

That would be enough

This has been issue 248 of *To Win Just Once*, published 18th October 2024. It incorporates *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*, a game of *En Garde!*. Issues are published ten times a year, roughly every five weeks. © Paul Evans 2024

Deadlines

Railway Rivals and *Star Trader* are held over.

Orders for *LPBS* and any other contributions to Pevans by 25th October 2024.

(Next deadlines: 22nd/29th November, 3rd/10th January 2025)

Waiting lists

En Garde! new players are always welcome in *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*. You will need the rules to *En Garde!* in order to play: www.engarde.co.uk

Railway Rivals – Gerald Udowiczenko and Mike Dyer are on the list for a new four-player game: “Only two more needed for a game of *Railway Rivals!*”. (Working map and rules provided).

Star Trader – There’s room for one more player in the current game and the list for the next one starts with Mike Dyer. (Rules provided)

Credits

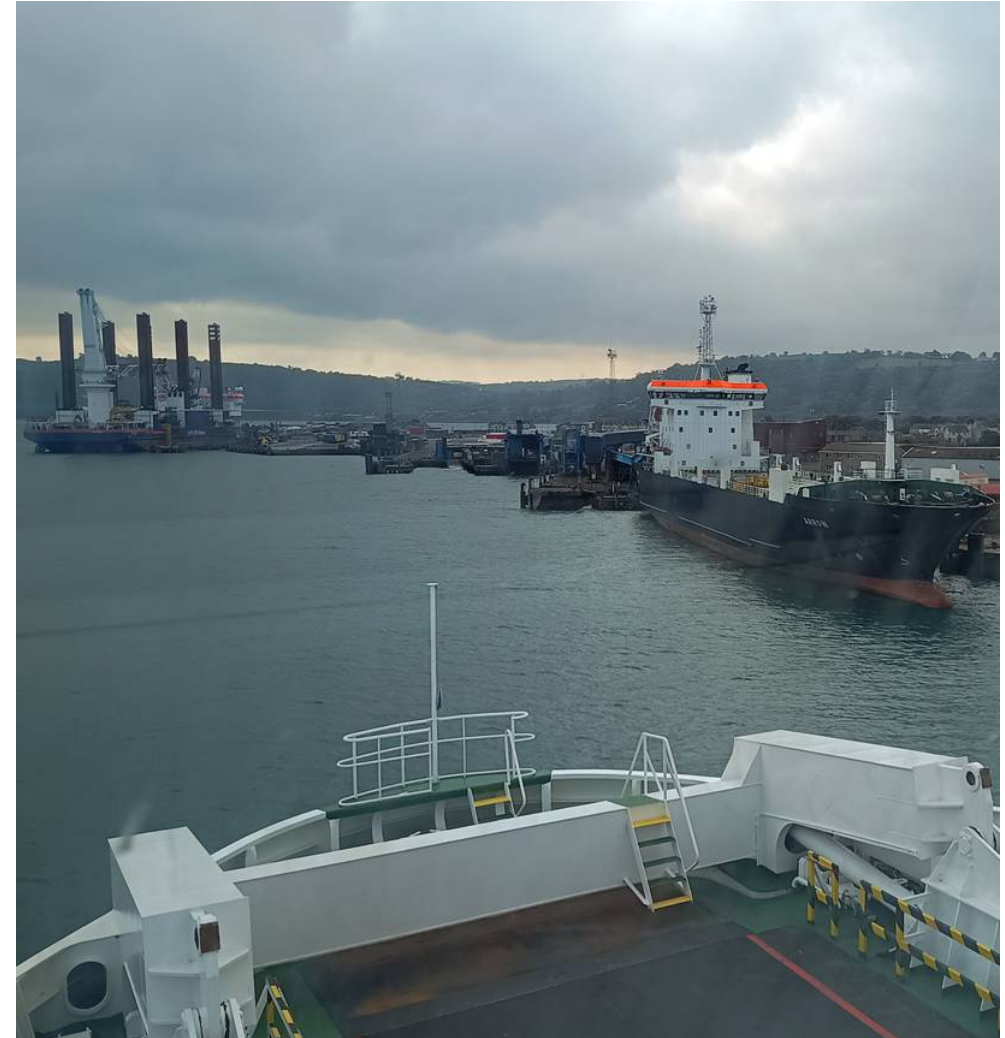
To Win Just Once issue 248 was written and edited by Pevans. The *LPBS* masthead (page 10) is by Lee Brimmicombe-Wood. The other drawing on page 10 and the one on page 14 are by Nik Luker. The drawings on pages. Game and book artwork is courtesy of the publisher. Pevans took the photos, except where noted, and played with Photoshop.

Printed and published by Margam Evans Limited
(A company registered in England and Wales, number 05152842,
Registered office: 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF)
Tel: 020 7183 6256, E-mail: TWJO@pevans.co.uk,
Web: www.pevans.co.uk/TWJO

To Win Just Once

(incorporating *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*)

I've been on holiday in Northern Ireland again – here's the view from the ferry as it approaches Larne harbour on a gray September afternoon.



There are more ships in port than usual. And that thin horizontal line protruding from the one on the left is a replacement blade for a wind turbine, seen edge on.

Issue 248: October 2024
(LPBS 385: March 1676)

£2.25 (where sold)
and online at www.pevans.co.uk/TWJO

Contents

Chatter.....	3
Letters.....	6
Reading Matter.....	7
Games Events.....	8
Subscribing to <i>TWJO</i>	9
Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses.....	10
March 1676 (384).....	10
Press	18
Points Arising.....	21
Announcements	22
Duels	22
New Characters.....	23
Tables.....	23
Other Appointments.....	23
Army Organisation and 1676's Summer Deployment.....	24
Brigade Positions	24
Frontier Regiments.....	24
Battle Results	24
Femmes Fatales.....	25
Regiments.....	25
The Greasy Pole	26
That would be enough	28
Deadlines	28
Waiting lists	28
Credits	28

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
TdLL	Sir Thomas de la Lune	11	35	Poor	Bdr-General		7	Hunt	5	Peter Card
SE	Stephane Etrange	11	23	OK	Lt.Colonel CPC/Hvy Brigade Maj.	3		Hunt	4	Neil Packer
CA	Come Asiouar	11	+ 43	OK	Lt.Colonel QOC	5		Hunt	4	Jacob Andersson
BN	Sir Beau Nidle	11	+ 36	OK	Major CPC/CPC Regt. Adjt.	2		Hunt	3	Paul Murphy
JdA	Jean d'Aubergine	10	+ 36	OK	Colonel 4A	3	Carole	Hunt	3	Paul Robbins
TPN	Thibault Pinot-Noir	9	19	OK	Major CPC	5		BG	3	Tim Rattray
HF	Hugo Furst	9	+ 51	OK	Lt.Colonel 13F	5	Violet	BG	2	Graeme Morris
ELF	Elroi le Flingue	9	+ 34	OK	Major GDMD/GDMD Regt. Adjt.	6	May	BG	4	Daniel Racke
BLC	Botte Le Chimiste	9	+ 29	OK	Major GDMD/Drgn Brigade Maj.	2	Eve	BG	4	Tym Norris
TB	Thierry Boule	8	+ 42	OK	Captain CPC	4	Belle	F&P	6	John Cooke
GdA	Grenville d'Arkrite	7	+ 38	Poor	Captain GDMD	4			5	Gerry Sutcliff
FdB	François de Blanchefort	7	+ 25	OK	Captain CPC	3		F&P	4	Peter Farrell
AA	Armand Alsace	7	+ 25	Comfy	B.Bdr-General 53F	8	Freda	F&P	4	Sebastian Emde
PPuf	Percival Puffington	7	+ 21	OK	B.Bdr-General PM	4	Viv	F&P	5	Tony Taylor
AH	Arent Hayes	6	+ 52	OK	Captain CPC	4		F&P	3	Mark Cowper
ID	Ian Dediette	6	+ 34	OK	Captain QOC	2		RP	2	Nik Luker
OLS	Octo Lucretius Souris	6	+ 19	Poor	Captain CPC	5		F&P	5	Olaf Schmidt
X2		4	Ret							Terry Crook
CPL	Charles PiedLuminaire	4	F	Poor	Major PLLD	5		RP	3	Nick Tyrrell
X4		4	Ret							Ben Edwards
PM	Pierre Mignon	3	4	Poor	Captain PLLD	4		RP	5	Steven Malecek
X3		3	Ret							Jonah Schmiechen
X1		2	Ret							Ray Vahey

An F under SPs means that the character was at the Front, RIP that he died. Ret that he retired.
+ against SL means it went up this month, - means it went down.
Cash: Poor = <500, OK = 500-1500, Comfy = 1500-5000, Wthy = 5000-10000, Rich = 10000-25000, Flthy = 25000+
Last seen is the lady the character was last seen with in public.
EC is Endurance Class: 1 = <60, 2 = 60-90, 3 = 91-120, 4 = 121-159, 5 = 160-200, 6 = 201+

The Greasy Pole

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank	Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
BRJS	Count Beau Reese Jean Seine	24-	3	Rich	B.Bdr-General	RFG/State Min.	14	Chris	Flr	4	Bill Hay
GdB	Count Greg de Bécqueur	24	69	Rich	B.Lt-General/1st Div	Commandr	13	Bette	Flr	5	Anthony Gilbert
BeV	Count Ben e'Volence	24	67	Comfy	B.Bdr-General	CPC/Hvy Brigadier	11	Lotte	Flr	3	Ash Casey
JdG	Count Jacques de Gain	23-	23	Fthty	General/Fld Army	Commndr	24			6	Ben Brown
JJ	Count Jean Jeanie	23	54	Fthty	General		32	Jacky	Flr	4	Andrew Kendall
CdP	Marquis Camille de Polignac	23	24	OK	Lt.Colonel RFG/FMshl's Aide		4		Flr	4	James McReynolds
BdLS	Count Bernard de Lur-Saluces	22	64	Fthty	Lt-General		19		Flr	3	Rob Pinkerton
TC	Count Terence Cuckpowder	22	53	Withy	B.Lt-General/City Mil.	Gov	7	Katy	Flr	6	Mike Dommett
HDS	Viscount Henri DuShite	21	F	Rich	B.Lt-General/1 F Brigadier		16		Flr	4	Dave Marsden
RS	Marquis Rick Shaw	21+	70	Withy	General/Chancellor		2	Thérèse	Flr	6	Charles Burrows
ZUT	Baron Xavier Ulric Turenne	20	44	Comfy	Lt-General/2nd Div	Commandr	4	Laura	Flr	1	Bob Blanchett
JIT	Viscount Justin Thyme	19	32	Rich	B.Bdr-General	QOC	16	Guinevere	Flr	2	Gerald Udowiczenko
LR	Marquis Louis Renault	18+	55	Withy	Lt-General/Min w/o Port		3	Maggie	Both	4	Roy Bleasdale
CdN	Sir Claude de Nord	17	28	Withy	B.Bdr-General	KM	4		Both	4	Andrew Larder
LSD	Sir Louis Severin Descartes	17+	76	Withy	B.Bdr-Gen	GDMD/Fld Army QM Gen.	4	Edna	Both	1	Chris Schotmann
NM	Sir Neville Moore	15	46	Withy	Captain RFG/C. Pnce Aide		1	Vera	Hunt	2	Cameron Wood
JH	Sir Jacques Hatt	15	38	Comfy	B.General		4	Cath	Both	3	Joel Halpern
ZvT	Sir Zeold von Tu	15	27	Comfy	B.Bdr-General	CG/Gds Brigadier	7		Both	3	Tim Macaire
MdG	Martin de Garnache	15+	45	Comfy	Major RFG/Gds Brigade Maj.		3	Chris	Both	4	Bill Howell
FXC	Sir Frank X Change	14	F	Comfy	Lt.Colonel KM		6		Both	4	Nigel Monaghan
AlCh	Marquis Alvin Charles	14+	70	Comfy	Lt.Colonel GDMD		12		Both	2	Graeme Wilson
HWB	Hector William Boone	13	40	Withy	Major RFG		5		Both	5	Paul Wilson
BS	Marquis Balzac Slapdash	13	39	Withy	Colonel DG		19	Alison	Both	4	Brick Amundsen
FS	Baron Felipe Savant	13	28	Comfy	Captain RFG		5	Fifi	Hunt	3	Bruno Giordan
HJ	Sir Hugh Jeneaux	13+	49	OK	Major ALC/Gen's Aide		7	Lois	Hunt	1	Jason Fazackarley
TTT	Tiny Thierry Toothpick	13+	40	Comfy	Captain RFG/LtGen's Aide (Fnt		5	Madelaine	Hunt	1	Jason Fazackarley
YS	Yve Stanbul	12+	37	OK	Captain QOC/LtGen's Aide (LR)		5	Sheila	BG	4	Pam Udowiczenko

Chatter

Our annual trip to Northern Ireland took up much of the second half of September and the first few days of October. I probably shouldn't have expected that I'd find time to put the 'zine together during that. There was just too much going on, not to mention the Guinness. I did at least manage the latest turn in *LPBS*, so what's in this issue of *TWJO* was published to players in good time.

Anyway, we had a couple of relaxing weeks. And then, right after we got back, youngest nephew came to stay. It's amazing how much upheaval it is when there's an extra person in the house! Especially someone who works shifts. For a start, we've had to clear out the spare room! And we should probably think about replacing the curtains...

In other news, Mr Dommett has been in hospital for a few days. I'm pleased to report that antibiotics and painkillers got Mike back on his feet and he's been home, recuperating, for a while now. However, he has not been able to adjudicate the *Star Trader* or *Railway Rivals* games for this issue.

All of which is why this issue is, a, very late and, b, very thin.

On the Antrim coast

Yes, Geraldine and I were in our usual holiday apartment, just above the Antrim coast road, with its panoramic view across Ballygally Bay and the North Channel (connecting the north end of the Irish Sea to the Atlantic). The Mull of Kintyre is lurking on the horizon, 20-odd miles away. Here's a 180° view from outside the apartments:



The weather was a bit stormy for a couple of days. But one of the delights of the view is watching showers approaching across the sea with, if the sun's in the right position, a rainbow. I don't think I've seen so many rainbows in such a short period as I do from the apartment.



Other things visible are swimmers (some of them sensibly wearing

The Ballygally 'bear' weathers the storm. No, I'm not tempted to go surfing - I'd spill my Guinness!



The iconic Ulster Fry. Or breakfast. This is a **small** one (though with an extra egg).

occasional gannet patrolling the bay, but we assume there weren't any fish to be had as we didn't see any of them dive. Other birds spotted include cormorants, crows, oyster catchers on the beach and the pied wagtails that enthusiastically poke about the grass cuttings after the lawn's been mowed.

We passed a happy couple of weeks eating (you get large portions in NI), drinking (mmm, Guinness!), seeing relatives and doing a little bit of sightseeing. And I got in a few games with nephew Tom, so expect to read about them in due course.

Travelling beers

Earlier in September, before heading off to Ireland, I drove my father to the southern end of the Wye Valley (across from Welsh Chepstow) for the funeral of my mother's older sister (his sister-in-law, my aunt). Doreen made it to an impressive 103 and was in decent health up to the last couple of years.

Dad was helping a local priest officiate at the funeral (he'll take any opportunity to dress up and perform Christian – Anglican, specifically – ritual), so we arrived early to scout out the lie of the land at the church (it's a steep walk up from the road with a view to the River Severn).

With plenty of time in hand, we adjourned over the hill (first time I've driven on narrow country lanes for quite a while!) to the village of Woodcroft and The Rising Sun. This is a local pub that dates back to 1858 at least and was saved by the

wetsuits), paddle-boarders, the occasional jet-ski and, against the horizon, passing ships (we have binoculars lined up by the window). Not to mention the local dolphins heading across the mouth of the bay. Missing, though, were the crab/lobster fishermen who used to retrieve their pots every few days.

I was surprised by how few birds were around for the first couple of days – apart from the large jackdaw that perched on our car once we'd unloaded. This changed after the stormy weather. The gulls were then out in force, strutting around the car park and squabbling over picnic remnants. There was the



Yes, it really is that steep!

Femmes Fatales

No	Name	SL	Attr	Lover
66	Morgane Le Fay	24	B	
67	Justine Caisse	22	I	
65	Therèse Le Vert	21	B/W	RS
7	Chris Pacquette	19		MdG
61	Bette Noire	19	I/W	GdB
64	Edna Bucquette	18	W	LSD
3	Kathy Pacific	17	B	
54	Madeline de Proust	17		TTT
35	Katy Did	16	I	TC
42	Maggie Nifisent	16	B	LR
55	Jacky Tinne	16		JJ
52	Guinevere d'Arthur	15	B/W	JiT
10	Frances Forrin	14	B	
48	Fifi	14	B/W	FS
62	Alison Wunderlandt	14		BS
11	Laura de Land	13		ZUT
26	Ella Fant	13	B	
27	Lucy Fur	13	B	
45	Cath de Thousands	13		JH
8	Lotte Bottle	12	B	BeV
17	Henrietta Carrotte	12	I/W	
28	Vera Cruz	12		NM
31	Bess Ottede	12	I/W	
1	Sue Briquet	11	B	
4	Anne Tique	11	W	
23	Agnes Sorel	11	I/W	
40	Sheila Kiwi	11		YS
63	Carole Singeurs	11		JdA
20	Emma Roides	10	I	
38	Pet Ulante	10	W	FS
43	Di Lemmere	10	I	
53	Angelina de Griz	10	B	
6	Viv Ayschus	9		PPuf
59	May Banquot l'Idée	9		EIF
19	Jenny Russe	8	W	
32	Sal Munella	8	W	
47	Eve Ningalle	8	I/W	BLC
34	Freda de Ath	7	W	AA
39	Thomasina Tancenjin	7	I	
5	Belle Epoque	6	B/I	TB
24	Violet Bott	6	I/W	HF
25	Lois de Lô	5	B	HJ

Mistresses in Paris. Attr(ibutes): B= Beautiful, I=Influential, W=Wealthy. Lover only if seen together in public this month.

Regiments												
	RFG	CG	KM	DC	OO	ALC	CPC	RM	CDMDPM	13F	PLLD	53F
Col	BRJS	ZVT+	CdN	BS	JiT	CA	BeV+		LSD	PPuf	N6	AA
LCol	CdP	N6	FXC	N4	N1+	N3	SE+		ALCh	HF	N1	N7
Maj 1	MdG+			N6			BN	N3+	ELF*			N3
Maj 2	HWB						TPN					
Capt 1	NM	N1	N3	N5	N4	N5	N3	N5	N6	N6	N2	N6+
Capt 2	FS	N6	N6*	N6	YS	N5	TB	N2	CdA	N4	N4	N5*
Capt 3	TTT	N1	N6	N4	ID	N5	FdB	N1	N6	N2*	PM	N2
Capt 4	N4	N1*		N6*	N5*	N4*		N5*	N2	N4	N4	N3*
Capt 5							OLS					
Capt 6							AH					

This table shows the ten senior positions in the 17 regiments by rank. Entries are Character abbreviations, N (+MA) for NPCs, blank for vacant. * shows the regiment adjutant; + indicates the reserve position of a character assigned elsewhere due to their appointment or brevet rank.

Army Organisation and 1676’s Summer Deployment

Field Army (Siege)	JdG/_/_/_/LSD
First Division (Siege)	GdB/N/N1
Guards Brigade (Siege) - RFG CG KM	
1st Foot Brigade (Siege) - RM PM	
Second Division (Siege)	ZUT/N/N5
2nd Foot Brigade (Siege) - 13F 53F	
3rd Foot Brigade (Siege) - 27M 4A	
Cavalry Division (Siege)	_/_/YS/N2
Horse Guards Brigade (Siege) - DG QOC	
Heavy Brigade (Siege) - ALC CPC	
Frontier Division (Siege)	N1/TTT/N3
Frontier Regiments (Siege)	
Dragoon Brigade (Siege) - GDMD PLLD	

Organisation and Deployment for the Campaign Season
with Army and Division posts (Commander/Aide/Adjutant/QMG)
Entries are ID for player characters, “N” (+ MA if needed) for NPC, __ for vacant

Brigade Positions

Guards Brigade	ZvT/_/_/MdG	Current CO/Aide/Brigade Major of each Brigade; entries are ID for player characters, “N” (+ MA if needed) for NPC, __ for vacant
Horse Guards Brigade	N4/N/N1	
Heavy Brigade	BeV/_/_/SE	
Dragoon Brigade	N4/N/BLC	
First Foot Brigade	HDS/N/N3	
Second Foot Brigade	N3/N/N6	
Third Foot Brigade	N3/N/N4	
Fourth Foot Brigade	N2/N/_/_	

Frontier Regiments

(Assault for Mar-May)				
Colonel	F1 N3	F2 N5	F3 N3	F4 N6 RNHB N5
Attached	1 Sqn PLLD		1 Bn KM	HDS
Also at the Front				

This table shows the Colonels of the Frontier regiments (“N” + MA for NPCs), together with the volunteers assigned for the season.

Battle Results

Frontier regiment 1: 3
Frontier regiment 2: 3
Frontier regiment 3: 3
Frontier regiment 4: 3
RNHB regiment: 5

community. It was closed in 2012 with a view to building houses on the land, but this was fought by the locals, who bought it in 2021 and re-opened it as a community pub after refurbishment.

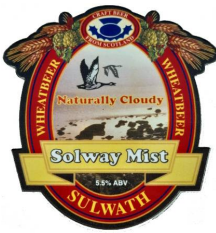


A substantial lunch was lubricated by a pint of Butty Bach (4.5% alcohol-by-volume) from the Wye Valley Brewery (www.wyevalleybrewery.co.uk). This was an unexpectedly marvellous beer: golden in the glass with a bit of fruitiness in the nose and a nice hit of hops after the initial malt. I’ll drink this one again, though I’m unlikely to find it locally!

The funeral was pretty much what you’d expect, but did end with an actual burial (cremation seems to be the thing these days). It was a chance to catch up with cousins – who I hadn’t seen since their father’s funeral (such is life). I also learnt some interesting facts about Doreen. For example, she got married during the Second World War (to Philip, almost a stereotypical RAF pilot), but the first her family knew about it was when she came home wearing the ring!

A couple of weeks later and Geraldine and I were driving to Northern Ireland. Via the ferry from Cairnryan (no longer Stranraer, historically the Scottish end of the crossing) to Larne. There are two reasons for this: Larne is where we want to be and driving lets us take lots of home comforts (and games!) with us. It’s a straightforward journey: north to the end of the M6 and turn left.

We break our journey along the way and, this year, stopped at the Inn on the Loch, Crocketford (www.theinnontheloch.co.uk). This is right on the A75 – the road that takes us through the Galloway countryside on the north coast of the Solway Firth to the ferry port – so I’ve noticed the Inn each time we pass. Apart from bedrooms overlooking the loch, it has a restaurant and bar and that’s where we ate.



There was no real ale at the bar, but they did have bottled beers from the local brewery, Sulwath Brewers (www.sulwathbrewers.co.uk) in nearby Castle Douglas. I tried a couple of these. First up was their wheat beer, Solway Mist (5.5% alcohol-by-volume). It’s a golden colour in the glass and, as I expect in a wheat beer, cloudy. There was a bit of spice in its aroma and an interesting smoky aftertaste, but I didn’t get the “hint of Seville orange” referred to in the brewers’ brochure.





There was a lot more smokiness in the porter I followed this with: The Black Galloway (4.4% abv). It’s a dark beer, of course, with a rich, smoky taste and chocolate overtones and went down a treat.

And then, two weeks of Guinness!

'Zine Poll 2024

The deadline for votes is midnight on 31st October 2024. All you have to do is list up to 10 'zines (minimum of one!), from “most” to “least” favourite. Votes should be sent by e-mail from the voter’s own account to alex (dot)

bokmal (at) googlemail (dot) com, or by post to Alex Richardson, 32 Newtown, Potton, Sandy SG19 2QH. More details are in the last *TWJO*.

Spiderwatch

I was expecting to return from our break to find the arachnids out in force. But they weren’t. Number of large house spiders with only five legs seen patrolling the living room floor (before holiday): 1. Number of small spiders guarding a corner of the bathroom ceiling: 1. Number of medium-sized spiders lurking by the kitchen window: 1.

Online stats

The PDFs of *TWJO* 247 chalked up 43 downloads in the last two days of August and a further 108 through September. Issue 246 was downloaded 130 times in August and 29 in September for a two-month total of 159. A further 27 downloads in August for *TWJO* 245, plus 29 in September, take it to 216 since publication.

Letters

I can’t tell whether Jonathan Palfrey is being sarcastic or not.

... congratulations on your bin-replacement efforts.

Okay, probably not as I’m sure Jonathan is lovely fellow who wouldn’t stoop to such a thing. He continues:

I’m no handyman myself, and I’m not sure that I’ve ever owned an electric drill. Though I can’t swear that we don’t have one in the house: sometimes my wife buys things that she thinks may come in useful someday.

Oh, we have lots of those! Starting with an electric drill (that one’s my fault).

I admit that I haven’t voted in the 'zine poll for many years, as I don’t think I know enough about the subject. Currently I think I receive only two zines, TWJO and Ode.

have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Balzac Slapdash (Rapier, adv.) and Ian Dediette (Rapier, 5 rests) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Claude de Nord (Sabre, Seconds TTT, adv.) and Zeold von Tu (Rapier, Seconds CA, 4 rests) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Beau Reese Jean Seine (Rapier, Seconds JJ, adv.) has cause with Martin de Garnache (Rapier, Seconds BRJS, 3 rests) for pinching Chris.

Armand Alsace (Rapier, adv.) has cause with François de Blanchefort (Sabre, 3 rests) for pinching Freda.

“adv.” shows who (if anyone) has the advantage of higher Expertise: his first duelling sequence need only contain six actions.

All duels listed above (including any to be voted on) must be fought next month unless held over (below). Orders conditional on a challenge being voted cause are acceptable.

New Characters

Ray Vahey gets the Second son of a small Merchant: Init SL 3; Cash 25; MA 1; EC 4 (X1).

Tables

Other Appointments

King’s Escort: Ensign N	Captain N
Cardinal’s Escort: Ensign N	Captain N
Aides: to Crown Prince NM	to Field Marshal CdP
Provincial Military Governors: N/N/N/N/N	
City Military Governor TC	Adjutant-General N
Inspectors-General: of Cavalry N	of Infantry N
Commissioner of Public Safety __	
Chancellor of the Exchequer RS (until end August 1676)	
Minister of Justice __	
Minister of War __	
Minister of State BRJS (until end January 1677)	

Shows who holds appointments outside military units (except Aides): ID for Characters, “N” for NPC, __ for vacant, “CPS” for extra posts held by the CPS

Orders (and press) should be emailed to lpbsorders@pevans.co.uk – you'll get an automated reply when the message arrives in my mailbox. Please give your name and your character's

name and specify actions in full detail. If you want a query answered before the deadline, please use LPBS@pevans.co.uk instead.

Announcements

All characters may use Influence (and/or a bribe) for or against these actions.

Hugo Furst asks NPC Colonel of 13th Fusiliers to resign

Tiny Thierry Toothpick asks NPC Colonel of Cardinal's Guard to resign

Tiny Thierry Toothpick asks NPC Major 1 of King's Musketeers to resign

Duels

Results of March's duels

Henri DuShite didn't turn up to fight Terence Cuckpowder and lost SPs.

Martin de Garnache declined to meet Thomas de la Lune as he was under half Endurance.

Camille de Polignac didn't turn up to fight Terence Cuckpowder and lost SPs.

Terence Cuckpowder (with ZUT, gains 1 Exp) beat Martin de Garnache (with BRJS).

Grudges to settle next month

Alvin Charles (Sabre, Seconds HWB) and Hugh Jeneaux (Sabre, Seconds TB & BN, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Balzac Slapdash (Rapier, adv.) and Come Asiouar (Sabre, Seconds ZvT, 5 rests) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Balzac Slapdash (Rapier, adv.) and Justin Thyme (Sabre, Seconds ZUT & RS, 5 rests) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Balzac Slapdash (Rapier, adv.) and Yve Stanbul (Sabre, Seconds LR, 5 rests) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Grenville d'Arkrite (Sabre, 2 rests) and Hugh Jeneaux (Sabre, Seconds TB & BN, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Hugh Jeneaux (Sabre, Seconds TB & BN) and Louis Severin Descartes (Sabre, Seconds JH & ELF) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Armand Alsace (Rapier, 1 rests) and Ben e'Volence (Sabre, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Armand Alsace (Rapier, adv.) and Octo Lucretius Souris (Sabre, 3 rests)

That's plenty: vote now, Jonathan. You know which one to put top! Moving on to reading matter.

I'm a bit shocked that you haven't read anything by S. M. Stirling, as he's one of my favourite living authors, along with Lois McMaster Bujold and Ben Aaronovitch. Mind you, ... there are large chunks of Stirling's prolific output that I haven't read and don't intend to read.

You're not selling it, Jonathan.

I think these are the two I'd recommend to start with. The Peshawar Lancers (2003) [is] a colourful and exciting adventure story set in India, in an alternative world in which cometary fragments fell from the sky in 1878, devastating Europe and North America, and causing a 'nuclear winter' over much of the world. In this world, the British Empire relocated its headquarters to Delhi, and after some struggle managed to retain its position as the leading world power.

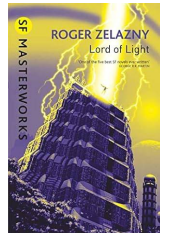
Island in the Sea of Time (1998) is the first book of a big trilogy, an ambitious epic in which the island of Nantucket with all its inhabitants is cast back in time to 1250 BC. Fortunately for them, they also get a sailing ship, the Eagle, a real ship in our world, which was passing by at the time and gets cast back with them. The transplanted Americans first struggle to survive, but gradually become a world power, encountering many other peoples of that time, some of whom become allies and others enemies.

Stirling provides free samples of his books on his website. For example, you can read the first six chapters of [both] The Peshawar Lancers and Island in the Sea of Time at smstirling.com/books

Okay, those do sound interesting, so I guess I'd better check out the samples.

Reading Matter

"His followers called him 'Mahasamatman' and said he was a god. He preferred to drop the 'Maha' and the 'atman' and called himself Sam. He never claimed to be a god, but then he never claimed not to be a god." Yes, my latest retro reading has been Roger Zelazny's *Lord of Light*. And that paragraph sends a shiver down my spine every time. It is a brilliant novel, not least because Zelazny has concocted a terrific fantasy story with a science fictional rationale. Plus his writing is, as always, delightful.



So, we have a planet where Hinduism is real. People are divided into castes, but reincarnation can elevate them after a worthy and pious life. Or embody them in an animal if they went the other way. It's a mediaeval society and the Gods take a

dim view of progress – whether it’s the printing press or the flush toilet. And by dim view, I mean death, fire and destruction. Not necessarily in that order.

What is clear right from the start is that all the supernatural stuff is a “sufficiently advanced technology”, to borrow from Arthur C Clarke. Reincarnation uses machines to transfer people’s minds into artificially grown “mindless bodies” (side-stepping my objection to the process). The Gods have been produced by genetic tweaking and training and enhance their abilities with sophisticated machinery. All of this is the brainchild of the scientific and engineering genius who has become Yama, Lord of Death. Most importantly, the Gods are the crew and colonists of the starship that brought humanity to this planet. And Sam is one of them.

As we discover, Sam led the wars against the planet’s original inhabitants through many incarnations before retiring, so to speak, to live as a human. The novel is actually a series of stories, starting when Sam-as-Lord-Siddharta discovers the autocracy that Heaven has become. The Gods are imposing their will on the planet’s inhabitants through their control of the reincarnation process. The following stories show how Sam opposes them, initially by setting himself up as Buddha to start a competing religion. Then by gathering allies to confront Heaven.

Each time Sam is defeated. But each time Heaven is weakened, culminating in a final showdown. However, this is not the expected confrontation. Instead, Sam and his allies side with Heaven against the planet’s Dark Lord and his zombie armies. Zelazny’s knowing irony here is that the big bad is the starship chaplain, who hated the adoption of Hinduism and wants to replace it with Christianity.

The whole thing is a brilliant romp with some truly memorable characters. I found it thrilling to re-read Zelazny’s prose after so many years and really must go back to some of his other stories. Let me see... *Jack of Shadows* for a start and probably the Amber series (the first five at least).

I cannot recommend *Lord of Light* enough and it seems I’m not alone in this. The e-book I picked up is the SF Masterworks edition and has an afterword from another fan: George R R Martin. (We have another thing in common: we were both subscriber to the SF Book Club, back in the day – a bit further back in his case.) There’s also an interesting introduction that points out that the novel was first published in 1967, and is thus part of “Western infatuation with everything that India represents” and especially religion (cf the Beatles).

Games Events

Tringcon pops up again (it happens twice a year) this Saturday, 19th October. It’s at the Millennium Hall in Marsworth (which is near Tring in Hertfordshire). This is a casual, open gaming event run by and for enthusiasts. There’s a little more detail to be found on the website – tringcon.org – where you can also book a place.

But the wound from a particular lady
left across my heart.
I believe our honour was now
satisfied, and in the past
So, I included both on my following
guest list.
Unfortunately, after when we all next
met
I felt obliged to propose a more
gentlemanly etiquette.
My phrasing caused some umbrage,
in fact, quite a rage
And now claims that some parts of
mine are a shade of beige
When my peers like me did tend to
disagree

That my behaviour would be
considered ungentlemanly
To his credit, he has trained most
hard
With thrust, lunge, and taking of
each guard.
So, if compelled to defend my honour,
I am sure it is clear
That my rapier would not instil in
him any state of fear
This thought, a question does inspire
When so deft of blade, how much
courage does it require?

† LR

Points Arising

Next deadline is 25th October

My apologies for not (re-)publishing the Chess tournament rules last time. Essentially, players roll on the Battle Results Table with the better BR winning the game. (This does produce plenty of ties, which fits with it being a Chess tournament, I think.)

The Jacques As Memorial Stakes will take place in week 4 of April. This is a horse race sponsored by Prinny in memory of the late Minister of State. The prize pot will be 2,000 Crowns this year. If in doubt, check the Horse Race rules in the LPBS house rules.

Absent friends

I still have not had a word from Ben Edwards, Jonah Schmeichen, Terry Crook or Ray Vahey. The latter two’s subs have run out as well and I have removed all four characters. I’m happy

to re-instate any of them, but remain concerned at the lack of response.

Stop Press: Ray has got back to me and I’ve set up a new character for him.

I gave Neil Packer and Tim Rattray the benefit of the doubt and floated SE and TPN.

Notes

The *En Garde!* rules are available to LPBS players at a reduced rate: see any month’s Points Arising page at www.pevans.co.uk/LPBS.

There’s an email group for *En Garde!* players and GMs, providing a forum to swap stories and ideas. Sign up at: <https://groups.io/g/EnGarde>

Reminders: It is worth sending orders in even if they’re late: I may be able to action the orders and should be able to use any press. It also reassures me that you’re still there.

Sir Neville Moore,
I very much enjoyed your chess tournament this month, yet it made me think.
You are Aide to the Crown Prince, but seem to be hesitant to enjoy the hospitality of His Excellence.
Maybe you could introduce him to me at some point, especially next month when the big race is coming up.
Looking forward to your reply,
† Sir Louis Severin Descartes
BBG GDMD, Quartermaster General

To Colonel Change who, with Frances, graciously invited me to attend Hunter’s in January. Thank you, good Sir, for a memorable time.
† Grenville d’Arkrite
Captain GDMD

To: Sir Claude de Nord
Cher Claude,
My old friend, it’s ridiculous that we seem to have soured our previously strong friendship all because of the small oversight I made in courting a certain lady away from you. As I said previously, it was all a simple mistake.
How’s about we have a drink or two to put the past behind us, eh? That must sound like a great idea and we could meet up at your club. Oh, wait... you don’t seem to be a member of one any more after ceasing as CPS! Surely you must have realised that... no?! My God, man, you’re more of a fool than I believed you to be! May I suggest you join a Club asap and then send me an invite.
Jesus, the people I have to deal with!
† Captain Toothpick
Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety

Poetry Corner
(All signed poetry submissions gain their author at least 1 SP)

Why volunteer
To support the Frontier
When you could be in Paris?
And what of those
Courting with a rose
Then facing a quick parry?
Well, at the front
We should share the brunt;
When we return we can party.
† FXC

In Paris, a general so bold,
On a steed that was hefty and old,
His chances were slim,
He raced on a whim,
To impress his dear Bette, so we’re told.
† Greg

My fickle mistress pilfers reason
Intangible fingers lighten my mind
Cry out! Cry out!
As she rises, so must I follow
Across the dark side of the world.
† TdIL

The colour of my liver may be in doubt,
But being inside suits me better than without.
He forgets that when my honour was clearly at stake
Then, I willingly kept my dawn appointment with my fate.
The merchant of steel charged me as I expected he would
In exchange for a scar, a pint of my blood
It was not this that genuinely caused me hurt

And then it’s time for **MidCon**. 1st-3rd November 2024 at the Derby Mickleover Hotel in Mickleover (two miles from Derby city centre). My notes are in the box below and I’ll be there on Thursday evening, ready to start Friday morning.

The following weekend, 7th-9th November, is Ravencon at the Raven Hotel in Hook, Hampshire. I don’t know that much about this event, but it seems to have an emphasis on (board) wargames. There is accommodation at the hotel and day guests are welcome. Chris Geggus is the organiser and you can reach him at geggus (at) sky (dot) com

Swiggers: games club that meets on Wednesday evenings (co-ordinated on WhatsApp) upstairs at The Shipwright’s Arms, 88 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TF (next to London Bridge station) – though without me these days. For more info, see www.pevans.co.uk/Swiggers or the BGG Guild at boardgamegeek.com/guild/1672

UK Games Expo: 30th May – 1st June 2025 at the NEC. This is a public event that showcases games of all sorts with a huge trade hall plus demonstration and participation games and guests. For gamers there are lots of tournaments and open gaming. For details see www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk

Spiel: *the* board games event of the year. October 2025, at the Messe (Exhibition Centre) in Essen. Contact Friedhelm Merz Verlag, Postfach 210250, Bonn, 53157 Germany or see www.spiel-messe.com/en

MidCon: 1st-3rd November 2024 at the Derby Mickleover Hotel in Mickleover (two miles from Derby city centre). **MidCon** is a friendly board games convention, now in a comfortable modern hotel. It’s largely open gaming, but the new website allows games to be scheduled in advance – useful if you want lots of players for something. There’s also a Bring ’n’ Buy and a quiz on Saturday night. See midcon.org.uk

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Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses

Being a correspondence game of *En Garde!* run by Pevans since April 1986 and now published as part of *To Win Just Once*.

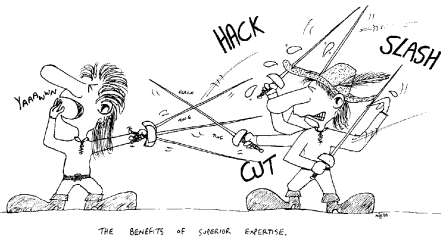
New players are always welcome. If you'd like to play, you'll need to subscribe to *TWJO* (see page 9). You will also need (access to) a copy of the published rules to *En Garde!* (see www.engage.co.uk).

**Orders for April 1676 to Pevans at
180 Aylsham Drive, UXBRIDGE
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lpbsorders@pevans.co.uk
by 25th October 2024**



March 1676 (384)

Spring arrives in Paris with chilly showers and a few duels. Most of them involve big man Terence Cuckpowder, who seems to have gone out of his way to provoke people last month. Terence chooses to take on Camille de Polignac first, but the Marquis doesn't see the point of being pummelled by the bigger, stronger, more skilled Count ("I'm not obediently lining up to get turned into cat food," as he puts it) and cries off.



Martin de Garnache is made of sterner stuff, it seems, and turns up for his match. Despite being the smaller, weaker and less-skilled duellist on the field. What's more, he carries a rapier against the big man's sabre. At least Martin has Minister of State Beau Reese Jean Seine as second - Xavier Ulric Turenne performs the same

service for Terence. The rapier man starts with a furious lunge, but Terence parries the opening lunge. He tries to dodge the cut, but mis-times it and takes the first blow. With Martin struggling to recover his ground, it's now all Terence. He hits his opponent with a brace of slashes and M Garnache surrenders.

Third up should be Henri DuShite. However, despite using a cutlass, he is of the same mind as the Marquis de Polignac and finds better things to do. This leaves Martin's second duel, against Thomas de la Lune. This prospect is too much for Garnache. He follows doctor's orders and declines the encounter.

Party 1st Week of April

To celebrate the rising of our Lord, Marquis Rick Shaw invites all of SL 17 and above together with their mistresses to his club in the first week of April.
All carousing posts will be paid.

Gentlemen of Paris,

During week 2, Miss Nifisent and I will again be dining at my club and be delighted to receive gentlemen and their ladies for discussion on the finer points of horse racing and chess gambits; refreshments at my expense. Unfortunately, this invitation does not include members of the Dragoon Guards as they continue to try and put holes in my aide, Captain Stanbul.
† Baron Louis Renault

Personal

Treacherous Theism and Treason?

Is it a coincidence that the men calling themselves "Tangerines" seen in and around Paris in recent months are clad in orange?

We are currently at war with the House of Orange, led by fervent Calvinist Prince William.

Could it be that these orange men are Huguenot spies and saboteurs?

If so, their close association with M Toothpick should be of concern.

The man is a Captain in the Royal Foot Guards and therefore well placed to do ill to both the King and Minister of State.

Hey Al – You addressed the letters wrong again: Marquis not Baron.

† Hec

Hey Hec – Thanks. I will change my letterhead AGAIN...

To our Noble Colonel now Brigadier Descartes. Congratulations on your elevation, Sir. Thank you for your prime involvement in the development of the regiment.

† Grenville d'Arkrite, Captain GDMD

To Viscount Thyme,

My grateful thanks to you, Sir, for accepting my humble self into the ranks of the QOC and for the timely and generous monetary gift which funded the purchase of my first horse. I look forward to serving for the glory of the regiment and for France!

Humbly yours, † Dediette

Jean d'Aubergine looked at the carefully arranged line of boots at the doorway of his garret. "Not a single mated pair," he mourned aloud. "Surely, I can't have lost a whole half dozen riding boots? And what poor luck, that I would not have the fortune to at least have lost a single matching set." He gazed out the window at the setting sun. "Under cover of darkness and in the shadows, Count Beau Reese Jean Seine might not notice the twinning," he reasoned aloud in the slow voice of someone doing strenuous calculation. "One brown, one black, at my feet; all the same in the darkness..." He smiled in relief. "But surely Carole will see; she has an eye for such things." With that, the young Colonel of the 4th entered the streets of Paris in stockinged feet and, with a small sack of silver, used the remaining hour of light to hunt for footwear.

With the Frontier regiments

Assaulting Dutch positions this month is tough work for the Frontier regiments and they make little headway. The volunteers - PLLD Major Charles PiedLuminaire, attached to regiment 2 with his squadron, and KM Lt-Colonel Knight Frank X Change, whose battalion is with regiment 3 - keep out of the way and survive happily. The only reward is a decent Mention in Despatches for Charles (“Wasn’t he supposed to be leading his men?”).

Meanwhile Brevet Lt-General Henri DuShite is with the Royal North Highlanders and picks up a Mention as well (“You’d think he’d have his full Brigade”). ❖

Press

Announcements

Aide sought for 2nd Division Commander for Siege Duty. Shovel Supplied. Bullet Dodgers need not apply.
Apply urgently with Particulars to Baron ZUT.
(Vacancies will be created for candidates.)

Seeking Aide and officers and men for Royal Foot Guards. † BRJS

** Join the QOC **

Gentleman of Paris, if you are new to the city or are looking for a new Regiment, then you can do no better than join the Queen’s Own Carabiniers.
Please contact me for more details, and some financial help is available.
† Viscount Thyme

Matters of Honour

Arent looks up from his broom to see Octo chewing on a twig he had missed. “I’m always in trouble,” he sighs. “The boss wants this courtyard clean as his dinner plate, yet all this toing and

froing, horses in and out, it would seem something is up. What a mess: just swept that area, now look at it. Anyway, mustn’t grumble. I would welcome your support for the next pickle I get myself into and have to draw blades.”

To all the Officers of the GDMD. The Colonel has made an excellent point... why are so many of us not acting as seconds to their comrades? I offer my services, gentlemen, and would welcome similar arrangements with my fellow officers.

† Grenville d’Arkrite
Captain GDMD

Social

Jacques As Memorial Stakes

His Highness the Dauphin is pleased to sponsor the fifth annual horse race in memory of the late Minister Jacques As. This takes place in week 4 of April and the Crown Prince is pleased to offer a prize fund of 2,000 crowns. **Those taking part in the race** are welcome to Toady to His Highness afterwards with their ladies.

A new Minister

Having refreshed his appointment of Minister of State last month, it’s past time that Count Seine plugged the gaps in his Government. The vacancies for Commissioner of Public Safety and Minister of Justice are of long standing. Does he fill them? No. Instead he makes Louis Renault a Minister without Portfolio, His Majesty following up with the title of Marquis. This does mean command of Cavalry Division is now vacant, which will no doubt provoke some competition before the summer campaign.

After repaying his hefty debt to the moneylenders, former Minister of War Ben e’Volence turns his thoughts to the summer. He is keen to have command of the Brigade in which he serves: the Heavy cavalry. He calls in a few favours to help him secure the position, influence that becomes overwhelming when he is backed by Minister Seine and Greg de Bécqueur. And a third Ministerial position is now vacant - though this one is not in Seine’s gift.

Pierre Mignon is a new face in Paris and applies to join the Princess Louisa Light Dragoons. He is successful and purchases the rank of Captain. This maintains the number of Captains in the PLLD as Charles PiedLuminaire buys his way up the ranks to Major - a move in part financed by a loan from Baron Marquis Louis Renault. Charles has had enough of Paris and promptly volunteers the squadron he now leads for active service. Pierre is thankful that he’s been assigned to second squadron and can still carry out his plans for the month in Paris.

Speaking of volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Frank X Change takes his battalion of the King’s Musketeers to support the Frontier regiments. While Henri DuShite eschews the company of his Brigade: he sees his place being with the Highlanders.

Of horses, bishops and pawns

March starts with the first part of Beau Reese Jean Seine’s impromptu “avoiding Royal displeasure party”, though hosting such lavish revelry may not be the best way of evading His Majesty’s attention. As you’d expect when the Minister of State is involved, a lot of people turn up. Some of them, such as Jean d’Aubergine, wearing “their best”. The event provokes a few arguments. Sir Hugh Jeneaux is the sole member of Archduke Leopold’s Cuirassiers to attend and thus gets to exchange challenges with Grand Duke Max’s Dragoons - he marks his ‘dance card’ accordingly. That’s Captain Grenville d’Arkrite, Lt-Colonel Alvin Charles and their CO, Louis Severin Descartes. This is not the only 3:1 quarrel. Colonel Balzac Slapdash of the Dragoon Guards is on the wrong end of the attentions of the Queen’s Own Carabiniers. In this case their commander, Justin Thyme, plus Lt-Col Come Asiouar and Captain Yve Stanbul.

Some of these challenges are repeated at the end of the month when Beau hosts the second part. Camille de Polignac takes advantage of being in the Fleur to indulge in his favourite hobby: gambling. On his first visit to the tables, he loses

Who was where – at the Fleur dy Lys

Where	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Fleur de Lys	TC + Katy JiT + Guinevere BRJS + Chris . ZUT + Laura . NM + Vera . JJ + Jacky . BS + Alison . HJ + Lois . HF + Violet . TB + Belle . TTT + Madelaine . YS + Sheila . HWB . AH . AICH . JdA + Carole . RS + Therèse . LSD + Edna . GdB + Bette . GdA . CA . CdP(G) . JH + Cath . LR + Maggie	RS + Therèse	RS + Therèse GdB + Bette . ZUT + Laura	TC + Katy BRJS . ZUT + Laura . NM + Vera . JJ + Jacky . BS + Alison . HJ + Lois . HF + Violet . TB + Belle . TTT + Madelaine . HWB . AH . AICH . JdA + Carole . MdG + Chris . RS + Therèse . LSD + Edna . GdB + Bette . CA . CdP(G) . JH + Cath . LR + Maggie
Outside Fleur	FdB (LSD)			
Shows who was in or outside a club: . = Toadying to character above; (G) = Gambled; CP = Crown Prince; (id) = expected host.				

Who was where – round and about

Where	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Bawdy houses	BdLS + FC	AH + FC CA + FC; Mug-205	HWB + FC AICH + FC	TdLL: Mug-7 OLS + FC ID + FC CdA + FC
Practising	BN - Sabre FS - Rapier BLC - Rapier JdG - Rapier BeV - Sabre	BN - Sabre HJ - Rapier TB - Sabre PPuF - Rapier JdG - Rapier BRJS - Rapier JH - Sabre BdLS - Dagger	BN - Sabre HJ - Rapier TC - Sabre TB - Sabre ZvT - Rapier PPuF - Rapier JdG - Rapier JdA - Rapier BRJS - Rapier BeV - Sabre CA - Rapier JH - Sabre BdLS - Dagger LR - Rapier	BN - Sabre JiT - Sabre PPuF - Rapier JdG - Rapier AA - Rapier PM - Foil BeV - Sabre BdLS - Cutlass
Shows who was with a mistress or on a doorstep: Out = Mistress with current lover; I = Indiscreet (+ mistress name); EX-id = Pinched from former lover.				

Who was where – with the ladies				
Where	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Bawdy houses	CPL + FC			
FC = Female Company; Mug n = Mugged & amount lost; (G) = Gambled;				
Katy				TC succeeds ex-MdG
Eve	BLC succeeds	Out	Out	Out
Alison		BS at home		Out
Morgane		TC succeeds ex-CdP		
Shows who was with a mistress or on a doorstep: Out = Mistress with current lover; I = Indiscreet (+ mistress name); EX-id = Pinched from former lover.				

Arent’s reward for winning his first game is to meet top seed Jean. Who crushes him with clever use of his pawns - “it’s a foot soldier-orientated approach,” he explains. Yve takes on Elroi. Their first game is drawn, but Elroi forces in a win in the second. Another terrific effort from Louis sees him draw with second seed Balzac, only to lose the re-match. And Hugo goes down to Justin. In the third round, Elroi holds Jean to a draw twice, but loses their third match. The second table also goes the way of the superior seed, though Justin does draw his first game with Balzac. Thus it is the top two seeds who contest the final, but Balzac’s poor performance gives Jean victory - that’s a QOC beating a DG, the subject of yet more regimental squabbles. A close game for third sees Justin just edge out Elroi.

Sadly, Yve Stanbul’s Easter Egg Hunt is sparsely attended, despite the lure of chocolate eggs scattered throughout the club’s premises. The lack of Easter bonnets on the other ladies means Yve presents the bottle of champagne for best bonnet to his own mistress, Sheila Kiwi.

There are rich pickings for the footpads this month when they target Come Asiouar. He’s brought a lot of cash to the red light district - what did he have in mind? And Thomas de la Lune has a few crowns left as he doesn’t bother with any of this companionship nonsense on his visit.

three 600-crown wagers, cuts a fourth when the house rolls high and wins just one. That’s a substantial loss. He still has the cash to finance an extravagant gift (gold-plated roses?!) for his courting. When he returns later, he only loses two of his five wagers. However, he cuts the other three and takes an even bigger financial hit. Zeold von Tu joins him at the gaming tables at the end of the month, staking 500 crowns a time. He loses his first bet, but presses on. His second bet is cut and he loses the third to finish seriously out of pocket.

In between these high-profile affairs, we have the horse race sponsored by Louis Severin Descartes. The initial favourites are Alvin Charles and Ben e’Volence, while their small stature means Justin Thyme, Louis Severin Descartes and “Tiny” Thierry Toothpick are also strong contenders. Thierry has the vociferous support of his “Tangerine” crew now that he’s paying them again. And it is these five who are at the front after their horses negotiate the first bend.

On the back straight it is speed that matters. As the horses are fresh most show a good turn of speed. Apart from Balzac Slapdash, Octo Lucretius Souris, Terence Cuckpowder and Yve Stanbul, whose slow mounts leave them at the back - though Balzac has his nose in front. Just ahead of them are Claude de Nord, Camille de Polignac, Grenville d’Arkrite and Hector William Boone. Then it’s Botte le Chimiste, Felipe Savant, Louis Renault (getting mud all over his nice new coat) and Neville Moore. Xavier Ulric Turenne has his nose (well, his horse’s nose) in front of them and just behind Elroi le Flingue, Greg de Bécqueur and Zeold von Tu. Ben is in the lead as Alvin’s horse is not up to full speed, putting him level with Justin and Louis SD. Ian Dediette and Thierry are between them and Greg’s group.

Around the final turn they go and apply the spurs for the dash along the final straight. It seems most of the horses are now winded as they don’t have the same turn of speed. Greg’s steed pins back its ears and charges flat out. As they pass Ian, his horse matches them and together the two pound for the finish, passing

Who was at the Prix d’Or	
Where	Week 2
Prix d’Or	LSD
	. ZUT + Laura
	. NM + Vera
	. JJ + Jacky
	. BS + Alison
	. TC + Katy
	. HF + Violet
	. FS + Pet
	. JiT + Guinevere
	. TTT + Madeline
	. ZvT
	. YS + Sheila
	. HWB
	. OLS
	. AICH
	. BLC + Eve
	. AA
	. EIF
	. BeV + Lotte
	. GdB + Bette
	. ID
	. CdN
	. GdA
	. CdP
	. LR + Maggie
Shows who was in or outside a club: . = Toadying to character above	

one, two... loads of racers. However, Ben is still ahead of them, despite his horse faltering, and these three reach the finish line in a dead heat!



A length behind the winners and out of the prizes are the slowing Alvin (his horse slows to a halt and collapses, the first casualty of the race), Louis SD and Thierry, joined at the finish by Elroi, whose mount isn't quite so tired. Just behind this group are Justin - whose mount can only walk - and Zeold. Well adrift, Claude and Yve (finally showing some pace and thanking his boss, the Marquis Renault, for paying his entry fee) lead the pack of also-rans. Balzac and Xavier (another walking horse) are next, then Botte, Camille, Felipe, Grenville, Louis R, Neville and Octo. Felipe and Neville's steeds are two more that barely make it over the line and pistol shots mark their final end. Terence is dead last, the only man Hector managed to beat, despite his initial turn of speed.

As the riders and audience (including Jean Jeanie, who thinks watching safer than participating after losing a horse at the last race) gather for a drink in the grandstand, regimental rivalries raise their head. The spectating Armand Alsace (53rd Fusiliers) versus Ben and Octo (CPCs) for one. The arguments between the Dragoon Guard and Queen's Own Carabiniers erupt again. And King's Musketeer Claude picks up his regiment's quarrel with Zeold, despite the Cardinal's man making a rapid exit in an effort to avoid just this.

After the physical exertions of the horse race, it's the mental exertions of Neville Moore's Chess tournament - something the host has little chance of winning. Having 12 Toadies could be an issue as this makes 13 entrants. However, Ian Dediette is only there to spectate, so it's an easier 12. Mind you, Botte le Chimiste would have made it 13 anyway if only he could remember who's hosting the event.

The top four seeds (Balzac Slapdash, Elroi le Flingue, Justin Thyme and Jean Jeanie) get a bye in the initial round. On the first table, Arent Hayes wins an evenly-matched contest against Grenville d'Arkrite. Table 2 sees Yve Stanbul thrash our host. On the third table, Louis Severin Descartes plays a blinder to overwhelm "Tiny" Thierry Toothpick (whose "Tangerines" have been excluded for making a noise). And the fourth sees Hugo Furst beat François de Blanchefort.

Who was where: the other clubs				
Where	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Bothwell's				ZVT(G)
Outside Bothwell's	FdB (LR)			
Outside Hunter's			OLS (YS) BLC (???)	
Blue Gables	EIF + May			YS + Sheila . FS + Fifi . BLC + Eve . EIF + May
Frog & Peach	PPuf + Viv		AA + Freda	
Red Phillips		PM		
Bawdy houses	BdLS + FC	AH + FC CA + FC: Mug-205	HWB + FC AICH + FC	TdL: Mug-7 OLS + FC ID + FC GdA + FC

Shows who was in or outside a club: . = Toadying to character above; (G) = Gambled; CP = Crown Prince; (id) = expected host.