

# The Cunning Plan 118

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**DEADLINE = FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JAN 2004**

Your Credit is:

## TCP Waiting lists:

**Note:** Players should submit a preference list for any game on offer.

**Std Diplomacy:** 7 Wanted.

**Gunboat Dip:** Got 1 and 6 more Wanted.

**Kraken:** (GM Jeremy Tullet) Neil Duncan, Doug McClure, Pete Mason and Nigel Pepper - couple more maniacs needed..... please, come on, we wanna get started!

**TCP:** Sorry again folks, the price remains high, hope to knock it back next time. Many thanks to all those who have sent me a card (and will do so!) I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. Many thanks for another year of support.

## TCP 118 Ed's Bit

### Zine poll - 2003 (reminder):

Last call for this one.

List up to ten zine in order of preference, which have been published in the UK. They must have had at least four issues in 2003.

The deadline is: 31/12/03.

The pollster is; John Harrington, 1 Churchbury Close, Enfield, Middx, EN1 3UW.  
Email: zinepoll@fbgames.co.uk

### Soham Trial:

Still ongoing and pretty grim news really. I still find Huntley's defence so weak and bizarre that I can hardly believe that a solicitor has agreed to use the story. Like the James Bulger case a few years back, (and indeed the recent case of the girl getting into a care believing it to be a taxi and getting abducted and then killed)... it looks like there are people (usually men) going about their daily lives apparently normally and yet awaiting an opportunity to do harm to some-one. It's getting difficult to tell people to stop being so paranoid!

### Spanking Yanks II:

Last issue I felt that I, (laudably) reported that I would cut back on my Bush-Bashing, cos for one thing I did not want to get bundled off to Guantanamo. However - I have been told off for NOT maintaining a voice of sanity in an increasingly mad world. Well, I won't turn the tap full on, but I will just say the following.

Unwilling to simply 'do nothing' and would like to bring your attention to the 'Boycott Bush' website; [www.boycottbush.net](http://www.boycottbush.net)

One of the things there is a list of top UK brands to boycott because of the support given to the Republican Party in the US. The top ten are;

1. Esso
2. Maxwell House
3. Microsoft
4. MBNA
5. Lucozade
6. ASDA
7. Hotpoint
8. AOL
9. Budweiser
10. Walkers Crisps

You are supposed to not simply stop buying these products, you can download a form letter to tell these people what you are doing and why you are doing it. This is not rabid anti-Americanism, cos if any of you agree with Bush and the rest of his Satanic Junta, you can buy MORE of these products to show your support!

You all have a nice day there.

### Film stuff:

I seem to be doing a lot of 'catching up' on films I should have seen decades ago - but haven't for one reason or another. The latest one was, "West World." Prior to watching it I was led to believe

it was an all-time-classic SF film. Post viewing I don't agree with that claim at all. Surely only in America would the idea of shooting human-like robots, which really bleed be considered a great, relaxing holiday? And as for the fact that the guns contained live ammo - I mean that's just asking for trouble. I stayed the distance but thought it was very weak indeed. The final straw comes at the end, when the 'Yul Brinner' robot has been shot, burnt, crashed, nuked and is still chasing the goodie a la Frankenstein's monster, and yet when the said goodie goes to rescue a robot damsel in distress, a sip of water poured into her mouth causes a short-circuit and destruction! Obviously, he should have simply offered Yul a drink! One to miss I think.

Seen the final part of the Matrix - WARNING SPOILERS! - no, I'm not gonna tell you anything specific about it, just say that it was pretty crappy. I'm a great fan of the first film and feel that it is way up there. The second was not as good, although there were some fine bits, some great special effects etc. To a certain extent, I withheld judgement of number two, until I had seen number three. Ok, so some of the effects look impressive, but it is just one great big let down. How could something so clever, so innovative crash and burn so badly?

I have higher hopes for the final part of LotR. Clips seen so far suggest that quality will be maintained for the third film. Indeed, I already have tickets for myself and the two girls for a daytime showing on the opening day! Also got myself the super-extended "Two Towers" DVD which was an excellent purchase. Indeed the documentary on Gollum alone was worth the extra money!

### NI Election non shock:

I probably whither on about this in the letter col, but I did want to share with you, one crumb of comfort. In an election where Paisley's DUP were putting up house-plants which got elected, Basingstoke's very Andrew Hunter could NOT secure a seat in the NI Assembly. Obviously they are much more discerning than we are!

### Potter potty:

I did as commanded, and read HP2, 3 and 4 in fairly swift order. I did enjoy them, much lighter than the old LotR tomes. I have yet to tackle HP5, which is still being digested by the resident Potterologist. However, the postscript is that as part of my networking, job seeking activity, I managed to secure an invite to take part in the Xmas quiz night at my employer prior to the AA. I joined a marketing man and his family as one of 14 teams. One of the sections in the quiz was on HP and as my team mates knew buggar all on the subject, my participation turned out to be key. Managed 8/10 for that, which wasn't bad. Overall we only came 7<sup>th</sup> with 101 points. The winners having 122 and the losers 82. So I may well be invited back. I rubbed shoulders with old and new faces there and I have been urged to write to the MD (who was my general manager when I was there) to let him know that I am back on the market. I'll give that a go.

### Time Commanders - Clontarf:

Well, just as Mark Wightman predicted, the new Monday slot for TC makes it a prime candidate for getting chopped for the world tiddley-wink championships (or whatever crap sporting event the

Beeb fancies.) So feeling a bit deprived I dug out one of those hex-war game thingies I have (with solo playability) and gave it a go. Battle of Clontarf, 1014 between the Vikings and the Irish, just North of Dublin. I really quite enjoyed the experience and would like to give it ago against another player. The Irish had to kick ass to stand any chance of winning, so I played them aggressively. (Well what do you expect with Fearghal and Brian as my role-models?!) It was pretty even until the Vikings lost two elite units in a counter-attack across a river. This meant me Meath reserves were free to turn the other flank and history repeated itself with the Vikings being booted out. Good result.

#### Use of mobiles in cars illegal:

I am delighted by this development as it always makes me mad when some bozo at the wheel and mobile nearly runs me down as a pedestrian, or is all over the road when I am driving. But I don't think the law goes far enough! The use of mobiles in public places should be banned full stop!

#### Charlotte Uhlenbroek - sigh...:

I do like nature/science progs anyway, but get Charlotte to present it and I'm there mate - compulsive viewing. These rain forest ones have been even more impressive I must say. You can keep your old Carol Vorderman - I'll have CU any day!

#### Next deadline:

It's a bit quick I know, but I want to try and squeeze it out before Xmas and I have to fit in with the printer etc. We'll have a longer deadline next time!

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2004**

## Con Corner

South Hants Hobby meet: Is set for Sunday ?? Feb 2004 (probably) at around 10 o'clock at Richards. Contact me for further details.

North Hants Hobby meet: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2003, at around 11:00. Please let me know if you are interested.

OxCon: Jan 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2004. With Dip on Saturday and Settlers and Lost Cities on the Sunday, at The Mitre on the High Street. Contact: [Richard.huzzey@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.huzzey@st-annes.ox.ac.uk)

## THE TCP 118 LETTER COL

TCP: I moaned about the letter col a couple of issues back, but this time it's even worse! Precious little for the letter col, waiting lists that never fill, ok guys - give it to me straight - you don't want me any more do you? I just want the truth, I can take it. I've loads of people in the local punk scene clamouring for me to do a zine again, so I'm sure I can find an outlet for my creative juices (oo-er!)

#### Andrew Greco (and the Dip hobby):

My interest in Diplomacy declined after the London hobby meet ended and with the smaller postal zine scene as it was the personal

rivalries, friendships, gossip, bitchiness and politics that helped sustain my interest, providing it kept within reasonable boundaries. Although playing games was the reason I joined the hobby, it's now a minor attraction.

TCP: I too miss the London Hobby meets, which I really enjoyed, even if actually playing games were low on the list of priorities. Just as well there is still the regular bash by Richard and the semi regular bash by myself to sustain me in-between Cons.

#### Andrew continues on the latest handbagging:

I'm amused by the latest incarnation of Gihan as a puritanical gaming purist, it's not how I remember him. I had to laugh too at the notion in one of the e-mails that the London crowd tend to stick together in games. I hope that Gihan and Vick soon make things up.

TCP: This for those of you not privy to the 347 e-mails generated by moves in the postal Dip game 'Duncan', (which is probably only about three of you)... refers to the bust up between Messer's Hall and Bandy. But a lá 9/11, the reverberations have spilled out of the postal and cyberspace worlds and into the UK, Europe and probably world tournament worlds. I hope G&V kiss and make up soon too and that no innocent bystanders become 'collateral damage'.  
Oops too late!

#### More Andrew (saving the hobby):

As for saving the hobby, I think a 3 day London tournament with a "best two out of three round score" incentive to both play Dip and either socialize and/or play other games, possibly a team Dip tournament, a quiz or two thrown in, cheap beer and an effort by zine editors and on-line sites to dramatize the event beforehand may help.

TCP: A London event would be nice. I'm a bit cheesed of hacking all the way up to Brum twice a year. I thought the last jobbie (by Gihan) in the University, was pretty cool - dunno why it was never followed up.

#### Andrew again (on games improving behaviour?):

As to your comment about playing games being educational (ref Werewolf) and improving behavior how do you explain the massive rows arising out of the "Duncan" game?!!

TCP: Ah, yes - but remember my observations were made about kids and not grown men...

#### And the final Andrew:

I haven't liked Time Generals-found it too embarrassing and it reminded me of the Ricochet film of the Dip game in the Royal George.

TCP: I assume that you are referring to the 'poor play' by the teams? Mark Wightman has offered some enlightenment on that - namely that prospective contestants with war-games and/or historical knowledge are weeded out and they only keep really stupid people in. (I confidentially expect a Blair/Bush celebrity team any week now!) So what we need is a team from the 'hobby'

who are a little, er, shall we say reticent about their interests to enter... And re that 'Ricochet' footage - just think, if any of us who were in that game do anything stupid, illegal, infamous, or whatever - that footage will be trotted out to support any prosecution case that is brought?!

**Mike Dommett (on the non-war):**

I don't think it's necessarily anger against America, as against the American administration. Part of the problem is that the mess that they have gotten us into has to be solved from where we are.

**TCP:** True and true. But statements like Blair's, "we must move on" make me see red. "Listen shit head" I think, "You 'fess up to getting it completely wrong and resign - and I will support your successor in getting out of this mess."

**Mike continues:**

It's OK to say that we ought to have let the UN weapons inspectors have the time they asked for, OK to say that we shouldn't have supported the local warlords in Afghanistan revolting against the Taliban, OK to say that US troops should have been used to catch Osama Bin Laden (why didn't we take up the Afghan offer to deliver and put him on trial in a 3<sup>rd</sup> country?) rather than paying Afghans to form the cordon on \$20 a day ("here's \$20,000 to look the other way"). It's OK to say we should have got the Turks on side, or redeployed the troops before starting the war, OK to say we shouldn't have disbanded the Iraqi Army, OK to say we shouldn't have ... where do you stop. Trouble is, we are here now. The world isn't a safer place; lots of Iraqis, Americans, Turks, Brits, Italians etc are dead. Solutions that work involve American government eating humble pie. Anyone heard of a Government that is likely to do that? It could have been so different. It might have been possible for terrorism to have been made a smaller threat (anyone really think we can "destroy terrorism"), but we blew it. The reasons for toppling Saddam that we are left with "he's an evil man" doesn't stop the west setting up bases in central Asian states with records of boiling people to death, or still talking to China, to Zimbabwe, to Columbia... rather than remove their governments. We have made it possible for governments to quash any dissent by claiming repression is defending against terrorism - hello Russia. We have legitimised keeping people locked up without any legal remedies for as long as we like, and for torturing them. We have said that an occupying army can do what it likes, and its troops won't be punished, (so there goes any influence on Israel). And we haven't made ourselves safer. But we might have done. A good enough reason to be angry with the American administration.

**TCP:** I think that we are in agreement here. Let's say that terrorism is a virulent man-killing disease carried by a rat. The American method seems to be to hit said rat with the largest hammer available, thus spraying contaminated blood and guts over as wide an area as possible. Then 28 days later...

**More Mike on train strain:**

I've tried this commuting to London thing, including travelling on the tube for a month

now. How does anybody cope? Why haven't you built new lines, upgraded the signals and track as time went by, instead of cutting back on maintenance for the sake of tax cuts? I'm working on the Southern region power supply upgrade and in a lot of places nothing has been done, except in emergencies, since things were electrified post war. A lot of the LUL stuff is close to 100 years old. (We're not working on that). But the crush, smell, and sheer irritation of doing it every day. I take my hat off to the regulars.

**TCP:** In my naivety I was initially prepared to take some high-paying city job, (for a few years) and put up with the travel. But the journey there and back for my first interview was enough to torpedo that one. I felt the hit on my sanity was just too great to bear.

**Still more Mike on LotR:**

LOTR the two towers - has some gratuitous bits that are only there for a story - they aren't in the book, and they actually change people's motives and reasons for doing things. Théoden, Fangorn, the final act at Helm's Deep, Faramir taking Frodo to Osgiliath and an encounter with the Lord of the Nazgul. Apart from that it follows the book. Sort of. Surely for most people who never have read the book, or who can't remember what happened 400 pages ago, the film is really good.

**TCP:** Agreed, as when I first saw the film(s) I was a book virgin. However, in "Two Towers" I could not understand Faramir's change of heart and release of Frodo. I had hoped that this would be addressed in the new super doper extended DVD. It is not and you (or rather I) am left a little critical of some of the 'gratuitous' changes. Well worth seeing anyhow.

**More Mike, back to the Yanks:**

Dear Colin, I do agree, America hadn't decided to attack Iraq pre the twin towers attack. What I should have said was that it appears many of the administration wanted to settle with Iraq - possibly mostly for the loss of face some Americans felt after the gulf war when we encouraged the revolt of the Iraqis and then let Saddam slaughter them - witness the mass graves turning up and the draining of the southern marshes. (Surely not so, you say? Then how does Cuba rate such a demonisation for so long? And still does. The US invasion "The Bay of Pigs" that was a fiasco rankles even now. Yes, there were the missiles. The West had similar ranged ones in a similar threat in Turkey. I think you'll find that the West had them withdrawn quietly in 1963 as a quid pro quo.)

The attack by El Quaida appears to have been taken as an opportunity to attack Iraq - who after all had nothing to do with the attack. Think what the money spent on attacking Iraq could have done in remedying injustices around the world.

**TCP:** Why is Cuba still demonised after all these years? Is it really the Bay of Pigs and/or the Cuban exiles in Florida? As for the unearthing of the mass graves, post the most recent invasion; I found the hypocrisy and hand-wringing by the West, pointing to that as justification for the

invasion - those poor bastards were only in the graves because of the duplicity of Bush senior!!! Ok, let's be clinically objective here - on average, how many people were killed each day in Saddams Iraq? Now how many are being killed each day since his fall?

**And the final Mike:**

I think - re Richard Williams and his Africa and empires - you'll find that the Dutch settled in the Cape about the time the Bantu peoples migrations to the South were just North of them. The original inhabitants were the 'bushmen'. I follow what he says about the Boers being settlers, but by that logic, so are the North Americans. In fact, even more so, because the Dutch settlement is earlier. (successful settlement, not discovery).

Most of the African empires were set up from the late 1800's, and gone by the late 1900's. When the colonies were set up with boundaries, no one was thinking about independence. When they started thinking about independence, they were thinking, so I have read, about some being independent in this century. When we castigate Africans for their internal wars, our more homogeneous populations still manage to have the IRA and UDA, ETA, and various independence movements.

If you are going to read alternative history, don't bother with Harry Harrison's alternate world with the USA and CSA joining in 1862/3 to fight Great Britain. Try Pavane, and some John Brunner.

**TCP:** I will stick such books on my list to tackle, once I have tackled all the other books on my list!

**Colin Hobbs (Sohan murder trial):**

It seems you and everyone else has made their minds up over the Soham murder trial. I agree that you have to be incredibly unlucky to innocently find yourself in your own bathroom with two dead school girls. I think the answer to your question is that Huntley will have had to employ some fucking good lawyers to escape this particular rap.

**TCP:** I'm not sure that any number of any skilled lawyers can get him outta this one. I appreciate that the crimes are heinous, but believe it or not, I did try to follow the trial 'objectively'. The excuse, explanation, whatever you want to call it, seems so implausible to me that I wonder why it was put forward. Too many weird and 'unusual' bits to it. I think a more credible defence could have been made using 'alien abduction' myself.

**More Colin (Gay Bishops?):**

I think you may be overstating the case of the Christian church being hostile to homosexuality. The gospels don't mention it at all. There are very few mentions in the Bible and all of them are ambiguous. The issue isn't about gay Christians or even gay priests or gay canons but about gay bishops; and as the ideal is celibate bishops, and married bishops are only accepted on a, 'well if you must' basis; you can see why there is a problem, even if you think homosexuality no worse than fornication.

**TCP:** Ok, I don't have any scriptural, or indeed any written evidence for my 'Christians hostile to gays' claim, it is just a general feeling I have picked up over the years. I guess I was just thinking back to various people who unhappy with the church they found themselves in, just set up their own 'version' instead. Henry VIII being the most famous example.

**And the final Colin:**

Are you looking forward to a Northern Ireland Executive with Ian Paisley as First Minister and Gerry Adams as Deputy first minister!? What fun would their meetings be.

**TCP:** Yeah - I was both amused and horrified by the results of that one. We Northern Ireland watchers saw it coming and in some respects I have sympathy with the government, who have obviously been trying to put off this day for some time. In the end, they seemed to have said, "Fuck it, let's go ahead and see what happens - it surely can't be worse than what we have already!" I have little sympathy for Paisley and the DUP. The red-beret wearing 'third' force clutching their firearms certificates constituted a willingness to resort to arms should the situation warrant it. Plus for ten years or so now the DUP have dealt with SF in numerous councils across the North, so why not the Assembly now? I've had contact with some of the ordinary folk in Belfast and they are outraged that the politicians of ALL flavours are getting two thirds of their salary for doing bugger all! They said, "No assembly, no wages - see how long they fail to talk then!"

**Allan Gordon (after the spice of life):**

Quote from the Ed's response on 'Time Commanders': "... to give viewers a 'flavour' of the thing."

Erm - is that 'flavour' as in boneless Blair gives a 'flavour' of National leadership?... Di Caprio ditto with acting?... pop stars ditto with singing?... the Totts and Saints ditto with playing footy?... Tricky Dicky ditto regards Diplomacy strategy? Can't help thinking there's a lot more to be said for a spoonful of the real deal than a shed load of 'flavour'.

**TCP:** I hear what you say, but TC is just a silly programme so 'flavour' is good enough - isn't it? Am I too easily satisfied?

**More Allan (on a slippery slope):**

My god! - I'm starting to agree with a lot of Frostie's comments! Is there an antidote for this? - please! I don't wanna go out this way!!

His story about the call centre business is one I've been down - and quit on. I can't understand a bloody word spoken North of Watford. If a play or documentary based in Geordieland, for example comes on the box, I don't even bother. Ireland is even worse, because it comes at you in a torrent at the speed of light. The Beeb used to be famous for its perfect Home Counties diction, but now I gather the New Thinkers have decreed that dialects are more trendy and cosy. So you get presenters with broad 'a's... dropped aitches...

ignored 't's in the middle of a word... and whatever the adjective is for that peculiar Australianism where the end of every sentence curls up.

It's ugly to the ear, but I don't really give a bugger how inarticulate these tribes are - until, like Frostie, I need precise details and to get them, I have to do a Bletchley Park job on cracking the code of provincial dialects. Everybody employed in any form of communication work should be forced to learn proper enunciation, say I.

**TCP:** It's gonna get worse I'm afraid. On the news in the last couple of days Norwich Union, (I think) have announced that their call-centres are bugging off to India. Language problems aside, I am a little bothered that company's making mega-bucks in a country don't have the good manners to put something back into the place in the form of jobs. If I had any NU products, I would cash them in now. Trouble is there probably are no alternative suppliers who do not already do the same sort of thing.

**Allan tries to Scotch the rumours:**

Mr Frost, as is well-known, is mega wind-up merchant... and I'm sure this must have been his intention with repeated references to 'Scotch'. When I was a callow youth, I got my ears lambasted by an irate Sweetie who informed me that, "the only thing 'Scotch' to come our of Scotland, is whisky". Apparently everything else is either 'Scots' or 'Scottish'... inventions such as 'Scotch mist', 'Scotch eggs', 'Hop-Scotch' etc are Sassenach originated. So, that's scotched Frostie's duff, right?!

**TCP:** I fear you may be deluding yourself on that one - brace yourself for a stinging come back from the Frostie one.

**And the final Allan:**

Watched 'Oliver Cromwell' on the box the other day. Struck me that if Ollie was in power now, George Dubyer would be sending in the 'liberating' marines!

**TCP:** It could yet happen! Mind you, the man might have to stage a coup in the States first if the election does not go his way.

**Richard Young (with a deadline request):**

This should please you: a type written letter from me, no less! But no, I haven't gone out and bought myself a computer - I'm a primary school teacher for goodness sake! I have got my work's laptop back, though, and have managed to borrow a printer from work as well. It died on me at the start of the summer hols and the fast-working techies have just sent it back. Actually not much to say. A real quickie! Two miracles in one! Just a request really: you may already have set a series of deadlines but I'd love a longer one over Xmas if possible. I'm away for a while over Xmas and don't want to ruin the game for everyone. I'd rather not have a holdover, just a longer deadline.

**TCP:** I was stunned but pleased with the typed letter and the brevity was delightful! ;-) Anyhow - fear not deadline wise, I usually have a long one over the

hols, next deadline is around the end of Jan 2004.

**And the final Richard:**

Ah well, there you go. All I've got to say this time. Well, except perhaps, what fucking American Empire? But that might not help my plea and is too old ground for even me.

**TCP:** Come Richard, don't you think that the combination of cultural, military and economic power wielded by the Americans today constitutes an 'Empire'? I read an interesting piece about some-one (not Mike Moore, but a guy like that) being accused of being un-American - hmmm now what does that mean? You don't want to exterminate a native population and nick their land, that you sign up to international treaties that the majority of nations have signed up to, (apart from a couple of the most disreputable ones) that you don't ten times more of the worlds resources than the rest of the population of the planet... etc etc. Strikes me that there are few praises higher than being called 'un-American'.

**Alan Frost (in no particular order):**

1. I rather liked Time Commanders. It was remarkably realistic, the "generals" being complete tossers and victory depending on the "lieutenants" at the sharp end ignoring orders from on high and getting on with it. The reason why they stuck to ancient warfare, particularly Roman, is surely that they are tactically simple and don't need a complex computer engine. (If they'd even tried Alexander's battles, which had a lot more tactical manoeuvre, the computer probably couldn't have handled it.) They did suggest that later series might be more recent but I wonder if they'll get another series. I thought the star was Aryk Nussbacker, who you see regularly on Discovery and the History Channel. How can a little, bespectacled Canadian Jew be a Sandhurst professor? At one time, they had to be men who'd seen some service. Maybe I'm misjudging the guy, though.

**TCP:** I find the bloke irritating, but it's more 'style' than anything else. Certainly not because he was a Canadian Jew, as I didn't even know he was!! I don't think that should preclude him from becoming a Sandhurst professor, but I take your point about 'military service' being a useful item on the old CV. (Do you know, definitively that he has not had military service?)

**And more Alan on - gulps - Richard Young:**

2. Richard Young and evil empires. Well, I'm sorry to hear he's thought it through because it points to woefully shallow thinking. Suffice it to say that he ventures opinions that are based on a very limited knowledge of the facts. I can't be arsed to go through his points but I would like to pick him up on the concept that the Zulus were an African Nation but the Boers weren't:

The Zulu nation/empire/confederation was founded in the early 19th century from a large number of disparate Bantu clans, most of whom had rather less choice about joining than the Zulus did in joining the British Empire. At that stage, the Bantus had not reached the

Cape. The Boers had been there for 2 centuries. The "natives" were Hottentots and Bushmen, both racially distinct from the black Bantus, who had been slowly migrating from the north and enthusiastically exterminating the Bushmen and Hottentots who got in their way (as did the Boers). The Zulus and other Bantu nations were no more sitting tenants than the Boers were.

The Boers considered themselves independent from Holland long before the British captured the Cape in the Napoleonic Wars and went to a great effort to distance themselves from British control. They were, therefore, an independent political entity by the time Shaka "united" the Zulus. I'd say they had at least an equal right to be considered an African nation.

Of course, if you have to be black to be African, it's a different ball-game, but I refer you to the race relations people. The Hottentots and Bushmen weren't black. Nor are Egyptians, whose African ancestry goes back to several millennia BC.

Try (with caution, because he's a bit credulous) Donald Morris "The Washing of the Spears", which is a superb book about the rise and fall of the Zulus and all that stuff you were saying about Rourke's Drift and Isandhlwana (and the other battles that didn't get a mention-Chelmsford was reasonably competent but unlucky, despite the TV assassination. The real culprits were precisely the people who got blamed, Durnford, mainly, and Puleine, who should have stopped him, who sent out their troops a mile from the ammunition supply in open order when any fool knows (and knew then, because they'd been doing it for years) that you have to put your men in close order and with plenty of ammunition when you're dealing with overwhelming numbers of poorly-armed opponents. (Where they were fighting, each company would have needed a mule-load of ammunition every minute and each mule would take at least 20 minutes for the round trip. That's 120 mules needed, just for the Imperial troops. A battalion wouldn't have anything like that.) Had they done it the right way, the war would have been over that day and Chelmsford showed what they should have done by doing it a few months later at Ulundi. His only mistake was in assuming that experienced senior officers would have a normal measure of competence. Given that he had already asked London for some Major-Generals to help him, I suppose it could be argued that he did know they were idiots.) Alternatively, for a more up to date view, read anything by Ian Knight, who appeared in the programme.

Anyway, I think Richard needs to try defining "empire". After all, Scotland, Ireland and Wales are, effectively (and increasingly reluctantly) members of the English Empire, having been conquered by England. (There will no doubt be some Scotch Gits out there who will be complaining that the Act of Union was signed voluntarily, so they hadn't been conquered at all. Well, if it makes you feel better, Jock. I'd say they were bowing to the inevitable.) But England itself is a conglomeration of nations absorbed by Wessex. And so on. Where does nationhood end and empire start? We can see here the advantages of an empire. Britain as a United Kingdom has been far more successful on any measure you care to take than it could have been as separate countries. Do

the Scotch really believe that any of them could have had the power and influence in the world that they most certainly do have if they hadn't been doing it in conjunction with the rest of us? Would the set of incompetent gangsters in the government today be able to ruin the country if they were limited to staying in Edinburgh? Of course, if Richard is right, we'd be constantly having to send military expeditions to coerce the recalcitrant Taffies, wouldn't we?

(From which you'll gather that I think that Devolution has been a Bad Thing. I see Prescott is trying to get limited devolution for the North of England. While I have very little time for all you Southern Jesses, I don't think sticking another layer of government in between will be an improvement.)

**TCP:** I see. Cheers for the Zulu info, although I am now confused about the prog I saw slating that Lord Chelmsford. (Perhaps we could get the 'Time Generals' to do the old Zulu battle and see what happens!) You're not a fan of the Celtic nations then Alan? Would you not prefer to see them cut adrift to sink or swim as they may?

**More Alan on the biz:**

3. I can, however, enlighten Richard on why he called a crap a "busy". It is, of course, short for "business", as in: What's that disgusting stuff you're smoking?-That's *my* business.- Obviously, but how do you dry it?

**TCP:** Very good. That explains what them IRA guys were doing in the H-blocks then. I do seem to recall that hash was called 'shit' anyway.

**And yet more Alan:**

4. Wobble-bottom? No you didn't call me that. You apologized in case I was a wobble-bottom, having just slagged them off. Very thoughtful of you. I was just setting your mind at rest.

11.20 on a Saturday night and I should be totally rat-arsed by now but the wife has gone to bed with flu so we didn't go out after all. Good night

**TCP:** A fine male specimen like yourself should not be out on the town strutting your stuff. Not stuck indoors slaving over a hot PC. Alternatively, could you not just get rat-arsed at home and cut out the middle man?

**Alan Frost (Xmas present suggestion):**

If you know anybody who gets angry about the greengrocer's apostrophe, buy them Lynne Truss' *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*: £9.99 (note the colon; it's important.) It should be required reading for all contributors to TCP. In fact, all offerings ought to be preceded by some code from the book, otherwise they should not be accepted. The title comes from the joke about the badly-punctuated panda.

**TCP:** I know I'm gonna regret showing my ignorance - but I think I am missing the point somewhat...

**Alan Frost (rampant racism):**

I was much entertained by the England World Cup rugby win. As I've said before, I loathe the

game, having played it too often from the bottom of a pile of 15 sweaty blokes with both my arms bent at unnatural angles. ( They said, "Why not be hooker?" - this in the days before "hooker" took on its American meaning; maybe they call it something different now - so I thought, "Yeah! Centre-forward!" - note for anybody born after about 1960: center forward was the key striker - and I did. After a couple of games, I said, "Well, I've had the benefit. It's somebody else's turn for this plum job." "No, no, Frosty, you're a fantastic hooker, we don't want to take it away from you." Bastards. In my first teaching job - in an independent school in Newcastle, so, for all I know, it might be this lad Wilkinson's school - the kids said, "Sir, did you play rugby?" "Well, yes," I said, modestly. " We thought so. You look like a hooker." - no pun intended. How did they know? The average hooker has a broken nose, an odd number of ears and permanently dislocated shoulders. Well, the shoulders give me gyp in cold weather, but the rest is intact.) Anyway, I was ecstatic that the Australians lost. Normally, I like England to lose for exactly the same reason: anybody to whom sport matters deserves to lose. Australia has very little going for it (OK, it's warm and so on, but, come one! Rolf Harris. Kylie Minogue. Russell Crowe. The country whose entire cultural contribution to the world is the sentence that always ends up in a question?) and they hang their own insecurity on the belief that they're paramount in the limited number of mindless sports they play. And they lose! And at the last moment, having believed they were going to pull a lucky/plucky (but, of course, well-deserved) win out of the bag! Excellent.

Racism? Yes, well, it gave the BBC the opportunity to play "Swing Low..." repeatedly and have some prat, who, from his accent, was clearly an educated West Indian, come on to explain how this negro spiritual (can you say "negro"?) symbolised the idea that escaping slaves went into the river to avoid the dogs of the slave-catchers. What a load of arrant bollocks! It's just religious mumbo-jumbo. (And, incidentally, running water won't save you from dogs. They've got enough sense to check both banks until they discover where you got out and take it from there. No wonder the buggers remained slaves.) Might as well say that Stonewall Jackson's last words: "We shall pass over the river and rest among the trees." was an acknowledgement of the evil of slavery for which he'd been fighting. The pillock clearly had the usual agenda: Your ancestors enslaved my ancestors, so you owe me; the fact that I, who have never enslaved anybody, owe him, who has never been enslaved (and earns a great deal more than me in our decadent white-led western society) absolutely nothing, is immaterial; I'm supposed to feel guilty. Well, I don't. Sorry. I'm not. If my ancestors (who didn't, anyway, being far too humble to be part fo the slave trade) hadn't enslaved your ancestors, you wouldn't be around today. If you had been, you'd have been in Africa, rather than North London. If I accept guilt, will you sod off to Africa, and never come back? Fair deal.

Incidentally, for those of you who don't know, *Swing Low...* is a fine old rugby song and has become an anthem because it should be sung with actions. When you get to the word "coming", as you do very often, the action is wanking.

**TCP:** I gave the rugby doo-dah a total miss, so apart from knowing that the Brits beat the Oz, I have no idea what you are talking about. But it does sound very racist...

**Alan Frost (eek - continues):**

And I see that a (Labour) politician has been accused of racism because he pointed out that some people couldn't choose between their nationality (British, as they insist) and their religion (Islam) and, as a result, supported Al Qaida. There's going to be civil war, children, and the cause will be willful misunderstanding by the so-called leaders of the ethnic minorities. Enoch, you should be alive to see this. Rivers of blood.

**TCP:** I suspect that Osama et al have probably killed and maimed more Muslims than Westerners, so I can understand why some Islamic leaders might feel a little aggrieved by the word-association bandyed about by that politician. There is a lot of causal language around these days about 'The War on Terrorism'. The classic being Bush's "If you are not with us - you are against us!" Well no, not really, we think you are talking out of your arse actually.

**And the final Alan:**

Ha! After last night's TCP contribution, *Have I Got' News for You?* had the hooker joke. Then Russell Crowe, who I mentioned, was on. The bastard has pinched my beard and hair-style (although mine is a good deal tidier); I may let him play me when my life story hits the silver screen. Then, this am, Today took another gratuitous opportunity to play *Swing Low...* and read a letter pointing out the obscene actions.

Prescient or what? Hope the civil war isn't as imminent as all the rest.

**TCP:** Yes - me too! Shit I wish I'd seen Mr Crowe now, so that I would have some idea about your appearance! (If I watch the *Gladiator* again, will that be near enough?)



**TCP:** That'll do. No end joke but I hope this picture comes out!





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TCP 118

**MACHIAVELLI**

**VALOIS** Spring 1462

**AUSTRIA:** John Marsden, 91 Westwood Avenue,  
Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS  
Expenditure: Spend 3d counter-bribe EMA(Turi) and  
3d counter-bribe A(Tyro) Treasury: 10½

**EMA(Turi)-Pavi, A(Prov)-Swis, A(Tyro)-Aust,  
G(Tyro) convert A, F(Mode) S Turkish A Pisa-  
Lucc**

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

Conq: SALU, Cors, -GENO, MODE, TURI, PAVI  
Cities: 10

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

Expenditure: Spend 3d counter-bribe EMA(Carn)  
Treasury: 7½d

**A(Slav) S Austrian A(Tyro)-Aust, EMA(Carn)-  
Friu, F(LAD) S F Anco-UAD, F(Anco)-UAD,  
A(Urbi)-Roma, G(Anco) convert A, A(Flor)std\*  
(Disband NRO!), A(Peru)-Sien, A(Rome)-Peru**

Home: NAPL, BARI, MESS, -PALE, Aqui, Capu,  
Otra, Sale, Patr, ROME, PERU, Spol, -Roma,  
ANCO, -BOLO, Urbi

Conq: Tivo, AREZ, , Bosn, -Herz, SIEN, -FLOR, Carn,  
Slav, Friu Cities: 9

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

Expenditure: Treasury: 4½d

**F(WMS) C EMA Tuni-Pale, EMA(Tuni)-Pale,  
A(Pisa)-Lucc, F(Dura)-ION, A(Alba)-Herz,  
F(Croasc) std**

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

Conq: PISA, PALE, PIOM, SAVO, -Dalm, Sard,  
RAGU, Croa, LUCC Cities: 11

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

Expenditure: Spend 12d to disband Naples EMA(Carn)  
fails due to counter-bribe (Owes 27d Sum 62 & 11d  
Spr 63) Treasury: 1d

**A(Hung)-Aust, A(Friu)-Cari, A(Trev)-Padu,  
A(Mila)-Tyro, A(Bolo)-Flor, F(Roma)-Anco,  
F(UAD) S F Roma-Anco\* (Retreat Dalm),  
EMA(Mont)-Geno**

Home: VENI, DALM, PADU, TREV, -Berg, Bres, -  
Friu, Istr, Vero, Vice

Conq: FERR, Cari, TREN, CREM, MANT, BOLO,  
MILA, Parm, Pian, Forn, MONT, -PAVI, -AUST,  
Hung, Roma, FLOR, GENO Cities: 14

**PLAGUE:** Roll 3,4 Good Year – Row only. Roll 4,6  
in Roma, Hung, Urbi, Trev, Como.  
Naples loses A(Urbi), Venice loses A(Hung) on die  
roll.

**PRESS:**

**All-Venice:** You're going to have some explaining to  
do when this is all over.

**PAX BRITANNICA**

Run on the following website...

[www.geocities.com/shaunderrickuk/PaxBuk.html](http://www.geocities.com/shaunderrickuk/PaxBuk.html)

Britain: John Guthrie

France: Brad Martin

Germany: Ned McIver

Italy: Keith Bowen

Japan: Michael Parkhurst

Russia: Albert Boada

USA: Kevin Street

**1888**

The year ends in a fiasco with Britain causing the  
negotiation period to end without incident. All Casus  
Belli were resolved amicably, albeit probably  
unintentionally!! I know this sounds odd. It was!  
Russia gains sole control of Korea and Formosa.

**1892**

Liberal government in Britain refuse more military  
cash. Manchurian riots could spark Great Power  
intervention in China. War in South America has  
US looking for expansion possibilities. Both German  
and Italian governments under pressure for more  
military build-up and expansion of the Empires.  
A fascinating Movement phase with France giving  
up his East-West path across Africa by handing  
Kongo to the USA in exchange for a co-dominion in  
Cape Colony!

Both the Germans and Russians have invaded  
Chinese territory under the pretext of settling unrest  
in Manchuria. Japan remains very quiet.

The British navy has manoeuvred into various  
locations around the world which could mean that  
he is considering a war.

Italy has invaded Morocco which has annoyed the  
Spanish immensely.

The US has done likewise in Argentina which has  
given Britain and Germany a Casus Belli against  
him.

Lots of negotiation required this turn. This is one of  
the best Pax games I have moderated.

## FIJI

1904

This is held over due to some incompetent filing by me! I lost one set of orders, possibly two. I have retrieved one set and have requested the missing set from the other player.

Apologies for this.

## Kingmaker

### ZACHARIUS

Winter 1459

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	N	H	xx	N	H
JT	H	N	N	xx	N
AP	N	N	F	H	xx

Neil Duncan: 'The Knights who say Nee' (TKWSN) 25 Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 8SS  
(neil.duncan4@ntlworld.com)

PERCY (100, C2, L3, Alnwick, Cockermonth) / 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 & Edmund of Rutland / George of Clarence

Beaumaris std  
Grey Bristol-GLO-WOR  
Herbert boards Le Swan  
Holland Kimbolton - BED-NHS - LEI  
♣ Le Michael Bristol - SEV - SGC - CDG - Beaumaris  
♣ Le Swan - CDG - SGC - SEV - Bristol

Crown Cards: 9

((Neil, transfer of cards can only occur if nobles are in the same place at the same time. As the turn is divided into 5 segments, Grey will have left Bristol by the time Herbert arrives. Bristol is in Gloucestershire for some reason!))

John Marsden: (ODE) 91 Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS (email: jandcmarsden@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)) / Flemish Crossbowmen(20)  
HASTINGS (10, L1, Tutbury) / Earl of Kent (C1) / Scots Archers (20)  
Declare Stanley (50, L2, Douglas) in Douglas  
Declare Courtenay (30, C1, L2, Okehampton) in Okehampton  
Richard of York (Sandal, Stokesay)  
Faction ownership: Kenilworth  
Commons: 8{28} Lords: 13{23}

Pole & Richard of York(King Richard III) LIN- WYO- Wakefield  
Fitzalan LIN - WYO - Wakefield  
Hastings LIN - WYO - Wakefield  
Stanley Douglas std  
Courtenay Okehampton std  
♣ Le Lucas Ravenser std

Crown Cards: 3 Receives Writ card from MIR faction and plays it to Summon Clifford to a Parliament in Wakefield - see below.

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 Canterbury - KEN - SUR - BER  
Clifford DEV- SOM - WIL - BER  
Audley DEV - SOM - WIL - BER  
Scrope DEV std unordered  
♣ Le Rose Preston

Crown Cards: 5 Event Cards: 1 Writ

Jeremy Tullett: Might is Right (MIR) 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR email: Jeremy.D.Tullett@btinternet.com  
Declare Cromwell (10, L1, Tattershall)  
Commons: 0 Lords: 1

Cromwell Tattershall std

Crown Cards: 8 Event Cards: 1 Writ - Gives 1 Writ to ODE faction

Alan Poulter: 'The Falcon Faction' (TFF) Dolphin Cottage, Dolphingstone, East Lothian EH33 1NH  
(email: grognard@grognard.com)  
TALBOT(30, C1, L2, Ludlow) / Const of Dover Castle(50, Dover)  
NEVILLE(50 C3, L4, Ogmore, Richmond, Warwick, Raby) / Chamberlain Co. Pal. Chester({2}50, Rhuddlan, Chester)

BOURCHIER (10, L1, Pleshy) / Duke of Exeter (20, L1, Exeter {C3}) / Admiral of England (50, Lynn {C3}, Southampton {C3}, Le Margaret & Le Christopher), Burgundian Crossbowmen (30)

Edward of Lancaster

Faction ownership: Harlech

Commons: 16 Lords: 8

Talbot & Margaret of Anjou board Le Margaret

Neville & Edward of Lancaster board Le Christopher

Bourchier boards Le Margaret

♣ Le Margaret Cardiff - SEV - SGC - Milford Haven

♣ Le Christopher Cardiff - SEV - SGC - Milford Haven

Crown Cards: 4 Event cards: 1 Writ

((Alan, St Davids isn't a port, so I have assumed you mean Milford Haven.))

Combat: None

Parliament

ODE has called Parliament in Wakefield. Now this means I will need all players to let me know if they will attend, and if so, which nobles if not all. This is also an opportunity to declare any additional cards for their Commons and Lords vote value. Remember that any nobles that don't attend will have none of their Lords votes counting. Commons votes are always counted.

The following titles and offices in Chancery are up for grabs...

Chancery: 8 cards

Constable of the Tower of London ({2}50, C3, London{C4})

Earl of Essex (20, C1, Colchester{C3})

Earl of Westmorland (40, C1)

Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster ({1}50, C3, Conway)

Warden of the Northern Marches ({1}50, C2, Bamburgh, Berwick)

Chancellor of England (50, {C20}, Caernarvon)

Warden of the Cinque Ports (50, C5, Pevensey, Le

Trinity and Le George both 150 capacity)

Earl of Salisbury (30, C1)

I would appreciate if you could all email me with your decisions on whether to attend Parliament or not before the next deadline. As Parliament will need a lot more player interaction and intermittent adjudications, it will need to move it faster than the normal deadline. Once all nobles who are attending are there you will need to discuss between yourselves how the division of the Chancery cards should be made.

The distribution of cards is first made by the player calling Parliament (ODE) and each card allocation is voted on in the Commons and the Lords. A card allocation needs to be approved in both Commons and Lords for it to pass. If votes are even, the allocation fails. Any cards that failed the first allocation will then be passed to the player whose faction controls the largest total number of votes in

both Houses; then the second largest; then largest town votes; then to any remaining players with the highest total number of votes going first.

ODE who controls the King will get 20 extra votes in the Commons --as displayed in the brackets under his faction. Furthermore the holder of the Senior Lancastrian and Senior Yorkist will receive 10 votes each - in this case Alan (Lancastrian) and John M(Yorkist) - in the Commons and the Lords.

If there are any queries, please let me know. But if I could have all new declarations and attendance lists for Parliament by, say Monday 29 December; earlier would be good! Email would be a good idea - perhaps using my own sderrick@tiscali.co.uk as well as shaun.derrick@tmguk.com as I will be in and out of the office a lot over Christmas.

No map as things will change rapidly by next turn.

Royal Heirs: In order of succession

House of Lancaster

1. Margaret of Anjou with TFF in Milford Haven
2. Edward of Lancaster with TFF in Milford Haven

House of York

1. Richard III (Duke of York) with ODE in Wakefield
2. Edmund of Rutland with TKWSN in Beaumaris
3. George of Clarence with TKWSN in Beaumaris

Ship capacities are all 100 except Le Trinity and Le George which are 150. Admiral of England's ships have a capacity of 200.

Some additional information:

Capacities for Cities, Towns and castles...

Cities: Unlimited capacity / 300 garrison

Towns: 400 capacity / 200 garrison

Royal Castle: 300 capacity / 200 garrison

Castle: 300 capacity / 100 garrison

## SOURCE OF THE NILE

I have 5 players who have shown an interest: Pete Dunnett, Alan Poulter, Brad Martin, Chris Latimer and James Hardy. If you 5 gentlemen would like to send me your expedition make-up, we can get started next turn. If you have any queries over the rules, then let me know. Remember expeditions using Horses can only start from any of the three Cape Colony ports. Expeditions using Camels can only start in Khartoum.

Of course, you also need to tell me what speciality you will take on - Zoologist, Doctor, Journalist, etc. If anyone else is interested then please send me an email and I can attach the rules by return.

I am working on the layout of the adjudication at present to try and reduce the space it could take up!

Bye!

# SNOT 53

Duncan Spring 1906

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Vick Hall)**  
F(MAO) s FRENCH F(Spa) sc - WMS

**ENGLAND (Gihan Bandaranaike)**  
F(NWG) - NAO; F(Swe) s A(Nwy); A(Nwy) Stands; F(NTH) - Den; F(ENG) - NTH

**FRANCE (Jeremy Tullett)**  
F(Spa) sc - WMS; A(Por) - Spa; A(Bre) Stands; A(Bur) - Mun (FAILED); F(GoL) s F(Spa) sc - WMS

**GERMANY (Alan Frost)**  
A(Bel) s F(Hol); F(Hol) s A(Bel)

**ITALY (Andrew Greco)**  
F(Nap) - ION; F(TYS) s F(Nap) - ION; F(Tun) - NAF, A(Ven) - Tri; A(Tri) - Ser

**RUSSIA (Colin Hobbs)**  
A(Bud) s ITALIAN A(Tri) - Ser; F(Arm) - Ank; F(Sev) s A(Rum); F(Kie) - BAL; A(Ber) - Kie; A(Fin) - Nwy (FAILED);  
A(StP) s A(Fin) - Nwy; A(Ruh) - Mun (FAILED); A(Vie) - Tyr; A(Rum) s ITALIAN A(Tri) - Ser (CUT)

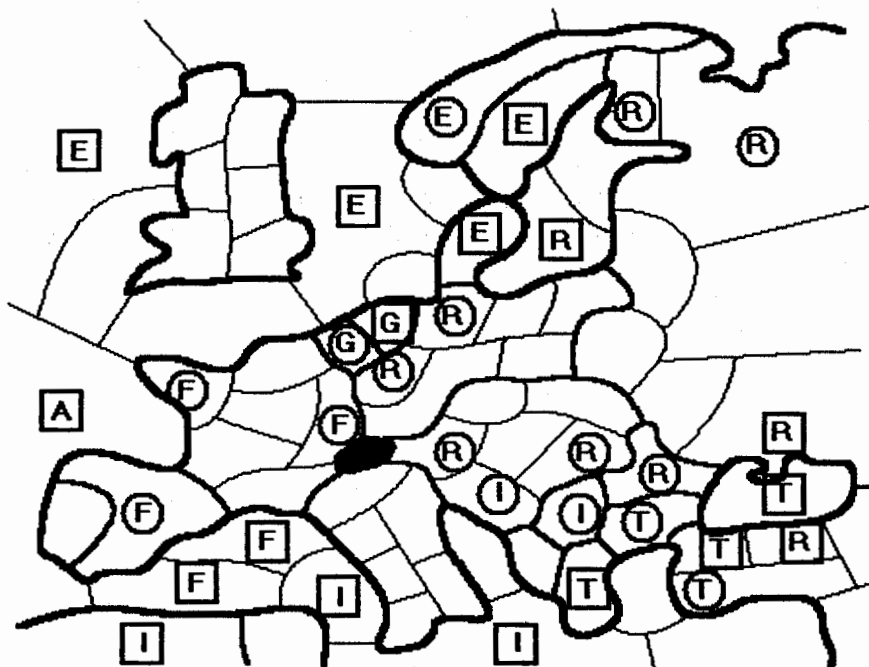
**TURKEY (Neil Duncan)**  
F(Gre) s A(Bul); A(Bul) s ITALIAN A(Tri) - Ser; F(AEG) - Con; A(Con) - Smy; F(BLA) - Rum (FAILED)

**Press:** England: And so I must move a fleet back west instead of against Russia. Great move by France in supporting a rogue unit into MAO! This is the minimum I must do to counter it. I could've "done a Frostie" and thrown everything to Russia to go after France but I like to play sensibly. Unlike some.

Russia: Italy moves to Australia, but not for good.

SG: Gawd, someone propose a draw...

SG: Did anyone else catch Ron Atkinson on The Premiership, when describing the running of Denis Bergkamp, say "amazing the way he just runs on top of the ground"? And he gets paid for it too... Don't think I need to ever go to a Con again - I have discovered brettspielwelt.de. My advice is don't go there if you have any other interests/commitments...



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71 Bonchurch Drive, Liverpool, L15 4PW

# The Games Section

## Raspberry - Std Dip - Sp 08

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles) BN: 02 BB

### Austria (Allan Gordon):

A(Gal) - Ukr, A(Rum) S A(Gal) - Ukr, A(Vie) - Tri, A(Tyr) S A(Vie) - Tri, A(Bud) - Ser, F(Tri) - Alb, F(Gre) S F(Tri) - Alb, F(Smy) - AEG, A(Con) hold.

### England (Mike Pollard):

F(Spnc) - Gas, F(MAO) - Bre, F(ENG) S F(MAO) - Bre, F(NWS) - NTH, F(NTH) - SKA, F(Nwy) S F(NTH) - SKA, F(Den) - Swe.

### Germany (Tony Sait):

A(Lvn) - Mos, A(War) S AUSTRIAN A(Gal) - Ukr, F(SKA) - Swe, F(BAL) S F(SKA) - Swe, F(Kie) - HEL, A(Hol) - Kie, A(Bel) - Ruh, A(Bre) - Pic, A(Gas) - Spa.

Italy (Richard Williams): F(ION) - ADR, F(Tun) - ION, A(Ven) - Tyr, A(Rom) - Apu.

Russia (John Marsden): A(Sev) S A(Ukr), A(Ukr) hold, A(StP) hold, F(Ank) - Con.

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

RETREATS: RUSSIAN A(Ukr) disbands NRP.

### PRESS:

Biggles - to him that asked: No - I did not get your e-mail orders, hence the holdover last time!

Omar's finger: And there came a time when the armies didst mostly take five, and leavest head-butting to the mariners. Mighty were the struggles in the icy waters of the North, and sneaky stuff around the sea of Sorrow. O my brothers, guard well thy womenfolk! - thou knowest what sailers are!

Toni the Ice-cream Seller. (cont)... he reached for the 'phone, only to find the wire had been cut - these crazy Mafioso with their damn knives... Toni stopped and looked around in the sudden silence. Oh. My. God. Did I really say that out loud?! He was out of the office and in to the railway station before you could say "concrete boots". The only train due out within the next 24hours was the Zurich Express, stopping at Perugia, Firenze, Venice, Trieste, Vienna Prague, Munich and Zurich. O.K. not so much an express as a European tour. He took his seat, found the newspaper, and politely tipped his hat to the violinist gentleman in the sharp suit sitting in the shadows...

Turkey - All: Sorry for not writing much, but I'm having a busy time and as it happens my orders are quite easy.

## Sharp - Std Dip - Au 1903

SOMY - "WORD" IS A TOTAL PIECE OF FUCKING CRAP - WHAT'S THE POINT OF DOING "PRINT PREVIEW" IF THE STUPID FUCKER CHANGES  
TCP 118 THINGS WHEN YOU PRINT IT?! LOUSEY YAMM CRAP.  
Dec'2003 page 13

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles)

Austria (Richard Young): A(Mos) S ENGLISH F(StPnc), F(Alb) S TURK F(AEG) - ION, A(Bud) - Rum, A(Ser) S A(Bud) - Rum, A(Tri) S A(Ser).

England (Nigel Pepper): F(StPnc) S A(Yor) - Nwy, A(Yor) - Nwy, F(NTH) C A(Yor) - Nwy, F(Lon) - ENG.

France (Andrew Bryce): F(ENG) - MAO, A(Por) - Spa, A(Mar) - Spa, A(Par) hold.

Germany (Mike Dommett): A(Mun) - Bur, A(Bur) - Par, A(Pic) - Bre, A(Bel) S A(Mun) - Bur, F(Den) S F(Swe), F(Swe) hold.

Italy (Tony Sait): A(Pie) - Mar, F(WMS) S FRENCH A(Mar) - Spa, A(Apu) - Ven, F(ION) - TYS.

Russia (John Wilman): NMR! Has F(Nwy) A(Fin) A(War) and F(Sev) all standing unordered.

Turkey (Allan Gordon): A(Rum) - Sev, F(BLA) S A(Rum) - Sev, A(Gre) hold, F(AEG) - ION, F(Smy) - AEG.

RETREATS: RUSSIAN F(Nwy) disbands NRO!  
RUSSIAN F(Sev) disbands NRO!

### Winter 1903 Adjustments:

A: Vie Bud Tri Rum Mos +Ser 6(5) +A(Bud).

E: Edi Lpl Lon Nwy +StP 5(4) +F(Lpl).

F: Par -Bre -Mar Spa +Por 3(4) -F(MAO).

G: Mun Ber Kie Hol Den Bel +Swe +Bre 8(6) +A(Ber) +F(Kie).

I: Rom Nap Ven Tun +Mar 5(4) +F(Nap).

R: War -StP -Sev -Swe 1(4) GM -A(Fin).

T: Con Ank Smy Bul +Sev 6(5) +A(Con).

### PRESS:

The Oracle : One from the Dome shall sew discord and disharmony amongst all nations. And they shall rise and smite the Dome and cause it to crumble and destroy the sewer thereby.

Aus(govt) - Turkey: Let's not have any more nonsense, eh?

Austria - Italy : Patience.

Austria - Russia: By hook or by crook...

Ger(Gov) - Fre(Gov) : Hard to communicate if silent.

Ger(Gov) - Tur(Gov) : Wish it looked as good from my chair.

Germany - Austria: This seems to be working rather well - now how about some fresh yoghurt.

Ger - Biggles: What's an invadiah? Was this my meaningless press? Biggles - Ger: Cut and pasted, so yes!

Wing/ed horses, and bellephron, or was it billy ruffian, as part educated lower deck scum in the English Fleet would put it, are the scourge of Gorgons.

Toni the Ice-cream Seller. (cont)... he reached for the 'phone, only to find the wire had been cut - these crazy Mafioso with their damn knives... Toni stopped and looked around in the sudden silence. Oh. My. God. Did I really say that out loud?! He was out

of the office and in to the railway station before you could say "concrete boots". The only train due out within the next 24 hours was the Zurich Express, stopping at Perugia, Firenze, Venice, Trieste, Vienna Prague, Munich and Zurich. O.K. not so much an express as a European tour. He took his seat, found the newspaper, and politely tipped his hat to the violinist gentleman in the sharp suit sitting in the shadows...

Elf - Santa: Me, paranoid? Only since you tried to cut a hole in my goodies stocking!

The Gorgon: Ah! - it felt good to be out in the open sea, at last... the water rippling under her scales... the breeze ruffling her snakes...

## Umm Qasr - Gunboat - Au 1903

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles)

**Austria (Lil' Corporal):** A(Rum) S F(Bulsc), A(Ser) S A(Rum), A(Bud) - Tri, A(Vie) S A(Bud) - Tri, F(Bulsc) S TURK A(Con) - Smy{no such unit}, F(Gre) - ION.

**England (Bush's Poodle):** F(Nwy) S F(NTH), F(NTH) S F(Nwy), F(ENG) C A(Lon) - Bel, A(Lon) - Bel.

**France (Tadpole):** A(Par) - Pic, A(Bur) S A(Par) - Pic, F(Bre) - ENG, F(MAO) - Por.

**Germany (The Black Watch):** A(Swe) - Nwy, F(SKA) S A(Swe) - Nwy, F(BAL) - Den, A(Hol) S A(Bel) A(Bel) S A(Ruh) - Bur, A(Mun) S A(Ruh) - Bur, A(Ruh) - Bur.

**Italy (Lampedusa):** A(Tyr) - Tri, F(ADR) S A(Tyr) - Tri, A(Tun) - Apu, F(ION) C A(Tun) - Apu.

**Russia (Tattytoo):** A(Syr) - Smy, A(Arm) - Ank, F(BLA) S A(Arm) - Ank, A(Ukr) - Sev, A(War) - Ukr, F(StPsc) S GERMAN A(Swe) - Nwy.

**Turkey (Euro Champ):** A(Swy) hold, A(Ank) hold.

**RETREATS:** ENGLISH F(Nwy) - NWS.  
FRENCH A(Bur) - Par.  
TURKISH A(Ank) disbands NRO.

Winter 1903 adjustments

A: Vie Tri Bud Gre Ser Bul +Rum 7(6) +F(Tri).

E: Lon Lpl Edi -Nwy 3(4) GM -F(NWS).

F: Par Mar Gre Spa +Por 5(4) +A(Mar).

G: Ber Kie Mun Hol Den Swe Bel +Nwy 8(7) +F(Kie).

I: Nap Rom Ven Tun 4(4) no change.

R: War Mos StP Sev -Rum -Smy +Ank 5(6) -F(StPsc).

T: Con -Ank +Smy 2(2) unit short no build ordered.

### **PRESS:**

Lil' Corporal - Lampedusa. "Not if, but When". So, you have been scheming against me for some time... watch out for my boats, and it's "goodnight, Serenissima"

Lil' Corporal - Euro Champ. What nasty things to be saying about me, and here am I trying to save your homeland.

Lil' Corporal - Tattytoo You're a real supporter of Turkish independence from nasty imperialists aren't you?

Lil' Corporal - Black Watch Teutons together, mate.

Lil' Corporal - Bush's Poodle. See your mate is in town this week, pulling your leash is he?

Lil' Corporal - Tadpole The only thing you did wrong in 1901 was turning up.

Tadpole - Li'l Corp: And some people don't have a sense of humour!

Tadpole - Lampedusa: Next time we're in Tyr and Bur, I'll buy you a litre of Bierfest.

Tadpole - Poodle: Bugger Belgium! - what about Scanni?!

Blackwatch - Poodle: You and me against the rest.

Germany - Russia: Looks like we are friends.

Germany - Italy: Serious mistake I think?

Germany - Tadpole: I'll work with you now ok?

Lampedusa - Lil' Corp: That wasn't very trusting!

Russia - Eurochamp: Sorry old buddy, you'd have done the same to me (and probably have!)

Russia - Li'l Corp: I know who you are!

St Petersburg: A motion was passed in the Duma recently (laughter from inebriated comrades). And no, it was not drunken Boris following through. THAT THIS HOUSE CONDEMNS VERBAL DIARRHOEA. (And vomiting over the comrade in front of you).

EuroChamp - Tattytoo: Please don't think this is over. I am secretly playing England and will presently swamp your armies with Indian armies. Ha ha ha!

EuroChamp - Li'l Corp: So, when are you going to let me loose in the Balkans again?

Eurochamp - Europe: I shall go into hiding in the mountains of Northern Pakistan and you shall never find me. In about 80 years when the camcorder is invented I shall give out dire warninhs of vengeance on you and my Turkish freedom fighters shall drive you out with bombs and stuff.

## Extra Eds Bit

Timing hey. Over the weekend, there was a fire at the kids school and so no school on Monday and Tuesday. Their reaction was one of joy and jubilation! Christmas had come early. Given my non working status, it meant I was available for child-minding duties. A good time to teach them Diplomacy maybe?

Finally - I shall share with you some of the weird and wonderful music that has helped contribute to this issue; Limpbizkit - Chocolate starfish.

AFI - Girls not grey.

hc3way split EP featuring, The Leftbehinds, Fellthru and Eyeless in Gaza. (Another local production.)

In retro mood I even dug out a bit of Iggy Pop and Alanis Morissette

Plus Marilyn Manson still high on my 'shit hot' list.

See what I mean?  
The fucking thing just adds  
in space or flips stuff over  
to an extra page - fucking  
wipes your arse when you  
don't want it to, but can't  
just do nothing without being  
asked - fucking Microsoft  
words nukes!