

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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- Is this end for Yorkshire DipCon?
- MidCon 2016 Booking Form
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Forthcoming Conventions

The Great Derby Board Game Bash V The Silk Mill Museum Derby 9th July 2016 10:00-20:00	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	The Cast are Dice Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College, ST4 2RU 13-14 August 2016 http://www.thecastaredice.co.uk/	Mindsports Olympiad JW3, Finchley Road, London 21-29 August 2016 http://www.msoworld.com
Strategy International Centre Telford 25-28 August 2016 strategygamecon.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	Travel Con 2016 Traveller's Rest, Kenton Road, Kenton, Middlesex, HA3 8AT 13-16 October 2016 Chris Geggus - geggus(at)sky.com	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	Winter StabCon Britannia Hotel, Stockport 6-8 January 2017 bookings(at)stabcon.org.uk	SoRCon 10 Friday 24th to Sunday 26th February 2017 Holiday Inn, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3DG http://www.sorcon.co.uk
Swan Con 2017 The Swan Hotel, Bucklow Hill, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6RD 30 March - 2 April 2017. Chris Geggus - geggus(at)sky.com		TringCon XXXIV Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 1 April 2017 tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

Although I glory in the title of *Technical Competence Manager & Assessing Agency Manager*, a subsidiary role that I hold is that of line (resource) manager for a group of document controllers who work out of a range of offices scattered around England.

This has nothing to do with the competence management part of my job, and has been almost an accidental acquisition, but that is how the job has evolved, and I now have nine of these folk to manage, as well as two workplace assessors.

A couple of weeks ago, I had to travel to Bristol to carry out some interviews for a new document control post there.

After a period of advertising, Human Resources collected about 30 CVs from various applicants. As is usual for posts like this, HR immediately discounted a half of the applicants for having absurdly high salary aspirations for the job, for having no relevant skills or experience, or for being patently from foreign applicants who were really looking for any opportunity for a work permit.

Having decided to interview the remaining 14 (it will become apparent why I elected to interview 14 people), I set up 12 slots in three days (yes), with a view to commuting from Derby to Bristol each day.

Of the 14 invited, two failed to provide some further information that we requested, and never responded to the invitation. A further five also ignored their invitations, leaving just seven. Over the next week, three more pulled out after having found jobs elsewhere – but at least they told us.

(If you're wondering about the attrition rate here, it is fairly typical of similar interviews that I have carried out to date.)

By now, it was apparent that I would not need three days in Bristol, as has three slots filled for day one, and one for day two, with no takers for the final day.

Day one passed successfully, with the three candidates all being worth seeing. On day two, the sole candidate booked in failed to show up, thereby completely wasting my trip. Said candidate described herself as "*an ambitious young professional ... with excellent interpersonal skills*". However, these skills apparently do not extend to calling in to cancel appointments with a potential employer. Said person also hit the busy button on her phone when we tried to find out where she'd got to. So, RH of Bristol, don't bother applying for a job with us again, as we won't be wasting our time with you.

Having spoken with colleagues, it seems that this sort of behaviour is not uncommon among applicants for other roles in our business, including various flavours of engineers. Has it always been thus, or is this a new trend for Generation X, Generation Y and/or Millennials that we old folk will just have to come to terms with? Would any readers like to send me their interview experiences?

I find it incredible that, at a time when some campaigners say people can't find jobs because immigrants are taking them all, applicants be quite so blasé about invitations from firms who actually want to talk to them.

And here's the final irony. I would have given the job to any of the three that turned up, but I could only select one. The successful applicant is a Polish national.

MidCon 2016 Update (Jeremy Tullett)

I have had a number of registrations over the past few weeks, but I regret that I have only just had time to process them, so apologies if you've been waiting for an acknowledgement. You should have had an email by the time you read this.

Here is the list of registrations received at 18th June:

Ken Simpson	Malcolm Booker	Jen Petruccio
Alan Harvey	Larry Devis	Roger Ayre
Andy Walker	Paul Heppell	Ian Fleming
Tina Walker	Stewart Pilling	Gary Lyon
	Bill O'Neill	

I'll be sending them to the hotel shortly. If you think I should have had one from you, but you're not listed, do let me know.

What's New at MidCon 2016? (Jeremy Tullett)

We have reserved the Hallmark Inn dining room from 10am on both Saturday and Sunday, providing even more space for gaming. This should be ample to address the difficulty that some people had in finding tables during Saturday and Sunday.

This space will be used for two purposes. Firstly, we will use this space as a dedicated area for **'lighter games' and for first time convention visitors**, under the control of David Clasby.

Secondly, Ben Bateson will be running a **Decathlon mini-event** - should take about 45 minutes, probably on Sunday afternoon. It will also be available as a general overflow area, but if gamers resident in the Inn wish to base themselves there anyway, that will be fine.

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.

Delighted as we are with the burgeoning success of MidCon, increasing numbers are starting to put pressure on the space available for players to play. There is the possibility of booking the function room at the Aston Court Hotel, just across the road, but if anyone has any suggestions for an alternative location in the East or West Midlands, which could accommodate up to 300 gamers, with accommodation for around 150, and which has good parking, and is convenient for public transport, do let us know.

There are some hotels near East Midlands airport, which certainly have good rates, and plenty of space, but the drawback is that there are no pubs and restaurants in the area. While Derby city centre is easily enough reached on the airport bus or by taxi, this isn't really very convenient for the not insignificant number of people who do like to go out in the evenings.

We have considered booking the entire Hallmark Hotel and using the dining room as a gaming space, but that creates difficulties for those who wish to take formal evening meals there, and the opening offer for a deal like this from the hotel was absurdly expensive, and left the committee carrying a large financial risk. We considered it an impractical solution.

For 2016, we have booked every available meeting room in the Hotel, and also the Inn dining room, as above. This has increased our costs, and we have to increase the registration fees accordingly, our first rise since 2012. Please see the next page for details.

MidCon 2016 Booking Form (Jeremy Tullett)

Name(s)			
Address			
		Tel:	
Post code			
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.
Hallmark Hotel Single	£66.00	£66.00	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 Twin / Double	£79.00	£79.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	£53.00	£53.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	£66.00	£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)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit card	16 digit number:	Expiry:	You give permission for MidCon to pass the credit card details to the hotel to reserve your room.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

Boardgames in Derby (Nic Cheney, Dave Clasby, et al.)

Derby has a thriving boardgames community, with various events organized at various locations through the month. I (the editor) have no chance of visiting all of these, although I do sometimes get along to the Book Café event. I invited the organizers to tell me about what they do, and this is what they said. (I have unashamedly taken some pictures from the Internet.)



Derby on Board Games is a Derby-based board games group, who meet at the Book Café on Cornmarket on the last Wednesday of every month.

We are a family-friendly group - everyone is welcome regardless of age, gaming knowledge and skill level; bring your favourite games, or none at all and join in the fun!



We do two Saturday all-dayers through the year. The next one coming up is Saturday 9th July at the Silk Mill industrial museum 10am-8pm. £3 per adult. Children under 16 are free.



We also have D6+Beer! games events every Monday night at the New Zealand Arms and every third Thursday of the month at the Furnace Inn, from 7.30pm onwards.

Christ Church Games Night is alternate Tuesdays, on Great Northern Road. Start at 7.30, finish at 10.30. About 15-25 people go down normally. All are welcome! Bring games or just turn up and play! Tea and coffee are provided. Feel free to bring snacks/beer etc.

You can find out what is happening on our Facebook page Derby on Board Games and our new website <http://derbyonboardgames.co.uk/>



ManorCon XXXIV

15th to 18th July 2016

Stamford Court, University of Leicester
Progress Report Number 2 - July 2016.

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

Don't forget your chit!

As in previous years, we are issuing chits to everyone who booked accommodation in advance and paid in full. If you've done both of these, you should find a chit enclosed with this Progress Report.

The ManorCon Registration Desk and the University desk will both be in the entrance to Stamford Court.

The University desk will be handing out the keys, so if you have a chit, you should go to their desk. If you do not – or you need to change your booking in some way, you should go to the ManorCon Registration Desk. If you forget to take your chit with you, then you will have to go to the ManorCon Registration Desk for a new one. **Please note: your receipt CANNOT be exchanged for a room key, only your chit can.**

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

NEWS

New Venue

While the accommodation in John Foster Hall 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).

Gaming rooms

There are a number of gaming rooms. The main gaming hall is where the ad-hoc gaming will mostly take place. It's also where all the food will be served. There are also rooms for the Diplomacy tournament, Second Hand Games Stall, a quiet gaming room, and another general gaming room.

The gaming rooms will all be open from Breakfast until the last person leaves the room.

Food and Drink

The bar will be open 2pm to 1am Friday, noon to 1am Saturday, noon to 1am Sunday and noon to 2pm Monday. Note that due to the licensing laws you are not allowed to bring your own alcohol onto the site. Tea and Coffee are available from the bar, whenever it is open.

Other facilities

The convention is 15-20 minutes walk from Oadby centre. Oadby is a suburban centre on the outskirts of Leicester, which has a collection of shops, restaurants, etc. There is also a large Asda between the convention and Oadby. If Oadby does not provide all the facilities you are looking for,

then it is about 3 miles from the convention to Leicester City Centre.

Games Stall

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

Second Hand Games Sale

Sara Merritt will again be running the SHGS this year. Volunteers are always welcome to help out in the running of the SHGS; if you would like to help, please contact Sara at saraljpx@gmail.com. Sellers can book games in between 5pm and 7pm Friday and 11am and 1pm Saturday along with a completed Second Hand Games Sale Form; this form can be printed off from the link on the ManorCon website: www.manorcon.org.uk. Selling sessions will be Friday 7.30pm to 9pm and Saturday 2pm to 3pm with pack up by sellers by 4pm Saturday. All games must be collected by 6pm Saturday.

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."

Closing time....

The convention finishes at 2pm on Monday.

Address and Phone Number

The convention is in Stamford Court, Manor Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 2LH. The accommodation is in John Foster Hall, Manor Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 2LG. Telephone (0116) 223 1493. If you need to contact one of the committee, the ManorCon mobile number is 07340 048313 (or +44 7340 048313 from outside the UK). This can also be used if you want to contact someone who isn't on the committee, but only in an emergency, and only if we can find them ... PLEASE do not use this number before the Thursday morning of ManorCon! If you need to contact us beforehand, please phone Steve Jones (01234-405878), or drop us a letter, or email info@manorcon.org.uk

Parking

You are welcome to park in any University car park. There is a map of where these are at the end of this article.

John Foster (where the accommodation is) has a deceptively large amount of parking available – around 65 spaces in total – but these are all in bays, which take a few cars each. You are welcome to park in any marked bay on the site, but it may take a little driving around to find an empty space.

Stamford Court shares its car park with Bowder Court (which we've previously used for en-suite accommodation). This is a larger car park than John Foster, and is the best choice if you want easy access to your car while you're gaming.

You can also park in any other Leicester University Car Park. Please do not park on the road, as while it does not have parking restrictions, the University is required to keep their delegates from parking on the road. There should be car-parking attendants on duty to help you.

When you arrive....

If you are not staying in the University and do not owe us any money, simply collect your badge and programme booklet from the table near the ManorCon Registration Desk. If you have booked accommodation in advance, do not need to make any changes to your booking, and have your chit with you, simply report to the University desk to pick up your room key, and then collect your badge and programme booklet.

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

Anyone who has not pre-booked will also need to go to the ManorCon Registration Desk. We will have plenty of rooms available on the door, although they may not all be as close to the main hall as the pre-booked rooms. Once you have registered with us, we will issue you with a chit to be exchanged for your room key. We will also sort out your name badge, any money owing, etc.

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

Late Arrivals and Changes of Plan

If you plan to arrive on the Friday evening after 11pm, or have transport difficulties and end up arriving late, please let us know. Ring the ManorCon mobile on 07340 048313. If you haven't pre-booked accommodation but subsequently decide that you do want to stay over, please let us know (either via the ManorCon Registration Desk if open, otherwise track down the committee member on duty) before 11pm on the night in question, as we will have difficulties finding extra rooms after this point.

And when you leave.....

PLEASE NOTE: you **must** vacate your room and return your key by 9:30am on the day of your departure. All room keys should be returned to John Foster reception.

Tournaments

Some of the tournaments at ManorCon are Ad-hoc. Just play a game when you want, and put the results in the envelope. We anticipate ad-hoc tournaments for 18XX only. The non-Ad-hoc tournaments are as follows:

Diplomacy: The tournament will consist of three rounds: the first on Friday night at 7pm, the others on Saturday and Sunday at 10am. You need to sign up by 6.30pm on Friday to play in round 1, 9.30am on Saturday for round 2 and 9.30am on Sunday for round 3. The prize giving will be completed by 6pm on Sunday.

All games will be played to 1909, and the traditional ManorCon scoring system will be used. For full details, please see the programme booklet. Up-to-date information will be posted on the Diplomacy notice board.

Croquet is a four round knockout tournament. Entries can be made up until breakfast on the Saturday morning, at which point the draw will be done. Advance entries are welcomed for those who will not be arriving at ManorCon before Saturday morning; contact Steve Jones via the ManorCon email address, info@manorcon.org.uk. The draw will be posted on the general notice board. The knockout tournament is open to everyone except last year's champion, and is for the Croquet Challenge trophy; the winner will then play Mick Haytack for the Croquet Champion trophy.

Prodigals Club is run by Paul Grogan of Gaming Rules! The tournament will take place sometime Friday or Saturday. It will probably be 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 is run by Paul Grogan of Gaming Rules! The tournament will take place probably on Saturday. It will be 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.

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

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

Programme Booklet

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

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

Public transport directions first:

By air

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

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

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

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

By air, from Birmingham International Airport

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

By air, from Nottingham East Midlands Airport

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

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

By air, from London Gatwick

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

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

By air, from London Heathrow

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

Buy an Underground ticket to Zone 1, take the Piccadilly Line from Heathrow to Kings Cross St Pancras (frequent), and then buy a rail ticket to Leicester and take an East Midlands Trains train from London St Pancras to Leicester (approximately every 30 minutes). The total journey time is about 2h 30m.

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

By air, via London Stansted Airport

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

By air, via Luton Airport

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

By coach

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

By train

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

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

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

- There are direct CrossCountry services from Birmingham New Street, Cambridge, Nuneaton and Peterborough.
- From much of the South and South East it will be quickest to travel via London, using the

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

- From stations such as Brighton and East Croydon that are served by First Capital Direct services, the cross-London journey on the Underground can be avoided by taking one of their trains to St Pancras.
- From the South West a CrossCountry service to Birmingham New Street and then a CrossCountry service from there to Leicester is likely to be the best route. Travelling via Birmingham New Street will probably also be the best route from South and mid Wales.
- From North Wales, the North West and parts of Scotland travelling via Birmingham New Street might be the best option, but if you have a direct service to Nuneaton, it's likely to be quicker to change there.
- From the North East and parts of Scotland the best options are likely to be either a CrossCountry service to Sheffield and then an East Midlands Trains service from there to Leicester, or a Virgin East Coast service to Peterborough and then a CrossCountry service from there to Leicester.

From the city centre

The easiest way to get to the venue is by taxi or by bus. There are taxi ranks at both the bus station and the railway station.

The 31/31A bus service stops immediately in front of the railway station and there are 8/6/4 buses per hour during the day on weekdays/Saturday/Sunday. Ask for the racecourse. The buses have screens that show what the next stop is: the best stop is called Victoria Court, and is just past the road on the left that leads to the Oadby campus (Stoughton Drive South), so after getting off, you need to walk back a little and turn right. It's next after a big three-way roundabout where the outer ring road joins the A6 from the right. If you see the Asda supermarket, you've gone past the stop and will need get off as soon as possible and walk back further! It's a 10-15 minute walk up Stoughton Drive South and then right along Manor Road to John Foster Hall and Stamford Court.

Useful information

Up to date travel information can be found in a number of places. As most of you will know, road information is available online at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/travelnews/>

Useful websites for public transport information are www.arriva.co.uk, <http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/>, and <http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/eastmidlands/leicester/home/index.php>. Finally there is a link from our website to a maps webpage showing the exact location of John Foster Hall. Click the link on www.manorcon.org.uk.

By car

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

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

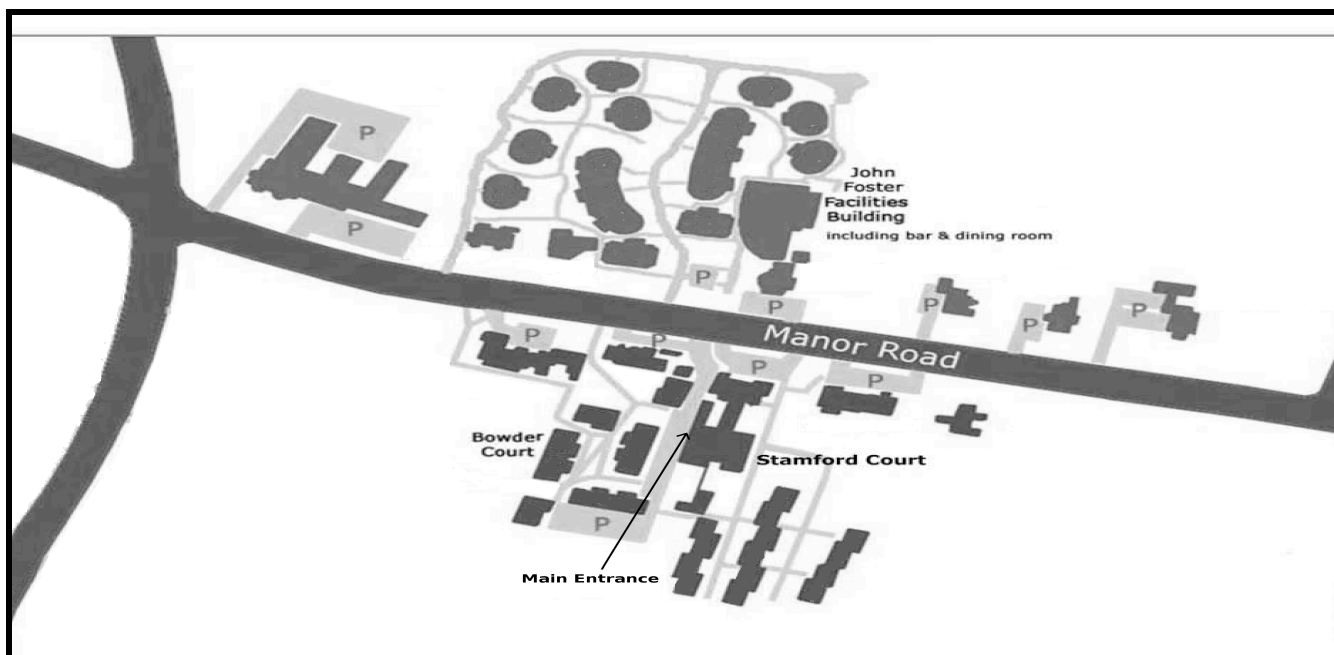
As you go under the A563, immediately turn off to the left, looping back on yourself, and going over the bridge you have just gone under, on the A563 (Leicester ring road) heading around the South of the city.

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

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

After about 600m you come to a crossroads where you turn right onto Manor Road. The entrance to John Foster Hall is 300m on the left. The entrance to Stamford Court is on the right, directly opposite.

ManorCon Parking



Yorkshire DipCon (Graeme Murphy)

Graeme writes: *"It is with great sadness that I have to announce that there [was] no Yorkshire DipCon this year.*

Despite the best efforts of a number of people, Toby Harris in particular, to help drum up additional players, we failed to get enough players signed up to make the event viable, and I took the decision to cancel [...], refunding those players who had signed up through PayPal on the website.

For those of you who have supported the event in the past, I express my thanks."

As a regular supporter of this Diplomacy Tour of Britain event, I (editor) do think it a great shame that this event never really took off. The surroundings are really nice on a sunny summer's day, and a nice group of people turned up. However it was always a struggle for Graeme to raise enough players even for two boards of Diplomacy, and playing three or four games against mainly the same people didn't really make for a sensible tournament.

Others, notably Toby, did try to raise interest, but ultimately attendance never met the levels that might have been suggested by those who said that they would come if such an event were to be organised.

It is probably premature to say that Diplomacy has had its day, as David Norman does heroically get enough people together for a few games over the course of the weekend at both MidCon and Manorcon, but, for those who want a serious tournament, there are really only WorldDipCon and EuroDipCon left.

The Final Word

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Tel: 01332-385322 Email: [jeremy.tullett\(at\)homecall.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.tullett(at)homecall.co.uk), who put it all together, and David Norman, who arranged for the printing and distribution.