

That would be enough

This has been issue 233 of *To Win Just Once*, published 24th April 2023. It incorporates *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*, a game of *En Garde!*. Issues are published ten times a year, roughly every five weeks. © Paul Evans 2023

Deadlines

Orders for *Railway Rivals* to Mike by Friday 5th May 2023.

Orders for *LPBS* and By Popular Demand plus any other contributions to Pevans by Friday 5th May 2023.

(Next deadlines: 9th June, 14th July. Probably.)

Waiting lists

En Garde! new players are always welcome in *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*. You will need the rules to *En Garde!* in order to play: www.engarde.co.uk

Railway Rivals – Chris Rudram and Rob Pinkerton are in the queue for the next game. (Working map and rules provided).

Star Trader – Mike Dyer, Pevans and Przemek Orwat are up for a game. Who else? (Rules provided)

Credits

To Win Just Once issue 233 was written and edited by Pevans. The *LPBS* masthead (page 14) is by Lee Brimmicombe-Wood, as are the drawings on pages 17,18, 19 and 20. The illustrations on pages 16 and 20 are by Nik Luker. Game and book artwork is courtesy of the publisher. Pevans took the photos and played with Photoshop.

Printed and published by Margam Evans Limited
(A company registered in England and Wales, number 05152842,
Registered office: 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF)
Tel: 020 7183 6256, E-mail: TWJO@pevans.co.uk,
Web: www.pevans.co.uk/TWJO

To Win Just Once

(incorporating *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*)



Viewing the cherry blossom...

Yes, it's pretty
much games only
in this issue

Issue 233: April 2023

(LPBS 369: November 1674)

£1.90 (+ postage)

and online at www.pevans.co.uk/TWJO

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ID	Name	SL SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
ZvT	Zeold von Tu	12+43	OK	Captain RFG/BdGen's Aide (BeV)	5	Belle	Hunt 3	Tim	Macaire
FS	Sir Felipe Savant	11	F Poor	Captain RFG	5		BG	4	Brick Amundsen
CdN	Claude de Nord	11	F Comfy	Colonel KM	3		Hunt 4	Andrew	Larder
HWB	Hector William Boone	10	17 Comfy	Subaltern RFG	5		Hunt 5	Paul	Wilson
BS	Sir Balzac Slapdash	10	F Comfy	B.Bdr-General PLLD	13		Hunt 5	Matthew	Wale
AdE	Sir Antoine d'Eques	10	F Poor	Major 13F	7			2	Graeme Morris
LSD	Louis Severin Descartes	10	F Withy	Colonel GDMD/FMshl's Aide	2		Hunt 1	Chris	Schotmann
MP	Maurice Pauvre	10+38	Comfy	Colonel PM	3		Hunt 4	James	Waters
RdH	Roger d'Horne	9	26 Comfy	Lt.Colonel QOC	1	Henrietta	HCds 4	Steven	Malecek
LV	Lascar Vivrebras	9	19 Comfy	Captain RFG	4		BG	4	Olaf Schmidt
AC	Alexandre Capone	9+45	OK	Lt.Colonel ALC/ALC Regt. Adjnt.	3	Ella	BG	5	Ray Vahey
TdLL	Thomas de la Lune	9+42	OK	B.Bdr-General 4A	3	Violet	BG	5	Peter Card
HT	Henri Tard	8	RIP						Nigel Monaghan
TS	Tristand Sault	7	F OK	Lt.Colonel GDMD/Drgn Bde Maj.	4		F&P	2	Mark Nightingale
AlCh	Alvin Charles	7	F OK	Major GDMD	5		F&P	2	Graeme Wilson
VdIP	Vinne d'Pooh	7+36	Comfy	Major RM/1 F Brigade Maj.	4		RP	2	Terry Crook
JCE	Jean-Claude Etienne	6+22	Comfy	Major RM	7	Viv	F&P	4	Tim Rattray
X2		5	0 Poor		5			3	Gerry Sutcliffe
FXF	François-Xavier Flamand	5	F OK	Major PLLD	2			3	Robert Strudwick
X1		4-	2 OK		2			4	Nik Luker
FLV	Fouche La Vache	4	F Poor	Subaltern GDMD	3		RP	2	Pauli Kidd
FCS	Francois Ciseaux-Soiseau	3	RIP						Jacob Andersson
X4		2	0 Poor		2			4	Jayson Elliot

An F under SPs means that the character was at the Front, RIP that he died. Ret that he retired.
 + against SL means it went up this month, - means it went down.
 Cash: Poor = <500, OK = 500-1500, Comfy = 1500-5000, Withy = 5000-10000, Rich = 10000-25000, Flthy = 25000+
 Last seen is the lady the character was last seen with in public.
 EC is Endurance Class: 1 = <60, 2 = 60-90, 3 = 91-120, 4 = 121-159, 5 = 160-200, 6 = 201+

The Greasy Pole

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
LdH	Count Leonard de Hofstadt	29+	89	Withy	General/Min w/o Port	7	Frances	Flr	5	Neil Packer
JdG	Count Jacques de Gain	24	71	Fithy	Fld Marshal	24			6	Ben Brown
BRJS	Count Beau Reese Jean Seine	24	65	Fithy	B.Bdr-General RFG/State Min.	12		Flr	4	Bill Hay
PC	Count Pierre Cardigan	24	34	Withy	Major ALC	10	Edna	Flr	5	Matt Shepherd
JJ	Count Jean Jeanie	23	68	Fithy	General	32	Jacky	Flr	3	Andrew Kendall
BeV	Earl Ben e'Volence	23+	78	Withy	Colonel CPC/Min w/o Port	9	Lotte	Flr	3	Ash Casey
BdLS	Count Bernard de Lur-Saluces	22	53	Fithy	Lt-General	18		Flr	3	Rob Pinkerton
TC	Viscount Terence Cuckpowder	21	28	Comfy	Bdr-General/HGds Brigadier	6	Morgane	Flr	6	Mike Dommett
CdP	Marquis Camille de Pognac	21+	75	Poor	Lt.Colonel RFG/Justice Min.	4	Angelina	Flr	4	James McReynolds
Anon	Baron Les Anonyme	20	50	OK	Bdr-General/Min w/o Port	3	Carole	Flr	4	Bruno Giordan
GdB	Viscount Greg de Bécqueur	20	F	Rich	Bdr-General/Gds Brigadier	11		Flr	5	Anthony Gilbert
HDS	Marquis Henri DuShite	18+	56	Rich	B.Bdr-General RM	13	Justine	Both	4	Dave Marsden
XM	Baron Xavier Money	17	47	Withy	Bdr-General/Min w/o Port	7	Kathy	Flr	3	Pam Udowiczzenko
LS	Lou Scannon	17	43	Rich	Captain RFG/C.Prnce Aide	4	Bess	Both	2	John Cooke
RS	Baron Rick Shaw	16	46	Withy	B.Lt-General/Adjutant Gen	2	Maggie	Both	6	Charles Burrows
JIT	Marquis Justin Thyme	16+	51	Withy	B.Bdr-General QOC	11	Guinevere	Both	2	Gerald Udowiczzenko
ZUT	Baron Xavier Ulric Turenne	15	46	Withy	Lt-General/Min w/o Port	4	Laura	Both	1	Bob Blanchett
GM	Sir Gaz Moutarde	15	32	Withy	Bdr-General	4		Both	2	Mike Clibborn-Dyer
EdL	Baron Eclair de Lame	15	F	Rich	Major RFG/Gds Brigade Maj.	12		Both	3	Peter Farrell
TIH	Tarquin le Hatter	15	F	Comfy		3		Both	5	Jason Fazackarley
NM	Sir Neville Moore	14	35	Withy	Captain RFG	1	Vera	Hunt	2	Cameron Wood
PFL	Sir Phillippe F'Loppe	14	27	Comfy	Colonel DG	4	Freda	HGds	4	Phil Urquhart
LR	Sir Louis Renault	13+	55	Withy	B.Lt-General	2	Katy	Both	4	Roy Bleasdale
MdG	Martin de Garnache	13+	45	OK	Major RFG/RFG Regt. Adjt.	3	Fifi	Both	4	Bill Howell
PaN	Pierre a'Noyer	13+	42	OK	Captain RFG/Capt.K's Esc	3	Sue	Both	3	Tym Norris
CO	Claude Oppere	12	F	Poor	Lt.Colonel DG	3		Hunt	6	Paul Murphy
PGR	Sir Petit-Garson Riche	12	RIP							Mark Cowper
JH	Sir Jacques Hatt	12	F	Comfy	B.Lt-General/Drgn Brigadier	4		Both	3	Joel Halpern

Chatter

From my walks it's clear that it's the height of Spring. The trees are full of blossom, the birds are tweeting raucously (nothing to do with Elon Musk) and the mud is drying up. In particular, the many cherry trees around here are displaying everything from dark red to white blossom, with all shades of pink in between. I may have been premature in noting the lack of tulips a while back as they are now very evident in gardens – and the churchyard.



And there are signs that Summer is almost with us. The Cricket club has not only started cutting the grass, but has also brought the covers out of storage! (For non-cricketers, these are used to protect the hallowed ground when it starts raining during a match.)

Seasonal baked goods

Which must be Hot Cross Buns. These are not something I usually bother discussing – my family's tradition was that hot cross buns are for Good Friday ONLY. However, Mr Dommett sent me *The Daily Telegraph's* taste test. Except that this was specifically of "novelty" buns. Oh dear. A hot cross bun is a spiced, fruity tea cake and that's it. "Banoffee", "Lemon Drizzle" and "Caramelised Onion Chutney" should have nothing to do with this.

However, I did notice that the Co-op's "Irresistible Chocolate & Orange" 'hot cross buns' got the maximum five stars and I am partial to the combination of orange and chocolate. So, without admitting that these are in any way hot cross buns, I did try them. (Geraldine was not impressed, so that's more for me.)

And they're not hot cross buns. The texture is just like chocolate cake, only bun-sized and shaped, and the taste is chocolate-and-orange cake. Plus, it sticks to your teeth. Not a hit with me, then, but that won't stop me finishing the pack.

Herb Levy RIP

Yes, another gaming buddy has died. I doubt many of you will know Herb as he's American, but he's one of the people I met up with at the Gathering of Friends each year. Apart from being a thoroughly nice guy, who's good fun to play games with, Herb ran Gamers Alliance and I've contributed to the *Gamers Alliance Report* for some years. For a proper obituary, see www.boardgamegeek.com/blogpost/145884

New *En Garde!* game

Well, sort of. Jacob Andersson (who's playing in *LPBS*) has set up a Glorantha-themed play-by-forum game, adapting the rules of *En Garde!*. There is a long

tradition of this (there have been SF-themed games, games set in the English court, one using Michael Moorcock’s *Gloriana* and so on), but I don’t think anyone’s used Glorantha before. This is, by the way, the setting for the *Runequest* RPG and various board games.

Sadly I know nothing about Glorantha or I’d be diving in. If you fancy giving it a go, contact Jacob at j (dot) Andersson (at) antikvanti (dot) com or take a look at the game at bh.antikvanti.com/

Online stats

TWJO 232 was published on 26th March and the PDFs had been downloaded 127 times by the end of the month. March saw 68 more downloads for issue 231, making 317 in two months. And the PDFs of *TWJO* 230 were downloaded 19 times, taking it to 257 downloads since publication.

Letters

Nigel Monaghan chips in

Good to hear you do not have any allergies.

I do understand the repeated questions, one more than one occasion I came across patients who forgot an allergy. Also the range of allergies relevant for an operation includes drugs and ingredients for those drugs, antibiotics and contact with materials such as rubber gloves. Personally, I would rather that they did all ask than rely on reading through my long list of notes, or forgetting to ask me. Hope the recovery goes well.

What’s more, one can develop an allergy over time. What got to me was being asked the same question in rapid succession.

Graeme Morris adds his tribute to Chris Baylis.

I’m ashamed to admit that I left it to the last moment (i.e. deadline time) to even open TWJO this time. So you can imagine my dismay at the awful news that you shared with us on page 3, namely the sad passing of the legendary Chris Baylis.

Only this morning (and out of the blue?) something brought to my mind a still-fond memory of a particular conversation that I had with him at Basildon one year. I was young, new to the whole thing and a bit full of myself maybe, but Chris was very kind.

At a time when (as a ‘professional’ RPG-er) I was dealing on a daily basis with many who saw the genre as nothing but an ego-trip and/or a business opportunity (and who would in later years let me down very badly), Chris stood

Femmes Fatales

No	Name	SL	Attr	Lover
66	Morgane Le Fay	24	B	TC
67	Justine Caisse	22	I	HDS
65	Therèse Le Vert	21	B/W	
7	Chris Pacquette	19		
61	Bette Noire	19	I/W	
64	Edna Bucquette	18	W	PC
3	Kathy Pacific	17	B	XM
54	Madelaine de Proust	17		
35	Katy Did	16	I	LR
42	Maggie Nifisent	16	B	RS
55	Jacky Tinne	16		JJ
52	Guinevere d'Arthur	15	B/W	JiT
10	Frances Forrin	14	B	LdH
48	Fifi	14	B/W	MdG
62	Alison Wunderlandt	14		
11	Laura de Land	13		ZUT
26	Ella Fant	13	B	AC
27	Lucy Fur	13	B	
45	Cath de Thousands	13		
8	Lotte Bottle	12	B	BeV
17	Henrietta Carrotte	12	I/W	RdH
28	Vera Cruz	12		NM
31	Bess Ottede	12	I/W	LS
1	Sue Briquet	11	B	PaN
4	Anne Tique	11	W	
23	Agnes Sorel	11	I/W	
40	Sheila Kiwi	11		
63	Carole Singeurs	11		Anon
20	Emma Roides	10	I	
33	Anna Rexique	10	I	
38	Pet Ulante	10	W	
43	Di Lemmere	10	I	
53	Angelina de Griz	10	B	CdP
6	Viv Ayschus	9		JCE
19	Jenny Russe	8	W	
32	Sal Munella	8	W	
47	Eve Ningalle	8	I/W	
34	Freda de Ath	7	W	PFL
39	Thomasina Tancenjin	7	I	
5	Belle Epoque	6	B/I	ZvT
24	Violet Bott	6	I/W	TdIL
25	Lois de Lô	5	B	

Mistresses in Paris. Attr(IBUTES): B=Beautiful, I=Influential, W=Wealthy. Lover only if seen in public this month.

Regiments

Col	RFC	CG	KM	DG	OOC	ALC	CPC	RM	GDMDPM	13F	PLLD	53F	27M	4A	69A	Gscn
LCol	BRJS	N6	CDN	PFL	JIT	AC	BeV	HDS	MP	N5	N6	N5	N7			
Maj 1	CdP			CO	RdH	PC	N1+	VdP+	TS+	N6	N6	N5				
Maj 2	Edl+				N5			AICH	N5*	N2	N2					
Capt 1	MdG				N3			JCE	N3	N3	N6	N6				
Capt 2	NM				N1			N5	N3	N3	N4	N4				
Capt 3	LS				N2			N2	N3	N3	N6*	N6*				
Capt 4	PaN				N4			N4*	N2	N2	N1	N1				
Capt 5	FS				N4*				N3	N3	N4	N4				
Capt 6	LV				N6*				N1*	N6	N4*	N2*				
	ZVT				N1											

This table shows the ten senior positions in the 17 regiments by rank. Entries are Character abbreviations, N (+MIA) for NPCs, blank for vacant. * shows the regiment adjutant; + indicates the reserve position of a character assigned elsewhere due to their appointment or brevet rank.

Brigade Positions

Guards Brigade	GdB/___/EdL
Horse Guards Brigade	TC/___/___
Heavy Brigade	N2/N/N1
Dragoon Brigade	JH/___/TS
First Foot Brigade	N4/N/VdP
Second Foot Brigade	N5/N/___
Third Foot Brigade	N3/N/N5
Fourth Foot Brigade	N4/N/N5

Current CO/Aide/Brigade Major of each Brigade; entries are ID for player characters, “N” (+ MA if needed) for NPC, __ for vacant

Frontier Regiments

					(Siege for Dec-Feb)
Colonel	F1 N5	F2 N4	F3 N2	F4 N6	RNHB N8
Attached					
Also at the Front					

This table shows the Colonels of the Frontier regiments (“N” + MA for NPCs), together with the volunteers assigned for the season.

Battle Results

Guards Brigade: 1	Frontier regiment 1: 4
Cardinal’s Guard: 5	Frontier regiment 2: 4
King’s Musketeers: 5	Frontier regiment 3: 5
Dragoon Brigade: 3	Frontier regiment 4: 3
Grand Duke Max’s Dragoons: 4	RNHB regiment: 3
Princess Louisa Lt Dragoons: 1	

Other Appointments

King’s Escort: Ensign N	Captain PaN
Cardinal’s Escort: Ensign N	Captain N
Aides: to Crown Prince LS	to Field Marshal LSD
Provincial Military Governors: N/N/N/N/N	
City Military Governor N	Adjutant-General RS
Inspectors-General: of Cavalry N	of Infantry N
Commissioner of Public Safety __	
Chancellor of the Exchequer __	
Minister of Justice CdP (until end September 1675)	
Minister of War __	
Minister of State BRJS (until end January 1675)	

Shows who holds appointments outside military units (except Aides): ID for Characters, “N” for NPC, __ for vacant, “CPS” for extra posts held by the CPS

out as a true amateur hobbyist. And in saying that I attach the greatest honour to both of those titles.

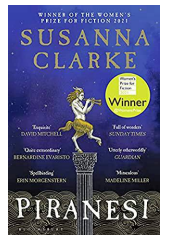
I often think nostalgically back to the Reading Gamesfairs, and still sometimes drink my whiskey from one of the commemorative glasses.

Tonight I shall get the glass out, give it a polish, pour a drop and raise it to him. Well lived Chris!

Well said, Graeme.

Reading matter

I have recently got round to reading Susanna Clarke’s *Piranesi* and this is another fascinating book. It consists of first-person journal entries from someone whose world is The House – a succession of halls, vestibules, staircases and passages, decorated with numerous statues and subject to tidal flooding. It chronicles the narrator’s exploration of this world and the happenings within it, but our narrator is the only living person here – apart from their occasional meetings with The Other. (Though there are some dead people, whom the narrator regards as also being inhabitants of The House.) The Other calls the narrator Piranesi, but “as far as I remember it is not my name.”



The narrative raises questions immediately. If this is the narrator’s world how do they know all these words that have no referent in The House? How do they know that The Other is male? That he is 50-60 years old? That some of the bodies are women? And others children? How/when did they learn to write? Or is the author translating into English words that we would understand to refer to the narrator’s concepts? My mind is boggled in a brilliant, enchanting way!

I was utterly captivated by the narrative as we learn about The House and what the narrator considers important. But then things change and we are swept along as ‘Piranesi’ discovers that all is what it seems. Sadly, I found the conclusion of the story disappointing as what we – and ‘Piranesi’ – discover is ordinary. Mundane, even. Though this is coming from someone who’s been steeped in fantasy and SF for over 50 years – I suspect my idea of “ordinary”, in the context of a fantasy novel, may not be how most people would see it. Or maybe it’s just in comparison to Clarke’s marvellous first novel, *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell*.

Despite this, *Piranesi* is a wonderful, entertaining read. I’m guessing the title is a clue to how we should see The House – as if it were depicted by Giovanni Battista Piranesi. And one of the statues rang bells with me: a faun with his forefinger pressed to his lips. Surely that’s Mr Tumnus from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. I suspect more of the statues (woman carrying beehive? Two Kings

playing chess?) are references to other stories/events/history. And there's an explicit reference to one of Colin Wilson's novels that fascinated me as a youngster. Have a look for yourself.

Games Events

I've recently come across PunchedCON, a weekend event for wargamers, but explicitly those who play board wargames – “There are plenty of conventions and events in the UK catering for miniatures wargaming.” It takes place at the Royal Court Hotel in Coventry from 12th-14th May. It appears to be essentially open gaming with the opportunity to organise/join specific games beforehand. Note that there are no day tickets and there's more information at punchedcon.com

The following weekend, 19th-21st May, sees the return of HandyCon, but a change of venue. The eighth HandyCon will be held at the Marriott Delta Hotel in Milton Keynes. It's essentially an open gaming event with a games library, demos, large organised games, a bring & buy and so on. It's much praised by some of my gaming friends, but it's not an event I've attended. Find out more at handycon.co.uk

The following box concentrates on events I usually attend.

Swiggers: games club that meets most Wednesday evenings (co-ordinated on WhatsApp) upstairs at The Shipwright's Arms, 88 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TF (next to London Bridge station) – though without me. We also play online at various websites on Wednesday evenings. For more info, see www.pevans.co.uk/Swiggers

Games Games Games Days: from noon(-ish) on the second Saturday each month at the Leon in Spitalfields Market (London E1 6DW). It's brightly lit, has big tables and they don't mind us stopping all afternoon. Closest stations are Liverpool Street (Tube and rail) and Shoreditch High Street (Overground). Please contact me if you're thinking of attending in case things have got in the way.

UK Games Expo: 2nd-4th June 2023 at the NEC. This is a public event that showcases games of all sorts with a huge trade hall plus demonstration and participation games and guests. For gamers there are lots of tournaments and open gaming. For details see www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk

Spiel: the board games event of the year. 5th-8th October 2023, at the Messe (Exhibition Centre) in Essen. Contact Friedhelm Merz Verlag, Postfach 210250, Bonn, 53157 Germany or see www.spiel-messe.com/en

MidCon: November 2023 at the Mickleover Court Hotel in Mickleover (near Derby). **MidCon** is a friendly board games convention, but has been in a new venue since 2021 that I haven't been to. Expect mostly open gaming and a few organised events, including a Bring 'n' Buy and a quiz. See www.midcon.org.uk

For more extensive information on UK board games events, try The Queen's Lane Advertiser at www.boardgamers.org.uk/qla.php

Lune (Rapier, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

“adv.” shows who (if anyone) has the advantage of higher Expertise: his first duelling sequence need only contain six actions.

All duels listed above (including any to be voted on) must be fought next month unless held over (below). Orders conditional on a challenge being voted cause are acceptable.

New Characters

Jayson Elliot gets the Second son of a Peasant: Init SL 2; Cash 10; MA 2; EC 4 (X4).

Mark Cowper gets the First son of a very wealthy Knight: Init SL 7; Cash 825; MA 4; EC 4 (X3).

Nigel Monaghan gets the Second son of a very wealthy Gentleman: Init SL 5; Cash 750; MA 4; EC 4 (X5).

Jacob Andersson gets the Bastard son of an Impoverished Gentleman: Init SL 3; Cash 36; MA 3; EC 4 (X6).

Tables

Army Organisation and 1675's Summer Deployment

First Army (Defence)	--/_/_/N2/N
Cavalry Division (Defence)	N4/N/N2
Heavy Brigade (Defence) - ALC CPC	
Dragoon Brigade (Defence) - GDMD PLLD	
Frontier Division (Defence)	N1/N/N3
Frontier Regiments (Defence)	
Second Army (Siege)	--/_/_/N4/N
First Division (Assault)	N1/N/N4
Guards Brigade (Assault) - RFG CG KM	
1st Foot Brigade (Assault) - RM PM	
RNHB Regiment (Assault)	
Second Division (Siege)	N3/N/N2
2nd Foot Brigade (Siege) - 13F 53F	
3rd Foot Brigade (Siege) - 27M 4A	
4th Foot Brigade (Siege) - 69A Gscn	
Horse Guards Brigade (Field Ops) - DG QOC	

Organisation and Deployment for the Campaign Season with Army and Division posts (Commander/Aide/Adjutant/QMG)

Entries are ID for player characters, “N” (+ MA if needed) for NPC, __ for vacant

Next month is December and mistresses' influence will be renewed at the end of the month. A good reason to court a new mistress next month and gain twice as much influence. ☺

Welcome

Welcome to Jayson Elliot, who joined us just before the last deadline. I have held his character over for a month to give him time to get up to speed with the game.

Absent friends

I didn't receive orders from the following (No Move Received) and they suffered the consequences:
 FLV Fouche La Vache (Pauli Kidd) has NMR'd. Total now 1
 LV Lascar Vivrebras (Olaf Schmidt) has NMR'd. Total now 1
 X1 (Nik Luker) has NMR'd. Total now 1
 X2 (Gerry Sutcliff) was floated at his request.

Announcements

All characters may use Influence (and/or a bribe) for or against these actions.

Eclair de Lame applies for Brigade Major of Guards Brigade
 Neville Moore applies for Aide to Lt. General

Notes

The *En Garde!* rules are available to LPBS players at a reduced rate: see any month's Points Arising page at www.pevans.co.uk/LPBS.

There's an email group for *En Garde!* players and GMs, providing a forum to swap stories and ideas. Sign up at: <https://groups.io/g/EnGarde>

Reminders: It is worth sending orders in even if they're late: I may be able to action the orders and should be able to use any press. It also reassures me that you're still there.

Orders (and press) should be emailed to lpbsorders@pevans.co.uk – you'll get an automated reply when the message arrives in my mailbox. Please give your name and your character's name and specify actions in full detail. If you want a query answered before the deadline, please use LPBS@pevans.co.uk instead.

Tarquin le Hatter asks NPC Colonel of Cardinal's Guard to resign
 Tarquin le Hatter asks NPC Major 1 of Cardinal's Guard to resign

Duels

Results of November's duels

Phillipe F'Loppe (with BeV, gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Roger d'Horne.

Grudges to settle next month

Maurice Pauvre (Rapier, Seconds LR & ZUT, 1 rests) and Thomas de la

Seahill (Railway Rivals game 17 – RR2509I(N))

Turn 8

More even scoring these races, and a spread on total scores. Only a few connecting lines laid.

This turn's races

Race results					Scores					
					IRA	RBR	BASH	CR	AGO	BIEN
8	13	Belfast	62	Dublin	10	20 -3		+3		0
9	16	Newcastle/ Greenore	S2	The South		20				10
10	21	Derry	51	Longford/ Roscommon				20	10	
11	25	Cookstown/ Portadown	S5	Coast	15	15				
12	44	Ballinrobe/ Castlebar	34	Ballyshannon/ Sligo	20 -7		10 +12		0 -5	
13	36	Glenties/ Letterkenny	61	Dublin	+2		+6	10 -6	20 -1	
14	52	Newry/ Clones	45	Athenry/ Clara	10 +2			20 -2		
TOTAL					42	52	28	42	24	10

JR = Joint Run; ERP = Exchange of Running Powers

Builds and Points

IRISH RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

(IRA), Anthony Gilbert – Green

Builds:

None

Points: 81 +4 +42 = 127

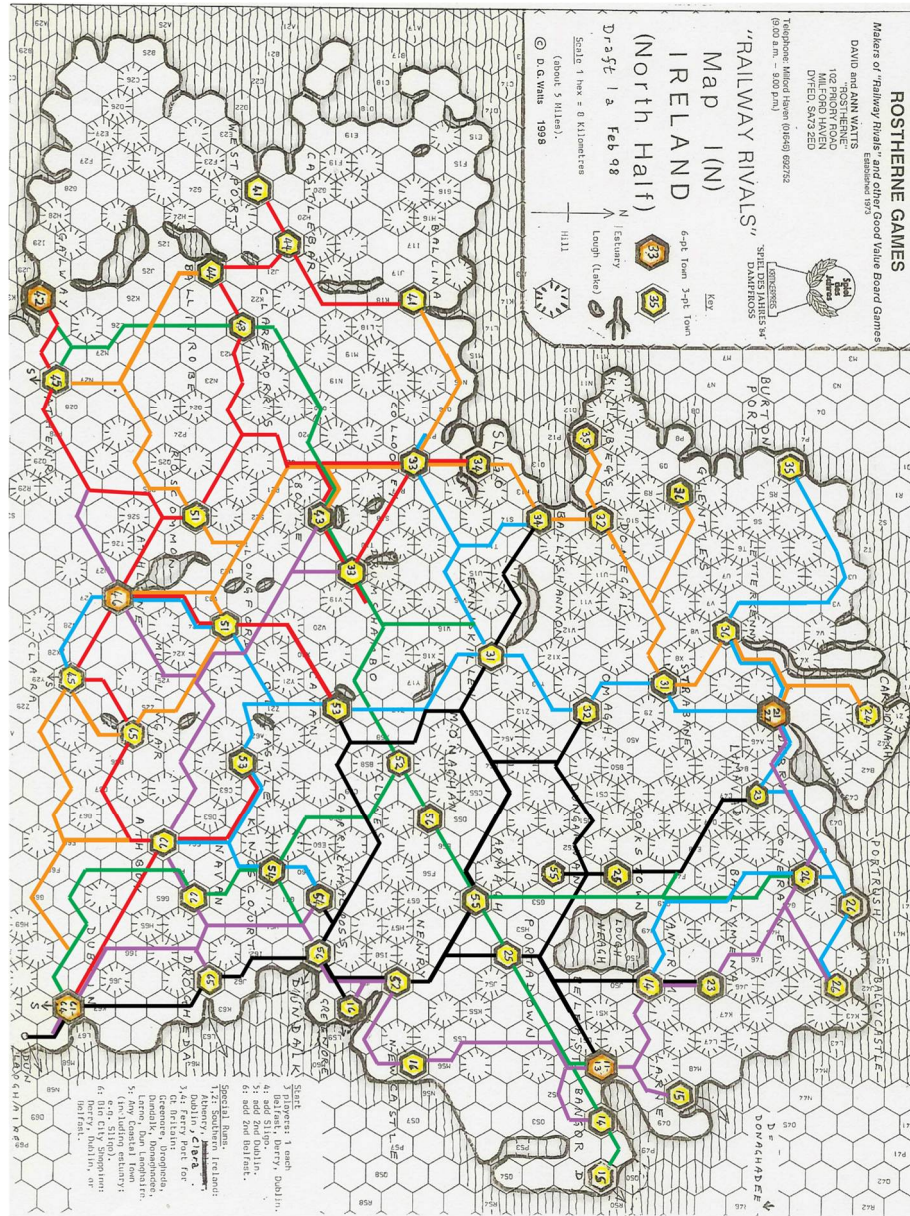
RUBBER BANDIT RAILWAYS

(RBR), Mike Dyer – Black

Builds:

(I56) – Armagh – F55 – C54 – Z15 (3 to IRA)

Points: 101 -12 -1 +52 = 140



1 I just tried to be nice
 And share some advice
 For those changing regiment.
 2 To not volunteer
 'til their command post be clear –
 As I learned to my own lament.
 3 I sent it too late
 for Tarquin, I fear.
 He shared my fate,
 alone on the Frontier.

† HT

1 In Paris, noble blood runs deep,
 And I, a nobleman, do keep
 My head held high, with pride and
 grace,
 Amidst the courtiers' dazzling race.
 2 Our King, Le Roi, is a wondrous
 sight,
 A shining star in the dark of night.
 His Majesty's reign, so rich and grand,
 Is blessed by heaven's guiding hand.
 3 My heart is drawn to a fair, fair
 flame,

Points Arising

Next deadline is 5th May

Oops! Despite my best efforts, I managed to make some mistakes when changing the list of mistresses. I think I've resolved the anomalies now, but shout if you spot anything odd.

Boldhome Heroes is a new *En Garde!*-style game set in Glorantha and run by Jacob Andersson. He just needs a few more players to get started

Next month is the start of a new season. **All characters start the month in Paris and all duels must be fought.** Any vacant appointments not taken by player characters will be

A beauty that leaves all else in shame.
 Miss Lotte Bottle, with her bright blue
 eyes,
 Is the brightest star in all the skies.
 4 Yet there are those who do not
 deserve
 To be counted among the King's loyal
 herd.
 The 53rd Fusiliers, a cursed band,
 Whose cowardice betrayed our King's
 fair land.
 5 Let us scorn them, with all our
 might,
 For they have brought shame to our
 sight.
 And may our King, with all his power,
 Condemn them to their darkest hour.
 6 For we, the noble, the brave and
 true,
 Will stand by our King, through and
 through.
 And in the grandeur of our courtly life,
 We'll live and love, without strife.
 † Earl Ben e'Volence, CPC



filled by NPCs. A player character with an appointment that lets him appoint another post chooses who gets this – a player character, an NPC or left vacant. So, if you hold or have applied for an appointment – or a rank – that allows you to make other appointments, don't forget to do so (or NPCs will get the jobs).

Lord Percy Percy says, as fashion is tending towards the uncultured, Thyme is very fashionable.

To the Young Gentleman of Paris
I have been called by the Lord to do his work and immediately offer my resignation as Chairman of our little Group. I apologise for not hosting our meeting last month and will recompense Francois and Vinnie for the inconvenience once I return to Paris. I have heard that both their costumes were splendid.

† Ex-Chairman Petit

Now that's what I call a timely resignation. † Le Roi

Dear Colonel Thyme
It all started on a cold morning last month. I turned up to face De'Floppé for our duel and the rotter shouted "Behind you" and there was Ben E'volence relieving himself all over the prize roses that the duelling garden is famous for. I turned to remonstrate and then "BASH!" Next thing I remember was arriving at the front as a new Captain in The Cardinal's Guard sporting an egg-sized bump on the back of my head. Apparently, I had turned up to the Cardinal's Guard's Barracks proclaiming a miracle had occurred as Al Capone was back from the dead and seen strutting around in an Archduke Leo Cuirassiers uniform instead of his funeral shroud and I needed to sign up immediately to help the Lord and our beloved church fight the Demon Dutch. The Colonel explained to me that obviously this was God's Will and that I have been called to greater things. This now

makes sense to me, so I wish you and the rest of the Queens all the best and apologies for my abrupt and unexpected departure from the regiment.

† Petit Garçon-Riche

PS: Capone needs to be tested with holy water in case he is a Zombie (or is that really Captain de Garnache as reported in the Press?) – we need to be sure. Maybe the CPS can take this one.

Poetry Corner

(All signed poetry submissions gain their author at least 1 SP)

On this day, good men kneel and pray.
And in their homes, they will stay.
As they may experience a dreadful fright
If ere they venture into the night.
For lost souls are said to be abroad
With no fear of a mortal's sword.
But not all ghoulish creatures are so ghastly,
Some of them just want to party.
Outside The Fleur de Lys, a group stands together,
Assorted spooks, dragoon and tax collector
But, as they try to go inside,
They find their access is denied.
For there is no sign of their host –
He is as ephemeral as any ghost.
So they must depart, one and all,
And hope to meet again at his next ball.
Best regards they do send
To Xavier, their noble friend,
Wishing him a safe return to Paris once more,
So we can party like we did before.

BALLINOKE ARMAGH STRAB-ANE HAULAGE (BASH), Bob Blanchett – Red
Builds:
None
Points: 49 +1 +5 +28 = **83**

CANTERBURY RAILS (CR), Rob Pinkerton – Blue
Builds:
(F60) – Carrickmacross
Points: 60 -1 +42 = **101**

AW GO ON (AGO), Gerald Udowiczenco – Orange
Builds:
(E68) – E66 (1 to BASH)
(N26) – J24 – Ballinrobe (1 to IRA)
Points: 63 -7 -2 +24 -5 = **73**

BIEN'S INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS NETWORK (BIEN), Christian Bien – Purple
Builds:
None
Points: 35 +10 = **45**

GM Notes

Maximum payment to another player is 15 in any turn.

You may enter up to five races in each turn (plus any held over from a previous turn – shown *in italics*.) Joint runs and exchanges of running powers are welcome.

After the races you may build up to 8 points worth, including known payments to others. (This allowance decreases by 2 each turn.)

Order layouts: Your Name, Company Name, Company Colour.

Town Names for preference please.

Next turn's races

Race	From	To
15	12 Belfast	26 Portrush/Ballycastle
16	41 Ballina/Westport	15 Larne/Donaghadee
17	35 Killybegs/Burton Port	S4 Ferry to GB
18	22 Derry	33 Drumshambo/Collooney
19	63 Dublin	54 Carrickmacross/Kingscourt
20	S6 Shopping	56 Dundalk/Monaghan
21	65 Mullingar/Drogheda	43 Claremorris/Boyle

Orders to Mike Dommett, 12 Watton Park, Bridport DT6 5NJ
or by e-mail to mike_dommett@yahoo.co.uk
by Friday 5th May 2023

By Popular Demand

Turn 7 results and scores

Name	Co-op game		Deck-building game		SF-themed game	
Colin Bruce	Pandemic	19	Paperback	6	Paranoia	2
Charles Burrows	Pandemic	19	Pagan	1	Planet	1
Mike Clibborn-Dyer	Pandemic	19	Pokemon	6	Pulsar 2849	2
Mark Cowper	Pandemic	19	Port Royal	1	Planet Apocalypse	1
Terry Crook	Pandemic	19	Paperback	6	Paranoia	2
Mike Dommett	Pandemic	19	Paperback	6	Pandora	1
Paul Evans	Pandemic	19	Pokemon	6	Pulsar 2849	2
Anthony Gilbert	Pandemic	19	Pokemon	6	Pandemic	3
William Hay	Pandemic	19	Pathfinder Card	1	San Francisco	1
Andrew Kendall	Pandemic	19	Power Rangers	2	Pandorum	2
Tim Macaire	Pandemic	19	Pokemon	6	Prophecy	1
Brad Martin	Pandemic	19	Pax Porfiriana	1	Pandemic	3
Nigel Monaghan	Pandemic	19	Paperback	6	Planet Steam	1
Graeme Morris	Pandemic	19	Power Rangers	2	Planet of the Apes	1
Mike Pollard	Pandemic	19	Paperback	6	Planet B	1
Richard Salmon	Pandemic	19	Paperback	6	Pandorum	2
Pam Udowiczenko	Pandemic	19	Poker	1	Panic Station	1
Matthew Wale	Pandemic	19	Pokemon	6	Pandemic	3
John Watson	Pandemic	19	Pokemon	6	Power Rangers	1

Well, I fully expected *Pandemic* to be a shoo-in for co-operative game, but I also thought *Pokemon* would be for deck-builder. I should have thought of *Paperback*. And then there are so many options for SF game – Bill Hay's obvious answer notwithstanding.

Military Missives

Brigadier de Bécqueur
I would like to apply to be the Brigade Major for Guards Brigade.

I note my predecessor, Major Trenet, who I managed to keep alive when he was a Captain in my squadron for a number of campaigns, lasted 1 month. Can you confirm that there is a Death in Service scheme?

Kind regards,

† Baron De Lame

Personal

To: Count Beau Reese Jean Seine,
Minister of State

Your Grace,
Last month a most terrible mishap occurred, a colossal clerical error, which caused me substantial inconvenience and placed me in mortal danger!!

There was I, at the start of the month, bidding adieu to my comrades of the King's Musketeers to begin a new stage in my military career as a member of the Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers. In fact, I was expecting to assume command as their new Major and call the regiment to the Front to join me... Most suspiciously, I find that my application was 'doctored' in some way and the next thing I know I'm packed off to join those Dragoons of Grand Duke Max's lot. If this wasn't bad enough, I get told that since I'm only being admitted as a Captain, I can't take any of them with me and, instead, I get lumped in with the great unwashed of the Fourth Frontier Regt!!

It's a disgrace, Your Grace, and I can't but help suspect the insidious claws of either Cardigan or Capone being behind it in some way.

Anyway, I've since had to enact Plan B and find myself a suitable regiment wherein I can rise to the vaulted post of Colonel and then, justly, meet the qualifying criteria to serve Your Grace most loyally and efficiently as Commissioner of Public Safety. Next month I'll secure the Colonelcy, so if you could just see your way into holding the post open a wee bit longer, that would be most splendid – don't worry about any backlog of cases building up as I'll be keen to get straight to work once I'm appointed and we'll see those traitors and villains cleared from our streets double quick!

Sincere and most loyal regards,

† Major Tarquin le Hatter
Cardinal's Guard

What does it mean when a mistress is taken completely off the market?

Probably pregnant.

† Le Roi

Maman,

Why did you insist that I return home urgently last month? Why did you lie and tell me that Papa was dying, only to thrust that stupid Austen woman at me every time I showed my face in the house? You do realise that I had to miss my own party because of your scheming, putting my ministerial career at risk?

I have had enough of your games.

Your frustrated son,

† Xavier

Press

Announcements

The Picardy Musketeers are looking for fine young men, especially those with the qualities that would make them good Officers.

Financial assistance available to those Officers that need it.

† Maurice Pauvre
Colonel PM

The Crown Prince Cuirassiers seek good men and true to join its esteemed ranks. A gift upon joining to pay your cost is available to worthy applicants. Apply at the barracks if interested.

Part of the Horse Guards Brigade may well reinforce our forces next month.

† Cuckpowder

Despatches from the Front

Let's see what this spy balloon at the Dutch border is really all about.

† LSD

I am proud to be promoted, and look forward to returning to Paris to celebrate with my friends and hunt down any enemies of the King.

Until then,

May God be with you and your cheese never go mouldy,

† Claude

Social

Gentlemen and their ladies of SL 10+ are invited to join me to start the Christmas festivities at Bothwell's in week 1 of December. All drinks paid for. Best fancy dress wins a prize of 200 crowns.

† Baron Rick Shaw

**** NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY ****
My Lords and Gentlemen of Paris
Please join me in celebrating the start of 1675. Please bring your Ladies. There will be fireworks at midnight. All gentlemen of SL 9+ welcome. Costs paid.

† Xavier Money

During week one of December, I will attend mass to observe the feast day of Saint Nicholas of Myra, accompanied by the virtuous Miss Did. I invite any righteous gentlemen (SL 9+) and their ladies to join us in celebrating this patron saint of children. Afterwards, you are welcome to join Katy and me for a luncheon at my club, costs paid.

† Sir Louis Renault

Members of the RFG and all other gentlemen of suitable standing (SL 11+), together with their ladies, are invited to join Bess and I for an early Christmas party at Bothwell's in the second week of December. All costs will be paid.

† Captain Lou Scannon, Aide to the
Crown Prince

Name	M Wallace game	Dice game	Dexterity game	Σ			
Colin Bruce	Princes of ...	15	Poker Dice	7	Pass the Pigs	1	50
Charles Burrows	Princes of ...	15	Poker Dice	7	Pitchcar	9	52
Mike Clibborn-Dyer	Princes of ...	15	Pulsar 2849	1	Pitchcar	9	52
Mark Cowper	Princes of ...	15	Poker Dice	7	Pitchcar	9	52
Terry Crook	Perikles	4	Par	1	Pingo Pingo	1	33
Mike Dommett	Princes of ...	15	Perudo	4	Pick up Sticks	6	51
Paul Evans	Princes of ...	15	Pickomino	1	Pitchcar	9	52
Anthony Gilbert	Princes of ...	15	Perudo	4	Pick up Sticks	6	53
William Hay	Princes of ...	15	Perudo	4	Pitchcar	9	49
Andrew Kendall	Princes of ...	15	Poker Dice	7	Pitchcar	9	54
Tim Macaire	Perikles	4	Pass the Pigs	3	Pick up Sticks	6	39
Brad Martin	Princes of ...	15	Perudo	4	Pitchcar	9	51
Nigel Monaghan	Princes of ...	15	Poker Dice	7	Pitchcar	9	57
Graeme Morris	Princes of ...	15	Pass the Pigs	3	Pick up Sticks	6	46
Mike Pollard	Princes of ...	15	Poker	1	Pitchcow	1	43
Richard Salmon	Princes of ...	15	Pass the Pigs	3	Pitchcar	9	54
Pam Udowiczenko	Perikles	4	Pontoon	1	Pick up Sticks	6	32
Matthew Wale	Perikles	4	Poker Dice	7	POG	1	40
John Watson	Princes of ...	15	Poker Dice	7	Pick up Sticks	6	54

That's *Princes of the Renaissance* for the Martin Wallace game – I was torn between this and *Perikles*, but chose the right one (there's also *P.I.*, which I've not played).

Pickomino, my choice for dice game, is the US edition of *Heckmeck am Bratwurmeck*. But *Pass the Pigs* is a brilliant choice. (Yes, they're dice!)

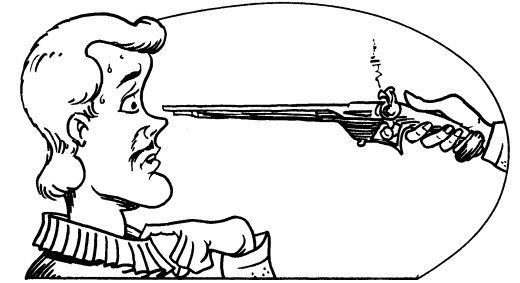
And *Pitchcar* I knew under its original title, *Carabande*, while *Pick up Sticks* I don't know at all (Graeme Morris categorises it as "old-school" and BGG gives 1850 as its publication date!). Andy Kendall asked, "I remember the old Pall Mall pick-up sticks game, but do many others?" Umm, six of this lot, Andy – seven with you.

Scores

Player	Turn 1	Turn 2	Turn 3	Turn 4	Turn 5	Turn 6	Turn 7	Total
Martin Abrahams	33			37	67			137
Alex Bardy	48	37	68	53	86	43		335
Chris Baylis RIP		50	38	49	95			232
Bob Blanchett			43					43
Colin Bruce	54	55	77	47	92	51	50	426
Charles Burrows	57	60	84	69	99	61	52	482
Mike Clibborn-Dyer	46	57	61	63	81	64	52	424
Mark Cowper		58	78	78	97	62	52	425
Terry Crook		26	45	51	65	63	33	283
Mike Dommett	48	44	70	62	97	45	51	417
Paul Evans	53	46	67	78	100	68	52	464
Anthony Gilbert	51	50	77	60	79	67	53	437
Russell Harris						73		73
William Hay		57	59	47		49	49	261
Andrew Kendall	57	41	80	33	97	47	54	409
Andrew Larder	47	37			42			126
Nik Luker		40	73	36	92	56		297
Tim Macaire	57	46	90	65	86	70	39	453
Brad Martin	51	46	73	59	87	65	51	432
Nigel Monaghan	7	57	58	54	93	73	57	399
Graeme Morris	43	28	90	69	99	73	46	448
Mike Pollard	58	67	77	77	99	65	43	486
Chris Rudram	52	57	75	41	81	47		353
Richard Salmon	58	59	64	55	84	64	54	438
Pam Udowiczenko	31	30	55	52	97		32	297
Matthew Wale	30	30	63	21	62	46	40	292
John Watson					97	54	54	205
John Webley	44							44

Mike Pollard has his excuses ready: “My narrow lead might disappear quickly, because I know nothing about most of the categories in turn 7. Having spent half an hour schlepping through long lists of mystifying game titles on the internet, I

The Spanish horsemen charge out of the woods that had concealed their approach and hit the Cardinal's Guard in the flank, First battalion taking the brunt. Battalion commander Petit-Garson Riche is one of the first to fall beneath the sabres and hooves. RIP. Seeing which way the wind is blowing, Major Tarquin le Hatter puts his spurs to his horse and is first to the safety of Maastricht fortress. Where he is promptly cashiered and thrown out of the regiment.



The reeling Cardinal's men give the King's Musketeers some warning and acting commander Lieutenant-Colonel Claude de Nord is able to redeploy enough of the men to slow down the Spaniards with a couple of volleys. This earns him promotion to Colonel in the wake of Bécqueur's advancement. However, it doesn't help Captain Henri Tard, who is another to fall to the flashing Toledo steel. RIP.

Then the Dragoons arrive. Grand Duke Max's men are the first to take on the enemy cavalry, exchanging blow for blow, casualty for casualty. On the French side, that casualty is Subaltern Francois Ciseaux-Soiseau whose bravery puts him in the way of a Spanish sabre. RIP. His fellow Subaltern Fouche La Vache is more considered and survives handily. Major Alvin Charles's own bravery sees him Mentioned in Despatches for retrieving his fallen comrade's body. Also Mentioned in the Despatches is Colonel Louis Severin Descartes, whose collection of Spanish cavalry helmets nets him a hundred crowns.

With the Spaniards fully engaged with the GDMD, Princess Louisa's boys have no trouble seeing them off, capturing several officers into the bargain. Major François Xavier-Flamand earns 500 crowns from ransoming his captive while the regiment's commander, Balzac Slapdash does rather better from his. This brings Slapdash a Mention in Despatches, too.

Dragoon Brigadier Jacques Hatt is brevetted to Lt-General as a result of this action. His Brigade Major, Tristand Sault, picks up a couple of hundred crowns worth of loot.

Things are quieter with the Frontier regiments. Except for the Second battalion of the 13th Fusiliers, whose commander, Major Antoine d'Eques, leads them on a sally to cover the Guards' retreat. His bravery earns a Knighthood and he picks up a hundred crowns or so from selling off the kit dropped by the Guardsmen. Lt-Col Claude Oppere leads his squadron of the Dragoon Guards into the fray as well and picks up a similar amount in loot.

RFG Captain Felipe Savant is serving with the Royal North Highlanders. ❖

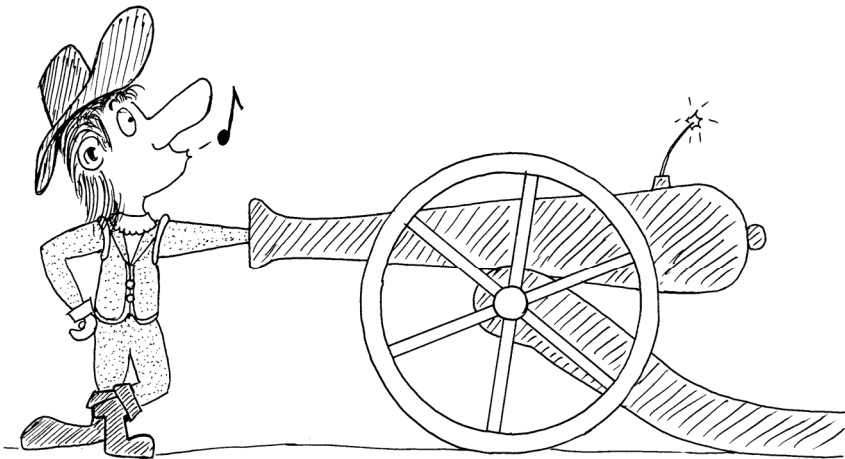
And Thomas de la Lune re-visits Blue Gables with Violet.

Iron man this month is Bernard de Lur-Saluces as he spends the entire time waving a two-handed sword around. Jacques de Gain's month practising with his rapier doesn't look half as energetic. Jean-Claude Etienne puts in three weeks with a cutlass, which is getting close to the title. Les Anonyme and Beau Reese Jean Seine practise for three weeks with their rapiers (Beau's first week was with his mistress), while Phillippe F'Loppe and Rick Shaw do the same, but are sabre wielders. In the gym for two weeks each are Alexandre Capone (sabre), Gaz Moutarde (cutlass), Pierre a'Noyer (rapier), Terence Cuckpowder (sabre) and Zavier Ulric Turenne (rapier).

Defend Maastricht!

Last month's Dutch success in re-capturing Grave has a bright side for the French forces – Prince William is now being pressed by the mercantile class to bring hostilities to an end without re-taking Maastricht. The arrival of the Dragoon Brigade brings extra troops to help the French forces resist any further advances by the Dutch and their allies.

The two regiments of the Guards Brigade that are in action are deployed to halt a Dutch force heading for Maastricht. However, Spanish cavalry catches them off-guard and smashes both regiments. Despite this, Brigadier Greg de Bécqueur has his rank made permanent and manages to scrounge 300 crown worth of loot. His new Brigade Major, Eclair de Lame, keeps safe and concentrates on collecting booty. That'll be over a thousand crowns worth, thank you. And Bécqueur starts to celebrate his imminent return to Paris after serving out his year at the front.



RECKLESS BRAVERY

managed to cobble together a final selection.” Not to worry, Mike, you’ve managed to stay a whole two points ahead of Charles Burrows.

What's this about?

I have cribbed these rules from the *Variable Pig* website. You can find the originals (with lots of variants) at: variablepig.org/rules/bypop.html

Each turn the GM lists six categories and an initial letter. All players have to do is find something that fits the category and begins with the initial letter; they score points equal to the number of people who offer the same answer. The winner is the person with the most points at the end (after a pre-determined number of turns).

Example: The initial letter is A and the category is cities in Holland. 13 people give Amsterdam as their answer and score 13 points each, 6 people suggest Alkmaar and score 6 points each, 3 suggest Arnhem and score 3 points each.

I suspect I've got the hardest job: deciding on the categories! Anyway, we'll run this for 10 turns and see what happens.

Turn 8 categories

And this turn's theme is another of my favourite things: Science Fiction. Let me have:

- 1 A British SF author (but not Smith).
- 2 An SF TV series (that isn't *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*).
- 3 An SF film (that isn't *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*).
- 4 An American SF author (but not Smith).
- 5 A Doctor Who companion.
- 6 A Hugo-winning novel.

All beginning with the letter S please.

My answers have already been recorded.

Send your list to Pevans at 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF or to TWJO@pevans.co.uk by 5th May 2023.

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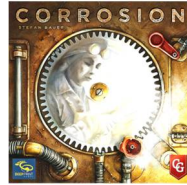
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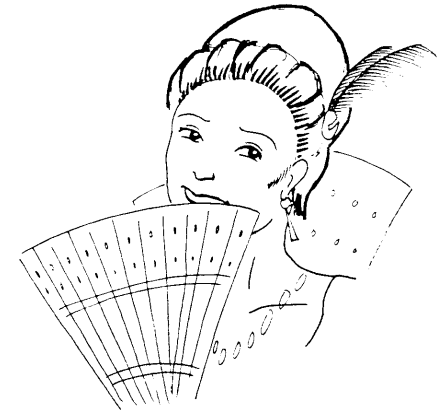
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Better gambling

Ben e’Volence brings Lotte again. Camille and Angelina are still looking wistful. Jean Jeanie and Jacky continue in the club. Having spent some exciting time at the Louvre laughing a little too loudly at His Majesty’s witticisms, Leonard de Hofstadt arrives with Frances Forrin. He places a large (over a thousand crowns) bet on a single roll of the dice (“I may need to leave the city quickly,” he notes) and wins! Pierre Cardigan and Edna are in their usual corner with Alexandre Capone and Ella as their guests again. And the raucous corner consists of the Crown Prince boozing with his Aide, Lou Scannon. Lou has brought Bess with him and is disconcerted to see his boss making eyes at her.



The Fleur is even busier the next week as Terence Cuckpowder and Morgane hold a party. Their guests start with the non-betting Camille de Polignac and Angelina. Justin Thyme brings Guinevere. Louis Renault is there with Katy. So are Lou Scannon and Bess. Fifi is again on the arm of Martin de Garnache. On his tod is Maurice Pauvre. Neville Moore accompanies Vera. Pierre a’Noyer arrives with Sue. Thomas de la Lune pays little attention to his companion, Violet, to renew his exchanges with Maurice. Vinne d’Pooh is the second solo guest – his courting was not successful. Xavier Money and Kathy are next. Zavier Ulric Turenne brings Laura. And Zeold von Tu escorts Belle.

The crop of members continuing their sojourn in the Fleur comprises Ben e’Volence (and Lotte), Jean Jeanie (plus Jacky), Leonard de Hofstadt (with Frances) and Pierre Cardigan (alongside Edna) without any guests this time.

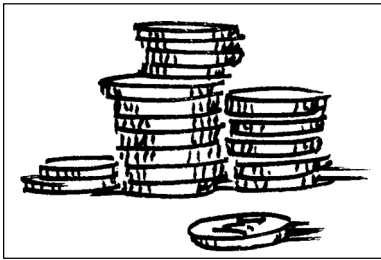
The same eight are back to conclude the month and find other members joining them. Those are Camille de Polignac and Angelina and Xavier Money with Kathy.

With no parties, Bothwell’s is busier again. Henri DuShite and Justine make it three weeks in a row while the others were all there at the start of November: Louis Renault with Katy, Lou Scannon and Bess, Martin de Garnache plus Fifi.

Hunter’s sees its first and only visitors of the month: Zeold von Tu and Belle.

Roger d’Horne and Henrietta return to the Horse Guards and have another flutter. This looks like it’s going the same way when Roger cuts his first bet, but he wins the next two to go ahead. A loss is followed by another win, but he cuts his final wager. Still, he’s cut his earlier loss in half and gained some kudos into the bargain.

passed a hefty purse to Beau Reese Jean Seine. “It has NOTHING to do with me being appointed Minister of Justice,” insists Camille. Jacky Tinne is on Jean Jeanie’s arm. In his nice new Cuirassier uniform, Pierre Cardigan arrives with Edna Bucquette and they play host to Pierre’s new CO, Alexandre Capone, and his main squeeze, Ella Fant. Pierre passes a weighty purse to Alexandre. (Presumably nothing to do with him being admitted to Alexandre’s regiment...) Terence Cuckpowder has Morgane Le Fay as his companion.



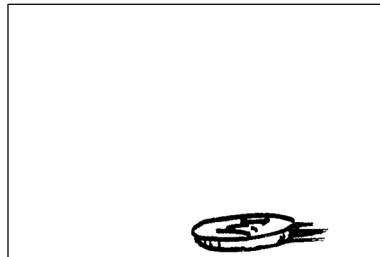
There are just two people in the Horse Guards club, Phillipe F’Loppe and Freda de Ath. While the Frog & Peach has a new member, Jean-Claude Etienne, who brings Viv Ayschus to sample its delights. They decide to test the club’s gaming tables with a series of 100-crown bets. However, the house is rolling high and Jean-Claude cuts his first bet. And the second. And the third, fourth

and fifth wagers, too. Then he loses his last bet, so he’s well out of pocket and getting only derision from his fellow gamblers.

The Frog & Peach is empty for the rest of the month, but the following week sees Thomas de la Lune bring Violet to Blue Gables, ready to welcome any guests who might turn up. Roger d’Horne is the man in Horse Guards, joined by Henrietta Carrotte and somehow avoiding his regimental enemy. Roger and Henrietta decide to roll some dice, but have to restrict their bets to the house maximum. The first roll goes to the house and Roger cuts the next two before winning one. Encouraged, he continues, only to cut twice more before deciding he’s had enough (just 500 crowns down).

Henri DuShite rolls up to an almost empty Bothwell’s (particularly when compared to the previous week) to show off his conquest of the previous week, Justine Caisse. The only other person there, though is Gaz Moutarde. Hang on, Gaz Moutarde out in public?! Yes, the reclusive Gaz has ventured to his club after just one week with his lady this month. Good job it’s not too busy.

This week’s activity is all in the Fleur, where Xavier Money is holding his November Ball. Kathy is with Xavier to welcome their guests – some of whom are a little wary after Xavier’s failure to turn up to his own party last month. Justin Thyme and Guinevere head the guest list. Then there are Louis Renault and Katy. Martin de Garnache brings Fifi. Maurice Pauvre is still on his own. Neville Moore escorts Vera. Zavier Ulric Turenne has Laura de Land on his arm. And Zeold von Tu has a new belle, Belle Epoque.



Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses

Being a correspondence game of *En Garde!* run by Pevans since April 1986 and now published as part of *To Win Just Once*.

New players are always welcome. If you’d like to play, you’ll need to subscribe to *TWJO* (see page 14). You will also need (access to) a copy of the published rules to *En Garde!* (see www.engarde.co.uk).

**Orders for December 1674 to Pevans
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lpbsorders@pevans.co.uk
by Friday 5th May 2023**



November 1674 (369)

It’s a mild November this year, providing clement weather as Phillipe F’Loppe and his sabre trot off to a meeting – the second month running he’s been one side of the only duel. His opponent is, again, a member of the Queen’s Own Carabiniers: Roger d’Horne this time. As a cavalryman, Horne also wields a sabre. The two men are evenly matched, then, though Horne isn’t quite as skilled as his adversary. Ben e’Volence attends to second F’Loppe.

Horne tries to take F’Loppe by surprise with a lunge, but this is deflected by F’Loppe’s slash and does very little damage. Unlike the slash. Both then inflict a slash on their adversary. And another one – though F’Loppe throws in a block for a good measure. His third slash is just the start of a furious routine. The cut that follows thumps Horne hard. He aborts his next slash to throw in the towel.

Regimental shuffling

Minister of State Beau Reese Jean Seine continues to leave vacancies in his government – neither Commissioner of Public Safety, nor Chancellor of the Exchequer is filled this month. Similarly, Field Marshal Jacques de Gain declines to appoint Army commanders, turning down Leonard de Hofstadt’s applications.

Petit-Garson Riche calls in a favour to persuade the senior Captain in the Cardinal’s Guard to quit. However, he doesn’t expect Tarquin le Hatter to support the Captain, ensuring he stays in place. Hatter has just resigned from the Grand Duke Max Dragoons and now applies to join the Cardinal’s men. He is quickly accepted and buys his way to the rank of Major, taking command of a battalion.

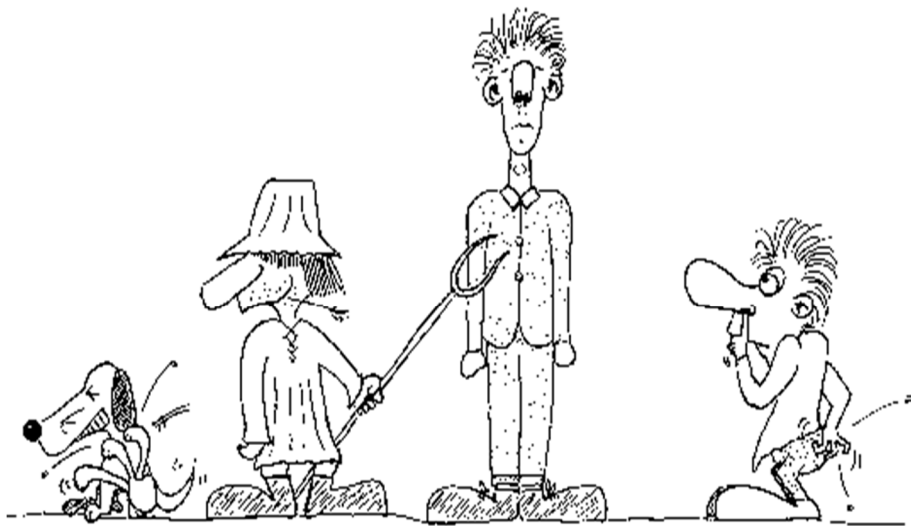
He is subordinate to Riche, however, as the Captain-as-was has just become Lieutenant-Colonel.

In the King's Musketeers, Zeold von Tu (who's actually in the Royal Foot Guards) supports KM Captain Henri Tard's request for the regiment's Major to leave. The Major brushes off Tu's paltry influence.

Grand Duke Max's don't seem to notice Hatter's departure – it's just one less Captain. Senior Major Tristand Sault spends his new loan buying the vacant Lt-Colonel's position, thus thwarting junior Major Alvin Charles, who was hoping to leap-frog him into the rank. And Trooper Francois Ciseaux-Soiseau joins the officer class as a Subaltern.

Charles Trenet's death last month has left a hole at Major in the Royal Foot Guards. Both Martin de Garnache and Pierre a'Noyer try to purchase the rank and it's the more senior Garnache who succeeds. This leaves a rather miffed a'Noyer, as he's borrowed heavily against his expected new rank. Similarly, Subalterns Hector William Boone and Zeold von Tu vie for the Captain's slot vacated by Garnache. Tu is the more senior and gets the rank.

The newly arrived Antoine d'Eques applies to join the 13th Fusiliers ("for a laugh") and is promptly accepted. He buys a Majority (and the requisite "horsey thing-a-me-bobs"). And then volunteers his battalion for active service.



THE NEW RECRUITS

Lt-Col Alexandre Capone signs up Pierre Cardigan for Archduke Leopold's Cuirassiers and Cardigan becomes a Major (and second in command to Capone).

RFG Major Eclair de Lame is off to the front after Guards Brigadier Greg de Bécqueur makes him the new Brigade Major (replacing the unfortunate Trenet).

As broadcast in advance, Dragoon Brigadier Jacques Hatt mobilises the Brigade, Tristand Sault joining him as Brigade Major. GDMD commander Louis Severin Descartes is expecting this, but PLLD officers – including CO Balzac Slapdash and Major François-Xavier Flamand – are taken by surprise. It's also a shock to junior members of the GDMD, such as Trooper Francois Ciseaux-Soiseau and Subaltern Fouche La Vache.

The final volunteers are the first squadron of the Dragoon Guards, whose commander, Claude Oppere, wants to get in some action. Plus RFG Captain Felipe Savant, who decides to see what life is like in the Royal North Highlanders.

Bad gambling

For those still in Paris, it's time to hit the clubs, drink a glass or two of wine, see and be seen and occasionally wager a few crowns. There are actually more people visiting Bothwell's than the Fleur de Lys at the start of the month. This is in part because both Louis Renault and Pierre a'Noyer have invited Toadies to the former. Louis brings Katy Did in his spanking new coach ("How's that for conspicuous consumption?") to check out his new club and they welcome five guests. Hector William Boone is flying solo. Neville Moore brings Vera Cruz. And Xavier Money escorts Kathy Pacific, but is clearly slumming it.



Pierre's invitation was a bit more exclusive and he and Sue Briquet get just three people attending. One of these is Maurice Pauvre of the Picardy Musketeers. The other two are Thomas de la Lune – a member of the Fourth Arquebusiers – and his other half, Violet Bott. Unfortunately, Maurice and Thomas are in enemy regiments, so their time is spent hurling abuse. A duel will be required.

Four other members spend the week at Bothwell's, all with a lady friend. Justin Thyme brings Guinevere d'Arthur. Lou Scannon has Bess Ottede on his arm. Martin de Garnache escorts Fifi. Rick Shaw is accompanied by Maggie Nifisent.

There are six members visiting the Fleur, as well. Les Anonyme brings Carole Singeurs. Ben e'Volence is there with Lotte Bottle. Camille de Polignac and Angeline di Griz count their coins and reluctantly forgo a session on the gaming tables – Camille has an aversion to going broke in public. Mind you, he has just