

Variable Pig



The "Oh Sh*t" Issue

VARIABLE PIG (NEIJANG)

POLAR PIG 87

I think I spoke too soon last issue when I said it was quiet. Shortly after finishing last issue, I was involved in a major car accident. I was a little late driving to work on thursday morning, as Jackie and I had been moving the last of the furniture out of our living room, ready for our parquet floor to be renovated. The parquet man told me as I was leaving that the traffic was heavy, and as it was also a bit foggy, I decided to drive in on the quieter side roads rather than take the A12 motorway. I also changed the cds in the car and put on "All About Eve" to play. I had just driven past the local industrial estate and was driving towards the A2 junction, when I realised there was a longish queue and slowed gently to a stop behind the last car (a small black Fiat). There was a normal gap between me and the Fiat in front and as the road was flat, I didn't apply the brakes.

I was waiting for a few seconds after stopping, listening to the music ("Road To Your Soul" had just finished and "Dream Now" was starting), vaguely looking for movement ahead of me, when it happened. Suddenly there was a loud bang at the back of the car and I was thrown forward. I knew someone had hit me, but the first thing I was really aware of was the car rolling down the grass bank to the side of the road and towards some trees. I tried to brake, without much apparent success but the car eventually stopped about 10m away from the road. I thought I could smell burning, so I quickly undid my seatbelt and pushed open the door with some effort. I got out of the car and started to walk back to the road to see what had happened (yes, I did swear), noticing as I got out that the airbag had gone off and was partly deflated.

Two ladies stopped me and told me to sit down, after which they wrapped me in a sheet. A third person was wrapping another man close by, sat leaning against a small sapling with a cut forehead, in a blanket. One of the ladies then called the emergency services. The traffic had been stopped in both directions, one by the accident itself and the other by stopped lorries.

Looking round, I could see a large white van with a badly damaged front and cracked windscreen, plus a small black Fiat with a badly damaged back on the rear passenger side; it's rear passenger wheel was also badly buckled. Behind me, I could see that the back of our Scenic was badly smashed with the bumper broken and the rear drivers side wheel hanging almost horizontal to the ground. There was also something hanging down below the back of the car, which looked like the rear axle, although it was hard to tell. The drivers side passenger door was about 1/3 of it's normal size, with torn metal visible. I could also tell that the drivers side front of the car was also damaged. When I looked back at the road, I could see the remains of our bumper, together with lots of stuff scattered from the boot of our car. I asked one of the ladies to gather up my sports bag, snooker cue and Thomas and Hannah's boots. Someone also got my mobile phone from the car, so I could call Jackie and work to let them know what had happened.

Soon after, the ambulance arrived and I was quickly checked over and my neck put into a brace, which was very uncomfortable. The first ambulance took the other injured driver first, but I was soon taken to the hospital in the second; all the way, the paramedic kept asking me questions and taking measurements to ensure I was alright. This continued after I reached the

hospital, even though I felt fine apart from bruises, cuts and sore ribs and neck. They kept me in hospital for about four hours and took about seven X-ray photos, mainly of my neck. The police kindly bought Jackie to the hospital after a friend took her to the scene of the accident. Eventually, they decided I was OK and let me go home although I was called back for more X-rays the next day.

Looking back, I think I was very lucky that the car was in neutral and the brakes weren't applied, as this meant much of the force of the collision was spent in moving my car forward. The car, as you can tell from the front cover, was a complete write-off. My neck was sore for about a week and my ribs for longer, but otherwise I've been fine; I even played five-a-side footie the next week, although this was probably a mistake. The other driver was also OK and I'm just waiting to find out what will happen about getting a new car.

The other big event was my secret 40th birthday party, which many of you probably knew of before I did. Jackie planned the whole thing meticulously and really went into overdrive while I was away at the European Coatings Show. Jackie had asked me ages ago how I wanted to celebrate my 40th and we had agreed to go away for a nice weekend away to a surprise destination, somewhere special. This, together, with her International Womens Contact (IWCU) group, gave her the perfect cover to plan the whole party.

I knew absolutely nothing about the party and I was amazed how well people managed to keep it quiet. Of course, the distraction of a very busy and surprisingly enjoyable Coatings Show helped. I knew that my parents were coming over for the weekend, and that Jackie had also arranged a dinner with some friends for the Saturday night, but that was all. We left for the dinner on Saturday evening, leaving Mum and Dad to babysit. Once we reached John and Karen, we stopped for a glass of wine and Karen mentioned she was having problems finding a place for the IWCU summer social, so I suggested the place where we went for New Year (this was Jackie's line!). After a brief discussion, we decided to stop by the place en route to the restaurant.

As we drove by, John pulled into car park and we all get out to "check" the place over. Jackie tried the door first and I was quite relieved when it didn't open, thinking that we should at least ask first. However, the door opened second time and we crept in. Jackie made for the first door on the right and I pushed forward in case someone might be in there. I briefly opened the door to see a line of people looking forward – I thought it was a classical concert or something – and quickly closed the door, barely hearing the large shout of "surprise". Stuart has a wonderful video clip, taken from the inside, of me running away. Jackie, John and Karen pushed me back in.

It was a brilliant party and I had a fantastic time. The DJ was great and played a really nice selection of music, particularly when people got dancing. The looks of amazement from my work colleagues when Metallica came on was priceless, as the old Warwick Rock Society revisited the old headbanging days. People also mixed and chatted freely, which was very nice and I was amazed how many people came over for the event. Check out the pictures at www.studio1.fm.

Jackie prepared an amazing selection of food while I was away, and stored it together with a veritable lake worth of drinks at friends. All bills were paid through friends, so I couldn't even spot the transactions in our bank statements. She even had to reactivate her old hotmail

address to keep all the e-mails secret. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for organising such a wonderful party. I also thank absolutely everyone who came along, sent best wishes, helped or even just kept it secret. I had a truly brilliant and unforgettable evening.

What else. The surprise weekend away still went ahead, as we all went youth hostelling in the Belgian Ardennes. This is a very beautiful part of Europe, very hilly and forested and full of small historic towns. We stayed near Bouillon on the French border and the origin of the very first crusade. Bouillon has a spectacular castle, set on a hilltop, surrounded on three sides by a river bend. The castle is worth a day trip in it's own right, although we also managed to visit a nearby animal farm and the European Space Museum. Of course, we were also able to enjoy the fabulous local cuisine and beers.

Jackie has become social secretary for the IWCU, which means her social life is more hectic than ever. She's also taken up voluntary work at the local squirrel rescue centre (for English people, think St Tiggywinkles for squirrels), where she feeds and looks after rescued baby squirrels from all over Holland. Hannah recently passed her Zwem A diploma, the first of her three swimming tests. This is a very detailed swimming test and a lot of hard work, so we're really proud of her. She struggled for a while, as she was nervous swimming underwater, but she's overcome this and is looking forward to her next test. She also took part in the local ballet schools tri-annual performance at a local theatre. There were about five schools taking part and Hannah was one of the youngest there, but she did very well. I'm always amazed at how graceful she is – must be her mothers genes. We're looking forward to getting a copy of the video.

Thomas has also been busy, completing his second "vierdagse". In Holland, the "vierdagse" is an annual event held in Nijmegen where competitors walk 50km for 4 days running. It's a real endurance test and local event. Here, local schoolchildren walk 5 or 10km (depending on age) for 4 days. Once again, it's a major local event and on the final day, most of the village came out to watch. The children were given flowers, ice-creams and loads of sweets by parents, well-wishers and passers-by. I'm also pleased to say that he's finally starting to show interest in reading – "Tom and Jerry" magazine be praised.

I hope I've covered everything. Currently we're having our windows replaced, which means the house is utter chaos once more. Fortunately, I have the annual Crets holiday to look forward to next week, so hopefully rest and relaxation (not to mention loads of booze and games) beckon. This is Variable Pig, I hope you enjoy it and my best wishes to you all until next time.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Stuart Malaure's new telephone number is 07717 186 092

Kim Head has moved to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

(T. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx e-mail: k.head@btopenworld.com)

John Hopkin's new e-mail address is john.hopkins@eniuk.com

Alex Bardy's new address is xxx

Chris Haighton has a second e-mail address - haightonfamily@uku.co.uk

Adrian Walding's new e-mail address is - adrian@beenlogoed.com

Martin Abraham's address is xxx

(T. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, e-mail: mabrahams1963@hotmail.com)

Letters

Tom Howell About that last cover. Which one is you?
I'm the tall, handsome one (cough) on the right.

Allan Stagg The front cover was very impressive - but to really put it in context you should have run another photo underneath showing what you all looked like in your 20s. I have lost contact with all of my early friends, but my wife maintains contact with some of her college friends - a contact that has lasted for 25 years now.

Oh dear, I was hoping you wouldn't ask. I couldn't find a picture with all of us together, but here are a couple from our Warwick days. Left hand picture features Simon, Nick, Richard, Ian (non-Cret), Dave, Keith and Wurz (another non-Cret) singing "All Dungeons Dark and Dangerous" at an all-night D&D session during our first year at Warwick. The right hand picture shows Keith, Nick, Barnsley Dave, Richard and myself holding a "house meeting in the broom cupboard" (cf "The Young Ones") during our second year in Coventry.



Martin Abrahams Hope the 40th birthday celebrations went well. I face the same hurdle later.
Good luck Martin – I hope you have as much fun as I did.

Chris Haighton Happy birthday - looks like you really enjoyed it, sorry we couldn't be there. All these pictures raise more questions than answers - the kids can't have grown up that much surely? Aren't you lot too old to be doing air guitar? etc, etc.

Yes, the kids really are that big now, although Hannah wasn't in any of the piccies - the little girl was our friend Murray's daughter who's smaller than Hannah. As for the headbanging, we felt we had to bring back a little nostalgia to the event - our heads will all fall off if we try it again when we're fifty. Our necks hurt like hell the next day, but it was worth it to see the bemused faces of the non-Warwick crowd.

We missed you and it was a shame you couldn't come over, but I know how difficult it is with the dogs and young kids. We hope you're all OK and look forward to seeing you again at Croppers, if not before.

Allan Stagg Many happy returns for your birthday, and welcome to the roaring 40s.

Chris Green Looks like you had a good time - shame I couldn't make it!

Thanks guys – I hope the rest of the 40s will be as much fun; of course, Chris still has a little time before he finds out.

Tony Bayley No one told me about your party....but even if they did the chance of me making it were....virtually NIL. (I could not have your job at all...too much travelling away from home... someone would break my legs to keep me home). Our wives are totally different in that regard.

Jackie swears that she sent you an invite, but maybe the wires got crossed. As for the travel, I don't think Jackie likes me going away – she's just got used to it. I've actually been cutting back on my travel over the last few years, but it's still a bind. I guess I'm just a very lucky man ☺.

Tony Bayley P.S. yes this is from home. I am off this week doing all the 1001 things that should have been done yesterday (like orders)

Chris Green This lot from a hotel room in Bath - where I seem to be living at the moment.
Sounds ghastly – hope you manage to get your life back soon.

Allan Stagg Hope your trips have gone well - I have not had any for six months now, which is just as well, as I am in the final year of my Accountancy studies, and the pressure is getting a bit heavy.
My last trip was to Budapest, where I was lucky enough to have some time to walk round. It's a very nice city and I really enjoyed my stay. The rest of the trip was pretty exhausting though. Good luck with your accountancy studies.

Adrian Walding Hope spring is sprung in the Netherlands and there are tulips everywhere soon. The big news is that I'm finally unemployed and have been given the biggest monthly pay check that I have ever had. I'm not letting it go to my head however and have ignored the advice to 'blow it all' from a (still employed) colleague! There are nibbles of job opportunities in the web/graphic design area and I am in a bit of a quandary as to whether I have enough to offer to move away from my more traditional IT skills - database/application development - as there are people out there with graphics degrees with far more experience than I have. Although there is a temptation to take a break, it is probably better to take advantage of it if it happens but keep my eyes/ears peeled for job opportunities. I am being productive by booking myself on a Photoshop course at Farnham Art college and doing work for my website to keep the old (or young? - I'm 39) gray cells ticking over.

Sorry to hear that the axe has finally fallen, although it's good to hear that you're keeping busy. An American friend of ours also lost his job recently, and he admits to being frightened at how quickly he settled into a rut. Fortunately, he managed to get a new job quite quickly. My biggest fear would be the boredom. Best of luck in the job hunt and keeping yourself active.

Steve Ham It looks as though I can receive VP electronically. If you can send it out without a big picture on the front - can you add me to your email list.

I don't actually have an e-mail list, as I prefer to send out hard copies (I'm a sad traditionalist) - however, I don't think it will be a problem.

Steve Ham Thanks - do you have a size filter on the automated mailing list or can there (theoretically) be loads of big attachments sent by it? I was only concerned that VP 86 had not got through to me (a tad impatient of me I know). The vast majority of my post gets through but once in a while something goes missing and turns up after 5 months or so (ask Philip Honeybone).

I think I'll turn this one over to the good man that kindly prints and posts the Pig for me.

Richard Smith There is an automated mailing list - a very crude one supplied by my ISP (it has no management functionality so for example I can't list the members) - people just send a blank email to piglist-subscribe@sholing.force9.co.uk to join the the list and a similar one with "unsubscribe" to be taken off. Whilst all members can post to the list, there is normally only one mail every two months when I inform people that the new issue is available to view or download on my web site <http://fp.sholing.f9.co.uk> . People with Acrobat Reader 4 or 5 can view the zine "page at a time" in the web browser which minimises wait. The alternative is to right click the link and download the whole PDF file for offline use. The usual size is around 600KB and I generally only remove the front cover picture if it's making the file too big (issue 85 was 1MB with the cover and 600KB without, whereas the small image used in issue 86 only added about 30K).

I guess it's time to get modern, even though I still think the printed word (even this printed word) is preferable to a screen copy. How many (heinous) people would prefer to receive this epic publication electronically?

Stuart Malaure I have booked myself on a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) course and I had a choice of studying in Windsor, Madrid or Prague so I will be in Madrid for the 1 month course which starts on 23 April and ends end of May. Then it is look for a job. I am doing this course to broaden my options for teaching and give me more chance if I wish to teach abroad.

Glad to have you back Stuart, and it was great to see you at the party. Hope your having fun in Barcelona.

Jason Asker My wife broke her ankle when tripping (as in over, not whilst on LSD) in the garden. Ironic that she is the wife of a health and safety officer.

Hope she's fully recovered now, Jason. I see that even with a new job, you still haven't lost the safety role. It gets in your blood (like a virus).

Stuart Malaure Well I am home now. I arrived on Monday pm and the weather had been warm and quite sunny. Not what I was expecting as I had bought a nice warm coat and carried an umbrella around since Australia waiting for the time I got back to the UK.

Key Lee A bit close to the deadline this time. It was T-shirt weather on Saturday with temperatures in the high 60's and glorious Spring sunshine. This week has seen a return to cooler weather and winter clothing once more with night frosts returning and even a few snow flurries this morning! Still it has been a largely fine start to the year with high sunshine figures for Feb and March and little rainfall which makes a change from the wet weather of recent years. Hopefully it won't be too bad for Easter.

The weather has been pretty good for the last few months over here, with plenty of sunny days and not much cloud or rain. Of course, with the Crets holiday fast approaching the rain is moving in again.

Tony Bayley Hope you are all well, hopefully we may see you one day, here or there. We are having a lovely time with a VERY mobile 10 1/2 month old, who walks all over the house and is in/on/over/under EVERYTHING....does anyone have a small treadmill ???

Nope and they get even more energy as they get older. Thomas and Hannah have been pretty hyper lately, although at least they've been able to get outside to play.

Keith Williams It's that time again, overdue orders. Unfortunately my son had a bad cold/virus over the weekend and has now generously passed it on to me. No excuse for not getting these done earlier though.

An American colleague of mine (with kids) once described children as mobile Petrie dishes – ideal for incubating and spreading bugs and germs. We're lucky that Thomas and Hannah are fairly healthy, although they certainly like to bring these things when they're going round.

Bob Pitman Sorry I am a bit behind, still playing catch-up with my damnable PC, reloading software, trying to sort out a few new problems that are plaguing me since the new motherboard / processor / hard drive went in. I think I have a problem with one of the memory boards or the flexible bus thing that links the 2 CD players (ROM and RW)... damn thing keeps freezing up! Plus I am running on deadline extensions for marked assignments for my OU course.

My deepest sympathies. As a computer ignoramus, this would be the cue for a new PC as I would have no chances of sorting the bugger out. I hope you can sort it out.

Chris Haighton How are things, hope everything is fine. Not so much time for a rant this time round because I am (or at least the PC is) running on batteries whilst I watch Celtic struggle in Europe. Least the red scum got a lesson in football from Real Madrid even if the 3-1 scoreline flattered the mancs (how did they get away without the penalty for dragging Ronaldo down or the red card for Barthez's juggling outside the box, they should have been 2-0 down and with 10 men after 20 minutes). It would be just like them if they fluked something at Old Trafford when the tie should be dead already.

I hate Real much more than Man U, as they're purchasing power is greatly distorting the European competitions; even worse, when one considers their level of debt was considered illegal. At least Man U develop some of their own players. The second leg was highly entertaining and I was so pleased that Juve knocked them out. Time to mention another team of note.

Kev Lee Sunday is a big day for myself and Richard with the FA Cup semi between Saints and Watford, the first Saints semi since 1986. I couldn't get a ticket to see the game at Villa Park but will be going to see it and the other semi at a cafe bar at St Mary's with buffet and refreshments provided for just £6.00. If Arsenal and ourselves win we will be in Europe next season regardless of what happens in the final.

Hope you enjoyed it – the result was certainly what the Saints were looking for.

Steve Ham Southampton for the Cup?

Sadly not, but they made it a good final and so nearly forced extra time.

Tony Bayley As for Soton in the cup...I am not a Saints supporter (I support QPR....why ?? damned if I know as I was born & bred in Soton...I now live less than ½ mile from house I was born in). However I will be cheering them on from the comfort of the sofa (unless SKY get exclusive rights)

I have no idea why you support the Queens Poofs and Randies, but I guess someone has to. There's no accounting for taste. At least it's not Aldershot (Town), although I have to mention their magnificent performance in winning the Ryman Championship and securing promotion to the Conference. Hoorah!

Chris Haighton Took John to see Bolton reserves play Newcastle reserves in a (fairly successful) attempt to undo his uncle's Man City brainwashing. He did well for a 4 year old, maintaining interest all the way through the 1st half and part way through the 2nd. A couple more matches and John will be a confirmed Bolton fan (which was the 2nd best possible outcome of the night).

Glad he enjoyed it. I went to see Bolton a few years ago; they played a very exciting 3-3 draw against Barnsley. They also have a very nice stadium and friendly supporters – I'm glad they stayed up.

Steve Ham I hope this email finds you well and not working too hard. We'd be very pleased if you and Jackie could send some sweaters and toys to me at the hospital. However, the postage is a bit expensive. Normally we have an annual delivery of donations and things we have to buy in the UK. I'm just trying to find out whether there is an address in the UK where things can be sent, so as to avoid the heavy postage charges. The only problem with this is that they'd have to be sent in the middle of August.

August would be no problem if there's a UK address – we could hopefully drop them off en route to Croppers.

Steve Ham Also, we have about 60 nursing students here who have very little entertainment. There is a video and TV but the TV is not plugged into an aerial and they seem to have only half a dozen Nigerian films (Lagollywood?) - which are pure pants. If you, or anyone have any pre-recorded films that you'd just as well send as Africa can you put them to one side until I get some details of where they should be sent?

Take note everyone – I'm sure we've got a few kids films that are passed their shelf life here.

Stuart Malaure I hope everyone is well and thank you to those who sent me emails back while I was away. I will be keeping in touch.

Pleasure Stuart – thanks for all the mails and the interesting travelogue. If you ever want to revisit them, you can find them all in Variable Pig (slightly edited).

Stuart Malaure I stayed with some friends, Tina and Martin in Vancouver while I was in Canada. I did not really have time for Vancouver Island but Vancouver was nice. I like Canada as the climate is good, although it was cold and wet when I was there for a few days. I managed to go skiing on Cyprus mountain. I was pleased that I quickly got back into the skiing swing as I had not skied for over 7 years before this day, but it is like riding a bike.

You really tried everything during your year out, didn't you? Mum and Dad bought me (plus Jackie, Thomas and Hannah) a skiing lesson for my 40th birthday, although we haven't been yet. I've never been on ski's in my life, so I'm really looking forward to trying it out.

Steve Ham There is enormous interest in the war. My friends and colleagues are staying up until all hours listening to the news - who is holding Umm Qasr, Saddam International Airport etc. There is one entrepreneurial guy in the market who is making a "killing" from charging people to watch the war on his satellite TV. Normally, he just about covers his costs from charging 1,000 Kwacha (15p) for watching the weekend Premiership games but now he is charging the same for 2 hours of war and he's open 24 hours a day.

Amazing how people can always make money from wars. At least he sounds more honest than certain Vice Presidents I can think of.

Steve Ham Initially, opinion was on the side of the coalition because "the boy Saddam clearly needs a hiding" but gradually (due in no small part by the absolute mess that the coalition have made on the PR of this war) opinion has moved to being anti-war. People will not watch CNN anymore because they are blatantly biased. The World Service has also been accused of bias. Most people prefer to watch South African news (non-Murdoch) which seems to show it as it is. When Peter Arnett was fired by (NBC?) there were interviews with other angry American press saying how frustrated that their news stations were not carrying their stories, particularly relating to the impact on the civilian population - pictures of dead and injured children will apparently demoralise the folks back home. The local Peace Corps are keeping a low profile at the moment and some of the Indians (we have a large Indian merchant population) have made Iraqi flags and are hanging them in their shops.

I used to have some respect for CNN, mainly as CNN can be found in most hotels, but their coverage of the war was flagrantly biased. I think they will have to work hard to regain their reputation outside of North America. Most people I work with have no trust in the American motives, even though no-one had any love for Saddam either.

Steve Ham There is an interesting theory that once the war is over and the US is in control the Americans will increase oil production so much (in the name of raising funds for the reconstruction of Iraq) that the oil price will be depressed so much that OPEC will effectively go bust, giving the US complete control of the world's oil market....but who could possibly believe that?

I'm not sure I would agree with that argument as it's not really in the US interests. What is in their interests is to have access to oil to meet their ever-growing energy demand. Of course, the reconstruction dividend for companies like Halliburton might also stimulate (Republican) parts of their economy.

Adrian Walding It was great to meet up with you yesterday and have a beer or two after several years of e-mail and snail mail communication. I hope the Crets like the mugs and you all have a fantastic anniversary holiday.

It was a real pleasure Adrian and the mugs look great. I'm sure the others will like them.

Adrian Walding While it is still fresh in my mind, can you add me to the 6 Nimmt! Waiting list - if I am not already on it and also write a note to yourself about perhaps running a game of 'Grand National'. I would also be willing to run a game of 'Preposterous First Lines' if there is enough interest. Same scoring as for the poetry but each turn I would provide details of a book (name, author, sleeve notes) and ask for a suitable first sentence to start the book off. Subsequent rounds would include points from correct first line identification and most votes from other players.

Unfortunately, I had already sent the back page (including waiting lists) and cover to Richard early, so he could print a colour cover. However, I will remember for next issue. Anyone interested in Adrian's new game, please let me know.

Howard Bishop Hope things are well with you. I re-read the zine tonight too. It really is astounding how you manage to have so many games running. Are any of them adjudicated automatically, or are they all done by hand? Keep up the good work.

All my own work and by hand – I couldn't write the programs for electronic adjudication. I keep thinking I should set up "By Popular Opinion" in Excel, so I can get the scores calculated for me, but I never do.

Martin Abrahams You will hopefully recall our exchange of mail about the UK boardgames competition. You and your Variable Pig readers may be interested to hear that the event attracted 15 teams (60 players) and was a great success. I would love to see a Variable Pig team next year, and will be in touch in due course in the hopes of persuading you. Note that the main prize is an invitation to represent the UK in Essen, which must appeal to all gamers whatever their preferences.

I'm glad the event was a success, even though we didn't manage to scrape a team together. I did plug the competition in the letters column, but I suspect that it was quite short notice. We'll try again next year.

Martin Abrahams I would be interested to receive a back issue of Variable Pig, if you wouldn't mind. I can send some dosh if necessary.

No problem – VP is free provided you're playing in a game or a trade. I hope you like the zine.

Lyric Quiz

- 1) "The other night he brought me, a fine diamond ring, but he thought to deprive me of a far better thing"
"All Around My Hat" by Steeleye Span
John Wilman, Richard Smith
- 2) "I've got to get away, from the pain you drive into the heart of me"
"Tainted Love" by Soft Cell
Richard Smith, Jacqueline Reader
- 3) "At night I lock the door where no-one else can see"
"Into The Groove" by Madonna
Brendan Whyte, Richard Smith, Jacqueline Reader (1 point for singer)
- 4) "Now you dare to look me in the eye, those crocodile tears are what you cry"
"Substitute" by The Who
Richard Smith
- 5) "You'd better hope and pray that you'll wake some day, back in your own world"
"Stay" by Shakespeare's Sister
Richard Smith, David Cowie, Jacqueline Reader (1 point for singer)
- 6) "You make me laugh, when you strike a pose, take off all your preppy clothes"
"Complicated" by Avril Lavigne
Jacqueline Reader, David Cowie
- 7) "Today I don't need a replacement, I show them what the smile on my face meant"
"Solsbury Hill" by Peter Gabriel
Steve Guest, Richard Smith

- 8) “Deep down, I’m all confused about you”
“Thinking About You” by London Boys
Brendan Whyte (1 point for song)

- 9) “My happiness was paid for when they laid their money down”
“Free Electric Band” by Albert Hammond

- 10) “I’m just sipping on camomile, watching boys and girls and their sex appeal”
“Hey Baby” by No Doubt
David Cowie

Anyone can play – score 1 point for identifying the song and another for the artist.

Scores

Richard Smith	12	(cumulative 38)
Keith Williams	10	(cumulative 15)
David Cowie	6	(cumulative 22)
Jacqueline Reader	6	(cumulative 15)
Brendan Whyte	3	(cumulative 13)
John Wilman	2	(cumulative 7)
Steve Guest	2	(cumulative 14)

Comments

John Wilman

At first I thought that I didn't know any of these, but the first could be Steeleye Span - "All around my hat".

Brendan Whyte

- 3. Into the groove. Madonna. Who let lots of idiots into her groove.
- 4. Tears. By The Crocodiles. Yep, a NZ band and song. Cool!
- 8. I've been thinking about you. FYC.
- 9. Gypsies tramps and thieves. Cher.
- 10. Jethro Tull. Sitting on a park bench....

Steve Guest

- 2) Lenny Kravitz? - Fly Away
- 4) I know this one...
- 7) Peter Gabriel - Solsbury Hill

David Cowie

- 2) 1980's, male vocalist.
 - 3) I can hear this line in my mind, but title/artist/the rest of it are frustratingly out of reach. 1980's again, female vocal.
 - 9) "Gypsies Tramps & Thieves" - Cher.
- My, this is harder than last turn! Looks like I won't catch up with Richard just yet.

Jacqueline Reader

major bummer, at least 2 of these are familiar, but I just can't get them. can you hum them next time? (not for publication!)

9 cher, gypsies, tramps and thieves

NEXT TURN

- 1) "She comes out of the sun in a silk dress running, like a water colour in the rain"
- 2) "Life is ours, we live it our way, All these words, I just don't say"
- 3) "Strike up the band and make the fireflies dance, silver moons sparkling"
- 4) "All of my life I've been waiting in the rain, I've been waiting for a feeling that never ever came"
- 5) "If I am dead, as dead I well may be"
- 6) "Deep down, I'm all confused about you"
- 7) "A little bit of loving makes everything right, I'm gonna see my baby tonight"
- 8) "And earthquakes are to a girls guitar, They're just another good vibration"
- 9) "If you really bug me then I'll say goodbye"
- 10) "Hallo, hoorah, what a fine day"

The Internet Search Challenge (forgotten last time)

The translated lyric is "I'm a small yellow fish in a sea of blue" and the questions are

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1) What is the original song called ? | "Blub, Ik Ben Een Vis" |
| 2) In what language is it sung ? | Dutch |
| 3) Who sings it ? | K3 |
| 4) What is the nationality of the band ? | Belgian |
| 5) Who, in our family, is a huge fan of this band ? | Hannah |

Amazingly, Jackie got these all correct.

Richard Smith

Alas I have to admit I gave up after about 15 minutes. I tried two lines of attack. First translating some of the words into Dutch (and other languages) and searching the net for them. Secondly I tried searching through the old pigs coz I remember you saying something about a euro pop band that the kids liked. No joy with either. Perhaps if I'd persevered a bit longer? According to

http://www.worldlingo.co.uk/products_services/worldlingo_translator.html

the Dutch for "small yellow fish in a deep blue sea" is "kleine gele vissen in een overzees van blauw".

We'll try this one more time. The translated lyric is "She is the sun and the moon for me" and the questions are

- 6) What is the original song called ?
- 7) In what language is it sung ?
- 8) Who sings it ?
- 9) Who, in our family, is a huge fan of this singer ?

* * * * *

WARLOCK

TURN THIRTY FOUR

The battle continues as both weary fighters manage to fend off their opponents for another round. The next round starts and **Anthrax the Black** picks off **Fukthamo's** infantry with his magic bow while his exhausted opponent couldn't defend against the final spear thrust.

ANTHRAX THE BLACK (*Mike Townsend*)

Defends **SMOKE** with **WINGE D CHARIOT**
 Attacks **Fukthamo** with **MAGIC SPEAR**
 Attacked by **Fukthamo** with **INFANTRY**

Defends **INFANTRY** with **MAGIC BOW**

FUKTHAMO RALMAJRITI (*Richard Smith*)

Defends **INVISIBILITY** with **SMOKE**
 Attacks **Anthrax** with **INFANTRY**
 Attacked by **Anthrax** with **MAGIC SPEAR**

Can't defend against **MAGIC SPEAR**

Congratulations to Mike Townsend (Anthrax)

Game End statements from all players in this epic welcome!

BY POPULAR OPINION - TURN 3

Player	Playground Game	Poker Variant	German Board Game	Postal Game	Childhood Toy	Computer Game	
M Townsend	Marbles	Draw	Siedler von Cataan	Railway Rivals	Lego	Civilisation	118
S Guest	Football	Hold 'Em	Settlers of Catan	Railway Rivals	Scalextric	Civilisation	117
C Haighton	Hopscotch	Bluff	Siedler von Cataan	Railway Rivals	Teddy Bear	Tomb Raider	113
B Gingell	He	Dealers Choice	Settlers of Catan	Railway Rivals	Stuffed Toy	Civilisation	111
K Head	Football	7 Card Stud	Adel Verpflichtet	Railway Rivals	Action Man	Championship Manager	101
J Walker	Kiss Chase	7 Card Stud	Settlers of Catan	Railway Rivals	Football	Football Manager	98
B Martin	Football	Stud	Puerto Rico	Railway Rivals	Toy Soldiers	Civilisation	97
C von Metzke	Football	5 Card Stud	Dampfross	Railway Rivals	Toy Train	Pac Man	96
P Honeybone	Kiss Chase	Stud	Settlers of Catan	Railway Rivals	Cars & Garage	Galaxians	92
A Stagg	Hopscotch	Bluff	Settlers of Catan	Diplomacy	Soldiers	Civilisation	88
C Green	Football	5 Card Stud	Settlers of Catan	En Garde	Lego	Diablo	88
B Hudson	British Bulldog	Stud	Bluff	Railway Rivals	Subbuteo	The Sims	87
R Smith	British Bulldog	5 Card Stud	Puerto Rico	Railway Rivals	Space-hopper	Duke Nukem 3D	84
B Whyte	Tiggie	Strip Poker	Settlers of Catan	Diplomacy	Teddy Bear	Civilisation	82
K Williams	Tag	5 Card Stud	Settlers of Catan	En Garde	Lego	Civilisation II	81
S Ham	British Bulldog	7 Card Stud	Ohne Fucht und Adel	Railway Rivals	Matchbox Cars	Championship Manager	79
A Walding	Conkers	Russian Roulette	RoboRally	By Popular Demand	Lego	Sim City	77
J Reader	Football	Strip Poker	Carcassonne	6 Nimmt!	Teddy Bear	Mah Jong	75
A Owen	Hopscotch	Strip Poker	Adel Verpflichtet	United	Meccano	The Sims	70
J Wilman	Kiss Chase	Texas Hold 'Em	Adel Verpflichtet	Diplomacy	Model Railway	Centipede	39
MY CHOICES	"It"	5 Card Stud	Siedler von Cataan	Railway Rivals	Subbuteo	Civilisation	94

The subject for turn 3 was **GAMES**.

1) **Favourite playground game:** Football (6), It / Tag / Tiggie / He (4), British Bulldog (3), Kiss Chase (3), Hopscotch (3), Conkers and Marbles score 1.

I was tempted to say "Squares", a ball game we invented and played most break times. The game was a knockout game involving keeping a ball inside a tennis court with only one touch – you were knocked out if you touched the ball twice consecutively, played the ball out or if the ball passed within 1m of you on it's way out. It was quite tactical and skilful – I'm sure Allan Stagg could develop a postal version...

2) **Best poker variant:** 5 Card Stud (5), 7 Card Stud (3), Stud (3), Strip Poker (3), (Texas) Hold 'Em (2), Bluff (2), Dealers Choice, Russian Roulette and Draw (all score 1)

Perhaps not the best question, but we always play plenty of poker variants on the Crets holidays, which was why this sprung to mind. Fortunately, most people can remember the disrobing version of the game from their (misspent) youth. "Lame Brain Pete" is probably the most fun variant we play, but it's pretty obscure so I chose a more purist version.

3) **Best German board game:** Siedler von Cataan / Settlers (11), Adel Verpflichtet (3), Puerto Rico (2), Bluff, RoboRally, Ohne Fucht und Adel, Carcassonne and Dampfross (all score 1)

Another error on my part, assuming that most people who read this zine are active gamers – however most people were able to glean an answer from past editorials. Plenty of excellent games to choose from, but nearly ten years after it's release "Siedler" still has great replay value.

4) **Best postal game:** Railway Rivals (13), Diplomacy (3), En Garde (2), By Popular Demand, United and 6 Nimmt! (all score 1)

It would be interesting to see if the same answer came up if these questions were published in another zine; however, Railway Rivals is probably the main game in Variable Pig now, so this was a gift for tactical voters.

5) **Favourite toy as a child:** Stuffed Toy / Teddy Bear (5), Lego (4), Model Railway / Toy Train (2), Subbuteo (2), Soldiers (2), Meccano, Cars & Garage, Scalextric, Spacehopper, Matchbox Cars and Action Man (all score 1)

Difficult personal choice, this one, as I was never that wild about cuddly toys. I remember playing a lot with toy soldiers, but model making and "Subbuteo" are the things I remember most. That and disappearing for hours to play football, trying to get as dirty as possible.

6) **Best computer game:** Civilisation (7), The Sims (2), Championship Manager (2), Civilisation II, Galaxians, Centipede, Sim City, Duke Nukem 3D, Tomb Raider, Pac Man, Football Manager, Diablo and Mah Jong (all score 1)

I've never been a big player of computer games, but "Civilisation" was one of the few that I really played – highly addictive.

Top score this round was **Bob Gingell** with 41 and honourable mentions for **Steve Guest** and **Me** (hoorah!) who scored 40. The maximum score possible was 47.

And now, the players comments section

John Wilman

1. Kiss chase (or postman's knock)
2. Texas hold'em. If it's good enough for the World Champs ...
4. I have to say Diplomacy!

Bob Gingell

1. He / Tig / It (all the same game of catching any one of the other players who then becomes 'It' and has to do the catching; variant was 'chain-he' where those caught held onto the first catcher with one hand and helped to catch the rest – winner was last to be caught).
2. Dealer's choice (variety is the spice of poker)
3. Settlers of Catan (best for broadest range of both gamers and novices)
5. Stuffed toy (plural – teddies, a squirrel, unrecognisable things)
6. Civilization (no other game has kept me up till 4am, but I think I am too old for that now)

Adrian Walding

1. A tricky one this - most games tend to be seasonal hence one that means nothing to Conrad: Conkers
2. Russian Roulette - taken from the web, I don't know much about Poker

Brendan Whyte

1. tiggie. Known to Americans as tag, because single-syllable words are simpler for them to master. I preferred bullrush, but it was banned in our playground as people got hurt. Similarly with running-at-each-other-with-pointy-sticks-from-the-forested-gully-between-campuses, or see-what's-under-the-girls-skirts. I still play that one on windy days...
3. Settlers of Catan. Carcass-one will be a close one i think too, but as it's based on a French town, it's not really a German game is it?
4. Diplomacy. That's the entry for game purposes. I think Robo Rally and Railway Rivals are much better games to play postally.
5. A teddy bear. Though I really preferred my meccano set.
6. Civilisation. tough one this., Will people try for some obscure violent title they really like (Fields of Glory, is my personal favourite. I liked Chips Challenge too, until our computer was stolen, and I lost it, and my high score), or a well known one they personally hate. Minesweeper and hearts might do well. Or Sim City. but Civ seems a good bet.

Allan Stagg

- 1 Hopscotch (Probably not true - the most common game was football, then tag, then that sissy thing you did with jumping through and on to elastic looped around other peoples legs)
- 2 Bluff (Given that I have never played any Poker variants, this is an educated guess).
- 3 Settlers of Catan (Puerto Rico is the current favourite, but will I still be playing it in five years time?)
- 5 Soldiers (especially the small airfix ones - buggers to stand up on a carpet, but they looked great on the table. I was never a particularly tidy child, and lost whole regiments to my mother's own weapon of mass destruction - the vacuum cleaner).
- 6 Civilisation (although for the past three or four years the only game I make time to play is the computer version of Magic the Gathering).

Chris Haighton

Oh dear, rather too many choices again in this round.

1. If in doubt, go for the cliché - **Hopscotch**.
2. I haven't played poker for over 10 years but I seem to remember that Texas Hold-em is supposed to be the choice of the professional. Or was that part of a shaggy dog story. Unless there is a preponderance of poker players amongst the crowd who take part in this I guess the most popular will be 5 or 7 card stud or draw. **5-card stud** is the most well known.
3. I have never (to my knowledge) played a German board game. You lot keep banging on about **Siedler von Kataan** so there we go.
4. On a personal note, Preposterous Poetry is my idea of a perfect PBM provided the GM has a source of obscure poems. I expect most people have come via RR, Diplomacy or En Garde. As you don't do dippy or EG anymore we will have to say **Railway Rivals**.
5. Cliché again - **Teddy Bear**
6. Oh like how long is it since I played a computer game. Only vaguely recent one I have heard of is **Tomb Raider**.

Conrad von Metzke

Not an inspiring round, I really don't think I have more than a couple of useful answers:

- 1, Playground game - good grief, I have no idea what you people play over there! I can barely remember what we play over here! I suppose I'll have to answer FOOTBALL (which we'd call soccer of course) as being the only likely match I can think of.
2. Poker variant - I'm not entirely sure I know what is meant here. I'm not really sure I know what the 'standard' game is. Do we learn from this that I'm not a card player? All I can think of are the words 'stud' and 'draw,' or deuces wild, or things like that - okay, FIVE CARD STUD. But what is a 'stud?'
3. German board game - don't know any, except that Railway Rivals was called Dampfross in the German version, and DGW also had one out called Pirateninsel (sp?) - so, DAMPFROSS.
4. Best postal game - RIVALS. I mean, what else would I be likely to answer?
5. Child's toy - Oh, I guess my TOY TRAIN would be my own strongest memory. Either that or a bicycle, but I'm not sure that's usually thought of as a toy. So I'll stay with train.

6. Computer game - don't know any. I've seen lots of names over the years of course, but haven't tried them, and have no idea which ones caught on and became classics. Or which are still played. So - desperation answer, PAC MAN.

All in all, a lousy round for me. If only I'd known fifty years ago that you'd be asking questions about childhood, I'd have taken notes. I wonder if taking notes now would do me any good, against the possibility of reincarnation?

Steve Ham

1. Favourite playground game - British Bulldog - I have no idea why this was never made an Olympic Sport. My initial thought was Kiss Chase, but then I remembered that at my school this game very quickly changed to become "Kiss, Cuddle or Torture" and I remember tickling the vast majority of girls that I caught :-)
2. Favourite poker variant - Seven Card Stud - I once won almost £10 at school when I had three aces hidden and a run to the Ace open against a clear flush in my opponent's hand.
3. Best German board game - Ohne Furcht und Adel. - Which is a cheat because I don't think its a board game but it was the only German game I could find in a quick skim through my back issues.
6. Best Computer Game - Championship Manager - I would like to have said LOTR - the official game but I haven't been able to load it since I had it sent out. If anyone knows what a 3D Accelerator is and why I haven't got won, then I'd love to hear from them. I have lost more than a few hours to CM but no matter how often I become the manager of Norwich City, they always seem to get relegated.

Keith Williams

- 3) Best German board game Now which one's can I remember how to spell Settlers of Katan
- 4) Best postal game tactical voting (i.e. bound to be wrong) but I think En Garde has a chance here
- 6) Best computer game Civilisation II kept me amused for far too long

Kim Head

Tricky one for girlies here! Think you can guess I haven't answered these entirely honestly. (*Sure, I can't lure you into the new game of Fair Means or Foul, Kim*)

NEXT TURN

Next turns subject is SEX.

- 1) Ideal date
- 2) First thing you look at in a potential partner after their face
- 3) The single best thing about females is...
- 4) The single best thing about males is...
- 5) Favourite chat up line
- 6) The sexiest person on the planet (after me) is...

* * * * *

BOGGLE – TURN 4

P	V	T	D
H	N	S	O
W	S	L	I
N	I	R	E

Bob Gingell: Dole, *Doler* (someone who doles out things), *Doli* (from 'doli incapax' – a common law rule of criminal liability that children under 14 have to know that what they were doing was wrong in addition to the normal criteria for guilt – removed in the UK by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998), Doss, *Dossil* (found this when I checked that doss was in the dictionary – it is a plug for a barrel), **Dost**, *Dots* (he dots the 'l's and crosses the 'T's), Erin, Iris, Irish, *Lier* (lying down, not telling porkies), List, Loss, Lost, *Lots* (not a plural, alternative to 'a lot'), *Nirls* (alternative word for herpes!), *Oils* (present tense of a verb not a plural), *Oirish* ('Irish' with a broad Irish accent or sentimentality), Osier, Relish, Rile, Riot, *Riots* (present tense), *Sile*, *Siler* (someone who siles), Silo, Sire, *Sirs* (he is calling someone 'Sir'), *Slier* (more sly than you), *Slish* (slish slosh), Slot, *Slots* (present tense), Soil, *Soiler*, *Soils* (again present tense), Sole, Stole, *Swire*, Swirl, *Swirls*, Toil, Toiler, *Toils*, *Tole*, Toss, Wile, *Wiler* (someone who wiles away the hours), *Wilier* (I'm more wily than you are), *Wins* (present tense once more), Wire, Wish.

Howard Bishop: toss, toil, *toils*, toiler, doss, dole, stole, sole, soil, swirl, *slots*, *lots*, lost, loss, list, *lire*, isle, iris, riot, *riots*, rile, rissole, *relist*, relish, slot, silo, sire, osier, *oils*, oiler, wish, wile, *wins*, wire.

Richard Smith: Rile, Relish, Silo, Doss, Toss, Slot, *Olier*, Toil, Toiler, Soil, Soiler

Tom Howell: *Eliot*, Erin, *Eris*, Irish, *Loire*, *Lois*, *Nile*, *Olin*, *Osiris*, dole, *dots*, iris, isle, *liss*, list, loss, lost, *lots*, oiler, *oilers*, *oils*, relish, riot, *riots*, silo, sire, *sirs*, slot, *slots*, soil, soils, sole, stole, swirl, toil, toiler, *toils*, toss, wile, wins, wire, wish

Italicised words are either not listed in my dictionary (“The Concise Oxford Dictionary, 7th Edition”), cannot be made according to the rules or are plurals and so do not count. I will also not count words that could be a plural although they may have another meaning. **Bold underlined** words are unduplicated and score. Sorry, Jackie, but Dutch words don’t count unless they appear in my English dictionary.

Bob Gingell: 11
Howard Bishop: 8
Richard Smith: 1
Jacqueline Reader: 0
Arthur Owen: 0
Brendan Whyte: 0
Tom Howell: 0

Corrections

- 1) Howard and Bob Gingell were both given points for the same word (fended) last turn; -1 point each
- 2) Jackie and Howard both mentioned “Defend” last turn; Jackie -1

The fourth turn board is

S	E	I	H
Y	O	O	E
H	E	X	E
E	M	I	K

Press

Howard Well mind has certainly boggled tonight. I think it's fairly safe to say that trying to play this game after drinking a bottle of wine is not a good plan.

* * * * *

Awful Green Things From Outer Space

Turn 4

The crew of the ZNUTAR is now as follows –

Tony Bayley - Captain Yid (3, 3, 27) –	Saucer Bay + Stun Pistol (STUNNED)
Paul Sands - Sarge (3, 3, 21) – Doc (4, 1, 11) -	Sickbay + Hypodermic Mess Deck + Rocket Fuel
Bob Pitman - Robot (1, 4, 44) – Cook (3, 1, 21) – Ops Officer (3, 1, 12) –	Damage Control Damage Control + Stun Pistol Damage Control

Variable Pig – Neijiang

Bob Gingell -	Coxswain (3, 2, 18) – Yeoman (3, 1, 15) – Mascot (4, 1, 8) –	Fwd Machine Shop Corridor B + Electric Fence Corridor B
Arthur Owen -	Marine #1 (3, 2, 19) – Pilot #1 (3, 1, 15) – Medic (4, 1, 11) –	Pool Room + Rocket Fuel Corridor G + Gas Grenade Science Lab
Jason Asker -	Machinist (2, 2, 14) – Engineering Officer (2, 1, 12) –	DEAD Fuel Pod #1
Brad Martin -	Marine #2 (3, 2, 18) – Pilot #2 (3, 1, 15) – Tech (4, 1, 11) –	DEAD Aft Machine Shop Corridor F + Comms Beamer
Steve Ham -	1 st Officer (3, 2, 19) – Supply Officer (2, 1, 11) –	Damage Control Galley

WEAPON	HAND HELD / THROWN	INDIVIDUAL / AREA EFFECT	KNOWN EFFECTS	LOCATIONS
Bottle of Acid	Thrown	Individual		3 x Science Lab
Can of Zgwortz	Thrown	Individual		1 x Galley, 2 x Mess Deck
Comms Beamer	Hand Held	Area	No Effect	Tech, 1 x # 2 sensor
Electric Fence	Static	Area		Yeoman
Fire Extinguisher	Hand Held	Area		1 in each Machine Shop
Gas Grenade	Thrown	Area		2 x Damage Control, 1 x Pilot #1
Hypodermic	Hand Held	Individual	Shrink	2 x Sick Bay
Knife	Hand Held / Thrown	Individual		2 x Galley, 1 st Officer
Pool Stick	Hand Held	Individual	5 die to Stun	Fuel Pod #1 and Fuel Pod #2
Rocket Fuel	Thrown	Area	4 die to Kill	1 x #2 Pod, 1 x #1 Pod, Doc
Stun Pistol	Hand Held	Individual		Yid, Cook
Welding Torch	Hand Held	Individual		1 in each Machine Shop

Crews Opening Move

Unimpressed with the unpleasant clash of green alien goo spotting on his sumptuous red velour uniform, **Captain Yid** went to check the supplies of champagne and oysters aboard the saucer....just in case. Unfortunately, his way was blocked by a green monster. "That's it my brave men.....throw yourselves at them...erm..at the glorious task in hand !!! ". His men responded in fine style, with a knife, two stun pistols and gas grenade all aimed at the monster. Unfortunately for Yid, the monster came out of the haze still fighting while **Yid** was gassed unconscious. The **Cook** was concerned, "Captain, ze oysters vous 'av been swallowing viz gay abandon for veeks... well, I 'av 'ad a very 'eavy chest cold and it seemed such a vaste, et vous were zo clearly enjoying zem...". Fortunately for the Captain, the Robot was on the way. "Danger Danger Will Robinson, Canis Lupus approaches. Error Hic, Sorry Captain I appear to picking up the Galactic Gold channel repeats again".

The **Machinist** was another victim of friendly fire, this time from **Marine #2** who threw a barrel of burning rocket fuel into the melee in corridor M; the two big green nasties both survived the ensuing inferno. The **Tech** tried out the Comm Beamer at another big monster, but with no discernible effect, but the **Sarge's** hypodermic seemed to reverse the Green Things aging process. The **Sarge** is already thinking of untold riches should he ever get out of the ship alive. **Ops** continued his quest for a weapon as he followed the sounds of violence to Damage Control. "Please can someone point me towards a weapon before I get eaten!!".

Monsters Opening Move

The new juvenile Green Thing bit at the **Sarge's** legs, but failed to dent his polished boots. The two slightly singed green things turned their attention on **Marine #2** and ripped him to pieces, but **Tech** and **Yid** had a very lucky escape. A number of new eggs now litter the corridors of the Znutar.

Variable Pig – Neijiang

The Awful Green Things are now in the following positions –

Baby – Sick Bay	Adult 1 – Saucer Bay
Egg 1 – Corridor M	Adult 2 – Corridor F
Egg 2 – Corridor M	Adult 3 – Fuel Pod #2
Egg 3 – Corridor M	Adult 4 – Fuel Pod #2
Egg 4 – Saucer Bay	Egg 5 – Corridor F

Please note that press is encouraged!

Question: Bob, the grab – move – fire sequence is fixed; characters may not move and then grab weapons.

* * * * *

BREAKING AWAY - TURN FIFTEEN

Closing in on the finish and some good replacement cards for the **Wacky Racers** further secures their positions as favourites. However, it's all very close and next round could be very tactical. However, for those at the back, there is no chance of reaching the last eight scoring places so they've been dropped.

Square	New Card	Rider (s)
113	3	Tru Blu
-	-	
110	3	Anthill Mob
109	4	Gary Glitter
108	-	
107	3	Keith Richard
106	-	
105	3	Bob Marley
104	4	Waltzin' Matilda
103	5	Ayrton Senna
102	6	Creepy Coop, Muttley, Gladys Knight
101	9	Dick Dastardly
100	-	
-	-	
91	3	Jay Kay, Dave Ducati
-	-	
87	3	Victor Vespa
86	-	
85	3	Perry Como, Suzi Suzuki
84	5	Andy Asprilla
83	6	Ozzy Osborne

Sad Bikers On Sanatogen (Blaise Hudson)

A. Dave Ducati (1) *Dropped*
 B. Andy Asprilla *Dropped*
 C. Suzi Suzuki *Dropped*
 D. Victor Vespa *Dropped*
 SCORE = 1

Team Herbal Infusions Generate Happiness (Bob Pitman)

A. Keith Richard 3, 3, 10, 3
 B. Jay Kay *Dropped*
 C. Bob Marley 8, 3, 8
 D. Ozzy Osbourne *Dropped*
 SCORE = 0

Rhyming Cockneys (Richard Smith)

A. Gary Glitter (14) 4, 3, 3, 6
 B. Aytron Senna (10) 3, 5, 6
 C. Gladys Knight (9) 4, 3, 3
 D. Perry Como *Dropped*
 SCORE = 33

Wacky Racers (Philip Honeybone)

A. Dick Dastardly (16) 7, 4, 9, 7
 B. Muttley (16) 8, 10, 6
 C. The Anthill Mob (4) 3, 3, 6
 D. The Creepy Coop (1) 6, 6, 6
 SCORE = 37

Don't Tie my Kangaroo Down, Mate! (*Brad Martin*)

- A. True Blu (7) 3, 3, 5, 3
 - B. Waltzin Matilda (5) 4, 4, 3
 - C. Barry McKenzie *Dropped*
 - D. Dame Edna *Dropped*
- SCORE = 12

BREAKING AWAY 2 - GAMESTART

Time for a new game and the following players have offered to play – Nic Chilton, Paul Sands, Steve Ham, Allan Stagg, Blaise Hudson and Arthur Owen. Nic, Paul and Steve have submitted the following teams, but I will allow them to change the cards if they so desire.

Dr Snuggles (*Nic Chilton*)

- A. Granny Toots 15, 9, 5, 1
- B. Rickety Rick 13, 10, 2
- C. Dennis 11, 8, 1
- D. Miss Nettles 8, 7, 1

Emily's Shop (*Paul Sands*)

- A. Bagpuss 11, 9, 6, 4
- B. Professor Yaffle 14, 8, 3
- C. Madeleine 11, 7, 2
- D. Gabriel 10, 5, 1

The Zambians (*Steve Ham*)

- A. Elasto Banda 10, 9, 7, 4
- B. Perry Phiri 10, 9, 6
- C. Fullyproud Tembo 8, 7, 5
- D. Phallusy Mtonga 8, 5, 3

Remember the A rider can have 3 or 4 cards adding up to a total of 30. The other three riders may only have 3 cards; the B rider cards can total 25, the C rider 20 and the D rider 16.

* * * * *

BUS BOSS – MALLORCA (BB262MAL) – TURN 8

	SKASE <i>B Martin</i>	KIM <i>Kim Head</i>	TAPAS <i>J Reader</i>	TINAS <i>A Stagg</i>	???? <i>J Carter</i>
4) Aeropuerto (2S) – Cala Ratjada (4D)	+ 2 + 2 + 1	16 - 2 + 3	9 - 2	5 - 1 - 3	
7) Soller (3H) – Paguera (JC)	30				
8) Port d'Andratx (KC) – Esporles (AH)	<i>Race Not Possible</i>				
10) Cala Major (7C) – Felanitx (10S)	9 - 2	+ 3	+ 2	16 - 3 - 2	5 + 2
11) Palma (4C) – Alcudia (8H)		9 - 2	16 + 2 + 6	5 - 6	
12) Campos (QS) – Arta (3D)	10 - 9 + 4				20 + 9 - 4
13) Porto Colom (9S) – Inca (QH)				20 + 4	10 - 4
14) Lloset (10D) – Cala San Vicente (7H)		20 - 2 - 1	10 + 2 - 1	+ 1 + 1	
15) Magaluf (10C) – Porreres (JS)	30				
16) Inca (KH) – Palma (5C)		13	12	5	
17) Binissalem (JD) – Algaida (4S)		9 - 2	5 - 4	16 + 2 + 4	
18) Palma Nova (9C) – Manacor (5D)	+ 1	16 - 1 - 3	5 - 1 + 3		9 + 1

Total from last turn	104	78	62	77	68
Points from Races	78	76	64	64	48
Bids	12	15	10	12	11
Total	170	139	116	129	105

SKASE: Sa Calobra – Soller – Port de Soller (2 + 2) + (6 + 2)
KIM: Valdermossa - Andratx (13 + 2)
TAPAS: Selva – Sa Calobra (8 + 2)
TINAS: Montuiri – Algaida; Porto Colom - Manacor (5 + 2) + (3 + 2)
????: Felanitx – Santanyi; Palma - Arenal (4 + 2) + (3 + 2)

The third set of races is

- 8) Port d'Andratx (KC) – Esporles (AH); 19) Muro (9D) – Andratx (QC); 20) Alaro (kD) – Sineu (8D)
 21) Cala Pi (6S) – Campanet (10H); 22) Palma (2C) – Ca'n Picafort (AD)
 23) Palma (AC) – Montuiri (KS); 24) Palma (3C) – Santa Maria (AS)
 25) Port de Soller (4H) – Sa Calobra (5H); 26) Valdermossa (2H) – Santanyi (8S)

Enter up to 5 races. The bidding order for next turn is Jon, Jacqueline, Allan, Kim and Brad.

JEEPNEY BOSS (BB263LUZ) – TURN 7

KIM: San Fernando – Bontoc (7 + 2)
Kim, the route La Trinidad – Baguio is owned by DURIAN
WHEELS: Tuguegarao – Laoag (7 + 2)
DURIAN: Rizal – Laoag (8 + 2)
????: Tuguegarao – Santa Ana; Pasig – Baclaran (7 + 2) + (1 + 2)
FAST: Del Gallego – Pili (6 + 2)

Roy Arnold has dropped out of the zine, so the **FJB** line has no owner. I will not try to replace him, so the **FJB** line can be used at normal cost, but will not enter any races. **Alex Bardy** also failed to send in orders for this game, so I have ordered for him to avoid the game becoming unbalanced.

	KIM <i>Kim Head</i>	WHEELS <i>Alex Bardy</i>	DURIAN <i>J Reader</i>	???? <i>Jon Carter</i>	FAST <i>Brad Martin</i>	FJB <i>?</i>
1) Quezon City (6C) – Cabarroguis (JD)	No Entrants					
2) Baclaran (5C) – Bontoc (KD)	5 - 6 + 1	2* + 6 + 4	13	8 - 1 - 4	2*	
3) Lingayen (5D) – Santa Ana (QS)	Not Possible					
4) Palayan (3D) – Vigan (5S)		5^ + 6	20 - 6		5^	
5) Batangas (8H) – Daet (4H)	10 - 2 + 5		+ 2 + 2		20 - 5 - 2	
6) Laoag (8S) – San Fernando (9D)	Not Possible					
7) Tabuk (4S) – Santa Cruz (KH)		2@ + 1 - 2	9 - 2 - 4	16 - 1 + 4 + 4	3@ + 2 - 2	
8) Any Port (KS) – San Fernando (9C)	16 + 2		5 - 2		9 - 2	+ 2
9) Pili (3H) – Baclaran (3C)	Not Possible					

* A JR between WHEELS and FAST came 4th in race 2.
 ^ A JR between WHEELS and FAST came 2nd in race 4.
 @ A JR between WHEELS and FAST came 3rd in race 7.

Total from last turn	47	48	50	52	53	55
Points from Races	31	24	37	26	30	2
Bids	9	9	10	12	8	-
Total	69	63	77	66	75	57

The second set of races is

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Quezon City (6C) – Cabarroguis (JD); | 3) Lingayen (5D) – Santa Ana (QS) |
| 6) Laoag (8S) – San Fernando (9D); | 9) Pili (3H) – Baclaran (3C) |
| 10) Tarlac (2D) – Pasig (7C); | 11) Trece Martires (QH) – Del Gallego (5H) |
| 12) Malolos (8C) – Iba (AD); | 13) Ilagan (2S) – General Nakar (KC) |
| 14) Muntinlupa (AC) – Tuguegarao (3S); | 15) Tagaytay (JH) – Calatagan (10H) |
| 16) Mariveles (JC) – Laoag (7S); | 17) Baler (6D) – Palanan (AH); |
| | 18) Baguio (7D) – Rizal (9S) |

Enter any 6 races. The bidding order for next turn is Alex, Jon, Kim, Brad and Jacqueline.

* * * * *

CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL

TURN FOURTEEN

Bob plays his final customer and fills the last table to end the game. The other players suffer heavy penalties at the bar as Bob claims a comfortable win.

mAF	fAF		mIT		mIT	fCH	fCH		fES			
mAF	AFR1	fIT	ITA1	mIT	ITA2	fCH	CHI1	mCH	CHI2	fES	ESP1	mES
	mAF		fIT		fIT		mCH		mGB		mES	
mAF	AFR2	fGB	GB1	mGB				fGB	GB2	fGB	ESP2	mES
	fCU		mGB						mGB		fES	
fCU	CUB1	mCU								mRU	RUS1	fRU
	mCU					Bar -14					mRU	
mCU	CUB2	fJO								mRU	RUS2	fRU
	fCU		fFR						fFR		fIN	
mTU	TUR1	fFR	FRA1	mFR					FRA2	mIN	IND1	mIN
	mTU		mFR		fDE		fUS		fUS		fIN	
fTU	TUR2	fTU	DEU1	mDE	DEU2	mUS	USA1	fUS	USA2	mUS	IND2	fIN
	mTU		fDE		fDE		mUS		mUS		mJO	

Bar – fAFR, mIND, mTUR, mDEU, mAFR, fTUR, fAFR, fITA, fESP, mITA, mDEU, mDEU

The cards were played as follows -

Brad Martin plays mITA to the bar	scores - 14
Alex Bardy plays mDEU to the bar	scores - 16
Kev Lee plays mDEU to the bar	scores - 18
Bob Gingell plays mIND to IND1	scores + 8

Player's cards are as follows

Bob Gingell	female:	male:	score 69
Brad Martin	female: CHI (- 5)	male: CUB (- 5)	score 44
Kev Lee	female: RUS, DEU (- 10)	male:	score 20
Alex Bardy	female: IND, AFR (- 10)	male:	score 18

Congratulations to Bob Gingell

Game End Statements welcome!

CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL 2

Turn Twelve

fAF	mAF	fIT	fIT	mIT	fCH	mCH	fCH	fES				
	AFR1	fIT	ITA1	mIT	ITA2	fCH	CHI1	mCH	CHI2	fCH	ESP1	mES
	mAF		mGB		mIT				mCH		mES	
fAF	AFR2	fGB	GB1	mGB				fGB	GB2	fGB	ESP2	mJO
	mAF		fGB						mGB		fES	
fJO	CUB1	fCU									RUS1	mRU
	mCU					Bar + 5					mRU	
mCU	CUB2	fCU								fRU	RUS2	fRU
	fTU		fFR						fFR		mRU	
mTU	TUR1	fFR	FRA1	mFR				mFR	FRA2	mFR	IND1	fIN
	mTU		mFR		mDE		mUS		fUS		fIN	
fTU	TUR2	fTU	DEU1	mDE	DEU2	fDE	USA1	mUS	USA2	fIN	IND2	mIN
	mTU		fDE		fDE		fUS		mUS		mJO	

Customers at the bar are – mITA, find, mCUB, fUSA, fAFR

The cards were played as follows -

Chris Green plays fAFR to the bar	scores 5
Kev Lee plays mFRA to FRA1 and mESP to ESP1.ESP2	scores 8 + 4
Bob Gingell plays mJOK to ESP2 and fESP to ESP.RUS	scores 3 + 4
Mike Townsend plays mRUS to RUS1	scores 3

Player's cards are as follows

Bob Gingell	female: DEU, CHI, RUS	male: ITA,	score 57
Mike Townsend	female: TUR	male: IND, RUS	score 70
Chris Green	female:	male: DEU, IND, DEU	score 58
Kev Lee	female: JOK, IND,	male: USA	score 60

The next turns play order is Kev, Bob, Mike and Chris.

Players may at any time seat customers at the bar. The score for such placement depends on the number of customers already seated there. The scores, in order, are -2, -4, -6, -8, -10, -12, -14, -16, -18 and -20. There are still 15 customers waiting to be seated.

* * * * *

FAIR MEANS OR FOUL

TURN THIRTEEN

Another heavy duty police presence at the exhibition, but they couldn't find the **Sir Allan's** missing Meerschaum Amber Pipe. Inspectors **Martin** and **Lee** interrogated their key witness, one **Mr Honeybone** for hours, but he refused to help with their enquiries. Meanwhile, the honourable **Alex Bardy** was seen leaving Sothebys with a Casanova Cigarettes Poster (B1920) which set him back a cool 12K. Art lovers meanwhile enjoyed **Sir Allan's** exhibition of CCCDEE (1852).

	Allan Stagg	Brad Martin	Kev Lee	Philip Honeybone	Alex Bardy
Cheques	23	5, 8, 17, 20, 24	16, 22	15, 21	13
Thieves	(4), (9)	(1), 12	2, 11	(3), 10	(5), 8
Location	Stately Home	Auction	Stately Home	Stately Home	Auction

Next turns orders should include your first set of actions (exhibit, inspector or thief at the Stately Home; bid instructions or thief at the Auction) and your choice of location for the next round (which can be conditional on this turns events).

4/2	3/2	4/2	2/1	5/3	2/1	3/2	4/2	5/3	3/2	4/2	2/1	3/2	4/2	3/2	4/2
AB		PH		KL		BM							AS		

3 more to end.

Up at the auction are - Johnny Weismullers Loincloth (E 1932) and Louis Armstrongs Trumpet (E 1952).

Jail: Thief 5 (AB), Thief 1 (BM), Thief 9 (AS), Thief 4 (AS), Thief 3 (PH),

* * * * *

HARE AND TORTOISE

TURN FOURTEEN

Freda began by nibbling a lettuce and finding another 30 carrots. **Le Lapin Agile** nudged forward 5 squares and **Bare Bunny** edged forward 3. **Philip** unusually failed to send in orders for this game, so I moved ??? forward to square 11; **Freda** finished the turn moving onto square 20 just after ??? had left it.

However, with only 4 squares to go and **Le Lapin Agile** unable to catch up, it's clear that **Bare Bunny** will cross the finish line first next turn so

Congratulations to Brad Martin

and my thanks to everyone for playing. Please feel free to send in game end statements if you wish.

PLAYER	START	FINISH	CARROTS	LETTUCES	MOVE
Freda <i>Judy Ferguson</i>	22	20	76	0	4
Le Lapin Agile <i>Allan Stagg</i>	42	37	212	1	1 and 5
Bare Bunny <i>Brad Martin</i>	7	4	6	0	2
??? Philip Honeybone	20	11	16	0	3

* * * * *

MONTGOLFIÈRE I

Turn Twelve

Stormy weather played havoc with the balloonists plans this turn. It started badly when the strong winds sent **Patrick Moore's** balloon heading downwards after his kitchen sink. The weather then got even worse and **Blaise** was happy to stay inside his basket, even though his altitude plummeted.

Height	
13	
12	Balloney
11	B.A. Loon
10	Beau Bombast
9	Blaise
8	Patrick Moore

ACTIONS

Richard Smith (B.A. Loon) -	Grapple	Ballast 13
Kev Lee (Patrick Moore) -	Ballast 14	Tempest
Alex Bardy (Balloney) -	Tempest	Tempest
Brad Martin (Beau Bombast) -	Ballast 13	Tempest
Blaise Hudson -	Grapple	Ballast 15

MONTGOLFIÈRE II

Turn Six

Unlike game 1, weather conditions remain excellent in this race and the balloons are rocketing skywards. There was a small hint of a storm early on, but **Fabienne Fabulous** was easily able to rise above it. She continued her rise after the last remnants of the storm abated, but her upward rise was matched by **Pierre Tombant** while **Philip** and **Yves Elars** shot up powered with supermotors. Only race leader **Brendan** stayed at the same height as the good thermals failed to reach the stratosphere.

Height	
14	
13	
12	Brendan Whyte
11	Yves Elars
10	Pierre Tombant, Fabienne Fabulous
9	Philip Honeybone
8	

ACTIONS

Bob Pitman (Yves Elars) -	Ballast 13	Supermotor
Philip Honeybone -	Tempest	Supermotor
Bob Gingell (Pierre Tombant) -	Ballast 6	Ballast 10
Arthur Owen (Fabienne Fabulous) -	Ballast 15	Ballast 10
Brendan Whyte -	Tempest	Ballast 5

Next turns orders should again include two cards, the second of which may be conditional on the results of the first – please feel free to name your balloonist if you haven't already done so. Please could you also specify which ballast card you wish to play, as only the highest un-neutralised ballast card will move. Note that the first deck of cards has been used and reshuffled, so all those tempests can come back into play.

RAILWAY RIVALS

RR Games XXXII – Estonia Map – RR1768EE – Turn 12

	EESTI <i>(Conrad)</i>	ESTONIA <i>(Alex)</i>	BWNW <i>(Bob)</i>	GOTHIC <i>(Jason)</i>	BALTRACK <i>(Jacqueline)</i>
36) Narva (12) – Tallinn (63)	20 - 1	+ 1			
37) Kohila (64) – Haapsalu (56)					20
38) Vohma (51) – Kunda (21)	10		20 - 2	+ 2	
39) Latvia (Sp1) – Parnu (45)			20		Entry illegal <i>Track too long</i>
40) Moisakula (42) – Tartu (31)			20		10
41) Kohtle-Jarve (15) – Russia (Sp3)	20 - 1	+ 1			
42) Tabivere (26) – Elva (36)	10 - 3 - 2		20 + 3 - 3 - 1	0 + 3 + 2	0 + 1
Total Last Turn	302	153	169	234	215
Points from Races	53	2	77	7	31
Total	355	157	246	241	246

Congratulations to Conrad von Metzke (EESTI)

Game end statements welcome

RR Games XXXIII – Estonia Map – RR1769EE – Turn 11

	EEK <i>Judy Ferguson</i>	APA <i>Paul Sands</i>	MONOPOL <i>Steve Guest</i>	ENEMR <i>Bob Pitman</i>
24) Antsala (35) – Narva (11)	10!	10!		
29) Valga (41) – Lihula (54)	10* + 9	10 - 9		10*
30) Rapla (66) – Narva (12)	10		20 - 3	+ 3
31) Sillamae (13) – Tartu (31)		20 - 5	+ 5	
32) Jogeva (25) – Kilingi-Nonne (43)	+ 6	0 - 6 + 9 + 5	20 - 9 - 2	10 - 5 + 2
33) Lelle / Rummu (55) – Finland (Sp5)	10 + 1	0	20 + 2	0 - 1 - 2
34) Elva (36) – Kunda (21)	<i>Offers JR to APA and ENEMR</i>		+ 5	20 - 5
35) Tallinn (62) – Russia (Sp4)	20	+ 6		10 - 6

! Race 24 was won by a JR between EEK and APA

* A JR between EEK and ENEMR won race 29

	EEK <i>Judy Ferguson</i>	APA <i>Paul Sands</i>	MONOPOL <i>Steve Guest</i>	ENEMR <i>Bob Pitman</i>
Total Last Turn	210	161	296	205
Builds	+ 1			- 6 - 1
Points from Races	86	40	58	36
Total	297	201	354	234

ENEMR: (U20) – U21 – U22; (J18) – J17 – J16 – J15 – J14.

The sixth and final set of races is

36) Moisakula (42) – Johvi (14); 37) Voru (34) – Tallinn (63); 38) Kothla-Jarva (15) – Parnu (45)
 39) Tartu (32) – Vohma (51); 40) Rakvere (22) – Keila (65); 41) Tootsi (53) – Latvia (Sp1)
 42) Tabivere (26) – Any Port (Sp6)

Enter up to 4 races and may the best man win.

RR Games XXXIV – Canterbury Map – RR1838CB – Turn 7

	EWE <i>Brad Martin</i>	HRJLW <i>Brendan Whyte</i>	MTMR <i>Blaise Hudson</i>	ARCHBISHOP <i>Richard Smith</i>
1) Akaroa (46) – Longbeach (23)	+ 1			20 - 1
2) Christchurch (54) – Geraldine (16)	20	10		
3) Temuka (15) – Coal (Sp6)	20 + 3 + 1	0 + 3	0 - 1	10 - 3 – 3
4) Darfield (61) – Hornby (51)	0		20	10
5) Rakaia (34) – Oxford (62)		20 - 3	10 + 3	
6) Ashburton (26) – North (Sp1)	20 - 1			10 + 1
7) Archeron (35) – Rolleston / Burnham (43)		20 - 5	10 + 5	

Total Last Turn	83	45	48	70
Builds	- 8	- 7 - 1 – 1	- 8 + 1 - 1	- 1 + 1 + 1
Points from Races	64	45	47	44
Total	139	81	87	115

EWE: (Lincoln) – J19 – J20 - - - J21 - - - J22.

HRJLW: (H18) - - - H19; (M15) – M16 – L17 – L18 – K18.

MTMR: (A38) – Rangitata; (Oxford) – F12 – F13 – F14 – E14 – D15 – Rangiora.

ARCHBISHOP: (B40) – Rangitata.

The second set of races is

8) White Cliffs (36) – Christchurch (52); 9) Ashburton (25) – Little River (45); 10) Methven (33) – Cave (13)
 11) Hinds (24) – West (Sp2); 12) Lincoln (44) – Kaiapoi (65); 13) Tumarū (12) – Oxford (64)
 14) Christchurch (53) – Timber (Sp5)

Enter up to 4 races, build up to 10 points excluding payments

RR Games XXXV – Canterbury Map – RR1846CB – Turn 6

ERICA 6a) (N8) - - - O7 – P8,
 Colour = Red 6b) (P8) – Methven – R7 – R6 – S5 – Mount Somers, 1 short
Julie Hunt 6c) (N8) – N7 – M6 – Acheron; (H38) – H39 - Timaru.
Julie – the build Z9 – Rangitata is across a river and you didn't have enough build allowance for it
 BANK: 89 + 1 (GROPE) = 90

ALL BLACKS 6a) (Lincoln) – J19 – J20; (Timaru) – I40 – J40,
 Colour = Black 6b) (J20) – J21 - - - Little River,
Philip Honeybone 6c) (Cave) – H35 – H34 – G33 – F33 - FAIRLIE.
 BANK: 36 + 6 (towns) + 1 (GROPE) + 1 (ABLE) = 44

GROPE 6a) (Methven) – R7 – S6 – T6 – Mount Somers
 Colour = Blue 6b) (T6) – T7 – Valeta / Mayfield; (G16) - - - F16 – E16,
Paul Sands 6c) (Acheron) – L5; (Temuka) – E38 – E37; (C40) – D40 - Rangitata.
 BANK: 31 – 1 (ERICA) – 1 (ALL BLACKS) – 4 (ABLE) = 25

ABLE 6a) (G7) – F7; (Hinds) – Y10 – Z11 – A40,
 Colour = Green 6b) (A40) - - - B40 – C39 – D39 – E38,
Kev Lee 6c) (E38) – F38 - - - Pleasant Point; (B40) - Rangitata.
 BANK: 64 – 1 (ALL BLACKS) + 4 (GROPE) = 67

The first set of races is

- 1) Ashburton (26) – Pleasant Point (14); 2) Kaiapoi (65) – Geraldine (16); 3) Acheron (35) –
 Springfield (63)
 4) Southbridge (41) – Christchurch (52); 5) Little River (45) – North (Sp1); 6) Hinds (24) – Christchurch (53)
 7) Timber (Sp5) – Mount Somers (32)

Enter up to 4 races, build up to 10 points excluding payments

RR Games XXXVI – Canterbury Map – RR1859CB – Turn 4 Holdover

There were a couple of minor errors last turn. The builds were 5 – 5 – 2; MAORIS builds 4-6-2 but as these could have legally been made with original rolls, no corrections are needed. WALTER built 5-6-2, which is one too many so WALTER's turn 5c build allowance was reduced to 4 this turn. MAORI's 4a) build should have started from N8 rather than N7? Steve, WALTER built "Mt Somers – T6" and MAORIS built "U5 – Mt Somers" so there was no parallel build last turn.

MAORIS 5a) (H18) - - - H19 - - - LYTTLETON,
 Colour = Black 5b) (Valeta / Mayfield) - V8 - W8 - X9 - Y9 - Z9,
Jason Asker 5c) (Z9) - - - Rangitata - B40: (X9) – Hinds.
 BANK: 53 + 3 + 5 (WALTER) + 7 (NICER)

WALTER 5a) (H8) - - - G8 – G9 – G10 - Oxford,
 Colour = Green 5b) (Oxford) – F12 – F13 – F14 – E14 – D15,
Arthur Owen 5c) (D15) – Rangiora – B16; (Valeta / Mayfield) – V8 – W8.
 BANK: 39 – 5 (MAORIS)

LAMB 5a) (J19) - - - I19- - -LYTTLETON,
 Colour = Orange 5b) (E16) - Kaiapoi - C16; (T11) - - - U10,
Steve Guest 5c) (Little River) - I22 - - - I23; (C16) - Rangiora.
 BANK: 56 + 3

NICER 5a) (Hinds) - W9 - V9 - U8 – Valeta / Mayfield; (Timaru) - I39 - J39,
 Colour = Red 5b) (Hornby) - H18 - - - H19; (N13) - M12,
Bob Pitman 5c) (H19) - - - Lyttleton; (M12) - L12 - K11.
 BANK: 58 – 7 (MAORIS)

The sixth set of die rolls are as follows - 6a) 2, 6b) 6 and 6c) 3.

RR Games XXXVII – Middle Earth Map – RR1870T2 – Turn 2

ARAGORN - A Ringbearers Aide Going On Rescue Nightmare, Carolyn Horton

2a) (U23)-V22-W22

2b) (W22)-X22---Y23-Z23-EDORAS

2c) (EDORAS)-B64-C65

GALADRIEL - Golden Arching Lines Across Dreaming Rivers In Exquisite Lands, Mike Townsend

2a) (P9)-Q10-Bree

2b) (Bree)--S11--T11-T12-U13

2c) (U13)-V13; (Q10)-Q9

SOUTHRON - Stagg Observes Unusually Tall Hobbits Riding On Nazgul, Allan Stagg

2a) (L68)-L67; (L68)-K68

2b) (K68)----Minas Tirith-J66-I66

2c) (I66)-H65-G66

NAZGUL - Neatly Arranged Zygotes Generating Unholy Lifeforms, Jim Reader

2a) (L67)-K67; (Minas Morgul)-N66

2b) (K67)----J66-I66-H65

2c) (H65)-G66; (N66)-O66

MERDE - Middle Earth Railways Delivers Elves, Brad Martin

2a) (Beorn)-F50-F51

2b) (F51)-F52-F53-F54-F55-E56-E57

2c) (E57)-E58-F58

DAIN - Disreputable And Impudent Navvies, Bob Gingell

2a) (I46)-H46-G46

2b) (P48)-P49-P50-P51---O52

2c) (O52)-O53-O54

Bank

Aragorn 20+6

Galadriel 20+6(correction)+6

Southron 20-1+6

Nazgul 26+1

Merde 32

Dain 20

Note: The navvies have had problems with wide rivers, swamps and forests around Minas Tirith -- The Fat Controller

Round 3 rolls a) 5 b) 2 c) 6

Please note that Jon Carter was the GM for this game and orders can be sent either direct to Jon, or I will forward (sealed) orders to him. I usually send my orders out with the zine to avoid any possibility of an advantage. Jon's address is 28 Furze View, CHORLEYWOOD, Hertfordshire, WD3 5HU. His e-mail address is j.n.carter@ic.ac.uk.

RR Games XXXVIII – Slovakia Map – RR1930SK – Gamestart

Mike decided that this map would be too crowded with four players and dropped out, so this will be a three player game. The runners and riders are –

Brad Martin	Acronym:	Danubian And Nearby Urban Bahn Express (DANUBE)
	Start:	Bratislava
	Colour:	Blue

Paul Sands Acronym: Trains Always Transporting Reliably All Slovaks (TATRAS)
Start: Bratislava
Colour: Green

Jon Carter Acronym: Queen Unusually Encourages Rusomberok Yeomanry (QUERY)
Start: Bratislava
Colour: Red

The first set of die rolls is - 1a) 2, 1b) 2 and 1c) 6. May the best man win.

RR Games XXXIX – Czech Republic Map – RR1931CZ – Gamestart

The players and companies are –

Jason Asker Acronym: Saddam’s Killers On Day Adventures (SKODA)
Start: Praha
Colour: Black

Blaise Hudson Acronym: Deregulated Railways Across Kontinent (DRAK)
Start: Brno
Colour: Green

Arthur Owen Acronym: Dud Railways Of Some Sort (DROSS)
Start: Praha
Colour: Red

Steve Guest Acronym: Burrow Underground Digging Very Arduous Railway (BUDVAR)
Start: Brno
Colour: Orange

The first set of die rolls is - 1a) 5, 1b) 3 and 1c) 3. May the best man win.

RR Games XXXX – Bulgaria Map – RR1932BU – Gamestart

The players and companies are –

Bob Pitman Acronym: Bulgarian Unified Modern Motor Express Railways (BUMMER)
Start: Sofia
Colour: Blue

Carolyn Horton Acronym: People and Engines Remain Constantly Young (PERCY)
Start: Sofia (3rd choice)
Colour: Green

Jacqueline Reader Acronym: Wombling On Mainly Bulgarian Light Engines (WOMBLE)
Start: Burgas
Colour: Red

Kev Lee Acronym: Turkish Expressways Are Dear (TEAR)
Start: Varna
Colour: Black

The first set of die rolls is - 1a) 4, 1b) 6 and 1c) 5. May the best man or woman win.

* * * * *

RAIL BARON**Turn Five**

This turn was an accountants paradise, with loads of money changing hands. The money men had even more good news at the end of the round, as the last railway line was sold and payments will go up next round.

Kevin Lee	Denver Expressways Are Rampant (Green)	Cash 21.0K
21) Des Moines – 1W Pittsburgh	(CRI&P, B&O)	1K to bank, 5K to FATCAT
22) 1W Pittsburgh – New York	(PA)	5K to WARMING
23) New York - Boston	(NYNH&H)	5K to CCC +14K
24) Boston - Washington	(NYNH&H, PA)	5K to CCC, 5K to WARMING
25) Washington - Birmingham	(C&O, ACL)	1K to bank, 5K to SIR +12K

Brad Martin:	Sir Ion Rale (Blue)	Cash 21.0K
21) Seattle – Portland	(NP)	1K to bank +2K
	<i>Buys Atlantic Coast Line for 12K</i>	
22) Portland – 2SE Spokane	(NP, CMStP&P)	1K to bank
23) 2SE Spokane – 2E Billings	(CMStP&P)	1K to bank
24) 2E Billings - Minneapolis	(CMStP&P)	1K to bank
25) Minneapolis – 1N Fort Worth	(CMStP&P, AT&SF)	1K to bank

Jackie Reader:	A Crap Main Engine (Black)	Cash 39.0K
21) Baltimore - Cleveland	(PA, NYC)	5K to CCC and WARMING +4.5K
	<i>Buys Chicago, Burlington and Quincy for 20K</i>	
22) Cleveland – 2SE Des Moines	(NYC, CB&Q)	5K to CCC, 1K to bank
23) 2SE Des Moines – 4E Denver	(CB&Q)	1K to bank
24) 4E Denver – Denver	(CB&Q)	1K to bank +13.5K
25) Denver – Oakland	(DRG&W, SP)	1K to bank +13.5K

Bob Pitman:	Federal American Trans -Continental Amalgamated Tracks (Red)	Cash 28.0K
21) 2W Minneapolis – 1S Chicago	(CMStP&P, IC)	1K to bank, 1K to SIR
22) 1S Chicago – 1SW Louisville	(IC)	1K to bank
23) 1SW Louisville - Louisville	(IC)	1K to bank +18K
	<i>Buys Northern Pacific for 14K</i>	
24) Louisville - Birmingham	(IC, SOU)	1K to bank
25) Birmingham - Washington	(SOU)	1K to bank +6.5K
	<i>Buys Baltimore and Ohio for 24K</i>	

Jon Carter	Chattanooga Choo-Choo (Yellow)	Cash 10.0K
21) Los Angeles – 3W Denver	(UP, DRG&W)	5K to WARMING, 1K to bank
22) 3W Denver – Denver	(DRG&W)	1K to bank +13.5K
	<i>Buys Great Northern for 17K</i>	
	22 bonus) Denver – Pueblo	(DRG&W)
23) Pueblo – 1E Kansas City	(MP)	5K to DEAR
24) 1E Kansas City – Mobile	(MP, GM&O)	5K to DEAR +15K
	<i>Buys Northern and Western for 12K</i>	
25) Mobile – 1NW St Paul	(GM&O, C&NW, GN)	5K to DEAR, 1K to bank

Bob Gingell 31K	World Association of Railway Managers In Never-ending	Gloom (Purple) Cash
21) 2E Salt Lake City – Las Vegas	(UP)	1K to bank +26K
<i>Buys St Louis – San Francisco for 19K</i>		
22) Las Vegas – 2E Salt Lake City	(UP)	1K to bank
23) 2E Salt Lake City – 3E Denver	(UP)	1K to bank
24) 3E Denver – 2S Kansas City	(UP, SL&SF)	1K to bank
25) 2S Kansas City – Atlanta	(SL&SF, I&N)	1K to bank +26.5K

COMPANY	FIRST DESTINATION	PAYOUT	SECOND DESTINATION	PAYOUT
DEAR	Phoenix (SW)	17.5K	New York (NE)	28K
SIR	Fort Worth (SC)	22.5K	Chicago (NC)	9.5K
ACME	Washington (NE)	30.5K	Atlanta (SE)	6.5K
FATCAT	Nashville (SC)	7K	San Diego (SW)	21.5K
CCC	Oakland (SW)	26K	Pocatello (NW)	9K
WARMING	Pocatello (NW)	21K	Fargo (PL)	13.5K

The third destination for SIR is Chattanooga (SE) for 6K.
 The fourth destination for SIR is Phoenix (SW) for 19K
 The third destination for FATCAT is New York (NE) for 30.5K
 The third destination for CCC is Tampa (SE) for 25.5K
 The third destination for WARMING is

PLAYER	ARRIVALS	TRAIN	RAILROADS	CASH
DEAR	8	E	MP, GM&O, T&P, C&O	30.0K
SIR	6	E	AT&SF, CMStP&P, ACL	12.0K
ACME	11	E	SAL, SP, CB&Q	31.5K
FATCAT	8	E	SOU, CRI&P, IC, NP, B&O	13.5K
CCC	11	S	B&M, NYNH&H, D&RGW, WP, C&NW, NYC	9.5K
WARMING	5	N	GN, N&W PA, L&N, RF&P, UP, SL&SF	79.5K

The turn 6 die rolls are as follows –

Turn	Die Roll	Bonus	Priority
26	5 + 5	1	SIR
27	6 + 3	3	ACME
28	3 + 2	4	FATCAT
29	6 + 6	5	CCC
30	5 + 1	5	WARMING

* * * * *

ROBORALLY

TURN FOURTEEN

Beware a robot doing you a good turn, was the painful message learnt by **Ludwig** this turn. **Ludwig** was bumped by **Call Me Ken** onto the first flag – so far so good. His “benefactor” then shot him and the sudden change in position screwed up **Ludwig’s** programming; he then edged forward onto conveyor and was carted off board. Other parts of the grid resembled the OK Corral as laser fire echoed all around with **Minnie** acting as main target. In the end though, it was another game of “bump” that did **Minnie** in.

PHASE ONE

CARD	ROBOT	MOVE	OTHER
690 (2F)	K9UPU	R1E – T1E	Shot by K9UPU
600 (1F)	Call Me Ken	O1E – P1E	Bump Ludwig to R1N; shoots Ludwig and K9UPU with High Powered Laser
530 (1F)	FNL	S6W – R6W	
310 (LT)	Philippa	V7E – V7N	
200 (RT)	Ludwig	R1N – R1E	Bumped by Call Me Ken to R1N; shot by Call Me Ken; shoots K9UPU; 1 st Flag
090 (LT)	Minnie	X5N – X5W	
	S.H.I.V.A.	O9E*	Powered Down

* S.H.I.V.A.'s final position was wrongly calculated in phase 5 last turn – he should have finished at O9E rather than K9E as reported.

PHASE TWO

CARD	ROBOT	MOVE	OTHER
770 (2F)	Ludwig	R1E – T1E	Conveyed off board. Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrggggggghh!!
760 (2F)	Minnie	X5W – V5W	Conveyed to U5W; shot by Philippa
540 (1F)	Philippa	V7N – V6N	Conveyed to V5W; shoots Minnie
380 (RT)	FNL	R6W – R6N	
320 (RT)	Call Me Ken	P1E – P1S	
120 (RT)	K9UPU	T1E – T1S	
	S.H.I.V.A.	O9E	Powered Down

PHASE THREE

CARD	ROBOT	MOVE	OTHER
710 (2F)	Philippa	V5W – U5W	Bumps Minnie to T5W; conveyed to T5N; shoots Minnie
630 (1F)	Call Me Ken	P1S – P2S	
590 (1F)	FNL	R6N – R5N	
520 (1F)	K9UPU	T1S – T2S	Shoots Minnie
130 (LT)	Minnie	T5W – T5S	Bumped to T5W by Philippa; conveyed to T4E; shot by Philippa and K9UPU
	S.H.I.V.A.	O9E	Powered Down
	Ludwig	-	DEAD

PHASE FOUR

CARD	ROBOT	MOVE	OTHER
820 (3F)	Minnie	T4E – Pit	Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrrrrggggggghhhhhhhhh!!
690 (2F)	K9UPU	T2S – T4S	Conveyed to S4W
410 (LT)	FNL	R5N – R5W	
130 (LT)	Call Me Ken	P2S – P2E	
010 (UT)	Philippa	T5N – T5S	Conveyed to T4E
	S.H.I.V.A.	O9E	Powered Down
-	Ludwig	-	DEAD

PHASE FIVE

CARD	ROBOT	MOVE	OTHER
780 (2F)	K9UPU	S4W – R4W	Blocked by wall
730 (2F)	Call Me Ken	P2E – Q2E	Blocked by wall
620 (1F)	FNL	R5W – Q5W	Shoots Ludwig
450 (BU)	Philippa	T4E – S4E	Conveyed to S3E
	S.H.I.V.A.	O9E	Powered Down
-	Ludwig	-	DEAD
-	Minnie	-	DEAD

Robot	Player	Position	Damage	Lives Lost	Checkpoints	Registered
Philippa	Richard Smith	S4E	1	0	1	R1
Ludwig	Keith Williams	R1?	2	2	1	R1
S.H.I.V.A.	Bob Pitman	O9E	0	1	1	R1
Minnie	Chris Green	R1?	2	1	1	R1
FNL	Bob Gingell	Q5W	2	2	2	S6
Call Me Ken	Chris Houghton	Q2E	2	2	1	R1
K9UPU	Tony Bayley	R4W	2	1	1	R1

*Call Me Ken has a High Powered Laser (able to shoot through one wall or robot).
Minnie and Ludwig will be virtual next turn*

WHINGES

“*Phillipa*” should make some progress at last!

K9UPU - I checked and double checked...but Damn me if I did it...yup i totally balls up the conveyor belt.....BUGGER !!!

PRESS

K9UPU - ERROR MESSAGE 69.....you have performed an idiotic operation and operator will be ejected through Windows!!!!

S.H.I.V.A. - Oi! Call me Ken, Ludwig, K9UPU... Fight fight fight !!!

* * * *

IT'S A RAID – Turn Eight

Player	Actions	Find	Movement	Property	Score
Speedy Gonzales Bob Gingell	Drink booze	Nowt	0	1 booze	11
Anne Widdicombe Chris Green	Search K5; smoke baccy	Nowt	0	3 booze 1 baccy	11
Ed O’Nist Richard Smith	E12 – E11 – D10 – Search Table; smoke baccy	Nowt	1	2 booze	10
Gordon Freeman David Cowie	H3 – H2 - search bed – G2; drink booze	Nowt	2	-	7
Bazza Brad Martin	H2 – G1 – search cabinet	1 booze	4	WANDA 1 booze	5
Frank Bough Keith Williams	H12; rest	Nowt	4	2 booze	5
Manic Monkey Roy Arnold	K9 – L10 – Out window and home	-	N/A	-	4

Variable Pig – Neijiang

Report

Blimey, **Speedy**, I can smell that from here – yeah, I couldn't agree more Wanda, he is a pig. Hopefully, he'll pass out soon and leave you and **Bazza** to it.

"Hi there! Mind if I join in?". Yeah right, **Gordon**, no chance – you tell him, **Baz**. "Piss off, **Gordon**".

Frank, are you OK – oh yeah, I can hear yer snorin'. Leavin' so soon, **Manic** – oh, OK with Olive after you I can see why – open the window first, ouch!

Locations

Wanda	Bed and getting bored.
Olive	K9 – L10 – L11
Boomer	G10 – H9
Reggie	G8

* * * * *

STERNENHIMMEL

Turn 7

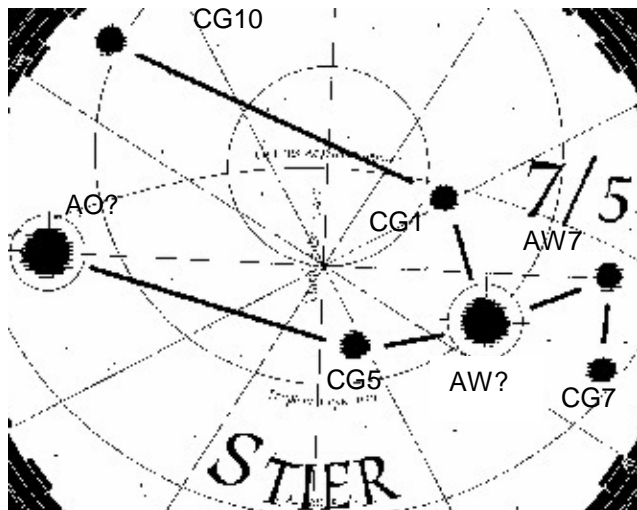
- Chris:** Places 6 in Jungfrau on top inner right star of Jungfrau
- Arthur:** Places twin star in top left hand outer star of Jungfrau
- Adrian:** Places ? on right ring star of Schutze
- Blaise:** Places 6 next to AW5 in Schutze
- Chris:** Places 5 in last remaining star in Stier next to AW7

Stier is now completed and scores as follows –

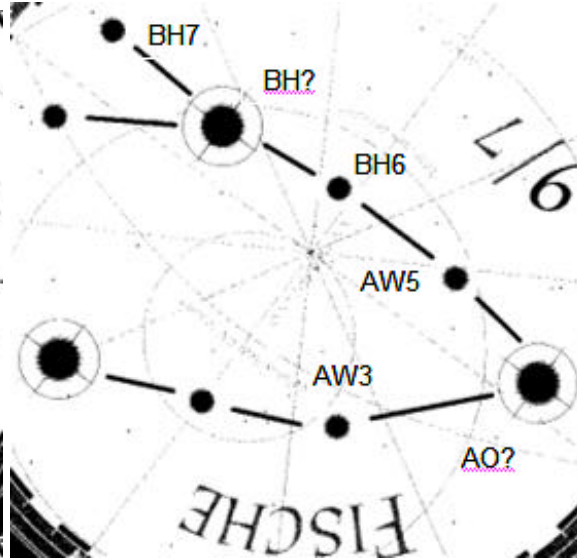
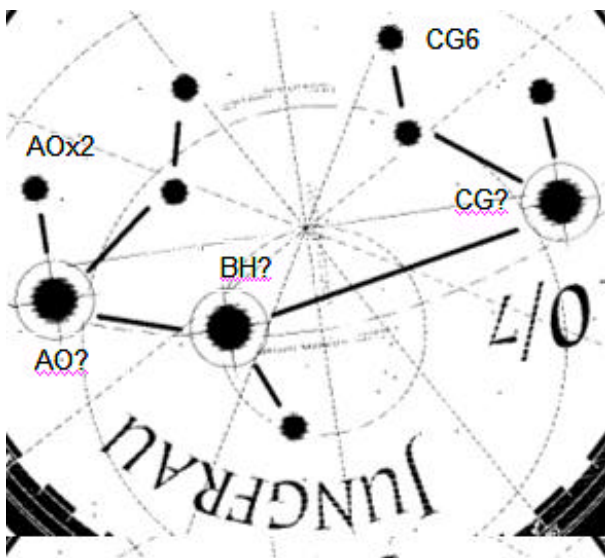
- Arthur Owen – 7 (ring star)
- Adrian Walding – Black hole (ring star) deletes CG5, CG1 and AW7 (!) – total 0
- Chris Green – 17 (after CG5 and CG1 don't score)

Chris gets 5 points and Arthur gets 5.

Player order for the eighth turn is **Arthur, Adrian, Blaise, Chris** and then **Arthur** again. Conditional orders are acceptable.



Taurus

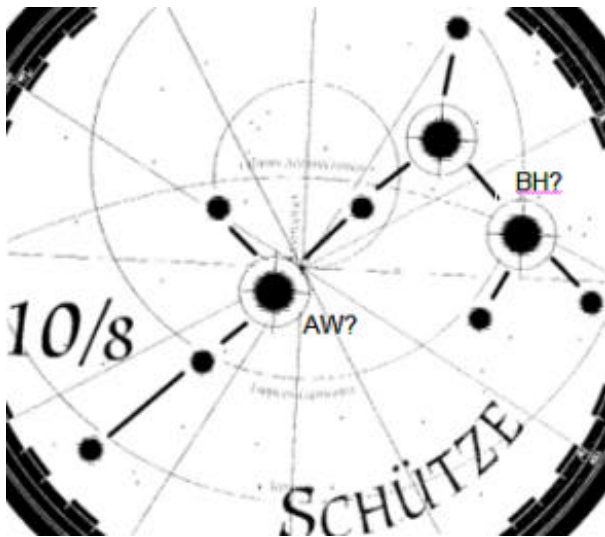


Virgo

Pisces

The star chart annotations refer to the player whose star has been placed in that position and it's value if 'face up'. Stars played onto a ring star position are 'face down' and so their value is not known.

The new star system is Aquarius.

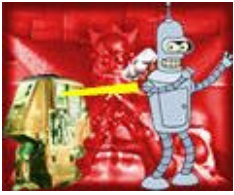


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Gratuitous Web URL Spacefiller:

The definitive website for boring facts.....

<http://www.dullmen.com/dull%20trivia.htm>



KILLZONE

TURN 9 of 12 Report: “Do you really want to hurt me?” General XMIT by XQJ-37

And the almost unanimous answer was “YES”, especially loudly from the poor burning wreck known as Napalm Death. XQJ-37 had a totally crap hand dealt, and then suffered the indignity of being shunted every segment of this turn. Plus there was the delicate flavour of revenge playing on Napalm Deaths tongue as he and Evil Edna reduced the pristine state of XQJ-37 into something horribly mangled. XQJ-37 was shot by at least 1 bot on every segment of this turn... and it was about time too!!! The Weapons Pit that had been a home for so long is now looking suspiciously like a Tomb for XQJ-37!

BLAIR has come to its boss's aid in the Pit and has added a new aspect to the war. According to BLAIRs press he is the XQJ-37's friend, but after the beating the XQJ-37 has taken this turn he may be slightly worried about having such a well armed friend in the Pit helping him out... Evil Edna took a pounding from BLAIR who was waving his lovely new Double Barrelled Laser at one and all. Edna's object lesson in damage started when the XQJ-37 destroyed his nice new (unused) Rear facing laser special and may not be over yet as BLAIR is ideally placed to go after either Edna or sad Napalm Death (BLAIR to the North of him, XQJ-37 to the South of him, and Edna's stuck in the Middle with me [*with apologies to Stealers Wheel*]), or more interestingly to join the posse and throw the end game into confusion by taking out the XQJ-37!!

Elsewhere on the board Roybot and Worza-Gowen-Noah were both getting random cards dealt, and neither did badly out of them. Roybot took some damage from Bottox but otherwise was OK, WGN managed to cover about half of the board using conveyors and teleports and now finds himself near the war in the weapons pit and closing on Wotabot. I imagine that the XQJ-37 must be praying that no more special weapons get introduced to the Special pit while he is so damaged, but WGN is nicely placed if BLAIR melts down both Evil Edna and the XQJ-37 this turn. Bottox has managed to almost extricate himself from the mirror trap at N9 and weaving his way through Crusher Alley. After shooting Roybot his special is exposed and imagine how upset he was at getting loaded with a High power laser whilst sitting aiming at himself – he would have shot himself twice via the mirrors. Meanwhile Wotabot took one last shot at Bottox before heading off towards the main battle in the weapons pit.

Next turn there have to be deaths in the weapons pit, how can Napalm Death survive his current position? Will XQJ-37 power down to try and avoid possible death? Will BLAIR turn on his ally and go for personal rather than shared glory? Can Evil Edna survive that double-barrelled laser long enough to get out of the way? Will WGN and Wotabot manage to get involved? The game is into the final 3 hands now (this turn, 11, and 12) and if the XQJ-37 dies then all bets are off with 5 other Bots able to then go for the win. But XQJ-37 death is not certain and if BLAIR shoots Edna and Napalm Death will it be leaving itself open to “friendly fire” from the XQJ-37.

However all the bots in the pit have plenty of damage points, and most have locked registers which means they replay the movement card shown (shown as ** in the action grids). This makes their movements easier to predict and perhaps this will encourage GWN or Wotabot to get in there and polish off an enemy or two while they are damaged. For my money BLAIR probably holds the keys to how the last few turns will be played. Will it be a race for second place if he does the XQJ-37s dirty work for him or a hard fighting end trying to inflict a crucial one or two points on other bots, only you guys can decide!!

There was a mistake in last turns report, Worza-Gowen-Noah should have ended on P3S not P2S as stated.

Specials:

XQJ-37 has 3 unused specials PLUS ramming gear (inflicts 1 pt damage on a ram), PLUS

FIRE CONTROL (destroys a selected special, or locks a register of your choice)

Worza-Gowen-Noah has a Scrambler Beam (Replaces the victims next programmed card with a randoid),

Bottox has a high powered laser (shoots through a wall or robot to hit another robot)

BLAIR has 1 unused special PLUS double-barrelled laser

- ? Reminder that the teleporter at J4 is always on and always teleports robots 2 extra spaces in the direction of their travel – even if they are not under their own power.
- ? Conveyors: SEQUENCE of operation = 1 express movement, 2nd express movement, Normal conveyors move 1 space. So you can be moved 3 spaces in some areas.
- ? You should say in your orders if you want to be cured by 2 points or gain a special if you finish on a double spanner. The default is a special (kill! kill! kill!) and you may make your orders conditional on the health of your robot. You can also specify in your orders which option card gets lost should you die (default is random). Single spanners heal one point of damage if you are on one at the end of Seg 5.

- ? Note that if you want to power down, you may order this after you've looked at your cards (unlike the F2F game). Thus the other players will not know in advance which robots are going to be powered down. Powering down instantly heals all a robot's damage.
- ? NMR's will have randomly selected cards from their hand played by the GM.

End of turn 9 rankings

Player	RANK	Robot Name	Start	Deaths	Damage	Special	End
Tony Bayley	1 (1)	XQJ-37 Nuclear Powered Pan-Sexual Roto-Plooker	R17	0	6	5	G6E
Gordon Aikin	2= (2)	Evil Edna	R3	1	3	0	E5W
Alex Bardy	2= (3)	Worza-Gowen-Noah (WGN)	R9	1	3	1	I8S
John Walker	4 (4)	Wotabot	R5	1	4	0	I10N
Richard Smith	5 (5)	Napalm Death	R13	1	5	0	F6S
Steve Ham	6 (4)	Bland Lying Anodyne Irritating Robot (BLAIR)	R11	1	6	2	E6W
Jim Reader	7 (7)	Bottox	R7	2	3	1	O9E
Roy Arnold	8 (8)	Roybot	R15	4	3	0	O13N

Napalm Death has registers 1, 2, 5 locked.

XQJ-37 Nuclear Powered Pan-Sexual Roto-Plooker has registers 4, 5 locked

BLAIR has registers 4, 5 locked

The Action:

SEG. 1	Evil Edna	Wotabot	Bottox	WGN	BLAIR	Napalm Death	Roybot	XQJ-37
Start	E5N	M8E	N9E	P3S	E12W	D6E	Q15N	E6E
Card	RR320	3F790	RR120	RL 370	3F800	2F 640**	2F600	RR340
Priority	8	2	7	5	1	3	4	6
Finish	E5E	M8E	N9S	P3E	E9W	D7E	P15N	E6S
Damage	0 (1)	0 (4)	1 (3)	0 (3)	0 (4)	0 (6)	0 (2)	1 (1)

Finally Evil Edna flakes a few paint chips off of the XQJ-37 with a hit from its laser. Napalm Death crashes into the mirror wall and sends a mirror shot pinging uselessly around the weapons pit. XQJ-37 ponderously rotates towards Evil Edna. Bottox finally finds a way of getting off the special base without shooting itself with its unrevealed special weapon, but Wotabot bounces off the mirror wall and takes another opportunity to shoot Bottox through the mirror (M8 – M9 – N9). BLAIR appears to be rushing to the aid of the XQJ-37 (according to its Press anyway) which is of course going to be an immensely popular policy with the other bots!! Worza-Gowen-Noah and Roybot are under GM control and the random movements twitch them a potentially useful direction.

SEG. 2	Evil Edna	Wotabot	Bottox	WGN	BLAIR	Napalm Death	Roybot	XQJ-37
Start	E5E	M8E	N9S	P3E	E9W	D7E	P15N	E6S
Card	2F710	RL210	2F720	RL190	RL090	RR 420**	<u>RL39</u> <u>0</u>	RR160
Priority	2	5	1	6	8	3	4	7
Finish	E6E	M8N	P9S	P3N	E9S	D7S	P15W	E7W
Damage	0 (1) SP	0 (4)	0 (3)	0 (3)	0 (4)	0 (6)	0 (2)	2 (3)

XQJ-37 pushed E6S – E7S

Evil Edna manages to push the XQJ-37 and shoot it at the same time, just when you need the ramming gear who's got it – well the XQJ-37 has and it gets a measure of revenge by using its Fire control special to destroy Evil Ednas unused Rear Laser (but otherwise inflicts no damage)!! With yet more payback being enjoyed Napalm Death also drills the XQJ-37 for another point of damage! BLAIR looks as if it is aiming to get into the pit the easy way down the ramp and is otherwise getting a great view of the battle downstairs! Bottox is still managing to not shoot itself and even better Wotabot appears to have given up shooting Bottox as well. WGN and Roybot continue to rotate in interesting if random ways.

SEG. 3	Evil Edna	Wotabot	Bottox	WGN	BLAIR	Napalm Death	Roybot	XQJ-37
Start	E6E	M8N	P9S	P3N	E9S	D7S	P15W	E7W
Card	UT020	1F500	BU450	3F810	RR200	1F 610	1F620	1F540
Priority	8	5	6	1	7	3	2	4
Finish	E6W	L8N	O8S	L3N	E9W	E7S	P14W	F6W
Damage	0 (1) SP	0 (4)	0 (3)	0 (3)	0 (4)	0 (6)	0 (2)	1 (4)

WGN conveyed M3N –L3N; Bottox conveyed O9S – O8S
 XQJ-37 pushed E7S – F7S

The XQJ-37 thanks its lucky stars that it has the ramming gear rather than Evil Edna or Napalm Death as it is given yet another undignified shove and a shot - this time by Napalm Death. Napalm Death is somewhat lucky that the XQJ-37 destroyed Evil Ednas rear laser last segment but at least Ednas plan for maximum XQJ-37 damage is now becoming clear... even if it isn't working! BLAIR meanwhile continues to lurk about above the weapons pit, appears to be getting up the nerve to get down and dirty with the others... or perhaps the XQJ-37 really is BLAIRs master and it is waiting for the moment it can cause maximum chaos? Wotabot trundles slowly towards the weapons pit and Worza-Gowen-Noah seems to be heading North as well.

SEG. 4	Evil Edna	Wotabot	Bottox	WGN	BLAIR	Napalm Death	Roybot	XQJ-37
Start	E6W	L8N	O8S	L3N	E9W	E7S	P14W	F6W
Card	2F680	1F530	RL290	2F700	3F820**	1F 660	RR360	RR280**
Priority	3	5	7	2	1	4	6	8
Finish	E4W	K8N	O7E	I6E	E7W	F6S	P14N	G6N
Damage	2 (3)	0 (4)	0 (3)	0 (3)	2 (6)	0 (6) SP	0 (2)	1 (5)

BLAIR pushes Napalm Death E7S – E6S and Evil Edna E6W – E5W
 Napalm Death pushes XQJ-37 F6W – G6W
 WGN conveyed J3N – J4N TELEPORTED J4N – J6N then conveyed J6N – I6E;
 Bottox conveyed O8E – O7E;

A fantastic battle is now developing in the pit as BLAIR takes the jump at high speed taking the 2 pts damage for the drop and then manages to push both Napalm Death and Evil Edna into the bargain, to add insult to injury BLAIR then pulls out his lovingly polished special weapon and shoots Evil Edna with it... that double barrelled laser has gotta hurt – and it does dishing out 2 points of damage!! BLAIRS shunt also has the effect of placing Napalm Death in pushing position on the XQJ-37 again. So a deal more hurt is handed to the XQJ-37 from Napalm Death and the XQJ-37 in reply uses its Fire control to lock yet another of Napalm Deaths registers, but again no laser damage inflicted!! Worza-Gowen-Noah screams across the conveyors and manages to negotiate the teleporter and is now quite close to the Weapons pit... Wotabot crawls North towards where the bangs, flashes and screams are coming out of the pit. Bottox is almost clear of the self-shooting mirror trap and Crushers.

SEG. 5	Evil Edna	Wotabot	Bottox	WGN	BLAIR	Napalm Death	Roybot	XQJ-37
Start	E4W	K8N	O7E	I6E	E7W	F6S	P14N	G6N
Card	BU480	2F770	3F830	RR 240	1F650 **	1F 490**	1F630	RR220**
Priority	6	2	1	7	3	5	4	8
Finish	E5W	I10N	O9E	I8S	E6W	F6S	O13N	G6E
Damage	2 (5)	0 (4)	0 (3)	0 (3)	0 (6)	0 (6)	1 (3)	1 (6)

Napalm Death pushes XQJ-37 G6N – G6N (XQJ-37 against a wall)
 Bottox conveyed O10E – O9E; Roybot conveyed O14N – O13N

Ouch! Ouch!! Ouch!!! BLAIR uses the double-barrelled laser on poor old Evil Edna again!! Napalm Death continues to enjoy its revenge on the XQJ-37 by pushing it and shooting it again... The XQJ-37 vaguely tries to clear its punch drunk head and slips off a mirror shot (G6 – G8 – D8 – D4) which just misses BLAIR and Evil Edna. Wotabot climbs onto the weapons pit conveyor just ahead of Worza-Gowen-Noah. Wotabot pings off a rather hopeful mirror shot (I10 – A1 – Q1 – Q18 – B18 –B1) and WGN just misses Bottox with another shot.

Bottox is running against the conveyors and hopping between the crushers and then finds that Roybot has conveniently moved into his crosshairs and shoots him for the impudence, the shot reveals that Bottox has a main laser mod that has converted his weapon into a high power laser allowing him to shoot through walls or other robots!! At the end of this turn the chaotic melee in the pit results in Evil Edna taking a 2 point heal, Napalm Death heals 1 point, but BLAIR grabs up another SPECIAL WEAPON!!

NEXT TURN: The war in the Pit heated up with the arrival of an ascendant BLAIR and looks to be getting even hotter next turn. Napalm Death is trapped between the two nastiest robots on the board and even though he actually avoided getting damaged this turn the locked registers the XQJ-37 is inflicting are going to hurt... and the chances of survival are slim. Evil Edna declined an extra special in order to get healed, but with that double barrelled laser still pointing at its back that may have been a bad move. The XQJ-37 is severely battered, even having locked registers itself, and if BLAIR decided to go hunting for it next turn it could be VERY bad news indeed for the XQJ-37 – only 4 points away from destruction and a change which would definitely change the last three turns of the game!!!

Even if XQJ-37 dies and gets popped back into the Southern end of the board it still has Bottox to worry about down there. Worza-Gowen-Noah and Wotabot are closing on the Pit and also on each other and WGN has a special already and both of these bots have lots of interest in seeing all the bots in the pit get more damage - or better yet killed...

My money is on more Death and destruction down in the Pit next turn. BLAIR, Worza-Gowen-Noah, Evil Edna, or Wotabot could suddenly be looking like a winner here if the bots can kill off the XQJ-37!!

Press: BLAIR to XQJ-37:

"It's quite clear that Evil Edna and Napalm Death are carrying weapons of mass destruction. We must destroy... err disarm them. I will mop up behind you, which is where I need to be if I'm to seriously lick arse. Go get 'em George...I mean XQ. Apologies in advance for any friendly fire...don't worry if you hit me."

Press: Wotabot General broadcast:

"Lets have one more pot shot at Bottox!!"

Press: XQJ-37 General broadcast:

"Buggrit...what f***ing useless cards... 5 RR I ask you !!!...2RR 2RL & 1UT, what a difference that would have made !!!! Still never mind eh ??? I'll just whirr about and spray laser everywhere"

Press: Napalm Death to All:

Bzzt! Attention all robots! Attention all robots! Bzzt! Shoot the Roto-Plooker! There is nothing to fe - arrrrgh! Bzzzt! Bzzzt! Error! Error! (Napalm Death has performed an illegal operation and may be shut down. Send error report to Microsoft? Yes | No | Bugger Off)

? **DEADLINE FOR TURN 10 IS THE SAME AS THIS EDITION OF "PIG"**

HANDS: You should get a printed slip of your hands in the envelope with your copy of PIG, if you don't then email me and I will send them out to you.

VIRTUAL ROBOTS: None

NOTE: you can drive over the edge of a sunken area and drop in at the cost of taking 2 points of damage you don't need to use the ramps if you don't want to.

REMINDER: If you die with specials on board you lose

- a life
- are reincarnated in your starting stall with 2 points of damage
- a special (you choose which if you have more than 1)

REMINDER: You should include conditional instructions for Special firing... but the default is USE SPECIAL!!

Variable Pig Preposterous Poetry (III)

"Betjeman"

Round Seven

GM for this game is: John Wilman, 7 Eden Street Dundee, DD4 6HL, Scotland (UK)

email address: jqwilman@lineone.net

Your last excerpt was

"In the nation that is not
Nothing stands that stood before;
There revenges are forgot,
And the hater hates no more"

and the correct continuation was:

- D. Lovers lying two and two
Ask not whom they sleep beside
And the bridegroom all night through,
Never turns him to the bride

Which is from a poem by A. E. Housman in his "Shropshire Lad" collection.

The final extract, since we are apparently down to 4 players, was:

He lifteth up his innocent voice
He lifteth up, he singeth
And to each human countenance
A smile of grace he bringeth

And the continuations are:

- A. His Kyrie maketh prelates weep,
His Gloria pain removeth
And choristers from far and wide
Him sullenly reproveth
- B. He sings so sweetly with such elan
As if he were divine
But born not he from celestial seed
He, beloved son of mine.

Variable Pig – Neijiang

- C. He lifteth up his innocent paw
 Upon her breast he clingeth
 And everybody cries, Behold
 The cat, the cat that singeth.
- D. A single note so pure and clear
 That no evil can withstand,
 Let every heart that welcomes it
 Rejoice throughout this land.
- E. And if no-one doth reply
 Their computers he pingeth

<u>Player</u>	<u>Continuation</u>	<u>Voted for</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Bonus</u>	<u>Position</u>
David Cowie	C	B	5		3rd
Chris Haighton	F	D	15	2	1st
Jim Reader	B	-	2		6th=
Richard Smith	A	D	13	4	2nd
Alison Tomkinson	E	-	3		4th =
Adrian Walding	G	A	3		4th =
Brendan Whyte	-	-	2		6th =

So, all I require from you now is votes and we can wrap this one up - thanks for playing.

* * * * *

Another Web URL spacefiller...

If you don't want a larger penis, or to buy illicit Viagra, or to give all your money to a bloke in Nigeria, or to receive the latest virus, but you do want a mailto URL on your website, the following links give you a couple of ways to beat the spambots.

<http://www.jracademy.com/~jtucek/email/index.html>

http://www.colmgallagher.com/encode_all.html



#5

A subzine by Richard Smith – richard@sholing.force9.co.uk

The zine may or may not be out before 17th May – a day which I'm greatly looking forward to as I'm going (by limousine!) to the FA Cup final to see my beloved Southampton kick The Arse's arse. After years of hanging on for grim death at the bottom of the league, The Saints are at last having something to shout about. A shiny new stadium packed every week, healthy finances, a steadily improving team, a top 10 finish in the league and the small matter of an FA Cup final! Next year we've got Europe to look forward to, and of course two derbies against P*****h. It just gets better and better.

I'm not going to mention toys this time, but I do have some exciting goldfish news. Clive got terrible constipation – she swelled up so much she had trouble swimming and kept floating up to the surface. Thankfully a bit of research on the 'net yielded the answer – peas! A small dish of peas microwaved and chopped up did the trick – soon after feeding it to them, there were poopilops all over the tank and the new slimline Clive was swimming around happily.

I mentioned last time that I was mixing the latest whizz-bang computer games with some older stuff. Well, I've recently been playing some really old games – thanks to this:

<http://dmweb.free.fr/CSBForWindowsLinux.htm>

Windows-friendly ports of the original Atari ST versions of the classic Dungeon Master and Chaos Strikes Back (never released on PC). They work just fine on Windows XP with full sound effects. For those not familiar with DM and CSB, DM was the first "proper" realtime interactive dungeon game released in the late 80s on the Atari ST and Amiga (later ported to the PC and SNES). It was the inspiration behind Eye of the Beholder which was very similar except it had AD&D-style rules (DM's rune-based spellcasting system is more fun IMHO).

The FA Cup final has now been and gone. It was a fantastic atmosphere and the Saints fans were brilliant - it was clear before the kick off which set of fans were really up for it but we just couldn't suck the ball into the net. Arsenal just about deserved to win but we came so close to equalising towards the end which would have had us all in raptures. Instead we were left deflated but proud of our team who received cheers and applause from every single Saints fan in the stadium, all of whom stayed to pay tribute to our brave boys.

The day was marred somewhat by transport problems. The limo was very comfortable and we had plenty of booze on board – just as well as despite leaving at 8.30 we didn't get to the stadium until 2pm – too late for the pub. A similar story on the way back prevented us going for a commiseratory beer and curry – not back until after 12. Had I known I would be reasonably sober I would have taken my digital camera – instead I roughed it with a disposable. I'll get it developed on CD and if any of the pictures are any good they'll go on my web site.

Smiffy ✍️



Talking Blancmanges

Adrian Walding: Sorry your toy buying has been curtailed for a little while. I have finally got my act together to buy a DVD player with 5.1 surround sound and a TV to play it on. Excellent quality so it is now time to visit www.splashdvd.com and www6.cd-wow.com (yes that is **www6**) for cheap deals. I actually brought both toys on the internet and am very satisfied with the savings especially as the DVD is multi-region. I suppose that I should have waited for an equivalent recordable player to be available but you can wait forever for the 'next big thing'.

AV Amp and speakers next? People are still a bit scared of buying recordable DVDs because of the format wars – no one wants to be left with a “Betamax”. Jim took the plunge recently so fingers crossed, eh Jim?

Howard Bishop supplied me with a list of his favourite albums of 2002, as promised....

The Coral - The Coral - I know they're Scousers, but they don't try to be 9th rate punkers like everyone else. All electric sea shanties should sound this way.

Half Man Half Biscuit - Cammell Laird Social Club - Nobody does what they do better. In fact nobody does what they do. What do they do?

The Delgados - Hate - I know they're Scottish, but they didn't tryetc. Fantastic songs, a little bit washed away by the strings, but still great.

The Streets - Original Pirate Material - Brit-hop? No bitches. No guns. This is about lagers and herbs, PS2 and chip butties. At soil level, but uplifting too.

Mari Boine - Eight Seasons - Sadness, bitterness, longing. Not exactly jolly then. But a breathtaking voice that makes you want to, well, smile.

Ballboy - A Guide For Daylight Hours - More Scots. This is what the Wedding Present would have sounded like at 3 rather than 11. Great stuff.

Godspeed You Black Emperor - Yanqui UXO - Darkness surrounds you, the rumble of a B-52 is the only sound, until the flash and the explosion. Music to die to.

Coldplay - Rush Of Blood To The Head - You all know it back to front already. Cleverer tunes, but a bit too smooooooth.

Nick Harper - Double Life - A double CD of the son of Roy playing live and unaccompanied. How can someone this good be so damn humble!!

Flaming Lips - Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots - It is of course utterly brilliant, but Styx got there first and had funnier haircuts.

Boo Hewerdine - Anon - When he's finished writing great songs for everybody else, he shows that he does keep some of the best songs for himself

Manu Chao - Radio Bemba Sound System - Captures the manic Manu live vibe, but doesn't do some of the stuff justice.

Sigur Ros - ○ - I like it, but I'm not going back to it, as often as I should. Perhaps it's because the sun is shining.

Lemon Jelly - Lost Horizons - Marvellous soundscapes, with wit and style.

Electric Soft Parade - Holes In The Wall - It's so hard to believe that this was made by 2 kids. They could be stars.

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club - BRMC - While The Vines have tantrums, BRMC just play.

Cooper Temple Clause - See This Through And Leave - Wooshy and whammy in equal parts. Great ideas, but a bit like an Ikea bookcase assembled by a blind man.

Minuteman - Resigned To Life - Top effort. Feels a bit undercooked towards the end, but some brill tunes.

Queens Of The Stone Age - Songs For The Deaf - Set against a backdrop of low budget radio stations, this rumbles along nicely.

Harper Lee - Everything's Going To Be OK - And that's the problem. Unexceptional

Red Hot Chili Peppers - By The Way - Not nearly funky enough, and girls like it.

Lambchop - Is A Woman - After listening to this I'm not sure I care. Occasionally it shines beautifully, but you need to shine a bloody enormous torch at it first.

The Vines - Highly Evolved - Nope. Don't get it. Next.

There are of course others, which are either too shit, embarrassing, or forgettable. Overall, not a vintage year, but one or two gems in there.

(Howard later explained the Styx / Flaming Lips connection – it was an album called “Kilroy Was Here” which I expect Jim has got. No room on the page for any more!)

Allan Stagg: Thanks for Universe. I was a little bit alarmed by your final announcement that The Universe has ended, particularly as it was a starry night when I read this. Typical, isn't it - no-one remembered to turn the lights out!

Actually He did but you won't see them go off for thousands of years.

Classic Quotes #5

You've heard Al Gore say he invented the internet. Well, if he was so smart, why do all the addresses begin with "W"?

George W Bush, October 2000

From Steve Ham:

"Americans are achievers. They are obsessed with records of achievement in sports and they keep business achievement charts on their office walls and sports awards displayed in their homes."

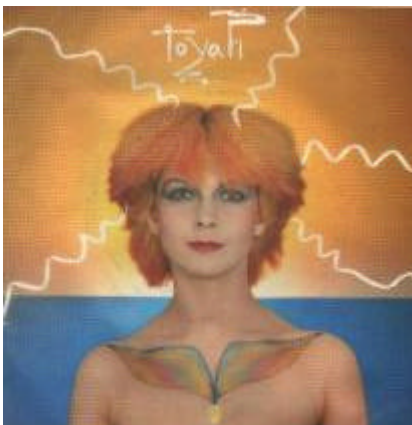
United States Information Agency booklet for foreign students, 1985.

"I'm determined to give the blacks a fair crack of the whip."

Ian Smith, Prime Minister of Rhodesia in 1972.

It'th a Myhtewy!

RULES



This is a new mystery game that anyone can join in at any time. Those of you who get Hopscotch will have seen "Seven Steps to Heaven" and "That's It" unfold before your eyes. In a mystery game you are given instructions regarding the orders you have to submit, but you have to gradually deduce the mechanics of the game, and thus how to win, by studying the game reports.

So without further ado, here'th the ruleth for It'th a Myhtewy....

Toyah Wilcox is putting on a one-day music festival, and you have been tasked with organising the acts. You have to choose three support acts (groups or solo artists) and say how long their sets should last in minutes. You also have to select the headline act, but not the length of its set.

i.e.

Support Act 1: <name>, <length of set in minutes>

Support Act 2: <name>, <length of set in minutes>

Support Act 3: <name>, <length of set in minutes>

Headline Act: <name>

Toyah will look at your suggestions. Each act will be either immediately rejected, considered (but then rejected), strongly considered (but still rejected) or accepted. She will also tell you if the set is too long or too short (or just right, of course!). All entries will be printed in the zine. May the betht man win!

TURN 2 RESULTS

No acts successfully booked yet, but some progress made. The ageing members of Black Sabbath were relieved not to be selected when they discovered they'd have to play for more than three hours (incontinence pants just don't look cool under leather trousers).

Support Act 1:

Player	Name of Act	Toyah's Response	Duration of Set	Toyah's Response
Arthur Owen	Kate Bush	rejected	16 minutes	Too short
Steve Ham	Dire Straits	rejected	135 minutes	Too short
Brendan Whyte	Culture Club	rejected	60 minutes	Too short
John Walker	Blue	strongly considered	90 minutes	Too short
Howard Bishop	Led Zeppelin	rejected	90 minutes	Too short
Bob Pitman	Ozzy Osbourne	rejected	55 minutes	Too short

Support Act 2:

Player	Name of Act	Toyah's Response	Duration of Set	Toyah's Response
Arthur Owen	Gareth Gates	rejected	20 Minutes	Too short
Steve Ham	Roy Wood and Wizard	rejected	95 minutes	Too short
Brendan Whyte	Screaming Meemees	rejected	90 minutes	Too short
John Walker	Black Lace	considered	120 minutes	Too short
Howard Bishop	Pavement	rejected	60 minutes	Too short
Bob Pitman	Julio Inglesias	rejected	120 minutes	Too short

Support Act 3:

Player	Name of Act	Toyah's Response	Duration of Set	Toyah's Response
Arthur Owen	Atomic Kitten	rejected	23 minutes	Too short
Steve Ham	ABC	rejected	85 minutes	Too short
Brendan Whyte	The Diehards	rejected	75 minutes	Too short
John Walker	Black Sabbath	considered	180 minutes	A bit too short
Howard Bishop	The Fall	rejected	30 minutes	Too short
Bob Pitman	Black Rebel Motorcycle Club	considered	90 minutes	Too short

Headline Act:

Player	Name of Act	Toyah's Response	Duration of Set	Toyah's Response
Arthur Owen	Status Quo	rejected	N/A	-
Steve Ham	Simon and Garfunkel	rejected	N/A	-
Brendan Whyte	The Exponents	rejected	N/A	-
John Walker	Ladysmith Black Mambazo	considered	N/A	-
Howard Bishop	The Blue Aeroplanes	strongly considered	N/A	-
Bob Pitman	The Beatles	rejected	N/A	-

Bluff! The One on One Algorithm Challenge

John Walker – more wanted



Sound Charades

This is just for fun. If you think of an amusing charade, feel free to send it in.

Last time's answers:

FILM 1 WORD

Look! There's an opposite divided by a hypotenuse! Oooh! There's another one!

Signs (sines)

FILM 4 WORDS

Dave dies and floats up toward Heaven. At the entrance he meets St. Peter, but before the saint can say anything, Dave interjects: "Where's the bog? I'm dying for a dump!"

St. Peter replies: "There are no toilets in Heaven – such earthly needs are left behind when you pass on."

Dave replies: "How come I'm touching cloth then?"

St. Peter explains: "You died of a heart attack as you were about to visit the lavatory. In such rare cases it is necessary to purge the bowels by means of a watery tube. Please bend over."

Enemy (enema) at the Gates

TV 3 WORDS

"Take me, take me, big boy!!"

"Ooops, sorry, guess I got a bit over-excited"

"Never mind, try again in a few minutes"

"OK"

(later)

"Yes! Yes! Yes! YEEEEEESSSSSS!"

"UUURRRRHGHHH!"

The Second Coming

And now the new ones... ..

TV 3 WORDS

"Good evening, and welcome to the programme. Today our reporters will be visiting Italy and not eating any nice pasta dishes. In the studio we'll be looking longingly at some spicy Thai food, and we'll also have a round up of different ways to get maximum enjoyment from a glass of water."

FILM 2 WORDS

"What's that?"

"It's a French Tickler, darling – try it on!"

"What? Use a foreign prophylactic? Never!"

FILM 2 WORDS:

"Dr. Frankenstein! Dr. Frankenstein!"

"What is it Igor?"

"It's the creature – I've just noticed something's missing"

"What?"

"He hasn't got any Niagras Sir"

"Then cut one of yours off and sew it on to him, you can both get by with one"

"Right away Sir"

The “best” column drops the two worst scores, as the game wears on it will be a more accurate indicator of who’s winning though having a decent score in reserve guards against a bad round or an NMR.

High scoring again this time, with few people failing to get the difficult “twinning” question and several people losing a point for getting the Settlers one the wrong way round. Howard posts the first maximum which nudges him ahead of John, who only managed a “puny” 19.

This time the (in)famous Macc Lads song title yields 4 questions on beer, 2 on sex, 2 on chips and 2 on gravy. I considered asking where the clitoris is but I don’t think impossible questions are fair.

Questions for Turn 5 on : “Beer and Sex and Chips and Gravy!”

- 1) Which beer sports the motto “Vakmanschap is Meesterchap”?
- 2) Which brewery makes a beer called “Old Fart”?
- 3) Brewed in Kulmbach, it was once considered to be the strongest beer in the world. Name it.
- 4) Which recently launched American beer is aimed at adherents of the Atkins diet?
- 5) Which executive was famous in the 80s for doing it five times a night?
- 6) What is the reasoning behind the sexual euphemism “Changing at Baker Street”?
- 7) What name connects Intel and the Labour Party?
- 8) Complete the name of the comic: “_____ and Chips”
- 9) What do the makers of Bisto gravy claim that the name “Bisto” stands for? (thanks to Bob for this one)
- 10) Who played the original mum in the Oxo family adverts?

Phrase for next turn is the cheery topic **“Death and Destruction”**

Scrabble Challenge – Round 5 of 10

Scoreboard

Player	Word(s)	Score	VPs	Total VPs	Total WPs
Mike Townsend	VIRGIN	33	2	8	213
Allan Stagg	VIRING	30	1	7	210
John Walker	VIRGIN	33	2	7	210
Jon Carter	VIRGIN	33	2	5	130
Philip Honeybone	VIRING	30	1	4	196
Howard Bishop	VIRGIN	33	2	3	122
Roy Arnold	-	0	0	2	80
Brendan Whyte	RIVING	30	1	2	74

So VIRGIN is the winning word. How did I miss that one? I had RIVING (tearing apart), whilst Allan and Philip both said they used VIRING (transferring budget allocations) as part of their work. Sounds exciting. Mike nudges ahead of the pack with Allan and John just behind in joint second.

This time a reasonable selection of mostly low-scoring letters. Countdown favourite “wanker” is there but it only scores 13. The target score was looking like it was going to be a fairly modest 28 but then I spotted a 61 near the end of my 10 minutes. Sorry lads!

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	TRIPLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			TRIPLE WORD SCORE
2		DOUBLE WORD SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE	
3			DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE		
4	DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE
5					DOUBLE WORD SCORE						DOUBLE WORD SCORE				
6		TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				K ₅				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE	
7			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE	A ₁			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		
8	TRIPLE WORD SCORE			V ₄	O ₁	U ₁	C ₃	H ₀	E ₁	R ₁		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			TRIPLE WORD SCORE
9			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE					DOUBLE LETTER SCORE	DOUBLE LETTER SCORE	A ₁	H ₄		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		
10		TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				T ₁	A ₁			TRIPLE LETTER SCORE	
11					DOUBLE WORD SCORE						L ₁				
12	DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE			T ₁	DOUBLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE
13			DOUBLE WORD SCORE				DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		DOUBLE LETTER SCORE		I ₁		DOUBLE WORD SCORE		
14		DOUBLE WORD SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE				TRIPLE LETTER SCORE	N ₁			DOUBLE WORD SCORE	
15	TRIPLE WORD SCORE			DOUBLE LETTER SCORE				V ₄	I ₁	R ₁	G ₂	I ₁	N ₁		TRIPLE WORD SCORE

Rules: The game will be played over 10 turns. Anyone can join in at any time. The best word supplied stays on the board (GM chooses if equal). Scoring works as follows: Each player who equals or betters the "target score" gets a Victory Point. A VP is also awarded to the supplier(s) of the best score, even if it is less than the target score (if it is greater or equal, 2 VPs are scored in total). The points values of supplied words are recorded and Word Points totals are used as a tie-breaker in the event of equal VPs. Words must be in Official Scrabble Words 4, UK edition. Note that the UK edition does include US spellings - the only difference between the UK and the US version is that the UK one has naughty words in it. You may supply a reserve answer which is used if your first choice is not in the book.

The following 2-letter words are allowed:

AA,AD,AE,AH,AI,AM,AN,AR,AS,AT,AW,AX,AY,BA,BE,BI,BO,BY,CH,DA,DI,DO,EA,EE,EF,EH,EL,EM,EN,ER,ES,EX,FA,FY,GI,GO,GU,HA,HE,HI,HO,ID,IF,IN,IO,IS,IT,JO,KA,KO,KY,LA,LI,LO,MA,ME,MI,MO,MU,MY,NA,NE,NO,NU,NY,OB,OD,OE,OF,OH,OI,OM,ON,OO,OP,OR,OS,OU,OW,OX,OY,PA,PH,PI,PO,QI,RE,SH,SI,SO,ST,TA,TE,TI,TO,UG,UM,UN,UP,UR,US,UT,WE,WO,XI,XU,YE,YO,YU,ZO.

Tiles are drawn totally at random, and used tiles are not replaced. The GM, a fairly good scrabble player, will spend precisely 10 minutes trying to come up with his best word(s) in order to set the target score.

Rack for turn 5: R₁ T₁ N₁ W₄ E₁ I₁ A₁ Target score: 61

World Record (9.94)

John Walker, Steve Ham, Arthur Owen More wanted. The *correct* rules will be reprinted at Gamestart.

Bluff!



Turn Seven

	Turn 1		Turn 2		Turn 3		Turn 4		Turn 5	
Five Dice	Gord	11 2s	Jim	6 *s [*]	John	7 *s [*]	Bob	BLUFF!	Steve	
Four Dice	Jim	7 4s	John	8 1s	Bob	9 1s [1 1]	Steve	9 4s	Gord	5 *s [**]
Three Dice	John	6 3s	Bob	6 5s	Steve	7 3s [3]	Gord	BLUFF!	Jim	
Two Dice	Bob	2 *s	Steve	4 1s	Gord	5 1s [1]	Jim	6 1s	John	BLUFF!
One Dice	Steve	2 5s	Gord	3 5s	Jim	2 *s	John	BLUFF!	Bob	

	Turn 6		Turn 7		Turn 8		Turn 9		Turn 10	
Four Dice	Jim	10 4s [4 4 4]	John	BLUFF!	Bob		Steve		Gord	

Exposed dice are shown in square brackets.

Four Dice game (20) – John challenges Jim’s ten fours.

Gordon has 2,5,*,* (= 2 4s)

Jim has *,4,4,4 (= 4 4s)

John has 1,2,5,* (= 1 4)

Bob has 1,1,5,* (= 1 4)

Steve has 1,4,4,5 (= 2 4s)

Total is 10 – it’s exact! Thanks to a lucky reroll from Jim (1 in 3 of getting a 4 or star). This means everyone bar Jim loses a dice which leaves the final score as:

Virtual Dice: Gordon 4; Bob 4; Jim 4; Steve 2; John 1.

So it’s a three-way tie between Gordon, Jim and Bob. I’d be interested to hear anyone’s comments about this game, and in particular any alternative ideas about how Bluff! could be played by post.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Universe has ended!

VARIABLE PIG (NEIJANG)

Polar Pig 87

JIM (CJ) READER,
WETHOUDER GERSSENLAAN 27,
3454BA DE MEERN,
THE NETHERLANDS
(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx work)
(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx fax)
cj.reader@wanadoo.nl

Variable Title 105

STEVE GUEST,
16 Burgan Close,
Cowley,
OXFORD,
OX4 3QR
(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx home)

s.guest@rl.ac.uk

The Universe... 5

RICHARD SMITH,
106, BRACKLESHAM CLOSE
SHOLING,
SOUTHAMPTON,
SO19 8RX
(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx home)
richard@sholing.force9.co.uk

Killzone! 9

BOB PITMAN
19 Honeysuckle Close
Locks Heath,
SOUTHAMPTON,
SO31 6WF
(xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
bob@p1tman.demon.co.uk

Jim Reader is the Editor. **Richard Smith** does the printing (by hand) and distribution and maintains the **Variable Pig Website** at: <http://fp.sholing.f9.co.uk/> and the **Variable Pig Mailing List** - send a blank email to piglist-subscribe@sholing.force9.co.uk to join.

Orders to subzine GM's are best sent direct, although Jim will forward sealed orders. When posting to Jim please write "Air Mail - Par Avion" on the envelope and allow 4 days. Variable Pig is still **free**, but relies on **donations of British stamps** to offset production costs. The current (printed) circulation is 58.

PIG WAITING LISTS

ELFENGOLD – Philip Honeybone, Blaise Hudson, Kev Lee and Adrian Walding – 1 more wanted (GM = Jim Reader)

SNOWBALL FIGHTING – Roy Arnold, Adrian Walding, Steve Ham, Bob Gingell, Arthur Owen. 1+ more wanted

BREAKING AWAY – Steve Ham, Paul Sands, Blaise Hudson, Nic Chilton, Allan Stagg and Arthur Owen. *Gamestart inside*. (GM = Jim Reader)

FAIR MEANS OR FOUL – Arthur Owen, Adrian Walding, Bob Gingell. 2 more wanted. (GM = Jim Reader)

HARE AND TORTOISE – Kev Lee, Adrian Walding, Richard Smith and Arthur Owen. 1 - 2 more wanted. (GM = Jim Reader)

6 NIMMT! – Kev Lee, Blaise Hudson, Jacqueline Reader, Nic Chilton, Paul Sands, Allan Stagg, Bob Gingell and Arthur Owen. More wanted. (GM = Jim Reader) *Gamestart next issue*

MANEATER – Bob Pitman, Arthur Owen, Steve Ham, Bob Gingell. 1 more wanted (GM = Jim Reader)

CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL – 4 wanted (GM = Jim Reader)

BUS BOSS – New map of Texel. One game only – 4 wanted (GM = Jim Reader)

BLUFF ALGORITHM CHALLENGE – John Walker. 3+ wanted (The Universe)

WORLD RECORD – John Walker, Steve Ham, Arthur Owen. 4 to 8 wanted (The Universe)

REPLACEMENTS WANTED

RAILWAY RIVALS, FRANCHISE VARIANT (VT) – One wanted

THE DEADLINE FOR VARIABLE PIG (Lithuanian Native) is

FRIDAY 20th JUNE 2003