The Queen's Lane Advertiser

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Edited by Jeremy Tullett

A magazine containing news about various games conventions taking place in the UK

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- **OxCon 2008**

Forthcoming Conventions

Forthcoming Conventions				
TringCon XV	PsychoCon	4 th British Open		
New Mill Social Centre	Golden Lion Hotel,	Connections		
Tring	Leeds	Championship (Einfach		
Herts	www.psychocon.co.uk	Genial)		
www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	12-14 October 2007	Britannia Hotel,		
6 October 2007		Nottingham		
		26-28 October 2007-06-27		
		alanfarrell(at)btinternet.com		
MidCon	OxCon	SoRCon		
Thistle Birmingham City Hotel	The Mitre Inn,	Ramada Hotel		
Birmingham	High Street,	Colchester		
16-18 November 2007	Oxford	22-24 February 2008		
www.midcon.org.uk	26-27 January 2008*	www.sorcon.co.uk		
	users.ox.ac.uk/~board/diplo*			
BayCon	UK Games Expo	ManorCon XXVI		
Exeter Court Hotel,	The Clarendon Suites	Stamford Hall,		
Kennford	2 Stirling Road	University of Leicester		
Devon	Edgbaston	25th-28th July 2008		
27-30 March 2008	Birmingham	www.manorcon.org.uk		
www.baycon.co.uk	31 May-1 June 2008			
	www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk			

* Please note, this is a correction from the date given in the printed version of QLA 22. The date in the article on page 21 is correct.



16th – 18th November 2007 Thistle Birmingham City Hotel

About the con

Mid*Con* XXIX takes place in a comfortable hotel in the centre of Birmingham from Friday afternoon (4pm) to Sunday evening (6pm). It features:

- the opportunity to play board games with like-minded adults¹
- the **Mid***Con* music quiz on Friday evening
- the **Mid***Con* general knowledge quiz for teams of 4 on Saturday evening
- the chance to buy even more board games
- the chance to sell your surplus games on the Bring & Buy stall on the Saturday afternoon

Mid*Con* is primarily about playing games and meeting people. You can play any of the number of games people bring along with them, including the hot new games from the Spiel games fair in Essen, which takes place just a few weeks before **Mid***Con*. Popular games include 18XX, Puerto Rico and Power Grid, but you are welcome to bring along your own favourite games – you will almost certainly find some people willing to play at least one of them.

Costs

Attendance at **Mid***Con* costs £15-£18 for the whole weekend (day rates of £8/£10/£8 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and accommodation is available in the Thistle Hotel at reasonable rates. The hotel is reachable by public transport and there is an adjacent car park.

Registration

If you would like to join us at **Mid***Con*, please complete the form overleaf and return it with the convention fee of $\pounds 15^2$ a head to:

Jeremy Tullett, MidCon, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR,

or register electronically at www.boardgamers.org.uk/booking.php.

¹ Though children are welcome as well!

² Goes up to £18 on November 1st

MidCon '07 Booking Form

The registration fee for **Mid***Con* is £15 per person for the whole week-end. Day rates are £10 for the Saturday and £8 (each) for the Friday and the Sunday. Please note, convention fees are *not* refundable. After November 1^{st} we will not be able to accept postal bookings and accommodation will have to be booked directly with the hotel, whilst the convention fee will have to be paid at the convention. **Please note that the registration fee goes up to £18 after November 1**st.

Name				
Address				
		Tal		
Post code		Tel:		
E-mail				
I enclose a cheque / P	O (payable to "MidCon") for		£	
				(See above for registration rates)
Other names covered by this registration				

Accommodation

Please reserve the following rooms at the rate of £47.00 per person per night for a single room and ± 37.50 per person per night sharing a twin/double room – a full English breakfast is included. Hotel

charges will be settled directly with the hotel on your departure.

Please select one of the following options by ticking the appropriate box.

I hereby give permission for **Mid***Con* to pass my credit card details to the Hotel to reserve my room. My credit card details are given below

I enclose a cheque for 50% of the total cost of my room booking, payable to "Thistle Birmingham City Hotel", as a deposit.

My credit card details (You do not need to provide these if you have enclosed a cheque to cover the deposit on your room)

The name on my credit card is:		
The credit card number is:	The expiry date is:	

The cancellation policy of the hotel is complicated, but full refunds should be available up to 10 weeks before MidCon, with an escalating cancellation fee as 16^{th} November approaches.

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
N ^{o.} of single rooms			
N ^{0.} of twin rooms			
N ^{o.} of double rooms			
Sharing with			

When complete, return this form, together with your registration fee (payable to "**Mid***Con*") to: Jeremy Tullett, **Mid***Con*, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR. Alternatively, credit card bookings may be submitted online at **www.boardgamers.org.uk/booking.php** by clicking on the Booking Form link in the left hand menu bar.

The Thistle hotel chain often offers cheap rooms in Birmingham during November at a rate below that of MidCon. Anyone taking advantage of this offer needs to be aware of the 'small print', noting that breakfast may not be included in the price, and that there may be no guarantee of which Birmingham Thistle the room will be in.

Details of your booking are stored on computers. We do not sell our mailings lists to any other individuals or organisations, but we may share them with other games conventions.

Am I registered?

This is the table of bookings as of 29 September. Please contact the editor if there are any errors or omissions.

Name	Fri	Sat	Sun
Michael Oakes	Single	Single	
Jeremy Tullett	Single	Single	
Hazel Hawker			
Jeff Hawker			
Peter Haslehurst	Twin	Twin	
Nick Wells	I WIN	I WIN	
Simon Cutforth	Turin	Turin	
Paul Heald	Twin	Twin	
Danny Victor	Single	Single	Single
Tony Wheatley	Disabled	Disabled	Disabled
John Harrington	Twin	Twin	
Paul Oakes	I WIN	I WIN	
lan Fleming	Single	Single	
Dave Thorby	Single	Single	
Lee Edwards			
Jonty Blackwell	Double	Double	
Jeff Edmunds	Twin	Twin	
Angela Crick	I WITI		
Steve Kearon	Single	Single	
Don Clarke			
Dave Cooper		Twin	
Ben Cooper			
Bill O'Neill	Single	Single	
Steve Jones	Single	Single	
lan D Wilson	Single	Single	
Mark Stretch			
Gary Duke			
Derek Wilson	Twin	Twin	
Dane Maslen	I WITI		
Barrington Beavis	Double	Double	
Mark Fox	Single	Single	
John Hopkins	Single	Single	Single
Lyndon Gurr	Twin	Twin	
Stephen Webb			
Colin Harden	Double	Double	

Bookings are running ahead of previous years, so if you want to be sure of getting a room in the hotel, you advised to get your registration in early. It helps the committee too. If we appear to have filled our room allocation well in advance of mid-November, we may be able to obtain some more rooms.

Bring & Buy Sale

Following the success of last year's Bring & Buy sale, we will be repeating the event this year on much the same lines. Please note, however, that if you want to sell brand new games, you may not sell products that are being offered by the "official" games stall of MidCon. If in doubt, contact the committee via the Queries button in the left hand margin.

The schedule

The Bring & Buy stall will be open in two sessions on the Saturday at MidCon. Timings are as follows:

Noon - 12:45 Sellers bring their games to the Wroxton Suite

13:00 - 13:30 Stall opens for business

13:45 - 14:15 Sellers can collect unsold games and proceeds from sales

18:00 - 18:30 Sellers bring their games to the Wroxton Suite and may amend the prices of unsold games

18:30 - 19:00 Stall opens for business

19:15 - 19:45 Sellers collect unsold games and proceeds from sales

How it will work

A number of tables will be set aside in the Wroxton Suite for the purpose of displaying the games for sale.

People who want to sell their games should bring them along to the Bring & Buy registration desk, which will be manned by John Harrington and anybody daft enough to volunteer to help him in return for a beer.

Details of each game (seller, name of game, condition of game, asking price) will be transferred on to a database (on a lap-top, or possibly a piece of paper).

Each game will be assigned a game ID and this, along with the asking price, will be noted on a special MidCon Post-It note that will be attached to the game. The game will then go on display, ready for sale.

When the stall opens, punters will be allowed to examine the games and possibly fondle components in a slightly disturbing fetishistic manner. Anyone wanting to buy a game should grab it, and bring it and the requisite amount of cash to the Bring & Buy registration desk

After the sale period closes, sellers may come along and collect the proceeds from their sales and any unsold games (assuming they do not want them to be carried forward to the next sale period - if there is one). Please be prompt when collecting your stuff. We'll be pretty strict on this as we don't want to be interrupted all night long by sellers asking for their money when said sellers could not get their act together enough to collect the money at the correct time.

As indicated above, there will be an opportunity for sellers to amend asking prices, but everything has to go through the Bring & Buy registration desk - no bringing along a copy of SPI's War of the Rings with the price of \pounds 80 crossed out and a new price of \pounds 1.50 written underneath in crayon!

Will there be a charge?

Assuming we can run this stall using the con's existing resources - i.e., we do not have to pay extra to hire a room or tables - then it is our intention to make this a free event, both for sellers and buyers.

If you'd like to help ...

Just make sure you make yourself known before the event to John Harrington (short chap, wearing glasses and probably other things - such as clothes - besides). You can even e-mail him before hand: you can find his e-mail address on http://fbgames.co.uk

Games that will be on offer

If you want to give punters advance notice of the games you will be bringing along, contact John via http://fbgames.co.uk or, if you can't be bothered to visit that web site you can probably work out his address by rearranging the following elements into the right order:

- 1. @
- 2. john
- 3. fbgames.co.uk

Clue: Put them in the following order: 213, with no spaces in between!

Will there be a Diplomacy tournament?

The short answer to this is "Only if there is enough demand."

The format of any tournament will depend on how many people want to play, but there will probably only be rounds on the Saturday and Sunday.

I love MidCon - so what can I do to help promote it?

Thank you for the offer.

We'd really like to reach local games groups, local games shops, university games clubs. Just about anybody, in fact, who would be interested in coming to MidCon.

If you can help us by distributing advertising material, we'll send you some by return of post.

If you can bring a substantial group to MidCon, we'll even offer a discount on the registration fees. And here's an additional incentive – if we get more than 150 visitors to MidCon in 2007, I'll handover the chairmanship to someone else. If we get more than 175, I'll abscond with the registration fees and have nice holiday in the Caribbean.

How about some memoribilia?

T-shirts, perhaps? We are looking into T-shirts, but will you buy them? They will be reasonably priced. Let us know if you have a view. The design will be settled by the time you read this, and you *will* like it.

Great! What about some beer to spill on my nice new T-shirt?

I am trying to get the hotel to get some real ale in, although it seems to prefer to ignore my questions at the moment. A barrel or bottles is unclear, but we aim to keep drinkers of pints of tepid, flat drinks happy.

ManorCon XXV

Results

This year saw ManorCon move out of Birmingham for the first time in its 25-year history. With a new venue, it was a learning experience for the committee as well as for the attendees. Some things went better than others, but overall, we feel the move was a big success, and ManorCon will therefore be remaining at Stamford Hall for the foreseeable future.

One of the things we failed to predict in advance was how many people would want to play in Stamford House, rather than the Dining Hall. How we failed to pick up on this, I'm not sure, but with both the bar and 24-hour access in Stamford House, it should have been obvious! It did mean that the Dining Hall was much quieter than the main gaming hall had been in previous years – which some people liked, while others felt it removed the normal convention atmosphere.

This year saw another first – the Bar had some Real Ale left when the convention closed on Monday! This has never happened before, and is even more surprising because we had 25% less Real Ale this year than last year – only 720 pints! Fortunately it was very close – there was just a small amount left in the final barrel – as if there is a significant amount left, the convention has to pay for it. We therefore hope we won't see a repeat of this next year!

Onto the games played. All the tournaments seemed to see a drop in numbers this year. The 18XX tournament was the biggest (15 games played), followed by St Petersburg (13), Puerto Rico (9), Croquet (8), Imperial (7) and Settlers (7). However, we suspect that there were several more of each game played but not reported, partly because there was nowhere to put tournament results in Stamford House, so people had to walk across to the Dining Hall to get a result sheet, and then again to submit the result. And of course, after the Dining Hall closed at midnight, this wasn't possible. Next year, we intend to put a set of results slips and envelopes in Stamford House.

ManorCon weekend has a tradition of being hot. We're hoping that the change in venue has not brought a change in this tradition, as this year saw what is probably the worst ManorCon weather in the convention's history. Fortunately ManorCon didn't have it as bad as some of the people trying to get to the convention. One attendee took 40 minutes to get from Woking to Reading on the train, found there were no trains North out of Reading, and then took 3 hours to get back to Woking. Another attendee took 5 hours to do the first 22 miles of his journey up the M5, decided to give up, and took another 3 hours to get home again! We'd like to thank those of you who did have to fight your way through the weather in order to attend. Fortunately most of the Committee meet up in Leicester on Thursday night, or some of us may not have made it either!

<u>Thanks.</u>

ManorCon is run completely by volunteers. Some of those volunteers are daft enough to call themselves the committee, and spend 12 months a year organising ManorCon. But they could not do it by themselves. Therefore we'd like to thank everybody else who helped with the running of ManorCon XXV:

- For their help on the Registration Desk: John Boocock, Kath Collman, Chris Dawe, Jerry Elsmore, Kevin Lee, John Mitchell, David Percik, Paul Regulski, Ian D Wilson.
- For organising tournaments: John Colledge, Kath Collman, Dave Gittins, Dan Lester, Dane Maslen, Markus Welbourne.
- For hosting the convention, and always being ready to deal with problems as quickly and effectively as possible, the University of Leicester.

18XX

The 18XX tournament had 20 players playing 15 games. The games included 3 each of 1846 and 1861, one each of 18GL, 1858, 1850, 1826, 18West, 1848 and 1862, plus 2 where the game wasn't entered on the score sheet! Steve continued to use his hybrid scoring system based on points gained according to place and modified by a variation calculated from the scores in the actual game to yield a tournament score.

Congratulations to Peter Eldridge who had a pretty solid tournament.

1846			
Steve Thomas	7519	106.58	
John Boocock	6920	58.09	
Chris Dawe	6726	15.34	

1846			
Lyndon Gurr	8784	108.73	
Ian D Wilson	8607	86.54	
Danny Victor	8241	62.01	
Dave Thorby	8048	39.62	
Steve Ogden	6712	3.09	

1861			
Jon Draper	7676	113.81	
Peter Campbell	6785	75.60	
John Harrington	6525	46.74	
Richard Clyne	5993	13.85	

18West			
Tony Bromley	8670	109.19	
Richard Clyne	8470	81.68	
Peter Eldridge	8339	55.03	
David Hecht	6281	4.11	

18GL			
Jon Draper	7810	111.60	
Danny Victor	7296	84.26	
Richard Clyne	6998	59.99	
Tony Bromley	6456	32.25	
Lyndon Gurr	6431	11.90	

1858			
David Smith	9296	107.71	
Steve Thomas	8911	78.25	
Ian D Wilson	8861	52.67	
Geoff Hardingham	7455	11.38	

1850			
David Hecht	14402	115.04	
Peter Eldridge	12001	55.86	
Steve Ogden	11156	9.11	

184	6	
Peter Eldridge	8717	109.48
Jon Draper	8285	64.06
Steve Ogden	6984	7.72

1826						
David Hecht	10138	101.90				
Lyndon Gurr	10093	61.45				
Jon Draper	9615	16.65				

1861							
Danny Victor	8778	125.73					
Steve Thomas	6752	71.71					
Dave Thorby	6680	45.68					
Geoff Hardingham	5712	6.89					

1862							
Peter Eldridge	9456	116.80					
Ben Brown	9238	94.11					
Alan Harvey	8407	63.84					
Steve Ogden	7863	37.12					
Chris Malme	7650	14.49					
John Boocock	5962	-16.36					

18??						
Steve Ogden	1517	123.67				
David Hecht	1240	61.09				
Ian D Wilson	923	-4.76				

1848						
Steve Thomas	9778	100.11				
John Boocock	9692	60.63				
Jon Draper	9236	18.30				

1861							
Peter Eldridge	7042	113.19					
Danny Victor	6279	75.92					
Ian D Wilson	6209	49.80					
Steve Ogden	5356	11.09					

18??						
Geoff Hardingham	9215	108.80				
Dave Thorby	8720	77.96				
Steve Ogden	8477	50.09				
Ian D Wilson	7466	13.15				

So the final results were:

Position	Name	Played	Won	Score
1	Peter Eldridge	5	3	90.07
2	Steve Thomas	4	2	89.16
3	Danny Victor	4	1	86.98
4	David Hecht	4	2	70.53
5	David Smith	1	1	69.24
6	Jon Draper	5	2	64.88
7	Ben Brown	1	0	64.70
8	Tony Bromley	2	1	63.82
9	Lyndon Gurr	3	1	60.69
10	Peter Campbell	1	0	58.53
11	Alan Harvey	1	0	54.61
12	Dave Thorby	3	0	54.42
13	Richard Clyne	3	0	51.84
14	John Harrington	1	0	48.91
15	Geoff Hardingham	3	1	42.35
16	Ian D Wilson	5	0	39.48
17	Chris Dawe	1	0	38.45
18	Chris Malme	1	0	38.16
19	Steve Ogden	7	1	34.54
20	John Boocock	3	0	34.12

Croquet

Eleven people signed up for the croquet, although it was subsequently discovered that John Mitchell, and possibly Jim Sutherland, claim not to have signed up. If this was some weird joke played by their friends (sic), then funny haha, but this is not the kind of behaviour we need at ManorCon!

Nevertheless, everyone else got on with it, and played their games despite the wet weather. Not surprisingly, the final was played between Gary Duke and Mick Haytack. Gary, who has a CA handicap of 4½, would normally have been expected to beat Mick, whose handicap is 11, but Mick once again won against the odds. Congratulations go again to Mick, who joined Stewart Cross, Kevin McGowan and Nick Parish as 4-times winners of the ManorCon Croquet Tournament. Mick has now announced his retirement from croquet at ManorCon in order "to give the others a chance".

Gary Duke			1.4						
bye		Gary Duke	14	Corre Durko	14				
Roger Ditchburn	14	Roger Ditchburn	1 Gary Duke		•	Gary Duke	14		
Phil Williams	8	Roger Ditchoum	1			Gary Duke	3		
Michelle Erskine		Michelle Erskine	6			Gary Duke	5		
bye		Michelle Elskille	0	Ionty Dissivusii	3				
Jonty Blackwell	14	I am try Dla alversall	14	Jonty Blackwell					
Philip Honeybone	3	Jonty Blackwell	14						
Martin Burroughs	14	Martin Durnaugha			3				
Sharon Fennell	2	Martin Burroughs							
bye		larva							
bye		bye					14		
Jim Sutherland	w/o	Line Cutherland			14	Mick Haytack	14		
John Mitchell		Jim Sutherland		Miele Horite els					
bye		Miels Herteels		Mick Haytack					
Mick Haytack		Mick Haytack	W/O						

Diplomacy

21 players took part in the Diplomacy Tournament this year. This is by far the smallest that the tournament has been. However, around half of the players were new to ManorCon.

Friday saw two boards.

Friday 1				Friday 2			
Austria	Pete Campbell	1	4.20	Austria	Tom Garretty	1909	0.90
England	Iain Walworth	1905	0.50	England	Hailey Anderson	1	3.43
France	David Buckley	8	22.40	France	Andy Mayfield	7	15.20
Germany	Andrew Havery	3	7.40	Germany	Emeric Miszti	7	15.20
Italy	Richard Bolton	9	26.60	Italy	Andrew Singleton	1905	0.50
Russia	John Stratford	9	26.60	Russia	Robin Walters	3	6.05
Turkey	Rick Desper	4	9.60	Turkey	Toby Harris	16	54.90

Toby set the early mark, with a huge score. If he'd got one more centre, it would have easily been the highest non-solo single round score in the history of ManorCon.

Saturday also saw two boards.								
Saturday 1			Saturday 2	Saturday 2				
Austria	Dave Simpson	1908	0.80	Austria	Andy Mayfield	1905	0.50	
England	Richard Bolton	6	0.90	England	Rick Desper	10	26.26	
France	John Stratford	2	0.90	France	Andrew Havery	11	30.47	
Germany	Danny Collman	2	0.90	Germany	Alan Belamy	1904	0.40	
Italy	Steve Agg	6	0.90	Italy	Pete Campbell	1906	0.60	
Russia	Emeric Miszti	18	75.00	Russia	David Norman	2	4.71	
Turkey	Andrew Singleton*	1906	0.60	Turkey	Tom Garretty	11	30.47	

Saturday also saw two boards.

* Toby Harris replaced Andrew Singleton after 1903.

Board two saw three players sharing the points. But their scores were dwarfed by Emeric's result on board 1, with a 1909 solo as Russia. Along with his round 1 result, he had a lead of around 35 points going into the final round.

With only two boards, it was difficult to run a proper Team tournament, so teams of 1 were used! This will be renamed for future years, but will continue to be for the highest individual score on Saturday. The idea is to allow the players who don't want to play all three rounds to be able to just play one round, and have a prize to play for. With his solo, Emeric was the clear winner of the Team Tournament.

Sunday a	Sunday also had two boards.							
Sunday 1				Sunday 2				
Austria	Rick Desper	9	24.54	Austria	Steve Agg	11	26.08	
England	Gihan Bandaranaike	7	17.16	England	John Stratford	17	53.75	
France	Dave Simpson	8	20.66	France	Andrew Singleton	1905	0.50	
Germany	Richard Bolton	1908	0.80	Germany	David Buckley	1911	1.10	
Italy	Tom Garretty	1907	0.70	Italy	Andrew Havery	1907	0.70	
Russia	Iain Walworth	1908	0.80	Russia	Toby Harris*	6	10.95	
Turkey	Emeric Miszti	10	28.78	Turkey	Andy Mayfield	1911	1.10	

* David Norman replaced Toby Harris after Spring 1905

Sunday saw several players on board 2 who knew their only hope to win the tournament was to solo. John Stratford nearly made it, but was stopped at 17. Meanwhile on board 1, everybody knew that they didn't have a chance of winning the tournament unless Emeric was eliminated. And yet he managed to avoid elimination, and then grow until he ended up topping the board.

With a solo, a board top and a 7 centre Germany, Emeric was a worthy tournament winner. John's 17 propelled him into second place, while Toby's 16 in the first round earned him third place.

So the Final Results were:

Position	Name	Fri	Sat	Sun	Overall
1	Emeric Miszti	15.20	75.00	28.78	111.38
2	John Stratford	26.60	0.90	53.75	80.80
3	Toby Harris	54.90	0.30*	5.47*	60.53
4	Rick Desper	9.60	26.26	24.54	55.60
5	Andrew Havery	7.40	30.47	0.70	38.22
6	Tom Garretty	0.90	30.47	0.70	31.72
7	Richard Bolton	26.60	0.90	0.80	27.90
8	Steve Agg		0.90	26.08	26.98
9	David Buckley	22.40		1.10	23.50
10	Dave Simpson		0.80	20.66	21.46
11	Gihan Bandaranaike			17.16	17.16
12	Andy Mayfield	15.20	0.50	1.10	16.55
13	David Norman		4.71	5.47*	10.18
14	Robin Walters	6.05			6.05
15	Pete Campbell	4.20	0.60		4.80
16	Hailey Anderson	3.43			3.43
17	Andrew Singleton	0.50	0.30*	0.50	1.35
18	Iain Walworth	0.50		0.80	1.30
19	Danny Collman		0.90		0.90
20	Alan Belamy		0.40		0.40

Best Countries

Best Austria	Steve Agg	Sunday Board 2	11 centres
Best England	John Stratford	Sunday Board 2	17 centres
Best France	Andrew Havery	Saturday Board 2	11 centres
Best Germany	Emeric Miszti	Friday Board 2	7 centres
Best Italy	Richard Bolton	Friday Board 1	9 centres
Best Russia	Emeric Miszti	Saturday Board 1	18 centres
Best Turkey	Toby Harris	Friday Board 2	16 centres

The Team Tournament results were:

Pos	Name	Centres	Score
1	Team Emeric Miszti	18	75.00
2	Team Tom Garretty	11	30.47
	Team Andrew Havery	11	30.47
4	Team Rick Desper	10	26.26
5	Team David Norman	2	4.71
6	Team Steve Agg	6	0.90
	Team Richard Bolton	6	0.90
	Team Danny Collman	2	0.90
	Team John Stratford	2	0.90
10	Team Dave Simpson	0	0.80
11	Team Andrew Singleton/	0	0.60
	Toby Harris		
	Team Pete Campbell	0	0.60
13	Team Andy Mayfield	0	0.50
14	Team Alan Belamy	0	0.40

Other Awards

Award	Winner	Reason
Most American player (who is not actually American)	Tom Garretty	For attacking the wrong country at the wrong time while failing to defend his homeland.
Tournament Director's Award	Andrew Mayfield	For playing the last six years of the game on 1 centre, only to be eliminated on the last turn.
(joint winners)	Hayley Anderson	For making it into the draw having playing the last six years of the game on 1 centre.

With the Tournament having become so small, and having seen that other tournaments typically died out once they dropped to two boards, David took some time before one of the rounds to ask the players how they felt about the tournament. Did they want it to continue? Did they want to change the format – e.g. to have one less round, etc. The resounding opinion was that they wanted it to continue, and wanted the format to remain the same. Hence the Diplomacy will be back, in the same format, in 2008. And if anyone wants to play some Diplomacy, but isn't interested in playing all three rounds, the new Saturday Tournament will allow them to compete for a major prize while playing just one round.

Nick's Tournaments

Nick Kinzett ran the St Petersburg, Acquire, Puerto Rico and Settlers of Catan tournaments. They were calculated using the NURSE scoring system, using the chance-of-not-winning (ignoring ties) ratio to rate actual wins – in the end the precise 30/40/45/48/50 (for 2/3/4/5/6-player variants) were used rather than the previous rounded-up ratio. Non-winners rate in the same proportion to these winning amounts as their victory quantifiers (VQs or VPs) were to the winner's VQs, with anyone pipped for victory on a tiebreak compared to notional 1 VQ more. Each participant's accumulated ratings were averaged by dividing by the number of games played plus a damper of 0.5. Fortunately the controversial "closeness" tiebreaker didn't have to be used for the trophy-awarding.

Nick notes that as punters more used to the idea that close games are better games (generally speaking), the NURSE foundation of using the chance-of-not-winning ignoring ties becomes slightly less sound, and really we should skew the ratios to take this into account. Indeed, the fewer the players, the more likely the tie, and certainly the 2-player game is woefully under-rated (and the 3-player somewhat so) under the present regime.

Acquire (15 players / 5 games)

Status	Name	Wins	Score
Winner	Vick Hall	2	35.20
Game	John Stratford	1	30.00
Winner	Gary Duke	1	30.00
	Andy Bate	1	26.66
The	Mark Stretch	0	33.16
Rest	Hayley Anderson	0	28.02
	Nick Kinzett	0	27.12
	Mike Urban	0	22.25
	Damien Tomkiewicz	0	21.80
	Chris Martin	0	21.67
	Andrew Mayfield	0	19.79
	Tom Garrity	0	19.11
	Jim Payne	0	17.16
	Harkesh Farma	0	14.28
	Matthew Greet	0	12.78

Puerto Rico (25 players / 8 games)

Status	Name	Wins	Score
Winner	Steve Jones	3	38.00
Runners	Matthew Greet	1	35.84
Up	Kevin Lee	1	35.16
Game	Paul Naylor	1	33.68
Winner	Eric Norton	1	32.00
	Quillon Harpham	1	30.00
The Rest	Jim Sutherland	0	31.28
	Mark Stretch	0	30.83
	Ray Tanner	0	30.57
	Nick Kinzett	0	30.53
	Gary Duke	0	28.53
	Steve Schulze	0	28.44
	Darrell Perrins	0	28.06
	John Todd	0	27.60
	Derek Wilson	0	26.12
	Joshua Perrins	0	25.26
	Bernard Thompson	0	23.90
	Steve Cousins	0	23.90
	Andy Bate	0	23.85
	Roger Ditchburn	0	23.40
	Helen Payne	0	22.10
	Tina Stewart	0	20.36
	Kath Collman	0	20.00
	A.N.Other	0	??.??
	Ima Pseudonym	0	??.??

St. Petersburg (33 players / 12 games)

	z yamesj		
Status	Name	Wins	Score
Winner	Tony Wheatley	5	39.56
Runner up	Steve Jones	3	39.25
Game	Richard Bolton	1	36.25
Winner	Allan Bellamy	1	32.00
	Gihan Bandaranaike	1	30.00
	Jim Sutherland	1	30.00
The rest	David Buckley	0	32.14
	Kath Collman	0	32.03
	Vick Hall	0	29.69
	John Todd	0	28.36
	Steve Schulze	0	26.87
	John Marsden	0	25.66
	Peter Cambell	0	25.62
	Dane Maslen	0	25.57
	Matthew Barrett	0	25.00
	Derrell Perrins	0	24.30
	Ray Tanner	0	24.22
	Toby Harris	0	23.02
	Mark Wightman	0	23.02
	Kevin Lee	0	22.50
	Matthew Greet	0	21.52
	Richard Biddle	0	19.80
	Richard Beattie	0	19.56
	Bob Coull	0	19.12
	Gary Duke	0	18.94
	Andrew Mayfield	0	18.78
	Chris Welbourne	0	18.55
	Adam Huby	0	17.72
	Paul Oakes	0	16.08
	Clark Fenney	0	15.00
	Jay Cutmore	0	14.08
	Steve Agg	0	14.00
	Joshua Perrins	0	13.50

Settlers of Catan (25 players / 7 games)

Status	Name	Wins	Score
Winner	David van-Cauter	2	36.59
Game	James Faulkner	1	30.00
Winner	James Goodman	1	30.00
	Chris Martin	1	30.00
	Eric Norton	1	30.00
	Gary Duke	1	26.66
The	Mike Urban	0	27.68
Rest	Greg Payne	0	27.00
	Tony Wheatley	0	24.00
	Paul Grogan	0	22.56
	Steve Jones	0	22.56
	Chris Malme	0	21.81
	Dave Buckley	0	21.00
	Colin Evans	0	20.76
	Mark Stretch	0	20.76
	Chris Welbourne	0	20.76
	Roger Ditchburn	0	20.00
	Michelle Erskine	0	20.00
	Matthew Greet	0	19.08
	Philip Honeybone	0	19.08
	Robert Dillon	0	18.46
	Seth King	0	18.46
	Sharon Fennell	0	17.50
	Andy Bate	0	11.53
	John Ellam	0	11.53

Combined Results

Nick also took the results from all his tournaments and combined them into one meta-tournament. Nick says "As mentioned elsewhere, it's not really legitimate to mix designs even though using the same rating system, as their victory quantifier ranges are considerably different: these would need to be "normalized". Strictly speaking they should be normalized even across different variants of the same design, but the effects are so marginal that it's scarcely worth the effort and as results become less extreme (i.e. theoretically better) the effects become insignificant. With this in mind, and as a bit of fun only, I present the Game-winners Only Victor Ludorum for those designs to which NURSE was applied, throwing in the handful of others (Carcassonne, Yspahan) that players had hopefully submitted." Special mention to Gary Duke and Matthew Greet for participating in all four named tournaments (Gary being a game-winner in two).

40.41
37.86
37.31
37.20
36.77
36.59
36.04
34.91
34.84
33.68
33.59
31.62
30.23
30.00
30.00
30.00
30.00
30.00
28.34
26.59

On the Underground

4 players played just one game – although we know there were more games for which the scores were not submitted. The results from the one game played were:

Pos	Name	Score
1	Tina Siewert	42
2	Mark Stretch	41
3=	Gary Duke	39
3=	Andy Bate	39

Antike

After it's initial success last year, this year saw just one game of Antike. It looks like the initial enthusiasm for the game has worn off. This is possibly because it's a much less enjoyable game once everyone's worked out how to play it well. The results of the one game were:

Pos	Name	Power	Score
1	Jim Sutherland	Greece	9
2	Chris Martin	Germany	8
3	Richard Minson	Phoenicia	7
4	Bill O'Neill	Rome	6

Phoenicia

15 players played in 4 games in this new tournament, plus several more games were played which weren't entered into the tournament.

Pos	Name	Played	Won	Score
1	Dane Maslen	2	2	15
2	Richard Clyne	2	0	6.75
3	Chris Dawe	2	0	6
4	Mark Stretch	2	0	5.25
5	Chris Welbourne	1	1	5
6	Tony Bromley	1	1	5
7	Ben Brown	1	0	3.5
8	Joshua Perrins	1	0	3.5
9	John Todd	1	0	2
10	Alan Foad	1	0	1.5
11	Darryl Perrins	1	0	1
12	Jason Falkener	1	0	1
13	Derek Wilson	1	0	0.5
14	Iain Alexander	1	0	0.5
15	Simon Wilcock	1	0	0.5

Midnight Party

13 players played 3 games - unsurprisingly scheduled for Midnight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The results were:

Position	Name	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Score
1	Dave Holmes	10	12	8	7.50
2	Colin Evans		9	8	5.66
3	Steve Guest	10	10	2	5.50
4	Dave Cowie	7	8	5	5.00
5	John Mitchell	1	8	10	4.75
6	Gavin Muschamp		8		4.00
7	Ian Wilson	5	8	1	3.50
8	Philip Honeybone	6			3.00
9	Andy Edgell	3		4	2.33
10	James Faulkner		4	3	2.33
11	Tanya Lim	2	1	6	2.25
12	Nick Kinzett	4	2		2.00
13	Mike Townsend		4		2.00

Imperial

A new tournament for this year, Imperial was released at Essen last October. 23 players played 7 games, although an eighth game was played which finished too late on Monday to be included.

Position	Player	Games	Score
1	Mark Fox	2	91.48
2	Pete Mason	3	91.11
3	Adam Huby	1	66.48
4	Mark Stretch	1	66.36
5	Richard Bolton	1	66.29
6	Tony Wheatley	2	55.49
7	Paul Cook	2	49.97
8	David Norman	1	48.94
9	Nigel Pepper	3	47.25
10	Colin Evansa	1	45.04
11	Paul Regulski	1	43.62
12	Phil Williams	1	43.26
13	Alan Foad	1	42.77
14	Kevin Lee	1	41.75
15	James Payne	1	39.84
16	Phil Gardner	1	39.01
17	Ray Turner	1	36.88
18	Peter Vogelzang	1	35.54
19	Alan Belamy	1	35.11
20	Kath Collman	1	34.51
21	Chris Welbourne	1	28.02
22	John Colledge	1	25.66
23	Danny Collman	1	22.50

Outpost

This year, the tournament switched to a fixed schedule. The original plan was to have qualifying games, and then the top players playing in a final to decide the winner. But with only six players signing up, this was switched to be a single round with the game winner winning the tournament

Position	Player	Score
1	Lyndon Gurr	90
2=	Phil Williams	73
2=	Chris Dawe	73
4	Philip Honeybone	70
5	Derek Wilson	60
6	Mick Haytack	48

Pop Quiz

Six teams took part in this year's Pop Quiz. Dan Lester wrote the quiz, but was unfortunately unable to attend, so Dave Gittins presented the quiz, with David Norman providing technical support. In a very close event, 1 point separated the top three.

Team	Quickfire Round	Guess the Year	Animal Round	Piano Round	Lyrics Round	Backwards Round	Total	Team Members
The Sillier The Better	151⁄2	18	15	10	9	13	801/2	John Harrington, Paul Oakes, Ben Haytack, Roger Ditchburn
Team Curry	161⁄2	121/2	13	10	12	16	80	Robin Walters, Phil Hannay, Phil Williams, Mark Fox
Dick, Mick, Rick and Thick	13	17	17	15	5	12	79	Mick Haytack, Peter Stanton, Richard Brown, Richard Beattie
Trolleys	161/2	141⁄2	11	15	9	12	78	
Not a Lot	17½	14	12	8	91⁄2	12	73	
Mellow Yellow	15	71⁄2	8	8	3	13	541⁄2	

Treasure Hunt

The Treasure Hunt for 2007 took the form of a 'magical history tour'. As ManorCon was moving from Birmingham to Leicester and we were unfamiliar with the site, we had to restrict ourselves with what we could do. After all, we didn't want to risk losing anyone in the back streets of Leicester! As it was the 40th anniversary of the release of the Beatles album Magical Mystery Tour this was felt to be an appropriate theme.

A map of the area was presented to each team and the actual 'Treasures' were to be found in various 'Treasure Houses' on a somewhat scenic route between Birmingham and Leicester. Simple clues were given as to where these Treasure Houses were, and for every house or castle found, a puzzle or task was handed out.

The puzzles varied from simple word puzzles to more complicated logic or mathematical puzzles, and points were awarded according to difficulty. Over and above these there was a simple treasure hunt around the building looking for gold pieces, (OK, they were chocolates wrapped in gold coloured paper but we were on a tight budget!), famous paintings, (photocopies to be more accurate) and other such 'valuable' pieces.

Taking our intrepid hunters a little further a field.... well, as far as the car park that is, a number of clues were left in the cars belonging to members of the Committee. You see, there are no lengths to which these guys will not go in an effort to provide a service! Fortunately it stayed dry during the Treasure Hunt, or there may have been several quite soggy hunters on the go!

Three of the six teams completed all of the puzzles or tasks that they were given, so we feel we managed to get the difficulty and variety just about right. It was hard work but good fun setting the puzzles, though if the Young and Lovely Mrs. Collman threatens to run so fast again next year, David and I may well have to rugby tackle her!

The final placings were:

Team	Score	re Team Members		
Three Phils and Three	689	Adam Foster, Phil Hannay, Phil Gardner, Phil Williams,		
Fillers	009	Robin Walters, Chris Dawe		
Not One of the Sharpest	575	Richard Ramsden, Dave Gittins, John Gates, Martin		
Tools in the Box	575	Burroughs		
Where's Mick?	542	Mick Haytack, Ben Haytack, Peter Stanton, Adam Huby		
Chasses in Charge	516	Michelle Erskins, Sharon Fennell, Richard Biddle, Markus		
Cheese in Charge		Welbourne, Chris Welbourne, Jerry Elsmore		
Team 6	493 Alan Harvey, Hilary Jones, Mark Jones, Keith Rapley			
Concordia Offline	428	Greg Payne, James Payne, Helen Payne, Jake Hanny, Andrew		
Concortina Offinite	428	Singleton		

Your Feedback

Thank you to the 78 of you who filling in questionnaires. We appreciate what you say, and hope to act on many of the comments and suggestions made to make ManorCon better in future years. All comments are appreciated.

Space

Most of you (83%) had enough space. The main problem that we noticed and some of you commented on was around midnight when everybody relocated from the dining room to Stamford House. We have been talking to the university about the possibility of getting the dining room till later for 2008, which hopefully should easy the space.

Should numbers rise then there are other possible venues that are potentially available at Leicester. However, the university are unwilling to let us use them exclusively unless we can fill them.

Food

Lots of comments on the food, mainly negative, with many of you rating it poor (37%) or very poor (19%). The problems tended to be in various different categories.

Firstly, a message that we passed on to the university about the expected number of meals didn't reach the catering staff, so they under-catered, which meant that at times they ran out. Hopefully, that shouldn't be repeated next year.

A number of people made comments about a lack of choice at lunchtime, and we can talk to the university about this. Part of this was the lack of choice on the menu, but it was also partly caused by the under-catering causing a lot of choices to run out with a lot of people still to serve – leading to offerings such as Potato Fillings without any Jacket Potatoes to fill! Breakfast also wasn't liked by a number of you, and again we will talk to the university about improvements for next year.

Comments about evening meals were generally enthusiastic, with comments about enjoying the "specials" available.

The Bar

In years gone by, the bar was always a problem area due to strange opening hours and the fact that we generally drunk it dry very quickly. In contrast everything seemed to go right. Most of you gave it an excellent (36%) or good (32%). We will try to make sure that nothing changes for next year.

Accommodation

There were a few problems with individual rooms, which were in general sorted fairly quickly as far as I'm aware. 50% of you rated the accommodation as good and 31% as OK. The main comment from people was of a few bruised ankles as there was no light switch near the bed. I'm not sure if we can talk the university into buying 150 bedside lights but we can ask.

Also the rooms were not serviced every morning. We have brought this to the university's attention and hopefully this will be corrected next year.

Other comments on the Venue

A number of you (28%) commented that it was disjointed being in separate buildings. This was I suspect exacerbated by the weather which mean venturing outside from one to the other was going to be rather wet. On the other hand there were comments that being in separate buildings meant a bit less noise, and a number who liked the buildings and venue.

The £1 for tea and coffee was generally disapproved of, which we will take up with the university. The water coolers were appreciated, but needed more refilling. The university are aware of this and will do this more often next year.

Everyone (including the Committee) was impressed by the University staff, which generally was very helpful. Hopefully that will continue.

Tournaments

Well, you can broadly be put into two camps. Those who say, "Why bother" and those who think it is a bit of fun. Some of the numbers in various tournaments were low and we will consider what to keep. We are also always open to ideas for new tournaments to hold. Thank you for the various suggestions that we will consider for next year.

Other comments

Most of these were generally positive. We will try to ensure the things that worked well will be repeated in 2008.

The gamestart banner didn't really work, as was pointed out by a number of you, so we won't be using this in 2008. Suggestions for alternatives are welcome – or maybe you think it's easy enough to get into a game anyway, and it's trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist?

Thank you to those who provided information about the restaurants and other facilities they used in the local area, including those who had the cunning idea of putting take-away menus in the feedback box! Next year the progress reports and programme booklet should have more details in them as a result of your feedback. Many thanks.

And Finally

The numbers of attendees in 2007 was down 38 on 2006, with 188 attendees. There were 160 on Friday, 187 on Saturday, 178 on Sunday, and 109 on Monday. The number of rooms used was 154, down by 26 compared with 2006. This is explained by the combination of the move of venue and the bad weather, and we expect ManorCon to resume to the growth we've seen in recent years, in 2008.

ManorCon XXVI will be at Stamford Hall, University of Leicester next year, one weekend later than $2007 - 25^{\text{th}} - 28^{\text{th}}$ July 2008.

To contact the committee, write to: David Norman, MANORCON, 38 Conigre Square, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8LJ, UK. Or e-mail info@manorcon.org.uk.

OxCon 2008

Saturday 26 Jan & Sunday 27 Jan The Mitre, The Highstreet, Oxford



Also Featuring

Trophies and prizes in both major tournaments Fifteen-To-One on Saturday 26th Lost Cities Tournament on Sunday 27th A well-stocked board games retailer Saturday evening expedition to Oxford's finest curry-house Food and drink served all day long

Admission (and free entry into 15-to-1 and Lost Cities tournaments) = £4 Entry into Puerto Rico tournament = Admission + £3 Entry into Settlers tournament = Admission + £3 Comprehensive Weekend Entrance Fee = £10 All prices are halved for full-time students and unwaged people.

Please send any questions to board@herald.ox.ac.uk

Doors open 10:00am and the deadline for tournament registration is 10:50am on both days. Please e-mail us (before 25th January, ideally) if you'd like to book a place at the Friday night or Saturday night curry. Advice regarding parking or accommodation in Oxford can be provided.

Space in tournaments is limited by the number of sets we have. Please register early to avoid disappointment, and if you can lend us a Puerto Rico or Settlers set for the tournament then we would be very grateful! The convention is organised by Oxford University Board Games Society. The Society meets every week in Oxford and welcomes both students and non-students as members. Thanks to all attendees who supported previous years' OxCons. We're always pleased to hear comments on the way the convention is growing and changing.

There may be some changes to the details outlined here but we don't expect that to be the case. The latest information is online at: http://users.ox.ac.uk/~board/oxcon/

Plus the chance to play many more games throughout the weekend!



Not all games pictured will necessarily be available. Many other games will also be available.

UK Games Expo 2008 (Richard Denning) UK GAMES EXPO 2008 "Everything about games" 31st May to 1st June 2007 The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 9SB www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

The first UK Games Expo being now a few months ago we are starting to plan UK Games Expo 2008. The venue is booked for the 31st May and 1st June 2008 so get it in the diary.

We have now taken the entire venue so Lodge rooms previously unseen will be brought into play along with the entire upper floor Stirling Suite that was only partially available last year. This means that we hope to have more exhibitors and in particular more board game companies to add to the already large number. Furthermore this gives us more space for the tournaments.

Overall we will take what worked well this year and expand and improve it for 2008.

What is UK Games Expo?

UK Games expo is still the newest of QLA's board game conventions and there will be some who have not heard of us. So I feel a reminder of what the main thrust of Expo is would be in order. UK Games Expo aims to achieve three main objectives:

• To provide a convention where companies could demo their games and gamers could try out the latest games.

• To make games accessible to the general public and encourage in a family audience as well as hardened gamers.

• To allow cross over between different gaming genres and to break down to an extent the barriers between gamers.

To these ends UK Games Expo 2008 will feature:

Dozens of Games Companies Showing off their Games

At UK Games Expo you will see a lot of Games companies showing off their games. You can sit down and try them out and buy them if you like. A large part of the event is board games but there are also miniatures, card games, RPGs and computer games. Games for all ages and groups are there ranging from family games to Euro games. We will encourage companies to follow this year's example and bring new games to Expo that you will not have played before. This year we had 40 tables of demo games to sit down and play. We had 18 board games companies amongst the other genres. There were a dozen brand new games.

At UK games Expo 2008 we aim to increase on all that.

Tournaments

Tournaments planned are

• A Grand board Game tournament as a follow up to a successful one this year.

This year had up to 40 players playing through 8 different games. David Norman and Mark Stretch will run this next year and the format will be similar although will be tweaked. Details will appear in the next QLA. The one Tournament we can announce is that UK Games Expo 2008 will host the UK Carcasonne Championship which is a qualifier for the World Carcasonne Championship at Essen Spiel the following October. The Board Game tournament will be moved from the rather cramped and hot room it was in this year to two much larger air-conditioned rooms.

- Hordes/ Warmachines: Official Privateer Press British Open Championship.
- Flames of War 15mm WW2 British open Championship.

• Children's / Schools Board Game Tournament. This year we had 7 Schools and 28 children playing in 4 Games tournaments. Next year's event will be larger. Perhaps your children's school would want to enter a team next year?

- Confrontation open Championship
- Warhammer 40K
- Magic The Gathering TCG
- World of Warcraft TCG
- Yu-gi-oh TCG
- There will be a range of Role-playing Game sessions you can book into in many games systems.

This offers a range of genres and age groups. So bring the family. The 9 year old can play Yu-gi-oh whilst you play the Grand Board game tournament.

Free Play Area

We will have some free play area at the Expo during the day but a lot more at the adjacent hotel during Friday and Saturday evening. During the day we expect most gamers will want to try out the many new games or enter the tournaments and perhaps choose to play some Free Play games in the evening.

Other Entertainment

Centralan UK and NC Soft are expected back offering fun Lan games and online gaming. We expect back Knights of the Empire –the Star Wars Costume group and other groups.

Trade

There is a large Trade hall providing both brand new and second hand games. There will be 80+ traders in games of all types and at least 20 Board game companies as well as a number of board game retailers. So you can stock up on dozens of games. Traders can download a new 2008 exhibitor's pack from the website. In the next QLA I will list traders who will be attending.

UK Games Expo Awards

In 2008 we will have a UK Games Expo Awards system to recognize and reward good new games. The system we will use is being refined but will involve 50% of the vote being from the general visitor and 50% from an expert panel. Games companies will be asked to define what category their game falls under. They must be new games produced in the previous 6 months.

In 2007 we brought in Awards for games but being honest did not publicize it in advance. Never the less we were proud to have made awards in these categories:

- Best New Board Game: Fagin's Gang (Ludorum Games)
- Best New Family Game: Alphabet Runner (Rasib Khan)
- Best Collectible Game: World of Warcraft CCG (Upper Deck Entertainment)
- Best New Miniatures Range: AT43 (Rackham)
- Best New Role-playing Game: Runequest (Mongoose)
- Special Award: Pitchcar (run by Esdevium)

To encourage visitors to vote the forms will double as prize draw tickets!

So then that's a look ahead. I hope this whets your appetite!

The UK Games Website will be updated in the autumn with details as they appear: www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

Email <u>Richard@ukgamesexpo.co.uk</u> for more details or write to:

UK Games Expo, 10 Cranbourne Road, Stourbridge, West Mids, DY8 1QZ

The Queen's Lane Advertiser (incorporating Convention News)

Editor : Jeremy Tullett Coordinator : David Norman Printing and Distribution: Markus Welbourne

Please contact the coordinator if:

- You run a convention and would like to be a part of the 'zine.
- You run a convention and would like to be included in the upcoming conventions list.
- You would like to offer to help out in some way.
- You are not on the mailing list for this 'zine, but would like to be.

The coordinator can be contacted at david@ellought.demon.co.uk

Issue 22 of The Queen's Lane Advertiser, brought to you by: Jeremy Tullett, 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR

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