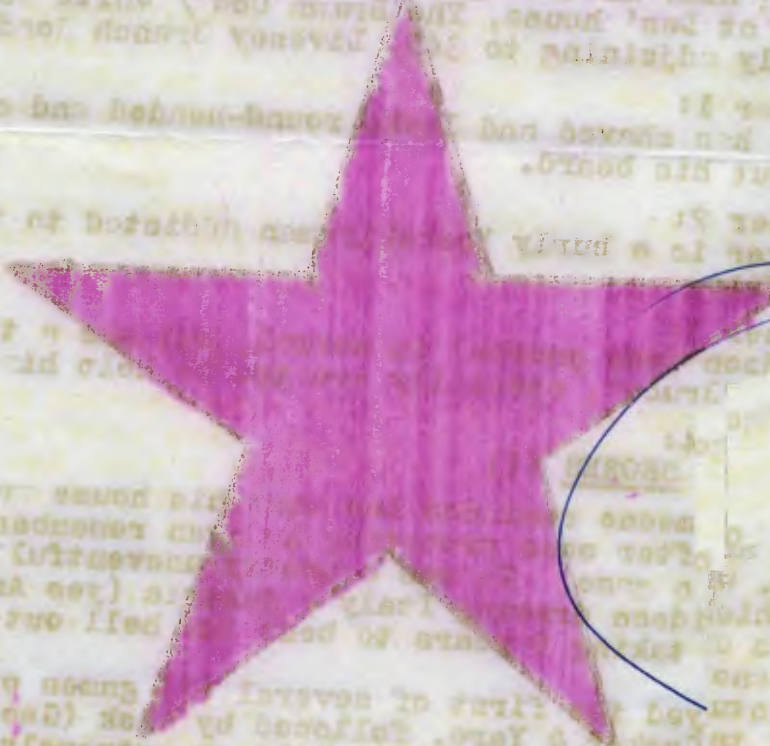


ANDY DAVIDSON

SNORES



THE POLISH STAR

Not only does Andy snore, but Peter Charlton makes a cracking noise every time he moves, and Brian Yare was actually thrown out of Greece for cat-running! Yes, folks, Pimlicon 2 was a roaring success, and as soon as Les stops roaring, he's going to hold another.

Not unnaturally, the weekend held several surprises, not the least being my discovery that I was the only person to have reserved a seat on the rather crowded train down; I was just about last on, so..... now I know what Andy Davidson/Martin Borman feels like.

(Hey, did you hear the one about the cabinet minister who walked into a hotel and asked for the bridal suite? Think about it.....) (John Pigroff wrote that.) (Did so!)

First stop for me (what do you mean, you can't follow this? You just aren't trying!) was Will Haven's residence, a respectable suite of rooms protected from thieves by a layer of squallor, beri-beri and affection-starved cats, with the final psychological defences of the banana-shaped bath, the clocks (brrrrrr!), Stalingrad and.....Will Haven.

Will is quite a nice person really, and displayed this by playing a game of Stalingrad with me at 5.00 a.m. This I conceded to avoid over-humiliating him! He then gave me a lift to the Pimlicon proper in Blackburn, held at Les' house, The Brown Cow / White Bull / Black Spot Inn, occasionally adjoining to 345, Livesey Branch Road.

Shock number 1:

Brian Yare has shaved and looks round-headed and slightly mongoloid without his beard.

Shock number 2:

Geoff Coker is a burly Yorkshireman addicted to throwing beer pots and murderous fits.

Shock number 3:

Andy Davidson (who snores) is normal, but has a transistorized gadget known as "Bruce", specially created to help him win at Diplomacy.

Shock number 4:

Andy Davidson SNORES !!!

Eventually someone reminded Les that his house was 345, Livesey Branch Road, and after some prompting he even remembered what Diplomacy was, so we played a game. It was a pretty uneventful one, at any rate, with Andy and Davidson drawing Italy - Austria (yes Andy, that was a snide remark) and taking 2 years to beat the hell out of me (Turkey) prior to winning.

Next was played the first of several (7) games of Formula One, honours going to Coker & Yare, followed by Risk (Geoff Coker won) and Origins (TATARARATATAAH!!!) won by an extremely deserving J. Lettice PhD after Geoff and I drew Germany and Russia respectively, playing a trio, whose ignorance of the game was matched only by their ignorance of chicken farming in Tasmania. Shysters, I think Les said.

Sunday was similarly degenerate, with Brian winning another Formula One and Geoff another Risk, but did see the kick-off of what may be the game of the century: Haven v Davidson at Stalingrad. The game is still going on (they took note of the positions, safes!) and I hope to hear of the final result, or to occasionally hear of something else if Will wins!

Anyway, that was about all. Les wants to hold them every two months, next in October (?) so I'd give him about six months more. If he takes things easy, that is.

"Christianity, in its early years, was a revolutionary guerilla movement and spread only because of a series of successful terrorist acts." (Sunday Times, 2/9/73)

How's my chance to write my new rock-opera, "Jesus Christ, Hoganaah"!

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John Piggott has just produced the new-look, schizoid Ethil, which so oozes hypocrisy that I don't know where to start!

First of all he spins out his reasons for splitting Ethil into two grossly overpriced sections to a length of two foolscap sides, padding out his claims of bankruptcy with the famous John Pagan Piggott moronic whininga why must the so-called self-called "quality" press continue to bombard us with the details of private lives of the most sordid kind? Why is he so hell-bent on writing "Confessions of an Oxford Opium Later"? Does he think wasting paper on that will convince people Ethil is improved by costing 12p an issue? Why is he so secretive about Ethil 32's cost? (Look and see is it there?)

He spends another page reviewing books I've never heard of. (Unlike Richard Walkerdine, who reviews films he's never heard of!)

Then follows a copy of a letter from John Boyer, editor of the IDA (editor? I'm not trying to be funny, but what in Hades does he call himself that for? How do you edit an association?) which rambles on in a pathetic and ill-organized way:

"The IDA has accomplished the following:

First, it has survived....." There follow the reasons for its survival! Two paragraphs on he staggers back to the subject, and the great IDA achievement can be summarised as:

- a) Orphan Games Project
- b) Diplonaby Handbook

Recent events have shown a) to be worthless, in Britain at least, so for the bargain total of 3 dollars you too can have a list of openings just like the ones even John Piggott can produce by moving his pieces around at random.

Thank you and goodnight, John Boyer. (That "editor" really gets me, you know!)

Doubtless this announcement will bring forth cynical snickers from such as John and Piggott, sole English IDA members; well, okay (eeuuh!) they like the IDA and that's their privilege. I don't quite see, though, why they prate on at length in comparative ignorance. At least one of the supporters (more might be difficult to manage) of the IDA ought to obtain more to show for it than their "John Boyer Happy - smile club" badges.

Actually Mr. Frog, if you had about 50 British IDA members instead of 2 it would be feasible for an IDA opponent to join, but to raise the membership by 50%!

Richard Walkerdine tells us that the only person who sent anything for his nominations for the grand press release contest was Duncan Morris. Tripe, I say; I distinctly remember telling him I didn't think any of his press worth voting for! As for Star press, to date we only have one even vaguely worthy of mention: John Piggott, author of Jason Hyde and innumerable similar pieces, this is your dubious honour!

Gregory Gard, my deepest apologies for being unable to print your variant this issue, but there is the small matter of whether or not flotillas need supply centres; please clarify. Gregory will probably be running a few games for us when we are running six or seven each, by the way.