

CHEaSTER

A Programme of Events

By Bear

Well as a few of you may have heard through the jungle drums we are to be having the first Lovely Easter Event on Saturday 22nd of April. A few people keep hassling me to find out exactly what is going on on the day. Well as I wanted to keep a bit of a surprise, and annoy the hell out of people, I haven't told until now.

We thought as we're starting at 1pm we'd use a bit of the sunshine we hope to get to our advantage and have a bit of a sports event where the athletic ability of all the computer users in lovely is shown off and we'll have some fun too. As it's Easter the first event will be one of a seasonal variety where people's wits and cunning will be pitted against each other, The Egg and Spoon race. We then have an excellent event organised by our very own Fashion Victim "Jonni Shirt Guy" the first Lovely Space hopper race. It'll be a heats race where two people will battle it out in a knockout event to make it through to the next round and hopefully win over all. If we have time we will end the sporting start to the day with a relay race.

At 2pm we're going to split you up and send you off into the walled City of Chester with nothing but some questions a few tasks and a digital camera to do the Lovely Scavenger Hunt. As it is in Chester there will be some local area questions and findings but as we are all Lovely there will be some nice things to do for other people too. So after you have scoured the roman city and got as many answers as you can and done the most amount of tasks we will meet up for a feeding.

3-3:30 we will be meeting up at the venue for the afternoon events. I will be making my Famous Chilli, one with Beef and also one with Quorn for those who do not eat Beef. This chilli will be provided at the cost of minimum donation of £2 per person and all profits will go to the Charity of the event. After you've eaten your fill of the delicious food we will start "Who wants to be a Lovely Millionaire" hosted by our very own ID, I'm sure it'll be an event not to miss. We will then have the Egg painting competition and auction/raffle in whatever order seems best. Now things that will be available in the raffle and auction include some of the Easter egg designs sent in by celebrities such as Red Dwarf Cast, Richard O'Brien and Lisa Rogers. We also have some Items donated by the Taggart office such as a signed script, DVDs and mug. All prize donations to the raffle and auction are gratefully received.

Now last but by no means least the prize giving for the winning team of the day's events will be done at the end of the daytime fun. The team of four that did the best in the days events will get some special and exciting prizes. Yes if you haven't guessed by now, you need to be in it to win it and getting a team is the way to get in it. This day is all about teamwork and loveliness and that is what I think the country is about getting a few people together and using their talents for the sake of the team.

Now the last event of the Day will unfortunately not be open to some of our younger citizens. Yes as usual it's going to involve drinking. A pub-crawl. As it's the Chester food and Drink Festival we thought we'd join in on the huge pub-crawl going on that evening and have some fun.

Right, a list of a few things that people should bring/do. I know you may sound obvious but it's best to do the list I say.

- Bring passport/photo ID if available (for those staying in hostel)
- Map of area (I will mark out the hostel, train station and mail-out)
- Let family/friends know where you're going it's always best when meeting new people you have met on-line
- Bring food/cakes/snacks to go along with the Chili
- Camera & mobile (fully charged, with spare batteries) Make sure you keep these safe
- Money & lots of loose change (for stay, food, raffle, charity, drinks)
- Pre-plan route & travel info for return (timings of any coaches & trains) I will mail-out some directions for those driving to the hostel.
- Book accommodation or find someone's floor to kip on.

Now if you can't come along don't despair you may want to join in anyway. Now there are a couple of ways you can do this. Firstly volunteer to be a "Phone a Citizen" in The Lovely Millionaire game secondly you may also like to make a phone bid for one of the auction items. If you want to do that find a citizen who is going and ask them to put in a bid for you or phone/text you to let you know it's happening. Please be advised though that we cannot accept IOUs as payment for these items due to the recent forgeries being circulated.

Well until next week stay safe and hope to see you in Chester.

Bear

e-mail lovelycheaster@hotmail.co.uk for more details or go to <http://get-me.to/lovelycheaster> and sign up to the mailing list.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Nothing stops the mail getting through!

By Razerbug

I started out, when I decided I wanted to create something like Lovely University, or the Lovely football association, trying to think of an idea that was impossible to achieve so I would have something to work at. It was either going to be a Lovely train network, or a Lovely post office, both a bit ridiculous in a country with no territory or infrastructure.

Then again the RLPO motto always had been: **Lovely never lets common sense stand in the way of a good idea.** Hell... If it had Lovely would never have been born anyway.

So, as you know, the PO grew, we contacted the Royal Mail and got fobbed off, but they replied not to "razerbug" but to "Post Office of the Country of Lovely" – at least they gave us our proper dues. We designed stamps and stationary and I promised that some how we would get them to carry L-Mail!

What you might not have caught up on is that the idea has caught a few more people's attention. With the lovely Citizen Saz's help I had sheets of stickers, envelopes, stamps, postcards etc. with the help of Veersoon, Keith, Mo, Jase and all the other London Citizens I've forgot we stuffed hundreds of envelopes ready for our first target: Delivering letters to Eel Pie Island! And the PO was decorated with a medal for its service. We also gain a

Post'mistress' in West End Girl who rushed gleefully about with armfuls of letters posting them everywhere she could find.

And the idea spread across the pond it seems: our biggest breakthrough to date comes thanks to Jedi Jim (now Postman in charge of International Carriage) who had spotted something the US postal service offered and saw the chance to send L-mail across the Atlantic with 4 simple Lovely stamps, baring the image of our mighty flag!

That's right; one cold Friday morning in April I checked my mail and found a crisp heavily stamped peace of airmail with my name on it from a citizen several time zones away!



I would just like to share the fab news that the Royal Lovely PO is one step closer to our dream of being able to send mail to each other, even airmail, with our own stamps!

Thanks to Postman Jedi Jim for his initiative and thanks to all who continue to support the Lovely Post Office. Check soon for more stationary, and stamps, and hopefully news of other letters sent around the world from Lovely!

<http://continue.to/lovelypo>

Postmaster Razerbug

CTU v FBI

By ID06

In February I started a new Ministry of General Debauchery thread, on the Security Message board, called "debauchery police MinGeD unit"

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2293116?thread=2341887>

It was a nice quiet little thread. Last week Trip posted in there "This is completely off-topic and inappropriate. There's already a MinGeD thread elsewhere." to which our PM replied "bloody hell trip, are you trying to take a monopoly on the whole security board?" and our Chief of Police said "Trip people have a right so say what they want luv." and I said "The Min.Ge.D. are everywhere, almost like CTU in fact" and I then started a new thread on the Security Message Boards just to give Trip an example of something 'off-topic and inappropriate'.

"Mary Mary Quite Contrary" - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2293116?thread=2703142>

But nothing happened. Message one remained the only post for two days.

Yesterday on another thread, Trip said "We hold the monopoly on the Security Board and

have done for a looong time now." to which I replied "the entire board? No you don't that's just daft. For instance, have you objected to the presence of my Mary Mary thread?" which got this from Trip: "No, because it's not an organisation and it won't stay long. Name one long-standing organisation in Security that isn't intricately tied to CTU?"

I took this as a challenge. Firstly I went and revived a selection of long-standing Security Board threads which were not intricately tied to CTU, and secondly I turned the flower beds on the Mary Mary thread into an organisation, which I named Flower Bed Inc. (FBI)

The purpose of the FBI is to plant flowers in various places and make the message boards look more Lovely, and also of course to prevent CTU's monopoly of the Security Message Boards. A couple of Citizens have taken CTU's side, saying "What's wrong with your so called 'monopoly', anyway?" and "What's wrong with CTU dominating the security boards anyway? They're meant to be keeping us safe, they can dominate whichever boards they like." Another couple of Citizens have joined the FBI and will be planting flowers in various places.

So, Citizens of Lovely, I ask you this: Does Security mean "taking care of yourselves" as King Danny says, or does it mean the Counter Terrorist Unit can "dominate whichever boards they like"?

ID06

Quite Contrary

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By HM Bobness

Well here we go with the pilot article for what may well become a series in the Foreign Affairs section. It gives Lovelies a brief round-up of what ahs been going on outside the walls of our nice, safe message boards and Micronations. Therefore we decided to give it a self explanatory name. So here we go.

The Briefing

Scottish Bird Flu

The case of Avian Influenza (also known as Bird Flu) in Fife, Scotland, has stuck fear into the hearts of many in Britain. Most people fear a worldwide Flu pandemic and are scared the spread of Bird Flu to the UK increases the risk of that happening here. However, it has been confirmed that the Swan found in Scotland was not a native bird, and was in fact migratory. This means it may well have died elsewhere and been washed up on British shores. With no further birds testing positive, despite a record number screened since the discovery, panic is now dying down. The Government are reassuring the population by putting 'Surveillance' and 'Protection' zones in place around Cellardyke, although this has no effect on the movement of humans in these areas.

(We would like to remind you all that avian influenza, even the H5N1 strain, is just that. Avian. For there to be a pandemic the virus would first have to mutate to be transmissible human to human. There is no sign of this at this time. Ed.)

For more information visit:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/world/2005/bird_flu/default.stm

Iranian Nuclear Crisis

Iran claims to have enriched Uranium to a level of around 3%. Whilst it takes a level of

around 80% to create nuclear weaponry, the international community has expressed concern. Officially, Iran wants to use the Uranium for Nuclear Power but it is the belief of the UN Security Council that they are attempting to create nuclear weapons.

It will now be the job of Mohamed El Baradei, the head of the UN Nuclear Watchdog, to negotiate with Iran over its enrichment program. The US, China and Russia have all shown signs of worry and China is to send a special envoy to help with negotiations.

For more information visit

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4859540.stm

Afghanistan

The Royal Marine Commandos are to be finishing a tour of duty in the war torn country within the next few weeks, and handing over their duties to the Parachute Regiment. 300 Royal marines and a team of Engineers have been securing an area of the Helmand Province and constructing a large base there. Within the next few weeks, the Marine's tour of duty will end and they will be replaced by around 3000 Paras serving with 16 Air Assault Brigade. The deployment's mission is to help root out terrorist hideouts in the south of the country and also to train up existing Afghani security forces.

For more information visit:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/MilitaryOperations/JohnReidbritishTaskForceHasAVitalJobToDoInSouthernAfghanistan.htm>

That's it for this week kids!

POLITICS

The LGP

By PAsTA

Contrary to a recent article in The Truth, Kieran is not the leader of the LGP – I am. I have been for over a week now, during which time I and other members have been considering policy issues, and Kieran (our candidate for Attorney General incidentally) has been making adjustments to our Web Site, which is still under construction.

We are currently considering our Party name, since we are sensitive to the views of others and can understand that it is confusing to some. A decision on this is imminent, subject to discussion with our members. In the meantime we wish to be referred to as simply the LGP.

The LGP has been formed to provide a more coherent alternative to the current Government, and it is our intention to provide clearer objectives, policies and methods of co-ordinating the workings of our Nation to the population of Lovely than have been provided by the current Government. In the interests of democracy, we feel it is important to outline such matters and present them to the Electorate prior to an election, so that a clear alternative is available.

The LGP has core beliefs in co-operation between Citizens, we oppose antagonistic tactics, we wish to capitalise on the fun aspects of Lovely and crack down on bullying. We believe there is a need for a more internationalist approach as Lovely gathers Citizens from more and more countries around the World. We are against all forms of discrimination that seek to disadvantage any individual or group of Citizens.

Although I accept that these are very broad terms, please remember that we are a very young party and we are still formulating the specifics. We want to get it right and agreed upon before we publish the detail, but it is our intention to prepare a credible alternative in time for an election.

Yours sincerely.

PirateAsTheArtist
(Party Leader, LGP)

<http://www.govt.nl>

LEMON SQUEEZY

By ID

Today, Thursday 13th April, Babs announced the end of the Easy Peasy Party, the party which I started back in October 2005.

By way of a personal tribute, here are some of my own posts from the early days of the party:

It's easy to form a party, anyone can do it. Let's have an Easy Peasy Party to show others that forming a political party is nowt to be scared of.

Our Manifesto:

1. Showing by demonstration that anyone can do this.
2. Getting others to form their own Parties.
3. er....
4. That's it.

Right then, we need people in charge of Being In Charge, and Doing All The Actual Work, and Making Speeches, and a Scapegoat for when it all goes wrong. I'll be the Scapegoat.

So, until someone else volunteers, I will be in charge.
(Asking why I am in charge counts as volunteering)

Here is our party's War Policy:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1236340&latest=1>

Roll up! Roll up! Join the Easy Peasy Party and show the rest how easy it is!

What else do we need? A website?

<http://www.freewebs.com/easypeasyparty/>

There. How long did that take? A few minutes. Btw it's my first ever website, that's why its so ordinary and short.

If I was power-hungry, I wouldn't form a Party and say "Don't vote for us"

ID05

Easy Peasy
Don't vote for us

EPP Column

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is with deep sorrow that I announce the disbanding of The EasyPeasyParty. This does not come about on anyones personal recommendation, it is a matter that has been playing on my mind for some time now, and after seeking advice from the Party's founder and former leader ID, the decision was made today. It comes after the lack of participation from it so-called members, some of which have not been seen in EPP threads for 3 weeks. Also, as both the party's leader and founder are currently in the Government of Mike, it does defeat the object of the party a bit. It's a great shame, there have been some good times both under mine, and ID's leadership. That is the last press release to come from the EPP. We hope you've enjoyed our time in the political scene as much as we have.

Thank you,

Babs.

New Kids on the Block:

Schaferlord:

Change is afoot in lovely politics with the new Lovelian Government Party (name pending a change) hitting the scene with accompanying fireworks. Bringing fresh enthusiasm and energy to the political scene in there eagerness to make an impact in Lovely politics which has been dominated by the same people for a while now (even with the demise of the EPP, Babs and ID are still major players in Lovely politics both being in government). Setting out its stall and formulating its stances and policies on the issues, the LGP is seeking to represent the forgotten and silent citizens who aren't as keen on Lovely politics as those who are involved in the current parties and movements.

While it's never a bad thing for more representation and newer fresher ideas to be put in the pot the LGP hasn't been universally welcomed or free of criticism since its arrival. The name itself brought the party allot of stick and led to the current reconsideration with the term "Lovelian Government" being seen as too similar to "Lovely Government" and thus unnecessarily confusing. That said the LGP has taken the current administration; seen by some to be effectively an interim government whose main task is to prepare everything for future governments, as they're main rivals and opponents and are portraying themselves as an alternative to the government. This isn't met with universal support as there are those who think the government being new and the first one ever is taking undue stick. It is also a risky strategy as the government comes from many parties and Mike has yet to announce if he plans to stand for re-election or not thus meaning they could have set themselves out to make themselves seem better than people they will not be competing against in the next election.

Still no party or movement is universally liked, and maybe the pressure put on the government by the LGP (who did a fairly confrontational launch message when they started telling the government to stop "Clowning around") is what's needed to get the Government to pull its finger out and start delivering more in the way of results. The new party and its fresh impetuous proves that Lovely Politics is still going forward and making

progressive steps even with the sad news that the EPP a popular and longstanding party has been disbanded.

Leader comment

The Problem With Parties:

Schaferlord

Now this is the first time I've attempted to do such a piece for the Guardian Angel, believing my opinions on stuff shouldn't be published in order to keep the integrity and neutrality of the paper beyond question (though question it some still do). This is more theoretical and doesn't really cast an opinion on any specific person/group/event in Lovely (though some might be brought in as examples) so I think it should be ok, but as always feedback is welcome on if you think me throwing stuff like this up from time to time is a damned awful idea or if you have any qualms with any points I rise (or if you agree and like this thing which is admittedly an unlikely occurrence) so tell me what you think (just put Schaferlord in the title of the e-mail so I know to read it).

So onto the main issue that this piece will address, mainly are political party groupings right for Lovely politics? I personally think not although I do know there are some good arguments for having them. I also am aware that as someone who was in a political party in Lovely for quite some time (the now disbanded Party of Erinyes) me disagreeing with the principle might seem slightly off kilter. Basically the problem with parties is that they automatically draw battle lines between each other, bringing a confrontational and adversarial edge to Lovely politics which will as proved in politics around the world bring disillusionment and apathy to the populace. Prime example of this was the first attempt at creating a Parliament for Lovely, parties were put in place and then were expected to come up with a system between themselves, doomed to failure from the start as parties by their nature compete against each other and thus couldn't agree on anything and were focused purely on the upcoming elections even though no one knew how to run them. Maybe if the battle lines and groupings hadn't been drawn up more cooperation would of taken place with people who all wanted to see Lovely develop and grow for the better (though how to do that and what is better might not have been a shared vision) and it would have been more successful, maybe not but I doubt it could've been worse than what happened in terms of inefficiency and this is no dig at any involved (except perhaps myself for not telling people to stop being silly and ignore party loyalties for a bit to get stuff done) more a dig at what parties do to the mentality of people.

The current government love it or loathe it and I know there are plenty of people filling both camps, is not formed from anyone party in fact it has people within it from all political persuasions (including leaders and former leaders of parties and ex-parties) thus surely meaning that the widest range of opinions that represent the wide range of opinions the citizens themselves have is in place for decision making. A party in government would create the tyranny of the majority where the party in power would have the biggest single support base in the country but it would mean that those who's opinions differ would struggle to have their voices heard which is a shame as no Lovely's opinion is and should ever seem more valid than that of another Lovely.

True parties do mean that those with similar ideas can group together and work together for ease in campaigning and getting their shared opinions across, but with most politicians keeping an eye on the election it does mean these opinions aren't always put across the nicest way (months to go before the election the new LGP is already starting its campaign

and drawing battle lines with the current administration) as they try to make themselves look better than the competition. That's politics you might say, but it doesn't have to be, the sad fact that Lovely isn't an officially recognised country does mean that major issues in world affairs aren't going to fall on the laps of our government, there is no need for us to sacrifice generally being Lovely in politics and listening to everyone's opinion for the sake of forming a decisive government and thus politics in Lovely doesn't have to be like Politics in the UK or anywhere else where a lot of nastiness and arguments take place.

Sketch:

Schaferlord

Exciting news, that a new force has hit Lovely Politics with the creation of the Lovelian Government Party has amazed all onlookers recently with their bold extravagant stances on all the issues. A party which its members hope will do exactly like it says on the tin and be a government very soon. So desperate is the party to get into power its decided to represent and appeal to a made up demographic, the "Lovelian" population of Lovely, ever since Lovely was named Lovely, the citizens have been Lovelies but what with many Lovelies supporting various other political movements a new party cannot be guaranteed the support needed to become successful if aiming solely at Lovelies. Thus support was found by making them up, a cunning political trick showing the party to be made of just the right stuff for government. Much has been made of the term government being unnecessarily confusing in the party's name, with citizens maybe confusing it with the current Government of Lovely, but how else will citizens know what the party is aiming for? How will the LGP ever be elected in to government if no one knows they want to be in government? The Government is clearly just an example of clear communication between party and citizens and just another thing on the long list of things that make the LGP such a good political party after all standing for election is definitely not a sign of wanting to be in government and the citizens of Lovely (be they Lovely or Lovelian) are in need of further clarification.

Here is the Proposed white paper by the LGP any feedback on it should be directed to them at <http://govt.nl/>

Lovelian Government Party Policy Centre White Paper 06/01

PARLIAMENT ACT 2006

THE LOVELY PARLIAMENT

- (1) There shall be a Lovely Parliament.
- (2) Five members from each political party, qualified under s3ss1 of this act, shall be returned to Parliament after each election.
- (3)
 - (a) Upon appointment of an elected Prime minister, his party shall return 10 members to Parliament after each election,
 - (b) Any party qualifying under s1ss3(a) of this act shall be known as His Majesties Government.

- (4) (a) Upon results of an election, the candidate with the second highest percentage of the vote will return 8 members to Parliament,
- (b) Any party qualifying under s1ss4(a) of this act will be known as His Majesties Official Opposition.
- (5) In the event of s2ss1 of this act, the current Parliament and its members shall cease its powers and responsibilities.

ELECTIONS

- (1) It is the sole right and privilege of his Majesty the King to call an election at anytime subject to s2ss2 of this act.
- (2) After each election a period of no less than 5 months must pass before s2ss1 of this act can qualify.
- (3) All citizens of Lovely must be notified of an election under s2ss1 of this act by email communications from the administrators of citizensrequired.com.
- (4) Elections shall be run and monitored by the administrators of citizensrequired.com.
- (5) It is an offence to vote or attempt to vote more than once in any one election.
- (6) (a) Citizens must have a minimum of 1 week after the announcement of an election under s2ss1 of this act to stand as a candidate in an election subject to s5ss2 of this act.
- (b) Citizens must have a minimum of 2 weeks to vote for the candidate of their choice from when the time set out in s2ss5(a) expires.

POLITICAL PARTIES

- (1) A political party qualified to return members to Parliament can do so only if the following requirements are fulfilled:
- No less than 5 active members, all of whom are citizens of the Kingdom of Lovely .
 - Given citizens the opportunity to view their policies, in full, in a manner that is acceptable under s4ss1 and s4ss2 of this act.
 - Has open membership to all citizens unless disqualified under s5ss1 of this act, or s3ss2 of this act applies.
 - The party in question has not breached s5ss2 of this act.
- (2) It is an offence to allow a citizen's membership to your party if they are a member of another party at the same time.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- (1) Information regarding party political policies must be available for citizens to view on either:
- Election message boards on citizensrequired.com: or
 - Party website

(2) If the native language of the party is not English, an English version of the party policies must be provided.

(3) It is an offence to withhold party policies when asked by a citizen of the kingdom of lovely for them to be viewed.

DISQUALIFIED MEMBERS

(1) It is an offence to become a member of a political party if –

- you are in prison
- you are not a citizen of the Kingdom of Lovely
- you are 12 years old or younger

(2) It is an offence to be a member of Parliament if –

- (a) you are in prison
- (b) you are not a citizen of the Kingdom of Lovely
- (c) you are 12 years old or under
- (d) you do not submit the Oath of Allegiance to the crown under s16 of this act

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

(1) Citizens who are returned to Parliament shall be known as Members of Parliament (MP).

(2) (a) A Member of Parliament may at anytime resign his seat by giving notice in writing via email to the Speaker of the House.

(b) It is an offence to notify the citizens of Lovely of your resignation without firstly having followed s6ss2(a) of this act.

(3) A Member of Parliament cannot be removed from Parliament in the event he resigns from a political party.

(4) A Member of Parliament can join any political party whilst in Parliament subject to s5ss1 of this act.

(5) A Member of Parliament can submit a white paper to the Speaker of the House to be discussed by Parliament at a time designated by the Speaker of the House.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

(1) The Parliament shall, at its first meeting following an election, elect from among its members, the Speaker of the House and his Deputy.

(2) A person elected Speaker of the House shall hold office until the conclusion of the next election for Speaker of the House under s7ss1 of this act.

(3) If the Speaker of the House or his Deputy ceases to hold office before the Parliament is dissolved under s2ss1 of this act, the Parliament shall elect another from among its members to fill

his place.

(4) The Speaker of the Houses functions may be exercised by his Deputy if the office of the Speaker of the House is vacant or the Speaker of the House is for any reason unable to act.

(5) The Speaker of the House may authorize his Deputy to exercise functions on his behalf.

(6) The validity of any act supervised by the Speaker of the House or his Deputy is not affected by any defect following an election.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

(1) If the Attorney-General is not a member of Parliament –

- he may participate in the proceedings of the Parliament but he may not vote
- he must apply the rules of Parliament as if he were such a member

(2) The Attorney-General may, in any proceedings of the Parliament, decline to answer any questions or produce any document relating to the operation of the system of criminal prosecution in any particular case if he considers that answering the question or producing the document-

- (a) might prejudice criminal proceedings in that case, or
- (b) would otherwise be contrary to the public interest

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT

(1) Subject to s10, the Parliament may make laws, to be known as Acts of Parliament

(2) Proposed Acts of Parliament shall be known as Bills; and a Bill shall become an Act of Parliament when it has been passed by Parliament and has received Royal Assent by his Majesty the King under s9ss3 of this act.

(3) A Bill receives Royal Assent once confirmation that his Majesty the King has read and accepted the proposed Bill by either his Majesty or the administrators of citizensrequired.com emailing both the Speaker of the House and the Prime minister.

(4) The date of Royal Assent shall be written on the Act of Parliament and form part of the Act.

(5) Every Act of Parliament shall be judicially noticed by citizens of the kingdom of Lovely , Parliament and the administrators of citizensrequired.com

LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE

(1) An Act of Parliament is not law so far as any provisions of the Act is outside the legislative competence of the Parliament under s10ss2 of this Act.

(2) A provision is outside the competence so far as any of the following paragraphs apply –

- (a) it would form part of the law of a country or territory other than the Kingdom of Lovely
- (b) it would remove the Attorney-General from his position as head of the systems of criminal prosecution in the Kingdom of Lovely .
- (c) it would remove his Majesty the King from his position as head of state and sovereign of

the Kingdom of Lovely .

(d) it would remove his Majesty the Kings power and responsibilities as head of state and sovereign of the Kingdom of Lovely .

SCRUTINY OF BILLS BEFORE INTRODUCTION

(1) A Member of Parliament shall, on or before introduction of the Bills in the Parliament state that in his view the provisions of the Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Parliament under s10ss2 of this act.

(2) The Speaker of the House shall, on or before introduction of the Bills in the Parliament state that in his view the provisions of the Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Parliament under s10ss2 of this act and state his decision.

SUBMISSION OF BILLS FOR ROYAL ASSENT

(1) It is for the Speaker of the House to submit Bills for Royal Assent.

(2) The Speaker of the House shall not submit a Bill for Royal Assent at anytime when –

- The Attorney-General is entitled to make a reference in relation to the Bill under s13 of this act
- Any such reference has been made but has not yet been decided upon

(3) The Speaker of the House shall not submit a Bill for Royal Assent if –

- The Attorney-General has decided that the Bill or any provisions of it would not be within the legislative competence of the Parliament.

SCRUTINY OF BILLS BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

(1) The Attorney-General may refer the question of whether a Bill or any provision of a Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Parliament and state his decision.

(2) Subject to s13ss3, he may make a reference in relation to a Bill at anytime.

(3) He shall not make a reference in relation to a Bill if he has notified the Speaker of the House that he does not intend to make a reference in relation to the Bill unless the Bill is further amended since informing the Speaker.

POWER TO INTERVENE IN CERTAIN CASES

(1) If a Bill contains provisions –

- which the Secretary of State for Constitutional & Judicial Affairs has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with the constitution
- which the Secretary of State for Defence has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with any interests in defence
- which the Secretary of State for Home Affairs has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with the home affairs

- which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with the international obligations
- which the Secretary of State for General Affairs has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with the interests of general affairs
- which the Secretary of State for Human Rights Affairs has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with any human rights issues
- which the Secretary of State for Security has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with national security
- which the Prime minister has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with any of the above
- which the Deputy Prime minister has reasonable grounds to believe would be incompatible with any of the above he may make an order to the Attorney-General prohibiting the Speaker of the House from submitting the Bill for Royal Assent.

(2) The order must identify the Bill and the provisions in question and state the reasons for making the order.

PARLIAMENT HOUSING

- (1) Proceedings of the Parliament shall be held at theparliament.org.uk subject to s15ss2 of this act.
- (2) The administrators of citizensrequired.com or Parliament see fit to remove proceedings of the Parliament to another domain.
- (3) Neither citizens nor the administrators of citizensrequired.com have any financial responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the Parliament website.
- (4) Financial responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the Parliament website lies firmly with the owner of the domain at which the Parliament is held.

OATH OF ALLIGANCE TO THE CROWN

(1) In accordance with s5ss2(d) of this act the following oath must be cited before becoming a Member of Parliament –

“ I _____ do solemnly swear that as a Member of this here Parliament I shall honor and obey the trust given to me by the Citizens and His Majesty King Danny I of the Kingdom of Lovely to act on their behalf with integrity. To remain ever loyal to His Majesty King Danny I and to always Be Good.

God Save Lovely

Long Live the King”

INTERPRETATION

(1) In this act, unless the content requires a different interpretation –

“His Majesty” means His Majesty King Danny I of the Kingdom of Lovely , also known as Danny Wallace

“Order” means a communication directed to the Attorney-General with regards to any Bill or provisions of a Bill

“MP” means Member of Parliament

“Speaker” means Speaker of the House

“this Act” means the Parliament Act 2006

“s” means section of this act, also known as a provision

“ss” means subsection of this act, also known as a provision

COMMENCEMENT

(1) This section and s19 come into force on Royal Assent; and the other provisions of this act come into force when his Majesty or the administrators of citizensrequired.com acknowledge Royal Assent to the Speaker of the House and the Prime minister.

SHORT TITLE

(1) This Act may be cited as the Parliament Act 2006.

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OPINIONS PAGE

Lovely Friends

By Saz

It's been a strange 8 months. I became a citizen of Lovely (or “the as yet unnamed country” as it was known originally) back in August, lasting about an hour after the first episode was shown before succumbing to the weakness and scuttling to the PC to sign up. When I clicked tentatively through the forum in those first few minutes I'd never have guessed that in the coming months I'd have made so many genuine friends, both via the internet and those I've been lucky enough to meet in real life. It was all a bit of a joke back then, one which has rapidly escalated out of control.

Memories of the old place seem distant now, it was all very light-hearted, people didn't really know each other, and their habits. There was a lot more politeness, but mainly because when introduced to strangers you tend to behave in a more restrained manner. Now that we've effectively “lived” with each other day in and day out for so long, we've gone beyond this. Now we can safely joke, laugh, mock and taunt... and no, this is not a bad thing. It is after all with our friends that we can do that, safe in the knowledge that they know and understand you, and so the interaction isn't seen as negative, it's friendly and playful. You wouldn't flirt with a random stranger in the street, but if you knew someone well enough you could do so (within reason!) safe in the knowledge that either party is sure that their own personal relationships aren't at risk. You can safely call your friend a bitch and laugh at it. True malice is easily spotted if it is intended as such.

What I do know is that now, as it stands with less than a week to go before Cheaster (the 2nd of hopefully many more citizen parties) I'm yet again looking forward to seeing my friends, old and new. Some I already know from London meets, some I met (briefly) at the Christmas party, but now we know each other better. Time has passed, friendships have strengthened, and I've got to know some citizens as individuals behind the screen names. Lovely has given me memories I'll remember for years to come, and friendships that'll last a lifetime. It doesn't matter which of us went to which school, got what grades, who's got the best job, the biggest house, the most money or who's most popular, because we don't judge our real friendships on those guidelines. We judge them on who we enjoy sharing time with, and enjoy talking to, those who share our humour, and enjoy similar things. Case in point is the London meets, those that attend are the most random bunch of (and I say this lovingly) misfits from all walks of life, and yet I love them all dearly, and cannot imagine not knowing them. Would I have been their friend if we hadn't met in Lovely? Probably not, and this is a depressing thought - that I would have been so closed minded not to see how similar we all really are underneath.

Unfortunately this is a problem that remains in Lovely as it does in the real world. Some may assume that because of the "character", or their age, or whatever, that other citizens are not worthy of their time. They will get harassed and picked on, because their way of acting doesn't fit in with another person's. Look underneath, see the signs, they're people too, and they deserve your respect. It doesn't matter if the bravado is there, or if they seem like the annoying spammer who doesn't want friends, in fact the ones that seem the most argumentative are the ones that have shown the most consideration – with my own experience at least. None of us are scared of arguing, that's painfully clear, but those that can put the arguments aside and forge friendships, these are the ones that know how people tick, that don't just tiptoe around issues and pretend all is well. They'll ask you if you're alright and mean it, not just the hollow question that's expected as a greeting. They're the ones that'll support you when you're down, listen to you when you want to be heard, and talk to you as a person, not just your screen name.

Lovely has helped make many friendships, make sure you get the chance to trust in others enough to make the strong ones, and not just the ones for show. Popularity on the boards is one thing, but who really are the ones you'd be proud to say you know as people – off the boards. Remember that Lovely is more than just the forum, and the friendships should last in the real world as well. Don't miss out on your chance to make lasting friendships because of preconceptions of who you think you should be talking to. Open your mind, and let your instincts decide. It's more than worth it in the end.

REALLY HACKED OFF

By Lady Londoner

It had been a really hard day in Lovely and some citizens had been getting really precious (including me most of all) about Kieran's new Lovelian Government Party and to all the connotations placing the wording 'government' into its title. Its 'duplicity' as some saw it, and to how it was undermining the existing and officially recognized government that is lead by Mike as The Prime Minister and Saz as Deputy Prime Minister.

And as the thread 'Saz's Government Office' on the day will be able to corroborate, it roused some extremely high emotions and accusations all round. A situation that did leave me somewhat disorientated and bewildered, as I belong to the school of thought that while issues of Government for Lovely should be raised and discussed and various political alliances should be encouraged.

I have felt time and time again that some of us do need reminding that Lovely is a virtual land and it's not real and therefore trying to enforce political reforms etc is rather like

pushing a strawberry up a very large hill with your nose .(*Lady Londoner makes a mental note... maybe this could be an event in Chester*)

However, and a very big however, what has made the whole concept of Lovely Land extremely real for me anyway has been the very important life long friendships that I have made through Citizens Required. Flipping heck I have even bagged a scrummy toy boy due to this place. What better result could I ask for?

So it particularly interested me and prompted me to write this article when on the specific day in question my lovely cyber son (I am his cyber mummy number three) Preston's Child dropped a huge bombshell (in my opinion) and had the guts to admit that he had hacked into not only the Kings Account but also into quite a few of the Lovely citizens' accounts as well. And that he was not alone in doing this and in fact he belonged to a 'hackers' group that were also citizens of Lovely.

With the exception of Mike the Prime Minister this news went relatively unnoticed and I was curious to the lack of indignation this caused amongst the general citizen populace.

Especially, when earlier on that day much passion and emotion, along with a barbed insult of my being 'underhand' was publicly posted. To be read by anyone and everyone.

All due, to my 'membership' of a cyber political party, I have come to since understand that I had obviously not grasped the importance that some citizens have attached to their own political cyber allegiances and I had failed to respect that. This was a huge miscalculation and error on my part.

Nevertheless at the time, and still now as I write this I do have a sense of incredulity that as a citizen that had her own Sykpe account hacked into a few weeks back. I found it rather ironic that from my perspective that a real misconduct such as hacking is not being perceived as such a big deal. And I cannot but help observing that the 'anger' that I was implicated in earlier that day with regards to my own cyber political 'credibility' had been totally and utterly displaced.

That the issue of 'hacking' is viewed as some kind of 'jolly jape' It got me thinking (something very dangerous) that we all as citizens need to take a step back and assess what is 'real' within Lovely. And those that believe it is acceptable to 'hack' into other citizens accounts etc will not be treated like errant and delinquent children. But should be made to realize that this is totally unacceptable behaviour and something, as a collective, we citizens should not condone or dismiss so lightly. Especially in the light of information that has come to my attention that the accessing of e-mail and messenger accounts has resulted in citizens receiving abusive telephone calls and e mails. This has caused me a huge amount of concern and unease.

So it's with thanks to Preston's Child for coming forward and making me aware of the real scale of the hacking that has been going on. I have no doubts that I will be told that I am affixing far too much significance and kudos onto those citizens that seem hell bent of causing genuine, infuriating and above all serious disruption to Lovely Land citizens with their hacking activities.

As some one who is completely computer illiterate the theory of hacking is totally new to me and I am sure there are many ways I can maintain and safeguard against being a victim of this again. This article I am hoping will prompt those with the expertise to write an advisory article for mine and others benefit.

SHORT FICTION

Short Fiction

By The Don

Here's an extract from my Dark Fantasy novel:

The Moonlight

Joseph ran. He fled joyously from the Moor, his head swimming, his robes flying. He came presently to a scented grove of olive and fig where he sat for a while and stare at the still sea before him. And as he gazed and tried to clear his head he thought he glimpsed a pale apparition on the beach. Standing up, he followed the path through the wood to the shingle. The waves lapped gently against the sand and the moon was turned to crystal in the ripples of the waves. And he saw her. Walking along the beach far away yet coming closer. Joseph began to walk towards Elena who was dressed in ragged white, her brown hair tossed in the breeze.

Her bare feet left a path behind her and her brown eyes gazed out before her across the ghostly bay. Wraithlike they came together, he in black, she in white and in a moment they clasped to each other and their hair and their tears were as one in the cool night. And they lay, together upon the white sand, the waves lapping at their feet and the moon in their faces. And on the very edge of vision, Joseph thought he could see a set of marble stairs reaching up into the sky. And his Love burnt ferociously yet he felt at rest in this place with her.

The Battle

The sun rose red over the moor. The dark figures were arrayed proudly and defiantly, their banners fluttering defiantly as the sun warmed their backs. The clouds were no longer rolling but strangely still, with a Romance of their own as the sky turned bloody. The pale face of the Antichrist was tainted with as he stood upon the heath, the morning star still adorned the sky as the rose shone above the army. They were ready for war. The valley below them, decorated with one thousand tents and countless flags was pink with heather and blood-red with pride. An ageless feeling was come upon the company. They stood there, awaiting their destiny, to rise or to fall. The Antichrist looked out and he saw sun's rosy chariot and the spear of Lucifer was come upon him and he was lifted and he felt a great joy and a great despair within him. All became distant around him and he suddenly thrust his sword into the air piercing the atmosphere and leading the silent army to erupt into sound. A ripple of excitement spread across the moor land. Tears rolled down Joseph's cheeks, tears of illumination. A light was now upon his face, a light with no source, shining from within him, the light of Lucifer. And he looked to the West and saw a shapeless form upon the horizon.

"He comes."

"Who, Lord?" asked Uzziel, standing tall before him.

"Our enemy, the bloody lamb, the unclean sacrifice. He rides with all the loyalist forces. We must fight."

"To arms!" cried the Angel.

And the force below, man and immortal, together one third of all who survived the cataclysm moved with one purpose and the Joseph stepped forward and spake unto them "Friends. We have fought together for many a season and our war has been waged since the dawn of time. Since He who fell turned to us, it has been our single aim to fight for freedom or to die. I saw him then, in his might and power and lo! I see him again! He rises with the sun and within all of you, that overwhelming feeling of joyous release. Yes, it is our time. Our time to take up sword against the tyrant, he who deceived us, he who sent agents to destroy all that is fair and right and beautiful and now, he comes to destroy us,

the forces of enlightenment! For we are all that stand between Him and the ends of the world, the death of the sun and one final everlasting fall. But see, we are filled with the elixir of Love, for we cannot be deceived. Comrades, to death!" and a great cheer was taken up among them and on the horizon the sun shone ever brighter and they turned to the West and moved forward.

Arrayed on a great hill, they set the red flag and the great pentagram on high. And ever the dark horde approached from the West and on a great palanquin, Joseph thought he could see a figure, veiled. And ahead of him a horseman, with a bright sword and amongst him were the army of God, with armour and spears and vigour and hate in their eyes. But with an equal fervour the Luciferian army stood ready, shining eyes, noble figures, swords of adamant, faces of steel, and the morning star did not wane but seemed to be growing in strength. And amongst the army figures appeared, great fallen angels, tall, beautiful and the fairest of them all, a Lady in grey who approached the Antichrist with a jewel upon her forehead.

"Astarelle" murmured the Antichrist. And all the fallen were now present, Seraphim, Cherubim, Powers, Principalities, Archangels. And Joseph could see the greatest. Lucifer, his face gaunt but perfect. And he held a sword and with him was Satan first among the Princes of Pandemonium and the Lords of enlightenment. Astarelle took a bow and was gone but was still present.

The holy army was now advancing with twice as many as the Illuminated. And they had many Angels amongst them. And suddenly they rushed, a great sea which crashed into the shield wall. And the battle was begun. And as the Antichrist was preparing to ride he became aware that Eléna was beside him and her eyes were full of the jewel-like tears that his were. And they kissed and rode together. The riders of Truth crashed through the horde like an avenging storm with the sun their eyes. Their adamantine spear-tips pierced the armour of the deceived force who faltered, their faces momentarily doubtful, but at a command from the lamb who rode behind they continued to fight. But they were met by the ferocity of the fallen Angels with their tall shields and black lances. And the wind was rushing and all the sky seemed to be filled with turmoil. A war, a duel between two powers, infinitely and equally powerful. And still the battle continued. The riders continued to charge, their steed's hooves and their swords and spears mutilating and bloodying and killing. But their own army was being slowly pushed back by the constantly oncoming horde.

And many mortals and angels were dead, their bodies trampled by the living. The fair flesh of the immortals torn and defiled, their golden blood spent. But still many lived and continued to fight with a savagery. For peace was inconceivable until one force was driven to destruction and one dueller was struck down, his crown taken.

The Antichrist cheered as a line of enemies retreated, those around him raised their weapons. Soon, however, great figures waded through the lake of men and crashed towards them, giants awoken by the deceiver's agents. Some were brought down by thrown spears and by arrows, however seven reached the riders. Many fell to the blows of the giants. Ophestius was de-horsed and trampled, his body broken. With a cry, Joseph urged his steed onwards. He plunged his sword into the flank of a giant which collapsed with a hideous groan. The Antichrist dispatched it with a swipe. The rest of the giants were slowly brought down. However another swarming attack was made by the horde. The Antichrist and his beleaguered army rode to meet them, but suddenly an arrow hit Joseph in the chest, with a cry he fell off his horse and hit the hard ground. Horsemen rode around him as he tried to rise, but the burning pain in his chest brought him down again and darkness seemed to enshroud him. But then a pale face with flowing brown hair came into his blurred vision. Eléna knelt over him. She brushed his face as the noise of battle overwhelmed the both. Their tears intermingled and were as a river once more. And Joseph rose once more and was the Antichrist and rode with Eléna. And then a whirlwind seemed to appear in the West, and out of it came a figure in white. Not a giant, but a great

Angelic being, fierce, many limbed and wielding seven swords with seven blades; the gatekeeper. He strode through the horde towards them, his face veiled and angry. And he lifted his gargantuan swords and struck downwards and the swords were parried by a single blade, that of Joseph. From the blade a liquid shadow seemed to swell and it stretched out to the East where it became a second whirlwind and from it appeared a Dragon. A great serpentine being surrounded by a mysterious aura and glowing with the same light as the Angels.

The two met. The Gatekeeper and the Dragon. They were as one being locked together. They fought and struggled and writhed and seared and all was chaos and turmoil but for the singular wish for destruction between the two of them. And suddenly, the sun seemed to darken and the Dragon was diminished and the Gatekeeper set upon it with vicious ferocity. All the Luciferians were in despair. The Dragon was vanquished. And alone the riders charged, charged into the fray, into the endless masses of the horde of God. And they kept on riding and though some fell the singular intent carried them on until they reached the palanquin where a hidden figure watched. And then there was only one horse left. And Joseph and Eléna fell, fell to darkness together.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

The Lovely Guide

By Bert

Who'd have thought we would have made it this long, eh? I for one am grateful Lovely is still around (without it I'd actually have to do something at work). Of late we have had a fresh intake of new citizens from around Europe and other far-flung places. Some of these great additions have been having trouble getting into the sway of things. For example, what is Flase? Why are we called Lovely? Why on earth do we have an elimination game elimination game??

The answers to these things and more will soon be available in the Lovely Guide!

The idea has been talked about for a while and has gone through several changes; it's now time to get it sorted. As the new co-ordinator, I'm looking for suggestions for additions and maybe some fine citizens to help out with the listing of all the important information about this nation.

Lets all hope that soon our great guide will answer any question you or any new citizens ask.

Remember... if it isn't in the Lovely Guide, it isn't worth knowing.

Email: theLovelyguide@googlemail.com

Check out the Lovely guide thread:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307713?thread=2709060&latest=1>

Interview with Citizen Saz

By CoolMin

By now you will now that Saz has resigned from her post as the first Deputy Prime Minister

of Lovely. In this exclusive interview for the Guardian Angel, Saz tells us a little about her reasons for leaving the post and about her time in office.

Why Saz, Why? Why did you leave the job?

Because I didn't want to tarnish the good reputation of officialdom with anything negative.

Negative?

Hmm... because of the negative cloud that was drawing near. Although, that said, I quit because I felt like I was getting *less* of a right to speak my mind than any other citizen in Lovely.

You obviously care a lot about our country.

I do. Stupid amounts, I'm hideously protective of the ol' place... it's become a part of life, not just mine, others too.

That's so true

So Saz, is it true that you told Mike to stick the job up his bum?

Lol no, not at all, in fact Mike has kept me in Lovely for ages. Without his support and friendship I don't think I'd have lasted this long in the country, let alone the role of DPM. He's been a good friend to me, and I continue to support him as PM of Lovely

Mike certainly is very committed to Lovely.

What is your fondest memory of your time in office?

Hmm, that's a hard one. I think (and this will sound totally lame), but I felt extra specially proud of Lovely on the whole when the boards went down for a few days. Everyone just signed up to the refugee camp and carried on, and things were positive, arguments were down, life was just how lovely has always meant to be in my head.

Yeah, that was a nice time, Showed that we were more than just people who post on a message board, we have become a community.

One which *could* accept hiccups without panic. It was a brilliant unity amongst everyone.

I liked the fact that we have a great communication network set up outwith the boards.

Well as King Danny himself said, the boards are just one of many methods that we all communicate.

Is there any advice you would offer the next Depute Prime Minister?

Umm... apart from the obvious "don't let it get to you" (which, despite my quitting, I didn't a lot of the time...) all I'd say to them is to look after Lovely. Do what's best for the country, that's why we're all here, be it in Government, as DPM or just as your average citizen.

What will you miss most? Your green lamp, or the massive expense account maybe?

Haha, no, I took the lamp to my new office, and the expenses were pretty much drained... I miss trying just that bit harder for Lovely. I know I stepped down to just be another average citizen again, but part of me is still wanting to be protective of Lovely, trying to break up the rows before they happen, speak for those that feel pushed around and weak, just giving the push for those that are less confident in themselves in Lovely, until they find their own feet. Although I can still do my bit for Lovely, there's a part of me that just has the "give up" attitude which I'd not allowed myself as DPM.

I've no doubt at all that you will still be one of the hardest working citizens for Lovely, if not the hardest working.

What are you planning to do with all your spare time?

My spare time is currently spent stirring up enthusiasm for Cheaster... unfortunately this

goes about as far as occasionally chanting "Cheaster Cheaster Cheaster" in the appropriate thread, but hey... it's something!

Are you going to tell us what Shminky means, and why we should say it more?
Shminky is whatever you want it to be... although I must stress it's a good thing. Just say it out loud... "shminky!" How could it be anything bad?! Oh... and any links to the flase is purely coincidental... *cough*

Hmmmm

Have you a message for our lovely country?

Umm.... this is my time to shine... seem witty, intelligent, etc etc... I'm gonna go with "hello - hope you all have a fab Easter!"

Haha, good enough to me.

Ohhhh "...and come to Cheaster! (Chester, Saturday 22nd April <http://get-me.to/lovelycheaster>)"

Off course, that is VERY important. And for the citizens who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting you, Cheaster is their big chance.

Haha yea, that and there'll be celeb. eggs!

Eggcellent! (sorry)

Last question Saz. Can I have your office now?

Lol of course, it is up for rent. Please excuse the puddles around the plant pots...

Ahh yes, on second thoughts...

Thank you very much Saz. Lovely will be poorer for not having you as DPM, but having you as a citizen makes us a very rich little country indeed.

The Elimination Game

By ID

As most GA readers are aware, some message boards proliferate with Elimination Game threads. Some are popular, some are elitist, some long forgotten, and some played by only two Citizens. But when and how did they start?

Five months ago, KRIZANG started the Star Wars Elimination Game (SWEG), with complicated rules (message 2 says "too complicated. I will not play"). The next day the game was restarted with the standard rules we are now familiar with, and KRIZANG started the Rock Band Elimination Game (RBEG) that same day (Nov 5th 2005)

On Christmas Eve he/she tried to change the rules, unsuccessfully. Since that time Krizang has been unsuccessfully trying to change the rules in the RBEG.

Until four days ago. Four days ago KRIZANG did two things - in the RBEG he/she gave up trying to change the points system, while in the SWEG he/she closed the game and restarted it with new rules. These rules might well become the standard for future Games.

Meanwhile, other people had started more Elimination Games.

The Comedy Elimination Game on November 9th.

The Indie Elimination Game on December 17th.

The Thread Elimination Game on December 18th.

The Computer Game Elimination Game on December 19th.

Then things got silly when StatusFrustration started the Elimination Game Elimination Game on February 10th.

Recently I tried to kill two birds with one stone, starting DIY games (in which players first collective compile a list, before playing the game) on the "What should our country be called?" message board, thus hopefully giving that board a new reason for being, as it hardly seems likely that the name "Lovely" will be changed for the foreseeable future.

Maybe all future Elimination Games should start (on the "What should our country be called?" message board) as DIY (so that players get to choose what goes in the list to begin with) and then be played using KRIZANG's new scoring system, which can be seen in message 1 here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=2668214>

Elimination Games, less fun than Pass The Parcel, but more fun than scaremongering and attacking whoever's turn it is.

Directory of over 60 Elimination Games:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307716?thread=2707395>

ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry

Galway

By 80s Popstar

Leaving Galway we drove out west
On roads like little twisters for the tongue,
Stalling at junctions where we had to guess,
Until, inevitably, I guessed wrong -
Stopped dead, in rain, at the end of Europe,
The rock-pool farms of low walls and cold fish.
We had a map, a bar of chocolate,
And Tony Hawks' ROUND IRELAND WITH A FRIDGE

To guard against the sky's upturned suitcase,
As we watched the midnight sun above the beach,
Where creatures have a billion years of grace,
The light of shrunken suns within our reach.
Returning to the gusty guesthouse room
We hung our clothes up, made it home.

Cliché

By Hobo

Roses are red,
violets are blue
I see a cliché, how about you?

Cake

This is

A poem
About cake
And how
Not taking
A piece
Would be
A big
Mistake.
This is
Because
I am
Insulted
By the
Rejection
By which
I'll make
Sure you
Get an
Infection
By which
You can no
Longer
Get an
Erection.
You're
Girlfriend
Won't like that.

Art

Art is like a butterfly,
Art is like a summer blue sky,
Art is like a deep dark cave,
Art is like a tortured slave.
We all have individual and different taste,
But everyone sees something as art, even waste.

Generators and Eliminators

By BJC

There is a new craze in Lovely; elimination games and name generators. The country has gone mad for them, or maybe just a few citizens.

Elimination Games:

How to play:

Add one point to your favourite
Delete one point from your least favourite
Place a + next to where you add
Place a - where you have taken away
Delete the previous posters + and -

Only play one thread per day please

Question Elimination Game:

What happens when we reach the end? 10

Will the unpopular choices disappear from Lovely? 10

Does the game continue until there is but one winner? 10

Will the thread remain unlocked that long? 10

If it moves does it start again? 10

Is there any end to what can be eliminated? 10

Here are a few elimination threads (positions as of 9th April 2006)

1. Drink elimination..to get the idea and whet your appetite.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307505?thread=2442701>

Current top....water

Current bottom...squash

2. Sport.

Current top...cricket

Current bottom...snooker

3. Birds.

Current top..swan

Current bottom..pigeon

4. The short, sharp and shouty.

Current top..melt banana

Current bottom..napalm death

5. Danny Wallace projects.

Current top..How to start your own country

Current bottom..Danny Wallace and the centre of the universe

6. Sports stars.

Current top..Flintoff

Current bottom..Schumacker

7. Rock band.

Current top..Radiohead

Current bottom..Beatles

8. Youth sub cultures.

Current top..skater

Current bottom..emo

9. Sea life.

Current top..crab

Current bottom..eel

Etcetera etcetera, you get the idea. ID06 has just started another load. I've counted 34 in his list currently. I think it best you go choose a few for yourself, they cover all tastes.

Generators:

Threads are started to advertise links to external sites, and Citizens then add their newfound names to the thread and often to their nickname. There have been some

hilarious names generated but I'll post my own just for ease of writing this...

1. Squirrel names...Bushy Drunkenpaws
<http://cheekysquirrel.net/squirrelname/index.php>
2. Pirate names...Pirate Prunella the Fashionably Late
3. Significant other pet name...Schmookiddy Muffin
4. Gangsta...Butt-jugglin Hoopti Rida
5. Porn star...*****
6. New York cabbie...Krâshdakab McGillicuddy
7. Mafia...Valentina the Fish -
http://www.jasonschock.com/gangsta/porn_name.php
8. Another pirate one..Keelhaul Eliza <http://www.mess.be/pirate-names-male.php> ("on this site thar be links t' several generators")
9. Advertising slogans...you've got questions? We've got beej
<http://www.thesurrealist.co.uk/slogan>
10. Anagram maker...cab jab fake fay
<http://www.wordsmith.org/anagram/index.html>

There are also many name generator game threads...but sadly lost in the earlier pages of my discussion lists. these involved replacing your initials with certain strange words etc. I became Sloopy Burger Hump, George W Bush was Fluffy Chucklefanny. Hmmmmm.

Take a stroll through the Transport thread:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=1048375&latest=1>

Or the pages of Media, Arts and Culture to find out how.

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FOLLOW THAT WOMBAT!

By Razerbug

I awoke one Saturday morning, still cream-crackered from the week before, with lovely company and about to be in the company of Lovelies. This could mean only one thing, it was the day after a London meet and time for a Wombat Walkabout!

The night before had seen magicians stick cards to 30ft ceilings without moving, angel baby learning to fly, and assaulting pub goes while wearing a tomato helmet. So that was definitely a Friday Night cit-meet then!

So began the morning after the night before; with seven lovelies about to follow a half wombat half trouser press. I feel I should explain:

Here begineth the tale according to Razerbug

And one morning on the day know as Sata, did six patriots of the fair land of Lovely make forth for a cafe in the borough of ... Borough, a fitting start for the one known as wombat. Where hearty breakfasts of the full English variety were served. The breakfasts they were

consumed and the journey did begin, and the six did follow the Wombat.

Eagerly did they arrive on the heath of Hampstead and they did set off, but lo, their way was blocked by an angry and ignoble beast, the Citizen known as Swan, and he did give chase to all the birds who would consume the offering of bread. The Lovelies could but watch as Swan did attempt to consume a small but brave* Pupizen

*Some translations read "utterly stupid"

The Wombat did wander on and the six did follow, the wombat was drawn to the great burrow, many text did read "barrow" but the wombat new this mound was the home of the giant wombat of old London town.

And they did see a sign to warn them on their quest "cyclists maximum speed limit 8mph". This they did put thought, hard to. The number was not 7mph or 10mph but 8. 8 was the number. This did confuse the Lovelies but there was a burrow to be found.

After much searching in deepest darkest Hampstead was the burrow found by the six and the wombat, and mighty it was. Mightier still was the trail the Great Wombat left towards the woods, and as if beckoned the one known as wombat did follow and a clearing with many a tree was discovered. The one they call the Razer Bug, he did climb said tree to read how the land lay, but the cry went up from the one who is identity: "Wolf Wolf!" While t'was indeed a mighty hound t'was nothing more than a shepherding dog of German decent, but the party did move on, and a map was discovered.

"To the Duelling Grounds!" was the unanimous cry, and the wombat did lead. Soon the grounds where two dead men did get up to fight, facing each other back to back.



And the six and the wombat they did. They gave duel, between the one who is a prophet of amber and the one called the space of ades, with spork and sorcery! In a display of sporkmanship did the amber one disarm her opponent and did turn him into a shiny coin and a toy automobile. Powerful magicks indeed!

But fouler magicks where to be at work before the eyes of the six and the wombat. For soon two folk of the wood they did appear and the animals they did feed. Such was the delight of Ade that his camera did he produce with its mighty lenses, and great images did he record of squirrels, robins and tits.

But a murder was afoot. A murder of crows, and when the back of those that are Lovely were so turned did the folk of the woods become a great murder of crows and take flight. Strange magicks.

Thus was the home of smoothly makers and electric whisks discovered being the House of Kenwood. And on the way was a bridge crossed, a diversion created and time discussed. So deep was the thought of the six and wombat that they did almost miss the clown decapitated by pram!

On entering the house, the etiquette of Tea was learned by the prophet and duelling pistols purchased! But more than this the six and wombat did marvel at Ade's mighty organ, all bar the one they call ID – who decreed it not so mighty. But it was the Lady of the house, the Lady that is H, who would end the expedition. First, while the rest marvelled at Ade's mighty organ did she touch things that where forbidden. Second did she seek to use her mobile telephone and thus anger the last of the Arian race! Who did in a fit of anger and stupidity (for she had passed by a man committing a similar offence) ask the six and wombat to leave.

The ramble did end the way it had commenced, with fine foods to satisfy weary travellers with pints of prawns. The Razer there did slumber and the Ade did wear the lampshade of triumph.

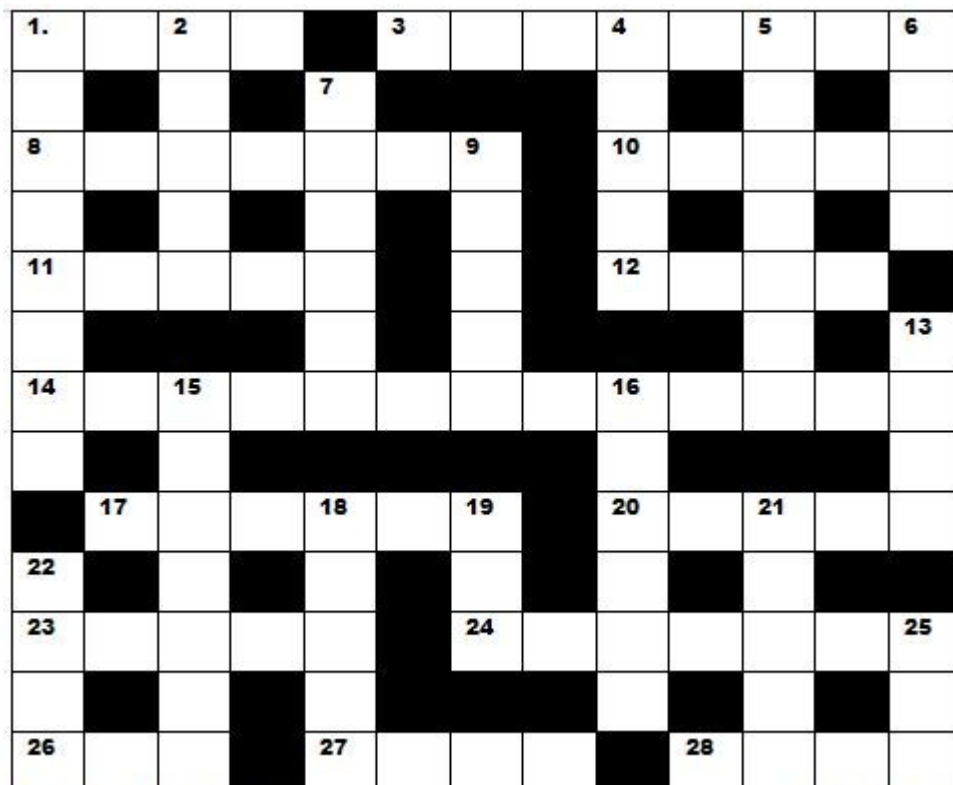
For they had followed the Wombat and many mighty things had they discovered.

So endeth the tale according to Razerbug.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mooseade/sets/72057594102509732/>

CROSSWORD

By Mcmo



A LOVELY CROSSWORD

By MCFARLMO

Across

- 1. Landlocked West African country (4)
- 3. Capital of Syria (8)

- 8. The capital of this country is Bucharest (7)
- 10. Vegetable the Scots call a neep, native of Uppsala (5)
- 11. A small amount of colouration
- 12. Art gallery built on sugar money
- 14. Actress, star of Some Like it Hot and The Misfits (7,6)
- 17. Constitutional Monarchy City state ruled by the Grimaldi family (6)
- 20. Religion whose holy book is the Qu'ran
- 23. River which flows through Rome
- 24. Mandarin or Cantonese (7)
- 26. Title for a married woman (3)
- 27. Part of speech used to name a person, place, thing, quality, or action (4)
- 28. Largest continent (4)

Down

- 1. Type of museum found in Greenwich (8)
- 2. Citrus fruit (6)
- 4. A useful or valuable quality, person, or thing (5)
- 5. It'll be Lovely on the weekend of the 22nd April (7)
- 6. A Blue Peter dog (also sung about by Elvis!) (4)
- 7. To remove a covering (6)
- 9. Woody – Actor/writer/director (5)
- 13. Semester (4)
- 15. An equilateral parallelogram (7)
- 16. Ms Newton John star of Grease (6)
- 18. Scottish island or type of jumper (5)
- 19. Warring servant of the Dark Lord in Lord of the Rings (3)
- 21. Home of Headingley stadium (5)
- 22. A unit of matter (4)
- 23. A period of time, an epoch (3)

Sudoku

By Cpeachok

			4					2
1		3			7			5
	7			5			6	9
3	9			4		2		
				8				
		1		6			7	4
4	1			7			2	
6			8			1		7
2					4			

Puzzle 0004

Lovely Horoscopes

The GA takes no responsibility for anything that may happen to you while acting on the advice of these horoscopes, unless it turns out to be something good. (ed)

By Mystic McMo

If it's your birthday this fortnight:

Expect more attention than usual

You may receive gifts and cards and see old friends.

Candles could prove important.

It is possible that you will have one evening where you will feel somewhat merry and one morning where you feel somewhat poorly. This is normal. There may also be a small amount of memory loss.

Aries

Born between March 21st and April 19th

Watch out for Mercury rising... it's a reasonably good Bruce Willis movie.

You are not the tidiest of people and impatient with details.

You have to come first in everything, so it may be best to avoid the Hook or By Crook thread

Chocolate is not your friend, it's just a very good substitute.

Lucky flower – Tulip

Taurus

Born between April 20th and May 20th

Venus is in Pisces just now. Not sure why that should bother you, as you are a practical type and know your own mind. You are not given to believing in this kind of stuff so why are you reading this anyway?

Lucky Food – hobnobs

Gemini

Born between May 21st and June 20th

With the Sun where it is at the moment and Mars on the move in a rather parabolic fashion may I suggest you make the best of things while you can? Smile like you mean it.

Save some face, you know you've only got one, change your ways while you're young.

It may be a Killers lyric but you know it makes sense.

Use purple wherever you can.

Cancer

Born between June 21st and July 22nd

Over the next two weeks you may feel the moon's influence more than usual. Your palms may start to feel itchy or you develop an urge to howl.

Avoid silver.

Try to fight your animal urges.

Leo

Born between July 23rd and August 22nd

Venus should be working its magic this fortnight.

Just be careful you are looking in the right direction. We don't want you falling in love with a traffic cone or William Shatner do we?

Beware of daffodils and woodchip.

Lucky number 43

Virgo

Born between August 23rd and September 22nd

When the Sun transits the house of your Solar chart, it influences the departments of life most strongly affected by the individual will and power potential (it says here in my little handbook). Remember to cover your mouth when you cough.

Show some consideration.

Hug a tree.

Libra

Born between September 23rd and October 23rd

Try something new this fortnight. Anything new, really – anything.

Well nothing illegal obviously.

Perhaps meeting some citizens –in oh I dunno – Chester?

Lucky Day: Saturday

Scorpio

Born between October 24th and November 22nd

Scorpio is ruled by the planet Pluto, which means that Mickey Mouse is your friend.

You are determined and secretive. Nothing escapes your attention. So make sure you check under the bed before you go to sleep.

A small dog may try to befriend you. It could prove advantageous.

Lucky Colour: Misty Buff

Sagittarius

Born between November 23rd and December 21st

As a fire sign you should avoid too much water. Remember that hosepipe ban.

You may have difficulty keeping you temper this fortnight. Just stop, think...

Hammer Time!

Lucky element: Molybdenum

Capricorn

Born between December 22nd and January 19th

Capricorn is the sea goat. Confused, and yet useful to sailors.

Your stubbornness could get you into trouble. Remember not everyone is as perfect as you.

Things may appear closer in the rear view mirror.

Lucky fruit: pomegranate

Aquarius

Born between January 20th and February 19th

When the moon is in the Seventh House

And Jupiter aligns with Mars

Then peace will guide the planets

And love will steer the stars

This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius

...sorry that's just a song.

But life's pretty good for Aquarians right now. Keep up the good work!

Lucky word: Ambient

Pisces

Born between February 20th and March 20th

With the recent Full Moon and Venus in your sign you should be one crazy mixed up kid this fortnight. Just try not to take it out on everyone around you. Remember how badly the screwdriver incident turned out?

Happiness is a choice. Let a smile be your umbrella.

Avoid clichés.

Keep it real.
Green is not your colour

Pass the Parcel

By ID06

We do seem to like our games here in Lovely. The latest is my own version of that old party classic "Pass the Parcel". Posters pass the parcel from one post to the next, and decide on a forfeit for whoever posts the "end-of-page" message (message # 20, 40, 60, etc).

The first forfeit was for Saz, who had to tell our Prime Minister psychoticmike that she loves him very much, and give him a hug.

Second forfeit fell to Citizen Love, and she had to start this thread:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=2647618>

Third forfeit went to Saz again, here is a copy of the email she then sent to King Danny:

Danny

*As I'm sure you've been told a million times, School's Out will be aired as from tonight and so I hope you remember to watch it. No excuses, you star in it. Yes, *tonight*. It's on already. Didn't take long to edit really did it?*

We all remembered and were in the audience, you have no excuse as you were presenting it, really, you should've circled something on the diary. Set an alarm, BBC1 7pm.

I'll know if you forget...tsk

Saz

Then there was a few days gap, and no forfeit had been given, so I made a forfeit for myself to get the game started again. Then things started to pick up speed.

The fifth forfeit started a new type of forfeits, the name-changing. Here's Mooseade getting the 100th post, and his new name for 24 hours:

Message 100 - posted by *Mooseade - Britney Spears Fan Club President (until 11:00am Wednesday)*

The next few forfeits were: meowmeow pumpkin having to talk in only four-letter words for the rest of the day; I couldn't post in the General Chat Message boards for the rest of the day; Saz had a biscuit; babs could talk only in smileys for the rest of the day; Citizen Love licked Rev's ear (I added that one to the Lovely Museum); then another name change, thus:

Message 220 - posted by Orion *maggots husband* "i heart Hear'Say" <--- stupid pass the parcel game...**

Then came Lady Reblet's splendid declaration of love:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2399969?thread=2701797>

which in turn inspired Citizen Love's thread:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2399969?thread=2701936>

And then Orion had to stop using vowels, which he is finding extremely difficult. And that's how things stand this Tuesday lunchtime.

Daft name changes, daft (more so than usual) threads. Who knows what more mayhem will follow?

One thing's for sure, this game is much more fun than any elimination game.

Pass The Parcel:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=2644821>

Not another Pass the Parcel (previous one locked)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2262799?thread=2715833>

Silent Pete's Reviews

FILMS

FILMS

Sweet and Lowdown (1999)

Directed by: Woody Allen

Starring: Sean Penn, Samantha Morton, Uma Thurman

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0158371/>

Rating: 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

Fight Club (1999)

Directed by: David Fincher

Starring: Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Helena Bonham Carter

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0137523/>

Rating: 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

True Identity (1991)

Directed by: Charles Lane

Starring: Lenny Henry

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0103128/>

Rating: 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

A Civil Action (1998)

Directed by: Steven Zaillian

Starring: John Travolta, Robert Duvall, William H. Macy

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120633/>

Rating: 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

Scooby-Doo (2002)

Directed by: Raja Gosnell

Starring: Freddie Prinze Jr., Sarah Michelle Gellar, Matthew Lillard

More Info: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0267913/>

Rating: 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

BACK PAGE NEWS
ZZZZZZ TAGG
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

By Giddsey

Tagg FC 0-0 Charlton

Rubbish, nuff said. Sorry I wasn't there lads it was better down the pub with my mates playing pool.

Get back to training!

coach giddsey

TAGG TROUNCED BY CHELSEA

Chelsea 4-1 Tagg

'Utterly pathetic' was how coach giddsey described his teams performance against CFC. The 1st half was looking good when Jamie scored his 5th of the season early on. Lars swiftly crossed the ball from the left and Jamie's pin point header gave Cech no chance.

1-0 Tagg.

Things then started to go badly wrong. Prestons child had been bestowed with the honour of Tagg FC's new captain before the game. In ten minutes of madness the crowd were amazed to see one of the worst performances of anyone who ever pulled on the famous Tagg shirt. Every pass from Prestons-child went astray, every header was spooned and every tackle mis-timed and costly.

The one shot P-c had hit the corner flag and he was only 6yrds out! Before coach giddsey had the chance to take him off, babs had wrestled the captains armband away and Prestons child proceeded to leave the field, chucking all of his toys out of the pram as he went. P-Cs stray passes had led to CFC scoring 3 easy goals. CFC 3-1 Tagg.

The final nail in the coffin came late second half from Terry, who had skinned Ray, babs and Lars before scoring. 4-1 Chelsea.

Unlucky lads, bit of a disaster. Seems like Prestons Child has left the club as he quit a few days later.

Remember Tagg FC will always be there for the players who want it there.

See ya in the bar.

coach giddsey

TAGG'S NEW STADIUM READY

WELCOME TO THE STADIUM OF FRIGHT.

Gather round lads, just a quick team talk.

Firstly a massive thanks to Babs for setting up the new thread and big thanks to Ray for beckoning me back to Lovely and Lars for the 20k bung not to mention the ladyboy,(oops).

As you know the baby has quit and just to re-iterate is not welcome back. Good luck for the rest of the season lads and welcome psychoRev to the fold. Babs is the new captain of Tagg FC as I know he will wear the shirt with pride.

Get to training, and bring the cones.

What follows is a pick of the last few messages from the old thread.

Last Page of Messages In Tagg Fc former thread.

Welcome to Tagg FC Rev, you do indeed talk a good game. You are the pyscho midfeild essential so sorely needed at tagg. With your signature move the 'pyschosweep' opponents run away petrified. Indeed the name psychoRev has already been printed on your shirt.

Have a good season son,
join the lads in the bar.

coach giddsey

Just to let you all know, Prestons-child has quit tagg FC and is not welcome back.

I do not respond well to threats of violence and have complained to the mods. I have asked for the messages to be checked and am currently considering leaving for good. It was only when I saw you lot had been here and supportive that I am reconsidering. If you see the child around here, tell him he's not welcome.

I am deadly serious and hope you all back me up. This is supposed to be a laugh.

"We are as good as you say we are"

coach giddsey

Current squad

1. Lampost
2. Mrs Mop
3. Lars 'the bung' Dudley
4. Babs (C)
5. Hawiianmonkseal
6. LadyLampard
7. Ray of the Tagg
8. psychoRev
9. Nicknack
10. Jamie
11. Honor Rubble

Coach: giddsey

Physio: Marie

Honourary members:

Schaf, King Danny and welcome to Saz and our Prime Minister Mike.

All are welcome to have a trial.

"We are as good as you say we are"

coach giddsey

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/dannywallace/F2307741?thread=2536073>

The big T.A.G.G. interview

By Lady Marie

This week I decided to do an interview with our very own T.A.G.G. FC unfortunately only a couple of the players turned up to answer my questions. I think the coach needs to have a word with his players the fame may be going to their heads a little.

- 1) Who would you say is the biggest drinker on the team?
- 2) What is your favourite goal celebration to use when you score?
- 3) Who spends the longest in the showers?
- 4) Tell us what you really think of your coach and team mates?
- 5) Who is the biggest moaner on the team?
- 6) Can you tell us what really goes on in the changing rooms?

These are **Babs'** answers:

- 1) Well, It would be PC but Jamie isn't far behind, I don't know how they refill the bus bar in time! Then it's probably Giddsey (but I didn't say that, did I? 😊)
- 2) Me, personally, a Triple front flip and then an 'Angel of the North' Type position
- 3) Ray, often trying to drown himself after a loss
- 4) Giddsey's a good coach, apart from the times when he can't be arsed to attend the games, HR is nice, but we've lost her since Lovely went tits up, Lars Jamie and Ray are good chaps at heart, and LL's cool.
- 5) erm yes, deffo Lars, especially when Ray doesn't "co-operate" 😊
- 6) See above, work it out, you don't want to know.

And **Lars'** Answers:

- 1) erm PC (unfortunately PC is no longer on the team)
- 2) I don't really score much being a right back/left back/goaly... so my celebration would probably be to punch the linesman in the face and say "rule that offside, biatch"
- 3) Giddsey... and all he does is sit on the bench! erm actually that's a bit creepy now I think about it
- 4) Awesome!
- 5) That would have to be me 😊👊
- 6) I could but I don't kiss and tell 😊

I will personally hunt the rest of the team down and make them answer my questions so more to follow in the next edition.

Editor's Comments

It's Easter today. And I'm watching the BBC and their happily subtitled songs of praise style production. And today, believe it or not, religion seems strangely attractive. Now I don't do religion. As a rule it makes me both rather giggly and uselessly angry at what I see as the delusion of the masses. But look at them. They're happy. They're singing and they're dancing, they've got the feel-good factor licked and no mistake. It's not just god, it's OUR god. Now don't panic. I'm not heading for conversion here. I'm pointing out the value of being part of a community. The western world has forgotten this, but we're pack animals after all. There is nothing as depressing as being isolated, and for good reason. I'm not going into my theories on that, I've got plenty of other stuff to bore you with.

Lovely is a community. Yes, it's officially a country, it's the scene for countless bad arguments and games of politics, but really it's a community. For the idealists of course, but for the battered mostly. There's something wrong with us. Why else are we here and not in the real world? Now I'd like you to reverse the cause and effect on this one. I don't think it's the inherent wrongness leading to isolation and the miseries, I think it's isolation leading to the feeling of something being wrong. We're not designed to be alone. But in this modern world of frantic production and fashionable self reliance people drop through the net. People like us. There is no one watching to make sure we're all alright. There is no one saying 'come join us'. Because that's all it takes. That's all Lovely was. There is no one sorting it all out. We have to do that. And we do, in all different ways. I'm watching a whole bunch of Christians doing it right now. That's what Lovely is for. That's what Cheaster is for.

So why do I feel like running as far away as I can get and never looking back? Because every argument, and there are so many these days, quiet and nasty mostly, threatens to rip apart this little bit of security I have here. It would be easier to stop coming, so I can pretend it's all the way I want it to be. So I don't have to know and worry about the arguments. But I can't, because although that would be comforting it wouldn't be so for long. Away from here I really am all alone, and I'm not going back to that. Anything is better than that. So I have to sit here and deal with the fear and the worry and the sleep deprivation this production causes. And I'm grateful for it, because I remember the alternative. I have to admit I don't deal with it well. I overreact and I get melodramatic and angry and tired. I apologise. If you lot out there can find it in your hearts to try and understand it would make me feel a lot better. But I'm not kidding myself; it's clearly not your problem. I have no right to ask you to make the effort. I'm just extremely grateful you're here at all.

But I am going to ask you to make that effort for the other people here. That's what we're for after all; a safety net, a support network, a cure all. Please don't get so wrapped up in various projects you forget that. First and foremost we are a community. We are here to look after each other. Anything that threatens that, however well intentioned and gloriously thought out, is going to make people miserable. So take some responsibility. Try and understand and try and make it better. Projects will come and go, but friendships should last a lifetime. People's feelings are more important than largely imaginary progress, and people really do have feelings. Tucked away behind a screen it's all too easy to forget that. But we're going to be reminded soon enough. Yes, predictably I'm talking about Cheaster. It's the headline this issue. It's the big event this season. I am truly dreading it. I'd much rather not go, but I probably will. There are people who, for my own sanity, I have to see. I don't do too well online. There is recruiting to be done for our glorious paper, and I have a feeling that will be much easier face to face. There are opinions to be polled. So you see I have a carefully crafted little web of reasons to get on that plane Friday. I don't like crowds

of people, I don't like the unknown and I absolutely hate travelling. But it will be healthy. It will be a good thing to do. It will strengthen the community. You'll see that, like at Christmas, petty feuds will be forgotten and all will be truly Lovely. We certainly need a bit of that around the place at the moment. We could do with a good reality check. Perhaps, afterwards, we can get on with things without the shouting for a couple of weeks. And even if we can't, at least there will be a bit more clarity as to the nature of the person on the other end of the line.

I'm sure it's going to be fun, despite the itinerary. I for one, with the greatest affection and admiration for those who organized that, intend to largely ignore it. After all, this is meant to be at least partly a holiday. I know many people see competition as an essential element in having fun, but I just find it stressful. So you can forget about my balancing eggs. Sorry if this comes as a disappointment. I'll make a perfunctory stab at the admin begging to be done, but I'm coming to watch people mostly. Just to make sure you're all really there.

Nathalie van Dantzig
Editor

~ Next issue due out on Sunday 30th April 2006 ~