

# The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

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Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Inside this issue:

- ◆ Last call for MidCon, including current booking list
- ◆ Manorcon report, with full tournament result listings
- ◆ Details of OxCon 2009
- ◆ First announcement for UK Games Expo 2009

## Forthcoming Conventions

Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut Saltdean Brighton November 8 <sup>th</sup> 2008 <a href="http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pasteboardandplastic/">http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pasteboardandplastic/</a>	<b>MidCon XXX</b> Thistle Birmingham City Hotel 14-16 November 2008 <a href="http://www.midcon.org.uk">www.midcon.org.uk</a>	<b>Winter StabCon</b> Britannia Hotel Stockport 2-9 January 2009 <a href="mailto:Bookings(at)stabcon.org.uk">Bookings(at)stabcon.org.uk</a>
<b>OxCon</b> The Mitre High Street Oxford 24-25 January 2009 <a href="http://users.ox.ac.uk/~board/oxcon/">http://users.ox.ac.uk/~board/oxcon/</a>	<b>SorCon</b> Ramada Hotel Colchester 27th Feb - 1st March 2009 <a href="http://www.sorcon.co.uk">www.sorcon.co.uk</a>	<b>TringCon XVIII</b> Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 4 April 2009 <a href="http://www.ftwr.com/tringcon">www.ftwr.com/tringcon</a>
<b>BayCon 2009</b> Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 16-19 April 2009 <a href="http://www.baycon.co.uk">www.baycon.co.uk</a>	<b>Beer and Pretzels</b> The Town Hall Burton upon Trent Staffordshire 16-17 May 2009 <a href="http://www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php">www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php</a>	<b>UK Games Expo</b> The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston, Birmingham 6th - 7th June 2009. <a href="http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk">www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk</a>
<b>Manorcon XXVII</b> Stamford Hall University of Leicester 17-20 July 2009 <a href="http://www.manorcon.org.uk">www.manorcon.org.uk</a>		

# SOLAIRIS

SEVEN RACES, ONLY ONE OF THEM  
CAN WIN. WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE?

SOLAIRIS is the first expandable card game of magic duelling warriors  
in a far away Universe from Mynd Games.

Players take control of one of Seven races of the Prism system,  
each with their own strengths and weakness according to their race.

Players then use our unique Power Point System  
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In an attempt to knock their opponents wounds down to zero.

The starter box contains:

14 Warrior Cards

38 Spell Cards

28 Power Point Cards

1 rule book

SOLAIRIS is a game for 2-4 players  
aged 8 upwards

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## OxCon 2009 (Robert Clough)

The convention will be taking place over the weekend of the 24th and 25th of January 2009. Saturday will be based principally around a Puerto Rico tournament. This will be starting at 11.00, with players needing to be registered by 10.50 for the draw. However, anyone who wishes to come along just to play casual games will definitely find plenty of takers for that as well. After the Puerto Rico we will again be running the traditional OxCon 15-to-1 style quiz.

Sunday will be as Saturday, but with the Settlers of Catan tournament being the main event, starting at the same time. This usually attracts a very good number of people - we had 8 tables going at this year's convention and are hoping to improve on this. We will also be running a Lost Cities tournament after the Settlers has finished.

Also, although we do have access to a number of copies of both Puerto Rico and Settlers, in the past we have occasionally experienced very slight shortages. Therefore it would be enormously helpful if one or two people were to bring sets with them to provide extra capacity.

Entry fees to the convention will be as follows (half-price for students):

Convention only (excluding PR and Settlers, but including Lost Cities & 15-to-1) £4

Convention plus Puerto Rico tournament £7

Convention plus Settlers tournament £7

Comprehensive weekend entry (Puerto Rico and Settlers) £10

The Mitre Public House will again be the location for Oxon 2009. This pub, located on the high street in Oxford, has been an excellent venue for the past few years, providing a comfortable playing environment as well as good food at lunch and dinner times. The convention room is booked for the whole weekend so gaming can continue until closing time if people wish.

As in previous years there may well be an event on the Friday evening, as well as an organised trip to an oxford curry house on the Saturday evening. Further information on this will follow.

Any queries should be emailed to [board@herald.ox.ac.uk](mailto:board@herald.ox.ac.uk)

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## MidCon XXX (Jeremy Tullett)

**14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008**  
**Thistle Birmingham City Hotel**

### About the Con

**MidCon XXX** 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 people
- the **MidCon** music and general knowledge quiz 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

**MidCon** 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 **MidCon**. 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 **MidCon** 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 **MidCon**, please complete the form on the next page of this magazine and return it with the convention fee of £15 (£18 after 1 November) a head to:

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

or register electronically at [www.midcon.org.uk](http://www.midcon.org.uk)

### **Changes from Previous Years**

The hotel, we are told, is changing its name again, and may revert to being known as ‘The Angus’, which will amuse those of us who remember it being called that many years ago. However, we are dealing with the same staff as last year, so we hope that the change of ownership won’t cause any problems.

A separate room is being hired for the second-hand games sale, so we won’t disrupt the gaming in the Wroxton Suite.

A disabled toilet should be available, adjacent to the restaurant.

### **Who Has Booked So Far?**

At 5 October, the following registrations have been received:

Mike Oakes	John Cudmore	Simon Cutforth
Hazel Hawker	Gary Duke	Dave Thorby
Jeff Edmunds / Angela Crick	Adam Siejka	Lee Edwards
Gordon Sweeney	Marek Siejka	Jonty Blackwell
Bill O'Neill	Nick Harrison	Matt Kruczek
Jeremy Tullett	Alan Gates	Tim Rourke
Danny Victor	Simon Forth	Lyndon Gurr
Alan Harvey	Phil Ward	Martin Wallace
Steve Ogden	Malcolm Booker	Mike Moor
Derek Wilson	Ian Wilson	Greg Moor
Dane Maslen	Steve Jones	Richard Minson
Colin Harden (+ Jane)	Paul Allwood	Steve Thomas
Gemma Binns	Barrington Beavis	Neil Palfreyman
Colin Freeman	Peter Campbell	John Colledge
Tony Wheatley	David Hecht	Mark Fox
Dave Dudley	Jeremy Ritchie	Richard Stephenson

### **IMPORTANT: CHANGE OF CONVENTION START TIME**

The **Wroxton Suite** (the big room) will be available from **12:00** on the Friday, but the **Ariel Suite** (the small room) will not be available until **18:00** Friday. The Ariel Suite will be in use all afternoon by someone else, so please do not try to interrupt them!

# MidCon '08 Booking Form

The registration fee for **MidCon** is £15 per person for the whole weekend. 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<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>st</sup>.**

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

## Accommodation

Please reserve the following rooms at the rate of £49.00 per person per night for a single room and £40.00 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 **MidCon** 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)

<b>The name on my credit card is:</b>			
<b>The credit card number is:</b>		<b>The expiry date is:</b>	

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<sup>th</sup> November approaches.

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Nº of single rooms</b>			
<b>Nº of twin rooms</b>			
<b>Nº of double rooms</b>			
<b>Sharing with ...</b>			

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



JKLM Games brings you three new games this autumn. So is it going to be fighting aliens, building the Great Wall of China, or buying and selling Tulips?

In *Ascendancy*, you play an alien race, trying to gain control of the galaxy from the Empire, while at the same time, competing with the other players alien races to do so. Over 6 rounds (short game) or 9 rounds (long game), you build up your technology and your galactic navy, in order to conquer the space systems which the empire previously overran. *Ascendancy* is for 2-4 players, and takes about 1 hour for the short game, or 2 hours for the long game.

*Tulipmania* is set in the first bubble market. Players buy and sell tulips as the prices climb rapidly. But beware, when the price gets too high, they will crash rapidly. At that point, if you have buyers who have already agreed to buy your tulips, then you are set up to make a substantial profit. If not, then as the prices crash, so does all the money you've made. *Tulipmania* is for 3-5 players, and takes 45 minutes to play.

In *Huang Di*, you play one of 2-6 master builders chosen by the Emperor (Qin Shi Huang) to help construct one of the greatest man-made structures in the world – The Great Wall of China. You compete with the other master builders to for the prestige of building sections of the wall to the Emperor's liking. But while competing, you also only have a limited amount of time available to build the wall before the Mongols invade.



# ManorCon XXVI

## Results

This year saw ManorCon return to Leicester for the second year. As last year, the venue was generally a success, and so we will be continuing to use it for the foreseeable future. We did have some problems with the accommodation, but these were a one-off, and we will be back to having our regular accommodation next year.

With the experiences of last year to work from, this year ran more smoothly than last year. The food was significantly improved. The dining hall was kept open a little later, to give people enough playing space until they wanted to go to bed. We had a tournament noticeboard in both buildings, so that people could submit their results a lot more easily. And the croquet lawn was almost too flat to be acceptable as a ManorCon croquet lawn...

The number of tournament games played increased across the board. However, the most popular tournament was the new Race for the Galaxy tournament, with 43 players playing 33 games between them. As with many tournaments which have such impressive numbers in their first year, it will be interesting to see whether it can maintain its popularity in future years.

After the surprise of last year, when the bar had some Real Ale left at the end of the convention, normality returned this year – the bar had run out of Real Ale by Saturday evening. Fortunately they had plenty of standard stock, so it didn't end up completely dry. We are looking into how we can improve the Real Ale situation next year.

After last year's weather, this year ManorCon returned to being dry and warm. Several people took advantage of this, playing games on the tables outside Stamford House. It also made moving between the buildings a lot more pleasant. In most cases, it didn't cause too many problems with heat inside the buildings, although there were a few rooms in Stamford House where the windows were locked. We will ask the University to provide keys for these next year.

## Thanks.

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 XXVI:

For their help on the Registration Desk: John Boocock, Kath Collman, Chris Dawe, Jerry Elsmore, Kevin Lee, Paul Regulski, John Marsden, Dane Maslen, Eric Norton, Helen Payne, Richard Payne, Steve Thomas.

For organising tournaments: Adam Foster, Philip Hannay, Dan Lester, Dane Maslen and Robin Walters

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 18 players playing 15 games. The games included 3 each of 1846 and 1861, 2 of 1826, one each of 18West, 1841, 1858, 1848, 18US and 18EU, plus one where the game wasn't entered on the scoresheet! Despite being pressed hard by Steve Thomas, Peter Eldridge retained his title with another solid tournament; congratulations to Peter once again.

Position	Name	Games	Won	Score
1	Peter Eldridge	7	4	97.27
2	Steve Thomas	3	2	89.52
3	Geoff Hardingham	2	1	82.5
4	Lyndon Gurr	5	3	75.21
5	Jon Draper	6	1	74.38
6	Danny Victor	2	1	72.67
7	John Boocock	4	1	71.49
8	Colin Bozzol	1	1	71.19
9	Ken Simpson	5	0	60.28
10	Ben Brown	1	0	53.42
11	Ian D Wilson	5	0	52.11
12	Steve Ogden	5	1	47.82
13	Chris Dawe	1	0	47.04
14	Alan Harvey	2	0	43.67
15	Peter Hawkins	2	0	41.08
16	Greg Payne	1	0	36.24
17	Dave Thorby	4	0	16.97
18	John Hopkins	3	0	-16.6

# Croquet

Six people signed up for the croquet, so just a three-round knockout tournament this year. The discovery of a significantly flatter croquet lawn made the tournament less luck-driven than usual, allowing Gary Duke to take advantage of his experience to win his two games without either opponent scoring. Having previously been the runner-up in the Croquet Tournament four times, this is Gary's first win.

<b>Gary Duke</b>		<b>Gary Duke</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Gary Duke</b>	<b>14</b>
Bye					
<b>Ben Haytack</b>		Ben Haytack	0		
Bye				Jonty Blackwell	0
Philip Honeybone	6	<b>Jonty Blackwell</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>Jonty Blackwell</b>	<b>14</b>				
Roger Ditchburn	11	Stuart Stafford	10		
<b>Stuart Stafford</b>	<b>14</b>				

# Diplomacy

For the first time in many years, this year saw an increase in the size of the Diplomacy Tournament, with 23 players playing 8 boards across the three rounds – an increase of 3 players and 2 boards played on 2007.

Friday saw three boards.

Friday 1				Friday 2			
Austria	Mick Dunnett	12	32.60	Austria	David Norman	3	6.61
England	Emeric Miszt	4	7.52	England	Doug Massie	11	32.32
France	David Wigglesworth	1909	0.90	France	Laurent Joly	1907	0.70
Germany	Tom Garrety	2	4.39	Germany	Dan Lester	10	27.86
Italy	Emmanuel du Pontavice	15	47.18	Italy	Stephen Falconer	1906	0.60
Russia	Peter Turner	1	3.29	Russia	Nigel Greenhill	1	3.75
Turkey	Jeff Clark	1904	0.40	Turkey	Chris Martin	9	23.75
Friday 3							
Austria	Ivan Woodward	3	7.46				
England	Peter Dunnett	1907	0.70				
France	Mark Wightman	12	41.94				
Germany	Dave Simpson	3	7.46				
Italy	Millis Miller	5	12.30				
Russia	Steve Agg	5	12.30				
Turkey	Graeme Murphy	6	15.32				

Several big scores, with two of the three boards dominated by an alliance – Austria-Italy on board 1 and England-Germany on board 2. Meanwhile, Mark Wightman showed once again that France is his best power, doubling the centre-count of anybody else on his board.

Saturday also saw three boards. As well as the second individual round, it was also the “Diplomacy Challenge” – a one-round tournament for those players who just wanted to play one game during the weekend.

Saturday 1				Saturday 2			
Austria	Mark Wightman	1908	0.80	Austria	Dave Simpson	3	7.58
England	Robin Walters	17	46.98	England	Steve Agg	9	27.25
France	Nigel Greenhill	1911	1.10	France	Emmanuel du Pontavice	1	4.30
Germany	Laurent Joly	1910	1.00	Germany	Doug Massie	10	31.97
Italy	David Wigglesworth	1	2.64	Italy	Peter Turner	6	15.57
Russia	Graeme Murphy	1909	0.90	Russia	Millis Miller	2	5.74
Turkey	Mick Dunnett	16	42.32	Turkey	Simon Hornby	3	7.58
Saturday 3							
Austria	Tom Garrety	2	5.09				
England	Ivan Woodward	8	20.36				
France	Emeric Miszt	3	6.73				
Germany	Peter Dunnett	9	24.18				
Italy	Jeff Clark	1906	0.60				
Russia	Chris Martin	1908	0.80				
Turkey	Dan Lester	12	37.82				

Board one saw two players almost managing to divide all 34 centres between them – although being a divide and conquer scoring system, Robin’s 17 centres scored less than Emmanuel’s 15 centres in round 1. However, it was the highest score in round 2, which won Robin the Diplomacy Challenge trophy.

In the overall scores, Mick Dunnett took a healthy lead, adding 16 centres to the 12 he got in round 1. Alliance partners from round 1, Dan Lester and Doug Massie, both also had a good

result in round 2, to put them in second and third place respectively, about 10 points behind Mick, but almost 15 points ahead of the chasing pack.

Sunday had two boards.

<b>Sunday 1</b>				<b>Sunday 2</b>			
Austria	Emmanuel du Pontavice	1903	0.30	Austria	Laurent Joly	3	7.25
England	David Wigglesworth	8	23.05	England	Nigel Greenhill	1907	0.70
France	Peter Turner	8	23.05	France	Simon Hornby	9	26.08
Germany	Steve Agg	1905	0.50	Germany	Mark Wightman	10	30.59
Italy	Graeme Murphy	6	15.64	Italy	Mick Dunnett	6	14.90
Russia	Dan Lester	7	19.14	Russia	Emeric Miszti	1908	0.80
Turkey	Peter Dunnett	5	12.55	Turkey	Millis Miller	6	14.90

Two very tight games, which is unusual for Sunday, when players are usually going for an all-or-nothing strategy to try and win the tournament. Also unusual for Saturday, both games were drawn well before the 1911 time-draw.

Dan Lester managed to close the gap on Mick Dunnett, but not by enough to overtake him. With Doug Massie choosing not to play, Mark Wightman's second big score of the weekend lifted him past Doug into third place.

So the Final Results were:

<b>Posn</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Overall</b>
1	Mick Dunnett	32.60	42.32	14.90	82.37
2	Dan Lester	27.86	37.82	19.14	75.24
3	Mark Wightman	41.94	0.80	30.59	72.92
4	Doug Massie	32.32	31.97		64.29
5	Emmanuel du Pontavice	47.18	4.30	0.30	51.63
6	Robin Walters		46.98		46.98
7	Peter Turner	3.29	15.57	23.05	40.26
8	Steve Agg	12.30	27.25	0.50	39.80
9	Peter Dunnett	0.70	24.18	12.55	37.08
10	Simon Hornby		7.58	26.08	33.66
11	Graeme Murphy	15.32	0.90	15.64	31.41
12	Millis Miller	12.30	5.74	14.90	30.07
13	Ivan Woodward	7.46	20.36		27.82
14	David Wigglesworth	0.90	2.64	23.05	26.14
15	Chris Martin	23.75	0.80		24.55
16	Dave Simpson	7.46	7.58		15.04
17	Emeric Miszti	7.52	6.73	0.80	14.65
18	Tom Garretty	4.39	5.09		9.48
19	Laurent Joly	0.70	1.00	7.25	8.60
20	David Norman	6.61			6.61
21	Nigel Greenhill	3.75	1.10	0.70	5.20
22	Jeff Clark	0.40	0.60		1.00
23	Stephen Falconer	0.60			0.60

The Diplomacy Challenge results were:

Pos	Name	Centres	Score
1	Robin Walters	17	46.98
2	Mick Dunnett	16	42.32
3	Dan Lester	12	37.82
4	Doug Massie	10	31.97
5	Steve Agg	9	27.25
6	Peter Dunnett	9	24.18
7	Ivan Woodward	8	20.36
8	Peter Turner	6	15.57
9	Simon Hornby	3	7.58
	Dave Simpson	3	7.58
11	Emeric Miszti	3	6.73
12	Millis Miller	2	5.74
13	Tom Garretty	2	5.09
14	Emmanuel du Pontavice	1	4.30
15	David Wigglesworth	1	2.64
16	Nigel Greenhill	0	1.10
17	Laurent Joly	0	1.00
18	Graeme Murphy	0	0.90
19	Mark Wightman	0	0.80
	Chris Martin	0	0.80
21	Jeff Clark	0	0.60

### Best Countries

Best Austria	Mick Dunnett	Friday	Board 1	12 centres
Best England	Robin Walters	Saturday	Board 1	17 centres
Best France	Mark Wightman	Friday	Board 3	12 centres
Best Germany	Doug Massie	Saturday	Board 2	10 centres
Best Italy	Emmanuel du Pontavice	Friday	Board 1	15 centres
Best Russia	Dan Lester	Saturday	Board 1	7 centres
Best Turkey	Mick Dunnett	Saturday	Board 1	16 centres

### Other Awards

Award	Winner	Reason
Most French player (who is not actually French)	Dan Lester	For attacking all his neighbours in turn, and still managing to end up with a solid position.
Tournament Director's Award	David Wigglesworth	For getting 1 centre in a 17-16-1, and therefore getting the lowest possible score for a power in a draw at ManorCon

Next year will see the same format as this year – three rounds, with the Diplomacy Challenge on Saturday. After a little discussion with the players, the games will start at 10am on Saturday and Sunday, to give the players (and tournament director) time to get up and eat breakfast before the boards are called!

And in 2010, WorldDipCon will be in the Netherlands, one week after ManorCon. It is therefore expected that we will have a number of international players in attendance in two years time.

# Outpost-Genre

This tournament was for Outpost, Phoenicia and Das Zepter von Zavandor, and the scoring system was designed to reward those who played more than one title. Just seven games (1 Outpost, 3 Phoenicia, 3 Zavandor) were played, with only seven players taking part in more than one game. Victories in both his games allowed Luke Ellis to overcome the disadvantage of having played only Phoenicia. Had it not done so, the tournament director would have had to disqualify himself.

Position	Player	Played	Score	Games
1	Luke Ellis	2	938	PP
2	Dane Maslen	2	932	OZ
3	Ian D Wilson	2	916	PZ
4	Dave Thorby	1	911	P
5	Phil Hannay	1	907	Z
6	Malcolm Booker	1	904	Z
7	David Smith	2	896	OZ
8	Geoff Hardingham	3	894	OPZ
9	John Marsden	2	883	OZ
10	Derek Wilson	2	879	OZ
11	Adam Siejka	1	876	Z
12	Colin Evans	1	874	P
13	Lyndon Gurr	1	869	P
13	Marek Siejka	1	869	Z
15	Dave Anderson	1	865	Z
16	Matthew Comdellac	1	861	Z
17	John Hopkins	1	856	Z
17	Michael Milford	1	856	P
19	Mark Eddy	1	853	Z
19	Simon Forth	1	853	Z
21	David Goldthorpe	1	851	P
22	Jeff Crane	1	843	P
23	Andrew Simpson	1	841	P
24	Richard Oxlade	1	830	P
25	Philip Honeybone	1	821	P
26	John Boocock	1	815	P

## Race for the Galaxy

43 games were played. Nearly all of the 33 players taking part played at least two games. Danny Victor lived up to his name by winning all three of the games he played.

Position	Name	Played	Score
1	Danny Victor	3	1178
2	Stewart Pilling	7	1129
3	Jake Hanny	7	1063
4	Steve Thomas	5	1040
5	Ian D Wilson	6	1036
6	Dave Thorby	10	1020
7	Chris Dearlove	4	1019
8	Luke Ellis	3	1015
9	Peter Hawkins	2	1001
10	Peter Eldridge	4	954
11	Eric Norton	1	920
12	Jon Draper	6	918
13	Andy Bate	4	908
14	Geoff Hardingham	7	903
15	Lyndon Gurr	1	902
16	Jonty Blackwell	3	897
17	Chris Dawe	6	893
18	Gary Duke	3	879
19	Iain Alexander	8	874
20	Teik Chooi Oh	4	856
21	Steve Ogden	3	852
22	Charlie Patrick	6	835
23	Tim Troman	4	827
24	Greg Payne	2	822
25	John Boocock	1	813
26	David Smith	3	805
27	Philip Honeybone	2	780
28	Richard Barton	2	776
29	John Mitchell	3	775
30	Ken Simpson	4	761
31	Mark Ashfield	2	749
32	Mark Stretch	2	745
33	Brian Barnes	2	721

## St. Petersburg

13 games

Position	Player	Score
1	Tony Wheatley	1062
2	Peter Campbell	645
3	Daniel Victor	637

# Imperial

With no sign of a waning of interest in its second year, 32 players played 7 games. Vick won the tournament, winning one of his games by a single point, and losing the other on the tiebreak. Jim's second was achieved with a huge win, scoring almost half as much again as second place, just pushing Mark into third place with his win and a second place.

Position	Player	Played	Score
1	Vick Hall	2	80.59
2	Jim Payne	1	74.88
3	Mark Stretch	2	74.86
4	Paul Cook	1	70.26
5	Chris Martin	2	66.12
6	Mark Rigby-Jones	1	65.48
7	Dane Maslen	1	64.33
8	Jake Hanny	1	63.79
9	Toby Harris	1	49.07
10	Tim Troman	1	47.62
11	David Norman	1	47.56
12	Stewart Pilling	1	47.22
13	James Goodman	1	47.11
14	Jake Hanny	1	46.85
15	Gary Duke	1	46.03
16	Danny Collman	1	45.86
17	Tony Wheatley	2	45.56
18	Robert Dillon	1	44.21
19	Tom Garrety	1	43.39
20	Andy Bate	1	41.61
21	Stephen Falconer	1	40.91
22	Pete Mason	1	40.23
23	John Colledge	1	39.85
24	Kath Collman	1	39.10
25	Dean Harris	1	38.89
26	Peter Campbell	1	34.74
27	Emmanuel du Pontavice	1	34.15
28	Gihan Bandaranaike	1	25.20
29	Jeff Cloak	1	23.58
30	John Hopkins	1	22.11
31	Nigel Pepper	1	20.30
32	Richard Brown	1	18.42

# Puerto Rico

14 games

Position	Player	Score
1	Mark Ashfield	833
2	Matthew Barratt	694
3	David Anderson	687

## Midnight Party

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

Position	Name	Score
1	Steve Guest	768
2	Chris Geson	741
3	Dave Holmes	713
4	David Cowie	661
5	Tanya Lim	661
6	John Mitchell	617
7	Mike Townsend	608
8	Jake Hanny	556
9	Nick Kinzett	554
10	Ian Wilson	543
11	Jim Sutherland	489
12	Greg Payne	413
13	Peter Campbell	410
14	Caroline Bray	400
15	Ian Lynagh	360

## Acquire

7 games

Position	Player	Score
1	Gary Duke	821
2	Jake Hanny	731
3	Matthew Greet	716
4	Kevin Lee	680

## Settlers of Catan

9 games

Position	Player	Score
1	Mark Stretch	800
2	David Wigglesworth	750
3=	Eric Norton	600
	Stephen Falconer	600

# Pop Quiz

Nine teams took part in this year's Pop Quiz. Dan Lester wrote and presented the quiz, with David Norman providing technical support. In a close event, 1.5 points separated the top two teams.

Team	Pairs	Alphabet	Birds	Lyrics	Harmonica	Misc	Total	Team Members
Ready, Willing and Small Table	17	18	14	11	11	8.5	79.5	Dave Gittins, Ian Le Brocq, John Gates, Ruth Clinton, Richard Ramsden
Wasted Teamland (Blimey O'Reilly)	17	20	13	9	9	10	78	Paul Oakes, John Harrington, Ben Haytack, Carly Selby
I have a Soul & It Begins with R	15.5	15	10	8	11	7.5	67	Mike Oakes, Ian Fleming, Steve Kenton, Tony Simmons
The Illegibles	16	13	10	6	9	6.5	60.5	Peter Stanton, Mick Haytack, Richard Beattie, Richard Brown
Team Fat Bastard	14	11	13	6	7	6	57	Simon Hornby, Robin Walters, Phil Williams, Mark Rigby-Jones, Mark Fox
Team WHB, WHC, AWKHTUI	11.5	9	9	6	9	9	53.5	Andy Parsons, Lee Edwards, Hilary Jones, Mark Jones
No Dip Please, I'm a Zine Editor	16	12	7	5	7	6.5	53.5	Neil Duncan, Mark Wightman, Doug Massie, John Colledge, Paul Cook
Tuneless and Proud of It	10.5	12	8	4	9	6.5	50	Helen Payne, Jake Hanny, Andy Bate, Mark Stretch, Chris Welbourne, Leigh Collins
Knights Who Had No Table	9	8	9	3	6	6	41	Nigel Pepper, Millis Miller, Steve Agg, Roger Ditchburn

# Treasure Hunt

Due to the hunt turning out to be much harder than the organisers had planned, it was eventually won by two teams joining forces!

Just Hang on a Minute: Michael Colao, Timothy Luffingham, Mark Jones, Hilary Jones, Jerry Elsmore  
and

Four Hymns and a Hearse: David Tittle, Charles Patrick, John Colledge, Kath Collman, Jeremy Tullett

# Spielchamps

4 teams competed for the right to represent the UK at Essen.

Winning team: Shark Bait: Luke Ellis, Maz Seijka, Adam Seijka, Simon Forth.

Best player: Timothy Luffingham

# Your Feedback

Thank you to the 64 people who filled 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 had enough space. Last year, the biggest problems with space were around midnight, when the dining hall closed and everybody relocated to Stamford House. Keeping the Dining Hall open until 2am resolved this problem, but did cause other issues, which we are looking for ways to resolve.

## Food

The food was much improved this year, and your feedback reflected that – only 15% of people thought the food was poor, compared with over 50% last year.

A number of people made comments about a lack of variety from day to day, with the same menu being offered at every mealtime. This is something we have reported to the University, and hopefully they will offer more variety next year.

## The Bar

The comments about the bar were mostly positive, with 70% of people rating it Excellent or Good, and only one person rating it Poor.

The biggest complaint was about the Real Ale running out. We are not quite sure what to do about this. In 2007, we ordered 10 barrels of Real Ale, only 8½ were drunk, and we had to pay for the unopened barrel from ManorCon funds. This year, we ordered 9 barrels, and they were all gone by Saturday evening. The increase in sales was almost certainly caused mainly by the improved weather, but we have to order the Real Ale too far in advance to be able to get weather information before ordering.

## Accommodation

We had problems with both the Single and the Twin accommodation this year.

The problems with the single accommodation were caused by us not being able to have our normal rooms, due to renovations. Unfortunately this was not known until shortly before the convention. Because of this, we hadn't seen the rooms before ManorCon, so were not able to include accurate maps to show where the accommodation was, and we also had no idea how hard the rooms were to find. Fortunately these problems will not reoccur in 2009, as we will be back in our usual single rooms.

The problems with the twins are not so easily solved. The overriding cause of the problems is that the University is not set up to offer twin accommodation for conventions. We are also aware that the people who are booking twin accommodation would actually prefer double rooms anyway. Therefore from next year, we will not be offering twin accommodation. We have been informed of a local hotel (where a couple of our attendees stayed this year), which is not too far from the venue, and which can offer both twin and double rooms at similar prices to the rooms at the University. We will provide details of this hotel as part of our advertising for 2009.

# And Finally...

The numbers of attendees in 2008 was up 25 on 2007, with 214 attendees. There were 180 on Friday, 199 on Saturday, 198 on Sunday, and 128 on Monday. The number of rooms used was 169, up by 15 compared with 2007. Around 40% of bookings received were via the Internet, and 60% continued to book by post.

ManorCon XXVII will be at Stamford Hall, University of Leicester next year, one weekend earlier than 2008 – 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

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

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## **UK Games Expo 2008 Post Event Review (Richard Denning)**

### **UK GAMES EXPO 2009**

*“Everything about games”*

**6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

The Clarendon Suites  
2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston,  
Birmingham B16 9SB  
[www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk](http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk)

I am happy to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> UK Games Expo is back in 2009 bringing the best games of all types to our tables. It will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the same venue.

#### **Dates and Times**

UK Games Expo dates are as follows:

#### **Friday Night 5<sup>th</sup> June**

We have expanded the Free Play rooms at the Strathallan Hotel, Edgbaston next door to the Clarendon Suites. These will be available from 6pm. There is no charge for this. You just turn up and play.

#### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Tournaments in wargames, role-playing sessions, collectible cards games and board games.  
Times TBA.

Trade Hall Hours: 10am till 5pm.

Free Play rooms at the Strathallan Hotel, Edgbaston next door from 6pm.

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Tournaments in wargames, role-playing sessions, collectible cards games and board games.  
Times TBA.

Trade Hall Hours: 10am till 4pm.

#### **Charges**

##### **UK Games Expo Entry Ticket and Board Game Tournament Fee**

The entry ticket grants entry to UK Games Expo. If you decide to enter any of our tournaments you buy a UK Games Expo Entry Ticket and also pay a Tournament Fee. The Entry Ticket and the Tournament fee is expected to remain at the same price as 2008 but this will be confirmed in the next QLA

### **Board Game Tournaments**

The Grand board game tournament will occupy a first floor lodge room with the Command and Colours Ancients / Memoir 44 event in the adjacent anteroom. The Children's tournaments will take place in the balcony above the Warwick room on the Mezzanine level.

The board game tournament has been a great success in its first two years and will continue in 2009. The exact format of the board game tournament will be announced in the next QLA but we expect to run a Carcassonne, Settlers, Puerto Rico and St Petersburg tournaments and will look at other games perhaps including Agricola.

### **UK Carcassonne Championship. Win a Flight to Essen Spiel!**

In agreement with Spielzentrum, the UK Games Expo Grand Boardgames Carcassonne Tournament (probably on Sunday morning) will be a qualifying event for the World Carcassonne Championship to be held at Essen Spiel in October 2009. The winning player will also have a contribution towards their travel costs to and from Essen paid for.

### **Children's Board Game Tournament**

We believe that many games have educational value and improve social, literacy, mathematical and decision making skills. They are also fun! UK Games Expo is actively promoting the use and development of games in schools and encourages schools to start up games clubs.

With this in mind we encourage Primary schools to enter teams of 4 players ages 8-11 (Approximately years 5 and 6) in two fun but challenging events on the same day at UK Games Expo 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008. (Other children's organisations will be considered).

Exact timetables still to be finalised at this stage but we will have a Children's tournament pack on the website early in 2009. We are looking for games companies to sponsor this tournament.

### **UK Games Expo Awards**

The UK Games Expo awards were introduced in 2007 at the first UK Games Expo. They were developed to recognize the achievement of games companies in a variety of games genres. These will be continued in 2009.

Games products being demonstrated at UK Games Expo are eligible for entry into the awards. Games Companies may define which category their product falls within. The categories will be announced in the next QLA. The awards will be determined by a system that will involve both voting by the public over the weekend and from the opinion of a Panel of Judges appointed by the organizers. The judges will look for games that are original, engaging, attractive and exciting. The Awards will be announced at 3pm on Sunday 7th June.

### **Game Companies**

This year we had about 80 traders taking stands at Expo offering a good mix of Wargames, Sci-Fi and Fantasy, Boardgames and RPG as well as a smattering of art and jewellery. We plan to increase the numbers next year and hope this will include more board games companies to add to the 20 or so games companies and retailers we had this year.

It is our aim to represent the best range of different games genres of any UK convention. Expo is the largest exhibition of board games open to the public in the UK. Demonstrations and trade stands from publishers, games designers or demo teams will offer lots of

opportunity to see, try out and perhaps buy dozens of board games. The board games part of our convention alone will occupy over 40 demo tables.

We have early indications of new releases at Expo again next year and hope to bring you news of that after Essen in the next QLA.

### **Accommodation**

The Clarendon Suites are a conference venue and not a hotel so you will not stay in the hall itself. However do not let that put you off because within 50 to 200 yards there are many hotels. We will list suitable hotels in the next QLA. Having had some issues this year with a grumpy manager we have arranged for the rooms to be available as late as we wish and the bar to stay open late as well.

A special Expo menu will be available offering cheaper alternatives to the decent quality for high prices offerings that is standard.

### **Free-play Rooms**

We are glad to provide expanded Free Play space at the adjacent Strathallan Hotel on both Friday and Saturday evenings from 6pm till late both nights. A fully licensed bar and a restaurant is available at the Hotel. This year the room which could accommodate 100 or so filled out completely as did the bar and any spare table so we plan to add two more rooms to double capacity.

**More Information** More Information will appear in the next QLA and will also will be available on our website [www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk](http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk) early in 2009.

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### **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.
- You would like to advertise in QLA.

The coordinator can be contacted at [david@ellought.demon.co.uk](mailto:david@ellought.demon.co.uk)

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