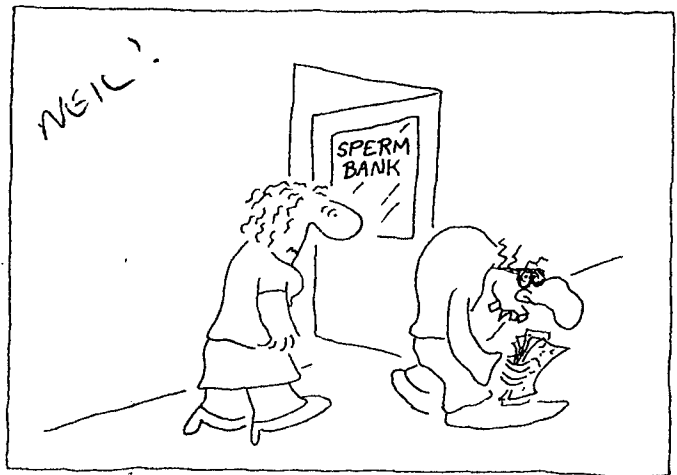
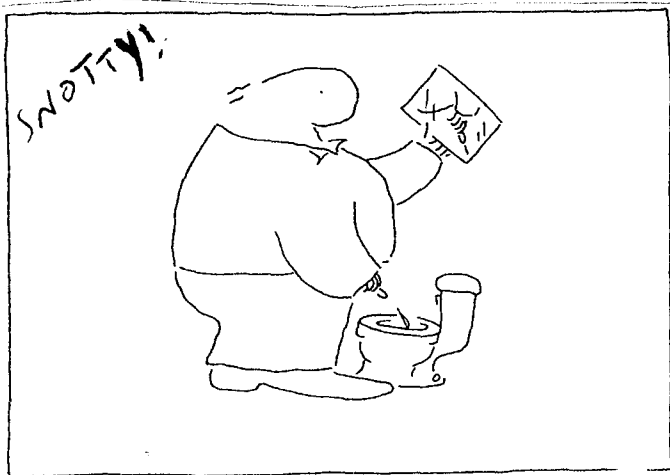
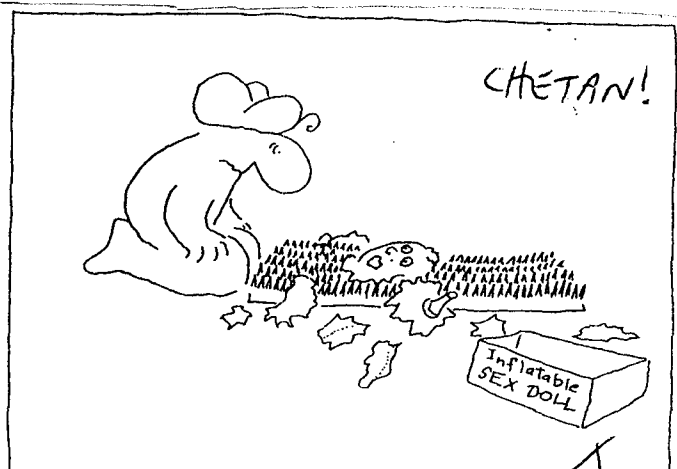
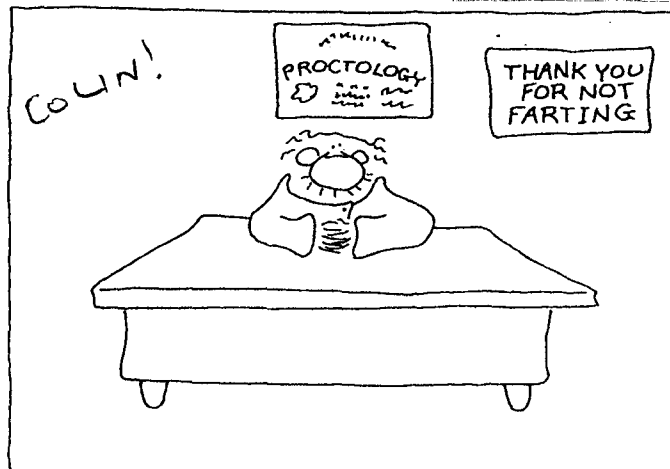


# Starstudded Names Of TCP



"Why do I always have to sleep on the wet spot?"



## **Back in the saddle**

For those of you appalled at the thought of a SNOT resurrection, don't worry it's a one off. It was also Neil's idea and enthusiasm that brought this about - I was not about to volunteer! Despite the heading of "SNOT 50", if one is including the one/two page jobbies that have been contaminating TCP for a couple of years now, really we are on SNOT 76 as I have been through the alphabet in the form of SNOTlet 31a and 40b-z. 31a of course was the prototype SNOT subzine produced for TCP back in December 97 as a response to a few editorial comments that I had rigged my Zine Poll win by canvassing. I am still waiting to fill the Fic Dic gamestart published therein...

So, dragging ourselves back to the 21<sup>st</sup> century I sometimes wonder why I bothered getting a bigger PC than the 386 SNOT 8 was churned out with, seeing as the hard drive on my last one was a bit ropey and the hard drive on this machine now is all but dead - I just hope it will last long enough for me to finish this rubbish before dying completely otherwise a trip into work will be necessary. Just what you want on a gorgeous Sunday morning with the wife away!

Talking of work, it has been announced that we are to move site - from the big Littlewoods art deco building on Edge Lane (anyone entering or leaving the city by the M62 will have passed this on the south side of the dual carriageway - it's a lovely building which is why, presumably, it is to be bulldozed once we are gone. Capital of Culture you say...?) to a new factory in Whiston. Whiston is between Liverpool and St Helens with the site a mile from the nearest railway station and the main bus routes but it's right next to the M62/M57 junction which makes it "great for transport links", apparently. So great I've had to go out and buy a car. Can't wait for the cost of living pay increases - mine should be about 10%? Oh no, that's right, everyone's getting £250 whether you walk, drive or fly to work and whether you live in Whiston, Liverpool or Chester. That should just about cover the cost of a new spare wheel (which I discovered on Friday had been pinched) and repairing the mechanism to hold it. Funny, don't remember going to Manchester recently...

**For those not wanting to know about Harry Potter & TOOTP - skip these paras...**

Well, for a tenner I couldn't resist buying the new HP book (no, it was from Sainsbury's, not one of the wagon load that were pinched just before release). It's rather good, most enjoyable. I did get rather hacked off though with Mr P being such a narky know-all, but then that's being a teenager I suppose. I felt the end of the book was a bit rushed; I mean these prophecy things were never fully explained for starters - what was the consequence of dozens of them going up in smoke if any, and if not why the big secrecy and security around them? Also, if the prophecy came from Trelawny, why doesn't you-know-who just go and ask her what the prophecy for HP is as presumably she'd buckle instantly at the sight of him (which could be why Dumbledore wouldn't let her leave Hogwarts?).

Anyway, my main gripe is the "main character" death. Er, sorry but I missed when Sirius Black became a main character? I was expecting someone that had been around since book 1, not just turned up in book 3. For a few pages it looked like Hermione or Neville (wow! That would have been a shocker) and for half the book I thought it would be McGonagall (oooo!) after her tri-blasting outside Hagrid's hut. But no, it was Sirius... And what was that curtain on the dais all about - something tells me Black isn't quite as 'dead' as we are being led to believe. I thought the Paxman interview with Rowling rather irritating too - the obvious retort to his "Isn't all this secrecy a bit over the top" question was "If you tape a footy/tennis/whatever match, do you try to avoid finding out the score so as to get the maximum excitement watching it?". Tossler.

**End Harry Potter commentary.**

Next on the reading list (once I've finished the fascinating *Made In America* by Bill Bryson - I just LOVE the thought of Americans celebrating the wrong day for Independence!) is the new Ben Elton book and new Bill Bryson book. It would seem they are early birthday presents, and who am I to argue? Until issue 126 kids...

## Duncan Autumn 1904

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Vick Hall)**

A(Vie) – Tri; A(Ser) s A(Vie) – Tri\*; A(Bud) s A(Vie) – Tri; F(Tun) Stands\*

**ENGLAND (Gihan Bandaranaike)**

F(MAO) – NAO; F(ENG) – Bre; F(NTH) c A(Bel) – Nwy; F(Den) s RUSSIAN A(Nwy) – Swe;  
A(Bel) – Nwy

**FRANCE (Jeremy Tullett)**

A(Pie) – Mar; F(GoL) – Spa sc; F(TYS) – GoL; A(Bre) Stands; A(Por) Stands

**GERMANY (Alan Frost)**

A(Ruh) – Bel; A(Bur) s A(Ruh) – Bel; F(Hol) s A(Ruh) – Bel; A(Kie) s F(Hol)\*

**ITALY (Andrew Greco)**

A(Tri) – Ven; A(Rom) Stands; F(Nap) – TYS; F(WMS) – Tun

**RUSSIA (Colin Hobbs)**

A(Ukr) – Gal; F(Sev) s A(Rum); A(Rum) s A(Ukr) – Gal; A(Ber) s A(Mun); A(Mun) s F(BAL) – Kie;  
F(BAL) – Kie; A(Nwy) – Swe

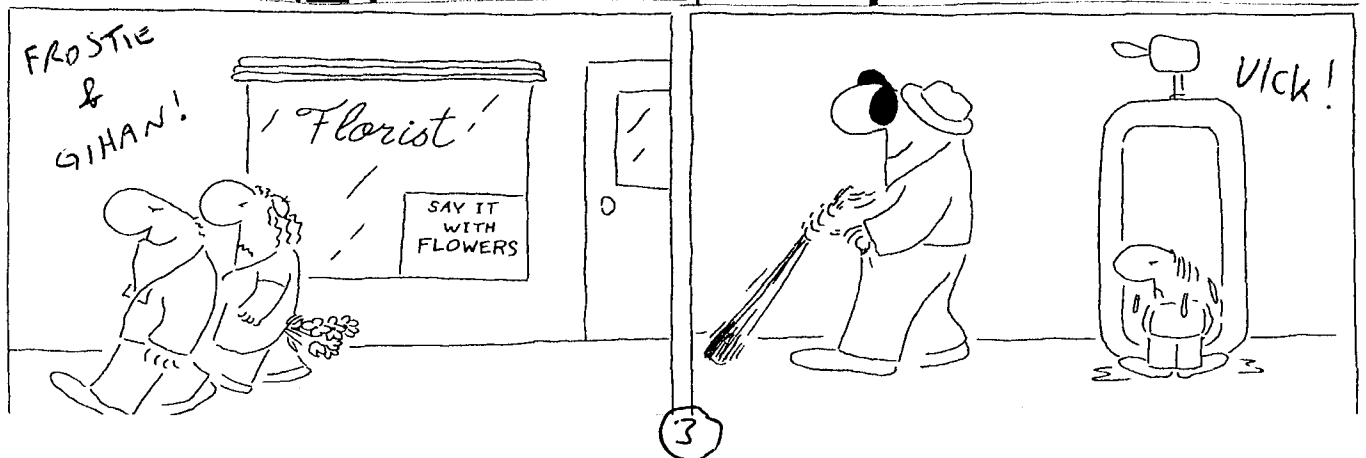
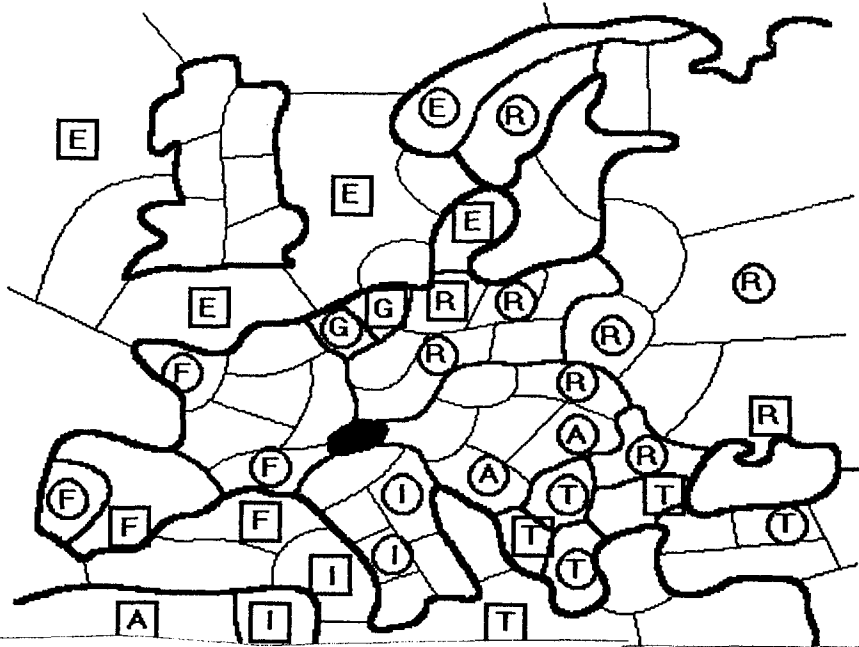
**TURKEY (Neil Duncan)**

F(Alb) – Tri; A(Gre) s A(Bul) – Ser; A(Bul) – Ser; F(BLA) – Bul ec;  
F(ION) s ITALIAN F(WMS) – Tun

**Retreats:** AUSTRIAN A(Ser) disbands NRP, GERMAN A(Kie) disbands NRO

**Autumn 1904 Adjustments:**

A: +Tri, Bud, Vie, -Ser, -Tun,	= 3 N/C
E: Den, +Nwy, Edi, Lon, Lpl, -Bel,	= 5 N/C
F: Mar, Spa, Bre, Por, Par,	= 5 N/C
G: +Bel, Hol, -Kie, -Mun, -Ber,	= 2 Disbands A(Bur)
I: Ven, Rom, +Tun, Nap, -Tri,	= 4 N/C
R: Sev, Rum, +Ber, +Mun, +Kie, Swe, Mos, StP, War, -Nwy,	= 9 Build A(War), A(Mos)
T: Gre, +Ser, Bul, Con, Smy, Ank,	= 6 Build A(Ank)



**Press:** London – paris: as you can see, I do not make 1 centre stabs on a loyal ally. I poked at Brest (unsupported) in case you planned to vacate and build f bre. I trust we can continue to work together – as now my attention is needed up north, if only for the good of this game.

london – lowlands: now that I have given you belgium, will you work with me to regain your homeland? Or are you still sulking? I did not believe “denmark supports skagerrak to sweden” because this would result in his fleet sweden retreating to baltic and not disbanding (russia had a build coming), a patently awful position for you (similar to you dislodging bohemia to silesia, which got you into this awful mess to begin with after attacking me from the start, vick gleefully deflecting Russia up north). So if you do continue to throw your toys out of your pram, I have no further interest in this game (as I prefer playing with grown-ups rather than sulky overgrown kids) hence will proxy to jeremy, but not before ensuring your elimination. It is your choice. I was dragged into this game by vick who put my name down (as I don't like playing email or postal) so me resigning from this game (which I'm playing with minimal diplomacy – not even a single chat with colin) is no big loss on my part. My only game regret is that I didn't order into heligoland and finish you off but, in my vain attempt to placate you, I instead strained my good relations with jeremy, who I play face-to-face frequently. Because of my low opinion of your play so far, I must sadly conclude this game is not worth the effort. But maybe you'll play more maturely and change my mind. I won't be holding my breath...

london – moscow: I expect a disband this turn (when I could have gone for 1 build with eng s mao – bre and nth s bel – hol, den – kie). However, unlike the sulky brat in this game who tried to attack me and came off worse, I will not be throwing all my centres your way.

london – GM: if everyone threw their home centres away everytime they lost just 1 centre, dip would be a very short game indeed! What would be the point in playing such a game? So thanks for Gming my last postal/email game. Never again. The spectrum of ability is just too wide and, whilst that brat can talk bollocks until the cows plead mercy, like everything he spouts, there is no substance behind it. His racist homophobic bigoted shit has almost made me quit TCP in disgust. This game has only served to reinforce my opinion of frostie as a sad git with too much time on his hands and too many half-baked opinions. If he only he had a brain cell, he would be dangerous.

SG – London: I once played a ftf game against someone and I stabbed them for 2 centres with another guaranteed in the Autumn to put me up to board leader. After a ten minute tirade of how stupid I was and how I was throwing the game to country X I lost all interest in the game, pulled back and shuffled my pieces around aimlessly. By the time the game ended I'd been stabbed by my stabee who of course won the board. I suppose you could say “well played that man” but to me it just puts me off playing. I have had this several times and the ‘bigger’ the player the worse it usually is. I really shouldn't play ftf Dip – far too nice.

London – others: I do not know why I have to pay the price for germany's incompetence and sulky trantrum (a dangerously game-imbalancing combination) but I've now done the decent thing. This game reminds me why I hate this format. You just can't legislate for vegetables.

SG – Others: Wow, who needs an editorial or lettercol? Guys, as reported my PC is dying so I suggest you copy all emails sent to me for the foreseeable future to the cdms email address below – I'll let you all know when this bucket has been repaired...

### **Quick Australian Pink Floyd review – King's Dock, Liverpool, 13.7.03**

This was a most enjoyable evening. The band certainly can play though large chunks of the evening were unknown to me as they played some really early stuff – did they write anything under 10 minutes long then? Still, they did “The Fletcher Memorial Home” off *The Final Cut* which made me happy – let's face it you're not likely to hear anything off that LP at the real thing! The venue was a big tent down by the Albert Dock, and whilst rather warm in there it is most impressive. There were lots of security/ushers around who pounced on anyone immediately should they light up – I've seen draconian running of concerts before but this was the strictest I've seen. It was fantastic!

**James Hardy, 71 Bonchurch Drive, Liverpool, L15 4PW**  
**james.hardy@breathemail.net or james.hardy@cdms.co.uk 0777 5588 920**

## TCP 114 Ed's Bit

### Mutiny! Mutiny!

Me own zine hi-jacked from under me by Snotty James, just cos his subzine hits the big 50! Who does he think he is? Anyway, congrats to the big fella who has in fact done a bunch more than fifty issues - here's to the next fifty!

### Survey Success:

Many thanks to the many of you who sent me back completed questionnaires - they are really appreciated. A big thanks to the Survey King - Doug Massie, who co-opted 16 people to helping out. I think that warrants a freebie TCP. At time of printing I have about 120 back, so the minimum is hit and the final tally is likely to be more than 150, so I am well pleased. (Less pleased that initial analysis disproves the main hypotheses, but pleased again because I have had my results and I have passed! I notched up a 73%, a 68%, another 68% and a rotten 56% - so well pleased in fact. Just got to get the dissertation done now!

### Still steaming about the war:

Sorry folks, I know I sound like a cracked record, but the whole thing still bugs the hell out of me. The whole crap justification, the continued mayhem in the place. Saddam probably still alive and certainly acting as inspiration to anyone who hates the Americans.

The 4<sup>th</sup> July jolly by Arnie almost made me heave. I have never been entirely comfortable with his Republican politics, but that little display was just too much. Has the bozo got any idea what is going on out there?

Then we have had the (not surprising) revelation that the "Saving Private Jessica" was pretty much a crock of shit. We have also heard the first stirrings about the 'fate' of the non-persons being held at Camp X-Ray. I dunno what these people are like, they may be nasty pieces of work, but the quality of US/UK intelligence means they are just as likely to be Abdullah from the chip shop on the corner. It seems pretty rich to me that the Yanks have gone to so much bother to ensure their nasty little war criminals don't get tried abroad and yet, they are pretty damn keen to try everybody else's.

Mark my words - if they do go ahead with it and especially if they start executing people, all we will see is more martyrs for Bin Laden, regardless of what the people might actually have been. Blair wants to get himself a pair of balls and tell Bush to hand over any Brits or else..

Also, been watching that "Real War" series and I was shocked by one fact. It was during a bombing run by British pilots, who seemed like decent fellows. They dropped their 'smart' satellite guided bomb and alas, it missed. Ok, this happens, but it missed, literally, by a mile. Dunno about you, but surely to god they could have managed greater accuracy than that? A mile is easily the difference between a missile battery on a hill and a hospital down in the valley! No wonder there was so much friendly fire stuff.

### Other stuff:

Oh yeah, e-mail seems much better now - I rant on about it later.

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2003**

## Con Corner

**South Hants Hobby meet:** Is set for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003 at around 10 o'clock at Richards. Contact me for further details.

### BoruCon IV

The FOURTH edition of Ireland's most popular diplomacy convention takes place August 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> in Dublin city centre. Venue is the Teacher's Club in Parnell Square, Dublin 1, with separate rooms for gaming, a subsidised bar and late night opening. For more info contact :

[Twergr85@yahoo.com](mailto:Twergr85@yahoo.com) or [Denno88@yahoo.com](mailto:Denno88@yahoo.com)

**North Hants Hobby meet:** Not until Sept I'm afraid far too busy.

**MidCon:** November sometime, usual venue mind.

## THE TCP 114 LETTER COL

**TCP:** I'll start this a little earlier this time and hope to finish it a little quicker too.

### **Mike Dommett (from the front lines):**

It is worrying that either our intelligence services lied, or are crap, or the government lied, or a combination. It is possible that the suggestion that Bush decided to attack Iraq before the twin towers, and that was a godsend for him for giving him a reason, and all the UN stuff was trying to get more support for a war he'd decided to fight anyway.

**TCP:** It is all very worrying. You kind of expect the government to lie over stuff, but going to war seems beyond the pale. I vaguely recall that in the run up to the Falklands, the Yanks (under Reagan) were trying to cool the sitch but Maggie was raring to go. Who'd have thought that we'd look back on Regan as the golden age of Republican politics?

### **Mike continues (to worry me):**

Now Iran is being set up too. As has been said "look at a country we had a war in earlier" Afghanistan? Rule of government in Kabul and a few areas close by, opium poppy production back up to pre-Taliban levels, reconstruction minimal and monies not forthcoming.

**TCP:** I suppose that the one good thing to come out of this mess is that Blair probably won't have the gall to use the old 'weapons of mass destruction' ploy against Iran. (What was that old saying about 'crying wolf'?) There was a pretty good prog on CH4, on this very subject, called, "Here's one we invaded earlier." It highlighted the almost insane

## Subzine of SNOT#50

recklessness of the 'Coalition of the wilful'. Even the reporter verged on rage at some of the balls ups he saw.

### More Mike more thoughts:

Somalia, along with Ethiopia fought over as proxies by Russia and USA, with the two backers swapping sides halfway through. A film to commemorate a military balls up with helicopters crashing, and a country that still has no government, but the world's eye has moved on. America and the UK launch a war to deal with a country that ignores UN resolutions, (so not Israel and resolutions dating to 1967), that gassed its own people (so Donald Rumsfeld didn't go to meet Saddam afterwards, and the UK didn't sell chemical factories and the Germans didn't sell equipment for uranium enrichment to a man like that afterwards), that launched a war of aggression against a neighbouring country. (Admittedly Iran had humiliated the USA by revolting against the Shah imposed on them by a UK/USA backed coup, and the Shah had tortured and killed his people, and we were scared that the Shia's in Iraq would also have an Islamic revolution and this would spread into the Gulf, so we were very keen for Iraq to start the war, and kept arming him throughout), that he gassed Iranians in the war (we gave him the raw materials), he shot hundreds of people and the mass graves are coming to light (a shame that nearly all of these were killed after the revolt at the end of the gulf war that we encouraged, and then changed our minds in case the Shia's took power and affected the Gulf states), who drained the marshes in Iraq (see the previous point), who launched an unprovoked invasion of Kuwait (who were pumping oil from an oil field most of which is under Iraqi soil, and that the Americans had given a go-ahead for limited action to settle), who develop "weapons of mass destruction" (unfortunate that we sold him the anthrax, and various of the chemicals, and documents relating to alleged attempts to purchase uranium from the Congo are forgeries), who was linked with terrorist groups and funded them (presumably the offer from Osama Bin Laden to kill him after the Gulf War was a cunning ploy, paying Contra rebels in Nicaragua using the proceeds of drug smuggling is OK, sending guns and explosives to the guerrillas in Afghanistan is fine), who is a monster of unimaginable evil.....

**TCP:** I'll just cut in there. Yep, it is the monstrous hypocrisy that gets to most people I think. Dunno if I sounded off about these mass graves in Iraq last issue, so forgive me if I do so again, but, the way this was portrayed by the government(s) and reported by the media, beggared belief. It was outrageous and a tangible proof of the ruthlessness of the regime, but excuse me, so what, we all knew that anyway. These things were reported as if the unfortunate souls had just been bumped off last week and the intervention by our brave lads saved many others from such a fate. But like you said, these unfortunates, were bumped off eleven years ago under the noses of the West, who did bugger all. Seems a bit much to start weeping over the bones now. One politician, can't remember who, that wanker Hoon, or Shit-head Straw, saying, "Oh, well, this really just justify the

war now, even if everything else we told you was a pack of lies." Not for me boyyc. I want to see you clearing cluster bombs by hand!

### And Mike continues....:

..... Where shall I start? James Taylor's men who started the cutting off of women's and men's hands and arms; Rwanda, where the French encouraged the genocide initially... all you are saying is that he kills people and enjoys it), and that he will give El Quaeda weapons of mass destruction (so not securing centres where radioactive materials were stockpiled when you start your war helps, the USA still can't find out which of the 100 or so American scientists sent anthrax through the post, and presumably he could strike again, and send materials to Bin Laden, a dirty bomb requires radioactive material around a high explosive core - so a barrel of radioactive waste from any power station in the USSR or similar, an IRA style bomb in a white transit van, and that's the centre of London sorted out - Bin Laden didn't need Iraq for this stuff, and high explosive kills more people quickly. Only an atomic bomb makes the jump to mass destruction, and you have to ask how did Israel, Pakistan, North Korea, India, and South Africa get their bombs. Who sold what to who - who spied on which country.)

**TCP:** Indeed. One other observation I would make, which comes in part from the academic reading I am doing for my dissertation. When considering what people, (or organisations) say they are going to do against what they do actually do, the behaviour comes out in front on the expressed 'attitude'. The inconsistency between the stated US aims and what they did; (protected, the oil fields and ministry, did not protect the 'so-called' sites of WMD's etc etc); then one can realistically draw only one conclusion from this war.

### Yet more Mike:

Shouldn't have fought it. Should be making laws/conventions in the UN that clearly allow outside intervention - minimum standards that countries should follow (but we won't because that might stop us doing things.) I mean how can we go after North Korea for developing atomic bombs. They gave notice that they wanted to leave the non-proliferation treaty, as allowed in article 10. The non proliferation treaty commits the signatories to work for complete disarmament - and where does the increase in stockpiles of the 60's 70's and 80's fit in, and the US proposals for new battlefield atomic bunker busters fit in. France conducting test bomb detonations? When did the UK reduce its atomic warheads on IBM's?

**TCP:** The only reason they (the mysterious 'they') would not go for such a thing, is because any 'treaty' or whatever on such a thing, would need to address, so sort of minimum acceptable level of 'human rights' which might well include access to clean water and enough food and may be medicines too. Given the American's universal contempt for Global treaties, the last thing they want is a bunch of upperty third-worlders bleating on about fair trade etc.

## Subzine of SNOT#50

### Still Mike...:

Congratulations on Israel for carrying on assassinating Palestinian leaders. It's the best way to stop the Suicide killers. Eventually, if you kill all the Palestinians then the bombers will stop. There won't be a problem with the settlements either.

**TCP:** ... that's 'alleged' Palestinian leaders, by the way - don't forget that there has been no charges brought, no court of law, no defence here. And of course, the typical assassination usually takes out any number of totally innocent by-standers too. But my views on the whole bizarre concept of punishing 'suicide bombers' by killing them are well known. Each killing, be it a bona fide 'terrorist' or an innocent bystander merely generates another dozen, willing to kill or die. (I do not condone the suicide bombings by the way, but the Israelis are supposed to be a civilised, democratic country, whose people were brutally oppressed in the past - so I expect better of them.

### That's right, Mike's still with us:

Is Mr Wilman sure that science wasn't around with Plato and Socrates? Science that we'd recognise, perhaps not, and mostly wrong answers for things yes. What happens in 'Bill and Ted's adventure'?

**TCP:** Totally school-boy humour I'm afraid Mike - our little rascals refer to 'Socrates' in a phonetic way, hence: "So-Crates"... OK very juvenile but I am a student, what do you expect?

### And the final Mike:

My favourite American bit is the Steptoe and son episode when they were flying to France to see the WW1 battlefields, and they got into an argument with a Frenchman and an American. it was the caustic "late again" when the yank started on about the 41-45 war.

**TCP:** I like it. I think there was a similar sort of reference in one of the broadsheets in the run up to the Iraqi thing too. Anyway, one of my fave American bits, is in "A fish called Wanda", where John Cleese is baiting the American Kevin Klein about the "Yanks getting their asses whipped in Vietnam!" (I think Kevin retorted that, "It was a draw!")

### Allan Gordon (is relieved):

Phew! - that's a relief! I was beginning to think you'd been swallowed by a whale or something, (one can always dream!) Good to hear that it's nothing more than starving from lack of income.

**TCP:** Well, not starving yet, it's amazing how long cockroaches last if you harvest them carefully. I'm back and hopefully this time a bit quicker than last time, but to be fair, I kind of warned everyone in advance, so my sabbatical was not entirely unexpected.

### More Allan being very helpful:

I'm returning your questionnaire double smartly. You're bloody lucky, because I normally give short shrift to these pesky Market Research assholes when they waylay me in

the street... and even shorter when they come through the dog! I would probably have played ball (got to help out yer Friendly Neighbourhood Lay-about, haven't you?)

**TCP:** And I have dragged myself from my den of vice to thank you for such consideration. There's not many subbers that would be that considerate... take the anonymous one who decided I would love to hear about his complaint regarding haemorrhoid cream! Thanks a bunch.

### Richard Williams (sounds a warning):

Thanks for giving me England at ManorCon. My only worry is that I am due a bad game with that country.....

**TCP:** Bugger!

Richard, I've noticed that your letters are a lot shorter when the footie season is over - is that because you're worn out?

### Vick Hall (joins the ranks of the oppressed):

Please note the change of address. I'm now a proud homeowner for the first time. Quite exciting really. Although, whenever am I going to find the time to unpack, given my never-ending workload? That's even assuming that actual moving goes ok. Simon is meant to be in charge of the moving van, 'voyager' assuming it fits in with his illicit trip to New York to see some married woman. I don't know... between him and Andrew, you have to wonder about the morals of the current diplomacy hobby.

**TCP:** I thought they had always been a bit suspect myself, but perhaps I'd just had a sheltered upbringing. Mind you, you have moved to Brighton, which is on a par with Sodom and Gomorrah so perhaps you shouldn't cast the first stone.

### More Vick appreciating the reviews:

I quite liked all the San Marino stuff in the last issue. It's a really excellent location to go and play Dip. Fantastic historic venue with some amazing places to visit in the surrounding countryside. This time we took up Robert de Niro's tip and went to San Leo, which was an excellent choice. A scenic little village with a large meandering castle on top of a hill. Doug and myself were more than content to walk up the steep slope to get there, but the lazy brigade wanted to drive up to the gates in the car. Alas the road was blocked off, so they had to walk up the hill as well. No regrets from anyone as the place was a memorable visit. You did not want to be an unfortunate hostage/prisoner in that sadistically run place. Even the 'comfy' cell was subject to a disturbingly placed latrine above the bed.

**TCP:** Sounds like a good place to put NMRers!

### Still more Vick:

As usual there were also several bouts of too fast and too furious for us poor passengers to be subjected to. Dave Norman turned out to be an even more psychopathic driver than Simon - whose overtaking manoeuvres know no bounds. Toy really haven't lived until you try to overtake a van on the inside of a spiral ramp in a car park. All in the quest to be the first into the Dip hall. Needless to say there was also the usual last minute dash to the airport after

playing too many games of 'Titan' in Forli, and desperately driving around trying to find the station for Twerg.

**TCP:** How the hell did Twerg get back to Dublin by train? Twenty-seven pints of lager and that man can do anything.

**And the final Vick:**

The Ville Giardi was pleasant enough although as Shaun points out the breakfast was a bit meagre. Jam tarts and rock hard rolls of bread didn't really do it for me as a means to start the day, even when served by a chic Italian waitress with a twinkie in her eye.

**TCP:** Thank you Vick - that kinda makes it the fourth San Marino write up, which definitely sets TCP apart from the competition, which only manager one rather weak one... (titter)

And following in Vick's shadow, as always,

**Gihan Bandy (puts his finger on it - oo-er!):**

The problem with the hobby these days is that there are no feuds anymore. Part of the joy of receiving zines was to gorge on the bloodletting, a sort of 'Gladiator sport for the literati'. These days, most of the opinionated bigmouths seem to have either left the hobby, or worse, left this earth. Every age of advancement in human history has been based on one underlying factor: conflict. Without conflict, there is only stagnation.

**TCP:** I guess that makes the Yanks the most advanced country on earth!

Anyway, Gihan, thanks for volunteering to be the TCP letter col, 'fox'. So everybody, before it gets banned, get him!

**Allan Gordon returns:**

Hacked off with Henman?... Bored shitless about Beckhan? Understandable, they are both first water tossers, but really your spleen should be directed towards the real villains - the media. These are the manipulators who select nonentities for maximum hype application, and then relentlessly churn out related crap for pleb consumption.

In a way, you've got to feel a pang of sympathy for poor old sods such as Tim and Becks. It's not their fault that they are very mediocre players with hardly any ability... they are just victims of the ever-cunning media, force-feeding it's prime targets - women. Now, it's a fact not disputed by News-Screws, that what the fair(ly stupid) sex know about sport can be written on a pin-head and still leave room for "War and Peace". Which of course, matters jack shit to the ladies... the objects of their adulation have looks/legs/bums/contrived 'little-boy-lost' appeal. So that's what the media keeps slopping in the sow-troughs. How else, can be explained that when Becks was mercifully shipped abroad (hoo-bleedin'-ray), the Beeb were giving out quarter hour bulletins on the progress of his club medical. A MEDICAL f'crissake!... this is hot, breaking news?!

So, it ain't over after all. We'll get more bloody Boring Beckham and Hopeless Hesitant Henman stuff until we're gagging with the crap - and all because females pig-out on it... and

the media who created the false idols in the first place, are going to bloody exploit that 'til it's bled dry.

**TCP:** Well, I was with you on the slagging off of the media. Totally behind you on the stupid medical, but I am not sure I would join you in bashing the poor old ladies. For sure there are some who do lap up the media contrived trivia, but I would guess that there are a similar proportion of chaps similarly hooked on some other pointless media 'muzak'?

**Richard Young (with the letter I dreaded):**

I'm tempted to say, "this is just a quickie" cos I'm not going to have a go at anyone, (it just occurred to me that I am now playing in this game called 'Diplomacy'.) However, I have put together a few thoughts after reading TCP 113.

We live in interesting times, don't we? Hence, we're still discussing the latest volume of the West v Islam. Ok, ok, it ain't religious from out point of view, but it very well could be from America's. Maybe the cliché of Jewish influence in Washington is a little overplayed. But the influence of Christian extremism isn't. Bush jnr lead a crusade against Iraq. Was nobody else uneasy at seeing Western forces praying everyday before running around dodging unsubstantiated chemical/biological weapons.

**TCP:** Not as uneasy as reading about the EC missionaries planning of heading to Iraq on the coat-tails of the US army in or to try and 'convert' the heathen masses...

**More Richard and the crusade:**

The old crusade mentality could very well continue. Into the vacuum of Iraq (Which the US/UK administration is delaying filling 'cos, yet again, Bush has failed to nail his arch-enemy), has come the Islamic militantism, Saddam had kept under control. It's not surprising that the warnings against Iran were so unambiguous. Of course this militantism has nothing to do with Iran; and equally obviously, Iran is not the next target.

**TCP:** I'm not so sure mate, Iran is sitting somewhat precariously between Afghanistan, which was twatted and Iraq that has been twatted. I would certainly be looking for something unsophisticated in the next step of US foreign policy.

**Richard again:**

By the way, I'm pretty certain that Saddam and Bin Laden are, even now, sat in a street café in some Black Sea town, drinking mugs of mellow bird's and enjoying a 'Mcflurry' whilst working on their memoirs.

**TCP:** It's a nice though, but I suspect they are still 'on the job' so to speak and enhancing their potential 'martyr' status by each day the remain 'free'.

**more Richard (in defence of Blair?):**

I'm not sure why everyone keeps having a go at poor old Tony Blair. I mean, all he's done is protect Britain's national interest. After all, we're bound to be interested in following America's lead - they did alright by us 60 years ago. Let's not worry about the fact that.



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Economically, Britain competes with America. Don't worry about the fact that Britain cannot afford to be ostracised by Europe. Let's not even consider the fact we didn't get any points in Eurovision.

The reality is, of course that nobody is around who could do any better. Who've got? Anyone in the Labour party? Claire Short? Well, she stood by her guns, (sorry, bad choice of words) and resigned from Tony's support group. Just a shame she did 3 months past her 'credible stand' date. What about Cook? Actually, Robin reminds me of the two qualities embodied by past Labour leadership failures - Michael Foot, (he looks like an extra from Jon Pertwee's reign as Dr Who) and Neil Kinnock, (ginger - sorry, that was unworthy of me!) Gordon Brown? He'd make a good cold caller for those "sue if you've had an accident" firms, but not a leader.

**TCP:** I think this is why I am so anti-Blair - I thought that he was a decent chap with ability, now I feel he is a lapdog to a mere slip of a mind.

### Richard again:

What about the Tories? IDS was elected by people who didn't want Clarke and Portillo cos they didn't want anybody to rock the boat. Give him his due, he's doing a good job. The problem with his party is that they're even further to the right than Blair's Labour. One high flying member of their party actually praised Bush as being the, "leader of the free world".

The others? How about Liberal Democrats? Who knows? All the others are one-issue parties.

Politics in Britain is a laugh. Most of the votes in an election don't count. More people in Britain haven't voted for a government than have in every election every since 1950's. Yet every single government has been, "the voice of the people". These governments aren't accountable - they weren't even the choice of the majority.

At the moment, politicians/bureaucrats - are trying to come up with ways to get people involved in politics. But why? If I don't vote for the person who is elected, my vote is meaningless. Ok, it registers my disapproval of that candidate but it doesn't mean anything. And in the vast majority of areas mot voters do not approve of the elected candidate! Why then is this person elected?

**TCP:** No good asking me squire - I have always been a PR proponent, which has to give a more realistic representation.

### Richard continues:

For me, the top and bottom of it is; if my vote doesn't count, I have been disenfranchised. The old adage, "if you don't vote, you deserve what you get!" just doesn't work because in many cases, if you do vote you don't deserve what you get!

If you really want to get people involved in politics, then people have got to feel involved with politics. Every vote cast needs to count. But then voters need to be involved in legislation as well. We don't need people to be able to vote electronically or postally fro the laziness of their own home; that will come

anyway. We need people to feel involved and be involved. If my votes counts, THEN if I don't vote, I deserve what I get.

**TCP:** How about this for a system then; Votes cast for parties count as sort of 'money' that can be spent to put forward legislation (or oppose unwanted legislation). The government might have the largest single stash of votes, but opposition 'votes' can be used to moderate government policies. (or support them I suppose if they agreed with...)

They you go - every vote counts. Even an independent MP could use his/her 20K votes to sell their cause.

### Richard again (obviously on Duracell):

Early democracy was much more involved. Ok, so the Greek idea of a citizen might not have been very inclusive, but at least citizens were involved in politics. They had to be ! Democracy means - or meant - literally "strength of the people", which by implication was rule by the people. Britain isn't democratic.

The politicians and apologists use the term 'parliamentary democracy'. The implication being that in our system the people transfer their rule to an elected body that has sovereignty. But that isn't the case, even leaving aside the irrelevancy of the monarchy and the meta-sovereignty of the unelected European Commission and Court of Justice. Ignoring the equally un-elected House of Lords, we're still left with the House of Commons which passes legislation with no majority mandate, because legislation is passed by government and the governing majority is always elected by a minority.

Hmm, If I cough loud enough, will you wake up? Bit of a hobby-horse that; betcha couldn't tell, huh? Well, I got it off my chest. Unlike Alan Frost though, I wouldn't have used the pick-up line at a party, otherwise. Well, not since my university days. I had a very quiet three years at Uni.

**TCP:** I indulged you Richard - a 200 decibel CD kept me awake.

### And the final Richard:

One more thing. I was reading a back issue of ODE (yeh, some editors do reply!) and noticed John Marsden wondering about a Central Gamestart Service for postal Dip. The point being that a lot of zines have lists which take ages to fill up. It needs some organisation, of course, but in principle, sounds ok.

**TCP:** I have no problem with it myself, but certainly wouldn't want to be the poor sap who has to run it!

### Rosie Roberts (dissatisfied with any purchase):

It doesn't seem likely that I haven't been dissatisfied with anything this year. I take it you only need cases to reduce to numbers, not detailed scenarios to cite. I will give it some thought, while I write the rest of my screed. By the way, you didn't tell us what your MA will be (as it were) "in". Maybe all your olde regulars know exactly what field you are in but I have never quite figured it out. A survey of

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consumer behaviour sounds almost like sociology; I do hope not.

**TCP:** It's almost as bad - 'Marketing Management' I was the junk-mail guy for the AA - like printing money I can tell you. Yes, I have actually got trillions of surveys back, picking a subject which involved encouraging people to whinge was not done by chance.

One wag took the opportunity to fill out the form complaining about the poor service of TCP - there's always one.

### More Rosie on my dodgy-e-mail:

Why do you consider your e-mail address to be dodgy? I know several people located at ntlworld and they have never had any trouble SFAIK. I also have a "free" e-mail address at the web.de which is remarkably good. I would have to pay for a mailbox that could accommodate really large files, but I get a reasonable amount at no cost and they don't appear to be selling my address. My usual address is this CompuServe one, which is also very good - mainly because I have resisted all temptations to upgrade the program and I am still using the 1993 version. No virus has ever got past that.

**TCP:** I guess that not too many viruses were written in Latin...

I considered my e-mail dodgy, cos it was! Taking 7-10 minutes to return to the "Inbox" from reading a one line message. Attempts to send messages ending in 15 minutes of inactivity, following by a lot of cursing from me. Some early victims were getting six or seven identical messages from me as I attempted to get the f\*\*\*\*r to work.

Eventually, I felt compelled to ring the help-desk (50p per minute) to report my frustration. The chap was actually helpful, confirmed that my connection did seem to be very very slow, but this was a 'feature' of ntl-webmail. He recommended that I switch to "Outlook Express". He said that if I rang the helpdesk the following morning, they would ring me back and talk me thru' the installation.

I rang back the next morning, but they claimed that they never ring back (!!)

But the lady did talk me through the installation. I have to say that things were very much better, more than ten times faster - I was delighted, the front-end was similar to what I was familiar with. By joy did not last very long, as I found that I couldn't open any attachments. I guessed that it was an installation problem and rang ntl for the third time (at 50p per minute). The tosser on the end of the phone said, "Can't help you, as we don't support that package...!" I can tell you that I went from 0-60 in .3 nanoseconds as I told him that the ntl suggested solution to the totally crap ntl webmail was Outlook Express blah blah. I was forced to put the phone down on the amoeba before I had a stroke.

So I checked every option of every screen until eventually I tracked down the, "Do

not let this dickhead read his attachments" box set to "On". I am glad to say that I did cure the problem by my joy was tempered by my rage. Why oh why oh why do these poxy installation problems ask you questions like, "Would you like a three flanged sprocket fitted clockwise or a four flanged sprocket inserted counter-clockwise?" (Which is fucking meaningless techno bollox to 99% of the population,) and yet not ask you if you want to be able to read attachments - a question I knew the answer to.

### Rosie again:

I never expected that the US forces would find any WMDs. Saddam undoubtedly did put in some work on acquiring weapons-grade YNI, and we know he had all manner of legally obtained chemicals and assorted hardware because some of the vendors filed receipts, but he had weeks to sell off anything he may have stockpiled before the inspectors arrived, let alone the marines. The only thing that does surprise me is that no large packages have yet reached the US forwarded from ObL. I can't remember where, but I saw it claimed that most (I'm pretty sure it was "most", though "some" would be bad enough) US soldiers are doped up most of the time - not necessarily on marihuana, also either to keep awake or to counteract the stress they are under. This was cited as a reason for all the "friendly fire" incidents. I suppose it might be true - if not, it does seem odd that they managed to kill so few Iraqis and so many Brits.

**TCP:** I too had heard that 'some' US troops do take drugs (legally) to counteract tiredness etc and wonder what effect that does have on their judgement.

### Rosie continues with the war:

I agree with you that it is not by any means over yet. I don't believe any country anywhere has ever managed to make dissenting Islam factions sit down together even for sensible discussions, let alone to form a stable government. The "king" that flew in the other week may be a prat of the first water but he could have the best chance of imposing unity. And yes, I did mean "imposing". Apart from little matters like poverty and ill-health, the ordinary population under Saddam was probably not so very badly off. At least they didn't have the mullahs on their backs. Now, however well whoever rebuilds the country and organises a constitution, at least 50% of the population are going to be very much worse off. That's the female half (you will have seen that coming). I don't see any solution for them unless a way is found to prevent all religious matters from being dragged into politics. Turkey has made quite a good job of this without any very obvious ructions (or none that get into our newspapers). Perhaps they should write Iraq's new constitution.

**TCP:** I really don't know how it's going to end (except, all in tears). Strictly speaking, the 'easy' bit should have been the food, water, medicine and security. The people had squat and high expectations of the West. I think the 'new' government would have been a nice to have, but second place to the essentials. When they couldn't get that right, the writing was definitely on the walls. No doubts

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'foreign' fighters have been trickling into the country as the situation has deteriorated, thus causing a downward spiral...

### A bit of Euro-Rosie:

Over here we already have it, and it caused remarkably little upheaval. At the changeover our exchange rate was almost exactly one-to-two, which did make it easier to adjust than if it had been a factor of (say) 0.6943. Yes, of course prices did rise. This is not a feature of the currency, it's a feature of shopkeepers and tradesmen. And there were a good many expenses for banks and supermarkets that most people didn't ever get to hear about. I did, because I'm a technical translator and I processed numerous documents about cash dispensers with extra cartridges for dual currencies, reinforced cash-drawers for twice the usual coinage, and so on. Germany decided to allow two months for the currencies to run in parallel, but almost the whole changeover was completed within a week. People simply took all their cash with them the first time they shopped and got it changed. It was all rather like the Millennium Bug the year before: people complained dreadfully when there was no chaos in spite of all the hype and feverish activity beforehand, but there was no chaos because of all that feverish activity.

TCP: That's kinda what I would expect really. Lotta fuss about nuffink. I do feel the Euro would ultimately be a good thing, but really need a bit more info. I do not have any kind of love affair with the 'pound' money is just means to an end.

### Rosie and the Roadmap:

I agree with you here too, though it should be said that the Hamas organisation doesn't appear to have any *raison d'être other than* killing people. There must be some Irish blood in there. It does seem futile (as well as counter-productive and barbarous) for Israel to target the Hamas leaders. They must realise that it cannot have any useful effect: if the positions were reversed Israelis would not be brought to the conference table by losing some of the figureheads, they would simply be further incensed and their loose cannons further emboldened. We keep on hearing "spokesmen" for Islam, claiming that it is peaceful and friendly and does not support terrorism, but in the wake of any terrorist attack we always see crowds of jubilant Arabs rejoicing in the bloodshed, never crowds of subdued and sorrowful Muslims protesting that Islam is being misrepresented. Why won't the true believers stand up and be counted then?

TCP: "Some Irish blood?" a bit provocative or what coming on the heels of revelations that 'British' forces colluded with terrorists in having people killed. Re the 'jubilant' Arabs: well, I dunno really, but I suspect that it's politics as much as religion, if not more so. My guess is the 'street' Arab feels so helpless and hopeless in the face of the all-powerful US-Israeli axis that any strike seems good. I also feel that it's a cultural thing and it's tricky judging other cultures by our norms.

### Rosie on Schröder:

In the matter of supporting the Iraq war, some Brits like to lump France and Germany in together, sometimes including Russia. In fact the motivations were quite different. It seems quite likely that France and/or Russia were unwilling to attack their massive trading partner, particularly as Saddam owed them both a great deal of money that they can ill afford to kiss goodbye. I don't think Germany had anything like so much going with Iraq, Schröder's main reason for holding back was they he simply could not afford to fight, literally or politically. A few weeks ago it was announced that Germany's probably tax revenue for the next few (possibly 5) years is 26.5 billion euros short of expectations. When you read the report carefully (not that I did) it transpires that this is the sum of all the years involved and is a worst combination of worst case scenarios, but his electorate would not have taken kindly to such obvious profligacy. My opinion of Schröder comes close to your opinion of Bush, but even a consummate prat must fall on his feet occasionally.

TCP: Fair enough. Since you are in the Fatherland, you can give us a first hand 'normal' persons eye view about the German reaction to the Italian jibe?

### Rosie ends on a tie:

Some forms of dress look smarter than others. A collar and tie looks reasonably smart because you have to be fairly sober to get it right and that straightaway improves the standard of your shaving (if any) colour coordination (if applicable) and odour sensitivity. Personally, I look terrible in trousers but I look infinitely worse in a skirt. Neither in Europe nor in Iraq should any person tell any other person how to dress, nor apply any strictures depending on how that person does decide to dress.

TCP: I'll go along with that. But re the 'smart' collar and tie, I think it's subjective myself. I think they look silly, supposing the bloody 'ruff' was still in fashion? Mind you - here's one man who could do with a ruff...

### Colin Hobbs (suits you sir...):

I think you are wrong that Alan Frost thinks the 'female suit' is jacket and skirt. His position, I feel, is that women should not only not wear trousers (TCP: Oh oo-er!) in the workplace, (TCP: oh...!) but not be in the workplace at all. Their place is at home with their embroidery.

I read a little anecdote about the late Sir Denis Thatcher. When asked, "Who wears the trousers in your relationship?" He replied, "I do! And I wash and iron them too!"

TCP: Now his was a position I never did envy.

### Colin again:

If the Americans paid Iraqi generals not to engage them in battle, why didn't they pay them to overthrow Saddam?

TCP: Good question - but there's a world of a difference between say, calling in sick one day and storming up to Baghdad for a punch up.

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### Alan Frost (still at war):

Just because you dislike Bush and/or Blair and/or America, it doesn't mean that they can't get things right, occasionally.

It's perfectly true that there are other nasty targets equally, or even more, ripe for action, Israel being the prime example, but, realistically, Israel isn't currently possible. If you were a doctor and were presented with two patients, one of whom you could treat with some hope of success and the other one you couldn't, would you let them both die?

Likewise, it's perfectly true that they should have done it right first time around. Contemptible, but they didn't, and you can hardly blame that on Bush Jr. and Blair. The doctor is now saying, "I didn't treat the patient effectively last time, so now I'm going to let the bastard die, instead of correcting my mistake."

Of course, it's not over yet and mistakes have been made. That's war. The main problem is that the US and, to some extent, our set of incompetents, haven't realised that when you "free" a country, what they mostly want is complete freedom, not your control. They (the Iraqis) don't, for the most part, realise that what they want is freedom to murder and rape one another but, hey, that's *their* business. Vietnam was much the same. The average villager didn't have much time for the Viet Cong but they were, at least, Vietnamese.

The solution? There isn't one. Or at least not a humane one that is better than what Saddam did. That's empire-building for you. You don't go in with the intention of imperial conquest but, when the dust settles, you're the only one with the power and know-how to make the water flow and the hospitals work and you're stuck with it.

Is an American Empire so bad? Really? Should Europe, where the culture was developed, fear and resent the idea any more than, say, the Greeks, who invented the culture, resented the Romans? I think not. On the whole, empires run things better than individual states, however corrupt the empire is. It's not easy to see how the average citizen of what used to be the USSR is better off today. Post-imperial Africa is a total shambles. And don't give me that crap about "we caused the problems". They were abusing one another quite effectively before we took over and have just gone back to the same thing. If you don't believe me, look up Mantatisi or virtually any Ashanti ruler or Shaka himself. It still remains to be seen if the US can hold its nerve.

TCP: Well, you know the Yanks are not big on patience and they are more likely to blow their cool and shoot a whole bunch of people than the Brits are...

### More Alan on academic uniform:

What Colin Hobbs fails to realise when he suggests that teachers already have a uniform: the black gown; is that not everybody is entitled to wear it. The gown is part of a graduate's regalia and denotes a graduate, rather than somebody with a Teaching Certificate. I've got one, somewhere, and a hood, too, for that matter (Not a mortar board, though. My University, Southampton, you'll be

pleased to know, Neil, had the good sense not to include a hat in the regalia.) A non-graduate is no more entitled to wear one than you or I are to wear the Victoria Cross.

In the past, Grammar Schools tended to be staffed by graduates and the gown was worn, except by PE teachers and woodwork/ metalwork/ needlework teachers who were not, by and large, graduates. Secondary Moderns had few graduates and so the staff didn't, and weren't entitled to, wear gowns.

They went out of fashion with comprehensive schools because they were divisive when staffs were amalgamated. Now that everybody and his dog has a degree, they could be brought back but it would exclude quite a few of the oldest and best teachers who joined the profession before going to teacher training college gave a degree. (Don't assume that I'm contemptuous of non-graduates. Far from it. They're brighter than most of today's students because they fell well within the top 10% of the ability range. We didn't have a stupid government that thought that 50% of youngsters ought to go to university to keep them out of the job market and cut youth unemployment.)

TCP: Well - that should see off Colin!

### And the final Alan (with the joke):

Meanwhile, Berlusconi ("Israel is a shitty little country") continues to tell the fearless truth. When heckled by a Kraut, he suggested that the man would make a perfect concentration-camp commandant. Stereotyping? Well, The Germans didn't think it was funny, which is pretty true to stereotype, I'd say. Right on, Silvio! They don't like it up 'em. (Mind you, somebody suggested today that, being Italian, Berlusconi should have no problem in retreating from his position.)

Politically incorrect joke.

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman were in the French Foreign Legion and were lost in the desert, the last survivors of their unit. They are sure they're going to die. The vultures are circling. The Englishman says, "I can't stand those bloody vultures! I'm dying, lads. When I go, bury me deep. I don't want them pecking my eyes out." Sure enough, he dies soon after and his mates bury him deep. They struggle on through the sand and Jock says, "Dammit, I wish he'd kept his mouth shut. I can't stop thinking about those bloody vultures pecking my eyes out. Bury me deep, Paddy. Please." So Jock dies, too, and is buried deep. Paddy struggles on but now he has a problem: Who's going to bury him? The vultures will peck out his eyes. He decides that, since he's doomed anyway, he'll bury himself, so he kneels down and starts digging with his hands until there's just his bottom sticking up out of the desert. At this point, a group of Arabs come along on their camels. Arabs being pederasts in preference to other activities, Abdul leaps down from his camel, pulls up his robe and takes advantage of this gift from Allah. An Irish voice is heard from below, saying, "I don't care how long your neck is, you bastard! You're not having my eyes!"

TCP: Glad you're doing your bit for the war effort. See you all next time!

## The Games Section

### D108 - Std Dip – not Au06

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles) BN: 02-BD

Biggles – All: It's all over as all were in favour of the 4-way draw. Well done all and game end statements for next time please

### Raspberry - Std Dip – Au06

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles) BN: 02 BB

#### Austria (Allan Gordon):

A(Vie) – Tyr, A(Gal) – Boh, A(Ukr) – Gal, A(Ser) – Rum, A(Bul) – Con, F(AEG) S A(Bul) – Con.

#### England (Mike Pollard):

F(Tun) – ION, F(WMS) – Tun, F(GOL) – TYS, F(Spasc) S GERMAN A(Gas) – Mar{nso}, F(ENG) – MAO, F(NWS) – NAO, F(NTH) hold, F(Swe) hold, F(StPnc) hold, A(Lvn) S GERMAN A(War).

#### Germany (Tony Sait):

F(Den) S F(BAL) – Swe, F(BAL) – Swe, A(War) S RUSSIAN A(Mos), A(Sil) S A(War), A(Ruh) – Bel, A(Bur) – Gas, A(Gas) – Bre.

Italy (Richard Williams): F(TYS) – Tus, F(Nap) – ION, A(Pie) – Tus.

#### Russia (John Marsden):

A(Mos) S AUSTRIAN A(Ukr) – War{nso}, A(Sev) – Ukr, F(Ank) – Con, A(Smy) S F(Ank) – Con.

Turkey (Bob Wills): F(Mar) hold.

RETREATS: ENGLISH F(Swe) - SKA.

#### Winter 1906 Adjustments:

A: Tri Vie Bud Ser Gre Bul Rum 7(7) no change.  
E: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy –Bel –Bre Por Spa StP Tun 8(10) – A(Lvn) –F(Tun).  
G: Kie Ber Hol Den Swe Par Mun +Bre +Bel +War 10(7) +F(Kie) +A(Mun) +F(Ber).  
I: Ven Rom Nap 3(3) no change.  
R: -War Mos Sev Smy Ank Con 5(6) +A(Sev).  
T: Mar 1(1) no change.

#### PRESS:

Biggles – All: Love the (apparent) all-round duplicity in Central Europe!

Omar's finger: Al lo!, my brothers – a miracle! In the East, fowl of the farmyard were seen to run hither and thither, even so, without

their heads! And yet with great honour and enjoyment... truly, the ways of nature are strange indeed.

Germany – Turkey: Another year on the Riviera... can't be bad!

Germany – Russia: Sec, I'm not being nasty to you.

Germany – Italy/Austria: Bet our team's average age is older than your teams' average age – by about 25 years!

Admiral Tirpitz – Admiral Jellicoe: We cannot take you on the high seas, but where it's icy and land locked, plus use of Zeppelins... after Sweden – the rest of the Baltic becomes a German lake!

Turkey – All: Where am I? Am I dead? Oh no, still here. Must have been overlooked. Well here goes again: Farewell, cruel world!

### Sharp – Std Dip – Au 1901

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles)

Austria (Richard Young): A(Ser) – Rum, A(Vie) – Gal, F(Tri) – Alb.

England (Nigel Pepper): F(NTH) C A(Edi) – Nwy, F(NWS) S A(Edi) – Nwy, A(Edi) – Nwy.

France (Andrew Bryce): A(Mar) – Spa, A(Pic) – Bel, F(Bre) S A(Pic) – Bel{no such unit}, F(ENG) stands unordered..

Germany (Mike Dommett): A(Kie) – Hol, F(Den) – Swe, A(Mun) – Ruh.

Italy (Tony Sait): A(Apu) – Tun, A(Rom) – Ven, F(ION) C A(Apu) – Tun.

Russia (John Wilman): F(Sev) – BLA, F(GOB) C A(StP) – Swe, A(StP) – Swe, A(War) – Sil.

Turkey (Allan Gordon): A(Bul) – Gre, A(Con) – Bul, F(Ank) – BLA.

RETREATS: none.

#### Winter 1901 Adjustments:

A: Vie Bud Tri +Rum 4(3) +A(Bud).  
E: Edi Lpl Lon +Nwy 4(3) +F(Lon).  
F: Par Bre Mar +Bel + Spa 5(3) +F(Bre) +A(Par).  
G: Mun Ber Kie +Hol +Den 5(3) +A(Mun) +F(Kie).  
I: Rom Nap Ven +Tun 4(3) +F(Nap).  
R: War Mos StP Sev 4(4) no change.  
T: Con Ank Smy +Bul +Gre 5(3) +F(Smy) +F(Con).

#### PRESS:

Ger(govt) – Tur(govt): As you said.

Toni the Ice-cream seller: Was doing some Market Research. South of France always attracted a lot of tourists, although maybe too up-market for cornettos and ninety-nines. Greece was always knee deep in punters from colder climes, as was Southern Turkey... very good prospects. However, Luigi's insistence finally sold him. "How can we

go wrong boss" he smirked, "All that sand, very hot all the time, and no local competition at all." So, Tunisia it was... Italy - Austria: Sorry about not taking up the offer, but I really cannot take any chances at this stage in the game, Italy on 4 units is tricky, Italy on 3 is downright boring... but 1902, now there's an opportunity. The Gorgan: Slithered from her lair, the snakes on her head hissing excitedly - they had caught the mouth-watering scent of a primary school teacher!

## Titanic - Gunboat - not Au15

GM = Neil Duncan (Biggles)

Biggles - All: The draw is agreed, game over. The guilty parties are/were;

A: Gary Rolfe.  
E: Bob Wills.  
F: Tony Sait.  
G: Ivan Woodward.  
I: Mark Underhay.  
R: Steve Grainger.  
T: Mike Dommett.

Game end statements for next time please.

## Umm Qasr - Gunboat - Au 1901

GM = Neil Duncan (Biggles)

Austria (Lil' Corporal): A(Tri) - Vie, A(Ser) S F(Alb) - Gre, F(Alb) - Gre.

England (Bush's Poodle): NMR! Sigh F(NTH), A(Yor) and F(NWS) stand unordered.

France (Tadpole): A(Bur) - Bel, F(ENG) S A(Bur) - Bel, A(Mar) - Spa.

Germany (The Black Watch): A(Mun) - Bur, A(Kie) - Hol, F(Den) - Swe.

Italy (Lampedusa): A(Apu) - Tun, F(ION) C A(Apu) - Tun, A(Ven) hold.

Russia (Tattytoo): F(Fin) - Swe, F(Rum) hold, A(Ukr) S F(Rum), A(Sev) S F(Rum).

Turkey (Euro Champ): F(BLA) - Rum, A(Bul) S F(BLA) - Rum, A(Con) S A(Bul).

RETREATS: none

Winter 1901 Adjustments:

A: Vie Tri Bud +Gre +Ser 5(3) +F(Tri) +A(Bud).  
E: Edi Lon Lpl 3(3) no change.  
F: Par Mar Bre +Spa +Bel 5(3) +F(Bre) +A(Par).  
G: Ber Kie Mun +Hol +Den 5(3) +A(Kie) +F(Ber).  
I: Nap Rom Ven +Tun 4(3) +F(Nap).  
R: War Mos StP Sev +Rum 5(4) +A(Mos).  
T: Smy Con Ank +Bul 5(3) +F(Smy).

PRESS:

Li'l Corporal - Euro Champ: I told you the Russians were the problem - watch out for Sev-Arm-Ank.

Li'l Corporal - Lampedusa: If you have invaded Trieste, which I doubt as you are obviously an intelligent person, then I will have to take retribution. Notes armies Bud, Vie, Ser... please work with me.

Li'l Corporal - Tattytoo: Now the English are encouraging you to get embroiled in the Balkans, and that can only mean one thing - they're headed to StP!

Tadpole - neighbours: I'm new to this. If I'm doing anything wrong, you will say, won't you?

Ger(govt) - Eng: Looks like the Frogs are greedy, I'll help with Bel if you want it.

G - R: Mine are friendly too.

G - R+I: The Li'l Corp has good ideas?

Ger(govt) - All: Should have said 'Good luck' last time.

Lampedusa - Lil' Corp: You'll notice Trieste is still safe, and I'm not building against you - It's the Italian tradition of waiting to see what happens. Good luck in the Balkans, if things then go as I'd like them to you'll swing north and we won't have to fall out. Ultimately, Vie and Tri need to stay empty.

Lampedusa - Tattytoo: I bear you no ill-will (in contrast to, it seems, your Southern neighbour).

Lampedusa - EuroChamp: Despite earlier Austrian entreaties, I really haven't made up my mind between "France and/or Turkey". I'll sit here on this fence until I see which way the wind is blowing. By the way, I did like the song.

Lampedusa - Tadpole: Hardly seems you need the help you begged for. Is the best thing I can do to keep my distance?

Lampedusa - All: Isn't Berlusconi a twat? Makes me ashamed to be Italian.

## Extra Eds Bit

Just a little gap to fill - um... I notice that a number of other eds treat their readers to a playlist of stuff that inspired them whilst putting the zine together, so what about mine?

Marilyn Manson - "The Golden Age of Grotesque."

Placid Storm - "Astraphobia" (local band)

Limp Bizkit - "My Generation."

Matrix Reload - the soundtrack.

*if anyone can tell me now to stop "wors" doing this (either 'creating' a gap or spilling 3 lines over to a new page) - I'll give you a free issue!!*

*Neil*



Shaun Derrick, 313 Woodway Lane, Walsgrave,  
Coventry CV2 2AP  
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Email: [shaun.derrick@tmguk.com](mailto:shaun.derrick@tmguk.com)  
TCP 114

### MACHIAVELLI

#### VALOIS Autumn 1460

Note: Mike disputed the rule on owning two special units. However, the rules are specific in disallowing any power to own more than one special unit at any time. The only problem is that they do not cover the possibility of bribing another special unit! Mike, you did not have the special unit for this turn, so the moves are as adjudicated. Couple of slight errors on income – Austria should have been 19% and Venice 43.

**AUSTRIA:** John Marsden, 91 Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS

Expenditure: Donate 1d to Florence Treasury: 1

#### A(Aust)-Hung, F(Cors)-EGL

Home: AUST, HUNG, -TYRO, -Cari, Swis, AVIG, MARS, Prov

Conq: SALU, Sard, Cors Cities: 8

Ann income to treasury:  $1 + 19\frac{1}{2}d = 20\frac{1}{2}d$

Maintain both units and build EMA(Mars) = 12d

Total treasury remaining: 8% $\frac{1}{2}$

**FLORENCE:** Des Langford, 8 Hornbeam Lane, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6HH

Expenditure: (Owe 38d Sum62) Treasury: 2% $\frac{1}{2}$

#### A(Sien)-Flor

Home: FLOR, -AREZ, -PISA, Pist

Conq: SIEN Cities: 2

Add income to treasury:  $2\frac{1}{2} + 10 = 12\frac{1}{2}$

Build EPA(Flor) for 9d

Total treasury remaining: 3% $\frac{1}{2}$

**MILAN:** John Stratford, 27 Farrar Court, The Old Schoolhouse, Leeds LS13 3SP

Expenditure: Borrow 12d over 2 years. Disband Venetian A(Tyro) for 12d (Owe 6d Spr 61 & 18d Aut 62). Treasury: 3

#### EPG(Pavi) convert A, A(Como)-Mila

Home: -MILA, -CREM, PAVI/c, Como, -Forn, -Parm, -Pian

Conq: Berg, Pont, LUCC Cities: 2

Add income to treasury:  $3 + 9\frac{1}{2} = 12\frac{1}{2}$

Maintain all units = 12d

Total treasury remaining: % $\frac{1}{2}$

**NAPLES:** Neil Duncan, 25 Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 8SS

Expenditure: (Owes 6d Sum 61 & 15d Aut 61) Treasury: 3% $\frac{1}{2}$

#### F(Anco)-UAD, A(Bosn)-Herz, F(Ragu) & EMA(Dalm) S A Bosn-Herz, A(Urbj)-Flor

Home: NAPL, BARI, MESS, -PALE, Aqui, Capu, Otra, Sale, Patr,

ROME, PERU, Spol, Roma, ANCO, -BOLO

Conq: Tivo, -Alba, AREZ, Dalm, Urbj, Bosn, RAGU, Herz

Cities: 9

Add income to expenditure:  $3\frac{1}{2} + 36\frac{1}{2} = 40$

Maintain all and build A(Peru) = 21d

Total treasury remaining: 19d

**TURKS:** Steve Cox, 71 Hazelhurst Crescent, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1XB

Expenditure: 0 Treasury: % $\frac{1}{2}$

#### F(Savo)-Geno, F(WTS)-Pisa, F(LAD) S Naples F Anco-UAD, A(Dura)-Alba

Home: TUNI, ALBA, DURA, -Bosn, -Herz

Conq: PISA, PALE, PIOM, SAVO Cities: 7

Add income to treasury:  $\frac{1}{2} + 16\frac{1}{2} = 17d$

Maintain all and build F(Tuni) = 15d

Total treasury remaining: 2d

**VENICE:** Mike Pollard, 1a Cochrane Road, LONDON SW19 3QP

Expenditure: (Owes 5d Spr 61, 3d Sum61, 27d Sum 62)

Treasury: 0

**F(Herz)-Dalm\*** (Disbanded NRP!), A(Croa) & **F(UAD)** S F Herz-Dalm, F(LGN) S F UAD, A(Geno) std, A(Pian) S EMA Pavi, A(EMA)Pavi B1, A(Turi)-Como, A(Tyro) S A Turi-Como (see Milan), A(Mila) std

Home: VENI, -DALM, PADU, TREV, -Berg, Bres, Friu, Istr, Vero, Vice  
Conq: FERR, Cari, TREN, Slav, Carn, Croa, -HUNG, CREM, MANT,  
BOLO, MILA, Parm, TYRO, Pian, Forn, GENO, MONT, TURI, PAVI/p, -  
Herz Cities: 15

Add income to treasury:  $0 + 43 = 43$

Maintain all units and build A(Padu), A(Trev) = 27d

Total treasury remaining 16d

Famine removed taking Florence A(Sien) and Venetian A(Turi) and A(Mila) with it.

### COLONIAL DIPLOMACY

#### FIJI

#### 1894

**BRITISH:** Alan Poulter, Dolphin Cottage, Dolphingstone, East Lothian EH33 1NH (email: [grognaard@grognaard.com](mailto:grognaard@grognaard.com))

**F(Con)-Rum, F(Syr)-MED, F(PG)-Per, F(GOM)-Mad, F(Cev)-EIO, F(Coc) S F SCS-Ann, F(SCS)-Ann, A(Nep) MS A(Ben), A(Kar) MS A(Pun)**

**CHINA:** John Wilman, Flat 3, 7 Eden Street, Dundee DD4 6LH (email: [jqwilman@lineone.net](mailto:jqwilman@lineone.net))

**A(Kra)-Akm, A(Irk)-Mac, A(Mon) S A Irk-Mac, A(Lan)-Sha, A(Pek) S A Lan-Sha, A(Tas) S Turkish A Per-Bok\*, A(Kam)-Pun, A(Sin)-Chu, A(Ass)-Ben, A(Ass)-Ben, A(U. Bur) S A Ass-Ben, A(Cam)-Ann, F(Ton)-Can**

**DUTCH:** Chris Latimer, 79 Chapel Street, Pelsall, Walsall WS3 4LW (email: [private\\_joke@hotmail.com](mailto:private_joke@hotmail.com))

**F(WIO)-Mad, F(BOB)-GOM, F(EIO) S F BOB-GOM, F(SIO) S F EIO, F(Mal)-AS, F(Banec)-Cam, F(GOS) S Chinese A Cam-Ann, F(Sar)-SUN.S, F(SUL.S)-SCS, F(For) S F SUL.S-SCS, F(LS) & F(MP) S F For**

**JAPAN:** Steve Cox, 71 Hazelhurst Crescent, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1XB (email: [Coxsteve@btopenworld.com](mailto:Coxsteve@btopenworld.com))

**A(Sak) S Russian A Via, F(ECS)-SCS, F(OS) S F UP, F(UP) S British F SCS-For**

**RUSSIA:** John Stratford, 27 Farrar Court, The Old Schoolhouse, Leeds LS13 3SP (email: [john.stratford@freemans.com](mailto:john.stratford@freemans.com))

**F(Rum)-Con, A(Bok)-Tas, A(Ore) S A Bok-Tas, A(Perm)-Omsk, A(Omsk)-Kra, A(Vla) & A(P.Art) & F(Sha) S A Mac, A(Mur) & F(Nan) S F Sha**

**TURKEY:** John Marsden, 91 Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS (email: [jandcmarsden@iclway.co.uk](mailto:jandcmarsden@iclway.co.uk))

**A(Tab) S A Per, A(Per) std, F(Shi)-PG, A(Egy) std**

Retreats: Chinese A(Tas)-Afg

#### Adjustments

**BRITISH:** Aden Bom, Del, Mad, HK, Kar, Ben, Sud, Coc, Cey, Con, Ann = 12 Build F(Mad)

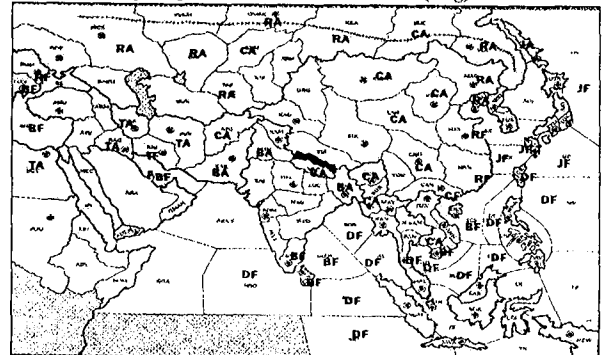
**CHINA:** Pek, Can, Sik, Ass, -Tas, Kag, Kam, Chu, U. Bur, Ton, May, Ran + Mon = 12 No change

**DUTCH:** Bor, Java, Sum, Sar, New, Sin, Mal, Dav, Cebu, Mna, For, Ban = 12 No change

**JAPAN:** Tok, Kyo, Kyu, Ota, Sak = 5 Build F(Kyu)

**RUSSIA:** Mos, Ode, Omsk, P.Art, Vla, Seo, Fus, Rum, Mac, Sha, -Mon + Tas = 11 Build A(Mos)

**TURKEY:** Ang, Bag, Tab, Shi, Per = 5 Build A(Bag)



## Kingmaker

### ZACHARIUS

#### Winter 1458

##### Quick key:

NOBLE/Office/Title/Bishop (Troop strength, Commons votes, Lords votes, City, Towns or Castles owned)

Extra troops in certain areas shown in { } e.g. {2}50 is 50 normal troops and 200 extra according to card.

Extra Commons votes shown {C?} for Offices and Titles with cities or towns attached.

Relationship matrix... (Friendly, Neutral or Hostile)

	ND	JM	JS	JT	AP
ND	xx	N	H	F	N
JM	H	xx	N	N	F
JS	F	H	xx	F	H
JT	H	N	N	xx	N
AP	N	F	F	H	xx

**Neil Duncan:** 'The Knights who say Nee' (TKWSN) 25 Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 8SS

(neil.duncan@theaa.com)

**PERCY** (100, C2, L3, Alnwick, Cockermouth) / Treasurer of England (50, Wallingford, Beaumaris)

**GREY** (20, L1, Chillingham, Rockingham) / Le Swan Ship of Berwick

**HERBERT** (10, L1, Llanstephen) / Bristol (C4) / Le Michael Ship of Bristol

**HOLLAND** (20, L1, Kimbolton, Compton)

**Edmund of Rutland**

**George of Clarence**

Commons: 6 Lords: 6

**Percy** LAN-Preston and boards Le Swan & Le Michael

Grey Beaumaris std

**Herbert & Edmund of Rutland / George of Clarence**

Beaumaris

**Holland** Compton std unordered

♣ **Le Michael** Preston

♣ **Le Swan** Preston

Crown Cards: 8

**John Marsden:** (ODE) 91 Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS (email: jandemarsden@iclway.co.uk)

**FITZALAN** (30, C1, L2, Arundel, Chirk) / Le Lucas, Ship of Whitby

**POLE** (30, C1, L2, Wingfield) / Scots Archers (20) / Archbishop of York ({30}, L5, York(C4)) / **Declare Flemish Crossbowmen(20)**

**HASTINGS** (10, L1, Tutbury) / Earl of Kent (C1) / Scots Archers (20)

**Richard of York** (Sandal, Stokesay)

**Faction ownership:** Kenilworth

Commons: 7{27} Lords: 10{20}

Commons: 7{27} Lords: 10{20}

**Pole & Richard of York(King Richard III)** Ravenser-

EYO

**Fitzalan** EYO stand

**Hastings** EYO stand

♣ **Le Lucas** Ravenser

Crown Cards: 4

**John Stratford:** 'The Blue Oyster Faction' (BOF)

27 Farrar Court, The Old Schoolhouse, Leeds LS13 3SP

(email: john.stratford@freemans.com)

**BERKELEY** (10, L1, Berekeley) / Earl of Worcester(30, C1) /

Lieutenant of Ireland ({2}50) / Archbishop of Canterbury (L7,

Canterbury{C3}) / Saxons (10) / Le Rose, Ship of Plymouth

**CLIFFORD** (10, L1, Conisborough) / Bishop of Lincoln (L2,

Lincoln{C3}) / Flemish Crossbowmen (20) / Saxons(10)

/Leicester (C3)

**Audley** (L1, Tickhill)

**Scrope** (L1, Masham)

Commons: 10 Lords: 13

**Berkeley** MER-DEN-CHE-LAN

**Clifford** Preston-LAN-CHE-DEN

**Audley** MER-DEN-CHE-LAN

**Scrope** MER-DEN-CHE-LAN

♣ **Le Rose** Preston

Crown Cards: 4 Event Cards: 1 Writ

**Jeremy Tullett: Might is Right (MIR)** 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR email: [Jeremy.D.Tullett@btinternet.com](mailto:Jeremy.D.Tullett@btinternet.com)

**STAFFORD** (30, C1, L2, Leeds, Newcastle) / Chancellor of England (50, {C20}, Caernarvon) / Northampton (C3) / Carisbrooke

**ROOS** (20, L1, Belvoir, Helmsley) / Earl of Salisbury(30, C1)

/ Warden of the Cinque Ports (50, C5, Ships Le Trinity & Le

George in Rye, Pevensey) / Bishop of Norwich (L2,

Norwich{C4}) / Coventry (C3)

**Margaret of Anjou** (Windsor)

Commons: 17 {37} Lords: 5 {25}

**Stafford & Margaret of Anjou** Dartmouth-DEV-COR

**Roos** Dartmouth-DEV-COR

♣ **Le Trinity** Dartmouth

♣ **Le George** Dartmouth

Crown Cards: 8 Event Cards: 2 Writ

**GM Note: Jeremy, Plymouth is in Devon!**

**Alan Poulter: 'The Falcon Faction' (TFF)** Dolphin Cottage, Dolphingstone, East Lothian EH33 1NH (email: [grogard@grogard.com](mailto:grogard@grogard.com))

**TALBOT**(30, C1, L2, Ludlow) / Const of Dover Castle(50,

Dover)

**NEVILLE**(50 C3, L4, Ogmere, Richmond, Warwick, Raby) /

Chamberlain Co. Pal. Chester({2}50, Rhuddlan, Chester) in

Warwick

**BOURCHIER** (10, L1, Pleshy) / Duke of Exeter (C1, Exeter

{C3}) / Admiral of England (50, Lynn {C3}, Southampton

{C3}, Le Margaret & Le Christopher), **Declare Burgundian**

**Crossbowmen (30)**

**Edward of Lancaster**

**Faction ownership:** Harlech

Commons: 17 Lords: 7

**Talbot & Edward of Lancaster** PEM-Milford Haven

**Neville** PEM-Milford Haven

**Bourchier** on board Le Margaret

♣ **Le Margaret** ATL-SEV-SGC-Milford Haven

♣ **Le Christopher** ATL-SEV-SGC-Milford Haven

Crown Cards: 3 Event cards: 1 Writ

**GM Note: Talbot was assigned Earl of Wiltshire in**

**error. Talbot already has an hereditary title – Earl of**

**Shrewsbury, so the Earl of Wiltshire card is back in**

**your Crown card pile, Alan.**

Combat: None. Note that Percy and Clifford crossed paths but didn't end their turns in the same area or town.

#### Spring 1459

**Event:** Embassy from Duke of Burgundy. King Richard III

and Pole, Fitzalan and Hastings to Maldon

**Storms at Sea:** None at sea

**Extra Plague:** Cardigan and Swansea

**Chancery:** 5 cards – Const Tower of London, Earl of Essex,

Earl of Westmorland, Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster,

Warden of the Northern Marches.

**Crown Cards:** No Crown cards left!

## Apologies

A very tiny issue as I have such a tiny amount of time!

Pax is cut and fonts minimized. Back to normal next

time. Rushed adjudications – please check through!