



THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #3 (MAY. 2013)

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

Hi Beings, and welcome back to the third of my brand new revamped 'gossip page'. I've been very busy this month. Using my cloak of invisibility I went to 'Salute'. Be honest girls, who *could* resist a chance to be invisible *and* goose Rick Priestly! Thanks to all you who've contacted me with the latest goss, so here goes...

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A lot of you have written to me to ask about deposed 'Miniature Wargames' editor Andrew Hubback. Well, in the run-up to 'Salute' I went to see Andrew in Nottingham - and imagine my surprise when I was suddenly seized at the station; bound and gagged. I thought, 'Mm, normal for one of Emily's parties, not so usual in the Midlands'. '*It be so you don't know where we be going. It be for your own safety, Missy*', one of his hoddied minions explained - and I soon found myself untied in a Sherwood Forest glade, where Andrew now hides out, now free of the grasp of his former baron Sir Plantagenet Atlantic. '*I still run*

7 April 2013

Office of the Chief Minister
Government of Gibraltar
No. 6 Convent Place
Gibraltar

CC: IT & Human Resources Depts.

Dear Sir

I wish to lodge a complaint about a Mr Clive Torres, who appears to be a Government of Gibraltar employee and who has used a Government of Gibraltar email address to send me an abusive email (below).

The context is that I was until this month the editor of a hobby magazine called Miniature Wargames, published in the UK, and Mr Torres appears to take great delight in the fact that I have lost my job and been replaced by someone else (the Mr Hyde he refers to). He also appears delighted that freelance contributors to the magazine have similarly been terminated.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, of course, but I cannot believe you would consider this to be an appropriate use of the Government of Gibraltar's time and IT resources.

I hope you will point this out to Mr Torres, require him to apologise to me and deter him from a repeat performance.

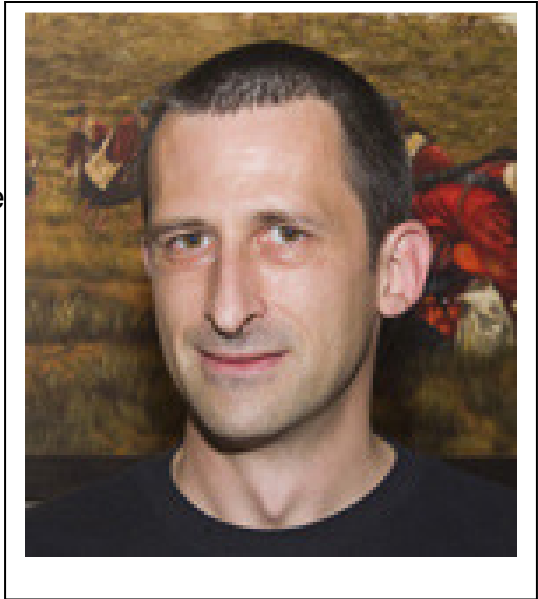
Yours faithfully

Andrew Hubback

Editor, Miniature Wargames (2008-2013)

'Wargames Fever' [www.wargamesfever.com] *and can blog from safety here*', he explained. *'We rob from the rich and give to the poor'*, he explained he's a kind of reverse IDS ('ooh - little bit of politics there, lol'). Anyways, when I asked if the new financial year had brought any relief from the Sherriff of Nottingham's tax demands, Andrew replied: *"I pay my taxes. And do so with the gladness of heart of any loyal subject. However, I do not pay my taxes to go on this"*, at which point he produced an email he had received from a Mr Clive Torres, an employee of the Government of Gibraltar. Mr Torres had clearly heard of Andrew's removal as MW's editor and had taken the opportunity to share his considered appraisal of Andrew's tenure.

"Thank God its [sic] over", the email announced before continuing: *"For over four years we have had to put up with third rate nonsense. Bye. Mr Hyde [Andrew's replacement] can not be worse... Now we may have a proper mag. Xmas come early!"* In fact, it seems Mr Torres had been so



seized by the festive spirit that he couldn't wait until he had finished work and send the email from home but instead decided to send it during the working day using his official Government of Gibraltar e-mail account. Andrew then showed me a copy of the letter he had sent to Gibraltar's Chief Minister in which he pointed out that: *"I cannot believe you would consider this to be an appropriate use of the Government of Gibraltar's time and IT resources."* At this point it occurred to me Andrew may be working from some sort of list, which he was checking twice, of people who had wronged him in the past but who had yet to receive their just desserts. However, as usual, his quicksilver mind was way ahead of me. *'I wouldn't want your column to give the incorrect impression,'* the Greenwood hero fixed me with a steely glare, *'that I am working through some sort of 'enemies list'. I am not - this letter is a one off complaint about the abuse of public resources - if Mr Torres had used a private email I would just have ignored him. But a civil servant in a sun-drenched colony abusing his position to harass a member of the public who has just lost their job is simply not cricket, dash it!'* Right on - malfeasance

within the Colonial Service is inexcusable when there are natives to be administered and our troops stand guard - day and night - ready to prevent surly Latin types enslaving Her Majesty's subjects with cheap paella and their lascivious tango-based siestas. I think Andrew has a point. Wargaming should NOT be the sort of hobby where people take glee over the misfortunes of others. We live in hard times. Change

happens. Frankly, such behaviour is ungentlemanly (unladylike if you're a chick like me), and beyond the pale. I mean, it's not as if Andrew is a huge multi-national with branches everywhere, restricting the ability of others to trade in their goods, now is he? I next asked him about his future plans, and the rumoured new sci-fant gaming mag he's been asked to edit, but he refused to be further drawn. 'I'm



investigating options'. He was enigmatically sharpening his sword on a copy of 'WRG 8th Edition' - when who should run up but one of his Merry Men, clutching an email. 'Gadzooks!' Andrew slapped his thigh and exclaimed. It turned out it was from one Calum Couper, a stalwart chap with the Draconian-sounding title 'Higher Executive Officer (Discipline)' at Gibraltar Government's HR Department. Mr Couper emphasised that *"a serious view is taken of such occurrences"* and added ominously (for Clive Torres) that: *"the matter will be dealt with internally."* Crikey! I can't imagine an internal probe was very high on Clive's Christmas list this year. But, then again, he'd clearly forgotten that Santa knows when you've been naughty... Mr Couper concluded by telling Andrew: *"I should like to take the opportunity to apologise on behalf of the Government of Gibraltar for any distress this incident may have caused you."* I wondered if Snr Torres would be sentenced to play for Chelsea - but he's more likely to be packed off into no man's land between The Rock and La Linea and left to the Barbary apes. 'Celebration!' climbing onto a tree-truck my host ordered - and soon we were feasting on roast boar, mead and free range carrots...

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Well, the change of direction at '*Miniature Wargames With Battlegames*' rumbles on, with Gary Mitchell continuing to receive emails from his network of correspondents, back from the days when he keyboarded the '*Darker Horizons*' column. As with the legacy of the late Baroness Thatcher, everyone, it seems, has a polar opinion. At one extreme 'Anglepoise' believes (whatever editor Henry Hyde says) sci-fant *will be* phased out, despite its clear inclusion thus far. On examination, it would appear that the most outstanding thing about the re-vamped mag is just how much it looks like an issue of '*Battlegames*'. Dave (his real name) said '*It would seem what Atlantic means by 'Miniature Wargames With Battlegames' is '...with all the regular features and columnists of Battlegames' but without any of the regular features and columnists of Miniature Wargames*'. Lol, '*Battlegames With Miniature Wargames*', anyone? I recall Henry in his press release describing the change as a 'frigate boarding the ship of the line', so this lanyard does appear to fit. Will '*MW*' readers be left wondering where their magazine went? Sales will tell. As Steve Purbrick said, '*It's advertising. That's what makes or breaks a magazine*'. Yeah, that and the cost - since '*The Ancible*' went pay-to-view rather than 'free' sales have dropped. Everyone, it seems, wants something for nothing... but to expect writers and publishers to do it for nothing is - frankly - daft.

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Ok, '*Salute*'. Big show. The standard of modelling from both traders and demonstrators was again impressive - vis this pic of the '*Hammer's Slammers*' game - but the general feeling was a quieter show than previous years,



a sign of the recession exacerbated (IMO) by the disastrous economic policies pursued by the UK's ConDem government. What was interesting was the number of sci-fant games - for the first time - outnumbering historical.

Mostly I wore my cloak of invisibility, but Gary Mitchell's daughter Olivia was there, so some of the time I had another chick to hang with. She was helping out the 'Space Vixens' team as a way of getting her Duke of Edinburgh award. She suggested a 'Prince Harry' award would be more fun, but we agreed the documentation would be problematic as, 'what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas'. Her prize purchase was the excellent *Empress Miniatures* 'Prince Harry and co-pilot' 28mm minis - great to go with her Apache chopper kit, and only £3.50 for the pair. Indeed, 'political correctness', was much in our thoughts when we noted the 'Dreadball' cheerleaders. A well known magazine was also employing ladies in tight tee-shirts to vend their wares, and we wondered where one draws



the line? Chainmail bikinis on the table is one thing, but at what point does marketing become exploitation. 'Would you do it?' Liv asked me - and the answer was 'no way'. Ok, maybe if I was trying to pull Olly Murs, but otherwise? So, I'll throw that one out for discussion, because she and her Dad - primly in jeans and poloshirt - spoke to a guy from 'Beasts Of Bolsover' (urls on pic below) about their new range. Now, we have fantasy Amazons and gladiatrix and future vixnes and whatever, but their really cewl idea is to do 'sensibly clothed ladies' for gaming. Now, for the c.20th and beyond this all makes perfect historical sense, as women really have fought in conflicts all over the world, and their minis will naturally want to reflect this. But 'lace wars'? Actually, why *not*? If you have ancient Amazons - why not 'Black Powder' Amazons for your Imagi-Nations. Their 'Wicked Lady' style highwaywoman was brill - but so also were the line

Ladies in Lace Now on Kickstarter

28mm figures for Lace
Wars and for VBCW



Beasts of Bolsover

bobminis.co.uk

[www.kickstarter.com/
projects/1056592785/ladies-in-lace](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1056592785/ladies-in-lace)

troops. So, come on, let's have more sensible depicted females in wargames and wargames literature. Yo! Girl power!

Ok, what else - well loads. The stormtroopers did stop me at one point, but apparently I 'wasn't the droid they were looking for'. Cheek!

I love '*Crooked Dice*' stuff and am trying to wangle work experience with them - they is, like. ubercewl. The quality of



modelling and imagination on their 'Zombie London' board had to be seen to be believed - and these guys are happy to cosplay as well, which adds to the atmos.



I also really dug the 'Victrix' 54mm Napoleonic stuff. Hey - if you don't dig the Napoleonic Wars - I saw you weren't really there, right?



'Salute'? A day is not enough - what about evening viewing on the Friday next year? Also, it was the London marathon sign in - all those toned muscles and athletic physiques in the coffee queue. And some of the runners were quite hot as well...

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Were you at Emily's party the other Saturday? I got there late after 'Salute' and saw Dave and Rob's antics on the moped that upset her horse, Trigger. Why, of why, oh why - and after the flour 'incident' on the University open days as well? Emily was most upset, and was last seen 'confiding' in Mike. Are we to see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told...

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Well, that's all for this month. More goss as I get it. Gotta go - I've been told to write a letter of apology to Mr Priestly... Love and peace

Sheila XX