

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

GameCon 2009 / Game 09 Palace Hotel Manchester Oxford Street, Manchester 16-18 October 2009 www.gamecon.co.uk	GamesFest 4 The Watford Colosseum, Watford 24 October 2009. www.gamesfest.co.uk	MidCon XXXI Thistle Birmingham City Hotel Birmingham 13-15 November 2009 www.midcon.co.uk
Pasteboard and Plastic 10 The Scout Hut, Saltdean, Brighton. 21 November 2009 uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pasteboardandplastic/	Winter Stabcon Britannia Hotel Stockport 8-10 January 2010 Bookings(at)stabcon.co.uk	OxCon The Mitre High Street Oxford. 23-24 January 2010. users.ox.ac.uk/~board/oxcon
SorCon Ramada Hotel Colchester 5-7 March 2010 www.sorcon.co.uk	TringCon XVIII Marsworth Village Hall Marsworth Nr. Tring Buckinghamshire 27 March 2010 www.fwtwr.com/tringcon	BayCon 2010 Exeter Court Hotel Kennford Devon 8-11 April 2010 www.baycon.co.uk
Beer and Pretzels The Town Hall Burton-on-Trent Staffordshire 15-16 May 2010 www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnpdetails.php	UK Games Expo The Clarendon Suites 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston, Birmingham 4-6 June 2010 www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk	Manorcon XXVIII Stamford Hall University of Leicester. 16-19 July 2010. www.manorcon.org.uk

Editorial (Jeremy Tullett)

Fraud protection is, I am sure, a wonderful thing, but a regular pain in the neck when the banks get over-zealous, and create unnecessary problems for their customers.

We have all heard, I am sure, of the unfortunate holidaymaker who discovers that all of their plastic has been refused because they forgot to mention that they were going abroad (which is why I take cards from at least two banks with me). This would be all very well, except that one of my banks specifically asks you to alert them to foreign trips, and the other says that you do not need to. Consistent advice it is not.

PayPal likes to make much of the protection that it offers buyers who use its services on eBay, but it tends to be a little more coy about the protection it offers sellers, and under certain circumstances the buyer can end up with both the goods and a refund of their money – a position that I nearly found myself in recently, having sold a second-hand laptop.

PayPal, having told me that they had received the money, instructed me to post the goods. Two days later, they froze the payment, because the seller's bank was unhappy with the transaction. Fortunately, the seller was very embarrassed by this, and transferred money directly into my account. It turned out that a Mastro card had at some point been converted into a debit card, with the 12 digit number staying the same, but some of the details (like the issue number) had altered.

Because the seller had not got this exactly right on his PayPal records, the bank had detected an inconsistency, and bounced the transaction, but without attempting to check with their customer.

After all the dust settled, PayPal did in fact pay me under seller protection, and, yes, that now means I have been paid twice over for the same item.

This week's moral teaser, then, is should I then:

- 1) Keep quiet?
- 2) Return the buyer's money to him, and let PayPal carry the cost?
- 3) Return the PayPal money, and let the buyer carry the cost, as he would expect?

I suspect that the first two options I might actually be fraudulent, so the third option is the safest.

Having just spent a four-night break in the town on Aigues-Mortes on the western Camargue, I am pleased to say that all my cards worked there, although my purchases were mostly done in cash¹.

Aigues-Mortes has a about a mile of walls enclosing a rectangular medieval town, with only a little low-rise development outside it. In some ways it is more impressive than the better-known Carcassonne, whose walls were rather heavily "improved" in the 19th century. There are some nice beaches in the area, and Montpellier is only a few miles away, with an interesting mix of old and new to wander around, and Nimes is not far away either. This is a nice part of the country, and not too busy when I have been there, in early June and early September.

¹ Did you know it is now a criminal offence to *buy* counterfeit goods in France? There are big posters at the airport, so buying knock-off Versace in a Parisian market is probably not a good idea.. Ignorance is no defence.

MidCon XXXI 13-15 November 2009 (Jeremy Tullett)

About the con

MidCon XXXI takes place in a comfortable hotel in the centre of Birmingham from Friday afternoon (1pm) to Sunday evening (6pm). It features:

- the opportunity to play board games with like-minded adults
- the **MidCon** music quiz on Friday evening
- the **MidCon** general knowledge quiz for teams of 4 on Saturday evening
- the chance to buy even more board games
- the chance to sell your surplus games on the Bring & Buy stall on the Saturday afternoon

MidCon is primarily 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 and Power Grid, 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.

Costs

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 is an adjacent car park.

Registration

If you would like to join us at **MidCon**, please complete the form on the back page of this 'zine and return it with the convention fee of £15² a head to:

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

Diplomacy Returns to MidCon

There will be a Diplomacy tournament; probably only one board, but possibly two. It is being organized by David Norman, to whom all expressions of interest should be sent, either directly, or via the MidCon website.

It will consist of rounds on Saturday and Sunday. Rounds will be short - probably to 1907 and will use the C-Diplo scoring system.

Registrations Processed as at 19 September 2009

Mike Oakes	Ian Wilson	Andrew Evans
Colin Harden (+ Jane)	Chris Martin	Derek Wilson
Tony Wheatley	Mark Fox	Dane Maslen
Bill O'Neill	Richard Minson	Andrew Havery
Jeff Edmunds (+Angela)	John Cudmore	Mike Head
Jeremy Tullett	Neil Munkman	Teik Chooi Oh
Leo Marshall	Steve Kearon	Stephen Frye
Danny Victor		

I have also received (but not yet processed) registrations from Alessandro Lala, David Hecht and Peter Campbell.

² Goes up to £18 on November 1st

GameCon 2009 / Game 09 (Peter Scott)

GameCon/Game 09 will be held on the 16th to 18th of October at the Palace Hotel, Oxford Street, Manchester M60 7HA. The website with information is at: www.gamecon.co.uk

GameCon is only a few days away as you receive this newsletter. Things have progressed rapidly and our bookings are up a lot on last year. Here are some final details and some updates:

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

We've been asked to demonstrate a number of Rio Grande, Mayfair and Fantasy Flight games and we need able minded people to sit down and show people how to play these. We've not been given a full list as of this newsletter from the distributors, but we do know we'll be demonstrating Wings of War among others. Please let me know if you're interested on enquiries@gamecon.co.uk

Parking

City Centre parking is a real lottery unless you know where to park. It is £2 for an all day ticket at the nearby Charles Street multi-storey car park on Saturday and Sunday! That car park is a leisurely walk from the venue. Much of the city centre has reduced parking restrictions on Sunday and if you can find a single yellow line it could be free!

Hotels

The nearby Portland Street Premier Inn is one of our sponsors and very reasonably priced. We're also holding our free pre-con gaming day in their bar/restaurant, where you can buy tickets and game. If you do book in there let them know that you're from GameCon and we'll be allowed to put your convention tickets in your room on the Friday! Cheaper hostels include the YHA on Castlefield (about 15 mins walk) or Hatters on Newton Street (about 10 mins walk).

Travel

Manchester Airport is 15 mins away by train from Piccadilly station. You can easily walk to the venue from there, heading down Whitworth Street. Chorlton Street coach station is less than 5 mins walk from the venue and Oxford Street railway station is literally across the road from the venue. For car travel, set your SatNav from Oxford Street. Oxford Street and the venue are just next to the Mancunian Way (the inner ring road) although you'll need to exit at the old UMIST buildings, as there is no exit on Oxford Street. This is ideal since the Parking mentioned above is immediately off that exit also.

Pre-Registration

Pre-registration tickets that haven't been bought or collected at the Premier Inn will be available from the corner entrance of Whitworth Street and Oxford Street. You'll need your reference number from our online system. You can start collecting these at 9am. Normal on the day entry isn't until 10am

On the Day entry

The main hotel entrance is on Oxford Street. Our ticketing office is there and gaming tickets are for sale in the centre of the lobby

Event Programme

GameCon is a BIG event with lots going on in many rooms. In fact, I think we have the whole hotel except one small room for ourselves! The Event Programme has an essential map to get around. Don't forget to grab one.

GameBoot

The GameBoot tables are selling fast - this is a great place to buy and sell older games and is an attraction in its own right. Apart from a great place to buy/sell, you get a chance to chat with many others. Please note that you can only grab a GameBoot table by booking online.

Food and Drink

The venue has agreed to provide excellent value food like we like at conventions - chips, pies, burgers, sausages etc. - at prices we're used to. This is even though the hotel is a 4* venue. The convention food is in the "Post Room", just above the main reception, where you can also find some excellent traders.

A SPECIAL luxury will be afforded the Roleplayers and boardgamers at Game 09 - a "Wench sign". This is a flag that you raise at your table when you're thirsty or hungry. A "wench" will come and take your order. Your table will have a laminated price list that you can select from.

The Trader Gauntlet

We've got a nice selection of specialist and generalist traders who have kindly offered up two prizes for a raffle. If you've visited their stand and got a stamp from them on your Trade Gauntlet sheet, your sheet will go into the raffle to win their prizes. If you get all the stamps you'll get a chance to win a grand prize!

Late Night Rockband

We'll set up a Rockband on the stage later in the day to pit you and your band up against each other. Some prizes to be won :)

24 hour gaming

GameCon is a genuine weekend event where a section of the venue is open overnight. The Boardgames and Roleplaying section to the right of the main entrance will be open throughout the night for your convenience. Drinks will be available through "room service"

Opening Hours

Pre-registration will start at 9am on Saturday and 9:30am on Sunday. The venue will shut its doors for new registrations at 6pm each day and the show will shut at 9pm on Sunday.

For the Family

Apart from the usual enjoyment of seeing and trying games, interacting with dress and re-enactment groups the venue is placed in the City Centre with easy access to China Town and a host of restaurants, excellent shopping, including the Arndale Centre and Selfridges, museums such as the award winning museum of science and technology (including the world's first railway station) and easy access to the two football clubs' stadia.

EVENTS

- Roleplaying: 7 fulltime tables running 5 sessions each of DnD 4e Living Forgotten Realms, 5 fulltime tables running 5 sessions each of the brand new Pathfinder roleplaying game and lots of smaller systems such as Call of
- Cthulhu, Maid and Qin. We've still got more RPG places left to fill, so if you fancy running a game, feel free to contact RPGManager@gamecon.co.uk
- Boardgames: Shuuro and Chess are in full action - play against an International Master, as provided by the Manchester Chess Federation or try out the Shuuro chess derivative (think Chess Rules with a Wargames angle) in its first ever tournament, Kings Cribbage, Point Zero Games, Rio Grande, Mayfair, Fantasy Flight and the first ever UK Wings of War

tournament provide the core of our boardgames activities. In addition to this there'll be a boardgames library to just pick stuff from and play with. We're running a schools tournament on Saturday and a Scout troop tournament on Sunday – if you're interested in playing in these, please email boardgames@gamecon.co.uk.

- Miniatures: GameCon is well known for its mix of miniatures games and 2009 is no different. We'll be running tournaments in mid and late war Flames of War, Field of Glory, HORDES OF THE THING, Warhammer 40k, Wings of Glory, Dungeons and Dragons Miniatures, Dreamblade and Bloodbowl.
- Cards: Again, this is traditional fayre at GameCon and this year we're hosting a Magic: the Gathering Pro Tour Qualifier and TWO Grandprix Trials, a World of Warcraft Realm Qualifier, the UFS UK Team Nationals, Legend of the 5 Rings, Fight Klub, Huntik, War for Edadh and Raw Deal
- Console Games: Over 300 people will be attending our inaugural console gaming event, run by ESGN, where you can battle out on XBOXs against the best. Halo 3, Gears of War and FIFA10 will be available to game against.
- Costumes and Re-enactors: GameCon and Galactic Knights are close friends and we'll see them in Star Wars outfits and a host of other Sci-Fi outfits including a K9 and two Daleks. In addition to this we'll have re-enactors showing off their English and American Civil War outfits, some zombies and a full Anime/Manga dress tournament. Lots to feast the eyes on for the family.

STOP PRESS: GameCon will be hosting the first UK *Ticket to Ride* Nationals Qualifier. This is a free event for anyone attending GameCon. Check the website for all the details.

ManorCon XXVII (David Norman)

ManorCon XXVII Results

This year saw ManorCon return to Leicester for the third year. As last year, the venue was generally a success, and so we will be continuing to use it for the foreseeable future. It's not perfect – we'd prefer to have the whole convention in one building - but since we're not in a position to redesign the site, that's not something we can fix! However, if we can double the size of ManorCon, then we would be in a position to ask to move to John Foster Hall – the new hall, just across the road from the en-suite accommodation, at which point we would be able to have everything in one place. Next year, why not ask your friends to come along too!

There were fears in the run-up to this year's ManorCon. The economic downturn meant people may be less able to afford to attend, and the swine flu scaremongering may have meant people didn't want to risk attending. But in the end, numbers were only down by about 5% on last year, and were up on 2007. In the end, the only casualty was the games shop, who had to make last minute rearrangements after their staff went down with the piggy sniffles.

Once again, this year's biggest tournament was a new game, with Dominion seeing 37 games played (plus a significant number of non-tournament games as well). And with expansions being released almost as quickly as you can play the game, it might still be as popular next year.

This year also saw the second year of the Spielchamps at ManorCon. Once again, only four teams of four took part. However, we have recruited Nick Harrison onto the ManorCon Committee, so that we can work to market the competition more widely, and as a key part of ManorCon, to help it become the success that it used to be.

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 XXVII:

For their help on the Registration Desk: Peter Campbell, Kath Collman, Chris Dawe, Jerry Elsmore, Dane Maslen, Kevin Lee, Helen Payne, Tina Stiewert and Ian D. Wilson.

For organising tournaments: Michael Colao, Nick Kinzett, Dan Lester and Dane Maslen.

For hosting the convention, and always being ready to deal with problems as quickly and effectively as possible, the University of Leicester.

18XX

The 18XX tournament had 19 players playing 18 games. The games included 4 of 18Ardennes, 3 of 1861, 2 of 18West, 2 of 1837, and one each of 1824, 1812, 1858, 1846, 1848Lt, 1826 and 18EU. This year saw a runaway win by Jon Draper, with three wins out of five, plus two solid seconds. Congratulations to Jon on a very solid performance this year. A special mention should go to John Hopkins for stick ability; John played four games over the weekend, came last in all of them, and if there was a tournament directors award, I would have given it to him for perseverance alone.

Position	Name	Games	Won	Score
1	Jon Draper	5	3	103.05
2	Geoff Hardingham	4	2	88.87
3	Lyndon Gurr	6	2	84.88
4	David Smith	2	1	78.15
5	Ian D. Wilson	4	2	76.81
6	Steve Thomas	4	1	73.60
7	Peter Hawkins	1	1	70.19
8	Peter Eldridge	6	1	66.42
9	David Goldthorpe	1	0	63.17
10	John Boocock	3	1	60.56
11	Dave Thorby	4	1	59.21
12	Dave Berry	2	1	54.40
13	Danny Victor	4	1	49.20
14	Mark Wright	1	0	46.55
15	Stephen Webb	4	0	38.25
16	Barry Beavis	5	1	37.43
17	David Hecht	4	0	34.58
18	Ken Simpson	5	0	28.69
19	John Hopkins	4	0	13.84

Croquet

Eight people signed up for the croquet. In an even field, this would have normally reduced to a three-round knockout tournament. However, to make it more fun for the weaker players, I retained the four round structure, and arranged the draw so that they played each other before meeting the big guns. I'll retain this in future, and hopefully we'll get more entrants; who knows, the extra games may get the earlier players in nick enough to pull off an upset over the (cold) stronger players.

As expected, Mick Haytack and Gary Duke made it to the Final. With his lower Handicap, Gary was the favourite. However, a mistake after the fourth hoop which left Gary's two balls wired let Mick in, and he duly cleaned up. This was Mick's fifth ManorCon Crown, putting him in the outright lead in the history of the Tournament. Congratulations, Mick, and commiserations to Gary.

Gary Duke		Gary Duke				
Bye				Gary Duke	14	
Bye		Bye				
Bye						
Bekki Warren	14	Bekki Warren	14			Gary Duke 4
Sue Phillips	11					
Martin Burroughs	11	Philip		Bekki Warren	1	
Philip Honeybone	14	Honeybone	9			
Stuart Stafford	7					
Chris Dawe	14	Chris Dawe				
Bye				Chris Dawe	2	
Bye		Bye				
Bye						Mick Haytack 14
Bye		Bye				
Bye				Mick Haytack	14	
Bye						
Mick Haytack		Mick Haytack				

Diplomacy

This year saw the Diplomacy Tournament drop to just 8 players and 1 board per round, although there were almost as many players who didn't play, but offered to help fill a board if needed (which is always appreciated by the Tournament Director).

Friday			
Austria	Mark Wightman	4	8.30
England	David Wigglesworth	1908	0.80
France	Emeric Miszti	12	35.99
Germany	Graeme Murphy	7	16.09
Italy	Gwen Maggi	11	31.31
Russia	Steve Agg	1905	0.50
Turkey	Dave Simpson	1905	0.50

In what was to become a theme for the weekend, Friday's game saw Emeric and Gwen taking the top two places on the board. Both pushed east, and by the end of the game, had 2/3 of the centres between them.

Saturday			
Austria	Graeme Murphy	2	5.74
England	Emeric Miszti	9	27.25
France	Andrew Havery	4	9.84
Germany	Steve Agg	1904	0.40
Italy	Dave Simpson	3	7.58
Russia	Gwen Maggi	9	27.25
Turkey	David Wigglesworth	7	19.06

Once again, Emeric and Gwen came out on top, this time with 9 centres each. In a very tactical game, the middle of the game contained four consecutive years with no centres changing hands, and yet the draw votes always saw one power, and sometimes two powers voting against the draw.

The Saturday round is also the Diplomacy Challenge, which is awarded to the top player in this round. With Emeric and Gwen tied on 9 centres, the computer positional analysis program was brought out to break the tie, and declared that Gwen had the better position by about half a centre (although Gwen said he thought the computer had got it wrong!).

With the top two scores in both games, Emeric and Gwen had a huge lead over the chasing pack.

Sunday			
Austria	Dave Simpson	1	3.30
England	Gwen Maggi	1907	0.70
France	Graeme Murphy	15	47.33
Germany	Andrew Havery	1906	0.60
Italy	Steve Agg	1911	1.10
Russia	David Wigglesworth	9	20.91
Turkey	Emeric Miszti	9	20.91

Finally a game not dominated by Emeric and Gwen. Graeme already had third place, but despite a huge score in this game, Emeric's 9 centres were still plenty to retain the lead in the tournament. But by eliminating Gwen on the way to his 15 centres, Graeme did manage to overhaul him for second place.

So the Final Results were:

Position	Name	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Overall
1	Emeric Miszti	35.99	27.25	20.91	73.70
2	Graeme Murphy	16.09	5.74	47.33	66.29
3	Gwen Maggi	31.31	27.25	0.70	58.92
4	David Wigglesworth	0.80	19.06	20.91	40.37
5	Dave Simpson	0.50	7.58	3.30	11.13
6	Andrew Havery		9.84	0.60	10.44
7	Mark Wightman	8.30			8.30
8	Steve Agg	0.50	0.40	1.10	1.80

Best Countries

Best Austria	Mark Wightman	Friday Board 1	4 centres
Best England	Emeric Miszti	Saturday Board 1	9 centres
Best France	Graeme Murphy	Sunday Board 1	15 centres
Best Germany	Graeme Murphy	Friday Board 1	7 centres
Best Italy	Gwen Maggi	Friday Board 1	11 centres
Best Russia	Gwen Maggi	Saturday Board 1	9 centres
Best Turkey	Emeric Miszti	Sunday Board 1	9 centres

Other Awards

Award	Winner	Reason
Most French player (who is not actually French)	Mark Wightman	For being able to play an alliance with guts.
Tournament Director's Award	Graeme Murphy	For being reduced to 1 centre in 1903, and playing 7 years before he made it back to 2 centres to finish the game.

Following this year's ManorCon, a couple of the players have decided to try and actively recruit new Diplomacy players, so hopefully we will have a bigger tournament next year.

Race for the Galaxy

18 games were played. Steve Thomas won all four that he played, thereby comfortably winning the tournament. Ben Brown and Chris Paterson each won a single 3-player game, thereby nominally tying as runner-up. The tie was broken by considering the margin of victory in each of the games.

Position	Name	Score	Played
1	Steve Thomas	312	4
2	Ben Brown	144	1
3	Chris Paterson	144	1
4	John Todd	90	2
5	Lyndon Gurr	72	4
6	Jake Hanny	67	6
7	Peter Eldridge	34	5
8	David Smith	10	3
9=	Andy Bate	5	3
9=	Jon Draper	5	3
11	Dave Thorby	-34	5
12=	Andy Parsons	-64	1
12=	Chris Dawe	-64	1
12=	Geoff Hardingham	-64	1
15=	Andy Gregory	-72	1
15=	Ken Simpson	-72	1
15=	Tony Wheatley	-72	1
18=	Chris Dearlove	-102	2
18=	Chris Welbourne	-102	2
18=	Mark Stretch	-102	2
21	Stephen Webb	-144	4
22	Ian Wilson	-158	5

Dominion

37 games were played, the tournament director contriving to be in no fewer than 21 of them. With six victories out of six games played Chris Martin was unstoppable. This exceptionally good performance revealed an unanticipated flaw in the tournament scoring system: had Chris gone on to play some 2-player games and win them, it would actually have reduced his overall score! The tournament director has already devised a solution to this for next year.

Position	Name	Score	Played
1	Chris Martin	348	6
2	Steve Thomas	288	2
3	David Smith	192	2
4	Mark Jones	187	3
5	Gordon Aickin	144	1
6	Philip Honeybone	100	4
7	Andrew Simpson	90	2
8	Greg Payne	62	5
9	Al Bell	54	2
10	Iain Alexander	13	9
11	Gihan Bandaranaike	5	3
12	Andy Gregory	0	2
13	Dane Maslen	-4	21
14	Derek Wilson	-36	20
15	Chris Dawe	-45	15
16	David Norman	-54	6
17=	Andy Parsons	-64	1
17=	Doug Massie	-64	1
17=	Jeff Clark	-64	1
17=	Mark Wightman	-64	1
17=	Martin Holden	-64	1
17=	Michael Colao	-64	1
17=	Paul Naylor	-64	1
17=	Peter Hawkins	-64	1
17=	Peter Woodward	-64	1
17=	Phil Williams	-64	1
27	David Goldthorpe	-72	1
28	Danny Victor	-96	2
29	Keith Rapley	-108	2
30=	David Buckley	-115	3
30=	Hilary Jones	-115	3
32	Bekki Warren	-120	3
33	Chris Dearlove	-151	5

Imperial

In it's third year, the Imperial tournament saw six games played. Paul Cook and Jake Hanny both achieved 2 wins in 2 games, putting them well ahead of third place. With significantly larger margins of victory, Paul took the prize.

This will be the last year of the Imperial tournament. While only six games were entered into the tournament, it is thought that there were more non-tournament games played than tournament games, which suggests that it's a game that people don't want to play competitively.

Position	Player	Played	Score
1	Paul Cook	2	93.98
2	Jake Hanny	2	87.54
3	Paul Heppie	1	65.31
4	Doug Massie	1	65.25
5	Nigel Pepper	3	62.70
6	Andy Bate	2	59.70
7	Paul Naylor	2	52.07
8	Chris Welbourne	2	51.39
9	Pete Mason	3	50.50
10	Tim Troman	1	47.08
11	Alan Gates	1	46.49
12	Paul Speak	1	40.64
13	Peter Woodward	1	37.24
14	Kath Collman	1	36.99
15	Mark Stretch	1	30.73
16	Danny Collman	1	29.27
17	John Colledge	1	28.46

Midnight Party

17 players played 3 games - unsurprisingly scheduled for Midnight on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The top three were:

Position	Name	Score
1	Jim Sutherland	916
2	Gavin Muschamps	758
3	Dave Holmes	654

Acquire

19 players played in 8 games. The top 4 were:

Position	Player	Score
1	Peter Woodward	844
2	Mark Sretch	775
3	Andy Bate	693
4	Chris Welbourne	648

Pop Quiz

Eight teams took part in this year's Pop Quiz, which got under way once Dan and David had worked out how to disassemble the PA system sufficiently to be able to plug the laptop into it! Five different teams won on-the-spot prizes for winning a round, and the overall winner was decided by just 1_ points.

Team	Connections	Numbers	Whistling	Lyrics	Guess Year	Colour	Total	Team Members
Lancastrian	16	20	11	15	17	16	95	Martin Burroughs, John Gates, Dave Gittins, Keith Morton, Richard Ramsden
Scaramanga's Third Nipple	16	17	10	17	17.5	16	93.5	Mick Haytack, James Kingham, Emily Lagrue, John Todd, John Webbly
Team Fat Bastard	17	14	10	16.5	17.5	15	90	Mark Fox, Phil Hannay, Simon Hornby, Robin Walters, Mark Wightman, Phil Williams
The MidContents	12	16.5	10	18	13.5	16	86	
Dog & The Katz	15	16	11	13	14	10	79	
The Concordians	13	16	9	7	8.5	14	67.5	
I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue	13	13	8	9	12	12	67	
Stu, Sue, A Team Of Two	8	8	5	6	9.5	2	38.5	
Score out of	20	25	15	20	20	20	120	

St Petersburg

28 players played in 21 games. The top 6 were:

Position	Player	Score
1	Mark Rigby-Jones	800
2	Bill Mayling	760
3	Tony Wheatley	760
4	Steve Jones	746
5	David Buckley	737
6	Andy Gregory	722

Settlers of Catan

13 players played in 6 games. The top 5 were:

Position	Player	Score
1	Peter Woodward	702
2	Markus Welbourne	600
3	David Wigglesworth	600
4	Doug Massie	600
5	Phil Williams	585

With the Settlers Tournament having declined to just 6 games, this will be the last ManorCon Settlers tournament.

Puerto Rico

30 players played in 11 games. The top 7 were:

Position	Player	Score
1	Kevin Lee	792
2	David Thornton	761
3	Bill Mayling	731
4	Matthew Greet	719
5	Peter Woodward	705
6	Peter Campbell	660
7	Richard Beattie	651

Treasure Hunt

Once again, the treasure hunt turned out to be a lot longer than planned. After 8 hours of hunting, the red team finally won, but by that time, everybody was past caring as to who was in the winning team!

Spielchamps

4 teams competed for the right to represent the UK at Essen.

Winning team: Shark Bait: Luke Ellis, Maz Seijka, Adam Seijka, Simon Forth.

Best players: Adam Seijka & Luke Ellis

Your Feedback

Thank you to the 78 people who filled in questionnaires. We appreciate what you say, and hope to act on many of the comments and suggestions made to make ManorCon better in future years. All comments are appreciated.

Space

Most of you had enough space. Closing the Dining Hall slightly earlier than last year didn't cause any problems, so we'll be looking to do the same thing again in 2010.

Food

Following the huge improvement in the food last year, it was a disappointment this year. Not back to as bad as 2007 though.

The main issue was the lack of variety. The menu had a good number of options on for the first meal, but then those options never changed, and as the weekend went on, the better options ran out, leaving only the options that nobody wanted! We did ask for this to be improved this year, as it was also the main complaint last year, but it looks like the message wasn't passed on to the kitchens, so we will be making this point more strongly for next year.

The Bar

Once again, the bar got good feedback, although not as good as previous years.

The main problem was the Real Ale. In past years, we have just told the bar manager that we want real ale, and he's done an excellent job of selecting for us. But those who frequent the bar regularly may have noticed that we had new bar staff this year, including a new bar manager, and the new manager proved to not be so knowledgeable about Real Ale. So next year, we will be giving more specific instructions as to what Real Ale to buy.

Fortunately, we didn't get a single comment about the bar closing early. I say fortunately, because due to new local licensing regulations, it can't stay open beyond 1am – so even if it was a problem, there's nothing we could have done about it!

Accommodation

The accommodation went much better this year than last year. We had the single and ensuite rooms we wanted, and the loss of twins meant that rather than being disappointed, couples tended to stay in a nearby hotel. It's still University accommodation though, and so still disappointing for those who want to do more than just walk into room, sleep, leave room, each night.

And Finally...

The numbers of attendees in 2009 was down 13 on 2008, with 201 attendees. There were 153 on Friday, 196 on Saturday, 185 on Sunday, and 118 on Monday. The number of rooms used was 143, down by 24 compared with 2008, although some of these are due to the discontinuation of twin rooms. Around 45% of bookings received were via the Internet, and 55% continued to book by post.

ManorCon XXVIII will be at Stamford Hall, University of Leicester next year, on the same weekend as 2009 – 16th to 19th July 2010.

To contact the committee, write to: David Norman, MANORCON, 38 Conigre Square, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8LJ, UK. Or e-mail info@manorcon.org.uk.

UK Games Expo 2009 (Mick Pearson)

UK GAMES EXPO 2010

“Everything about games”

4 to 6 June 2010

The Clarendon Suites
2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B16 9SB
www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

We are happy to announce that the 4th UK Games Expo will take place in June 2010, bringing the best games of all types to our tables. The Expo will run from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th June 2010 at its regular venue.

Dates and Times

UK Games Expo dates and details are as follows:

Friday 4 June

“Open Play” facilities at The Strathallan Hotel, next door to the Clarendon Suites have again been expanded. These will be available from 10am on Friday. Included for free as part of your weekend ticket, you can just turn up and play into the night.

Saturday 5 June

Wargame tournaments, roleplay sessions, collectible cards games and board game tournaments will again be a major feature.

Trade Hall Hours are 10am till 5pm.

“Open Play” rooms at The Strathallan Hotel will again be available from 5pm.

Sunday 6 June

Wargame tournaments, roleplay sessions, collectible cards games and board game tournaments will be held. Trade Hall Hours are 10am till 4pm.

Charges

UK Games Expo Entry Ticket and Board Game Tournament Fee

Your entry ticket grants access to the UK Games Expo halls. If you decide to enter any of our tournaments or roleplay sessions you need to buy a UK Games Expo Entry Ticket and also pay a Tournament Fee.

Entry Ticket prices are as follows:

Adult / Child / Family

1 day - £8 / £5 / £20

2 days - £13 / £8 / £30

3 days - £16 / £10 / £35

Event Charges:

Saturday Board game Tournament (a single long session) £5

Sunday half day tournaments £3

Board Game Tournaments

These will include a Grand Board game Tournament, Memoir 44 and Command and Colour Ancients and a Schools Tournament. There will also be Settlers of Catan and Carcassonne tournaments; David Norman has again agreed to run the Carcassonne event. The exact details of the tournaments will be released as soon as they have been confirmed.

UK Carcassonne Championship. Win a Place to Essen Spiel!

In agreement with Spielzentrum, the UK Games Expo Grand Boardgame Carcassonne Tournament will be a qualifying event for the World Carcassonne Championship to be held at Essen Spiel in October 2010. The winning player will also have a significant contribution towards their travel costs to Essen paid.

Children's Board Game Tournament

We believe that many games have educational value and improve social, literacy, mathematical and decision-making. They are also fun! UK Games Expo is actively promoting the use and development of games in schools and encourages schools to start up games clubs. We will be announcing details of a Children's Tournament once these are finalised, check our website regularly for details.

Living Dungeon – Under New Management

This year the Living Dungeon has a new team running this popular and exclusive ukgamesexpo attraction. The 2010 dungeon will be more immersive, players can pick any character class and you decide which way to go, how long to spend in each room. The puzzles will be larger, the traps are real and there will be prizes for those teams that triumph over the Living Dungeon. We expect this event to sell out, as it did last year so make sure you are signed up to the expo newsletter so you know when the tickets go on sale. Don't just read about it – live the adventure.

UK Games Expo Awards

UK Games Expo awards were introduced in 2007 at the first event. They were developed to recognise the achievement of games companies in a variety of games genres. These will continue be a feature in 2010.

Games products being demonstrated at UK Games Expo are eligible for entry into the awards. The awards will be determined by a system involving both public voting over the weekend and incorporating the opinion of a Panel of Judges appointed by the organisers. The judges will look for games that are original, engaging, attractive and exciting. The Awards will be presented on Sunday 6 June. Check the website and the next issue of QLA for more details.

Game Companies

In 2010 we will have between 80 and 100 traders taking stands at Expo offering an excellent mix of Wargames, Sci-fi and Fantasy, Boardgames and RPG as well as traders from other areas, such as art and jewellery. We hope the list of traders will include more board game companies to add to the 20 or so we had in 2009.

It is our aim to represent the widest range of games genres of any UK convention. Expo is the largest exhibition of board games open to the public in the UK. Demonstrations and trade stands from publishers, games designers or demo teams will offer plenty of opportunities to see, try and buy dozens of board games. The board game part of our convention will occupy over 40 demo tables.

We have early indications of new releases at Expo again in 2010 year and will be bringing news of those releases after the Essen show in October. Look for details in the next QLA and on the website.

Accommodation

The Clarendon Suites do not have any accommodation. However, within an easy walk are a number of hotels, to suit all budgets. We will list suitable hotels in the next QLA. The main convention hotel will again be The Strathallan, a mere 50 yards from the Expo venue; it is also the location for the “Open Play” games. More details of hotel facilities will follow.

“Open Play” Rooms

We are glad to provide expanded “Open Play” space at The Strathallan Hotel, on Friday from noon and Saturday evening from 6pm till late. A fully licensed bar and a restaurant is available at the Hotel, an Expo menu will also be provided. In 2009 the “Open Play” rooms were filled to capacity and we are making arrangements for further facilities at another nearby hotel, so everyone who wants to play on into the evening is catered for.

More Information More Information will appear in the next QLA and will also be available on our website as soon as arrangements are released, check regularly.

OxCon 2010 Progress Report (Robert Clough)

OxCon 2010 will be taking place over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of January 2010, Saturday will be based principally around a Puerto Rico tournament. 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 of Catan tournament being the main event, starting at the same time. This usually attracts a very good number of people – and we expect the same this year.

Also, although we do have access to a number of copies of both Puerto Rico and Settlers, in the past we have occasionally experienced very slight shortages. Therefore it would be enormously helpful if one or two people were to bring sets with them to provide extra capacity

The Entry fees for this year have been set and are as follows:(half-price for students):

Convention only £4

Convention plus Puerto Rico tournament £7

Convention plus Settlers tournament £7

Comprehensive weekend entry (Puerto Rico and Settlers) £10

The Mitre Public House will again be the location for Oxon 2010. This pub, located on the high street in Oxford, has been an excellent venue in previous 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

As in previous years there will be Pizza followed by games at the society's regular venue on the Friday night, as well as a trip to an Oxford Curry House. However, in a change to previous years we are looking at restaurants in the city centre. As we need to book the restaurants we will be asking people to sign up for these events, details on this will be announced at a later date when venues have been finalized.

Any queries should be emailed to board@herald.ox.ac.uk.

The Queen's Lane Advertiser incorporating Convention News

Editor: Jeremy Tullett

Coordinator: David Norman

Printing and Distribution: Markus Welbourne

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.
- You would like to advertise in QLA.

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

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

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MidCon '09 Booking Form

The registration fee for **MidCon** is £15 per person for the whole weekend. Day rates are £10 for the Saturday and £8 (each) for the Friday and the Sunday. Please note: convention fees are *not* refundable. After November 1st 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. **Please note that the registration fee goes up to £18 after November 1st.**

Name			
Address			
Post code		Tel:	
E-mail			
I enclose a cheque / PO (payable to "MidCon") for		£	(See above for registration rates)
Other names covered by this registration			

Accommodation

Please reserve the following rooms at the rate of £49.00 per person per night for a single room and £39.50 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.

Please select one of the following options by ticking the appropriate box.

- I hereby give permission for **MidCon** to pass my credit card details to the Hotel to reserve my room. My credit card details are given below
- I enclose a cheque for 50% of the total cost of my room booking, payable to "Thistle Birmingham City Hotel", as a deposit.

My credit card details (You do not need to provide these if you have enclosed a cheque to cover the deposit on your room)

The name on my credit card is:			
The credit card number is:		The expiry date is:	

The cancellation policy of the hotel is complicated, but full refunds should be available up to 10 weeks before **MidCon**, with an escalating cancellation fee as 13th November approaches.

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
N^o. of single rooms			
N^o. of twin rooms			
N^o. 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 at www.midcon.org.uk by clicking on the Booking Form link in the left hand menu bar.