

THE CELESTIAL DRAGON #11



Featuring:

THE CELESTIAL STEAM LOCOMOTIVE #41

HERE BE DRAGONS #74

SUBPAR #11

THE TANGERINE TERROR #81

I AM THE KURIOUS KUMQUAT #11

DEADLINE: Friday 31st October 2025



THE CELESTIAL STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

Track no. 41

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Rock on Riley! In the above picture he attempts a tricky *Dm11Add9* on the synthesizer. Alas I didn't record his virtuoso performance. Instead of yet another cat pic, I did consider taking a snap of one of the many flags that now adorn my village, but I think we've all seen enough of those. I agree with PM Sir Keir Starmer, who said *flags are a great symbol of our nation but they can be devalued if they're used for divisive purposes*. I doubt those putting up the flags did so to support the Red Roses rugby team.

Pensions week at work, though I went to the online sessions last year and subsequently discussed my retirement plans with (shock, horror) a human. I have found that with retirement pending I seem less bothered about problems at the office, and I've even been a little playful at times. This playfulness has recently included two rounds of "buzzword challenge" which you can play solo or with one or more opponents.

It works best as a two-player game in which each of you chooses a silly word or phrase the other has to say, in context, at a meeting. If anyone rumbles what you are doing you've lost. So far I've described one of our projects as a "*boondoggle*" and, with a deadpan rendition, used the phrase "*Let's park that and let it idle in the corporate lay-by*". I think the game is easier in a video call as you can go on mute in the event of any sniggering.

My third YouTube Mix <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFnjr9pgdiByLYubUwT3UmlzqTQuB7Fyz> of my favourite rock vids of the year is now available. Last year's was an absolute banger so I had a hard act to follow - but the result is 90 minutes of rock heaven! Three of the vids are actually from 2024 but I hadn't seen them before last year's mix so they are valid (by my rules).

I mentioned last time that I had been watching the Canadian time-travel drama *Continuum* on Amazon. It was one where the story development happened at a beautifully measured pace until season 4 where they had to wrap it up in 6 episodes due to cancellation. Still good though. I liked their "tree" description of time, in which whenever someone travelled back in time and changed something, a new branch would emerge, but ultimately only one timeline could be extant, and the "losing" timeline would end, destructively!

The assassination of extreme right-wing activist Charlie Kirk made me think of the show, as it includes the development of a terrorist group called *Liber8* inspired by one of the characters who is destined to become a political speaker called *Prometheus*. Perhaps someone was sent back in time to prevent Kirk founding an influential movement?

I am now watching a show from 2015 called *Dark Matter* (there is a 2024 show of the same name, but they are not related). It's a space opera in which a spaceship crew of criminals (perhaps inspired by *Blake's 7*?) wake up from stasis with blank memories. After a rather clunky start it's now getting really good. I'm reminded of *The Expanse* which I didn't like much at first, but I ended up an addict.

I have recently attended my first wedding for a very long time. My nephew's marriage date had to be put back a bit due to the birth of my grandniece, but a sunny but not too hot day in August worked out fine. I was previously unaware of a couple of fairly recent trends:

- 1) Hen and Stag dos are now much more expensive affairs, often costing attendees over £1,000 each.
- 2) Colour coordination is a thing at the wedding - at this one all the men had to wear pink ties and pocket handkerchiefs

The ceremony and reception both went very well, though my taxi home cost more than I expected (I don't go out much these days) and I returned to find there was a burst water main outside the house, and no water supply.

Some mixed news on the health front: My poop test was negative (again) but I may have to up my blood pressure meds. Last time I spoke to the doctor about my BP he told me to drink less alcohol and exercise more. Some (not desperately scientific) home tests with a BP machine showed that whilst alcohol does raise my BP it's not as bad as salt, and daily exercise reduces the reading by nearly as much as the drugs. I now have a watch to check my BP at any time, and I compared its readings to the conventional arm pump machine and it was close (always a little higher on the systolic). My sister told me that if I do end up with more meds, it is more likely to be a second drug instead of more *Ramipril*.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, my first ever historic RR map <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/durhamrr.html> has been released. It's set in 1826 when companies vie to make the most money expanding the original line (all the way to Newcastle!)

A list is open for Durham 1826, and also starting this issue we have a new S&L and a new Parkrun in HBD (more welcome to join Fragments). I am running one more Crystal Ball, and the final round of BMPD this issue and I have new, hopefully better, BPD variant starting *next* issue.

And finally, why is the main cover picture a milestone? Should it have been last issue's cover? Is it predicting the score of the Saints v Pompey derby match? No, it's to do with the Kendo game (see later) which has just finished, new game (a new variant based on the popular UK TV show *Destination X*) starting straight away.

Update 18th September: Donald Trump described the US and the UK as "two notes in one chord". Hopefully not the one Riley played!

Richard

THE 2025 UK GAMES ZINE POLL



a) WHO MAY VOTE? Anyone who sees at least one eligible zine, whether as an editor or a subscriber. Editors may vote for their own zines.

b) WHICH ZINES ARE ELIGIBLE? In the first four categories, any zine published in the British Isles which has produced an issue in 2025 (up to and including the Poll deadline); is distributed by post, as an e-mail, as an attachment to an e-mail or as a download from a website; and runs games that we would recognise as "postal" ones (e.g. Diplomacy, Railway Rivals, 18xx, En Garde! or United, among many others).

The fifth category is a free-for-all open to similar "postal games" zines from around the world.

c) HOW TO VOTE. The five categories are: Diplomacy (and variants); Railway Games; Sports Leagues; Other Games; Overseas Zines.

This year, I'd like you to list up to five eligible zines, in any combination of tied or single spots, in as many of the categories for which they qualify as you wish.

Zines may be entered in more than one category and in different positions, if desired. For example, Obsidian might be listed in the Diplomacy, Railway and Other Games categories, in the fourth, third and equal-fifth places, if that's your assessment of it.

You could send in full lists of candidates for all five categories, nominate your favourite in just one, or something in between these two extremes. The amount of time you want to spend on this and the level of detail you want to go into are up to you.

Votes should be sent by e-mail from the voter's own account to alex.bokmal@googlemail.com. The Poll deadline will be midnight on FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2025. Results will be e-mailed to each voter and published (with luck) in at least a few zines.

THE LETTERS BIT



STEVE HAM

In case you are missing the Americans I can recommend Berlin Station which is currently available on ITVX. It's got a very similar vibe but the Americans are the good guys this time and it is the CIA in Berlin. You get to know a few of the characters very well.

I wouldn't say either side were the "good guys" in The Americans.

OK - I understand though I always wanted the Russians to "win". Berlin Station is interesting in that the three series are set to a backdrop a three separate geo-political issues - Edward Snowden, German Far Right and Russia's expansion plans, but the strength of the programme is that a lot of the characters get developed well.

One of the The Americans' strengths is getting you to root for the Russkies, even though they do bad things - "Elisabeth" in particular being a cold-blooded killer. Berlin Station does sound good, I will have to check it out.

BRAD MARTIN

Now *you* must be nearing RR GMing capacity? (after I suggested that his workload in Western Front must be close to the most he can manage)

Yes, I do need to be careful not to overstretch, especially as I still have to work for a living. I'm actually pretty quick at GMing the word games etc. just a bit slow on RR and BB, but I have Bob and Jim to share the load (and we are of course also the notable map production team of Smith, Gingell, and Readerman).

CHRIS HIBBERT

The other change in my routine since retiring, is that in addition to indoor rock climbing and ice hockey pretty much every week, I've added a hike (usually 7-10 miles) and pickleball. Those are keeping my heart rate up. I don't have anything near as pretty as Tom puts together to report on.

I have been eyeing up a 9-mile walk for some time but my "legs range" is currently about 6 miles and having to work my time is limited too.

We've (I've, mostly) made progress on the shed. The shed has been cleaned out. I removed all the screws tying the shed to the platform. I removed most of the nails holding the floor onto the joists. The shed seems to be too heavy to move off of the platform, so we're currently pursuing a strategy of removing the flooring (particle board, which Gemini assures me was a bad idea from the start. We should have used plywood.) piecemeal, and replacing it with painted/sealed plywood. Yesterday, I cut out and removed the central 6 feet from one of the 4x8 floorboards. At that point, much more rat shit became evident (no surprise), so I sprayed it down with more bleach and left the next stage for Monday. I was then able to remove the rest of that section of the floor. We're now planning a trip to buy the replacement plywood. It rained a tiny bit this week, so we put off that trip until next week, when the weather is expected to be clear.

Tidying my garage last year after 10 years of neglect almost killed me. No rat faeces but there was a bit of damp in one corner that resulted in my D&D books going mouldy.

I've also been sealing with fine mesh some ventilation holes around the house that lead into the attic. The wasps have been making a nuisance of themselves, and we want them to choose a different location. *The words "ventilation holes" reminded me of sixth-form college. Me and some friends played out a little joke (over some time) in which we exchanged mumbled secret phrases to the befuddlement of others. One of them was "ventilation hole" and another was "melon in a bucket".*

BOB PITMAN

We are booked to travel by train across Switzerland, Italy and France. We are doing some scenic routes in Switzerland and hopefully visiting some holiday spots on the way back home. Currently we are thinking lake Garda and somewhere on the Cote d'Azur.

Pretty much in the area the Destination X bus was touring in the early episodes. Very scenic and definitely best enjoyed relaxing in a train rather than driving (on the wrong side of the road). Having said that the original Switzerland RR map was notorious for lots of mountain builds.

MICHAEL PARGMAN

The days get shorter and shorter, and it's not pleasant to sit outside in the evenings. On the other hand, the chess season has begun and I'm trying to keep playing well even though I'm not spending any time studying. This means that my rating is falling and a whole bunch of promising juniors are passing me.

I never really got into chess, despite having the "right sort of brain". I've always loved bridge and I used to be pretty decent at Scrabble. I'm told my love of cryptic crosswords and very hard Sudokus should help keep my brain exercised when I retire from computer programming. Of course with the rise of "Vibe Coding" (which is basically accepting AI bots' suggestions and hoping it works), programming is now much less of a brain workout.

ALBUM REVIEWS

Arjen Anthony Lucassen - Songs That No One Will Hear (2025)



This is Arjen Lucassen's second solo album, the first being *Lost In The New Real* back in 2012. Lucassen's projects such as *Ayreon* and *Star One* usually feature loads of guest musicians. For example, last year's cracking *Live Beneath The Waves* featured no less than 16 vocalists!

But for a solo album, he does most of the singing and playing and has just a few guest musicians (only four vocalists this time - Floor and Irene Jansen, Robert Soeterboeck and Marcela Bovio) but he does have a guest DJ, Australian Mike Mills, and a hurdy-gurdy player.

Songs That No One Will Hear is a concept album about the end of the world. A giant asteroid is heading for earth, and as Bruce Willis is not available, scientists are certain that the impact will wipe out the human race. The impact date is 5 months away and the songs of the album tell the story of what happens in that time.

Following a jingle based on REM's *It's The End of the World As We Know It* Mills opens the first track *End of the World Show* with "Okay so you've heard the news. There's a giant fiery bastard of a meteorite headed straight toward earth..."

Another great quote from Mills is "A wise man once said: Not ragged-clothed nor silver-spooned, you're all the same when extinction looms".

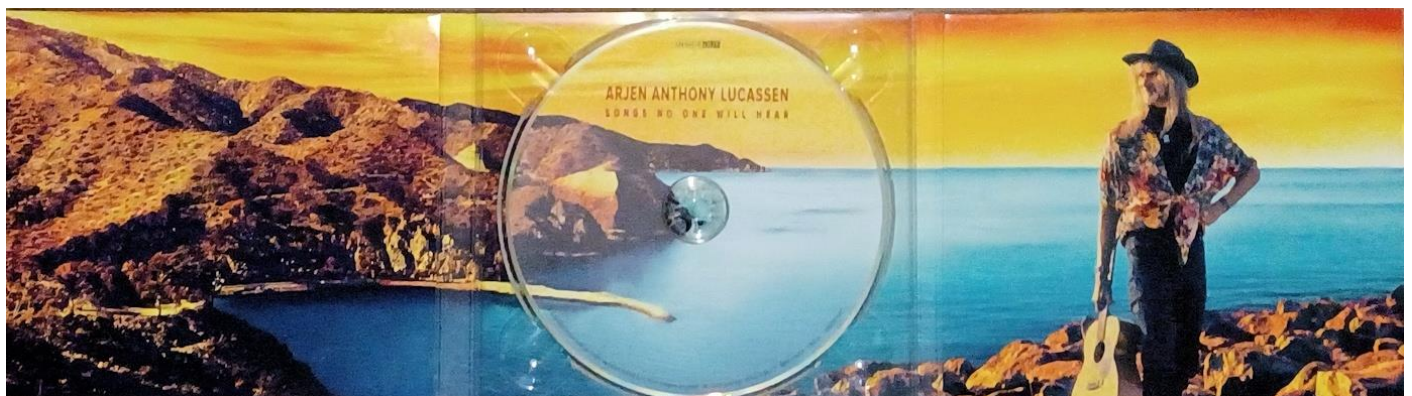


To get all the commentaries you need to buy the CD rather than listen via Spotify, and it has a nice digipack with a glossy booklet with great artwork. The tracks are mostly short (by prog standards) except the 15-minute closer *One Final Song*. Production is very good - a beefy sound but decent dynamics (you can hear the drums). Sample tracks:

The Clock Clicks Down <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSMKLaVHL0I>

Goddam Conspiracy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2appym7cCE>

We'll Never Know <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2uJyFWFhZc>



The album concludes with the creepy final words: *Mission complete. Let the new phase begin.*

YungBlud - Idols (2025)

If you were asked to name some 90s indie bands, you might come up with Oasis, Blur, The Verve, Pulp, Suede, The Cranberries and Placebo. Now imagine an album that puts all of them into a melting pot, stirred by David Bowie, with U2 sprinkled on top, and Idols is what you get.



Whilst pretty much all the tracks make you think of others (for example the opening of *War* immediately made me think of *Zombie* by The Cranberries) they are all enjoyable and addictive. Mr. Yungblud pulls off many different styles: Pop, classic rock, and punk with aplomb.

I bought this album after hearing the track *When We Die Can We Still Get High?* which I mentioned last issue. The first single off Idols was the punk rock infused Blur-like *Lovesick Lullaby* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfwUrz7s_Vg which couldn't be much more different to the druggy psychedelia of the Oasisesque *When We Die*.

Some might say that opening the album with the 9-minute rock epic, *Hello Heaven, Hello* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrZX47RbeJs> may have been an odd choice but it sets the scene for the grandness that pervades the album. Big strings! Great guitar solo! Lush keyboards! Long dreamy outro... ..it's almost prog, but not quite.

Plenty of other good songs on the album, in fact I would say they this record really is *all killer and no filler*. Zero out of infinity for originality, but who cares? It's a terrific album that lots of different people will enjoy, including quite a few oldies if the comments on YouTube are anything to go by.



My usual gripe about over-compression does alas apply to this album (so the tracks sound better on YouTube) but otherwise the production is good. An example where more dynamic range would be welcome is the track *The Greatest Parade* at about 2 minutes 10 the powerful bridge kicks in "*And I know I know I know there's no tomorrow*" but it has no headroom to expand into, and so is much less exciting to the listener than it could have been.

Like many (including the late Ozzy Osbourne) I think this artist is destined to be huge, and a strong next album could seal his rise to superstar status.

Next issue I will review the new Anna von Hausswolf record *Iconoclasts*, and possibly the new EBB album if it comes out in time.

BY MODERATELY POPULAR DEMAND - ROUND 4 OF 5



Rules: In this variant the highest scoring answer(s) AND the lowest scoring answer(s) all score no points, so you want to be somewhere in the middle with your choice. To complicate matters each player has four tokens to play on each round. The tokens can be distributed however the player sees fit, even all four on the same category.

- Double Token - double the score of one (named) answer (in one category)
- Half Token - halve the score of one (named) answer (in one category), rounding up
- Destroy Token - eliminate one (named) answer (in one category)
- Shield Token - prevent the elimination of one (named) answer (in one category)

Conflicting Double and Half tokens cancel, so two Doubles and a Half on the same answer equates to one Double. However, a single Shield token protects an answer from elimination by any number of Destroys. See TCD7 for examples.

Game end comments welcome. Is it too chaotic? Should it be binned or would a rule change help?

John just hangs on to the lead as Bob Pitman's impressive 10 rockets him up to second place.

The Rhythm Method (whose users are generally known as "parents") proved popular, but only the cap scored. The destruction of Tinder prevented scoring for the dating service, whilst the classy (?) Mayfair was the only scoring nudie mag. Two "classic" positions both scored points, whilst Gonorrhoea proved too common a disease, with Syphilis (popularised by Henry VIII) scoring 3. Nobody went for (the topical) Epstein for the sex offender, or his buddy Prince Andrew, but Donald Trump was a winning pick (though I should stress that no wrongdoing by him has been established).

Categories for Round 4: The theme is "Thingy". There is no start letter.

1) A method of contraception

Before Tokens: *Rhythm Method (4), Condom (2), Cap / Diaphragm, Morning-after pill, IUD/Coil, Nigel Farage, Abstinence (1)*

Tokens Played: Double Pill, Cap; Half Coil, Condom; Destroy Condom, Pill; Shield Pill

After Tokens: *Rhythm Method (4), **Cap / Diaphragm (2)**, Morning-after pill, IUD/Coil, Nigel Farage, Abstinence (1)*

2) A dating app or service (past or present)

Before Tokens: *Tinder (3), Hinge (2), eharmony, Match, Grindr, Silver Singles, Strictly Come Dancing, Bumble (1)*

Tokens Played: Double Grindr, Tinder, Silver Singles; Half Tinder, eharmony; Destroy Plenty of Fish, Tinder

After Tokens: *Hinge, Grindr, Silver Singles (2), eharmony, Match, Strictly Come Dancing, Bumble (1) no scoring answers*

3) A pornographic magazine (past or present)

Before Tokens: *Mayfair, Penthouse (3), Color Climax, Hustler, Men Only, Playboy, Hello!*

Tokens Played: Double Penthouse; Half Playboy x2; Destroy Playboy; Shield Hustler, Shield Men Only

After Tokens: *Penthouse (6), **Mayfair (3)**, Color Climax, Hustler, Men Only, Hello!*

4) A sex position name

Before Tokens: *Spooning, Missionary (3), Doggie, Cowgirl, Seashell, On Your Marks, 69 (1)*

Tokens Played: Double Doggie, Spooning; Half Missionary; Destroy Doggie; Shield Doggie, Missionary

After Tokens: *Spooning (6), **Missionary, Doggie (2)**, Cowgirl, Seashell, On Your Marks, 69 (1)*

5) A sexually transmitted disease

Before Tokens: *Gonorrhoea, Syphilis (3), AIDS/HIV (2), Chlamydia, Crabs, European Royalty (1)*

Tokens Played: Double Gonorrhoea; Shield Gonorrhoea, AIDS

After Tokens: *Gonorrhoea (6), **Syphilis (3), AIDS/HIV (2), Chlamydia, Crabs, European Royalty (1)***

6) A notorious sex offender

Before Tokens: *Jimmy Savile (3), Donald Trump (2), Cyril Smith, Adam, Andrew Tate, Your Mum, Marquis de Sade, Stuart Hall (1)*

Tokens Played: Double Cyril Smith; Half Fred West, Jeffrey Epstein; Destroy Jeffrey Epstein; Shield Jimmy Savile

After Tokens: *Jimmy Savile (3), **Cyril Smith, Donald Trump (2), Adam, Andrew Tate, Your Mum, Marquis de Sade, Stuart Hall (1)***

Scoreboard:

Player	Contra	Dating	Magazine	Position	Disease	Offender	Score	Total
John Walker	Cap / Diaphragm	Hinge	Penthouse	Spooning	Gonorrhoea	Cyril Smith	4	25
Bob Pitman	Rhythm Method	Tinder	Mayfair	Doggie	Syphilis	Donald Trump*	10	23
Roger Trethewey	Condom	eharmony	Penthouse	Missionary	Chlamydia	Jimmy Savile	2	19
Jim Reader	Rhythm Method	Tinder	Mayfair	Cowgirl	Syphilis	Jimmy Savile	6	16
Bob Gingell	IUD / Coil	Silver Singles	Playboy	Missionary	Syphilis	Andrew Tate	5	14
Brendan Whyte	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Martin Walker	Rhythm Method	Tinder	Color Climax	Spooning	Crabs	Jimmy Savile	0	12
Michael Pargman	Morning-after pill	Hinge	Men Only	Spooning	AIDS / HIV	Marquis de Sade	2	10
Brad Martin	Rhythm Method	Match	Hustler	Seashell	Gonorrhoea	Adam	0	9
Mike Pollard	Nigel Farage	Strictly Come Dancing	Hello!	On your marks	European Royalty	Your Mum	0	8
Chris Hibbert	Abstinence	Grindr	Penthouse	69	AIDS / HIV	Donald Trump*	4	8
Steve Ham	Condom	Bumble	Mayfair	Missionary	Gonorrhoea	Stuart Hall	3	7
GM picks (non-scoring)	Withdrawal	Dateline	Mayfair	Wheelbarrow	Herpes	Gary Glitter	-	-

* *allegedly*

Categories for Round 5: The theme is "Music". There is no start letter.

1) A musical note type

2) A time signature used in popular music (includes jazz and prog)

3) An open chord commonly played on the acoustic guitar (6-string, standard tuning)

4) A famous synthesizer or organ brand used in popular music

5) Part of a drum kit

6) An album by Frank Zappa (with or without the Mothers of Invention)*

* *I wanted to end with something with a Z in!*

BY WORDLEY DEMAND - RULES

The game is best run over 5 or 10 rounds and is played as per standard BPD (5 categories per round) with the following additional rules:

- Each player is allocated their own personal Wordle answer when they join the game. This is a five-letter word with no repeat letters and it is not revealed to the player.
- Each round, the first letters of each answer in order must form a dictionary word according to the [Collins Scrabble Checker](#). Plurals are not allowed, and players may not submit a word used in a previous round.
- Should the word be invalid for any reason, BPD scores are awarded as normal but not the Wordle bonuses, described below.
- If the answer for #1 begins with the first letter of the player's answer, that gets +4 points, if it begins with one of the other letters in the word, a +2 bonus is scored. And so on for #2-#5.
- They get the maximum 20 bonus points if they Wordle, but they are then allocated a new word. After 5 rounds, everyone gets a new word whether they have Wordled or not!

Example, the player's word is BINGO and the categories are A Composer (surname), A UK town or city with an EPL or EFL football team, A musical instrument, A capital city and A US President (surname).

Brahms	+4
Oldham	+2
Organ	+2
Sofia	+0
Truman	+0

BOOST is a valid dictionary word, and the player now knows his word begins with B and the 4th or the 5th character is an O.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS KENDO NAGASAKI - DESTINATION X



Destination X is available now on the BBC iPlayer (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0024pz8>).

In the TV show, the players are touring around Europe in a blacked-out bus (no internet or phones) and only get to see certain things via their X-goggles. These are various different clues to the destination, mixed in with red herrings. There are challenges

which can yield extra clues, but these are only revealed so some players, who may choose to share what they've learned with others, keep shtum, or lie. At the end of each show, contestants go to the *map room* and place an X where they think they are. Whoever is furthest away is eliminated. Players do not see other people's guesses and don't know how accurate they were. Only the eliminated player gets the location fully revealed.

The Kendo game is only loosely based on the TV show, with just the elimination element in play (no clues, not limited to Europe). At the end of rounds 1-3, nothing happens. At the end of rounds 4-6, whoever's transmitter is furthest from Kendo gets their guess blanked out from the turn report, and they receive a *yellow card* (two yellows means elimination) from ~~Rob Brydon~~ the GM. At the end of rounds 7-9, it's the same except they now get a *red card* meaning elimination from the game.

Game starts this issue - please send in your initial guesses for Kendo's identity and location. You are not required to visit a fake airport.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS KENDO NAGASAKI - THE END!



This time it's the Three Wishes variant, with one of the wishes changed from last time - see <https://variablepig.org/rules/kendo.html>.

You can ask the *Kendo Genie* to help you three times in the game. Each wish can only be used once, and only one wish can be granted per round. Anyone using a wish is emailed the result promptly so it can be used for the current orders.

You can ask the genie for the "bonus clue" for the round, who was the closest person in the previous round, or how close you were last time (e.g. 3rd nearest). When a wish is used, the turn report will mention that player x used a wish, but not which one.

Kendo has been found, hiding in a postbox in the village of World's End in Hampshire. Nostradamus is believed to have predicted the end of the world for the year 3797, with something bad, but not world-ending happening in 2027. Perhaps this is the election of Nigel Farage as UK Prime Minister?

Congratulations to Dane Maslen, Steve Guest, Bob Gingell and Chris Hibbert who share the glory but alas not £100,000.



Round 8:

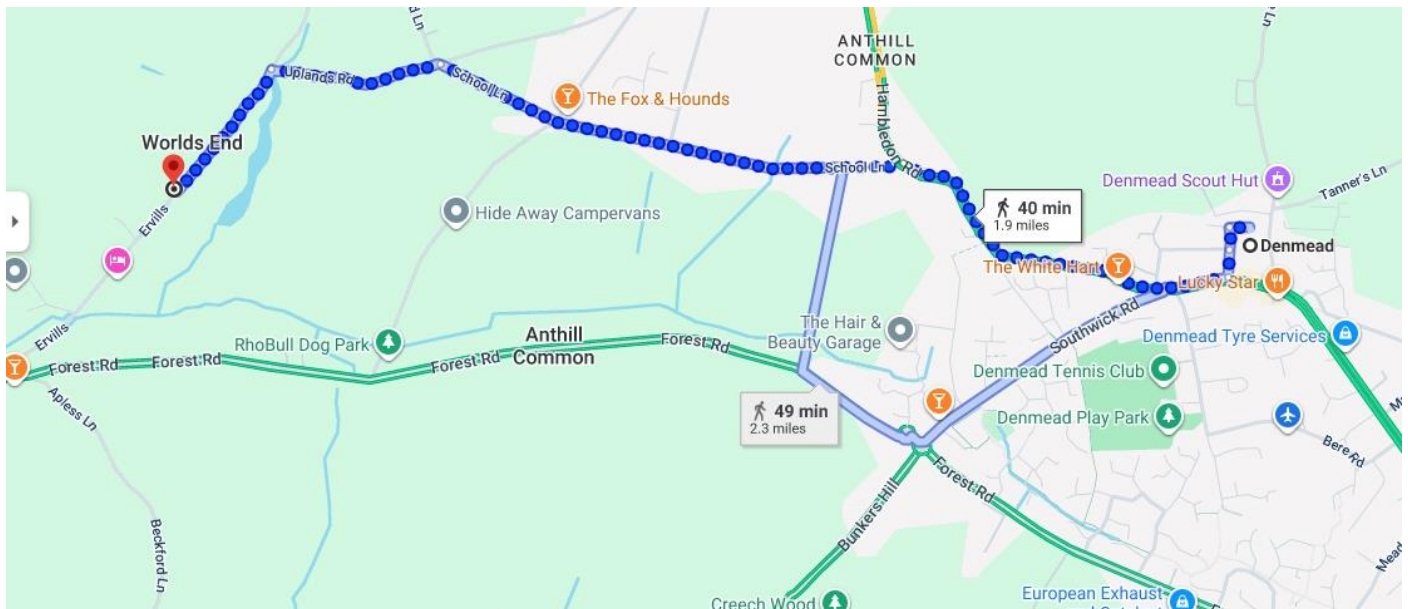
Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	World's End (Hampshire)	50.9	-1.0999
Steve Guest*	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	World's End (Hampshire)	50.9	-1.0999
Chris Hibbert*	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	World's End (Hampshire)	50.9	-1.0999
Tom Howell*	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Portsmouth	50.805833	-1.087222
Dane Maslen*	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	World's End (Hampshire)	50.9	-1.0999
Jim Reader	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Waterlooville	50.88	-1.03
Martin Walker	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Southampton	50.9025	-1.404167
Brendan Whyte	Napoleon Bonaparte (1789-1821)	Roman Baths, Bath	51.3809	-2.3595

Round 7:

Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Bristol, England	51.453611	-2.5975
Steve Guest*	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Beaulieu, Hampshire	50.818333	-1.451944
Chris Hibbert	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Wellington, Somerset	50.9755	-3.2243
Tom Howell*	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Newport, Isle of Wight	50.701	-1.2883
Dane Maslen*	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Newport, Isle of Wight	50.701	-1.2883
Jim Reader	René Descartes (1596-1650)	Denmead, Hampshire	50.905	-1.0648
Martin Walker	Gerardus Mercator (1512-1594)	Salisbury, Wiltshire	51.069722	-1.795
Brendan Whyte	Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375)	Christchurch, Dorset	50.73	-1.78

Public response to the player with the closest guess: *We were born in the same country, albeit quite a way apart, a sizeable car or train journey would be required to travel from one to the other. However, someone could walk from your transmitter to my hiding place, post a letter, and return in less than a day.*

To walk from Denmead village centre to the World's End postbox and back is about 90 minutes.



The route shown is OK except the last bit, where Ervils is not safe for pedestrians (the footpath to Hambledon avoids this). A more scenic route is to go down Bunkers Hill and cut through Creech Woods to Apless Lane, emerging next to the Chairmakers pub. There were comments from Tom and Chris about the "someone could walk in less than a day" clue being vague about the physical fitness of the walker and what is meant by a day in this context. The world record for distance walked in 24 hours is 108 miles, however Portsmouth and back (according to the milestone on the front cover) is 20 miles which would be a tough ask, but not impossible, for me to do.

Round 6:

Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell	Michel de Nostredame (1503-1566)	Pudding Lane, City of London	51.5102	-0.0853
Steve Guest*	Geoffrey of Monmouth (1095-1155)	Winchester Cathedral, England	51.060556	-1.313056
Chris Hibbert	Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-1655)	Torquay, England	50.47	-3.53
Dane Maslen	John Lennon (1940-1980)	Salisbury, England	51.069722	-1.795
Jim Reader	Marquis de Sade (1740-1814)	Didben Purlieu, England	50.852	-1.415
Martin Walker	Richard Osman (1970-)	Padstow, Cornwall, England	50.538	-4.938
Brendan Whyte	HG Wells (1866-1946)	Wells, England	51.209444	-2.645

Public response to the player with the closest guess: *I died before you were born. Your transmitter is located at a place with a globally unique name, my hiding spot is not.*

There's only one Dibden Purlieu https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dibden_Purlieu but there are several places called World's End https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World%27s_End (most in the UK).

Round 5:

Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell*	King George III (1738-1820)	Rennes, France	48.1147	-1.6794
Steve Guest	Michael Collins (Irish PM) (1890-1922)	Berwick-upon-Tweed, England	55.769167	-2.0025
Chris Hibbert*	Karl Koch (hacker) (1965-1989)	Isle of Man	54.235	-4.525
Tom Howell	Sebastián de Aparicio (1502-1600)	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	42.877778	-8.544444
Dane Maslen*	Catherine de' Medici (1519-1589)	St Helier, Jersey	49.185833	-2.11
Jim Reader*	Jules Verne (1828-1905)	Sark	49.433056	-2.360833
Martin Walker*	Robert Burns (1759-1796)	Kirkwall, Orkney	58.981	-2.96
Brendan Whyte	John Snow (physician) (1813-1858)	The Angel, Islington, England	51.532	-0.106

Public response to the player with the closest guess: *Your main occupation is something I also did but not what I am most famous for.*

Nostradamus was a physician (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nostradamus>) albeit much more famous for astrology.

Round 4:

Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell	Queen Victoria (1819-1901)	Cowes, Isle of Wight	50.7595	-1.3002
Steve Guest	Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923)	Paris, France	48.856667	2.352222
Chris Hibbert	Maximilian III of Austria (1558-1618)	Hamburg, Germany	53.55	10.00
Tom Howell	Ferdinand Porsche (1875-1951)	Stuttgart, Germany	48.7775	9.18
Dane Maslen	Jean-Baptiste Jourdan (1762-1833)	Limoges, France	45.8353	1.2625
Jim Reader	Pierluigi Collina (1960-)	Bologna, Italy	44.493889	11.342778
Martin Walker	Franz Beckenbauer (1945-2024)	Plzen, Czechia	49.7475	13.3775
Brendan Whyte	Kanye West (1977-)	Luxembourg City	49.611667	6.131944

Public response to the player with the closest guess: *We were both the subject of 1990s movies but yours was much more popular than mine. We were both associated with an illness ending in "a".*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nostradamus_\(1994_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nostradamus_(1994_film)) - movie not a great success

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mrs_Brown - box office hit starring Billy Connolly

Three of Victoria's children had or carried haemophilia and Nostradamus died of edema.

Round 3:

Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell	Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)	Copenhagen, Denmark	55.676111	12.568333
Steve Guest	Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)	ESOC, Darmstadt, Germany	49.871111	8.622778
Chris Hibbert*	Marcel Marceau (1923-2007)	Mediterranean Sea+	35.0	18.0
Tom Howell	Albert Einstein (1879-1955)	Berlin, Germany	52.52	13.405
Dane Maslen	André Michelin (1853–1931)	Clermont-Ferrand, France	45.7831	3.0824
Jim Reader	Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)	Jyväskylä, Finland	62.241667	25.741667
Martin Walker	Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)	Rome, Italy	41.9	12.483333

+ Wikipedia does give a lat lon for what appears to the centroid

Public response to the player with the closest guess: *We share a nationality but have different occupations, and our lifetimes do not overlap.*

Nostradamus was French and died before Michelin was born.

Round 2:

Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell	Simón Bolívar (1783-1830)	Medellín, Columbia	6.230833	-75.590556
Steve Guest*	Alexei Sayle (1952-)	Barnsley, UK	53.5547	-1.4791
Chris Hibbert	Pol Pot (1925-1998)	Phnom Penh	11.569444	104.921111
Tom Howell	Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)	Dakhla, Western Sahara	23.708056	-15.945556
Dane Maslen	Edward Jenner (1749-1823)	Stockholm, Sweden	59.329444	18.068611
Jim Reader	Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)	Ulsan, South Korea	35.55	129.316667
Martin Walker	Adam Smith (economist) (1723-1790)	Darwin, Australia	-12.438056	130.841111
Brendan Whyte	Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908)	Kinshasa, Congo	-4.321944	15.311944

Public response to the player with the closest guess: *We were born more than 500 but less than 1000 miles apart (as the crow flies).*

Nostradamus was born in Saint-Remy-de-Provence, France, Sayle in Liverpool, England - the places are 750 miles apart according to distancecalculator.net

Round 1:

Player	Who	Where	Lat	Lon
Bob Gingell	Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)	Alice Springs, Australia	-23.7	133.87
Steve Guest	Hanna Diyab (1688-1763)*	Ottoman, Syria	34.0	37.0
Chris Hibbert	Karch Kiraly (1960-)	Sevastopol, Ukraine	44.605	33.5225
Tom Howell	Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (1954-)	Cape Cod, USA	41.68	-70.2
Dane Maslen	Donald Trump (1946-)	Hell, Norway	63.4444	10.9227
Jim Reader	Lee Harvey Oswald (1939-1963)	Tristan da Cunha	-37.115	-12.285
Martin Walker	Lindsay Buckingham (1949-)	Athens, Greece	37.984167	23.728056
Brendan Whyte	Diana Rigg (1938-2020)	Nagasaki, Japan	32.744722	129.873611

* Exact birth and death dates are not known, for game purposes I'm using DOB=1st January 1688 and DOD=31st December 1763

Public response to the player with the closest guess: *We were born on different continents and in different centuries.*

Trump was born in the 20th Century in North America, Nostradamus 16th Century Europe.

DILEMMAS - THE END



Game end statements welcome.

I thought the first game was more fun, though getting players to devise questions is a good idea. I'll give this one a rest for now.

I think the Q10 question about the space aliens arriving would have worked better if they were farmers come to cull the population (by, say 3 billion) and take the bodies back to their planet in cold storage. The aliens, after a show of strength say they will kill everyone if there is any resistance to the cull. Following representations from various politicians (e.g. Trump: *Grab 'em by the tentacle and put a tariff on their meat products*), the human race then gets to vote on whether or not to resist and you are last to vote with the scores level...

Only two of the four players dished out likes...

Likes for Q9 Answers: Bob P 0 Bob G 0 Chris H 2 Steve H 0

Bob G: Like Chris I enjoy both restaurants and theatre, but plays stick in the memory more than a good meal.

Likes for Q10 Answers: Bob P 1 Bob G 1 Chris H 0 Steve H 0

Bob G: Bob P hits the nail on the head by preferring to believe in advanced technology rather than the supernatural.

Final Scoreboard:

Player	Pre	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	TOTAL
Bob Gingell	2	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	45
Bob Pitman	2	3	3	5	6	4	2	3	6	4	5	43
Steve Ham	2	6	4	4	5	3	2	5	5	3	3	42
Chris Hibbert	2	5	3	5	4	1	2	4	5	7	3	41

Congratulations (?) to Bob Gingell

CHOICE - SUPPENKASPER VARIANT - ROUND 22



<https://variablepig.org/rules/choice.html>

As per the standard game, except that only **7 Würfels** are allowed, and each player has 6 special cards that can be played once per game:

- FdH: Remove any two numbers from the five, leaving one pair plus 1 possible Würfel
- Null: Do not take a Würfel this round
- KUR: Take a Würfel but no numbers this round
- -1: Refuse all the numbers this round
- -2: Refuse all the numbers and decrement the count of one of your Würfels
- Suppen-Kasper: Create an extra round from your leftovers plate

Erratum: I forgot to add Bob's Null and -2 numbers to his leftovers plate last time

Player	Round 21.5	Round 22
Bob Gingell	SK: (2+3)= 5, (1+6)=7 w2	(2+5)=7, (1+6)=7 w3
Chris Hibbert		(2+3)=5, (1+5)=6 w6
Kevin Lee		(2+3)=5, (1+5)=6 w6
Michael Pargman		(2+6)=8, (1+5)=6 w3
John Walker		-1

Player	Score	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Würfel	Würfel	Würfel
Bob Gingell	810				<u>10</u>		<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>11</u>			111111-	222222-	3333333
Steve Ham	450					<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>					11111-	2-----	6666666
Chris Hibbert	770		<u>6</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>				<u>13</u>			22222--	33333--	666666-
Kevin Lee	690				<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>5</u>			222222-	333333-	666666-
Dane Maslen	700				<u>10</u>		<u>12</u>			<u>11</u>			2222222	333----	4444---
Michael Pargman	370				<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>12</u>			222222-	333333-	44444--
Roger Trethewey	660				<u>12</u>		<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>7</u>			222222-	33333--	6666666
John Walker	130		4	4		<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>10</u>			111111-	333333-	555555-

Player	FdH	Null	Kur	-1	-2	Sup	Leftovers Plate
Bob Gingell	x	x	x	x	x	x	{eaten}
Steve Ham	x	x	x	x	x	x	{eaten}
Chris Hibbert	x	x	x	x	x	x	{eaten}
Kevin Lee	x	x					6,4,5
Dane Maslen	x	x		x	x	x	{eaten}
Michael Pargman	x	x	x	x	x	enabled	1,1,1,4,5,4,5,2,3,3,4,4,5,1,2,3,3
Roger Trethewey	x		x			x	{eaten}
John Walker	x		x	x	x	x	{eaten}

Bob is the next to finish and becomes the new clubhouse leader. Next time will be interesting as Chris could finish without being forced to open a new number, but without adding to his score (remember I am using the original 10 max per number rather than the 12 max in Dane's enhanced rules). Kevin could finish without using a special card, but this would only match Bob's 810 score, but he still has Kur, -1, -2 and Suppenkasper available. Note that if he were to play (say) the -2 on R23, the SK becomes enabled immediately and can be played as 23.5. As for Michael and John, the new roll looks alright for Michael (who still has his SK to play) but not what John needed for his unlikely resurgence.

New Roll: R23: 2,4,5,5,6

Note on Suppen-Kasper card: Unlike the previous game, you only make one round of 5, the rest of the numbers on the plate are fed to the dog. The round can be placed before or after any of the rounds, so this time it could be before R23 or after R23. You cannot use another special card on this round but you can engineer a finish. You can also choose not to play the card at all during the game.

CRYSTAL BALL 2025 - FLOG BACK



Although there are several races to go, McLaren cannot be caught for the F1 constructor's crown, it's just a question of which of their drivers will be champion. There were some bizarre team orders at the Italian GP which could become infamous if Norris wins by a small margin.

I enjoyed watching the (outdoor) World Athletics champs on the telly. No golds for GB&I (Kerr injured and Hodgkinson pipped on the line) and no joy for *Gashob Inyerkitchen* (my runnier in *b-o-t-e* Golden Strider) either (not fully fit after injury).

The Ryder Cup may or may not finish before the zine goes out. USA are at home and are strong favourites. I need a shock win for Europe. The zine is about to go out and Europe are winning! Last gasp update: Europe 15 USA 13 - 2 points to me, but hmm, checking the rules you still get a point for the USA.

No	Sport	Event	Date	Richard Smith	Jim Reader	John Walker	Martin Walker	Steve Ham
1L	Tennis	Australian Open - Men's	Jan	Alcaraz	Sinner [2]	Alcaraz	Alcaraz	Sinner [2]
2L	American Football	Super Bowl	Feb	San Francisco	Kansas City [1]	San Francisco	Detroit Lions	Kansas City [1]
3L	Rugby	6 Nations	Mar	England [1]	France [2]	Ireland	Scotland	Ireland
4L	Athletics	World Indoor US medals	Mar	22	25	20	20	24
5L	Athletics	World Indoor GB medals	Mar	6 [1]	8	4 [2]	10	7
6L	Golf	US Masters	April	Scheffler	Schuafele	Scheffler	McIlroy [2]	Kepka
7L	Snooker	World Champion	May	Trump	Williams [1]	Trump	O'Sullivan	Allen
8L	Football	English Premier League	May	Arsenal [1]	Liverpool [2]	Man City	Liverpool [2]	Man City
9L	Football	Southampton EPL final position	May	20 th * [2]	15 th	20 th * [2]	20 th [2]	19 th [1]
10L	Basketball	NBA Champs	June	Boston Celtics	Philadelphia	Boston Celtics	Boston Celtics	Denver Nuggets
11L	Cycling	Tour De France	July	Pogacar [2]	Hirschi	Pogacar [2]	Pogacar [2]	Vingegaard [1]
12L	Golf	Ryder Cup	Sept	Europe [2]	USA [1]	USA [1]	USA [1]	USA [1]
13L	Baseball	World Series	Oct	LA Dodgers	Philadelphia Phillies	LA Dodgers	NY Yankees	NY Yankees
14L	Formula 1	Winning Constructor	Nov	McLaren [2]	McLaren [2]	McLaren [2]	McLaren [2]	McLaren [2]
TB	UK economy	Base Interest Rate	Dec	2.5%	2.25%	4%	3.5%	3.75%
SCORE				11	13	9	11	8

It's too soon to ask for game end statements, with the baseball still to come.

CRYSTAL BALL 2026 - TIME TO PREDICT!



I have decided to run this game again - possibly for the last time as it's a bit samey, but never say never. I did wonder about changing it so that you can "bet" different numbers of points on different events but in the end decided on just a couple of small tweaks:

- 1) You may now play a Joker on one event, provided it's not a two-horse race.
- 2) I have removed the paid for changes, you just get one free change per game.

No	Sport	Event	Date	Richard's Prediction
1	Tennis	Australian Open - Women's	Jan	Sabalenka
2	Winter Olympics	GB medals total	Feb	3
3	American Football	Super Bowl	Feb	Buffalo Bills
4	Rugby	6 Nations	Mar	England
5	Cricket	World T20	Mar	England
6	Athletics	London Marathon (men's)	Apr	Mutiso
7	Golf	US Masters	Apr	Scheffler
8	Snooker	World Champion	May	Trump
9	Football	FA Cup: Highest placed non-Premier League team	May	Southampton (JOKER)
10	Football	World Cup winner	Jun	England
11	Cycling	Tour De France	Jul	Pogacar
12	Tennis	US Open (men)	Aug	Alcaraz
13	Golf	Solheim Cup	Sep	Europe
14	Baseball	World Series	Oct	LA Dodgers
15	Formula 1	Champion Driver	Nov	Russell
TB	UK Politics	Reform opinion poll %	Dec	15%
SCORE				7

For medals 2 if exact, 1 if one off. For FA cup, there may be equals and the 3 points will be shared, so if two teams made the semi-finals, 1.5 points each, or if one made the semi-final and two the quarters, 2 points to the semi-final team and 0.5 to the two quarter-finalists.

RAILWAY RIVALS SYRIA (RR2566SY) ROUND 0

Bob gets Damascus
 Brad gets Aleppo
 Michael gets Al Hazakah
 Jim gets Latakia
 Roger gets Palmyra
 Score = 18

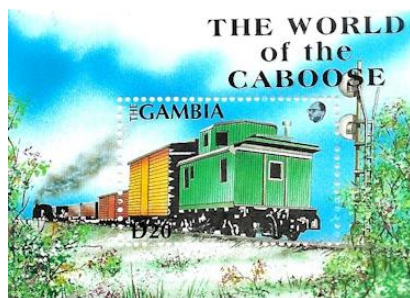
Unsurprisingly, the remote Palmyra start proved about as popular as being named in the Epstein files.

Map at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/syria.html>

Rolls for Round 1: 1a) 5 1b) 4 1c) 4

Roger Trethewey Running On Good Efficient Railways (ROGER) Colour: Green Start: Palmyra	Bob Gingell Better On Buses (BOB) Colour: Black Start: Damascus	Jim Reader Brilliant Original Orange Movement System (BOOMS) Colour: Orange Start: Latakia	Brad Martin South Kurdistan Railway (SKR) Colour: Blue Start: Aleppo	Michael Pargman Syrian Holistic Innovative Trains (SHIT) Colour: Purple Start: Al Hazakah
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RAILWAY RIVALS - SENEGAL & THE GAMBIA (RR2557SG) - ROUND 1



For the three-player game it's all start at Dakar. And nobody decided to risk not going for the *connect to Thies then bang down to the bridge* strategy, but at least all three lines are slightly different.

No penalties were incurred and all three companies have joint control over the Senegambia Bridge, or at least the first section. If all three companies build the second section next round then I don't have to worry about tolls (do you pay half if you own half?).

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2557SG.jpg>

BEAR
Kevin Lee
Black

1a. [5] (Dakar) - - - THIES - - M7
1b. [5] (M7) - - - KOLACK - - R9
1c. [6] (R9) - - FARAFENNI - build first half of Senegambia Bridge; (Theis) - L5
BANK: 20 +2 +6 +2 = 30

LIONS
Jim Reader
Yellow

1a. [5] (Dakar) - - - THIES - - O6
1b. [5] (O6) - - - FOUNDIOGNE - - KEREWAN
1c. [6] (Kerewan) - - FARAFENNI - build first half of Senegambia Bridge; (Q7) - M'BOUR.
BANK: 20 +2 +3 +1.5 +2 +3 = 31.5

FAR
Brad Martin
Blue

1a. [5] (Dakar) - - - THIES - - O6
1b. [5] (O6) - - - FOUNDIOGNE - - KEREWAN
1c. [6] (Kerewan) - - FARAFENNI - build first half of Senegambia Bridge; (Theis) - L5
BANK: 20 +2 +3 +1.5 +2 = 28.5

Rolls for Round 2: 2a) 2 2b) 6 2c) 6

RAILWAY RIVALS BHUTAN (RR2550BT) ROUND 4



YETI finally touched base with their rival companies, and managed to go a fair way east along the south coast without too much payment, but required a spot of mountaineering - there may be more to come in this game (no leapfrog).

ROGER broke into the east and were only just pipped by BUTT to connecting Mongar. So there are now still six unconnected towns in the east and two in the west, and no monastery connections as yet.

BUTT
Bob Gingell
Black

4a. [4] (G42) --- - I41
4b. [4] (I41) --- - K40
4c. [6] (H41) - - MONGAR; (B44) - - Z20; (K40) - K39 - TRASHIGANG
BANK: 37 +2 (from last round) +6 +6 +1[YETI, C44] -1[YETI, A44] = 51

YETI
Jim Reader
Yellow

4a. [4] (T21) - SARPANG - - W20 - Gelephu
4b. [4] (Gelephu) - - Z21 - A44; (N11) - O12
4c. [6] (A44) --- B43 --- C44
BANK: 56 +3 -3[ROGER, W20] -1[BUTT, C44] +1[BUTT, A44] = 56

ROGER 4a. [4] (U20) - SARPANG; (D37) --- E38
 Roger Trethewey 4b. [4] (E38) --- - G39
 Green 4c. [6] (G39) --- Mongar; (Wangdue Phodrang) --- P12
 BANK: 54 +13 (from last round) +3 +3[YETI, W20] = 73

Correction: The 13 ngultrums payment from BUTT to ROGER was not added to ROGER's balance, and the 2 ngultrums from ROGER to BUTT were not awarded to BUTT.

Rolls for Round 5: 5a) 4 5b) 5 5c) 2

The in-game map is available at: <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2550BT.jpg>

RAILWAY RIVALS BHUTAN (RR2551BT) ROUND 4

GM Bob Gingell

BOTI picks up towns behind its front line while also stretching towards the South-East. HEART builds into the South-West while HAPPY focuses on the East.

GM note: A reminder - although the other game in the zine is being run with no Leapfrog, leaps are allowed in this game as per the recommendation on the map. So far there does not seem to have been a need for this, but the game is young. Playing in the other game in this zine where there is no leapfrog my company could have avoided an expensive build through the Nubding-Trongsa pass, although building in parallel will avoid repeated rental payments.

Build allowance for Round 4: 5, 5, 4

BOTI, red (Richard Smith): $50 + 12 - 1 + 2 = 63 + 6 - 1 = 68$.

4a. (Paro) - - H13 - HA; (Gasa) - - N4

4b. (N4) - LAYA; (U18) - - - X19 - Gelephu

4c. (Gelephu) - - - A45 - B44 [-1ht]

HEART, purple (Steve Ham): $54 + 6 + 1 = 61 + 12 + 1 = 74$.

4a. (U20) - SARPANG; (Q18) - - Q20 - - O21;

4b. (O21) - N21 - --- L20;

4c. (F35) - G35 - - LHUNTSE; (L20) - Gedu

HAPPY, blue (Brad Martin): $34 + 6 - 2 = 38 + 12 = 50$.

4a. (Mongar) - - - - H34

4b. (H41) - --- J40 - PEMAGATSHEL

4c. (J40) - K40 - K39 - TRASHIGANG - M38.

Round 5 build allowance: 4, 5, 6

The in-game map is available at: <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2551BT.jpg>

RAILWAY RIVALS AZERBAIDJAN (RR2535AZ) ROUND 11



The manats were shared out fairly evenly this round, with no surprise results. GANJA had the highest income and BOB the lowest, though he still has a decent lead going into the final round, with OILS and GANJA within shooting distance.

Third place in race 30 killed off ROGER's outside chances.

	BOB Bob Gingell Black	ROGER Roger Trethewey Green	GANJA Kevin Lee Red	OILS Brad Martin Blue
29. Alat (16) - Astara (56)		+5	20 [18] +3 -5	10 [19] -3
30. Shamkir (32) - Baku (13)	10 [30]	0 [33] -3	20 [32]	+3
31. Armenia (S3) - Salyan (52)		10 [33]		20 [25]
32. Khachmaz (21) - Ganja (33)	20 [27] -1		10 [35]	+1
33. Yevlakh (41) - Iran (S1)		20 [16] +5		10 [16] -5
34. Goychay (42) - Ordurabad (66)	10 [32] -1	+6		20 [28] +1 -6
35. Aghdam (63) - Siyazan (23)	5 [27]	5 [28] +1 -1	20 [24] -1 -1	+1 +1

Last Turn	246	180	193	215
Points from Races	43	48	66	53
Builds	-	-	-	-
Points Total	289	228	259	268

Builds: None

The in-game map is available at: <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2535AZ.jpg>

Races for Round 12:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 36. Baku (12) - Turkey (S2) | 37. Stepanakert (64) - Sumgait (15) |
| 38. Nackchivan (65) - Lankaran (55) | 39. Ismayilli (26) - Shamakhi (43) |
| 40. Shirvan (45) - Ganja (34) | 41. Zaqatala (24) - Jalilabad (53) |
| 42. Georgia (S4) - Mingachevir (35) | |

Enter up to 4 new races and good luck to all companies. Game end comments can be included now or wait till the final result.

RAILWAY RIVALS AZERBAIDJAN (RR2536AZ) - ROUND 10

GM: Bob Gingell

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2536AZ.jpg>

An excellent round for BAD sees it well in the lead, while MARS closes the gap to AZERI which only enters 3 races. The results of three races were very close and swung on a final die roll, with BAD winning against MARS in Races 22 and 25 (but losing to AZERI by a larger margin in Race 24) while MARS beat AZERI in Race 26. BAD has not connected to Turkey and does not enter Race 27 so BAD is either saving up likely future successes or trying to stop anyone else earning points in races from Turkey. Can anyone stop Michael winning?

Press: Michael - The evenings are quickly getting darker now, and it's getting too cold to sit outside. *GM – And there was I thinking that only the Brits can't stop talking about the weather...*

Races for Round 10 (max 5 entries):

R13. (65–#4): BAD 20 -3a = 17; AZERI +3.

R14. #2 (Turkey) – 34 (Ganja) [*Still not possible – reoffer.*]

22. (12–65): BAD [48] 20 -3a +6 = 23; MARS [47] 10 -6b +3 = 7.

23. (21–15): MARS [14] 20 +2 = 22; AZERI [15] 10 -2m = 8.

24. (32–25): AZERI [13] 20 +2 = 22; BAD [12] 10 -2a = 8.

25. (46–31): BAD [32] 20 -1m = 19; MARS [32] 10 +1 = 11.

26. (52–#1): BAD [8 to C56] 20 -1m = 19; MARS [16 to H64] 10 +2 = 12;
AZERI [12 to H64] 0 -1m = -1.

27. 66 (Ordubad) – 51 (Imishli). [*No entries – reoffer.*]

28. (#3–42): MARS 20 -6a = 14; AZERI +6.

Scores and builds (max 8 points):

BAD, green (Michael Pargman): 240 +86 +1 = 327.

No builds [-0 +1 = +1]

AZERI, indigo (Jim Reader): 228 +38 +1 = 267.

No builds [-0 +1 = +1]

MARS, orange (John Marsden): 189 +66 -5 = 250.

(P14) - Q14 - - Q12 [-1a, -1b]. [-3-2 = -5]

Armenia: 13.

Races for Round 11 (enter any 5):

R14. #2 (Turkey) – 34 (Ganja) [*and still not possible*]

R27. 66 (Ordubad) – 51 (Imishli)

29. 14 (Sumgait) – 55 (Lankaran)

30. 22 (Quba) – 63 (Aghdam)

31. 35 (Mingachevir) – #4 (Georgia)

32. 44 (Sabirabad) – 16 (Alat)

33. 56 (Astara) – 31 (Qazax)

34. 64 (Stepanakert) – 45 (Shirvan)

35. #2 (Turkey) – 24 (Zaqatala) [*also not possible*]

Round 11 build allowance: up to 4 points (excluding payments to others).

RAILWAY RIVALS SOUTH TYROL (RR2572ST) ROUND 0

GM: Bob Gingell

Everyone got their first or second choices and three companies are ready to go. Since there are three players there will be 5 race entries allowed in each Operating Round.

Brad Martin: North Italian Railways (NIR); colour Blue.

Start: Brixen

Richard Smith: South Tyrol Line Extension (STYLE); colour Red.

Start: Meran

Steve Ham: Wonderful Italian Engines Run on Elegant Rails (WIERER); colour Purple.

Start: Bozen.

Press: Steve Ham – My company is named after the Italian Biathlon champion Dorothea Wierer. Although now a little past her prime she was the world cup champion for two years 2018/19 and 2019/20. She's always had a fast shooting style. Italy's main biathlon range is at Antholz in the South Tyrol. I am a fan of Biathlon, one of a very small number in GB.

Round 1 build allowances: 4, 4, 5.

RAILWAY RIVALS SOUTH TYROL (RR2565ST) ROUND 0

Roger gets Meran
Michael gets Brixen
Bob G gets Bozen
Bob P gets Bozen
Score = 11

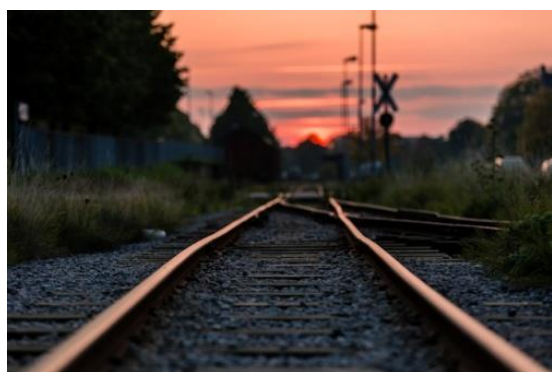
Everyone gets first or second choice.

Map at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/southtyrol.html>

Rolls for Round 1: 1a) 6 1b) 3 1c) 4

Roger Trethewey Running On Good Efficient Railways (ROGER) Colour: Green Start: Meran	Bob Gingell Bob's Underground Steam Trains (BUST) Colour: Black Start: Bozen	Bob Pitman South Kurdistan Railway (SKR) Colour: Red Start: Bozen	Michael Pargman South Tyrol Intricate No-brainer Kickstarter (STINK) Colour: Purple Start: Brixen
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RAILWAY RIVALS ZAMBIA (RR2540ZM) ROUND 8



A pretty even round leaves the scores close going into the latter stages of the game.

The long race 9 was interesting because both companies had the same run length, despite only one paying the toll to cut through Congo. Two short races (10 and 14) were very close - 7 versus 7 almost had to be tie. Race 11 was the shortest and a gimme for BAMBI.

And now the rains come...

	BAMBI Bob Gingell Black	MOSI OA TUNYA Steve Ham Red	BEMBA Jim Reader Blue
8. Lusaka (64) - Kaoma (46)	0 [27]	20 [15] +7	10 [14] -7
9. Mongu (43) - Nakonde (13)		10 [43] -3 +1 -3 (toll)	20 [43] +3 -1
10. Lusaka (66) - Airports (Sp6)	15 [9]	0 [9]	15 [10]
11. Luwingu or Isoka (14) - Mansa (21)	20 [5]		
12. Kataba (52) - Kitwe (33)	10 [22] +1	+1 +1	20 [17] -1
13. Livingstone (54) - DR Congo (Sp1)	+2 +2	20 [22] +2 -2	10 [22] -2 -2
14. Chingola (31) - Samfya or Lundazi (22)	15 [7] -1 +1 -3 (toll)	15 [7] +1 -1- 3 (toll)	

Last Turn	123	112	114
Points from Races	60	66	65
Buils	-10 +1 -1 -1	-10 +1	-10 -1 +1
Points Total	172	169	169

Builds:

BAMBI: ((F41) - - Kasama - --- - Chinsali; (F41) - - H40; (L21) - K21 [-1 MOSI] [-1 BEMBA]
MOSI OA TUNYA: (Z25) - - - - - Petauke
BEMBA: (E53) - - --- H54 - Petauke; (H54) - - - K53 - L53 [-1 BAMBI]

Races for Round 9:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 15. Serenje (24) - Livingstone (53) | 16. Chinsali (16) - Mufulira (32) |
| 17. Pitauke (25) - Lusaka (65) | 18. Sesheke (51) - Kabompo or Kalabo (42) |
| 19. Mazabuka (63) - Nchelenge (11) | 20. Ndola (36) - Tanzania (Sp5) |
| 21. Solwezi (44) - Mozambique or Malawi (Sp4) | |

Enter up to 5 races and build up to 8 points of track (BEWARE: RAINY SEASON!).

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2540ZM.jpg>

RAILWAY RIVALS ZAMBIA (RR2541ZM) ROUND 8

GM: Bob Gingell

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2541ZM.jpg>

The DRC continues to profit from exorbitant tolls on track along the Pedicle Road, but ZITS has bad luck in the one race in which it has a shorter distance avoiding that route. The Race 13 result depended on a final die roll with ZITS rolling a 2, TOZ a 3 and ROGER a 4, reversing the expected finish order. ZITS is compensated for this disaster by having the only sole entry in this round. TOZ scores highest but cannot quite catch up with the rest yet. WILBUR SMITH has the weakest round but stays well ahead all the same. ZITS builds a "luxury" link into Zimbabwe (which actually looks to be very useful for Round 9) and an essential link into Angola; all the others rush to Chinsali.

Races for Round 8 (max 4 entries, ties = *):

8. (14 [both Luwingu] -35): TOZ [12] 20 -2r-3d = 15; ROGER [12] 10 -3d+2 = 9; DRC +6.
9. (21-42): WILBURSMITH 20 -2t-5r-3d = 10; ROGER +5; TOZ +2; DRC +3.
10. (36-55): WILBURSMITH [10] 15* -5r = 10; ZITS [10] 15* -6r = 9; ROGER [10] 0 +11 = 11.
11. (44-64): ZITS [16] 20 +3 = 23; TOZ [22] 10 -3z = 7; WILBURSMITH [28] 0.
12. (52-#6 [all Livingstone]): TOZ [7] 20; WILBURSMITH [8] 10.
13. (63-12): ROGER [36] 20 -2t-3d+4 = 19; TOZ [34] 10 -3d+4 = 11; ZITS [33] 0 -2w-4r-2t = -8; WILBURSMITH +2; DRC +9.
14. (#5-23): ZITS 20.

Scores and builds (max 10 points):

WILBURSMITH (Brendan Whyte), black: 139 +32 -12 = 159.

(G48) - H47 - - - H44 - - - K43 [-1r-1z]; (J43) - Chinsali [-1t]; (H47) - Mpika. [-10-3 +1 = -12]

ZITS (Richard Smith), blue: 91 +44 -11 = 124.

(Kasama) - H41 [-1t]; (X27) - Y28 --- Z27 {Zimbabwe}; (Mwinilunga) - - I12 {Angola}; (N26) - - - K25 [-2t-1w]. [-10 -4 +3 = -11]

ROGER (Roger Trethewey), green: 85 +44 -11 = 118.

(Z20) - - - Z23 - Y24 [-1z]; (F49) - - - F46 - - - I45 [-1z]. [-10 -2+1 = -11]

ToZ (Michael Pargman), orange: 59 +55 -7 = 107.

(F42) - - - I44 - J43 - Chinsali [-1z]; (Q22) - - Q20 [-1r]. [-9 -2+4 = -7]

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): 12 +15 = 27.

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2541ZM.jpg>

Races for Round 9 (enter any 4):

- 15. 16 (Chinsali) – 41 (Mwinilunga/Zambezi)
- 16. 24 (Serenje) – 54 (Livingstone)
- 17. 31 (Chingola) – 66 (Lusaka)
- 18. 43 (Mongu) – #4 (Mozambique/Malawi)
- 19. 53 (Livingstone) – 11 (Nchelenge)
- 20. 61 (Choma) – 26 (Chipata)
- 21. #3 (Botswana/Zimbabwe) – 32 (Mufulira)

Build allowance for Round 9: 8 points.

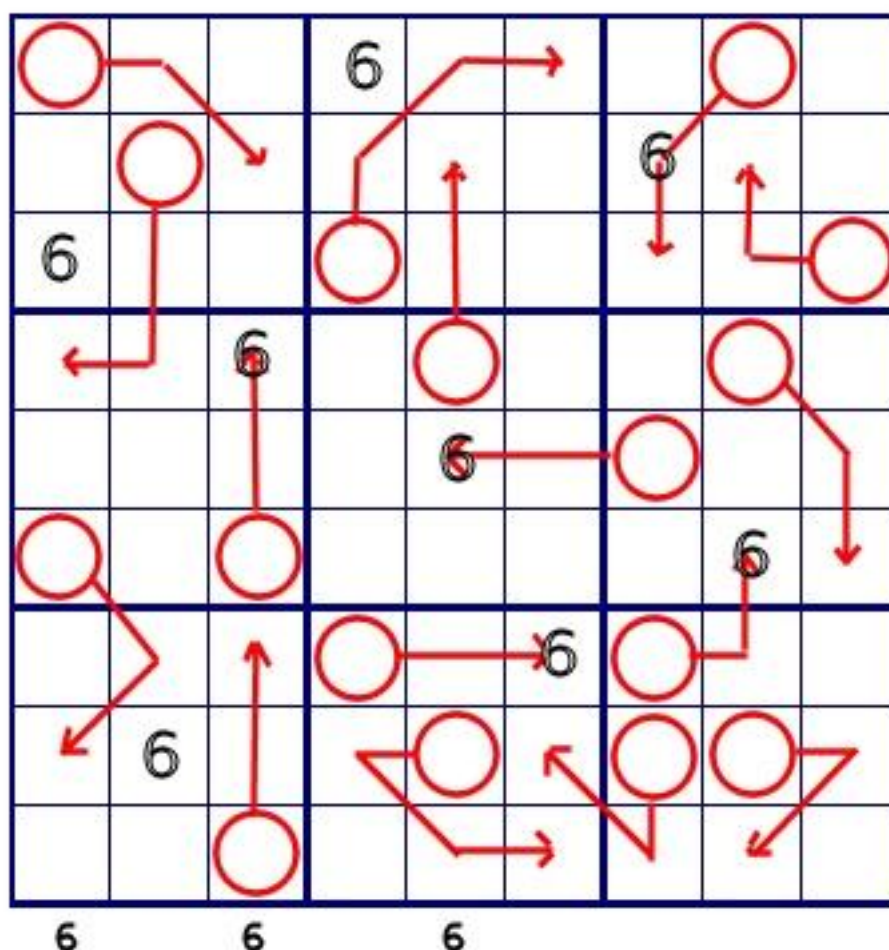
Remember that due to the rainy season rivers will cost 4 to bridge this Round.

PUZZLE - THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST

This custom Sudoku is mainly an arrow puzzle, but three sandwich totals are given to help you!

Arrow Sudoku: The numbers on the line add up to the number in the circle. So the number in the top right circle must be 7, 8 or 9 and the number on the point of the arrow must be 1, 2 or 3. It is possible for the same number to appear more than once in a line, provided the standard Sudoku rules (each 3x3 square, each column and each row contain the numbers 1-9) are obeyed.

Sandwich Sudoku: Each row and each column is allocated a number which represents the sum of the digits placed between 1 and 9. So **192345678** would be a 0 and **123456789** a 35. In this puzzle, only three numbers are given, all sixes, which must be from **169** or **1249**.



BAG OF DUNGEON - ROUND 1



Our intrepid dungeoneers are Jim Reader, Chris Hibbert, and Bob Gingell.

Game rules were printed in TCD8 and are available at <https://variablepig.org/rules/bagofdungeon.html>

I have made a tweak to the rules such that only 2 squares are revealed at the start, and APs reduced by 2 as per later rounds.

The dungeon has been created, almost entirely randomly with the exception of 3 extra tiles to make it all fit together with the extra starts.

In the early rounds, as the dungeon is being discovered and players have little or no equipment (they are assumed to have a rusty melee weapon), there may not be a great deal to do. As the game progresses orders will become more complex.

Report for Round 1

Turn order: Torvok, Alendra, Cirrus

Adventurer Activities:

Torvok spends 2 APs to advance to the m11 monster square. The mystery monster turns out to be (GM pulls a tile from the bag) a Werewolf HP 10 attack dice 2D6+3.

Torvok Roll	Werewolf Roll	Torvok Heath	Werewolf Health	Notes
10	11	9	10	
15	5	9	0	werewolf dies

After getting a small nip from the werewolf, Torvok cuts it in half with a huge swing of the axe! Note that the 15 was 6-6-3 not 5-5-5 which would have been a critical hit.

The werewolf has two items which Torvok gathers (GM rummages in bag) - a health potion and a strength potion, both going in the backpack.

Alendra spends 2 APs to advance to the m7 monster square. The mystery monster turns out to be a Mummy HP 7 attack dice 1D6+4.

Alendra Roll	Mummy Roll	Alendra Health	Mummy Health	Notes
9	8	9	6	
13 (3-3 critical)	6	9	0	mummy dies

She dispatches her opponent with a skilful second attack (does a mummy have vital organs?) and obtains a magic shield which goes in one of the hand slots.

Sirrus spends 2 APs to advance to the m8 monster square. The mystery monster turns out to be a Mud Monster HP 9 attack dice 2D6+2.

Sirrus Roll	Mud Monster Roll	Sirrus Heath	Mud Monster Health	Notes
18 (4-4 critical)	8	10	0	monster dies

Not to be outdone, Sirrus dispatches the dangerous mud monster with one mighty blow and discovers it was carrying (but not using) a morning star (+2 attack).

PRESS:

Alendra: I pledge to continue cooperating to the end.

Round 2 Actions

Turn order: Alendra, Sirrus, Torvok

Discovery: All characters automatically discover the two nearest unknown tiles (-2AP)

Inventory: Characters may rearrange items (no AP) cost, and characters can also swap items and this requires conditional orders from both, unless they are on the same square at the start of the turn.

Move, Collect Items, Use Items, Combat: Characters can use some or all of their remaining APs moving to known tiles. Collecting items does not cost an AP, but using items usually does (cost on tile). Combat is always the last action but remaining APs can be used to deploy items and / or escape.

Player: Jim Reader

Character: Torvok the Barbarian

Barbarian

Your barbarian is a savage, mighty-thewed, and masterless warrior.

Actions: 5
Combat: 3 D6

Special: +1 to combat roll for every 3 points below maximum health (+1 at 7, +2 at 4, +3 at 1).

1	2	3
---	---	---

Lives

6	7	8	9	10
1	2	3	4	5

health

Monster health

Dead!	1	2	3	4	5	6*	7	8	9	10**	11	12	13
-------	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	------	----	----	----

Cannot use

OR

1 ap 1 use
health
potion
Regain 2 dice of health

1 ap 1 use
Strength
potion
+1 dice to crit for one fight

Torvok

aps

5	19
4	18
3	17
2	16
1	15
	14

10 health
2 Dice +3

Player: Chris Hibbert

Character: Alendra the Elf

Alendra the Elf

Alendra is fleet-footed and a skilled archer. She is a former Calen Gaur watch commander.

Combat: 2 Dice +1

Special: Dead-eye. Inflict an instant kill when you roll a 6 on a bow attack.

1	2	3
---	---	---

Lives

6	7	8	9	
1	2	3	4	5

health

Monster health

Dead!	1	2	3	4	5	6*	7	8	9	10**	11	12	13
-------	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	------	----	----	----

Magic Shield
-2 damage

Backpack

Alendra

aps

6	
5	
4	19
3	18
2	17
1	16
0	15
	14

7 health
1 Dice +4

Player: Bob Gingell

Character: Sirrus the Fighter

SIRRUS the fighter

Sirrus is a skilled warrior and renowned blademaster, brave and capable in battle.

COMBAT: 2 Dice +2

Special: Lethal Blow. Once per game you may double your combat roll result.

1 **2** **3** Lives

health

6	7	8	9	10
1	2	3	4	5

monster health

dead!	1	2	3	4	5	6*	7	8	9	10**	11	12	13
-------	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	------	----	----	----

Morning Star
+2 to CBT roll

aps

5	4	3	2	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

Backpack

19	18	17	16	15	14
----	----	----	----	----	----

*take one item on kill **take two items on kill

Dungeon Fragments:



NOTES

Layout: Parts of the dungeon will unite as the game progresses. At the moment, the characters are all alone.

Healing pool: If Alendra finishes on the healing pool, she *may* choose to use one of the three tokens to heal to full health. Default is no.

Item square: If Sirrus goes to the item (or trap) is revealed and he will collect it without use of AP, but the item cannot be used in the same postal turn it is obtained.



Issue 74

Lyrics 5 of 5 – 1 point for the singer, song and theme. New 5 turn game starts below.

1 - Look into my eyes / You will see / What you mean to me / Search your heart / Search your soul (1991)

Everything I Do – Brian Adams (Jim Reader, Steve Guest)

2 - Oh, come on, angel/Come on, come on, darlin' / Let's exchange the experience (yo), oh, ooh, ooh (1985)

Running up the hill – Kate Bush (Richard Smith, Steve Guest, Brendan Whyte (song only), Martin Walker)

3 - Now in the street, there is violence / And, and a lot of work to be done / No place to hang out our washing / And, and I can't blame all on the sun (1982) **Electric Avenue – Eddie Grant** (Richard Smith, Jim Reader, Bob Pitman)

4 - It's gonna take time / Whole lot of precious time / It's gonna take patience and time, mmm (1987) (original artist 1960) **I've got my mind set on you – George Harrison** (Dane Maslen (singer only), Bob Pitman, Paul Evans, Brendan Whyte)

5 - Can you dig it / Who's the cat that won't cop out when there's danger all about? (1971) **Theme from Shaft – Issac Hayes** (John Hopkins, Chris Hibbert (song only), Paul Evans (song only), Martin Walker, Brendan Whyte)

6 - Pretty women out walking with gorillas down my street / From my window I'm staring while my coffee goes cold (1979) **Is she really going out with him? - Joe Jackson** (Richard Smith, Dane Maslen, Steve Guest, Bob Pitman, Chris Hibbert (singer only), Paul Evans, Martin Walker, Brendan Whyte)

7 - Xxx, most people would turn you away (turn you away) / I don't listen to a word they say (a word they say) (1972) **Ben – Michael Jackson** (Richard Smith, Steve Guest)

8 - And the saddest fear / Comes creepin' in / That you never loved me / Or her / Or anyone / Or anything / Yeah (2012) **I knew you were trouble – Taylor Swift**

9 - It's a fool's game / Nothing but a fool's game / Standing in the cold rain / Feeling like a clown (1977) **It's a Heartache - Bonnie Tyler** (Richard Smith, John Hopkins, Jim Reader, Steve Guest, Bob Pitman (song only))

10 - When there's no one else around / I'm gonna take you, girl, and hold you / And do all the things I told you (1965) **Wilson Pickett – In the Midnight Hour** (Bob Pitman)

Theme – US Presidents (Richard Smith, Bob Pitman)

Jim Reader 56+6=62 Winner

Steve Guest 44+10=54

Richard Smith 38+12=50

Martin Walker 43+6=49

Bob Pitman 31+12=43

Brendan Whyte 34+5=39

John Hopkins 25+4=29

Dane Maslen 25+3=28

Paul Evans 21+5=26

Chris Hibbert 5+3=8

Tom Howell 7

Steve - (6) I associate with getting my O-level results. The timeline fits on its re-release, originally 1978 now I look it up. (7) I only remember from the film, which I must have seen several times. All a long time ago. I believe there was a sequel (Willard?). Theme: Could it be as simple as solo artists?

Dane – 4 Aargh! I recognise these lyrics and can put a tune to them, but that's as far as I'm getting. I think the lyrics continue something like TO DO IT RIGHT, so I'll go with that as the title. As for the artist, I keep thinking it might be GEORGE HARRISON, but I don't really believe myself.

5 - I think I should recognise this, but I can't put a tune to it. I'll have a wild stab at something by BILLY OCEAN.

6 - Pretty women out walking with gorillas down my street / From my window I'm staring while my coffee goes cold (1979) Great lyrics, and I think I know the title, but I'm going to have to listen to one of my CDs to confirm it and artist (something Jackson maybe). (Later) It turns out I wasn't right about the title but might have got Jackson's first name right if pushed: IS SHE REALLY GOING OUT WITH HIM? by JOE JACKSON.

9 - This is another one I think I should recognise, but although I think I can put a tune to it, that's not helping. Ah! Is it GROOVY KIND OF LOVE? But who was it by?

Jim - 4. Can't remember the song name but it was covered by the Traveling Wilburys – *GM I'm sure they would have sung it as George Harrison was a member of the group, but I could not find any release either as a single or on an album.*

Brendan - 9 - Heartache / Marianne Faithful

Lyrics 1 of 5 – *I've prepared another 5 sets of lyrics, just to let you know, one set I suspect nearly everyone will hate, with a potential of nil scores. Some of the themes will be a little obscure, but this one should be gettable. 1 point will be added, to your singer and song points, should you get the theme.*

1 - Some call me the gangster of love / Some people call me Maurice / Cause I speak of the pompatus of love (1973)

2 - She's pretty as a daisy, but look out man, she's crazy! / She'll really do you in, if you let her get under your skin! (1959)

3 - Say your prayers, little one / Don't forget, my son / To include everyone / I tuck you in, warm within, keep you free from sin (1991)

4 - Every day is like survival (survival) / You're my lover (my lover), not my rival / Every day is like survival (survival) / You're my lover (my lover), not my rival (1983)

5 - You're an outlaw lover and I'm after your hide / Well you ain't so strong, won't be long 'til your hands are tied / Tonight I'm gonna take you in / Dead or Alive (1989)

6 - Xxxx Xxxx, don't leave me hanging on the line / I knew you when you had no one to talk to / Now you're moving in high society / Don't forget I know secrets about you (1983)

7 - The man with the midas touch / A spider's touch / Such a cold finger / Beckons you to enter his web of sin / But don't go in (1965)

8 - You fooled me with your kisses / You cheated and you schemed / Heaven knows how you lied to me / You're not the way you seemed (1968)

9 - Beelzebub has a devil put aside for me, for me, for me / So you think you can stone me and spit in my eye? (1975)

10 - Clowns to the left of me / Jokers to the right (1972)

Fragments – Prominent People – Only one special can be played each turn. The specials for this game are: Word breakdown, quarter century of year of birth or what they are famous for e.g. if it was David Beckham, you would get the reply, footballer. It is an all-reader game, so you can make a play at any time. There are no restrictions on any research you wish to undertake.

Person 1 ***a* t***o m**** *od** 20 ***** to**h ***o* l** ** 40 *e*s* ****i *s**n *****h 60 ****t *e*** **tw* *k*** 80 **m*o * (86 letters, 8 points) (not Charlie Chaplin, Neil Armstrong, Mark Twain)

Person 2 *n*** t**** o**** y ***** 20 or*** m **** a**** e **** 40 i**E* q ***s ***** a*e* (59 letters, 8 points) (not Jack the Ripper)

Person 3 ***** *s**n *h*** M***** 20 ***e* it**h ***** ***** 40 *****o *(46 letters 9 points)

Person 4 ***s* *****n ***** *****n 20 ***** ****t *****a **s** 40 *a*** **son t***** **d** 60 ****i *(67 letters 9 points) (not Pocahontas)

Person 5 *'***e ***** There is an apostrophe after the first letter (9 letters 10 points)

Person 6 ***** t***r ***** ***** 20 ***** ***** ***** ***** 40 ***** *i**a ***n* ***** 60 ***** ***** ***** **g* 80 *****l e***** ***** *q*** 100 *****u **e** ***** *s*** 120 *****t ***** (130 letters 10 points)

6 Nimmit! Although I did not make it clear last issue, hands A, B and D were double turns. A couple of players only ordered 1 card, but as it makes very little difference I have processed both.

Hand A						Score	
A	23					1	Jim takes 31 for 1
B	61	82	89	94		4	Dane takes 22 45 47 52 59 for 9
C	84	87	95			3	
D	9	37	44			7	

Cards played 1 2 7 9 10 15 21 22 23 26 30 31 33 34 36 37 38 40 43 44 45 47 50 52 54 55 59 60 61 62 64 66 69 70 72 75 79 81 82 84 87 89 94 95 96 99 100 102 104

Hand B						Score	
A	48	53	56	73		4	Dane takes 46 57 58 for 3
B	3	12	35	63	76	6	
C	99					5	Jim takes 67 71 91 94 95 for 6
D	68	77	79	80		10	

Cards played 3 5 6 8 11 12 13 14 15 17 18 19 22 23 27 30 32 33 34 35 37 39 42 46 48 53 56 57 58 63 65 67 68 71 73 76 77 79 80 82 83 84 86 87 91 94 95 99 104

Hand C						Score	
A	10	16	19	29		6	Dane takes 78 for 1
B	28	41	44	49		7	
C	88					5	Bob takes 18 51 52 53 55 for 11
D	33	34	38			7	

Cards played 1 2 4 6 10 11 13 16 18 19 25 28 29 33 34 35 38 40 41 44 46 47 48 49 51 52 53 55 56 62 68 69 70 71 72 78 87 88 89 90 91 94 98 99

Hand D						Score	
A	21	24	43	45	46	6	
B	49	52				2	
C	38	41	42	44		8	
D	23	30	32	36	37	7	Bob takes 54 for 1

Cards played 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31 32 33 35 36 37 38 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Points taken

Kev 61 Bob 61 Dane 51 Jim 28 Richard 22

6 Nimmit! - Round 10 Next turn hand C will be a double turn, which will conclude the game.

Hand A						Score	
A	23					1	
B	61	82	89	94		4	
C	84	87	95			4	
D	85	88	92			8	Jim takes 9 37 44 63 65 for 10

Cards played 1 2 7 9 10 15 21 22 23 26 30 31 33 34 36 37 38 40 43 44 45 47 50 52 54 55 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 69 70 72 75 79 81 82 84 85 87 88 89 92 94 95 96 99 100 102 104

Hand B						Score	
A	16	49				2	Dane takes 48 53 56 73 for 4
B	3	12	35	63	76	6	
C	99	101	102			5	
D	68	77	79	80	98	10	

Cards played 3 5 6 8 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 27 30 32 33 34 35 37 39 42 46 48 49 53 56 57 58 63 65 67 68
71 73 76 77 79 80 82 83 84 86 87 91 94 95 98 99 101 102 104

Hand D						Score	
A	21	24	43	45	46	6	
B	27	28	34			3	Richard takes 49 52 for 2
C	38	41	42	44		8	
D	39	40				4	Kev takes 23 30 32 36 37 for 7

Cards played 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Points taken: Kev 68 Bob 61 Dane 55 Jim 38 Richard 24

Parkrun – This is an all-reader game, where everyone who submitted orders in any game, of last issue will be entered automatically. Anyone else is welcome to submit orders should they wish to join. Nobody is required to submit orders on any turn. If anyone does not want to be included let me know, but if you do, I will need your first orders, before the next deadline.

Overview - A 5000 metre race where you have to employ the best strategy to conserve your stamina.

Setup - Each runner starts with 60 stamina points. There can be any number of runners.

Game Mechanics - The game is split into 5 x 1000 metre sections. A standard 1k will take 5 minutes. This time is adjusted by the number of stamina points played, strategy employed and game events. Each stamina point used deducts 1 second from the standard time.

Each turn you can play any amount of your remaining stamina or can opt for one of the following strategies:

Track - If you are level or within 5 seconds of an opponent, you can select this option. You will run at the same pace, but only use half the stamina points used by the runner you are tracking.

Relax - Run at the same pace as your previous 1000 metres, but only use half the stamina points previously used.

Target - You may target any runner that is within 15 seconds ahead of you. You use the same stamina as them, but catch them up.

If any option fails (i.e. insufficient stamina points), it will not be used and you would then run a 5-minute 1k.

You cannot play the same strategy twice in a row.

If you are overtaken at any point 1 stamina point is deducted from your total.

If you are in the lead, you gain 5 stamina, second 3 stamina, third 1 stamina.

If you are last you lose 5 stamina, second last 3 stamina, third last 1 stamina.

If at the end of a turn you have negative stamina, 1 second will be added to your time for every negative point until you have zero stamina.

NMR rule, D6 is rolled

you play D6 stamina points

you play 2xD6 stamina points

you roll another D6 which is added to your 5-minute pace, e.g. a roll of 5 means a 5.05 1k.

you play relax

you play track, tracking the closest runner to you with the most stamina points

you play target, targeting the runner furthest away within 15 seconds, with the most stamina points.

After the fourth 1000 metres, the last 1000 will be run using all of your remaining stamina points.

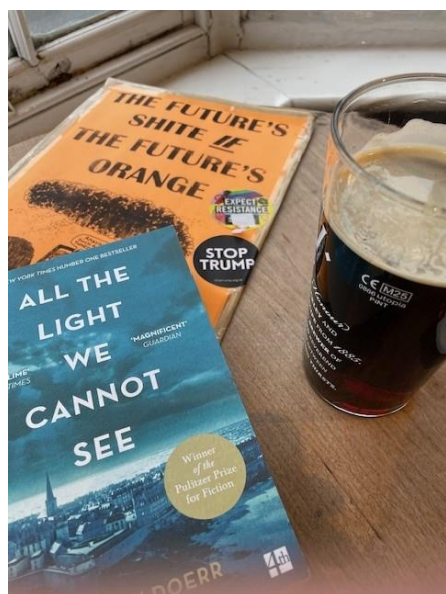
Snakes And Ladders – I'm offering a new game. The board will be 0 to 100. Everyone will start on hex 0 and players cannot go below zero. The only difference to a standard game will be that after everyone has played six dice, they will receive one trapdoor, that can be played on any hex. Trapdoors are renewed when the dice are. Trapdoors do not accumulate. The game will start when I have at least 5 players. I will only be sending out your remaining numbers upon request, so you are encouraged to keep a note of these.

Postscript – I've just had a quick play with Google AI, getting it to design a PBM game. It didn't do too bad a job. If anyone is interested in playing one, let me know. The more information you put in the more it will be tailored to your interests. So, if there is a type of game you prefer, now is your opportunity to affect the outcome. We may as well use AI to our benefit, before judgment day.

THE TANGERINE TERROR #81/I AM THE KURIOUS KUMQUAT #11

The "2025 is the new 1984" Issue

Idiotorial



Drinking and reading,
eating, protesting,
Orange dictators tied up with string,
these are a few of my favourite things.

Good to see some of my old Tangerine Terror 'zine paper being repurposed into a small placard to tell Trump that in spite of what Sir Keir and the King would have him believe, he's very very unwelcome here.

It's been about 30 seconds since I moaned about the ECB too.
Fuck Trump
Fuck the Hundred

DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Allan (on thunder outside and downstairs)

Watching the torrential rain fill the swimming pools to overflowing. It was even more impressive at 3.20 this morning, with the thunder and lightning accompaniment. At least my stomach has stabilised.

Auntie Tangerine

That would be your dodgy paella. Sorry you've had a shit (literally) holiday so far.

Jim (on the Shots not the shits)

Hope you're enjoying the new season. The Shots are definitely entertaining this season with the most goals scored and conceded this season by some margin. How are the Latics doing?

Auntie Tangerine

Improving slowly. We are definitely NOT entertaining. Lowest goals conceded, but 3rd lowest goals scored. Considering suing the club for breaching terms of its entertainment licence.

Richard Smith (on suing people)

Are you going to sue the BBC over Destination X?

Auntie Tangerine

Yes, and then I'm going to take my bat, my ball, and my wickets home

JO Lochhead

JUST ONE

ROUND 6 END

And so we reach the end of the line. A pair of moist squibs at the end with Allan (rightly) and Bob (being forced because of duplicates) choosing to pass, but some strong clues mean that the other 3 points are safely snagged. Total for the team over the 6 rounds is 17 from a possible 30. That's a pretty decent effort. Let's see how the next team does.

	Category	Richard	Allan	Brendan	Bob	John	Guess	Score
Richard Smith	VENUS		FLYTRAP	MILO	ROKEBY	BANANARAMA	VENUS	1
Allan Stagg	ROBOT	BENDER		GAPEK	GAPEK	ROOMBA	PASS	0
Brendan Whyte	SHAKESPEARE	HAMLET	GORIOLANUS		CYMBELINE	GORIOLANUS	SHAKESPEARE	1
Bob Gingell	MARIO	PLUMBER	LANZA	LANZA		PLUMBER	PASS	0
John Walker	RAY	GAMMA	MANTA	MANTA	LIOTTA		RAY	1
							Total	3

Somehow Bob and Allan cheat Wordle death once again.

For what it's worth, TOLLY is slang for a candle, or a South African steer ... apparently.

Allan is an expert on TOLLIES and will hold forth on them whenever the opportunity arises.

I feel it's our duty to try to work the word into conversation over the next few days.

We go into a ninth round, but the pool of legitimate words is getting very small.

ZOLLY? What's a ZOLLY?

Word 6

Round 1	B	R	A	V	E
Round 2	Q	U	I	C	K
Round 3	G	L	O	O	M
Round 4	H	O	W	L	S
Round 5	D	O	Y	L	Y
Round 6	F	O	L	L	Y
Round 7	L	O	L	L	Y
Round 8	T	O	L	L	Y
Round 9	P	O	L	L	Y

Word 7

Round 1	P	O	P	P	Y
Round 2	F	L	U	F	F
Round 3	M	A	M	M	A
Round 4	B	A	T	C	H
Round 5	S	A	R	I	N
Round 6	R	A	D	A	R
Round 7	G	A	Z	E	R
Round 8	W	A	K	E	R
Round 9	W	A	X	E	R

	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Word 4	Word 5	Word 6	Word 7	Word 8	Total	Alive
Mike	7	2	1	6	7	8	8	5	44	0
Richard	5	5	4	6	3	7	1	5	36	0
Brendan	5	2	1	5	7	2	8	6	36	0
Chris	6	5	4	2	2	8	7	1	35	0
Bob	6	2	3	5	8	5		5	34	1
Allan	5	4	2	3	7			3	24	2
Roger	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	6	24	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Total
Paul Evans	2	3	3	1	2	0	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	0	3	0					28
Allan Stagg	0	0	3	1	2	1	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	0					28
Richard Smith	0	2	2	0	2	0	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	0	0					24
Brendan Whyte	3	2	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0					17
Brad Martin	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					6
Tom Howell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Steve Guest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0

Paul and Allan sneak ahead by virtue of some literal thinking.

#11 : Was Paths Of Glory

#12 : Was Ra!

#14 : Not Great Western Trail, Bounty Hunter, Cowboys, Gunslingers

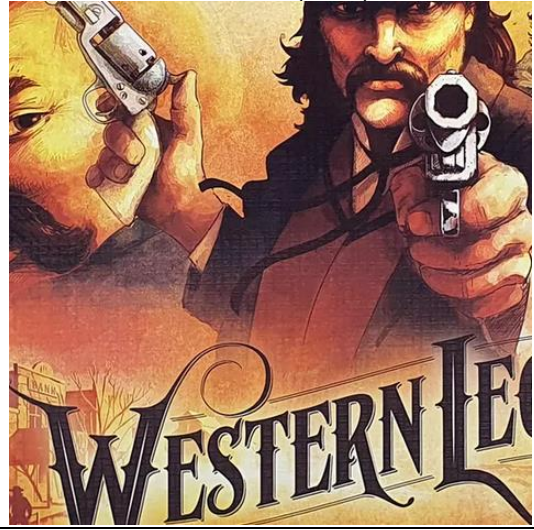
#15 : Not Suppenkasper, The Garden Game

#16 : Not Suppenkasper, Carnivore, Salad Master

GAME 13 (1 VP)



GAME 14 (1 VP)



GAME 15 (2 VP)



GAME 16 (2 VP)



GAME 17 (3 VP)



GAME 18 (3 VP)



HR Nardiell WHAT'S IN H'S RECORD COLLECTION ROUND 6/END

So close at the end.

Allan scores 20, but only on the back of Caroline's purchases. Had to check the rules

"For each title suggested, Howard will search the house for a copy of said record. If he finds one it scores points as shown in the table"

Richard's Talking Heads guess is rejected because they're already gone. I took Absolution to the charity shop earlier this year, otherwise it would have scored another 10. On such things Gold medals are decided. Jim matches Richard's 30 and takes the title by 6 points.

Round	Player	Artist	Album	Joker	Owned	Score
6	Allan Stagg	Damien Rice	O		Yes	10
6	Allan Stagg	10CC	Sheet Music			0
6	Allan Stagg	1 Giant Leap	1 Giant Leap			0
6	Allan Stagg	Marianne Faithful	Broken English	Yes		0
6	Allan Stagg	Sam Fender	Seventeen Going Under		Yes	10
6	Allan Stagg	Yes	Fragile			0
6	Jim Reader	Renaissance	Prologue			0
6	Jim Reader	Rainbow	Rising		Yes	10
6	Jim Reader	Rod Stewart	Every Picture Tells A Story			0
6	Jim Reader	Frankie Goes To Hollywood	Welcome To The Pleasure Dome		Yes	10
6	Jim Reader	Pink Floyd	Dark Side Of The Moon		Yes	10
6	Jim Reader	Snap	The Madman's Return			0
6	Richard Smith	Horslips	The Tain			0
6	Richard Smith	Muse	Absolution			0
6	Richard Smith	The Cure	Pornography		Yes	10
6	Richard Smith	World Party	Goodbye Jumbo		Yes	10
6	Richard Smith	Talking Heads	77	Yes	Dead	0
6	Richard Smith	Half Man Half Biscuit	Back In The DHSS		Yes	10

Scores

	Round	Total
Richard Smith	30	127
Allan Stagg	20	107
Jim Reader	30	133
Brendan Whyte	0	15

FUTURE SHOCK

Don't Wordle limps closer to a conclusion.

Richard suggests that the zero points for Wordling in the push your luck variant might be a bit too severe. He might have a point, but I am, if nothing else, an evil bastard, so total wipeout death might still be on the table.

Looking to start a new game of **Just One**. Currently Richard and Allan. Need 3 more.

I'll probably start a new **The Name Of The Game** when this one finishes.

Will think about other options.

SubPAR 11

Pennsylvania Ramblings



Spotted Cow There was another concert we wanted to see at the Allentown Fair, but after previous disasters with parking, we decided to enjoy the afternoon at the fair. We had great fun admiring the prize-winning animals and enjoying the unhealthy food. We also had no problem getting to the concert venue in time to enjoy Heart.

Time Passages We saw Al Stewart once more, this time on his 80th birthday in concert at the Glenside Theatre in Keswick, PA. He has been touring with the Chicago Blues Band, the Empty Pockets for the last few years, and this has worked very well. However, he recently announced that this would be his farewell tour. We shall be sad to see him retire as he is an entertaining raconteur and always puts on a good show. The concert was great with the highlight a rare outing for “Roads to Moscow”, plus the return of “Midas Shadow”, a song I’ve really grown to appreciate.

Farewell Farewell Like Richard, I plan to retire next year and the countdown has started. Last week, I travelled to Brazil for my last ABRAFATI trade show and possibly my last visit there. The show was busy and I was happy to be able to have dinner at La Jardiniere (my favourite Churrascaria) one last time. Of course, there were also plenty of Caipirinha com Limao also.

Railway Rivals (Senegal and Gambia) - RR2556SG

Round Three

There was a significant mistake in last turn’s round two report as I allowed COUER to build both halves of the Sene-Gambia bridge in a single round. Richard spotted the mistake and Steve quickly sent replacement orders. An updated report was sent to all players and Richard updated the online report.

COUER	3a) 2. (S11) - R11: (N5) – <u>JOAL-FASDIOUT</u> .
Steve Ham	3b) 5. (Farafenni) - - - Mansa Konko (part 2 of Sene-Gambia bridge) - V11- V10,
Purple	3c) 2. (V10) - V9: (V11) - V12.
	BANK: 30 + 3 – 1 (SETI) = 32

SETI 3a) 2. (F8) – E9 - D9,
 Richard Smith 3b) 5. (Farafenni) - - - Mansa Konko (part 2 of Sene-Gambia bridge) - V10 - V9,
 Blue 3c) 2. (V9) - V8 - V7.
 BANK: 31 + 1 (COEUR) = 32

ROGER 3a) 2. (Kolda) – W13 – W12,
 Roger Trethewey 3b) 5. (W12) - W11 – SEDHIUO: (V25) – W26 – X26 – KEDOUGOU,
 Black 3c) 2. (U15) – T14 - S14.
 BANK: 41 + 6 + 6 = 53

BOGGER 3a) 2. (Tambacounda) - Q21 - P21,
 Bob Gingell 3b) 5. (T21) - - - U21 - V20*,
 Brown 3c) 2. (V20) – W20 – DAI' ABA.
 BANK: 59 + 3 = 62

**Bob it costs +3 to build cost to bridge the Gambia in Senegal*

The fourth-round die rolls are 3a) 5, 3b) 3, and 3c) 4.

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2556SG.png>

Railway Rivals (Estonia) – RR2542EE2

Round Six

There was a mistake in last turn's round five report as I used BENDY'S original orders and not the later set I received from Bob. There were a couple of other minor correction. An updated report was sent to all players, and Richard updated the online report. MARS 5b last round should have read (H12) - G13 - F13; this is shown on the online map.

ARVO 6a) 4. (E45) – D45 - C46 – B45 - A45,
 Richard Smith 6b) 4. (A45) – Z9 – Y9 – X8 - W8,
 Blue 6c) 6. (W8) – V7 – U7 – T6 – S6 – R5 - Q5.
 BANK: 38 – 1 (BENDY) – 1 (ET) = 36

BENDY 6a) 4. (M7) - M8 - - - M9,
 Bob Gingell 6b) 4. (M9) - M10 - L10 - K11: (D52) - C53,
 Black 6c) 6. (C53) - B53 - A54: (Narva) - - - Ivangorod / Russia: (N6) - Saue.
 BANK: 62 + 1 (ARVO) – 1 (ROGER) - 1 (MARS) - 1 + 6 (ET) = 66

ROGER 6a) 4. (L64) - M65 – N65 – O66 - P66,
 Roger Trethewey 6b) 4. (P66) – Q67 – R67 – S68 - Pechory / Russia
 Green 6c) 6. (N65) – N66 – N67 – Voru: (Z27) – Y28 – X28 – Moisakula.
 BANK: 40 + 1 (BENDY) + 10 (MARS) + 1 (ET) = 52

MARS 6a) 4. (K8) - - - Keila - L6,
 John Marsden 6b) 4. (L6) – M6 - N5 - O5 - Tallinn
 Orange 6c) 6. (Voru) – O68 – P67 - Q67 - R67 – S68 - Pechory / Russia
 BANK: 58 + 1 (BENDY) – 10 (ROGER) = 49

ET 6a) 4. (M42) – Kivoli: (Johvi) – R40 - S40 - T40,
 Michael Pargman 6b) 4. (Turi) – V17 – U18 – T18 - S19,
 Red 6c) 6. (S19) – R19 – Q20 - P20 – Tootsi: (B57) - A58: (H53) - I54
 BANK: 45 + 1 (ARVO) + 1 – 6 (BENDY) – 1 (ROGER) = 40

The first set of races is

1. Johvi (14) - Kunda or Narva-Joesuu (21)
2. Turi or Poitsamaa (42) - Narva (12)
3. Sweden (Sp2) - Tootsi or Sindi (56)
4. Tallinn (62) - Voru (34)
5. Parnu (54) - Kilingi-Nomme or Torva (43)
6. Tartu (32) - Kivoli or Mustvee (26)
7. Keila (64) - Lake Resort (Sp6)

Enter up to 4 races and build up to 12 points

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2542EE2.png>

Railway Rivals (Zambia) - RR2545ZM

Round Eight

There was a mistake in last rounds report as I somehow managed to miss the emails accepting MOSI's JR offers. Races 2, 3 and 7 were rerun and the corrected report sent to all players and updated in the online zine. The airports are at the town hexes and not the airplane markers.

Race	ACR <i>Brad Martin</i> Blue	PEAR <i>Kev Lee</i> Purple	MOSI <i>Steve Guest</i> Orange
1. Mwinilunga or Zambezi (41) - Mufulira (32)	10 - 2	20	+ 2
8. Kasempa (45) - DR Congo (Sp1)		+ 5	20 - 5
9. Samfya or Lundazi (22) - Ndola (36)	0	15 - 5 + 1 - 3 (DRC)	15 + 5 - 1 - 3 (DRC)
10. Lusaka (65) - Luwingu or Isoka (14)	+ 4	10 - 4	20 - 3 (DRC)
11. Nakonde (13) - Kabompo or Kalabo (42)		20	
12. Ndola (35) - Mumbwa (55)	10 - 5	0 - 5	20 + 5 + 5
13. Airports (Sp6) - Livingstone (54)	20 + 6		10 - 6
14. Monze (62) - Chipata (26)	20		

Points from Last Round	144	108	114
Points from Races	63	54	84
Build Costs	- 9 + 4 + 3	- 8 - 4	- 12 - 3
Corrections	None found so far....		
Total	205	150	183

ACR: (N50) – M50 – L49 – K49 - Mpika - H47 - H46; (N41) - N40 - Nakonde; (N41) – Isoka.
PEAR: (Y21) – Y22 – Y23 – Y24 - Y25 – Lusaka: (Mwinilunga) – J12 - I12 / Angola; (Y22) - Kabwe
MOSI: (A47) - B47 - C48 - - - D48 - E49 - F48 - G48 - H47 - Mpika: (S27) - T27 – Monze.

The third set of races is

15. Chinsali (16) - Kitwe (34):
 16. Chingola (31) - Lusaka (64)
 17. Tanzania (Sp5) - Mpika (23):
 18. Botswana or Zimbabwe (Sp3) - Nchelenge (11)
 19. Mansa (21) - Kaoma (46):
 20. Lusaka (66) - Kataba (52):
 21. Solwezi (44) - Sesheke (51)
- Enter up to 5 (five) races plus the reoffered race 1 and build up to 10 points of track. Note that Livingstone Airport is not allowed for race 13.

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2545ZM.png>

Railway Rivals (Bhutan) - RR2552BT

Game Start

The following three players have signed up for this game - Roger Trethewey, Chris Hibbert and John Walker.

The map can be found at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/bhutanRR.jpg>.

Please can you send your company names, start and colour preferences for next round.

Bus Boss (Farnham and Aldershot) - BB422FAL

Round Two

The Shepherd and Flock Roundabout is so big, there are a few houses inside the roundabout plus the eponymous pub. BANG builds along the route of my old paperbound, although it was not possible to connect this when I was a teenager.

Correction: I think I marked up the map wrongly, but as Richard started his builds from Aldershot Station this round, please adjust his round 1 build to Aldershot Station - Heath End - Upper Hale. The online map is now correct.

FEAR	Farnham Town Centre - Weybourne; Farnham Station - 6th Form College
Kev Lee	108 – 11 = 97
Colour: Red	

BANG	Farnham Castle - Folly Hill - Upper Hale - Sandy Hill
Bob Gingell	108 – 12 = 96
Colour: Black	

CHAMPS	Shepherd and Flock - Badshot Lea: The Rec - Upper Hale: Heath End - HES
Brad Martin	108 – 12 = 96
Colour: Brown	

ROGER	Tweseldown RaceCourse – North Town
Roger Trethewey	108 – 14 - 94
Colour: Green	

FAB	Aldershot Station - Aldershot FC - North Town; Upper Hale – Sandy Hill
Richard Smith	108 – 11 = 97
Colour: Blue	

The build order for round 3 is Bob, Brad, Roger, Richard and Kevin. Note that the round 6 build order will be based on highest to lowest points (i.e. the person that has built the least will go first).

The in-game map is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/bb/ingame/BBXXFAL.png>

Spacefiller Joke:

Why do Swedish warships have barcodes on their hulls?

Because they Scandinavian!

THE CELESTIAL DRAGON #11



Deadline for all games: Friday 31st October 2025

Website: Still using the Variable Pig URL: <https://variablepig.org>

The Celestial Steam Locomotive	#41	Richard Smith	richard530smith@btinternet.com
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Waiting List / Notes:

BAG OF DUNGEON - game 2: John Walker, John Hopkins 1 or 2 more wanted
NEW! BUS BOSS Ynys Mon / Isle of Anglesey - 3-4 players per game Bob G to GM BB423MON, Richard to GM BB423MON.
NEW! RR Durham 1826 - 4 players needed, two games offered (RR2570DH & RR2571DH)
NEW! KENDO NAGASAKI (Destination X Variant) - game start inside
NEW! CRYSTAL BALL 2026 (sports prediction game) - predict now!

Here Be Dragons	#74	John Walker	hbdragons@btinternet.com
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Waiting List / Notes:

NEARLY THE BEST GAME IN THE WORLD – Chris Hibbert*, Richard Smith*, 3 more wanted
* willing to GM next game
LYRIC QUIZ – new batch of five rounds – anyone can play except Mr. Google.
WORLD RECORD 9.762 - Richard Smith, Chris Hibbert – 3-6 more wanted
FRAGMENTS (famous people) - all reader game - my favourite - any can join
NEW! SNAKES AND LADDERS - 5+ wanted - Richard Smith
NEW! PARKRUN - New all-reader game starts inside

The Tangerine Terror I Am The Kurious Kumquat	#81 #11	Howard Bishop	laticsexile@outlook.com
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Waiting List / Notes:

THE NAME OF THE GAME - all reader game continues, anyone can join
ORIGINS OF WW2 - Brendan Whyte, John Marsden - 3 more wanted
DOS DE MAYO – 2 wanted
COMING SOON! COMMUNAL DON'T WORDLE ([rules](#) being updated) 5+ required. Richard Smith
NEW! JUST ONE – new game to start when at least 5 sign up - Richard Smith, Allan Stagg

SubPAR	#11	Jim Reader	jim_reader@hotmail.com
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Waiting List / Notes: BB422FAL

BUS BOSS - Shikoku (BB418SHI) - Roger Trethewey, Brad Martin 2-4 more wanted
BREAKING AWAY – Richard Smith, Chris Hibbert, Allan Stagg - 3 more wanted.
RAILWAY RIVALS - Bhutan map RR2552BT – Roger Trethewey, Chris Hibbert, John Walker – game start inside.