The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

Issue Number 36 Printed in Essex July 2011

Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Forthcoming Conventions

| Pasteboard and Plastic 15 Saltdean Scout Hut (about 5 miles east of Brighton) 9 July 2011 http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pasteboardandplastic | Manorcon XXIX Stamford Hall University of Leicester. 15-18 July 2011 www.manorcon.org.uk | Sevenoaks Settlers Tournament III Otford Manor, Sevenoaks, TN15 6XF Sunday 17th July, 2:30-6pm mattyoung27(at)gmail.com |
|---|--|---|
| Evesham Games Day Evesham Town Hall Market Square Evesham Worcestershire WR11 4RW 13th August 2011 m.a.stretch(at)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 |
| Pasteboard and Plastic 16 Saltdean Scout Hut (about 5 miles east of Brighton) 29 October 2011 http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pasteboardandplastic | MidCon Board Games Convention 2011 & EuroDipCon 2011 Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 11-13 November 2011 www.midcon.org.uk | TringCon XXIV Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 31 March 2012 www.fwtwr.com/tringcon |
| | UK Games Expo The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston, Birmingham 25-27 May 2012 www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk | |

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

I start with an apology for the non-appearance of the May issue of QLA. This was attributable to delays at the printer's, occasioned by the ill health of the proprietor.

We have a fall-back option for printing, but it was too late to use it by the time it became apparent that the May edition was going to be appearing after May. This edition will be printed by these alternative means.

I, and David, are asked why we don't just email this out. It is a reasonable question, and there are two answers.

- 1. People's email addresses appear to change far more frequently than their postal addresses, and experience with other convention related e-shots suggests that it doesn't take long for a significant number of emails bounce back.
- 2. A paper publication is harder to ignore, and easier to put in a visible position about the house. It clearly does remind people about conventions, as a significant number of MidCon bookings (for example) arrive on A5 sheets ripped out of QLA.

Nevertheless, contracting out the printing is subject to the availability of our printing contractor, who has being doing the work 'at cost'. This is significantly cheaper than commercial rates at, say, Prontaprint, and the conventions that pay for QLA (which is why readers get it free) would baulk at paying commercial rates

Also, the cost is increasing anyway, both due to increased postage costs, and increased circulation, and the amount of work involved is increasing, as the number of issues to produce (and package, stamp, label, post) increases.

David Norman has proposed the creation of a web-based system that keeps track of everybody's name, postal address, and e-mail address. When a new issue of QLA is ready to print, it is uploaded to this system. For everybody who we have an e-mail address for, it sends them an e-mail to say that the new issue is available. The e-mail also contains a personalised link to go and get it.

When they click the link, they go to a page that gives them two choices to make:

- (1) I do/do not also want a paper copy of this issue of QLA.
- (2) I do/do not also want a paper copy of the next issue of QLA.

The first time they go to this page, the defaults are No to both questions.

Subsequently, the defaults are whatever they chose last time.

The page also has a link to download the latest QLA.

The page also has an option to change their postal address and e-mail address.

Because the link in the e-mail is personalised, David can tell exactly who has clicked the link. If someone doesn't click the link at all, then they are automatically added to the list of people who want a paper copy of the next issue (he won't add them to the list for the current issue, because they may just be taking their time to get around to it).

Thus the worst case is, someone changes e-mail address, so they don't get the notification that the new issue is online, so they miss one issue, before they are automatically reverted to getting paper copies.

This seems like a good hybrid system to me, which enables people who are more comfortable with e-delivery to have it, and those who prefer a physical magazine can have one instead.

If you would like to comment on this, please email at the address on the back page.

European Diplomacy Championships 2011 (Dave Simpson)

UKF2FDip.org is pleased to announce that EuroDipCon XIX is being held in conjunction with MidCon in Derby from the 11th – 13th November 2011.

The tournament format will be familiar to European players and to UK players who have played at MidCon in the past 2 years. We will hold 4 rounds of Diplomacy - Friday evening Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The games will run to Winter 1907 and will score using the C-Diplo 73 system. The tournament will also feature a team round on Saturday afternoon and once the first 3 rounds are completed, the 7 leading players will qualify for Sunday's top board, to decide the title of European Champion of Diplomacy! If that in itself is not enough, the Diplomacy tournament at MidCon is the UK National Diplomacy Championship and is also the last step of the Tour of Britain 2011, so we are looking forward to a great tournament, with the best players in Europe heading to the UK to take on our current crop of players, plus some surprise faces from history!

All the information about MidCon can be found elsewhere in this issue. Booking for EDC is now open and registering once with one fee will admit you to both MidCon and EuroDipCon. You can book up for the convention and accommodation online, at the Boardgamers.org website, http://www.boardgamers.org.uk/booking.php or you can book more traditionally, by post, using a form you can download here... http://www.ukf2fdip.org/Downloads/EuroDipCon11-flyer.pdf. If you intend to play Diplomacy at MidCon, please use this EDC pdf to book rather than the one from the MidCon site, as this one is nicely colour coded to tell the MidCon folks that you are turning up to play Diplomacy primarily. Or at least write Diplomacy on the MidCon form. That way you can get your special EuroDipCon name badge!

More information about EuroDipCon can be found online at http://www.ukf2fdip.org and http://www.eurodipcon.com where you will be able to register for individual rounds of Diplomacy in advance. However, please note that you are not registered for EuroDipCon until you have paid the convention fee to MidCon!

Brighton DipCon II (Dave Simpson)

After the complete success of the first Tour of Britain in 2010, this was a somewhat smaller turnout than expected for the first Diplomacy Tour of Britain event for 2011. Maybe this is the DipCon equivalent of "that difficult second album" – certainly the recession biting is not helping either. Regardless of that, a bunch of intrepid Diplomacy players gathered in Brighton in mid May and 4 rounds of Diplomacy were played over 3 days. Every Tour of Britain event so far has featured at least one player who is new to the F2F tournament scene and almost all of those newcomers have played more Face to Face Diplomacy afterwards, so the Tour is certainly still succeeding in it's aim

of attracting new players to the hobby.

On the occasions where we did not have a full boards worth of players, the Escalation variant was employed. This gives players additional units each (5 rather than the 3 that most players start with in the traditional game) and the players take it in turns to place those units on any supply centre they wish. Careful planning is required here, as you may imagine, as it is easy for a unit or units to become quite isolated from your main force. That may be by design, or maybe a result of the actions of others! At the end of the first year's moves, before adjustments are made for supply centre ownership, each player announces which 3 centres he will use to build from then on. These become his home centres for the rest of the game. The particular variant we used allowed a player to even nominate a supply centre that he did not yet own, on the proviso that he must take it before he can build there. We found that escalation resulted in no early years "phoney war" as players were right in to the action.

When the dust settled and the knives were all safely packed away, the top three places were as follows:

- 1. Graeme Murphy
- 2. Brian O'Farrell
- 3. David Wigglesworth

For full results and information on future events in the 2011 Tour of Britain, head on over to www.ukf2fdip.org.

ManorCon XXIX (Nick Harrison)

www.manorcon.org.uk 15th to 18th July 2011 Stamford Hall, University of Leicester Progress Report Number 2 - June 2011.

Welcome to Progress Report Number 2. ManorCon is fast approaching, so here are the final details you will need before you get there.

Don't forget your chit!

As in previous years, we are issuing chits to everyone who booked accommodation in advance and paid in full. If you've done both of these, you should find a chit enclosed with this Progress Report. You must take this chit with you to ManorCon and hand it in at the ManorCon reception desk to receive your room key. If you forget to take your chit with you, then you will have to queue for a new one. Please note: your receipt CANNOT be exchanged for a key, only your chit can.

If there is no chit included with this mailing, this is probably for one of the following reasons: a) we think you owe us money; b) you are non-resident; or c) we may have made a mistake... In any case, don't worry about it - just come to the ManorCon Registration Desk when you arrive. We will not be sending out any further chits before the convention.

NEWS

Gaming rooms

There is a number of gaming rooms. The main gaming hall is where the ad-hoc gaming will mostly take place. It's also where all the food will be served. There are also rooms for the Diplomacy, the

Pop Quiz and Treasure Hunt, the Second Hand Games Stall, a quiet gaming room, and a couple of other general gaming rooms.

The main gaming room is open from Breakfast until late. The second Hand Games Stall will be locked when not open for sales. The other minor rooms are open 24 hours a day. The night porter will check noise levels.

Food and Drink

Tea and Coffee is available continuously from breakfast until 30 minutes after the evening meal stops serving. The bar will be open 2pm to 1am Friday, noon – 1am Saturday, noon to 1am Sunday and noon to 2pm Monday, but may close early if not doing much business. Note that due to the licensing laws you are not allowed to bring your own alcohol onto the site.

Other facilities

The convention is 10 minutes walk from Oadby centre. Oadby is a suburban centre on the outskirts of Leicester, which has a collection of shops, restaurants, etc. There is also a large Asda between the convention and Oadby. If Oadby does not provide all the facilities you are looking for, then it is about 3 miles from the convention to Leicester City Centre.

Games Stall

Milestone Games have the sole right to sell first-hand games at ManorCon, and anybody else wanting to do so must speak to the committee first. If you wish to pre-order any games for collection at ManorCon, then please contact them on 01455 636 286 or email sales(at)milestonegames.co.uk

Second Hand Games Sale

This is being run by Richard Frost and will run on a similar format to previous years. Selling sessions should be Friday 7.30pm to 9pm and Saturday 2pm to 3pm with pack up by sellers by 4pm Saturday. Booking items by seller should be 5pm through to 7pm Friday and 11am to 1pm Saturday. Sellers will need to sign a terms and conditions sheet — details are on www.manorcon.org.uk. The second hand games stall is run by volunteers, and Richard is currently looking for one or two people to help out. If you can spare a couple of hours, please contact Richard on richard.frost9(at)yahoo.co.uk.

As in previous years, sellers can reduce the price of their games during the morning. The Sellers selling sheet is on the website, www.manorcon.org.uk, which prospective sellers should download to list their games. All games must be collected by 6pm Saturday. Any games not collected by that time will be left in the SHGS room for collection, with the door unlocked. We hope they will not be stolen, but their security from 6pm onwards is the responsibility of the owner. Please note that this facility is not for commercial sales.

Treasure Hunt

This year's treasure hunt will be run by last year's winners "One Phil and Five Fillers" - Phil Hannay, Mark Fox, Mark Rigby-Jones, Robin Walters, Gordon Aickin and Dan Lester. The theme is: "Pit your mental and physical abilities against tests of skill in a race against time across four zones to unlock the mystery of this year's treasure hunt!". It will be held on Sunday afternoon in the bar area.

Closing time....

The convention finishes at 2pm on Monday.

Full directions and a map appear at the end of this progress report, but meanwhile...

Address and Phone Number.

The full address is Stamford Hall, Stoughton Drive South, Oadby, Leicester LE2 2ND Telephone (0116) 221 2035 (John Foster Hall). If you need to contact one of the committee, the ManorCon mobile number is 0797 713 6609 (or +44 797 713 6609 from outside the UK). This can also be used if you want to contact someone who isn't on the committee, but only in an emergency, and only if we can find them... PLEASE do not use this number before the Thursday morning of ManorCon! If you need to contact us beforehand, please phone Steve Jones (01234-405878), or drop us a letter, or email info(at)manorcon.org.uk

Parking

For people in the standard accommodation, park in the car park south of the location. For the people in en-suites, park in the car park adjacent to the accommodation if you can, but as there is building works going on close-by it may not be available. If it is not, park in any University car park nearby. Note that the white lines are a guideline and you can park outside of them if required.

The area in front of the hall will be available for loading and unloading, but should not be used for parking, including disabled parking.

When you arrive....

The ManorCon Registration Desk will be located just inside the entrance to the dining hall. If you are not staying in the University and do not owe us any money, simply collect your badge and programme booklet from the table near the ManorCon Registration Desk. If you have booked accommodation in advance, do not need to make any changes to your booking, and have your chit with you, simply report to the ManorCon check in desk in to pick up your room key, and then collect your badge and programme booklet. ALL keys are to be collected from the ManorCon check in desk.

If you want to make changes to your booked accommodation, or if you still owe us money, or if you have forgotten your chit, you will need to report to the ManorCon Registration Desk first.

Please note: we will NOT be able to make changes to the type of room you have booked. Anyone who has not pre-booked will also need to go to the ManorCon Registration Desk. We hope to have both En-suite and Single rooms available on the door, although it may be that one of these is not available. Once you have registered with us, we will issue you with a chit to be exchanged for your room key. We will also sort out your name badge, any money owing, etc.

Please try to arrange your transport so as not to arrive before ManorCon opens at 2pm on Friday. If you are on public transport and you will be arriving early because that is what the timetable says, or the drive is quicker than you think and you do end up arriving early, you will be able to drop your bags off, but you will not be able to get into the gaming hall. You are welcome to arrive at any time after 2pm on Friday, although if it is after 11pm, the ManorCon Registration Desk may be closed.

Late Arrivals and Changes of Plan

If you plan to arrive on the Friday evening after 11pm, or have transport difficulties and end up arriving late, please let us know. Ring the ManorCon mobile on 0797 713 6609. If you haven't prebooked accommodation but subsequently decide that you do want to stay over, please let us know (either via the ManorCon Registration Desk if open, otherwise track down the committee member on duty) before 11pm on the night in question, as we will have difficulties finding extra rooms after this point.

And when you leave.....

PLEASE NOTE: you **must** vacate your room and return your key by 9:30am on the day of your departure. Also, we will put out a box for you to return your badge.

Tournaments.

Most of the tournaments at ManorCon are Ad-hoc. Just play a game when you want, and put the results in the envelope. We anticipate ad-hoc tournaments for 18XX, Acquire, Dominion, Puerto Rico, St. Petersburg, and Race for the Galaxy. The exceptions are as follows:

Diplomacy, for which you need to sign up by 5.30pm on Friday to play in round 1. For the Saturday tournament, please sign up by 9.30am on the Saturday. The Saturday round starts at 10am. For full details, please see the programme booklet. Prize giving should be completed by 7pm on Sunday. Up to date information will be posted on the Diplomacy notice board. In addition to the main tournament, there is also the Diplomacy Challenge, an individual one round tournament based solely on scores in the Saturday round.

Croquet is a four round knockout tournament. Entries can be made up until breakfast on the Saturday morning, at which point the draw will be done. Advance entries are welcomed for those who will not be arriving at ManorCon before Saturday morning; contact Steve Jones via the ManorCon email address, <u>info(at)manorcon.org.uk</u>. The draw will be posted on the general notice board.

Midnight Party will as usual be run at midnight each night.

Pop Quiz: The pop quiz will as usual be run in the bar area on Saturday night.

Programme Booklet

When you arrive at ManorCon, don't forget to pick up your programme booklet and look through it. It will contain all sorts of useful information such as maps of the building and surrounding area plus directions to the nearest shops, ATMs and restaurants, instructions for finding a committee member, what to do if you have a problem, opening hours of the bar and the canteen, details of the tournaments, and lots more. Be warned that committee members sometimes get exasperated with people who ask them questions for which the answers are in the programme booklet! This year, we hope to have the Programme Booklet on the website in advance. – www.manorcon.org.uk

Directions.... or how to make sure you find us

Public transport directions first:

By air:

The nearest airport is Nottingham East Midlands (www.eastmidlandsairport.com), which has flights to various European destinations and other parts of the UK (see for details).

Other relatively convenient airports served by low-cost airlines are London Stansted (www.stansted-airport-guide.co.uk/) and Luton (https://www.luton-airport-guide.co.uk/).

Intercontinental travellers are likely to have to use Birmingham International, London Gatwick or London Heathrow.

The following sections describe how to get to Leicester (either to the main railway station or to the bus station). Once there follow the instructions below for getting from the city centre to Stamford Hall.

By air, from Birmingham International Airport

Take the free Air-Rail Link to the Birmingham International station - it only takes a couple of minutes. Buy a ticket to Leicester. Take any train to Birmingham New Street (frequent). Change there and take a CrossCountry train to Leicester (approximately every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 1h 20m. Alternatively take the scheduled bus service to Coleshill Parkway and change there onto the CrossCountry train to Leicester. The total journey time is about 1h 10m.

By air, from Nottingham East Midlands Airport

Take the Leicester Skylink bus from the airport to Leicester City Centre (hourly during the day, every other hour in the evening; for timetable see www.skylink.co.uk). The journey time is under an hour.

Alternatively take the Loughborough Skylink bus from the airport to Loughborough station (half-hourly during the day, hourly in the evening; for timetable see www.skylink.co.uk) and then any train from there to Leicester (at least two per hour). The bus journey time from the airport to Loughborough station is about 30 minutes, the train journey time from there to Leicester about 15 minutes.

By air, from London Gatwick

Follow the signs in the airport to the station (if you have arrived at the North Terminal, this will involve using the transit to the South Terminal).

Buy a ticket to Leicester, specifying that you will NOT be travelling on the Gatwick Express service. Take a First Capital Connect train to London St. Pancras (every 30 minutes). From there take an East Midlands Trains train to Leicester (every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 2h 20m. Alternatively continue on the First Capital Connect train to Luton or Luton Airport Parkway and change onto the East Midlands Trains train there. This avoids the short walk between the subsurface and overground parts of London St. Pancras station, but there is only one train to Leicester per hour from each of Luton and Luton Airport Parkway, so you must find out which station it is correct to change at.

By air, from London Heathrow

Follow the signs in the airport to the station. There are three stations - one for Terminal 4, one for Terminal 5 and one for Terminals 1, 2 and 3. The following instructions are valid for all the stations.

Buy an Underground ticket to Zone 1, take the Piccadilly Line from Heathrow to St. Pancras Page 8

(frequent), and then buy a rail ticket to Leicester and take an East Midlands Trains train from London St Pancras to Leicester (approximately every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 2h 30m.

Alternatively - this is a more expensive option - buy a ticket to Leicester valid for use on Heathrow Express services (this will cover both parts of the train journey and also the cross- London transfer on the Circle Line). Take the Heathrow Express train to London Paddington (every 15 minutes). Then take the Circle Line to Kings Cross St. Pancras (frequent), and then an East Midlands Trains train from London St. Pancras to Leicester (approximately every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 2h 20m.

By air, via London Stansted Airport

Buy a ticket to Leicester. Take a direct Central Trains train to Leicester (hourly). The journey time is about 2h 30m.

By air, via Luton Airport

Take the free shuttle bus to Luton Airport Parkway station - it's only just over a mile. Buy a ticket to Leicester. Take a direct East Midlands Trains train to Leicester (hourly). The journey time is about an hour.

By coach

Though not always as fast as trains, coaches provide direct and cheap links between Leicester (St Margaret's Bus Station) and many other cities. Find out more information on bus routes operated by National Express. www.nationalexpress.com Booking line on: 08717 818181. Disabled Persons Travel Helpline: 08717 818179. Textphone: 0121 455 0086.

By train

Details of train times can be found on www.nationalrail.co.uk.

The following paragraphs describe how to get to Leicester from various parts of the UK. Once there follow the instructions below for getting from the city centre to Stamford Hall.

There are direct East Midlands Trains services from Derby, London St. Pancras (Eurostar services from Paris and Brussels arrive here), Nottingham and Sheffield.

There are direct CrossCountry services from Birmingham New Street, Cambridge, Nuneaton and Peterborough.

From much of the South and South East it will be quickest to travel via London, using the Underground to cross London from the relevant rail terminus to St. Pancras (though walking between Euston and St Pancras is also an option if you are lightly loaded). If, however, you have a direct service to Cambridge or Peterborough, it might be quicker to go that route.

From stations such as Brighton and East Croydon that are served by First Capital Direct services, the cross-London journey on the Underground can be avoided by taking one of their trains to St. Pancras.

From the South West a CrossCountry service to Birmingham New Street and then a CrossCountry service from there to Leicester is likely to be the best route. Travelling via Birmingham New Street

will probably also be the best route from South and mid Wales.

From North Wales, the North West and parts of Scotland travelling via Birmingham New Street might be the best option, but if you have a direct service to Nuneaton, it's likely to be quicker to change there.

From the North East and parts of Scotland the best options are likely to be either a CrossCountry service to Sheffield and then an East Midlands Trains service from there to Leicester, or an NXEC service to Peterborough and then a CrossCountry service from there to Leicester.

From the city centre

The easiest way to get to Stamford Hall is by taxi or by bus.

The 31/31A bus service stops immediately in front of the railway station and runs at frequent intervals. The correct stop for the university campus is just before the Asda at Oadby, soon after the junction with the A563 Ring Road (which is also where the racecourse is). You can't see Asda from where you stop so watch for the ring road & racecourse junction. From here it's a 5-10 minute walk up Stoughton Drive South to Stamford Hall.

There are taxi ranks at both the bus station and the railway station.

Useful information.

Up to date travel information can be found in a number of places. As most of you will know, road information is available online at http://www.bbc.co.uk/travelnews/ Useful websites for public transport information are www.arriva.co.uk, http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/, and http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/, and http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/, and http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/, and http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/, and http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/eastmidlands/leicester/home/index.php Finally there is a link from our website to a maps webpage showing the exact location of Stamford Hall. Click the link on www.manorcon.org.uk.

By car

From almost anywhere in the country, the best driving route to the convention is via the M1 Junction 21 - the junction with the M69.

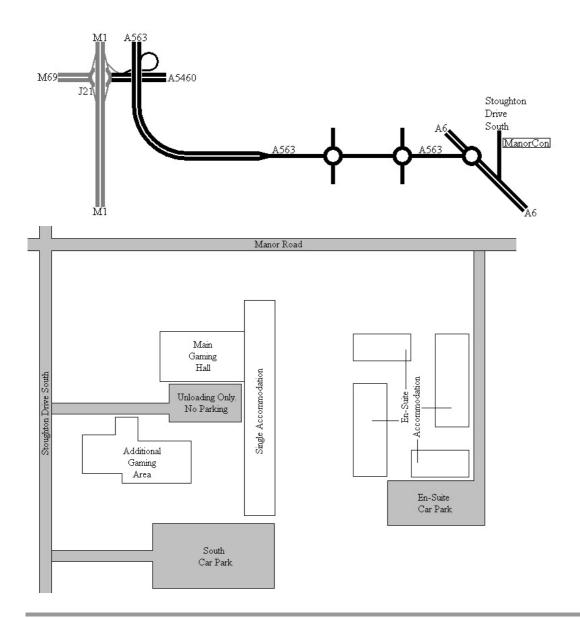
From the M1 J21, take the A5460 towards Leicester for about 1/4 of a mile.

As you go under the A563, immediately turn off to the left, looping back on yourself, and going over the bridge you have just gone under, on the A563 (Leicester ring road) heading around the South of the city.

Follow the A563 for about 4 miles, until you get to the roundabout with the A6.

Take the second exit off the roundabout, turning right. Then immediately turn into the first road on the left - Stoughton Drive South.

Stamford Hall is along this road on your right. If you come to the junction with Manor Road, you've gone too far.



OxCon 2011 Report (Robert Pope, President of the Oxford Board Game Society)

There was a great turn out to OxCon 2011, starting with several of us on the Friday meeting at pizza express for a meal after which we returned to the societies usual meeting place for an evening of games.

The Saturday kicked off at the usual location, the Mitre pub on the high street, with food and drinks available throughout the day. With the Puerto Rico tournament eventually being won by David Buckley with a final tournament score, after 4 rounds, of 15.6. The Sunday saw the Settlers of Catan tournament that after 4 rounds was won by David Van-Cauter with a grand total of 42 tournament points. There were also many casual games throughout the weekend and lots of interesting games that people had brought along. Finally, I want to thank all the people that helped make this year's OxCon such a success.

MidCon XXXII Report (Jeremy Tullett)

MidCon XXXIII takes place in the comfortable Hallmark Hotel in Derby from Friday morning (11am) to Sunday evening (6pm).

Mid *Con* is about playing games and meeting people. You can play any of the number of games people bring along with them, including the hot new games from the Spiel games fair in Essen, which takes place just a few weeks before **Mid** *Con*. Popular games include 18XX, Puerto Rico, Power Grid and Agricola, 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.

The convention features:

- the opportunity to play board games with other gamers
- the MidCon general knowledge quiz for teams of 4 on Saturday evening
- a games shop
- a Bring & Buy stall where you can sell your games, or pick up a bargain

Costs

Attendance at **Mid**Con costs £17-£20 for the whole weekend (day rates of £10 for each of Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and accommodation is available in the Hallmark Hotel or its sister establishment, the European Inn across the road, at reasonable rates. Both hotels have dedicated, free, car parks.

Derby railway station is about 50 metres away, and there is a bus link from there to East Midlands airport.

The City

Derby has a new Westfield centre for shoppers, and old 'cathedral quarter', and a number of interesting museums. There are at least two dining areas in the city (one near to the hotels), and a busy nightlife as well as several 'real ale' pubs.

Registration Fee and Room Prices

See the following booking form.

When complete, return the form, together with your registration fee (payable to "**Mid**Con") to: Jeremy Tullett, **Mid**Con, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR

Current Registrations

As of June 21st, the following registrations have been received: Phil Honeybone & Bekki Warren, Graeme Murphy, Chris Martin, Bill O'Neill.

MidCon 2011 and EuroDipCon 2011 Booking Form

Registration Fee: £17 per person for the whole weekend, when booked before 1st November, £20 afterwards, and on the door. A single registration fee covers both events. The day rate is £10 per day. Please note: convention fees are *not* refundable.

Our block booking is held until 14th October, so YOU ARE ADVISED TO BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

After November 1st 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

Room Prices

Hallmark Hotel Accommodation: Bed and breakfast prices of £56:00 Single, £70:00 Double / Twin Thursday 10 November 2011 available at £76:00 Single, £90:00 Double/Twin

European Inn Accommodation: Bed and breakfast prices of £46:00 Single, £60:00 Double /Twin Thursday 10 November 2011 available at £66:00 Single, £80:00 Double / Twin

The European Inn is 50 metres from the Hallmark, across the street.

Payment for the Registration Fee and for Accommodation

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

| Name(s) | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Address | | | | | |
| | | | | Tel: | |
| Post code | | | | 101. | |
| E-mail | | | | - | |
| l enclose a sterling cheq 1 st November) for: | ue (paya | ble to "MidCon | ") at £17 (£20 a | | above for registration rates) |
| Accommodation deposits menumber and expiry date, or well- Please select one of the follow | ith a sterlir | ng cheque made o | ut to the 'Hallmar | | |
| I hereby give permission details are given <i>here:</i> | for Mid Co | on to pass my cree | dit card details to | the hotel to reser | ve my room. My credit card |
| Name on Card | | 16 Dig | it Card Number | | Expiry date |
| I enclose a sterling cheq | ue for 50% | of the total cost o | f my room bookir | ng, payable to "H | allmark Hotel". |
| HOTEL NAME? | | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |

| HOTEL NAME? | inursaay | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| N° of single rooms | | | | |
| N°. of twin rooms | | | | |
| N ^{o.} of double rooms | | | | |
| Sharing with | | | 1 | |

You will settle anything charged to your room directly with the hotel on your departure.

The cancellation policy of the hotel is complicated; please seek advice from a member of the **Mid**Con committee if you have to cancel to minimise your financial exposure.

UK Games Expo 2011 (Mick Pearson)

UK GAMES EXPO 2011 "Everything about games" 3rd to 5th June 2011

www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

Thank you

Firstly, thanks to all QLA readers who attended UKGamesExpo 2011. For those who couldn't be there in 2011, there is always 2012.

Expo 2011 – a few facts

Well Expo is over for another year. This was our fifth show and it broke records in many areas. The number of visitors was up on last year, our pre-booking sales went through the roof and increased by about 40%, trade attendance was higher than ever, with space being sold out by mid-April. We had more tournaments and role play slots than ever before and the largest single tournament we have ever run -100+ played the Warmachine Hordes tournament. We even had a Viking invasion just outside the Clarendon Suite.

We also implemented a new ticketing and queuing system, with an additional entrance at the rear of the building. This worked very well – on Saturday those who had pre-booked and collected their tickets were all inside the building by 9.37am. Those who paid at the door and were in the queue when the doors opened were all inside within 20 minutes. This was achieved without the stress of last year, stress for both organisers and attendees alike. This system will be back for 2012 – oh yes, we have already made the decision to hold the sixth Expo in 2012.

Board Game Results

We would like to give our thanks to David Norman, David Clousseau, Richard Walker, Leon Smith and Barry Ingram for organising the organised board game events. Another successful series of tournaments. Here are the results for those events:

| Agricola |
|----------|

1 – Ian Shirley 2 – Mark Alcock 3 – Clare Baker

Carcassonne

1 – Peter Boswell 2 – Richard Gough 3 – Mike Collins

Congratulations to Peter, who will represent the UK in the world championship event, to be held in Germany later this year, expenses will be paid for Peter to attend the championship.

Powergrid

1 – Lyndon Gurr 2 – Wayne Gallaer 3 – Ashley Dixon

Settlers of Catan

1 - Bijan Mehdinejad 2 - Sam Hobday 3 - Ming George

Congratulations to Bijan, who will represent the UK in the Settlers of Catan World Championship in 2012, together with the winner of the Settlers of Catan UK Championship in 2012. Travel expenses will be paid for the winners to attend the championship.

Puerto Rico

1 – Kath Collman 2 - Jim Clokey 3 - Steve Jones

St Petersburg

1 – Natalia Batalovia 2 – Steve Jones 3 – Gary Duke

Overall Winner

1 – Richard Gough 2 – Natalia Batalova 3 - Bijan Mehdinejad

Flames of War

1 - Roger Whittam (48 pts) 2 - Simon Breen (47 pts) 3 - Kevin Brewin (46 pts) Best General

The Streets of Malifaux

1 - Adam Naisbitt 2 - Steve Pretlove 3 - Des Neverborn Best painted crew - (Outcasts) (Neverborn) Kevin Dowsett

Warhammer 40K

1 - Karl Bickley 2 - Adam Ryland (Ch. Space 3 - Rob Madeley (Daemons of

(Eldar) Marines) Chaos)

Kniziathon (Points in brackets)

1 - Zoe Kilford (99) 2 - Jean Kilford (65) 3 - Geoff Kilford (52) 4 John Breakwell – (46)

Games Expo Awards

The list of new games entered into the awards at Expo was again high, with a scramble to have products available for judging at the last minute. The winners, voted for by you as well as our play testers, were as follows:

| Category | Game | Producer |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Best Board Game | Ankh Morpork | Treefrog Games |
| Best Abstract Game | Cubulus | CoiledSpring Games |
| Best Miniatures | Wars of Tonan | Tablewarfare |
| Best Card Game | Braggart | Spiral Galaxy Games |
| Best Party Game | The Know it Game | Pants on Fire |
| Best Family Game | Kingbrick | Kingbrick |
| Best Roleplay Game | All For One | Triple Ace Games |
| Best Stand | | Triple Ace Games |

Other Gaming News from Expo

Some other activities you may have seen or heard about included a Family Zone, this time running across both days; this was well-attended, especially on Saturday. The Family Zone is designed to encourage people to try games, and hopefully encourage new people into the hobby, something we are keen to promote by devoting space to.

The seminar schedule also returned to Expo 2011, and it now ran across both Saturday and Sunday. There was a board game designers' panel on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday Lewis Pulsipher gave tips on how to design a good board game. Seminar attendance was another area that was up on 2010 numbers.

Stop Press #### Stop Press

Dates for UKGamesExpo 2012 have been announced. Expo will be held from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 May 2012. This will be a week earlier than previous shows; the change is due to the Queen's

Jubilee event taking place on our regular weekend. Sadly our influence with Her Majesty was not good enough to persuade her to move the dates to accommodate Expo.

All the best – Richard, Tony, Mick and Pat

(If you have any questions email me at mick(at)ukgamesexpo.co.uk)

The Queen's Lane Advertiser (incorporating Convention News)

Editor: Jeremy Tullett

Coordinator: David Norman

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(at)ellought.demon.co.uk

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