This document contains screenshots of everything shared with us for our Simon Lavender story in episode 150. I have also added a transcript of the conversation between myself and Simon via Geekmail to make it easier to read. The only edit I have made to the screenshots is to crop them to not show my entire desktop.

First up we have Simon's replies to the original thread. I thought I would screenshot them so you didn't have to go looking for them. I have also copied the text into this document to make it easier to make it more accessible

Simon's First Reply

The first one is on page 10 of the thread

Amass Games 🗖	Simon Lavender 🚟 @AmassGames - Aug 28 (edited) Hi there,
	I appreciate all the thumbs and empathy/sympathy for the OP however I would never take someone's word without hearing from the other party (would you?)
	I've had friends in the business contact me about this and other matters that they are being blackmailed to either use XYZ or me.
	I've had a company turn me down for demoing, yet pay me off and are taking me out for a meal.
	If you wish to only hear one side, that's media for you. But I have information that hasn't been edited.
	I've very upset by this open attack, haven't slept in two days and I've been harassed repeatedly by this person. I blocked them some time ago via Gmail, Instagram, YouTube along with their many new email accounts and vile messages on YouTube (which have been reported for harassment). (How can they dedicate so much time to hating me?) Alas negativity wins
	I've had a terrible week and I love board games, alas bad apples exist.
	I've had people be rude to my face, I've had others saying in YouTube "I want you to put your hands somewhere else" too. I wish they knew the full story
	Yes I've been very fortunate to receive games and I'm open that they'll be added to the queue (I've posted at least one video a day for a few years), I wish to share what the game is like.
	They offered me the game they didn't say it was a prototype and I've had some potentially related negatives consequences happen to me as a result
	The individual twice confirmed he wanted to pay me (happens alot) and I'm keen to play it, he's getting enough promotion out of this.
	I think it's unfair for him to be this demanding when other, more tolerable, publishers are then missing out - in particular his distorted view.
	I won't share screenshots, especially here but I'm minded by the Games of Thrones scene when we assume someone is whoever as they gave there word
	This company that typed this is Beyond Words. I find the company name telling.
	l hope he has great success (as another friend messages me, in replying, he wins) 🤨
	I have nothing to gain from scamming and being in a digital world it would be silly to attempt it
	Many are claiming inaccuracies about me too, they are not presenting the full facts and I can provide those

Hi there,

I appreciate all the thumbs and empathy/sympathy for the OP however I would never take someone's word without hearing from the other party (would you?)

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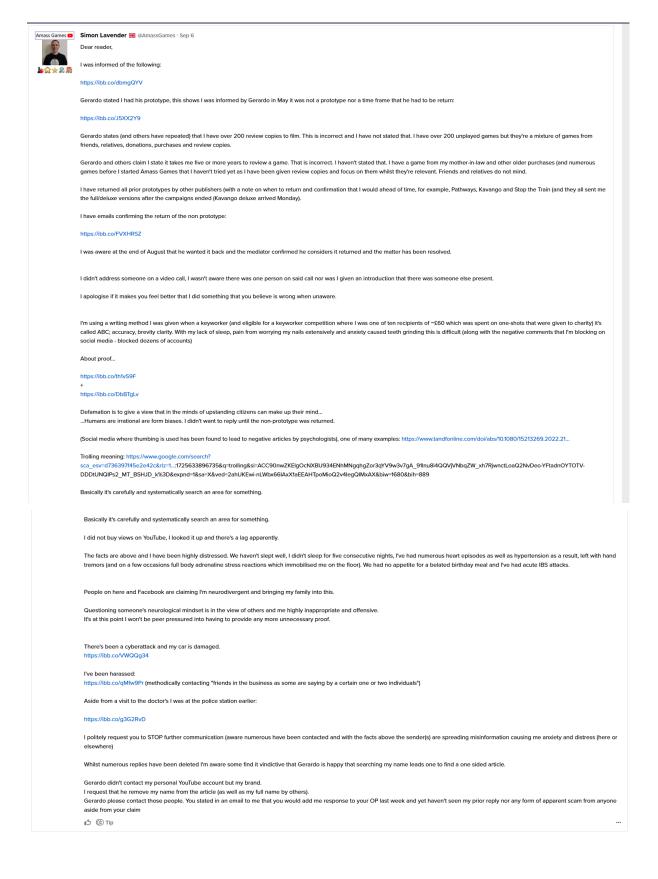
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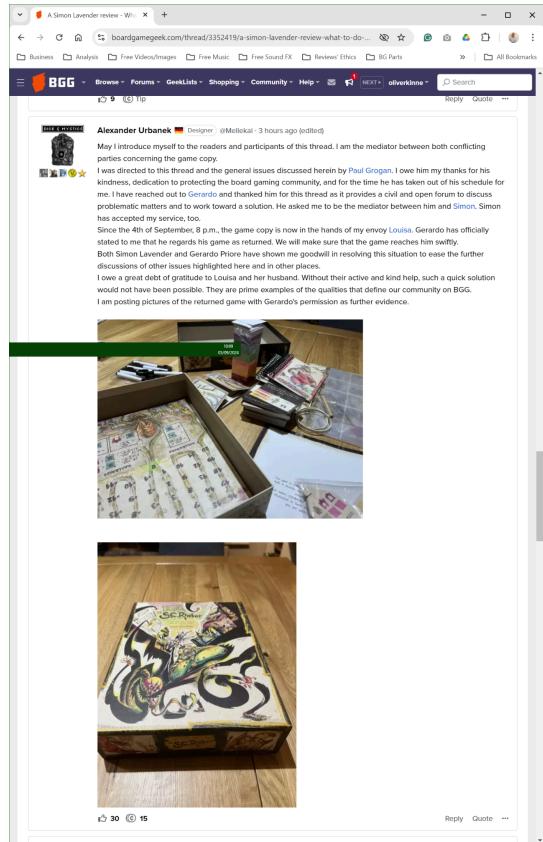
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Simon's Second Reply

This reply is on Page 27 of the original thread



Alexander Urbanek's Intervention



May I introduce myself to the readers and participants of this thread. I am the mediator between both conflicting parties concerning the game copy.

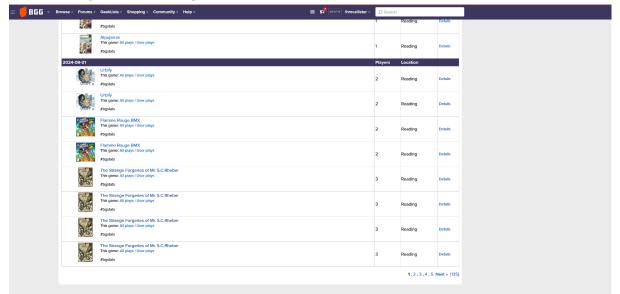
I was directed to this thread and the general issues discussed herein by <u>Paul Grogan</u>. I owe him my thanks for his kindness, dedication to protecting the board gaming community, and for the time he has taken out of his schedule for me. I have reached out to <u>Gerardo</u> and thanked him for this thread as it provides a civil and open forum to discuss problematic matters and to work toward a solution. He asked me to be the mediator between him and <u>Simon</u>. Simon has accepted my service, too.

Since the 4th of September, 8 p.m., the game copy is now in the hands of my envoy Louisa

Gerardo has officially stated to me that he regards his game as returned. We will make sure that the game reaches him swiftly.

Both Simon Lavender and Gerardo Priore have shown me goodwill in resolving this situation to ease the further discussions of other issues highlighted here and in other places.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to Louisa and her husband. Without their active and kind help, such a quick solution would not have been possible. They are prime examples of the qualities that define our community on BGG.



Simon's play stats for the game

My Conversation with Simon

Below is the full transcript and screen captures of my conversation with Simon over Geekmail, the internal BoardGameGeek email.

I started out with this message

Good evening,

I represent Brainwaves, a tabletop news focused podcast. You can find our work here:

https://giantbrain.co.uk/

I have been following the story involving yourself and Gerardo Priore. We will be covering it on the next episode. We record this coming Sunday, the 15th, and will release on Tuesday the 17th. We are hoping you would be willing to answer the following questions:

Why did you not return the pre-production copy when the designer offered to pay the shipping cost?

Did you engage a third party to act on your behalf when you felt you were being harrased by Gerardo?

You have stated many times about how many games you have to review. Could you tell us about your current backlog and how you intend to tackle it? Will you take on more games while that backlog exists?

In you last post on the BGG thread you mentioned a Cyberattack and your car being damaged. Do you have reason to believe that these incidents occured because of the accusations in the BGG thread?

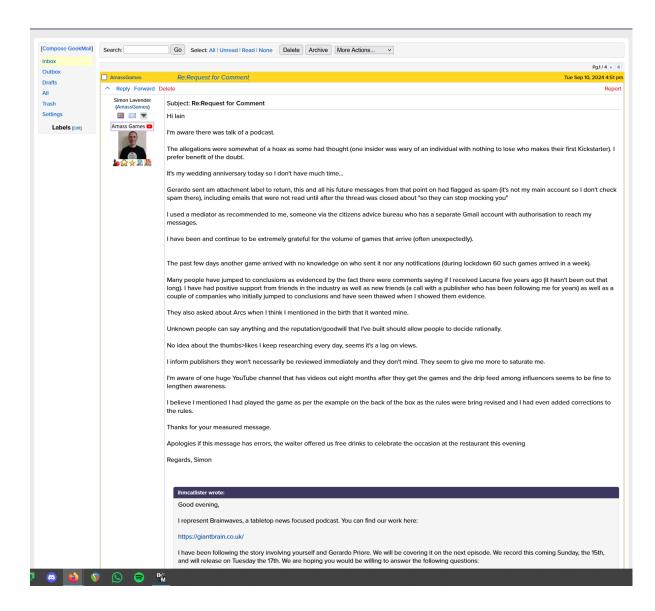
Your Youtube channel has several videos with low double digit views and triple figure likes. Can you please explain how that has happened as I don't know enough about the Youtube alogrithm?

You put out a video a few days ago entitled "How to play and review The Strange Forgeries of Mr. S.C.Rheber " the game at the centre of this controversy. In that video you claim to have played the game. However during the video you are clearly unwrapping components still in shrink. The game is not available on Tabletopia, TTS, or Boardgamearena. Can you please explain how you have played it?

I hope you can take the time to answer these questions in time for our recording.

Thank you

Iain McAllister



Hi lain

I'm aware there was talk of a podcast.

The allegations were somewhat of a hoax as some had thought (one insider was wary of an individual with nothing to lose who makes their first Kickstarter). I prefer benefit of the doubt.

It's my wedding anniversary today so I don't have much time...

Gerardo sent am attachment label to return, this and all his future messages from that point on had flagged as spam (it's not my main account so I don't check spam there), including emails that were not read until after the thread was closed about "so they can stop mocking you" I used a mediator as recommended to me, someone via the citizens advice bureau who has a separate Gmail account with authorisation to reach my messages.

I have been and continue to be extremely grateful for the volume of games that arrive (often unexpectedly).

The past few days another game arrived with no knowledge on who sent it nor any notifications (during lockdown 60 such games arrived in a week).

Many people have jumped to conclusions as evidenced by the fact there were comments saying if I received Lacuna five years ago (it hasn't been out that long). I have had positive support from friends in the industry as well as new friends (a call with a publisher who has been following me for years) as well as a couple of companies who initially jumped to conclusions and have seen thawed when I showed them evidence.

They also asked about Arcs when I think I mentioned in the birth that it wanted mine.

Unknown people can say anything and the reputation/goodwill that I've built should allow people to decide rationally.

No idea about the thumbs>likes I keep researching every day, seems it's a lag on views.

I inform publishers they won't necessarily be reviewed immediately and they don't mind. They seem to give me more to saturate me.

I'm aware of one huge YouTube channel that has videos out eight months after they get the games and the drip feed among influencers seems to be fine to lengthen awareness.

I believe I mentioned I had played the game as per the example on the back of the box as the rules were bring revised and I had even added corrections to the rules.

Thanks for your measured message.

Apologies if this message has errors, the waiter offered us free drinks to celebrate the occasion at the restaurant this evening

Regards, Simon

lain Reply 1

Hi Simon,

I am very much for giving people benefit of the doubt. However I am struggling to understand what you mean by some of the comments in your reply to me.

I would like to rephrase some of the questions and ask you for a straight yes or no answer to those questions if that would be alright. If you would like to elaborate further, please do so outside of those answers.

I would also like to define what I mean by played in the context of 'have you played the game'. When I ask if you have played a game, I mean taken all the components out of the box, unwrapped them, read the rules, and tried to follow those rules as closely as possible with the components provided.

That definition out of the way, here are the questions. Please answer yes or no to each. If you wish to elaborate after that yes or no, that is fine. I however need a definitve yes or no on each of these.

Did you engage a third party to act on your behalf when you felt you were being harrased by Gerardo?

In you last post on the BGG thread you mentioned a Cyberattack and your car being damaged. Do you have reason to believe that these incidents occured because of the accusations in the BGG thread?

Have you played "The Strange Forgeries of Mr S.C.Rheber" as you claim in the video you made?

Have you played the game 4 times as your play stats for August show?

I look forward to hearing from you

lain

Beginner Body Weight	🔞 Steampower Publishing 🗋 Boardgame Rental 🗋 Indesign 🗋 PC building 💆 Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The 🗋 Design 🗋 Giant Brain 🗋 Clothes 🗋 Research 🗋 Dogs 🗋 Ne
eekLists - Shoppin	g - Community - Help - Search
AmassGames	Re:Request for Comment Wed Sep 11, 2024
↑ Reply Forward	Delete f
Simon Lavender (AmassGames)	Subject: Re:Request for Comment
Amass Games 💶	Hi lain
Anass Games -	I was in Edinburgh in August 😃
	Did you engage a third party to act on your behalf when you felt you were being harrased by Gerardo?
🎉 🚖 🚖 👪	Yes. Numerous third parties (at least three different groups who aided with a resolution, excluding lawyers and the police)
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Hi lain

I was in Edinburgh in August 😃

Did you engage a third party to act on your behalf when you felt you were being harrased by Gerardo?

Yes. Numerous third parties (at least three different groups who aided with a resolution, excluding lawyers and the police)

In you last post on the BGG thread you mentioned a Cyberattack and your car being damaged. Do you have reason to believe that these incidents occured because of the accusations in the BGG thread?

Yes. The timing was impeccable. The police were informed of both

Have you played "The Strange Forgeries of Mr S.C.Rheber" as you claim in the video you made?

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Have you played the game 4 times as your play stats for August show?

Yes, with James and also two others.

There were some other points I'd like to add after my prior message but I will ask to recall and let you know tomorrow

Regards, Simon

This was followed by another message

Simon Reply 3

Hi lain,

Despite the trauma I have received multiple games from four publishers since last week with at least one taking out a package)

Quotes from friends in the industry, four different emails:

"Stay Strong"

"Sorry to see you're having such trouble.

Even though we've not worked together, I can see you are very hardworking and diligent and you wouldn't have worked with so many leading companies if you weren't.

Keep your head high and keep doing your thing so well.

Sending you best wishes"

"I went onto the post today and saw that it had been locked. It didn't feel as though anything had been resolved in terms of your interests but nobody seemed to care about that \gtrsim "

A different industry publisher today

"the impression I have of you - you treat everybody the same and that's with respect and professionalism. I'm really sorry this all has happened to you."

Regards, Simon

lain Reply 2 - I wrote back to Simon

eekLists - Shopping	Community → Help →			
To: AmassGames	Re:Request for Comment Thu Sep 12, 2024 1:15 pm			
∧ Forward Delete Ferrare A Provide A ProvideA ProvideA ProvideA Provide A ProvideA	prever			
Simon Lavender (AmassGames)	Subject: Re:Request for Comment			
Amass Games C	Hi Simon, Without knowing who these messages of support are from I can't really use them in any reporting that we are doing. Would you be willing to share the sources of these quotes preferably with screen captures of the message identifying the sender? I would like to verify their support of you with them, even if that is not for broadcast. I understand that as the game is in pre-production, the rules are not finished yet. However the loose description on the back of a game box is not enough to play a game in full. I used to do preview content as well and would have never used the box description alone to guide me in how to play a game. I have some more questions, and will need to come away from my Yes/No request. Please keep your answers succinct. Given that you are unpacking the components of the Strange Forgeries in your video, and taking cards out of shrink wrap it seems impossible that you have played that copy of the game. Did you have access to another copy of the game for your plays? If not, how did you play the game? You said you employed third parties to resolve the situation. Was one of them called Daniella and did they contact Gerardo on your behalf? Are you disappointed that these messages of support for you did not come out publically during the time the BGG thread was active? How do you feel about Jamey Stegmayer using this incident in a recent post about controversies and preventing harm?			
	I would like to address some other allegations that have been shared with me. Did you adulterate messages between yourself and Paul Grogan in order to cast Paul in an unfavourable light and then share those messages on BGT&C Facebook group? Did you claim to be working with Sarah Shah to multiple publishers when any colloboration was yet to be confirmed by Sarah? During the Pandemic did you enter a giveaway for NHS workers while not being able to prove that you worked for the NHS? In August of 2023 you posted a How to Play and review of Zuuli on BGG. The designer responded pointing out some rules errors. Your response was to blame the teach of the game. Do you not feel a responsibility to check the rules thoroughly before engaging in creating content for a game? Have you made any other how to play videos based off someone else's teach and not your own work? Thanks			
Forward Delete Forever More Actions				

Hi Simon,

Without knowing who these messages of support are from I can't really use them in any reporting that we are doing. Would you be willing to share the sources of these quotes preferably with screen captures of the message identifying the sender? I would like to verify their support of you with them, even if that is not for broadcast.

I understand that as the game is in pre-production, the rules are not finished yet. However the loose description on the back of a game box is not enough to play a game in full. I used to do preview content as well and would have never used the box description alone to guide me in how to play a game. I have some more questions, and will need to come away from my Yes/No request. Please keep your answers succinct.

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You said you employed third parties to resolve the situation. Was one of them called Daniella and did they contact Gerardo on your behalf?

Are you disappointed that these messages of support for you did not come out publically during the time the BGG thread was active?

How do you feel about <u>Jamey Stegmayer using this incident</u> in a recent post about controversies and preventing harm?

I would like to address some other allegations that have been shared with me.

Did you adulterate messages between yourself and Paul Grogan in order to cast Paul in an unfavourable light and then share those messages on BGT&C Facebook group?

Did you claim to be working with Sarah Shah to multiple publishers when any collaboration was yet to be confirmed by Sarah?

During the Pandemic did you enter a giveaway for NHS workers while not being able to prove that you worked for the NHS?

In August of 2023 you posted a How to Play and review of Zuuli on BGG. The designer responded pointing out some rules errors. Your response was to blame the teach of the game. Do you not feel a responsibility to check the rules thoroughly before engaging in creating content for a game? Have you made any other how to play videos based off someone else's teach and not your own work?

Thanks

lain



Hi lain

I can email you screenshots

Given that you are unpacking the components of the Strange Forgeries in your video, and taking cards out of shrink wrap it seems impossible that you have played that copy of the game. Did you have access to another copy of the game for your plays? If not, how did you play the game?

As stated I could only go off the back of the box. I wouldn't have made the video and I would have waited for the rules which is what we agreed but then he went off script and unprofessionally (others opinion not mine) posted what he did. Hence the video live when it was.

You said you employed third parties to resolve the situation. Was one of them called Daniella and did they contact Gerardo on your behalf?

I contacted the CAB and they turn handled it.

Are you disappointed that these messages of support for you did not come out publically during the time the BGG thread was active?

Yes but they said it wouldn't change much as people had formed opinion and it's a negative thread. Cyber bullying webpages say the same.

How do you feel about Jamey Stegmayer using this incident in a recent post about controversies and preventing harm?

I had emailed Jamey about this and awaiting his reply first.

I would like to address some other allegations that have been shared with me.

Did you adulterate messages between yourself and Paul Grogan in order to cast Paul in an unfavourable light and then share those messages on BGT&C Facebook group?

No.

Did you claim to be working with Sarah Shah to multiple publishers when any colloboration was yet to be confirmed by Sarah?

Sarah said let's collaborate. As a lawyer she should no better as vocally saying that in the UK is some as a written contract. I contacted publisher. I would foresee she would have benefited. Alas she didn't mean it which is embarrassing.

During the Pandemic did you enter a giveaway for NHS workers while not being able to prove that you worked for the NHS?

There was not a competition for NHS workers. There was a competition for key workers. I was eligible and one of 10 recipients of board game tokens. I acquired a few one shots which were then given to charity. I have a screenshot confirming I was a keyworker.

In August of 2023 you posted a How to Play and review of Zuuli on BGG. The designer responded pointing out some rules errors. Your response was to blame the teach of the game. Do you not feel a responsibility to check the rules thoroughly before engaging in creating content for a game? Have you made any other how to play videos based off someone else's teach and not your own work?

Not every review will satisfy all. As per the prior message, I've been leant or asked to film on the spot. They don't have time for me to check the rules and they have found it rude when I have. I wasn't provided with Zulli as a review copy, thus attempted to film and promote based on the teach based on an Asmodee -10 years experienced demonstrator.

Some thing friends in the industry are stating is that people are trawling up quibbles or incorrect truths from as far ago as six years.

Friends in the industry have stated that if there was an issue they'd bring it up at the time and think they can tag on a minor perceived grievance now.

Jamey himself says it's bad to mention things publicly.

I'm aware some publishers have blocked Paul for sharing incomplete information.

With new information, police and lawyers are aware of a stronger case this week. I think I had messaged about restraining orders to UK individuals.

A few other companies confirmed review copies today. Unknown/met individuals will not get empathy or doubt removed from an accuser but I'm aiming to keep on top of it and appreciate the faith shown.

I'm aiming to improve all the time.

Hi lain

I can email you screenshots.

Given that you are unpacking the components of the Strange Forgeries in your video, and taking cards out of shrink wrap it seems impossible that you have played that copy of the game. Did you have access to another copy of the game for your plays? If not, how did you play the game?

As stated I could only go off the back of the box. I wouldn't have made the video and I would have waited for the rules which is what we agreed but then he went off script and

unprofessionally (others opinion not mine) posted what he did. Hence the video live when it was.

You said you employed third parties to resolve the situation. Was one of them called Daniella and did they contact Gerardo on your behalf?

I contacted the CAB and they turn handled it.

Are you disappointed that these messages of support for you did not come out publically during the time the BGG thread was active?

Yes but they said it wouldn't change much as people had formed opinion and it's a negative thread.

Cyber bullying webpages say the same.

How do you feel about Jamey Stegmayer using this incident in a recent post about controversies and preventing harm?

I had emailed Jamey about this and awaiting his reply first.

I would like to address some other allegations that have been shared with me.

Did you adulterate messages between yourself and Paul Grogan in order to cast Paul in an unfavourable light and then share those messages on BGT&C Facebook group?

No.

Did you claim to be working with Sarah Shah to multiple publishers when any colloboration was yet to be confirmed by Sarah?

Sarah said let's collaborate. As a lawyer she should no better as vocally saying that in the UK is some as a written contract. I contacted publisher. I would foresee she would have benefited. Alas she didn't mean it which is embarrassing.

During the Pandemic did you enter a giveaway for NHS workers while not being able to prove that you worked for the NHS?

There was not a competition for NHS workers. There was a competition for key workers. I was eligible and one of 10 recipients of board game tokens. I acquired a few one shots which were then given to charity. I have a screenshot confirming I was a keyworker.

In August of 2023 you posted a How to Play and review of Zuuli on BGG. The designer responded pointing out some rules errors. Your response was to blame the teach of the game. Do you not feel a responsibility to check the rules thoroughly before engaging in creating content for a game? Have you made any other how to play videos based off someone else's teach and not your own work?

Not every review will satisfy all. As per the prior message, I've been leant or asked to film on the spot. They don't have time for me to check the rules and they have found it rude when I have. I wasn't provided with Zulli as a review copy, thus attempted to film and promote based on the teach based on an Asmodee ~10 years experienced demonstrator.

Some thing friends in the industry are stating is that people are trawling up quibbles or incorrect truths from as far ago as six years.

Friends in the industry have stated that if there was an issue they'd bring it up at the time and think they can tag on a minor perceived grievance now.

Jamey himself says it's bad to mention things publicly.

I'm aware some publishers have blocked Paul for sharing incomplete information.

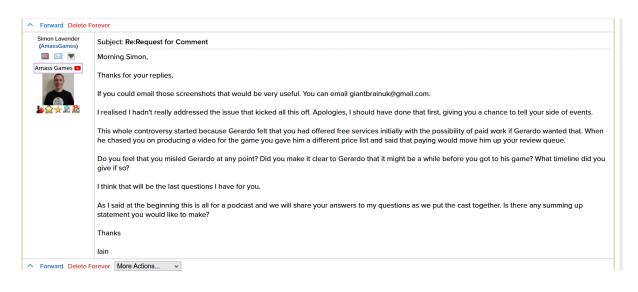
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Regards, Simon

lain reply 3



Morning Simon,

Thanks for your replies.

If you could email those screenshots that would be very useful. You can email giantbrainuk@gmail.com.

I realised I hadn't really addressed the issue that kicked all this off. Apologies, I should have done that first, giving you a chance to tell your side of events.

This whole controversy started because Gerardo felt that you had offered free services initially with the possibility of paid work if Gerardo wanted that. When he chased you on producing a video for the game you gave him a different price list and said that paying would move him up your review queue.

Do you feel that you misled Gerardo at any point? Did you make it clear to Gerardo that it might be a while before you got to his game? What timeline did you give if so?

I think that will be the last questions I have for you.

As I said at the beginning this is all for a podcast and we will share your answers to my questions as we put the cast together. Is there any summing up statement you would like to make?

Thanks

lain

1.2	
Simon Lavender (AmassGames)	Subject: Re:Request for Comment
Amass Games 💶	Hilain
Amass Games	Gerardo contacted me. Said he liked my stuff.
	Paid other creators and wanted to know if I charged. I sent the generic overview.
	He wanoto proceed to paid options.
	Like others I have emailed this week, he was sent the package info.
	He selected a package.
	He then wanted an invoice.
	They take time but I sent it.
	He then wanted the invoice changing which was unusual, to something more convuloted and more of them.
	One per each bit.
	He, like everyone prior had offer a game.
	Unlike others it later turned out he wanted it back.
	Others who have provided prototypes (and he said it wasn't one) have occasionally stated upfront before receiving them to confirm I can pass it on.
	When agreed they send the game.
	Gerardo hasn't mentioned he wanted it back.
	He was aware, as he states, that I film in the order received for fairness.
	As per the initial blurb I sent there are options for further promotion, something which he was interested in and wanting to pay.
	Weeks later he changed his mind.
	He said he had changed his mind and 'that was the end of it'
	I didn't mind. He has caused more time wasting than usual though.
	I liaised with a mediator to save my time.
	They asked him if he wanted packages a which was I think the how to play.
	B which was unboxing
	C which was to film in the order received. He can see there were 56 games in the haul video and some had been filmed.
	Via the mediators they said that if he didn't reply they would close the case as option C, as no money was changing hands.
	He apparently did not reply to them.
	I do not know a Daniella, I have not messaged either to nor as this name.
	Months later it was odd, and alarming to find him post what he did publicly.
	Like before I will mask emails and WhatsApps. I would need their consent.
	Please be aware of the sniff test.
	No one else claims l've withheld a prototype.
	So there is no commonality
	He didn't remove my name from the post. I didn't want my name stated and to receive games I state my brand not my name obviously. He's looking for exposure as others have commented.
	In redoing those invoices he found a weak and vulnerable individual.
	Regarding keyworkers. The person running it in the video, was snide in saying 'Simon won, he's got lots of games'.
	I'm surprised I haven't been outed as being on the FBI's most wanted
	Regards, Simon
1	

Hi lain

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lain reply 4 - this reply is in the screenshot below

Hi Simon,

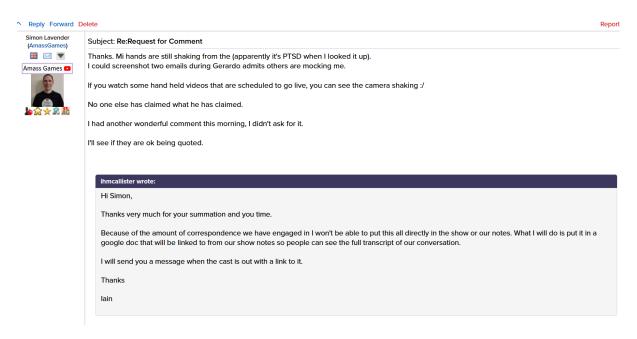
Thanks very much for your summation and you time.

Because of the amount of correspondence we have engaged in I won't be able to put this all directly in the show or our notes. What I will do is put it in a google doc that will be linked to from our show notes so people can see the full transcript of our conversation.

I will send you a message when the cast is out with a link to it.

Thanks

lain



Thanks. My hands are still shaking from the (apparently it's PTSD when I looked it up). I could screenshot two emails during Gerardo admits others are mocking me.

If you watch some hand held videos that are scheduled to go live, you can see the camera shaking :/

No one else has claimed what he has claimed.

I had another wonderful comment this morning, I didn't ask for it.

I'll see if they are ok being quoted.

Simon Reply 7

↑ Reply Forward [Delete Report
Simon Lavender (AmassGames)	Subject: Re:Request for Comment
** 💌 💌	I have proof of being a keyworker.
Amass Games 🖸	But my boss was/is a One star General/Brigadier. I can't give his name but you can sleuth it out
	ihmcallister wrote:
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	Thanks
	lain

I have proof of being a keyworker.

But my boss was/is a One star General/Brigadier. I can't give his name but you can sleuth it out

Our conversation then turned to email. During that conversation Simon shared some Whatsapp messages of support that I have been unable to verify. It is also where we got the information about Dan Chard and Jeppe Norsker

Rhi Interview

Here are screenshots that Rhi shared with us to back up her story.

2	AmassGames 🏂 🏫 🔆 🏦 🖧 Aug 2023
-	Wow this is bad. Stuck trying to draw and having to discard to have only five?! BGA <u>www.youtube.com/amassgames</u> alas I've had issues with the word of the publisher too
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	A abjectCheetah5 Aug 2024
	Collections:
	P panickyPaella7 Jul 2024
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1	L lyingPoultryO Jul 2024
	Collections:
6	R randomasduck 🗾 🚖 🔝 🕸 🗽 Jul 2024
	Collections:
3	AmassGames 🏄 🏠 🔆 🏦 🔏 Jul 2024 🚟 Reading, Berkshire - United Kingdom
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	BGA
	Google AmassGames for 2,600+ reviews
	Collections: