

The Official Newsletter of the Knightmare Adventurers Club



Greetings Adventurers and a very Happy Christmas! Well by now you will be well and truly stuck into the new series of Knightmare, isn't it brilliant?! | really think that the Production team have excelled themselves this time, Lord Fear's new world is quite the most horrid and frightening place that he could have dreamt up ... ugh!] can just smell those damp sewers can't you? And talking of smells, Lissard must have bad breath for His Nastiness to complain about it. There are so many new characters in the dungeons it is hard to choose a favourite but don't you just love Rothberry the apothecary? With all those pills and potions it never ceases to amaze me that he has just the right one at the right time for our poor helpless dungeoneer. And what about Raptor? He has certainly whipped those goblins into shape. Romahna has taken over as Smirky's bodyguard and I know that I wouldn't want to mess with her - I wonder what happened to her face ... Please write and let me know who your favourites are and why - I'll print the best letters in the next issue, and don't forget to keep sending me your pictures and jokes. In this issue there are all the regular features and some exclusive interviews with newcomers to the scene. I also managed to borrow the Team's.

diary from the studio and have printed the best bits so that you can see how it really feels to be miles from home and set upon by Lord F. Thanks go to all the teams who contributed this year, the standard was so high that we are going to be hard pushed to beat them next year - or can you prove me wrong? Turn to the back page for the best ideas in Christmas presents, lots of Knightmare goodies including the board game to keep the whole



family well and truly spellbound over the Christmas holiday. Till the New Year, good adventuring!

Stop Press!

We have just heard from the Powers That Be at ITV that there will be a new series of Knightmare next year – stay tuned!

Wilf Wright









Congratulations!

The Knightmare wedding of the year took place on Sunday 31st of October when Cliff "Lissard" Barry married Juliet. Guess who his best man was.... the man himself Mark "Lord Fear" Knight! What an event – Lord Fear looking after Lissard! By all accounts Mark behaved himself impeccably, carrying out all the duties expected of a best man without referring to Cliff as "Tuna Breath" once. P.S. I hope that you noticed that they chose an appropriate day for the wedding – Halloween!!!

In a Pickle...

I have had a number of

letters from you lot asking what exactly did happen to Pickle, well I asked Treguard, I asked Tim Child I even asked Majida and they were all very loath to tell me anything so I have decided to set off on a Quest all of my very own. A Quest for Pickle! My one and only lead is that no-one has heard from Elita either and I know that they had some mutual elvish friends in Wales (or it could have been that they have some mutual friends who ARE whales, it is always so difficult to understand what those two are on about as they tend to talk in riddles all the time!) so

once this issue has gone to press I shall pack my bags, or at least a spotted hankie, and head for the land of the Celts to see if I can track him down. I promise to report back in full in the next issue, unless of course there is some mysterious reason for their disappearance that is...

Sssecretss!

The Quest caught up with Cliff Barry after his honeymoon to ask him a few personal questions about what it felt like to play an amphibian.

When your agent first told you that the part of Lissard was half man half lizard did it put you off?

Not at all, mind you I do tend to play more unusual roles like bareknuckle prizefighters, pantomime villains and scoutmasters.

I understand that some actors pick on a certain physical part of the role in order to get into character, did you do this?

In a way it isn't necessary with

Lissard because the make-up and costume go a long way to shaping him physically.

Was it easy to learn to Lissssp?

Lisssp? What lisssp? You mean I've got a lisssp! Oh no! All that money spent on elocution lesssonsss! All wasssted!

How long does it take for the special scaly make up to be applied?

About an hour of patiently sitting in the make-up chair to get it on and about the same length of time frantically scrubbing to get it off – I often missed bits and got a few odd looks on the bus.

> Was it difficult to get used to Lord Fear insulting you all the time?

Oh, that's just his little way of letting me know that he appreciates me. I think. We're great chums really... I mean only this week he showed me how generous he can be when he gave me

Meeting In The Mall?

ATRADO .

On a recent shopping trip to the Hammersmith mall. Jackie "Majida" Sawaris bumped into a familiar face - Naila Khan, dungeoneer extraordinaire. Jackie says that she didn't recognise her straight away due to the lack of Helmet on her head! Jackie has been very busy since filming Knightmare, she has been in a tea commercial for the Middle East and will make her big screen debut in an American movie Called "Death Machine", a cross between Robotcop and Alien - all sounds a bit too scary for me. Jackie comes from America and will be spending Christmas there where she will be showing all her family what Knightmare is all about.

Trekkies

If you are one of those people to whom "Beam me

up Scottie" has special meaning then you'll be pleased to hear that **Stage B** is the official Star Trek The Next Generation International fan club



operating in the UK. If you want to join

membership fee of E5.00 (UK) to: Sue Bunce, Charingworth Road, Oakwood, Derby. DE21 20D.

three things completely unexpectedly – a clip around the ear, a poke in the eye and a kick up the...

How do you see the character developing next year?

Well, I'm sure Lissard will be more settled in next year, getting used to the alarms and other strange noises in the tower. I'd like him to have a bit of "claws on" experience dealing with the kidsies – maybe dropping a couple of them in the sewers of Goth, who knows?

I have to ask - do you really smell of tuna?

I was rather hoping you'd ask that - yes I do. I love it! I can't get enough of it! Tuna sandwiches, tuna gateau, Tuna shampoo...

Finally what do you really think of Lord Fear? ... Go on you can tell me, it won't go any further ... Clifford, Clifford! Oh well, I suppose he's only trying to protect himself.



Goblins, but Winter is a dreary time!

If you ask me (and it's futile asking anyone else), then Winter ought to be abolished, along with elves, wizards, gnomes and dragons.

Then you could add children to the list and life would be pretty near perfect, especially as abolishing winter conveniently takes care of Christmas.

The trouble with being really great at being bad is that Christmas can be a bit disappointing. Especially when the staff don't take the hint and do a bit of seasonal toadying to the boss.

I have it on good authority that the Powers That Be make a right seasonal meal of it. Hordriss and Treguard even exchange gifts!

Grief, but it would be a cold day in the goblin pens if Grippa and Rhark started gift-wrapping their old bones and leaving them out for yours truly.

It's not that I don't get presents, budness me no! But the odd DJY World Mastery kit from Lissard don't exactly set the sleigh-bells ringing.

No. The best thing is to forget all that pudding and

tinsel rubbish and get down to some really serious bad business planning for next year. Yeah. that's what the off-season is all about - getting ready for the hunt to start again.

Let's take a look says I, at things that worked wicked, but could be even better (or worse, if you like it that way).

First off: the Death of Spikes. Not a bad little puzzle if I say so myself. Killed off four dungeoneers and scared the living night-lights out of a few others ... Question is: now that they've all seen it, can it still cut the mustard?

Then there's the Firebomb Chamber, and I've got to say J'm just a teensy disappointed in this one. A damp squib on the performance side. Only one victim, and that was a spare Goblin that got lost in the hunt. Note: must get Lissard to turn up the Mendacity Engine and yet some more speed out of those blocks

and fireballs. I keep telling him ... we're making things too easy for the little beasts!

Play Your Cards Right... That's what J call a killer puzzle! Over fifty per cent wipe-out rate and devilish obscure with it! I say keep it on but let's shuffle the pack a bit for next time.

Which brings us conveniently to the new stuff. Let nobody say of Lord Fear that he was not an innovator. Personally $\mathcal I$ find the old creative business only a tad less stimulating than the old destructive business.

That's why I've got the old feelers out for some really heavy techno-magical offensive hardware. J mean this tricksy stuff is all fine and dandy, but

there's nothing like fire-power to get real respect.

As for the Powers That Be? Hasbeens and Wannabees, the lot of them! And the next crop of Dungeoneers? Goblin Fodder!







My guider informed me with dire dread in his voice that we had entered the infamous chamber containing the Death of Spears. With fear and trepidation I waited, heart in my throat, for the cautious commands that would guide me to success. As I side stepped fleet footedly across the death trap the creak of the spikes alerted me to their imminent release. Cold sweat making my skin clammy, I leaped aside, muttering a prayer to the patron saint of dungeoneers, St. Child. A spike was released with the ferocity of a mountain tiger, missing me by a hair's breadth as I collapsed into a safe position. A quick crawl, and I could try to fling myself through the doorway just before the ceiling collapses, entombing me forever ...

Just a taster of the kind of effect that the floor puzzles have on our intrepid Dungeoneers. Floor puzzles have always been an important part of the Knightmare dungeon and they have developed enormously since the first couple of series. The Travelling Matte Company, who are responsible for generating the graphics for puzzles, chambers and wall monsters have been working on the programme since it's first planning stages. The designers work closely with Tim Child to put his ideas on to the screen. Tim will have an idea about how to test the team's skill with moving spikes, paving stones or causeways and the design team will spend hours creating the three dimensional building blocks that go to make up a playable game. This year there was an additional task, to create a new environment for Lord Fear. As you all know, his home was destroyed at the end of the last series and the sewers of Goth which have been built to replace it were a real challenge to the designers as well as the teams! Jake Knight, Kafat Lam, Robert Hemmings and Dave Edwards (Eggwoods) all worked together on the project using Silicon Graphics software - "Soft Image" and "Acrobat"

to produce the environments. The new Sewers of Goth only took about three days to build but then they went to Tim Child for approval and testing. Often minute changes need to be made which will take hours, for example the dock for the boat had to be exactly the right size for the real boat in the studio and the water in the sewers needed to move at exactly the right speed to look realistic. The more observant of you may have noticed that the flames in the torches on the walls of the sewers actually burn backwards, was this a deliberate mistake we ask ourselves?

Ideas for the next series are already mulling around in Tim's mind, I have a feeling that we are going to see even more computer generated environments creeping into the dungeons as the Powers that Be attempt to get one up on Lord Fear. Have you got any ideas for tricky traps and dastardly dungeons? Send them to me and I promise to show them to the production team, you never know you plans could even be used in the new series.







What's it really like to appear on Knightmare? We interviewed Julie and Sam from the Winning Team in Series VI to find out...

Knightmare

Julie – The Dungeoneer

1. What were your first impressions of the dungeon?

I was pleased, we were nervous at first, but on the second day we became more comfortable.

2. Do you feel that your advisors guided you well? Have you any complaints?

I have no complaints; they didn't all shout at once (which makes a change.) We're all good friends at school, so we made a good team because we were able to talk about things. That was what helped us win, as well as being enthusiastic.

3. Was luck with you, or did you expect to win all along?

We were quite lucky. We didn't really know what to expect at first, we were determined to get past level one though, because of this boy at school who said that we wouldn't.

4. What was the worst part of the game for you? Which bits did you find especially difficult?

The floor puzzles - on the last one with the cards we were really nervous, halfway through

we had to remember what card we'd chosen. That was difficult. We thought we were

going out. When we finished we were shaking a lot. The other floor puzzles were difficult too.

5. What previous experiences and helped you to win Knightmare?

We play a lot of Dungeons and Dragons, and that obviously helped. We've also taken part in Cavern meetings, in which you get dressed up in period clothes. Plus we've done a few reenactments of battles etc. With swords and things. Those kind of things are very popular at our school.

- 6. How do you rate Lord Fear and his
- cronies? Have you anything to say to them/him?

He definitely needs a woman on his side, we'd be perfectly happy to help out *(Cahoots! Treachery in the ranks –Ed)*. He needs all the help he can get – what with Sly Hands!

7. Your meeting with Sly Hands was one of the highlights of the adventure. Does he really smell?

Not really. (Methinks the lady must have been

moking use of nose plugs - Éd.) That was our favourite bit, we liked his ten goblins song. Perhaps he should release it as a record!

True Story

8. You were the first all girl team to win Knightmare.

Yes, we wanted to prove that we could be as good as the boys. I'd like to say 'sap' to Andrew Mellor, who thought we'd never make it. He's a real sexist.

- 9. Do you think Sidriss will ever make it as a Sorceress?
- No, definitely not!
- 10. What do you think Sidriss did to Lord Fear, or is it too ghastly too contemplate?

(Laughs) I don't know, but I like to think it was something really nasty.

11. Finally, what advice do you have for future adventurers?

Well, we had some words which we used to chant in order to prepare

ourselves: Deciveness, enthusiasm and calmness. That certainly helped, I think.

Sam – Advisor

1. What was it like seeing yourself on TV?

Scary at first. Then embarrassing. Our parents fell about laughing. Some people at school have said that they could have done better than us. I'd like to see them have a go!

2. Did you always expect to win? Or did you have any moments of doubt?

I personally didn't think we'd win, although my mum said afterwards that she knew all along we would. I expected us to die on a floor puzzle. At the end, in the room with Lord Fear, I thought we were going to die. We couldn't work out how to use the shield. I thought: 'That's it. Bye!'

 What's your opinion of Julie's dungeonerring skills?

She was good. She interacted really well with the inhabitants of the dungeon, and she listened to what we said.

4. Did you enjoy sending her into deep peril while you sat by the warmth of Treguard's fire? Or would you have preferred to be the Dungeoneer yourself?

I don't think I could have done it. Julie handled it better than I could have. Anyway, I like being bossy, and I like to know where I'm going. 5. Did you dread the floor puzzles?

Yes, especially as I was doing the guiding. If anything had gone wrong it wouild all have been my fault. Julie would have made my life hell if I'd killed her. (?! – <u>Ed.</u>)

6. Did you have any problems tring to get Julie to do what you wanted?

No, not really. She was totally reliant on us. It must be difficult for the Dungeoneer, because they don't know what's going on. They're forced to do what you say.

 If you were Lord Fear, how would you thwart Treguard's attempts at defeating you?

I'd get much better sidekieks. They're too easy to fool, especially Sylvester Hans, that was my favourite bit.

8. Did your role playing help with Knightmore?

Yes, it did. It helped me to imagine what it might be like to play the game. The monsters and things are very different, though.

9. Finally, do you have anything to say to your followers on the knightmare trail?

Yes, anybody who'd like to have a go should just apply.

For the first time this year we

encouraged the teams to write in a diary which we kept in their hospitality room at

we kept in their hospitality room at the studio. Some of them wrote in it every day, others preferred to keep their thoughts private. Printed below are some extracts from the book, warts and all, I think you'll find it quite revealing! (The only thing I have left out are their names to save their reputations!)

1/8/93

We are dying, time is running out. The eyes are upon us! level 3 dangers draw nearer. We are weary, oh so weary. 3 Chambers we have seen and death appears in them all! Time draws on! We must return to the land of Peril.... Terrible worlds lie ahead, be wary Dungeoneers! Your heart can be turned to Stone!

Treguard is worried, very worried. Majida shivers at the thought of a world ruled be the satanic Lord Fear. Only we can help.

4/8/93

The team in front of us still haven't died. They are too good and I think they will probably win. All due to us wishing them good luck! Oh well...

I'm so nervous, butterflies in my stomach, Oh what should I do? Believe me it's

Bhouls Gallery Hicola Cary Master! Maste What would you like for Shut up dinner? Pickle and get in the cauldron! B 0 0 0 Thanks to Nicola Cary for "Treguard" and Marie-Louise Coley for "Pickle in a Pickle".

Downhill Dungeoneers

Lucretia Whitbyrne wonders if you can spot the identical twin Dungeoneers - they are wearing the same sweaters & scarves...



Dungeoneer's Diary...

terrifying when you are waiting to go on. We just filmed our introduction and it was absolutely awful! I wanted to sink through the floor. You'd hate it! Actually I am exaggerating a bit!

5/8/93

I think we've just died, but they won't tell us - I hope we haven't, I mean it's only level 1.

Guess what? We didn't die. Yeah! (Excellent!)

...We Died!

9/8/93

We are at level 2 now and I feel great confidence in our ability to stretch the bounds of science with feats never before seen on British Television Not!

Later... Is this a dagger I see before me or have we missed a crucial letter? All will be revealed - once more into the breach dear friends...

10/8/93

They are maniacs, three of them trying to kill me, a poor defenceless dungeoneer. well just you wait until I get that sword - then they'll be sorry!

11/8/93

Met our first Troll.

We got to level 2 - I love dragons, Smirkenorf is sooo sweet!

Met another Troll! Aaagh! Julie's got a wall after her! Help us! I nearly died - what a fright!

We're on the way to level three - Wow! 12/8/93

I hate camera 3 it's pointing straight at me! I hope it's not loaded! This afternoon is make or break time ...

We Won!!!!

So there Andrew Mellor - we won!

(good luck next team - beat Fear again for us!) 12/8/93

Our team have been here all day watching the last team gradually win and now they have won - so we start tomorrow 13/8/93. Wait a second... that's Friday the Thirteenth! Aagh!!!

13/8/93

Yahoo! we start today and the sun is shining - it must be an omen.

14/8/93

We're still alive and in level 2, but there is a Troll nearby. I'm the Dungconeer and my nerves are shattered. I think if we can complete the next logic puzzle, we'll still be doing pretty well!

15/8/93

I've just stomped on some goblins and a

bloke with a boot! That was cruel fun but the right thing under the circumstances.

Help! the Brollachan is a nasty piece of work but we got past him ... Just!

Level 3 and it's grim, really grim. We have just taken a boat ride through the sewers, home from home for some of the team!

17/8/93

Make my day Fear! (but don't try to hard on my account).

Very close now, only a few more rooms and a few more baddies, namely Lord Fear and a n immensely large Troll. It's looking difficult but I think that we can handle it.

I hope so! We need to find a Troll hammer before we meet the Troll, and preferably before we meet Lord Fear as well!

I had a chat with Sylvester. That was fun.

I have used one potion, but still lots to do. Sylvester is frozen for a while.

We Won!!

18/8/93

Well, we've had our Troll bashing scene, we've been formally presented with trophies, and we've had a grand tour of the studios. It's been excellent fun, but now it's all over. We'll never forget the Dungeon of Deceit, and thanks to everybody who made this dungeon playable to the contestants. It's not just good television it's a great game. Good luck to the teams in the next series - go bravely, go carefully and go quickly!

· Christmas Goodies ·



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Ben, Sue, Tim, Margaret, CLiffo, Jimbo & Arlo