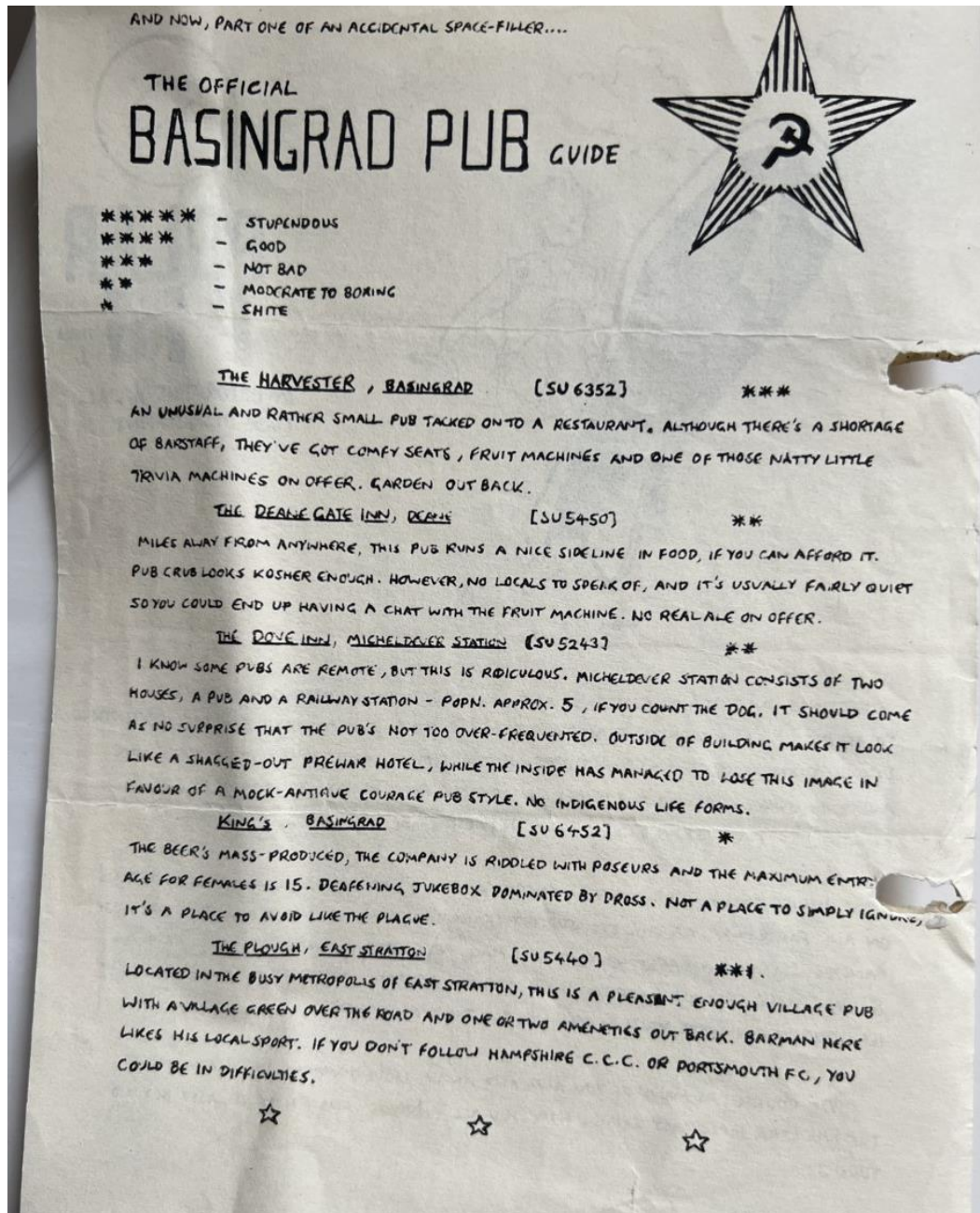


Variable Pig

The ANKAMALI Issue



The Return to Basingrad issue, featuring the 201st issue of "Polar Pig, Here Be Dragons 56, the 70th issue of on-the-shelf vol. XVI, and "The Celestial Steam Locomotive" 23.

Variable Pig (ANKAMALI)

POLAR PIG 201

Welcome to another issue of Variable Pig, our third of the year despite the slow start. Our cover features another picture from one of the very early issues of Polar Pig and Box' opinions of some of the pubs in his local area. Basingrad was Dave's name for Basingstoke, where he moved to after leaving Warwick. I recall sending letters addressed to Basingrad without any problems.

This issue sees a couple more games in Polar Pig come to a finish and two more of the larger games (Rail Baron and RoboRally) are entering their final stages, so I suspect that Polar Pig will start to shrink after this issue. All the Railway Rivals and Bus Boss games have now entered the racing stages, so I think there will only be another six or seven issues of Polar Pig before its final demise in a year's time. However, all the subzines are still going strong. This will also be our first, online only, issue.

The main event of the last month was my 60th birthday. Hannah and Michael came over to visit from Indiana for a long weekend and Thomas and Kelsey also visited for a lovely family day out. Hannah and Thomas organized a family photo shoot in a nearby park for my present, with one of Thomas' old school friends taking the pictures. The weather wasn't too great, but we had a lot of fun and Matt took some great photos. The photo shoot was followed by a family dinner and games night, which was a lot of fun.



Business travel has finally resumed after quite a long break. My first trip was a return to Milwaukee for the Wisconsin Paint and Coatings Association annual Technical Symposium. I stayed in the Downtown Hilton Garden Inn, a beautiful old Art Deco building formerly owned by the Railways and a short walk from a nice downtown area and the Indoor Market with great fish restaurants. I even had a Schlitz beer for my Dad. The Symposium was good too. Last week, I was in Atlantic City for the Eastern Coatings Show, a much bigger and busier event but Atlantic City is not my favourite venue. Coming up, I have a return to Cleveland followed by a short trip up to New England for some customer calls.

Meanwhile, we continue to enjoy exploring local farmers markets and trails. We've both suffered from a nasty cough recently (not COVID) which has curtailed some of our activities, but we've still been able to enjoy the mild and relatively dry spring. The garden is starting to bloom once more, and our summer birds are returning – we had our first hummingbird today.

I hope that you have all been enjoying the spring and will look forward to hearing from you again next time.

Letters

Kev Lee Congratulations on VP200 and the Polar Pig history was really interesting.
Andy York From the last VP, congrats on reaching the magic 200th milestone! Quite a feat.
Murray Egan Variable Pig 200!!! Congrats and what a milestone!!
Thanks for nice emails – I'm very happy to have seen Polar Pig through to issue 200 and a few more..

Martin Walker Sorry I forgot last time to congratulate you on reaching the 200 mark, don't expect there's many zines to have made it to that number.
There may be more than you think, with ODE at 430+, Obsidian approaching 300 and both Western Front and Damn the Consequences over 200, but I think that's because we're the survivors.

Michael Pargman Congratulations on the 200nd issue of Variable Pig. It's a fantastic feat to be able to keep up with such a large zine with so many games going at such regularity.
Thanks Michael – it's been a big team effort for many years now.

Allan Stagg Many congratulations on the 200th issue of the Pig - a noteworthy achievement. I have thoroughly enjoyed receiving the zine, playing in the games, and engaging in correspondence with you.
Thanks for the nice email. I always enjoy our correspondence.

Murray Egan Thanks again for all your time/effort in running the Variable Pig for so many years. It has brought me a lot of joy and I'm grateful Jim. For myself, I wish I had kept track of how many games I have worked on while on a plane (add one more to the list as I'm off to Dallas now for the week to a trade show)... that number would be high.
I'm so glad that you've enjoyed the Pig over the years, and I've really enjoyed your contributions. The Pig should run for another year or so. I've certainly written plenty of orders while traveling.

Steve Ham Well done for bringing the roll of honour up to date. Many names I don't recognise but the long list is testament to the pleasure you've given over the years.

Murray Egan I loved the roll of honour there...so many game studs, and of course, grateful for the time that you have put into this zine.
Thanks Murray and Steve. I had a lot of fun going back through the past issues to check the game results and remembering past readers and players. It also amazes me how many different games we have tried.

Michael Pargman I hope you and your family are all well.
Mike Townsend I hope that all is well with you. I don't seem to be in any games in the Pig and so not an easy rhythm for an update.
All good here. Jacqueline had a lovely walk in the nature conservatory behind Emmaus yesterday - a nice, hilly woodland walk, probably also good for mountain biking.

Michael Pargman I had this big family dinner yesterday, and the preparations took its toll on the free time.
I'm glad you were able to enjoy a family dinner yesterday. We also had a rare family dinner last night.

Andy York Not much else to say, hope all's well with y'all!
Carolyn Townsend Hope you are all keeping well and that wedding plans are progressing well.
Hannah and Michael arrived from Indiana late last night and Jacqueline took them shopping near New York today. I would have joined them, but I picked up a nasty cough earlier in the week so stayed at home. Fortunately, I recovered so we could have a family games night with them, plus Thomas and Kelsey who came over.

Chris Hibbert Hope all is well. It just turned warm over the weekend, so the weather's been nice this week.
All good here. The weather has been great, so we've been out exploring some new trails - nothing too far, but nice to get out and explore.

Kev Lee Hope all is good with you. I'm off to the Silverlake later on for the Eastleigh v Aldershot game. Hopefully the Spitfires can cling on to the playoff spots and Aldershot can stay out of trouble.

I hope you enjoyed the Eastleigh v Aldershot game. It sounded like an exciting game, although I think I will have been happier with the score. For some reason, the Shots have been a better away team than they are at home for a number of seasons, so maybe it was a fair result.

Kev Lee It looks like Saints are going down but if that is the case at least they will be in the same league as my third team, Bristol City. I am definitely a lucky charm for them as I have never seen them lose having watched well over a dozen home games.

Really sorry that the Saints didn't stay up, but they will be joined in the Championship by my second team, Ipswich who have finally escaped Division 1. Ipswich were my mother's family team; the first football games I saw were at Portman Road with my Uncles. This was in the 70s when they were managed by Bobby Robson and one of the best teams in the League.

Andy York At opening night here in Round Rock. That's my usual seat for the past decade or so. I quite like it!



Nice seats. I hope you enjoyed the game. I've sat in the dugout suite at Coca Cola park a few times, but I actually like our seats behind third base – see picture showing Hambone losing once again in the Pork race taken from my usual seat. Jacqueline chose the seats as the sun sets behind 3rd base, so you're often looking into the sun when watching from the first base side. At Yokohama, I always sat behind first base. There's a possibility I might visit the Norfolk Tides later this year as the Crets holiday will be on the Outer Banks and the guys have expressed interest in going to a baseball game. Fortunately, the Tides are at home that week (to Memphis), so we're thinking of going to the Thursday lunchtime game.

Andy York Hope you get to see a game in Norfolk, sounds like fun. I always enjoy visiting new ballparks.

I was a bit surprised by the Crets enthusiasm for the baseball. Most aren't sports fans, but Simon suggested going. He's going to miss a 1-day cricket game between England and New Zealand while on holiday, so I jokingly suggested baseball as a replacement. I'm glad the others were interested, and it should be a fun day out. The Tides are currently far ahead in the International League.

Andy York Don't know much about cricket, but glad the Brit contingent is interested in baseball. Hope you can keep it all straight for them! Oops... Just realized that "hope you can keep it all straight for them" might be taken the wrong way. I meant, not that you'd have trouble keeping it straight, but that they might have trouble with keeping track of all the rules and nuances as they're new to the game.

England vs New Zealand at one day cricket is probably about as good as you can get in the cricketing world right now. Probably the two best teams in the world right now in the one-day game, and both having a very attacking and positive attitude to the game. If you ever fancy trying to find a game on TV, I'd recommend these.

Andy York The observation was made that the Rangers are undefeated, and the Phillies have yet to win a game.... 😊

How are the Express doing so far?

Andy York The Express are doing quite well (18-8). They are second in their division of the Pacific Coast League (PCL) - and second overall in the entire PCL. Their next homestand (beginning May 9) is against Oklahoma City (Dodgers), the first-place team. That's not to say their record was easy, many close-run games and two extra inning one's last week (just completed home series against Albuquerque (Isotopes/Rockies)) - three rain delays added to the long evenings at the park. Interestingly, the Express have the second lowest number of runs scored in the PCL (137), on the other hand they have the fewest (by far!) runs allowed (at 112 for a +25 differential). so far, it's looking to be a good year!

Sounds like the Express are doing great: 18 - 8 is pretty good, even if they're second. I hope they had a good series against Oklahoma. We've only been to one game so far, but that was a double header where they won both games. I hope the Pigs get to play the Isotopes sometime - such a cool name and logo.

Andy York They're now a half game behind Oklahoma City with only today's games to play before their match up this week. Rain expected most days, could be another long baseball week... Am missing Tuesday's game, AFS is showing a Marlene Dietrich film on the big screen that night.

Culture of a different kind – I hope it was worth missing the game.

Andy York Looking forward to a trip to Arlington in July to see two Rangers games along with my stepbrother from Ann Arbor (needs to see a game in the new stadium to regain his "I've been to a game in every Major League Park" badge). A mutual friend, who lives in San Angelo, will be joining us. Should be fun!

Sounds like a nice trip.

Carolyn Townsend We are off to the Isle of Wight this weekend for a quick (Mike) or slow (me) cycle round. We are taking part in the Randonne which is km in a day – Mike may have a long wait for me at the ferry home though.

Have fun on the Isle of Wight - I think I last visited there in 2004 on a Crets holiday.

Murray Egan Next week I'm off to Florida for another tech event, so I have hopes that business travel is starting to pick up again.

Glad to hear you're finally getting back on the road and enjoy the sunshine state. I've now been to Milwaukee and Atlantic City for trade shows and next stop will be Cleveland. I don't often go to Milwaukee but it's a nice city. I went for the Wisconsin Paint and Coatings Association annual Technical Symposium. This is a new one to me, but they invited me to give a paper which is always nice. Still not many direct customer visits yet, but our sales team is now getting pushed to organize these. I should make a few calls in Cleveland and we're planning another set of visits in New England in June.

Murray Egan Still no on-prem customer meetings with so many of my customers working remote. I do wonder where this will all end of with so many Gen-Z/Millennial kids getting used to working from home and not in a workplace/working together.

I'm curious how the work from home situation will continue. I prefer working in the office and there is no home laboratory, but I do appreciate the option of working from home. I've noticed that Evonik is encouraging people to return to work (in nice ways) but has also taken the opportunity to downsize real estate and create shared office areas (hot desks) so there isn't enough space for everyone to return full time. However, I have enjoyed seeing many more colleagues recently.

Chris Hibbert <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-us-canada-65235658>? Is this anywhere near you or somewhere you might go hiking? Lancaster is in the desert north of LA. That's where Janet, my S.O., grew up, and for many years that's where we visited her family. The California Poppy Reserve is really gorgeous when it's in bloom.

I love poppies. The classic English red poppy appears each summer in the fields near where my Dad lives and it looks beautiful when in full flower, but nothing like the scale shown on the video.

Chris Hibbert Janet has been throwing poppy seeds in various parts of our yard for a while, and this year, they've come out in several good bunches. In our area, there are several good parks that are good for wildflower walks in the spring (and this year's especially good), but you'll see a real variety of flowers rather than a monoculture like the Poppy Reserve.
There are also a lot of wildflowers coming into bloom, plus lots of birds to see, but nothing like the poppies on the video. I hope you get to enjoy them, and that Janet's planting efforts are successful.

Allan Stagg Spring has arrived here - more colour in the garden, blossom on the trees. more birdsong, and occasional sunny days, amidst the dull/showery/cold ones. We have had a few days out - Coventry Cathedral and Bletchley Park this month - and a holiday in Menorca to look forward to in June. *Spring is definitely here too. We have a lot more colourful birdlife in our garden, plus the rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks are all coming out again. The trips out sound good. We've been exploring more of the local parks and trails - nothing too long but finding different places. We've also planned our summer trip back to Europe - first to France and then to England. We've never been to Menorca, but we always enjoyed our visits to Mallorca.*

Brendan Whyte Sad news about the winddown and online-only future -- where will I get my postally porcine jollies now?

Tom Howell I'm with Brendan on the paper vs. digital 'zines. Paper was Conrad's preference also.

Dane Maslen Unlike you and Brendan I am very comfortable doing my reading on a screen, though hardcopy reading material does find a use in the loo (no, not that use – I read it there). One advantage is being able to zoom in when my eyes are tired and even less willing to focus than usual: it's simpler than finding the necessary stronger pair of glasses. I'm currently trying to switch to using my PC rather than my smartphone when reading in the evening: I'm much more prone to starting to feel sleepy if I'm reclining in a comfy chair than if I'm sitting upright in a hard chair.

Michael Pargman I agree with Brendan that it's so much more enjoyable to read on paper and be able to take notes and mark stuff. As long as I worked full time at the office, I had the benefit of being able to print out the zines and read them on paper.

I've got used to writing orders and reading zines on a computer screen, but I still prefer a printed copy, especially for games like Railway Rivals and Bus Boss where I find marking up the maps a little awkward. As Brendan says, I also spend quite a lot of my working day in front of a computer, so it's also nice to have a break from the screen. I do agree that being able to zoom in is helpful.

Richard Smith I used my new giant magnifying glass (with lights) to help with my orders this time. With that and free drugs from the NHS coming soon, I guess I'm now officially an oldie!
Not yet, by the official Crets count, unlike me.

Michael Pargman When the pandemic closed the office and I worked from home I began reading the zines online, but it's not at all the same thing, and I think that the things that lose out are the reading and commenting on the opening text and the letter section.

Not many of the zines I receive have a large letter section anymore, but I do agree that the letter column may lose out based on my experiences with Danes Games.

Tom Howell As for printing,... I do have a decent laser printer. So, my question to Richard is: if I print the next Pig here, will it come out in digest format? I have a 'long reach stapler', so keeping the pages all together in a tidy bundle won't be a problem. (If I hadn't already had it for stapling off-the-shelf issues, I'd have had to buy it for the un-stapled copies of DtC I receive.) The problem is going to be that I don't have any A4 paper. All I've got is US letter size (8.5in x 11in) and legal (8.5 x 14).
I'll have to defer to Richard for the print copy question, but I can usually print A4 documents onto Letter paper here without problems.

Michael Pargman I have a small printer at home, but it can't manage large amounts of paper and it smudges colour at places on the paper, so for the zines the only thing I do print nowadays is the results and races for the RR games. Having separate papers for each game makes it possible to look at them at the same time as having the map and making notes of which races to enter.
I've now adapted to writing orders from an online zine – explains my poor RR performance recently.

Michael Pargman I had to go to the office a few times when the updates to my computer didn't go through from home, and at those times I could also copy and enlarge the RR maps on A3 paper and that is a blessing. I have one game that started during the pandemic where I only have an A4 map, and it's so much messier and harder to keep working with, especially since I prefer the games with 5 or 6 players. Of course, the fact that I also use permanent OH pens to mark the maps with and that some colours are hard to distinguish if your lighting isn't perfect.

Access to an A3 printer sounds very useful. Most of my game maps are now printed on A4 or letter sized paper which can be more challenging, especially in bad light. It's worse for Bus Boss than Railway Rivals although my new pens help. My printer is fine for printing maps and probably could print out a small zine, but I don't think it would be happy with a monster like Variable Pig.

Michael Pargman Now I've started to foresee a future where I won't have access to an A3 copying machine at all. I have decided to apply for an early retirement (3 years early). They will now do the administrative checks to see that I am entitled to that benefit, but that shouldn't be a problem. If everything works out as planned I will work until the end of October. The tough part about this will be to tell my colleagues. For some this will come as an unpleasant surprise. And for me, it will be tough too. I do want to make a nice hand over and finish off a lot of things I've been working on, but there is only so much time left, and I do have a lot of vacation days to take out.

Congratulations on your upcoming early retirement. You will be joining an increasing number of Pig subbers in that happy state. It's good to hear that you're planning to make a nice handover.

Michael Pargman For the first time ever, I also calculated my expenses for last year and it seems that all the regular expenses in Stockholm will be covered by my benefit. The only thing that comes on top of that is travel and all the expenses while travelling. I have some personal pension funds that I put in some 30 years ago, so I will begin to draw from them, so I should manage just fine.

As for the economic side of things, I've done a lot of calculations on possible outcomes. The benefit I get is that I'll receive 65% of my current salary until the regular pension will begin, and then I have like 10 different sources of pension and savings to deliberate with on when to start redrawing them and for how long time.

I've been trying to calculate the economics for retiring. Most of my pensions won't kick in until I'm 67 and there are quite steep penalties for taking social security earlier than 62, so it's the period between when I retire and turn 67 that I'm concerned about. Healthcare costs in the US are very steep and this is also a concern until I qualify for Medicare.

Michael Pargman Will I be bored not working - probably. But on the other hand, I have so many things that I have postponed for so long that I want to do. For one thing, reading all my books. There are so many of them and it was a long time ago that I took the time to pick up a book and read at home or read before falling asleep. I then started to read while travelling to work, but with the pandemic I "lost" that hour and a half every day.

That was one of the things I enjoyed in Japan, riding the trains to work listening to music and reading.

Michael Pargman I also want to pick up on chess and study and do exercises. The last couple of years I have not put any time into keeping up and now the results of that are noticeable. Then I also hope to play more board games, but that might be the trickiest part since I won't get many more evenings...

Most people I know that have retired have found more than enough to do.

Michael Pargman And then there is that thing of going down memory lane. I still have moving boxes with things left by my parents that I never had the energy to go through to decide what to keep and what to give away and what to throw...

It sounds like you have everything carefully planned which is key, especially the financial aspects but also your plans for life after work. The memory lane trip might be harder than it sounds.

Michael Pargman And then there is that not so small thing of doing without RR A3 maps...

I can get these printed at Staples if needed – prices are reasonable, and our local store is very efficient.

Tom Howell I know the guy who runs my ISP over in Port Townsend. Several years ago (a decade?) the e-mail volume got so large he farmed it out to someone with a bigger computer. I download it all (except the crap in the spam folders - which stays on the server much too long) and don't clean out my inbox often enough. The messages on the server get automatically deleted when they are three weeks old.

On my laptop, I periodically go through the trash folder and delete all messages over 20kb or so. Once or twice a year, I just delete everything in the trash that's over a couple years old. Which reminds me, I ought to tidy up my Inbox...

I'm also pretty ruthless about emptying out the trash file regularly, but I know that I can usually recover these in Hotmail for about 45 days after deletion. All Pig orders are copied into a master word document and kept that way and I copy all my zine orders to my work email as a backup. I salvaged a few lost orders for Conrad that way in the past.

Tom Howell Brendan: I used to send off-the-shelf to the Popular Culture Library at Bowling Green University in Ohio. If I ever get around to it, I'll sort all the 'zines I've kept and ask them if they want any of them. I do know they won't want anything that they already have, but I'm hoping they might take some of the stuff they don't have a copy of.

Thanks for the idea Tom – maybe I should also contact them.

Brendan Whyte <https://boardgamegeek.com/blogpost/146085/klaus-teuber-designer-catan-dies-age-70>. Gentlemen, Klaus Teuber has died.

Sad news. I'm fairly sure I met him briefly at one of the Spiel expos in Essen, maybe when Catan was celebrating its 10th anniversary. He did create a few other games, like Drunter and Druber and Gallope Royale (surely one of the silliest themes for a board game - sedan chair racing) that we still play. Like many games, I'm not sure if all the expansions helped much or just diluted the original idea, but the base game is still fun. I remember going to Manorcon soon after it launched, looking at all the tables taken over by brightly coloured hex boards and wondering what was happening.

Murray Egan All is well on this end. Sue and I had a lovely time seeing John Mellencamp play last weekend at the Chicago Theatre. It is not your typical venue for rock concert with crystal chandeliers in art deco, but with the crowd being in their 50/60/70s they can't be too worried about damage. He is quite the performer and saved the middle set for some acoustic guitar with the story telling and singing for the audience. After smoking for 50 years his voice is pretty gruff, but he wears it well. A very philanthropic guy and a beacon of hope for us.

We've not seen John Mellencamp but I do like a lot of his songs. I'm sure he must be a good performer to have lasted so long, although a great catalogue of songs also helps. It certainly sounds like a nice venue as well - very classy.

Mike Townsend It popped into my head when you mentioned that in a recent Pig you saw Fleetwood Mac in 1987 in the NEC Arena. I'm pretty sure I was there too. I have been trying to (bit nostalgic I know) make a record of concerts that I went to in the past and make a note of who was there and how it was etc. *I lost track of all the concerts I attended years ago although I mostly remember who I have and haven't seen.*

Mike Townsend For this one according to my records it was actually May 1988 not 1987 and they called it the "Shake the Cage" tour even if it was after Tango in the Night. *You're probably right about Fleetwood Mac. I know it was the NEC and I think Lyndsay Buckingham was out of the band again, although I think they were still pushing 'Tango In the Night'.*

Mike Townsend I wonder if you recall any others that we went to together in these times? I have Steeleye in Arts Centre on 13/05/1986, possibly Hawkwind in Manchester Apollo 15/04/1988 (which I remember well due to the lasers being inches above the heads of the audience). *Steeleye Span also seems likely, although I don't remember them at Warwick. I don't think we saw Hawkwind or Rush together. I think I only Hawkwind on the 'Choose Your Masques' tour at the Hammersmith Odeon and at Castle Donnington. The concert at Hammersmith was mesmerizing, literally. The stage was set up to look like a spaceship with a 4x4 bank of screens at the centre, showing different images. One went out of sync, and it was really hypnotizing, especially combined with Hawkwind's space chants. Rush was the first concert I ever saw, on the last date of their 'Moving Pictures' tour in England, but this was still my first year before you came to Warwick. I also saw them on the Signals tour in 1983, but I think I went alone and before we met.*

Mike Townsend Hawkwind has got me thinking - it was a seated venue. Manchester is in my mind as I was thinking that this was after you had moved to Manchester. But it could be a false memory - when did you move there?

I moved to Burnage in January 88 when I started work. Tim Illson and I stayed at Warwick for the end of 87 to try and finish writing our Ph.D. theses, although we were no longer students.

Mike Townsend I know that there must be others. I have tickets for a few more around that time but can't recall who was there such as BOC, AC/DC, Magnum, Rush, Sabbath (Iommi version)
I'm sure we went to see Blue Oyster Cult together at the Birmingham Odeon on the 'Club Ninja' tour. I recall that quite a big group of us went and we stopped to eat at the McDonalds outside New Street station. This might have been the first time I ate at a McDonalds. I think this was the only time I saw BOC before coming to the US and remember getting blown away when they played 'White Flags'.

Mike Townsend Blue Oyster Cult together at the Birmingham Odeon on the 'Club Ninja' tour - Yes I still have the ticket for this one - Dec 8th, 1985! Here is the setlist.
<https://www.setlist.fm/setlist/blue-oyster-cult/1985/birmingham-odeon-birmingham-england-1bd82d94.html>
What a great set list. I'd love to hear them play "Veterans of the Psychic Wars again" - maybe we'll get lucky when they come to Quakertown in June. I think I saw Magnum more than 10x (like Marillion) and they played a lot around Coventry. The one I remember most is the concert at Lanch Poly a few months before the release of 'Storytellers Night'. Mark Stanway wasn't with them, maybe touring with Phil Lynott and Grand Slam who I saw at Loughborough - did you go to that? They played a lot from 'Storytellers Night', which was new and really exciting, but my friend Katherine got hit by a bottle or glass. They also played at the Arts Centre when Jacqueline's bridesmaid Lisa came up for the concert (like meeting up again at Bristol). I saw them the first time at the Birmingham Odeon on the 'Eleventh Hour' tour, when the concert was interrupted by a power cut, but I don't know who came with me.

Mike Townsend I know I saw them on the Wings of Heaven tour at the NEC Forum in 1988. I don't recall seeing them any other time until those more recent gigs.
AC/DC is probable - a group of us saw them at the NEW on the 'Flick of the Switch' tour,

Mike Townsend I have "Fly on the Wall Tour" in 1986. Oddly I don't recall too much about the concert.
You're probably right - I guessed at the album they were touring. I also don't remember too much of the concert. I think I have never seen Black Sabbath or Ozzy, although not through lack of effort as they cancelled twice when I had tickets. Did you go to the PRS trip to see Dio at Leicester De Montford hall? What a concert that was and sadly the only time I ever saw Ronnie in concert.

Mike Townsend I have seen Dio but I think with Michael S and Stu in Hammersmith on the Last in Line tour in 1984 - stunning and also supported by Queensryche who were also amazing!
I missed that one. I saw Queensryche at the Manchester Apollo on the Empire tour (I think), but I was on my own. That was the only time before last year. I'm fairly sure we saw the Bangles together when they played in the Student Union just as 'Manic Monday' was breaking as a single. It was one of the lesser student balls (I forget which), but I do recall watching them from the balcony; they all had very short skirts which might have attracted our attention :).

Mike Townsend Well, they played at Warwick Uni on Feb 8th, 1986 - I don't personally recall it though.
That sounds right. Did you go with us to the Garden Party with Marillion, Gary Moore, Magnum, and Jethro Tull at the Milton Keynes Bowl in 1986 or Heart Beat 86 at the NEC?

Mike Townsend Yes, I have it on the list (and still have the ticket) - cracking line-up it has to be said - just not sure if I went there with you or Michael and Tina - some setlists here:
<https://www.setlist.fm/venue/milton-keynes-national-bowl-milton-keynes-england-5bd6cf70.html?page=32>
That was a great day out. I remember it being very hot and sunny that day too. The latter was a concert organized by Bev Bevan and others to raise money for Birmingham's children's hospitals and headlined by the Moody Blues, but the real attraction was ELO. There were a lot of great bands there, including an unannounced appearance by UB40, and plenty of guests like Noddy Holder and George Harrison.

Mike Townsend I missed that one. Never seen ELO.
That was the only time I saw ELO and I think the only opportunity I had. I'm trying to think who else. I also saw Uriah Heep at the Lanch, but I can't recall who else was there.

Mike Townsend I missed that although I still really like their stuff and would happily see them now even if it's only Mick Box left.
We saw Uriah Heep at Sellersville a few years ago and they were great. I think they're still touring and have just put out a new album. Marillion seems probable as they also toured extensively while we were at Warwick. I missed Motorhead at Warwick as they clashed with Nazareth back home.

Mike Townsend I was there and started the concert in row 3 - I recall making a very sharp exit backwards as soon as it started though!
I never saw Motorhead but I'm still glad I chose the Nazareth concert. I'm guessing it was loud. I saw Gillan on the Double Trouble tour in 82 (?) and that was loud. Whitesnake at the NEC (when they'd moved into Hair Metal)?

Mike Townsend Yes - definitely saw them - could that have been Mar 4th, 1984, on the Slide it In tour (Here I Go again etc). Supported by Great White which also rings a bell
<https://www.setlist.fm/setlist/whitesnake/1984/nec-arena-birmingham-england-53d453f5.html>
That sounds right. I saw Whitesnake on the "Saints and Sinners" tour in early January 1983 at the Hammersmith Odeon. I had flown back from the Philippines that morning and my friends had a spare ticket and needed a driver - worked for me. They were still a heavy blues band then with Bernie Marsden and Mickey Moody and that was a fantastic concert. I got to see Genesis on the Mama tour at the NEC the same way - someone had a spare ticket and needed a driver. Heart (also at the NEC).

Mike Townsend I think this would be Mar 2nd or 3rd 1988 - I don't recall being there though.
Deep Purple and Bad Company on the 'House of the Blue Light tour'?

Mike Townsend Only time I have seen Deep Purple was at Knebworth in 1985 (which was a PRS coach trip and pissed down all day with the coach getting stuck in the mud in the Car Park)
I missed the Knebworth trip, but I remember lots of comments about the rain. Good training for future Glastonbury festivals. Let me know who else you remember. Happy days.

Mike Townsend Would be nice to see what other folks remember too and try to piece it all together. Maybe something to do after I retire (probably May 2024 btw!)
You're a few years ahead of me with retirement plans. Good luck.

Mike Townsend Whilst it's in my mind some concerts from Warwick Uni: REM at the President's Ball 27th June 1985. They were in the top floor of Rootes Building which had a really low ceiling, so you could not really see anything. Still had a feeling that they were a good band though (they were pretty unheard of at that time)
Definitely missed that one - I have never seen REM in concert.

Mike Townsend Robert Plant in the Students Union on 17th March 1988 - Now and Zen tour. I bought a sweatshirt - maybe I still have it somewhere! I enjoyed that and always got the feeling that he was looking right at me! Not sure who else was there though.
I had left Warwick by then so missed this. I've only seen Robert Plant as a guest at Cropredy.

Mike Townsend Housemartins - might also have been the President's Ball as referenced in the Boar which I found here but I recall there only being two of them and I thought in Ele's Nest. They played "Swansea with Me" which I can still sing today! I know Steve was there which suggests a different time that they played as I don't recall him going to Balls.
<https://wdc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/boar/id/5556/rec/124>
Nope, missed that one as well.

Mike Townsend Doctor and the Medics I think in Ele's maybe Feb 9th, 1985, complete with the weird two girls dancing. Spirit in the Sky was memorable. Saw them more recently and do not seem to have changed much!

I wonder if this was earlier as I think some of the Crets also saw this. I don't think I went to this one. I know A Flock of Seagulls played at Warwick at one of the balls. I think I was there, but I didn't pay much attention. Simply Red played a warmup gig there one summer (maybe 88) without much notice. I remember wandering into their sound check and being unexpectedly impressed.

* * * * *

By Popular Demand 7

Round Seven – Art

Player	Art Nouveau	Pop Art	Express-ionist	Surrealist	Sculptor	Portrait Artist	
Allan Stagg	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol*	Ernst Kirchner	Salvador Dali	Auguste Rodin	Leonardo da Vinci	76 (474)
John Walker	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol*	Vincent van Gogh	Salvador Dali	Michel-angelo	Rembrandt van Rijn	71 (456)
Bob Gingell	Alphonse Mucha	Andy Warhol*	Wassily Kandinsky	Salvador Dali	Auguste Rodin	Anthony Van Dyck	79 (448)
Bob Pitman	Toulouse Lautrec	Andy Warhol*	Edvard Munch	Salvador Dali	Henry Moore	Leonardo da Vinci	74 (446)
Martin Walker	Toulouse Lautrec	Andy Warhol*	Edvard Munch	Salvador Dali	Auguste Rodin	Leonardo da Vinci	81 (437)
Steve Ham	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol*	Edvard Munch	Salvador Dali	Auguste Rodin	Vincent van Gogh	84 (433)
Michael Pargman	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol*	Wassily Kandinsky	Salvador Dali	Henry Moore	Rembrandt van Rijn	70 (431)
Steve Guest	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol*	Wassily Kandinsky	Salvador Dali	Auguste Rodin	Leonardo da Vinci	78 (429)
Richard Smith	Toulouse Lautrec	Andy Warhol*	Edvard Munch	Pablo Picasso	Henry Moore	Vincent van Gogh	58 (426)
Brad Martin	Alphonse Mucha	Andy Warhol	Edvard Munch	Salvador Dali*	Michael-angelo	Hans Holbein	68 (412)
Murray Egan	-	-	-	-	-	-	48# (395)
Mike Pollard	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol*	Edvard Munch	Salvador Dali	Auguste Rodin	Leonardo da Vinci	84 (394)
Roger Trethewey	Toulouse Lautrec	Andy Warhol*	Henri Matisse	Salvador Dali	Auguste Rodin	Rembrandt van Rijn	72 (392)
Chris Hibbert	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol*	Paul Klee	Salvador Dali	Michel-angelo	John Sargent	66 (391)
Brendan Whyte	Toulouse Lautrec	Andy Warhol	Edvard Munch	Salvador Dali*	Auguste Rodin	Rembrandt van Rijn	77 (385)
Andrew York	Antoni Gaudi	Andy Warhol	Edvard Munch	Pablo Picasso*	Auguste Rodin	Vincent van Gogh	48 (374)
Jacqueline Reader	Alphonse Mucha	Andy Warhol*	Vincent van Gogh	Salvador Dali	Michel-angelo	Rembrandt van Rijn	67 (364)
Doug Kent	Gustav Klimt	Andy Warhol	Claude Chagall	Salvador Dali*	Michel-angelo	Leonardo da Vinci	68 (356)
MY CHOICES	Alphonse Mucha	Andy Warhol*	Edvard Munch	Frida Kahlo	Auguste Rodin	Hans Holbein	62 (396)

1. A key artist from the Art Nouveau period (1880 – 1910): Gustav Klimt (8), Toulouse Lautrec (5), Alphonse Mucha (4) and Antoni Gaudi scores 1.

Of course, I couldn't find the website I used to help set these questions when I came to answer them, but I could answer this one without help. I suspect Klimt may score better.

2. A key artist from the Pop Art period (1955 – 1965): Andy Warhol scores 18.
I think Andy will score highly, but there are a number of others I like including Roy Liechtenstein.
3. A key artist from the Expressionist period (1905 – 1920): Edvard Munch (9), Wassily Kandinsky (3), Vincent van Gogh (2): Claude Chagall, Henri Matisse, Ernst Kirchner, and Paul Klee all score 1.
OK, this is where my art history started going off and I needed some research as my first thought was wrong.
4. A key artist from the Surrealism period (1924 – 1966): Salvador Dali (15), Pablo Picasso (2) and Frida Kahlo scores 1.
Frida was my original answer to question 3.
5. A sculptor: Auguste Rodin (10), Michelangelo (5) and Henry Moore scores 3.
Rodin was the artist I had in mind when I set the question – hopefully, players will think of some others.
6. A portrait painter: Leonardo da Vinci (6), Rembrandt van Rijn (5), Vincent van Gogh (3), Hans Holbein (2): Anthony Van Dyck and John Singer Sargent both score 1.
Holbein and Gainsborough are the two painters I most associate with ancient portraits.

Comments

Allan Stagg

I have assumed that the dates you have assigned for categories 1 - 4 means that you are looking for artists who were active within these periods. Some of these categories were easier than others.
I found an interesting website for this rounds BPD but, of course, I couldn't find it again when I came to answer the questions. The description of the periods came from there. I thought it made for an interesting change.

Brendan Whyte

1. Toulouse Lautrec (not art nouveau, but of the period)
2. Warhol (though Lichtenstein might do well)
3. Munch (a screamer!)

Chris Hibbert

5. Michelangelo. Michelangelo is a close second on my scale to Rodin, but I think more people prefer the other.

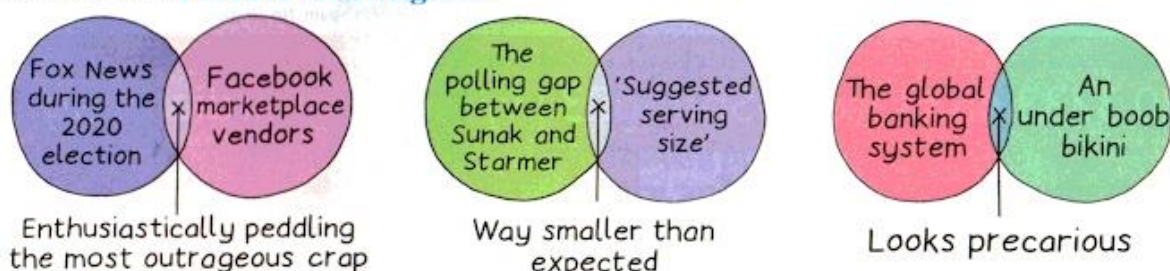
Congratulations to **Steve Ham** and **Mike Pollard** who scored the maximum 84. # A rare NMR from **Murray Egan** this round who received the lowest score this round.

Having rediscovered the joys of classical music once more, and tickets for next season at the Allentown Symphony Hall, the questions for round eight (music) are

1. A wind instrument
2. A percussion instrument other than a drum
3. A brass instrument
4. A stringed instrument
5. One of the voices in a choir
6. A famous conductor

Don't forget your joker.

Edith Pritchett *A week in Venn diagrams*



Lyric Quiz

Game Nineteen – Round Three of Five

1) "A goddess on a mountain top, Was burning like a silver flame, The summit of beauty and love" (1969)
"Venus" by Shocking Blue or Bananarama

Doug Kent, John Hopkins, David Cowie, Richard Smith, John Walker (song only), Brendan Whyte, Martin Walker

I know the Bananarama version better, but this was an interesting place to start.

2) "The writings on the wall, But if your mind's neglected, Stumble you might fall" (1992)

"Connected" by The Stereo MCs

David Cowie, Bob Pitman, Steve Guest

While they weren't from Manchester, this is one of the songs I always remember from our time near Madchester.

3) "I was born long ago, I am the chosen, I'm the one, I have come to save the day, And I won't leave until I'm done" (1993)

"Are You Gonna Go My Way" by Lenny Kravitz

Doug Kent, Richard Smith, Bob Pitman, Steve Guest

Another song from our time in Stalybridge. I remember this on the music video program on Saturday mornings.

4) "Willst du bis der Tod euch scheidet, Treu ihr sein für alle Tage, Nein, nein" (1997)

"Du Hast" by Rammstein

David Cowie, Richard Smith, Bob Pitman, Steve Guest

I'm not sure where this connection came from. It was great played live last year.

5) "Russian roulette is not the same without a gun, And baby, when it's love, if it's not rough, it isn't fun" (2008)

"Poker Face" by Lady Gaga

Doug Kent, David Cowie, John Walker, Martin Walker

A great song from the talented Lady Gaga. Amazing to think this was released as we were moving to the US.

6) "But life still goes on, I can't get used to living without, living without, Living without you by my side, I don't want to live alone, hey" (1984)

"I Want to Break Free" by Queen

Doug Kent, John Hopkins, David Cowie, Brendan Whyte, Bob Pitman

A great song and a fun video. I wonder how many states this video is now banned in.

7) "Your kisses lift me higher, Like the sweet song of a choir, You light my morning sky" (1972)

"Burning Love" by Elvis Presley

Doug Kent, John Hopkins

Every so often, I have to sneak an Elvis song in to see if John Hopkins is paying attention. I didn't know this song until we moved to Japan where it was a favourite of our resident Elvis impersonator at YCAC.

8) "Now don't you wait or hesitate, Let's move before they raise the parking rate" (1970)

"All Right Now" by Free

Doug Kent, John Hopkins, David Cowie, Richard Smith, Bob Pitman, Steve Guest

A classic, but I always preferred Bad Company over Free.

9) "Together we can take it to the end of the line, Your love is like a shadow on me all of the time" (1983)

"Total Eclipse of the Heart" by Bonnie Tyler

Doug Kent, John Hopkins, John Walker, Brendan Whyte, Martin Walker (singer only), Steve Guest

Can you believe this is now 40 years old? A gloriously over the top composition.

10) "25 years and my life is still, Trying to get up that great big hill of hope, For a destination" (1992)

"What's Up" by 4 Non-Blondes

Doug Kent, Brendan Whyte (song only)

Another song I remember from Saturday mornings in Stalybridge.

Comments

Doug Kent

1 - Venus by shocking blue (I liked the Bananarama cover too)

9 – Total Eclipse of the heart by Bonnie Tyler (Jim Steinman out-Steinman's himself on this one)

10 – What's Up by Four Non blondes (when I first heard the song – and Pleasantly Blue from the same album, which is the song that made me want to consider buying the CD – I went in the record store and asked for the "album by the woman who sings like Ann Wilson when she stubbed her toe." They had no idea. I used to listen to the album on my Walkman when doing grocery shopping at 1am).

John Hopkins

A bit less dire, this time!

David Cowie

This is at least the second time that "Du hast" by Rammstein has appeared in this quiz. Years ago, I did a set of questions and included it. Back in 2006 some of us went on Mike Townsend's stag weekend, and we ended up in a bar where, at midnight on Saturday, they would play "Du hast" and set the bar counter on fire with lighter fluid. Good times. <https://flic.kr/p/fDnHf>

Richard Smith

2) R.E.M.?

3) Are You Gonna Go My Way? by Lenny Kravitz. Are You Gonna Go My Way has a mean rock riff but it's not the Devil's music, the song is about Jesus, allegedly.

Dane Maslen

Another abysmal round for me.

7) I've no idea what this one is, but for no reason whatsoever I'll guess at ANNIE'S SONG by John Denver.

8) I recognise these lyrics but haven't yet been able to associate a tune with them. Unless I can manage to do so I have no chance of identifying the song, let alone the band.

John Walker

1 Venus - Electric Blue

Brendan Whyte

10. What's going on. Some woman singer., possibly black.

Tom Howell

No clues, no clues, nothing looks familiar.

Bob Pitman

5. Britney Spears?

I feel I should know more of these, but brain pan wracking is not producing answers...

#1 the goddess part rings bells.

#2 saw them live at Wembley supporting U2 many moons ago, catchy lyric!

#3 Lenny's sole hit I think... well it sold the album to me anyway!

#4 A regular feature on my VLC players "random" selection, I think it rather favours Rammstein (Made In Germany CD), definitely a group introduced via games night.

#5 Can't place it... no idea!

#6 The Hoover song!

#7 #9 #10 no idea but #9 I think I should dammit!

Martin Walker

8. Carole King?

Scores

Steve Guest	10 (38)
Doug Kent	16 (35)
David Cowie	12 (33)
Bob Pitman	10 (29)
Richard Smith	8 (26)
Martin Walker	5 (22)
Jim Reader	0 (17)
John Hopkins	10 (16)
John Walker	5 (15)
Murray Egan	0 (14)
Jacqueline Reader	(12)
Brendan Whyte	7 (10)
Dane Maslen	0 (9)
Tom Howell	0 (1)

Game Eighteen – Round Four of Five

The penultimate round has been sent in by **Bob Pitman** who will score the average (mean) score for the round. Score 1 point each for the artist and song title for each song below, plus a bonus point for guessing the theme. I scored 7, missing the theme.

- 1) "Damn right it's better than yours, I can teach you, but I have to charge" (2003)
- 2) "I got the position, I got the name. You've got the power to drive me insane" (1975)
- 3) "Take another shot of courage, Wonder why the right words never come, you just get numb" (1973)
- 4) "Tonight, make it magnificent. Tonight. Make me tonight" (1980)
- 5) "Main attraction dead on his feet, Black man rhythm with a white boy beat" (1979)
- 6) "I am red hot kitchen! And I am cool, Cool as the deep blue ocean" (1996)
- 7) "And me, I like sleepin', 'specially in my Molly's chamber. But here I am in prison, here I am with a ball and chain yeah" (1972)
- 8) "Fire in the mountains, flames upon the heath. As the President spits out the news, he's biting them wooden teeth" (1976)
- 9) "But you gave away the things you loved and one of them was me, I had some dreams they were clouds in my coffee" (1972)
- 10) "You got women on your mind. Have a drink, have a drive, go out and see what you can find" (1970)

* * * * *

6 Nimmt! 17

Round Six

Note game number has been updated following recount in roll of honour. The lead changes hands as many pick up 9 points from a hand, some more than once.

HAND 1				HAND 2				HAND 3				HAND 4			
	71	88	69		83						27	89	96		
	70	86	66		81		84			90	23	85	33		
68	65	85	64		73	104	55		99	89	13	83	22	78	
61	55	78	63	80	18	99	53	81	78	87	12	75	19	72	88
59#	47	76	52	69\$	12	95	52	56*	76	86	9^	21	18	69@	80
3	14	10	9	4	5	8	10	2	7	6	5	7	13	3	8

John Walker plays **58** in Hand 1, **80** in Hand 2, **27** in Hand 3 and **66** in Hand 4. Score = 8
Tom Howell plays **61** in Hand 1, **26** in Hand 2, **23** in Hand 3 and **31** to column 3 in Hand 4. Score = 13
Bob Pitman plays **37** in Hand 1, **34** in Hand 2, **12** in Hand 3 and **78** in Hand 4. Score = 16
Bob Gingell plays **34** in Hand 1, **14** in Hand 2, **56** in Hand 3 and **56** in Hand 4. Score = 20
Kev Lee plays **33** to column 1 in Hand 1, **104** in Hand 2, **50** in Hand 3 and **36** in Hand 4. Score = 25
Dane Maslen plays **51** in Hand 1, **69** in Hand 2, **13** in Hand 3 and **69** in Hand 4. Score = 37
Steve Ham plays **68** in Hand 1, **11** to column 1 in Hand 2, **81** in Hand 3 and **72** in Hand 4. Score = 38
Carolyn Townsend plays **59** in Hand 1, **68** in Hand 2, **9** to column 4 in Hand 3 and **49** in Hand 4. Score = 65

Kev takes column 1 of hand 1 for 9 points (44, 46, 74, 84 and 87) and **Carolyn** takes the same column for 9 points (33, 34, 37, 51 and 58).

\$ **Steve** takes column 1 of hand 2 for 9 points (65, 87, 88 and 89) and **Dane** takes the same column for 9 points (11, 14, 26, 34 and 68).

^ **Carolyn** takes column 4 of hand 3 for 2 points (103 and 104).

* **Bob G** takes column 1 of hand 3 for 9 points (17, 29, 30, 36 and 50).

@ **Tom** takes column 3 of hand 4 for 7 points (54, 57 and 77) and **Dane** takes the same column for 9 points (31, 36, 49, 56 and 66).

Rules for this game can be found at <https://variablepig.org/rules/6nimmt.htm>

Breaking Away 12

Round Four

The mistake with **Calder's** card 6 has continued. It should have been changed to a 4 in round 2, but I didn't correct this in the cards and Chris played in round 3. I have decided to let this go as a correction would not only affect **Calder** but eight other riders' replacements. Please let me know if you would prefer a holdover and correction.

The first sprint line is in sight as the riders spread out and a large gap appears between the leaders and the rest of the pack.

Square	Replacement	Riders
40	3	Amounts
39	4	Arthur Braine, Killer,
38	6	Emma Roydz, Arrow
37	8	Sue Pertitz
33 - 36	-	
32	3	Birch
31	-	
30	3	Ash
29	4	Col. Steve Zodiac, Cherry, Thermo, Dogwood
28	8	Samurai, Robert the Robot, The Universe
27	11	Regression, Miro, Dr. Venus
26	14	Rodin
25	15	Time, Calder, Prof. Matt Matic
24	-	
23	3	Hugh Jaas, Moore

Rooted In Place (Tom Howell) 0 points

Manager: Elm

A. Ash 3, 14, 6, **3**
B. Birch 15, 3, **3**
C. Cherry 8, 8, **4**
D. Dogwood 4, 15, 15

Probable Infinites (John Walker) 0 points

A. Regression 11, 10, **11**, 15
B. Amounts **3**, 3, 5
C. Time 4, 4, **15**
D. The Universe 15, **8**, 15

Fireball XL5 Jetmobiles (Bob Pitman) 0 pts

Manager: Zoonie the Lazoon

- A. Col. Steve Zodiac **4**, 12, 5, 5
 B. Doctor Venus 9, **11**, 6
 C. Robert the Robot **8**, 7, 3
 D. Prof. Matt Matic **15**, 9, 15

Sudoku Scorchers (Richard Smith) 0 points

Manager: Simon Anthony

- A. Killer **4**, 14, 4, 3
 B. Samurai **8**, 4, 15
 C. Arrow 6, 4, **6**
 D. Thermo 9, **4**, 8

What Have You Got (Allan Stagg) 0 points

- A. Arthur Braine **4**, 3, 8, 1
 B. Emma Roydz **6**, 14, 3
 C. Hugh Jaas **3**, 3, 3
 D. Sue Pertitz 7, **8**, 1

Artists (Chris Hibbert) 0 points

- A. Miro 12, **11**, 12
 B. Rodin 12, 12, **14**
 C. Moore 12, **3**, 3
 D. Calder **15**, 9, 8

Press

Emma - Team Manager: It's not fair. Most of the other riders are riding behind Hugh, using him as a windbreak.

Team Manager - Emma: Don't worry. He had beans for breakfast, and they should have an effect soon.

Bus Boss (New Forest) BB407NF

Round Eight

GM: Bob Gingell

ROGER does well thanks to two uncontested races compared to only one each for the others. Five races are carried forward to Round 9, but this number drops to four reoffered in Round 10.

Races for Round 8 (max 6, ties = *):

- 2R. (TD-KC): DEER 30.
 4R. 9D (Burley) – 3S (North Gorley) [Not possible - reoffer]
 5R. (2C-5H): ROGER 30.
 6R. (7H-TS): PONY 30-4r = 26; ROGER +4.
 7R. 5S (Godshill) – AC (Lymington) [Not possible reoffer]
 9R. (KS-9S): ROGER [8] 20+6 = 26; DEER [10+1 = 11] 10-6r = 4.
 10. (JD-4D): PONY [7] 20; DEER [10] 10.
 11. 2D (Mockbeggar) – JC (Sway) [Not possible – reoffer]
 12. (7D-QH): DEER [10] 15*; ROGER [10] 15*.
 13. (QD-7S): DEER [9] 20+2 = 22; PONY [15+1 = 16] 10-2d = 8.
 14. (5C-6C): ROGER 30.
 15. 7C (Barton on Sea) – 3H (Cadnam) [Not possible - reoffer]
 16. (KH-6H): PONY 30.
 17. 8S (Brook) – 9C (Keyhaven) [Not possible - reoffer]
 18. (JS-JH): PONY [9+1 = 10] 16-2r = 14; DEER [15] 9; ROGER [17] 5+2 = 7.

Scores and purchases:

DEER, Blue (Brad Martin): 48 +90 -12 = 126.

Brockenhurst - Sway; Burley Street - Burley; North Gorley – Fordingbridge. [3+2; 1+2; 2+2 = 12]

ROGER, Green (Roger Trethewey): 47 +112 -10 = 149.

Holmsley - New Milton - Barton on Sea. [4+2, 2+2 = 10]

PONY, Red (Richard Smith): 47 +98 -11 = 134.

Lymington - Milford-on-Sea - Barton-on-Sea. [4+2, 3+2 = 11]

Races for Round 9 (enter any 6):

- 4R. 9D (Burley) – 3S (North Gorley)
- 7R. 5S (Godshill) – AC (Lymington) [Not possible]
- 11R. 2D (Mockbeggar) – JC (Sway)
- 15R. 7C (Barton on Sea) – 3H (Cadnam)
- 17R. 8S (Brook) – 9C (Keyhaven) [Not possible]
- 19. QC (New Milton) – 3C (Christchurch)
- 20. 8C (Milford on Sea) – 8D (Brockenhurst)
- 21. TC (Boldre) – AS (Salisbury)
- 22. 5D (Lyndhurst) – 9H (Dibden Purlieu)
- 23. KD (Bournemouth) – 2S (Ibsley)
- 24. 6S (Breamore) – TH (Hythe) [Not possible]
- 25. 4S (Fordingbridge) – QS (Downton)
- 26. 4C (Bransgore) – 8H (Exbury) [Not possible]

Round 9 bidding order: Brad, Richard, Roger

Bus Boss (Orwell and Stour) – BB409OSE

Round Seven

There was an error in the BB409OSE game. TED could not have built as Holton St. Mary to Hadleigh as they had not connected to Holton St. Mary as Bob correctly notes below. This was a problem with the colours on my map (Jacqueline uses my map), so I have marked up a new map to hopefully avoid such errors in the future. TED's builds were amended to Bradfield Heath - Wix (3 + 2): Ardleigh - Colchester (5 + 2) and players notified by email. My thanks to Bob for spotting the mistake.

	TEA Andy York <i>Blue</i>	TED Jacqueline <i>Red</i>	SWELL Bob Gingell <i>Black</i>	MALTINGS Steve Ham <i>Brown</i>
1. Colchester (4H) – Hadleigh (AD)	+ 5		30 - 5	
2. Tattingstone (6D) – Connections North (9C)	15 + 3			15 - 3
3. Bucklesham (8C) – Great Bromley (3H)	<i>Race not possible</i>			
4. Tendring (JS) – Mistley (6H)		10 + 1 - 6		20 - 1 + 6
5. Ramsey (4S) – Ipswich (JC)	2 JR	3 JR + 5	13 - 3 (ferry) - 5	12
6. Shotley Gate (KD) – Wix (8S)		15 - 3 (ferry) + 5		15 - 3 (ferry) - 5
7. Harwich (AS) – Holton St. Mary (2D)		7	7 - 3 (ferry) + 4	16 - 3 (ferry) - 4
8. Brantham (5D) – Nacton (7C)	20 + 2		10 - 2 - 4	+ 4
9. Stratford Mary (QH) – Parkeston Quay (3S)		20 + 3 - 4	10 - 3 (ferry) – 3 + 4	

Last Turn	50	48	52	49
Points from Races	47	56	50	65
Builds	- 10	- 12	- 12	- 12
Total	87	92	90	102

TEA: Bucklesham – Nacton – Trimley St. Martin
 TED: Trimley St. Mary – Felixstowe Ferry: Wix - Tendring
 SWELL: Elmstead Market – Clacton: Wolverstone - Chelmondstone - Shotley
 MALTINGS: Ipswich – Bucklesham: Wix – Great Oakley

The second set of races is.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 10. Elmstead Market (2H) – Trimley St. Mary (4C) | 11. Trimley St. Martin (5C) – Capel St. Mary (3D) |
| 12. Felixstowe (3C) – Little Bentley (KS) | 13. Little Oakley (5S) – Ardleigh (9H) |
| 14. Wolverstone (8D) – Lawford (8H) | 15. Stones Green (7S) – Chelmondstone (JD) |
| 16. Harkstead (10D) – Port of Felixstowe (AC) | 17. Kirton (6C) – Colchester (5H) |
| 18. Manningtree (7H) – Wrabness (9S) | 3. Bucklesham (8C) – Great Bromley (3H) |

Enter any five. The build order for the eighth round is Andy, Bob, Jacqueline, and Steve.

Bus Boss (Orwell and Stour) – BB410OSE

Round Seven

GM: Bob Gingell

The first race round sees HDMVTT surge into the lead and the ferry company sees a fair bit of traffic across the estuary.

GM note: An apology – the clarification on use of ferries in previous reports had an error and should have said that **1 pip** (not 2) is added to the pip length of races to cover all of boarding and disembarking for these small ferries. Race entries using ferries this round all had the same result whether 1 or 2 pips were added to the race lengths.

As promised Richard has now done an electronic in-game map <https://variablepig.org/maps/bb/ingame/BB410OSE.jpg> (best on a nice big monitor).

Races for Round 7 (max 5 entries):

1. QS (Clacton) – 7H (Manningtree) [not possible – reoffer]
2. (2H–QD): GEORGE [32+1 = 33] 20-3e+2 = 19; ESTUARY [39+1+1 = 41] 10-2g-3F+3 = 8; Ferry Co. +3.
3. (AH–3C): ROGER [25+1+1 = 27] 20-2g-3F+4 = 19; ESTUARY [32+1 -3 = 33] 10-4r = 6; GEORGE +2; Ferry Co. +3.
4. (9H–6H): ESTUARY [6+2 = 8] 20-5h = 15; HDMVTT [10] 10+5 = 15.
5. 8S (Wix) – 6S (Great Oakley) [not possible - reoffer]
6. (AS–2D): HDMVTT [23+1 = 24] 20-5g = 15; GEORGE [27+1 = 28] 10-9r = 6; ROGER +9.
7. (9D–7C): HDMVTT [16+2= 18] 20-6g-3r = 11; GEORGE [21+1+1 = 23] 10-8r-3F+6 = 5; ROGER +11; Ferry Co. +3.
8. (TS–AC): HDMVTT [13+1 = 14] 20-3F+3 = 20; ESTUARY [29] 10-3h = 7; Ferry Co. +3.
9. (4C*–QC): HDMVTT [10+2 = 12] 20-1r-1g = 18; ESTUARY [12] 10; ROGER +1; GEORGE +1.

** Note: Both entrants wrongly ordered a race from 5C Trimley St Martin when in fact it was from 4C Trimley St Mary. Orders were adjusted so that both could enter the correct race.*

Scores and purchases:

HDMVTT, yellow (Jim Reader): 30 +79 -12 = 97.

Ardleigh – Colchester; Wrabness – Great Oakley [5+2; 3+2 = 12]

GEORGE, red (Richard Smith): 29 +33 -12 = 50.

Hare Green – Clacton; Langham – Dedham – Stratford St Mary [1+2; 3+2, 2+2 = 12]

ESTUARY, blue (Brad Martin): 29 +46 -15 = 60.

Shotley Gate – Shotley – Harkstead; Hare Green – Connections to Clacton [2+2, 3+2; 1+2 = 12 +3 for ferry = 15]

ROGER, green (Roger Trethewey): $27 + 40 - 12 = 55$.

Tendring – Clacton; Wix – Great Oakley; Nacton – Bucklesham [$1+2$; $3+2$; $2+2 = 12$]

Ferry Company: $3 + 12 + 3 = 18$.

Races for Round 8 (enter any 5):

1R. QS (Clacton) – 7H (Manningtree)

5R. 8S (Wix) – 6S (Great Oakley)

10. TH (Langham) – 4S (Ramsey)

11. 5H (Colchester) – 8C (Bucklesham)

12. TD (Harkstead) – AD (Hadleigh)

13. QH (Stratford St Mary) – 7D (Wherstead)

14. KS (Little Bentley) – 6C (Kirton)

15. 2S (Dovercourt) – 5D (Brantham)

16. 2C (Felixstowe) – 8D (Wolverstone)

17. 9S (Wrabness) – 7S (Stones Green)

18. JH (Dedham) – KH (Connections West)

Round 8 bidding order: Richard, Roger, Brad, Jim

* * * * *

Fair Means or Foul 6

Round Eighteen

Roger Trethewey has kindly volunteered to take over from Arthur, although the GM ordered for him this round.

Auction House

Lord **John** took advantage of a quiet auction house to buy the Meissen Porcelain Chamber Pot (F 1875) for a mere 3K.

Castle

It was a boom time for art lovers with three massive exhibits on show. Baron **Brad** was deemed to have offered the best show with AAABBCDEFF (1468), outshining Count **Brendan's** ABBCDEE (1819) and Earl **Trethewey** ABCDE (1874). With all four nobles returning to the castle next round, will it be another bumper month for exhibits?

	Brendan Whyte	Brad Martin	John Walker	Roger Trethewey
Cheques	9, 13, 16	11, 14, 21	10, 15	22
Thieves	4, 9	3, (10)	(2), (11)	1, 12
Location next turn	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle

2/1	3/2	4/2	5/3	3/2	4/2	4/2	2/1	3/2	4/2	4/2	3/2	4/2	2/1
												JW	
5/3	3/2	4/2	5/3	3/2	4/2	2/1	3/2	4/2	3/2	4/2	2/1	5/3	Finish
BM		BW				RT							

Please can you send in orders for your first action and second location (auction house or castle) for next round; the location can be made provisional upon the outcome of the next round. At the auction next month are an Elephant Mask (A 1929) and Marilyn Monroe's Lipstick (E 1962). In Jail are John's Thief 2, John's Thief 11, and Brad's Thief 10.

Rules for this game can be found at <https://variablepig.org/rules/fmof.html>.

The Golden Strider 5

Round Sixteen

P	S	Runner	Cards	P	D	M	B	R	O
1 st		Silver Strider <i>John Walker</i>							
2 nd		Kelly Watson <i>Richard Smith</i>							
3 rd	73	Holly Jockeystix <i>Allan Stagg</i>	9/8, 2/12, 1/13, 2/14	9/8	0	9	0	NA	0
4	65	Mo Phal <i>Steve Ham</i>	0/10, 6/11, 2/12, 2/13, 10/15, 2/16	10/15	0	10	0	2	2
5	63	Kenyan Hills <i>Bob Pitman</i>	8/11, 6/12, 8/13, 2/14, 2/15, 2/16	8/11	0	8	0	2	1
6	62	Lone Ranger <i>Tom Howell</i>	2/10, 10/12, 2/13, 0/14, 2/15, 10/16	10/12	3	3	4	10	0
7	60	Terry Knott <i>Chris Hibbert</i>	0/11, 6/12, 4/13, 0/14, 0/15, 0/16	6/12	0	6	0	0	1
8	58	Bill Player <i>Bob Gingell</i>	0/10, 0/11, 4/13, 6/14, 2/15, 8/16	6/14	0	2	4	8	0

Holly Jockeystix takes third place; although he should have played the 9/8 last round, it would not affect his finish. **Kenyan Hills** will finish 4th next round and **Mo Phal** will finish 5th and the **Lone Ranger** 6th in round 18 as they both have to play their x/10 cards next round. I think **Bill Player** will finish before **Terry Knott**, but I think we can end the game here with the final placings as

- 1st Silver Strider (John Walker)
- 2nd Kelly Watson (Richard Smith)
- 3rd Holly Jockeystix (Allan Stagg)
- 4th Kenyan Hills (Bob Pitman)
- 5th Mo Phal (Steve Ham)
- 6th Lone Ranger (Cian Owen / Tom Howell)
- 7th Bill Player (Arthur Owen / Bob Gingell)
- 8th Terry Knott (Chris Hibbert)

Questions

Tom Howell Now that two runners have finished, how will the positional bonii be calculated? To include the finished runners, or not? In the hypothetical case that no positions changed next turn, would Lone Ranger still be 4th for the bonus, or second? Not sure it makes much difference... I'd like to know the answer, but it won't change my play.

I plan to include the finished riders for calculating bonuses, but they will not move past square 70 and their position will remain fixed in their order of finishing. Lone Ranger would still receive the bonus for 4th next round if his position doesn't change.

Game End Statements

Richard Smith (2nd) A very tight finish and when I went for the line it was always going to be touch and go, depending on overtake penalties. I decided to hope rather than extrapolate, though it wasn't hard to work out that John slowing to pick up the extra-large replacement card he needed would cost me one point, this leaving me right on the line. On the line is a finish in Golden Strider unlike Breaking Away.

Allan Stagg (3rd) I am content for the game to finish as you have called it. Congrats to John, and hard luck to Richard for a very close race. Thanks for GMing this, Jim.

Bob Pitman (4th) I am fine to go with your finishing place calculations...Congrats to John and hard lines for Richard! I needed to stay nearer to the pace setters and also use bigger movements when closing on the finish! Good game!

Bob Gingell (7th) Round 13 was the killer for Bill Player as I inherited a ghastly stumble that round on the part of my inherited runner. Normally for an NMR it is the oldest card that is played, but not this time (although not using the bank would probably have messed me up as badly). End result is that I had a bunch of zero cards that will hold me back panting by the side of the track until everyone else finishes.

Chris Hibbert (8th) I'm happy to stop. I projected the finish last turn. Thanks for the game. I'll continue to try, but I haven't figured out the strategy for this game yet. It looks like it should be so simple!

Jim Reader (GM) Congratulations to John for an exciting and well worked victory and commiserations to Richard who was very close. I hope that Arthur and Cian's drop out as the game entered the middle stages didn't mess the game up too badly and my thanks to Tom and Bob for taking over pretty weak positions.

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More Backpacks and Blisters 2

Round Eleven

Note from previous round - The heavy rucksack is removed from the game when it is returned to Ambleside (or Keswick) and points awarded to the player returning it, so I removed this from the table and added the points to Sky Lyne's total.

Ramblin' Rick was in a spot of bother, so he used his winter warmer to replace his cards. **John** backtracked to admire Skelwith Force. **Walkee Talkee** was the next home, strolling into Ambleside to join **Sky Lyne** for a beer. **Ken Dollmintcake** looked at his watch and decided it was time to head back, but still found time to enjoy Kirkstone Pass on the way.

John was the next to arrive home, soon followed by **Ramblin' Rick** just leaving **Ken Dollmintcake** out in the hills, using his crampons to ascend Wansfell in the snow.

Player	15.40 – 16.00	16.00 – 16.20	Location	Equipment	Score
Sky Lyne Bob Gingell			Ambleside (home)		75
Ramblin' Rick Richard Smith	Change cards with Winter Warmer	Scafell (3T3O) to Ambleside	Ambleside (home)	1 x 50p Winter Warmer	65
Walkee Talkee Brendan Whyte	Little Langdale (2O) to Ambleside	HOME	Ambleside (home)	1 x 50p Ice Axe Chocolate	60
John Walker	Holme Fell (3T1O) to Skelwith Force	Silver How (1T3O) to Ambleside	Ambleside (home)	2 x 50p Compass	59
Ken Dollmintcake Steve Ham	High Street (3T2O) to Kirkstone Pass	St. Sunday Crag (1T5O) to Wansfell	Kirkstone Pass	Crampons	60

Steve, please send orders for the final two turns from 16.20 – 16.40 and 16.40 – 17.00 next time: the weather for both turns is still snow.

Places Visited

Bob: Froswick (1st to target), High Street, 120, Angletarn Pike, Hart Crag, 143, Fairfield, 127, St. Sunday Crag, Brothers Waters, Kirkstone Pass, Wansfell, Skelwith Force, Helm Crag (3rd to target), Grasmere, Little Langdale (4th to target), Blea Tarn

Richard: Skelwith Force, Little Langdale (1st to target), Bowfell (1st to target), Dungeon Ghyl, Easdale Tarn, Dove Cottage, Grasmere, Dove Cottage, 97, Great Rigg, Dove Crag, 137, 99

John: Blea Tarn, Dungeon Ghyl, 47, Esk Pike, Bowfell (3rd to target), Crinkle Crag, Wrynose Pass, Swirl How, Dow Crag (2nd to target), Old Man of Coniston, Coppermines, Coniston, Skelwith Bridge, Skelwith Force

Brendan: Skelwith Force, Little Langdale (2nd to target), Wrynose Pass, Dungeon Ghyl, Bowfell (2nd to target), Crinkle Crag, Eskdale, Hard Knott, Pike O Blisco, Elterwater, Loughrigg

Steve: Grasmere, Helm Crag (2nd to target), Little Langdale (3rd to target), Holme Fell, Yew Tree Farm, Dow Crag (1st to target), 110, Froswick (2nd to target), Thornthwaite Crag, Kirkstone Pass, Wansfell

The final placings are now clear, so please could you also send game end statements next round.

Congratulations to Sky Lyne (Bob Gingell)

* * * * *

Puerto Rico

Game Eleven – Round Eleven

Correction

Carolyn has noticed that there are 9 quarries in play. There should only be 8 quarries, but I probably failed to remove a quarry from the resource table at one time, allowing an extra to be taken. I will have to leave this as is, as it will be too complex to try and correct this.

Building	Cost	Victory Points	Available	Tiles	Available
Small Warehouse	3	1	1	Corn Tiles	0 of 10 (0 discard)
Large Sugar Mill	4	2	2	Indigo Tiles	0 of 12 (0 discard)
Hospice	4	2	1	Sugar Tiles	0 of 11 (0 discard)
Large Market	5	2	1	Tobacco Tiles	0 of 9 (0 discard)
Large Warehouse	6	2	2	Coffee Tiles	0 of 8 (0 discard)
Tobacco Storage	5	3	1		
University	8	3	2	Goods	Available
Harbour	8	3	2	Corn Goods	2 of 10
Wharf	9	3	2	Indigo Goods	2 of 11
Fortress	10	4	1	Sugar Goods	0 of 11
Customs House	10	4	1	Tobacco Goods	2 of 9
City Hall	10	4	1	Coffee Goods	3 of 9
Victory Points	78 remaining from 122		Colonists	13 remaining from 95	

Brad takes the Builder and builds the Residence for 8 doubloons. **Chris** and **John W** both build large indigo plants for 3 doubloons and 1 doubloon respectively. **John M** builds a large sugar mill for 3 doubloons and **Carolyn** passes.

Chris takes the Captain and ships his 3 indigo to the 8 ship for 4 VP. **John W** ships his indigo to the same ship for 1VP and no-one else has anything they can ship.

John W takes the Mayor (+1 doubloon) and mans his Small sugar Mill, sugar, and corn plantations. **John M** places both settlers in his large sugar mill; **Carolyn** mans her large market and quarry: **Brad** mans his Residence and **Chris** mans his quarry. 17 more settlers board the colony ship!

John M takes the Craftsman and produces 2 corn, 3 sugar and 1 coffee. **Carolyn** produces 1 corn, 1 indigo, 1 sugar and 2 coffee. **Brad** produces 1 indigo, 1 tobacco and 2 coffee. **Chris** produces 2 corn, 1 indigo and 1 sugar and receives 2 doubloons from his factory. **John W** produces 2 corn, 1 indigo, 1 sugar and 2 tobacco and receives 3 doubloons from his factory. Finally, **John M** takes another coffee for his privilege.

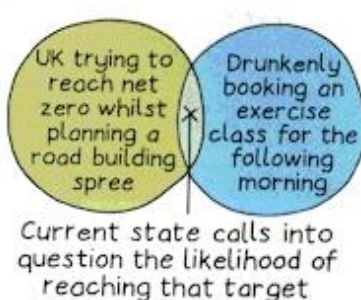
Carolyn takes the Prospector (+2 doubloons).

The play order for the twelfth turn is Chris, John W, John M, Carolyn, and Brad. There are 17 colonists on the colony ship. The 6 ship contains 5 sugar, the 7 ship holds 4 tobacco and the 8 ship holds 4 indigo. The Trading House holds 2 coffee and an indigo. The plantations available this turn are corn, indigo, indigo and sugar. There are + 1 doubloon bonuses on the Settler and Trader roles and + 2 doubloons on one of the other Prospector roles next turn.

Player	Doubloons	VP	Goods	Buildings	Plantations
Brad Martin	1	3	1 indigo 1 tobacco 2 coffee	Tobacco Storage (✓, x, x) Small Indigo Plant (✓) Coffee Roaster (✓, ✓) Office (✓) Guild Hall (x) Large Indigo Plant (x, x, x) Residence (✓) 9 of 12	Quarry (✓) Corn (x) Indigo (✓, x, x, x) Tobacco (✓, x, x) Coffee (✓, ✓) 11 of 12
Chris Hibbert	2	17	2 corn 1 indigo 1 sugar	Small Indigo Plant (✓) Small Market (✓) Small Sugar Mill (✓) Large Warehouse (✓) Office (✓) Factory (✓) Large Indigo Plant (x, x, x) 7 of 12	Quarry (✓) Corn (✓, ✓, x, x) Indigo (✓, x) Sugar (✓, x) Coffee (x, x) 11 of 12
John Walker	7	9	3 corn 1 indigo 1 sugar 2 tobacco	Small Indigo Plant (✓) Hacienda (x) Tobacco Storage (✓, ✓, x) Small Warehouse (✓) Factory (✓) Small Sugar Mill (✓) Large Indigo Plant (x, x, x) 7 of 12	Quarry (✓, ✓, x) Corn (✓, ✓) Indigo (✓, x, x) Sugar (✓) Tobacco (✓, ✓, x) 12 of 12
John Marsden	3	9	2 corn 3 sugar 2 coffee	Hacienda (✓) Small Sugar Mill (✓) Construction Hut (✓) Hospice (✓) Coffee Roaster (✓, x) Large Sugar Mill (✓, ✓, x) 6 of 12	Corn (✓, ✓) Tobacco (✓, x) Sugar (✓, ✓, ✓, x) Coffee (✓, ✓, ✓) Quarry (✓) 12 of 12
Carolyn Townsend	5	6	1 corn 1 indigo 1 sugar 2 coffee	Small Market (✓) Coffee Roaster (✓, ✓) Small Indigo Plant (✓) Small Sugar Mill (✓) Construction Hut (x) Large Market (✓) 6 of 12	Quarry (✓, ✓, ✓) Corn (✓) Indigo (✓) Sugar (✓, x, x) Coffee (✓, ✓, x) 11 of 12

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Edith Pritchett A week in Venn diagrams



EDITH @edithcartoonist

Rail Baron 7

Round Eleven

Correction: The D&RGs does not extend south of Espanola, so Jon should have paid 5K to Brad for use of one his lines in his final move of last round. Bank balances were corrected at the start of this round.

Jon declares after he reaches Canon City and will now head to Georgetown (North Mountain) to try and win the game. The other Barons can try to tag him by passing over his train; should they succeed, he will have to pay them 50K and head to his reserve location of La Junta. I will stop the round if he is caught.

WILD RHINO RAILWAYS, Brad Martin
Home City: Limon (Central East)

Cash 106.0K

45. 8. Denver - Georgetown	(CC)	5K to Jon, + 11.0K
45 bonus. 6. Georgetown – Littleton	(CC, AT&SF)	1K to bank
46. 9. Littleton – 2E Canon City	(AT&SF)	1K to bank
47. 10. 2E Canon City – 1E Gunnison	(AT&SF, D&RGn)	1K to bank, 5K to Cian

(Cian Owen)

Cash 178.0K

Home City: Creede (Southwest)

45. 8. 1E Salida – 2W Gunnison	(D&RGn)	1K to bank
46. 6. 2W Gunnison – 3N Telluride	(D&RGn, RGW, RGS)	1K to bank, 5K to Richard and Brad
47. 9. 3N Telluride - Telluride	(RGS)	5K to Brad, + 27.0K

(Arthur Owen)

Cash 78.0K

Home City: Gunnison (Central Mountain)

45. 8. 3E Limon – Canon City	(CRI&P, AT&SF)	5K to Brad
46. 6. Canon City – 2W Salida	(D&RGn)	5K to Cian
47. 9. 2W Salida – 1S Montrose	(D&RGn, RGW)	5K to Cian and Richard

Richard Smith

Cash 162.0K

Home City: Las Animas (Southeast)

45. 8. 3E Trinidad - Texas	(DT&FW)	1K to bank, + 28.0K
46. 6. Texas – 1S Las Animas	(AT&SF)	5K to Brad
47. 9. 1S Las Animas – 1E Canon City	(AT&SF)	5K to Brad

Jon Carter

Cash 218.0K

Home City: Georgetown (North Mountain)

45. 8. 1N Espanola – Santa Fe	(TSF&N)	5K to Brad, + 16.0K
45 bonus. 6. Santa Fe – 2S Alamosa	(TSF&N, D&RGs)	1K to bank
46. 9. 2S Alamosa – 1N Walsenburg	(D&RGs)	1K to bank
47. 9. 1N Walsenburg – Canon City	(AT&SF)	5K to Brad, + 16.0K
47 bonus. 1. Canon City – 1E Canon City	(AT&SF)	

The following railway lines are still available for sale – GW (4K) and H&S (4K). If these are sold, rental costs will increase to 10K.

PLAYER	FIRST DESTINATION	PAYOUT	SECOND DESTINATION	PAYOUT
Brad	Ouray (Southwest)	27.0K	Ward (North Mountain)	27.0K
Cian	Cripple Creek (C. Mountain)	22.0K	Greeley (Northeast)	10.0K
Arthur	Telluride (Southwest)	34.0K	Breckenridge (N. Mountain)	21.0K
Richard	Ouray (Southwest)	33.0K	Leadville (North Mountain)	16.0K
Jon	Georgetown (North Mtn.)	Home	La Junta (Southeast)	8.0K

The next die rolls are –

Turn	Die Rolls	Bonus Die Roll	Priority
48	6 + 4	2	(Arthur)
49	6 + 6	5	Richard
50	4 + 1	6	Jon

The players information (number of town arrivals, type of train and balance at the end of the round)

PLAYER	ARRIVALS	TRAIN	RAILROADS	CASH
Brad Martin	13	S	DNW&P, CRI&P, AT&SF, TSF&N, CB&Q, KDC, C&N, RGS, RG&SF, CS&CCD	137.0K
Cian Owen	12	N	DP, D&RGn	203.0K
Arthur Owen	11	N		58.0K
Richard Smith	12	E	DSP&P, RGW, UP, F&CC, DT&FtW, AV	189.0K
Jon Carter	16	S	C&S, DL&NW, CM, D&RGs, CC, KP, MP	233.0K

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Hare and Tortoise 6

Game Six – Round Sixteen

Roger Trethewey has kindly offered to take over running, although his moves this round were again made by the GM. **Rascal** starts the round by moving to the recently vacated lettuce square at 22. **Alice**, frustrated by **Rascal's** move, decided to jug the hare at square 18. **Tommy** replaces **Alice** at the tortoise square at 27. The hare moves him back to the nearest vacant carrot space at 24. It's a giant leap for **Bouncing Bunny** who jugs the hare at 25; the hare restores his carrot holding back to 65. **John**, carrying his enormous carrot collection, advances to the lettuce square at 42. **Big Bertie** retreated back to the tortoise at square 2 collecting 50 carrots. **Rascal** ended the round finishing his last lettuce.

Player	Start Square	Finish Square	Carrots	Lettuces	Next Turn
<i>Bouncing Bunny</i> Brad Martin	39	25	65	2	3
John Walker	45	42	332	2	Eat lettuce
<i>Big Bertie</i> Kev Lee	16	21	61	0	5
<i>Rascal</i> Roger Trethewey	24	22	48	0	6
<i>Alice</i> John Marsden	27	24 (via 18)	80	1	1 and 7
<i>Tommy</i> Vacant	23	27	109	2	2

Please send your moves for round seventeen next time. Please also remember to include provisional orders for your moves in case your target square(s) is blocked. Rules and the map for this game can be found at <https://variablepig.org/rules/haretort.html>.

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Railway Rivals

RR Game LXXXIII – RR2483BF – Burkina Faso Map – Game End Statements

Judy Ferguson (OGDGR) 1st: Woo Hoo! A second win for me!

Brendan Whyte (N2BF) 2nd. An interesting map. I wonder if the specials should be redone: Ivory Coast ; Ghana ; Togo/Benin ; Niger ; Mali; and minerals. National Parks seems a bit of an odd one, and Manganese with only one hex is not really a special (they should all give an option of destinations). Judy certainly had a more efficient line than mine, which was too kinky, well played Judy. With the Parks and rivers, the map felt greener and wetter than I always imagined Upper Volta to be. Thanks for the game, all.

Roger Trethewey (ROGER) 4th. Congratulations to Judy. We both started at the same place and duplicated the first moves, but she had a much better plan for the mid game and was a worthy winner. Well done.

Jim Reader (GM). Bob G has also made comments about the specials runs for this game and I would mostly agree. However, when designing the map, I consciously set out to include all the neighbouring countries and lots of towns for a crowded map, different to some of the more open maps created recently. I fully agree about the Manganese, but I included this as new rail lines were being proposed for this mine; it's also an uncommon and very colourful metal (all those oxidation states) and I'm still a chemistry geek.

Congratulations to Judy whose Y shaped line covered the main regions more effectively than others, including most of the Bobo-Dioulasso – Ouagadougou – Fada N'Gourma line. Brendan did well to take over a line from Geoff and develop something very competitive, but I think the indirect connection around Koudougou and Ouagadougou was costly. Roger suffered from his indirect connections to the Southwest while Arthur struggled to get out of the Southwest. Thanks to everyone for playing and trying out this new map.

RR Game LXXXIV – RR2484BF – Burkina Faso Map – Game End Statements

Michael Pargman (TRAP) 1st. I felt very good about my track when it was time for the races. I was very satisfied that I had been allowed to build unopposed all the way up to Mali. In my wildest dreams I had hopes to build up to the Northeast too, but there were too many rivers and not enough time. As it turned out, the track I had was more than I could run since I had at least two rounds where I could have entered two more scoring races.

Round 11 seemed to be the decisive round, when Steve could only find three races to enter while I could have entered all seven. And even though I lost one race with a distance of 22 against 30, I won the other three and got 10 bonus points for my build to Benin. And in the last round, I again had more than four races with the shortest route, so I could keep the distance.

After looking at the roll of honour I see that Steve and Bob are hard to beat, so that makes this game even more joyful to win against such experienced players. Since this is a pretty small map and with all these half-cities there is not much room for joint runs and very often you have multiple choices of what races to enter, so there is an element of luck involved in winning. Thanks to all of you for the game and to Jim for GM-ing.

Steve Guest (YAM) 2nd. Interesting that the top two both started from Ouagadougou. I wonder if the heavy concentration of destinations in the central region was a factor. There doesn't look that much between the lines, though Christian probably suffered from not really having any sections without strong competition from someone else. It's likely I lost some points due the Turn 6 build allowance being one short of me being able to tidy up a kink in my line and then at least 3 races immediately coming up on that route. Probably wouldn't have made a difference to the overall result though. Congratulations to Michael for the win.

Bob Gingell (BARF) 3rd. I realise that I could have earned 1 point by building to Solenzo (cost 2 and earn 3), but I cannot see that 1 point making any difference. Michael (TRAP) should win handily with his very direct central route. I cannot see me catching Steve although I should do better than him this round. Thanks to all for a good game on a tight map - once two players got into an area it proved hard for others to break in with any effectiveness after them.

Jim Reader (GM). This was a much closer game, but Michaels direct East – Southwest line proved the most effective. Steve's comment about the concentration of towns in the central region is interesting, but I think it's the effectiveness of the connections between Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso that are more critical.

Once I started the map design, I decided to try to make a crowded map with lots of towns and half-towns as a counter to some of the more open and spacious maps produced recently. There aren't so many maps yet for African countries or regions, so I also intentionally chose to include all the neighbouring countries as specials, but I agree that the specials should probably be redesigned. My thanks to everyone for playing and congratulations once more to Michael.

RR2494NK Round 10

GM Bob Gingell

Most races were uncontested, but KIM JONG BOOM kept its good lead, helped by beating NADA in a long race. ROGER decided to stop building and stayed in second place. KJB went mineral prospecting in the hills but came up empty-handed when the navvies went on strike. The decision to shoot the ringleaders did not get the track built to the south coast.

Races for Round 10 (max 4 entries):

- 16R. (25–#3): KJB 20.
- 22. (13–42): KJB [44+1 = 45] 20+1 = 21; NADA [42+1 = 43] 10-1k = 9
- 23. (24–52): ROGER 20-2n = 18; NADA +2.
- 24. (35–22): NADA 20.
- 25. (43–#2): NADA [20 to Manpo] 20; KJB [48+1 = 49 to Onsong] 10-2r = 8; ROGER +2.
- 26. (54–12): KJB 20.
- 27. (65–31): ROGER 20.
- 28. (#6 both Kaesong –62): ROGER [8+1 = 9] 20; NADA [9] 10.

Buils for Round 10 (max 6 points):

KIM JONG BOOM (orange): (M38) - M39 --- M40; (C25) - B24 [-1r]; (M31) - M32. [-6-1+1 = -6]
NADA (blue): (J38) - - - G40 - - G42 [-1r]; O53 - P53 [-1k]. [-6-2 = -8].
ROGER (green): No buils. [0+2 = +2]

Scores:

KIM JONG BOOM (Orange), Jim Reader: 255 +69-6 = 318.
ROGER (Green), Roger Trethewey: 197 +60+2 = 259.
NADA (Blue), Richard Smith: 181 +61-8 = 234.

Races for Round 11 (enter any 4):

- 29. 16 (Chongjin) – 34 (Kaecheon)
- 30. 23 (Kanggye) – 11 (Onsong)
- 31. 36 (Anju) – 45 (Pyongyang)
- 32. 44 (Pyongyang) – 61 (Nampo)
- 33. 53 (Hamhung) – #1 (China Liaoning)
- 34. 64 (Haeju) – 55 (Wonsan)
- 35. #5 (Eastern Seaport) – 21 (Hyesan)

Build allowance for Round 11: 4 points (excluding payments to others)

RR2517WR Gamestart

GM Bob Gingell

Richard Smith, Jim Reader, Mike Townsend and Kevin Lee are the rivals for the Throne.

The map is available here <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/westerosrr.html>

Please send company names / acronyms and choices for start location and colour to Bob by the deadline.

RR Game LXXXVI – RR2505WC – West Cumberland Map – Round Six

Correction

I forgot to credit **FAR** for the connection to Sellafield and pay **WATER** for the connection to Kelton Fell last round; both receive + 6 points.

FAR	6a) 3. (Workington) - L23 – K24 - J24,
Brad Martin	6b) 3. (L23) – L22 – L21 - L20,
Blue	6c) 5. (L20) – L19 - L18 - M17: (L19) – Distington: (L21) – Harrington.
	BANK: 79 + 6 (correction) – 1 (MARS) – 1 (WATER) = 83

MARS	6a) 3. (F11) - - - G10 ,
John Marsden	6b) 3. (G10) - - - G9,
Orange	6c) 5. (G9) – G8 – G7 - G6 – Beckermest: (C33) - <u>ASPATRIA</u> .
	BANK: 56 + 6 + 1 (FAR) + 4 (WATER) = 67

WATER	6a) 3. (L22) - L23 - K24 - Seaton,
Judy Ferguson	6b) 3. (Seaton) – J25 – I25 – H26,
Black	6c) 5. (H17) - H18 - Great Broughton - G26 - G27 - Dearham.
	BANK: 50 + 6 (correction 1) + 1 (FAR) – 4 (MARS) = 53

The first set of races is.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. St. Bees (15) – Whitehaven (22): | 2. Distington (26) – Frizington (33) |
| 3. Kelton Fell (34) – Harrington (41): | 4. Flimby (46) – Maryport (52) |
| 5. Dearham (54) – Cockermouth (65): | 6. Ullock (61) – Egremont (13) |

Enter up to 4 races and build up to 12 points.

Copies of the map can be found at https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/West_CumberlandRR.jpg. Town 33 is Frizington. The hex numbers on this map are difficult to read, so I have been doing my best to adjust builds as needed. Please let me know if you think I have made a mistake.

RR Game LXXXVII – RR2506NF – Norwegian Fjords Map – Round Six

REAR	6a) 4. (D32) – <u>HAUGESUND</u> : (R13) – Q13 – P12 -Dombas,
Kev Lee	6b) 3. (Dombas) – N11 - M11 – L11 ,
Blue	6c) 3. (L11) – K12 - Nardoal; (V19) – W20.
	BANK: 47 + 6 – 1 (R) + 3 (HERRING) = 55

R	6a) 4. (X29) - Eidsvoll – V30 – U31 - T31,
Roger Trethewey	6b) 3. (T31) – Honefoss: (N35) - M35: (V20) - Lillehammer,
Green	6c) 3. (T4) – T3 - St Jordallshasen: (W13) - X12.
	BANK: 37 + 1 (REAR) – 1 + 1 (PINING) + 1 (HERRING) = 39

PINING	6a) 4. (Lillehammer) - T19 - - - S19,
Richard Smith	6b) 3. (S19) – R18 - Q18 - Q17,
Red	6c) 3. (Q17) - Q16 - P15: (W33) - X33.
	BANK: 73 + 1 – 1 (R) – 4 + 1 (HERRING) = 70

HERRING 6a) 4. (P23) – O26 – N26 – M26 - L25,
 Steve Ham 6b) 3. (L25) – K26 – J26 - I27,
 Purple 6c) 3. (S32) - S33 - T33 - T34.
 BANK: 67 – 3 (REAR) – 1 (R) – 1 + 4 (PINING) = 66

The first set of races is.

1. Egersund (53) - Sweden (Sp1): 2. Oslo (45) - Floro (25): 3. Bergen (64) - Denmark (Sp6)
4. Gol (65) - Eidsvoll (35): 5. Fagernes (26) - Hamar (33)
6. Stavanger (55) - Trondheim (12): 7. Drammen (42) - Andalsnes (15)

Enter up to 4 races and build up to 12 points. Copies of the map can be found at either

https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/Norwegian_fjordsRR.jpg or <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/rr-nf-original.pdf>.

RR Game LXXXVIII – RR2507SA – South Africa Map – Round Six

Correction

I forgot to pay R for the connection to Askham last round (+ 6 points)

RAND 6a) 5. (K10) - K9 - L9 – Bitterfontein: (Pretoria) - O34 - O35,
 Steve Guest 6b) 3. (O35) - N36 - N37 - N38,
 Orange 6c) 3. (N38) - N39 – Pietersburg: (N39) - N40.
 BANK: 41 + 4 (CAMRAS) = 45

CAMRAS 6a) 5. (Q8) – Q7 – Q6 - Q5 – Q4 – Cape Town,
 Bob Pitman 6b) 3. (R30) - - - S30,
 Red 6c) 3. (S30) – T31 – U31 - U32.
 BANK: 20 – 4 (RAND) – 1 + 1 (SADDER) = 16

SADDER 6a) 5. (S23) - S22 - T22: (M19) – L18 – K18 - J17,
 Michael Pargman 6b) 3. (J17) – Uppington: (T37) – U37 - V38,
 Green 6c) 3. (V38) – W38 - X39 / Swaziland: (O40) - O41 .
 BANK: 99 + 1 – 1 (CAMRAS) = 99

R 6a) 5. (A72) - A73 – Z24 - Y24 – Y25 - Y26 / Lesotho,
 Roger Trethewey 6b) 3. (I16) – H16 – G15 - F15,
 Blue 6c) 3. (F15) - E14 / Namibia: (A73) – A74 - A75.
 BANK: 44 + 6 (correction) – 2 (KAFFIR) = 48

KAFFIR 6a) 5. (M15) - L16 - K16 - - - Uppington,
 Brendan Whyte 6b) 3. (C64) – Uitenhage: (C64) - Port Elizabeth: (H11) - G11,
 Black 6c) 3. (G11) - - - F12 / Namibia.
 BANK: 58 + 2 (R) = 60

The first set of races is.

1. Botswana (Sp2) - Dundee (63): 2. Pietermaritzburg (61) - Kimberley (34)
3. Springbok (14) - Port Elizabeth (21): 4. Oudtshoorn (23) - Pretoria (51)
5. Johannesburg (53) - Port Nolloth (13): 6. Southwest Africa (Sp1) - Bloemfontein (46)
7. Askham (36) - Springfontein (43)

Copies of the map can be found at https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/South_AfricaRR.jpg. Enter up to 4 races and build up to 12 points.

RR Game LXXXIX – RR2508PR – Prairies Map – Round Six

BOB 6a) 6. (V17) - W17 - W16 - W15 - Des Moines; (R28) - S29 - T29,
 Bob Gingell 6b) 6. (R28) - Q29: (K9) - L8 - M8 - N7 - O7: (El Paso) - B32 / Mexico,
 Black 6c) 6. (T29) - U30 - V30 - W30: (B6) - B5 - B4: (B6) - A7.
 BANK: 81 + 4 (LTP) – 3 (STOP) – 3 (BIG FOOD) = 79

LTP Brendan Whyte Yellow	6a) 6. (Q24) - P23 - O23 - N22 - Dodge City - L21 - K21, 6b) 6. (S9) - T8 - U8 - V7 - W7 - Minneapolis St. Paul: (W7) - X6 6c) 6. (K21) - J20 - I21 - H21 - Trinidad: (N3) - N2 - N1 / Canada. BANK: 47 - 4 (BOB) - 1 (BIG FOOD) - 6 (LTP) = 36
STOP Michael Pargman Green	6a) 6. (R26) - Q27 - P27 - O28 - N28 - N29 - N30, 6b) 6. (Kansas City) - W19 - X19 - Y20 - Z19 - A54 - St. Louis, 6c) 6. (H12) - H13 - Cheyenne: (P19) - O20 - N20 - M21 - Dodge City. BANK: 63 - 3 (BIG FOOD) - 1 + 1 (TEAR) = 60
BIG FOOD Steve Ham Purple	6a) 6. (San Antonio) - N35 / Mexico: (Y5) - Y4 - Y3 - Y2 / Canada: (Y5) - Duluth: (Amarillo) - I26, 6b) 6. (I26) - H26 - G27 - F27 - E27 - D26 - Albuquerque, 6c) 6. (F27) - E28 - D29 - C29 - C30 - C31 - El Paso. BANK: 51 + 3 (BOB) + 1 (LTP) + 3 (STOP) = 58
TEAR Kev Lee Red	6a) 6. (J8) - I8 - H8 - G8 - F7 - E7 - D6, 6b) 6. (H16) - H17 - H18 - H19 - H20 - H21 - Trinidad, 6c) 6. (O4) - O3 - N2 - N1 / Canada: (S6) - T5 - Fargo; (R10) - Sioux Falls. BANK: 20 - 1 + 1 (STOP) + 6 (LTP) = 26

The first set of races is.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. San Angelo (44) - Great Falls (66): | 2. New Orleans (31) - Lincoln (26) |
| 3. Des Moines (21) - Fort Worth (42): | 4. Transcontinental (Sp6) via Cheyenne (56) |
| 5. West (Sp1) - Memphis (34): | 6. Minneapolis / St. Paul (12) - Oklahoma City (52) |
| 7. Minot (63) - Duluth (11) | |

Enter up to 4 races and build up to 12 points. Copies of the map can be found at

<https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/prairiesRR.pdf>.

* * * * *

Robo Rally 6

Round Ten

A quiet round with 3 robots powered down, although that doesn't stop any of them getting into more trouble. The other robots choose to cruise on the conveyors with only **Ratchet** tagging another flag.

Correction Note: **Robbie** should have shot **Bomb 20** in Phase E not **Norfolk Gundam**. This would have given **Bomb 20** a complete set of locked registers but as he powered down, this had no effect. I have restored a point of damage to **Norfolk Gundam** and my apologies to Steve for missing this earlier and denying him an extra card.

Press

Buggerbot That should push Minaj into the laser and give me a tour of the express belts. Fun times.

Gyro Gearloose I'm going to power down in hopes that that throws a monkey wrench in Norfolk Gundam's plans.

Bomb 20 Either Crappie or Minaj ought to wrap this up, but I recall distinctly the detonation order. My memory is good on matters like these. I must think on this further! ZZZZZZZZ

Robbie One option would have been to start with the 2F to try to kick someone out, but Gundam is not a threat. I would have loved to do it to Gyro, but that doesn't seem like a possibility. Instead, I hope to just be able to around the conveyor belt - in peace.

Whinges

Ratchet

Four RT cards! At least I get a second flag, but I can't do anything else.

Announcement:

Ratchet's programmer, Bob Gingell is running a new game of RoboRally in John Marden's Ode. Contact Bob or John for more details.

Phase A

Robot	Card	Start	End	Final	Actions
Buggerbot	820 3F	I6E	L6E	L5E	Pushes Minaj to M6S. Conveyed to L5E. Shoots Gyro Gearloose
Crappie	760 2F	K8E	M8E	N8E	Conveyed to N8E. Shot by Ratchet
Ratchet	720 2F	N1S	N3S	N3S	Shoots Crappie
Norfolk Gundam	100 RT	O4S	O4W	O4W	Radio controls Bomb 20 – no effect
Robbie	010 UT	L4E	L4W	J4W	Conveyed to J4W
Gyro Gearloose	-	O5N	O5N	O5N	Power Down. Shot by Buggerbot
Bomb 20	-	N4N	N4N	L4N	Power Down. Conveyed to L4N
Minaj	-	L6S	M6S	M6S	Power Down. Pushed by Buggerbot to M6S. Shot by board laser
FLAG 5		L8	L8	L7	

Phase B

Robot	Card	Start	End	Final	Actions
Buggerbot	770 2F	L5E	N5E	M4N	Conveyed to M4N
Norfolk Gundam	630 1F	O4W	N4W	L4W	Conveyed to L4W. Shoots Bomb 20
Robbie	330 LT	J4W	J4S	H4S	Conveyed to H4S
Crappie	290 LT	N8E	N8N	O8N	Conveyed to O8N. Presses Gyro Gearloose to O4N
Ratchet	110 LT	N3S	N3E	N3E	
Gyro Gearloose	-	O5N	O5N	O4N	Power Down. Pressed by Crappie to O4N
Bomb 20	-	L4N	L4N	J4N	Power Down. Conveyed to J4N. Shot by Norfolk Gundam
Minaj	-	M6S	M6S	M6S	Power Down. Shot by board laser
FLAG 5		L7	L7	L6	

Phase C

Robot	Card	Start	End	Final	Actions
Robbie	780 2F	H4S	H6S	H8S	Conveyed to H8S
Norfolk Gundam	580 1F	L4W	K4W	I4W	Conveyed to I4W. Shoots Bomb 20. Shot by Buggerbot
Crappie	500 1F	O8N	O7N	O7N	Presses Gyro Gearloose to O3N
Ratchet	460 BU	N3E	M3E	M3E	Tags flag 1
Buggerbot	170 LT	M4N	M4W	K4W	Conveyed to K4W. Shoots Norfolk Gundam
Gyro Gearloose	-	O4N	O4N	O3N	Power Down. Pressed by Crappie to O3N
Bomb 20	-	J4N	J4N	H4N	Power Down. Conveyed to H4N. Shot by Norfolk Gundam
Minaj	-	M6S	M6S	M6S	Power Down. Shot by board laser
FLAG 5		L6	L6	L5	

Phase D

Robot	Card	Start	End	Final	Actions
Crappie	600 1F	O7N	O6N	O6N	Presses Gyro Gearloose to O2N
Buggerbot	450 BU	K4W	L4W	J4W	Conveyed to J4W
Ratchet	380 RT	M3E	M3S	M3S	
Robbie	300 RT	H8S	H8W	I8W	Conveyed to I8W
Norfolk Gundam	130 LT	I4W	I4S	H5S	Conveyed to H5S. Shoots Bomb 20
Gyro Gearloose	-	O3N	O3N	O2N	Power Down. Pressed by Crappie to O2N
Bomb 20	-	H4N	H4N	H6N	Power Down. Conveyed to H6N. Shot by Norfolk Gundam
Minaj	-	M6S	M6S	M6S	Power Down. Shot by board laser
FLAG 5		L5	L5	L4	

Phase E

Robot	Card	Start	End	Final	Actions
Buggerbot	570 1F	J4W	I4W	H5W	Conveyed to H5W
Robbie	490 BU	I8W	J8W	K8W	Conveyed to K8W. Shoots Bomb 20
Crappie	430 BU	O6N	O7N	O7N	Presses Gyro Gearloose to O1N
Norfolk Gundam	410 LT	H5S	H5E	H7E	Conveyed to H7E
Ratchet	080 RT	M3S	M3W	M3W	
Gyro Gearloose	-	O2N	O2N	O1N	Power Down. Pressed by Crappie to O1N
Bomb 20	-	H6N	H6N	H8N	Power Down. Conveyed to H8N. Shot by Robbie
Minaj	-	M6S	M6S	M6S	Power Down. Shot by board laser
FLAG 5		L4	L4	J4	

Status Report

Player	Robot	Position	Damage	Lives Lost	Specials	Check	Flags
Chris Hibbert	Gyro Gearloose	O1N	1	0	Gyro Stabilizer	O10	2, 3, 4, 5
Michael Pargman	Robbie	K8W	3	0	Goo Dropper (1)	M3	1, 2, 3, 5
Brendan Whyte	Buggerbot	H5W	4	1		J6	1, 3, 4, 5
Bob Pitman	Bomb 20	H8N	4	1		J6	1, 2, 3, 4
Richard Smith	Crappie	O7N	3	0	Pressor Beam	Flag 5	2, 4, 5
Bob Gingell	Ratchet	M3W	2	0	Big Gun (4) Tractor Beam	M3	1, 3
John Walker	Minaj	M6S	5	2	-	J6	2, 5
Steve Ham	Norfolk Gundam	H7E	4	0	Radio Control	Flag 5	1, 5

Robots move according to the card for the phase. Higher priority cards go first.

Express Conveyor Belts move one square.

Express Conveyor Belts move their second movement AND Normal Conveyor Belts perform their one movement.

Pushers push one square if active this phase.

Gears turn 90 degrees.

Crushers crush if active this phase (none in this game).

Board-mounted AND robot-mounted laser beams damage robots, followed by any movement caused by an optional weapon.

Checkpoints touched.

After the fifth phase, all robots on checkpoints or repair sites are repaired.

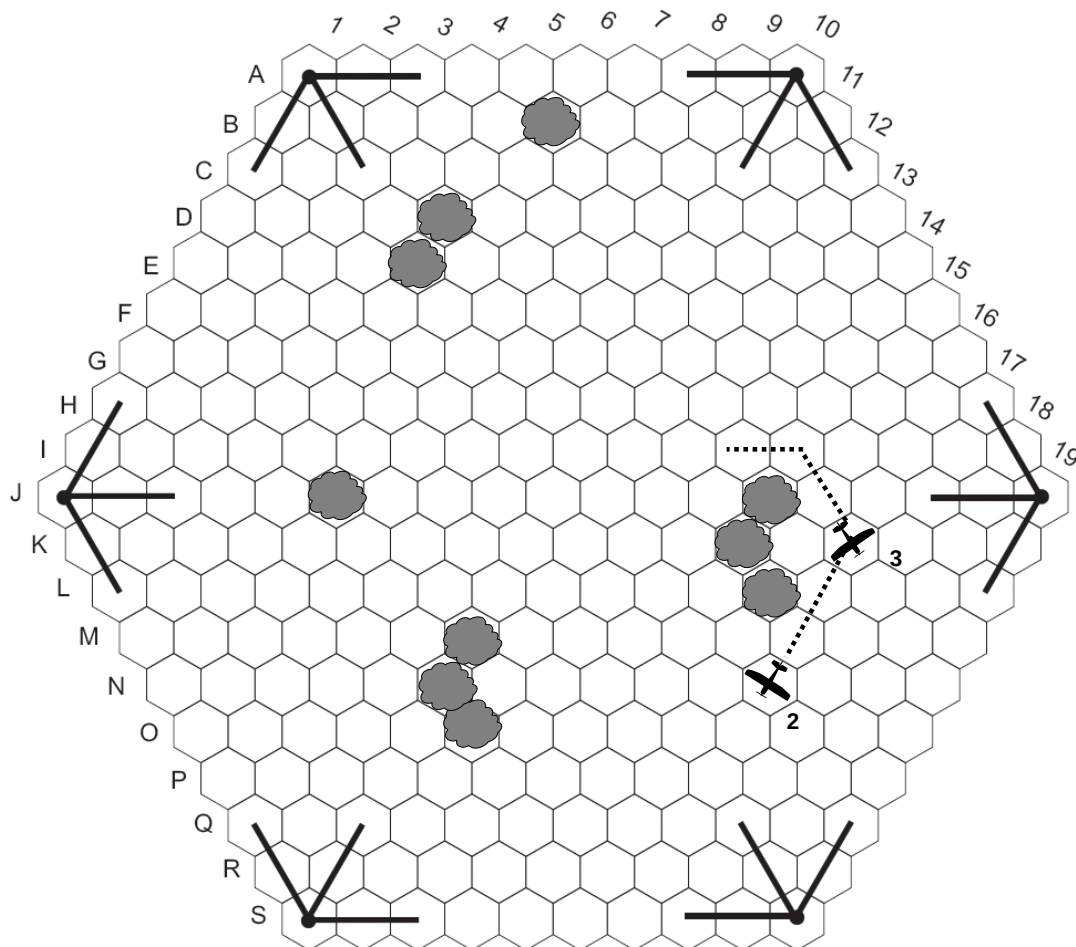
The game will end when a robot ends the round on his 5th flag. Tagging the 5th flag is not sufficient to end the game (this is my normal rule).

Sopwith T-365VP

Round Forty-Two

Cameltoe manages to get behind his opponent once again, although he is still some way away.

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A:D:P
2 Gossamer Heron <i>Chris Hibbert</i> Start: A1	39) I15SE 40) K15SW 41) I14NE 42) K16SE	39) A – RT – RS 40) RT – RT – RT 41) RT – RT – A 42) RT – A – A	39) K15SW 40) I14NE 41) K16SE 42) N16SW	0:6:14
3 Cameltoe (ACE) <i>John Walker</i> Start: A10	39) G7E 40) I10E 41) J12E 42) I13NE	39) RS – RS – A 40) RS – A – 0 41) LT fA – RS – O 42) RT – RT – A	39) I10E 40) J12E 41) I13NE 42) K16SE	16:7:12
5 The Ode-ace-ious One John Marsden	Start S19	Shot down turn 26		15 points
1 Avey Ate Her <i>Brendan Whyte</i>	Start J1	Shot down turn 15		6 points
4 The Mystery Pilot (ACE) <i>Brad Martin</i>	Start J19	Shot down turn 10		11 points
6 Red Baron <i>Arthur Owen</i>	Start S10	Shot down turn 4		0 points



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on-the-shelf

vol. XVI, no. 70

14 May 2023

Brought to you by Tom Howell: off-the-shelf at olympus.net. Welcome to *on-the-shelf*, volume XVI, number 70.

Congratulations to Steve Ham for his convincing win in Lake Crescent!

With the Breaking Away! game ending this ish in a win for Steve Ham, you bicycle racing fans can watch another game over in *back-of-the-envelope* which has its first riders crossing the second sprint line in its last report. No waiting list over there for the next Breaking Away!, but there will be as soon as someone asks to sign up... <hint> I also run Dominion (a game is ready to start; one or two more could play) via e-mail out of *back-of-the-envelope*, and there will be new instances of WitWiKN? and Snakes and Ladders starting over there when these games finish up here, plus on offer are a number of your other favorites. If you aren't already reading *b-o-t-e* send me a request and I'll send you a (PDF) copy of the latest issue.

Round 15 Snakes and Ladders Cyclonic Winds

Brendan jumps into the lead, leaving his sidekick, Judy, running in circles.... again?!

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13	R14
Brendan	1	3	6	28	33	39	17	17	40	45	51	53	54	76
Roger	6	7	12	14	18	17	23	27	28	53	54	76	82	87
Steve	1	13	15	40	40	46	50	53	54	76	82	87	89	84
Martin	3	13	14	18	23	29	53	53	58	59	65	86	87	84
John	2	6	7	28	34	39	17	23	26	53	53	53	76	82
Chris	2	3	7	28	34	39	17	40	46	50	53	53	76	82
Richard	6	7	28	28	28	33	39	40	45	47	50	54	76	82
Bob	3	13	17	18	23	29	33	38	40	46	47	50	76	77
Judy	4	13	15	18	14	17	17	17	22	28	28	29	53	76

	R15
Brendan	95
Roger	89
Steve	87
Martin	86
John	84
Chris	83
Richard	83
Bob	82
Judy	76

During turn 15, there were no trapdoors activated.

Round 7 Where in the World is Kendo Nagasaki? Game 87

New players welcome anytime. Game goes 10 rounds, unless won earlier. Remember this is the three wishes variant: the wish will give you information from the previous round, and may be used to inform your current guess.

Round 1:

Bob Gingell	Jules Verne (1828-1905)	in Buenos Aires, Argentina	(-34.603333, -58.381667)
Steve Guest	Hernan Cortes (1485-1547)	in Tikal, Guatemala	(17.221945, -89.623611)
Chris Hibbert	Vasco da Gama (1460-1524)	in Mombasa, Kenya	(-4.05, 39.666667)
Dane Maslen	Donald Trump (1946-)	in Hell, Norway	(63.4444, 10.9227)
Bob Pitman	Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944)	in Liria Palace	(40.4277, -3.7124)
Jim Reader	Ted Cruz (1970-)	in Uvalde, Texas, USA	(29.21, -99.79)
Richard Smith	Louis XIV (1638-1715)	in Port Louis, Mauritius	(-20.164444, 57.504167)
Martin Walker	Gordon Brown (1951-)	in Cincinnati, Ohio	(39.1, -84.512497)

Public response to player with closest guess: We had the same number of children.

Round 2:

Bob Gingell	Capt. James Cook (1728-1779) in Amundsen-Scott (South Pole Research Station), Antarctica (-90.0, 180.0)
Steve Guest	Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) in Puerto Suárez, Bolivia (-18.966667, -57.798058)
Chris Hibbert	Agatha Christie (1890-1976) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (-22.908333, -43.196389)
Dane Maslen	Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944) in Turaif, Saudi Arabia (31.6775, 38.653057)
Bob Pitman	Winfield Scott (1786-1866) in Santarem, Para, Brazil (-2.43, -54.72)
Jim Reader	Mohammed Waheed Hassan (1953-) in Malé, Maldives (4.175278, 73.508889)
Richard Smith	David Bowie (1947-2016) in Mountain Home, Arkansas (36.336111, -92.382222)
Martin Walker	Martina Navratilova (1956-) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (44.866667, -63.716111)
Brendan Whyte	Ivana Trump (1949- 2022) in Hotazel, South Africa (-27.20, 22.95)

Richard Smith has used one wish in Round two.

Public response to player with closest guess: Our lives overlapped by over six decades.

Round 3:

Bob Gingell	Albert Einstein (1879-1955) in Recife, Brazil (-8.050000, -34.900002)
Steve Guest	Vladimir Putin (1952-) in Kharkiv, Ukraine (49.992500, 36.231110)
Chris Hibbert	Sharon Stone (1958-) in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico (22.889723, -109.915558)
Dane Maslen	Jim Carrey (1962-) in Burlington, Ontario, Canada (43.369999, -79.814163)
Bob Pitman	Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) in Washington DC (38.895054, -77.036667)
Jim Reader	Jair Bolsonaro (1955-) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (-22.908333, -43.196388)
Richard Smith	Steve Wozniak (1950-) in Quebec City, QC, Canada (46.813889, -71.208054)
Martin Walker	King Charles III (1948-) in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada (47.482224, -52.796944)
Brendan Whyte	Tim Brooke-Taylor (1940-2020) in Timbuktu, Mali (16.775833, -3.009444)

Public response to player with closest guess: In the general public you are much better known than I, but my two books are probably as well known within the group who are interested in their subject matter.

Round 4:

Bob Gingell	Harper Lee (1926-2016) in Asuncion, Paraguay (-25.3, -57.633333)
Steve Guest	James E. Webb (1906-1992) in Goddard Space Flight Center, MD, US (38.992222, -76.8525)
Chris Hibbert	Robin Hanson (1959-) in Manchester, NH (42.990833, -71.463608)
Dane Maslen	Roger Penrose (1931-) in London, Ontario, Canada (42.9675, -81.2325)
Bob Pitman	Leonard Nimoy (1931-2015) in Bangor, Maine (44.803055, -68.7675)
Jim Reader	Paul Krugman (1953-) in Dennistown, Maine (45.676945, -70.283058)
Richard Smith	Ian Clarke (1952-) in Bangor, Maine (44.803055, -68.7675)
Martin Walker	Sir David Attenborough (1926-) in Kennebunk, Maine (43.385555, -70.546944)
Brendan Whyte	Jack London (1876-1916) in London, Ontario, Canada (42.9675, -81.23245)

Chris Hibbert, Steve Guest, and Bob Pitman have each used one wish in Round 4.

Public response to player with closest guess: We have no University affiliations in common.

Round 5:

Bob Gingell	Ian Clarke (1952-) in Boston, MA (42.358055, -71.063614)
Steve Guest	Gabriel Jesus (1997-) in Montreal, Canada (45.508888, -73.554169)
Chris Hibbert	Eugenie Clark (1922-2015) in Marlborough, MA, USA (42.345833, -71.552780)
Dane Maslen	Conrad Moffat Black (1944-) in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada (45.400002, -71.900002)
Bob Pitman	Robin Hanson (1959-) in Cambridge, Massachusetts (42.373611, -71.110558)
Jim Reader	Edsger W Dijkstra (1930-2002) in Coopersburg, PA (40.511028, -75.389999)
Richard Smith	Jeff Dinitz (1952-) in Burlington, Vermont (44.475834, -73.211945)
Martin Walker	Alice Roberts (1973-) in Providence, RI (41.823612, -71.422218)
Brendan Whyte	Cat Stevens (1948-) in Mecca, Saudi Arabia (21.422501, 39.823334)

Jim Reader, Richard Smith, and Martin Walker have each used one wish in Round 5.

Public response to player with closest guess: We were born within 100 miles of each other and share the same nationality.

Round 6:

Bob Gingell	Robert Maynard Pirsig (1928-2017)	in Worcester, MA, USA	(42.271389, -71.798889)
Steve Guest	Roger Daltrey (1944-)	in Woodstock, VT	(43.623611, -72.519444)
Chris Hibbert	Radley Balko (1975-)	in Framingham, MA	(42.279167, -71.416667)
Dane Maslen	Scott Brown (1959-)	in Norfolk, Massachusetts	(42.119444, -71.325555)
Bob Pitman	John Berger (1926-2017)	in Hyannis, Massachusetts	(41.652778, -70.283333)
Jim Reader	Ross Douthat (1979-)	in Harvard University	(42.374444, -71.116944)
Richard Smith	Ian Clarke (1952-)	in Plymouth, MA	(41.958333, -70.667778)
Martin Walker	John Cleese (1939-)	in Lebanon, New Hampshire	(43.641667, -72.25)
Brendan Whyte	Cilla Black (1943-2015)	in Lexington, Massachusetts	(42.447222, -71.224999)

Bob Gingell has used one wish in Round six.

Public response to player with closest guess: My material was more organic than yours.

Round 7:

Bob Gingell	Linda Nochlin (1931-2017)	in Greenfield, MA	(42.587502, -72.599998)
Steve Guest	Robert M. Pirsig (1928-2017)	in Springfield, MA	(42.101391, -72.590279)
Chris Hibbert	Edward O. Wilson (1929-2021)	in Belchertown, MA	(42.276943, -72.401390)
Dane Maslen	Joseph L. Gormley (1914-2004)	in Clinton, Massachusetts	(42.416668, -71.683334)
Bob Pitman	Norman Borlaug (1914-2009)	in Greenfield, MA	(42.587502, -72.599998)
Jim Reader	Bruce Kershner (1950-2007)	in Greenfield, MA	(42.587502, -72.599998)
Richard Smith	James M. Bobbitt (1930-2021)	in Oxford, MA	(42.116669, -71.865280)
Martin Walker	John Muir (1838-1914)	in Chelmsford, Mass	(42.599724, -71.367775)
Brendan Whyte	Dave Partridge (1941-)	in Brookline, New Hampshire	(42.733612, -71.663612)

Wishes were used this turn by: Steve Guest, Chris Hibbert, Dane Maslen, Bob Pitman, and Jim Reader.

Public response to player with closest guess: A subset of your initial object of study and the material of focus in my publications are intimately related; but your Wikipedia page is much longer than mine.

off the Reference Shelf

CDs (audio books)

Nimitz at War: Command Leadership from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay, by Craig L. Symonds

The Mosquito Bowl: A Game of Life and death in World War II, by Buzz Bissinger

The Fallen Man, by Tony Hillerman

DVDs

Ireland's Wild Coast, featuring Colin Stafford-Johnson from PBS

Exposing Muybridge, by Marc Shaffer (and a cast of ... maybe not thousands, but the list at the end maybe makes it to a hundred) from Inside Out Media

In My Neighborhood

June has arrived about a month early here in the Pacific Northwest this year. We've gone from mostly over cast with at least some rain most days to clear and sunny. There wasn't much of a transition. It went from the former to the current with only one or two days of 'mostly cloudy'. The forecast is telling me to expect temperatures in the 80s today, and 70s through the following week.

Well, my friends, inflation is upon us. I did my weekly shopping yesterday. I'm only giving you two data points; one is about what we expect for its category, the other ... worrisome.

The first is a prescription: the price yesterday was 10.7 percent higher than it was 355 days ago.

The second is a food item. I don't drink milk. (When I quit, my hair loss slowed way down.) I use an almond beverage on my granola and other things that ask for a white liquid, which I buy by the case as a special order, my preferred brand and formulation not being one this store regularly stocks. The price yesterday was 20 percent higher than the price exactly one year ago to the day.

The bridge replacing a culvert under a fill at the lower end of Indian Creek has been finished and is very nice. The work to replace the Elwha River bridge has begun with the removal of trees in the right of way for the new bridge. At least with this one, I'm expecting the one-lane holdups to be intermittent and not for the duration.

Round Thirteen

Breaking Away!

Lake Crescent

<u>Place</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Manager</u>	<u>Team Owner</u>
1	41	Bojo's Progeny		Steve Ham
2	38	The Masters	Missy	Jim Reader
3	35	Favorite Cities		Chris Hibbert
4	26	Keyboard Kings	Jean-Michel Jarre	Richard Smith
5	16	Pedalutionaries		Bob Pitman
6	0	Team Spirit		Roger Trethewey

<u>Square</u>	<u>Rider(s)</u>	<u>Replacement Card</u>
128	Simon de Montfort (12)	3
127	Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas (10)	4
126		
125	Moog (6)	3
124	Roger Delgado (20)	4
123	Lara Lettice (16)	5
122	Che Guevara (4); John Simm (2); Korg; Rum	6
121	Sydney (8); Brandy; Gin	10
	- FINAL - FINISH - LINE -	
120	Florence; Fairlight; Maximilien Robespierre; Sacha Dhawan	13
119	Cassie Peaches; Thomas Paine; Athens	15
118		
117		
116	Barcelona	3
115	Anthony Ainley; Roland	4
114		
113	Scotch	3
:		
103	Stephanie	3

Listed are the teams, player, accumulated points and manager (if any). Columns show level, card played, rider's name and cards currently held, with current replacement listed last.

The Masters (Jim Reader)

Points: 38

Team Manager: Missy

A	6	Roger Delgado	5	3	3	4
B	5	Anthony Ainley	4	3	4	
C	14	John Simm	6	6	6	
D	11	Sacha Dhawan	3	11	13	

Team Spirit (Roger Trethewey)

Points: 0

A	15	Scotch	3	3	3	3
B	15	Brandy	10	15	10	
C	15	Rum	3	5	6	
D	15	Gin	3	15	10	

Keyboard Kings (Richard Smith)

Points: 26

Team Manager: Jean-Michel Jarre

A	11	Fairlight	3	3	10	13
B	15	Moog	9	5	3	
C	5	Roland	3	3	4	
D	14	Korg	3	4	6	

Bojo's Progeny (Steve Ham)

Points: 41

A	8	Lara Lettice	1	3	3	5
B	4	Cassie Peaches	3	3	15	
C	3	Stephanie	3	3	3	
D	13	Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas	10	6	4	

Favorite Cities (Chris Hibbert)

Points: 35

A	10	Sydney	9	4	10	
B	4	Barcelona	3	3	3	
C	10	Florence	9	5	13	
D	9	Athens	3	5	15	

Pedalutionaries (Bob Pitman)

Points: 16

A	9	Thomas Paine	3	3	5	15
B	14	Che Guevara	4	4	6	
C	11	Maximilien Robespierre	6	3	13	
D	13	Simon de Montfort	4	3	3	

Press: Fairlight (in the style of Weird Al Yankovic): And I told her, I said Hey! Are we playing horseshoes, honey? No, I don't think we are! You're close! (Close!) But no cigar!



Issue 56

Parkrun2

3 of 4 – Chris heads the field. Richard, Bob G and Steve split, still running at a good pace, but Richard gets the biggest boost as he catches the leader. Bob P and Roger, lose a little impetus as they drop back. Brendon's big effort sees him move through the field. Sleepy Crawley's ambition outstrips his ability as he sets himself an impossible task and pays the price.

Park runner	Play	Start SP	Turn SP	less OT	Lead Tail	New Stamina	Time after 3k
Chris Hibbert	Relax	34.6	7.2		4	31.4	$9.02.6+4.18.6=13.21.2$
Richard Smith	Target Hibbert	28	7.2		4	24.8	$9.16+4.05.2=13.21.2$
Bob Gingell	Relax	49	5.5		1	44.5	$9.16+4.16=13.32$
Steve Ham	Relax	41	5.5			35.5	$9.16+4.24=13.40$
Bob Pitman	3 stamina	25.9	3	3		19.9	$9.02.6+4.57=13.59.6$
R Trethewey	7 stamina	41.8	7	3		31.8	$9.06.6+4.53=13.59.6$
B Whyte	20 Stamina	53	20			33	$9.53+4.40=14.33$
M Pargman	4 relax	46	6	1		39	$9.47+4.48=14.35$
Allan Stagg	6 target Pargn	46	6			40	$9.56+4.39=14.35$
John Marsden	6 target Pargn	34	6			28	$9.58+4.37=14.35$
David Cowie	6 target Pargn	32	6			26	$9.59+4.36=14.35$
Steve Guest	6 target Pargn	35.5	6			29.5	$10.0+4.35=14.35$
Mike Pollard	5 track fail	39		6		33	$9.40+5.00=14.40$
Brad Martin	6 target Pollard	52		5		47	$9.52+4.48=14.40$
Christian Bien	1 - 4	55	4	6		45	$9.50+4.56=14.46$
Jacq Reader	4 relax	47	2	6		39	$9.51+4.56=14.47$
M Townsend	1 - 2	50	2	7		41	$9.50+4.58=14.48$
Doug Kent	4 relax	46	4	3		39	$9.56+4.52=14.48$
Jon Carter	1 - 3	55	3	5		47	$9.55+4.57=14.52$
Sleepy Crawley	Target Gingell	49.5		6		43.5	$9.54+5.00=14.54$
A Richardson	6 target Sleepy	49.5				49.5	$10.08+4.46=14.54$
Kev Lee	4 relax	55	1.5	4		49.5	$9.57+4.57=14.54$
Tom Howell	5 track Lee	57.5	0.8	4		52.7	$9.57+4.57=14.54$
C Townsend	5 – track Richsn	42				42	$10.11+4.46=14.57$
Murray Egan	3 - 8	54	8	10		36	$9.54+5.08=15.02$
Dane Maslen	2 - 6	47.5	6	1		40.5	$10.08+4.54=15.02$
Andrew York	3 - 5	58	5	3		50	$10.0+5.05=15.05$
Martin Walker	1 - 2	51	2	2	1	46	$10.07+4.58=15.05$
J Ferguson	3 - 10	28	10	7	3	8	$9.58+5.10=15.08$
John Hopkins	1 - 3	41	3		5	33	$10.12+4.57=15.09$

Puerto Rico

Jim takes the settler. Plantations: Jim quarry, John corn. Kev tobacco, Chris sugar.

John takes the builder. Builds: John small indigo plant, Kev Small market, Chris Small sugar mill, Jim Small market.

Kev takes the mayor. Placements: Kev Corn and Small market, Chris Corn, Jim Quarry, John Corn

Chris takes the Craftsman. Goods gained: Chris Corn x 2. John Corn Kev Corn

1 Doubloon bonuses are on the Trader, Captain and prospector.

The trading house is empty. The 5, 6 and 7 ships are empty

Plantations available are Corn, Corn, Indigo, Sugar, Coffee. 4 colonists board the colonist ship.

The play order for the second turn is: John, Kev, Chris then Jim

Tiles shown in ()s are in the upturned stack. I've not been able to use ticks, so a / has been used to indicate the occupied building and plantation slots.

Player	Doubloons	Goods	VPs	Buildings	Plantations
Jim Reader	3		0	1 of 12 Small market (x)	2 of 12 Indigo (x) Quarry (/)
John Marsden	3	Corn	0	1 of 12 Small Indigo plant (x)	2 of 12 Corn (/) Indigo (x)
Kev Lee	3	Corn	0	1 of 12 Small market (/)	2 of 12 Corn (/) Tobacco (x)
Chris Hibbert	3	Corn Corn	0	1 of 12 Small sugar mill (x)	2 of 12 Corn (/) Sugar (x)

Building	Cost	VP	Available	Tiles	Available
Small Indigo Plant	1	1	3	Quarry	7
Small Sugar Mill	1	1	3	Corn	5
~~Small Market~~	1	1	0	Indigo	9
Hacienda	2	1	2	Sugar	8 (1)
Construction Hut	2	1	2	Tobacco	7 (1)
Small Warehouse	3	1	2	Coffee	7
Large Indigo Plant	3	2	2		
Large Sugar Mill	4	2	2	Goods	
Hospice	4	2	2	Corn	7
Office	5	2	2	Indigo	11
Large Market	5	2	2	Sugar	11
Large Warehouse	6	2	2	Tobacco	9
Tobacco Storage	5	3	2	Coffee	9
Coffee Roaster	6	3	2		
Factory	7	3	2	Colonists	66
University	8	3	2		
Harbour	8	3	2	Victory Points	100
Wharf	9	3	2		
Guild Hall	10	4	1		
Fortress	10	4	1		
Residence	10	4	1		
Customs House	10	4	1		
City Hall	10	4	1		

Queuedo

Zuraida is now on her way to the airport, everybody shuffles forward. Steve whispers to Richard about how good the TV programme *Splash was. Mr Edwards hears this and turns around. He engages Brendon, Jim and Roger, giving Steve and Richard the opportunity to dive ahead.

The incident cards are in the positions B, C, I, G, D, E, F, H. They will remain in these positions for the whole game. The card available this turn is: **David Icke Appears:** He demands that the catafalque is opened to show that the Queen is in fact an alien lizard. If choosing this card, you may also play a number. The player who played the lowest unique number jumps 2 places (rather than the value of the number itself).

Position	Names
1	Oliver Janiak
2	Bec Cartwright
3	Alex Costa
4	Mikk Saar
5	Wayne Carpendale
6	Marika Lighter
7	Aidan O'Mahony
8	Norn Hewitt
9	 Holly and Phil
10	John Walker
11	Matti Nykanen
12	Mary Dale
13	Kyle Sandilands
14	Max Musterman
15	Susan Smith
16	Katy Montgomerie
17	Eric Moussambani
18	Richard Smith (incident) Steve Ham (1)
19	Michael Edwards
20	Brendan Whyte (5) Jim Reader (2) Roger Trethewey (3)

* Splash was a UK TV show, fronted by Tom Daley the Olympic diver. It was panned by the critics but got some reasonable viewing figures. Often described as it's so bad it's good. The format comprised of celebrities competing against each other performing dives in order to impress a judging panel and the viewing public. The first series was won by Michael Edwards aka Eddie the eagle, the GB ski jumper who found fame at the Calgary Olympics. I understand the show also had American and Australian versions, that I assume met with equal acclaim to the British version as these lasted only one season. Eddie's jump of 71 metres at Calgary, broke his own British record. It has since been broken six times and currently stands at 134.5 metres, jumped by Sam Bolton, who was 16 years old on 17/03/2019.

Rock, Paper Scissors

Jim uses his Bumf to good effect, wiping away Chris. The sparks fly in the second semi, with Steve and Bob getting out their swords. Steve has the superior weapon and wins the duel. This sets up an intriguing final.

	Player	Choice/Result	Final	Can Play
1	Chris Hibbert	Paper		
2	Jim Reader	Bumf - win	Jim Reader	Bumf
3	Bob Pitman	Hattori Hanzo	v	
4	Steve Ham	Excalibur	Steve Ham	Topaz, Excalibur

Rules: two players simultaneously pick either rock, paper or scissors. Rock wins against scissors; paper wins against rock; and scissors wins against paper. Players may also acquire the following superior items in each category: Rock = Diamond, Topaz, Obsidian Paper = Graphene, Bumf Scissors = Excalibur, Sting, Hattori Hanzo If someone selected Diamond it would beat Topaz and rock, but still lose against paper. If two players select the same item, the lowest numbered drawn player wins. 1 being the best.



Let's Play Darts

As Jim strides up to the oche, he decides to give himself plenty of leeway. The decision pays off, as he scores well despite being a bit off with two of his throws (14x3 clockwise = 27) + (14x3 no adjustment = 42) + (14x3 outward = 14) = 83

Richard wants to get a feel for the board, spraying his darts about. Bizarrely the worst result was when he was concentrating. When he let his darts flow, they hit their targets. (20x3 concentration, inward=20) + (14 no adjustment = 14) + (10x3 no adjustment = 30) = 64

Scores and remaining counters

Richard (456-64=392) 6 triples, 2 bullseyes, anti-clockwise, inward and no adjustment

Jim (501-83=418) 5 triples, 2 bullseyes, 1 concentration and 1 clockwise anti-clockwise, outward

Jim eats into the lead, but nothing to concern Richard about at this early stage. Both players must let me know where they are aiming their 3 darts and order their remaining accuracy counters.

Postscript

After 10 years of good service my TV suddenly gave up. Without that distraction, it's amazing how much other stuff I got on with. I did consider not replacing it, but there's just enough content that I still enjoy, which persuaded me to get another. Just like the car I recently got; which seems to and probably does, know better than me how to use the vehicle. I now have to work out again how all the new tech works. This is doing wonders for my no change lifestyle, dragging me huffing and mumbling into the 21st century.



THE CELESTIAL STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

Track no. 23

richard530smith@btinternet.com

28th April 2023

This issue's picture features my new Ibanez GSR205-B 5-string bass. The dangly thing in the bottom right is a Vox bass headphone amplifier, which means I can play Orgone Accumulator by Hawkwind <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPYpqtCcr8s> at full blast without distressing the neighbours.

Buying a used example, I was more concerned about the condition than the colour: Brown isn't very "rock and roll" but otherwise it's a cool-looking machine. The build quality is very good (a bit of noise on one of the pots is all I had to grumble about) and the action is just right, albeit the previous owner may well have had to adjust this. The fretboard seems to be the ideal width for a 5-stringer, as the strings aren't too close together but my smallish hands can reach everything they need to reach.

The sound is quite crisp but one of the (unmarked) knobs is a battery-powered "Phat II" bass booster which you can use for a deeper sound. Nice!

Games update: I've opened a new list for Feudality V2 <https://variablepig.org/rules/feudality.html>

And finally, have you ever thought about simulation theory? Are we plugged into something like The Matrix? I recall a Black Mirror episode where a dying woman had her consciousness transferred into a computer, which could be a sort of immortality provided the simulation doesn't run on Windows. Elon Musk and others have stated they think that simulation theory is plausible, this article explains why: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/oct/11/simulated-world-elon-musk-the-matrix>

In most sci-fi stories there is a tell-tale sign that gives it away, but what if there isn't? How would we know? The cold, heartlessness of nature and the strangeness of quantum mechanics both have an algorithmic quality that could be down to a sophisticated computer program. This could be deistically invoked by some kind of super-being, who could even be an alien teenager in his bedroom. If that is the case, then what is the meaning of life? It would have to be the gospel according to Bill and Ted: Be excellent to one another and party on dudes!

The bottom B string of a 5 or 6-string bass has a frequency of 31Hz. Most amplifiers "fall off" below 40Hz, so the 62Hz overtone is heard louder than the fundamental note. Amplification rigs specifically designed for bass can reproduce 31Hz in full glory. The human ear's effective range starts at a little under 20hz.

ONLY CONNECT 2 - ROUND 2 OF 3



As promised, a second go at the most difficult quiz on TV! The rules are the same as last time except for the wall which is, er, completely different. This is described below and also available on the VP website here <https://variablepig.org/rules/onlyconnect.html>.

For the final round, shields are now useless for connections and sequences, but can still be used to buy extra wall lives, or to avoid points loss on the missing vowels. It does appear to be a three-horse race...

Scorecard

Player	SR	Co1	Co2	Co3	Co4	Se1	Se2	Se3	WLR	W1	W2	W3	MV1	MV2	MV3	Score
John Walker	0	2	2	3	2	X	3	3	1	2	0	0	3	3	0	23
Steve Guest	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	20
Bob Pitman	1	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	17
Brendan Whyte	3	X	0	0	2	3	X	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Jim Reader	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

X indicates excluded from further guesses on question

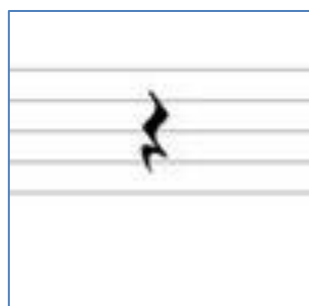
SR = Shields Remaining WLR = Wall Lives Remaining

Connections

We are in the third postal turn so there are four clues for each question and you get 1 point for a correct guess as the connection between the clues. No point using shields or passing unless you have no idea. Remember the answer is the connection, so for "Red Dwarf", "Hi-de-hi" and "Fawlty Towers" it would be "sitcoms".

R2 Guesses: John gets the right answers for 1, 2 and 4 (one shield used) bagging 6 points. Bob matches this feat by getting 1, 3 and 4 (one shield used). Brendan gets #1 wrong (no shield used so excluded from further guesses) and #4 right (2 points). Steve, meanwhile, cleans up with all four correct for 8 points.

- 1) dick; jack; cleo; matron
- 2) rose; polly; melanie; zoe
- 3) fritz; larry; jess; socks
- 4) picture round:



Sequences

In this round you must deduce what comes fourth in the sequence, in the third round there are three clues. A correct guess bags you 2 points. No point using shields or passing unless you have no idea. Remember that the answer is any valid fourth entry (there may be more than one correct answer) not the connection itself, so for "Moonlight" "The Shape of Water" and "Green Book" the answer is "Parasite".

R2 Guesses: John takes a guess on all three, getting #1 wrong (excluded from final round on this one) and #2 and #3 right (one shield used) to bag another 6 points. Brendan get #1 right for 3 points but is wrong on #2 (no shield so excluded for further guesses). Steve cleans up again with 9 points bagged!

- 1) 2: john; 3: john; jude
- 2) bianca; naomi; emma [note that emma disambiguates this sequence, there is now only one valid answer]
- 3) picture round:



?

Connecting Wall

There are 16 words which must be arranged into 4 groups of 4, each group having a common theme. See VP #199 for more detailed instructions. I have players' R1 and R2 orders on file if you need reminding. Points will be awarded for connections without getting the group unless you run out of lives. Hint: The hard-to-spot one of the four connections is the key to purging the red herrings!

Medici	Flint	Holt	Samurai
Anvil	Ingenious	Babylonia	Metric
Saltney	Mold	Witchstone	Chepstow
Indigo	Nickelback	Harlech	Rush

- John Walker guessed three groups. All three were incorrect so 2 lives lost.
- Bob Pitman guessed two groups. Both were incorrect so 1 life lost.
- Steve Guest guessed two groups. Both were incorrect so 1 life lost.

Missing Vowels

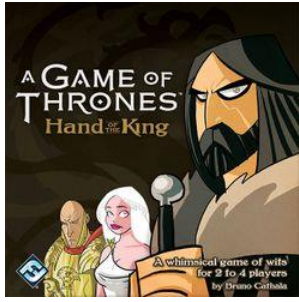
For each of the three questions (one point for each), you can pass, guess, or guess with a shield. In this case the shield means you do not lose a point for being wrong. To make it harder the theme has had its consonants removed.

R2 answers: Amygdala, Medulla, Vagus Nerve (parts of the brain). John, Bob and Steve got all three.

R3 Theme: AEE O

- 1) STFRTTHRN
- 2) SMNLKY
- 3) SYNM

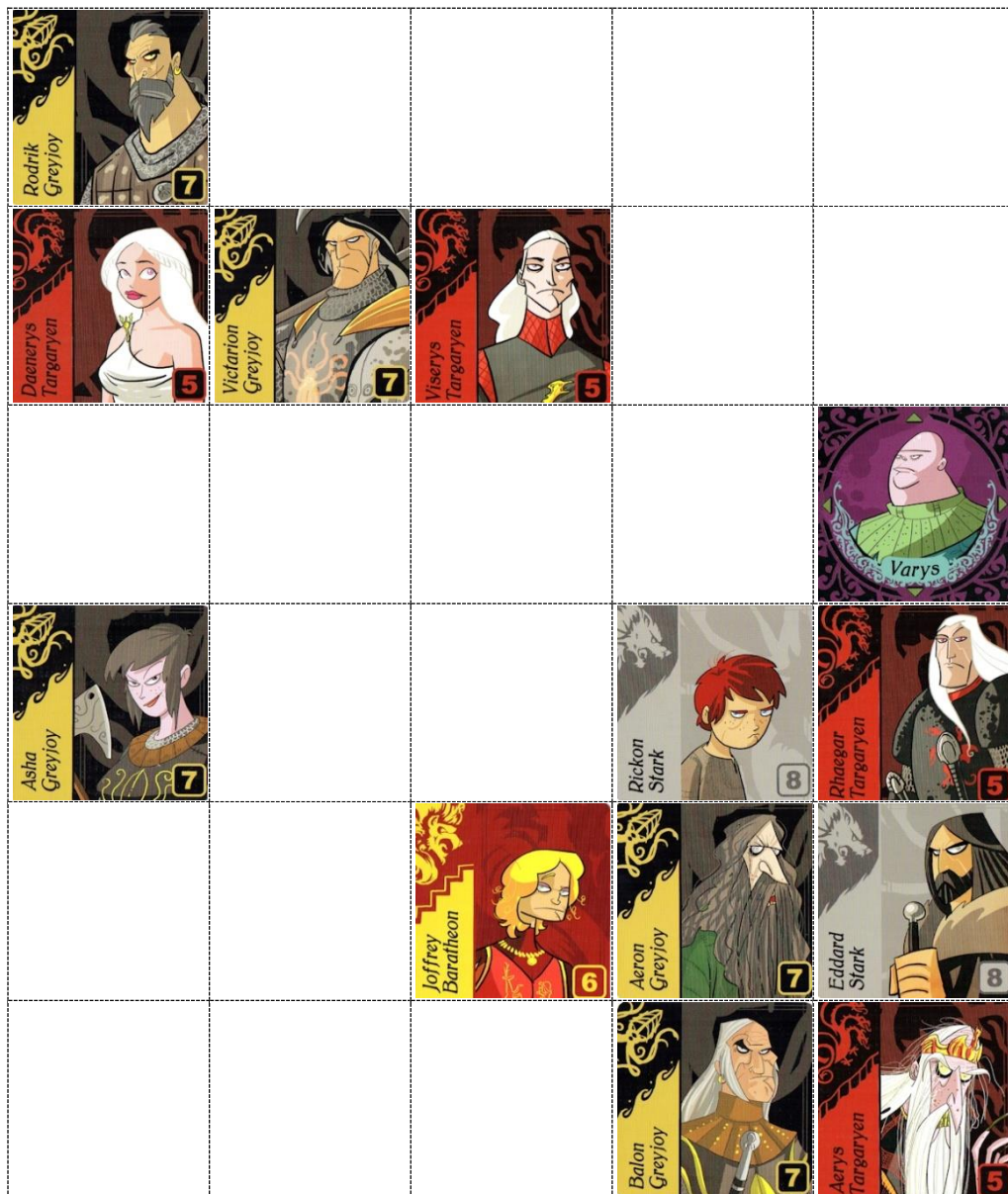
A GAME OF THRONES - HAND OF THE KING - ROUND 8



A Game of Thrones Hand of the King is a popular game by Bruno Cathala published by Fantasy Flight Games. The postal version is for 2 players. Rules at https://images-cdn.fantasyflightgames.com/filer_public/07/d3/07d30fde-83cf-4de7-abde-3c3a08eacd02/handoftheking_rules_eng.pdf

The first player must choose from one of the possible moves, and the second player needs to provide a riposte to each of these. Either player should supply orders for choosing a companion if they capture the last member of a house.

Game1: John Walker is first player, Tom Howell second player who must provide conditional orders.



John: Margerry Tyrell, Olenna Tyrell, Garlan Tyrell, Euron Greyjoy, Renly Baratheon, Robert Baratheon, Rob Stark, Sansa Stark, Catelyn Stark, Arya Stark, Lyanna Stark, Aegon I Targaryen (3 banners)

Tom: Kevan Lannister, Tywin Lannister, Tyrion Lannister, Jamie Lannister, Cersei Lannister, Edmure Tully, Hoster Tully, Bran Stark, Shireen Baratheon, Stannis Baratheon, Gendry = Baratheon, Theon Greyjoy* (4 banners) * banner held due to most recently-acquired character where there is a tie.

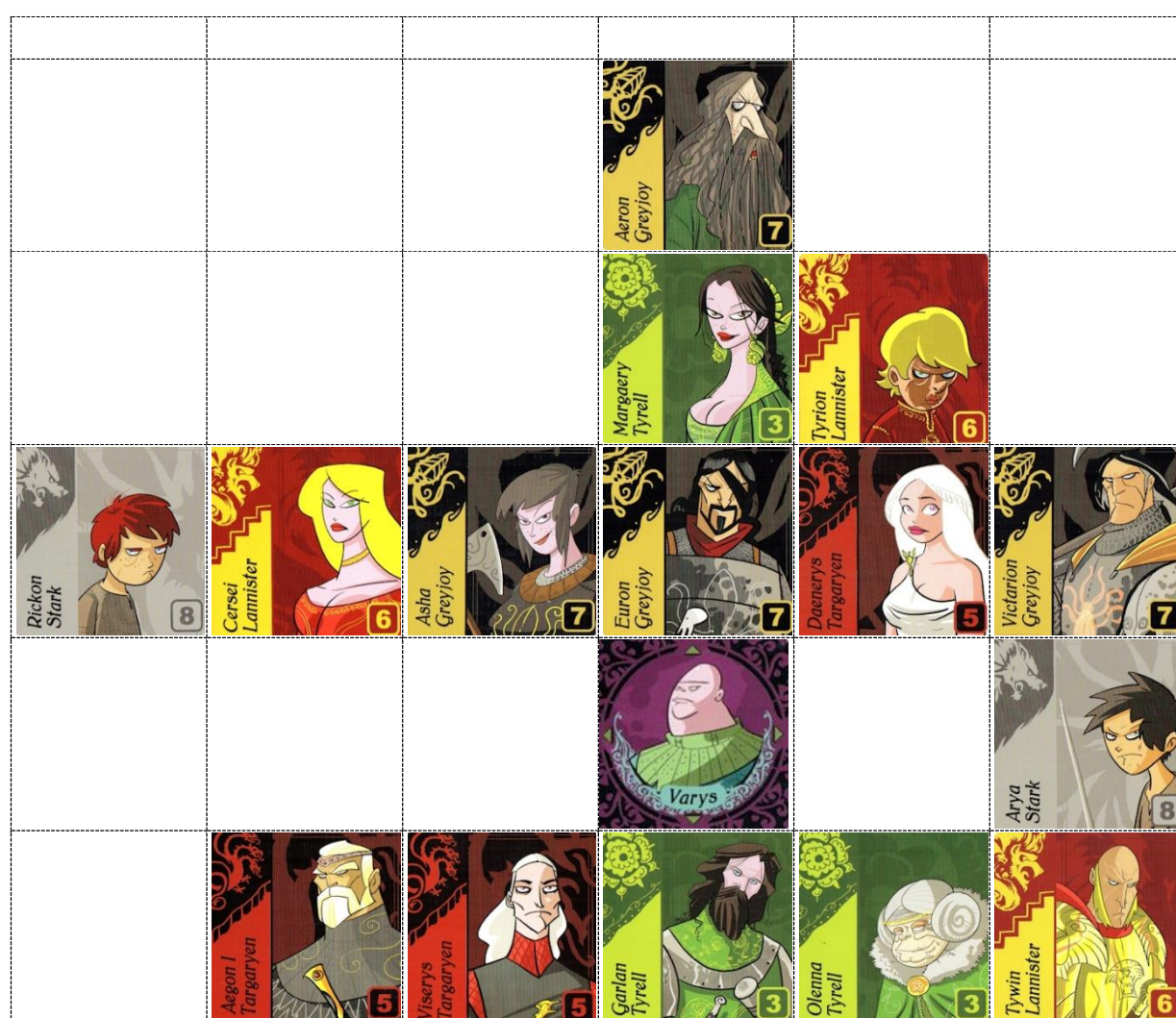
John nabs two more Starks and Tom gets his first Greyjoy, nudging him ahead on banners.

Legal moves are Targaryen down, Stark down.

Companions Available:

Ilyn Payne Kill Eddard Stark in King's Landing or any play area	Hodor Take Bran Stark from King's Landing or any play area	Shae If you have Tyrion Lannister in your play area, Shae counts as two Lannister cards	Ramsay Snow Switch the positions of two character cards in King's Landing	Gendry Gendry counts as one Baratheon character card	Sandor Clegane Kill any character in King's Landing
---	--	---	---	--	---

Game2: Tom Howell is first player, John Walker second player who must provide conditional orders. Due to a mistake in VP199, we've had to backpedal so this game is now one round behind game 1. Note however, that the game finishes when Varys has no legal move, there is no fixed number of turns. Also, the game may end by extrapolation - one player may "claim" rather like Bridge.



Tom: Kevan Lannister, Rodrick Greyjoy, Renly Baratheon, Shireen Baratheon, Rhaygar Targaryen, Hoster Tully, Edmure Tully, Robb Stark, Sansa Stark (3 banners)

John: Catelyn Stark, Bran Stark, Eddard Stark, Lyanna Stark, Stannis Baratheon, Theon Greyjoy*, Jamie Lannister, Joffrey Baratheon (=Lannister), Aerys Targaryen* (4 banners)

* banner held due to most recently-acquired character where there is a tie.

Legal moves are Greyjoy up, Tyrell up, Stark right, Tyrell down,

Tom captures the venerable Aerys Targaryen, and John takes Lyanna Stark.

Companions Available:

Loras Tyrell Take Renly Baratheon or any Tyrell character from King's Landing or any play area	Bronn Take Tyrion Lannister from King's Landing or any play area	Jon Snow Declare a House; Jon Snow counts as two character cards from it.	Jaen Hghar Kill one character in King's Landing, one character in any play area, and one available companion	Brienne of Tarth Take Sansa or Arya Stark from KL or any play area.	Khal Drogo Take Daenerys Targaryen from KL or any play area, then kill Viserys Targaryen in KL or any play area
--	--	---	--	---	---

CRYSTAL BALL 2023 - SNOOKER CHAMP? BELGIUM MAN!



No	Sport	Event	Date	Richard Smith	John Walker	Jim Reader	Martin Walker	Steve Ham
1L	Tennis	Australian Open Men's Singles	January	Nadal	Alcaraz	Zverev	Medvedev	Alcaraz
2L	Rugby	6 Nations	Feb-Mar	France [1]	France [1]	France [1]	France [1]	Wales
3L	Snooker	World Champion	April	Trump	Trump	Selby [1]	O'Sullivan	Allen*
4L	Golf	US PGA Men's	May	McIlroy	Rahm	Spieth	McIlroy	Scheffler [1]
5L	Basketball	NBA Winner	June	Phoenix Suns*	Golden State	76ers	Celtics	Bucks
6L	Football	Women's World Cup	July	England	USA	England	USA	USA
7	Athletics	World Champs - UK medals	August	10	6	11	15	5
8	Athletics	World Champs - US medals	August	35	33	38	40	19
9	Golf	Ryder Cup	September	USA	USA	USA	USA	USA
10	Baseball	World Series	October	LA Dodgers	LA Dodgers	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees
11	Cricket	World Cup	Oct-Nov	England	England	India	India	India
12	Formula 1	Winning Constructor	November	Red Bull **	Red Bull	Mercedes	Red Bull	Red Bull
TB	Energy	UK Gas Wholesale Price Dec 1 ***	December	230p	260p	180p	450p	335p
Score				0	1	2	1	1

* free change

** change made for cost of 1pt

*** Latest UK gas price per therm <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1174560/average-monthly-gas-prices-uk/>

Deadline Day: The snooker is getting into the closing stages. No points for me as Trump goes out early, probably the hairpiece obscuring his vision when lining up a pot. Update: Selby (Jim) beats Allen (Steve) 17-15 in the semi-final and will play the Belgian Luca Brecel in the final. Update: Brecel wins!

Odds on deadline day for the golf: Rahm 11/1; McIlroy 12/1; Scheffer 14/1; Spieth 20/1.

The tournament finishes on May 21st, and the zine may or may not be out before then.

Update: Scheffler leads at halfway point.

Update (after initial release of zine): Scheffler comes second to get Steve a point. Koepka wins.

CENTURY SPICE ROAD - ROUND 9



Rules are on the VP site at <https://variablepig.org/rules/centuryspiceroad.html> N.B. I don't think this has mattered before but remember that a trade card can be used any number of times in a row as long as you have the appropriate cubes available. Upgrade cards are one-use only per round.

Claim order for round 9 was John, Jim, Kevin for round 10 it is Jim, Kevin, John.

1) Payment for last merchant card: The Spice Pot gets 2 Turmeric from Jim but nothing from John as he loses 2VP rather than deplete his caravan.

2) Merchant cards played / point cards claimed: Jim Trades 3 Turmeric for 1 Cinnamon (but didn't claim the 17) and John does not to play a card. Kevin uses Upgrade 2 for 1 Turmeric to Saffron and 1 Cardamom to Cinnamon. He then spends the 5 Saffrons on the 10-point card, to race into the lead.

3) Rest - John replenishes his hand at no cost (no merchant cards played, no claims).

4) Bidding for merchant cards - John bids 2 for card 2 (Trade 2 Turmeric and 1 Cardamom) whilst Jim also makes the minimum bid (2) for card 5 (Create 3 Turmeric) and card 6 (Trade 1 Cardamom for 1 Saffron and 4 Turmeric). Resolving from left to right John gets card 2 and Jim gets card 5.

Status Table

Player	Claim Order	Spices	Unused Cards	Used Cards	Point Cards	VPs
Kevin Lee	2	Turmeric: 2 Saffron: 0 Cardamom: 0 Cinnamon: 1	- Trade 3 Saffron for 2 Cinnamon - Trade 4 Turmeric for 1 Cardamom and 1 Cinnamon - Create 2 Turmeric - Trade 1 Cinnamon for 1 Cardamom and 3 Turmeric	Create 2 Saffron Create 1 Saffron and 2 Turmeric Upgrade 2	2	16
John Walker	3	Turmeric: 3 Saffron: 1 Cardamom: 0 Cinnamon: 1	- Trade 2 Cardamom for 3 Saffron and 2 Turmeric - Trade 1 Cinnamon for 1 Cardamom 1 Saffron and 1 Turmeric - Create 2 Turmeric - Trade 1 Saffron and 1 Turmeric for 1 Cinnamon - Trade 2 Cardamom for 1 Cinnamon, 1 Saffron and 2 Turmeric - Trade 2 Saffron for 1 Cinnamon and 2 Turmeric - Trade 5 Turmeric for 3 Cardamom - Upgrade 2 - Create 4 Turmeric - Create 1 Saffron and 1 Turmeric - Trade 2 Turmeric and 1 Cardamom for 2 Cinnamon		1	7
Jim Reader	1	Turmeric: 2 Saffron: 0 Cardamom: 2 Cinnamon: 2	- Upgrade 3 - Create 1 Cardamom - Create 1 Cardamom and 1 Turmeric - Create 3 Turmeric	Create 2 Turmeric Trade 1 Cardamom for 2 Saffron and 1 Turmeric Create 1 Cinnamon Upgrade 2 Trade 3 Turmeric for 1 Cinnamon	1	9

Spice Pot: 2 Turmeric.

Merchant Cards For Sale

1	2	3	4	5	6
Trade 1 Cinnamon for 2 Cardamom	Trade 1 Cinnamon for 3 Saffron	Trade 2 Saffron for 2 Cardamom	Trade 1 Cardamom for 1 Saffron and 4 Turmeric	Trade 2 Turmeric for 2 Saffron	Trade 2 Cardamom for 2 Cinnamon

Point Cards Available

1 (gold +3)	2 (silver +1)	3	4	5
Claim 13 for 2 Saffron and 3 Cardamom	Claim 17 for 2 Turmeric, 2 Cardamom and 2 Cinnamon	Claim 13 for 2 Turmeric, 2 Saffron and 2 Cardamom	Claim 16 for 1 Turmeric, 3 Saffron, 1 Cardamom and 1 Cinnamon	Claim 7 for 3 Turmeric and 2 Saffron

Next round: Everyone must pay for their merchant cards (John 2, Kevin 0, Jim 2). You can use spices (all are worth 1, and they go into the Spice Pot™) or VPs, or a combination. The Rest action can be employed to take back used cards into the hand. It will cost 1VP (2 for Jim) if done this round unless the player does not play a merchant card or claim a point card this round (in which case it is free).

CHOICE - SUPPENKASPER VARIANT - GAME END COMMENTS



No further comments received, but note that I have now updated the rules (with a potential second game in mind) to make the Suppen-Kasper card simpler and less game-deciding. I've also deducted a wurfel from the number allowed.

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

BUS BOSS - NEW FOREST (BB408NF) - ROUND 8



Almost all the lines have now been bought, in stark contrast to the three-player game. It was a little unexpected, however, that everyone got their first choice. FIN was most profitable company this round.

As for the racing, there were no ties this time until race 15, and then it was a tie for 4th. Race 17 looked a likely tie with 13 being the average for 4 rolls, but GLP only mustered 12. Race 18 also had the contestants using the same route, and this time it *was* a draw.

	RUFUS <i>Bob Gingell</i> Green	GLP <i>Jim Reader</i> Yellow	BEAR <i>Kevin Lee</i> Blue	FIN <i>Roger Trethewey</i> Red	NOVA <i>Brad Martin</i> Purple
10) ♠A Salisbury - ♦5 Lyndhurst		10 [15] -8		20 [14] +8	
11) ♠Q Downton - ♥9 Dibden Purlieu				30 [20]	
12) ♠7 Nomansland - ♣10 Boldre		9 [22] -2 -2 +5	+2	16 [20] +2 -5 -4	5 [27] +4
13) ♥7 Bucklers Hard - ♦Q Ringwood			10 [26] -9		20 [20] +9
14) ♥3 Cadnam - ♣Q New Milton	30 [16] -4 -4		+4	+4	
15) ♦K Bournemouth - ♣A Lymington	4 [24] -3	8 [21]	13 [14] +3 -1 +2		5 [24] +1 -2
16) ♦A Bournemouth - ♦8 Brockenhurst	13 [15] -5	8 [16]	5 [21] -5		4 [17] +5 +5
17) ♣8 Milford-on-Sea - ♣3 Christchurch		10 [13] -9 +3	20 [13] +9 -3		
18) ♠5 Godshill - ♥J Totton				15 [14] -4 +9	15 [14] +4 -9

Last Turn	106	87	103	111	64
Points from Races	31	32	50	91	66
Builds	-12	-10	-12	-12	-12
Points Total	125	109	141	190	118

NOVA: Nomansland - Landford - Bramshaw; Dibden Purlieu - Hythe = 12

GLP: New Milton - Hinton Admiral; Breamore - Downton = 10

BEAR: Holmsley - Brockenhurst; Cadnam - Minstead = 12

RUFUS: Downton - Landford - Salisbury = 12

FIN: Fritham - Mockbeggar; Cadnam - Ower = 12

Map showing latest builds <https://variablepig.org/maps/bb/ingame/BB408NF.jpg>

Build order for next round is Jim, Brad, Bob, Kevin, Roger.

The third set of races (enter any 5 from 8) are:

19) ♠2 Ibsley - ♦J Ringwood

21) ♠6 Breamore - ♣J Sway

23) ♥8 Exbury - ♣4 Bransgore

25) ♠3 North Gorley - ♦9 Burley

20) ♠K Salisbury - ♥6 Beaulieu

22) ♥A Southampton - ♦2 Mockbeggar

24) ♦7 Brockenhurst - ♣6 Holmsley

26) ♥4 Ashurst - ♣9 Keyhaven.

FEUDALITY - ROUND 12



This is based on the original, unexpanded version of Tom Wham's excellent board game from 2011. See <https://variablepig.org/rules/feudality.html>

First baron to reach 14 VPs is the winner, or most VPs at the end of round 15. The state of each baron's fiefdom is recorded on a board image...

Pitman Fiefdom https://variablepig.org/rules/feudality/pitman_fiefdom.jpg

Gingell Fiefdom https://variablepig.org/rules/feudality/gingell_fiefdom.jpg

Reader Fiefdom https://variablepig.org/rules/feudality/reader_fiefdom.jpg

PRESS: Baron Pitman: Me thinkest that the Queen may perchance have screweth me!
(she hath in fact screweth a rival baron, see later)

LAST TURN:

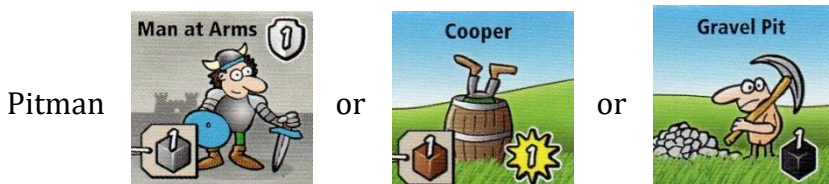
1. Activations: Baron Pitman: Quarry (+2 stone). Baron Gingell: Shepherd (+3 food); Brickyard (+3 stone). Baron Reader: Wizard (+1 VP); Tower (+1VP).
2. Event Card: The Queen takes pity on the less fortunate: The baron(s) with the least VPs get +1VP, the baron(s) with the most VPs get -1VP. Baron's Reader's choice of the Tower rather than the Miller proves costly as neither of the other barons took a VP. Had Baron Gingell chosen the Wizard, all three Barons would have been on 12 when the Queen arrived. Instead she disfavoured Barons Pitman and Reader and favoured Baron Gingell.
3. Purchase Phase: Baron Pitman: Archer (-2 iron). Baron Gingell: Smith (-1 iron). Baron Reader: Brickyard (-1 wood) and Fort (-4 stone).
4. Baronial Actions: Baron Gingell activates the Shepherd (+3 food) and attempts an amorous liaison with the Queen. He rolls 10 so *is* granted access to the royal box (+1VP)
5. Feeding: Baron Gingell feeds his fiefdom for three food (18 tiles).
6. Pass The Shield: Baron Gingell passes the shield to Baron Reader.

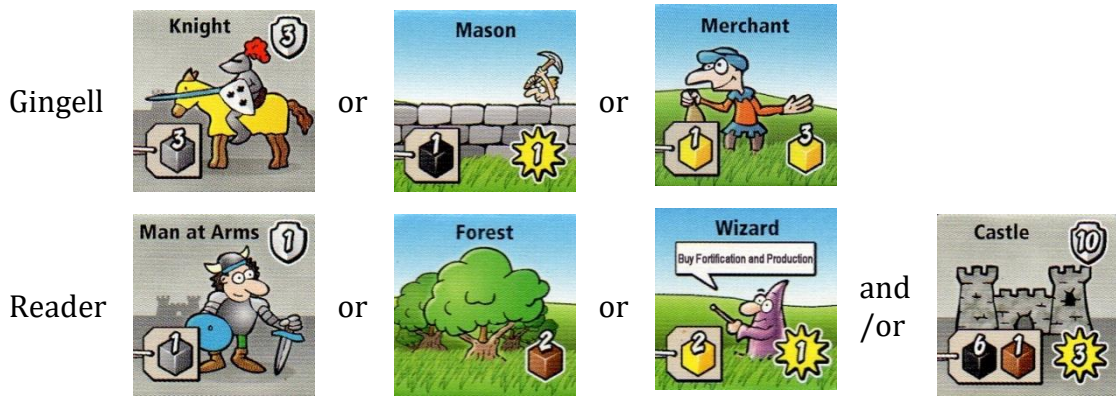
Baron	VPs	Food	Stone	Wood	Iron	Gold
Pitman	11	4	2	2	2	1
Gingell	13	5	5	1	7	7
Reader	11	3	0	1	0	8

THIS TURN:

1. Dice Rolls: The new dice rolls (players may activate ONE tile on or adjacent to the indicated square for EACH roll) are White 8 Blue 6, White 1 Blue 5.
2. Event Card: Rat Infestation: The Senior Player (Baron Reader) chooses a fiefdom to send the rats to. The owner of that fiefdom loses 1VP and feeding costs one extra food whilst the rats are present. Only the Pied Piper card can remove them.
3. Purchase Phase: For tiles available this turn, see below.
4. Baronial Actions: Baron Reader to choose two baronial actions.
5. Feeding: Baron Reader must feed his Fiefdom (one food per six tiles, round up)
6. Pass The Shield: Baron Pitman is the Senior Player next time.

TILES ON OFFER:





RAILWAY RIVALS DISCOVERY (RR2491XX) ROUND 12



We have reached the final round, and the map is revealed! As two of the players spotted it is the iconic Monty Python foot from the opening credits of the show.

ROGER close the gap on GET, much helped by two uncontested races. BHP enjoy another good round but are still too far behind to win, with Explorer not totally out of it.

Game end comments can be sent with your final round orders, or you can wait for the final outcome.

	GET Bob Gingell Purple	BHP-Billiton Brendan Whyte Black	ROGER Roger Trethewey Green	Explorer Chris Hibbert Yellow
29. Happy Valley (13) - Black Adder (Sp5)	JR not accepted	JR 10 [44]		JR 10 [44]
30. Pepperpots (53) - Argument (24)	10 [39] -1	20 [32] +1		
31. Fish Licence (66) - Election Night (54)			20 [14]	
32. Hell's Grannies (14) - Bruces (23)	20 [19] +3	10 [18] -3		
33. Chapman (31/32) - Red Dwarf (Sp4)			20 [34]	
34. Castle of Arrgh (44) - Hungarian Phrasebook (63)		JR 5 [61]	20 [48] -6	JR 5 [61] +6
35. Four Yorkshiremen (34) - Gilliam (41/42)				20 [20]

Last Turn	230	126	191	189
Points from Races	32	51	54	41
Builds	-4 -1 +2 +1	-4 +1 -2 +1	-4 -1 +1	-2 -1 -1
Points Total	260	173	241	226

BUILDS:

GET: (I17) - - G18 - - E17 [-1 black]

BHP: (Spanish Inquisition) - - - Q44 [-1 purple]; (P43) - Q43 [-1 purple]

ROGER: (Z14) - - - C41 - D41 [-1 black]

EXPLORER: (A51) - Z23 - Y24 [-1 purple, -1 green]

The public map so far is here <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/discovery.html>

Ferries owned: B81-Explorer; Y30-GET; Y35-Explorer; U14-BHP; B38-BHP; G30-GET; O16-ROGER; B16 - ROGER; E24 - ROGER; H16 - BHP

Races for round 13 (final racing round):

- | | |
|--|--|
| 36. Cheeseshop (43) - Jones (52) | 37. Undertakers (55) - Palin (11/12) |
| 38. Palin (11-12) - Tax-on-thingy (46) | 39. The Goodies (Sp1) - Idle (61) |
| 40. The Goon Show (Sp2) - Cleese (21/22) | 41. Embarrassment (65) - Anne Elk (36) |
| 42. Cleese (21/22) - Spam (33) | |

No further builds, so all that is left is to say **Ni!** to all companies.

RAILWAY RIVALS - NORTH KOREA (RR2495NK) - ROUND 9



Some closely-contested races this time saw KIT maintain their lead despite only running twice. KIM IL SONG is still looking strong and could have caught KIT with better rolls on round 17. BOINK's boom and bust continued as they top-scored, overtaking KP who had a quiet round. HERMIT KINGDOM also had modest earnings but held on to third place.

Notes: Some useful suggestions from Bob to improve the map, which I may not be able to apply if I'm in prison. Perhaps Kim Jong Un will pardon me if I promise to let him win future games.

	KP <i>Bob Gingell</i> Red	KIM IL SONG <i>Brendan Whyte</i> Black	BOINK <i>Michael Pargman</i> Green	HERMIT KINGDOM <i>Chris Hibbert</i> Purple	KIT <i>Brad Martin</i> Blue
15. Kimchaek (25) - China Liaoning (Sp1)	10 [39] -5	+5	20 [38] -1		+1
16. Hyesan (21) - Kusong (33)		20 [31] -2		+2	
17. Chongju (35) - China Jilin (Sp2)	10 [22] -6 -1 +3	0 [21] -1 -3		20 [20] +6 -3	+1 +1 +3
18. Onsong (11) - Nampo (61)		JR 5 [63] +4 -2	20 [58] -4 -1	JR 5 [63] -2	+1 +2 +2
19. Hamhung (52) - Sunchon (42)	15 [17] -3		15 [15] -1	+1 +3	20 [26]
20. Tockchon (41) - Sariwon (62)	10 [20] -2				20 [13] +2
21. Chongjin (16) - Sinpo (51)		20 [22] +1	10 [26] -1		

Last Turn	76	139	75	101	141
Points from Races	31	47	57	32	53
Builds	-6 +3 +1	-8 -3	-3 -1 -1	+1	
Points Total	105	175	127	134	194

Builds:

KP: (I38) - - - F39 - - - Ongjin

KIM IL SONG: (C69) - Sinpo; (J25) - - --- Anju ; Sinuiju - - Yongampo [-3 red]

BOINK: (N40) - N41 -- L42 [-1 red, -1 purple]

HERMIT KINGDOM: No builds

KIT: No builds

The fourth set of races are:

22. Kaesong (65) - Hamhung (52)

24. Kimchaek (25) - Pyongyang (45)

26. Pyonggang (66) - Russia (Sp3)

28. Sinuiju (32) - Pyongsong (43)

23. Chongjin (16) - Western Seaport (Sp4)

25. Anju (36) - Sinpo (51)

27. Chongjin (15) - Kanggye (23)

Enter up to 4 races and build up to 6 points of track.

The map so far is available at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2495NK.jpg>

RAILWAY RIVALS - WESTEROS (RR2516WR) - ROUND 3



The map is online at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/westerosrr.html>

This game at <https://variablepig.org/maps/rr/ingame/RR2516WR.jpg>

BIEN (second NMR, replacement wanted) continues to collect towns in the south and also starts a northwards spur. ROG decides to head north and can see Winterfell on the horizon. GREYJOY cops a few penalties in building west and east, but the results are satisfactory. Meanwhile, MEAD connects to Casterly Rock and Oldtown, and pushes north a little.

Note that whilst there is no rush to buy ships they do need to be bought in advance of the races they are used in. The legend says: *"as part of any build you can buy a ship at any port you connect to or are connected to"*. The legend also goes on to say you can buy any number of ships.

GREYJOY
Bob Gingell
Black

3a. [5] (J28) - - - G30 - G31 - F31

3b. [6] (F31) - E32 - Casterly Rock; (E32) - Lannisport; (M22) - - M24 - N24

3c. [6] (N24) - O25 - P24; (Moat Cailin) - --- P16

BANK: 38 -3[MEAD, E32] -7[ROG, M24] = 28

BIEN (NMR)
Christian Bien
(sub reqd.)
Yellow

3a. [5] (U47) - - LEMONWOOD - - SUNSPEAR (buy ship); (Oldtown) - D45

3b. [6] (D45) - THREE TOWERS; (Oldtown) - C44 - BLACKCROWN; I44 - - Starfall (buy ship); (Cider Hall) - J38

3c. [6] (J38) - - - J35 - - L34 - L33

BANK: 42 +6 +6 +3 +3 -5[ship] -5[ship] -4[MEAD, I44] -1[MEAD, J35] = 45

ROG
Roger Trethewey
Green

3a. [5] (O28) - - - - - O25

3b. [6] (O25) - - - L23 - The Twins - - L20

3c. [6] (L20) - - - - - L14

BANK: 38 +7[GREYJOY, M24] = 45

MEAD
Steve Guest
Orange

3a. [5] (I44) - - STARFALL; (I43) - H43; (Lannisport) - E32 - CASTERLY ROCK

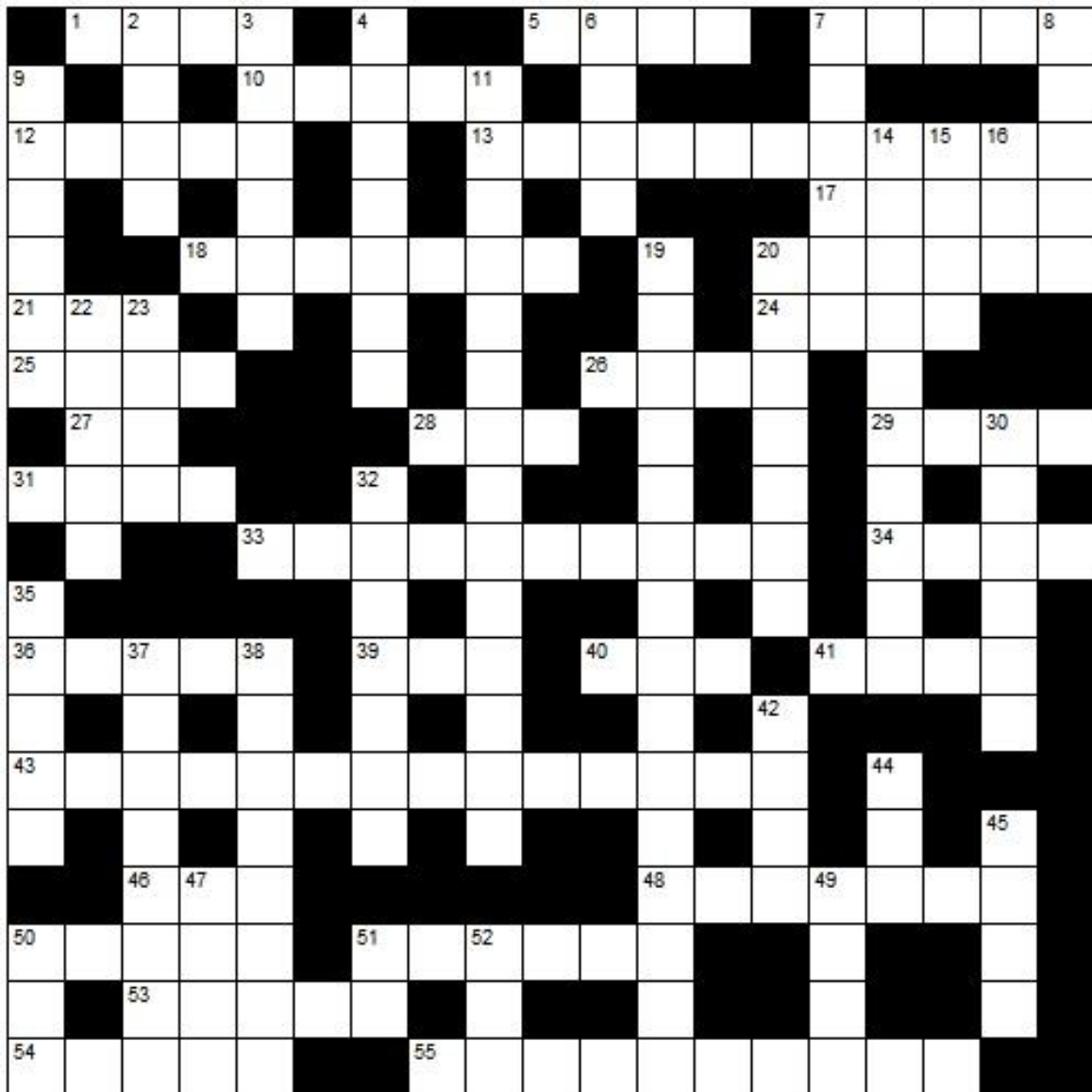
3b. [6] (H43) - - - E45 - Oldtown; (Stoney Sept) - - M30

3c. [6] (M30) - - M28; (M31) - - - Harrenhal; (E45) - D45

BANK: 34 +6 +6 -1[BIEN, H43] -1[BIEN, D45] +4[BIEN, I44] +1[BIEN, J35] +3[GREYJOY, E32] = 52

Ships in port: Sunspear: BIEN=1; Starfall: BIEN=1

Rolls for Round 4 are: 6, 3, 5



Clues marked T are theme clues and they may have no definition

Across

1. T: Variety of 35 favoured by 42? (4)
5. T: Lothario made from dust (4)
7. T: Gathering a type of dust? (5)
10. Riffs performed by band, Sky perhaps? (5)
12. Nationality of setter? (5)
13. T: Sharleen Spiteri's bra strap (5,4,2)
17. Casablanca actor name-checked by Stewart (5)
18. T: Dildo ma played with (3,5)
20. Learned man or idiot? (6)
21. Green elephant? (3)
24. Cough from helium in morning (4)
25. Deity who hurtth, we hear (4)
26. Nemo returns: It's a sign (4)
27. Smallish record (1,1)
28. T: Small French emperor ... (3)
29. ... exiled here, able to return (4)
31. T: Johnny, Pat or 7D (4)
33. T: Prisoner transport (5,5)
34. T: Run replaces wide in two-fingered chocolate bar (4)
36. First word in 7A (5)
39. Language named after first programmer (3)

40. T: Spirit found in beginning (3)
41. T: Second rate newspaper? (4)
43. T: Notice thespian played minor role in sea pollution (4,2,3,5)
46. Christmas humbug (3)
48. T: Clip onto onion: Float inside (7)
50. Web content about hospital making bacteria-killing virus (5)
51. T: Cue her mix-up (6)
53. T: One who dobs in dope (5)
54. Drug in old-fashioned step (5)
55. T: Raw clue ran amok: MAD! (6,3)

Down

2. T: Great River state (4)
3. T: Shaky h-hello to Bill's fave (2,4)
4. T: Power before start of day (7)
6. Put a strain on current to move plane on runway (4)
7. After a little time, saint's ring ascends to make money (6)
8. T: Halley's old electrical shop (5)
9. T: Brazilian driver not feeling well, we hear (7)
11. T: Banned episode of 24? (5,4,5)
14. T: Nothing in tennis landlord (4,6)
15. Small drink in shortened play (4)

16. Large eagle or little comedy partner of Eric (3)
19. T: Pen diameter able to be recalculated (4-7,4)
20. T: Early southern Africans eat Korean bar snack (3,4)
22. T: Fake cold warmth (5)
23. T: Messy poos (4)
30. T: Soon to be married woman takes head of groom (6)
35. T: Western at first followed by incomplete record of events (5)
37. T: Tease bishop in prison (8)
38. T: Unpleasant person hated his conversion (8)
42. Headless barbarian shed his seed on the ground (4)
44. T: British can (3)
45. T: Pans on head (4)
47. Indian city found in bag rack (4)
49. Melt Morse actor, audibly confused with 25 (4)
50. T: Hellish place for orchestra (3)
51. Snaky letter composed by topless prog rock band (2)
52. Vineyard(s) that can be grand or premier (3)

VARIABLE PIG (ANKAMALI)

Polar Pig #201

jim_reader"of"hotmail
.com

on-the-shelf vol
XVI , #70

off-the-shelf"of"Olympus
.net

The Celestial Steam
Locomotive #23

richard530smith"of"btinternet
.com

Here Be
Dragons #56

hbdragons"of"btinternet
.com

Jim Reader is the editor. **Richard Smith** does the printing and distribution from the UK and maintains the Variable Pig website <https://variablepig.org>. The site holds back issues, game rules and RR/BB maps.

The mailing list has been discontinued.

This is the last issue that will be sent out as a paper zine. The PDF file is suitable for booklet printing.

PIG WAITING LISTS

NEARLY THE BEST GAME IN THE WORLD – Richard Smith*, Chris Hibbert*, Alexandre Marcondes, 2 more wanted [*=willing to GM next game] (Here Be Dragons)

PARKRUN – All reader game, in progress (Here Be Dragons)

6-NIMMT! – Kevin Lee, Jim Reader, 2-3 more wanted (Here Be Dragons)

SPEEDWAY – Richard Smith, 3 more wanted (Here Be Dragons)

MAXIMISE – Richard Smith, Alexandre Marcondes, 2 more wanted (Here Be Dragons)

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS KENDO NAGASAKI – THREE WISHES VARIANT - anyone can join (on-the-shelf)

RAILWAY RIVALS – Westeros RR2517WR: Richard Smith, Jim Reader, Mike Townsend, Kevin Lee – game start (preliminaries) inside (GM Bob Gingell)

ONLY CONNECT – Game concludes. Anyone can join in (Celestial SL)

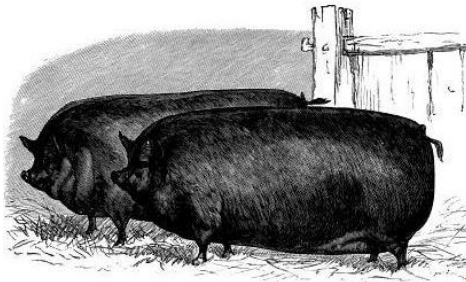
RAILWAY RIVALS PARTNERSHIP (new BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA map): Bob Gingell, Roger Trethewey, John Walker, 3 more wanted (Celestial SL)

FEUDALITY – Improved V2 rules – Bob Gingell, 3 more wanted (Celestial SL)

REPLACEMENTS NEEDED

RAILWAY RIVALS - Westeros RR2516WR - replacement for yellow (Celestial SL)

THE DEADLINE FOR VARIABLE PIG (SMALL BLACK or SUFFOLK) is
Friday 16th June 2023



The Small Black or Suffolk Pig is an extinct breed that went out of favour at the start of the 20th century. Its origins are uncertain, but it is thought to have been bred from the Essex Pig with other 'foreign' breeds by *Thomas Crisp* near Wickham Market. It was a small breed with pricked ears and a short, upturned snout similar to the Small White from Yorkshire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small_Black_pig