

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:

- MidCon 2016 Opens for Booking
- Yorkshire DipCon 2016 Progress
- Manorcon XXXIV Update – including this year's venue change

Forthcoming Conventions

Beer & Pretzels The Town Hall, Burton upon Trent 21-22 May 2016 www.spiritgames.co.uk/articles.php?menu=11	UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole Birmingham 3 - 5 June 2016 richard(at)ukgamesexpo.co.uk www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk	Yorkshire DipCon 2016 The Lawns Centre, The University of Hull, Northgate, Cottingham, HU16 5SQ 17-19 June 2016 www.ukf2fdip.org
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXXV Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 25 June 2016 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	Summer StabCon Britannia Hotel Stockport 1-3 July 2016 bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk	ManorCon XXXIV Stamford Court, University of Leicester 15-18 July 2016 info(at)manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk
Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 16 July 2016 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	The Great Indoors Event Bromsgrove Rugby Football Club, Finstall Road, Bromsgrove, B60 3DH Saturday 30 July 2016 http://www.greatindoorsevent.uk	Mindsports Olympiad JW3, Finchley Road, London 21-29 August 2016 http://www.msoworld.com
Boardgame Week Le Pas Opton, France 12-19 September 2016 Springharvestholidays.com/boardgame-week	Dragondaze Newport Centre, 1 Kingsway, Newport, Wales, NP20 1UH Saturday 17 September 2016 http://allis020.wix.com/dragondaze	CastleCon Flanesford Priory Ross-on-Wye 18 September-2 October 2016 https://www.boardgamegeek.com/guild/2397
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXXVI Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 24 September 2016 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon XXXIII Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks 1 October 2016 tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 29 October 2016 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng
MidCon The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 11-13 November 2016 MidCon.org.uk	Boardgames at the Manor Otford Manor TN15 6XF 9-11 December 2016 www.oakhall.co.uk/manor office(at)oakhall.co.uk	TringCon XXXIV Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 1 April 2017 tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon
SoRCon 10 Friday 24th to Sunday 26th February 2017 Holiday Inn, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3DG http://www.sorcon.co.uk		

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)



In the final week of April, the office cricket team ‘enjoyed’ a game played in a balmy 10 degC, and interrupted by a hailstorm. I, on the other hand, was in the Algarve sitting around under cloudless skies, in daytime temperatures of over 20 degC.

It was necessarily a quiet week, as by the time one gets as far west as Luz, there is not a great deal to see or do. However, there are a number of pleasant harbours and towns to walk around, with cafes and bars a-plenty in which to strike poses for the camera.

As the place names testify – many of them starting with ‘Al’ – the whole area fell under Moorish control, and much of historical interest reflects this, notably the castles at Silves (L) and Aljezur (R).



The Romans were there too, but it was something of an outpost for them, and little physical evidence of their presence remains.

The exploration of the New World was heavily sponsored by Henry the



Navigator, and the ports at Sagres and Lagos were departure points for a number of voyages of discovery. Statues of him pop up all over the place.

Unfortunately, the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 levelled most buildings in Portugal south of Lisbon, so few general points of architectural interest remain to look at.

It is thought that the tidal waves from the earthquake reached Brazil, and 10-foot waves washed the shores of Cornwall. Indeed, some seismologists believe that we may be due another one from the same region shortly, and the damage caused by the ensuing tsunami on the coasts of western Europe and America would be significant.

The Algarve is also famous for its golf courses (of no interest to me), and its beaches. Even in April, the famous beaches at Albufeira and Praia da Rocha are busy, but further west they were almost deserted, and some were clearly ‘family friendly’ with decent cafes and facilities nearby. The one picture, we found almost accidentally, while driving along a quiet back road. There was a particularly fine ginger cat prowling around the café here.



The town of Luz, or Praia da Luz as the press refers to it, is where Madeleine McCann vanished nine years ago. There is little evidence of the event there, apart from some graffiti that suggested that at least some of the residents are rather tired of the whole thing. The story and all of the conspiracy theories surrounding it can be found in several locations on the Internet, so I don’t intend to discuss the details of any of that here.

However, I did take the opportunity to visit the scene of the crime, it being just behind the supermarket that we happened to be using.

The apartment from which the abduction occurred is in a residential street, on the edge of a small holiday complex. One week from the anniversary, I can report that the streets were pretty much deserted, and occupancy at the complex seemed to be very low.

On the one hand, this would make it easier to commit any crime unobserved, and, on the other, any suspicious behaviour would have been quite obvious had anyone spotted it.

Two men *were* witnessed each carrying a small girl in the area at the time of the abduction, one of whom has been identified and eliminated from enquiries.

It was said, after the event, that strange people had been hanging around the area in the preceding few days, possibly with a view to committing burglaries, but hindsight is a wonderful thing. Some of the local residents that I saw about the place were quite colourful, but that doesn't make them potential burglars or abductors, and therein lies the big problem with the case – there are very few objective facts available. Apart from the disappearance of Madeleine herself, pretty much everything else is witness testimony, and some forensic evidence, the reliability of which has been called into question.

Theories abound as to who did it, but it now seems very unlikely that Madeleine will ever be found, either alive or dead.

My holiday reading has been *The Algebraist* by Ian M. Banks.

I guess that readers of this publication probably either like science fiction, or they don't, and then they may favour various sub-genres. I have read most of his novels, and am particularly fond of those involving the Culture, and its talking spaceships.

The Algebraist is not a Culture novel, but it might as well be, with the sweeping plot, the various storylines heading inexorably to the conclusion where they all meet, and collections of characters good and bad in nature, The Archimandrite Luseferous being a particularly enjoyably nasty piece of work.

It is a long book, and I am still only about halfway through it. It kept me occupied on the outbound and inbound flights, and whilst sitting on the terrace. There was another three-hour opportunity for reading whilst we were kicking our heels at Faro airport, but it is hard to concentrate at the same time as one is trying to understand why Easyjet is not getting you home.

All credit to them though, for dishing out refreshment vouchers (as they are required to do) without prompting. They were not worth a lot, but covered the price of a toasted sandwich.

Having a smartphone, I was able to keep track of what was going on with the flight in more-or-less real time, and work out that the information being relayed to passengers was at best out of date, and possibly wilfully misleading.

It turned out that the rostered aircraft had developed a mechanical fault, necessitating a change of plane for the outward flight. That had then had to return to the gate from the runway at Luton because of a 'baggage problem', so we arguably did quite well to touch down only 2h50 late, irritatingly just a few minutes inside the level of delay required for a compensation payment.

Various apps and websites enabled me to track the aircraft in real time as it headed for Portugal, and it was certainly apparent at one point that it had not left the tarmac in the UK while Easyjet was still showing a slight delay. One did at least know not to head for the gate when it was called, because there was no plane to get on to.

We had a similar experience at Heraklion a few years ago. Most of the passengers dutifully went to an impossibly small, facility-less gate area, and were stuck there for two hours. We, sitting in the café overlooking the runway, could see that there was clearly no candidate aircraft on the apron, and didn't move until one actually turned up.

Smug doesn't begin to describe how we felt!

MidCon 2016 Booking Form (Jeremy Tullett)

For 2016, we have now booked every available meeting room in the Hotel, and also the Inn dining room after breakfast on both the Saturday and the Sunday. This has increased our costs, and we have to increase the registration fees accordingly, our first rise since 2012. Please see below for details.

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

Registration Fee: tick the appropriate box(es). Registration fees are not refundable.

Fri/Sat/Sun (Book before 1 st Nov) £25	Fri/Sat/Sun (Book after 1 st Nov) £30	Fri only £15	Sat only £15	Sun only £10

Payment for the Registration Fee (tick box)

PayPal (visit www.midcon.org.uk for details)	
Sterling cheque (made out to "MidCon Convention")	
Cash	
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.

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. Charges to your room are your responsibility, and are to be paid on departure.
Hallmark Hotel Single	TBA	£66.00	
Hallmark Hotel Twin / Double	TBA	£79.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	TBA	£53.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	TBA	£66.00	

Our allocation is held until mid-October: You are advised to book AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

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.

Inn or Hotel?	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	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.
N ^o . of single rooms					
N ^o . of twin rooms					
N ^o . of double rooms					
Sharing with ...					

Accommodation deposit (tick box)

Credit card	16 digit number:	Expiry:	You give permission for MidCon to pass the credit card details to the hotel to reserve your room.
Cheque	50% of room costs	Payable to "Hallmark Hotel"	

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

What's New at MidCon 2016 (Jeremy Tullett)

1. The highly successful Bring and Buy games sale will again be in the Hallmark Inn, but will now have even more space, as we have reserved both of the adjoining meeting rooms for the event.
2. We have reserved the Hallmark Inn dining room from 10am on both Saturday and Sunday, providing even more space for gaming.
3. We aim to use this space as a dedicated area for 'lighter games' and for first-timers, under the control of David Clasby.
4. Ben Gateson will be running a Decathlon mini-event - should take about 45 minutes, probably on Sunday afternoon.
5. It will, of course, be even better than previous years ...

Manorcon XXXIV (Gary Duke)

ManorCon XXXIV

15th to 18th July 2016
Stamford Court, University of Leicester

The organization for ManorCon XXXIV 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 cheques. 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 11th 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.

Note that the venue is slightly different: while the bedrooms will be the same as the last 3 years, **the rest of the convention will be across the road in Stamford Court** (where we will actually have slightly more space than in John Foster Hall). Please note that **entry will not be permitted before 12 noon on Friday**.

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** – a knockout tournament (the Croquet Challenge) limited to a maximum of 16 players, plus a final between the winner of the Challenge and reigning champion Mick Haytack.

- **Diplomacy** – individual rounds at 1800 on Friday, 1000 on Saturday, and 1000 on Sunday.
- **Midnight Party** – three rounds, at midnight each evening.
- **Prodigals Club** – run by Paul Grogan of Gaming Rules! sometime Friday or Saturday. Probably 3 rounds, depending on number of players. Prodigals Club is the spiritual successor to Last Will, where the aim of the game is to lose all your money, your votes, and your friends. Paul will be available to teach people how to play before the tournament if anyone is interested.
- **Nippon** – run by Paul Grogan of Gaming Rules! probably on the Saturday. 2-3 rounds depending on the number of players. Again, Paul will be available to teach anyone this game before the tournament starts. Prize Support provided by What's Your Game.

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

- **18XX**

Other events:

- **Pop Quiz** – on Saturday evening, run by Dan Lester.
- **Treasure Hunt**: “Escape From Leicester.”

After watching "Escape From New York" and "Escape From LA" one too many times, the government has decided to turn Leicester into a giant prison camp. You, the most brilliant minds in the country, are invited to attend the Grand Opening in the bar at 2pm on Sunday. It will last between 2 and 2½ hours.”

“Anyone who has seen the two movies mentioned will know that the opening will be ABSOLUTELY 100% SAFE. You will NOT need to run about like lunatics. You will NOT need to solve puzzles. There will be NO locked briefcases. You will NOT need to work together to escape a fate worse than death. Lunch will NOT be provided (no, really). Thank you.”

- **Prototypes:** Paul Grogan from Gaming Rules! is planning to provide demos for Czech Games Edition (CGE), including:
 - **Adrenaline**. Move, Shoot, Reload. This is a "first-person-shooter" style game based on games like "Unreal Tournament" or "Quake".
 - **Codenames**. Top Secret new edition. Paul will have a new version of Codenames, but he's not allowed to share any information about it at the moment!
 - **Alchemists Expansion**. Paul will have an expansion for Alchemists for anyone to see or play it.
 - **Through the Ages Expansion**. Paul will have all the new leaders and wonders for the expansion from TTA.

Paul will also be available to teach anyone any of the CGE games from last year, such as the new edition of Through the Ages, Prodigals Club, etc.

Paul may have a new prototype game from What's Your Game, but this is not confirmed yet.

- **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.
- **Second Hand Games Sale** – Sara Merritt will be looking after the sale again this year so make sure you dig out your yummiest games for her to sell for you! The new seller form is now on the website if you have lots of games to sell and want to make your list in the comfort of home. Volunteers are needed, don't leave it all to her! 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 positions, which also allow you first sight of the games for sale, or if have any questions, please contact her at

sarajpx@gmail.com. (Please let her know in advance if you can help, don't leave it to the day, or she'll be a bag of nerves.)

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;
- 1st to 3rd in the 18XX.
- The winner of the Croquet Challenge, and the overall winner.

As of 2nd May the following 80 people have registered:

Gary Bailey	John Gates	Stuart Malaure	Adam Siejka
Steve Bailey	Joy Gates	Chris Martin	Marek Siejka
Steve Barry	Chris Green	Pete Mason	Andrew Simpson
David Blowers	Geoff Hardingham	Robert Mathews	Dave Simpson
Malcolm Booker	John Harrington	Andy Merritt	Ken Simpson
Chris Bradley	Nick Harrison	Sara Merritt	Colin Smith
Christopher Butler	Hazel Hawker	Graham Miller	Don Smith
Sean Byrne	Jeff Hawker	Richard Minson	Richard Solomon
Peter Campbell	Mark Hayton	Graeme Murphy	Stuart Stafford
Peter Card	Ian Hayward	David Norman	Mark Stretch
Angela Caunce	Karianne Fog Heen	Eric Norton	Ted Swalwell
Richard Coates	Paul Heppell	Cal O'Dowd	David Tittle
John Colledge	Martin Holden	Nigel Pepper	Mike Townsend
James Coote	John Hopkins	Annie Percik	Daniel Victor
David Cowie	David Hopkinson	Darrell Perrins	Robin Walters
Gary Duke	Steve Jones	Sue Phillips	Phil Ward
David Durant	Ian Le Brocq	Richard Ramsden	Derek Wilson
Jerry Elsmore	Kevin Lee	Mark Rigby-Jones	Ian D Wilson
Mark Fox	Robert Lozynskyj	Rachel Robson	Phil Woods
Alan Gates	Gary Lyon	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 2nd May. 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. As usual, those who have booked rooms (and correctly paid for them in full!) will be sent Room Chits shortly before Manorcon (note that this could easily be less than a week before); if you are able to bring your Room Chit when you arrive, then you will be able to avoid queuing at the Manorcon Registration Desk. However, don't worry if you don't get or misplace yours; we can easily replace missing Room Chits!

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>

Yorkshire DipCon (Graeme Murphy)

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

Friday 17th June 2016 to Sunday 19th June 2016

Yorkshire DipCon is now back for its third year as part of the Tour of Britain and will take place once again at The University of Hull's Lawns Centre in the village of Cottingham, which is located on the outskirts of Hull.

We are now just under two months away from Yorkshire DipCon 2016 and I am looking to finalise arrangements with the University over the next four weeks.

The Diplomacy tournament will consist of 4 rounds and these will take place on the Friday evening, Saturday morning/early afternoon, Saturday evening and Sunday morning/early afternoon.

Session	Registration Opens	Session Starts
Friday Evening	From 14:00	19:00
Saturday Morning	From 09:00	10:00
Saturday Afternoon	From 09:00	19:00
Sunday	From 09:00	11:00

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 meeting rooms within the Lawns Centre that will be available for our sole use 24 hours per day throughout the whole weekend. This will provide lots of chance to play some other games once the Diplomacy has finished for the day. This will include the Sunday night for those players leaving on the Monday. Outside areas and tables will be available for Dip Discussions and gaming should the weather be summery enough.

Please note that rooms will also be available within the Ferens Hall accommodation blocks if players want to game nearer to their bedrooms.

Currently we are filling up board #2 with a number of the usual suspects still to confirm attendance. Toby Harris is doing his damnedest to drum up additional attendees.

Full details and booking information are on the UK Face to Face Diplomacy website whilst the UK Face to Face Diplomacy and Diplomacy in Europe Facebook pages will also carry more information and discussion about the event.

The Final Word

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

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who put it all together, and David Norman, who arranged for the printing and distribution.