



THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #5 (JULY. 2013)

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

Hi Beings, and may this latest issue of my revamped 'gossip page' be with you. Back at the start of June I popped into 'Partizan' incognito, disguised as Jenna-Louise Coleman, and managed to pick up a bit of goss. The February Newark show, known as 'Hammerhead', organised by the Chesterfield club *COGS* since 2008, is to be transferred for 2014 to the hands of the *Sherwood Foresters Club* and top Mansfield-based manufacturer *Kallistra*. The word 'dans la rue' is the *COGS* guys are too tied up with their work for *GCN*. *The Foresters* are (allegedly) one of the most publicity-shy clubs in the country, with (allegedly) no real detectable web presence, so they will need to up their game. I also detected a growing groundswell of trader dissatisfaction with 'Triples', the Sheffield show (but have you ever known a trader be happy with his/her/it's turnover?). This year's show was poorly attended and a number have mumbled they'll either a) not trade next year or b) will get together a round robin ultimatum to the organisers to scale it back to a one day event to make it viable for them or c) go as before and carry on grumbling. We shall see...

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Talking of shows Angel Barracks' project 'Blast-Tastic' is up and running @ <http://blast-tastic.blogspot.co.uk/>. I know October 2014 is a long way off - and hopefully I'll be at Uni by then studying Applied Drinking - but sign up and get ready now. It'll be a blast (groan!) Amongst others Gary Mitchell and the 'Space Vixens' team will be there, so keep your hands on your holiday money - to spend!!!

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Gotta say guys 'n' gels, there's some interesting stuff in the 'Osprey' pipeline (<http://www.ospreypublishing.com/>) including a companion volume to the steampunk '*In Her Majesty's Name*', new fantasy rules, more (Greco-Roman) myths & legends and '*An Alien's Guide to Conquering the Earth*'. At just over a tenner Osprey have pitched the size and price of these books just right - and that's physical size and number of pages. Paperback, they reverse IMO the trend for huge glossy tabletop books. As the Jazzers at the back of the common room say, 'nice'.

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David Knight writes about *eBay* greed - compare and contrast - in 500 words max - <http://r.ebay.com/MGRAjF> with <http://r.ebay.com/i7GrAX> . It happens on 'Amazon' too. '*I do a regular google of 'Space Vixens', to see what people are saying*', says Gary M, '*and am amazed to see sellers peddling second hand items of my manufacture at more than my own website*'. Daft, isn't it? As Steve P. remind us, '*capitalism will inevitable collapse under its own contradictions*'. He may be right - with the popularity of '*A Very British Civil War*' still with us check out website <http://englandprevials.blogspot.co.uk/> for a 1980's version. Brilliant stuff - enjoy!

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Talking of rip-offs, the UEMC™ has just completed its latest round of price rises. Now they are being stealthy to some extent; obviously hoping nobody notices. The official rises cover paints and other hobby tools - the hidden ones are more interesting. *Eldar Dire Avengers* used to be something like £15.00 for 10 - but now you can buy the repackaged box of 5 for around £17.00 - a 'buy one pay for two deal' on the basis these sell in 'low volume'. The view is this trend may continue with the repackaging of other minis. Will they dare do this to the Space Marine™ ten-man tactical squad? Second hand on the bring-and-buy, I think. The other worrying trend is add-on supplements for

codex. First up is *'Codex Eldar'*, followed by a sub-codex (*'Codex Lyanden'*, catchy title). This allows you to play a specific Eldar faction. Add in the cost of the actual codex (£29-£30) then add in the price of this (£24.99) then the jobs a good 'un as they say! They're also 'informing' retailers they can't now break down sprues or components and sell individually, ok so bye bye modelbits.co.uk, letthedicedecide.co.uk and any other UK bits seller. The other wheeze is that in order to sell online you have to have a shop front. I don't think there are many shops these days that don't have a store (does *'Wayland'* have a 'store' or is it only online?). And lastly retailers can't sell on *Amazon* or *ebay*. Some people say that the UEMC™ will last for another ten years. If the plan is to reduce all units to 5 a side battles, I'll give them two. They must be at the pricing threshold surely? Oh - did I say 'Space Marine' was a ™. Silly me, they lost that battle, didn't they?

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Two months ago in the *'Salute Special'* I mentioned that since *'The Ancible'* went pay-to-view rather than 'free' sales have dropped. I said, *'everyone, it seems, wants something for nothing... but to expect writers and publishers to do it for nothing is - frankly - daft'*. Quelle surprise therefore Kenny and the guys have stopped the mag. Can you blame them? I'm sure someone will complain at no longer getting something for nothing, they usually do... However, the ever inventive Kenny has another idea in the pipeline...

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In a former column we mentioned that *Wargames Foundry* had increased their postage rates beyond the realms (in the view of my informant) of the 'reasonable'. I am now reliably informed by Stewart Forgan they are reduced again to the 'reasonable'. So, victory for my journalistic skills - or lack of sales? If my head says the latter my heart will go on to the former...

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Went to 'Valhalla' - no I'm *not* a dead Viking - this was the show in Farnborough.
Trends? Traders were selling cheap than the B & B - a sure sign the recession is biting.
Good AM footfall for Father's Day, in the PM deader than Debbie Gibson's career.
'Colonel Bills' (<http://colonelbills.com/>) have a new range of 'toilet humour' in their 'Dept Battalion' section (dogs peeing etc), also AVBCW weapons for conversions, so check that out. Other cewl stuff? 'Red Wyvern Games' are new kidz on da bloc with their spaceship game 'Engage' and their Dark Age 'Days Of The Conqueror'. Both looked good (see pics), so check them out.



Also ubercewl is 'The Square's' new Skull island casting - which opens up for an inside room.



Red Wyvern Games
Miniature rules for a range of scales and genres

ENGAGE
Engage: SpaceShip Combat is a strategic miniatures game that pits players against each other in exciting fleet vs. fleet battles set in the far future.

The most innovative mechanic in Engage comes in the form of 'power assignment'. This allows players to divert energy into specific systems of a ship such as shields or weapons in order to boost their effectiveness. The game resolution system takes into account both the objectives achieved and the toll inflicted on the enemy fleet. You will also find a comprehensive 'Space Dock' to allow you to build your own fleets, plus fleet lists for 5 races. Will you defend the galaxy or see it burn?

Seasons of War: Days of the Conqueror is a unit based miniatures game that allows players to represent battles fought in and around the time of Duke William II - the man who would eventually take the English crown in 1066 and be immortalised as 'The Conqueror'.

The rules are designed to be streamlined and easy to learn but also allow players to replicate battle strategies used throughout the period. As you lead your 11th Century army, you will need to outsmart and outfight your rivals whilst maintaining discipline in your own ranks. The season of war is upon you; will you be the conqueror or the conquered?

RedWyvernGames.com  @RedWyvernGames

Check them out at
<http://www.thesquare-wargames.co.uk/> . Other good games included a WOTR using 'Pike & Shotte', an interesting choice considering 'Hail

Caesar! has been adapted, but I guess it's on the cusp. Sad to say it started Gary M and Steve P arguing about Stark and Lannister - sorry 'York and Lancaster' again, and I can see why their WADs have declined to accompany them to this year's annual Bosworth reenactment, lol. What else? Robin Fotton put on a great '*Gruntz*' game an' all, and there was a '*Star Wars*' 'blow up the Death Star'. Hasn't that small moon suffered enough? Anyway, cewl show, and once again my Jenna-Louise Coleman disguise worked brilliantly.

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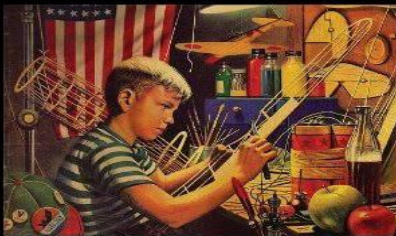
I don't usually mention kickstarters, but '*Dying Star: Oblivion*' had the testicles/ovaries to contact me directly via email (<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/superfluidindustries/dying-star-oblivion>). They are offering clubs and shops a chance to play the game before you buy, which can't be bad, showing as it does if they don't have the money to put where their mouth is they at least had the gumption to support their game, not just float an idea and hope the cash rolls in. So, check it out...

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MINIATURES COLLECTOR/PAINTER



What my friends think I do



What parents think I do



What society thinks I do



What my wife thinks I do



What I think I do



What I actually do

Talking of gumption, the new *'Miniature Wargames With Battlegames'* (number 363 for those of you counting) delivered on top editor Henry Hyde's promise not to neglect sci-fant - his 'pudding' well and truly proved. Gotta say, love Arthur Harman's stuff, humour, dig it - anyone know if he's single? So, cewl beans for the *'MW'* team. That said, there were some uncomplimentary posts on *'Facebook'* about Henry in a Dutch footie shirt 'looking like an orange Bill Shatner', which led to 'unliking' - and response. 'Social media' is indeed a minefield of anti-social behaviour. Talking of which, were you at Emily's party the other Saturday? Em was most upset at what Jenna had said about her on *'Facebook'*, and was last seen 'confiding' in Rich. Of course the fact it was all true - and backed up with pictures - has failed to mollify her outrage. Frankly, it's the bicycle I feel sorry for... 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. Do you think if I set up 'world harmony' as a Kickstarter it'd actually happen? Love and peace - except on the wargames table - where you crush your enemies to dust, like the worthless scum they are!

Sheila XX