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This is a very truncated version of Greatest Hits, no. 49 thereof, produced at the cut-price of 10p only, by the twenty-three year old Pete Birks, 39 Wandsworth Road, London, SW9 0LL. Circulation is about 80, today's date is 15.9.78, and explanations are below.
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EDITORIAL

Heaven knows how this will be duplicated, it's years since I used it for a whole issue. Three days after the last GH was sent out, my typer went kaput, one of the penalties of having an electric, I suppose. Normally I could hassle the typewriter company for a spare or something, but I have to go to Israel on Monday 18th, and would not be able to return it. Hence, little old Olympia Portable is in use once again.

That is the second reason for this being a small issue. With a flight on Monday (and me only knowing that I would be able to go yesterday) I have had a few things to organise, International Driving Permit, Flight tickets, contacts etc, which mean that I am only now starting GH on Friday afternoon. It being my birthday, I think I am entitled to a little drink tonight, and tomorrow is the last night of the Proms. Time, therefore, is uncomfortably tight in almost every sector, and rather than make GH a couple of weeks late, I thought it best to send out a rather shorter issue than normal. Hope nobody minds that desperately.

PolyCon last weekend was quite a success. Over a hundred people turned up, I should guess, and many of us stayed with Ron Fisher. Friday night I spent in the Red Lion pub in Market Bosworth, apparently the only Hoskins pub in England. It was OK. We didn't arrive in Chorley (where Ron Lives) until gone 2.30 in the morning, however, after which Ronnie and I demolished a bottle of wine between us. All this made for a tired Saturday!!

We spent much of the time in a pub we nicknamed the Lamb and Fuckit (in memory of no-one in particular) but was really the Lamb and Packet. The darts on Saturday was good fun, although I didn't win anything, and managed to be beaten by Sharp in the first round of the darts knockout again. The game of 'fifty-one' (where you have to score exactly fifty-one in three darts or less, last dart being a double or treble) resulted in a £6 pot due to some good throwing all round.

The only other notable event of the weekend (besides meeting a few people for the first time - Brian Williams, Pete Mearns, the younger Tringhams? Ger Garvey and Richard Nash to name but too many) was the Bridge on the Sunday, where I managed to come second to Sharp out of a field of thirteen. I would have won, as well, if I had played for the Queen of Spades to drop on one hand instead of finessing. That hand will haunt me for the rest of my life...

All in all, a good time, and many congratulations to Bob Brown for putting on the show.

Other news, I have bought a car at last. A VW 411 fastback, left-hand drive, 1970 for £425. It's going fine at the moment, and took me, Bob Lloyd and Keith Black to Preston and back without any trouble at all (Damn, can't get the hang of the space bar on a manual after all these years!). As mentioned above, I am going to Israel, for research, on Monday, but I dare say I can squeeze in a few days holiday as well..... It's a real life.

And we have here an advert for the Las Vegas International Diplomacy Tournament, with a nominal entrance fee of \$200! Piggott has commented on this already, saying that (a) he doesn't think it will take place at all, and (b) that if it does, it will be won by the largest cartel. Although I tend to agree on the former, I have doubts about whether the latter is the case. One could apply it to most championships, but it doesn't seem to happen. Could perhaps the Poker championship be won by a cartel? It could indeed, but when the winning is more important than the money, I think that the cartel principle seems to fall apart. Although there are cartels in Diddy, where no money is at stake, there is more than one game so that tit for tat procedures can be operated. In a single championship, they cannot. Still, it's all hypothetical.

End of editorial.

GAMES (Special NMR edition)

GH ANDERSON (1978 BC) AUTUMN 1964 GH ANDERSON (1978 BC) AUTUMN 1964

AUSTRO-ITALIANS PLUG ON

AUSTRIA: F (ION)-Tun, A (Con) S ITALIAN F (Smy) (Not a gent!),
 (Doug Wakefield) F (AEG) S A (Con), A (Bul)-Rum, A (Kum)-Sev, A (Bud)-Gal,
 A (Gal)-War.

ENGLAND: A (Den) S F (HEE)-Kie, F (HEL)-Kie, A (Swe) S A (Den),
 (Chris Tringham) F (ENG)-NTH, F (NAF)-Tun, F (Tun)*-TYS, F (JMS)*S F (Tun)-TYS,

FRANCE) Has A (Par), F (Por).
 (Anarchy)

GERMANY: NMR, Has A (Pic), A (Bur), A (Hol), A (Kie)*, F (BAL).
 (Mike Allaway)

ITALY: A (Gas)-Bre, A (Pie)-Mar, F (GOL)-MS, F (Spa.sc) S F (GOL)-WMS,
 (John Marsden) F (TYS) S AUSTRIAN F (ION)-Tun, F (Smy) sta.

RUSSIA: Has A (Mos), A (Ukr), F (GOB).
 (Anarchy)

TURKEY: NMR, Has F (Sev), A (Ank), A (Arm).
 (Barry McManus)

Retreats: English F (JMS) disbands, NRO, F (Tun) annihilated. German A (Kie) disbands, NRO.

Supply-Centre Chart for GH Anderson, Autumn 1964

	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Gains</u>	<u>Retains</u>	<u>Builds/Removes</u>	<u>Controls</u>
AUSTRIA	-	Tun War Con	Bud Vie Tri Ser Gre Bul Rum	+3 (A Bud, A Vie F Tri)	10
ENGLAND	X1/2	Kie	Lon Lpl Edi Nor Swe Den	+2 (F Lon A Edi)	7
FRANCE	-	-	Par Por	0 (No change)	2
GERMANY	X1/2	-	Mun Ber Hol Bel	0 (No change)	4
ITALY	X1/2	Bre	Ven Rom Nap XNW Spa Mar Smy	+1 (A Ven)	7
RUSSIA	X1/2	-	Mos StP	-1 (F GOB (G))	2
TURKEY	X1/2	-	Sev Ank	-1 (F Sev (GM))	2

Rome-London: Careful, Sirrah, or I'll challenge you to Intimate Diplomacy!

((It's amazing how much more space is taken up by a game on this typewriter. The spacing is marginally different, about half-way between pica and elite, and although I like the typeface, it's not very efficient at cutting stencils. Coupled with that, I am a two-finger typer on manual machines and my forefingers have already had about half the fingerprint on them worn away! Ah me, how luxuries can become necessities in so short a time.))

((The spate of NMRs this issue is curious. I would have expected them the issue after Eurocon (as seems to have happened elsewhere, but last issue the turnout was quite good. Then Willis telephones me without mentioning orders, McManus (for whom there is some excuse - apparently he's tied up in Oxford on some computer job which is wrecking his Dippy time) and Allaway all decide not to send in a sausage. Most disconcerting.))

NGC 183 (1976 NJ) SPRING 1912 NGC 183 (1976 NJ) SPRING 1912

TURKEY FACES DOUBLE ADVANCE

AUSTRIA: Has A (Vic), A (Sev). (Anarchy)

ENGLAND: A (Liv)-Mos, A (Gal)-Dud, A (Sil)-Boh, A (Edi)-Den, (Kim Bailey) F (NFK) C A (Edi)-Den, F (Kie) sta, F (Lon) sta, F (NAO) sta, F (Gul) sta, F (BAL) sta, A (Ukr) S AUSTRIAN A (Sev).

FRANCE: F (MAO) sta, F (Spa.sc)-MHS, F (Nap)-IOS, F (ICS)-Alb, F (AD) (Leo Adamsen) F (MS) S A (Tyr)-Tri, A (Tyr)-Tri, A (Mun)-Tyr, A (Eur)-Mun, A (Hol)-Bel, A (Pic)-Bel.

ITALY: NMR, A (Apu) sta. (Wilson Aitken)

TURKEY: F (BLA) sta, A (Ank)-Arm, A (Con)-Bul, A (Rum)-Gal, (Ken Williams) A (Bud) S A (Tri)-Vic, A (Tri)-Vic*, A (Alb)-Ser, F (Gre)-Alb, F (AES)-Gre.

Retreats: Turkish A (Tri) annihilated

I have a draw proposal. 1st equal France and England, 2nd Turkey and fourth Italy. Votes for next time please, no-votes count in favour.

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NGC 203 (1976 IS) SPRING 1910 NGC 203 (1976 IS) SPRING 1910

THE GM IS NOT PLEASED.....

FRANCE: Has F (GOL), F (Lon), F (Cly), F (HRL). (Anarchy)

GERMANY: F (Kie)-Den, F (Ber)-BAL. (Chris Side)

ITALY: NMR! Has A (Arm), A (Mun), F (ION), F (ENG), F (IRI), (Barry McManus) F (MAO), F (MS), F (TYS), A (Liv), A (Ukr), A (Eur), A (Mun), A (Ruh), A (Hol), A (Sil).

RUSSIA: Has F (Swe), A (StP), A (War), F (AEG). (Anarchy)

Draw proposal, Germany 1st, Italy second, and Germany and Italy = 1st. Votes next time please, no votes count in favour.

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NGC 210 (1977 DK) SPRING 1908 NGC 210 (1977 DK) SPRING 1908

ENGLAND: NMR, Has F (Por), F (Spa.sc), F (MAO), F (NAO), F (Jal), (Mike Allaway) A (Cly), A (Edi)

GERMANY: A (Mos) S A (War)-Ukr, A (War)-Ukr, A (Gal) S A (Tyr)-Vic, (Bob Lloyd) A (Boh) S A (Tyr)-Vic, A (Tyr)-Vic, A (Mun)-Tyr, A (Fie) S A (Apu)-Ven, A (Apu)-Ven, A (Gas)-Bre, F (Hol)-Bel, F (BAL) sta.

RUSSIA: NMR, Has F (AES), A (Con), A (Rum), F (BLA), A (Ukr)*. (Barry McManus)

ITALY: F (MS)-Tun, F (TYS) sta, F (Nap)-Apu, A (Ven)*S F (Nap)-Apu, (Ken Williams) A (Rom) S F (Nap)-Apu, F (Gre)-AES, A (Vic) sta*, A (Bud) S RUSSIAN A (Rum)-Gal, A (Tri) S A (Vic).

Retreats: Russian A (Ukr) disbanded, NMR, Italian A (Vic) annihilated, Italian A (Ven)-Tus.

((It's now Sunday afternoon and things are getting desperate. Last night's Poker, clearing up after etc, meant I didn't get to sleep until nine this morning, and although the game was interesting (the only time I have gone over a hundred down, won it all back, lost it again and won it all back again), I'm knackered. Still, I'll do my best.))

GH Brunner (1978 ??) SPRING 1902 GH Brunner (1978 ??) SPRING 1902

FLIGHT HITS EVEN NEWEST GAME

GH Can't Understand It. Delayed jet-lag?

AUSTRIA: F (Gre) S ITALIAN F (IOS)-AES, A (Ser)-Rum, A (Bud) S A (Ser)-Rur (Leo Adamson) A (Vic)-Gal, A (Tri)-Ser.

ENGLAND: NRO, Has F (BAR), F (NTH), A (Yor). (Wilson Aitken)

FRANCE: A (Pic) S A (Par)-Bur, A (Par)-Bur, A (Spa)-Gas, F (Mar)-Spa(sc), (Chris Side) F (Cor)-MAO.

GERMANY: F (Don) sta, A (Hol) S A (Ruh)-Bel, A (Ruh)-Bel, A (Kie)-Ruh, (Andy Evans) A (Nun) S A (Kie)-Ruh.

ITALY: A (Tyr)-Tri, A (Ven) S A (Tyr)-Tri, A (Tun)-Alb, (Shaun Derrick) F (ION) C A (Tun)-Alb.

RUSSIA: NRO! F (Swe) A (Mos), F (Rum)* A (Gal), A (Var), F (StP.nc) (Eric Willis) all stand unordered.

TURKEY: NRO! Has F (AES), A (Bul), A (Con), F (Smy). (Julian White)

Retreats: Russian F (Rum) disbanded, NRO. Please note Russia built A (Var) rather than A (Mos) last Autumn. Bloody provisional orders, mutter, mutter: grumble, grumble.....

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SNEEPIES

Right, that's it, then. I'm holding over the NGC 191P game summary because I have heard nothing from any of the players. Come on, boys, surely there's something you can remember about the game!

Waiting list is still Les Tassell, Tom Tweedy. Come on lads, £1, no deposit, three season game year (did I say that?) I mean two season game year, no standbys.

In last issue I mentioned 190laat reaching issue 100, and said it was the first British zine to do so. I can only put this down to a temporary aberration, in that I trade with Courier, and have just received issue 169! Still, it got me a plug in Courier, so maybe it was a clever ploy.

Letters: (well, why not?) J.P.R. Palfrey:

((About Eurocon)) 1. I presume you object to 'throwing everybody together' because of the problems of people going to sleep at different times. Personally, I'm biased because I had no difficulty sleeping this year, although I usually went to bed early, with the light on, people singing loudly downstairs, and the rest of my dorm gradually finding their way to bed later in the night. Once I get to sleep I tend to stay that way. Thus I prefer using one large house to using two separated houses - last year it was an inconvenience to have to walk back and forth, and there is some loss of efficiency in not knowing what's going on at the other house (you might like to join in if you knew what they were doing).

What is useful is to secure sleeping accommodation in the form of many small rooms rather than few large rooms. This provides some degree of sound insulation and minimises the disturbance caused by people going to bed and getting up at different times - and coughing. Maybe we should give Chris Tringham a room to himself next year. He was the only person who managed to wake me up during the night.

((The amazement of this achievement is that Jonathan is such a heavy sleeper that he once slept through a coup in Africa, during which his next-door neighbours were shot.))

2. More women by all means, but I don't think there are any grounds for imposing a no-women rule. Why would you want to do such a thing? I don't think you would get anyone to agree to it.

As for 'exploitation'. I suppose in a sense it's exploitation to let people do what they volunteer to do - exploiting their willingness. But if they dislike being 'exploited' in this way all they have to do is stop volunteering, surely not very difficult. On the other hand, if somebody is truly willing to do something, it doesn't make sense to take them away and substitute some one who is less willing.

Still, I suppose some kind of rota system is a good idea, if only to stop people sitting around wondering uneasily whether they ought to volunteer or not. Incidentally, your memories of last year conflict with mine - I believe they operated some kind of rota down at the mill, but I don't think we had such a thing at the Maison d'Eglise.

3. I agree that 28 people were perhaps a little unmanageable this year. Possibly, had Richard been present, we would have seen a bit more organisation around the place. As it was, everyone seemed reluctant to take the initiative. I mean, when you see me organizing tournaments, you can immediately diagnose the rest of the party as suffering from acute lack of initiative.

I also wished I'd joined more shopping expeditions: the house wine we ended up with was rarely adequate in either quantity or quality. It was ludicrous to me to see people knocking back this cheap vinegar and then passing round their own bottles of expensive spirits. One doesn't have to pay the earth to get wine which is drinkable; surely it's false economy to buy the cheapest bottle merely because it's cheapest.

I don't think the mere presence of 28 people caused serious difficulties this year, though it would have helped if the 28 had included more people with organizational energy. What problems can you identify as being so severe as to justify excluding people?

4. I agree that Eurocon is better described merely as a holiday. I don't like to feel that I have to sit down and get on with a game as soon as I arrive, and obviously we don't spend the whole time playing games. Mind you, in the second week at least I played quite a few games, and enjoyed doing so.

I think you're rather sensitive about people who 'don't fit in'. In my experience, when there is a minority which 'doesn't fit in' with a group, it's the minority that suffers as the majority brushes them aside.

People can generally be ignored unless they make a real nuisance of themselves, in which case you can call on the support of the group to curb their behaviour.

((Birks interposes a little. 1. The thing about women was badly written. I never seriously proposed 'no women', it was meant to be a rhetoric emphasis that the holiday needs to be more family-oriented. 2. The thing about volunteering is reflected in what you said about the wine. I didn't mind going to get the wine from Buzet (40 miles away) or even from going back again on the Saturday afternoon (when it was shut) but I didn't feel like going again. Now, having performed that service, I feel (wrongly, perhaps) that someone else should 'repay' my contribution by offering to go. But nobody did. When things need doing more than once, I'll usually volunteer to do my share, but I expect other people to do theirs, and when they don't, I get a bit irked. Last holiday the wine was one example concerning me, but there were others (washing-up?) not concerning me (I hasten to add I got out of washing up by (a) mainly eating out and (b) cooking a meal.))

((No room for the rest of the letter on SF, Johnathan, I'll try to not lose the letter and print it next time.))

Don Turnbull: Glad you enjoyed Eurocon - I met Bill Howard just after his return and he said it had gone pretty well. I had thoughts of signing up for next year, but your mention of having spent £400 soon put a stop to that. Offering comment on your suggestions for next year, I agree entirely with most of what you say and would support you, if you need any support, in the 'invitation-only' idea. Part of the reason that kept me away was the fact that it was in France; I simply can't manage two weeks

in England, let alone overseas. But perhaps others are better placed in this respect. I do know that June would never come on such an occasion because she wants a holiday, not being tied down to cooking and the like - I wonder if that explains the lack of female company this time? As you say, the important thing is to decide whether it is to be a holiday, with games on the side, or a games gathering with a holiday thrown in. If the former, then it sounds to me as if the catering aspects (and/or the expense of eating out) might put some wives off. If the latter, then (a) France, and (b) Sussex are probably unnecessary.

((This is exactly the thing I keep trying to avoid. June would be most welcome, if she wanted to come, and would not be expected to do any more of the cooking/cleaning than anyone else on the holiday. If there's one thing that annoyed em about Karen and Claire, is that they insisted on being 'housewives' even though they were on holiday, and it was bloody well impossible to stop them! (not, of course, that anyone tried too hard).

I don't think there's much doubt now that Eurocon is a holiday with games thrown in, and wives should not be put off by the catering. As to the expense of eating out, it depends how much you want to enjoy yourself on holiday and how much money you are prepared to spend doing so. Five quid a night for two weeks is fine by me (and that was more than I actually spent on average on evening meals) if it means no washing up, good service, nice house wine and real French food. Others, though, do not put such a high priority of what goes into their stomach, and would rather eat at home. Fine, so long as they are prepared to contribute to the trouble of preparing it and washing it up. (Nothing is so galling as to prepare a meal at Eurocon and to have some of the people treat the food as they would restaurant food. Still, c'est la vie...))

Malcolm Shaw: Incidentally I won the Reversi final, not Tony, so I don't know how he managed to win the Victor Ludorum. I don't know if I would be on anyone's list for the next Eurocon but I promise to do the washing-up every day, would that help?

((See!))

Adrien Baird: Thank you for Le Fracas Le Plus Grand: a truly monumental piece of fiction! A few points arise with which I hope you have the capacity to deal:-

1) I did manage to get out of that chair eventually (is that a tautology?) 'Just be sceptical', I said to myself 'that the ground is really there'. And I got up, thus demonstrating what can be achieved by scepticism.

2) Your thoughts on Eurocon were interesting. I still think the decision about 'who gets the invitations' will prove difficult - after all how can you avoid pre-judgement? Surely less prejudice not more is your standpoint (of course, in those cases when I believe you have a standpoint). Still, I believe your argument is basically sound.

James O'Fee: Congratulations on your effective and amusing demolition job on my character. But beware the ancient Celtic curse that attaches itself to all who tangle with Clan Fee! Be mindful of the fate of Tony Crouch. He has WRred in two zines, failed to produce Phubovia and become engaged to be married - three major disasters in the space of a few days. Draw back now before it is too late!

And so we come to the end of one of the shortest, and most disappointing (for me) issues of GH for some time. I hope the duplication comes out OK, but I have a horrible feeling it will not. Next issue is no. 50, so anyone who cares to write, compliment, congratulate or contribute to that rather special issue, please do so. And also note that the deadline for the quiz in issue 47 is one week before the deadline for the games, so try and get them in by then so I can type up a fair bit in advance.

End of page, Deadline Friday October 6th, first post: This has been GH 49 produced by Pete Birks, 39 Handforth Road, London, England, S19 0LL, phone 01-735-4220.

Up against the wall.