



13 Jan 75

Has anyone considered the possibility that some schmook may set up a rating system to rate rating systems?

LAPUTA is an occasional publication by and for the postal Diplomacy Rating Commission, a voluntary association of postal Diplomacy ratingsmasters. It is automatically sent to members of the Commission. Interested parties may subscribe (on a delayed basis) @15¢ an issue. A copy will also be deposited with the Postal Diplomacy Archives in Lebanon IN and with the Boardman Number Custodian. This issue is Pandemonium Publication #583, edited and published by Rod Walker, 4069 Jackdaw St., San Diego CA 92103.

I. EVERYTHING #19 is now out. I need some info from everybody. Please send me a list of every game in that issue which you do not rate, and a statement as to why you don't rate it. When I get this info I will publish an issue like LAPUTA 6 with all games indicated. Unless you tell me differently, you all will be shown as not rating 1969CW; 197LE, BI; 1972BZ; 1973A, BK; 1974O, P, CX, and well as 1970BJ, which is still in progress.

Please send me a reply, even if you rate all of the games.

I would like to hear from you by Friday, ~~21 January 1975~~. I will publish the LAPUTA listing that weekend. *see ballot!*

II. THIS ISSUE is Constitution Issue #3. It contains a further refining of our Constitutional proposals and a preliminary text of the proposed Constitution, plus (yippee...) another ballot. It is going to be a long issue.

I really want to thank you guys for your help, by the way. You took time to do a good job on the last ballot, and it was really helpful. Furthermore, they were back to me very quickly. This all makes my job much, much easier, and I appreciate this whole-hearted cooperation very much. Simon says: you may each take five giant pats on the back.

The ballots themselves will be placed on deposit with the Postal Diplomacy Archives in Lebanon IN.

We will start with a tabulation of votes and comments received. I will tally votes cast by noting the initial of each person voting "yes" (Buchanan will be Bu). I used priority votes as follows: if your #1 vote was not in the majority, then I dropped down and counted your #2 vote as a "yes". I believe this occurred only once.

Ballot results.

I. Membership

A. Ratingsmasters. Yes, 6-0 (all in favor). Qualifications: publish a list once (PBuKW) (this was Power's 2nd choice); update twice annually (PBuKW). Lon points out that this depends on whether EVERYTHING comes out.

B. Boardman Number Custodian. Yes, 5-1 (HBuKW).

C. Former Members. Tied, 3-3 (yes, BKW). We'll have to work on this.

D. Chairman. Yes, 6-0. Active member; yes, 6-0. Serves until resignation or removal; yes, 4-2 (PBuW) (1 year & reelection: LK).

E. Advisors. No, 2-4 (KW)

F. Org reps. Tied, 3-3 (BKW). Doug notes: "I think that we will be making a big mistake if we do not invite the national/international Diplomacy associations to appoint a member to interact with the PDRC. Sooner or later these organizations will decide that they need an official rating system and it would be much better for everyone if they come to us for the required expertise instead of trying to go it alone because of our policy to ignore them. Ultimately such a policy would backfire in our faces if we adopt it." (I have several comments from Doug; however, where the vote went as he argued it should, I have decided not to print them.)

II. Loss of Membership.

By Chairman's declaration after failure to fulfill obligations; yes, 4-2 (PBuW). Jeff Powers notes the Chairman should give prior notice of lapse of membership before

declaring it. That's certainly fair and I assume no one would disagree.

III. Votes. Vote was 6-0 in favor of the one-man-one-vote concept. (But see below.)

IV. Duties.

A. Chairman publishes PDRCrino; yes, 6-0. Frequency: once each 8 weeks; yes, 4-2 (PIKW). BU votes "as necessary"...the 8-week requirement is of course minimum. If there is no business, I suppose the Chairman could meet the requirement by putting out a "there is no business" issue. However, if EVERYTHING comes out with any frequency, there will always be some business, if only getting a list from the members of what games they exclude and why.

Len also suggests giving the Chairman an extra vote to break a tie. Since decisions on constitutional and SRB issues are going to be by more than majority vote, this would refer to procedural matters. As Chairman, I would prefer not to be saddled with that responsibility. Does anyone else like this idea?

B. Participation required; yes, 5-1 (PBuWIK). On every vote; yes, 4-2 (PBuLW). Ben and Walt provide for, respectively, 1 failure to vote per year and "barring personal emergency". And barring postal failure, too, I should think. Joff Key suggests the "two misses in a row and you're out" rule which is currently used for Games. Joff Power extends this rule to all members. I need more input to resolve this question and get the best and most workable requirements.

V. Business. Vote requirements for both categories of games and individual games which are included in/excluded from the SRB: all-but-one until we have 8 members or more, then all-but-two; yes, 5-1 (UKLEP) (Bu voted 2/3).

VI. Partial exclusion. Same vote requirement, same votes by same people.

VII. Membership limit. Vote 6-0 in favor of admitting all qualified members without odd or even limit.

VIII. Adoption. Final document adopted by vote of all-but-one; yes, 4-2 (BLWK) (Key voted for all-but-two if 3 or more members, but we have only 6 members, so.... (P for majority; Bu for 2/3)).

IX. Amendment. By 2/3 vote; yes, 4-2 (PBuW). (L for all-but-one; K for all-but-two after 8th member)

X. Votes. Majorities must be computed on basis of all eligible votes; yes, 5-1 (PBuKW). The problem this raises is postal failure. It means that every ballot not received is automatically counted in the negative. Well, if it doesn't work out, we can change it.

XI. SRB. Approval voted, 6-0. Len says, "but with one dissention per 30 games finished and rated by all but one or rated only by one." I believe Len attaches a more authoritative position to the SRB than is apparently intended at this point. Right now, the SRB is the list of games we all agree to rate. Our systems may include other games (although I gather everyone hopes to reduce the number of such games to as small a level as possible), and some RHs may exclude some at a later date. A Ratingsmaster can use it in this way: "This rating system includes all Games in the PDRC Standard Rating Base plus the following games:" (Or even "...and minus the following games:") It will be a handy way of telling how far out each system is from each other system.

XII. Other business:

1. Lakofka: voted wins and draws. We should include that, I guess, as issue #11 in that list on page 1 of LAPUTA 10.

2. Buchanan: "Eventual responsibility for the Boardman Numbers?" Walt, you may remember that I have Len's proposals and specifically delayed that question until the other Constitutional issues were dealt with. Ultimately, Doug will have to accept any policy we decide on, or it will have no force or effect. I will get that ball rolling very soon.

3. Len: EHC is member if he brings out EVERYTHING at least quarterly. This falls under the same heading as Walt's question. Soon....

4. Len: EHC may not be Chairman. Comments?

5. Len: Chairman may not vote if he is not Ratingsmaster. (Of course, Len did not vote for any category of membership other than RM or EHC. I gather from his ballot he favors getting a non-voting Chairman if no RM is available to do the job.) Comments?

6. Len: if Chairman serves until removed, how is removal accomplished? Good question. Any ideas out there?

On what follows, I would appreciate comments and suggestions for improving the wording.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

I. The Postal Diplomacy Rating Commission is a voluntary association of postal Diplomacy Ratingsmasters and other persons. Its purpose is the achievement of common policies and decisions relative to the rating of postal Diplomacy games. Such decisions are not automatically binding on the members (unless otherwise specified in this Constitution), but represent guidelines only.

II. Membership. The following individuals are eligible to be members of the PDRC:

A. Ratingsmasters. Any person who maintains a postal Diplomacy rating system, who has published his rating list at least once in a postal Diplomacy 'zine of general circulation, and who continues to update his list and publish the updated list at least twice annually, may be a member. The requirement for updating the list is contingent upon timely publication of completed game statistics by the Boardman Number Custodian.

B. The Boardman Number Custodian (EHC).

III. Any member who no longer meets the qualifications of membership is no longer a member, and his membership may be terminated by the Chairman. The Chairman must give advance notice of his intended action to the individual involved and must allow reasonable time for a reply or corrective action.

IV. The Chairman may be any member elected to that office. He will organize and conduct the business of the PDRC, and will publish the PDRC business publication. He must publish it at least once each 8 weeks. He is elected by majority vote. Once elected, he serves until his resignation or removal.

V. Members must vote and return every ballot sent them by the Chairman. Failure to do so may be excused on the grounds of postal failure or personal emergency; however, the Chairman will make every effort to obtain a completed ballot after the stated deadline in such instances.

VI. Standard Rating Base (SRB):

A. The SRB will include every game which the PDRC determines to be a "regular postal Diplomacy game". This listing will be published periodically in postal Diplomacy 'zines of general circulation.

B. The PDRC may vote to exclude all games of a certain type ("category") from the SRB. It may declare an individual game to be within an excluded category, or it may vote to exclude a game from the SRB on individual grounds.

C. The vote to exclude a category from the SRB, or to place a game within an excluded category, or to include a formerly excluded game in the SRB, will be unanimous with one dissent, but two dissents will be allowed if the membership of the PDRC is 8 (eight) or more (ADO/ABT).

[Well, as you can see, I put this aside for quite a while. Now, as I was saying...]

D. An individual performance within a game otherwise within the SRB may be excluded by a vote of ABO/ABT.

VII. All votes required in this document specify a majority of the whole membership; that is, votes not cast are counted in the negative.

VIII. This Constitution will be adopted when it receives an affirmative vote of five of the current six members.

IX. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of 2/3 of the members active in the PDRC at the time the vote is taken.

Additional possible articles:

II.C. Any member of the PDRC who ceases to be a member, because he is no longer a Ratingsmaster or BNC, may be continued as an active member by an affirmative vote of ABO/ABT. Such continued memberships must be renewed annually. Such membership may be "with vote" or "without vote".

II.D. The PDRC may, by a vote of ABO/ABT, request any postal Diplomacy organization to appoint an official representative as a member of the Commission. Such membership must be renewed annually and may be "with vote" or "without vote".

IV. [continuation]...The Chairman may be removed at any time by motion of any member and a majority vote for the removal.

IV. [Second continuation]...The BNC is not eligible to serve as Chairman.

Side Note: I suppose everyone is busy, as I am, updating their systems per EVERYTHING 19.

I have decided that it would be almost as easy for me to maintain two ratings systems as one, so I am reviving Brenton Ver Ploeg's Averaged Calhaver Point Count. I realize that this is already being maintained, under another name, by the DA. However, since I will be maintaining it under the guidelines laid down by this Commission, my computations should be more representative of postal Diplomacy and will be more easily comparable with other ratings systems.

PDRC Ballot #2 ... 8 February 1975

Please fill out and mail this ballot. Due date to me is 28 February 1975. If you mail this by the 20th, send to my regular address. If you mail it after the 20th, please send to: 1273 Crest Cr., Encinitas CA 92024.

YES NO

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|-----|-----|---|
| ___ | ___ | 1. Accept Article I of the Draft Constitution. |
| ___ | ___ | 2. Accept Article II of the Draft Constitution. |
| ___ | ___ | 3. Same, Article III. |
| ___ | ___ | 4. Same, Article IV. |
| ___ | ___ | 5. Same, Article V. |
| ___ | ___ | 6. Same, Article VI. |
| ___ | ___ | 7. Same, Article VII. |
| ___ | ___ | 8. Same, Article VIII. |
| ___ | ___ | 9. Same, Article IX. |
| ___ | ___ | 10. Same, Article II.C. |
| ___ | ___ | 11. Same, Article II.D. |
| ___ | ___ | 12. Same, Article IV [continuation]. |
| ___ | ___ | 13. Same, Article IV [Second continuation]. |

(Date)

(Signature)

In the space below, and on the back, and on additional paper if necessary, please indicate the following:

1. If you voted against any article due to wording, indicate an alternate wording.
2. If you voted against any article for other reasons, please specify.
3. If you have any proposals for amendments, please specify.
4. If you have any proposals, other than amendments, arising from the Constitution, please specify. (As an example, if Article II.D should pass, I presume one or more organizations might be nominated.)
5. Response to Item I on page 1, LAPUTA 12. Ignore previous deadline.