

The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

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Edited by Jeremy Tullett

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

Inside this issue:

- Manorcon XXXVII results and round-up
- **MidCon** 2019 details: National Diplomacy Championship, secondhand games sale, Keith Rapley memorial event

Forthcoming Conventions

MidCon 2019 The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 8-10 November 2019 MidCon.org.uk	Pasteboard and Plastic 40 Saltdean Scout Hut, Brighton Saturday 30 November 2019 tinyurl.com/3ex38k	Boardgames at the Manor Otford Manor, Kent 13-15 December 2019 www.oakhall.co.uk/manor
Raiders of the Games Cupboard XLIX Waterside Community Centre, Burton-upon-Trent 4 January 2020 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	Handycon Holiday Inn, Maidenhead 17-19 January 2020 handycon.co.uk	SoRCon Holiday Inn, Festival Leisure Park, Basildon, Essex 21-23 February 2020 www.sorcon.co.uk
Raiders of the Games Cupboard L Waterside Community Centre, Burton-upon-Trent 21 March 2020 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	TringCon Marsworth Millennium Hall, Marsworth, Bucks Saturday 4 April 2020 www.tringcon.org	BayCon 2020 Exeter Court Hotel, Kennford, Devon 15-19 April 2020 www.facebook.com/groups/baycon/
UK Games Expo NEC Hilton Metropole, Birmingham 29-31 May 2020 www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk	Raiders of the Games Cupboard LI Waterside Community Centre, Burton-upon-Trent 27 June 2020 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	ManorCon XXXVIII Stamford Court, University of Leicester 17-20 July 2020 www.manorcon.org.uk
Boardgames Holiday Le Pas Opton, France 14-21 September 2020 www.springharvestholidays.com/featu reweeks/board-games-week/	Raiders of the Games Cupboard LII Waterside Community Centre, Burton-upon-Trent 26 September 2020 www.raidersofthegamecupboard.co.uk	MidCon 2020 The Hallmark Hotel Derby DE1 2SQ 13-15 November 2020 MidCon.org.uk

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.**

MidCon 2019 (Jeremy Tullett)

How's it Going?

As of early October, we had received around 160 registrations, making it (so far) the second largest **MidCon** under the current committee.

All of the allocated bedrooms in the hotel have been sold, but there remains availability at the Hallmark Inn. Should that fill, we can suggest other options within walking distance of the convention.

Please register for the convention at www.midcon.org.uk to pay by PayPal, or pay by transfer to "MidCon Convention", Lloyds TSB Colmore Row 30-00-03 03033129, or pay with a sterling cheque (made out to "MidCon Convention"), posted to me at MidCon, 7 Midland Place, Derby DE1 2RR.

Registration rates are:

Fri/Sat/Sun (book before 1st Nov) £25, £30 from 1st November.

Friday only £15

Saturday only £15

Sunday only £10.

To book yourself a bedroom, visit the Hallmark Hotels website, locate the "Derby Inn", select the nights that you require, and enter the booking code HMC0682019.

It should also be possible to book by telephone (quoting the booking code), or using this link: <https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Chain=9035&Dest=DERBY&Locale=en-US&promo=HMC0682019>

The applicable room rates (per room per night) are:

Hallmark Inn Single £56.00

Hallmark Inn Twin / Double £69.00.

These rates apply Thursday night to Sunday night inclusive (but the convention officially only runs from 09:00 Friday to 18:00 Sunday).

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

We look forward to seeing everyone again in November.

National Diplomacy Championship?

Way back in the mists of time at **MidCon III**, the first UK NDC (National Diplomacy Championship) was held, with nine boards in that first tournament. Popularity has waxed and waned since, with a maximum of 117 players in 1993 and as recently as 2011, the first year in our current location, 33 players contested both the EuroDipCon and UK NDC titles.

The last couple of years have seen a number of friendly (really?!) games happening, some on the traditional map and some as variants. This year, MidCon has again been asked to host the NDC, so assuming that we see sufficient players prepared to take part on the standard board, then this will again come to pass. So, sign up, tell your friends and stab your way to the title...

(By sufficient, we mean enough to support a couple of boards per round, with up to three rounds over the weekend. We will run this if we get sufficient numbers, so, if you want to play, please register for the convention and let me know ASAP: contact detail at the end of the 'zine.)

Keith Rapley Memorial

Following the sad demise of Keith Rapley, a **MidCon** regular, Paul (Evans) and Mark (Jones) invite you to join them for some light, fun games on Friday afternoon in his memory. Anyone who knew Keith, or would just like to mark the passing of a dedicated gamer, is very welcome to join us.

Traditionally, the “Silly Drive” was the ice-breaker at Furrycon, and Paul and Mark thinking that a couple of hours on Friday afternoon would be fun.

In order to support this, I am allocating the Milldale room to the event for Friday afternoon from 15:00-17:00. There is no need to pre-register for this event, but it would be helpful to know if you should like to join in, so we can set up tables appropriately.

Secondhand Games Sale

Once again, the ever popular secondhand games sale will be taking place at the Aston Court Hotel, across the Road from the Hallmark Hotel, and almost adjacent to the Hallmark Inn.

This represents a lot of work for (principally) John Harrington and Pete Card, and this year Giles Bennett has kindly offered to provide an online tool that will enable us to record all buying and selling transactions.

It will also offer the opportunity for sellers to pre-list their wares, and for buyers to view them in advance.

Keep an eye on the **MidCon** website for further developments, and information on how to use the system.

We Can Now Accept Cards

There are (and always have been) cashpoint machines at the railway station, but we recognize that some people prefer to pay their registration fees on their credit or debit cards.

Also, **MidCon** meals are served from a cash-only bar which, although inconvenient, does not merit abusing the staff serving the meals.

We now have the facility to take convention payments from debit cards and credit cards, which means also we can provide cash for you, although the provision of a cashpoint service will incur a 5% charge, because that is what the service costs us.

Remembrance Sunday

MidCon Sunday will be Remembrance Sunday. The hotel traditionally holds a two-minute silence at 11am, because “the staff want it”, although, notoriously, the only people to ignore it a couple of years ago were the kitchen staff.

The moment will be marked by the ringing of the fire alarm. Please be so kind as to observe this event; there may not be a committee member present in your room to remind you, so it needs to be done by consensus.

For anyone who wishes to mark the event more formally, the city war memorial is located in the street alongside the Hallmark Hotel’s garden.

ManorCon XXXVII - Results

This was our fourth year in Stamford Court, where we will be looking for ManorCon to remain for the foreseeable future. We are now firmly settled there – it's a sign of how settled, that when trying to think of what was different to last year to write about here, a complete blank was drawn. As such, we expect 2020 to be the same format again.

The convention is also settled in number of attendees, with the 270 people who attended in 2019 being an increase of one on the 2018 numbers. The venue never felt overcrowded, and there was always some spare playing space somewhere, so we hope we will continue to see more new faces in future.

18XX

The 18XX tournament had 23 players playing 18 games, a small decrease in the number of games from last year. The games included two 18Ard, two 1858, and one each of 18C2, 1846, 1880, 18BF, 1867, 1822MX, 1833½, 1822, 1862/18EA, 18GB, 1761, 1861S, 18USA and 1880. This year saw a close result between third, fourth and fifth. In fifth place was Steve Thomas with one win out of six, in fourth place was Jon Draper with one win out of four, and in third place was Oliver Burnett-Hall with two wins out of five. Some way ahead in second place was John Boocock with three wins out of four. But the clear winner, with three wins out of three was Lyndon Gurr. Congratulations to Lyndon on winning the tournament.

Rank	Name	Games	Wins	Score
1	Lyndon Gurr	3	3	113.24
2	John Boocock	4	3	101.07
3	Oliver Burnett-Hall	5	2	91.97
4	Jon Draper	4	1	90.80
5	Steve Thomas	6	1	90.34
6	Richard Clyne	2	2	87.14
7	Danny Victor	4	1	76.71
8	Ian D. Wilson	4	1	68.93
9	Dave Berry	2	1	68.88
10	Simon Craddock	1	1	68.71
11	Jon Cant	1	0	58.96
12	Tudor Badea	3	0	56.51
13	Mike Hutton	2	0	53.27
14	Tom Walker	4	0	50.57
15	Chris Dawe	1	0	50.03
16	Dave Thorby	5	1	47.99
17	John Hopkins	2	0	47.62
18	Hamish Hamilton	3	1	40.81
19	Colin Smith	1	0	40.06
20	Tony Bromley	5	0	22.65
21	Geoff Hardingham	6	0	22.57
22	John Sloan	4	0	15.67
23	Thane Duffield	2	0	14.93

The individual game results were:

1761:

Name	Cash	Score
John Boocock	5071	115.69
Jon Draper	4639	85.84
Dave Thorby	4382	59.98
Ian D. Wilson	4267	37.35

18Ardennes:

Name	Cash	Score
Dave Thorby	11810	119.97
Oliver Burnett-Hall	10529	81.96
Danny Victor	9144	42.89
Hamish Hamilton	7894	5.19

Name	Cash	Score
Lyndon Gurr	7291	127.80
Steve Thomas	6311	90.62
Mike Hutton	6064	62.29
John Hopkins	5868	42.85
John Sloan	2992	-27.56

18BF:

Name	Cash	Score
John Boocock	17470	109.58
Jon Draper	17276	83.36
Ian D. Wilson	14758	42.57
Geoff Hardingham	14267	14.49

18C2:

Name	Cash	Score
Danny Victor	7756	108.64
Oliver Burnett-Hall	7656	82.24
John Sloan	6641	43.02
Dave Thorby	6504	16.10

18USA:

Name	Cash	Score
Richard Clyne	???	100.00
Tudor Badea	???	75.00
John Hopkins	???	50.00
John Sloan	???	25.00

1822:

Name	Cash	Score
Lyndon Gurr	18135	107.81
Danny Victor	17340	78.08
Tom Walker	16991	51.01
Tony Bromley	14820	13.10

1822GB:

Name	Cash	Score
Dave Berry	7413	109.84
Tony Bromley	6592	72.67
Tudor Badea	6539	46.89
Tom Walker	6452	20.60

1822MX:

Name	Cash	Score
Richard Clyne	9455	111.41
Tom Walker	9335	84.99
Tudor Badea	8287	47.65
Tony Bromley	6870	5.95

1833½:

Name	Cash	Score
Lyndon Gurr	8317	104.11
Steve Thomas	8083	76.18
Mike Hutton	7791	47.52
John Sloan	7765	22.20

1846:

Name	Cash	Score
Steve Thomas	6197	112.67
Geoff Hardingham	5405	73.27
Tom Walker	5263	45.68
Tony Bromley	5136	18.38

1858:

Name	Cash	Score
Jon Draper	8523	126.71
Steve Thomas	7487	86.31
Geoff Hardingham	5637	31.82
Tony Bromley	5258	3.17

1858:

Name	Cash	Score
Hamish Hamilton	10026	105.23
Danny Victor	9740	77.23
Oliver Burnett-Hall	9418	48.85
Dave Thorby	8926	18.69

1867:

Name	Cash	Score
Ian D. Wilson	10819	108.15
John Boocock	10416	64.13
Geoff Hardingham	8775	7.72

1861S:

Name	Cash	Score
John Boocock	3915	114.88
Ian D. Wilson	3668	87.63
Jon Draper	3656	67.28
Dave Thorby	2904	25.21
Geoff Hardingham	2897	5.01

1880:

Name	Cash	Score
Simon Craddock	6148	106.13
Jon Cant	5901	76.87
Dave Berry	5608	46.81
Colin Smith	5514	20.19

1862/18EA:

Name	Cash	Score
Oliver Burnett-Hall	14480	138.20
Steve Thomas	13521	109.05
Chris Dawe	9438	50.08
Hamish Hamilton	7546	12.02
Thane Duffield	7401	-9.36

1880:

Name	Cash	Score
Oliver Burnett-Hall	12692	108.60
Steve Thomas	12532	67.23
Thane Duffield	9836	4.16

Midnight Party

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

Rank	Name	Round Scores	Overall
1	Steve Guest	9 2 9	5.0
2	Tanya Lim	5 9 5	4.75
3	Jo Hollings	9	4.5
4	Dave Holmes	4 4 7	3.75
5	John Mitchell	1 7 6	3.5
5	Jess Roe	7	3.5
7	Stuart Malaure	6	3.0
7	Nick Kinzett	4 5 3	3.0
7	Mike Townsend	6 3	3.0
7	Ian Wilson	1 7 4	3.0
7	Alan Bellamy	6	3.0
12	James Owen	4	2.0
13	Chris Burnham	3	1.5
14	Lauren Dewsbery	2	1.0
14	Dave Cowie	2 1	1.0

Treasure Hunt

30 people in 6 teams took part in the treasure hunt. The winners were Team Green - Phil Hannay, Mark Rigby-Jones, Lisa Sanders, Terry Sanders, and Adam Carter.

Phil and Lisa have offered to run the treasure hunt next year, details will follow nearer the time.

Pop Quiz

Run by Phil Hannay, every round was an 80s round in one form or another – including people in their 80's, and an entire round in 80 seconds.

Team	R1	R2	R3	Lyrics	R4	R5	R6	Joker	Total
The Grumpy Corner	20	14	16	13	18	19	20	19	139
Team Fat Bastard	18	9	14	15	18	19	19	18	130
Simple Minds	19	9	12	17	16	18	16	18	125
Never Going to Give You Up	18	15	8	10	14	14	10	15	104
... And Finally On ...	6	12	8	9	16	13	13	16	93
Never Gonna Quiz You Up	11	7	13	10	18	7	12	12	90
The Fudge Bay Packers	13	11	7	11	14	13	5	14	88
Clueless & Tuneless	10	10	9	4	13	13	10	10	79
Pink Puffins	17	5	5	8	7	7	4	4	57
Bar Staff	20	1	7	14	3	5	3	3	56

Congratulations to The Grumpy Corner, Robin Walters, Mark Rigby-Jones, John Gates and Martin Burroughs.

Game Sales

The shop and the second hand games sale are now both entrenched as an integral part of ManorCon. This year was the second year of Meeple Games running the games shop, and after his first time last year, Ron was able to bring a much better range of stock. He will be back again next year.

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.

As usual, the food dominates the comments section, but for the first time, we had more positive than negative feedback. “Best so far”. “Improved food options”. “Actually quite edible”. OK, that last one is more of a comment on how poor it was previously... There were still some issues with the food though, the most common comment being about the portion sizes.

There were a number of comments about the fire alarm on Monday morning. We apologise to all those who were woken up by it.

The bar worked reasonably well this year, although it did run out of cider before people had finished arriving. Last year, we got two barrels, and didn't sell out. This year we asked for two barrels again, only got one, and it sold out on Friday night!

The draught lager also sold out, but not until Sunday afternoon. But we only had one barrel of lager, so given how long it lasted, we can't get two barrels or we will have a lot left. There was bottled lager available right to the end of the convention.

The Real Ale also sold out, but even later than the lager – Sunday night. Given how little we sell on Monday, we will get the same number of barrels for 2020, and rely on bottled beer for backup.

We received feedback on issues with bedrooms, which we have passed on to the University. As ever, these include the rooms being too hot, which we can do nothing about. We also had queries about how to ask for a Bowder Court room rather than being over the road in John Foster. Generally, we allocate the rooms on a first-come, first-served basis, and we know that everybody prefers to be as close to the convention as possible, so fill Bowder Court first.

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 XXXVII:

For their help on the Registration Desk: Gordon Aickin, Peter Campbell, Kath Collman, Steve Cox, Jerry Elsmore, Karianne Fog Heen, James Goodman, Kate Lewis, Caroline Lynagh, Graham Miller.

For organising tournaments: Martin Burroughs, Paul Grogan, Steve Guest and Phil Hannay.

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

Rounding Things Up

Overall numbers were up one on last year at 270. There were 227 people on Friday, 261 on Saturday, 245 on Sunday, and 147 on Monday. The number of bedrooms used was 202. Internet bookings continue to increase so that they now make up 88% of all bookings, with 12% of advanced bookings continuing to be made postally.

We look forwards to seeing you at ManorCon XXXVIII, the same week as 2019 – 17th to 20th July 2020.

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