

The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

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Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Inside this issue:

- Alors! A week of boardgames in France.
- Manorcon 2014 progress report
- Yorkshire DipCon 2014
- MidCon Booking form

Forthcoming Conventions

25th Beer and Pretzels The Town Hall Burton upon Trent 17-18 May 2014 www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php	UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole Birmingham 30 May - 1 June 2014 richard(at)ukgamesexpo.co.uk www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk	Yorkshire DipCon 2014 The Lawns Centre The University of Hull Northgate, Cottingham HU16 5SQ 20-22 June 2014 http://www.ukf2fdip.org/index.php/tob/yorkshire-dipcon-2014
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXVII The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street Burton upon Trent DE14 1DR 21 June 2014 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	Summer StabCon 4 - 6 July 2014 Britannia Hotel Stockport bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 12 July 2014 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng
The Great Derby Boardgame Bash The Spot Wilmot Street West Derby DE1 2JW 11:00-23:00 12 July 2014 nicolacheney(at)googlemail.com	Manorcon XXXII John Foster Hall, University of Leicester 2pm 18th July–2pm 21st July 2014 Info(at)manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk	The Cast are Dice Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College 9 - 10 August 2014 http://www.thecastaredice.co.uk/
Mindsports Olympiad JW3, Finchley Road, London 17 - 25 August 2014 http://www.msoworld.com	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXVIII The Salvation Army Citadel Mosley Street Burton upon Trent DE14 1DR 27 September 2014 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon XXIX Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 27 September 2014 Keith Thomasson: tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon
Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 1 November 2014 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	MidCon 2014 The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 7-9 November 2014 MidCon.org.uk	Derby on Board Games Bean Caffee, Friar Gate Studios, Derby Last Wednesday of the month 17:00-22:30

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

MidCon 2014: The bookings page at <http://www.boardgamers.org.uk/booking.php> is now open, and we have had our first four registrations. There is a paper booking form on page 7 of this publication.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in Derby ... Nicola Cheney has organised a one-day boardgames event for Saturday 12th July, the weekend before Manorcon. Nicola runs the last-Wednesday-of-the-month games evening at the Bean Caffe in the city, and hopes to get over 100 to her new event. The East Midlands seems to be a veritable hive of gaming activity these days. Beer 'n' Pretzels has been running for yonks in Burton-on-Trent, along with Raiders of the Lost Game Cupboard, of course, but there are several other gaming groups in Derby that I know of, but don't have time to support.

Apart from Nicola's coffee-fuelled event, there's one in the Brunswick Inn (real ale), one above a wholefood café, one at the university, and one - more traditionally - at the British Legion, and another at the Furnace Inn. Must be something in the Derbyshire water.

Massively overspent, and very late, the Edinburgh tram is finally into a test run session. This hugely controversial project, which will open still short of its original planned route, will link the airport to the city centre and Waverley railway station. It remains to be seen whether it will really deliver anything useful, and history is not a reliable guide.

The Sheffield tram systems was widely seen as a vanity project (and has been accused of running from nowhere to nowhere), which does now seem finally to be hitting its stride, whereas the Manchester system has always quite successful, as it gradually replaces a lot moribund or closed suburban railway lines. It is becoming ever more popular, its secret being, perhaps, that it actually goes where the users wish to travel. The system in Birmingham is getting into its stride, phase 2 – an extension into the heart of the city - now being under construction, and will very likely become as successful as Manchester's, as it seems to have the same philosophy behind it.

For sound technical reasons, tram (or train/tram) systems are a good deal cheaper to run than so-called heavy rail systems, and passengers generally prefer them to busses, but the initial capital cost is horrendous, so the local council has to have deep pockets to get started.

Derby, in common with many other cities, used to have a tram system, but I don't see that ever coming back, as it would only ever duplicate bus routes, whereas in Nottingham, there's a mix of new build, and adopted railway lines, which perhaps explains *its* success.

As part of a busy Bank Holiday weekend, I used the Newcastle Metro to get out to the Airport (a transport link with an obvious purpose) to meet guests for a busy weekend hurtling around Co. Durham, taking in Barnard Castle, the Sage, Tynemouth Priory and Castle, Souter Lighthouse and a Steam Rally. The weather was never better than adequate, but as I type this (Tuesday) the sun has inevitable appeared.

Barnard Castle has a number of antique ships, including one belonging to David Harper of Bargain Hunt Fame. The last time I went to Barnard Castle (2005) his shop was quite ordinary, but fame appears not to have done his business any harm, and there are some very expensive pictures in the window now – more of an advertising space than a shop.

Spring Harvest Holidays Board Games Week (Matt Young)

Building on the success of the inaugural board games week last year, Spring Harvest Holidays welcomes gamers of all abilities to our 4* holiday park in Western France.

Join like-minded gamers for a week of socialising, relaxation and light-hearted competition! Le Pas Opton is a Christian holiday park, with optional Bible studies and worship throughout the week, but we welcome people of all faiths and none.

The week starts with a relaxed programme, enabling you to play all your favourite games and learn some new ones as well. Later in the week you can really show your competitive side, taking part in a number of tournaments. These will include regular tournaments for games like Settlers of Catan and Carcassonne, as well as the pioneering 'Hexathlon', in which participants play a variety of games over three days and count their best six results – a fantastic challenge!

If you ever need a break from the gaming, there are plenty of other options available. You can use the heated swimming pool, play table tennis, pool, table football, volleyball, boules, and there's a takeaway and coffee shop adjoining the extensive bar area (featuring wifi) that forms the main gaming area – with tables inside and out. Other activities will also be organised, such as the traditional pub quiz and a film evening, and there are plenty of attractions off-site, such as the beach, which is a 10-minute drive away.

A variety of accommodation options are available, from simple mobile homes (or just a room in one) to luxury villas, all at extremely low end of season rates (e.g. £599 for a villa for 8 people, including Dover-Calais ferry crossings for one vehicle!).

Getting there is easiest in shared cars taking the ferry or Eurotunnel across the Channel – we can book these for you at reduced rates. You can also fly to Nantes (an hour from the site) from various UK airports, and either hire a car from there or use our shuttle bus service.

For more information, prices and photos, please see www.springharvestholidays.com/board-game-week. You can also email info@springharvestholidays.com, or call 01825 748318 to chat about it.

Summary:

Spring Harvest Holidays Board
Games Week 2014
Le Pas Opton
Vendée region (Western France)

8-15th September 2014
info(at)springharvestholidays.com
www.springharvestholidays.com/
board-game-week
01825 748318



ManorCon XXXII

18th to 21st July 2014

John Foster Hall, University of Leicester

The organization for ManorCon XXXII 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 /email – see below for contact details). Please remember that **advance registration is only available until 14th 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.

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
- Tzolk'in
- More to be determined...

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.

Pop Quiz – on Saturday evening, run by Phil Hannay. This year with less dub step, promise!

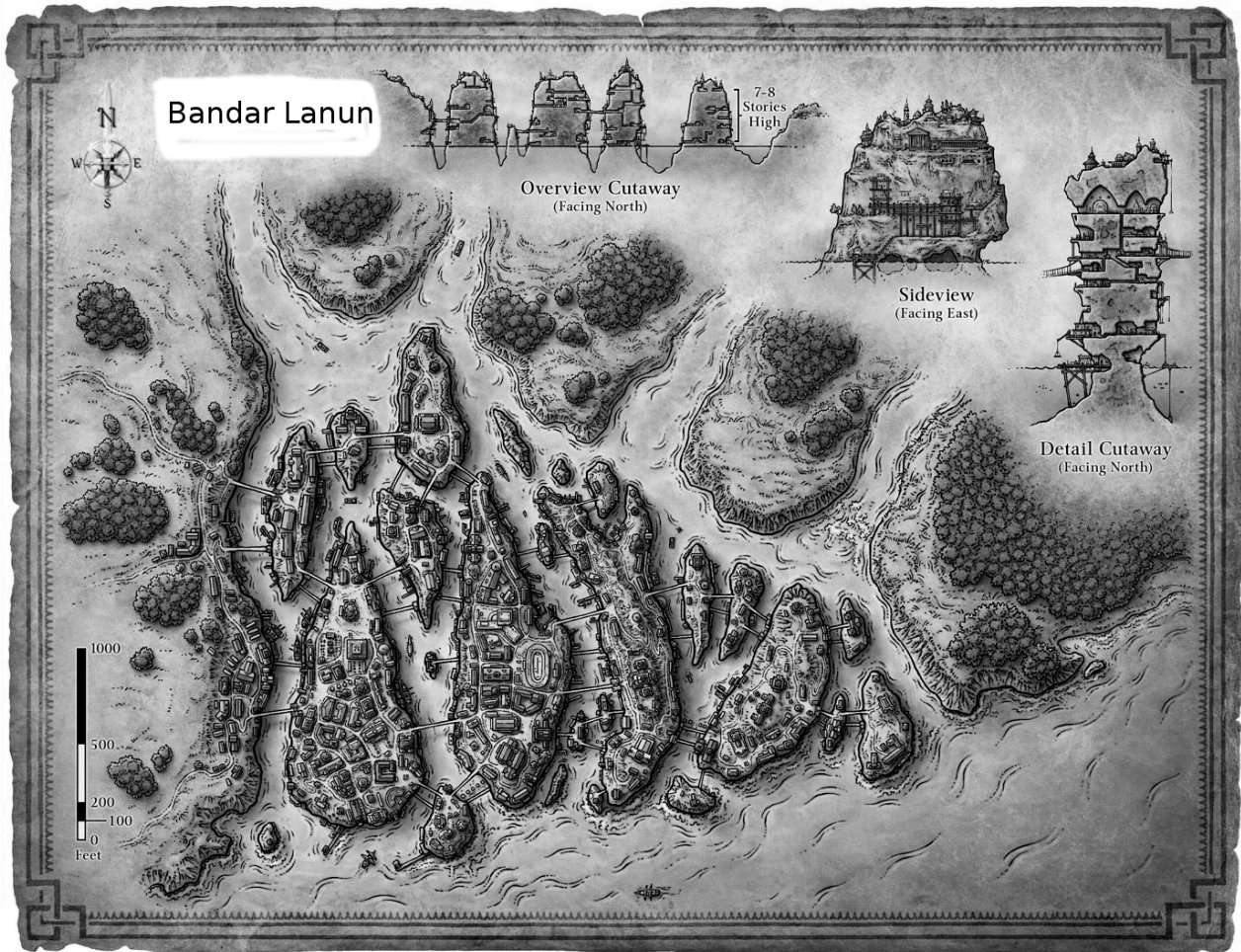
Second Hand Games Sale – Sara Merritt will be looking after the sale again this year so make sure you dig out your juiciest games for her to sell for you! She would like help with the following: Fri 7-8pm and Sat 1.30-2.45pm (games and crowd management) and Fri 7.15-8.15pm plus Sat 1.45-2.45pm (selling). 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:

Welcome, travellers, to the island city of Bandar Lanun!

Visitors marvel at its cliff-side rope bridges and gawk at its many hanging prison cells, temporary homes to ruffians, spies, thieves, and, worst of all, gambling cheats. She is a city built on vice; her two true loves are food and gaming, and she overindulges in both. Bandar Lanun is a crossroads for some and a destination for others.



Dare you take up the challenge of the Pirate Quest, puzzling your way through the city with your trusty crewmates in pursuit of the grand prize?

Mind your step, and keep one hand on something solid—like your wits! Step right up, enter the lift, just a coin per head for a scenic ride to the top. Beats scaling the stairs, if you don't mind me saying. The finest gaming houses await you at the top of this chain, ready to challenge a clever sort like yourself. And welcome, one and all, to Bandar Lanun!

Five teams of up to six welcome – just put yourself down on the sign-up sheets displayed all weekend.

The Treasure Hunt starts at 2pm on Sunday 20th July – guaranteed over by 5pm.

Hope to see you there!

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:

- 1st to 3rd in the Diplomacy, and 18XX.

- The winner of the Croquet.

As of 17th April the following 51 people have registered:

Richard Adams	Martin Holden	David Robson
Peter Boswell	Philip Honeybone	Rachel Robson
Paul Cockburn	John Hopkins	Ursula Searle
David Cowie	Steve Jones	Tim Sharpe
Gary Duke	Kevin Lee	Dave Simpson
Jerry Elsmore	Gary Lyon	Richard Solomon
Mark Fox	Dane Maslen	Stuart Stafford
John Gates	Pete Mason	Mark Stretch
Paul Gelder	Bill Mayling	Edward Swalwell
Hannah Gordon-Smith	Neil Munkman	Steve Thomas
Chris Green	David Norman	Dave Thorby
Mark Green	Chris Paterson	David Tittle
Geoff Hardingham	Nigel Pepper	Michael Townsend
John Harrington	Darrell Perrins	Tim Troman
Nick Harrison	Andy Pelton	Daniel Victor
Jeff Hawker	Sue Phillips	Phil Ward
Paul Heppell	Stewart Pilling	Rebecca Warren

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 17th 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

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>

MidCon 2014 Booking Form

Registration Fee

£20 per person for the whole weekend, when booked before 1st 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 7th October, so YOU ARE ADVISED TO BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

After October 7th, rooms will be open for sale to the general public, and so are likely to sell out. After 1st 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 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.

Name(s)			
Address			
Post code		Tel:	
E-mail			
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 1st November)			

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. <i>Charges to your room are your responsibility, and are to be paid on departure.</i>
Hallmark Hotel Single	£TBA	£61.00	
Hallmark Hotel Twin / Double	£TBA	£74.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	£TBA	£51.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	£TBA	£64.00	

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".

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

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

Yorkshire DipCon 2014

Friday 20th June 2014 to Sunday 22nd June 2014

The Lawns Centre, The University of Hull, Northgate, Cottingham, HU16 5SQ

Yorkshire DipCon is a new addition to the UK Face to Face Diplomacy Group's Tour of Britain and will take place at The University of Hull's Lawns Centre in the village of Cottingham, located on the outskirts of Hull.

The Diplomacy tournament will consist of between 3 and 4 rounds (depending on numbers). These will take place on the Friday evening, Saturday morning/early afternoon, Saturday evening and Sunday morning/early afternoon. Games will use the C-Diplo Scoring System and run until the end of 1907. Trophies and certificates will be available for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and there will be some especially themed Tournament Director awards made for more, shall we say, 'unusual achievements'.

The games will take place in two, newly refurbished, meeting rooms within the Lawns Centre that will be available for our use 24 hours per day over the weekend so lots of chance to play some other games once the Diplomacy has finished for the day. Please note that this will include the Sunday night for those players leaving on the Monday. Please note that gaming areas will also be available on the Monday too for those hardened players who never know when to stop!

Entry fee for the whole event will be £10.

Accommodation can be provided on site at Ferens Hall. Rooms are newly refurbished and en-suite and are only a two minute walk from the Lawns Centre itself. They are available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights on a B&B (£25 per night) or Self Catering (£20 per night) basis.

Please note that you will be allowed to bring your own food and drinks (including alcoholic beverages) onsite throughout the event.

Advance Bookings for Yorkshire DipCon 2014 are now being accepted at the UK Face to Face Diplomacy Groups website (www.ukf2fdip.org) where you can also find lots more information about the event, the accommodation and the UK Diplomacy hobby as a whole.

The Final Word

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](mailto:david(at)ellought.demon.co.uk)

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

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