

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

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- Reports from Manorcon XXXII and Spring Harvest Holidays
- **MidCon** 2014 Progress Report
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Forthcoming Conventions

MidCon 2014 The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 7-9 November 2014 MidCon.org.uk	Winter StabCon Britannia Hotel Stockport 2-4 January 2015 bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXIX Waterside Community Centre Heath Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 9LF 3 January 2015 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk
SoRCon 8 Holiday Inn Basildon Essex 27 Feb – 1 Mar 2015 www.sorcon.co.uk	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXX Waterside Community Centre Heath Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 9LF 28 March 2015 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon XXX Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire March 28th 2015 Keith Thomasson: tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon
UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole Birmingham 29 - 31 May 2015 richard(at)ukgamesexpo.co.uk www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXXI Waterside Community Centre Heath Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 9LF 27 June 2015 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	ManorCon XXXIII John Foster Hall, University of Leicester 17-20 July 2015 Info(at)manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk
Board Game Week Le Pas Opton, France 14 - 21 September 2015 Springharvestholidays.com/board-game-week	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXXII Waterside Community Centre Heath Road, Burton upon Trent DE15 9LF 26 September 2015 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon XXXI Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 26 September 2015 Keith Thomasson: tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon
	Derby on Board Games¹ The Bookcafe, Cornmarket, Derby Last Wednesday of October and November 4pm- 10pm	

¹ The first meeting (September) at the new venue recorded an astonishing 80 attendees!

MidCon 2014 (Jeremy Tullett)

Registrations

As of 15th October, we have over 120 registrations, which is the most at a month out, certainly since 2003, and about 10 ahead of last year.

These are the people that have registered through me. If you think you should be on the list, and are not, please let me know.

Ben Bateson	Andrew Havery	Anthony Kelly	Alan Gates
Colin Harden	Andy Walker	Daniel Victor	Alex Anastasiou
Dave Thorby	Andy Wright	Geoff Sampson	Alex Everard
David Blowers	Angela Counce	Graham Keyte	Andy Pelton
David Norman	Barrington Beavis	Ian & Ann Wilson	Bill Mayling
David Van-Cauter	Bill Mayling	Ian Fleming	Christine Richardson?
Graeme Murphy	Clive Francis	James Goodman	Craig Parnell
Jeff Edmunds	Dave Thornton	John Harrington	David Clasby
Jen Marshall	David Simpson	John Hopkins	David Smith
Jeremy Tullett	Derek Wilson	Joseph Loveland	Eleanor Parnell
Jerry Elsmore	Eric Norton	Kevin Shaw	Greg Moor
John Colledge	Gary Duke	Lee Edwards	Hilary Jones
Jon Draper	Geoff Hardingham	Lyndon Gurr	Iain Alexander
Kath Collman	Herbert Gratz	Mark Wright	Jeff Cousins
Keith Rapley	Jan Petruccio	Mick Brennan	John Bennett
Ken Simpson	Jean Letley	Nick Eades	Joy Williams
Kieran Symington	Kevin Lee	Nick Harrison	Mark Jones
Larry Devis	Kevin O'Connor	Paul Allwood	Michael Everard
Malcolm Booker	Mark Fox	Paul Oakes	Mike Moor
Michael Roscoe	Martin Brumm	Paul Savin	Owen Richards
Nick Harrison	Martin Holden	Paul Tomlinson	Paul Evans
Paul Heppell	Nigel Pepper	Peter Eldridge	Pete Mason
Paul Speck	Peter Campbell	Rachel Haynes	Peter Card
Peter Jenkins	Richard Adams	Richard Beattie	Phil Lee
Phil Ward	Shaun Derrick	Roger Ayre	Philip Pettifer
Phil Woods	Steve Jones	Ruth Cooper	Phillippa Parnell
Philip Honeybone	Steve Thomas	Seth King	Richard Frost
Rebecca Honeybone	Stewart Pilling	Simon Craddock	Richard Minson
Ruth Jenkins	Susan Killean	Simon Miles	Rob Kinsey
Sean Byrne	Tina Walker	Stephen Webb	Susan Parnell
Simon Forth		Tony Bromley	

The Great MidCon Bring 'n' Buy Games Sale

Mr. Harrington informs us that organization of the Bring 'n' Buy would be a break with tradition. However he has also revealed that the timings and location for the Bring & Buy will be the same as last year, i.e. in the Milldale Room. Sellers attend 12:00-12:45 Saturday, buyers attend 13:00-13:30 and 18:30-19:00.

There will be a 5% commission charged on sales to help offset the cost of the room, which we cannot use for games during Saturday.

Mr. Harrington would be pleased to receive lists of items for sale from sellers in advance of the session, as it makes preparation a good deal less stressful for him.

Some Do's and Don'ts for Those at MidCon.

- **Do** register your car with the Inn or the Hotel if you are using their car park. The management threatens dire things for unregistered cars.
- **Do** approach committee members if you have problems. Members of the committee will be

given distinctive badges, and may even wear them. Failing that, look for a balloon. There should be a committee member underneath it.

- **Do** check all of the games rooms if space is short in the Garden Room, as tables and chairs can often be found elsewhere. We are allowed to use the public areas of the lounge and bar (although the hotel would probably prefer that we did not), but we also have the option of opening extra rooms if required. I believe that last year we found a small syndicate room with a single large table especially for an extensive multi-player game that someone had set in motion.
- **Do** take dead glassware, plates, and cutlery back to the bar. The staff does occasionally sweep through the rooms, but you'll create more room on the tables if the washing up is removed.
- **Do not** bring in your own food for consumption, especially hot take-away food. It offends the chef, who wants to feed you himself.
- **Do not** bring in your own alcoholic drinks. The hotel is very likely to charge corkage if they catch you at it, and they would really rather you didn't do it all.

Travel News

London Road was closed last year, but was supposed to have opened again at the end of August. It didn't. The latest estimate is 'before Christmas', so beware. Anyone approaching the from the south via the A6 should follow the diversion through Pride Park right up to the lights at Intu Derby (formerly the Westfield Centre), left up Traffic Street, and left again southbound along the A6, before meeting the junction with Midland Road, and turning left again.

The major works on the A38 just to the north of Derby are completed.

There is the usual catalogue of railway engineering work across the country on **MidCon** weekend, but I don't see anything significant on the Midland Mainline or on Cross-Country routes. If you plan to leave by train on the Sunday, you are advised to check your plans, as scheduled work often changes at the last minute.

Spring Harvest Holidays Board Games Week 2014 – A Report (Matt Young)

The second year of the Board Game Holiday at Le Pas Opton in Western France saw increased numbers journeying over to the site for a great week of fun and friendship. The pile of games available was immense, and despite everyone having a good go at playing games whenever possible, we still barely scratched the surface!

With the sun out all week, many games were played outdoors on the warm bar terrace, and the swimming pool was very popular at the end of an afternoon. Being able to intersperse the gaming with other activities like volleyball, table tennis, pool and boules made for a great variety of options.

As well as free gaming, the week's programme included three tournaments: Settlers of Catan, Carcassonne and 7 Wonders. All were won by different people, all of whom were different from the winners of last year's tournaments! The week also featured the second ever games Hexathlon, with players recording results of all their games across three days, and counting the best six (from different games). Great victories were enjoyed all round, but in an extremely tight finish, James Porter narrowly lost out to John Crosby.

The dates for next year have already been set as 14 - 21 September 2015. Prices are to be confirmed, but end of season rates are extremely cheap - see the website for details, or contact Matt Young in the Spring Harvest Holidays office. It would be great to have you join us!

matt.young(at)springharvestholidays.com 01825 748318

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 Bank 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

EuroDipCon News from Our Man in The Know (Dave Simpson)

EDC 2014

So a total of three Brits headed out to Rome in early September to compete in EuroDipCon. Messrs Harris, Simpson and Tullett all arrived the day before and hence were able to visit some cultural sites as well as sharpening the knives. Central Rome is not that big, so walking is an option.

Toby and I stayed out at Piramide the day before, so were removed enough from the tourist areas to enjoy more typical Roman life and a friendly local cafe with one of the Dutch players before heading on in to the centre of Rome to see the Colosseum and walk through the forum past the Il Vittoriano through the Piazza Venezia, where we would meet the following day, in the Palazzo Venezia, to start the tournament. This is now Rome's school of Diplomacy (you know, proper diplomats) as well as being infamous for including the balcony from which Mussolini declared war on Britain and France. We then repaired to an Irish bar (as you do) to spend the evening with a few dippers. (Swimming? Ed.)

Before the tournament, we saw the Pantheon, which was my first visit, but this is the kind of place that will never get old, you can visit it many times. The largest brick built dome in the world, literally a temple to all gods. It's a must see.

The tournament itself started with a welcome event with home cooked treats and drinks, before round 1. The first day saw Dave as the best placed Brit, in 6th. A group meal out on Friday night was a good end to the first day, albeit noisy and crowded. Hardy souls adjourned to a bar for more 'socialising'. Two more rounds on Saturday saw Jeremy as the leading Brit, although since that was a lofty 16th place, clearly we'd not be winning much! Another meal out, this one in more spacious surroundings ended Saturday night. Sunday's round featured the top board and a small moment of triumph for Jeremy and Dave who both successfully bet on Peter McNamara to win! Once the smoke cleared, Toby finished as best Brit, in 6th.

The Italian hobby is definitely the gathering storm in the Diplomacy world, they're getting more organised, there's a whole bunch of decent players and they're also starting to travel more as well. Watch out, world!

EDC 2015

My personal highlight of the Rome EDC was, however, successfully bidding for EuroDipCon 2015, which will be held at ManorCon in July next year.

This gives us the opportunity to revive the world famous (well, in Diplomacy circles anyway) ManorCon team tournament, with the original seven players per team format, giving the team tournament on Saturday some added importance this year.

The team round counts as part of the individual competition, but we will also be crowning the winning team as EDC Team Champions. Seven players in a team, one team member playing each country - that's not happened at ManorCon for many years. So if this piques your interest, collar some of your old (or new) comrades in arms, form a team and watch out for signup information at ManorCon.org.uk.

There is also an official email address for EDC2015: [edc23\(at\)manorcon.org.uk](mailto:edc23@manorcon.org.uk)

ManorCon XXXII - Results

For the second year, ManorCon XXXII was held in John Foster Hall, and once again, it was a great success. Many of the teething problems of last year were resolved (although we did have one or two new ones – more information on that in the feedback section), and in general, things ran very smoothly.

We discontinued several tournaments after last year, but this did not reduce the number of games being played, and our one new tournament for 2014, Tzolk'in, saw 16 players take part on Saturday morning. Depending on demand, we may or may not run it again in 2015, and we may also introduce a new tournament or two, if there are any suitable new games. If you have any suggestions, or even better, if you would like to volunteer to run a tournament, please contact the committee.

Looking forwards to next year, ManorCon has been selected to host the European Diplomacy Convention (EDC), so we will be expecting a lot more Diplomacy players than normal, including many from around Europe, all vying to be crowned European Diplomacy Champion. We are currently finalising the details of how this will fit in with the rest of ManorCon, but we will definitely be using some of the expansion space that we have not used in the last two years. And for the non-Diplomacy players, we are well aware that there are over 200 of you, so while EDC will require some additional effort on our part, and some changes to be made, they will not be at the expense of making ManorCon as good as ever for all attendees.

Treasure Hunt

About 25 people took part in 5 teams, in a pirate-themed treasure hunt that only took about 1.5 hours. "Team Traitor" came out victorious, and won the rights (or should I say, obligation) to set the hunt next year. Congratulations to Gordon Aicken, Dan Lester, Chris Martin and Phil Williams.

Tzolk'in

16 players played in a three-round knockout tournament.

The first round was four 4-player games, with the winners, second places, and highest scoring third place going through. The results were (players going through in bold)

Philip Honeybone	73
John Webley	62
Kevil Shillito	50
Peter Boswell	35

Stephen Frye	63
Ian Hayward	61
Rob Cowan	60
David Norman	36

Peter Campbell	116
James Faulkner	101
Steve Jones	98
Robert Matthews	50

Andy Pelton	78
Steve Cox	65
Phil Davies	62
Gary Duke	51

The second round was three 3-player games, with the three winners and the closest second place going through. The results were (players going through in bold)

Ian Hayward	56
Andy Pelton	54
Steve Jones	35

Peter Campbell	101
Steve Cox	43
John Webley	25

James Faulkner	125
Stephen Frye	70
Philip Honeybone	68

In the final:

James Faulkner	105
Peter Campbell	89
Ian Hayward	54
Andy Pelton	29

Congratulations to James on the win. Thanks go to the tournament sponsors, CGE, who provided promotional tiles for everybody who played in the tournament, and a copy of the expansion for the winner.

18XX

The 18XX tournament had 17 players playing 13 games, a slight increase from last year. The games included three 18Ard, two 18GB, and one each of 1861, 1873 (Horzbahn), 18OE, 1870, 1858, 1846, 1761 and 18Africa. There were four players in contention for the three trophies on hand, but the multiple game winners (three of them!) all suffered at least one bad game which dragged their scores down, whereas Danny Victor had one overwhelming win, a very close second in a high scoring game and a very respectable position in a third. Congratulations to Danny on winning the tournament.

Rank	Name	Games	Wins	Score
1	Danny Victor	3	1	112.56
2	Dave Berry	4	3	99.33
3	Jon Draper	4	2	89.27
4	Peter Eldridge	5	3	77.81
5	Matthew Barratt	3	1	71.50
6	Ian D. Wilson	5	1	71.12
7	David Smith	2	1	68.53
8	Steve Thomas	3	0	68.53
9	Colin Harden	1	0	64.78
10	Dave Thorby	3	1	63.27
11	Mark Ashfield	1	0	51.30
12	Simon Craddock	1	0	50.37
13	Marcus Barbor	1	0	49.28
14	Geoff Hardingham	4	0	32.61
15	Allen Stanicus	4	0	17.98
16	Ken Simpson	6	0	7.30
17	John Hopkins	3	0	-20.37

Croquet

Seven people signed up in the end, so everyone got a bye in the first round. I gave Mick a bye for the second round as well, and randomly drew the match-ups - with an eight-sided die and a four-sided die! After doing the draw, the tournament more or less ran itself. Congratulations to Mick for winning it yet again.

Since the same faces seem to be winning it every year, I have decided that the tournament needs a re-design. Next year, Mick will be automatically in the Final, and we will have a knockout between every other player who enters to decide who faces Mick in the Final and for the ManorCon Croquet Challenge, which will be a new trophy. The Finalists will play for the usual Croquet trophy.

Mick Haytack		Mick Haytack	14	Mick Haytack	14
Bye					
Sue Philips	6	Stuart Stafford	7		
Stuart Stafford	14				
Richard Solomon	3	Philip Honeybone	4	Martin Burroughs	1
Philip Honeybone	14				
Bekki Honeybone	6	Martin Burroughs	14		
Martin Burroughs	14				

Midnight Party

3 games - at Midnight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Rank	Name	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Overall
1	Mike Townsend	10	9		6.33
2	Steve Guest	8	9	7	6.00
3	Niel Munkman	3	11		4.67
4	John Mitchell	5	7	6	4.50
5	Gail Baker	6	2	9	4.25
6	Ian Wilson	9	5	2	4.00
7	Tanya Lim	7		4	3.67
8	Alex Zbyslaw	4	4	6	3.50
9=	Robert Cowan	6			3.00
9=	Rowan Baker	6			3.00
11	Dave Holmes	2	6	3	2.75
12	Chris Burnham	7		1	2.67
13	Hannah Gordon-Smith	4			2.00
14=	Dave Cowie		3		1.50
14=	Gemma Haigh	3			1.50
16	Stewart Pilling	3	1		1.33
17	Stuart Malaure	2			1.00
18	Alan Bellamy	1			0.50

Diplomacy

This year, the Diplomacy tournament changed format, with games shortened to 1907 to play in about four hours. A new scoring system was devised which aimed to keep the ManorCon tradition of rewarding divide-and-conquer, but with more emphasis on the divide element, to allow for the fact that some powers are much less able to become huge in a shorter game.

A small improvement in numbers saw three rounds played, with the tournament director not needed in any of the rounds. Achieving big scores in two of the three rounds, Jim Mills came out as the clear winner.

Friday 1			
Austria	Simon Chandler	5	12.92
England	Andrew Havery	6	16.10
France	Dave Simpson	10	33.05
Germany	Graeme Murphy	6	16.10
Italy	Steve Agg	1	4.45
Russia	Jim Mills	1	4.45
Turkey	Dave Wreathall	5	12.92

Saturday 1			
Austria	Dave Wreathall	7	18.16
England	Steve Agg	1903	0.30
France	Jim Mills	10	30.47
Germany	Andrew Havery	9	25.98
Italy	Dave Simpson	5	11.91
Russia	Graeme Murphy	3	7.23
Turkey	Simon Chandler	1904	0.40

Sunday 1			
Austria	Steve Agg	1907	0.70
England	Dave Simpson	2	5.24
France	Graeme Murphy	7	17.42
Germany	Jim Mills	12	38.95
Italy	Simon Chandler	8	20.97
Russia	Steve Massey	1907	0.70
Turkey	Andrew Havery	5	11.42

Rank	Name	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Overall
1	Jim Mills	4.45	30.47	38.95	73.87
2	Andrew Havery	16.10	25.98	11.42	53.50
3	Dave Simpson	33.05	11.91	5.24	50.21
4	Graeme Murphy	16.10	7.23	17.42	40.74
5	Simon Chandler	12.92	0.40	20.97	34.30
6	Dave Wreathall	12.92	18.16		31.09
7	Steve Agg	4.45	0.30	0.70	5.45
8	Steve Massey			0.70	0.70

Pop Quiz

Eight teams took part in this year's Pop Quiz, this year run by Phil Hannay. Seven rounds of questions, with a mix of music, which definitely didn't include any dubstep! Phil also had an array of videos on the screen to accompany the quiz, making a very slick production.

Team	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Lyrics	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Total
Cheating Pitch Invaders	20	14	12	13	18	20*	13	130
The boys are Bach in Town	13	12	10	13	7*	9	16	87
5 point penalty for pitch invasions now	16	17	16*	12	11	17	18	123
Where's the quiche?	10	11	12*	7	4	12	5	73
Team Fat Sofa	19	19	13	9	20*	14	11	125
Traitor Phil Must Die	16	16	16	12	12	15	14*	115
D4v3 & Teh N00bs	12	18	15*	9	17	12	15	113
Panic! At the Manorcon	16	12	17*	6	9	13	17	107

Congratulations to Martin Burroughs, John Gates, Dave Gittins and Richard Ramsden on their win.

The rounds were:

Round	Title	Description
1	These are not the songs you are looking for two: The artists strike back	Hear a top 10 UK song. Identify the artist (1 point) and a different top 10 UK song by the same artist (1 point)
2	Crushed Potato in the Sky	Mashups of 2 songs: 1 point for each song title
3	Who's theme is it anyway, Doctor?	Cult TV Themes. Name the show for 1 point, 20 questions
	Lyrics	Lyrics with word(s) missing, fill in the blanks for a point each. All blanks are board games
4	Stop Yankovicing My Chain	Parody songs. Identify original song and artist (1 point each)
5	... I Have No Words	Clips of nonsense words/humming. Name song and artist (1 point each)
6	Ancient Bronze Both Ways	Metal covers of Classical music [name composer/piece for 1 point each] and Classical covers of metal songs [artist/title for 1 point each]
Joker		Each team could play their joker at the start of a round (marked with an asterisk), and scored double for that round.

Your Feedback

Thank you to everybody who filled in a feedback form. Once again, the food and drink dominated the comments we got.

Firstly, depending on what time you arrived at breakfast, you may or may not have encountered the chaos. Due to “staffing issues”, things ran out, things weren't ready, etc. We have discussed this with the Event Management team at the University. They are not happy with what we are reporting, and will be making sure it does not happen again. We will be bringing this up with them again at our April meeting, to make sure the issues have been understood and resolved.

Secondly, on the questionnaire this year, we asked about whether the food quality should be worse, the same or better, and whether portion sizes should be smaller, the same or larger, with the implicit cost implications. Unsurprisingly, almost nobody wanted smaller portions or lower quality food. Of those who completed the questions as written, about 20% wanted higher quality food, and 25% wanted larger portions.

However, about 20% of the responses were “spoilt papers” - i.e. in general, they selected larger portions or better quality, but deleted the cost implication from the answer. We would have thought that the fact that this isn't an option would be obvious (or we'd have jumped at it already). But one response is a very good starting point for explaining why. They wrote: “it's too expensive - around 50% more than our works canteen (which is not subsidised)”.

The problem is, there are many differences between the two, all of which work in the works canteen's favour. Because they are operating 5 days a week, every week, they are manned by employees, whereas our food at ManorCon is a one-off, so manned by people who have to be paid a day-rate. The works canteen operates Monday-Friday, and only in the middle of the day, whereas we are asking people to work evenings and weekends, so that will also mean they have to be paid a higher rate. And the University don't make any money out of ManorCon from us being there, all their income is from the bedrooms, food and bar, so while the works canteen may not be subsidised, it's still not comparable with the University food, which has to be profit-making. As such, it's a surprise that the ManorCon food is only 50% more expensive!

We will talk to the University about what can be done, but suspect that the only option will be to either keep the status quo, or increase the registration fee to subsidise the food.

Thirdly, there was much less choice of real ale this year. This was due to a communication error. We selected nine different barrels, but the bar manager understood it to be “a selection from” these nine which was required, not one of each!

On other fronts, there was once again, a slight shortage of tables. But we have improved the situation compared to 2013, and will be looking to improve it again in 2015.

And once again, there was a lack of parking space within the grounds of John Foster. But space was available in adjacent car-parks, it just meant a short walk for some people to get to their car.

Finally, we also received some feedback about problems with the bedrooms (e.g. shower cold, room not serviced, etc). As ever, if you do have such a problem, please report it to the committee as soon as you get a chance, as this allows us to report it up to the University who will get it resolved quickly. They do have people on duty during the weekend to resolve problems such as these, and those problems which were reported to the committee were resolved quickly once we knew about them.

If there is anything you think we haven't picked up, please feel free to contact the committee so we can look to improve it for next time.

Lost Property

We have four items of lost property this year – as usual. They are games that have become separated from their owners:

- Perudo
- Ido
- Beim Zeus!
- Drunter und Drüber

If any of these are yours, please contact a member of the committee to claim them.

Thanks

ManorCon is run completely by volunteers. Some of those volunteers are daft enough to call themselves the committee, and spend 12 months a year organising ManorCon. But they could not do it by themselves. Therefore we'd like to thank everybody else who helped with the running of ManorCon XXXII:

For their help on the Registration Desk: Peter Campbell, Kath Collman, James Goodman, Dane Maslen, Bill Mayling, Graham Miller, Eric Norton, Helen Payne.

For organising tournaments: Dave Durrant, Mark Fox, Paul Grogan, Steve Guest, Phil Hannay, Annie Percik

For hosting the convention, and being ready to deal with problems as quickly and effectively as always, the University of Leicester.

Rounding Things Up

The number of attendees was identical to last year, at 242. There were 200 on Friday, 239 on Saturday, 214 on Sunday, and 132 on Monday. The number of rooms used was 179, down by 4 compared to 2013 (despite having sold more rooms in advance than we did in 2013). And the use of the Internet for booking has also stabilised, with 75% of bookings now being made via the Internet.

We look forwards to seeing you there for ManorCon XXXIII on 17th to 20th July 2015.

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

The 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.

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