

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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Forthcoming Conventions

UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole Birmingham 2 - 4 June 2017 richard(at)ukgamesexpo.co.uk www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk	WorldDipCon St John's College, Oxford 7-9 July 2017 wdc2017.com	Raiders of the Game Cupboard XXXIX Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 24 June 2017 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk
Summer StabCon Britannia Hotel Stockport 7-9 July 2017 bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk http://stabcon.org.uk https://www.facebook.com/events/247185529036551/	ManorCon XXXV Stamford Court, University of Leicester 21-24 July 2017 info(at)manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk	The Great Indoors Event Arrow Valley Visitor Centre Redditch B98 0LJ www.greatindoorevent.uk 29 July 2017
Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 29 July 2017 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng	Mindsports Olympiad JW3, Finchley Road, London 20-28 August 2017 http://www.msoworld.com	Boardgames Holiday Le Pas Opton, France 11-18 September 2017 Springharvestholidays.com/boardgame-week
Raiders of the Game Cupboard XL Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 23 September 2017 10am-8pm www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	Dragondaze Newport Centre, 1 Kingsway, Newport, Wales, NP20 1UH Saturday 30 September 2017 http://www.dragondaze.com	TringCon XXXV Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 30 September 2017 tringcon(at)fwtwr.com www.fwtwr.com/tringcon
Travel Con 2017 Traveller's Rest, Kenton Road, Harrow HA3 8AT 12-15 October 2017. Contact: Chris Geggus on geggus(at)sky.com	MidCon The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 17-19 November 2017 MidCon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 25 November 2017 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng
Boardgames at the Manor Oxford Manor TN15 6XF 1-3 December 2017 www.oakhall.co.uk/manor office(at)oakhall.co.uk		Handycon Holiday Inn High Wycombe M40 Jcn 4 19-21 January 2018 handycon.co.uk

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

So ... at the third attempt, I managed to extract a contract for **MidCon 2017** from the Hallmark Hotel. The duty manager was duly mortified at the email trail that I showed her, displaying several requests for a draft contract going ignored, and was unable to understand why the Sales and Marketing and team hadn't been all over me since January.

There seems to have been a bit of confusion about the date, but we have got a contract for **17-19 November 2017**. *Note, that this is change from the usual weekend, and may be not the dates that you were expecting.*

We do, however, get to avoid the Remembrance Sunday two-minute silence, when (at the hotel's request), it seems, we all have to be quiet, and listen to the kitchen staff chattering away.

The other point of note is that there will definitely be an £8/day car park charge to be paid at the meter or at reception. I'll find out later if it is possible to pay up front for two or three days, and also whether partial days attract partial parking fees. Notwithstanding the difficulty of lugging a bag of games around the country, anyone attending the convention from the East or West Midlands, or South Yorkshire may well find that is cheaper to get the train.

Otherwise arrangements remain the same as last year. The Hallmark Inn lounge proved to be a popular destination for people looking for a quieter location to play games in, so we've retained that booking for 2017.

The other change you may notice is that I probably won't be glued to the reception desk all weekend. Our latest committee member proposed rather strongly that we ought to have a duty rota, an idea that got my support!

I'd also like to try better to use technology this year. We have a Twitter feed and a Facebook page, I am told (LinkedIn is as far as I get with this social media nonsense), but with so many of the convention attendees carrying smartphones and tablets, it must surely be possible to use them to post information in real time, such as reminding people that meals are about to start, the Bring 'n' Buy is open, or that only five more players are needed for Railway Rivals¹.

The office cricket team for which I play had its first fixture on the 25th April. I wasn't available to play that night, but the game was "rained off", a shorthand for "the batting side was playing in failing light, while facing, by turn, showers of rain, snow, and sleet". The game the following week wasn't much better, I gather, but this week's (9th May) was actually played under a sunny sky on a moderately warm evening. Successive fixture secretaries have gone for early starts to the season (we are not a league team), but it has always struck me as slightly bonkers to try to play a 6pm fixture before the first May Bank Holiday, on the grounds of poor light and weather.

I am the keeper of the team statistics, and the main scorer, which is why I generally bat at 11 (that, and most of the other players are better batsmen). However, I am a reasonably handy bowler on a good day ☺.



¹ You have to be certain age to appreciate this little quip.

World DipCon 2017 (Dan Lester)

Can you believe it's just 8 weeks until the Oxford WDC?

Believe it!

Because you are a brilliant person, totally "on it" and 100% stoked for what will surely be one of the great board game tournament experiences of your life – you are already signed up for the tournament and that is why you are getting this update newsletter! I'm sure it doesn't tell you anything you don't already know, because, let me tell you, the traffic on wdc2017.com has just been off-the-charts.

James Comey from the FBI called me actually the other day and said "Do you think you could stop people clicking on wdc2017.com as it is breaking the internet and I'm worried I might lose my job over this." Wonder what happened to that guy.

Anyway... here's some important information about the tournament!

- It is over 5 rounds, starting 9.30am Friday.
- You have to miss one of the rounds! You must, it is compulsory. So if you arrive by 7pm Friday you will not be disadvantaged.
- Your scores get totalled and the best 7 players play the final board on the Sunday, where we will get a Champion!
- There's also a Team Round on the Sunday, so there's everything to play for right up until the tournament ends at 3pm Sunday. Our lavish awards ceremony will be over by 4pm.
- Scoring is Manorcox – Manorcon in Oxford, see – where I have shamelessly ripped off Manorcon's sum-of-squares derived system and added bonus points for players who top a board by themselves (ie first on the board, not first equal!)
- We have a choice of two (yes, two!) welcome dinners on the Thursday night – a maximum-poshness four-course formal dinner in the St John's Great Hall for those who wish to partake of that, and a very rustic and authentic Oxford meal in an extremely friendly local establishment for those on a smaller budget. So there's every reason to join us from Thursday!
- Whichever round you choose to skip, there's plenty for you to do – and for your significant other as well, should they be along to enjoy this spectacular city!

All this information and much, much more is available at www.wdc2017.com including tournament info, accommodation and travel tips on how to get to St John's. So head on over there!

Now, some of you have not yet quite decided how many nights to stay and whether you want to take some of the accommodation in the College itself, which is, by the way, exceptionally good quality and value.

That is fine! But I need to know quite soon if you want College rooms, and also unfortunately I will need paying in advance for those. I'd like to get things as wrapped up (if possible) in the next month, so by 7th June, so look out for further emails from me!

Thanks for listening, email me if you have any queries, I'll be in touch again ... and looking forward to seeing you all in 8 weeks' time!

MidCon 2016 Report (Jeremy Tullett)

The Convention

MidCon XXXVIII takes place in the comfortable Hallmark Hotel in Derby from Friday morning (9am) to Sunday evening (6pm).

MidCon is about playing games and meeting people. You can play any of the number of games people bring along with them, including the hot new games from the Spiel games fair in Essen, which takes place just a few weeks before *MidCon*. Popular games include 18XX, Puerto Rico, Power Grid and Agricola, but you are welcome to bring along your own favourite games – you will almost certainly find some people willing to play at least one of them.

The convention features:

- the opportunity to play board games with other gamers
- the **MidCon** general knowledge quiz for teams of 4 on Saturday evening
- a games shop
- a Bring & Buy stall where you can sell your games, or pick up a bargain
- a Diplomacy tournament (numbers permitting)
- special events, as detailed elsewhere

Fees

Attendance at **MidCon** costs £25-£30 for the whole weekend (day rates of £15 for each of Friday and Saturday, £10 for Sunday) and accommodation is available in the Hallmark Hotel or its sister establishment, the Hallmark Inn, at reasonable rates. Both hotels have dedicated car parks with a small daily parking charge. The Hallmark Inn is 50 metres from the Hallmark Hotel, across the street.

Derby railway station is about 50 metres away, and there is a bus link from there to East Midlands airport.

The City

Derby has an Intu centre for shoppers, and old ‘cathedral quarter’, and a number of interesting museums. There are at least two dining areas in the city (one near to the hotels), and a busy nightlife as well as several ‘real ale’ pubs.

Registration

If you would like to join us at **MidCon**, please complete the form below and return it with the appropriate convention fee to:

Jeremy Tullett, **MidCon**, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR,
or register electronically at www.MidCon.org.uk,
or talk to me at ManorCon.

MidCon 2017 Booking Form

Tell us who you are:

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	Friday only £15	Saturday only £15	Sunday 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 (delete as appropriate)	
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 / Sun	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	£67.00	
Hallmark Hotel Twin / Double	£TBA	£80.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	£TBA	£54.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	£TBA	£67.00	

Please note that there will be an £8 / day parking fee, payable in the hotel car park, or at reception.

Our bedroom 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 <i>MidCon</i> 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 <i>MidCon</i> 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

ManorCon XXXV

21st to 24th July 2017

Stamford Court, University of Leicester

The organization for ManorCon XXXV 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 17th 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.

The venue is the same as last year; **the bedrooms will be in John Foster Hall**, as they have been for the last 4 years; and **the rest of the convention will be across the road in Stamford Court**. 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 variety of tournaments and events.

- **Midnight Party** – three rounds, at midnight each evening.
- **18XX** (ad-hoc – i.e. play where and when you wish); there will be trophies for 1st to 3rd.
- **Pop Quiz** – on Saturday evening, run by Dan Lester.
- **Treasure Hunt** – This “jolly good” event for teams of ~4-5 will take place on Sunday afternoon at 2pm.
- Paul Grogan from **Gaming Rules!** is planning to run a tournament, as well as providing demos for various publishers, including:
 - **Adrenaline (CGE): Tournament** at 2pm on Saturday. Also, demos of the new 6th player expansion which includes team mode!
 - **Codenames Duet (CGE):** Fully co-operative Codenames, designed for 2 players, but plays with more.
 - **‘Pleiades’ (CGE):** A new sci-fi style Euro from Vladimir Suchy, designer of Last Will, Prodigal’s Club, and a few more!
 - **‘Questions’ (CGE):** Another party game from Vlaada Chvatil, designer of Through the Ages, Codenames, and many more.
 - Expansions for **Tash-Kalar** and **Through the Ages (CGE)**.
 - One or two games from **What’s Your Game?** - possibly even **Brasil**.
 - **Alexandria, IUNU, Long Live the Queen**, maybe others too (**Ludicreations**).
 - **Gloomhaven (Cephalofair):** The game with the huge box that has been the hottest game on BoardGameGeek for a couple of months!
 - Various games from **Space Cowboys**, including **Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective, Watson & Holmes**, and **TIME Stories**.

- **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** – as usual, this will be open for two one-hour sessions on Friday and Saturday. Potential helpers are very much welcome – contact Steve Bailey (steve21356@ntlworld.com) for more information.

Should numbers permit, there may be **Diplomacy** – individual rounds at 1800 on Friday, 1000 on Saturday, and 1000 on Sunday.

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).

As of 11th May, the following 112 people have registered:

Paul Allwood	Lee Edwards	Mark Jones	Keith Rapley
Nina Alphey	Jerry Elsmore	Steve Jones	Julie Richards
Roger Ayre	Colin Evans	Kevin Lee	Paul Richards
Tudor Badea	Mark Fox	Tanya Lim	David Robson
Gary Bailey	Alan Gates	Ray Livingstone	Tony Sait
Steve Bailey	John Gates	Paul Luxton	Ursula Searle
Alistair Bird	Joy Gates	Gary Lyon	Adam Siejka
David Blowers	James Goodman	Oliver MacFarlane	Marek Siejka
Richard Bolton	Hannah Gordon-Smith	Stuart Malaure	Andrew Simpson
Malcolm Booker	Chris Green	Jen Marshall	Dave Simpson
Chris Bradley	Paul Grogan	Chris Martin	Richard Skinner
Oliver Burnett-Hall	Lyndon Gurr	Pete Mason	Colin Smith
Martin Burroughs	Hamish Hamilton	Robert Mathews	Richard Solomon
Peter Campbell	Geoff Hardingham	Bill Mayling	Stuart Stafford
Angela Counce	John Harrington	Paul McDermott	Mark Stretch
Graham Charlton	Paul Harris	Sean McErlean	Ted Swalwell
Helen Cheale	Luke Harrison	Simon Miles	Dave Thorby
Rachel Coe	Nick Harrison	Jim Mills	David Thornton
Robert Cook	Hazel Hawker	Richard Minson	Tim Troman
Tim Cooper	Jeff Hawker	Femke Mulder	Daniel Victor
James Coote	Ian Hayward	David Norman	Andrew Wadsworth
David Cowie	Karianne Fog Heen	Darrell Perrins	Phil Ward
Mike Dean	Paul Heppell	Nigel Pepper	Sam Watkins
Robert Dillon	Paul Hoad	Annie Percik	Faith Wilson
Iain Drylie	Martin Holden	Philip Pettifer	Ian D Wilson
Gary Duke	Dave Holmes	Sue Phillips	David Winter
David Durant	John Hopkins	Eva Raikidou	Phil Woods
Mark Eddy	Rebecca Jackson	Richard Ramsden	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 11th 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 queueing 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>

The Final Word

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

Jeremy Tullett, 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR

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

This man is running World DipCon ...



... be afraid. Very afraid.