

The Cunning Plan - XII

NEIL DUNCAN, 25 SARUM HILL, BASINGSTOKE, HANTS, RG21 1SS. - price 50p



EDS BIT

Welcome to another issue. Its not just any issue, it is a first anniversary jobbie. One year ago TCP I limped into existence and it has been all go ever since. To celebrate this, and the fact its Xmas and the New Year, you have a bit of a bumper issue this time. I have tried to stick to the 12 page maximum, but I have been hopeless these past few months. I really must bite the bullet in 1994, or else face calling in the receivers.

You will find a pink thing enclosed, there is more about this on page 10 (I think). No doubt I will get some complaints both from those who have not been included, as well as those who have. If nothing else, it should give you something to do after that one-too-many festive tipples.

I inadvertantly forgot to credit the Britannia bit to anyone, so my thanks to Mark Stretch for writing in, and showing me how to play the game at MidCon. MidCon? Did somebody mention MidCon? Fear not trembling minions you are to be spared a 'dice-throw' by 'dice-throw' account of my trip to MidCon due to lack of space. If however I end up with a gap somewhere I will give you the story in brief. Needless to say I did enjoy myself and agree with Steve Agars' belief that everyone should try to go to at least one Con.

Prior to my sitting down in front of the computer I had a mental list of stuff I wanted to say. However when it gets to it I can't remember a damn thing. One thing I would say, (and funnily enough this is directed to some old hands who should really know better) is; orders, on separate bits of paper please. I have a file per game, orders for each game go in a different file. I won't bore you with a list of all the options I have when faced with multiple orders on one page, but needless to say they could all lead to errors. So please have a heart. (MORE BITS ON PAGE 14.)

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YOUR CREDIT IS:

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NEXT TCP DEADLINE WED 12/01/94

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
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W	O	PD	SB	GT			SA	O	PM		PK			RL	SC	O	AM		NW	MB	CA	O	MD		RM	MB	SC	O	NK				
X		PD	O	GT			SA		PM	SC	SC	SC	SC	RL	SC		AM	O	MB		CA	MD			RM	MB	SC						
Y			PD	GT			SA		PM		O	O	RL	SC		AM	MB	SS	SS	SS	SS	MD				RM	MB	SC					
Z	O			PD	O	GT	O					PM	O	RL	SC		MB										GL	GL	GL	GL			

Name	Co-Ords	Result One	Result Two	Score	Own Stat
Dave Newnham	03, I 04, I	Hit Neil Dixon	, Hit Neil Dixon	9.1	no Hits
Neil Dixon	26, V 25, A	miss	, Hit Mark Stretch	8.1	OUT!
Bob Holliday	31, T 31, W	miss	, miss	8.0	no Hits
Michelle D.	25, A 24, A	Hit Mark Stretch	, Hit Mark Stretch	6.9	OUT!
Mark Stretch	26, V 26, Z	miss	, Hit Michelle D	5.8	3 Hits
James Hardy	24, A 26, Z	Hit Mark Stretch	, Hit Michelle D	5.8	no Hits
Kath Collman	25, A 24, A	Hit Mark Stretch	, Hit Mark Stretch	5.1	1 Hit
Andy Mansell	26, V 26, Z	miss	, Hit Michelle D	5.0	1 Hit

Press:

MD - Graham: Well, yes I think I was actually.
 MD - Mark: Sorry, just clutching at straws really.

Bob - Dave: Sorry beat you to it.
 Bob - Mark: Temptation is the root of all evil, thank god I wasn't tempted.
 Bob - Kath: Never thought I'd end up hitting a woman! Apologies are in order I think.
 Mark - Michelle: Thanks! I'll return the favour.
 Niggles - Bungles: Don't be disgusting! Counting GM errors, 15003, 15004....
 Bungles - Niggles: Don't forget 15005 - letting you play BB!!
 Dave - Neil: Looks like "Kiss me Hardly", to me.
 Dave - Bob: Ah! I see you hit her before us, you woman hater you!
 Annonymouse - Kath: Thats what you get for threats!
 Winner - Mark: You're next!
 JH - ND: Ooops, sorry! Ready when you are for this snog then...
 JH - MD: I'm just checking theres no-one else on the bottom row, honest!
 Good luck in the team Dip by the way.
 Neil - Michelle: Apologies for hitting your ship but I didn't want to leave alone.
 GM - Neil: Apologies not necessary - you missed.

BARMY BATTLESHIPS ROUND 11.

Scores of the dead;

Name	Score
Graham Smith	8.6
Mark Underhay	4.1
Mark Nelson	3.5
Andrew Davies	3.3
Ludger Willmot	2.2
Andrew Moss	1.0
Andrew Reynolds	1.0
Mark Kellett	1.0
Jonathan Barber	1.0
Mike Brian	1.0
Martin Saunders	1.0
Simon Devereux	1.0



THE CUNNING PLAN WAITING LISTS

Std Diplomacy with Plaque Option: Tony Dickinson - 6 wanted.

AirForce Diplomacy: (GM Dave Newnham); Tony Dickinson, Neil Duncan - 5 wanted.

Milan Variant: Bob Holliday, Mark Stretch, Mike Dommett, Keith Smith, Stephen Othen, Tony Dickinson - 1 wanted.

Team Dip: (see TCP X, page 6)
 Allies Captain = Mark Stretch, Neil Duncan, Rosalind Harvey.
 Axis Kaptain = Nick Parish, Bob Holliday, Michelle Duncan.

Italy = Gary Malcolm.
 List full! Gamestart this issue!

Readers Note: Due to the high number of games currently running, no new lists will be open until a couple of games finish.

Letter Column

Mark Stretch (In agreement):

I agree with Gary Malcolms' comments on IQ and Dip. Its quite noticable at Oxford Dip club. Some of the people who come along are very clever but aren't good Dip players eg; Tom Carson, James Handscombe, Nick Parish...

TCP: Is there no depth to which this man won't stoop to ridicule NP?

Gary (someones rattled my cage) Malcolm:

Ulster and Joy; Well Ms Joy "What exactly is the Ulster problem" Hibbert has opened one of her orifices and tried to solve the situation in Ulster by breeding. Her big problem is that she opened the wrong one. I have seen some crap over the years as regards Ulster but she takes the star prize. The British government does not arm the Ulster protestants and in case she had forgotten or more likely never realised the troops were sent there to protect the Catholic population from intimidation. So the problem arises in a generation or two does it, what the hell does she think is happening now, it is life and death time on the streets, or does she think that bombing fishmongers is fair game if they are silly enough to have a family business on the Shankill Road. If the situation arises that the Nationalists are in the majority, then quite possibly Ulster will become part of Eire. The boot will then be on the other foot with the poor outnumbered Loyalists being seen by Joy and her fellow travellers as a worthy band of freedom fighters fighting Irish oppression.

TCP: Phew! Its amazing how two people can read the same few lines in a zine and come away with a different impression. My feeling is that you have over-reacted... somewhat. Now Joy will have to speak for herself (if she so wishes), but I saw the, "the problem arises in a generation or two" sentence as being a touch of irony. Its one thing to have a marginalized minority section of the community with a terrorist element... but clearly when that section becomes a majority, well you ain't seen nothing yet baby. We could see a time where the Shankill Road bomb would be just a minor incident. Don't under estimate the power of 'breeding' (as you put it), I for one reckon its one of the major reasons that the Israelis have started to come to terms with the PLO. They've done their sums and thought "Oh shit! in x years time there are gonna be a damn sight more of them than us!!" I don't know whether government per se are arming the Ulster Protestants, but lets face it it wouldn't be the first (and certainly won't be the last) time that our government arms terrorists. The West has wonderfully confused attitude towards terrorists. The arguments in favour of such an act are perfect for our government, its cheap, its cost effective, why worry about all that tedious trial and possible mis-carriage of justice crap if we can get some hoodlums to blow them away in the name of freedom. Anyway, I'm only speculating, perhaps Joy has some evidence.....?

Gary (somebodies got my goat) Malcolm:

Well Joy must be really going through the laxatives as she has done herself proud yet again. Postal Diplomacy in case she hadn't noticed is a boardgame played by mail (not by male). It does indeed have a preponderance of males but this doesn't make them anti-liberation, anyway, whose liberation is being threatened by whom? I don't feel there is any need for us to make noises about feminists as she makes the best case against feminism

possible every time she rises to the bait and puts pen to paper. What we should all be in favour of is equality of opportunity and that is there within the hobby. If she feels a requirement to fight against imaginary oppression lets just leave her to her own little fantasy world.

TCP: Ok, enough of the light-hearted stuff, lets get down to some really serious issues, like for instance age and America:-

Tony Dickinson:

Joy, you should have added "on average" at the end of, "...women live longer." Aaagh! Edmund and his American spiel - no I shall not participate.

TCP: Is that it? Tony you are going to have to do a damn sight better than that if you want your name to stand out in lights in the TCP lettercol. One minor correction that I'm sure not even Joy would dispute and a refusal to go 40 rounds with Edmund over America. Not good enough, I expect the two of you to come back fighting or else.

Tony Dickinson (aaaa aaaa aaaa me laddie):

I'm positively intrigued re 'River Pirates', any chance you could elucidate further? Could it be run postally? Just a thought.

TCP: RP is a slightly strange German game which I have only played twice. It involves travelling upstream in small boats with your pirates. For each pirate you get to the end you get a varying number of points. I believe that the winner is the first to 15 points, you can score between 0 and 5 points for each pirate and you have 6 pirates to play with. Thus it follows that you need not necessarily get ALL your pirates upstream. Catch 1; the boats hold two pirates, but NOT two belonging to the same player. Catch 2: Each turn the two players (whos pirates are sharing a boat) get to decide whether to row the boat upstream or push the other pirate out. The way the dice are used make a boat with one pirate a pretty unstable affair, but it might be worth the risk to deny the enemy a few points. I hope that this (over) simplified account gives you some idea about the game. Postal play? No chance, there is a fair amount of dice rolling and a lot of chat and stuff between many players each turn. Besides which if it were possible to play it postally, you wouldn't be able to knee the nuts of anyone who pushed one of your pirates out of a boat. In conclusion, ok for occasional play, but I wouldn't take it home to meet my parents.

James Millington (loses the will to live):

The latest issue is up to the usual high standards - who is the bloke with glasses who pops up from time to time - is it a self portrait? Just to put Joy Hibbert straight - Diplomacy is NOT about being the best at lying, deceiving and manipulating. Everyone can tell a pack of lies. Diplomacy is about being good at spotting the lies and about being clever enough to know who to trust. May-be thats why more men play than women?

TCP: Thanks for the praise and yes ole' four-eyes is your luvable ed, just popping by to make sure the whole zine is filling out nicely. It was a trade-mark from my punky-zine days which I just revived in these Dippy zine days. Whats this? Going for some kind of male vs female scrap James? Could get very nasty. Perhaps when the

current team Dip playtest has run we can have another with males verses females and a bi-sexual playing Italy!

Joy Hibbert (the return):

Why are the other sadomasochists in the hobby such complete idiots? Come to think of it, some of the hobby gay people aren't much better. What is it about sexual deviancy combined with the hobby that rots peoples brains? How can Haz and I make sure it doesn't happen to us?

Errr... leave the hobby? Naw, only jesting. I can't answer your question, not knowing too much about the sexual tendancies of 99.9% of hobby members. I am also happy to remain in blissful ignorance, but no doubt I'll get some letters offering some opinons on the matter.

More Joy:

I had an acquaintance once, who was found beaten to death. Her ex-husband found her, when returning their son after a weekend visit. The police started with the assumption that she had gone out, met a man and brought him home. But they went on to assume that after they had had sex, he quite naturally killed her. They didn't seem to think that the correct behaviour to a sexual encounter is, "thank you and goodnight", but thought it perfectly reasonable that the end should be the death of the female. In the end, her ex-boyfriend, who didn't want to be an ex, was convicted of the murder. He got eight years. The judges summing up indicated that he was locked up for less than murder, for the single spark of decency he'd shown during the murder, raping her after she was dead rather than before.

TCP: I am not familliar with this case at all and don't know exactly what the police reaction was to the business. I assume that in their line of work they see a lot of crap and probably get quite cynical and even callous to protect themselves against some of the horrors. I may also be wrong. Judges however get no sympathy from me at all. Too many times these useless old gits come out with the most appalling reactionary bullshit that it staggers the imagination. Come the great day, those perfect examples of why we should have euthanasia will be up against the bloody and pock-marked wall, one woodbine, one blindfold a yellow post-it note over where their wizzened old black hearts should be then BOP! BOP! BOP! Black bin liners and a suitably deep land-fill site could be used to finish the job. Sorry readers, I don't know what came over me just then, flashing lights, buzzing noises and this nice man with a white shirt with arms that tie up at the back...

Keith Smith (On playing Dip - sanity):

I was interested to note Joy Hibbert saying that the really good Dip players would claim 'lying' be kept to a minimum if not excluded. Well I like to think that I have played some of the best in my time and I've found good Dip players come in two forms; the ones who say they never lie, but manipulate their letters such that it comes in the form of an omission or something not quite properly explored, (a good reason to reply quickly to everyone and clear up details). Then there are those infuriating swines who regularly write to everyone, they can drop a piece of info into one pair of ears and get someone else to tell the lies for you.

TCP: I would rate myself as an average Dipper and I prefer not to lie. I'm not

saying that I haven't or wouldn't, its just that it would be a last resort. Like you say, its much better if you can get someone else to do your dirty work for you! I mean saying, "Its not in my interest to grab your Brest", but then going out and grabbing it isn't necessarily lying. You might bring down a whole ton of shit on yourself but took a risk that you wouldn't. Great game, a better use for the English language has yet to be found.

Steve Edington (militantly anti-militant):

I was at Birkenhead doing some shopping when I ended up having a row with a Socialist. There I was minding my own business, looking in the window of W.H.Smiths when a man and a woman came up to me and asked would I like to buy a copy of the 'Socialist Worker'. Being the polite gentleman I am, and not wanting to cause a scene I politely declined. But noooo, they had to push it didn't they, they asked me if I wanted to join the Socialist Party and then continued to lecture me on a recent council meeting where the Liberals and the Tories sided together to cut 285 council jobs. I again politely, but a little more firmly refused. The women turned to the man and said, "He must be a militant." ME! A MILITANT!? God knows where she got this idea from. Ok so I was wearing a pair of black jeans, a black top, black shoes and a dark green overcoat [topcoat?], but does that make me a militant? Well I flew at her, trying to make myself sound calm I asked her, "Why, oh why must innocent shoppers be haranged by the likes of you? The reason I don't want to join your farce of an organisation wasn't because I was militant, which I most certainly am not, but because I am a Liberal and proud of it." Did this disuade them? No it didn't, although slightly ruffled by my contribution to the conversation they continued to lecture me. The conversation went as follows;
Them: Don't your realise the Liberal party are on the way out?
Me: Thats rich coming from a party with no MPs.
Them: At the moment.
Me: Forever if I get my way.
Then: Do you support PR?
Me: Yes.
Them: Under PR we would have MPs!
Me: Well everything has a downside. What policies do you have?
This went on for almost an hour until they finally gave up, made some excuses and left. I haven't had that much fun in ages. The last time was went I told some Jehovahs Witnesses I was Jewish!

Hmmm, anyone else got any politician baiting stories they would like to share with the rest of us?

Tom Howell (from across the pond):

Thanks for TCP VIII which I received 10/11/93, I know that you mailed it 12/08/93, the post-mark was very clear! If the envelope could talk, it might have a very interesting tale to tell. Thank you for the rules to 'Barmy Battleships', may I have your permission to use it in my zine OFF-THE-SHELF, it might be just what I need. What does 'Barmy' mean? If this letter doesn't meet your standards for inclusion in the letter col, I'll try to find some average American and find out what he (or she) thnks of events in Bosnia! By the way, who the H*** is Frank Dashwood?

TCP: That delay is pretty atrocious and its really gonna screw up the continuity if you start getting TCPs in the wrong order. Not

sure if you even need my permission to use BB in OTS, but permission granted anyway and thanks for the compliment - about the only thing we've exported to the US this year! Barmy - hummm, well I haven't got my dick to hand ("Which we're very pleased to hear!" the TCP readership cry in unison), but I understand it to be 'potty', 'bonkers', 'nutty' or 'slightly deranged'. Standards for including letters in TCP? You gotta be joking, when issued 'The editors guide to zine editing' by a number of Hobby Ghods whose names I am still not entitled to mention, I got to the bit about standards in letter columns and tore it out to light my cigarette with. But since I don't smoke, I just tore it out and set fire to it anyway. I'll print anything, I'm not proud. We would be delighted to hear what Mr/Mrs/Miss Average America has to say about anything, but make sure you include a photo! There are several possible answers to your 'Frank Dashwood' question, they range from helpful and informative to sarky and "smart-ass". I suspect that your confusion is due to the non arrival of a crucial TCP or two, so I'll stick to helpful. FD is the pseudonym of a UK player who has been in the hobby a number of years. He has always played under this pseudonym and has been unwilling to say why. The issue found its way into TCP because FD real name was revealed in the course of a Dippy game. Hopefully, by the time you get this, all will have revealed itself to you.

Mike Dommett (on TCP XI):

Please remind Steve Edington that the BNP council member is for the Isle of Dogs in Tower Hamlets. The conservatives hold power in Wandsworth. Though there is a large amount of intellectual dishonesty in conservative philosophy at the moment, I think comparing them to the BNP is a tad over the top. The problems with scarce council housing, and people with different coloured skins are seen as getting housing in front of local whites. The easiest, cheapest and dare I say it, most conservative solution would be to build council houses, which would pay for themselves compared to hosted accommodation in 3 years AND leave an asset for further use or sale. But modern conservatism cannot accept investment, except by private money, which doesn't happen. I think the conservatives are often guilty of false economy. Joy obviously feels very deeply, but I think she may be wrong about men being attracted to helpless women. Woman wasn't made to walk four paces behind, head bowed, or be put on a pedestal, but to walk hand in hand as an equal. Any woman who wears high heels ought to be careful, its not good for the feet. I can't say as I've noticed airbrushing of models.

TCP: I can't add a lot to that, except to say that you're a meany for not letting me print the 'Not for Print' bit of your letter!

Dave Newnham (poll-axed?):

The zine poll? Forget it! If the pollster decides that your zine isn't going to qualify then nothing you can do will sway him. I'm advised that he is totally inflexible. I'd also point out that the poll is only Iain Bowens' interpretation of the public attitude so its not particularly important. Are you really concerned as to what relationship there is between your diplomacy zine and an En Garde fanzine? Of far more interest, I would have thought, is the attitude of your own subscribers to your zine! My impression is that you have a growing list of satisfied subscribers.

TCP: Indeed. Especially the ones I've bribed or blackmailed. You are right, my subbers views are far more important than the results of a poll. I guess that I am just displaying a human need, 'the need to belong', as well as the old Librian knee jerk desire for justice for the sake of justice, in addition to the old British bulldog, not cowering under the tyrannical heel of naked aggression and oppression. You get the drift I'm sure. As if that wasn't enough there is my supreme hatred of public functionaries who don't.... function. If a grubby profit grabbing businessman rips me off, I accept it, cos I kind of expect it. But if a civil servant does the dirty I feel more outraged because there is the belief that that person is in that role from a sense of public duty and service, and not simply to make a buck. So also the hobby services, which should be run for the greater good and the benefit of all members and not as some private fiefdom of one of the ruling class. Part 99 of your history lesson will commence next time!

Bob Holliday (grovels pathetically):

How sickening it was to read Mark (weedy Allies team member) Stretches' pathetic attempt to wiggle out of his obvious embarrassment regarding the oh so obviously truthful and factual statements which came to light in TCP X, thanks to the glorious Axis team captain Mr Parish. After all that pathetic drivel he has the audacity to suggest Eddie the Eagle joins his band of losers. Even Eddie couldn't manage to go down hill as fast as the Allies will!

TCP: Bob thats complete doggie doos and well you know it! It is well known that you would not know the truth if it hit you on the head with a house-brick and if you come around sometime I shall prove it. As for team Dip, you're already nothing but a grease stain!

More Blob:

In answer to Steve Edington, Millwall (not Wandsworth) was a Labour ward in a Liberal borough and so in that context voting Liberal could hardly have been considered a protest vote! It was actually the Liberal running of the boroughs housing that the electorate was protesting against! Voting BNP was the only real way of bringing peoples attention to what they were protesting about. In that they succeeded, which is why they deserve to be congratulated.

TCP: Well I think that leaves Steve E, well and truly told! Probably best to stick to the 'Pool.

THE NATIONAL BRITANNIA CHAMPIONSHIPS - CAMBRIDGE 1993

Oxford only decided to enter a team in this tournament at short notice (a week before the event), but enter it we did. The team consisted of Nick Parish (Capt), James Handscombe, Mark Shelham (the star player and team driver) and myself.

For us, the fun started on the Friday night. We'd arranged to meet in Jesus College bar, not realising that it was guest night which made the bar somewhat busy. Eventually we found each other and set of half an hour late, with Mark driving. We had a surprisingly uneventful journey, with only my stop at the chippy delaying us.

Once in Cambridge, it was then a case of four of us trying to find our friends at four different colleges who were due to put us up. We

THE CUNNING PLAN - XMAS SPECIAL FREE BOARD GAME OF THE DIP HOBBY

only had two maps and our friends didn't know we were coming! Of the four of us, only Mark managed ok. Nick was left waiting in the cold for an hour for his friend to return. James' friend thought that he was coming by train, so had waited at the station for him. My friend wasn't there when I got back. When he returned he was drunk because his girlfriend had dumped him during the day, so he wasn't in the best of moods. To cap it all, there was a party nearby to keep us awake that night.

Despite Nicks lie in, we managed to rendezvous for the tournament the following day. Nick then showed us his wonderful navigational skills - a half mile detour to miss out one roundabout! Don't you have confidence in Mark being able to manage roundabouts Nick? And so to the tournament. I was blue in the first round. Things went well initially, with my Picts doing great, the rest of the team also put on a good show. Then, the Steve Jones factor came into play. He started to slow the game down, bore us all to death and stopped my dice rolling sixes. That stopped my Angles and Picts from doing any better and I just got an average score. Fortunately, the rest of the team didn't have to put up with Steve Jones and did well. Mark Sheiham even put in a performance as the best Scot overall!

The results were;

Red: James Handscombe	= 128
Purple: Mark Sheiham	= 123
Black: Nick Parish	= 101
Blue: Mark Stretch	= 98
TOTAL	= 450

That put us in second place out of eight teams at the end of round one. A team called the 'Highland Rangers' had somehow managed a total of 483! Don't ask me how.

After a brief pause for a sandwich, it was onto round 2, in which I played black. Having had Steve Jones in the morning I was lucky enough to get his teammate Tony Wheatly in the afternoon, so I had to put up with all his puns! In this round, all of the team seemed to be doing badly, and after a while I realised that we wouldn't better the morning score, (best result counts), so I had to look and see if any other team was likely to do better than us. 'Its the forts that counts' (Jones, Wheatly, Shepley, Victor) were doing so well, that I decided to try and deduce Tonys' score on my board. This I achieved to some extent (at my own loss) and pointed out to Mark that he should try and attack Danny Victor. on his board. Our results were;

Blue: Mark Sheiham	= 109
Red: Nick Parish	= 107
Purple: James Handscombe	= 97.5
Black: Mark Stretch	= 84.5
TOTAL	= 398

Despite me sacrificing my own score to knock Tony Down, mark didn't attack Danny and they got 452, thus demoting us to third! Still Third place netted us \$30. then it was back to Oxford. Mark proved that he could negotiate roundabouts, but not traffic lights, going through the red ones and stopping at the green! Still we got back in one piece and will enter a team next year.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO VOTE IN THE ZINE POLL (IF YOU HAVEN'T YET). VOTES TO IAIN BOWEN - ADDRESS ON PAGE 10 THIS ISSUE, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO REWARD THE ZINES YOU LOVE AND PUNISH THE ONES YOU HATE!!

If all has gone according to plan, you should have received a horrible pink thing with TCP XII. On closer inspection you will discover that it is none other than a super game to adorn your collection! Below are the simple rules;

(1) Its a DIY/kit game, so you will have to provide a six-sided dice and some coloured counters. Each player will require two, one to move around the board and the second to keep track of his/her score.

(2) The first step is to squabble over who is what colour, a must at any Xmas games session.

(3) Next squabble over who sits where, there is always someone you won't want to sit next to and someone who doesn't want to sit next to you. Play your cards right at this stage and you may not have to see any of them before NEXT Xmas!

(4) Throw a dice to see who throws the dice first, to see who goes first.

(5) Once you get finally sorted the instructions are so simple that even Jimbo Hardy could follow them; The square boxes you move at one at a time, the round spaces you throw the dice to move. In both cases you carry out the instructions in the box/space you land on.

(6) Variants and cheating are positively encouraged, if for no other reason than the game is unplayable without them!

(7) Have fun, but the designer accepts no responsibility for injuries, divorces or any other nastiness you suffer as a result of playing this game.

AIRFORCE DIPLOMACY RATINGS

Its been 3 months or so since the last lot, and as the first game has now actually finished, it looks like its time for an update.

Pos	Score	Name	Games
1	28.27	Mark Stretch	Albatross/Brisfit
2	24.12	Chris Latimer	Camel
3	22.06	Neil Duncan	Brisfit
4	20.59	Jamie Lang	Albatross
5	19.28	Dave Newnham	Albatross
6	18.83	Jonathan Barber	Camel
=7	17.06	Andrew Davies	Camel
=7	17.06	Ludger Wilmot	Camel
9	14.54	Jeremy Tullet	Albatross
10	13.23	Mark Underhay	Brisfit
11	12.50	Mike Dommett	Brisfit
12	12.35	Andy Mansell	Camel
13	8.82	Edmund Morgan	Brisfit
14	8.33	Ian Harris	Albatross
15	5.29	Richard Poppleston	Camel
16	3.53	Andrew Moss	Camel
17	1.96	Dominic Hyland	Albatross
18	0.49	Neil Savage	Albatross

Mark Stretch remains the only one to have played in more than one game, with 33.01 for Albatross which has just ended in a 3-way-draw and 23.53 for Brisfit which is still in progress. In fact Marks' score for the final season of Albatross was 45.09 which is technically close to a win, (a win being 50.00+) I will wait to see how the other games end, but I am tempted to modify the system so that a players position at the end of a game gets a greater weighting than at present. We'll see. Meanwhile folks, if any of the above players want to try and improve their position, or if any AirForce Dip virgins want to join the hallowed names above, there is a list for AirForce Dip open in TCP right now. So get your names down for excitement, adventure and really wild things.

Below is a print of the Dolchstoss Diplomacy Ratings for all TCP readers. I had been meaning to get it some time and I finally did it. I hope that you find it of some interest. Please don't ask me to explain how it works cos its all a mystery. However, I suppose that if there were enough demand I could write and ask Richard.

Should you have any comments, queries or corrections, you can send them to me, or alternatively direct to the main man; Richard Sharp, Norton House, Wheilden Street, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0HU.

RATINGS LIST

Key: Pos = position (out of 4324), career = dates of first and last Boardman numbers to date, P = played, W = won, D = drawn, S = lost but survived, X = eliminated, d = dropped out or resigned, a = abandoned at start, i = in progress or lost.

Pos.	Name	Career	P	W	D	S	X	d	a	i	Rating
3684	Stephen Agar	(76-93)	25	1	3	4	4	9	0	4	11.93
980	Mike Alloway	(76-92)	32	1	4	11	14	2	0	0	128.97
151	Harry Bond	(89-93)	6	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	218.52
928	Mark Boyle	(86-93)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	132.44
918	Danny Collman	(85-93)	7	0	0	4	2	0	0	1	132.92
197	Kath Collman	(85-88)	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	206.55
874	Steve Cox	(93)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	135.10
1019	Simon Devereux	(92)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	126.71
534	Anthony Dickinson	(87-93)	19	3	2	0	4	1	0	9	162.68
1840	Christina Dommett	(93)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	93.20
716	Mike Dommett	(85-93)	6	1	1	0	2	0	0	2	148.12
1075	Michelle Duncan	(92-93)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	123.11
363	Neil Duncan	(90-93)	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	178.59
1310	Steven Edington	(92-93)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	112.75
1732	Janet Gordon	(93)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	98.70
1783	Tim Gordon	(92)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	95.94
140	Vic Hall	(83-93)	17	3	3	2	0	1	0	8	221.33
896	James Hardy	(93)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	134.01
668	Steve Harridge	(92-93)	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	151.22
444	Ian Harris	(85-92)	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	170.86
1187	Rob Harris	(92-93)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	117.35
254	Toby Harris	(82-93)	22	2	5	2	5	1	0	7	194.68
2004	Rosalind Harvey	(93)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	84.44
979	Tony Hastings	(92-93)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	128.99
1030	Bob Holliday	(90-93)	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	125.91
1531	Sarah Hurst	(90-93)	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	104.14
1103	Dominic Hyland	(92)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	121.41
1733	Geoff Kemp	(83-92)	6	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	98.65
1054	Jamie Lang	(90)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	124.38
1662	Chris Latimer	(92)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.03
1077	Gary Malcolm	(91)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	123.03
779	Andrew Mansell	(92-93)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	141.84
1312	Gary Marshall	(91-93)	4	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	112.70
3103	James Millington	(91-93)	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	18.41
1840	Claire Moore	(93)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	93.20
1264	Edmund Morgan	(88-92)	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	114.07
1052	John Morgan	(89-91)	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	124.40
86	Andrew Moss	(87-93)	16	3	9	0	1	0	0	3	240.30
1041	Mark Nelson	(86-88)	6	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	125.26
366	Dave Newnham	(83-91)	10	2	2	1	5	0	0	0	177.71
639	Stephen Othen	(89-93)	7	0	1	2	1	0	0	3	153.77
1840	Brenda Palm	(93)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	93.20
96	Nicholas Parish	(89-93)	12	1	7	0	1	0	0	3	235.05
1331	Chris Robey	(88)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	111.97
178	Richard Sharp	(72-93)	49	6	14	7	16	4	0	2	210.92
1166	Vanessa Slade	(90-93)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	118.69
596	Graham Smith	(92)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	156.89
1484	Keith Smith	(74-93)	30	0	3	6	14	4	0	3	105.38
404	Mark Stretch	(90-93)	8	0	1	1	1	0	0	5	174.20
339	Chris Tringham	(77-92)	18	2	6	2	6	1	0	1	181.75
295	Mark Underhay	(91-93)	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	188.34
1840	Karen Willacy	(93)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	93.20
242	Derek Wilson	(76-82)	8	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	197.44
224	Mark II Wood	(91-92)	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	199.92

A Small Task From Some Holy Bloke!

AGE OF REASON 20 (18/10/93): Andrew Moss, 5 Meadow Rise, Littlers Cross, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2NT. [32 A5 pages for 50p + pp]

My goodness - two reviews of AoR in the same TCP, that must mean something. The front page is full of news, like the new trend towards DIY maps, the new trend towards zines folding and in trouble and Andrew getting a 'dog' (the boy has finally flipped!) The letter col very good, I just wish it were a little longer. This is followed by a piece on that bizarre tactic 'Key Lepanto', another on telephone vs postal negotiation and a MidCon report (from last year I assume). Next the games and Andrew is running a phenomenal 17! TCP the subzine is embedded somewhere in there. We end up with MasterCon, the all reader games and a bit of admin. Great issue.

SPRINGBOARD 71 (18/10/93): Danny + Kath Collman, 14 Westover Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1JG [14 A4 pages for 95p inc pp]

This is not a normal issue of Springboard due to the recent death of Danny's father. Our condolences go to him. Plus some congrats for managing to even put out a games only issue. So with the exception of the games, there is just a little editorial stuff telling us of recent sad events. The other bit of particular interest to me is the fact that a long-running SB game FLOOD is to be transferred to TCP! Gosh I'm honoured. TCP must be the 'youngest' zine to receive an SB game, so its a bit of a vote of confidence. Mind you, we are now at full cap so far as games and subbers are concerned - I will have to start turning people away!

ARFLE BARFLE GLOOP 55 (19/10/93) Kris Morris, 293 Barn Mead, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6SY. [18 A4 pages for 50p + pp]

Well its the first of the post-Michele issues, slimmer, cheaper and pretty prompt. An editorial tells us something about life in the Morris household. Kris also manages a couple of pages of letters. In amongst the games are a few interesting little space fillers. The Blue Nose Special (the subzine by John College) is very good this time with a bit on 'helping the police with their enquires' and witches. He is also opening a waiting list for postal 'Aquire' if any of you are interested.

Y DDRAIG GOCH 77 / C'EST MAGNIFIQUE 133 (10/09/93) Iain Bowen, 5 Wigginton Terrace, Yorks, N Yorks, YO3 7JD [70p for 28 A5 pages inc pp] (C'Mag Peter Sullivan, 55 Brunton St, Darlington, Co Durham, DL1 4EN)

The editorial contains views on the delights of editing a zine for instance being able to sound off about anything the editor feels like - like the BNP election win. The hobby news is mainly hobby stuff but Iain speculates that BOTH Springboard zines (GIGO & TLR) have folded... or whats this that you lot are reading then, could it be a third SB zine? The letter col is pretty good, mainly on the alleged 'gay gene', but with a little bit of politics thrown in for good measure. There're the rules for 'Government' and then the games these kick off with end game statements for 'Passover', won by Haz Bond. After that is the C'Mag bit, mainly games, with a few zines scene to round things off.

MOPSY 98 (21/10/93): Bryan Betts, 5 St Francis Road, Denham Green, Middx, UB9 5JS [24 A5 pages for 60p inc pp]

As the century approaches, Bryan is forced to admit that he is missing some back copies of his own zine! There is a bit on the Viking front and some film info. The letter col features Bosnia and Illuminated Vain Rat rules. A travelogue from John Wilman leads us into the subzine 'Don't Croak the Frail'. This followed by the games. The French game next, with more silly names than you could shake a stick at. I mean, 'Camembert Smellycheese'? - I ask you! And mistresses too, do you actually get to sleep with any of them huh? Well I suppose at least it keeps you off the streets.

U-BEND 24 (21/10/93), Haz Bond, 13 Merrivale Rd, Stafford, ST17 9EB [16 A4 pages for 50p + 36p pp]

Kicks off with a poem with another on the inside front cover from Steve Howe. There is a little bit of hobby news and into the letter col. This contains a bit on birth and babies, Danny defends his inaccurate review of the zine and a couple of his pupils get ruffled feathers too. There is mention of Anarchy rules. Ok. Dunky Adams claims that he hasn't folded - its just that he won't be bringing out any more zines!! Naw only kidding. There is other stuff too, all jolly interesting. Next the games. Ends with the promise (or is that 'threat?') to include a report of the bisexual conference next time. I guess that Lee must be pretty well behaved for Haz to be able to keep up a good standard for his zine.

BOX FRENZY 9 (24/10/93) Chris Robey, 3 Superity Cottages, Churn Road, Compton, Newbury, Berks, RG16 0PR [35p for 10 A5 pages inc pp]

Chris demonstrates a good level of reliability this issue being bang out on time. It contains, an editorial, player listings, Std Dip, Nuclear Dip, Hardbop Downfall, Blood Royal and Arena. Chris also starts a new game of Std Dip, but in so far as he is proposing to allow players to build units on any centres they own - I think that makes it a variant! It might well already exist, where is James Nelson when you need him? Anyway, sounds interesting, good luck on this one. In amongst the games are various bits and pieces. A very neat issue. I also enjoyed meeting Chris and Lorraine at the houseCon!

ASSASSINS HANDBOOK 9 (25/10/93) John Morgan, 40 Millside, Culvers Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 2BQ [£1.00p for 24 A5 pages inc pp]

I dunno John, £1 still makes me shriek regardless of what any other eds say. Mind you, your second zine review, for a zine with a £1 95p price tag sounds like a joke to me. On the zine reviews. I don't think it matters how much to try to distance yourself from them - you are printing them and so must bear some responsibility for whats said. So you are just as much to blame for Electric Monk folding as Mark Fisher, except for the fact it hasn't folded. Anyway, the letter col is pretty good and now Hells Angels are to join the freemasons debate - this could get interesting. The variant 'Partition of the Ottoman Empire' gets a bit of a roasting - I'd better read the rules again to find out what its all about. The ill-fated Std Dip game is held over. I would like to say more but it would be imprudent for me to interfere with a game in progress. John finishes off with an excellent (if slightly depressing) description of the Millwall by-election from first hand.

PYRRHIC VICTORY 103 (27/10/93) Mike Allaway, 62 Herda Road, Harrow, Middx, HA3 5AS [50p for 14 A4 pages inc pp]

Kicks off with an editorial which fills us in on all the latest comings and goings in the Allaway household. I am also pleased to say that Mike appears to be having an upsurge in enthusiasm for his zine. Next the games - I skipped the En Garde though. The letter col was good, includes the mystery of the existance (or not) of Alan Frost, scourge of the ALOS letter col, and jury service. There is an awful lot of hobby news and it ends with the admin stuff. Still intrigued by the weird names Mike gives his games.

DIE GROSSE DAMPFMASCHINE 22 (28/10/93) From, Paul Norris, 111a Belmont Road, St Andrews, Bristol, BS6 5AR.

[24 A5 pages for 55p inc pp]

Pauls editorial gives us a harrowing account of how he (a cyclist) was bullied persistently by some git of a motorist - Is Bistol getting like America? The letter col is on cycling, games, ASFO and Froggy Steve Howes column gives an even more harrowing account of the death of his mother. Onto the games. Thanks to the tuition by James Hardy I should be able to claen up in my Kingmaker game. NOT! Have I yet mentioned the existance of Paul Richards subzine 'Diary of a dead raven'? Die 22 was an excellent, if not a little sobering ish

CUT AND THRUST 121 (29/10/93) Derek Wilson, 6 Caldbeck Dr, Woodley, Reading, Berks, RG5 4LA. [36 A5 pages for 65p + pp]

C+T continues to be a good read, with an editorial mentioning the woes of the postal service. The letter col includes talk of games, but Dip gets the thumbs down! Shame! shame! Richard Ashley reviews the game 'Hacker' and theres part two of Dane Maslins Mountain Walking in Austria. All very picturesque and when you consider that my hols were spent packing boxes, humping boxes and unpacking boxes, you'll understand why I'm a little green. Well another zine is on the ratings band-wagon, but this time its RR. Since I know nothing about the game, its all rather meaningless to me. Onto the Dip (best bit of C+T!) Grief, Juno is really dragging! Look, its saturday night, I've had a drink or three, I was feeling reckless and light-headed. I decided to live dangerously and read the En Garde report! Aaagh! its 9 pages long! Well after the 3rd or 4th word I had to give up - I was pulled over by the 'good-taste' police and breathalyzed! Luckily I was let off with a caution, but it could have been much worse.

ELECTRIC MONK 50 (29/10/93) Andy and Madi Key, 144 Perrinsfield, Venymore, Lechlade, Gloucs, GL7 3SE [32 A5 pages for 46p + pp]

An anniversary issue worthy of the title! This is jam packed with stuff, but every silver lining has a cloud. Whilst AH may have been wrong about the EM fold, this zine is going to warehouse status. Another one bites the dust. Thats the editorial for you. Oh yeah, the Keys have decided to give up MfG - so a zine reviewing ed is urgently required! There are the results of most of the games run in EM, Madi chats about games in general, plus a bit on names. Then there are a whole bunch of clips from the archives, on cars, the AA, Holidays, Cycling, Boat race, Canal dreams, Footpaths and Computers. Next is Tom Tweedys bit - and would you believe that old Tom has never heard of AoR, TCP or ITN? My gawd, where has he been for the last year! Richard Walkerdines Not Mad Policy next. A very good 50th issue, a great pity its going into semi-retirement.

ODE 150 (30/10/93), John Marsden, 33 Weston Rd, Strood, Kent, ME2 3HA. [90p for 48 A5 pages inc pp]

Certainly one of the best 'specials' I've ever seen, John has excelled himself this time. The editorial was quite tame - I think a bit more trumpet blowing for 14 years unbroken publishing is in order. Some hobby news, RR and Dip ratings. The letter col includes politics, Millwall/BNP, Dashwood, games - then onto the 100 issues ago feature, with a reader poll which provides a neat comparison with the most recent reader poll. Can I give you any bits? No its worth the 90p to get a copy of the whole thing! The readers poll is followed by another letter col with games, Dip vs United, zine lay-out, zines in general and then the games. After the games there is a whole bunch of interesting special articles. Stuart Eves has written an excellent analytical piece on the structure of the Dip board. It is a piece that I wouldn't mind reproducing in TCP sometime. The 1835 variant by Stuart Dagger would probably mean more to someone who knows

about the game, but I don't I'm afraid. Graham Lee reviews computer games 'Railroads tycoon' and 'Civilization'. Steve Froud writes a great article on Computer Strategic Simulation games and are they up to the task? He focuses on two main games, 'Carriers at war' and 'Great Naval battles', (being the computer equivalents of his favourite board games). He concludes that this type of game is good, but in time, one learns the computers tactics and the computer does not learn by its mistakes. Steve Jones reviews CastleCon 93 and I must say that I would really like to give this Con a visit sometime. There are more end game statements for 75eme, which ranks as one of the most acrimonious Dippy games just recently. Very good indeed, non-ODE readers, send off for a copy now!

SPRING OFFENSIVE 17 (30/10/93) Stephen Agar, 79 Florence Rd, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 6DL [24 A4 pages for 90p inc pp]

The editorial, labelled, 'Excuses & ravings' warns of possible price rise due to the postage rates and Vat on mags. Stephen also apologises of a number of hobby-wide NMRs and a bit on computing. In the round up he bemoans the lack of REAL folds - zines trudging on way past their sell by date and I do agree with him. Ditto the piece on why everyone should go to at least one Con. Rules to rather silly Dip - rather too silly Dip if you ask me. Then a pretty super letter col on, zines, suicide, mental illness, Mensa, SpOff maps, games and Storm from the East. Further words on the variant 'Fin de Siele' and a bit on cricket. This issues 'White Noise' was a great disappointment to me, featuring 'Lord of the Rings et al'. This is second only to En Garde as a subject guaranteed to bore the hobbits out of me. The games follow and the maps have recovered their units - much to everyones relief no doubt. An enjoyable read and I think SpOff will find its way high up the old zine poll this year.

ODARODLE 13 (01/11/93), Bill Turner, Fellside, Nicholson Lane, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7UL [30p for 28 A5 page inc pp]

Starts with an ad for a bargain computer system, but I expect that its gone by now. There is a brief editorial, only 9 pages of cricket this time. Next is Yer Tiz, less comedy in this issue, (unless you count the spelling errors, but as I'm crap at spelling myself, I don't often laugh. A sad bit about the gloom of being on the dole. A Spring 02 Dippy game with two civil disorders already! Then theres the ECWIIa with the GM playing one of the sides! Crazy Touchdown, theatre, review of a computer game and a quiz thing.

OFF THE SHELF Vol I No 7 (01/11/93), Tom Howell, Po Box 1450, Port Townsend, WA 98368 - 0035, USA [1\$ for 24 A5 pages]

Theres a weird front cover, followed by the admin and waiting lists. Next the editorial, which is mainly computer related. Then the games. In the 'Neighbourhood' feature Tom fills us in a bit on life in Port Townsend, which includes game playing and arbour-building! Into the lettercol, on the map quiz, E-Mail, Lawyer jokes, earthquakes and the weather. There are the rules to nuclear destruction by Mark Nelson (is that the same as '4 minute warning?'). Cartoons, the map quiz and the house rules again. Judging by the letter col, Tom certainly seems to be picking up the subbers he wants.

EGGBERTS ZINE 57 (03/11/93) Mark Boyle, 15 Linnpark Gardens, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, PA5 8LH [16 A5 pages for 75p inc pp]

Well congrats to Mark who has taken this subzine to independence - good luck in the harsh wide world of full zinedom! Alas the birth happened in a cloud of acrimony with Scorpio ed Dave Carter, re lack of support in the 'legal-action' farce. This all comes out in the editorial and is followed by WWI Dip. Next a longish letter col

featuring the 'Zine of the Year Poll', Mark Nelson, Egg-shell egos, an apology re the legal action but the boot going in over other (sportsfolk) issues Mark responds and there is a certain amount of venom on both sides - makes TCP look like 'Womens Realm' theres more WWI Dip, a game that looks like Sopwith and a gamestart for Monopoly Ends with an in depth piece on the far right in Britain, a recent history There are a number of waiting lists and I would recommend this zine to you

DOLCHSTOB 180 (08/10/93) Richard Sharp, Norton House, Wheilden Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0HU [24 A5 pages for 75p inc pp]

The editorial gives a mini review of the 'Sharp HouseCon' (if thats the right word for it), warns of delays caused by registered posted orders - promises some more stats stuff and a bit on the poll (RS hot tip is SpOff) The letter col is as interesting as ever, with waiting lists, stats, board war games, smoking, food, Olympics, police, buzz phrases, computers, satalite TV, cars, water rates and beer all covered - (perhaps I just should have said 'everything?') This is followed by the games and D55 has reached Spring 1941 and shows no signs of wavering There is a gamestart for D77R which appears to include 7 of the top postal Dippy players one to watch and learn I think. There are end game statements for D67 - which leave one feeling that there were a lot of bad feelings in that game Unusual in so far as two brothers were playing... I thought such close relations were frowned upon in the same game? Neat issue and there will be no surprises when this zine ends up in the top five of the poll

SMODNOC 55 (09/11/93) Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR3 1BW [60 X A5 pages for 80p inc pp]

A great joke on the front cover and still with the excellent white, rather than the horrible pink paper! The editorial contains baby-chat and a warning of a price rise due some time in 1994. This is followed by a bit of hobby news then onto the letters. There seem to be some juicy recriminations about the tactics being used in an ftf game, (totally different than the far more superior postal game!) There is also talk of the VD clinic prank, HIV testing, zine(over)pricing, Colombus rules and other bits Next is zine reviews, hobby news and a game review of 'The prince of Persia'. There are convention stats report, Essen 93, and onto the subzines I've read through Simon Cutforths CIVILIZATION game report and I still can't suss out how the game is supposed to work postally.

AGE OF REASON 21 (10/11/93) Andrew Moss, 5 Meadow Rise, Littlers Cross, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 2NT [32 A5 pages for 50p + pp]

The editorial includes the blank map debate, the zine poll, Andrews hols in Hong Kong and other bits and pieces There is also a bit of hobby news In the letter col Andrew is berated for his dog acqution and quite right too! Also included is AoRs format, more on maps and a bit of Bourse There is also an interesting bit on the Dolchstoss ratings system and I would like to see more Games news is back and then a Dippy article on Germany. Then there is a bit of Convention stuff Next the games and there certainly are a lot of them The all reader games are still plugging along nicely and the Std dip waiting list needs only one more name to start the 18th game!! I couldn't hack that many games myself For some reason I noticed an error in the zine poll voting form, has anyone else seen it?

Y DDRAIG GOCH 78 / C'EST MAGNIFIQUE 134 (09/11/93) Iain Bowen, 5 Wigginton Terrace, Yorks, N Yorks, YO3 7JD [70p for 28 A5 pages inc pp] (CMag Peter Sullivan, 55 Brunton St, Darlington, Co Durham, DL1 4EN)

The editorial sees Iain bemoaning the lack of new zines starting in 1993. I don't know, you've got Born Losers and Box Frenzy starting

from scratch, with TCP, Into The Night, Nothing To Declare and Eggberts Zine, all springing from existing publications, and there must be others that I am unaware of, so its not all doom and gloom

The hobby news contains the surprising news that this is to be lains last Poll, gods knows who would want to take it on for next year Then into the letter col and topics covered include, polhtics, (various aspects), capital punishment and "Is the hobby getting older?" This is followed by some book reviews, beyond my simple brain I'm afraid. Theres an end game statement for Passover, by Haz Bond and then the games. On to the CMag bit and I am looking forward to Petes retrun to independance real soon Finally the zines scene

OBSIDIAN 59 (13/11/93), Alex Richardson, 11 Callerton Place, Fenham, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE4 5NQ. [16 A5 pages for 45p inc pp]

Another weird cover, followed by the admin and a bit of an editorial The hobby news not unnaturally mentions the zine poll, with a few predictions (Dol + SpOff) There is also a bit of general news and stuff There is a nice long letter col on music, 3D pix, letter writing, "Brazil"(the movie) and Jethro Tull Next the games and one helluva lorra NMRs I'm afraid, 12 in 7 games Granted the deed was done by just 3 individuals, but it does illustrate a drawback of being too insular This is followed by the rules to (postal?) 'Breaking Away' - a bike racing game and ends with the 'Bridge of Death' quiz

LIES 14 (15/11/93), Bill O'Neill, 57 Britten Dr, Great Malvern, Worcs, WR14 3LG. [40 A5 pages for 75p inc pp]

The editorial mentions Northern Exposure, Jethro Tull (wot another mench?) and computers. This is followed by Richard Egans 'leader column' on breakfast cereals, GM/player relationships, the LIES house rules and the letter col Next an amusing article on 'Science today' and then the rules to bedroom golf (?) There is a brief round up of some zines seen Puzzles and then onto the games starting with the new 'Arena' There is a fantastically long letter col, with a bit on the 'Marie' saga - don't ask, you just don't want to know Also kinky vs deviant, the three people you would not want to share your dinner table with, history, computer games, SF, satalite, guns, games, LIES house rules and thats about it A pretty good issue again I liked the warning of the eds Xmas pressic list appearing next time, should I try that scam in TCP? ..

BOX FRENZY 10 (19/11/93) Chris Robey, 3 Superity Cottages, Churn Road, Compton, Newbury, Berks, RG16 0PR [40p for 12 A5 pages inc pp]

Continues to be reliable and cheap, and comes to you with a 'Lord of the Rings' style front cover Chris is upping the size a bit and including a bit more reading material All this is announced in the editorial which is then followed by a letter col on the proposed BF Dip ratings system. Into the games, Dip and variants The Blood Ruyale definately looks like my cup of tea, and Chris can put my name down on any future waiting list for this game My only complaint is that there are no waiting lists at present, but then I suppose if BF is at max capacity its silly to overload withdraw that complaint immediately!

QUARTZ 47 (23/11/93) Geoff Kemp, 66 Torc Avenue, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs, B77 3EP [50p for 18 A4 pages]

The editorial has a couple of bits and pieces about the zine, then the admin and quiz bit Next the games and there are a lot of them There is a letters page on Law & order and games in Quartz. More games and some cartoons There are a few book reviews, more games and a page of zines reviews. An inclusion which I strongly approve of Whilst the game to reading matter ratio is still too heavy for my liking, I think that Geoff is definately moving in the right direction We could be there by Q50! Meanwhile I hope something gets done about the poor photocopying

DAVES 'BLOODY HARD' XMAS QUIZ

Dave's Christmas Quiz

To keep you amused over Christmas, try this quiz! Answers to me, Dave Newnham, 80 Prince Edward's Road, Lewes, E Sussex, BN7 1BH by 1st Jan and results in TCP 13. If you know more about an incident than is asked for in the question include same, as extra points will be awarded for additional relevant information. Extra points will also be awarded for the most amusing (though not necessarily correct) answer to a question in each of the sections.

3 free issues of TCP to the winner, 2 to the runner up and 1 free issue as a consolation prize, to the genuine entrant with the lowest score.

Section 1: First lines
Of 1st chapter of Books. Give Title and Author?

A. The moon was full; everywhere it's pleasant, watery haze spread over the peaceful English countryside, rendering it colourless. But there is not much colour in Lincolnshire, anyway.

B. I met Penelope Ashton at a party thrown by Tom Packer.

C. When a day you happen to know is Wednesday starts off by sounding like Sunday, there is something seriously wrong somewhere.

D. For a brief moment, while waiting for the control tower to clear me for takeoff, I glanced out through the Perspex cockpit canopy at the surrounding German countryside.

E. Sooner or later, it was bound to happen. On 30 June 1908, Moscow escaped destruction by three hours and four thousand kilometres - a margin invisibly small by the standards of the universe.

F. The sea was bitter cold. From the vast empty plains of Siberia howling winds roared down to lash the mountains of Korea, where American soldiers lost on patrol froze into stiff and awkward forms.

G. Some of the evil of my tale may have been inherent in our circumstances. For years we lived anyhow with one another in the naked desert, under the indifferent heaven.

Section 2: Military Knowledge

A. De Havilland produced the Venom/Sea Venom and Sea Vixen jet fighters. To which aircraft were they related and what was the relationship?

B.1 What is the largest aircraft ever to have flown aboard an aircraft carrier?

B.11 Ark Royal and Hermes [fixed-wing British carriers] shared a feature which is unique in the Royal Navy. What was it?

C. Prior to the introduction of modern sighting aids, British tanks used a .5 ranging machine gun to acquire targets for the main armament. What type of ammunition did it fire and what was its rate/type of fire?

D. What innovative feature did the Dreadnought class of battleships introduce? Why was it important?

E. What is the main system that the following use:-

- a) to get airborne and
 - b) to remain in horizontal flight?
- Osprey, Sea King, Harrier and Spitfire.

Section 3: Catch Phrases

Name the radio or TV programmes from which these came, and the Artist or Character?

- A. I Love it when a plan comes together.
- B. Hello, I'm Julien and this is my friend Sandy
- C. Your starter for ten.
- D. Left hand down a bit.
- E. What do points mean?

Section 4: Record Breakers

A. Which Formula One Grand Prix driver is known as the greatest driver never to win the world championship? And which driver is known as the greatest driver never to win a Grand Prix?

B. Which was the first aircraft to exceed the speed of sound in level flight and who flew it?

C. Which was the first aircraft to collect the FIA record for exceeding 1000 mph? Which was the first aircraft to collect the FIA record for exceeding 60000 ft?

D. What is the name, tonnage and length of the largest ship ever built (and operated)?

E. The longest non-stop run for a steam locomotive; which engine, where and when?

Section 5: Tricky!

From the sublime to the ridiculous.

A. Which came first the chicken or the egg? Explain your answer.

B. Which game can you only win by going backwards?

C. Which natural bodily function takes place at over 100 mph?

D. What was the loudest recorded noise on earth?

E. Where did the fastest golf-drive in the world take place?

And for anyone who couldn't answer any of them:

Is camping - Loitering within tent?

OXFORD DIPLOMACY CHAMPIONSHIPS

These are due to be held at Wadham College, Parks Road, Oxford. On Saturday Feb 5th 1994 from 10:00am. They will form part of the National Diplomacy Championship qualifying rounds. So if you want to qualify, or if you just want to give it a go (in a friendly relaxed atmosphere), or if you just want to play some other games (no doubt there'll be some), then please get in contact with Mark Stretch as soon as possible;

(term) Flat 23, Stevens Close, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6JW.

(home) 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham, B29 7JL. (tel: 021 471 4232)

ARNULF HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE AU1200

"FLOOD" CONTINUED.

GM: Neil Duncan - 'Biggles'. 1993?? ?????

ELECTION RESULTS:

Player	(A)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(I)	(R)	(T)
Pope	1	8	4	2	4	1	4
Emporer	1	2	3	6	0	1	1

So I hereby declare Claire the new Pope, congrats your holiness and Steve the new Holy Roman Emporer, all hail your royal highness.

Winter 1200 builds.

- Bob Holliday (Austria); A(Tri), A(Vie), A(Bud). (Belgium); F(Bel).
- Claire Moore (England); F(Lpl), F(Lon), F(Edi). (Serbia); A(Ser). (Papacy); A(Swi).
- Gary Malcolm (France); A(Par), F(Bre), A(Mar). (Bulgaria); F(Bulsc).
- Steve Edington (Germany); F(Ber) A(Kie) A(Mun). (Greece); F(Gre). (Empire); F(Tun) A(Rum) A(Swe) A(Spasc) A(Hol).
- James Hardy (Italy): F(Nap) A(Rom) A(Ven). (Norway): F(Nwy).ne.
- James M. (Russia); A(War) A(Mos) A(StP) A(Sev). (Portugal): F(Por).
- Chris Latimer (Turkey): F(Con) F(Ank) A(Smy). (Denmark): F(Den).

COA: James Millington, Waveney Terrace, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ (James Millington from 20/12/93 - 20/01/94) = 44 Red Post Hill, London, SE24 9JQ.

Press:

Biggles - Steve: You gave me no build order for the Emperors Holland, so I had to flip a coin.

Measily 'King' of Italy - All: You voted for those two before me????!!

Italian King - Woolly Back: Hope you have your sheep counted because here comes the big bad wolf, and this fairy tale won't have a happy ending.

Italian King - Foxy Lady: Any assistance given to Germany will only lead to your own downfall, so be a nice girlie and keep your nose out.

Sexist Pig - Foxy Lady: I'm all for womens lib, so get to the bar.... and don't forget my nuts! No, salted not boiled.

DEADLINE = WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 1994.

FLOOD STANDARD DIPLOMACY AU1911

GM: Neil Duncan - 'Biggles'. 1991DR

Germany: (Mark Stretch) :

A(Mar) S F(MAO) - Spasc, F(MAO) - Spasc, A(Spa) - Gas, F(IRI) - MAO, F(NTH) - ENG, F(Den) hold, A(Bur) S A(Ruh) - Mun, A(Ruh) - Mun, A(Ber) S A(Ruh) - Mun, A(Mun) - Boh.

Italy: (Gary Marshall) :

F(WMS) - TYS, F(Nap) S F(WMS) - TYS, A(Ven) - Tri, A(Bud) S A(Ven) - Tri, A(Rom) S F(Nap).

Russia: (Bob Holliday) :

F(Lpl) - IRI, A(Yor) - Nwy, F(Swe) hold, A(Tyr) - Tri, A(Vie) S A(Tyr) - Tri, A(Gal) S TURKISH A(Rum) - Bud, A(Mos) - Ukr, A(War) S A(StP) - Mos, A(StP) - Mos.

Turkey: (Mark Wood):

A(Sev) hold, A(Arm) S A(Sev), A(Ser) S RUSSIAN A(Tyr) - Tri, A(Rum) - Bud, A(Bul) - Rum, A(Smy)

hold, F(Con) - AEG, F(EMS) - ION, F(TYS) S F(ION) - (Tun), F(ION) - Tun.

Retreats: Italian A(Bud) disbands nro. Turkish F(TYS) - GOL.

End Game Proposal: 3-way-draw, G/R/T. Votes for next time, abstentions count against.

Winter 1911 adjustments;

- G: Kie Bel Mar Bre Por Spa Par Hol Swe Lpl +Mun +Ber +Den 12(10) +F(Kie) 1 unit short
- I: Ven Nap Rom Tri Bud 3(5) -A(Rom).
- P: StP War Nwy Lon Edi Den Mun Ber +Mos +Tri +Swe Vie 9(9) no change
- T: Con Smy Ank Bul Gre Ser Sev Tun Rum Mos +Bud 10(10) no change

Press:

Biggles - All: Danny missed off Russias 'Vie' in Autumn 1910 and it took me ages to work out why the centre counts wouldn't add up!

DEADLINE = WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 1994.

AMAZON - STD DIPLOMACY - SP1902

GM: Neil Duncan - 'Biggles'. 1993EK

Austria: (Karen Willacy):

F(Tri) - Alb, A(Vie) - Tri, A(Bud) & A(Ser) hold.

England: (Vanessa Slade):

NMR! has A(Nwy), F(NTH), A(Lon), F(ENG) all stand.

France: (Christina Dommett):

F(Por) - MAO, A(Spa) - Mar, A(Par) - Pic, F(Bre) - ENG, A(Bur) hold.

Germany: (Brenda Palm):

F(Den) - Swe, F(Ber) - BAL, A(Kie) - Ruh, A(Mun) S A(Kie) - Ruh, A(Hol) - Bel.

Italy: (Claire Moore):

F(TYS) - GOL, A(Tus) - Pie, A(Ven) hold, F(Nap) - TYS.

Russia: (Janet Gordon):

F(GOB) - BAL, A(Sev) - Ukr, A(War) - Sil, F(Rum) - Sev, F(StPnc) - Nwy.

Turkey: (Sarah Hurst);

A(Bul) - Gre, F(Con) - AEG, A(Ank) - Con, A(Smy) hold.

COA: Sarah Hurst - 33 Elvendon Road, Goring-on-Thames, Nr Reading, Berks, RG8 ODP.

Press:

Biggles - All: I will not allow a civil disorder as early as 1902, so if Vanessa NMRs again, the game will be held over whilst a stand-by player is found. Sorry for the inconvenience and delay, a hazard of Dip I'm afraid.

Turkey - Austria: Its a deal.

Dublin(govt) - London(govt): The peace talks have been extremely fruitful. Looks like we'll be seeing a united Ireland AND Wales while you're off fishing in the Channel.

Anon - Black Press: Got any good recipes for chocolate fudge cake?

DEADLINE = WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 1994.

ATTACKER 1993?? 1939 III Spring 1940
GM: Dave Newnham

BELGIUM EXTREMELY POPULAR
First Strategic Bombing Successful

ENGLAND : (James Millington)
F(NTH) S F(Lon) - ENC, F(Nwy) Stands, F(Ire)-IRI
B(Lpl)-Edi-NTH-Nwy, F(Lon) - ENC, F(Edi) - NWS

FRANCE : (Tony Hastings)
F(Pic) S Neutral A(Bel), F(Spa sc) - Por,
A(Gas) S A(Par), A(Par) - Bur,
B(Par)-Gas-Spa-Por[S F(Spa sc - Por]-Gas [Post-
mission route not specified]

GERMANY : (Steve Edington)
A(Pru) S A(Pol), F(Hol) S Neutral A(Bel), F(Ire)
- JUT, A(Pol) S Russian A(Mos) - Sev, T(Bur)-Par
B(Mun) - [S T(Bur) - Par]-Mun [Pre and Post-
mission route not specified]

ITALY : (Neil Duncan)
A(Aus) - Hun, T(Ven)-Pie-Mar, A(Rom) - Ven,
B(Ven)-Pie-Mar[S T(Ven) - Mar]-Pie

RUSSIA : (Tony Dickinson)
T(Rou) - Bul, A(Mos) - Sev, A(Vol) S A(Mos)-Sev,
B(Sev)-BLA-Ank(R)-Arm-Sev

TURKEY : (Mark Stretch)
F(BLA) S A(Gre) - Bul, A(Arm) - Sev, A(Gre)- Bul
B(Smy)-Con-Bul[S A(Gre) - Bul]-Con-Bul, A(Ank) -
Con

Retreats: French A(Par) - Bre
Disbandments: Neutral A(Por)
C.o.A. -> James Millington from 20 Dec until
20 Jan to 44 Red Post Hill.

PRESS:

Icabod - He Who Asked: About a Tank and an Army
in the same province? Suggest you re-read last
seasons "Disbandments" section!

Icabod - He Who Asked: With 1 Tank, 2 Army and 1
surplus SP. Disbanding an Army and requesting a
Tank build, violates the 1-2 ratio rule; as you
surmised!

Mark - Tony: P - K4

Ger(Govt) - Rus(Govt): Don't worry. Just ful-
filling what we agreed.

Ger(Govt) - All: Sorry for the lack of corres-
pondence this season. Have had little time to
write.

Berlin - London: Why the silence?

Italy - Germany: I shall be sending my Milan
army Inter Munich to help kill your Canaries.

Tony D. - All: The Tony-All messages last time
weren't from me.

Holiday, 94. Hans Schmidt reports on why you
should take your towels from Spain and instead
drape them over some cafe chairs in Paris next
year.

Fashion: This week; Jackboots by Helga. Are they
making a comeback?

Sport: Why don't the French ever win any bloody
thing these days? Also, the campaign to re-
appoint Napoleon as French Manager after first
round drubbing in Burgundy.

Late Sports News: French Manager taken to mental
hospital after claiming to be Napoleon.

Eurovision Song Contest latest odds: April in
Paris by the Adolf Hitler light jazz quartet.
2 - 1. Everyone else nowhere.

Man suffering from Old Jokeitis: Let's stuff
Turkey for Christmas.

Not much Better: Watch out for sour Kraut it's
hard to swallow.

Icabod: After those last two - Can a GM resign
or dropout?

PLAYERS NOTE:

Superb GM cock-up last season! Wrong build
shown for Turkey. Relevant players were notified.
Those involved will have had a good laugh at my
expense.

Note however, that whilst provisional builds
are acceptable; "blanket" builds are not! Your
build orders must bear some relation to your
available/expected SP's. Those ordering the build
of a T, B, F and A each autumn (or some other
"blanket" combination) will be penalized.

Further, note that build orders to the
effect; "If anybody gives me SP's, build..." are
not acceptable. Your build orders must indicate
from whom you are expecting to receive SP's.

To clarify "Ownership" as relates to an sc.
Add to the end of rule 4: "in an Autumn season."
So; ownership of an sc only changes if occupied
in the Autumn.

BRISFIT 1992BM AirForce Diplomacy Spring 1944
GM: Dave Newnham

AUSTRIAN WIN LIKELY?
NMR's Can Ruin Your Whole Day!

ENGLAND : (Mark Underhay)
F(Nwy) - Fin nc, F(JUT) S L(Lon) - Nwy via NTH,
L(Lon) - Nwy via NTH, F(BAR) S F(Nwy) - Fin nc

FRANCE : (Mike Dommett)
A(Bur) - Mar, A(Spa) S A(Bur) - Mar, L(Bre) S
A(Bur) - Mar via Gas, A(Gas) S A(Bur) - Mar

GERMANY : (Neil Duncan)
A(Bel) S A(Hol), A(Hol) S L(Mun) - Kie, A(Pol) -
Mos, A(Cze) - Pol, L(Sue) - Fin, L(Mun) - Kie
via CGe, L(Kie) - Pru via BAS, F(BAS) - Sue

ITALY : (Mark Stretch)
F(ION) - TYS, L(Tun) S A(Mar) via WMS, A(Mar)
Stands, A(Vol) S German A(Pol) - Mos, L(Gre) -
Nap via ION, A(Sev) S A(Vol), L(Rom) S A(Mar)
via Pie, A(Roa) S A(Sev), L(Ven) S A(Mar) via Pie

RUSSIA : (Edmund Morgan) NMR!
L(Fin), A(Ura), A(Mos) Stand unordered.

Retreats: Nil
Disbandments: Russian L(Fin) & A(Mos) [NRO]

Vote Proposal: 5-way Draw (E/F/G/I/R).
Abstentions count against.

PRESS:

Icabod - Mike(F): Your "Set Two" actioned; your
Set One not yet seen!

Icabod - Mark(E): As written your F(JUT) is
double ordered. It could have supported L(Lon) -
Nwy [i.e: into] or L(Lon) via NTH, but not both!