



THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #11 (JAN. & FEB. 2014)

'because when you don't exist you can pretty much say what you like...'

Hi and welcome to my latest blog. Soz for the long silence. This is due to nothing to report over Xmas and NY... and exams. Yep, mock exams. I mock them. Relentlessly.



Ok, so, very high sci-fant presence in '*Miniature Wargames With Battlegames*' last month to counterbalance the fact the '*WI*' are still thinking that if they don't acknowledge it - it doesn't exist. But no! They're now promoting *Dust Tactics*. Why the voltre face? Well, the *Dust* franchise is owned by *Battlefront*, who also own '*WI*'. Yeah, even I can do

the math on that one... I'd also better mention there's kickstarter up in the Sates for 'Ares Magazine' a sci-fi and game publication at <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1488075951/ares-magazine> . Cewl (if it takes off). BTW, anyone interested in an Olly Murs clone kickstarter, so every girl can have her own copy? More on mags later...



How's that new model kit going?

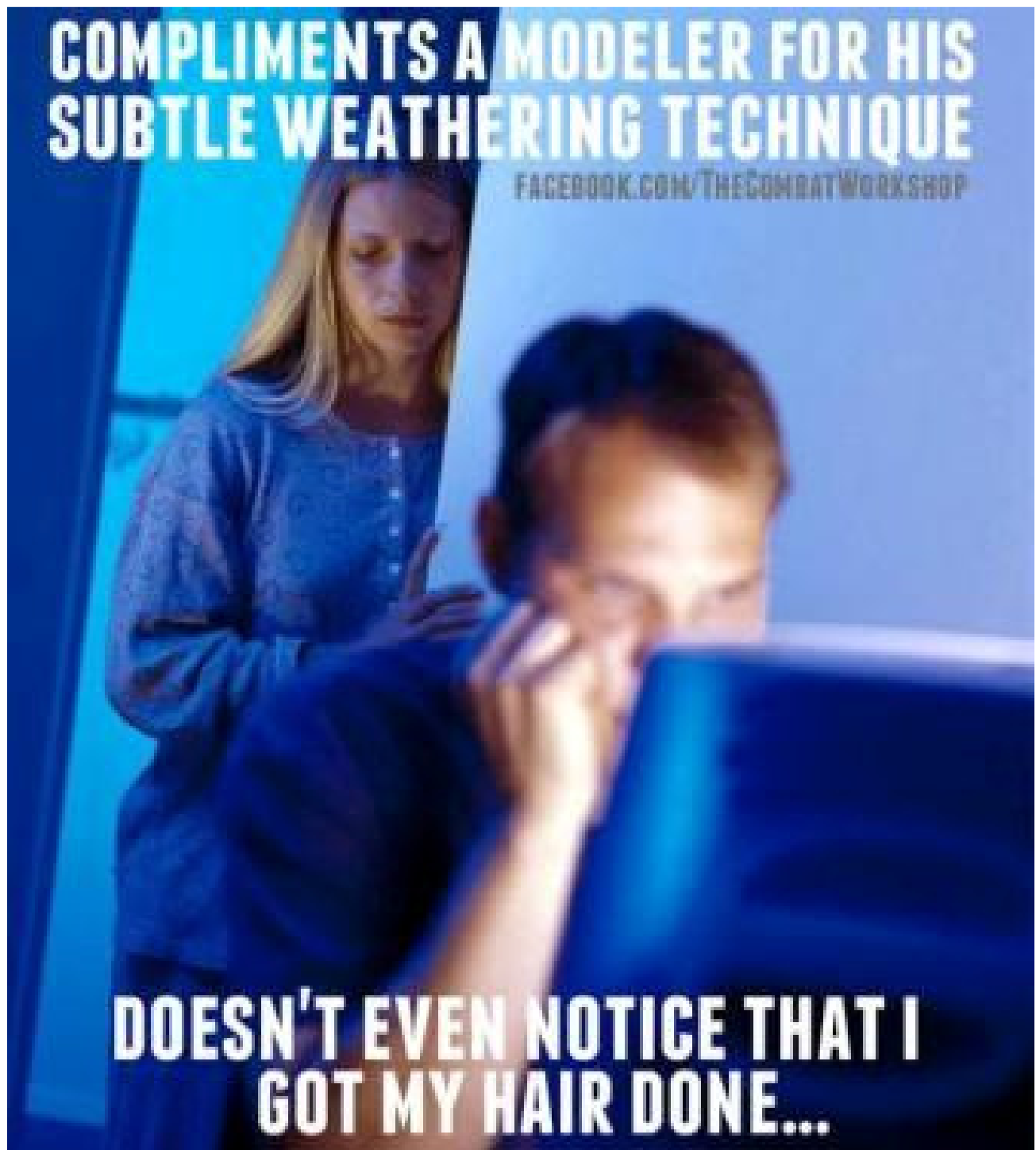
Next bit. I understand that the *UEMC™* has lost a quarter of their shares value due to sales dropping by 12% last year. Yep, even the recession is starting to hit addicts. Will we see price drops to boost sales? Or will we continue to see kidz and grups continuing to just go and play cheaper games? Time will tell. I'm sure there are idiots around who'll continue to pay through the nose for the latest... Oh, did I mention a cut in bonuses? News from behind the 'Lead Curtain' further suggests (via <http://www.dakkadakka.com/> - always quote our sources, lol) that the quarterly financial report suggests to the more 'intelligent' that sales are down 'a lot'. Many experts think they should realise that they can't hike anymore. My Scotland correspondent Stewart Forgan thinks there will be yet another price rise - they just can't help themselves! I said above there's be more mag news, and this also concerns 'the evil empire' (Dave's words, not mine). Their '*White Dwarf*' house organ, doyen of 'the hobby' (sic) is being retired! Yup, 'fraid so. First they decided to sell it bagged, then it mysteriously reappeared in 'browser friendly format' in my local *Tescos*, and now (apparently) it's being replaced by two magazines; one weekly and one monthly. The weekly will cover new releases which are being stepped up to (winks ironically) boost sales, the other is a more academic digest. Desperation creeping in? What happens if the hoped for sales boost does not materialise? More magazines until they do? I wait with baited breath. Well I'll wait anyway. Other rumours suggest '*White Dwarf*' splitting into two, one for *40K*, one for *Warhammer*. Double your money, double your costs, eh? Discuss, 2000, words, on my desk by Monday please.



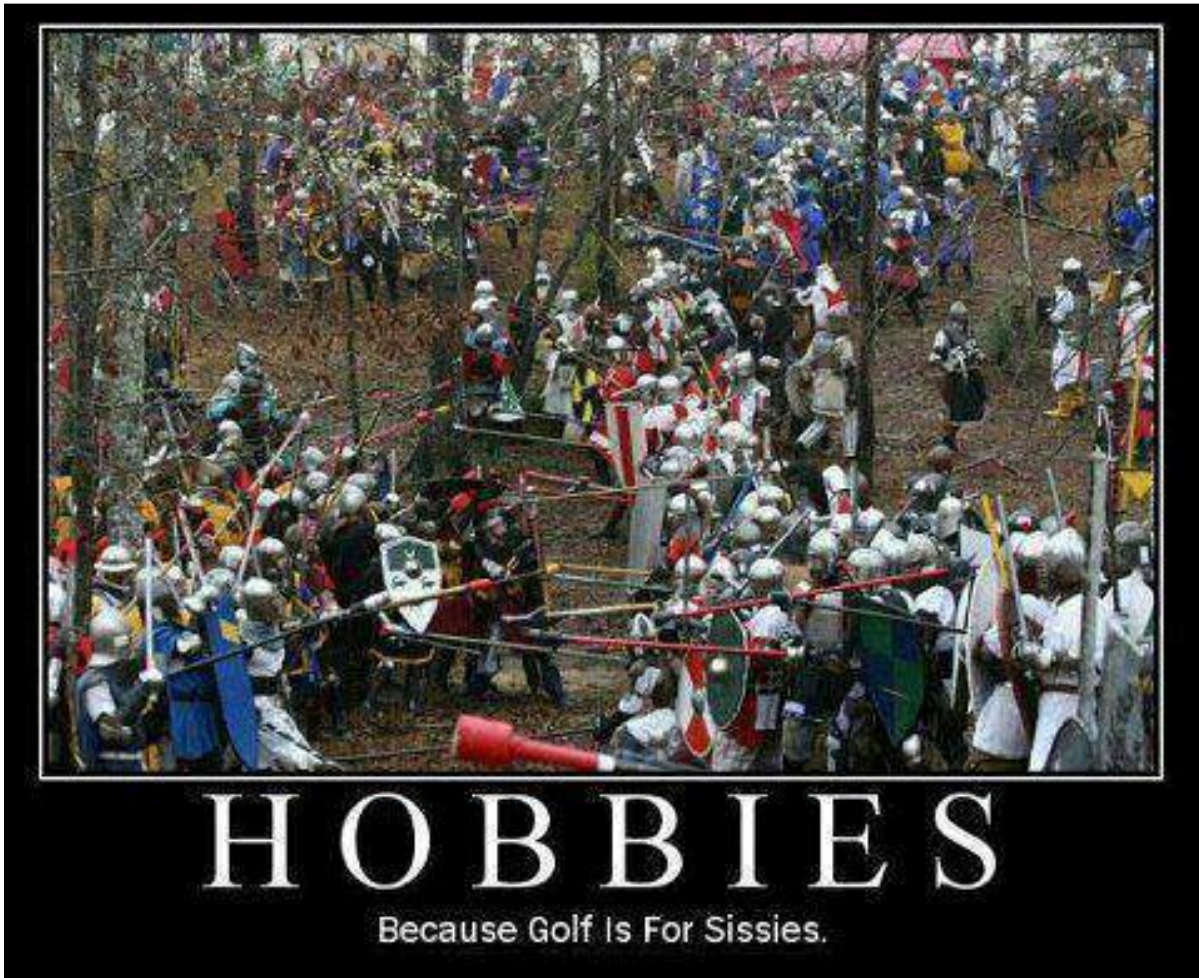
Third bit. Anyways, down at my club STaB (<http://stab.org.uk/>) we done a special 10mm game. Look, they say size doesn't matter, but you get a lot for your buck and they CAN paint up really well (see pic). Steve P.'s mate John Dennis and his chum Paul came down and showed us their 'The Marlborough Light Rules', which are kinda the bastard granddaughter of 'Fire And Fury'. They need planning to set up beforehand, but it's worth it as the linear tactics of the period are well simulated. So it was Gary, Roland and 'Skinny Richard', and me and the guys aforementioned. Fast paced, elegantly simple rules, the units break when worn by combat and effort, which is quite realistic, IMO. Gary says if he won the lottery he'd do 10mm as a scale - and I agree. So, great fun was had by all. I' be surprised if he won the lottery though, as he never buys a ticket. 'In it to win it', lol.



Ok, what else? Oh, lotsa memes off of *Facebook* this time, as peeps have clearly had time over Xmas to post, and they're good for a giggle.



Yep, we all know guys like that, don't we girls....Non wargamers look away now. For those of you that missed the announcement - 'cos it was quite low-key - 'Colours', the BIG Newbury show will NOT be taking place in 2014 (http://colours.org.uk/?page_id=420). They hope to be back in 2015. I know I've written before about the chaotic Bring & Buy, but really... We shall see. Shame. It was always good to look forward to after going back to college to work for the Yankee dollar...



Where was I? Yeah - want '*Bolt Action In Space*'? You got it! Ace games guru Rick Priestly has details of his new '*Beyond The Gates Of Antares*' posted at <http://www.warlordgames.com/42292/beyond-the-gates-of-antares-rules-system/> Yeah, I know it was a 'failed Kickstarter' last year, but I have faith in Rick and reckon it'll be

worth the wait. First minis out now too. Lush. As, indeed, of course is Rick, currently busy converting a barn into a wargames room. There's lush for you...

COSPLAY



What my friends think I do



What my parents think I do



What society thinks I do



What I think I do



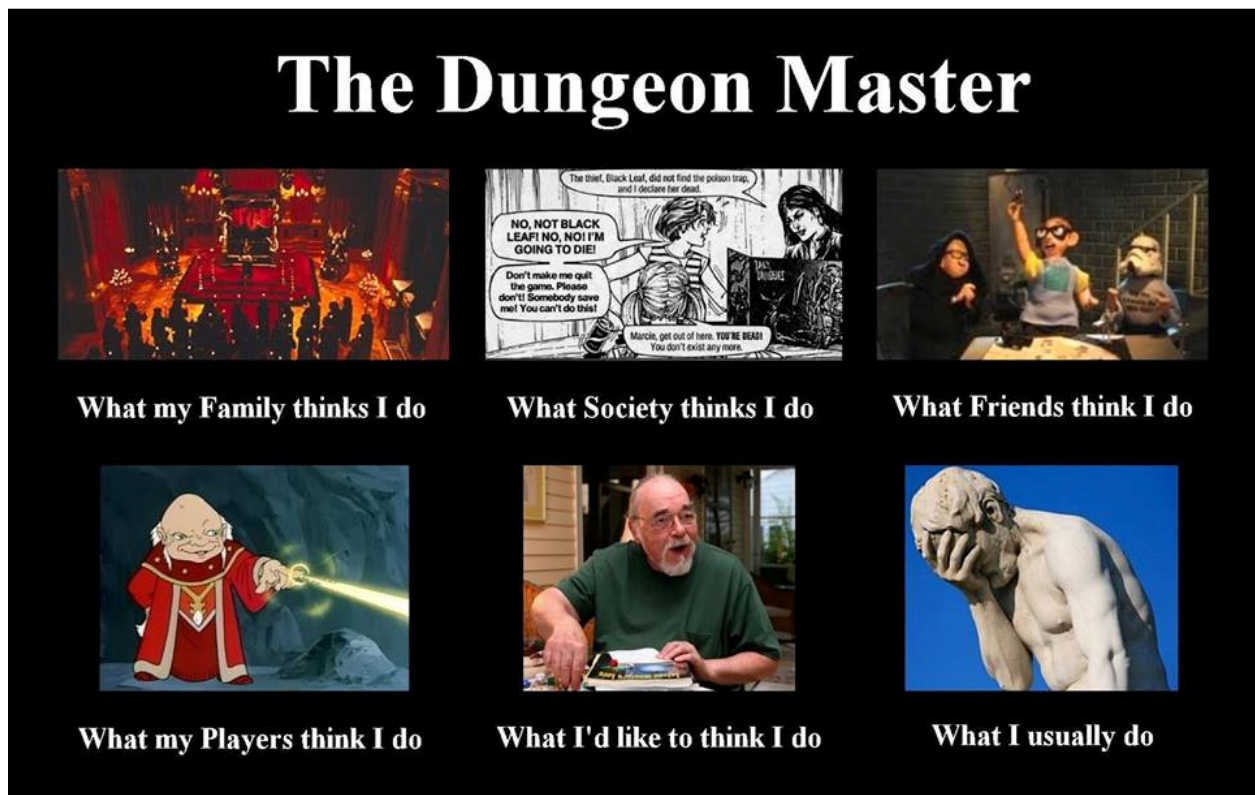
What I actually do



CATS

COUNT AS TREACHEROUS TERRAIN

Next bit. Just got back from 'A Call To Arms'. The show was very quiet because of the huge gales and storms of the night before, but with a good selection of traders. I thought with no 'Colours' it would be busier, but 'no'. Bloody weather. I was there with the *Space Vixens* guys, who were waxing lyrical about new Viking skirmish game 'Valhalla', but no more on that as Gary's written an article about it for the wargames press, and if I blab he won't help me with my history coursework on sheep farming during the WOTR. Games of note were Mongoose's 'Judge Dredd' which they do in association with *Warlord*, and a 'Sealion' 3rd Battle Of Newbury using the Lardies' 'Chain Of Command' rules. WWII remain popular. The *Lance & Longbow* chaps had a generic WOTR too.



Talking of the weather, I really am fed up of it. The light is awful - if we had good daylight I could paint miniatures despite the water sloshing around the floor of my shed. When I heard Prince Harry was filling sandbags on his day off I rushed up to the Thames Valley... only to be told just because I lived at the seaside didn't mean I qualified as a 'sandbag'. Lol!



Anyways, talking of which. 'Stretch' and me was at Emily's party on Saturday and, like, that Fliss comes in, and she's, like, always drunk, and gets all the best looking guys 'cos she's like, so vivacious and shirt (soz, predictive text), and like, I'm chatting to Gavin cos he has this fab book on Austro-Hungarian uniforms I'm wangling to borrow, and like I nip to the loo and Fliss' taken him off me, which is like really unfair as she has no interest *whatsoever* in the late Austro-Hungarian army 1860-1918 and only wants Gavin 'coz he's hot. Ok, I do too, but, like I was there first, right? Anyways, back at college next week turns out she's laid-low with tonsillitis she got off Gavin. So, I'm thinking, like, 'lucky escape there', and Gavin lends me the book anyway and is slagging-off Fliss as, apparently, she was already dating Tel from Newham. Result! Are we to see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told...

Sheila XXXX