

VANILLA

VANILLA FUDGE is the occasional journal published for and by the Postal Diplomacy Rating Commission, Chaired by this publisher, Konrad Baummeister, 11416 Parkview Lane Hales Corners, WI 53130 USA. It appears wildly erratically.

FUDGE

Interested onlookers of the PDRC's activities may receive VANILLA FUDGE at the rate of 20¢ per issue, but are warned that the 'zine of this 'zine varies dramatically from time to time. This is EGGNOG Enterprises Production #103, for those keeping up with such things.

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Waffling aside, I think that we have some work to do. Lee Kendter has issued the latest Everything, #43, and promises another one soon, to kill all of the backlog he got from the Agostas when they gave him the Boardman Numbers. Lee has done a great job, and I expect that he'll continue doing same for quite some time.

1. Everyone who was sent VANILLA FUDGE #1 agreed with the basic proposal therein; well, almost everyone. Steve McLendon wrote back enthusiastically, but I have heard nothing from his co-custodian, Bob Sergeant. I will assume that it would be better to have just one man represent one rating system, and Steve is obviously the man in this case. However, I will have a question enclosed on the ballot (also enclosed) which has to deal with this situation, one which was not dealt with in the original constitution because it was assumed that no more than one person would ever maintain, or co-maintain, the same rating system at the same time.

Doug Hoptingsworth, representing the CPCRL, also agreeing.

I recently spoke with John Leeder and he is still working on his ODDMOD list, though he's a little bit behind due to extreme business; and I think that Blair Cusack is supposed to be helping him... In any case, John says that he'll slowly work on updating the listing again, and as soon as he gets it ready, will of course publish it.

2. Today I heard from a European friend and active player in Europe (who is also playing two games in my EGGNOG) inquiring about the PDRC. For some time he has actively been updating and publishing (in Bumm, Walter Luc Haas's 'zine) his own rating system. However, as I understand this, he does not rate completed games...instead, he compares player performance in ongoing games in Bumm, and perhaps Stabsanzeiger as well. Also, he has nothing to do with US or games outside of continental Europe, and so his list is necessarily complete only as far as the games he has easy access to goes. The question arises as to whether or not he could be on the PDRC. The way I interpret the Constitution, only ratingsmasters keeping records of all completed regular postal Diplomacy games qualify for the Commission, and this would exclude our friend, whose name, by the way, is Dietmar Pfohl. See the ballot this issue and let me know your thoughts on this.

There is also another German player who runs another rating system, but I believe that it is run on generally the same principles of comparing current and ongoing play only. I don't know this second Ratingsmaster, however.



3. There are several games in Everything #3 that do need some attention as to how to rate them, and just general interest. They will also be listed on the ballot. I'd like to know your comments on these individual games on whether you consider them regular or irregular as far as general ratings go. Also, some questions on them.

a. 1977CF: After Tony Taylor resigned in W02, Curtis Gibson did play for one season, then also dropped. I know, because I happened to play in the game. The record should stand: G-Tony Taylor (res W02), Curtis Gibson (dro F03), CD (out F04). For Doug and Steve this will make no difference, but for John and I it does. Slightly.

b. 1977CS: In many rating systems published in the past, the drawing powers had to have as many or more centers as those not in the draw. Here, a civil disorder France had 9 centers and was left out, though a 5 center Germany was in. In this case, the French player (me; what fun that game wasn't!) resigned after the last move played in that game; no move was played without him, the players just drew in the next 'zine after the game was orphaned. In that case, France was never technically in disorder, and the French player might receive a part in the draw. (Greed-y me; actually it's not that, it's just the principle behind the thing.) On the other hand, since Jarvinen, the second GM, didn't use standby players and had a disgusting dropout rate, I question whether this game is rateable at all, due to the high number of centers in disorder. At the end of the game it was clear that Austria only had to pick up the empty and undefended centers surrounding him to pick up the win. I'd like your opinion on this; 1977KT has the same problem with resignations on the last turn of the game, with resulting draw votes.

1977HD: Ron Kelly played two positions in this game, England Turkey, at different times. As Turkey, his predecessor dropped out in S02, and he was out in F02, obviously not playing any great role in the game as such. As England, he came in after S08 and played to a 8 SC finish in 1913. In the latter position he obviously did influence the game. Doug Hollingsworth was bothered by this. How would you rate this one, regular or irregular? My own feelings are that it's fine in this case, since Ron did not do anything to really affect the outcome of the game as Turkey, and thus couldn't be considered playing twice in the same game...but if he had played the position for a year or more, the game would clearly be irregular.

1977KF: I believe that the concession was by vote, not Gamesmaster decision. It's valid. (I checked my Graustark issues.)

1977KT: This is a situation similar to 1977CS, noted above. In this case, the Italian player and the English player both resigned in the last season of the game; probably because the game was going to be transferred from Command to some other 'zine. I don't know whether or not the GM just decided to call it a draw right then and there, but it's probable. So England and Italy, who each had 8 centers, equal to the other two high powers of the 4 drawing (others had 5 and 4), were left out of the draw, though they would have been in it had the draw been called one season earlier. These players assumed that the game would go on elsewhere, and no season was played after their exits. What do you think?

1978AT: As I remarked in Graustark myself, many moons ago, I wonder whether the win, in this case, belongs to Jake Walter or Tom Thronsen. Walters appointed Thronsen as a "temporary" sub in S04, when Turkey had only 7 centers; no automatic win or even survival. Thronsen was clearly the one who built the winning position out of it, and indeed, Jake had nothing to do with the game after he left. I wonder whether or not this should be treated as a win by Jake or by Tom. (This game brings up the question of temporary subs in general, when the game goes this way -- a win by the substitute when it was originally his victory, and not the original.)