

# The Queen's Lane Advertiser

*(Incorporating Convention News)*

Issue Number 43

Printed in Wiltshire

April 2013

Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Inside this issue:

- **MidCon** 2013 Progress Report
- Manorcon Progress Report
- BBBCon (Southend)

## Forthcoming Conventions

<b>Pasteboard and Plastic</b> Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 20 April 2013 Details: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k">http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k</a> Map: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng">http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng</a>	<b>Beer and Pretzels</b> The Town Hall Burton upon Trent 18-19 May 2013 <a href="http://www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php">www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php</a>	<b>UK Games Expo</b> NEC Hilton Metropole Birmingham 24-26 May 2013 <a href="mailto:richard@ukgamesexpo.co.uk">richard(at)ukgamesexpo.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk">www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk</a>
<b>BBBCon</b> Skylark Hotel, Aviation Way Southend-On-Sea Essex SS2 6UN 21-23 June 2013 <a href="mailto:gamingfun@bbbcon.org.uk">gamingfun(at)bbbcon.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.bbbcon.org.uk/">http://www.bbbcon.org.uk/</a>	<b>Raiders of the Game Cupboard</b> The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street Burton upon Trent DE14 1DR 22 June 2013 <a href="http://www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk">www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk</a>	<b>Summer StabCon</b> 5th - 7th July 2013 Britannia Hotel Stockport <a href="mailto:bookings(at)stabcon.org.uk">bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk</a>
<b>Pasteboard and Plastic</b> Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 13 July 2013 Details: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k">http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k</a> Map: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng">http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng</a>	<b>Manorcon XXXI</b> John Foster Hall, University of Leicester 2pm 19th July–2pm 22nd July 2013 <a href="mailto:info@manorcon.org.uk">info@manorcon.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.manorcon.org.uk">www.manorcon.org.uk</a>	<b>Mindsports Olympiad</b> University of London Union Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY 17-26 August 2013 <a href="http://www.msoworld.com">http://www.msoworld.com</a>
<b>Raiders of the Game Cupboard</b> The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street Burton upon Trent DE14 1DR 28 September 2013 <a href="http://www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk">www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk</a>	<b>TringCon XXVI</b> Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 28 September 2013 Keith Thomasson: <a href="mailto:tringcon(at)fwtwr.com">tringcon(at)fwtwr.com</a> <a href="http://www.fwtwr.com/tringcon">www.fwtwr.com/tringcon</a>	<b>MidCon 2013</b> The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 8-10 November 2013 <a href="http://MidCon.org.uk">MidCon.org.uk</a>
<b>Pasteboard and Plastic</b> Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 16 November 2013 Details: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k">http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k</a> Map: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng">http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng</a>	<b>Free Games Days (Burton)</b> <i>The New Talbot Inn</i> <i>Anglesey Road</i> <i>Burton on Trent</i> <b>Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday from 14 April</b> <b>2013 12:00-22:30</b>	<b>Derby on Board Games</b> Bean Caffe, Friar Gate Studios, Derby Last Wednesday of the month 17:30-22:30

**Note: details about Free Games Days (Burton) revised after paper publication.**

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## Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

At **MidCon** four or five years ago, a flurry of folk came to see me, to tell me all about the games shops that they were opening. Their motive, doubtless, was to get the ‘franchise’ for the **MidCon** games stall, but it was encouraging to see that there was ostensibly a market to support them.

Since then, two significant suppliers of games appear to have suffered trading problems, so perhaps the market isn’t that buoyant after all. However, I am now seeing another trend – the sprouting of one-day, and shorter, games meets.

**MidCon**, ManorCon, StabCon, and BayCon continue to do what they always have done, **MidCon** is seeing year-on-year growth (I have no figures for the other events), and BBCCon makes its debut this year in Southend. However, there are now three regular weekend or one-day events in Burton-on-Trent, where the presence of Spirit Games has doubtless encouraged a gaming community in the area. Here in Derby, there are two monthly evening events, and there is also a University group that welcomes new players. Andrew Tampion continues to offer regular sessions on a Saturday (in Hinckley), and Alan Harvey hosts occasional Saturdays at his house in Derby. I am also aware of groups in Chesterfield, and Sheffield, and **MidCon** committee member Paul Oakes attends a number of events in the Liverpool area. Given that there are also active gaming communities in London, Brighton, and Birmingham, one might suppose that there are a lot of games being played in semi-formal circumstances right across the country, which is a Good Thing if one has any missionary zeal about the pastime shared by the readers of this little publication.

Personally, I find these smaller events refreshing. I don’t get to play much at **MidCon** – the downside of being in charge – and have been ambivalent about attending Manorcon for some years, as I have not liked the venues – perhaps the new one will be better. In any case, I tend to find that by the time I get to play the game of the moment, everyone else has played it to death, and I just get thrashed and/or receive lots of free advice about why I shouldn’t have done *that*.

The local events appeal to me because they are less intense. The people like playing games, not analysing them to the n-th degree, and I get to play new-to-me titles that may be recent or old. Also, the constraints of a 5-hour evening in any case encourage people to break out short and medium length games, so the risk of a mind-numbing session of **Agricola** is considerably reduced.

In this vein, I shall mention that the aforementioned Mr. Tampion has just had a Saturday afternoon session. Seven of us played two basic games of **7 Wonders**, and we then split, with four playing **1812: The Invasion of Canada**, and the other three playing something else.

**7 Wonders** was new to me, and I liked it. I am not quite sure why. The mechanic is similar to, say, **Dominion**, which I don’t much care for, but it looks a good deal nicer, and I think there’s more player interaction, although only with the players to one’s left and right. I understand that it has won loads of award, and is already sprouting expansion sets.

It is likely that I would not have got to play this at a major convention, unless someone in my ‘clique’ happened to have it. Not that it would not be available, but there’s so much else to do.

I was pleased to be able to play **1812** with more than two players. It worked well, and with two of us looking after an American faction each, and two looking after three ‘British’ factions (in a 1:2 split), some team work was required, which I had hoped would happen. This game (which I obtained a few

weeks ago) appears very balanced, easy to play, and ultimately quite gripping. You don't quite know when the game will end, so it is advisable to be quite pro-active. After a quiet-ish start, the game developed into a sustained struggle for the area around what is now Toronto, whilst the American forces for a while threatened to capture Montreal, with a small incursion at the western end of the lakes. After a frantic last turn, the British side came out just ahead.

It is a game with perhaps more subtlety than might first appear. The British militia appear in numbers, but have a tendency to run away as the first opportunity, whilst the American regulars are highly effective, but cannot be deployed in strength. There's certainly an art in creating mixed ability armies.

I'll close by mentioning the card game **The Resistance**, which I met at the Caffe Bean group in Derby. It is an amusing little game of trying to deduce the identity of the traitor in the resistance cell. It was quite hilarious when one of the players was wilfully creating misinformation, even when he was on the good side. The game is probably even better after a few drinks and a curry. This may indeed be one for a major convention.

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### **MidCon 2013 (Jeremy Tullett)**

The booking form for **MidCon 2013** follows on the next page. I have yet to confirm the Thursday night room prices for the Hallmark Inn, but I don't think anyone has ever stayed there on Thursday night (only a very few people arrive before Friday morning at all).

The bookings website is not ready as I write this, but should be available by the time you read this. David will be improving it in due course, to address some comments about it, but it should be done in good time for Manorcon.

I am pleased to re-iterate that we have taken an extra room for the weekend, so that should help to relieve the peak time issues of finding a table. I don't think we actually ran out of tables last year, although it was close. I know one party took itself and some games off to the Brunswick Inn, but this was more than a little motivated by the beer on offer there, rather than specific space problems.

People wishing to sell second-hand games might like to start think about what they want to shift, as John is definitely hoping to pull the cataloguing together before the event. There are also plans afoot to create a new design of T-Shirt. As I am holding a fine collection of blank shirts, I am certainly hoping that the Design Department does indeed some up with something. Hint.

Spirit Games is booked in again, and David has probably ordered some sedatives, lest the Saturday night quiz should double in size again. Basically, we're all ready to go.

One minor disappointment for those that used it – the local Fish and Chip has gone. As far as I can determine the nearest chippie is now in the city centre, although the extensive range of eateries and other takeaways in the vicinity of the hotel remains.

## MidCon 2013 Booking Form Registration Fee

£20 per person for the whole weekend, when booked before 1<sup>st</sup> November, £25 afterwards, and on the door. The day rates are £10/£15/£10 for Friday/Saturday/Sunday. Please note: convention fees are *not* refundable.

**Our block booking is held until 12 October, so PLEASE BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.**

After October 12th, rooms will be open for sale to the open public, and so are likely to sell out. After 1<sup>st</sup> November 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.

### Payment for the Registration Fee and for Accommodation

For the **registration fee** we accept payment by PayPal (visit [www.MidCon.org.uk](http://www.MidCon.org.uk) for details), sterling cheques (made out to "MidCon Convention"), cash, or transfer to "MidCon Convention", Lloyds TSB Colmore Row 30-00-03 03033129. Please provide your name and postcode as a reference with direct transfers. We *cannot* collect convention fees from credit cards.

<b>Name(s)</b>			
<b>Address</b>			
<b>Post code</b>		<b>Tel:</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>			
<b>I enclose a sterling cheque (payable to "MidCon Convention") or I have made a bank transfer to MidCon (delete as appropriate) for £20 per registration (£25 after 1<sup>st</sup> November)</b>			

### Bed and breakfast prices per room per night

	Thu	Fri / Sat	Twins / doubles are available for single occupancy, at the full room rate.  The convention closes 6pm Sunday, but anyone wishing to stay on Sunday night will get the Friday / Saturday room rate.
Hallmark Hotel Single	£64.00	£59.00	
Hallmark Hotel Twin / Double	£78.00	£72.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	(£54.00)	£49.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	(£67.00)	£62.00	

***Charges to your room are your responsibility, and are to be paid on 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 sterling cheque made out to the 'Hallmark Hotel', accompanied by this form.

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

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 **here**:

Name on Card	16 Digit Card Number	Expiry date

- I enclose a sterling cheque for 50% of the total cost of my room booking, payable to "Hallmark Hotel".

<b>HOTEL NAME? (Hotel / Inn)</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>N<sup>o</sup> of single rooms</b>				
<b>N<sup>o</sup> of twin rooms</b>				
<b>N<sup>o</sup> of double rooms</b>				
<b>Sharing with ...</b>				

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

# ManorCon XXXI

19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013

John Foster Hall, University of Leicester

The organization for ManorCon XXXI is proceeding well. If you haven't booked yet, remember that you can do so in two ways. You can book online via PayPal or a credit or debit card – visit <http://www.manorcon.org.uk/book.htm> and follow the links. Or you can still post a form and cheque – the form can be found at the same place if you need one (and the form is also in the previous QLA, or can be requested by phone/post – see below for contact details). Please remember that **advance registration is only available until 15<sup>th</sup> June**. After this, you will have to register at the door and pay higher registration fees and accommodation charges (and you may not get any accommodation at all – our supply of rooms is fairly limited).

If you have booked, but need to cancel all or some of your booked accommodation, you should inform us as soon as possible. If you cancel by the booking deadline, then you will definitely avoid cancellation charges. Thereafter, the later you leave it to inform us, the more likely you are to suffer accommodation cancellation charges.

ManorCon is run by volunteers, and does not aim to make a profit. In order for us to keep this tradition, we ask for volunteers for a number of tasks. One of these is help with the registration desk, usually by manning the desk for an hour on the Friday afternoon. If anybody asks anything you don't know, just point them at the nearest committee member – it's not difficult. If you would like to help us out and failed to mention it when booking, please e-mail us at [regdesk@manorcon.org.uk](mailto:regdesk@manorcon.org.uk).

This year, as usual, we will have a mix of scheduled and ad-hoc tournaments, plus some other competitions and events.

## **Scheduled tournaments:**

Croquet – knock-out tournament limited to a maximum of 16 players.

Diplomacy – individual rounds at 1800 on Friday, 1000 on Saturday, and 1000 on Sunday.

Midnight Party – three rounds, at midnight each evening.

## **Ad-hoc tournaments (play games as and when you wish):**

18XX

7 Wonders

Dominion

Puerto Rico

St Petersburg

## **Other events:**

**Games Stall.** Once again, Milestone Games will be running a games stall for new games and gaming accessories. They will provide a 15% discount to all purchases, and there will be some special offers as well. If there is anything specific you would like, you can contact them at [sales@milestonegames.co.uk](mailto:sales@milestonegames.co.uk).

**Pop Quiz** – on Saturday evening.

**Second Hand Games Sale** – Sara Merritt will be looking after the sale again this year so make sure you dig out your juiciest games for her to sell for you! She would like help with the following: Fri 7-8pm and Sat 1.30-2.45pm (games and crowd management) and Fri 7.15-8.15pm plus Sat 1.45-2.45pm (selling). If you would like to apply for either of these prestigious (but paid only in glory/VPs) positions, or have any questions, please contact her at saraljpx@gmail.com.

**Treasure Hunt** – on Sunday afternoon.

Please note that, for several reasons, including the need to ensure there is sufficient space, the selling of games other than via the Games Stall or the Second Hand Games Sale should not be done without permission from the ManorCon Committee (contact details below).

There will be trophies for:

1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Diplomacy, and 18XX.

The winners of the 7 Wonders, Croquet, Dominion, Puerto Rico, and St Petersburg.

**As of 19<sup>th</sup> April the following 60 people have registered:**

Richard Adams	Alan Gates	Graeme Murphy	Adam Siejka
Malcolm Booker	John Gates	Neil Munkman	Marek Siejka
Tim Cooper	David Goldthorpe	David Norman	Andrew Simpson
David Cowie	Hannah Gordon-Smith	Craig Nye	Dave Simpson
John Cudmore	Chris Green	Chris Paterson	Ken Simpson
Shaun Derrick	Steve Guest	Andrew Pelton	Stephen Simpson
Gary Duke	Geoff Hardingham	Nigel Pepper	Paul Speck
David Durant	Jeff Hawker	Darrell Perrins	Mark Stretch
Mark Eddy	Paul Heppell	Josh Perrins	Edward Swalwell
Andy Edgell	John Hopkins	Annie Percik	David Tittle
Jonathan Elcock	Steve Jones	Julie Richards	Michael Townsend
Clark Fenney	Kevin Lee	Paul Richards	Daniel Victor
Ian Fleming	Gary Lyon	Rachel Robson	Simon Wilcock
Simon Forth	Sean MacMhaoinigh	Michael Roscoe	James Winteler
Mark Fox	Pete Mason	Ursula Searle	Mark Wright

If you think you are missing from this list, please let us know as soon as possible, but remember that the list only shows those who had booked by 19th April. If you booked after that date, your name will not be on the above list, but you should have received confirmation of your booking from Gary Duke.

You can also contact us:

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

By phone: +44 (0)1234 405878.

By email: [info@manorcon.org.uk](mailto:info@manorcon.org.uk)

On BoardGameGeek: <http://www.boardgamegeek.com/guild/441>

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5594179334&v=wall>

And our website is <http://www.manorcon.org.uk>

# **TRIPLE-B CON**

## **SKYLARK HOTEL, Southend-on-Sea Essex**

### **21-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013**

Southend Board Game club is proud to announce a new gaming convention onto the calendar, on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 at the Skylark Hotel in Southend-on-Sea. We will be hosting a three-day board gaming convention + standard bring and buy table, game trader, plus Saturday night quiz.

The Skylark Hotel has kindly offered to reduce their rates to £80 for a double room and £90 for a single for two nights stay per person. Along with their restaurant menu we will also have available a breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet.

We have 3 convention rooms including a quiet room and some unique tables for various games.

We are just 2 miles from Southend Airport Station and just a 15-minute drive from Southend's Seafront, which has the longest pier in Europe, and also has Adventure Island amusement park - so bring the family too.

Price for the convention will be £20 for the entire weekend or £10 per day; children under 10 are free.

When booking at the Skylark please quote Triple B for the reduced rate.

For further details and booking please go to [www.bbbcon.co.uk](http://www.bbbcon.co.uk)

Or contact me @ [alex.anastasiou4@gmail.com](mailto:alex.anastasiou4@gmail.com)

My number is 07557116249.

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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

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

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