

The Lord of the Rings Strategy Battle Game

- Online Community -

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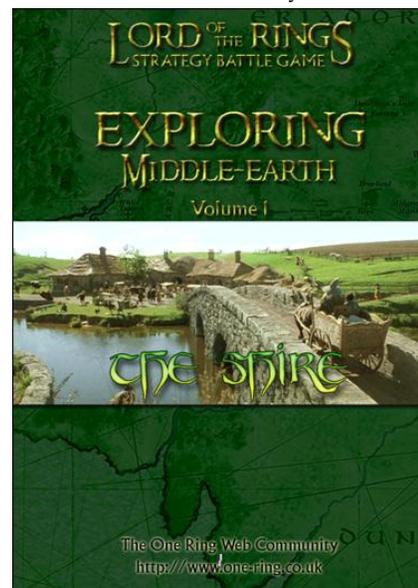
The *Tengwar Beacon* is an effort to bring closer together the websites that make up the wider Lord of the Rings SBG Online Community, and it could not have been made without the work of members from a number of dedicated fansites. As cHiMeRa said on The Palantír, "What will LotR SBG be if not for fans, and fan productions?" In the issues of this e-zine, we plan to show all the aspects of the hobby - painting, terrain-building, gaming and background information, et cetera - from beginner to expert level. In this issue we have a few some autumn-themed articles, with the Lorien boards of the well-known terrain-builders Revolutionary and PaulF both making appearances. In future issues we hope to have other familiar hobbyists sharing their work, such as Dagorlad and UKFB.

It is hoped that The One Ring's *Exploring Middle-earth* will come out some time this year. That will no doubt surpass our attempts in depth and quality, becoming the new "benchmark against which all others are measured" (as with the site's *Age of the King* fan supplement before it). However, we hope that the regularity of a quarterly community-wide resource will make the *Tengwar Beacon* a valuable resource in its own way, and "fill in" those areas where *Exploring Middle-earth* doesn't go.

In addition to *Exploring Middle-earth*, the newly revised One Ring Awards will be accepting entries at the time of this edition's release. The main categories are Best Painted Miniature, Best Terrain Piece or Diorama, and Best Sculpting/Conversion Piece. In addition to this is the General Beginners Category and the themed "One Ring Master Craftsman" Challenge. This time the theme is "Production in Middle Earth", which could range from Hobbit Agriculture or the industry of Isengard, to the creation of the Rings of Power by the Elves and the renowned smithies of the Dwarves.

Meanwhile on The Last Alliance, badges were released this summer for its members so that they can be identified at events such as Games Day. These were designed by Grimmat, with either a Good or Evil theme available at £1.50 each, or £2 for a pair.

There have been some notable projects running on TLA, such as the "Palisades, encampments and fort terrain" group project and PaulF's epic "Minas Tirith Forecourt". Part of the former is covered in the terrain section.



The Dark Council site was closed this summer after a long period inactivity. Although it was a small site, it was one of the important "player-created strategy groups" in Games Workshop's 2005 *War of the Ring Online Campaign*, directing the forces of Evil and noted for "playing like professionals". Along with the Alliance of Light, it received particular thanks in UK *White Dwarf* 312, and it later went on to run a "Campaign of LotRs" with Cheeseweb. Still, with campaigns run by TLA, and another in development over on the One Ring, we can say that its legacy lives on.