

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

Forthcoming Conventions

OxCon The Mitre High Street Oxford. 29-30 January 2011	SorCon Ramada Hotel Colchester 25-27 February 2011 www.sorcon.co.uk	ScotCon II The Borough Hotel 72-80 Causewayside Edinburgh EH9 1PY 11-13 March 2011 http://www.ukf2fdip.org/
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XIV The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire. DE14 1DR 19th March 2011 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.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
Brighton DipCon II Brighton Railway Club 4 Belmont Brighton Sussex BN1 3TF 13-15 May 2011 www.ukf2fdip.org	Beer and Pretzels The Town Hall Burton-on-Trent Staffordshire 14-15 May 2011 www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetail.php	UK Games Expo The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston, Birmingham 3-5 June 2011 www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XV The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire. DE14 1DR 18 June 2011 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	Manorcon XXIX Stamford Hall University of Leicester. 15-18 July 2011 www.manorcon.org.uk	Evesham Games Day Evesham Town Hall Market Square Evesham Worcestershire WR11 4RW 13th August 2011 m.a.stretch@btinternet.com
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XVI The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street, Burton upon Trent Staffordshire. DE14 1DR 17 September 2011 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon XXIII Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 1 October 2011 www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	MidCon Board Games Convention 2011 & EuroDipCon 2011 Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 11-13 November 2011 www.midcon.org.uk

Manorcon XXVIII (David Norman)

ManorCon XXIX
Stamford Hall, University of Leicester
15-18th July 2011

Following on from last year's successful convention, ManorCon will once again be held at Stamford Hall, University of Leicester, in 2011. With no major problems in 2010, ManorCon should be very similar in 2011. 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. Dan Lester is looking to take part in the Pop Quiz, so we are looking for a new compere, and hopefully this year, the sound system won't sound like an AM radio! The treasure hunt will once again be run on Sunday afternoon, by last year's winners - One Phil and Five Fillers, 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.

There will be the usual tournaments, including Diplomacy, 18XX, Dominion, Puerto Rico, St Petersburg, Acquire, Race for the Galaxy and Midnight Party. Once again there will be a Croquet tournament, and as seen in 2007, nothing - not even the wettest ManorCon in history - will stop it.

Milestone Games will once again be running the games stall in 2011. 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 2010, we have single and en-suite accommodation available on-site.

However, once again, 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 ring-road. We had people staying at both of these in 2009 and 2010, and both got good feedback from our attendees.

There is of course a bar, and we are working to make sure that the Real Ale is up to standard, and to not being issued with plastic glasses at times (which apparently was a magistrate's decision, in case we got too rowdy!).

You can download the booking form (and find lots of other ManorCon information) on the ManorCon website, www.manorcon.org.uk. Please note the booking deadline - 12th June 2011. 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

The Diplomacy Tour of Britain 2010 Update – a UKF2FDip initiative (Dave Simpson)

UKF2FDip's Tour of Britain has been a resounding success – congratulations to David Norman, the first Tour of Britain Champion!

The results and information about the tour can be seen at the website, <http://www.ukf2fdip.org> but for those interested, here's some extra facts.

Four events took place on the 2010 Tour, two at existing Cons and two at new locations. Two Tournament Directors (TD's) got new events up and running and both events are confirmed for next year. All four tournaments were successful in attracting both new players (who had never played in a tournament before) and returning players (who hadn't played for 24 months or more before returning to a tournament). Any new or returning players then become "current" players at a subsequent event.

Edinburgh	7 players	3 new, 1 returning, 3 current
Brighton	12 players	4 new, 2 returning, 6 current
ManorCon	22 players	2 new, 8 returning, 11 current
MidCon	11 players	2 new, 1 returning, 8 current

In attracting 11 new players and 12 returning players in to a total field of 34 players in 2010, we feel that the Tour of Britain is achieving its aims of growing and revitalising the Face-to-Face aspect of the Diplomacy hobby in the UK. The acid test will be how many of these 23 players remain "current" next year and how many more players we attract. There's plenty more coming next year to tempt folks with...

We plan to hold 5 organised events in 2011, so the Tour of Britain will be larger:

ScotCon II	Edinburgh	11th - 13th March
Brighton DipCon II	Brighton	13th - 15th May
ManorCon	Leicester	15th - 17th July
Mind Sports Olympiad	London	TBC, August
MidCon/EDC	Derby	11th - 13th November

Yes, that's right, MidCon is hosting EuroDipCon XIX. The highlight of 2011 will be a chance to pit your wits against the best players in Europe, who will be coming to play at MidCon in its new Derby location. Support from the hobby across Europe is a definite sign that the UK hobby is on the way back.

The “Hobby Development Fund” (John Colledge)

Some years ago, a number of hobby members donated funds to the Hobby Development Fund. The idea being that those funds would be available to assist any initiatives that might help to ‘spread the word’ about the games hobby we all enjoy so much.

While a few people did come up with ideas, little cash was actually withdrawn from the account that was set up, and it has now been sitting for some time doing nothing!

It has been suggested that at least part of the problem was, not enough people knew of the HDF’s existence. In an effort to change that, we are writing to 'zine editors and would ask you all to please let your readers know that the HDF is still available for anyone who needs some financial assistance for any such initiatives.

If you, or any of your readers have any ideas and would benefit from some financial assistance to help them implement them, do please let the following people know:

John Colledge - Dunorroch(at)dsl.pipex.com

Jeremy.d.tullett(at)btinternet.com

Stephen Agar - Stephen(at)stephenagar.com

Mark Stretch - m.a.stretch(at)btinternet.com

Many thanks for your help.

MidCon XXXII Report (Jeremy Tullett)

I suppose that it was inevitable that, in our last year at the Birmingham City Thistle, events contrived to make this the most hitch free MidCon that we have had there.

The MidCon snacks appeared to be well received, the bar was manned, all of the real ale got drunk, and Paul Oakes found little to complain about.

Somebody had whispered to the hotel that we were moving to Derby, so Tanith, the Meetings and Events contact, wasn’t surprised when I told her. I cited three reasons: the car parking charges at the NCP car park (which are now absurd), the attitude of their finance team (“if you don’t like our rate rises, we can fill the hotel without you”), and, frankly, we now fill the hotel’s facilities. Indeed we were (politely) asked to vacate the lounge area for a couple of hours on the Saturday evening for other guests wanting pre-dinner drinks. There are other syndicate rooms available, but they are on other floors, and not very convenient.

Two regular attendees died during 2010: Tony Wheatley and Peter Hawkins. They’ve both been regulars at conventions for 30 years or more. Tony will be remembered as an inveterate player of games, and Peter as one of the 18xx crew in the Ariel suite, although he sticks in my mind as a formidable Diplomacy player. They will both be missed.

Overall, registrations were down by a handful, but bedroom bookings were up, and I think that probably people were staying longer than before. It certainly felt busier than I remember on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.

The sterling efforts of David Norman and Dave Simpson are bringing about a revival in the face-to-face Diplomacy scene, and a four round tournament was organized with the following results:

Board Results for Round 1

Austria	David Buckley	1	2.00
England	Jonathan Miles	3	4.00
France	Graeme Murphy	9	24.00
Germany	Chris Martin	1	2.00
Italy	Dave Simpson	12	51.00
Russia	Rob Kinsey	6	14.00
Turkey	Jack Rudd	2	3.00

Board Results for round 2

Austria	Dave Simpson	2	3.00
England	Steve Agg	7	34.00
France	Rob Kinsey	5	9.50
Germany	Graeme Murphy	4	5.00
Italy	Andrew Havery	4	5.00
Russia	Jack Rudd	5	9.50
Turkey	Jonathan Miles	7	34.00

Board Results for Round 3

Austria	Jonathan Miles	1	2.00
England	David Norman	9	24.00
France	Andrew Havery	3	4.00
Germany	Steve Agg	1	2.00
Italy	Graeme Murphy	4	8.50
Russia	Dave Simpson	12	51.00
Turkey	Rob Kinsey	4	8.50

Board Results for Round 4

Austria	Mark Stretch	1	2.00
England	Andrew Havery	6	14.00
France	Steve Agg	9	48.00
Germany	Dave Simpson	1	2.00
Italy	Rob Kinsey	5	6.00
Russia	Graeme Murphy	6	14.00
Turkey	David Norman	6	14.00

Best Country Results for Austria

Name	Round	Centres	Score
Dave Simpson	2	2	3.00
David Buckley	1	1	2.00
Jonathan Miles	3	1	2.00
Mark Stretch	4	1	2.00

Best Country Results for England

Name	Round	Centres	Score
David Norman	3	9	24.00
Steve Agg	2	7	34.00
Andrew Havery	4	6	14.00
Jonathan Miles	1	3	4.00

Best Country Results for France

Name	Round	Centres	Score
Steve Agg	4	9	48.00
Graeme Murphy	1	9	24.00
Rob Kinsey	2	5	9.50
Andrew Havery	3	3	4.00

Best Country Results for Germany

Name	Round	Centres	Score
Graeme Murphy	2	4	5.00
Chris Martin	1	1	2.00
Steve Agg	3	1	2.00
Dave Simpson	4	1	2.00

Best Country Results for Italy

Name	Round	Centres	Score
Dave Simpson	1	12	51.00
Rob Kinsey	4	5	6.00
Graeme Murphy	3	4	8.50
Andrew Havery	2	4	5.00

Best Country Results for Russia

Name	Round	Centres	Score
Dave Simpson	3	12	51.00
Rob Kinsey	1	6	14.00
Graeme Murphy	4	6	14.00
Jack Rudd	2	5	9.50

Best Country Results for Turkey

Name	Round	Centres	Score
Jonathan Miles	2	7	34.00
David Norman	4	6	14.00
Rob Kinsey	3	4	8.50
Jack Rudd	1	2	3.00

Final Classification

1	Dave Simpson	51.00	3.00	51.00	2.00	105.00
2	Steve Agg	34.00	2.00	48.00		84.00
3	Graeme Murphy	24.00	5.00	8.50	14.00	46.50
4	Jonathan Miles	4.00	34.00	2.00	40.00	
5	David Norman	24.00	14.00	38.00		
6	Rob Kinsey	14.00	9.50	8.50	6.00	32.00
7	Andrew Havery	5.00	4.00	14.00	23.00	
8	Jack Rudd	3.00	9.50	12.50		
9	Mark Stretch	2.00	2.00			
	Chris Martin	2.00	2.00			
	David Buckley	2.00	2.00			

David also collated a quiz, causing some amusement by misreading one of his own questions. It

seemed to be set a sensible level of difficulty, and had a significant advantage in that there were rounds where the teams that one might have been expected to sweep the board actually did rather poorly.

The results were:

Team Name	Countries	4-3-2-1	1980's	Languages	Sequences	Games	Total
Max Possible Score	20	10	10	20	15	10	85
DAT	20	9	8	18	8	1	64
Team Fat Bastard	15	7	7	17	10	4.5	60.5
What's Our Team Name	17	9	5	14	8	3	56
The Norman Con-Quest	20	8	2	12	10	3	55
Endless Nameless	18	2	3	17	9	2	51
Crazy Horse	9	5	2	9	6	3.5	34.5
Tractor Blade	4	5	1	10	7	0	27

As you will read elsewhere, MidCon will be joined next year by EuroDipCon at our new venue in Derby, and we have reserved more bedrooms and more conference rooms over the usual MidCon allowance to accommodate the expected influx of European diplomacy players.

It promises to be a busy and exciting weekend, and I would like to see a footfall of around 200 (and, if I were so minded, I could then resign as chairman with honour and glory). The booking form is almost ready. If you would like one, drop an email at the address on the back page, and I'll send one over to you.

UK Games Expo 2011 (Mick Pearson)

UK GAMES EXPO 2011

"Everything about games"

3rd to 5th June 2011

The Clarendon Suites

2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston,

Birmingham B16 9SB

Dates and Times

UK Games Expo dates are as follows:

Friday 3rd June

Once again the Free Play rooms, at the Strathallan Hotel, will be available from 10am on Friday for 3-day weekend ticket holders. This will involve open board gaming as well as role-playing game tables. This format worked well at Expo 2010 and we hope more of you will take advantage of the facility in 2011.

Saturday 4th June

We are currently putting together our programme of events for 2011. These will include role-playing sessions, collectible cards games and board games. There will be a variety of board game tournaments, more details will be available in the next issue of QLA and on the website from Easter 2011.

Trade Hall Hours: 10am till 5pm.

Free Play rooms at the Strathallan Hotel, Edgbaston next door to the Clarendon Suite will be available from 5pm till late. This year we have secured the whole of the Strathallan Hotel for the entire weekend, with plenty of gaming opportunities outside the main Expo site.

Sunday 5th June

Wargame, role-playing and board game tournaments will be running on Sunday, as in previous years. 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 2011 (frozen at 2010 levels):

	2011	Adult	Child	Family
ENTRY TICKET	1 Day	8	5	20
(same as 2010)	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 board game tournaments will continue in 2011. We expect to run Carcassonne, Settlers of Catan and other tournaments. Whilst we haven't yet finalised the details of tournaments, we hope to have some news early in the New Year. In the meantime, if you haven't already seen this, go to <http://www.boardgamegeek.com/thread/569399/world-settlers-of-catan-championship-> to see the report posted by Richard Gough, who was sponsored to attend the World Settlers of Catan championship by virtue of winning the UK Championship, held at the 2010 UK Games Expo. This tournament was sponsored by Heron Games. As you may know, this is a bi-annual tournament; we will be hosting the UK Championship at Expo 2011.

Game Companies

In 2010 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 books, art and jewellery. The good news so far for Expo 2011 is that interest from trade is stronger than at this time in 2010. We are also having enquiries and bookings from new companies based in Europe and beyond, and we hope to have more trade from overseas.

We are planning a designated area for developers of new games to have prototypes of their games on display for feedback and play testing, so that you can be involved in the development of the games you will be playing in 2011 and beyond. We are also hosting an area for authors to display their work, with a number of authors already signed up to attend.

Accommodation

The Clarendon Suites have no hotel accommodation. However, within 500 yards are many hotels. Our website has details of those nearby, here is the link:

<http://www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk/accommodation.php>.

Some details of special deals at hotels have yet to be finalised. We are working to negotiate special rates for you and these will be published on our website once this is done. The Strathallan, the official Expo hotel, will offer open gaming rooms (also open to non-residents) on Friday and Saturday night.

More Information

More information will appear in the April edition of QLA and will also be available on our website as soon as it is confirmed. In 2011 you can look forward to more speakers and seminars, more guests, a revised Living Dungeon (details to be confirmed). We are also hoping to implement a better queuing system with a special pre-booking only system on the opposite side of the Clarendon Suites. Pre-booked tickets can also be collected (from the Strathallan) all day on Friday and from 8am on Saturday morning.

OxCon 2011 Progress Report (Robert Pope)

OxCon 2011 will be held on the 29th and 30th of January, at the same location as last year's -the Mitre Pub on Oxford High Street, OX1 4AG. The room is booked until the closing time of the pub on both days.

As well as any casual games being played, there will be a Puerto Rico tournament on the Saturday and a Settlers of Catan tournament on the Sunday. While we have a few copies of these games, any extra copies that could be used for the event would be greatly appreciated.

The tournaments will begin at 11:00 on each day but we ask that competitors arrive 10 minutes before this so that we can start promptly. There will of course be prizes for the winners of these tournaments.

The cost will be £4 entry (for the whole weekend) plus £3 for each tournament you wish to enter. We hope to see lots of you there, with lots of exciting games; as well as some classics.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me at robert.pope@sjc.ox.ac.uk.

The Queen's Lane Advertiser (incorporating Convention News)

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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

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