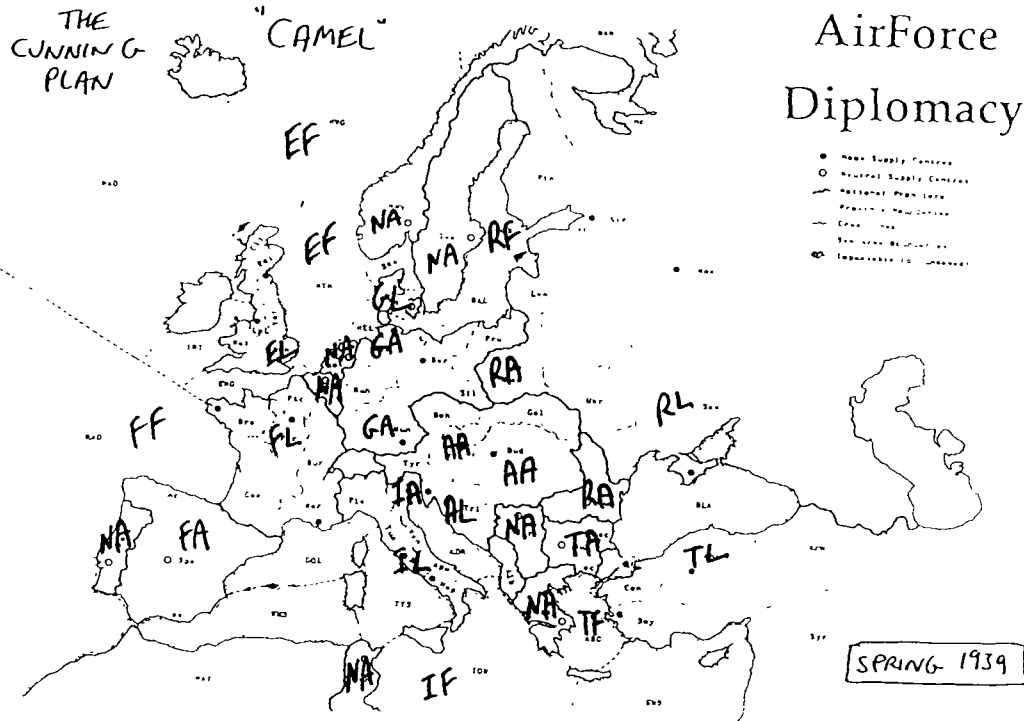


The Cunning Plan II

Neil Duncan, 10 Anstey Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 3JG



See page 6
for game 1
report

EDS BIT

Well folks, what can I say.... about the launch of TCP, as it was about as cunning as an aged fox following a particularly bad attack of alzheimers disease! To describe its launch we must reserve phrases such as 'lock up', 'Utter cock up' and 'F*****g phenominal cock up!'. I can only say sorry and hope that it doesn't happen again. I will of course don sackcloth and ashes for the requisit number of weeks.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES...

Given the lateness of the appearance of Aor/TCP, and then the delays in getting the zine to the subbers. And then given the fact that my original deadline had been left as several days BEFORE even the first sodding zine was sent out, it is hardly surprising that I got very little feedback. I did get orders for CAMEL and 17 sets of orders for BARMY BATTLESHIPS round one. I also got a few comments so all in all I'm quite pleased. As these comments were merely included in letters/orders I would have got anyway, I don't think I could get away with anything even loosely described as a 'letters column', save for the one below:

- A
- B
- C
- D

Well that was a hilarious pun, I bet you're all splitting your sides laughing right now.

FEEDBACK

With the exception of the orders mentioned above I had comments on two issues. The first was the general content and appearance of TCP. Four people made some positive remarks, the gist of which was that TCP has potential. Two others made mention of ALIENS 3 - the review. Both said that they had no need to watch it as reviews in general said it was crap. Also I had given away the whole plot! Had the film been worth seeing I would definately not said as much as I did. One of the naive little readers also expressed surprise and curiosity as to what a "film review" was doing in a "Wargame fanzine!" - Oh dear - thats the last time I lend

my auntie Maud a copy of Aor! Only kidding chaps. It was of course included because I had been lead to believe that there are a fair number of Sci-Fi buffs in the hobby and I had hoped to generate a couple of "Too right buddy" or "Burn the heretic!" type letters just to get a letters column started. Perhaps I should lay into Japanese tapestry or homemade jam making next...

MISSING PRESUMED DEAD

Anyway, I waffle. Now for a brief mench of the bits which got no response. These include memories of notable events in games, both postal or ftf, Diplomacy, variants or otherwise. (To the wag who asked if I were interested in this game of snap he once played I have just got two words for you and the second one is 'off!') I have had no firm commitments on any of the variant waiting lists, although two people have asked for copies of the Airforce Dip rules with the view to giving AIRSTRIKE a go. My fingers are firmly crossed! I've had no essays on a better scenario for an Aliens 3 film. But on the plus side no-one has written to complain about TCP. This is definately a case of no news being good news - I am working on the principle that silence signals assent!

CONTENTS:

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CAMEL spring 1939 report	page 6.
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THE REAL HONEST TO GOODNESS DEADLINE IS :-

WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 1993

ALL CAMEL, BARMY BATTLESHIP ORDERS, PLUS ANY LETTERS, ARTICLES, ABUSE & LARGE SUMS OF MONEY TO NEIL DUNCAN AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS

SMODNOC No.44, October 1992, 52 pages of A5, stapled booklet, costs 80p inc first class postage, it includes 7 subzines and I believe runs to a 5 week deadline. Available from Toby Harris, 6 Durham terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR3 1BW.

As always a pretty packed edition and at 52 pages there must be something for everyone. The zine opens up with a contents page, (a must for a zine of this size), plus some general subs/GM addresses and waiting lists. These include Diplomacy, Cluedo, Hare & Tortoise, Fair means of foul, Chaos II Dip, £10 puzzle, Gunboat, 1830 & 1853, acquire Railway rivals, fictionary dictionary, El Gordo, Sopwith, United, Mornington Crescent, Designer Dice and Civilization. This is followed by a page and a half editorial, some zine reviews, a review of castlecon 1992, 4 pages of letters. Next there are the subzines; NOVELTY from David Tittle, BLACK JELLY BABIES from Adam Harris, MAPPA MUNDI PLC from John Wilman, AMNESIA EXPRESS from Simon Cutforth, THE BLUE NOSE SPECIAL from John Colledge, TOBOLD THE IVISHTIBLE from Dave Tant and CHESS from Brian Frew. Games included in the previous are; Designer Dice, Punters, Mornington Crescent, United, Chess, El Gordo, Gunboat, £5 puzzle, 1830, Mercator XIV, a couple of games which I don't know the name of, Fictionary Dictionary, Sopwith, Stratego, Cluedo, Speed Circuit, Fair means or Foul, Hare and Tortoise, 5 Italies Dip, Chaos II and finally a £10 puzzle - 38 pages in all, over 70% of the zine.

This is a games players mag and no doubt about it. The fast turn-around should give a good four weeks for Diplomacy which will appeal to many. With all the subzines and outside GMs, the organisation and logistics must be pretty good. This has to be reassuring in these days of folds and merges. Any potential subber may also comfort themselves with the knowledge that Toby the Smodnoc editor is a bit of a legend in his own lifetime. (I suppose this might also be a drawback!)

My own feeling is that perhaps the games/rest ratio is a bit too games heavy. Games are fine, Dip & variants I always examine just to see whos playing where and how well they are doing... but at the end of the day unless you are actually playing in the games you tend to spend more time on the rest. I would like to see more letters, more hobby news more zine reviews and more general articles of any kind. When I consider the number of times the name 'Toby Harris' seems to crop up in all the other zines I read, I'd of thought this quite feasible.

I know that old Willy Shake-Wotsit said, "Whats in a name?", but why condoms backwards? (Why not Xerud or Setam?)

ELECTRIC MONK No.41, October 1992, 28 pages compressed text A5 stapled booklet. 5/6 week deadlines (I believe) costs 46p plus postage from Madeline and Andy Key, 144 Perrinsfield, Venymore, Lechlade, Gloucs, GL7 3SE.

A very neatly presented zine which makes a good first impression. Having heard much (but seen nothing) of the 'font diahorrea' is GIGO, I'm surprised that EM hasn't suffered the same fate. There are loads of them and its a little distracting, but perhaps I am easily distracted. The zine kicks off with a 2 page editorial, 2 pages of hobby news, plus an interesting book review, if not a little long at 3 pages. The letter column is 4 pages followed by 15 pages of games with include; Sopwith, Dip, Bourse, Crossword games, Hols Der Geier and Poesiemeister. Also buried with-in were the rules for postal Boules. For some strange reason The back page is general info with waiting lists for: Dip, Hols Der Geier, Crossword and Lechlade Halt. Lifeboat has a gamestart.

I was a bit disturbed to be reading a sentence in the editorial which said, "Shame its three weeks after the deadline", it caused me to double-take. I assume that this is an abhorration and not the norm for EM. I am not a speed merchant but that does seem a tad tardy even by my book. I feel my enjoyment of the editorial was spoilt by me not actually knowing the eds, but since that is the case for most potential subbers its probably worth noting. Hobby news was ok but I felt that too low a profile was given to the publication you are now reading - MISSION FROM GOD. I would certainly advise flyers in loads of zines asking for reviewers rather than just a couple of lines in EM. The letter col is pretty good, its not too heavy and I feel that Andy and Madi are quite entertaining - I do hate pages of letters without some feedback good, bad or indifferent from the eds to make it more conversational. I would however drop all references to jam.

I can't comment on how well the games are run, but it looks like you'll get a fair selection to choose from. Having got to page 14 and seen the heading 'NOT MP 161' it has just dawned on me that this could well mean, 'Not Mad Policy 161' from Richard Walkerdine a well known name in the hobby. I guess that this is a subzine. Could the same be true of 'TOMS BIT' (From Tom Tweedy?) Whilst EM has a cleaner look than SMODNOC and a bit more text, I would certainly put it in the same gamer category, but with the disadvantage of the deadline to doormat delay.

DOLCHSTOB No.168, October 1992, 28 A5 pages compressed text, stapled booklet. 75p inc post, 5 week deadlines from Richard Sharp, Norton House, Whielden Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0HU.

This is a zine and an editor who get mentioned a lot, which inspired me to investigate and if nothing else at least I would know what everyone else was on about. As the soul producer of hobby stats (at the moment), with my interest in such things, to sub was obvious. Firstly, what do you get in Db? Opens up with a contents page, 2 page editorial, 12 pages of letters, 12 pages of games (mostly Dip) but with a bit of bridge thrown in for variety. It ends with the general info/subs/waiting lists bit, lists open for Dip only. Whilst I am a variant fan myself I see nothing wrong with a Dip-only zine, as there are those who are only interested in Dip.

I hope to play a game of Dip in Db one day, and until that day there is only one thing keeping me subbing and that is the letter column. Its very long and mostly stuff which I am interested in. I must mention that this issue contained a completely brilliant letter attacking government economic policy by Paul Waide. I had to read it several times and go green with envy, wishing that I could write so coherently and knowledgebly. I gather that Richard is a bit right wing, so I was pleased that he was unable to counter any of the points raised in the letter. Oops, mustn't get bogged down in politics.

The editorial is well written but had nothing to interest me and if I weren't reviewing it for MFG I wouldn't have read it at all. But thats cool, I sub to 20+ zines and don't expect to like every item of every issue of every zine. What I would take issue with is the almost total lack of hobby news, and the complete absence of zine reviews or reference to other zines outside the letter col. I don't know if Richard is genuinely not interested in the rest of the hobby, or if he's pretending it doesn't exist or he wants to avoid feuds, but its a little unnerving to a sensitive fellow like myself. I guess this black hole makes it a Dip games players mag. Not recommended for the non-serious player or those wishing a little light reading at bedtime.

BOREALIS No.10, October 1992, 16 pages A5 of compressed text, stapled booklet, 30p inc postage (but price rise due soon!) 5/6 week deadlines, available from: Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester-Le-Street, Co Durham, DF2 1TQ.

At the time of writing the zine has a readership of about 40, around 16 of these are editors themselves which seems a significant proportion. It is probably not fair to review Borealis now as it is due to under-go a change with the adoption of AC-MONG as a sub-zine in the new year. So whilst this review will be out-of-date as soon as its published, I feel that the proposed adoption will only improve what is already a good zine.

Borealis is reknown for having that lived in look, which has made it very popular with its small but loyal following. The amateurish appearance serves only to increase its appeal. Keywords to describe both the zine and its editor Ian Harris are friendly and unassuming. Not a mag for dtp freaks, but for quizzes, games and a bit of chat it could be your first port of call.

The zine opens with an editorial, followed by a page of hobby news, a couple of pages of letter clips. Next ther are two pages of the regular 'toolbox' item, where variants, new games and other miscellaneous rule issues are discussed. 8 pages of games, followed by a quiz, a puzzle and some general zine info. The games include; Masterpiece, Diplomacy, Okey Dokey Dip (which has a wrap around board), Gunboat, Fave Comedian poll, Sea of Despair (which is a brilliant all reader game which one gets a chance to get revenge on any one who has offended you), Golden Strider(?), Sopwith and Caverns of Infinity (a text fantasy adventure). Waiting lists are; Deluge(possibly), Active Neutrals, Random Power Dip, Off Board Dip, Gunboat, Formula 1, Railway Rivals, Nuclear-Chemical Dip and good old fashioned no nonsense regular Dip.

Quibble corner now; firstly I am not one of your fanatics for a rapid turn-a-round, but around half the issues I have had, have been late. I know this may not be entirely Ians' fault, but it is an organisational weakness. This is only an intermitant problem and the prospective subber should not feel put off. Borealis is a great little zine, and as the cost is so low you can afford to get a few issues to check it out.

OTHER ZINES SEEN:

- ODE 140 (01/12/92); John Marsden, 33 Weston Rd, Strood, Kent, ME2 3HA.
Y DDRAIG GOCH 68 (01/12/92); see elsewhere for contact address.
AGE of REASON 12 (04/12/92);
SPRING OFFENSIVE 7 (04/12/92); see elsewhere for details
MARK NELSON EXPERIENCE Vol 1 Iss 8 (04/12/92); Mark Nelson, 21 Cecil Mount, Armley, Leeds, West Riding, LS12 2AP.
ARFLE BARFLE GLOOP 47 (07/12/92); Kris & Michelle Morris, 293 Barn Mead, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6SY.
U BEND 16 (10/12/92); Harry Bond, 13 Merrivale Road, Stafford, ST17 9EB.
CUT & THRUST 112 (11/12/92); Derek Wilson, 6 Caldbeck Dr, Woodley, Reading, Berks, RG6 4LA.
LIES 3 (15/12/92); Bill O'Neill, 57 Britten Drive, Gt Malvern, Worcs WR14 3LG.
A LITTLE ORIGINAL SIN 15 (16/12/92); Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Road, London N15.
ELECTRIC MONK 43/MAD POLICY 161 (?) (17/12/92) address elsewhere.
SMODNOC 46 (17/12/92); address elsewhere.
GALLIMAUFRY 126 (18/12/92); Steve Doubleday, Norton House, 46 Whielden St, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0HU.
SIDEWALK 11 (19/12/92); Mike Clark, Auchtydore, Longside, Petershead, Grampian, AB42 7YL.
THE LAUGHING ROUNDHEAD 6 (19/12/92); Duncan Adams, 5 Hedge End, East Hansbury, Northampton, NN3 2PQ.
DOLCHSTOB 170 (21/12/92); address elsewhere.
SPRINGBOARD 62 (22/12/92); Danny Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1JG.
C'EST MAGNIFIQUE 121 (22/12/92); Peter Sullivan, 55 Brunton Street, Darlington County Durham, DL1 4EN.
MARK NELSON EXPERIENCE Vol 1 Iss 9 (24/12/92); address above.
MOPSY 91 (24/12/92); Bryan Betts, 5 St Frances Rd, Denham Green, Middlesex, UB9 5JS.
AC MONG 49 (30/12/92); To become a subzine in Borealis after issue 50.
ASSASSINS HANDBOOK 4 (30/12/92); John Morgan, 40 Millside, Culvers Ave Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 2BO.

THE NON-DIPLOMACY ZINE POLL

by Dave Neunham

I have received a voting form but I regret that I shalln't be participating. I am a postal Diplomacy (and variants) player. I have on occasion tried other postal games but have yet to find one that I enjoy and thus my interest lies in Diplomacy. The Poll is billed as the British Postal Diplomacy Zine Poll, which it isn't! Consider:

1. A zine is eligible if it has run one game of diplomacy. Many postal games zines are running/have run one game of Diplomacy since it is one amongst many postal games. This fact does not make them Diplomacy oriented zines.
2. Zine eligibility section ii) allows zines who have not even run, or started a game of Diplomacy to be eligible. I would argue that new zines that started publishing toward the end of 1992 and have as yet not started their first Diplomacy game should not be eligible. They are so new that a realistic vote is not possible since one has not received enough issues to be able to make a valid judgement on them. The meritoriousness of their intentions toward running Diplomacy is not an issue since the vote should be a comparison of the Diplomacy zines.
3. Whilst I applaud the exclusion of service zines, the same should apply to "chat" zines (section iii)). Service and chat zines are a good and integral part of the Hobby and may merit a sub-section of the vote which is devoted exclusively to this type of zine. However, they are not "Postal Diplomacy Zines" and should be excluded from the main vote.

All-in-all then, this is the British Postal-Games Zine Poll! I am not qualified to comment on the postal-games scene since my interest is almost exclusively in Diplomacy.

One other aspect disturbs me. Quote: "You may vote for as many zines as you see regularly". This definition is so broad as to be meaningless. It opens the path for vote rigging which must throw the results of the Poll open to doubt. Two examples to illustrate. You want the your favourite zine to get a high place, so you get your wife, two sons and parents to sign a form! During the year you got 3 issues of a zine which you disliked, so you deliberately give it a very

low vote (and get your family to do the same?). Whilst I accept that measures are (probably) taken to alleviate this situation, such votes must have an effect on the overall positions of the zines. A Voter Eligibility criteria is necessary.

All very well to criticise but how is it to be done? I suggest that for the British Postal Diplomacy Zine Poll:

1. To be eligible for inclusion 25% of the games being played/that have been played in a zine must be/have been Diplomacy or a variant.
2. An individual must be "on the subscription list" of the zines for which he/she is entitled to vote. NOTE: this definition would include non-playing subbers, traders and freebies.

I appreciate that No: 2 above would require Editors to submit a subscription list to the pollster but any Editor that has so little interest in the poll that he couldn't be bothered to do so; can have no complaint if his subbers are excluded from the poll. I also agree that this suggestion would involve more activity from the pollster but surely well worth the effort to get a realistic evaluation of the popularity of the various Diplomacy zines.

CAMEL/AIRFORCE DIPLOMACY - - SPRING 1939 - -

A: Andrew Moss L(Tri) hold. A(Vie) - Gal. A(Bud) S
RUSSIAN A(Sev) - Rum.

E: Andy Mansell F(Lon) - NTH, F(Edi) - NWS. L(Lpl)
- Lon via Yor.

F: Chris Latimer F(Bre) - MAO, A(Mar) - Spa.
L(Par) S A(Mar) - Spa via Gas.

G: Richard Popleston A(Mun) hold. A(Kie) S L(Ber)
- Den, L(Ber) - Den via Kie.

I: Andrew Davies A(Ven) hold. L(Rom) S A(Vie).
F(Nap) - ION.

R: Ludger Wilmott F(StPsc) - GOB, A(War) - Gal.
A(Sev) - Rum. L(Mos) - Sev.

T: Jonathon Barber F(Swy) - AEG, A(Con) - Bul.
L(Ank) S A(Con) - Bul via Con.

RIGGLES SAYS: Wat no press again? What a boring lot you are. I shall have to put something myself. (i) The initial for AirForce is 'L' and not 'AF'. (ii) The deadline for your autumn 1939 orders is WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 1993! Please don't forget all your builds, disbands and retreats. (iii) Please note a COA FOR RICHARD POPPLESTON. TO:- 15 Sevenoaks Crescent, Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3FW.

THE CUNNING PLAN - WAITING LISTS

Holy Roman Empire: 7 wanted.

1939 III: 6 wanted.

AirForce Dip: 6 or 7 wanted depending on the board used.

AirStrike: 6 or 7 depending on the board used.

Its a pity TCP II was typed on about 9 different computers but thats technology for you. Please get everything to me by Wednesday 3rd Feb 1993 at:- 10 Amstey Close Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3JG. cheers!



Neil D.

Hobby News December 1992

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

What's all this then? It's a new monthly round-up of happenings in the Postal Games Hobby, that's what

One of the points that has emerged from the discussions about the 'Future of the Hobby' is that zine editors do not trade as widely as was once the case (for perfectly sound financial reasons), and as a consequence the hobby is perhaps less cohesive. This venture is simply intended to help improve communication in the hobby. It is NOT a subscription zine, and will never expand beyond the two sides of A4 that you see before you

This is being funded by Midcon, and will be sent to all editors, organizers of cons, and anyone else running a hobby service. Editors are not under any obligation to do anything, but obviously trade copies would be appreciated. What we do want is information - about cons, hobbynets, new zines, or anything that is likely to be of general interest

There will also be space for comments or suggestions, though the aim is to remain neutral and non-controversial as far as that is possible

The information provided here is available for editors to use as they think fit - we are happy for you to simply copy this and send it out with your zine, or you can incorporate this material in with your own hobby news section.

If you want a copy of this on an IBM PC 3½" diskette in ASCII or any of the popular Word-Processing formats, or on Amstrad PCW disks, this can be arranged (though we'd like the disks back afterwards!). Similarly, material can be accepted in any of these formats. 5¼" diskettes are not currently supported.

MIDCON

Midcon 92: Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham
13-15th November 1992

Chris Tringham (organizer). If there were a *Glady's* for 'Most Improved Hotel Management', it would be a walkover for the Royal Angus. In the three years since they last hosted Midcon, it seems to have dawned on them that having 120+ people in your hotel for three days is preferable to being virtually empty. They have also realised that serving good food at reasonable prices is not only possible, it is also successful!

The only problem suffered by this year's Midcon was a fall in numbers of about 20 people. The recession is obviously partly to blame, but better publicity must also be the answer

The National Diplomacy Champion 1992 is Julien Shepley

The Midcon Quiz was won by 'Thin Home NMR' (Geoff Challinger, Brian Creese, Paul Oakes)

The Midcon Subbutco Champion is Gary Lyon

The Midcon Golf Classic was won by David Wreathall

A provisional date of 19th-21st November 1993 has been set for the next Midcon, back at the Angus. Rates have not been finalised, but until the end of the year registration is available for £8 from Brian Williams, 30 Rydding Lane, Millfields Estate, West Bromwich, B71 2HA

The Future of the Hobby

A discussion on this subject took place on the Saturday evening at Midcon. It was well attended, with about 20 people there for at least part of the time, and was very amiable, if slightly chaotic

There was general agreement that there are a good number of people out there who would be interested if only they knew what the hobby had to offer, that the hobby could absorb a reasonable influx of new people, and that it might even stimulate the appearance of new zines

The subject of advertising was discussed, particularly in relation to the success that Stephen Agar and Andrew Moss have had (attracting about 70 new players to the hobby). There is money available from the 'Hobby Development Fund' and from Midcon, and some of this could be spent on advertising, though obviously we need to agree how to deal with the enquiries we get

Danny Collman will continue to deal with the responses to the Diplomacy box flyers, and arrange a first game in *Springboard* as at present

Stephen Agar is expecting to get more response from his advertising that he can deal with in *Spring Offensive*, and will attempt to place the surplus in other zines. If this approach is successful it could be used for dealing with response to all the Hobby advertising

Steve and Danny will co-operate on a new Introductory Package that will even-handedly describe the various options that are available. Ian Bowen will help John Dodds to update the Novice Package

It was suggested that the names and addresses of people who have joined the hobby through the box flyers or other advertising should be made available to all editors, so that anyone who wants new players or subscribers could send sample zines out to them. Printing this information is another function that *Hobby News* could perform

THE POSTAL DIPLOMACY ZINE POLL

A final call for your votes, to be sent to Ian Bowen, 5 Wigginton Terrace, York YO3 7JD, by 31st December

FRENCH DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th February 1993 in Paris. A 3 round Diplomacy championship, and miniature wargames (I think) Organized by the Federation Francaise des Jeux de Diplomatie et de Strategie, 11 rue Molière 75001 Paris. John Dodds is the UK contact.

BAYCON

Baycon is back at the Exeter Court Hotel again from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th April (the week after Easter). This is a smallish convention aimed at the family market, and is a relaxed event in a motel near Exeter with a couple of good pubs nearby. Further details can be obtained from Bob Mulholland, 66 Magdalen Road, Exeter EX2 4TN.

FURRYCON

The 3rd Furrycon will take place over the Spring bank holiday weekend 28th to 31st May (Friday to Monday) at the Old Ship Hotel in Brighton. Rates are £28.75 per person per night for a shared room, or £39.50 for a single, plus a £10 convention fee.

It features an En Garde! campaign and the Intergame UK general games tournament (qualifier for Essen). It takes place in a good hotel in a splendid location, with plenty to do if you get bored with the con, which makes it ideal for non-gamers as well. More details from Small Furry Creatures Press at 42 Wyndale Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DX.

MANORCON

The 11th Manorcon will take place at High Hall, Birmingham University from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th July 1993. You are advised to book a room rather than take a chance on there being one available on the day.

Manorcon is the home of the National Team Diplomacy Championships in which teams of seven players take part, each team member playing a different country. It also hosts the "British Individual Championship", which is a now a three round event (the Team event being one).

Diplomacy is only one aspect of Manorcon and its many other tournaments include Railway Rivals, 18xx games, Acquire, Bridge, Croquet, Diplomacy variants, Kingmaker, Soccerleague and United. There's also 5-a-side soccer, and maybe even American Football.

Accommodation costs £19 per night (sharing) or £20 per person per night (single) and registration is £10. More information from Richard Walkerdine, 6 Honeybone Way, Wickwar, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 8PF.

Computerised 1830

Christian Götz has developed a computer program that deals with the book-keeping for 1830. It will run on any PC, and the only drawback is that it's all in German and we don't have the source. It is public domain, so if you want a copy just send a blank formatted disk. It seems to work very well, with only a few very minor bugs, and certainly speeds up the end game in particular.

HOBBYMEETS/GAMES CLUBS

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, normally on the second Sunday of the month, at noon. Contact Ian Bowen (0904 640095) or Pete Sullivan (0609 777074).

LONDON. The Royal George, Eversholt Street, near Euston station. 2nd Wednesday of the month. Contact Vic Hall (081 802 5091) or Mike Allaway (081 863 6413).

RIPLEY, near Woking, normally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, but the date may vary according to the availability of the regulars - check with Dame Maslen (0483 721856). Starts with a curry then moves to a pub.

BRISTOL. The Knowle, Knowle. 1st Friday of the month. Paul Norris (0272 427061) or Richard Egan (0272 774460).

FAREHAM: Richard Williams (0329 236125) organizes a get-together at his house, on the 2nd Sunday of even-numbered months from 10 am. Next one is December 13th.

BRIGHTON. Stephen Agar (0273 562430) is trying to organize something on Sunday 18th January 1993.

HOBBY SERVICES

The Central Gamestart Service is run by Danny Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B32 1JG. Danny's own zine *Springboard* gives you a chance to play in a trial game of Diplomacy with the opportunity to drop out with no hard feelings.

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 is the most comprehensive listings zine around, giving details such as addresses, prices etc. and comments on virtually every zine published in this country. £1 from Andy Key and Madelaine Smith, 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.

Rules Bank. Mike Siggins has a collection of English translations for German games. £29. Ardmore Lane, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5SB.