

#247

games
this
week:

77AM
78J
79R
YV8
LTC

runestone

CDO

Another issue of RUNESTONE, and, would you believe, I've even stolen a bit of time during the previous week to type up some extra stuff. So, let's do it....

Letter from Bernie Oaklyn:

Replacement and Standby Policies: Thanks to a letter sent to me by Lee Kender, Sr., concerning the use of standby players and replacement players in our games, and to noting exactly what has been happening in games in which I myself am a player and those that I have monitored in passing, this article emerges.

Let us first look at the fairness to each of the seven players in the game when one of those players misses his moves. Consider the setback of a country if those orders fall within the first game year.

Then consider the importance of a set of missed moves somewhere down the pike.

Each time orders are not given for a country, that country, and certainly its alliance structure, suffers a setback.

And, the neighbouring countries gain a decided advantage, which is somewhat similar to a real war where a commander failed to give an order, or did not plan ahead, or was a little late in setting up his defences or offensive.

Nevertheless, a set of missed moves in this game results in hard feelings, which must contribute at least subconsciously to a growing distaste for the game in the mind of the players.

Surely none of the players need a win so badly that they would ask for a set of missed orders. Nor should they wish to condone any such missed orders.

The Gamesmaster is the key here. He is in a position to stop or at least minimize missed orders in his own "house rules".

For instance, the Gamesmaster can make as a requirement for enrollment in the game that the player submit to him, the Gamesmaster, on a separate sheet of paper, properly dated and signed, and continually updated, the alliance structure for that country. The Gamesmaster can announce that the last stated alliance structure on file will be used by a standby player, whose name and address and telephone number the Gamesmaster will publish under that game (giving each and every player a chance, if they dare, to negotiate in advance with the standby player).

In addition, the Gamesmaster should assign a standby player, who will in fact become a replacement player for that game.

But, once that standby player has been assigned to report for duty under the name of a particular country, and has had the advantage of private communication from the other players, that replacement player should not be given any other assignment in that particular game, else the Gamesmaster has caused a violation of confidence.

Nowhere in our publications is there room for such statements by a Gamesmaster that "orders were submitted by a neutral party", or any such similar nonsense. If it becomes necessary to call on a local player, or even write to

(cont'd on p. 3)

CONF

Shenandoah (1978-J) SPECIAL NOTICE from your GM - Julian

To all players and John:

Today, I received confirmation that I will be working in Germany with a car-manufacturing firm in Düsseldorf for the summer. As a member of AJESEC, an association of Commerce and Economics students, I will be participating in a summer job-exchange program, which strives to give members practical experience in their field of study before they graduate.

This obviously means a GM'ing adjustment or change for the summer months. I have a choice of two alternatives, and I am leaving it to you to decide which one you prefer.

1) I can continue GM'ing the game from Germany. This would mean that the deadlines would be extended ^{to} 4 weeks, to allow for extra time for your orders to reach me, with a fifth week in between to allow me to get the results to John. This would mean we would continue more or less as before and up till now, with the only change being the extra week to allow for the extra mailing time to me. The deadlines could even be extended to five weeks apart, plus the one week for me to send the results to John. The only aspect of this alternative which you might not like is the greater time between the deadlines. This tends, as my experience has shown me, to dull the players' interest in the Game somewhat. However, I am enjoying GM'ing this game, and would like to continue through the summer. I'm pretty confident that it'll work out alright; I don't foresee any problems, and you players have been reliable for the most part, so I'm sure you could handle the extra inconvenience in terms of time and money.

2) I could get another G.M. and have him continue the adjudication of this game for the summer months.

I'm going to request all players (incl. Heiki) and John to vote one this choice of alternatives - (1) or (2). As the game is published in Runestone, John will have the power of veto over (1). Assuming he agrees to it, I am going to require a vote of at least ^(six) 6 to 2 for alternative (1) in order for it to be adopted. Otherwise, I will seek out another GM, most likely John, if he is willing. Please send in your vote, and comments, as soon as possible, so I can get this uncertainty cleared up. One last thing for those agreeing with (1), please indicate whether you prefer the 4- or the 5-week deadlines (excl. the extra week). And don't worry, I won't be offended or curse you to hell if you prefer (2).

Thanks....Julian

Julian wanted that in the April 2 issue, but it didn't arrive until April 4. He doesn't say anything about a deadline extension, so I assume there isn't one.

I am going to abstain on both votes, since it makes little difference to me which alternative is chosen. If it's (2), I'd be prepared to GM the game until Julian's return. If (1), I'd just carry on publishing the results in the usual fashion.

However, if Julian GMs from Germany, I suggest that it'd be over-optimistic to expect a one-week turnaround between deadline and publication. After all, sometimes the results take longer than that just to get from Winnipeg to Calgary! What I'd suggest is that Julian send the results to the players, from Germany, by carbon copy (perhaps without press) and send me a typed master at the same time, for publication (with press, etc.). Julian would thus set his own deadlines, and RUMESTONS would function temporarily as a reprint service only. This would reduce the turnaround to zero and carve at least a week per season from the total time. To use the present system with Julian in Germany would, I think, be prohibitive in terms of game speed. However, I'll go along with whatever the players choose.

STILL HERETO TELL THE TALE ("RACONTER L'HISTOIRE") IT'S NO GOOD CRYING OVER SPILLED BLOOD WE ALL

Oaklyn Letter (continued from p. 1):

another player and request that orders be submitted for a game, that person's name and address, and hopefully telephone number, should be published under the game season that such orders are used, giving the other players the right and chance to verify those orders as coming from other than the Gamesmaster, and that the standby player was given access to the alliance structure on file for that country and give the other players the right and chance to communicate with that standby player far before that player surprising the game with a published set of moves (which usually end in a stab).

We see that there is a question of ethics here, and this is a problem to solve.

However, it is up to each and every Gamesmaster to solve this problem for himself, under pressure of the players in his zine if necessary.

It is not the responsibility of certain persons, like one Rodney Walker, to police and condemn, and ostracise any Gamesmaster from the hobby because that Gamesmaster uses certain practices.

After all, if the players do not like to play under such practices, the players can take their money elsewhere and close down that Gamesmaster once and for all. In fact, if certain policies are not liked by the players, they can most certainly get together and vote to take their game to another publisher and gamesmaster and get out from objectionable policies.

You may consider this a statement of policy for LE FRONT DE LIBERATION DU DIPLOMACY, to be used from this day forth.

((I'm not quite sure where to start in discussing this letter, so I'll begin with something tangential. That is, the fact that Bernie's letter was a carbon copy submission. That is, a carbon copy was sent to me, which means either that Bernie kept the original and sent me the copy, or, more likely, that he has sent the same submission to a number of different zines.

((Now, it's traditional in the hobby for zines to reprint material from other zines (preferably with notice or permission). However, I get pretty bored with seeing the same item in numerous zines. I submit that, if a person wants his item to get hobby-wide coverage, he should send it to DIPLOMACY WORLD or to one large-circulation zine, and leave it to the discretion

of individual editors as to whether or not they want to reprint it. In the real world of publishing, carbon-copy manuscripts are in almost all cases automatically rejected. I think this is a case where the hobby could profitably adopt a professional practice.

((However, I'm printing Bernie's letter because, reading between the lines, it seems to be prompted by an incident in a RUNESTONE game (getting stood out of Sweden in 1978L - sour grapes?) and because it rather cavalierly attacks a RUNESTONE policy. I considered the whole standby question rather extensively in an article which was later reprinted in the IDA Publishers' Handbook, so I'm a little weary of going into it again; however, I'll be as concise as possible.

((GMing is a bit like religion; most people have their own ideas about certain areas, and there are a few people who say "I'm right and the rest of the world is wrong." As regards the use of anonymous neutrals for NMRs in 1901, I've been doing it for over 60 years and have never yet had a complaint; nor did the policy originate with me - it's quite a bit older. So for someone to say, "There is no place in our publications" for it, or that it "usually results in a stab" (which shows a certain lack of understanding of the meaning of the word "stab", as well...) seems a bit uninformed.

((True, nobody is going to argue that NMRs are desirable. They are especially detrimental in 1901 (hence the RUNESTONE policy). However, I have not yet come across a workable process for eliminating, and simply treat them as a foreseeable hazard of postal play. The setup Bernie outlines would be cumbersome and unworkable for me; in my case, a delay of one day in adjudication is really a delay of one week; if I had to write to a standby, it would mean a delay of at least two weeks. I doubt if any player, no matter how idealistic, would sanction a policy which meant an automatic delay of one, two or three weeks every time an opposing player NMRs!

((As to Bernie's statement that "players can take his money elsewhere and close down that Gamesmaster...", it's not so easy to get gamefee money back from a GM! The only time I've participated in a move to transfer a game unilaterally from an incompetent GM to a competent one, the original GM of course kept the money... In case you were wondering, the GM was Buddy Tretick, whose practice was to start games, collect the gamefees money, and then to either cancel the games unilaterally or do such a bad GMing job that the players quit in disgust. He it is whom Rod Walker was trying to "police and condemn and ostracise", and not without reason.

((I'd be pleased to hear comments from anyone who cares to write on the subject.))

HAVE TO TAKE OUR CHANCES I CUT MY FINGER ONCE IN THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN AND IT HURT LIKE HELL I CAN'T

Game 1977AM, Fall 1906: NEW FRENCH, ENGLISH REGIMES REACH EARLY ACCORD!
WHICH SIDE IS ITALY ON? AUSTRIA BOWS OUT, GERMANY LIVES!

Austria (Julian Presber): NMR! a tri dislodged, NRR, disbands.
England (Dave Pengelly): f stpc-bar; a fin-stp; a nwy-swe; f den s f kie;
a yor-nwy, c by f nth; f kie a Fre a sunber.
France (Tom Butcher): f hol h; f was-rid; a gas-spa; a mun-ber; a bur h;
a ruh-mun; a pie-tyr.
Germany (Ron Kelly): NMR! a ber h.
Italy (Hartmut Halfmeier): a ven-tri; f tyr-lyo; f nap-tyr.
Russia (Haorst John): f gre-ion; a run-ser; a ukr-sev; a bud-tri, s by a vie,
f bal-kie.
Turkey (Dave Hurd): f naf-rid; f ion-tyr; a smy-aeg; a bul h, s by a con.

The supply centre chart is on page 5. And this line is crooked.

Winter 1906: Austria: ~~fls, fls~~ (0) Eliminated.
 England: home, ~~fls~~, den, swe, nwy, stp (8) Builds f lpl.
 France: home, por, spe, bel, mun, hol (8) Builds f mar.
 Germany: ~~fls, fls~~, den (1) No change.
 Italy: home (3) No change.
 Russia: mos, war, sev, rum, ser, gre, bud, vie, tri (9)
 Builds a mos, a war, 1 short.
 Turkey: home, bul, tun (5) No change.

Standby for the exciting German position will be: Frej Wasastjerna, Llydöspolku 2-B-24, SF-01600 Vantaa 60, Finland. GOA: Dave Hurd, 61 Sanatorium Rd., Claremont 2700, South Africa, other addresses in #231. Spring orders/retreats are due Monday, May 21.

London: Prime Minister Peggally announced that his landslide victory indicates that the British people are behind the war, and that they have not been demoralised by the resignation of the previous government due to overwork. No major changes of strategy were announced all all indications were that the new ministers were attempting further and better-coordinated moves against the remnants of the Imperial German Army.

LYOUBUTDIDICRYORCOMPLAIN?ONLYALITTLEBITITSA SOLDIERSDUTY TOKILLANDMAIMORTOBEKILLED

Game 1979R, Fall 1901: RUSSIAN CAT AMONG AUSTRIAN PIGEONS, FRENCH ONE AMONG GERMANS - BOTH PRECARIOUS!

Austria (Horst John): f alb-gre; a tri-ser; a rum a Tur a arm-sev.
England (Bernie Oaklyn): a edi-hol, a place of ill repute I am told, c by f nth; f nrg-nwy.
France (Margaret Gemignani): a bur-ruh; a mar-bur; f mid-por.
Germany (Julian Presber): a bul-bel, a by f hol; a kie-den (er, NMR!; orders by anonymous neutral).
Italy (Fred Winter): a apu-tun, c by f ion; a ven-tyr.
Russia (Alvin Smoliak): a ukr-rum, s by f sev; a gal-bud; f bot-swe.
Turkey (Sellick Davies): a bul-rum; f ank-bla; a arm-sev.

Centres: Austria: ~~fls, fls~~, vie, tri, rum, ser, gre (5) Build 2.
 England: home, nwy (4) Build 1.
 France: home, por (4) Build 1.
 Germany: home, bel, hol, den (6) Build 3.
 Italy: home, tun (4) Build 1.
 Russia: home, bud, swe (6) Build 2.
 Turkey: home, bul (4) Build 1.

German standby orders are requested from Bob Albrecht, #14, 1520 23rd Ave. N, Lethbridge, Alta., Canada T1H 4X9. GOA: Sellick L. Davies, c/o Willbros, B.P. 224, Laghouat, Algeria. All other addresses in #231. Winter orders are due Monday, May 21.

Bernie, I still haven't received your 1901 press from Blair. My regrets...

Burgundy: Hearing rumours of the great German offensive, massive armies heading from the Ruhr to Munich, scared of his own shadow, the French President ordered his troops to turn tail and run. Trouble is, they ran the wrong way, right smack into trouble in the muddy waters of the Ruhr.

ANDMAINEDWITHOUTBEARINGAGRUDGEINJOSEPHINESAPPOSITEPHRASETHATSSHOWBUSINESSCHEERS

Game (1978Hid) (Montreal-Toronto Challenge), Winter 1902: Austria built a vi a tri; England and France stood pat; Germany NMR, a mun disbands in lieu of retreat; Russia retreated f swe-bal, built f stpse; Turkey built f amy.

Raynald Provost wrote offering to take over France; however, he will be moving out of Montreal, and asks if he could play under those circumstances. I have no objections myself; however, it's up to Robert and Raymond.

Spring orders are due Monday, April 30.

('SANTE') NAPOLEON AND THAT ENDS THAT PARTICULAR BIT NOW TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE YEC CHH

Game 1978Bip (Youngstown VIII) Error: I mistranscribed an English move, causing enough of a change that I will extend the deadline and notify the players. Thanks for the prompt notification!

England did not order "F SA+ OBB-Mid", but to Mid-Indian. This move fails, stood off by the Indian order "F East Indian-Mid Indian". This in turn causes to fail the English "F Jay-El".

The new Spring deadline is Mon., May 21.

WELL I HAVEN'T HAD A HELLO FOR A LONG TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT SO I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING INTO THIS

Sacred Rhino Game start: The last confirmation is in, so here we go:

Austria: Margaret Gemignani, 3200 NE 36th St., #907, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308, USA

England: Robert Paquin, 8885 Mauriac, St-Léonard, P.Q., Canada H1P 2N4

France: Bob Albrecht, #14, 1520 23rd Ave. N, Lethbridge, Alta., Canada T1H 4X9

Germany: Robert Cheek, 10392 Ladera Senda, Santa Ana, CA 92705, USA

Italy: Dan McLellan, c/o Expert Tool, 11617 147th St., Edmonton, Alta., Canada T5M 1W3

Russia: Victor Melucci, 773 Concourse Village East, Bronx, NY 10451, USA

Turkey: Raynald Provost, 986 12E Ave., Lachine, P.Q., Canada H8S 3J6

Raynald will move in either 2 or 4 weeks, depending on circumstances, so be prepared for a COA from him. Mon., May 21 will be the Spring 1901 deadline; thereafter, deadlines will be four weeks.

A game fee has been deducted from your subscription credit. If it's negative, send money!

I can't recall who has rules and who hasn't, and I'm getting low on copies, so I've had to take the time to type up a new set. Groan!

This game definitely has great scope for press writers; I hope some of you can get inspired!

Place your factors! Your African ally is _____.

TOO BAD I DON'T NEED AN ADDRESS LABEL FOR THIS ISSUE BECAUSE I HAVE TO FILL THAT BIT OF SPACES SOMEHOW

Nasty Ethnic Joke Dept.: There was the Ukranian credit union; a group of people got together, lent out their money and then skipped town.

And the Newfoundland kidnapppers; they sent the kid home with the ransom note (and the parents sent him back with the money).

Up in Vegreville, a group of Ukranians were observed pushing a house down the road. When asked what they were doing, they replied that they were trying to jump-start the furnace.

How many Californians does it take to screw in a light bulb? Answer: five. One to screw in the bulb, one to steady the chair and three to share the experience.

Missed it last issue, so...

CHIMO!