

Tragedy Rumoured to have HIT Diplomacy :

It is believed here in concentric circles that the British Diplomacy scene is on the verge of its first legal wrangle. Rumour has it that a little-known St. Andrews GM, author of such books as "Zero to Father of British Diplomacy in Sixty Seconds and £300." and "How to be a bigger Megalomaniac than Bxxxx Yxxx.", and who has recently entered his Perry Mason phase (not to be confused with his recent Beaverbrook phase or subsequent Harry Hyams phase.) is preparing to serve a writ on an alleged drop-out, who, it is claimed, owes him about 30p. This is not at all the Diplomacy of my youth; my suspicious nature forces me to demand receipts from this GM now, for under Scots law one is, apparently, innocent until one is proved guilty in reverse, if you see what I mean.

Full marks for observation to the gents who guessed that my reason for qualifying alleged allegations left, right, and, it is rumoured, centre, is because Merry Pason has threatened to put the finger on me for slander, a fact which may be not unconnected with a rumoured mention of a debatably semi-mythical GM on last issue's front page. There was, of course, as little truth in that page one as there is in this.



cover design by Gregory Ward.

The Drunken Doris Column

Heard in the beer bar recently: "Where's my Male ?"

Seen near Doris' typewriter: Queen's velvet envelopes.

Doris threw a 21st. birthday party last term and invited all his friends; it wasn't very well attended.

FRIGATE lovers, (and believe me, it takes all sorts.), will notice that Doris is liable to be going on Beira patrol down Rhodesia way. Rumour has it that he has also received a tempting offer from the People's Republic of Outer Mongolia, and from the University of Pnom Penh.

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THE
BOLSHEVIK
STAR.

An Omrud Publication.

Produced by John Lettice,
David Russell Hall,
St. Andrews.

&
Gordon Neilson,
28, Kingsway Pl.,
Dundee.

As you see, the Star is now done by Gestetner; I don't know what the thing is going to look like, but this page at least should be fine as I'm doing it on an electric. Because of the new duplicator, however, we will have to reorganise the deadline; I want the deadline to be a Tuesday, first post, as this is the only time I have access to an electric typewriter. Also, we can only print on week-ends, so I have to do the typing before then. Gordon will sort out the actual date. How does this suit you, gripey guts Walsh?

I've done a little experimenting with this issue's cover, so please don't grumble over-much if it doesn't come out very well. It certainly can't be worse than the average Frigate cover.

I think the time is about ripe for the introduction of Gregory Ward's notorious subzine, on the strength of which he has apparently been getting free games for months. There is just one snag to this Gregory; Star doesn't normally trade games! I'm sure you'll think of some way to wriggle out of it though. Anyway, if people who want games GMed by Gregory would write to him, I'm sure we will soon have one going.

Readers of Ethel the Frog, if any of you can remember whether you subscribe to it or not, will have noticed passages claimed to be taken from my letters; this is obviously blatant nonsense, to anyone who has ever bombarded me with demands to be answered - I ask you, would I write all that? Anyway, I never wrote any of that, it was all an elaborate lie to stop the recipient stabbing me, they've been hopelessly distorted and that most certainly isn't my signature!

STAR AT (Which brings us to an overwhelming question: guess who lost this Conflu in the AIEM office?)

STAR A, autumn 1903.

AUSTRIA (Waldie): a tri mutual sulks a bud.

UK (O'Rourke): a yor-lpl; f uth-eng s by f lon; f nwy stands.

FRANCE (Sherrad): a bel s german a hol; a pic-wal c by f ong & s by f tri; a bur-pic; a mar-bur.

GERMANY (Dunn): a mun plays table-tennis with a ruh; a ruh bandages its eyes and mills around as an impersonation of Mike Sherrad; f den drivels on at length about nothing in particular; a hol receives lecture on the price of duplication supplies.

ITALY (Ovens, cadet acting aircraftsman, unpaid, 5201384): f ven-tri s by a vie; a boh s a vic; a gre-ser; f ion-aeg.

RUSSIA (Pimley/Kelly): f bla-ank; a gal-bud s by a rum; a stp-nwy s by f swe.

TURKEY (Davidson): f aeg-ion s by f ems; f con-aeg; a bul-gre s by a scr.

Retreats: austrian a tri & a bud disbanded; french f eng disbanded (nice one, Cyril); italian a gre-ser & f ion-tun.

A: 0 bases: dey deaded me!

U: 3 bases: lon, lpl, edi. no change.

P: 6 bases: par, nar, bre, por, spa, bel. No build received. One short.

G: 5 bases: ber, kid, nun, hol, den. No change.

I: 6 bases: ven, rom, nap, tun, tri, vie. Build f nap.

R: 9 bases: stp, mos, war, sev, swe, nor, rum, bud, ank. Build a war, f sev, f stp(nc), a nos(not ordered but only other possible.)

T: 5 bases: con, sny, gre, ser, bul. No change.

One more retreat; UK x f nwy disbands. (What do you expect from an Irishman?)

B GAMEPLAYERSPLEASENOTE!!!!

Colin Walsh's orders just arrived, having been posted to Gordon at 8.30 pm on Friday...does this beat the previous Pimley record held with relation to an Ethil game? I am going to accept them this time, but in future I will be doing Star on the deadline day, so WATCH IT! Moves are: a vie ms a tri; a ven-tyr; f ion stand; f nap-tys.

STAR C, MvtWIV, quelle 3002

ARNOR(Ward): a bb fol-mit; da art stands; a tha-dun s by 2a ere; a inl s 2a ere till it's sick; a bra-tha with the camel.

GONDOR(Robertson): a por ms a ano; a lam s a ano; 2a hrr-sha; a sgo-unb; da mit stands.

MORDOR(Thompson): a ang-crk; a crk-gla; a nis-nor; a nor-lor; s by a fan; a isg s a fan; a hrd-unb; a rau stands; a mim-hen; n son-kha((movement? Whatever next?)); 3a hen-ano; da sha ~~/A/A/A/A/A/A/A~~; ((da support invalid outside home prov.)) da non s da sha.

RHOVANION(Wein): a emy-dog; 2a dog-gla; a non-gun; da nir-esg; a nwi-wer.

ROHAN(Sherrad): 2a een-rau; da wen-fan; a edo-isn; a lor ms a cel.

Retreats; mordor a rau-ith.

A: 6 bases: tha, ere, inl, ano, ths, grh. Builds a amo.

G: 5 bases: mit, dnr, leb, ano, tol. No change.

M: 13 bases: umb, hrd, kha, hen, nin, bar, udu, mor, fan, igd, crk, ang, ang, cad. Build a bar, a udu.

RH: 5 bases: nir, nwi, esg, dog, wer. Builds a mir.

R: 5 bases: edo, wen, cel, lor, rau. Buids a edo.

STAR I: I am postponing this game until next issue as Allan Doodes (Mordor) has dropped out; I refuse point-blank to run a Middle Earth game with Mordor in anarchy so COULD I HAVE SOME STANDBY ORDERS PLEASE!

STAR E MvtWIV, tuille /3002

ARNOR(McBay): 2a ths-art; da art stand unordered; a inl-ett; ~~A/A/A/B/B/A/A~~ no such unit; a bra stand unordered!

GONDOR(O'Rourke): a tol-sgo s by 2a hrd; a nit s a ano; a leb s a ano; a ano s rohan a ith; a dol-lan; da anf-dol.

MORDOR(Charlton): 3a hen-por; M udu-hen s by a nin; a cad stands; a dog ms a lor; a isg stands; a dea-rau; a bar-udu; a umb-sgo; da non-nuw s by da sha.

RHOVANION(Corker): a mir-crk s by 2a ang; a wer-sow; a esg-nir s by a nwi; da wil spits at Dol Guldur.

ROHAN(Thompson): 2a ere s a fan-lor; a fan-lor; da wen-fan; a edo-wen; a ith-rau.

No retreats.

Helm's Deep: Arise, arise, Riders of Rohan! Fell deeds awake: fire and slaughter! Spear shall be shaken, shield splintered, a sword day, a red day, ere the sun rises. Ride now, ride now against Mordor, for he hath attacked Lothlorien, and Orcs have stained fair Nunredel. Ride now, ride now, against Mordor.

Hobbiton: Weccell, David, I think that Rohan would have won if they had written English: as it was, however, those Spanish dictionaries they were carrying didn't get them anywhere.....

Just four pages? Sorry but at the moment St. Andrews is in the midst of the great NUS grants riot scandal, and I happen to be reporting the ensuing squabbles for the student newspaper, I don't make much of a habit of eating and sleeping. I wouldn't mind not having had lunch for four out of five days, but I took such trouble forging my union card so it looked like I'd paid for them.....

Merry Xmas,

JOHN LETTICE.

One of the problems with two people producing the one magazine is that you are never sure what the other is going to say. I could have started off by commenting on the new duplicating and assuring everyone that the new Star will be an improvement on previous issues, but John has probably said something like that already.

During the term, John, as you know, attempts to study in St. Andrews, while I remain in Dundee. However, I don't think I can be on John's list of people-he-writes-long-letters-to as there is a considerable lack of communication between us. (Even the telephone link between the two towns is terrible) Anyway, I'll just have to hope that John has left it to me to explain a few of the new details about the Star.

From now on, it should come out regularly -- every four weeks, I hope -- with TTTBF being published at the same time. The deadlines for the Star will probably fall on the Tuesday (this depends on John -- how long it takes him to type his stencils and get them to me by the following Saturday). All the printing, collating, stapling and posting should be done on the Sunday afternoon which means that you should get it by the following Tuesday. Still, we'll see how it goes.

One thing which some of you will have to remember from now on is that sending orders to me for any games other than "F", "G" & "H" just involves an extra delay of about two days as I have to send them on to John (It costs me money, as well). A Tuesday deadline will also mean that John probably won't be able to accept many late orders, if any, if I'm to get the stencils on time. It isn't our duplicator, you see, and our access to it is limited.

Having noticed in Son of Bellicus, a few comments about the last Star, I feel that an ~~excuse~~ explanation might be appropriate. By the time I received John's masters, I was within a few days of my end of term exams and decided that the Star would have to wait until they were over. It was produced on the first weekend after the exams. I decided to write my part because, if you remember, the reproduction of my typing in the previous issue was pretty terrible and I was hoping that by writing quite hard on the master, I would be able to produce something similar to Ummagamma. It wasn't as good but at least the duplicating was a lot better than the previous issue. I'm sorry if you couldn't read my handwriting but I imagine that the players in the games were able to understand what was going on. The reason for the relatively long deadline for this issue was that I knew of the possibility of using a new duplicator and wanted time to be sure and to let John and Geoff know.

Will Haven makes some observations in Son about the deterioration of the Star which I would think are valid to a certain extent. He is wrong about one point, though. The Star was first produced after we had left school. Consequently, the first three or four issues came out while we were on holiday and had considerably more time than we do now to produce them. As I have said above, when John went to St. Andrews, communication dropped to virtually nil, and I think it is this coupled with the lack of time which produced the decline. I don't think that the Star will collapse due to the two of us just giving it up. At the worst it will slowly disappear as the circulation grows smaller and smaller but I think that is unlikely if the new duplication is good and if Diplomacy continues to grow in the UK. To say otherwise would mean that the circulations of the established zines would increase continuously with the growth of the hobby. Would they then reach a point where the editors would not be able to cope with the volume of duplicating? In that case, is it not more natural for a large number of zines to exist, each with a circulation of 40-80?

On the subject of Omrud variants -- I've run out of copies of one or two of them (plenty of Red Octobers left, though) but, with the new duper I hope to be reprinting them very shortly and they should, with any luck, have maps that don't fade. The prices will depend on the new sizes. Yes, we've changed to Foolscap as it seems a bit of a waste of stencils keeping to A4.

Two possible candidates for the new Rector of Dundee University: Clement Freud and... Brian Clough!! Sorry Mick, it seems as if

STAR "F" (Logical) Autumn 0001

ALPHA (Piggott): 21-23 S by 37 & 38; 19-20;

BETA (Ovens): 3-21 S by 22; 23-38 S by 26; 5-23;

GAMMA (Charlton): 39 S BETA 23-38; 8-26 S by 25; 10-28 S by 27;

DELTA (L.Pimley): 40-39; 32-33; 28 remains illogical;

OMEGA (Pendlebury): 17-16 S by 15; 35-34 S by 33; 31-32; 12-30;

SIGMA (P.Pimley): 34-35 S by 36; 43-42; 41-42; 16-34;

Winter 0001

A: 1, ~~21~~, 37, 19 + 38 No Change
B: 4, 24, ~~38~~, 3, 6, +21, 22 build A 4
G: 7, 27, 39, 10, 25, + 28 build A 7
D: ~~38~~, 40, ~~28~~, + 9 remove A 9
O: 13, 33, ~~17~~, 15, 31, ~~38~~ + 16, 30 No Change
S: ~~38~~, 42, 18, 34, 43 + 36, 41 build A 42

Hmmm, nearly did it again: Beta 23 retreat to 24; 26 retreat to 29
Delta 28 " to 9
Omega 35 " to 17

Would anyone care to make any guesses as to what the situation will look like at the end of 0005? At least it would be something to fill this space with if the shortage of press continues.

STAR "H" (Allah Akba'ar)

I seem to have made a slight (?) error last time in reporting the moves. The changes are as follows:

Edessa: A. Ada MS DA Kib; A Ada retreat to Sik; No army built at Mar.

Byzantium: A Kus-Ada S by A Elg; build A Cha, A Pap.

As that affects two or three people, we'll leave Spring 1170 until next time. If anyone wants to change their orders, feel free to do so, otherwise I'll just use the ones I have now. My apologies in particular to Steve Doubleday and to everyone in general as the rules are unambiguous about this point.

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While I remember - I now have the rules for HOLOCAUST by Richard Wein, price 2p + postage. These ones are sprit duplicated, I'm afraid, but are, I think, more legible than some things that have emerged from that machine. If there is a great demand for them I'll reprint them on this. The rules deal with firing missiles, airlifting armies and hidden submarine movement and the map covers, more or less, the entire globe in 4 A4 pages. (Around the world.....)

STAR "G" (Foundation) Autumn 5002

First Foundation (Robertson): 3x52-46; 2x56-57; 50-45 S by 2x60;
2x55-50; 54-49; 53 st.

Traders (O'Rourke): 40-38 (hyp); 40 MS. 2x46; 44 S 40; 49-50 S by 2x45;

Mule (Doubleday): NMR all fleets stand.

Colonies (Doodles): NMR " " "

Empire (?): all fleets stand.

Tazenda (Thomson): 5-1 S by 3; 8-10 (hyp) S by 2x13 & 2x9;
8 S 2x13; 12 S 2x13;

Empire 2x10 elim.

2nd Foundation: 18 correct.

Tazenda: His Gracious Majesty Emperor Roderick 1st, Warlord of the Empire has noticed the flight of his neighbours and, being a generous man, has decided to help them. His Majesty has great pleasure in announcing the formation of 'Renta Fleet'. War fleets may be hired for nominal fees. All offers should be made on bended knee before His Gracious Majesty on any Audience Day.

Winter 5002

F.F.: 60 55 57 59 50 53 = 13, Build F 60

Tr.: 39 44 46 + 38 = 10 Build F 44, F 39

M.: 29 31 32 34 26 23 36 = 17 Build F's at 29 31 32 & 34

C.: 19 21 22 17 ~~25~~ 25 = 12 Build F's at 19 21 & 22

E.: ~~10~~ 11 15 = 5 No Change

T.: 1 3 7 8 + 13 10 = 14 Build F's at 1 3 & 7.

Now, always being one to pinch good ideas, this is what my map looks like. Does it agree with yours?

F.F.: 3x60; 2x57; 2x55; 3x52; 1x50; 1x53; 1x54;

Tr.: 1x49; 2x45; 2x46; 1x40; 2x44; 1x38; 1x39;

M.: 3x34; 3x31; 2x29; 2x27; 2x23; 1x24; 1x26; 1x32; 1x36;

C.: 2x25; 2x22; 2x16; 1x17; 1x19; 1x21;

E.: 3x11; 2x15;

T.: 2x13; 2x9; 2x3; 2x1; 1x8; 1x10; 1x7; 1x12;

As you can see, this game is in desperate need of some players. PLEASE CAN WE HAVE SOME STANDBYS especially for the Empire Colonies and the Empire.

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Having just received my basic training in ink duplicating, I managed, with the help of John Robertson, to print the first six pages on Thursday night. The printing is, of course a vast improvement on the last issue and, as I get used to the new duplicator, I hope that the printing will remain at this standard, if not slightly better. One thing about it is that it's electric and about ten copies have been printed by the time I've managed to see what the first one looks like.

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Please note : In the last issue, if you managed to decipher it, was a mention of a possible Dundipcon during the first weekend in February. This is now off for various reasons. We would, however, like to hear from anyone who might be interested in coming on future occasions, in order to give us some idea of the numbers involved. For anyone who hasn't heard, the next Pimleycon is to be held on the 23rd & 24th of February. Anyone planning to attend should contact Les at 345 Livesey Branch Road, Blackburn, BB2 4QJ.

WAITING LISTS

Regular: P.Swanson, R.Kelly.

Third Age: J.Piggott, S.Dunn.

4000 AD: A.Waldie, R.Wein, A.Doodes.

Imperialism IX: M.Sherrad, J.Robertson, A.Waldie, S.Doubleday,
R.Thomson, B.O'Rourke, G.Corker.

Black Hole: M.Sherrad, B.O'Rourke, G.Corker, J.Robertson, P.Charlton.

Balkan War: M.Sherrad, R.Thomson, J.Robertson, A.Doodes, P.Charlton.

Wars of the Roses: M.Sherrad, R.Thomson, B.O'Rourke

Atlantica: M.Sherrad, P.Charlton, G.Corker, R.Thomson, P.Swanson.

Lord of the Rings: M.Sherrad, R.Thomson.

Democratic: O'Rourke, Dunn, Robertson, Sherrad, Pimley, Ward,
Doubleday, McBay, Charlton, Thomson, Erasmus, Corker,
Piggott, Doodes, Harris, Swanson, Davidson.

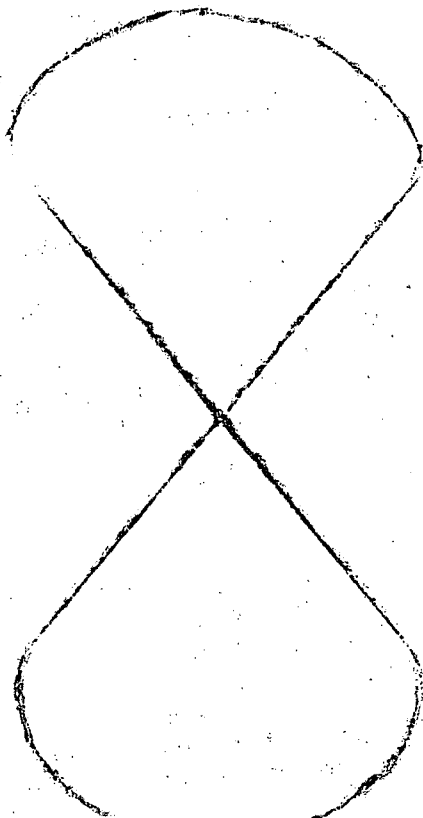
I'm considering cutting the size of Democratic Diplomacy to 21 players.
i.e. only 3 per country. If another four people would like to put
their names down, we might be able to get the thing off the ground
reasonably soon. Somehow, I don't see us ever getting 35 names
at the one time.

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I wouldn't mind seeing some more press submitted for the games.
It not only creates a more entertaining magazine but also means that
you don't have to read so much of my rubbish. (same thing, I suppose).
Any articles would, of course, be most welcome. Suggestions as to
what I should do with the old duplicator might also be printed.

The next DEADLINE is TUESDAY 19th FEBRUARY (First Post)

NO.



VARIETY

To all my readers, whether subscribers, traders, or debt-collectors, an important announcement.

Regretably, due to an increase in business, and various personal reasons, I will be unable to produce Variety as a separate entity. I apologise profusely to all my many fans, and I deeply regret starting a magazine, which folds so quickly.

In addition, due to the paper shortage, and the need to boost the "Star", Gordon, John and myself felt that it would save paper, and the "Star's" face, if Variety was produced as an extra supplement of the "Star", in the future. So, not only are you getting a BRAND-NEW looking "Star", superbly printed in black and buff, but you are also getting the brilliant writings of that Master-Mind, J.G. Robertson.

Seriously though, those of you who have subscribed, will receive their TOTAL money back with this letter, while those of you who have so generously traded with me, will receive a sum to cover the cost of the mags. you have already sent, and my sub. for future copies.

As an attempt to bring more articles on Variants to you than actual games, Variety was a new venture. I hope that it will continue to boost the Variant scene in the future, and, if you feel that you would still like to receive it, and you do not already subscribe to the "Star", please feel free to do so. Regardless of recent crits., the Star will improve, and will continue to flourish.

(And by using the new electronic typewriter, I won't need to get this stupid one fixed, after all.)

EDITORIAL.

(B--- H---) This was supposed to be a perfect copy, just to show all those moaners that it could be done. However, at 10p.m., I can't get correcting fluid, so you will just have to suffer this mess.

Which leads me on to my topic. Recently, there has been an outburst from various Editors, against badly produced, badly spelt, badly printed magazines, a flood of which have recently entered the Dippy scene. Upon reading these, my first thought was, "I'm not as bad as that, surely?" Then a brilliant idea struck me, all those nasty people did not mean me, since my work was grammatically perfect, and, apart from the spirit duping, beautiful to behold. While agreeing with the outburst, this is where it falls down, I feel, in so far that anyone who does produce the atrocious (I hope) work, will not believe that it refers to him. What we need is a brief comment by the Editors, telling their readers what they think of it, without being libelous.

Without trying to organise the Dippy field, there is another need, and that is for some centralised method of stating when the various "get-togethers" are being held. Some of them have started to clash, and it is a pity, when people are keen to attend them, that some announcement of the various dates of future meetings cannot be made in ALL mags.

NEW RELEASES.

Son of B has yet another variant, called "Satrap", based on the loyalty and disloyalty of the various Satraps under the King of Persia. (Where do you get them all from, Will?)

Still with Will, he needs players for "Elsinor", a variant-type based on the original Midgard. This sounds as if it will be one of the best non-Dippy type games to date, and all the players will have to write good sagas (or Press releases), since any combat is decided by who-ever wrote the better saga winning. Terrific scope for any who have a fertile imagination, and one which should be extremely enjoyable. Come on, all you budding authors, Will needs you.

VARIETY WORKSHOP.

Next issue will have the first installment of Steve's epic Lord of the Rings game. (Doubleday, that is) Due to a lack of the necessary material (Gordon has pinched my stylus, and won't give it back) I was unable to draw the map in time for this issue, but this will be rectified for the next one.

SMALL ADDS.

For Sale. One, practically brand new, hardly used, spirit duplicator, together with thousands of reams of paper and stencils. This poor, neglected, little pet, is very friendly, and desperately needs a kind master.

Also, one normal ink duplicator, in reasonably good condition. Unfortunately, this machine was last used by John Lattice, and as a result is going cheap.

RED OCTOBER.

Slight error last time, sorry. The Polish DA did not support the Polish A(Lub) but moved instead. Thus the Polish orders should have read:-

A(Dan) Stand; DA(War) - Gal; ~~---~~ A(Lub) - Mog. (Stood off by Bol.)

Also, the Poles build A(War)

July, 1918 moves.

Bolsheviks	:- A(Tan) S GA(Vas)	A(Oze) - Lip	A(Kak) - Ast
(Charlton)	A(Kol) - Smo	A(Lan) - Amu	A(Olc) - Lon
	A(Pet) - Val	A(Tsr) S GA(Tsr)	A(Bry) Stand

Poles	:- A(Dan) - Bye	A(Lub) - Mog	A(War) - Dan
(Neilson)	DA(Gal) S A(Lub) - Mog		

Finnns	:- A(Boc) - Lap	A(Ozo) - Sio	A(Laa) - Poh
(Thorneon)	A(Not) - Oze	DA(Laa) S A(Laa) - Poh	

Czechs	:- 2A(Bas) Stand	A(Mor) - Ukr	
(Pinsley)			

Daniken	:- A(Kle) S Czech A(Mor) - Ukr.	<u>A(Ros) - Lip</u>	<u>A(Don) - Ros</u>
(Wilson)	A(Sta) S A(Don) - Ros		

Kolchek	:- A(Ufa) - Anz	A(Per) - Kas	A(Tur) - Yak
(Robb)	A(NoS) - Tur	DA(Zhi) St.	

Yudenitch	:- A(Lat) - Liv	A(Psk) S A(Lat) - Liv	A(Tal) - Nar
(Ovens)			

Deadline:- as for other games, to me at 54, South Tay St., DUNDEE.

To