

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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- **MidCon** 2018 - a brief update
- The editor on his holidays

Forthcoming Conventions

Spieltage Messe Gruga, Essen, Germany 25-28 October 2018 www.merz-verlag-en.com	MidCon The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 2-4 November 2018 MidCon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 24 November 2018 Details: http://tinyurl.com/3ex38k Map: http://tinyurl.com/ybq7ng
Boardgames at the Manor Otford Manor TN15 6XF 14-16 December 2018 www.oakhall.co.uk/manor office(at)oakhall.co.uk	Winter StabCon Britannia Hotel Stockport 4-6 January 2019 bookings (at) stabcon.org.uk	Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLV Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 5 January 2019 www.raidsofthegamecupboard.co.uk
Handycon Holiday Inn Manor Lane Maidenhead SL6 2RA 18-20 January 2019 Handycon.co.uk	Robin Nottingham Tennis Centre Nottingham NG7 2QH 17 February 2019	SoRCon 12 Holiday Inn Cranes Farm Road, Waterfront Walk Festival Leisure Park Basildon SS14 3DG 22-24 February 2019 (10am Friday) www.sorcon.co.uk
Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLVI Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 23 March 2019 www.raidsofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon Marsworth Millennium Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 6 April 2019 contact(at)tringcon.org www.tringcon.org	BayCon 2019 Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 24-28 April 2019 www.facebook.com/groups/baycon/
UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole, Birmingham 31 May - 2 June 2019 www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk	Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLVII Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 22 June 2019 www.raidsofthegamecupboard.co.uk	ManorCon XXXVII Stamford Court, University of Leicester 19-22 July 2019 info(at)manorcon.org.uk www.manorcon.org.uk
Boardgames Holiday Le Pas Opton, France 9-16 September 2019 www.springharvestholidays.com/feature-weeks/board-games-week/	Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLVIII Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 28 September 2019 www.raidsofthegamecupboard.co.uk	MidCon The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 8-10 November 2019 13-15 November 2020 MidCon.org.uk

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

Valencia is, perhaps, one of the mainland Spanish cities less well known to the British tourist, as compared to, say, Barcelona, Madrid or Seville. Alicante has its charms, although most people landing there are actually heading for Benidorm or Denia, and will never notice them.

We've just returned from a week on the Costa del Azahar, and included two days in the city as part of that trip. The oldest part of the city has elements that are Roman, but the most interesting bit for us was the walk along the Turia riverbed.

Following a disastrous flood in 1957, the River Turia was completely diverted around the city, and the riverbed turned into a linear park, running around the eastern and northern perimeters of the old city.

The most interesting part of this walk lies at the eastern end at the *Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias*, a collection of five modern arts and sciences buildings designed by the architect Santiago Calatrava. Stunning as these buildings are, he is a rather controversial figure in Valencia, as his projects were all massively overspent on completion, and bankrupted the city. (Indeed, it is said that other buildings designed by him elsewhere in the world have also significantly exceeded budget¹.)



We also enjoyed our best meal of the week there, when we had lunch at a discrete little restaurant hidden beneath the *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia*. This was probably the only authentically Valencian menu we saw all week.



Moving back a few hundred years, this area of Spain is littered with Moorish castles, most of which remain challenging to reach. A little later, the Knights Templar settled in the area, and one of their establishments was the fort at Peniscola, which was actually my favourite spot of the holiday.

It is located on a craggy spur jutting out from the beach, and sits atop a 65m climb up through narrow and uneven streets, now lined by restaurants and gift shops. There is not a huge amount of structure once you get up there (the walls are complete, but there are not that many rooms within them – it isn't so very large), but



there are some
the battery park has
garden, with rescued
beady eye on



impressive views, and
been turned into a
birds of prey keeping a
proceedings.



The lowlight, if one can call it that, of our tour was the *Marina d'Or* section of *Orpesa del Mar*. It may or may not be the 'largest leisure and holiday city in Europe', but we didn't hang around long enough to find out. Grim doesn't really being to describe the two miles or so of identical multi-storey apartment blocks that would make any Stalinist architect proud. I assume this was intended for the domestic market, as I never heard of any UK traveller going there. It is easy to be snooty about Benidorm, say, but at least the accommodation there has some individuality, a feature that seemed to be completely absent in Orpesa. (It was so mind-numbingly dull, I don't even have a picture of it.)

¹ This picture comes from the Valencia Tourist Board website.

ManorCon XXXVI - Results

This was our third year in Stamford Court, where we will be looking for ManorCon to remain for the foreseeable future. The few changes that were made to the room configuration in 2017 continued to work well this year, so we will be looking to retain the same layout for 2019. This year also saw part of our accommodation moved back to Bowder Court; this was partly the result of the Continuum Convention taking place across the road in John Foster. We have asked for this to continue next year, but whether that is possible, we'll have to wait and see.

2018 saw a small reduction in rooms sold compared to 2017, but an increase in total attendees from 262 to 269. This increase was mainly due to more non-resident visitors. But despite this, we never ran out of table space, and still have a few spare tables, which could be put out if needed. So we hope to continue to see new faces in the coming years.

18XX

The 18XX tournament had 22 players playing 19 games, a small increase from last year. The games included three 18Ard, two 1846, two 1858, and one each of 1761, 18GB, 1837, 1824, 1848, 18NW, 1817, 1862, 18Fl, 18Ire, 1822 CA and 18BF. This year saw the closest result in years, with less than half a point between first and third. In third place was Lyndon Gurr with 4 wins out of five, whose fifth game pulled him down below Danny Victor, who, although winning only two games out of four, had two very solid seconds. However, the winner, with four wins out of five along with a strong second, was last year's champion Steve Thomas. Congratulations to Steve on winning the tournament.

Rank	Name	Games	Wins	Score
1	Steve Thomas	5	4	104.51
2	Danny Victor	4	2	104.16
3	Lyndon Gurr	5	4	104.02
4	John Boocock	4	3	97.01
5	Ian D. Wilson	5	1	74.69
6	Paul Ripley	2	0	72.94
7	Colin Smith	5	2	69.73
8	Stephen Webb	6	1	68.68
9	Ian Hayward	1	1	68.62
10	Jon Cant	2	0	59.90
11	Dave Thorby	5	1	55.67
12	Jon Draper	6	0	51.03
13	Hamish Hamilton	4	0	45.45
14	Richard Clyne	2	0	40.37
15	Isaac Hardman	1	0	39.65
16	Geoff Hardingham	4	0	35.41
17	Chris Dawe	2	0	34.66
18	Richard Wyncoll	1	0	32.54
19	Dave Berry	3	0	30.93
20	John Hopkins	4	0	30.17
21	Oliver Burnett-Hall	6	0	28.43
22	Thane Duffield	2	0	16.87

The individual game results were:

1761:

Name	Cash	Score
John Boocock	7008	109.78
Danny Victor	6848	87.27
Ian D. Wilson	6691	64.82
Geoff Hardingham	5904	32.49
Colin Smith	5467	5.64

18Ardennes:

Name	Cash	Score
Steve Thomas	12090	106.51
Dave Thorby	11473	61.07
Jon Draper	10490	12.41

Name	Cash	Score
Lyndon Gurr	11290	108.90
Oliver Burnett-Hall	10286	59.22
Stephen Webb	9525	11.88

Name	Cash	Score
Ian D. Wilson	9302	109.67
Stephen Webb	8903	84.96
Dave Thorby	8247	57.23
Oliver Burnett-Hall	8189	36.55
Dave Berry	7769	11.59

1846:

Name	Cash	Score
Ian Hayward	7286	105.87
Steve Thomas	7066	82.49
Jon Draper	6831	59.09
Dave Thorby	6814	38.88
Hamish Hamilton	6473	13.89

Name	Cash	Score
Danny Victor	6405	126.41
Stephen Webb	6150	96.37
Geoff Hardingham	4248	33.84
Thane Duffield	3465	-6.62

18NW:

Name	Cash	Score
Steve Thomas	8091	117.65
John Hopkins	6869	74.88
Hamish Hamilton	6812	49.05
Jon Draper	5736	8.41

1858:

Name	Cash	Score
John Boocock	6760	110.59
Hamish Hamilton	6504	86.40
Colin Smith	6370	64.21
Ian D. Wilson	5701	33.26
John Hopkins	5229	5.54

Name	Cash	Score
Lyndon Gurr	12078	110.22
Stephen Webb	10603	56.76
Oliver Burnett-Hall	10193	13.02

18GB:

Name	Cash	Score
John Boocock	8871	132.24
Ian D. Wilson	7002	84.38
Colin Smith	6782	61.10
Hamish Hamilton	6203	32.47
John Hopkins	4683	-10.19

1837:

Name	Cash	Score
Danny Victor	9883	110.64
Geoff Hardingham	9285	78.95
Stephen Webb	9217	53.19
Thane Duffield	7344	7.22

1824:

Name	Cash	Score
Steve Thomas	10118	106.20
Jon Draper	9929	79.21
John Hopkins	9571	50.45
Chris Dawe	8493	14.14

1848:

Name	Cash	Score
Steve Thomas	9367	109.71
Jon Draper	9292	88.83
Lyndon Gurr	9247	68.31
Dave Berry	8280	36.98
Oliver Burnett-Hall	6503	-3.83

1817:

Name	Cash	Score
Dave Thorby	13278	112.08
Paul Ripley	13024	89.93
Richard Clyne	11912	60.54
Chris Dawe	11828	39.84
Richard Wyncoll	9195	-2.39

181re:

Name	Cash	Score
Colin Smith	5378	110.41
Jon Cant	5348	84.80
Dave Berry	4589	44.22
Richard Clyne	4168	10.57

1862:

Name	Cash	Score
Lyndon Gurr	23126	106.80
Jon Draper	21269	58.23
Oliver Burnett-Hall	20564	14.97

1822 CA:

Name	Cash	Score
Lyndon Gurr	12631	125.89
Danny Victor	11772	92.33
John Boocock	8572	35.44
Geoff Hardingham	7158	-3.66

18Fl:

Name	Cash	Score
Colin Smith	8014	107.29
Paul Ripley	7759	78.88
Jon Cant	7088	44.89
Isaac Hardman	7017	18.94

18BF:

Name	Cash	Score
Stephen Webb	18215	108.90
Ian D. Wilson	17783	81.32
Oliver Burnett-Hall	16838	50.67
Dave Thorby	14068	9.11

Midnight Party

As ever, there were three rounds, played at midnight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Rank	Name	Round Scores			Overall
1	Ian Wilson	9	8	12	7.25
1	Dave Holmes	11	9	9	7.25
3	Mike Townsend	13	8		7.00
4	Dave Cowie	8	11		6.33
5	Tanya Lim	3	6	16	6.25
6	Stuart Villager	11	4		5.00
7	Nick Kinzett	5	5	3	3.25
8	Chris Martin	6			3.00
8	James Faulkner	5	1		3.00
10	Steve Guest	3	2	6	2.75
10	John Mitchell	8	3		2.75
12	Chris Burnham	1			0.50

Treasure Hunt

28 people in 7 teams took part in the Great British Bake Off. The winners were “Wooden Spoon” - Mark Fox, Ian Lynagh, Chris Martin, Mark Rigby-Jones.

Two groups have offered to run the treasure hunt next year; details will follow nearer the time.

Pop Quiz

6 teams took part as Dan Lester set the questions once again, in the easiest Pop Quiz ever*

Rank	Name	Score
1	Something Derogatory about Martin	186
2	Team Fat Bastard	159
3	Birthday Boy and the Hangers On	149
4	Through the Ages	140
5	Dan Lester ran a music quiz at ManorCon and all we got was this sh**ty team name	134
6	Team of Lamentable Expectations	131

* ever set by Dan ...

Game Sales

The shop and the second hand games sale are now both entrenched as an integral part of ManorCon. This year was the first year for Meeple Games running the games sale, and Ron Trickett will be back next year. Having seen our taste in games, he will be bringing a wider range, and a range more in tune with what we are interested in buying.

The second hand games sale was once again run by Steve Bailey. As usual, many games were available for purchase, and a significant proportion found a new owner. Thanks go to Steve Bailey for taking on the organisation of the sale, along with his helpers.

Your Feedback

Thank you to everybody who filled in a feedback form.

Once again there were comments on the food, but mostly of a general nature (i.e. “make it better”) rather than specific issues. But it got an equal number of positive comments, so to some extent it's a case of you can't please everybody – and to some extent, it's a case of you can't please everybody with the available facilities...

The bar worked reasonably well this year, in no part due to Lindsay taking time away from her main job in the University so she could return to see us and run the bar. We had reports of the bar lacking variety of soft drinks. However, there were more options available in a fridge which didn't have a glass front – so could only be found if you asked what was available! We have asked for this to be improved for next year.

We received feedback on issues with bedrooms, which we have passed on to the University. However, we have also received feedback from one attendee who had issues with his room and reported them to the University at the time, and thus was re-roomed. If you do have issues, please do let the University know as soon as they are found. Not everything can be fixed there and then, but the sooner they are reported, the more opportunity they have to fix the issue.

We received some feedback on the games stall, which this year was run by Meeple Games for the first time. Based on Ron's experience of running it this year, he is already planning to stay on site next year so that he can open for longer hours, and now has a much better idea of what to bring for sale at ManorCon.

We've had a couple of requests for a games library, but it's really beyond what we are able to do. However, if people can label their boxes of games around the edge of the room, it would mean that if people were looking to borrow a specific game, they would know whom they need to find to ask.

As ever, we had feedback on a number of issues we can do nothing about – lack of phone signal in the gaming rooms (I'm assuming we don't have an attendee who works in the mast locating division of a mobile phone company???), the bedrooms being too hot (despite the heating being turned off – the building is just too well insulated, and the hot water pipes are not insulated enough!), the size of the second hand games sale room, and the quality of the chairs. Unfortunately these are all out of our hands...

Finally, we had feedback on the website. Yes, it's looking very old and isn't mobile friendly, and on the to-do list for rebuilding. It is now older than some of our attendees!!!

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 XXXV:

For their help on the Registration Desk: Mat Beasley, Peter Campbell, Kath Collman, Rob Cowan, Steve Cox, Jerry Elsmore, James Goodman, Kate Lewis, Bill Mayling, Helen Payne, David Robson, David Thornton.

For organising tournaments: Chris Barnett, Paul Grogan, Steve Guest, Phil Hannay and Dan Lester.

For hosting the convention, and being as helpful and friendly as always, the University of Leicester.

Rounding Things Up

Overall numbers were higher than last year at 269. There were 236 people on Friday, 257 on Saturday, 245 on Sunday, and 164 on Monday. The number of bedrooms used was 197, which is somewhat down on last year. Internet bookings increased slightly to 83% with 17% of advanced bookings being made postally.

We look forwards to seeing you at ManorCon XXXVII, the same week as 2018 – 19th to 22nd July 2019.

To contact the committee, e-mail info@manorcon.org.uk. More information can be found on the ManorCon website, www.manorcon.org.uk.

MidCon 2018 Progress Report (Jeremy Tullett)

So far as I am aware, the online booking system for bedrooms is working well. The only two problems reported to me have involved people trying to book by telephone. The Hallmark chain does not have appear to have expected this, but I have let them know, and I hope that anyone else booking this way should have no problems.

Bookings overall are slightly down at this stage (19 September) as compared to 2017 and 2016, but (a) a number of 'regulars' appear not to have registered (b) I have received registration fees to the convention bank account from two people who have not registered, and I rather suspect that there will be people who have already booked bedrooms, but have not yet registered at all, and (d) there are a large number of people registering who have never been to MidCon before. I therefore anticipate that it will turn out to be a busy weekend.

The convention booklet on the website is last year's. It will be updated before the event.

The Final Word

This issue of The Queen's Lane Advertiser was brought to you by: Jeremy Tullett, 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR (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.

MidCon 2018 Registration 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	Fri/Sat/Sun	Friday only	Saturday only	Sunday only
Book before 19 th Oct: £25	Book after 19 th Oct: £30	£15	£15	£10

Payment for the Registration Fee (tick box)

PayPal (visit www.midcon.org.uk for details)	
Transfer to "MidCon Convention", Lloyds TSB Colmore Row 30-00-03 03033129	
Sterling cheque (made out to "MidCon Convention") / Cash (delete as appropriate), posted to: Jeremy Tullett, MidCon , 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR	

Please provide your name and postcode as a reference with direct transfers. We *cannot* (yet) 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.
Hallmark Hotel Single	£68.00	£68.00	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	£81.00	£81.00	
Hallmark Inn Single	£55.00	£55.00	
Hallmark Inn Twin / Double	£68.00	£68.00	

Please note that there will be an £4 / day parking fee, payable at the Hallmark Derby Inn or Hallmark Derby Midland reception.

Our bedroom allocation is held until mid-October: YOU ARE ADVISED TO BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

******* Bedrooms are now to be booked directly with the hotel *******

which avoids the possibility of your chairman making errors in requesting your room, and also enables him to reclaim his Sunday mornings in the run-up to the event.

How to book your bedroom:

1. Visit the Hallmark Hotels website.
2. Locate either the "Derby Inn" or "Derby Midland".
3. Select the nights that you require.
4. Enter the booking code MidCON.
5. The rates listed above should be applied.
6. It should also be possible to book by telephone.

Please tick as appropriate.

- ☐ I wish you *immediately* to remove my address details from the **MidCon** records. (**Note:** this will prevent us from updating you on **MidCon** progress.)
- ☐ I wish you to keep my name and address records, solely for the purpose of informing me about **MidCon**, and providing me with postal copies of QLA