



THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #8 (OCT. 2013)

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



Hi and welcome to my latest blog. Remember New Kids On the Block? No, I don't either - unless it's the executioners block, of course. However, there *is* a new kind in the auction world '*MB Wargames Auctions*' which aims to by-pass *eBay* and offer reduced fees and listings. What's not to like? Let's so dooo this! Check out <http://miniaturebids.com/> Now up and running and cewler than going home and finding Olly Murs in your bedroom with a bunch or roses and a smile.

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ATTENTION DEFICIT MODELER DISORDER

Where you start to build one model but get distracted by another kit that needs building causing you to build another model!

Andrew Hill recently contacted me about '*Battlefields of Aegeon*', a new strategic battlegame system set in a mythical world with imagery drawn primarily from ancient Greek and Roman legend featuring magical creatures and individuals to add flavour to your battles. In addition to the armies of Hellanos and Latium players may wield the armies of Frankia, which have the feel of a medieval feudal host, the twisted, cruel yet deadly armies of the Fallen or the blood-hungry and crazed legions of the undead Efferati. Would you like to know more? Go to <https://sites.google.com/site/battlefieldsofaegeon> for more background for the world and its races as well as the option to download the rule set for **FREE**.



JACK BLACK PLAYING SOLDIERS - WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?

Ok, '*Colours*'. I know Gary has written before about the Bring & Buy - but this year they excelled themselves. It was even worse. Same short frontage - but an even BIGGER queue to book in - people still there at 12:30!!!! The show itself expanded to an 'annexe' - so why not put the B & B there? Too simple? Apparently. It's been (I heard from

gamers) 'franchised out' because 'the club members didn't want to do it.' It was understaffed - a guy next to Gary waited ten minutes for them to take his money - so, bottom line, if you can't do it properly, don't do it at all. I know 'Salute' has dropped the B & B, so maybe that's the future? The traders were all doing well - and according to Steve P. some B & B items cost more than from traders! Maybe places like 'MB Wargames Auctions' (see above) are the way ahead...

Or not? Pleased to see a new shop opening down my way. Yeah - a SHOP! Remember them? It's called 'Musketballs 1812' (www.musketballs1812.co.uk) and is in Southampton, which is a small fishing village about twenty miles from Bournemouth. So, the next time I have double extra Maths scheduled I shall maybe be taking a trip down there instead...

The advertisement features a white background with black text. At the top, the website address **www.Musketballs1812.co.uk** is displayed in a large, bold font. Below this, the text reads: "Table top wargaming painting sessions from beginner to the experienced all welcome All periods and scales from Ancients to Futuristic and a whole lot more." This is followed by "We Stock most major brands". The central part of the ad is filled with images of wargaming products: on the left, a "Warlord Games" logo and several game boxes; on the right, a collection of painted miniature figures and terrain pieces. Below the central images, it lists other brands: "Other brands available check out our website. Gale Force 9, Renedra, Gripping Beast, Osprey Wargames, Fireforge Games, Wargames Factory, Plastic Soldier, West Wind, Great Escape Games, Vallejo Paints." At the bottom, there is a logo for "PERRY MINIATURES" featuring a silhouette of a knight on a horse, and the "wargames FACTORY" logo. To the right of these logos are more game boxes, one of which has a red circular sticker that says "NEW!". At the very bottom, contact information is provided: "For more information call: 07765 298692" and "Unit 104 Lok'n'store Manor House Avenue, Millbrook Southampton, SO15 0LF".

Games at 'Colours'? The Wednesday Night Wargamers 'Saga' get my vote for best terrain - quite enough to make you want to chuck it all in and become a Valkyrie.



On the Viking theme Peter Pig's new 15mm game *'Longships'* looked cewl - and as always The South London Warlords excelled with some superb terrain on a *'Hammer's Slammers'*. I guess these guys don't have fascist teachers hassling them to write essays so Mr Gove can meet his targets for Mr Cameron...



Notable mentions also to 'Warlord Games' new 'Pegasus Bridge' model in 28mm - and the Skirmish Wargamers 54mm Napoleonic. Their slogan 'size does matter' made me laugh - and I'm a girl, lol. Also - 'Crooked Dice's' fantastic 'Underground, Overground'.



is just so ubercewl. The guys have got a deserved write-up in the latest *'Miniature Wargames'*, and deservedly so. IMO Karl and Graeme deserve at least an MBE in the New Year's honours list. All in all a very busy and interesting show. Changes for next year? Cut the B & B and stop wasting everyone's time - or do it properly.

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Have you've heard the rumour of the UEMC's™ most ridiculous offer yet? A complete Space Marine™ chapter for the surprisingly low price of £7,095.00. I kid you not. When I first heard this I thought it was a gag, but no, it's true. You'll be pleased to hear that it gets delivered post free, good for those that wish to save some money. Incidentally some over at *'Dakka'* (<http://www.dakkadakka.com/dakkaforum/forums/list.page>) have been costing it out and reckon the empire is overcharging, and it works out cheaper to buy it separately! I don't know what is sadder - people actually pricing it, or the UEMC™ thinking that it will sell in droves! It's almost incredulous that they think they can get away with this. No doubt there will be some pillock with more money than sense that will buy it. Probably be an North American! Oh - and I've just been told they CAN'T™ *'Space Marine'*. Lol. Thanks to that Caledonian cutie Stewart Forgan for drawing my attention to this...



'Warfare in Chaos Shock' ? Gary's daughter Deanna and I were having a gossip in her room the other day, when I hear the sound of a vast number of 'colourful metaphors' emanating from his office. Turns out the 'Warfare' show had 'lost' his booking for 'Space Vixens' the one he'd mailed - at their request - the day *after* the last show. Seems to be a pattern of cavalier management. Nigel Pell of 'The Square' (<http://www.thesquare-wargames.co.uk/>) has had a similar issue. Says Nigel to our reporter, *"the correct story is: I made a mistake on my cheque resulting in it bouncing. Having traded there for something like 12 years what did they do? Sent a very curt email to Mr Pell informing him that the trade space had been allocated to another trader, 'this decision is final and irreversible. We wish you well in your future endeavours'. Lack of courtesy to an established show-supporting trader or what? My curt reply to them ending in 'I suppose next year I will be on the waiting list', brought a slightly apologetic response assuring me that I could trade there next time. On top of the chaos caused by their so-called parking marshal last year, delaying us getting home on the Sunday night, I have taken the decision that I will no longer attend 'Warfare' and the financial saving of the 12ft pitch has gone towards upping my stand at 'Salute' from 6 to 12ft. I will also be adding 'Antwerp' to the roster in 2014, as well as the plastic model shows that some of us wargamers sampled this year & proved fairly successful. Show organisers like to let us know, as we pay our money to them, how there are more traders than space can accommodate. Well, there are more shows than most traders can accommodate. When traders stop attending a show, what happens to that show?"* Good point - the attitude of some shows 'we're doing you a favour' is all well and good, but as Gary said when I questioned him, *'look to go to a show I have to pay petrol costs and take a day out. Trade stand fees are more than I'll ever take, so going to a show becomes doubly uneconomic, even for the craik. I can buy what I want online and sell online - so I might as well pay the cash I would have paid getting to a show on advertising - and save the hassle of running a participation game cum creche. Shows aren't moving with the times. I'm self-employed and can't afford to take a day out that's a loss'.* Grumpy old git, isn't he? Nigel adds. *'At Colours someone drew my attention to a thread on some internet chat-crap, which I have now looked at. The opinion being that 'The Square' is now out of business (fuelled I understand somewhat by the inappropriate remarks of the*

'Warfare' *trade organiser*'). So, got that? 'The Square' is in business, Ok? How many others, I wonder, are seeing shows as a drain, rather than a help? Given the comments on 'Colours' B & B (above) are we seeing a trend of lack of consideration for the average gamer and small businessman from show organisers? I think we should be told...

Anyways, later I was at Emily's party on Saturday when Dee pitches up with her new boyfriend, Peter Kaye. Yes, that really IS his real name, and it means he has no problem when he complains to companies. He's also - scandal - a 'Baggies' supporter (that's West Bromwich Albion to you non footie fans). Rachel was there and copped off with Ross (again!) - or did I see that on the telly? Hey, it's how I met your mother... Are we to see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told...

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And finally, RIP Don Featherstone - the 'Godfather' of wargaming. Without Don and Those other early pioneers we wouldn't be where we are today. This is a sad event for wargamers. John Stallard tells my favourite story about 'the Don'. Three years ago at 'Salute' (yep *that* one), there was a WW2 re enactment group, right next to him, all dressed in Waffen SS camo gear including Hitler Youth boys. Some people found it not to their taste and took offence. Don, who had fought WWII in Africa and Italy in Churchill tanks, and had many of his mates



killed, was asked whether he was upset about them dressing like that. He gently replied, "Oh no, I've met them before".... A fabulous response by a true gentleman, and an inspiration to wargamers worldwide. Wherever you are now Don, keep rolling high, and know your spirit lives on with those of us that remain, that you so inspired. You leave an

amazing legacy as one of - if not *the* - all-time greats of the hobby. Amazing what you and your pals did without the internet and a huge industry up and running. I sadly never got to meet Don, but having read his books it's sometimes like I actually did.

Condolences to his family and friends.

Sheila XXXX