

# 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:

- ◆ Manorcon 2010, OxCon 2010 and Games Expo 2010
- ◆ Report from MidCon 2009

## Forthcoming Conventions

<b>Winter Stabcon</b> Britannia Hotel Stockport 8-10 January 2010 Bookings(at)stabcon.co.uk	<b>OxCon</b> The Mitre High Street Oxford. 23-24 January 2010. users.ox.ac.uk/~board/oxcon	<b>SorCon</b> Ramada Hotel Colchester 5-7 March 2010 www.sorcon.co.uk
<b>ScotCon I</b> The Angle Snooker Club Morningside Edinburgh 26-28 February 2010	<b>Eastbourne Con</b> East Beach Hotel, Eastbourne 25-28 March 2010	<b>TringCon XVIII</b> Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 27 March 2010 www.fwtwr.com/tringcon
<b>BayCon 2010</b> Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 8-11 April 2010 www.baycon.co.uk	<b>Brighton DipCon I</b> Brighton Railway Club 4 Belmont Brighton 7-9 May 2010 www.dsct.co.uk	<b>Beer and Pretzels</b> The Town Hall Burton-on-Trent Staffordshire 15-16 May 2010 www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php
<b>UK Games Expo</b> The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston, Birmingham 4-6 June 2010 www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk	<b>Summer StabCon</b> Britannia Hotel Stockport 2-4 July 2010 Bookings(at)stabcon.co.uk	<b>Manorcon XXVIII</b> Stamford Hall University of Leicester. 16-19 July 2010. www.manorcon.org.uk
<b>TringCon XIX</b> Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 25 September 2010 www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	<b>MidCon XXXII</b> Thistle Birmingham City Hotel Birmingham 19-21 November 2010 (TBC) www.midcon.co.uk	<b>Eastbourne Con</b> East Beach Hotel, Eastbourne 18-21 November 2010

ManorCon XXVII  
Stamford Hall, University of Leicester  
16-19th July 2010

Following on from last year's successful convention, ManorCon will once again be held at Stamford Hall, University of Leicester, in 2010. With no major problems in 2009, ManorCon should be very similar in 2010. We have the same hall, the same rooms in Stamford House, and the same accommodation. We even have the same people on the committee!

Running from Friday lunchtime to Monday lunchtime, ManorCon will once again feature the Second Hand Game Sale on Friday and Saturday, and the UK SpielChamps on Saturday, where teams can qualify to represent the UK at the World Spielchamps in Germany in October. Dan Lester will be setting the Pop Quiz on Saturday evening, and hopefully this year, we'll be able to get the sound working without having to dismantle the University's PA system! The treasure hunt will once again be run on Sunday afternoon, by last year's winners - The Red Team, who promise it will be shorter than the 2008 edition, and much shorter than the 2009 edition! And of course, there will be more games than you can shake a stick at.

As well as the Spielchamps, there will be the usual tournaments, including Diplomacy, 18XX, Dominion, Puerto Rico, St Petersburg, Acquire, Race for the Galaxy and Midnight Party. However, we are dropping a couple of tournaments: Settlers - as the number of games has declined to the point where it's not worth holding, and Imperial, because some of the best players said they were purposely not playing competitive games because it's far better when playing for fun. So we will have a couple of slots for tournaments in any of the new games from Essen 2009 that prove to be popular - favourites right now include Brief History of the World, Power Grid: Factory Manager, and Shipyard. Once again there will be a Croquet tournament, and as seen in 2007, nothing - not even the wettest ManorCon in history - will stop it.

Cardiff Games will once again be running the games stall in 2010 (and hopefully this time, they won't be delayed by the dreaded lurgie on the Friday). As ever, they will be offering a 10% discount on all games, and if you have any special requests, they will try their hardest to bring them along. There will also be a Second Hand Games Stall that, as happened in the past, will be in a separate room, and will be open on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

As in 2009, we have single and en-suite accommodation available on-site. However we will not have any twin accommodation available. For those of you who would prefer a twin (or double) room, we recommend either the Regency Hotel or the Belmont Hotel. Both are on the London Road, just inside the roundabout with the ringroad. We had people staying at both of these this year, and both got good feedback from our attendees.

There is of course a bar. After some advice from Paul Oakes about what is real Real Ale (as opposed to fake Real Ale?), we hope to have a better selection of Real Ales from the bar in 2010 than we did in 2009.

Included with this issue of QLA, you should find a booking form. You can also download the booking form (and find lots of other ManorCon information) on the ManorCon website, [www.manorcon.org.uk](http://www.manorcon.org.uk). Please note the booking deadline - 13th June 2010. If you

need any further information, please feel free to contact us:

By post: Steve Jones, 59 Sudeley Walk, Putnoe, Bedford, MK41 8JH, UK

By phone: ++44 (0)1234 405878

By e-mail: [info@manorcon.org.uk](mailto:info@manorcon.org.uk)

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## **UK Games Expo 2009 (Richard Denning)**

UK GAMES EXPO 2010  
“Everything about games”  
4th to 6th June 2010  
The Clarendon Suites  
2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston,  
Birmingham B16 9SB  
[www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk](http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk)

### **Dates and Times**

UK Games Expo dates are as follows:

#### Friday Night 4th June

We have expanded the Free Play rooms at the Strathallan Hotel, Edgbaston next door to the Clarendon Suites. These will be available from 10am on the Friday for 3-day weekend ticket holders. This will involve open board gaming as well as role-playing game tables. This means you can get in even more game playing.

#### Saturday 5th June

Tournaments in wargames, role-playing sessions, collectible cards games and board games. Times TBA in the next QLA and on the website from Easter 2010.

Trade Hall Hours: 10am till 5pm.

Free Play rooms at the Strathallan Hotel, Edgbaston next door from 5pm till late. Note that due to a pre booked function the Wallace room (where usually the board gamers play) is not available that night BUT the hotel are giving us full access to the restaurant, which offers the same amount of space.

#### Sunday 6th 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. These are the prices for 2010:

2010 ENTRY TICKET Charges		Adult	Child	Family
	1 Day	8	5	20
	2 day	13	8	30
	3 Day	16	10	35

#### Board game Tournaments:

Saturday long tournament £5

Sunday am/pm Half day tournament £3

#### **Board Game Tournaments**

The Grand board game tournament will occupy a first floor lodge room. The board game tournaments will continue in 2010. The exact format of the board game tournaments will be announced in the next QLA, but we expect to run Carcassonne, Settlers of Catan, Puerto Rico and St Petersburg tournaments and will look at other games possibly including Agricola.

#### UK Carcassonne Championship. Win £100 towards expenses to visit Essen Spiel!

In agreement with Spielzentrum, the UK Games Expo Grand Boardgames Carcassonne Tournament 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.

#### UK Settlers of Catan Championship. Win expenses to visit World Championship in Germany!

In agreement with Zoch and Heron Games, the UK Games Expo Settlers Tournament will be a qualifying event for the World Championship to be held in Germany later in 2010. The winning player will also have their travel costs to and from this event paid for.

#### **UK Games Expo Awards**

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, which are original, engaging, attractive and exciting. The Awards will be announced at 3pm on Sunday 6th 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.

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 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 on the website. The Strathallan will offer open gaming rooms (open to non residents) both Friday and Saturday night.

## **Free-play Rooms**

We are glad to provide expanded Free Play space at the adjacent Strathallan Hotel on both Friday from 10am and Saturday evening from 5pm. A fully licensed bar and a restaurant is available at the Hotel. This year the room, which could accommodate 120 or so, filled out completely, so is a popular attraction.

## **More Information**

More Information will appear in the next QLA and will also be available on our website [www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk](http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk) early in 2010.

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## **OxCon 2010 Progress Report (Robert Clough)**

OxCon 2010 is just around the corner! This year the convention is being held on 23rd and 24th of January at the Mitre Pub on Oxford High Street.

A map can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2acta6>. The Mitre is a few minutes walking from the town centre and less than 15 from the train station. Parking in Oxford is challenging, at best, so if you're driving we recommend you use the Thornhill park and ride, on the East side of Oxford and easily accessible from junction 8 of the M40 and the Oxford ring road. See <http://www.parkandride.net/> for more information. The "High Street" bus stop is just over the road from the Mitre, which will be on your right.

If you are coming by train then various busses, including the 5 and X3, leave from outside the main station entrance. You want to go to the "Queen Street" stop, and the Mitre is on the left a further 2 minutes slow walk in the direction the bus is going. Hopefully the driver will be able to tell you when you reach Queen Street. Alternatively, it's less than 15 mins. on foot: Leaving the main station entrance, turn left down Botley Road and then veer right down Park End Street. Continue straight on to New Road, then Queen Street, and finally the High Street. The Mitre will be on your left. If you want to make your own travel plans using online tools, then the postcode for the Mitre is OX1 4AG.

While there will be various casual games going on, the main events are going to be a Puerto Rico Tournament on the Saturday, and a Settlers of Catan Tournament on the Sunday. To enter the Tournament you must arrive by 10:50 for the draw, for an 11am start. The same detail apply for Sunday and the settlers tournament. There will be prizes for the winners of these tournaments. While we have a few copies of these games, any extra copies that could be used for the event would be greatly appreciated. The room is booked until the closing time of the Pub.

Entry Fees for the Event are as follows:

Convention only £4

Convention plus Puerto Rico tournament £7

Convention plus Settlers tournament £7

Comprehensive weekend entry (Puerto Rico and Settlers) £10

On Friday 22nd of January we are planning a trip to a Pizza restaurant, followed by an evening of games at the society's regular meeting place, we will be meeting for pizza at 7pm and heading for games when we are finished at the restraint. On the Saturday evening we will be organizing a trip to an Oxford curry house. In a change to previous years, we are looking at booking a table at a restaurant in the centre of town; this means if you would like to attend you must email us as the central restaurants require exact numbers. The exact time will depend on when we can get a table once numbers are confirmed. If you are interested in either of these events please email [board@herald.ox.ac.uk](mailto:board@herald.ox.ac.uk)

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### **MidCon XXXI Report (Jeremy Tullett)**

Another record-breaking year, with just over 164 people attending at some point during the convention! This is certainly the most delegates that have come to MidCon while I have been in charge, and I believe, for some time before that.

Certainly, it was the first time in many years that people were playing games in the lounge and bar areas because there was no space elsewhere, rather than from choice.

One consequence of the increased popularity was that the hotel formally ran out of rooms in early November, with the result that some people had to find accommodation elsewhere. We have requested more rooms for 2010, but this is one reason why we close booking through MidCon and refer you to the hotel from 1<sup>st</sup> November each year – it is too difficult for us and the hotel management to run a queue, although, as some people discovered, you can sometimes be lucky enough to get a room that falls available after a late cancellation.

We had Diplomacy back for the first time for a number of years, David ran it, and the results are below. Dan Lester ran an unusual, if slightly chaotic quiz, and John Harrington did his stuff with the second-hand games stall.

With no major problems reported, 2009 was a good year for Midcon.

*\*\*\* We have a grey coat/jacket that someone left behind... Contact us to claim it. \*\*\**

### **The MidCon Quiz (Dan Lester)**

This year's quiz was promised to feature a number of unusual and experimental affair: a notion immediately proved by the unofficial first round: Find The Questions Which The Quizmaster Has Bafflingly Mislaid.

Fittingly, this round was, after much kerfuffle, won by the team that ultimately prevailed, featuring Robin & Katy Walters, Simon Hornby, Mark Fox & Chris Martin. [None of us can recall its name. Ed.]

It was Mr Martin's astounding and relatively unchallenged ability to name all the Districts in Dominion that clinched the deal.

But special mention has to go to all the other teams for being just plain great, as usual.

### **Results of MidCon Diplomacy Tournament 2009**

David Norman ran the tournament using the (boo, hiss) C-Diplo scoring system (with 73 points for a solo).

The tournament system was: the sum of the two results, or 80% of the sum of three results.

1	Dan Lester	24.00		37.00	61.00	Best Ger
2	Dave Simpson		22.00	37.00	59.00	Best Rus
3	Steve Agg	49.00	1.00	9.50	47.60	Worst Eng, Best Ita, Best Tur
4	Graeme Murphy	1.00	50.00	1.00	41.60	=Worst Aus, Best Fra
5	David Wigglesworth	3.00	10.50	9.50	18.40	Best Eng, Worst Rus
6	Emeric Miszti	7.00	10.50		17.50	Worst Tur
7	Iain McLellan	15.00			15.00	Worst Fra
8	Mark Hancock		5.00	1.00	6.00	Best Aus
9	Andrew Havery	1.00	1.00	5.00	5.60	=Worst Aus, Worst Ger, Worst Ita

### Board Results for Round 1

Austria	Graeme Murphy	1904	1.00
England	David Wigglesworth	2	3.00
France	Iain McLellan	7	15.00
Germany	Dan Lester	9	24.00
Italy	Andrew Havery	1906	1.00
Russia	Emeric Miszti	6	7.00
Turkey	Steve Agg	10	49.00

### Board Results for Round 2

Austria	Andrew Havery	1904	1.00
England	Steve Agg	1905	1.00
France	Graeme Murphy	11	50.00
Germany	David Wigglesworth	6	10.50
Italy	Mark Hancock	4	5.00
Russia	Dave Simpson	7	22.00
Turkey	Emeric Miszti	6	10.50

### Board Results for Round 3

Austria	Mark Hancock	1906	1.00
England	Graeme Murphy	1906	1.00
France	Dan Lester	10	37.00
Germany	Andrew Havery	4	5.00
Italy	Steve Agg	5	9.50
Russia	David Wigglesworth	5	9.50
Turkey	Dave Simpson	10	37.00

### MidCon Bring & Buy report (John Harrington)

There were 99 items put up for sale in the Bring & Buy sale at MidCon, of which 41 were sold. The most expensive of these was Agricola.

In total, £346.20 officially changed hands, though there were one or two transactions that took place privately in after hours trading.

Fourteen people put games up for sale, though six of them ended up taking all of their games home unsold.

I think I can safely say, without fear of contraception (sic), that the Bring & Buy worked a lot more smoothly this year. Partly this was because Chris Dawe did not bring along 192 games for sale but mainly it was because I had some stentorian assistance from Paul Oakes and Pete Card.

Not that I want to discourage the likes of Chris Dawe from bringing along 192 games, you understand, but I think that, in future, if anyone is going to bring along more than, say, 25 games, I'll need to arrange a special checking-in session just for them before the official sellers' opening time.

Other than that, there is not much to say. The room proved to be big enough to display everything without the need for games to be piled Jenga-like one on top of the other, and apart from a bottleneck in the doorway, was also big enough to allow people to mill about and peruse the games.

I think most of the games that were sold went in the first 15 minutes of the first session. There were a few games added for sale to the second session and a few late bargains were snapped up, but next year I may well shut up shop a bit earlier and get myself off to the restaurant a bit earlier on the Saturday night.

It was pleasing to see some old school hex based war games change hands, as in previous years these have often sat there unclaimed. Not a lot of joy this year for the bloke who brought along some collectible card game packs and I don't recall any FRP games for sale this year, either, but next year could be different.

## ***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)

This issue of *The Queen's Lane Advertiser* was brought to you by:

Jeremy Tullett, 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR

Telephone: 0870 190 1977 (Office) 01332-385322 (Home)

Email: [jeremy.d.tullett\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:jeremy.d.tullett(at)btinternet.com)