



THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #4 (JUNE. 2013)

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

Hi Beings, and may this fourth issue of my revamped 'gossip page' be with you.

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I hear tell that now the excellent '*Ancible*' PDF (<http://www.the-ancible.com/>) has become pay-to-download the hit count as dropped - even though its only a quid to buy. Do people expect something for nothing these days? Goose - golden egg? And the sheer ingratitude! I'm not sure whether top editor Kenny Robb will bother to continue it now. Come on guys, it's in everybody's interest to support a sci-fant mag. What's a quid to download these days? (Answer: about a minute of Mr Osborne's second home expenses). I mention this because Andrew Hubback writes from his Sherwood Forest glade to report on '*Figure Painter Magazine*' (www.figurepaintermagazine.co.uk), which is new. Nothing on the site to indicate the number of pages or a list of contents of the launch issue, but the preview pages do show some brave use of black and white photos of the authors in moody poses stroking their goatees. According to a 'wargames magazine industry insider' wargamers are expected to shell out the princely sum of £1 for a PDF download that tells them their painting is inadequate. A recipe for business success? Just ask '*The Ancible*'...

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Some recommendations for you from Stewart Forgan. First off, '*Dreamforge's*' Eisenkern troops. These are really impressive plastic models, well detailed and very

well scaled. Initially when Ste ordered them he thought he'd probably receive stick thin minis, but was pleasantly surprised at the high quality. They are also carrying what are basically scaled down MG42s! Also helpful assembly instructions included, and at £15.75 for 10 not a bad price. Second up is 'Wargames Factory's' Apocalypse Survivors. Says Stewart, *'now ever since buying their zombies I've been wary about purchasing anything else from them (took one look at them and decided you couldn't even describe them as zombies, more like scary blobs of plastic) but it seems 'Wargames Factory' have upped their game (indeed they even do 'Dreamforge's' stuff) and produced high quality figures that have really good options. You can even make a Shaun of the dead figure! 30 in a box with a multitude of different weapons that range from various guns through to baseball bats and chainsaws. These last 2 seem to be the choice of champions when it comes to offing the undead. £15.75. You can get them both from 'Wayland Games'.*

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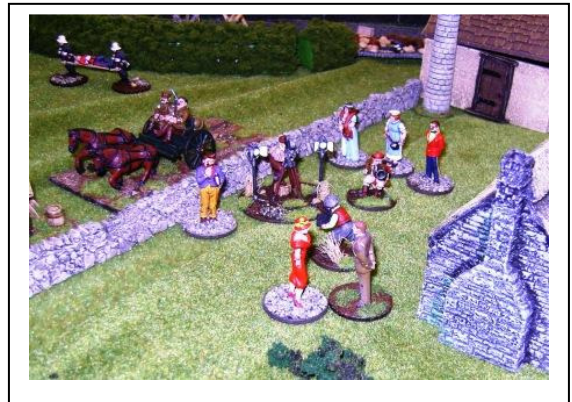
Lots of interesting news and rumours flying around 'Dakkadakka' (that well known site of honest level headed debate!) regarding the UEMC™ (Gawd bless 'er!). It seems they're ditching their specialist games ranges (*'Battlefleet Gothic'* etc) and also metal collector ranges; *all* to be 're-launched' in resin 'finecast'. Blessing or relief? Some say getting rid of older models is right and proper, but others are wondering where this is leading; speculating cost-cutting to show a profit to shareholders before they sell out. After all, the UEMC™ have closed a lot of stores worldwide, cancelled games days in France and Australia, and put *all* their stores on one-man operation. We shall see - but even the wargames press have reported this one. The Elder are next up in the new issue of 'White Dwarf', courtesy of someone with a Chinese copy (have to wonder if this is a re-print? - the Chinese can copy everything). Yet another giant robot type kit as well (a Wraithknight), this seems to be the trend with '40k' as the Grey Knights got one last year and the Tau just got one recently. This leaves me to wonder whether '40k' battles on the table top are going to be delayed until all these damn things fight it out - like champions - in the middle of the table.

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'Foundry'? Hmm. A few months back they wisely halved their postage, making it especially viable to order. Only now my informant Stewart Forgan has received emails stating great plans to re-establish 'Foundry' as being back on track... and they've raised the postage (to cover costs, y'know?) Can they justify this? Buy almost anything wargaming centred on the likes of 'Amazon' or 'ebay' and postage will be cheaper. I could understand the rise if it were to pay for a courier, but Stewart believes this will simply put many off. Opinions?

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Exeter on Star Wars Day at 'The Maltings', an ideal venue with plenty of space and coffee - which I badly need after three hours sleep (parteeeee!). It was a bit chilly, and a bit like a literal cattle market - not a figurative one like 'Kenobi's', that club in Ibiza Emily's uncle runs. Anyways, the X-Wing game looked fun, as did Solway's every popular AVBCW 'Like Cricket,



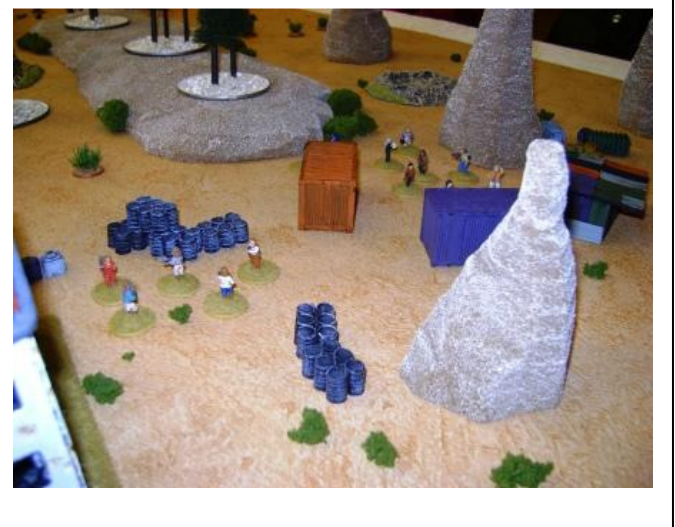
Only With Guns' - which included a film crew!! The 54mm Iwo Jima game was cewl, and I had a first look at the miniatures for the 'kickstarter' 'Spy Or Die Trying', hip in a very '7TV' way. Also noteworthy was 'Squadron UK' (<http://www.squadronuk.co.uk/>) the 'British superhero RPG'. Nice rules, hopefully soon with a range of miniatures to support. What else? 'Dystopian Wars' is continuing to prove popular, and some good historical. Lots of traders and a good B & B, I plan to go back next year, retread that stairway to Devon...

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'Spartan Games' is very excited to announce a brand new product range: 'Spartan Scenics' - not a game but a range of 'beautifully detailed, easily assembled and affordable modular terrain designed to make it easier to build better battlefields – no matter what gaming system you're playing'. There, told you. They're made from laser-cut HDF, acrylic, and resin, and are designed to be modular and allow for true 3D construction without any need for complex modelling and assembly. I've not seen any yet, but it's only a matter of time.

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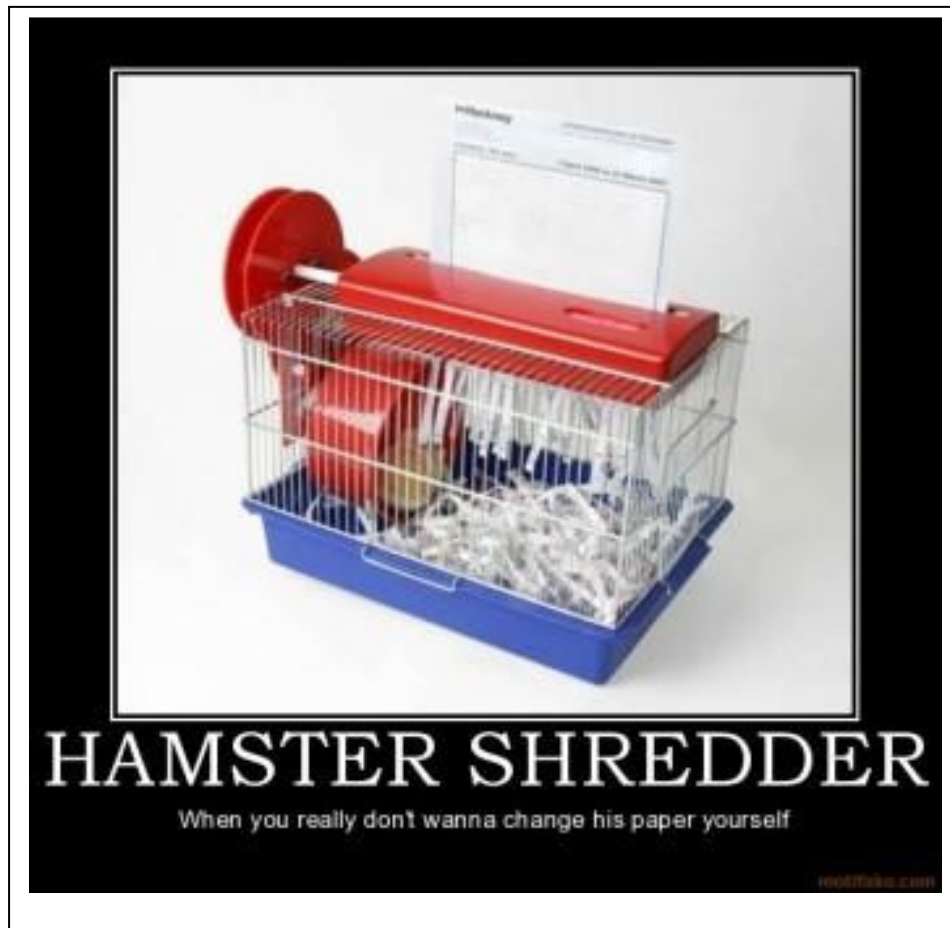
I infiltrated 'Fisticuffs' at Weymouth, and survived despite the lack of coffee early on ('they open at nine - we can't take cash - only pounds'). Health and safety gone mad I tell you - but thanks to the ever charming Martin Goddard for lending Gary the cash to buy some. Pick of the games? The Weymouth Levellers superb Waterloo in 54mm and Matt Hay's 'Gruntz' game of 'Serenity' (BTW ladies, Matt's looking really svelte these days). Sad to say there were empty tables around and quiet footfall, but the B & B was cool. The new, revised, 'Battlegames With Miniature Wargames' is continuing to divide the nation. Many like it and the focus on gaming articles (rather than history and shows), but some see the tacit exclusion of sci-fant looming large. Gary's view is it's only the second issue of Henry's stewardship, so let's see how it goes.



Flyer for the Gloucester show he was give appended below - oh and talk of a sci-fant show in Bristol for October 2014 being projected by the wonderful 'Angel Barracks'.

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Were you at Emily's party the other Saturday? I got there late after seeing *The Kings Of War* rock 'The Featherstone Arms' - new rock track 'WRG 6th' is a dystopian necromanced vision of a return to Thatcherite values, and classic ballad 'Let me Drybrush You' had us all with our cell-phones out with the candles on. Anyways, when I got there Dave and Rob had given Em's hamster Treacle a drop of 'Jack Daniels' (other whiskies are available), and he kept falling off his shredder. 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...



Well, that's all for this month. More goss as I get it. Gotta go. Love and peace - except on the wargames table - where you crush your enemies to dust, like the worthless scum they are!

Sheila XX

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