

# The Queen's Lane Advertiser

*(Incorporating Convention News)*

Issue Number 66

Printed in Wiltshire

February 2019

Edited by Jeremy Tullett

*A magazine containing news about various games conventions taking place in the UK*

Inside this issue:

- Manorcon XXXVII – now open for booking
- **MidCon** 2018 - a report

## Forthcoming Conventions

<b>Diplomacy Event</b> Macclesfield 2-3 March 2019 Maccdiplomac(at)outlook.com <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/129191931323821/">https://www.facebook.com/events/129191931323821/</a>	<b>SwanCon</b> The Swan, Knutsford, Cheshire 21-24 March 2019 geggus(at)sky.com	<b>Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLVI</b> Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 23 March 2019 <a href="http://www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk">www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk</a>
<b>TringCon</b> Marsworth Millennium Hall Marsworth, Nr. Tring, Bucks Saturday 6 April 2019 contact(at)tringcon.org <a href="http://www.tringcon.org">www.tringcon.org</a>	<b>BayCon 2019</b> Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 24-28 April 2019 <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/baycon/">www.facebook.com/groups/baycon/</a>	<b>UK Games Expo</b> NEC Hilton Metropole, Birmingham 31 May - 2 June 2019 <a href="http://www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk">www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk</a>
<b>Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLVII</b> Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 22 June 2019 <a href="http://www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk">www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk</a>	<b>ManorCon XXXVII</b> Stamford Court, University of Leicester 19-22 July 2019 info(at)manorcon.org.uk <a href="http://www.manorcon.org.uk">www.manorcon.org.uk</a>	<b>HandyCon</b> Holiday Inn, Maidenhead 9-11 August 2019 <a href="http://www.handycon.co.uk">www.handycon.co.uk</a>
<b>Boardgames Holiday</b> Le Pas Opton, France 9-16 September 2019 <a href="http://www.springharvestholidays.com/features/weeks/board-games-week/">www.springharvestholidays.com/features/weeks/board-games-week/</a>	<b>Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLVIII</b> Waterside Community Centre Heath Road Burton-upon-Trent DE15 9LF 28 September 2019 <a href="http://www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk">www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk</a>	<b>MidCon</b> The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 8-10 November 2019 13-15 November 2020 <a href="http://MidCon.org.uk">MidCon.org.uk</a>

Marvin Fried continues to run **Diplomacy** games frequently, but not regularly, with the general details being:

**Location:** Old Building, London School of Economics, Houghton St, London WC2A 2AE  
Nearest Tube: Holborn or Temple

1200 arrival, rules training starts at 1215, country selection at 1245, game starts at 1300, typically on Saturdays. **Please find further details on Facebook – this is just a general guide.**

## 'Robin' a New Convention in Nottingham

This took place on the 17 February at the Nottingham Tennis Centre. It made it on to the front page of the last issue of QLA and was described as a long-running war games convention trying to attract a more general gaming audience. Anyone got any reports on this?

---

## Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

### Sir John Soane and Dr Samuel Johnson. An unlikely coupling.

Sir John Soane (1753-1837) was an English architect, who designed the Bank of England (demolished in the 1930s) and Dulwich art gallery. During the early 19<sup>th</sup> century he successively purchased 12, 13, and 14 Lincoln's Inn Fields, both as places to live in, and as a place to store his extensive collection of architectural models, casts and drawings.

In 1833, he arranged for Act of Parliament to be passed to ensure that his houses and his collection would be preserved in perpetuity, with free access to the public.

Sir John Soane's Museum, as it now is, is one of the more unusual and lesser-known museums in London, and well worth a visit if you like That Sort of Thing.

The rooms within the original structures are fine examples of late-Georgian design and decoration, and would be worth a visit on their own, but the main feature of the museum is at the back of the premises, where Sir John replaced the stables and the yard with a purpose built, cunningly designed, display area for his eclectic collection, which is also eclectically arranged. There is, quite literally, a surprise around every corner, and there are plenty of corners.

There is a small gallery, containing several Canalettos, but the pictures are mounted, floor to ceiling, on large, hinged, boards, so the (small room) holds considerably more pictures, than the wall space alone would suggest. The room is sufficiently small that the frames are only moved when there's only a curator in the room, and at set times of day.

The other highlight is held to be the sarcophagus of Seti I. This looks like a discoloured bathtub to me, but there are plenty more interesting items to peer at on the way around the passages.

Not far away, in Gough Square, is the house of Samuel Johnson. It's main point of interest being that it is one of the few late 17<sup>th</sup> century houses still standing in the City of London. (Dr Johnson actually lived at several London addresses during his lifetime.) It was restored by magnate Cecil Harmsworth, and opened to the public in 1914.

It is a considerably less sophisticated residence than that of Sir John Soane, but interesting for all that, and contains a few memorabilia of Dr. Johnson and his dictionary, which is held to be the most influential (although not the first) English dictionary published.

Gough Square is located at the end of one of a number of narrow alleyways running off of Fleet Street, and it was really only when I visited recently that I became aware just how much of the medieval street plan still exists in the City. The house is erratically signposted, and quite hard to find, even with the aid of a maps app.

The editor as Dr. Samuel Johnson.



## **MidCon 2018 Report (Jeremy Tullett)**

---

Numbers for the 2018 running of **MidCon** were slightly down on 2017. No one advanced any particular reason for not coming, but previous experience has suggested that Guy Fawkes parties and firework displays often provide a competing interest, particularly for families with children.

We are back to our more 'usual' slot for 2019 – Remembrance Sunday.

A slightly quieter event meant more room, and the overflow space in the Hallmark Inn was only lightly used, but we found that there is a group of people who actively like to be there for the extra space and peace that it provides. The Inn dining room is booked again for 2019.

The upstairs meeting rooms at the Inn have been converted into offices, so we were obliged to shift the second-hand games sale to the Aston Court hotel. This appears to have worked well, the layout making it easier for buyers to circulate. Persons selling games who were staying at the Inn were mildly inconvenienced, but a number of our players stay at the Aston Court anyway, and they might have favoured the change.

I also introduced a card reader at the convention registration desk. It was lightly used, but was handy for those who did wish to pay by card, and it provides the opportunity for us to provide emergency cash (for a small fee) for anyone who needs it (but there are several cash machines at the railway station).

After a slightly difficult start in January, when I had once again to chivvy the staff into getting them themselves organised for the convention, and a further hiatus during the summer when our discounted rate briefly vanished, I developed a good manager-manager relationship with the current General manager of the hotel. He clearly has a deep interest in us continuing to use the Inn and the Hotel, but is also concerned about two events that happened in 2018. The committee shares his concern, and I need to put these matters to those who attend the convention.

### **Personal Security**

In 2018, for the first time that I can remember in the 40 years or so that I have been attending conventions, an outsider stole a bag of games worth several hundred pounds from one of the public rooms. Fortunately the games were recovered, and the thief apprehended.

Trust between players is a great thing, and we all know that the piles of games that line the games rooms are generally available for people to borrow, provided that permission is sought. Items have gone missing from time to time, but it is not generally thought to have been down to maliciousness.

The disappearance of a complete bag is upsetting to the owner, and embarrassing for the hotel management, and, sadly, it is necessary for everyone to become more security conscious about his or her personal property.

This means (a) challenging (politely) anyone who looks out of place, and who is acting suspiciously, and (b) closing the games room door if you are the last one out. This is mildly inconvenient, but the hotel staff can always unlock the doors, and at least one committee member will have a key card available.

### **Courtesy to Hotel Staff**

There were two instances where some of our players displayed behaviour that was construed as abusive, once over a process issue, and once over a perceived personal slight.

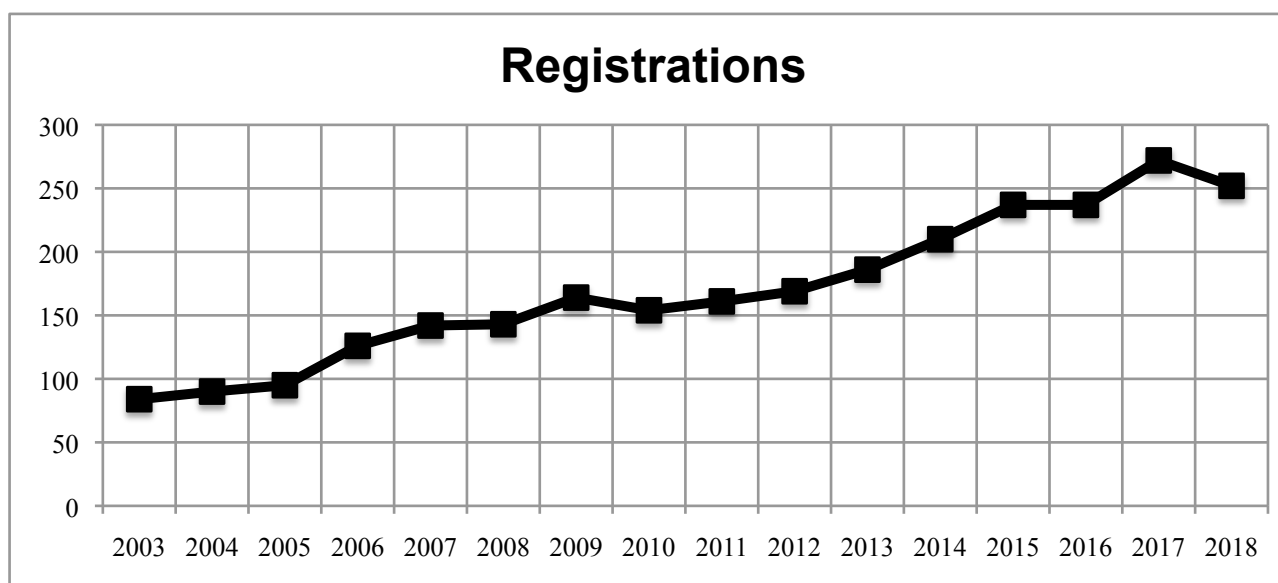
The staff has a job to do, and they have prescribed ways of doing it, some of which we may find frustrating. However, abusing individuals will not help. If you do have a complaint, please raise it in a civil fashion, either with the hotel's Duty Manager or with a member of the **MidCon** committee, and we will try to sort it out. Shouting at people, or throwing crockery will only make matters worse, and won't resolve anything.

We will be putting these guidance notes on the information cards for the 2019 event.

## MidCon Booking History

I am often asked how numbers 'this year' compare with previous years. Headcount is, for various reasons, not exact, but the graph below provides a general indication of how attendance has risen since 2003, when what is essentially the current committee took over.

I am appalled that we have been doing this for 15 years. Anyone want to take it over?



2003 – Jeremy takes over as chair. **MidCon** still at the Thistle Angus in Birmingham

2011 – first year at the Hallmark Hotel, Derby, and EuroDipCon

2017 – extra room at the Hallmark Inn introduced

## Lost and Found

- A number of items of clothing were handed to the hotel, mostly light fleecy, pullover type things
- Several games were abandoned, we assume because they didn't sell at the Bring 'n' Buy. Simon Bouton claimed a box of them, and agreed to let me dispose of them as best as I can, with proceeds going to charity. I am otherwise holding copies of *The Lord of the Ice Garden* and *Crossfire*,
- Assorted counters and cards from this and previous years.

We can post items to their owners (at their cost), or hang on to them until Manorcon, or **MidCon**.

I understand that a few other items were left behind, but that the owners have now been reunited with them.

## The MidCon Quiz

Once again, David Norman provided the questions and the answers. We also took a short break somewhat before midnight to enable the purchase of refreshments from the bar. The rounds were:

R	Subject	Details
1	No. members in the team	30 points for teams of 4, 20 for teams of 5
2	Island Nations	20 flags, country outlines, photos and questions - name the Island Nation for each one.
3	Sequences.	Each question is four items to put into order. Everything from putting Oscar-winning films into chronological order, to listing Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends in order of their engine numbers.
4	5-4-3-2-1	Five questions with multiple answers, give 5 answers to the first, 4 to the second, etc. Including Books of the Old Testament and Chemical Elements.
5	Connections.	Nine questions to answer, then question 10 is what connects the nine answers. This year they were all words that could be prefixed with "RE" to make a completely different word.
6	First names.	20 famous groups of people, listed only by their first name, which isn't always the name they're known by. Name the group. Ranging from Queen Victoria's children to the 1966 World Cup Final Team to the A-Team to the members of Steps
7	Heads or Tails	Each question has two options, guess wrong and you're out. Last person standing wins 5 points for their team, out on the final question 2 points, beat last year's winner 1 point (but for the second year in a row, last year's winner wasn't present, so this wasn't available). Pete Mason won the 5 points for his team, so will be the player to beat next year.
8	19th Century Round	Every answer is a different decade in the 1800's.
9	Doubles	Each question is in two parts, find the answer that fits both e.g. which area of the shipping forecast is also a US state capital?

Place	Team	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	Total
1	Team Serious	30	17	6	14	10	20		7	10	114
2	Shameless Plug for SorCon	30	20	5	14	7	20		6	10	112
3	Not Them	30	14.5	5	10	10	18	5	8	9	109.5
4	The Great Big Fact Hunt	30	14	4	10	10	18		8	8	102
5	Team Fat Bastard	30	13.5	3	10	9	17		8	9	99.5
6	PPG	30	16	2	9	7	17		8	7	96
7	3 J's and a K	30	13	1	12	9	14		8	8	95
8	Geeks in the Corner	30	9	3	9	8	18		5	8	90
9	Rebellion	30	13	2	9	9	14		2	9	88
10	The Meeples Who Game	30	14	3	11	7	14		2	6	87
11	The Existential Plank Straddles the Ill-conceived Pony	20	6	1	8	9	14	2	1	10	71

Congratulations to the winning team, team serious - Robin, Chris, Adam and Scott.

---

## **World Diplomacy Convention August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 (Marseille)**

To be held in a holiday centre on the Frioul islands, off the coast of Marseille. I won't be going, as I have other plans for that weekend, but the organisers have gone for shared bedrooms (6-up) and on-site catering, as was done for WDC in The Hague in 2010.

The attractions of a convention in Provence are self-evident, and Diplomacy players are not, by and large, gourmands, but a similar accommodation experience in The Hague was dismal, and the food was really not that good either. Dave Simpson, James Hardy and I later found that it actually may have been cheaper to stay at the Marriot around the corner, and the best meal we had all weekend was in a local Chinese restaurant, handily placed for the red light district.

Apparently there are ferries to the islands from 06:00 to 01:00 from the port of Marseille, and I think I'd be tempted to stay on the mainland, and travel over each day were I going at all. (Although at €120 for two nights, all in, you can't complain at the price.)

---

## **MidCon 2019 Advance News (Jeremy Tullett)**

### **The Convention**

**MidCon XXXXI** is going to take place in the comfortable Hallmark Hotel in Derby from Friday morning 8th November (9am) to Sunday evening 10th November (6pm).

### **Convention Registration**

Registration is not open yet. It is likely that room will again be bookable directly through the Hallmark's website, with a special booking code providing access to convention room rates.

I also aim, one way or another, to be in a position to accept credit / debit cards at the registration desk.

### **Seven Needed for a Game of Diplomacy**

The informal Diplomacy session in 2018 was again very successful, so far as it went.

Unfortunately, as we only had about 10 players interested, we were only able to run a single board on each of Saturday and Sunday. The main protagonists are keen to make the event larger, and I support them in this. If you are interested in playing in 2019, do let me know when you register, so we can plan room space appropriately.

---

## **A Diplomacy Event in Macclesfield 2-3 March 2019 (Gary Sturley)**

Gary writes: first of all thank you for your hard work with **MidCon** 2018, I very much enjoyed myself there. I was one of the small group of Diplomacy players who attended. We had such a good time that we have agreed to arrange another Diplomacy event in Macclesfield, my hometown, on 2nd and 3rd of March 2019.

I am writing to you to ask whether you would be interested in attending, and whether you have contact details for other Diplomacy players who might wish to come along. In particular there were two gentlemen named Andy who played at **MidCon** who I would like to invite, but the event is open to all so please spread the word if you are able.

If you could give interested parties the following email address I would be grateful:  
maccdiplomacy@outlook.com

I have also set up a Facebook event, at the following address:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/129191931323821/>

# MANORCON XXXVII

**Stamford Court, University of Leicester. 2pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – 2pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019**

Following on from last year's successful convention, ManorCon will once again be held at the University of Leicester. The gaming halls will remain at Stamford Court with accommodation nearby.

**Please note: ManorCon does not start until 2pm on Friday. In recent years, people have been arriving earlier and earlier, to the extent that it has started to interfere with the convention preparation on Friday morning. The University needs to adapt the venue to our set up and thus it is unlikely that there will be space available for anyone arriving before 2pm.**

As ever, single accommodation is available at the convention. All rooms are en-suite rooms. These will cost £44 per night, and £8 per night extra if you don't book in advance. As always, you are therefore recommended to book early to guarantee a room.

For those people who want twin accommodation, we recommend The Regency Hotel, which is just under a mile from the convention. The contact details are: The Regency Hotel, 360 London Road, Stonygate, LE2 2PL 0116 270 9634. If you want to take this option, we recommend booking early, as it has been known to fill up on ManorCon weekend. Their website is [www.the-regency-hotel.com](http://www.the-regency-hotel.com).

ManorCon will be pretty much the same as the successful formula we've had in previous years. Running from Friday lunchtime to Monday lunchtime, it will have all the regular tournaments, plus one or two possible new ones, depending on the success (or otherwise) of the latest new game releases. It will once again feature the Second Hand Game Sale on Friday and Saturday, the Pop Quiz on Saturday evening, and the Treasure Hunt on Sunday afternoon, as well as more games than you can shake a stick at.

Tournaments will include 18XX and Midnight Party. If there is a tournament that you would like us to run, please contact a member of the committee and we'll try to fit it in. There will also be plenty of non-tournament games on offer far too numerous to mention!

There is, of course, a bar, and we are working to make sure that the Real Ale is up to standard.

On the next page, you should find a booking form. You can also download the booking form (and find lots of other ManorCon information) on the ManorCon website, [www.manorcon.org.uk](http://www.manorcon.org.uk). Please note the booking deadline - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019. If you need any further information, please contact us:

- Steve Jones, 59 Sudeley Walk, Putnoe, Bedford, MK41 8JH, UK (+44 (0)1234 405878)

- email us at [info@manorcon.org.uk](mailto:info@manorcon.org.uk)

If you've never been to ManorCon before and are wondering what it's all about, ManorCon is the largest board games convention in the UK. It's held annually in July in one of the halls of residence of Leicester University. Approximately 240-250 gamers come along for a weekend of intensive board gaming, some entering tournaments, many simply playing socially. It's great fun, and makes a change from your humdrum everyday life. If you've never been before, why not try it?

The aim of ManorCon is to play games and have fun, and our aim is to help you to succeed in doing both! Whether you're looking to spend a whole day playing one game of Civilization, or to play a wide range of shorter games such as Agricola, Power Grid, Settlers of Catan, Acquire, Dominion, Race for the Galaxy, Stone Age, Ticket to Ride, and many more, ManorCon is the place to be. And if you've never heard of any of these games, but are interested in playing games which reward good play without turning into the brain-ache of chess, with a large group of similarly interested people, then why not come along and find out what its all about?

To book, please either visit <http://www.manorcon.org.uk/book.htm> or complete the form below and return by 16<sup>th</sup> June to: Gary Duke, MANORCON, 2 Sturmeay Drive, Fleet, Hants, GU51 1GP,UK. Please make cheques payable to: ManorCon. If you wish to pay using credit card, this can only be done using the online booking system and not via post or on the door.

This form should be returned to Gary before 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019. PRE-BOOKINGS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE. However, there will probably be some rooms available if you arrive and pay on the door. Please note that room prices are higher if not booked in advance.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE RECORDED DELIVERY.** Bookings sent by recorded delivery may be significantly delayed until Gary can get to the sorting office to collect them. If you send your booking by recorded delivery, and this causes your booking to not be received until after the deadline, then your booking will not be accepted.

The prices are subject to variation in the event of VAT changes. Cancellations may be made up to June 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 for a full refund.

It is the responsibility of delegates to look after their valuables. ManorCon cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to items.

GDPR: Details of your booking are stored on computers. We will use it for the purpose of running ManorCon, and will send them details of future conventions via QLA. We do not sell our mailing lists to any other individuals or organizations.

Please tick here if you would like information about other UK Conventions to be sent to you via email

**Please sign here**.....

Name:	Male/Female	
Address		
email:		
Telephone no:		
If this will be your first time at ManorCon, please tick here: <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>If you are willing to help out on the registration desk, please tick here:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		
If you are a qualified first aider, please tick here: <input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>If non-resident, please tick to indicate which days you will be attending:</i>		
Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/>		
Registration fee: £6 for one day, £10 for the weekend. (NB. If paying on the door, prices rise to £8 and £12)		£
Accommodation: £44 per night for an en-suite single (NB. If paying on the door, prices will be £8 extra per person per night)		
Friday	Enter £44	£
Saturday	Enter £44	£
Sunday	Enter £44	£
Total enclosed:		£

---

## 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.