The $18 x x$ games are in order of starting from p3 onwards. Railway Rivals RR2530VS is on p8, Outpost M20 is on p9 and St. Petersburg M8 is on p10. The Games That You Play is below.
Page 2 has comments on 18330N44, 1830 S44 and St. Petersburg M7.
New Games: Our first 1830 Reading Starts on p2. An 1856 could start with one more interested player.
As we emerge blinking in to 2024 Minstrel trundles along with a selection of words on the front page to bulk it up to being roughly filled. Meanwhile, thank you for the additional words on there having been 500 issues of Minstrel. As said - all most surreal. Right, no resolutions for 2024 - I will no doubt struggle to (or fail to) complete some important but not urgent tasks. There are always many shiny somethings that will distract me when I do not have anything with a visible deadline that is waiting to be done. But I know the approach should be to list all outstanding tasks, checks what I least want to do, and get that done. Easy ...

Steve and Dane reacted to the sequence puzzles I included last time. Steve had the more complete response as follows ...

- 2, 4, 6, 30, 32, 34, 36, 40, 42, 44, 46, ... EBAN

This is a list of those numbers whose normal spellings in English don't contain the letter 'e'. The next few are 50, 52, 54, 56, ...

- 1, 3, 7, 12, 18, 26, 35, 45, 56, 69, ... Not Previously Used

This a list which, combined with the list of its first differences (i.e. 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11), includes all the natural numbers. The next few are 83, 98, 114, 131, 150, ...

- 2, 12, 1112, 3112, 132112, ...

Say What You See
Each entry counts the groups of identical digits in the previous one. So the next are 1113122112, 311311222112, 13211321322112, ...

The Games That You Play

| Andy Muir | 1829H45 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Brad Martin | RR2530VS, Outpost M20, St. Petersburg M8 |
| Dane Maslen | Outpost M20 |
| David Hooton | 1830L45, RR2530VS, Outpost M20 |
| David Smith | Outpost M20 |
| Graham Lee | 1835A45 |
| John Shelley | 1856T44, 1835A45, 1830D45, 1846H45, 1829G45, 1830L45 |
| John Webley | 1856T44, 1846G45, RR2530VS, Outpost M20, St. Petersburg M8 |
| Lyndon Gurr | 1846G45 |
| Mark Hancock | 1830D45, 1829H45 |
| Mick Haytack | Outpost M20, St. Petersburg M8 |
| Mike Bennett | 1856T44, 1830D45, 1846G45, 1830L45 |
| Mike Ruffhead | 1830D45, 1829H45, RR2530VS, Outpost M20, St. Petersburg M8 |
| Tim Parkes | 1835A45 |
| Tony Sait | 1856T44, 1835A45, 1830L45, RR2530VS, Outpost M20 |


| Waiting | 1829 South | David H |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 1829 North | David H |
|  | 1830 | Tony S |
|  | 1830 READING | Starts on p2 |
|  | 1835 | Graham L, Mike B |
|  | 1846 | John W |
| 1856 | John S, Mike B, John W |  |
|  | 1861 | John S |
| 1870 | Mike B, John S |  |
|  | $18 E U$ | John S, David H |
|  | OUTPOST |  |
|  | Railwway Rivals | David H |
|  | St. PETERSBURG |  |
|  |  |  |

You are ... in dealing order ... John Shelley, Mike Bennett, David Hooton, Tony Sait.
An email near the one with this Minstrel 501 has the Reading variant rules and an invitation to decide whether we will have the optional extra $\$ 8.000$... with the default being "Yes".

We will then complete SR1 by email - hopefully in time for the next Minstrel to include OR1 \& SR2.
1830L45: READING NEXT - SR1 (By EmAIL)

## 1830S44

## Additional Comment

Tony S 4th By my calculations, two more turns and I would have caught John to steal a podium place, but that is all conjecture :) ! I may have said this before, but I really must stop playing trains, and start a business assessment! Well done to Mike $R$ and thanks to Rob for running the game.

| 1830S44 : STANDARD GAME | WON BY MIKE R |
| :--- | :--- |


| 1830N44 | COMMENTS |
| :---: | :---: |
| Andy M 1st | Thanks to all for seeing this game through to breaking the bank. It is my first win in ages - a new experience for me! knew when we started I'd need to make the B\&O decision so I thought l'd try something new and float it early by taking a loss on the stock price @90 and closing the private first time. This enabled me to control the H16 hex and effectively block the PRR and C\&O from NY. <br> A little way in and there was a very real danger of bankruptcy but it was avoided.I enjoyed the start by email which sped up the first stock round and kept the tempo up. Getting the Erie down into H 16 gave me a complete block of the middle but left me with no real diesel route. However I had a good 5 and 6 train route so didn't go for one thus I only needed one retention, meaning the stock price topped out. Another few rounds and I think because of that John would have caught me. Cheers Rob for being GM. |
| John W 3rd | Congratulations to Andy, happy not tp come last. |
| Mark H 4th | Well played Andy. I hope my still struggling form did not make the game too predictable for everyone. |
| 1830N44: | ANDARD GAME WON BY ANDY |

## St. Petersburg M7

Brad 4th Pretty good Mike, 2.5 times my score! Buying expensive Buildings near the start is obviously a no-no.

St. Petersburg M7
Won by Mike R

This time it is OR16 only by request. If all companies continue to pay dividends then the next OR will end the game - and if so the last chance to increase dividends by buying the 5 from the bank (or trading up to a diesel) has gone. I don't expect any retentions in OR17 - but I am often surprised and nothing is done until it is done.


Rights Held by ShareCos: CA - Bridge | CGR - Bridge, Tunnel.
The OR17 operating order is - BBG, CGR, GW, CA, CV, TGB, WGB, THB.

No voluntary, or forced, joining of the PrE occurs ...


The OR10 operating order is - B-M, Mag, K-M, B-S, A-K, PrE, ByE, SxE, HeE, WtE - unless changed by SR8.
1835A45 : HALF THOMPSON GAME : PHASE 2 : BANK $-8,399 \mathrm{M} \quad$ NEXT TIME - SR8

Trains were bought. Stuff happened. Worth checking that you got what you ordered ...


The OR9 operating order is - NYNH, NYC, PRR, CPR, Erie, B\&O, B\&M, C\&O - unless changed by SR6.

We reach phase 3 and stop after OR5 by request. " $2 \downarrow$ " indicates a Phased Out 2 Train. The GT and the NYC both ran their phased out 2 trains and were then relieved of them.

Operating Round 5


Privates Owned by ShareCos: GT - Mail.
Rights Held by ShareCos : B\&0 - \$40 Steamboat Token at G19 \| GT - Mail | PRR - \$20 Boomtown Token at H12.
The OR6 operating order is - PRR, B\&O, IC, GT, NYC.
1846G45 : STANDARD GAME : PHASE 3 : BANK - \$5,006
NEXT TIME - OR6 \& SR4

The LSWR is floated and Andy claims the GNR ...
Share Dealing Round 6

* share from the pool

| Mike Ruffhead | Andy Muir | John Shelley | Mark Hancock |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| + LSWR/D | +LSWR | +LNWR* | -Mid/4,-GWR/3,+LSWR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| + LSWR | +LSWR | $\sim$ | + LSWR |
| -LNWR,+LSWR | $\sim$ | $\sim$ | + LSWR |
| + LSWR | -LSWR/2,+GNR/D | $\sim$ | + Hull (315) |
| $\sim$ | +GNR | $\sim$ | $\sim$ |
| $\sim$ | -GWR,+GNR | $\sim$ | $\sim$ |
| $\sim$ | +GNR | $[$ Totem $]$ |  |


| Cash Flow | Start | SDR6 |  | End | Value | \% |  | Certs | Max 18 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Andy Muir | 261 | -243 |  | 18 | 1,203 |  |  | 9-9 |  |
| John Shelley | 204 | -160 |  | 44 | 1,111 |  |  | 8-8 |  |
| Mark Hancock | 244 | 241 |  | 485 | 1,158 |  |  | 5-5 |  |
| Mike Ruffhead | 290 | -220 |  | 70 | 1,122 |  |  | 9-9 |  |
| Portfolios | Privates | LNWR | GWR | Mid | LSWR | GNR | LBSC | GER | GCR |
| Andy Muir | S\&M | 5D | - | - | - | 5D | - | - | - |
| John Shelley * | C\&HP | 2 | 6D | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mark Hancock | C\&W, Hull | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Mike Ruffhead | - | - | - | 6D | 5D | - | - | - |  |
| Bank New | Preston | - | - | - | - | 5 | 10D | 10D | 10D |
| Bank Pool | L\&M | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Quote |  | 160 | 112 | 112 | 76 | 71 | 67 | 64 | 61 |
| Credit |  | £80 | £200 | £160 | £760 |  |  |  |  |
| Trains |  | 3222 | 322 | 322 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tokens Left |  | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

$\begin{array}{lllllllllllll}\text { Tiles } & 1 / 2 & 2 / 2 & 3 / 1 & 4 / 5 & 5 / 3 & 6 / 4 & 7 / 3 & 8 / 6 & 9 / 8 & 10 / 3 & 12 / 2 & 13 / 2\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llllllllllll}14 / 2 & 15 / 3 & 16 / 1 & 17 / 1 & 18 / 1 & 19 / 2 & 20 / 2 & 21 / 1 & 22 / 1 & 23 / 4 & 24 / 4 & 25 / 2\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llllll}26 / 2 & 27 / 2 & 28 / 1 & 29 / 1 & 30 / 1 & 31 / 1\end{array}$
Trains $3 / 3(£ 300)$ then $4 / 4(£ 430)$ 5/4(£550) 7/4(£720)
1829H45 : South Game, MSK1, PC RULE : PHASE 2 : BANK - £19,383 NEXT TIME - OR7 \& OR8

It's all go in the west whilst VR establishes the eastern expedition ...
Builds

| R\&B | Purple (Stou | (Stourbridge) ---- Wolverhampton --- E44, (H47) - West Bromwich - J46, (F52) - E52, (Droitwich) - H56, (H54) - I54, (E52) - D51 - D50 [3 short] |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| VR | Blue (J19) <br> (Lud | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (J19) --- Leominster ---- Ludlow, (Leominster) -- L17-M17-Bromyard --- M20 -- Ledbury, } \\ & \text { (Ludlow) - I12 } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |
| MRR | Red (H58) | (H58) - H56, (H61) --- -- Great Malvern --- --- Ledbury, (164) - J63-Winchcombe |  |  |  |  |
| GITCO | $\begin{array}{cc}\text { Brown } & \begin{array}{l}\text { (149) } \\ \text { H57 }\end{array} \\ & \end{array}$ | (149) -- West Bromwich - 142 - Wolverhampton, (West Bromwich) -- Walsall, (Droitwich) H57 - Worcester - G59 --- - Great Malvern --- D60 |  |  |  |  |
| GRAVS | Green (C52) | (C52) - D52 - --- D54 --- E55 - E56 - F56 -- --- -- F61 |  |  |  |  |
| Scores |  | End | Start | Towns | Build Payments | Receipts |
| R\&B | David Hooton | 30 | $=29$ | +3 | -2/GITCO -1/MRR | +1 |
| VR | Brad Martin | 41 | $=26$ | +15 |  |  |
| MRR | Mike Ruffhead | 58 | $=35$ | +15 |  | +8 |
| GITCO | Tony Sait | 40 | $=29$ | +15 | -6/MRR | +2 |
| GRAVS | John Webley | 24 | $=26$ | +0 | -1/R\&B -1/MRR |  |

## Building Allowances \& Run Length

The building allowance for each of rounds 1-6 will be derived from three die rolls in the range 4 to 6 with no more than one roll below 5 . The building allowance in round 7 will be 12 points (plus payments to rivals) and will then decrease by 2 for each subsequent round.

The minimum run length is 6 hexes.
Railway Rivals RR2530VS

There are only two types of Colony Cards available next time ...

## Round 4 Actions

| David H |  | Bought one Water Factory (o:3,4 w:6,7) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| John W |  | Passed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brad M |  | Bought one Population Unit (0:4 w:6) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mike R |  | Auctioned a Data Library for 15 and got it for 15 (0:1,2,3 w:9) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tony S |  | Auctioned a Nodule for 25 . David $S$ joined at 27 and dropped out at 28. Tony S got it for 28 ( $0: 4,4 \mathrm{w}: 4,8,8$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| David S |  | Bought one Water Factory ( $0: 5 \mathrm{w}: 6,9$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| David S |  | Bought one Population Unit ( $0: 3 \mathrm{w}: 7$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mick H |  | Bought one Water Factory (w:6,6,9) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mick H |  | Bought one Population Unit (w:10) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dane M |  | Bought one Population Unit (w:10) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dane M |  | Bought one Water Factory ( $\mathrm{o}: 1 \mathrm{w}: 4,6,9$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pos | Player | Factories | Operators | Colony Cards | Production | Total | VPs | Buys |
| 1 | Tony S | 20,3w | $5 \mathrm{p}(8,0)$ | Nod | 20,4w | $(34,10)$ | 7 | (25) |
| 2 | David H | 2o,3w | $4 \mathrm{p}(8,0)$ | Nod | 10,3w | $(24,10)$ | 6 | (25) |
| 3 | Brad M | 2o,3w | $5 \mathrm{p}(5,0)$ | DL | 20,5w | $(41,10)$ | 6 | (15) |
| 4 | Mike R | 2o,3w | $5 \mathrm{p}(5,0)$ | DL | 2o,5w | $(41,10)$ | 6 | (15) |
| 5 | John W | 2o, 2 w | $5 \mathrm{p}(5,0)$ | HE | 40,4w | $(40,10)$ | 5 | (30) |
| 6 | David S | 20,4w | $5 \mathrm{p}(5,0)$ | - | 10,1w,1W | $(40,10)$ | 5 | (0) |
| 7 | Dane M | 20,4w | $5 \mathrm{p}(5,0)$ | - | 10,4w | $(31,10)$ | 5 | (0) |
| 8 | Mick H | 20,5w | $5 \mathrm{p}(5,0)$ | - | 5w | $(35,10)$ | 5 | (0) |
| On Offer | - Da | Library | 0 (3 mo | ) Heavy | ment 4 ( | ne left) |  |  |
|  |  | house | 4 (1 mo | ) Nodu | 0 | more) |  |  |


| OUTPOST M20: EXPERT : PHASE 1 | [PHASE 2 at 10 VP, Phase 3 at 30 VP$]$ | NEXT - Round 5 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Everybody naturally submitted the same order this time. The game continues to be perverse as a Fur Shop appears when nobody has a Fur Trapper.

Aristocrats Actions

| Brad Martin | John Webley | Mick Haytack | Mike Ruffhead |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |

## The Cards For Next Time



Cards Bought


| Brad M | Lumberjack [3-3-0], Gold Miner [4-3-0] |
| :--- | :--- |
| John W | Lumberjack [3-3-0], Shepherd [5-3-0], Pub [1-0-2 for 1] |
| Mick H | Gold Miner [4-3-0], Shepherd [5-3-0], Pub [1-0-2 for 1], Secretary [12-4-0] |
| Mike R | Gold Miner [4-3-0], Ship Builder [7-3-0], Secretary [12-4-0] |

## Summary

| Player | Hand <br> Cap | Rubles | VPs | Income per Phase - Rubles + VPs <br> Workers Buildings $\quad$ Aristocrats |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | | Round 2 Start |
| :---: |
| [Cards Left] |


| Brad $M$ | 3 | 24 | 0 | $6 r+0 v$ | $0 r+0 v$ | $0 r+0 v$ | Trading | $[28]$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| John $W$ | 3 | 22 | 0 | $6 r+0 v$ | $0 r+0 v$ | $0 r+0 v$ | Workers | $[23]$ |
| Mick H | 3 | 13 | 0 | $6 r+0 v$ | $0 r+0 v$ | $4 r+0 v$ | Buildings | $[20]$ |
| Mike R | 3 | 12 | 0 | $6 r+0 v$ | $0 r+0 v$ | $4 r+0 v$ | Aristocrats | $[25]$ |

