

The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

Issue Number 34

Printed in Essex

September 2010

Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Inside this issue:

- ScotCon I report
- Results from ManorCon XXVIII
- Advanced notice of the UK Games Expo 2011
- The Diplomacy "Tour of Britain"
- MidCon XXXII progress report

Forthcoming Conventions

Eastbourne Con East Beach Hotel, Eastbourne 18-21 November 2010	MidCon XXXII Thistle Birmingham City Hotel Birmingham 19-21 November 2010 www.midcon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic 13 The Scout Hut, Saltdean, Brighton. 20 November 2010 uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pasteboardandplastic/
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XIII The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire. DE14 1DR 29 December 2010 www.raidsofthegamecupboard.co.uk	SorCon Ramada Hotel Colchester 25-27 February 2011 www.sorcon.co.uk	TringCon XXII Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 2 April 2011 www.fwtwr.com/tringcon
BayCon 2011 Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 28 April - 2 May 2011 www.baycon.co.uk	Beer and Pretzels The Town Hall Burton-on-Trent Staffordshire 14-15 May 2011 www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php	UK Games Expo The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston, Birmingham 3-5 June 2011 www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk
	Manorcon XXIX Stamford Hall University of Leicester. 15-18 July 2011 www.manorcon.org.uk	

ScotCon 1 – Part of the Diplomacy ‘Tour of Britain’ (Dave Simpson)

Tournament Director David Wigglesworth hosted ScotCon 1 as the first ever event in a Diplomacy Tour of Britain over the weekend of 26th - 28th February 2010. This was a small tournament, with 7 players playing three rounds, but the breakdown of the players was interesting. There were 3 players who had regularly played at Cons over the past 3-4 years, one returning player who was back after a 4 year gap, 2 players who were email only to that point and one player who'd only played once before. That alone was seen to be a success, as the stated aim of the UKF2FDip initiative is to encourage both new players into the F2F hobby and old players to come back to the hobby. This was also the first tournament to be held in Scotland for a number of years! (There may well have been tournaments held there before, but the European Diplomacy Association website does not number them amongst its 1301 entries).

I was able to take a swift look around Edinburgh before the Con and took in the delights of Edinburgh Castle (which would be a great venue for a DipCon by the way). There was snow on the ground in parts of the City and the days were crisp!

The Con itself was played using the familiar ManorCon scoring system, albeit shorter games than ManorCon finishing after 1908.

The first round was preceded by a bite to eat in the Morning(side) Glory pub, which is a cracking boozier, with a range of traditional Scottish fare on offer (sadly not consumed by the player who was later to be awarded the “Most Scottish Player who isn’t Scottish” award. Referee!!). The game itself saw an attempted Western triple by myself (F), Julie (E) and Brian (G), who were regular, new and returning players, respectively. This left me attacking John (I) who was also pressed by TD and Con regular David (A). Email player Jim (T) displaced Graeme (R) who ended up finishing the game in German centres as Brian went out. Not to be outdone, John ended the game with an Italian army in Paris! The game finished as a 4 way tie, with David, Julie, Jim and I all on 7 centres.

The second round saw Brian draw Italy and on the back of an exit the day before, he arranged for the swift exit of Jims Austria. David (R) and John (T) joined in with gusto! In the West, Graeme (F) and I (E) combined to attack Russia and Germany. Turkey had another relatively strong result as Russia again ended up being displaced west and Germany was eliminated for the second game running. Graeme topped the board with 9 dots to Dave’s 8, with Brian and John on 7 each.

After 2 days, England, France and Turkey seemed to be the powers to draw if you wanted to do well. I was leading the tournament with a slender lead over Graeme and Brian had caught up after a bad first day. The three of us headed out for a rather nice chinese, but we knew that everyone else was still in with a shout of the win (just not to get any aromatic duck!).

Day 3 dawned. I drew Germany (gulp!) with Brian as France and Graeme as Turkey. I figured that they both had a good chance to pass me. I knew that Brian was hoping to finish 3rd or better and as such was gunning for David (who was England). I was able to work with Brian and David’s days were numbered. Over in the East, Graeme’s now famous opening of Con-Arm caused him some issues! John (A) bounced him out of Bul in the fall and Jim (R) worked with him to take Graeme out. Julie’s Italy got stuck between faster growing powers and Brian was doing very well. So much so that I had to have a little stab to make sure he was not going to win the tournament outright. He still topped the board with 11 to my 9, so that left me with a healthy lead over Brian who was a strong second overall. Jim finished on 7 to John’s 6, but that was not quite enough for him to displace John in the Scottish Champion competition (open only to those players resident in

Scotland) Congratulations to John, who was also best newcomer. The tournament would not have taken place had Julie not stepped in to the breach and as such she deserved her TD's award!

Position	Name	Score	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
1	Dave Simpson	70.81	20.48	23.93	26.40
2	Brian O'Farrell	56.50	0.70	19.90	35.90
3	Graeme Murphy	42.42	13.40	28.42	0.60
4	John Bush	39.60	4.60	19.90	15.10
5	Jim O'Neil	39.18	20.48	0.20	18.50
6	David Wigglesworth	28.78	20.48	7.90	0.40
7	Julie Wigglesworth	25.48	20.48	0.80	4.20

Manorcon XXVIII (David Norman)

ManorCon XXVIII Results

This year was the fourth year at Leicester, and it's a sign of how routine the organisation of ManorCon is becoming, that it's getting more difficult to write about it. Usually the report starts with how it's gone well despite a number of problems. This year, people turned up. They got their accommodation where they expected it to be. They played games. The bar opened when it was expected to. The food was cheap, and people either put up with it, or went into Oadby to eat. And everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. Not that we want there to be problems of course. Having everything run smoothly is good for everybody – including the committee. It means that we can spend the weekend playing games too, rather than having to run around troubleshooting problems. So, long may it continue.

This year's tournaments were remarkably similar to last year. There were no big new games this year, so the tournament options were broadly similar to last year. Following an ongoing recruitment drive, the Diplomacy increased from one board to three boards on Saturday. Dominion's popularity continued to increase, driven partly by the stream of expansions being released. 18XX continues to see a core group of about 25 players. And the Pop Quiz was enjoyed by many, and too loud for a few.

Hopefully everything will go just as smoothly in 2011.

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 XXVIII:

For their help on the Registration Desk: Kath Collman, Chris Dawe, Jerry Elsmore, Kevin Lee, Leo Marshall, Dane Maslen, Bill Mayling, Eric Norton, Helen Payne, Jim Payne, Tina Siewert, Ian D Wilson.

For organising tournaments: Martin Burroughs, John Gates, Nick Kinzett, Dan Lester, Dane Maslen and Stuart Stafford

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 25 players playing 19 games. Indeed, so much so, we saw the 18XX spill out from its normal room in the Library into other playing areas in Stamford House; is this the start of a takeover? The games included 4 each of 18Ardennes and 1861, 2 each of 1812, 1846 and 1824, and 1 each of 1837, 1817, 1858, 1826 and 18EU. I believe that a second 1817 was played but abandoned after two players went bankrupt and a third was about to do so! (not too surprising when its a variant that involves short selling). This year saw a runaway win by newcomer Juho Spellman, with four wins out of five, plus one solid second. Congratulations to Juho on an excellent performance this year.

Position	Name	Games	Won	Score
1	Juho Spellman	5	4	109.54
2	Jon Draper	4	3	95.31
3	Geoff Hardingham	3	1	88.95
4	John Boocock	3	2	84.01
5	Ian D. Wilson	5	2	79.81
6	Peter Eldridge	6	2	73.44
7	Peter Hawkins	1	1	72.73
8	Stephen Webb	7	3	71.97
9	Steve Ogden	4	0	70.28
10	Matthew Barratt	1	1	68.65
11	Dave Anderson	1	0	61.12
12	Steve Thomas	3	0	60.82
13	Dave Thorby	2	0	53.01
14	John Hatfield	1	0	49.66
15	David Hecht	4	0	49.17
16	Danny Victor	3	0	48.00
17	Dave Berry	2	0	40.03
18	Ben Croft	1	0	38.45
19	Alan Harvey	1	0	37.73
20	Chris Dawe	1	0	37.56
21	Jean Michalski	2	0	35.71
22	Ken Simpson	3	0	30.85
23	Simon Craddock	2	0	29.03
24	John Hopkins	4	0	13.82
25	Greg Payne	3	0	1.86

Diplomacy

After last year's smallest tournament on record, this year saw a significant revival, with 6 boards played over the three rounds, including 22 different players.

Friday 1			
Austria	Dan Lester	17	61.75
England	Tom Garretty	5	10.10
France	David Wigglesworth	5	10.10
Germany	Emeric Miszti	2	4.64
Italy	Doug Massie	2	4.64
Russia	Robin Walters	3	6.13
Turkey	Adam Harris	1903	0.30

Friday 2			
Austria	Mark Wightman	10	30.23
England	Toby Harris	1	4.07
France	Graeme Murphy	7	18.02
Germany	Richard Bolton	6	14.73
Italy	Dave Simpson	1	4.07
Russia	Steve Agg	1904	0.40
Turkey	David Norman	9	25.78

Board 1 saw an Austria-Italy alliance that worked out rather better for Austria than for Italy! Dan's 17 centre Austria is all the more impressive for the fact that the game had a 1909 time-draw, and his score of 61.75 smashed the record for the highest ever score for a non-solo – a reflection of the 12 centre lead he had over every other power.

On the other board, an Austria-Turkey alliance was bad news for both Italy and Russia, while in the North, a France-Germany alliance was equally bad news for England.

Saturday 1			
Austria	Toby Harris	1906	0.60
England	Emeric Miszti	1904	0.40
France	Mark Stretch	9	26.28
Germany	Dan Lester	5	12.06
Italy	Mark Wightman	6	15.02
Russia	Jonathan Elcock	4	9.49
Turkey	Ivan Woodward	10	30.83

Saturday 2			
Austria	Adam Harris	1909	0.90
England	Richard Bolton	8	18.86
France	Dave Simpson	2	4.71
Germany	Jim Mills	9	22.39
Italy	Mark Hancock	1910	1.00
Russia	David Norman	1	3.54
Turkey	Mark Stretch	14	45.12

Saturday 3			
Austria	Owen Richards	1	3.55
England	David Wigglesworth	3	6.25
France	Jack Rudd	1	3.55
Germany	David Norman	16	56.76
Italy	Chris Martin	8	18.92
Russia	Graeme Murphy	2	4.73
Turkey	Steve Agg	3	6.25

Saturday saw three boards, although a couple of players had to play two boards at once to make this possible. Board 1 saw a rush to 10 centres by Turkey, and 9 centres by France, before the draw was agreed in 1906. Board 2 started off with Germany looking like he would get a big score, but as the rest of the board turned around to try and slow him down, Turkey took advantage of some open backs to race to 14 centres in the last few years. And on board 3, And England-Germany alliance was making good progress until England left himself too open, and dropped from 7 to 3 in one year. Some commentators thought that a German solo was a possibility, but the combination of good defence and some sub-optimal play kept Germany down to 16 before the time-draw was called.

Of particular note is Mark Stretch's scores. Playing two boards at once, he amassed 23 centres between his two countries!

So, the Diplomacy Challenge Results, for the best Saturday score, were:

Position	Name	Board	Power	Centres	Score
1	David Norman	3	Germany	16	56.76
2	Mark Stretch	2	Turkey	14	45.12
3	Ivan Woodward	1	Turkey	10	30.83
4	Jim Mills	2	Germany	9	22.39
5	Chris Martin	3	Italy	8	18.92
6	Richard Bolton	2	England	8	18.86
7	Mark Wightman	1	Italy	6	15.02
8	Dan Lester	1	Germany	5	12.06
9	Jonathan Elcock	1	Russia	4	9.49
10	Steve Agg	3	Turkey	3	6.25
	David Wigglesworth	3	England	3	6.25
12	Graeme Murphy	3	Russia	2	4.73
13	Dave Simpson	2	France	2	4.71
14	Owen Richards	3	Austria	1	3.55
	Jack Rudd	3	France	1	3.55
16	Mark Hancock	2	Italy	0	1.00
17	Adam Harris	2	Austria	0	0.90
18	Toby Harris	1	Austria	0	0.60
19	Emeric Miszti	1	England	0	0.40

With two rounds gone, David Norman had already passed 80 points, and Dan Lester was past 70. With nobody else having more than 45 points, it was looking like a two-horse race – and this started to look like a one-horse race when Dan decided not to play the Sunday round. But a 35 point gap is not insurmountable, and with a lot of players deciding that they weren't going to play a third round, all the contenders were facing each other on the only Sunday board.

Sunday 1					
Austria	David Norman	1			3.52
England	Steve Agg	1905			0.50
France	Mark Wightman	12			34.90
Germany	David Wigglesworth	9			22.32
Italy	Graeme Murphy	1			3.52
Russia	Dave Simpson	11			30.37
Turkey	Chris Martin	1904			0.40

Going into the final round and drawing Austria is never a good plan, as David showed. And nor is one of your nearest rivals drawing France – his favourite power. However, Mark's France was held to 12 centres, a couple short of what he needed to mount a serious bid for the tournament victory.

So the Final Results were:

Position	Name	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Overall
1	David Norman	25.78	56.76	3.52	84.29
2	Dan Lester	61.75	12.06		73.81
3	Mark Wightman	30.23	15.02	34.90	72.64
4	Mark Stretch		45.12		45.12
5	Dave Simpson	4.07	4.71	30.37	37.12
6	David Wigglesworth	10.10	6.25	22.32	35.54
7	Richard Bolton	14.73	18.86		33.58
8	Ivan Woodward		30.83		30.83
9	Graeme Murphy	18.02	4.73	3.52	24.51
10	Jim Mills		22.39		22.39
11	Chris Martin		18.92	0.40	19.32
12	Tom Garretty	10.10			10.10
13	Jonathan Elcock		9.49		9.49
14	Steve Agg	0.40	6.25	0.50	6.95

15	Robin Walters	6.13			6.13
16	Emeric Miszti	4.64	0.40		5.04
17	Toby Harris	4.07	0.60		4.67
18	Doug Massie	4.64			4.64
19	Owen Richards		3.55		3.55
	Jack Rudd		3.55		3.55
21	Adam Harris	0.30	0.90		1.20
22	Mark Hancock		1.00		1.00

Best Countries

Best Austria	Dan Lester	Friday	Board 1	17 centres
Best England	Richard Bolton	Saturday	Board 2	8 centres
Best France	Mark Wightman	Sunday	Board 1	12 centres
Best Germany	David Norman	Saturday	Board 3	16 centres
Best Italy	Chris Martin	Saturday	Board 3	8 centres
Best Russia	Dave Simpson	Sunday	Board 1	11 centres
Best Turkey	Mark Stretch	Saturday	Board 2	14 centres

Other Awards

Award	Winner	Reason
Tournament Director's Award	Dan Lester	For the highest ever single-round non-solo score in a ManorCon Diplomacy Tournament – 17 in a 17-5-5-3-2-2

This year has seen a significant rise in the number of players in the Diplomacy Tournament, not least because of the efforts of Dave Simpson to rebuild the hobby. Dave's efforts have included starting a new tournament, Brighton DipCon in May, encouraging two other new tournaments to start (ScotCon in Edinburgh in the first quarter of the year, and a London event which will be starting in 2011), and bringing them all together into "The Tour of Britain", an annual tournament which takes the results from these tournaments plus ManorCon and MidCon, and brings them together to make an overall hobby winner for the year.

More information about The Tour of Britain, and the events that it comprises, can be found on the tour website, www.ukf2fdip.org.

Midnight Party

21 players played 3 games - unsurprisingly scheduled for Midnight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The top three were:

Position	Name	Score
1	John Mitchell	87.91
2	Ian Wilson	86.97
3	Rowen Baker	86.59

Acquire

34 players played in 11 games, including one tied game! The top 3 were:

Position	Player	Score
1	Mark Stretch	113.32
2	Scott Aggus	111.77
3	Gary Duke	101.51

Puerto Rico

37 players played in 12 games. The top 3 were:

Position	Player	Score
1	Peter Campbell	86.43
2	Nick Kinzett	85.95
3	Ivan Woodward	85.30

Nick (the Tournament Director) would like it noted that he won a game with University, playing against strong opposition including the eventual tournament winner.

St. Petersburg

33 players played in 18 games. The top 3 were:

Position	Player	Score
1	Jake Hanny	116.49
2	Steve Jones	97.72
3	Karianne Heen	88.59

Croquet

Sixteen people signed up for the croquet, and it was a bit of a tight squeeze trying to get all the matches played. In the end, there were four walkovers, I think. I granted Bekki Warren her walkover, but in the other three matches, I'm assuming that the players concerned worked it out themselves (either that, or they played and didn't enter the scores on the sheet). I know that there is usually a problem associated with players scheduled to play each other and not knowing who their opponent is. However, there is a solution to this which I shall introduce in the future: from next year, I shall require people who signup for the tournament to provide their mobile phone numbers. Hopefully, this will overcome the problem of arranging matches during the course of the weekend.

This year there was a shock result, with joint-favourite Gary Duke being knocked out in the first round by Nick Harrison. Nick duly made his way through to the Final, but found Mick Haytack too hot to handle. This was Mick's sixth ManorCon Crown, putting him well ahead of those past players with four crowns. Congratulations, Mick, and commiserations to Nick.

Gary Duke	11	Nick Harrison	14	Nick Harrison	14	Nick Harrison	4
Nick Harrison	14						
Bekki Warren	w/o	Bekki Warren	3				
Mike Sheley							
Timothy Luffingham	14	Timothy Luffingham	w/o	Timothy Luffingham	2		
Phil Honeybone	9						
James Neilson		Jenny Flavel					
Jenny Flavel	w/o						
David Wigglesworth	w/o	David Wigglesworth	3	Ben Haytack	6		
Neil Munkman							
Ben Haytack	14	Ben Haytack	14				
Martin Burroughs	5						
Terry Warren	2	Chris Dawe	5	Mick Haytack	14	Mick Haytack	14
Chris Dawe	14						
Stuart Stafford	1	Mick Haytack	14				
Mick Haytack	14						

Dominion

58 games were entered into the tournament (numerous others were played). With six victories out of six games played Chris Martin was once again unstoppable. The results for the minor placings revealed a flaw in the scoring system that will have to be corrected for next year.

Position	Player	Score	Played
1	Chris Martin	414	6
2	James Payne	221	3
3	Andrew Gregory	192	1
4	Iain Alexander	175	15
5	David van Cauter	171	5
6	Jake Hanny	119	11
7	Steve Thomas	102	11
8	Karianne Heen	69	9
9	Tom Garretty	67	3
10	Robert Dillon	38	3
11	Tanya Fox	34	3
12	Derek Wilson	26	13
13	Andy Bate	1	7
14	Alan Anastasion	-28	4
15	Tony Meneagh	-38	3
16	Jim Payne	-41	9
17	John Todd	-46	11
18=	Dane Maslen	-54	22
18=	Eric Norton	-54	11
20=	Alex Trulock	-64	1
20=	David Buckley	-64	1
20=	Jack Rudd	-64	1
20=	Mark Fox	-64	1
20=	Mike Eggleton	-64	1
20=	Neil Munkman	-64	1
20=	Nick Kinzett	-64	1
20=	Peter Campbell	-64	1
28	Chris Dawe	-83	19
29	John Webley	-93	2
29	Mark Stretch	-93	2
31=	Mark Wightman	-96	2
31=	Robin Walters	-96	2
33	Dan Lester	-102	2
34	Mark Ashfield	-108	2
35	Helen Payne	-113	3
36=	James Goodman	-115	3
36=	Mark Rollings	-115	3
36=	Peter Woodward	-115	3
36=	Richard Barton	-115	3
36=	Rowan Baker	-115	3
41	Greg Payne	-118	3
42	David Tittle	-132	4

Race for the Galaxy

22 players played 10 games. The top three were:

Position	Name	Played
1	Stewart Pilling	115.27
2	Gordon Aickin	104.56
3	Jake Hanny	97.74

Pop Quiz

Eight teams took part in this year's Pop Quiz, which was made all the more difficult by the PA System provided by the University sounding like an A.M. Radio. But never-the-less, the usual suspects rose to the top, lead by "Don't Call Me Shirley – It's Carly" - Carly "Shirley" Selby, Ben Haytack, Martin Burroughs and John Harrington.

Team	Songwriters	Music from films and backwards tracks	Food	Lyrics	Police	Total
Don't Call Me Shirley. It's Carly!	23	5	19	19	9	77
We're Crapper Than Them	25	9	16	16	7	73
And Then There Were Three	23	9	19	9	7	67
Two Johns	21	4	17	13	8	64
Team Fungus	15	7	17	10	6	55
T F B	15	4	15	16	5	55
Endless Nameless	12	6	11	17	5	51
We're Not Ready	15	6	10	11	1	43

Dan has expressed a desire not to run the Pop Quiz again in 2011 – partly because he wants to be able to take part as a competitor. So if anyone wants to volunteer, then please contact the committee. Otherwise the teams might have to be subjected to a Pop Quiz run by David Norman – and that would just be mean!!! Steve Jones does a Karaoke round, anyone?

OK, maybe not quite that mean...

Treasure Hunt

With a determined effort to keep the treasure hunt to a reasonable length this year – partly by making it easier, and partly by placing a time limit for the teams to solve as many clues as they could, the marathons of previous years were thankfully avoided. 35 players took part, with "One Phil and Five Fillers" coming out on top. Congratulations to Phil Hannay, Mark Fox, Mark Rigby-Jones, Robin Walters, Gordon Aickin and Dan Lester, who will therefore be setting the Treasure Hunt next year.

Spielchamps

With a lack of entries, the Spielchamps was cancelled this year. The organisers are looking to make a big push to get entries next year.

Your Feedback

This year, we dispensed with the feedback forms (OK, actually we just didn't get them ready in time!), and moved to freeform feedback. As far as we are aware, there were only three general problems this year.

Food

The food was once again disappointing – especially at breakfast. Every year, we try to resolve this

with the University, but it's proving difficult, in no short part to the fact that we are one of a very small number of conventions of our type which they host – conventions where people use the cafeteria, and pay for their food at meal times, rather than it being a fixed menu which is paid for as part of the convention fee. But we will continue to try and resolve this.

The Bar

The bar was mostly good, but there were a number of complaints about drinks being served in plastic glasses. This was a surprise to us, and we will be looking into how this can be resolved before next year.

Pop Quiz

A few people complained about the noise from the Pop Quiz being quite loud in the Single Accommodation, as it didn't finish until well after midnight. We will look to start it a little earlier in future, and also avoid having the accommodation-facing outside door open with one of the speakers right next to it!

And Finally...

The numbers of attendees in 2010 was 25 up on 2009, with 226 attendees. There were 192 on Friday, 223 on Saturday, 206 on Sunday, and 140 on Monday. The number of rooms used was 162, up by 19 compared with 2009. Around 48% of bookings received were via the Internet, and 52% continued to book by post.

ManorCon XXIX will be at Stamford Hall, University of Leicester next year, on the same weekend as 2010 – 15th to 18th July 2011.

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

The Tour of Britain – a UKF2FDip initiative (Dave Simpson)

MidCon has traditionally hosted the UK National Diplomacy Championship, so has a long and distinguished connection with “The Game”. However, as a brand new addition for 2010, the diplomacy tournament at MidCon will also mark the culmination of the first year of a series of tournaments that are collectively known as “The Tour of Britain”.

Modelled on the successful Diplomacy tours that operate in many other countries across the world, the “Tour of Britain” is designed to showcase the game of Diplomacy in its original face-to-face format and to give as many players as possible the opportunity to play competitively. The tour has been successful in increasing the number of diplomacy boards played at conventions in the UK, in bringing a number of new players in to the hobby and also in revitalising the interest of quite a few old hands. Additionally, new DipCons in Edinburgh and Brighton have been founded to stage steps of the Tour of Britain. This resurgence of the hobby in the UK has not gone unnoticed and as a result of this, the European Diplomacy Convention will be held in Britain in 2011, in Brighton, so we will see all the top European players visiting us next year!

If you would be *interested in playing a game of Diplomacy at MidCon* then come along and sign up during the con. If you would like to contact someone in advance, then feel free to email [dave\(at\)ukf2fdip.org](mailto:dave(at)ukf2fdip.org). For more information about the Tour of Britain and the UKF2FDip initiative, visit www.ukf2fdip.org

UK GAMES EXPO 2011
“Everything about games”
3rd to 5th June 2011
The Clarendon Suites
2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B16 9SB
www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

Dates and Times

UK Games Expo dates are as follows:

Friday Night 3rd June 2011

We are planning Free Play rooms again at the Strathallan Hotel, Edgbaston, next door to the Clarendon Suites. These will be available from 10 am 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 4th June 2011

Tournaments in wargames, role-playing sessions, collectible cards games and board games. Times to be announced in later issues of QLA and on the website from Easter 2011. We are also planning more talks and seminars – watch out for details as they are announced – we are hoping that we can tempt speakers of the calibre of Steve Jackson and Ian Livingstone back to Expo 2011.

Trade Hall Hours: 10am till 5pm.

Free-Play rooms at the Strathallan Hotel, Edgbaston next door from 5pm till late.

Sunday 5th June 2011

Wargame tournaments, role-play sessions, collectible cards games and board games. Times to be announced.

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 good news is that we have frozen entry prices for 2011, which are:

	2010	Adult	Child	Family
Entry Ticket Charges	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 tournaments are yet to be finalised for 2011, but they will remain an important feature of Expo. The exact formats of board game tournaments will hopefully be announced in the next QLA but we expect to run a Carcassonne, Settlers of Catan, Puerto Rico and St Petersburg tournaments and will look at other games perhaps 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 2011. The winning player will also have a contribution towards their travel costs to and from Essen paid for.

UK Settlers of Catan Championship

There will be a UK Settlers of Catan Championship at UK Games Expo, the world Championship is bi-annual and we hope to be able to announce next year that we will again be involved by running the UK qualifier.

Responding to Your Feedback

We are aware that there were some issues regarding the lengthy queues on Saturday morning. We are discussing with Clarendon Suite management what can be done to minimise the queue and get you into Expo as quickly and smoothly as possible. We hope to have a special PREBOOK ONLY entrance on the other side of the building to the traditional entrance. You can arrive early and collect tickets from 8 am onwards and then you are ready to go straight in just as soon as the doors open at 9.30 am Saturday. Don't forget you can also collect tickets from 9.30 am on Friday till 7pm so if you are coming Saturday and are in the area on Friday go get your tickets on Friday. As with everything about Expo 2011 please check the website, as arrangements are finalised they will be on the website and in our regular email newsletters.

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 that are original, engaging, attractive and exciting. The Awards will be announced at 3pm on Sunday 5th June. The format for the awards will be announced well before Expo 2011.

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 in 2011 and hope this will include more board games companies to add to the 20 or so 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 and buy dozens of board games. The board games part of our convention alone will occupy over 40 demo

tables.

We will announce new releases as soon as we can for Expo 2011, starting after Essenspiel in October, 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. Details of suitable hotels will be shown on the website.

The Strathallan will offer open gaming rooms (open to non-residents) from 10am on Friday and on Saturday night from 6pm, both days till late.

Free-play Rooms

We are glad to provide expanded Free Play space at the adjacent Strathallan Hotel all day on Friday and on Saturday evening from 6pm till late. A fully licensed bar and a restaurant are available at the Hotel. This year the room which could accommodate 100 or so filled out completely as did the bar and any spare tables so we will be negotiating with the Strathallan to take as much space as possible to accommodate you.

More Information

More Information will appear in the next QLA and will also be available on our website www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk early in 2011 (keep checking from October as we will commence updating of information).

MidCon XXXII Progress Report (Jeremy Tullett)

For the sake of clarity, let me first emphasise that MidCon **2010** is taking place in the Birmingham City Thistle Hotel **in Birmingham**, as “usual”.

We do not move to Derby until **2011**.

David Norman will presenting the MidCon quiz on Saturday night, and a games shop will be provided by JKLM games.

John Harrington will, as usual, be getting his stress levels elevated by running a secondhand games stall, and Paul Oakes will once again be providing a running commentary on the state of the beer at the bar, and anywhere else he happens to be sitting.

There is a registration form on the back page of this magazine.

The bedrooms become available for public booking from early October, and my suggestion that people should book early to make sure that they get a room has been enthusiastically received. The registration list at 21st September is:

Mark Fox	Kevin Lee	Paul Oakes
Richard Barton	Dave Thornton	David Blowers
Dave Simpson	Lyndon Gurr	Angela Counce
Robert Clark	Stephen Webb	David Durant
Annie Clark	John Cudmore	Annie Percik
Ian Fleming	Dave Cooper	Richard Adams
Jeremy Tullett	Ben Cooper	Susan Killean
Stephen Frye	Marek Siejka	Simon Craddock

Hayley Croombs	Adam Siejka	Thomas Box
Danny Victor	Sean Byrne	David Hecht
Mike Head	Simon Forth	Teik Chooi Oh
Geoff Hardingham	Malcolm Booker	Philip Bolton
Mike Oakes	Nick Harrison	Barrington Beavis
Steve Jones	Alan Gates	Mike Hutton
Colin & Jane Harden	Phil Ward	Jack Rudd
Ian Wilson	Paul Speck	Gary Duke
Bill O'Neill	Paul Heppell	Dave Thorby
Graeme Murphy	Jerry Elsmore	John Colledge
Derek Wilson	Mark Eddy	John Harrington
Richard Beattie	Jeff Edmunds & Angela Crick	

... which makes 59 registrations, well ahead of any position since at least 2003. If you want to be sure of a room at the hotel, we do recommend getting your reservation in sooner rather than later.

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

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@btinternet.com

The registration fee for **MidCon** is £17 per person for the whole weekend when booked before 1st November, £20 on the door, or £10 per day. Please note: convention fees are *not* refundable.

Payment for MidCon XXXII, 19-21 November 2010

For the convention fee we accept payment by **PayPal** (visit www.midcon.org.uk for details), **cheques** (made out to “MidCon”), or **cash**. We *cannot* collect convention fees from **credit cards**.

Name			
Address			
Post code		Tel:	
E-mail			
I enclose a cheque / PO (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 £56.00 per person per night for a single room and £38.00 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.

Accommodation deposits may be made when booking through the **MidCon** website, by supplying us with a credit card number and expiry date, or with a cheque made out to the ‘Thistle Birmingham City Hotel’, accompanied by this form.

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**)

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

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
N° of single rooms			
N° of twin rooms			
N° of double rooms			
Sharing with ...			

When complete, return this form, together with your registration fee (payable to “**MidCon**”) to: Jeremy Tullett, **MidCon**, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR