejected. Also, I forgot to allow for Italy's gain of Portugal, making the sc chart one more for Italy and one less for England. Sorry

THE WAR GOES ON.

As Turkey Stakes All On Balance Of Power Game.

ENGLAND: F (ENG)-NTH, A (Lon) sta, A (Edi) sta, A (Kie)-Ber, A (Ber)-Pru, (Peter Greig) F (BAL) S A (Ber)-Pru, F (GOB) S A (Fin)-Liv, A (Fin)-Liv, F (Nor)-NWG, F (BAR) sta, A (StP)-Mos,

ITALY: A (Sil)*-Gal, A (Boh) & A (Vie) S A (Sil)-Gal, A (Tri)-Bud, (Barry Rudkin) A (Ven)-Tri, A (Tyr) S A (Ven)-Tri, F (ADS) S A (Alb), F (ION)-Gre, A (Alb) S F (ION)-Gre, F (Tun)-ION, F (TYS) S F (Tun)-ION, F (Por)-MAC.

TURKEY: A (Mos)-StP, A (War) & A (Rum) S A (Gal), A (Gal) S A (Pru)-Sil, (Malcolm McCulloch) A (Ser) S A (Bud), A (Bul) S A (Ser), F (AES) S F (Gre), F (EMS)-ION.

RETREATS: ITALIAN A (Sil)-Mun.

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FIN!

Both players still active in this game concede an Austrian win in Autumn 1909, so it's all over.

GAME: 1975 BC ('NGC 98')
GAMESMASTER: Pete Birks
GAME STARTED: 24.1.75
GAME FINISHED: 27.3.76

AUSTRIA: Lawrence Parrott (WON A '09)
ENGLAND: Tony Cröuch (Third)
FRANCE: Neil Oag (Dro A '06, C.D)
GERMANY: Victor Logan (Second)
ITALY: Horst John (Out A '05)
RUSSIA: Paul Morgan (Dro A '03) Stuart Dagger (Out A '07)
TURKEY: Gary Brittain(Out A'08)

Table with 10 columns (01-09) and 6 rows (AUSTRIA, ENGLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, RUSSIA, TURKEY) showing scores for each player.

OVAL:

Not a great game, with Russia and France dropping out at important points in the game. Interesting points are Germany's recovery because of the disappearance of England and France, and Austria's persistence in leaving him alone. My personal view is that this game should have ended up as a fight between England and France; had they showed the same persistence as Lawrence Parrott it certainly would have.

Once again, the credit goes to the player who tried hardest, although the placings are less fair - Gary Brittain certainly deserved more merit - but he happened to be in the way of Austria, so kaput for him. Still, not a bad game, and congrats to Lawrence on a well-deserved win. Final statements next time please.

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I can't even think of a good spacefiller.



HOSPITALISATION CAUSES AUSTRIAN DEATHS

No Fees Charged In National Health Service.

- AUSTRIA: Has A (Ser),*, A (Bud).
(Anarchy)
- ENGLAND: A (Nor)-StP, F (BAR) S A (Nor)-StP, F (NTH)-SKA, F (Lon)-NTH.
(Andy Evans)
- FRANCE: F (WMS) C A (Spa)-Tun, A (Spa)-Tun, F (Mar)-GOL, A (Bur)-Mun.
(Paul Simpkins)
- GERMANY: F (Hol)-Bel, A (Mun)-Bur, A (Den)-Kie.
(Peter Greig)
- ITALY: A (Vie)-Bud; A (Ven)-Pie, F (Gre)-ION, A (Tri) S TURKISH A (Bul)-Ser,
(Chris Side) A (Rom)-Tus, F (Nap)-TYS.
- RUSSIA: F (GOB) S A (Mos)-StP, A (Mos)-StP, A (Sil)-Ber,
(Dave March) F (Sev) S TURKISH A (Arm)-Rum.
- TURKEY: A (Arm)-Rum, F (BLA) C A (Arm)-Rum, A (Bul)-Ser, A (Con)-Bul.
(Michael Groom)

RETREATS: AUSTRIAN A (Ser) disbanded.

NO DATELINE:

ITALY 4-1, FRANCE 5-1, TURKEY 4-1, ENGLAND 4-1, RUSSIA 8-1, 20-1 BAR.

ROME TO PARIS:

You owe me a letter. People have been deported for lesser omissions.

ROME TO MUNICH:

Agreed, potting the Blue is 5 points.

VENICE DIARY:

By Luigi Machiavelli, Mon 10 March, 1902.

I was invited to the opera last night but found the hotels in Vienna to be filled with my compatriots, many of whom had apparently by a train which they believed to be taking them home to Venice! The government really must do something about the signposting in the old border regions.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to converse with the natives, everytime one approaches they seem to run away; how on earth can countries learn to live together if we all reacted in the same way?

I think that I will book my winter skiing holiday in Grenoble, now, although something will have to be done first to improve the rail service from Marseilles.

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IT'S ALL HAPPENING IN THE ILLYRIANS

I Think.

- AUSTRIA: F (ADS)-IOS, A (Ven)-Rom, A (Tri) S A (Tyr), A (Gal)-Eie,
(Gary Brittain) A (Bud) S A (Gal)-Vie, A (Tyr) S A (Gal)-Vie, A (Bul)-Rum,
F (BLA) S A (Bul)-Rum.
- ENGLAND: F (Yor)-Lon, A (Edi)-Yor.
(Phil Murphy)
- FRANCE: F (Mar) S A (Spa), F (MAF)-Tun, A (Spa) S F (Mar), A (Bre)-Gas,
(Antony Taylor) A (Par) falls flat on its nose but doesn't move.
- GERMANY: A (Mun)-Tyr, A (Boh) S A (Mun)-Tyr, A (Sil) S RUSSIAN A (War)-Gal,
(Mike Roberts) A (Bel)-Bur, F (NTH)-ENG, F (Den)-NTH, F (NWG) S F (Den)-NTH.
- ITALY: A (Tus)-Ven, F (GOL) S A (Pie)-Mar, A (Pie)-Mar.
(Tony Crouch)
- RUSSIA: F (Rum) sta, A (Ukr) S F (Rum), A (Sev) S F (Rum), A (War)-Gal,
(Steve Pratt) A (Mos)-War, A (StP)-Mos, F (Lpl) sta.
- TURKEY: Has A (Smy) and F (Ank).
(Anarchy)

NO RETREATS:

PRESS OVER (Not literally)

NGC 98 PRESS:

SQUIRREL GEVULTEVICH - ON HOLIDAY FROM 98:

Effram Zygoté (Germany) Ltd was a funny fellow. "How about you and me having an alliance?" he asked Count Archibald Von Hepple. (remember him)?. "Yes, that sounds fine," replied the Count. "Okay, then, I'll attack France, England, and a bit of Russia, and you take care of Italy, Turkey, and the big bit of Russia. We can also have limited intelligence."

Perhaps Effram thought that the Count had limited intelligence or something. (i.e. thick). After the stab from Effram, which came later than expected, both Effram and Arthur Plinne (pronounced Smith) (Russia) were against the Count although Arthur was only defending himself.

Of the rest, only Sam Aardvark (France), posed any serious threat. What on earth (pun intended) could Squirrel Gevultevich - on holiday from 98 (GOD) Ltd do? Who cares? Well I do. I'm trying to write it.

NGC 115 (1975-BU) SPRING 1908 NGC 115 (1975-BU) SPRING 1908

ANOTHER REPLACEMENT:

Russia Joins Foreign Legion To Forget Diplomacy.

AUSTRIA: A (Boh) S A (Tri)-Tyr, A (Tri)-Tyr, F (ION)-Tun, F (Gre)-ION, (Roy Taylor) A (Ven) sta, A (Nap)-Apu, A (Ser) sta, A (Bud) sta.

ENGLAND: Has F (IRI) and A (Wal).
(Anarchy)

FRANCE: A (Cly)-Lpl; F (MAO)-IRI, F (NAO) S A (Cly)-Lpl; F (Lon)-Wal
(Phil Stimpson) A (Pic)-Bel; A (Ruh) S A (Hol)-Kie, A (Ber)-Pru, A (Mun)-Ber,
A (Hol)-Kie, F (Bre)-ENG, F (Mar)-Spa(sc).

ITALY: Has A (Pie)
(Anarchy)

RUSSIA: A (War) S A (Sil)-Pru, F (NWG)-Edi, F (NTH)-Edi,
(Mike Kenrick/ Ron Kelly) A (Sil)-Pru, A (Sev) S A (Mos), A (Mos) S A (Sev),
A (Rum) MS F (Bul.ec), F (Den)-Kie.

TURKEY: A (Arm)-Sev, F (BLA) S F (Con)-Bul(sc), F (Con)-Bul(sc).
(Chris Side)

NO RETREATS:

Mike Kenrick has by now gone off to Arabia or somewhere in Darkie-land. He asked me to find a replacement, so I ask the eternal standby, RON KELLY, of 225 Virginia Ave SE, WASHINGTON DC, 20061, U.S.A., to take over the position of Russia. Thanks in advance, Ron. The other player's addresses are Roy Taylor, 63 A St. Nicolas Park Drive, Nuneaton, Warwicks; Phil Stimpson, Victoria House, West Ashby, Horncastle, Lincs; Chris Side, 146 Watergate, Bretton, Peterborough.

BDC 53 (1974 BN) AUTUMN 1908 BDC 53 (1974 BN) AUTUMN 1908

TURKEY OUTMANOEUVRED AS ALL DRAWS ARE REFUSED

Now There's a surprise!

ENGLAND: F (NTH) sta, F (HEL) sta, F (NWG)-MAO, F (BAL) C A (Swe)-Pru,
(Richard Sargent) F (WMS) S FRENCH F (TYS), A (Swe)-Pru, A (Mos)-Ukr, A (StP)-Mos,
A (Liv) S A (StP)-Mos, A (Pru)-Sil, A (Kie)-Ber.

FRANCE: F (MAO)-Por; F (GOL)-Tus; F (Tun)-ION, F (TYS) S F Tun)-ION,
(David Yule) A (War)-Gal, A (Tyr)-Vie, A (Boh) S A (Tyr)-Vie, A (Mun)-Tyr,
A (Bur)-Bel.

ITALY: F (IOS)-Nap, F (Rom) S F (IOS)-Nap.
(Tim Roberts)

RUSSIA: NMR, Has A (Sev) A (Bud) & A (Arm).*
(Peter Nunn)

TURKEY: A (Smy)-Arm; A (Ank) S A (Smy)-Arm, F (BLA)-Sev, A (Tri)-Bud
(Marcus Watney) A (Rum)-Gal, A (Bul)-Gre, F (ADS)-Ven, F (Nap)-IOS.*

RETREATS: ITALIAN F (Nap)-Apu. RUSSIAN A (Arm) disbanded.

SUPPLY CENTRE CHART FOR BDC 53, AUTUMN 1908

	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Gains</u>	<u>Retains</u>	<u>Builds/Removes</u>	<u>Controls</u>
ENGLAND	VXX VXX	Mos Ber	Lon Edi Lpl Den Nor Hol Swe Kic StP	0 (No change)	11
FRANCE	VXX VXX	Por Bel Vie	Bre Par Mar Spa Mun Tun War	+1 (+A (Par))	10
ITALY	VXX	Nap	Rom	0 (No change)	2
RUSSIA	VXX	-	Bud Sev	0 (No change)	2
TURKEY	VXX	Ven	Ank Con Smy Bul Ser Gre Rum Tri	+1 (+ F Con)	9

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EDITORIAL CUM NEWS OF THE SCREWS CUM THE INTERESTING BIT.

~~Finished! That's not bad since it's only Sunday afternoon, so I'll be able to~~
get it in the postbox for last collection tomorrow without any trouble.

Needless to say I'm sad that this issue is so aborted, but the fact remains that I have to put in an awful lot of work over the next two months, and it won't be until June that GH will spring back to its former glories. Still, it doesn't cost you much per issue when it's only 8 pages long!

MP Zine Poll:

As every year, and for the fourth consecutive time, Richard Walkerdine, of 43 Chapel Grove, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, is running the Mad Policy Zine Poll. So long as you receive two zines or more, you can vote, by sending him your marks (from 1 (Crud) to 10 (GH)) out of ten, for each of the zines you receive. I'm not sure if you get a free issue of Mad Policy if you send in an entry. Last year you did, but times is gettin' 'ard.

COA'S

Adrien Baird, to "Chanti Rosa", Downs Road, Keston, Kent.
Mike Raffell, to 36 St David Close, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside, L35 4NY.
Phil Murphy, to "Carnlea Hse", 12 Seymour Ave, Carnlea, Bangor, BT19 1BN, N.I.
Marcus Watney, to 22 Alexandra Road, Reading, Berks.

SF:

Apparently there is a new paperback trilogy called Illuminatus! out in the USA, and I'll let John Baker tell you about it..

"The Eye In The Pyramid, The Golden Apple, and Leviathan are the individual books. Really weird, with that style of writing pioneered by Joyce, and used so often now, but so rarely used well - but it is used well here.

It is libertarian oriented, and written by two important American anarchists, ~~but anybody can read it who doesn't mind an occasional obscenity....like, every~~ other word. This looks like it's going to be one of the really great contemporary novels, though you should be careful to not consider it too great: for example it is as dust compared to Lord Of The Rings.

The entire trilogy is \$4.50 from T-K Graphics, P.O. 1951, Baltimore, MD, 21203, USA. and there are no shipping charges, but the money has to be U.S."

Which all sounds very interesting, and if you are interesting in getting this stuff, it might be possible to use the ISE.....

The International Subscription Exchange:

The ISE is a way for you to receive American magazines without costly bank charges in currency changing, All you do is send your British Cash to Dave Johnson, of "Savani", Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, HP8 4HQ, telling him that it's for the ISE. Then send a note to the publisher of the zine that you wish to receive, how much you have sent to Dave Johnson. You will then receive an American zine, paying in British pounds. (Which are worth more, nowadays, by the way?)

Diplomacy World:

And talking of good zines, this quarterly publication from Walt Buchanan is a mast. Carrying articles on just about everything in the hobby (although, of course, it is heavily American oriented). It costs \$4.50 a year, so it isn't cheap, but if you want it, write to Walt Buchanan, R.R/3, Box 324, Lebanon, Indiana, 46052, U.S.A., using the ISE if you wish.. Oh, and by the way, I'm the British Correspondent.....

The most sensational news of the month is that Avalon Hill have bought out GRI, the American producers of Diplomacy, so soon the game will take on a different format in the States, with sales increasing by about 400% to around 40,000 a year. What the effect will be on Philmar I don't know - I may ring up Edi Birsan tonight to find out (he went down for a lengthy discussion on March 8th to establish exactly what would happen.)

As most of you probably know by now, Uriah's Heap has folded, with, thankfully, all the games being rehoused in Gummiballs with the minimum of fuss. Roger suggested Gummiheap as a name (although I think Uriah'sballs would have been more appropriate), but Ron, rightly, stuck to his guns, and what strikes me as one of the funniest zines in Britain, with contributions from Dove Stebleday, Wakefield, Kitchener, and, of course, the affable Ron Rayner, is now available for 1/2p per side (I think) from Ron Rayner, 32 Wentworth Ave, Finchley, London, N3 1YL. And by the way Ron, Les Kennedy, of 27 Shanliss Park, Santry, Dublin, hasn't yet received Gummi, even though he is playing Turkey in one of the Uriah's Heap games. Can you let him have a copy as soon as possible? Ta.

Press I missed:

Dear Sharon,

I used to have this great relationship. We used to 'phone each other two or three times a week. Suddenly nothing. Do you think ~~know~~ his affections have transferred?

- Worried, Twickenham.

To Mike Groom:

The (?) after your name indicated that according to my books you have run out of credit, but that I am not confident that my bookkeeping is correct. If you have sent me any money, Mike, let me know, if not, then send me some!

Graeme Levin has, most kindly, offered to send on the whole of the cash he receives, in future, from the Philmar flyer. Richard Sharp had convinced us that this was impossible to do, stating that he had broached the subject once or twice but that Graeme had gone all surly (and he'll probably deny saying it, as he did over the original proposal last Summer. Richard's memory can be very selective at times). Anyway, Tim Roberts wrote to me with the news, and I went to see Graeme last Friday, to find out that 'the last thing he wanted to do was to antagonise people in the postal games world'. So, Graeme isn't the big baddy some of the independents (and not a few, I confess, of the NGC's) have made him out to be. Apparently he still made a loss on the whole of the NGC set-up, and our thanks should go out to him for being so immediately magnanimous. So, Haven, stick that up your arse and smoke it.

Chimaera is odds on for the Calhamer Award (UK section) for best new zine. Greatest Hits was withdrawn on the grounds that it 'isn't new', even though it started after the last set of Calhamer Awards. May I ask, What is the IDA's definition of 'newness', if it isn't a zine which started after the previous year's awards? Six months? Nine months? A year?

As for the International Awards. Well, ever since the British swept the awards last time, somebody 'High up' in the IDA (presumably the American dominated Council) decided that a panel would decide who received the award. I issue a warning here. The latest DW shows that the British hobby is 35% of the hobby worldwide, and 75% of the size of the American hobby. Why does that not give the UK a proportional number of seats on the council? Simple, because the Americans wish to retain their majority, even though they are now only 50% of the worldwide hobby. If it carries on like this, then any growth in the hobby along the 1973 lines will result in the IDA being as American-dominated as the World Bridge Union, with decisions being perpetually taken that favour the USA. Now I am sure that the IDA is not a bunch of nasty Yanks, and that they are very reasonable people, so let the IDA either allocate its council seats in proportion to the number of players world wide (50% U.S., 35% UK, 10% Canada, 5% Europe) or admit that they are not representative of the U.K., but only of North America. (One typically deviant answer would be for British candidates to stand for all the international posts (Editor, President, VP/Treasurer, etc) and to flood the IDA with British memberships. Of course, I'm sure that the 'rules' would be changed once again so that American domination was retained. One day, take warning, I may stand for one of these posts, especially when IDA/UK eventually merges with the NGC, and we can set about providing hobby services, such as subsidising the rehousar of independent orphans, and subsidising the Boardman No. Custodian.

Onto more depressing subjects - Lemming Express is undergoing a sharp change, with Jon Lovibond finding school work (I think) to pressing for him to keep on with all the zine. Bob Howes, Willy Haughn, and Stuart Dagger, will take over the games, while someone whom I have never heard of, Paul Segal, will take over the 'chat' section. Unfortunately, someone new to the hobby, as it seems Paul is,

in that they are unaware of a lot of what is happening, and as a result cannot help but get the odd fact wrong. Still, I wish LE the best of luck in its new format, as a sort of miniature Shenandoah Services.

FTF news is rampant, with lots of things happening in the near future. First, there's Roy Taylor's Con, which Rog Kitchener tells me is either the week before or the week after Easter. The week before Easter (9th-11th April) seems more likley at the moment, but write to Roy (address inside by NGC 115) for full details.

Then, on April 22nd-25th, the specially arranged ScotDipCon for Grampian TV. Unless you book you won't get in, 'cos Linda is limiting the numbers severely. Write to Wink at 15 Lineside Walk, Rhu, Dumbartonshire, Scotland, for details. Needless to say, I shall be there, somehow, and three weeks before finals as well!

Teh, a week later, there's the Poker game in Oxford, with Greg Hawes acting as host. Cons organised specificalay around Poker games tend to consist of higher stakes than usual, so don't come unless (a) you have confidence (b) you have money (so that I can win it off you) and (c) you can punt, because wer'e going down the Thames the following day, to the tunes of Glyn Palmer's liltng voice.

The Con at Dave Allen's was a great success. On the way up, the car caught fire! As a result, Richard had to win to pay for the costs. He did. A game of Poker was supplemented by Organised Crime ("The board looks like a bruise") Win, Place And Show ("Now who wants to buy this three-legged nag?") and Bridge where Sharp lost (and so did I) to Piggott, Hawes, and Pratt. Grrrr.

The darts in the pub were incredible. We had to throw from 6'6"! On the Saturday night, stone pissed, broke, and tired, I couldn't do a thing wrong, beating about seven locals on th trot, and winning a couple of our 'combined' games which made me £1.50. Sunday afternoon however, and, £50 better off, I couldn't hit a thing, even though I was stone-cpld sober! Darts is a funny game..

Whoops, mustn't continue with too much 'egotistical prattle', as Wakefield calls it. It seems as if we're nearing the end in any case. Sorry for all the letters and notes that I have failed to print. I can't promise to get any in next time either, but the issue after that.....well.....!

DEADLINE FRIDAY 23rd Of APRIL 1976 NO PHONED ORDERS I'm in Canterbury

GREATEST HITS VOLUME TWENTY-TWO is produced by Pete Birks, who, from 18th April, will be back at KEYNES COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF KENT, CANTERBURY, KENT, for all purposes of orders and urgent mail, but until 18th April, and after that time for American trades, etc, I am at 39 Handforth Road, London, SW9 0LL, working my guts out for a degree I don't deserve and probably won't get.

~~This issue costs 4p plus postage. I've just remembered that I've run out of staples.~~

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