

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

Editorial

A thinner issue than of late, with not much news on the convention scene at this time of year.

The reduced attendance at OxCon 2006's Diplomacy tournament reflects a declining interest in face-to-face tournaments at all of the conventions that have held such competitions, and this year's **MidCon** will be bowing to inevitable, but abandoning any attempt to lay claim to the "National Diplomacy Championship", although we shall still hold a tournament for those remaining players who would like their regular fix.

In some ways, this might be a good thing. The committee members will not have to work quite so hard to scare recalcitrant players from their beds to make up the numbers, and people can go off and participate in the quizzes, or meals out without feeling that they've ruined their chances of winning a title, particularly on Friday night. (We can probably still find a trophy.)

It also takes a weight off my shoulders, as I won't have to sweat trying to make up partially filled boards.

This will leave Manorcon as the sole remaining UK convention running a Diplomacy competition, and numbers are falling there too.

However, one hears (**The Blue Nose Special**, *passim*) that Diplomacy on the Internet is alive and well, and the decision of OxCon instead to run a Puerto Rico tournament is perhaps indicative that what were once Diplomacy conventions that welcomed other games players now need to attract the general player of boardgames, and indeed **MidCon** has already had two enquiries for 2006 from gamers who have never been before, attracted to the idea of general boardgaming in a nice hotel.

MidCon '06 Booking Form

We will not accept bookings after 1st November. After that date, please book directly with the hotel. We will take your registration fee of £18 at the convention.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Others covered by this registration:

Please register me/us at **MidCon '06** at £15 per person for the convention (**goes up to £18 on the door!**), or at the appropriate daily rate. Convention fees are NOT refundable.

I enclose a cheque / PO (payable to "**MidCon**") for £ _____

or please charge my Visa / MasterCard via PayPal for my registration fee **only**.

The name on my credit card is: _____

The card type is: _____

The credit card number is: _____

The expiry date is: _____

The 3 digit security code on the reverse is: _____

A link for credit card bookings will soon be available at the **MidCon** website.

Accommodation

Please reserve the following rooms at the rate of £47.00 per person per night for a single room and £37.50 per person per night sharing a twin/double room – a full English breakfast is included. Hotel charges will be settled directly with the hotel on your departure.

* I hereby give permission for **MidCon** to pass my credit card details to the Hotel to reserve my room

* I enclose a cheque for 50% of the total cost of my room booking, payable to "Thistle Birmingham City Hotel", as a deposit.

* delete as applicable (you must select one of these options or we cannot reserve you a room)

The cancellation policy of the hotel this year is complicated, but full refunds should be available up to 10 weeks before **MidCon**, with an escalating cancellation fee as 10 November approaches.

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No. of single rooms			
No. of twin rooms			
No of double rooms			
Sharing with ...			

When complete, return this form, together with your registration fee (payable to "**MidCon**") to: Jeremy Tullett, **MidCon**, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR. Alternatively, credit card bookings may be submitted online soon (July 2006) at www.midcon.org.uk.

The Thistle hotel chain often offers cheap rooms in Birmingham during November at a rate below that of **MidCon**. Anyone taking advantage of this offer needs to be aware of the 'small print', noting that breakfast *may* not be included in the price, and that there *may* be no guarantee of which Birmingham Thistle the room will be in.

Details of your booking are stored on computers. We do not sell our mailings lists to any other individuals or organisations, but we may share them with other games conventions.

Midcon 2006: (Jeremy Tullett): 10th – 12th November 2006, Thistle Birmingham City Hotel

MidCon takes place in a comfortable hotel in the centre of Birmingham from Friday afternoon (4pm) to Sunday evening (6pm). It features:

- the opportunity to play boardgames with like-minded adults, including a Diplomacy tournament
- the **MidCon** music quiz on Friday evening
- the **MidCon** quiz for teams of 4 on Saturday evening
- the chance to buy even more board games

MidCon is primarily about playing games and meeting people. You can play any of the number of games people have brought along with them, which may include spending the weekend playing 18xx or Diplomacy. People have even been known to stay up late, drink too much and lose the shirt off their backs– but we don't recommend it.

Attendance at **MidCon** costs £15-£18 for the whole weekend (day rates of £8/£10/£8 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and accommodation is available in the Thistle Hotel at reasonable rates. The hotel is reachable by public transport and there's an adjacent car park.

OxCon 2007 Progress Report (James Rogers)

Next year's OxCon will be taking place over the weekend of the 20th and 21st of January. The format will be changed somewhat from this year's - Sunday's Settlers of Catan competition will continue as usual, however due to the lack of participants in this year's event we have decided to discontinue the OxCon Diplomacy tournament and run a Puerto Rico competition on Saturday instead. We also hope to be putting on the other events that have proved to be successful in the past, principally the Lost Cities and 15 to 1 tournaments. We are also hoping that we will once again have a board game retailer at the convention for anyone who wishes to purchase games to play over the weekend.

On Friday the 19th we will be having our traditional laser quest and curry events, hopefully followed by an evening's gaming at someone's house. Both of these events need to be booked beforehand so anyone wishing to attend will need to let us know at least a couple of days in advance.

Saturday will be based principally around the Puerto Rico tournament, which we hope will be a big success.

This will be starting at 11.00, with players needing to be registered by 10.50 for the draw. However, anyone who wishes to come along just to play casual games will definitely find plenty of takers for that as well.

Sunday will be as Saturday, but with the Settlers tournament being the main event, starting at the same time. This usually attracts a very good number of people - we had 8 tables going at this year's convention.

Entry fees to the convention will be as follows:

Entry to the convention only (excluding PR and Settlers, but including Lost Cities and 15-to-1): £4

Entry to the convention plus Puerto Rico tournament	£7
Entry to the convention plus Settlers tournament	£7
Comprehensive weekend entry (Puerto Rico and Settlers)	£10

The Mitre Public House will again be the location for OxCon 2007. This pub, located on the high street in Oxford, has been an excellent venue for the past few years, providing a comfortable playing environment as well as good food at lunch and dinner times. The convention room is booked for the whole weekend so gaming can continue until closing time if people wish.

If you have any queries please email diplo@herald.ox.ac.uk for more information.

Forthcoming Conventions

StabCon, Manchester 30 June to 2 July	ManorCon XXIV Shackleton Hall, University of Birmingham Birmingham www.diplom.org/manorcon 21 - 24 July 2006	PsychoCon 2006 Riva Hotel, Leeds 13th to 15th October 2006 www.psychozine.co.uk/psychocon
MidCon 2006 The Thistle Hotel, Birmingham www.midcon.org.uk 10-12 November 2006	OxCon 2007 The Mitre Inn, High Street, Oxford 20-21 January 2007	

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Please contact the coordinator if:

- You run a convention and would like to be a part of the 'zine.
- You run a convention and would like to be included in the upcoming conventions list.
- You would like to offer to help out in some way.
- You are not on the mailing list for this 'zine, but would like to be.

The coordinator can be contacted at david@ellought.demon.co.uk

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